

Exploiting a remarkable enzyme—a green  
chemistry route into Taxotere analogue side chains

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT UNL

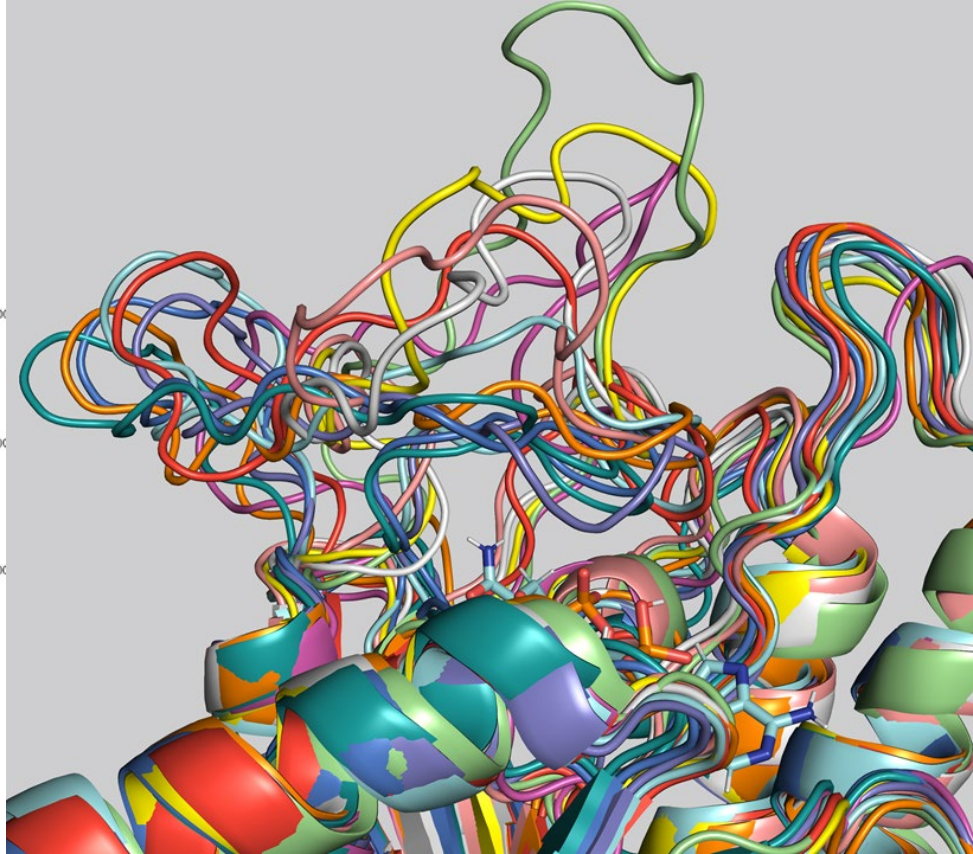
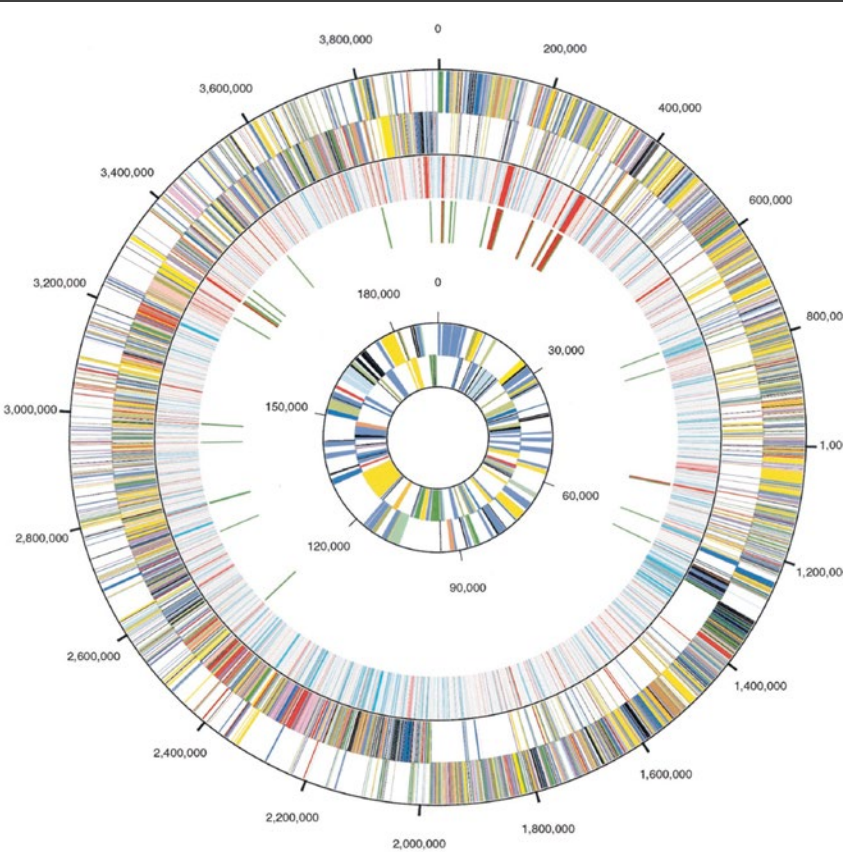


Noah Berkenwald



# CaADH: *Clostridium acetobutylicum* alcohol dehydrogenase

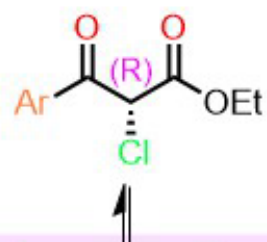
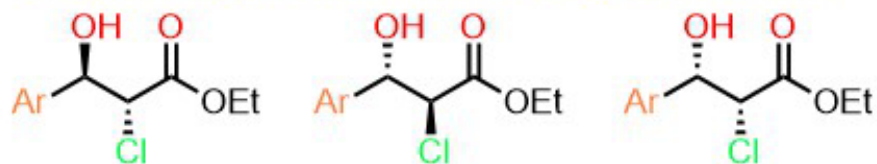
-A short chain dehydrogenase (SDR) enzyme.



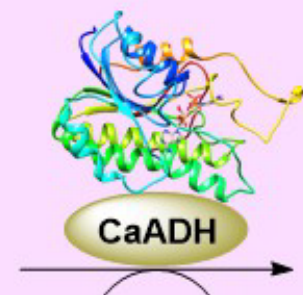
- This enzyme reduces carbonyl compounds such as aldehydes, esters, and ketones.
- *CaADH* displays substrate promiscuity yet stereochemical fidelity.
- DYRKR: Dynamic Reductive Kinetic Resolution

# Project Scheme

Other possible products with non-enzymatic reduction

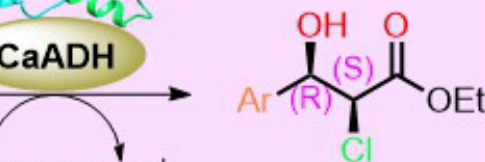


Dynamic Racemization

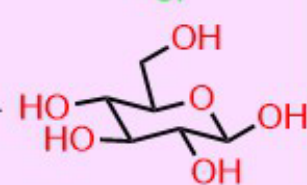
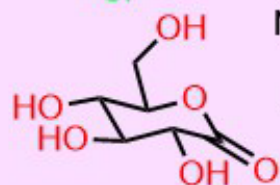


CaADH

NADPH NADP<sup>+</sup>



GDH



(i) K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, DMF,  
cat. H<sub>2</sub>O  
rt, 2hrs

(ii) NaN<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub>Cl  
80% aq. EtOH  
3hrs



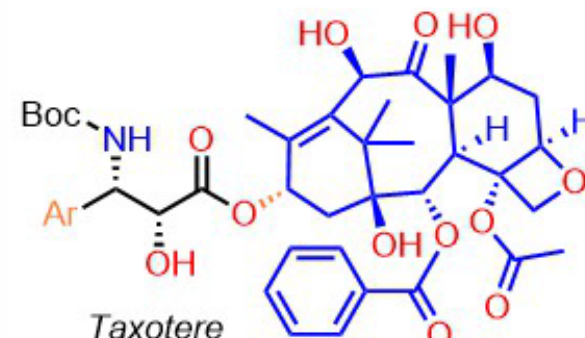
EtOAc, Boc<sub>2</sub>O  
10mol% Pd/C  
H<sub>2</sub>, 12hrs



GDH: Glucose Dehydrogenase

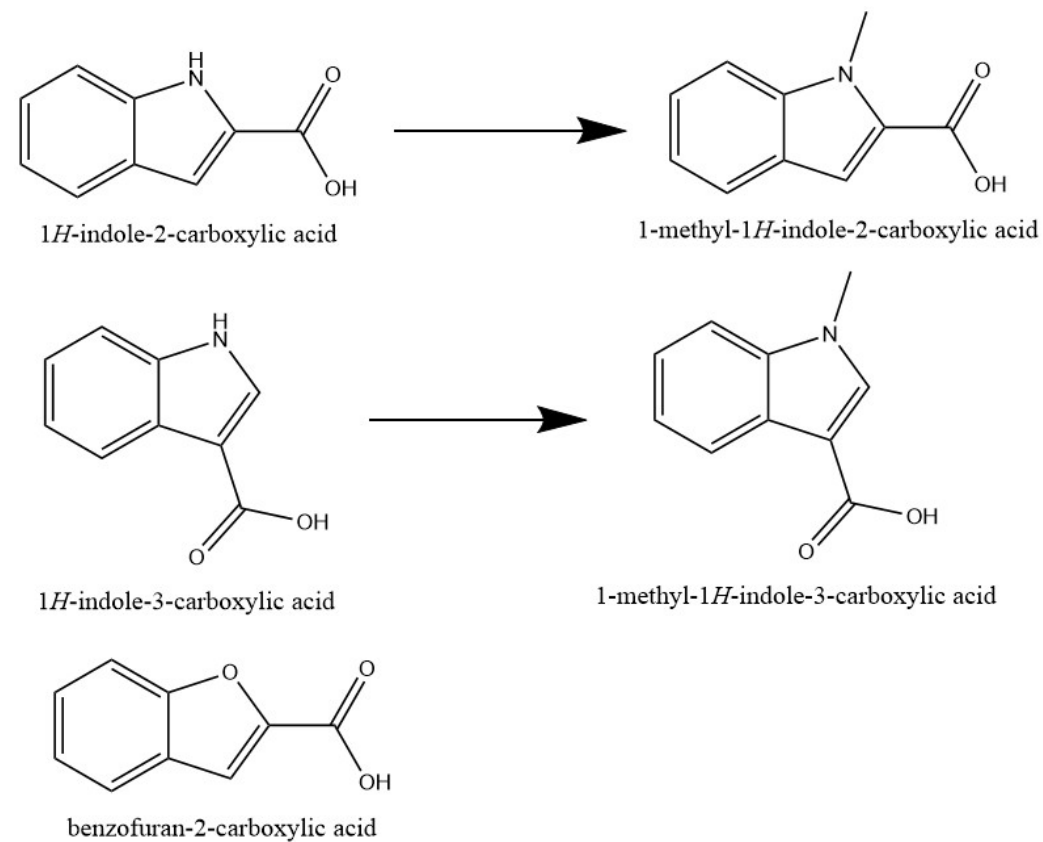
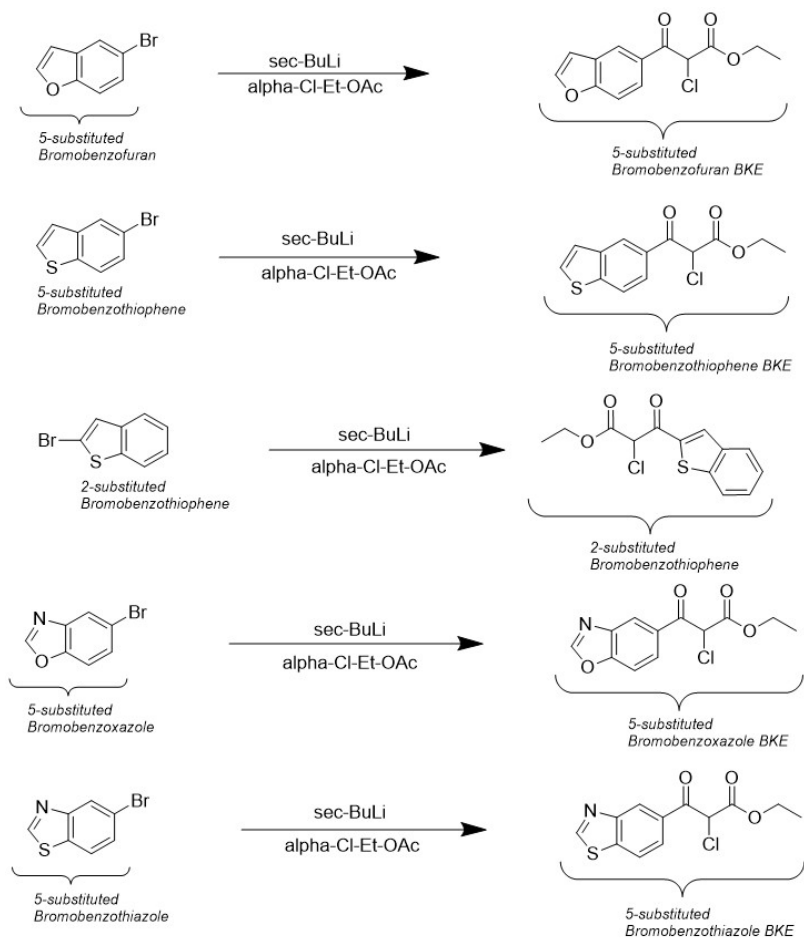
**Advantages of Using Enzymes:**

- Less energy required
- More energy efficient
- Lower temperature
- "Waste stream" is just water
- No toxic organic solvents
- Safer for process chemists
- Better for environment



Taxotere

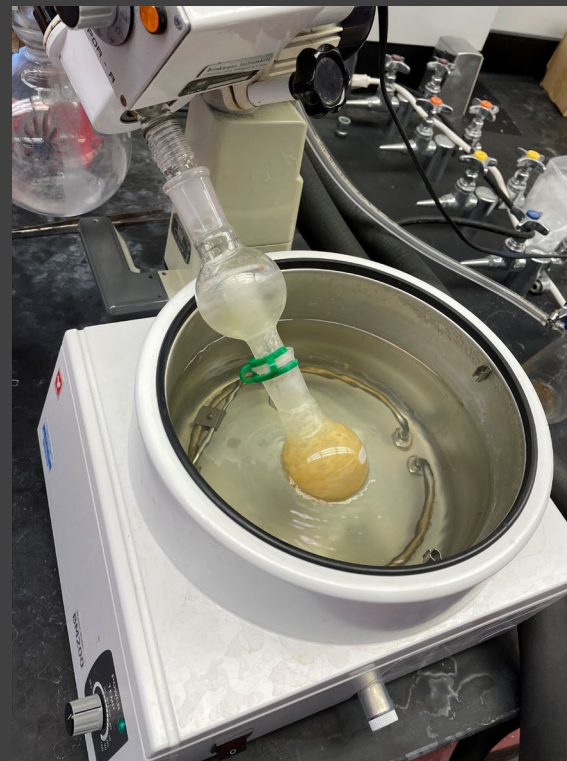
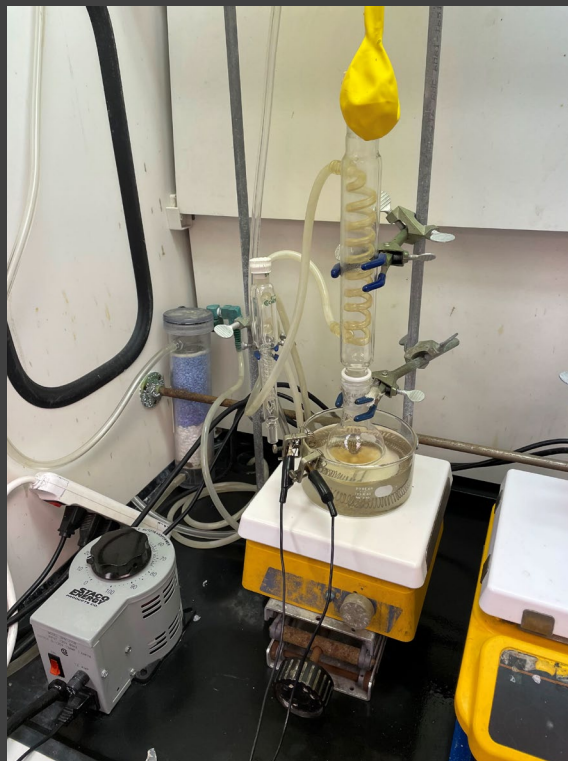
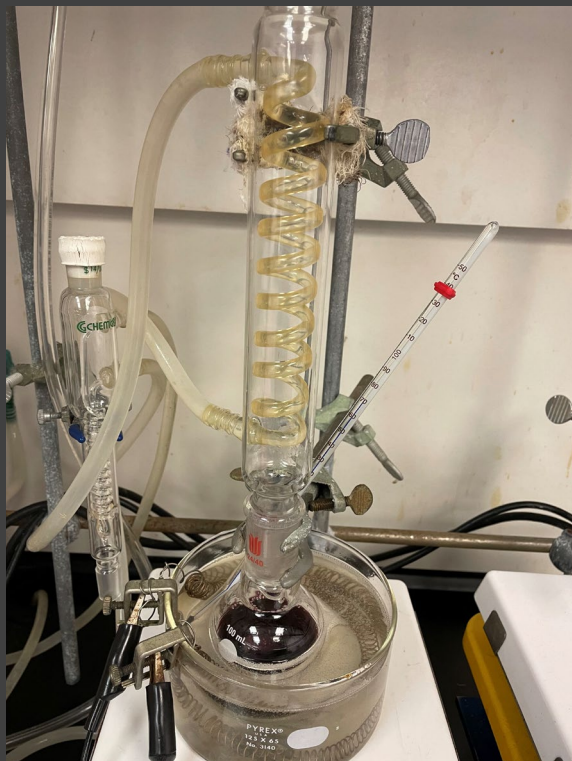
# Substrates/Aryl Groups





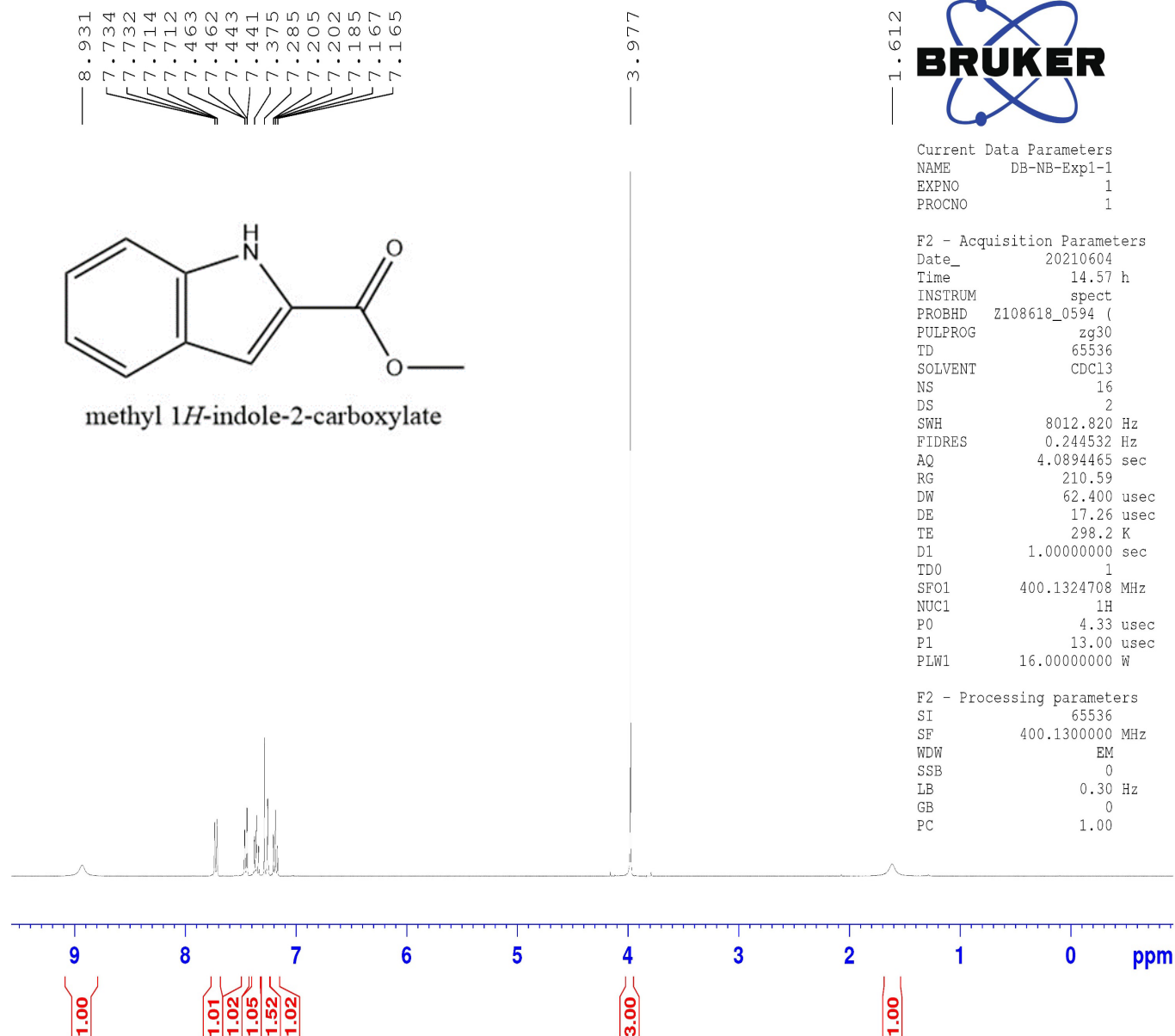
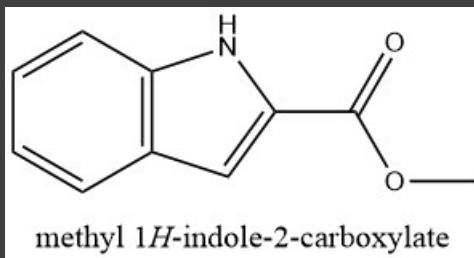
# Esterification

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# Indole-2 methyl ester

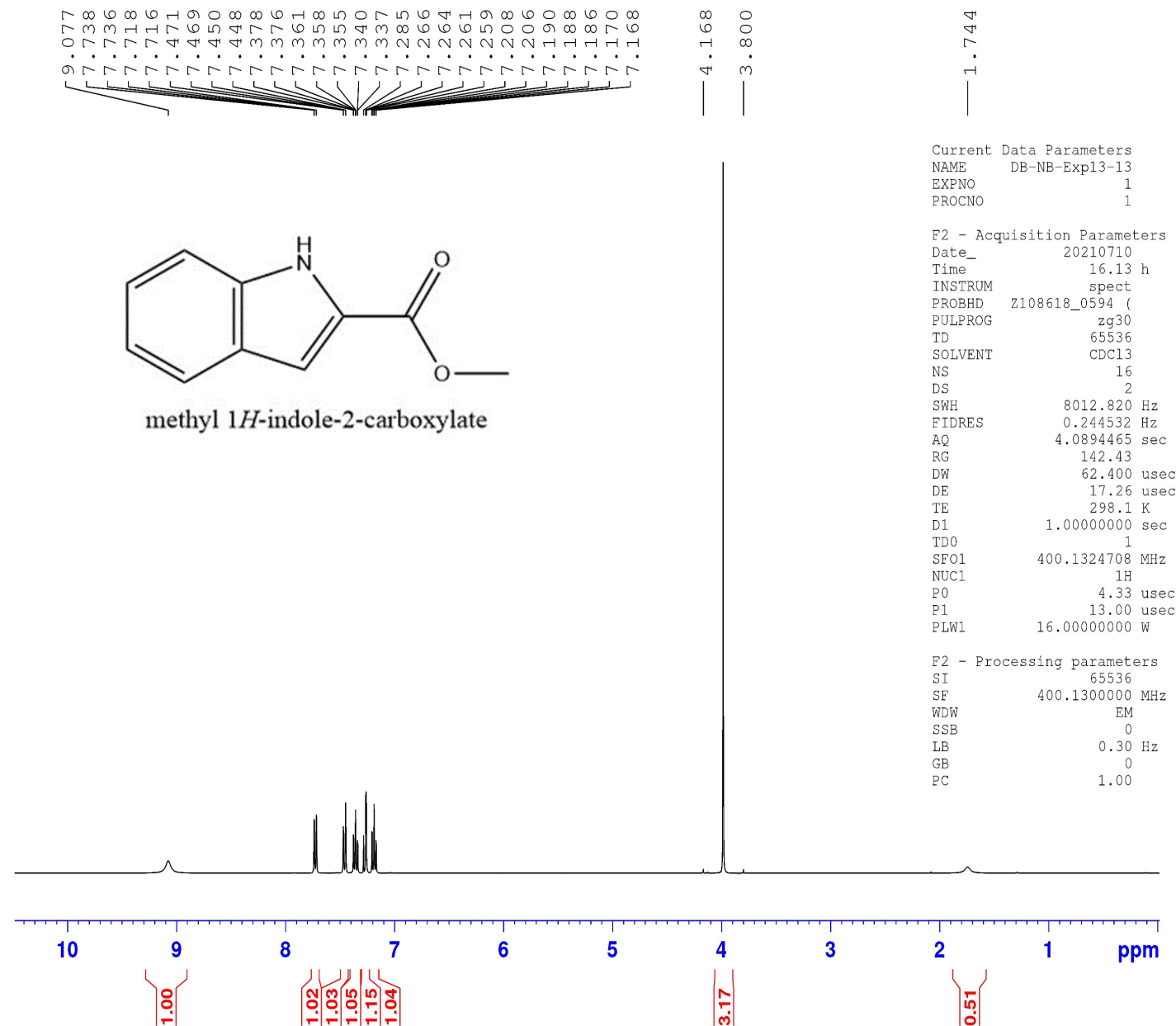
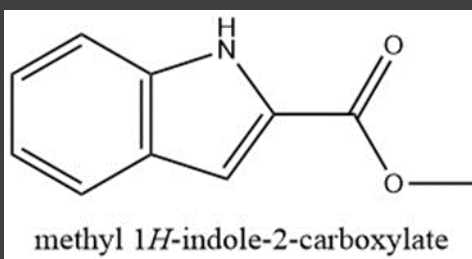
- 70 degrees Celsius, MeOH solvent, catalytic H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>
- First reaction I did
- 1mmol (~.162g) scale
- 82.2% yield





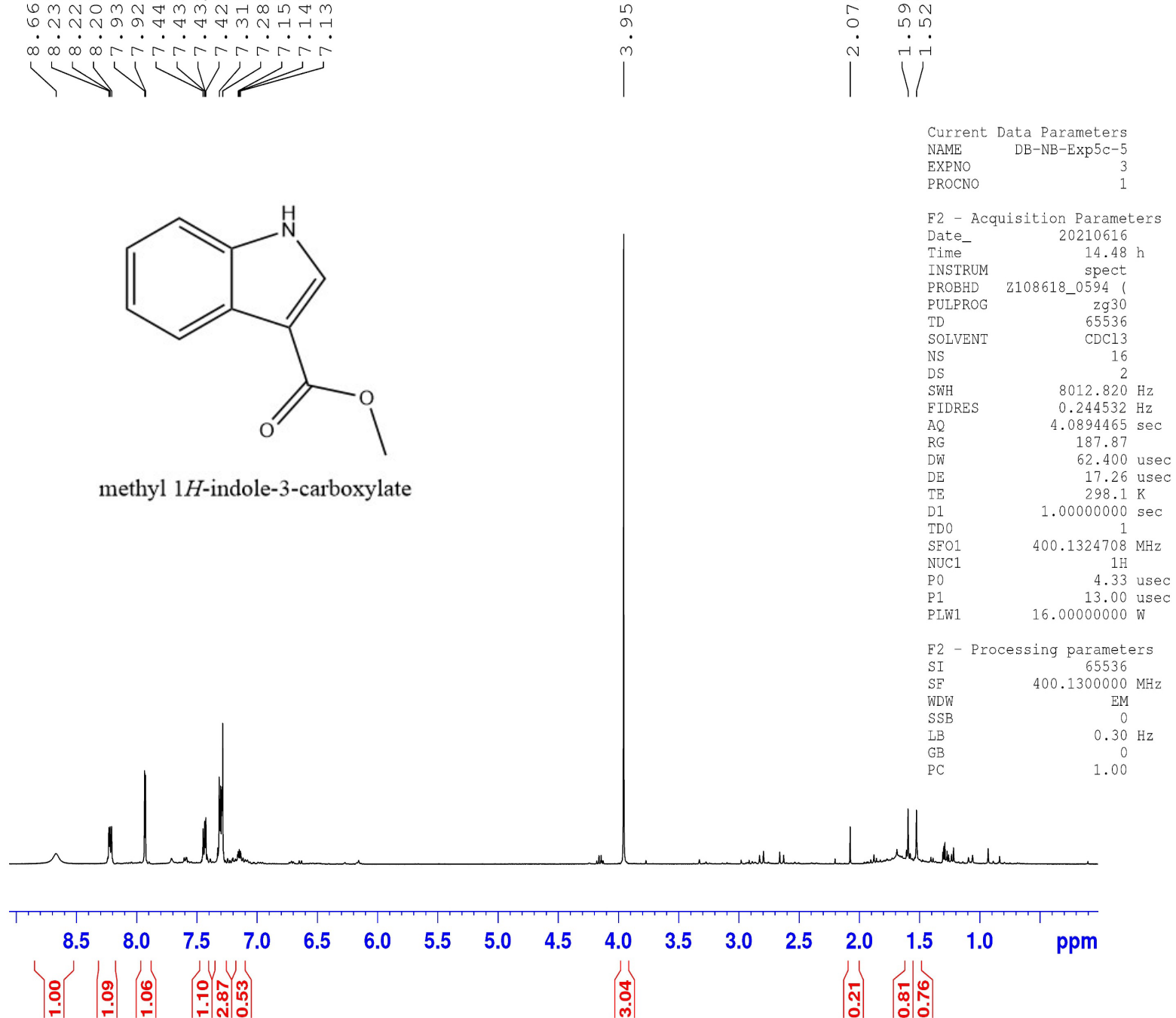
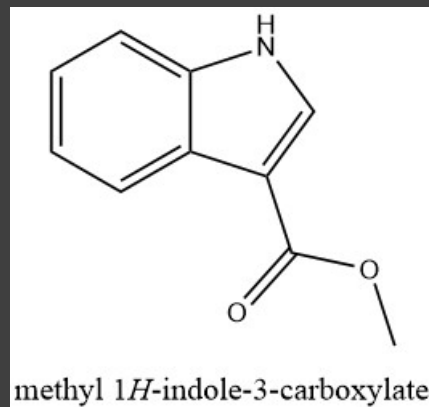
# More indole-2 esterification

- Successful reaction with 91.1% yield.
- 2g scale



# Indole-3 methyl ester

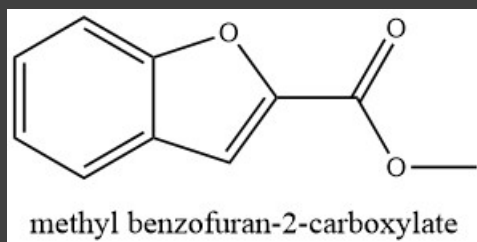
- 2g scale
- 99% yield



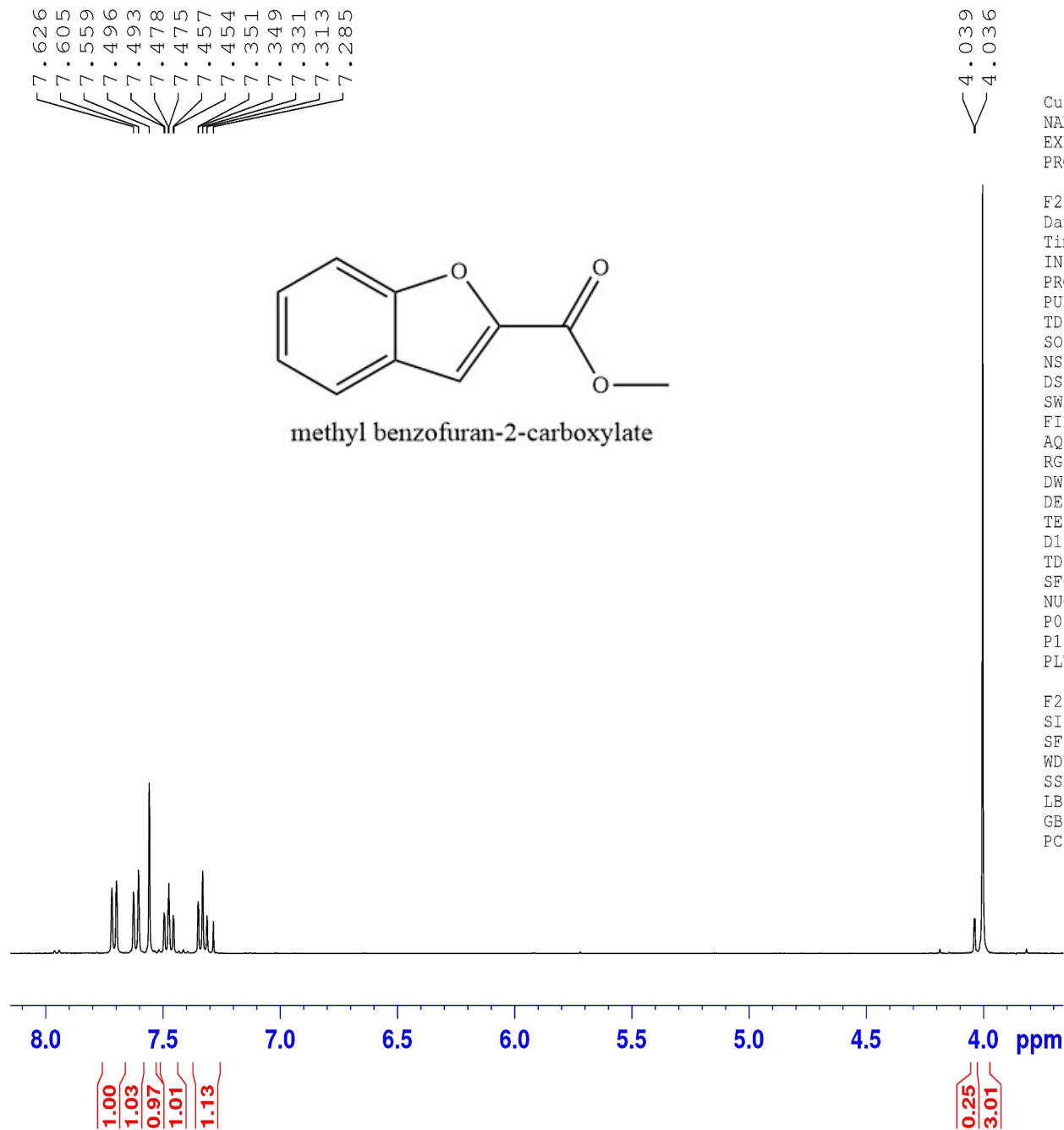


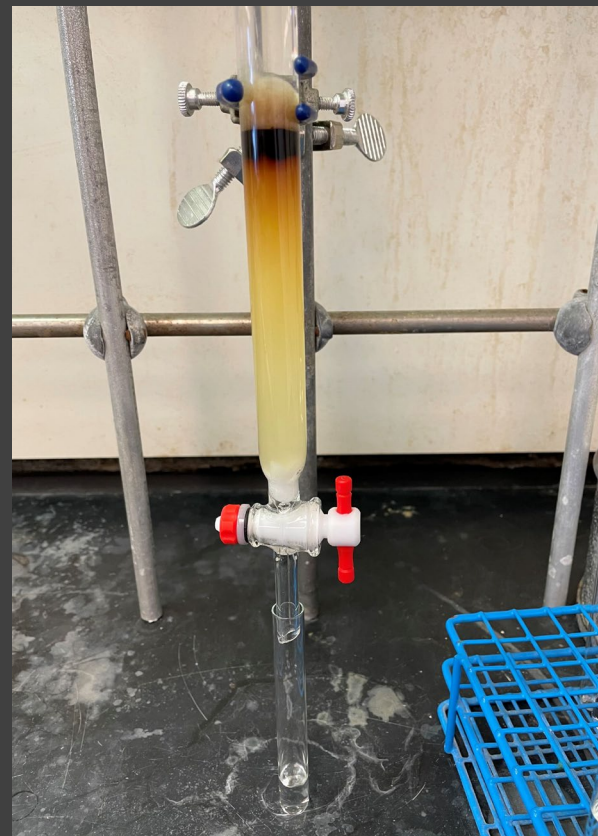
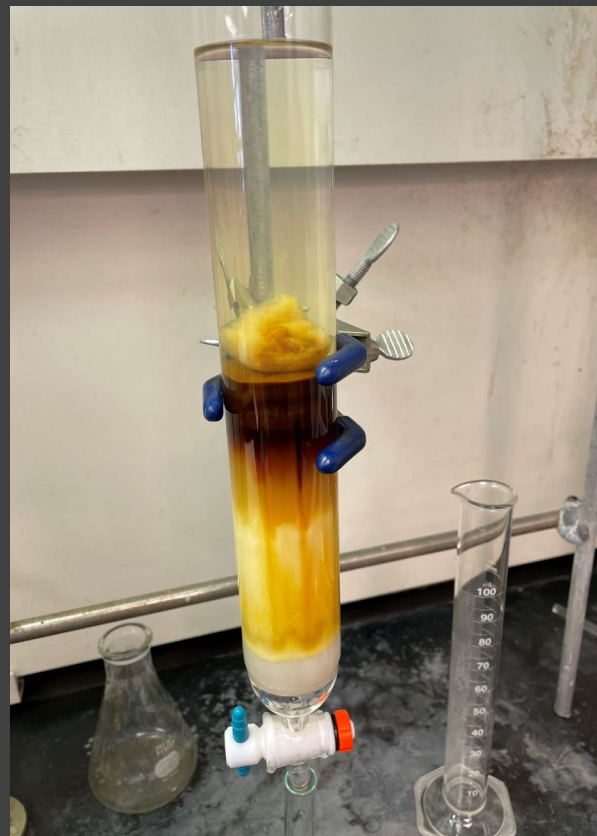
# Benzofuran-2 methyl ester

- Yield: 95.7%
- 2g scale



2-Benzo





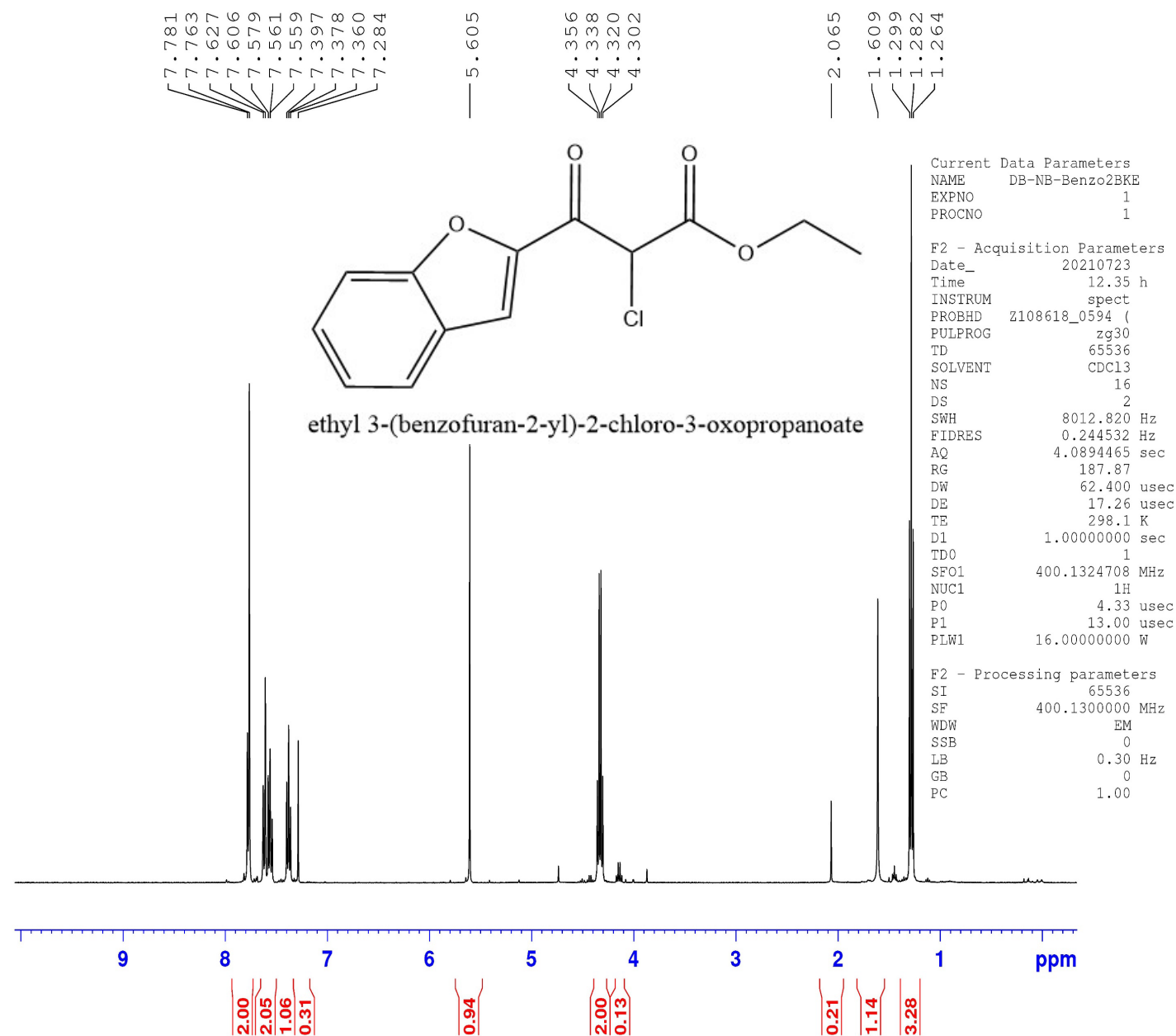
# Claisen Condensation

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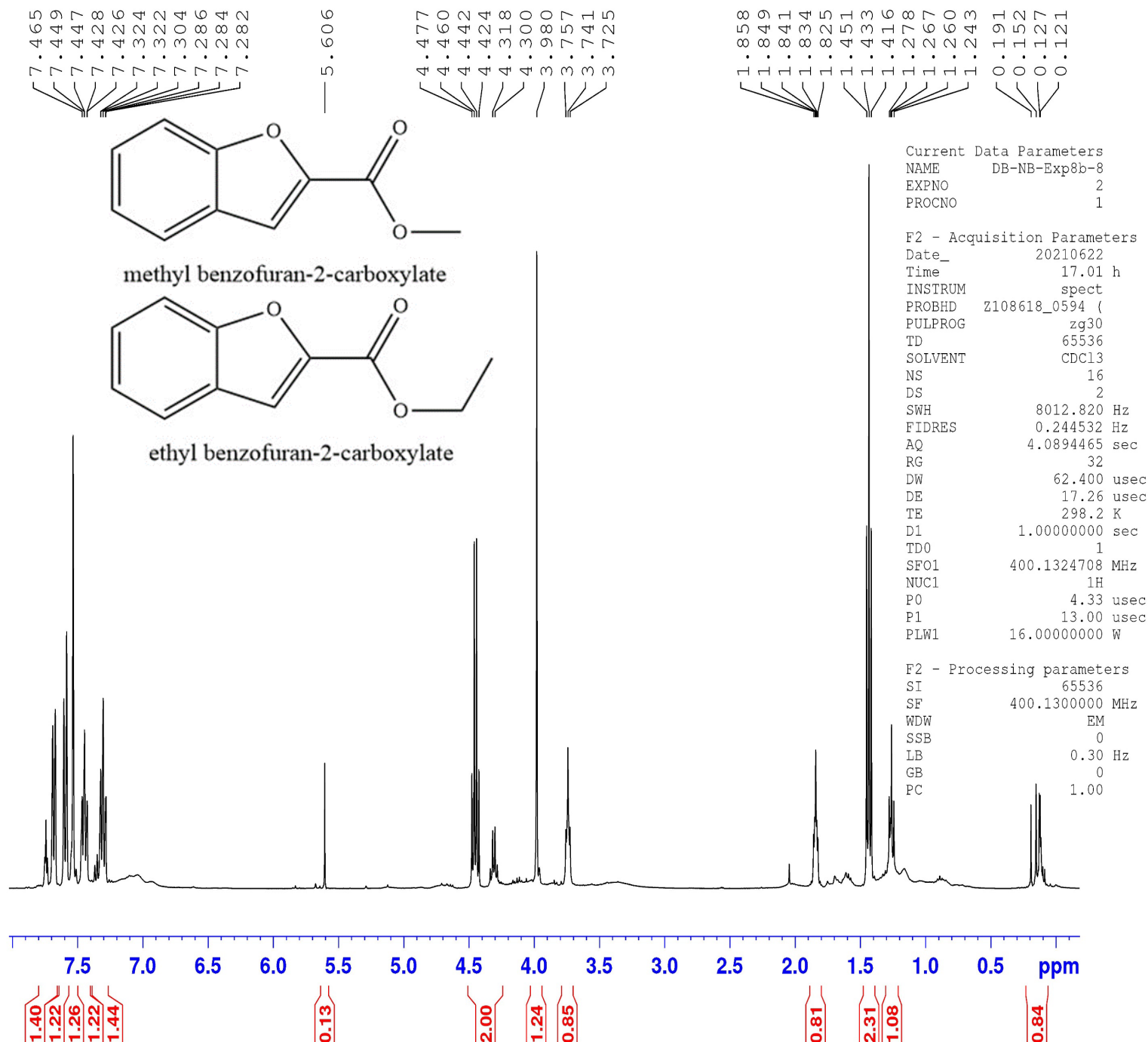
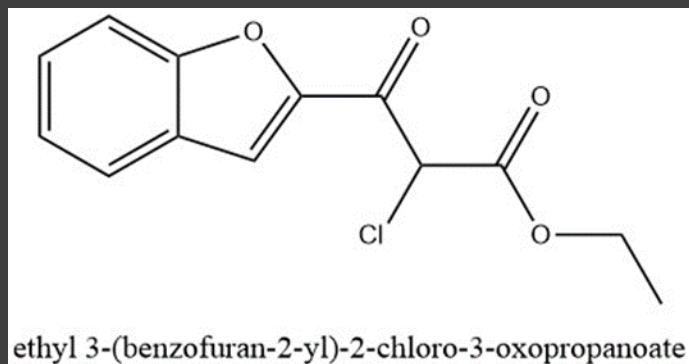
## Gaurav's CC of benzofuran-2

- My mentor Gaurav succeeded in a Claisen condensation reaction of my benzofuran-2 methyl ester, and we successfully reacted it with the enzyme, but I haven't obtained the data from that reaction yet.



## 2-benzofuran beta-keto-ester

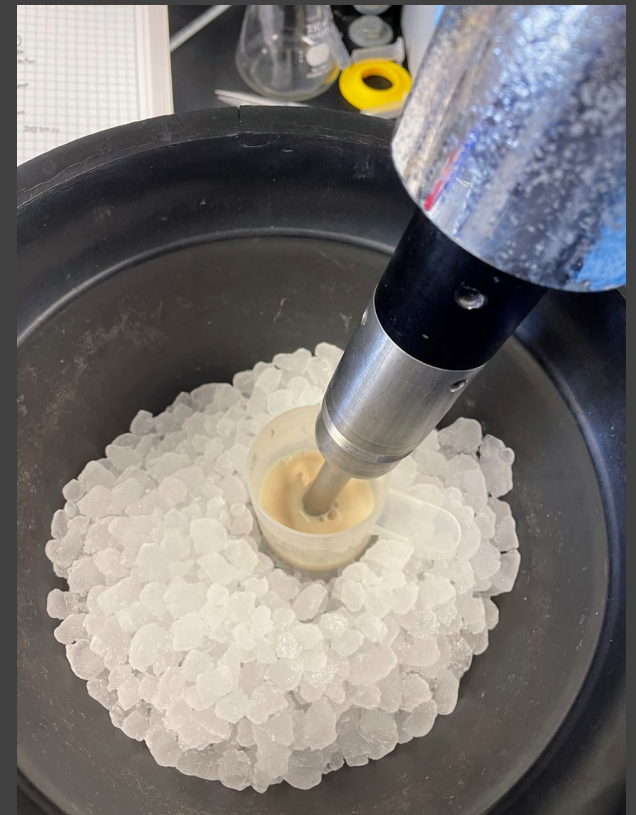
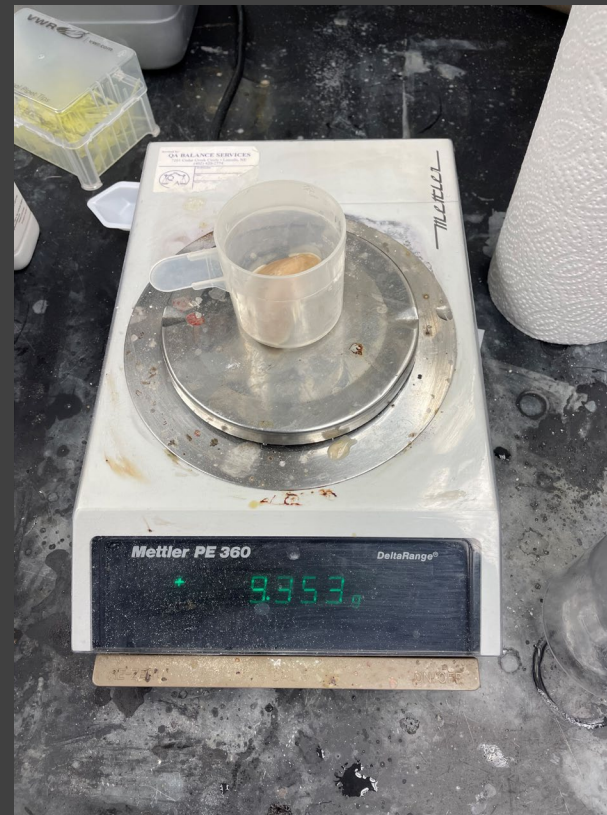
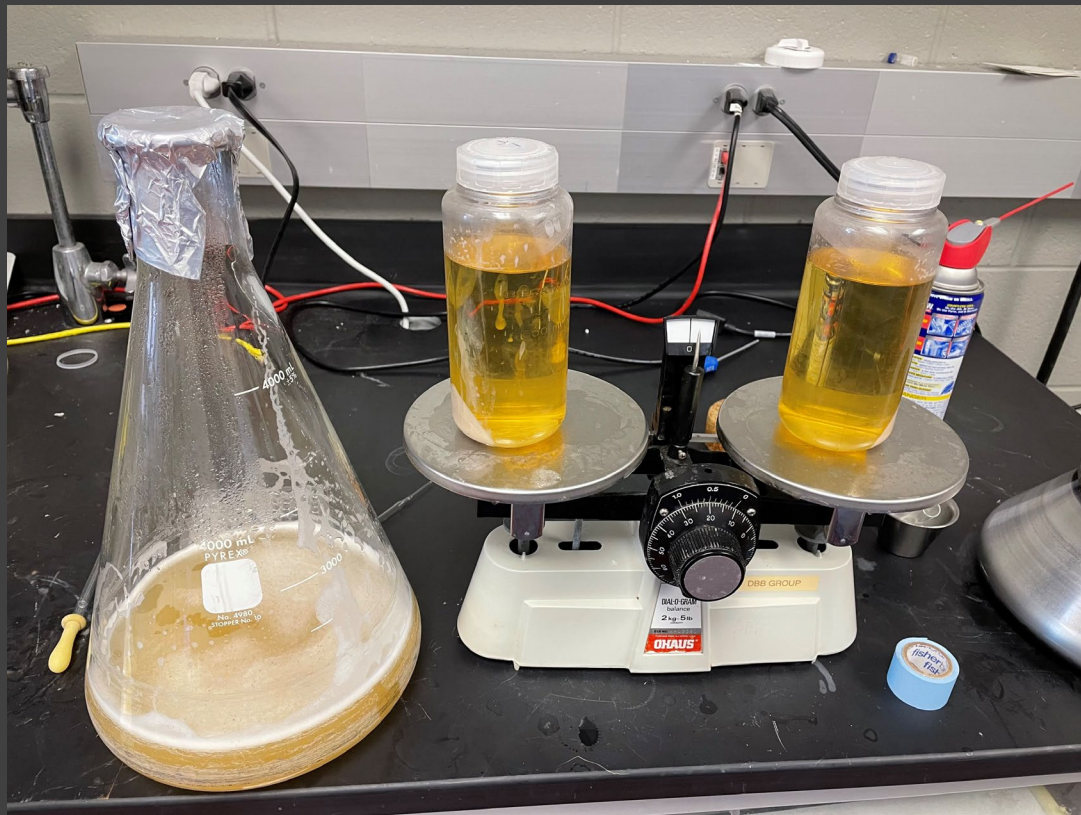
- 2 eqv. LiHMDS, 1.1 eqv. Alpha-chloro-ethyl-acetate, in dry THF for 0.2M.
- Ended up with starting material (methyl ester) and ethyl ester, no BKE.



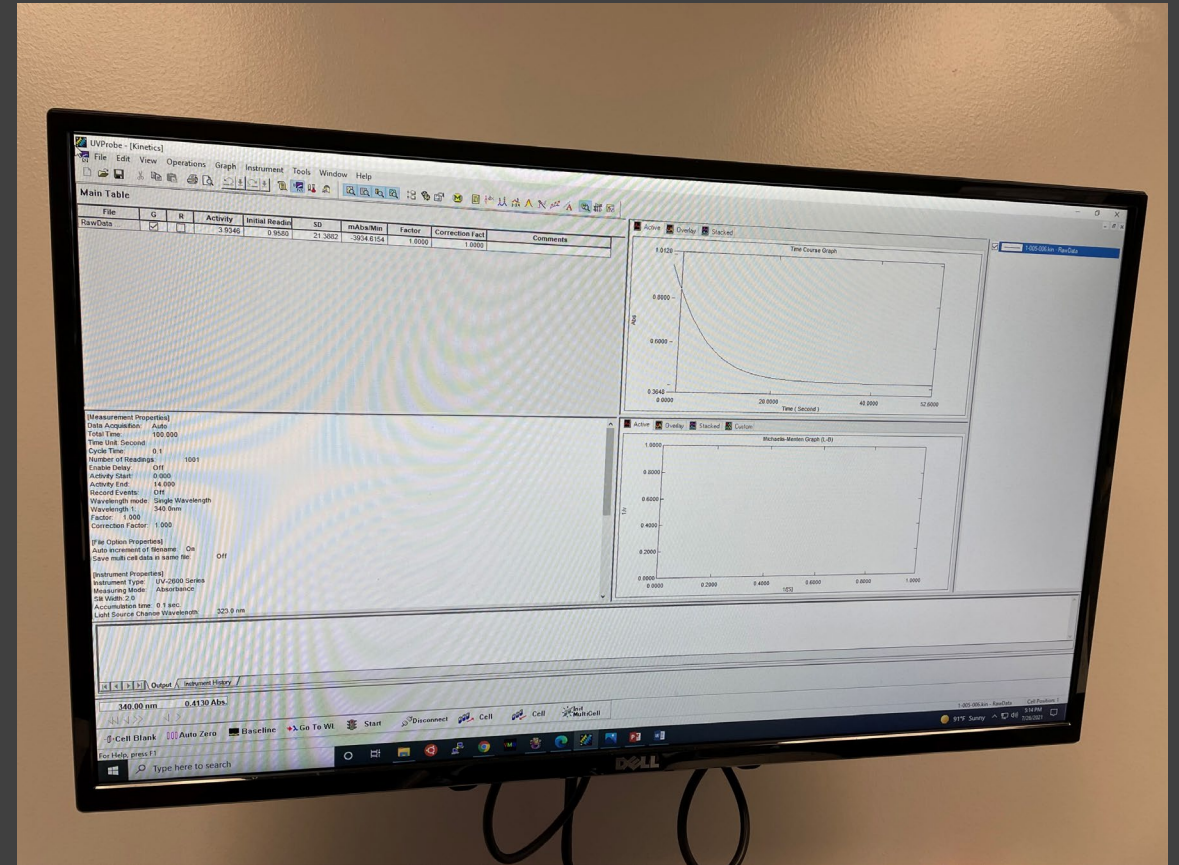
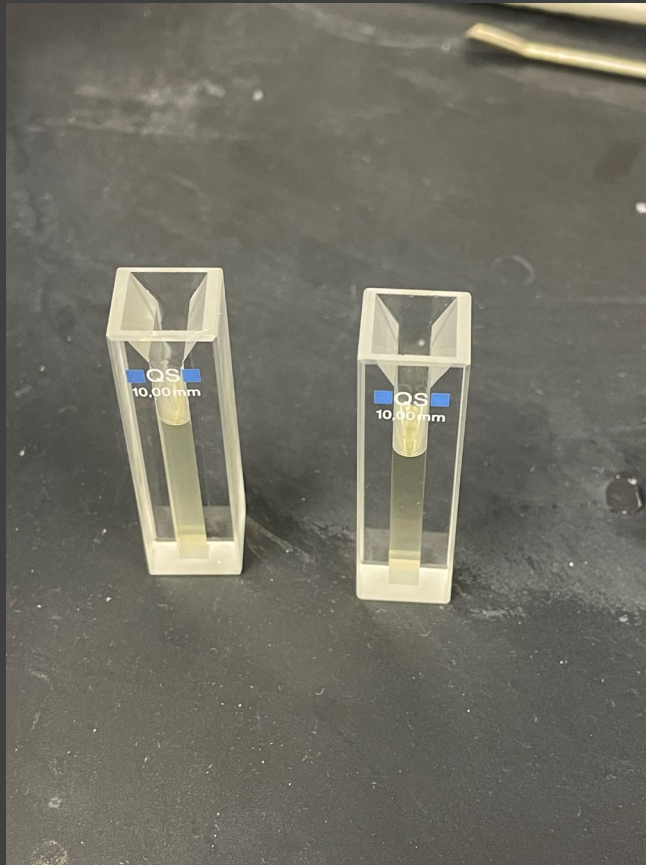


# Growing Up Enzymes

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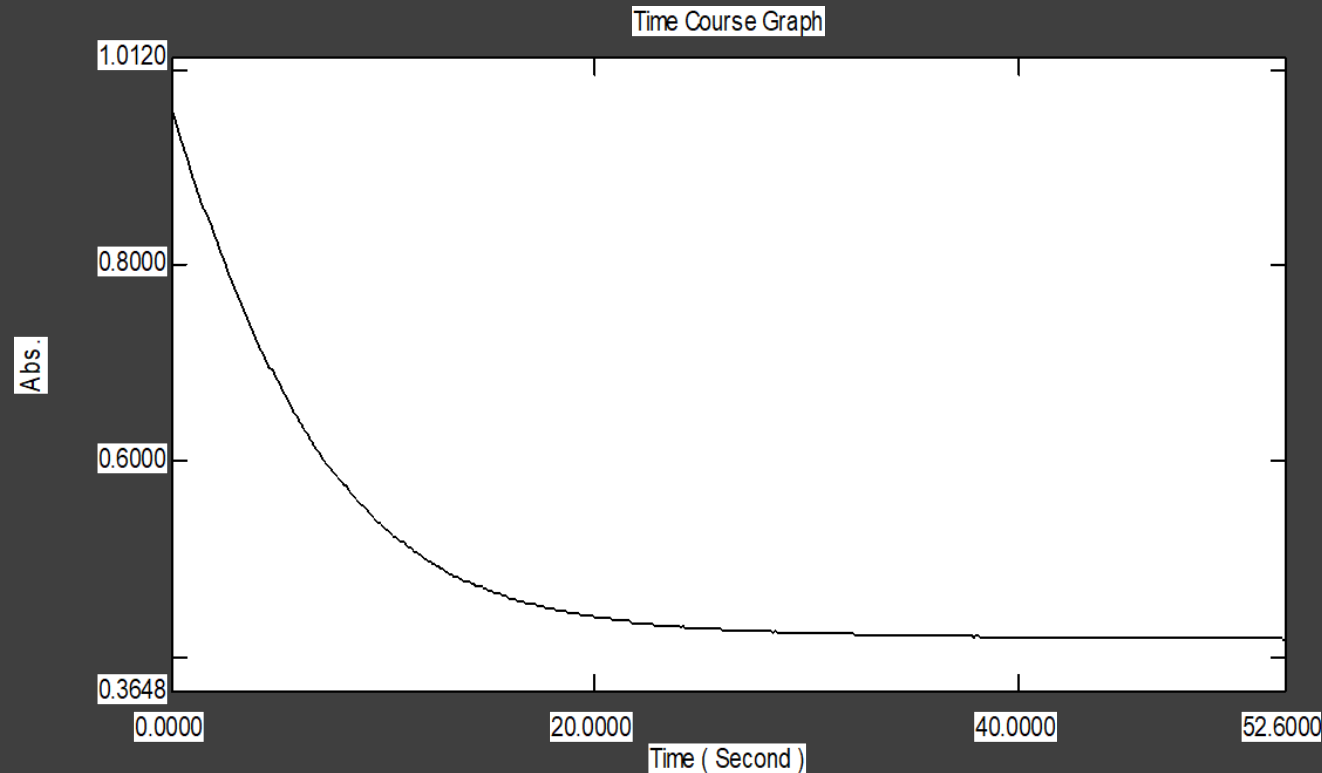




# Enzyme Activity



# Enzymology- Activity Assay



- Enzymatic reduction of 10mM benzaldehyde with 0.2nM NADPH cofactor in 100mM buffer with 5% DMSO, 1mL volume and 1cm path length, analyzed by UV-vis spectrophotometer.
- 7.6g cell
- -3934.6154mAbs/Min

# Enzymology- Activity Assay -Calculations

$$\frac{1 \mu\text{mol NADPH}}{1 \text{mL vol}} = 1 \text{mM NADPH}$$

$$\Delta \text{Abs}^{340\text{nm}} = 6.22 \text{mM}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$$

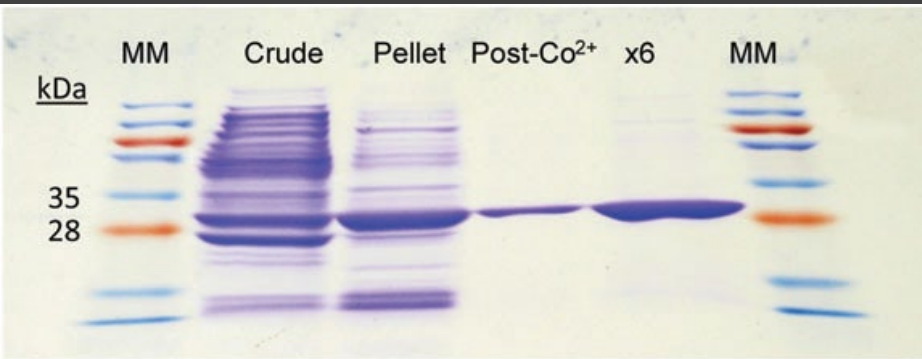
$$\frac{3934.6 \text{ mAbs}}{\text{min}} \times \frac{1 \mu\text{mol}}{6220 \text{ mAbs}} = 0.6325 \frac{\mu\text{mol}}{\text{min}}$$

$$0.6325 \frac{\mu\text{mol}}{\text{min}} \times \frac{10,000 \text{uL enzymes}}{20 \text{uL enzymes taken}} = 316.28 \text{ units enzyme}$$

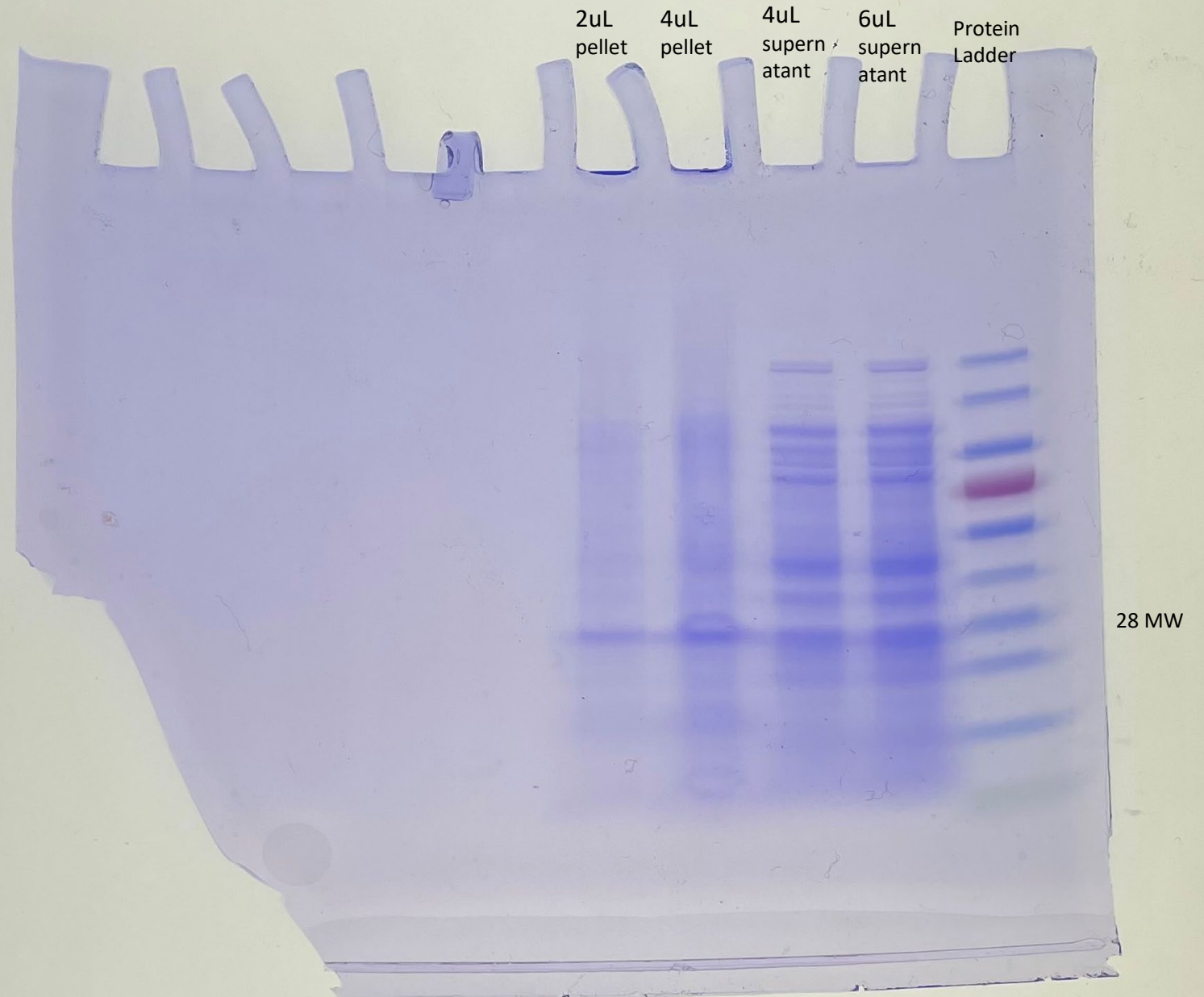
Activity	mAbs/Min	umol/Min	Units	Vol supernatant	Mass Cell
1.3880	-3934.6	0.6325	316.28	10mL	7.6g
			250.0		10g

# Enzymology

## -Gel Electrophoresis



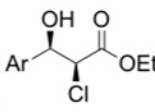
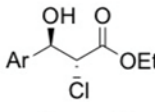
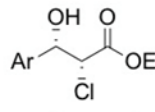
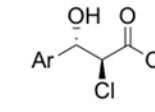
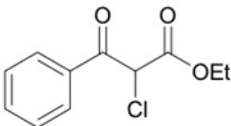
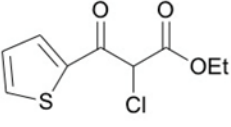
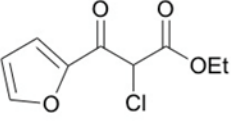
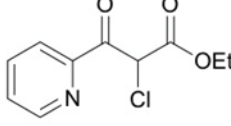
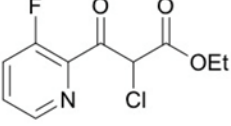
- Gel on left: SDS-PAGE gel illustrating the purification of CaADH: outside lanes=molecular markers (MM); then l to r: (i) crude supernatant; (ii) crude pellet; (iii) eluent from Co<sup>2+</sup>-column; (iv) 6x loading of (iii).
- Gel on the right: Mini-Protean TGX gel illustrating crude CaADH, and overexpression of the protein at 28 kDa.





# CaADH Profile Across Taxoid Side Chains and Future Work/Learning:

- Chiral HPLC
- Growing enzymes
- Finishing with new substrates

<b>e-discr</b> = enantiodiscrimination at the C-Cl stereocenter <b>fd</b> = facial discrimination at the carbonyl center <b>bsrm</b> = based on starting material recovered				 <b>D-syn</b>	 <b>D-anti*</b>	 <b>L-syn*</b>	 <b>L-anti*</b>
Substrate	%Yield	e-discr	fd				
	98%	S 98.5:1.5	D 98.5:1.5	98.5% { 98.5% **      <0.1% }		1.5% { 1.4%      <0.1% }	
	92%	S >97:3	D 97:3	97% { 96%      1% }		3% { 2%      1% }	
	83%	S ND	D #	#		#	
	96% bsrm	S 62:38	D 95:5 (19:1)	95% { 58%      37% }		5% { 1%      4% }	
	83% bsrm	S 91:9 (11:1)	D 85:15 (11:1)	85% { 83%      2% }		15% { 7%      8% *** }	

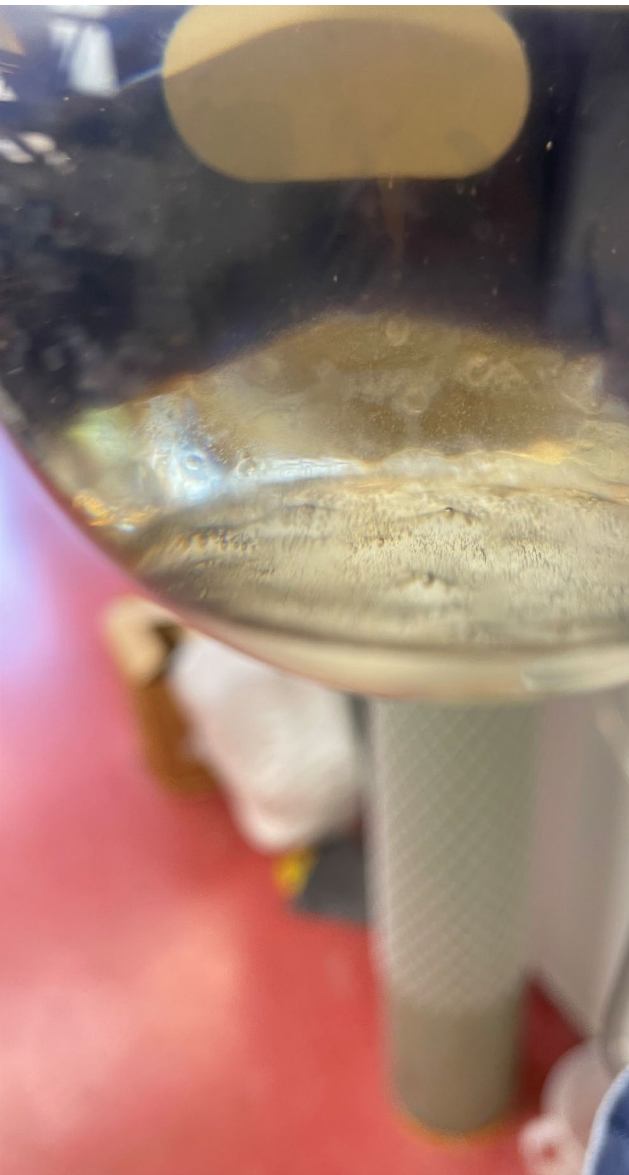
# Note: Chiral HPLC not yet completed; NMR shows almost exclusively one diastereomer, presumably the syn-diastereomer

\* Note: While the diastereomeric identity of HPLC peaks can be established by correlation with NMR, the absolute stereochemistry of individual peaks, particularly minor ones, is often by analogy and so, where not corroborated by rot'n or x-ray is not definitive.

\*\* Absolute stereochemistry established by optical rotation.

\*\*\* Absolute stereochemistry established by x-ray structure determination (anomalous dispersion) for the L-anti isomer





# References

- Applegate, G. A.; Cheloha, R. W.; Nelson, D. L.; Berkowitz, D. B., A new dehydrogenase from *Clostridium acetobutylicum* for asymmetric synthesis: dynamic reductive kinetic resolution entry into the Taxotere side chain. Chem. Commun. (Cambridge, U.K.) 2011, 47 (8), 2420-2422.
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- Gaurav P. Kudalkar, Virendra K. Tiwari, Joshua D. Lee, David B. Berkowitz, A Hammett Study of *Clostridium acetobutylicum* Alcohol Dehydrogenase (CaADH): An Enzyme with Remarkable Substrate Promiscuity and Utility for Organic Synthesis. Synlett 2020.



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- Dr. Nivesh Kumar
- Guarav Kudalkar
- Berkowitz lab group

# Contact Information

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