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### **Supplementary Information for**

# **Regioselective B2–6 penta-iodination of the [CB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>]<sup>-</sup>**

# monocarborane cluster by palladium catalysis

Chuhao Lin,<sup>a</sup> Yujie Jin,<sup>a</sup> Jizeng Sun,<sup>a</sup> Zehua Ye,<sup>a</sup> Tao Chen,<sup>a</sup> Jiyong Liu,<sup>a</sup> and Simon Duttwyler<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, Zhejiang University, 866 Yuhangtang Road,

310058 Hangzhou, China

\*Email: duttwyler@zju.edu.cn

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### **1** General Information

### Chemicals

Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> was purchased from Energy Chemicals. *N*-Iodosuccinimide (NIS) was purchased from Bidepharm. Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> and [NEt<sub>4</sub>]Br were purchased from Aladdin. *n*-BuLi was obtained from Energy Chemicals. HCl (aq.), THF, HOAc and 1,4-dioxane were received from Sinopharm. Anhydrous THF was prepared by passage though activated Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and stored over 3 Å molecular sieves. [NEt<sub>4</sub>][12-Me-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>], [NEt<sub>4</sub>][12-Et-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>], [NEt<sub>4</sub>][12-Ph-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>], [NEt<sub>4</sub>][1-COOH-12-I-CB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>], and [NEt<sub>4</sub>][1-COOH-12-Br-CB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>] were prepared according to the literature.<sup>[1,2,5]</sup>

### Characterization

1) NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE III 400 spectrometer (<sup>1</sup>H NMR 400.13 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR 100.62 MHz, <sup>11</sup>B NMR 128.38 MHz) or a Bruker AVANCE III 500 spectrometer (<sup>1</sup>H NMR 500.13 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C NMR 125.77 MHz, <sup>11</sup>B NMR 160.46 MHz) at 296 K. Chemical shifts are given in ppm. <sup>1</sup>H {<sup>11</sup>B} NMR and <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were referenced using the solvent signals (<sup>1</sup>H {<sup>11</sup>B}: residual CHD<sub>2</sub>C(O)CD<sub>3</sub> = 2.05 ppm, residual CHD<sub>2</sub>CN = 1.94 ppm, <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}: CD<sub>3</sub>C(O)CD<sub>3</sub> = 29.84 ppm, CD<sub>3</sub>CN = 1.32 ppm). <sup>11</sup>B and <sup>11</sup>B {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were calibrated against external BF<sub>3</sub>\*Et<sub>2</sub>O = 0 ppm (BF<sub>3</sub>\*Et<sub>2</sub>O capillary in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>). Data are reported as follows: Chemical shift in ppm, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublets, etc.), coupling constant J in Hz, integration, and (where applicable) interpretation.

#### Notes:

- In some spectra, the CH<sub>3</sub> group of the  $[NEt_4]^+$  cation showed  ${}^{3}J_{1H,14N}$  coupling to the central nitrogen atom, and therefore the signal appeared as a triplet of triplets ( ${}^{3}J_{1H,1H}$  and  ${}^{3}J_{1H,14N}$ ). Generally speaking, coupling to  ${}^{14}N$  is sometimes observed in highly symmetrical nitrogen compounds; the coupling constant is not uniformly related to the distance to the nitrogen atom.

- In certain  ${}^{1}H{}^{11}B{}$  NMR spectra measured in acetone- $d_6$ , double water peaks were observed. This is a result of different resonances from H<sub>2</sub>O and HOD.

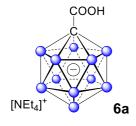
2) High-resolution MS data were recorded using an Agilent G6545 Q-TOF instrument equipped with an electrospray ionization source (ESI).

3) Single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies were performed on a Bruker D8 Venture diffractometer equipped with a 135 mm Atlas CCD detector and using a Mo X-ray source.

4) Infrared spectra were recorded on a Thermo NICOLET AVATAR 330FT-IR spectrometer.

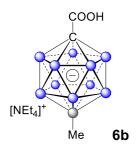
### **2** Experimental Section

Synthesis of [NEt<sub>4</sub>][1-COOH-12-X-CB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>] (X = H, Me, Et, Ph)

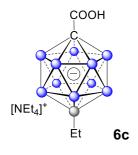


A dry 50 mL single-neck pear-shaped flask equipped with magnetic stir bar was charged with  $[Cs][CHB_{11}H_{11}]$  (500 mg, 1.81 mmol) and capped with a rubber septum. Anhydrous THF (15 mL) was then added to the flask in glove box. A solution of *n*-BuLi (1.6 M in hexane, 4.5 mL, 7.2 mmol) was cautiously added at 25 °C, dropwise. After stirring for 4 h, a slightly turbid, white suspension was obtained. The mixture reacted overnight under with CO<sub>2</sub> (1 atmosphere, 2-3 bubbles/s), and the solution turned pale yellow. The reaction was quenched with water (5 mL), and then THF was removed with a rotary evaporator. [NEt<sub>4</sub>]NBr (1.142 g, 5.43 mmol) was added, and the resulting white precipitate was separated using a glass frit funnel (F porosity) and washed with water (3 x 2mL). HCl (1 M aq., 1 mL, 12 mmol) was added dropwise to the yellowish filtrate, the resulting white precipitate was collected in a glass frit and dried in a vacuum to give the salt [NEt<sub>4</sub>][1-COOH-CB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>] as a white solid (522 mg, 1.647 mmol, 91%).

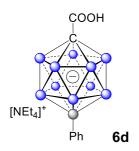
The NMR data were in accordance with the literature.<sup>[1]</sup>



Following a similar procedure as for the preparation of  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-CB_{11}H_{11}]$ , using  $[NEt_4][12-Me-CB_{11}H_{11}]$  (100 mg, 0.349 mmol) as starting material,  $[NEt4][1-COOH-12-Me-CB_{11}H_{10}]$  was obtained as a colorless solid (79.8 mg, 69%). The NMR data were in accordance with the literature.<sup>[4]</sup>

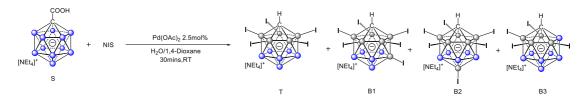


Following a similar procedure as for the preparation of  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-CB_{11}H_{11}]$ , using  $[NEt_4][12-Et-CB_{11}H_{11}]$  (100 mg, 0.333 mmol) as starting material,  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-12-Et-CB_{11}H_{10}]$  was obtained as a colorless solid (87 mg, 75%). The NMR data were in accordance with the literature.<sup>[3]</sup>



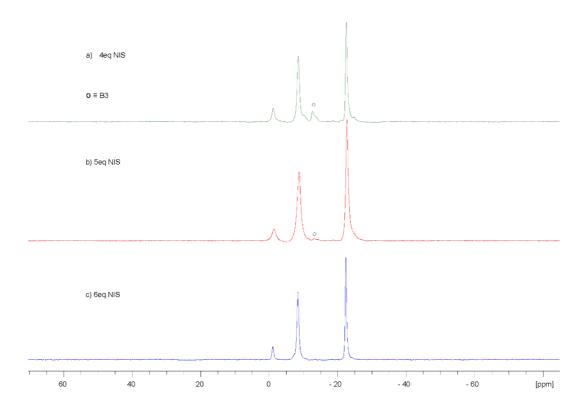
Following a similar procedure as for the preparation of  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-CB_{11}H_{11}]$ , using  $[NEt_4][12-Ph-CB_{11}H_{11}]$  (178.7 mg, 0.513 mmol) as starting material,  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-12-Ph-CB_{11}H_{10}]$  was obtained as a colorless solid (155.6 mg, 77%). The NMR data were in accordance with the literature.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### **Optimization of reaction conditions**

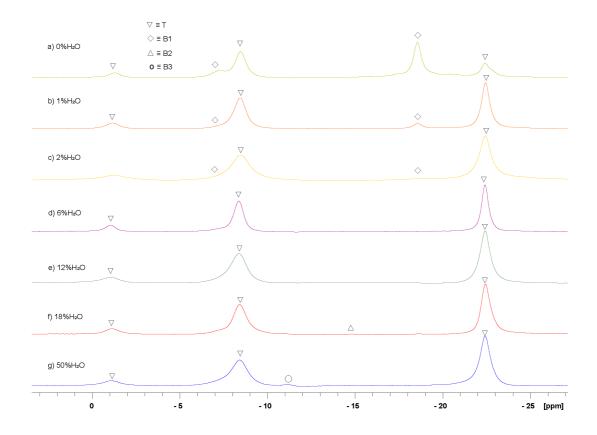


**Figure S1.** Reaction of the monocarborane carboxylic acid **S** leading to the desired product **T** and byproducts **B** (blue spheres = BH, gray spheres = B).

To a 2.5 mL glass vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar, **S** (5 mg, 1.0 equiv, 0.0158 mmol) and *N*-iodosuccinimide (NIS) (varying amounts, see below) were added (see Figure S1 for the definition of **S** and the products **T/B1–3**). Then a Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> solution (0.3 mL from a stock solution of 6.0 mg Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> in 20 mL anhydrous 1,4-dioxane; 2.5 mol%, 0.0004 mmol) and deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (varying amounts, see below) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 mins at 25 °C. The reaction outcome was evaluated by <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectroscopy.



**Figure S2.** All reactions were performed with 6% H<sub>2</sub>O; a) with 4 equiv of NIS; b) with 5 equiv of NIS; c) with 6 equiv of NIS.



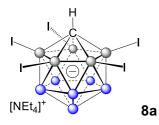
**Figure S3.** All reactions were performed with 6 equiv of NIS; a) 0% H<sub>2</sub>O; b) 1% H<sub>2</sub>O; c) 2% H<sub>2</sub>O; d) 6% H<sub>2</sub>O; e) 12% H<sub>2</sub>O; f) 18% H<sub>2</sub>O; g) 50% H<sub>2</sub>O.

Remarks: A ratio of  $H_2O$  equal to 6% (marked as "6%  $H_2O$ " in the spectra) means that the solvent was a mixture of 18  $\mu$ L  $H_2O$  and 0.3 mL 1,4-dioxane. Other percentages having a similar meaning.

Figure S2 shows the effect of the amount of NIS, while  $H_2O$  was kept at 6%. The use of 6 equiv of NIS gave the desired product T as the major product, as indicated by the spectrum of the reaction mixture.

Figure S3 shows the effect of the amount of  $H_2O$ , while NIS was kept at 6 equivalents. The use of 6% to 18%  $H_2O$  gave the best results.

In summary, the screening of conditions indicated that a combination of 6 equivalents of NIS and 6-18% H<sub>2</sub>O allowed for the formation of the desired penta-iodinated product under convenient conditions, namely, 30 min at 25 °C.



To a 10 mL glass vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar,  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-CB_{11}H_{11}]$ (50 mg, 1.0 equiv, 0.158 mmol) and NIS (213 mg, 6.0 equiv, 0.947 mmol) were added. Then Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> solution (3.0 mL from a stock solution of 6.0 mg Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> in 20 mL anhydrous 1,4-dioxane; 2.5 mol%, 0.004 mmol) and deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (0.36 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at 25 °C. Aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> solution (29.8 mg Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> in 5 mL deionized H<sub>2</sub>O; 1.5 equiv, 0.237 mmol) was added to the mixture dropwise. NEt<sub>4</sub>Br (99.4 mg, 3.0 equiv, 0.473 mmol) was added to precipitate the product under sonification. 1,4-dioxane was then removed under reduced pressure. The resulting mixture was placed in a glass frit funnel (F porosity), the aqueous layer was removed, and the remaining solid was washed three times with H<sub>2</sub>O and dried in a vacuum to give salt [NEt<sub>4</sub>][2,3,4,5,6-I<sub>5</sub>-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>6</sub>] as a white powder (129 mg, 0.143 mmol, 91% yield).

Reaction scale-up: To a 100 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar,  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-CB_{11}H_{11}]$  (500 mg, 1.0 equiv, 1.58 mmol) and NIS (2.13 g, 6.0 equiv, 9.467 mmol) were added. Then Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> solution (9 mg Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> in 30 mL anhydrous 1,4-dioxane; 2.5 mol%, 0.04 mmol) and deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (3.6 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at 25 °C. Aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> solution (298 mg in 30 mL deionized H<sub>2</sub>O; 1.5 equiv, 2.37 mmol) was added to the mixture dropwise. NEt<sub>4</sub>Br (994 mg, 3 equiv, 4.73 mmol) was added to precipitate the product under sonification. 1,4-dioxane was then removed under reduced pressure. The resulting mixture was placed in a glass frit funnel (F porosity), the aqueous layer was removed, and the remaining solid was washed three times with H<sub>2</sub>O and dried in a vacuum to give salt [NEt<sub>4</sub>][2,3,4,5,6-I<sub>5</sub>-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>6</sub>] as a white powder (1.31 g, 1.45 mmol, 92% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (500 MHz, acetonitrile- $d_3$ , 296 K):  $\delta$  3.15 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, cation CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.08 (s, 1H, cage CH), 2.67 (s, 5H, BH), 2.09 (broad signal overlapping with H<sub>2</sub>O signal, 1H, BH), 1.21 (tt, J = 7.3Hz, 1.9 Hz, 12H, cation CH<sub>3</sub>).

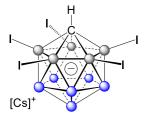
<sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ , 296 K): δ -1.66 (1B), -9.08 (5B), -23.17 (5B).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (101 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ 64.87 (cage C),52.01 (cation CH2),
6.70 (cation CH<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* Calcd for [CB<sub>11</sub>I<sub>5</sub>H<sub>7</sub>]<sup>-</sup>, 772.6867; found, 772.6877.

IR (KBr): v 3551, 3483, 3416, 3032, 2560, 1618, 1482, 1102, 912, 841, 782, 617.

### Ion Exchange:



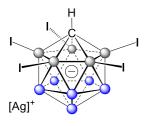
[Cs][2,3,4,5,6-I<sub>5</sub>-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>6</sub>]

To a 100 mL glass bottle equipped with a magnetic stir bar,  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-CHB_{11}H_6]$  (300mg, 1.0 equiv, 0.3330 mmol), deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL), HCl (1M aq.) (0.3 mL, 10.8 equiv, 3.6 mmol) and ether (50mL) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature until the solution became clear. The aqueous phase was extracted with ether (3 x 10mL), then then the combined organic phases were treated with deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (108.6 mg, 1.0 equiv, 0.3330 mmol). All volatiles were removed in a vacuum, then the remaining solids were dissolved in acetone and filtered. The filtrate contained the desired product and was concentrated on a rotary evaporator to give a solid. It was further dried in a vacuum to give salt  $[Cs][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-CHB_{11}H_6]$  as a brownish-gray solid (284 mg, 0.3135 mmol, 94% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): 2.78 (s, 1H, cage CH), 2.74 (s, 5H, BH), 2.14 (s, 1H, BH).

<sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ -1.60 (1B), -9.05 (5B), -23.17 (5B).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (101 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ 65.88 (cage C).



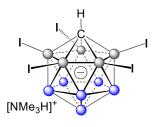
[Ag][2,3,4,5,6-I<sub>5</sub>-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>6</sub>]

To a 10 mL glass vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar,  $[Cs][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-CHB_{11}H_6]$ (100 mg,1.0 equiv, 0.1104 mmol) was added. Deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (1.0 mL) was added, and the mixture was heated to a boil, upon which the solution became clear. AgNO<sub>3</sub> (20.73 mg, 1.1 equiv, 0.1219 mmol) was dissolved in deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (0.4 mL) and then slowly added dropwise. A white precipitate was obtained, which was filtered and washed with cold water and dried in a vacuum to give salt [Ag][2,3,4,5,6-I<sub>5</sub>-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>6</sub>] as an off-white solid (87.2 mg, 0.0989 mmol, 90% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (400 MHz, acetonitrile-*d*<sub>3</sub>, 296 K): δ 3.10 (s, 1H, cage CH), 2.67 (s, 5H, BH), 2.08 (s, 1H, BH).

<sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, acetonitrile- $d_3$ , 296 K):  $\delta$  -1.65 (1B), -9.02 (5B), -23.28 (5B).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (101 MHz, acetonitrile-*d*<sub>3</sub>, 296 K): δ 64.98 (cage C).



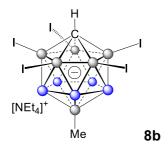
### [Me<sub>3</sub>NH][2,3,4,5,6-I<sub>5</sub>-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>6</sub>]

To a 10 mL glass vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar,  $[Cs][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-CHB_{11}H_6]$ (90 mg, 1.0 equiv, 0.0994 mmol) was added. Then deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (1.0 mL) was added, and the mixture was heated to a boil, upon which the solution became clear. Me<sub>3</sub>N·HCl (28.8 mg, 3.0 equiv, 0.2982 mmol) was dissolved in deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (0.4 mL) and then slowly added dropwise. A white precipitate was obtained, which was filtered and washed with cold water and dried in a vacuum to give salt [Me<sub>3</sub>NH][2,3,4,5,6-I<sub>5</sub>-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>6</sub>] as a white solid (72.9 mg, 0.0874mmol, 88% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (400 MHz, acetonitrile-*d*<sub>3</sub>, 296 K): 3.23 (s, 9H, cation CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.90 (broad signal, 1H, cation NH), 2.78 (s, 1H, cage CH), 2.74 (s, 5H, BH), 2.14 (s, 1H, BH).

<sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, acetonitrile-*d*<sub>3</sub>, 296 K): δ -1.60 (1B), -9.06 (5B), -23.17 (5B).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (101 MHz, acetonitrile-*d*<sub>3</sub>, 296 K): δ 65.90 (cage C), 46.27 (cation CH<sub>3</sub>).



Starting from (20.1 mg, 0.0604 mml) of  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-12-Me-CB_{11}H_{10}]$  and following the procedure for the synthesis of  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-CHB_{11}H_6]$ ,  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-12-Me-CHB_{11}H_5]$  was obtained as a white solid (43.8 mg, 0.0478 mmol, 79% yield).

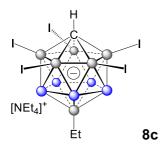
<sup>1</sup>H{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (500 MHz, acetonitrile- $d_3$ , 296 K):  $\delta$  3.15 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, cation CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.81 (s, 1H, cage CH), 2.67 (s, 5H, BH), 1.21 (tt, J = 7.3Hz, 1.9 Hz, 12H, cation CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.00 (s, 3H, methyl CH<sub>3</sub>).

<sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ 7.51 (1B), -7.96 (5B), -23.71 (5B).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (101 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ , 296 K):  $\delta$  58.69(cage C),53.03 (cation CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.72 (cation CH<sub>3</sub>). The B-CH<sub>3</sub> signal could not be detected unambiguously but was detected indirectly using an HSQC spectrum at 4.1 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for [C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>11</sub>I<sub>5</sub>H<sub>9</sub>]<sup>-</sup>, 786.7024; found, 786.7039.

IR(KBr): v 3436, 2986, 2565.88, 1631, 1480, 1182, 1096, 912, 835, 697.



Starting from (20.0 mg, 0.0580 mml) of  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-12-Et-CB_{11}H_{10}]$  and following the procedure for the synthesis of  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-CHB_{11}H_6]$ ,  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-12-Et-CHB_{11}H_5]$  was obtained as a white solid (39.0 mg, 0.0419 mmol, 72% yield).

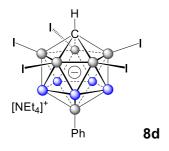
<sup>1</sup>H{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (500 MHz, acetonitrile- $d_3$ , 296 K):  $\delta$  3.15 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, cation CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.86 (s, 1H, cage CH), 2.65 (s, 5H, BH), 1.21 (tt, J = 7.3Hz, 1.9 Hz, 12H, cation CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.75 (t, 3H, ethyl CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.49 (t, 2H, ethyl CH<sub>2</sub>).

<sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ 9.64 (1B), -8.56 (5B), -23.81 (5B).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (101 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ , 296 K):  $\delta$  59.38 (cage C), 53.02 (cation CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.79 (ethyl CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.71 (cation CH<sub>3</sub>). The B-CH<sub>2</sub> signal could not be detected unambiguously but was detected indirectly using HSQC and HMBC spectra at 12.5 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for [C<sub>3</sub>B<sub>11</sub>I<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>]<sup>-</sup>, 800.7180; found, 800.7188.

IR(KBr): v 439, 2946, 2560, 1630, 1479, 1170, 1095, 913, 837.



Starting from (50 mg, 0.1272 mml) of  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-12-Ph-CB_{11}H_{10}]$  and following the procedure for the synthesis of  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-CHB_{11}H_6]$ ,  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-12-Ph-CHB_{11}H_5]$  was obtained as a white solid (103.5 mg, 0.1058 mmol, 83% yield).

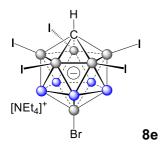
<sup>1</sup>H{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ 7.40-7.20 (m, 2H, ArH, ortho), 7.15-7.00 (m, 3H, ArH, meta and para), 3.48(q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, cation CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.71(s, 1H, cage CH), 2.98 (s, 5H, BH), 1.39 (tt, J = 7.3Hz, 1.9 Hz, 12H, cation CH<sub>3</sub>).

<sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ 8.16 (1B), -8.52 (5B), -23.67 (5B).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (101 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ , 296 K):  $\delta$  132.95 (ortho C), 127.78 (meta C), 127.02 (para C), 60.52 (cage C),53.06(cation CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.79(cation CH<sub>3</sub>). The B-C(ipso) signal could not be detected unambiguously but was detected indirectly using HSQC and HMBC spectra at 143 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for [C<sub>7</sub>B<sub>11</sub>I<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>]<sup>-</sup>, 848.7180.; found, 848.7206.

IR(KBr): v 3439, 3254, 2924, 2537, 1586, 1464, 1306, 1154, 1033, 690, 551.



Starting from (20.3 mg, 0.0507 mml) of  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-12-Br-CB_{11}H_{10}]$  and following the procedure for the synthesis of  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-CHB_{11}H_6]$ ,  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-12-Br-CHB_{11}H_5]$  was obtained as a white solid after recrystallization from hot methanol (0.2 mL) (38.5 mg, 0.0393 mmol, 78% yield). In this case the co-solvent was 24% HOAc instead of 12% H<sub>2</sub>O.

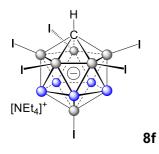
<sup>1</sup>H{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (400 MHz, acetonitrile-*d*<sub>3</sub>, 296 K): δ 3.18 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, cation CH2), 3.10 (s, 1H, cage CH), 3.01(s, 1H, BH), 1.24 (tt, J = 7.3Hz, 1.9 Hz, 12H, cation CH3).

<sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (160 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ 1.20 (1B), -8.45 (5B), -24.42 (5B).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (101 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ 58.06 (cage C), 53.03 (cation CH2), 7.71 (cation CH3).

HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for [CB<sub>11</sub>I<sub>5</sub>BrH<sub>6</sub>]<sup>-</sup>, 850.5973; found, 850.6001

IR(KBr): v 3450, 2977, 2566, 1795, 1630, 1481, 1170, 1023, 998, 890, 837, 786, 742.



Starting from (50.1 mg, 0.113 mml) of  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-12-I-CB_{11}H_{10}]$  and following the procedure for the synthesis of  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-CHB_{11}H_6]$ ,  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6,12-I_6-CHB_{11}H_5]$  was obtained as a white solid after recrystallization from hot methanol (0.5 mL) (85.1 mg, 0.0828 mmol, 73% yield). In this case the co-solvent was 36% HOAc instead of 12% H<sub>2</sub>O.

<sup>1</sup>H{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ 3.51 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, cation CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.18 (s, 5H, BH), 3.06 (s, 1H, cage CH), 1.41 (tt, J = 7.3Hz, 1.9 Hz, 12H, cation CH<sub>3</sub>).

<sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ -7.87 (5B), -15.29 (1B), -23.56 (5B).

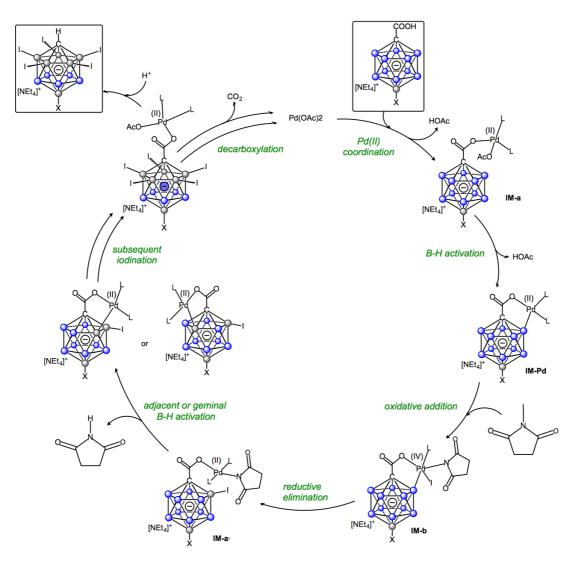
<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (101 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 296 K): δ 62.20 (cage C), 53.03 (cation CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.71(cation CH<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for [CB<sub>11</sub>I<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>]<sup>-</sup>, 898.5834; found, 898.5856.

IR(KBr): v 3431, 2924, 2567, 1657, 1480, 1391, 1103, 913, 836, 782.

#### Proposed mechanism for the penta-iodination

A plausible mechanism for the penta-iodination is displayed in Figure S4. Binding of the carboxylate group of  $[NEt_4][1-COOH-12-X-CB_{11}H_{10}]$  (X = H, Me, Et, Ph, I, Br) to Pd(II) affords the initial intermediate **IM-a**. Cyclometalation–deprotonation then gives palladacycle **IM-Pd** with a direct B–Pd bond. Intermediate **IM-b** is formed by NIS insertion, which is followed by elimination to furnish complex **IM-a'**. Then succinimide leaves the cycle, and the Pd center activates a geminal or adjacent B-H position. Subsequent iodination steps follow in a similar manner. Finally, the carboxylate group is eliminated as CO<sub>2</sub>, and Pd(II) combines with another [NEt<sub>4</sub>][1-COOH-12-X-CB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>] to enter the next cycle.



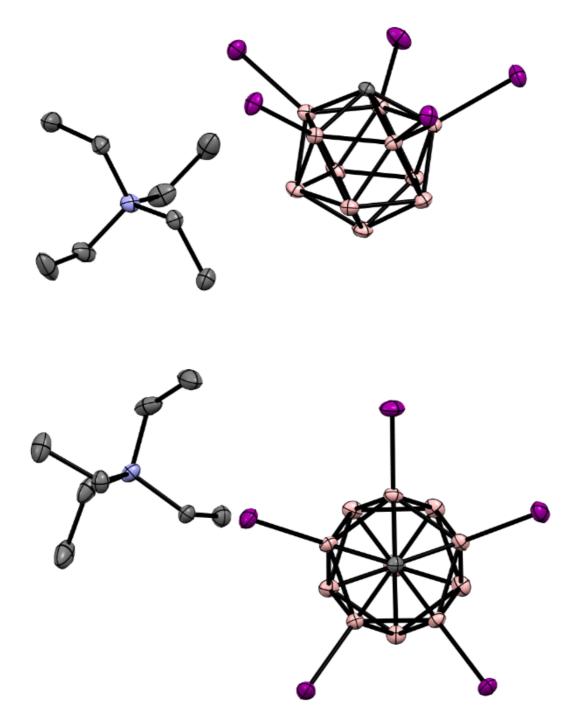
**Figure S4.** Proposed mechanism for the five-fold B-H activation/B-I coupling cascade; L=solvent molecule or  $AcO^{-}$  (blue spheres = BH, gray spheres = B).

# **3** X-ray Crystallography

# Crystal structure of [NEt<sub>4</sub>][2,3,4,5,6-I<sub>5</sub>-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>6</sub>] (CCDC 2247602)

 $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-CHB_{11}H_6]$  (20 mg, 0.018 mmol) was dissolved in boiling methanol (0.2 mL) in a 2.5 mL glass vial. The resulting colorless solution was slowly cooled down to 25 °C and then placed in a refrigerator at 13 °C. Within 12 h, single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained.

Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0077 A	й	lavelength=	=0.71073				
Cell:	a=9.3682(3)	b=11.1316	(3)	c=25.1118(9)				
	-	beta=92.21	14(1)	gamma=90				
Temperature:	170 K							
	Calculated		Reported					
Volume	2616.78(14)		2616.78(14	4)				
Space group	P 21/c		P 1 21/c 1	1				
Hall group			-P 2ybc					
Moiety formula	C H7 B11 I5, C8 H	120 N	С Н7 В11 1	I5, C8 H20 N				
Sum formula	C9 H27 B11 I5 N		C9 H27 B11	1 I5 N				
Mr	902.73		902.72					
Dx,g cm-3	2.291		2.291					
Z	4		4					
Mu (mm-1)	5.941		5.941					
F000	1632.0		1632.0					
F000'	1623.02							
h,k,lmax	12,14,32		12,14,32					
Nref	5774		5771					
Tmin,Tmax	0.211,0.552		0.301,0.74	46				
Tmin'	0.085							
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.301 Tmax=0.746 AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN								
Data completeness= 0.999 Theta(max)= 27.116								
R(reflections) = 0.0289( 5446) wR2(reflections 0.0649( 5771)								
S = 1.110	Npar= 2	239		0.0019( 0771)				

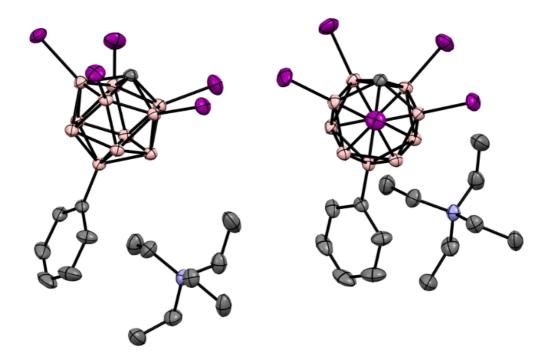


**Figure S5.** ORTEP representation of  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-CHB_{11}H_6]$  (top: side view; bottom: view along C(cage)-B12 axis); hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity; 30% displacement ellipsoids.

#### Crystal structure of [NEt<sub>4</sub>][2,3,4,5,6-I<sub>5</sub>-12-Ph-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>5</sub>] (CCDC 2247603)

 $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-12-Ph-CHB_{11}H_5]$  (20 mg, 0.018 mmol) was dissolved in boilng methanol (0.2 mL) in a 2.5 mL glass vial. The resulting colorless solution was slowly cooled down to 25 °C and then placed in a refrigerator at 13 °C. Within 12 h, single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained.

```
Bond precision: C-C = 0.0081 \text{ A}
                                       Wavelength=0.71073
Cell:
             a=9.8044(5)
                         b=11.8241(6)
                                               c=13.6777(7)
             alpha=100.782(2) beta=98.898(2) gamma=94.691(2)
Temperature: 296 K
              Calculated
                                       Reported
             1528.85(14)
                                       1528.85(14)
Volume
Space group P -1
Hall group -P 1
                                       P -1
                                        -P 1
Moiety formula C7 H11 B11 I5, C8 H20 N C7 H11 B11 I5, C8 H20 N
Sum formula C15 H31 B11 I5 N
                                       C15 H31 B11 I5 N
Mr
              978.82
                                       978.82
Dx,g cm-3
             2.126
                                       2.126
                                       2
Z
              2
Mu (mm-1)
             5.093
                                       5.093
             896.0
                                       896.0
F000
F000′
              891.52
             12,15,17
h,k,lmax
                                       12,15,17
                                       6760
              6768
Nref
             0.135,0.516
Tmin, Tmax
                                       0.498,0.746
              0.102
Tmin'
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.498 Tmax=0.746
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN
Data completeness= 0.999 Theta(max)= 27.124
                                                 wR2(reflections) =
R(reflections) = 0.0329(6176)
                                                 0.0742( 6760)
S = 1.026
                        Npar= 293
```

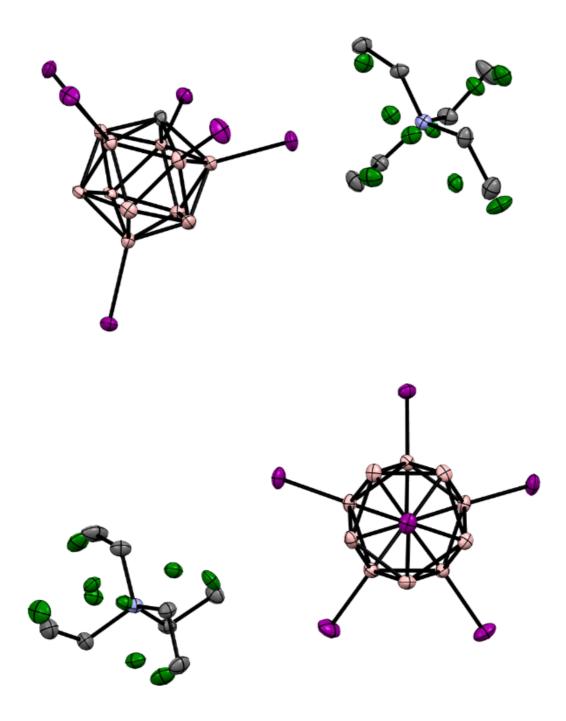


**Figure S6.** ORTEP representation of  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-12-Ph-CHB_{11}H_5]$  (left: side view; right: view along B<sub>2</sub>-B<sub>9</sub> axis); hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity; 30% displacement ellipsoids.

### Crystal structure of [NEt<sub>4</sub>][2,3,4,5,6,12-I<sub>6</sub>-CHB<sub>11</sub>H<sub>5</sub>] (CCDC 2247604)

 $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6-I_5-12-I-CHB_{11}H_5]$  (20 mg, 0.018 mmol) was dissolved in boiling methanol (1.0 mL) in a 2.5 mL glass vial. The resulting colorless solution was slowly cool down to RT. The resulting colorless solution was slowly cooled down to 25 °C and then placed in a refrigerator at 13 °C. Within 12 h, single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained.

Bond precision:	B- B = 0.0129 A	ł	Wavelength	n=0.71073			
Cell:	a=9.4164(6)						
Temperature:	alpha=90 beta=90.21 170 K		16(2)	gamma=90			
	Calculated		Reported				
Volume	2746.5(3)		2746.5(3)	)			
Space group	P 21/c		P 1 21/c	1			
Hall group	-P 2ybc		-P 2ybc				
Moiety formula	С Н6 В11 I6, С8						
	C9 H26 B11 I6 N		C9 H26 B	11 I6 N			
Mr	1028.62		1028.62				
Dx,g cm-3	2.488		2.488				
-	4		4				
Mu (mm-1)	6.786		6.786				
	1840.0		1840.0				
F000'	1829.24						
h,k,lmax	13,24,24		13,24,24				
	8426		8376				
Tmin,Tmax	0.672,0.816		0.629,0.	746			
Tmin'	0.538						
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.629 Tmax=0.746 AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN							
Data completeness= 0.994 Theta(max)= 30.548							
R(reflections) = 0.0524(7006) S = 1.093 Npar= 334 WR2(reflections) = 0.1219(8376)							



**Figure S7.** ORTEP representation of  $[NEt_4][2,3,4,5,6,12-I_6-CHB_{11}H_5]$  (top: side view; bottom: view along B12-C(cage) axis); hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity; 30% displacement ellipsoids. Minor component of disordered cation shown in green.

## **4** References

[1] Shen, Y. J.; Pan, Y. N.; Zhang, K.; Liang, X. W.; Liu, J.Y.; Spingler B.; Duttwyler,

S. Dalton Trans. 2017, 46, 3135.

[2] Himmelspach, A.; Reiss, G. J.; Finze, M. Inorg. Chem. 2012, 51, 2679–2688.

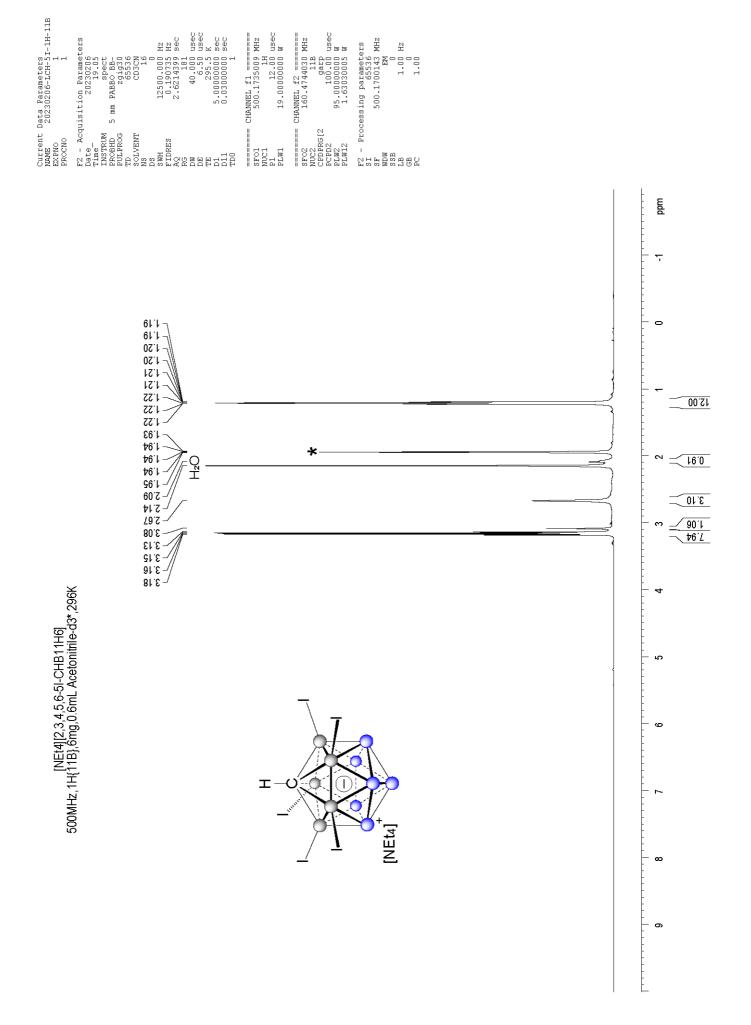
[3] Lin, F. R.; Shen, Y. J.; Zhang, Y. B.; Sun, Y. J.; Liu, J. Y.; Duttwyler, S. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2018**, *24*, 551–555.

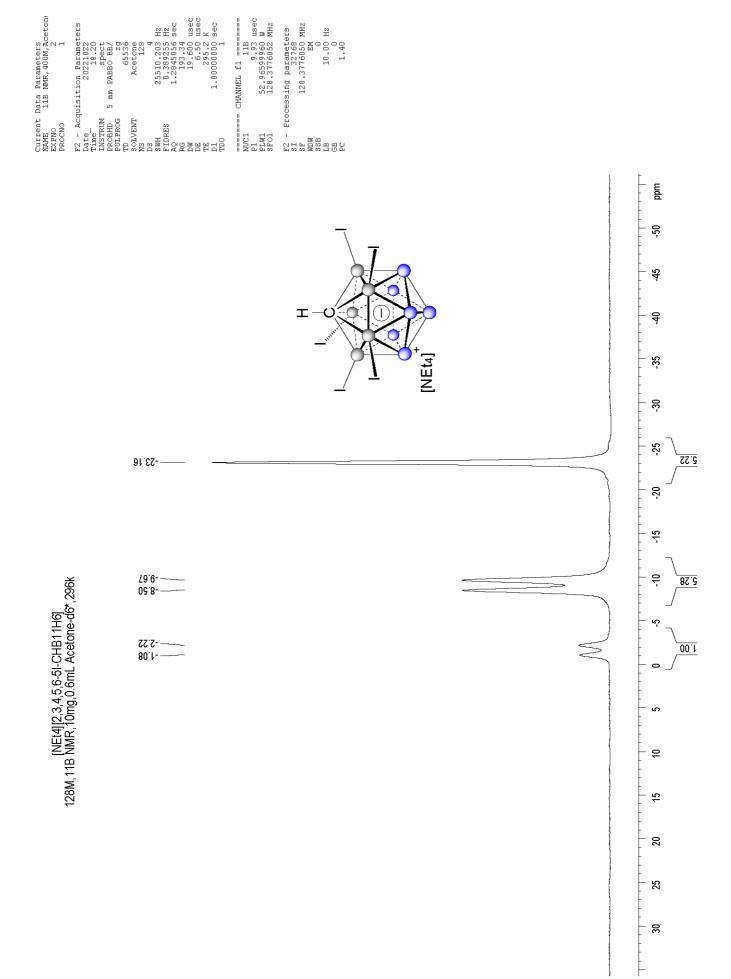
[4] Shen, Y. J.; Zhang, K.; Liang, X. W.; Dontha, R.; Duttwyler, S. *Chem. Sci.* **2019**, *10*, 4177.

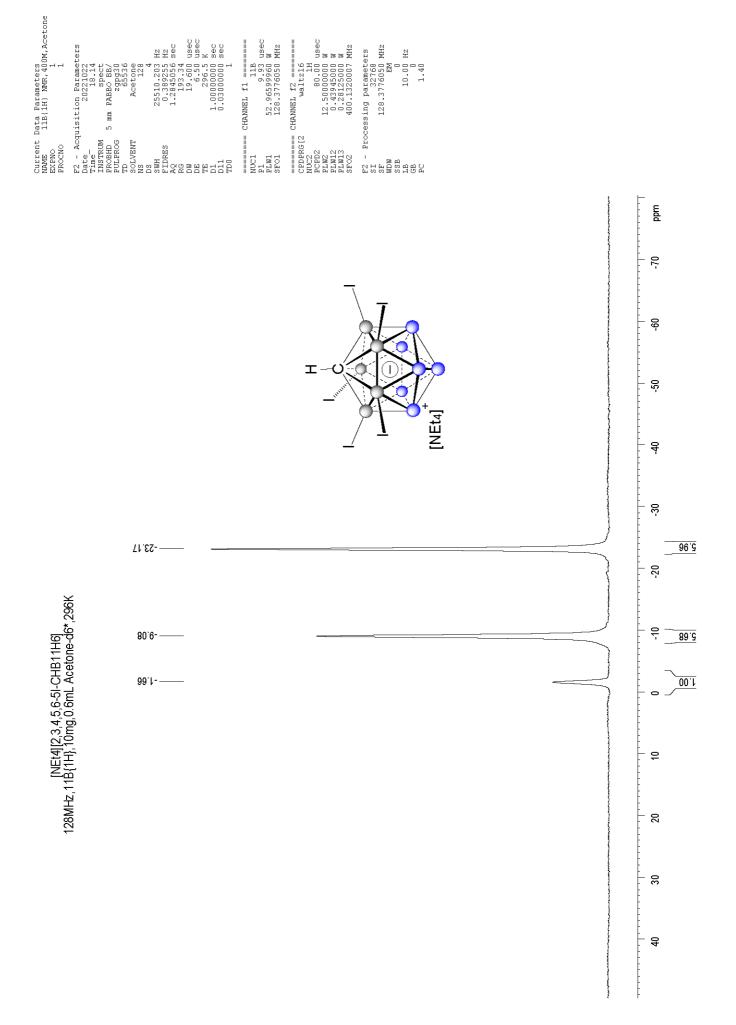
[5] Grüner, B.; Janoušek, Z.; King, B. T.; Woodford, J. N.; Wang, C. H.; Všetečka V.;
 Michl J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1999, 121, 3122–3126.

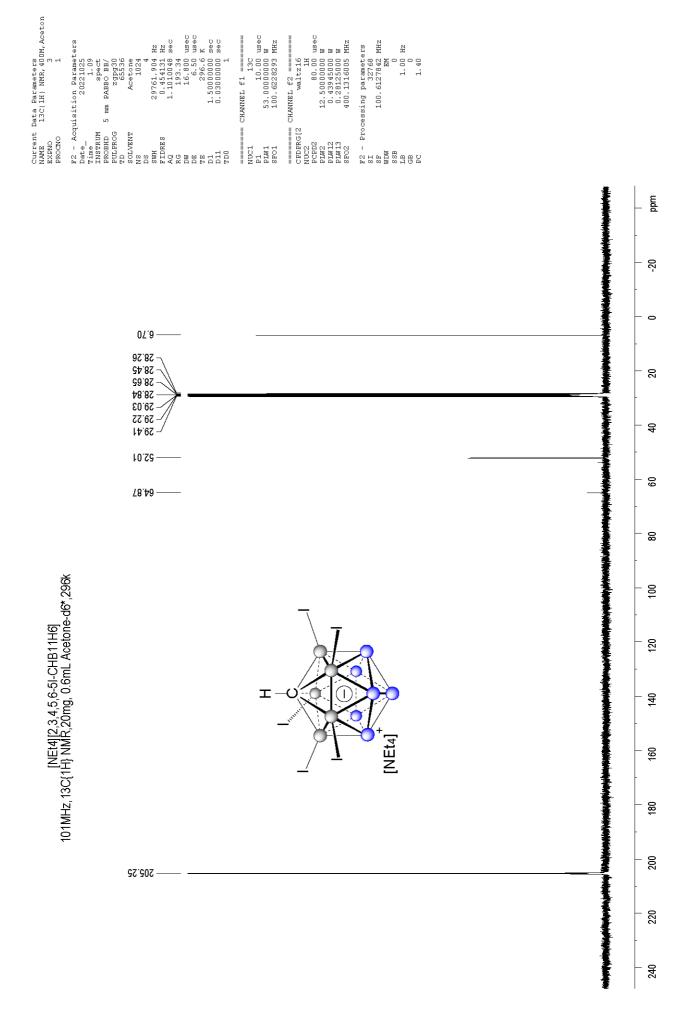
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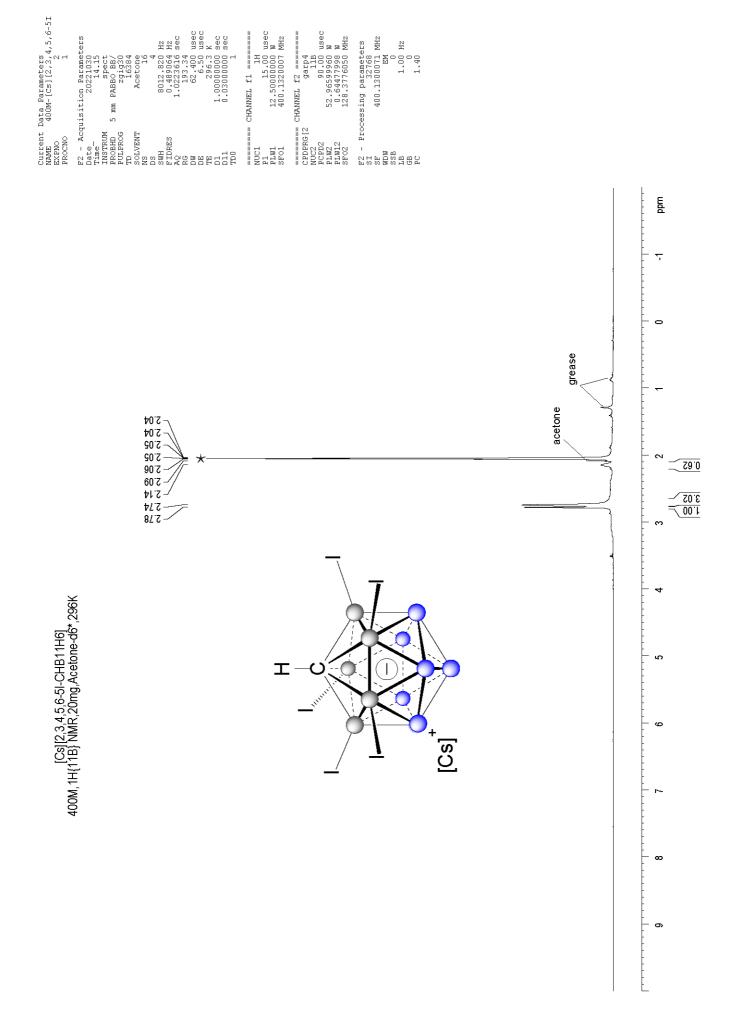
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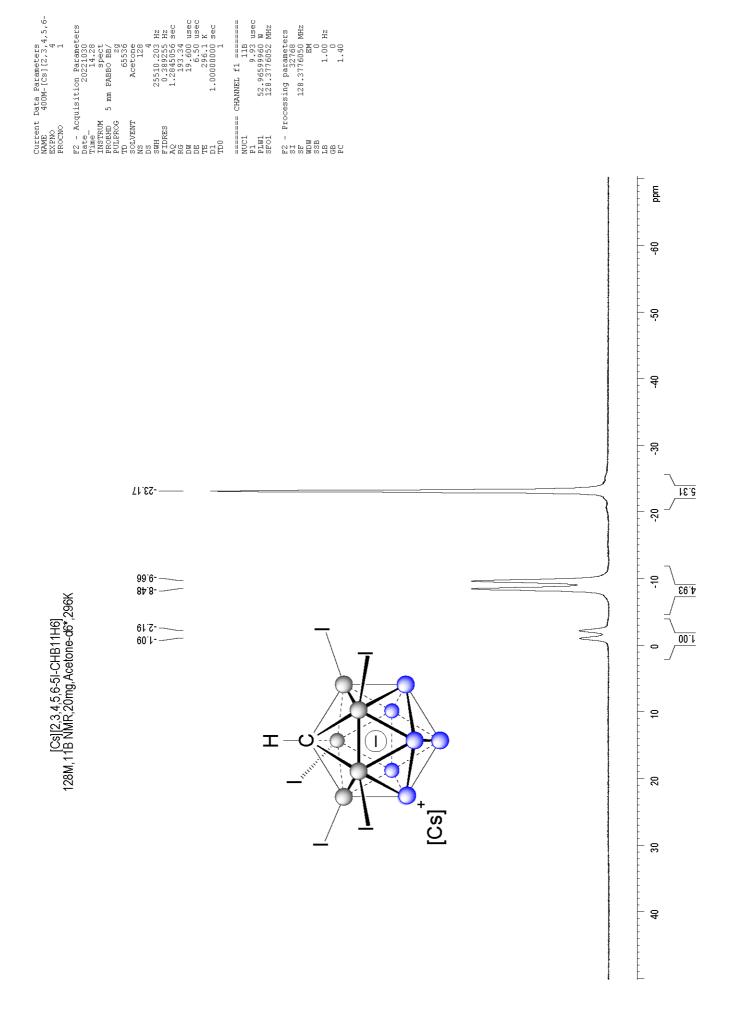


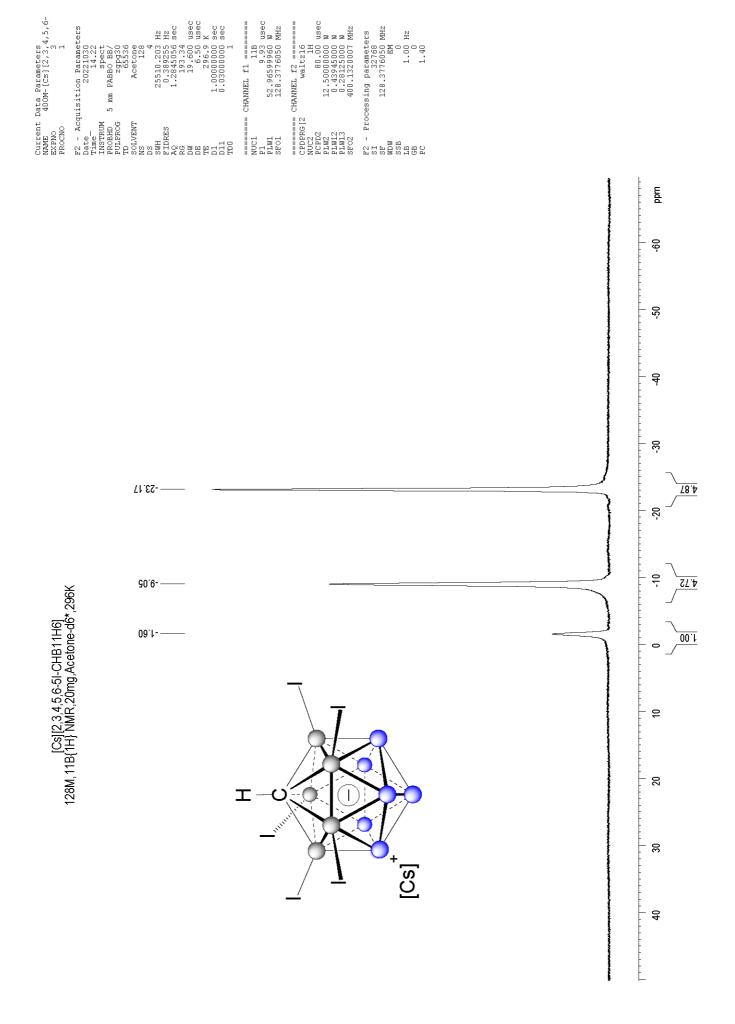


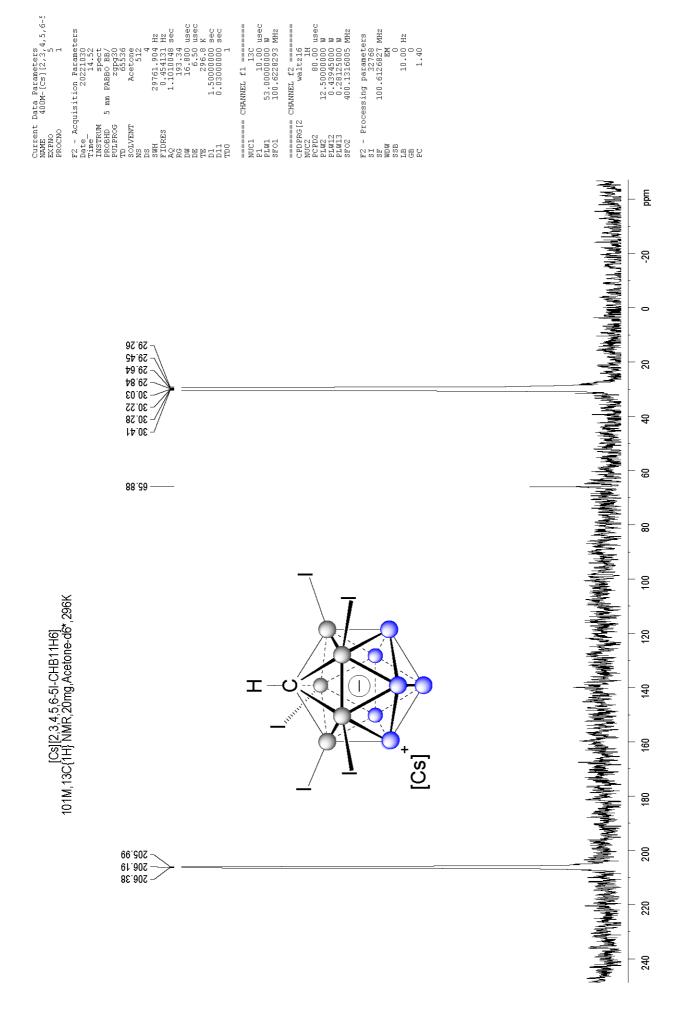


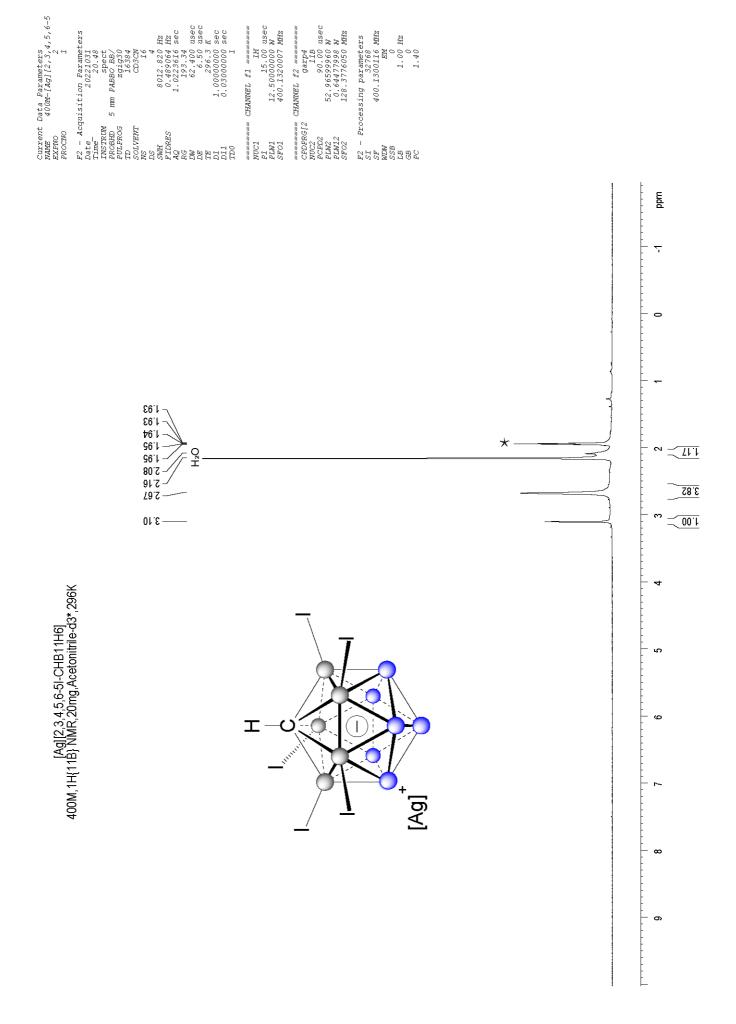


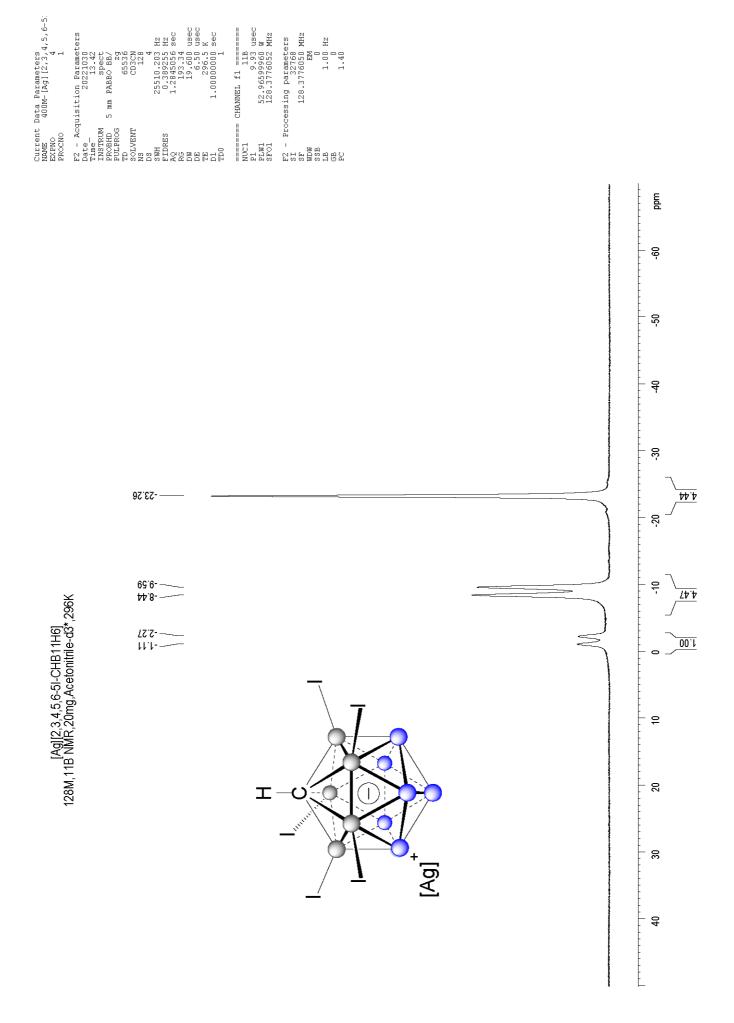


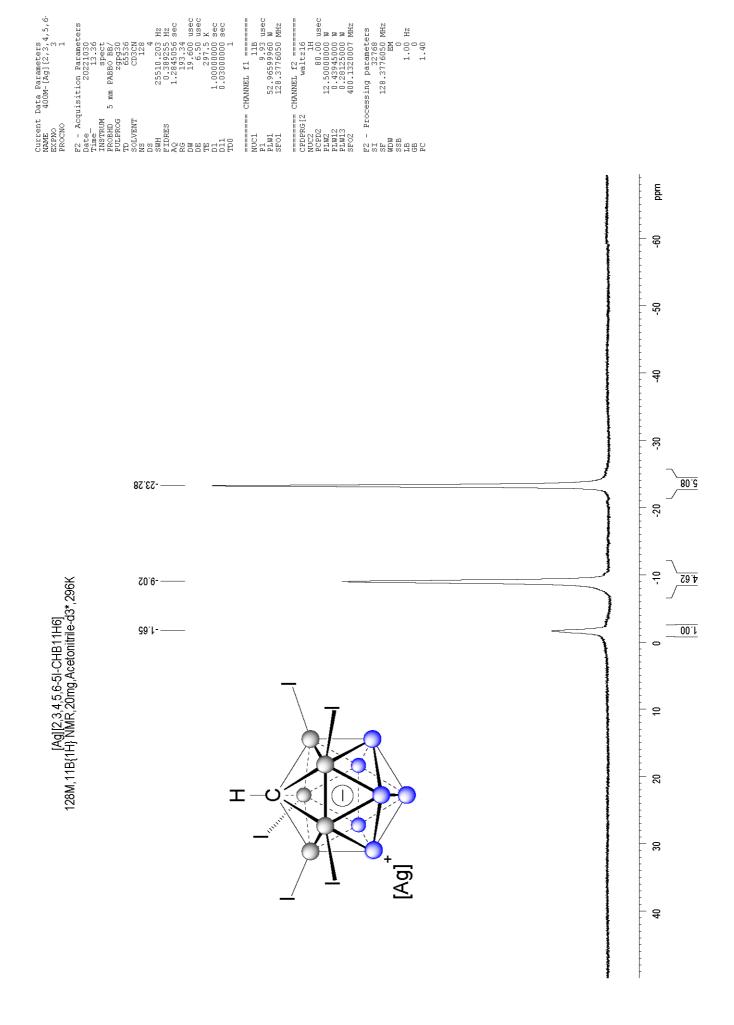


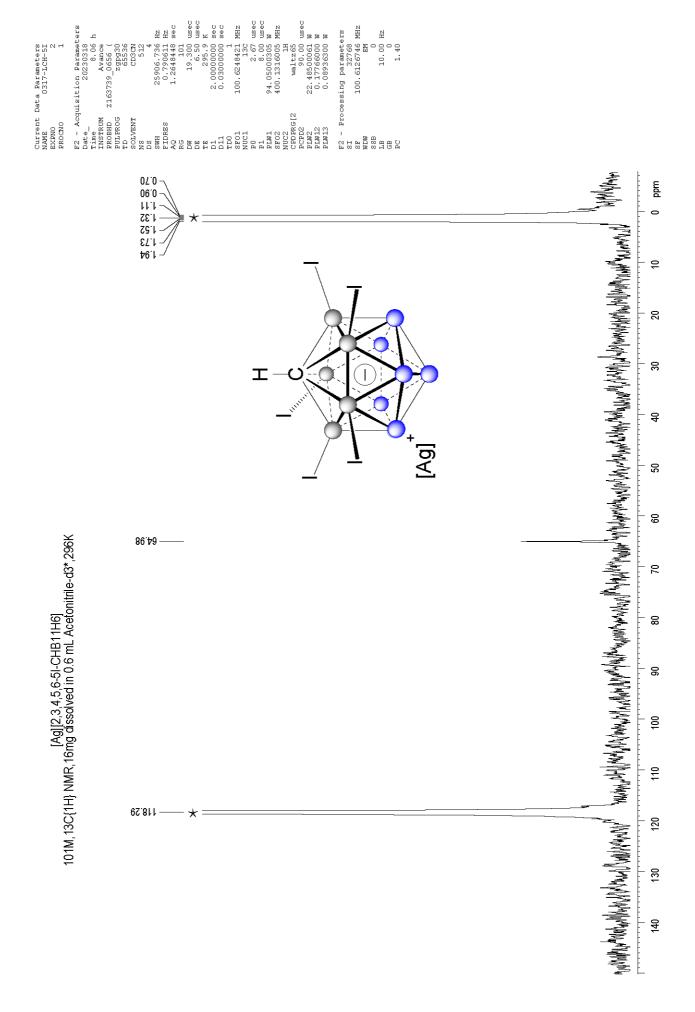


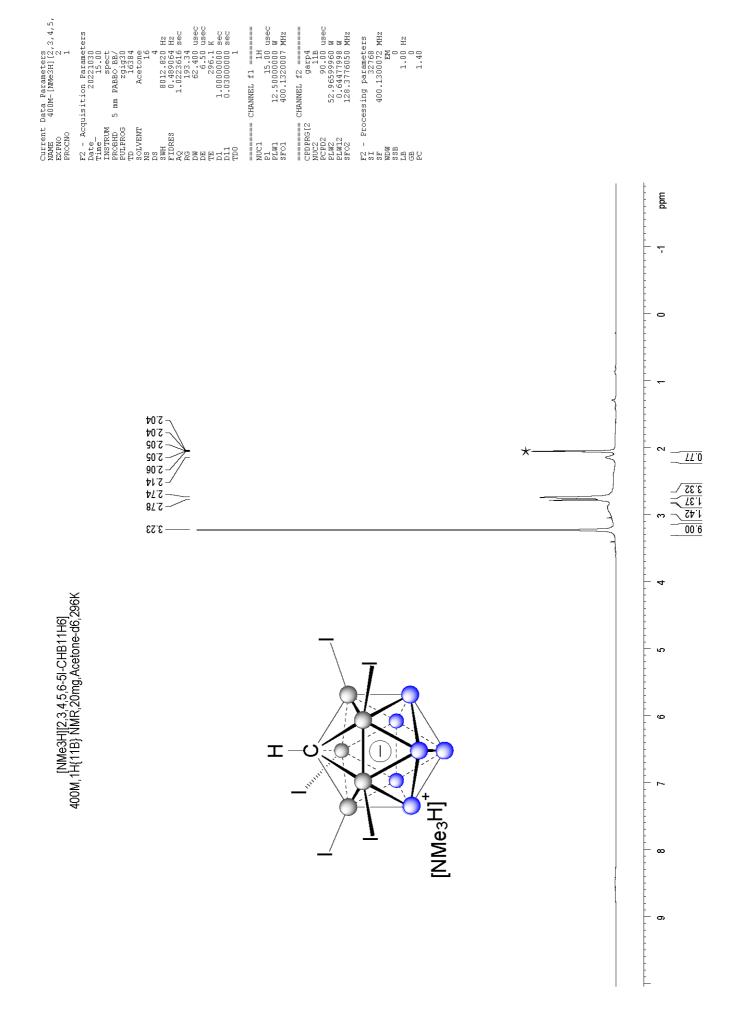


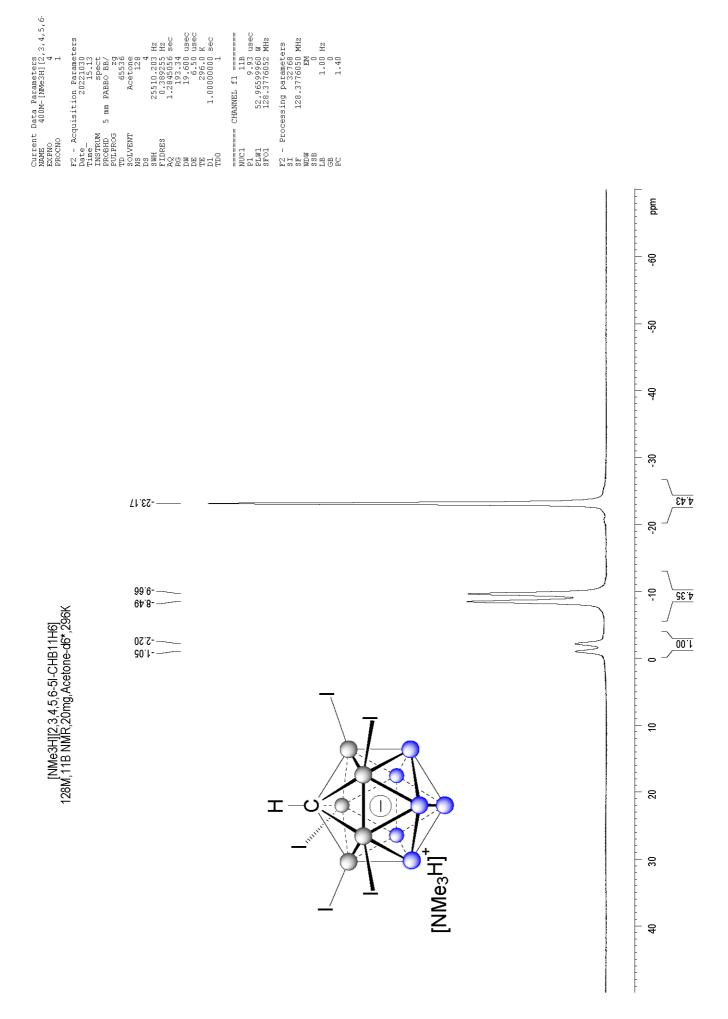


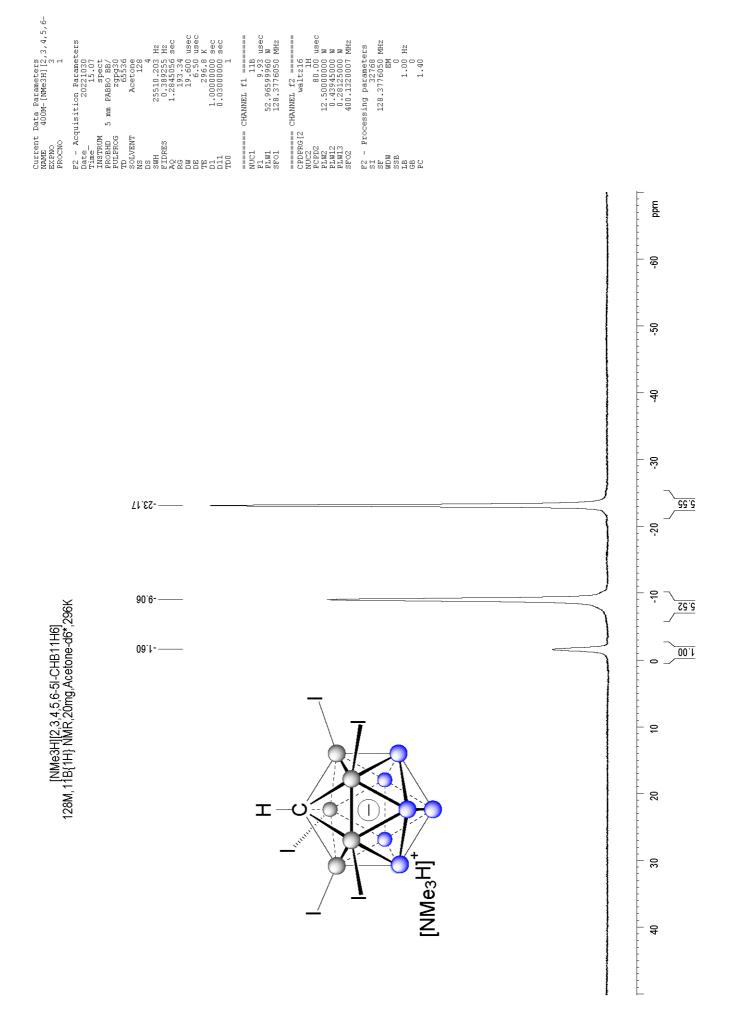


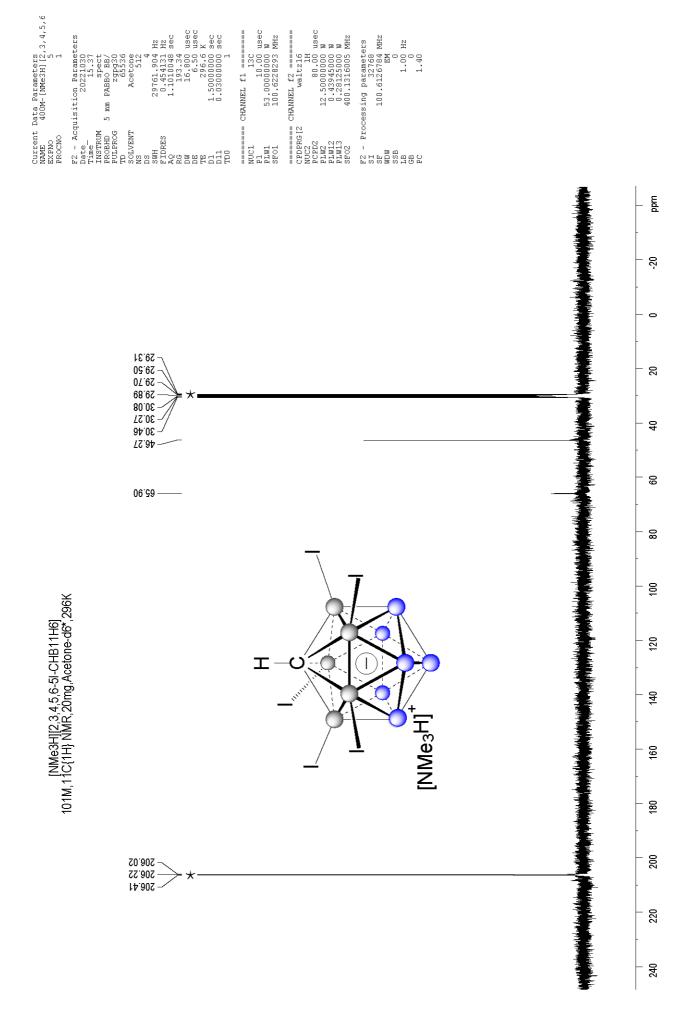




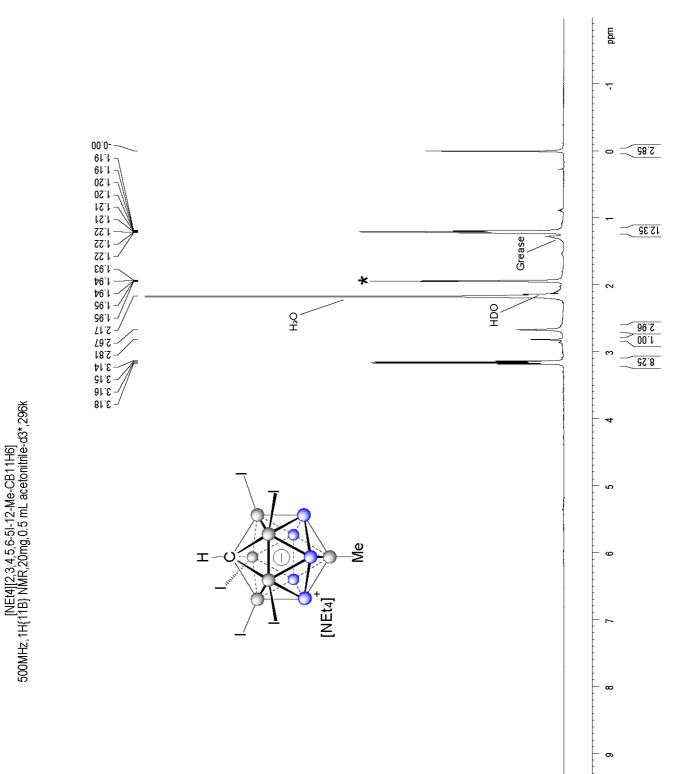


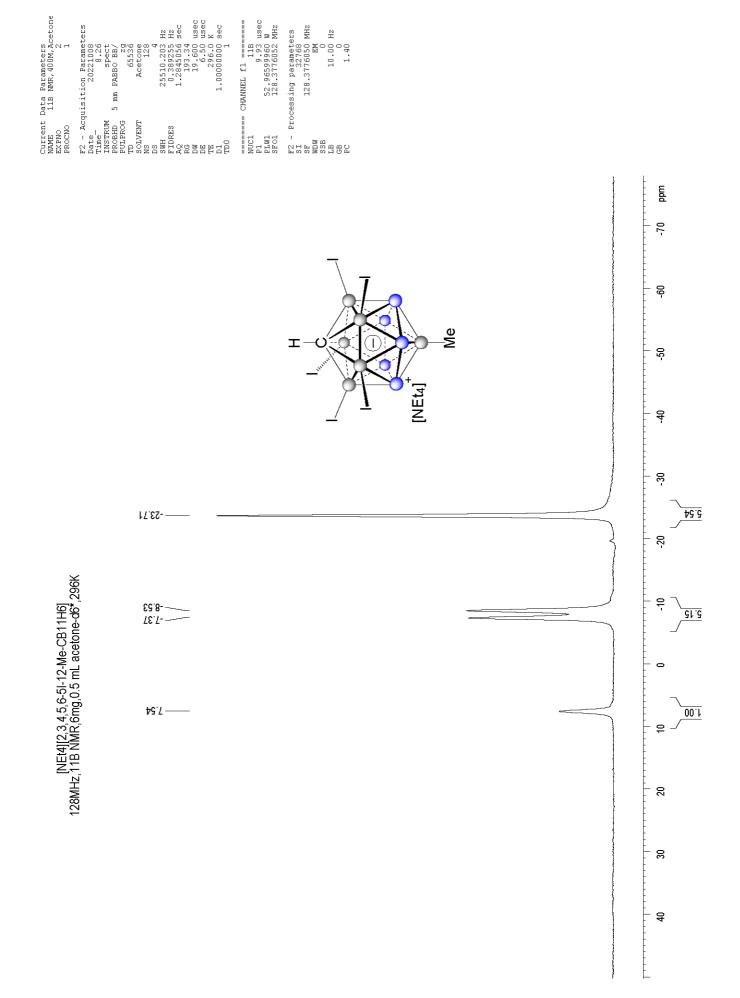


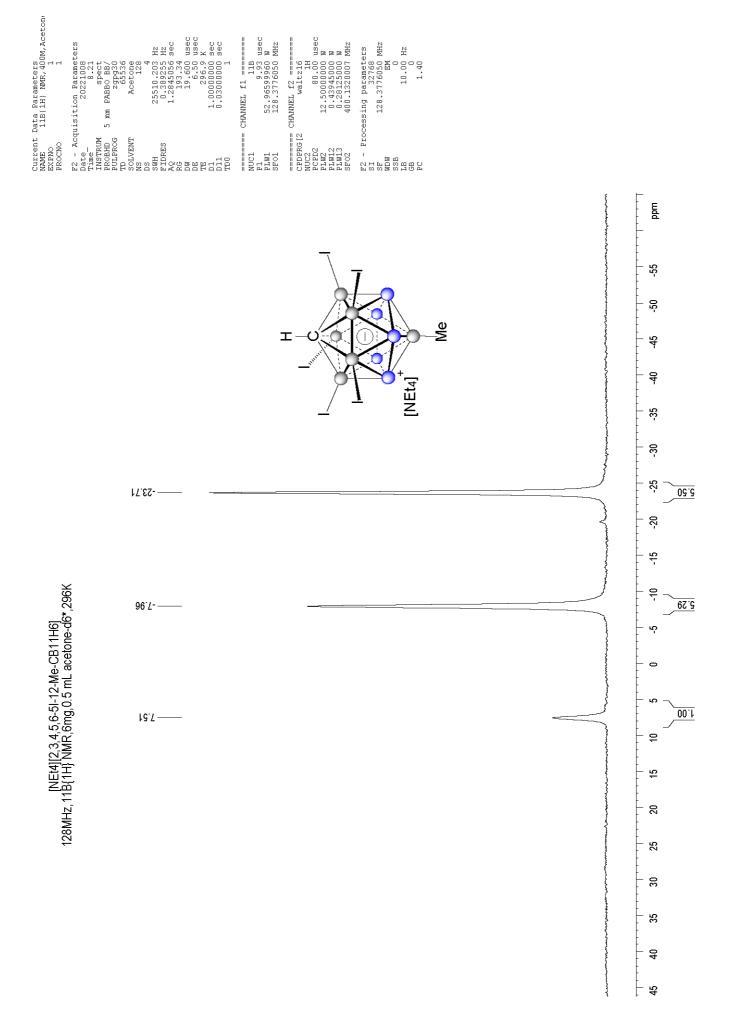


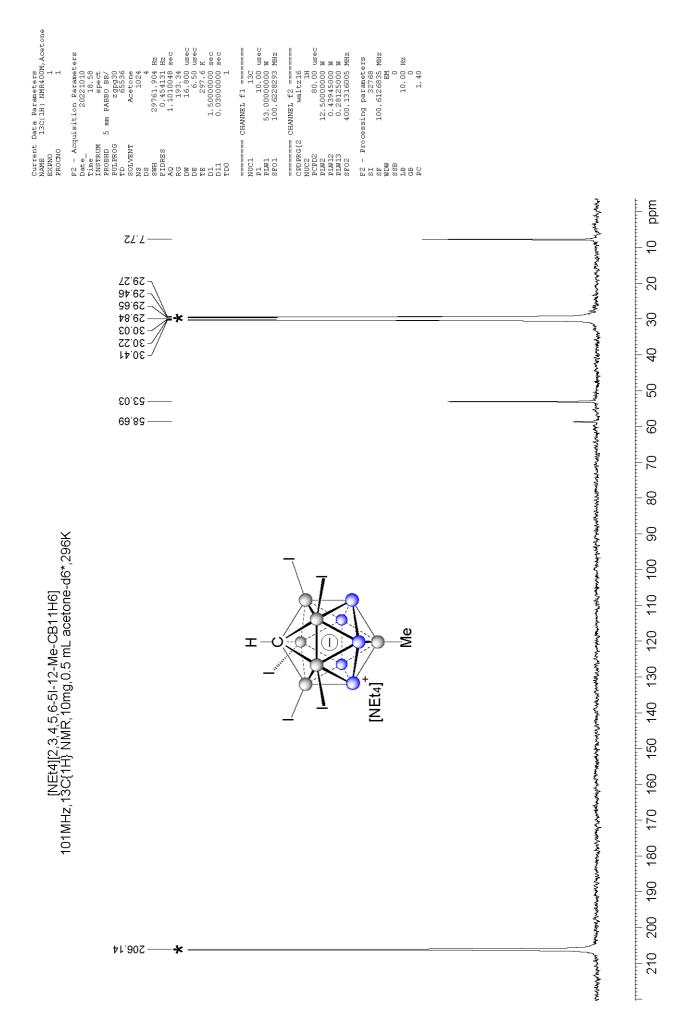


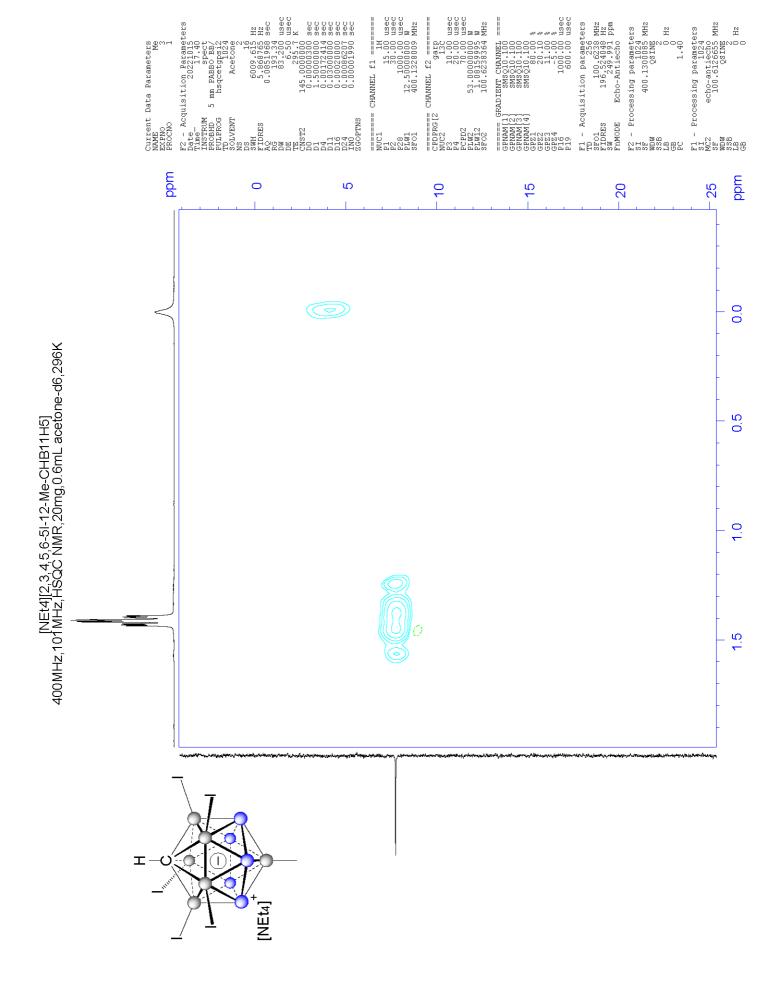
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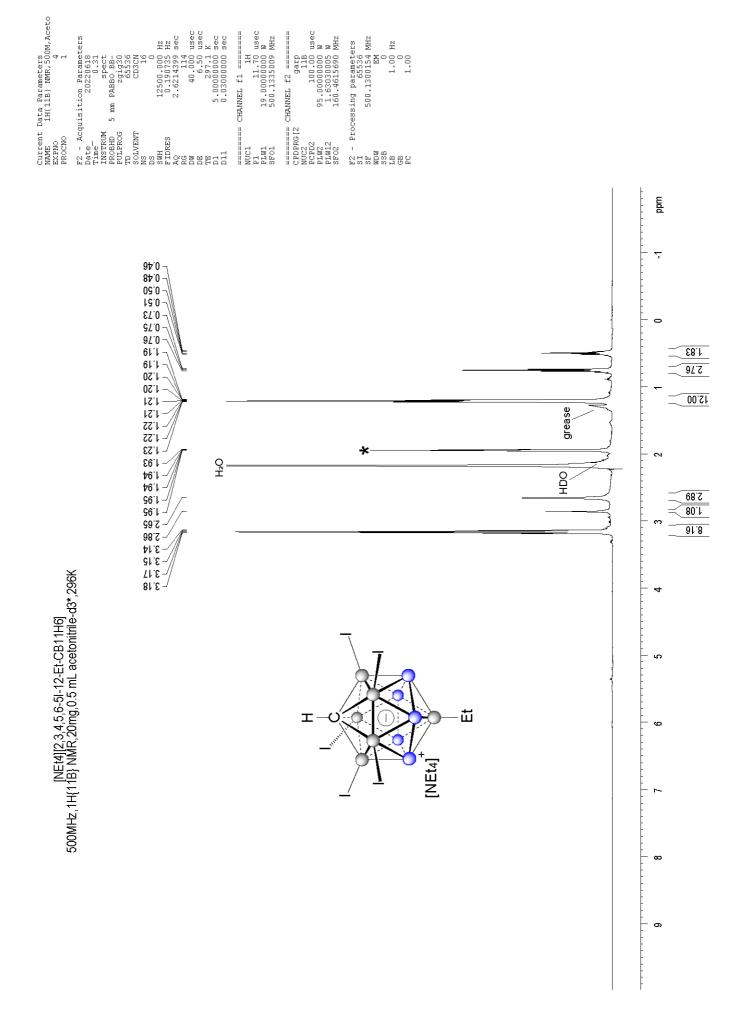


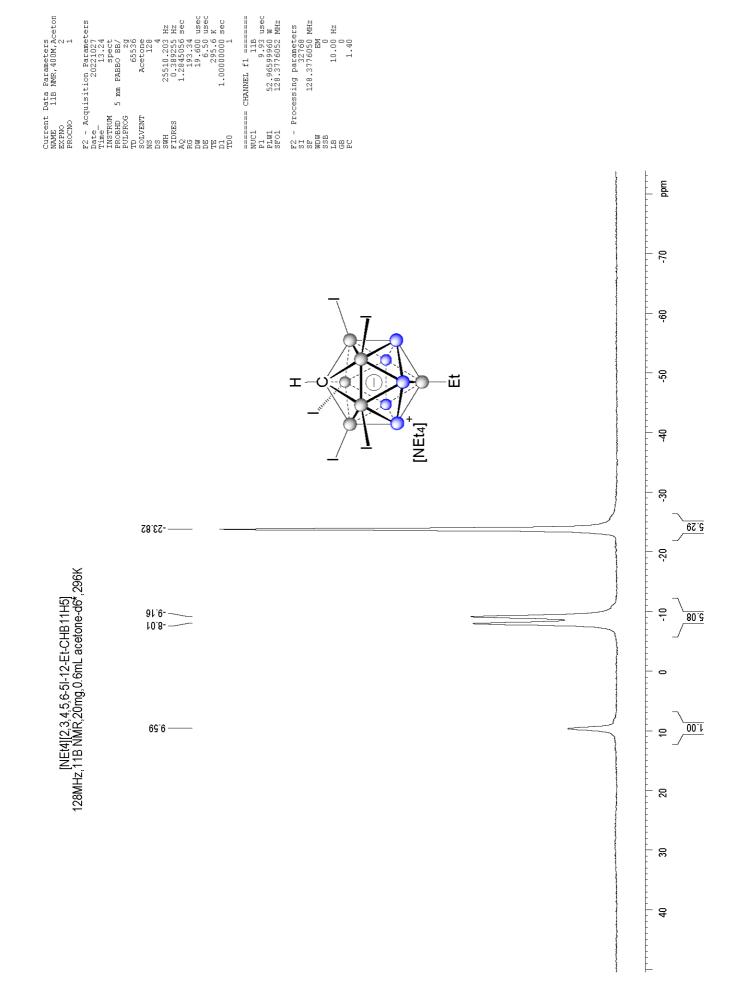


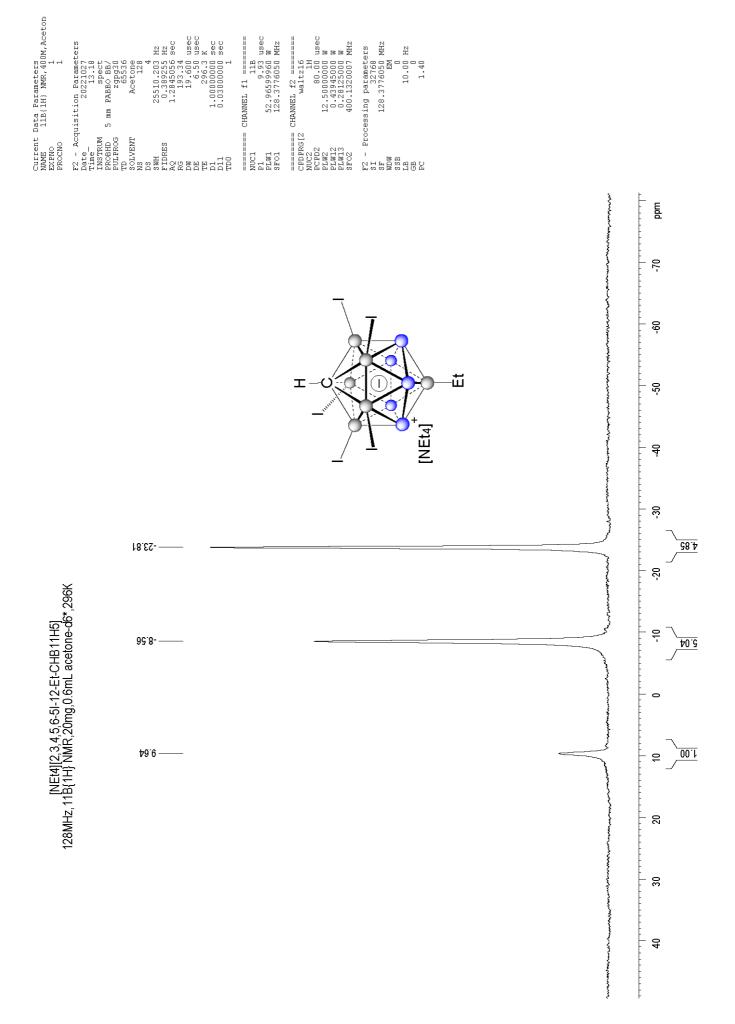


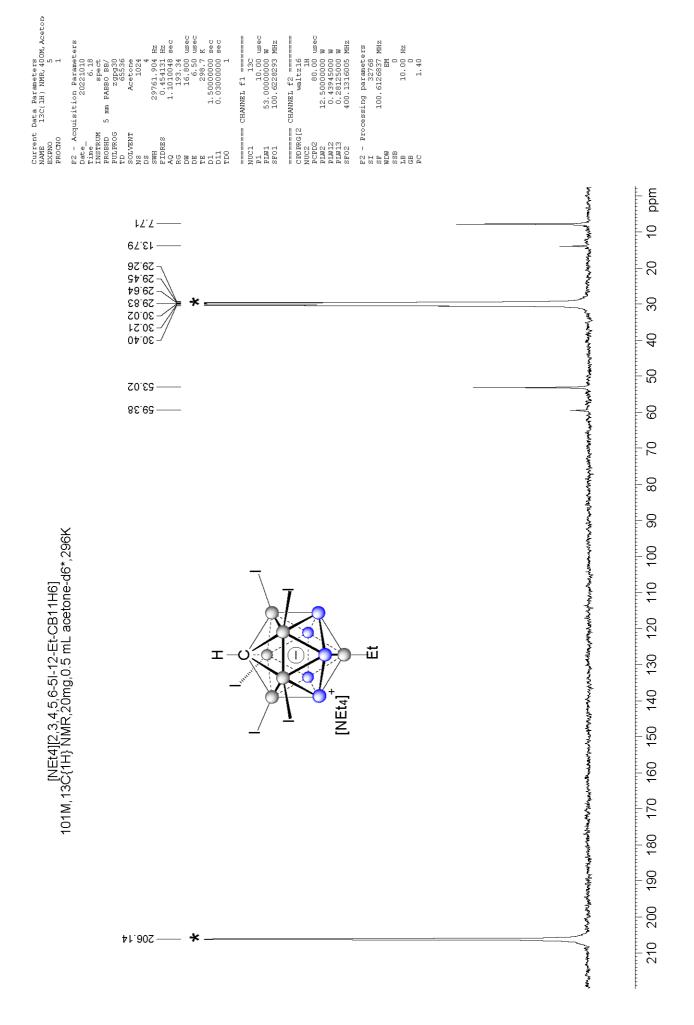


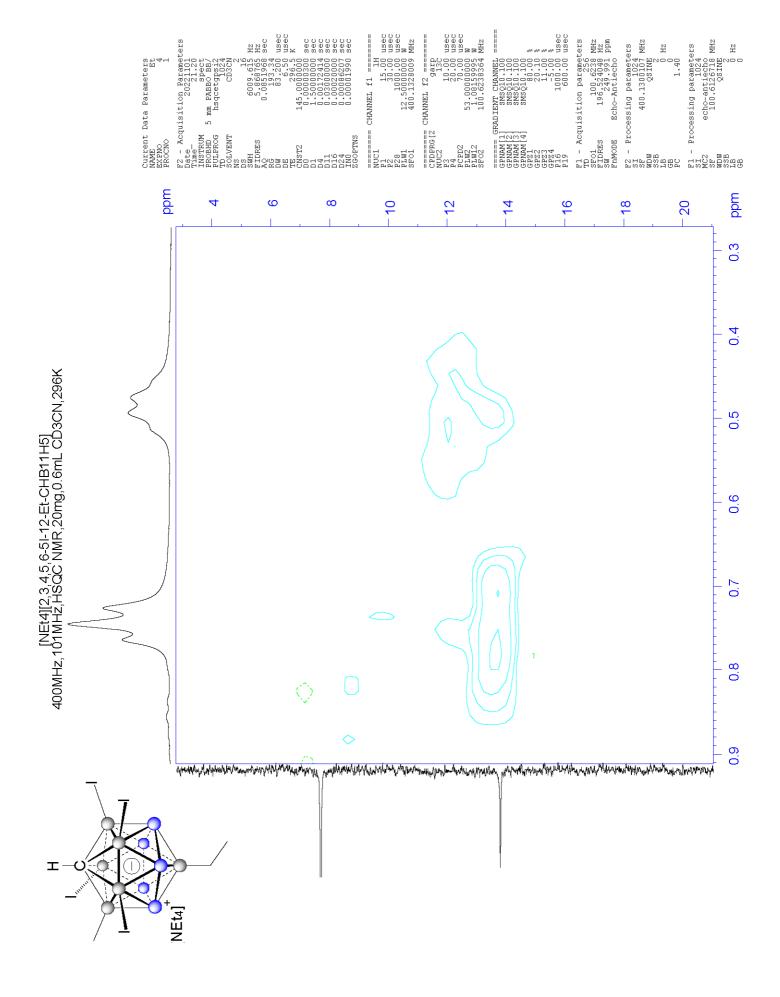


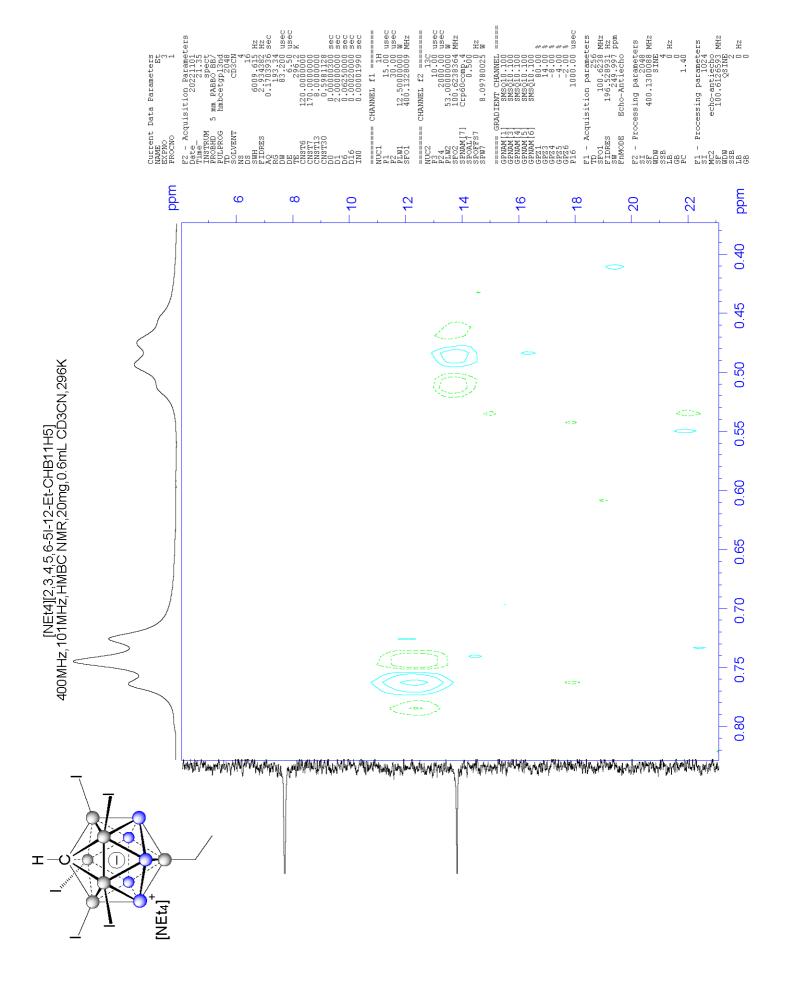


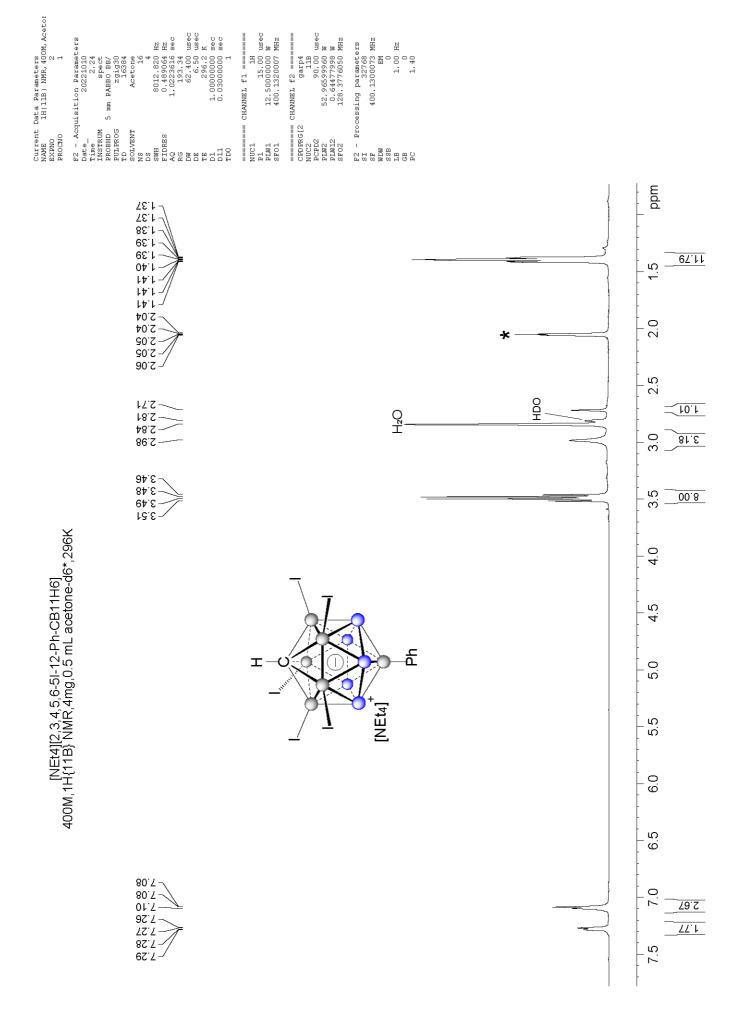




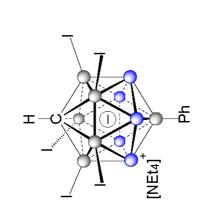








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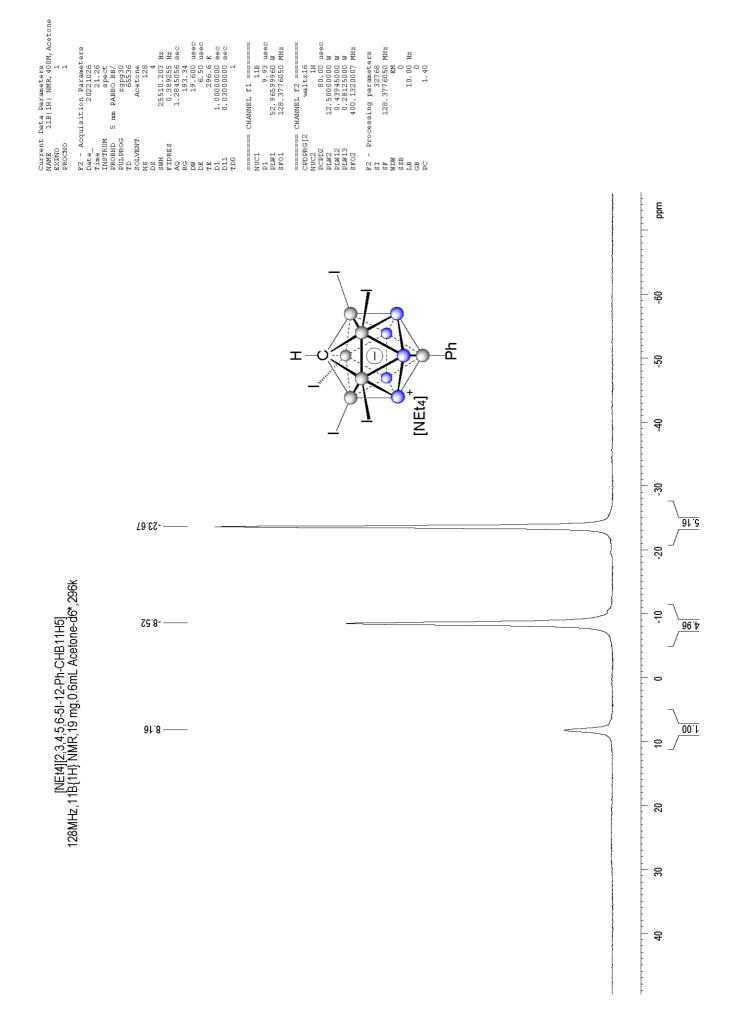
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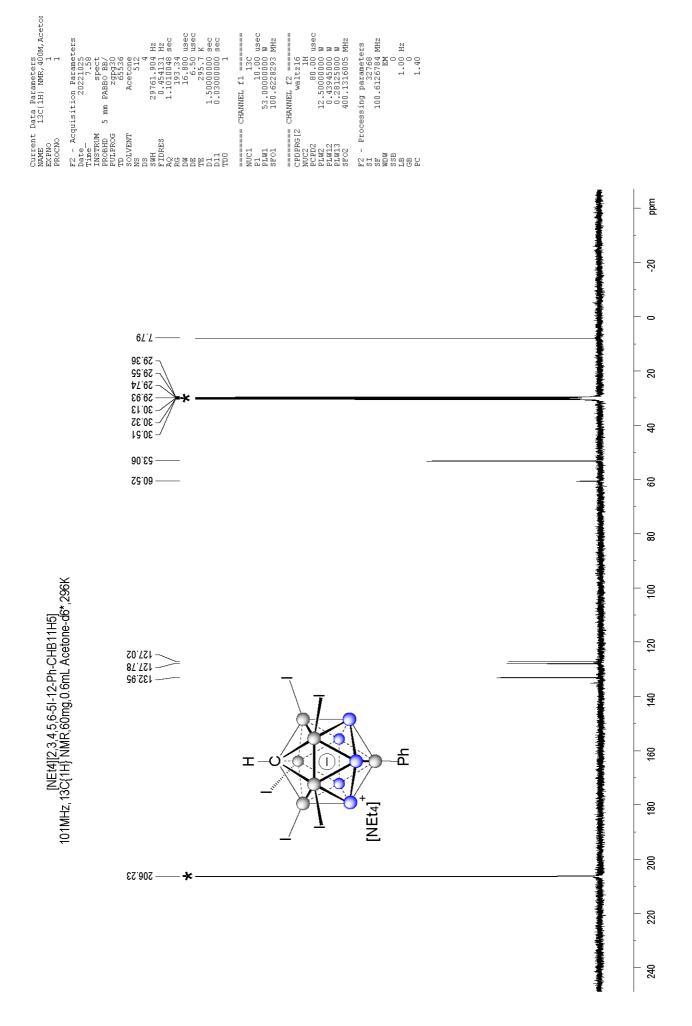
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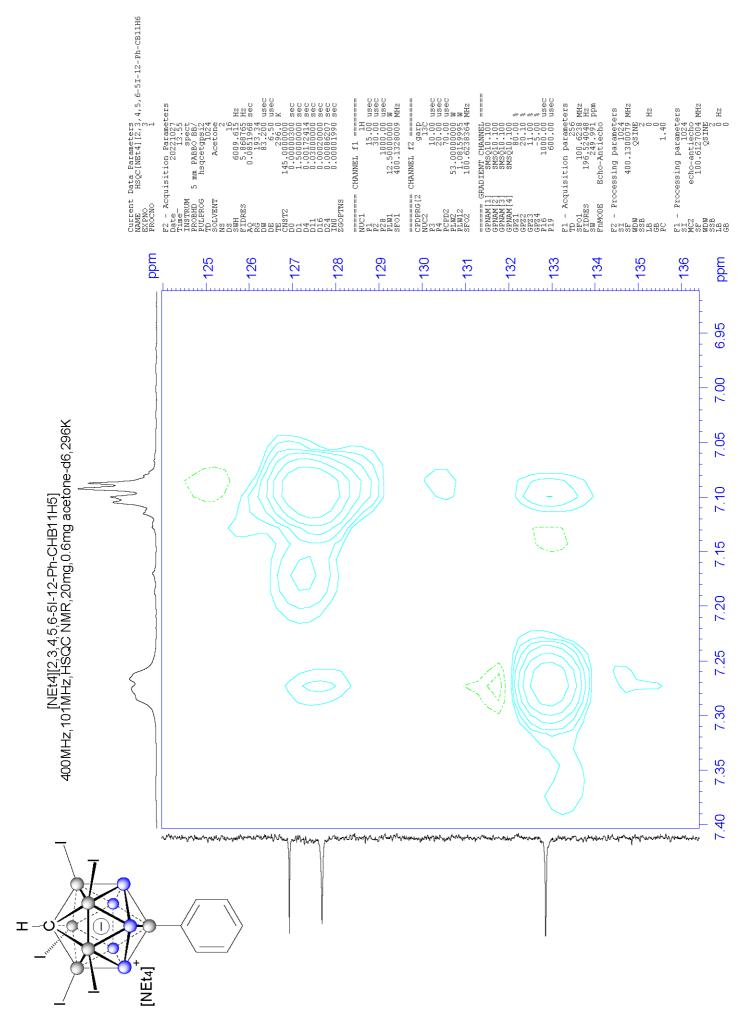
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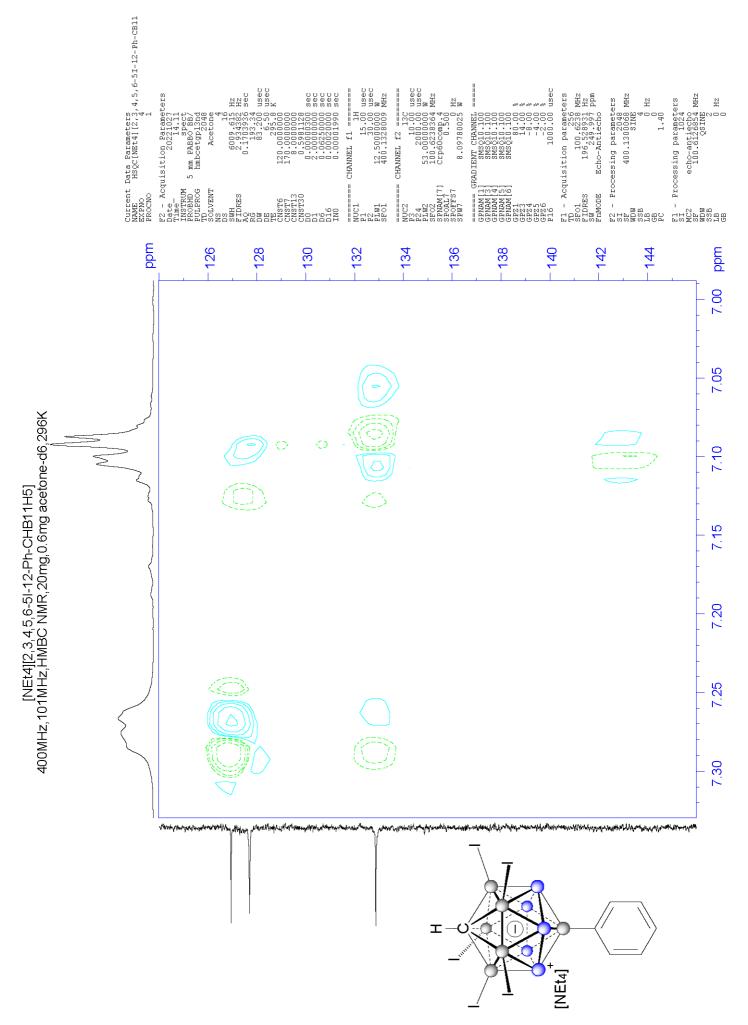
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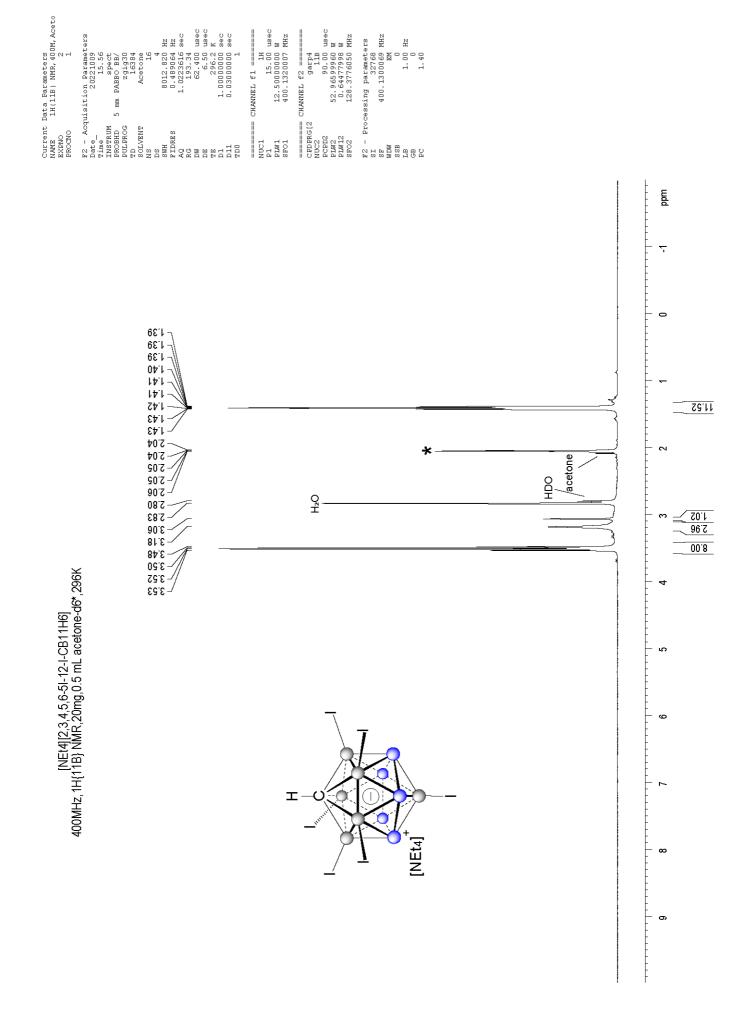
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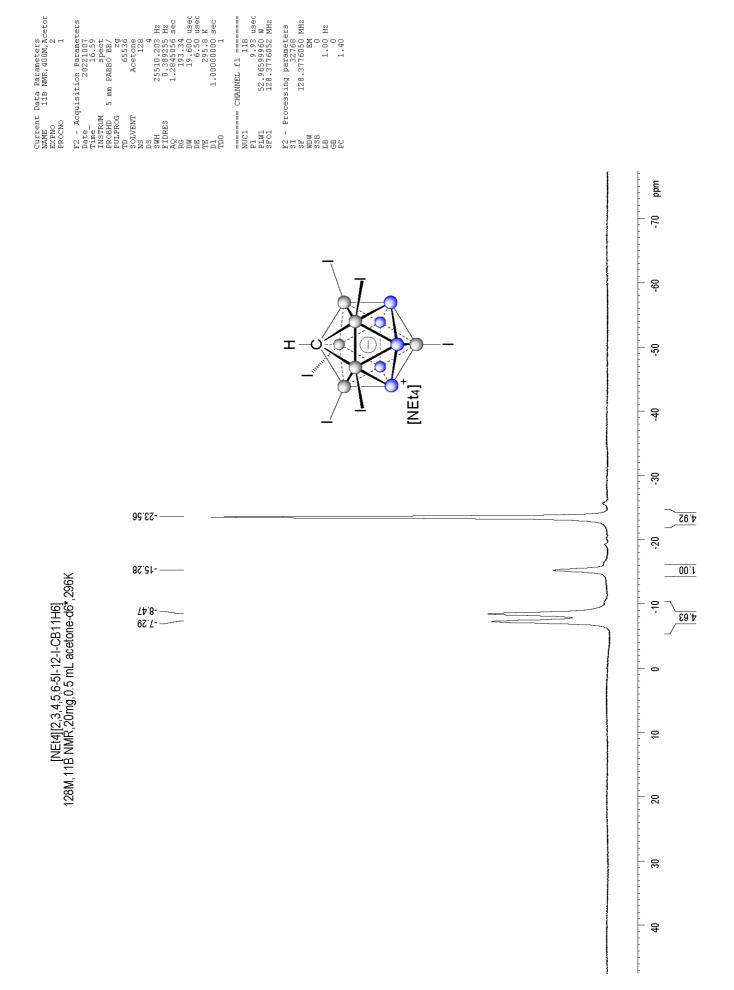


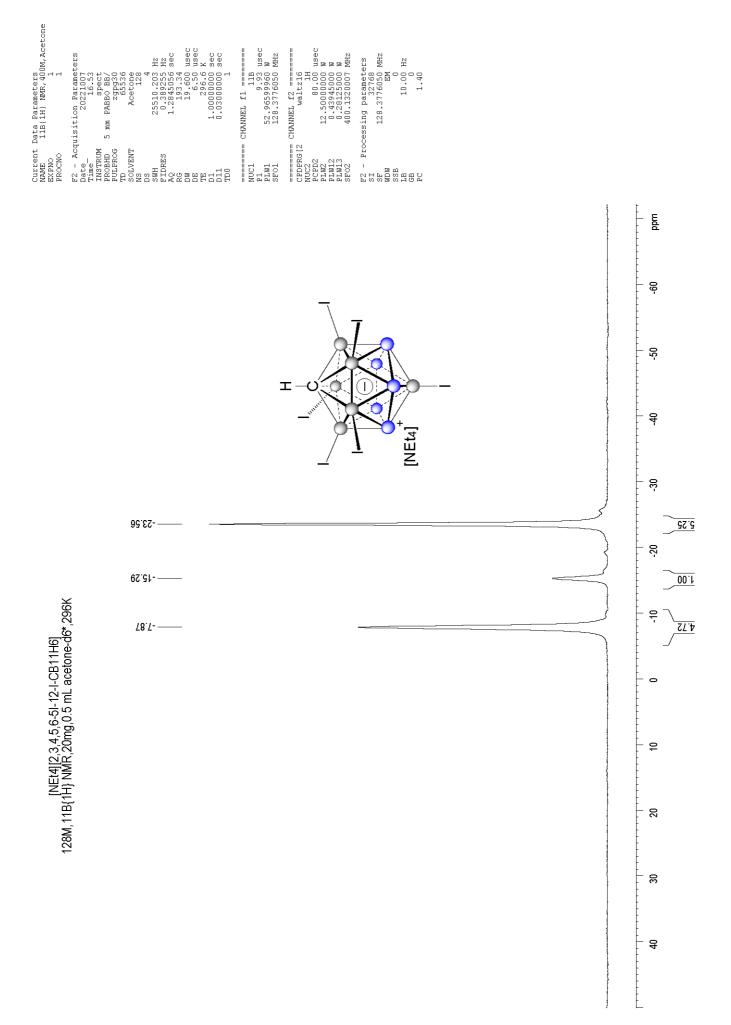


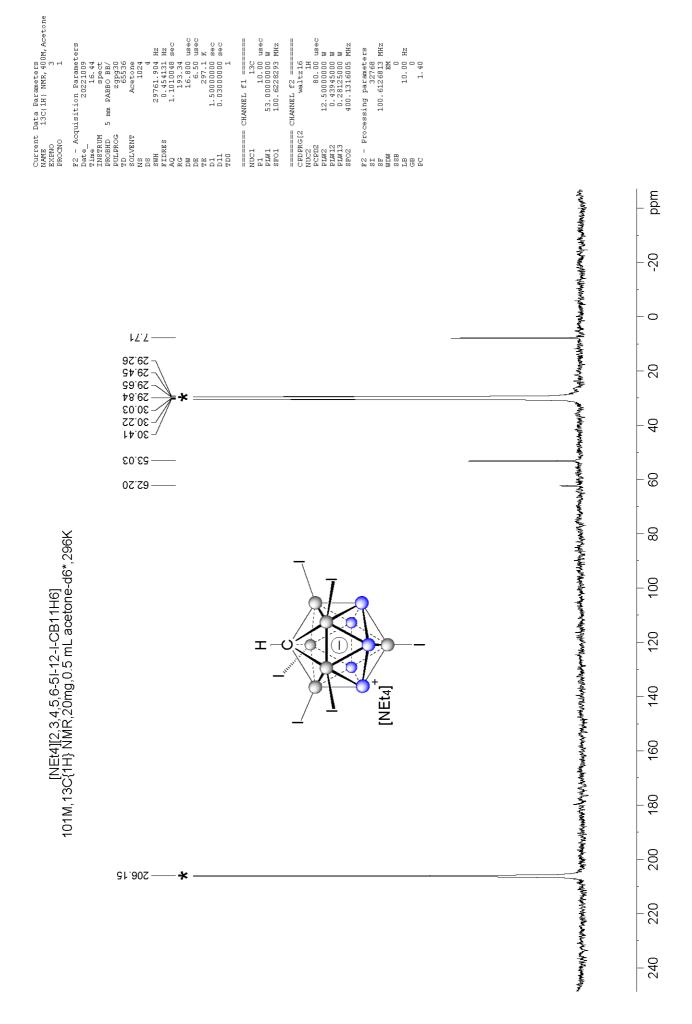


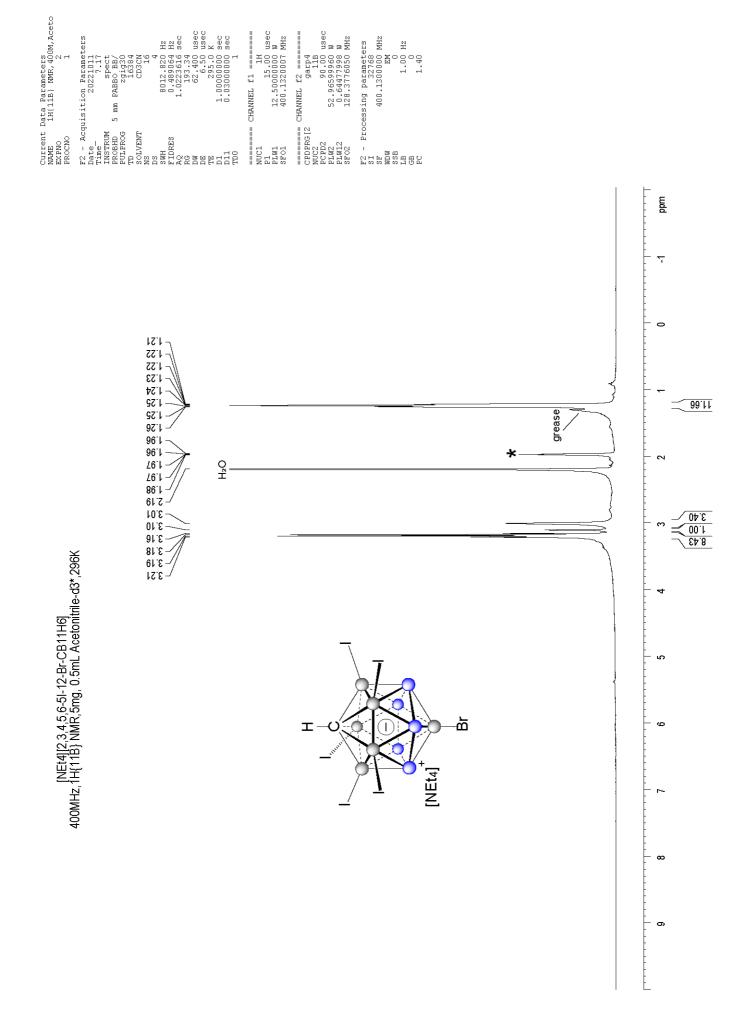


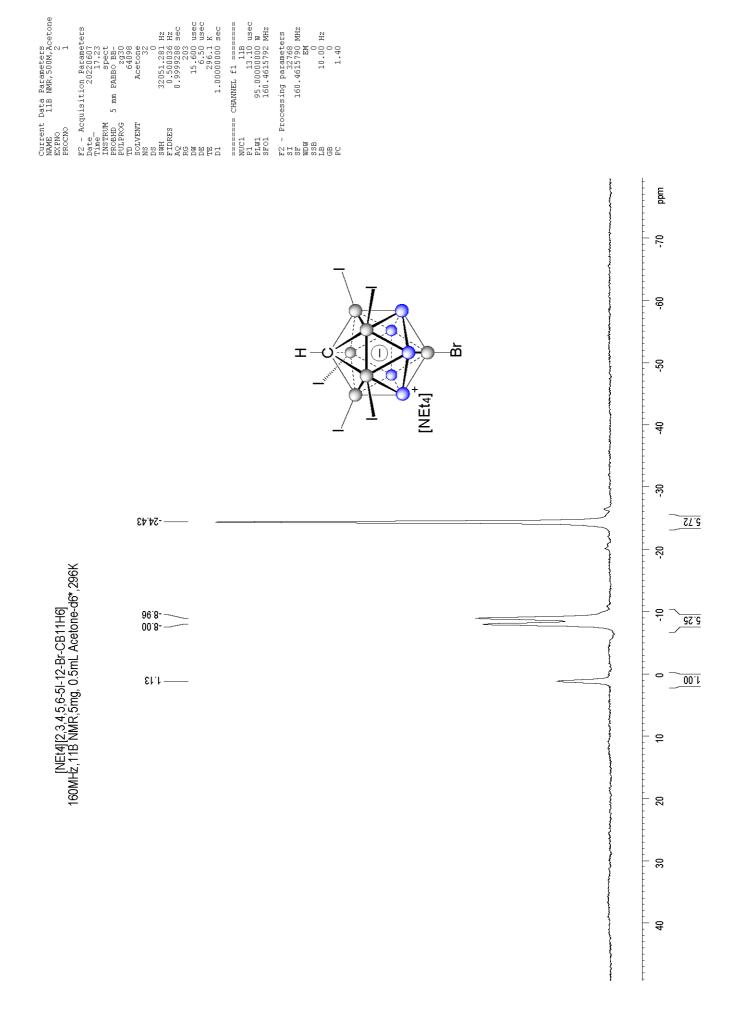


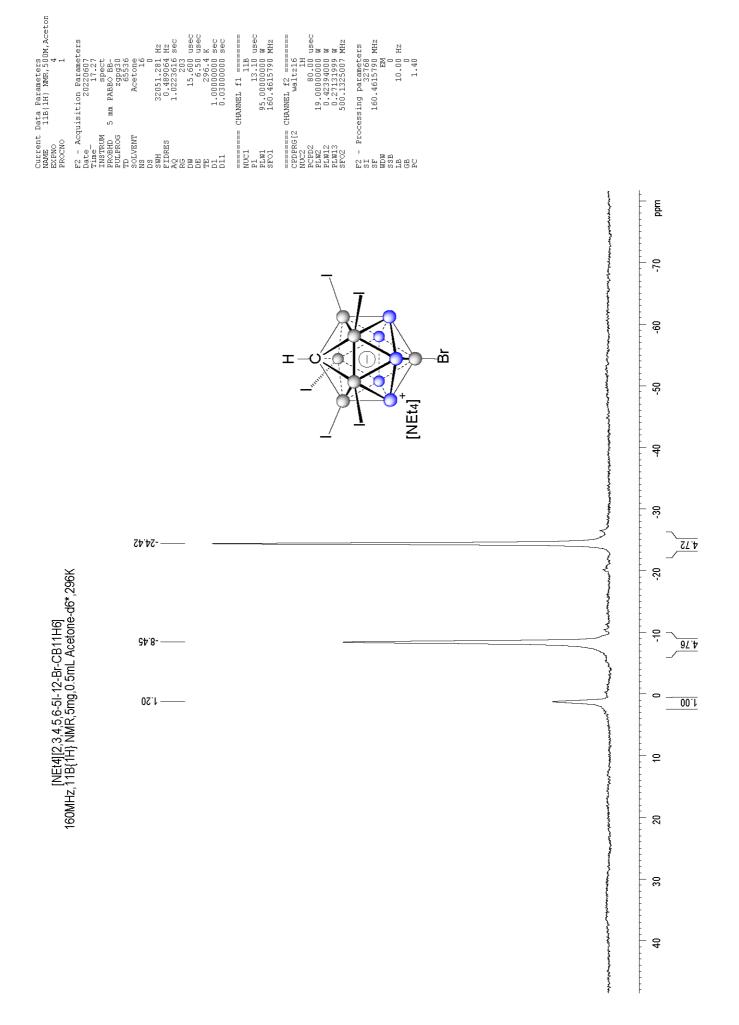


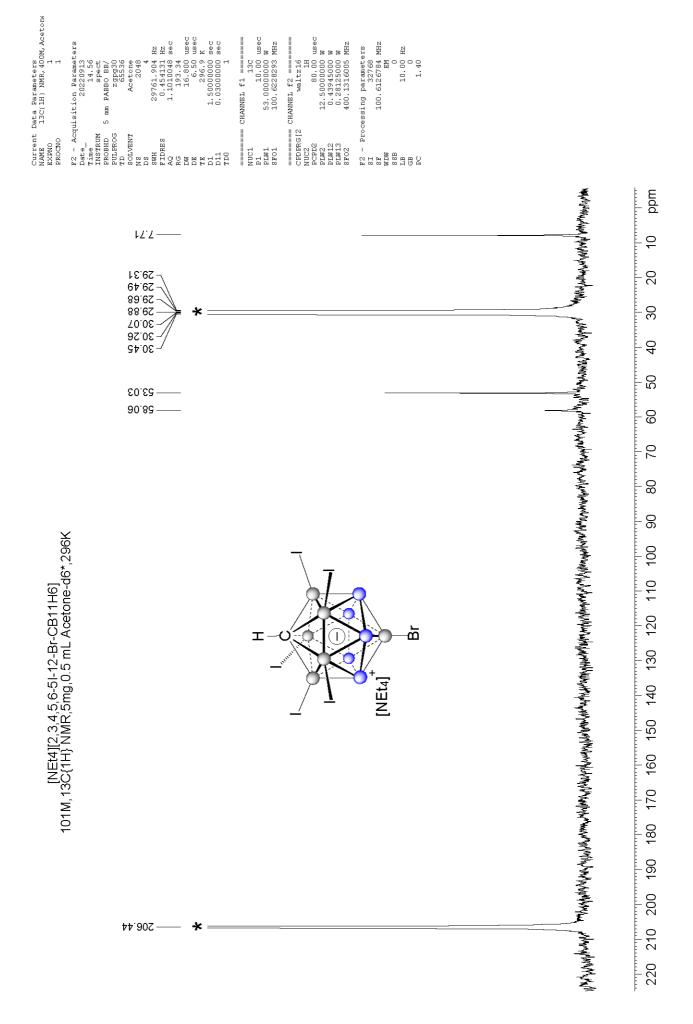


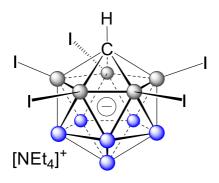


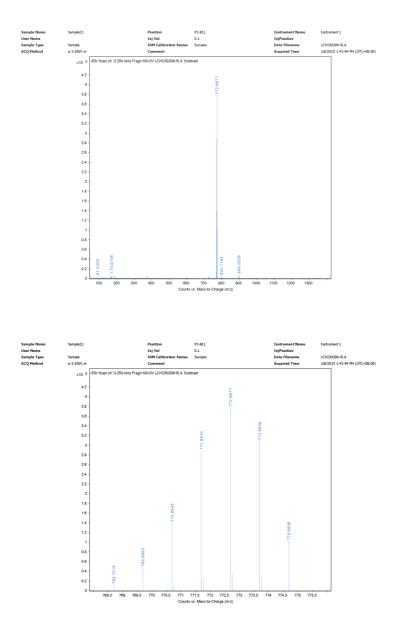


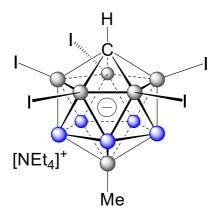


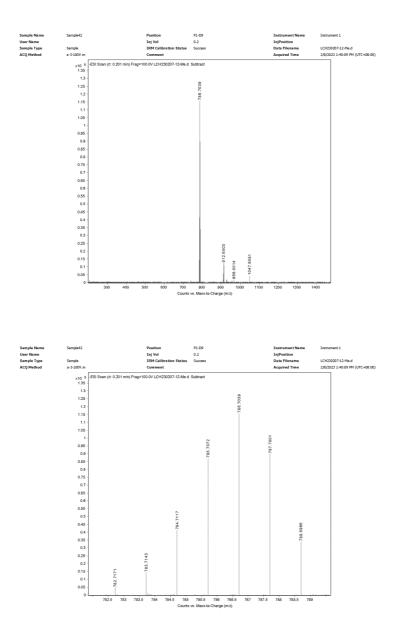


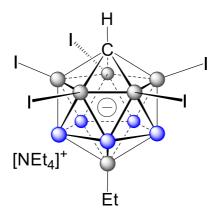


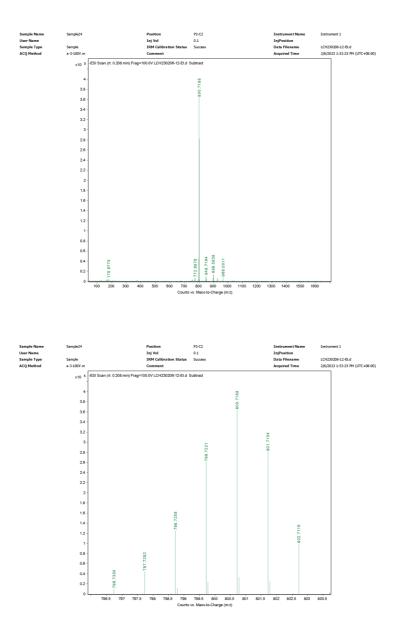


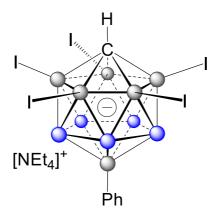


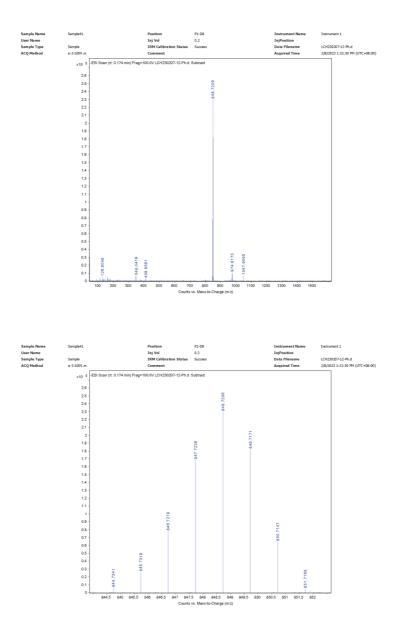


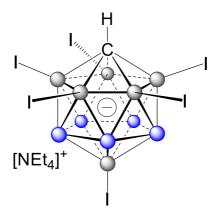




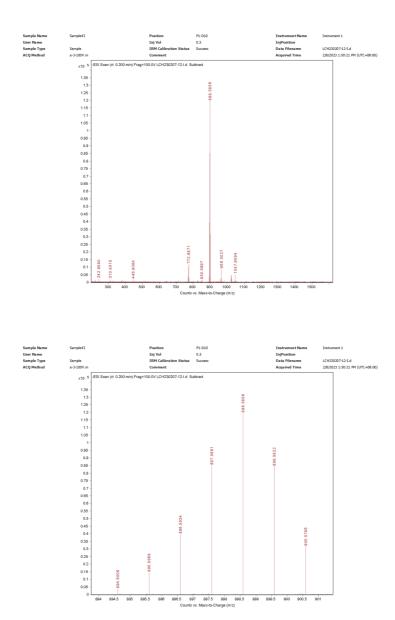


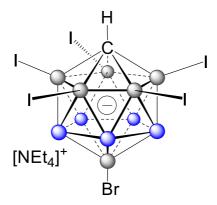


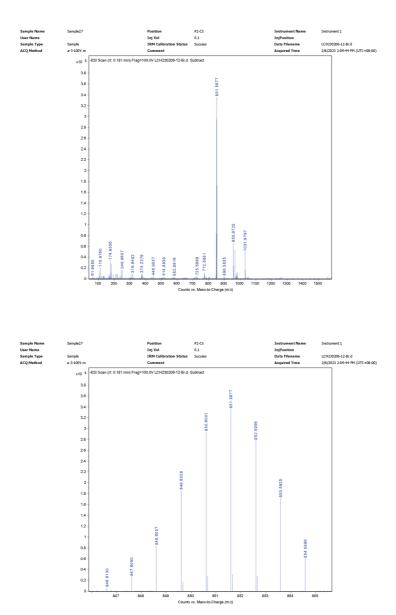


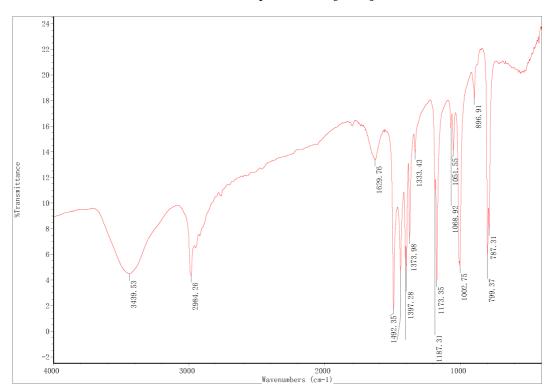


HRMS









Reference IR spectrum of [NEt<sub>4</sub>]Br

