

HETEROGENEOUS CATALYTIC HYDROGENATION OF UNPROTECTED INDOLES IN WATER: A GREEN SOLUTION TO A LONG-STANDING CHALLENGE

Aditya Kulkarni, Weihong Zhou and Béla Török*

* To whom correspondence should be addressed

Prof. Béla Török Email: bela.torok@umb.edu Phone: 617-287-6159

Department of Chemistry, University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd. Boston, MA 02125, USA.

MATERIALS: All the indoles and acid additives were purchased from Aldrich and used without any purification. Pt/C was purchased from Acros Organics and Pt/Al₂O₃ was purchased from Engelhard. CDCl₃ used as a solvent (99.8%) for NMR studies was an Aldrich product. Other solvents used in synthesis with minimum purity of 99.5% were Fisher products. Water used as a solvent in the synthesis was deionized water.

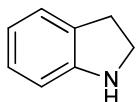
NMR ANALYSIS: The ¹H and ¹³C spectra were obtained on a 300 MHz Varian NMR spectrometer, in CDCl₃ with tetramethylsilane as internal standards or the residual solvent signals. The temperature was 25 °C (accuracy ±1 °C) and controlled by the Varian control unit.

GC-MS ANALYSIS: The mass spectrometric identification of the products have been carried out by an Agilent 6850 gas chromatograph- 5973 mass spectrometer system (70 eV electron impact ionization) using a 30m long DB-5 type column (J&W Scientific).

MELTING POINTS: All the melting points are uncorrected and recorded on a MEL-TEMP apparatus.

Representative procedure for the hydrogenation of indoles to indolines: The hydrogenations were performed in a Berghof HR-100 autoclave using a Teflon liner at room temperature (25°C). Pt/C (30 mg), *p*-TSA·H₂O (228 mg, 1.2 mmol), indole (117 mg, 1 mmol) and deionized water (5 mL) were charged to the Teflon liner. Then the autoclave was flushed with hydrogen three times, filled to a pressure of 30 bar and stirred (1000 rpm) for 3 h. After the completion of the reaction, the catalyst was removed by filtration. The filtrate was quenched with 1 mol % aqueous NaOH solution by adjusting the pH to 8. The aqueous layer was extracted with two portions of 15 mL CH₂Cl₂. The CH₂Cl₂ extracts were combined and dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography.

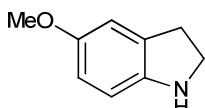
4. Indoline



Colorless oil, R_f = 0.30 (20 % EtOAc in hexane)

¹H NMR (300.128 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.10 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H).
¹³C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) 151.4, 129.1, 126.9, 124.4, 118.4, 109.2, 47.1, 29.6.
MS-C₈H₉N (119) m/z (%): 119 (M⁺, 100), 91 (21), 77 (2), 65 (6), 58 (7).

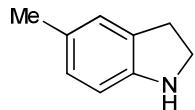
10. 5-Methoxyindoline



Light brown oil, R_f = 0.25 (30 % EtOAc in hexane)

¹H NMR (300.128 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.60 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.50 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.00 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H).
¹³C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) 153.6, 145.5, 131.3, 112.2, 111.6, 110.2, 56.0, 47.9, 30.6.
MS-C₉H₁₁NO (149) m/z (%): 149 (M⁺, 54), 134 (100), 117 (3), 104 (9), 77 (7).

11. 5-Methylindoline



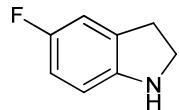
Light brown oil, $R_f = 0.25$ (20 % EtOAc in hexane)

^1H NMR (300.128 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.52 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.47 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.95 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 149.4, 129.9, 128.2, 127.7, 125.6, 109.6, 47.8, 30.2, 21.0.

MS- $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{N}$ (133) m/z (%): 133 (M^+ , 100), 117 (28), 103 (5), 77 (9), 65 (7).

12. 5-Fluoroindoline



Colorless oil, $R_f = 0.25$ (20 % EtOAc in hexane)

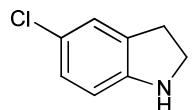
^1H NMR (300.128 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 6.84 (dd, $J = 8.7, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.70 (dt, $J = 9.0, 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.54 (dd, $J = 8.1, 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.64 (bs, 1H), 3.55 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.01 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 158.5, 155.3, 147.4, 113.1, 112.8, 112.1, 111.8, 109.5, 109.4, 47.8, 30.1.

^{19}F NMR (282.4 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) -126.4

MS- $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{FN}$ (137) m/z (%): 137 (M^+ , 100), 116 (3), 109 (33), 83 (8), 67 (7).

13. 5-Chloroindoline



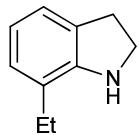
Light brown oil, $R_f = 0.27$ (20 % EtOAc in hexane)

^1H NMR (300.128 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.94 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.72 (bs, 1H), 3.54 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.99 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 150.1, 131.2, 126.8, 124.7, 122.9, 109.8, 47.5, 29.6.

MS- $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{ClN}$ (153) m/z (%): 153 (M^+ , 100), 125 (7), 117 (77), 89 (23), 58 (9).

14. 7-Ethylindoline



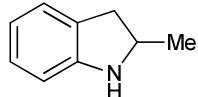
Brown oil, $R_f = 0.33$ (20 % EtOAc in hexane)

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (300.128 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 7.90 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.63 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.55 (bs, 1H), 3.12 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.56 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75.474 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 149.3, 128.7, 125.9, 124.8, 122.0, 118.8, 47.1, 29.9, 24.0, 13.1.

MS- $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}$ (147) m/z (%): 147 (M^+ , 63), 132 (100), 117 (24), 105 (7), 91 (6).

15. 2-Methylindoline



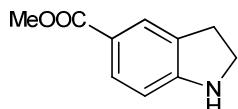
Light brown oil, $R_f = 0.40$ (20 % EtOAc in hexane)

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (300.128 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 7.12 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.74 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.02 (m, 1H), 3.60 (bs, 1H), 3.18 (dd, $J = 15.6, 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.67 (dd, $J = 15.3, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.32 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75.474 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 151.1, 129.1, 127.4, 124.9, 118.7, 109.3, 55.4, 37.9, 22.4.

MS- $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{N}$ (133) m/z (%): 133 (M^+ , 33), 118 (100), 91 (17), 77 (4), 65 (3).

16. Methyl indoline-5-carboxylate



Light orange solid, $R_f = 0.20$ (20 % EtOAc in hexane)

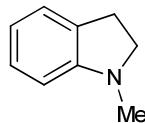
M.P.: 67-69 °C

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (300.128 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 7.76 (m, 2H), 6.55 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.65 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.07 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) 199.6, 157.4, 130.8, 129.1, 126.3, 107.5, 100.2, 51.7, 47.4, 28.9.

MS-C₁₀H₁₁NO₂(177) m/z (%): 177 (M⁺, 82), 146 (100), 118 (27), 89 (12), 72 (6).

17. 1-methylindoline



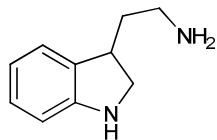
Brown oil, R_f = 0.25 (10 % EtOAc in hexane)

¹H NMR (300.128 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) 7.07 (m, 2H), 6.66 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.92 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) 153.3, 130.2, 127.2, 124.1, 117.6, 107.1, 56.0, 36.2, 28.6.

MS-C₉H₁₁N (133) m/z (%): 133 (M⁺, 100), 117 (41), 103 (4), 91 (10), 77 (6).

18. 2-(Indolin-3-yl)ethanamine



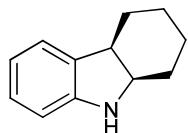
Light brown oil, R_f = 0.50 (5 % MeOH in DCM)

¹H NMR (300.128 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) 7.08 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (m, 1H), 3.20 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (bs, 2H), 1.96 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) 151.4, 132.8, 127.6, 123.9, 118.8, 109.7, 53.6, 40.4, 39.9, 38.4.

MS-C₁₀H₁₄N₂(162) m/z (%): 162 (M⁺, 30), 145 (19), 130 (50), 117 (100), 91 (20).

19. (±)-*cis*-2,3,4,4a,9,9a-hexahydro-1*H*-carbazole



White solid, $R_f = 0.38$ (20 % EtOAc in hexane)

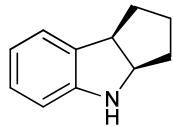
M.P. : 93-94°C

^1H NMR (300.128 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 7.09 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.74 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.73 (q, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.65 (bs, 1H), 3.10 (q, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.56 (m, 3H), 1.39 (m, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 150.7, 133.4, 126.9, 123.1, 118.7, 110.1, 59.6, 40.8, 29.1, 26.9, 22.4, 21.6.

MS- $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}$ (173) m/z (%): 173 (M^+ , 30), 144 (9), 130 (100), 117 (14), 90 (5).

20. (\pm)-*cis*-1,2,3,3a,4,8b-hexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]indole



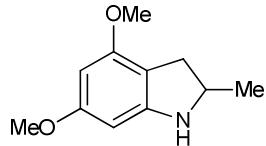
Colorless oil, $R_f = 0.25$ (10 % EtOAc in hexane)

^1H NMR (300.128 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 7.03 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.66 (dt, $J = 7.5, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.34 (m, 1H), 3.76 (dt, $J = 6.6, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.94 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 4H).

^{13}C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 151.3, 133.3, 127.2, 124.4, 118.2, 108.3, 63.2, 47.1, 36.8, 34.8, 24.3.

MS- $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}$ (159) m/z (%): 159 (M^+ , 28), 130 (100), 117 (10), 89 (5), 77 (4).

21. 4,6-dimethoxy-2-methylindoline



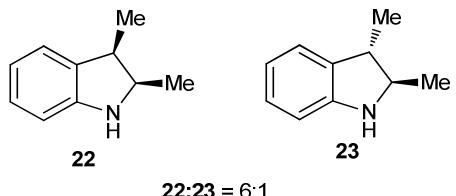
Light brown oil, $R_f = 0.25$ (20 % EtOAc in hexane)

^1H NMR (300.128 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 5.90 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.38 (m, 1H), 3.14 (dd, $J = 8.7, 5.1$, 1H), 1.26 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 161.2, 157.0, 153.1, 112.8, 89.3, 88.6, 55.5, 55.3, 55.0, 34.5, 19.0.

MS- $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2$ (193) m/z (%): 193 (M^+ , 38), 178 (100), 163 (18), 147 (20), 132 (7).

22, 23. (\pm)-2,3-dimethylindoline



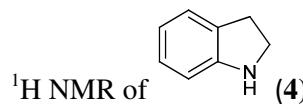
22:23 = 6:1

Brown oil, $R_f = 0.40$ (20 % EtOAc in hexane)

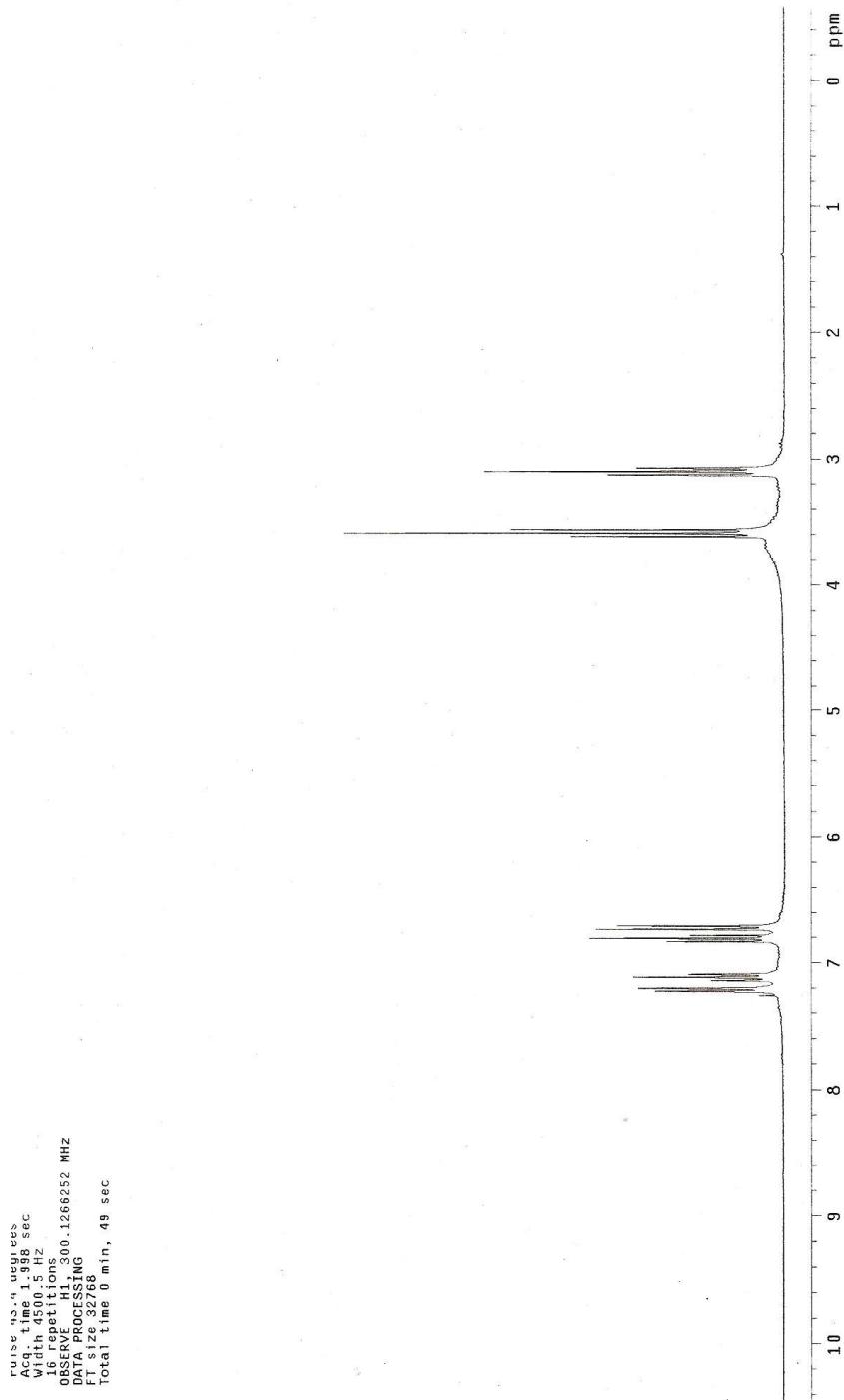
^1H NMR (300.128 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 7.12 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.78 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.97 (m, 1H), 3.66 (bs, 1H), 3.50 (m, 1H, minor isomer), 3.31 (quin, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.86 (quin, $J = 6.9$ Hz, minor isomer), 1.36 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 3H, minor isomer), 1.34 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 3H, minor isomer), 1.22 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.17 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H).

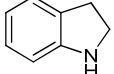
^{13}C NMR (75.474 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (ppm) 149.9, 134.1, 127.1, 127.1 (minor isomer), 123.6, 123.1 (minor isomer), 118.5, 118.4 (minor isomer), 109.2, 109.0 (minor isomer), 63.7 (minor isomer), 58.2, 44.1, (minor isomer), 39.3, 20.3 (minor isomer), 17.0 (minor isomer), 16.1, 13.5.

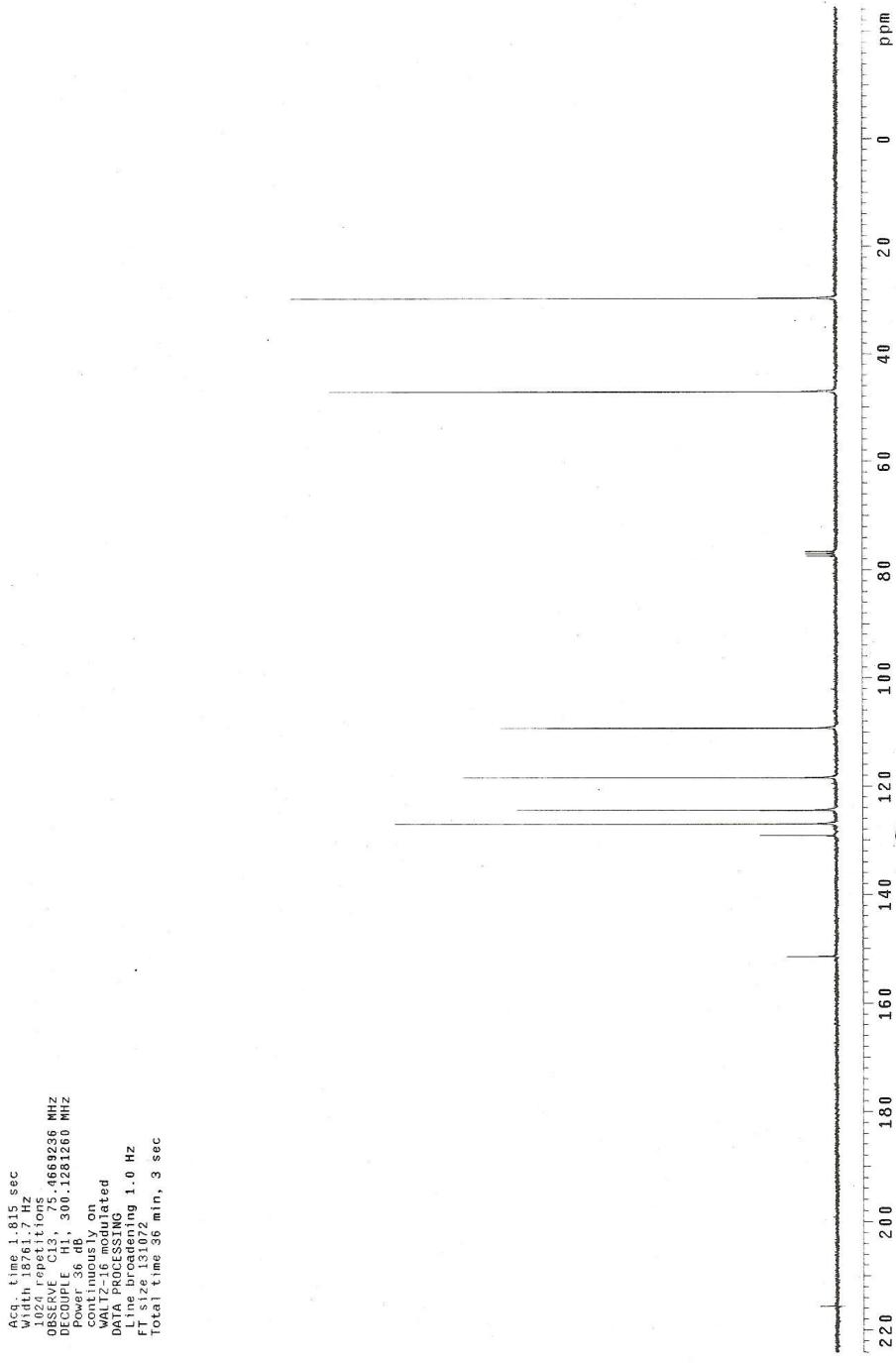
MS- $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}$ (147) m/z (%): 147 (M^+ , 38), 132 (100), 117 (39), 103 (4), 77 (8).

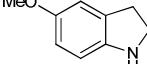


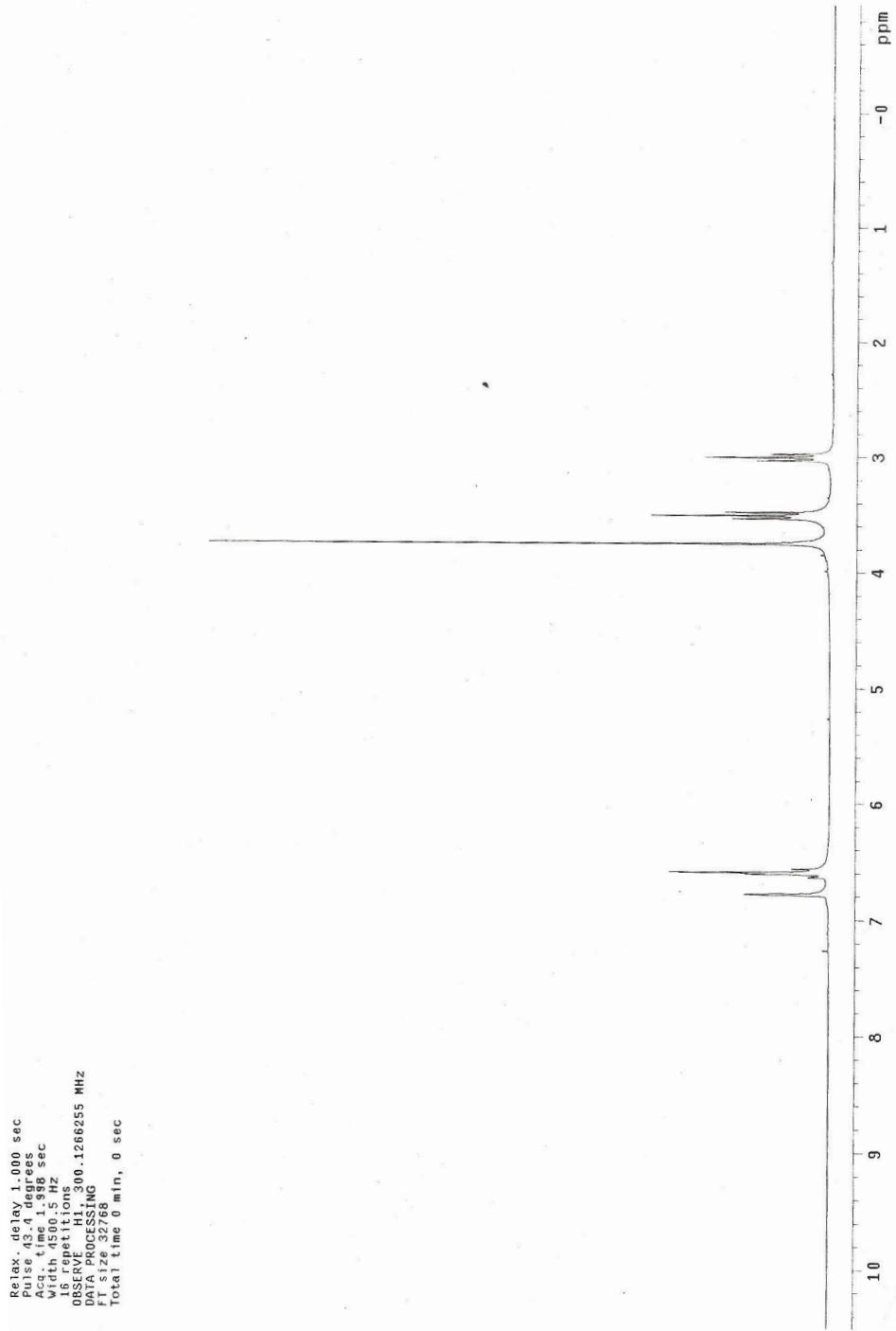
¹H NMR of



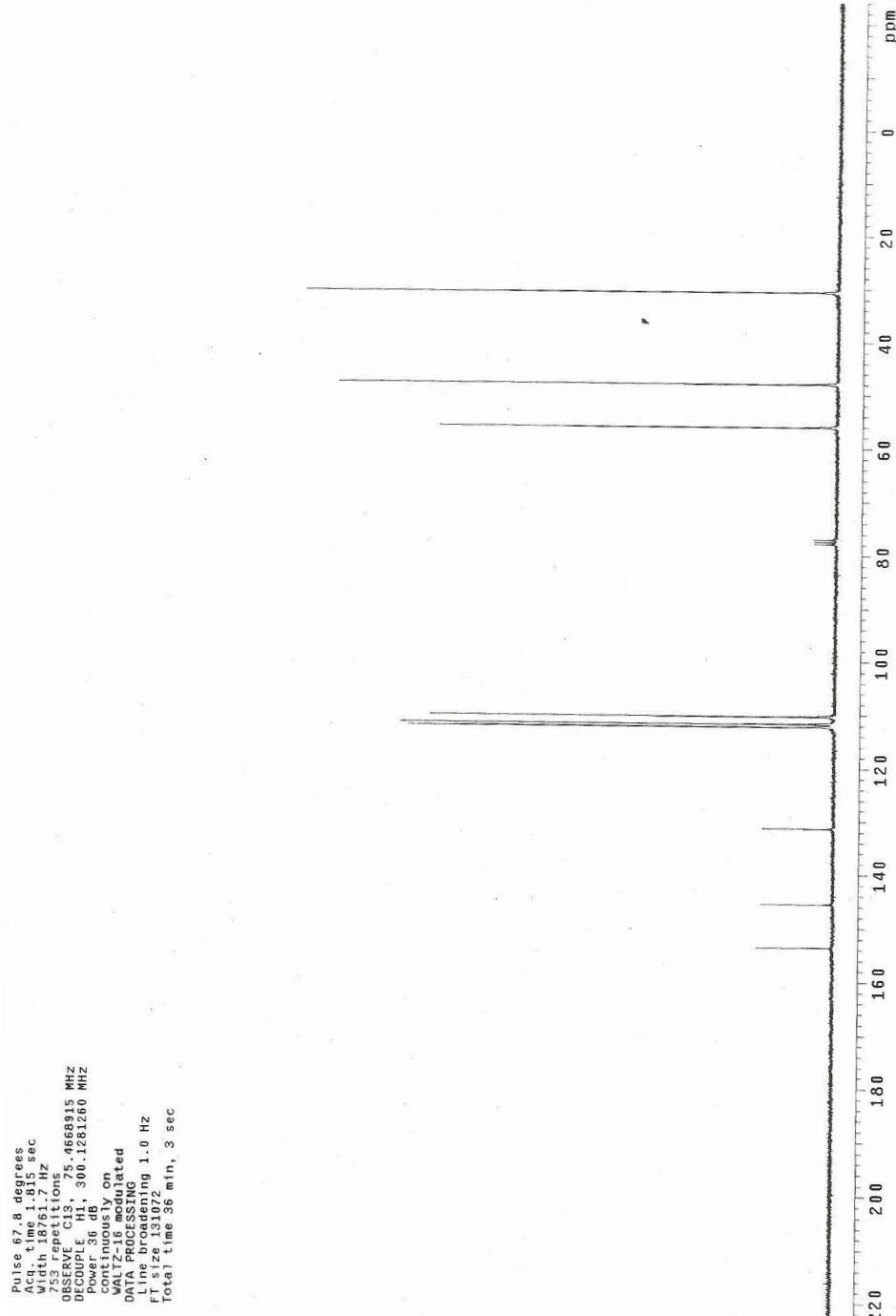
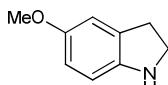
¹³C NMR of  (4)



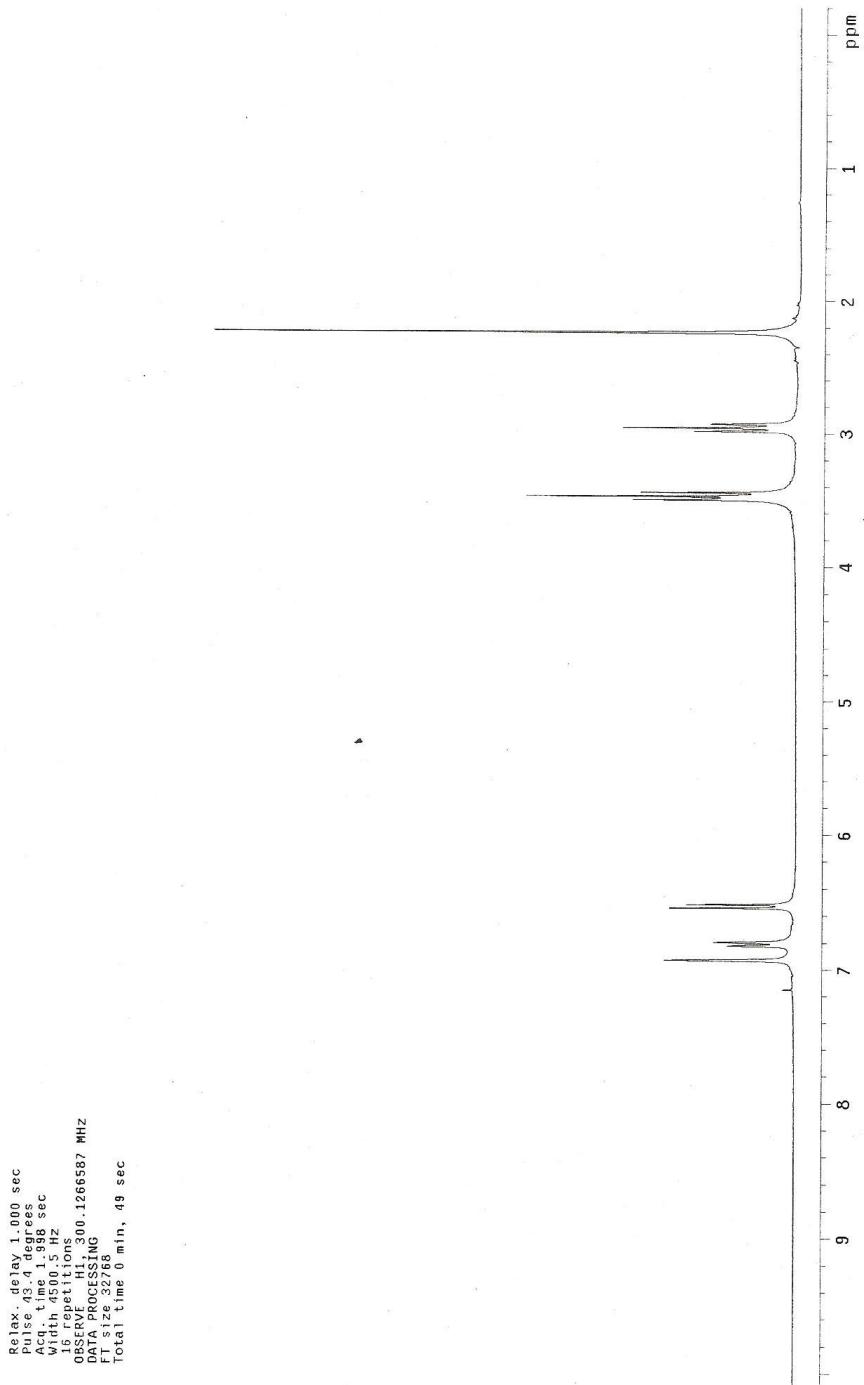
¹H NMR of  (10)



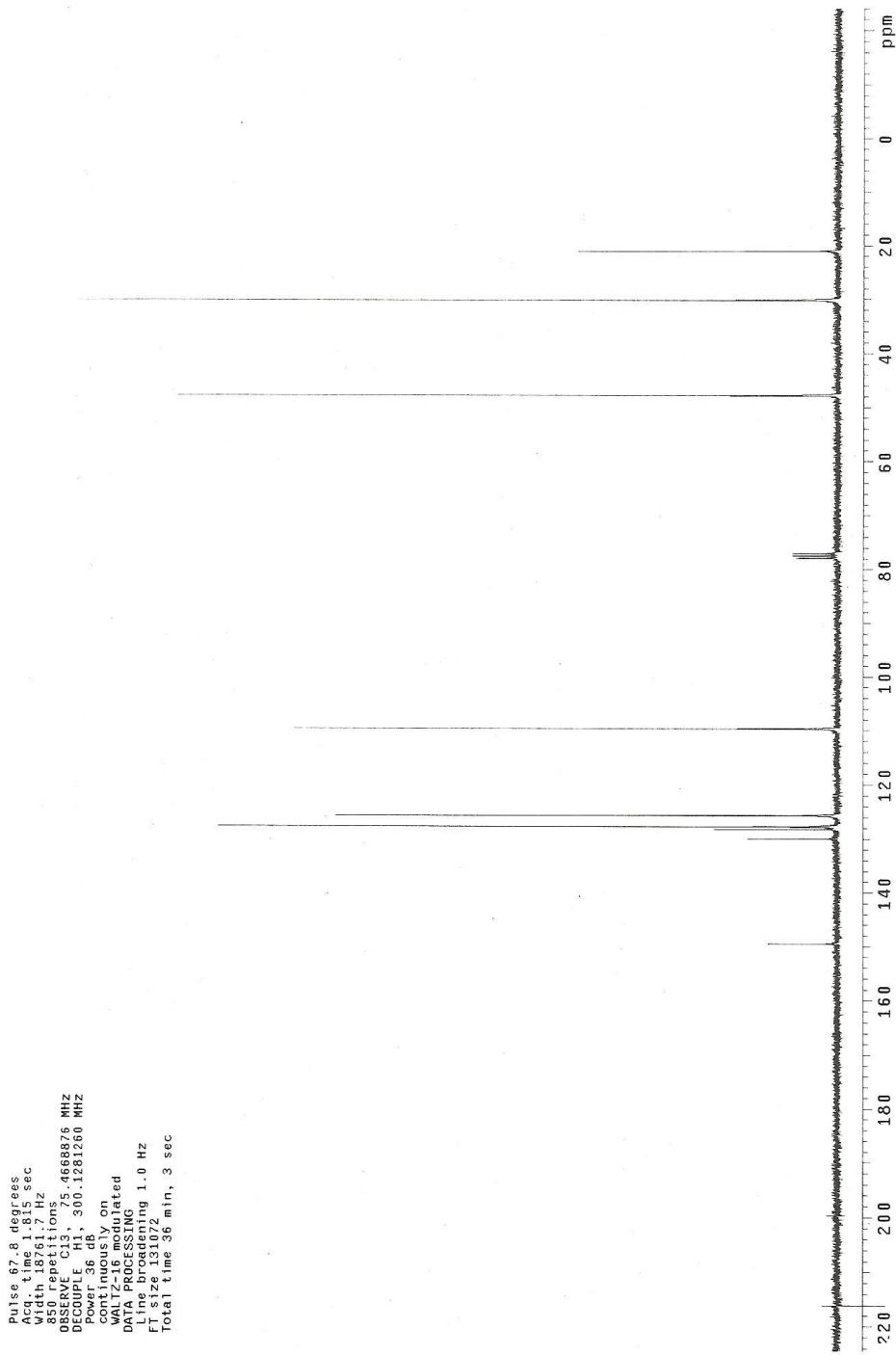
¹³C NMR of (10)

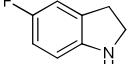


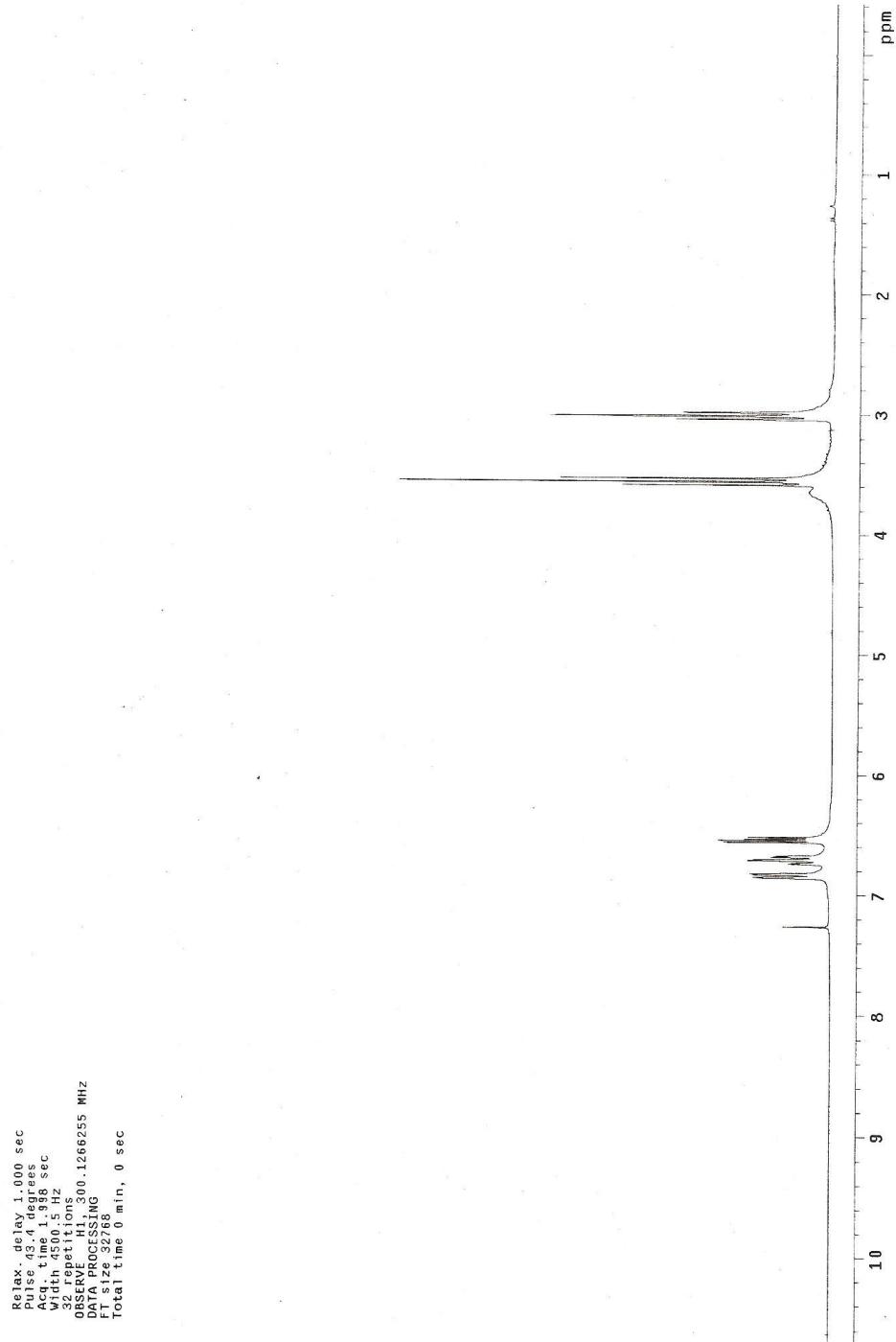
¹H NMR of (11)

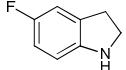


¹³C NMR of **(11)**

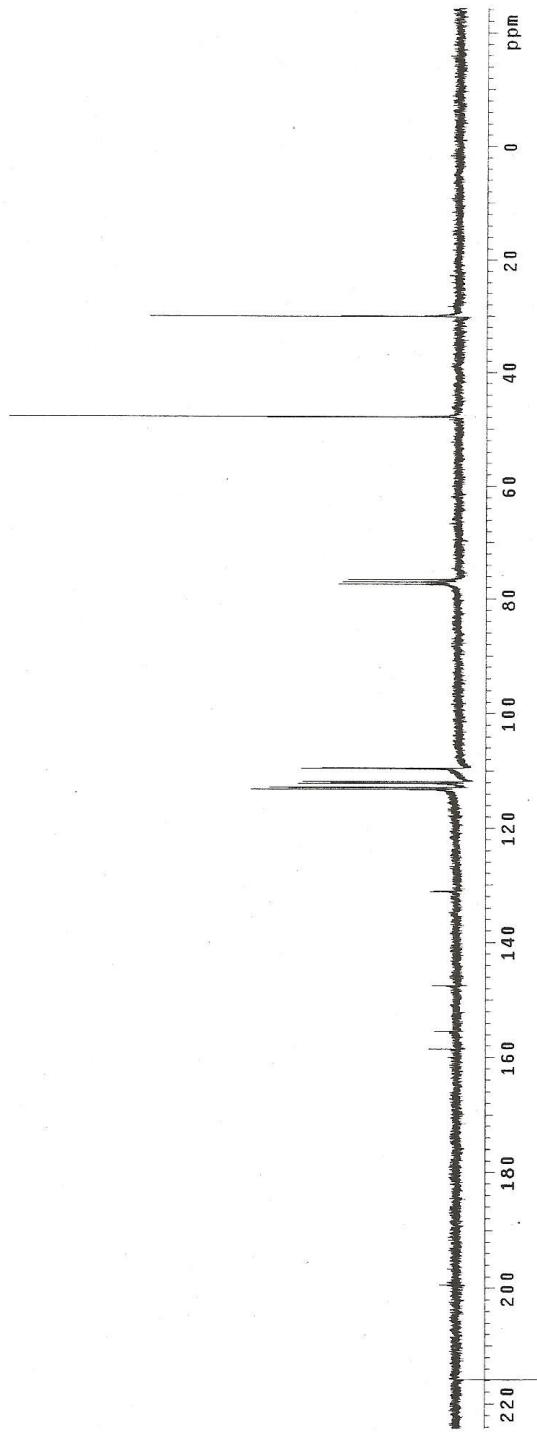


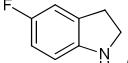
¹H NMR of  (12)



¹³C NMR of  (12)

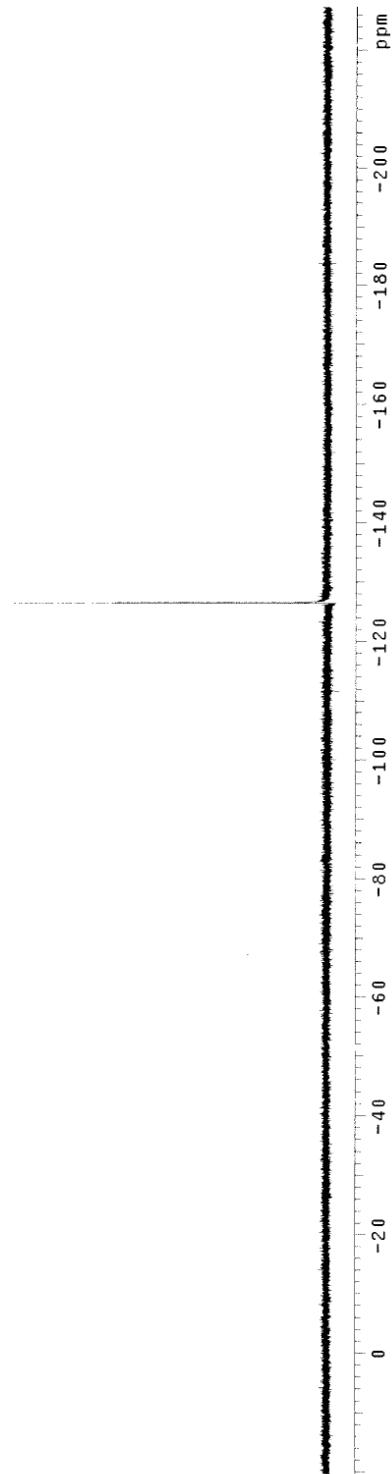
Pulse 67.8 degrees
Acq + line 1.815 sec
Width 18711.7 Hz
1024 repetitions
OBSERVE C3, 25.4669044 MHz
DECOUPLE H1, 300.1281250 MHz
Power 36 dB
continuously on
WALTZ-16 modulated
DATA PROCESSING
Line broadening 1.0 Hz
FT size 13072
Total time 36 min, 3 sec

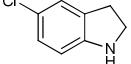


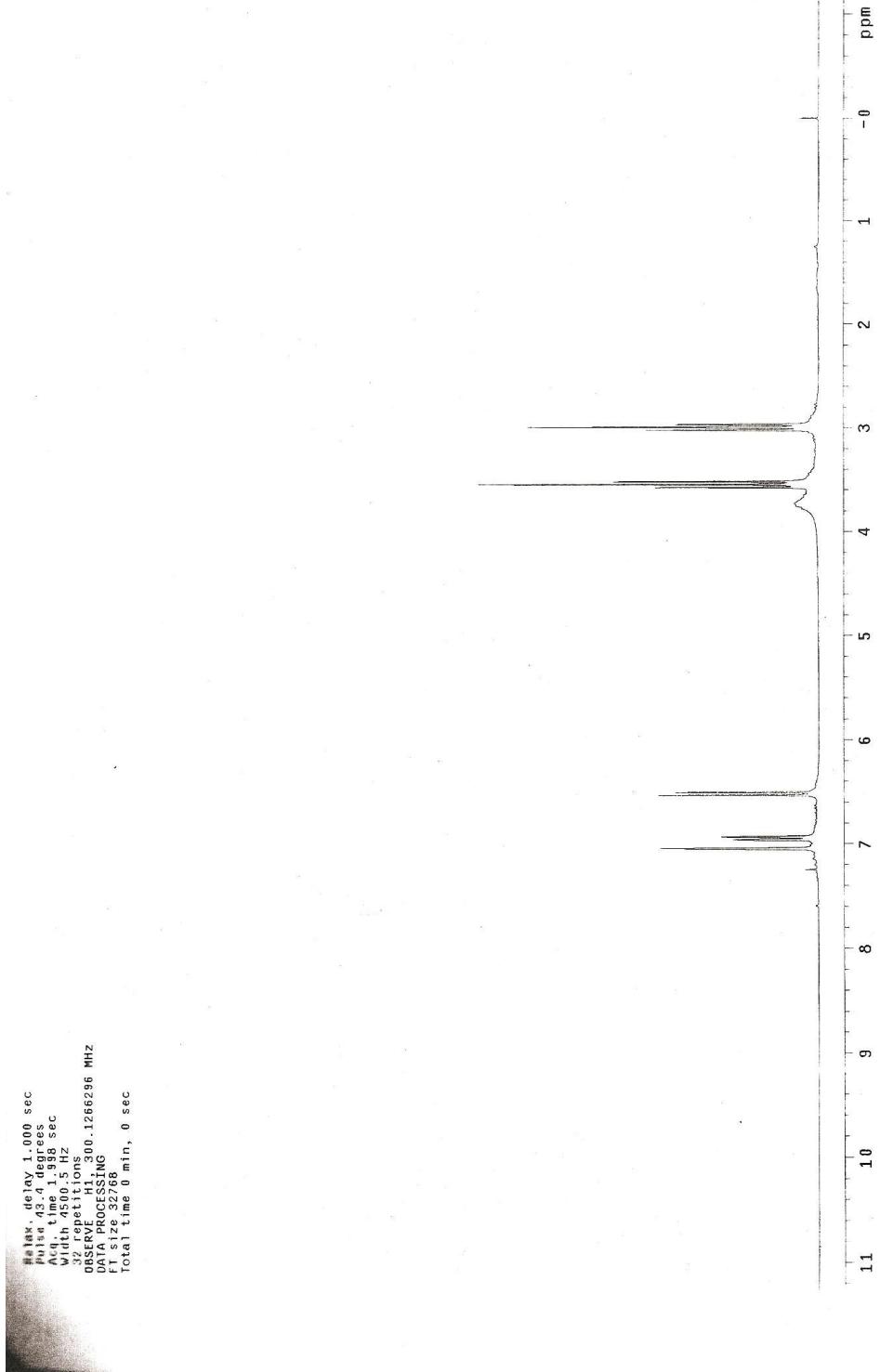
¹⁹F NMR of  (12)

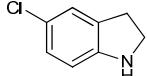
Pulse Sequence: s2pul
Solvent: CDCl₃
Ambient temperature
QEMINI-30BB8

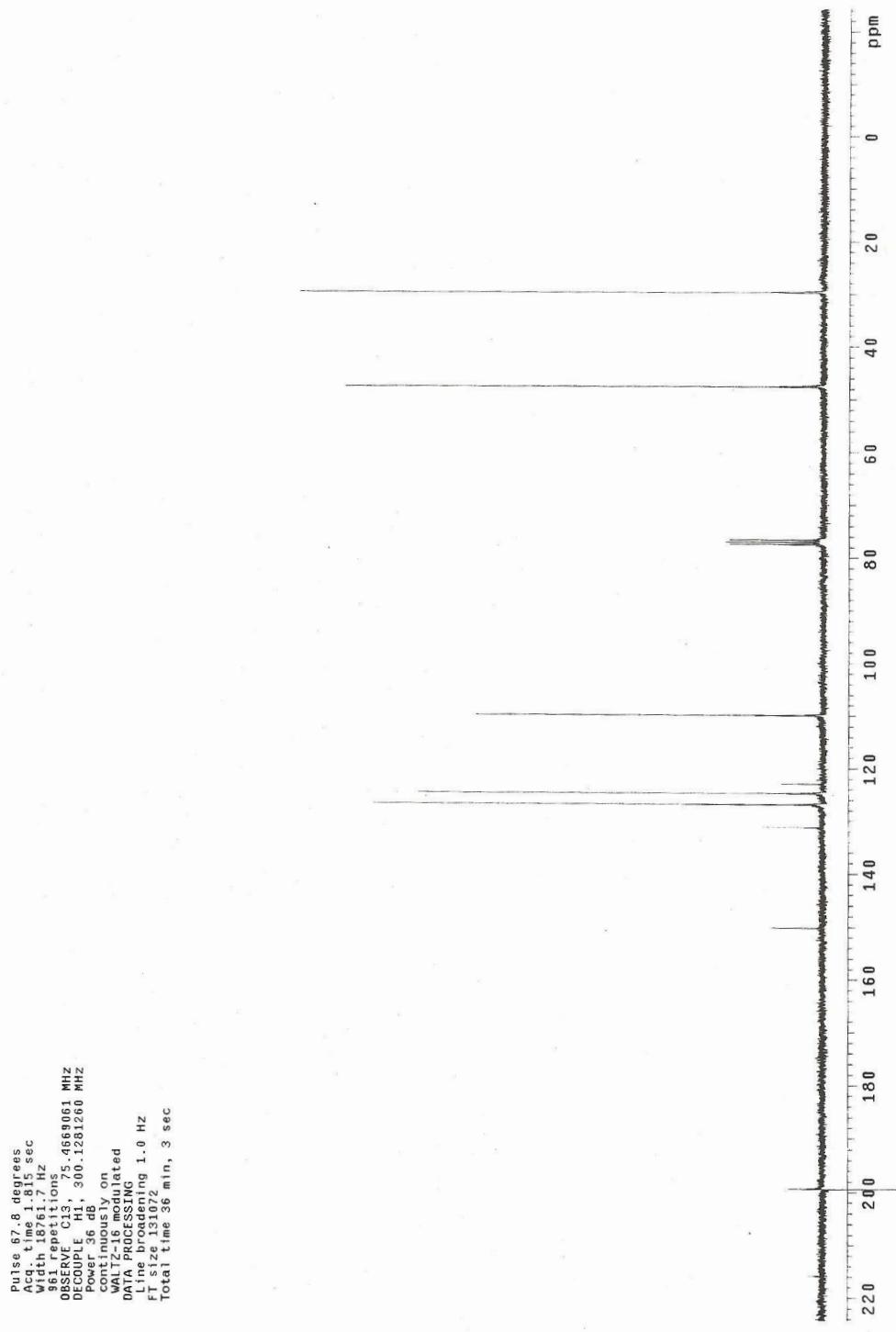
Relax. delay 4,000 sec
Pulse 5.0 usec
Acq. time 0.300 sec
Width 7000.0 Hz
16 repetitions
OBSERVE F19, 282.4011453 MHz
DATA PROCESSING
Line broadening 0.3 Hz
FT size 6536
Total time 1 min, 11 sec

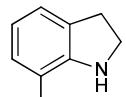


¹H NMR of  (13)

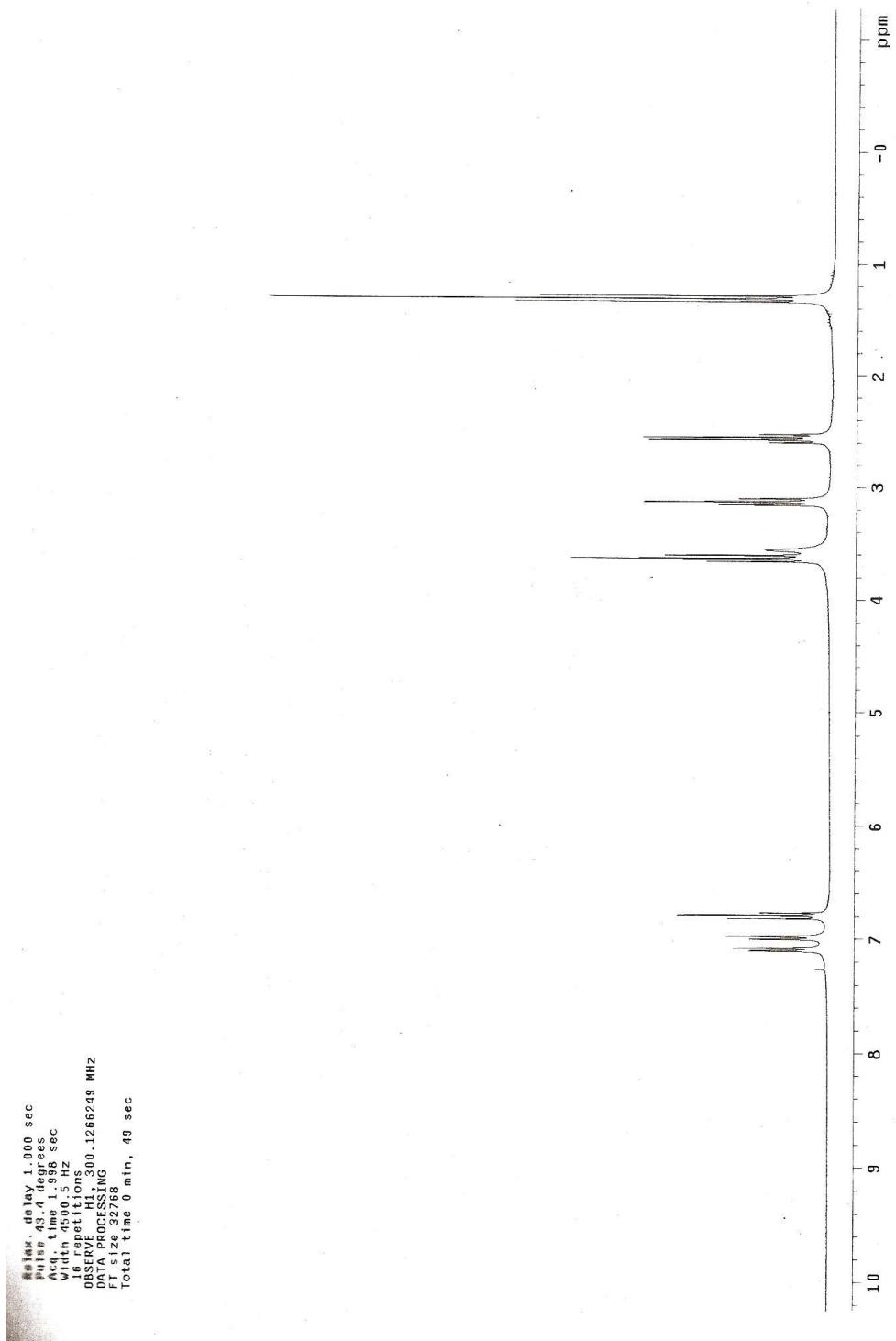


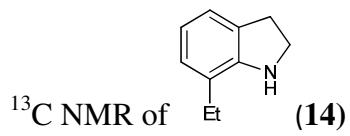
¹³C NMR of  (13)



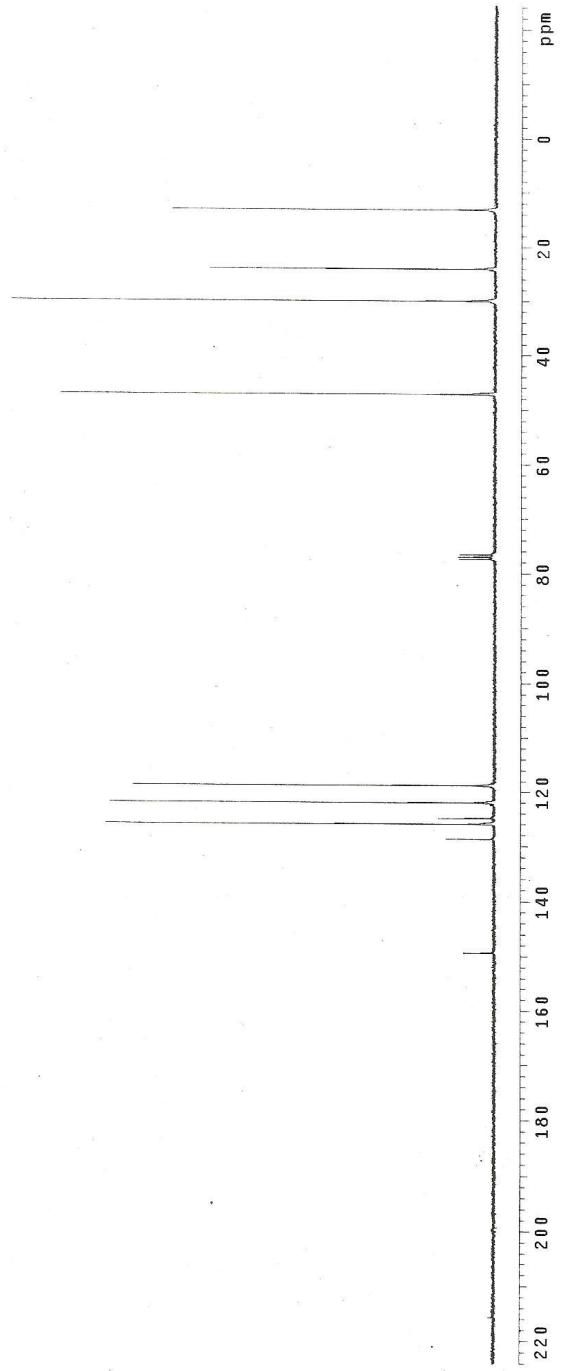


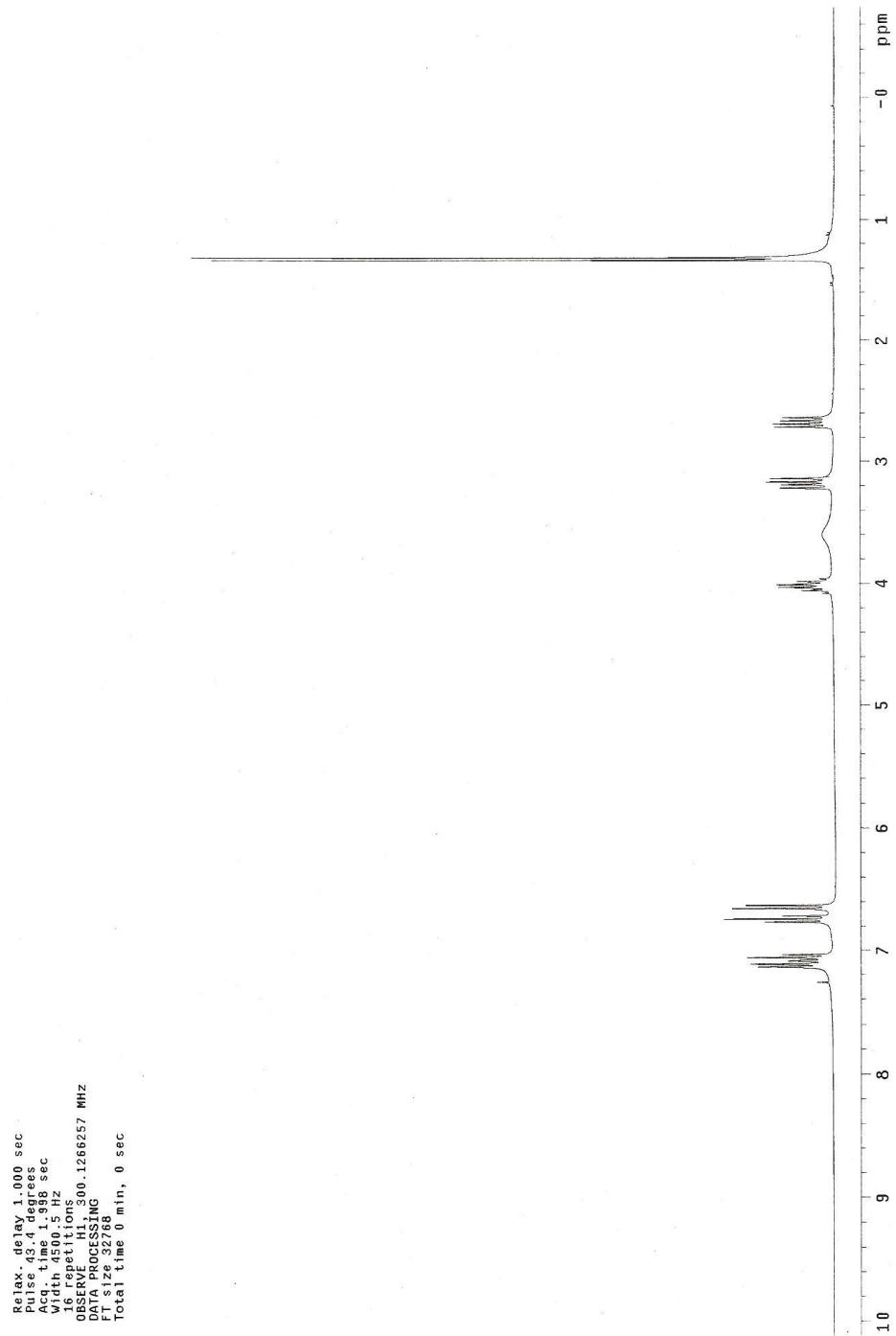
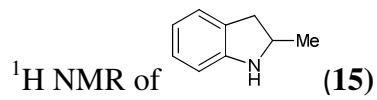
¹H NMR of (14)

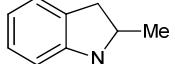




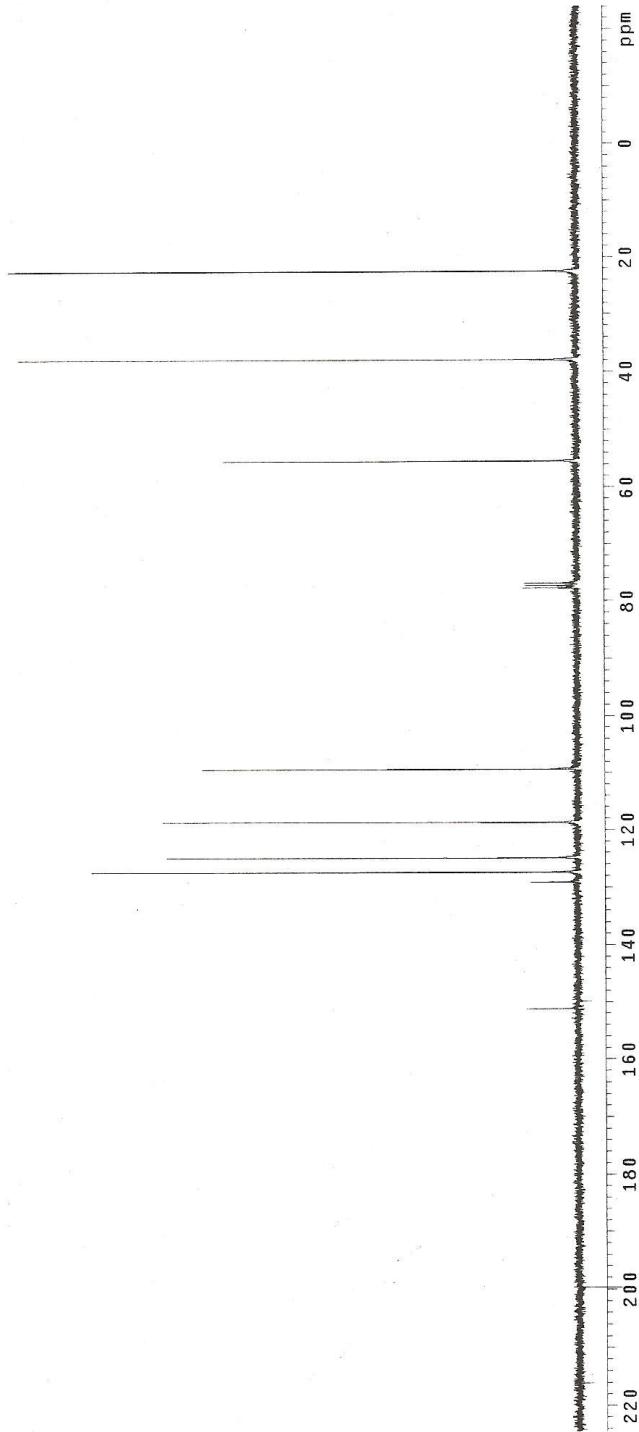
Pulse 67.8 degrees
 Acq. time 1.815 sec
 Width 18701.7 Hz
 1024 repetitions
 OBSERVE C13, 155.4689156 MHz
 DECOUPLE H1, 300.1281260 MHz
 Power 36 dB
 Counting on
 WIDETAPE 156 sec dilated
 DATA PROCESSING
 Line broadening 1.0 Hz
 FT size 13,072
 Total time 36 min, 3 sec

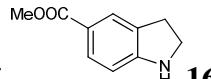




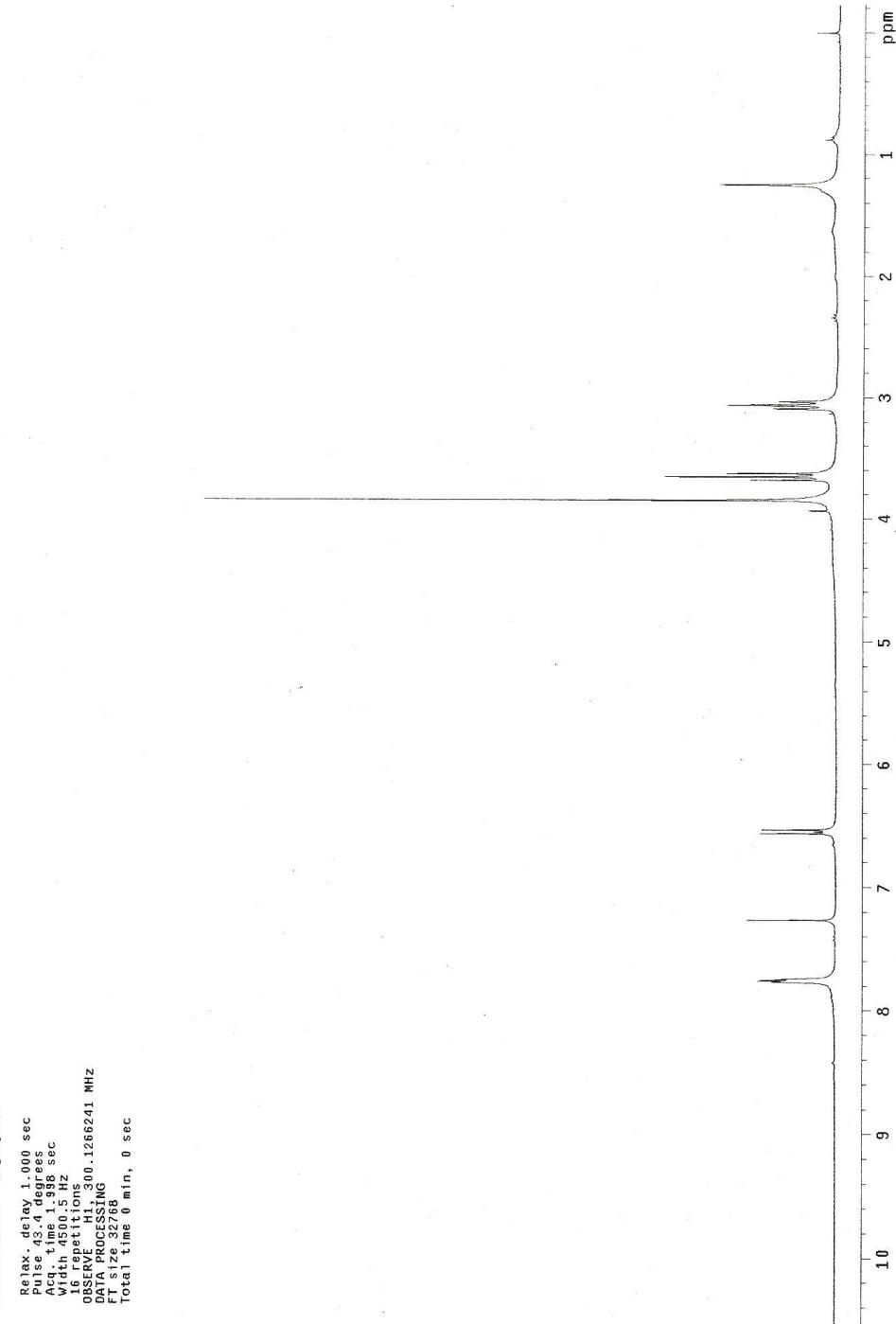
¹³C NMR of  (15)

Pulse 67.8 degrees
Aq. time 1.815 sec
Width 18761.7 Hz
733 repetitions
OBSERVE C13, 75.4668876 MHz
DECOUPLE H1, 300.1281260 MHz
Power 36 dB
continuously on
WALTZ-16 modulated
DATA PROCESSING
Line broadening 1.0 Hz
FT size 131072
Total time 36 min, 3 sec



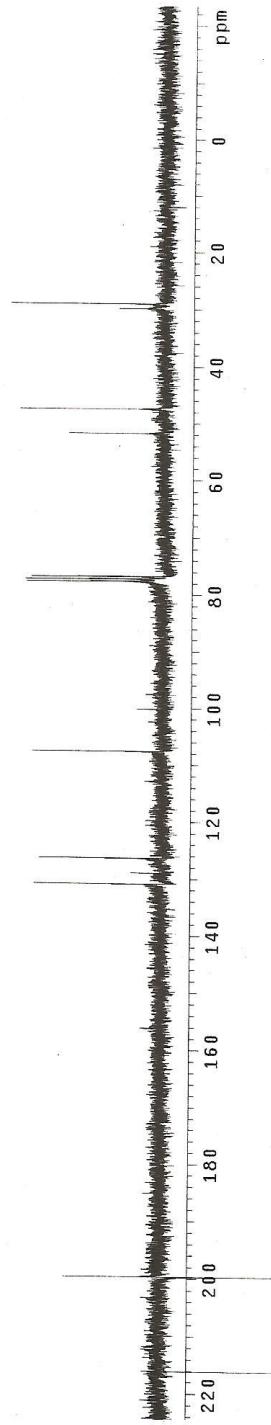


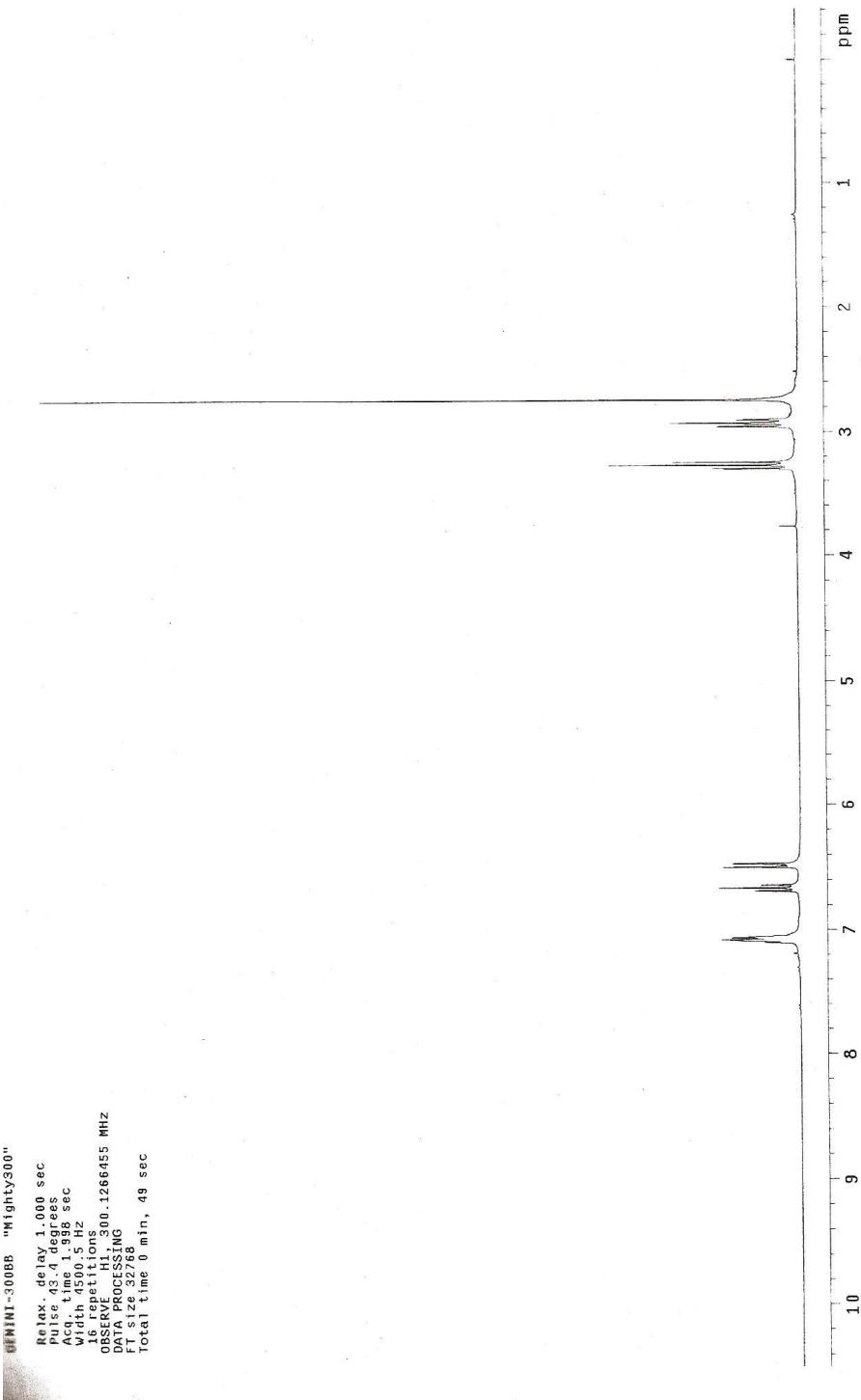
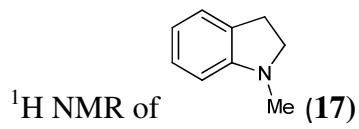
¹H NMR of



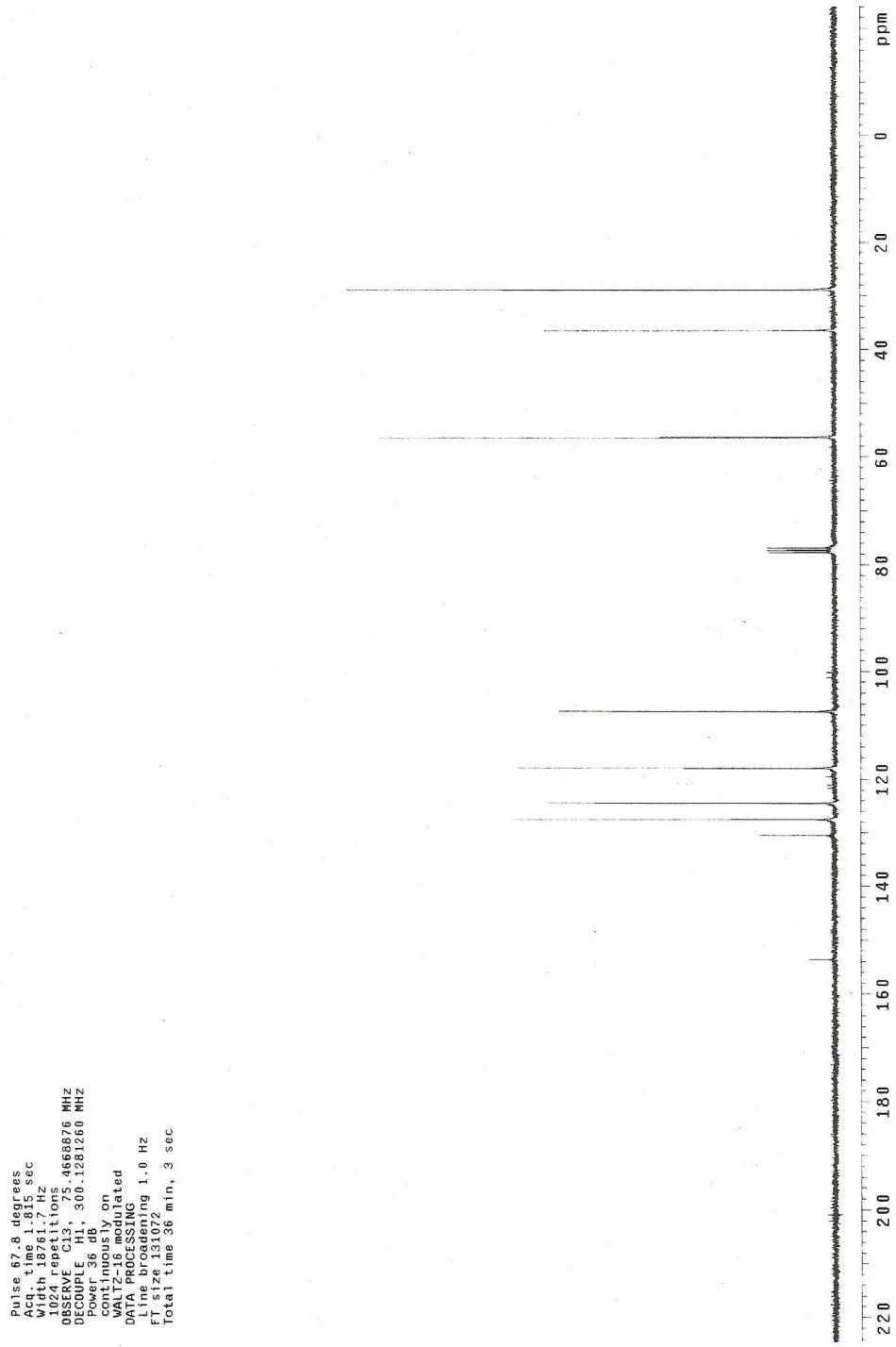
¹³C NMR of (16)

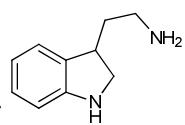
Pulse 67.8 degrees
Acq. time 1.015 sec
Width 1861.7 Hz
1024 repetitions
OBW 15.166876 MHz
DECOUPLE C13, 300.1281260 MHz
Power 36 dB
continuously on
WALT=16 modulated
DATA PROCESSING
Line broadening 1.0 Hz
FT size 131072
Total time 36 min, 3 sec



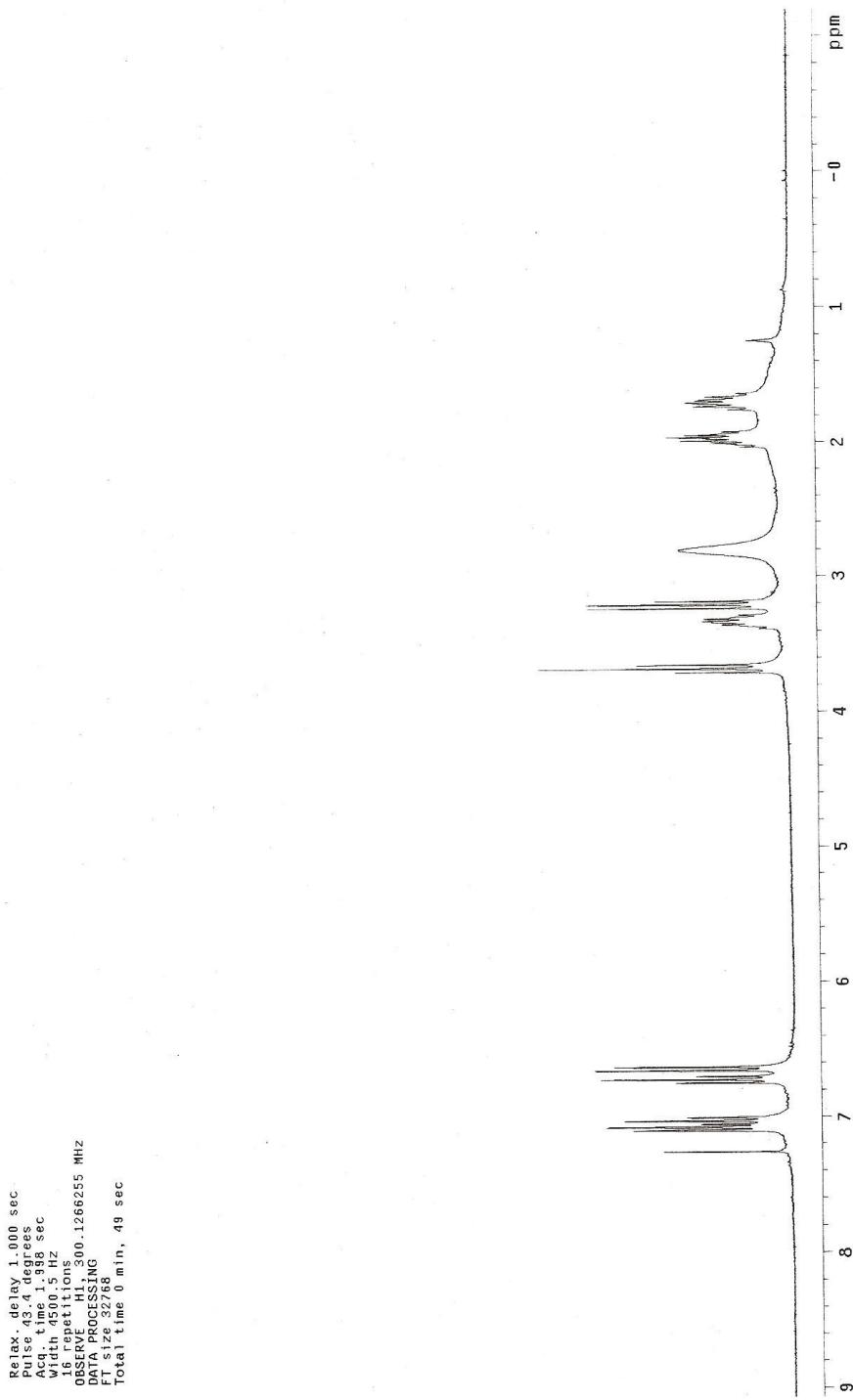


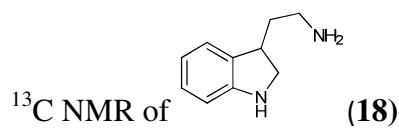
¹³C NMR of Me (17)



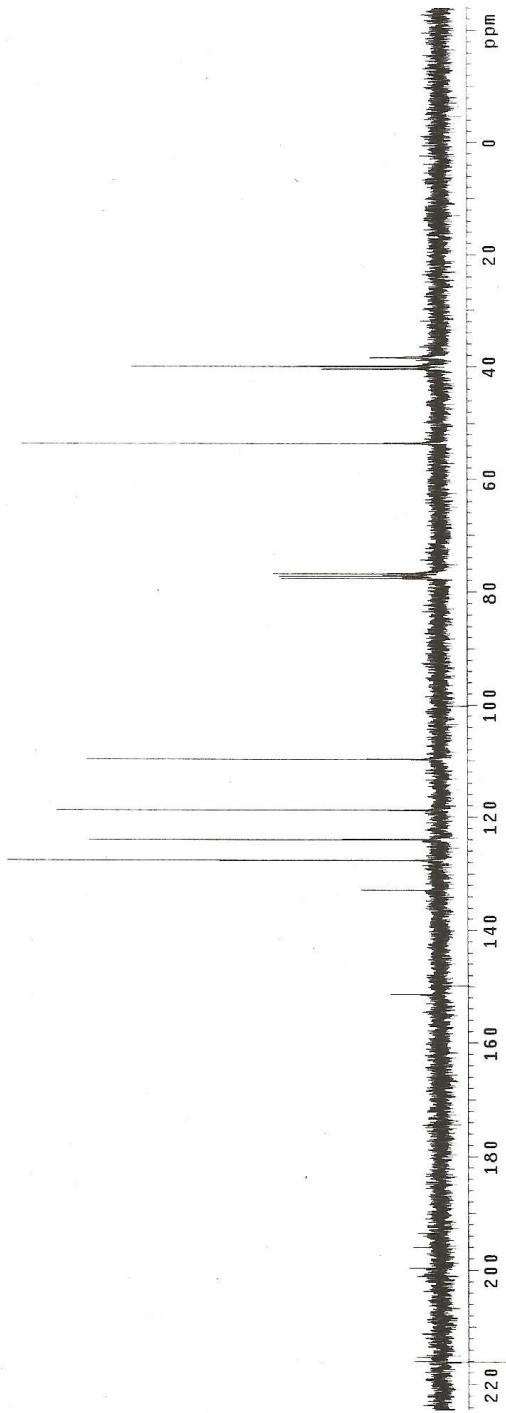


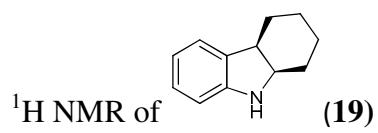
¹H NMR of (18)





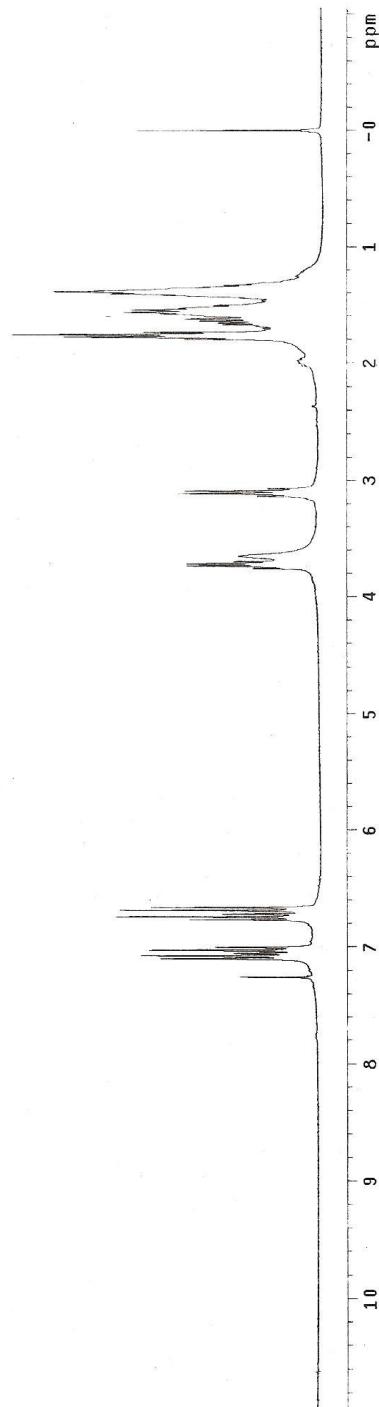
Pulse 67.8 degrees
Acq. time 1.815 sec
Width 187.617 Hz
1024 repetitions
OBSERVE C13, 71.4666876 MHz
DECOUPLE H1, 300.1281260 MHz
Power 36 dB
continuous on
WALTZ-16 modulated
DATA PROCESSING
Line broadening 1.0 Hz
FT size 131072
Total time 36 min, 3 sec

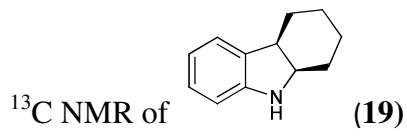




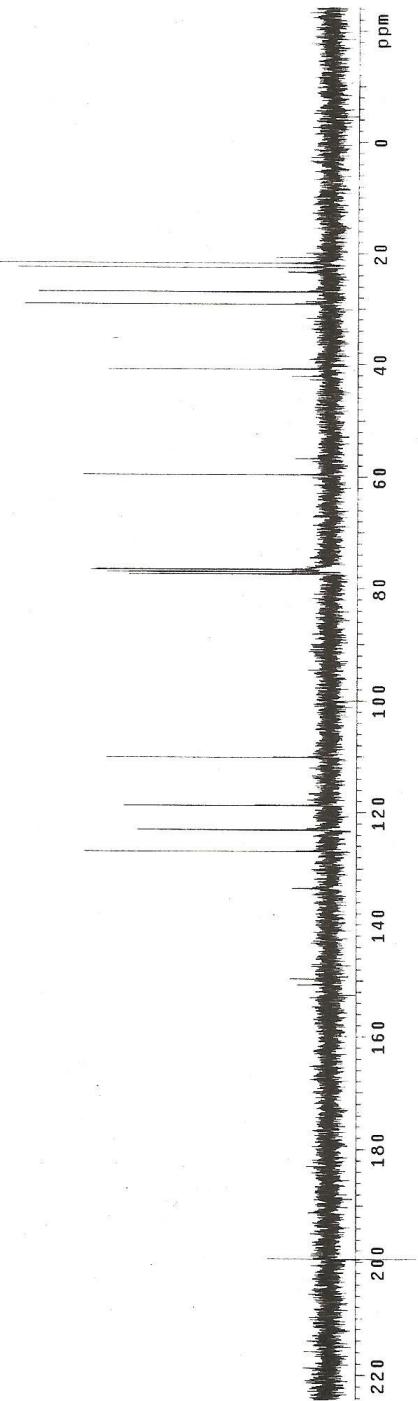
¹H NMR of

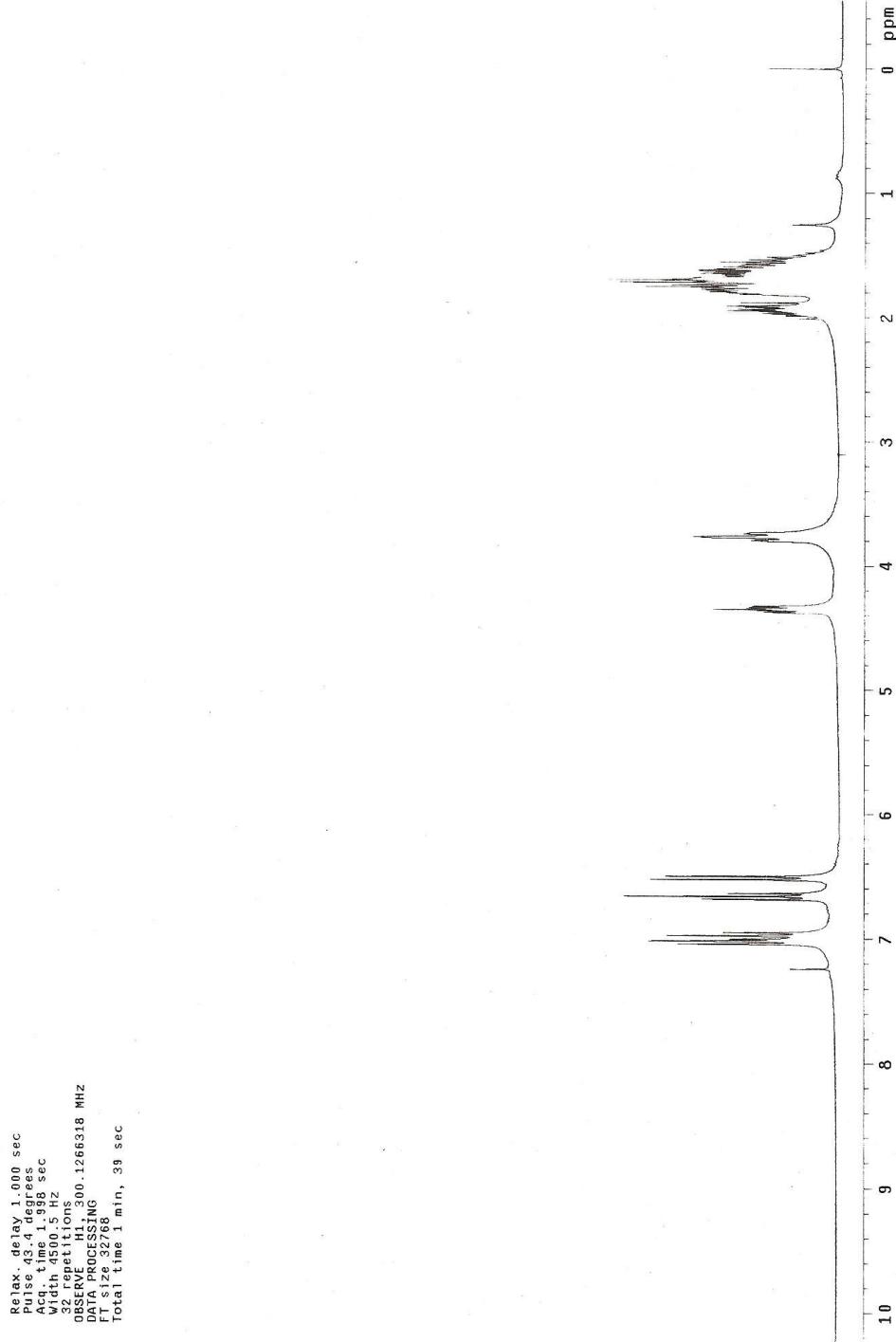
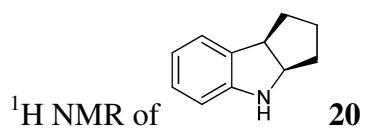
Relax. delay 1.000 sec
pulse 43.4 degrees
Acq. time 1.998 sec
width 4500.5 Hz
64 repetitions
OBSERVE H₁, 300.1266260 MHz
DATA PROCESSING
FID size 32768
total time 3 min, 19 sec





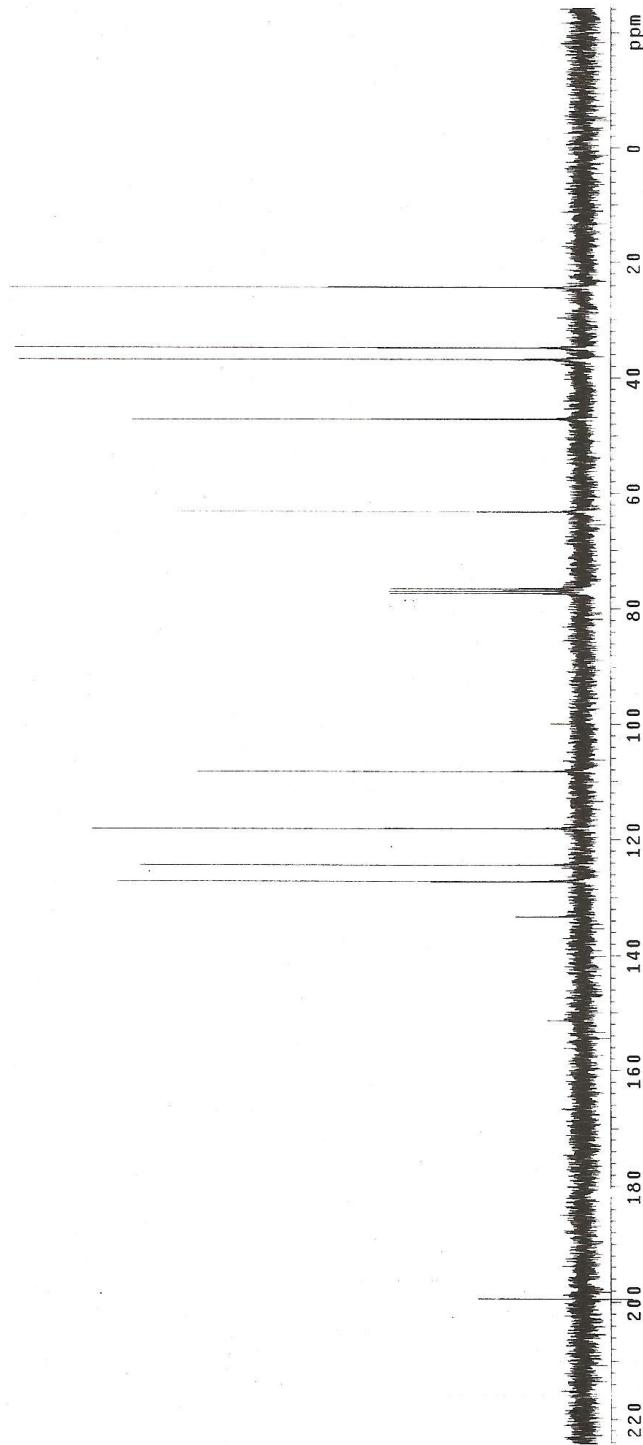
Pulse 67.8 degrees
Acc. time 1.815 sec
Width 18761.7 Hz
1024 repetitions
OBSERVE C13, 75.4668018 MHz
DECUPLE H1, 300.1281260 MHz
Power -36 dB, 300.1281260 MHz
Point/Integration on
WIDENING 2.10 Hz, isolated
DATA PROCESSING
Line broadening 1.0 Hz
FT size 131072
Total time 36 min, 3 sec

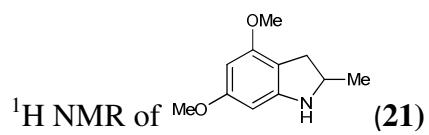




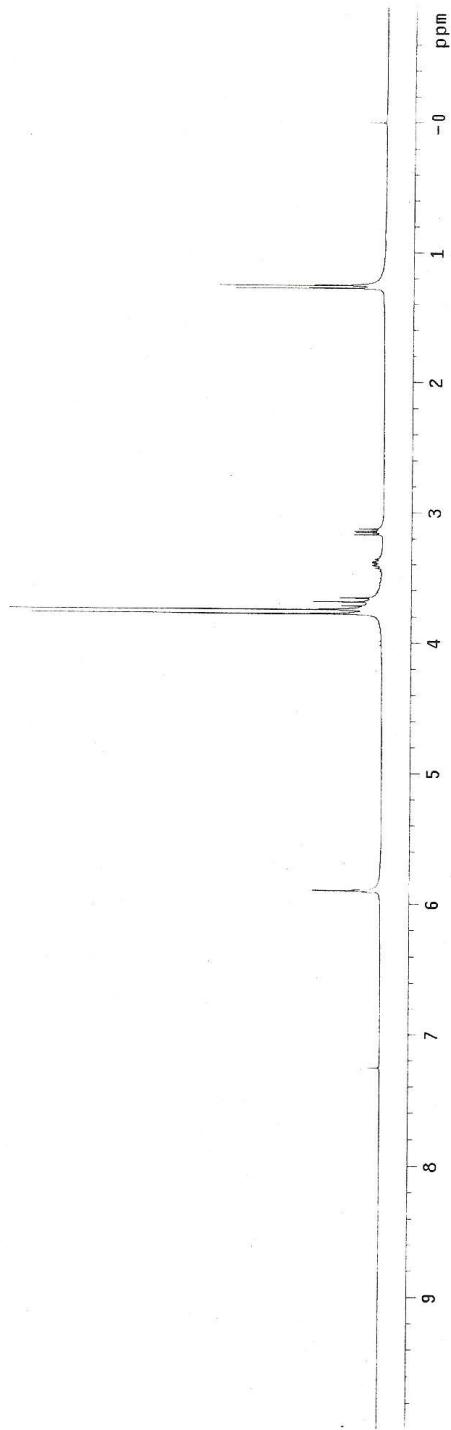
¹³C NMR of (20)

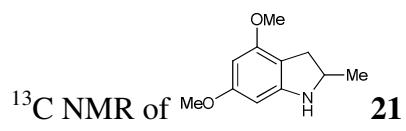
Pulse 67.8 degrees
Acq. 1 mm 1.85 sec
Width 18.617 Hz
1.0000000000000001 ppm
OBSERVE 113, 115, 4669044 MHz
DQCPMG H, 300-1281260 MHz
Power 36 dB
Continuous
WALTZ-16 modulated
DATA PROCESSING
Line broadening 1.0 Hz
FT size 131024
Total time 36 min, 3 sec



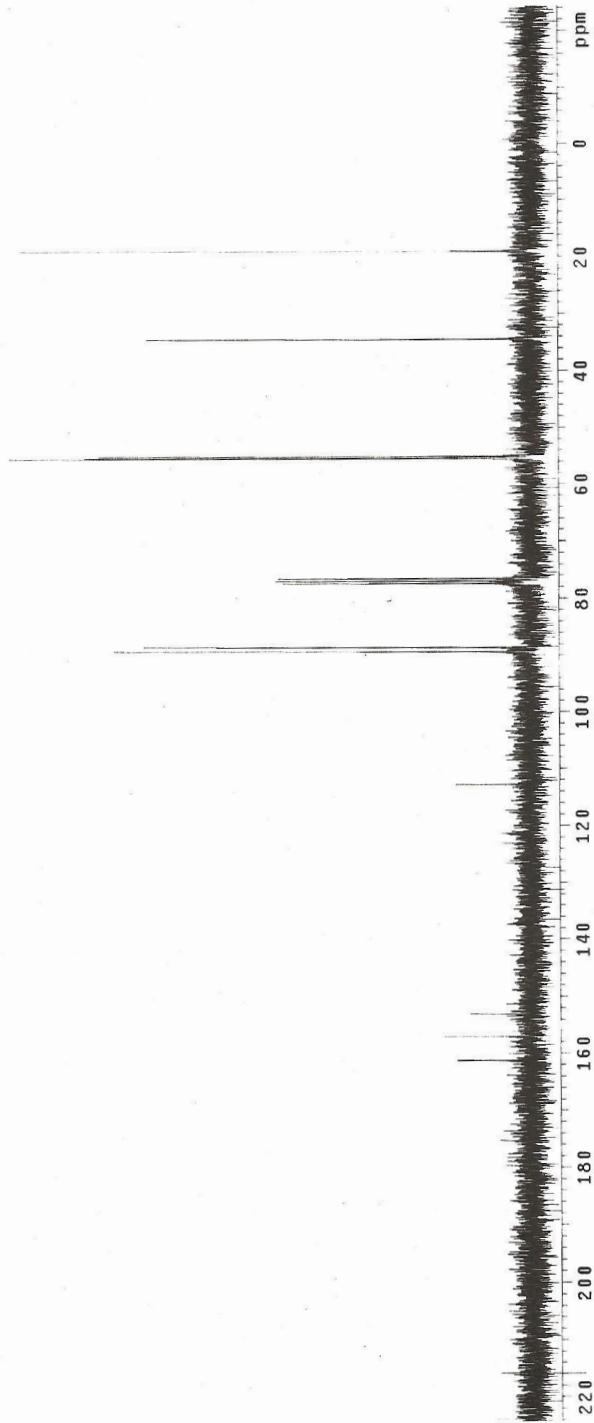


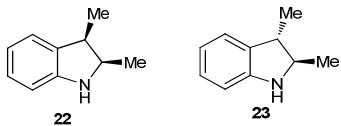
Relax delay 1.000 sec
Pulse 43.4 degrees
Acq time 1.98 sec
With 4500.5 Hz
16 repetitions
OBSERVE H-1 300.1266257 MHz
DATA PROCESSING 1.00
FT size 32768
Total time 0 min, 0 sec





Pulse 67.8 degrees
 Acq. time 1.915 sec
 Width at half height 7.1 Hz
 0.256 F2 points, 4669024 MHz
 0.256 F1 points, 300.1281260 MHz
 Decoupling C13, 4669024 MHz
 Scope E HI, 300.1281260 MHz
 Power 36 dB
 Center 0 ppm
 continuously on
 WALTZ-16 modulated
 DATA PROCESSING
 Line broadening 1.0 Hz
 FT size 131072
 Total time 36 min, 3 sec





¹H NMR of **22:23 = 6:1** **(22 and 23)**

