



Figure 1. High-field region of the 500-MHz absolute value mode ^1H - ^{13}C long-range correlation spectrum of a sample of 4 mg of coenzyme B_{12} , dissolved in 0.35 mL of D_2O . The measuring time was 15 h. The lowest contour level in the upper half of the spectrum (above the drawn line) has been chosen 3 times higher than for the lower half, because, at lower contour levels, t_1 noise from the intense methyl signals starts obscuring the connectivities of interest. At the top of the spectrum, the conventional ^1H -decoupled ^{13}C spectrum recorded on a JEOL GX400 spectrometer (using 50 mg of sample) is shown. Incompletely suppressed direct correlations, marked by vertical bars, are observed for the methyl groups C53, C35, B10, B11, C54, C25, C47, and Pr3.¹⁵ Resonances that are folded in the ^{13}C dimension are labeled "F".

buffered D_2O (pH 7.0), in a 5-mm sample tube. Spectra were recorded on a modified NT-500 spectrometer, equipped with a Cryomagnet Systems ^1H probe¹³ with a heteronuclear decoupling coil. The high-field part of the spectrum obtained with this method is shown in Figure 1. The entire spectrum contains well over 100 correlations. Connectivities to methyl groups are particularly intense when observed with this method since three methyl protons are used to detect the presence of a single ^{13}C nucleus. Also, both the two-bond and three-bond J_{CH} couplings to methyl protons are usually rather large (4–5 Hz¹⁴), sufficient to provide an efficient transfer mechanism. For example, Figure 1 shows connectivity between the protons of methyl group 46¹⁵ and carbons C12, C47, and C13. Similarly, the C47 methyl protons show connectivity to C46, C12, and C13. This confirms that the two methyl groups C46 and C47 are attached to the same carbon, C12. A 2D NOE spectrum confirmed the original ^1H assignments¹⁶ of the two

methyl groups. However, it follows from Figure 1 that the ^{13}C assignment of the two methyl carbons was incorrect in earlier work.¹⁷ The resonance assignments of many other protonated and nonprotonated carbon resonances follow in a straightforward manner from such a long-range ^1H - ^{13}C shift correlation spectrum. By use of this method in combination with other recently developed techniques,^{18,19} complete and unambiguous ^1H and ^{13}C assignments have been made. In a forthcoming publication²⁰ this reassignment will be reported, together with conformational information derived from 2D NOE data.

The spectrum of coenzyme B_{12} clearly demonstrates that with the new method determination of long-range ^1H - ^{13}C connectivity is now feasible for relatively large molecules, using small sample quantities. In addition, the ability to suppress direct connectivity is helpful for minimizing the complexity of the long-range CH connectivity map. If more than one long-range CH connectivity is detected for one particular proton, the relative intensities of the corresponding resonances are directly related to the magnitude of the coupling constant. For example, the presence of an intense correlation between proton C8 and carbon C42 indicates that this coupling is significantly larger than the coupling between proton C8 and carbon C36, for which no connectivity is observed. This information may be used for distinguishing gauche (small coupling) and trans (larger coupling) conformations.¹⁴ In combination with other 2D experiments, the long-range multiple quantum method provides a direct method for determining both the structure and the complete and unambiguous ^1H and ^{13}C assignments of molecules of up to at least 1600 daltons.

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Synthesis of Alternating Hydroxy- and Methyl-Substituted Hydrocarbons by Oxymercuration of Cyclopropylcarbinols

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In addition to the Corey,^{1a} Woodward,^{1b} and Stork^{1c} ring-disconnection methods used for the formation of poly-

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