

# Supporting Information

## **Selective Syntheses of Leuconolam, Leuconoxine, and Mersicarpine Alkaloids from a Common Intermediate through Regiocontrolled Cyclizations by Staudinger Reactions**

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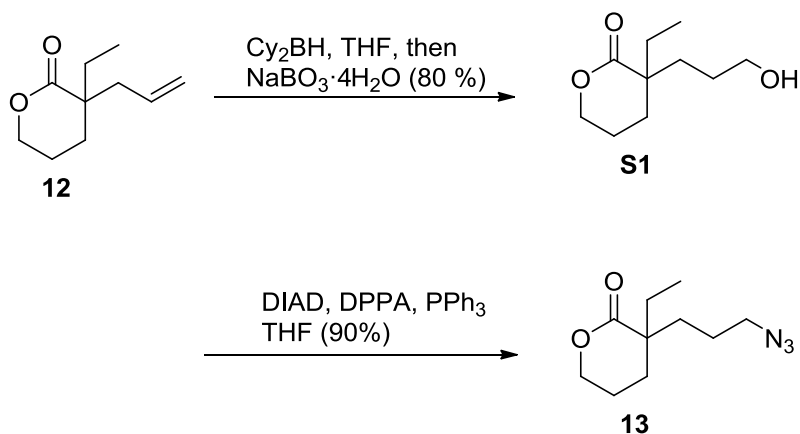
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## General information:

All air and moisture sensitive reactions were performed under an atmosphere of argon. Reagents obtained from Acros, Aldrich, J&K, and Aladdin were used without further purification. THF and toluene were dried by distillation over Na/benzophenone. MeCN, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, CCl<sub>4</sub> and NEt<sub>3</sub> were dried by distillation over CaH<sub>2</sub>, DMF was dried by distillation over CaH<sub>2</sub> under reduced pressure. MeOH was dried by distillation over Mg turnings. TLC inspections were on silica gel GF254 plates. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200–300 mesh).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE AV400 (400MHz and 100MHz). Signal positions were recorded in ppm with the abbreviations s, d, t, m, and bs denoting singlet, doublet, triplet, multiplet, and broad singlet respectively. All NMR chemical shifts were referenced to residual solvent peaks or to Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> as an internal standard, spectra recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> were referenced to residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> at 7.26 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H NMR or 77.0 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C NMR. All coupling constants *J* are quoted in Hz. FTIR spectra were obtained with a Bruker Tensor 27 instrument. All IR samples were prepared as thin film and reported in wave numbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on an IonSpec QFT mass spectrometer with ESI ionization.

## Preparation of compound 13

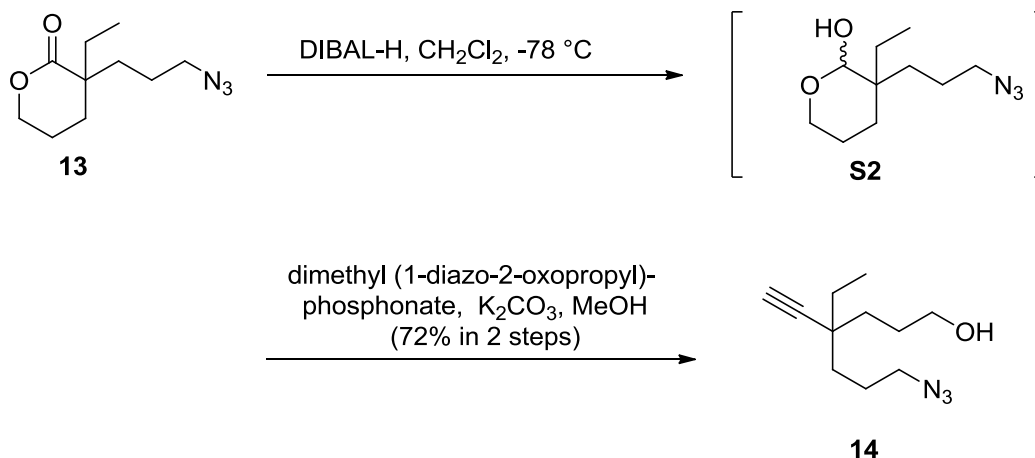


To a solution of  $\text{BH}_3 \cdot \text{THF}$  (1 M, 0.60 mL, 0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in THF at 0 °C was added cyclohexene (98.5 mg, 1.2 mmol, 2.4 equiv) in THF (1 mL). The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. Then a solution of compound **12** (84 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv) in THF (1 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for another 1 h. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 5 h after quenched by addition of  $\text{NaBO}_3 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (280 mg, 1.8 mmol, 3.6 equiv) and water (2 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (5×3 mL). The combined solution

was concentrated and purified by column chromatography (2:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give **S1** (75 mg, 0.4 mmol, 80%) as a clear oil. Data for **S1**:  $R_f$  0.15 (2:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.30 (t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 2 H), 3.66-3.55 (m, 2 H), 1.90-1.82 (m, 2 H), 1.81-1.70 (m, 4 H), 1.64-1.54 (m, 4 H), 0.90 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  176.1, 70.1, 62.7, 45.9, 35.1, 32.2, 29.1, 27.6, 21.3, 8.6; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3411, 2945, 2878, 1719, 1460, 1399, 1255, 1161; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  187.1329, found: 187.1333.

To a solution of **S1** (18.6 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) and  $\text{PPh}_3$  (53 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (2 mL) was added a solution of DPPA (82 mg, 0.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv) in THF (1 mL) and DIAD (61 mg, 0.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by column chromatography (8:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give compound **13** (19 mg, 0.09 mmol, 90%) as a clear oil. Data for compound **13**:  $R_f$  0.45 (4:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.31 (t,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 2 H), 3.34-3.22 (m, 2 H), 1.90-1.84 (m, 2 H), 1.83-1.68 (m, 4 H), 1.65-1.55 (m, 4 H), 0.91 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.4, 70.1, 51.6, 45.9, 36.0, 32.0, 29.3, 24.1, 21.2, 8.6; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2967, 2879, 2096, 1723, 1462, 1252; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  212.1394, found: 212.1396.

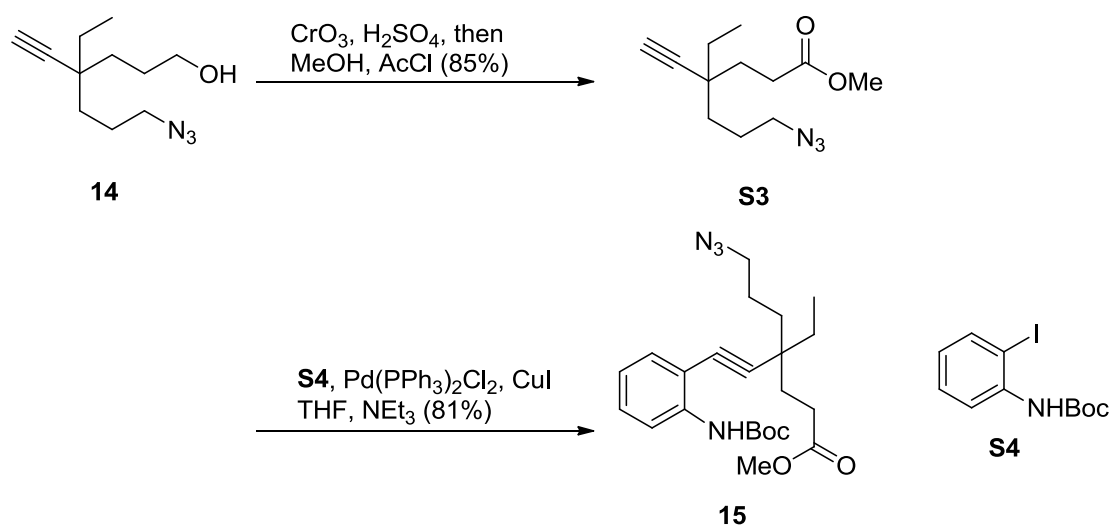
#### Preparation of compound 14



To a solution of compound **13** (21 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 mL) was added DIBAL-H (1.0 M in toluene, 0.15 mmol, 1.2 equiv) at -78 °C slowly. After stirred for 30 min at the same temperature, the mixture was quenched with MeOH (2 mL) carefully. Anhydrous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (27.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2 equiv) and dimethyl-1-diazo-2-oxopropylphosphonate (28.8 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (15 mL), washed with water (3×5 mL), dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and filtered. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a light yellow oil. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (8:1 petroleum ether:ethyl

acetate) to give compound **14** (15 mg, 0.072 mmol, 72%) as a clear oil. Data for compound **14**:  $R_f$  0.36 (4:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.66 (t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2 H), 3.29 (t,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.12 (s, 1 H), 1.74-1.60 (m, 5 H), 1.54-1.44 (m, 6 H), 0.93 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  89.3, 70.3, 63.1, 51.8, 38.1, 34.7, 33.7, 30.6, 27.6, 24.0, 8.5; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3369, 3301, 2944, 2876, 2095, 1454, 1258, 1058; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  210.1601, found: 210.1605.

### Preparation of compound 15

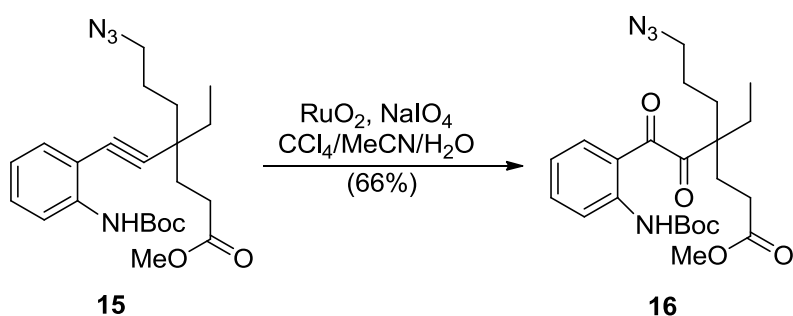


To a solution of compound **14** (209 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1 equiv) in acetone (10 mL) was added a solution of  $\text{CrO}_3$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (8 N, about 2 mL) at 0 °C dropwise until the solution remained orange. The mixture was stirred for 10 min before water (20 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (5×5 mL), dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and filtered. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a brown oil. The crude product was diluted with MeOH (10 mL) at 0 °C and AcCl (0.2 mL) was added. After stirred for 2 h, the mixture was concentrated and purified by column chromatography (16:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give **S3** (201 mg, 0.85 mmol, 85%) as a clear oil. Data for **S3**:  $R_f$  0.46 (8:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.68 (s, 3 H), 3.30 (t,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.49-2.40 (m, 2 H), 2.16 (s, 1 H), 1.80-1.76 (m, 2 H), 1.74-1.66 (m, 2 H), 1.53-1.45 (m, 4 H), 0.94 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  174.0, 88.1, 71.1, 51.7, 51.6, 38.0, 34.6, 32.5, 30.5, 29.6, 24.0, 8.4; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3293, 2952, 2880, 2097, 1737, 1452, 1437, 1196, 1175; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  238.1556, found: 238.1550.

To a stirred mixture of  $\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_2\text{Cl}_2$  (90 mg, 0.13 mmol, 5 mol%), and CuI (34 mg, 0.18 mmol, 7 mol%) was added a solution of compound **S3** (610 mg, 2.57 mmol, 1 equiv) and **S4** (1.64 g, 5.15 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in a mixture of  $\text{NEt}_3$  (6 mL) and THF (6 mL) at -78 °C under Argon. The reaction mixture was then degassed by freeze-thaw

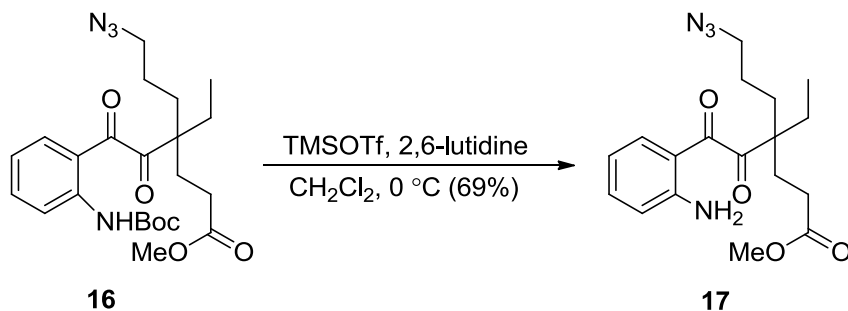
cycles before it was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite. Solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (16:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give compound **15** (892 mg, 2.08 mmol, 81%) as a yellow oil. Data for compound **15**:  $R_f$  0.47 (8:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.07 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1 H), 7.33-7.19 (m, 3 H), 6.93 (td,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1.1, 1 H), 3.67 (s, 3 H), 3.34 (t,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 2 H), 2.49 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2 H), 1.90 (t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 2 H), 1.80-1.70 (m, 2 H), 1.69-1.58 (m, 4 H), 1.51 (s, 9 H), 1.04 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  173.8, 152.3, 139.4, 131.4, 129.1, 122.0, 117.4, 111.4, 100.7, 80.6, 79.1, 51.7, 51.6, 39.1, 34.9, 32.7, 30.9, 29.8, 28.2, 24.2, 8.8; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3402, 2970, 2937, 2878, 2097, 1735, 1580, 1517, 1449, 1367, 1238, 1157, 755, 591; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  451.2316, found: 451.2316.

### Preparation of compound 16



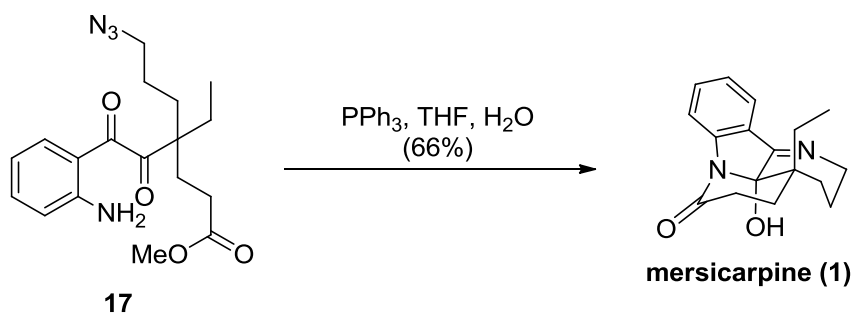
To a solution of compound **15** (730 mg, 1.36 mmol, 1 equiv) in  $\text{CCl}_4$  (6 mL) and MeCN (6 mL) was added  $\text{NaIO}_4$  (732 mg, 3.40 mmol, 2.5 equiv) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (9 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously while  $\text{RuO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (9.0 mg, 0.067 mmol, 5 mol%) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously in air for 2 h before filtered through a pad of silica gel with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  as the eluent. The filtrate was washed with an aqueous solution of NaOH (1.0 N,  $2 \times 5$  mL) and dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and filtered. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a dark color oil. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (8:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give compound **16** as a yellow oil (509 mg, 0.89 mmol, 66%). Data for compound **16**:  $R_f$  0.40 (8:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.52 (s, 1 H), 8.55 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1 H), 7.57 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1 H), 7.40 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H), 7.01 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H), 3.67 (s, 3 H), 3.28 (t,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 2 H), 2.35-2.25 (m, 2 H), 2.10-1.99 (m, 2 H), 1.78-1.68 (m, 4 H), 1.62-1.50 (m, 11 H), 0.88 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  206.7, 197.9, 173.4, 152.6, 143.5, 136.6, 133.1, 121.0, 119.3, 116.7, 81.2, 52.3, 51.8, 51.6, 30.5, 28.7, 28.2, 26.8, 26.3, 23.4, 8.0; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3402, 2970, 2937, 2878, 2097, 1735, 1580, 1517, 1449, 1367, 1238, 1157, 755, 591; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_4\text{O}_6$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  461.2395, found: 461.2393.

### Preparation of compound 17



To a solution of compound **16** (35 mg, 0.076 mmol, 1 equiv) and 2,6-lutidine (163 mg, 1.52 mmol, 20 equiv) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (4 mL) was added TMSOTf (169 mg, 0.76 mmol, 10 equiv) was added dropwise at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h and then diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10 mL) at 0 °C, washed with a cold aqueous solution of HCl (1%, 4×5 mL) quickly and dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and filtered. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a brown oil. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give compound **17** as a yellow oil (19 mg, 0.05 mmol, 69%). Data for compound **17**:  $R_f$  0.26 (4:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.34-7.26 (m, 2 H), 6.68 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.62 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.32 (bs, 2 H), 3.67 (s, 3 H), 3.27 (t,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.35-2.28 (m, 2 H), 2.10-2.01 (m, 2 H), 1.78-1.69 (m, 4 H), 1.60-1.52 (m, 2 H), 0.89 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  207.6, 196.4, 173.6, 151.8, 135.8, 132.7, 125.2, 117.4, 116.2, 52.2, 51.7, 30.7, 29.6, 28.9, 28.8, 26.3, 23.5, 8.1; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3448, 2951, 2879, 1734, 1671, 1581, 1564, 1471, 1296, 1169, 774, 703; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  361.1870, found: 361.1868.<sup>[1]</sup>

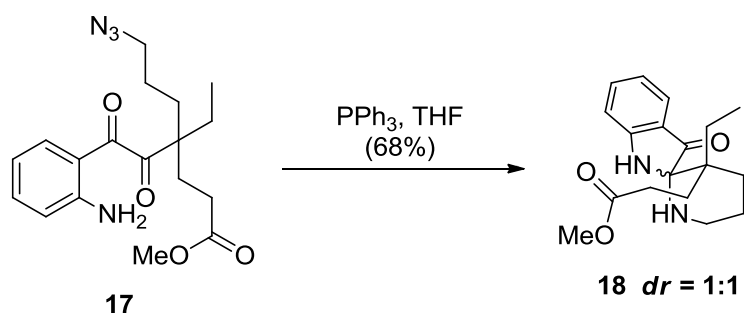
### Synthesis of mersicarpine (1)



To a solution of compound **17** (10 mg, 0.027 mmol, 1 equiv) in THF (2 mL) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.2 mL) was added  $\text{PPh}_3$  (30 mg, 0.111 mmol, 4 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 days before THF (10 mL) and anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$  were added. The mixture was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The

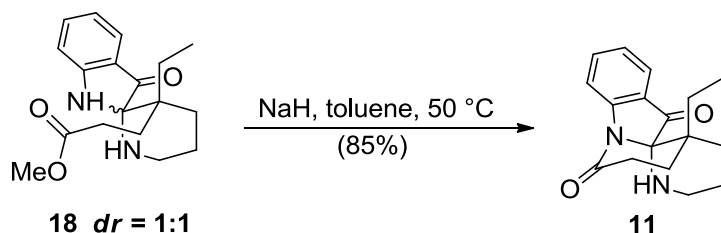
crude product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give mersicarpine (**1**) (5 mg, 0.018 mmol, 66%) as a light yellow oil. Data for synthetic mersicarpine (**1**):  $R_f$  0.38 (2:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.14 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1 H), 7.60 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H), 7.37 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1 H), 7.07 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1 H), 3.90-3.84 (m, 2 H), 2.60 (ddd,  $J = 18.3, 9.5, 3.2$  Hz, 1 H), 2.47-2.36 (m, 1 H), 2.05 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1 H), 1.97-1.87 (m, 1 H), 1.80-1.72 (m, 1 H), 1.72-1.63 (m, 3 H), 1.39-1.29 (m, 1 H), 1.17-1.08 (m, 1 H), 0.75 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.4, 168.4, 146.5, 133.2, 124.4, 124.3, 122.1, 116.8, 93.8, 50.7, 39.3, 34.3, 29.2, 25.4, 23.0, 21.2, 6.8; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3283, 2955, 2856, 1586, 1485, 1456, 1255, 1081, 969, 838, 757, 674; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  285.1603, found: 285.1602.

### Preparation of compound 18



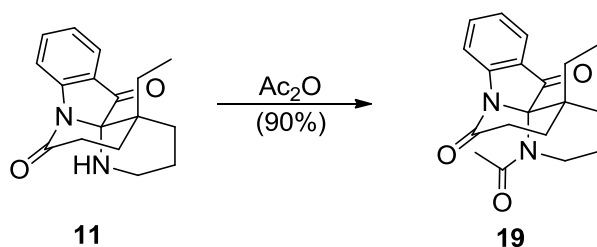
To a solution of compound **17** (10 mg, 0.027 mmol, 1 equiv) in anhydrous THF (2 mL) was added  $\text{PPh}_3$  (30 mg, 0.111 mmol, 4 equiv). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 days. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography (4:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give compound **18**, a pair of inseparable diastereomers (1:1, 6 mg, 0.019 mmol, 68%) as a light yellow oil. Data for compound **18**:  $R_f$  0.28 (2:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.56-7.44 (m, 1 H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 1 H), 6.77-6.70 (m, 2 H), 4.64-4.40 (m, 1 H), 3.62 (s, 1.5 H), 3.52 (s, 1.5 H), 3.42-3.25 (m, 1 H), 2.81-2.70 (m, 1 H), 2.34-2.10 (m, 4 H), 2.04-1.93 (m, 1 H), 1.73-1.35 (m, 4 H), 1.33-1.23 (m, 1 H), 0.80 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1.5 H), 0.72 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1.5 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  201.5, 201.0, 174.7, 174.4, 159.4, 159.1, 137.1, 125.1, 124.9, 120.2, 120.0, 119.2, 118.9, 112.0, 111.9, 79.97, 79.92, 51.6, 51.4, 39.9, 39.8, 39.7, 39.5, 29.2, 29.1, 28.7, 28.2, 27.7, 27.1, 25.7, 22.4, 21.0, 20.9, 8.5, 7.5; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3370, 2947, 2878, 1731, 1692, 1617, 1485, 1468, 1437, 1319, 1195, 1076, 753; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  317.1860, found: 317.1858.

### Preparation of compound 11



To a solution of compound **18** (100 mg, 0.32 mmol, 1 equiv) in toluene (5 mL) was added NaH (washed with hexane, 12 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in one portion. The suspension was stirred at 50 °C for 12 h before the reaction was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ . The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3  $\times$  5 mL). The combined solution was dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and filtered. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give compound **11** (77 mg, 0.27 mmol, 85%) as a light yellow oil. Data for compound **11**:  $R_f$  0.45 (2:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.41 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1 H), 7.67 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H), 7.61-7.54 (m, 1 H), 7.17 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1 H), 3.22 (dt,  $J = 12.4, 3.3$  Hz, 1 H), 2.91-2.77 (m, 2 H), 2.63-2.43 (m, 2 H), 2.34-2.21 (m, 1 H), 1.86-1.76 (m, 1 H), 1.73-1.51 (m, 4 H), 1.35 (m, 1 H), 1.28-1.18 (m, 1 H), 0.78 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.9, 169.6, 151.1, 136.7, 124.3, 124.2, 121.7, 118.2, 80.4, 39.8, 36.6, 29.8, 29.0, 26.4, 23.3, 20.2, 6.8; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3380, 2965, 2856, 1730, 1693, 1566, 1456, 1255, 1081, 750, 574; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  285.1603, found: 285.1602.

### Preparation of compound 19

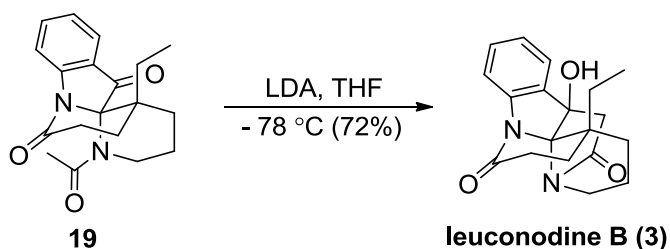


To compound **11** (80 mg, 0.28 mmol, 1 equiv) was added  $\text{Ac}_2\text{O}$  (5 mL). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 12 h before concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (2:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give compound **19** (83 mg, 0.25 mmol, 90%) as a white powder. Data for compound **19**:  $R_f$  0.25 (1:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.42 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1 H), 7.67 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H), 7.62 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1 H), 7.18 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1 H), 3.86-3.76 (m, 1 H), 3.68-3.60 (m, 1 H), 2.86-2.72 (m, 1 H),



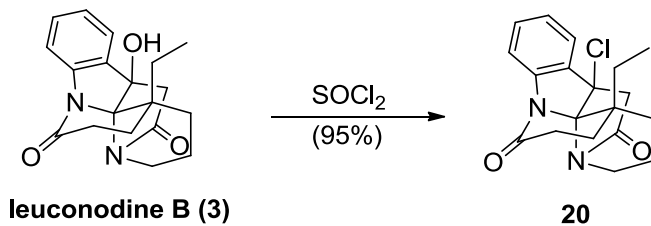
2.54-2.48 (m, 1 H), 2.19-2.08 (m, 1 H), 2.04 (s, 3 H), 2.02-1.90 (m, 4 H), 1.79-1.69 (m, 1 H), 1.18-1.09 (m, 2 H), 0.73 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.7, 171.3, 168.9, 152.0, 136.7, 124.0, 123.7, 122.7, 117.0, 81.1, 43.8, 40.6, 30.8, 28.9, 28.1, 26.5, 23.9, 20.2, 7.0; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2966, 2943, 1729, 1693, 1679, 1452, 1368, 1295, 1008, 767, 756, 574; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  327.1709, found: 327.1709; mp = 200-202  $^\circ\text{C}$ .<sup>[2]</sup>

### Synthesis of leuconodine B (3)



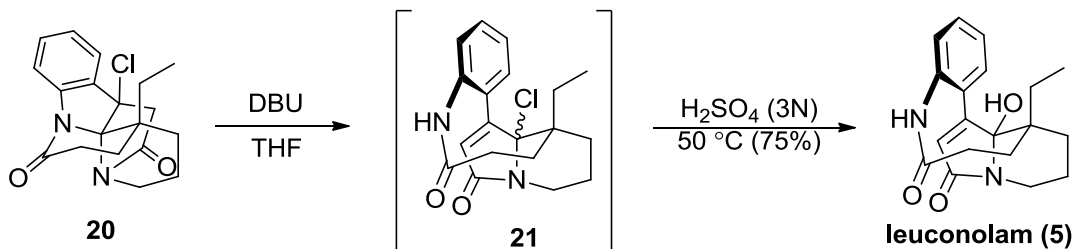
To a solution of compound **19** (10 mg, 0.031 mmol, 1 equiv) in THF (3 mL) was added LDA (2.0 M in THF, 30.0  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.06 mmol, 2 equiv) at  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h before it was quenched by dropwise addition of a saturated aqueous solution of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ . The mixture was warmed to room temperature, diluted with water (5 mL), extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 5$  mL). The combined solution was dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and filtered. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give leuconodine B (**3**) (7.2 mg, 0.022 mmol, 72%) as a white powder. Data for leuconodine B (**3**):  $R_f$  0.40 (2:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.60 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H), 7.39 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1 H), 7.27 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1 H), 7.20 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1 H), 4.81 (s, 1 H), 3.89 (d,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 1 H), 2.97 (d,  $J = 16.8$  Hz, 1 H), 2.87 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1 H), 2.52 (t,  $J = 12.2$  Hz, 1 H), 2.29-2.13 (m, 2 H), 1.95-1.87 (m, 1 H), 1.82-1.71 (m, 2 H), 1.61-1.51 (m, 4 H), 1.47-1.41 (m, 1 H), 0.87 (t,  $J = 7.4$ , 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  174.2, 169.9, 140.9, 138.3, 129.2, 126.2, 123.3, 121.9, 90.9, 82.1, 42.1, 39.1, 37.0, 28.1, 27.5, 25.9, 22.5, 20.0, 6.9; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3448, 2949, 2943, 1693, 1646, 1477, 1405, 1363, 1270, 1153, 766, 734; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  327.1709, found: 327.1707; mp = 317-319  $^\circ\text{C}$ .

## Preparation of compound 20



To leuconodine B (**3**) (2 mg, 6.1  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1 equiv) was added  $\text{SOCl}_2$  (1.5 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h before  $\text{SOCl}_2$  was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (4:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give compound **20** (2 mg, 5.8  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 95%) as a clear oil. Data for compound **20**:  $R_f$  0.41 (2:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.78 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1 H), 7.34 (m, 2 H), 7.21 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H), 3.98 (m, 1 H), 3.27 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1 H), 3.20 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1 H), 2.89-2.75 (m, 1 H), 2.74-2.50 (m, 3 H), 2.27-2.14 (m, 1 H), 2.07-1.97 (m, 1 H), 1.88-1.77 (m, 1 H), 1.76-1.60 (m, 3 H), 1.57-1.47 (m, 1 H), 0.93 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.4, 167.9, 140.0, 136.3, 129.9, 126.2, 122.8, 120.7, 91.8, 69.2, 44.9, 39.9, 37.2, 29.3, 27.8, 25.0, 22.0, 19.8, 6.9; IR (thin film)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2951, 2882, 1704, 1686, 1600, 1477, 1463, 1397, 1352, 1284, 1151, 903, 801, 734; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  345.1364, found: 345.1360.

### Synthesis of leuconolam (5)

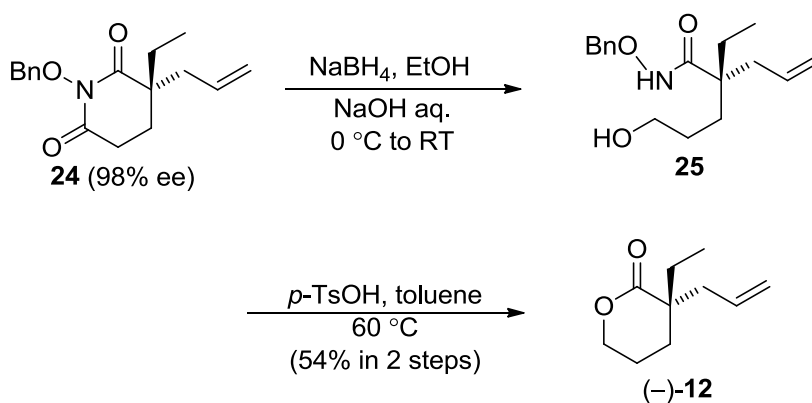


To a solution of compound **20** (12 mg, 0.035 mmol, 1 equiv) in THF (1.5 mL) was added DBU (27 mg, 0.175 mmol, 5.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 h. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (3N, 2 mL) was added to the mixture, then the mixture was heated to 50 °C. After stirring for 1 h, the solution was extracted with EtOAc (3×2 mL). The combined solution was dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and filtered. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (1:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give leuconolam (**5**) (8.5 mg, 0.026 mmol, 75%) as a white solid. Data for leuconolam (**5**): R<sub>f</sub> 0.22 (9:1 CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>:CD<sub>3</sub>OD = 3:1(v:v)) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.92 (s, 1 H), 4.01-3.97 (m, 1 H), 2.95 (dt, *J* = 12.8, 4.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.16 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 7.4



(0.2 mg, 10% w/w). The reaction mixture was purged with H<sub>2</sub> and stirred under a pressure of H<sub>2</sub> (4 atm) at room temperature for 8 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite, and washed with EtOAc (3×5 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography (4:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to give leuconoxine (**2**) (2.0 mg, 6.5 μmol, 99%) as a white powder. Data for leuconoxine (**2**): *R*<sub>f</sub> 0.30 (1:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1 H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 2 H), 3.95 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.92-2.66 (m, 4 H), 2.54-2.45 (m, 1 H), 2.02-1.92 (m, 1 H), 1.90-1.76 (m, 2 H), 1.70-1.54 (m, 4 H), 1.43-1.32 (m, 1 H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 172.9, 170.8, 142.0, 135.1, 128.0, 125.5, 123.9, 120.1, 92.6, 41.9, 38.1, 37.6, 36.8, 29.4, 26.9, 26.6, 26.2, 20.1, 7.3; IR (thin film) *ν*<sub>max</sub> 2947, 2867, 1677, 1476, 1457, 1397, 1361, 1143, 1086, 888, 761; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 311.1760, found: 311.1754; mp = 188-190 °C.

### Preparation of (-)-**12**

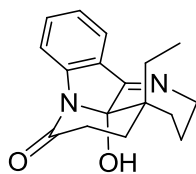


To a solution of **24** (143 mg, 0.498 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was added NaBH<sub>4</sub> (188 mg, 4.98 mmol) portionwise at 0 °C. After the starting material was shown to be consumed by TLC analysis, 2 M aqueous NaOH (0.30 mL) was added to the reaction mixture at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was slowly warmed up to room temperature and stirred overnight. 1M aqueous HCl, saturated Rochelle's salt aqueous solution and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were added to the reaction mixture. The mixture was stirred for 2 h and the phases were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> twice. The combined organic phases were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was used for the next reaction without further purification.

To a solution of **25** in toluene (5.0 mL) was added *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (114 mg, 0.598 mmol) and the reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C for 3 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and purified by flash column chromatography (6:1 petroleum ether:ethyl acetate) to afford (-)-**12** (45.0 mg, 0.267 mmol, 54% in 2 steps) as a colorless oil. Data for (-)-**12**: *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.35 (6:1

petroleum ether:ethyl acetate);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.75 (m, 1 H), 5.14–5.07 (m, 2 H), 4.29 (m, 2 H), 2.53 (m, 1 H), 2.19 (m, 1 H), 1.88–1.72 (m, 5 H), 1.55 (m, 1 H), 0.92 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.4, 133.8, 118.9, 70.2, 46.5, 43.8, 32.4, 28.9, 21.4, 8.9; IR (Neat Film, NaCl) 2966, 1724, 1453, 1397, 1249, 1142, 1075, 917; HRMS (ESI+)  $m/z$  calc'd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 169.1223, found 169.1218;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -8.0$  ( $c = 0.97$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ).

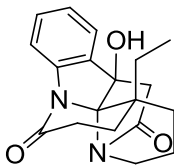
**Table 1: Chemical shifts of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data for natural, synthetic mersicarpine (1) reported previously and our synthetic mersicarpine (1).**



**mersicarpine (1)**

Natural mersicarpine (Prof. Kam, T.-S.) <sup>[3]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )	Synthetic mersicarpine (Prof. Kerr, M. A.) <sup>[4]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )	Synthetic mersicarpine (Prof. Liang, G. X.) (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )
169.6	169.5	169.4
168.9	168.8	168.4
146.5	146.5	146.5
133.2	133.2	133.2
124.4	124.3	124.4
124.2	124.3	124.1
122.2	122.2	122.1
116.7	116.7	116.8
93.8	93.8	93.8
50.5	50.5	50.7
39.3	39.3	39.3
34.3	34.3	34.3
29.1	29.1	29.2
25.4	25.4	25.4
22.9	22.9	23.0
21.1	21.1	21.2
6.8	6.8	6.8

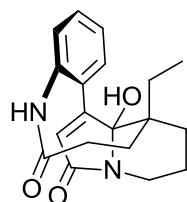
**Table 2: Chemical shifts of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data for natural, synthetic leuconodine B (3) reported previously and our synthetic leuconodine B (3).**



**leuconodine B (3)**

Natural leuconodine B (Prof. Kam, T.-S.) <sup>[5]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )	Natural scholarisine G (Prof. Luo, X.-D.) <sup>[6]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )	Synthetic leuconodine B (Prof. Zhu, J.-P.) <sup>[2]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )	Synthetic leuconodine B (Prof. Liang, G. X.) (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )
173.6	173.2	173.6	174.2
170.0	169.9	170.0	169.9
141.3	141.3	141.5	140.9
137.4	136.9	137.3	138.3
129.4	129.9	129.9	129.2
125.6	125.8	125.9	126.2
122.9	122.7	123.0	123.3
120.7	120.8	120.9	121.9
90.4	90.5	90.7	90.9
81.9	82.0	82.1	82.1
42.2	42.1	42.3	42.1
39.1	39.1	39.3	39.1
36.8	36.8	37.0	37.0
29.5	29.5	29.6	28.1
27.2	27.2	27.4	27.5
25.5	25.6	25.7	25.9
22.4	22.5	22.7	22.5
20.0	20.0	20.2	20.0
6.9	6.9	7.1	6.9

**Table 3: Chemical shifts of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data for natural, synthetic leuconolam (5) reported previously and our synthetic leuconolam (5).**

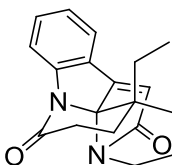


**leuconolam (5)**

Natural (-)-leuconolam (Prof. Goh.S.H.) <sup>[7]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )	Synthetic (±)-leuconolam (Prof. Zhu, J.-P.) <sup>[2]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD} = 3/1$ )	Synthetic (±)-leuconolam (Prof. Liang, G. X.) (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD} = 3/1$ )
177.8	179.3	178.6
166.5	167.5	166.7
155.6	157.0	156.3
135.0	135.7	135.0
133.1	133.7	133.0
129.4	130.3	129.6
129.3	129.6	128.9
128.1	128.4	127.7
126.6	127.3	126.6
126.3	126.9	126.1
93.6	94.2	93.5
44.9	45.7	45.0
35.3	35.8	35.1
32.1	32.7	32.0
27.3	28.3	27.5
25.4	26.0	25.3
24.5	24.8	24.0
19.7	20.4	19.7
6.9	7.5	6.7



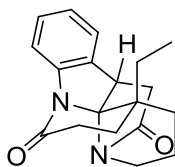
**Table 4: Chemical shifts of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data for natural, synthetic melodinine E (4) reported previously and our synthetic melodinine E (4).**



**melodinine E (4)**

Natural melodinine E (Prof. Luo, X.-D.) <sup>[8]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )	Synthetic melodinine E (Prof. Zhu, J.-P.) <sup>[2]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )	Synthetic melodinine E (Prof. Liang, G. X.) (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )
176.0	176.2	176.1
173.5	173.6	173.5
164.2	164.4	164.3
148.5	148.8	148.7
131.5	131.7	131.6
124.3	124.5	124.3
123.4	123.6	123.5
121.5	121.7	121.6
118.1	118.3	118.2
115.8	116.0	116.0
93.5	93.8	93.6
44.5	44.7	44.6
36.9	37.1	37.0
34.1	34.3	34.2
33.1	33.2	33.1
30.4	30.5	30.5
26.0	26.2	26.1
16.7	16.9	16.8
8.2	8.4	8.3

**Table 5: Chemical shifts of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data for natural, synthetic leuconoxine (2) reported previously and our synthetic leuconoxine (2).**



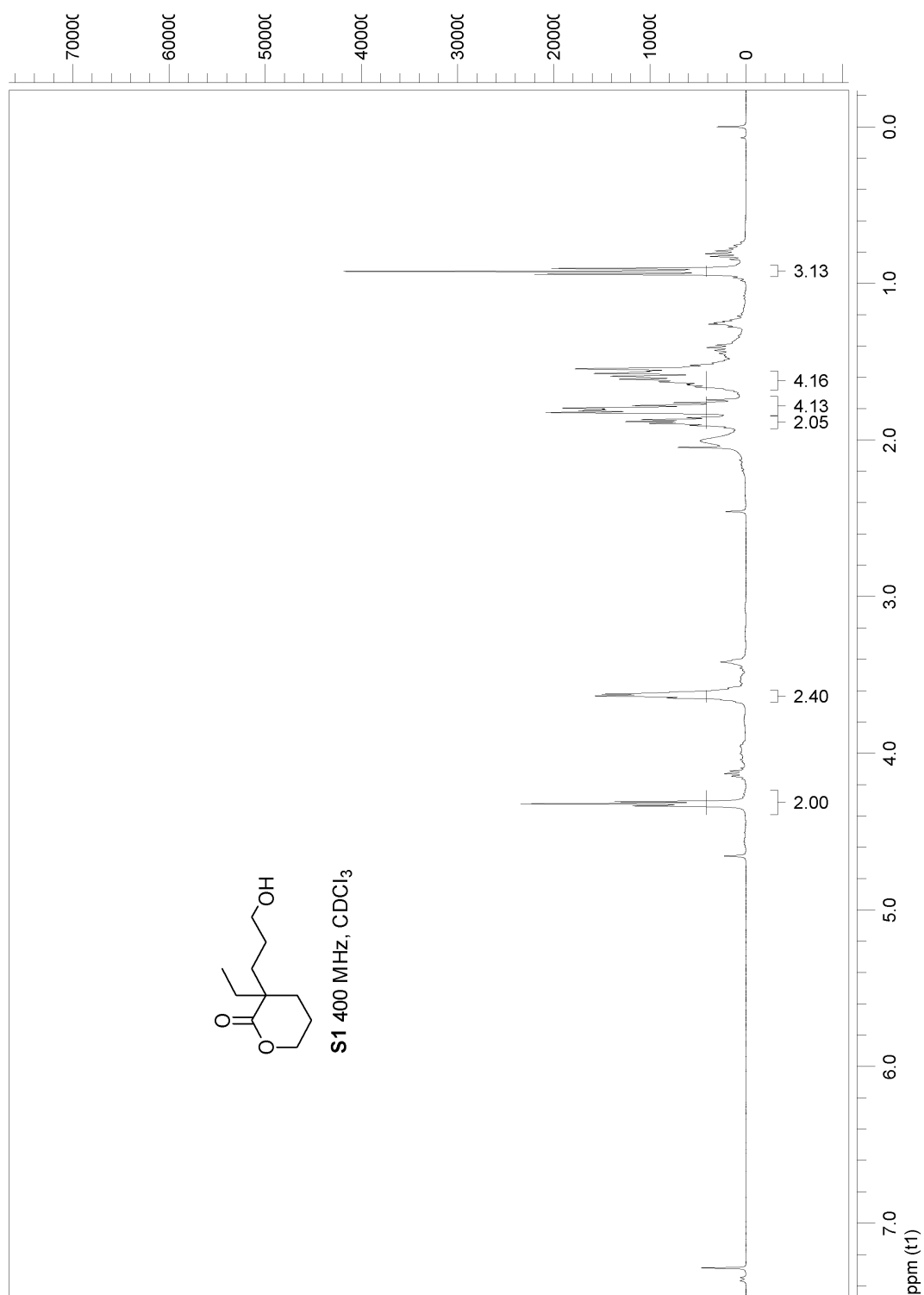
**leuconoxine (2)**

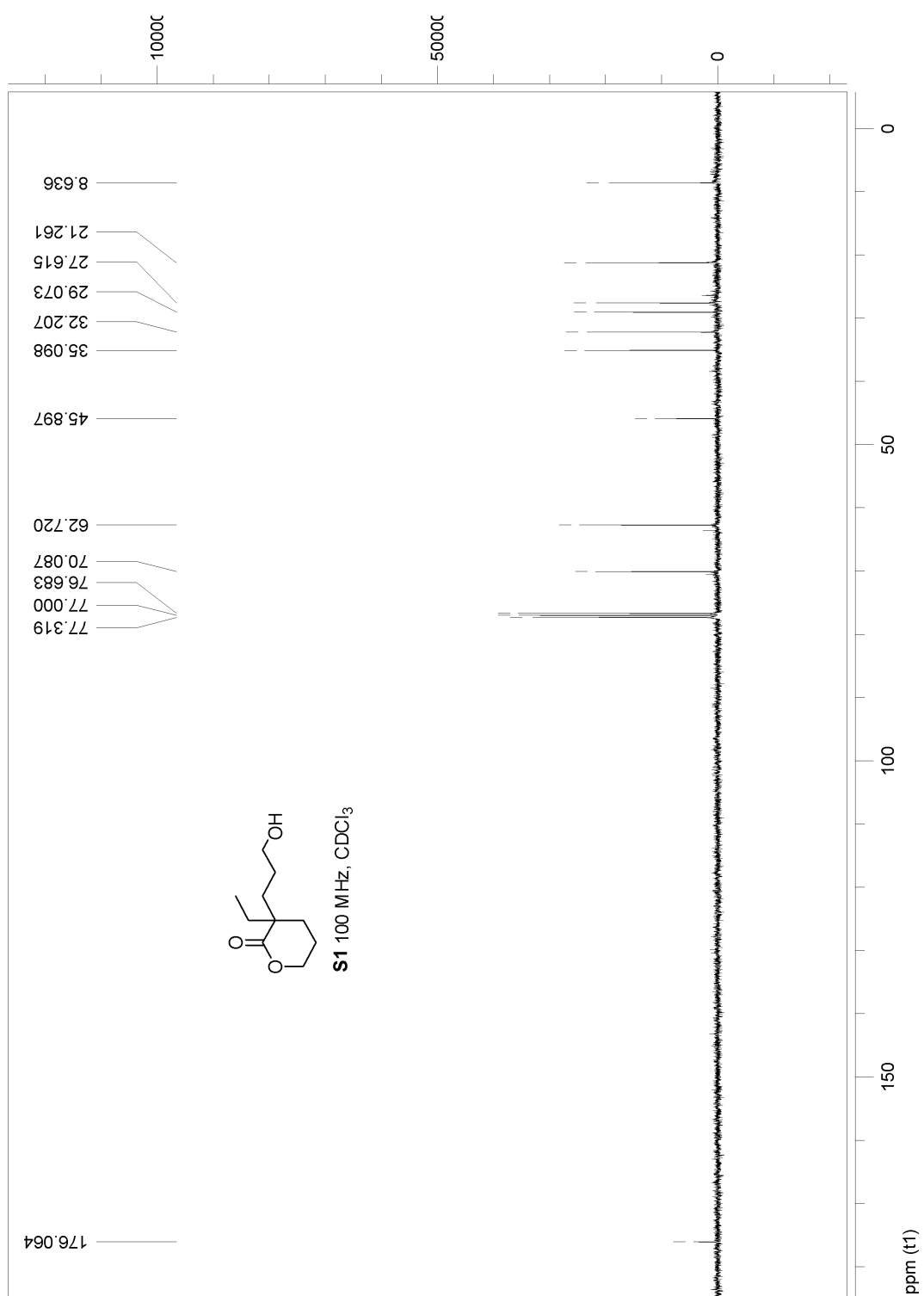
Natural leuconoxine (Prof. Abe, F.) <sup>[9]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )	Synthetic leuconoxine (Prof. Baudoin, O.) <sup>[10]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )	Synthetic leuconoxine (Prof. Zhu, J.-P.) <sup>[12]</sup> (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )	Synthetic leuconoxine (Prof. Liang, G. X.) (100 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ )
172.8	173.0	173.1	172.9
170.7	171.0	171.0	170.8
142.0	141.6	142.1	142.0
135.1	135.3	135.2	135.1
127.9	128.2	128.1	128.0
125.5	125.7	125.7	125.5
123.8	124.0	124.0	123.9
120.1	120.3	120.2	120.1
92.5	92.2	92.7	92.6
41.9	42.1	42.1	41.9
38.1	38.3	38.2	38.1
37.5	37.8	37.7	37.6
36.8	37.0	36.9	36.8
29.4	29.6	29.5	29.4
27.0	27.1	27.0	26.9
26.7	26.9	26.7	26.6
27.3	26.4	26.4	26.2
20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
7.3	7.5	7.4	7.3

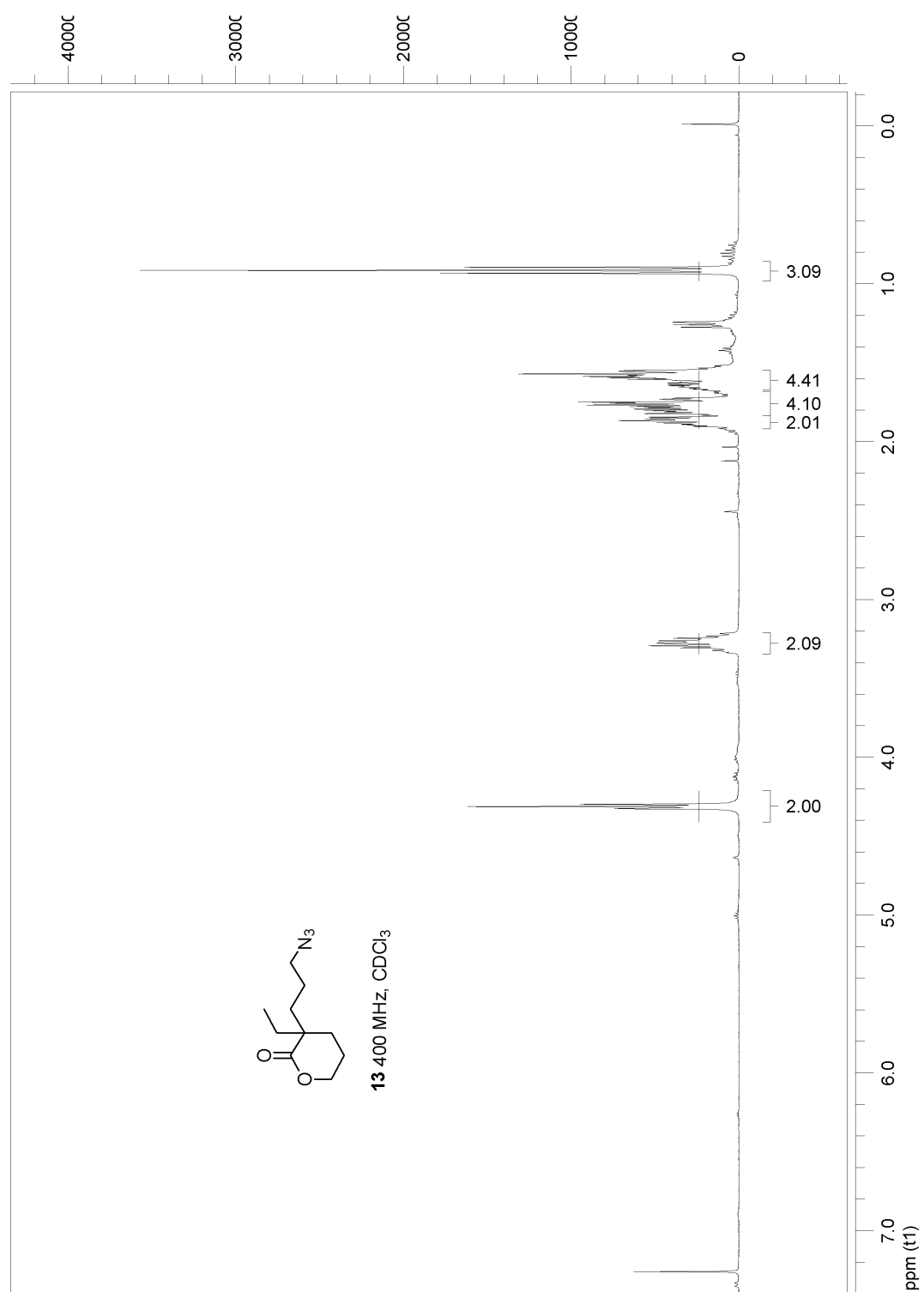
## Reference and Note:

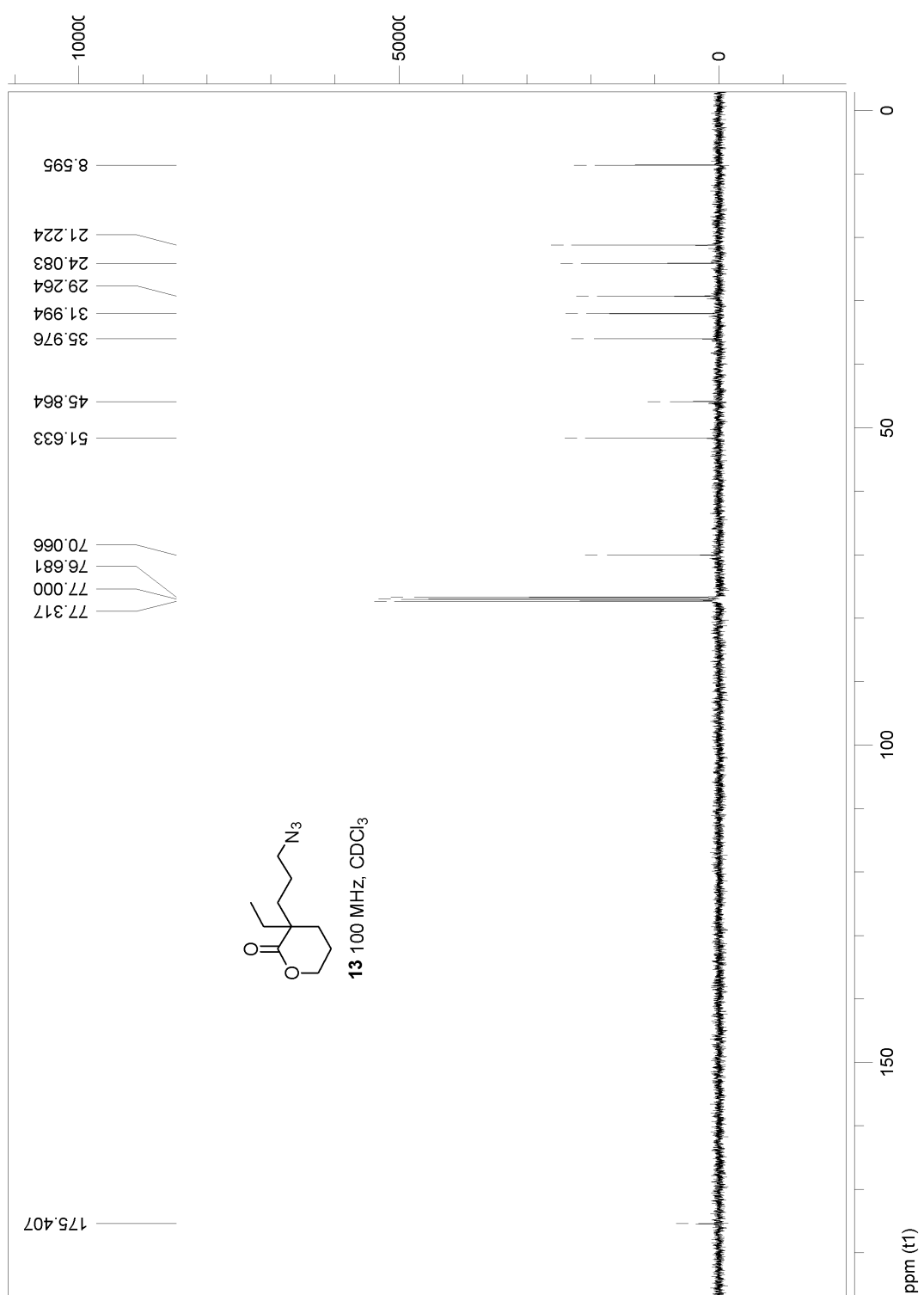
- [1] Compound **17** is unstable while being kept at room temperature for a long time. It is also sensitive to acid, base and heat. Therefore, it could not be isolated with high purity.
- [2] Xu, Z.; Wang, Q.; Zhu, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, *135*, 19127–19130.
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- [8] Feng, T.; Cai, X.-H.; Liu, Y.-P.; Li, Y.; Wang, Y.-Y.; Luo, X.-D. *J. Nat. Prod.* **2010**, *73*, 22–26.
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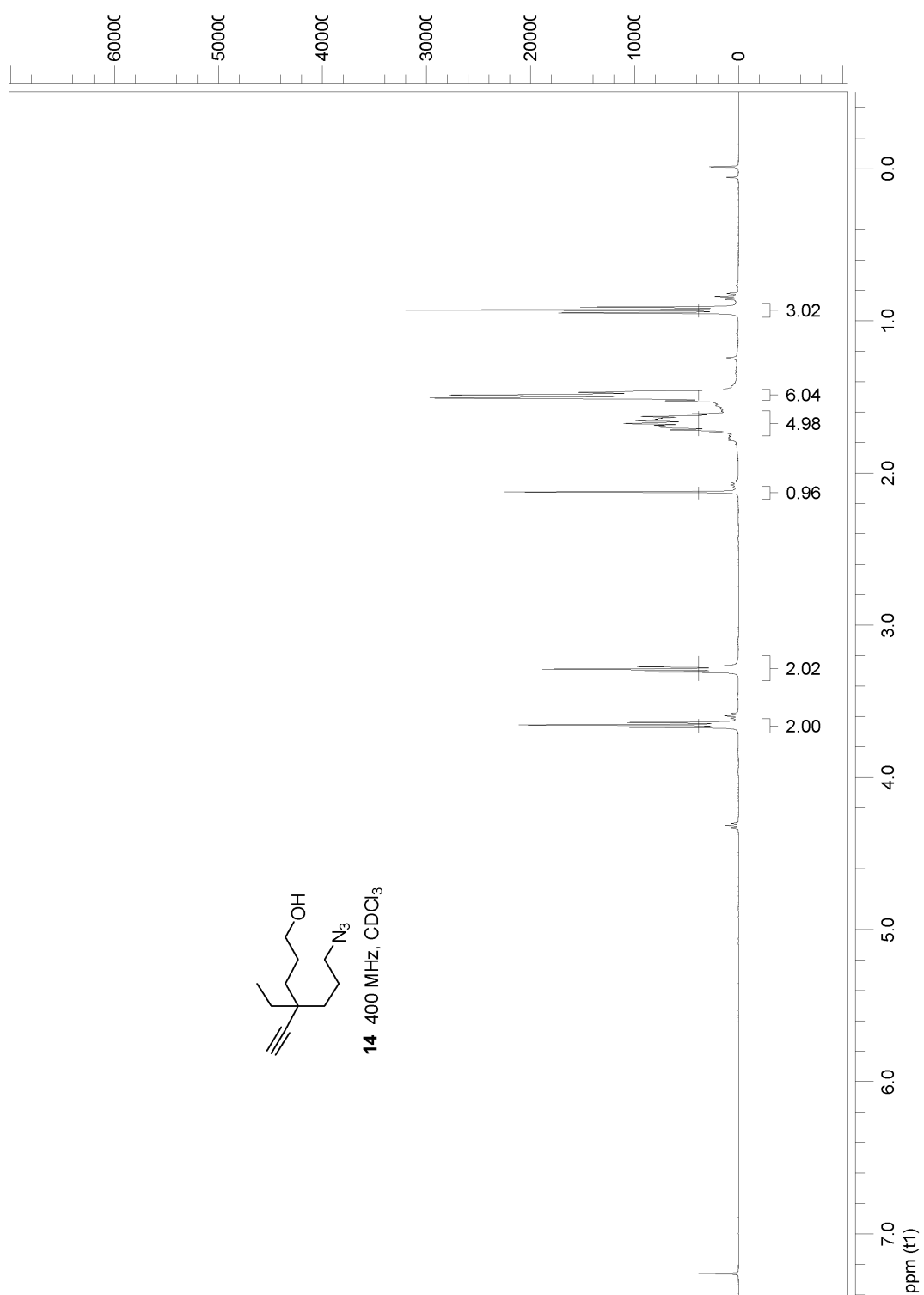
# $^1\text{H}$ NMR and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Spectra



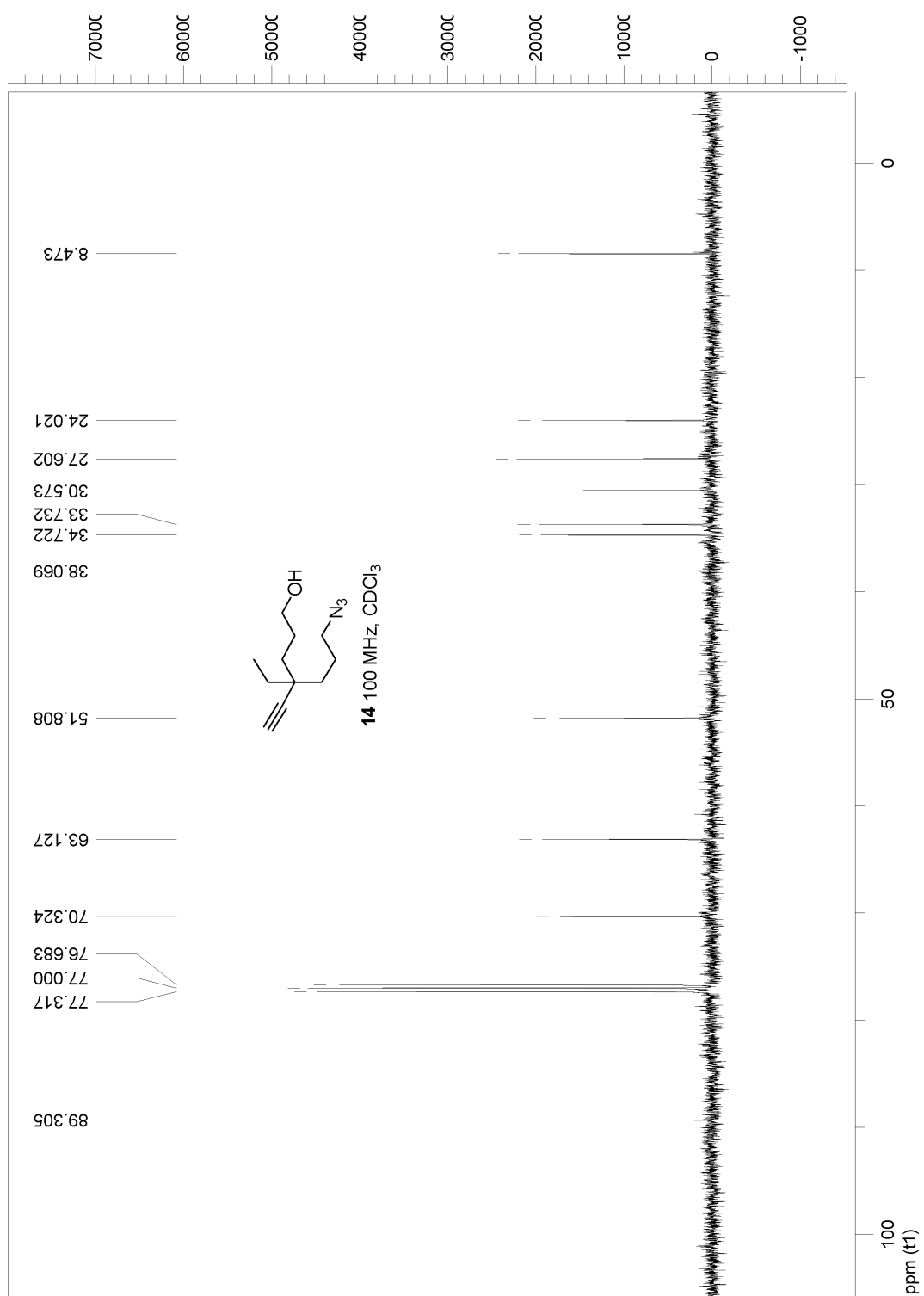


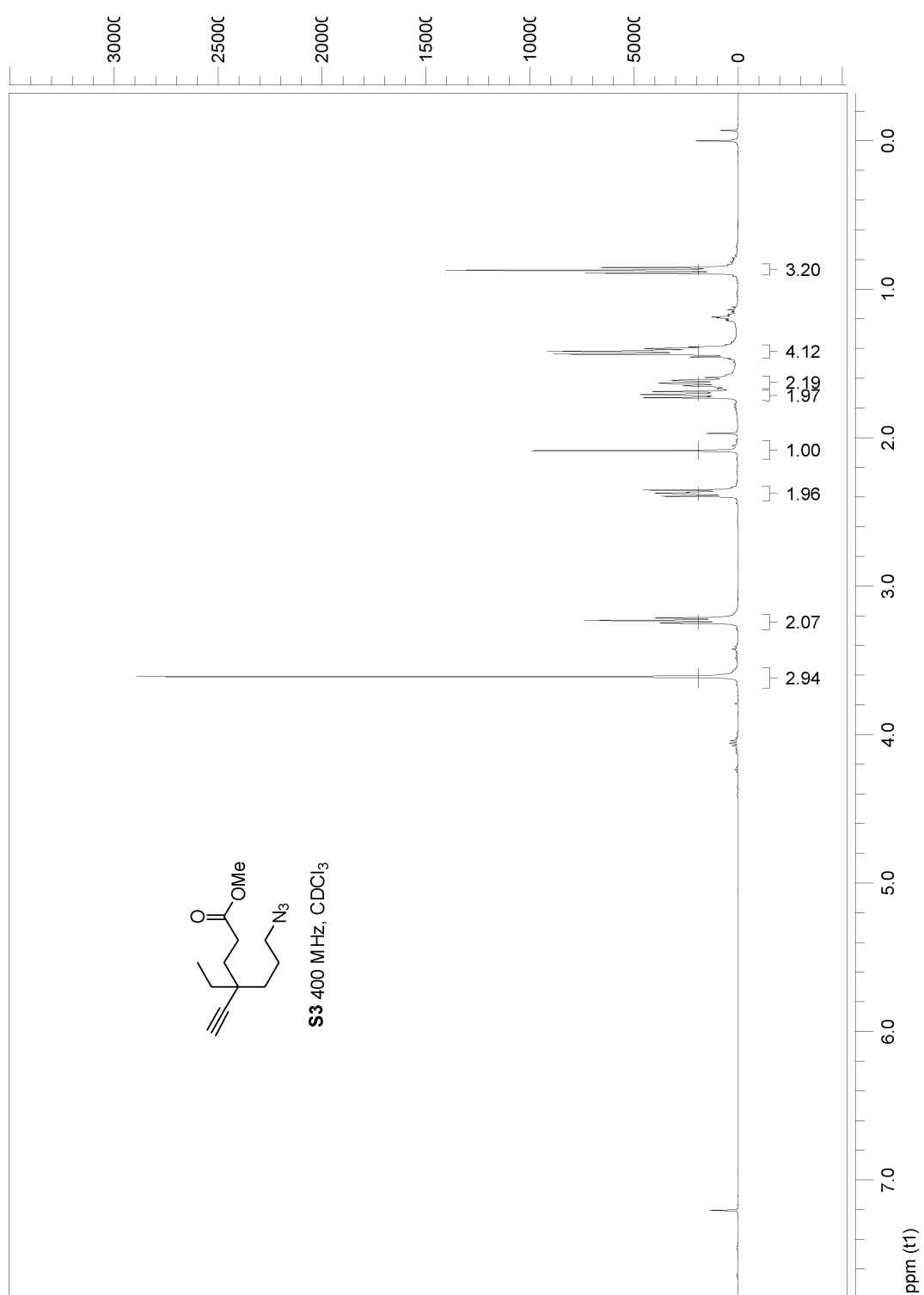


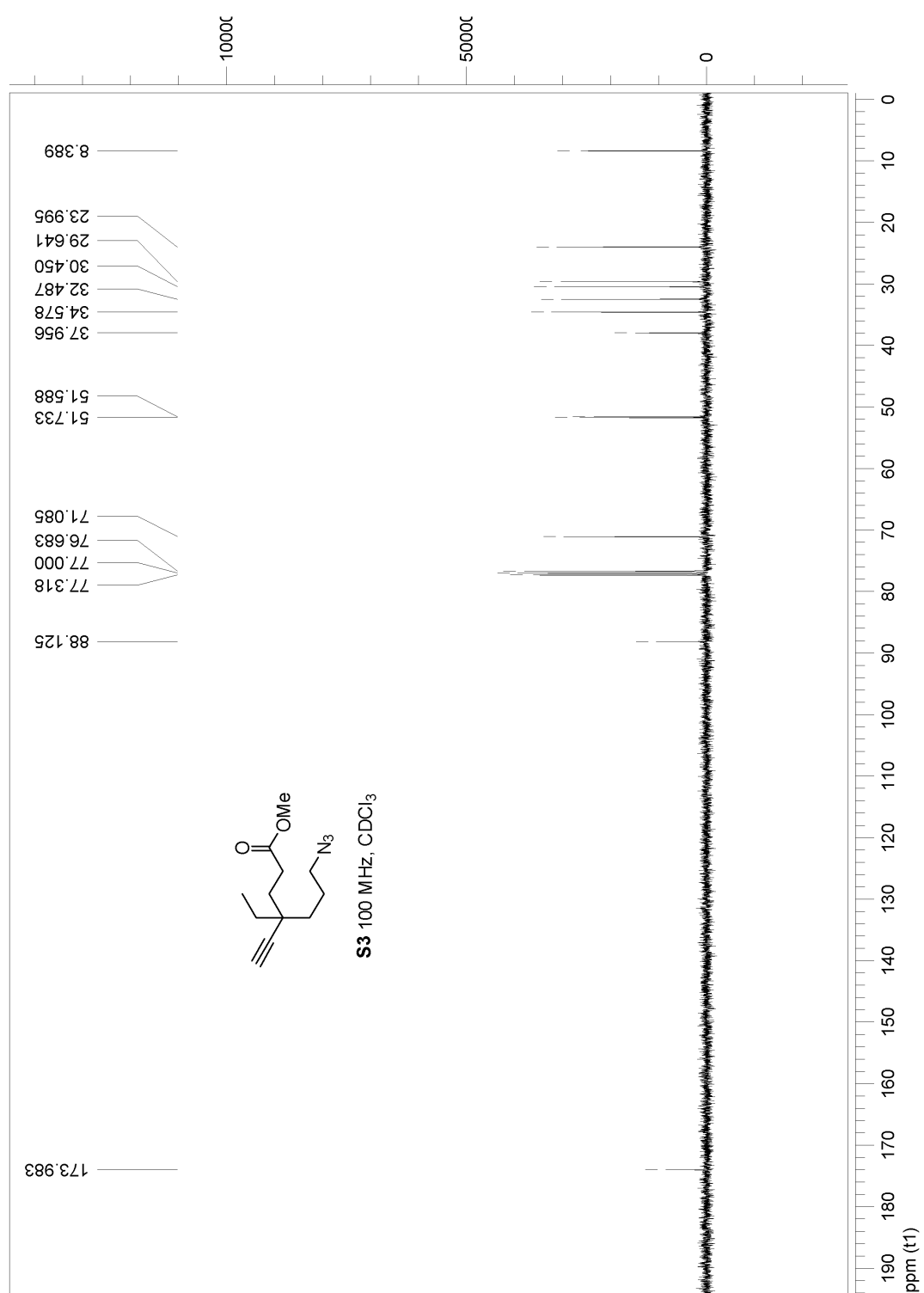


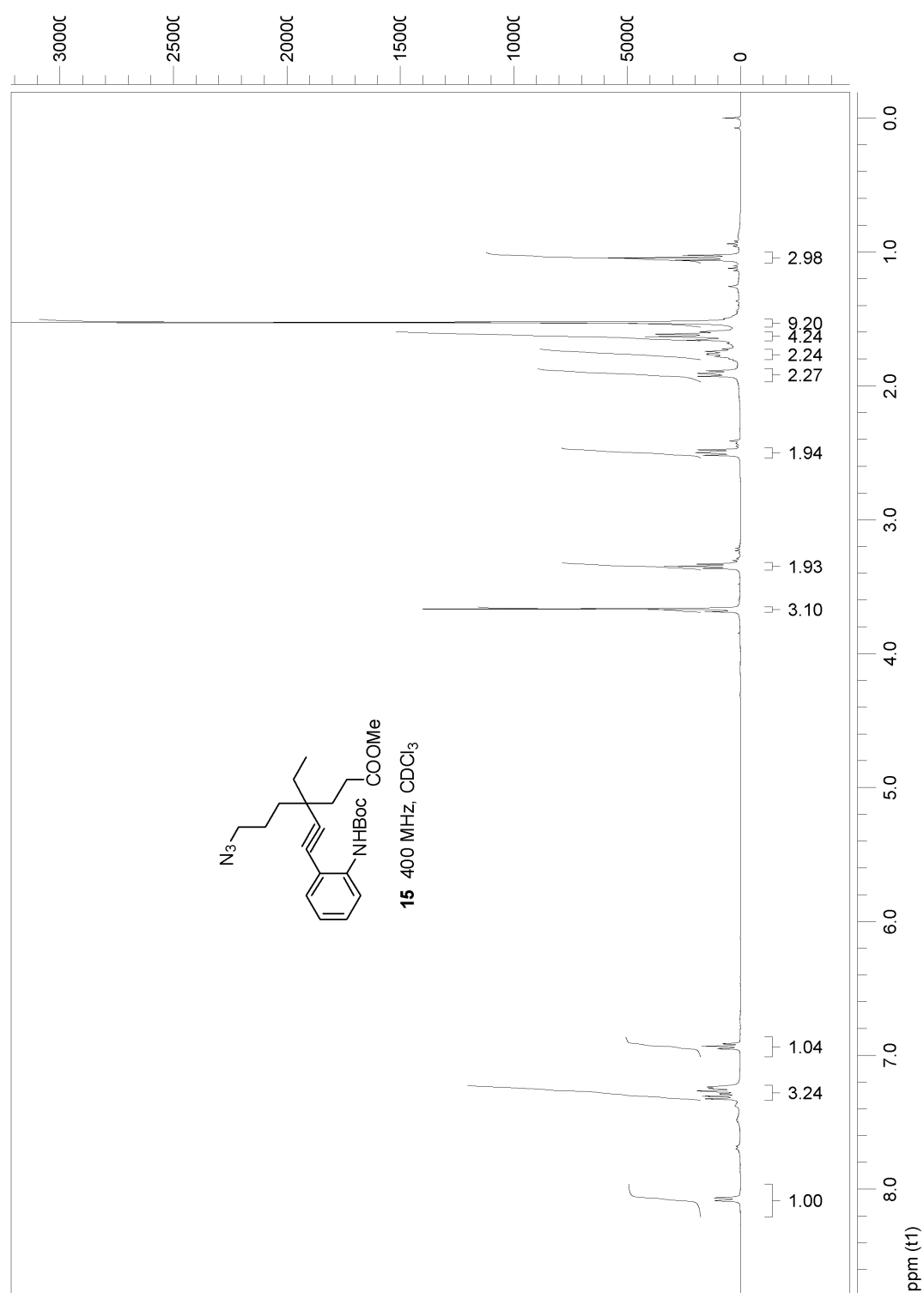


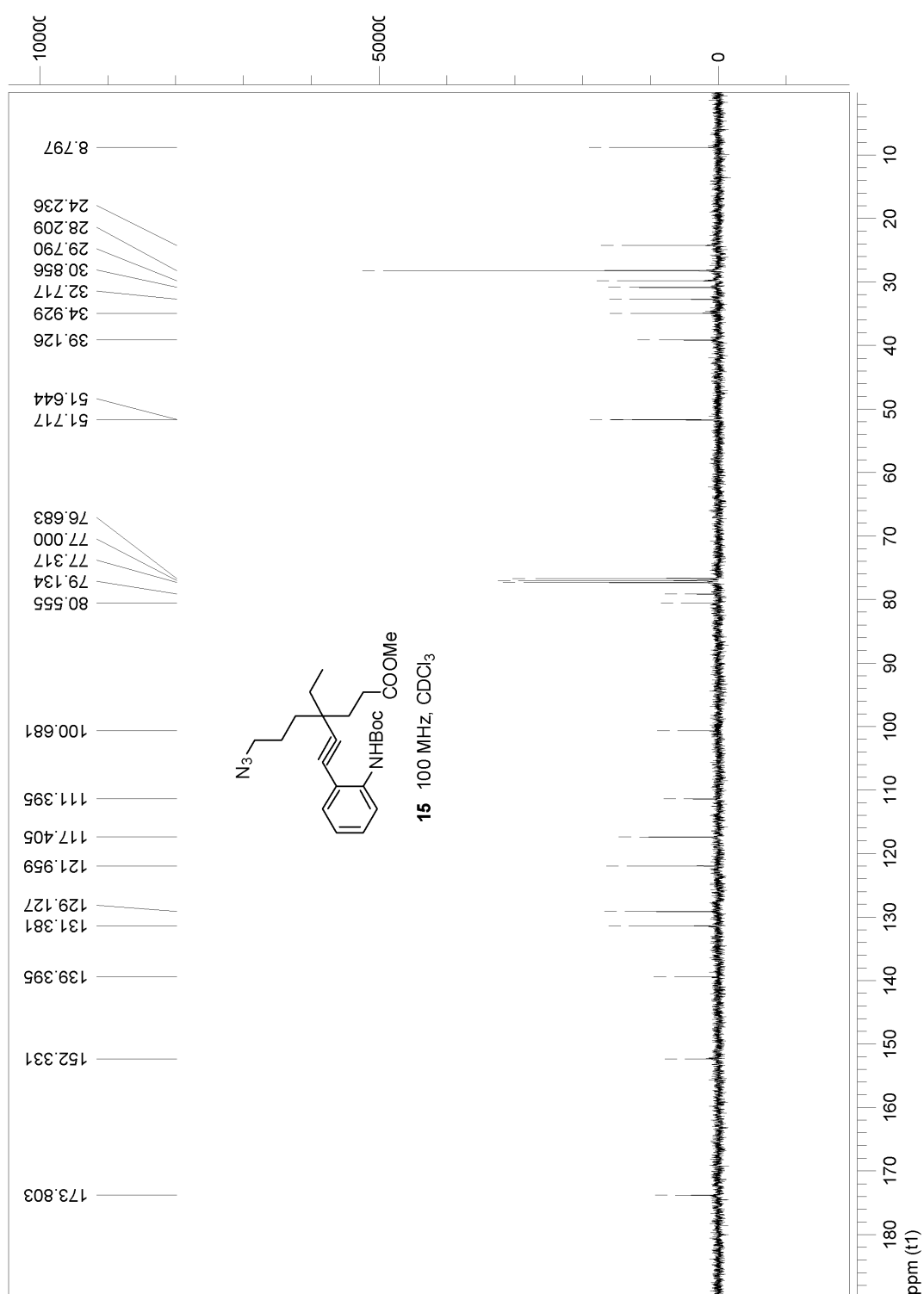


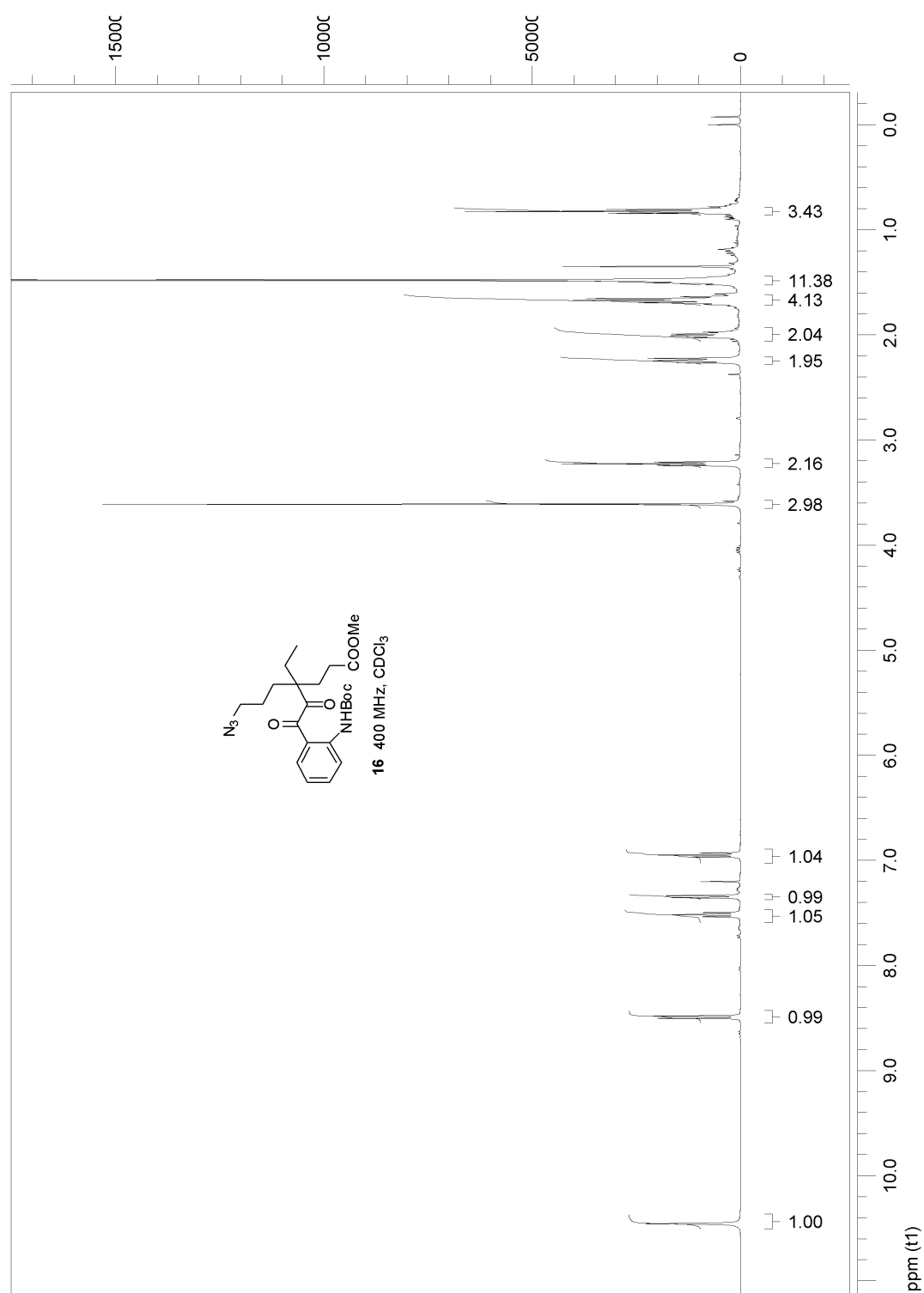


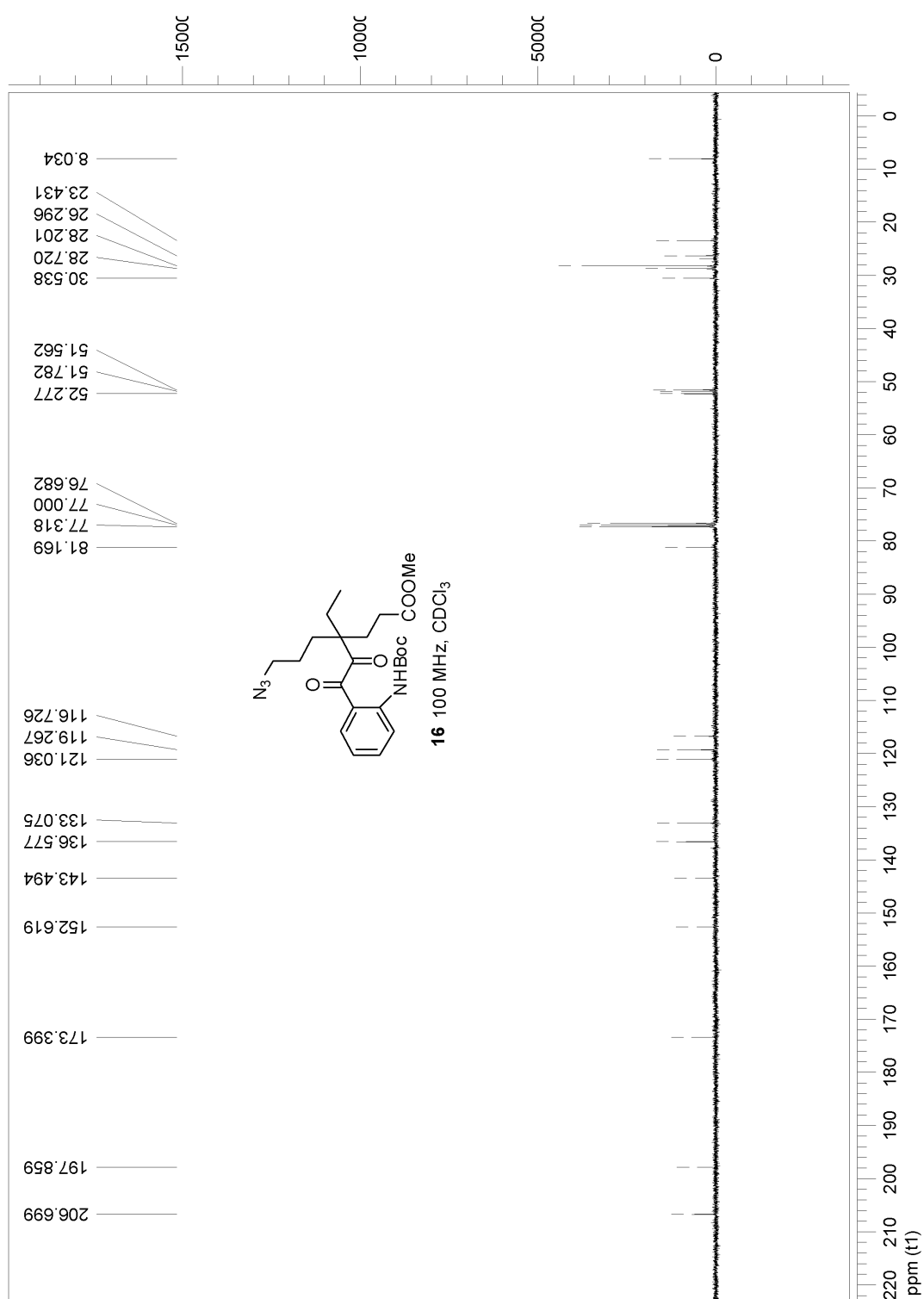


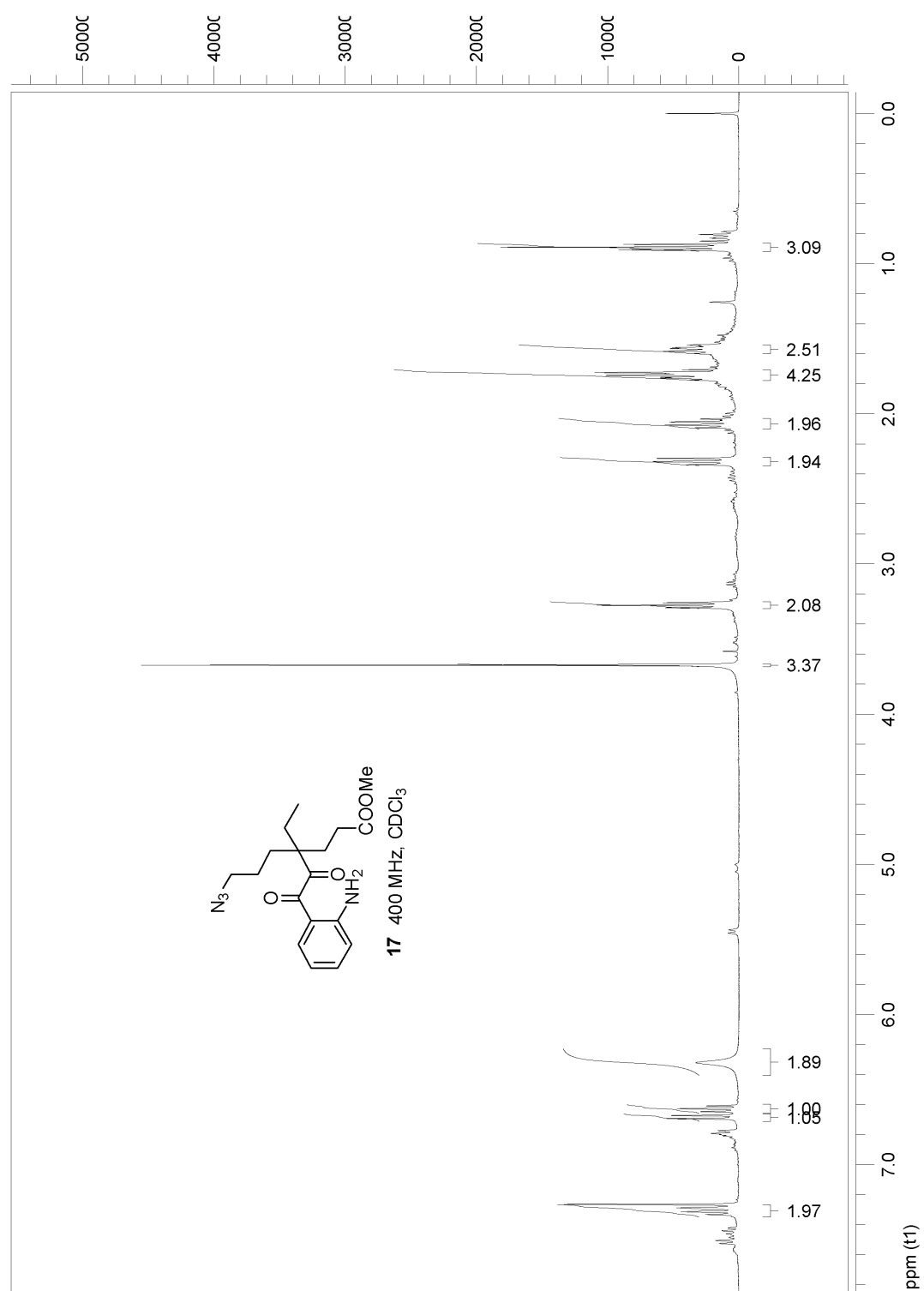




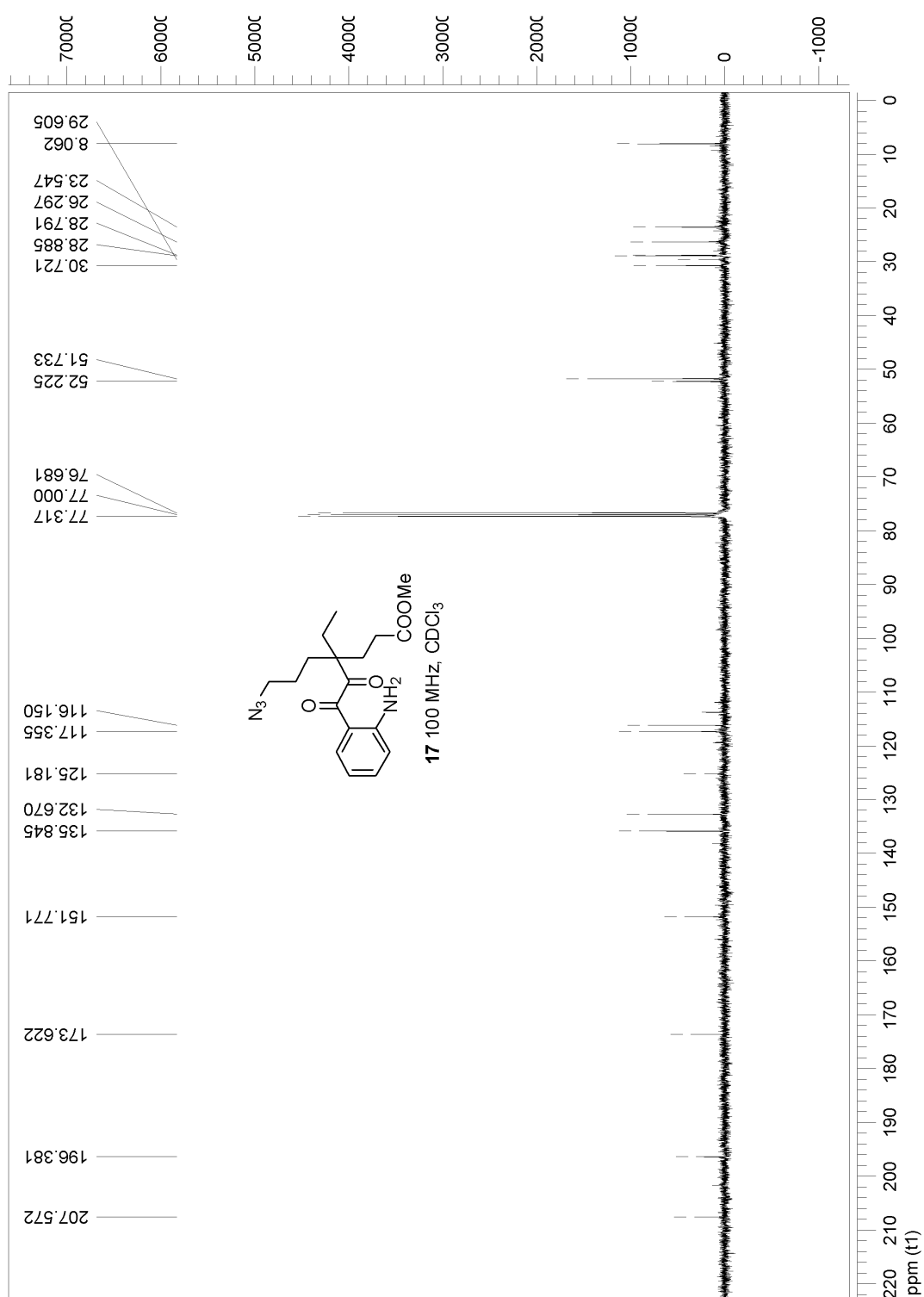


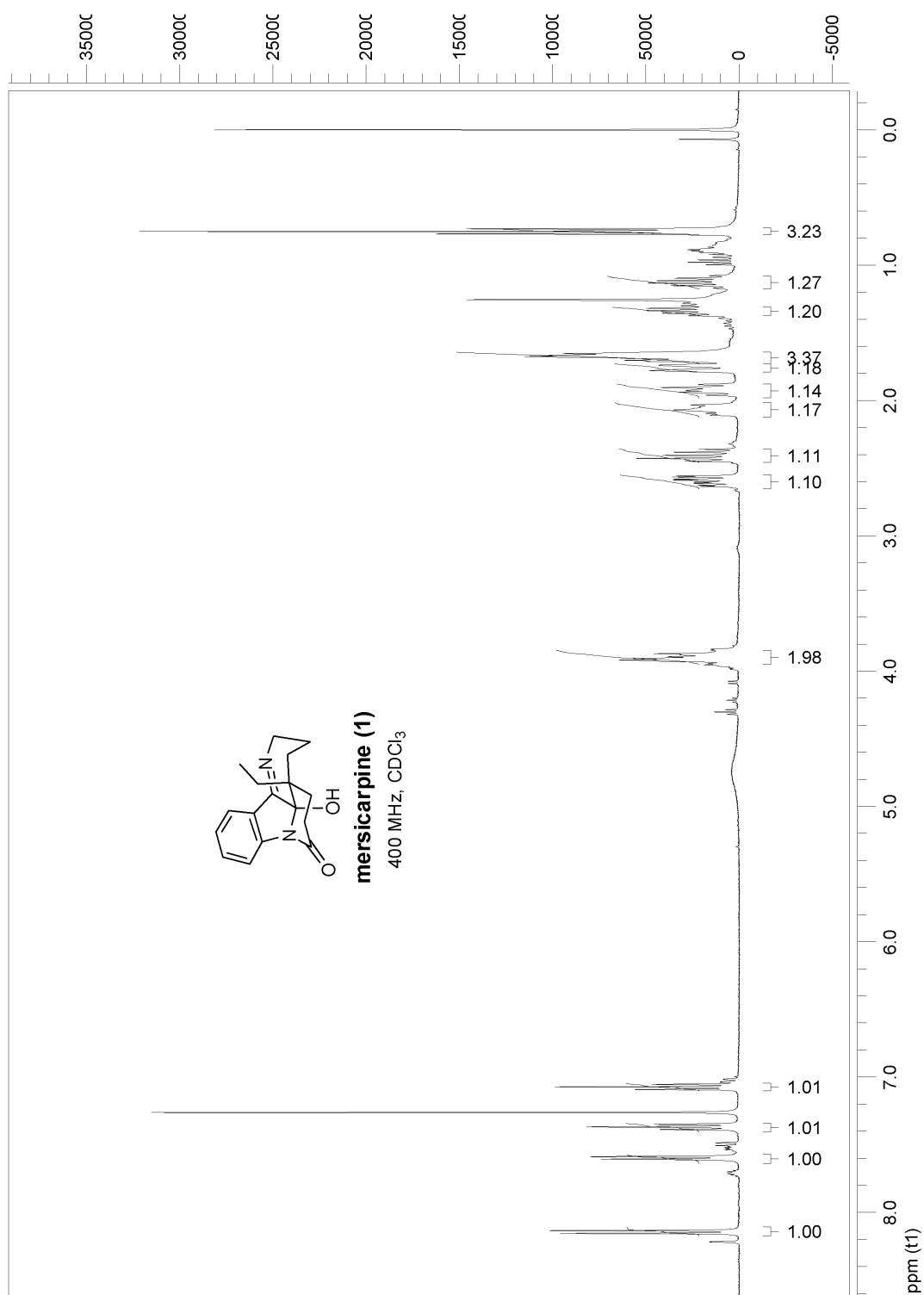


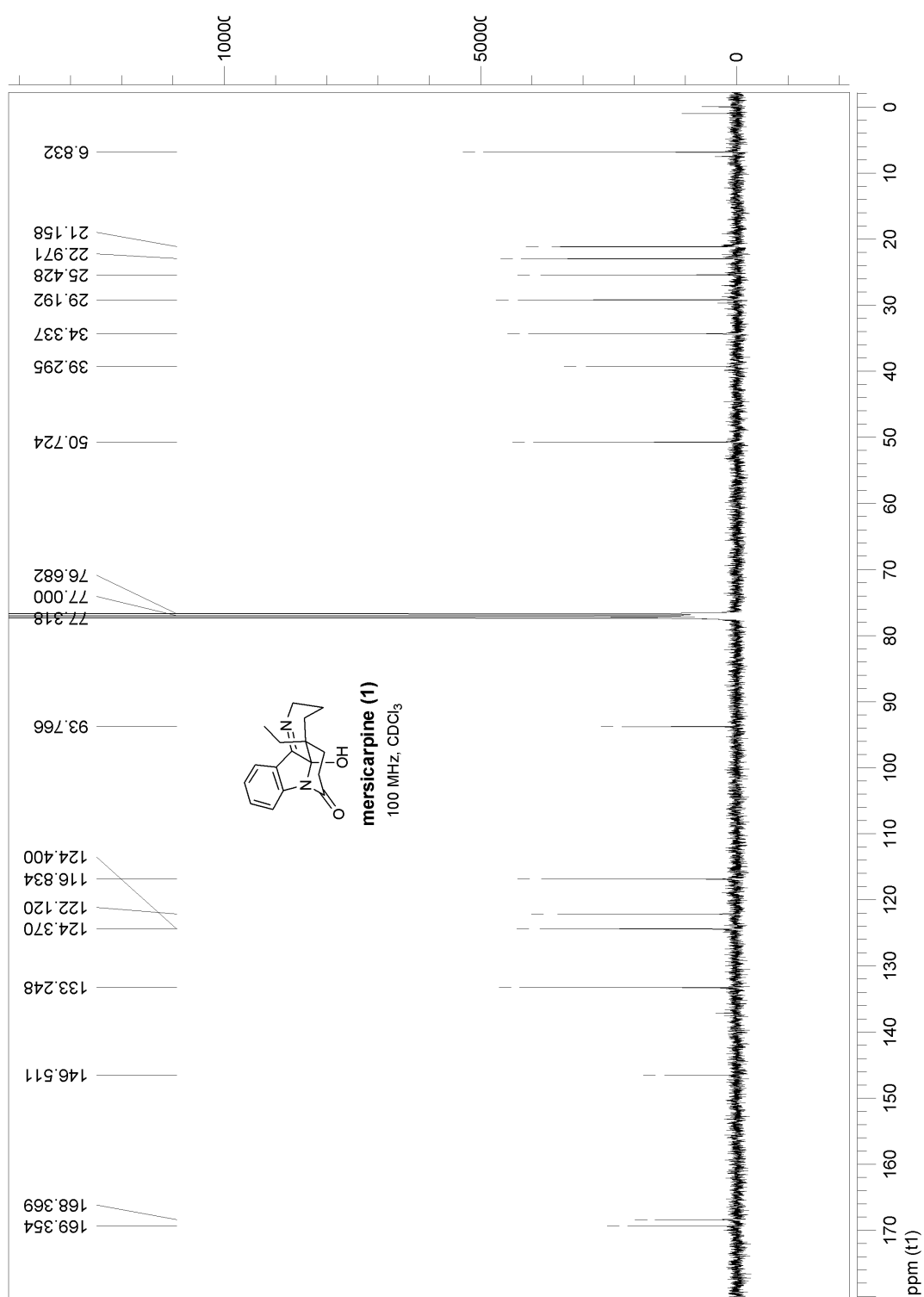


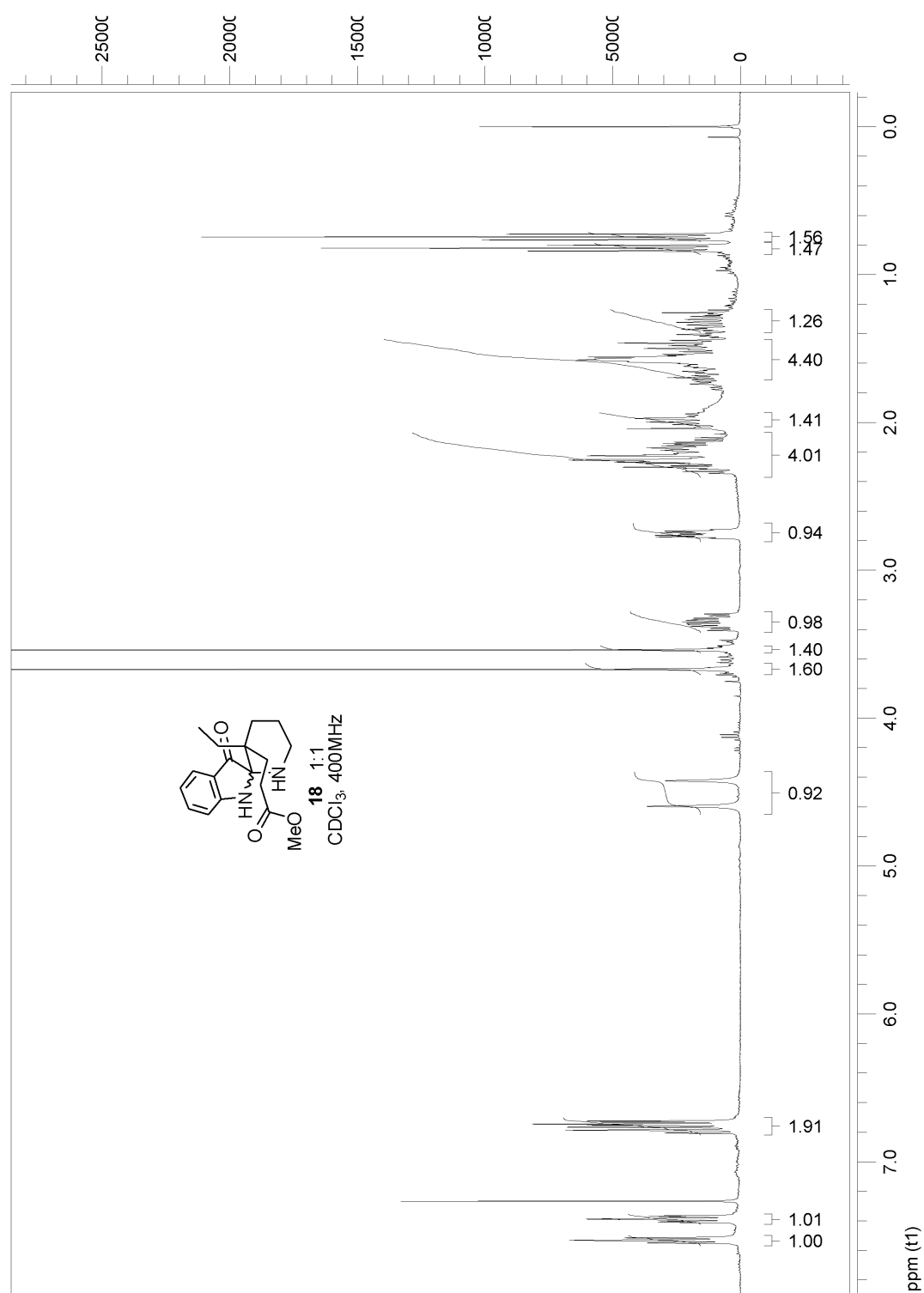


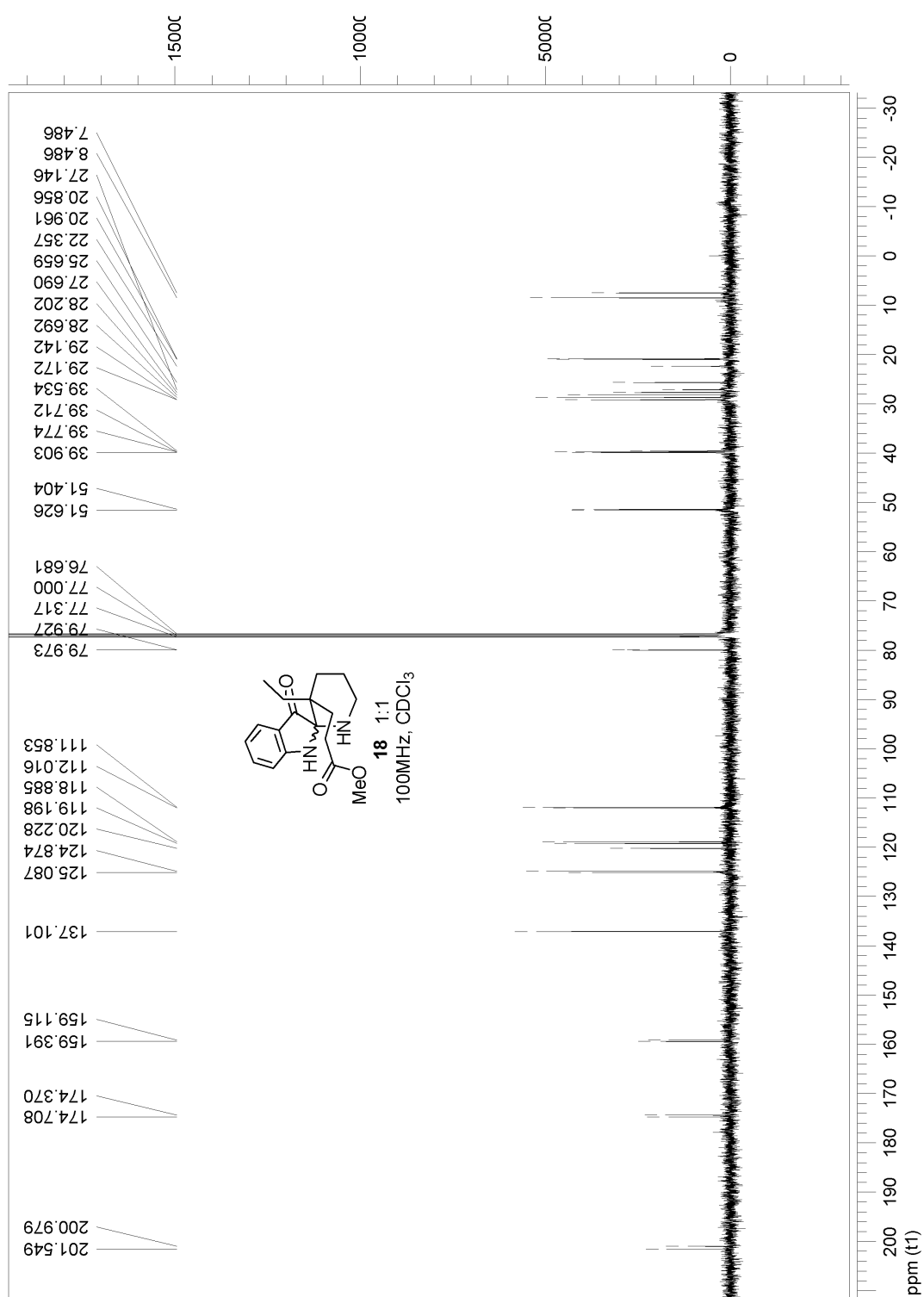


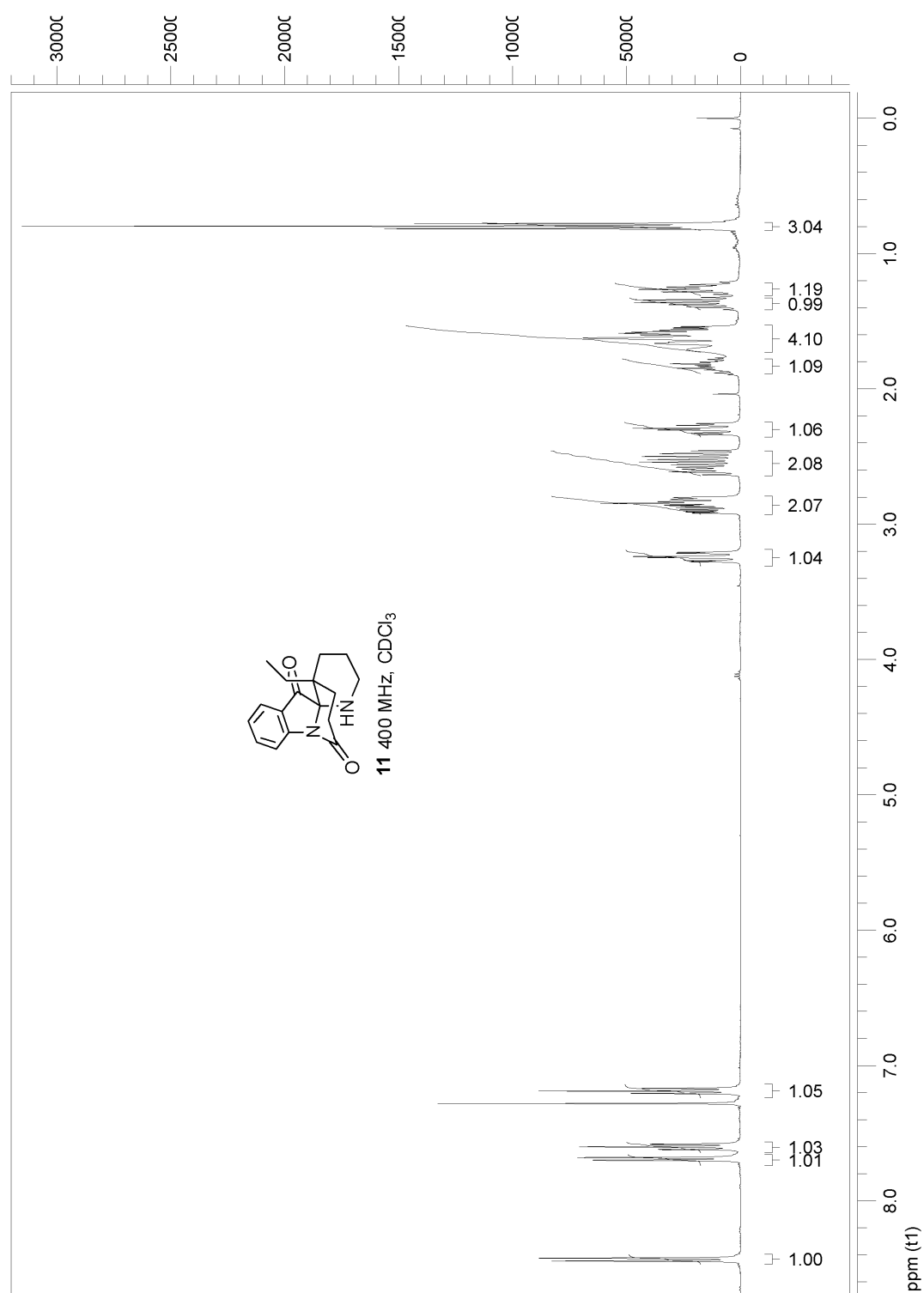


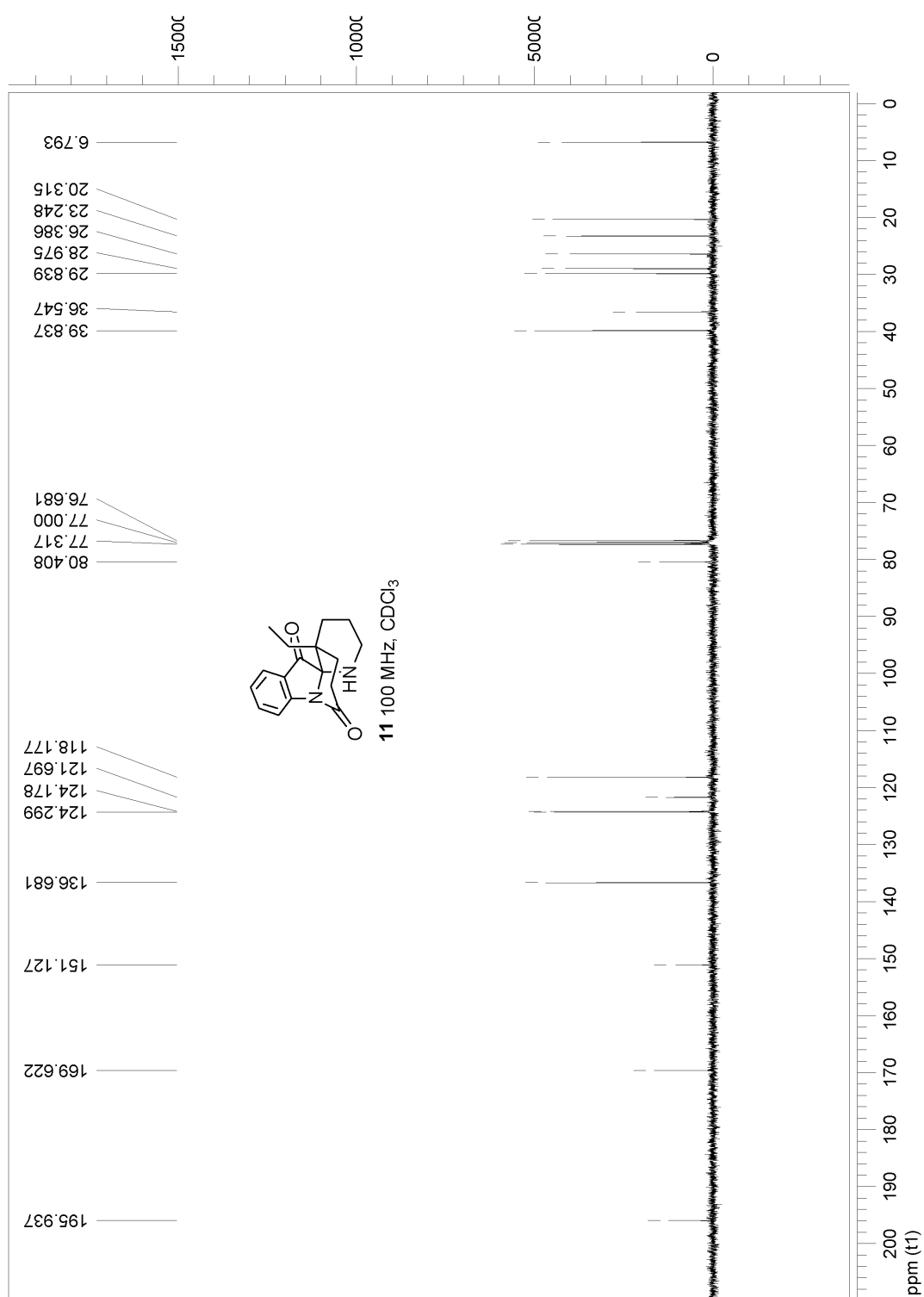


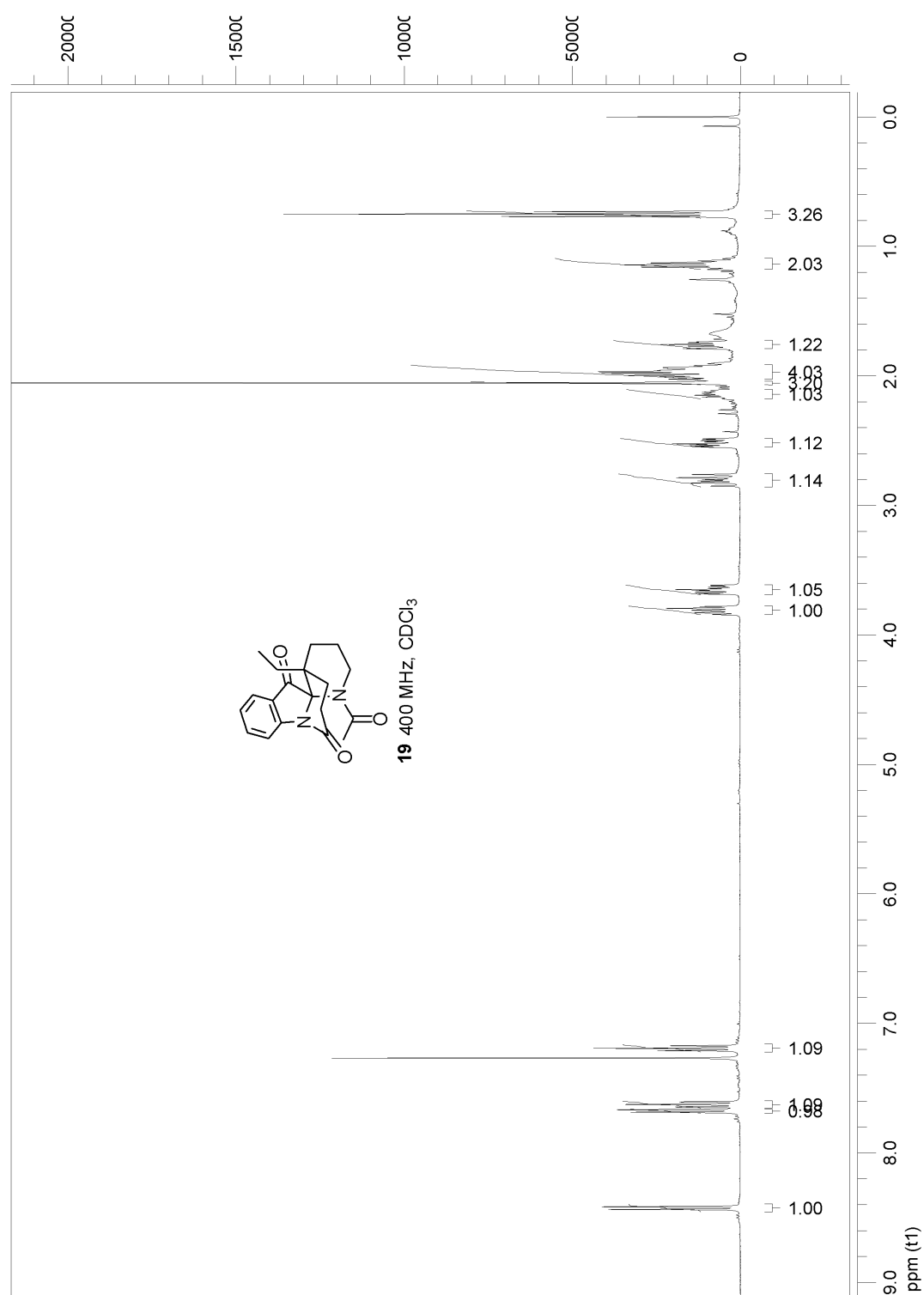




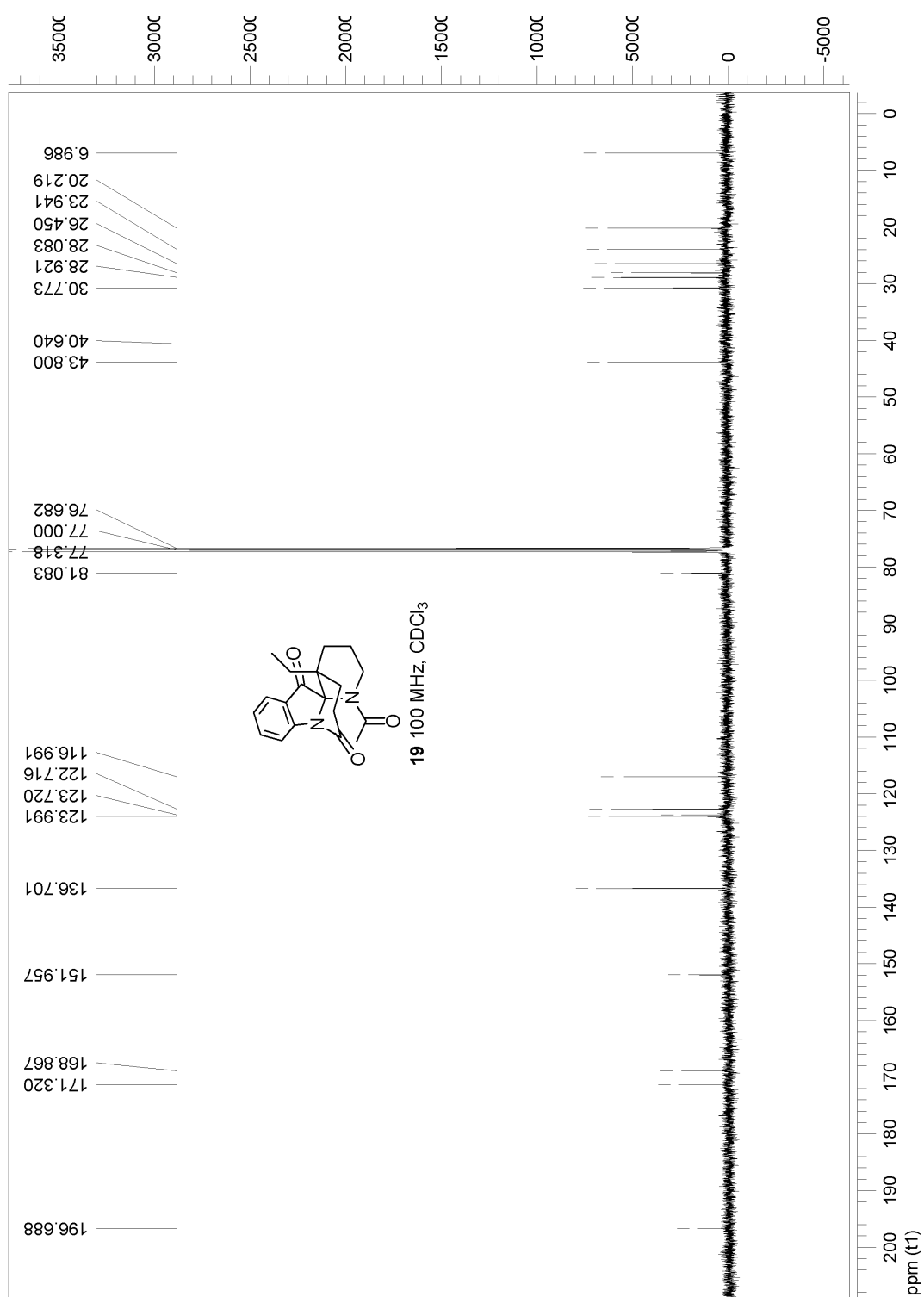




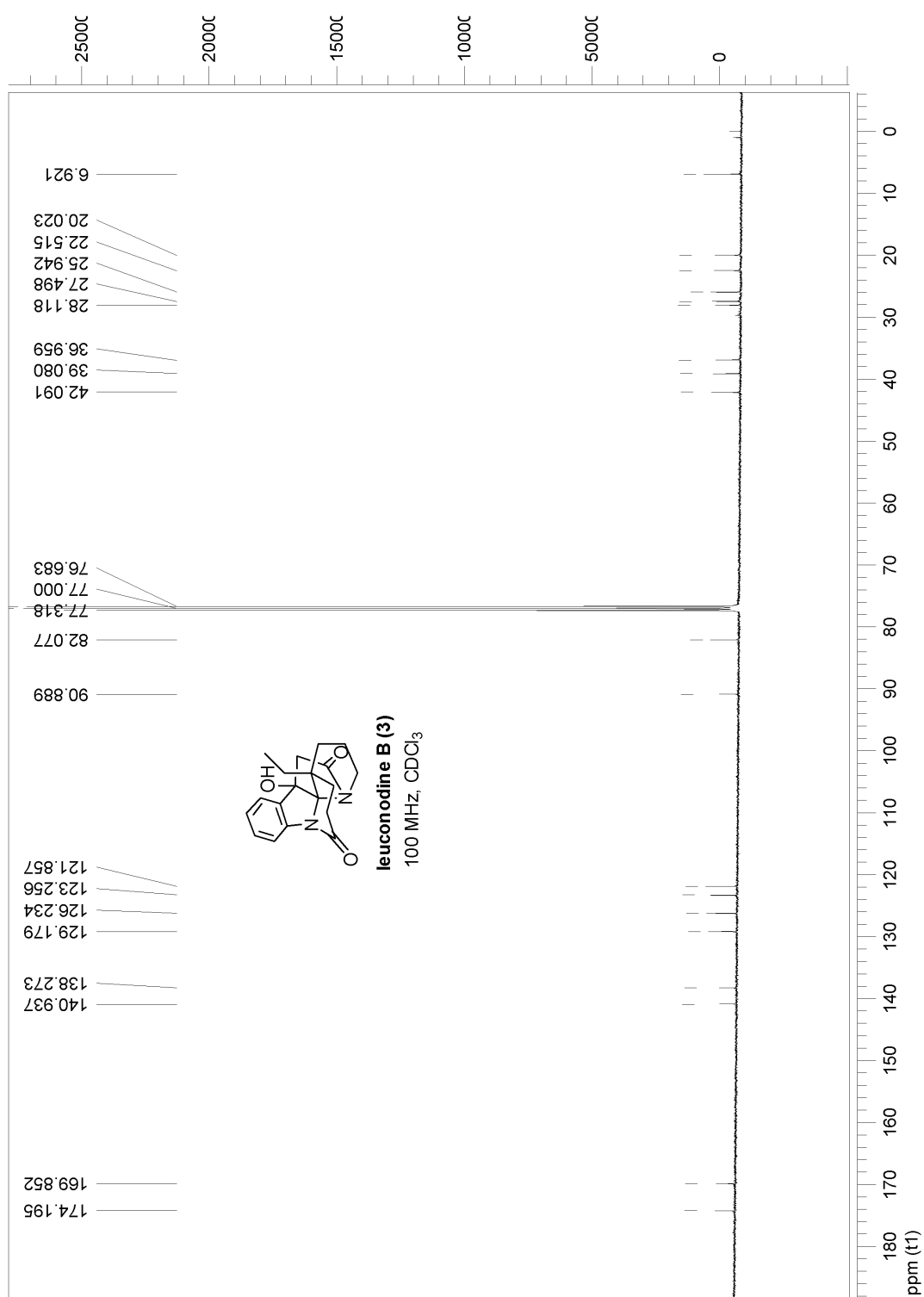


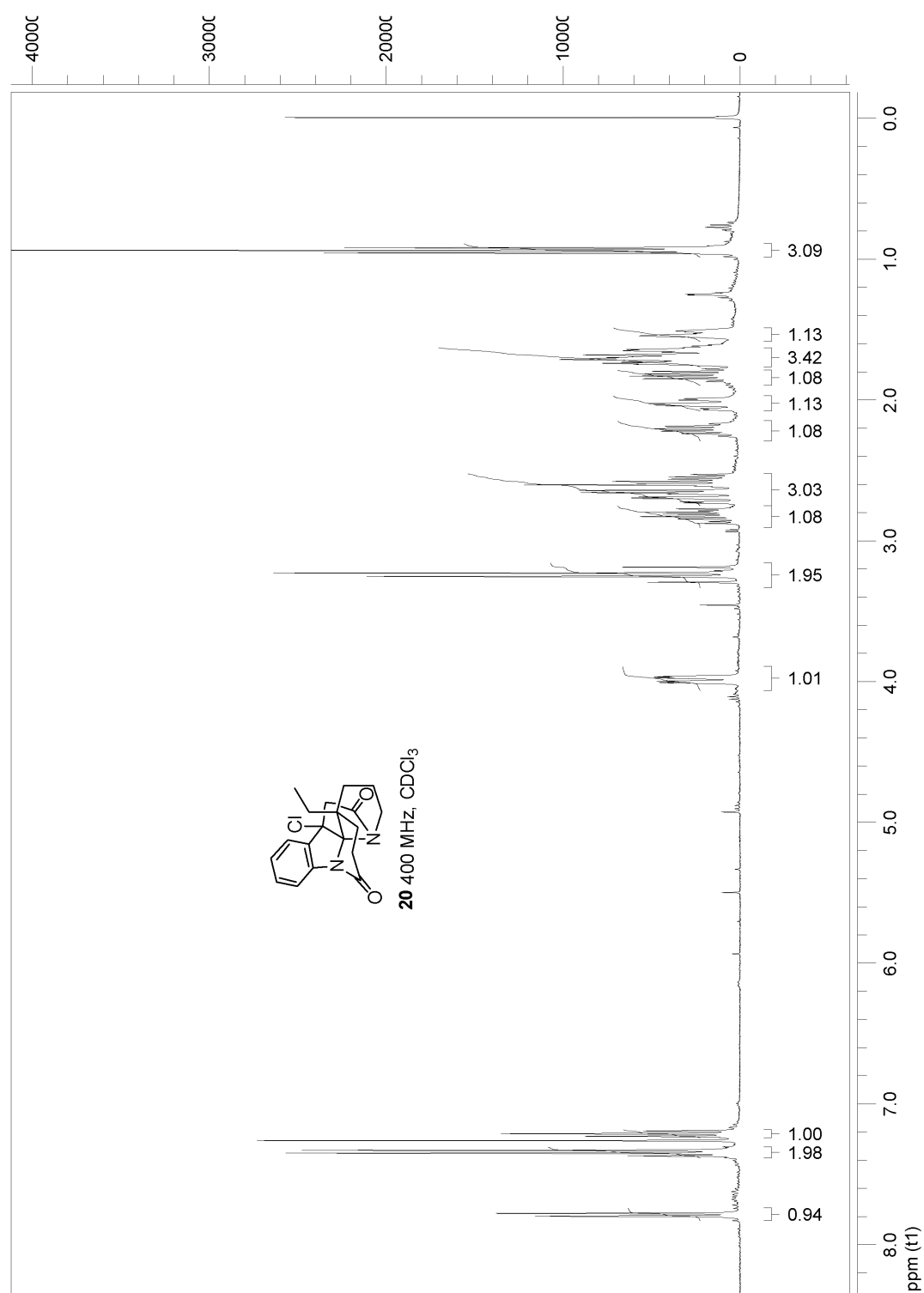


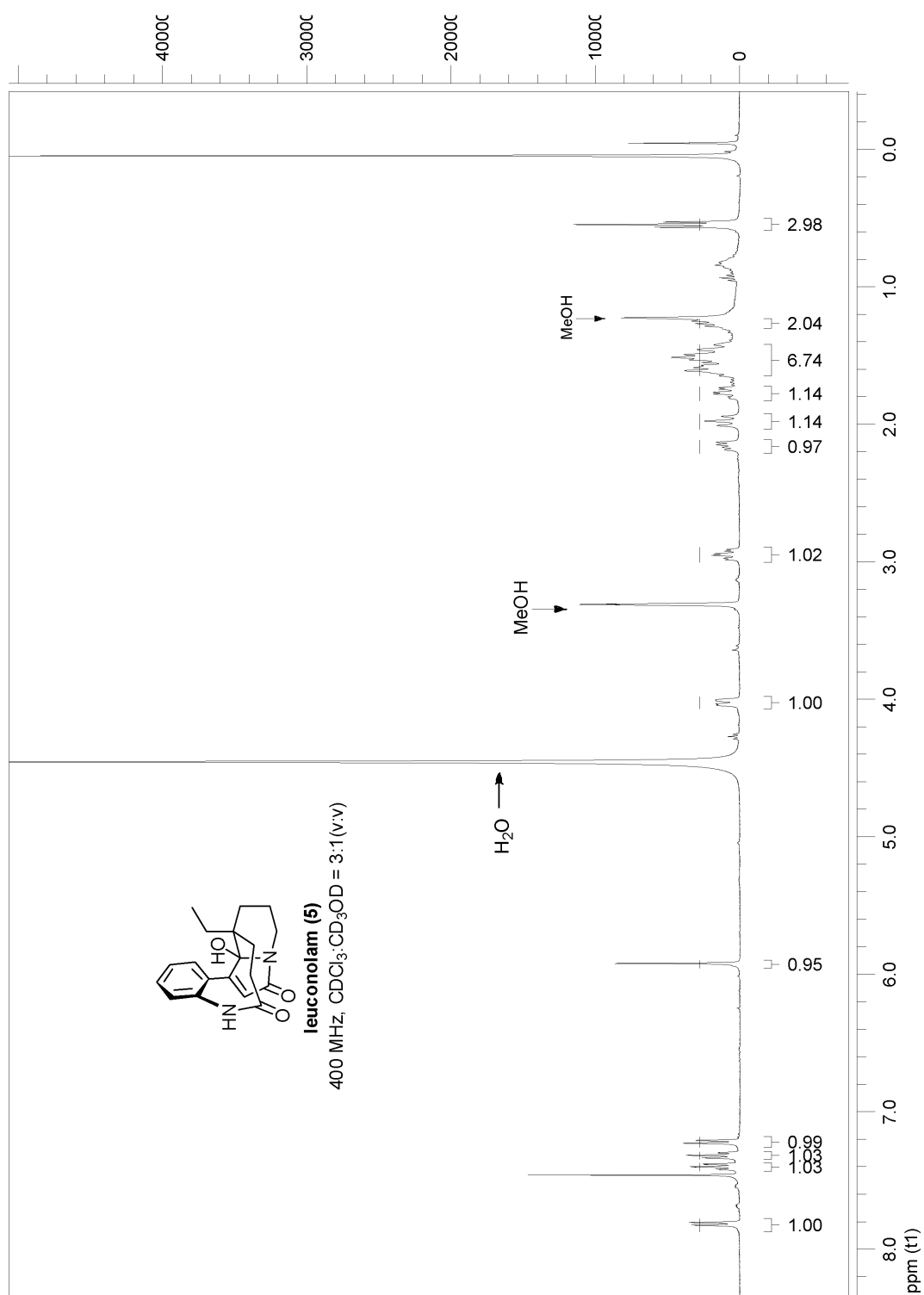


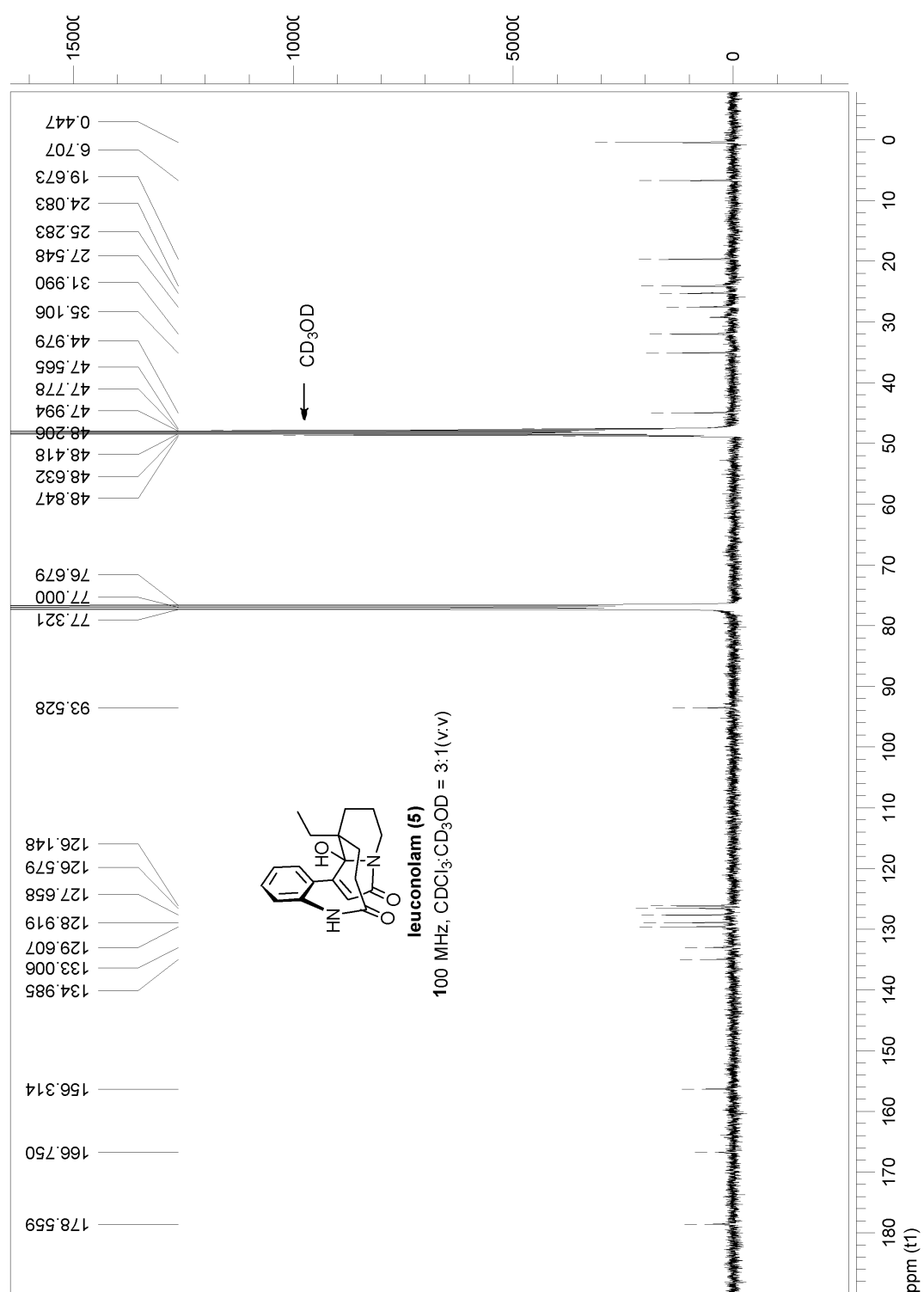


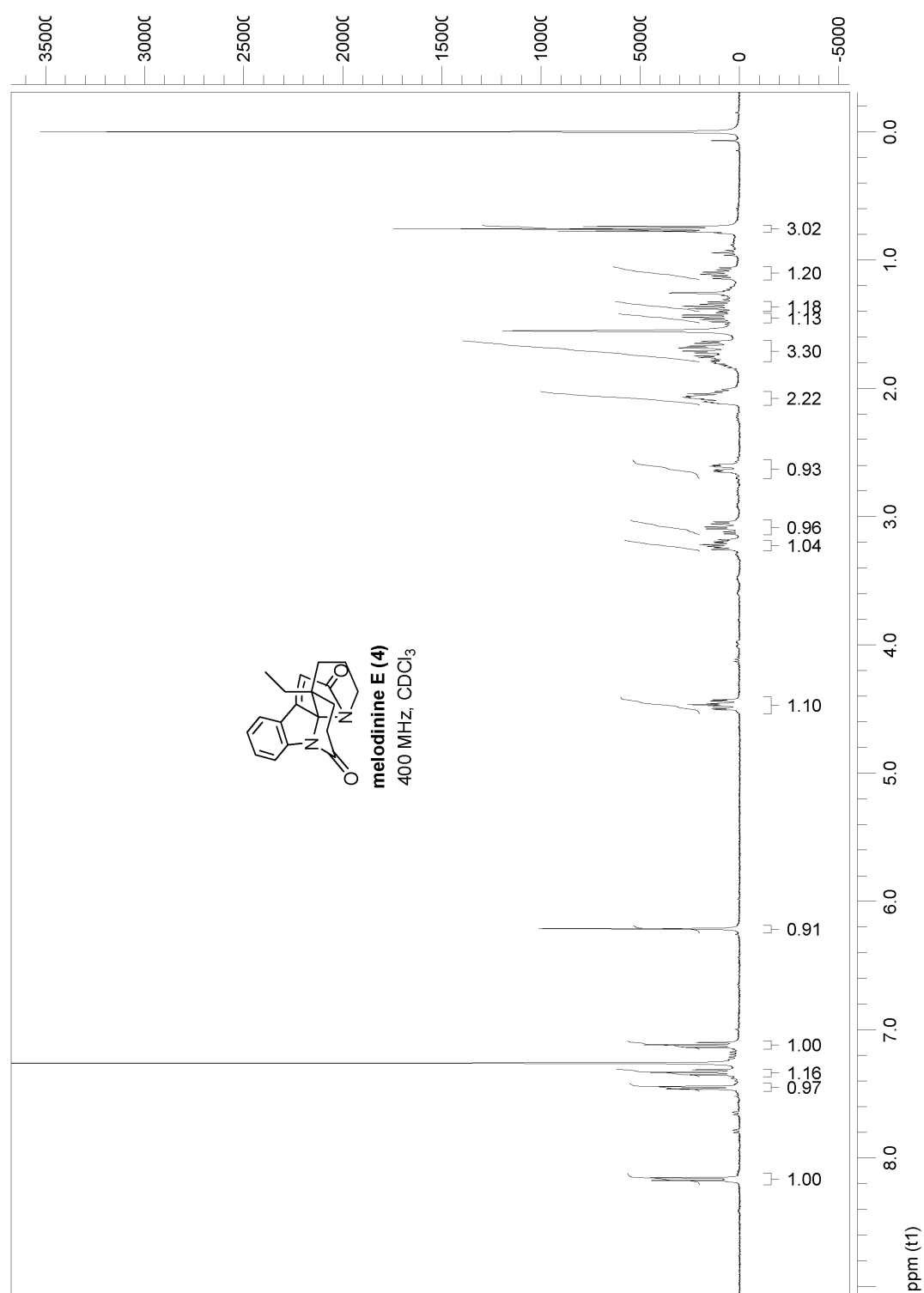


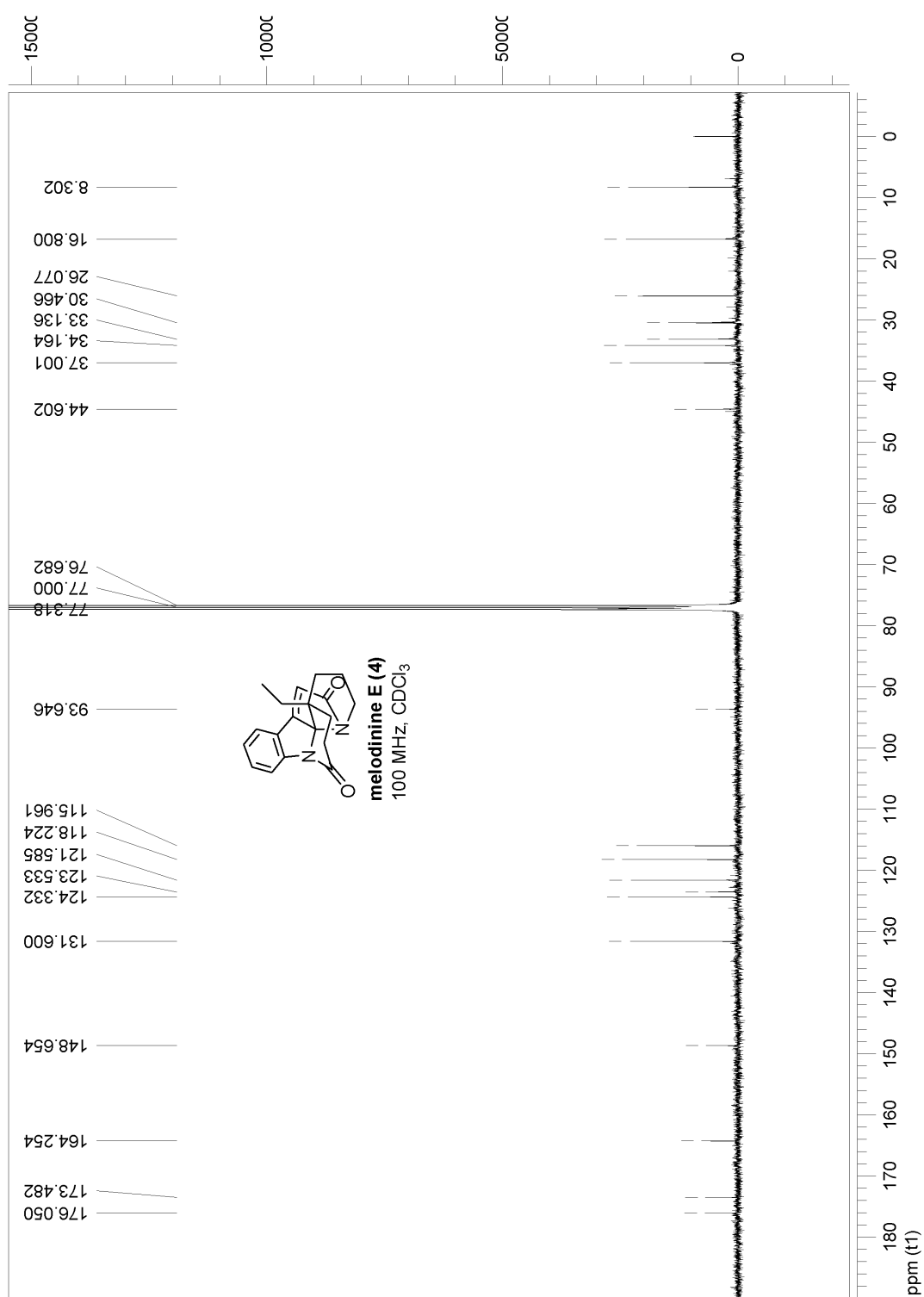




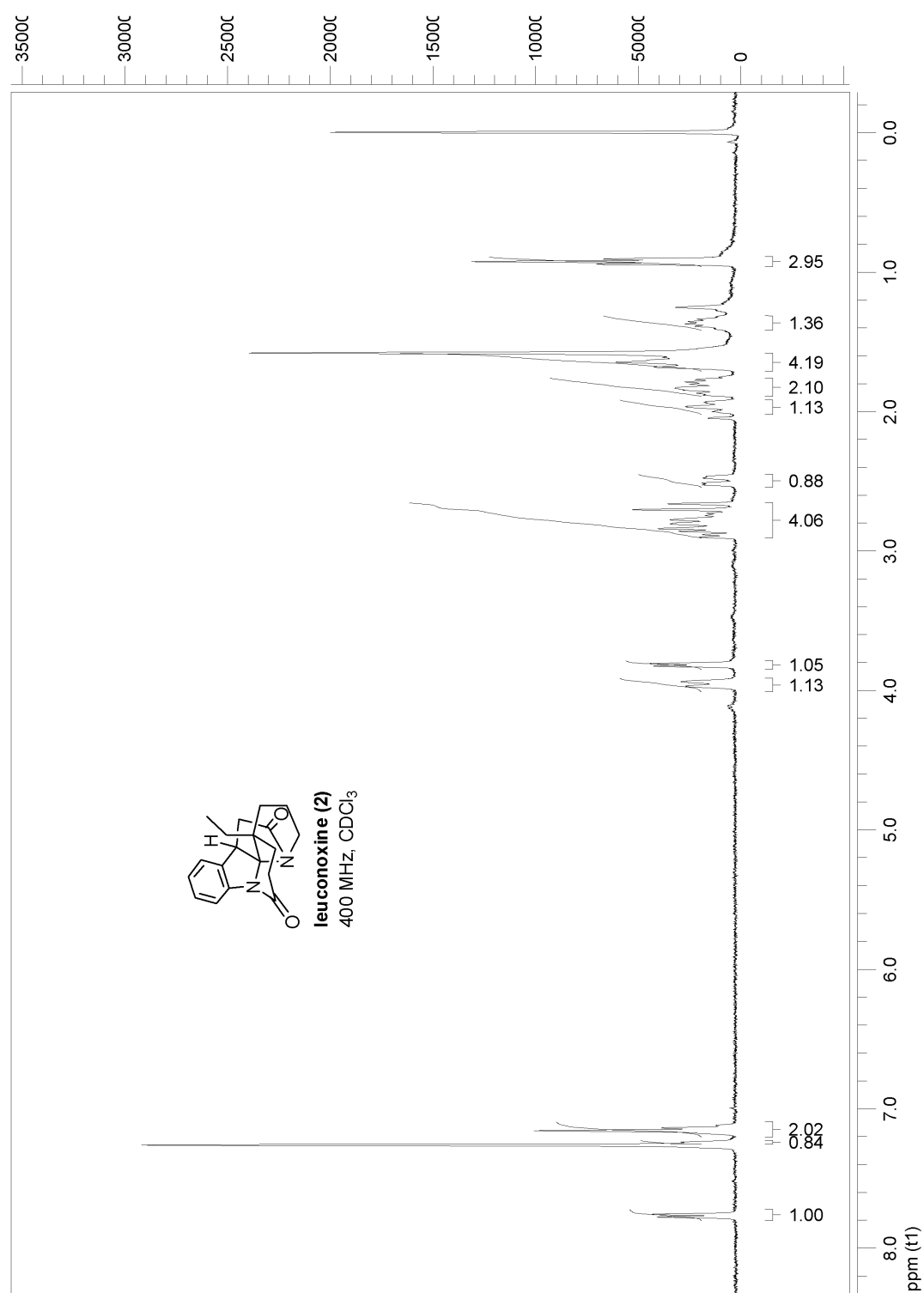


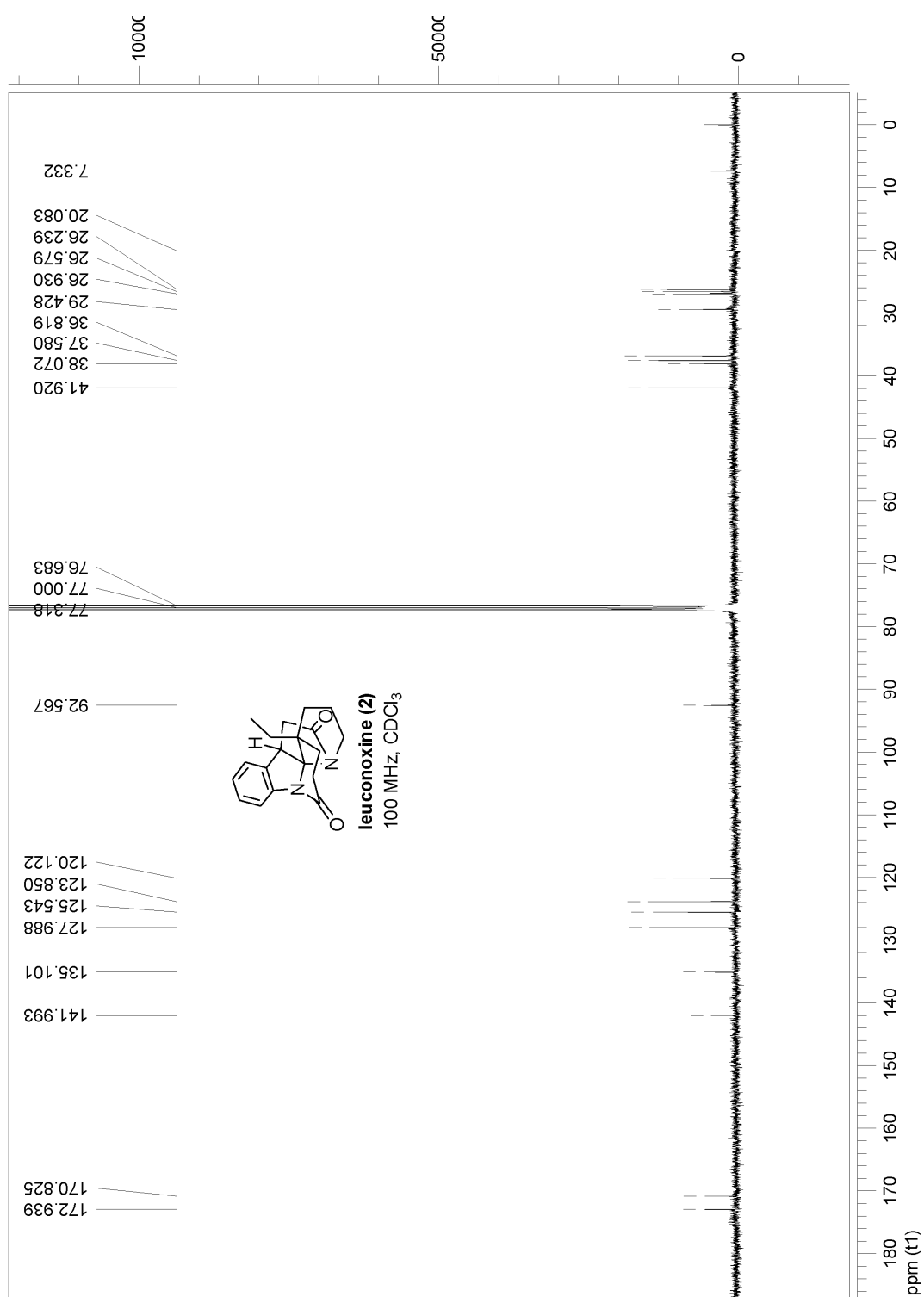


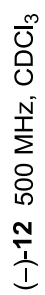


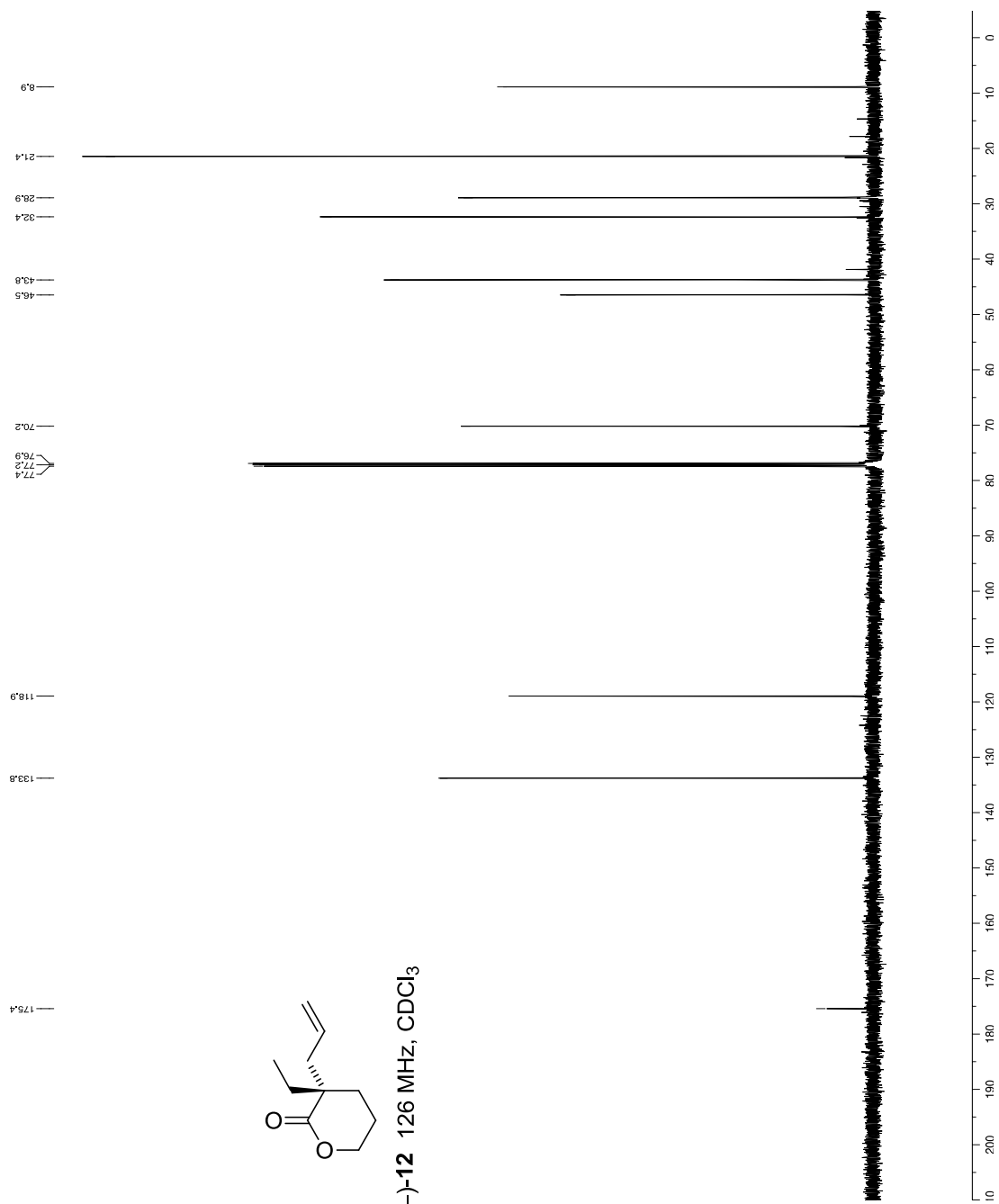


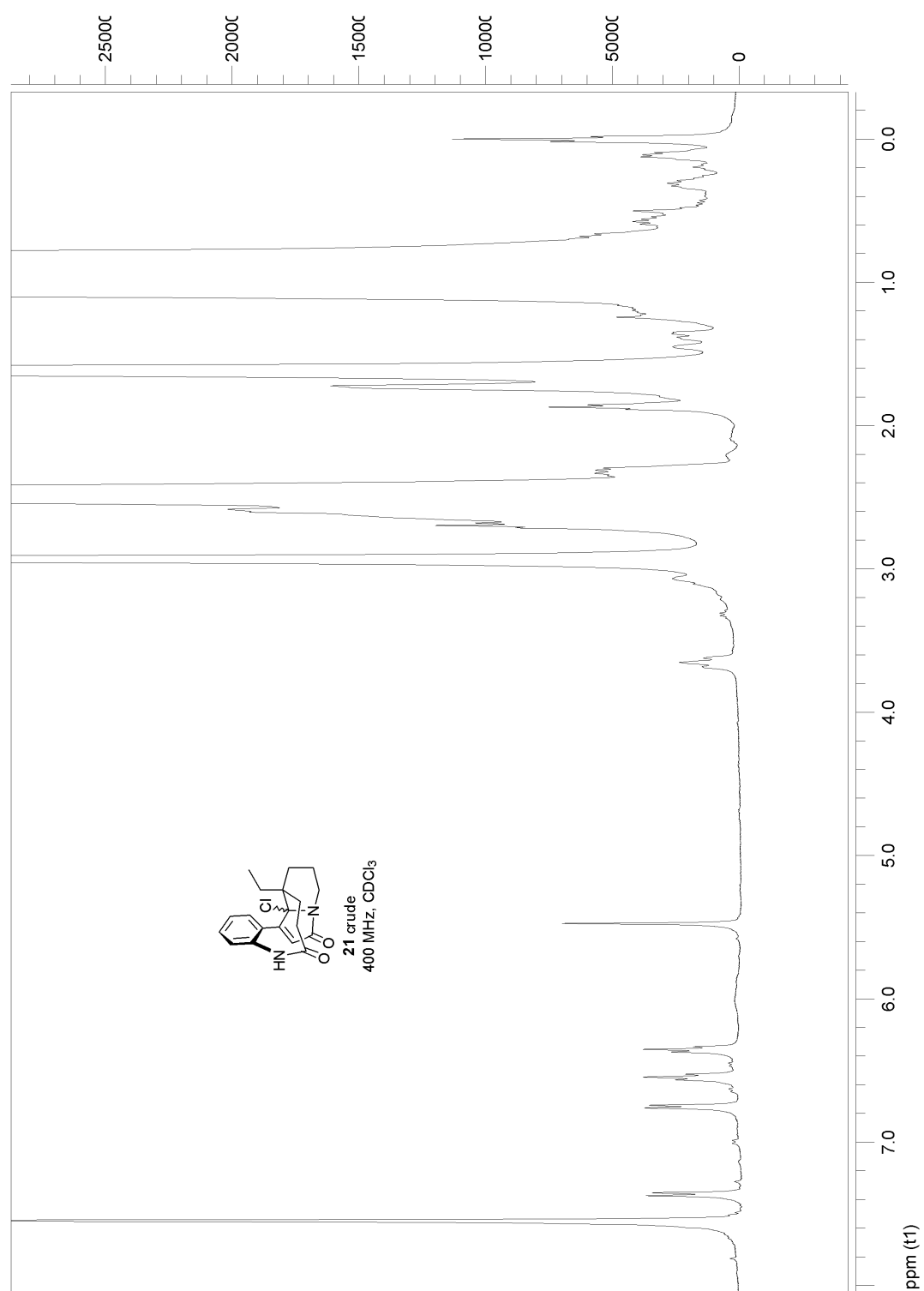












HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{22}ClN_2O_2$   $[M+H]^+$  345.1364 (**21**)

