

**Midterm Exam 1**

**Please do not open or sign this packet until you are instructed to do so.**

Please write all of your answers for this exam in this exam packet. Although you may use as many blue books for scratch work as you would like, the blue books will not be collected at the end of the exam or graded. Answer each question in the space provided if you can, but feel free to continue your answer on the back of the page if you need more room. (Please write a note by your answer pointing us to the continuation if you do this.) Feel free to remove the corner staple if this helps you analyze the spectra; you will have the opportunity to re-staple your exam at the end. The exam in this packet is designed to take 1 hour to complete. You will be given 2 hours total to finish the test.

This exam contains two problems, which are split into parts. Many of these parts can be answered independently. *Do not get stuck* on one part and then assume that you will be unable to answer the rest of the question—move on. In addition, partial credit will be given for incorrect but still plausible answers, so *guess* on problems you cannot answer perfectly.

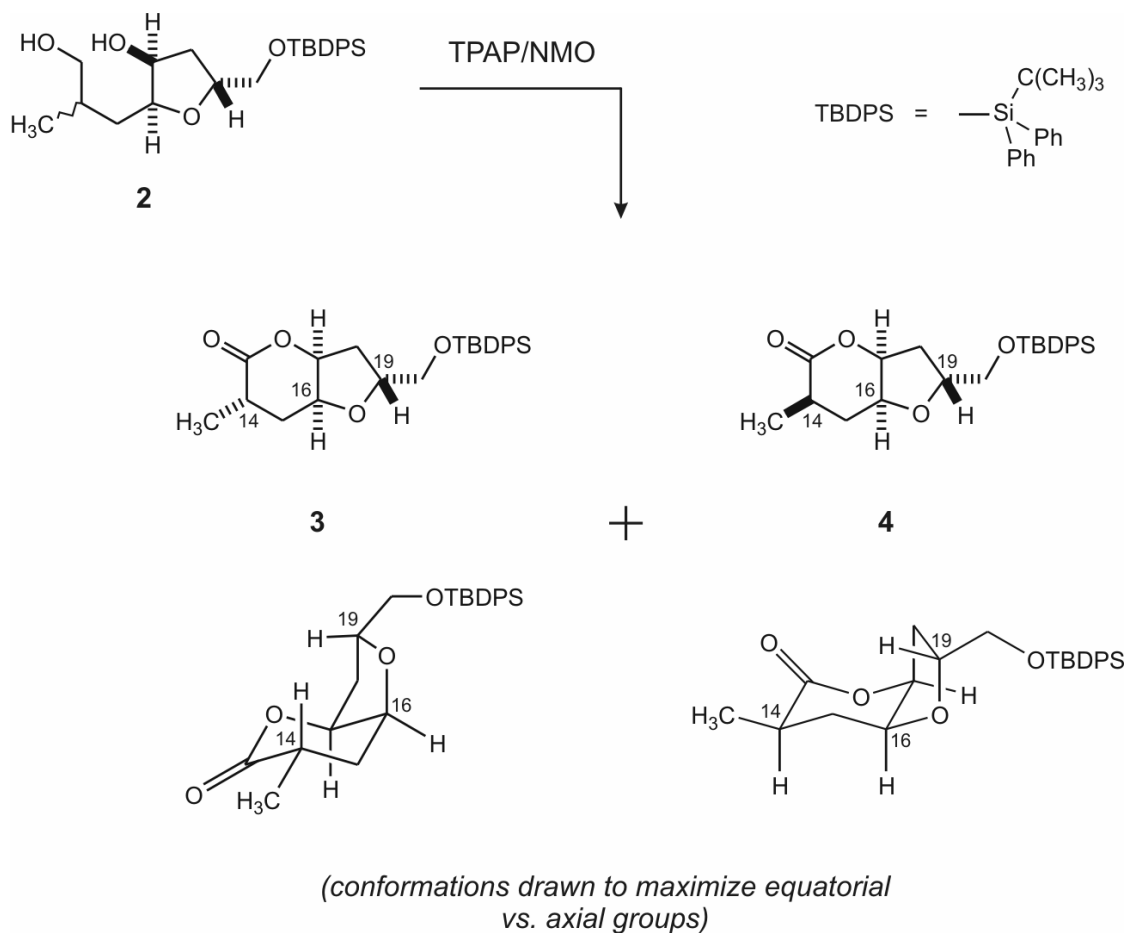
At the end of the 2 hour exam period you will be asked to return your exam to the proctor. (You may, of course, also turn the packet in earlier if you choose.) You are allowed to use any materials you brought with you before the exam. However, we ask that you not bring any materials in or out of the room while you are taking the exam. Please do not take any part of the exam packet with you when you are done; everything will be returned to you after the exams are graded.

This packet should contain 18 pages, including this one. (The last page contains a periodic table and will not be graded.) Please check to make sure that your packet contains 18 pages before beginning your exam.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. As part of a general strategy towards the total synthesis of azaspiracid, Amy Dounay (Forsyth Group) oxidatively converted the substituted tetrahydrofuran **2** to two diastereomeric lactones, which Amy predicted would have the structures **3** and **4**. Amy separated the two lactones and analyzed one of them extensively by NMR. This problem follows Amy's attempt to determine which structure (**3** or **4**) corresponded to this lactone.



Carbons in structures **3** and **4** are numbered according to their positions in the full structure of azaspiracid, and this exam will follow this same numbering scheme throughout. Amy already knew, based on previous experiments, that the  $^1\text{H}$  resonance observed at  $\delta = 4.3$  ppm corresponded to H19.

<u>Page</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	$^1\text{H}$ NMR, <b>500 MHz</b> , $\text{CDCl}_3$
6-7	Close-ups of page 4
8	$^1\text{H}$ NMR, <b>500 MHz</b> , $\text{CDCl}_3$ , decoupled at $\delta = 1.3$ ppm
9	Close-up of page 8
10	$^1\text{H}$ NOE, irradiated at $\delta = 1.3$ ppm
11	$^1\text{H}$ NOE, irradiated at $\delta = 2.8$ ppm

- a. (10 pts) Amy began her analysis by assuming the resonance at  $\delta = 1.3$  ppm belonged to the methyl group attached to C14. To what proton are the methyl group protons coupled to? What is the coupling constant observed?

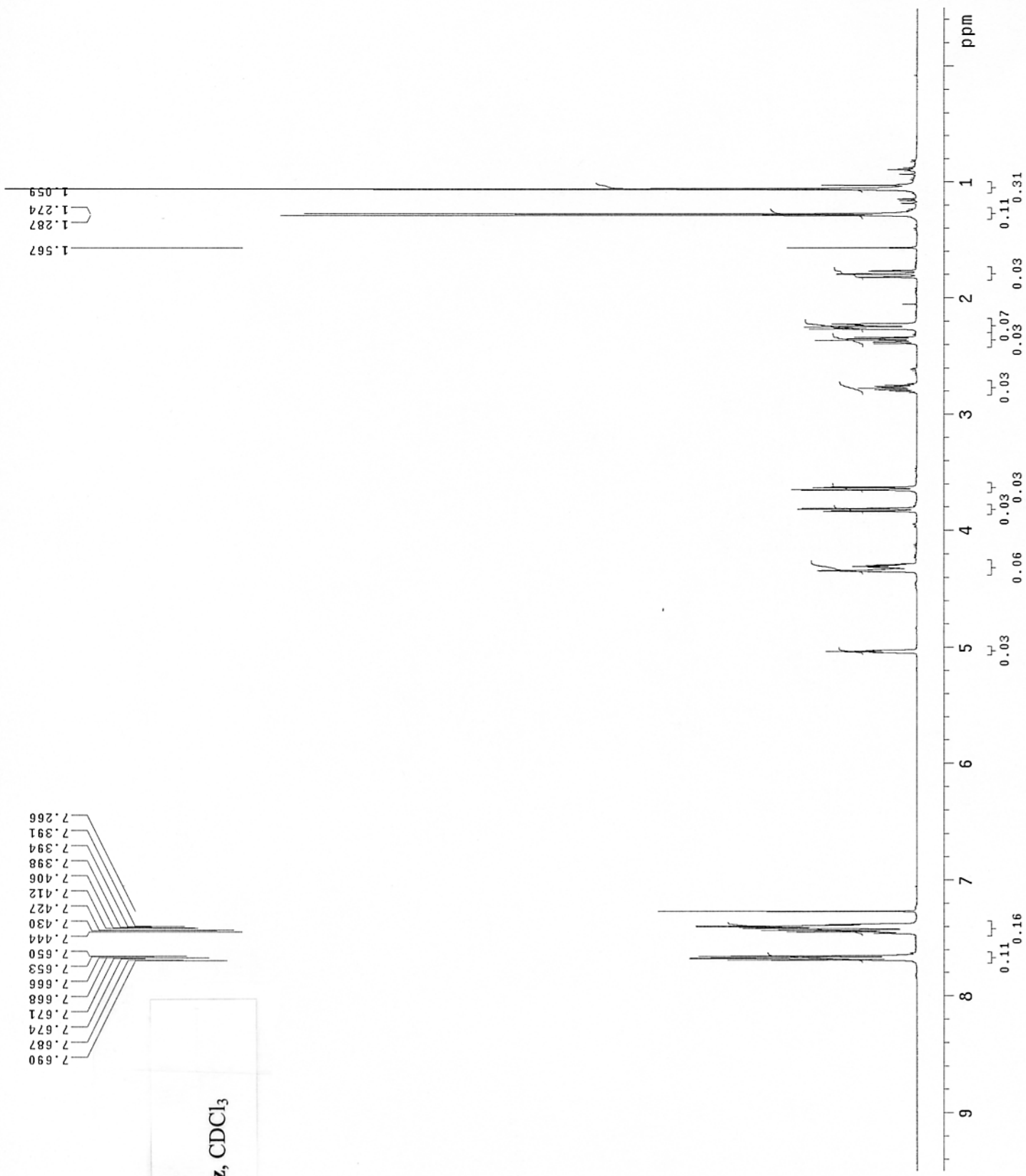
-CH <sub>3</sub> coupling partner	coupling constant ( <i>J</i> )

- b. (10 pts) To help discover the chemical shift of the methyl group's coupling partner, Amy applied a decoupling RF pulse at  $\delta = 1.3$  ppm. Results of this experiment are shown on pages 8 and 9. What changes were observed in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the lactone as a result of decoupling?

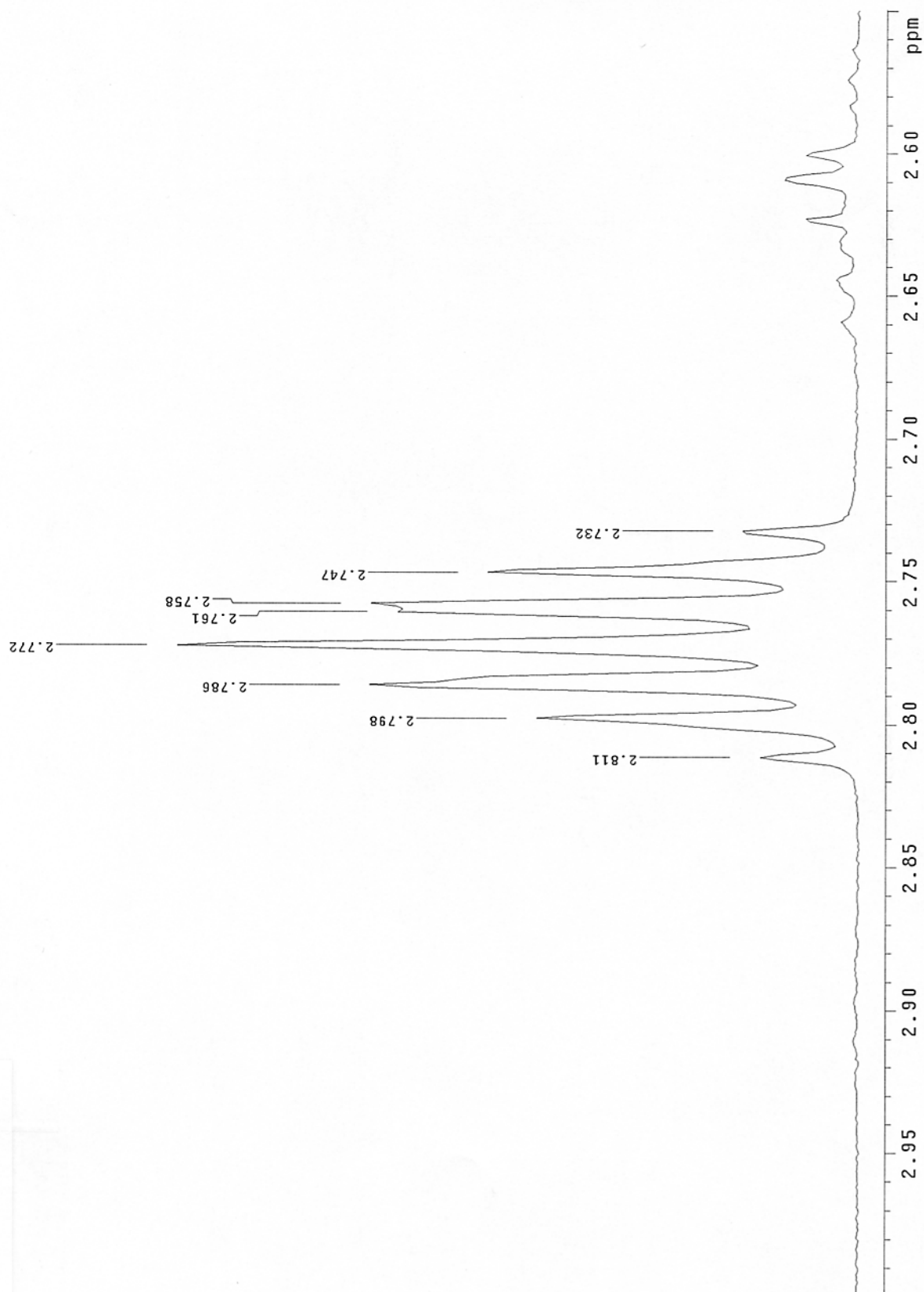
- c. (10 pts) In resonances that changed, what coupling constants  $J$  are still observed? Do these values help you distinguish between **3** and **4** as the correct structure for the unknown?

- d. (10 pts) Amy also performed nuclear Overhauser effect (NOE) experiments, pre-saturating the resonances at  $\delta = 1.3$  ppm and  $\delta = 2.8$  ppm (shown on pages 9 and 10, respectively). There are clearly differences in the way these experiments affected the resonance at  $\delta = 4.3$  ppm, which Amy had already assigned to H19. Does this information help you distinguish between **3** and **4** as the correct structure for the unknown?

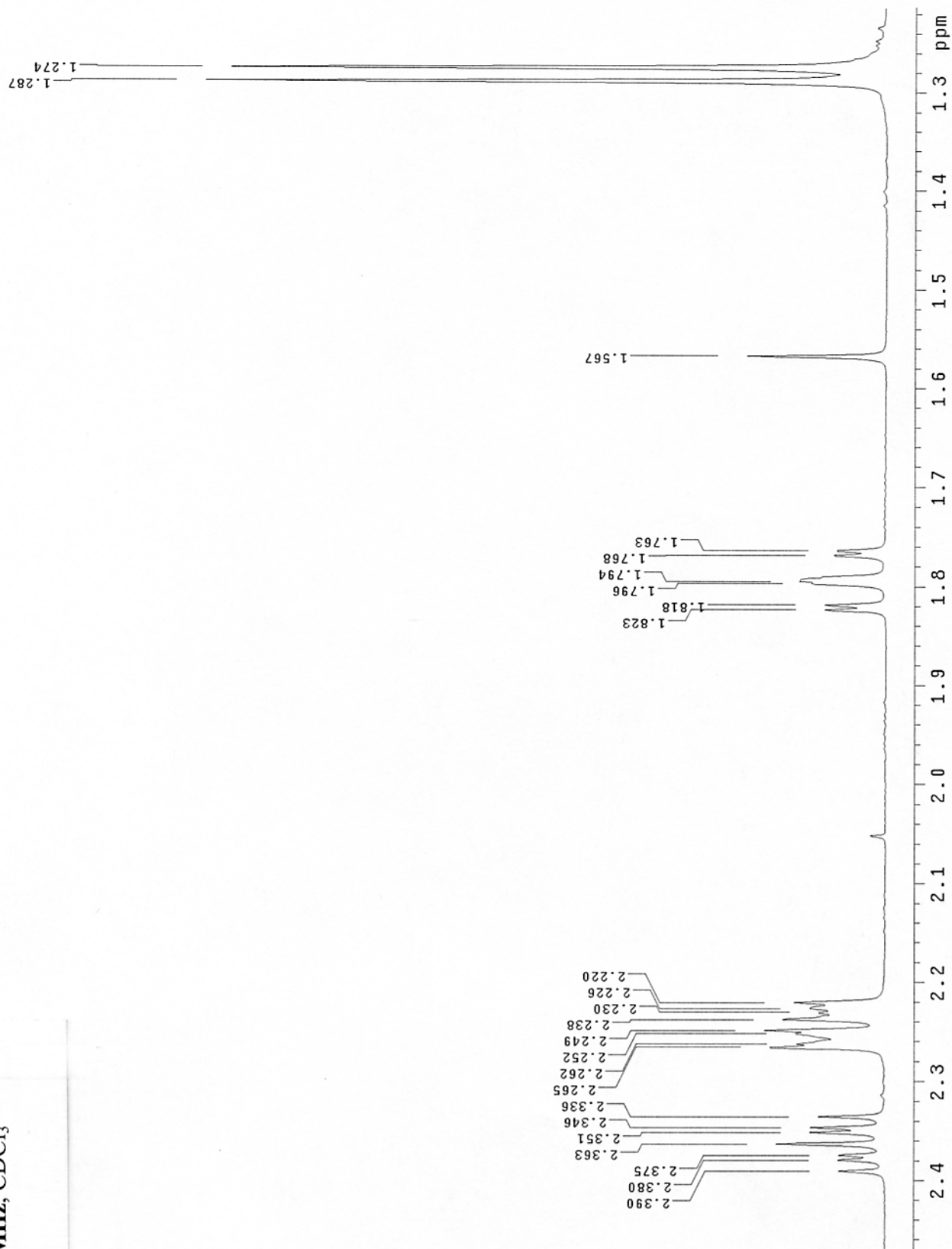
Problem 1  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, 500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>



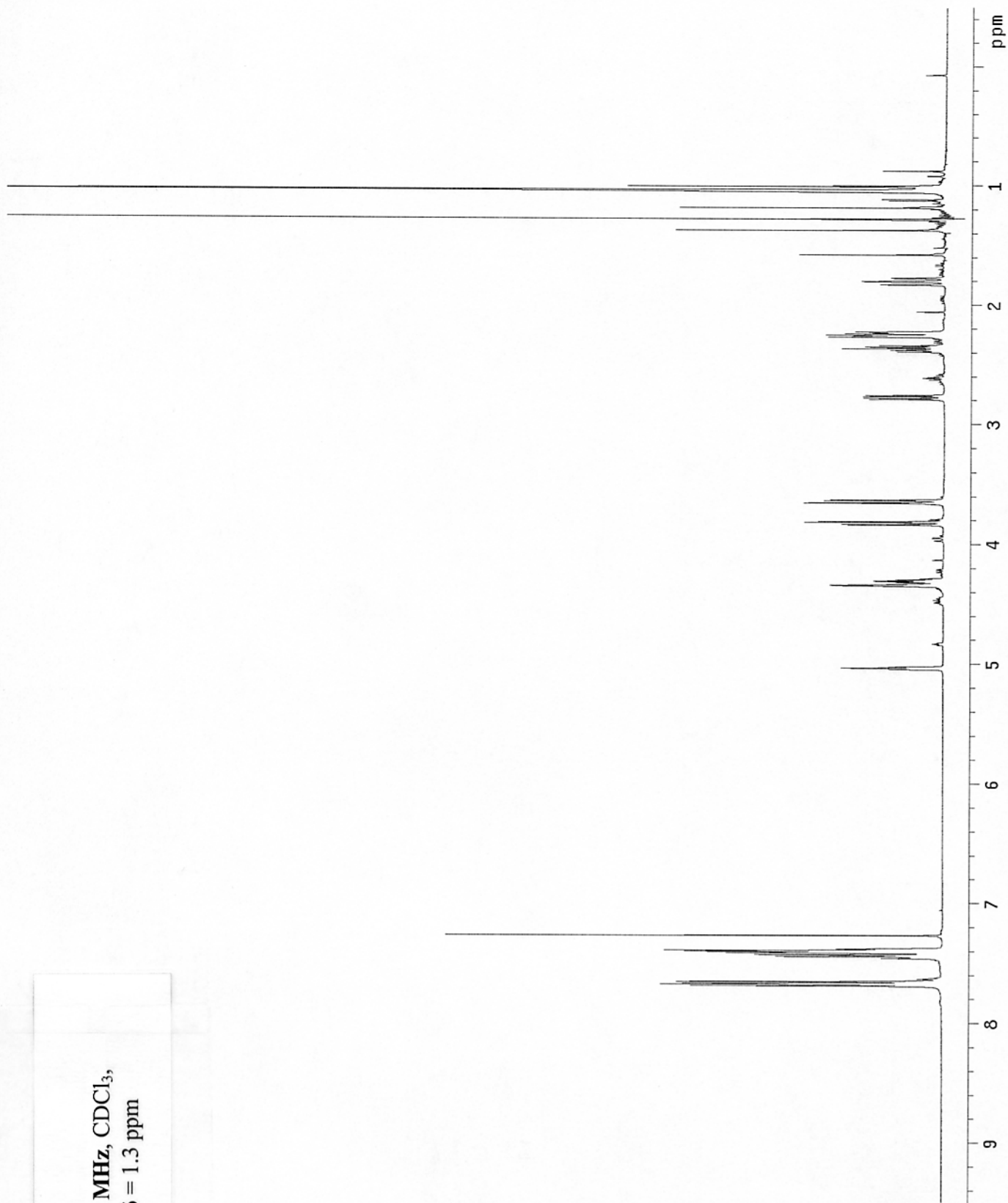
Problem 1  
 $^1\text{H}$  NMR, 500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
(closeup)



Problem 1  
 $^1\text{H}$  NMR, 500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
(closeup)

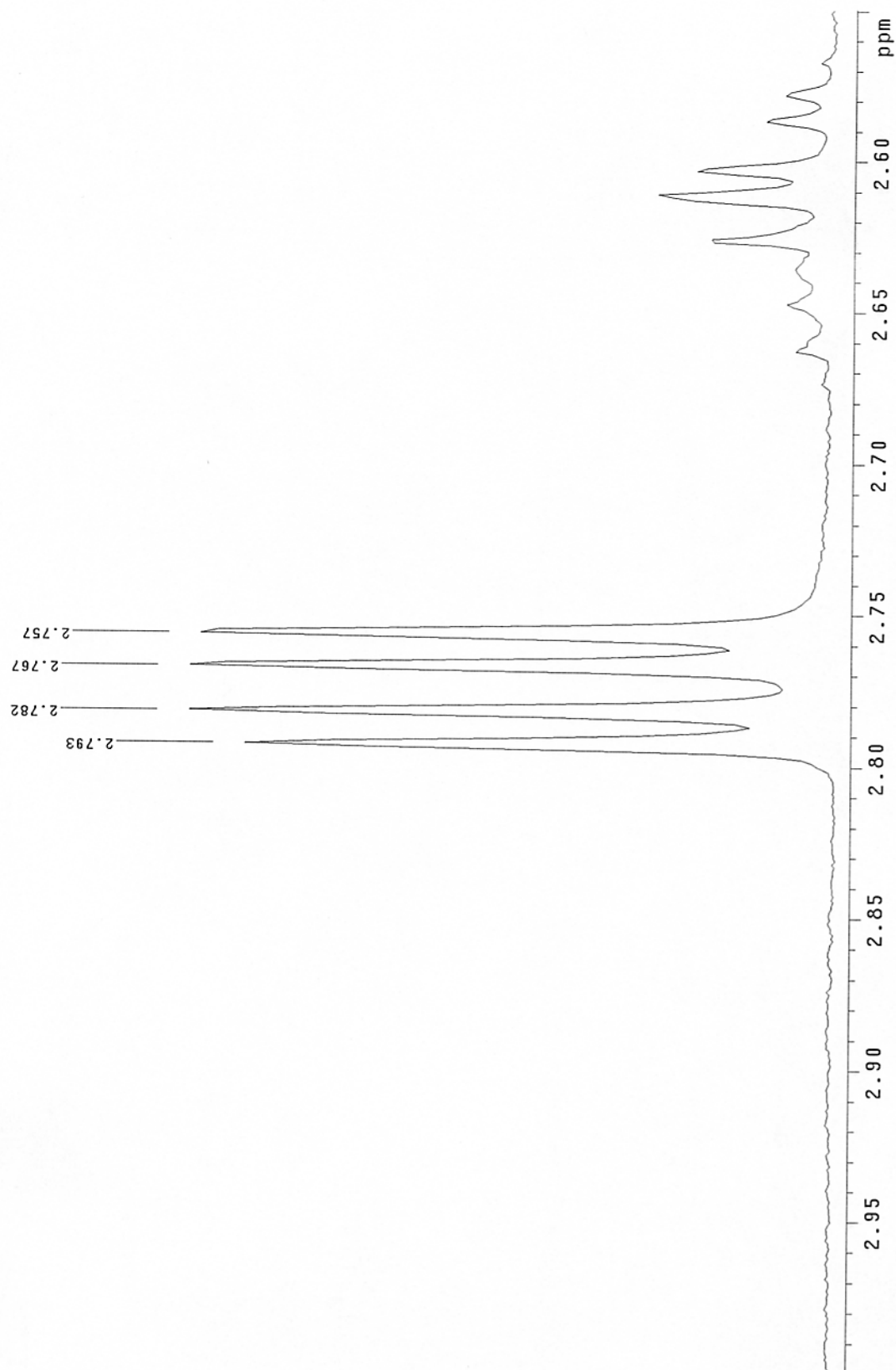


Problem 1  
 $^1\text{H}$  NMR, 500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  
decoupled at  $\delta = 1.3$  ppm

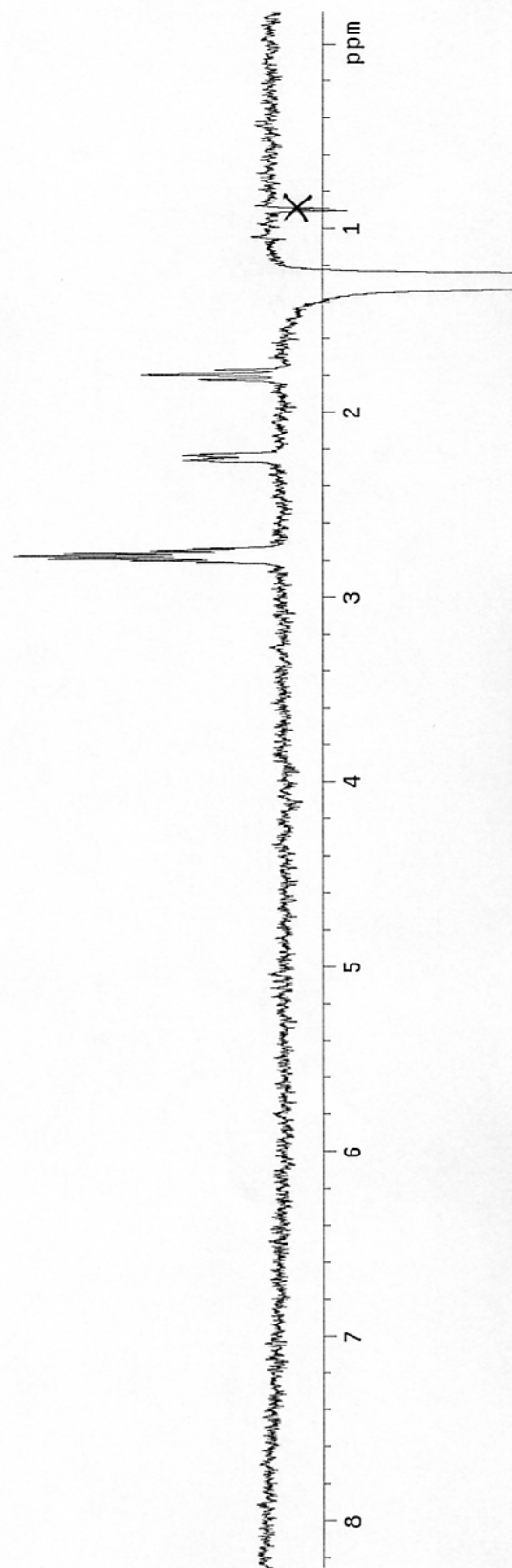




Problem 1  
 $^1\text{H}$  NMR, 500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  
decoupled at  $\delta = 1.3$  ppm  
(closeup)

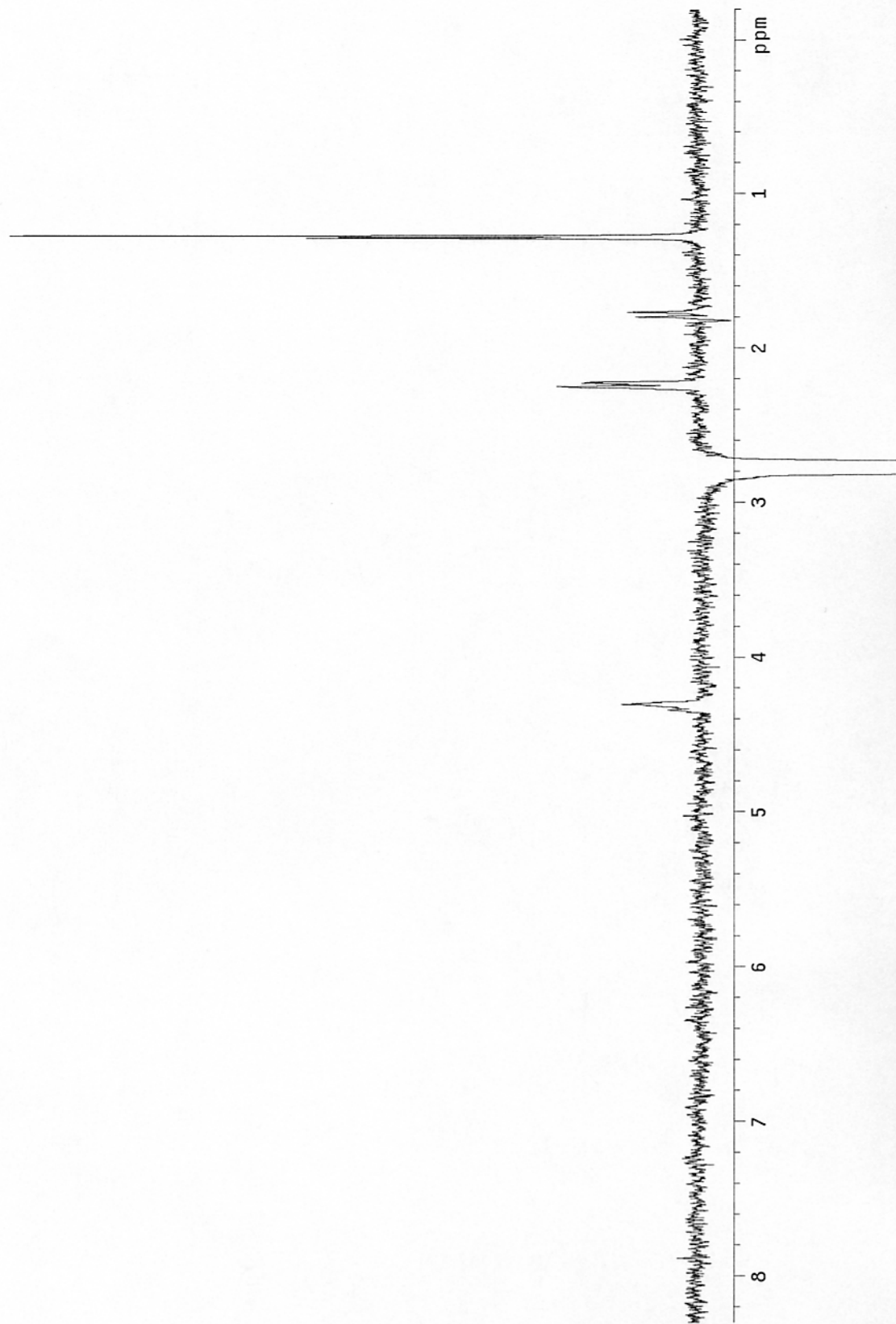


Problem 1  
 $^1\text{H}$  NOE, irradiated at  $\delta = 1.3$  ppm

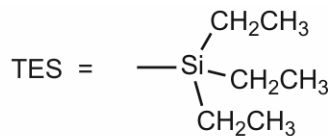
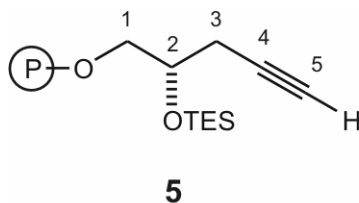


Problem 1

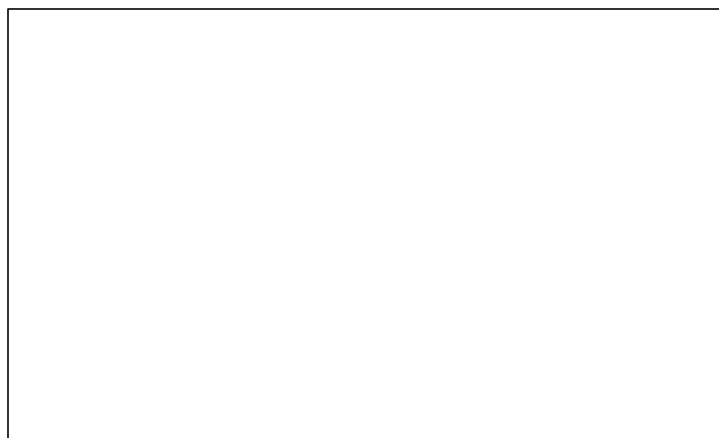
$^1\text{H}$  NOE, irradiated at  $\delta = 2.8$  ppm



2. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum and close-ups on pages 15-17 refer to the doubly protected alkynyl diol **5**. By simple mass spectrometry, **5** has a molecular mass of 334, meaning that the unknown protecting group P has a (fragment) mass of 121.



- (30 pts) In the chart on the next page, assign chemical shifts, multiplicities, coupling partners and coupling constants to the protons in the backbone of **5**. (Ignore resonances corresponding to the protecting groups.)
- (10 pts) What is the structure of the unknown protecting group P? (*If you do not know, guess. Partial credit will be given for correct structural elements that are part of an incorrect structure.*)



Proton	Chemical shift ( $\delta$ )	Multiplicity	Coupling partners	Coupling constants ( $J$ )
1a				
1b				
2				
3a				
3b				
5				

- c. (10 pts) Why does the splitting pattern in the multiplet at  $\delta = 3.47$  ppm look unusual? Frame your answer in terms of the chemical structure of **5**.

- d. (10 pts) Although the resonance at  $\delta = 1.95$  can be assigned to one proton, the integrated intensity of this signal is proportionally too low. Why might this be? Frame your answer in terms of the chemical structure of **5**.



5

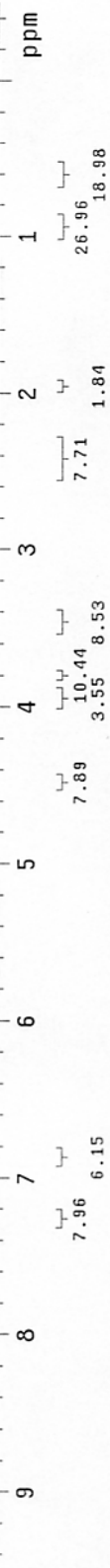
$^1\text{H}$  NMR, 300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$

0.975  
0.948  
0.923  
0.626  
0.600

3.805

4.477

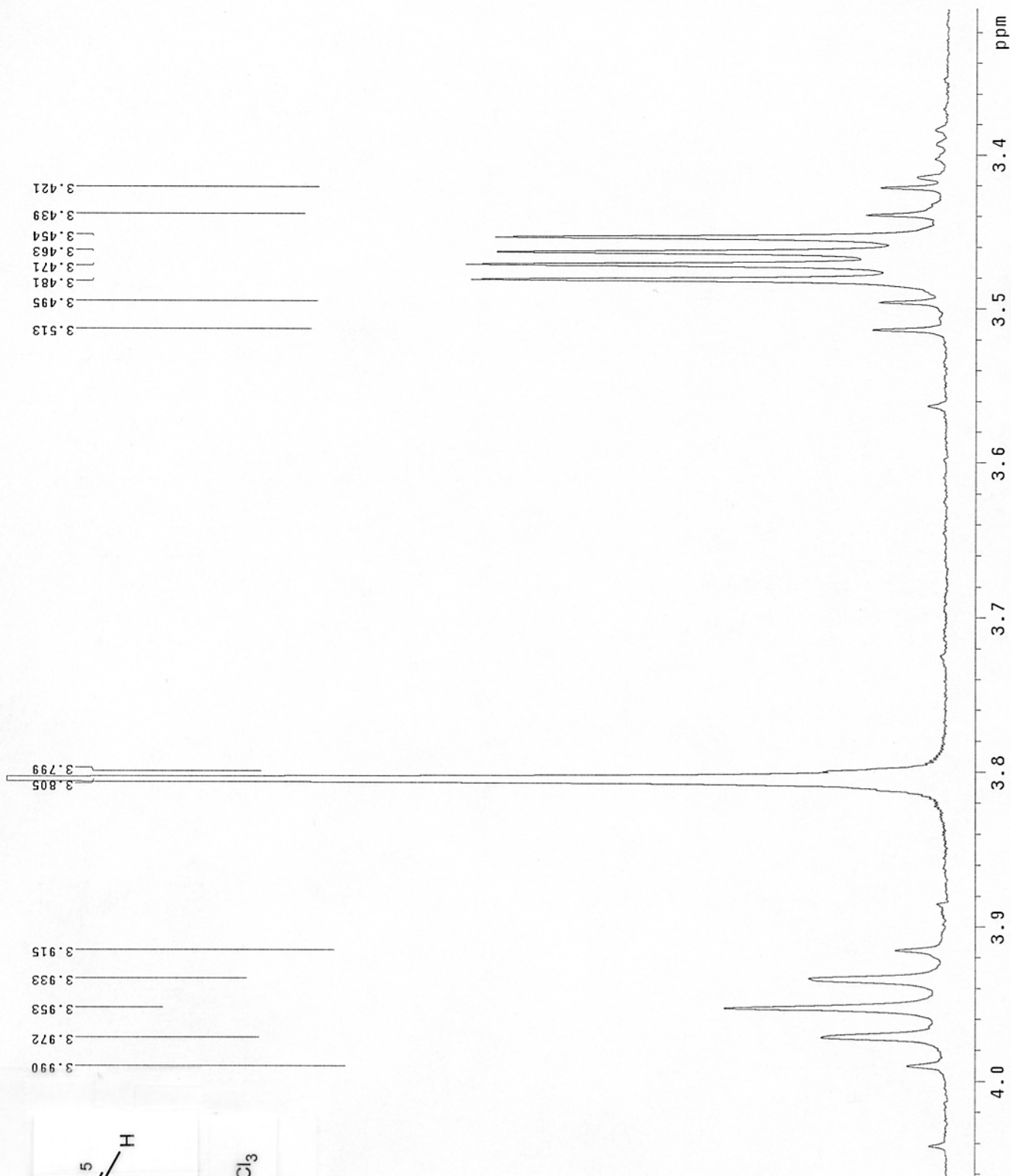
7.259



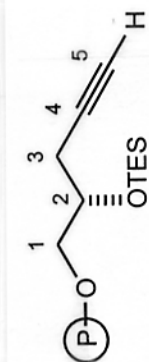


5

$^1\text{H}$  NMR, 300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$





**5**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, 300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>