



Supporting Information

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Enantioselective Total Synthesis Of (+)-Homochelidonine Using a Pd(II)-Catalyzed Asymmetric Ring-Opening Reaction of a *meso*-Azabicyclic Alkene with an Arylboronic Acid

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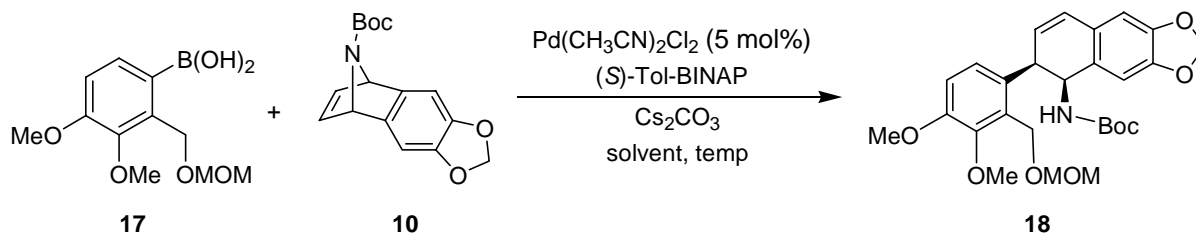
(I) General directions

All reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere, in flame-dried roundbottom flasks fitted with rubber septa, with magnetic stirring unless otherwise noted. Air- or water-sensitive liquids and solutions were transferred via syringe. Organic solutions were concentrated by rotary evaporation at 23–40 °C at 40 Torr. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed with Silicycle™ normal phase glass plates (0.25 mm, 60-A pore size, 230-400 mesh). Visualization was accomplished with 254 nm UV light and/or by immersion in potassium permanganate or phosphomolybdic acid

solution, followed by brief heating using a heat gun. Purification of reaction products was generally done by flash chromatography with Silicycle™ Ultra-Pure 230-400 mesh silica gel. Tetrahydrofuran, 1,4-dioxane and toluene were purified by distillation under N₂ from Na/benzophenone immediately prior to use. Triethylamine was purified by distillation under N₂ from sodium hydroxide immediately prior to use. Diethyl ether and dichloromethane were purified by the method of Pangborn et al.¹ Proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (¹H NMR) spectra and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (¹³C NMR) were recorded at 23 °C in CDCl₃ with a Varian 400 (400 MHz/100 MHz) NMR spectrometer equipped with ATB8123-400 probe, or a Varian Mercury 400 (400 MHz/100 MHz) NMR spectrometer equipped with a Nalorac4N-400 probe. Recorded shifts for protons are reported in parts per million (δ scale) downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to residual proton in the NMR solvent (CHCl₃: δ 7.26). Chemical shifts for carbon resonances are reported in parts per million (δ scale) downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to the carbon resonances of the solvent (CDCl₃: δ 77.0). Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constant (J, Hz) and integration. Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained using a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum 1000 FT-IR spectrometer as a neat film on a NaCl plate. Data is presented as follows: frequency of absorption (cm⁻¹) and intensity of absorption (s = strong, m = medium, w = weak, br = broad). High resolution mass spectra were obtained from a SI2 Micromass 70S-250 mass spectrometer (EI) or an ABI/Sciex Qstar mass spectrometer (ESI). Melting points were taken on a Fisher-Johns melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Optical rotations were measured in a 5.0 or 10.0 cm cell with a Rudolph Autopol IV polarimeter digital polarimeter equipped with a sodium lamp source (589 nm), and are reported as follows: $[\alpha]_D^{25} \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (c = g/100 mL, solvent).

(1) A. B. Pangborn, M. A. Giardello, R. H. Grubbs, R. K. Rosen, F. J. Timmers, *Organometallics* **1996**, *15*, 1518.

(II) Optimization of conditions for the asymmetric ring-opening reaction



General procedure: A 5 mL flame-dried round bottomed flask was charged with bis(acetonitrile)dichloropalladium(II) (2.2 mg, 0.0085 mmol) and (*S*)-Tol-BINAP (1.1–2.0 eq/Pd) and placed under an argon atmosphere. The appropriate solvent (0.5 mL) was added and the resulting catalyst mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h or until all solids went into solution. A solution of azabicyclic **10** (50 mg, 0.17 mmol) and boronic acid **17** (67 mg, 0.26 mmol) in solvent (0.5 mL) was added by syringe followed by Cs_2CO_3 (0–1 eq). The resulting reaction mixture was then allowed to stir at the required temperature. At the end of the reaction, the mixture was adsorbed onto silica gel and subjected to flash column chromatography (25% hexane in EtOAc) to give dihydronaphthalene **18**. Enantioselectivity was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD, hexane/2-propanol 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min): T_r : 15.24, 27.47 min.

Table 2. Optimization of the asymmetric ring-opening reaction.

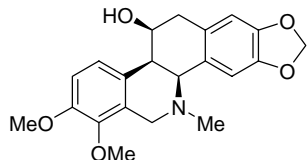
Entry	Solvent	Ligand (eq./Pd)	Cs ₂ CO ₃ [eq.]	Rxn Time [h]	Temp. [°C]	Yield ^[a] [%]	ee [%] ^[b]
1 ^[c]	MeOH	1.1	1	24	60	72	80
2	MeOH	1.1	1	20	25	90	91
3 ^[d]	MeOH	1.1	1	20	25	70	82
4 ^{[e],[f]}	MeOH	1.1	1 (aq.)	24	25	47	87
5 ^[f]	MeOH	1.1	1	2	25	81	90
6	MeOH	1.1	1	2	25	75	89
7 ^[g]	MeOH	1.1	1	2	25	82	91
8	MeOH	1.5	1	2	25	75	90
9	MeOH	2.0	1	2	25	77	90
10	MeOH	1.1	0.5	2	25	74	89
11 ^[h]	MeOH	1.1	none	18	25	-	-
12 ^[i]	Toluene	1.1	1	24	25	n.d.	n.d.
13 ^[i]	THF	1.1	1	24	25	n.d.	n.d.
14	MeOH	1.1	1	8	0	58	89
15	MeOH	1.1	1	27	-20	51	92

[a] Isolated yields. [b] Enantioselectivities determined by chiral HPLC analysis ((Chiralpak AD, hexane/2-propanol 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min); T_r: 15.24, 27.47 min). [c] 1 mol% catalyst used. [d] Bu₄NBr (1 eq.) added. [e] 1 M (aq) Cs₂CO₃ used. [f] Undistilled MeOH used. [g] Dry and degassed MeOH used. [h] No reaction after 18 h. [i] Product impure and low yield after column chromatography.

(III) Procedures and data for all compounds

1,2- (4b*R*,5*S*,11b*S*)-1,2-Dimethoxy-12-methyl-4b,5,6,11b,12,13-

hexahydro[1,3]benzodioxolo[5,6-*c*]phenanthridin-5-ol [(+)-homochelidonine]² **1**



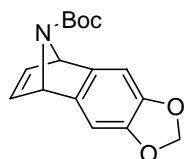
LiAlH₄ (36 mg, 0.96 mmol) was added in one portion to a solution of epoxide **27** (117 mg, 0.24 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (5 mL) at 0 °C and stirred at this temp for 1 h. The reaction mixture was then heated to reflux for 12 h. After cooling to 0 °C the excess LiAlH₄ was destroyed by successive addition of acetone (1 mL), Et₂O (1 mL) and H₂O (10 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 20 mL); the combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄) and solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (30% EtOAc in hexane) to give (+)-homochelidonine **1** (77 mg, 87%) as a white solid with an *ee* of 99% as determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralcel OD, hexane/2-propanol 85:15, flow rate 1.0 mL/min); T_r: 18.4 (minor), 26.6 (major). Mp 190–193 °C (lit.³ mp 192–193.5 °C); R_f = 0.26 (50% EtOAc in hexane); ¹H NMR δ 7.75 (br s, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 5.95 (d, *J* = 1.5, 1H), 5.94 (d, *J* = 1.5, 1H), 4.27–4.25 (m, 1H), 4.20 (d, *J* = 16, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.54 (br d, *J* = 2, 1H), 3.44 (d, *J* = 16, 1H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 1, 1H), 3.09 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 4.5, 1H), 2.96 (t, *J* = 2.5, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 150.6, 147.9, 145.1, 144.6, 130.3, 128.7 (x2), 125.7, 123.1, 111.9, 111.7, 109.4, 100.9, 71.9, 62.6, 60.1, 55.9, 55.1, 42.5, 41.8, 39.6; IR (CH₂Cl₂)/cm⁻¹ 2914s, 1486m, 1278s, 1230m, 1081m, 1041m, 937m; MS (EI): *m/z* 369 (M⁺, 56), 351 (100), 320 (35), 336 (20), 204 (22), 192

(2) M. Hanaoka, S. Yoshida, C. Mukai, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1985**, 26, 5163.

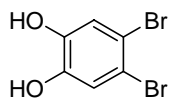
(3) M. Nečas, J. Dostál, I. Kejnovská, M. Vorlíčková, J. Slavík, *Journal of Molecular Structure* **2005**, 734, 1.

(19); HRMS (EI) calcd for $C_{21}H_{23}NO_5$ (M^+) 369.1576, found 369.1575; $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +120$ (c , 1.0 in EtOH) (lit.⁵ $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +128$ (c , 1.0 in EtOH)).

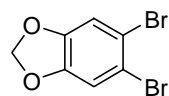
tert-Butyl 5,8-dihydro-5,8-epiminonaphtho[2,3-*d*][1,3]dioxole-10-carboxylate **10**



A mixture of dibromide **13** (5.99 g, 21.4 mmol) and freshly distilled *N*-Boc-pyrrole (5.35 mL, 32.0 mmol) in toluene (100 mL) was cooled to $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. *n*-Butyllithium (1.6 M in hexane; 29.4 mL, 47.0 mmol) was added dropwise over a period of 2.5 h. The resulting bright orange solution was allowed to warm up to rt over 3 h and then left for a further 17 h at rt. The reaction mixture was then quenched with water (70 mL) and the phases were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 80 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a brown oil. This was purified by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in hexane) to give azabicyclic **10** (4.37 g, 71%) as an off-white solid. Mp $91\text{--}93\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$; $R_f = 0.10$ (10% EtOAc in hexane); ^1H NMR δ 6.97 (br s, 2H), 6.84, (s, 2H), 5.91 (d, $J = 1.5$, 1H), 5.87 (d, $J = 1.5$, 1H), 5.40 (br s, 2H), 1.38 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR δ 154.8, 144.3, 142.5, [104.7, 104.2], 101.4, 80.6, [66.9, 66.3], 28.1; IR (CH_2Cl_2)/ cm^{-1} 3441w, 2975m, 2930m, 1705m 1461s, 1345m, 1367m, 1321s, 1293m, 1252m, 1166m, 1037m MS (EI) m/z 287 (M^+ , 17), 231 (24), 205 (52), 187 (21), 161 (41); HRMS (EI) calcd for $C_{16}H_{17}NO_4$ (M^+) 287.1157, found 287.1155.

Dibromocatechol⁴ **12**

Boron tribromide (1 M in CH₂Cl₂; 100 mL, 0.10 mol) was added slowly to a solution of 4,5-dibromocatechol (10.0 g, 33.8 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (240 mL) and the resulting reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by the addition of water (150 mL) and the resulting biphasic mixture was saturated with sodium chloride. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 125 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give dibromocatechol **12** (9.1 g, quant.) as an off-white solid. Mp 97–98 °C (lit.² mp 119 °C); *R_f* = 0.46 (50% EtOAc in hexane); ¹H NMR δ 7.14 (s, 2H), 5.29 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ 143.5, 119.9, 114.9; IR (CH₂Cl₂)/cm⁻¹ 3582m, 3354s, 1589m, 1495s, 1415s, 1267m, 1173m, 860m; MS (EI) *m/z* 268 (M⁺, 100), 159 (17), 77 (14); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₆H₄O₂Br₂ (M⁺) 265.8578, found 265.8580.

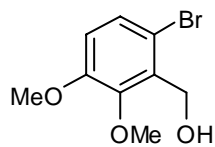
5,6-Dibromobenzo[1,3]dioxole **13**

Bromochloromethane (4.24 mL, 65.3 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of catechol **12** (8.76 g, 32.7 mmol) and cesium carbonate (15.97 g, 49.0 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (50 mL). The resulting purple/brown suspension was then heated to 110 °C for 3h. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of celite which was then washed with EtOAc. Water (100 mL) was added to the filtrate, the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 100 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a brown solid. This was purified by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in hexane) to give

(4) C. F. van Nostrum, S. J. Picken, A.-J. Schouten, R. J. M. Nolte, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1995**, 117, 9957.

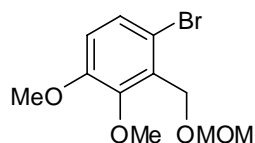
dibromide **13** (6.86 g, 75%) as a white solid. Mp 82–83 °C; R_f = 0.50 (10% EtOAc in hexane); ^1H NMR δ 7.07 (s, 2H), 6.00 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR δ 147.9, 115.4, 113.2, 102.3; IR (CH_2Cl_2)/ cm^{-1} 3111s, 1700m, 1469m, 1378s, 1322m, 1138m, 930m; MS (ESI) m/z 280 (M^+ , 100), 143 (29), 62 (37); HRMS (EI) calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_4\text{O}_2\text{Br}_2$ (M^+) 277.8578, found 277.8580.

6-Bromo-2,3-dimethoxybenzyl alcohol⁵ **15**

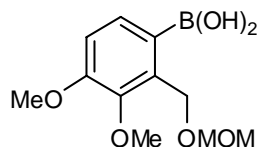


N-Bromosuccinimide (12.7 g, 71.4 mmol) was added to a solution of 2,3-dimethoxybenzyl alcohol (10.0 g, 59.5 mmol) in THF (45 mL) and stirred at rt until all the NBS had dissolved (approx. 30 min.). The THF was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was taken up in Et_2O (110 mL). The resulting suspension was filtered to remove the insoluble succinimide and the filtrate was washed with 2 M NaOH (aq.) (2 x 100 mL). The organic phase was dried (MgSO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a pale yellow oil. This was purified by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in hexane) to give benzyl alcohol **15** (13.1 g, 83%) as a white solid. Mp 66–68 °C (lit.³ 76 °C); R_f = 0.08 (20% EtOAc in hexane); ^1H NMR δ 7.27 (d, J = 8.5, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.5, 1H), 4.83 (d, J = 7, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.32 (t, J = 7, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 152.3, 148.8, 133.9, 127.9, 114.8, 113.4, 61.7, 60.4, 56.0; IR (CH_2Cl_2)/ cm^{-1} 3426w, 2938m, 1576s, 1474m, 1413s, 1271s, 1229m, 1171m, 1079m, 1009m; MS m/z (EI) 269 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$, 100), 127 (35), 79 (40); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{BrO}_3\text{Na}$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$) 268.9789, found 268.9780.

(5) A. M. Qandil, D. Ghosh, D. E. Nichols, *J. Org. Chem.* **1999**, *64*, 1407.

6-Bromo-2,3-dimethoxy(methoxymethoxy)methylbenzene⁵ **16**

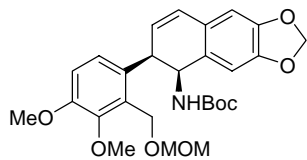
To a stirred solution of the benzyl alcohol **15** (10.0 g, 40.5 mmol) in dimethoxymethane (80 mL) was added lithium bromide (0.70 g, 8.09 mmol) and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (0.77 g, 4.05 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was then stirred at rt for 14 h. Brine (100 mL) was added to the resulting white suspension and the mixture was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 100 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a yellow oil. This was purified by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in hexane) to give bromide **16** (8.49 g, 72%) as a colourless oil. *R*_f = 0.35 (20% EtOAc in hexane); ¹H NMR δ 7.29 (d, *J* = 9, 1H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 9, 1H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 152.3, 149.4, 131.2, 127.9, 116.2, 113.6, 96.4, 64.0, 61.7, 55.9, 55.4; IR (CH₂Cl₂)/cm⁻¹ 2940w, 1577w, 1475m, 1418m, 1378m, 1276s, 1232m, 1150m, 1101m, 1041m; MS *m/z* (EI) 313 (M+Na⁺, 100), 244 (25), 64 (20); HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₁₅BrO₄Na (M+Na⁺) 313.0051, found 313.0048.

3,4-Dimethoxy-2-(methoxymethoxy)methylboronic acid⁵ **17**

Aryl bromide **16** (3.81 g, 13.1 mmol) was dissolved in THF (14 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. *n*-Butyllithium (1.6 M in hexanes; 9.0 mL, 14.4 mmol) was added dropwise over a 20 min period and the reaction mixture was stirred at this temp for a further 15 min. Triisopropyl borate (9.0 mL, 39.2 mmol) was added in a single portion and the reaction mixture (a pale yellow suspension) was allowed to warm up to rt over 6 h and then stirred at this temperature for 12 h. The resulting orange suspension was cooled to 0 °C

and acidified to pH 5–6 with saturated aq. NH_4Cl . The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the aqueous residue was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 x 40 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a yellow oil. This was purified by column chromatography (50% EtOAc in hexane) to give boronic acid **17** (2.11 g, 63%) as an off-white solid. Mp 63–65 °C; R_f = 0.20 (50% EtOAc in hexane); ^1H NMR δ 7.62 (d, J = 8, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 8, 1H), 6.40 (br s, 2H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR δ 154.4, 147.6, 134.1, 132.2, 126.8, 111.7, 95.3, 62.7, 61.3, 55.9, 55.6; IR (CH_2Cl_2)/ cm^{-1} 3380w, 2949s, 1589m, 1452m, 1419m, 1355m, 1279s, 1154m, 1098m, 1072m; MS (ESI): m/z 279 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$, 100); HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{17}\text{BO}_6\text{Na}$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$) 279.1010, found 279.1007.

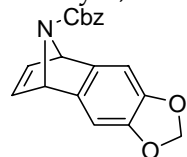
tert-Butyl (5*R*,6*S*)-6-(3,4-dimethoxy-2-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)phenyl)-5,6-dihydronaphtho[2,3-*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-ylcarbamate **18**



Following the general procedure (Table 2, p. 4, entry 2 conditions), the addition of the azabicyclo **10** (1.0 g, 3.48 mmol) and boronic acid **17** (1.34 g, 5.22 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) followed by cesium carbonate (1.13 g, 3.48 mmol) to bis(acetonitrile)dichloropalladium(II) (45 mg, 0.17 mmol) and (*S*)-Tol-BINAP (0.13 g, 0.19 mmol) gave dihydronaphthalene **18** (1.56 g, 90% yield) as a white solid with an *ee* of 91% as determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD, hexane/2-propanol 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min): T_r : 15.2 (minor), 27.5 (major) min. Mp 53–55 °C; R_f 0.23 (20% EtOAc in hexane); ^1H NMR δ 6.83 (d, J = 8.5, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.73 (d, J = 8, 1H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 6.50 (d, J = 9.5, 1H), 5.98 (dd, J = 9.5, 4, 1H), 5.95 (d, J = 1.5, 1H), 5.92 (s, 1H), 5.17 (t, J = 8.5, 1H), 4.81 (d, J = 11, 1H), 4.72 (d, J = 6.5, 1H), 4.70 (d, J = 6.5, 1H), 4.68 (d, J = 11,

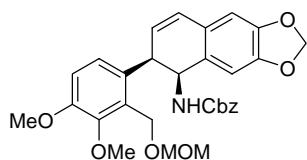
1H), 4.65 (d, $J = 9$, 1H), 4.20 (ddd, $J = 7, 4.5, 2$, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR δ 155.1, 151.6, 148.0, 147.1, 146.8, 130.9, 130.4, 129.7, 129.2, 127.4, 127.2, 124.7, 112.3, 107.3, 106.9, 101.0, 96.1, 79.3, 61.4, 60.4, 55.7, 55.5, 52.0, 39.6, 28.3; IR (CH_2Cl_2)/ cm^{-1} 3407w, 2923s, 1700s, 1507s, 1482s, 1364m, 1279s, 1244m, 1165m, 1037m; MS (ESI): m/z 522 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$, 100); HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_8\text{Na}$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$) 522.2098, found 522.2116; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +90$ (c , 1.0 in CHCl_3).

Benzy 5,8-dihydro-5,8-epiminonaphtho[2,3-*d*][1,3]dioxole-10-carboxylate **22**



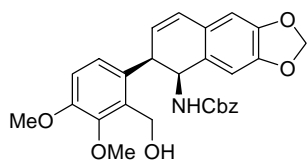
Iodotrimethylsilane (0.93 mL, 6.51 mmol) was added dropwise to a refluxing mixture of azabicyclic **10** (1.70 g, 5.92 mmol) and triethylamine (0.99 mL, 7.10 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL). After 15 min, the reaction was cooled to 0 °C and anhydrous MeOH added (0.31 mL, 7.70 mmol). After 10 min freshly distilled benzyl chloroformate (1.10 mL, 7.70 mmol) was added and the reaction was left to stir for 3 h at rt. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (50 mL) and CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) and the layers separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 50 mL), the combined organic layers were dried (MgSO_4) and solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (10% EtOAc in hexane) to give azabicyclic **22** (1.52 g, 80%) as a white solid. Mp 101 °C; $R_f = 0.33$ (30% EtOAc in hexane); ^1H NMR δ 7.34–7.25 (m, 5H), 6.98 (br s, 2H), 6.84 (br s, 2H), 5.90 (dd, $J = 16, 1.5$, 2H), 5.50 (s, 2H), 5.06 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR δ 155.0, 144.4, [143.7, 142.8], 142.3, 136.2, 128.4, 128.0, 127.8, [104.7, 104.6], 101.1, 67.2, 66.4; IR (CH_2Cl_2)/ cm^{-1} 3053w, 2986w, 1711m, 1462m, 1265s, 1092w; MS m/z (EI) 321 (M^+ , 25), 251 (12), 91 (100); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_4$ (M^+) 321.1001, found 321.1000.

Benzyl (5*R*,6*S*)-6-(3,4-dimethoxy-2-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)phenyl)-5,6-dihydronaphtho[2,3-*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-ylcarbamate **23**



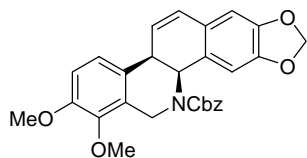
A flame-dried 100 mL flask was charged with bis(acetonitrile)dichloropalladium(II) (75 mg, 0.29 mmol) and (*S*)-Tol-BINAP (217 mg, 0.32 mmol) under an argon atmosphere. Anhydrous MeOH (16 mL) was added and the resulting catalyst mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h giving an orange solution. To this was added a solution of azabicyclic **22** (1.88 g, 5.86 mmol) and boronic acid **17** (2.25 g, 8.79 mmol) in MeOH (16 mL) followed by cesium carbonate (1.91 g, 5.86 mmol) in one portion. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 6 h at rt and then dry loaded onto silica. Purification by flash column chromatography (10%→30% EtOAc in hexane) gave dihydronaphthalene **23** (2.78 g, 89%) as a pale brown foam with an *ee* of 90% as determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD, hexane/2-propanol 85:15, flow rate 1.0 mL/min); *T_r*: 18.0 (minor), 59.4 (major). Recrystallization (2% CH₂Cl₂ in Et₂O) gave dihydronaphthalene **23** (2.50 g, 80%) as a white solid with an *ee* of 99% as determined by chiral HPLC analysis. Mp 106 °C; *R_f* = 0.10 (20% EtOAc in hexane); ¹H NMR δ 7.33–7.24 (m, 5H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 9.5, 1H), 5.96 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 4.5, 1H), 5.91 (d, *J* = 1.5, 1H), 5.89 (s, 1H), 5.23 (t, *J* = 9, 1H), 5.03 (d, *J* = 12.5, 1H), 5.04–5.02 (m, 2H), 4.73–4.61 (m, 4H), 4.23–4.20 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 155.7, 151.5, 148.0, 147.1, 146.8, 136.4, 130.8, 130.2, 129.4, 128.9, 128.3, 127.9, 127.4, 126.9, 124.5, 112.2, 107.3, 106.9, 100.9, 95.9, 77.2, 66.5, 61.3, 60.2, 55.5, 55.3, 52.6, 39.6; IR (CH₂Cl₂)/cm⁻¹ 3430w, 2919w, 2253m, 1711m, 1651w, 1484m, 1379w, 1277m, 1040m; MS *m/z* (EI) 556 (M+Na⁺, 52), 322 (20), 321 (100), 290 (19); HRMS calcd for C₃₀H₃₁NO₈Na (M+Na⁺) 556.1962, found 556.1941; [α]_D²⁵ = + 97 (c, 1.0 in CHCl₃).

Benzyl (5*R*,6*S*)-6-(2-(hydroxymethyl)-3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-5,6-dihydronaphtho[2,3-*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-ylcarbamate **24**



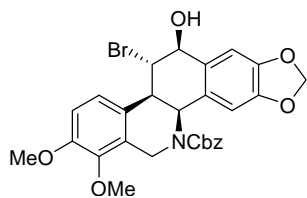
HCl (conc.) (17 mL) was added to a solution of dihydronaphthalene **23** (1.50 g, 2.81 mmol) in *i*PrOH (70 mL) and THF (70 mL) and the resulting mixture stirred at rt for 8 h. After careful quenching with excess sat. NaHCO₃ (aq) solution the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 100 mL), the combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄) and solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (20%→40% EtOAc in hexane) to give benzyl alcohol **24** (1.03 g, 75%) as a white solid. Mp 85 °C; *R*_f = 0.30 (50% EtOAc in hexane); ¹H NMR δ 7.35–7.28 (m, 3H), 7.19–7.16 (m, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.53 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 2.5, 1H), 5.95–5.91 (m, 3H), 5.20 (dd, *J* = 10, 7, 1H), 4.95–4.69 (m, 4H), 4.30–4.28 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.98–2.94 (m, 1H), 1.80 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 155.7, 151.6, 147.9, 147.3, 147.1, 136.3, 133.5, 130.4, 128.7, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 126.7, 125.1, 111.9, 108.4, 106.9, 101.1, 77.2, 66.6, 61.5, 56.5, 55.7, 52.5, 40.6; IR (CH₂Cl₂)/cm⁻¹ 3404br, 2938w, 1700s, 1484s, 1378m, 1276s, 1243s, 1082m, 1039s; MS *m/z* (EI) 512 (M+Na⁺, 15), 321 (100), 291 (20); HRMS calcd for C₂₈H₂₇NO₇Na (M+Na⁺) 512.1679, found 512.1677; [α]_D²² = + 29 (*c*, 1.0 in CHCl₃).

Benzyl (4*bR*,11*bS*)-dimethoxy-4*b*,13-dihydro[1,3]benzodioxolo[5,6-*c*]phenanthridine-12(11*bH*)-carboxylate **25**



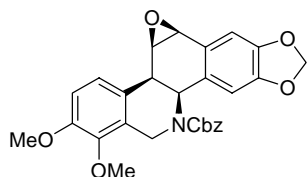
A solution of benzyl alcohol **24** (670 mg, 1.37 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (525 mg, 2.00 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (13 mL) was cooled to 0 °C. Carbon tetrabromide (663 mg, 2.00 mmol) was added in one portion and the resulting solution was stirred at this temp for 1 h. The reaction mixture was then diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) and washed with water (2 x 20 mL). The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* to give the crude benzyl bromide. This was dissolved in anhydrous DMF (23 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. Sodium hydride (60% in mineral oil; 80 mg, 2.00 mmol) was added in one portion and the suspension stirred at 0 °C for 90 min. The reaction mixture was quenched by the addition of cold water (15 mL) and the layers separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 20 mL), the combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄) and solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in hexane) to give dihydronaphthalene **25** (581 mg, 90%) as a white solid. Mp 169 °C; *R_f* = 0.46 (50% EtOAc in hexane); ¹H NMR δ 7.50–7.35 (m, 5H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 6.44–6.38 (m, 2H), 5.87 (s, 1H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 5.81 (br s, 1H), 5.28 (br s, 2H), 5.11 (d, *J* = 18, 1H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 18, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.60 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 156.2, 150.4, 147.2, 146.4, 144.3, 136.5, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 127.6 x2, 127.5, 127.3, 126.2, 121.8, 110.9, 107.5, 105.7, 100.8, 67.5, 60.0, 55.6, 53.4, 52.6, 39.1, 34.3; IR (CH₂Cl₂)/cm⁻¹ 2985w, 1699s, 1558m, 1482m, 1418m, 1278m, 1110m, 1037m; MS *m/z* (EI) 494 (M+Na⁺, 90), 363 (20), 354 (21), 322 (22), 321 (100), 290 (21); HRMS calcd for C₂₈H₂₅NO₆Na (M+Na⁺) 494.1574, found 494.1579; [α]_D²⁵ = + 119 (*c*, 1.0 in CHCl₃).

Benzyl (4*bR*,5*S*,6*S*,11*bS*)-5-bromo-6-hydroxy-1,2-dimethoxy-4*b*,6,11*b*,13-tetrahydro[1,3]benzodioxolo[5,6-*c*]phenanthridine-12(5*H*)-carboxylate **26**

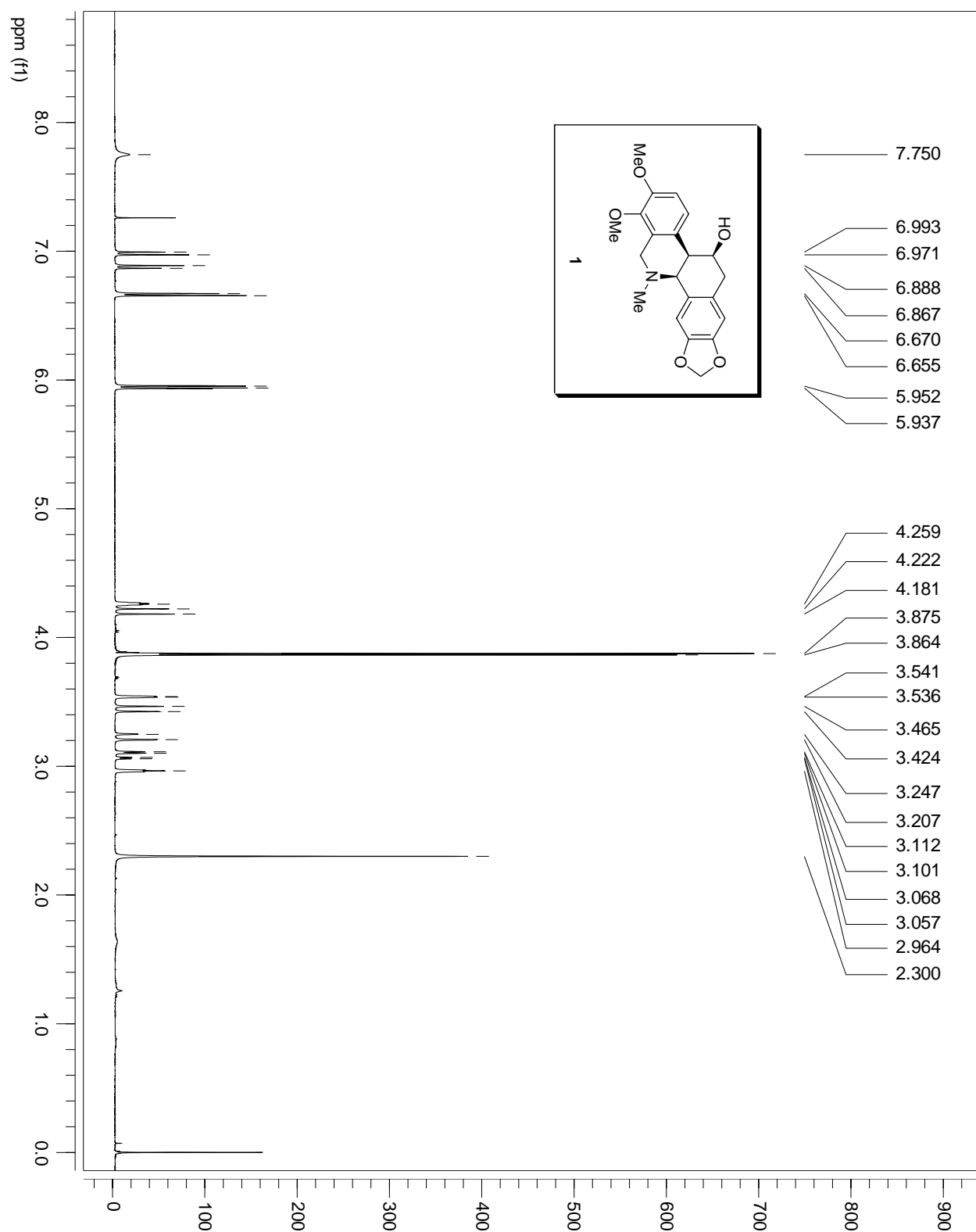


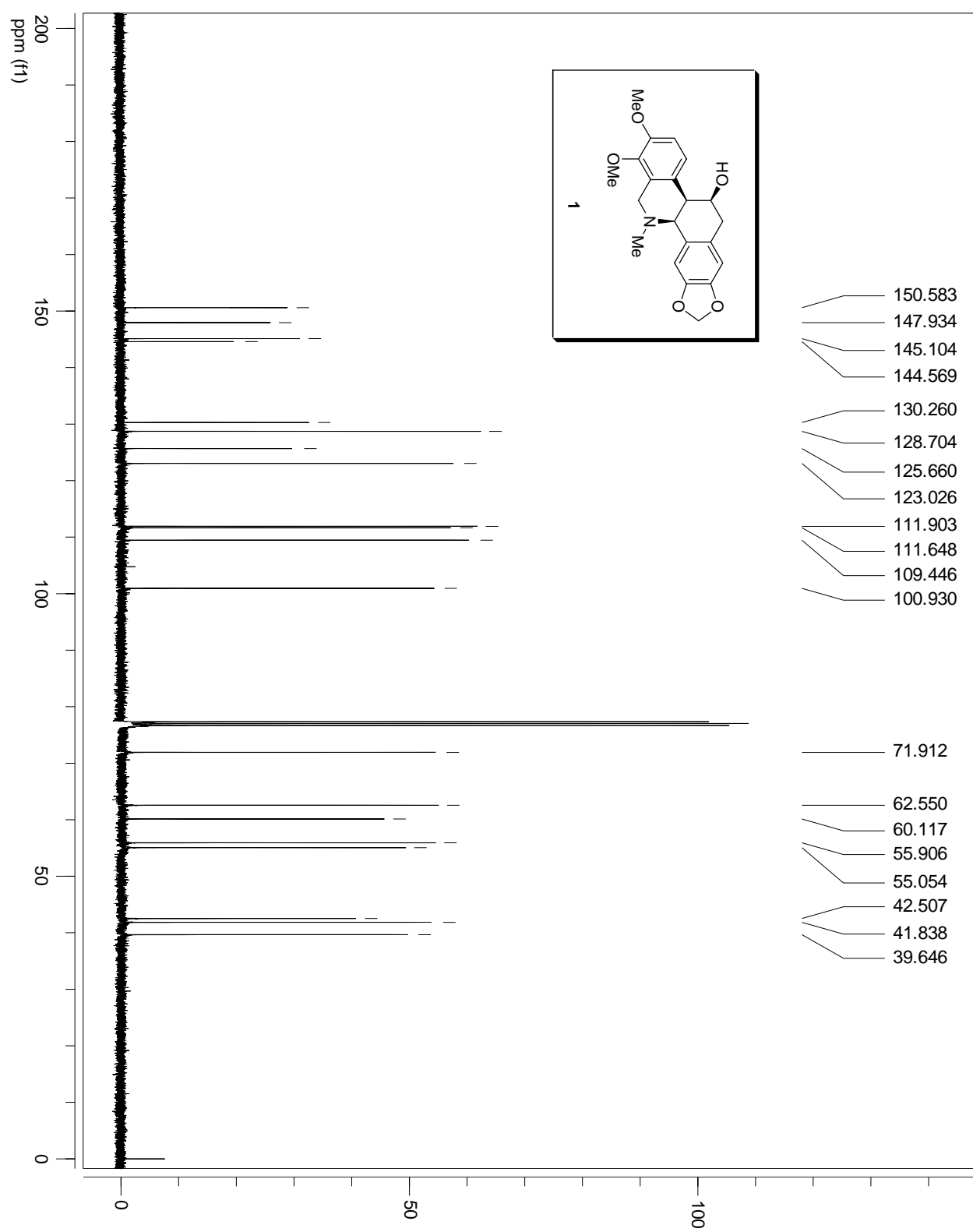
N-Bromosuccinimide (226 mg, 1.27 mmol) was added to a solution of dihydronaphthalene **25** (547 mg, 1.16 mmol) in THF (10.4 mL) and H₂O (1.20 mL) and the resulting orange solution was allowed to stir at rt for 90 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (20 mL) and EtOAc (20 mL) and the layers separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 30 mL), the combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄) and solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (20% EtOAc in hexane) to give dihydronaphthalene **26** (495 mg, 75%) as a pale brown solid. Mp 75 °C; *R_f* = 0.33 (50% EtOAc in hexane); ¹H NMR δ 7.41–7.30 (m, 5H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 6.5, 1H), 5.92 (s, 2H), 5.30–5.27 (m, 3H), 5.14 (d, *J* = 18, 1H), 4.79 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 18, 1H), 3.88–3.85 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 10.5, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 155.9, 150.8, 148.9, 147.6, 144.9, 136.4, 128.9, 128.5, 128.1, 128.1, 127.7, 127.6, 125.6, 124.0, 111.1, 109.5, 105.8, 101.3, 72.5, 67.7, 60.1, 55.7, 53.4, 49.8, 39.7, 38.6; IR (CH₂Cl₂)/cm⁻¹ 3443br, 291s, 1682s, 1606m, 1504s, 1242s, 1039s; MS (ESI) *m/z* 590 (M+Na⁺, 100), 550 (45), 470 (26), 343 (20), 320 (25), 241 (35); HRMS calcd for C₂₈H₂₆NO₇Na (M+Na⁺) 590.0784, found 590.0783; [α]_D²⁵ = +103 (c, 1.0 in CHCl₃).

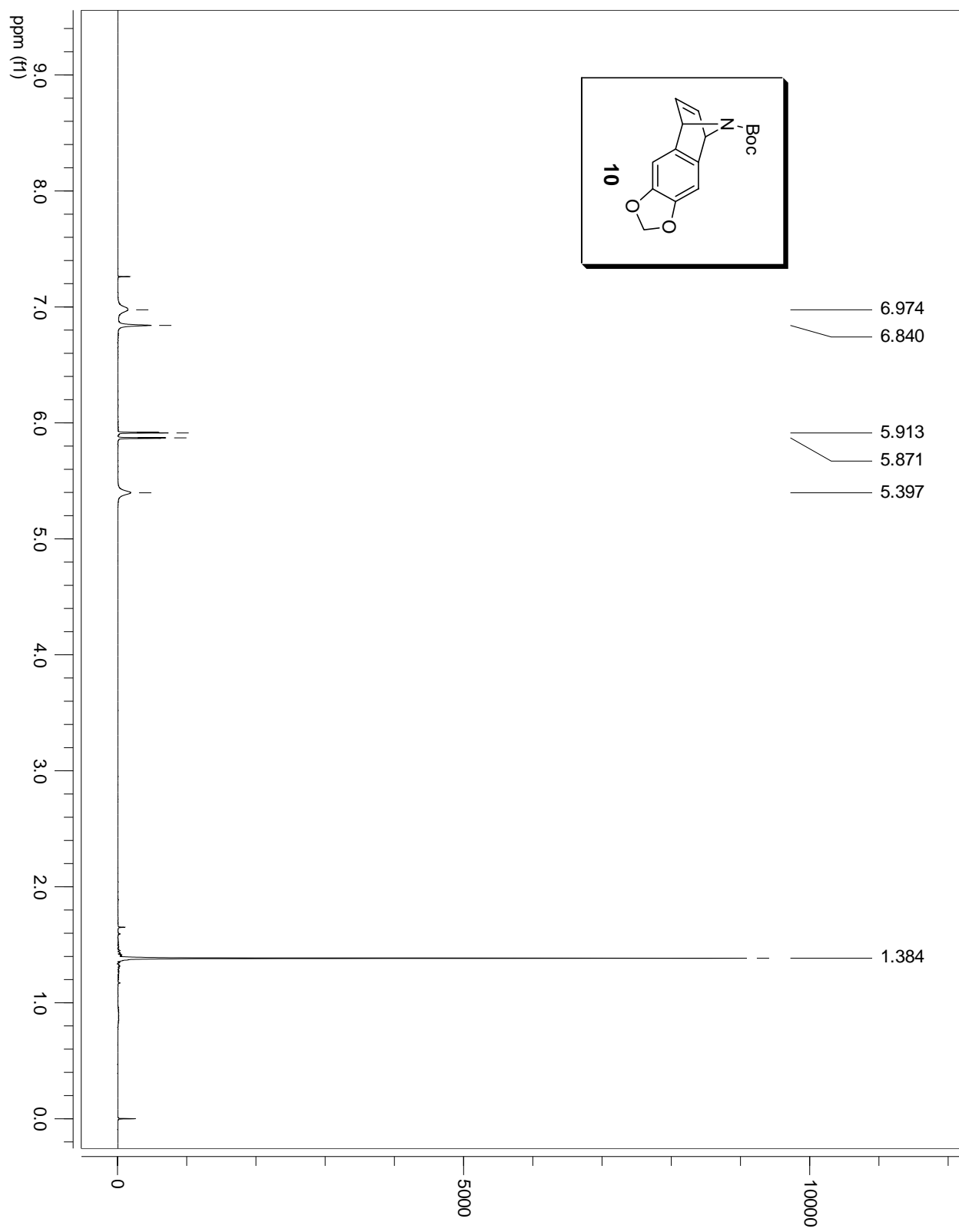
Benzyl (4*bR*,4*cR*,5*aS*,10*bS*)-1,2-dimethoxy-4*b*,5*a*,10*b*,12-tetrahydro[1,3]benzodioxolo[5,6-*c*]oxireno[*a*]phenanthndine-11(4*cH*)-carboxylate **27**

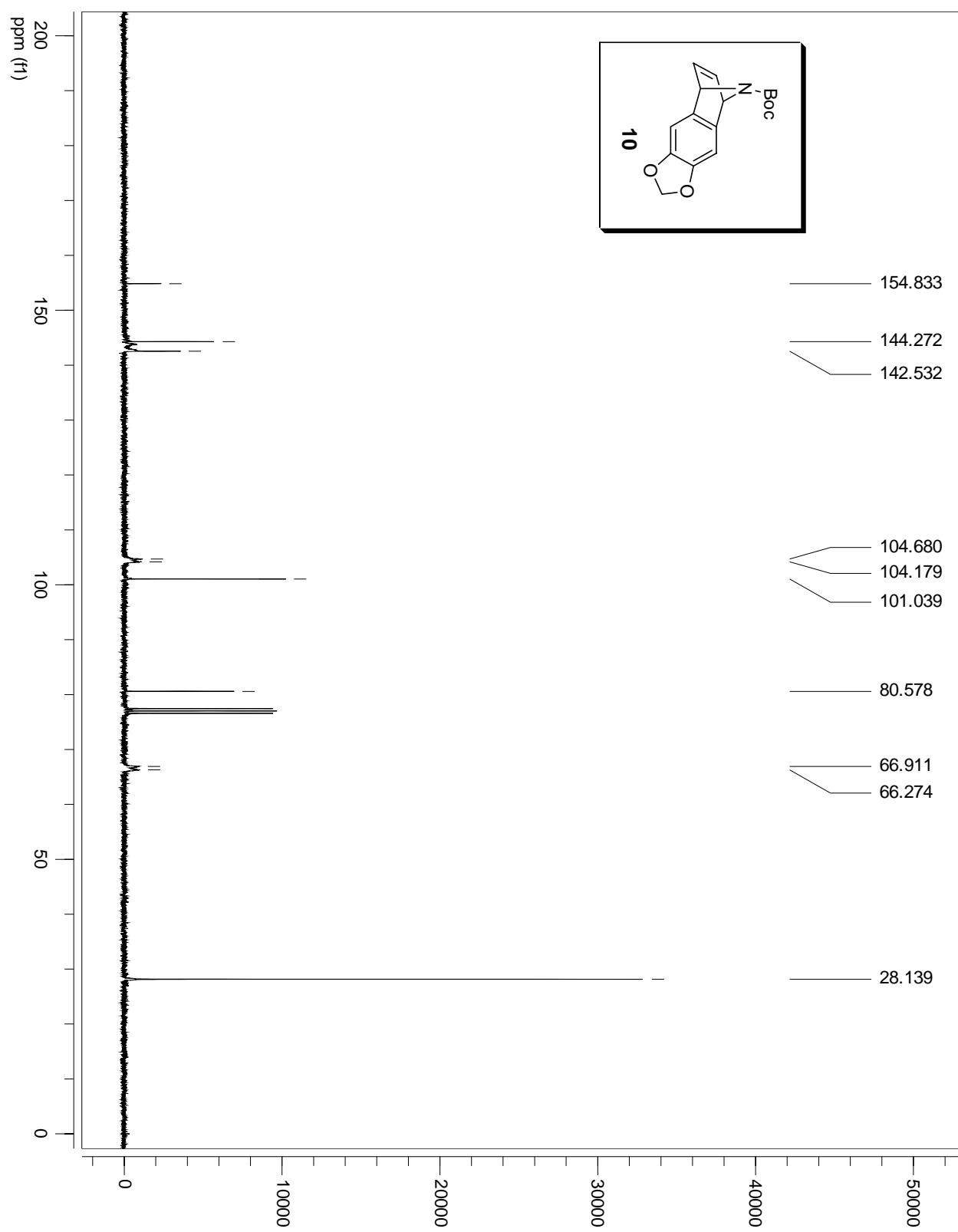


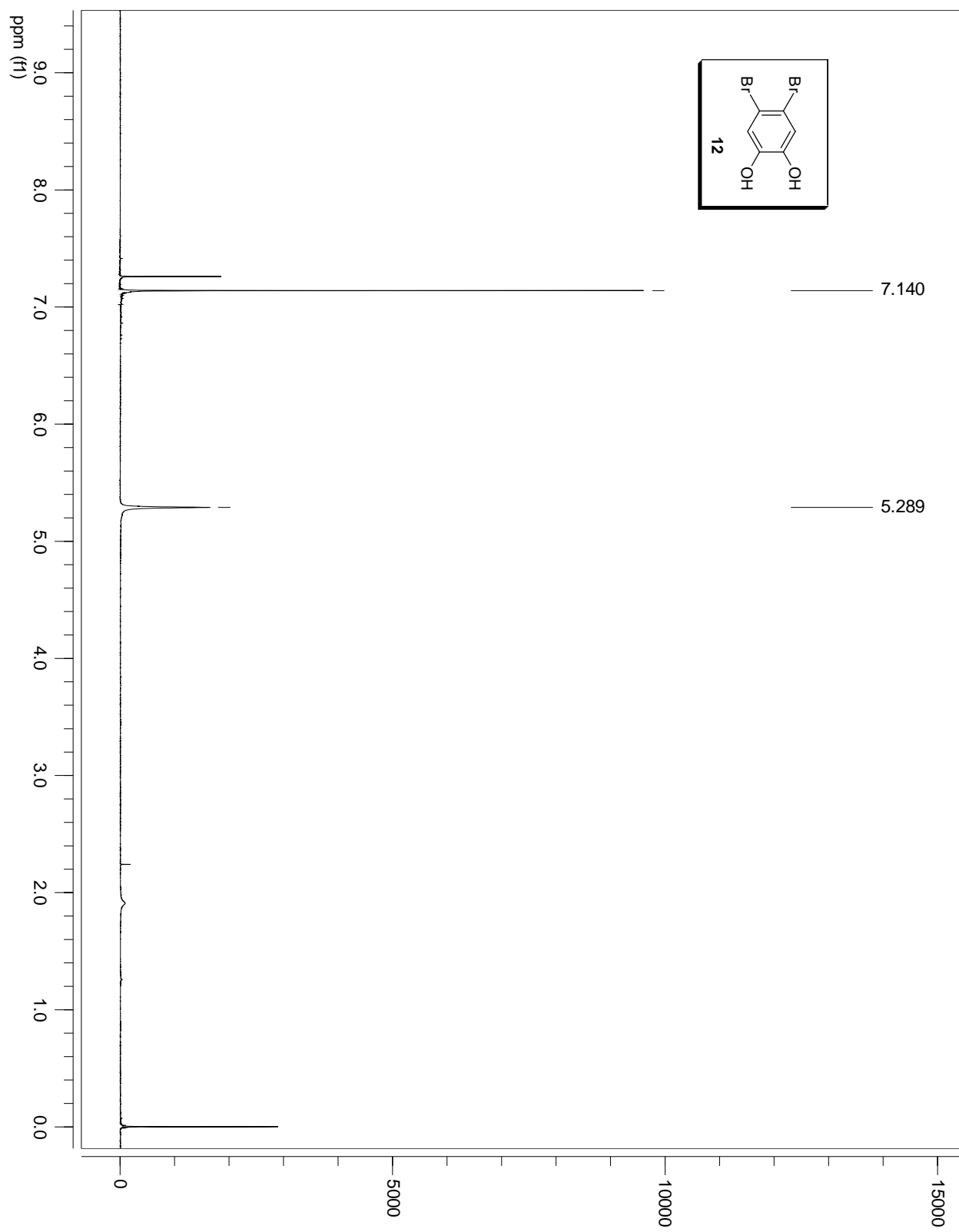
A solution of bromohydrin **26** (495 mg, 0.87 mmol) in THF (175 mL) was cooled to $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ under an argon atmosphere. A solution of potassium *tert*-butoxide (1 M in THF; 0.87 mL, 0.87 mmol) was added dropwise via a syringe and the resulting solution was stirred at this temp for 45 min. The reaction mixture was warmed to $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and washed with cold water (100 mL). The layers were separated and the organic layer was dried (Na_2SO_4) and solvent evaporated *in vacuo* to give epoxide **27** (424 mg, quant.) as a pale yellow solid. Mp $60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$; $R_f = 0.38$ (50% EtOAc in hexane); $^1\text{H NMR}$ δ 7.37–7.30 (m, 5H), 7.05 (d, $J = 8.5$, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, $J = 8.5$, 1H), 5.95 (d, $J = 1.5$, 1H), 5.91 (d, $J = 1.5$, 1H), 5.77 (d, $J = 8$, 1H), 5.20–5.16 (m, 2H), 5.15 (br s, 1H), 4.24 (d, $J = 16$, 1H), 3.84–3.68 (m, 10H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ δ 156.6, 150.8, 148.6, 146.9, 144.6, 136.3, 128.7 x3, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 125.2, 124.2, 111.1, 110.0, 101.2, 67.6, 60.5, 55.7, 52.4, 51.1, 38.1, 36.8; IR (CH_2Cl_2)/ cm^{-1} 3441s, 1694s, 1488s, 1417m, 1236m, 1096m, 1036m; MS (ESI) m/z 510 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$, 100), 488 (25); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_7\text{Na}$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$) 510.1523, found 510.1522; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +112$ (c, 1.0 in CHCl_3).

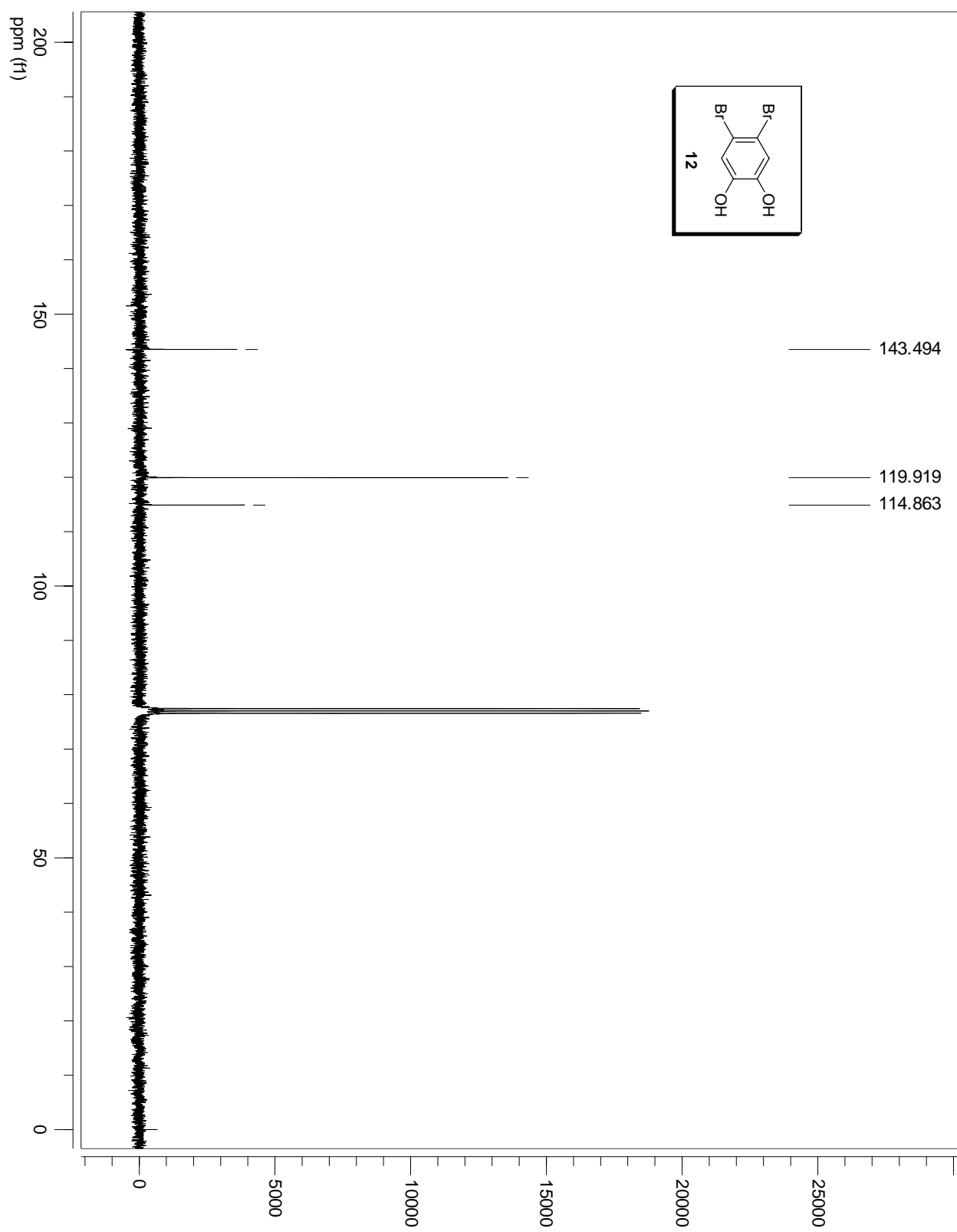
(IV) ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra for all compounds

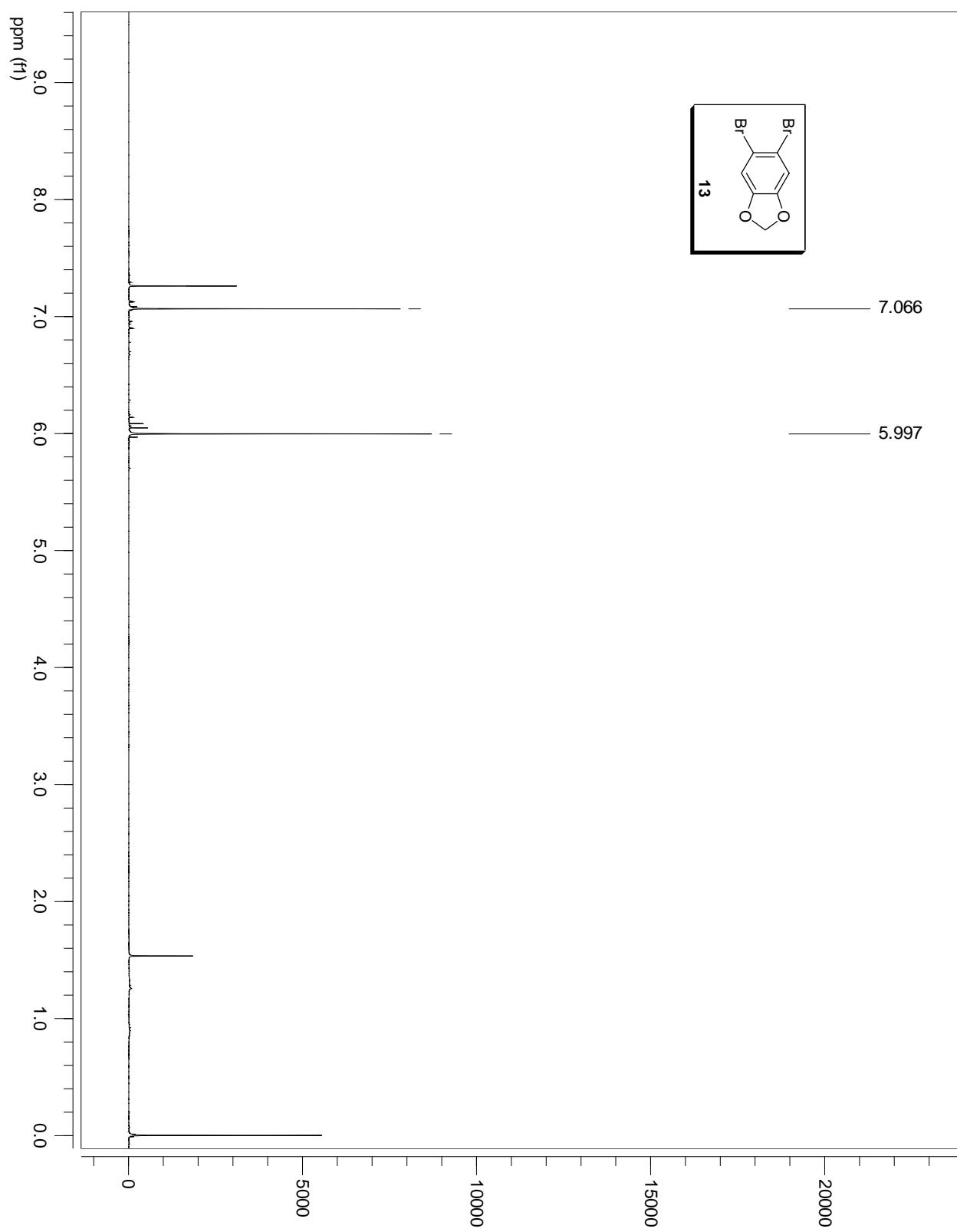


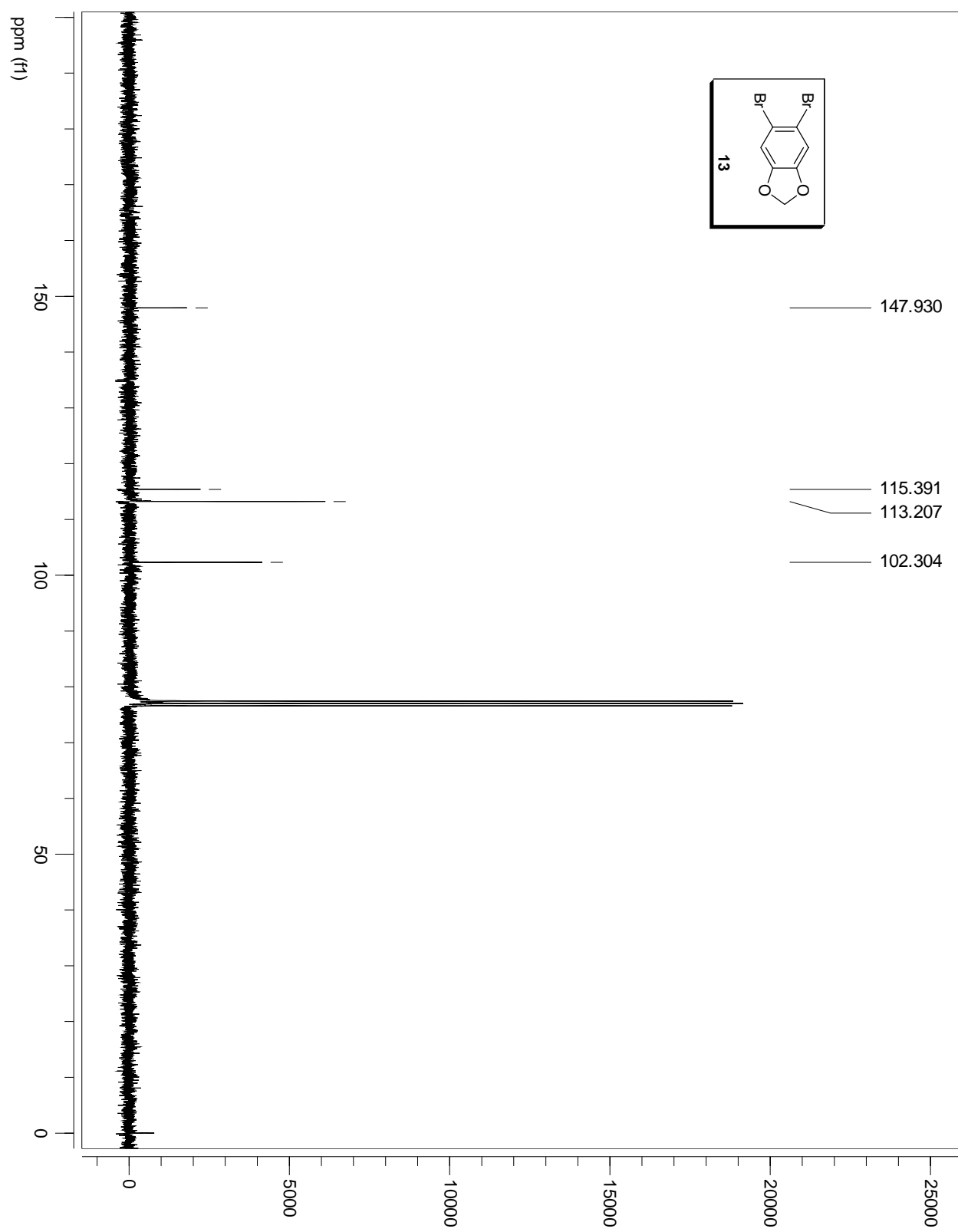


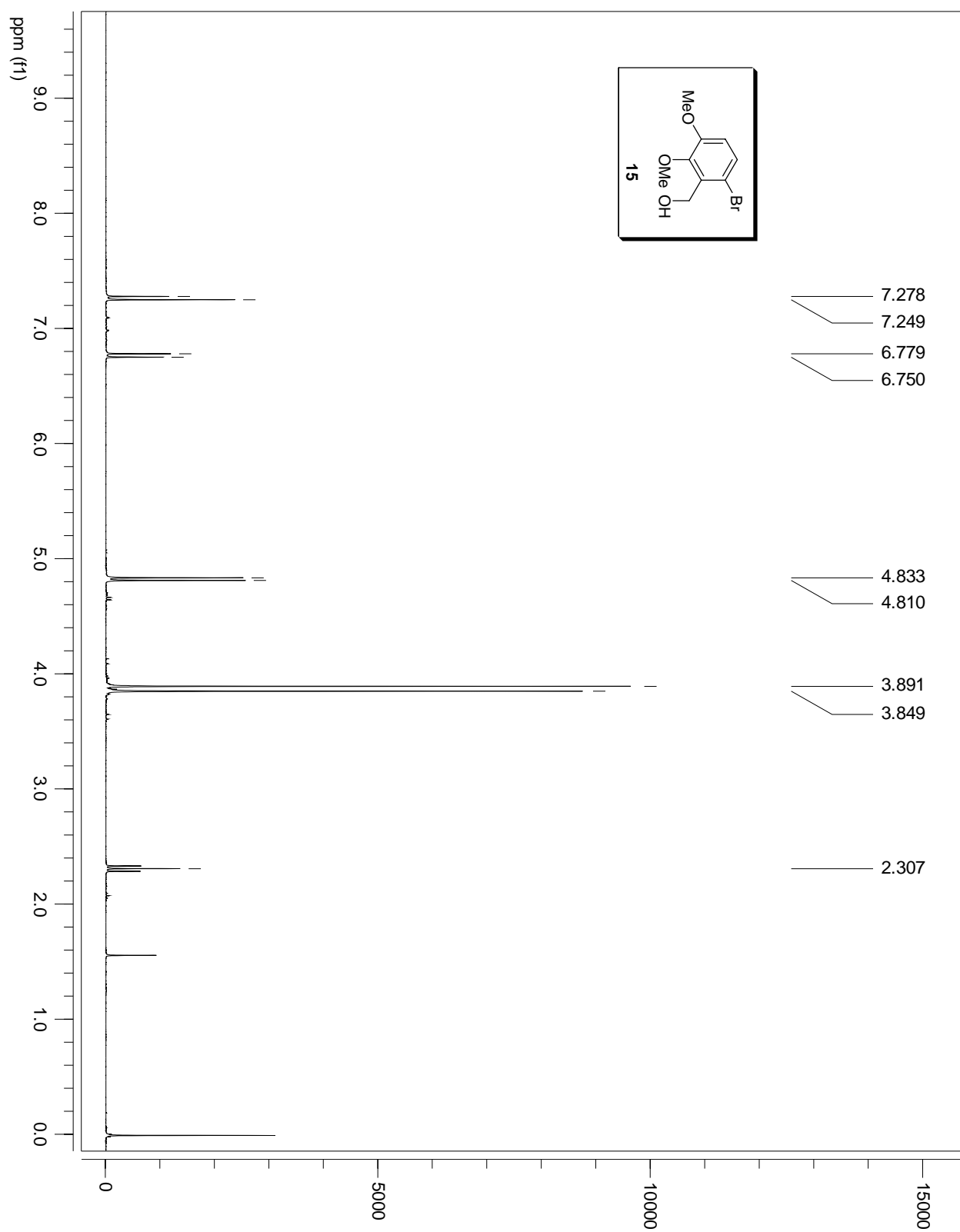


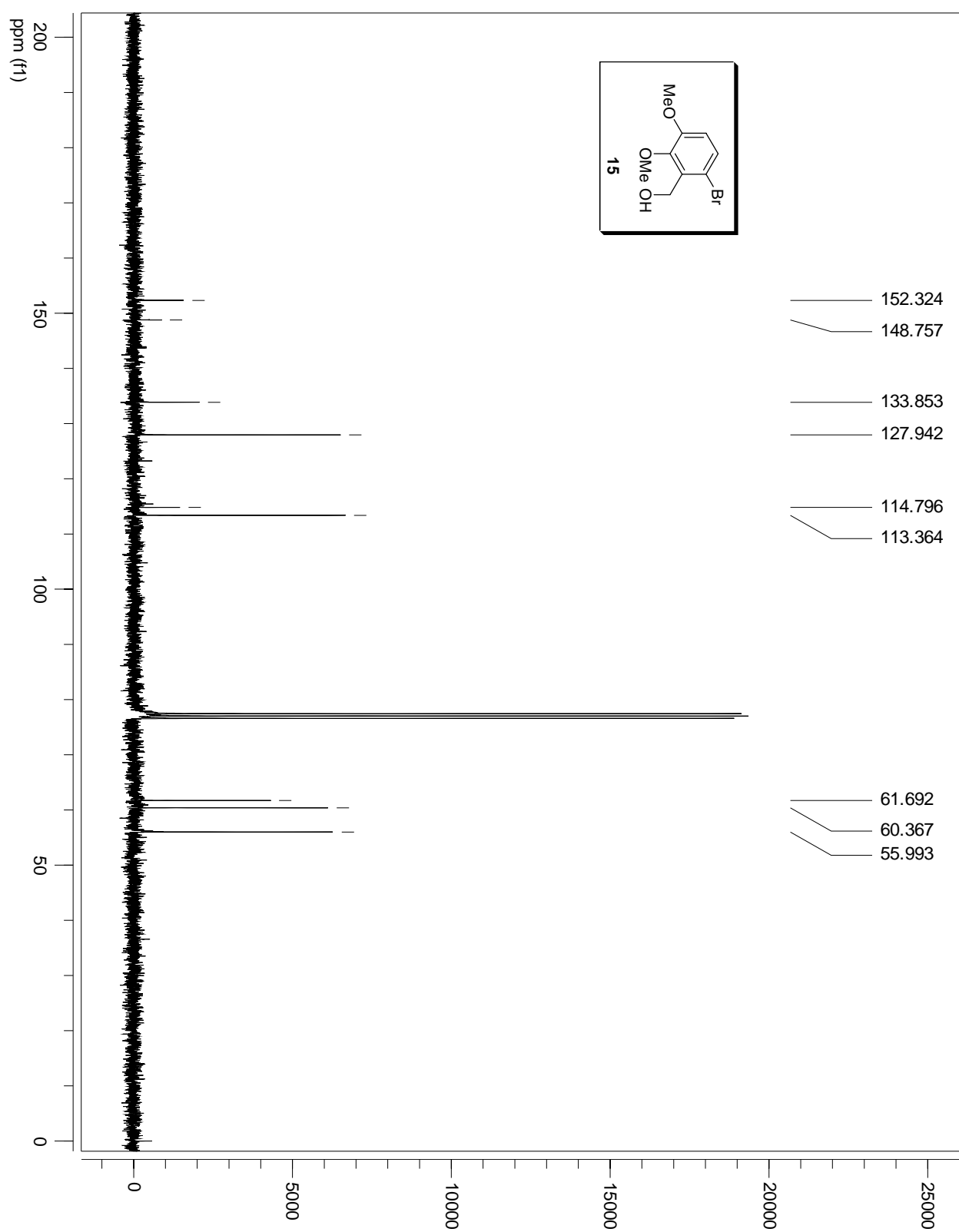


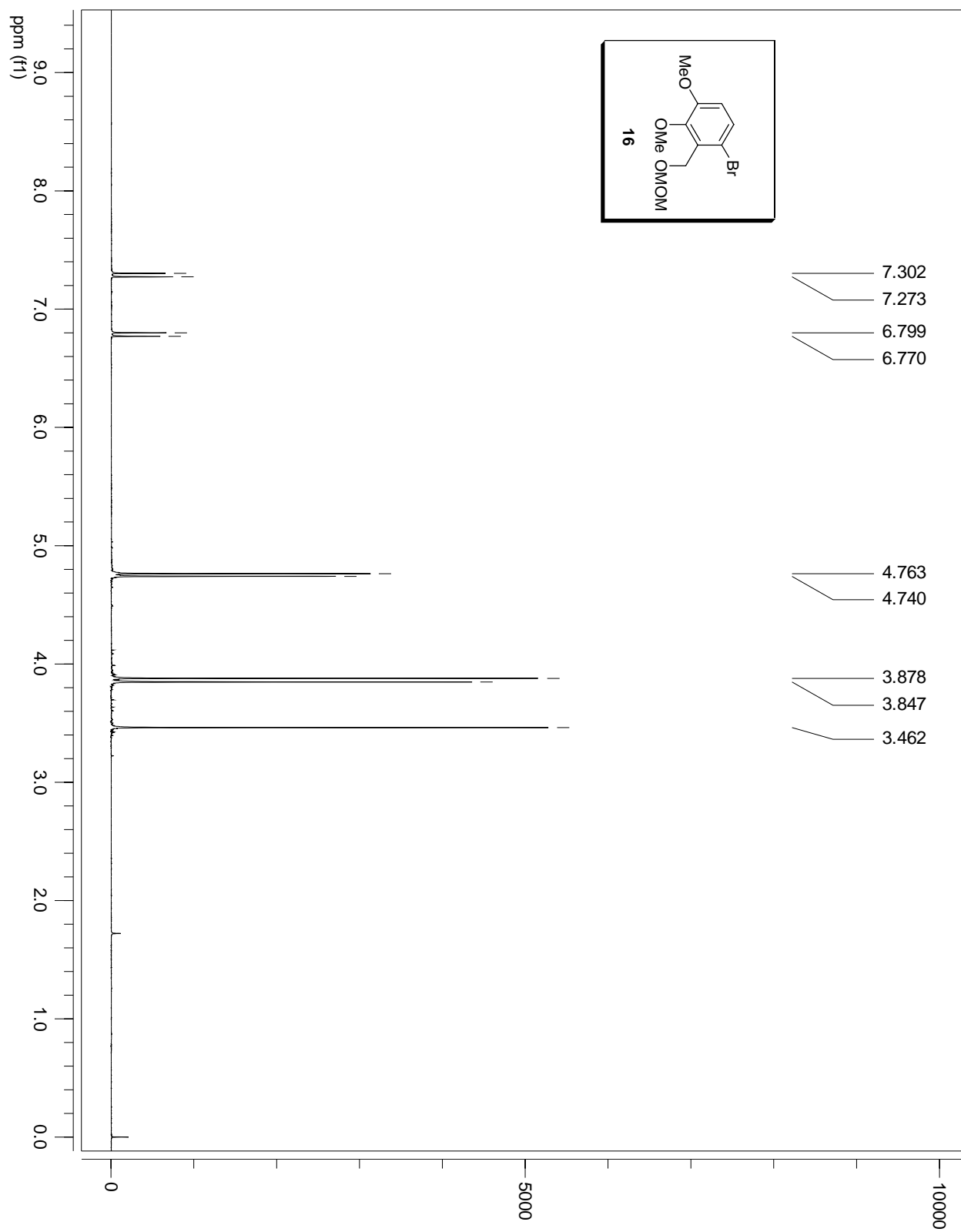


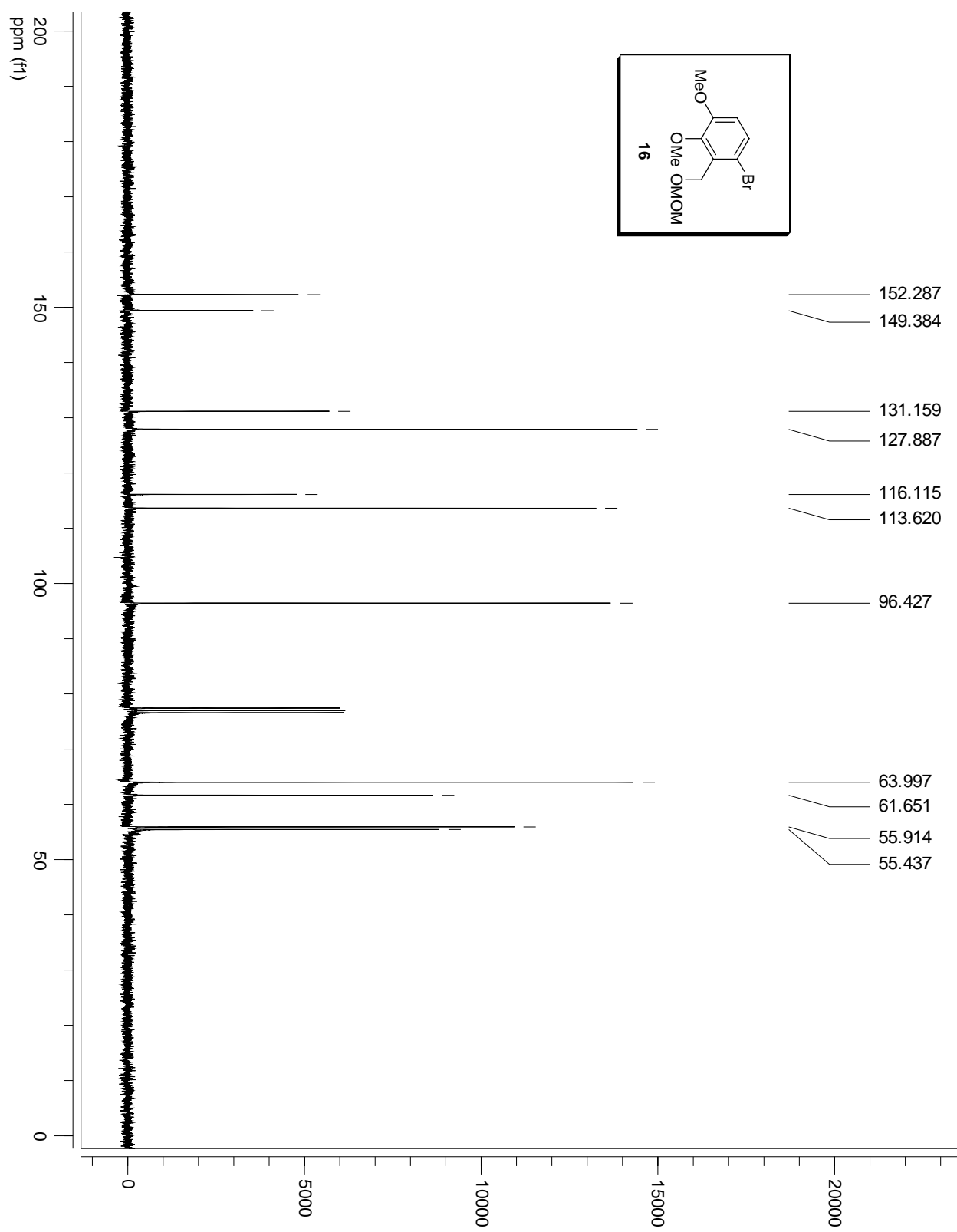


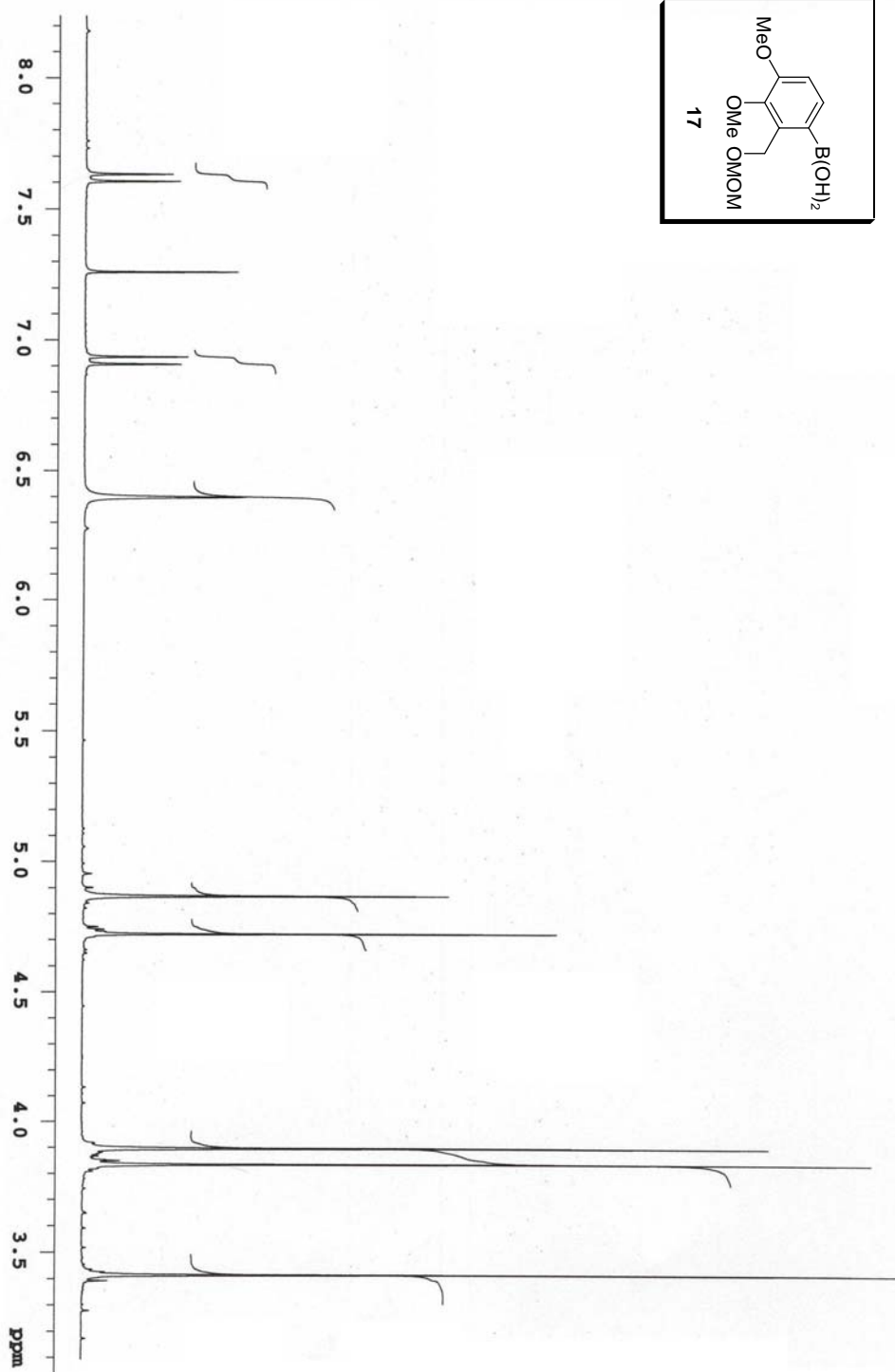
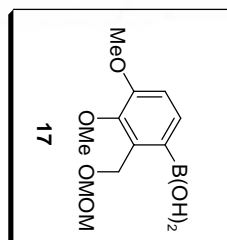


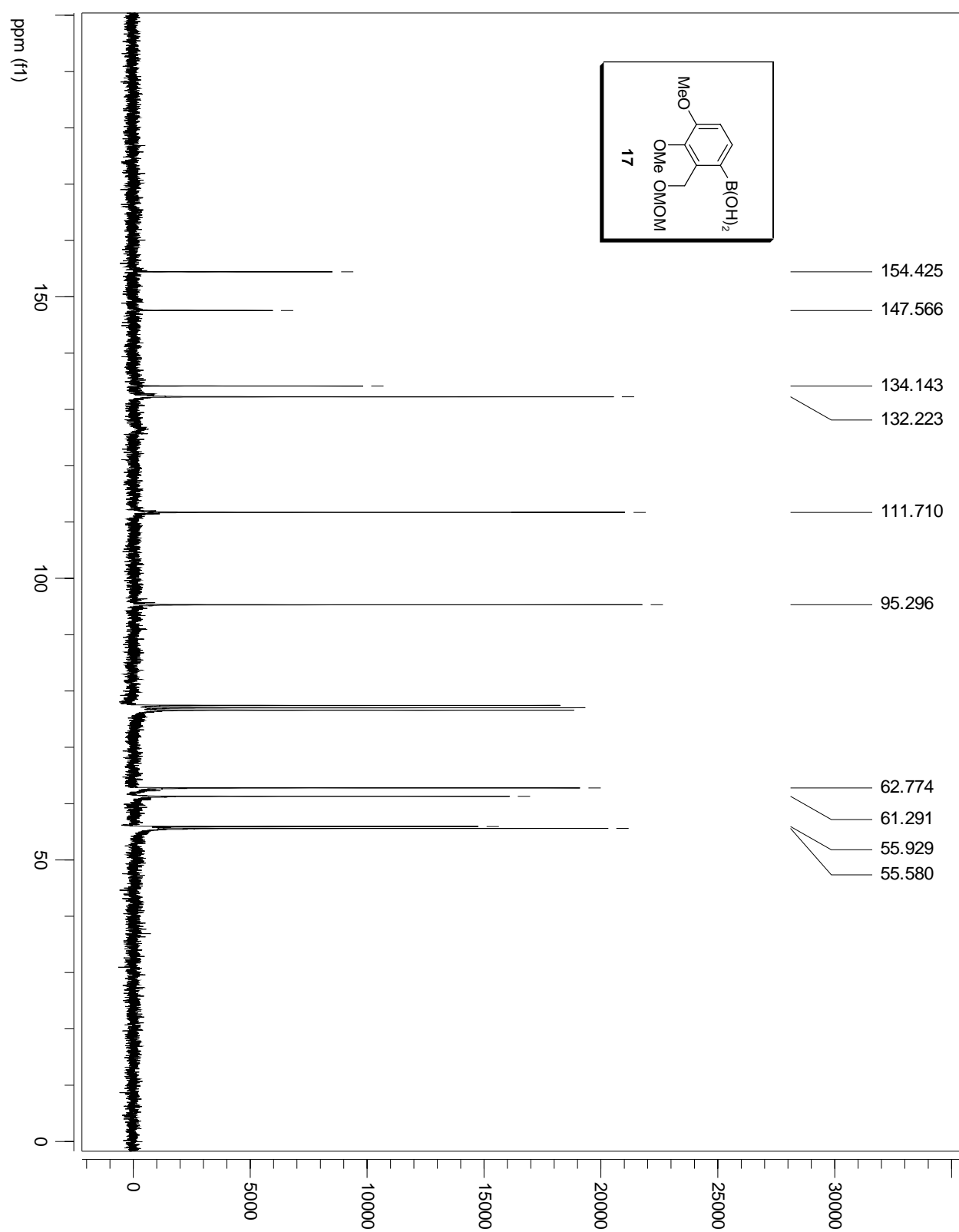


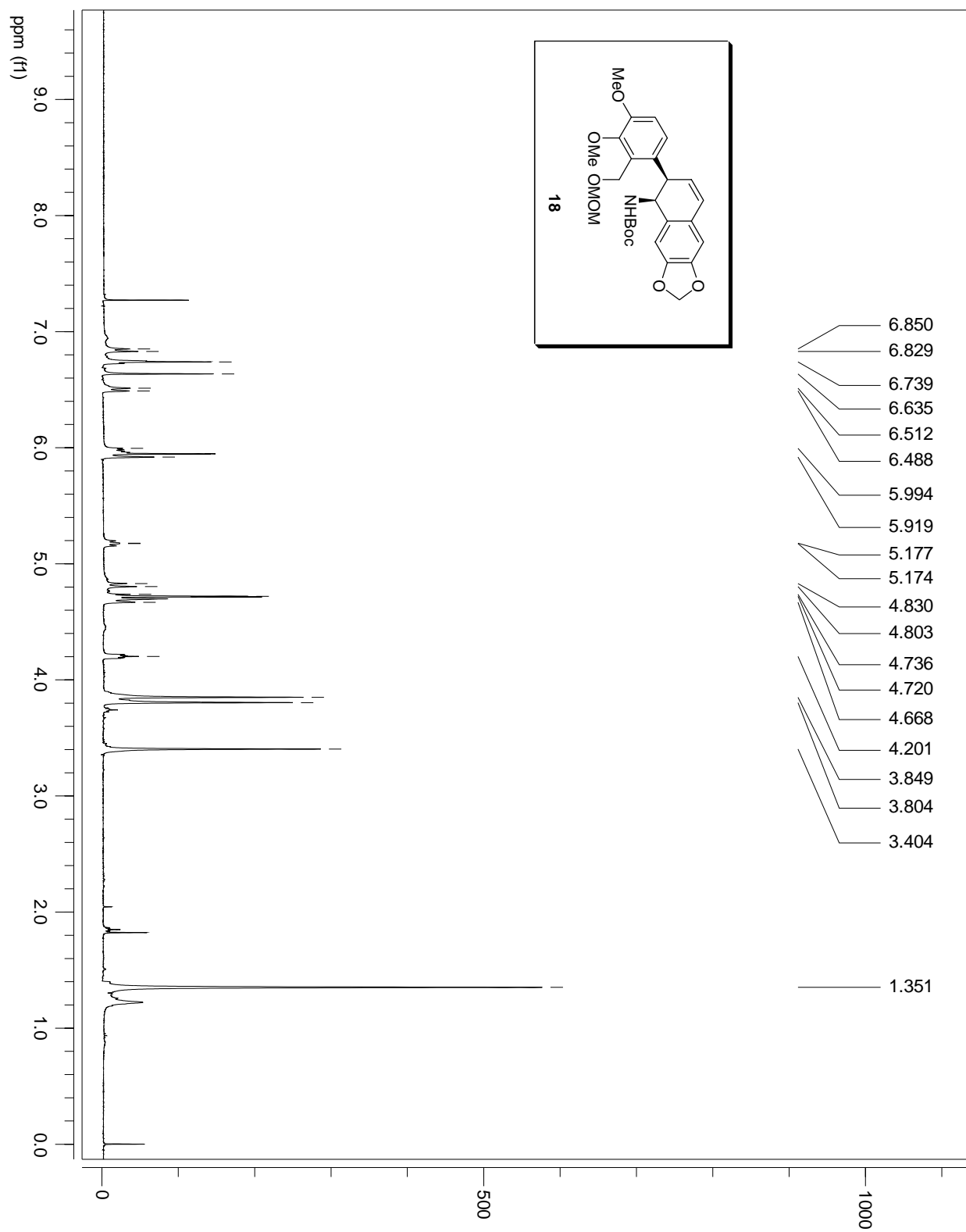


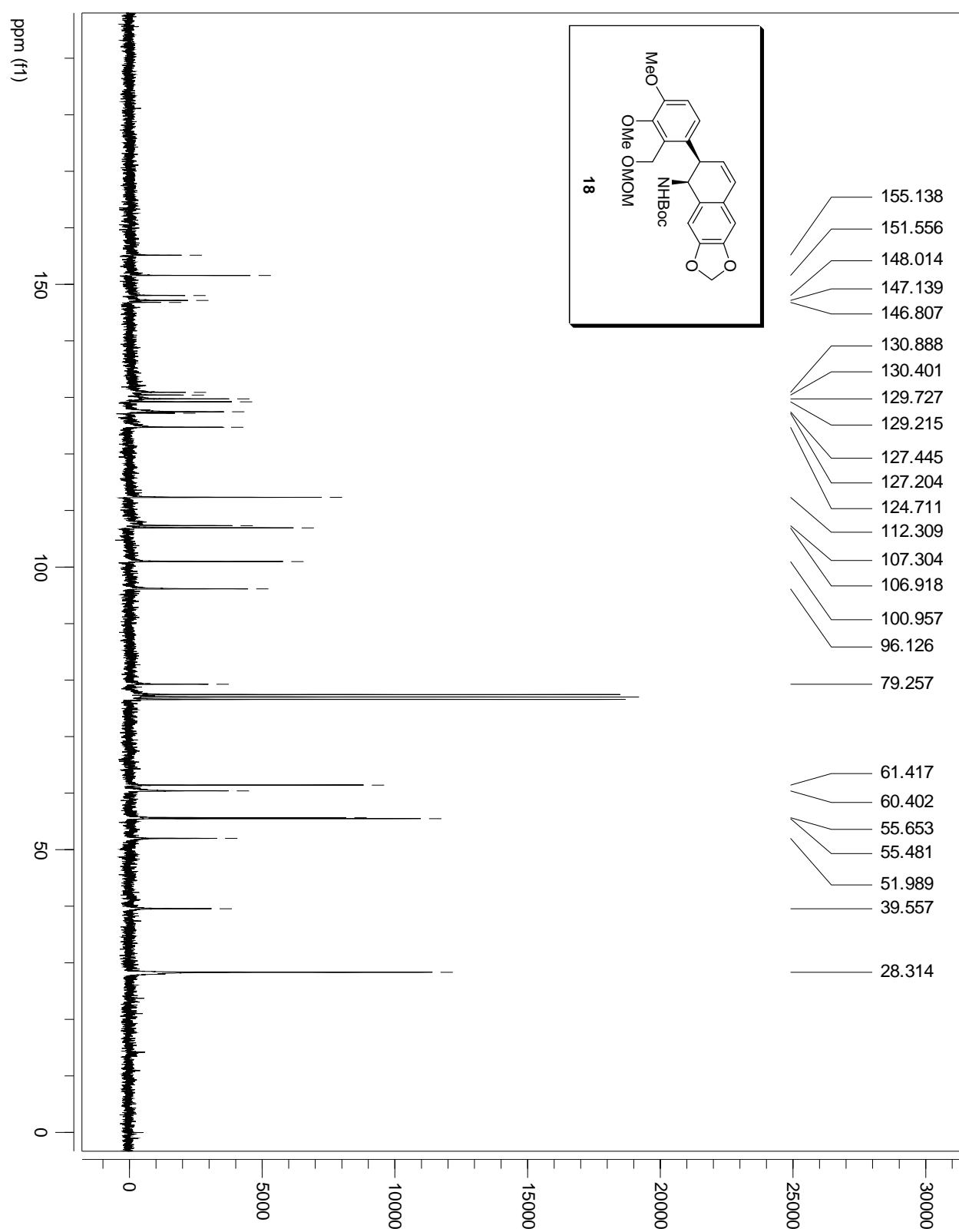


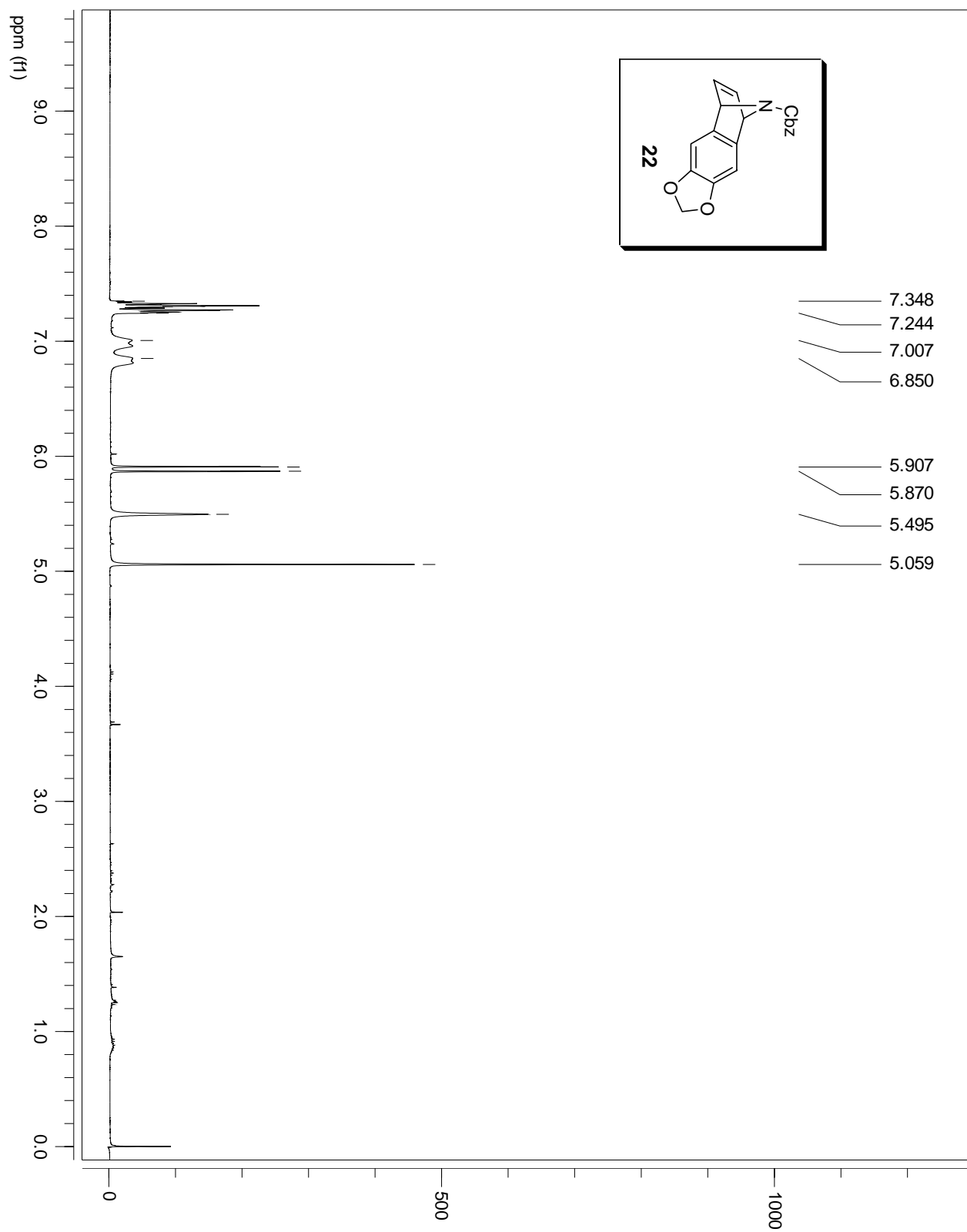


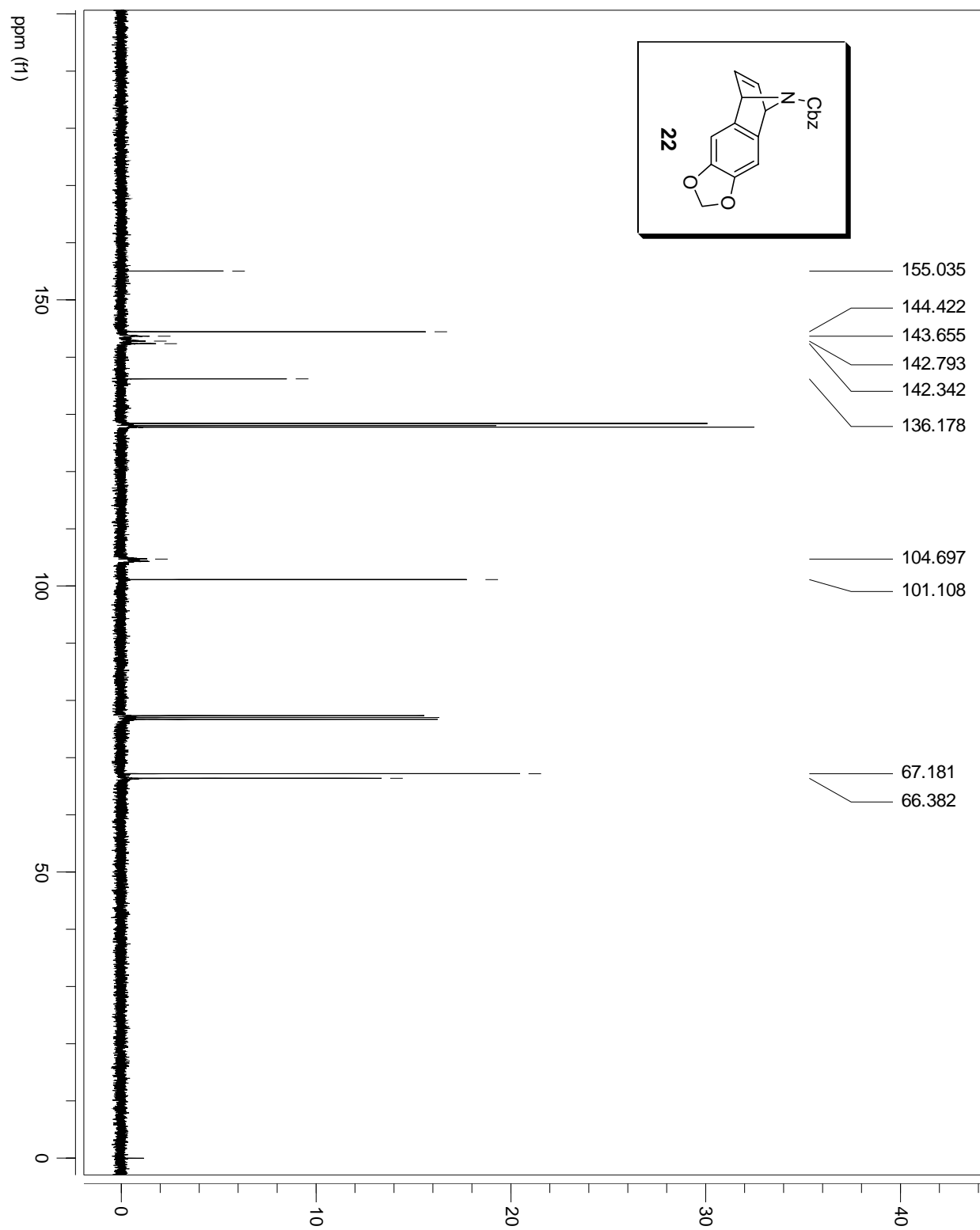


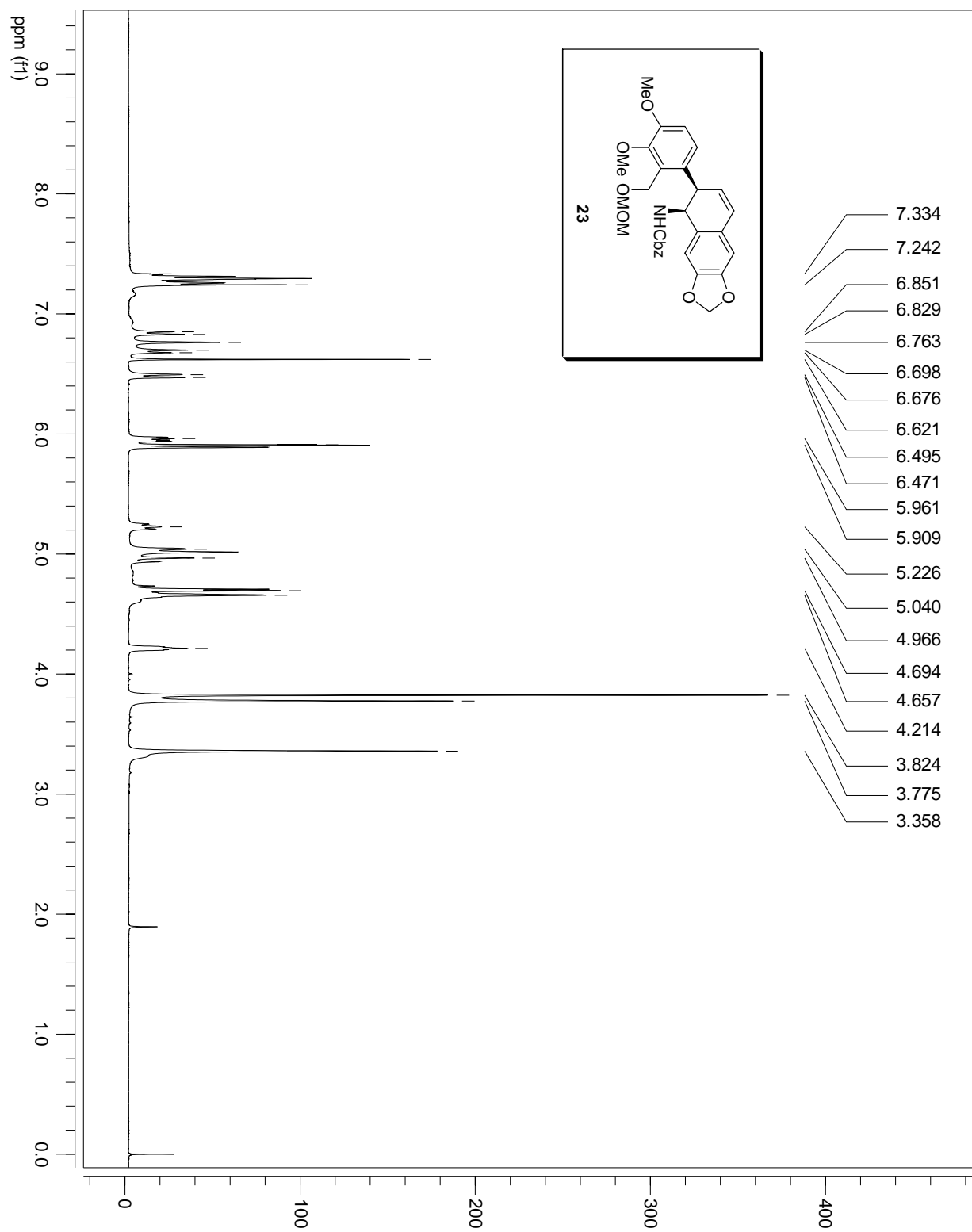


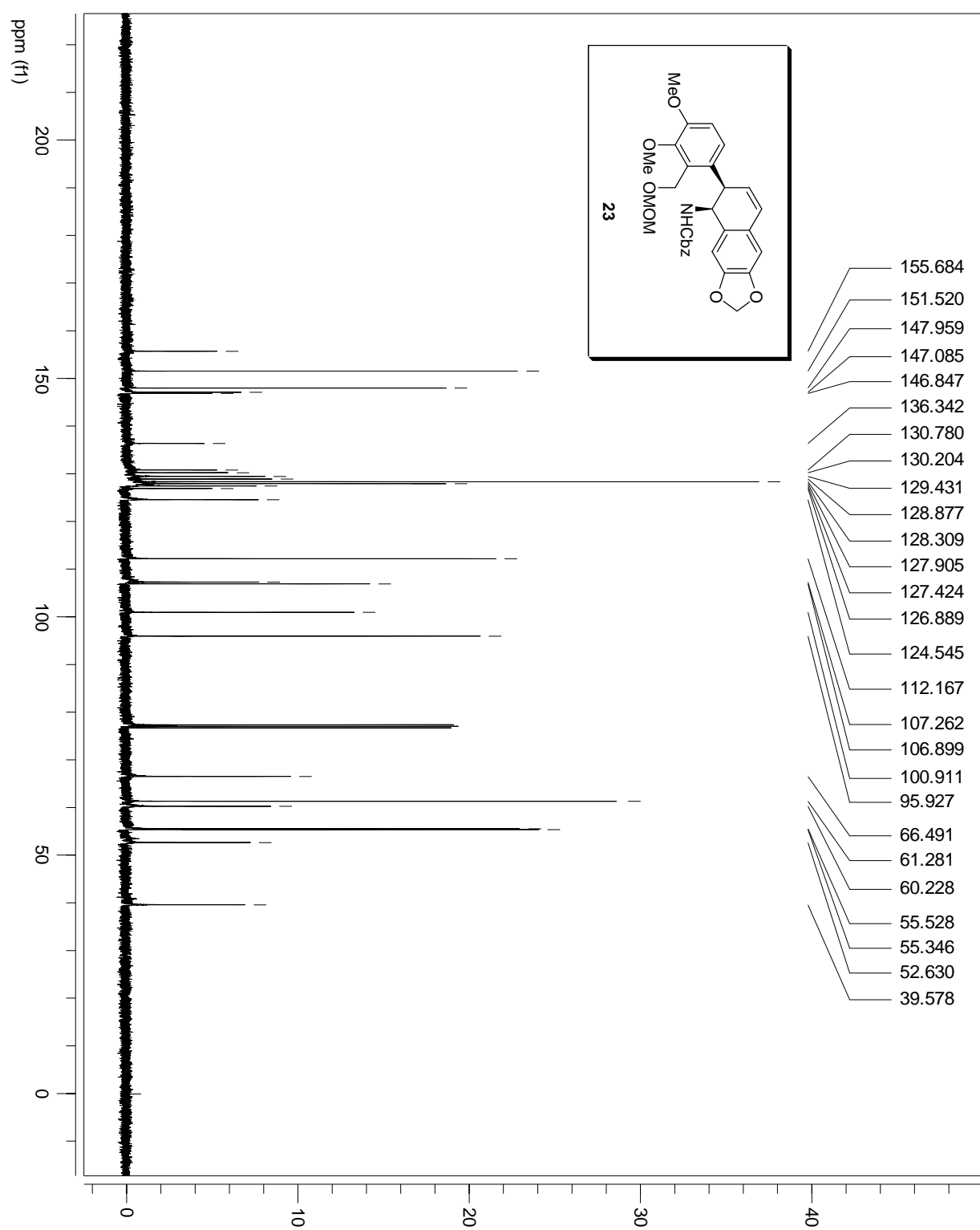


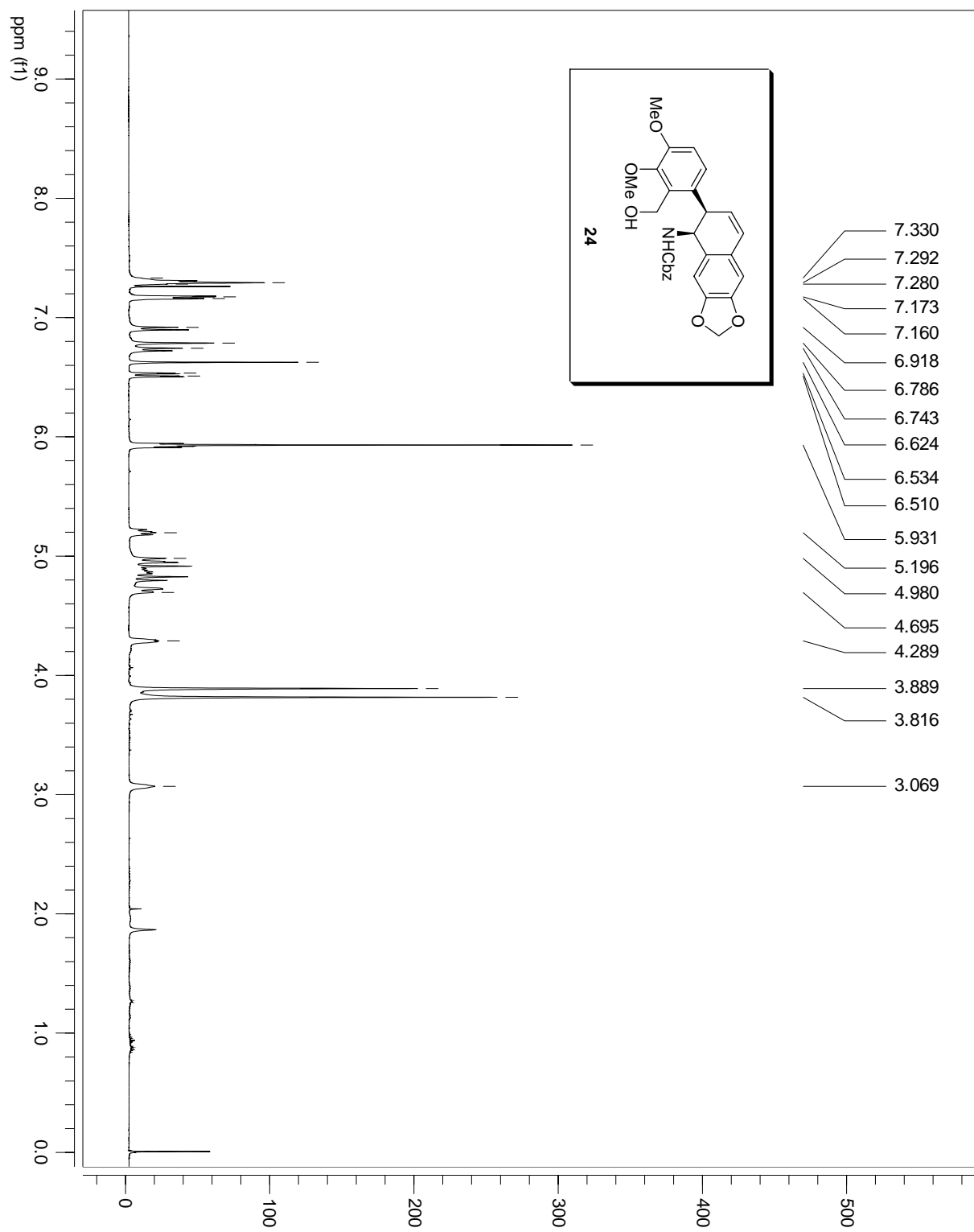


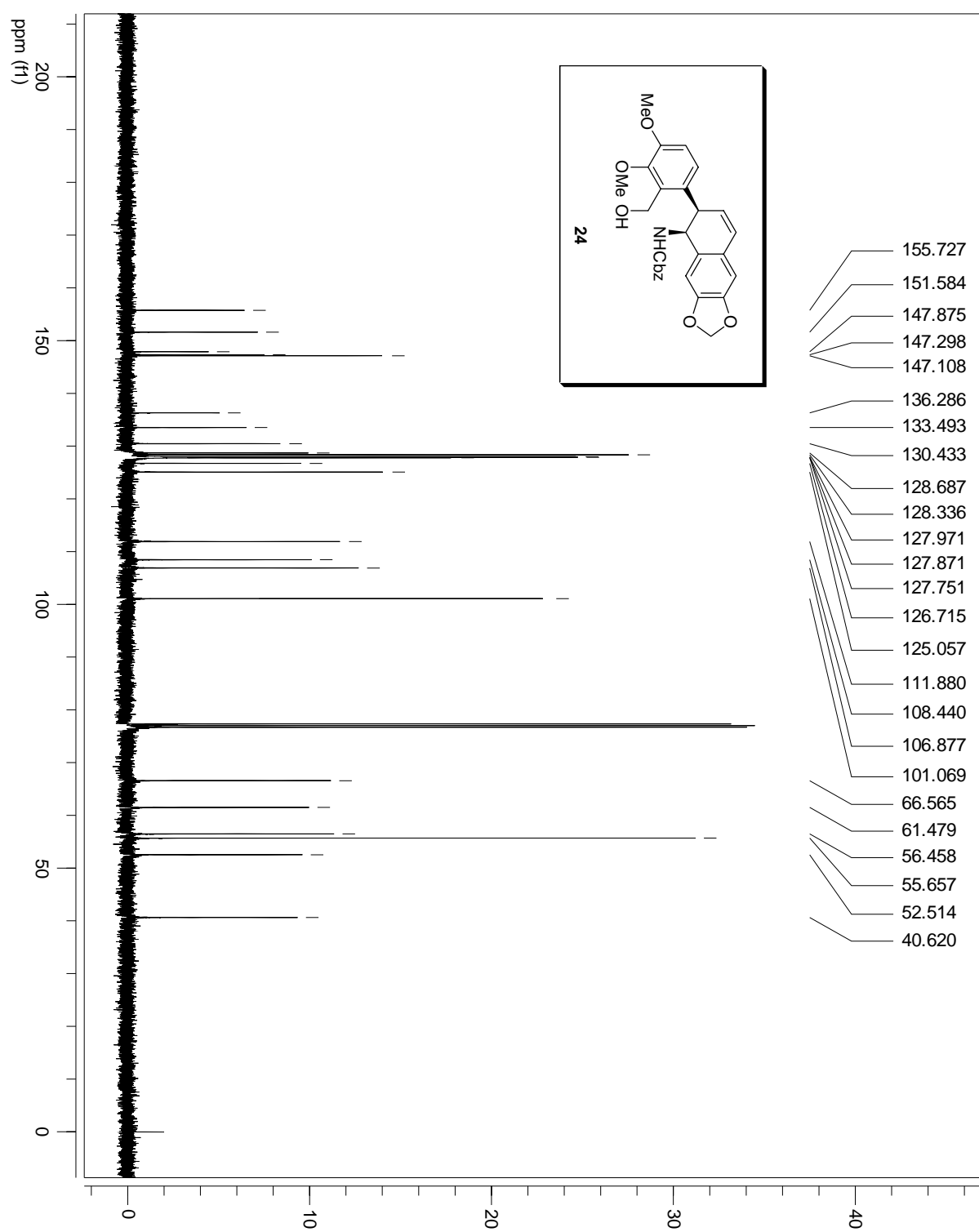


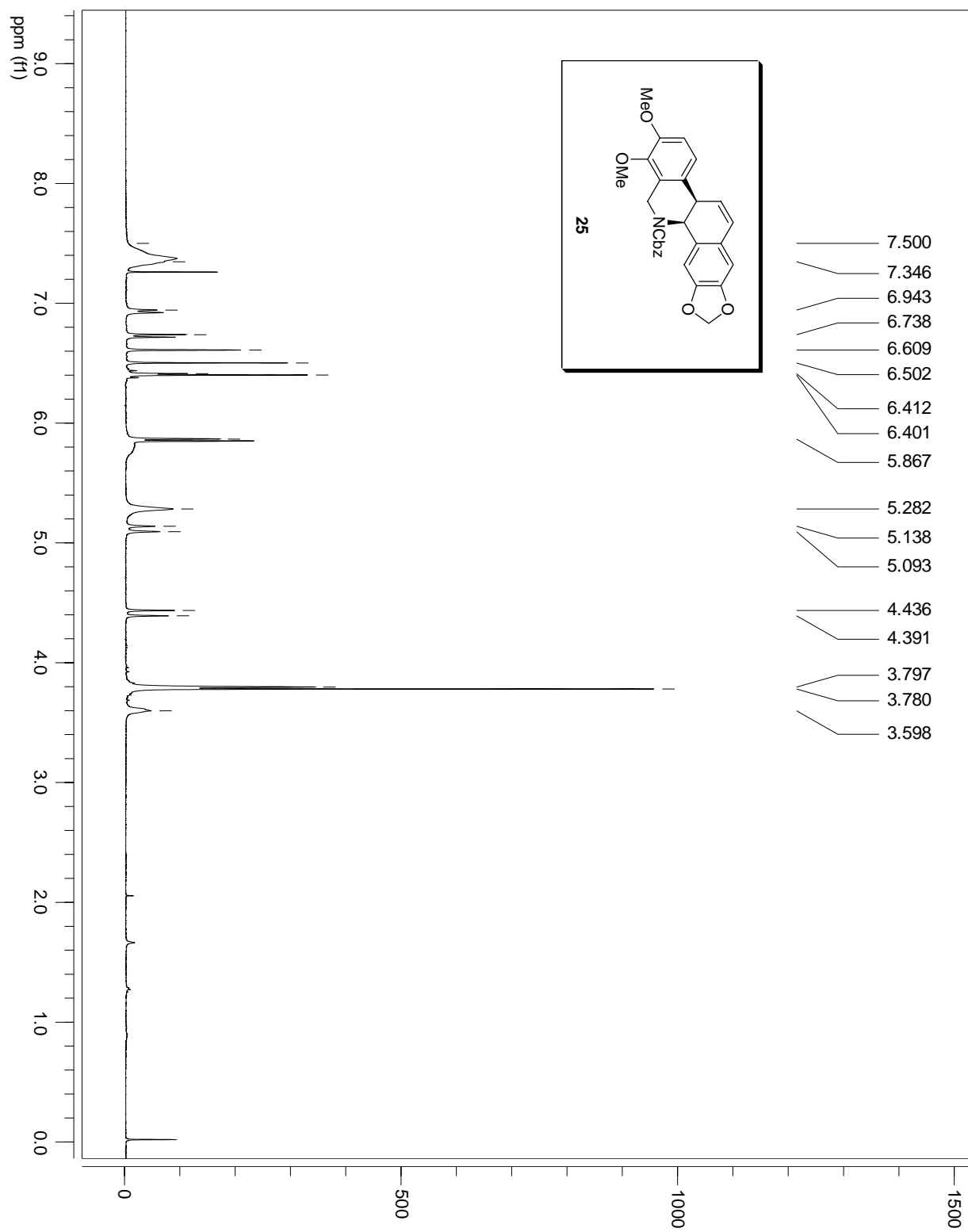


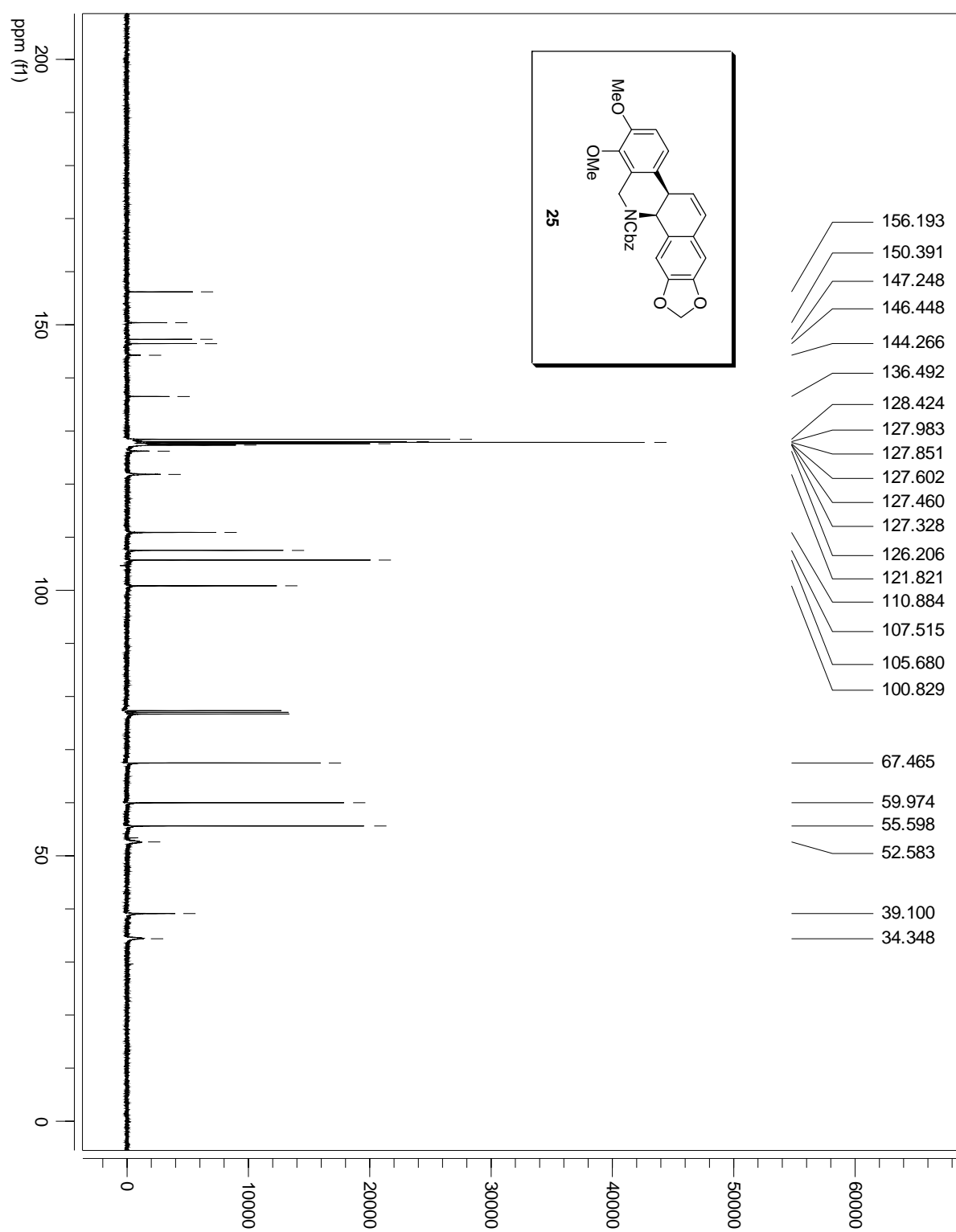


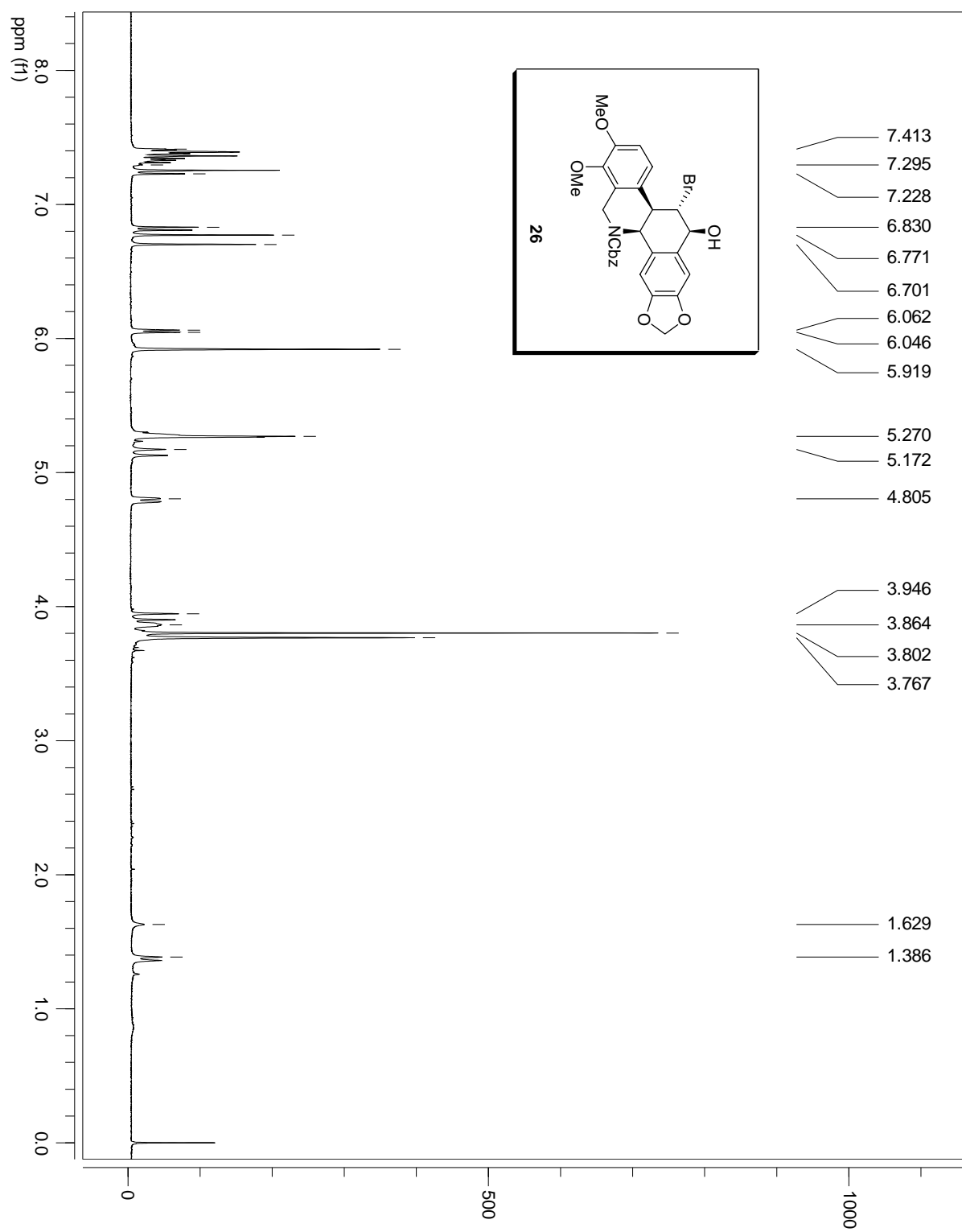


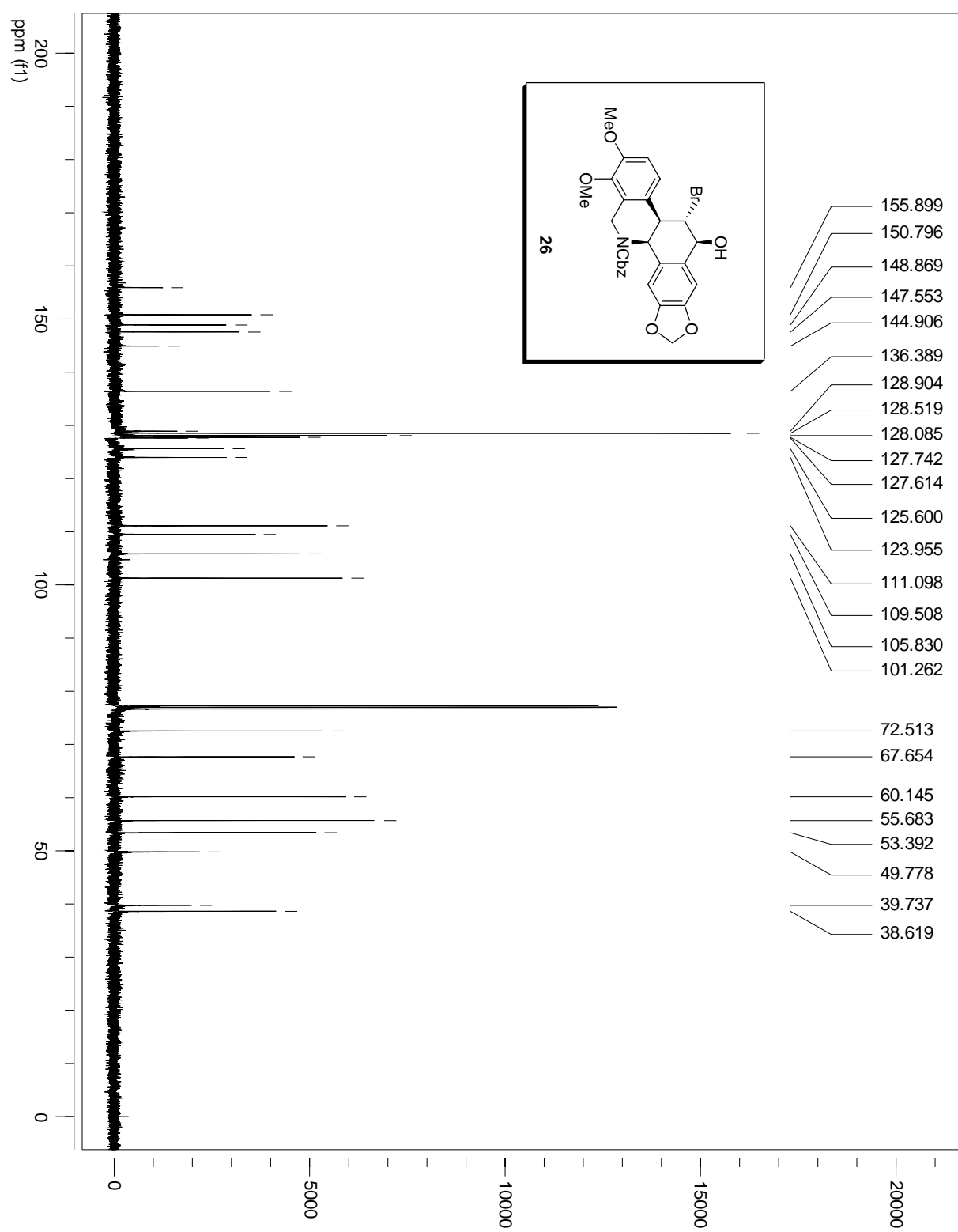


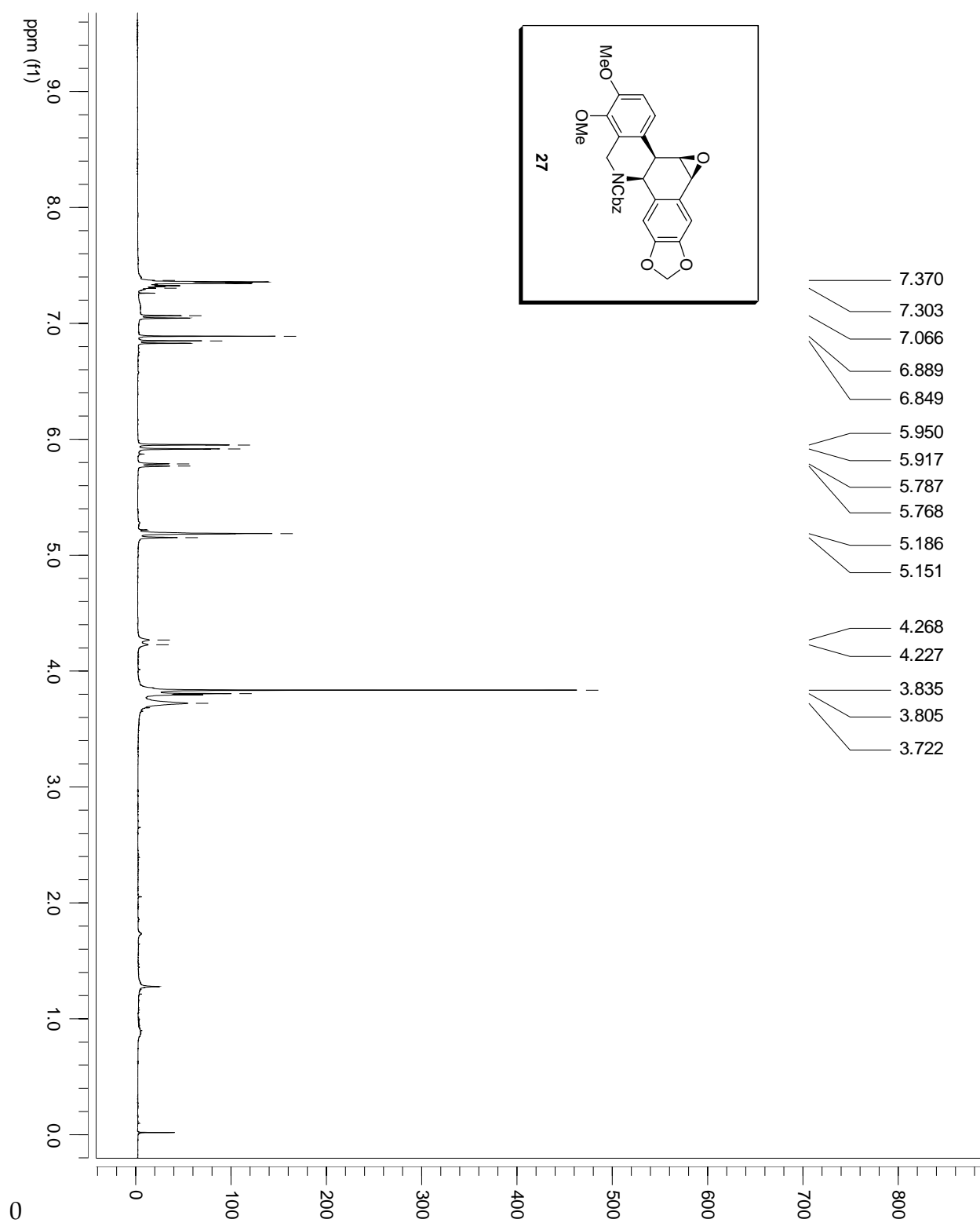


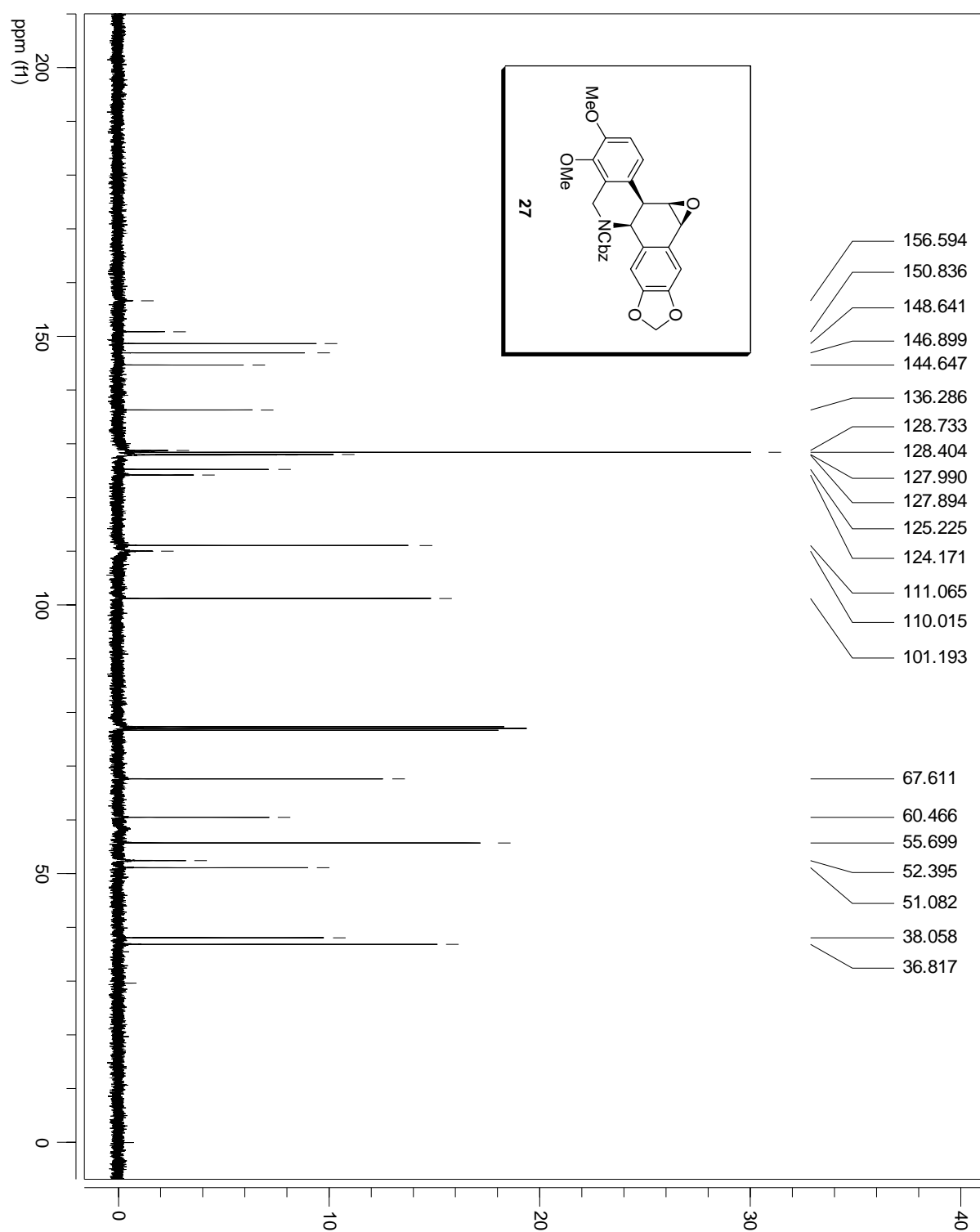


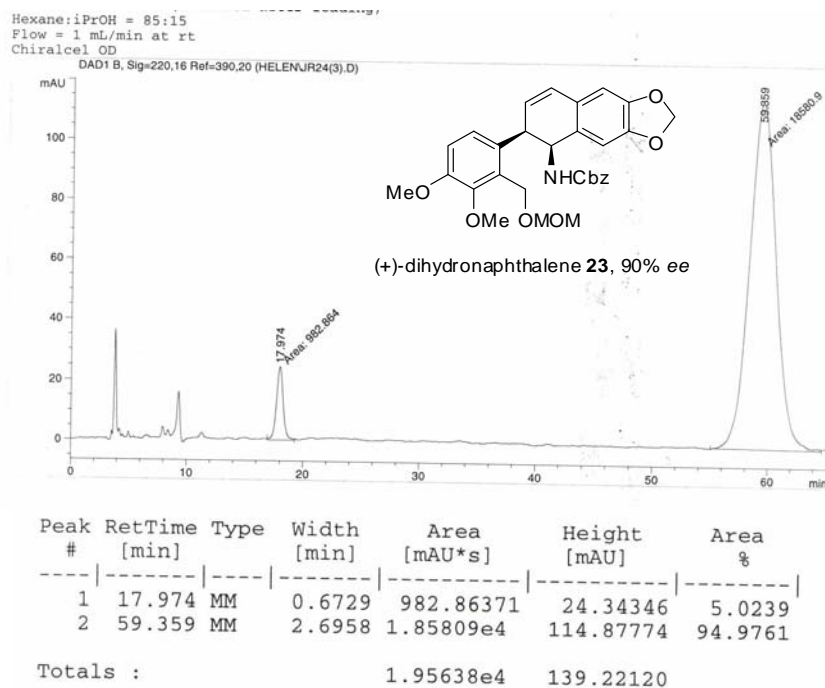
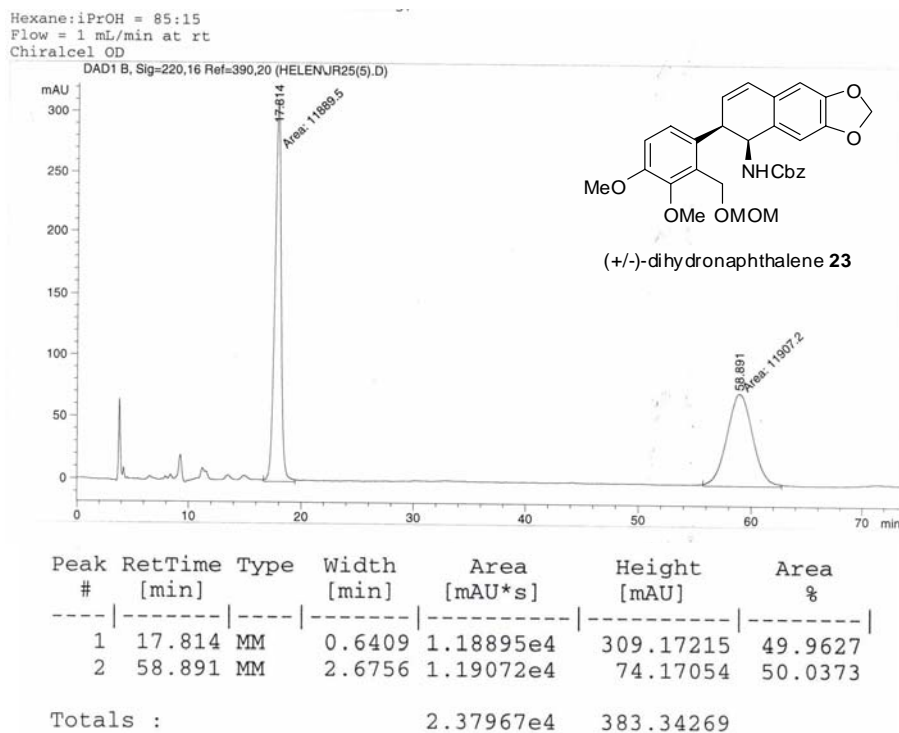




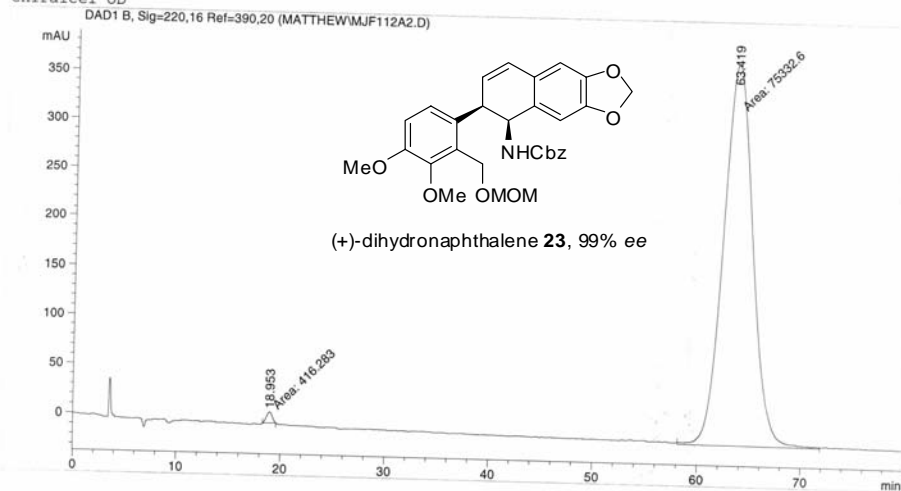






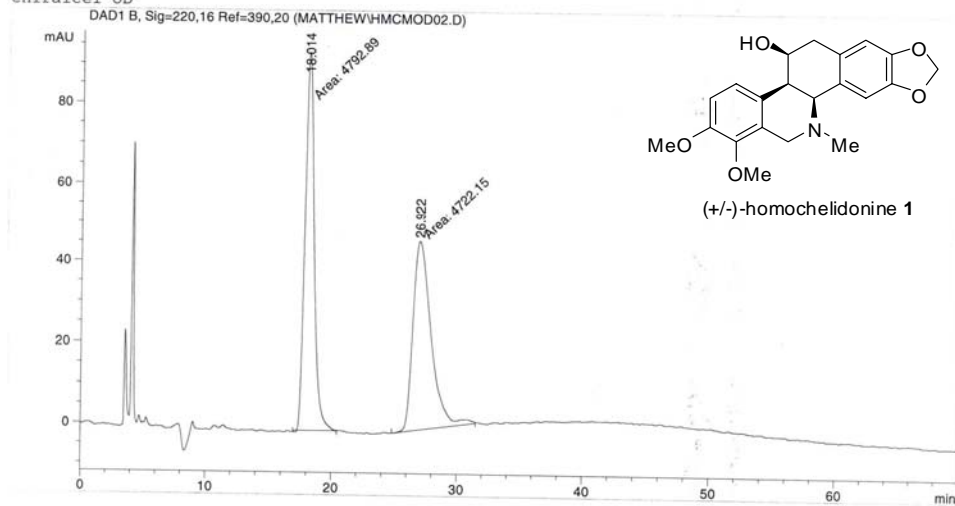
(V) HPLC traces for dihydronaphthalene **23** and homochelidonine **1**

Hexane:iPrOH = 85:15
Flow = 1 mL/min at rt
Chiralcel OD



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	18.953	MM	0.6328	416.28345	10.96381	0.5496
2	63.419	MM	3.2515	7.53326e4	386.14160	99.4504

Hexane:iPrOH = 85:15
Flow = 1 mL/min at rt
Chiralcel OD

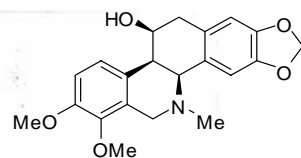
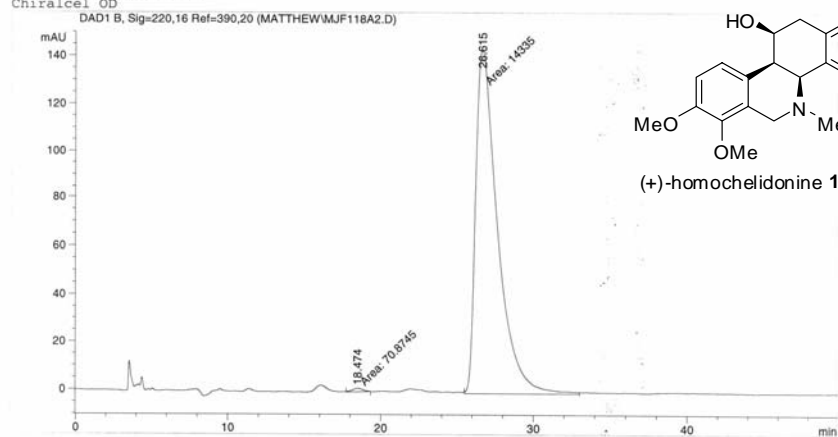


Signal 1: DAD1 B, Sig=220,16 Ref=390,20

Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	18.014	MM	0.8432	4792.89160	94.73311	50.3717
2	26.922	MM	1.6822	4722.15039	46.78588	49.6283

Totals : 9515.04199 141.51899

Hexane:iPrOH = 85:15
Flow = 1 mL/min at rt
Chiralcel OD



(+)-homochelidonine 1, 99% ee

Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	18.474	MM	0.8053	70.87447	1.46689	0.4920
2	26.615	MM	1.6575	1.43350e4	144.14319	99.5080

Totals : 1.44059e4 145.61007