

# Supporting information.

## C-N bond formation between alcohols and amines using an iron cyclopentadienone catalyst

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### General Procedure for the alkylation of amines with alcohols.

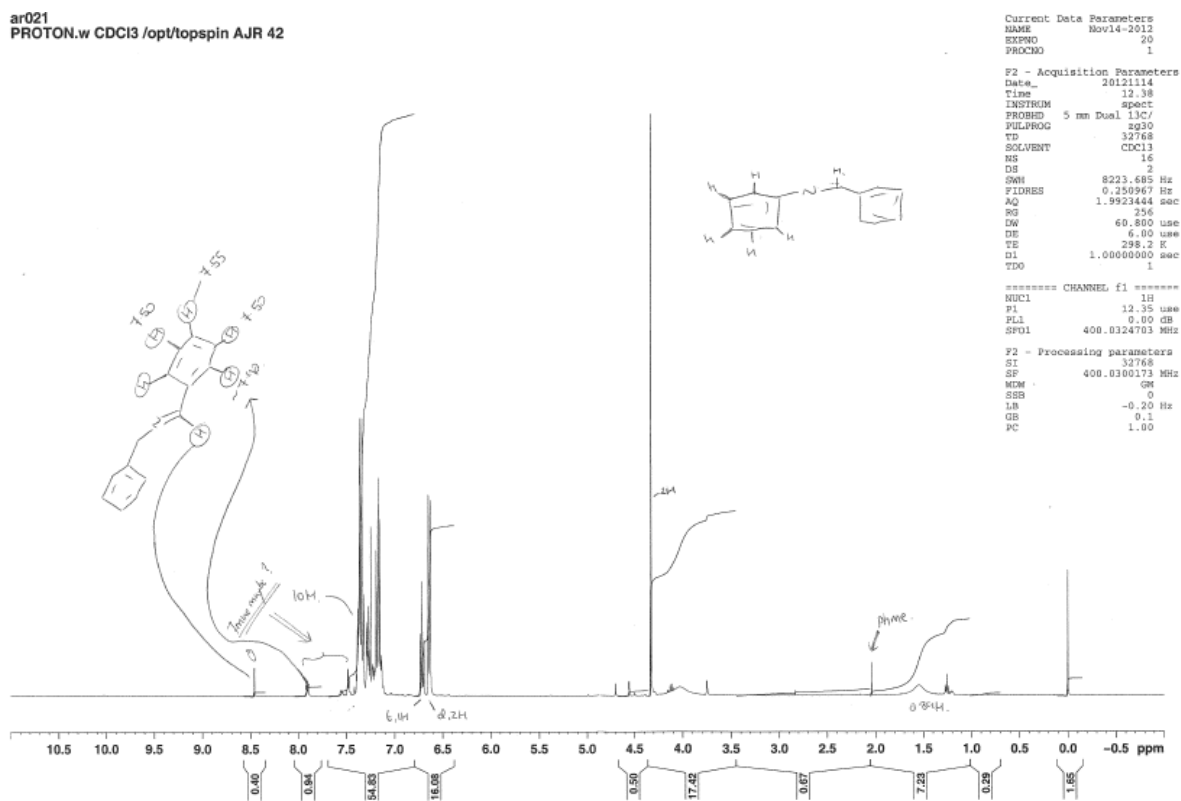
A typical procedure is as follows: Aniline **6** (0.069 mL, 0.76 mmol), benzyl alcohol **5** (0.157 mL, 1.52 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were placed in a pressure tube which was flushed with nitrogen. Degassed toluene or xylene (0.40 mL) was added and the pressure tube was sealed and heated at 110 °C (in toluene) or 140 °C (in xylene) for the time indicated. At the end of this time, an additional excess of trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate was added and reacted for a further 0.5 hours. The mixture was then filtered through celite using 100% EtOAc and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. For the data in Table 1, the conversion was determined by GC (details are given below). In representative examples, the solvent was removed under vacuum and the mass balance was confirmed to match that expected. In addition, the ratio of reagents/products was confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR in order to calibrate the GC result. In cases where compounds were isolated, the purification methods and yields are as described below for each product.

For the data in Table 1, conversion was determined by chiral GC analysis: Chrompac cyclodextrin-β-236M-19, 50 m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 μM, start T = 140 °C, 10 min, 5 °C /min, end T=180 °C, 40 min (AR035). P = 15 psi H<sub>2</sub>, det = FID 220 °C, inj = 220 °C, aniline 5.8 min, benzyl alcohol 7.9 min, imine 31.2 min, amine 39.9 min. The retention times of aniline, benzyl alcohol and other starting materials were established by running these independently. The retention time of the imine formed between benzaldehyde and aniline was established through the preparation of an authentic standard (described below).

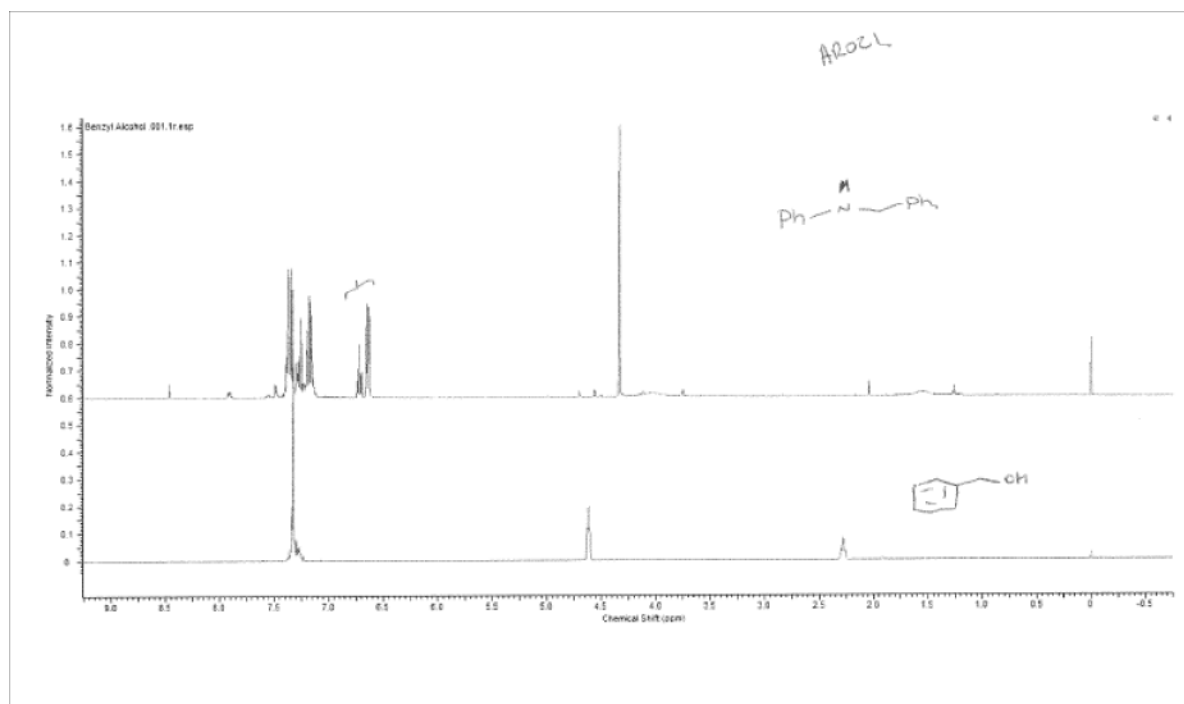
For example in Table 1 entry 14 (AR021) the reaction was carried out using aniline (0.070 mL, 0.76 mmol), benzyl alcohol (0.078 mL, 0.76 mmol), iron catalyst **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) and trimethylamine *N*-oxide dehydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol). The recovered mass after filtration of the decomposed iron catalysts was 119 mg, indicating that product volatility is not significant (this was also confirmed in the isolated product yields). The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of the crude mixture shows the required product to be the major component (90% conversion) of the mixture along with imine (8%) visible as indicated (this were confirmed by the synthesis of an authentic sample of imine as described in a later section). The ratio of aniline:imine:product amine was then directly measured by GC. As the alcohol was generally used in excess, it was not necessary to calibrate this in the GC measurement.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR of the crude product from Table 1, entry 14, with imine peaks highlighted. There is a trace of benzyl alcohol (s from  $\text{CH}_2$  at ca  $\delta 4.6$ ):

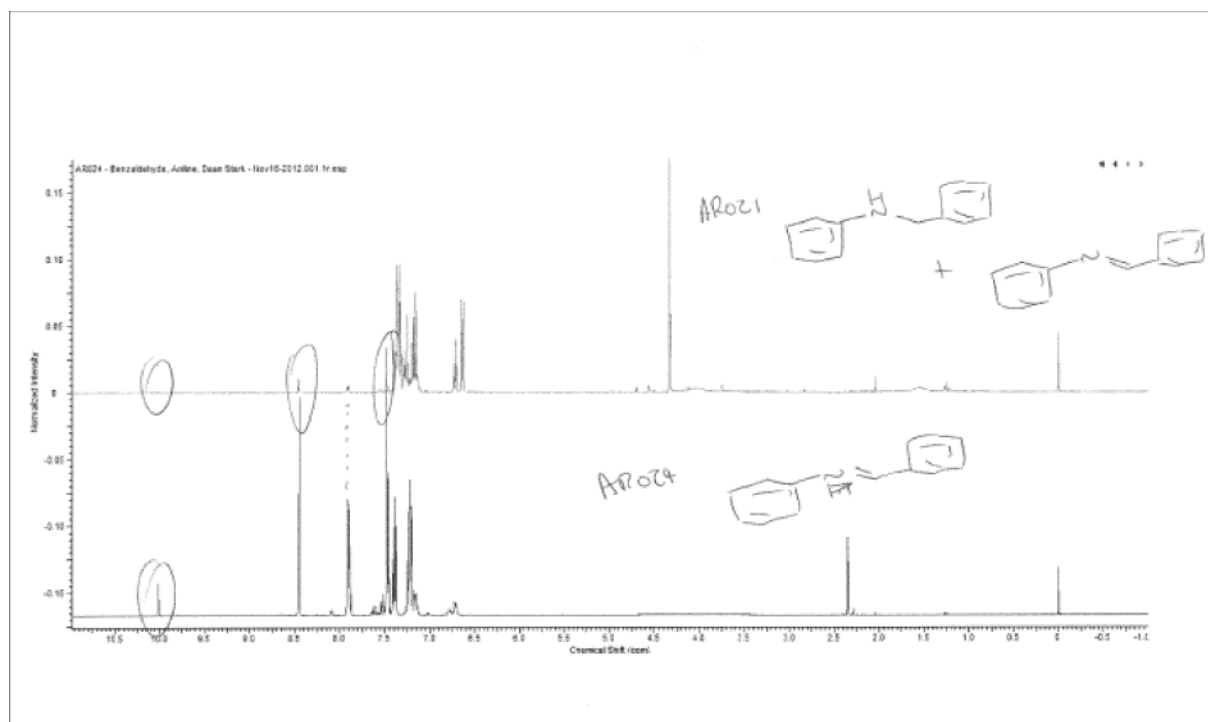
ar021  
PROTON.w CDCI3 /opt/topspin AJR 42



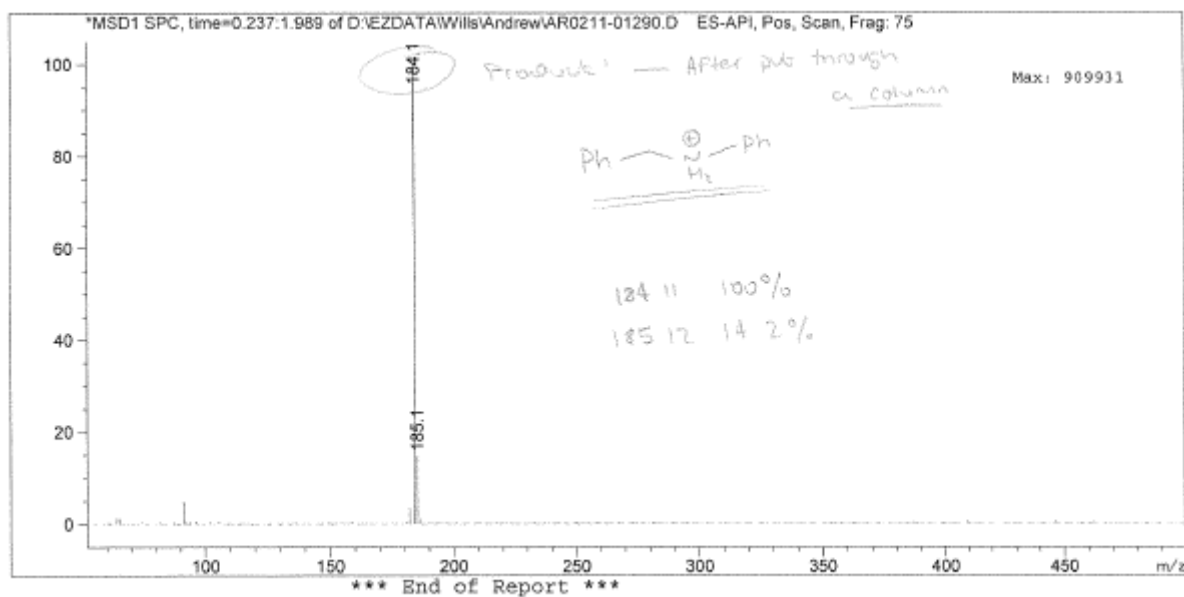
Overlay of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR with benzyl alcohol  $^1\text{H}$  NMR to identify peaks:



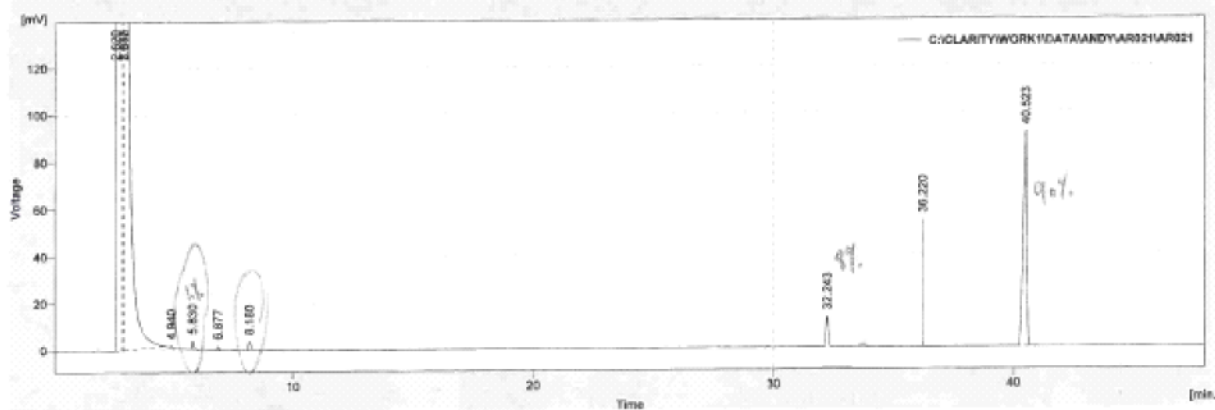
Overlay of product  $^1\text{H}$  NMR with imine  $^1\text{H}$  NMR to identify peaks (there is some benzaldehyde in the imine standard – see later section for synthesis of a standard):



Mass spectrum of **7** from reaction in Table 1 entry 14:



GC of the crude product from Table 1, entry 14, with conversions to product (40.5 min) and imine (32.2 min) indicated. There is a trace of aniline at 5.83 min and alcohol at 6.16 min:



Result Table (Uncal - C:\CLARITY\WORK\DATA\AND\VAR021\VAR021)

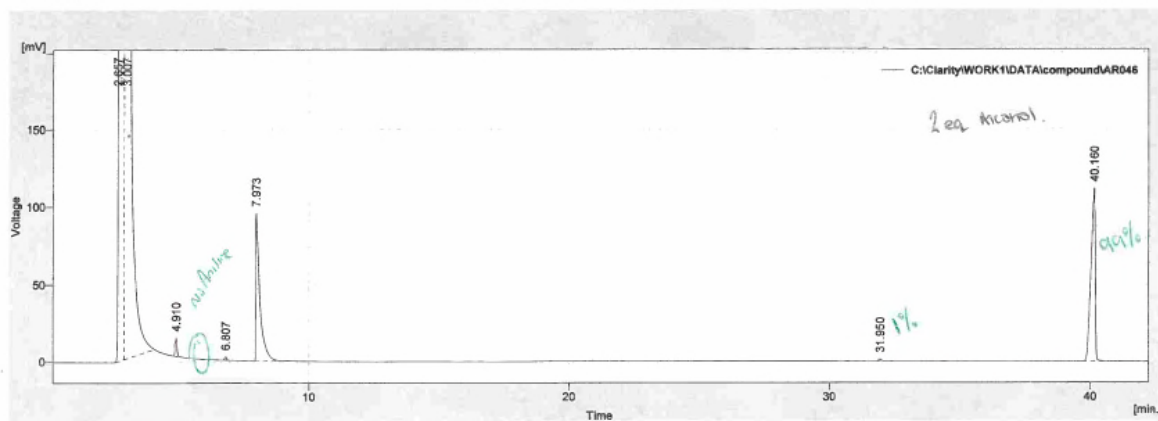
	Reten. Time [min]	Area [mV.s]	Height [mV]	Area [%]	Height [%]	W05 [min]
1	2.520	20949.288	1250.355	62.4	40.4	0.28
2	2.937	2761.044	762.516	8.2	24.7	0.07
3	3.010	8713.715	812.638	25.9	29.5	0.14
4	4.940	3.300	0.494	9.824e-03	1.998e-02	0.10
5	5.830	22.486	3.509	0.1	0.1	0.11
6	6.877	0.700	1.588	2.885e-02	0.1	0.10
7	8.180	26.614	3.585	0.1	0.1	0.12
8	32.243	82.111	12.942	0.3	0.4	0.12
9	36.220	11.343	54.099	3.377e-02	1.7	0.01
10	40.523	1562.604	81.252	3.0	3.0	0.18
Total		33992.478	3062.977	100.0	100.0	

Re-processed.

### Other runs from Table 1.

GC spectrum of crude product following filtration of the reaction in Table 1, entry 1 (AR046)

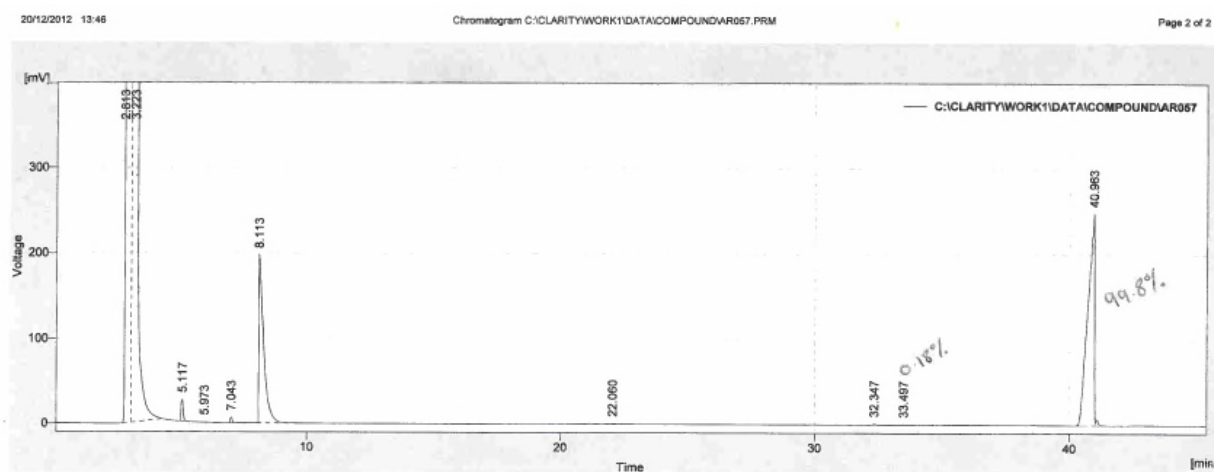
- note BnOH is visible as it was used in excess, but aniline is not:



Result Table (Uncal - C:\Clarity\WORK\1\DATA\compound\AR046)

	Reten. Time [min]	Area [mV.s]	Height [mV]	Area [%]	Height [%]	W05 [min]
1	2.857	17631.099	1249.814	55.4	51.2	0.25
2	3.007	11764.775	968.334	37.0	38.7	0.20
3	4.910	63.589	12.174	0.2	0.5	0.08
4	6.807	11.622	2.188	3.651e-02	0.1	0.09
5	7.973	1063.665	95.209	3.3	3.9	0.15
6	31.950	9.862	1.397	3.098e-02	0.1	0.11
7	40.160	1290.520	111.463	4.1	4.5	0.19
Total		31835.131	2440.579	100.0	100.0	

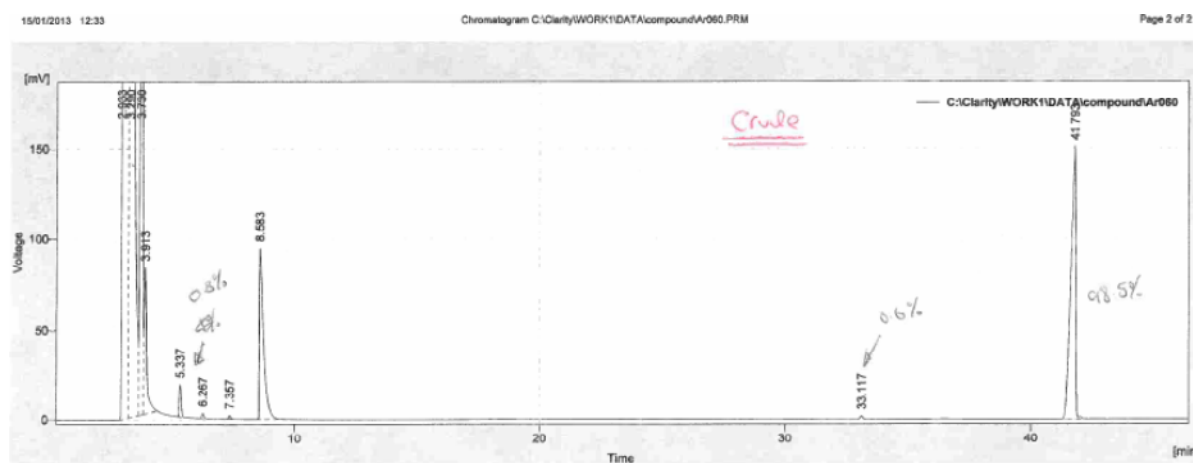
GC spectrum of crude product following filtration of reaction in Table 1, entry 2 (AR057) - note BnOH is visible (8.13 min) as it was used in excess and a very small trace of aniline (5.97 min., < 0.04%) may be present:



Result Table (Uncal - C:\CLARITY\WORK1\DATA\COMPOUND\AR057)

	Reten. Time [min]	Area [mV.s]	Height [mV]	Area [%]	Height [%]	W05 [min]
1	2.813	19195.408	1249.742	48.1	42.4	0.26
2	3.223	13198.407	1214.810	33.1	41.2	0.16
3	5.117	147.790	25.977	0.4	0.9	0.09
4	5.973	1.428	0.220	3.580e-03	7.478e-03	0.10
5	7.043	34.507	6.497	0.1	0.2	0.09
6	8.113	2648.141	196.917	6.6	6.7	0.20
7	22.060	26.232	0.738	0.1	2.505e-02	0.37
8	32.347	8.151	1.122	2.043e-02	3.809e-02	0.11
9	33.487	3.467	0.446	8.891e-03	1.515e-02	0.13
10	40.963	4595.836	248.151	11.5	8.4	0.31
11	51.900	29.967	0.883	0.1	2.986e-02	0.29
Total		39889.333	2945.503	100.0	100.0	

GC spectrum of crude product following filtration of reaction in Table 1, entry 16 (AR060) - note BnOH is visible as it was used in excess, as is a trace of aniline (0.8 %):



Result Table (Uncal - C:\CLARITY\WORK1\DATA\compound\Ar060)

	Reten. Time [min]	Area [mV.s]	Height [mV]	Area [%]	Height [%]	W05 [min]
2	3.290	7521.332	598.576	46.4	35.4	0.20
3	3.730	4633.962	742.807	29.6	43.9	0.11
4	3.913	653.942	81.016	4.0	4.6	0.13
5	5.337	107.319	18.136	0.7	1.1	0.10
6	6.267	18.298	2.984	0.1	0.2	0.10
7	7.357	11.464	1.935	0.1	0.1	0.10
8	8.583	1110.480	94.808	6.8	5.6	0.17
9	33.117	13.198	1.690	0.1	0.1	0.12
10	41.793	2146.808	151.222	13.2	8.9	0.24
Total		16216.800	1693.155	100.0	100.0	

**Table 1 is reproduced below with experiment numbers which provided the data:**

Entry	Reaction code	mol % <b>1</b>	equiv <b>5</b>	temp / °C	T /h	convn /%	imine/ %	N <sub>2</sub> or Ar
1	046	10	2.0	110	48	99.0	1	Ar
2	057	10	2.0	110	48	99.8	0.2	N <sub>2</sub>
3	051	10	2.5	110	48	99.5	0.5	Ar
4	048	10	3.0	110	48	99.6	0.3	Ar
5	052	10	5.0	110	48	99.7	0.3	Ar
6	045	10	1.8	110	48	99	1	Ar
7	044	10	1.6	110	48	89	6	Ar
8	040	10	1.5	110	48	97	3	Ar
9	149	10	1.5	110	48	95	5	N <sub>2</sub>
10	035	10	1.3	110	48	81	7	N <sub>2</sub>
11	034	10	1.2	110	48	88	8	N <sub>2</sub>
12	036	10	1.1	110	48	78	7	Ar
13	033	10	1.1	110	48	89	8	N <sub>2</sub>
14	021	10	1.0	110	48	90	8	N <sub>2</sub>
15	162	10	2.0	110	24	94.4	0.3	Ar
16	060	10	2.0	140 <sup>b</sup>	24	98.6	0.6	N <sub>2</sub>
17	083	10	2.0	140 <sup>b,c</sup>	48	96	2	N <sub>2</sub>
18	028	15	2.0	110	48	98.8	0.2	N <sub>2</sub>
19	056	5	2.0	110	48	90.5	0.4	Ar
20	037	2	1.1	110	48	52	5	Ar
21	038	2	1.1	110	48	21	2	Ar

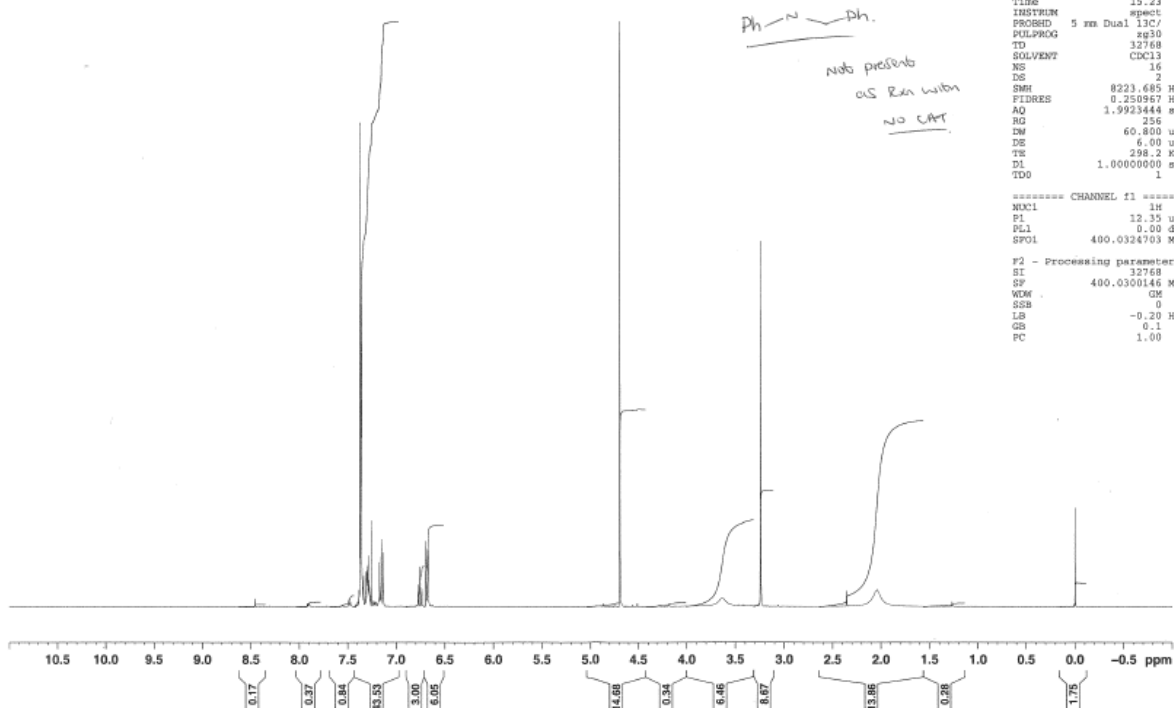
a. 1.0 equiv aniline, 1 eq Me<sub>3</sub>NO relative to Fe complex, [aniline] = 0.5 M, b. conducted in xylene. c. Catalyst was first formed in situ by combination of dicyclopentadiene and Fe(CO)<sub>5</sub> then addition of aniline and benzylalcohol. Conversion by mass recovery and GC ratio, calibrated.

### **Control reactions:**

#### **Reaction without catalyst (AR014).**

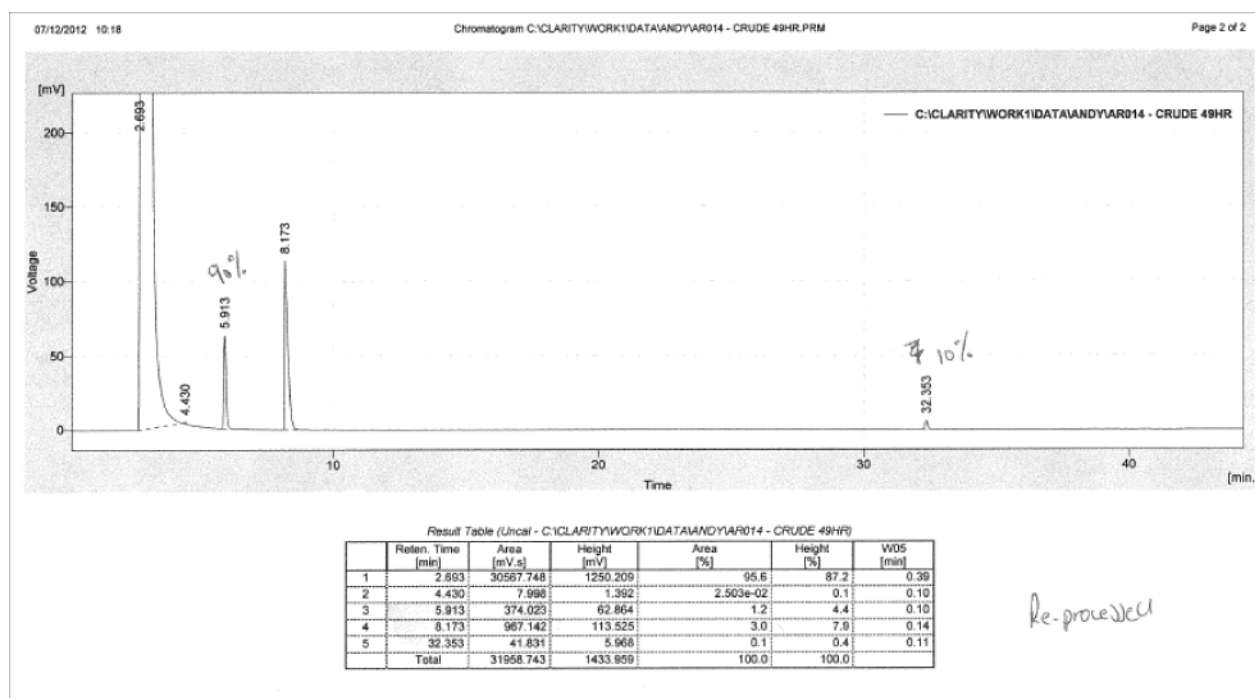
Aniline (0.091 mL, 1.0 mmol), benzyl alcohol (0.103 mL, 1.0 mmol) and trimethylamine N-oxide dihydrate (11.1 mg, 0.10 mmol) were combined in degassed toluene (0.5 mL) in a nitrogen-flushed pressure tube which was heated to 110 °C for 48h. At the end of this the reaction was allowed to cool and worked up following the general procedure and analyzed by GC which showed the formation of ca 10% imine and no amine. The imine may have been formed by oxidation of alcohol by the N-oxide.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) – benzyl alcohol (s of CH<sub>2</sub> at δ 4.6) and aniline are present, but no coupling product is visible:



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PROCNO 1  
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DS 2  
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RG 256  
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DE 6.00 use  
TE 298.2 K  
DL 1.00000000 sec  
TD0 1  
\*\*\*\*\* CHANNEL f1 \*\*\*\*\*  
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PL1 0.00 dB  
SFO1 400.0324703 MHz  
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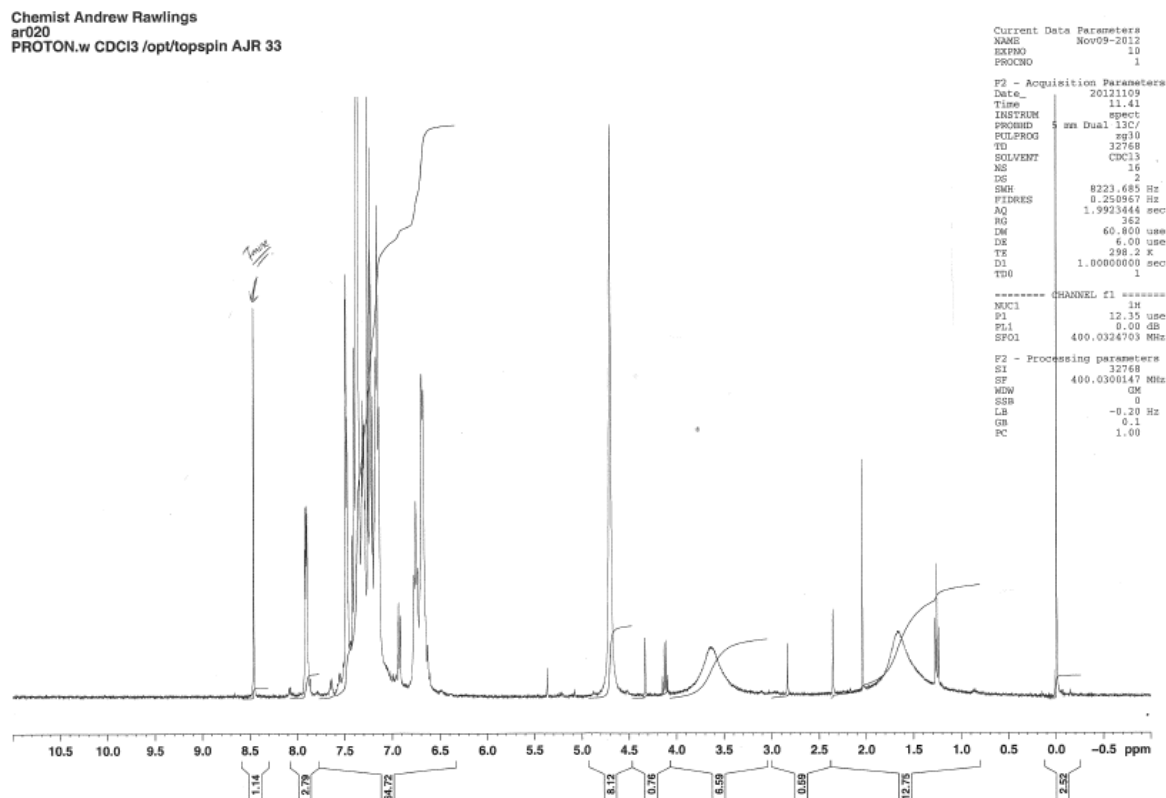
GC spectrum (aniline at 5.91 min., benzyl alcohol at 8.17 min., imine at 32.3 min.):



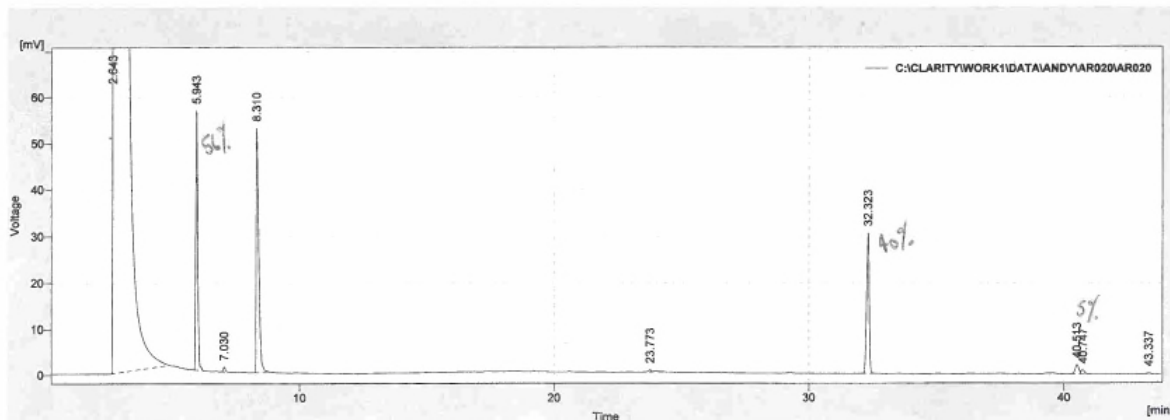
**Reaction without degassing (AR020):** A reaction was carried out without degassing and under air in a sealed tube using aniline **6** (0.069 mL, 0.76 mmol), benzyl alcohol **5** (0.157 mL, 1.52 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076

mmol) were placed in a pressure tube which was flushed with nitrogen. Undegassed toluene (0.40 mL) was added and the pressure tube was sealed (without flushing with nitrogen or argon) and heated at 110 °C (in toluene) for the 48h. At the end of this the reaction was allowed to cool and worked up following the general procedure and analyzed by GC which indicated the formation of ca 5% amine and ca. 40% imine.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):



GC spectrum – peaks for aniline (5.94 min), benzyl alcohol (8.31 min), imine (32.3 min) and amine (4.75 min) are indicated:



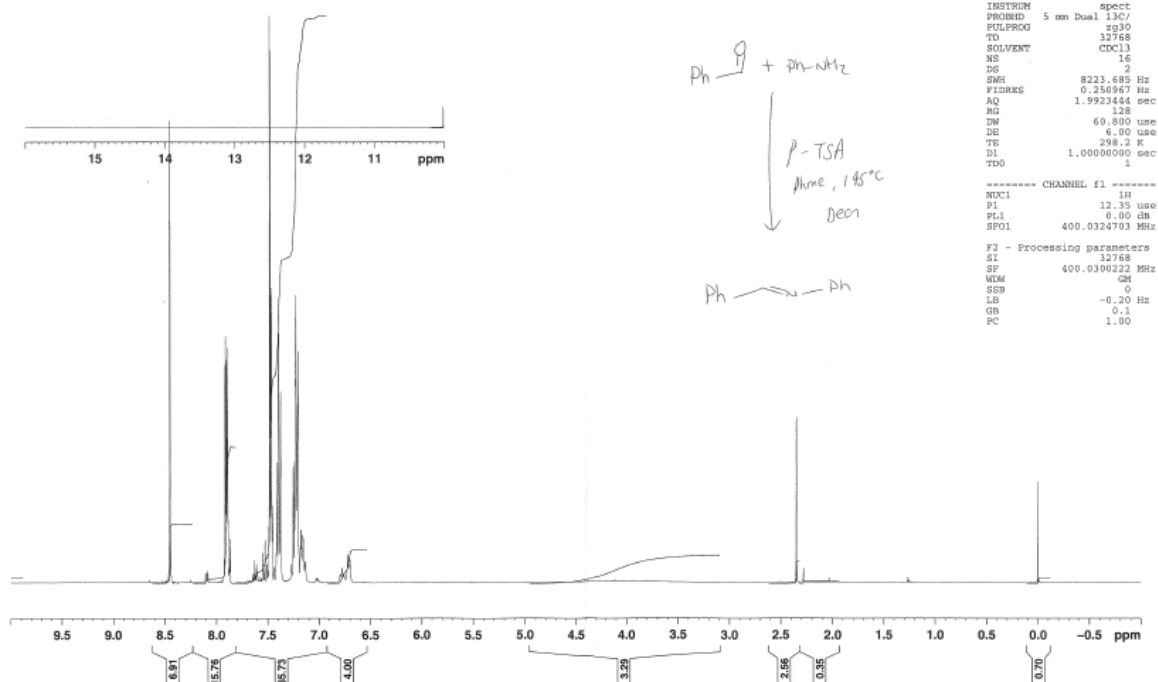
Result Table (Uncal - C:\CLARITY\WORK1\DATA\ANDY\AR020\AR020)

	Reten. Time [min]	Area [mV.s]	Height [mV]	Area [%]	Height [%]	W05 [min]
1	2.643	34309.476	1249.646	97.3	89.7	0.37
2	5.943	320.746	56.007	0.9	4.0	0.09
3	7.030	6.272	1.035	1.77e-02	0.1	0.09
4	8.310	381.134	52.768	1.1	3.8	0.11
5	23.773	6.073	0.477	1.72e-02	3.42e-02	0.09
6	32.323	221.740	30.430	0.6	2.2	0.12
7	40.513	19.598	2.054	0.1	0.1	0.16
8	40.747	7.682	0.833	2.234e-02	0.1	0.17
9	43.337	2.698	0.233	7.649e-03	1.674e-02	0.18
	Total	35275.620	1393.476	100.0	100.0	

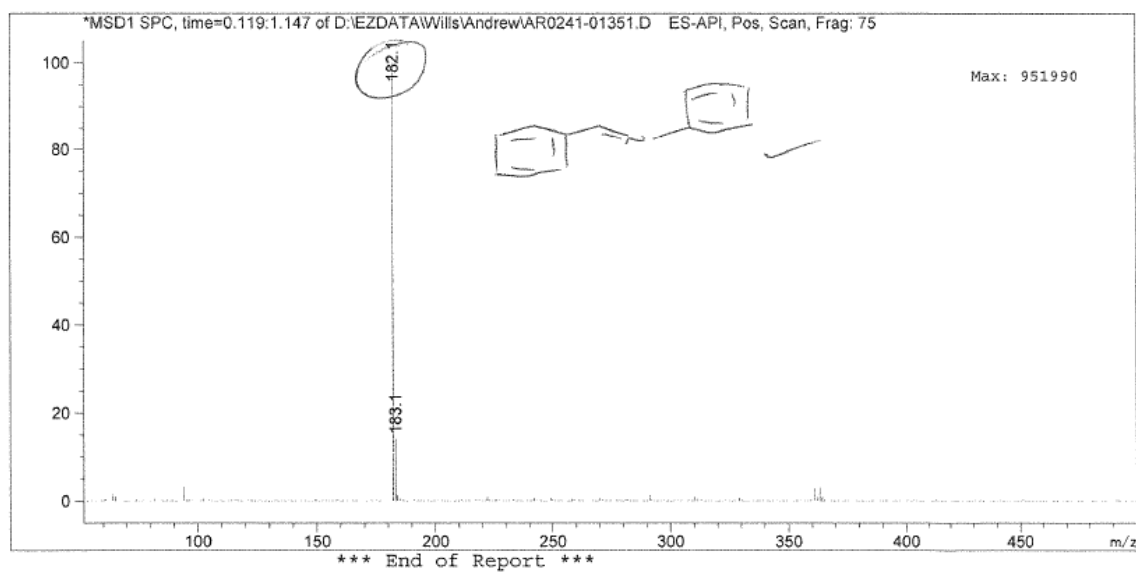
Re-processed.

**Preparation of a standard of the imine intermediate (AR024):** Aniline (0.46 mL, 5.0 mmol), benzaldehyde (0.508 mL, 5.0 mmol) and p-toluenesulfonic acid (38 mg, 0.2 mmol) were combined in toluene (12.8 mL) and the mixture was heated at 145 °C for four hours in a Dean-Stark apparatus to remove water. The solution was cooled to room temperature and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum indicated formation of the product and this was used as a standard for GC analysis.

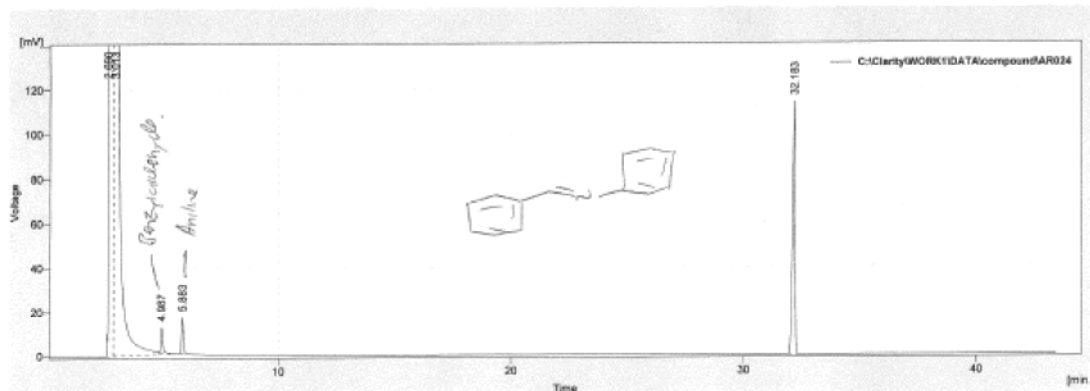
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):



Mass spectrum:



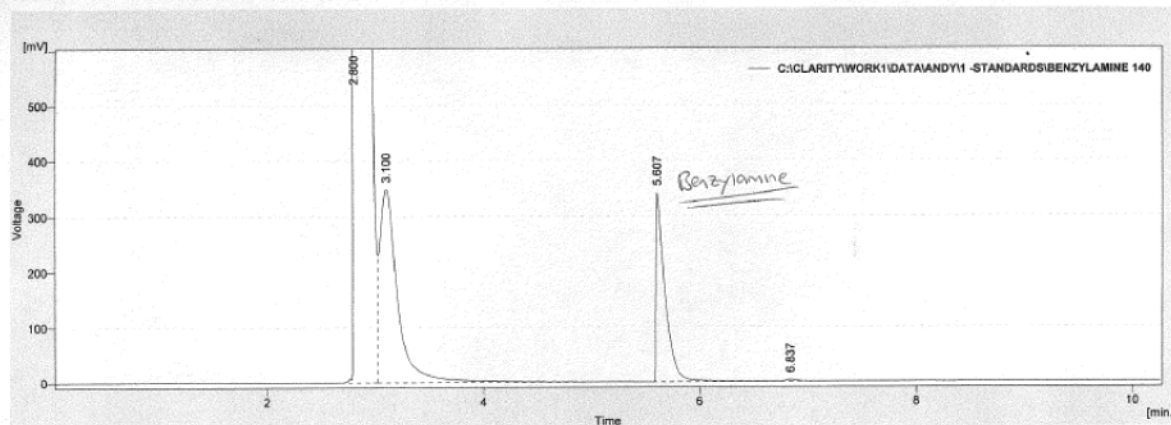
GC of the imine to establish retention time:



Result Table (Unsat) - C:\Clarity\WORK1\DATA\compound\AR024

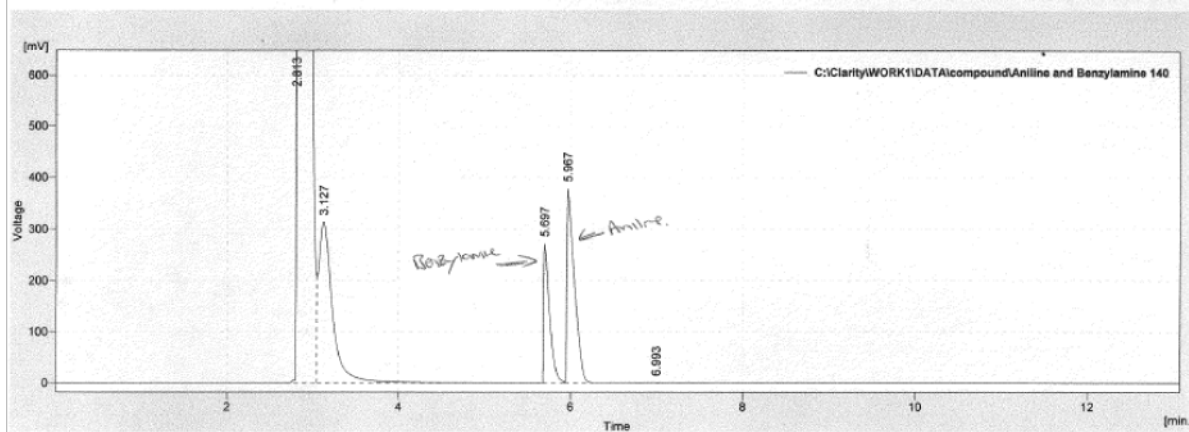
	Retain. Time (min)	Area (mV.s)	Height (mV)	Area (%)	Height (%)	W05 (mm)
1	2.690	15673.509	1246.902	71.9	71.2	0.21
2	3.013	5201.916	362.866	23.4	20.7	0.20
3	4.987	63.723	12.224	0.4	0.7	0.10
4	5.883	95.075	16.585	0.4	0.9	0.10
5	32.183	865.486	114.010	3.9	6.5	0.12
Total		22220.517	1755.613	100.0	100.0	

**Inhibition of the reaction using benzylamine (AR025):** Aniline (0.070 mL, 0.76 mmol), benzyl alcohol (0.078 mL, 0.76 mmol), benzylamine (0.042 mL, 0.38 mmol), triemethylamine N-oxide dehydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and iron catalyst **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were combined in a pressure tube along with degassed toluene (0.4 mL). The pressure tube was flushed with nitrogen and heated at 110 °C for 48h. At the end of this time the reaction was allowed to cool and worked up following the general procedure and analyzed by GC which showed the formation of ca 1% imine and 1% amine (indicated). Speculated, but unconfirmed, products from benzylamine are indicated. Attempts at the coupling of benzylamine alone with benzyl alcohol were also unsuccessful.



Result Table (Uncal - C:\CLARITY\WORK1\DATA\IANDY11-STDARDS\BENZYLAMINE 140)

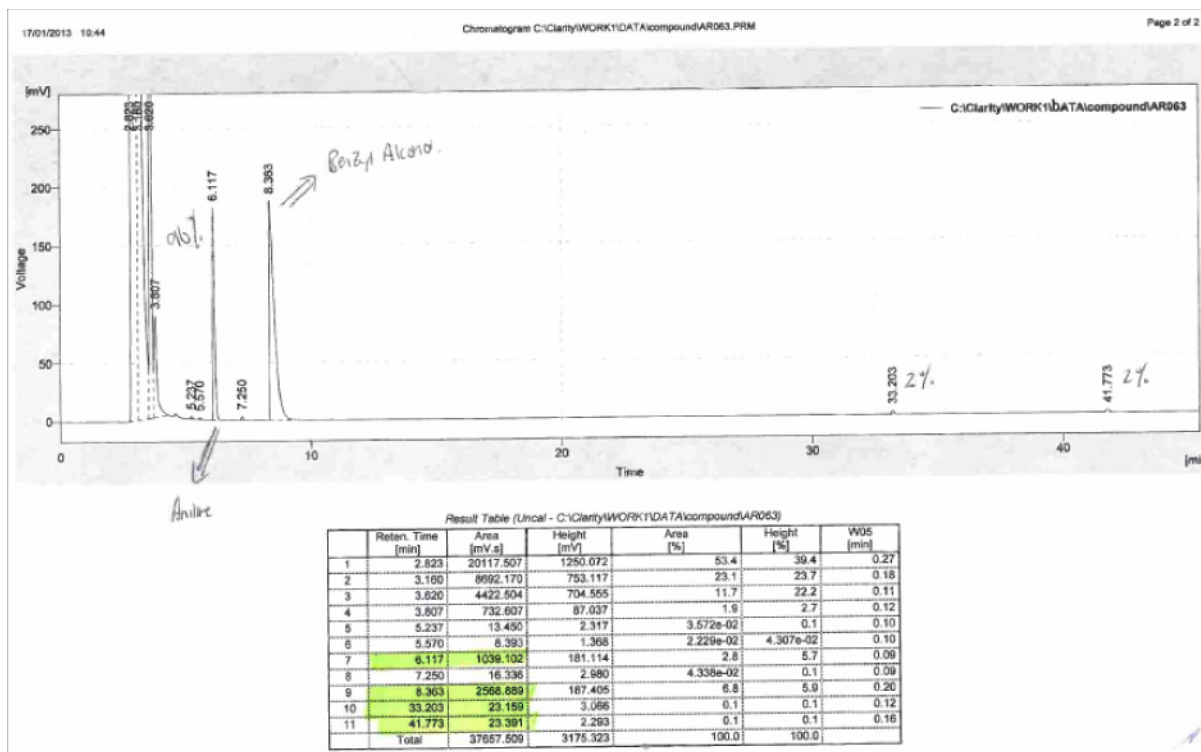
	Reten. Time [min]	Area [mV.s]	Height [mV]	Area [%]	Height [%]	W05 [min]
1	2.800	14385.561	1250.015	70.9	94.4	0.19
2	3.100	4067.202	348.272	19.9	17.9	0.17
3	5.607	1951.881	340.561	9.8	17.5	0.08
4	6.637	18.089	3.134	0.1	0.2	0.09
Total		20412.733	1941.982	100.0	100.0	



Result Table (Uncal - C:\Clarity\WORK1\DATA\compound\Aniline and Benzylamine 140)

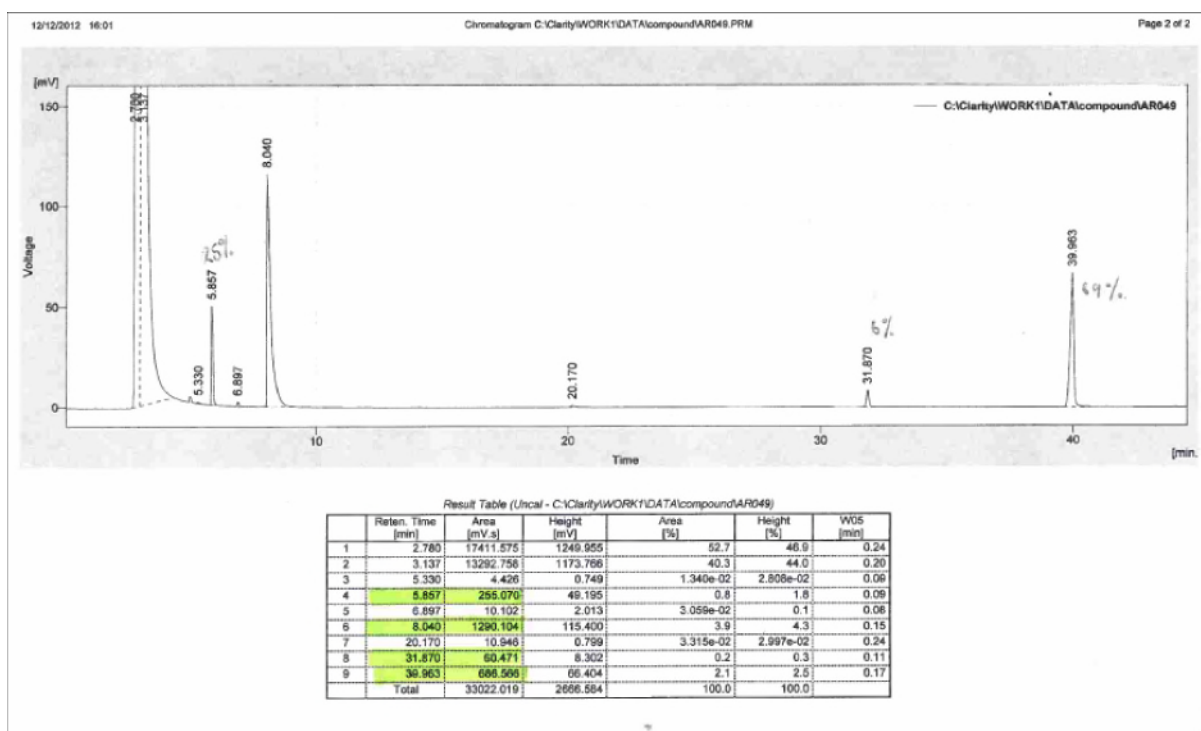
	Reten. Time [min]	Area [mV.s]	Height [mV]	Area [%]	Height [%]	W05 [min]
1	2.813	15234.068	1250.120	68.1	56.4	0.20
2	3.127	3591.661	313.800	16.1	14.2	0.17
3	5.897	1283.221	272.075	5.7	12.3	0.08
4	5.967	2245.866	378.140	10.0	17.1	0.10
5	6.993	4.411	0.772	1.972e-02	3.485e-02	0.09
6	13.487	4.415	0.538	1.974e-02	2.427e-02	0.13
Total		22363.641	2215.445	100.0	100.0	



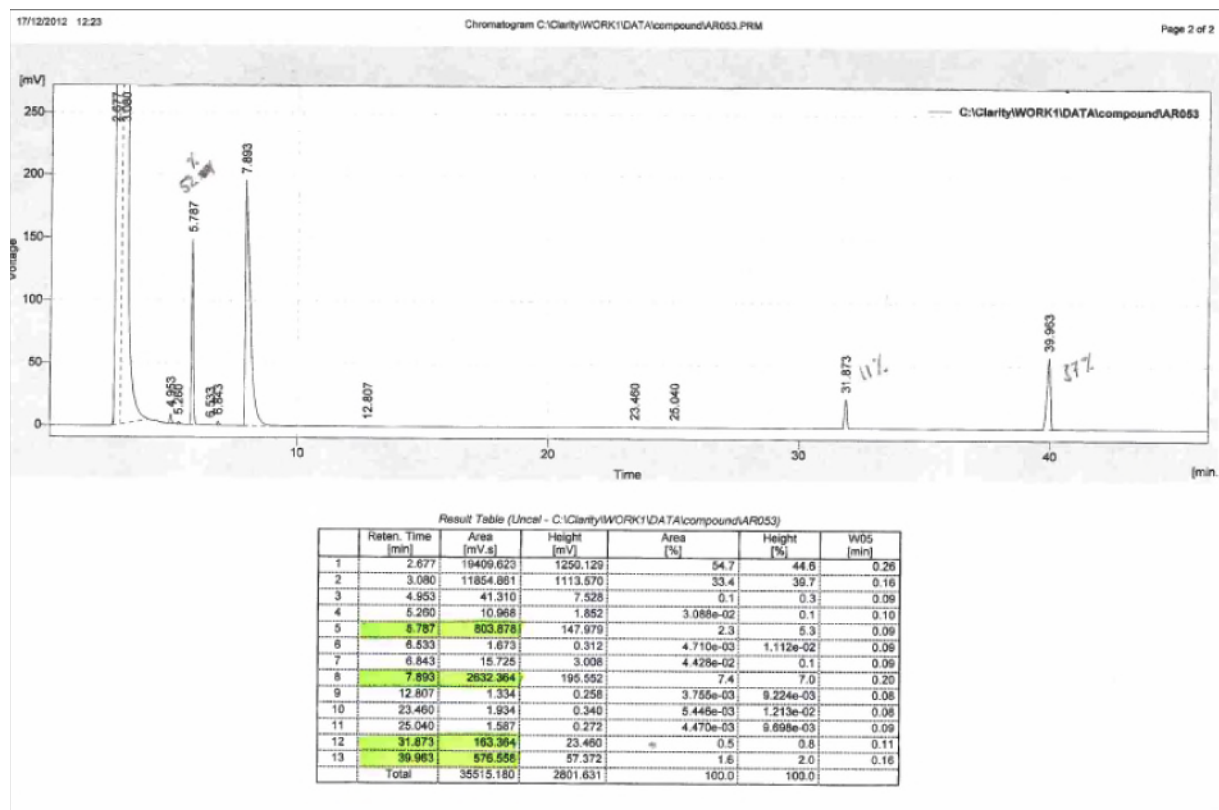


**Reactions at lower temperatures:** Reactions were carried out for 48h following the general procedure above but at lower temperatures; at 100 °C the conversion was 69% (AR049), at 90 °C, the conversion was 37% (AR053), and at 80 °C the conversion was 5% (AR055).

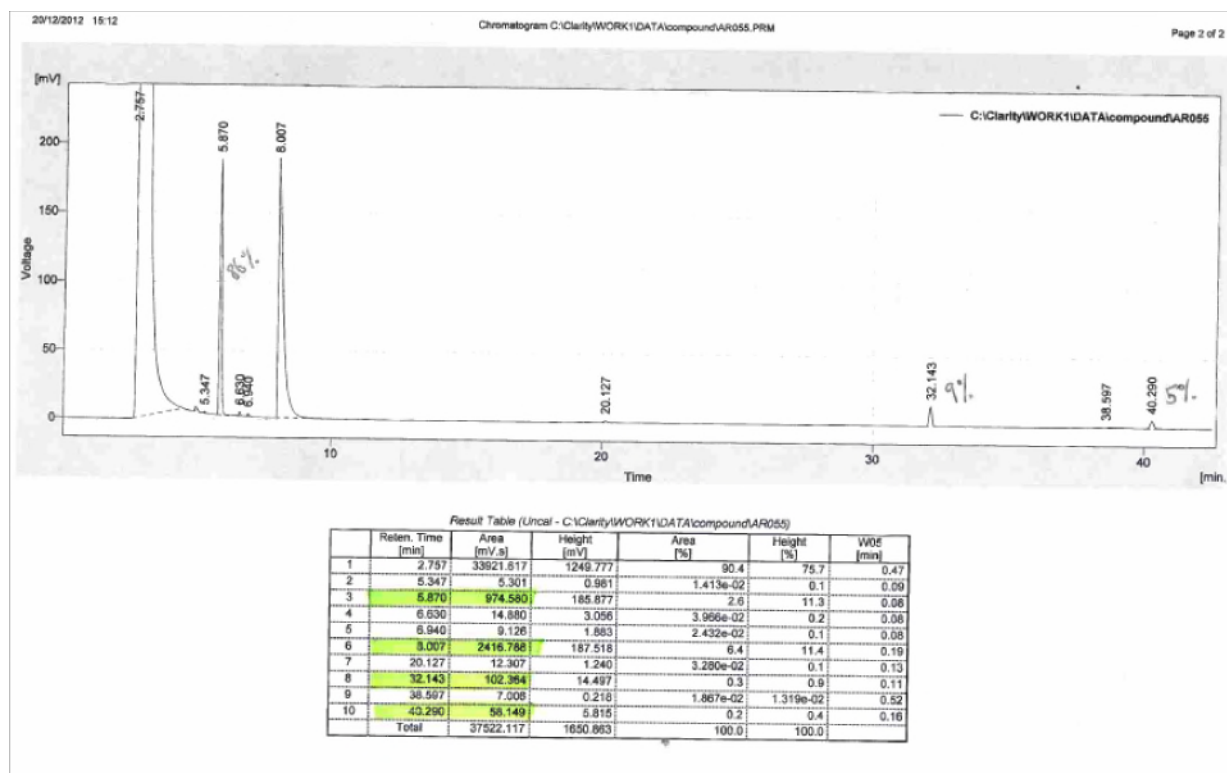
AR049 (100 °C).



AR053 (90 °C):

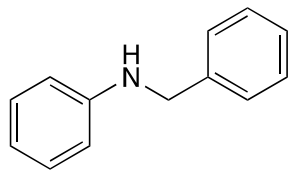


AR055 (80 °C):



## **Experimental data for isolated products.**

### **N-Benzylaniline 7.**



(Toluene, 110 °C, 48h, AR069).

This compound has been reported and fully characterized, and the data matched that reported and of an authentic sample (see end of this file).<sup>1</sup> Aniline **6** (0.069 mL, 0.76 mmol) benzyl alcohol **5** (0.157 mL, 1.52 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were combined and reacted under the conditions described above. The compound was purified by column chromatography on silica with a gradient elution 0-20% EtOAc in pet. ether to give the product as a pale yellow oil (133.7 mg, 0.731 mmol, 95 %).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.30-7.40 (4H, m, *ArH*), 7.24-7.29 (1H, m, *ArH*), 7.12-7.20 (2H, m, *ArH*), 6.68-6.74 (1H, m, *ArH*), 6.61-6.65 (2H, m, *ArH*), 4.32 (2H, s,  $\text{NHCH}_2$ ), 4.00 (1H, s, *NH*);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 148.20 (C), 139.48 (C), 129.30 (CH), 128.67 (CH), 127.55 (CH), 127.27 (CH), 117.60 (CH), 112.49 (CH), 48.36 ( $\text{CH}_2$ );  $m/z$  (ESMS+)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  184.1.  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}^+$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

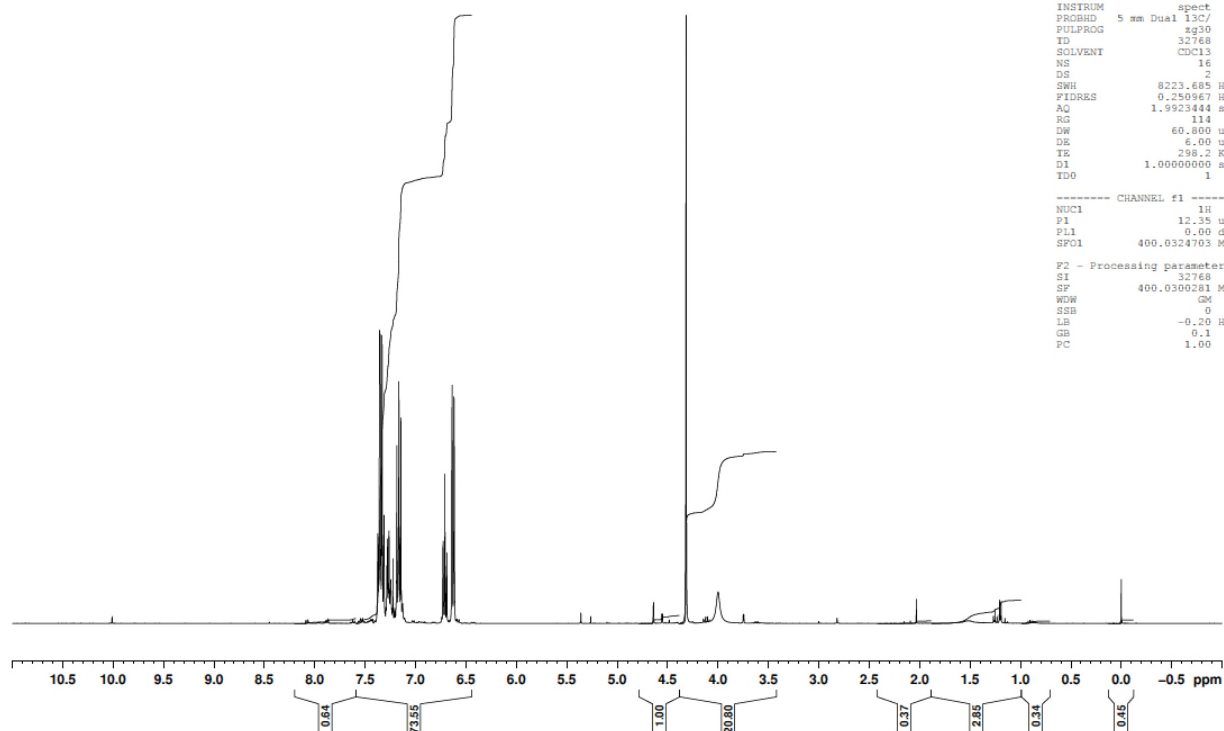
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EXPNO         10
PROCNO        1

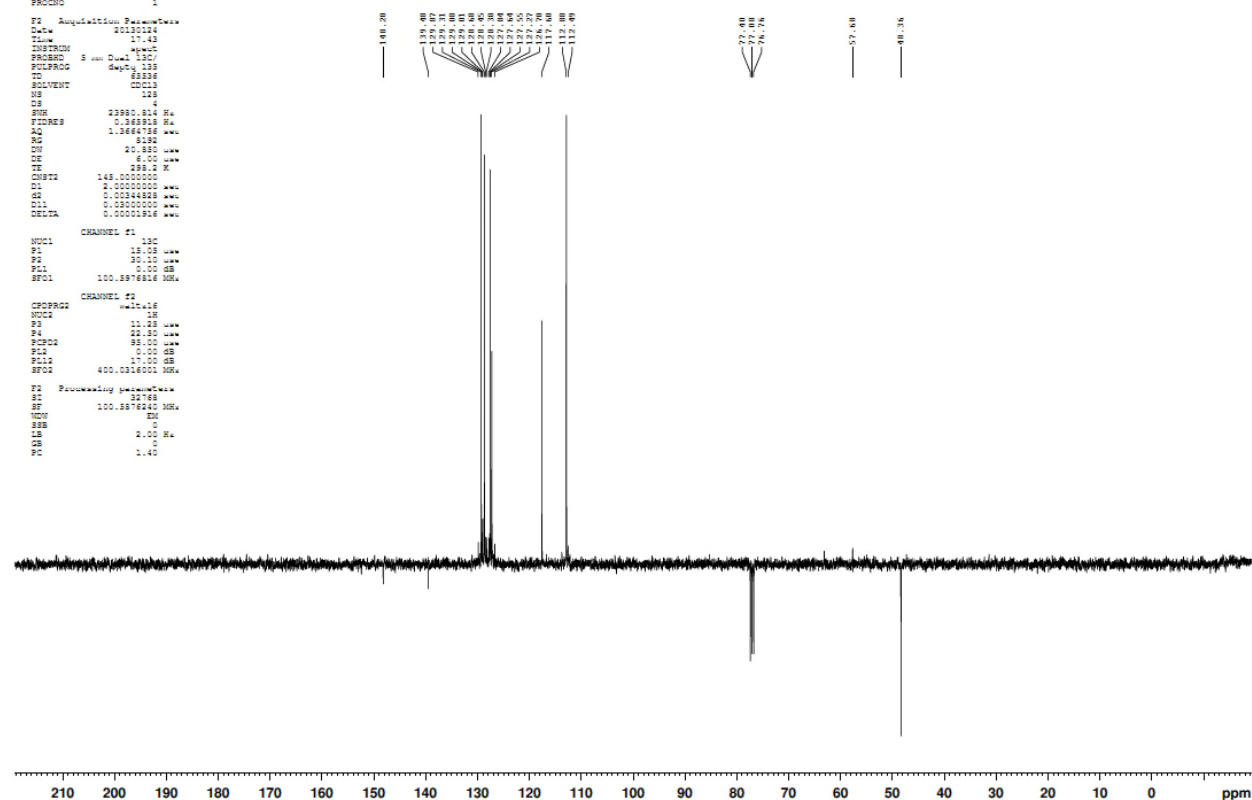
F2 - Acquisition Parameters
Date_         20130124
Time          17.35
INSTRUM       spect
PROBHD        5 mm Dual 13C/
PULPROG       zgpg30
SOLVENT       DMSO
FIDRES        0.32768
AQ            CDCl3
NS            16
DS            2
SWH           8223.685 Hz
FIDRES2       0.250697 Hz
RG            1.9952344 sec
RG            114
DE            60.000 use
DW            6.00 use
DQ            296.2 K
D1            1.00000000 sec
T0            1
----- CHANNEL f1 -----
NUC1          1H
P1            12.35 use
P11           0.00 dB
SFO1          400.032470 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters
SI            32768
SF            400.0300281 MHz
WDW           EM
SSB           0
LB            -0.20 Hz
GB            0.1
PC            1.00

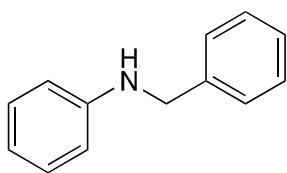
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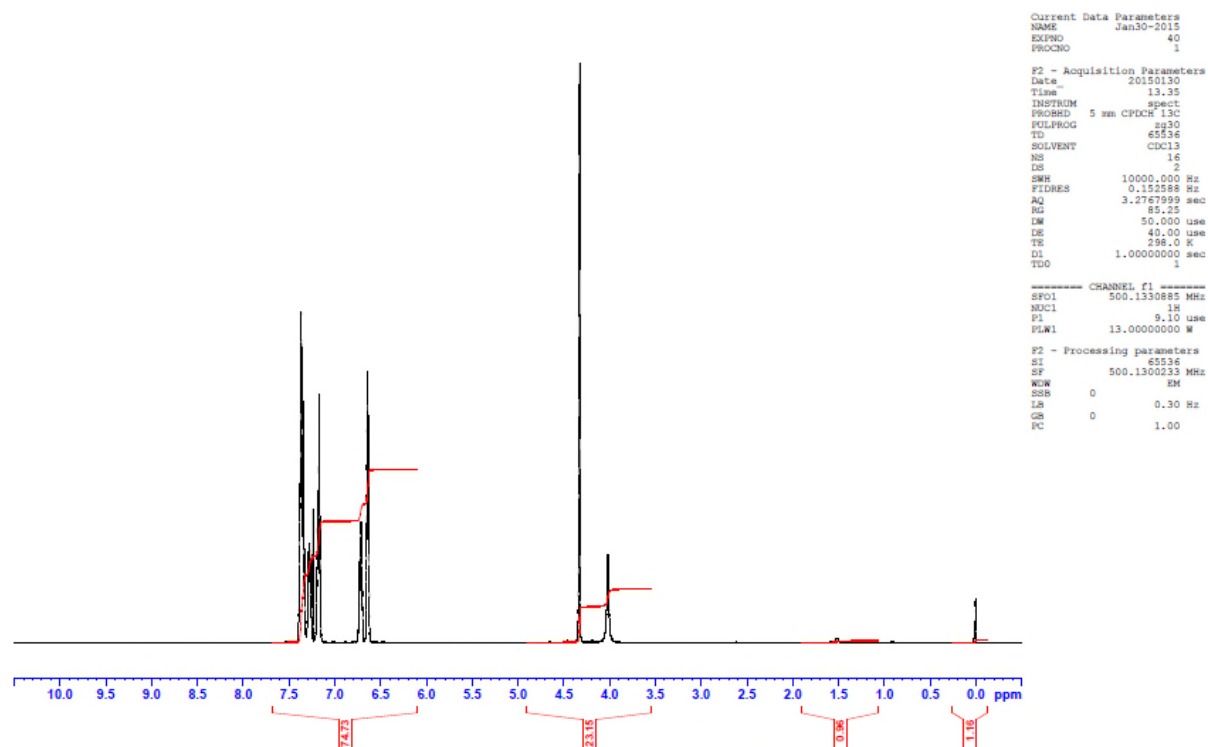
ar069 frac 4-7  
C13deptq.w CDCl3 /opt/topspin AJR 54



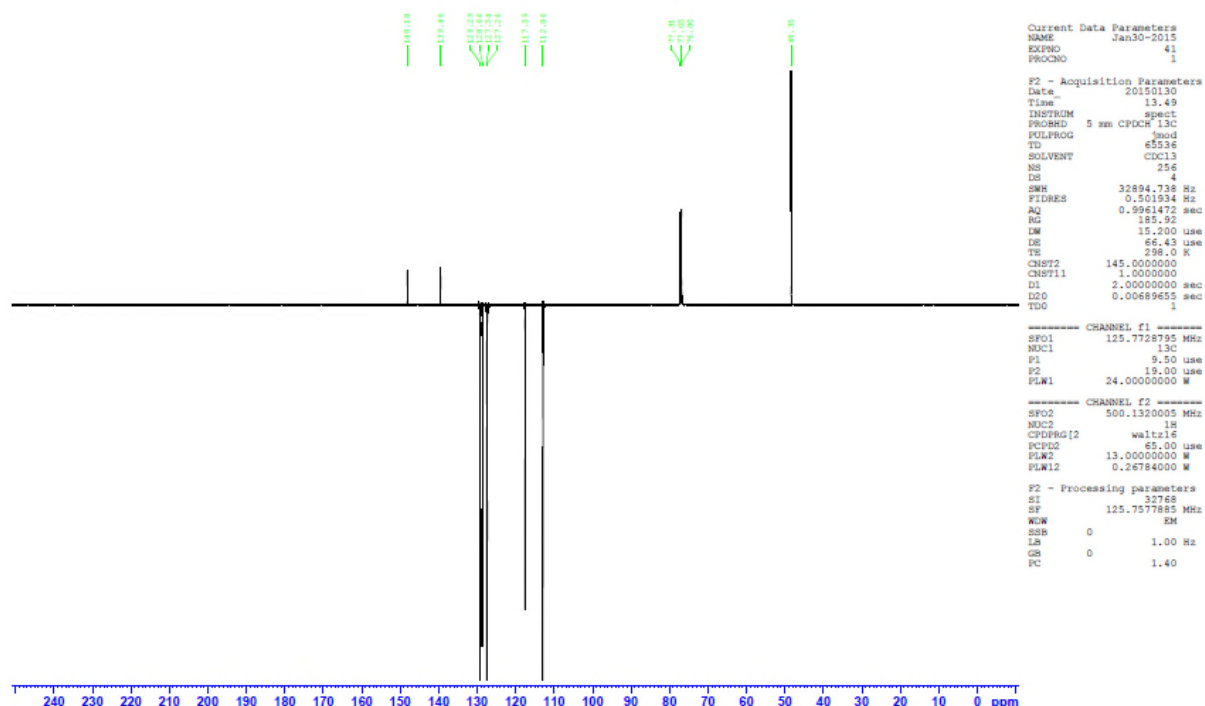
**Commercial standard of N-Benzylaniline 7 for comparison:**



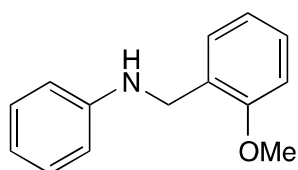
$^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , cryoprobe):



$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , cryoprobe):



### ***N*-(2-Methoxybenzyl)aniline 9.**

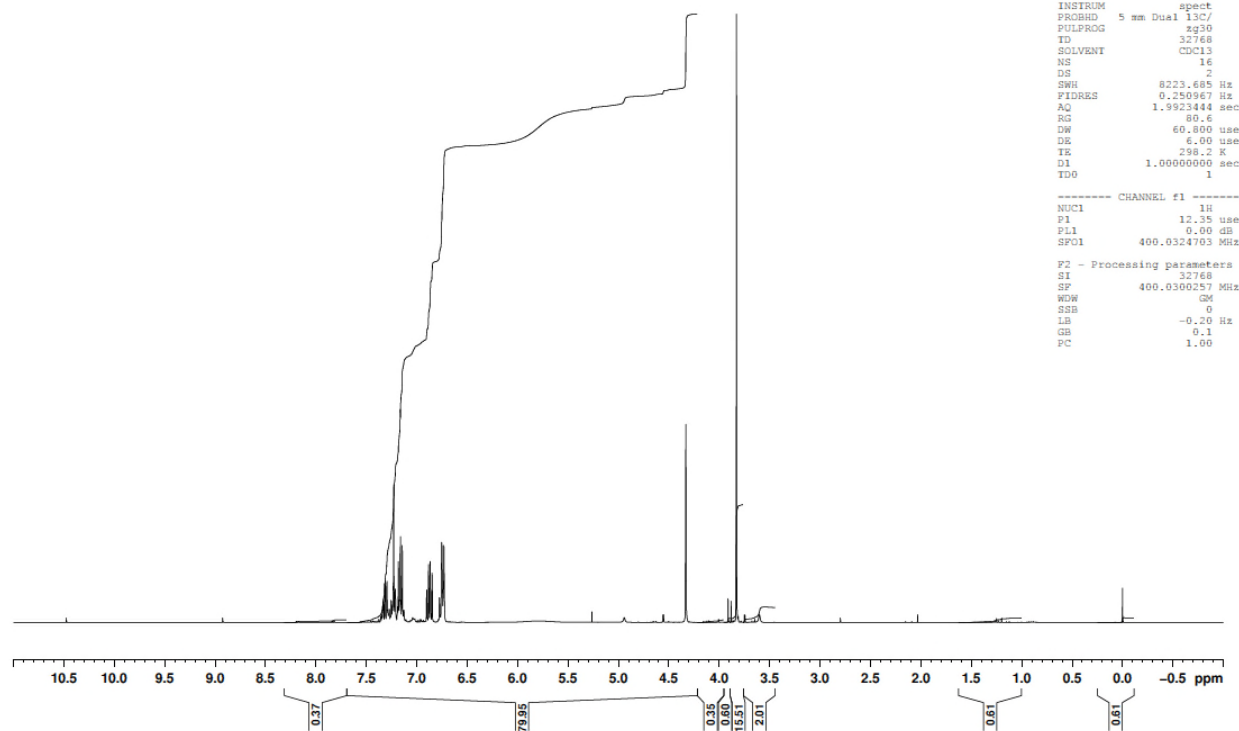


(Xylene, 140 °C, 24h AR081).

This compound has been reported and fully characterized, and the data matched that of an authentic sample (see end of this file).<sup>2</sup> Aniline **6** (0.069 mL, 0.76 mmol) 2-methoxybenzyl alcohol (0.202 mL, 1.52 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were combined and reacted under the conditions described above. The compound was purified by column chromatography on silica with a gradient elution 0-20% EtOAc in pet. ether to give a pale yellow oil (136.6 mg, 0.641 mmol, 84 %).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.27-7.36 (2H, m, ArH), 7.12-7.20 (2H, m, ArH), 6.84-6.91 (2H, m, ArH), 6.71-6.78 (3H, m, ArH), 5.35-6.17 (1H, br s, NH), 4.33 (2H, s,  $\text{NHCH}_2$ ), 3.83 (3H, s,  $\text{OCH}_3$ );  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 157.52 (C), 146.61 (C), 129.40 (CH), 129.22 (CH), 128.69 (CH), 126.18 (C), 120.55 (CH), 118.89 (CH), 114.53 (CH), 110.28 (CH), 55.35 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 44.48 ( $\text{CH}_2$ );  $m/z$  (ESMS+)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  214.1.  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}^+$ .

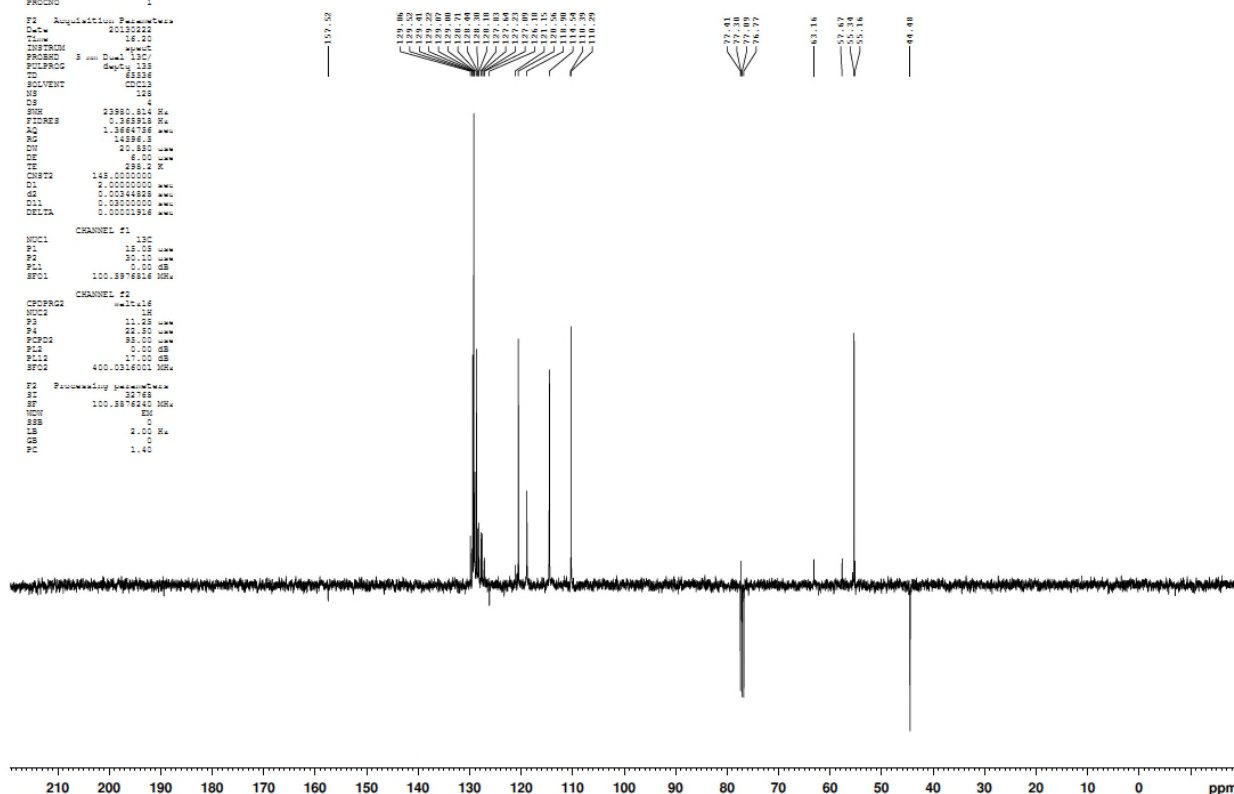
$^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

ar081 frac 11-15  
PROTON.w  $\text{CDCl}_3$  /opt/topspin AJR 39

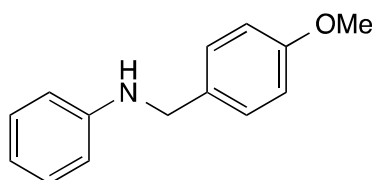


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

ar081 frac 11-15  
C13deptq\_w CDCl3 /opt/topspin AJR 39



## N-(4-Methoxybenzyl)aniline 10.



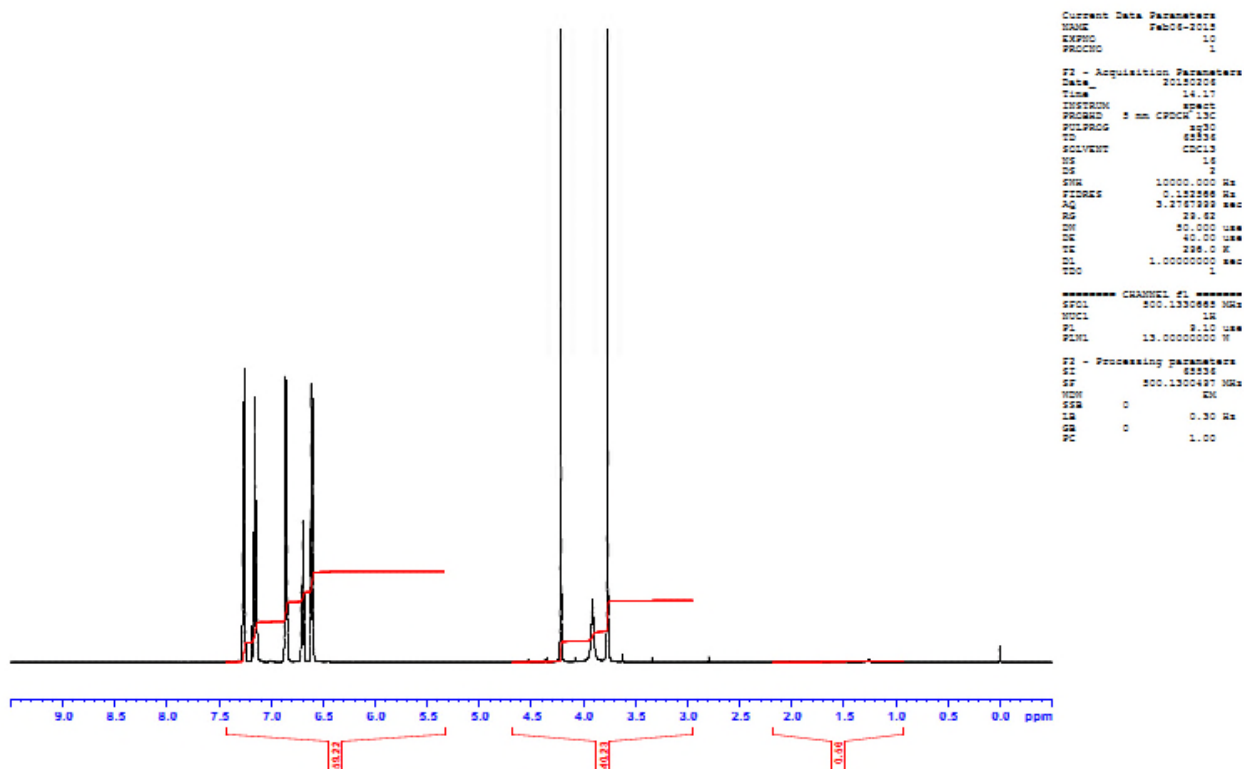
(Xylene, 140 °C, 24h, MW232).

This compound has been reported and fully characterized.<sup>1</sup> Aniline **6** (0.069 mL, 0.76 mmol) 4-methoxybenzyl alcohol (0.189 mL, 1.52 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were combined and reacted under the conditions described above. Purification was attempted by column chromatography on silica with a gradient elution 0-30% EtOAc in pet. ether to give the product as a brown oil (124.1 mg, 0.58 mmol, 77 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR. δ<sub>H</sub> (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.15-7.23 (2H, m, ArH), 7.10-7.15 (2H, m, ArH), 6.80-6.85 (2H, m, ArH), 6.65-6.70 (1H, m, ArH), 6.68-6.62 (2H, m, ArH), 4.22 (2H, S, CH<sub>2</sub>), 90 (1H, br s, NH), 3.75 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 158.92 (C), 148.28 (C),

131.49 (C), 129.32 (CH), 128.87 (CH), 117.55 (CH), 114.09 (CH), 112.90 (CH), 55.36 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 47.84 (CH<sub>2</sub>); *m/z* (ESMS+) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 214.1. C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>CIN<sup>+</sup>.

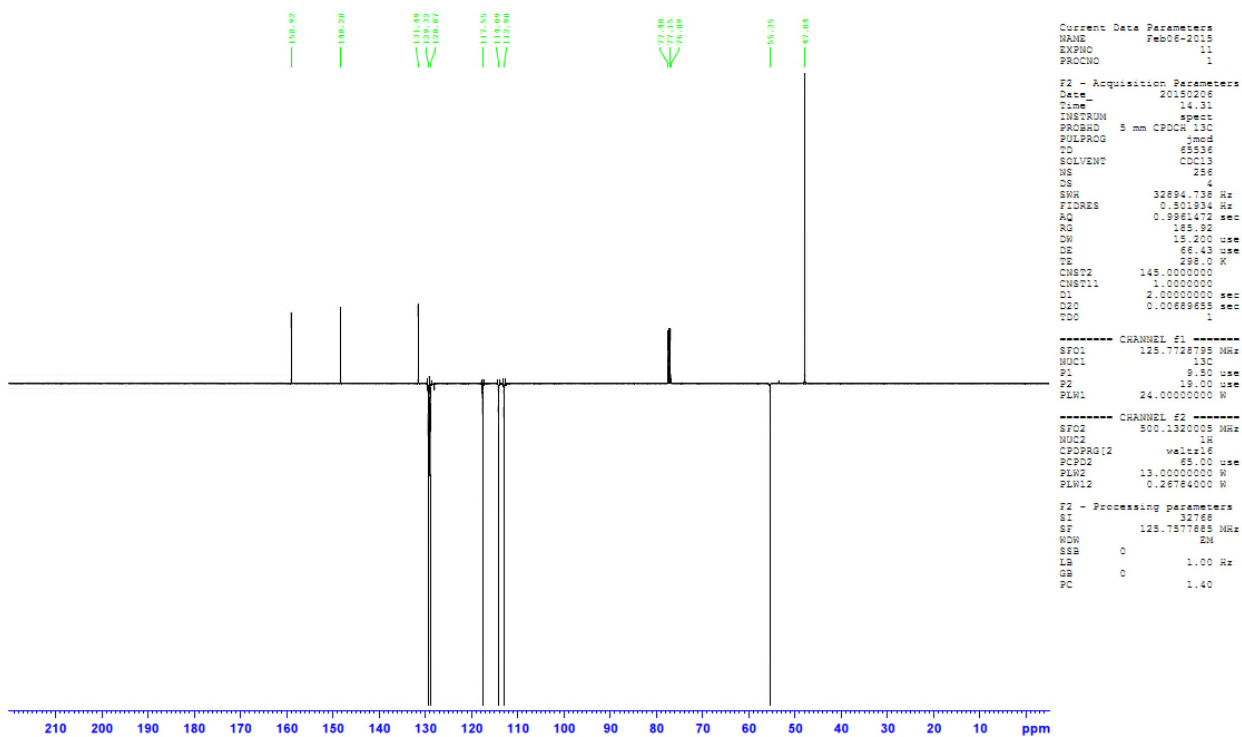
<sup>1</sup>H NMR δ<sub>H</sub> (500 MHz with cryoprobe, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):

MW 232 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> @ 298 K

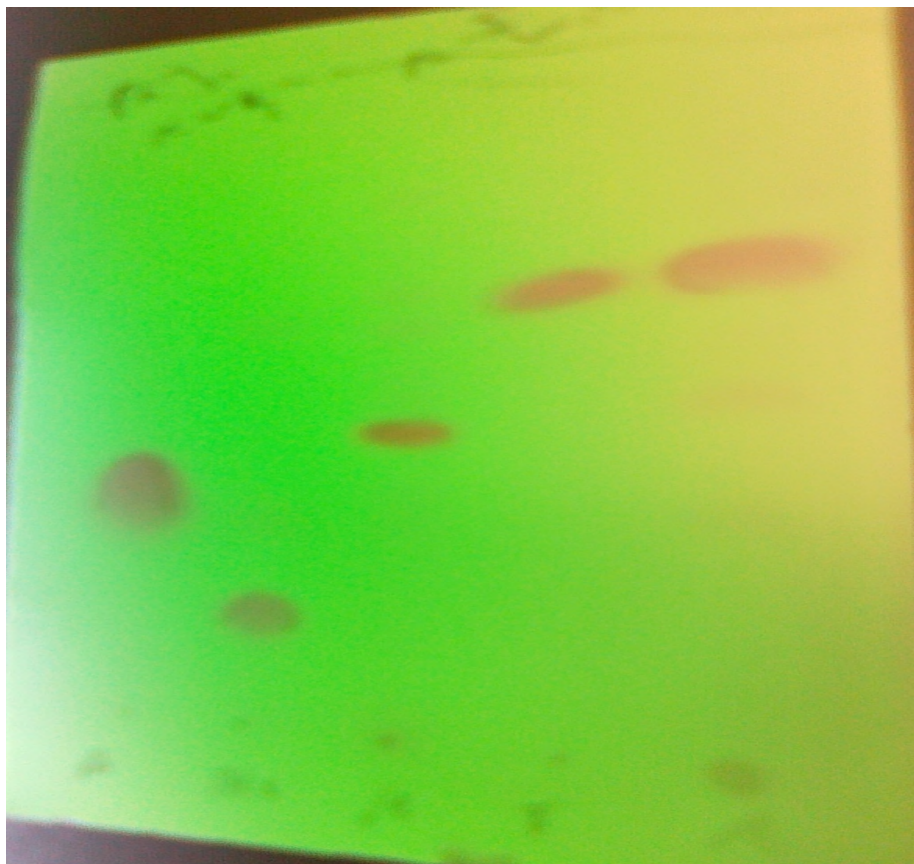


<sup>13</sup>C NMR δ<sub>C</sub> (125 MHz with cryoprobe, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):

MW 232 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> @ 298 K



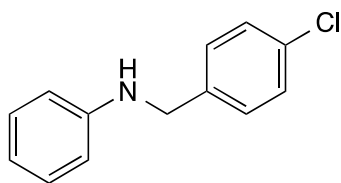
TLC of crude reaction:



The TLC above shows the crude and purified product from the above reaction after dilution of a sample in DCM. In order the lanes show i) aniline, ii) pMeO)C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH, iii) Iron

catalyst **1**, iv) purified sample of **12**, v) crude reaction mixture. Visualisation by uv, spots can also be visualized using KMnO<sub>4</sub>. Solvent: hexane:EtOAc 4:1.

***N*-(4-Chlorobenzyl)aniline **11**.**



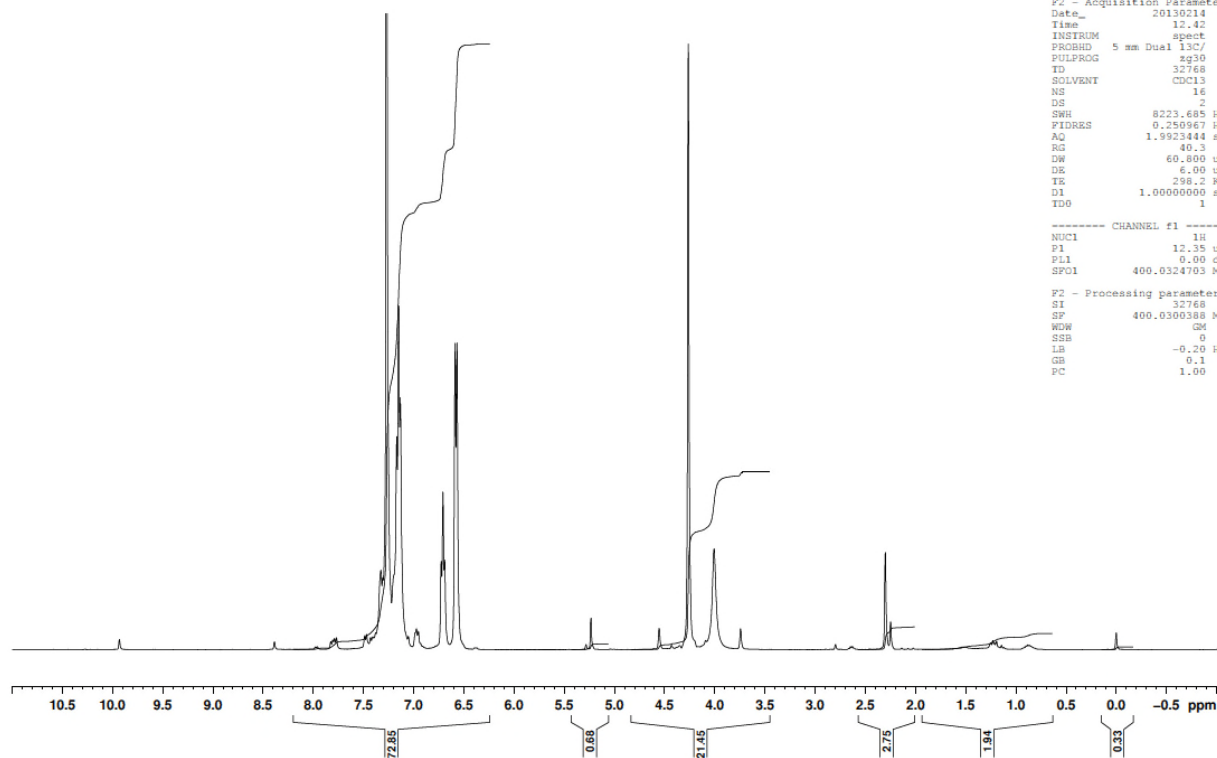
(Xylene, 140 °C, 24h AR078).

This compound has been reported and fully characterised.<sup>1</sup> Aniline **6** (0.069 mL, 0.76 mmol) 4-chlorobenzyl alcohol (0.217 mg, 1.52 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were combined and reacted under the conditions described above. The compound was purified by column chromatography on silica with a gradient elution 0-20% EtOAc in pet. Ether to give the product as a pale yellow oil (100.0 mg, 0.461 mmol, 60 %).  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.22-7.36 (4H, m, *ArH*), 7.09-7.19 (2H, m, *ArH*), 6.67-6.75 (1H, m, *ArH*), 6.53-6.61 (2H, m, *ArH*), 4.26 (2H, s, NHCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.01 (1H, br s, NH);  $\delta_C$  (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 147.86 (C), 138.05 (C), 132.90 (C), 129.34 (CH), 128.79 (CH), 128.73 (CH), 117.84 (CH), 112.93 (CH), 47.64 (CH<sub>2</sub>);  $m/z$  (ESMS+) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 218.1. C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClN<sup>+</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):

ar078 frac 5-11  
 PROTON.w CDCI3 /opt/topspin AJR 46

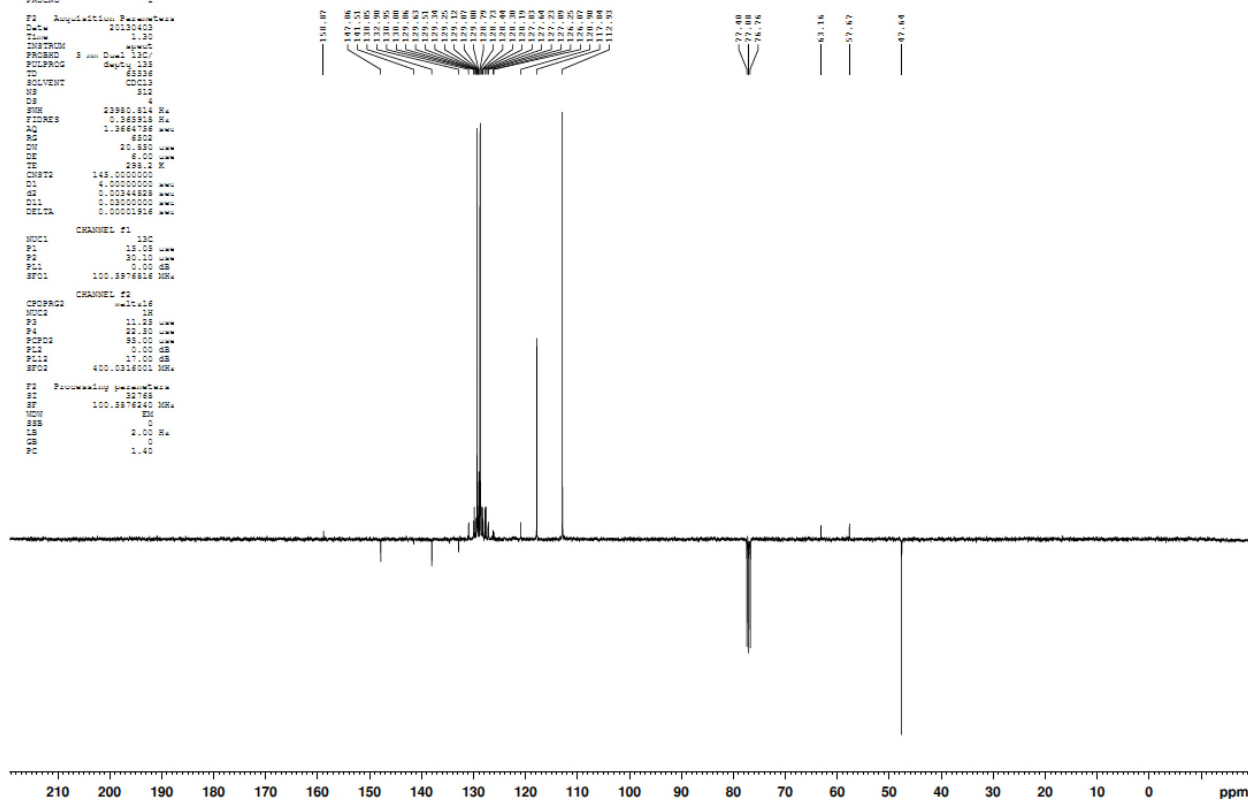
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 PULPROG zg30  
 TD 32768  
 SOLVENT CDCI3  
 NS 16  
 DS 2  
 SWH 8223.685 Hz  
 FIDRES 0.250967 Hz  
 AQ 1.9923444 sec  
 RG 40.3  
 DW 60.800 use  
 DE 6.00 use  
 TE 298.2 K  
 D1 1.00000000 sec  
 TD0 1  
 ----- CHANNEL f1 -----  
 NUC1 1H  
 P1 12.35 use  
 PL1 0.00 dB  
 SFO1 400.0324703 MHz  
 F2 - Processing parameters  
 SI 32768  
 SF 400.0300388 MHz  
 WDW GM  
 SSB 0  
 LB -0.20 Hz  
 GB 0.1  
 PC 1.00



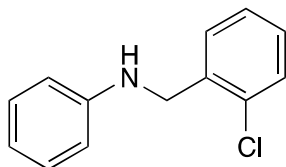
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

ar078 frac 5-11  
 C13deptql.w CDCI3 /opt/topspin AJR 52

Current Data Parameters  
 NAME Apr02 2013  
 EXPNO 20  
 PROCNO 1  
 F2 Acquisition Parameters  
 Date\_ 20130403  
 Time 1.30  
 INSTRUM spect  
 PROBRD 5 mm Dual 13C/  
 PULPROG zgpg30  
 TD 65536  
 SOLVENT CDCI3  
 NS 4  
 DS 2  
 SWH 23980.814 Hz  
 FIDRES 0.2689028 Hz  
 AQ 1.3664786 sec  
 RG 65.0  
 DW 20.800 use  
 DE 6.00 use  
 TE 298.2 K  
 CHRG2 149.0000000  
 C1 4.00000000 use  
 C2 0.00344828 use  
 C3 0.00000000 use  
 C4 0.00000000 use  
 CHANNEL f1  
 NUC1 13C  
 P1 19.00 use  
 PL1 0.00 dB  
 SFO1 100.6261800 MHz  
 CHANNEL f2  
 NUC2 1H  
 P2 11.00 use  
 PL2 0.00 dB  
 SFO2 400.0324703 MHz  
 F2 Processing parameters  
 SI 65536  
 SF 100.6261800 MHz  
 WDW EM  
 SSB 0  
 LB 2.00 Hz  
 GB 0  
 PC 1.40



***N*-(2-Chlorobenzyl)aniline 12.**



(Xylene, 140 °C, 24h, AR108).

This compound has been reported and fully characterized.<sup>2</sup> Aniline **6** (0.069 mL, 0.76 mmol) o-chlorobenzyl alcohol (0.157 mL, 1.52 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were combined and reacted under the conditions described above. The compound was purified by column chromatography on silica with a gradient elution 0-20% EtOAc in pet. ether to give the product as a light brown oil (93.0 mg, 0.429 mmol, 56 %).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.34-7.42 (2H, m, *ArH*), 7.11-7.20 (4H, m, *ArH*), 6.68-6.73 (1H, m, *ArH*), 6.57-6.62 (2H, m, *ArH*), 4.41 (2H, s,  $\text{NHCH}_2$ ), 4.12 (1H, br s, *NH*);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 147.81 (C), 136.72 (C), 133.28 (C), 129.57 (CH), 129.33 (CH), 129.06 (CH), 128.41 (CH), 126.97 (CH), 117.79 (CH), 112.97 (CH), 45.94 ( $\text{CH}_2$ );  $m/z$  (ESMS+)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  218.1.  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}^+$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

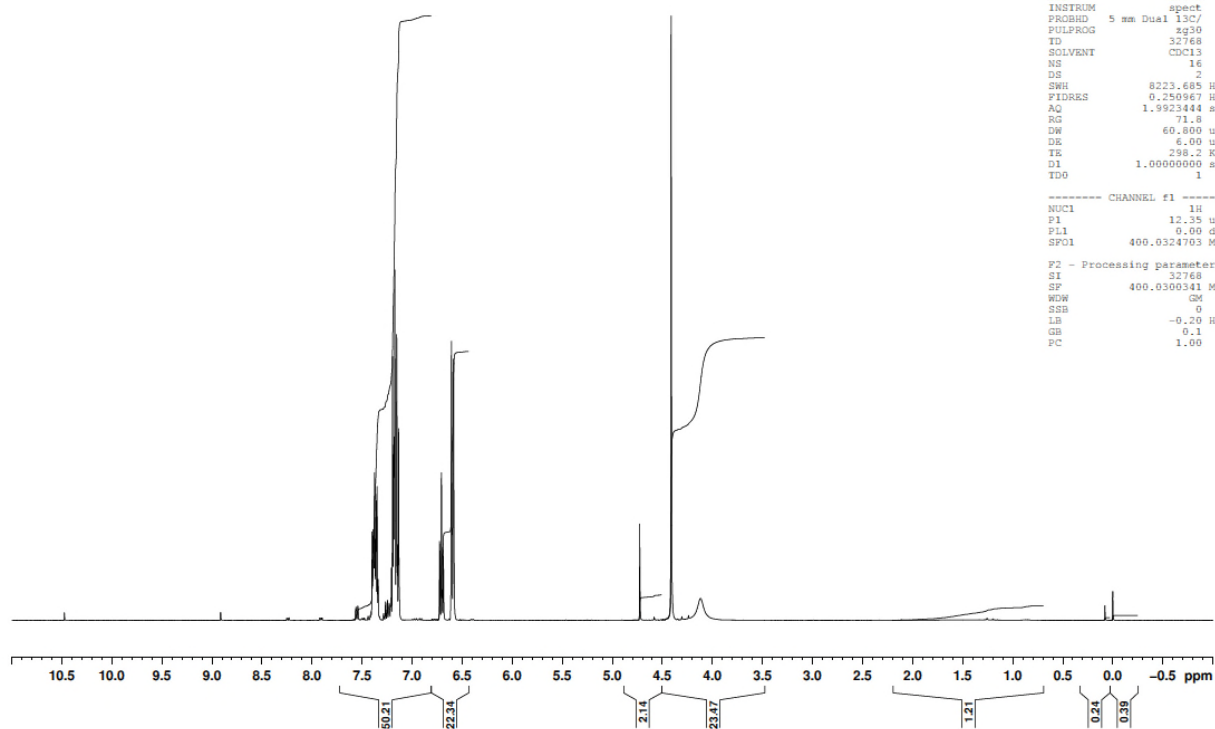
AR108 Frac 19-26  
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 PROCNO 1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters  
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 PROBRD 5 mm Dual 13C/  
 PULPROG zg30  
 TD 32768  
 SOLVENT CDCl3  
 NS 16  
 DS 2  
 SWH 8223.685 Hz  
 FIDRES 0.250967 Hz  
 AQ 1.9923444 sec  
 RG 71.8  
 DW 60.800 use  
 DE 6.00 use  
 TE 298.2 K  
 D1 1.00000000 sec  
 TDO 1

----- CHANNEL f1 -----  
 NUC1 1H  
 P1 12.35 use  
 PL1 0.00 dB  
 SFO1 400.0324703 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters  
 SI 32768  
 SF 400.0300341 MHz  
 WDW GM  
 SSB 0  
 LB -0.20 Hz  
 GB 0.1  
 PC 1.00



$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

AR108 Frac 19-26  
 C13deptql.w CDCl3 /opt/topspin AJR 54

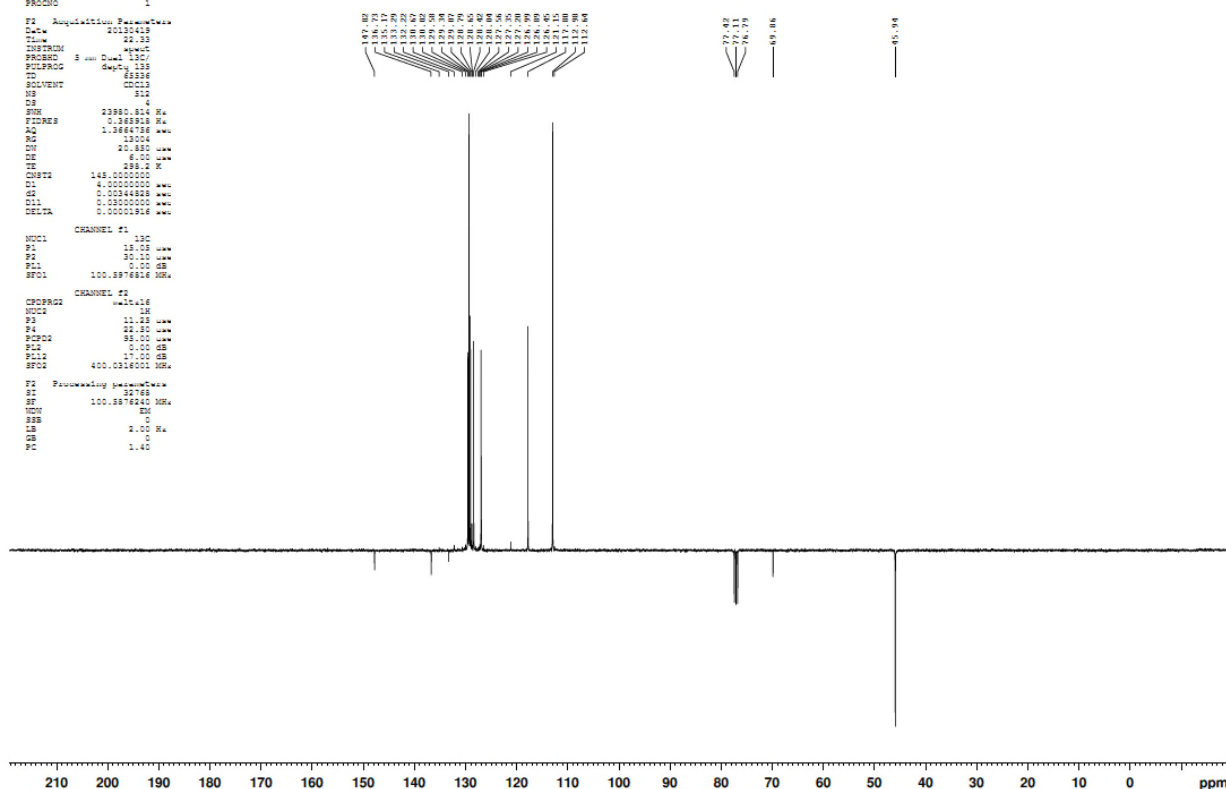
Current Data Parameters  
 NAME Apr19-2013  
 EXPNO 41  
 PROCNO 1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters  
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 Time 22.33  
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 PULPROG zgpg30  
 TD 32768  
 SOLVENT CDCl3  
 NS 16  
 DS 4  
 SWH 20880.814 Hz  
 FIDRES 0.368958 Hz  
 AQ 1.3684706 sec  
 RG 130.24  
 DW 20.880 use  
 DE 6.00 use  
 TE 298.2 K  
 CDEPT 148.0000000 use  
 D1 4.00000000 sec  
 D2 0.00344888 sec  
 D3 0.00000000 sec  
 DELTA 0.00001916 sec

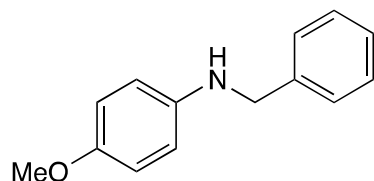
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 PL 0.00 dB  
 SFO1 100.6261616 MHz

CHANNEL f2  
 CPDPRG2 waltz16  
 NUC2 1H  
 P2 12.35 use  
 PL 0.00 dB  
 SFO2 400.0316001 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters  
 SI 32768  
 SF 100.6261616 MHz  
 WDW EM  
 SSB 0  
 LB 2.00 Hz  
 GB 0  
 PC 1.40



***N*-Benzyl-4-methoxyaniline 13.**



(Xylene, 140 °C, 24h AR065).

This compound has been reported and fully characterized, and the data matched that of an authentic sample (see end of this file).<sup>3</sup> 4-Methoxyaniline (94 mg, 0.76 mmol) benzyl alcohol **5** (0.157 mL, 1.52 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were combined and reacted under the conditions described above. The compound was purified by column chromatography on silica with a gradient elution 0-20% EtOAc in pet. ether to give the product as a brown oil (140.6 mg, 0.660 mmol, 87 %).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.31-7.39 (3H, m, *ArH*), 7.11-7.29 (1H, m, *ArH*), 6.75-6.80 (2H, m, *ArH*), 6.57-6.63 (2H, m, *ArH*), 4.28 (2H, s,  $\text{NHCH}_2$ ), 3.74 (3H, s,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), NH not observed;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 152.22 (C), 142.48 (C), 139.71 (C), 128.62 (CH), 127.57 (CH), 127.19 (CH), 114.94 (CH), 114.13 (CH), 55.84 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 49.27 ( $\text{CH}_2$ );  $m/z$  (ESMS+)[ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ]<sup>+</sup> 214.1.  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}^+$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

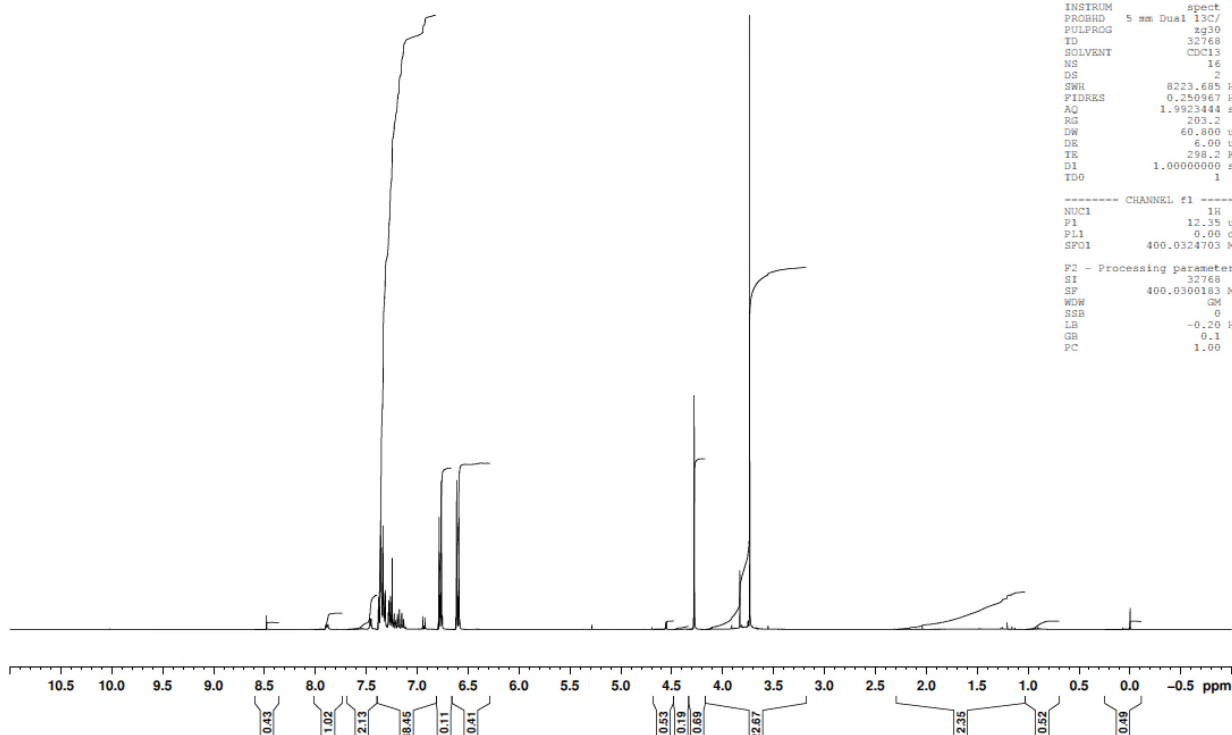
AR065  
PROTON.w CDCI3 /opt/topspin AJR 36

Current Data Parameters  
NAME Mar26-2013  
EXPNO 20  
PROCNO 1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters  
Date\_ 20130326  
Time 11.44  
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PROBHD 5 mm Dual 13C/  
PULPROG zg30  
TD 32768  
SOLVENT CDCl3  
NS 16  
DS 2  
SWH 8223.685 Hz  
FIDRES 0.250967 Hz  
AQ 1.9923444 sec  
RG 203.2  
DW 69.800 use  
DE 6.00 use  
TE 298.2 K  
D1 1.00000000 sec  
TD0 1

----- CHANNEL f1 -----  
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P1 12.35 use  
PL1 0.00 dB  
SFO1 400.0324703 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters  
SI 32768  
SF 400.0300183 MHz  
WDW GM  
SSB 0  
LB -0.20 Hz  
GB 0.1  
PC 1.00



$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

AR065  
C13deptq1.w CDCI3 /opt/topspin AJR 36

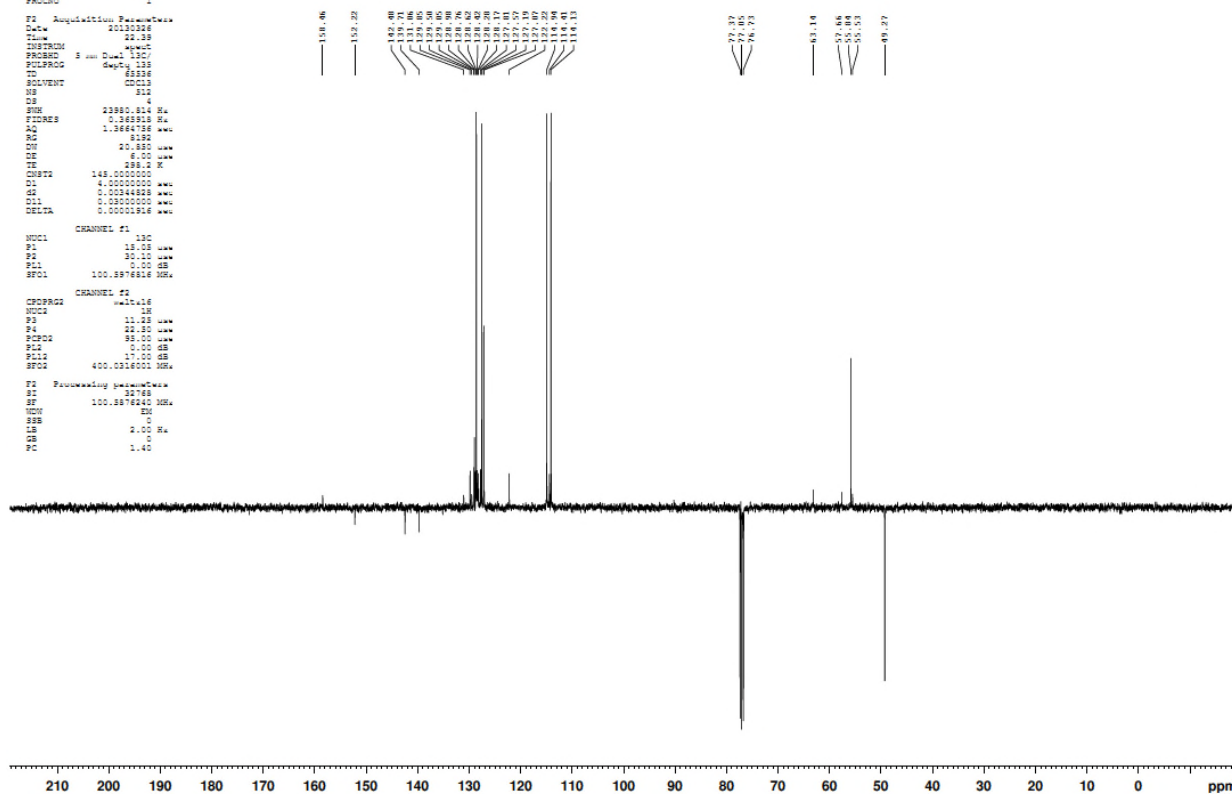
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EXPNO 21  
PROCNO 1

F2 Acquisition Parameters  
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PULPROG zgpg30  
TD 32768  
SOLVENT CDCl3  
NS 16  
DS 2  
SWH 20000.814 Hz  
FIDRES 0.268918 Hz  
AQ 1.9664788 sec  
RG 203.2  
DW 69.800 use  
DE 6.00 use  
TE 298.2 K  
D1 1.00000000 sec  
D11 0.03000000 sec  
D12 0.03000000 sec  
DELTA 0.00001916 sec

----- CHANNEL f1 -----  
NUC1 13C  
P1 18.03 use  
PL1 0.00 dB  
SFO1 100.6261816 MHz

----- CHANNEL f2 -----  
CPROG2 zgpg30  
NUC2 1H  
P2 12.35 use  
PL2 0.00 dB  
SFO2 400.0324703 MHz

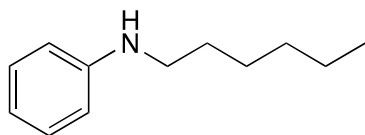
F2 Processing parameters  
SI 32768  
SF 100.6261816 MHz  
WDW EM  
SSB 0  
LB 2.00 Hz  
GB 0  
PC 1.40



**N-Hexylaniline **14** and di(n-hexyldiamine) **15**.**

(Xylene, 140 °C)

Experiment	Mol% catalyst	Time/h	Eq amine	Eq. Alcohol	Monoalkylated <b>14</b>	Dialkylated <b>15</b>	Comments
AR088	10	24	1	2	51%	Not determined	Isolated yield.
AR100	10	24	1	3	72%	13%	Isolated yield.
AR104	10	24	1	1.1	67%	0%	Isolated yield, no dialkylation seen.
AR105	10	48	1	3	96%	4%	Ratio in crude <sup>1</sup> H NMR only.
AR134	20	24	1	3	87.5%	12.5%	Ratio in crude <sup>1</sup> H NMR only.
AR138	20	48	1	3	72%	28%	Ratio in crude <sup>1</sup> H NMR only.



AR104

This compound has been reported and fully characterised.<sup>4</sup> Aniline **6** (0.069 mL, 0.76 mmol) 1-hexanol (0.105 mL, 0.84 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were combined and reacted under the conditions described above. The compound was purified by column chromatography on silica with a gradient elution 0-20% EtOAc in pet. ether to give the product as a pale yellow oil (90.2 mg, 0.51 mmol, 67 %).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.13-7.19 (2H, m, ArH), 6.65-6.70 (1H, m, ArH), 6.56-6.61 (2H, m, ArH), 3.57 (1H, br s, NH), 3.09 (2H, t,  $J$  8.0  $\text{NHCH}_2$ ), 1.61 (2H, quin,  $J$  8.0  $\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.26-1.44 (6H, m, hex), 0.85-0.94 (3H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 148.58 (C), 129.24 (CH), 117.08 (CH), 112.71 (CH), 44.04 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 31.69 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.59 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.90 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 22.67 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 14.08 ( $\text{CH}_3$ );  $m/z$  (ESMS+)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  178.1.  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}^+$ .

<sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

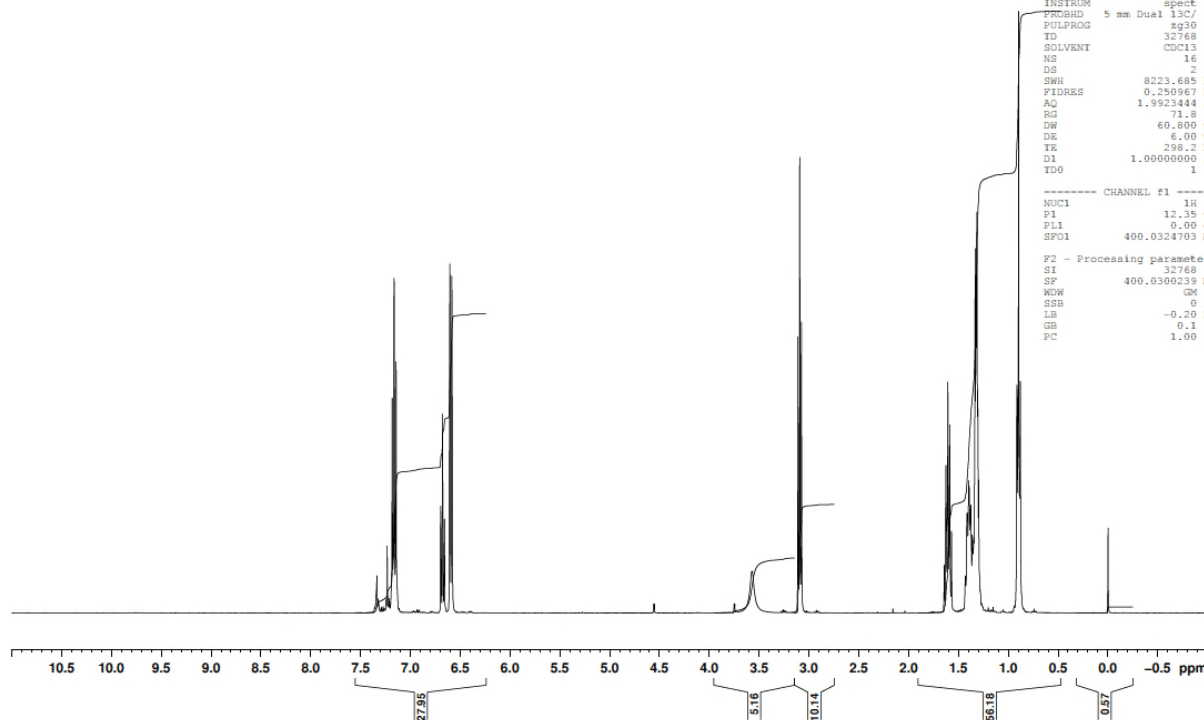
ar104 frac 4  
PROTON.w CDCl3 /opt/topspin AJR 22

Current Data Parameters  
NAME Apr04-2013  
EXPNO 10  
PROCNO 1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters  
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PULPROG zg30  
TD 32768  
SOLVENT CDCl3  
NS 16  
DS 2  
SWH 8223.685 Hz  
FIDRES 0.250967 Hz  
AQ 1.9923444 sec  
RG 71.8  
DW 60.800 use  
DE 6.00 use  
TE 298.2 K  
D1 1.00000000 sec  
TD0 1

----- CHANNEL f1 -----  
NUC1 1H  
P1 12.35 use  
PL1 0.00 dB  
SFO1 400.0324703 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters  
SI 32768  
SF 400.0300239 MHz  
WDW DM  
SSB 0  
LB -0.20 Hz  
GB 0.1  
PC 1.00



$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

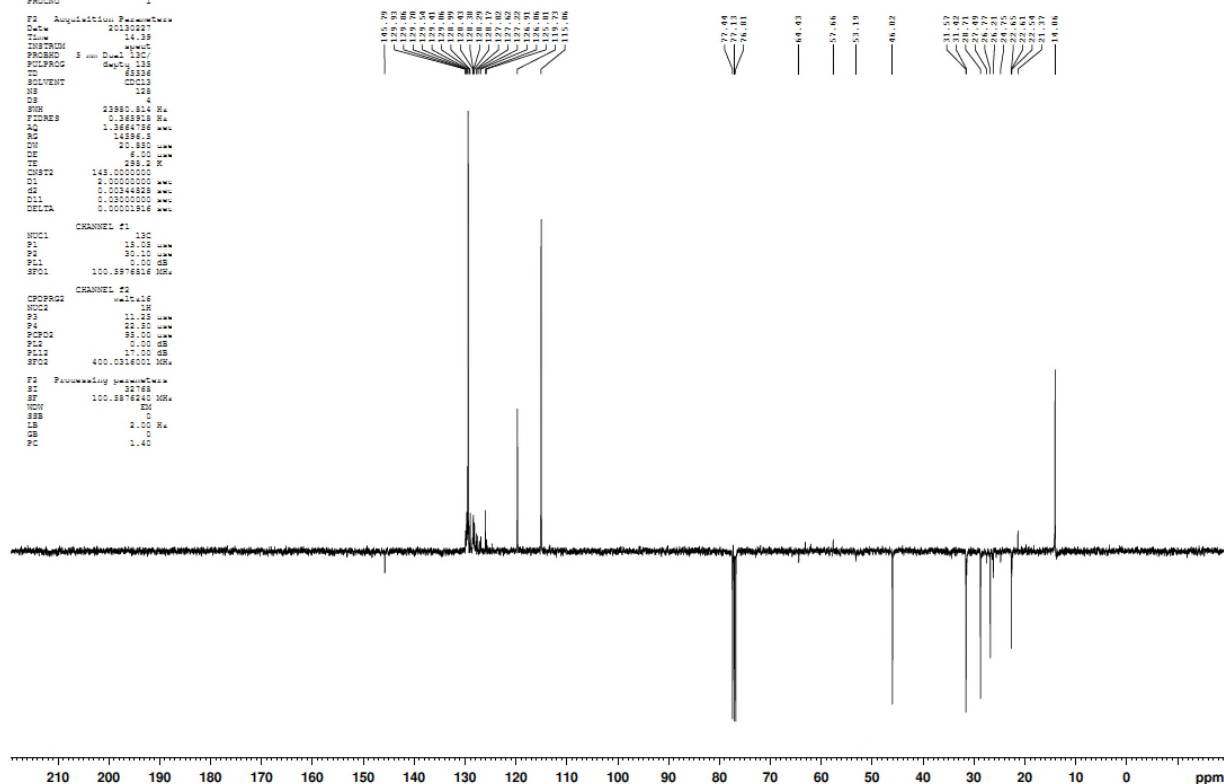
ar088 frac 5-9  
C13deptq.w CDCl3 /opt/topspin AJR 48

F2 Acquisition Parameters  
Date\_ 20130227  
Time 14.39  
INSTRUM spect  
PROBHD 5 mm Dual 13C/  
PULPROG zgpg30  
TD 65536  
SOLVENT CDCl3  
NS 128  
DS 4  
SWH 23880.814 Hz  
FIDRES 0.3689128 Hz  
AQ 1.3664756 sec  
RG 14886.5  
DW 20.800 use  
DE 6.00 use  
TE 298.2 K  
CHST2 148.0000000 use  
D1 1.00000000 sec  
DS 0.00344888 sec  
D11 0.00000000 sec  
DELTA 0.00001916 sec

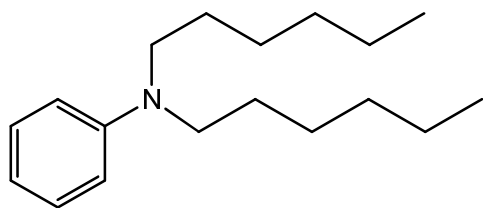
CHANNEL f1  
NUC1 13C  
P1 18.00 use  
PL1 0.00 dB  
SFO1 100.6261816 MHz

CHANNEL f2  
CPDPRG2 waltz16  
NUC2 1H  
P2 12.00 use  
PL2 0.00 dB  
SFO2 400.0324703 MHz

F2 Processing parameters  
SI 65536  
SF 100.6261816 MHz  
WDW EM  
SSB 0  
LB 2.00 Hz  
GB 0  
PC 1.40

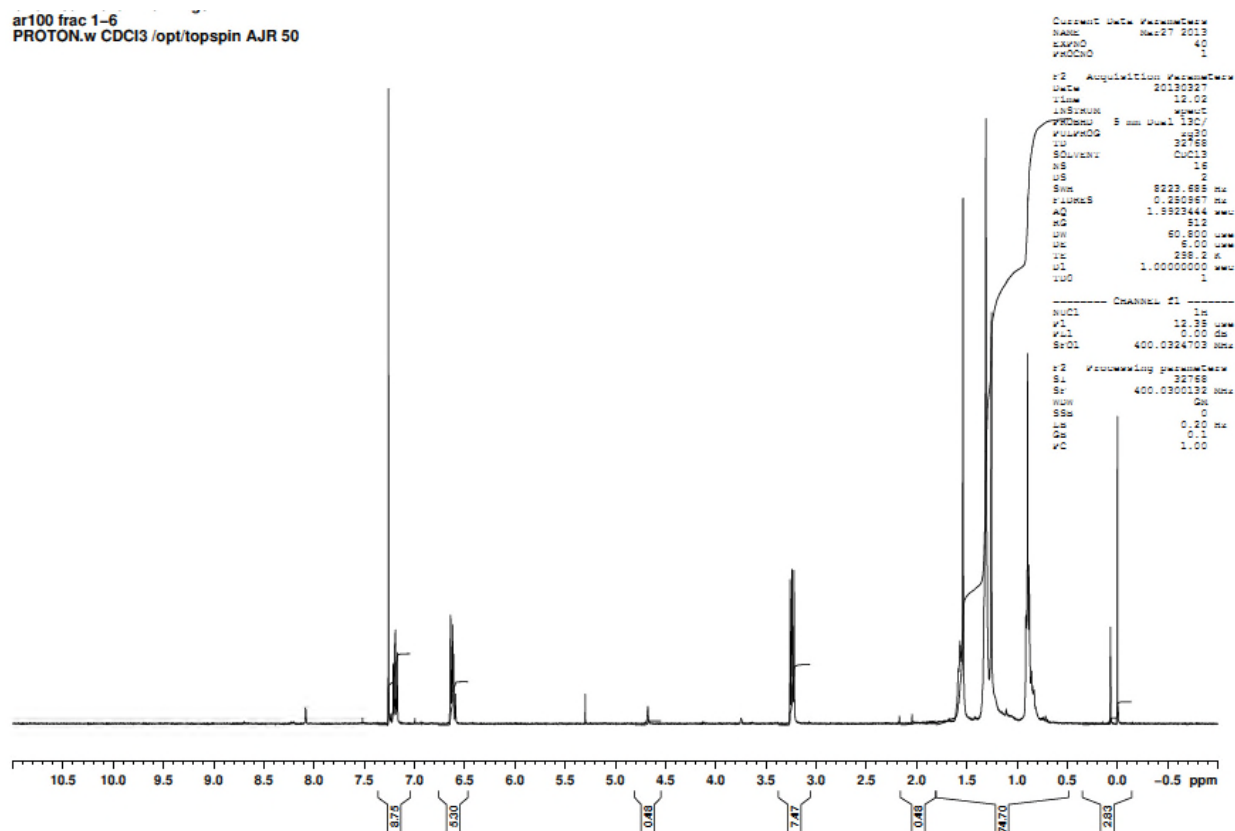


The dialkylation product **15** was formed in low conversion as a mixture alongside **14** however sufficient could be isolated to confirm the structure of the product by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR<sup>5</sup>:

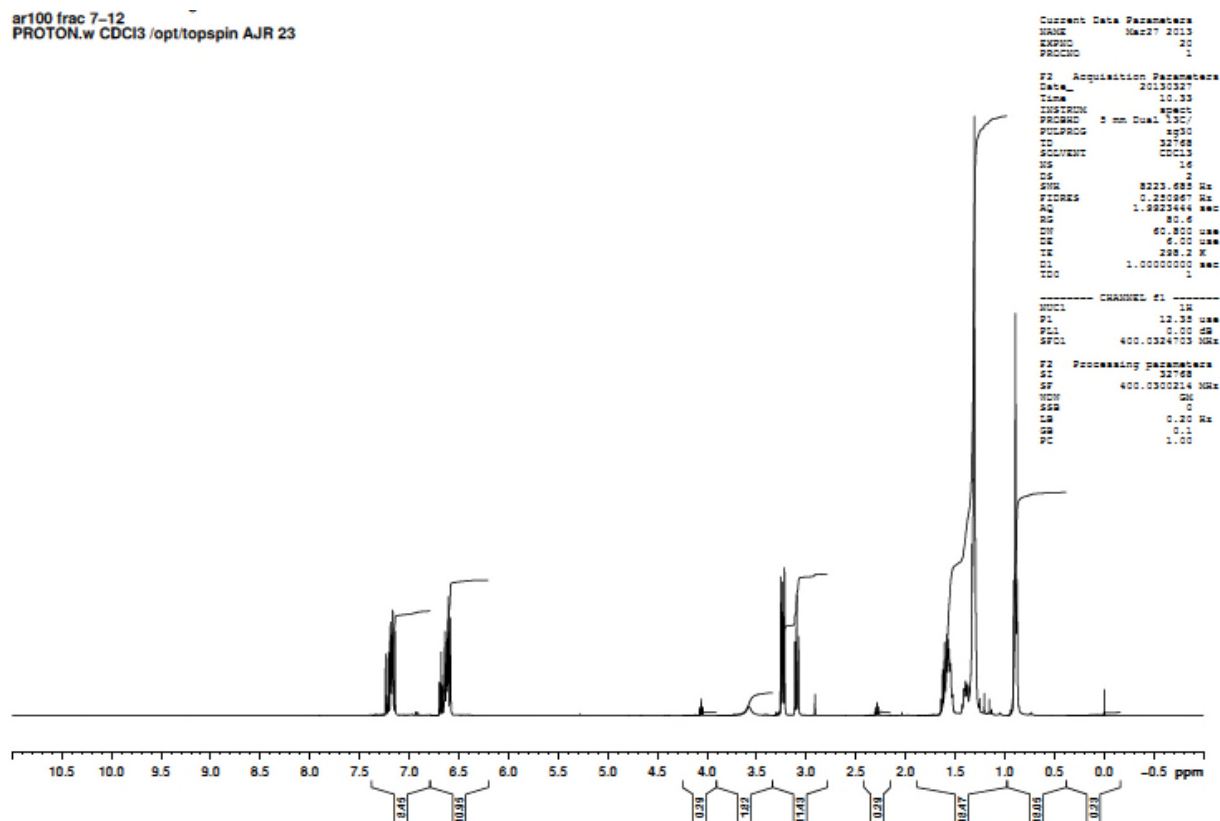


$\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.25-7.15 (2H, m, ArH), 6.65-6.55 (3H, m, ArH), 3.22 (4H, t,  $J = 6.5$ , 2 x  $\text{NCH}_2$ ), 1.60-1.50 (4H, m, 2 x  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.30-1.20 (12H, m, 6 x  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 0.85 (6H, t,  $J = 6.5$ , 2 x  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

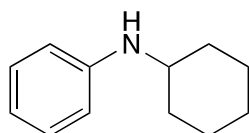
$^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):



Sample containing 16% mono and 11% dialkylated:



### ***N*-Cyclohexylaniline 16.**

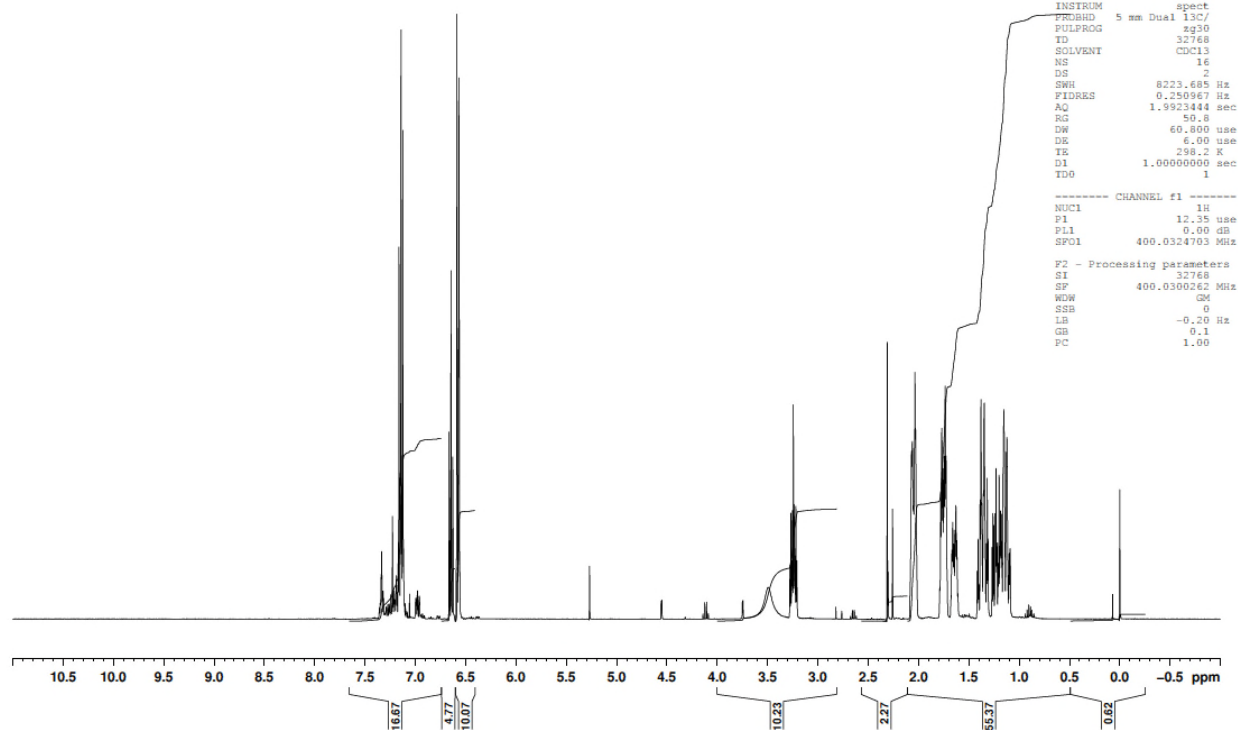


(Xylene, 140 °C, 24h, AR076).

This compound has been reported and fully characterised.<sup>1</sup> Aniline **6** (0.069 mL, 0.76 mmol) cyclohexanol (0.161 mL, 1.52 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were combined and reacted under the conditions described above. The compound was purified by column chromatography on silica with a gradient elution 0-20% EtOAc in pet. Ether to give the product as a pale yellow oil (102.8 mg, 0.587 mmol, 77 %).  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 7.11-7.18 (2H, m, *ArH*), 6.62-6.67 (1H, m, *ArH*), 6.55-6.60 (2H, m, *ArH*), 3.49 (1H, br s, *NH*), 3.20-3.28 (1H, m, *NHCHCH\_2*), 2.01-2.09 (2H, m, *c*-Hex), 1.70-1.80 (2H, m, *c*-Hex), 1.60-1.69 (1H, m, *c*-Hex), 1.29-1.43 (2H, m, *c*-Hex), 1.08-1.28 (3H, m, *c*-Hex);  $\delta_C$  (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 147.43 (C), 129.28 (CH), 116.84 (CH), 113.16 (CH), 51.71 (CH), 33.54 ( $CH_2$ ), 25.98 ( $CH_2$ ), 25.07 ( $CH_2$ );  $m/z$  (ESMS+)  $[M+H]^+$  176.1.  $C_{12}H_{18}N^+$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

ar076 frac 5-9  
PROTON.w  $\text{CDCl}_3$  /opt/topspin AJR 33



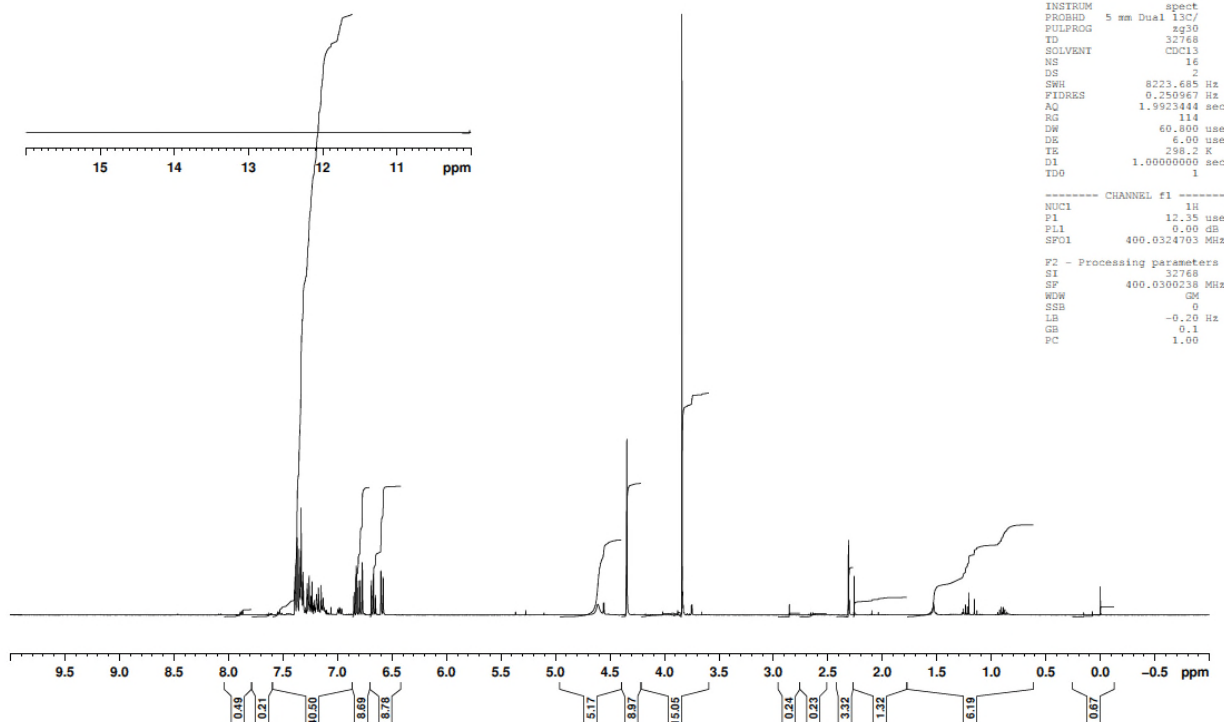
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):



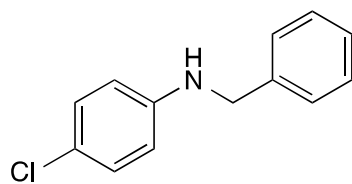
(C), 129.86 (CH), 127.55 (CH), 126.86 (CH), 121.31 (CH), 116.66 (CH), 110.10 (CH), 109.43 (CH), 55.44 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 48.08 (CH<sub>3</sub>), one ipso C not observed; *m/z* (ESMS+) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 214.1. C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR δ<sub>H</sub> (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):

ar067 frac 1-5  
PROTON.w CDCl<sub>3</sub> /opt/topspin AJR 48



### ***N*-Benzyl-3-chloroaniline.**



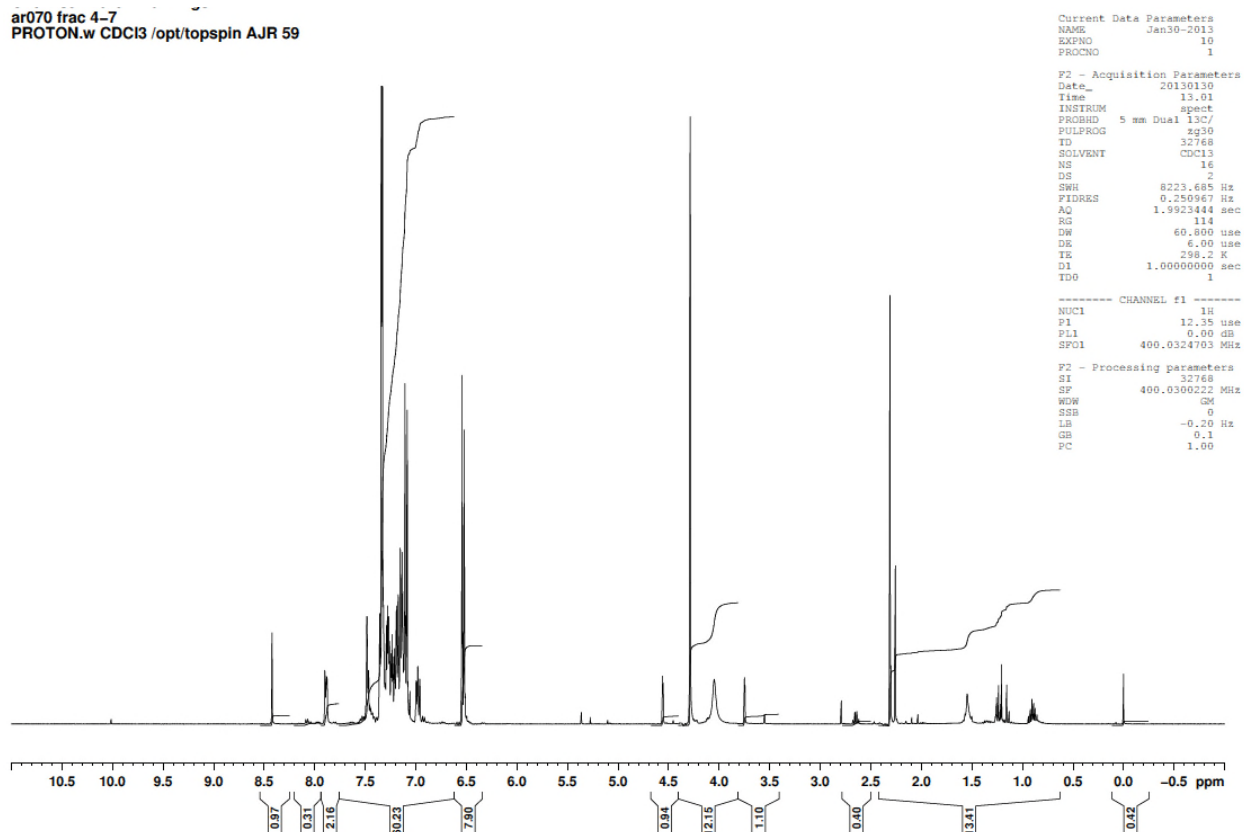
(Xylene, 140 °C, 24h, AR070).

This compound has been reported and fully characterised.<sup>1</sup> 4-Chloroaniline (0.097 mL, 0.76 mmol) benzyl alcohol **5** (0.157 mL, 1.52 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were combined and reacted under the conditions described above. The compound was purified by column chromatography on silica with a gradient elution 0-20% EtOAc in pet. Ether to give the product as a brown oil (57.7 mg, 0.266 mmol, 35 %, ca 50% pure). δ<sub>H</sub> (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.15-7.30 (5H, m, ArH), 7.07-7.12

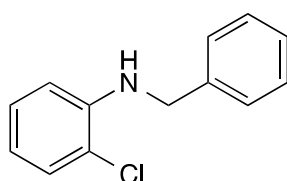
(2H, m, ArH), 6.50-6.56 (2H, m, ArH), 4.29 (2H, s, NHCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.96-4.14 (1H, br s, NH); *m/z* (ESMS+) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 218.1. C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClN<sup>+</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR δ<sub>H</sub> (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):

ar070 frac 4-7  
PROTON.w CDCl<sub>3</sub> /opt/topspin AJR 59



### ***N*-Benzyl-2-chloroaniline.**



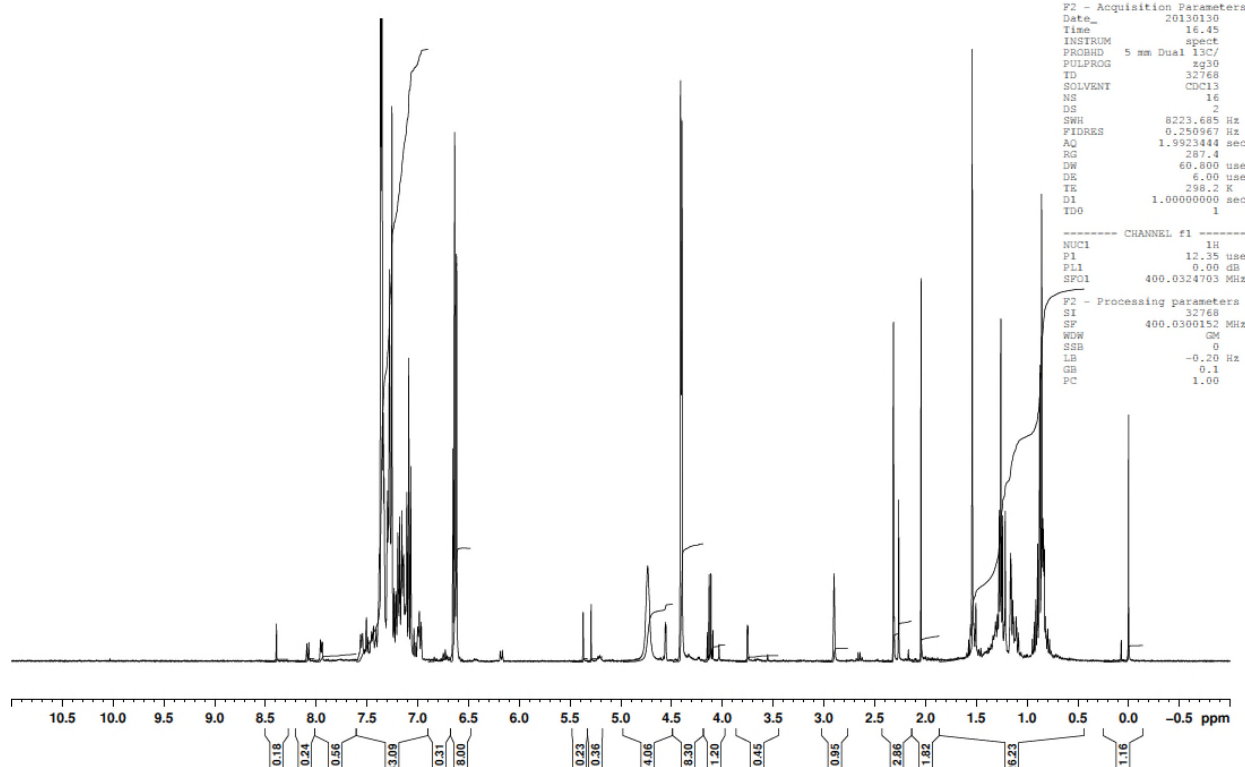
(Xylene, 140 °C, 24h, AR071).

This compound has been reported and fully characterised.<sup>2</sup> 2-Chloroaniline (0.080 mL, 0.76 mmol) benzyl alcohol **5** (0.157 mL, 1.52 mmol), trimethylamine *N*-oxide dihydrate (6 mg, 0.08 mmol) and **1** (40 mg, 0.076 mmol) were combined and reacted under the conditions described above. The compound was purified by column chromatography on silica with a gradient elution 0-20% EtOAc in pet. ether to give the product as a brown oil (6.6 mg, 0.03 mmol, 4 %, <40% pure). *After purification there was still presence of starting material but most of the characteristic peaks could be identified from 1H NMR.* δ<sub>H</sub> (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

7.32-7.39 (4H, m, ArH), 7.24-7.31 (2H, m, ArH), 7.06-7.12 (1H, m, ArH), 6.60-6.67 (2H, m, ArH), 4.67-4.81 (1H, br s, NH), 4.38-4.43 (2H, s, NHCH<sub>2</sub>); *m/z* (ESMS+) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 218.1. C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>CIN<sup>+</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR δ<sub>H</sub> (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):

ar071 frac 5-7  
PROTON.w CDCl<sub>3</sub> /opt/topspin AJR 40



## References.

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- 2) Zhang, M.; Yang, H.; Zhang, Y.; Zhu, C.; Li, W.; Cheng, Y.; Hu, H. *Chem. Commun.* **2011**, 47, 6605-6607.
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