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# Asymmetric Organocatalytic Desymmetrization of 4,4-Disubstituted Cyclohexadienones at High-Pressure: A New Powerful Strategy for the Synthesis of Highly Congested Chiral Cyclohexenones

Naomu Miyamae, Naruhisa Watanabe, Maya Moritaka, Keiji Nakano, Yoshiyasu Ichikawa, and Hiyoshizo Kotsuki\*

Laboratory of Natural Products Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Kochi University, Akebono-cho, Kochi 780-8520, Japan kotsuki@kochi-u.ac.jp

#### **Table of Contents**

1.	General	S-1
2.	Experimental Section	S-1
3.	References	S-4
4	<sup>1</sup> H & <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectral Data	S-5

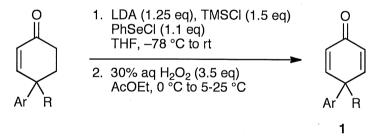
#### General.

All reactions were performed in oven-dried glassware under a positive pressure of nitrogen or argon. All melting points were measured on a Yanagimoto MP-S3 micro-melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. The NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL ECA-500 (500 MHz for ¹H NMR analysis and 125.8 MHz for ¹3C NMR analysis) instrument in CDCl<sub>3</sub> unless otherwise stated and are reported in parts per million (δ) downfield from TMS as an internal standard. Mass spectral analyses were performed on a JEOL JMS-700/MStation mass spectrometer. The infrared spectra were measured with a JASCO FTIR-460plus Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrophotometer and are reported in wave-numbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>). Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO DIP-370 polarimeter. HPLC analyses were carried out using a Hitachi L-6200 HPLC system.

Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted using Merck Kieselgel 60F-254 plates (0.25 mm). Kanto Chemicals silica gel 60N (spherical, neutral 63–210 µm) and Merck alumina (90 active, neutral 70–230 µm) were used for column chromatography.

Catalysts **A** and **B** are known and prepared following the literature procedure.<sup>1</sup> The starting cyclohexenones were prepared from  $\alpha,\alpha'$ -disubstituted acetaldehydes and methyl vinyl ketone via Robinson-type annulation.<sup>2</sup> 4-Methyl-4-trichloromethylcyclohexadienone **1g** was prepared from *p*-cresol following the literature procedure.<sup>3</sup> Cyclohexenone (*R*)-8 was prepared following the literature procedure,<sup>2</sup> and used after recrystallization from hexane. The ee of this compound was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46 × 25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 99 : 1, 0.3 cm<sup>3</sup>/min):  $R_t$  (*S*) = 25.4 min;  $R_t$  (*R*) = 29.2 min (our previous data<sup>2</sup> for the assignment of (*S*)- and (*R*)-isomers should be corrected).

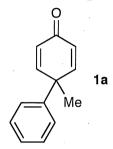
### General Procedure for the Synthesis of Cyclohexadienones (1).<sup>4</sup>



To a solution of *i*-Pr<sub>2</sub>NH (6.25 mmol) in THF (6 mL) was slowly added *n*-BuLi (6.25 mmol) at –78 °C under Ar. The mixture was stirred for 20 min before a solution of cyclohexenone (5.0 mmol) in THF (6 mL) was introduced. After stirring at 0 °C for 30 min, TMSCl (7.5 mmol) was added in one portion and the resulting mixture stirred at rt for 1 h before PhSeCl (5.5 mmol) in THF (5.5 mL) was introduced with stirring at rt. After stirring for 45 min, the mixture was quenched by addition of 10% aq HCl (7.5 mL) followed by stirring for another 1.5 h. The mixture was then extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O, and the combined extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concd. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/AcOEt) gave the crude product as a pale yellow oil.

To a solution of this crude product (3.3 mmol) in AcOEt (45 mL) was added dropwise 30% aq  $H_2O_2(3.5 \text{ eq})$  at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred at 5-25 °C for 60 min. The reaction was quenched by addition of sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (22 mL) and sat. aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and extracted with AcOEt. The combined extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concd. Purification by column chromatography on alumina (eluted with hexane/AcOEt) and recrystallization from hexane gave the cyclohexadienone 1.<sup>5</sup>

## 4-Methyl-4-phenylcyclohexadienone (1a).

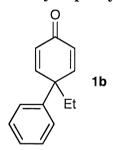


67% yield; colorless solid, mp 53–55 °C (lit. 53–55 °C);  $R_f 0.36$  (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1). FTIR (KBr) v 1682, 1666, 1630, 1607, 1450, 1403, 1393, 1364 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.69 (3H, s), 6.28 (2H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.92 (2H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 7.26–7.36 (5H, m).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 23.80, 44.95, 126.28 (×2), 126.90 (×2), 127.53, 128.92 (×2), 139.80, 155.37 (×2), 185.85.

## 4-Ethyl-4-phenylcyclohexadienone (1b).



50% yield; colorless solid, mp 43–45 °C;  $R_f$  0.27 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1).

FTIR (KBr) v 1665, 1626, 1595, 1489, 1456, 1444, 1398 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.89 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 2.16 (2H, q, J = 7.5 Hz), 6.36 (2H, d, J = 10.5 Hz), 6.87 (2H, d, J = 10.5 Hz), 7.24–7.35 (5H, m).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.89, 30.08, 49.44, 126.50 (×2), 127.41, 128.71 (×2), 128.88 (×2), 139.93, 154.10 (×2), 186.13.

#### 4-Methyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)cyclohexadienone (1c).

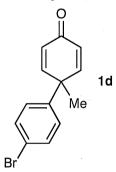
35% yield; colorless solid, mp 55–57 °C;  $R_f$  0.16 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1).

FTIR (KBr) v 1666, 1624, 1607, 1509, 1458, 1401 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.65 (3H, s), 3.78 (3H, s), 6.24 (2H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.85–6.87 (2H, m), 6.88 (2H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 7.19–7.21 (2H, m).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 23.83, 44.32, 55.22, 114.22 (×2), 126.57 (×2), 127.38 (×2), 131.46, 155.66 (×2), 158.86, 185.85.

## 4-Methyl-4-(4-bromophenyl)cyclohexadienone (1d).



45% yield; colorless solid, mp 59–60 °C;  $R_f$  0.19 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1).

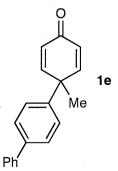
FTIR (KBr) v 1661, 1619, 1591, 1508, 1448, 1391 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.67 (3H, s), 6.27 (2H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.86 (2H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 7.15–7.17 (2H, m), 7.46 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 23.82, 44.56, 121.66, 127.21 (×2), 128.11 (×2), 132.02 (×2), 139.02, 154.58 (×2), 185.52.

HRMS Calcd for  $C_{13}H_{11}BrO + H 263.0072$ , found 263.0077.

## 4-Methyl-4-(4,4'-biphenyl)cyclohexadienone (1e).



15% yield; colorless solid, mp 111–113 °C;  $R_f$  0.20 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1).

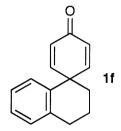
FTIR (KBr) v 1665, 1622, 1597, 1484, 1448, 1398 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.74 (3H, s), 6.32 (2H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.96 (2H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 7.35–7.39 (3H, m), 7.45 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.57 (4H, dd, J = 7.5, 5.5 Hz).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 23.90, 44.79, 126.77 (×2), 127.00 (×2), 127.06 (×2), 127.50, 127.65 (×2), 128.80 (×2), 138.81, 140.25, 140.56, 155.25 (×2), 185.85.

HRMS Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{16}O + H$  261.1279, found 261.1282.

# 3',4'-Dihydro-2'H-spiro[cyclohexa[2,5]diene-1,1'-naphthalen]-4-one.



86% yield; colorless solid; mp 150–151 °C (lit.  $^7$  144–146 °C);  $R_{\rm f}$  0.26 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1).

FTIR (KBr) v 1662, 1621, 1487, 1445, 1400 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.97–2.02 (4H, m), 2.91–2.93 (2H, m), 6.28 (2H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.95 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.02 (2H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 7.07–7.11 (1H, m), 7.16–7.17 (2H, m).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 19.23, 29.58, 34.21, 44.74, 126.34, 126.79 (×2), 127.49, 128.79, 130.23, 133.39, 136.46, 155.31 (×2), 186.16.

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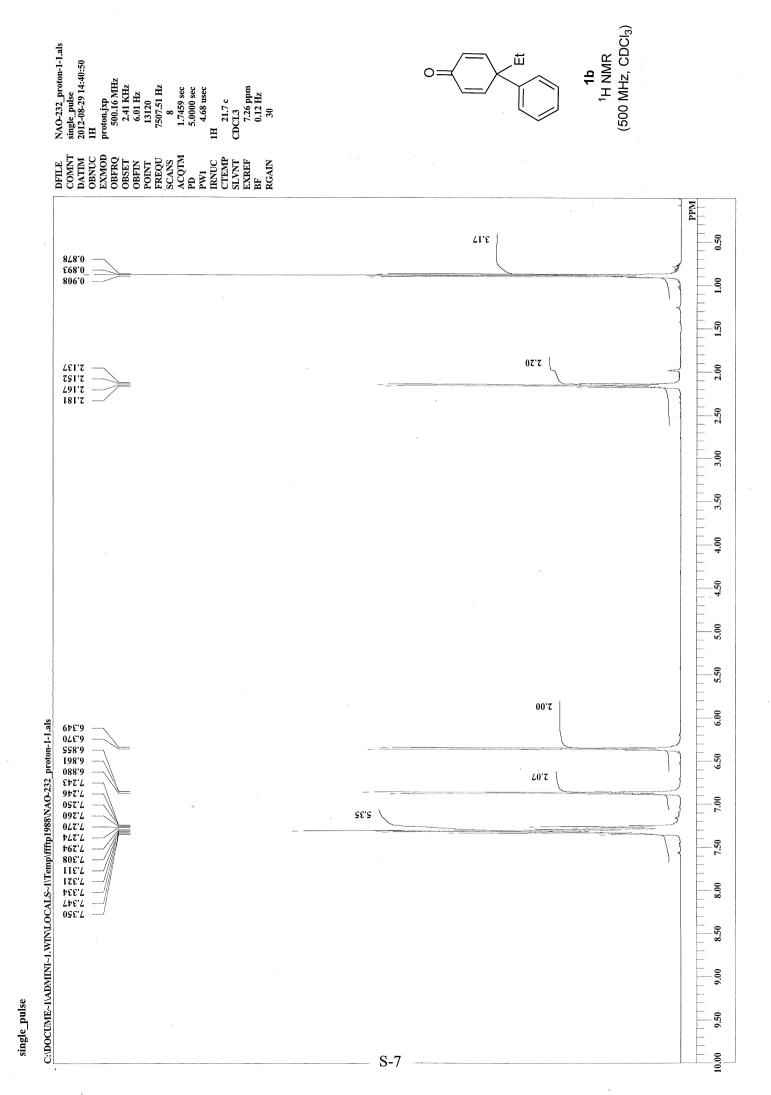
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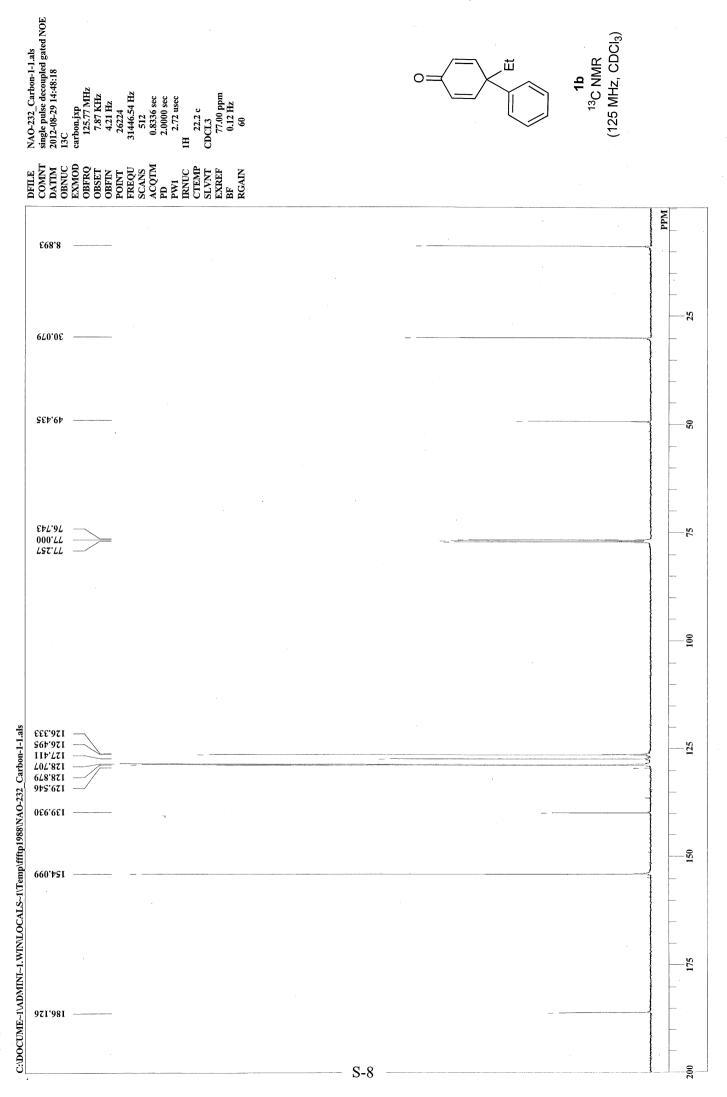
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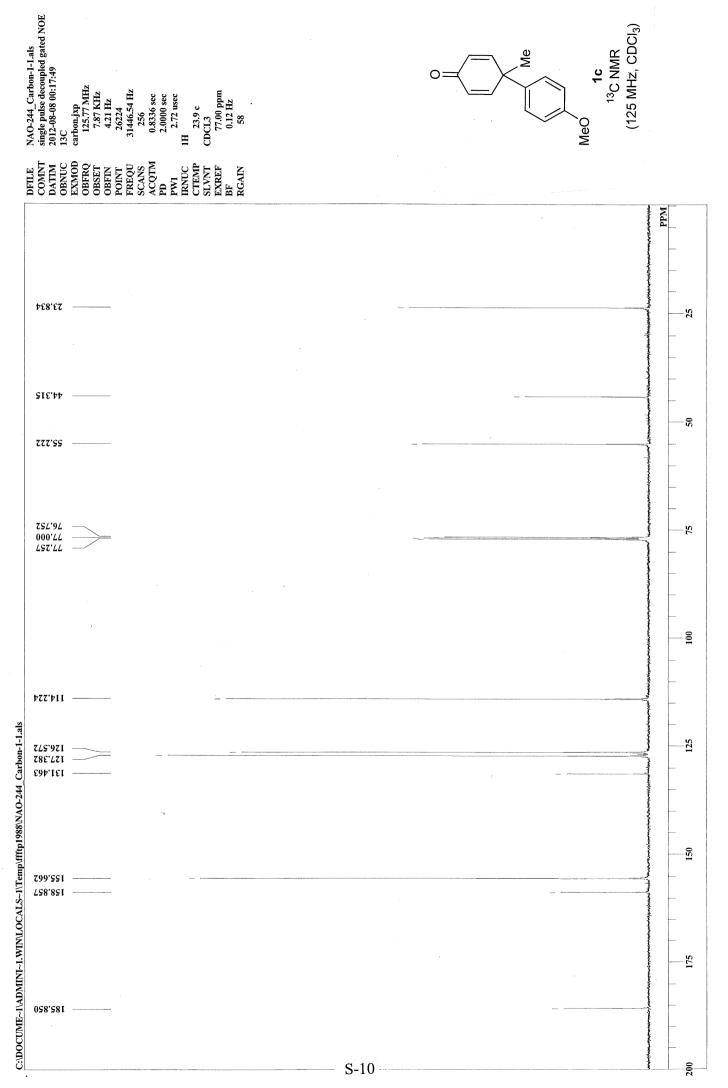
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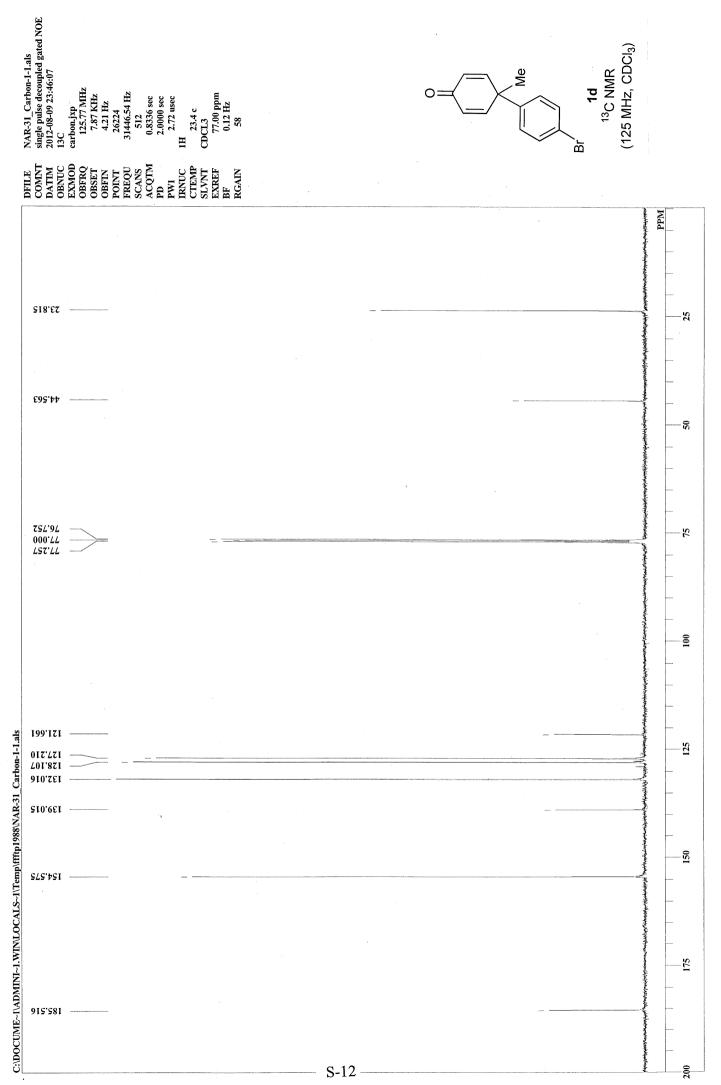
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DATIM
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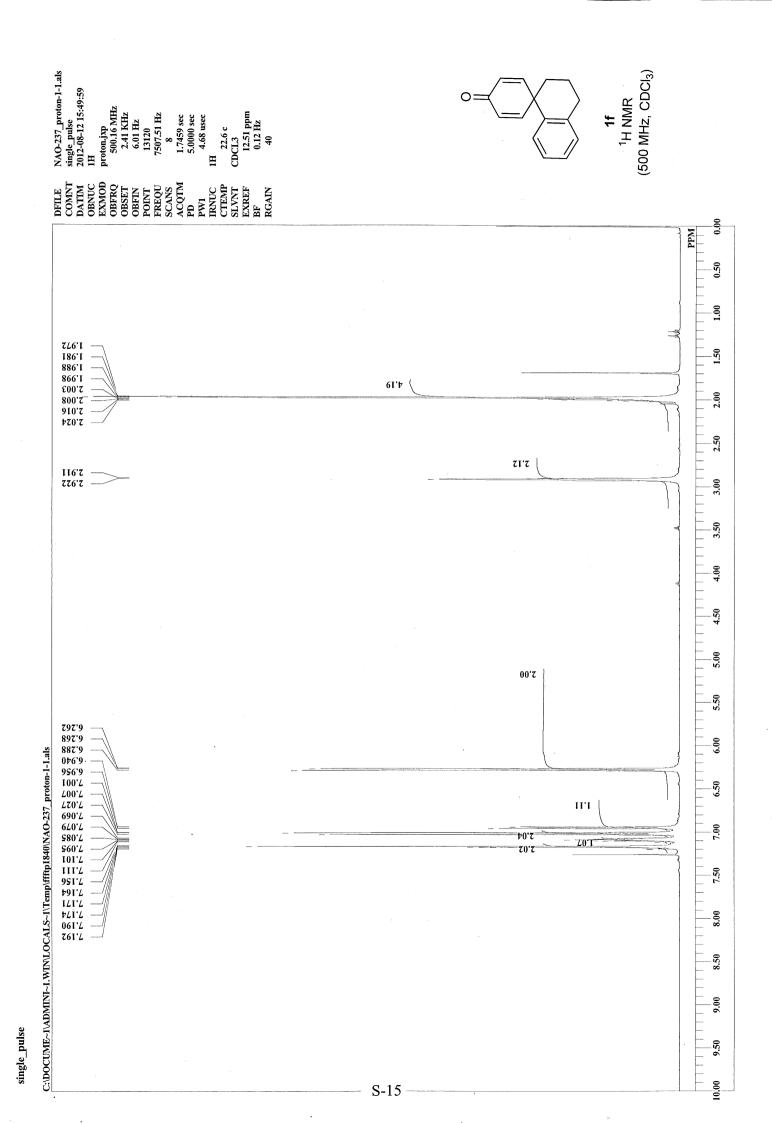
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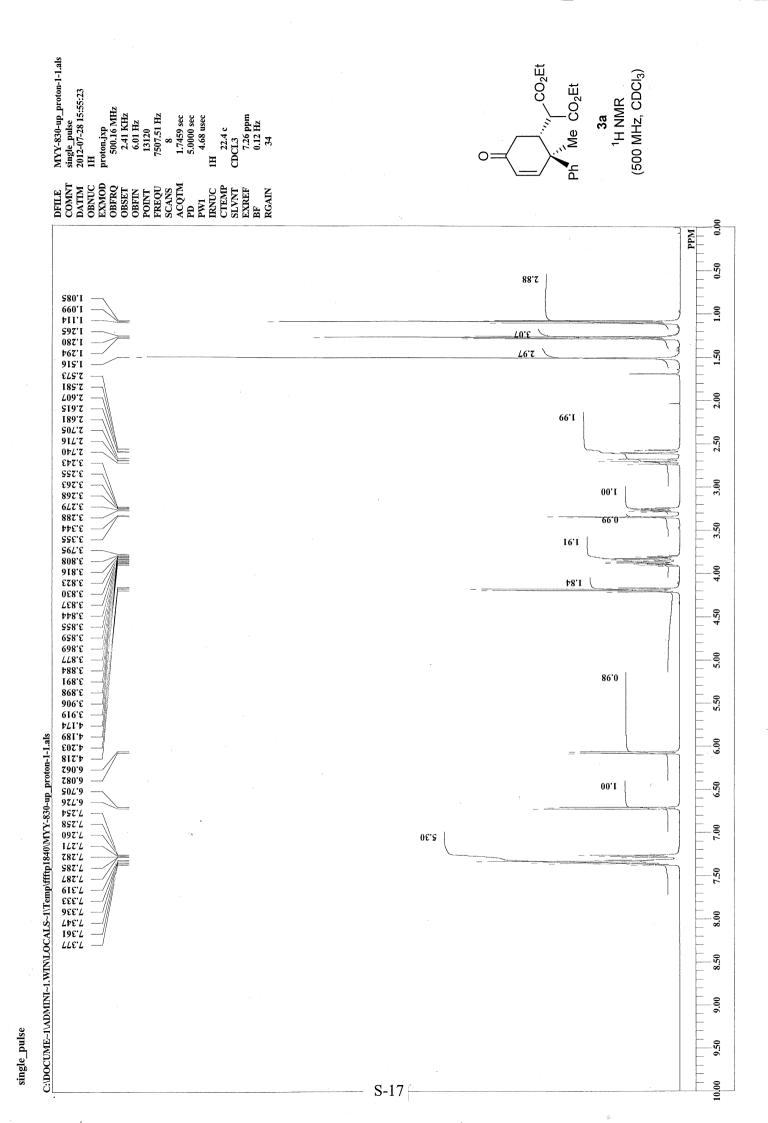


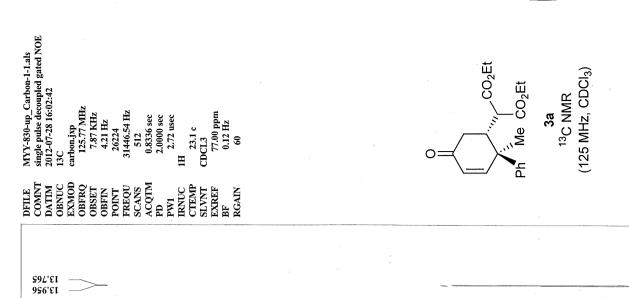












750.81

44.229

\$11.4

109,13 252,13 PPM

52

20

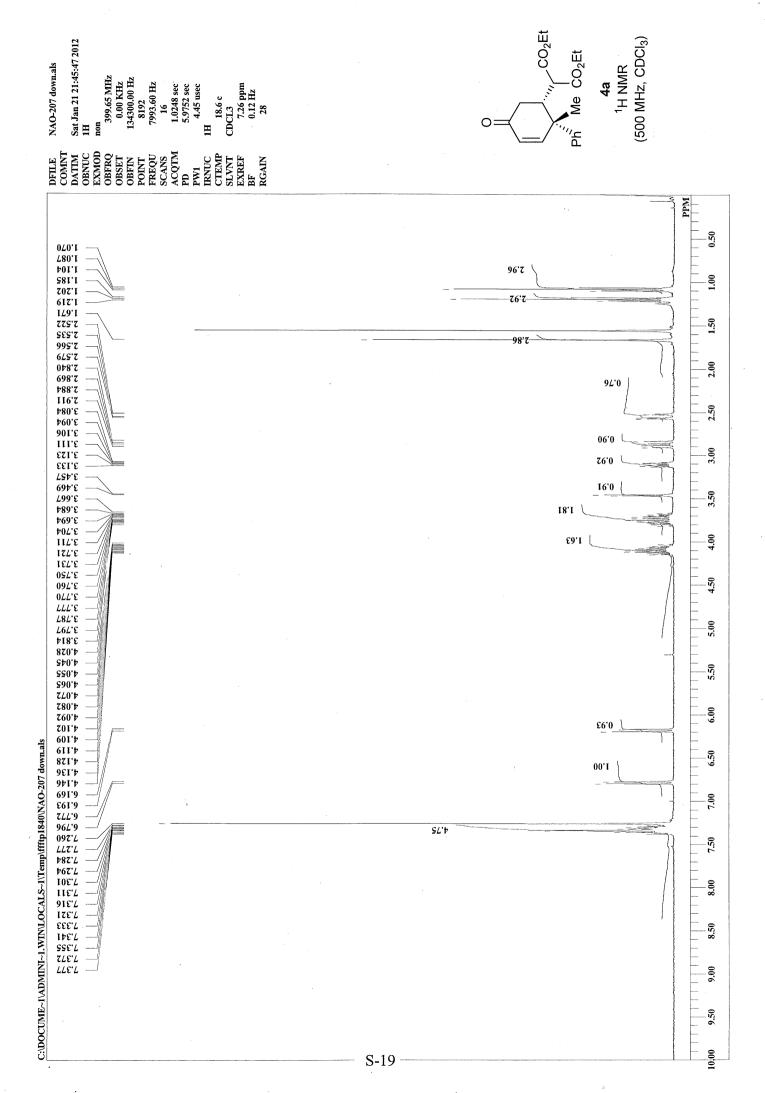
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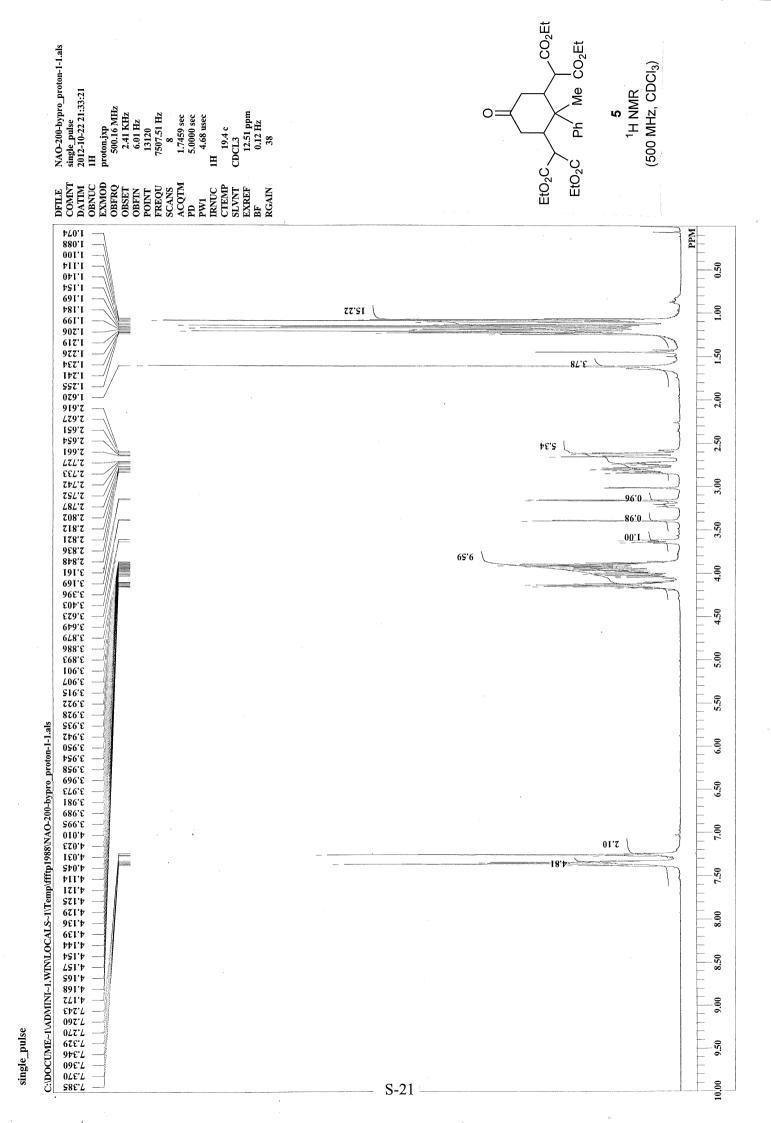
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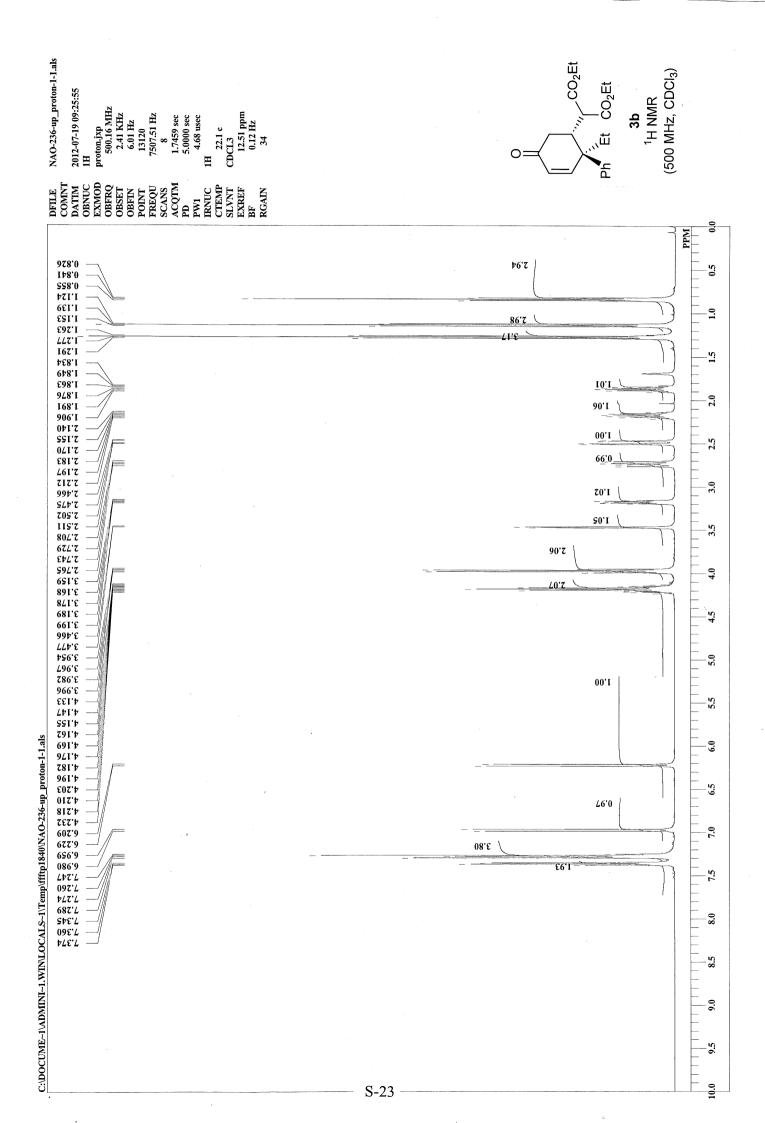
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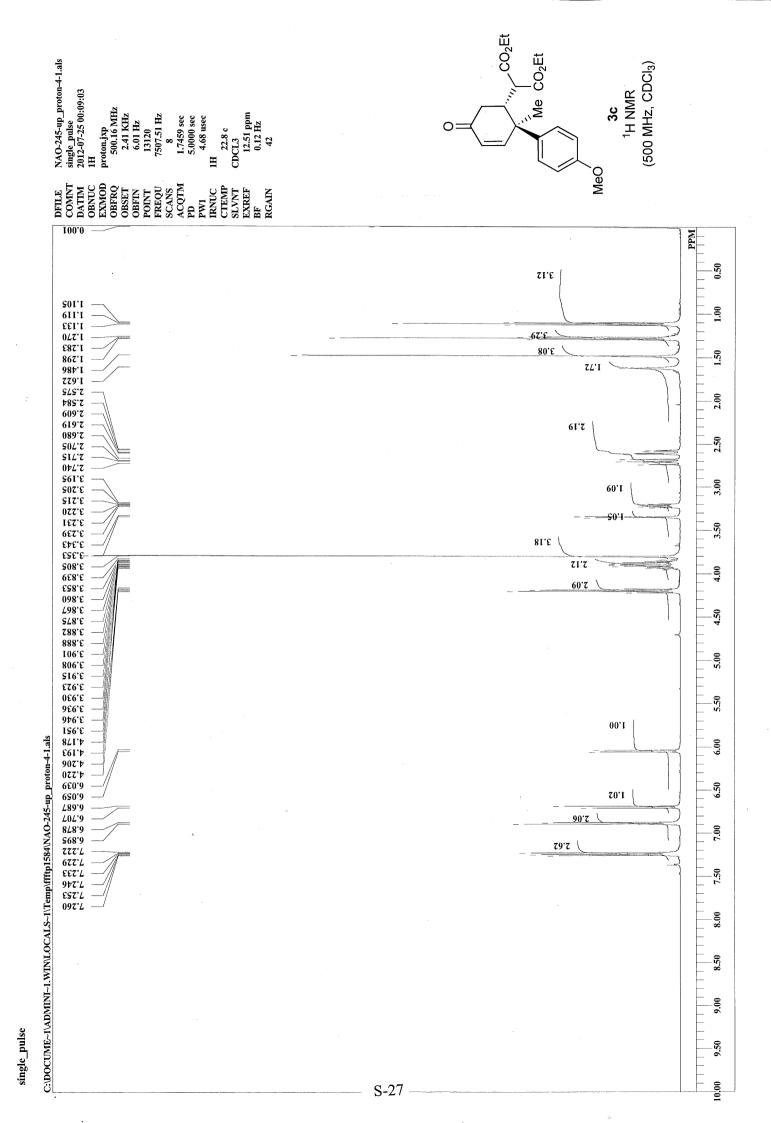
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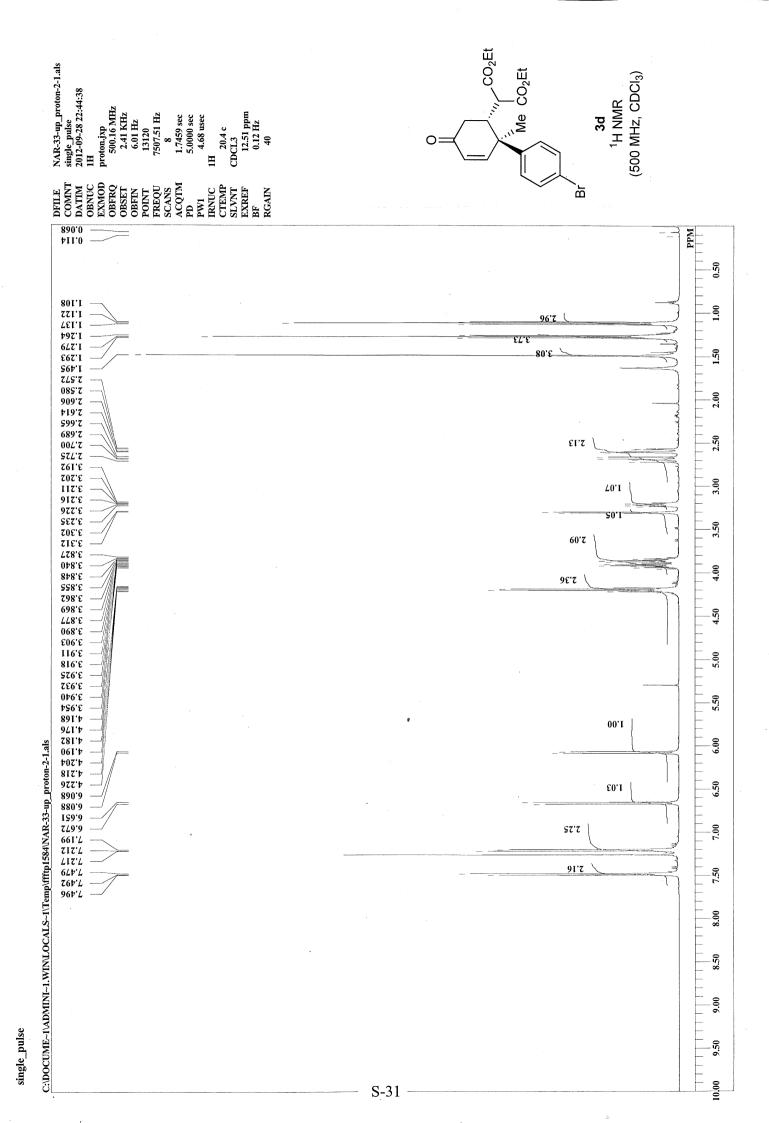


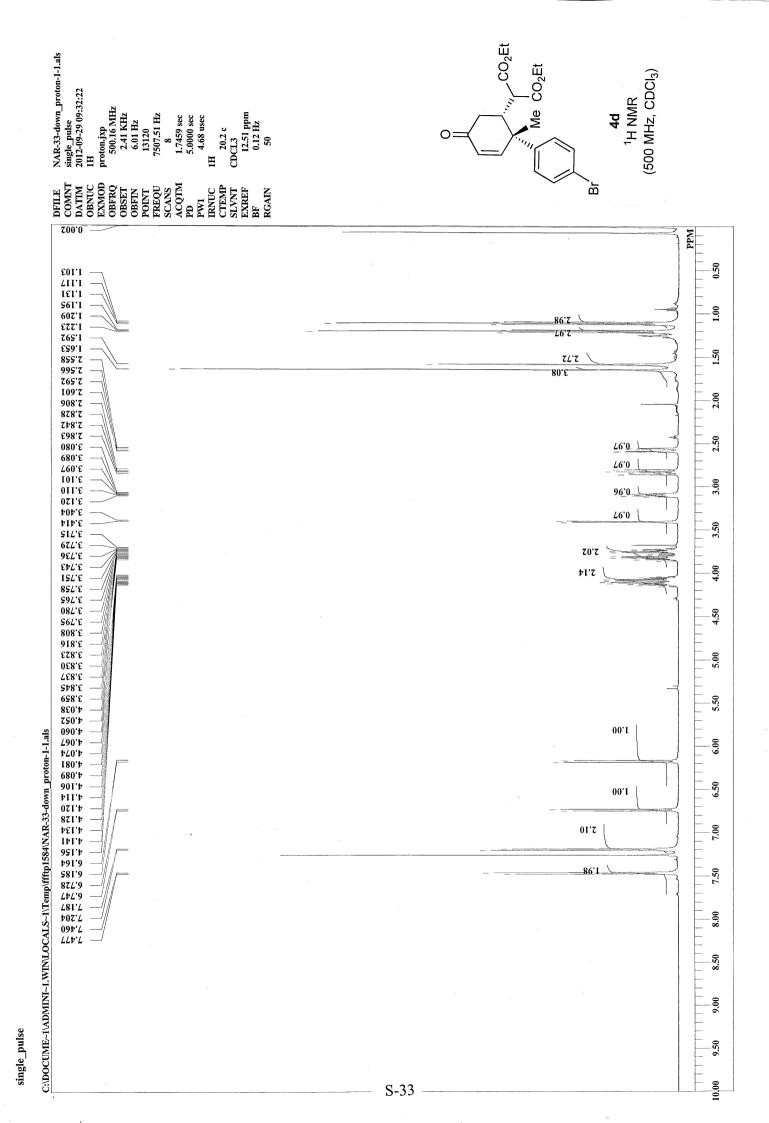


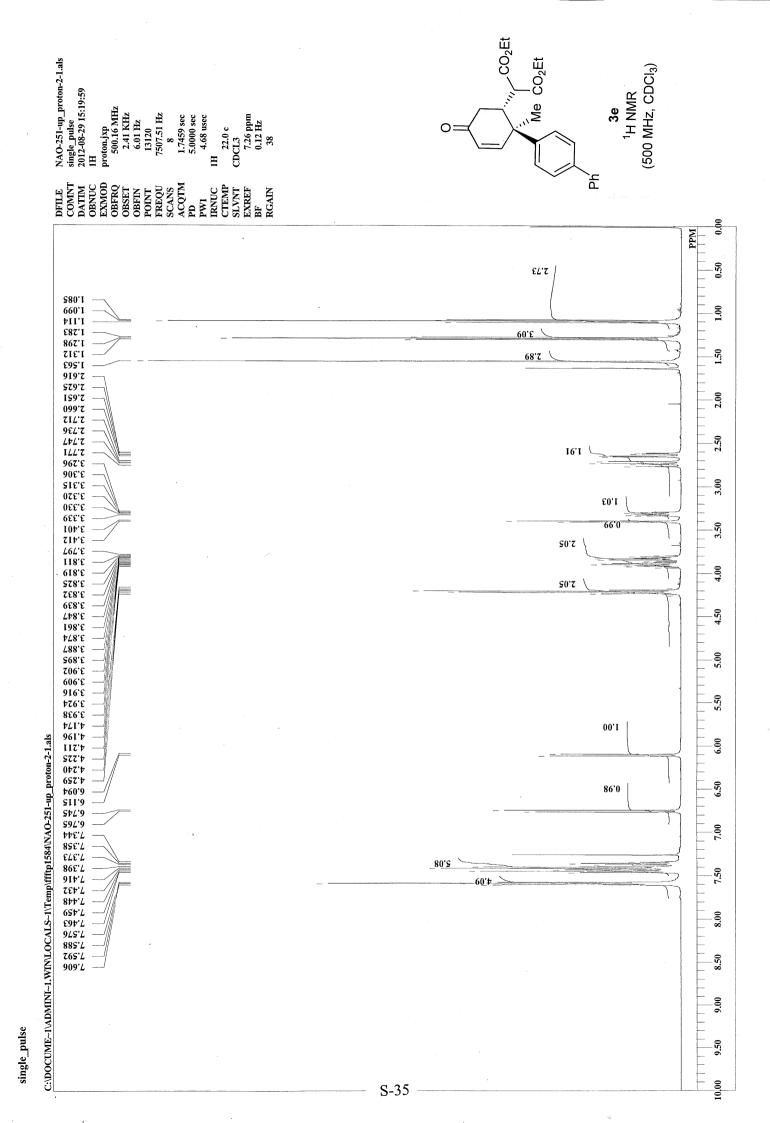
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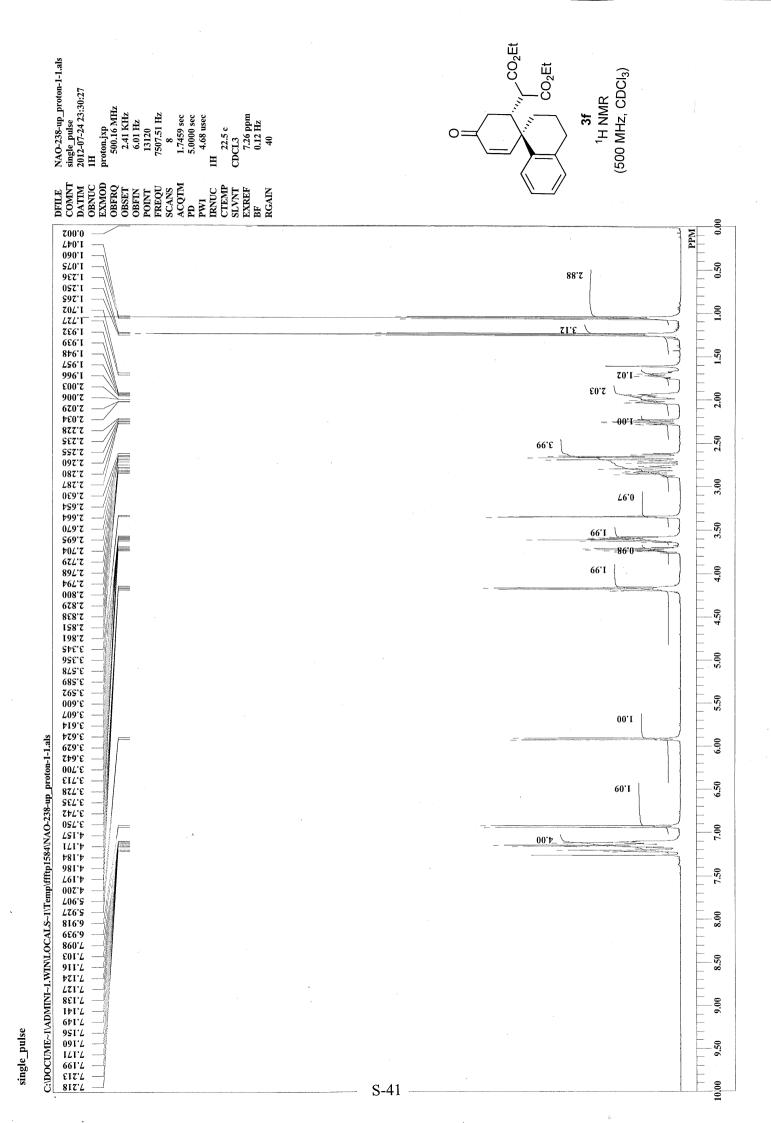


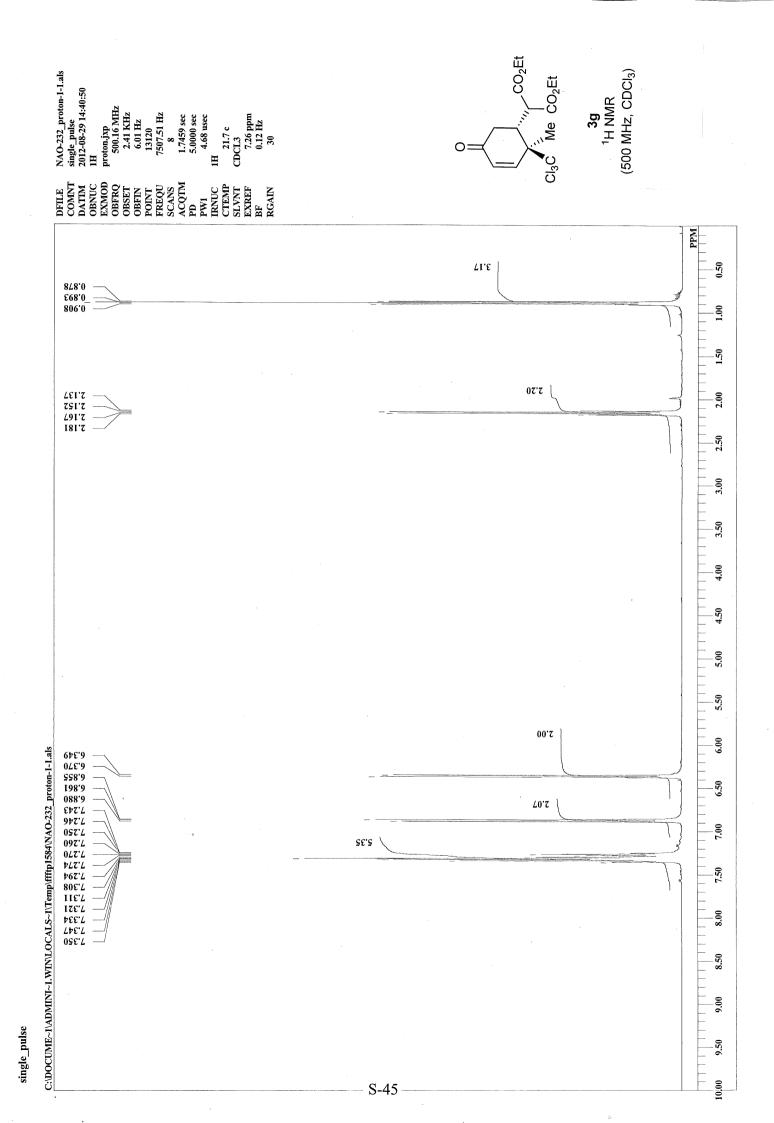
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single pulse decoupled gated NOE

