

Supporting Information

Palladium-Catalyzed Aerobic Dehydrogenation to α,β -unsaturated Carbonyl Compounds

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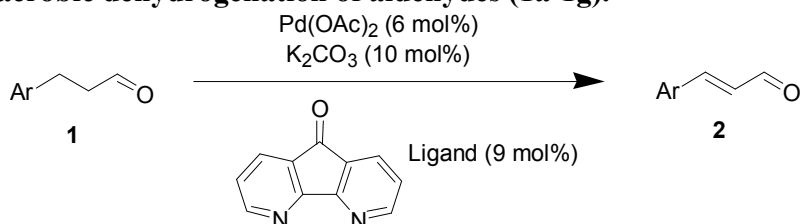
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EXPERIMENTAL

General Methods. Commercial reagents were used as received, unless otherwise stated. Common solvents were purified before use. DMF and DMSO were purified by distillation from calcium hydride under reduced pressure. All reagents were reagent grade and purified when necessary. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using Huanghai silica gel plate with HSGF 254. Qingdao Haiyang Chemical HG/T2354-92 silica gel was used for flash column chromatography. Gas chromatograph was recorded on a SHIMADZU GC-2014 spectrometer. Carbon and proton NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-500 spectrometer at 298 K. ¹H NMR chemical shifts are reported as values (ppm) relative to internal tetramethylsilane and splitting patterns are designated as: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet. ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are reported as values (ppm) relative to chloroform-d (77.0 ppm). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a TurboIonSpray QSTAR Elite Biosystem. The starting materials for the aerobic dehydrogenation, saturated aldehydes **1a-1g**, ketones **3a-3i**, and esters were synthesized according to literature reported procedures.^{S1-S6}

General procedure for aerobic dehydrogenation of aldehydes (**1a-1g**).



S 2

$\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (13.4mg, 0.06mmol), K_2CO_3 (13.8 mg, 0.1mmol) and 4,5-diazafluorenone (16.4mg, 0.09mmol) were weighed in a 2-dram vial. Dry DMF (1 mL) was added, followed by the addition of the corresponding aldehyde (1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 30°C in an open flask manner for 36 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC and GC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (1 mL)/water (4 mL), and separated. The aqueous layer was extracted twice with EtOAc (1 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica column chromatography (n-hexane/ethyl acetate) to give the desired unsaturated aldehyde **2a-2g**.

(E)-3-Phenyl-propenal 2a: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 86%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 6.74 (dd, J = 7.8, 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.49 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 2H), 9.71 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (500MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 128.5, 128.6, 129.1, 131.2, 134.0, 152.7, 193.7 ppm; HRMS ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺ calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{O}$: 133.0635. Found: 133.0655.

(E)-4-(3-Oxo-propenyl)-benzoic acid ethyl ester 2b: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 84%. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 1.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.34 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (dd, J = 7.5, 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 9.69 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (300MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 14.3, 61.3, 128.3, 130.1, 130.2, 132.5, 137.9, 151.0, 165.7, 193.4 ppm; HRMS ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺ calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_3$: 205.0865. Found: 205.0857.

(E)-3-(4-Acetyl-phenyl)-propenal 2c: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 87%. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 2.64 (s, 3H), 6.79 (dd, J = 7.5, 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 9.75 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (300MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 26.8, 128.6, 129.0, 130.5, 138.2, 138.7, 150.8, 193.4, 197.3 ppm; HRMS ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺ calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2$: 175.0759. Found: 175.0753.

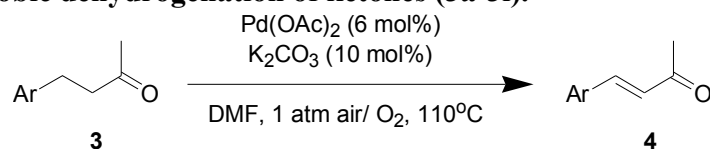
(E)-3-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-propenal 2d: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 77%. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 3.87 (s, 3H), 6.61 (dd, J = 7.8, 16.2 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 9.65 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (300MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 55.5, 114.6, 126.5, 126.8, 130.4, 152.8, 162.2, 193.8 ppm; HRMS ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺ calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2$: 163.0759. Found: 163.0749.

(E)-3-*m*-Tolyl-propenal 2e: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 88%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 2.37 (s, 3H), 6.61 (dd, $J = 7.7, 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.43 (m, 5H), 9.67 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (500MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 21.4, 125.8, 128.6, 129.1, 129.3, 132.2, 134.1, 138.9, 153.1, 193.8 ppm; HRMS ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}$: 147.0810. Found: 147.0802.

(E)-3-(2,4-Dimethyl-phenyl)-propenal 2f: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 78%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.43, (s, 3H), 6.61 (dd, $J = 7.7, 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 9.69 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (500MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 19.8, 21.5, 127.0, 127.6, 128.7, 130.2, 132.0, 138.1, 141.7, 150.4, 194.0 ppm; HRMS ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}$: 161.0966. Found: 161.0960.

(E)-3-(2,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-propenal 2g: White solid. Yield: 66%; m. p. 106-108 $^\circ\text{C}$ (lit. m.p. 105-107 $^\circ\text{C}$)^{S7}; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 6.67 (dd, $J = 7.6, 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.86, (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 9.76 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (500MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 127.9, 128.7, 130.4, 130.9, 131.0, 135.9, 137.6, 146.5, 193.2 ppm; HRMS ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{Cl}_2\text{O}$: 200.9874. Found: 200.9875.

General procedure for aerobic dehydrogenation of ketones (3a-3i).



$\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (13.4mg, 0.06mmol), K_2CO_3 (13.8 mg, 0.1mmol) were weighed in a 2-dram vial. Dry DMF (1 mL) was added, followed by the addition of the corresponding ketone (1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 $^\circ\text{C}$ open flask or under an air/ O_2 balloon for 24 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC and GC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (1 mL)/water (4 mL), and separated. The aqueous layer was extracted twice with EtOAc (1 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica column chromatography (n-hexane/ethyl acetate) to give the desired unsaturated ketone **4a-4i**.

(E)-4-Phenyl-but-3-en-2-one 4a: White solid. Yield: 92%; m. p. 36-38 $^\circ\text{C}$ (lit. m.p. 35-37 $^\circ\text{C}$)^{S8}; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 2.38 (s, 3H), 6.72 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.50 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz,

S 4

1H), 7.52-7.56 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 27.5, 127.2, 128.3, 128.9, 130.5, 134.4, 143.5, 198.5 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₁O: 147.0810. Found: 147.0809.

(E)-4-(4-Bromo-phenyl)-but-3-en-2-one 4b: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 81%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 2.38 (s, 3H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 27.8, 124.9, 127.8, 129.7, 132.4, 133.6, 141.9, 197.9 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₀BrO: 224.9915. Found: 224.9905.

(E)-4-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-but-3-en-2-one 4c: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 82%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 2.38 (s, 3H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.49 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 27.7, 127.7, 129.4, 129.5, 133.2, 136.6, 141.9, 197.9 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₀ClO: 181.0420. Found: 181.0416.

(E)-4-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-but-3-en-2-one 4d: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 67%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 2.37 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.52 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 27.4, 55.7, 114.5, 125.1, 127.1, 130.0, 143.4, 161.6, 198.5 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₁₃O₂: 177.0916. Found: 177.0908.

(E)-4-*o*-Tolyl-but-3-en-2-one 4e: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 71%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 19.8, 27.8, 126.5, 126.6, 128.3, 130.3, 130.9, 133.6, 137.9, 140.9, 198.3 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₁₃O: 161.0966. Found: 161.0965.

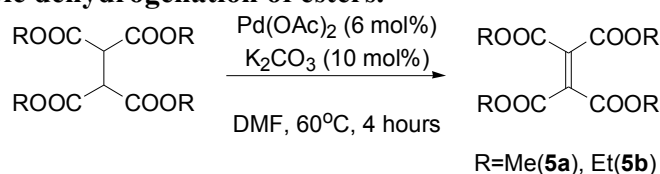
(E)-4-(2,4-Dimethyl-phenyl)-but-3-en-2-one 4f: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 62%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 19.7, 21.4, 27.8, 126.4, 127.1, 127.3, 130.1, 131.7, 137.9, 140.7, 140.9, 198.9 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₁₅O: 175.1123. Found: 175.1115.

(E)-4-(2,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-but-3-en-2-one 4g: White solid. Yield: 86%; m. p. 81-83 °C (lit. m.p. 80-81 °C)^{S9}; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 2.37 (s, 3H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), ppm. ¹³C NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 27.5, 127.8, 128.4, 129.9, 130.1, 131.4, 135.7, 136.6, 137.8, 197.9 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₉Cl₂O: 215.0030. Found: 215.00225.

(E)-4-(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-but-3-en-2-one 4h: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 72%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 2.35 (s, 3H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 7.04-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), ppm. ¹³C NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 27.6, 116.2, 116.4, 122.58, 122.67, 124.66, 124.69, 128.81, 128.83, 129.3, 129.4, 132.0, 132.1, 135.71, 135.74, 160.5, 162.5, 198.4 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₀FO: 165.0716. Found: 165.0715.

(E)-4-Naphthalen-2-yl-but-3-en-2-one 4i: White solid. Yield: 53%. m. p. 101-103 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 2.43 (s, 3H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.86 (m, 3H), 7.96 (s, 1H), ppm. ¹³C NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 27.7, 123.7, 126.9, 127.5, 127.9, 128.7, 128.9, 130.4, 132.1, 133.5, 134.5, 143.6, 198.5 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₄H₁₃O: 197.0966. Found: 197.0960.

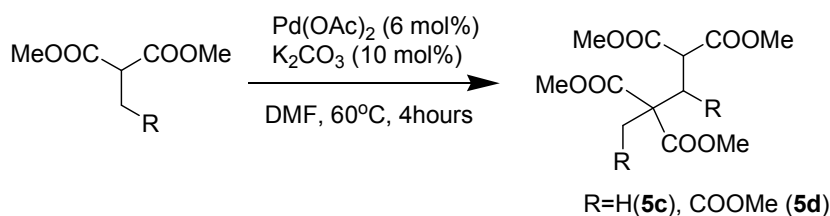
General procedure for aerobic dehydrogenation of esters.



Pd(OAc)₂ (13.4mg, 0.06mmol), K₂CO₃ (13.8 mg, 0.1mmol) were weighed in a 2-dram vial. Dry DMF (1 mL) was added, followed by the addition of the corresponding tetraesters (1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 60°C for 4 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC and GC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (1 mL)/water (4 mL), and separated. The aqueous layer was extracted twice with EtOAc (1 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica column chromatography (n-hexane/ethyl acetate) to give the desired unsaturated ester **5a-5b**. Michael addition products **5c** and **5d** were isolated for triester substrates.

2,3-Bis-methoxycarbonyl-but-2-enedioic acid dimethyl ester 5a: White solid. Yield: 99%; m. p. 120-123 °C (lit. m.p. 119-120 °C);^{S10} ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 3.87 (s, 12H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 53.4, 135.5, 162.6 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₃O₈: 261.0610. Found: 261.0599.

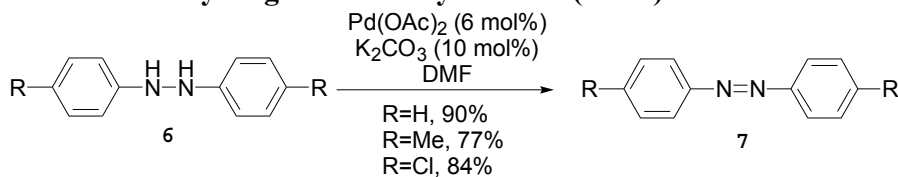
2,3-Bis-ethoxycarbonyl-but-2-enedioic acid diethyl ester 5b: White solid. Yield: 99%; m. p. 54-55 °C (lit. m.p. 53-55 °C);^{S11} ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 12H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 8H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 13.9, 62.6, 135.5, 162.5 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₃O₈: 317.1236. Found: 317.1236.



Tetramethyl butane-1,1,3,3-tetracarboxylate 5c: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 66%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 1.44 (s, 3H), 2.55 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.61 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 6H), 3.74 (s, 6H), ppm. ¹³C NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 20.7, 34.5, 48.4, 52.7, 52.8, 52.9, 169.7, 171.9 ppm; HRMS (M+Na)⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₁₉O₈Na: 313.0899. Found: 313.0891.

Hexamethyl butane-1,1,2,3,3,4-hexacarboxylate 5d: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 65%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.74-3.83 (m, 8H)ppm. ¹³C NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 36.4, 39.7, 43.6, 47.9, 50.9, 51.9, 52.4, 56.3, 167.9, 168.8, 170.6, 171.6 ppm; HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₂₃O₁₂: 407.119. Found: 407.1208.

General procedure for aerobic dehydrogenation of hydrazines (6a-6c).



Pd(OAc)₂ (13.4mg, 0.06mmol), K₂CO₃ (13.8 mg, 0.1mmol) were weighed in a 2-dram vial. Dry DMF (1 mL) was added, followed by the addition of the corresponding hydrazine (1 mmol). The reaction mixture was

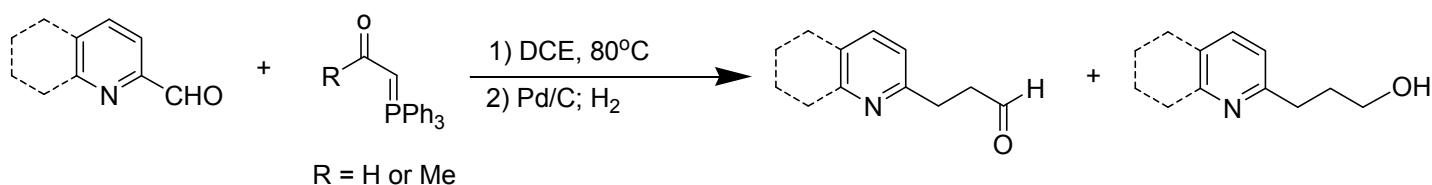
stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC and GC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (1 mL)/water (4 mL), and separated. The aqueous layer was extracted twice with EtOAc (1 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica column chromatography (n-hexane/ethyl acetate) to give the desired diazene **7a-7c**.

Diphenyldiazene 7a: Orange yellow solid. Yield: 90%. m. p. 65-67 °C (lit. m.p. 65-67 °C).^{S12} ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 7.57 (m, 3H), 8.05 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 123.0, 129.2, 131.1, 152.8 ppm. HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₁₁N₂: 183.0922. Found: 183.0914.

Di-*p*-tolyldiazene 7b: Orange yellow solid. Yield: 77%; m. p. 144-146 °C (lit. m.p. 144-145 °C).^{S13} ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 2.45 (s, 6H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), ppm. ¹³C NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 21.5, 122.7, 129.7, 141.2, 150.8 ppm. HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₄H₁₅N₂: 211.1235. Found: 211.1229.

Bis-(4-chlorophenyl)diazene 7c: Orange yellow solid. Yield: 84%. m. p. 190-191 °C (lit. m.p. 188-189 °C).^{S14} ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 7.50 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H), ppm. ¹³C NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 124.2, 129.4, 137.2, 150.8 ppm. HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₉Cl₂N₂: 251.0143. Found: 251.0140.

Procedure for preparation of heterocyclic substrates:

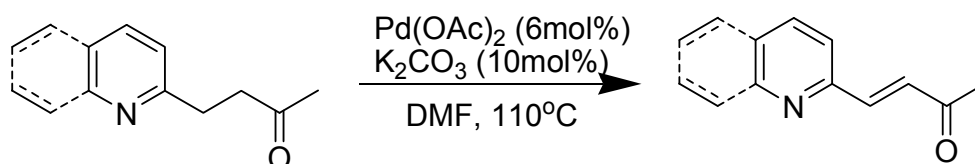


Under an atmosphere of argon, to a schlenk tube were added phosphorane (3.0 mmol) and 5 mL of anhydrous CH₂ClCH₂Cl, followed by aldehyde (3.0 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C for several hours till almost full conversion of the aldehyde by TLC analysis. Then the reaction was cooled to room temperature, the solvent was removed by vacuum, and 10% pd/C (0.03 mmol) and CH₃OH (10 mL) were added, the mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature in H₂ overnight. After filtration, concentrated, the desired product was obtained by column chromatography using petroleum/ethyl acetate (from 10:1 to 4:1) as eluent.

4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-2-one: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 71%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.93 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.05 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.07 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (m, 1H), 8.48 (d, $J = 4.1$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (500MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 30.1, 31.9, 42.6, 121.3, 123.3, 136.4, 149.3, 160.5, 208.1 ppm. HRMS ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}$: 150.0919. Found: 150.0931.

4-(quinolin-2-yl)butan-2-one: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 45%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.98 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.05 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.61 (m, Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.48 (d, $J = 4.1$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (500MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 30.2, 32.5, 42.0, 121.8, 125.9, 126.9, 127.6, 128.8, 129.4, 136.2, 147.9, 160.9, 208.1 ppm. HRMS ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$: 200.1075. Found: 200.1082.

General procedure for aerobic dehydrogenation of heterocyclic ketones.



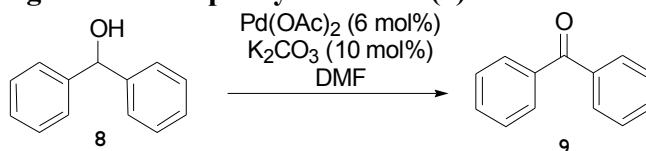
$\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (13.4mg, 0.06mmol), K_2CO_3 (13.8 mg, 0.1mmol) were weighed in a 2-dram vial. Dry DMF (1 mL) was added, followed by the addition of the ketones (1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 24 h in oxygen balloon. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC and GC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (1 mL)/water (4 mL), and separated. The aqueous layer was extracted twice with EtOAc (1 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica column chromatography (n-hexane/ethyl acetate) to give the desired products.

(E)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)but-3-en-2-one: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 61%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 2.41 (s, 3H), 7.14 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.72 (t, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.6 (d, $J = 4.7$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (500MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 28.1, 124.1, 124.3, 130.1, 136.8, 141.9, 150.1, 153.1, 198.5 ppm. HRMS ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}$: 148.0762. Found: 148.0762.

(E)-4-(quinolin-2-yl)but-3-en-2-one: White solid. Yield: 95%. m. p. 68-71 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 2.37 (s, 3H), 7.05 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.51 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.71 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.04(m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (500MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ : 27.6, 120.1, 127.5,

127.6, 128.1, 129.8, 130.2, 131.8, 136.8, 143.0, 148.3, 153.5, 198.6 ppm. HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₂NO: 198.0919. Found: 198.0923.

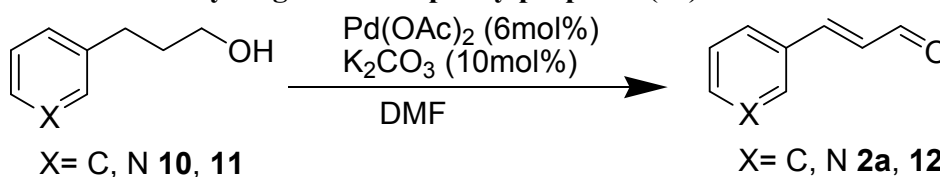
Procedure for aerobic dehydrogenation of diphenylmethanol (8).



Pd(OAc)₂ (13.4mg, 0.06mmol), K₂CO₃ (13.8 mg, 0.1mmol) were weighed in a 2-dram vial. Dry DMF (1 mL) was added, followed by the addition of diphenylmethanol **8** (1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC and GC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (1 mL)/water (4 mL), and separated. The aqueous layer was extracted twice with EtOAc (1 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica column chromatography (n-hexane/ethyl acetate) to give the desired ketone **9**.

Diphenylmethanone 9: White solid. Yield: 99%. m. p. 48-51 °C (lit. m.p. 48 °C).^{S15} ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 128.4, 130.2, 132.6, 137.8, 196.9 ppm.

Procedure for double aerobic dehydrogenation of phenylpropanol (10).

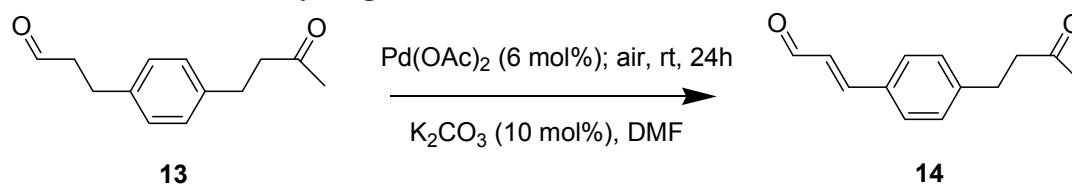


Pd(OAc)₂ (13.4mg, 0.06mmol), K₂CO₃ (13.8 mg, 0.1mmol) and 4,5-diazafluorenone (16.4mg, 0.09mmol) were weighed in a 2-dram vial. Dry DMF (1 mL) was added, followed by the addition of 3-phenyl-propan-1-ol **10** (1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC and GC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (1 mL)/water (4 mL), and separated. The aqueous layer was extracted twice with EtOAc (1 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by

silica column chromatography (n-hexane/ethyl acetate) to give the desired unsaturated aldehyde **2a**. The compound **11** was done as the same way but at a temperature of 80 °C to give product **12**.

(E)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)acrylaldehyde: White solid. Yield: 67%. m. p. 63-66 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 6.80 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.67 (q, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.80 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 9.75 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 123.9, 129.8, 130.2, 134.4, 148.4, 150.0, 151.8, 192.9 ppm. HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₈H₈NO: 134.0606. Found: 134.0605.

Procedure for selective aerobic dehydrogenation of **13**.



Pd(OAc)₂ (13.4mg, 0.06mmol), K₂CO₃ (13.8 mg, 0.1mmol) and 4,5-diazafluorenone (16.4mg, 0.09mmol) were weighed in a 2-dram vial. Dry DMF (1 mL) was added, followed by the addition of 3-[4-(3-Oxo-butyl)-phenyl]-propionaldehyde **13** (1 mmol).^{S16} The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC and GC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (1 mL)/water (4 mL), and separated. The aqueous layer was extracted twice with EtOAc (1 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica column chromatography (n-hexane/ethyl acetate) to give the desired unsaturated aldehyde **14**.

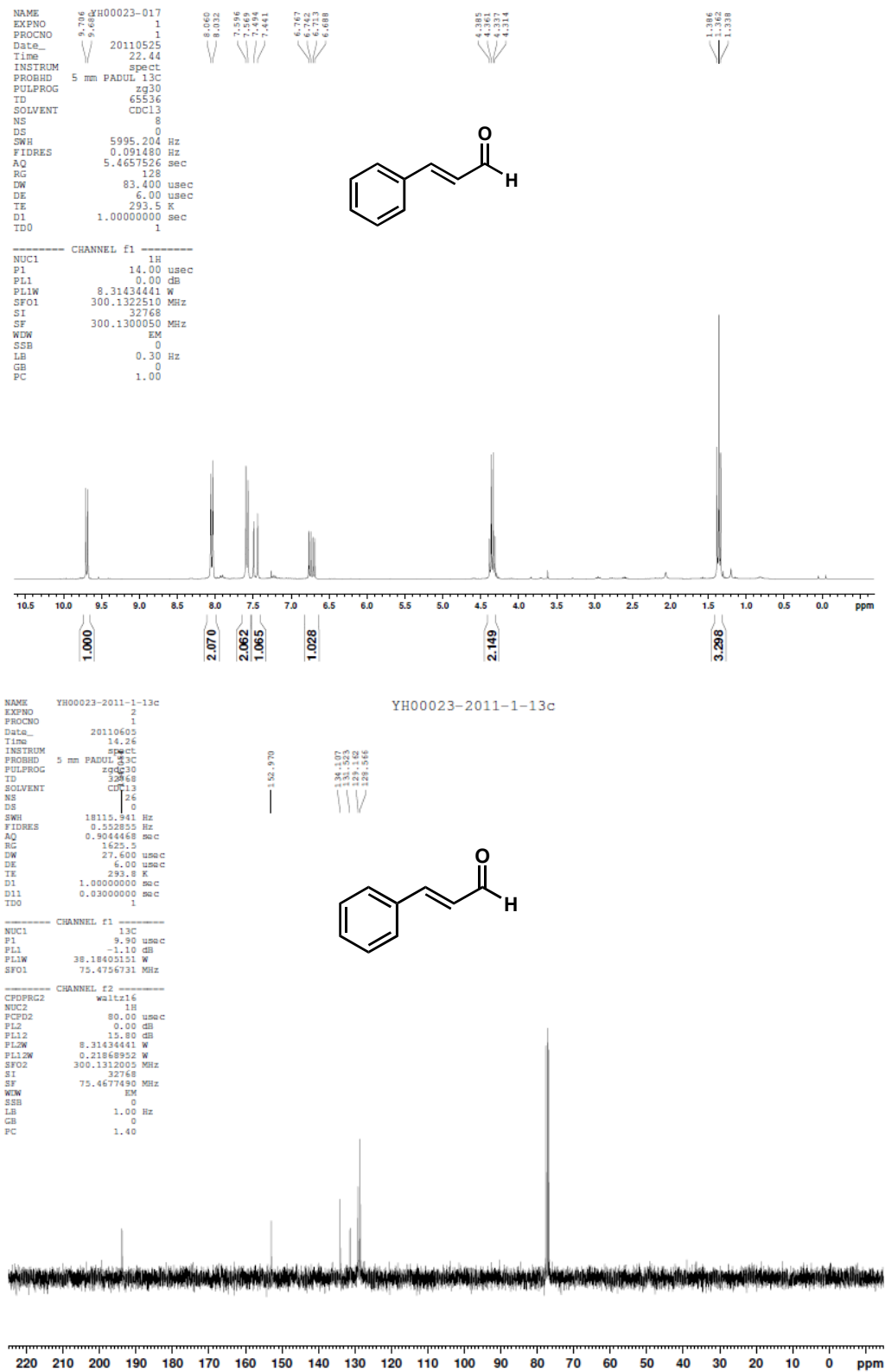
(E)-3-(4-(3-oxobutyl)phenyl)acrylaldehyde 14: Pale yellow oil. Yield: 87%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.78 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.94 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.1 (s, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.43-7.50 (m, 2H), 9.69 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ: 29.7, 30.1, 44.7, 128.3, 128.8, 129.3, 132.3, 152.5, 193.7, 207.2 ppm. HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₅O₂: 203.1072. Found: 203.1069.

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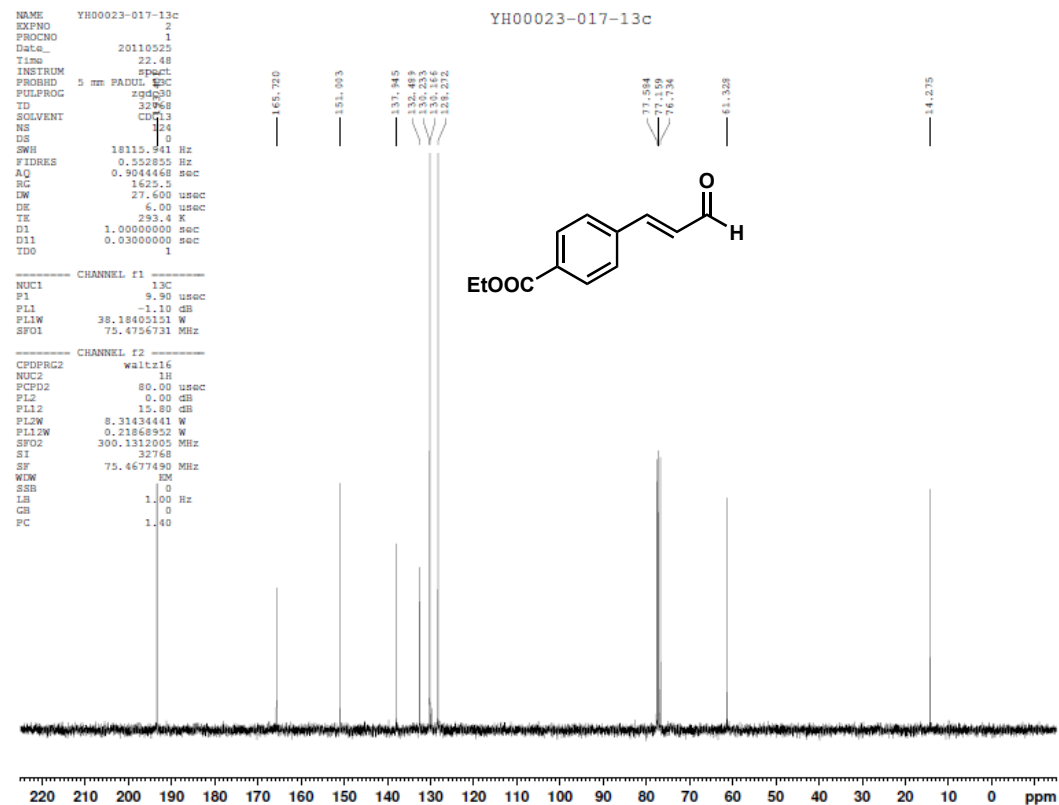
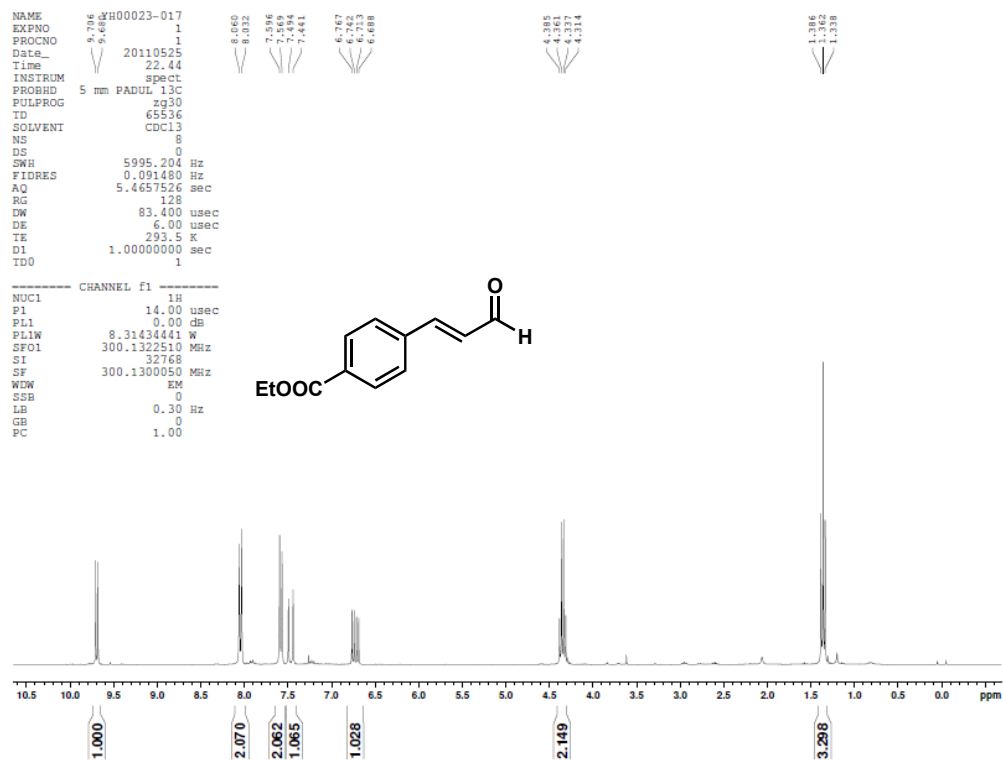
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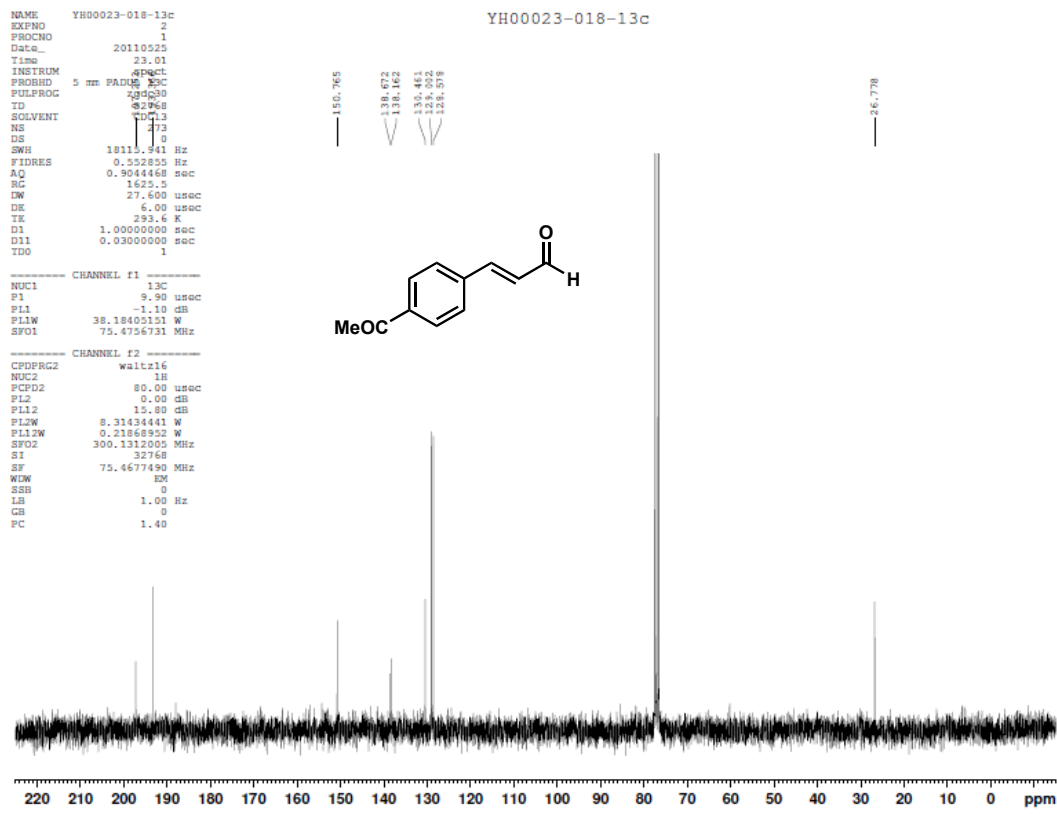
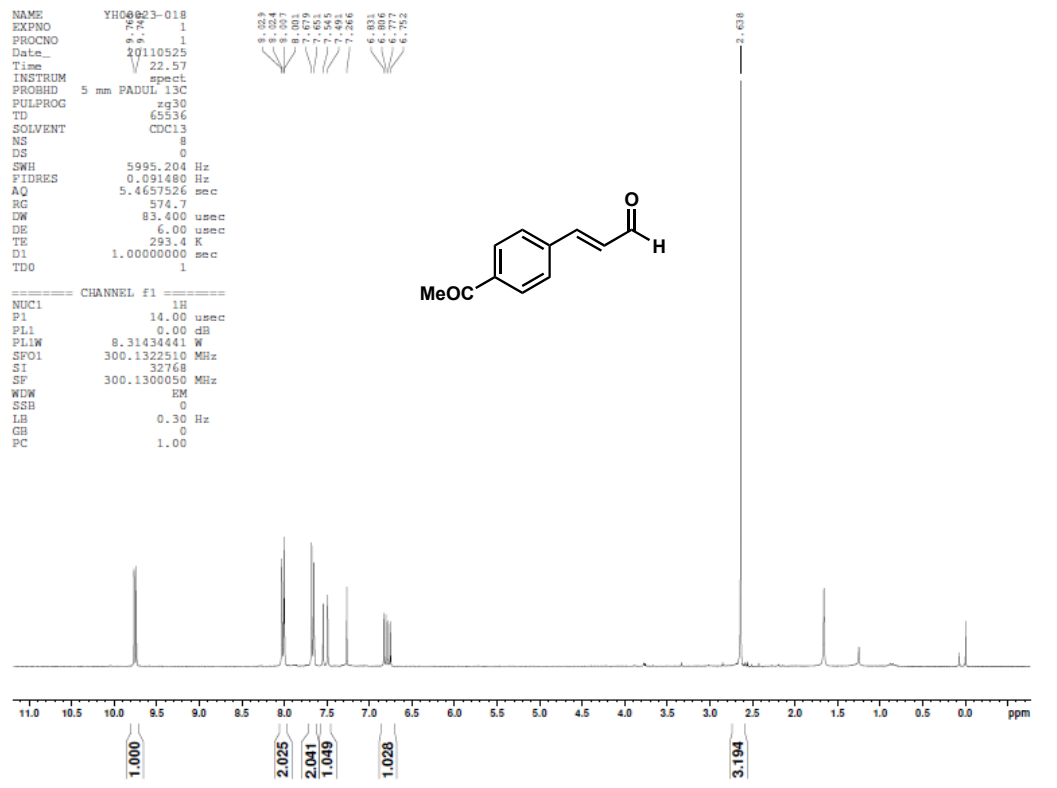
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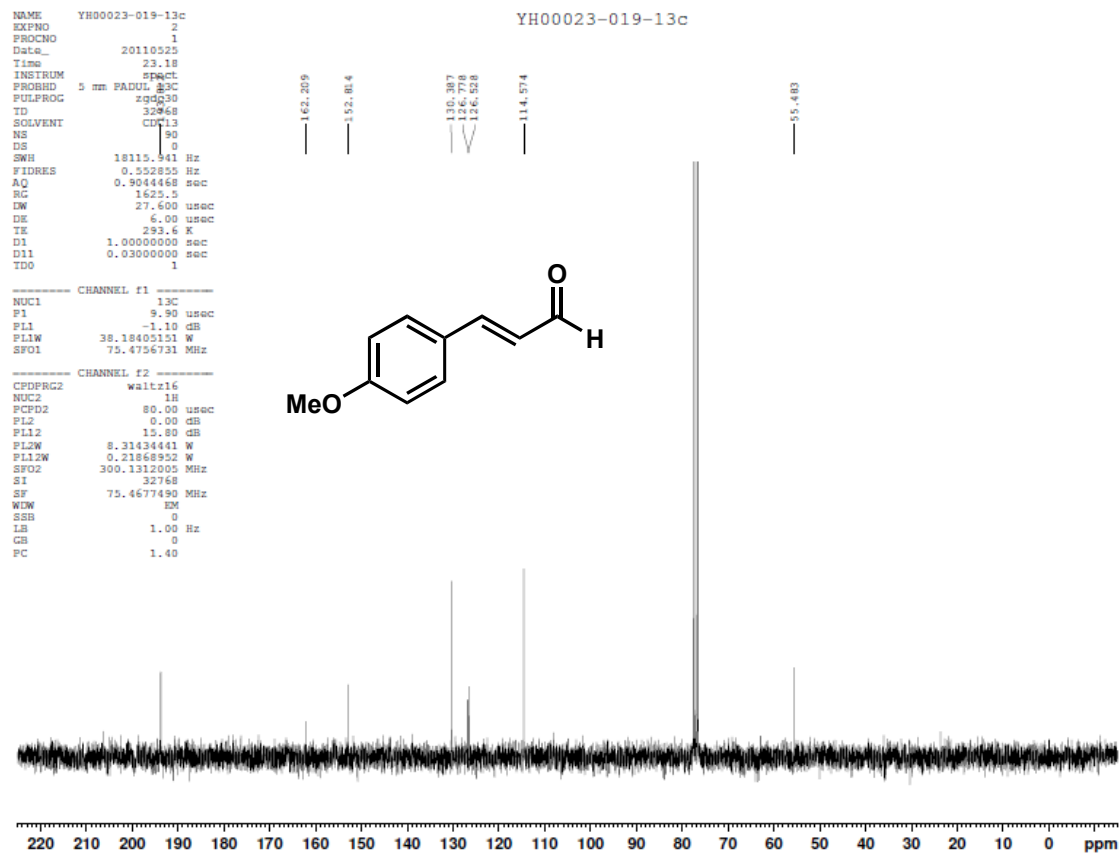
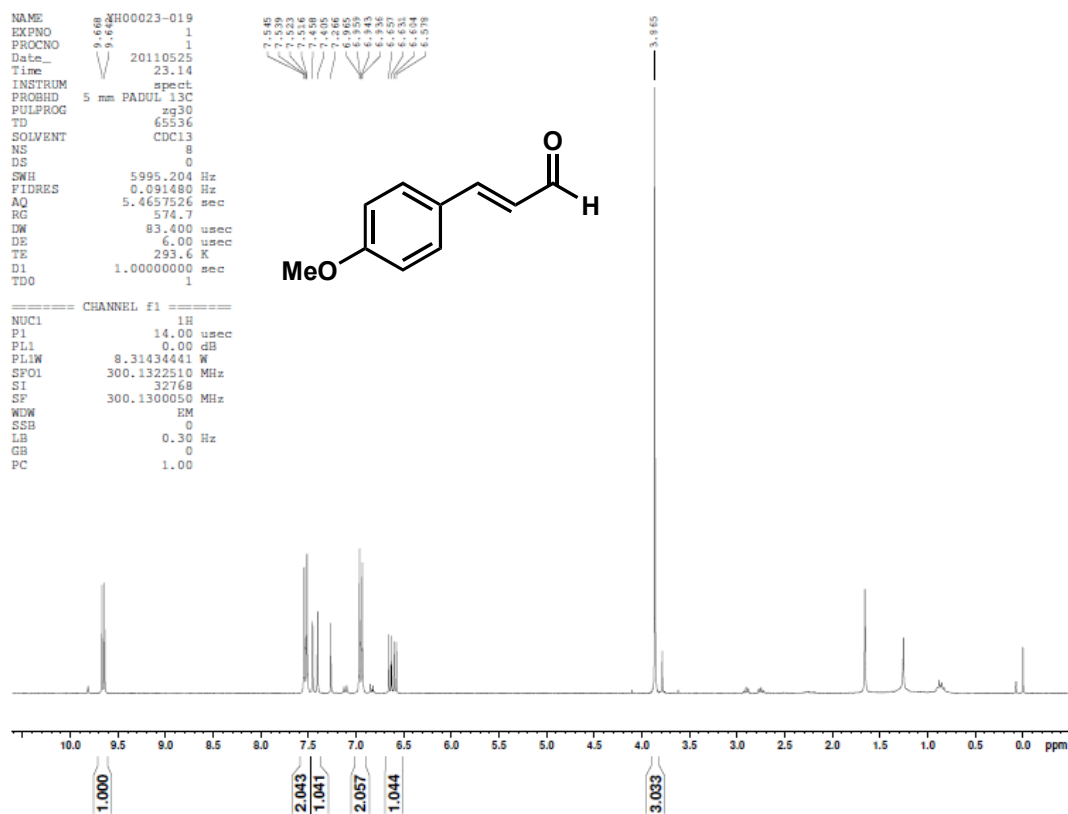
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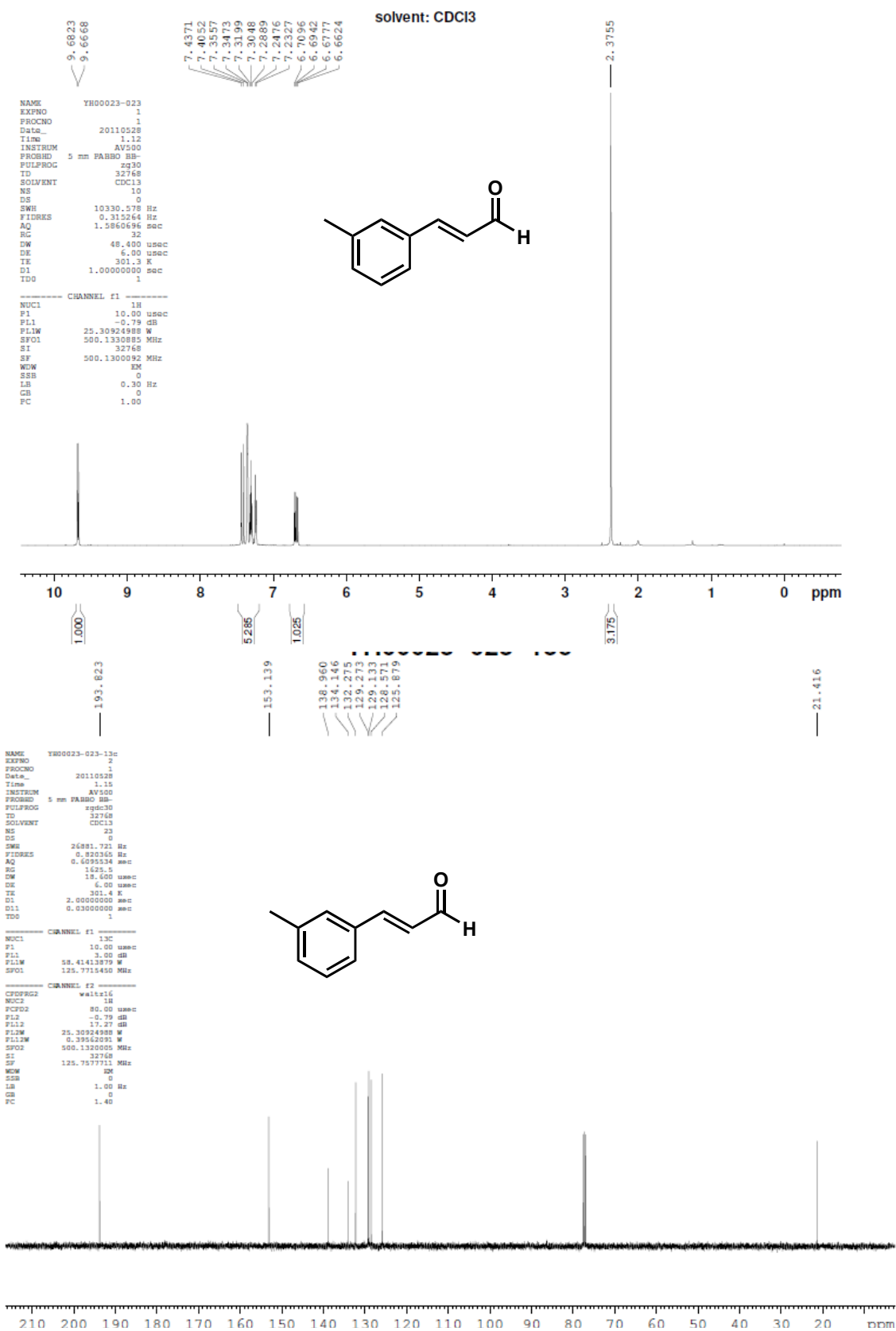
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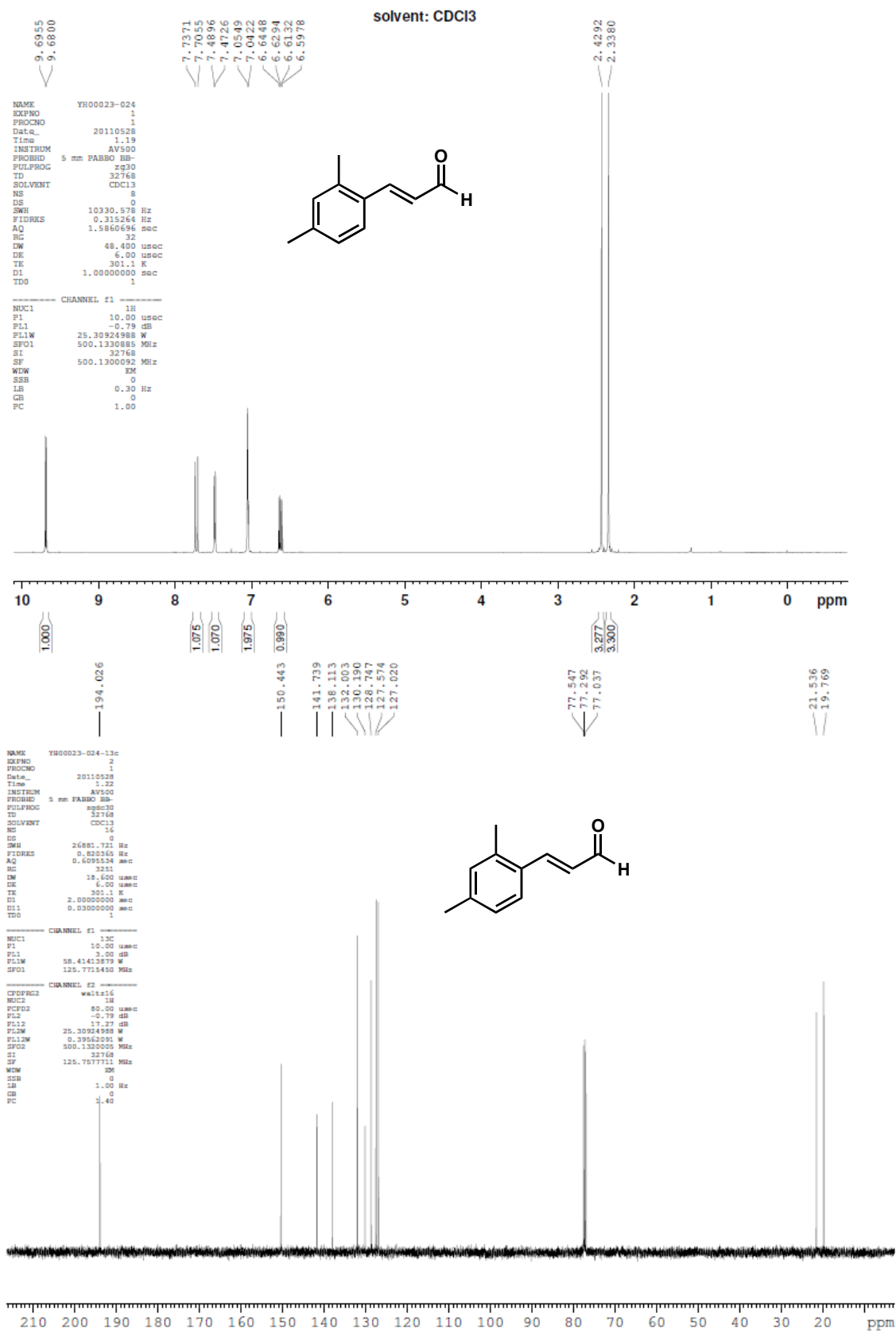
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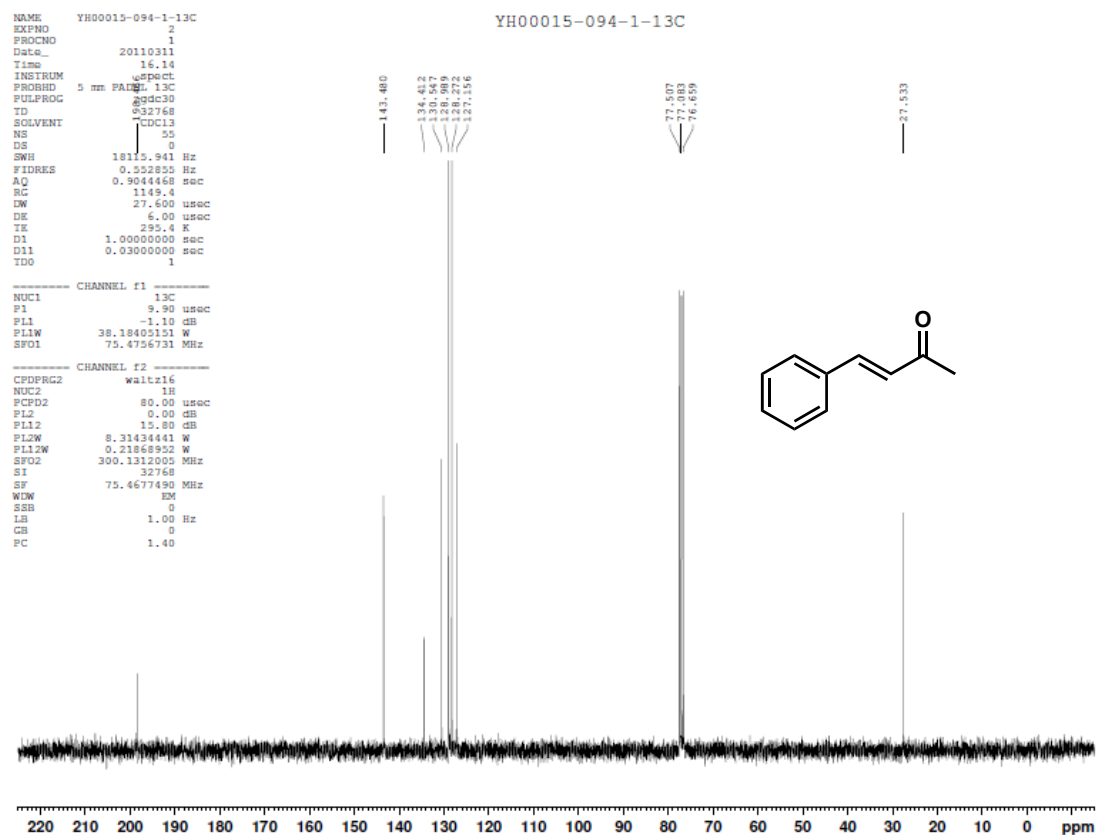
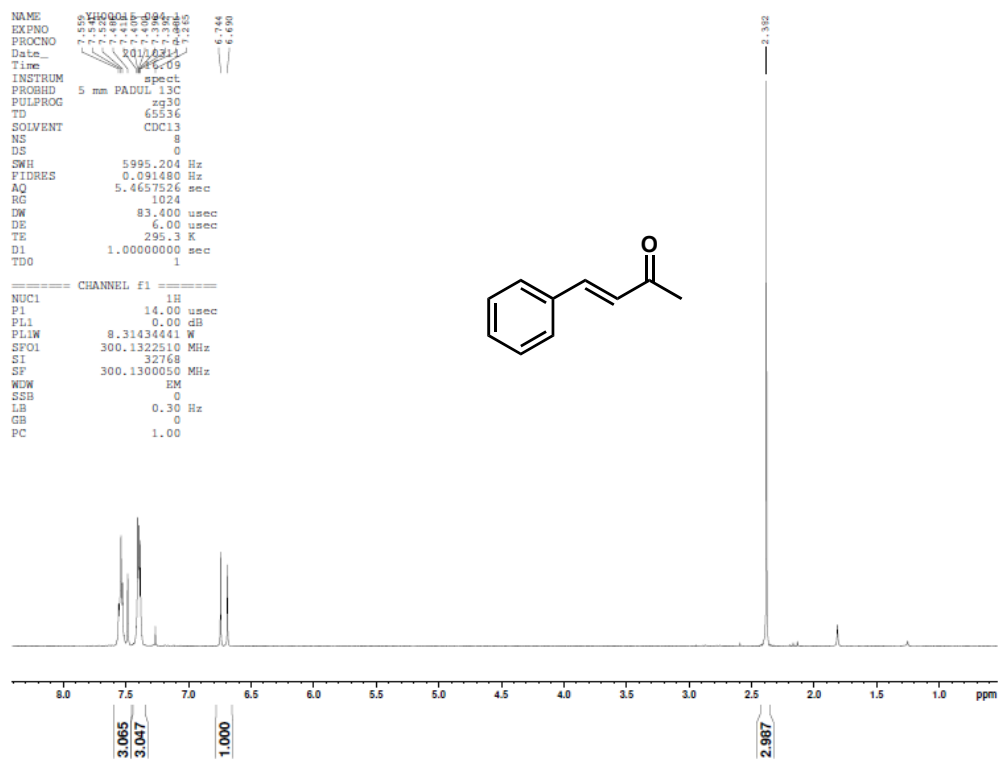
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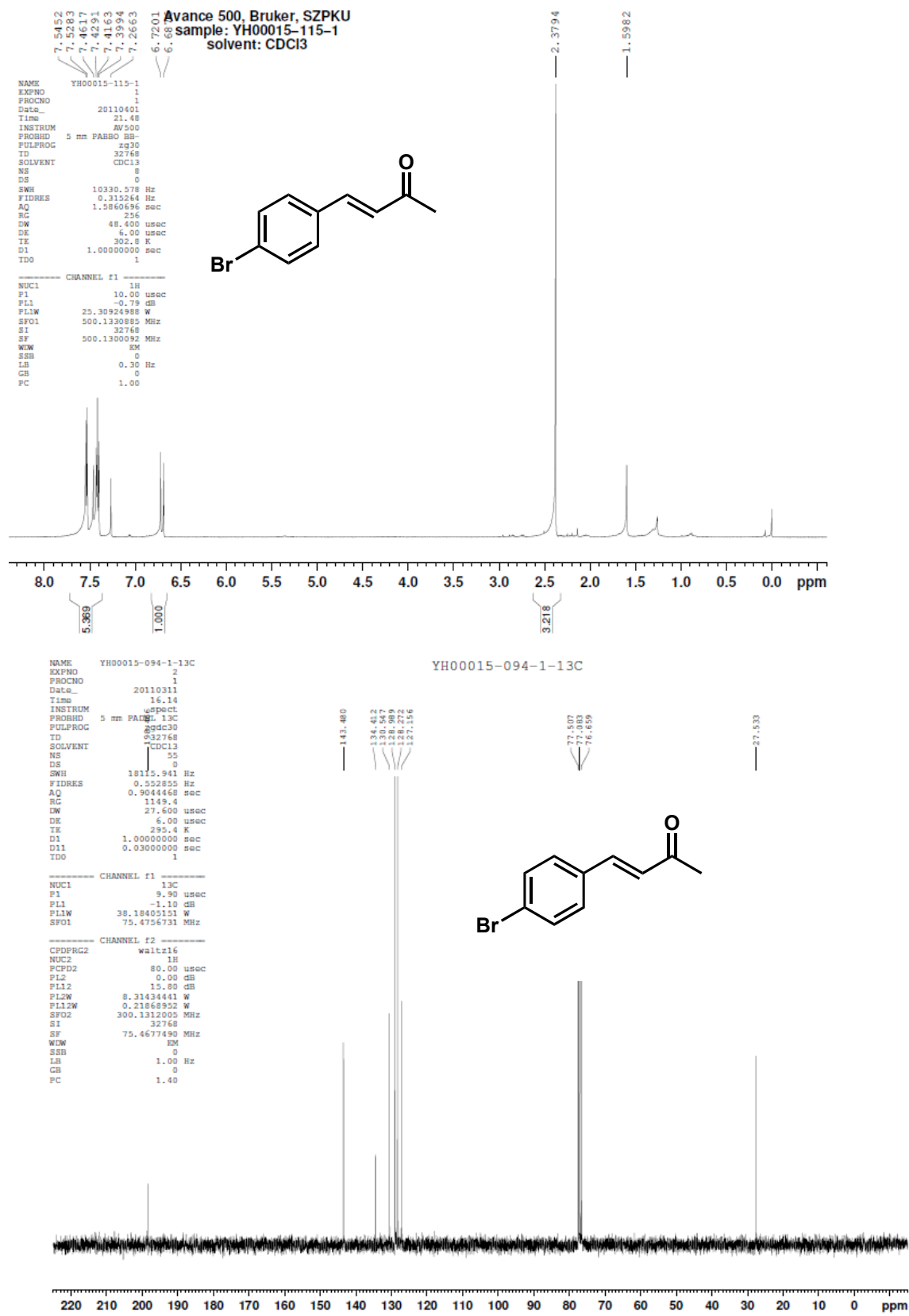
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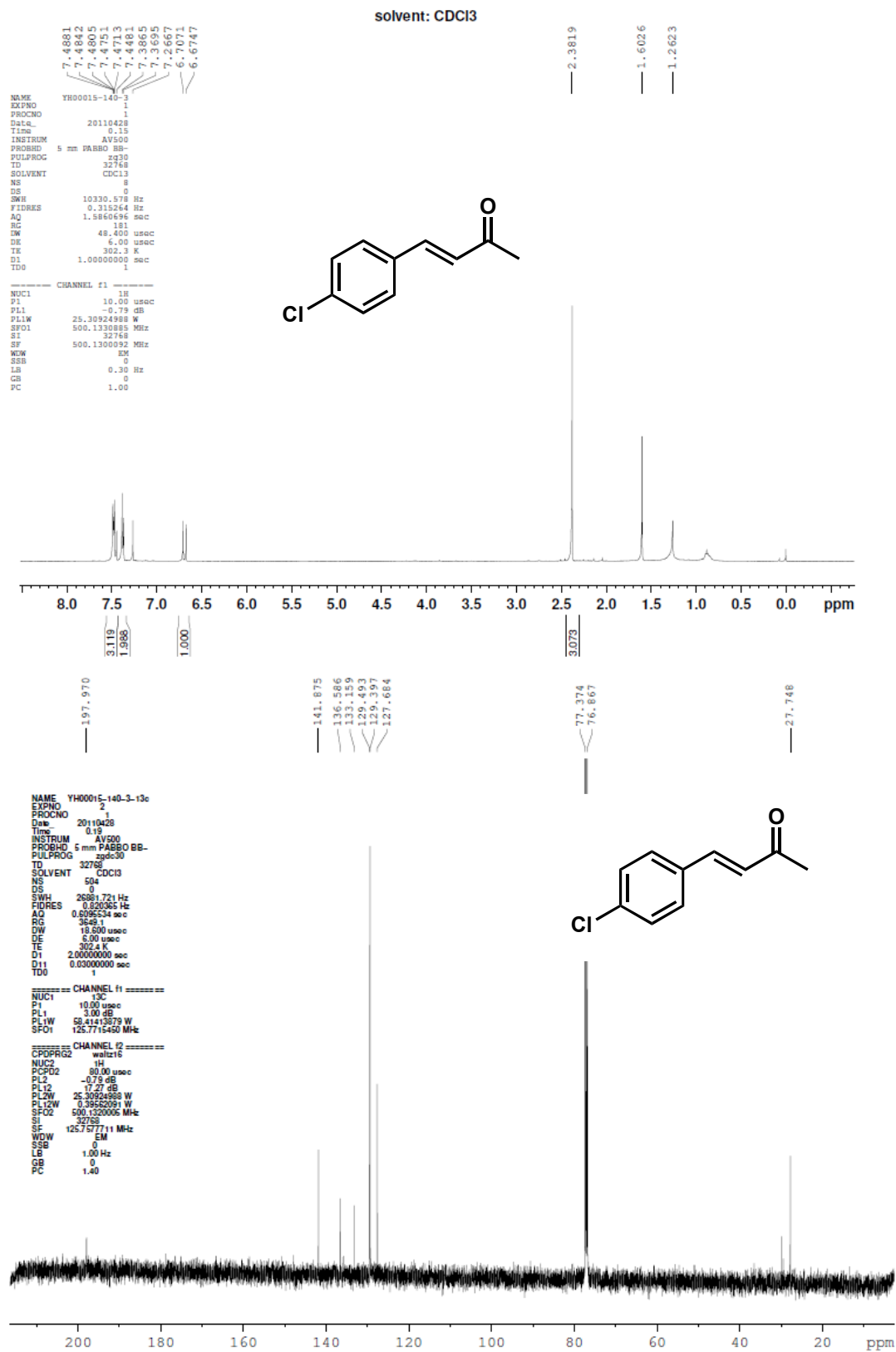


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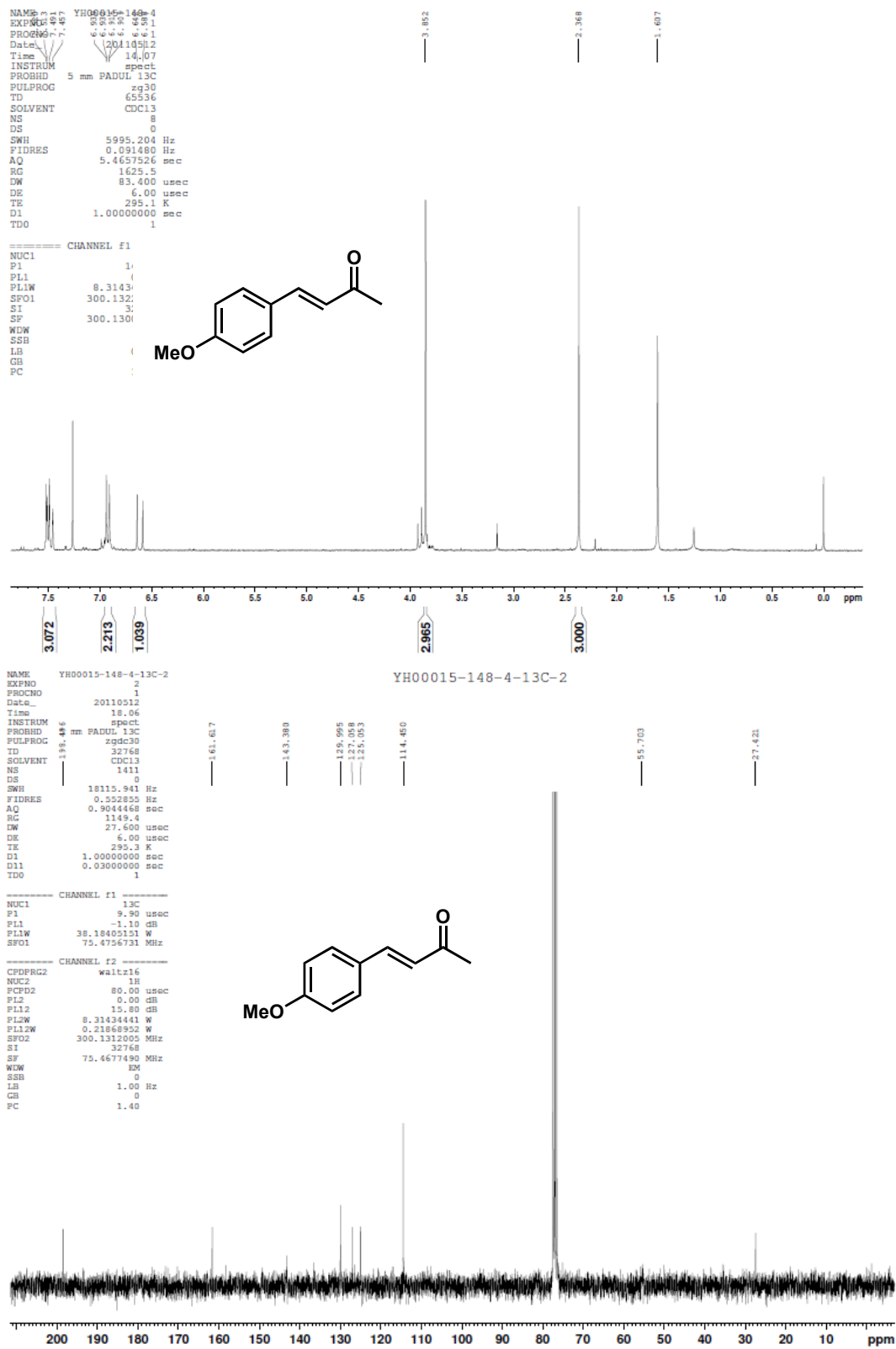


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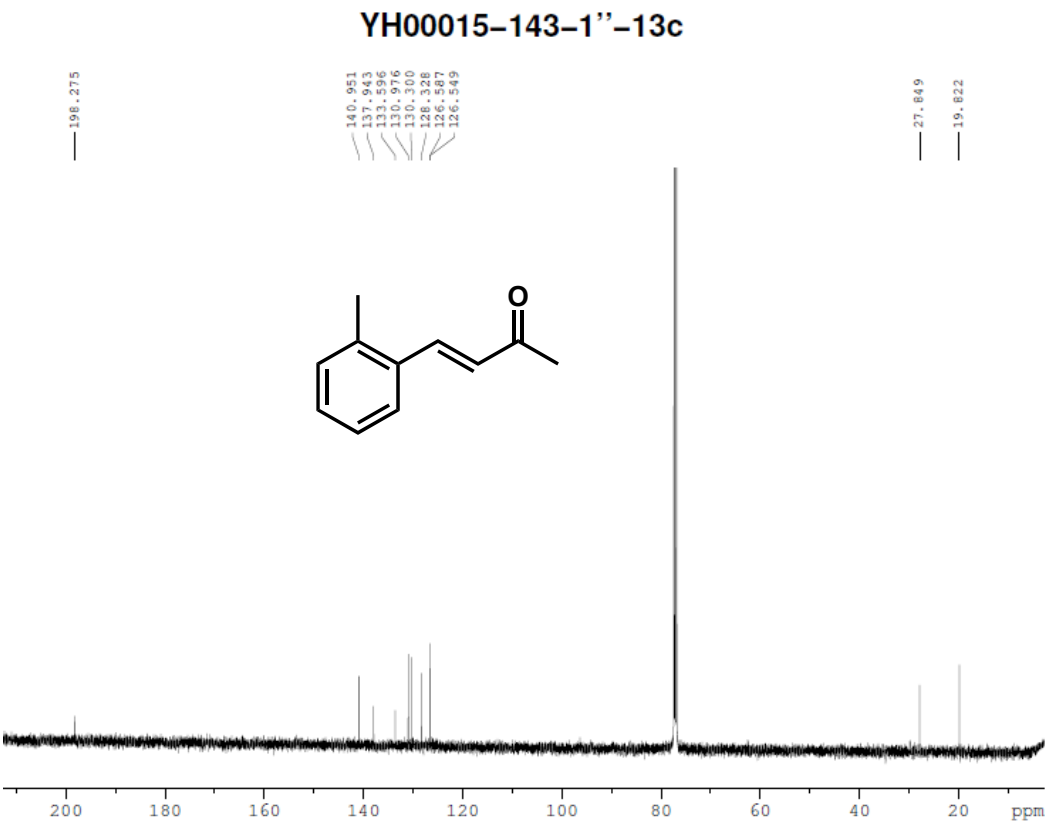
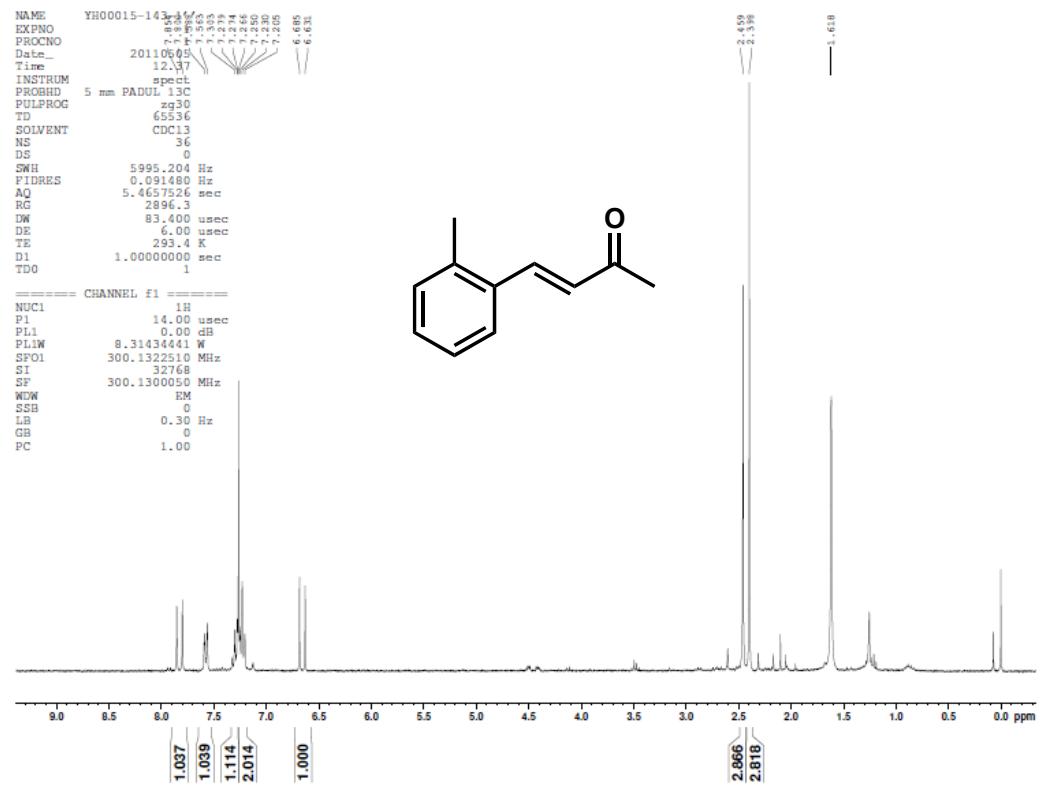
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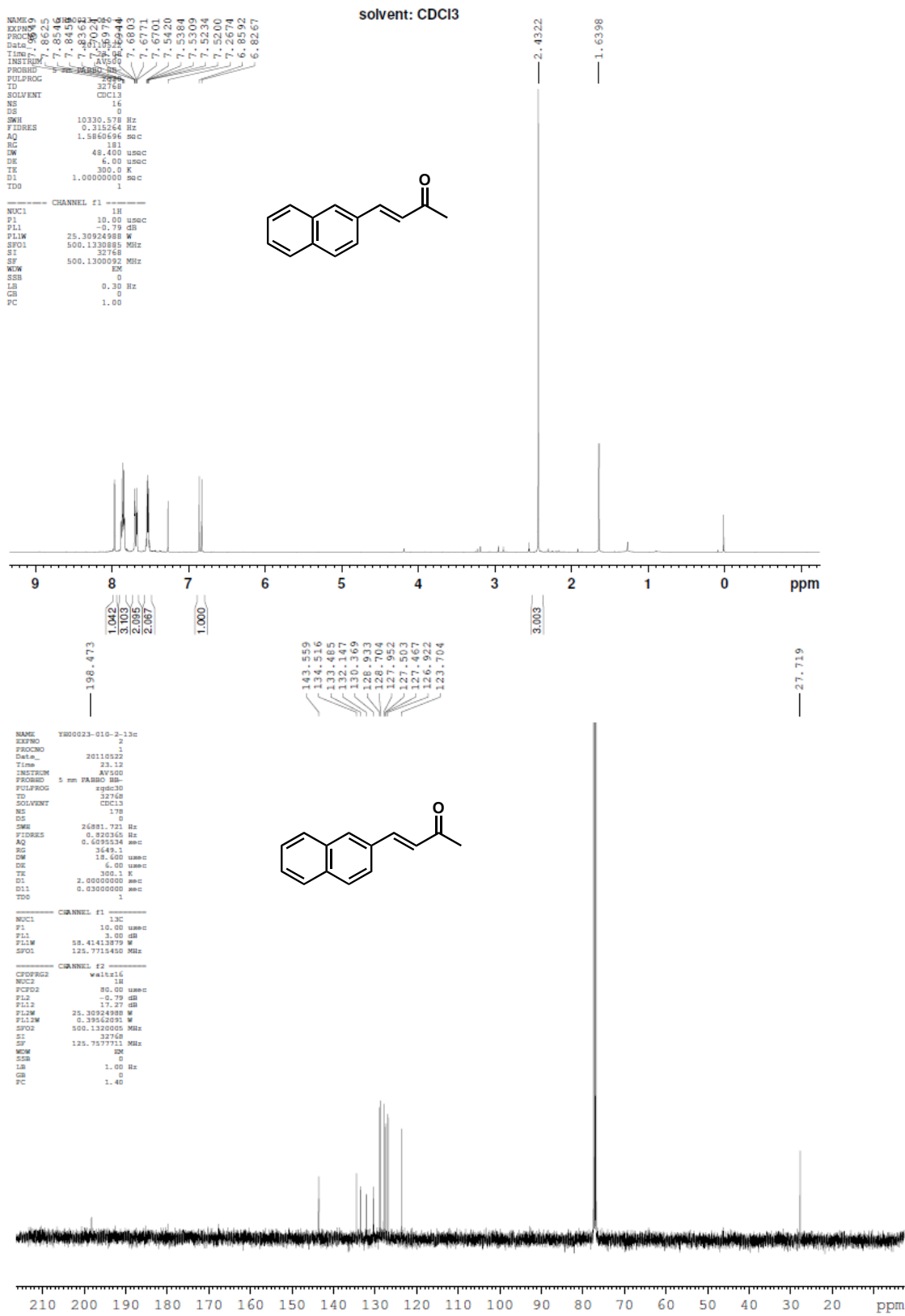
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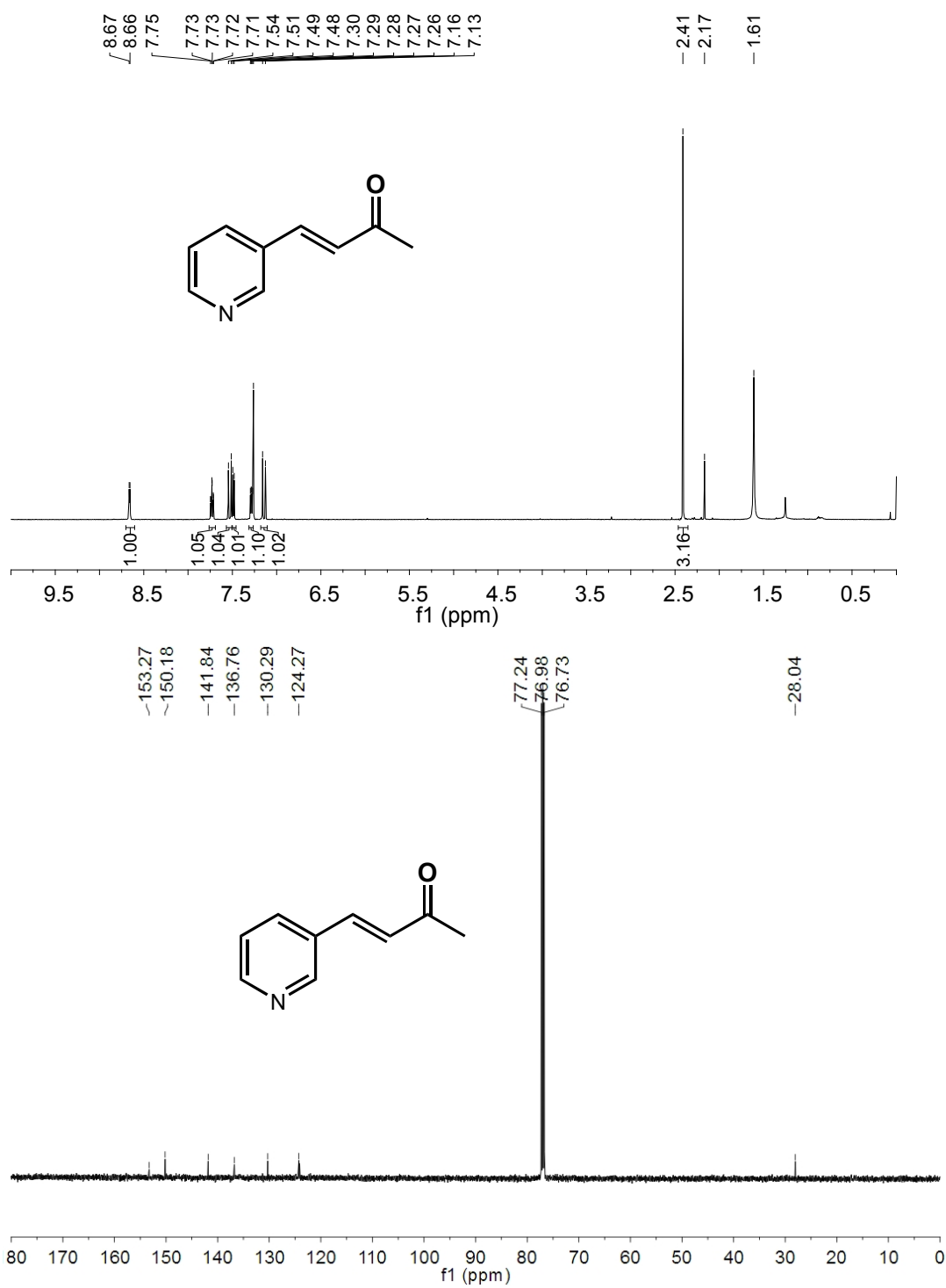


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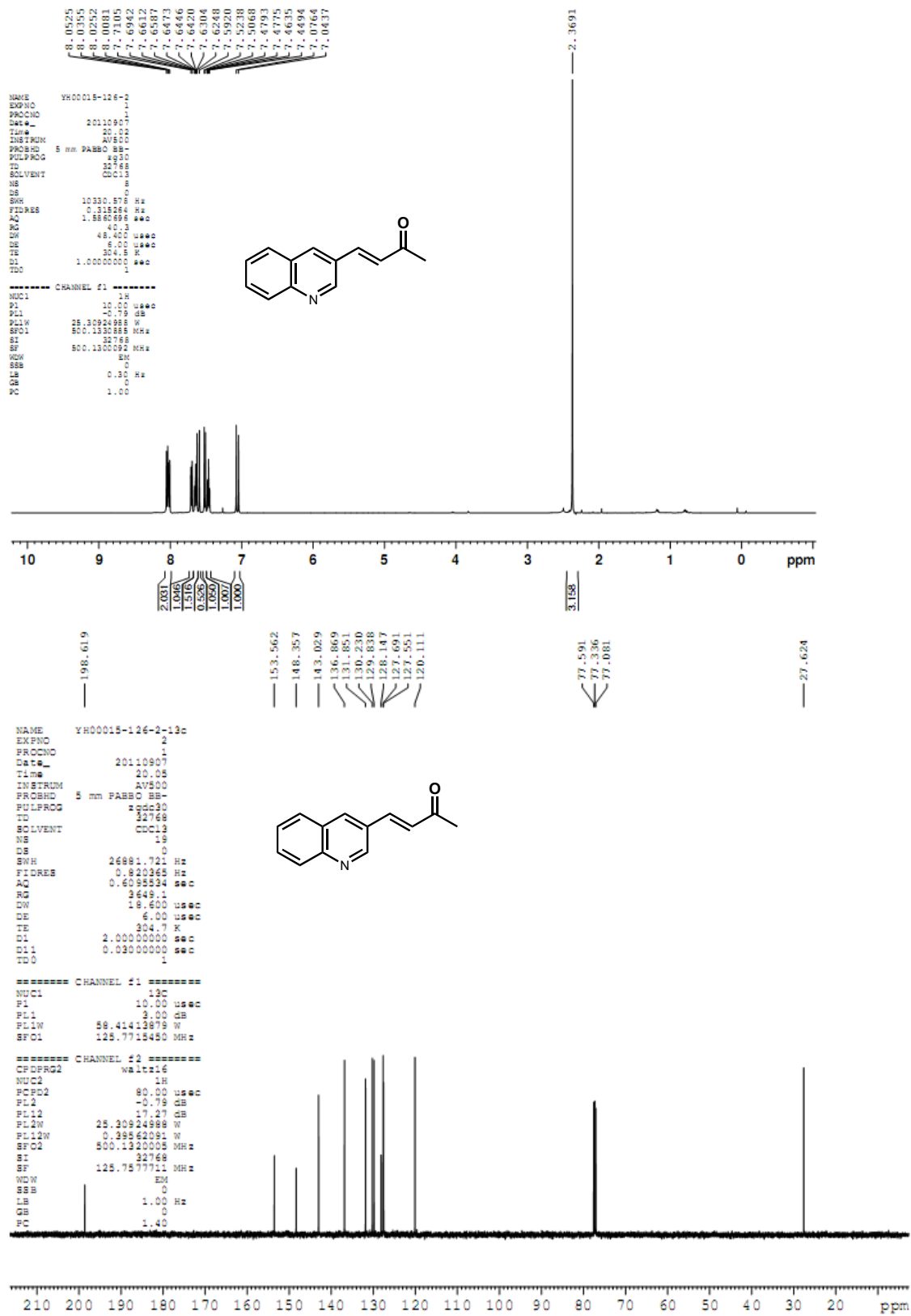


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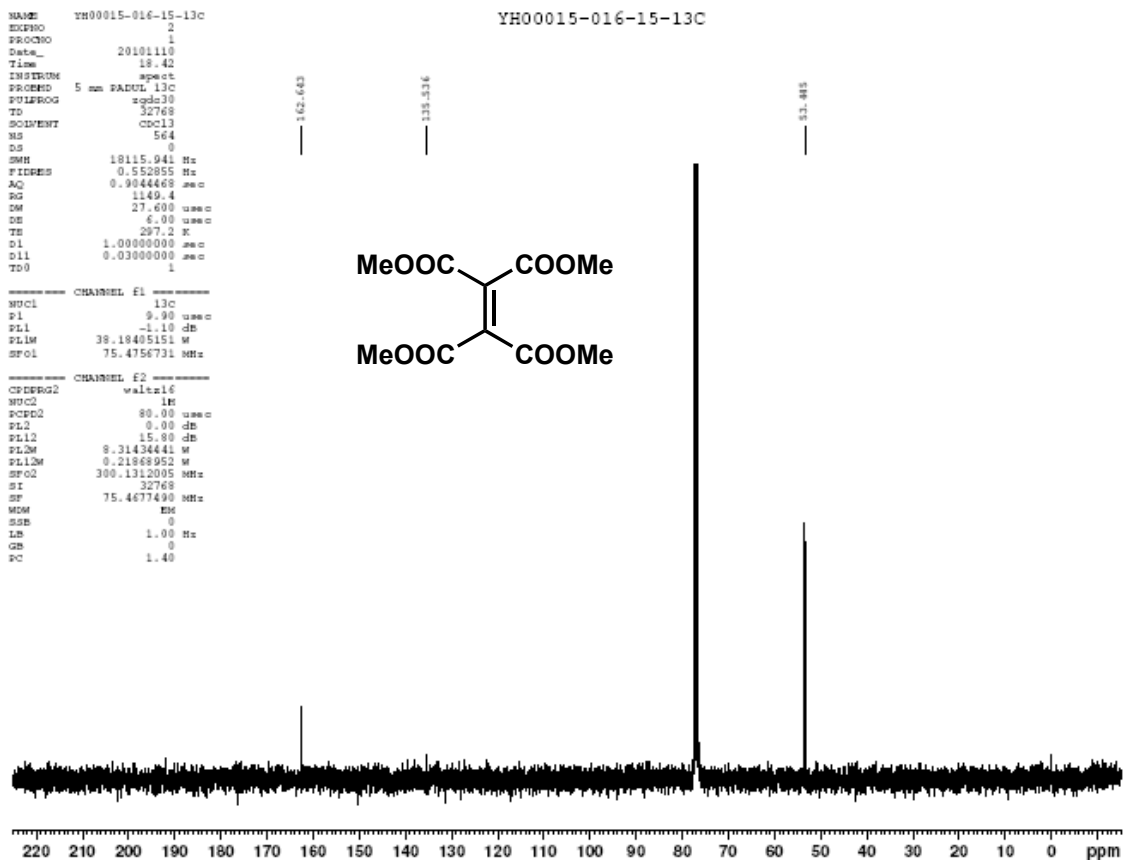
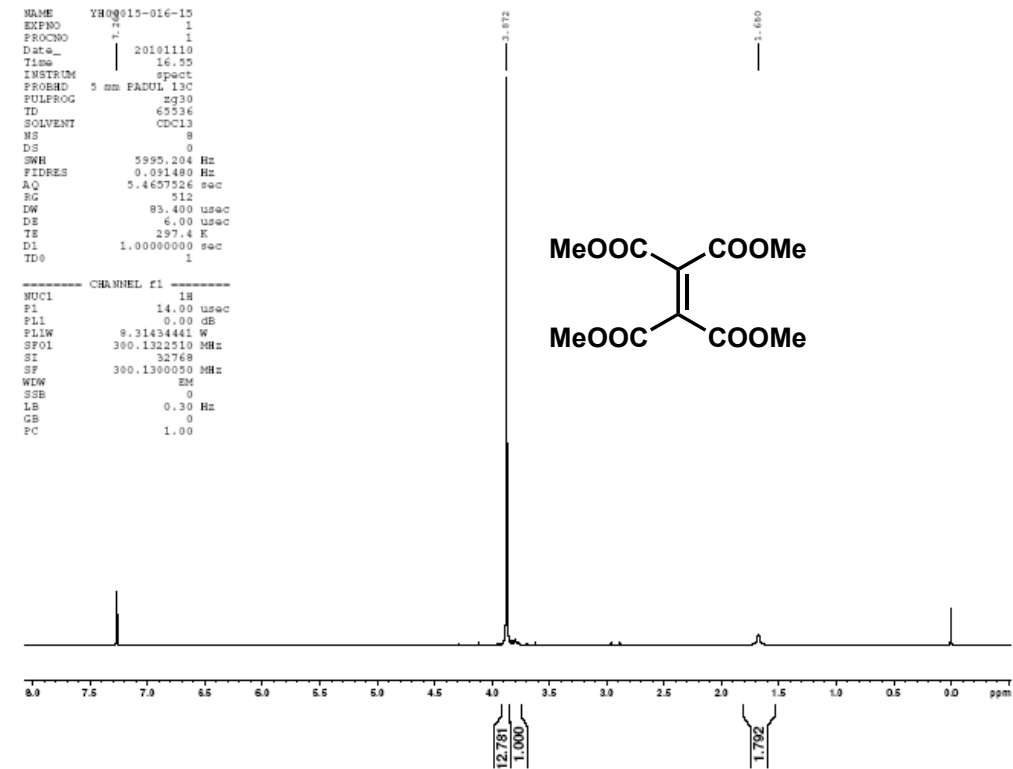
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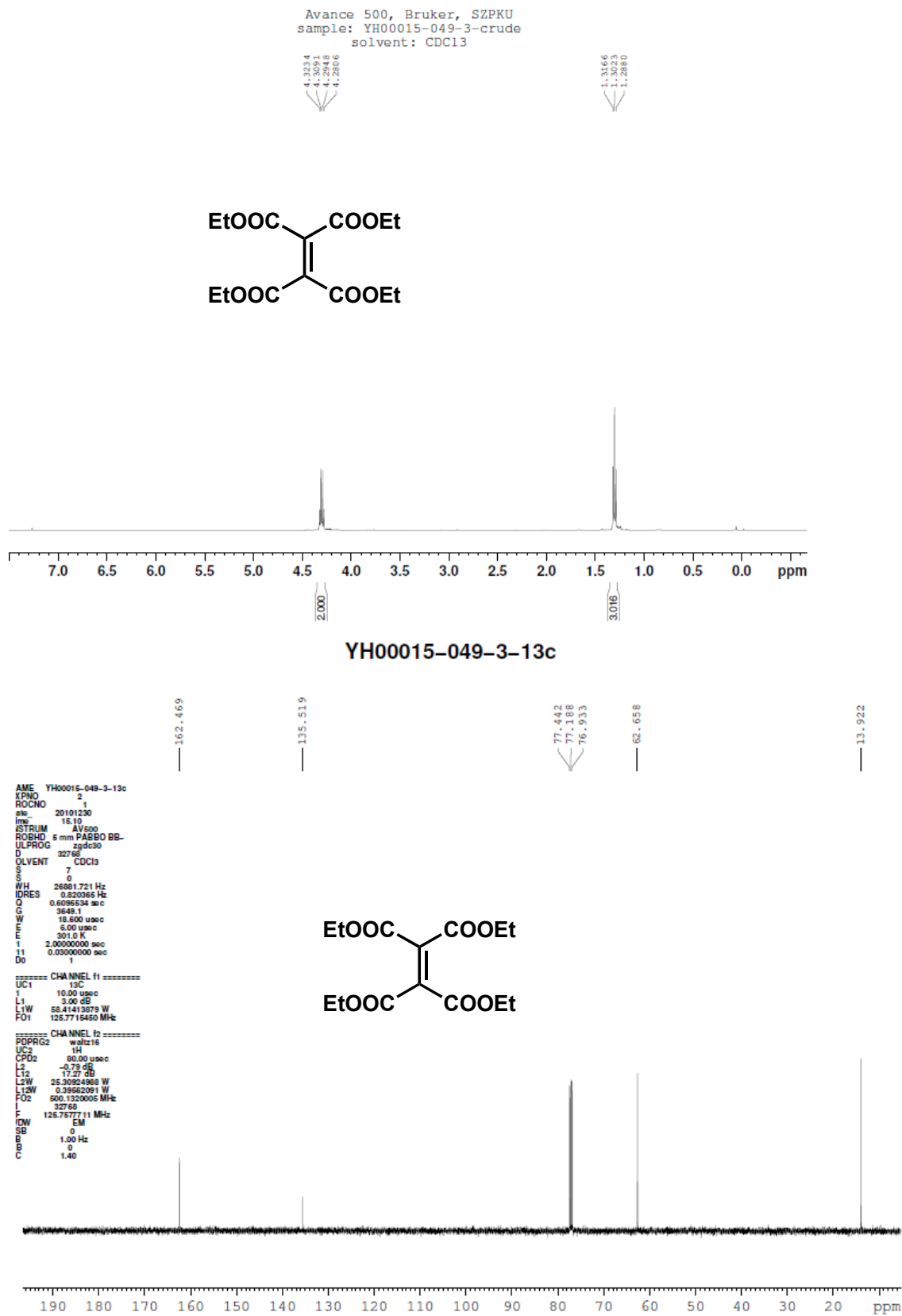


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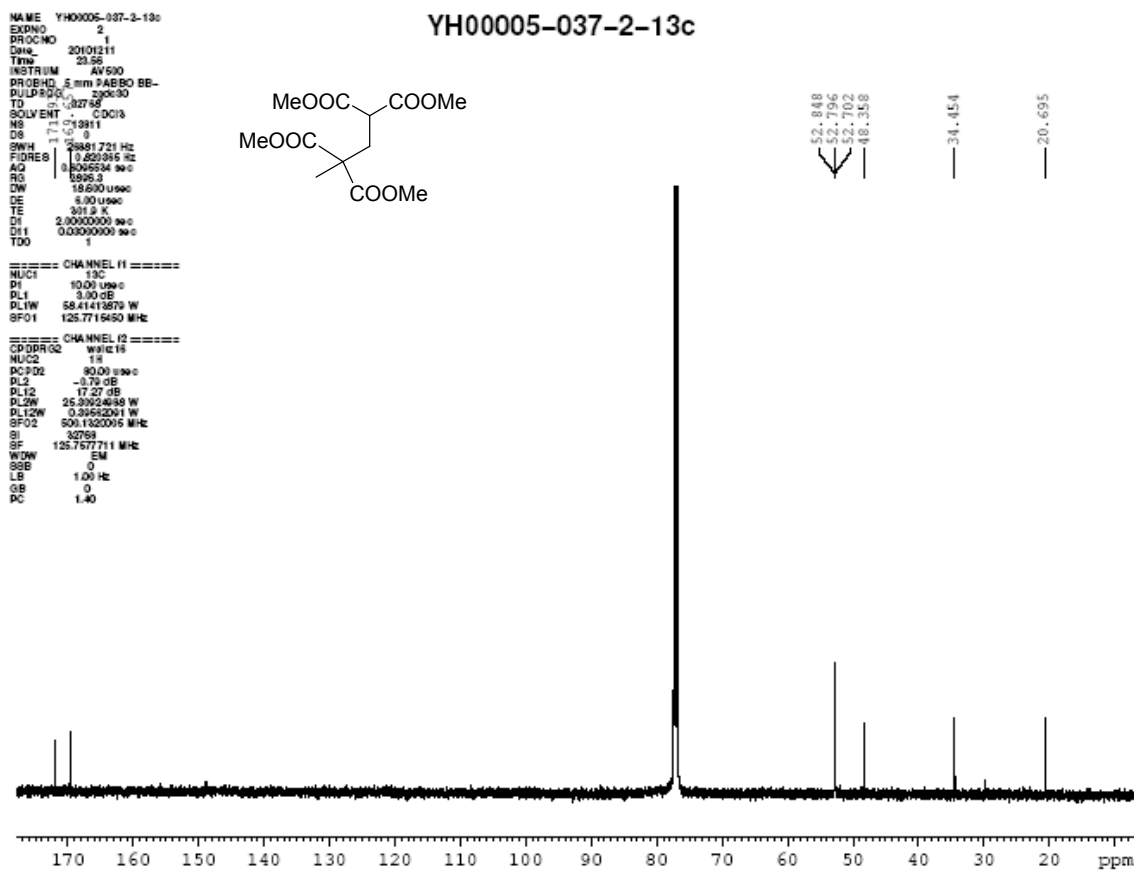
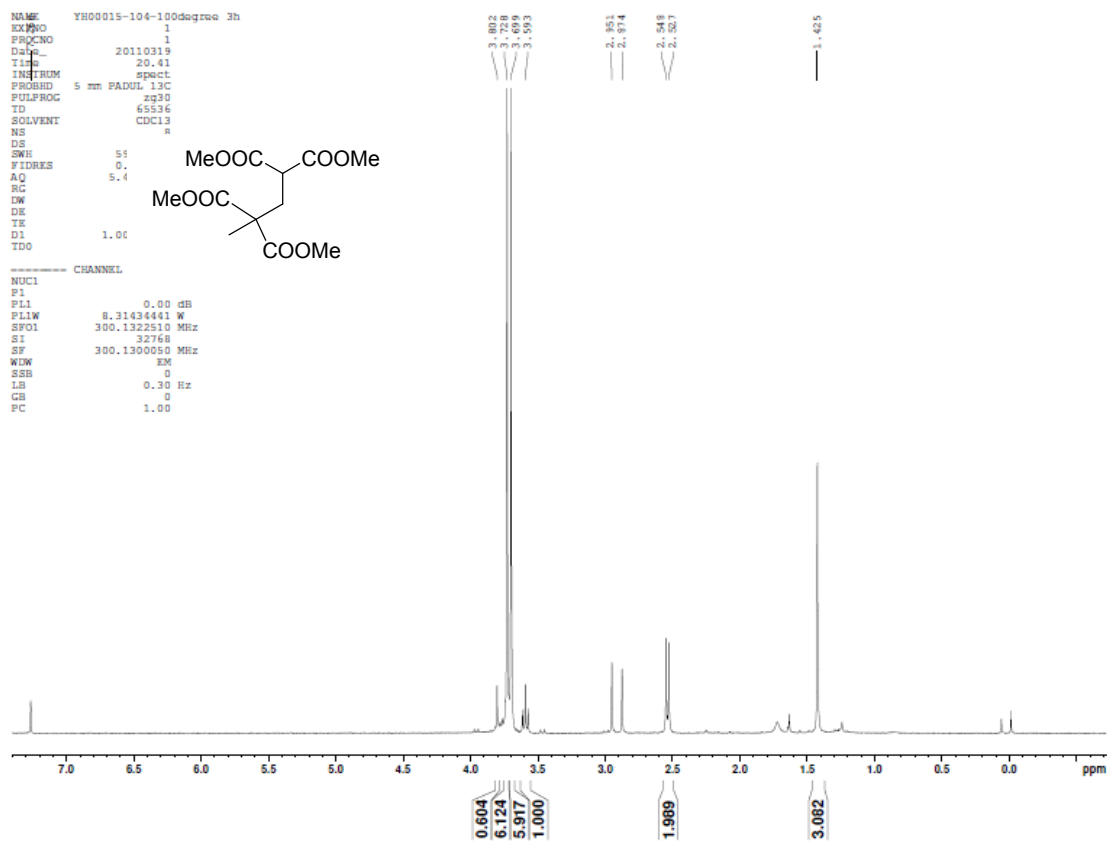


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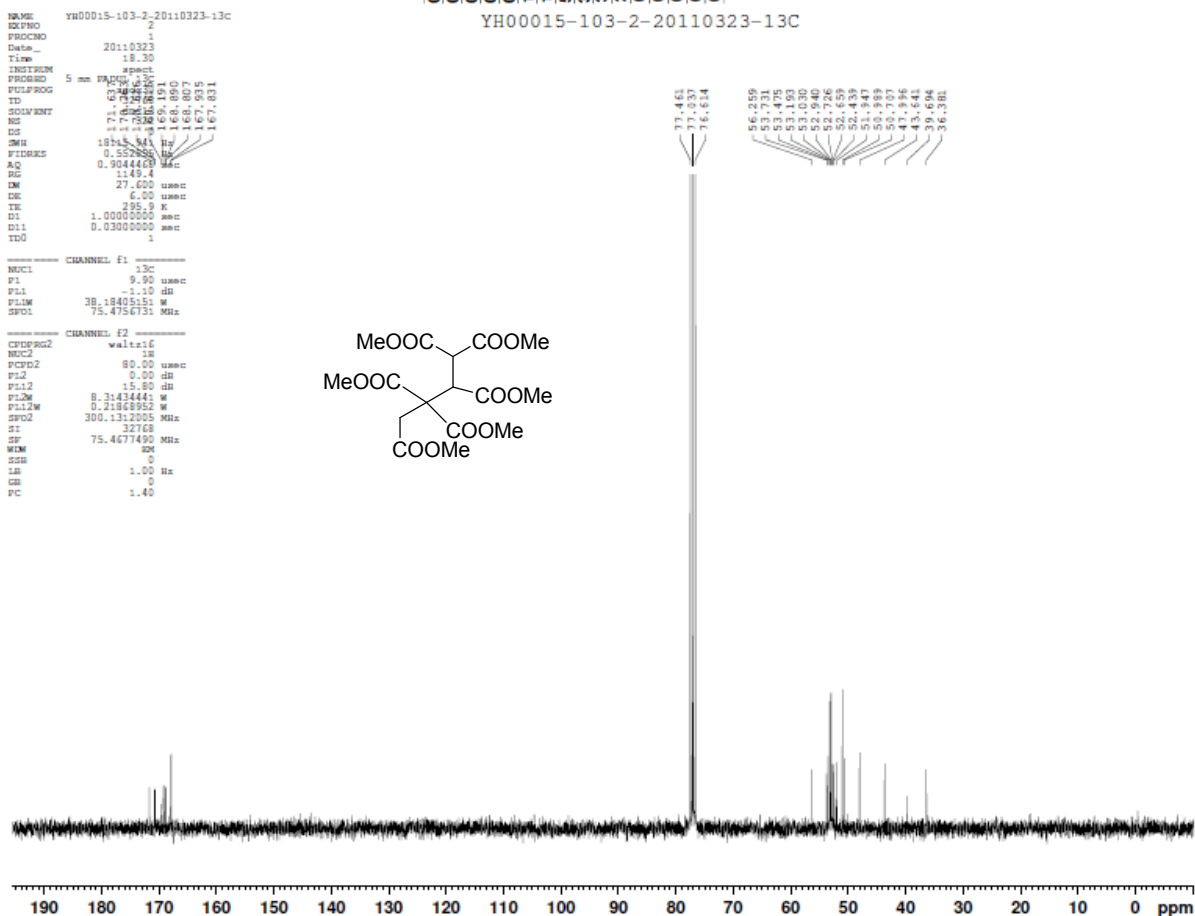
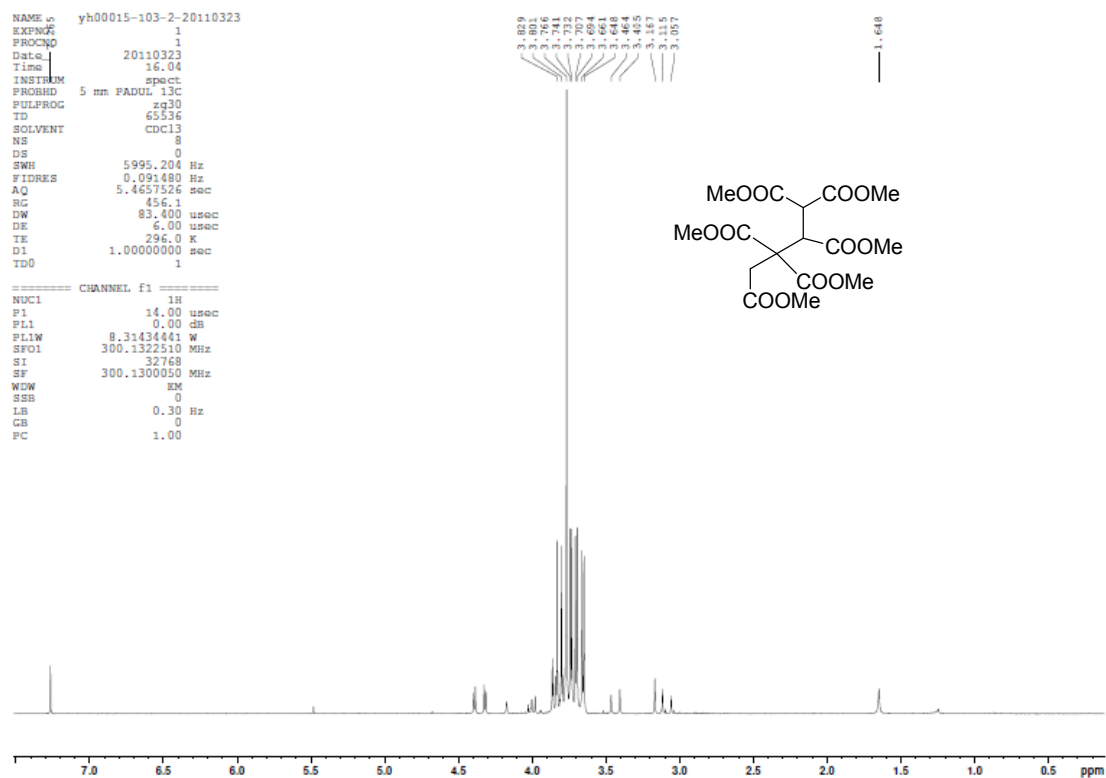


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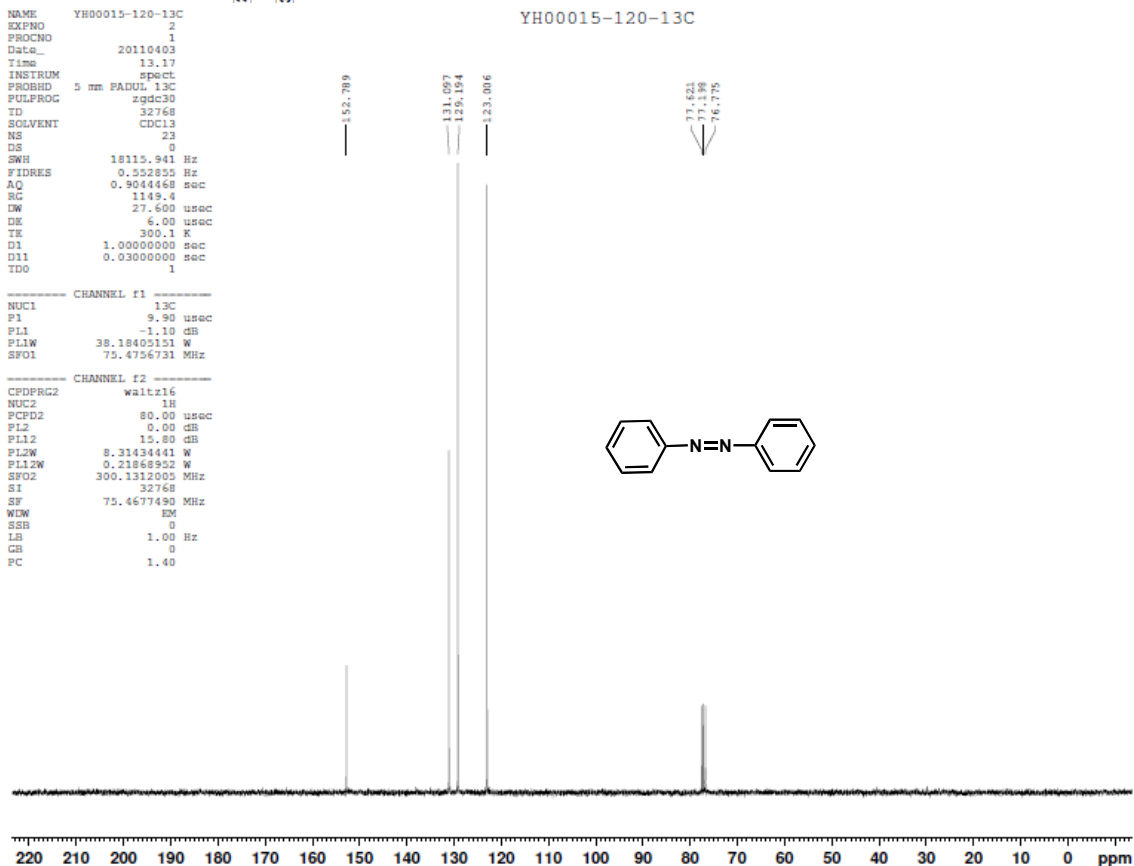
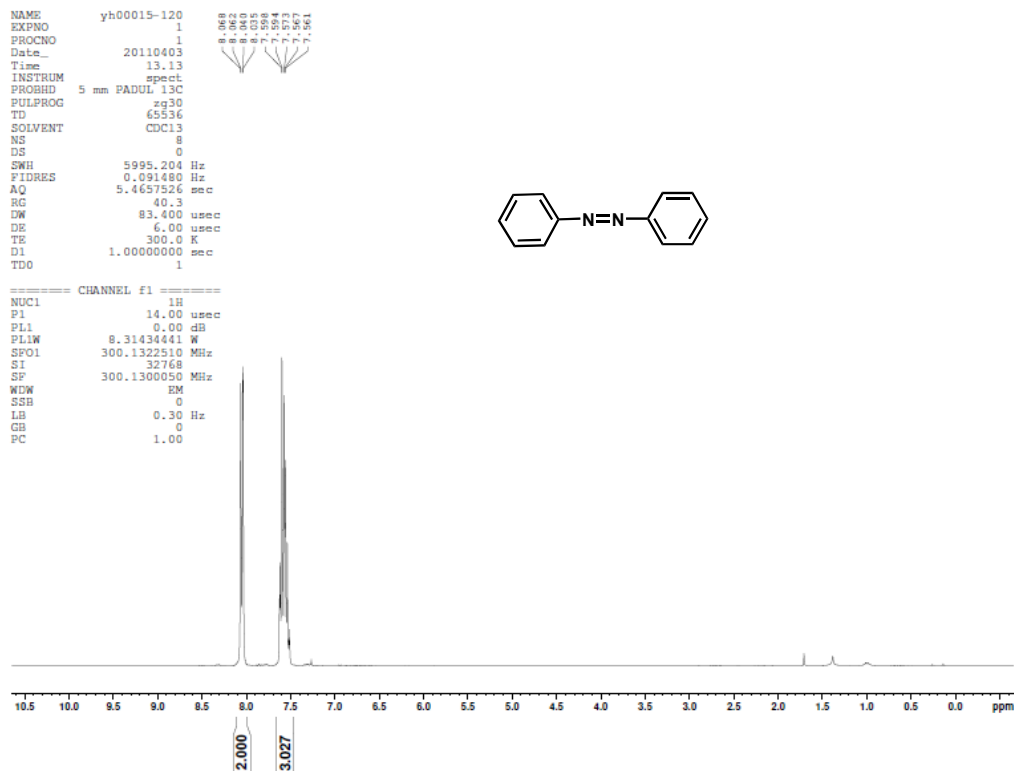


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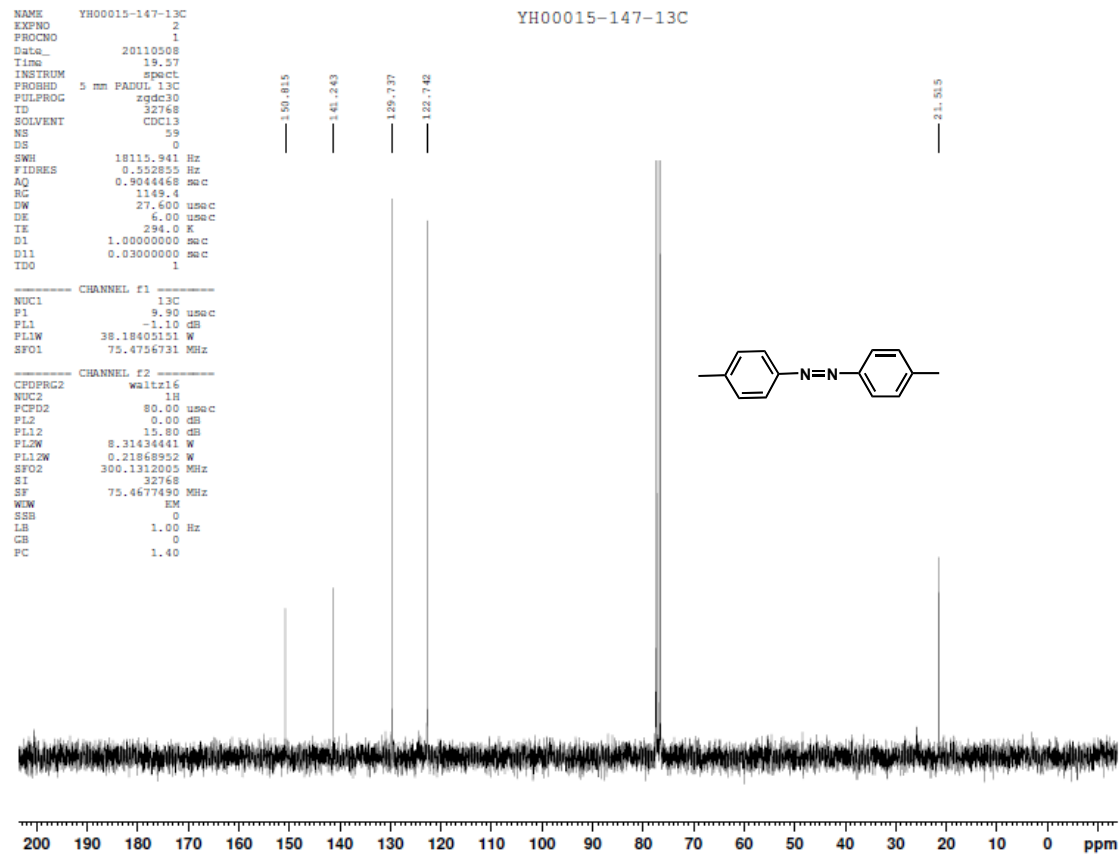
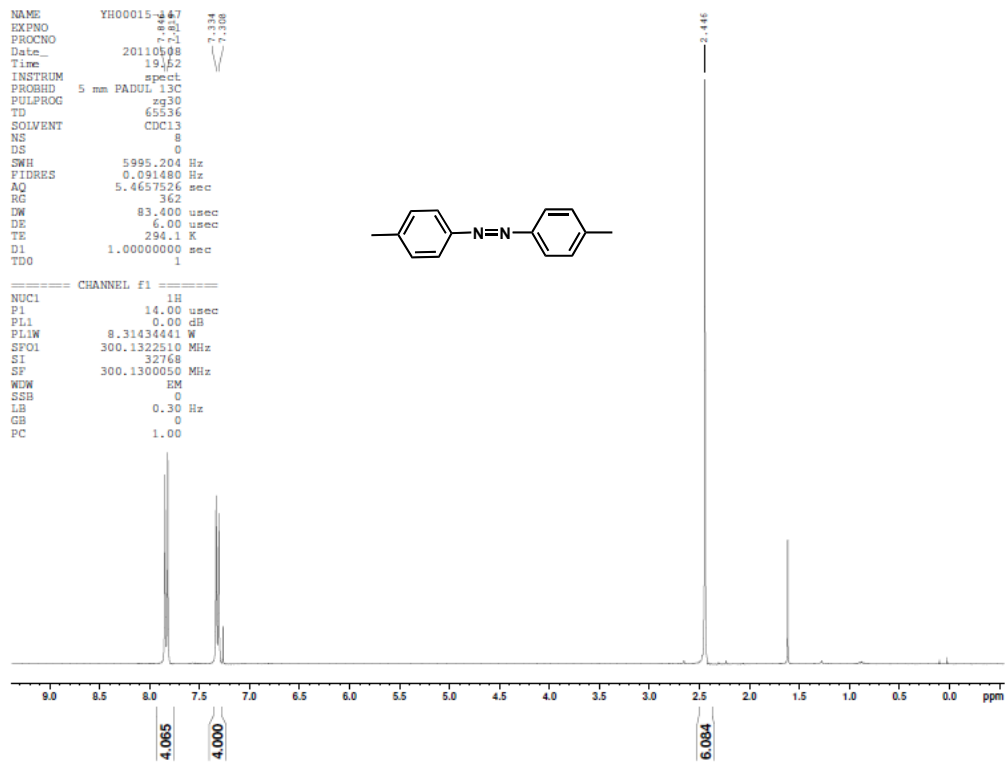
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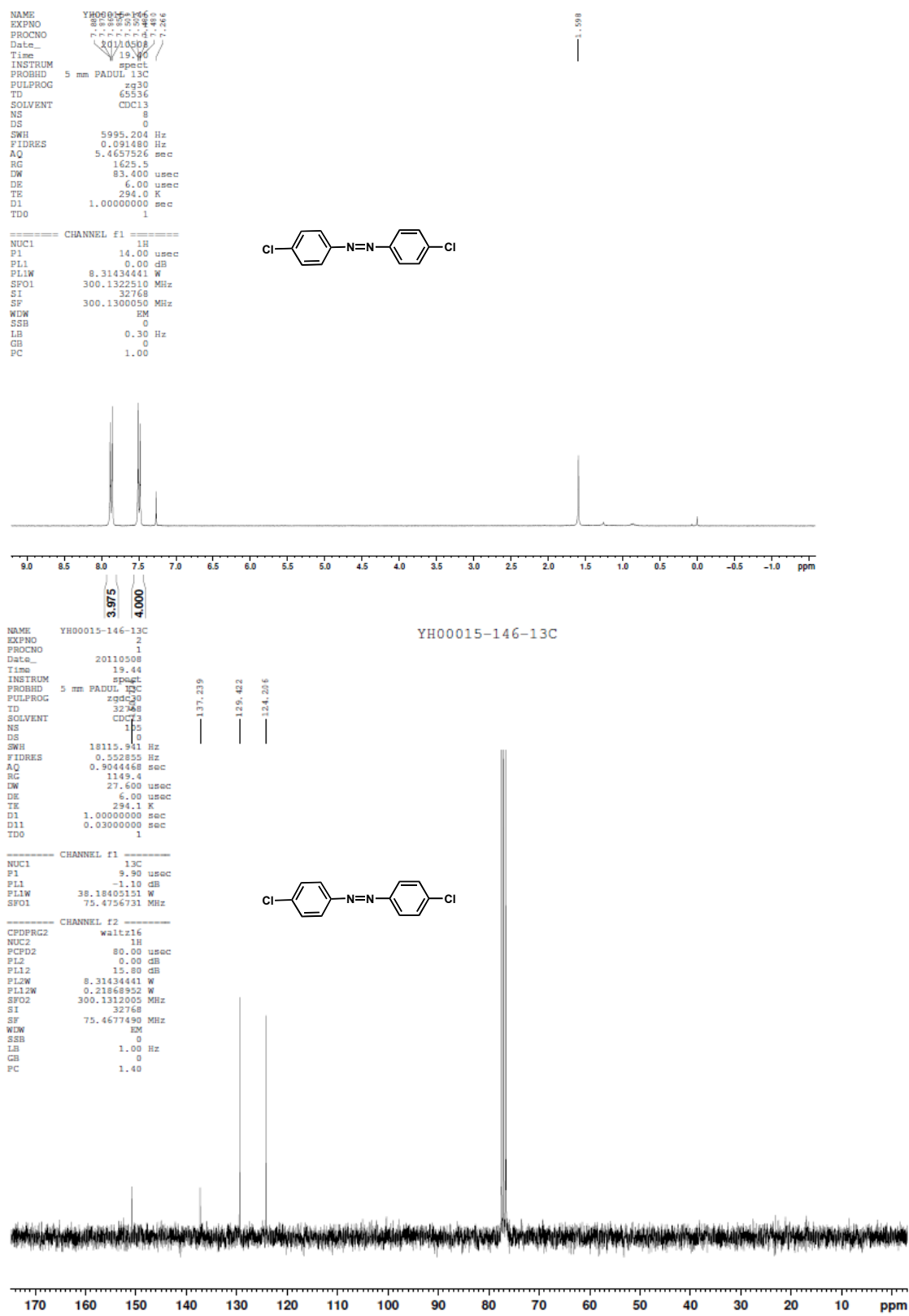
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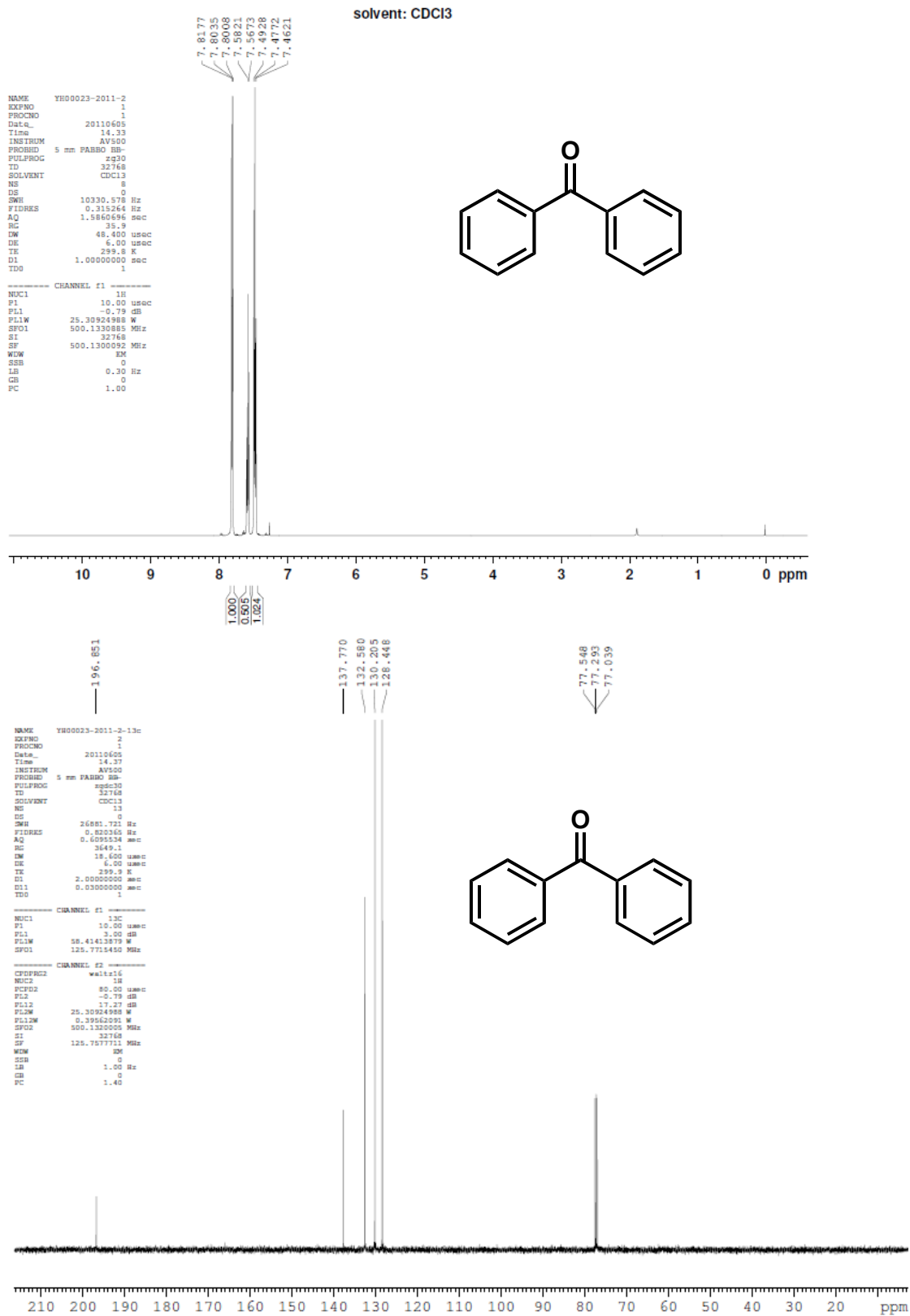
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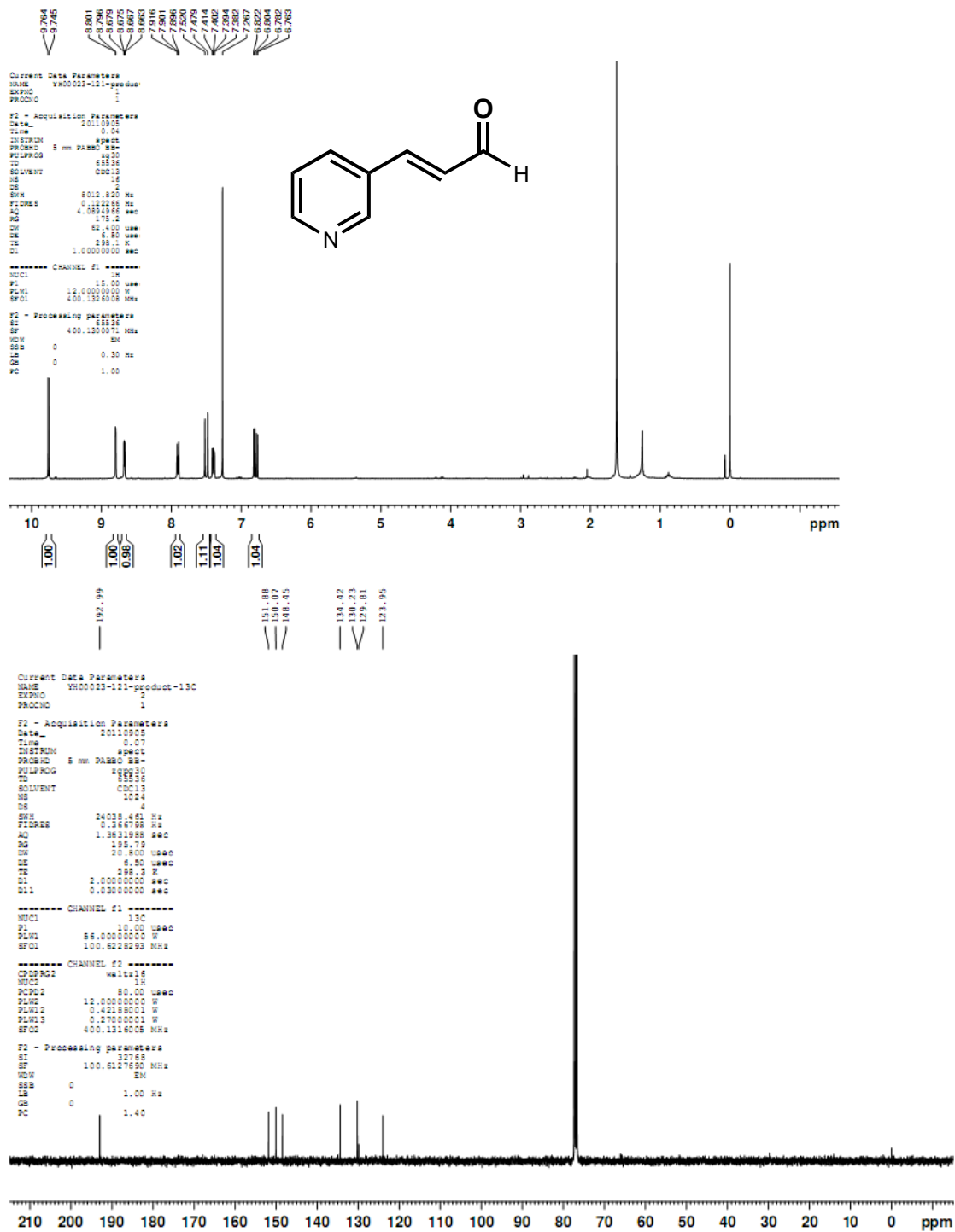
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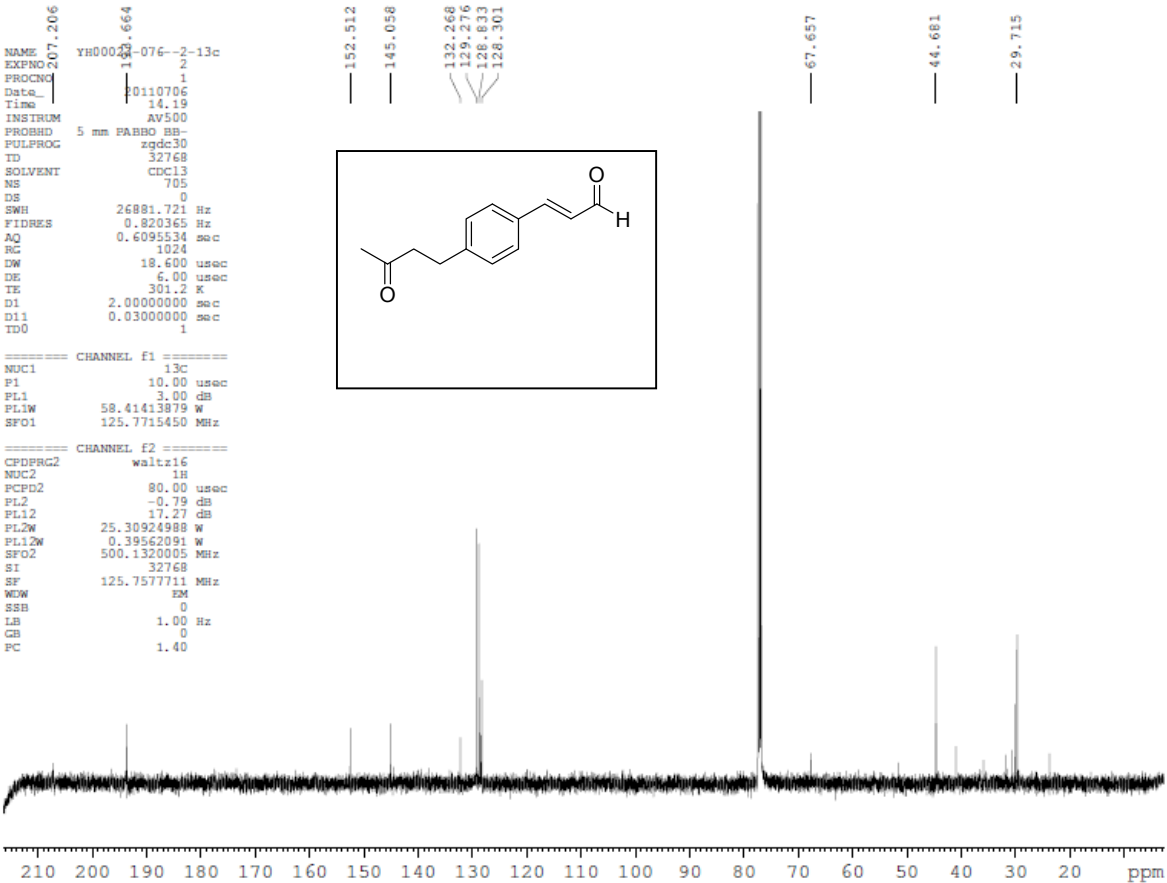
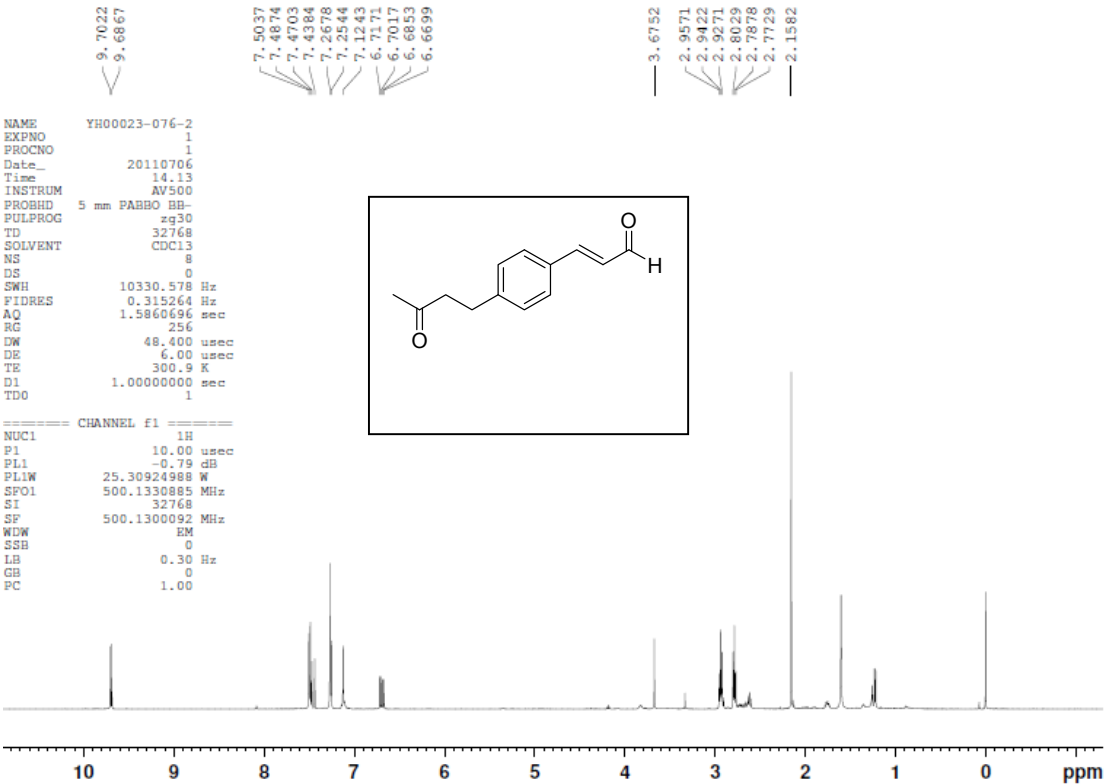
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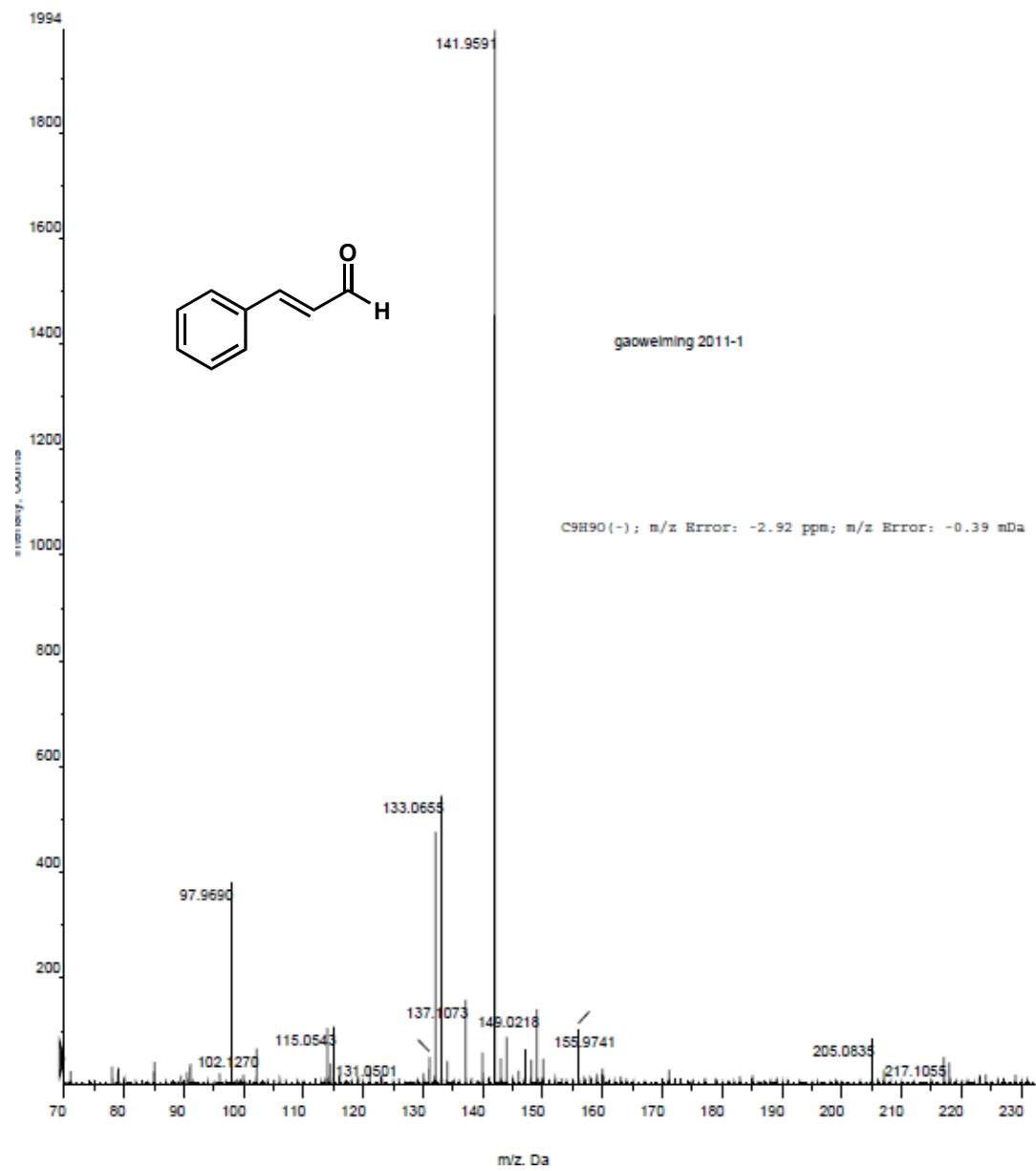
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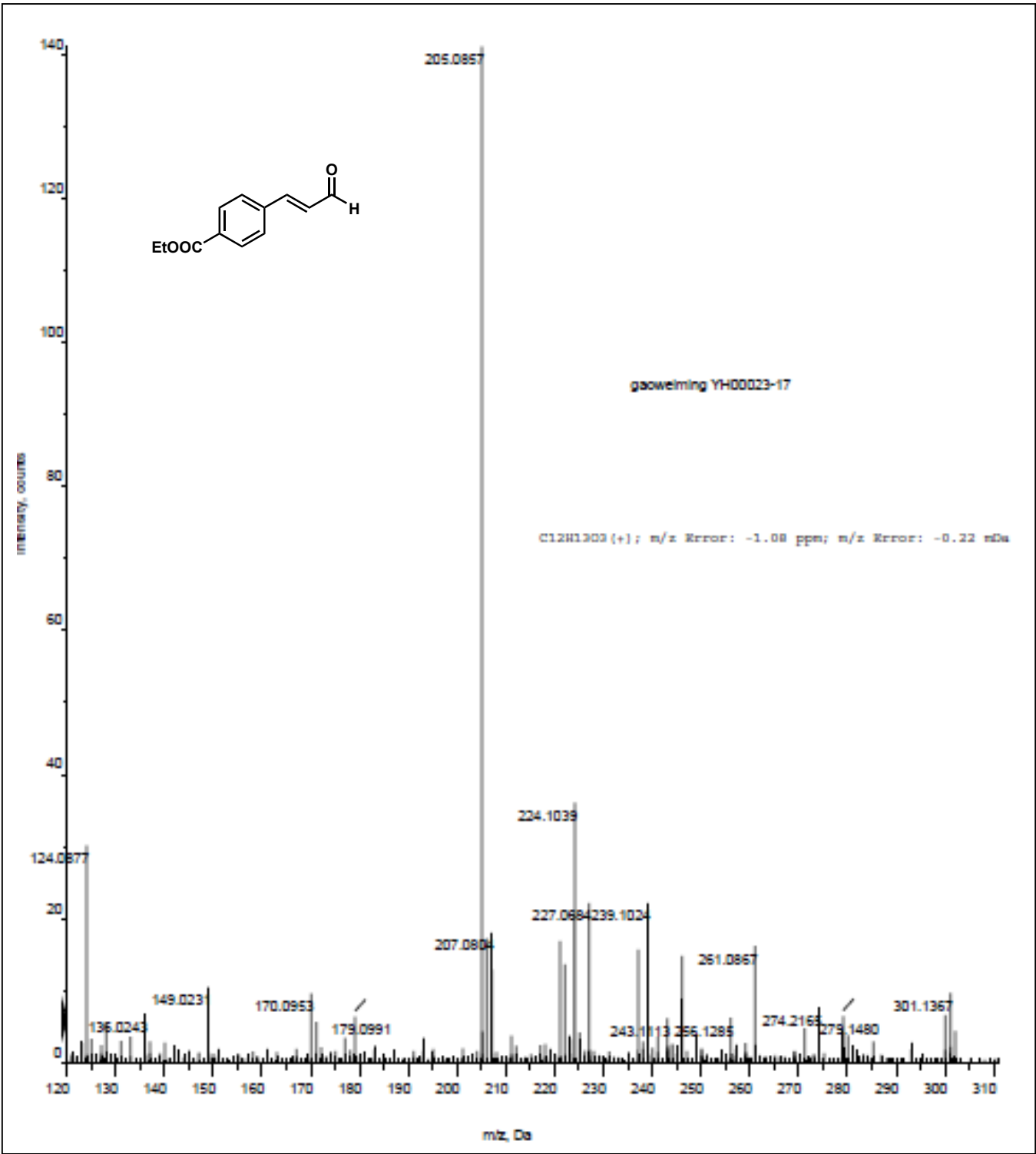


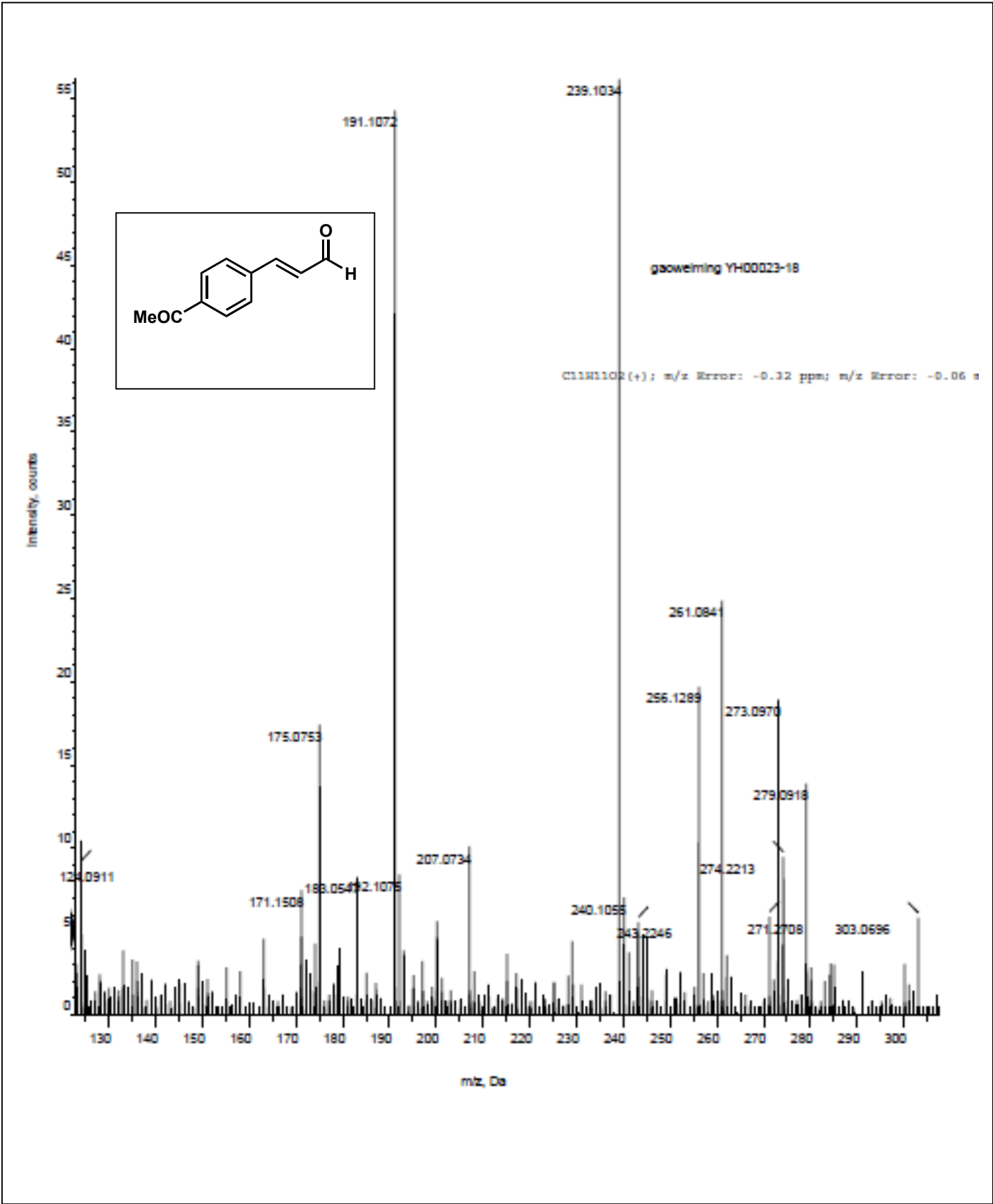
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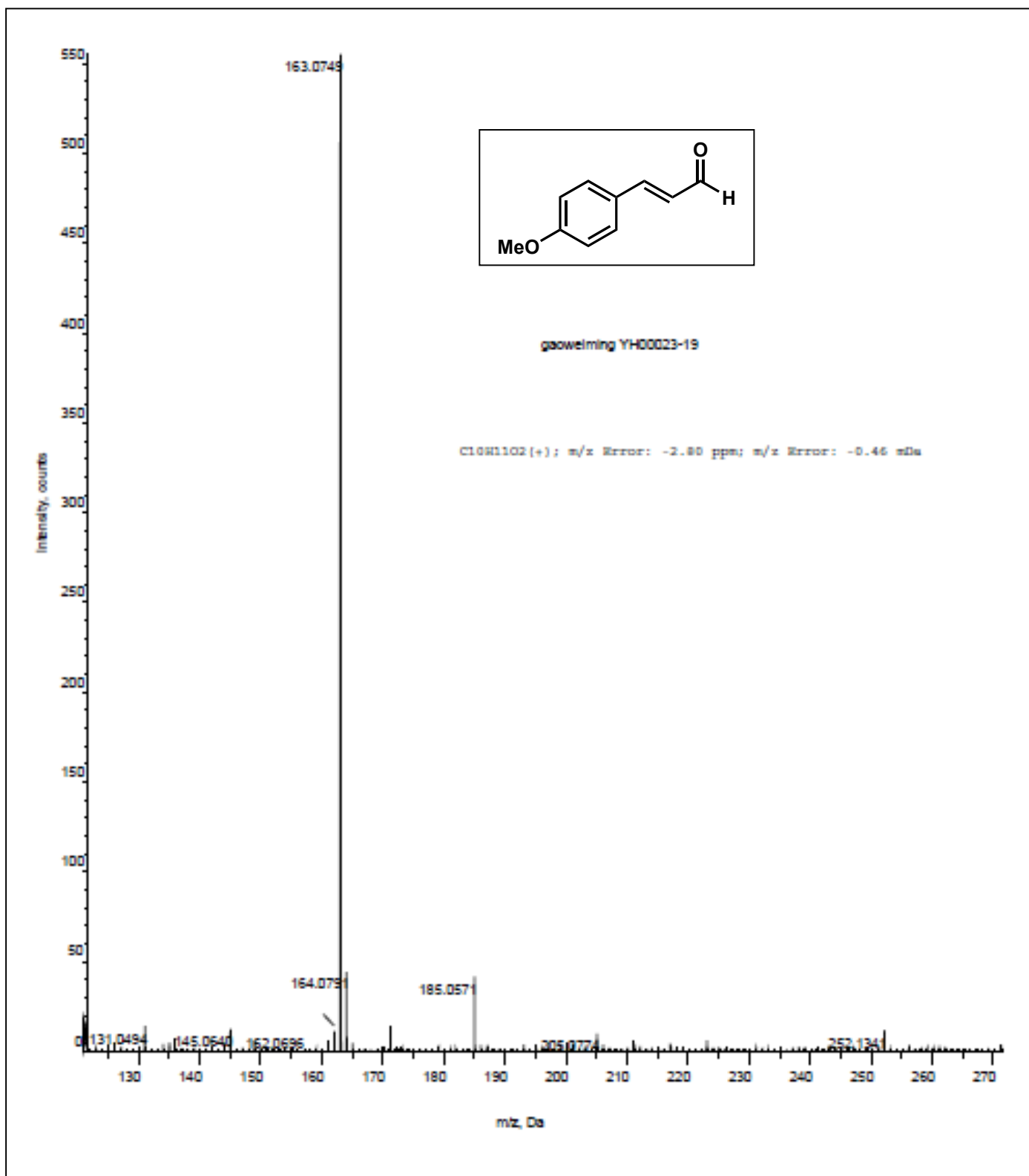
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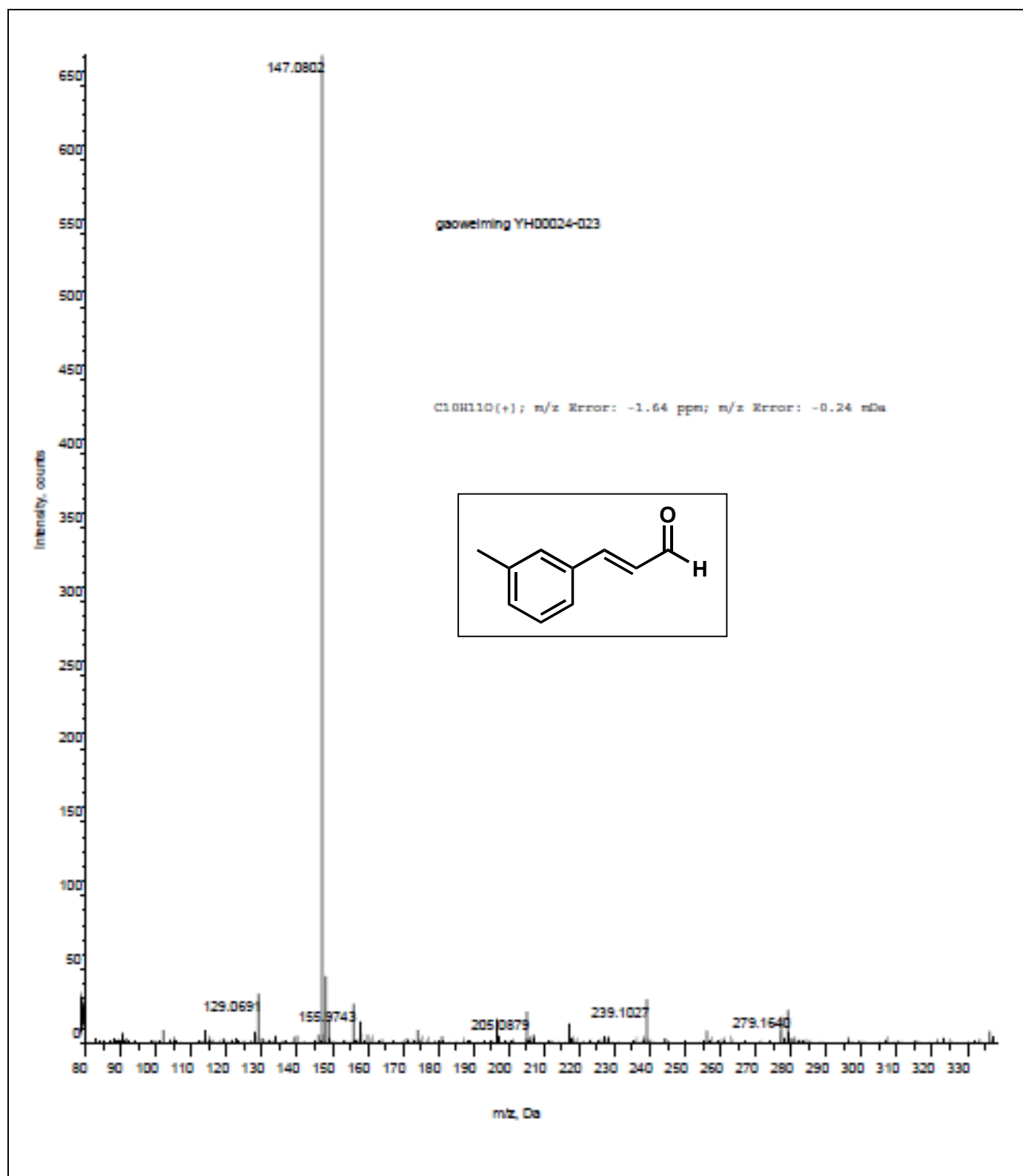




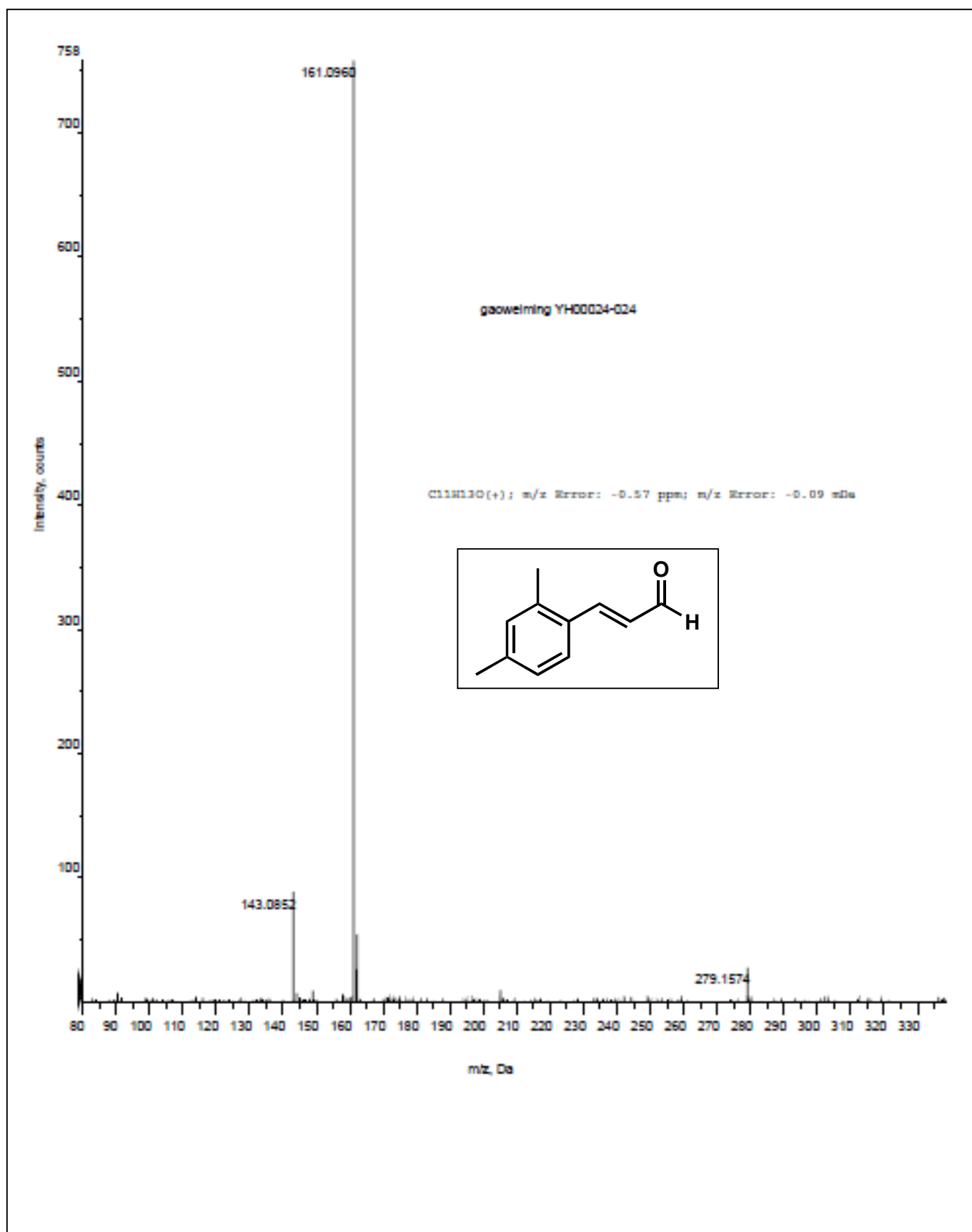
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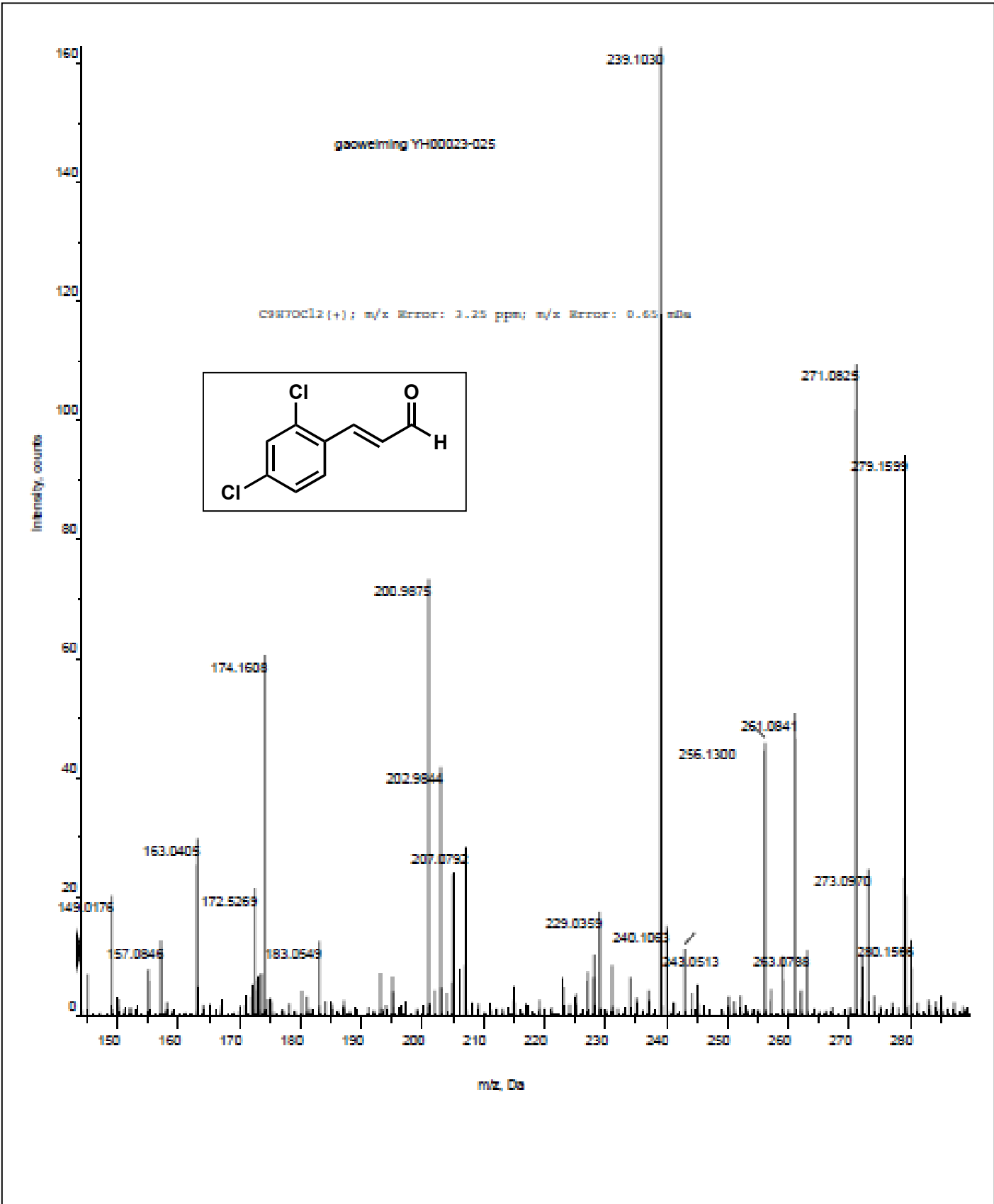


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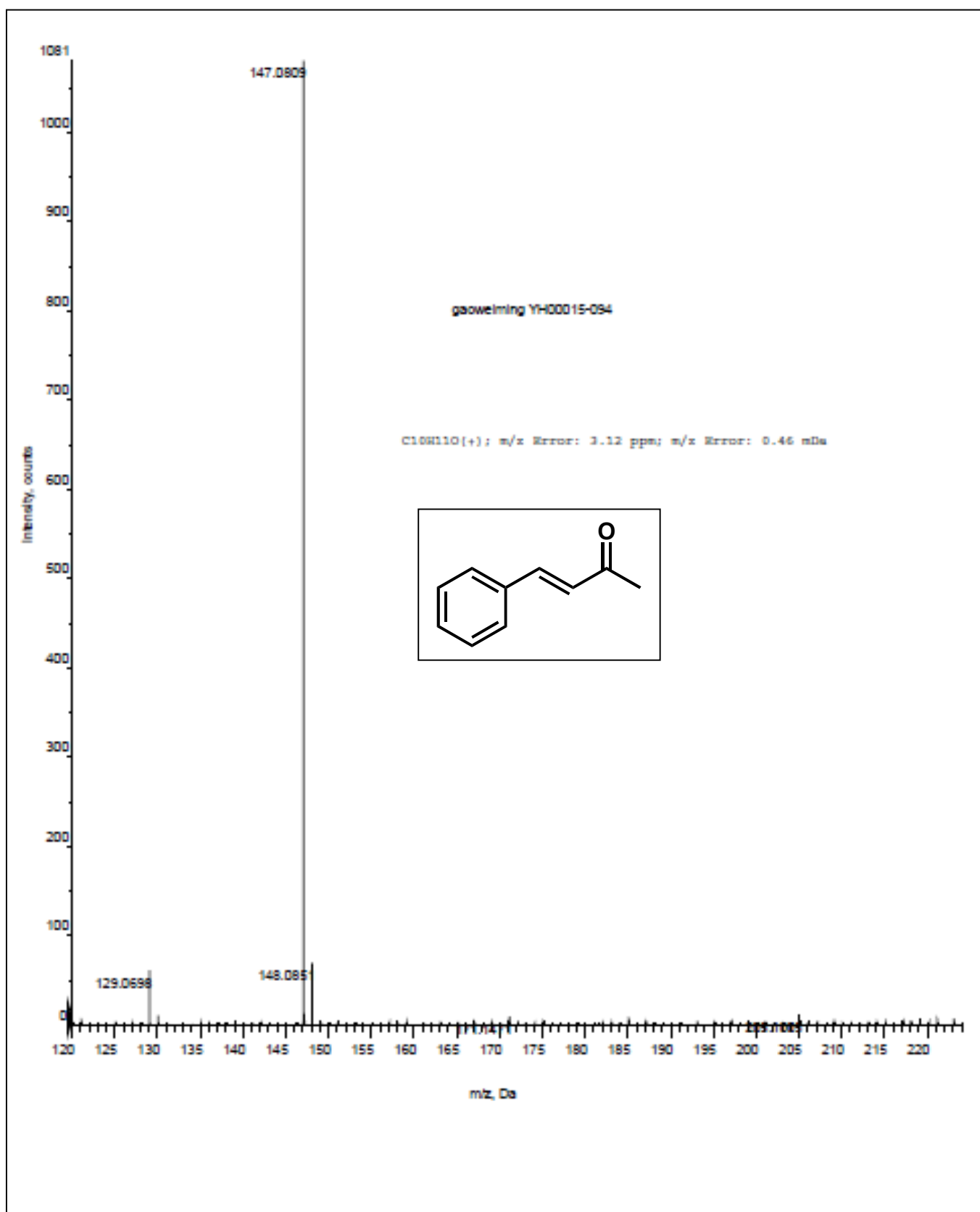


S 45





S 47



S 48

