

# Asymmetric Synthesis of *cis*-2,5-Disubstituted Pyrrolidine, the Core Scaffold of $\beta_3$ -AR Agonists

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## Supporting Information

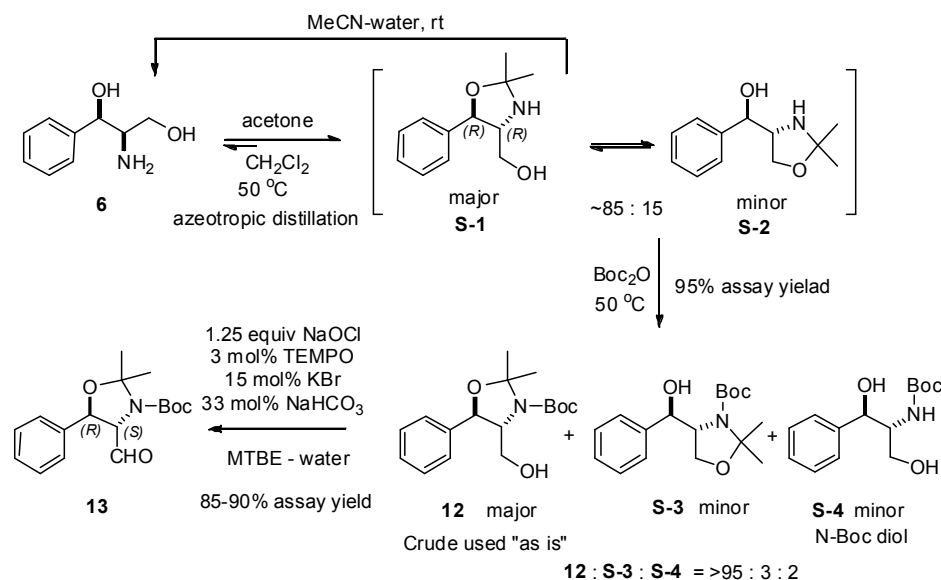
### Table of Contents

1. Alternative synthesis of aldehyde <b>13</b> .....	S2
2. Diastereoselective hydrogenation of imines <b>17</b> and <b>18</b> .....	S3
3. Experimental procedure.....	S4
4. <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectra.....	S9

## 1. Alternative synthesis of aldehyde **13**

Alternative preparation of aldehyde **13** from (1R,2R)-2-amino-1-phenylpropane-1,3-diol (**6**) is depicted in Scheme S-1. Protection of diol **6** resulted in a mixture of acetonides **S-1** and **S-2**. The solvent-dependent ratio of **S-1** and **S-2** was a result of thermodynamic equilibrium between **S-1** and **S-2** under the reaction conditions. Typically, by heating **6** in a mixture of acetone and dichloromethane or toluene under Dean–Stark conditions, a 85:15 mixture of **S-1**/**S-2** in favor of **S-1** was obtained. The resulting reaction solution was then treated with 1.1 equiv of Boc<sub>2</sub>O at ambient temperature to 45 °C to afford *N*-Boc oxazolidine **12** in 95% assay yield, albeit the ratio of the Boc protection products was 95:3:2 (**12** : **S-3** : **S-4**). Benefiting from the equilibration between acetonide alcohols **S-1** and **S-2**, the ratio of Boc protected acetonides (**12** : **S-3**) was improved because the major isomer **S-1** reacted with Boc<sub>2</sub>O faster than the minor isomer **S-2**. In addition, the removal of water was important to achieve higher conversion for the acetonide formation and therefore to minimize the formation of *N*-Boc diol byproduct **S-4**.

**Scheme S-1.** Preparation of aldehyde **13**

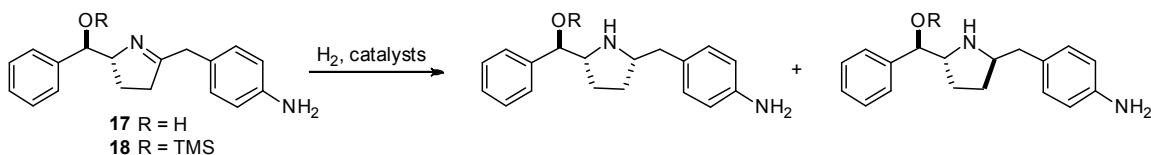


The crude Boc protected reaction mixture (in MTBE) after work-up was used directly "as-is" in the TEMPO oxidation to give aldehyde **13** in 85-95% assay yield.

Attempts to use 2,2-dimethoxypropane instead of acetone (10 mol% TsOH in toluene at up to 80 °C) for the oxazolidine formation gave only ~20% conversion. Similarly, an attempt to reverse the order of acetonide and Boc protection, by forming *N*-Boc amino diol **S-4** first followed by treating with 2,2-dimethoxypropane, in the presence of a catalytic amount of TsOH, afforded an unsatisfactory mixture of desired **12** and regioisomer **S-3**.

## 2. Diastereoselective hydrogenation of imines **17** and **18**

**Table S-1.** Selected Results of Hydrogenation of Imines **17** and **18**<sup>a</sup>



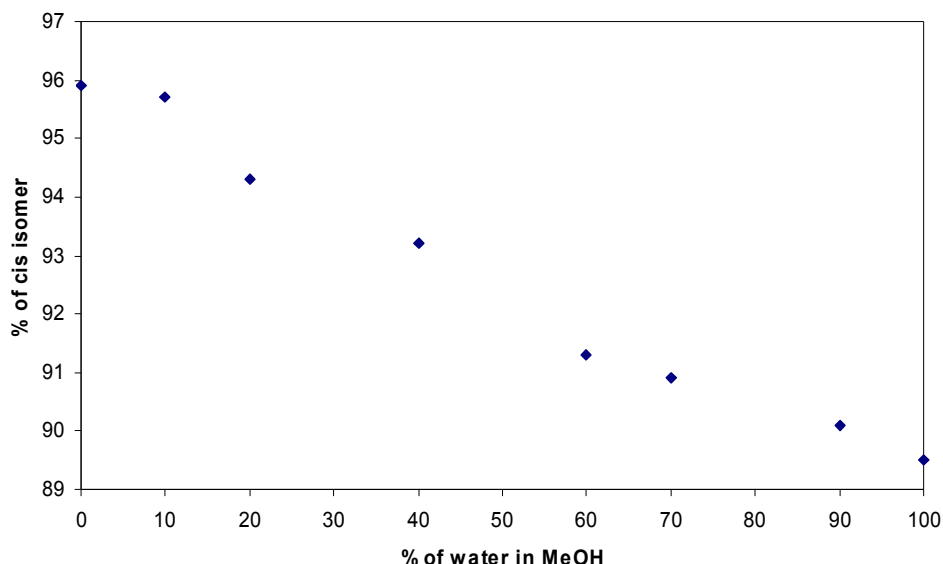
entry	substrates	catalysts	Solvents	additives	conv (%) <sup>b</sup>	cis/trans <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>17</b>	Pd/C	<i>i</i> -PrOH		64	60:40
2	(R = H)	Pt/C	<i>i</i> -PrOH	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>		71:29
3		Pd/C	EtOH		93	56:44
4		Pd(OH) <sub>2</sub>	<i>i</i> -PrOH			60:40
5		Pd/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MeOH			44:55
6		Pd/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MeOH	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>		44:55
7		Rh/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MeOH		94	61:39
8		Rh/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MeOH	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>		76:24
9		Pt/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	<i>i</i> -PrOH		>99	84:16
10		Pt/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	EtOH			73:27
11		Pt/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MeOH			77:23
12		Pt/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	H <sub>2</sub> O			81:19
13		Pt/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	CF <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH			66:34
14		Pt/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	DMF			81:19
15		Pt/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	THF	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>		87:13
16		Ru/C	<i>i</i> -PrOH		61	84:16
17		Ru/C	EtOAc			79:21
18		PtO <sub>2</sub>	EtOH		69	66:33
19		Raney Ni <sup>c</sup>	MeOH		>99	96:4 <sup>c</sup>
20		Raney Ni <sup>d</sup>	MeOH		>99	92:8 <sup>d</sup>
21	<b>18</b>	Pt/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	DMF		>99	96:4
22	(R = TMS)	Pt/C	THF		>99	96:4
23		Rh/Al	THF		72	98:2
24		Pd/C	THF		78	91:9
25		Pd/Al	THF		37	95:5

<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise mentioned, all reactions were carried out at 25 °C, 15–40psi H<sub>2</sub> with 10–25 wt% catalyst loading.

<sup>b</sup> Determined by HPLC analysis: Waters Xbridge C18 column, 3.5μm particle size, 150 × 4.6mm; mobile phase: 0.1% aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>OH adjust to pH 9.5 with HCl / acetonitrile, 1ml/min flow rate, 25 °C, detection at 210 nm.

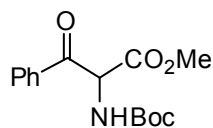
<sup>c</sup> 75 °C, 40psi H<sub>2</sub>, 100 wt% Raney Ni.

<sup>d</sup> 50 °C, 40psi H<sub>2</sub>, 100 wt% Raney Ni.



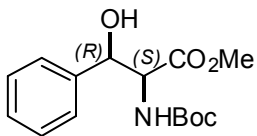
**Figure S-1.** Hydrogenation of alcohol imine **17** in the presence of Raney Ni: Water effect on diastereoselectivity. Reaction conditions: 75 °C, 40psi H<sub>2</sub>, 100wt% Raney Ni with various ratios of MeOH–water.

### 3. Experimental Procedure

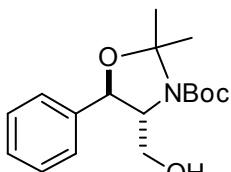


**Methyl 2-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropanoate (9).** To a mixture of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (110 g, 1.034 mol) in water (600 mL) and EtOAc (600 mL) at 0-5 °C was added glycine methyl ester hydrochloride (119 g, 0.948 mol) in portions over 30 min. The resulting slurry was aged for additional 15-30 min, PhCOCl (100 mL, 0.862 mol) was then added dropwise over 1.5 h at 0-5 °C. After aging additional 1 h at 0-5 °C, the reaction mixture was warmed to 25 °C and formed a homogenous biphasic solution. The separated organic phase was azeotropically concentrated and solvent switched to MeCN at a final volume of ~600 mL. DMAP (43.1 mmol, 5.26 g) was added. A solution of Boc<sub>2</sub>O (0.948 mol, 207 g) in MeCN (200 mL) was added at ambient temperature dropwise over 2-3 h. After the reaction solution was stirred at ambient temperature for ~6 h, the batch was vacuum degassed with N<sub>2</sub> to remove CO<sub>2</sub> generated in the amidation step. THF (540 mL) was added. Then, a solution of *t*-BuOK (1.12 mol, 128 g, 97%) in THF (670 mL) was added at 0-10 °C dropwise over 1-2 h. After aging at 0-5 °C for additional 1 h, a solution of 15 wt% citric acid in water (0.431 mol, 91 g citric acid in 515 mL H<sub>2</sub>O) was added at <10 °C. The organic phase was washed with 480 mL of half saturated aqueous NaCl, and solvent switched to *i*-PrOH at a final volume of ~1.25 L containing ~10% water at < 45 °C. Water (1.25 L) was added dropwise at 40-50 °C over 2 h. Then, the slurry was cooled to ambient temperature and aged for 1-2 h before filtration. The wet cake was displacement washed with 30% *i*-PrOH in water (640 mL x 2), and vacuum oven dried at < 50 °C to give 227 g of white crystalline solid **9**. 90% yield. m.p. 96-97 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO): major rotamer:

$\delta$  7.95 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.86 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.69 (m, 1 H), 7.55 (m, 2 H), 5.89 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.67 (s, 3 H), 1.38 (s, 9 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO): major rotomer:  $\delta$  192.9, 168.3, 155.5, 134.5, 133.9, 128.74, 128.68, 79.1, 59.1, 52.4, 28.0; HRMS calc'd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  316.1155, found 316.1156.



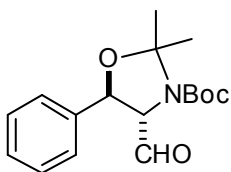
**Methyl (2S,3R)-2-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-hydroxy-3-phenylpropanoate (10).** To a solution of  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (141 g) in water (800 mL) at ambient temperature was added dextrose (98 g, 0.49 mol) followed by NADP (3.6 g), GDH-105 (1.15 g), CDX-018 (2.9 g). The resulting homogenous solution was pH adjusted to a minimum of 7.5 with 2M NaOH prior to use. A solution of ketone **9** (120 g, 0.409 mol) in DMSO (360 mL) was added over 4 h at 30 °C with vigorous agitation, while 2M NaOH (~2.1 L total) was added dropwise to maintain the reaction mixture at pH = 7.3–7.7. Once 90% (~1.9 L) of 2M NaOH solution was added, the reaction temperature was raised to 35 °C until >95% conversion was achieved. *i*-PrOH (0.9 L) followed by MTBE (0.49 L) were added and the organic phase was separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with *i*-PrOH:MTBE (1.4 L, *i*-PrOH:MTBE = 20:80). The combined organic phase was washed with brine (0.5 L, 10% w/v brine) and the crude product containing compound **10** was directly used for the next step. 90-92% assay yield.



**tert-Butyl (4R,5R)-4-(hydroxymethyl)-2,2-dimethyl-5-phenyl-1,3-oxazolidine-3-carboxylate (12).** To a toluene solution of ester **10** (35.9 mmol, 10.6 g, in ~25 to 30 mL toluene, crude solution from previous DKR step) were added acetone (50 mL) and 2,2-dimethoxy propane (20 mL). A solution of  $\text{BF}_3$  etherate (3.59 mmol, 0.43 mL) in toluene (2 mL) was then added via a syringe pump at ambient temperature over 2 h. The reaction solution was aged at ambient temperature for 15h.  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (3.59 mmol, 0.5 mL) was added dropwise. After aging for additional 15 min, the solution was solvent switched to toluene (~30 mL) while most of the acetone was removed in vacuum. MTBE (60 mL) was added and the organic phase was washed with 5%  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ /brine (40 mL). The organic phase was azeotropically dried and solvent switched to toluene at a final volume of ~35-40 mL (95% assay yield of **11**).

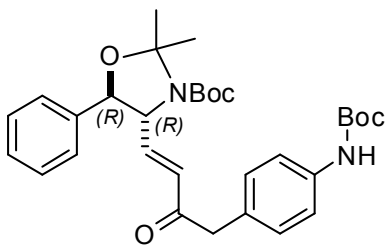
The above solution was added to a mixture of  $\text{LiBH}_4$  (44.3 mmol, 966 mg) in THF (60 mL) over 30 min. The reaction mixture was aged for 15 h at 35 °C. The reaction solution was cooled to ambient temperature and added to a solution of 10%  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (40 mL) below 5 °C with external cooling. The quenched solution was aged at ambient temperature for 2-3 h or until the evolution of  $\text{H}_2$  gas ceased. MTBE (100 mL) was added. The separated organic layer was solvent switched to toluene at a final volume of ~40 mL, which was directly used in the subsequent oxidation step. 92% assay yield of **12**.

An analytically pure sample of **12** was obtained by crystallization from toluene/heptane: m.p. 69-72 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.42 (m, 2 H), 7.37 (m, 3 H), 4.78 (br s, 1 H), 4.58 (br s, 1 H), 3.82 (br s, 2 H), 3.70 (br m, 1 H), 1.71 (s, 3 H), 1.59 (s, 3 H), 1.53 (s, 9 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  154.3, 137., 129.0, 128.9, 127.5, 94.9, 81.6, 78.6, 67.9, 63.7, 28.6, 27.9, 26.2; Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4$ : C, 66.43; H, 8.20; N, 4.56; Found: C, 66.33; H, 8.43; N, 4.59.



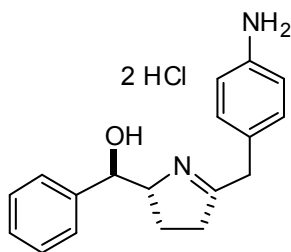
**tert-Butyl (4S,5R)-4-formyl-2,2-dimethyl-5-phenyloxazolidine-3-carboxylate (13).**

To a solution of alcohol **12** in toluene (65.07 mmol, 20 g assay, ~60 mL) was added acetonitrile (120 mL) at ambient temperature. KBr (9.76 mmol, 1.16 g), NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (21.48 mmol, 1.8 g) and water (40 mL) were then charged. The biphasic mixture was cooled to 5 °C and TEMPO (1.95 mmol, 305 mg) was added. Then, 6 wt% NaOCl solution (81.38 mmol, 101 g) was added dropwise at 0-5 °C over 2 h. After addition, the reaction was stirred at 5 °C for additional 30 min. The reaction was quenched by dropwise addition of 10% sodium sulfite (50 mL) at 5 °C. The organic layer was separated and directly used for the subsequent HWE coupling step without further purification. The assay yield of **13** was 17.5 g (88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): **12** exists as a mixture of two rotomers. Overlap of signals does not permit unequivocal assignment of each rotomers. δ 9.62-9.50 (br d, 1 H), 7.5-7.4 (m, 5 H), 4.99 (d, 1 H), 4.3-4.1 (br m, 1 H), 1.8-1.7 (m, 6 H), 1.55-1.47 (m, 9 H); Selected data of <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Some <sup>13</sup>C signals are too broad to be assigned due to a mixture of rotomers at 20 °C. δ 197.2, 136.7, 129.1, 129.0, 126.7, 96.2, 81.9, 76.3, 71.5, 28.4, 26.4, 25.5.

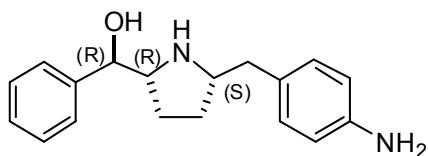


**tert-Butyl (4R,5R)-4-((E)-4-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)-amino)-phenyl)-3-oxobut-1-en-1-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-5-phenyloxazolidine-3-carboxylate (14).**

To a solution of aldehyde **13** in wet toluene/acetonitrile (57.3 mmol, 17.5 g assay; 10.81 wt%, 162 g crude stream solution) obtained above at -10 °C were added acetonitrile (140 mL), phosphonate **4** (68.8 mmol, 24.6 g) and LiBr (171.9 mmol, 14.9 g) while the internal temperature was maintained below 0 °C. Then, Hunig's base (171.9 mmol, 22.2 g) was added at 0-5 °C dropwise over 2 h. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at 0-5 °C for 2-4 h followed by at ambient temperature for 12 h. The slurry was cooled to 5 °C, and a 10% aqueous solution of citric acid (39.1 mmol, ~75 g) was added dropwise to adjust the pH to 6.5-7.0 while maintaining the batch temperature at 0-5 °C. The organic layer was washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (57 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (57 mL) successively. The organic phase was solvent switched to *i*-PrOH at a final volume of ~190 mL. The product was gradually crystallized during the distillation. Water (16.4 mL) was added and the slurry was heated to 49 °C to give a homogeneous solution. The resulting solution was cooled to 40 °C and seeded (0.27 g). After aging at 40 °C for 2 h to establish a seed bed, H<sub>2</sub>O (93 mL) was charged dropwise at 40 °C over 3 h. After aging at 40 °C for additional 1 h, the slurry was gradually cooled to 5-10 °C and agitated at 5-10 °C for additional 2 h before filtration. The wet cake was washed with 50% H<sub>2</sub>O/ *i*-PrOH (a 164 mL displacement wash followed by a 110 mL slurry wash). Suction dried under nitrogen gave the product as an off-white solid (24.9 g, >99% purity). 80% isolated yield. m.p. 134-135 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.32 (m, 5 H), 7.23 (m, 2 H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.76 (dd, J = 15.7, 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.50 (s, 1 H), 5.93 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 4.65 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.30-4.02 (br m, 1 H), 3.71 (s, 2 H), 1.74 (s, 3 H), 1.63 (s, 3 H), 1.53 (s, 9 H), 1.32 (br s, 9 H); Selected data of <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Some <sup>13</sup>C signals are too broad to be assigned due to a mixture of rotomers at 20 °C. δ 196.8, 152.9, 137.7, 136.8, 130.1, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 127.0, 119.0, 80.9, 66.4, 48.0, 28.54, 28.50, 26.5, 26.0; Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>40</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 69.38; H, 7.51; N, 5.22. Found: C, 69.11; H, 7.58; N, 5.24.



**(R)-((R)-5-(4-aminobenzyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-(phenyl)methanol bis hydrochloric acid salt monohydrate (17).** A mixture of enone **14** (0.354 mol, 190.0 g) and 10% Palladium on 10% Pd/C (9.5 g) in THF (0.85 Kg) was hydrogenated under 20 psig H<sub>2</sub> for 90 min at 25 °C until uptake of hydrogen had ceased. The catalyst was removed through filtration of a bed of solka floc. The filtered residues were washed with THF (0.85 Kg). The combined filtrate was solvent switched to *i*-PrOH at a final volume of ~1.4 L. 4N HCl in *i*-PrOH (1.5 L) at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at 20-25 °C for 24 h. The batch was distilled under reduced pressure, at constant volume by charging *i*-PrOH up to one batch volume, to remove HCl. The batch was then concentrated to a final volume of ~1.5 L. The resulting slurry was heated to 45°C, and *i*-PrOAc (2.5 L) was slowly added to the batch over 2-3 h. The slurry was then cooled to ~20 °C over 1-2 h and aged overnight. The batch was filtered, and the cake was washed with a 1:2 mixture of *i*-PrOH / *i*-PrOAc (0.8 L) followed by *i*-PrOAc (0.8 L). The wet cake was dried at 45 °C in vacuum under nitrogen sweep to give the cyclic imine bis-HCl salt **17** (124 g, >97% purity). 94% yield. m.p. 220-226 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 11.16 (br s, 2 H), 7.47-7.28 (m, 9 H), 4.74 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 4.63 (br m, 1 H), 4.21 (AB q, J = 22.1, 14.5 Hz, 2 H), 2.89 (m, 1 H), 2.78 (m, 1 H), 1.96 (m, 1 H), 1.86 (m, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 194.7, 140.5, 132.5, 131.7, 130.7, 128.3, 137.9, 126.9, 123.5, 73.2, 72.1, 36.2, 36.1, 22.3; HRMS calc'd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 281.1654, found 281.1645.

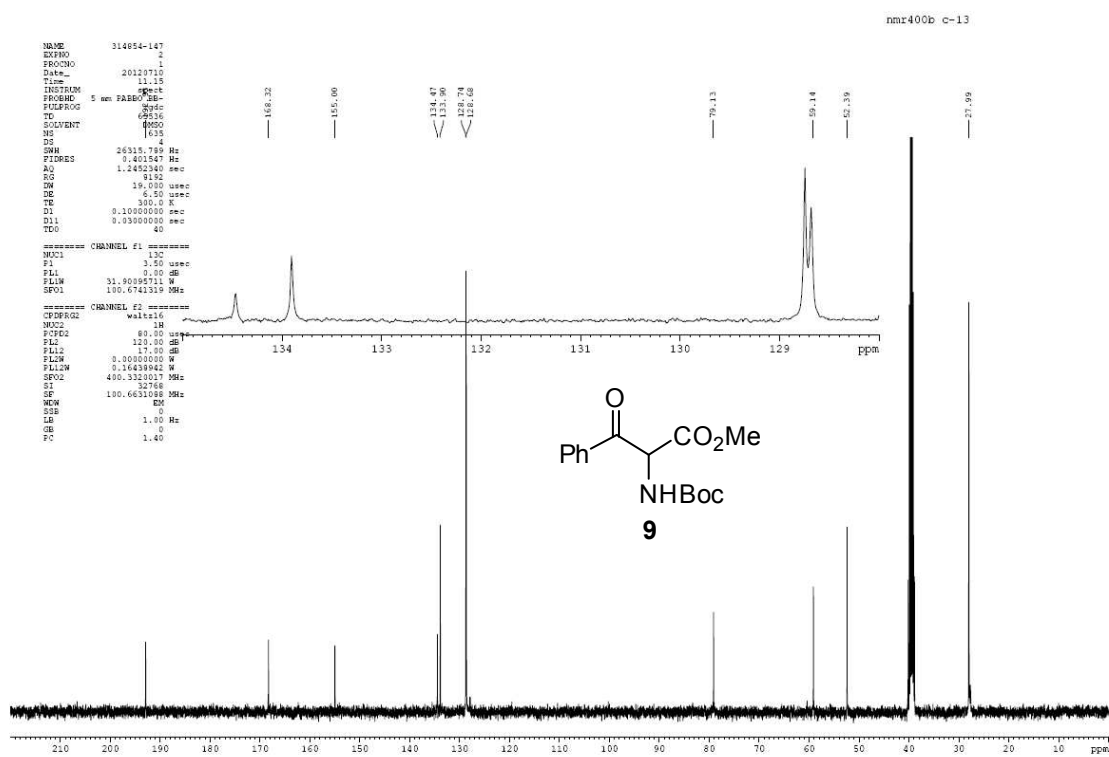
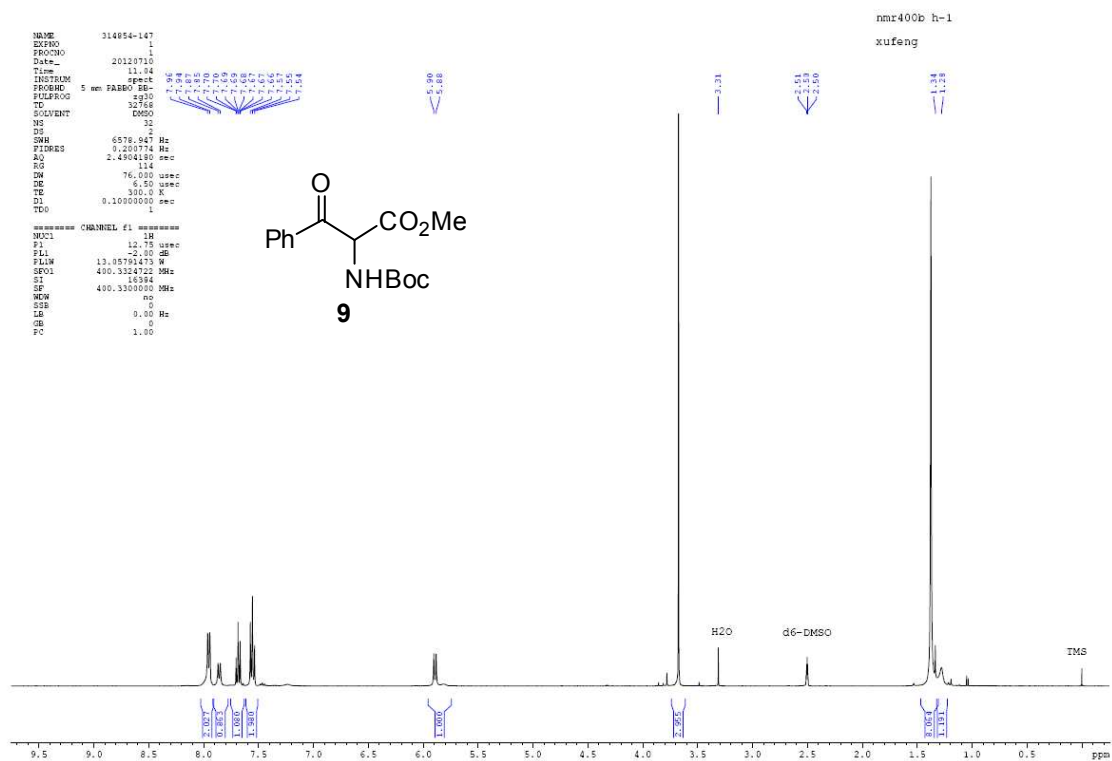


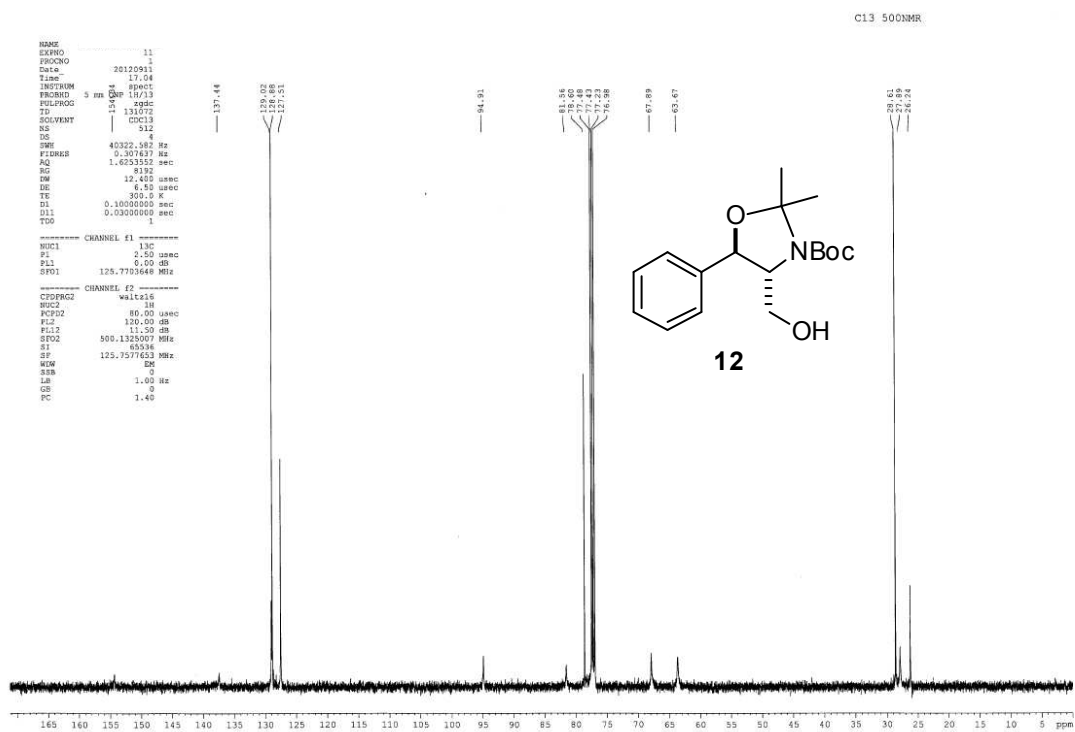
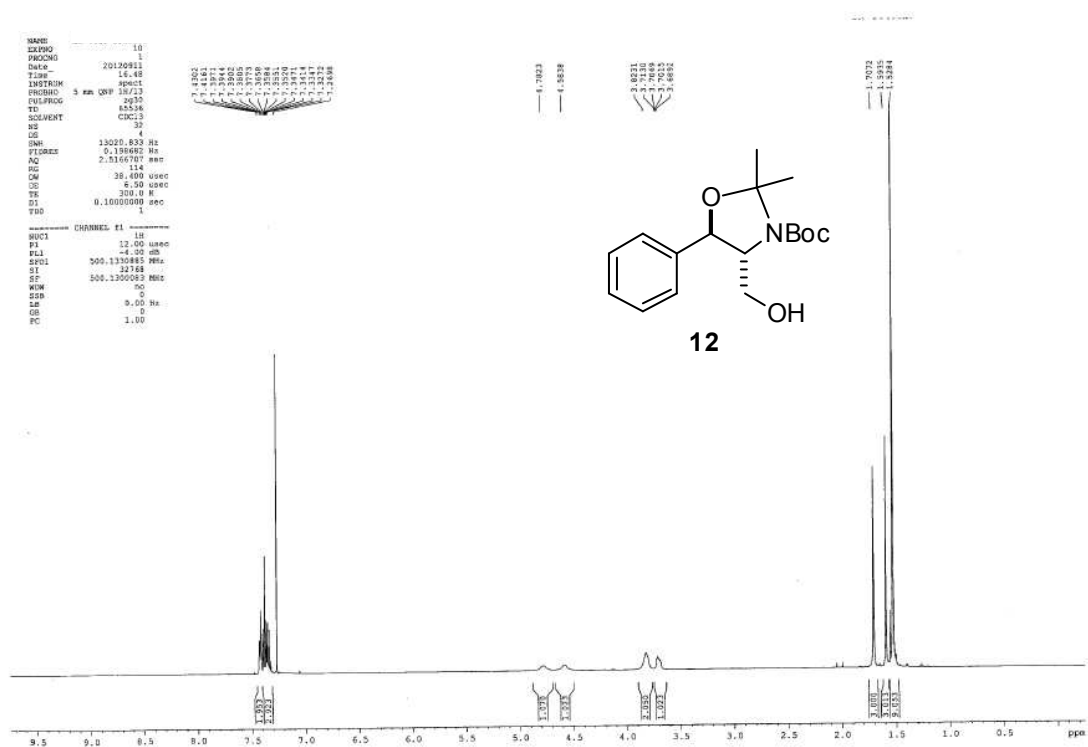
**(R)-((2R,5S)-5-(4-aminobenzyl)pyrrolidin-2-yl)-(phenyl)methanol (1).** To a mixture of imine dihydrochloride **17** (0.318 mol, 120.0 g, 98.5 wt%) and THF (0.9 L) under nitrogen was charged hexamethyldisilazane (0.679 mol, 109.5 g) while maintaining the batch temperature below 25 °C. The resulting slurry was stirred vigorously at ambient temperature for 2 h. The slurry was transferred to an 3 L autoclave charged with a suspension of 5% platinum on alumina (6.05 g) in THF (240 mL). The transfer line was flushed with THF (85 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at ambient under hydrogen (40 psig) until the hydrogen uptake ceased (~12 h). The catalyst was filtered through a pad of Solka Floc, and washed with THF (1 L). The combined filtrate was stirred with 0.5 M hydrochloric acid (1.3 L) at ambient temperature for 1 h. The aqueous layer was separated and *i*-PrOAc (400 mL) was added. Sodium hydroxide (5 N, ~150 mL) was added to adjust the pH to 10.0. The organic phase was treated with carbon (AquaGuard<sup>®</sup> powder, Meadwestvaco; 25 g) at ambient temperature for 2 h. The mixture was filtered through a pad of Solka Floc and was washed with 2-propanol (180 mL). The combined filtrate was concentrated to ~700 mL. The solution was distilled at the constant volume by feeding a total of 1.4 L of 2-propanol, maintaining the batch temperature at 33-35 °C in vacuum. The resulting solution was then concentrated to 340 mL and heated to 50 °C, followed by addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (65 mL). The resulting solution was cooled to 41-43 °C and seeded with pyrrolidine aniline hemihydrate (0.4 g). The resulting mixture was aged at 41-43 °C for 1 h to establish a seed bed. H<sub>2</sub>O (610 mL) was charged at 41-43 °C over 6 h, and the resulting mixture was cooled to 10 °C over 3 h, followed by aging at 10 °C for 2 h before filtration. The wet cake was displacement washed with 25% 2-propanol/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:3 v/v, 500 mL). The wet cake was suction-dried at ambient temperature under nitrogen to afford 76.8 g of pyrrolidine aniline as

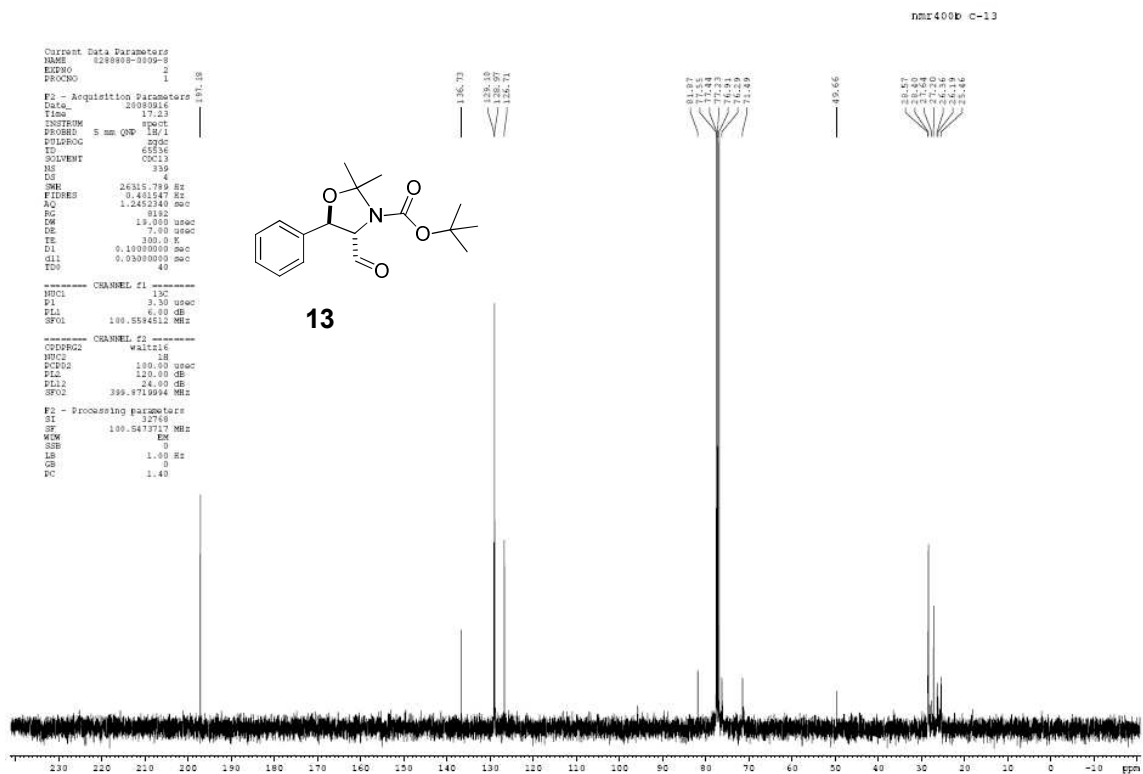
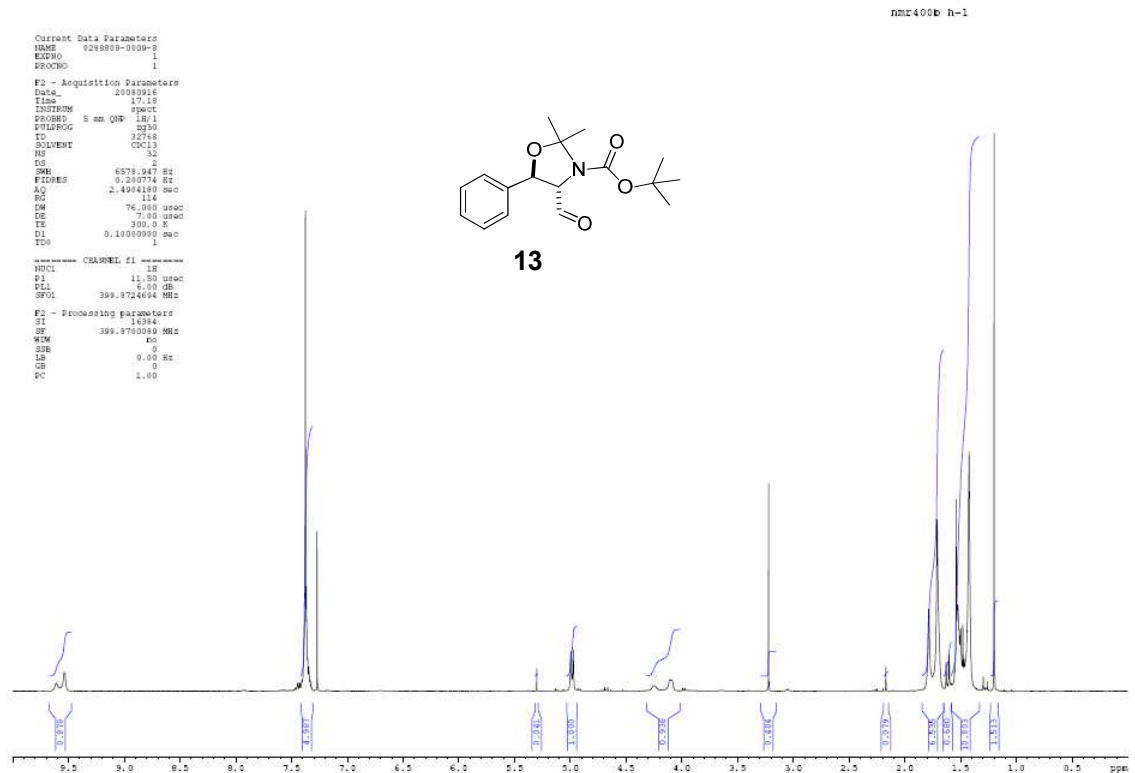
hemihydrate in 99% purity. 80% isolated yield. m.p. 88-89 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO):  $\delta$  7.27 (m, 4 H), 7.17 (m, 1 H), 6.81 (d,  $J$  = 8.1, 2 H), 6.45 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 5.07 (s, br, 1 H), 4.75 (s, 2 H), 4.18 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.05 (m, 2 H), 2.47 (dd,  $J$  = 13.0, 6.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.40 (dd,  $J$  = 13.0, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 1.53 (m, 1 H), 1.34 (m, 1 H), 1.22 (m, 2 H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO):  $\delta$  146.5, 144.3, 129.2, 127.8, 127.4, 126.8, 126.7, 114.0, 76.8, 64.4, 60.1, 42.1, 30.2, 27.2. HRMS calc'd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  283.1810, found 283.1805.



#### 4. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra



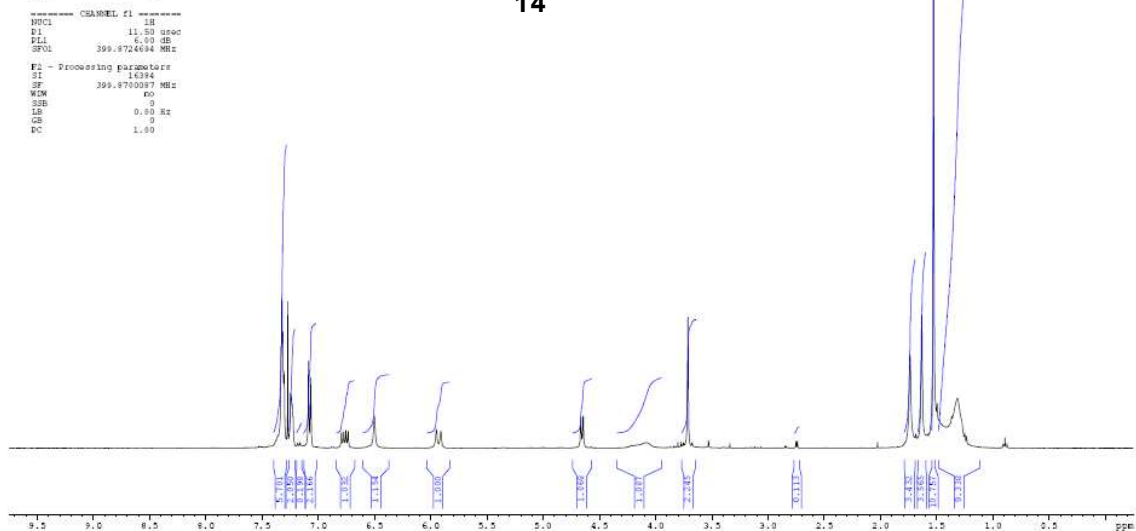




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FIDRES     0.290774 Hz
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AQ          76.000 usec
RG          7.80 usec
TE          300.0 K
DE          0.10000000 sec
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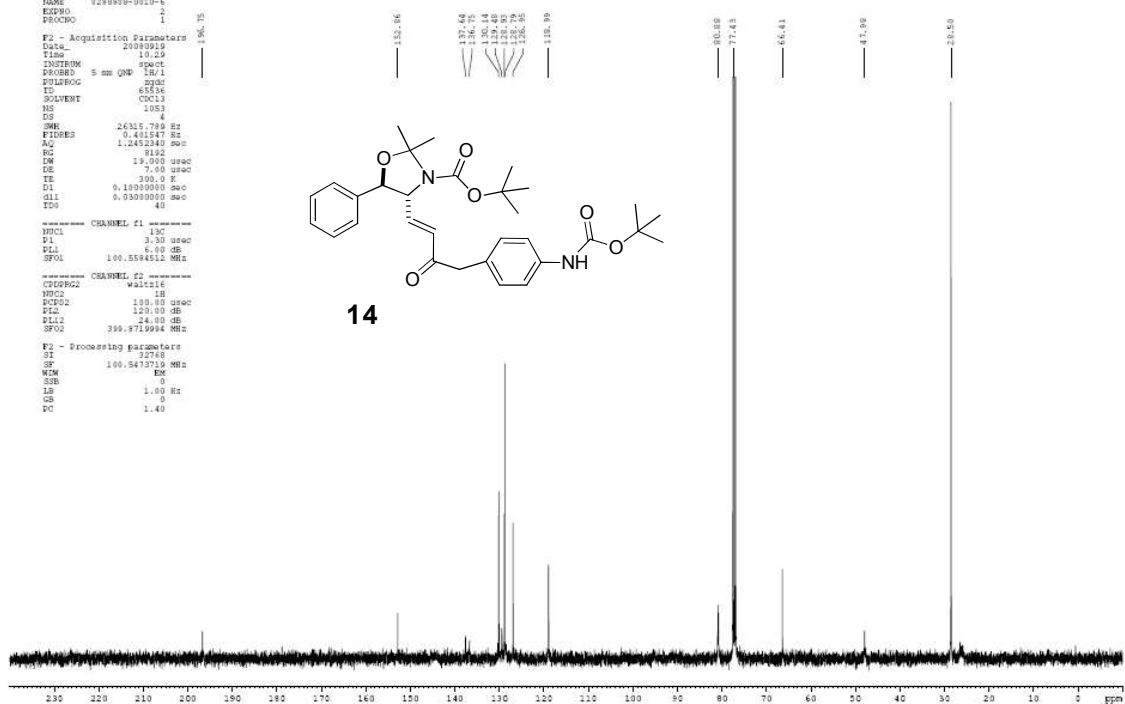


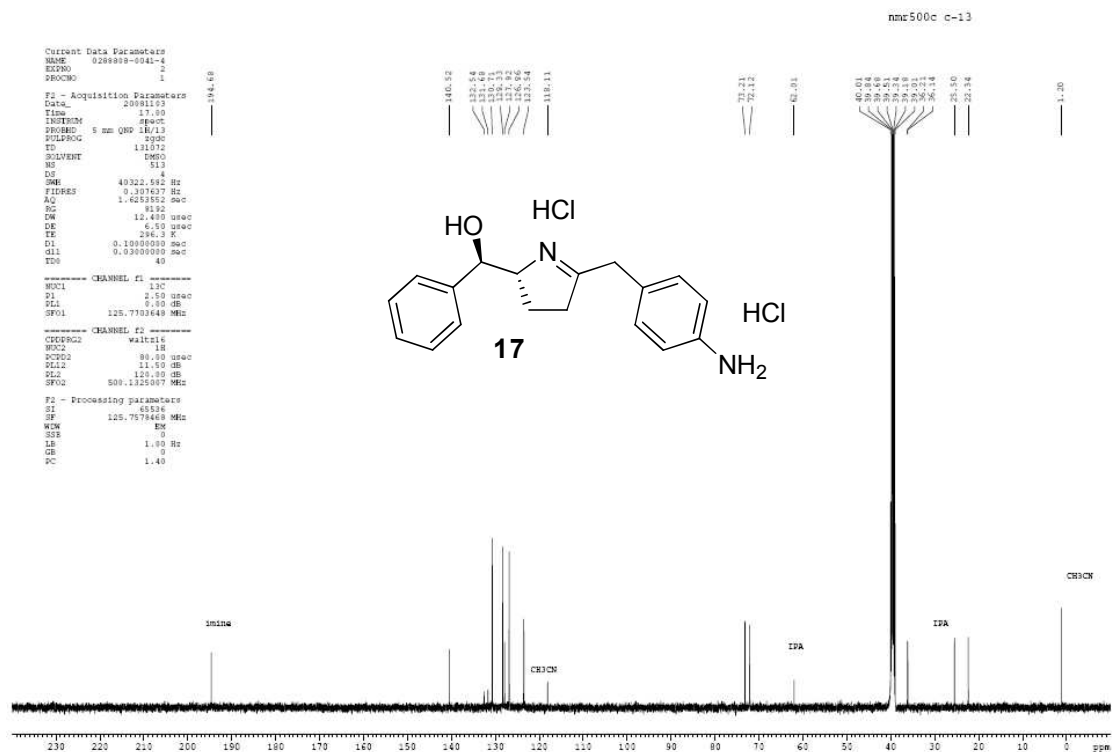
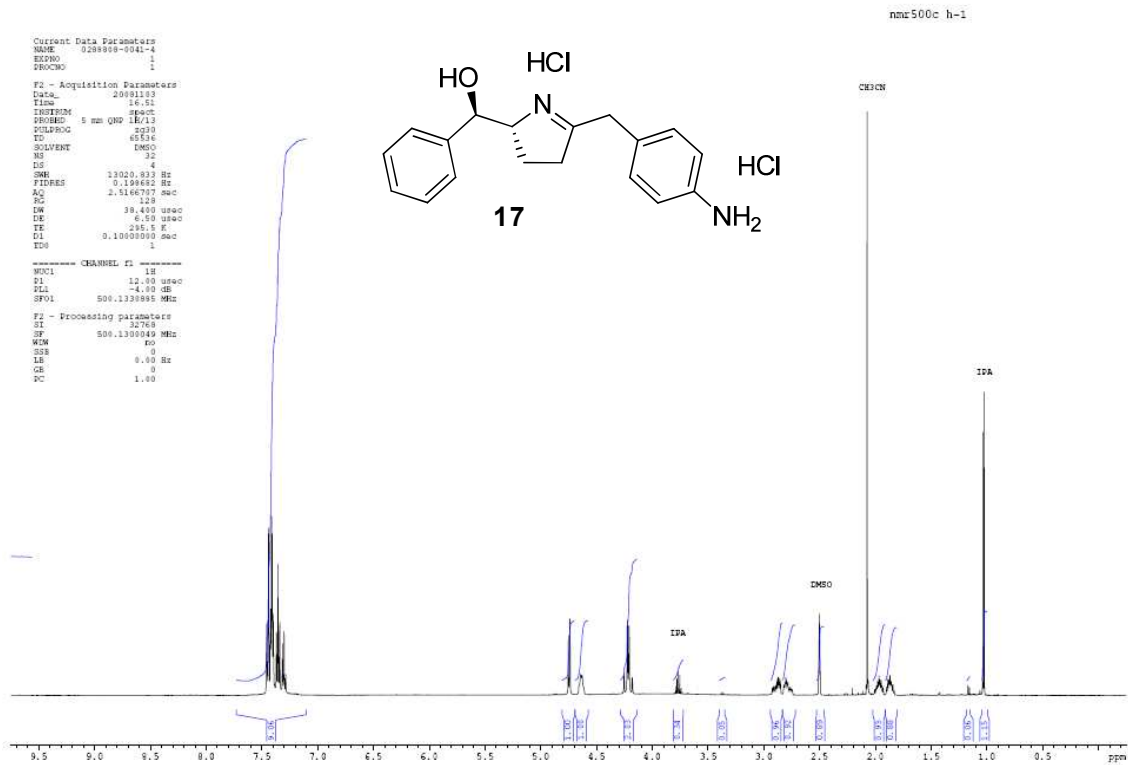
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