

**Base-Mediated Meerwein–Ponndorf–Verley Reduction  
of Aromatic and Heterocyclic Ketones**

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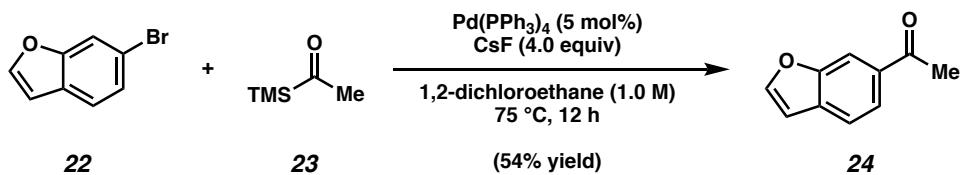
**Materials and Methods.** Unless stated otherwise, reactions were conducted in flame-dried glassware under an atmosphere of nitrogen or argon and commercially obtained reagents were used as received. Not-commercially available ketone substrates were synthesized following protocols specified in Section A in the Experimental Procedures. Alcohols **5** and *(R)*-**5** were synthesized following protocols specified in Section B and C in the Experimental Procedures, respectively. 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,4-dioxane, and isopropanol were obtained from Fischer Scientific and purified by distillation. 3-Pentanol (**3**) and 1-phenylethanol (**4**) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich and purified by distillation. Prior to use, 1,4-dioxane, isopropanol, 3-pentanol (**3**) and 1-phenylethanol (**4**) were degassed by sparging with N<sub>2</sub> for 1 h. Ketone **1**<sup>1</sup> and **36**<sup>2</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures. **22**, **28**, **29**, **30**, **31**, and **34** were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. **26**, **21**, **27**, **32**, **35**, and **37** was obtained from Combi-Blocks. Ketone **26** was obtained from Oxchem. Ketone **33** was obtained from Alfa Aesar. Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (99%) was obtained from Strem Chemicals. Acetyltrimethylsilane (**23**) (97%) was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. Cesium fluoride (99%+) was obtained from Strem Chemicals. Potassium phosphate (K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>) was obtained from Acros. Reaction temperatures were controlled using an IKAmag temperature modulator, and unless stated otherwise, reactions were performed at room temperature (approximately 23 °C). Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted with EMD gel 60 F254 pre-coated plates (0.25 mm for analytical chromatography and 0.50 mm for preparative chromatography) and visualized using a combination of UV, anisaldehyde, iodine, and potassium permanganate staining techniques. Silicycle Siliaflash P60 (particle size 0.040–0.063 mm) was used for flash column chromatography. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker spectrometers (at 300, 400, 500, and 600 MHz) and are reported relative to residual solvent signals. Data for <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz), integration. Data for <sup>13</sup>C NMR are reported in terms of chemical shift (at 75 and 125 MHz). IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer UATR Two FT-IR spectrometer and are reported in terms of frequency absorption (cm<sup>-1</sup>). DART-MS spectra were collected on a Thermo Exactive Plus MSD (Thermo Scientific) equipped with an ID-CUBE ion source and a Vapur Interface (IonSense Inc.). Both the source and MSD were controlled by Excalibur software v. 3.0. The analyte was spotted onto OpenSpot sampling cards (IonSense Inc.) using CHCl<sub>3</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as the solvent. Ionization was accomplished using UHP He plasma with no additional ionization agents. The mass calibration was carried out using Pierce LTQ Velos ESI (+) and (-) Ion

calibration solutions (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Optical rotations were measured with a Rudolf Autopol III Automatic Polarimeter. Trace metal analysis was determined by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry on an Agilent 8800 Triple Quadrupole ICP-MS instrument. The level of all analytes of interest was determined in MS/MS mode, measured using He in the collision/reaction cell using an environmental calibration standard (elements not included in this standard: B, Ti, Rb, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ir, and Pt). The quantification was done using the ICP-MS MassHunter WorkStation v4.3, through the QuickScan acquisition. Nitric acid was obtained from Fisher Scientific (A467500). Determination of enantiopurity was carried out on a Mettler Toledo SFC (supercritical fluid chromatography) or Agilent HPLC (high performance liquid chromatography) using Daicel ChiralPak IC-3 and Daicel ChiralPak OD-H columns. Data for SFC and HPLC spectra are reported in enantiomeric excess (ee). For SFC and HPLC chromatograms see Section I of Experimental Procedures.

## Experimental Procedures

### A. Syntheses of Ketone Substrates

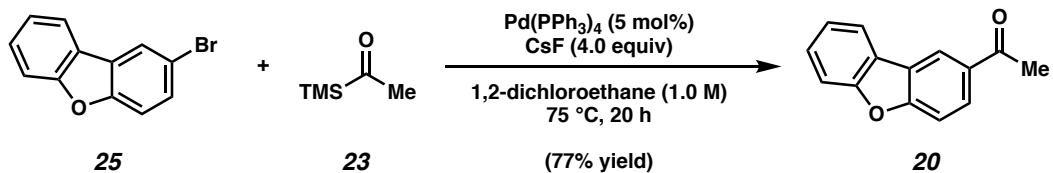
**Representative Procedure for the Synthesis of Ketone Substrates (synthesis of ketone **24** is used as an example).**



A flame-dried 1-dram vial was charged 6-bromobenzofuran (**22**) (130 mg, 0.660 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and a magnetic stir bar. In the glove box,  $\text{CsF}$  (401 mg, 2.64 mmol, 4.00 equiv) and  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$  (38.1 mg, 0.0330 mmol, 0.0500 equiv) were added to the vial. The vessel was removed from the glove box and placed under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$  on the bench. Distilled 1,2-dichloroethane (0.700 mL, 1.00 M) and silane **23** (189  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.32 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added and the vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined screw cap. The heterogeneous mixture was heated to  $75^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h. After cooling to  $23^\circ\text{C}$ , the mixture was diluted with hexanes (0.5 mL), filtered over a plug of silica gel (1.00 cm OD x 5.00 cm, 10 mL  $\text{EtOAc}$  eluent), and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography (19:1 Hexanes: $\text{EtOAc}$   $\rightarrow$  14:1 Hexanes: $\text{EtOAc}$ ) to yield ketone **24** (57.0 mg, 54% yield) as a yellow oil. Ketone **24**:  $R_f$  0.42 (5:1 Hexanes: $\text{EtOAc}$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.13 (s, 1H), 7.89 (dd,  $J$  = 8.30, 1.38 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d,  $J$  = 2.17 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d,  $J$  = 8.30 Hz, 1H), 6.87–6.89 (m, 1H), 2.67 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  197.8, 154.8, 148.4, 134.0, 132.0, 123.3, 121.2, 112.0, 107.0, 27.0; IR (film): 3118, 3003, 1673, 1425, 1271  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS-APCI ( $m/z$ )  $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2\text{N}^+$ , 178.08626; found 178.08536.

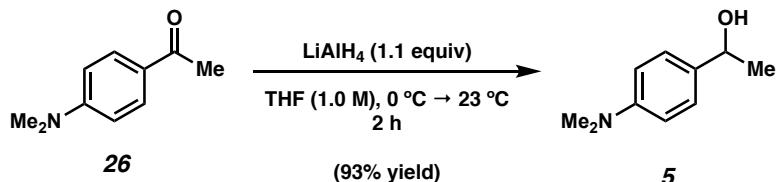
Note: Supporting information for the synthesis of ketone **36** has previously been reported.<sup>2</sup> The synthesis of the remaining substrate, **20**, is as follows:

*Any modifications of the conditions shown in the representative procedure above are specified in the following scheme.*



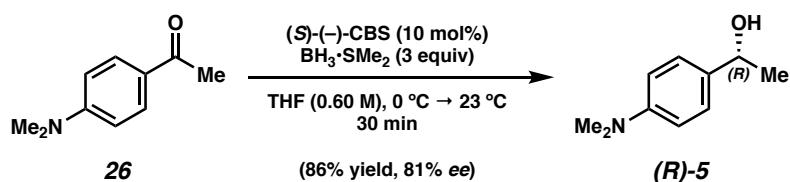
**Ketone 20.** Purification by flash chromatography (49:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) generated ketone **20** (263 mg, 77% yield) as a white solid. Ketone **20**:  $R_f$  0.33 (9:1 Hexanes:EtOAc). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>3</sup>

### B. Synthesis of Alcohol Reductant 5

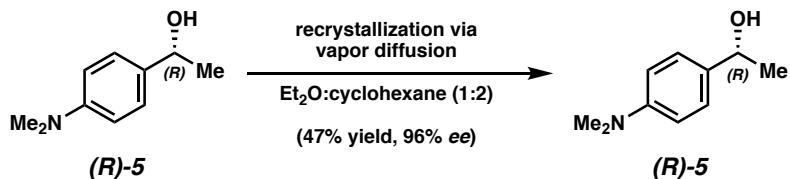


To a flame-dried flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (2.56 g, 67.4 mmol, 1.10 equiv) in a glovebox. The flask was removed from the glovebox, THF (61.0 mL) was added, and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. To the solution was then added ketone **26** (2.00 g, 61.5 mmol each, 0.200 equiv) in 5 aliquots over 25 min. The reaction was then warmed to 23 °C. After stirring for 2 h, the reaction was cooled to 0 °C and quenched by the sequential addition of deionized water (5 mL), 10% aq. NaOH (7 ml), MeOH (20 mL), and deionized water (10 mL). The mixture was then warmed to 23 °C and stirred for 30 min. The mixture was then filtered over a pad of celite (100 mL EtOAc eluent). The resulting organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography (5:1 Hexanes:EtOAc → 3:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) to yield alcohol **5** (9.42 g, 93% yield) as a white solid. Alcohol **5**:  $R_f$  0.33 (3:1 Hexanes:EtOAc). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>4</sup>

### C. Synthesis of Enantioenriched Alcohol Reductant (*R*-5)



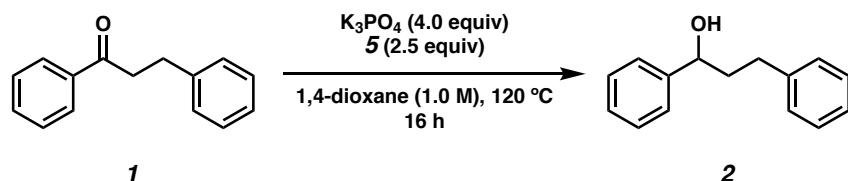
To a flame-dried flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added (S)-(-)-CBS catalyst (170 mg, 0.613 mmol, 0.100 equiv). The flask was removed from the glovebox and THF (6.13 mL) was added. Next, **26** (1.00 g, 6.13 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in a solution of THF (2.50 mL) was added to the reaction flask, which was then stirred to give a clear homogeneous solution and cooled to 0 °C. Subsequently, BH<sub>3</sub>•SMe<sub>2</sub> (1.70 mL, 18.4 mmol, 3.00 equiv) was added (1 drop/2 sec) over 7.50 min. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 2 min, then warmed to 23 °C. After stirring for 30 min, the reaction was cooled to 0 °C and quenched by the dropwise addition of methanol (20 mL) and water (20 mL) and diluted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (80 mL), sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (80 mL), and brine (80 mL). The organic layer was then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography (10:1 Hexanes:EtOAc → 3:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) to yield alcohol (**R**)-**5** (871 mg, 86% yield, 81% ee) as a white solid. Alcohol (**R**)-**5**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.33 (3:1 Hexanes:EtOAc). The spectral data match those previously reported in the literature for *rac*-**5**.<sup>4</sup> The SFC data match those reported in the Experimental Procedures Section G.



A solution of **(R)-5** (25.0 mg, 0.151 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (1.00 mL) was filtered through a 0.45 µm Millipore Millex PTFE filter into a 1-dram vial. The vial was then placed within a 20 mL scintillation vial containing cyclohexane (2.00 mL). The scintillation vial was sealed and allowed to stand at 23 °C for 24 h, which led to the formation of white crystals. This vapor

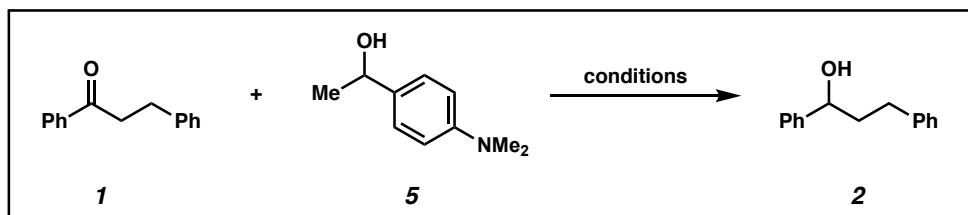
diffusion crystallization process was repeated three times to lead to the recovery of alcohol (**R**)-**5** (11.8 mg, 47% yield, 96% ee) as a white crystalline solid.  $[\alpha]_D^{23.1} = +51.6$  ( $c = 1.00$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The spectral data match those previously reported in the literature for *rac*-**5**.<sup>4</sup> The major enantiomer product was assigned by comparison to published  $[\alpha]_D$  values for (**R**)-**5**.<sup>5</sup>

#### D. Survey of Reaction Conditions and Relevant Control Experiments



**Representative Procedure for Base-Mediated MPV Reduction from Table S1 (reduction of ketone **1** with alcohol **5** is used as an example).** A 1-dram vial was charged with anhydrous powdered K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (85.0 mg, 0.400 mmol, 4.00 equiv) and a magnetic stir bar. The vial and its contents were flame-dried under reduced pressure, then allowed to cool under N<sub>2</sub>. Ketone substrate **1** (21.0 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and alcohol reductant **5** (41.3 mg, 0.250 mmol, 2.50 equiv) were added. The vial was flushed with N<sub>2</sub>, and then 1,4-dioxane (0.100 mL, 1.00 M) was added. Under a stream of N<sub>2</sub>, the vial septum cap was quickly switched for a Teflon-lined screw cap, sealed, then further sealed with electrical tape. The reaction was stirred vigorously (800 rpm) at 120 °C for 16 h. After cooling to 23 °C, the mixture was diluted with hexanes (0.5 mL) and filtered over a plug of silica gel (1 cm OD x 5 cm, 10 mL EtOAc eluent). The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the yield of alcohol **2** was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an external standard.

*Any modifications of the conditions shown in the representative procedure above are specified below in Table S1.*

***Experimental Results<sup>a</sup>***

<b>Reaction Conditions</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
5 (2.5 equiv), K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (4.0 equiv), dioxane (1.0 M), 120 °C, 16 h	0%	99%
5 (2.5 equiv), K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (4.0 equiv), dioxane (1.0 M), 80 °C, 16 h	0%	99%
5 (2.5 equiv), K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (4.0 equiv), dioxane (1.0 M), 120 °C, 3 h	<5%	98%
5 (2.5 equiv), K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (4.0 equiv), 2-Me THF (1.0 M), 80 °C, 16 h	0%	99%
5 (2.5 equiv), K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (4.0 equiv), <i>t</i> -amyl alcohol (1.0 M), 80 °C, 16 h	<5%	98%
5 (2.5 equiv), K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (4.0 equiv), <i>n</i> -heptane (1.0 M), 80 °C, 16 h	11%	89%
<b>Control Experiments:</b>		
5 (2.5 equiv), K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (4.0 equiv), dioxane (1.0 M), 120 °C, 16 h <i>Ran in the dark</i>	0%	99%
5 (2.5 equiv), K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (4.0 equiv), H <sub>2</sub> O (2.0 equiv), dioxane (1.0 M), 120 °C, 16 h	<5%	95%
5 (2.5 equiv), K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (4.0 equiv), dioxane (1.0 M), 120 °C, 16 h <i>Ran under an atmosphere of air</i>	12%	88%

<sup>a</sup> Yields were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an external standard.

**Table S1.** Survey of Reaction Conditions and Relevant Control Experiments

## E. Trace Metal Analysis

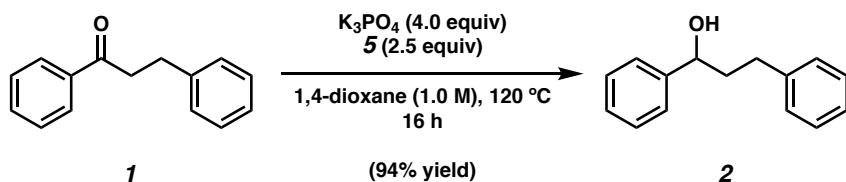
**Representative Procedure for Trace Metal Analysis (preparation of K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> is used as an example).** A 15-mL conical tube was charged with K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (95.2 mg, 1.00 equiv) and the sample was diluted with milli-Q water (6.8 mL) to a final concentration of 1.4% (w/w). Subsequently, ICP-MS-grade 70% nitric acid (200 µl) was added to each sample (2% final nitric acid concentration).

Sample: K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	
Metal	Concentration (ppm) (average of two samples)
Fe	0.00809
Al	0.000
Co	0.000
B	0.0240
Ti	0.0420
Mg	0.00189
Mn	7.84 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>
Sc	0.000
Rb	0.203
Ni	0.0303
Cu	0.000
Zn	0.000
Ru	9.46 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>
Rh	0.000
Pd	1.53 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>
Ag	0.000
Ir	1.17 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>
Pt	0.000

<b>Sample: 1,4-dioxane</b>	
<b>Metal</b>	<b>Concentration (ppm) (average of two samples)</b>
<b>Fe</b>	0.00369
<b>Al</b>	0.00384
<b>Co</b>	0.000130
<b>B</b>	0.00570
<b>Ti</b>	0.00250
<b>Mg</b>	0.01780
<b>Mn</b>	0.000151
<b>Sc</b>	0.00190
<b>Rb</b>	$3.41 \times 10^{-5}$
<b>Ni</b>	0.354
<b>Cu</b>	0.000
<b>Zn</b>	0.000
<b>Ru</b>	0.000
<b>Rh</b>	0.000
<b>Pd</b>	$1.06 \times 10^{-5}$
<b>Ag</b>	$2.85 \times 10^{-5}$
<b>Ir</b>	0.000
<b>Pt</b>	0.000

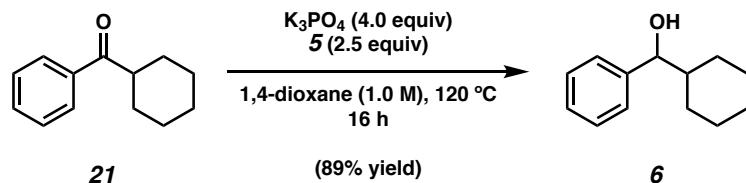
<b>Sample: Alcohol Reductant 5</b>	
<b>Metal</b>	<b>Concentration (ppm) (average of two samples)</b>
<b>Fe</b>	0.00352
<b>Al</b>	0.00121
<b>Co</b>	$3.20 \times 10^{-5}$
<b>B</b>	0.0211
<b>Ti</b>	0.000642
<b>Mg</b>	0.0125
<b>Mn</b>	$1.81 \times 10^{-5}$
<b>Sc</b>	0.000962
<b>Rb</b>	$5.15 \times 10^{-6}$
<b>Ni</b>	0.113
<b>Cu</b>	0.000
<b>Zn</b>	0.000
<b>Ru</b>	0.000
<b>Rh</b>	$9.31 \times 10^{-7}$
<b>Pd</b>	$3.00 \times 10^{-6}$
<b>Ag</b>	$7.91 \times 10^{-6}$
<b>Ir</b>	0.000
<b>Pt</b>	$1.76 \times 10^{-6}$

## F. Scope of Methodology

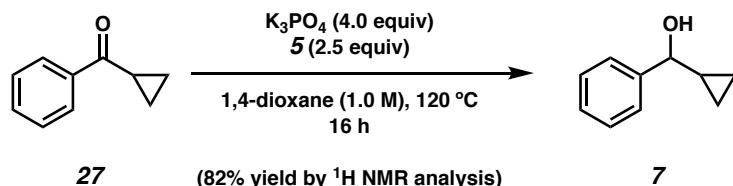


**Representative Procedure for Base-Mediated MPV Reduction from Figure 2 (reduction of ketone **1** with alcohol **5** is used as an example). Alcohol **2**.** A 1-dram vial was charged with anhydrous powdered  $\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4$  (85.0 mg, 0.400 mmol, 4.00 equiv) and a magnetic stir bar. The vial and its contents were flame-dried under reduced pressure, then allowed to cool under  $\text{N}_2$ . Ketone substrate **1** (21.0 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and alcohol reductant **5** (41.3 mg, 0.250 mmol, 2.50 equiv) were added. The vial was purged with  $\text{N}_2$ , and then 1,4-dioxane (0.100 mL, 1.00 M) was added. Under a stream of  $\text{N}_2$ , the vial septum cap was quickly switched for a Teflon-lined screw cap, sealed, then further sealed with electrical tape. The reaction was stirred vigorously (800 rpm) at 120 °C for 16 h. After cooling to 23 °C, the reaction was quenched by the addition of sat. aq.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (1.00 mL) and diluted with EtOAc (2.00 mL) and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 2.00 mL) and the combined organic layers were passed through a plug (1.00 cm OD) of silica gel (3.00 cm tall) and  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  (3.00 cm tall) using EtOAc (10.0 mL) as eluent. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography (99:1 Hexanes:EtOAc → 19:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) to yield alcohol **2** (20 mg, 94% yield, average of two experiments) as a clear oil. Alcohol **2**:  $R_f$  0.32 (5:1 Hexanes:EtOAc).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.41–7.33 (m, 4H), 7.32–7.26 (m, 3H), 7.23–7.16 (m, 3H), 4.78–4.61 (m, 1H), 2.85–2.61 (m, 2H), 2.23–1.97 (m, 2H), 1.87 (d,  $J$  = 3.5 Hz, 1H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>6</sup>

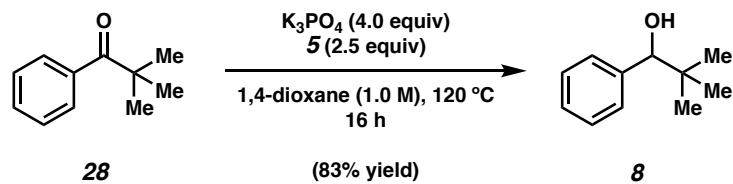
*Any modifications of the conditions shown in the representative procedure above are specified in the following schemes, which depict all of the results shown in Figures 2 and 3.*



**Alcohol 6.** Purification by flash chromatography (99:1 Hexanes:EtOAc → 19:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) generated alcohol **6** (17 mg, 89% yield, average of two experiments) as a crystalline white solid. Alcohol **6**:  $R_f$  0.39 (5:1 Hexanes:EtOAc).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.38–7.25 (m, 5H), 4.37 (dd,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.03–1.92 (m, 1H), 1.84–1.72 (m, 2H), 1.71–1.57 (m, 3H), 1.41–1.33 (m, 1H), 1.29–1.00 (m, 4H), 0.99–0.87 (m, 1H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>7</sup>

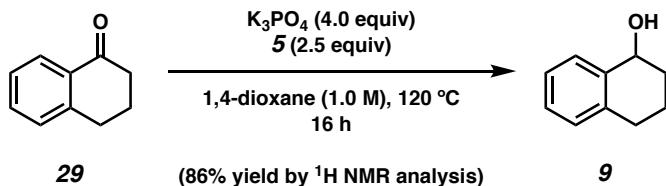


**Alcohol 7.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture indicated an 82% yield of alcohol 7 relative to hexamethylbenzene external standard (average of two experiments). Purification by preparative thin-layer chromatography (3:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) provided an analytical sample of alcohol 7 as a clear oil. Alcohol 7:  $R_f$  0.30 (5:1 Hexanes:EtOAc).  $.^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.46–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 1H), 4.02 (dd,  $J$  = 8.3, 3.0, 1H), 1.90 (d,  $J$  = 3.0, 1H), 1.28–1.18 (m, 1H), 0.69–0.61 (m, 1H), 0.60–0.52 (m, 1H), 0.52–0.44 (m, 1H), 0.42–0.34 (m, 1H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>8</sup>

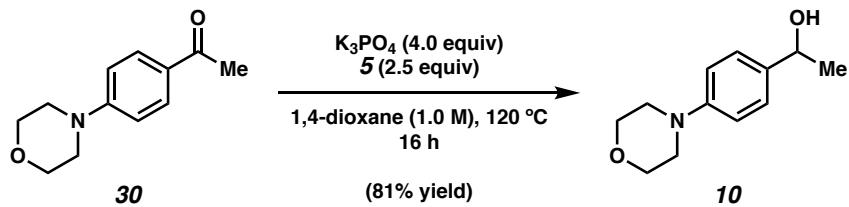


**Alcohol 8.** Purification by flash chromatography (24:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) generated alcohol **8** (14 mg, 83% yield, average of two experiments) as a white crystalline solid. Alcohol **8**:  $R_f$  0.52 (5:1

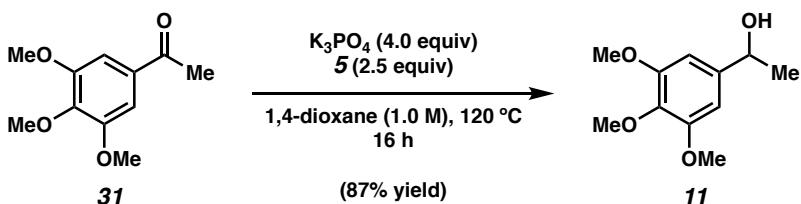
Hexanes:EtOAc).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.35–7.30 (m, 4H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 1H), 4.40 (d,  $J$  = 2.8, 1H), 1.84 (d,  $J$  = 2.8, 1H), 0.93 (s, 9H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>9</sup>



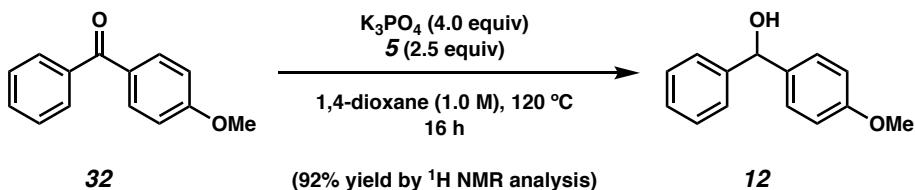
**Alcohol 9.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture indicated an 86% yield of alcohol **9** relative to hexamethylbenzene external standard (average of two experiments). Purification by preparative thin-layer chromatography (9:1 PhH:Acetone) provided an analytical sample of alcohol **9** as a clear oil. Alcohol **9**:  $R_f$  0.50 (9:1 PhH:Acetone).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.48–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.24–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.14–7.05 (m, 1H), 4.84–4.71 (m, 1H), 2.88–2.78 (m, 1H), 2.87–2.67 (m, 1H), 2.05–1.95 (m, 2H), 1.95–1.87 (m, 1H), 1.85–1.73 (m, 1H), 1.71–1.60 (m, 1H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>10</sup>



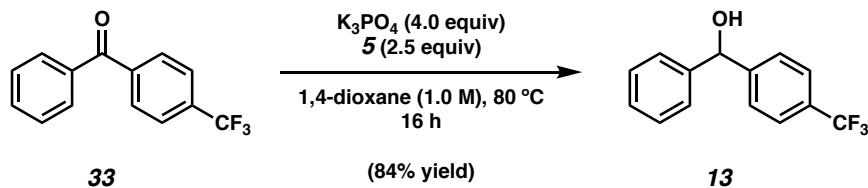
**Alcohol 10.** Purification by flash chromatography (2:2:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:Et<sub>2</sub>O:Hexanes) generated alcohol **10** (17 mg, 81% yield, average of two experiments) as a pale yellow solid. Alcohol **10**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.24 (1:1:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:Et<sub>2</sub>O:Hexanes). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.33–7.28 (m, 2H), 6.93–6.87 (m, 2H), 4.85 (dq, *J* = 6.4, 3.5, 1H), 3.90–3.83 (m, 4H), 3.19–3.12 (m, 4H), 1.67 (d, *J* = 3.5, 1H), 1.48 (d, *J* = 6.4, 3H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>11</sup>



**Alcohol 11.** Purification by flash chromatography (9:1 Hexanes:EtOAc → 2:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) generated alcohol **11** (18 mg, 87% yield, average of two experiments) as a clear oil. Alcohol **11**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.33 (1:1 Hexanes:EtOAc). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.60 (s, 2H), 4.89–4.77 (m, 1H), 3.86 (s, 6H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.99–1.80 (m, 1H), 1.48 (d, J = 6.4, 3H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>11</sup>

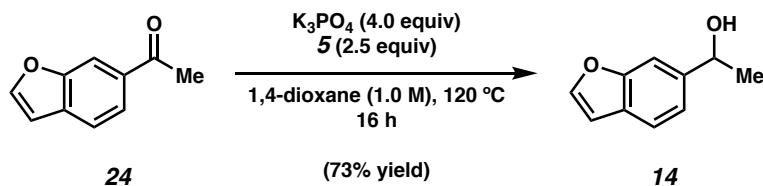


**Alcohol 12.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture indicated a 92% yield of alcohol **12** relative to hexamethylbenzene external standard (average of two experiments). Purification by preparative thin-layer chromatography (3:3:2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:Et<sub>2</sub>O:Hexanes) provided an analytical sample of alcohol **12** as a pale yellow solid. Alcohol **12**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.70 (1:1:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:Et<sub>2</sub>O:Hexanes).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.40–7.31 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.23 (m, 3H), 6.93–6.81 (m, 2H), 5.82 (d, *J* = 3.0, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.15 (d, *J* = 3.4, 1H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>7</sup>

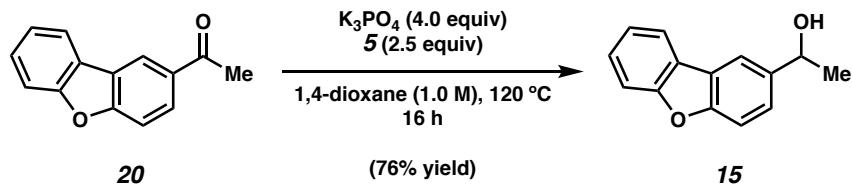


**Alcohol 13.** Purification by flash chromatography (9:1 Hexanes:Et<sub>2</sub>O → 3:1 Hexanes:Et<sub>2</sub>O) generated alcohol **13** (21 mg, 84% yield, average of two experiments) as a clear oil. Alcohol **13**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.30 (5:1 Hexanes:Et<sub>2</sub>O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.3, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* =

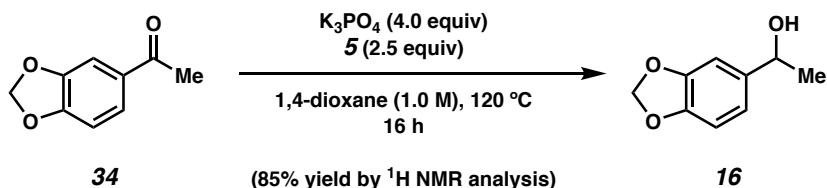
8.3, 2H), 7.42–7.34 (m, 4H), 7.34–7.28 (m, 1H), 5.88 (s, 1H), 2.46–2.32 (m, 1H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>7</sup>



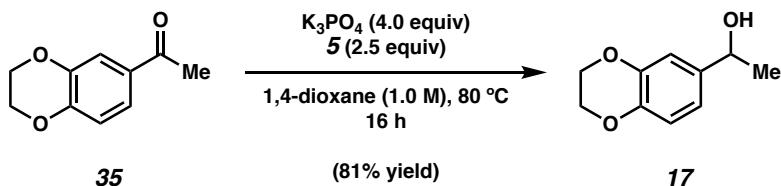
**Alcohol 14.** Purification by flash chromatography (90:9:1 → 15:9:1 Hexanes:PhH:Acetone) generated alcohol **14** (12 mg, 73% yield, average of two experiments) as a yellow oil. Alcohol **14**:  $R_f$  0.39 (9:1 PhH:Acetone);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta$  7.50–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.35 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 1.4, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (dd,  $J$  = 2.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (q,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.29 (d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.14, (br s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.3, 145.4, 142.8, 126.9, 121.2, 120.6, 108.4, 106.5, 70.7, 25.6; IR (film): 3350, 2972, 2926, 1430, 1265  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS-APCI ( $m/z$ )  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2^+$ , 163.0754; found 163.0746.



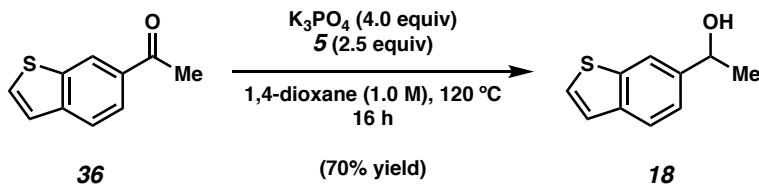
**Alcohol 15.** Purification by flash chromatography (90:9:1 → 25:9:1 Hexanes:PhH:Acetone) generated alcohol **15** (16 mg, 76% yield, average of two experiments) as a yellow solid. Alcohol **15**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.35 (9:1 PhH:Acetone). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.03–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.60–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.0, 1H), 5.09 (dq, *J* = 6.4, 3.3, 1H), 1.90 (d, *J* = 3.3, 1H), 1.60 (d, *J* = 6.4, 3H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>12</sup>



**Alcohol 16.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture indicated an 85% yield of alcohol **16** relative to hexamethylbenzene external standard. Purification by preparative thin-layer chromatography (13:1:1 PhH:Et<sub>2</sub>O:CH<sub>3</sub>CN) provided an analytical sample of alcohol **16** as a yellow oil. Alcohol **16**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.30 (13:1:1 PhH:Et<sub>2</sub>O:CH<sub>3</sub>CN);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 4.86–4.79 (m, 1H), 1.70 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 147.9, 147.0, 140.1, 118.8, 108.2, 106.2, 101.1, 70.4, 25.3; IR (film): 3361, 2972, 2890, 1487, 1240 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (*m/z*) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, 167.0703; found 167.0699.

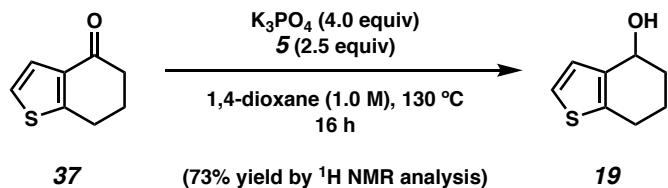


**Alcohol 17.** Purification by flash chromatography (98:1:1 → 28:1:1 PhH:Et<sub>2</sub>O:CH<sub>3</sub>CN) generated alcohol **17** (15 mg, 81% yield, average of two experiments) as a yellow oil. Alcohol **17**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.32 (13:1:1 PhH:Et<sub>2</sub>O:CH<sub>3</sub>CN). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.92–6.88 (m, 1H), 6.86–6.81 (m, 2H), 4.80 (dq, *J* = 6.4, 3.6, 1H), 4.25 (s, 4H), 1.69 (d, *J* = 3.6, 1H), 1.46 (d, *J* = 6.4, 3H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>13</sup>



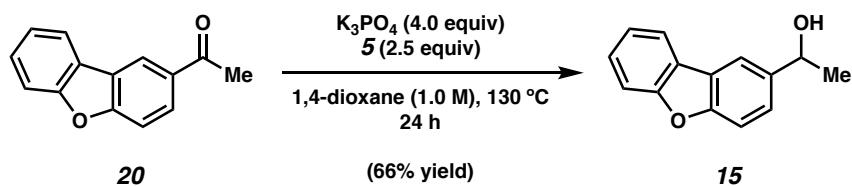
**Alcohol 18.** Purification by flash chromatography (90:9:1 → 40:9:1 Hexanes:PhH:Acetone) generated alcohol **8** (12 mg, 70% yield, average of two experiments) as a yellow oil. Alcohol **18**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.38 (9:1 PhH:Acetone); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.2 Hz,

1H), 7.43 (d,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 1H), 5.10–5.0 (m, 1H), 1.85 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.56 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  142.3, 140.1, 139.2, 126.6, 123.8, 123.7, 122.3, 119.2, 70.7, 25.5; IR (film): 3351, 2971, 1398, 1197, 1074  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS-APCI ( $m/z$ ) [M] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{OS}^+$ , 178.0447; found 178.0437.



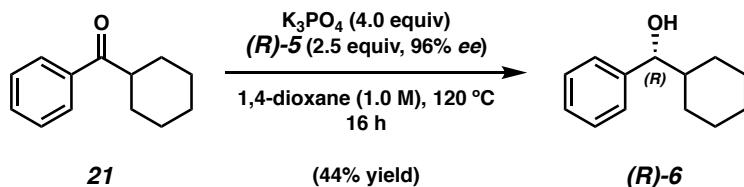
**Alcohol 19.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture indicated a 73% yield of alcohol **19** relative to hexamethylbenzene external standard. Purification by preparative thin-layer chromatography (1:1:1 Hexanes:Et<sub>2</sub>O:CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) provided an analytical sample of alcohol **19** as a white crystalline solid. Alcohol **19**:  $R_f$  0.48 (1:1:1 Hexanes:Et<sub>2</sub>O:CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.10 (dt,  $J = 5.2, 0.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.82–4.75 (m, 1H), 2.89–2.79 (m, 1H), 2.77–2.67 (m, 1H), 2.06–1.94 (m, 2H), 1.93–1.79 (m, 2H), 1.64 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  139.0, 138.1, 126.7, 122.9, 65.6, 32.5, 25.2, 20.1; IR (film): 3235, 2936, 2921, 1431, 982  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS-APCI ( $m/z$ ) [M + H] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{11}\text{OS}^+$ , 155.0525; found 155.0521.

## G. Gram-Scale Base-Mediated MPV Reduction



**Alcohol 15.** An 8-dram vial was charged with anhydrous powdered K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (4.04 g, 19.0 mmol, 4.00 equiv) and a magnetic stir bar. The vial and its contents were flame-dried under reduced pressure, then allowed to cool under N<sub>2</sub>. Ketone substrate **20** (1.00 g, 4.76 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and alcohol reductant **5** (1.96 g, 11.9 mmol, 2.50 equiv) were then added. The vial was flushed with N<sub>2</sub> and subsequently 1,4-dioxane (4.76 mL, 1.00 M) was added. Under a stream of N<sub>2</sub>, the vial septum cap was quickly switched for a Teflon-lined screw cap, sealed, then further sealed with electrical tape. The reaction was then stirred vigorously (800 rpm) at 130 °C for 24 h. After cooling to 23 °C, the reaction was quenched by the addition of sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (8.00 mL) and diluted with EtOAc (6.00 mL) and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 6.00 mL) and the combined organic layers were passed through a plug (1.00 cm OD) of silica gel (3.00 cm tall) and Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (3.00 cm tall) using EtOAc (10.0 mL) as eluent. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography (60:9:1 Hexanes:PhH:Acetone → 5:9:1 Hexanes:PhH:Acetone) to yield alcohol **15** (664 mg, 66% yield) as a yellow solid. Alcohol **15**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.32 (5:1 Hexanes:EtOAc). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>12</sup>

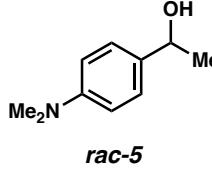
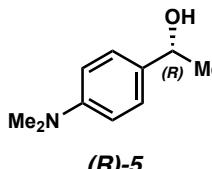
## H. Stereospecific Base-Mediated MPV Reduction

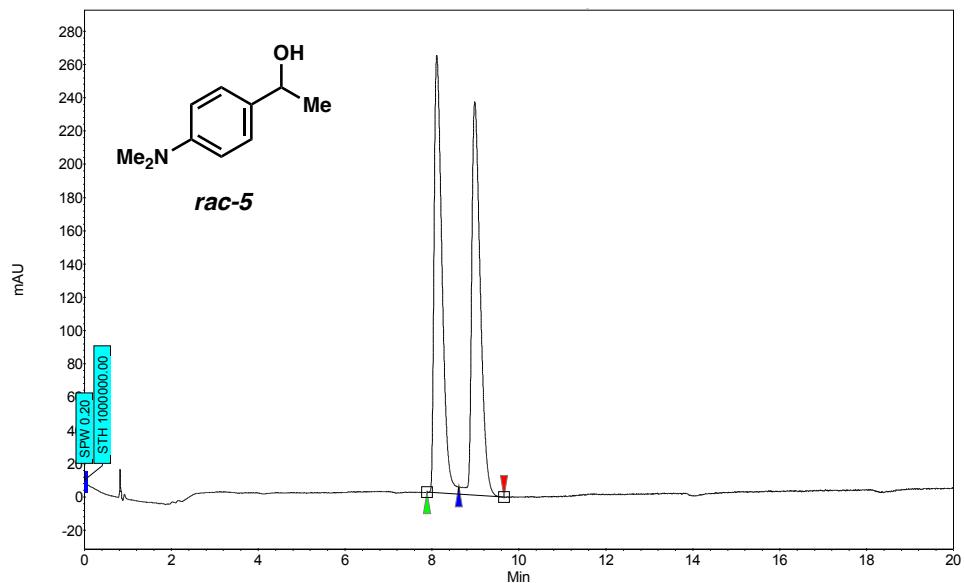


**Alcohol (R)-6.** A 1-dram vial was charged with anhydrous powdered  $\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4$  (85.0 mg, 0.400 mmol, 4.00 equiv) and a magnetic stir bar. The vial and its contents were flame-dried under reduced pressure, then allowed to cool under  $\text{N}_2$ . Ketone substrate **21** (18.8 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and alcohol reductant **(R)-5** (41.3 mg, 0.250 mmol, 2.50 equiv) were added. The vial was purged with  $\text{N}_2$  and subsequently, 1,4-dioxane (0.100 mL, 1.00 M) was added. Under a stream of  $\text{N}_2$ , the vial septum cap was quickly switched for a Teflon-lined screw cap, sealed, then further sealed with electrical tape. The reaction was stirred vigorously (800 rpm) at 120 °C for 16 h. After cooling to 23 °C, the reaction was quenched by the addition of sat. aq.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (1.00 mL) and diluted with EtOAc (2.00 mL) and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 2.00 mL) and the combined organic layers were passed through a plug (1.00 cm OD) of silica gel (3.00 cm tall) and  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  (3.00 cm tall) using EtOAc (10.0 mL) as eluent. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography (99:1 Hexanes:EtOAc → 19:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) to yield alcohol **(R)-6** (8.4 mg, 44% yield, 48% ee) as a white crystalline solid. Alcohol **(R)-6**:  $R_f$  0.39 (5:1 Hexanes:EtOAc).  $[\alpha]_D^{21.1} = +20.8$  ( $c = 0.50$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). The spectral data match those previously reported in the literature for *rac*-**6**.<sup>7</sup> The major enantiomer product was assigned by comparison to published  $[\alpha]_D$  values for **(R)-6**.<sup>14</sup>

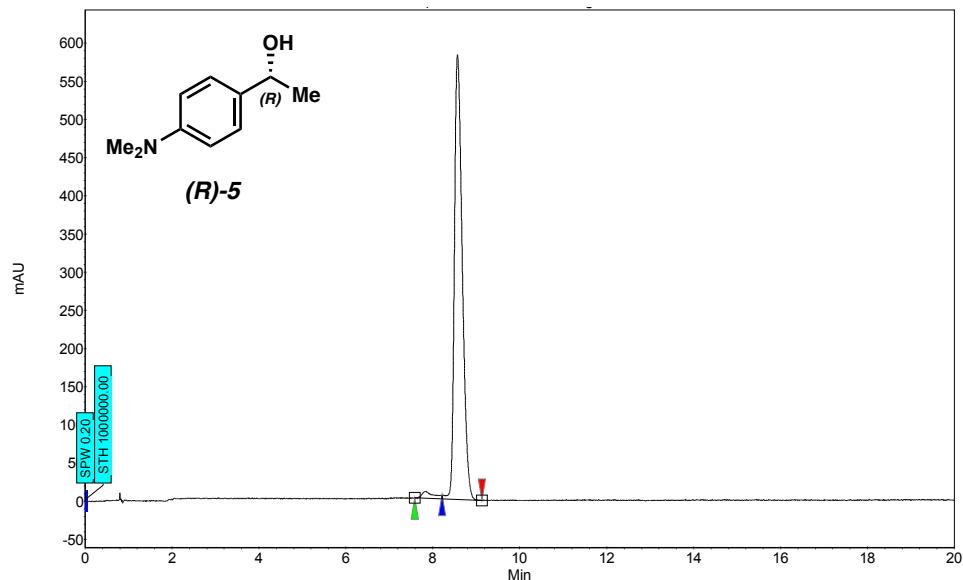
## G. Verification of Enantiopurity

### Chiral SFC & HPLC Assays

Compound	SFC Method Column/Temp. Abs. Wavelength	Solvent	Method Flow Rate	Retention Times (min)	Enantiomeric Ratio (er)
	Daicel ChiralPak IC-3/35 °C $\lambda_{\text{abs}} = 210 \text{ nm}$	5% isopropanol in $\text{CO}_2$	3.5 mL/min	7.88/8.61	50:50
	Daicel ChiralPak IC-3/35 °C $\lambda_{\text{abs}} = 210 \text{ nm}$	5% isopropanol in $\text{CO}_2$	3.5 mL/min	7.58/8.22	98:2

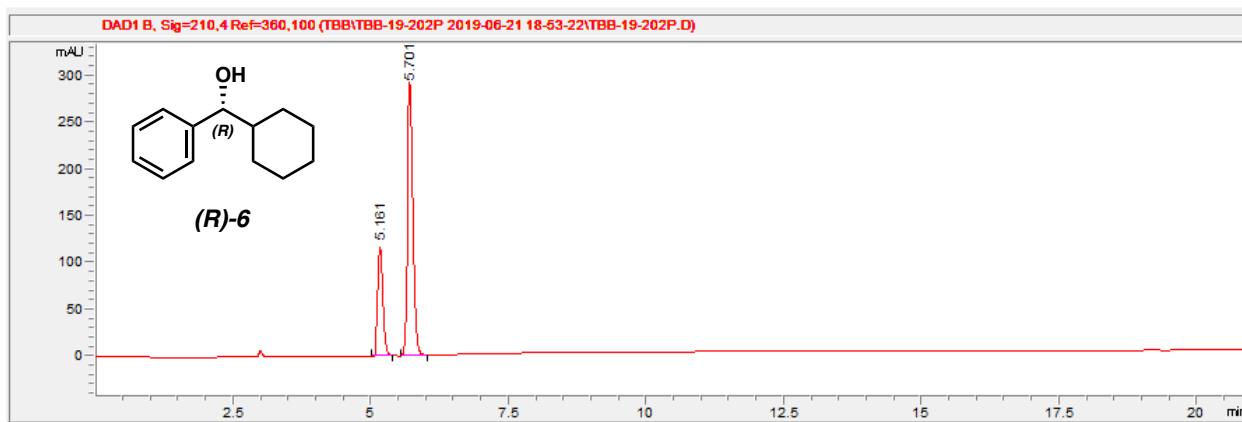
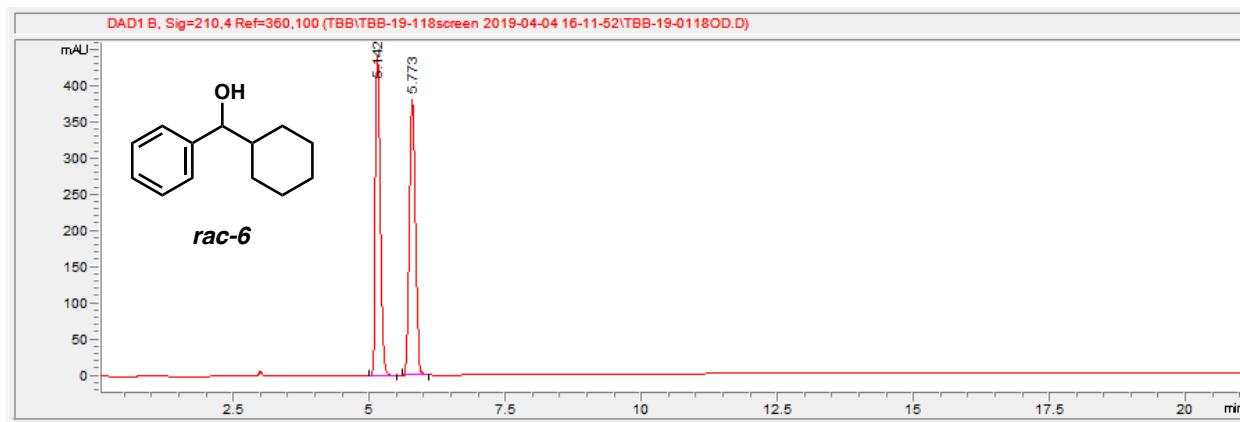


Index	Name	Start [Min]	Time [Min]	End [Min]	RT Offset [Min]	Quantity [% Area]	Height [ $\mu\text{V}$ ]	Area [ $\mu\text{V}.\text{Min}$ ]	Area [%]
1	UNKNOWN	7.88	8.11	8.61	0.00	50.43	263.1	55.4	50.434
2	UNKNOWN		8.61	8.99	0.00	49.57	236.6	54.5	49.566
Total						100.00	499.7	109.9	100.000



Index	Name	Start [Min]	Time [Min]	End [Min]	RT Offset [Min]	Quantity [% Area]	Height [μV]	Area [μV.Min]	Area [%]
1	UNKNOWN	7.58	7.82	8.22	0.00	2.18	8.7	2.7	2.176
2	UNKNOWN	8.22	8.57	9.13	0.00	97.82	582.5	122.1	97.824
Total						100.00	591.1	124.8	100.000

Compound	HPLC Method Column/Temp. Abs. Wavelength	Solvent	Method Flow Rate	Retention Times (min)	Enantiomeric Ratio (er)
	Daicel ChiralPak OD-H/23 °C $\lambda_{abs} = 210\text{ nm}$	10% isopropanol in Hexanes	1 mL/min	5.14/5.77	50:50
	Daicel ChiralPak OD-H/23 °C $\lambda_{abs} = 210\text{ nm}$	10% isopropanol in Hexanes	1 mL/min	5.16/5.70	74:26



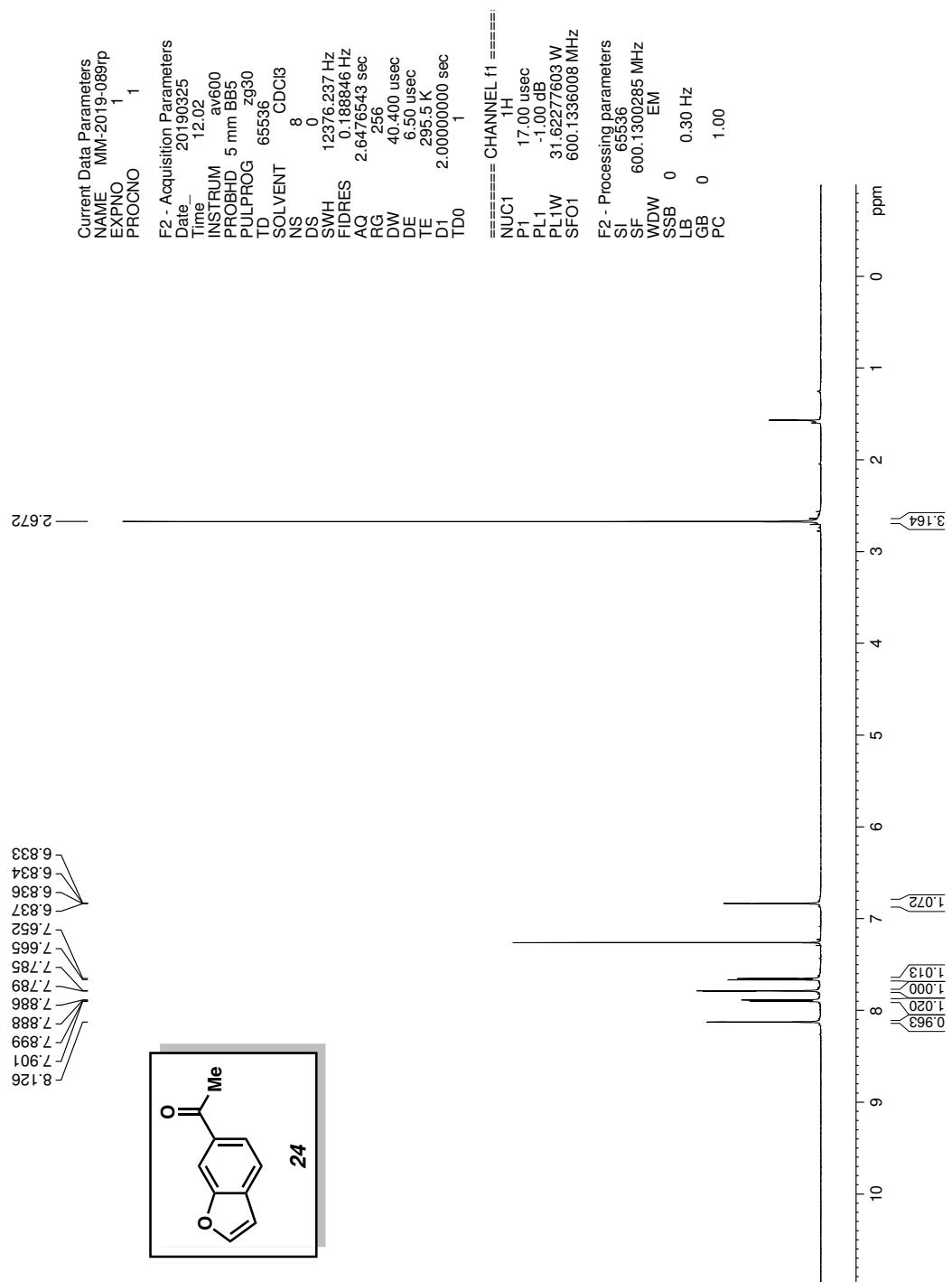
## References

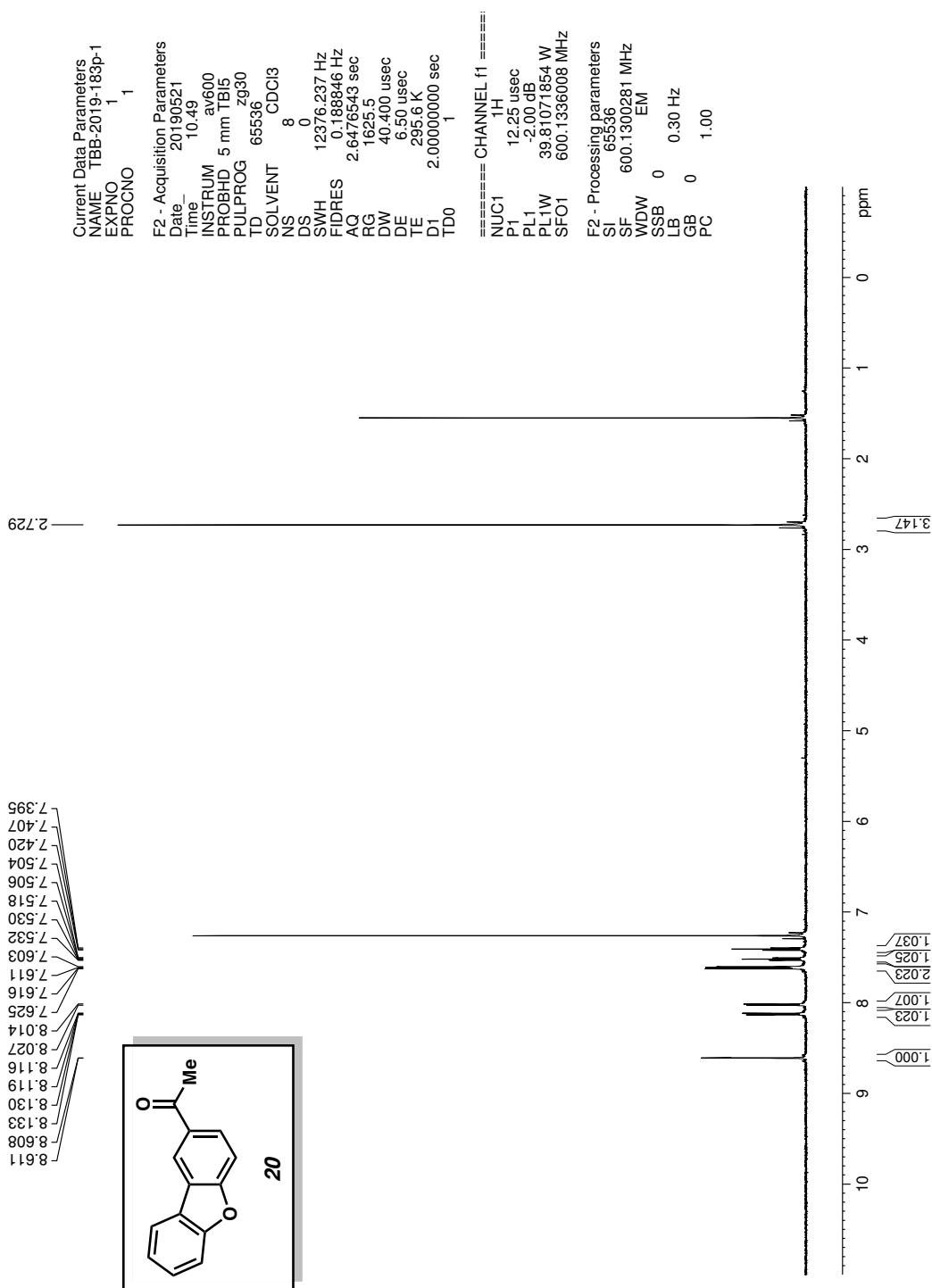
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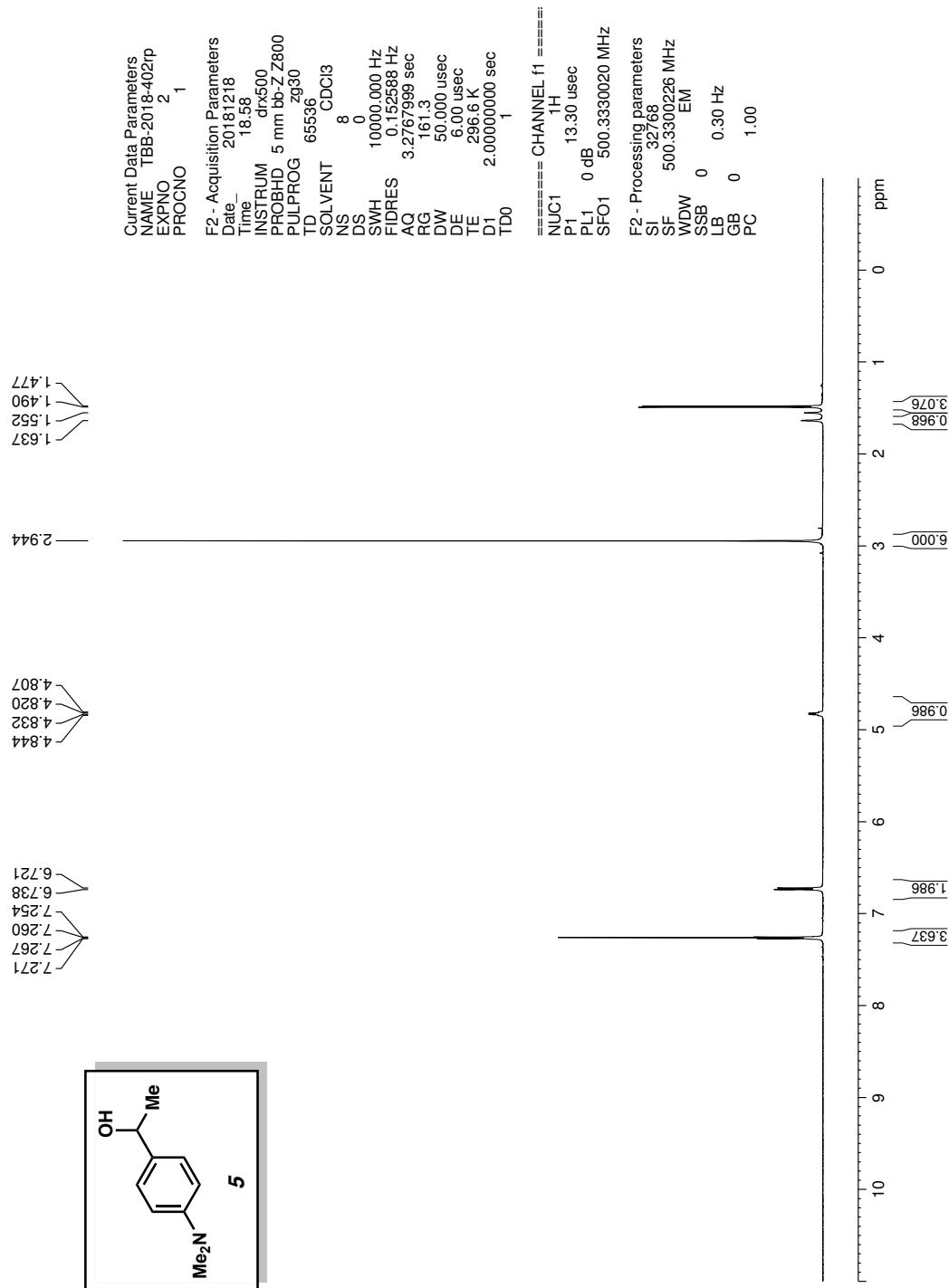
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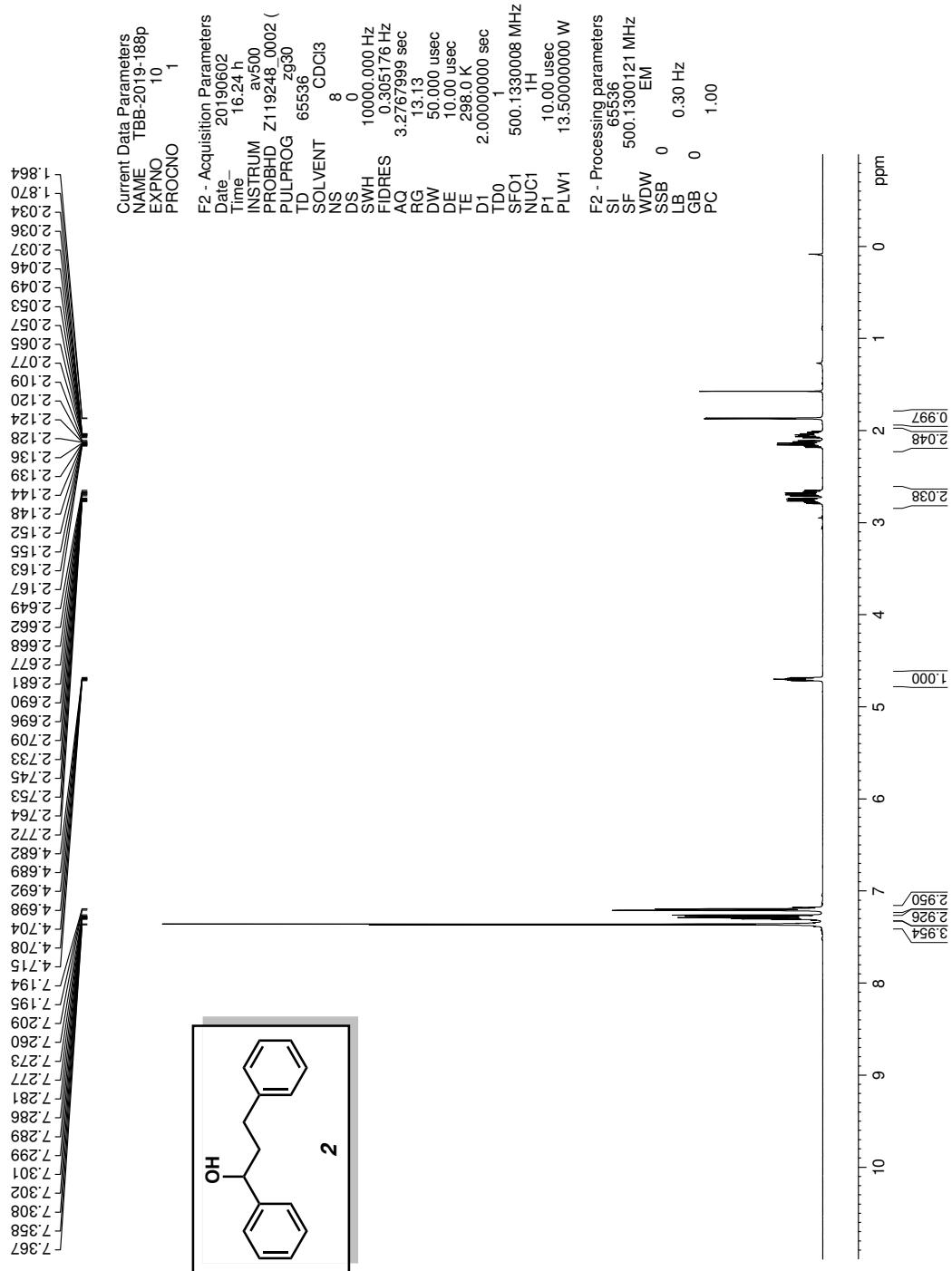
<sup>14</sup> Stepanenko, V.; De Jesús, M.; Correa, W.; Guzmán, I.; Vázquez, C.; de la Cruz, W.; Ortiz-Marciales, M.; Barnes, C. L. Enantioselective reduction of prochiral ketones using spiroborate esters as catalysts. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2007**, *48*, 5799–5802.

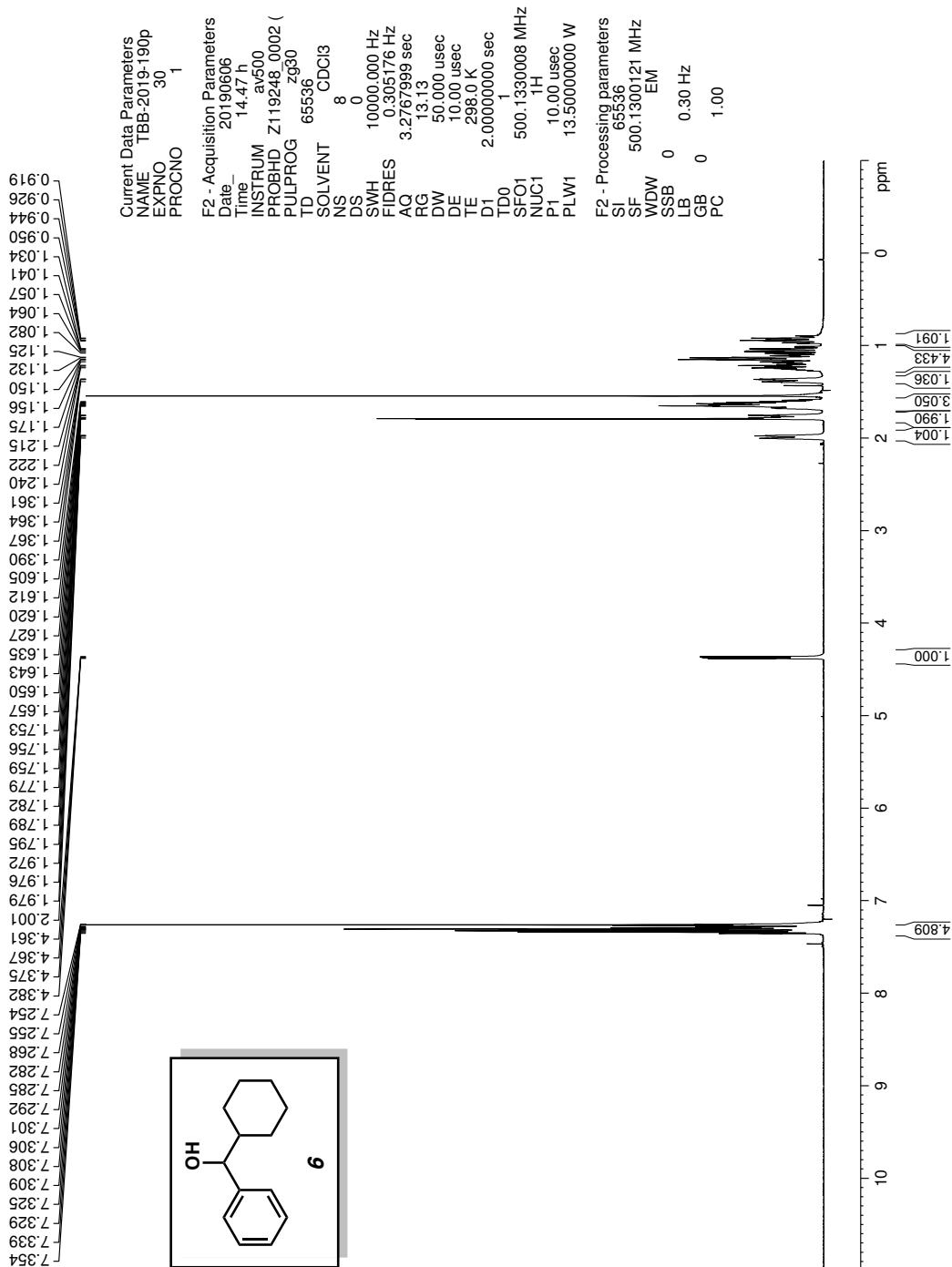
# $^1\text{H}$ NMR Spectra

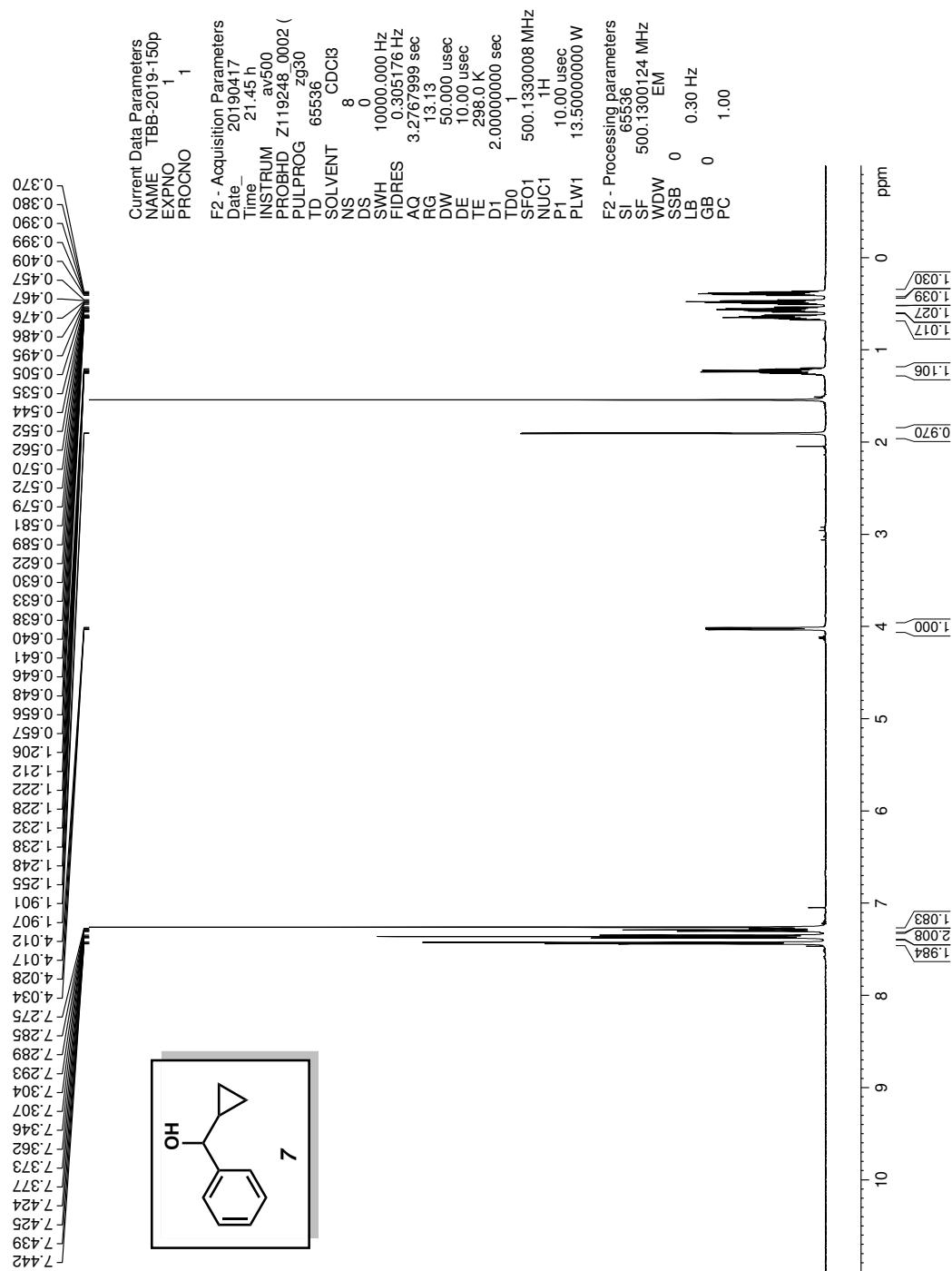


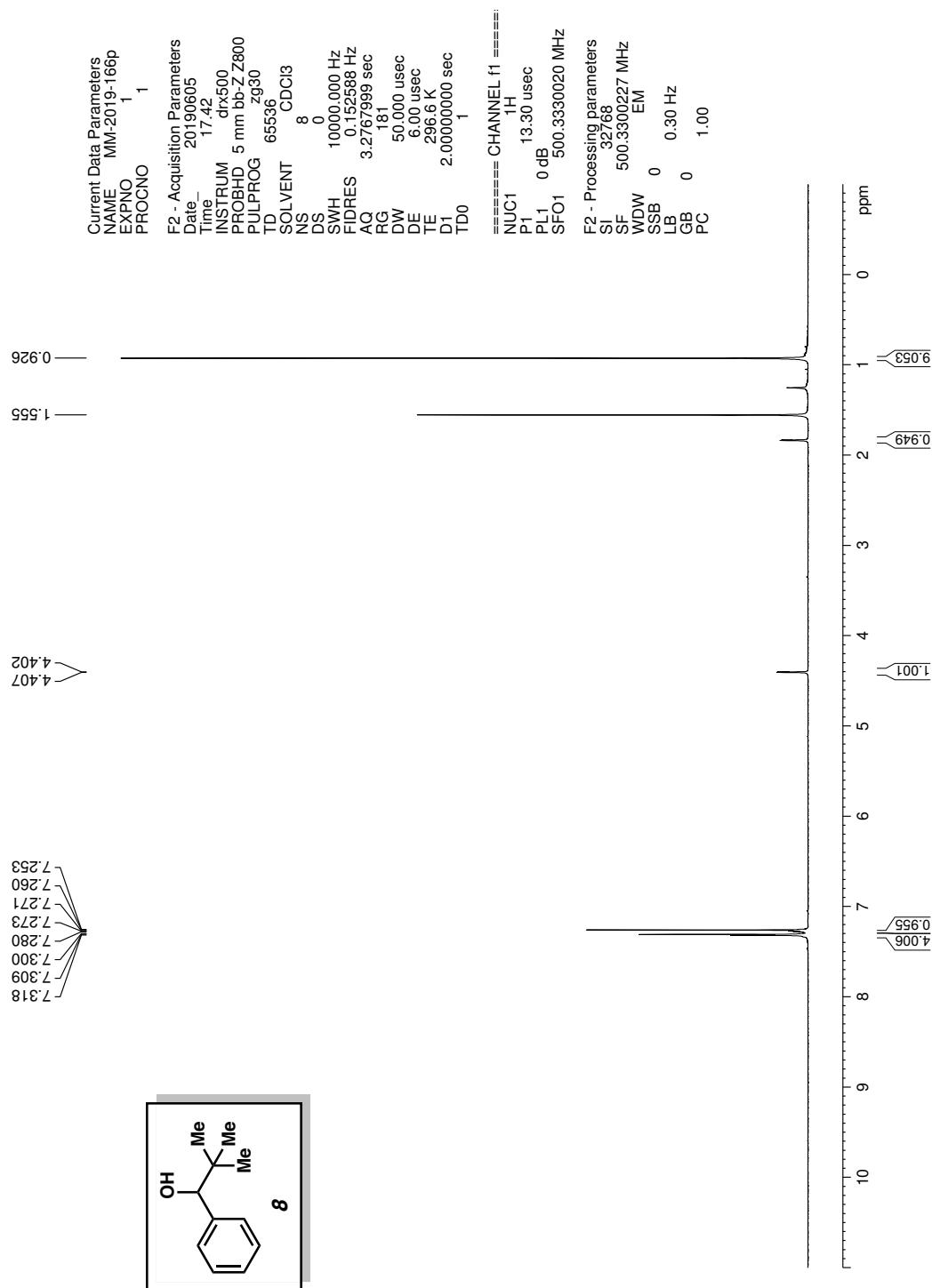


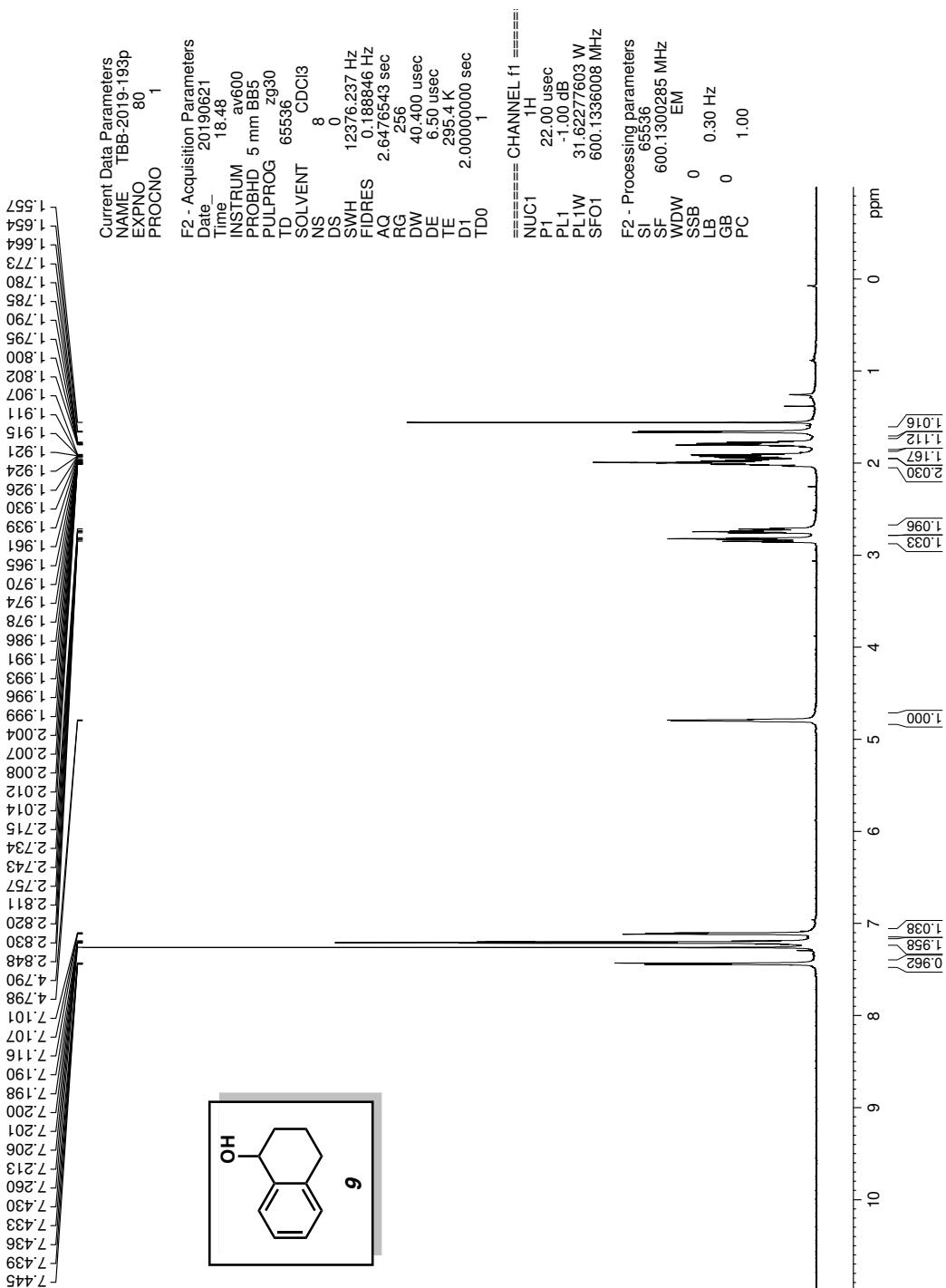


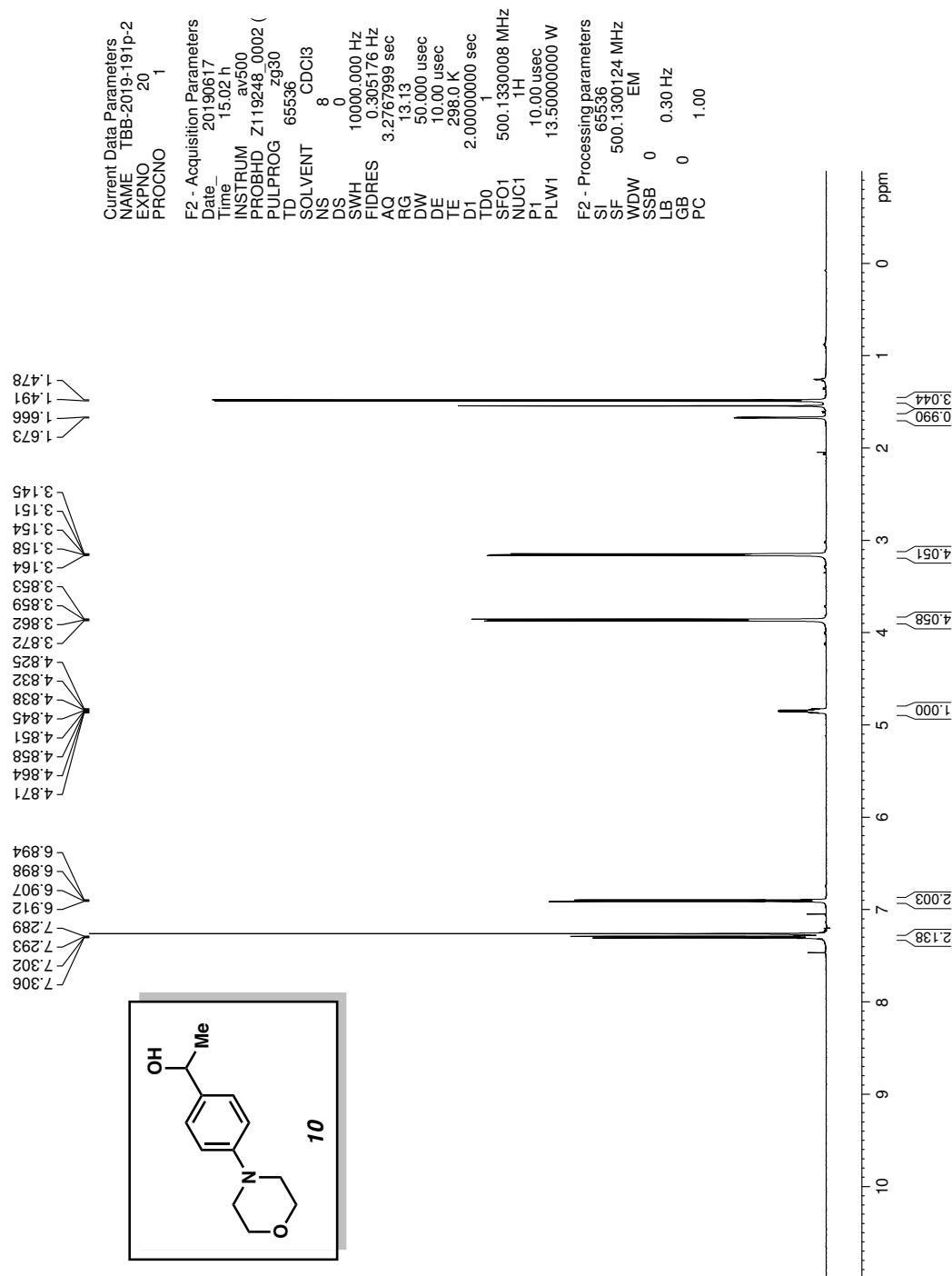


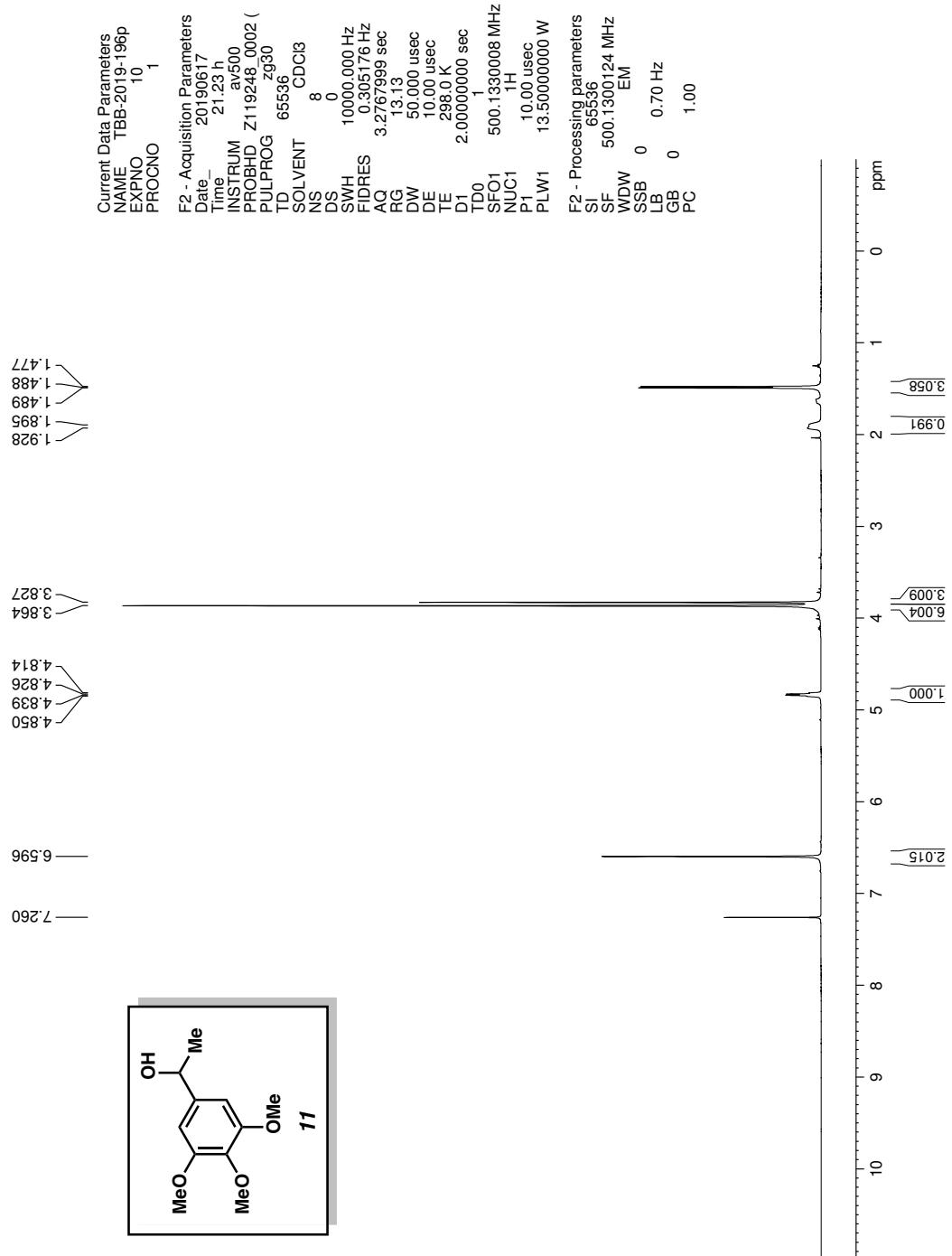


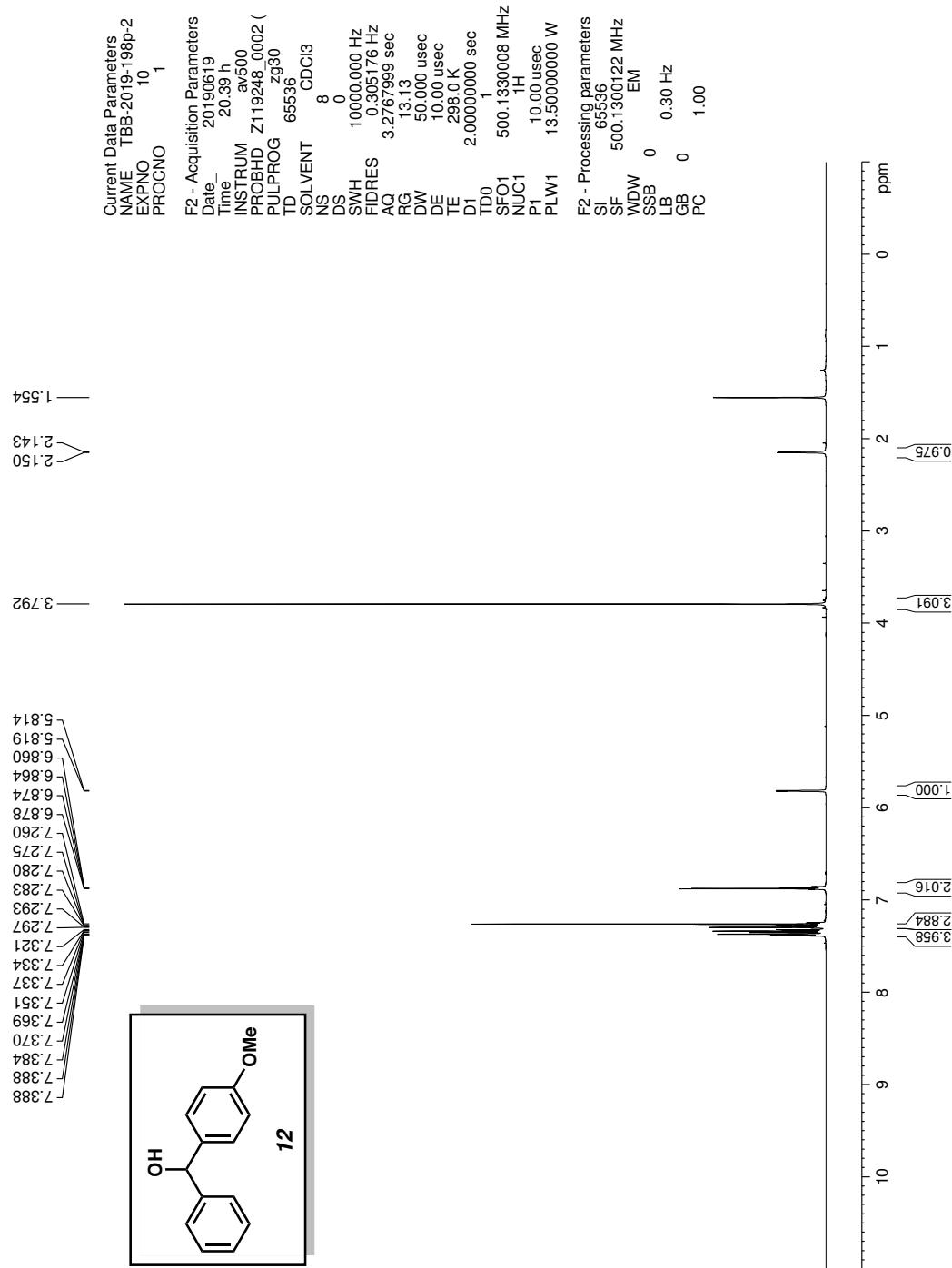


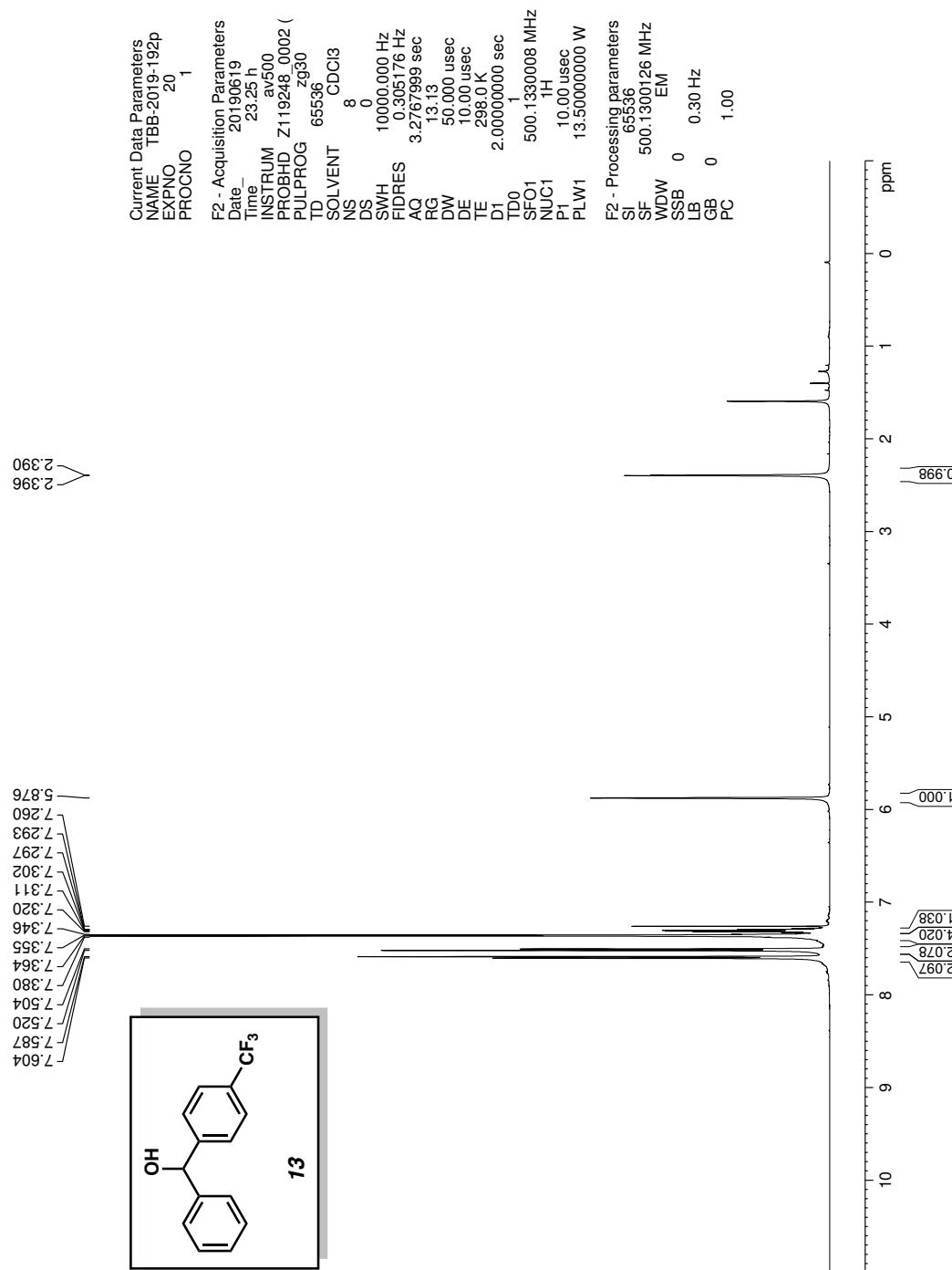


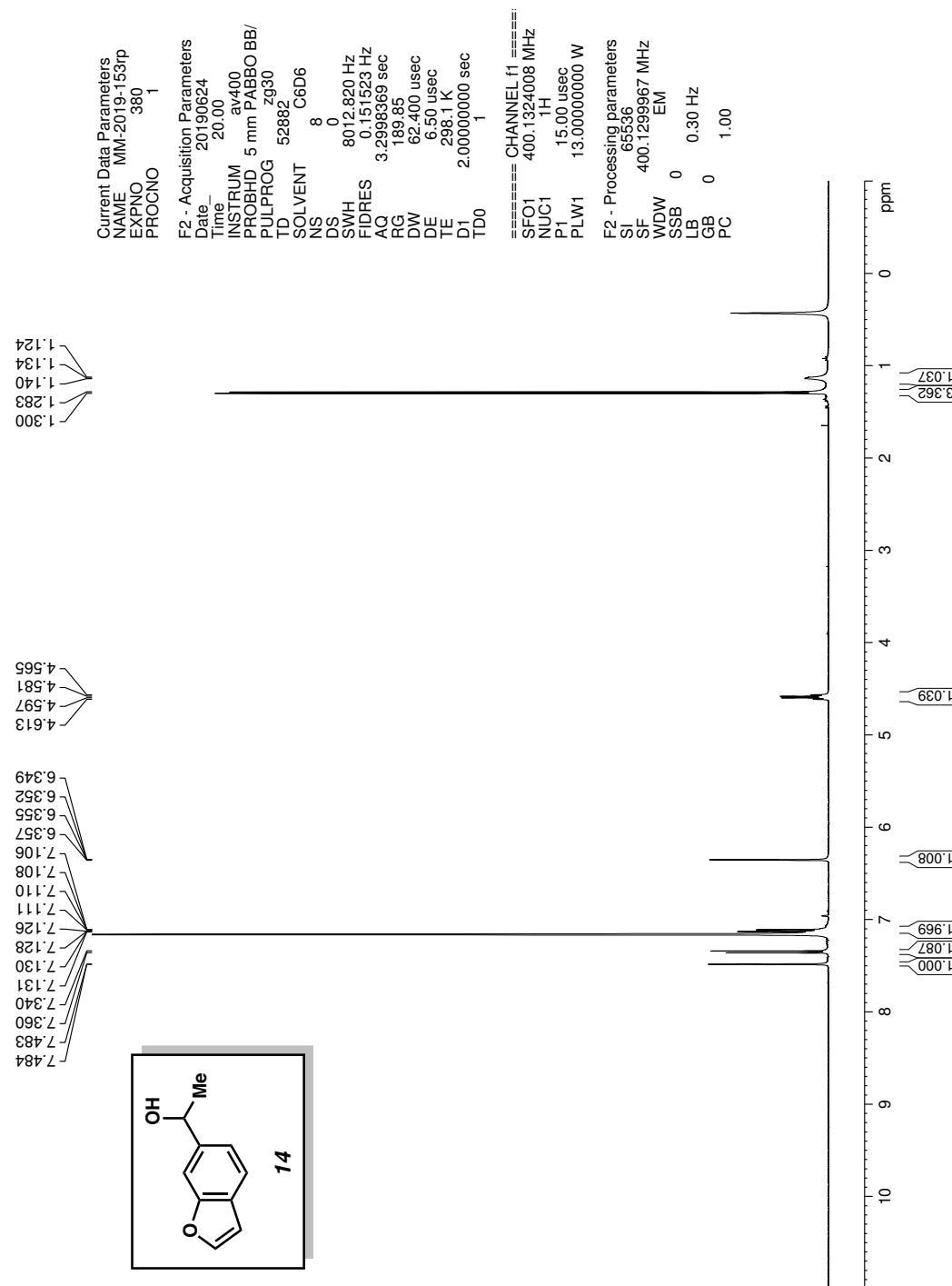


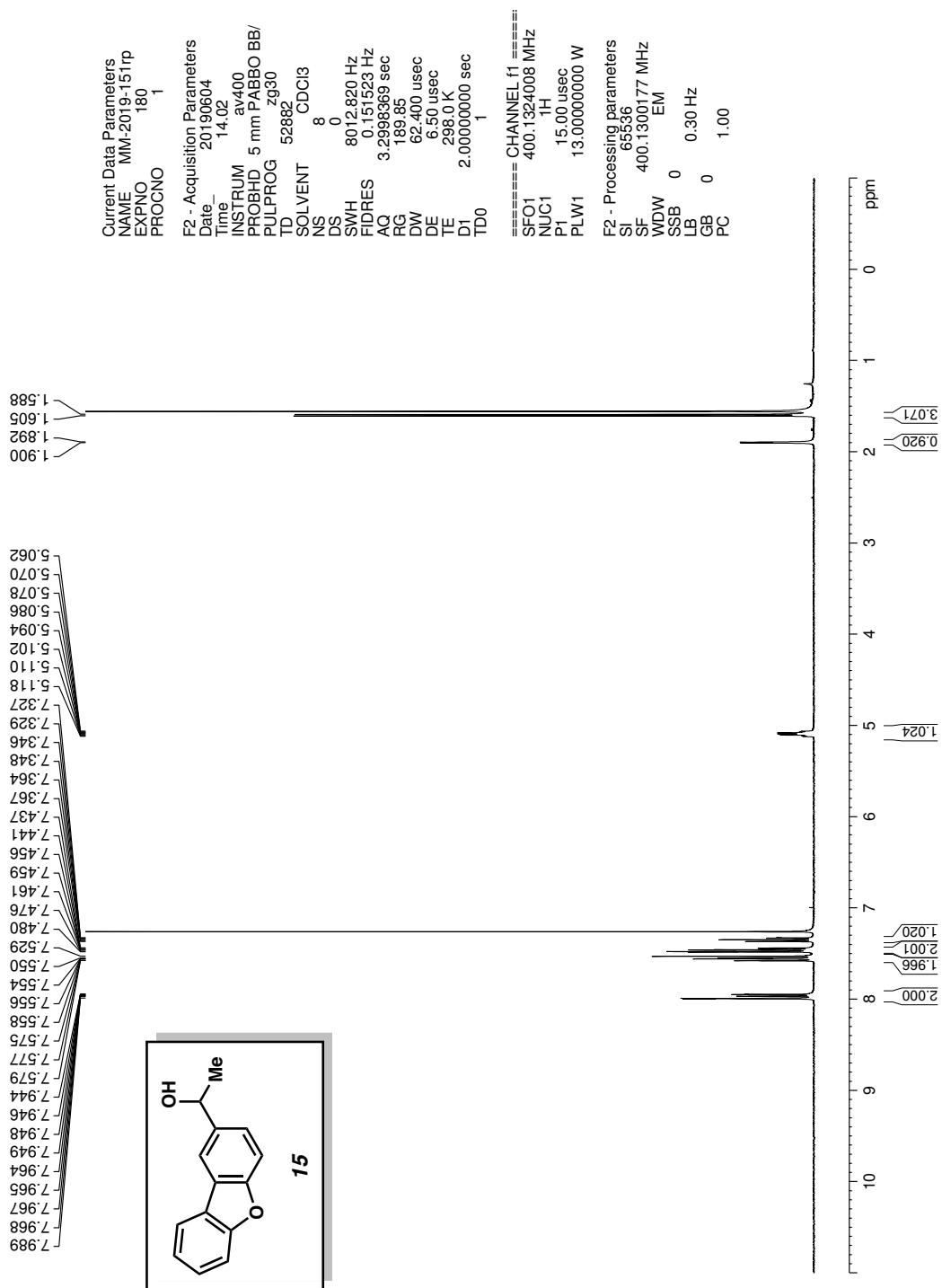


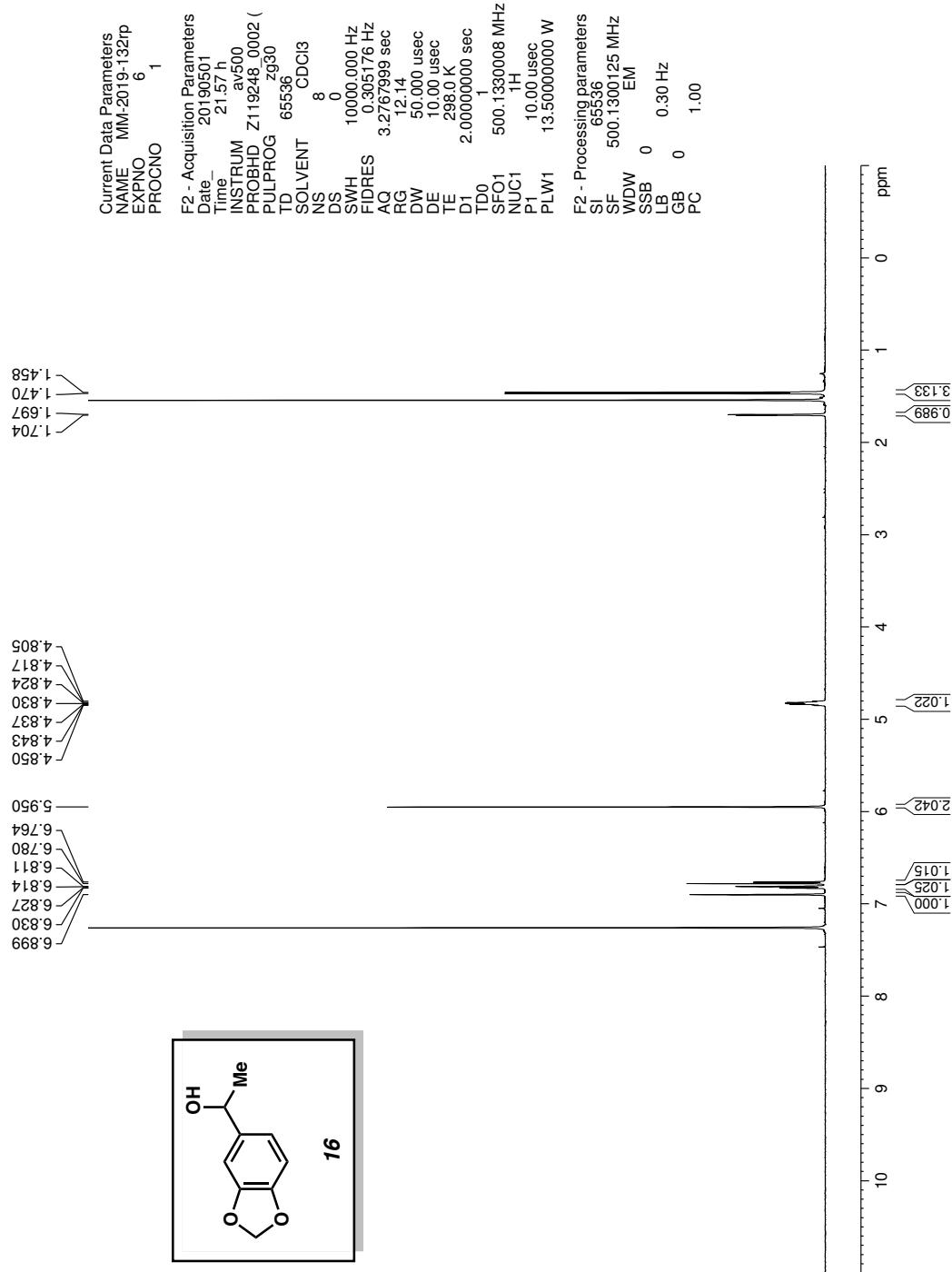


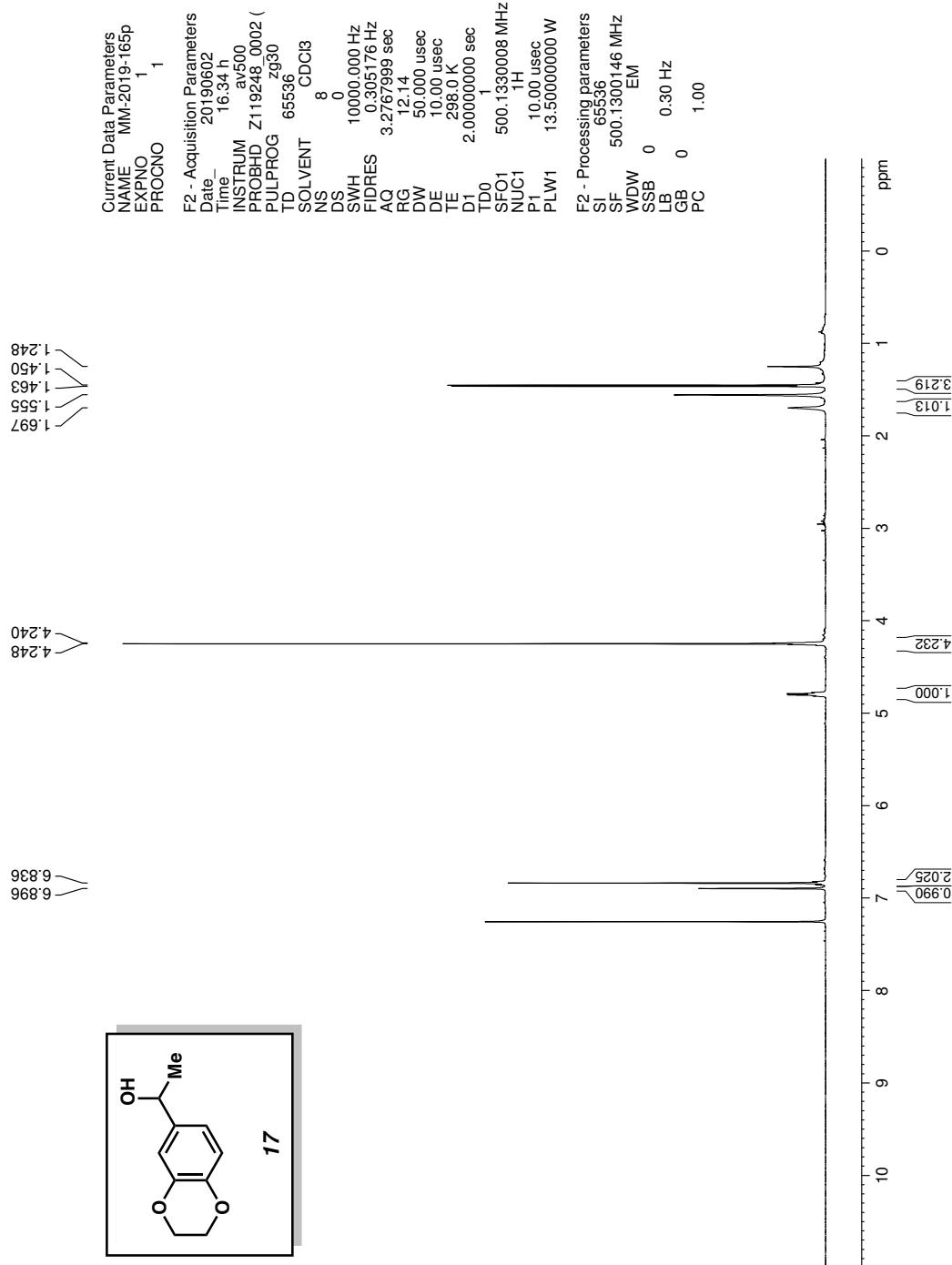


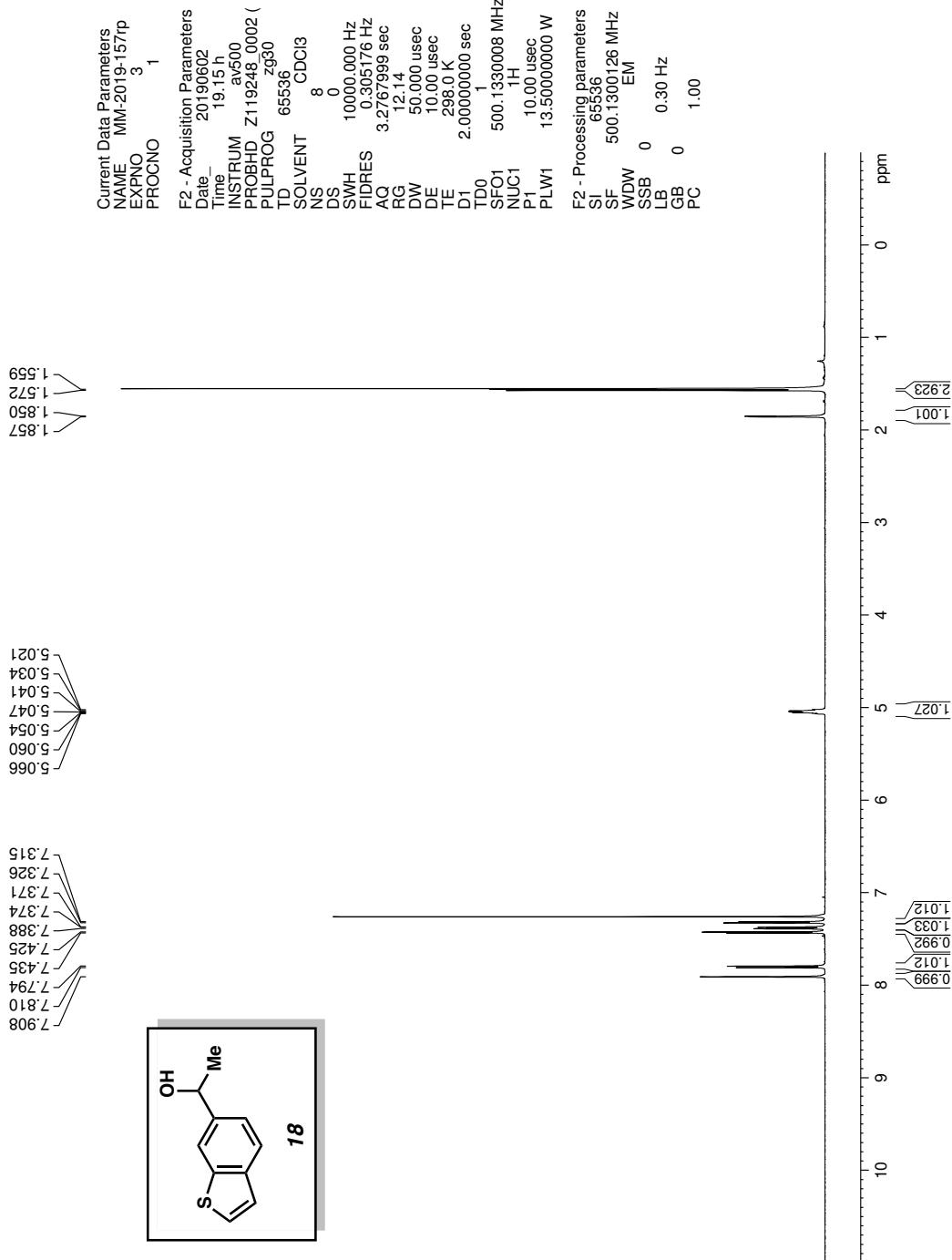


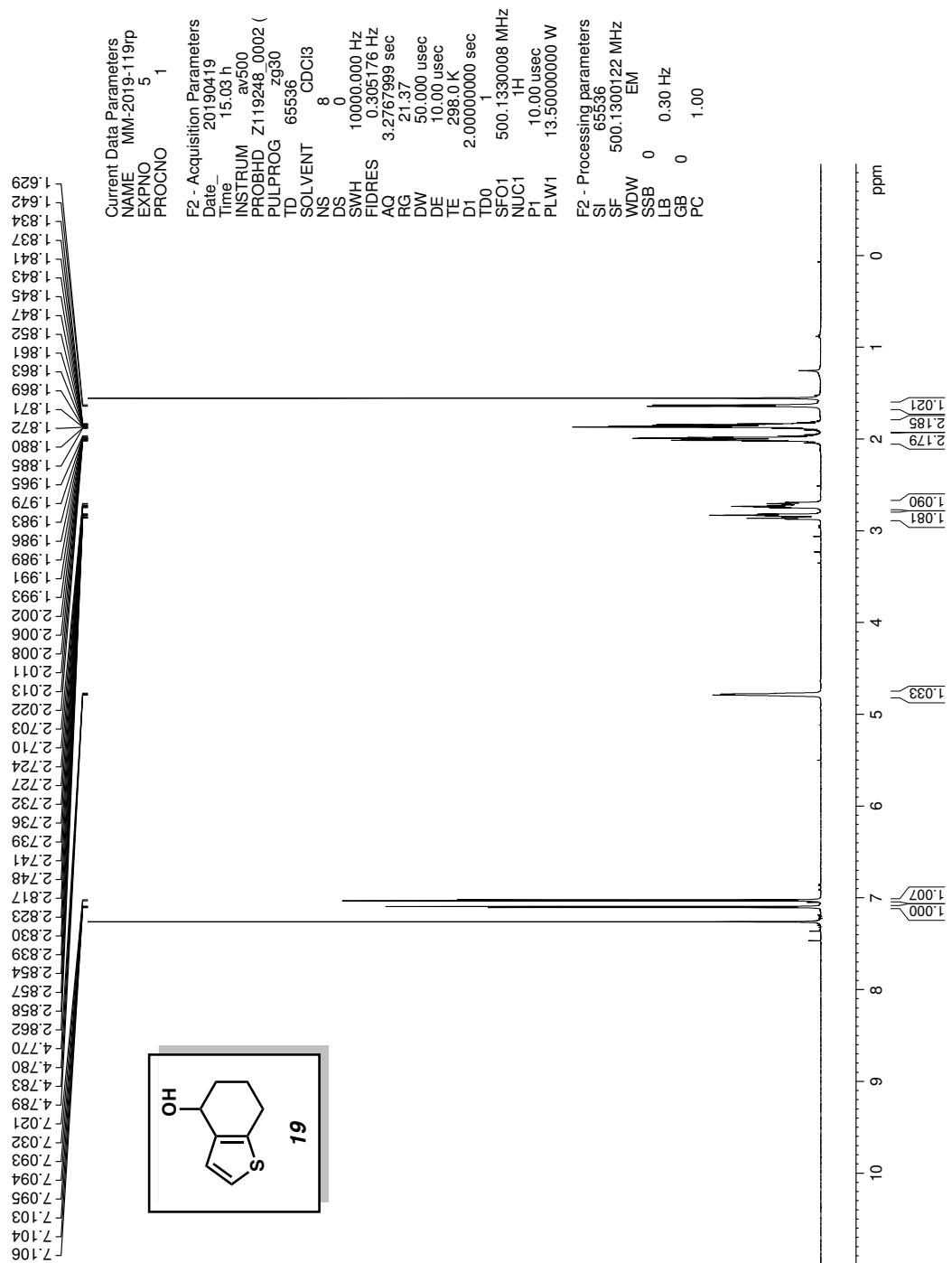












## $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Spectra

