

General experimental

Infra-red spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Paragon 1000 Fourier transform I.R. spectrometer.

NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker AM360 or AM400 spectrometer in deuteriochloroform, unless otherwise stated, referenced to TMS (δ 0). Chemical shifts are in parts per million (δ ppm). Coupling constants are in Hertz (J Hz). The following abbreviations are used: s-singlet, d-doublet, dd-double doublet, t-triplet, q-quartet, m-multiplet.

Mass spectra were recorded on a Jeol AX505W spectrometer (EI) and Kratos MS890 (FAB).

Products were isolated by flash chromatography using Merck silica gel 60 (4063 μm).¹ Analytical t.l.c was carried out on Merck (aluminium sheets) silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ plates using short wave (254 nm) UV light, KMnO₄ or anisaldehyde to visualise components.

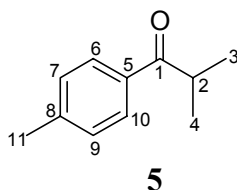
Irradiations were carried out under an argon atmosphere using an immersion well reactor (model RQ125 and RQ400, Photochemical Reactors Limited) and monitored by t.l.c.

Microwave experiments were carried out using sealed tubes in a CEM Discover microwave reactor.

Dichloromethane was freshly distilled from calcium hydride. Tetrahydrofuran was freshly distilled from sodium and benzophenone. Pyrrolidine was distilled from calcium hydride and stored over pellets of potassium hydroxide. *m*-CPBA was purified by dissolving in diethyl ether and then washing three times with a phosphate buffer solution. The solvent was carefully removed *in-vacuo* to give pure *m*-CPBA. All other reagents were used as received.

¹ W. C. Still, M. Kahn, A. Mitra, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1978, **43**, 2923.

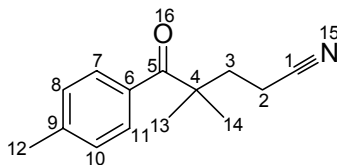
2-Methyl-1-*p*-tolyl-propan-1-one (5).



To powdered AlCl_3 (30.8 g, 224.99 mmol) in a 500 mL, three neck round bottom flask equipped with an argon inlet, magnetic stirrer, double face condenser, pressure equalising dropping funnel and a HCl gas outlet bubbling into water, was added toluene (67 mL, 629.96 mmol). Isobutyryl chloride (18.8 mL, 179.99 mmol) was then added dropwise to the yellow solution over a period of 30 minutes. Once the addition was complete the reaction mixture was heated to 60°C for 3 hours. The resulting dark green/black mixture was then poured into water (400 mL) and ice. The organic phase was separated from the aqueous and the aqueous was extracted with ether (x3). The combined organic layers were washed with NaOH (x2, 10%), water (x1), brine (x1), dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude product as an orange/brown oil. Fractional distillation through a vigreux column under water pump pressure afforded the title compound as a colourless oil (28.7g, 98%); ν_{max} (neat)/ cm^{-1} 3029 (m), 2972 (m), 2932 (m), 2872 (m), 2360 (m), 1678 (s), 1607 (s), 1223 (s), 1161 (m), 977 (m), 830 (m); δ_{H} (360 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.87 (2H, d, J 8.0, 6, 10-H), 7.27 (2H, d, J 8.0, 7, 9-H), 3.56 (1H, m, 2-H), 2.20 (3H, s, 11-H), 1.21 (6H, d, J 6.9, 3, 4-H); δ_{C} (90 MHz, CDCl_3) 204.1 (1-C), 143.5 (5-C), 133.7 (8-C), 129.3 (6, 10-C), 128.4 (7, 9-C), 35.2 (2-C), 21.6 (11-C), 19.2 (3, 4-C); m/z (EI) 162 (M^+ ; 12), 119 (100), 105 (14.9), 91 (22%). All spectral data matched that reported in the literature.²

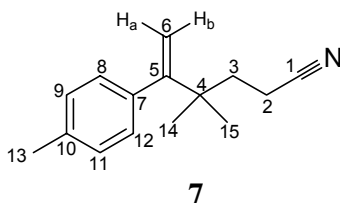
² A. R. Katritzky, W. Kuzmierkiewicz, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1.*, 1987, 819-823.

4,4-Dimethyl-5-oxo-5-*p*-tolyl-pentane nitrile.



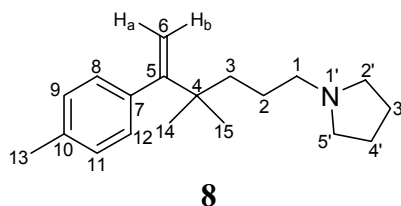
Acrylonitrile (1.72 g, 32.4 mmol) was added dropwise over 5 minutes to a stirred mixture of 2-methyl-1-*p*-tolyl-propan-1-one (4.8 g, 29.63 mmol), 1,4 dioxane (5 mL) and benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide (40% w/w, 1.25 g, 2.99 mmol) kept at 30-35°C. The mixture was stirred for a further 18 hours, then acidified using hydrochloric acid, diluted with water and extracted with chloroform (x4). The combined organic extract were freed from dioxane by washing with water, and then dried over magnesium sulphate. The organic phase was concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude product as a yellow oil. The residue was purified by column chromatography (hexane/diethyl ether 4:1) to afford the title compound as a colourless oil (4.33 g, 68%); R_f 0.27 (hexane/diethyl ether 4:1); ν_{\max} (neat)/ cm^{-1} 2971 (s), 2875 (m), 2246 (s, nitrile), 1669 (s, C=O), 961 (s), 835 (m); δ_H (360 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.65 (2H, d, J 8.2, 7, 11-H), 7.24 (2H, d, J 8.2, 8, 10-H), 2.39 (3H, s, 12-H), 2.31 (2H, dd, J 9.0 and 8.9, 2-H), 2.14 (2H, dd, J 9.0 and 8.9, 3-H), 1.39 (3H, s, 13, 14-H); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl_3) 206.4 (5-C), 142.8 (6-C), 135.2 (9-C), 129.4 (7, 11-C), 128.6 (8, 10-C), 120.3 (1-C), 47.3 (4-C), 37.0 (3-C), 26.3 (13, 14-C), 21.9 (12-C), 13.5 (3-C); m/z (FAB) 216 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; 46), 161 (5), 119 (100%); HRMS m/z (FAB) calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$, 216.1388 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$), found 216.1394.

4,4-Dimethyl-5-*p*-tolyl-hex-5-enitrile (7).



Potassium tert-butoxide (0.77 g, 6.89 mmol), methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (2.46 g, 6.89 mmol) and toluene (30 mL) were placed in a 100 mL two neck round bottom flask, fitted with a condenser and under an argon atmosphere. The mixture was refluxed with stirring for 2 hours at which point it became bright yellow. To this was added a solution of 4,4-dimethyl-5-oxo-5-*p*-tolyl-pentane nitrile (1.14 g, 5.3 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) dropwise at $\sim 35^{\circ}\text{C}$. The resulting brown/orange mixture was then refluxed for a further 6 hours and then left to stir overnight at 40°C for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (20 mL) and water (10 mL), stirred for a further 5 minutes and the organic layer was separated from the aqueous. The aqueous layer was washed with diethyl ether (10 mL x2) and the combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulphate and rotary evaporated to give a yellow oil. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (diethyl ether/hexane 1:4) to afford the title compound as a colourless oil (0.7 g, 62%); R_f 0.23 (diethyl ether/hexane 1:4); ν_{max} (neat)/ cm^{-1} 2969 (s), 2873 (m), 2246 (s, nitrile), 1626 (m, C=C), 1512 (s), 1384 (s), 911 (s), 826 (s); δ_{H} (360 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.12 (2H, d, J 8.0, 8, 12-H), 6.98 (2H, d, J 8.0, 9, 11-H), 5.16 (1H, d, J 1.2, 6- H_a), 4.96 (1H, d, J 1.1, 6- H_b), 2.35 (3H, s, 13-H), 2.33 (2H, dd, J 9.8 and 8.3, 2-H), 1.78 (2H, dd, J 8.3 and 9.8, 3-H), 1.13 (6-H, s, 14, 15-H); δ_{C} (90 MHz, CDCl_3) 155.8 (5-C), 139.5 (7-C), 136.9 (10-C), 128.9 (8, 12-C), 128.8 (9, 11-C), 120.8 (1-C), 115.5 (6-C), 39.5 (4-C), 36.5 (2-C), 27.6 (14, 15-C), 21.5 (13-C), 13.3 (3-C); m/z (FAB) 214 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; 100), 159 (25), 119 (79), 105 (85%); HRMS m/z (FAB) calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$, 214.1596 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$), found 214.1604.

1-(4,4-Dimethyl-5-*p*-tolyl-hex-5-enyl)-pyrrolidine (8).



Method 1: To a solution of alkyl bromide **6**³ (1 g, 3.56 mmol) in absolute ethanol (10 mL) was sequentially added pyrrolidine (386 μ L, 4.62 mmol) and anhydrous sodium carbonate (3.77 g, 35.6 mmol). The resulting suspension was refluxed for 4 days. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc, filtered, concentrated in vacuo and finally purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (triethylamine/hexane 1:95) to afford compound **8** (0.91 g, 95%) as a colourless oil.

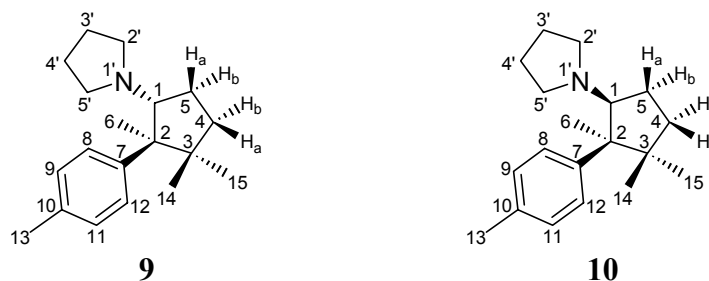
Method 2: In an oven dried, 25 mL single necked round bottom flask fitted with a condenser and under an argon atmosphere was added 4,4-dimethyl-5-*p*-tolyl-hex-5-enenitrile **7** (0.523 g, 2.46 mmol) and copper (I) chloride (0.27 g, 2.73 mmol). To this was then added a solution of pyrrolidine (306 μ L, 3.69 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) and the resulting green/brown mixture was then refluxed for 24 hours. The dark brown/red mixture was then cooled down to room temperature and poured with vigorous stirring into a Erlenmeyer flask (100 mL) containing aqueous NaOH (10 mL, 30%) and diethyl ether (20 mL). The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 minutes. The organic layer was then separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (x3). The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulphate and rotary evaporated to afford the crude amidine - 4,4-dimethyl-1-pyrrolidine-1-yl-5-*p*-tolyl-hex-5-enylideneamine as a brown oil (0.69 g).

The crude amidine (0.69 g, 2.43 mmol) was then transferred to an oven dried 25 mL two neck round bottom flask, equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar and under an argon atmosphere. To this was then added ethanol (10 mL) via syringe and the reaction mixture cooled to 0°C. Sodium borohydride (0.11 g, 2.95 mmol) was then added with stirring in small portions. The solution was then left to stir at room temperature for 12 hours. Upon completion the mixture was poured into an Erlenmeyer flask (100 mL)

containing NaOH (10 mL, 30%) and diethyl ether (20 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (x3). The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulphate, filtered and solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue (dark brown oil) was purified by column chromatography (hexane/triethylamine 95:5) to afford the title compound **8** (0.56 g, 84%) as a colourless oil; R_f 0.45 (hexane/triethylamine 95:5); ν_{\max} (neat)/ cm^{-1} 2964 (s), 2873 (m), 2785 (s), 1625 (m, C=C), 1511 (m), 1449 (s), 1380 (s), 904 (s), 835 (s); δ_{H} (360 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.09 (2H, d, J 7.9, 8, 12-H), 7.02 (2H, d, J 8.1, 9, 11-H), 5.11 (1H, d, J 1.7, 6- H_a), 4.84 (1H, d, J 1.7, 6- H_b), 2.51-2.46 (4H, m, 2', 5'-H), 2.38 (2H, d, J 7.8, 1-H), 2.34 (3H, s, 13-H), 1.79-1.75 (4H, m, 3', 4'-H), 1.58-1.49 (2H, m, 2-H), 1.35-1.30 (2H, m, 3-H), 1.08 (6H, s, 14, 15-H); δ_{C} (90 MHz, CDCl_3) 157.9 (5-C), 140.9 (7-C), 136.2 (10-C), 129.1 (8, 12-C), 128.4 (9, 11-C), 113.8 (6-C), 57.6 (1-C), 54.7 (2', 5'-C), 39.5 (4-C), 39.1 (2-C), 28.2 (14, 15-C), 24.9 (3-C), 23.8 (3', 4'-C), 21.5 (13-C); m/z (EI) 271 (M^+ , 30), 256 (13), 200 (16), 152 (20), 143 (23), 110 (80), 84 (100%); HRMS m/z (EI) calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}$, 271.22999 (M^+), found 271.2295.

³ A. Srikrishna, G. Sundarababu, *Tetrahedron*, 1991, **47**, 481-496.

(1*RS*, 2*SR*)-1-(2,3,3-Trimethyl-2-*p*-tolyl-cyclopentyl)-pyrrolidine (9) and (1*SR*, 2*SR*)-1-(2,3,3-Trimethyl-2-*p*-tolyl-cyclopentyl)-pyrrolidine (10).



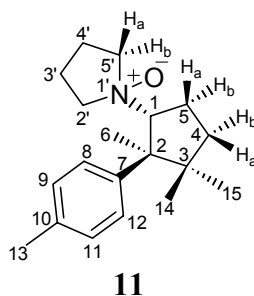
A hexane solution (280 mL, 0.005M) of styryl amine 1-(4,4-dimethyl-5-*p*-tolyl-hex-5-enyl)-pyrrolidine **8** (350 mg, 1.29 mmol) was placed in a quartz vessel and purged with argon for 1 hour. The solution was then irradiated with a medium pressure 400W mercury lamp for 50 minutes. NMR analysis of the irradiated sample showed 100% conversion and the formation of two products **9** and **10** in a 6:1 ratio respectively. After removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue, a deep yellow oil, was chromatographed on silica gel (hexane/diethyl ether 1:1 or hexane/diethyl amine 19:1) to afford diastereomers **9** (215 mg, 62%) and **10** (25 mg, 7%) as pale yellow oils.

Data for **9**: R_f 0.50 (hexane/diethyl amine 19:1); ν_{\max} (neat)/ cm^{-1} 2957 (s, C-H), 2786 (m), 1515 (m), 1469 (m), 1112 (w), 811 (m); δ_{H} (360 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.26 (2H, d, J 8.3, 8, 12-H), 6.99 (2H, d, J 8.1, 9, 11-H), 3.39 (1H, t, J 8.1, 1-H), 2.27-2.20 (2H, m, 2' or 5'-H), 2.25 (3H, s, 13-H), 2.19-2.06 (2H, m, 2' or 5'-H), 2.05-1.98 (1H, m, 5- H_a or 5- H_b), 1.78-1.68 (2H, m, 5- H_a or 5- H_b and 4 H_a or 4- H_b), 1.60-1.49 (4H, m, 3', 4'-H), 1.47-1.43 (1H, m, 4- H_a or 4- H_b), 1.29 (3H, s, 6-H), 0.70 (3H, s, 15-H), 0.62 (3H, s, 14-H); δ_{C} (90 MHz, CDCl_3) 141.9 (7-C), 135.7 (10-C), 128.6 (8, 12-C), 128.4 (9, 11-C), 70.2 (1-C), 55.1 (2', 5'-C), 53.8 (2-C), 46.2 (3-C), 38.4 (4-C), 29.3 (5-C), 28.9 (14-C), 24.4 (15-C), 23.9 (3', 4'-C), 21.8 (13-C), 17.3 (6-C); m/z (EI) 271 (M^+ , 12), 205 (10), 159 (5), 129 (30), 111 (12), 110 (100), 96 (11%); HRMS m/z (EI) calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}$, 271.23001 (M^+), found 271.22939.

Data for **10**: R_f 0.52 (hexane/diethyl amine 19:1); ν_{\max} (neat)/ cm^{-1} 2968 (s, C-H), 2873 (w), 2778 (m), 1515 (m), 1458 (m), 1085 (m); δ_{H} (360 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.34 (2H, d, J

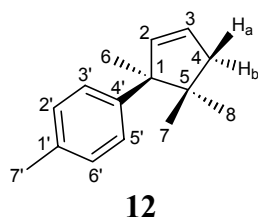
8.3, 8, 12-H), 7.01 (2H, d, *J* 8.1, 9, 11-H), 2.75 (1H, dd, *J* 6.7 and 10.2, 1-H), 2.49-2.36 (2H, m, 2' or 5'-H), 2.30 (3H, s, 13-H), 2.24-2.18 (1H, m, 5-H_a or 5-H_b), 2.17-2.07 (2H, m, 2' or 5'-H), 1.95-1.89 (1H, m, 4-H_a or 4-H_b or 5-H_a or 5-H_b), 1.78-1.69 (1H, m, 4-H_a or 4-H_b or 5-H_a or 5-H_b), 1.59-1.47 (5H, m, 3', 4'-H and 4-H_a or 4-H_b or 5-H_a or 5-H_b), 1.01 (3H, s, 15-H), 0.40 (3H, s, 14-H); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 139.3 (7-C), 132.4 (10-C), 127.3 (8, 12-C), 125.1 (9, 11-C), 74.9 (1-C), 51.8 (2', 5'-C), 51.3 (2-C), 44.7 (3-C), 35.8 (4 or 5-C), 29.5 (5 or 4-C), 23.9 (15-C), 23.1 (14-C), 22.7 (6-C), 21.3 (3', 4'-C), 19.1 (13-C); *m/z* (EI) 271 (M^+ , 11), 111 (11), 110 (100), 96 (11%); HRMS *m/z* (EI), calculated for C₁₉H₂₉N, 271.23001 (M^+), found 271.22944.

(1*RS*, 2*SR*)-1-(2,3,3-Trimethyl-2-*p*-tolyl-cyclopentyl)-pyrrolidine-1'-oxide (11).



To (1*RS*, 2*SR*)-1-(2,3,3-trimethyl-2-*p*-tolyl-cyclopentyl)-pyrrolidine **9** (213 mg, 0.79 mmol) dissolved in dichloromethane (5 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise a solution of *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid (0.16 g, 0.94 mmol) in dichloromethane (3 mL). Once the addition was complete the reaction mixture was brought to room temperature and stirred for 3 hours. The reaction was then quenched with Na₂S₂O₃ (10 mL, 10%) and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulphate and the solvent removed in vacuo. The resulting pale brown sticky solid/oil was purified by flash column chromatography (methanol/ethyl acetate 1:1) to yield the pure amine oxide **11** (188 mg, 83%) as a white fluffy sticky solid/oil; R_f 0.17 (methanol/ethyl acetate 1:1); ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹ 2924 (s), 2854 (m), 1466 (m, N=O), 1381 (w), 812 (w); δ_H (360 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.30 (2H, d, *J* 8.5, 8, 12-H), 7.12 (2H, d, *J* 7.9, 9, 11-H), 4.45 (1H, t, *J* 8.9, 1-H), 3.48 (1H, q, *J* 8.5, 5'-H_a or H_b), 3.13-3.09 (1H, m, 5'-H_a or H_b), 3.01-2.98 (1H, m, 5-H_b), 2.93-2.88 (2H, m, 3'-H), 2.36-2.29 (2H, m, 3' or 4'-H), 2.33 (3H, s, 13-H), 2.19-2.13 (1H, m, 5-H_a), 2.02-1.96 (1H, m, 4-H_b), 1.80-1.74 (2H, m, 3' or 4'-H), 1.74 (3H, s, 6-H), 1.65-1.61 (1H, m, 4-H_a), 0.79 (3H, s, 15-H), 0.76 (3H, s, 14-H); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 139.8 (7-C), 136.1 (10-C), 128.0 (8, 9, 11, 12-C), 79.9 (1-C), 71.8 (5'-C), 67.2 (3'-C), 53.8 (2-C), 46.8 (3-C), 37.0 (4-C), 28.1 (14-C), 23.4 (15-C), 22.5 (3' or 4'-C), 22.2 (5-C), 21.2 (13-C), 21.0 (3' or 4'-C), 18.1 (6-C); *m/z* (FAB) 288 ([M+H]⁺, 100), 270 (11), (13), 165 (12), 154 (12), 145 (69%); HRMS *m/z* (FAB) calculated for C₁₉H₃₀NO, 288.2327 ([M+H]⁺), found 288.2320.

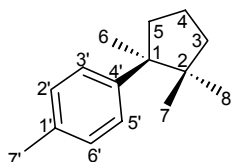
(1*RS*)-1'-Methyl-4'-(1,5,5-trimethyl-cyclopent-2-enyl)-benzene (12).



Method 1: To a 25ml flame dried two neck round bottom flask, under an argon atmosphere was added (1*RS*, 2*SR*)-1-(2,3,3-trimethyl-2-*p*-tolyl-cyclopentyl)-pyrrolidine-1'-oxide **11** (28.5 mg, 0.1 mmol) and THF (4 mL). The colourless solution was then heated to 60°C for 18 hours. The resulting pale yellow solution was cooled to 25°C, concentrated in vacuo and chromatographed over silica gel (hexane) to afford the title compound **12** as a colourless oil (8 mg, 40%).

Method 2: (1*RS*, 2*SR*)-1-(2,3,3-Trimethyl-2-*p*-tolyl-cyclopentyl)-pyrrolidine-1'-oxide **11** (8.6 mg, 0.03 mmol) in deuterated DMSO (0.3 mL) was placed in a microwave tube. The colourless solution was then irradiated (100W) in the chamber for 1 minute which raised the temperature from 25°C to 200°C. The resulting dark brown solution was then cooled, diluted with diethyl ether (10 mL) and washed with water (2 x 10 mL). The organic layer was removed and the aqueous was extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulphate, filtered and rotary evaporated to give the crude product. Purification by silica gel chromatography (hexane) afforded **12** as a colourless oil (4.3 mg, 72%); R_f 0.79 (hexane); ν_{\max} (thin film)/cm⁻¹ 3052 (m, C-H), 3024 (m), 2969 (s), 2925 (s), 1514 (s), 1456 (s), 810 (m), 722 (m); δ_H (360 MHz, DMSO) 7.14 (2H, d, J 8.3, 3', 5'-H), 7.08 (2H, d, J 8.1, 2', 6'-H), 5.86-5.84 (1H, m, 2 or 3-H), 5.81-5.79 (1H, m, 3 or 2-H), 2.34-2.29 (1H, m, 4-H_a or 4-H_b), 2.26 (3H, s, 7'-H), 2.18-2.07 (1H, m, 4-H_a or 4-H_b), 1.22 (3H, s, 6-H), 1.09 (3H, s, 8-H), 0.38 (3H, s, 7-H); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 143.0 (4'-C), 140.6 (2 or 3-C), 135.6 (1'-C), 128.8 (3', 5'-C), 128.8 (2 or 3-C), 127.1 (2', 6'-C), 56.4 (1-C), 47.8 (4-C), 44.8 (5-C), 28.4 (6 or 7 or 8-C), 24.3 (6 or 7 or 8-C), 23.5 (6 or 7 or 8-C), 21.3 (7'-C); m/z (EI) 201 ([M+H]⁺, 9), 200 (M⁺, 49), 186 (7), 185 (36), 157 (100), 143 (23), 128 (12), 105 (11), 84 (20%); HRMS m/z (FAB) calculated for C₁₅H₂₀, 200.15660 (M⁺), found 200.15627.

(±)-Cuparene.

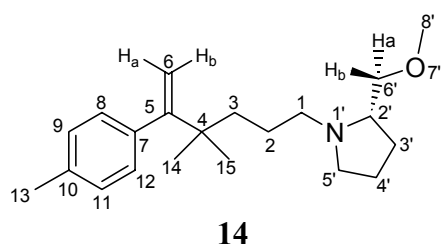


(±)-Cuparene

To a solution of 1'-methyl-4'-(1,5,5-trimethyl-cyclopent-2-enyl)-benzene **12** (56 mg, 0.28 mmol) in EtOAc (15 mL) was added 5% Pd on charcoal (20 mg). The mixture was stirred under atmospheric hydrogen for 3 hours. The catalyst was removed by filtration through celite and washed well with EtOAc. The combined filtrate and washings were concentrated in vacuo. The resulting yellow oil was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane) to afford the title compound as a colourless oil (46.5 mg, 82%); R_f 0.66 (hexane); ν_{\max} (neat)/ cm^{-1} 3094 (w), 3061 (w), 3025 (w), 2969 (s), 2874 (s), 2727 (w), 1898 (w), 1790 (w), 1516 (s), 1459 (s), 1374 (s), 1193 (m), 1135 (w), 1108 (w), 1020 (m), 812 (s), 724 (m), 547 (s); δ_H (360 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.23 (2H, d, J 8.2, 3', 5'-H), 7.08 (2H, d, J 8.1, 2', 6'-H), 2.53-2.45 (1H, m, 5- H_a or H_b), 2.31 (3H, s, 7'-H), 1.83-1.64 (4H, m, 3,4-H), 1.61-1.43 (1H, m, 5- H_a or H_b), 1.25 (3H, s, 6-H), 1.06 (3H, s, 8-H), 0.56 (3H, s, 7-H); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl_3) 144.9 (4'-C), 135.1 (1'-C), 128.6 (3', 5'-C), 127.3 (2', 6'-C), 50.7 (1-C), 44.6 (2-C), 40.1 (3 or 4 or 5-C), 37.2 (3 or 4 or 5-C), 26.9 (6-C), 24.8 (7 or 8-C), 24.7 (7 or 8-C), 21.3 (7'-C), 20.2 (3 or 4 or 5-C); m/z (EI) 203 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 7), 202 (M^+ , 42), 145 (35), 133 (27), 132 (100), 131 (33), 120 (15), 119 (29), 117 (11), 105 (17%). All spectroscopic data matched that reported in the literature.⁴

⁴ C. a) Enzell, H. Erdtman, *Tetrahedron*, 1958, **4**, 361-368. b) B. R. Aavula, Q. Cui, E. A. Mash, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry*, 2000, **11**, 4681-4686.

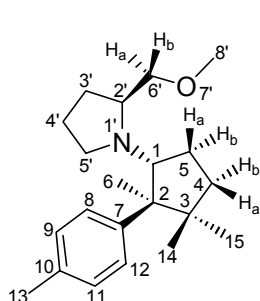
(2*S*)-1-(4,4-Dimethyl-5-*p*-tolyl-hex-5-enyl)-2'-methoxymethyl-pyrrolidine.



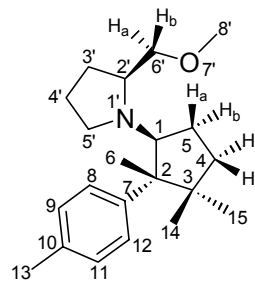
To a solution of alkyl bromide **6**³ (123 mg, 0.44 mmol) in absolute ethanol (3 mL) was sequentially added (*S*)-(+)-2-methoxymethyl-pyrrolidine⁵ (74 μ L, 0.60 mmol) and anhydrous sodium carbonate (0.47 g, 4.4 mmol). The resulting suspension was heated at 150 °C in a sealed tube for 48 hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc, filtered, concentrated in vacuo and finally purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (triethylamine/hexane 1:95) to afford the alkylated product **14** (107 mg, 77%) as a colourless oil; R_f 0.15 (triethylamine/hexane 1:95); ν_{\max} (neat)/ cm^{-1} 3086 (w), 3023 (w), 2964 (s), 2871 (s), 2806 (m), 1625 (w), 1512 (m), 1459 (m), 1112 (s), 904 (m), 824 (s); δ_{H} (360 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.07 (2H, d, J 8.0, 9, 11-H), 7.01 (2H, d, J 8.1, 8, 12-H), 5.10 (1H, d, J 1.7, 6- H_b), 4.83 (1H, d, J 1.7, 6- H_a), 3.40 (1H, dd, J 4.7 and 9.3, 6'- H_a or H_b), 3.35 (3H, s, 8'-H), 3.27 (1H, dd, J 4.7 and 9.3, 6'- H_a or H_b), 3.17-3.13 (1H, m, 5'- H_a or H_b), 2.78-2.71 (1H, m, 1- H_a or H_b), 2.56-2.49 (1H, m, 2'-H), 2.34 (3H, s, 13-H), 2.25-2.17 (1H, m, 1- H_a or H_b), 2.16-2.11 (1H, m, 5'- H_a or H_b), 1.94-1.60 (4H, m, 3', 4'-H), 1.59-1.43 (2H, m, 2 or 3-H), 1.39-1.26 (2H, m, 2 or 3-H), 1.08 (6H, s, 14-15-H); δ_{C} (90 MHz, CDCl_3) 157.9 (5-C), 140.8 (7-C), 136.1 (10-C), 129.0 (9, 11-C), 128.4 (8, 12-C), 113.8 (6-C), 76.5 (6'-C), 64.1 (2'-C), 59.4 (8'-C), 56.6 (1-C), 54.9 (5'-C), 39.5 (4-C), 38.9 (2 or 3-C), 28.7 (3' or 4'-C), 28.2 (14 or 15-C), 28.0 (15 or 14-C), 24.5 (2 or 3-C), 23.2 (3' or 4'-C), 21.4 (13-C); m/z (FAB) 316 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 96), 315 (M^+ , 7), 314 (55), 282 (10), 271 (16), 270 (100), 154 (29), 133 (10), 128 (22), 119 (16), 110 (12), 105 (22%); HRMS m/z (FAB calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}$, 316.2640 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$), found 316.2650; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ -64.7 (c 1.31, CHCl_3).

⁵ D. Enders, M. Klatt, *Synthesis*, 1996, 1403-1418.

(2'S, 1R, 2S)- 2'-Methoxymethyl-1-(2,3,3-trimethyl-2-p-tolyl-cyclopentyl)-pyrrolidine (15) and (2'S, 1S, 2R)- 2'-Methoxymethyl-1-(2,3,3-trimethyl-2-p-



15



16

tolyl-cyclopentyl)-pyrrolidine (16).

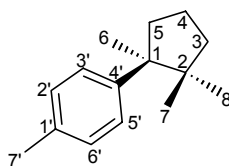
A hexane solution (280 mL, 0.01M) of styryl amine **14** (1 g, 3.17 mmol) was placed in a quartz vessel and purged with argon for 1 hour. This solution was then irradiated with a medium pressure 400W mercury lamp for 3 hours. NMR analysis of the irradiated sample showed 100% conversion to a mixture of diastereomers in a 10:5:2:1 ratio. After removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue a yellow oil was chromatographed on silica gel (hexane-hexane/diethyl ether 1:1). Two major diastereomers were isolated **16** (84 mg, 8%) and **15** (322 mg, 36%) as colourless oils.

Data for **16**: R_f 0.33 (hexane/diethyl amine 19:1); ν_{\max} (neat)/ cm^{-1} 3060 (w), 2958 (s), 2873 (s), 2822 (s), 2360 (w), 2340 (w), 1515 (m), 1463 (m), 1196 (m), 1113 (s), 811 (m); δ_H (360 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.31 (2H, d, J 8.2, 8, 12-H), 7.05 (2H, d, J 8.1, 9, 11-H), 3.96 (1H, t, J 8.6, 1-H), 3.36-3.29 (1H, m, 6'- H_a or H_b), 3.33 (3H, s, 8'-H), 3.06-3.00 (2H, m, 6'- H_a or H_b and 2'-H), 2.35-2.26 (1H, m, 5'- H_a or H_b), 2.31 (3H, s, 13-H), 2.19-2.14 (1H, m, 5'- H_a or H_b), 2.11-2.03 (1H, m, 5- H_b), 1.93-1.89 (1H, m, 5- H_a), 1.78-1.74 (1H, m, 4- H_a or H_b), 1.70-1.65 (2H, m, 3'-H), 1.55-1.40 (3H, m, 4- H_a or H_b and 4'-H), 1.30 (3H, s, 6-H), 0.80 (3H, s, 14-H), 0.67 (3H, s, 15-H); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl_3) 142.0 (10-C), 135.0 (7-C), 128.2 (8, 12-C), 127.9 (9, 11-C), 78.2 (6'-C), 68.4 (1-C), 61.9 (2'-C), 59.3 (8'-C), 54.8 (5'-C), 54.0 (2-C), 45.0 (3-C), 38.0 (4-C), 29.0 (3'-C), 28.7 (15-C), 24.5 (4'-C), 24.3 (14-C), 21.3 (13-C), 16.9 (6-C); m/z (EI) 315

(M^+ , 8), 270 (37), 155 (17), 154 (100), 110 (10%); HRMS m/z (EI) calculated for $C_{21}H_{33}NO$, 315.25623 (M^+), found 315.25714; $[\alpha]_D^{20} +37.4$ (c 1.2, $CHCl_3$).

Data for **15**: R_f 0.30 (hexane/diethyl amine 19:1); ν_{max} (neat)/ cm^{-1} 2956 (s), 2872 (s), 2824 (m), 2360 (m), 2341 (m), 1515 (m), 1467 (m), 1376 (w), 1196 (w), 1112 (s), 1017 (w), 812 (m); δ_H (360 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 7.34 (2H, d, J 8.2, 8, 12-H), 7.08 (2H, d, J 8.1, 9, 11-H), 4.14 (1H, t, J 8.7, 1-H), 3.32 (1H, dd, J 8.5 and 4.0, 6'- H_a or H_b), 3.23 (3H, s, 8'-H), 3.15-3.09 (2H, m, 6'- H_a or H_b and 2'-H), 2.60-2.50 (2H, m, 5'-H), 2.31 (3H, s, 13-H), 2.12-2.06 (1H, m, 5- H_a), 1.86-1.77 (1H, m, 5- H_b), 1.75-1.71 (2H, m, 4- H_b and 3' or 4'-H), 1.63-1.49 (4H, m, 4- H_a and 3', 4'-H), 1.30 (3H, s, 6-H), 0.82 (3H, s, 15-H), 0.64 (3H, s, 14-H); δ_C (90 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 141.9 (7-C), 135.1 (10-C), 128.2 (8, 12-C), 128.0 (9, 11-C), 74.8 (6'-C), 65.1 (1-C), 61.8 (2'-C), 59.2 (8'-C), 53.4 (2 or 3-C), 51.1 (5'-C), 44.8 (3 or 2-C), 37.3 (3' or 4'-C), 28.5 (14-C), 27.9 (4-C), 24.5 (5-C), 24.4 (15-C), 24.0 (3' or 4'-C), 21.3 (13-C), 17.4 (6-C); m/z (EI) 315 (M^+ , 8), 270 (37), 155 (17), 154 (100), 110 (10%); HRMS m/z (EI) calculated for $C_{21}H_{33}NO$, 315.25623 (M^+), found 315.25728; $[\alpha]_D^{20} -83.9$ (c 1.22, $CHCl_3$).

(S)-(-)- Cuparene.



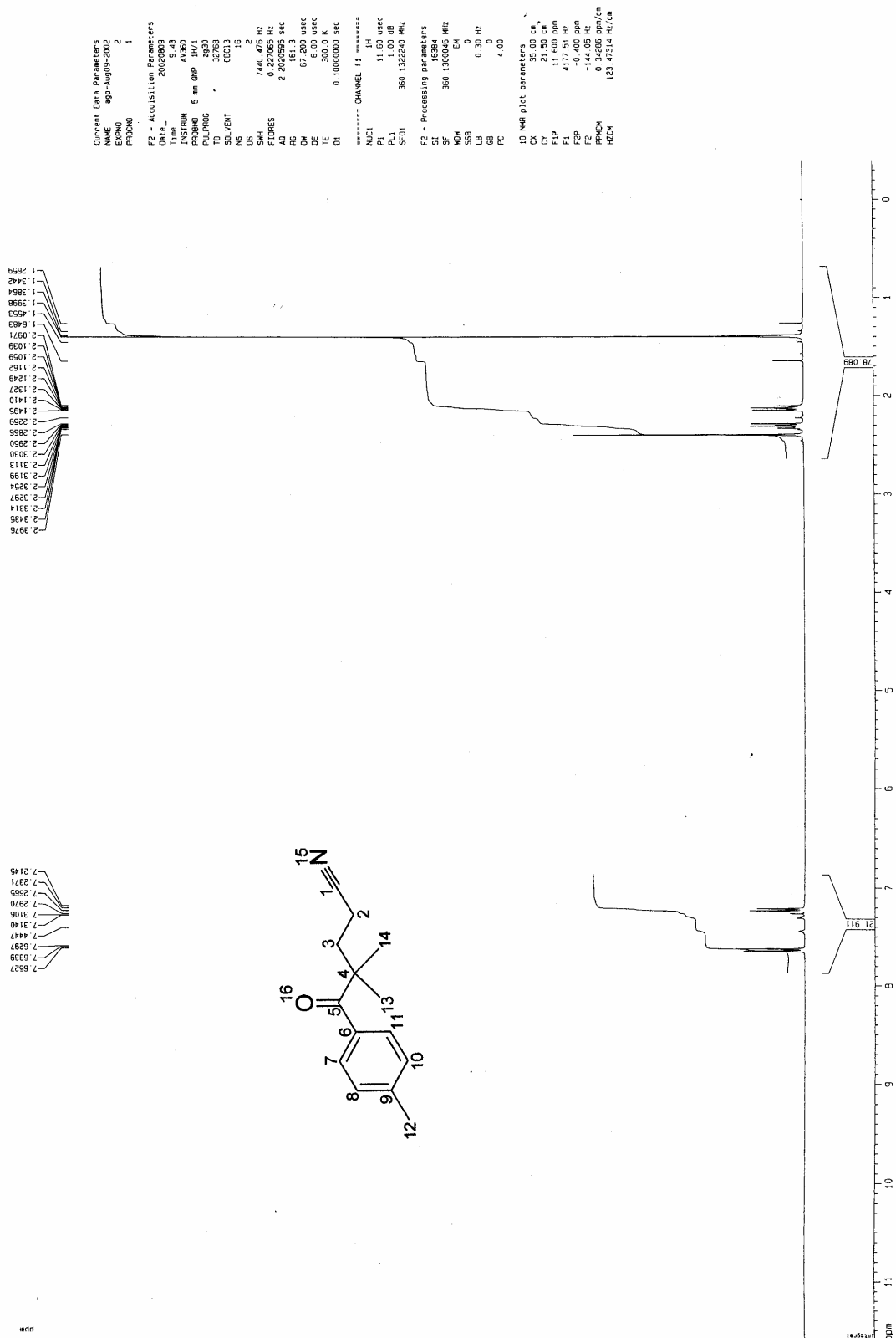
(S)-(-)- Cuparene

To (2'S, 1R, 2S)-2'-Methoxymethyl-1-(2,3,3-trimethyl-2-*p*-tolyl-cyclopentyl)-pyrrolidine **15** (30 mg, 0.095 mmol) dissolved in dichloromethane (1 mL) at 0°C was added dropwise a solution of *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid (20 mg, 0.11 mmol) in dichloromethane (1 mL). Once the addition was complete the reaction was brought to room temperature and stirred for 3 hours. The reaction was then quenched with Na₂S₂O₃ and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulphate and the solvent removed in vacuo to give the crude amine oxide as a pale brown sticky oil (30 mg). The crude amine oxide (30 mg) was then transferred to a microwave tube using deuterated DMSO (0.8 mL). The pale yellow solution was then irradiated (100W) in the chamber for 1 minute which raised the temperature to 200°C. The resulting dark brown solution was then cooled, diluted with diethyl ether and washed with water. The organic layer was removed and the aqueous was extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulphate, filtered and rotary evaporated to give the crude alkene as a orange/brown oil (29.8 mg) which was used in the next step without further purification. To a solution of the crude alkene (29.8 mg) in EtOAc (10 mL) was added 5% Pd on charcoal (12 mg). The mixture was stirred under atmospheric hydrogen for 3 hours. The catalyst was removed by filtration through celite. The combined filtrate and washings were concentrated in vacuo to afford a pale yellow oil, which was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane) to give the title compound as a colourless oil (4.6 mg, 24% over 3 steps); R_f 0.66 (hexane); ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹ 3094 (m), 3061 (m), 3025 (m), 2969 (s), 2874 (s), 2727 (m), 1898 (m), 1790 (m), 1516 (s), 1459 (s), 1374 (s), 1193 (m), 1135 (w), 1108 (w), 1020 (m); δ_H (360 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.23 (2H, d, J 8.2, 3', 5'-H), 7.08 (2H, d, J 8.1, 2', 6'-H), 2.53-2.45 (1H, m, 5-H_a or H_b), 2.31 (3H, s, 7'-H), 1.83-

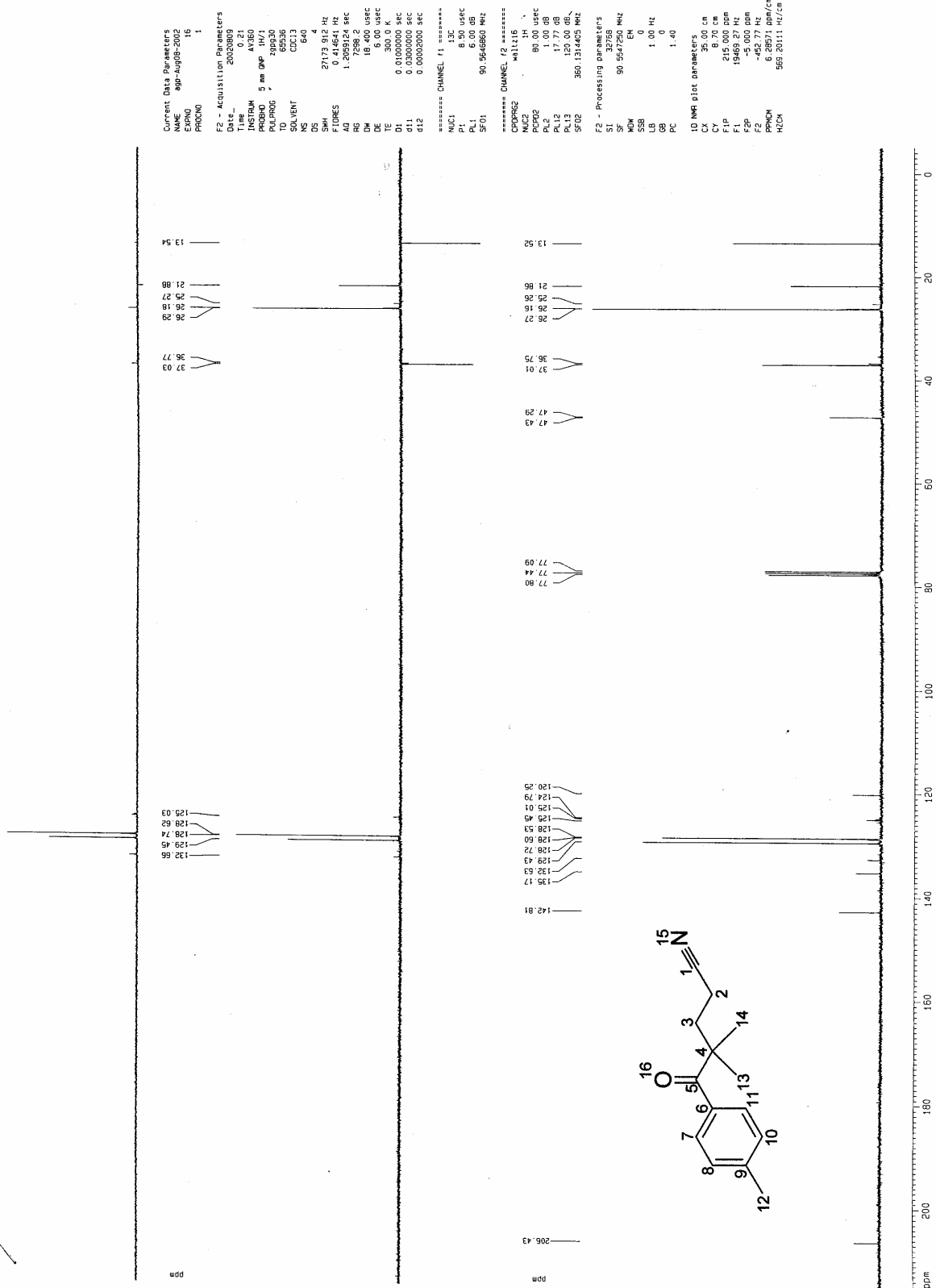
1.64 (4H, m, 3, 4-H), 1.61-1.43 (1H, m, 5-H_a or H_b), 1.25 (3H, s, 6-H), 1.06 (3H, s, 8-H), 0.56 (3H, s, 7-H); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 144.9 (4'-C), 135.1 (1'-C), 128.6 (3', 5'-C), 127.3 (2', 6'-C), 50.7 (1-C), 44.6 (2-C), 40.1 (3 or 4 or 5-C), 37.2 (3 or 4 or 5-C), 26.9 (6-C), 24.8 (7 or 8-C), 24.7 (7 or 8-C), 21.3 (7'-C), 20.2 (3 or 4 or 5-C); m/z (EI) 203 ([M+H]⁺, 7), 202 (M⁺, 42), 145 (35), 133 (27), 132 (100), 131 (33), 120 (15), 119 (29), 117 (11), 105 (17%); $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -62.2 (*c* 0.23, CDCl₃), lit.⁶ $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -63 (*c* 1.6, CHCl₃). All spectroscopic data matched that reported in the literature.^{4b}

⁶ A. Matsuo, N. Nakayama, M. Nakayama, *Phytochemistry*, 1985, **24**, 777-781.

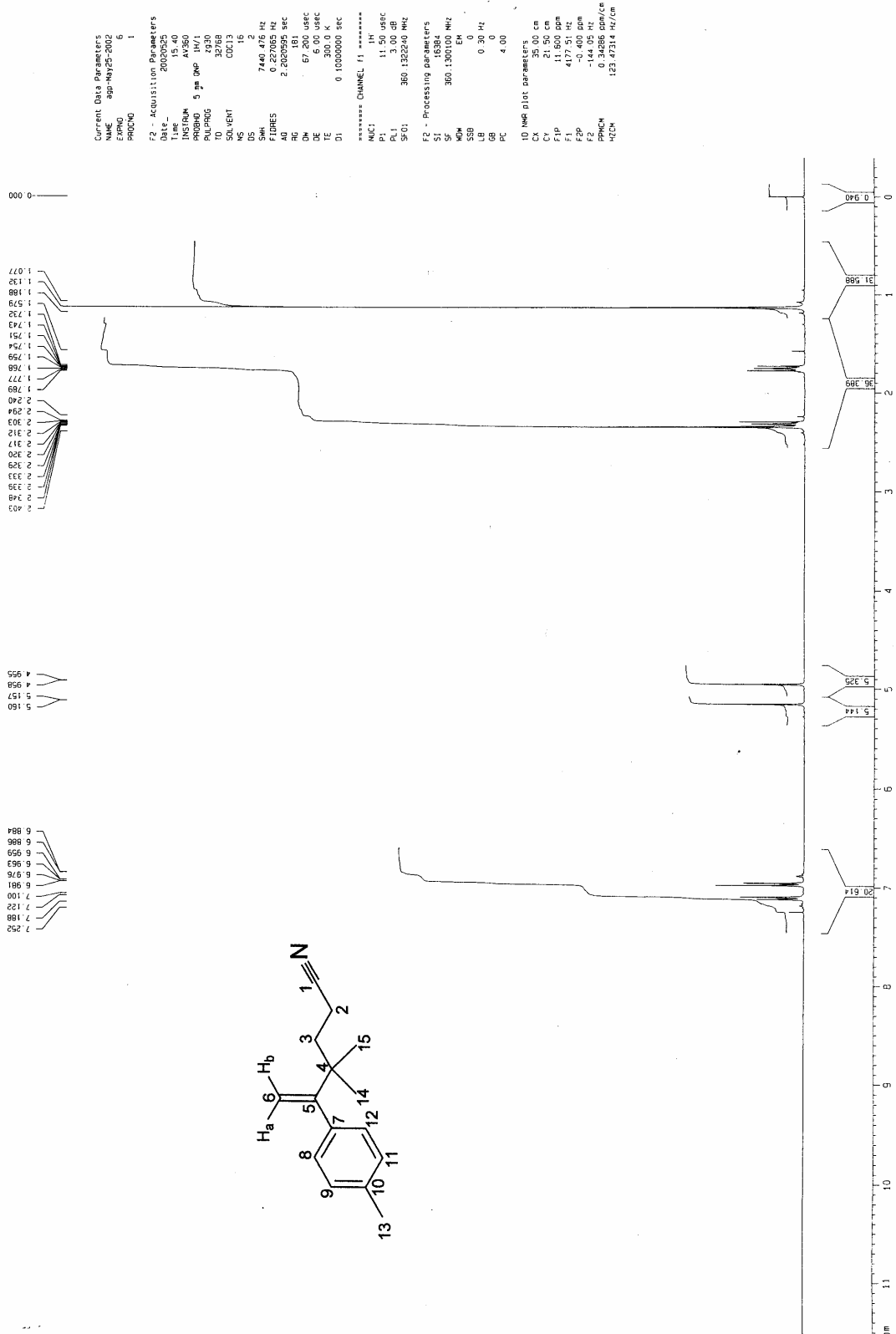
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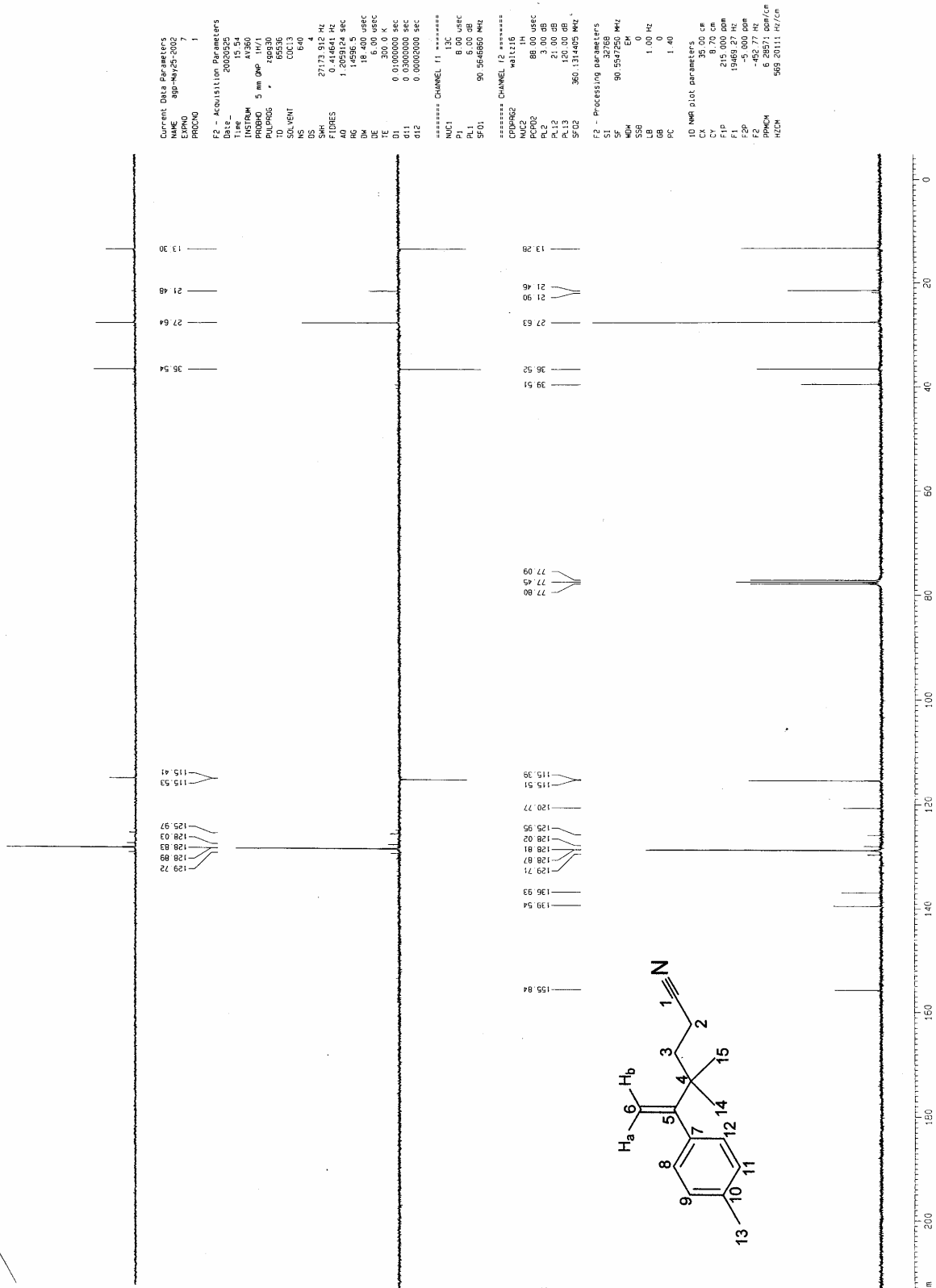
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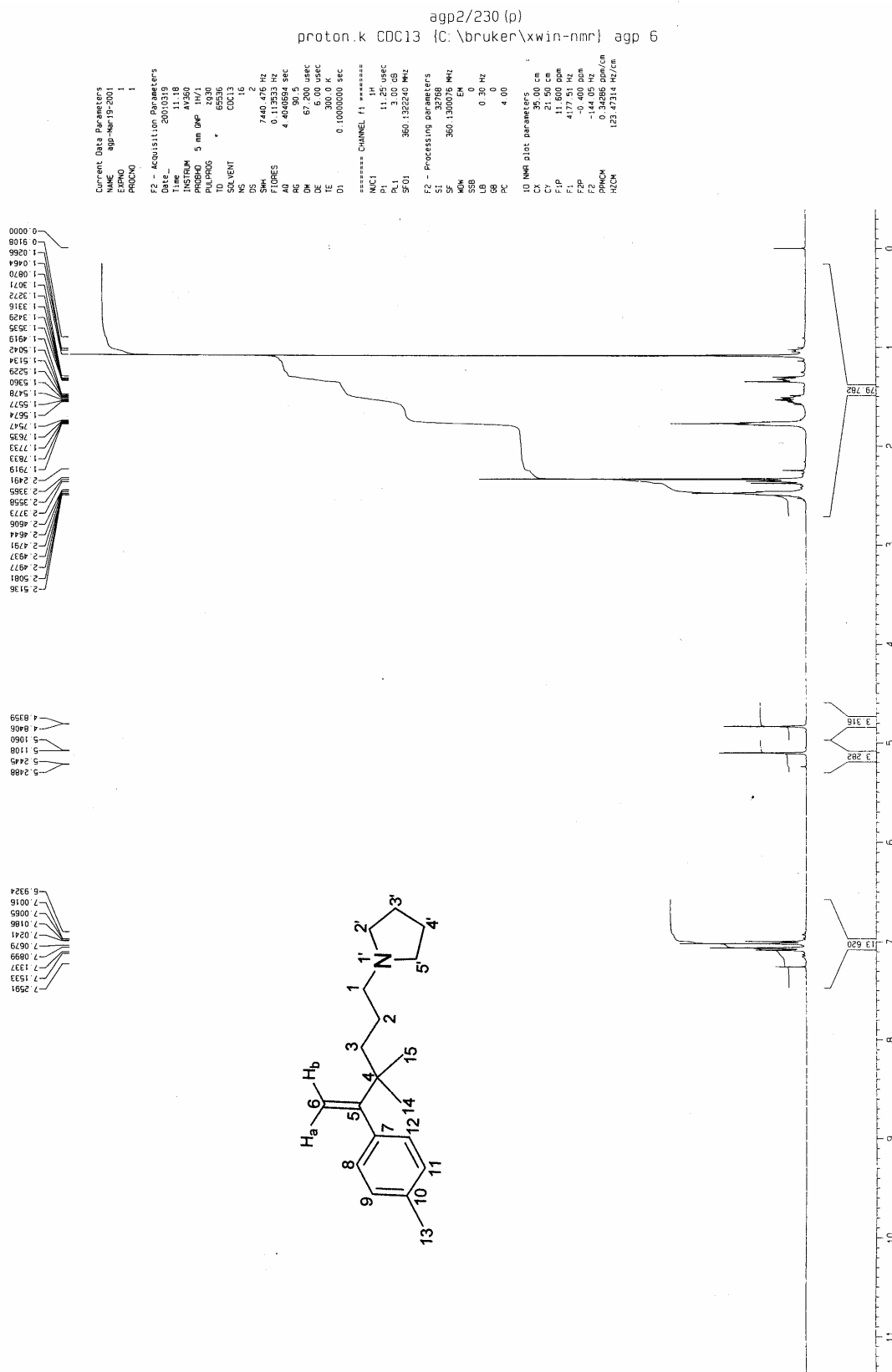


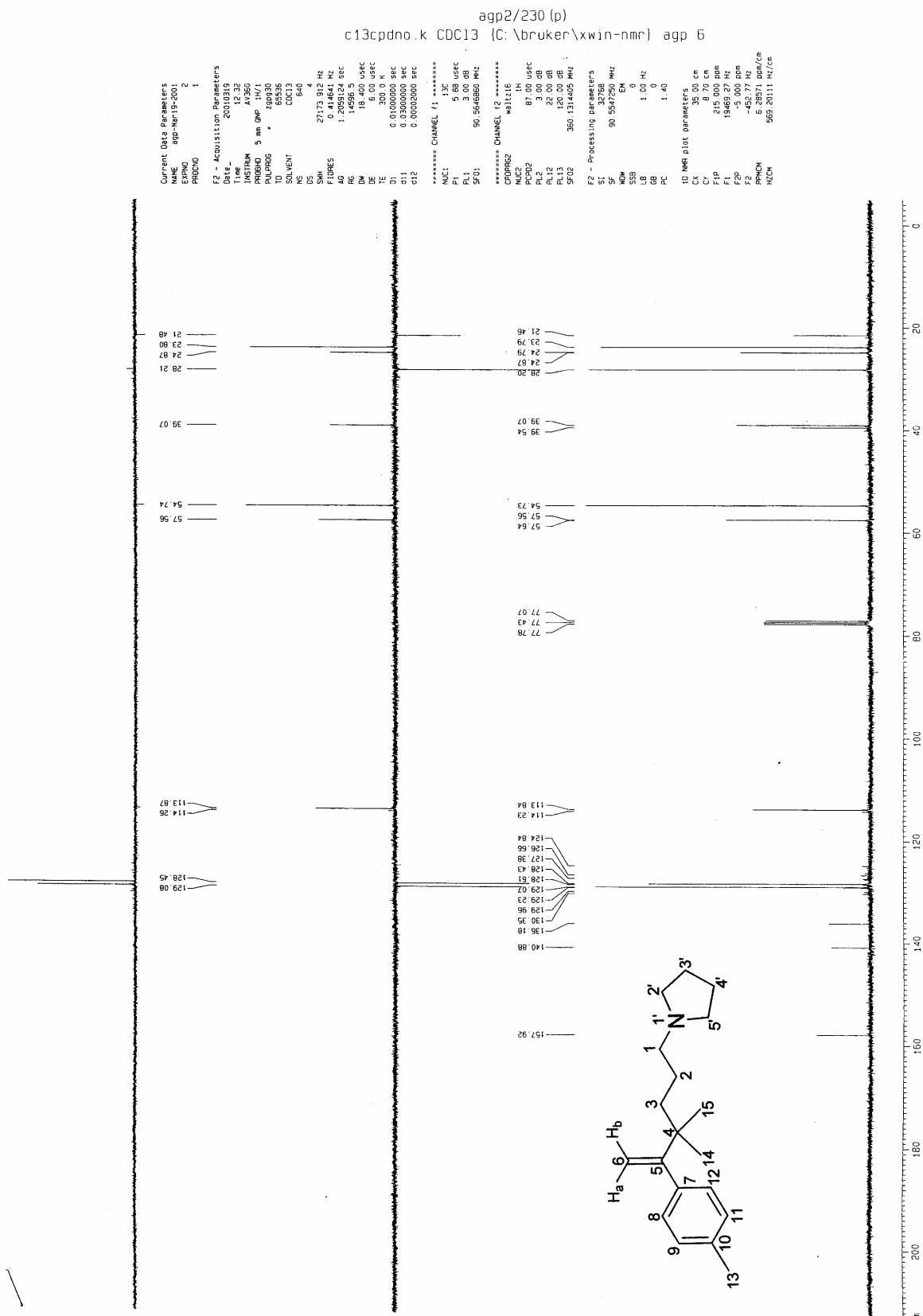
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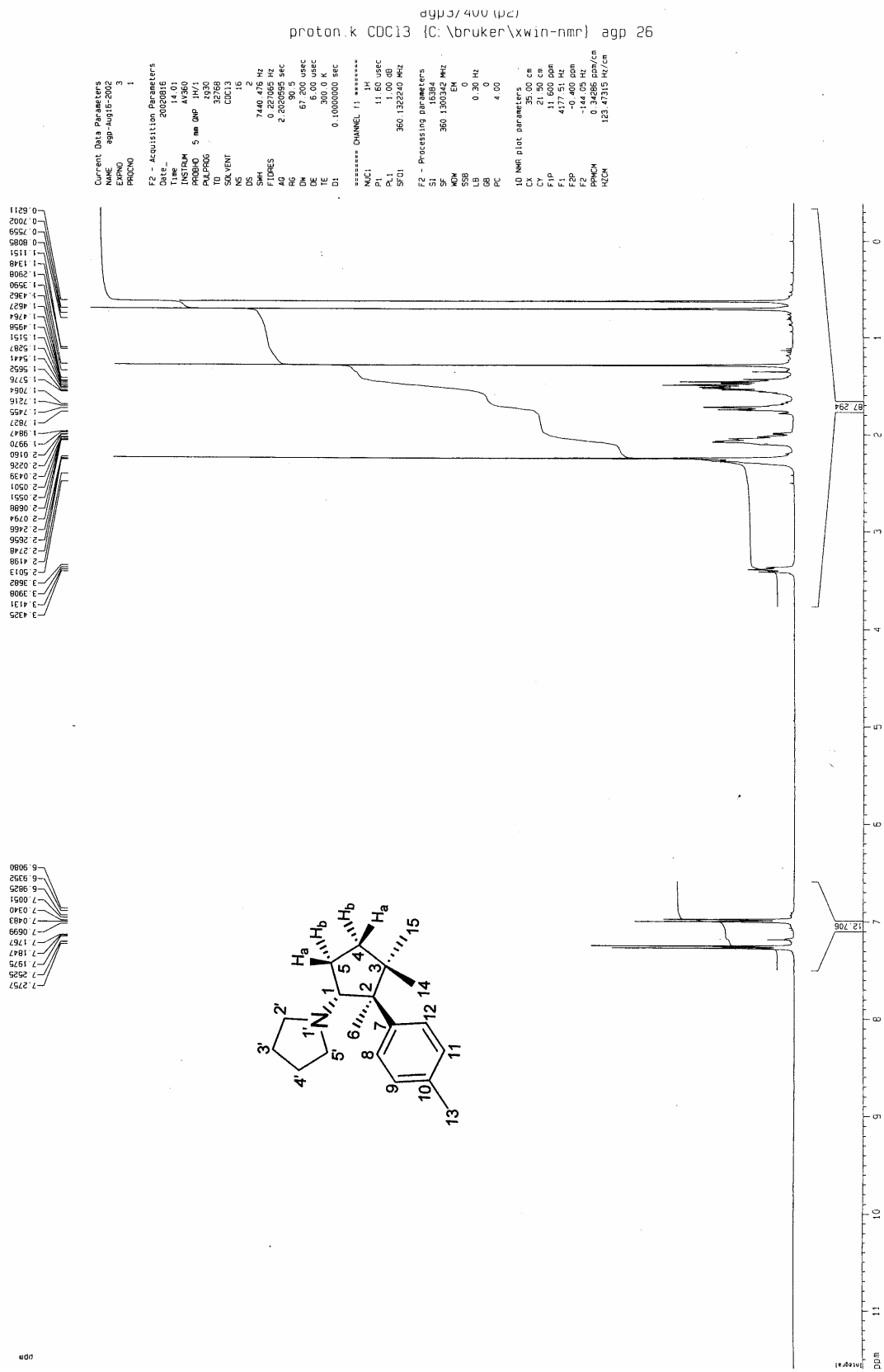


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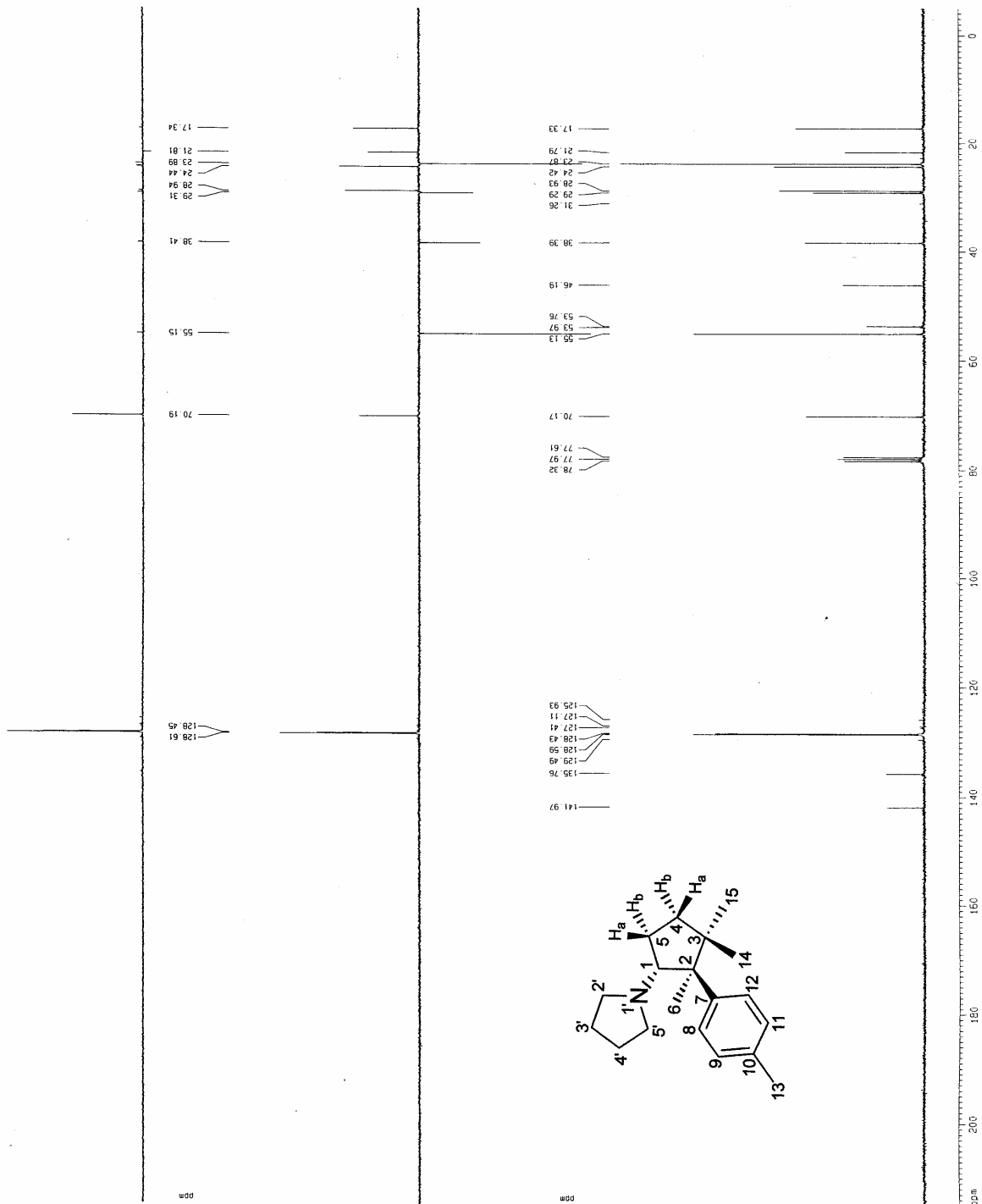




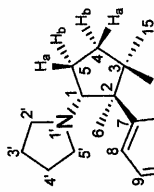
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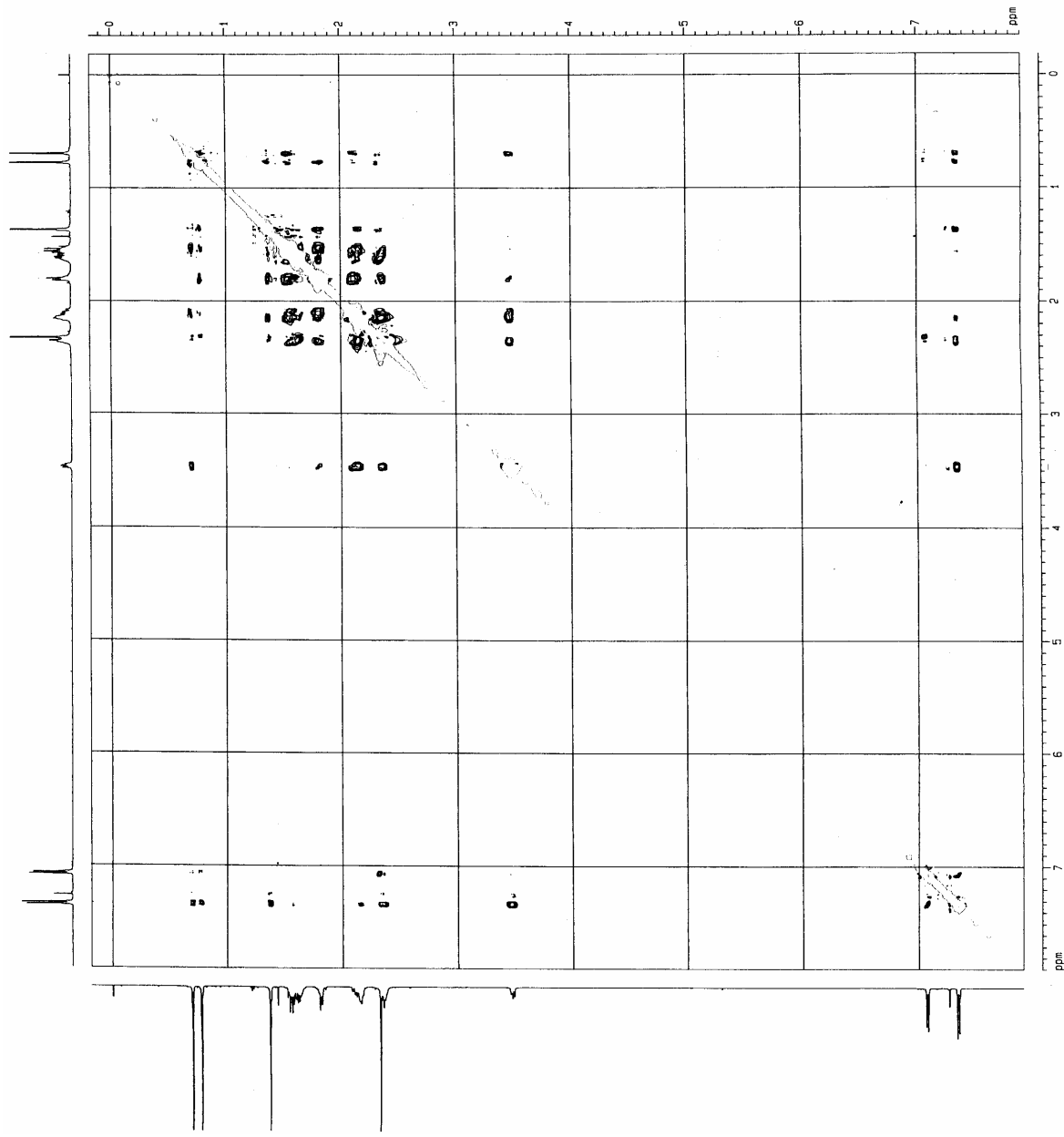
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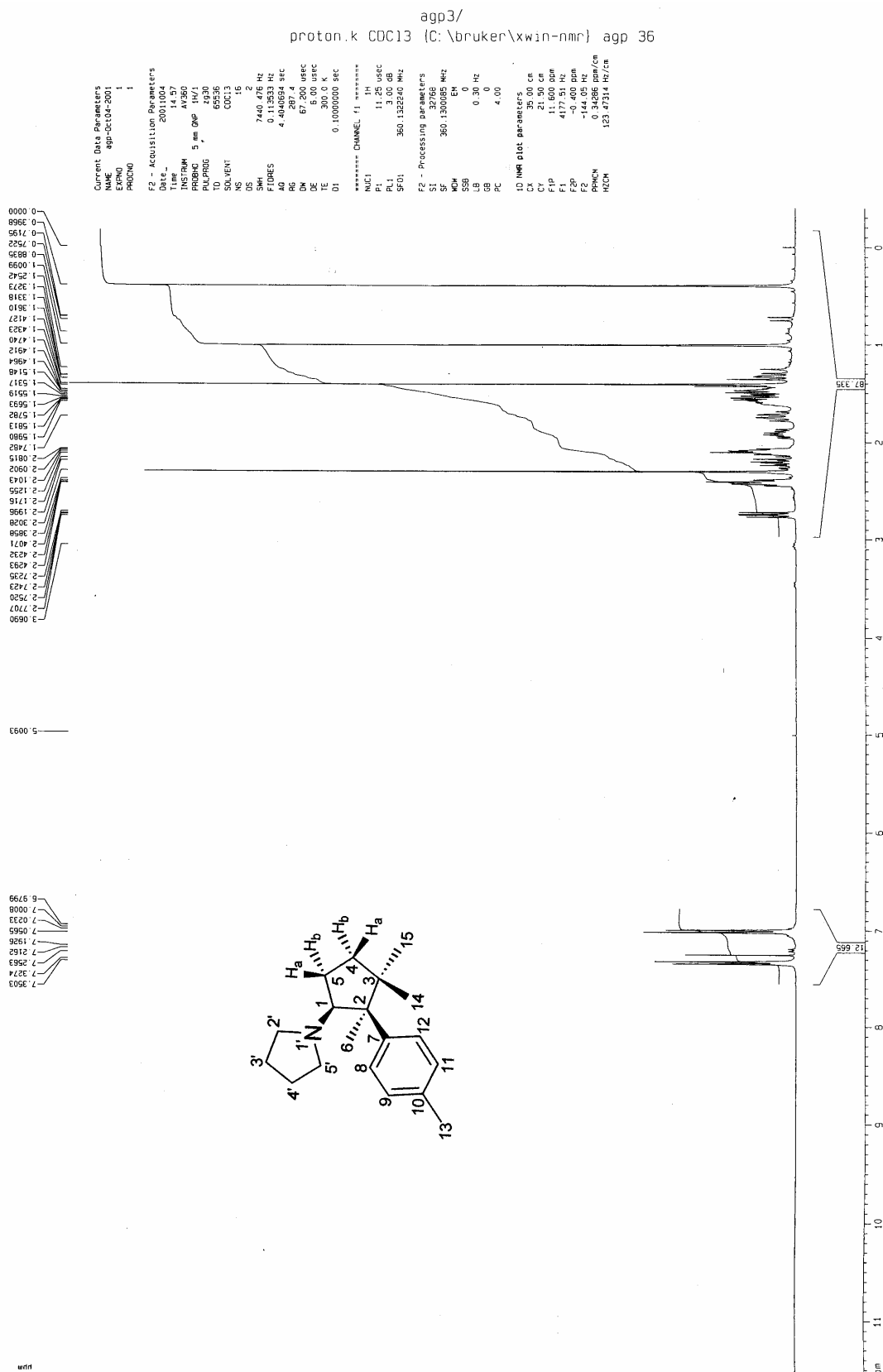
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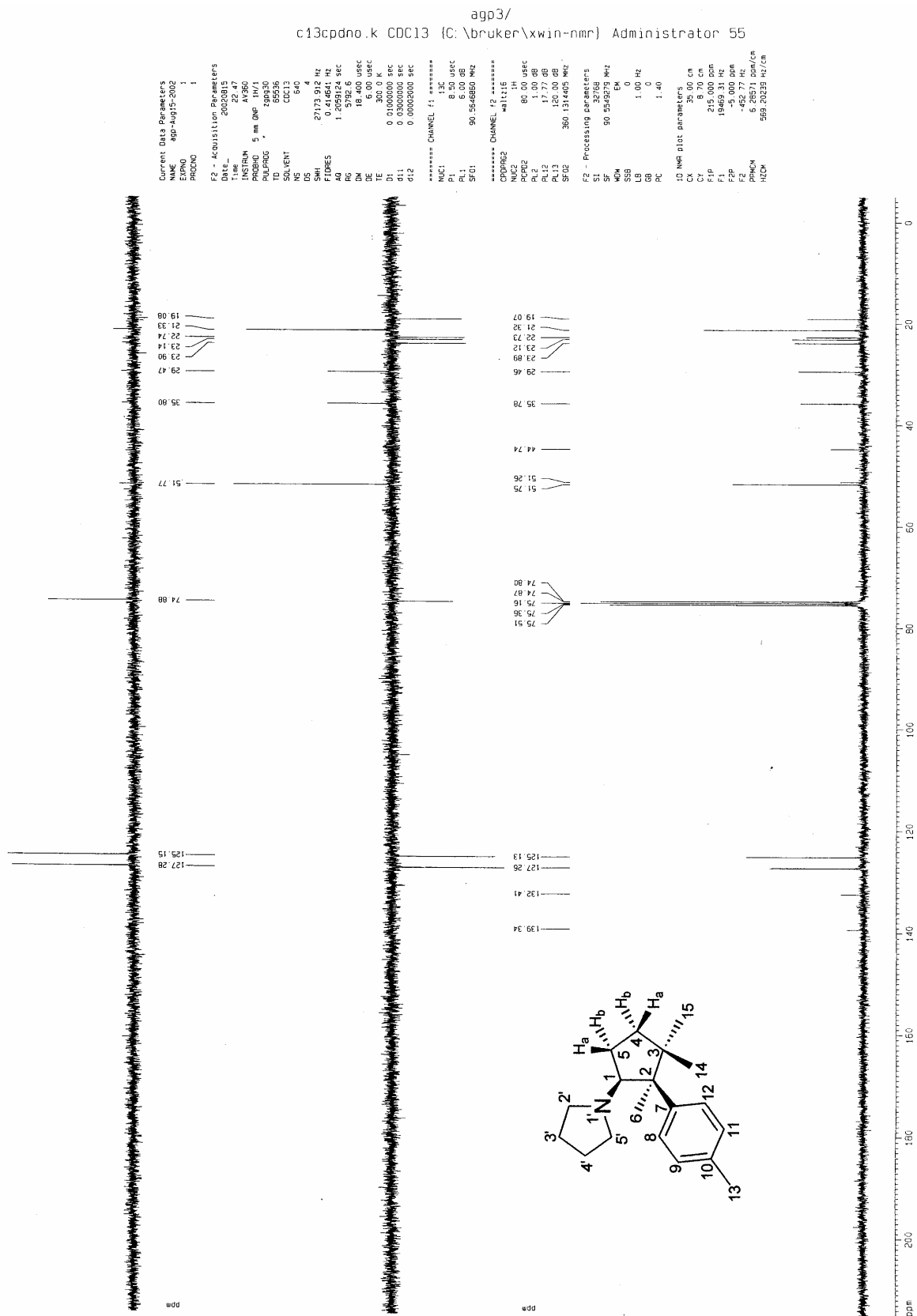
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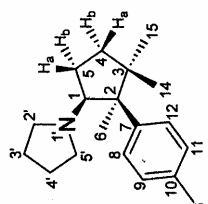
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noesy1dsw_b3.cdci13 C:/u/jeh :
 ASH2/



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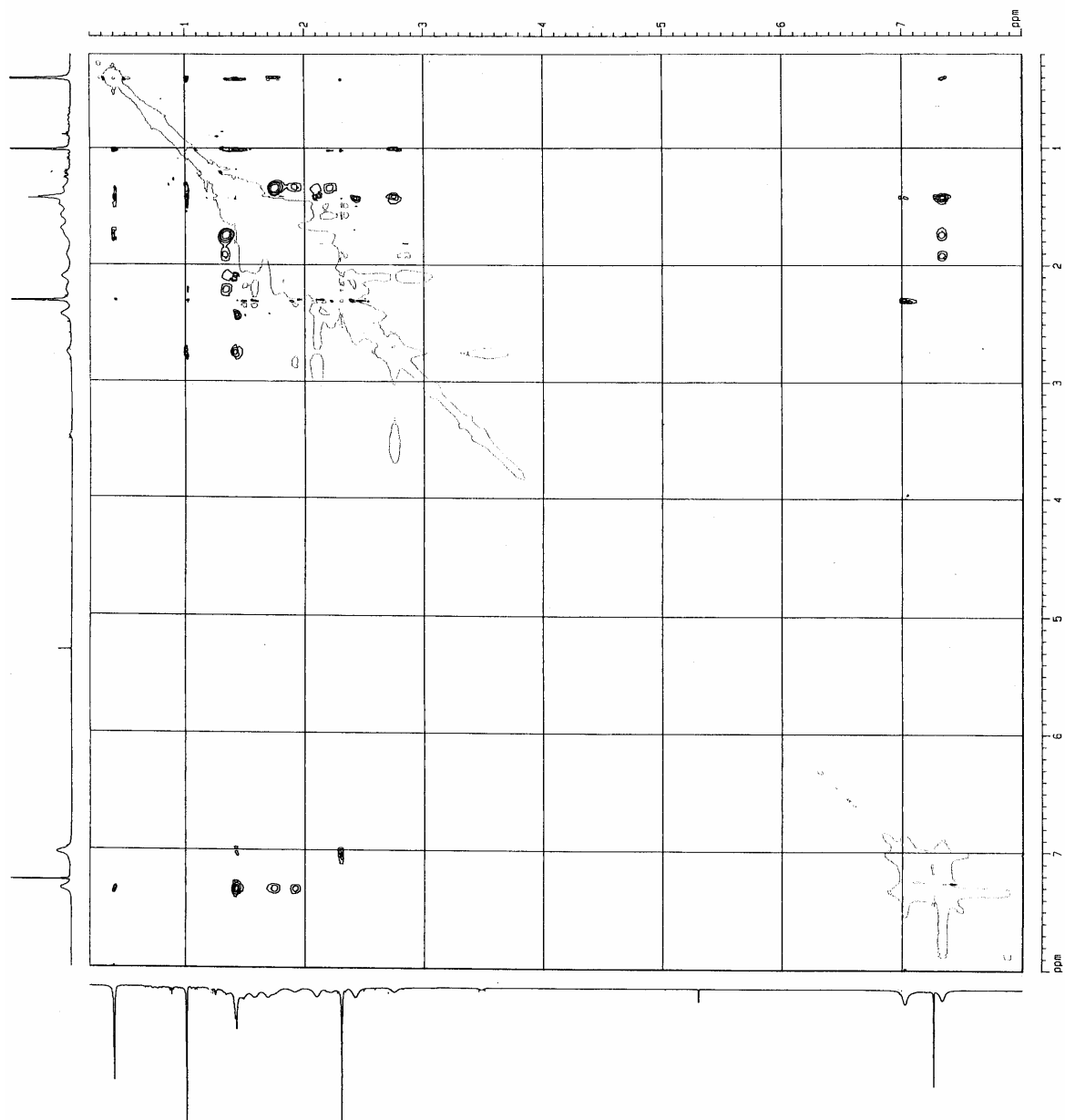
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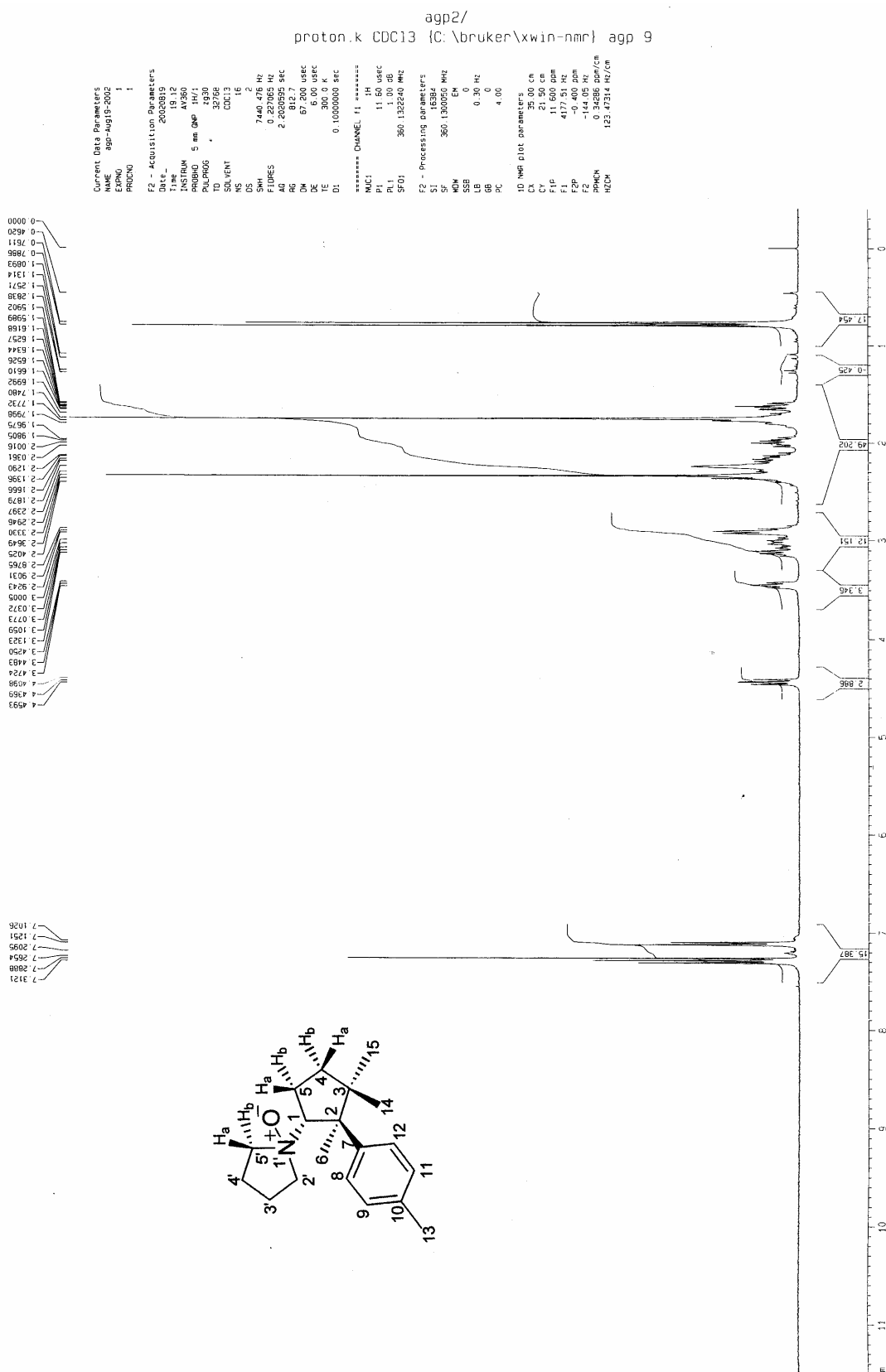
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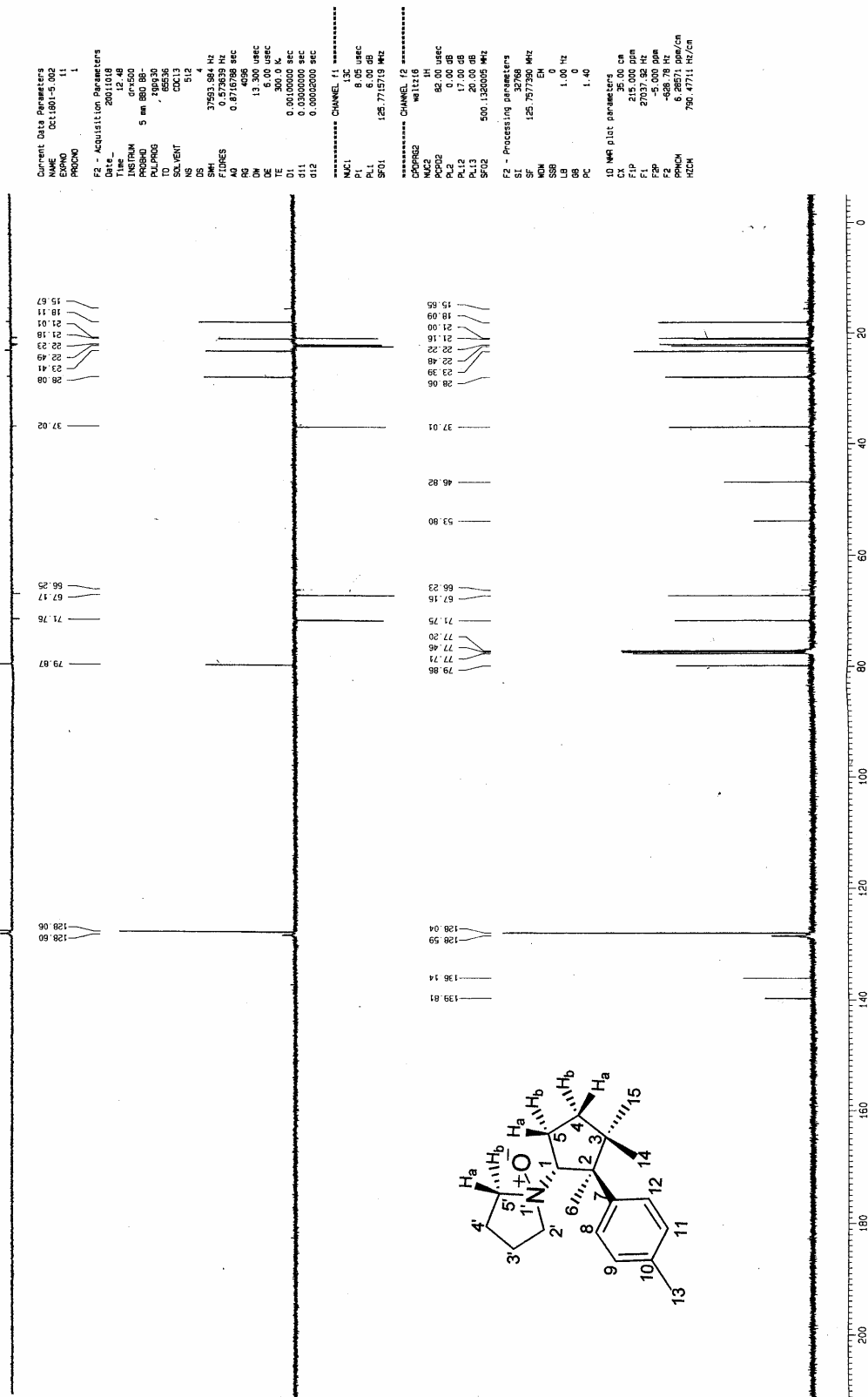
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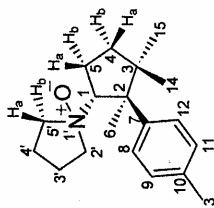


AGP3/206 (P2)

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noesy1dsvw_b3 CDC13 C:/u jeh 2
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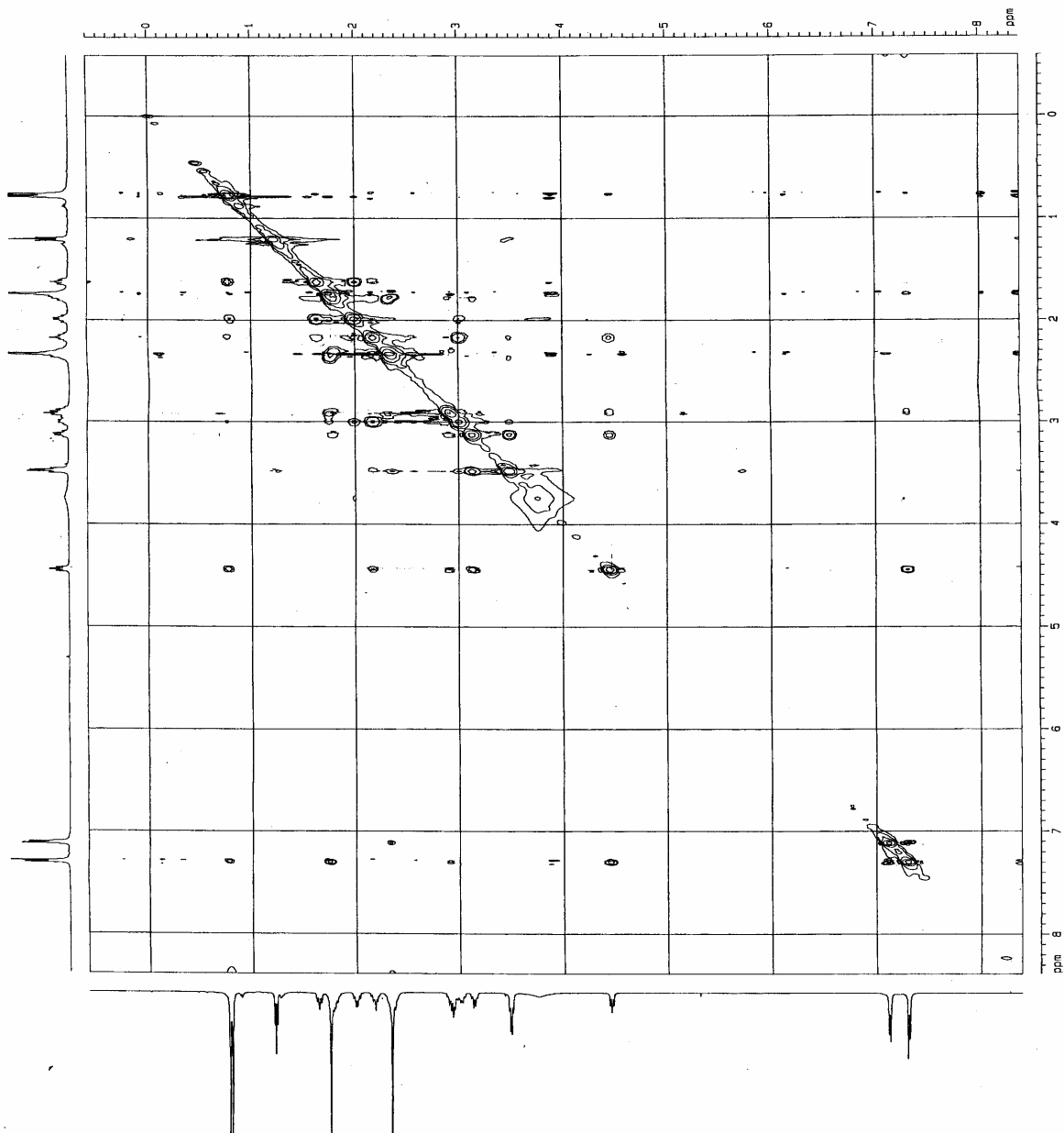
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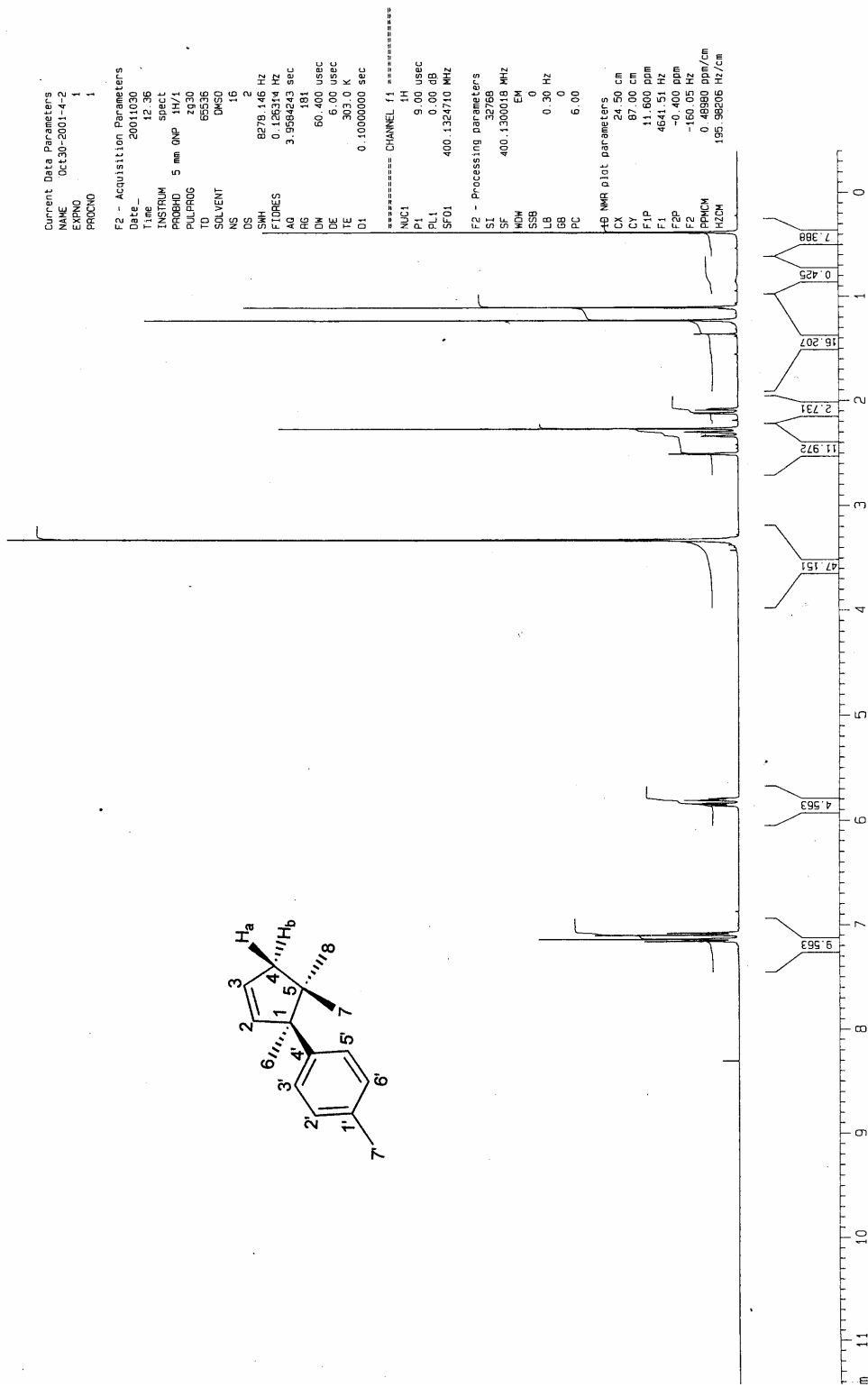
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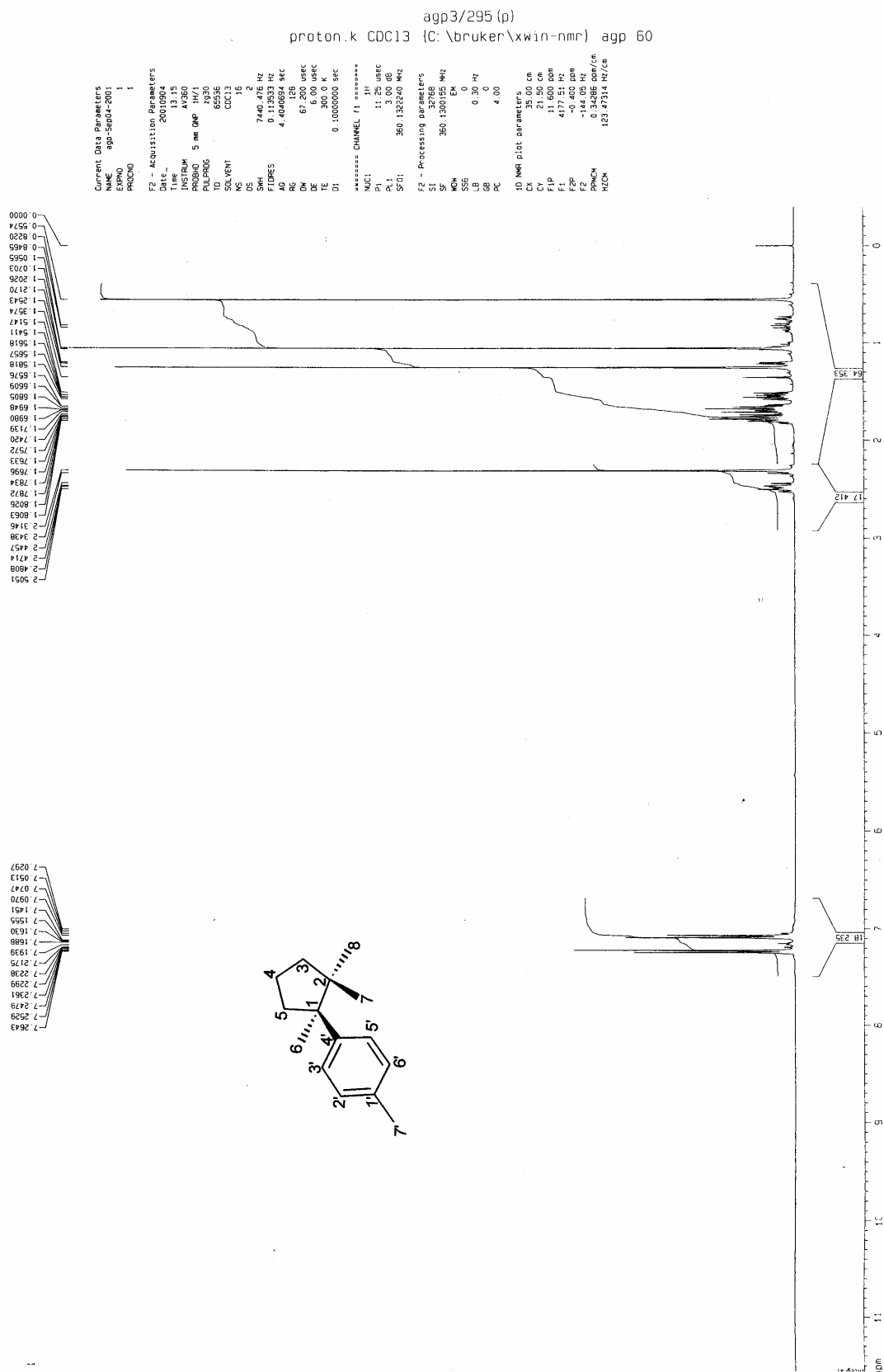
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 SI 1024
 SF 500.1299980 MHz
 DSF 128
 ASFO 2
 LB 0.00 Hz
 GB 0
 PC 1.00

F1 - Processing parameters
 SI 1024
 SF 500.1299980 MHz
 DSF 128
 ASFO 2
 LB 0.00 Hz
 GB 0

2D NMR plot parameters
 CX2 25.00 cm
 CY2 25.00 cm
 FZLO 8.389 ppm
 FZL0 4195.76 Hz
 F2PHI -0.601 ppm
 F2H1 -300.63 Hz
 F1LO 8.389 ppm
 F1H1 -30.601 ppm
 F2PCH0 0.35562 ppm/cm
 F2H0A 179.85542 Hz/cm
 F2PCHM 0.35562 ppm/cm
 F2H0M 179.85542 Hz/cm







agg3/295 (p)
 c13cpdno.k CDC13 [C:\bruker\lxwin-nmr} agg 60

```

Current Data Parameters
NAME      agg-Sup04-2001
EXPNO    2
PROCNO   1

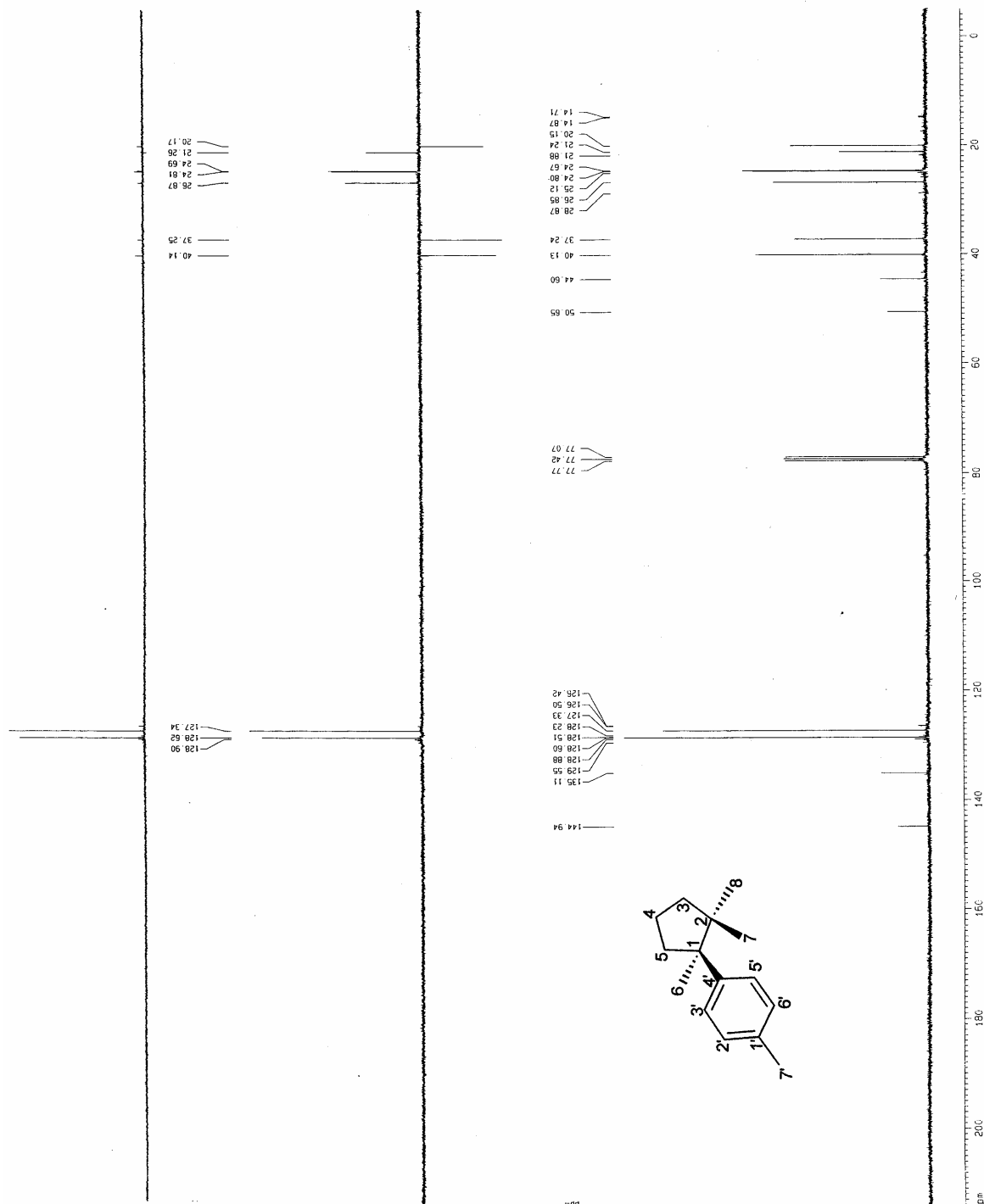
F2 - Acquisition Parameters
Date_    20010905
Time     2.41
INSTRUM  AV350
PROBHD   5 mm QNP
PULPROG  zgpg30
TD        65536
SOLVENT  CDCl3
NS        640
DS        4
AQ        0.7173514 Hz
FIDRES   0.1416641 Hz
AQ        1.2059124 SEC
RG        8192
Dw        16.400 usec
DE        6.00 usec
TE        300.2
D1        0.01000000 SEC
d11       0.03000000 SEC
d12       0.00002000 SEC

***** CHANNEL f1 *****
NUC1      13C
P1        3.88 usec
PL1       3.00 dB
SFO1     90.5646660 MHz

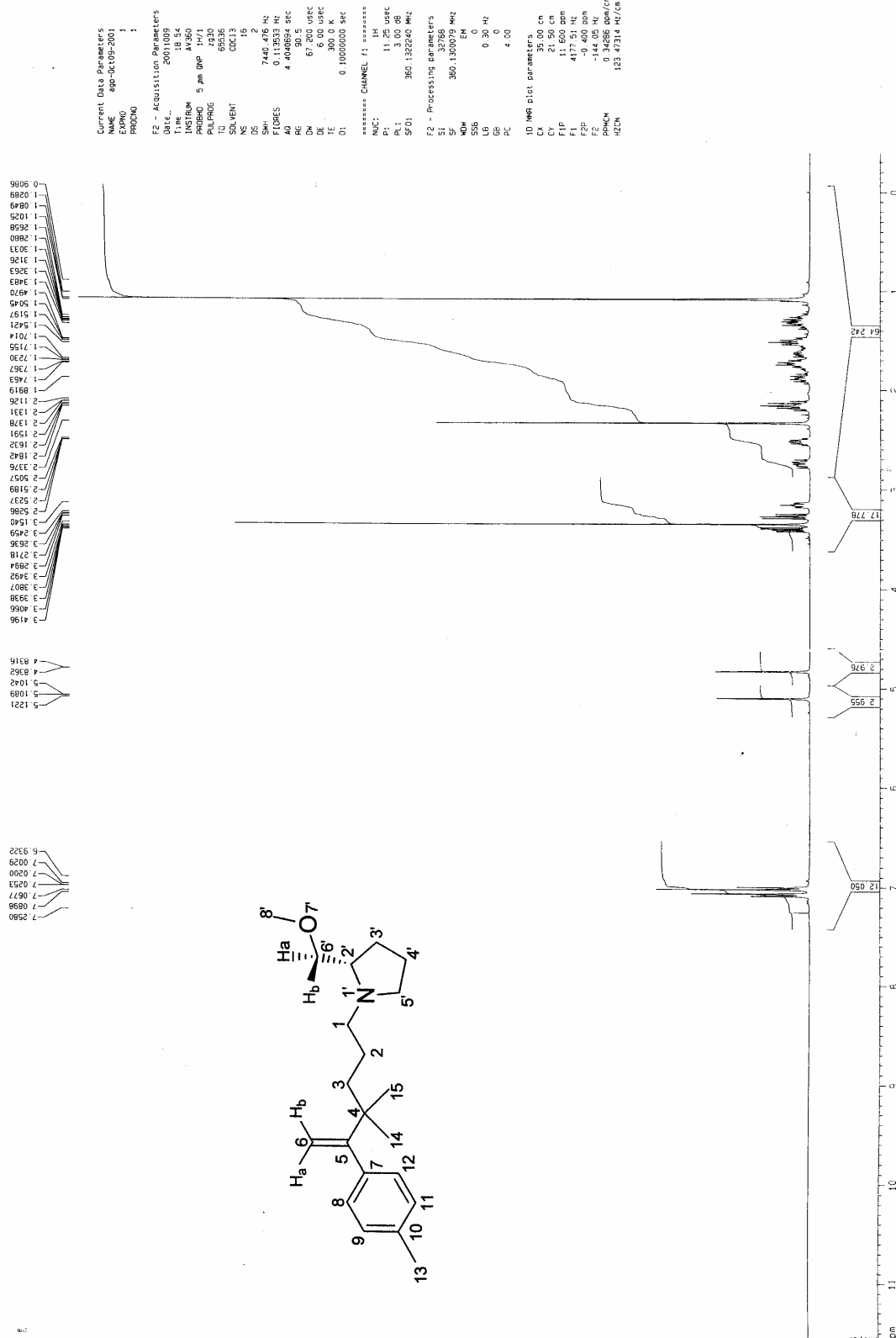
***** CHANNEL f2 *****
CPDPRG2   waltz16
NUC2      1H
P2        87.00 usec
PL2       3.00 dB
PL12      22.00 dB
PL13      19.00 dB
SFO2     360.1314405 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters
SI        32768
SF        90.5547250 MHz
WDW       EM
SSB       0
LB        1.00 Hz
GB        0
PC        1.40

1D NMR f1 f2 parameters
CX        35.00 cm
CY        8.70 cm
FIDP      215.000 kbit
F1        19469.27 Hz
F2        360.1314405 MHz
PRDNM     6.289571 cm/Hz
HZCM      569.20111 Hz/cm
    
```

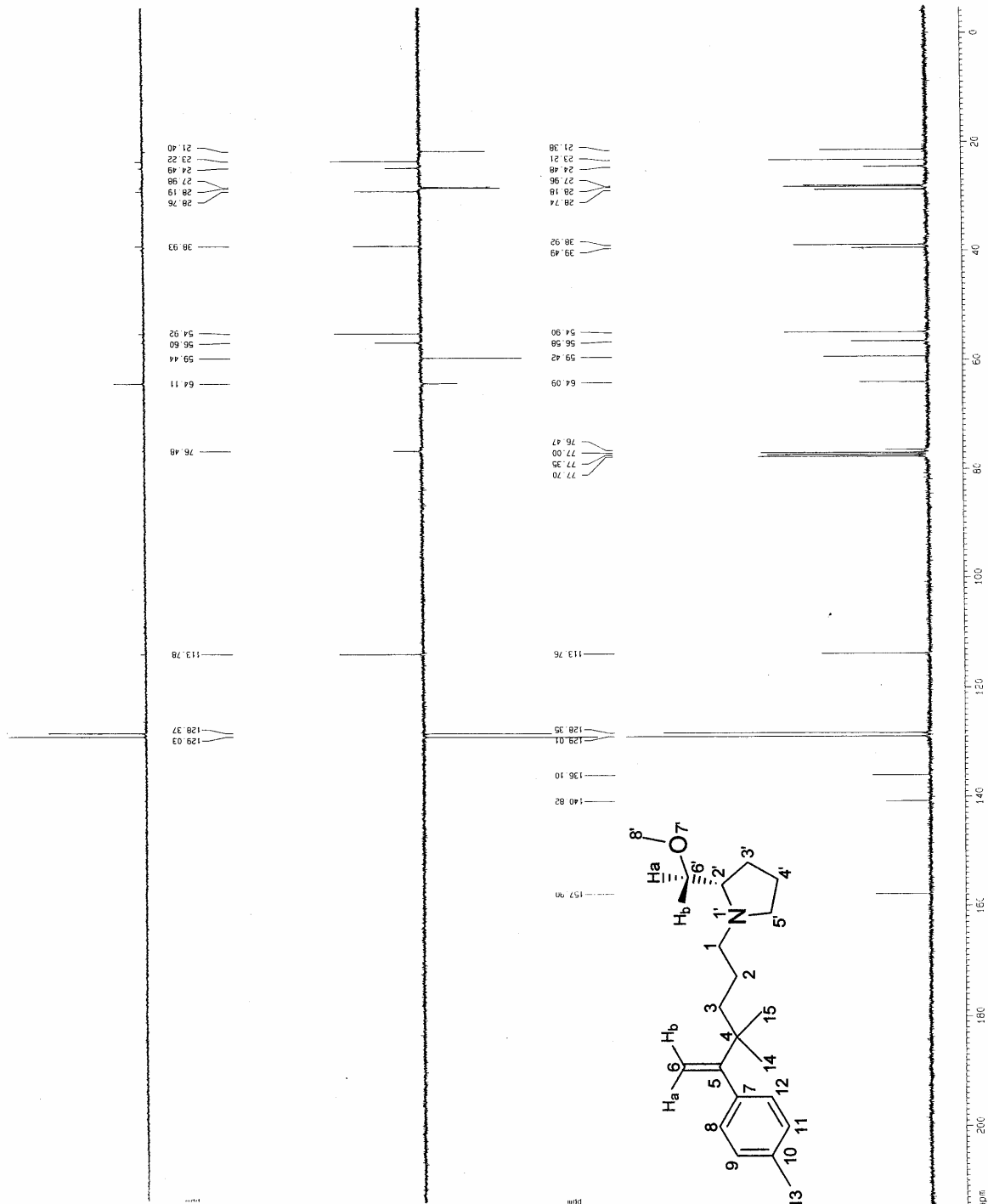


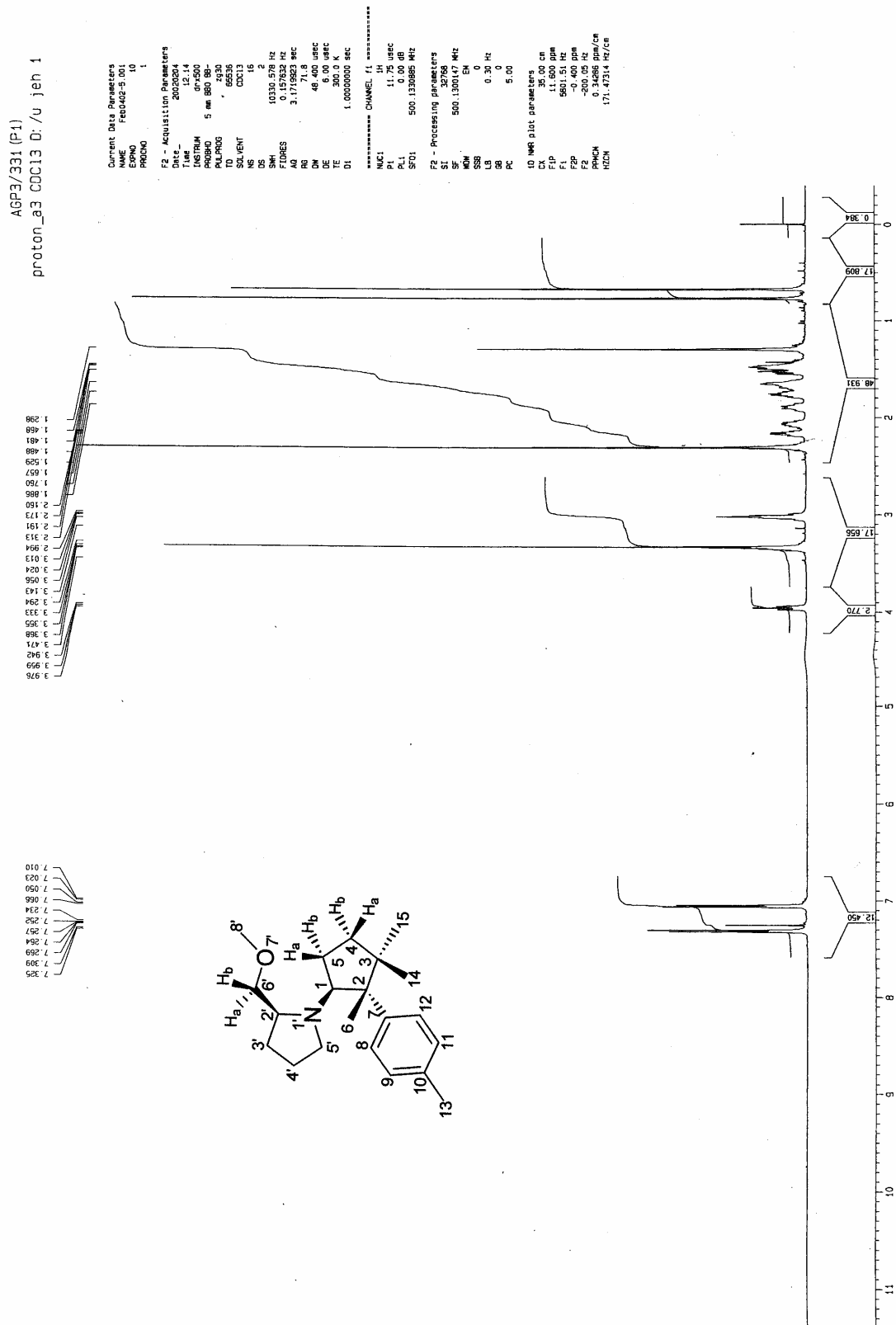
agg3/305 (p)
 proton.k CDC13 {C:\bruker\xwin-nmr} app 2



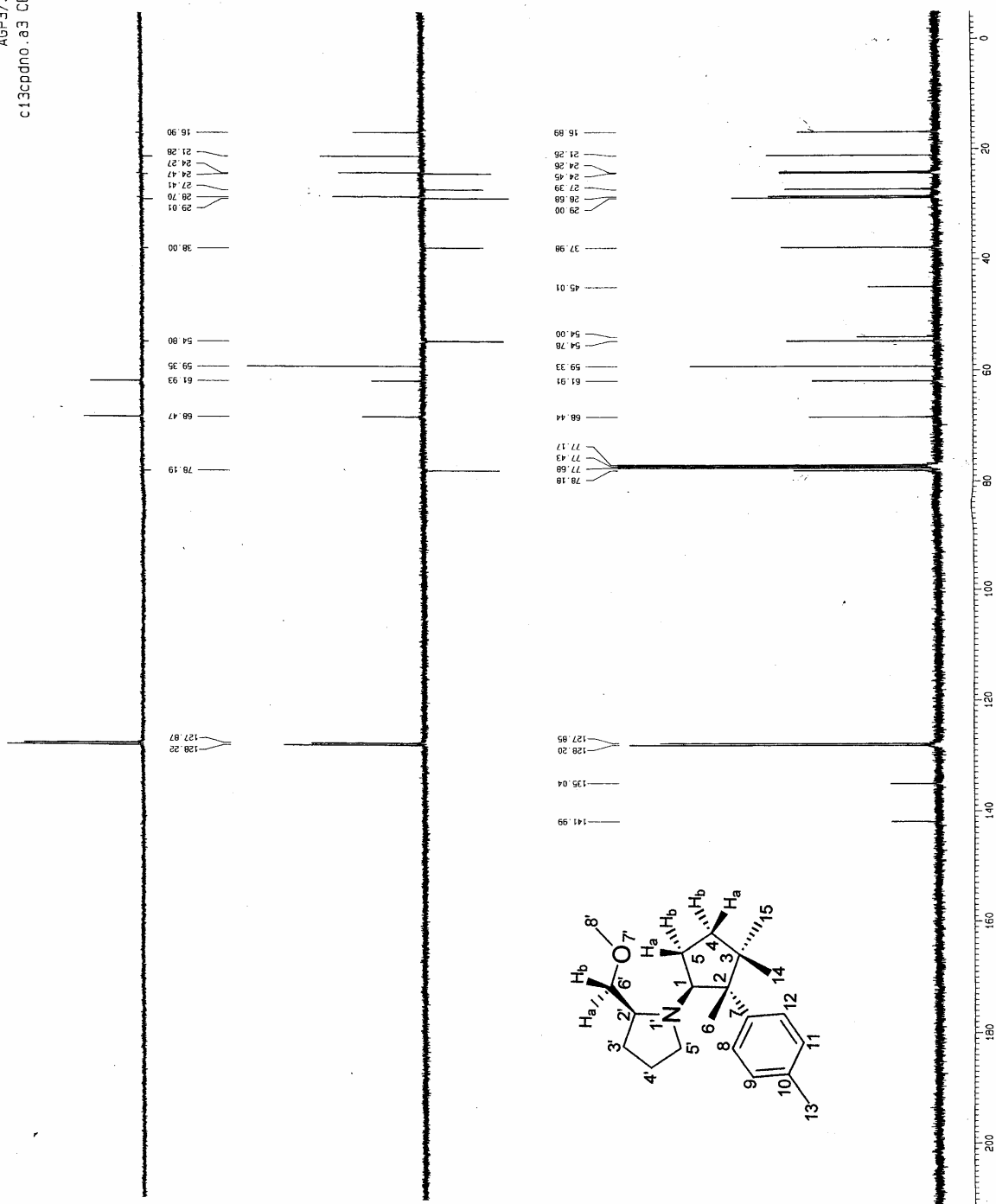
agg3/305 (p)
 c13cpdno.k CDC13 {C:\bruker\lxwin-nmr} agg 57

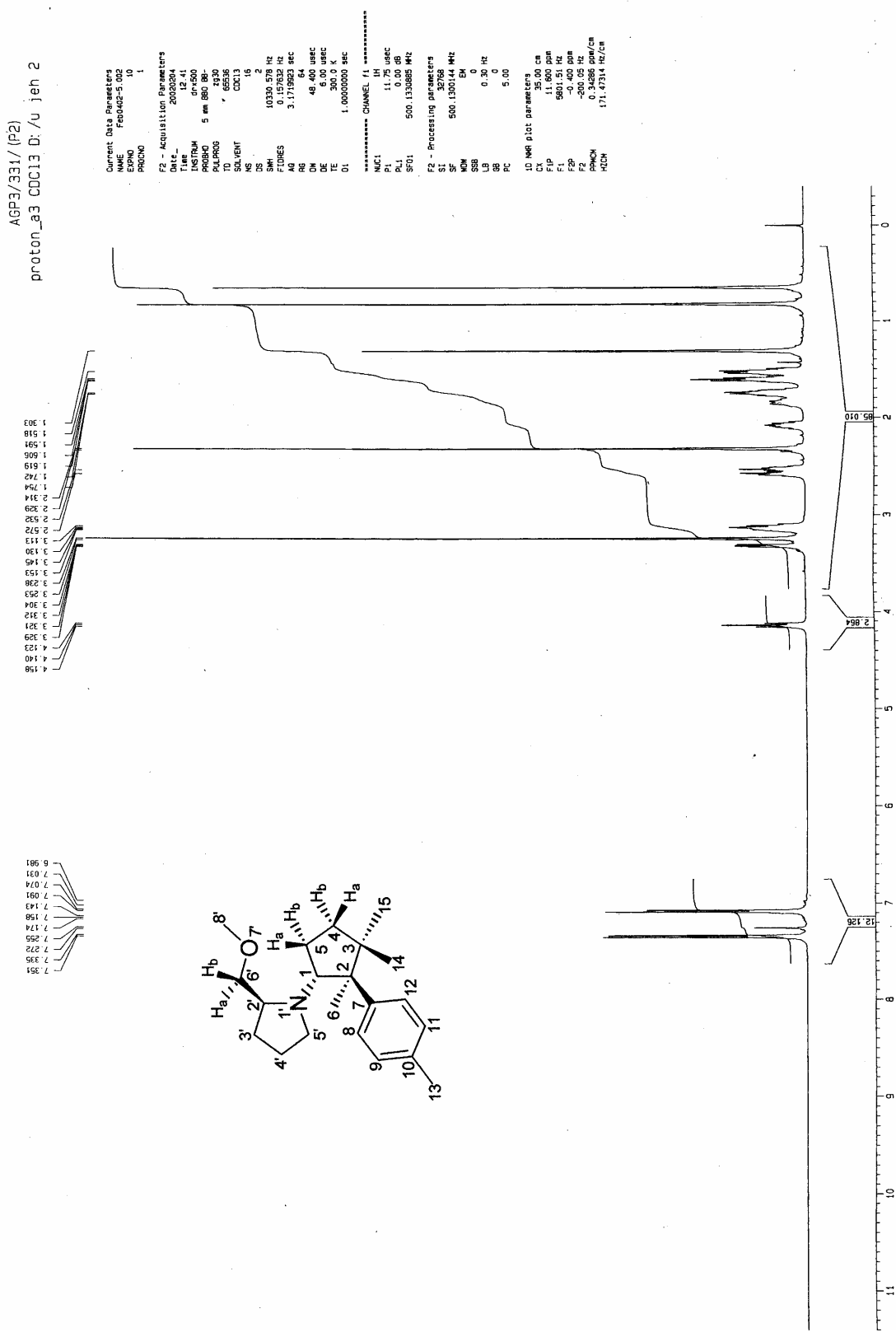
Current Data Parameters
 NAME agg-Ser05-2002
 EXPNO 6
 PROCNO 1
 F2 - Acquisition Parameters
 Date_ 20030905
 Time_ 0.36
 INSTRUM AV360
 PROBHD 5 mm QNP 1H/1
 PULPROG zgpg30
 SOLVENT CDC13
 NS 640
 DS 4
 SWH 27173.912 Hz
 FIDRES 0.1400000 Hz
 AQ 1.2069124 sec
 RG 51932.6
 DM 18.400 usec
 DE 6.00 usec
 TE 300.0 K
 D1 0.03000000 sec
 D11 0.03000000 sec
 D12 0.00020000 sec
 ===== CHANNEL f1 =====
 NUC1 13C
 P1 6.50 usec
 PL1 6.00 dB
 SFO1 90.5646860 MHz
 ===== CHANNEL f2 =====
 CHPROG waltz16
 NUC2 1H
 P2 80.00 usec
 PL2 1.00 dB
 PL12 17.77 dB
 PL13 120.00 dB
 SFO2 360.1314050 MHz
 F2 - Processing parameters
 SI 32768
 SF 90.5647315 MHz
 DSF 360.1314050 MHz
 LB 1.00 Hz
 GB 0
 PC 1.40
 SD Mem plot parameters
 CY 38.00 cm
 CX 6.70 cm
 F1 215.000 ppm
 F2 5.000 ppm
 F3 5.000 ppm
 RSKCM 6.29571 ppm/cm
 RDCM 569.20111 Hz/cm



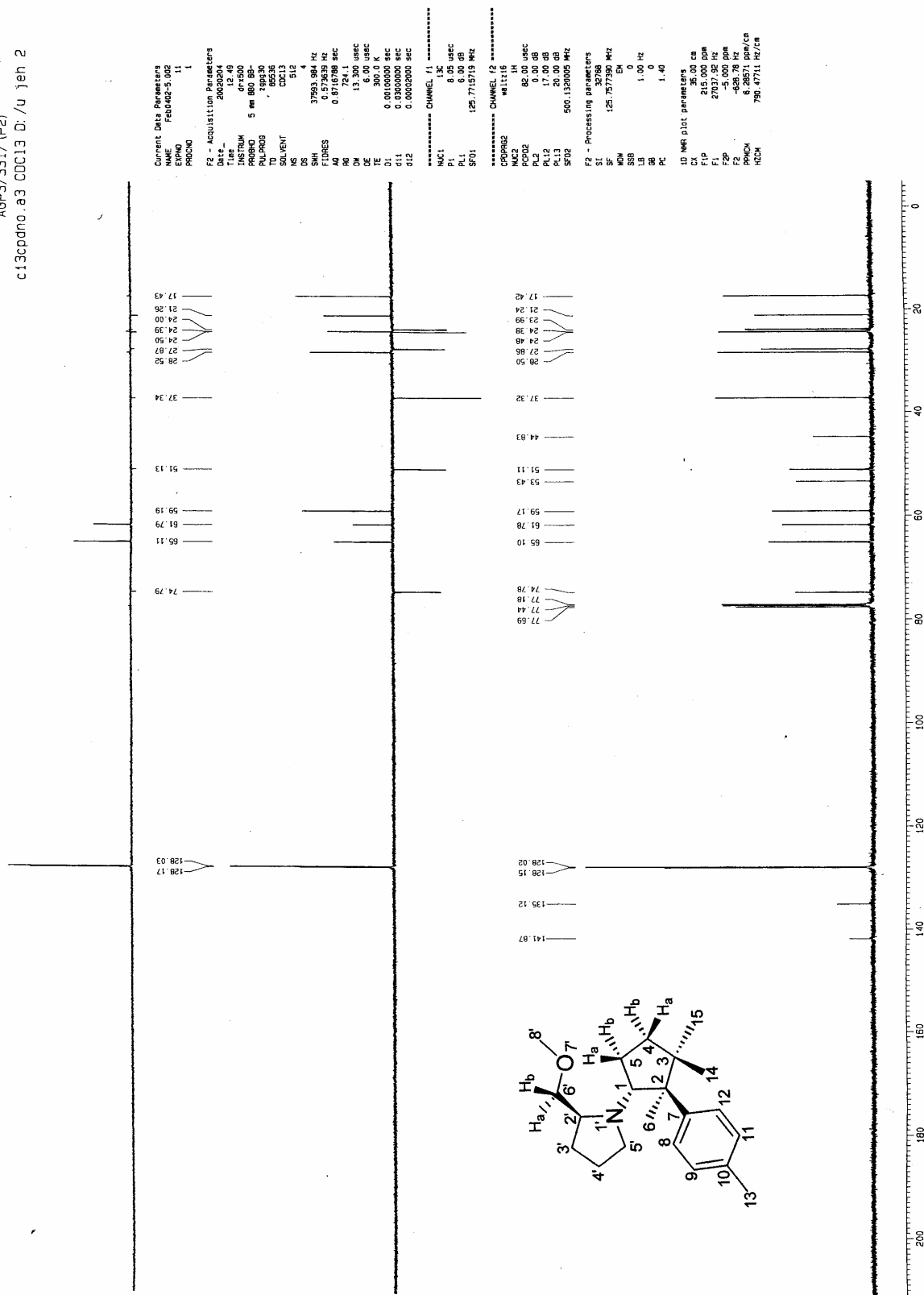


AGP3/331 (F1)
 c13cpdno.a3 CDC13 D: /u jeh 1





AGP3/331/(P2)
 c13cpdno.a3 C0C13 D:/u jeh 2



AGP3/
 NOESYPHSW CDCl3 [C:\N\] General 2

Current Data Parameters
 NAME Oct18-2001-4-2
 EXPNO 8
 PROCNO 1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
 Date_ 20011016
 Time 17.38
 INSTRUM spect
 PULPROG zgpg30
 TO 2048
 SOLVENT CDCl3
 NS 16
 DS 4
 SWH 3561.854 Hz
 FIDRES 1.753984 Hz
 AQ 0.2851316 sec
 RG 40.3
 DM 158.200 umc
 ZE 30.0 umc
 DE 30.0 umc
 DQ 0.0000300 sec
 O1 1.98600284 sec
 DB 0.80000001 sec
 JAW 0.00227840 sec
 JMOD 0.00000000 sec
 MCHRG 0.00000000 sec
 MCKEY 0.98300140 sec
 STOUT 45

***** CHANNEL f1 *****
 NUC1 1H
 P1 8.00 umc
 PL1 0.00 dB
 SFO1 400.1314308 MHz

F1 - Acquisition Parameters
 NU0 256
 TD 256
 SFO1 400.1314 MHz
 FIDRES 14.031071 Hz
 SW 8.977 ppm

F2 - Processing Parameters
 SI 1024
 SF 400.1300467 MHz
 MTK 2
 SSB 2
 GB 0
 PC 1.00

F1 - Processing Parameters
 SI 1024
 SF 400.1300467 MHz
 MTK 2
 SSB 2
 GB 0

2D NMR plot parameters
 CX2 15.00 cm
 CX1 15.00 cm
 F2FLO 7.500 ppm
 F2FID 300.44 Hz
 F2FRI 0.500 ppm
 F2FRL 130.04 Hz
 F1FLO 7.500 ppm
 F1FID 300.44 Hz
 F1FRI 15.000 ppm
 F1FRL 0.40058 ppm/cm
 F2PACH 192.28578 Hz/cm
 F1PACH 0.48058 ppm/cm
 F2HZON 192.28578 Hz/cm
 F1HZON

