

Supporting Information

Organocatalytic enantioselective construction of nitrocyclohexanes containing multiple chiral centres via a cascade reaction

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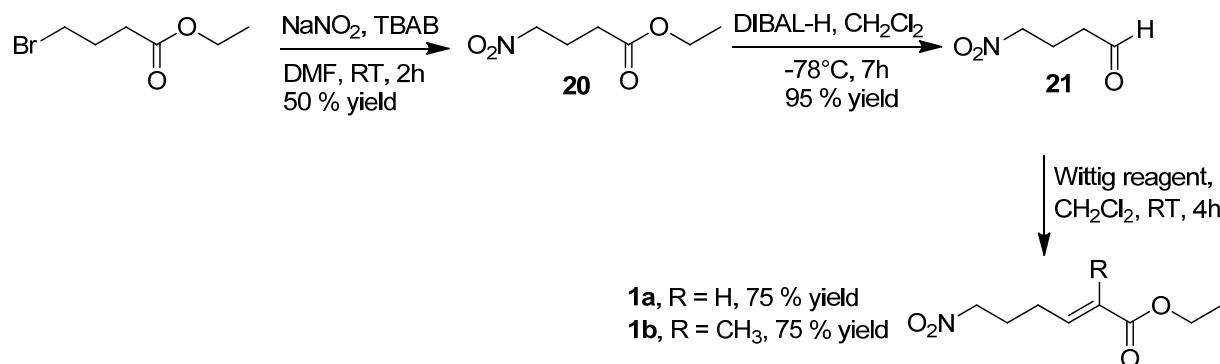
<http://www.pharmacy.rdg.ac.uk/staff/andre>

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General

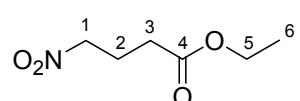
¹H NMR spectra were recorded in deuterated chloroform (CDCl_3) using a Bruker DPX 400 (400 MHz) or a Bruker Avance III 400 (400 MHz) or a Bruker Avance II⁺ 500 (500 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) are quoted in parts per million using the abbreviations: s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, double doublet; ddd, double doublet doublet; dddd, double doublet doublet doublet; dddt, double doublet doublet triplet; t, triplet; tt, triplet triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet and the coupling constants J are quoted in Hz. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz on a DPX 400 or Avance III 400 or 125 MHz on a Avance II⁺ 500 in deuterated chloroform (CDCl_3). Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer FT-IR spectrometer as a thin film. The absorptions are quoted in wavenumbers (cm^{-1}). Mass spectrometry data was recorded on a Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL using electrospray ionisation (ESI) conditions. Specific optical rotations ($[\alpha]_D$) were recorded at the sodium D line in chloroform and are quoted in units of 10^{-1} deg $\text{cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$. Solution concentrations (c) are given in the units of $10^{-2} \text{ g mL}^{-1}$. Readings were taken using a Perkin-Elmer 341 polarimeter. Melting points were determined on a Stuart SMP3 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Thin layer chromatography (tlc) was performed on Merck aluminium backed plates coated with 0.2 mm silica gel 60F₂₅₄. The spots were visualised using UV light (254 nm) and then permanent staining by solutions of potassium permanganate. Column chromatography was carried out using silica gel 60Å (35-70 µm). HPLC analysis was determined on an Agilent Technologies 1200 Series HPLC, using a ratio of hexanes and propan-2-ol as the elutent, using either a Chiralpak AD-H column (0.46 cm ø X 25 cm) or a Chrialcel OD column (0.46 cm ø X 25 cm), detection by UV at 210 nm or 254 nm. X-ray data was collected on a Oxford Gemini S-ultra diffractometer using K α ($\lambda = 1.54180 \text{ \AA}$) radiation. Anhydrous solvents were supplied as Sureseal® bottles by Aldrich. All reagents were supplied by Aldrich, Fisher and Acros and were used as supplied unless otherwise stated. Compound numbering within this supporting information continues from the manuscript.

Starting material preparation



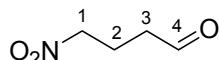
Scheme 1: Synthesis of **1a** and **1b**

Ethyl 4-nitrobutyrate, **20**



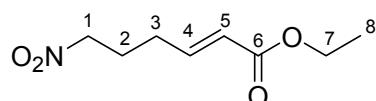
To a solution of ethyl 4-bromobutyrate **1** (8g, 41.03 mmol) in dimethyl formamide (300 mL) was added sodium nitrite (4.25g, 61.54 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium bromide (2.64g, 8.21 mmol) at 20 °C. After 3 hours, cold water (200 mL) was added and the aqueous phase extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by column chromatography (silica gel, diethyl ether/hexane, 3/17) afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (3.3g, 20.5 mmol, 50 %). IR (cm⁻¹) 1728 (s), 1550 (s), 1375 (s), 1176 (s), 1027 (m), 798 (m); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.27 (3H, t, *J* 7.2, H-6), 2.32 (2H, m, H-2), 2.47 (2H, m, H-3), 4.16 (2H, q, *J* 7.2, H-5), 4.48 (2H, t, 6.4, H-1); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 14.1 (C-6), 22.3 (C-2), 30.4 (C-3), 60.8 (C-5), 74.3 (C-1), 171.8 (C-4). HRMS required for C₆H₁₁O₄NNa is 184.0580, found 184.0576.

4-nitrobutanal, 21



To a solution of ethyl 4-nitrobutyrate **2** (3g, 18.63 mmol) in dichloromethane (160mL) at -78 °C was added DIBAL-H (26mL, 26.09 mmol, 1M solution in hexane). After 7.5 h the reaction was quenched with aqueous hydrochloric acid (1N, 100 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO_4), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the title compound as light yellow oil which was used without further purification. IR (cm^{-1}) 2842 (w), 1719 (s), 1545 (s), 1434 (m), 1382 (m), 1186 (m), 1097 (m); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 2.32 (2H, m, H-2), 2.67 (2H, t, J 6.8, H-3), 4.46 (2H, t, J 6.7, H-1), 9.8 (1H, s, H-4); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 19.6 (C-2), 40.0 (C-3), 74.2 (C-1), 199.7 (C-4).

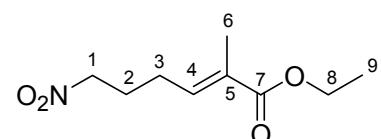
(E)-Ethyl 6-nitrohex-2-enoate, 1a



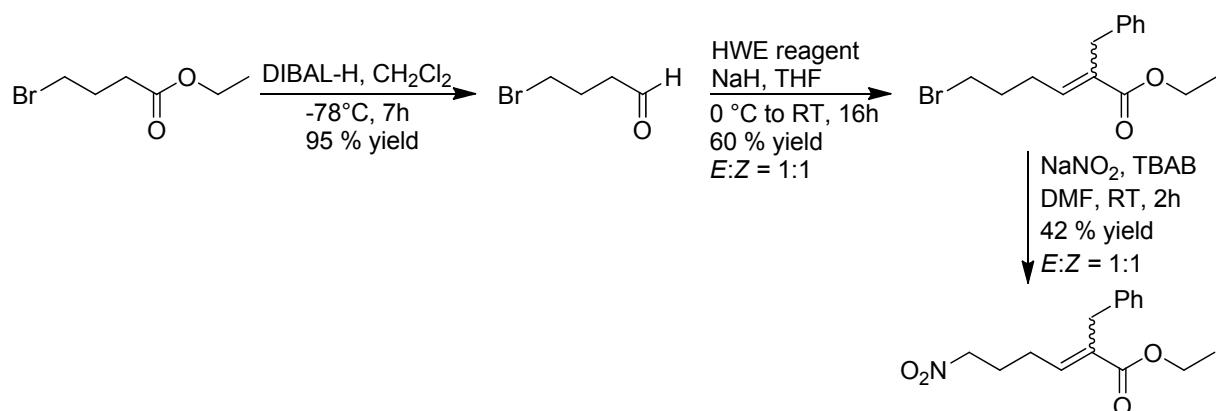
To a solution of crude 4-nitrobutanal **3** (1.89 g, 16.15 mmol) in dichloromethane (42 mL) was added (carbethoxymethylene)triphenylphosphorane (3.87 g, 10.68 mmol) in one portion. After 4h, saturated ammonium chloride (15 mL) and water (100 mL) were added and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO_4), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by column chromatography (silica gel, diethyl ether/hexane, 1/4) afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (2.26g, 75%, 12.09 mmol). IR (cm^{-1}) 1725 (s), 1612 (w), 1553 (s), 1515 (m), 1462 (m), 1372 (m), 1252 (s), 1182 (m), 1031 (m), 832 (m); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.29 (3H, t, J 7.1, H-8), 2.19 (2H, m, H-2), 2.35 (2H, m, H-3), 4.20 (2H, q, J 7.1, H-7),

4.41 (2H, t, *J* 6.8, H-1), 5.88 (1H, dt, *J* 15.6, 1.5, H-5), 6.89 (1H, dt, *J* 15.6, 1.5, H-4); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.2 (C-8), 25.5 (C-2), 28.5 (C-3), 60.4 (C-7), 74.4 (C-1), 123.3 (C-5), 145.3 (C-4), 166.0 (C-6); HRMS required for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4\text{N}$ is 188.0917, found 188.0917.

(E)-Ethyl 2-methyl-6-nitrohex-2-enoate, 1b

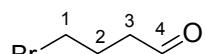


To a solution of crude 4-nitrobutanal **3** (1.1 g, 9.4 mmol) in dichloromethane (50 mL) was added in one portion of (carbethoxyethylidene)triphenylphosphorane (3.75 g, 10.34 mmol). After 4h, saturated ammonium chloride (15 mL) and water (100 mL) were added and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO_4), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by column chromatography (silica gel, diethyl ether/hexane, 1/4) afforded the title compound as colorless oil (1.4g, 75%, 7.05 mmol). IR (cm^{-1}) 1704 (s), 1651 (m), 1549 (s), 1435 (m), 1382 (m), 1367 (m), 1259 (s), 1129 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.30 (3H, t, *J* 7.16, H-9), 1.83 (3H, s, H-6), 2.18 (2H, m, H-2), 2.31 (2H, m, H-3), 4.20 (2H, q, *J* 7.12, H-8), 4.41 (2H, t, *J* 6.74, H-1), 6.68 (1H, t, *J* 7.38, H-4); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 12.4 (C-6), 14.2 (C-9), 25.1 (C-3), 26.2 (C-2), 60.6 (C-8), 74.7 (C-1), 130.0 (C-5), 138.2 (C-4), 167.6 (C-7); HRMS required for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_4\text{N}$ is 202.1074, found 202.1073.

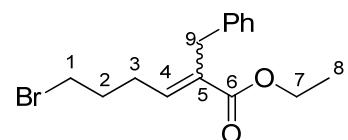


Scheme 2: Synthesis of Ethyl 2-benzyl-6-nitrohex-2-enoate

4-bromobutanal

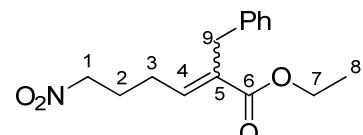
 To a solution of ethyl 4-bromobutyrate **2** (2 g, 10.25 mmol) in DCM (150 ml) at -78°C was added DIBAL-H (15 ml, 15.38 mmol, 1M solution in hexane). After 9 h the reaction was quenched with aqueous hydrochloric acid (1N, 100 ml) and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (2×20 ml). The combined organic layers were dried and concentrated to afford the title compound as light yellow oil which was used without further purification. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 2.19 (2H, m, H-2), 2.68 (2H, t, J 6.7, H-3), 3.45 (2H, t, J 6.4, H-1), 9.81 (1H, s, H-4); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 24.9 (C-2), 32.7 (C-1), 30.4 (C-3), 200.8 (C-4).

Ethyl 2-benzyl-6-bromohex-2-enoate

 To a solution of triethyl 2-benzyl-2-phosphonoacetate (1.99 g, 6.36 mmol) in THF (20 ml) at 0°C was added NaH (254 mg, 6.36 mmol) and stirred at this temperature for half an hour. Now, 4-bromobutanal (0.8 g, 5.30 mmol) in 6 ml of THF was added slowly into the reaction mixture and left stirring slowly to RT for 16h. It was then quenched with satd. NH_4Cl and

the aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether (3*25 ml). The combined organic layers were dried and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (silica gel, 10 % diethyl ether/ hexane) afforded the title compound as colorless oil (1 g, 60%, 3.22 mmol, *E/Z* ratio 1:1). Analytical data of *E* isomer: IR (cm^{-1}) 1710 (s), 1451 (w), 1231 (s), 1190 (s), 699 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.22 (3H, t, *J* 7.1, H-8), 2.00 (2H, m, H-2), 2.46 (2H, m, H-3), 3.39 (3H, t, *J* 6.5, H-1), 3.71 (2H, s, H-9), 4.15 (2H, q, *J* 7.1, H-7), 6.86 (1H, t, *J* 7.5, H-4), 7.21 (5H, m, H-aromatic); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.2 (C-8), 27.3 (C-3), 31.5 (C-2), 32.4 (C-9), 32.9 (C-1), 60.7 (C-7), 126.0, 128.2, 128.3, 132.6 (C-5), 139.6, 141.3 (C-4), 167.4 (C-6); HRMS required for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2^{81}\text{BrNa}$ is 335.0440, found 335.0436. Analytical data of *Z* isomer: IR (cm^{-1}) ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.20 (3H, t, *J* 7.1, H-8), 1.99 (2H, m, H-2), 2.62 (2H, m, H-3), 3.39 (3H, t, *J* 6.8, H-1), 3.58 (2H, s, H-9), 4.13 (2H, q, *J* 7.1, H-7), 5.87 (1H, t, *J* 7.6, H-4), 7.22 (5H, m, H-aromatic); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.2 (C-8), 28.3 (C-3), 32.4 (C-2), 33.0 (C-1), 40.4 (C-9), 60.3 (C-7), 126.2, 128.3, 128.8, 132.9 (C-5), 139.3, 140.9 (C-4), 167.3 (C-6); HRMS required for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2\text{BrNa}$ is 333.0461, found 333.0461.

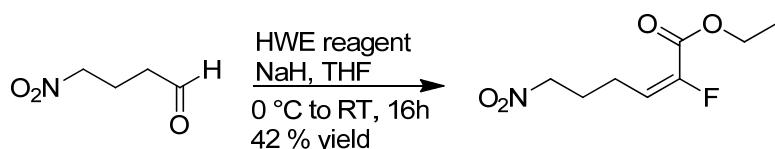
Ethyl 2-benzyl-6-nitrohex-2-enoate

 To a solution Ethyl 2-benzyl-6-bromohex-2-enoate (1 g, 3.22 mmol) in DMF (40 ml) was added sodium nitrite (333 mg, 4.82 mmol) and TBAB (207 mg, 0.64 mmol) at RT. After 26 hours, cold water was added and extracted with diethyl ether (25 ml). The aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether again (2*25 ml). The combined organic layers were dried over anhy. MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (silica gel, 15

% diethyl ether/ hexane) afforded the title compound as colorless oils, E isomer (190 mg, 21%, 0.69 mmol) and Z isomer (185 mg, 21%, 0.67 mmol).

Analytical data of *E* isomer: IR (cm^{-1}) 1704(s), 1579(s), 1379(m), 1263 (m), 1189 (m), 736 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.23 (3H, t, J 7.1, H-8), 2.13 (2H, m, H-2), 2.37 (2H, m, H-3), 3.68 (2H, s, H-9), 4.16 (2H, q, J 7.1, H-7), 4.33 (3H, t, J 6.8, H-1), 6.84 (1H, t, J 7.5, H-4), 7.21 (5H, m, H-aromatic); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.1 (C-8), 25.5 (C-3), 26.2 (C-2), 32.4 (C-9), 60.8 (C-7), 74.6 (C-1), 126.2, 128.1, 128.4, 133.3(C-5), 139.3, 140.0 (C-4), 167.2 (C-6); HRMS required for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4\text{N}$ is 278.1387, found 278.1388.

Analytical data of *Z* isomer: IR (cm^{-1}) 1708(s), 1549(s), 1379(m), 1221 (m), 1191 (m), 736 (w), 699 (m); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.20 (3H, t, J 7.2, H-8), 2.14 (2H, m, H-2), 2.57 (2H, m, H-3), 3.59 (2H, s, H-9), 4.13 (2H, q, J 7.1, H-7), 4.38 (3H, t, J 7.1, H-1), 5.83 (1H, t, J 7.6, H-4), 7.23 (5H, m, H-aromatic); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.1 (C-8), 26.1 (C-3), 26.8 (C-2), 40.8 (C-9), 60.4 (C-7), 74.8 (C-1), 126.3, 128.4, 128.8, 133.9(C-5), 138.9, 139.5 (C-4), 167.0 (C-6); HRMS required for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4\text{N}$ is 278.1387, found 278.1387.



Scheme 3: Synthesis of (*E*)-Ethyl 2-fluoro-6-nitrohex-2-enoate

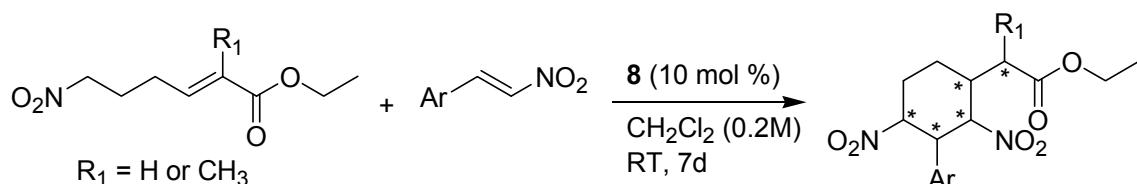
(*E*)-Ethyl 2-fluoro-6-nitrohex-2-enoate

To a solution of triethyl 2-fluorol-2-phosphonoacetate (0.807 g, 3.33 mmol) in THF (10 ml) at 0°C was added NaH (103 mg, 2.56 mmol) and stirred at this temperature for half an hour. Now, 4-nitrobutanal (0.3 g, 2.56 mmol) in 3 ml of THF was added slowly into the reaction

mixture and left stirring slowly to RT for 7h. It was then quenched with satd.NH₄Cl and the aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether (3*25 ml). The combined organic layers were dried and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (silica gel, 10 % diethyl ether/ hexane) afforded the title compound as colorless oil (0.22 g, 42%, 1.07 mmol). IR (cm^{-1}) 1708(s), 1549(s), 1379(m), 1221 (m), 1191 (m), 736 (w), 699 (m); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.35 (3H, t, *J* 7.2, H-8), 2.18 (2H, m, H-2), 2.65 (2H, m, H-3), 4.3 (2H, q, *J* 7.1, H-7), 4.42 (2H, t, *J* 6.9, H-1), 5.89 (1H, dt, *J* 20.5, 8.4, H-4); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 14.0 (C-8), 22.3 (*J*_{C-F} 5.7, C-3), 26.5 (*J*_{C-F} 2.8, C-2), 61.7 (C-7), 74.5 (C-1), 120.1 (*J*_{C-F} 19.6, C-4), 148.2 (*J*_{C-F} 253.9, C-5), 160.6 (*J*_{C-F} 35.3, C-6); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) -119.4 (dd, *J* 20.4, 5.2); HRMS required for C₈H₁₂O₄NFNa is 228.0643, found 228.0644. Assignment as ‘E’ was achieved by comparison of the 3-bond coupling constants with the corresponding Z-ester. See : *Structure Elucidation by Modern NMR*; Pertsch, E.; Clerc, T.; Seibl, J.; Simon, W.; Springer-Verlag: New York, 1989.

General organocatalysis reaction: General procedure A

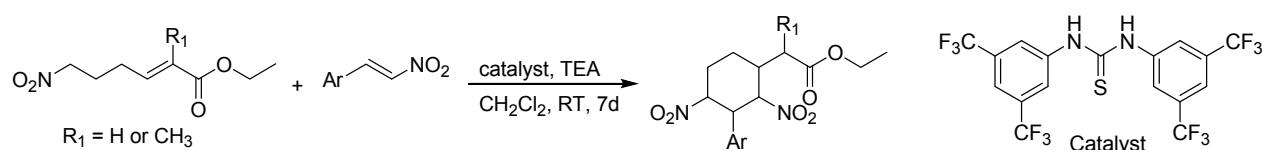
To a solution of the nitro- α,β -unsaturated ester (1 eq.) in solvent (0.2 M concentration), was added nitroalkene (1.1 eq.) and bifunctional organocatalyst **8** (0.1 eq.). The resulting solution was stirred for 7 days, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography (silica gel, Ethyl acetate/hexane 1/4).



Scheme 4: General organocatalysis reaction

General racemic reaction

To a solution of the nitro- α,β -unsaturated ester (1 eq.) in solvent (0.2 M concentration), was added nitroalkene (1.1 eq.), catalyst (0.1 eq.) and triethylamine (0.1 eq.). The resulting solution was stirred for 7 days, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography (silica gel, Ethyl acetate/hexane 1/4).



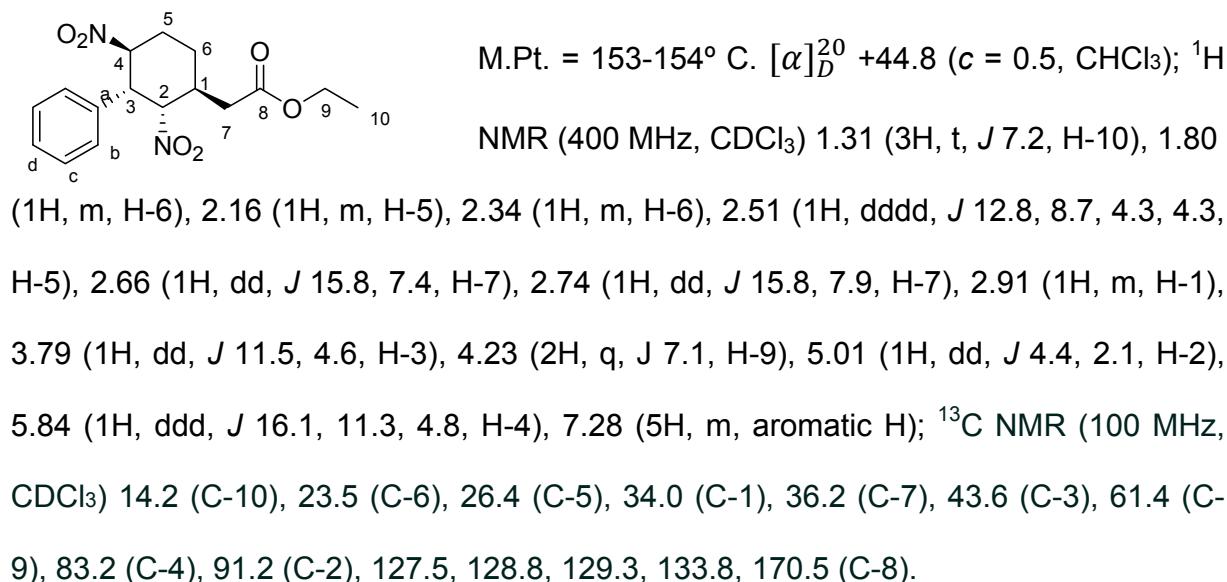
Scheme 5: General racemic reaction

(+)-Ethyl (2*R*,4*S*-dinitro-3*R*-phenyl-1*S*-cyclohexyl) acetate, 3a

Following the general procedure A, in dichloromethane (4 mL), (*E*)-Ethyl 6-nitrohex-2-enoate (150 mg, 0.80 mmol) gave a yellow oil after purification (200 mg, 0.5952 mmol, 74 %). A colourless crystal was obtained after recrystallisation with dichloromethane and hexane. M.Pt. = 110–111 °C. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (20 °C). [Chiralcel OD column (0.46 cm \varnothing X 25 cm) 2-propanol/hexane = 2.5/97.5; flow rate = 1 mL/min; detection wavelength = 210 nm] tR 67.06 min. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +25.6$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3); IR (cm^{-1}) 1730 (s), 1550 (s), 1455 (m), 1372 (m), 1339 (w), 1182 (m), 1032 (m), 761 (w); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.26 (3H, t, J 7.1, H-10), 1.86 (1H, dddd, J 18.5, 14.4, 4.4, 4.2, H-6 α), 2.20 (3H, m, H-5 and H-6 β), 2.64 (1H, dd, J 17.2, 6.1, H-7), 2.70 (1H, dd, J 16.7, 8.7, H-7), 3.21 (1H, m, H-1), 3.90 (1H, dd, J 11.9, 11.9, H-3), 4.16 (2H, m, H-9), 4.69 (1H, ddd, J 16.4, 11.6, 4.8, H-4), 5.06 (1H, dd, J 12.2, 4.8, H-2), 7.27 (5H, m, aromatic H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3)

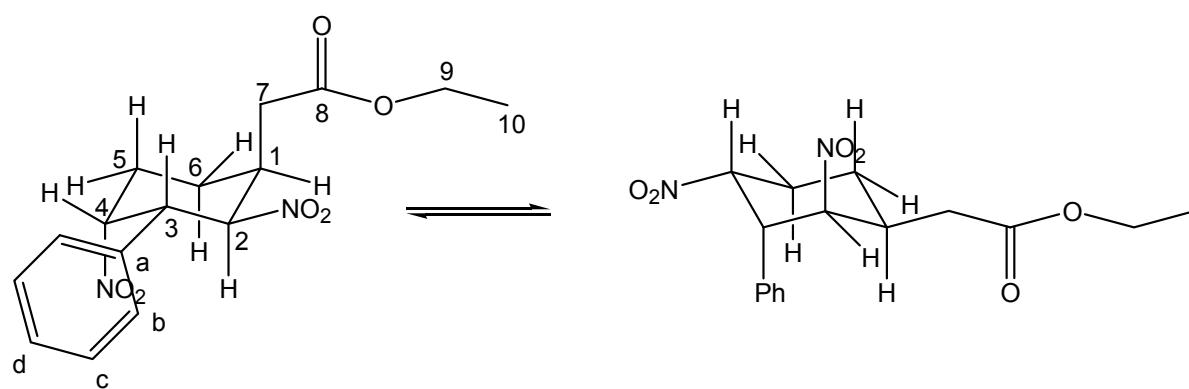
14.1 (C-10), 25.7 (C-5), 26.4 (C-6), 31.7 (C-7), 33.6 (C-1), 44.8 (C-3), 61.1 (C-9), 89.3 (C-4 and C-2), 127.8 (C-d), 128.9 (C-b), 129.2 (C-c), 134.0 (C-a), 170.6 (C-8). HRMS required for $C_{16}H_{20}O_6N_2Na$ is 359.1214, found 359.1210.

(+)-Ethyl (2S,4S-dinitro-3R-phenyl-1S-cyclohexyl) acetate, 10



Determination of other diastereomers using NMR

Ethyl (2R,4R-dinitro-3R-phenyl-1S-cyclohexyl) acetate, 9



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.24 (3H, t, *J* 7), 1.82 (1H, m, H-6 α), 2.20 (2H, m, H-5), 2.24 (1H, m, H-6 β), 2.47 (2H, m, H-7), 3.25 (1H, dddt, *J* 5, 5, 5, 5, H-1 α), 3.86 (1H, dd, *J* 12, 5, H-3 β), 4.13 (2H, q, *J* 7, H-9), 5.13 (1H, ddd, *J* 4, 4, 4, H-4 β), 5.91 (1H, dd, *J* 12, 5, H-2 α), 7.20 (2H, d, *J* 8, H-b) 7.29 (3H, m, H-c,d); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 14.0 (C-10), 23.5 (C-6), 24.1 (C-5), 32.5 (C-7), 33.2 (C-1), 42.8 (C-3), 61.0 (C-9), 85.3 (C-2), 86.7 (C-4), 127.6 (C-b), 127.8 (C-d), 129.3 (C-c), 134.5 (C-a), 170.7 (C-8).

In the major conformation, two groups are axial - the 4-nitro and 1-methlynic ester groups; while two groups are equatorial (2-nitro and 3-phenyl).

Methylenic ester substituent at C-1 is axial, because H-1 α is clearly equatorial as shown by 3 small equatorial-axial and equatorial-equatorial couplings (³J_{HH} = 5, 5 and 5) to H-2 α , H-6 α and H-6 β .

Nitro ester substituent at C-2 is equatorial, because H-2 α is clearly axial as shown by 1 large axial-axial coupling (³J_{HH} = 12) to H-3 β (there is also a small axial-equatorial (5 Hz) coupling to H-1 α).

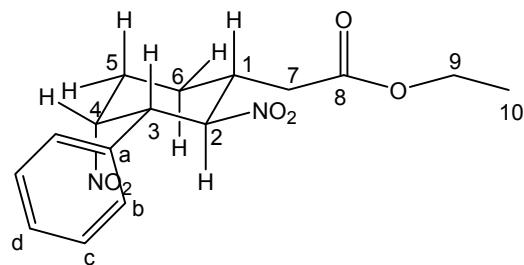
Phenyl substituent at C-3 is equatorial, because H-3 β is clearly axial as shown by 1 large axial-axial coupling (³J_{HH} = 12) to H-2 α (there is also a small axial-equatorial (5 Hz) coupling to H-4 β).

Nitro substituent at C-4 is axial, because H-4 β is clearly equatorial as shown by 3 small equatorial-axial and equatorial-equatorial couplings (³J_{HH} = 4, 4 and 4) to H-3 β , H-5 α and H-5 β .

In the minor conformation, the cyclohexane ring flips, placing the 2-nitro and 3-phenyl groups axial, while the 4-nitro and 1-methlynic ester groups become equatorial. Evidence that this ring flipping occurs on the NMR timescale is seen for the line

broadening of C-d (127.8 ppm), C-4 (86.7 ppm), C-2 (85.3 ppm), C-1 (33.2 ppm) and C-7 (32.5 ppm) in ^{13}C NMR.

Ethyl (2*R*,4*R*-dinitro-3*R*-phenyl-1*R*-cyclohexyl) acetate, 11



^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.24 (3H, t, J 7), 1.87 (1H, m, H-6 α), 2.01 (1H, m, H-6 β), 2.11 (1H, m, H-5 β), 2.31 (1H, m, H-5 α), 2.45 (1H, m, H-7b), 2.50 (1H, m, H-7a), 2.58 (1H, dddt, J

12, 12, 5, 5, H-1 β), 3.68 (1H, dd, J 12, 5, H-3 β), 4.13 (2H, q, J 7, H-9), 5.04 (1H, ddd, J 4, 4, 2, H-4 β), 5.77 (1H, dd, J 12, 12, H-2 α), 7.21 (2H, d, J 8, H-b), 7.29 (3H, m, H-c,d);

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.2 (C-10), 24.5 (C-6), 28.9 (C-5), 37.0 (C-7), 38.2 (C-1), 48.3 (C-3), 60.8 (C-9), 87.7 (C-4), 87.8 (C-2), 127.9 (C-b), 128.8 (C-d), 129.0 (C-c), 133.7 (C-a), 170.6 (C-8).

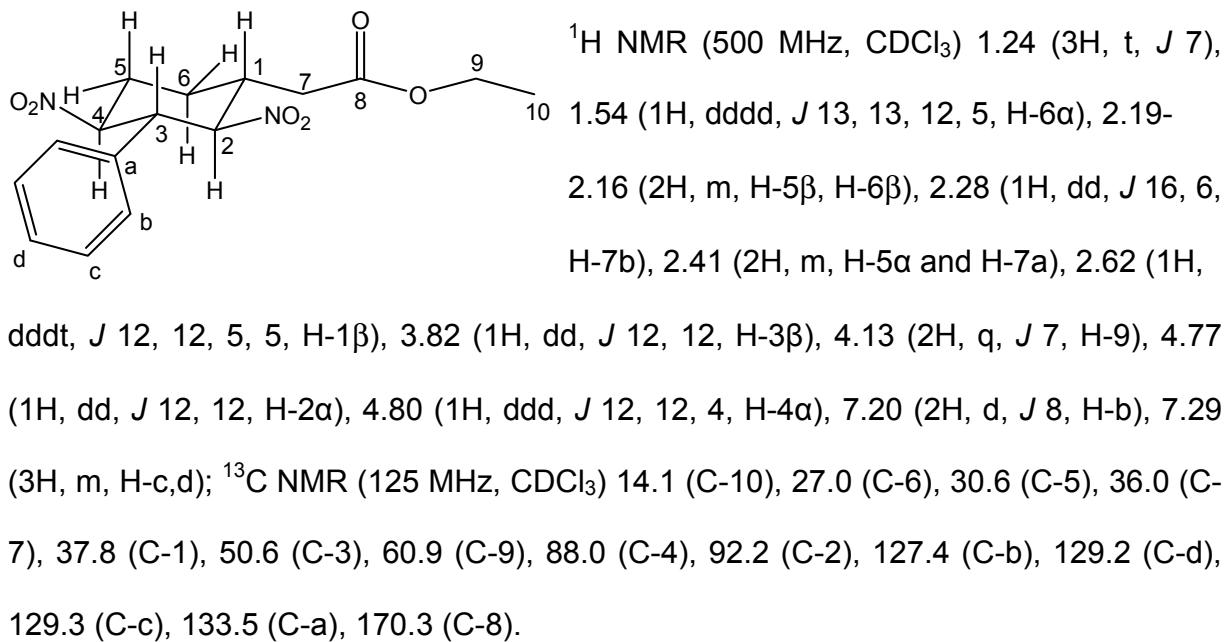
Methylenic ester substituent at C-1 is equatorial, because H-1 β is clearly axial as shown by 2 large axial-axial couplings ($^3J_{HH} = 12$ and 12) to H-2 α and H-6 α .

Nitro ester substituent at C-2 is equatorial, because H-2 α is clearly axial as shown by 2 large axial-axial couplings ($^3J_{HH} = 12$ and 12) to H-1 β and H-3 β .

Nitro substituent at C-4 is axial, because H-4 β only shows 3 small equatorial-axial and equatorial-equatorial couplings ($^3J_{HH} = 4$, 4 and 4) to H-3 α , H-5 α and H-5 β .

Phenyl substituent at C-3 is equatorial, because H-3 β is clearly axial as shown by 1 large axial-axial coupling ($^3J_{HH} = 12$) to H-2 α (small axial-equatorial coupling of $^3J_{HH} = 4$ to H-4 β).

Ethyl (2*R*,4*S*-dinitro-3*R*-phenyl-1*R*-cyclohexyl) acetate, 12



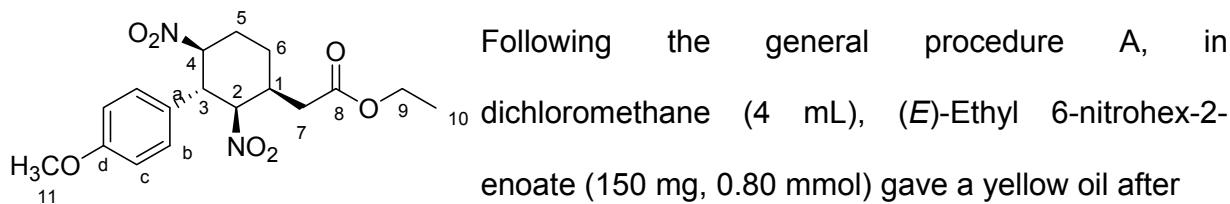
Methylenic ester substituent at C-1 is equatorial, because H-1 β is clearly axial as shown by 2 large axial-axial couplings ($^3J_{HH} = 12$ and 12) to H-2 α and H-6 α .

Nitro ester substituent at C-2 is equatorial, because H-2 α is clearly axial as shown by 2 large axial-axial couplings ($^3J_{HH} = 12$ and 12) to H-1 β and H-3 β .

Nitro substituent at C-3 is equatorial, because H-3 β is clearly axial as shown by 2 large axial-axial couplings ($^3J_{HH} = 12$ and 12) to H-2 α and H-4 α .

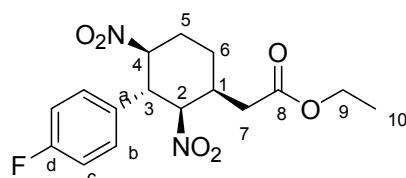
Nitro substituent at C-4 is equatorial, because H-4 α is clearly axial as shown by 2 large axial-axial couplings ($^3J_{HH} = 12$ and 12) to H-3 β and H-5 β .

(+)-Ethyl [3*R*-(4'-methoxy-phenyl)-2*R*,4*S*-dinitro-1*S*-cyclohexyl] acetate, 3b



purification (200 mg, 0.5464 mmol, 68%). An off white crystal was obtained after recrystallisation with dichloromethane and hexane. M.Pt. = 157-158 °C. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (20 °C). [Chiralpak AD-H column (0.46 cm ø X 25 cm) 2-propanol/hexane= 1.5/48.5; flow rate = 1 mL/min; detection wavelength = 210 nm] tR 98.89 min, tR 109.47. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +21.6$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3); IR (cm^{-1}) 1730 (s), 1612 (w), 1551 (s), 1515 (s), 1371 (m), 1250 (s), 1181 (m), 1030 (s), 732 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.26 (3H, t, J 7.1, H-10), 1.86 (1H, dddd, J 18.6, 14.2, 4.2, 4.2, H-6 α), 2.21 (3H, m, H-5 and H-6 β), 2.64 (1H, dd, J 16.8, 6.1, H-7), 2.69 (1H, dd, J 16.7, 8.3, H-7), 3.19 (1H, m, H-1), 3.75 (3H, s, H-11), 3.85 (1H, dd, J 11.9, 11.9, H-3), 4.16 (2H, m, H-9), 4.65 (1H, ddd, J 16.4, 11.6, 4.8, H-4), 4.93 (1H, dd, J 12.3, 4.8, H-2), 6.82 (2H, d, J 8.8, H-c), 7.13 (2H, d, J 8.7, H-b); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.1 (C-10), 25.7 (C-5), 26.4 (C-6), 31.7 (C-7), 33.6 (C-1), 44.1 (C-3), 55.2 (C-11), 61.1 (C-9), 89.4 (C-4), 89.5 (C-2), 114.6 (C-c), 125.7 (C-a), 128.9 (C-b), 159.8 (C-d), 170.6 (C-8). HRMS required for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_7\text{N}_2\text{Na}$ is 389.1319, found 389.1322.

(+)-Ethyl [3*R*-(4'-fluoro-phenyl)-2*R*,4*S*-dinitro-1*S*-cyclohexyl] acetate, 3c

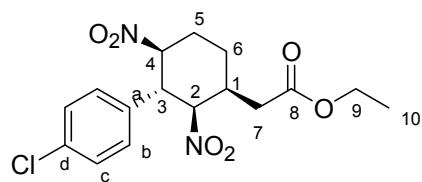


Following the general procedure A, in dichloromethane (4 mL), (*E*)-Ethyl 6-nitrohex-2-enoate (150 mg, 0.80 mmol) gave a yellow oil after

purification (190 mg, 0.5367 mmol, 67%). A colourless crystal was obtained after recrystallisation with dichloromethane and hexane. M.Pt. = 148-149 °C. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (20 °C). [Chiralcel OD column (0.46 cm ø X 25 cm) 2-propanol/hexane= 5/45; flow rate = 0.5 mL/min; detection wavelength = 210

nm] tR 49.83 min; tR 61.07 min. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +19.2$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3); IR (cm^{-1}) 1727 (s), 1606 (w), 1548 (s), 1511 (s), 1370 (s), 1226 (m), 833 (m); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.27 (3H, t, J 7.1, H-10), 1.87 (1H, dddd, J 18.5, 14.3, 4.2, 4.2, H-6 α), 2.22 (3H, m, H-5 and H-6 β), 2.64 (1H, dd, J 16.5, 5.4, H-7), 2.69 (1H, dd, J 16.6, 8.5, H-7), 3.21 (1H, m, H-1), 3.91 (1H, dd, J 11.9, 11.9, H-3), 4.16 (2H, m, H-9), 4.79 (1H, ddd, J 16.3, 11.7, 4.7, H-4), 4.94 (1H, dd, J 12.3, 4.8, H-2), 7.01 (2H, dd, $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.6$ (aromatic AB), $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 8.6$, H-c), 7.22 (2H, dd, $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.8$ (aromatic AB), $^4J_{\text{HF}} = 5.1$, H-b); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.1 (C-10), 25.7 (C-5), 25.4 (C-6), 31.7 (C-7), 33.6 (C-1), 44.2 (C-3), 61.2 (C-9), 89.2 (C-4), 89.3 (C-2), 116.2, 116.4(C-c), 129.6, 129.6 (C-b), 129.8, 129.8 (C-a), 161.5, 163.9 (C-d), 170.5 (C-8). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) -112.2 (tt, J 13.2, 4.4). HRMS required for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_6\text{N}_2\text{FNa}$ is 377.1119, found 377.1124.

(+)-Ethyl [3*R*-(4'-chloro-phenyl)-2*R*,4*S*-dinitro-1*S*-cyclohexyl] acetate, 3d



Following the general procedure A, in dichloromethane (4 mL), (*E*)-Ethyl 6-nitrohex-2-enoate (150 mg, 0.80 mmol) gave a yellow oil after purification (182 mg, 0.4908 mmol, 61%). A colourless crystal was obtained after recrystallisation with dichloromethane and hexane. M. Pt. = 182-183 °C. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (20 °C). [Chiralpak AD-H column (0.46 cm \varnothing X 25 cm) 2-propanol/hexane= 2.5/47.5; flow rate = 1 mL/min; detection wavelength = 210 nm] tR 50.33 min; tR 60.12 min. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +25.6$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3); IR (cm^{-1}) 1728 (s), 1548 (s), 1494 (m), 1370 (m), 1182 (s), 1092 (m), 824 (s), 735 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.27 (3H, t, J 7.2, H-10), 1.87 (1H, dddd, J 18.5, 14.4, 4.2, 4.2, H-6 α), 2.23 (3H,

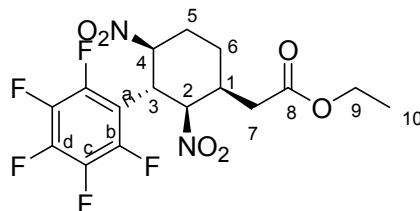
m, H-5 and H-6 β), 2.62 (1H, dd, *J* 16.8, 5.5, H-7), 2.69 (1H, dd, *J* 16.6, 8.8, H-7), 3.22 (1H, m, H-1), 3.90 (1H, dd, *J* 11.9, 11.9, H-3), 4.16 (2H, m, H-9), 4.65 (1H, ddd, *J* 16.2, 11.6, 4.7, H-4), 4.93 (1H, dd, *J* 12.3, 4.8, H-2), 7.18 (2H, d, *J* 8.5, H-b), 7.3 (2H, d, *J* 8.6, H-c); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.1 (C-10), 25.7 (C-5), 26.4 (C-6), 31.6 (C-7), 33.6 (C-1), 44.3 (C-3), 61.2 (C-9), 89.0 (C-4), 89.1 (C-2), 129.2 (C-b), 129.5 (C-c), 132.6 (C-d), 134.9 (C-a), 170.5 (C-8). HRMS required for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_6\text{N}_2\text{ClNa}$ is 393.0824, found 393.0828.

(+)-Ethyl [3*R*-(4'-methyl-phenyl)-2*R*,4*S*-dinitro-1*S*-cyclohexyl] acetate, 3e

Following the general procedure A, in dichloromethane (4 mL), (*E*)-Ethyl 6-nitrohex-2-enoate (150 mg, 0.80 mmol) gave a yellow oil after purification (196 mg, 0.56 mmol, 70%). A colourless crystal was obtained after recrystallisation with dichloromethane and hexane. M.Pt. = 166–167 °C. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (20 °C). [Chiralpak AD-H column (0.46 cm \varnothing X 25 cm) 2-propanol/hexane = 2/48; flow rate = 0.75 mL/min; detection wavelength = 210 nm] tR 52.01 min. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +22.4$ (*c* = 0.5, CHCl_3); IR (cm^{-1}) 1731 (s), 1552 (s), 1454 (w), 1371 (m), 1182 (m), 1033 (m); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.26 (3H, t, *J* 7.1, H-10), 1.86 (1H, dddd, *J* 18.5, 14.3, 4.3, 4.2, H-6 α), 2.20 (3H, m, H-5 and H-6 β), 2.27 (3H, s, H-11), 2.64 (1H, dd, *J* 16.5, 5.5, H-7), 2.69 (1H, dd, *J* 16.6, 8.5, H-7), 3.19 (1H, m, H-1), 3.86 (1H, dd, *J* 11.9, 11.9, H-3), 4.15 (2H, m, H-9), 4.67 (1H, ddd, *J* 16.4, 11.6, 4.9, H-4), 4.96 (1H, dd, *J* 12.3, 4.7, H-2), 7.10 (4H, m, aromatic H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.1 (C-10), 21.0 (C-11), 25.7 (C-5), 26.4 (C-6), 31.7 (C-7), 33.6 (C-1), 44.4 (C-

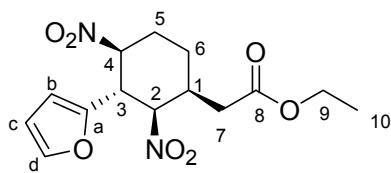
3), 61.1 (C-9), 89.3 (C-4), 89.4 (C-2), 127.6 (C-b), 129.8 (C-c), 130.9 (C-d), 138.7 (C-a), 170.7 (C-8). HRMS required for $C_{17}H_{12}O_6N_2Na$ is 373.1370, found 373.1374.

Ethyl [3-pentafluoro-phenyl]-2,4-dinitro-1-cyclohexyl] acetate, 3f



Following the general procedure A, in dichloromethane (4 mL), (*E*)-Ethyl 6-nitrohex-2-enoate (150 mg, 0.80 mmol) gave a yellow oil after purification (96 mg, 0.2253 mmol, 28%). Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (20 °C). [Chiralcel OD column (0.46 cm ø X 25 cm) 2-propanol/hexane = 2/48; flow rate = 1 mL/min; detection wavelength = 210 nm] tR 31.77 min. IR (cm^{-1}) 1732 (s), 1656 (w), 1556 (s), 1524 (s), 1504 (s), 1370 (m), 1186 (s), 1105 (s), 1020 (s), 986 (s), 731 (s); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.27 (3H, t, *J* 7.2, H-10), 1.93 (1H, m, H-6 α), 2.30 (3H, m, H-5 and H-6 β), 2.51 (1H, dd, *J* 16.8, 4.6, H-7), 2.69 (1H, dd, *J* 16.6, 9.8, H-7), 3.29 (1H, m, H-1), 4.17 (2H, m, H-9), 4.37 (1H, dd, *J* 11.9, 11.9, H-3), 4.91 (1H, ddd, *J* 16.2, 11.7, 4.5, H-4), 5.15 (1H, dd, *J* 12.2, 4.8, H-2); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.1 (C-10), 25.8 (C-5), 25.9 (C-6), 30.9 (C-7), 34.0 (C-1), 35.8 (C-3), 61.4 (C-9), 85.3 (C-4), 86.3 (C-2), 170.3 (C-8). HRMS required for $C_{16}H_{15}O_6N_2F_5Na$ is 449.0742, found 449.0734.

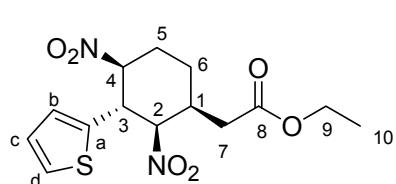
(+)-Ethyl (3*R*-furan-2'-yl-2*R*,4*S*-dinitro-1*S*-cyclohexyl) acetate, 3g



Following the general procedure A, in dichloromethane (4 mL), (*E*)-Ethyl 6-nitrohex-2-enoate (150 mg, 0.80 mmol) gave a yellow oil after

purification (173 mg, 0.5307 mmol, 66 %). An off white crystal was obtained after recrystallisation with dichloromethane and hexane. M.Pt. = 120-121 °C. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (20 °C). [Chiralpak AD-H column (0.46 cm ø X 25 cm) 2-propanol/hexane= 1/49; flow rate = 1 mL/min; detection wavelength = 210 nm] tR 53.53 min. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +9.6$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl₃); IR (cm⁻¹) 1729 (s), 1552 (s), 1455 (w), 1370 (m), 1182 (s), 1098 (m), 1014 (s), 739 (s); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.26 (3H, t, *J* 7.1, H-10), 1.83 (1H, dddd, *J* 18.4, 14.3, 4, 4, H-6α), 2.21 (3H, m, H-5 and H-6β), 2.54 (1H, dd, *J* 16.8, 5.4, H-7), 2.62 (1H, dd, *J* 16.6, 8.9, H-7), 3.19 (1H, m, H-1), 4.16 (3H, m, H-3 and H-9), 4.79 (1H, ddd, *J* 16, 11.6, 4.6, H-4), 5.06 (1H, dd, *J* 11.8, 4.8, H-2), 6.24 (1H, dd, *J* 3.3, 0.6, H-b), 6.27 (1H, dd, *J* 3.3, 1.9, H-c), 7.33 (1H, dd, *J* 1.8, 0.7, H-d); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 14.1 (C-10), 25.2 (C-5), 25.9 (C-6), 31.7 (C-7), 33.3 (C-1), 38.8 (C-3), 61.2 (C-9), 86.5 (C-4), 86.8 (C-2), 110.3 (C-b), 110.8 (C-c), 143.2 (C-d), 147.2 (C-a), 170.5 (C-8). HRMS required for C₁₄H₁₈O₇N₂Na is 349.1006, found 349.1001.

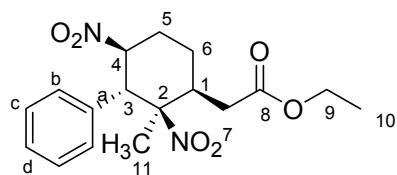
(+)-Ethyl (2*R*,4*S*-dinitro-3*R*-thiophen-2'-yl-1*S*-cyclohexyl) acetate, 3h



Following the general procedure A, in dichloromethane (4 mL), (*E*)-Ethyl 6-nitrohex-2-enoate (150 mg, 0.80 mmol) gave a yellow oil after purification (214 mg, 0.6257 mmol, 78%). An off white crystal was obtained after recrystallisation with dichloromethane and hexane. M.Pt. = 143-144 °C. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (20 °C). [Chiralpak AD-H column (0.46 cm ø X 25 cm) 2-propanol/hexane= 1.5/48.5; flow rate = 1 mL/min; detection wavelength =

210 nm] tR 63.50 min. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +19.6$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3); IR (cm^{-1}) 1728 (s), 1551 (s), 1456 (w), 1371 (m), 1186 (s), 1095 (m), 1030 (s), 705 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.26 (3H, t, J 7.1, H-10), 1.87 (1H, dddd, J 18.5, 14.5, 4.1, 4.1, H-6 α), 2.22 (3H, m, H-5 and H-6 β), 2.61 (1H, dd, J 16.8, 6.2, H-7), 2.66 (1H, dd, J 16.6, 8.2, H-7), 3.21 (1H, m, H-1), 4.16 (2H, m, H-9), 4.29 (1H, dd, J 11.6, 11.6, H-3), 4.68 (1H, ddd, J 16.1, 11.6, 4.6, H-4), 4.92 (1H, dd, J 12, 4.8, H-2), 6.91 (1H, dd, J 5.1, 3.6, H-c), 6.96 (1H, dd, J 3.6, 1, H-b), 7.23 (1H, dd, J 5.1, 0.8, H-d); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.1 (C-10), 25.8 (C-5), 26.2 (C-6), 31.7 (C-7), 33.7 (C-1), 40.5 (C-3), 61.2 (C-9), 90.0 (C-4), 90.2 (C-2), 125.8 (C-d), 127.3 (C-c), 127.8 (C-b), 136.6 (C-a), 170.5 (C-8). HRMS required for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_6\text{N}_2\text{NaS}$ is 365.0778, found 365.0771.

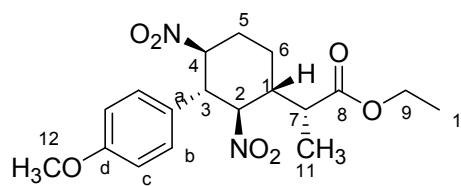
(-)-Ethyl [2*R*-methyl-2*R*,4*S*-dinitro-3*R*-phenyl-1*S*-cyclohexyl] acetate, 3i



Following the general procedure A, in dichloromethane (4 mL), (*E*)-Ethyl 6-nitrohex-2-enoate (150 mg, 0.80 mmol) gave a yellow oil after purification (12 mg, 0.03428 mmol, 4%). A colourless crystal was obtained after recrystallisation with dichloromethane and hexane. M.Pt. = 133-134 °C. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (20 °C). [Chiralpak AD-H column (0.46 cm \varnothing X 25 cm) 2-propanol/hexane= 2/48; flow rate = 1 mL/min; detection wavelength = 210 nm] tR 25.36 min. $[\alpha]_D^{20} -38.7$ ($c = 0.3$, CHCl_3); IR (cm^{-1}) 1730 (s), 1542 (s), 1454 (w), 1374 (m), 1189 (s), 1032 (m), 704 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.27 (3H, t, J 7.1, H-10), 1.76 (3H, s, H-11), 2.02 (2H, m, H-6), 2.30 (2H, m, H-5), 2.60 (1H, dd, J 15.5, 4.4, H-7), 2.74 (2H, m, H-1 and H-7), 4.16 (2H, m, H-9), 4.36 (1H, d, J 12.1, H-3), 5.05 (1H,

ddd, J 17.0, 12.0, 5.0, H-4), 7.26 (5H, m, aromatic H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.1 (C-10), 21.5 (C-11), 24.8 (C-6), 26.3 (C-5), 33.9 (C-7), 40.8 (C-1), 46.9 (C-3), 61.1 (C-9), 87.5 (C-4), 93.2 (C-2), 128.5 (C-d), 128.6 (C-b), 130.2 (C-c), 132.5 (C-a), 170.8 (C-8). HRMS required for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6\text{N}_2\text{Na}$ is 373.1370, found 373.1355.

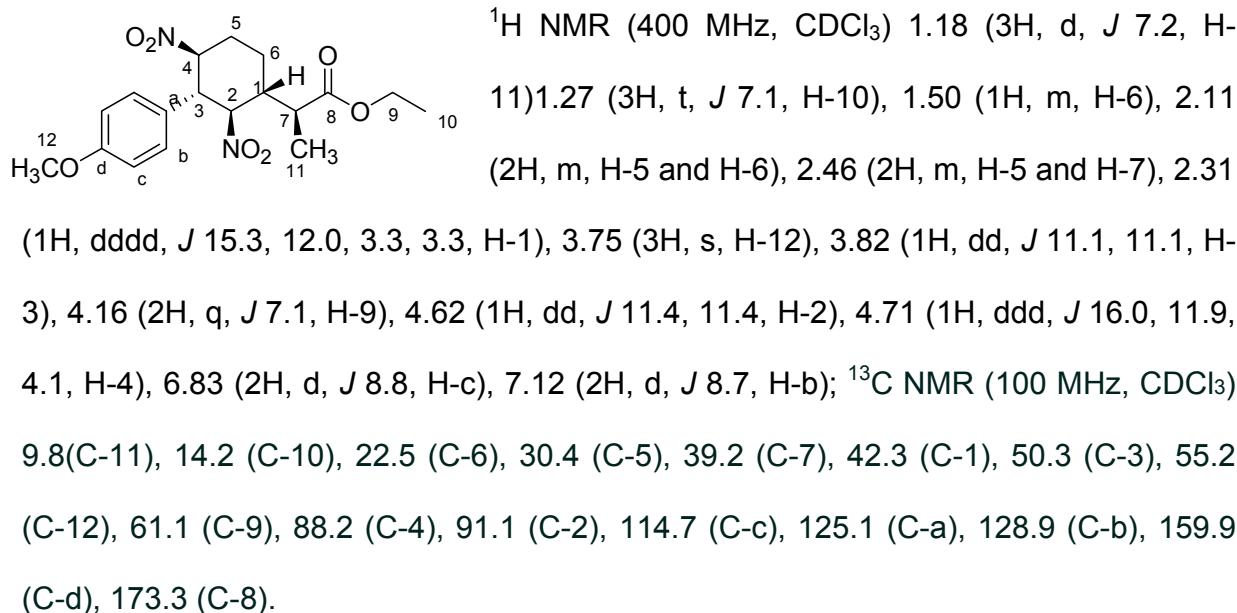
(+)-Ethyl 2(*R*)-[3(*R*)-(4'-methoxy-phenyl)-2(*R*),4(*S*)-dinitro-1(*R*)cyclohexyl] propanoate, 13



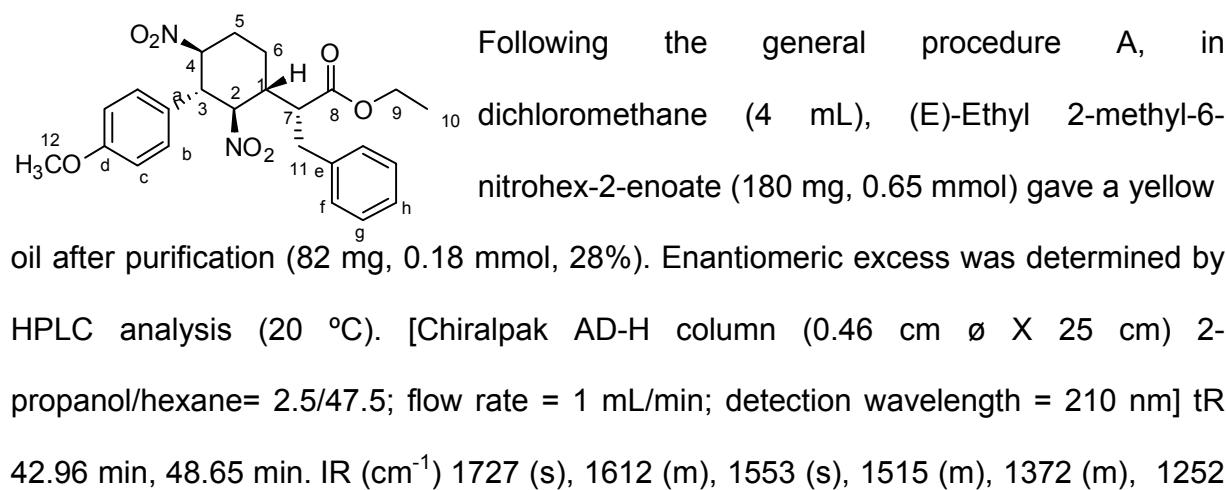
Following the general procedure A, in dichloromethane (4 mL), (E)-Ethyl 2-methyl-6-nitrohex-2-enoate (160 mg, 0.80 mmol) gave a yellow oil after purification (90 mg, 0.2368 mmol, 30%). A colourless crystal was obtained after recrystallisation with dichloromethane and hexane. M.Pt. = 162-163 °C. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (20 °C). [Chiralpak AD-H column (0.46 cm ø X 25 cm) 2-propanol/hexane = 3/97; flow rate = 1 mL/min; detection wavelength = 210 nm] tR 40.26 min, 46.88 min. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +30.4$ (c = 0.5, CHCl_3); IR (cm^{-1}) 1712 (s), 1655 (m), 1547 (s), 1435 (m), 1368 (m), 1268 (s), 1197 (s), 1160 (s), 1039 (s), 980 (m), 848 (m), 706 (m); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.25 (3H, d, J 7.3, H-11), 1.28 (3H, t, J 7.1, H-10), 1.73 (1H, m, H-6), 2.14 (2H, m, H-5 and H-6), 2.31 (1H, m, H-1), 2.48 (2H, m, H-5 and H-7), 3.75 (4H, m, H-3 and H-12), 4.18 (2H, m, H-9), 4.74 (1H, ddd, J 15.7, 11.9, 4.0, H-4), 5.02 (1H, dd, J 11.3, 11.3, H-2), 6.82 (2H, d, J 8.7, H-c), 7.10 (2H, d, J 8.6, H-b); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.2 (C-10), 15.2 (C-11), 22.1 (C-6), 30.8 (C-5), 38.6 (C-7), 44.4 (C-1), 50.6 (C-3), 55.1 (C-12), 60.8 (C-9), 88.3 (C-4), 91.7 (C-2), 114.6 (C-c), 125.3

(C-a), 128.8 (C-b), 159.9 (C-d), 173.0 (C-8). HRMS required for C₁₈H₂₄O₇N₂Na is 403.1476, found 403.1472. And this analytical data is for minor diastereoisomer.

Ethyl 2(R)-[3(R)-(4'-methoxy-phenyl)-2(R),4(S)-dinitro-1(R)cyclohexyl] propanoate,

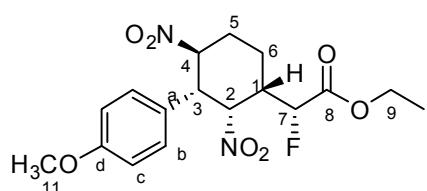


Ethyl 2(R)-[3(R)-(4'-methoxy-phenyl)-2(R),4(S)-dinitro-1(R)cyclohexyl]-3-phenylpropanoate 14



(s), 1181 (s), 1119 (m), 1030 (s), 832 (m), 700 (m); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.12 (3H, t, J 7, H-10), 1.65 (1H, dddd, J 12, 12, 12, 3, H-6 β), 2.14 (2H, m, H-5 α and H-6 α), 2.49 (1H, dddd, J 12, 3, 3, 3, H-5 β), 2.63 (1H, dd, J 11, 3, H-7), 2.71 (1H, dddd, J 13, 11, 3, 3, H-1), 2.98 (2H, dd, J 13, 11, H-11), 3.76 (3H, s, H-12), 3.81 (1H, dd, J 11, 11, H-3), 4.05 (2H, q, J 7, H-9), 4.72 (1H, m, H-4), 4.77 (1H, dd, J 12, 12, H-9), 6.84 (2H, d, J 8, H-c), 7.11 (2H, d, J 8, H-b), 7.15 (2H, d, J 8, H-f), 7.19 (1H, m, H-h), 7.25 (2H, dd, J 8, 8, H-g); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 14.0 (C-10), 23.4 (C-6), 30.6 (C-5), 31.7 (C-11), 42.8 (C-1), 48.0 (C-7), 50.4 (C-3), 55.2 (C-12), 61.1 (C-9), 88.2 (C-4), 91.0 (C-2), 114.7 (C-c), 125.1 (C-a), 126.7 (C-h), 128.4 (C-g), 129.0 (C-b), 129.1 (C-f), 138.4 (C-e), 160.1 (C-d), 172.4 (C-8). Stereochemistry of C-7 assigned by analogy to compound **13**.

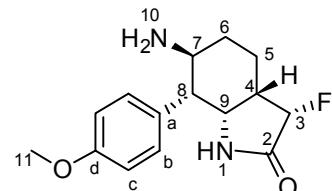
(+)-Ethyl 2(*R*)-fluoro-[3*R*-(4'-methoxy-phenyl)-2*R*,4*S*-dinitro-1*S*-cyclohexyl] acetate
15



Following the general procedure A, in dichloromethane (4 mL), (*E*)-Ethyl 6-nitrohex-2-enoate (175 mg, 0.85 mmol) gave a yellow oil after purification (99 mg, 0.2571 mmol, 30%). An off white crystal was obtained after recrystallisation with dichloromethane and hexane. M.Pt. = 173-174 °C. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (20 °C). [Chiralpak AD-H column (0.46 cm \varnothing X 25 cm) 2-propanol/hexane = 2.5/47.5; flow rate = 1 mL/min; detection wavelength = 210 nm] tR 53.60 min, tR 66.27. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +60.6$ (c = 0.35, CHCl_3); IR (cm^{-1}) 1731 (s), 1612 (w), 1551 (s), 1514 (s), 1377 (m), 1289 (m), 1247 (s), 1025 (s), 798 (s), 731 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.34 (3H, t, J 7.2, H-10), 1.86 (1H, dddd, J 14, 4, 4, 4, H-6 α), 2.11

(1H, dddd, J 14, 14, 14, 4, H-5 β), 2.29 (1H, dddd, J 14, 14, 14, 4, H-6 β), 2.69 (1H, dddd, J 14, 7, 4, 4, H-1), 2.72 (1H, m, H-5 α), 3.63 (1H, dd, J 12, 4, H-3), 3.76 (3H, s, H-11), 4.32 (2H, m, H-9), 4.69 (1H, dd, ${}^2J_{HF}$ 48, J_{HH} 7, H-7), 5.16 (1H, dd, J 4, 4, H-2), 5.78 (1H, ddd, J 12, 12, 5, H-4), 6.84 (2H, d, J 8.7, H-b), 7.10 (2H, d, J 8.7, H-c); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 14.1 (C-10), 20.7 (d, ${}^3J_{CF}$ 5, C-6), 30.6 (C-5), 42.1 (d, ${}^2J_{CF}$ 22, C-1), 47.5 (C-3), 55.3 (C-11), 62.6 (C-9), 83.1 (C-4), 87.7 (d, ${}^3J_{CF}$ 2, C-2), 88.7 (d, ${}^1J_{CF}$ 189, C-7), 114.9 (C-c), 125.1 (C-a), 128.4 (C-b), 160.0 (C-d), 167.4 (d, ${}^2J_{CF}$ 22, C-8). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) -118.9. HRMS required for C₁₇H₂₁O₇N₂FNa is 407.1225, found 407.1220.

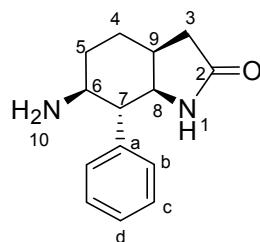
(3S, 3aS, 6S, 7R, 7aR)-6-amino-3-fluoro-7-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-hexahydro-1H-indol-2(3H)-one



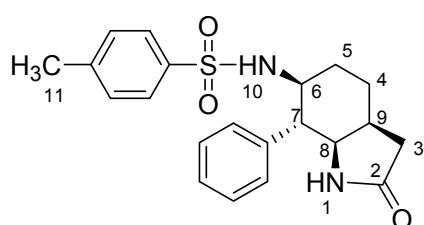
To a solution of (+)-Ethyl [2(R)-fluoro-[3R-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-2R,4S-dinitro-1S-cyclohexyl] acetate, (24 mg, 0.0623 mmol) in ethanol (2mL) was added Raney Nickel (1 spatula). It was then stirred under an atmosphere of hydrogen (1 atm) at RT. After stirring for 24h, the mixture was filtered through a pad of celite and washed with ethanol, dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude is pure enough for analytical data. IR (cm⁻¹) 3286 (br), 2926 (m), 1717 (s), 1611(m), 1512 (s), 1446 (w), 1245 (s), 1110 (m), 835 (w), 731 (s); 1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.34 (1H, dddd, J 11, 11, 11, 3, H-6 β), 1.61 (1H, dddd, J 14, 14, 14, 3, H-5 α), 1.89 (1H, dddd, J 14, 6, 3, 3, H-5 β), 2.04 (1H, dd, J 13, 3, 3, 3, H-6 α), 2.62 (1H, dd, J 11, 4, H-8), 2.82 (1H, dddd, J 12, 6, 6, 6, H-4), 3.29 (1H, ddd, J 10, 10, 3, H-7), 3.69 (1H, dd, J 4, 4, H-9),

3.81 (3H, s, H-11), 5.10 (1H, dd, $^2J_{HF}$ 51, J_{HH} 7, H-3), 7.05 (5H, m, aromatic H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 19.9 (d, $^3J_{HF}$ 10, C-5), 32.6 (C-6), 39.9 (d, $^2J_{HF}$ 16, C-4), 47.0 (C-10), 51.9 (C-8), 53.6 (d, $^3J_{HF}$ 4, C-9), 90.8 (d, $^1J_{HF}$ 198, C-3), 115.1 (C-c), 129.0 (C-b), 159.2 (C-d), 171.7 (d, $^2J_{HF}$ 24, C-2).

6-Amino-7-phenyl-octahydro-indol-2-one,

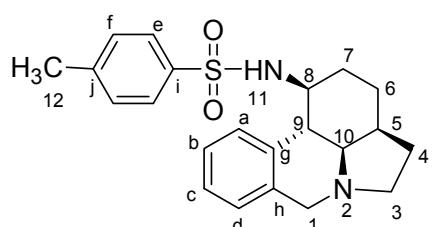
 To a solution of (+)-Ethyl (2*R*,4*S*-dinitro-3*R*-phenyl-1*S*-cyclohexyl) acetate, **3a** (135 mg, 0.4 mmol) in ethanol (5mL) was added Raney Nickel (1 spatula). It was then stirred under an atmosphere of hydrogen (1 atm) at RT. After stirring for 24h, the mixture was filtered through a pad of celite and washed with ethanol, dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by column chromatography (silica gel, methanol/dichloromethane,1/4) afforded the title compound as a yellow oil (83 mg, 0.36 mmol, 90%). IR (cm⁻¹) 3206 (br), 2924 (m), 1683 (s), 1599 (w), 1451 (w), 1343 (m), 1263 (w), 1058 (m), 702 (s); 1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.36 (2H, br s, H-10), 1.40 (1H, m, H-5), 1.88 (3H, m, H-4 and 5), 2.18 (1H, dd, J 8.2, 8.2, H-3), 2.22 (1H, dd, J 10.5, 10.5, H-7), 2.42 (1H, dd, J 16.5, 12.7, H-3), 2.73 (1H, m, H-9), 2.93 (1H, tdd, J 13.8, 10.8, 3.1, H-6), 3.53 (1H, ddd, J 10.1, 7.0, 9.2, H-6), 5.58 (1H, s, H-1), 7.28 (5H, m, aromatic H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 24.2 (C-4), 29.9 (C-5), 33.19 (C-3), 34.8 (C-9), 51.6 (C-6), 57.6 (C-7), 60.1 (C-8), 127.5 (C-d), 128.5 (C-b), 129.1 (C-c), 139.8 (C-a), 177.3 (C-2). HRMS required for C₁₄H₁₉ON₂ is 231.1492, found 231.1491.

4-methyl-N-(2-oxo-7-phenyl-octahydro-indol-6-yl)benzenesulfonamide, 16



To a solution of 6-Amino-7-phenyl-octahydro-indol-2-one (76 mg, 0.33 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (10 mL) was added anhydrous triethylamine (0.11 mL, 0.79 mmol, 2.4 eq.) and tosyl chloride (76 mg, 0.40 mmol, 1.2 eq.) at 0 °C and allowed to RT and stirred for 3 days. After removal of dichloromethane, it was loaded onto column and eluted with 10 % methanol/dichloromethane to obtain pure 4-methyl-N-(2-oxo-7-phenyl-octahydro-indol-6-yl)benzenesulfonamide as an off white semi solid (108mg, 0.28 mmol, 85 %). IR (cm⁻¹) 3270 (br), 2926 (m), 1675 (s), 1599 (w), 1451 (m), 1422 (m), 1318 (m), 1152 (s), 1091 (s), 813 (m), 732 (s), 700 (s), 671(s); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.50-1.83 (3H, m, H-4 and 5), 2.09-2.37 (4H, m, H-3, 5 and 7), 2.40 (3H, s, H11), 2.59-2.67 (1H, m, H-9), 3.16-3.24 (1H, m, H-6), 3.44 (1H, dd, *J* 9.5, 7.3, H-8), 5.28-5.31 (1H, m, H-10), 5.77 (1H, s, H-1), 6.83 (2H, d, *J* 7.3, aromatic H), 7.05-7.17 (5H, m, aromatic H), 7.33 (2H, d, *J* 8.0, aromatic H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 21.4 (C-12), 23.7 (C-4), 29.0 (C-5), 33.2 (C-3), 34.1 (C-9), 53.7 (C-7), 54.1 (C-6), 60.4 (C-8), 126.8, 127.4, 128.3, 128.9, 129.4, 137.3, 138.1, 142.8, 177.5 (C-2). HRMS required for C₂₁H₂₅O₃N₂S is 385.1580, found 385.1582.

4-Methyl-N-(1,2,3,3a,4,5,11b,11c-octahydro-7H-pyrrolo[3,2,1-de]phenanthridin-1-yl)-benzenesulfonamide, 18

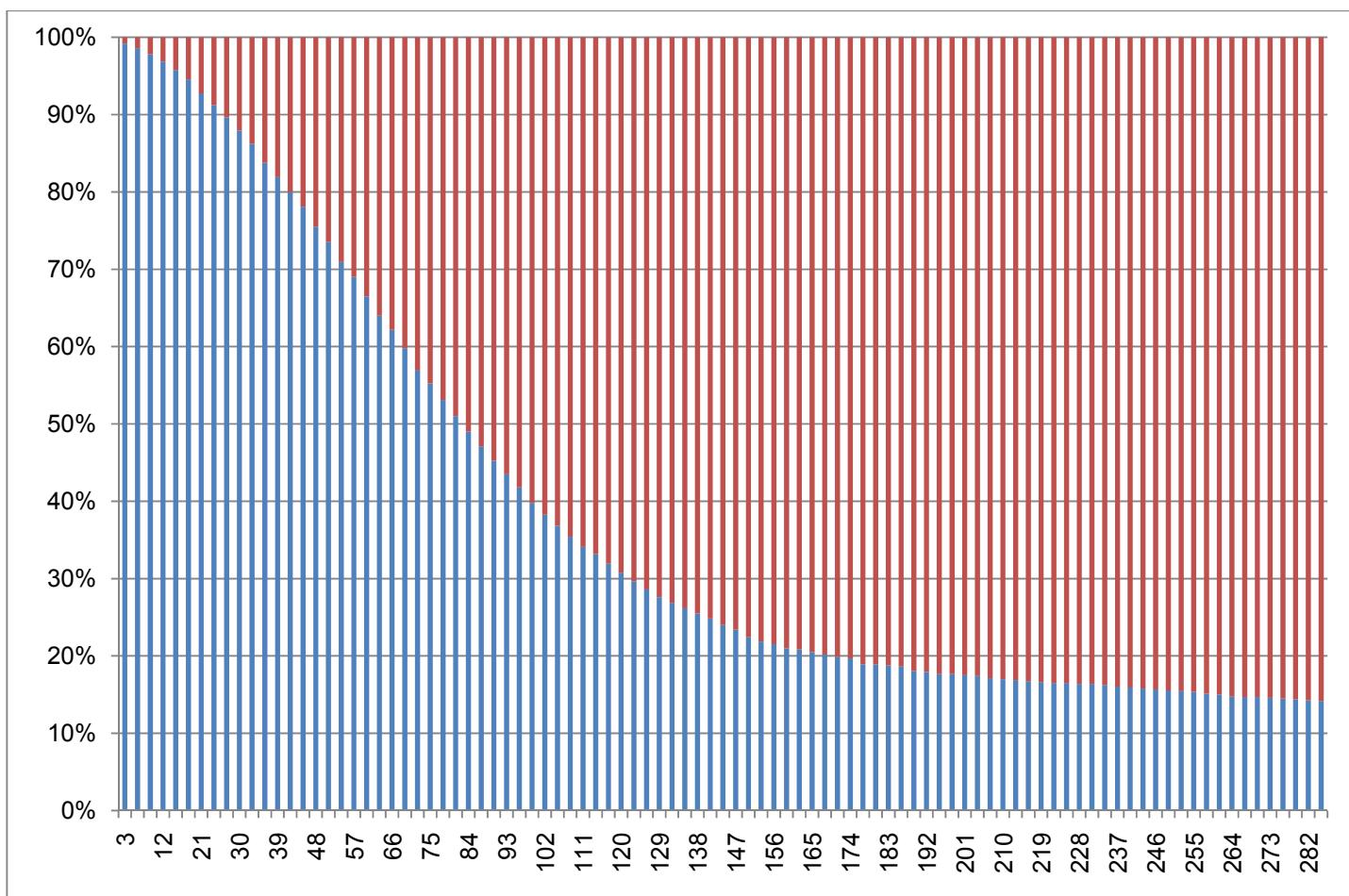


To a solution of 4-methyl-N-(2-oxo-7-phenyloctahydro-indol-6-yl)benzenesulfonamide, **16** (150 mg, 0.39 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) was added lithium aluminium hydride powder (30 mg, 0.78 mmol, 2 eq.) at 0 °C. The mixture was then heated at reflux for 6h. After this time, the reaction mixture was quenched with ethyl acetate and then passed through a pad of celite, which was washed thoroughly with ethyl acetate. The combined filtrates were concentrated under reduced pressure. To the crude residue (58 mg, 0.16 mmol) was added conc. HCl (5 mL) and 37 % aq. formaldehyde solution (0.1 mL). The resulting was heated at 50 °C for 21h. After this time, water (10 mL) was added and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO_4), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a brown oil which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 10 % methanol/ dichloromethane) to afford the title compound as a yellow oil (36 mg, 0.09 mmol, 60%). IR (cm^{-1}) 2924 (br), 2873 (m), 1598 (m), 1457 (m), 1333 (s), 1156 (s), 1089 (m), 1021 (m), 919 (s), 732 (m), 663 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 1.72-1.90 (5H, m, H-4,6 and 11), 2.18 (3H, s, H-12), 2.24-2.38 (4H, m, H-5,7 and 9), 2.90-3.04 (3H, m, H-8 and 3), 3.55 (1H, dd, J 10.2 ,6.8, H-10), 4.11 (1H, d, J 15.9, H-1), 4.42 (1H, d, J 15.9, H-1), 6.50 (1H, d, J 7.4, H-d), 6.81 (1H, t, J 7.4, H-c), 6.87 (1H, d, J 8, H-f), 7.02 (1H, t, J 7.5, H-b), 7.13 (1H, d, J 7.6, H-a), 7.25 (1H, d, J 8.1, H-e); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 21.3 (C-12), 24.1 (C-6), 28.5 (C-4), 29.6 (C-7), 37.9 (C-5), 43.0 (C-9), 44.7 (C-3), 46.1 (C-1), 58.7 (C-8), 59.1 (C-10), 123.8 (C-

a), 125.7 (C-c), 125.9 (C-d), 127.2 (C-e), 127.5 (C-b), 129.0 (C-f), 135.8 (C-h), 136.3 (C-i), 136.6 (C-j), 142.8 (C-g); HRMS required for $C_{22}H_{27}O_2N_2S$ is 383.1788, found 383.1788.

Days Optimisation Using NMR (500 MHz)

To a solution of the nitro- α,β -unsaturated ester (40 mg, 0.21 mmol) in 1mL of CD_2Cl_2 was added nitro alkene (35 mg, 0.24 mmol) and bifunctional organocatalyst **C** (12.7 mg, 0.02 mmol). This solution was then transferred to NMR tube and was monitored at 3 hours intervals in 500 MHz NMR for 12 days and the proportions of starting material:product determined by measurement of the relative quantities as determined from integrals at 5.74-5.81 ppm for starting material (1H) and 4.92-4.98 ppm for product (1H).

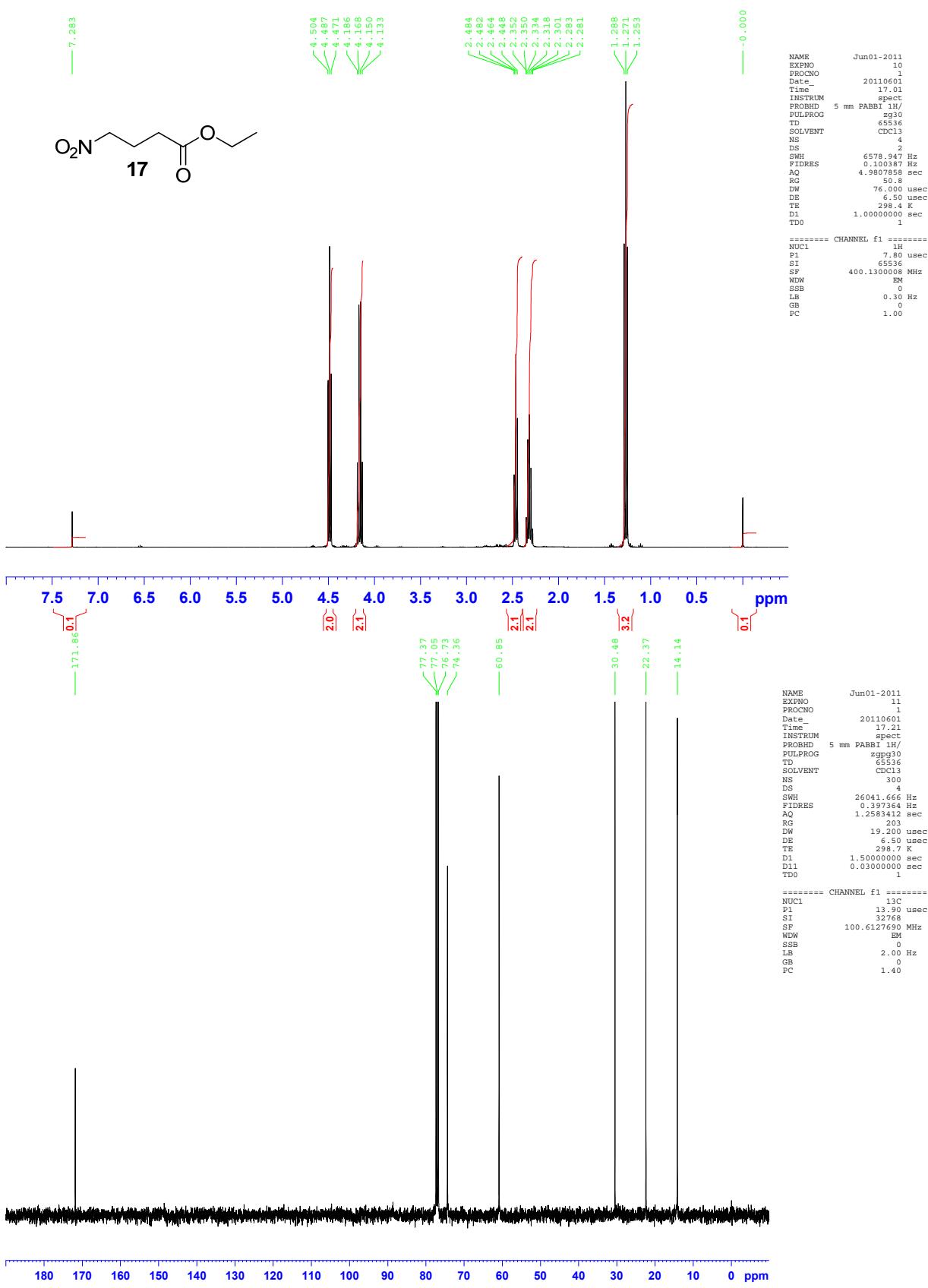


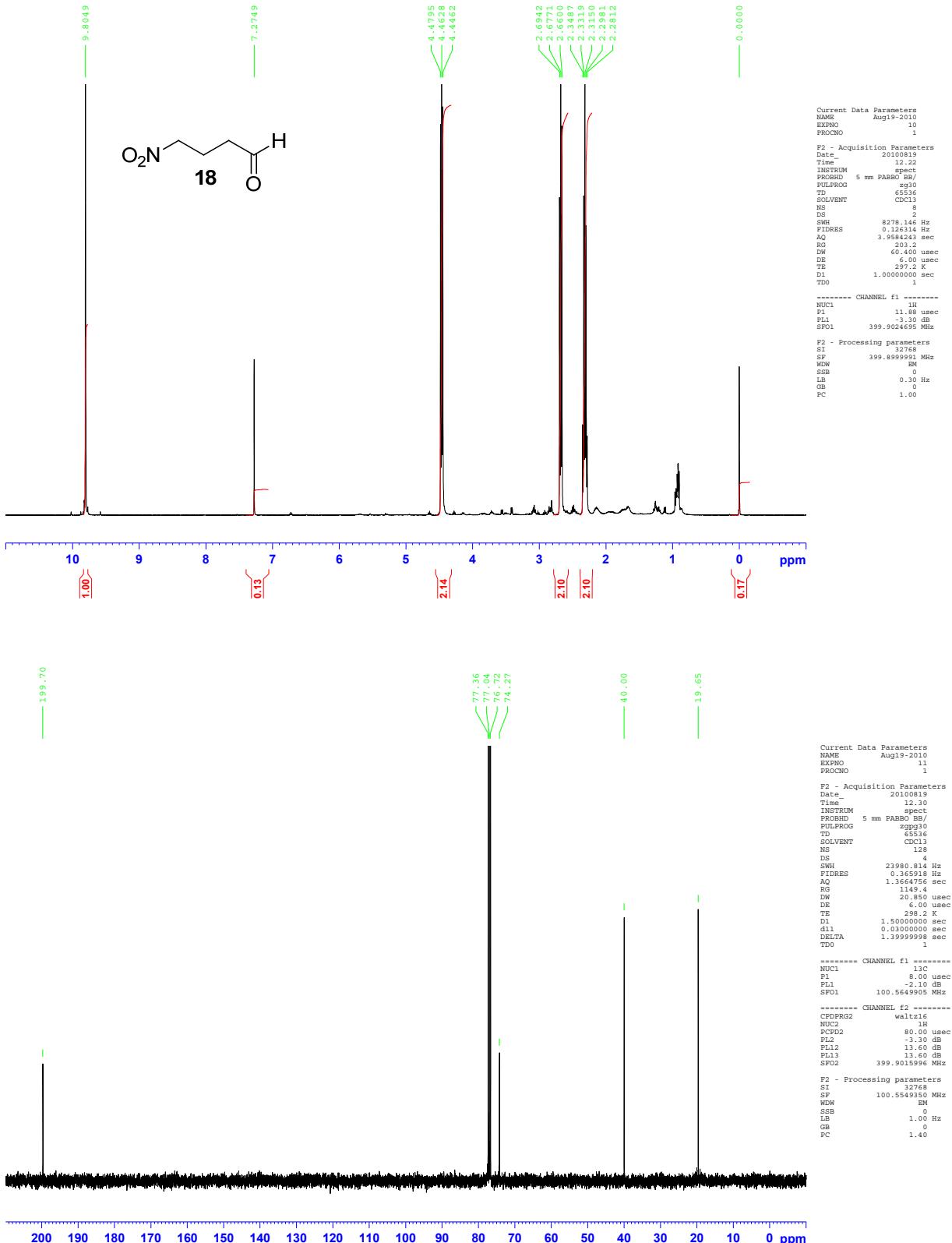
X-axis – Time in hours

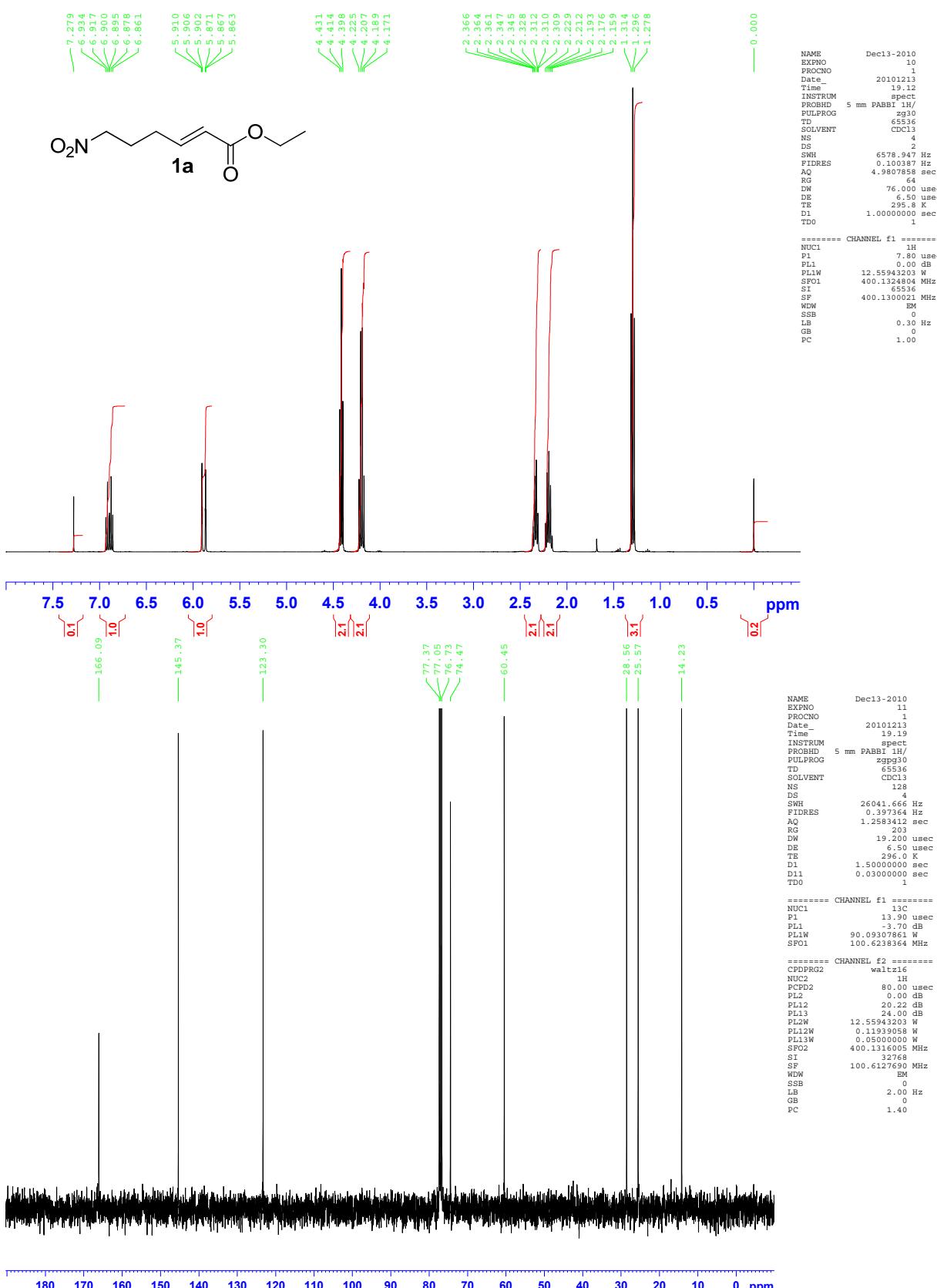
■ - Starting material

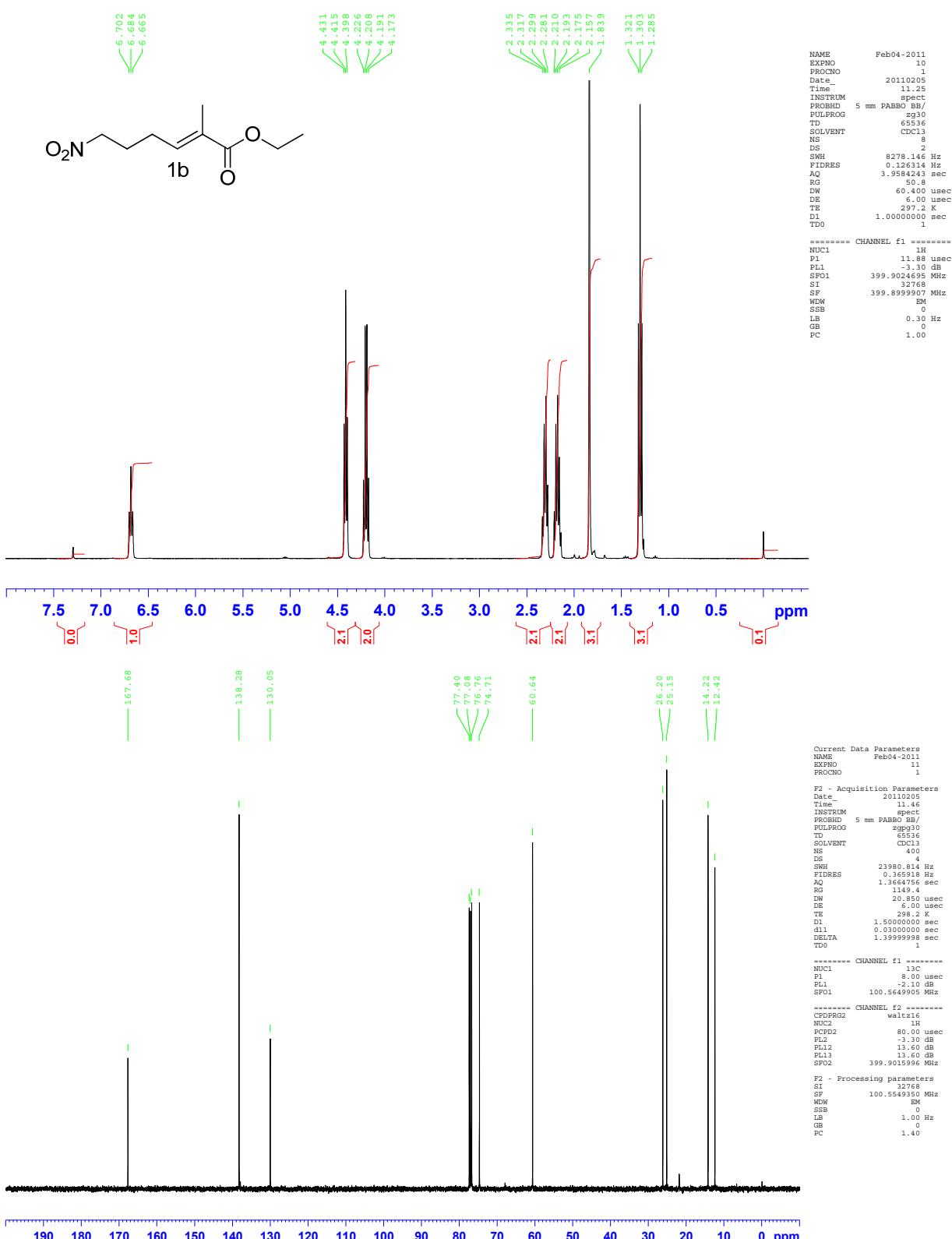
Y-axis – Percentage of material

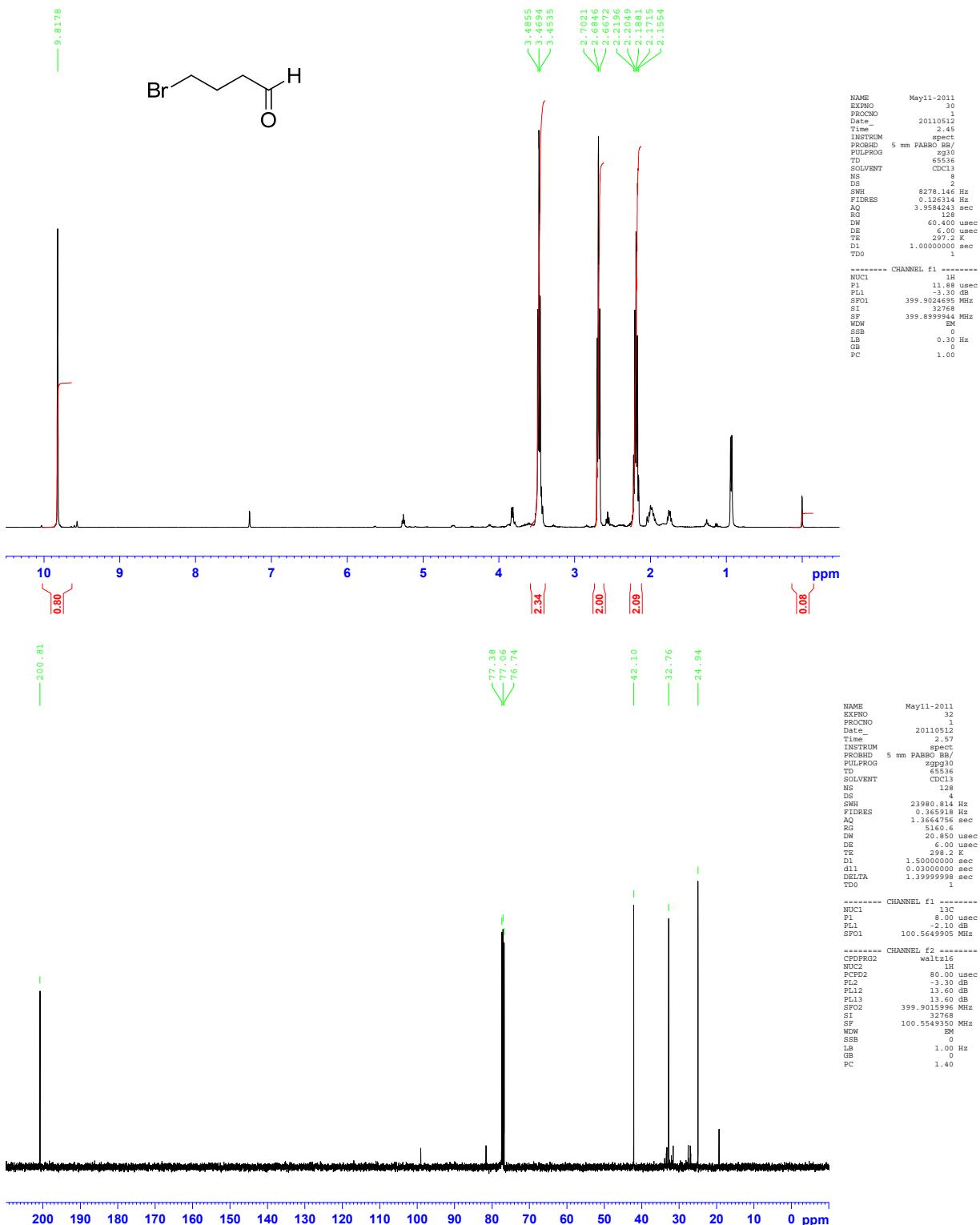
■ - Product

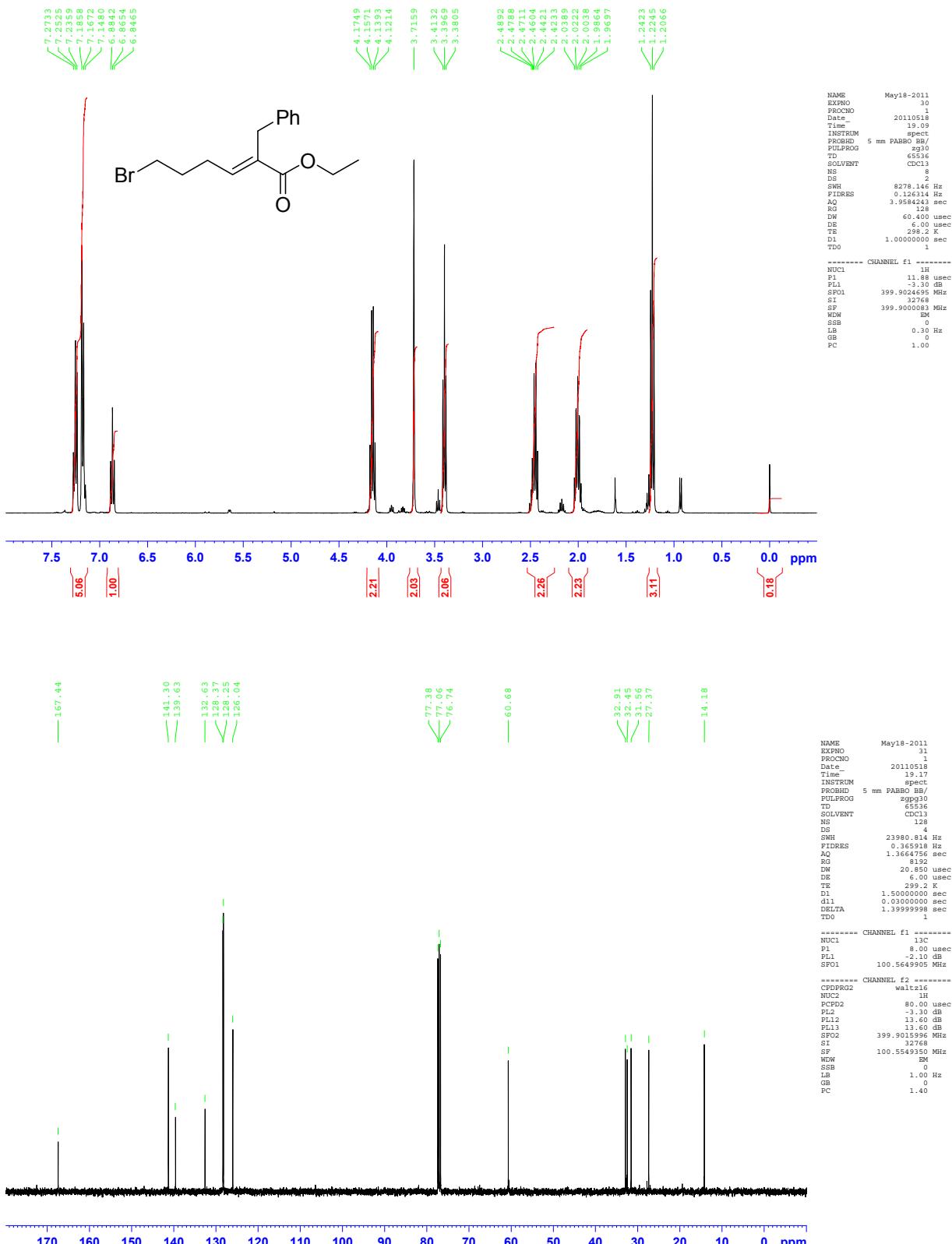


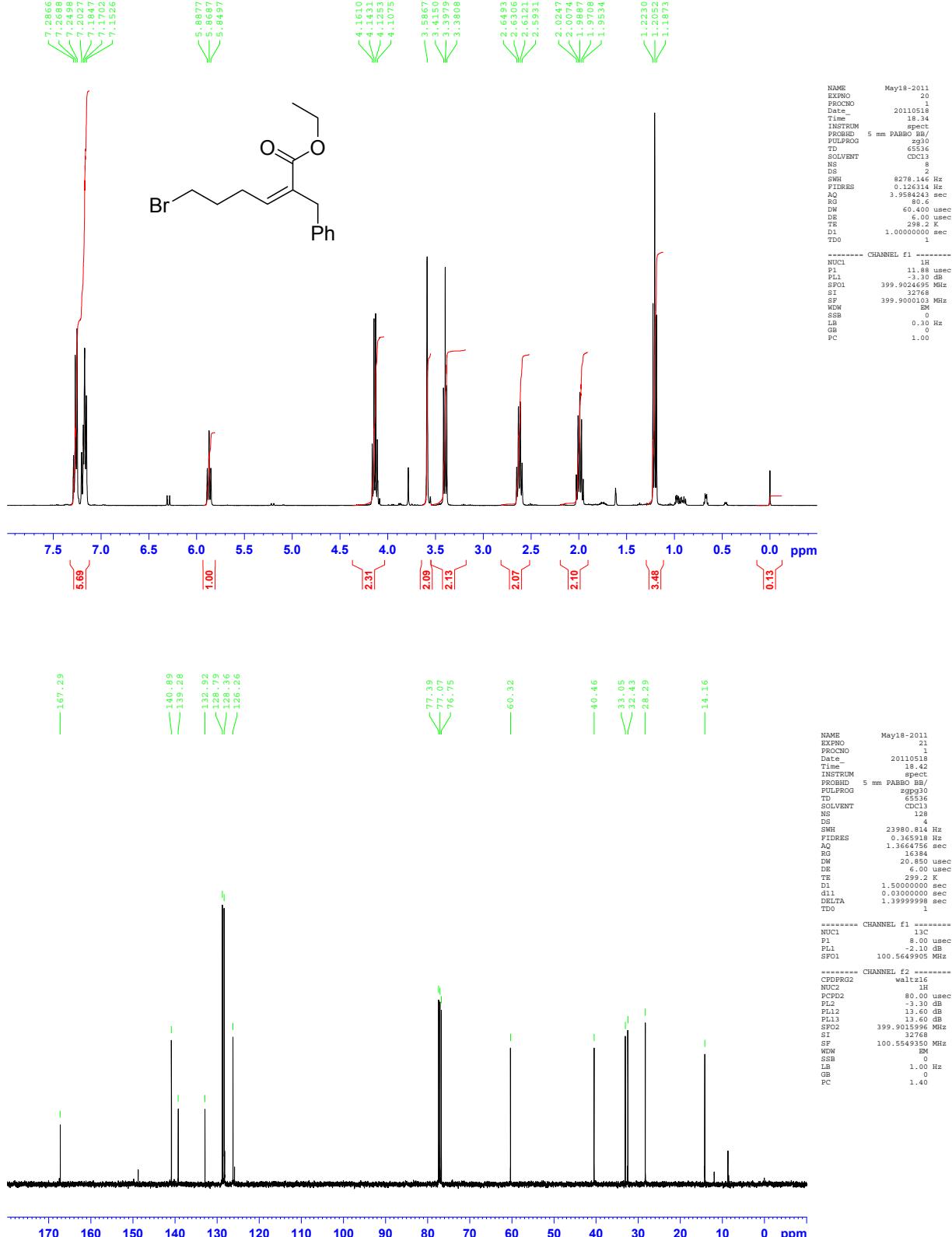


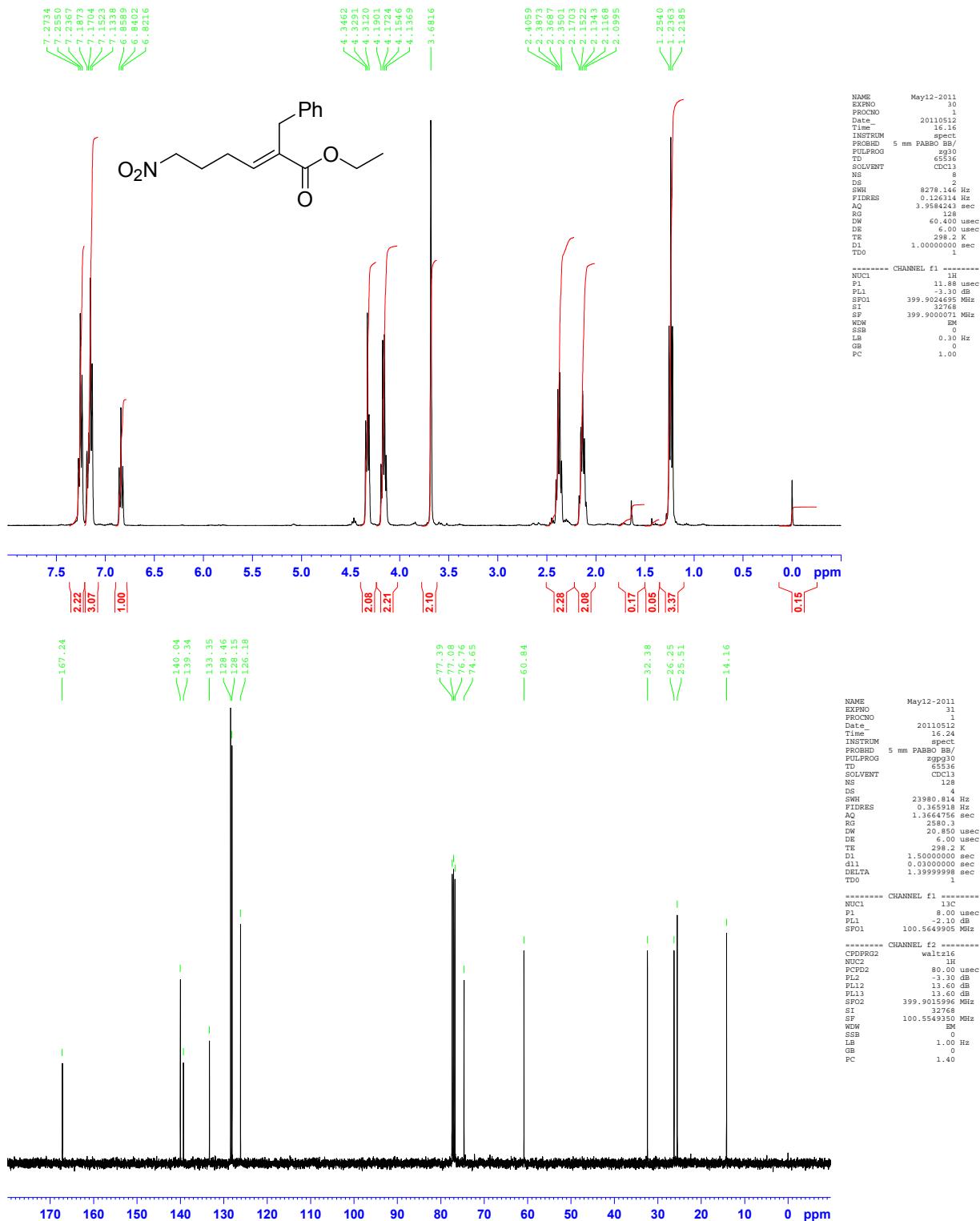


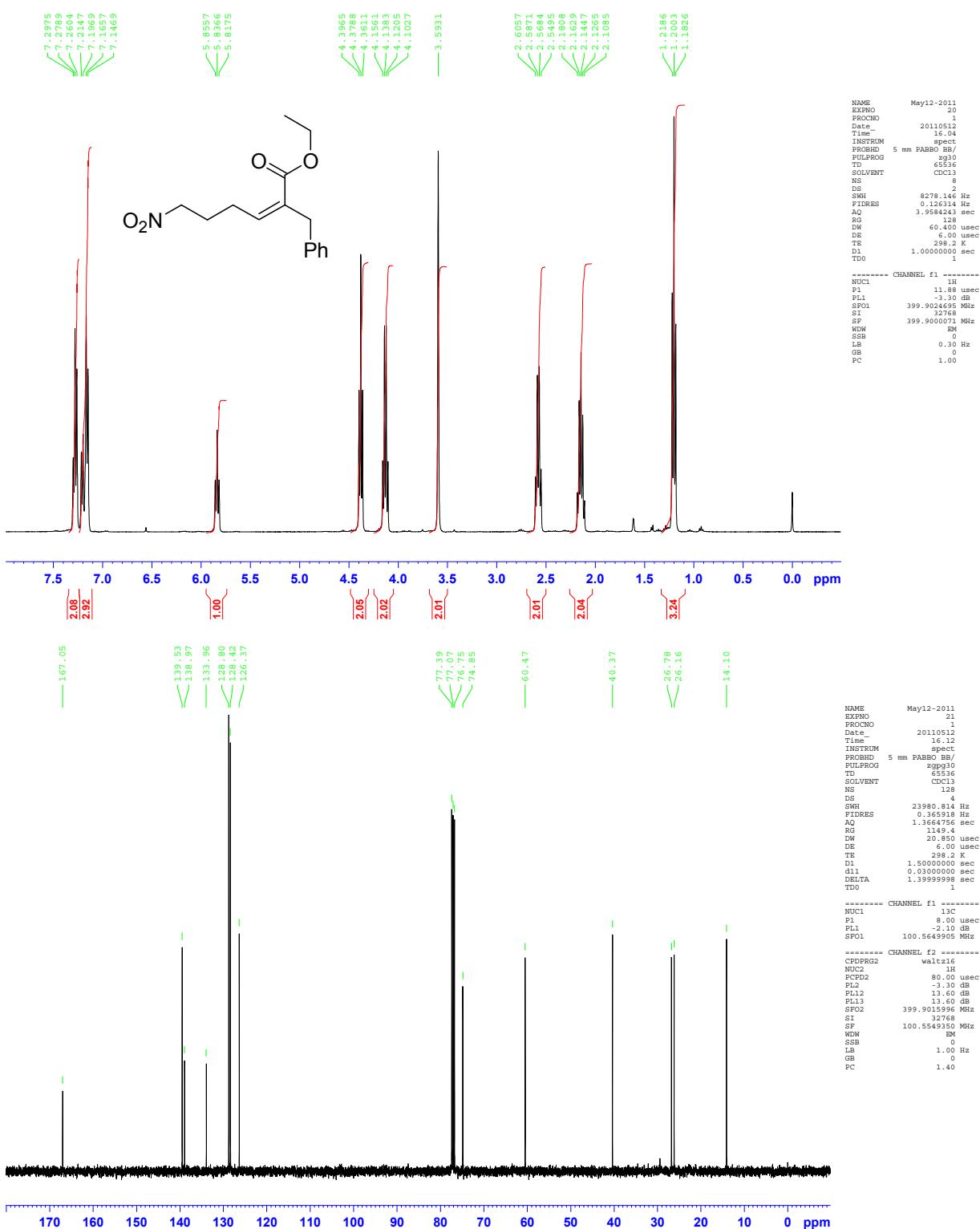


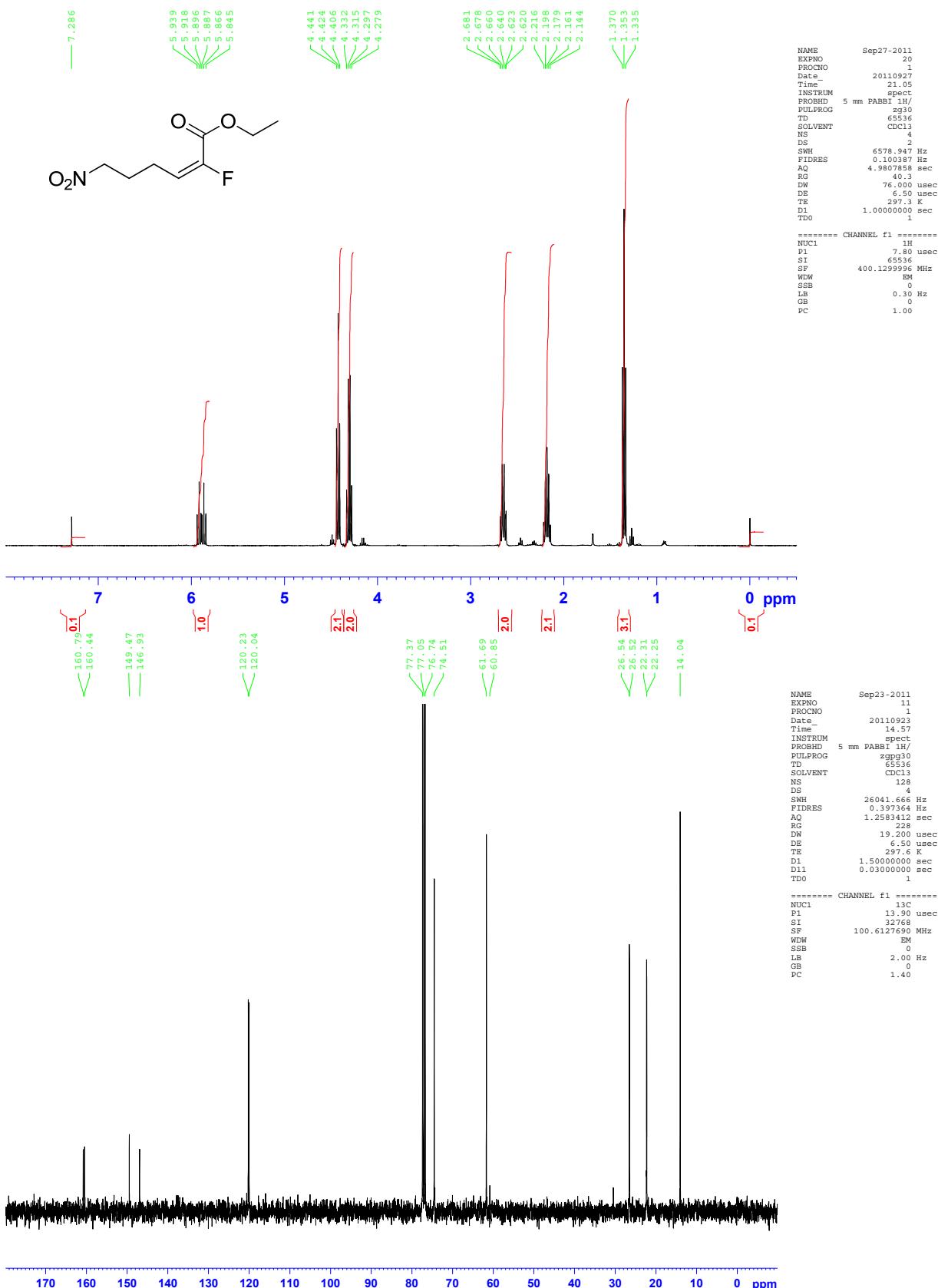


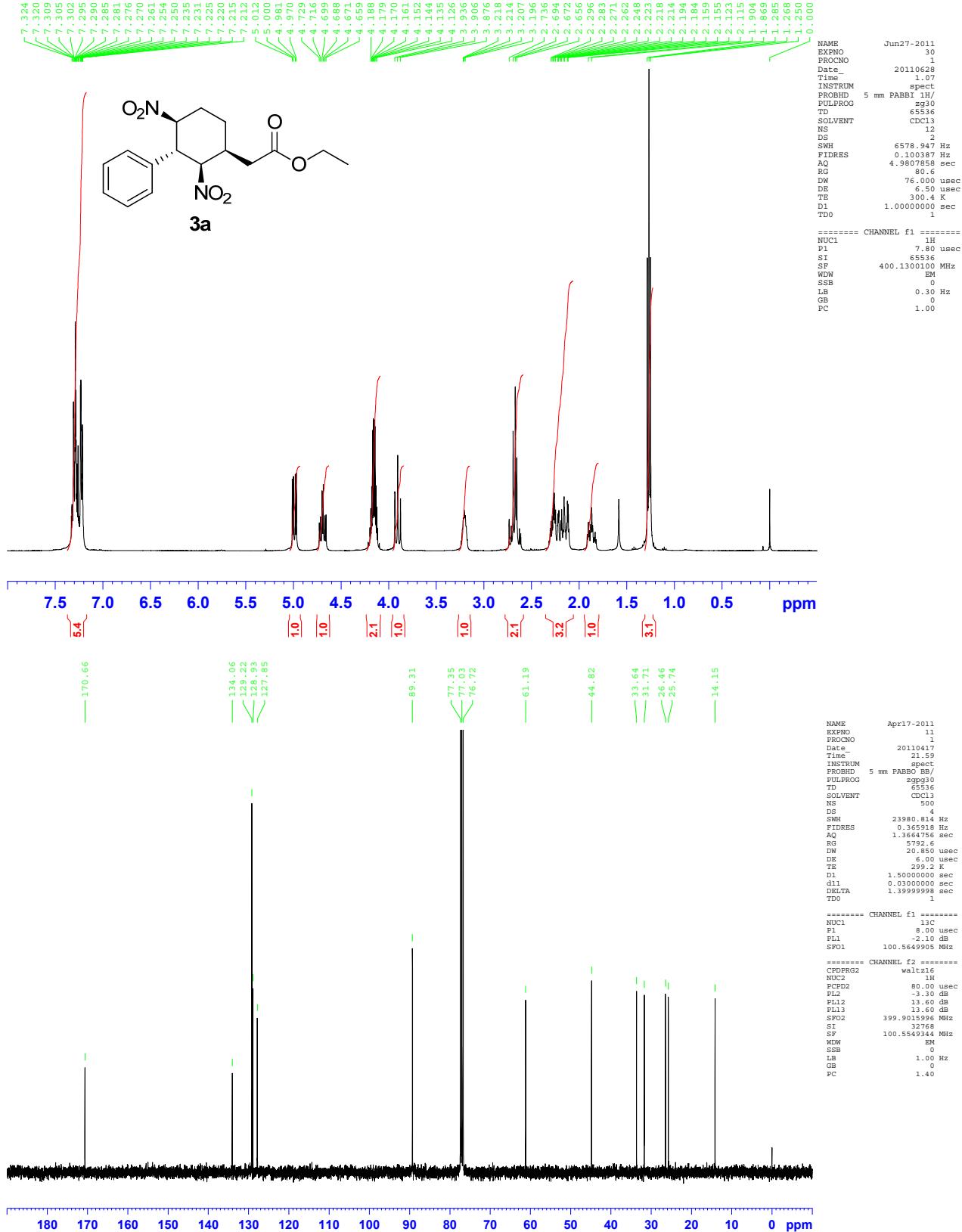


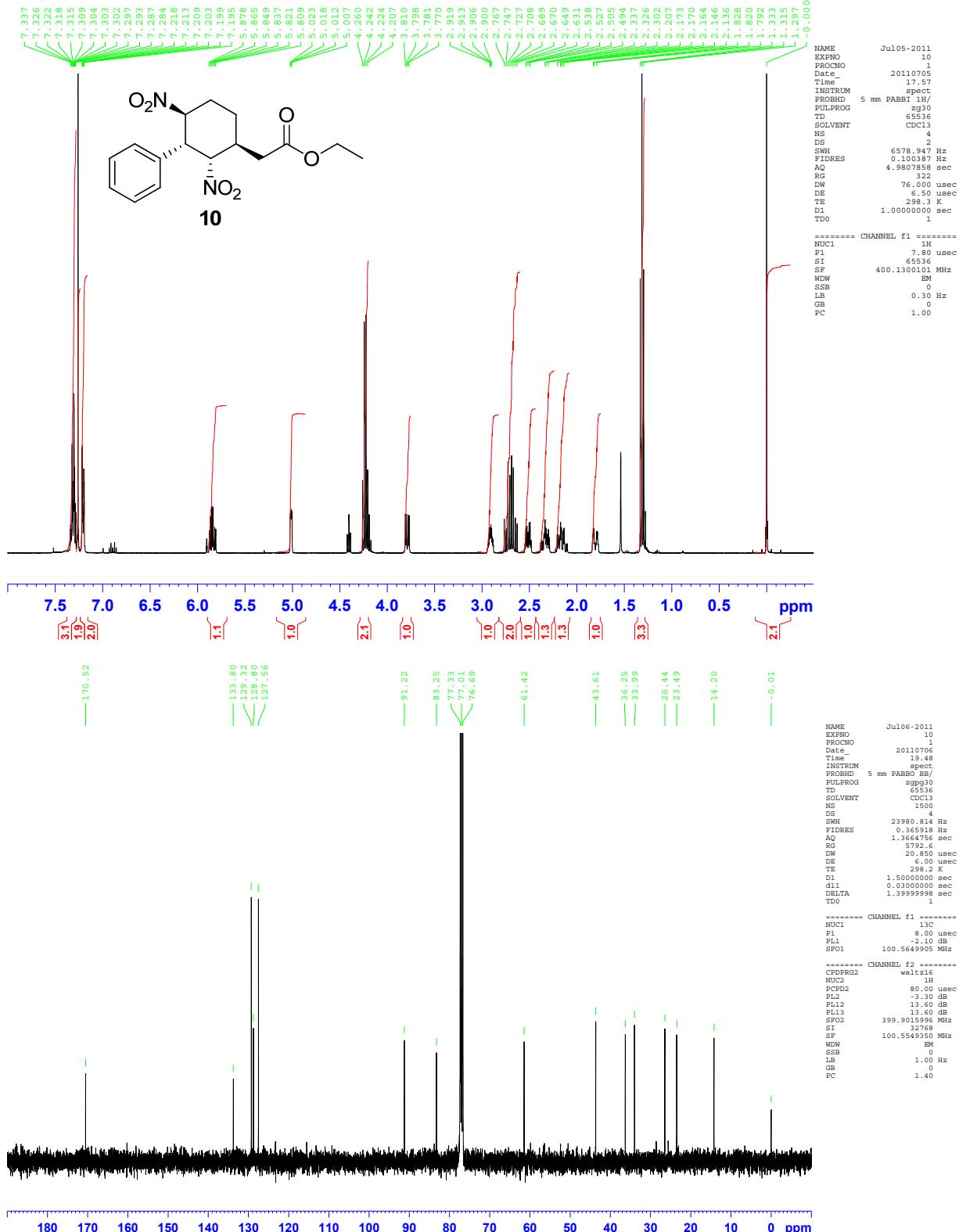




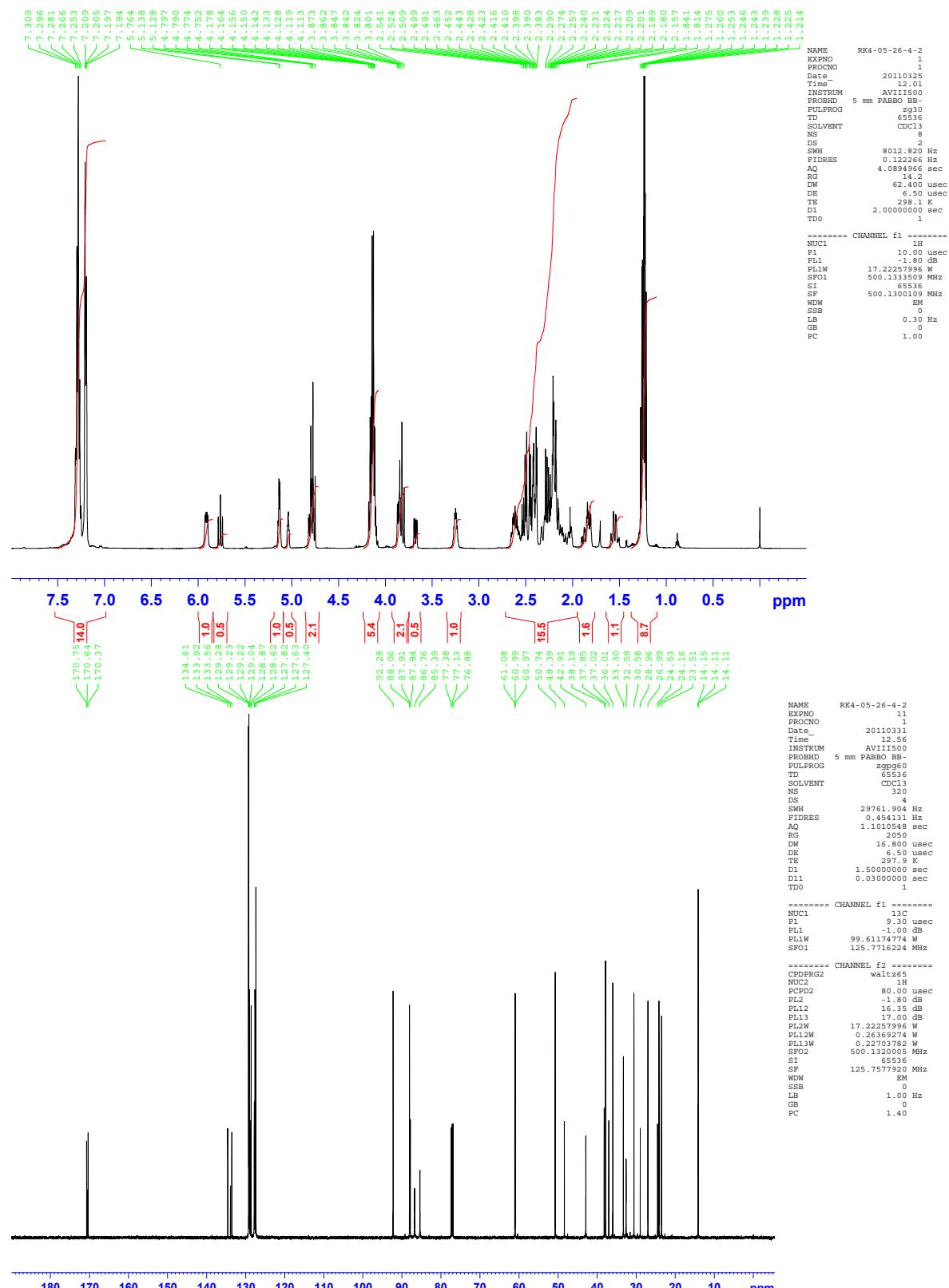


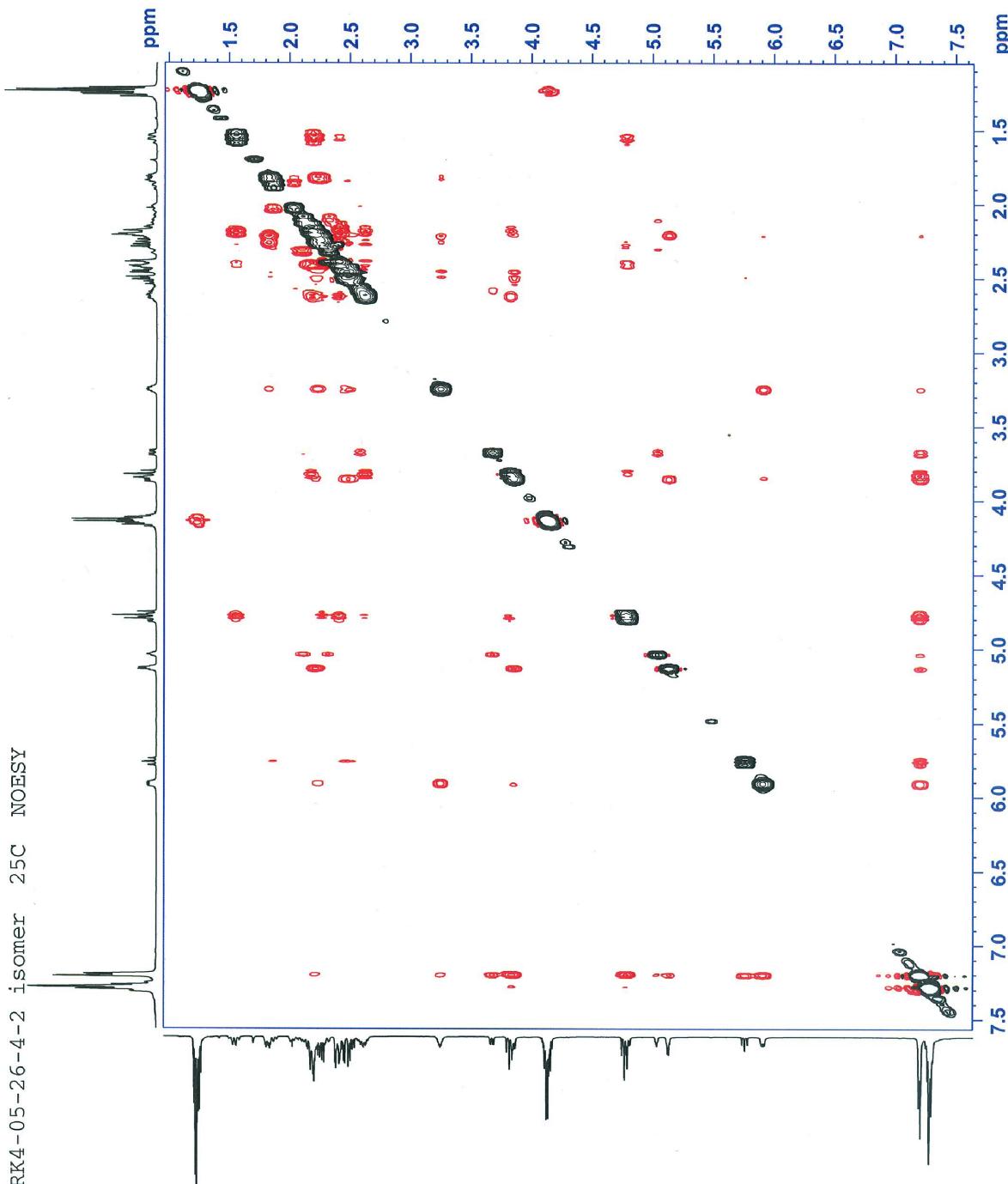


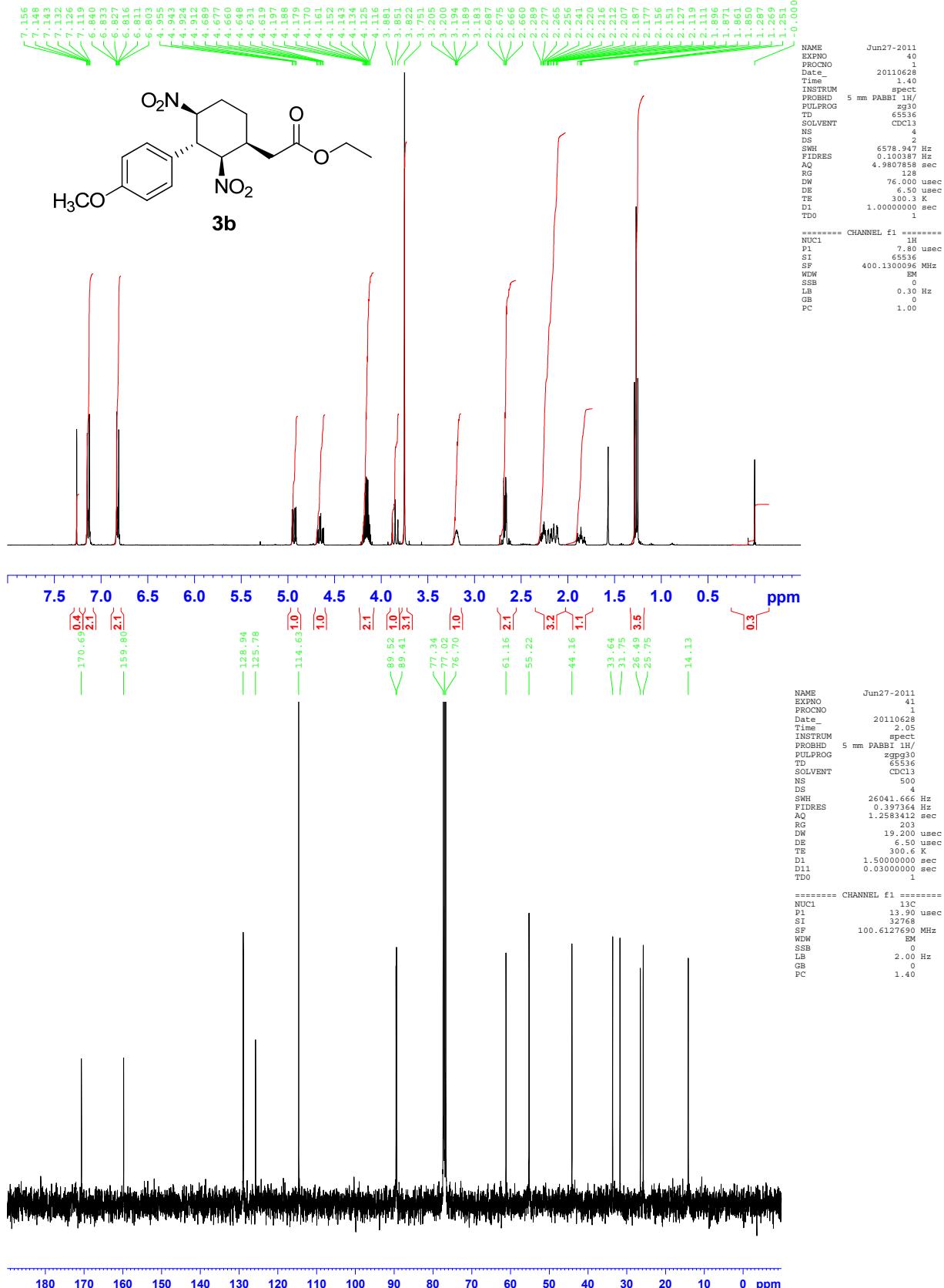


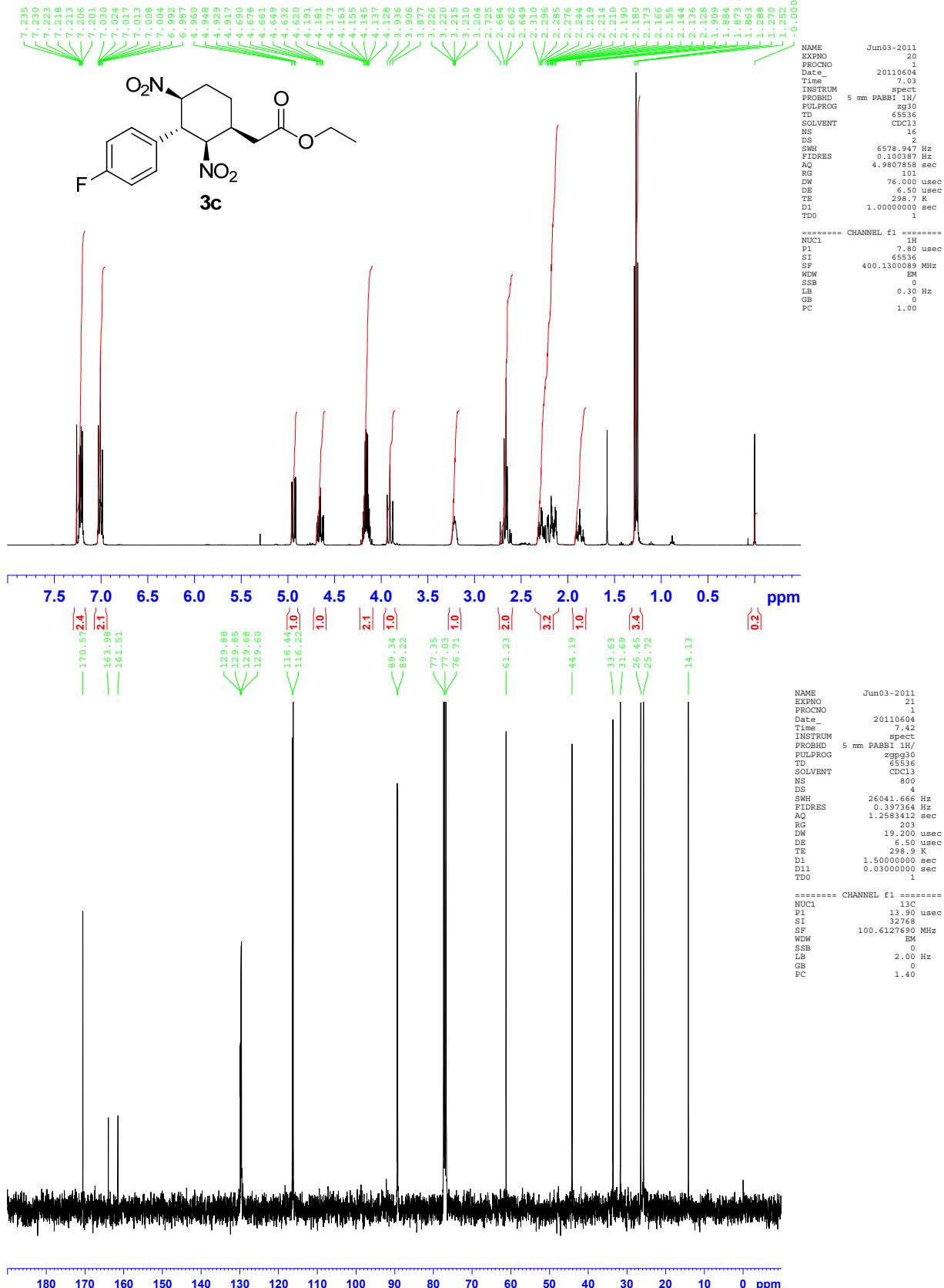


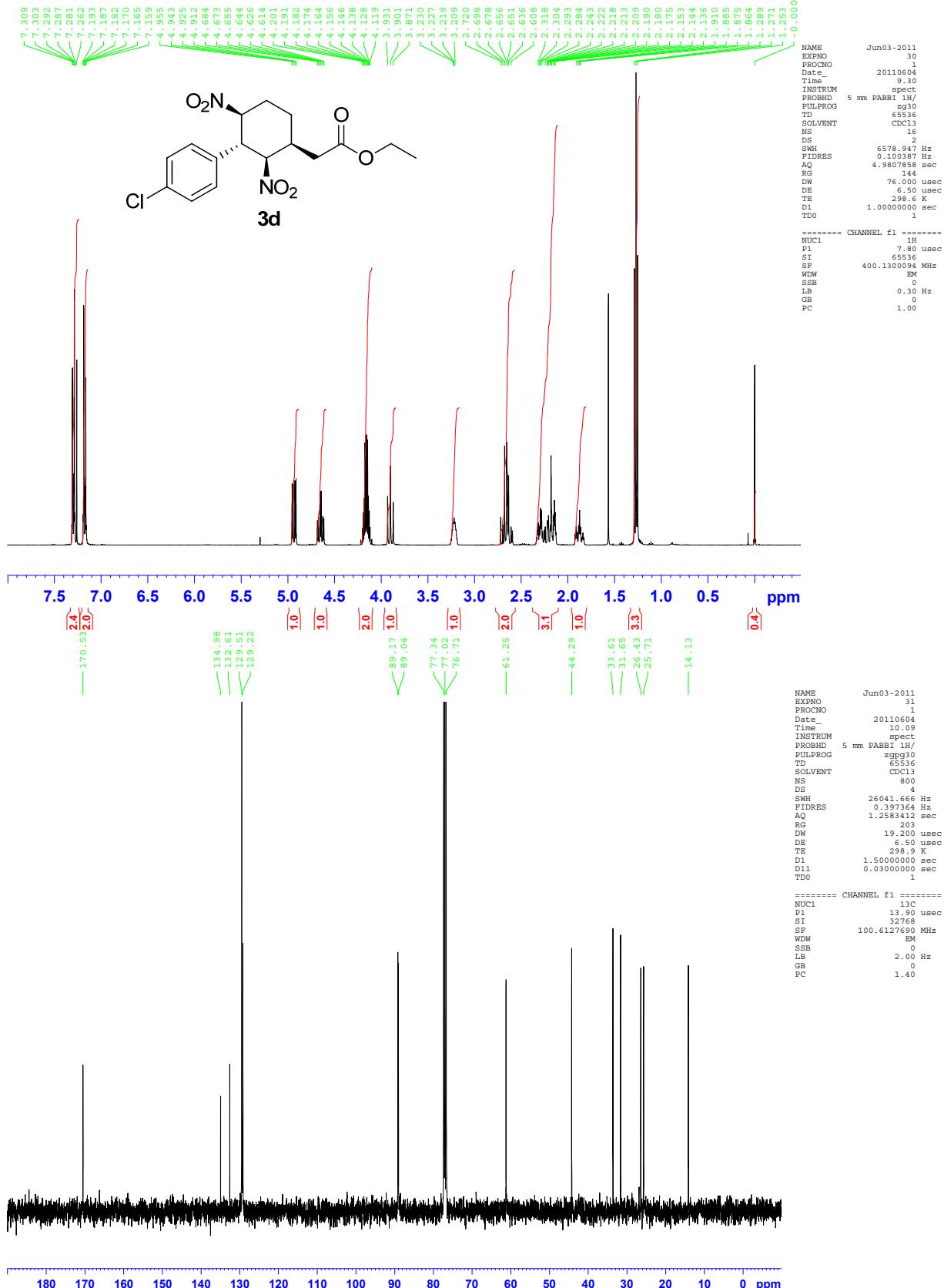
¹H, ¹³C and NOESY of mixtures of **9**, **11** and **12**

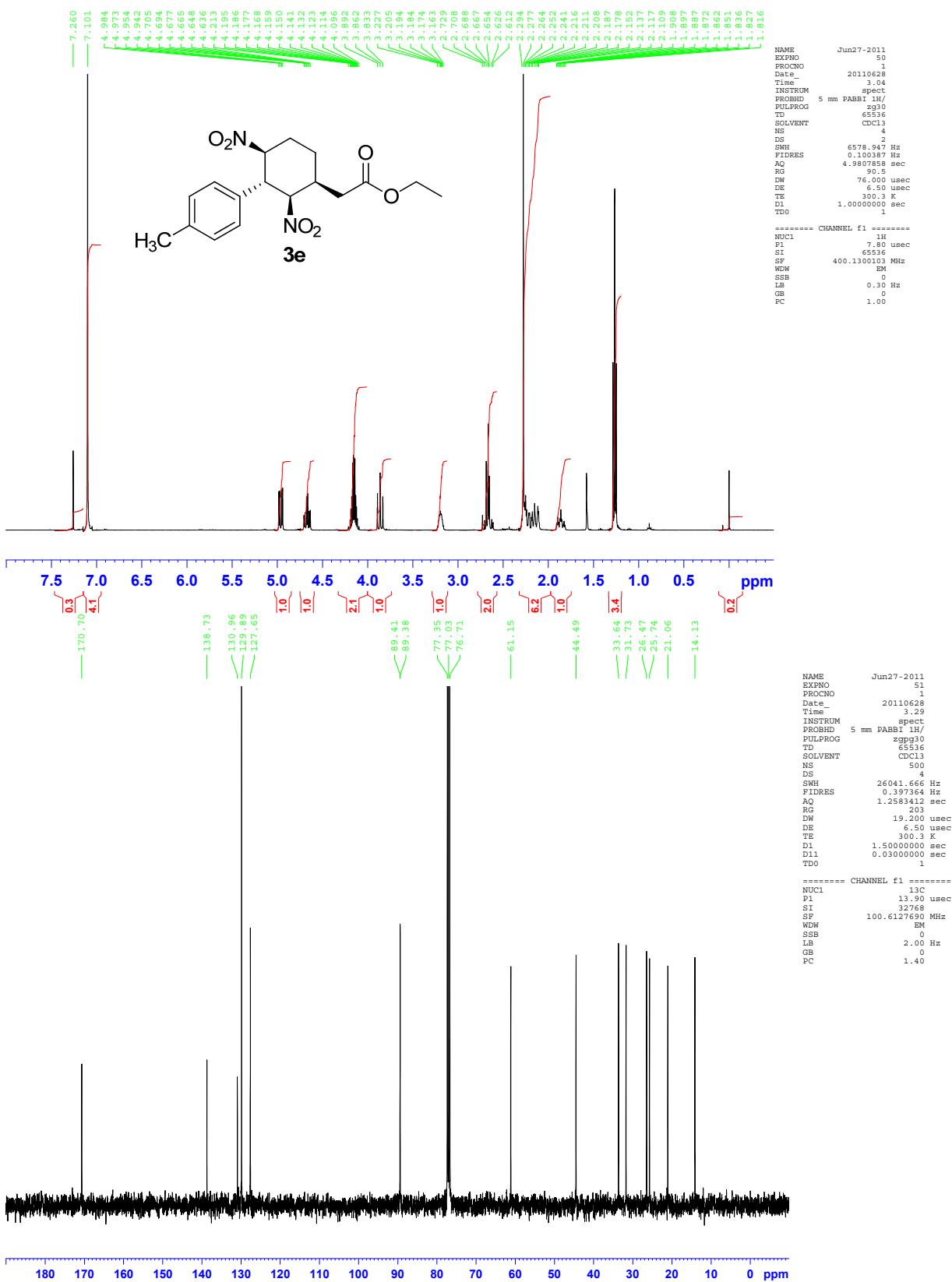


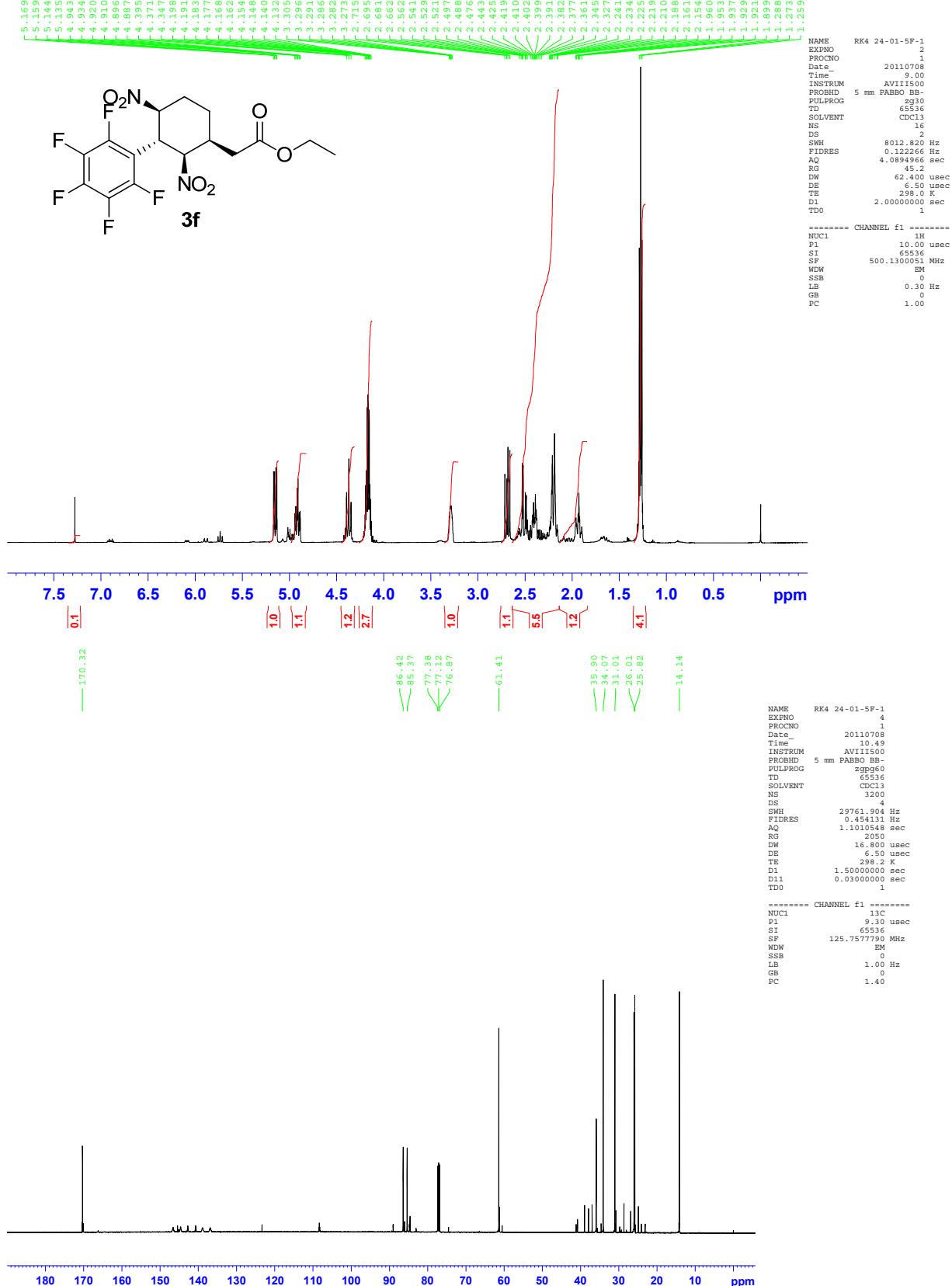


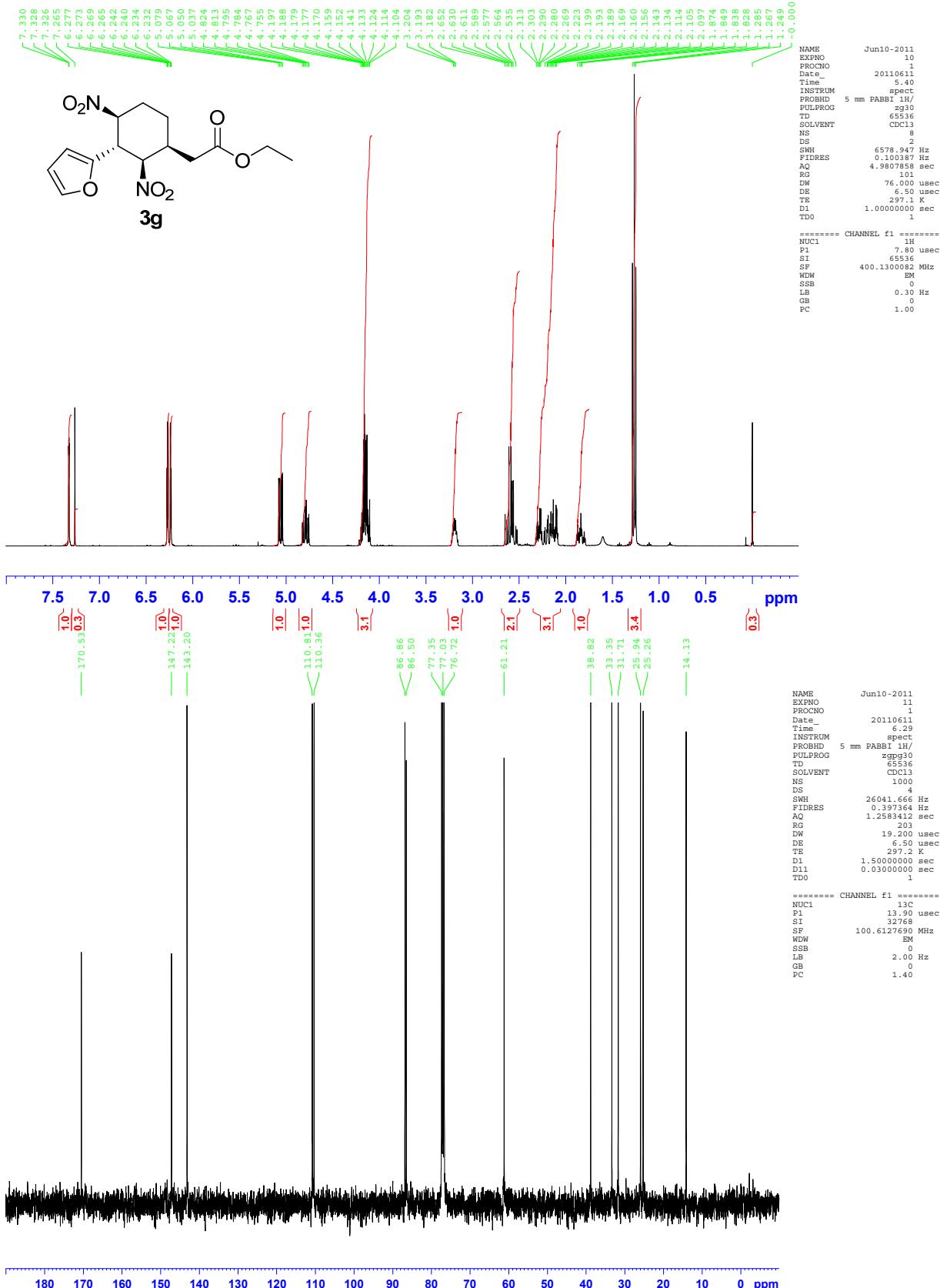


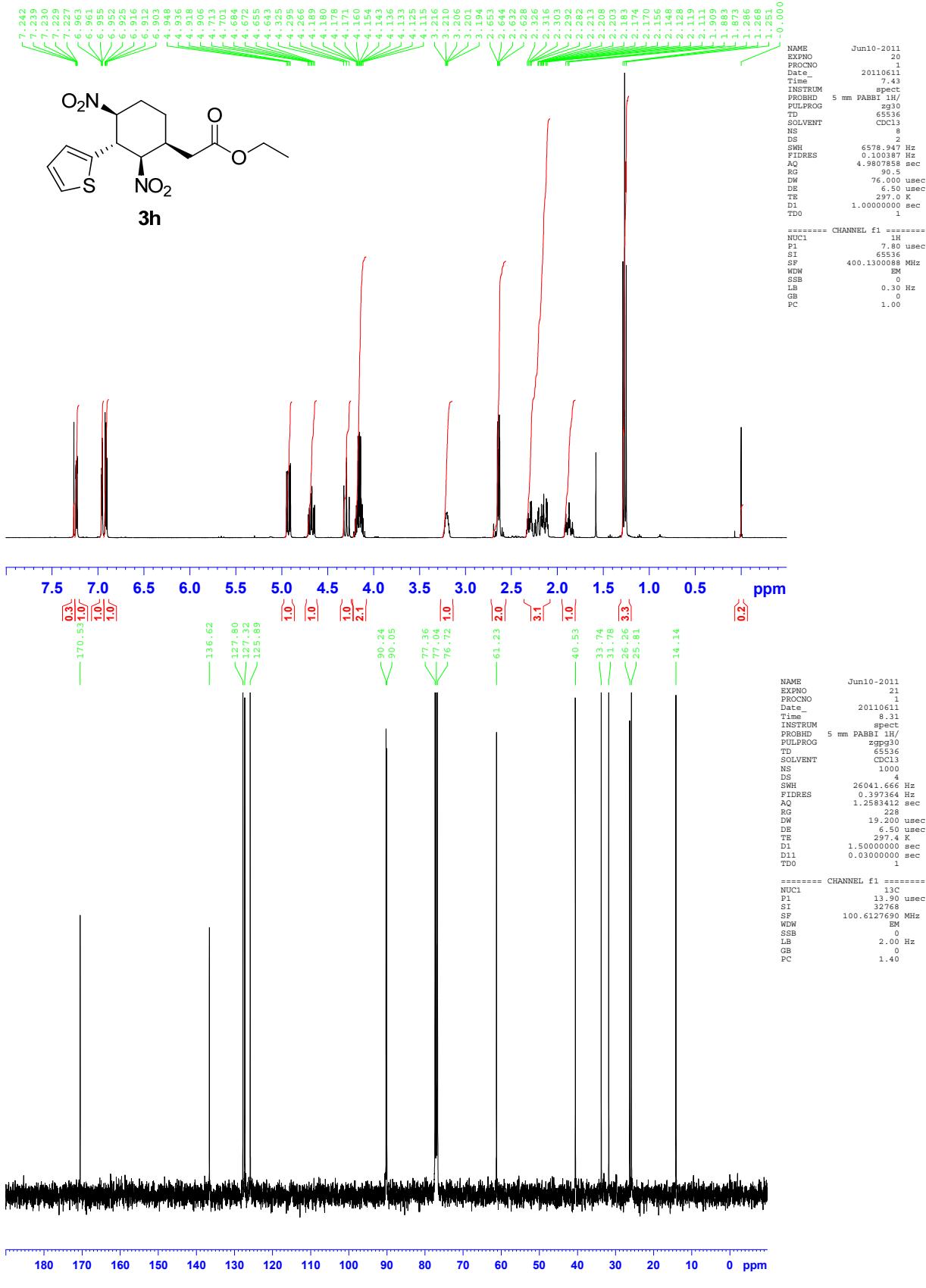




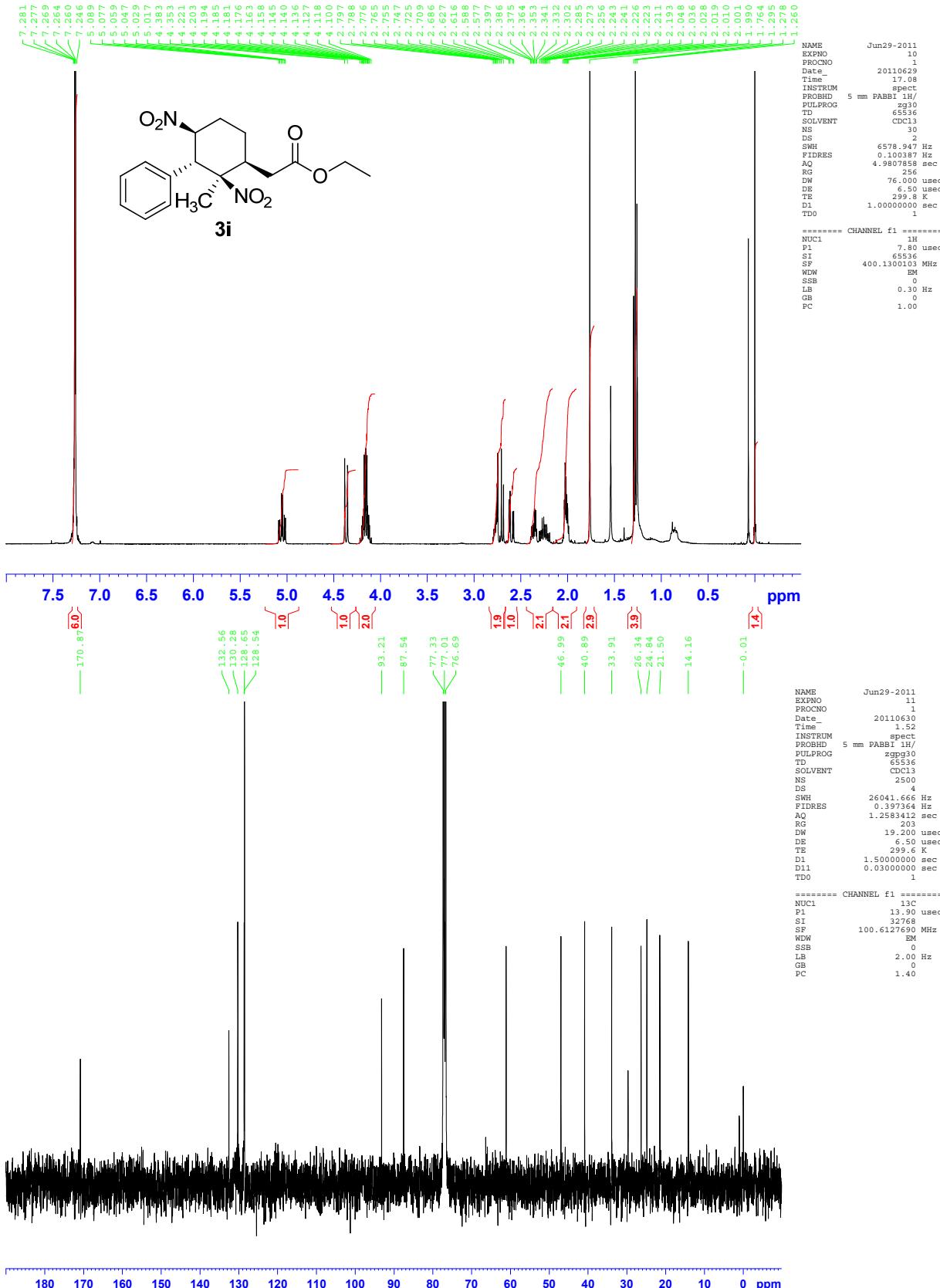


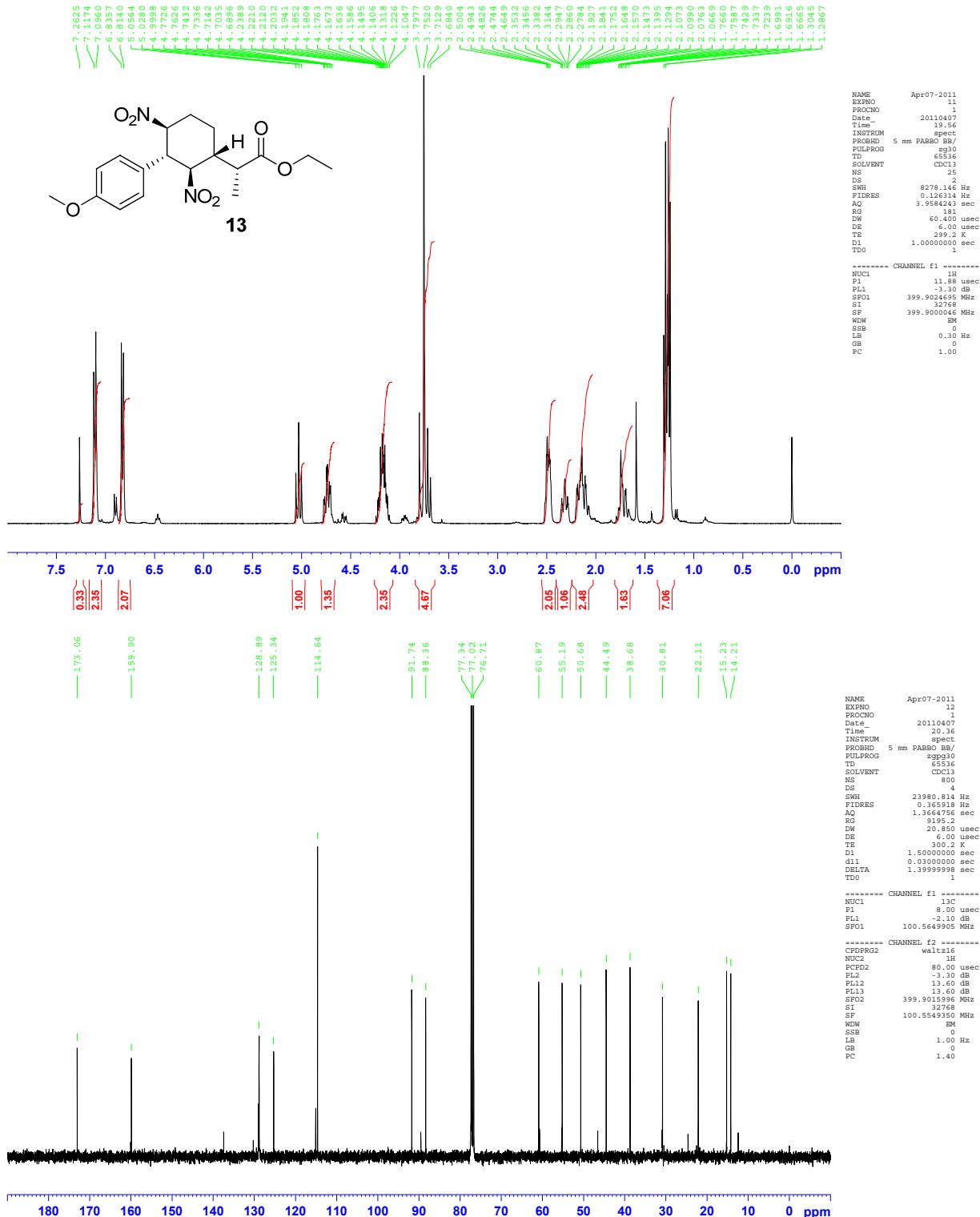


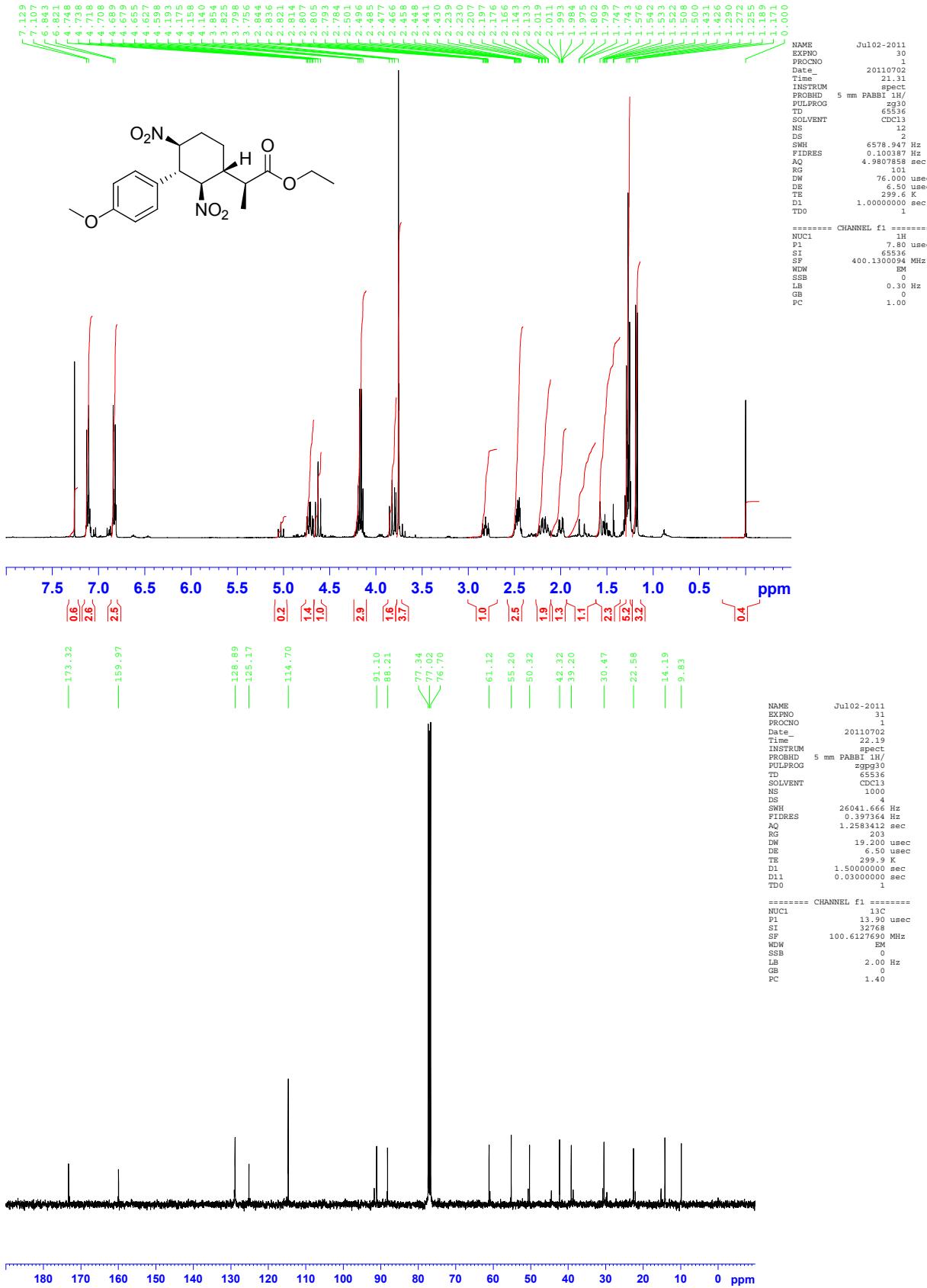


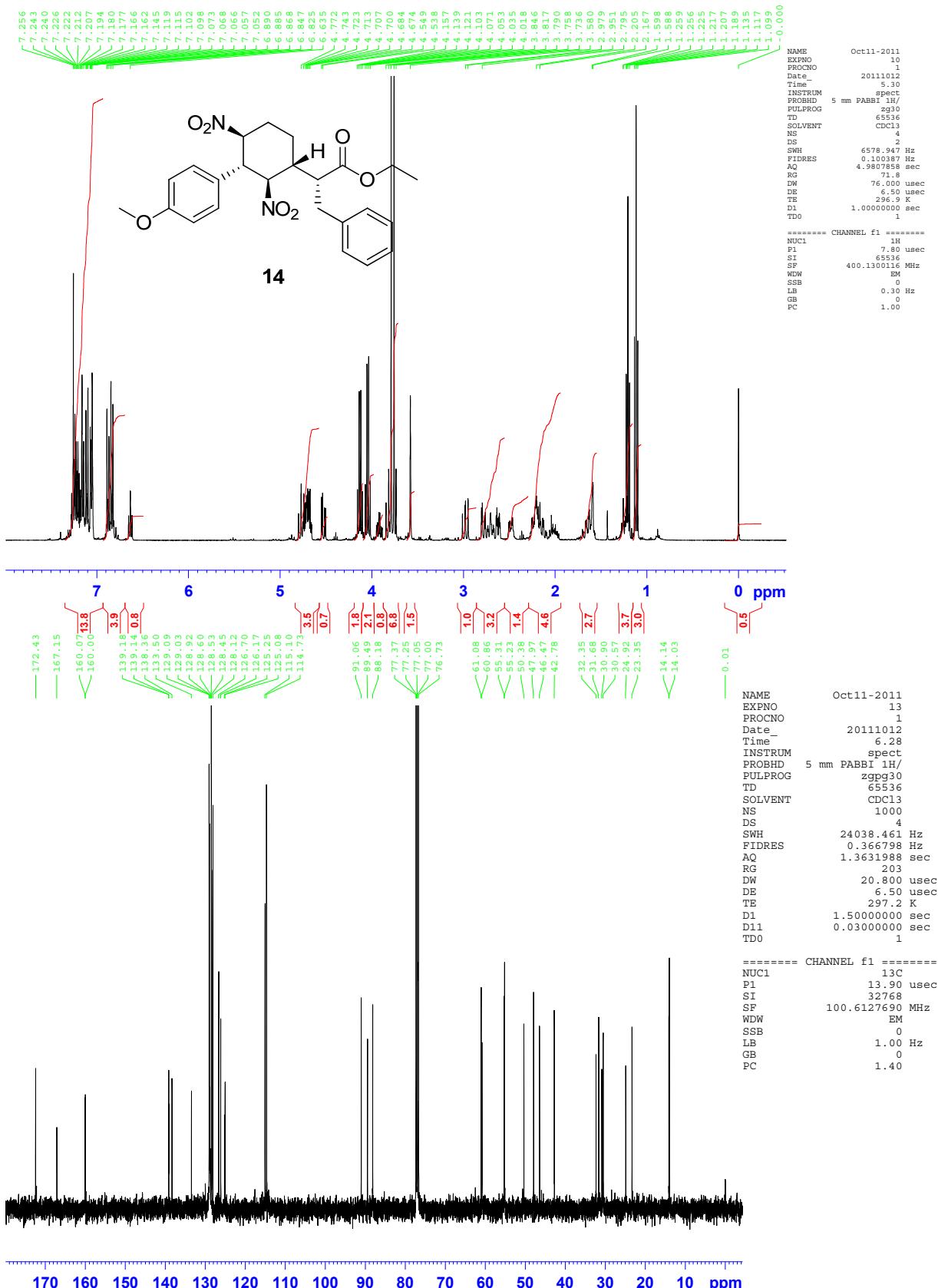


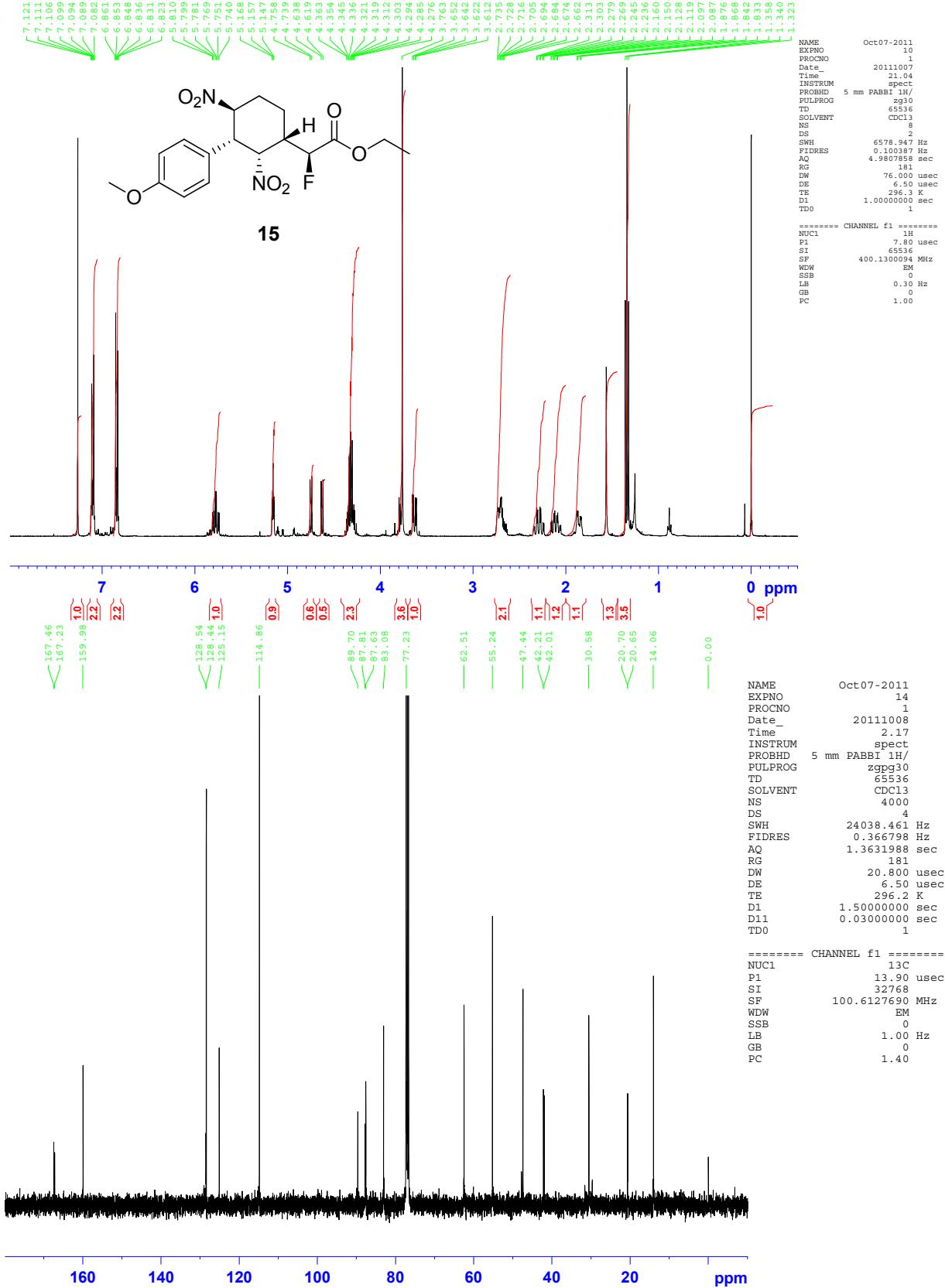
S50

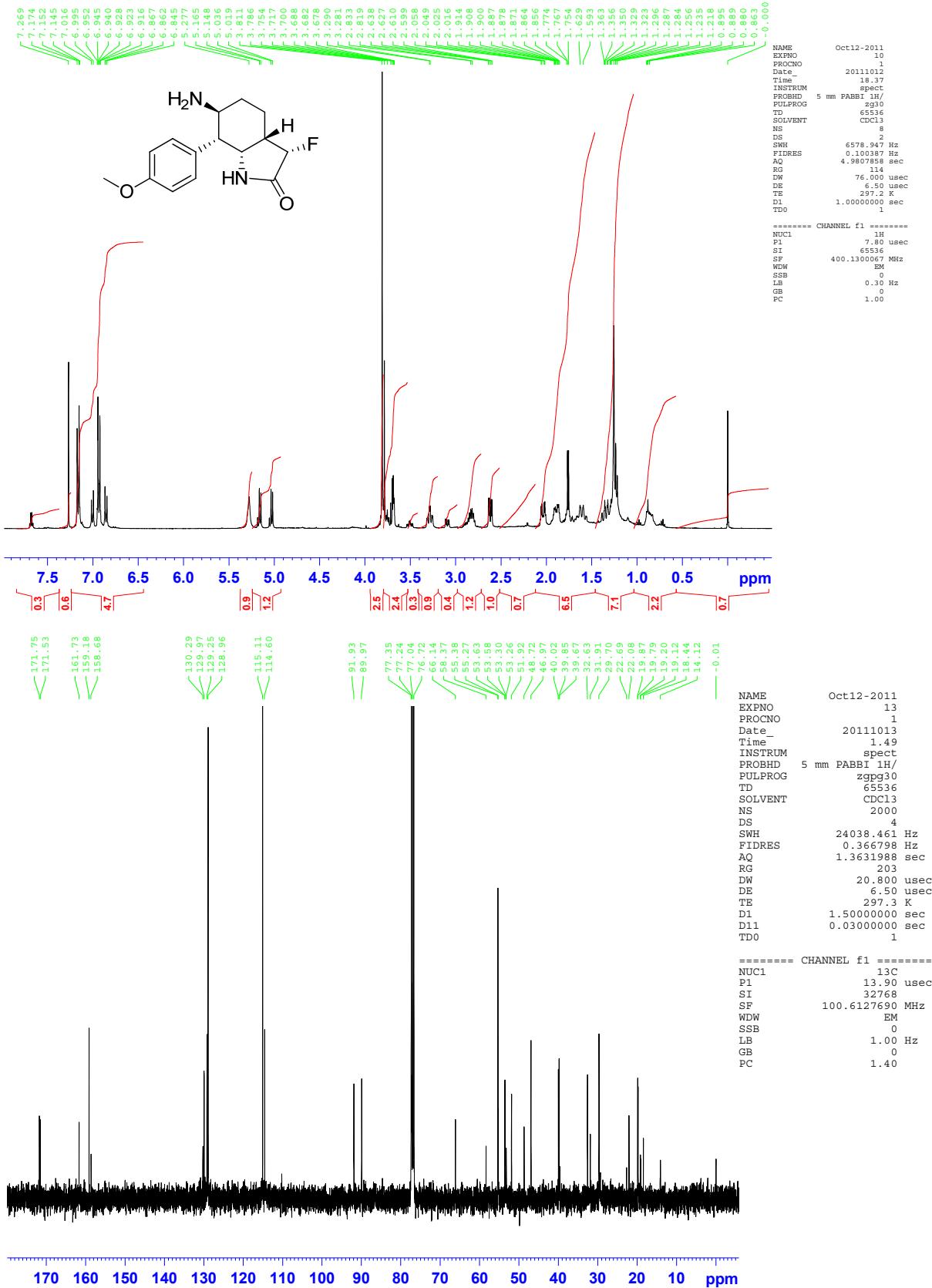


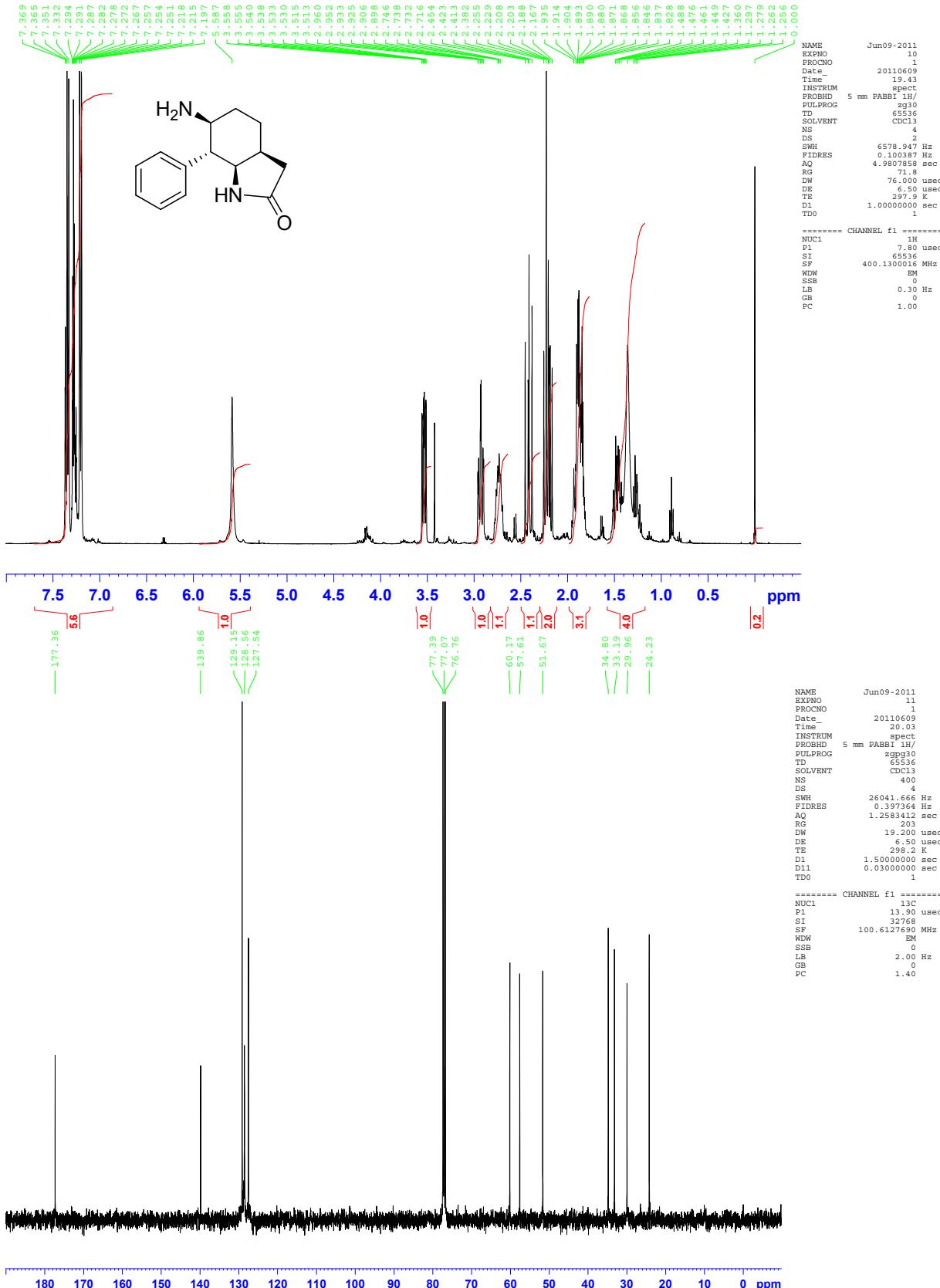


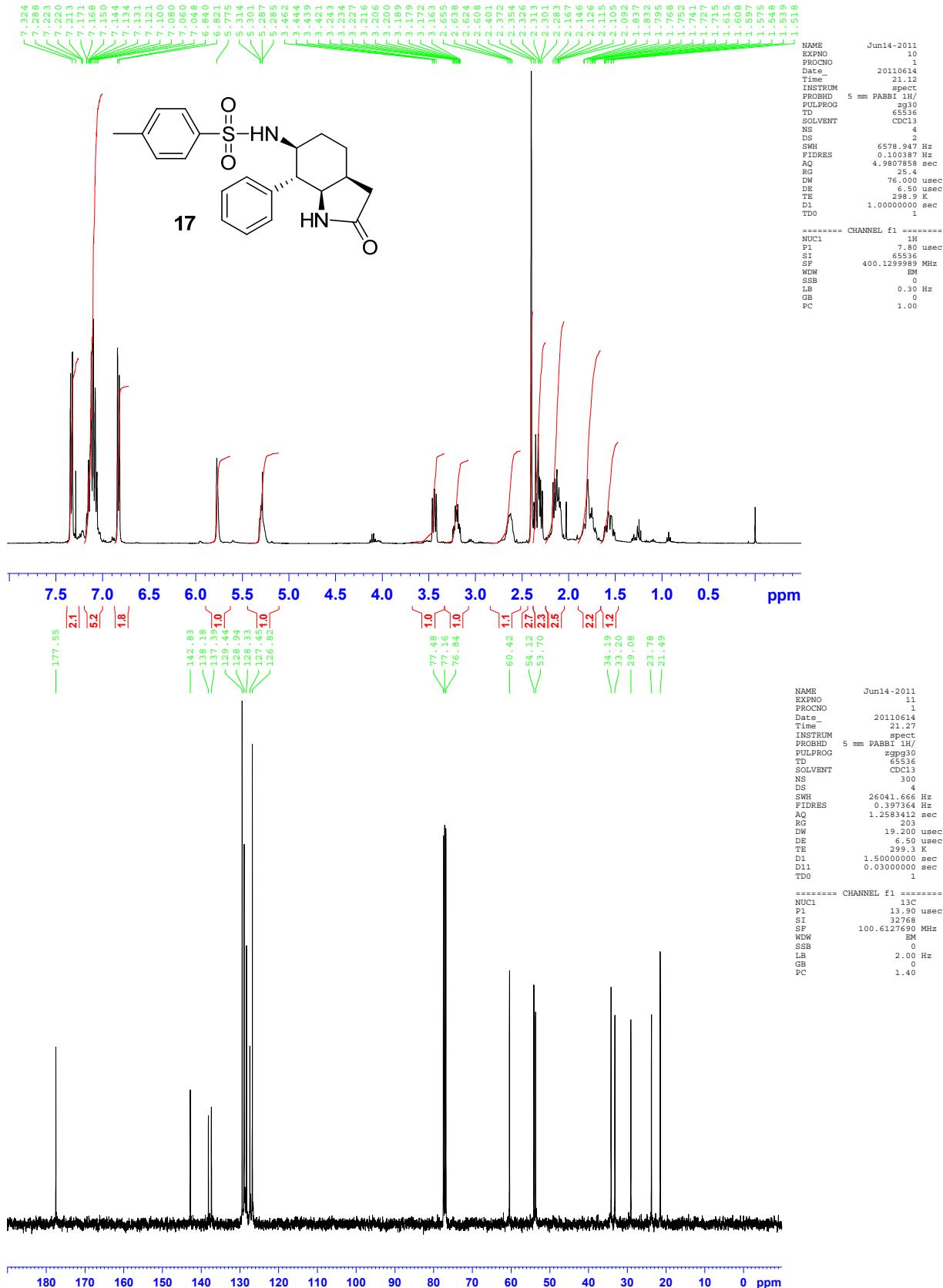


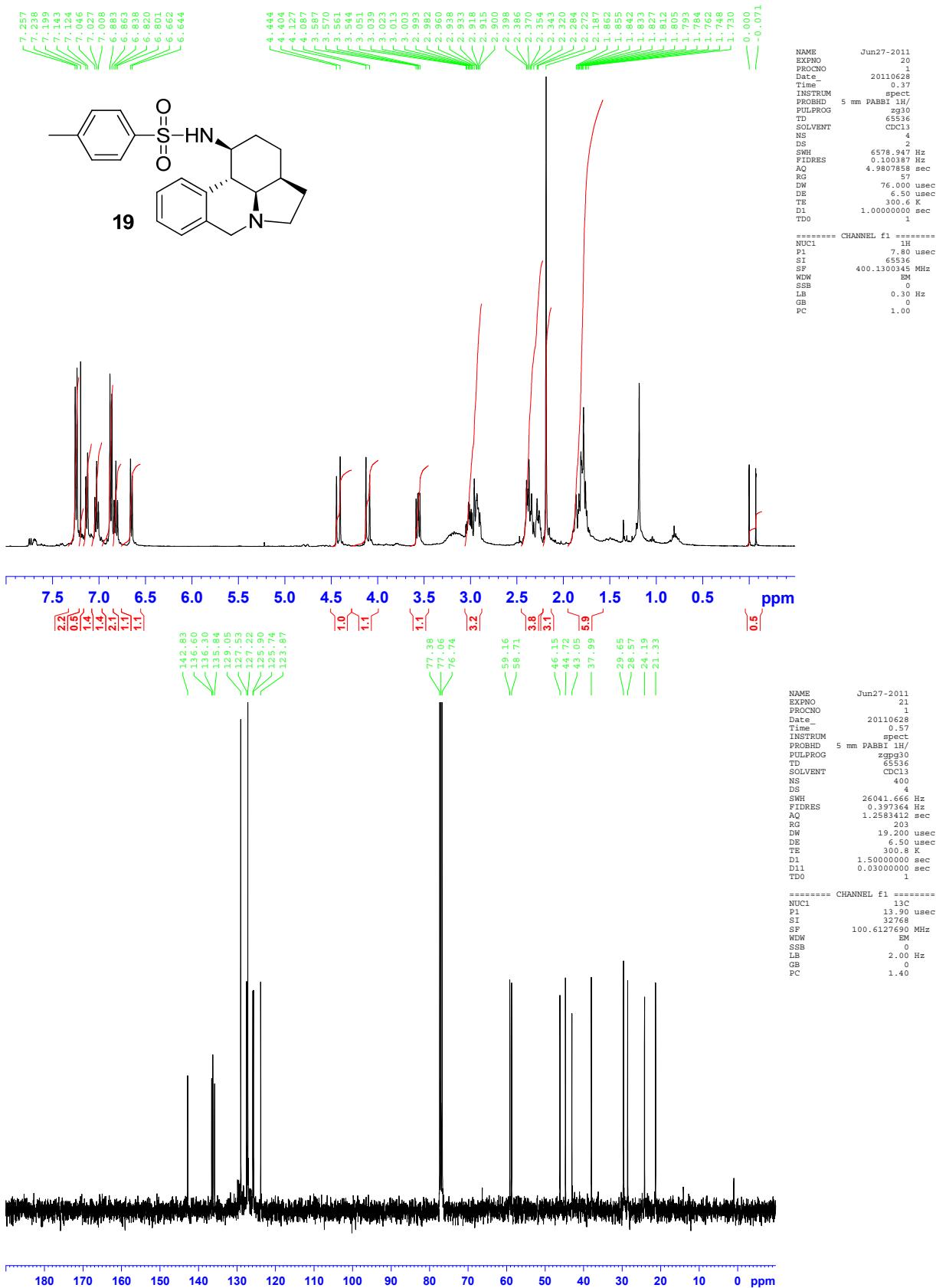






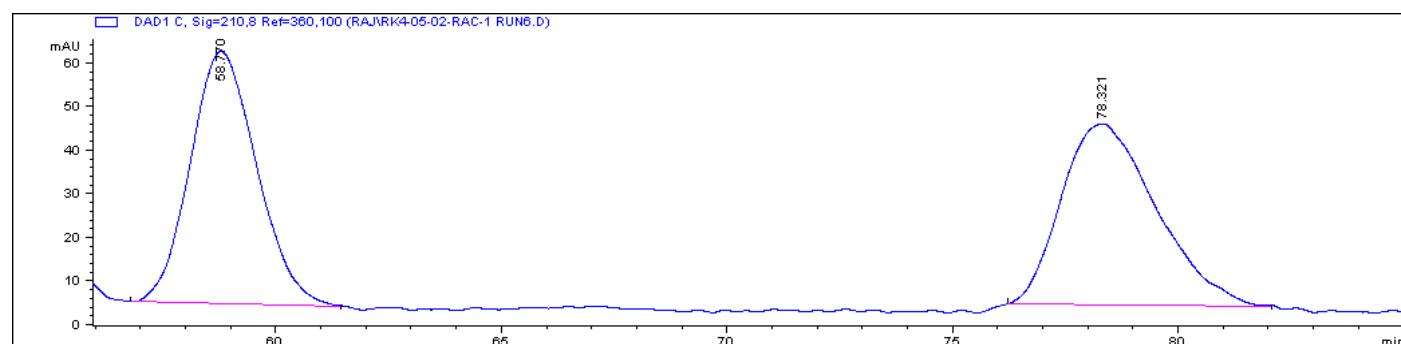






HPLC profiles

Racemic 3a



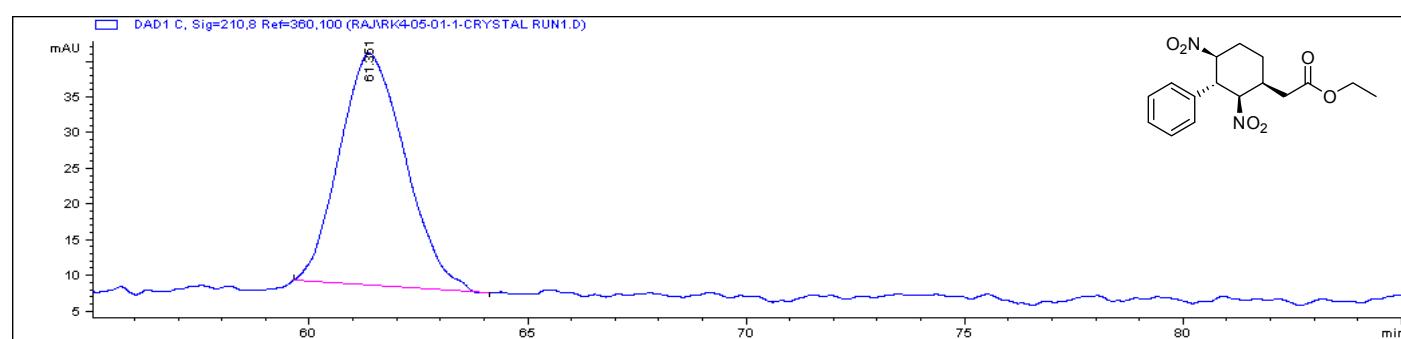
Time Area Height Width Area% Symmetry

58.77 5954.9 57.9 1.4976 49.49 0.837

78.32 6077.2 41.6 1.7805 50.51 0.754

2.5% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min OD

Enantio enriched 3a

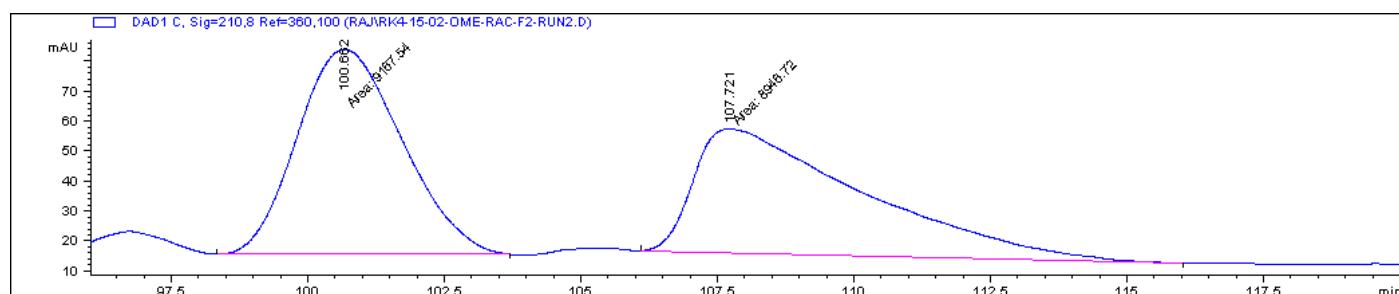


Time Area Height Width Area% Symmetry

61.351 3411.3 32.6 1.3891 100 0.788

2.5% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min OD

Racemic 3b



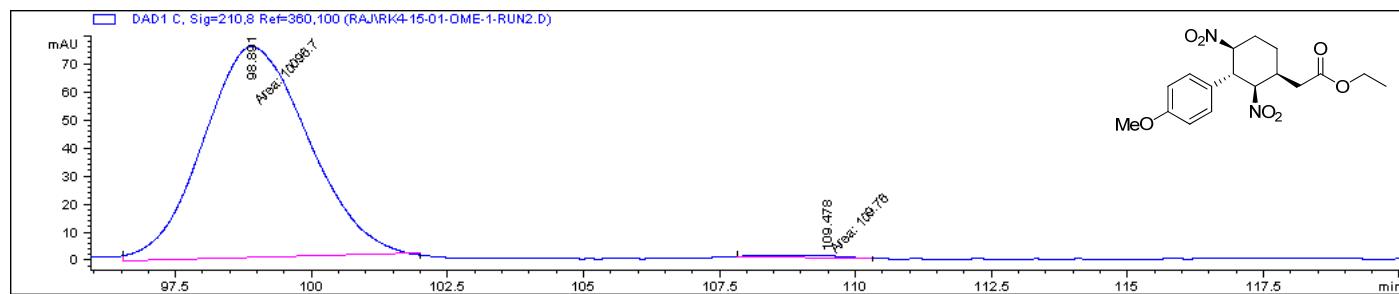
Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
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100.66 9167.5 68.4 2.2339 50.61 0.809

107.72 8946.7 41.5 3.5956 49.39 0.264

3% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

Enantio enriched 3b



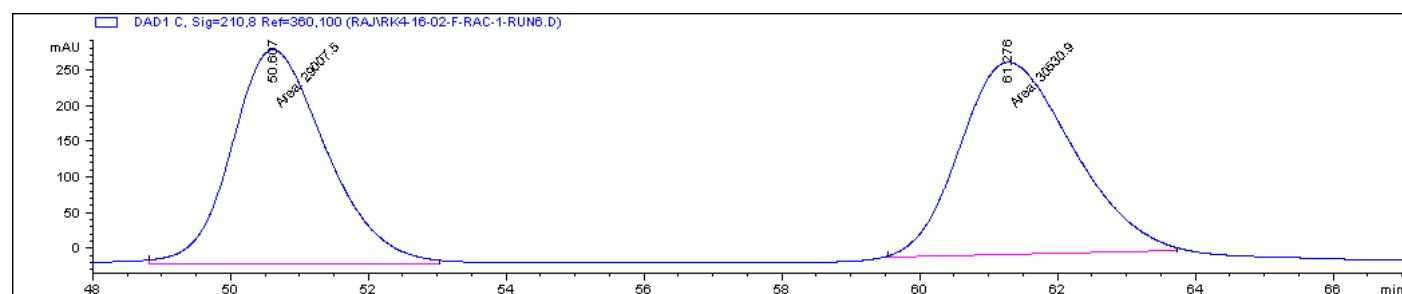
Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
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98.89 10096.7 75.1 2.2402 98.925 1.853

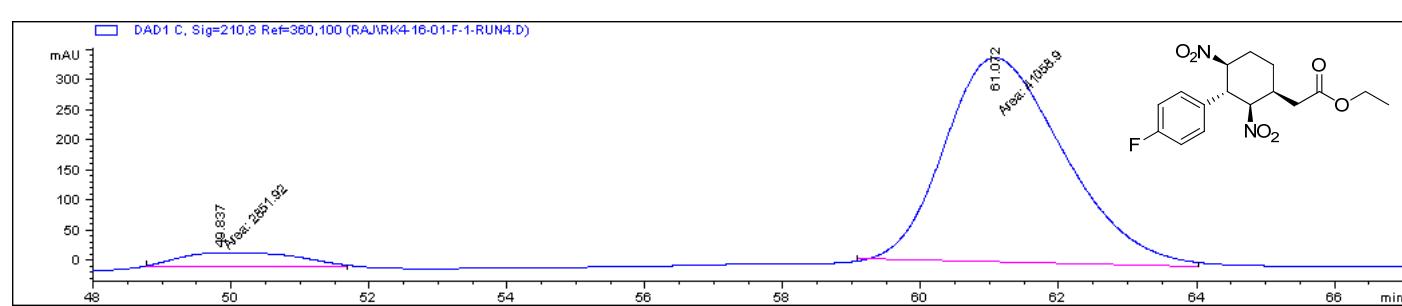
109.47 109.8 1 1.7744 1.075 1.947

3% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

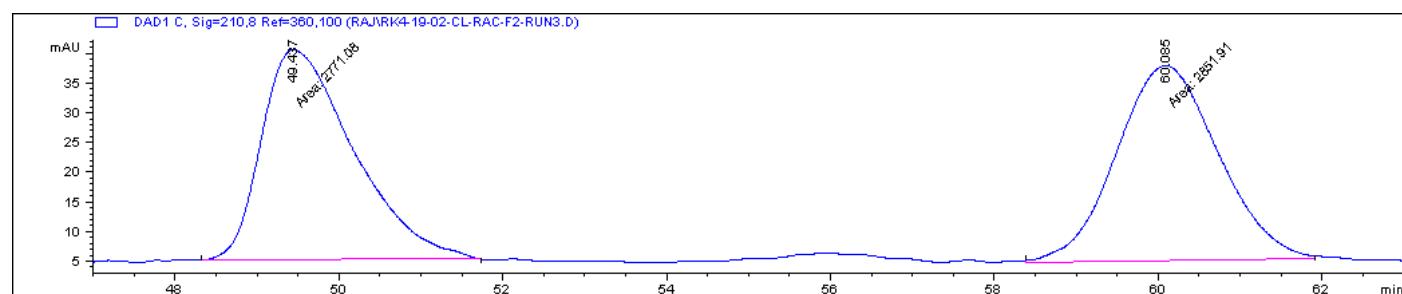
Racemic 3c



Enantio enriched 3c



Racemic 3d



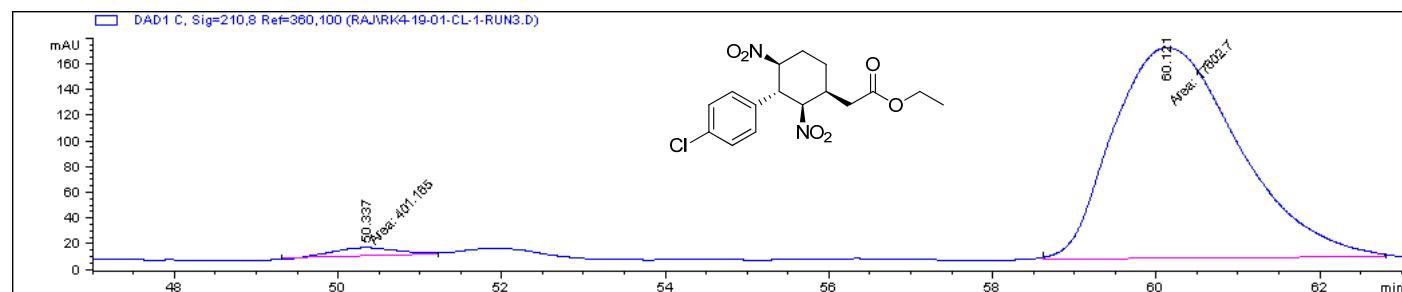
Time Area Height Width Area% Symmetry

49.43 2771.1 35.5 1.3005 49.281 0.525

60.08 2851.9 32.9 1.4432 50.719 0.922

5% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

Enantio enriched 3d



Time Area Height Width Area% Symmetry

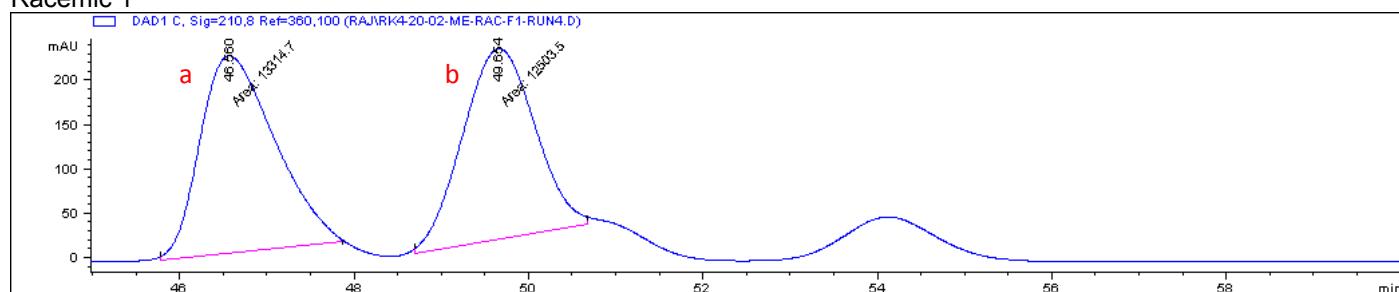
50.33 401.2 6.9 0.9752 2.228 1.002

60.12 17602.7 164.2 1.7865 97.772 0.717

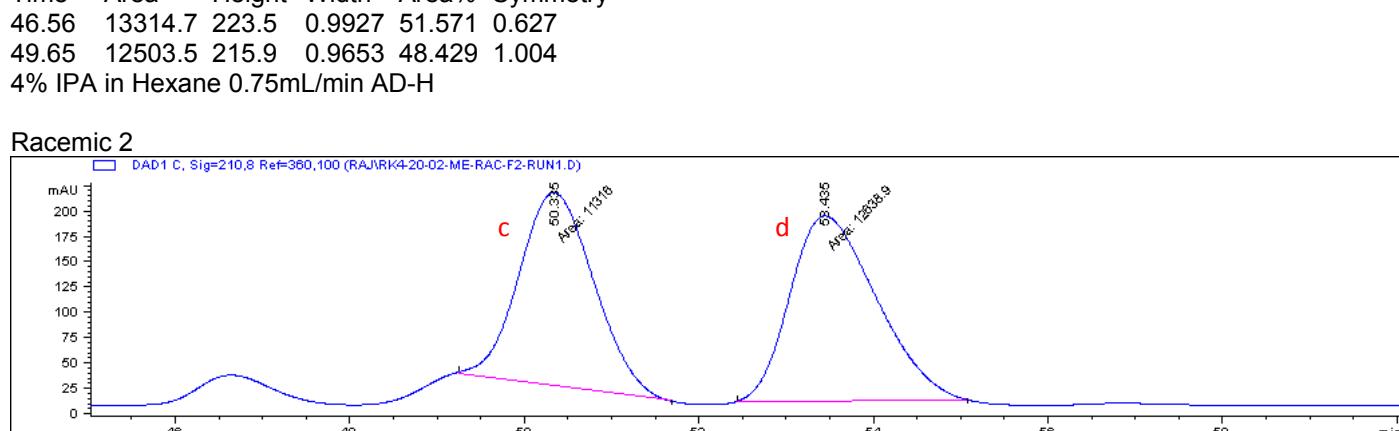
5% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

Racemic 3e

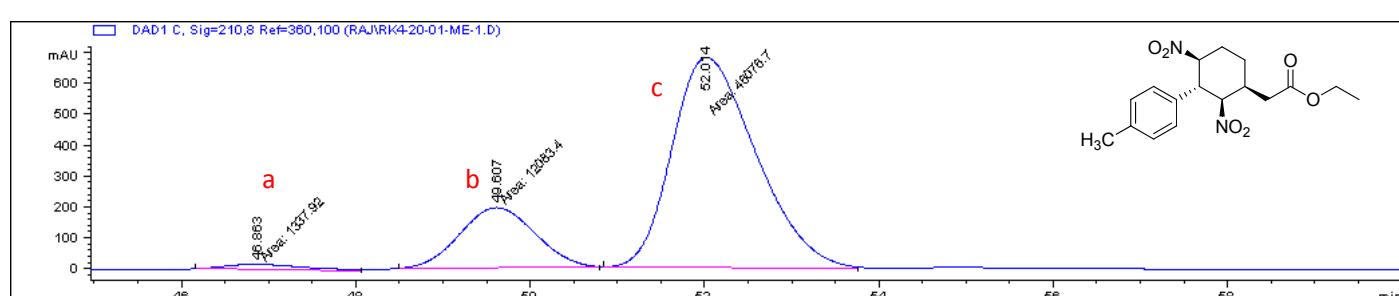
Racemic 1



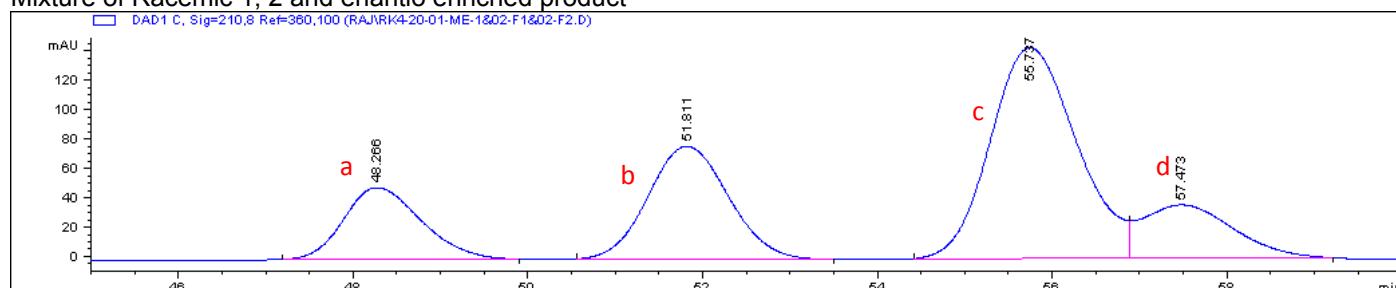
Racemic 2



Enantio enriched 3e



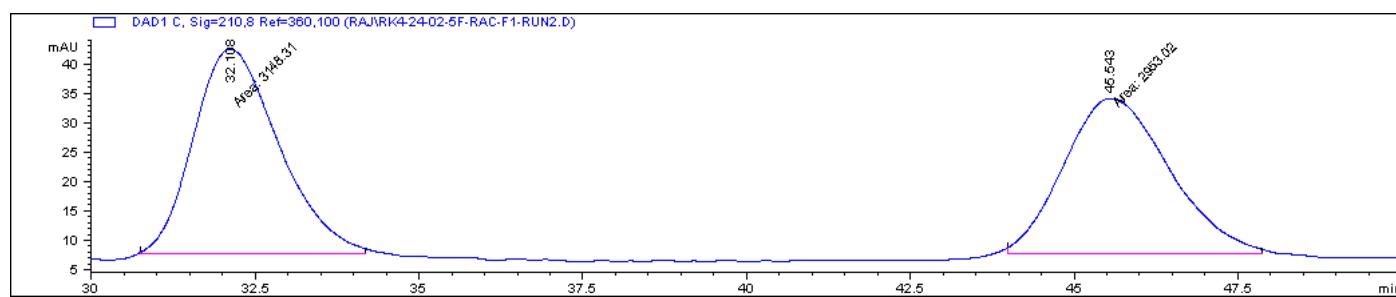
Mixture of Racemic 1, 2 and enantio enriched product



Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
48.26	3050.2	49.2	0.958	17.754	0.723
51.811	4966.5	77.2	1.0007	24.023	0.901
55.73	9970.8	144.2	1.0666	48.229	0.811
57.47	2686.2	37	1.0954	12.993	0.665

4% IPA in Hexane 0.75mL/min AD-H

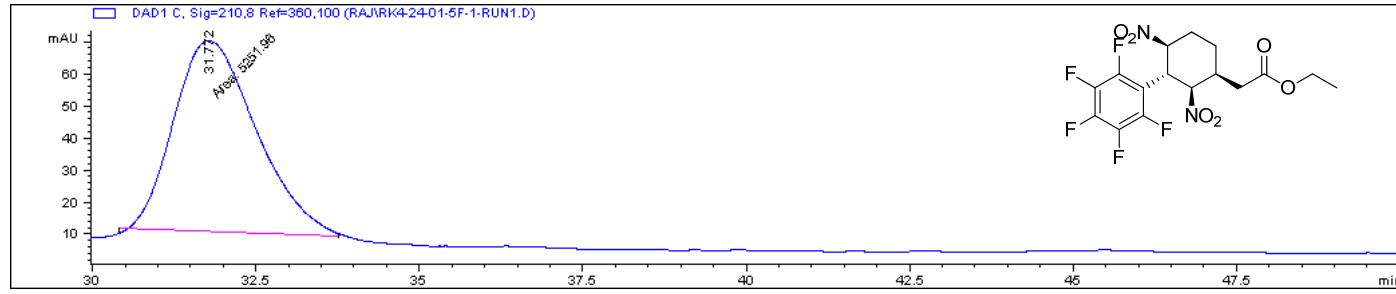
Racemic 3f



Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
32.10	3148.3	34.7	1.5105	51.6	0.736
45.54	2953	26.4	1.8616	48.4	0.777

4% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min OD

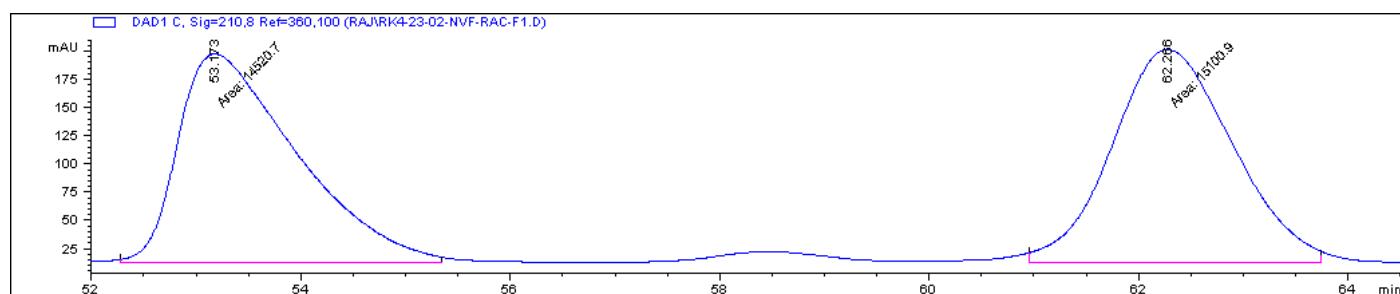
Enantio enriched 3f



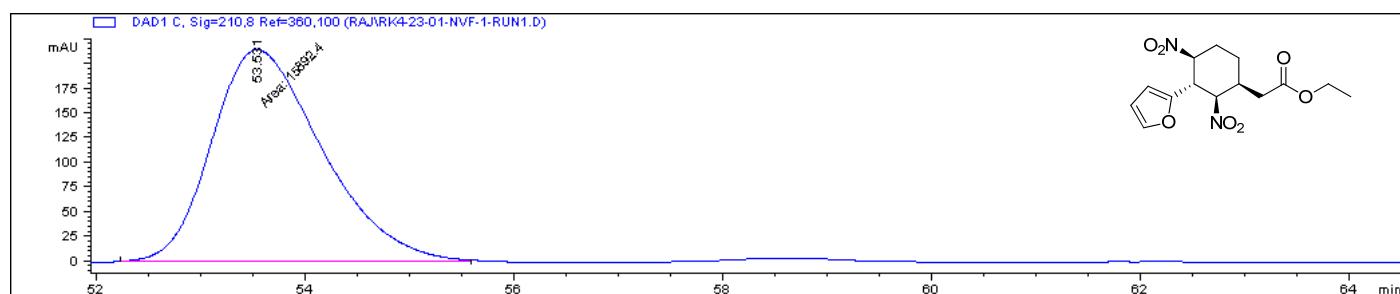
Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
31.77	5252	59.7	1.4657	100	0.709

4% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min OD

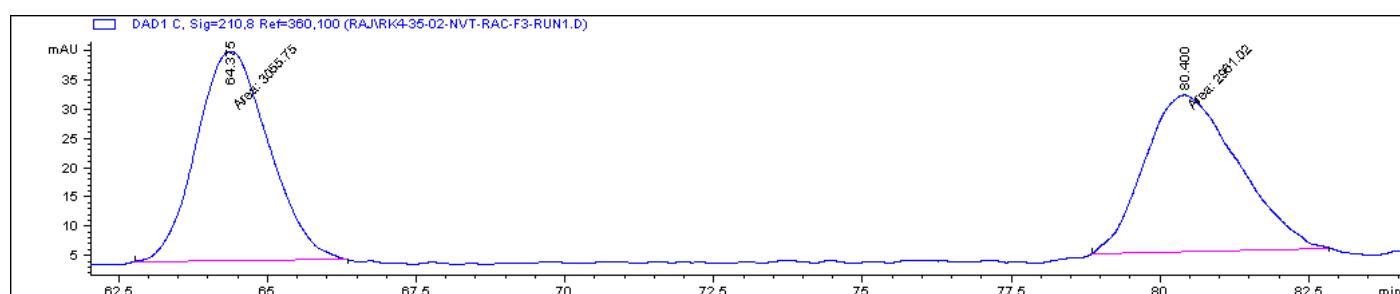
Racemic 3g



Enantio enriched 3g



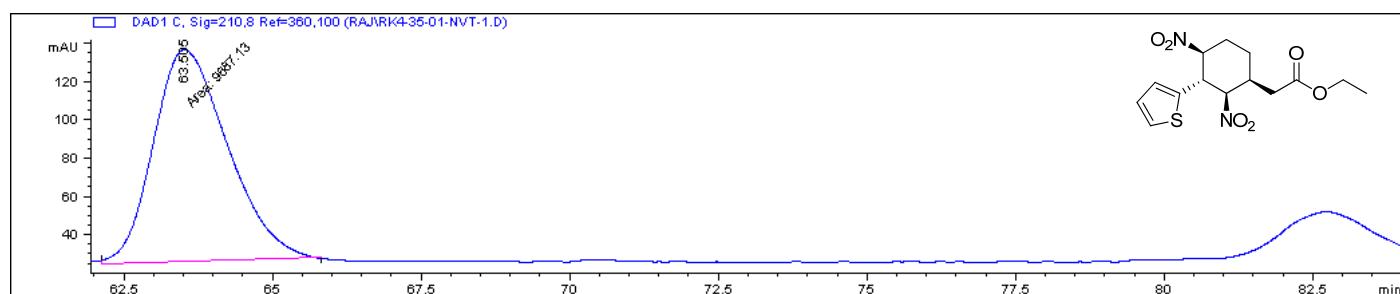
Racemic 3h



Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
64.37	3055.7	35.9	1.4197	50.787	0.881
80.4	2961	26.9	1.8338	49.213	0.726

3% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

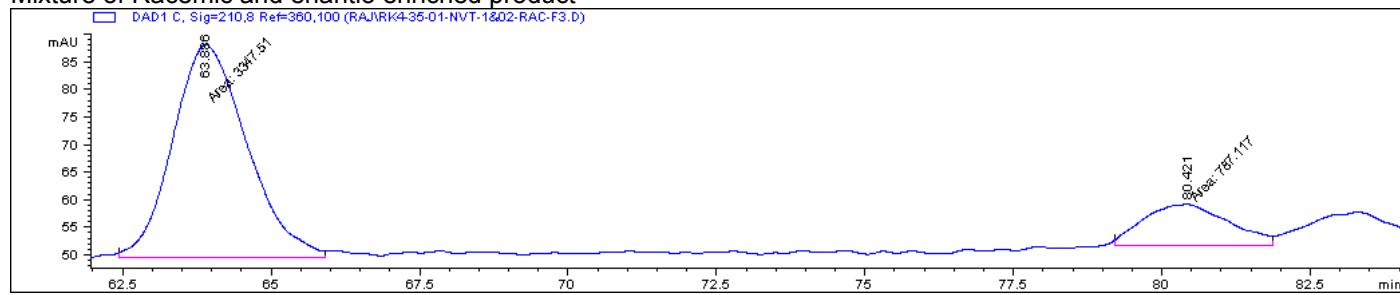
Enantio enriched 3h



Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
63.50	9687.1	111	1.4539	100	0.704

3% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

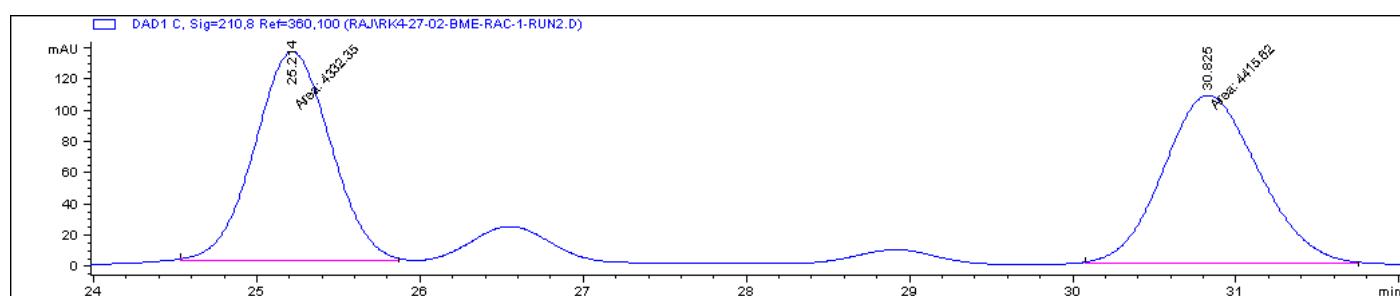
Mixture of Racemic and enantio enriched product



Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
63.886	3347.5	38.6	1.4444	80.963	0.776
80.42	787.1	7.7	1.7076	19.037	0.999

3% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

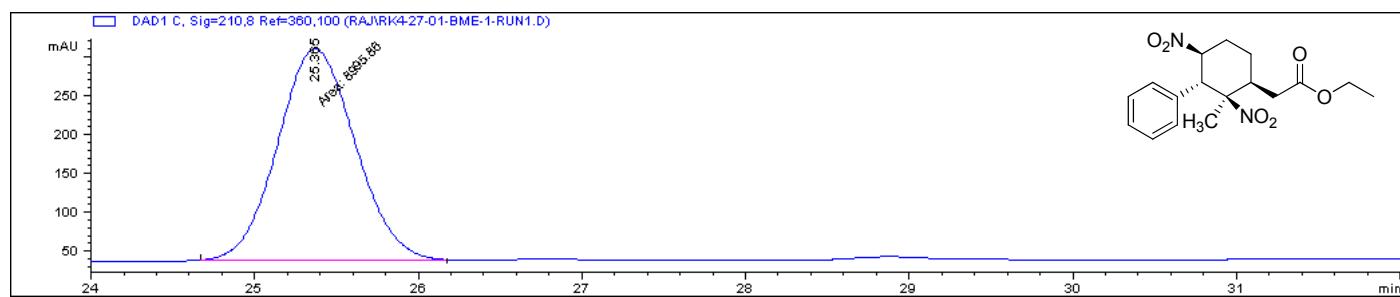
Racemic 3i



Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
25.21	4332.3	133.9	0.5393	49.524	0.969
30.825	4415.6	108.2	0.6805	50.476	0.865

4% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

Enantio enriched 3i

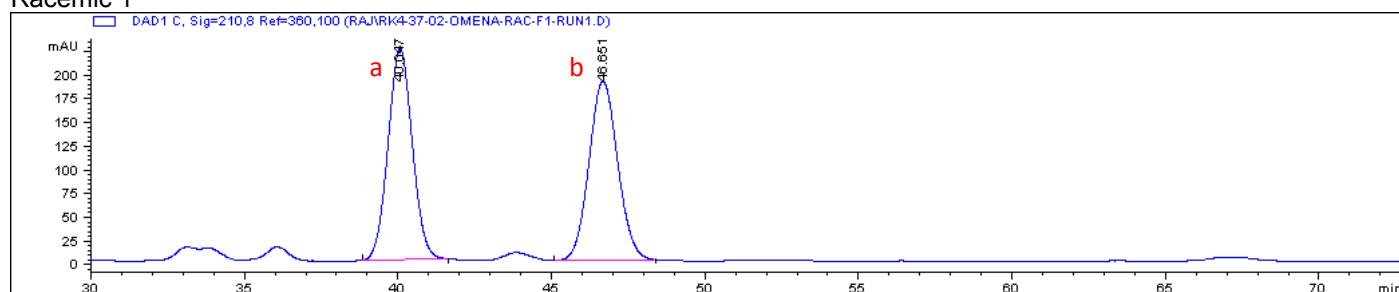


Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
25.365	8995.9	272.6	0.5501	100	0.903

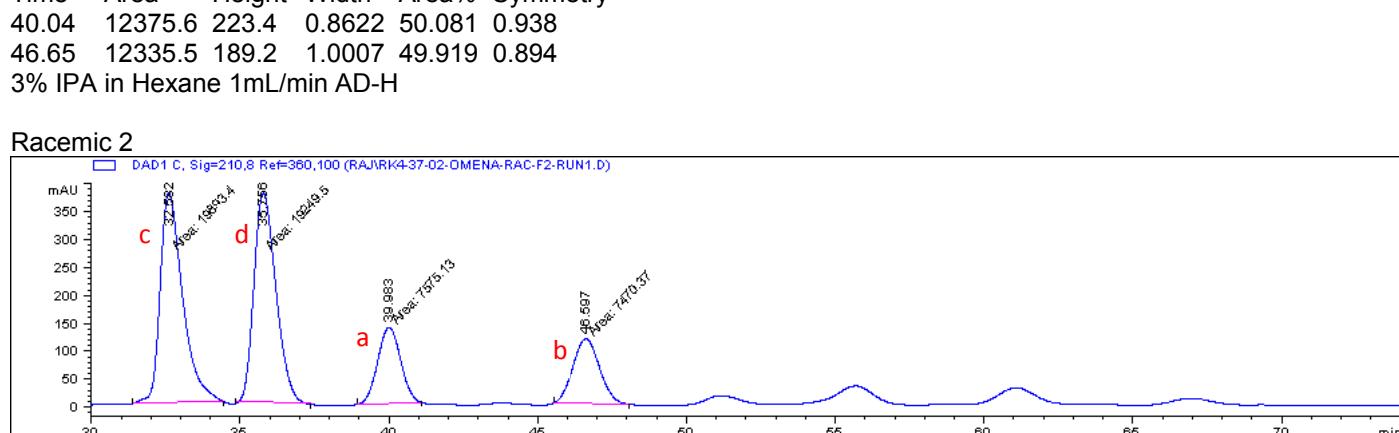
4% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

Racemic 13

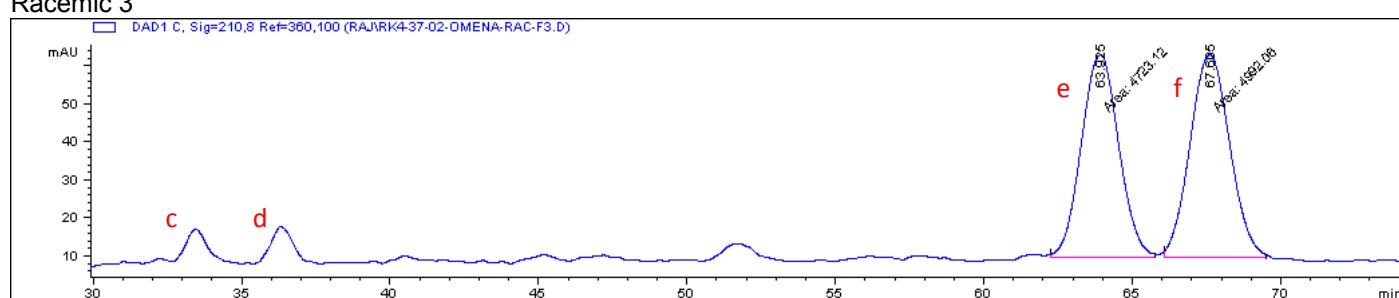
Racemic 1



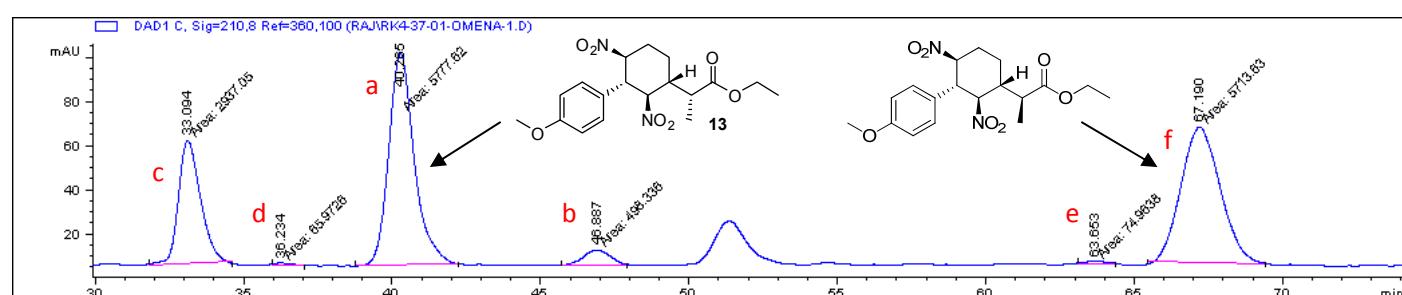
Racemic 2



Racemic 3



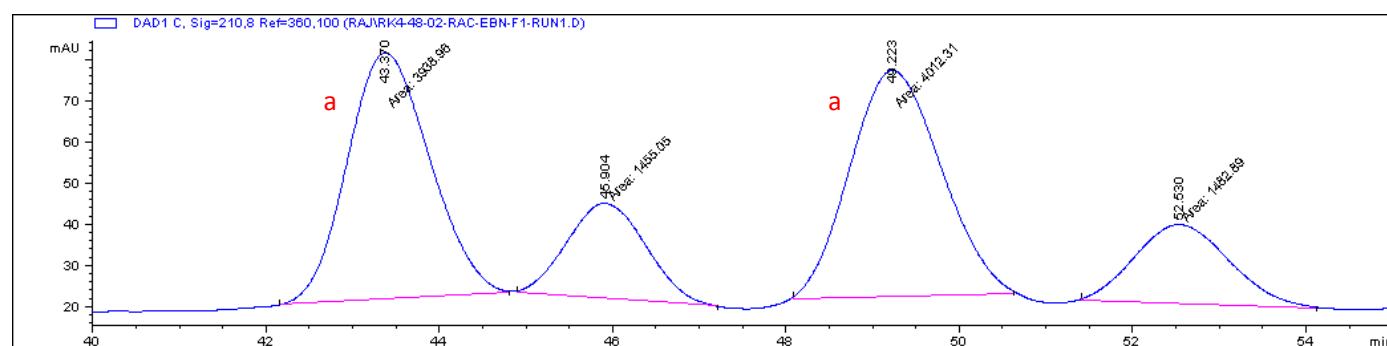
Enantio enriched 13



Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
33.09	2937.1	56.2	0.8716	19.493	0.727
36.23	66	1.6	0.6844	0.438	0.469
40.26	5777.6	96	1.0034	38.345	0.826
46.88	498.3	7.3	1.1305	3.307	1.025
63.65	75	1.4	0.9186	0.498	0.845
67.19	5713.6	61.9	1.5383	37.92	0.89

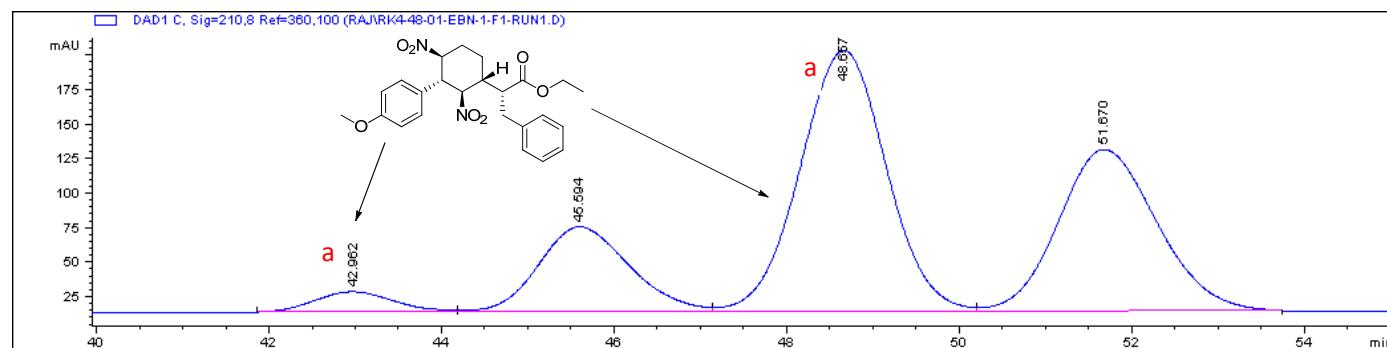
3% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

Racemic 14



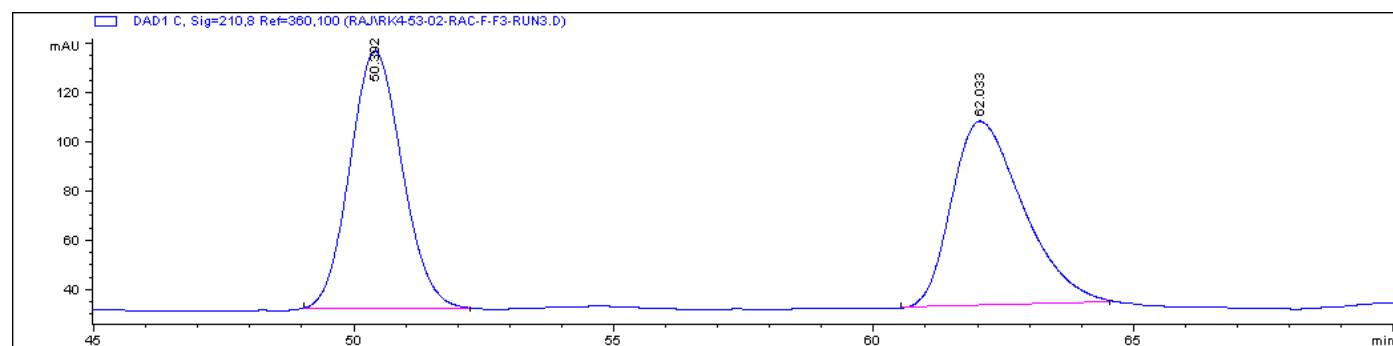
5% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H
RK4-48-02-Rac-EBn-f1

Enantio enriched 14



5% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H
RK4-48-01-EBn-1-f1

Racemic 16



Time Area Height Width Area% Symmetry

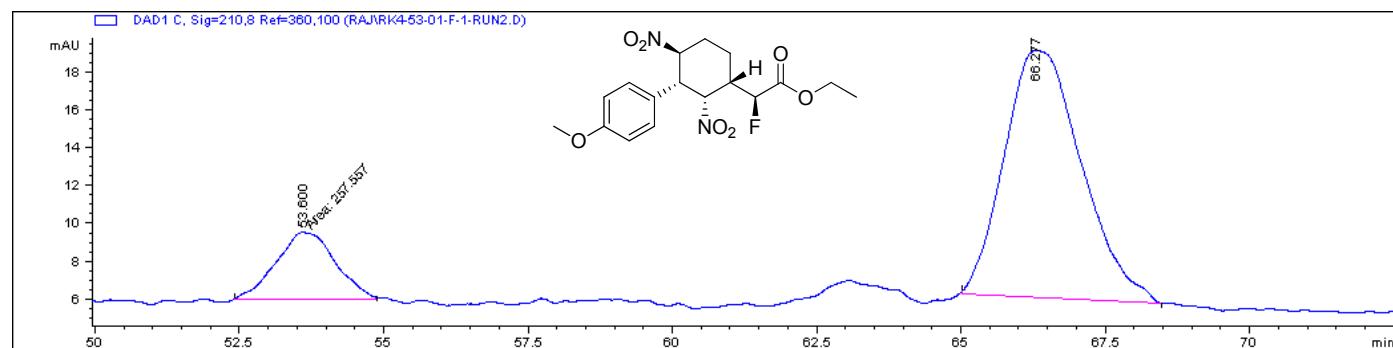
50.39 7359.2 104.9 1.0883 50.639 0.883

62.03 7173.3 75 1.4292 49.361 0.624

5% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

RK4-53-02-Rac-F-f3. Run3

Enantio enriched 16



Time Area Height Width Area% Symmetry

53.6 257.6 3.6 1.2016 17.459 0.857

66.27 1217.6 13.1 1.192 82.541 0.638

5% IPA in Hexane 1mL/min AD-H

RK4-53-01-F-1. Run2

The authors would like to thank Amelia Lucy Cobb (Age 4%) for modeling her finger in the graphical abstract.