



Supporting Information

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# Organocatalytic Asymmetric $\alpha$ -Selenenylation of Aldehydes

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## Contents

General Methods.....	S2
Materials.....	S2
Determination of Enantiomeric Purity.....	S2
Determination of Absolute Configuration.....	S3
Experimental Procedures.....	S4
General Procedure for the Organocatalytic Asymmetric $\alpha$ -Selenenylation of Aldehyde.....	S4
Synthesis of the 1,3-oxazolidinone 5.....	S8
Synthesis of the N-benzyl $\alpha$ -seleno amine 6.....	S8
NMR Spectra .....	S10
Representative HPLC Traces.....	S21

**General Methods.** The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at 400 MHz and 100 MHz, respectively. The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are referenced to internal standard TMS ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR) and to residual signals of the solvents ( $\text{CHCl}_3$  - 77.0 ppm for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR). Coupling constants are given in Hz. The following abbreviations are used to indicate the multiplicity: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; sept, septet; m, multiplet; br, broad signal. Purification of reaction products was carried out by flash chromatography (FC) on silica gel (230-400 mesh) according to the method of Still.<sup>1</sup> Organic solutions were concentrated under reduced pressure on a Büchi rotary evaporator. Mass spectra were obtained from the Department of Organic Chemistry "A. Mangini" Mass Spectroscopy facility. Optical rotations are reported as follows:  $[\alpha]_D^{rt}$  ( $c$  in g per 100 mL, solvent). All reactions were carried out in air and using undistilled solvent, without any precautions to exclude moisture unless otherwise noted.

**Materials.** Commercial grade reagents and solvents were used without further purification; otherwise, where necessary, they were purified as recommended.<sup>2</sup> Aldehyde **1a-h** were purchased from Aldrich or Alfa Aesar and used as received. Catalysts **A**,<sup>3</sup> **B**,<sup>4</sup> and **C**<sup>5</sup> were prepared according to literature procedure.

*N*-(Phenylseleno)-phthalimide **2** was purchased from Aldrich and used as received. Note that **2** is provided in 77% of purity (Technical grade) and the stoichiometry of the reaction was adjusted accordingly.

**Determination of Enantiomeric Purity.** Chiral HPLC analysis was performed on an Agilent 1100-series instrumentation. Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column and Daicel Chiralcel OD-H column with *i*-PrOH/hexane as the eluent were used.

HPLC traces were compared to racemic samples prepared by carrying out the reactions with racemic Proline as the catalyst.

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

<sup>2</sup> W. L. F. Armarengo, D. D. Perrin, In *Purification of Laboratory Chemicals*, 4th ed.; Butterworth Heinemann: Oxford, 1996.

<sup>3</sup> a) K. A. Ahrendt, C. J. Borths, D. W. C. MacMillan, *J. Am Chem Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 4243. b) W. S. Jen, J. J. M. Wiener, D. W. C. MacMillan, *J. Am Chem Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 9874.

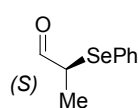
<sup>4</sup> M. Marigo, T. C. Wabnitz, D. Fielenbach, K. A. Jørgensen, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 794.

<sup>5</sup> The catalyst **C** can be easily prepared by protection of the commercial available  $\alpha,\alpha$ -diphenylprolinol with TMSOTf. See: J. Franzén, M. Marigo, D. Fielenbach, T. C. Wabnitz, A. Kjærsgaard, K. A. Jørgensen *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 18296.

### Determination of Absolute Configuration.

The absolute configuration of the optically active  $\alpha$ -seleno aldehyde **3a** was determined to be (*S*) on the basis of the measured optical rotation that was compared with the literature value.<sup>6</sup> All other absolute configurations were assigned by analogy based on a uniform reaction mechanism.

The absolute configuration of the optically active 1,3-oxazolidinone **5** was determined to be (*R*) on the basis of the measured optical rotation that was compared with the literature value.<sup>7</sup>



(*S*)-**3a** (Table 1, entry 9)<sup>6,8</sup> - The reaction was carried out at -20 °C for 1 h using 10 mol% of (*S*)-5-benzyl-2,2,3,4-trimethylimidazolidin-4-one dichloroacetic acid salt (**A·DCA**, 13.9 mg, 0.04 mmol) as the catalyst. To an ordinary vial equipped with a Teflon-coated stir bar and charged with catalyst **A·DCA**, 0.8 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added. After addition of 0.6 mmol (1.5 equiv., 43  $\mu$ L) of propanal **1a**, the solution was stirred for 5 minutes at -20 °C. Then *N*-(Phenylseleno)-phthalimide **2** (0.4 mmol, 157 mg) was added in one portion, the vial was capped with a rubber stopper and stirring was continued for 1 h, after which the reaction mixture was directly charged on column chromatography. The ee of the crude reaction mixture was determined by HPLC analysis to be 94%. The title compound was isolated as a yellowish oil in 99% yield (84 mg) after column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 92/8) with a slight racemization (80% ee).<sup>8</sup> The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak AD-H column (80/20 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 0.75 mL/min;  $\lambda$  = 214, 254 nm;  $\tau_R$  = 6.2 min;  $\tau_S$  = 6.7 min).  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  = -205.6 (*c* = 1.02, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 80% ee. Lit.<sup>6</sup>  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  = +265-290, (*R*)-**3a**, (*c* = 1.8, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 95% ee). HRMS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>OSe: 213.98969; found: 213.9897. <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 1.47 (d, *J* = 6.8, 3H), 3.72 (dq, *J* = 2.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.50-7.55 (m, 2H), 9.45 (d, *J* = 2.8, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 13.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 45.6 (CH), 125.7 (C), 128.9 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 136.1 (C), 193.5 (C).

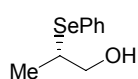
<sup>6</sup> a) R. G. Shea, J. N. Fitzner, J. E. Fankhauser, A. Spaltenstein, P. A. Carpino, R. M. Peevey, D. V. Pratt, B. J. Tenge, P. B. Hopkins, *J. Org. Chem.* **1986**, *51*, 5243; b) W. Wang, J. Wang, H. Lao, *Org. Lett.* **2004**, *6*, 2817.

<sup>7</sup> M. Feroci, A. Inesi, L. Palombi, L. Rossi, G. Sotgiu *J. Org. Chem.*, **2001**, *66*, 6185.

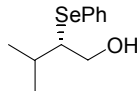
<sup>8</sup> The authors in reference 6 stated that the  $\alpha$ -seleno aldehyde **3a** was prone to racemization and all the attempts to isolate the title compound following standard procedures resulted in a slight racemization.

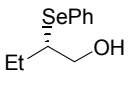
## Experimental Procedures

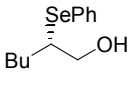
**General Procedure for the Organocatalytic Asymmetric  $\alpha$ -Selenenylation of Aldehydes.** All the reactions were carried out in undistilled solvents without any precautions to exclude water. In an ordinary vial equipped with a Teflon-coated stir bar, catalyst **B** (0.02 mmol, 12.0 mg, 5 mol%) and  $p\text{NO}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  (0.02 mmol, 3.3 mg, 5 mol%) were dissolved in 0.8 mL of toluene (0.5 M). After addition of 0.6 mmol (1.5 equiv.) of the aldehyde **1**, the solution was stirred for 10 minutes at the indicated temperature (generally 0 °C). Then *N*-(Phenylseleno)-phthalimide **2** (0.4 mmol, 77% purity, 157 mg) was added in one portion, the vial was capped with a rubber stopper and stirring was continued for the indicated time (generally 40 h). Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was cooled to 0 °C and diluted with 1.6 mL of MeOH; solid  $\text{NaBH}_4$  (0.7 mmol, 1.75 equiv) was added in one portion. Frothing occurs but is readily controllable through magnetic stirring of the solution. After 30 minutes the mixture was quenched with few drops of water. Brine (5 mL) was added and the resulting mixture extracted with AcOEt (3  $\times$  10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine (5 mL), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (FC) to yield the desired  $\alpha$ -seleno alcohol derivatives **4**.



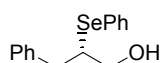
(*S*)-**4a** (Table 2, entry 1) – The reaction was carried out at 0 °C for 40 h using 5 mol% of catalyst **B**· $p\text{NO}_2\text{PhCO}_2\text{H}$  following the general procedure. The title compound was isolated as a colourless oil by column chromatography (DCM/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 95/5) in 99% yield and 95% ee. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak AD-H column (90/10 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 0.75 mL/min;  $\lambda$  = 214, 254 nm;  $\tau_S$  = 9.6 min;  $\tau_R$  = 11.2 min).  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +4.2$  ( $c$  = 1.1,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 95% ee). HRMS:  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{12}\text{OSe}$ : 216.00534; found: 216.0053.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  = 1.41 (d,  $J$  = 7.2, 3H), 2.12 (br, OH), 3.33–3.41 (m, 1H), 3.48–3.63 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.55–7.59 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  = 18.1 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 43.1 (CH), 60.0 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 127.2 (C), 128.0 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 135.5 (C).


 (S)-**4b** (Table 2, entry 2)- The reaction was carried out at 0 °C for 40 h using 5 mol% of catalyst **B**•pNO<sub>2</sub>PhCO<sub>2</sub>H following the general procedure. The title compound was isolated as a colourless oil by column chromatography (DCM/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 97/3) in 89% yield and 99% ee. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak AD-H column (90/10 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 0.75 mL/min; λ = 214, 254 nm; τ<sub>minor</sub> = 7.5 min; τ<sub>major</sub> = 8.5 min). [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>rt</sup> = - 11.6 (*c* = 1.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 98.5% ee). HRMS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>OSe: 244.03664; found: 244.0366. <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ = 1.06 (d, *J* = 6.8, 3H), 1.08 (d, *J* = 6.8, 3H), 1.98-2.09 (m, 1H), 2.25 (br, OH), 3.14-3.20 (m, 1H), 3.63-3.71 (m, 1H), 3.71-3.78 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ = 20.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.9 (CH), 60.0 (CH), 63.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 127.5 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 134.5 (C).

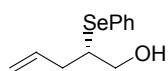

 (S)-**4c** (Table 2, entry 4)- The reaction was carried out at 0 °C for 40 h using 5 mol% of catalyst **B**•pNO<sub>2</sub>PhCO<sub>2</sub>H following the general procedure. The title compound was isolated as a colourless oil by column chromatography (DCM/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 97/3) in 84% yield and 97% ee. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak AD-H column (90/10 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 0.75 mL/min; λ = 214, 254 nm; τ<sub>S</sub> = 8.9 min; τ<sub>R</sub> = 9.4 min). [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>rt</sup> = - 23.5 (*c* = 1.04, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 97% ee). HRMS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>OSe: 230.02099; found: 230.0211. <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ = 1.09 (t, *J* = 7.2, 3H), 1.56-1.78 (m, 2H), 2.17 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 7.6, OH), 3.14-3.20 (m, 1H), 3.51-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.61-3.68 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.59 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ = 12.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 52.4 (CH), 64.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 127.4 (C), 127.9 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 135.4 (C).


 (S)-**4d** (Table 2, entry 5)- The reaction was carried out at 0 °C for 40 h using 5 mol% of catalyst **B**•pNO<sub>2</sub>PhCO<sub>2</sub>H following the general procedure. The title compound was isolated as a colourless oil by column chromatography (DCM/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 97/3) in 99% yield and 98% ee. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak AD-H column (90/10 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 0.75 mL/min; λ = 214, 254 nm; τ<sub>S</sub> = 7.5 min; τ<sub>R</sub> = 7.9 min). [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>rt</sup> = - 24.5 (*c* = 1.1,

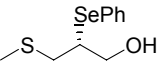
CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 98% ee). HRMS:  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>OSe: 258.05228; found: 258.0523. <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 0.90 (t,  $J$  = 7.2, 3H), 1.25-1.70 (m, 6H), 2.21 (br, OH), 3.20-3.26 (m, 1H), 3.49-3.56 (m, 1H), 3.59-3.65 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.58 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 13.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 50.6 (CH), 64.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 127.4 (C), 127.4 (C), 127.9 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 135.4 (C).

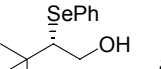


(*S*)-**4e** (Table 2, entry 6)- The reaction was carried out at 0 °C for 40 h using 5 mol% of catalyst **B**·pNO<sub>2</sub>PhCO<sub>2</sub>H following the general procedure. The title compound was isolated as a colourless oil by column chromatography (DCM/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 97/3) in 81% yield and 97.2% ee. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak AD-H column (90/10 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 0.75 mL/min;  $\lambda$  = 214, 254 nm;  $\tau_R$  = 11.3 min;  $\tau_S$  = 12.5 min).  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  = - 14.9 ( $c$  = 1.4, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 97% ee). HRMS:  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>OSe: 292.03664; found: 292.0365. <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 2.14 (br, OH), 2.96-3.06 (m, 2H), 3.47-3.65 (m, 3H), 7.19-7.33 (m, 8H), 7.52-7.55 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 38.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 50.6 (CH), 63.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 126.6 (CH), 127.7 (C), 128.0 (CH), 128.5 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 129.15 (CH), 135.2 (CH), 139.0 (C).



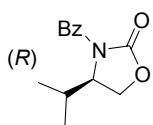
(*S*)-**4f** (Table 2, entry 7)- The reaction was carried out at 0 °C for 40 h using 5 mol% of catalyst **B**·pNO<sub>2</sub>PhCO<sub>2</sub>H following the general procedure. The title compound was isolated as a colourless oil by column chromatography (DCM/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 97/3) in 91% yield and 98% ee. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak AD-H column (90/10 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 0.75 mL/min;  $\lambda$  = 214, 254 nm;  $\tau_R$  = 8.9 min;  $\tau_S$  = 9.4 min).  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  = - 17.3 ( $c$  = 1.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 98% ee). HRMS:  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>OSe: 242.02099; found: 242.0209. <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 2.11 (br, OH), 2.44-2.48 (m, 2H), 3.27-3.34 (m, 1H), 3.58 (dd,  $J$  = 6.0, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (dd,  $J$  = 5.6, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 5.09-5.16 (m, 2H), 5.83-5.94 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 36.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 48.7 (CH), 63.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 117.4 (CH), 127.3 (C), 128.0 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 135.4 (CH), 135.5 (C).


 (R)-**4g** (Table 2, entry 8)- The reaction was carried out at 0 °C for 40 h using 5 mol% of catalyst **B**•pNO<sub>2</sub>PhCO<sub>2</sub>H following the general procedure. The title compound was isolated as a colourless oil by column chromatography (DCM/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 97/3) in 94% yield and 98% ee. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralcel OD-H column (90/10 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 0.75 mL/min; λ = 214, 254 nm; τ<sub>S</sub> = 9.6 min; τ<sub>R</sub> = 11.0 min). [α]<sup>rt</sup><sub>D</sub> = + 0.7 (*c* = 2.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 98% ee). HRMS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>OSe: 261.99306; found: 261.9933. <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ = 2.12 (s, 3H), 2.29 (t, *J* = 6.4, OH), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 13.6 Hz, 1H), 3.41-3.47 (m, 1H), 3.74-3.88 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ = 16.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 36.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 47.4 (CH), 63.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 127.1 (C), 128.3 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 135.5 (CH).


 (S)-**4h** (Table 2, entry 9)- The reaction was carried out at 0 °C for 40 h using 5 mol% of catalyst **B**•pNO<sub>2</sub>PhCO<sub>2</sub>H following the general procedure. The title compound was isolated as a colourless oil by column chromatography (DCM/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 97/3) in 99% yield and 99% ee. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak AD-H column (80/20 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 0.75 mL/min; λ = 214, 254 nm; τ<sub>R</sub> = 5.7 min; τ<sub>S</sub> = 6.4 min). [α]<sup>rt</sup><sub>D</sub> = + 3.7 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 99% ee). HRMS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>OSe: 258.05228; found: 258.0523. <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ = 1.09 (s, 9H), 2.42 (br, OH), 3.13 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83-3.92 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ = 28.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.9 (C), 61.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 67.6 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 134.1 (CH).

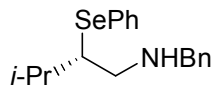


## Synthesis of the 1,3-oxazolidinone 5



(*R*)-**5** (Scheme 1)<sup>7</sup> - In a 10 mL vial equipped with a Teflon-coated stir bar compound **4b** (0.4 mmol, 98 mg) was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) and treated with benzoyl isocyanate (90% of purity, 0.44 mmol, 72 mg). The vial was capped with a rubber septum and the reaction was stirred under nitrogen at room temperature overnight. Then, the mixture was diluted with 5.0 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (2 mmol, 0.35 g) and MCPBA, (77% of purity, 1.6 mmol, 0.36 g) were added. After 15 minutes KOH (2.8 mmol, 0.16 g) was added and the mixture was stirred for 2 h, then quenched with water (10 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 10 mL). The organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (light petroleum/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 60/40) to yield the (4*R*)-3-benzoyl-4-isopropyl-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one **5** in 84% yield and 96% ee. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak AD-H column (85/15 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 0.8 mL/min; λ = 230 nm; τ<sub>S</sub> = 14.3 min; τ<sub>R</sub> = 15.6 min). [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = -105.0 (*c* = 0.3, AcOEt, 96% ee). Lit.<sup>7</sup> [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = +155, (*S*)-**5**, (*c* = 1.0, AcOEt, 99% ee). <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ = 1.0 (d, *J* = 6.9, 3H), 1.01 (d, *J* = 6.9, 3H), 2.51 (dsept, *J* = 4.4, 7.0, 1H), 4.28 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 9.0, 1H), 4.42 (t, *J* = 9.0, 1H), 4.71 (ddd, *J* = 4.4, 5.5, 9.0, 1H), 7.43-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.71-7.66 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ = 15.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 17.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.3 (CH), 58.6 (CH), 63.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 127.9 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 132.4 (CH), 133.2 (C), 153.8 (C), 169.8 (C).

## Synthesis of the N-benzyl seleno amine 6

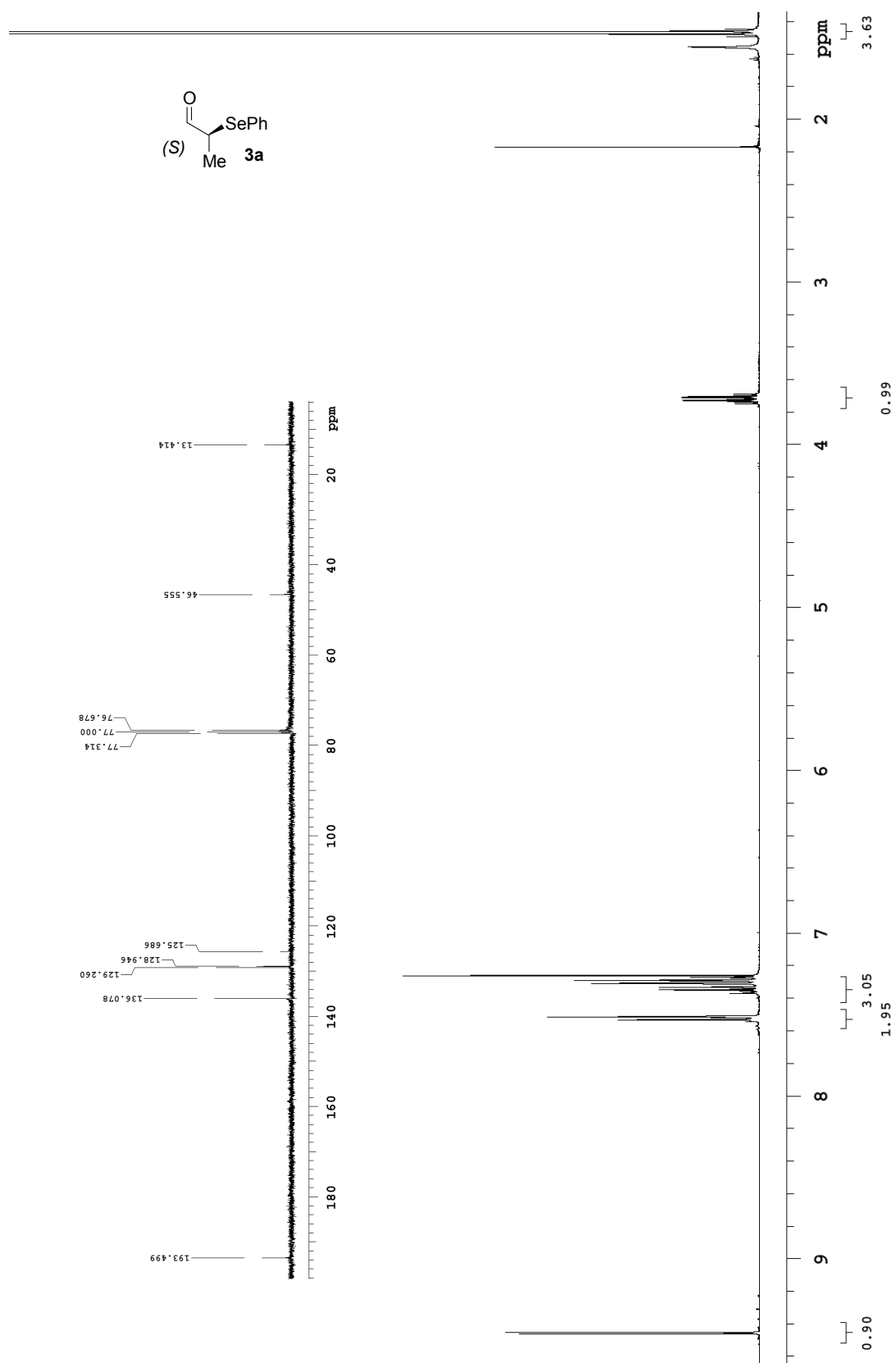


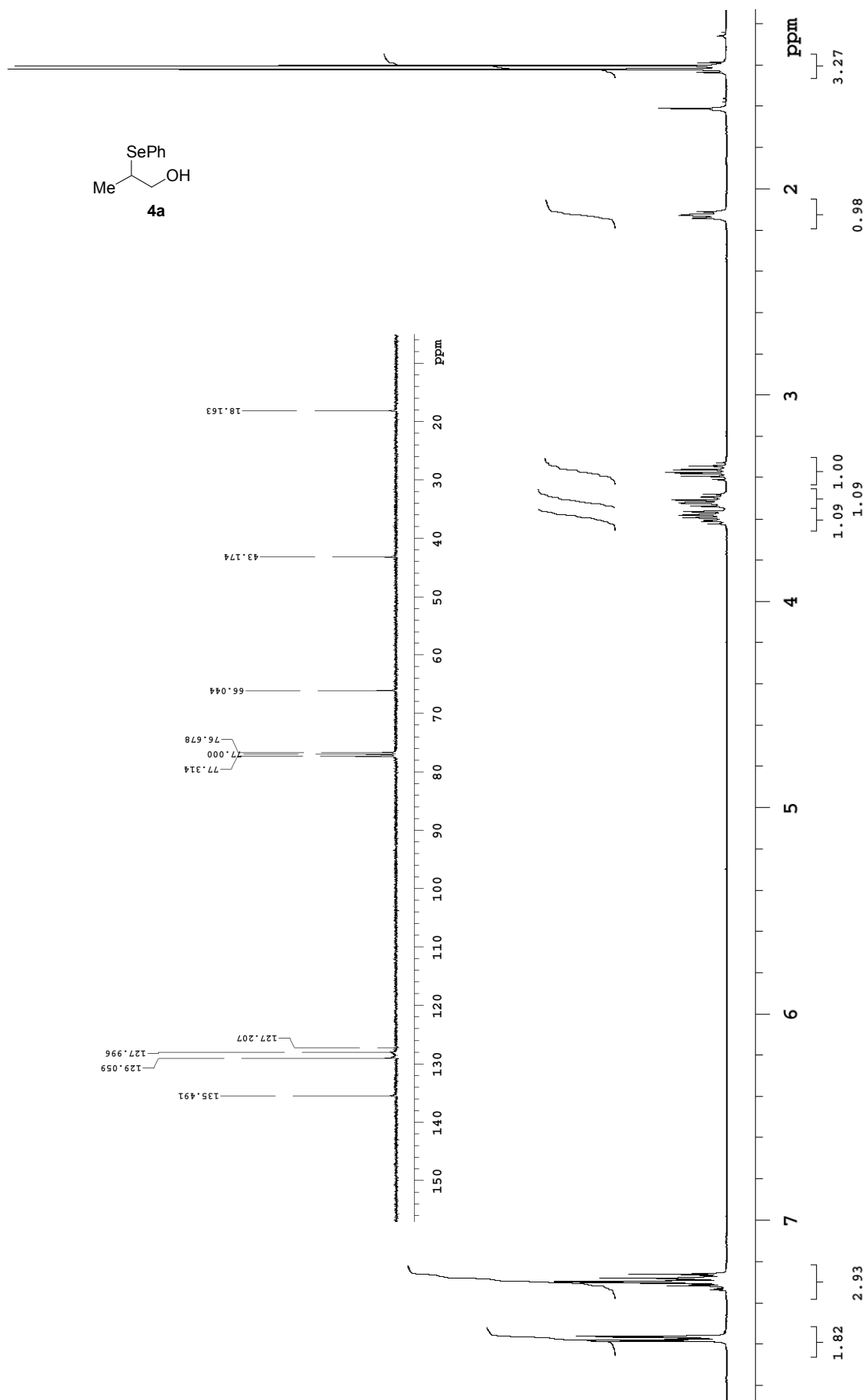
(*S*)-**6** (Scheme 1) - In a 10 mL vial equipped with a Teflon-coated stir bar catalyst **B** (0.04 mmol, 24.0 mg) and *p*NO<sub>2</sub>PhCO<sub>2</sub>H (0.04 mmol, 6.7 mg) were dissolved in 0.8 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. After addition of the aldehyde **1b** (0.6 mmol, 64.4 μL), the solution was stirred for 5 minutes at -10 °C. Then, N-(Phenylseleno)-phthalimide **2** (0.4 mmol, 157 mg) was added and the vial was capped with a rubber stopper. Stirring was continued for 2.5 h then the reaction was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) and MgSO<sub>4</sub> (0.24 g) was added.

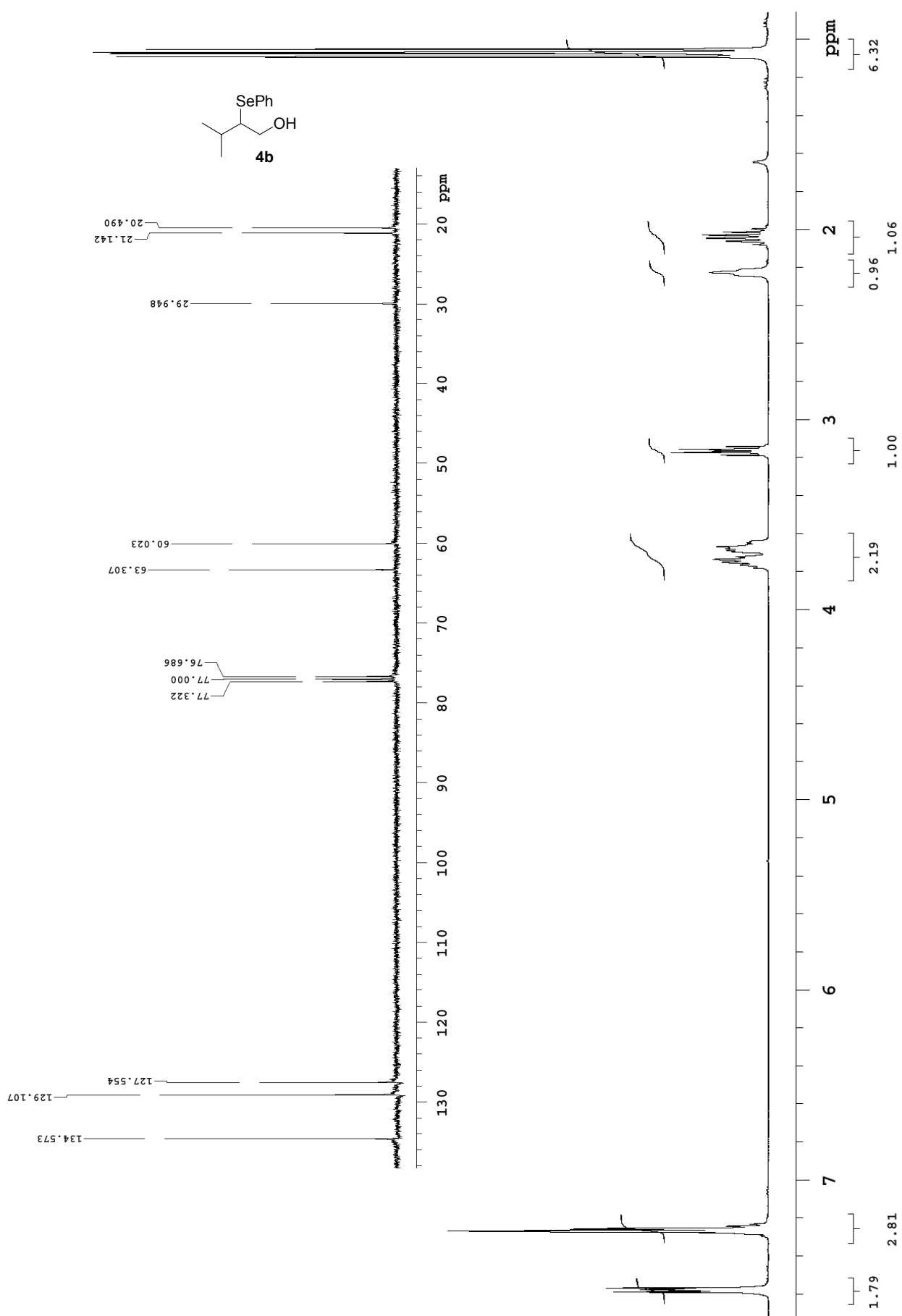
The ee of the aldehyde intermediate **3b** was determined to be 98% by HPLC analysis of the crude reaction mixture (Chiralpak AS-H column, 85/15 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 0.75 mL/min;  $\lambda$  = 230 nm;  $\tau_{minor}$  = 6.2 min;  $\tau_{major}$  = 6.7 min). The mixture was stirred for ten minutes and benzylamine (1 mmol, 109.0  $\mu$ L) was added. After 4h vigorous stirring at room temperature EtOH (5 mL), NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.25 mmol, 16 mg) and acetic acid (0.4 mmol, 23  $\mu$ L) were added successively at -78 °C under nitrogen. The temperature was allowed to rise to room temperature in one hour and then the reaction was quenched with water (10 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3  $\times$  10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (light petroleum/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 80/20) to yield **6**<sup>9</sup> in 60% overall yield and 98% ee. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak AD-H column (99.3/0.7 hexane/*i*-PrOH; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$  = 230 nm;  $\tau_S$  = 6.7 min;  $\tau_R$  = 7.5 min).  $[\alpha]^{25}_D$  = - 18.0 (*c* = 3.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 98% ee), <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.8, 3H), 1.07 (d, *J* = 6.8, 3H), 1.82 (br s, 1H), 1.99-2.09 (m, 1H), 2.83 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 12.6, 1H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 12.6, 1H), 3.29 (dt, *J* = 5.1, 8.5, 1H), 3.77 (d, *J* = 13.3, 1H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 13.3, 1H), 7.25-7.38 (m, 8H), 7.50-7.55 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 20.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.3 (CH), 51.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 53.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 56.7 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 130.1 (C), 134.4 (CH), 140.2 (C).

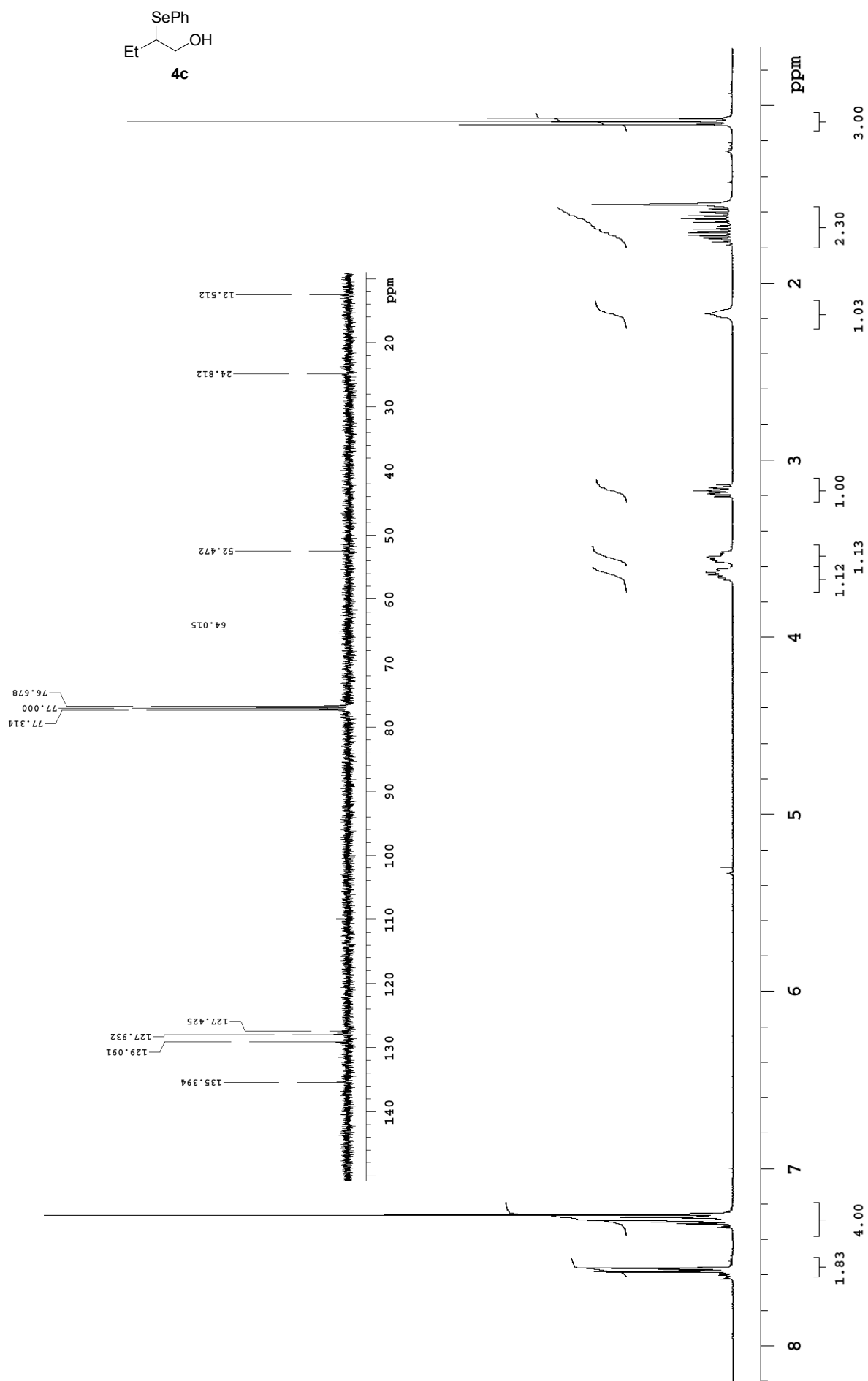
<sup>9</sup> C. Miniejew, F. Outurquin, X. Pannecoucke *Tetrahedron*, **2005**, 61, 447.

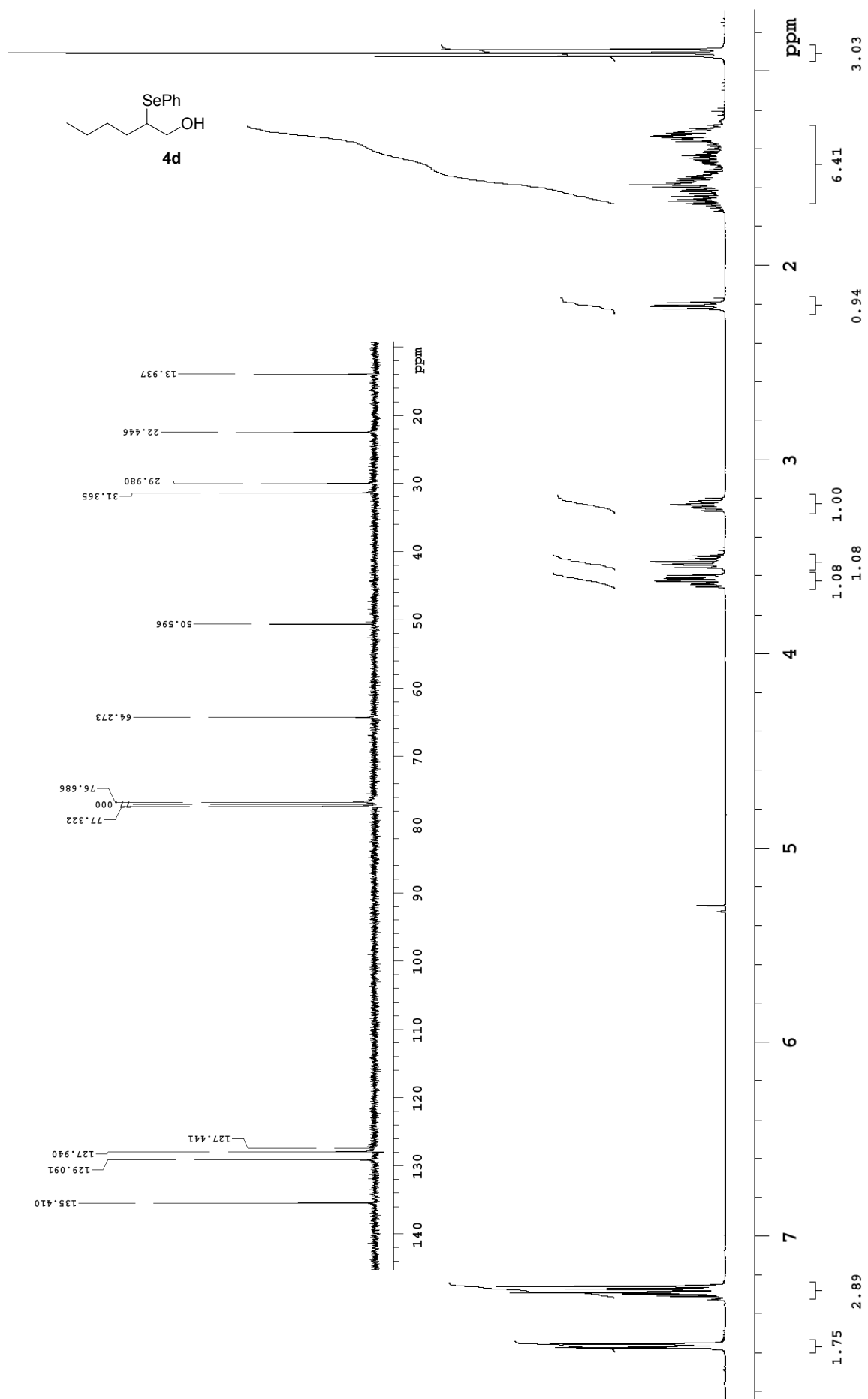
# NMR Spectra

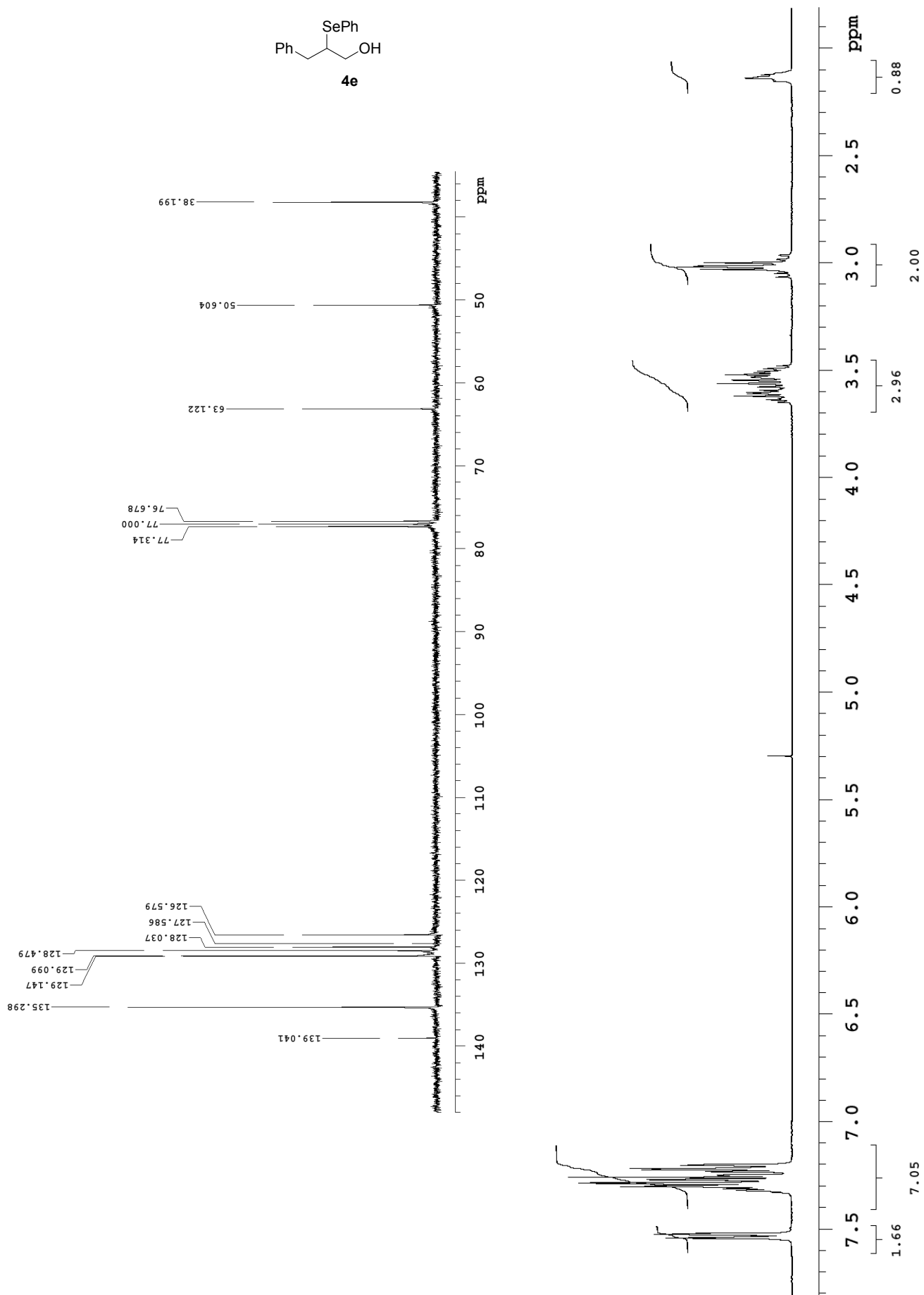




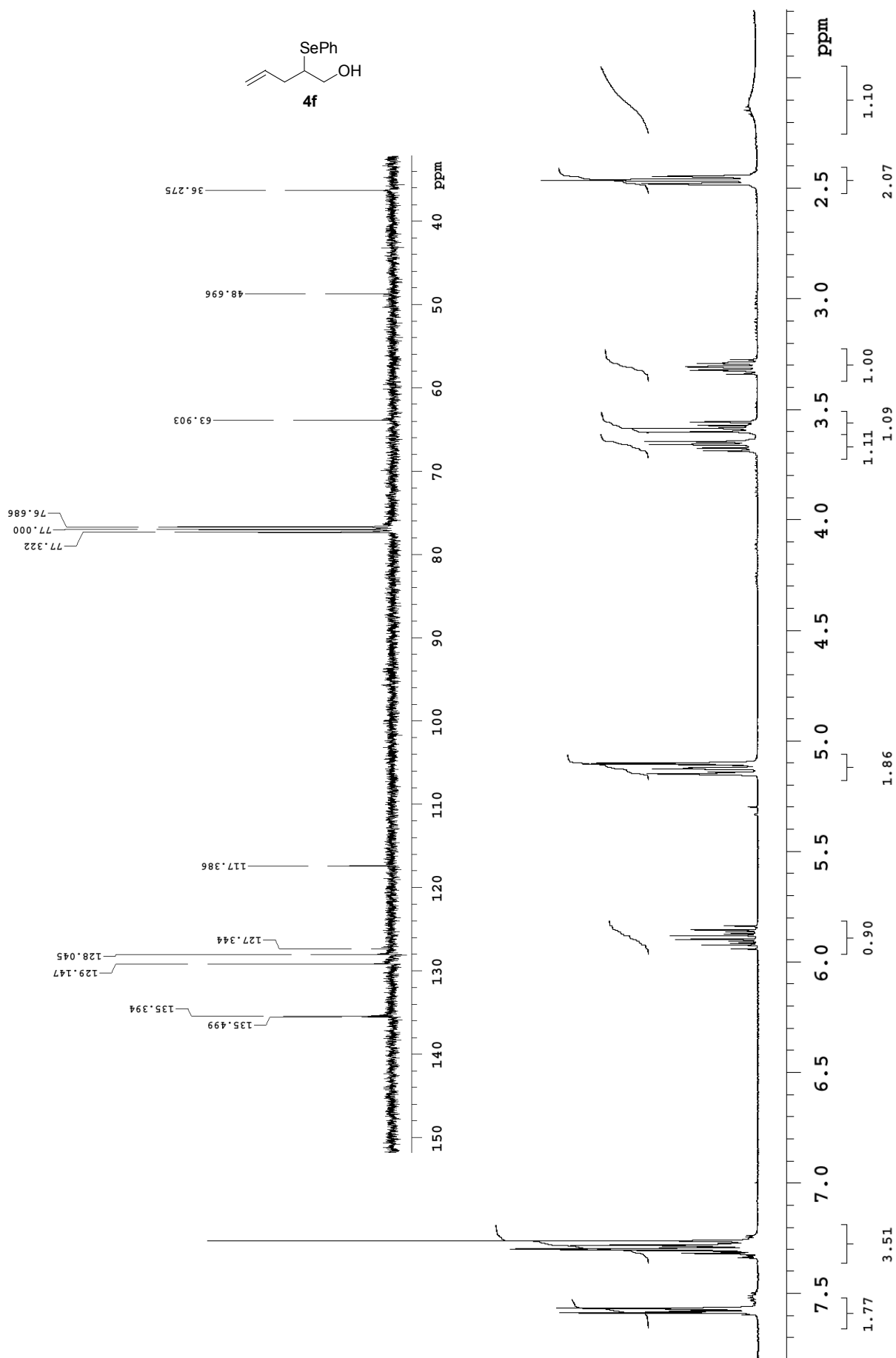


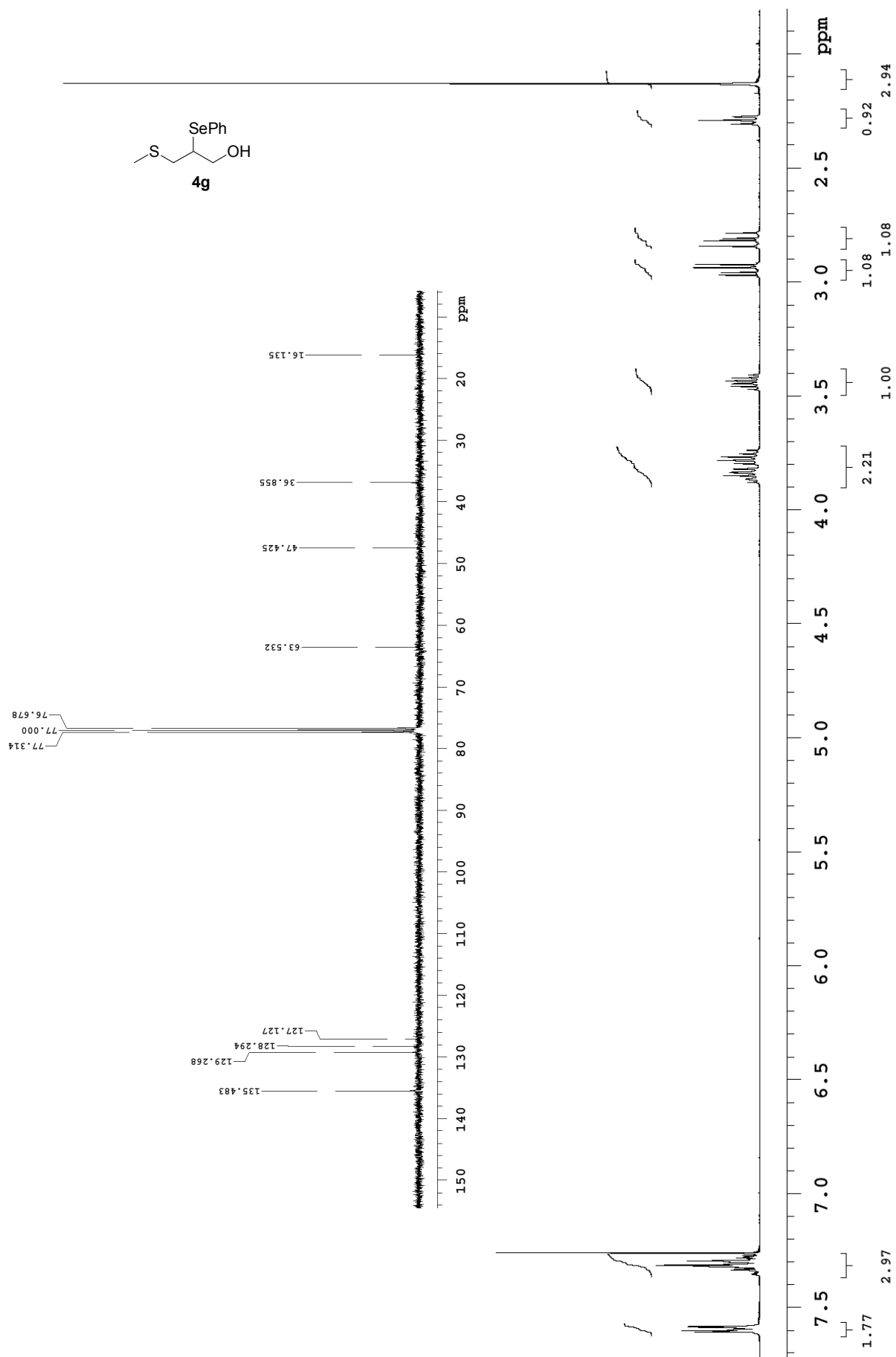


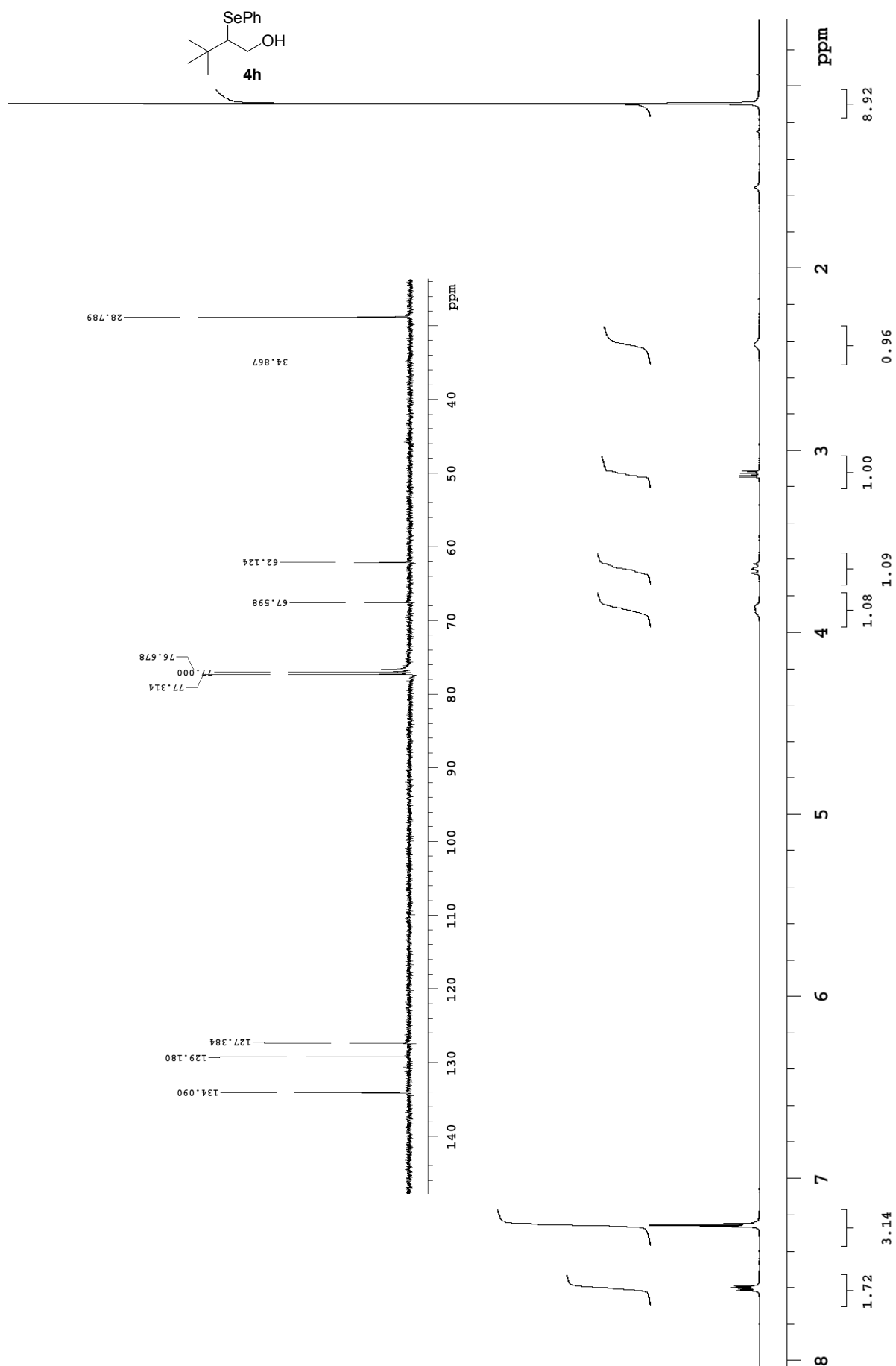


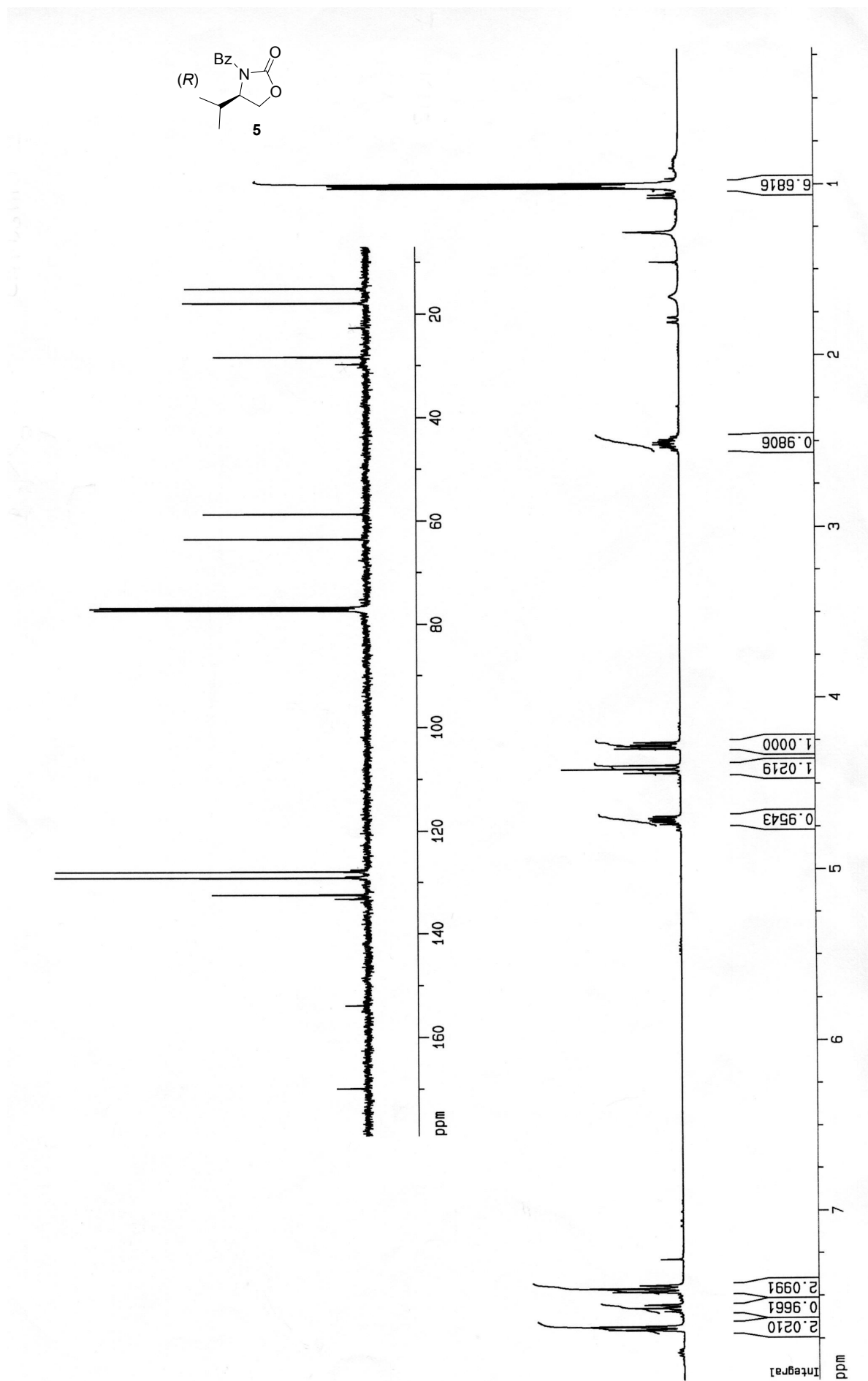


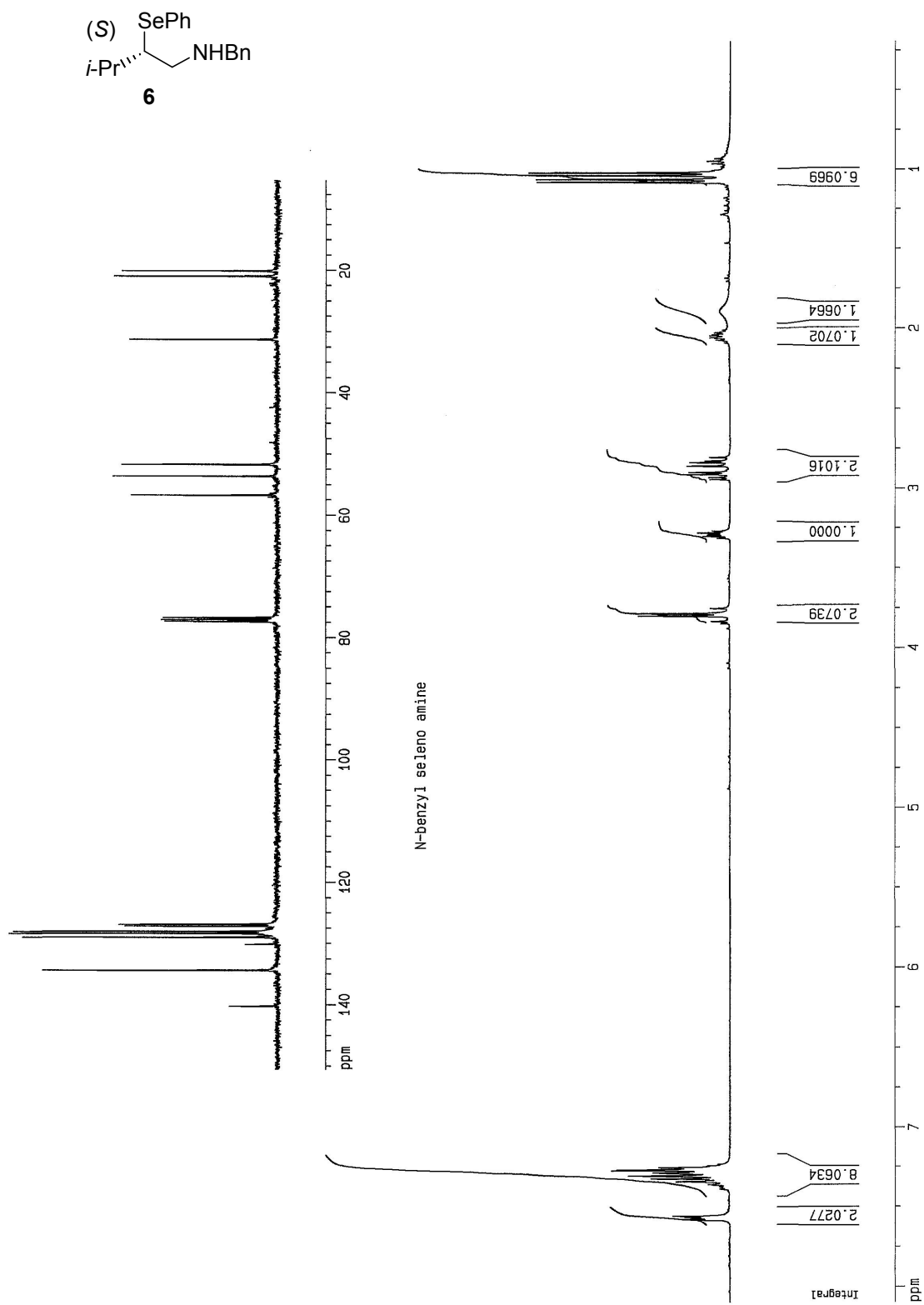




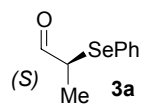




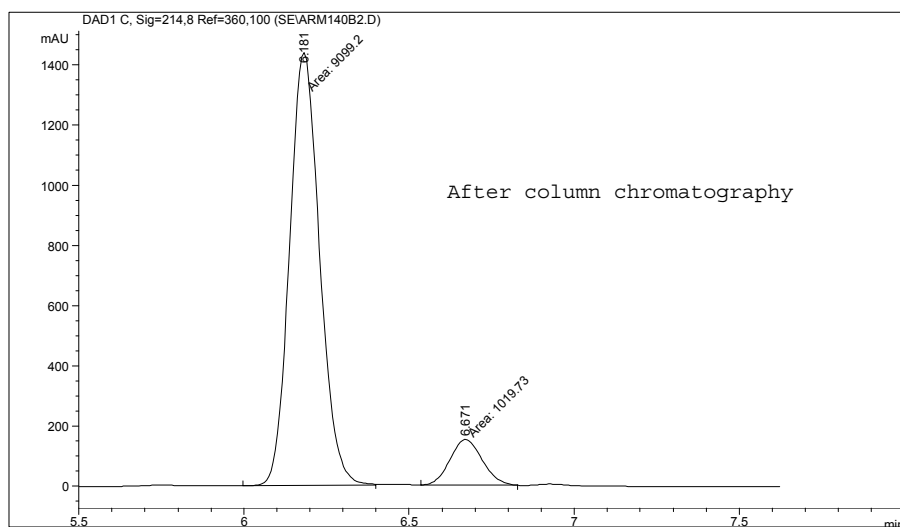
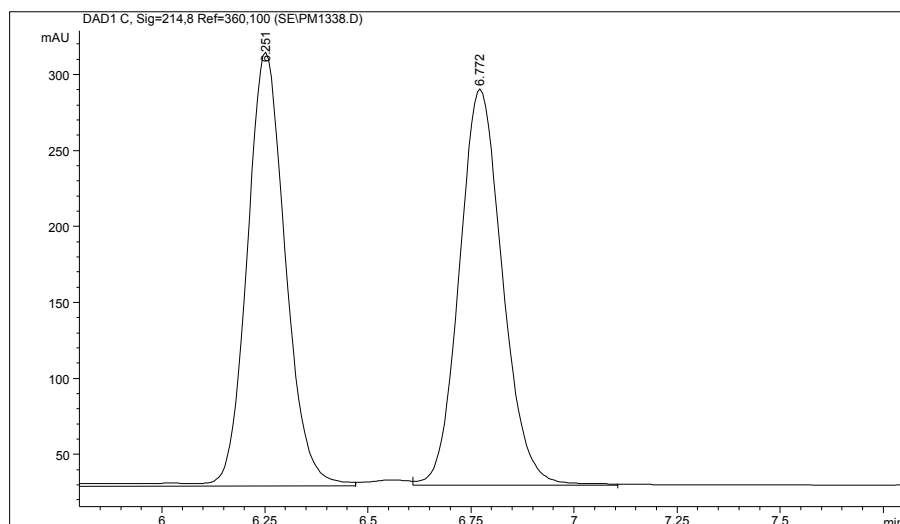




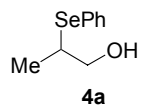
## Representative HPLC Traces



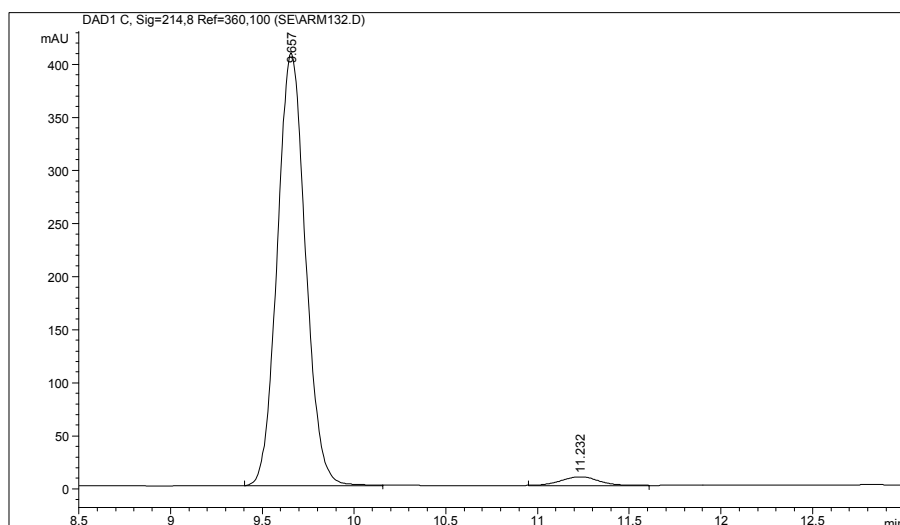
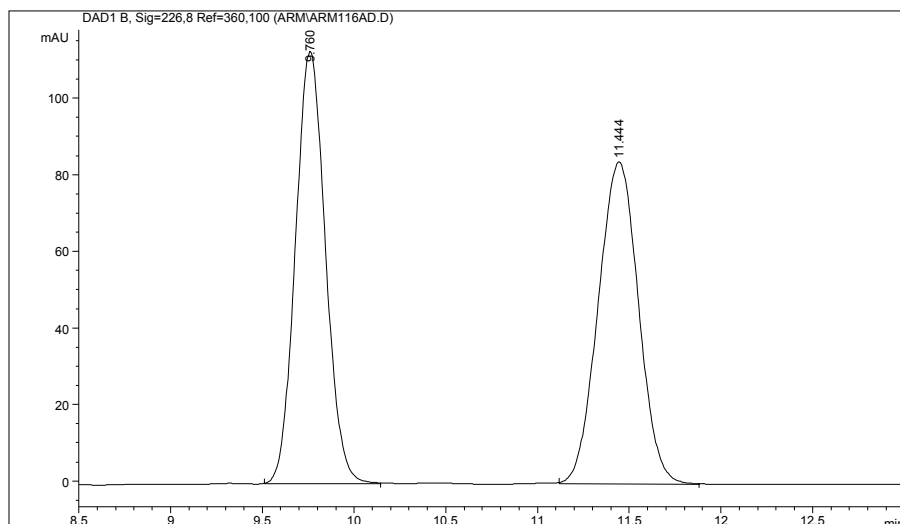
Chiralpak AD-H column (8/2 hexane/*i*PrOH - flow rate: 0.75 mL/min)



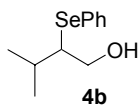
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
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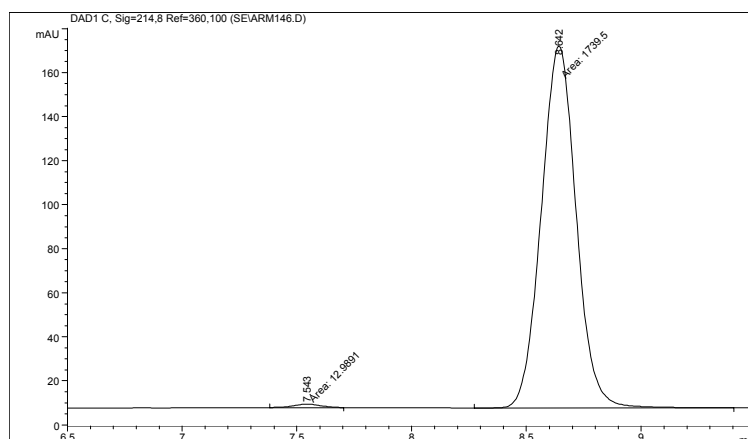
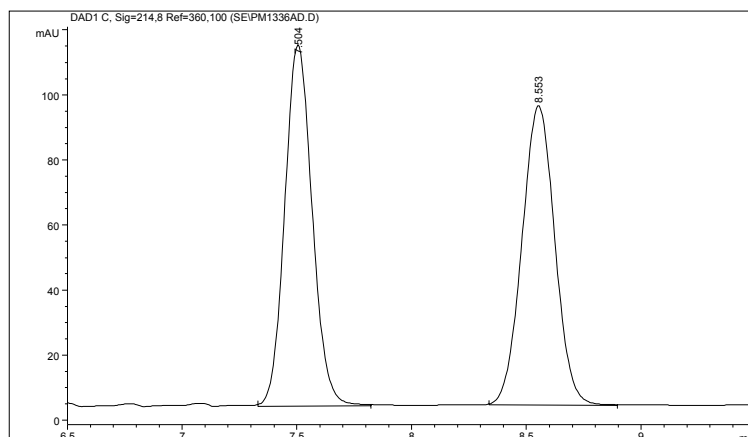
Chiralpak AD-H column (9/1 hexane/*i*PrOH - flow rate: 0.75 mL/min)



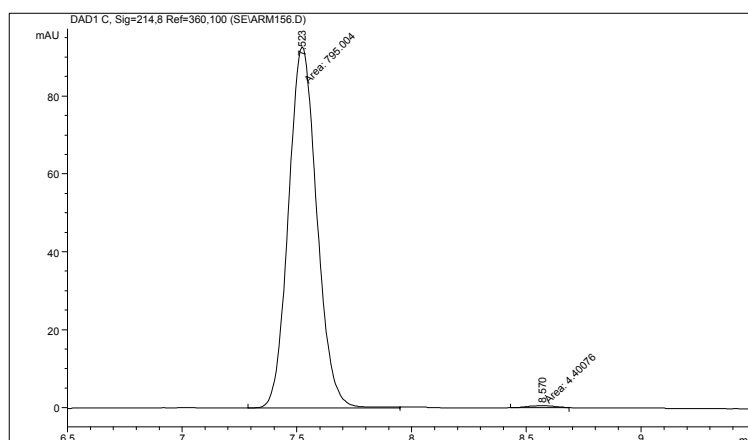
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	9.657	BB	0.1666	4353.00830	407.56747	97.4676
2	11.232	BP	0.2154	113.10140	8.17477	2.5324



Chiralpak AD-H column (9/1 hexane/*i*PrOH - flow rate: 0.75 mL/min)

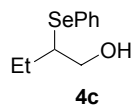


Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	7.543	MM	0.1412	12.98906	1.53269	0.7412
2	8.642	MM	0.1763	1739.49646	164.46425	99.2588

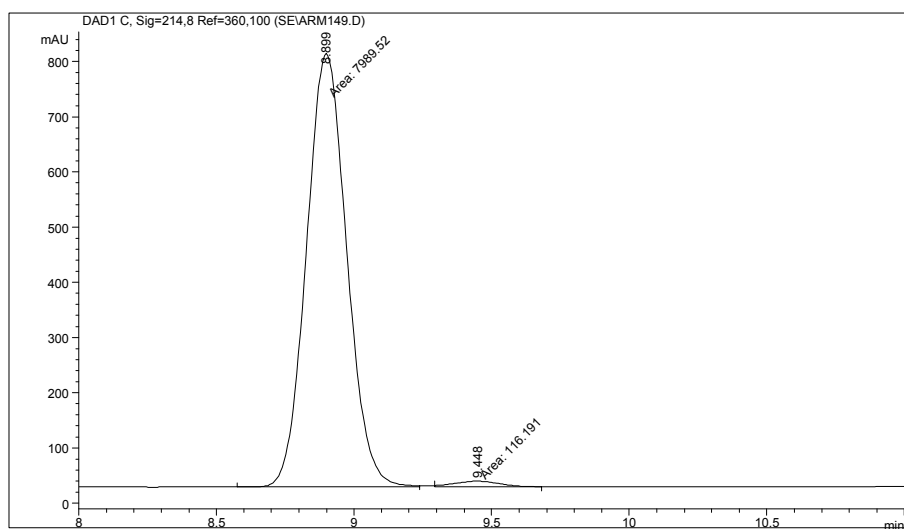
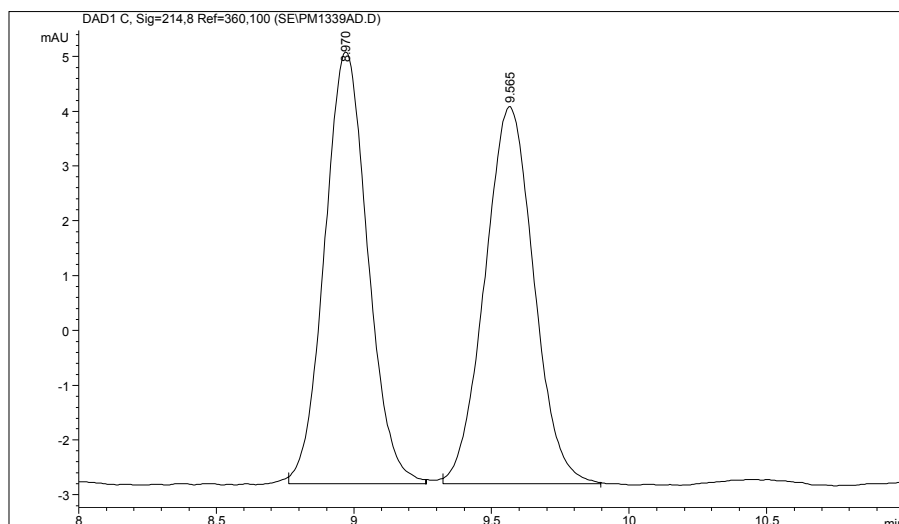


Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	7.523	MM	0.1429	795.00409	92.74030	99.4495
2	8.570	MM	0.1416	4.40076	5.17930e-1	0.5505

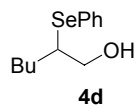




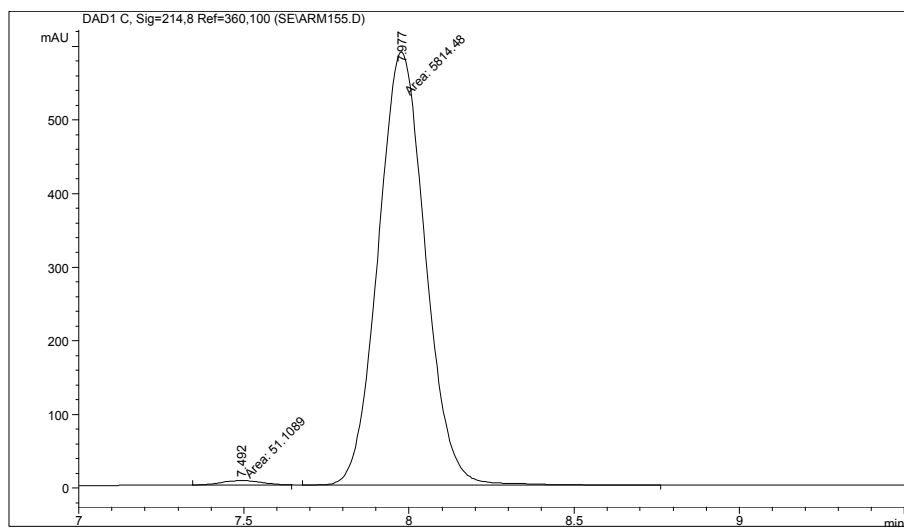
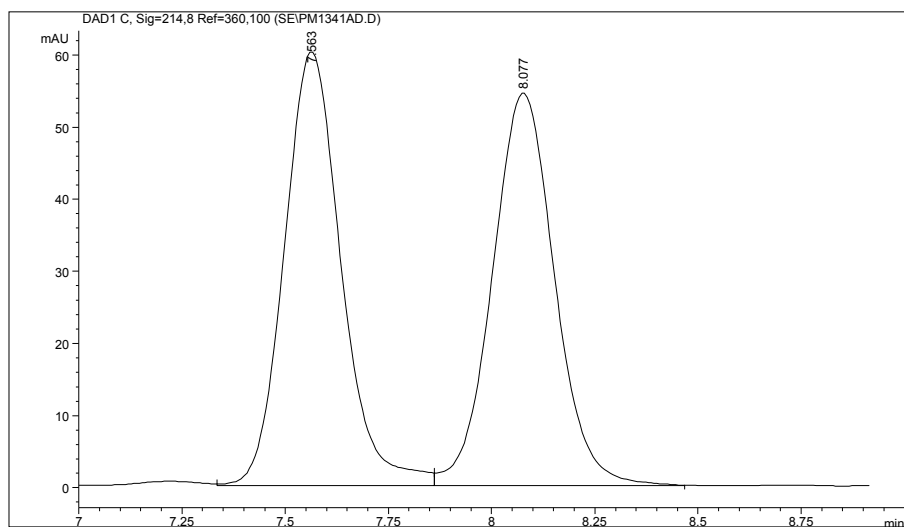
Chiralpak AD-H column (9/1 hexane/*i*PrOH - flow rate: 0.75 mL/min)



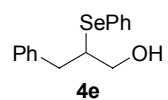
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	8.899	MM	0.1694	7989.51709	785.98401	98.5666
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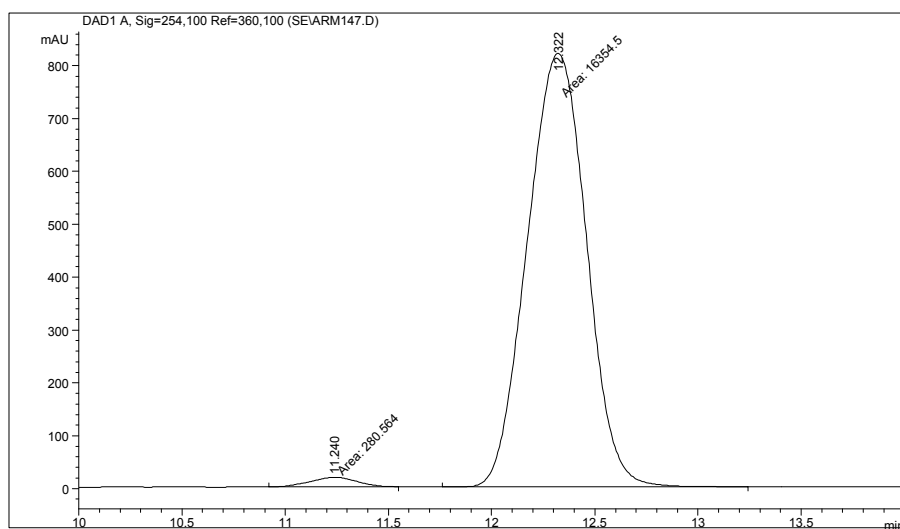
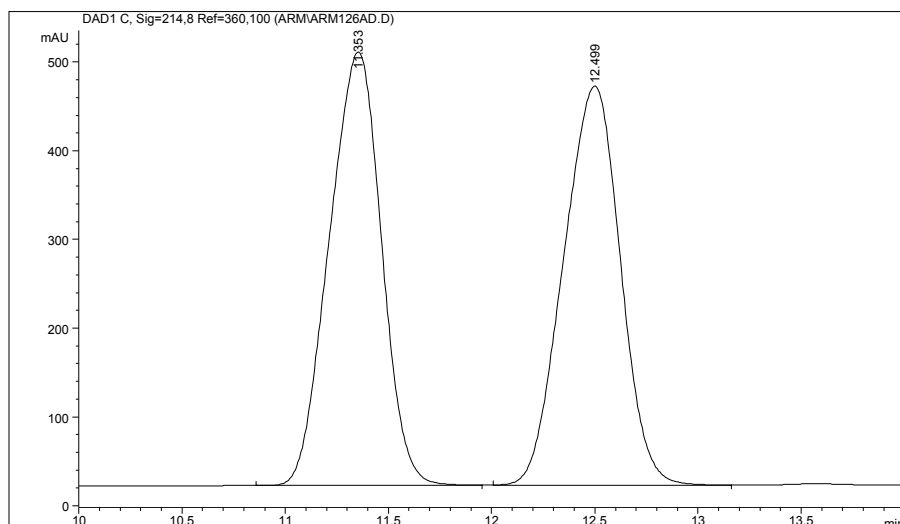
Chiralpak AD-H column (9/1 hexane/*i*PrOH - flow rate: 0.75 mL/min)



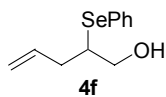
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1	7.492	MM	0.1408	51.10894	6.05022	0.8713
2	7.977	MM	0.1646	5814.48437	588.77167	99.1287



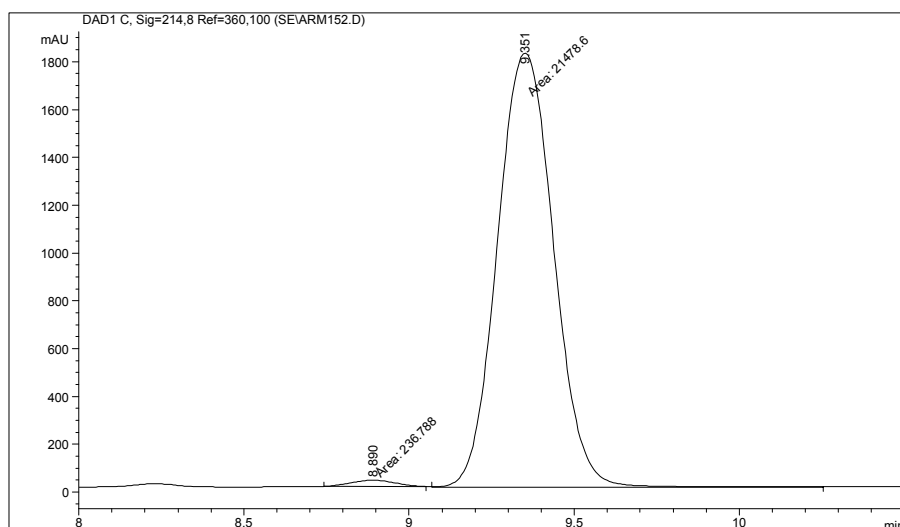
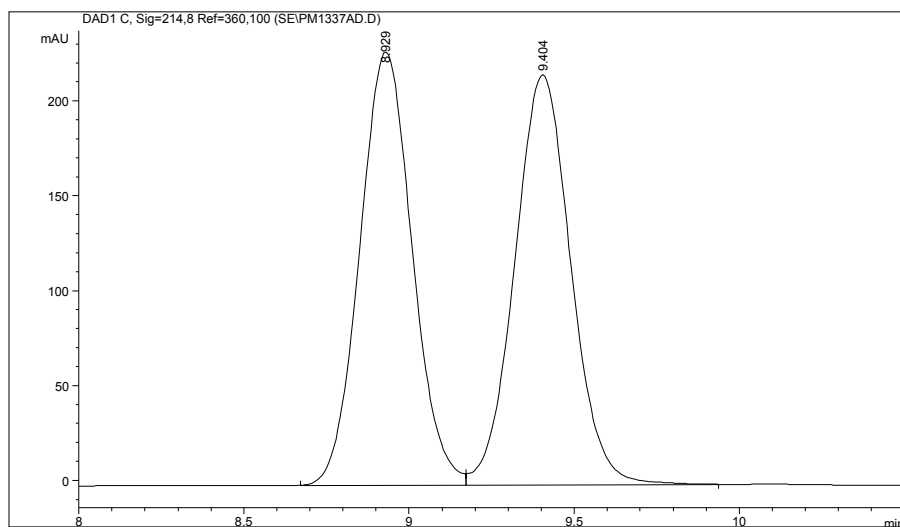
Chiralpak AD-H column (9/1 hexane/*i*PrOH - flow rate: 0.75 mL/min)



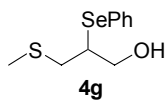
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	11.240	MM	0.2625	280.56375	17.81289	1.6866
2	12.322	MM	0.3322	1.63545e4	820.43994	98.3134



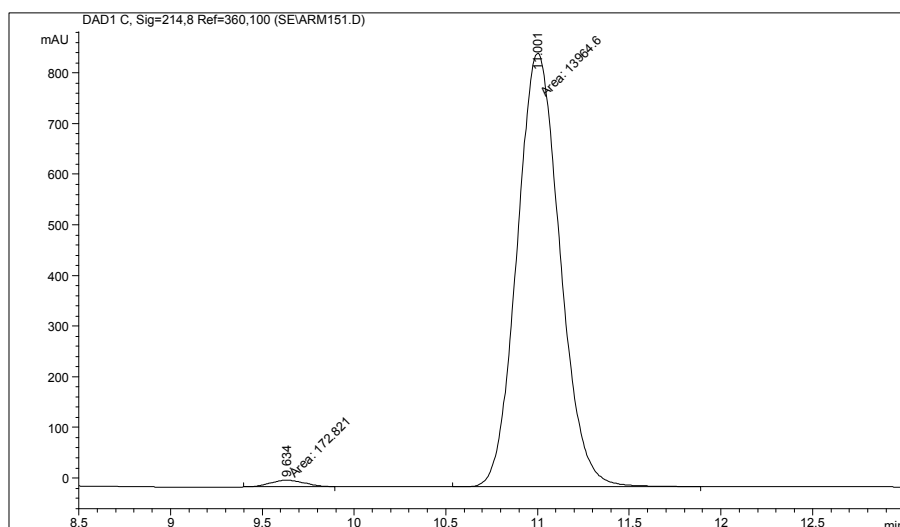
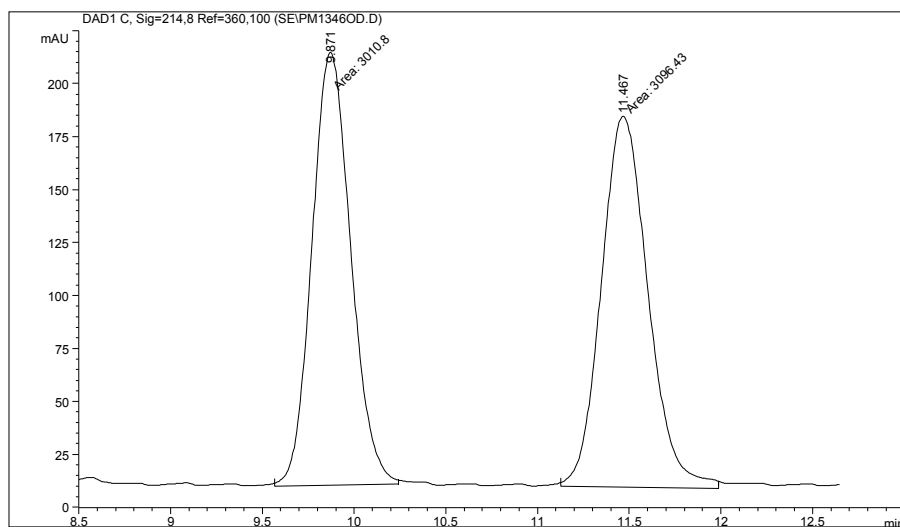
Chiralpak AD-H column (9/1 hexane/*i*PrOH - flow rate: 0.75 mL/min)



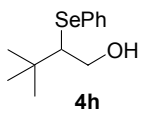
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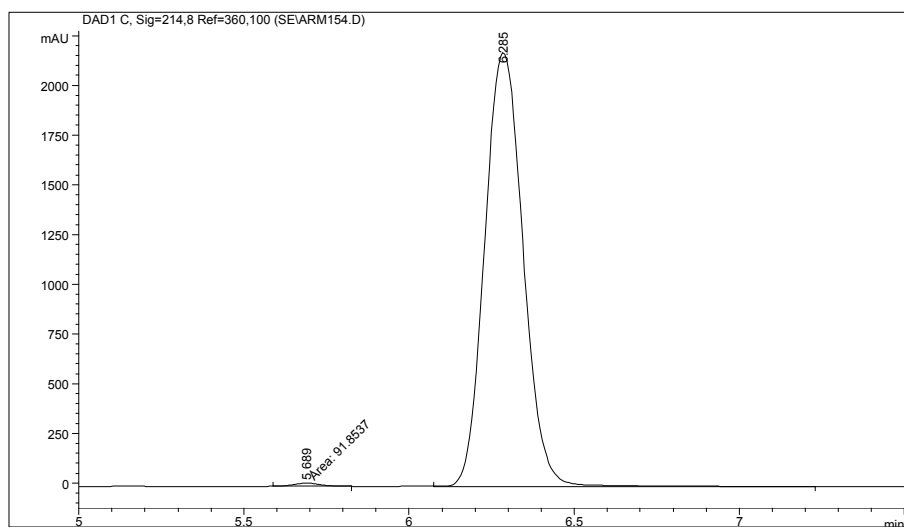
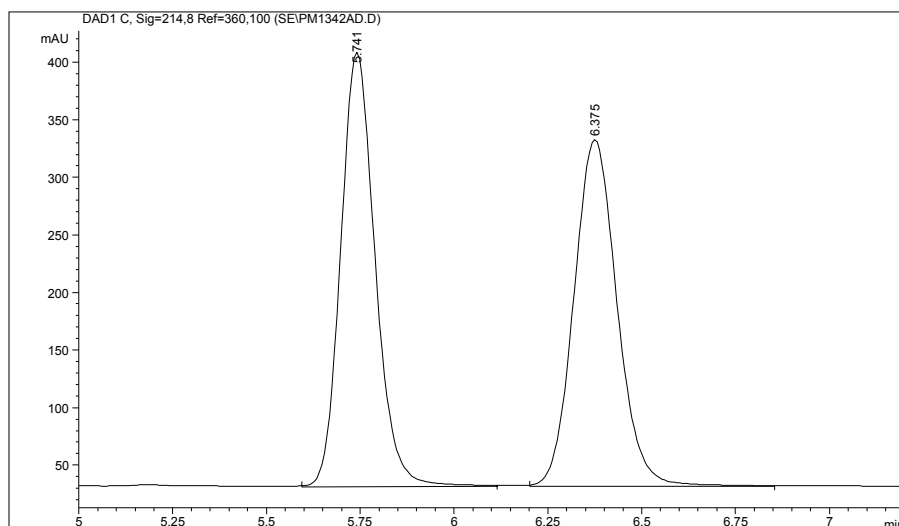
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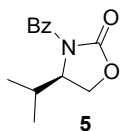
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	9.634	MM	0.2234	172.82126	12.89050	1.2224
2	11.001	MM	0.2716	1.39646e4	856.99030	98.7776



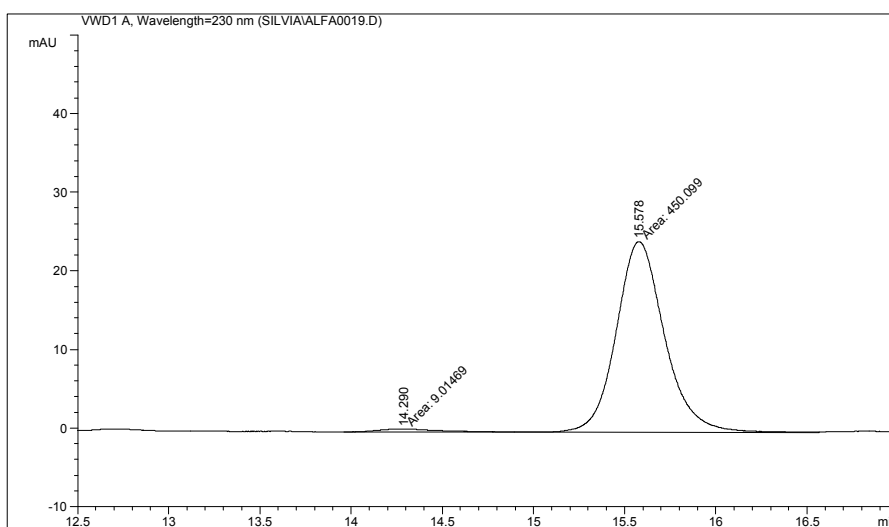
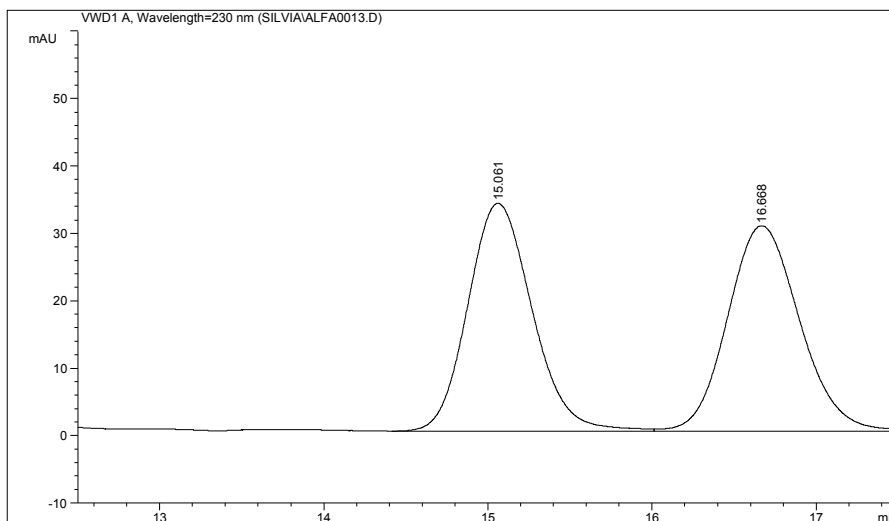
Chiralpak AD-H column (8/2 hexane/*i*PrOH - flow rate: 0.75 mL/min)



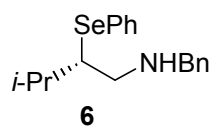
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	5.689	MM	0.0985	91.85374	15.53846	0.5180
2	6.285	VB	0.1283	1.76393e4	2183.11938	99.4820



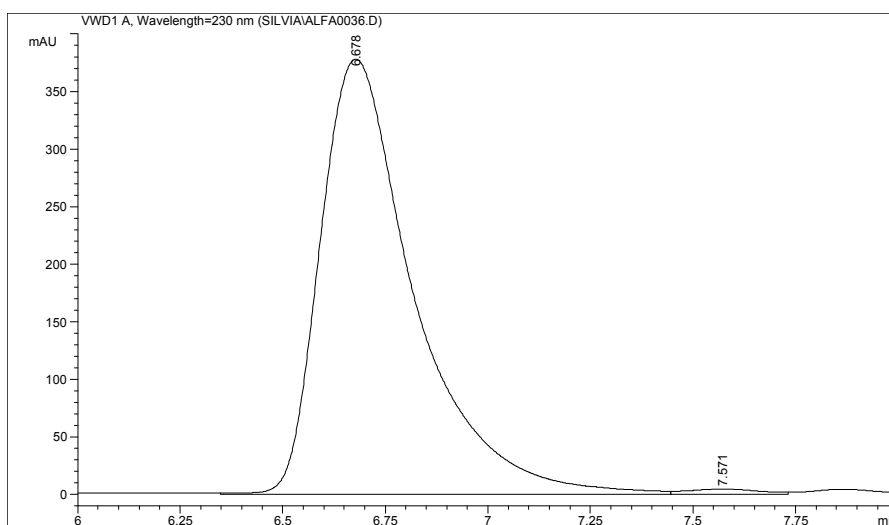
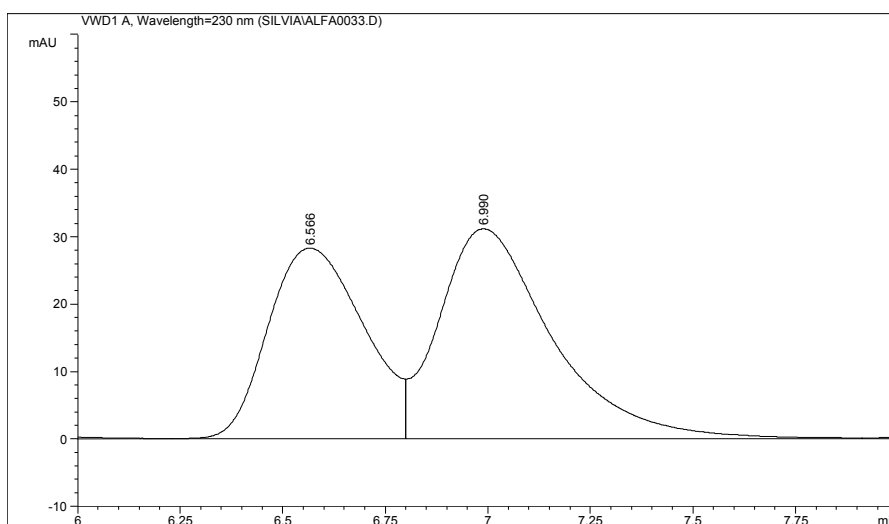
HPLC conditions: Chiralpak AD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 85/15, Flow 0.8 mL/min



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	14.290	MF	0.3932	9.01469	3.82093e-1	1.9635
2	15.578	FM	0.3089	450.09885	24.28397	98.0365
Totals :				459.11354	24.66606	



HPLC conditions: Chiralpak AD-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH 99.3/0.7, Flow 1.0 mL/min



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	6.678	BV	0.2381	5960.44482	377.36426	99.3136
2	7.570	VV	0.1612	41.19590	3.67972	0.6864
Totals :				6001.64072	381.04398	