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Comparison of fertilin $\beta$  peptide-substituted polymers and liposomes as inhibitors of in vitro fertilization

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### **Materials and Methods**

Amino acids and coupling agents used were purchased from Advanced Chem Tech. (Louisville, KY) or PerSeptive Biosystems (Framingham, MA). Solvents were obtained from Fisher Scientific Inc (Springfield, NJ), and Aldrich (Milwaukee, WI). C½(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Ru=CHPh was purchased from Fluka (Milwaukee, WI). CH<sub>2</sub>C½ was freshly distilled from CaH; CF<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH, CH<sub>3</sub>OH, and Et<sub>2</sub>O, were used without further purification. LiCl was oven-dried and stored over P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> before use. All reactions were carried out under an N<sub>2</sub> or Ar atmosphere in oven-dried glassware. Moisture and oxygen-sensitive reagents were handled in an N<sub>2</sub>-filled drybox. 5-Norbornene-*exo*-carboxylic acid was synthesized according to the literature.<sup>[1]</sup>

Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on precoated silica gel plates (60F<sub>254</sub>), and flash chromatography on silica gel-60 (230-400 mesh). TLC spots were detected by UV light and by staining with phosphomolybdic acid (PMA). Peptides were purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel-60. The purities of all peptide monomers were assessed by RP-HPLC using a Vydac C<sub>18</sub> column. Gradient elution was performed at 1 mL/min with acetonitrile and water (both containing TFA, 0.1%). The purity of the polymers was assessed by aqueous phase gel-filtration chromatography (BioSep-SEC-S2000) using 50 mM potassium, pH 7. Bruker AC-250, Gemini 2300, Inova500, and Inova600 MHz NMR spectrometers were used to perform NMR analysis, and spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> unless otherwise noted. Chemical shifts are quoted in parts per million (ppm) and <sup>1</sup>H NMR data are assumed to be first order.

### **Peptide synthesis**

General procedure for amino acid coupling. A typical amino acid coupling was carried out in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> with TBTU/HOBt (1.1 eq / 0.37 eq) and DIEA (1.6 eq). Each reaction was carried out under Ar at a final concentration of 0.7 M in the amine compound, and a 1.1-fold excess of the carboxylic acid component. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, washed with 1N HCl and 5 % NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, and the organic layer was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was rotary evaporated. The peptide was purified by flash chromatography eluting with 10 % acetone/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> or 20 % EtOAc/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

General procedure for Cbz hydrogenation. A methanolic solution of Cbz-protected peptide (0.3 M) and 10% Pd-C (0.05 eq) was stirred under an H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 2 h. The catalyst was removed by filtration and the amine used without further purification.

General procedure for Fmoc removal.<sup>[2]</sup> A solution of Fmoc-protected peptide in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 M), was treated with octanethiol (0.1 eq) and a catalytic amount of DBU (0.001 eq). The reaction was stirred at RT for 16 h. The solvent was concentrated and the product was purified by flash column chromatography eluting with a step gradient of ranging from 2 % to 50 % EtOAc/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>

### Peptide 1

Z-VT(tBu)-OMe. H-T(tBu)-OMe and Z-Val-OH were coupled and purified to yield 1.26 g (97 %) of Z-VT(tBu)-OMe.  $^{1}$ H- $^{1}$ NMR (250 MHz):  $\delta$  7.36 (m, 5H), 6.42 (d, J= 10.0, 1H), 5.49 (d, J= 7.5, 1H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 4.47 (dd, J= 8.8 and 1.3, 1H), 4.25 (m, 1H), 4.22 (m, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.12 (m, 1H), 1.15 (d, J= 5.0, 3H), 1.10 (s, 9H), 1.02 (d, J= 7.5, 3H), 0.97 (d, J= 5.0, 3H).

Z-D(tBu)VT(tBu)-OMe. Z-VT(tBu)-OMe was deprotected and coupled to Z-Asp (tBu)-OH to yield 0.822 g (98 %) of Z-D(tBu)VT(tBu)-OMe.  $^1H$ -NMR (250 MHz):  $\delta$  7.31 (m, 5H), 7.12 (d, J= 10.0, 1H), 6.40 (d, J= 10.0, 1H), 6.05 (d, J= 7.5, 1H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 4.55 (m, 1H), 4.43 (dd, J= 8.8 and 1.3, 1H), 4.33 (dd, J= 7.5 and 5.0, 1H), 4.20 (m, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.90 (dd, J= 17.0 and 5.0, 1H), 2.60 (dd, J= 17.5 and 5.0, 1H), 2.12 (m, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.13 (d, J= 7.5, 3H), 1.10 (s, 9H), 0.96 (d, J= 5.0, 3H), 0.93 (d, J= 5.0, 3H).

Fmoc-C(Trt)D(tBu)VT(tBu)-OMe. Z-D(tBu)VT(tBu)-OMe was deprotected and coupled to Fmoc-Cys(Trt)-OH to yield 0.873 g (95 %) of Fmoc-C(Trt)D(tBu)VT(tBu)-OMe.  $^{1}$ H-NMR (300 MHz): δ 7.74 (dd, J= 6.6 and 6.3, 2H), 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.43 (m, 7H), 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.25 (m, 13H), 7.13 (d, J= 8.7, 1H), 6.38 (d, J= 9.0, 1H), 4.96 (d, J= 6.0, 1H), 4.69 (m, 1H), 4.46 (dd, J= 8.7 and 1.3, 1H), 4.35 (d, J= 6.6, 2H), 4.22 (m, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.90 (dd, J= 17.1 and 4.1, 1H), 2.73 (m, 2H), 2.54 (dd, J= 17.3 and 6.2, 1H), 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.39 (s, 9H), 1.14 (d, J= 6.3, 3H), 1.10 (s, 9H), 0.90 (d, J= 6.9, 3H), 0.85 (d, J= 6.6, 3H).

Fmoc-E(tBu)C(Trt)D(tBu)VT(tBu)-OMe. Fmoc-C(Trt)D(tBu)VT(tBu)-OMe was deprotected and coupled to Fmoc-Glu(tBu)-OH to yield 0.660 g (95 %) of Fmoc-E(tBu)C(Trt)D(tBu)VT(tBu)-OMe. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz): δ 7.76 (d, J= 6.0, 2H), 7.59(m, 2H), 7.40 (m, 7H), 7.28 (m, 10H), 7.14 (m, 4H), 6.53 (d, J= 6.0,1H), 6.42 (d, J= 7.0, 1H), 6.03 (d, J= 6.3, 1H), 4.73 (m, 1H), 4.46 (dd, J= 9.3 and 5.0, 1H), 4.35 (m, 2H), 4.22 (m, 1H), 4.13 (m, 4H), 3.91 (m, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.81 (dd, J= 17 and 5.3, 1H), 2.62 (m, 3H), 2.38 (m, 3H), 2.08 (m, 2H), 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.13 (d, J= 6.3, 3H), 1.10 (s, 9H), 0.92 (d, J= 6.6, 3H), 0.88 (d, J= 6.9, 3H).

Norbornene-E(tBu)C(Trt)D(tBu)VT(tBu)-OMe 1. Fmoc-E(tBu)C(Trt)D(tBu)VT(tBu)-OMe was deprotected and coupled to 5-Norbornene-exo-carboxylic acid to yield 0.751 g (89 %) of norbornene-E(tBu)C(Trt)D(tBu)VT(tBu)-OMe, 1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.38 (m, 6H), 7.20 (m, 11H), 6.98 (dd, J= 8.1 and 6.3, 1H), 6.72 (dd, J= 7.2 and 3.3, 1H), 6.47 (dd, J= 9.0 and 2.7, 1H), 6.0 (m, 2H), 4.74 (m, 1H), 4.43 (dd, J= 8.7 and 1.8, 1H), 4.19 (m, 3H), 3.92 (m, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.78 (m, 5H), 2.49 (m, 2H), 2.27 (m, 1H), 2.02 (m, 3H), 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.41 (d, J= 4.5, 9H), 1.39 (s, 9H), 1.24 (m, 2H), 1.11 (d, J= 6.3, 3H), 1.07 (s, 9H), 0.90 (d, J= 6.6, 3H), 0.87 (d, J= 6.9, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C (250 MHz) δ 18.04, 19.01, 20.82, 26.41, 27.97, 28.26, 30.44, 30.54, 30.77, 32.22, 32.96, 33.05, 36.72, 41.48, 44.39, 46.33, 46.98, 49.72, 51.97, 52.51, 52.61, 54.15, 57.73, 58.86, 73.95, 81.19, 81.31, 126.83, 128.02, 129.45, 135.87, 138.07, 144.15, 169.33, 169.96, 170.56, 170.76, 171.00, 171.36, 173.66, 176.73. MALDI, calcd for (MNa)<sup>+</sup>1132.89, found 1133.96. HPLC purity was 98 %.

## Peptide 2

*Z-VD(tBu)-OMe*. Asp(tBu)-OMe and Z-Val-OH were coupled and purified to yield 0.800 g (97 %) of Z-VD(tBu)-OMe. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz): δ 7.39 (m, 5H), 6.83 (d, J=8.7, 1H), 5.45 (d, J=8.4, 1H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 4.86 (m, 1H), 4.11 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.03 (dd, J=17.1 and 4.2, 1H), 2.74 (dd, J=17.1 and 4.2, 1H), 2.21 (m, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.04 (d, J=6.6, 3H), 0.98 (d, J=6.9, 3H).

Z-E(tBu)VD(tBu)-OMe. Z-VD(tBu)-OMe was deprotected and coupled to Z-Glu(tBu)-OH to yield 0.751 g (98 %) of Z-E(tBu)VD(tBu)-OMe.  $^{1}$ H-NMR (300 MHz):  $\delta$  7.35 (m, 5H), 7.10 (d, J=8.4, 1H), 7.00 (d, J=8.7, 1H), 5.87 (d, J=7.5, 1H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 4.85 (m, 1H), 4.35 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.96 (dd, J=17.0 and 4.8, 1H), 2.73 (dd, J=17.0 and 4.4, 1H), 2.42 (m, 2H), 2.15 (m, 2H), 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 0.99 (d, J=6.9, 3H), 0.97 (d, J=6.9, 3H).

Z-T(tBu)E(tBu)VD(tBu)-OMe. Z-E(tBu)VD(tBu)-OMe was deprotected and coupled to Z-Thr(tBu)-OH to yield 0.702 g (96 %) of Z-T(tBu)E(tBu)VD(tBu)-OMe. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz): δ 7.76 (d, J= 7.5, 1H), 7.35 (m, 5H), 6.99 (d, J=8.0, 1H), 6.88 (d, J=8.5, 1H), 5.90 (d, J=5.5, 1H), 5.15 (d, J=12.5, 1H), 5.10 (d, J=12.0, 1H), 4.82 (dt, J=9.0 and 4.5, 1H), 4.42 (dd, J=13.3 and 7.3, 1H), 4.28 (dd, J=8.3 and 5.8, 1H), 4.19 (bs, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.93 (dd, J=16.8 and 4.8, 1H), 2.72 (dd, J=17.0 and 5.0, 1H), 2.43 (m, 1H), 2.36 (m, 1H), 2.23 (m, 1H), 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.44 (s, 9H), 1.28 (s, 9H) 1.08 (d, J=6.5, 3H), 0.98 (d, J=8.0, 3H), 0.96 (d, J=7.0, 3H).

*H-C(Trt)T(TBu)E(tBu)VD(tBu)-OMe*. Z-T(tBu)E(tBu)VD(tBu)-OMe was deprotected and coupled to Fmoc-Cys(Trt)-OH. The Fmoc protecting group was then removed to yield 0.470 g (92 %) of H-C(Trt)T(TBu)E(tBu)VD(tBu)-OMe. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz): δ 7.81 (d, J= 6.3, 1H), 7.69(d, J= 7.4, 1H), 7.45 (m, 6H), 7.23 (m, 9H), 6.99 (d, J= 8.4, 1H), 6.90 (d, J= 8.4, 1H), 4.81 (dt, J= 8.9 and 4.7, 1H), 4.37 (dd, J= 12.9 and 7.7, 1H), 4.23 (m, 2H), 4.11 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.70 (m, 2H), 2.34 (m, 4H), 2.24 (m, 2H), 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.42 (s, 18H), 1.24 (s, 9H), 0.97 (d, J= 6.6, 3H), 0.95 (d, J= 6.7, 3H).

Norbornene-C(Trt)T(tBu)E(tBu)VD(tBu)-OMe 2. H-C(Trt)T(TBu)E(tBu)VD(tBu)-OMe was coupled to 5-norbornene-exo-carboxylic acid to yield 0.400 g (90 %) of norbornene-C(Trt)T(tBu)E(tBu)VD(tBu)-

OMe, **2**. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600 MHz): δ 7.42 (m, 6H), 7.30 (m, 6H), 7.25 (m, 4H), 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.89 (d, J= 6.6, 1H), 6.13 (m, 2H), 5.67(d, J= 4.8, 1H), 4.82 (m, 1H), 4.37 (m, 1H), 4.27 (m, 2H), 4.13 (m, 1H), 4.00 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.87(m, 2H), 2.76 (m, 2H), 2.66 (m, 1H), 2.33 (m, 3H), 2.14 (m, 1H), 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.83 (d, J= 12.0 and 3.3, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.27 (m, 2H), 1.17 (s, 9H), 1.07 (d, J= 6.6, 3H), 0.95 (d, J= 6.6, 3H), 0.93 (d, J= 6.6, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C (250 MHz) δ 17.68, 19.05, 19.87, 26.11, 26.51, 27.27, 27.99, 28.44, 30.45, 30.67, 31.90, 33.96, 37.18, 38.54, 41.54, 44.39, 46.21, 47.06, 47.67, 48.53, 49.26, 51.02, 52.47, 52.59, 58.55, 65.39, 66.67, 67.65, 68.05, 74.32, 80.77, 81.73, 126.79, 127.92, 129.39, 135.84, 138.24, 144.23, 169.98, 170.44, 170.59, 170.98, 171.12, 172.58, 175.02, 175.05. MALDI, calcd for (MNa)<sup>+</sup>1132.89, found 1133.96. HPLC purity was 96 %.

## Norbornyl oligopeptide polymers

General polymerization procedure. Catalyst C½(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Ru=CHPh was weighed in an N<sub>2</sub>-filled drybox and dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>OH (3/1) to give a typical concentration of 0.03 M. Monomers were each dissolved in a minimum amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>OH (3/1) and LiCl (6 M) was added to the mixture. The desired portion of catalyst was added via syringe to the reaction bottle under an inert atmosphere. A typical reaction was carried out at an initial monomer concentration of 0.2 to 0.3 M. The reaction was stirred at RT for 3 to 4 h before quenching with ethyl vinyl ether and stirring for an additional 30 min. The solvent was removed and the product was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O. Polymers were dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and precipitated with cold Et<sub>2</sub>O. Product was isolated by centrifugation and dried under vacuum in the presence of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

General deprotection and reduction procedure. Polymers were deprotected in a cocktail containing H<sub>2</sub>O, TIS and TFA (2.5, 2.5, 95) for 5 h. The reaction mixtures were concentrated with N<sub>2</sub> and precipitated in cold Et<sub>2</sub>O and centrifuged. Polymers were dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O at pH 6 and reduced with excess TCEP for 5 h with stirring at 37 C. Pure deprotected product was isolated by precipitation with 1

N HCl. Excess TCEP was removed by repeated washing with H<sub>2</sub>O. A gray white solid was collected, dried and stored at -20 C.

Polymer 3. Yield 22 mg (80 %)  $^{1}$ H-NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.26 (m), 6.1 (m), 5.30 (bs), 4.40 – 4.00 (with max. at 4.42, 4.28, 4.13), 3.44 – 3.36 (with max. at 3.64, 3.57), 3.10 (bs), 2.85 (bs), 2.24 -2.74 (with max. at 2.58, 2.46, 2.38), 1.42 – 2.21 (with max. at 2.07, 1.90, 1.78, 1.58), 0.94 – 1.41 (with max. at 1.27, 1.19, 1.09), 0.83 (s). GFC purity was 96 %.

Polymer **4**. Yield 16 mg (77 %)  $^{1}$ H-NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O, 600 MHz) δ 7.20(m), 5.34 (bs), 4.67 (bs), 4.54 (bs), 3.96 – 4.20 (with max. at 4.10, 4.09, 4.00), 3.50 – 3.61 (with max. at 3.63, 3.58), 3.21 (s), 2.82 (bs), 2.58 (bs), 2.47 (bs), 1.40 - 2.20 (with max. at 2.17, 1.90, 1.78, 1.57), 0.97 – 1.40 (with max. at 1.26, 1.18, 1.08), 0.82 (s). GFC purity was 98 %.

## In vitro fertilization assay

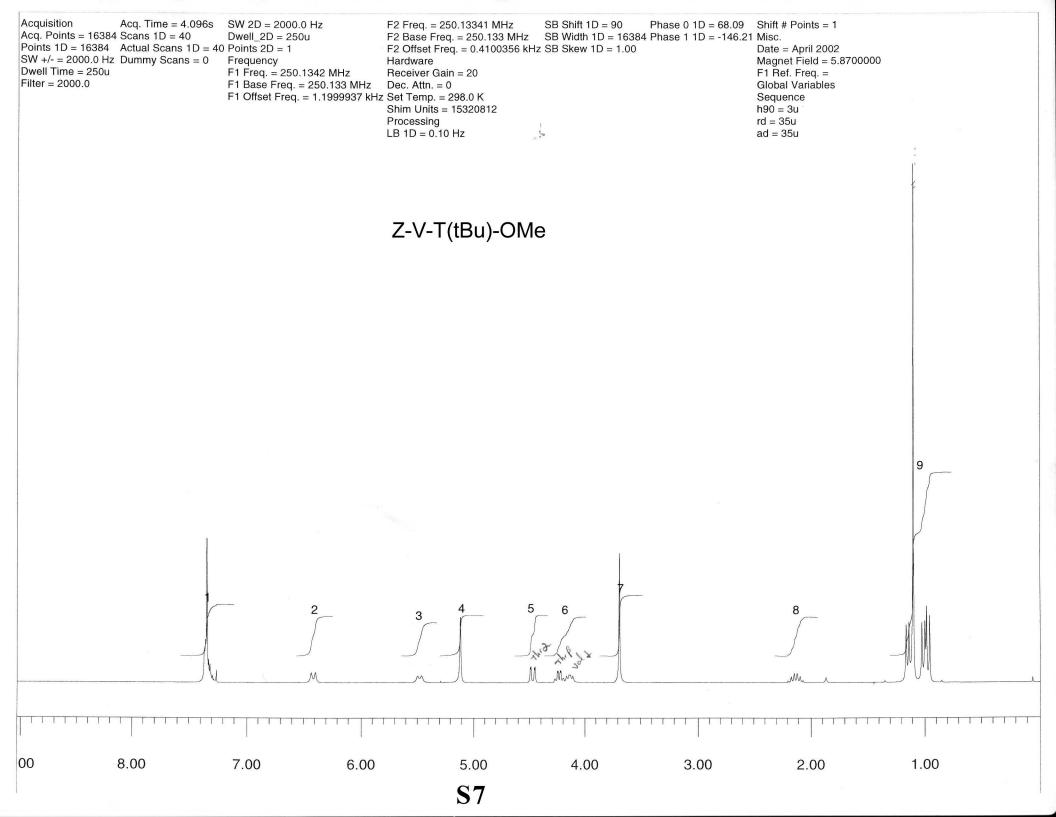
Eggs and sperm were isolated from ICR (Taconic farms) or CD-1 (Charles River Laboratories) mice as described in Yuan et al.<sup>[3]</sup> Zona pellucida were removed by treatment with acid Tyrode's solution for 30 sec and recovered at 37 °C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 1 h. Zona-free eggs were loaded with Hoechst 33342 (1 μg/mL) for 30 min and washed through six drops of M16 medium (0.5% BSA). Eggs (20-30/40 μL) were incubated with peptide in M16 medium (3% BSA) for 45 min and then sperm were added (5 x 10<sup>4</sup>/mL). After 45 min the eggs were washed in M16 medium (3% BSA) and mounted onto microscope slides. Fusion was scored by fluorescent labeling of sperm nuclei by Hoechst 33342 present in preloaded eggs. 3-7 experiments per peptide were performed and 25-100 eggs per peptide were used. A DAPI (465 nm) cutoff filter was used for fluorescence microscopy.

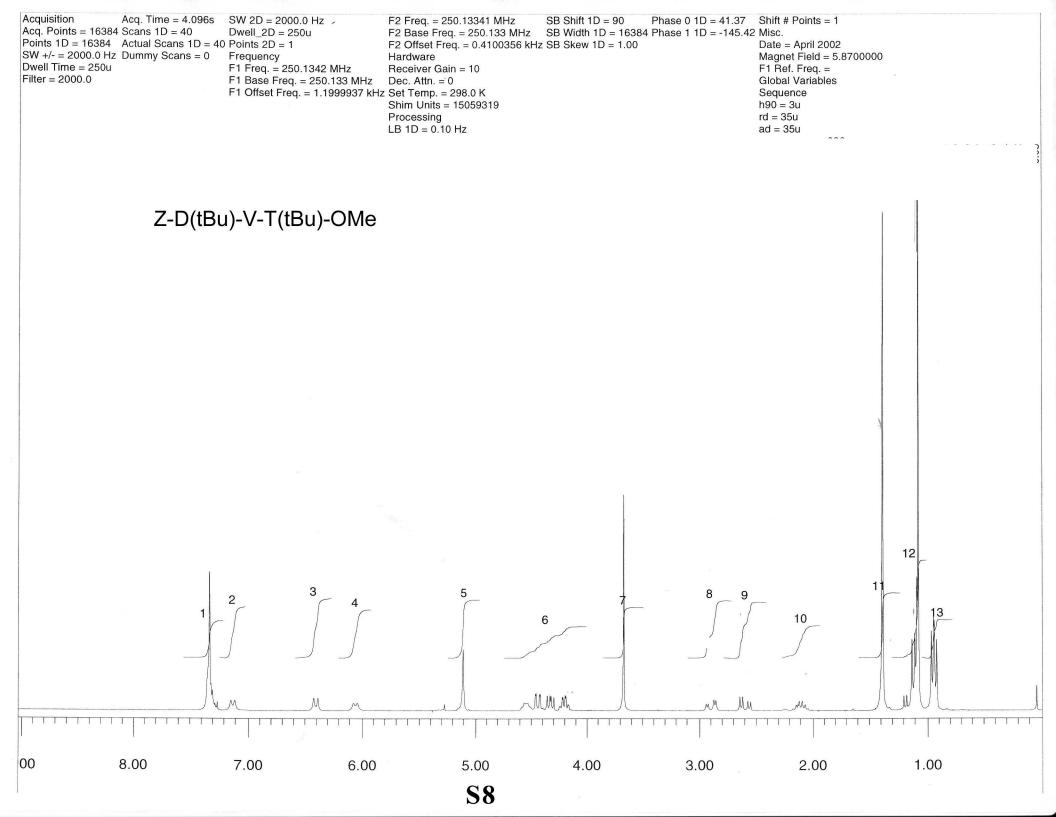
#### References

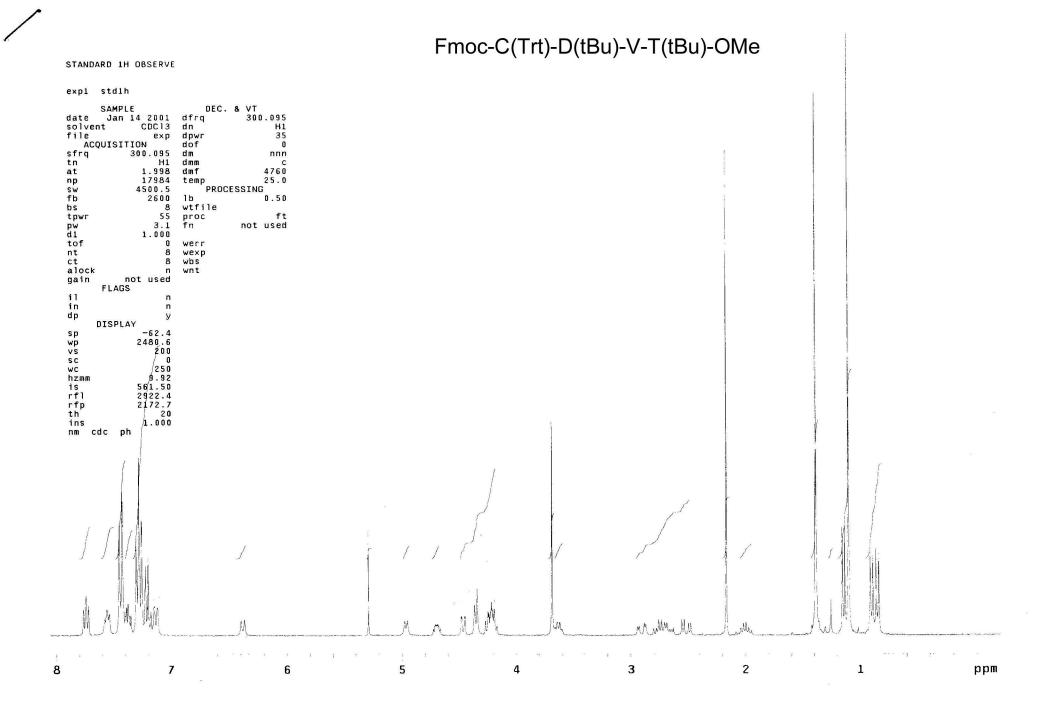
<sup>[1]</sup> Manning, D.D.; Strong, L.E.; Hu, X.; Beck, P.J.; Kiessling, L.L. *Tetrahedron* **1997**, *53*, 11937.

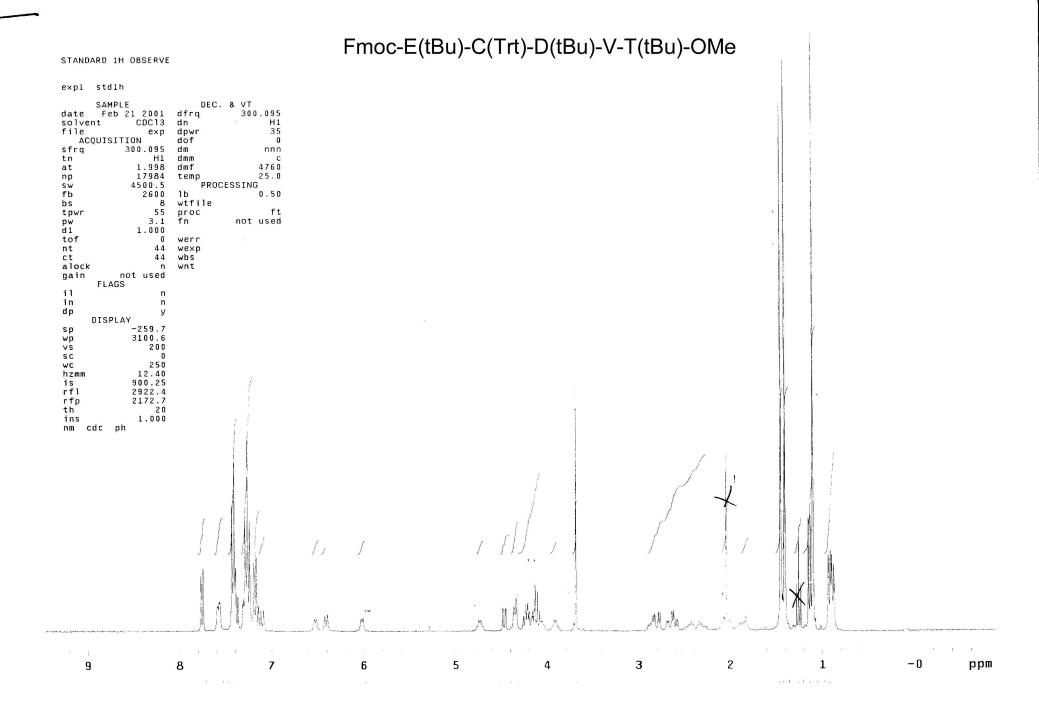
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>[2]</sup>Sheppek, J.E.; Kar, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2000**, *41*, 5329.

<sup>[3]</sup> Yuan, R.; Primakoff, P.; Myles, D. G. J. Cell. Biol. 1997, 137, 105.

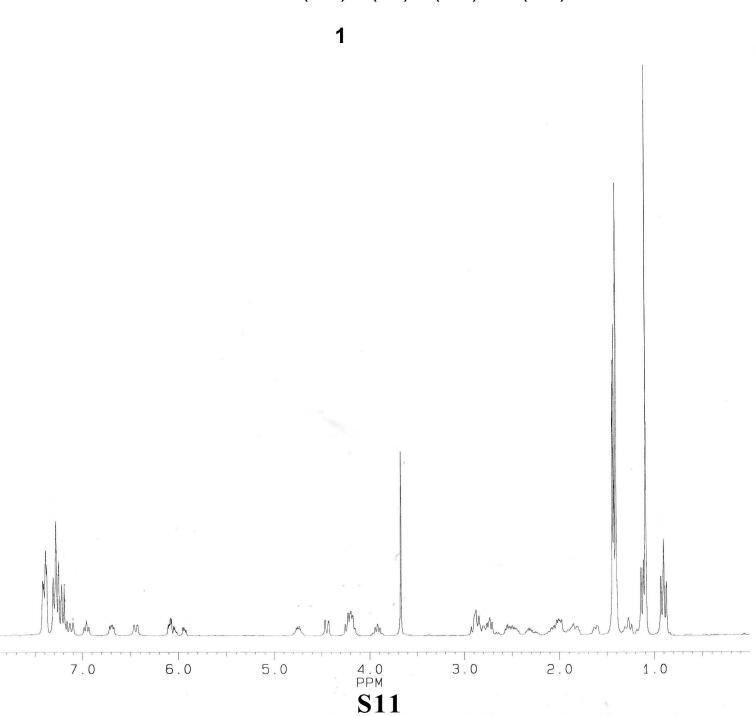








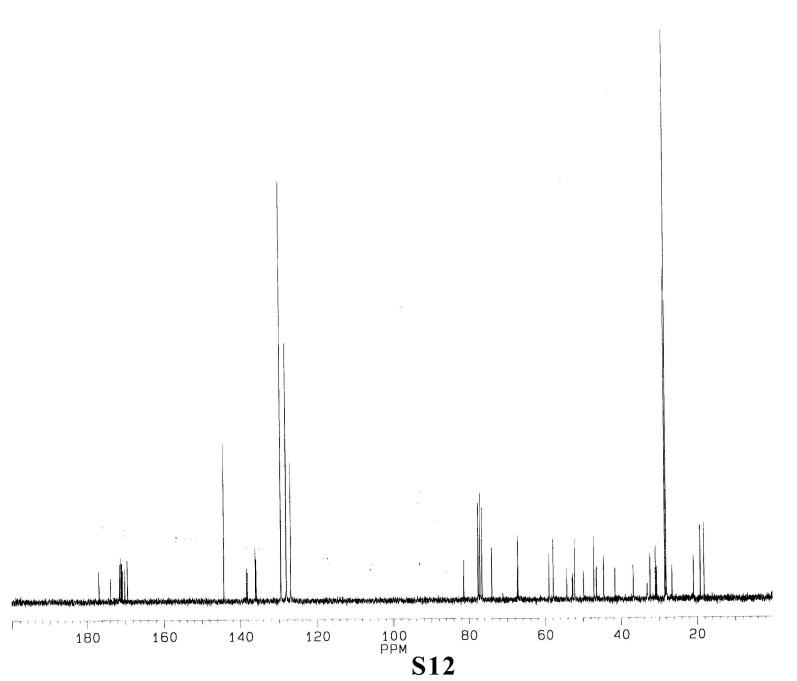
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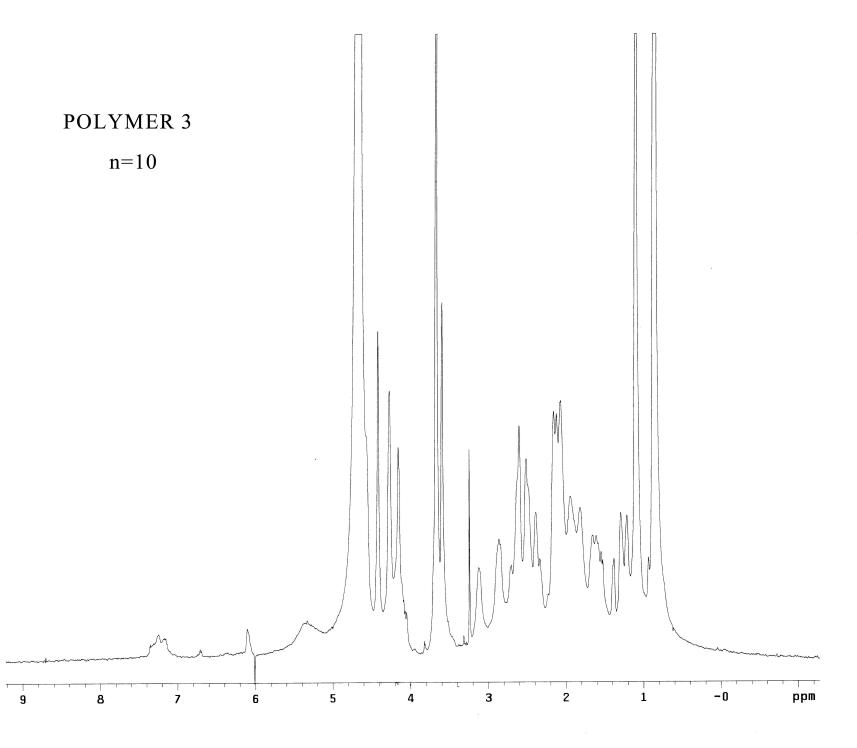


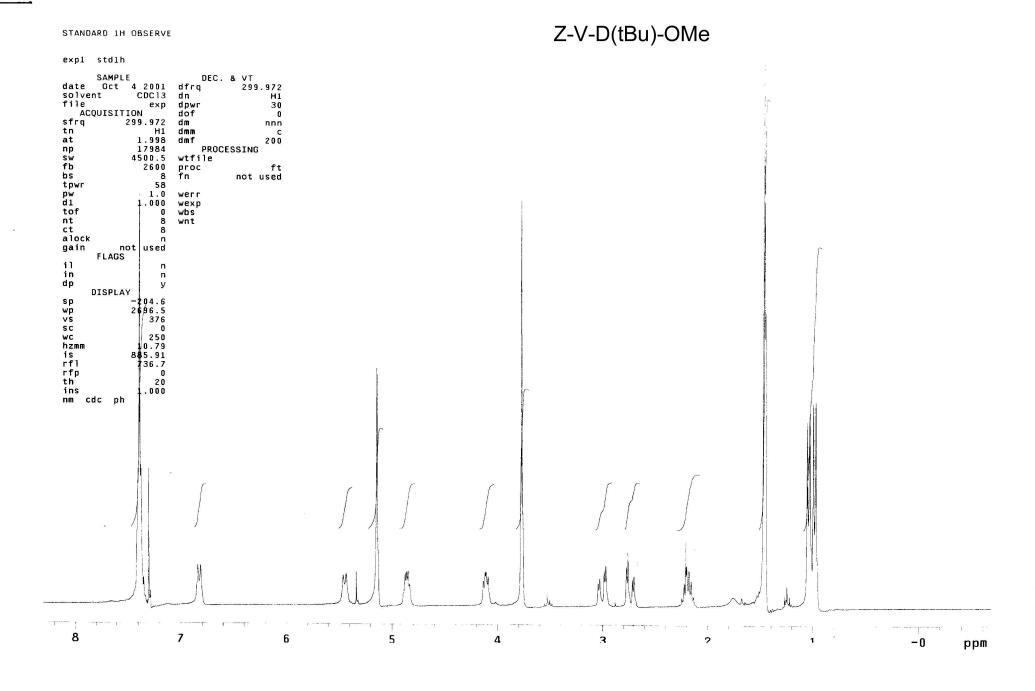
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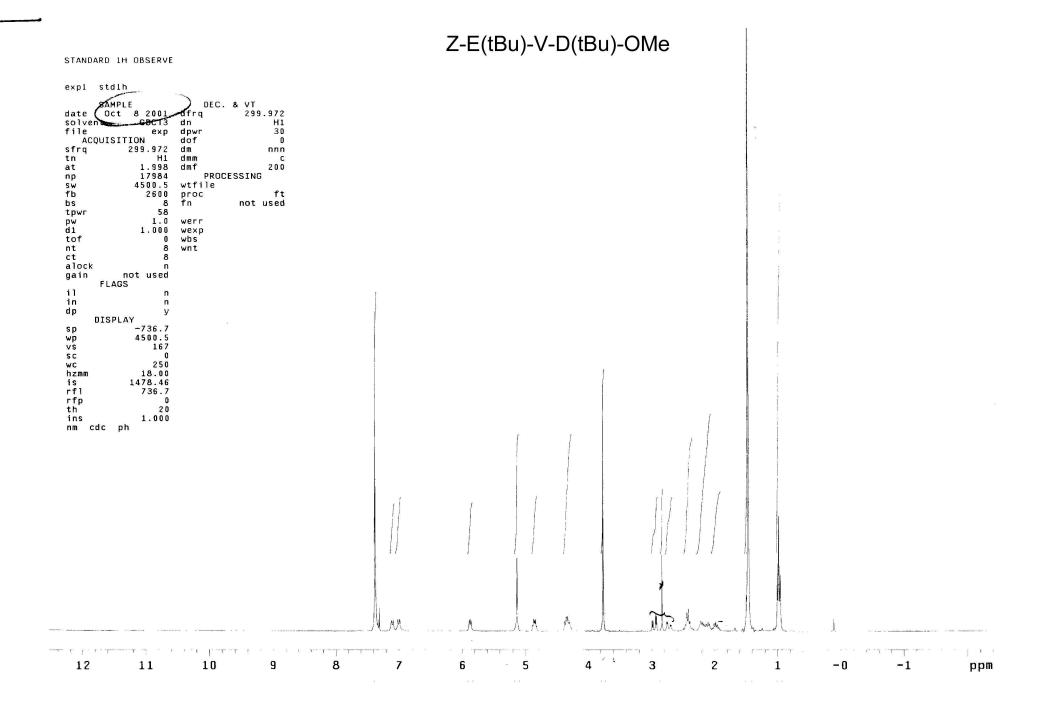
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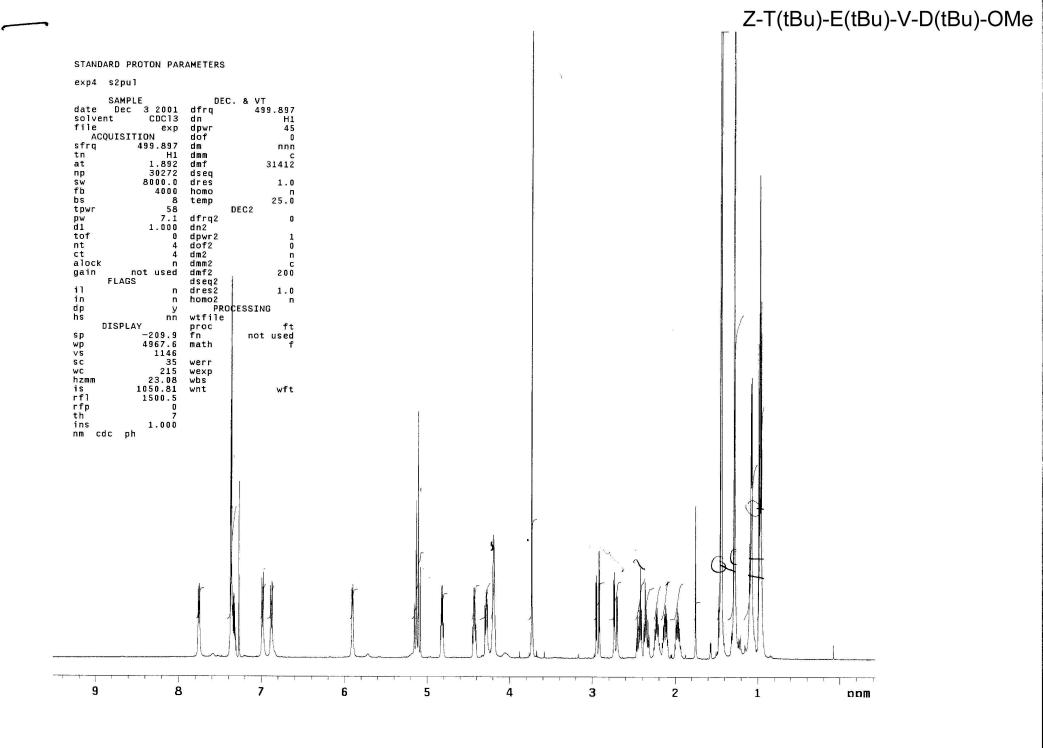


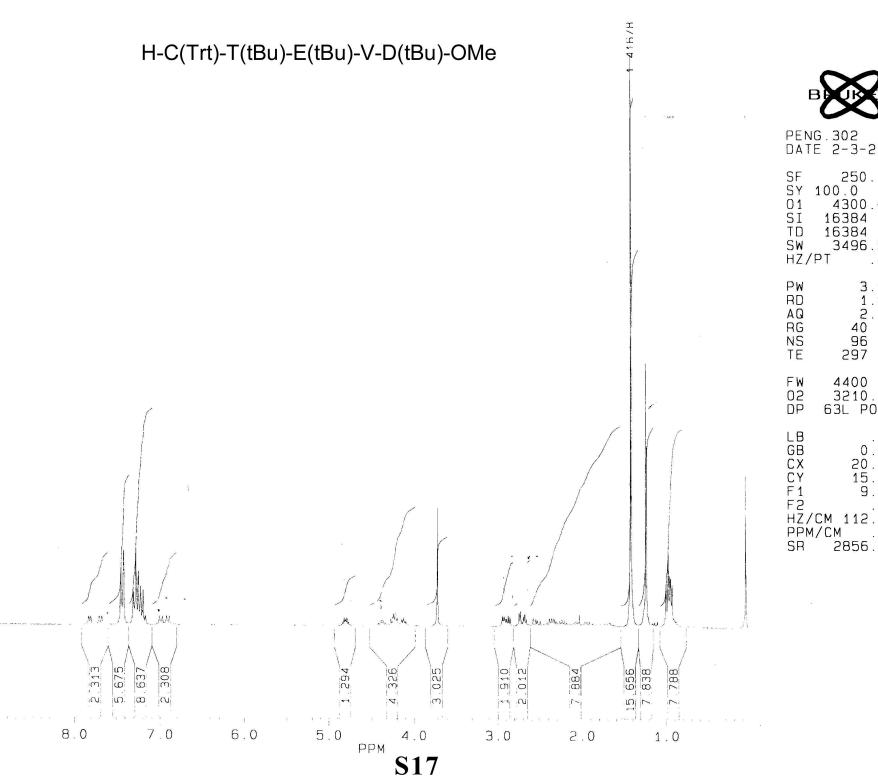
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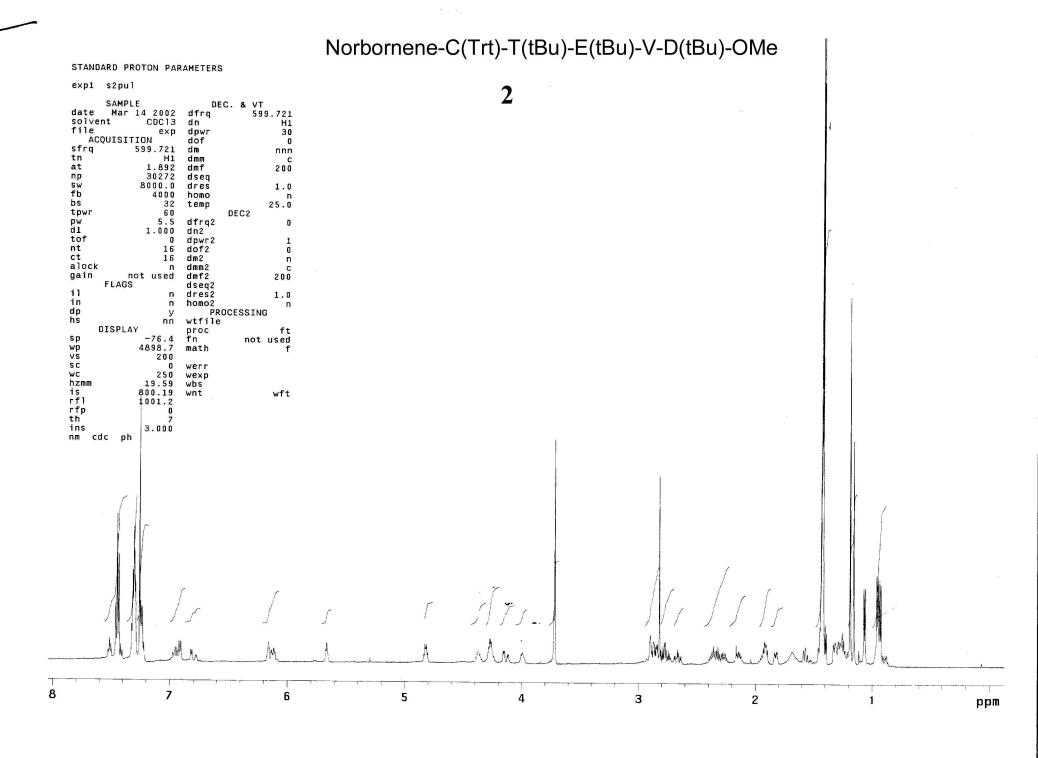








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# Norbornene-C(Trt)-T(tBu)-E(tBu)-V-D(tBu)-OMe

