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**NON-MIGRATORY INTERNAL PLASTICIZATION OF POLY(VINYL CHLORIDE) VIA
PENDANT TRIAZOLES BEARING ALKYL OR POLYETHER ESTERS**

A dissertation submitted in partial satisfaction
of the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in

CHEMISTRY

by

Chad Masaharu Higa

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Abstract

NON-MIGRATORY INTERNAL PLASTICIZATION OF POLY(VINYL CHLORIDE) VIA PENDANT TRIAZOLES BEARING ALKYL OR POLYETHER ESTERS

Chad Masaharu Higa

Poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) is one of the most utilized thermoplastics on Earth. However, PVC by itself is brittle and not readily processable. This material reached the success of its worldwide demand because of phthalates, a cost-effective additive (emollient) that imparts flexibility and resistivity towards weathering, temperature extremes and electrical conductivity. The use of phthalates as plastic emollients is widespread, representing approximately three quarters of all plasticizers globally, with applications ranging from industrial to consumer products. The pervasive utilization of low molecular weight blended phthalates as emollients inevitably leads to leaching, contamination and exposure. Phthalates and their metabolites have displayed negative effects on various organs and act as potent endocrine disrupting chemicals that cause deleterious pre- and postnatal developmental effects, notably in males. Bans of phthalates by the European Union and the United States in children's articles have spurred the development of less toxic PVC plasticizer alternatives.

Branched and linear non-migratory internal plasticizers attached to PVC by a pendant triazole linkage were synthesized. Copper-free azide-alkyne thermal cycloaddition was employed to covalently bind triazole-based phthalate mimics to poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC). To systematically investigate the effect of plasticizer structure on glass transition temperature, several architectural motifs were explored. Free volume theory was considered when designing many of these internal plasticizers: hexyl-tethers were utilized to generate additional space between the triazole-phthalate mimic and the polymer backbone. Miscibility of these triazole-plasticizers in PVC is important: variation of the ester moieties on the triazole

possessing alkyl and/or poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO) chains produced a wide range of glass transition temperatures (T_g): from anti-plasticizing 96 °C, to highly efficient plasticized materials exhibiting T_g values as low as -42 °C.

Triazole methyl esters directly appended to PVC displays an inherent anti-plasticization effect originating from the aromatic ring, which diminishes with increasing molecular weight and branching of the alkyl ester chains. Introduction of a flexible hexyl tether to the secondary triazole group acts as additional molecular weight and branching, further lowering T_g values. Attachment of two hexyl tethered secondary triazoles follows this trend by enforcing another branch point and increasing molecular weight. Utilization of PEO esters in all architectural types significantly enhances T_g depressions, with longer PEO chains exhibiting remarkable results. Single PEO triazole esters readily prepared from propiolic esters using low-cost, commercially available materials combine excellent plasticization with straightforward synthesis, making these non-migratory internal plasticizers extremely attractive for industrial applications.

An alternative strategy to post-polymerization direct modification of PVC to obtain internally plasticized materials involves the copolymerization of vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) with a monomer functionalized with a triazole-phthalate mimic. Electron-rich vinyl acetate monomers with an appended triazole-plasticizer were synthesized for this purpose. Copolymerizations with the vinyl acetate triazole monomers and VCM were largely unsuccessful. It was envisaged that an acrylate derivative should remedy the low reactivity of these vinyl acetate monomers. An acrylate incorporating a hexyl-tethered triazole-phthalate mimic served two purposes: 1) generate space between the triazole and polymerizing vinyl group to prevent monomer deactivation and, 2) enhance the plasticization efficiency of the triazole.

Dedication

This Dissertation is dedicated to my parents, Zachary and Elayne Higa.

I owe everything to you: For the endless amount of support, understanding, and love, you are the constant in my life. Through the prosperous times and through the arduous times, you have been there. As my shadow surely follows me on the sunniest of days, you are always with me in my heart and soul. You are the source of inspiration that gives life meaning.

Without you, this would have not been possible.

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you joined the lab. You became one of the best friends I have made in graduate school. I will miss the dinners after all those strenuous days after lab. I will miss those good old days in lab, those moments of happiness, those moments of struggle, trial, and tribulation, those moments of excessive difficulty, all spent with you. When times got difficult, you were always there to help. A person such as you is rare in today's society: never lose your charm and happy disposition. Although graduate school seems like an eternal struggle, there is an end. That end is you earning a doctorate, I can sense it. Do not let the pervasive negativity that surrounds you take away your happiness. Your positivity is refreshing and is one of your best attributes. With that said, I eagerly await your visit to Hilo. To Wiley Schultz-Simonton, thanks for being an excellent lab mate. Your culinary insights are enlightening and the discussions we had throughout the years on random topics have always been fun. I will forever remember struggling together in lab. I wish you the best of luck in completing your degree. Thank you Jennifer Petraitis for the memories: we entered the lab together simultaneously, and shared many of the early tribulations of graduate school together. Our conversations on food, pop culture, and fashion were always enjoyable. To Wendell Scott, my former student and undergraduate researcher, you have overcome so much and persevered as a graduate student at UCLA. I commend your inner-fortitude, your work ethic, and your ability to see the big picture. Thank you for being a part of my journey. I often reminisce of those evenings at Mission Street BBQ with you, devouring brisket, pulled pork, and occasionally, the Mission Sandwich. It warms my heart to see that you have truly moved on to bigger and better things: all the best to you.

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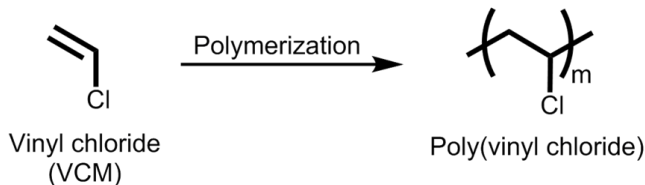
home. It is so easy for a person to ignore the strife of others, as often is the case, but you were there. Maybe it's being a country kid from South Lake Tahoe that makes you so personable. More likely than that, it is just because you are a good person, with a good soul. You are one of the best friends I have made here in California. You may or may not know, but I have learned an important life lesson from you. You showed me how to live in the moment, as I am often agonizing about the future. While it is true that the future is determined by the actions we take in the present, it is the moments we live in the present that should be revealed and enjoyed. After all, we cannot change the past, nor can we predict the future, so why not enjoy the present? Thank you for opening my eyes to this point of view and philosophy. Thank you to the students in Bakthan Singaram's Lab: Christopher Bailey, Christopher Murphy, Rachel Snelling, Angel Resendez, and Gabriella Amberchan. Your advice at the beginning of graduate school was invaluable. Your assistance in obtaining chemicals that I required for my research is immensely appreciated. To the students in Pradip Mascharak's Lab: Jorge Jimenez and Miguel Pinto, thank you for the help in making KBr pellets for FTIR. More importantly, thank you for being good friends. Much appreciation to past and present administrators Janet Jones, Karen Meece, Yat Li, and Ilan Benjamin for assuring that the correct paperwork and requirements were clear and seen to in a timely fashion. Thank you, Caitlin Binder for being a motivational and positive educator. The time I have spent with you teaching has been insightful. I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to present organic chemistry lectures. I have learned much from you, and strive to as energetic as you.

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1 Introduction: Internal Plasticization of Poly(vinyl chloride)

1.1 Poly(vinyl chloride): History and Discovery

Poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) is a synthetic polymer made from the polymerization of vinyl chloride monomer (VCM). Among the thermoplastics, PVC is ranked



Scheme 1.1 Vinyl Chloride Monomer Polymerized To Poly(vinyl chloride)

second in terms of production only to polyolefins such as poly(ethylene) and poly(propylene).¹ PVC is a thermoplastic, which is defined as a synthetic resin that becomes malleable, ductile, or moldable above a specific temperature, and subsequently solidifies after cooling.² Thermoplastics may be reheated and reformed, while a thermoset cannot be recycled. The origins of PVC date back to 1835, with the discovery of vinyl chloride monomer by Liebig and Regnault.³ Historically, the newly discovered vinyl chloride gas was left in a sealed container exposed to sunlight, thereafter leaving a brittle white solid deposit within the confines of the flask; however this anecdote is considered to be apocryphal. In 1878, Eugen Baumann rediscovered PVC, when studying the effect of sunlight on vinyl chloride, which, once again, gave a white solid when exposed to the sun. In both instances, there were no recorded follow up studies on the brittle, white substance, as it was presumably difficult to manipulate. While investigating the addition of several chemicals to acetylene in 1913, Klatter rediscovered the light induced polymerization of VCM. Klatter also described the polymerization of VCM by oxygen-containing compounds such as peroxides and ozone, and is now credited as the inventor of the free-radical polymerization of VCM with peroxides.³ Klatter discovered that it was also possible to process PVC under heat and pressure; this was the first description of PVC as a thermoplastic material. Nevertheless, PVC remained a challenging substance to manipulate due to its relatively low thermal stability in comparison with other polymeric substances of the time. Industrial applications of PVC remained esoteric until 1926, when

Waldo Semon, a B.F. Goodrich employee in Akron, Ohio, discovered plasticized PVC when attempting to dehydrohalogenate high molecular weight PVC to obtain a polymer which could potentially bond rubber to metal.⁴ This serendipitous discovery by Semon was an unexpected byproduct of his primary work, but nevertheless, led to the commercialization and globalization of PVC as a popular plastic material.³

1.2 Global Demand and General Applications of PVC

Global demand for PVC is substantial: in 2015, 18.3 percent of thermoplastics consumed was PVC, behind poly(ethylene) at 20.3 percent, and poly(propylene) at 26.8 percent.⁵ Overall demand for PVC in relation to all plastic types accounted for 16 percent of total global plastics.⁵ PVC in this statistical analysis was the overall second largest resin type consumed behind all combined types of polyolefins. In North America, PVC accounted for 15.3 percent of total combined sales, considering all plastic types in 2015.⁶

Applications of PVC are widespread and vast, ranging from consumer items to industrial materials. In 2014, the European Union utilized PVC for profiles (28%, profiles are specialty millwork that are applied in buildings to create a finished appearance for windows and doors), pipes and fittings (22%), rigid films (9%), miscellaneous rigids and bottles (7%), cables (7%), flex film and sheet (6%), flooring (6%), coated fabrics (4%), flex tubes and profiles (2%), rigid plates (2%), and other (8%).⁷ In 2007, North America used PVC for siding, accessories and skirting (35%), windows, doors, fencing and decking (22%), film and sheets (16%), wire and cable (11%) and other extruded/molded products (16%).⁸ Much of the consumption of PVC is by the construction industry, which utilizes the polymer for profiles, pipes, fittings, siding, skirting, flooring, doors, wiring, fencing, and decking. Other consumer goods include toys, automotive parts, and medical supplies.

PVC possesses the largest market share of any dedicated polymeric material in the medical field, comprising 40 percent of all polymeric medical items.⁹ In medicine, PVC is the

first choice of polymeric material due to its transparency, strength, biocompatibility, and facility of sterilization *via* autoclave and gamma irradiation.⁹ As it is cost effective, PVC products are ideal for single use medical devices, which greatly reduce the occurrence of contamination. Medical products that are composed of PVC include intravenous tubing, urine continence containers, catheters, inflatable stints, inhalation masks, pill packs, respiratory tubing, and blood bags.

There has been a rising concern in recent years about the utilization of PVC in medical equipment due to concerns over the major plasticizer in these products:¹⁰ di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), also known as di-octyl phthalate (DOP) (**Figure 1.1**). While an excellent monomeric plasticizer for this application, the constant

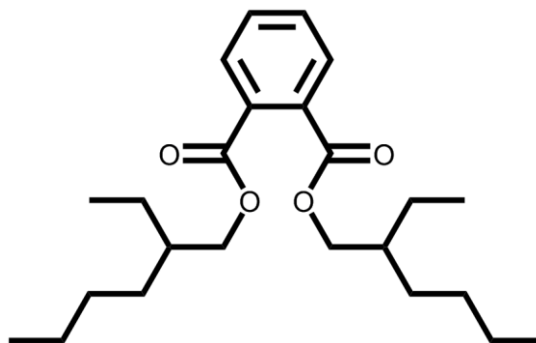


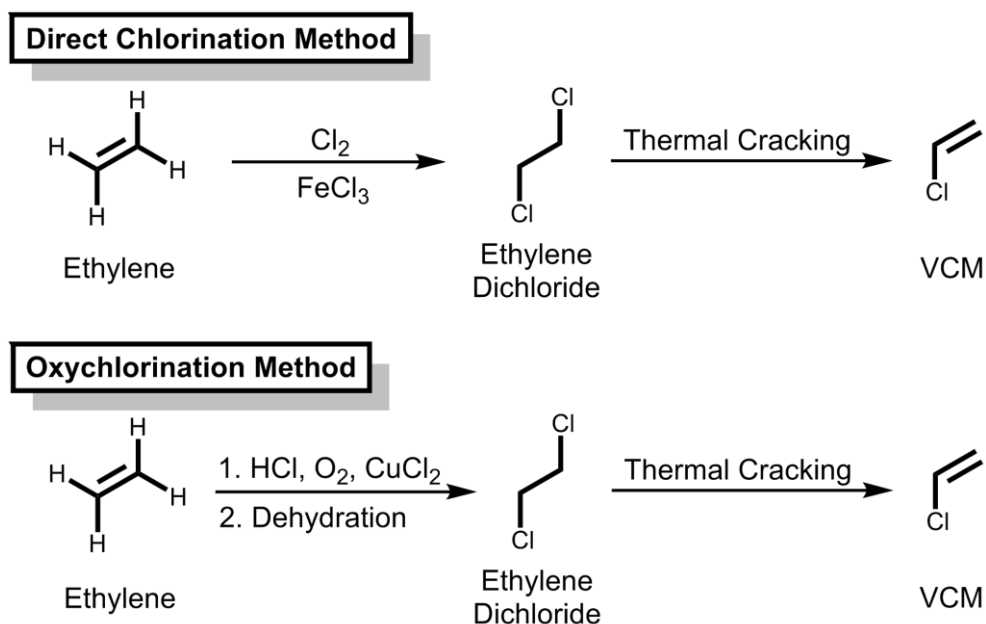
Figure 1.1 Di-(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate (DEHP)

contact with biological fluids in medical devices results in the extraction of DEHP from the PVC material. The consequences of leaching DEHP from a blood bag to the patient, for example, can have long term medical ramifications.¹¹

With broad applications and high global demand, PVC has a large impact on humanity. The awareness of phthalate leaching presents a challenging, yet intriguing problem: how to replace phthalates in PVC with safe, non-leaching alternatives. Herein, the physical properties, synthesis, plasticization of PVC, along with the inherent health concerns of phthalates, and an overview of current research investigating internally plasticizing PVC will be discussed.

1.3 Synthesis and Physical Properties of PVC

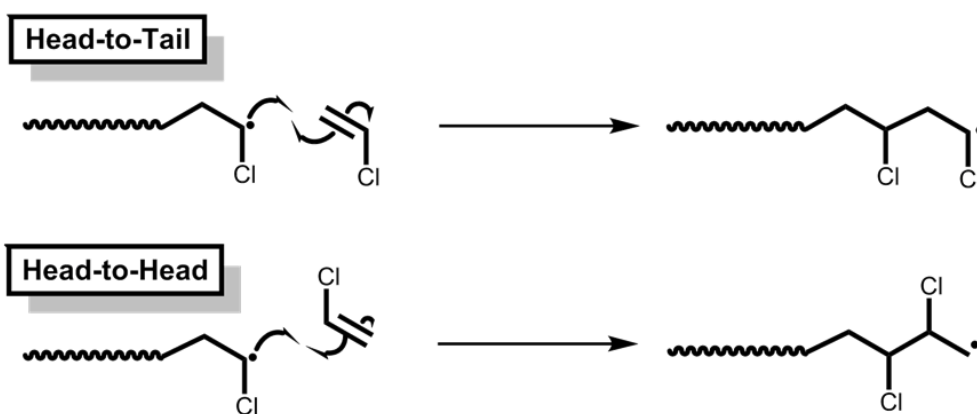
Poly(vinyl chloride) in its pure, unmodified state is an odorless, brittle white solid. The precursor to PVC, vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) is a gas at room temperature and pressure, with a boiling point of $-13.4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.¹² In industry, VCM is handled as a compressed toxic volatile liquid in all types of polymerization operations. VCM is produced predominantly by two industrial reactions: (1) the hydrochlorination of acetylene and (2) thermal cracking of ethylene dichloride (EDC) produced by direct chlorination or oxychlorination of ethylene. To clarify, under the direct chlorination method, ethylene, chlorine, and iron (III) chloride catalyst are charged into a reactor to form EDC. The oxychlorination method involves charging a reactor with ethylene, recycled hydrogen chloride (HCl) from the direct chlorination process, copper (II) chloride catalyst, and oxygen (or air) to obtain EDC. Subsequently, ethylene dichloride is thermally cracked to VCM (**Scheme 1.2**). Most of the VCM produced globally



Scheme 1.2 Direct and Oxychlorination Methods of Ethylene to Obtain VCM

involves the direct chlorination and oxychlorination process. According to Alfrey-Price Q-e schemes,¹³ VCM is classified as a non-conjugated weakly electron-withdrawing vinyl

monomer. Briefly, the Q-e scheme postulates that two reactivity ratios in a binary copolymerization can be expressed mathematically. Parameters Q and e are associated with resonance stability and polarity, respectively.¹⁴ VCM possess Q and e -values of 0.44 and 0.22.¹⁵ These values indicate that VCM has relatively low reactivity, while the resulting radical is highly reactive. Due to the high reactivity of the propagating radical, there is a tendency for chain transfer reactions to occur with other species during polymerization. Species suffering chain transfer can include VCM, initiator, and polymer,¹⁵ resulting in defects in the final polymeric structure. Thus, control over morphology and polydispersity during VCM polymerization utilizing conventional peroxide initiators is difficult, resulting in PVC with high polydispersity index (PDI) values and imperfect chain morphology. Although solution polymerization of VCM with an α -hydrogen nitroxide shows excellent PDI values, this method of polymerization has not been adopted industrially, due to its extra cost.¹⁶ Conventionally, the propagation phase of VCM to PVC determines the overall molecular weight and structural defects of the final polymer.¹⁵ VCM can add to the propagating chain by head-to-head or head-to-tail radical addition (**Scheme 1.3**). Evidence points to predominantly head-to-tail addition of the propagating chain to VCM.¹⁷ Commercial PVC is produced in one of three



Scheme 1.3 Head-to-Tail and Head-to-Head Addition of VCM to the Propagating Chain¹⁵

radical polymerization methods: suspension polymerization (80% of world production), bulk polymerization (8%), and emulsion polymerization (12%).¹²

Suspension polymerization is a heterogeneous radical polymerization process in which an agitator mixes the monomer in a liquid phase, causing the polymerization to be carried out in globular droplets. Generally, under high pressure, liquid VCM is dispersed in water by vigorous stirring in an autoclave with baffles, which promotes agitation.¹² A protective colloid, also known as a granulating agent, and a monomer-soluble free radical initiator are part of the reaction mixture. The primary function of the protective colloid is to control grain size, porosity, and morphological properties of the final PVC: an important aspect of quality control in industry. Customarily, these protective colloids are cellulose ether derivatives, partially hydrolyzed poly(vinyl acetates), or poly(vinyl alcohols).¹² A range of peroxide initiators are utilized in the suspension polymerization of VCM, such as benzoyl peroxide, diacetyl peroxide, peroxydicarbonates, and alkyl peroxyesters. In industry, “recipes” of these reagents are charged into reactors with specific proportions of each component. The components are heated to 45 °C to 75 °C, which initiates homolysis of the radical initiator and subsequent polymerization of VCM inside the droplets. At the beginning of the process, VCM is distributed into 30 to 40 μm droplets under the influence of stirring, mixing and agitation in the reactor with the water-soluble protective colloid, which is absorbed at the water-VCM interface. As the reaction proceeds with thermal initiation *via* a peroxide initiator, graft-like polymerization of PVC occurs at the interfacial layer formed by the protective colloid, causing droplet coalescence at 4-5% conversion. Droplet coalescence negatively alters the ability of the protective colloid to control grain size and morphology.¹² As polymerization proceeds, the PVC chains become larger. The coalescence process stops after approximately 20% conversion; hereon, the grain size remains fairly constant.

The highly exothermic suspension polymerization process is controlled *via* heat removal. This is accomplished by cooling jackets and/or evaporation of the monomer into

condensers, which is recovered and returned to the reactor for further polymerization. Industrial plants producing PVC generally assess polymerization progress by the heat emanated to the cooling jackets: the coolant temperature is carefully monitored. A consistent reactor temperature is accomplished by altering the temperature of the coolant throughout the duration of the polymerization. The increase of heat emanated during the reaction requires a concomitant decrease in coolant temperature. Likewise, once the polymerization nears completion, the emanated heat from the reaction decreases, requiring increased coolant temperatures to maintain the constant reactor temperature. Pressure is also monitored throughout the suspension polymerization process of VCM to PVC to assess reaction progress. Once the polymerization nears 70%, a noticeable decrease in pressure occurs in the reactor, due to the depletion of liquefied VCM.¹² Termination is generally determined by a preset reactor pressure, upon which the remaining VCM is vented off to a recovery plant and/or a terminating agent is added to the reactor. The crude PVC is then passed through a stripping column to remove residual VCM.

Bulk polymerization of VCM to PVC is nearly analogous to the process found in suspension polymerization. The chemical mechanism is similar, with the crucial distinction residing in the mechanical operation.¹² First, VCM and initiator are charged in a reactor at a temperature of 62 °C to 75 °C, which causes an initial, brisk polymerization of VCM. Large 100 µm aggregates are formed, made up of many 0.1 µm PVC particles. These particles form seeds for the final PVC grain. This initial batch of PVC is transferred to another reactor with fresh VCM and initiator, and undergoes a secondary polymerization with the PVC seed grains, fusing to form final PVC grains of 130-160 µm. Cooling of the reactor during the polymerization process is done strictly by evaporation of VCM *via* condensation. In theory, this process is more economical,¹² as it does not require a drying phase as with suspension polymerization, which uses water. In contrast to suspension polymerization, bulk polymerization utilizes a primary and secondary reactor, along with PVC seed particles.

Industrially, removing traces of VCM and PVC from the reactors becomes challenging in a two reactor setup. Residual VCM and PVC contamination causes dispersion faults, yielding oversized polymer chains.¹⁸

Emulsion polymerization involves polymerizing VCM in an aqueous environment with a surfactant and a water-soluble radical initiator. The “emulsion” formed by the reaction conditions inherently form PVC lattices: colloidal dispersions of PVC particles ranging between 0.1 and 3.0 μm , made up of agglomerates of PVC latex particles.¹² The term “emulsion” is a historic misnomer, as the polymerization of VCM is performed in latex particles, not emulsion droplets. The surfactant prevents coalescence of the latex particles by electrostatic repulsion. Industrial emulsion polymerization of VCM occurs in high pressure reactors between 40 °C to 60 °C, with exothermic heat evolution controlled in a similar manner to other polymerization methods. Surfactants are a critical component of the polymerization process, determining the final PVC latex characteristics and physical properties. Commonly utilized surfactants include sodium salts of alkyl sulfates, alkyl sulfonates, dialkyl sulfosuccinates, alkyl ethoxysulfates, and fatty acid soaps.¹² Initiators are customarily water-soluble, which include ammonium or potassium peroxosulfate. In the beginning of a typical emulsion polymerization process, an emulsifier is chosen based on the critical concentration at which the molecules aggregate to form micelles. The choice of emulsifier ultimately imparts the final properties to the PVC latex. At the specific critical micelle concentration (CMC), PVC latex formation is controlled within micelles which solubilize VCM and become the loci of polymerization. If a low critical micellar concentration is used, high concentrations of latex particles are obtained, resulting in greater polymerization rates over the suspension method.¹⁹ Once the initial nucleation phase ends, the surfactant absorbs onto PVC latex particles, causing micellar breakdown. Polymerization is typically terminated at 90% conversion, with subsequent removal of VCM to a recovery tank.¹² PVC lattices are subsequently milled to produce fine particles, which readily mix with plasticizers to

form suspensions. The surfactant layer surrounding latex particles does not allow the plasticizer to be absorbed within the particles: this forms a plastisol, which is a liquid that can be sprayed on items such as fabrics, or poured into molds to create consumer products such as flooring and toys.

PVC is structurally heterogeneous and possesses relative pseudo-chirality, also known as tacticity.²⁰ Tacticity is defined as the relative conformation of pseudoasymmetric centers formed as a consequence of sequential stereogenic centers.²¹ The same configuration of adjacent pseudoasymmetric carbon atoms in a head-to-tail vinyl polymer is designated isotactic,²² while an alternating arrangement is designated syndiotactic.²³ PVC is considered atactic if both isotactic and syndiotactic configurations exist in short segments of the same chain (Figure 1.2).²⁴

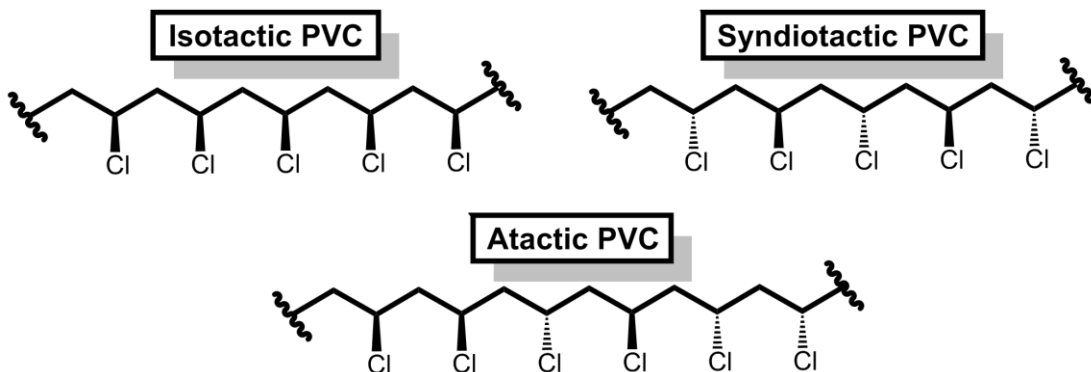


Figure 1.2 Tacticity Present in PVC²⁰⁻²⁴

One of the consequences of uncontrolled VCM polymerization is a randomization of the chlorine atom orientation throughout PVC. By definition, the entire polymer must contain either an isotactic or syndiotactic sequence of pseudo-chiral carbon-chlorine centers to be considered truly such. An investigation into the thermodynamics of VCM polymerization revealed that the activation energy of isotactic addition is higher than syndiotactic addition.²⁴ A noticeable decrease in syndiotactic segments was observed with an increase of reaction temperature. Intuitively, this is logical; the relatively large atomic radius of chlorine may cause

steric interactions between the radical chain end and VCM. Electrostatically, the dipole-dipole interaction energy between two successive chlorine substituents in PVC was calculated to be 0.7 kcal/mol greater in an isotactic sequence versus a syndiotactic arrangement.²⁴ At higher temperatures, steric and electrostatic effects play less of a role in monomer addition: thus, an increase in isotactic segments is observed.

The physical properties and thermal stability of PVC is greatly influenced by tacticity. Crystallinity present in PVC is usually attributed to syndiotactic sequences.¹⁵ Syndiotactic carbon-chlorine dipole moments can associate strongly with adjacent chain segments containing similar dipoles, which ultimately provide the means to induce crystallinity. The melting point of conventionally synthesized PVC is between 115-205 °C due to anomalous defects present throughout the polymer.²⁵ In theory, perfectly syndiotactic PVC would have a melting point of 400 °C, due to the maximized presence of dipole-dipole interactions between analogous chain segments.²⁵ Heating neat, atactic PVC above 100 °C initiates degradation *via* emission of hydrochloric acid (HCl) from the chlorinated backbone, creating alkenes.¹⁵ The presence of HCl further catalyzes elimination reactions from adjacent monomeric units. This process occurs iteratively, until short polyene segments are present throughout the polymer. Continued heating result in the initiation of secondary reactions, such as crosslinking, scission, and cyclization.²⁶ Cyclization leads to the formation of aromatic compounds, which induce dramatic changes to the physical properties of the polymer. The suspected origin of HCl elimination is related to structure: chlorine atoms adjacent to alkene defects present in the main chain from polymerization, and tertiary chlorine atoms at branch point defects are considered culprits for initial elimination.¹⁵ Tertiary chlorine defects are more abundant than allylic chlorine defects; therefore, the current consensus is that tertiary sites are the major proponent of HCl-mediated thermal degradation of PVC.²⁷

Due to the highly reactive nature of the propagating radical, side reactions occur during the uncontrolled radical polymerization of VCM. Defects in the main chain are intrinsically introduced, resulting in a myriad of abnormal morphologies involving the repeating units or chain ends in PVC (Figure 1.3).²⁷⁻²⁸ An example of the formation of a defect occurs with the head-to-head addition of VCM and the propagating radical (Scheme 1.3). The presence of a 1,2-dichlorine arrangement can lead to chlorine migration and subsequent chlorine radical elimination at the chain end.^{28a} The result of repeating unit and chain end defects induce an overall decrease in thermal stability to PVC.²⁹

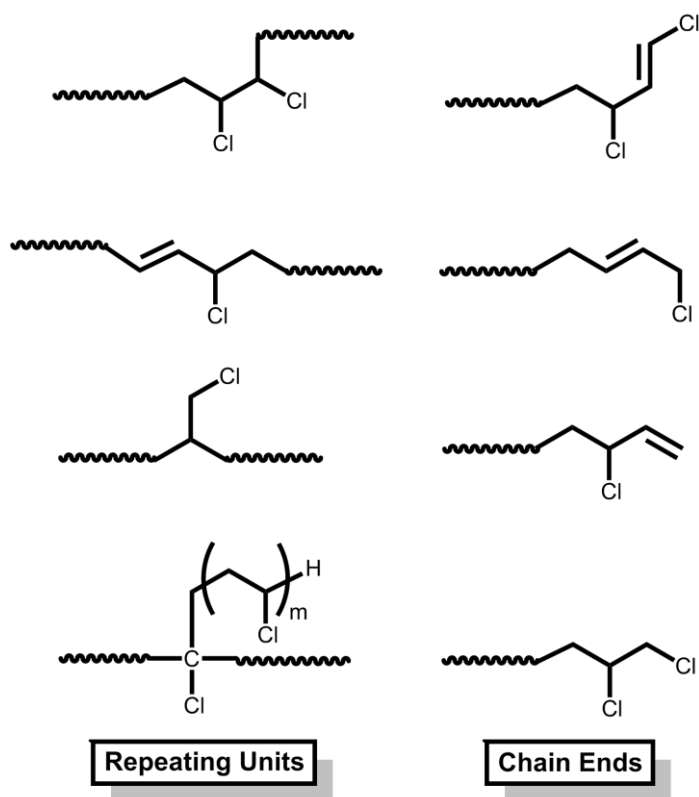


Figure 1.3 Defects Present in PVC²⁷⁻²⁸

1.4 Plasticization Theory

PVC in its unadulterated form is a brittle white solid with limited applications. When a plasticizer is introduced into PVC, vastly different physical properties such as flexibility, increased thermal stability, and transparency are achieved. Gaining an understanding of how a plasticizer imparts ductility and malleability is essential in designing an efficient, novel internally plasticized system for PVC. Multiple qualitative theories on plasticization arose in the mid-20th century.³⁰ Due to the absence of complex computing during this era, initial

theories were generally qualitative observations describing plasticization. In the formative years of classical plasticization theory, two separate but interconnected ideologies were developed to rationalize how a plasticizer functions in a polymeric matrix: lubricity theory and gel theory.³⁰ Subsequently, free volume theory was developed to quantitatively characterize plasticization properties.

The lubricity theory of plasticization states that the function of a plasticizer is to reduce intermolecular friction between the main chains of a polymer.³¹ Lubricity theory is credited to Kirkpatrick,³² Clark,³³ and Houwink.³⁴ Each author conceptualized polymer chains slipping over each other in space. Rigidity of the resin is thought to arise from intermolecular friction. The plasticizer lubricates polymer chains by reducing the internal friction and resistance between chains, thereby imparting flexibility to the plastic.

Kirkpatrick³² stated that plasticization may result from: (1) solvent action, (2) simple lubrication of plastic micellae, and (3) a combination of the two preceding actions. As a whole, Kirkpatrick emphasized a few imperative factors that were important for plasticization to occur: (1) a plasticizer must contain mutual points of attraction between the polymer *via* specific functional group interactions, (2) within the plasticizer and polymer, these mutual functional group attraction points must be positioned in such a way that permits the facile attraction between both entities at a molecular level, and (3) the plasticizer must possess the proper shape to impart the necessary physical characteristics required. Clark³³ theorized that plasticizing properties were consequent of filling large voids in a three-dimensional polymeric matrix, leading to the formation of glide planes. The plasticizer acts as a lubricant, which results in the fluidic movement between planes upon the application of physical force on the polymer. In this way, Clark envisioned plasticized polymers as alternating layers of plasticizer and base resin, in which the polarity of each entity must be similar to obtain plasticization, stemming from the adage "like dissolves like." Houwink³⁴ also envisioned polymeric glide planes and the importance of polymer-plasticizer polarity, in a cognate manner to Clark.

Houwink however, considered swelling and dissolving factors, whereas Clark did not. The purpose of the plasticizer is to interact with the polymer by swelling, which is directly dependent on the polarities of each species. In the case of an infinitely swelling polymer, all inter-chain bonds are completely detached; likewise, a partially swollen polymer would contain partially detached inter-chain bonding. Plasticization *via* swelling of a polymer can be justified by two gliding mechanisms: (1) the glide planes are in the bulk of the plasticizer, which would preferentially adhere to the main chain of the polymer, allowing the plasticizer to slip over each other, and (2) the glide planes are at the surface of the polymer backbone. This would create three possible physical interactions between polymer and plasticizer: (1) a polymer-polymer interaction, (2) a plasticizer-plasticizer interaction, and (3) a polymer-plasticizer interaction. Houwink states that the energy involved in separating the polymer-polymer and plasticizer-plasticizer interactions are greater than that of the polymer-plasticizer interaction. This causes the glide plane to exist near the polymer backbone.

The gel theory of plasticization states that polymers are formed by a honeycomb structure maintained by *non-covalent* centers of attachment between main chains.³⁰ The three-dimensional nature of a polymer is the main cause of rigidity in its plasticized state; the predominant factor contributing to rigidity exists within the interlocked centers between backbones. According to gel theory, the function of the plasticizer is to break these intermittent non-covalent attachments, which allows the polymer to deform. Therefore, a dynamic solvation-desolvation equilibrium exists between the polymer and plasticizer, simultaneously causing the aggregation-disaggregation of the main chain.

Aiken³⁵ described gel theory when studying the tensile creep behavior of PVC with different plasticizers. Aiken rationalized that polar groups in the plasticizer arranged *via* solvating dipoles along the main chain of PVC were efficient at imparting softness. Non-polar alkyl tails of a plasticizer would aggregate in the matrix, resulting in a portion of unshielded polar polymer chain. It was theorized that these unshielded polar regions on PVC would

interact and create a gel-like structure, which is responsible for the viscous flow observed in plasticized PVC. Thus, a proposed mechanism of plasticization for PVC was devised: a plasticizer will induce micro-Brownian motion between the main chain segments, thereby imparting flexibility to the polymer-plasticizer mixture. Aiken realized that pure segmental motion would not satisfactorily explain elasticity unaccompanied by flow in plasticized PVC systems: if a polymer exists as a three-dimensional network, plasticizers can convey flexibility in space by two possibilities: (1) a dynamic equilibrium involving a solvation-desolvation process of plasticizer to polymer main chain, and (2) a static mechanism that defines the mean lifetime of the polymer-plasticizer interaction to be longer than the mean lifetime of segmental motion of the polymer backbone. In the dynamic solvation-desolvation process, the plasticizer is envisioned to move through the three-dimensional polymer matrix *via* diffusion, which would temporarily disconnect polymer-polymer interactions, creating a gel-interface between main chains. Although Aiken's perception of plasticization was largely in accordance with current gel theory, there were some factors not explained.

Busse³⁶ described gel plasticization by the presence of four factors in a polymer-plasticizer mixture: (1) groups of atoms which form strong flexible fibrous units, (2) weak or uniform cohesive forces around the fibers, (3) an interlocking of fibers at a few locations along the main chain of the polymer to form a three-dimensional network, which can occur by various forms of non-covalent bonding, secondary valence forces, or mechanical entanglement, and (4) a means of storing free energy in the fibers during deformation. The main difference between Aiken's description of gel plasticization lays in Busse's third factor: the *interlocking* of fibers along the backbone of the polymer at a few locations to form a three-dimensional network. Aiken largely neglected to explain how a three-dimensional network was held together by interactions between adjacent polymers chains during plasticization. The focus of Aiken's work³⁵ was on the solvation-desolvation of a plasticizer. Although Busse

accounted for inter-chain interactions and the role of a plasticizer to disrupt these centers of attachment, little in terms of quantitative data was gathered to substantiate this theory.

In 1947, Doolittle,³⁷ while studying solvent action kinetics on macromolecular systems, was the first author to substantiate gel theory with experimental results. Doolittle described cohesive forces originating at definite points along the polymer as “active centers,” which can be broken apart by thermal agitation.^{37a} Like Aiken, Doolittle stated that solvation occurs when solvent and solute macromolecules are joined together, while the interaction of solute macromolecules is called aggregation. The reverse processes are desolvation and disaggregation. To gain a quantitative understanding of gel plasticization, a resin solution was titrated into a nonsolvent, in accordance to a modified procedure by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D-268-T. By varying the concentration of solvent-diluent mixture *via* titration, a point is reached where the rate of solvation barely exceeds the initial rate of desolvation. At this point, the solvent molecules that penetrate the matrix will become bound to a certain fraction of active centers in the polymer. These active centers are statistically eliminated as inter-chain attraction points and a quantifiable amount of disaggregation occurs. As the titration continues, the rate of solvation increases, which causes the aggregation-disaggregation equilibrium to shift toward complete disaggregation of the polymer. A plasticizer in this description may be considered a non-volatile solvent, which disrupts the active centers within a polymer. Ultimately, the data showed that plasticization depends on the strength of attraction between polymer and plasticizer and the overall mobility of the plasticizer with the polymer matrix. Doolittle asserted that, “the nonvolatile plasticizer still remains in the film and by its presence prevents, to an extent determined by its amount and solvent strength, further desolvation of the resin. Wherever the active centers of the resin macromolecules are masked by solvation, resin-resin contact at that point is prevented. Thus, the extent of plasticization becomes equivalent to the degree to which three-dimensional aggregation of the resin macromolecules is prevented by the solvent action of the

plasticizer.”^{37a} In this perspective, the performance of a plasticizer should be dependent on its relative solvent strength in a polymer. With a plasticizer containing strong solvency character, less must be added to the resin to obtain a desired amount of flexibility, relative to a plasticizer with weaker solvency properties. Interestingly, Doolittle mentions that the term “flexible” is ambiguous, “since each of the principal fields of application has appropriated the term to represent its own particular viewpoint.” At the time of publication (1947), there was no quantifiable method to determine the “flexibility” of a polymer; the elongation modulus and torsion test were the only two methods reported by the author as a measure of flexibility.

Gel theory rationalizes why covalently bound internally plasticized systems are comparatively inefficient to non-covalently bound externally plasticized systems:³⁰ an external plasticizer is free to solvate and desolvate at the “active centers” within the polymer. The non-covalently bound plasticizer is able to more efficiently displace three-dimensional inter-chain interactions than a covalently bound internal plasticizer, which does not experience the same freedom of diffusion and solvation-desolvation. By design, an internal plasticizer is less effective at disassociating active centers due to its inability to move throughout the matrix: in a sense, these plasticizers are constantly solvating the main chain due to its covalent attachment. This ultimately diminishes the emollient’s ability to induce desolvation and disaggregation between polymer chains.

Free volume theory of plasticization involves the quantitative measurements of polymer physical properties. Qualitatively, free volume theory describes the empty space between polymer chains, which depend on the amount of polymer end groups, side chain flexibility, and polymer molecular weight. Some of these metrics are measured in terms of temperature, viscosity, specific volume, and glass transition temperature (T_g). This theory lends itself to quantifying plasticization *via* the glass transition temperature of a polymer. Empirically, as temperature decreases, the volume between molecules during the transition of a liquid to a glass *diminishes*. This sudden reduction in free volume occurs at a specific

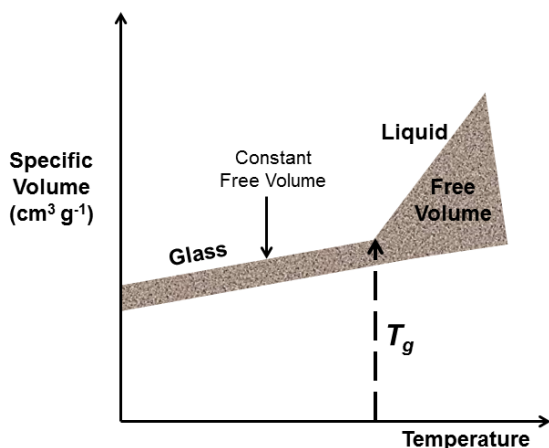


Figure 1.4 Graphical representation of the phase transition between liquid to glass

temperature, hence the term “glass transition temperature.” **Figure 1.4** describes the phase transition from a liquid to a glass in terms of free volume and temperature. From a macromolecular perspective, a polymer will experience increased rotational and translational motion at higher temperatures due to a greater abundance of volume, while the

same polymer will have less volume to rotate and translate at lower temperatures. Hence, when a polymer is flexible at room temperature, it will possess a low glass transition temperature: a lower temperature is required to achieve a glass-like physical state with the flexible polymer, than a polymer that exhibits greater rigidity.

In 1950, Flory and Fox³⁸ were the first to postulate the free volume theory in terms of specific volumes in polystyrene (PS) as a function of the second-order transition temperature (T_g) and molecular weight. The glass transition temperature was proposed as an iso-free volume state, as opposed to an iso-viscosity state, which was the contemporary consensus of that era. In the publication, the authors state that, “the second-order transition is not an equilibrium transition in a thermodynamic sense, but originates from kinetic limitations on the rates of the internal adjustments occasioned by changes in temperature.”³⁸ The authors rationalize that at temperatures below the T_g , the internal mobility of the polymer is “insufficient for maintenance of the equilibrium internal configuration and hence, of the equilibrium volume.”³⁸ Macroscopic viscosity is also mentioned as an inverse measure of internal mobility of a monomeric species, in which a second order transition occurs at a viscosity of approximately 10^{12} poises. However, the authors state that with a polymer, the macroscopic viscosity depends on the mobility of each chain segment *and* an “intersegment

cooperation factor," that increases with molecular weight.³⁹ These factors do not exist with a monomeric species: measurements of macroscopic viscosity at the time of publication neglected chain mobility and intersegmental motion as factors, with the viscosity of a polymer always decreasing with an increase of temperature or molecular weight.

In the study,³⁸ specific volumes of fractionated polystyrene *via* pycnometer measurements was investigated using a previously published method.⁴⁰ Polystyrene samples were heated to 217 °C due to the known densities of the polymer from absolute specific volume measurements at this temperature.³⁸ Dilatometry, a thermo-analytical method to measure the specific volume of a material over a controlled temperature protocol, was performed on polystyrene by placing a bubble-free sample into a bulb of a glass dilatometer, with special attention to avoid heating the polymer. Polystyrene ranged in size from 2970 to 85000 g/mol. Mercury was introduced at 0.005 mm Hg; the amount of mercury in the dilatometer was determined by weighing. The volume of polystyrene and mercury was determined at the calibration temperature (217 °C).³⁸ From here, measurements of the mercury in the dilatometer were taken at intervals of 10 °C below the calibration temperature of 217 °C. At all temperatures except those in the vicinity of the T_g , volume equilibrium was established, with no further changes in volume observed after 24 hours. To account for volume equilibrium within polystyrene above the T_g , each sample was allowed to stand for 10 to 60 minutes before taking a dilatometric reading. Any measurement taken at temperatures lower than the T_g required 6 to 12 hours of equilibration time.

In polystyrene samples below 25000 g/mol, specific volume measurements determined at 217 °C decrease with increasing molecular weight. In contrast, any sample above 25000 g/mol possesses similar specific volumes regardless of molecular weight. When the dilatometric data is graphed, with temperature (°C) as the abscissa, and specific volume as the ordinate axis (mL/g), the glass transition temperatures of the polystyrene samples are observed (**Figure 1.5**). There are two distinct lines that make up the specific temperature-

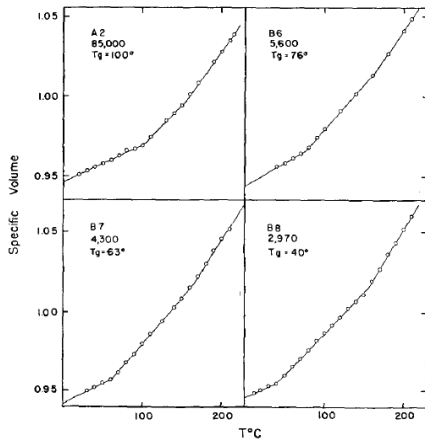


Figure 1.5 Specific Temperature-Volume Curves for Polystyrene³⁸

volume curves, with different volume-temperature coefficients, represented by the slope of each line. The intersection point of the two lines is the glass transition temperature (T_g). In the proximity of 160 °C however, the volume-temperature coefficient (the slope of the line) exhibits a further increase with increasing temperature.³⁸ The T_g of polystyrene above 25000 g/mol is nearly independent of

molecular weight, while T_g values of samples less than 25000 g/mol rapidly declined with decreasing molecular weight (**Figure 1.6**). According to the authors, the derivative specific volume-temperature coefficient (dv/dT)₃ (below the T_g), appears to be *independent* of molecular weight with an average value of 2.5×10^{-4} (mL/g)/°C, albeit with experimental error over limited temperature ranges.³⁸ The slope of the line at the bottom of **Figure 1.6** is defined as **Equation 1.1**:

$$T_g = 100 - 1.7 \times 10^5 / M \quad \text{Equation 1.1}$$

The line at the bottom of **Figure 1.5** was calculated from the curve at the top. The authors conclude that the specific volume of polystyrene below the T_g does not depend on molecular weight in its glass state. In contrast, the specific volume of the polymer is dependent on molecular weight at temperatures over the T_g .

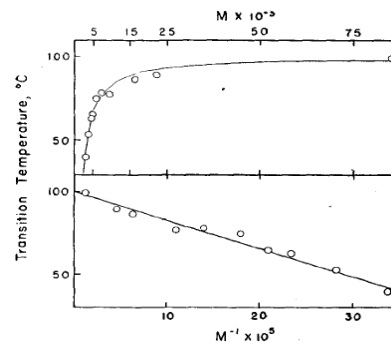


Figure 1.6 Top: T_g values of PS vs molecular weight (M_n), Bottom: T_g values of PS vs $M_n^{-1.38}$

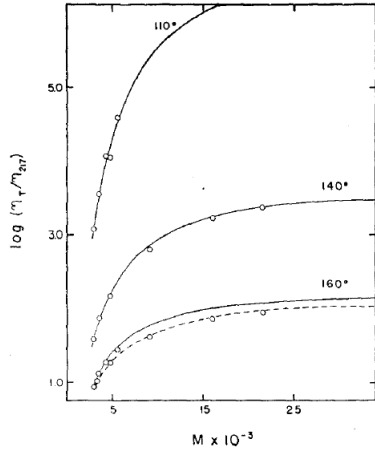


Figure 1.7 $\text{Log}(\eta_T/\eta_{217})$ vs M at 110, 140 and 160 °C for PS³⁸

The viscosities of the polystyrene samples were also investigated. At the calibration temperature (217 °C), the viscosity (η_{217}) was in agreement with previous data at high molecular weights. However, at lower molecular weights, η_{217} showed values 10 percent higher than larger molecular weight polystyrene, due to degradation of the smaller polymers.³⁸ To show the relationship of the viscosity at 217 °C (η_{217}) to the viscosity at a set temperature (η_T), data at a specific temperature for each polymer was obtained. Taking the logarithm of the ratio between η_T and η_{217} versus molecular weight revealed the viscosity changes present in different molecular weight samples at different set temperatures (**Figure 1.7**). The relationships between $\log(\eta_T/\eta_{217})$ and $1/T$ (in °K) were shown to be non-linear, and dependent on molecular weight. At 25000 g/mol or lower, polystyrene exhibits increased $\log(\eta_T/\eta_{217})$ values with increasing molecular weight; above 25000 g/mol, polystyrene $\log(\eta_T/\eta_{217})$ values remain constant. With this data, the authors derive an equation that relates viscosity to specific volume and molecular weight (**Equation 1.2**):

$$\mathbf{\log\left(\frac{\eta_T}{\eta_{217}}\right) = F(T)e^{-2530/M}} \quad \mathbf{\text{Equation 1.2}}$$

where $F(T)$ is a function of absolute temperature. The viscosity-temperature function at infinite molecular weight, $M=\infty$, along with the values of $F(T)$ obtained from the calculations from **Figure 1.7**, were found to be linear relationships of $1/T^6$. Inserting this data into **Equation 1.1**, the authors obtain **Equation 1.3**, which expresses the dependence of the viscosity-temperature relationship on temperature and molecular weight:

$$\mathbf{\log\left(\frac{\eta_T}{\eta_{217}}\right) = 2.92 \times 10^{16} \left(\left(\frac{1}{T^6}\right) - \left(\frac{1}{490^6}\right) \right) e^{-2530/M}} \quad \mathbf{\text{Equation 1.3}}$$

Differentiating **Equation 1.3** yields an expression for the “apparent energy of activation for viscous flow,”^{39a} also known as the viscosity-temperature coefficient, given by E_T (cal/mol) in

Equation 1.4:

$$E_T = \left(\frac{8.1 \times 10^{17}}{T^5} \right) e^{-2530/M} \quad \text{Equation 1.4}$$

The values of $\log \eta_T$ and E_T were calculated for the polystyrene samples at their respective glass transition temperatures. Using the equations above, the authors obtained the data displayed in **Table 1.1**.

M_n (g/mol)	T_g (°C)	$\log \eta$ at T_g	E_T at T_g (kcal/mol)
300000	99	14.19	112
100000	98	12.40	112
50000	97	11.40	111
25000	93	10.93	111
15000	89	10.57	110
10000	83	10.58	110
5000	66	10.66	109
4000	58	10.69	108
3000	43	11.31	111

Table 1.1 Viscosities and Viscosity-Temperature Coefficients (E_T) of Polystyrene³⁸

The viscosities ($\log \eta$) of the polystyrene samples are not consistent, exhibiting considerable changes with molecular weight. At molecular weights above 25000 g/mol, the viscosity decreases while at molecular weights below 25000 g/mol, viscosities remain constant. Throughout the entire spectrum of molecular weights, the energy of activation of viscous flow (also known as the viscosity-temperature coefficient, E_T) is constant, with values of 110 ± 2 kcal/mol. From **Equation 1.4**, the authors obtain a relationship of temperature (T) at which a sample with molecular weight M has a value of E_T analogous to polystyrene of an infinite molecular weight ($M = \infty$), possessing a glass transition temperature ($T_{g,\infty}$) (**Equation 1.5**):

$$\frac{8.1 \times 10^{17}}{T_{g,\infty}^5} = \frac{8.1 \times 10^{17}}{T^5} e^{-2530/M} \quad \text{Equation 1.5}$$

Solving for T and using the two terms of the series expansion of the exponential term, the authors obtain **Equation 1.6**:

$$T = T_{g,\infty}(1 - 506/M) \quad \text{Equation 1.6}$$

Finally, inserting the value for $T_{g,\infty}$ of 373 °K, then converting to °C, **Equation 1.7** is obtained, which incidentally, is the same as **Equation 1.1** (within limits of experimental accuracy):

$$T_g = 100 - 1.9 \times 10^5 / M \quad \text{Equation 1.7}$$

From the data obtained during the study, Flory and Fox derived an equation, known contemporarily as the Flory-Fox equation (**Equation 1.8**):

$$T_g = T_{g,\infty} - \frac{K}{M_n} \quad \text{Equation 1.8}$$

Where T_g is the glass transition temperature, $T_{g,\infty}$ is the maximum glass transition temperature that can be achieved at a theoretical infinite molecular weight, K is an intrinsic constant associated with a polymer type, and M_n , which is the molecular weight of the polymer. From **Equation 1.8**, it is clear that M_n influences the T_g of a polymer sample, where a larger molecular weight (M_n) increases the T_g of the sample.

The second-order transition temperatures (T_g) for the polystyrene series are not iso-viscous, as was believed at the time of publication. At the glass transition temperature, the viscosity-temperature coefficient (E_T) is independent of molecular weight; in this way, the authors prove that T_g is a function of iso-free volume, rather than an iso-viscous state. Essentially, local segmental motion of a polymer is an imperative factor which directly influences the T_g by creating free volume between adjacent chains. This phenomenon can be rationalized *via* the length of a polymer chain which is directly related to M_n : as the polymer chain increases in length, so does the inter-chain interactions between adjacent polymers while in shorter polymer chains, there are less interactions. Prior to this study, macroscopic viscosity was thought to be an ideal measurement to justify the decrease in T_g for short

versus long polymers, by initial interpretation of viscosity data with respect to polymer size. However, according to the data gathered by the authors, the viscosity-temperature coefficient (E_T) is independent of chain length, which leaves free volume between polymers as the major contributing factor affecting T_g .

Flory and Fox³⁸ rationalized that the change in T_g of the polystyrene samples were dependent on chain length and the abundance of chain ends. The increase of specific volume in the samples as molecular weight decreased can be attributed to the end groups of a polymer acting “like a foreign substance, in disrupting the local configurational order of the styrene units, and this is manifested by an increase in the specific volume...”³⁸ The free volume between segments which Flory and Fox deemed as “holes,” are a result of local segmental motion *and* mobile chain ends, which open voids between polymer main chains. Conceptually, a short polymer would inherently contain a higher abundance of chain ends over a longer polymer per unit volume. The nearest intermolecular neighbor distance is greater between a chain end and an adjacent main chain, relative to the length of the short covalent bonds that make up the polymer. An increased presence of chain ends generates more free volume. This is a source of internal plasticization in a polymeric species. As a result, a longer polymer with less chain ends will experience a higher T_g compared to a short polymer. A polymer with a lower T_g possesses more free volume than a polymer with a higher T_g ; this implies that a plasticizer which creates more free space between polymers will decrease the T_g and increase the pliability of the system.

In terms of a binary polymer-plasticizer system, Fox⁴¹ subsequently developed a means to determine how glass transition temperatures change when a low molecular weight diluent (a plasticizer) is added to a polymer. A plasticizer introduced to a polymer matrix should increase the free volume between polymer chains, thereby lowering the T_g of the mixture. The Fox equation, (**Equation 1.9**), describes a binary polymer-plasticizer system and its respective effect on the overall glass transition temperature on a mixture:

$$\frac{1}{T_g} = \frac{w_1}{T_{g,1}} + \frac{w_2}{T_{g,2}} \quad \text{Equation 1.9}$$

In **Equation 1.9**, w_1 and w_2 are the respective weight fractions of each component. The Fox equation relies on many assumptions about the binary system of interest. These assumptions are: (1) the pure polymer glass transition temperatures are constant with blend composition with the plasticizer, (2) the contributions of the polymer components are equally additive, (3) the two polymers are miscible and amorphous; and (4) that the heat capacity changes at the phase transition are the same for the two materials. The component masses are simply added together in this model, which will inherently result in a minor depression of T_g due to the small increase in entropy and free volume, with the absence of interactions between plasticizer and polymer chain. In this sense, **Equation 1.9** does not account for the specific volume and expansion coefficients of both components. The Gordon-Taylor equation⁴² (**Equation 1.10**) accounts for the specific volume and expansion coefficients of each component by the addition of factor k into the Fox equation:

$$T_g = \frac{w_1 T_{g,1} + k w_2 T_{g,2}}{w_1 + k w_2} \quad \text{Equation 1.10}$$

Gordon and Taylor⁴² based their model on a linear change in volume with temperature.⁴³ Factor k depends on the change in the thermal expansion coefficient (α) as the components change from a glassy to a flexible state, as described in **Equation 1.11**:

$$k = \left(\frac{V_2}{V_1} \right) \left(\frac{\Delta\alpha_2}{\Delta\alpha_1} \right) \quad \text{Equation 1.11}$$

In **Equation 1.11**, the specific volumes (V) at corresponding T_g values are accounted for along with the thermal expansion coefficient (α). If applying the Boyer-Simha rule⁴⁴ to the Gordon-Taylor equation, in which $\Delta\alpha \cdot T_g = \text{constant}$, α is removed from factor k to simplify calculations, resulting in **Equation 1.12**:⁴³

$$k \approx \left(\frac{V_2 T_{g,1}}{V_1 T_{g,2}} \right) \quad \text{Equation 1.12}$$

In this manner, it is possible to predict the T_g of a binary polymer-plasticizer mixture, based on the concept of free volume. A lower T_g should result in a polymer that is more flexible. According free volume theory, when a plasticizer is added to PVC, PVC should become more flexible, due to the increase in free volume generated by a compatible external plasticizer. The plasticizer would enter interstitial “holes” generated in the polymer by structural defects or chain ends and eventually surround the backbone, thereby increasing free volume between the polymer chains. This in turn would increase segmental motion between polymer chains, reduce inter-chain interactions, and decrease the T_g due to an increase in free volume.

To recapitulate, the free volume of a polymer comes from three sources:³⁰ (1) motion of chain ends, (2) motion of side chains, and (3) segmental motion of the main chain. Therefore, free volume can be increased by:³⁰ (1) increasing the number of end groups, (2) increasing the number of side chains, as a form of internal plasticization, (3) increasing the probability for main chain movement by inclusion of segments of low steric hindrance and low intermolecular interaction, as another form of internal plasticization, and (4) the inclusion of a compatible compound of lower molecular weight that facilitates factors 1 through 3 as a form of external plasticization. According to Marcilla and Beltran,³⁰ increasing the molecular weight of an external plasticizer should introduce more free volume, and as a result, an increase in plasticizing efficiency. Likewise, a branched plasticizer should be more efficient than a linear one, as the branching would supposedly induce more free volume between main chains of the PVC.

1.5 Compatibility Factors Essential for Efficient Plasticization

The compatibility of a plasticizer is a measure of its solubility within the polymer of interest: the adage “like dissolves like” comes to mind. While researchers have alluded to solubility as a factor in plasticizing efficiency,^{32-35, 37} quantitative solubility parameters in the formative years of plasticization theory were scarce. Empirical methods yield results which generally agree with each other throughout the literature. However, these methods are challenging to apply to increasingly complex systems, due to the lack of an adequate qualitative measure of compatibility between polymer and plasticizer. Consequently, qualitative methods have been developed to describe the solubility, and therefore compatibility of a plasticizer with a polymer. While many approaches were developed to predict the solubility of a plasticizer, such as the Hansen solubility parameters,⁴⁵ and the Hildebrand solubility parameter,⁴⁶ the most developed theory of PVC compatibility with plasticizers is the Flory-Huggins theory.⁴⁷ Therefore, the Flory-Huggins theory will be the primary focus for the current discussion on compatibility.

The Flory-Huggins theory was developed to quantify the ability of a polymer and plasticizer to mix as a process determined by a combination of thermodynamic factors.⁴⁸ This process is described in part by the Gibbs free energy of mixing equation (**Equation 1.13**):

$$\frac{\Delta G}{RT} = x_1 \ln \phi_1 + x_2 \ln \phi_2 + \chi_1 \phi_1 \phi_2 \left(x_1 + x_2 \frac{V_2}{V_1} \right) \quad \text{Equation 1.13}$$

Where ΔG is the Gibbs free energy of mixing and x_1 and x_2 are mole fractions of plasticizer and polymer, respectively. The factors ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are volume fractions of plasticizer and polymer. Finally, χ_1 is the Flory-Huggins interaction parameter. The first two terms in **Equation 1.13** are a result of the entropy of mixing experienced by the plasticizer and polymer: these terms are always negative. The Flory-Huggins interaction parameter (χ_1) is dimensionless and represents the difference in interaction energy between a molecule of

plasticizer in the pure polymer and the interaction energy of a molecule of plasticizer immersed in a pure solution of itself. The Huggins interaction parameter is then used to derive an equation to characterize plasticizer activity, as shown in **Equation 1.14**:

$$\ln a_1 = \frac{\Delta\mu_1}{RT} = \ln(1 - \varphi_2) + \varphi_2 + \chi_1\varphi_2^2 \quad \text{Equation 1.14}$$

where a_1 is the plasticizer activity and μ_1 is the chemical potential of the plasticizer. Generally, a value of 0.55 or less for X_1 deems a plasticizer sufficiently compatible with a polymer.⁴⁹ A mixture with a Flory-Huggins interaction parameter value between 0.55 and 0.3 is considered to possess moderate solubility, while any value below 0.3 predicts excellent compatibility between plasticizer and polymer.⁴⁹ Historically, the interaction between PVC and plasticizer has been studied to determine overall compatibility with respect to the Flory-Huggins interaction parameter (X_1).

In an early study by Zable and Doty,⁵⁰ a variety of aliphatic plasticizers were investigated to determine the Flory-Huggins interaction parameters in PVC *via* swelling measurements. PVC was chosen as the model polymer due to its tendency to crosslink when heated. This crosslinking factor was essential to this study, as the equation derived to determine X introduced a parameter M_c which, according to the authors, “can be interpreted as the average molecular weight between crosslinks.” **Equation 1.15** accounts for M_c , which was utilized to determine X *via* equilibrium swelling due to the crosslinks introduced into PVC, which formed a gel structure:

$$\chi v_2^2 = -\ln(1 - v_2) - v_2 - \rho_2 V_1 v_2^{1/3} / M_c \quad \text{Equation 1.15}$$

where v_2 is the volume fraction of PVC at swelling equilibrium, ρ_2 is the density of pure PVC and V_1 is the molal volume in solvent. The authors determined the degree of swelling with freshly crosslinked PVC in three standard solvents, thereby obtaining standardized values for M_c . A mixture of an appropriate amount of plasticizer into crosslinked PVC was measured in

terms of the degree of swelling, which led to the calculation of X. Selected X values of PVC-plasticizer mixtures are shown in **Table 1.2**.

Plasticizer	X (at 76°C)
Di- <i>n</i> -Hexyl Phthalate	-0.09
Di- <i>n</i> -Butyl Phthalate	-0.01
Di- <i>i</i> -sooctyl Phthalate	0.03
Di-Ethyl Phthalate	0.40
Di-Methyl Phthalate	0.53

Table 1.2 Flory-Huggins Interaction Parameter Values for Crosslinked PVC and Plasticizer⁵⁰

A subsequent study done by Anagnostopoulos et al.,⁵¹ describes X values utilizing a microdetermination method in which a single PVC particle in the presence of excess diluent (plasticizer) is measured going from a gel-state to a sol-state on a hot-stage microscope. A drop of plasticizer was placed on a microslide with a few granules of PVC and mixed with a microspatula. Anagnostopoulos accounts for the “apparent melting temperature” of PVC, while Zable and Darby⁵⁰ solely utilized the degree of swelling to determine X. The study also accounts for ΔH_u , which is the heat of fusion per mole of repeating monomer unit, the melting point of the pure polymer (T_m°), and the depressed melting temperature (T_m) (**Equation 1.16**):

$$1/T_m - 1/T_m^\circ = (R/\Delta H_u)(V_u/V_1)(v_1 - \chi v_1^2) \quad \text{Equation 1.16}$$

where V_u and V_1 are the molar volumes of the polymer repeating unit and plasticizer, respectively, and v_1 is the volume fraction of the plasticizer. Selected Flory-Huggins interaction parameter data obtained from the experiment are shown in **Table 1.3**.

Plasticizer	Flory-Huggins Interaction Parameter (X)
Di- <i>n</i> -Butyl Phthalate	-0.05
Di- <i>n</i> -Hexyl Phthalate	-0.04
Di- <i>i</i> -sooctyl Phthalate	-0.03
Di-Ethyl Phthalate	0.34
Di-Methyl Phthalate	0.52

Table 1.3 Flory-Huggins Interaction Parameter Values via Anagnostopoulos' Micromethod⁵¹

In a similar study, Bigg⁴⁹ investigated Flory-Huggins interaction parameters for PVC and plasticizers. Bigg utilizes the same method as Anagnostopoulos,⁵¹ with the only major difference being the use of a more sophisticated transmitted-light hot-stage microscope apparatus. The modern equipment achieved better contrast, leading to increased accuracy.⁵¹

Table 1.4 gives Flory-Huggins interaction parameter data obtained from the experiment:

Plasticizer	Flory-Huggins Interaction Parameter (X)
Di- <i>n</i> -Butyl Phthalate	0.04
Di- <i>Iso</i> octyl Phthalate	0.05
<i>n</i> -Butyl Benzyl Phthalate	0.17

Table 1.4 Bigg's X Values of PVC-Plasticizer (Improved Hot-Stage Microscope)⁴⁹

Tomaselli et al.⁵² described Flory-Huggins interaction parameters for PVC and aliphatic ester plasticizers in a similar manner to Anagnostopoulos⁵¹ and Bigg.⁴⁹ However, in the study, mixtures of plasticizers were investigated, along with the single plasticizer systems previously investigated. Of particular interest to the current topic of discussion are the single component plasticizer systems; the X values are listed in **Table 1.5**.

Plasticizer	Flory-Huggins Interaction Parameter (X)
Di- <i>Iso</i> octyl Phthalate	-0.24
Di- <i>n</i> -Butyl Phthalate	-0.22
Di-Octyl Decyl Phthalate	-0.16
<i>n</i> -Butyl Benzyl Phthalate	-0.09
Di- <i>Iso</i> decyl Phthalate	-0.07

Table 1.5 Tomaselli's PVC-Plasticizer Flory-Huggins Interaction Values⁵²

In a relatively recent study, Brown and coworkers⁵³ developed an automated microtechnique as a modification of Anagnostopoulos' method⁵¹ to determine the apparent melting temperature of PVC in excess plasticizer. A microscope equipped with a photodiode sensor was utilized to measure the amount of light transmitted through a plasticizer sample containing a PVC particle as the temperature is increased at a fixed rate.⁵³ The apparent melting temperature of the mixture is characterized by a sigmoidal change in the light

transmitted through a fixed area. Different heating rates were executed, ultimately yielding the X values displayed in **Table 1.6**:

Plasticizer	Heating Rate (°C/min)	Flory-Huggins Parameter (X)
Di-Methyl Phthalate	0.2	0.34
	1.0	0.35
Di- <i>n</i> -Butyl Phthalate	0.2	-0.30
	1.0	-0.23
Di- <i>s</i> ooctyl Phthalate	0.2	-0.31
	1.0	-0.23

Table 1.6 Flory-Huggins Interaction Values of PVC-Plasticizer Utilizing Automatic Photodiode Microtechnique⁵³

The studies measuring the Flory-Huggins interaction parameter with PVC and plasticizer agree with one another, as seen in **Table 1.7**:

Plasticizer	X Zable ⁵⁰	X Anagnostopoulos ⁵¹	X Bigg ⁴⁹	X Tomaselli ⁵²	X Brown ⁵³
Di- <i>n</i> -Butyl Phthalate	-0.01	-0.05	0.04	-0.22	-0.30 (0.2 °C/min)
					-0.23 (1.0 °C/min)
Di- <i>n</i> -Hexyl Phthalate	-0.09	-0.04	-	-	-
Di- <i>s</i> ooctyl Phthalate	0.03	-0.03	0.05	-0.24	-0.31 (0.2 °C/min)
					-0.23 (1.0 °C/min)
Di-Ethyl Phthalate	0.40	0.34	-	-	-
Di-Methyl Phthalate	0.53	0.52	-	-	0.34 (0.2 °C/min)
					0.35 (1.0 °C/min)
<i>n</i> -Butyl Benzyl Phthalate	-	-	0.17	-0.09	-
<i>n</i> -Octyl <i>n</i> -Decyl Phthalate	-	-	-	-0.16	-
Di- <i>s</i> odecyl Phthalate	-	-	-	-0.07	-

Table 1.7 Compiled Flory-Huggins Interaction Parameter Values of PVC-Plasticizers⁴⁹⁻⁵³

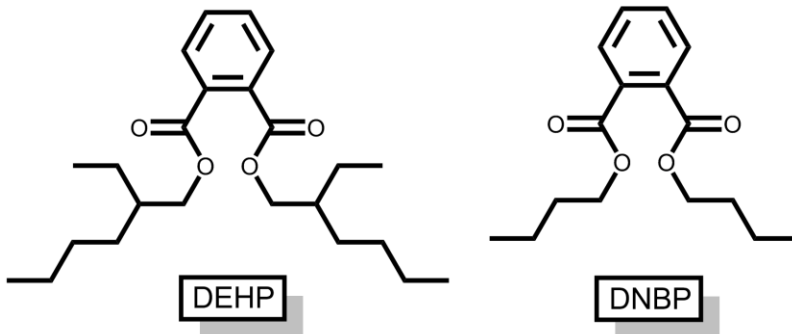


Figure 1.8 DEHP versus DNBP Structure

In terms of plasticizer structure, a plasticizer will most efficiently solvate a polymer chain when the polarity of both entities are similar.⁴⁸

The interactions

between the polymer backbone and plasticizer will have the lowest energy of interaction and readily dissolves when mixed. In a thermodynamic sense, the energy of interaction between a polymer and a plasticizer must be greater than the energy of interaction between plasticizer-plasticizer and polymer-polymer interactions. There must be the existence of functional groups within each entity which establish solubility and therefore compatibility. When taking into consideration the quantitative Flory-Huggins interaction parameter, di-*n*-butyl phthalate (DNBP) and DEHP possess similar values across all studies, which implies that DEHP is a superior plasticizer from the perspective of free volume theory. Per unit plasticizer, DEHP should impart more free volume to PVC due to its structure. The aliphatic chains in DEHP are large and contain a chiral center, which creates a branch point in the chain, as a mixture of diastereomers, increasing the disorder. DNBP, on the other hand, contains less carbon atoms and does not possess a branch point (**Figure 1.8**). Therefore, DEHP should possess superior plasticization efficiency over DNBP as an external plasticizer for PVC due its similar compatibility with PVC and larger, bulkier structure.

1.6 Phthalate Plasticizers

Historically, phthalates were introduced in the 1920s as a PVC plasticizer to replace camphor, which has an odor and high volatility.⁵⁴ The commercial availability of PVC in 1931, and the synthesis of DEHP (**Figure 1.1, 1.8**) in 1933, spurred the growth and development of

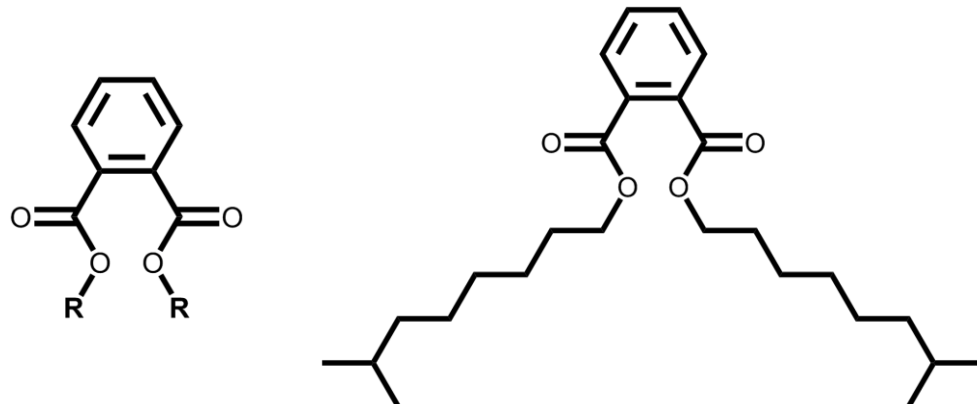


Figure 1.9 *Left: Generalized Phthalic Acid Ester, Right: Di-isononyl Phthalate (DINP)*

the flexible PVC industry.⁵⁴ Phthalic acid esters also known as phthalates, are the most prevalent plasticizer type utilized globally. Structurally, all phthalates contain a benzene-1,2-dicarboxylate moiety with a myriad of chemical groups that may be utilized as the “R” groups. Di-isononyl phthalate (DINP) (**Figure 1.9**) is currently the second most common phthalate plasticizer, second only to DEHP worldwide.⁵⁵

Today, flexible PVC accounts for 80-90% of the total world plasticizer consumption.⁵⁶ According to IHS Chemical, in 2014, phthalates made up 70% of the global plasticizer market, while DEHP made up 37% of the plasticizer market: DEHP is the largest-volume plasticizer globally.⁵⁶ Another source, Micromarket Monitor, found that DEHP made up 45.7% of the global plasticizer market in 2014.⁵⁵ Overall phthalate consumption has decreased since 2005, when phthalates made up 88% of the global plasticizer market.

As mentioned previously, DEHP has an array of applications in combination with PVC, ranging from the construction industry to the medical service field. Nearly 40 percent of all plastic items in a medical setting are PVC-DEHP mixtures.⁹ While the medical applications of PVC-DEHP mixtures are immense, DEHP is the major component utilized in blood bags.⁹ The blood bag was invented by Dr. Carl Walter in 1947,⁵⁷ leading to its widespread use in 1955.⁵⁸ PVC-DEHP was chosen as the material of choice by Walter due to its elastic

properties, while being robust enough to permit sterilization *via* steam.⁵⁷ Early on, PVC-DEHP was observed to reduce the onset of bacterial infections during blood storage.⁵⁷ Interestingly, DEHP also has the ability to impart desirable optical and pliant properties to the PVC-based blood bag, while osmotically stabilizing red blood cells⁵⁹ up to 9% better than systems without it.⁶⁰ The retention of normal morphology and reduction in hemolysis of the red blood cells is directly attributed to DEHP.⁶⁰ DEHP enhances the rate of *in vivo* patient recovery by preserving red blood cells up to 24% better after reinfusion as compared to the equivalent trimellitate-plasticized blood bag.⁶⁰ The presence of PVC-DEHP blood bags in medicine has been a cornerstone of medical practice for more than half a century; thus the industry has a large amount of experience with the material. As a result, manufacturers are careful to not introduce additional risks through changes in product specifications which may result in weaker bags.⁵⁸

Despite the benefits of DEHP in blood-bearing medical supplies, DEHP is known to leach out of these materials directly into the blood at high concentrations:⁶¹ this is due to DEHP not being covalently bound to PVC.⁶² Adverse health effects stemming from DEHP and its phthalate relatives have called legislators around the world to put restrictions on its use as a plasticizer in many consumer products.⁶³ The European Union (EU) has banned the use of certain phthalates in toys, food containing materials, and cosmetics.⁶⁴ The United States has banned DEHP, along with di-*n*-butyl phthalate (DNBP) and *n*-butyl benzyl phthalate (BBzP) in any amount greater than 0.1 weight percent in child care products, while placing restrictions on DINP, di-*is*odecyl phthalate (DIDP), and di-*n*-octyl phthalate (DNOP) on any product that may enter the mouth of a child.⁶⁵ Phthalates leach⁶⁶ from consumer and medical products, enter the body, and act as endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC).⁶² The adverse biological effects of phthalates on human physiology are of major concern, and are discussed herein.

1.7 Adverse Biological Effects: Phthalates

Human exposure to these plasticizers is imminent and unavoidable, due to the ubiquitous presence in consumer products. Routes of exposure to phthalates comes in many forms: ingestion, inhalation, dermal absorption, and intravenous injection.⁶⁷ Ingestion has been shown to be the primary source of phthalate exposure in the general population through dietary intake of contaminated food.⁶⁷ Medical devices also introduce phthalates (predominately DEHP) to hospital patients *via* containers holding blood, nutritional formulas, and respiratory gases.⁶⁷ Toys designed for children made of PVC softened with phthalates is another oral source of exposure. Inhalation by baking polymer modelling clay at home has been shown to be a route of exposure, with many clay samples containing 3.5% to 14% phthalate by weight.⁶⁸ House dust and indoor air is another route for inhalation exposure, stemming from outgassing plastics present in household products such as furniture, flooring, toys, and automobile parts.⁶⁹ Dermal absorption of phthalates occur when coming into direct contact with cosmetics, sunscreens, polymer modelling clay, toys, shower curtains, and yoga pads. Fortunately, studies have shown that the rate of phthalate dermal absorption is generally slow in both rodents and humans.⁷⁰ Often, the highest levels of exposure occurs intravenously, through leaching of DEHP from PVC blood bags and tubing. DEHP frequently comprises more than 40-50 percent of the weight in the material used in flexible medical PVC.⁹

The leaching action of DEHP from PVC blood bags was first noted in an early study by Jaeger and Rubin in 1970.⁶¹ In 1972, Jaeger and Rubin⁷¹ further investigated the migration of DEHP from PVC blood bags, measuring the rate of extraction of the plasticizer in human and dog blood at 4 °C. DEHP was found to migrate at 0.25±0.03 mg per 100 mL of blood per day.⁷¹ The plasticizer was found in lipid and lipid-free fractions of blood plasma, while red blood cells contained only minute amounts of DEHP. In 1973, the same authors⁷² found DEHP localized in the liver, lung, spleen, and adipose tissue of patients in a hospital

setting. In addition, the authors were the first to describe phthalate metabolites in the urine as a method of detection.⁷² Leaching of DEHP from flexible PVC varies with lipid content, temperature, storage time, and agitation.⁶⁷ Due to the hydrophobic nature of DEHP, a higher lipid content of the intravenous liquid increases leaching and exposure of the phthalate to the patient.⁷³ Knowledge in the years following Jaeger and Rubin's discovery of DEHP leaching into the blood of patients spurred the establishment of a tolerable daily intake (TDI), a reference dose level (RfD), and minimum risk levels (MRL) by a variety of expert panels worldwide. **Table 1.8** describes the TDI, RfD, and MRL of select phthalates for humans.⁶²

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Scientific Committee on Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment (CSTEE), and the European Chemicals Bureau (ECB) all rate DEHP as a fairly toxic chemical, with tolerable exposures ranging from 0.02 to 0.100 milligrams per

Phthalate	Region	Committee	Year	mg/kg bw/day	MRL/TDI/RfD
DEHP	USA	US-EPA	1991	0.020	RfD (Chronic)
		ATSDR	2002	0.100	MRL (Intermediate)
	EU	CSTEE	1998	0.050	TDI
		ECB/EU	2004	0.020	TDI (Newborns, Women)
	CAN	Health Canada	1994	0.044	TDI
DNBP	USA	US-EPA	1990	0.1	RfD (Chronic)
		ATSDR	2001	0.5	MRL (Acute Oral)
	EU	CSTEE	1998	0.1	TDI
	CAN	Health Canada	1994	0.06	TDI
DINP	EU	CSTEE	1998	0.15	TDI
DIDP	EU	CSTEE	1998	0.25	TDI

Table 1.8 Risk Assessment of Selected Phthalates⁶²

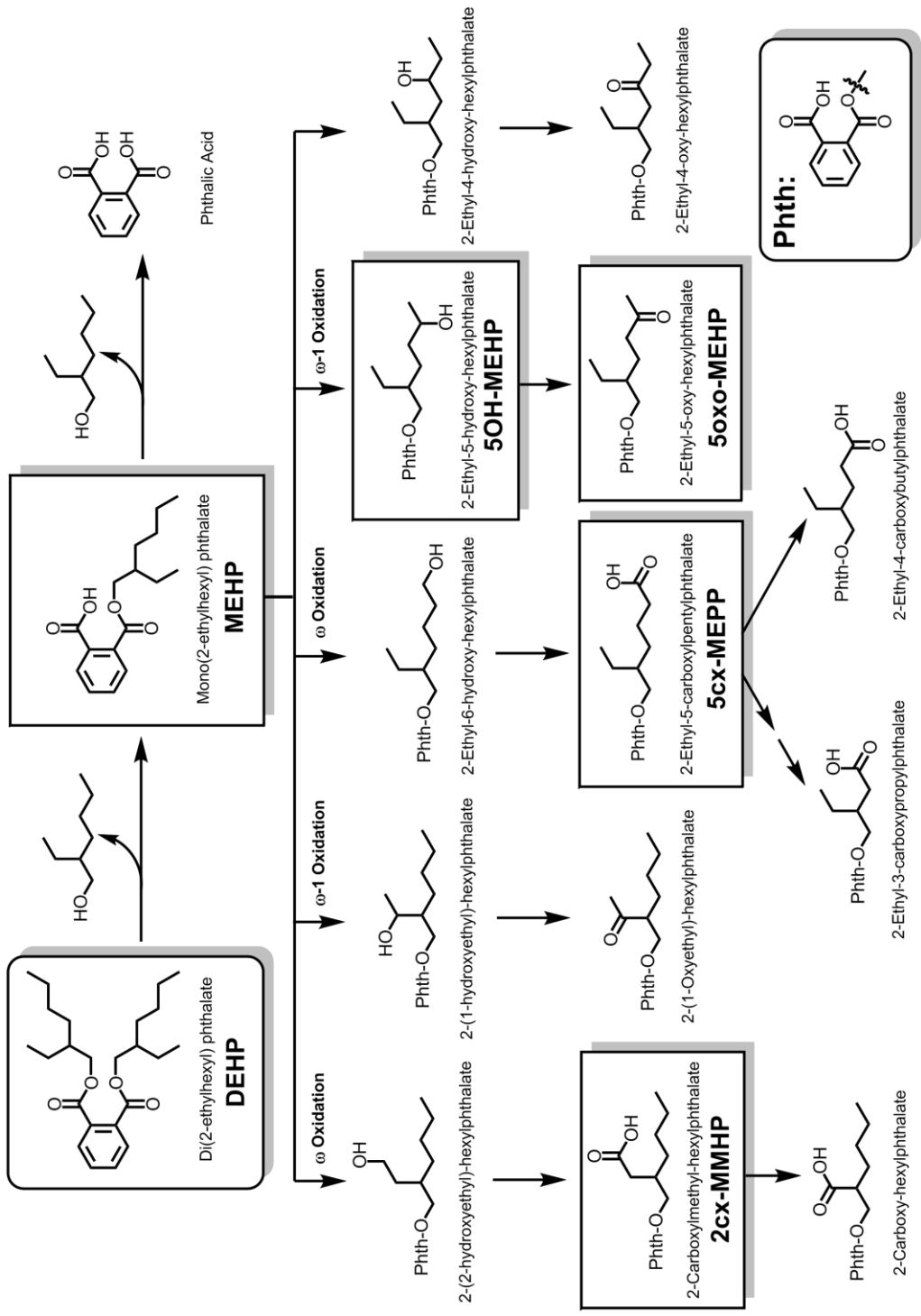
kilogram per body weight per day (mg/kg bw/day). DNBP, DINP, and DIDP are rated as less toxic than DEHP, with higher RfD, MRL and TDI values ranging from 0.06 to 0.5 mg/kg bw/day. Phthalates are not acutely toxic, with median lethal dose (LD₅₀) values ranging 1 to 30 gram(s) per kilogram of body weight.⁶² The inherent danger of DEHP lies in its subacute

toxic effects on organs, not its acute toxicity. DEHP has been studied in the lungs,⁷⁴ heart,⁷⁵ kidneys,⁷⁶ liver,⁷⁷ ovaries,⁷⁸ and the testis.⁷⁹

Recently, phthalate exposure assessment has increasingly focused on human biomonitoring.⁸⁰ Urinary analysis is a common method to measure internal exposure of phthalates in humans.⁶² In an early study, Albro and Moore⁸¹ studied rat urinary metabolites of phthalates, which were administered orally. High-pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) was used to determine the primary and secondary metabolites in urine samples. Low molecular weight phthalates such as dimethyl and di-*n*-butyl phthalate are metabolized into their monoesters and excreted.⁸¹ Dimethyl phthalate is excreted as a significant component in urine, while di-*n*-butyl phthalate was found to be a trace component during urinary analysis. Higher molecular weight phthalates such as di-*n*-octyl phthalate are hydrolyzed to the monoester, then subsequently metabolized into smaller alkyl chain derivatives by ω and ω -1 oxidation, followed by α or β oxidation. Albro⁸² postulated that there are a myriad of metabolic pathways that play a role in converting DEHP to water-soluble excretion products. DEHP is initially metabolized into its primary metabolite, mono-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (MEHP), which result from gut lipase hydrolysis. The liver, kidney, lungs, pancreas and plasma also contain enzymes capable of converting DEHP to MEHP, however to a lesser degree than the intestinal tract.¹¹ At least 98% of ¹⁴C present in the urine of rats given carbonyl ¹⁴C-labeled DEHP either orally or intravenously was accounted for by 20 metabolites, none of which is the parent diester phthalate.⁸² Moreover, 2-ethylhexanol, another primary metabolite of DEHP, is further metabolized into at least 7 secondary metabolites.⁸³ Both MEHP and 2-ethylhexanol are subsequently metabolized in the liver into various secondary metabolites, which specifically depend on the mammal of interest. For example, primates generally glucuronidate MEHP prior to excretion,⁸⁴ while rodents metabolize MEHP *via* oxidation pathways.¹¹ In this capacity, MEHP is subsequently modified by various side-chain hydroxylation and oxidation biochemical reactions.⁸⁵ Major DEHP metabolites currently

known are mono-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (MEHP), mono-(2-ethyl-5-hydroxyhexyl) phthalate (5OH-MEHP), mono-(2-ethyl-5-oxohexyl) phthalate (5oxo-MEHP), mono-(2-ethyl-5-carboxypentyl) phthalate (5cx-MEPP), and mono-[2(carboxymethyl)hexyl] phthalate (2cx-MMHP) (**Scheme 1.4**).⁸⁵ In rat⁸⁴ and hamster⁸⁶ models, Lhuguenot and co-workers determined that the predominant oxidation pathway for DEHP was *via* ω -1, due to the prevalence of these metabolites in both mammalian model systems. DEHP metabolism is both time and dose dependent. An increase in peroxisome proliferation was noted in the rat model, but not the hamster model. For context, the peroxisome is an organelle that is responsible for the oxidation of fatty acid chains and the production of hydroxyl and superoxide radicals.⁸⁷ Hamsters are known to be resistant to peroxisome proliferation,⁸⁶ and as a result the ω -1 oxidized products were found as water soluble glucuronide conjugates, as sometimes found in primate models. In rats however, the ω -1 oxidized products were found in their respective non-water soluble, non-conjugated forms. DEHP belongs to a class of molecules known as peroxisome proliferators (PPs), which cause increased oxidative stress due to the overexpression of H₂O₂-generating peroxisomal fatty acyl-CoA oxidase and the overproduction of other reactive oxygen species.^{87b} Therefore, the peroxisome proliferation effect of DEHP may explain the origin of the oxidized secondary metabolites of MEHP found to be prevalent in bioanalysis of rodent and human exposure to DEHP.

For decades, MEHP was the sole biomarker utilized in identifying internal exposure to DEHP.⁸⁸ This was due to initial evidence showing that MEHP, not DEHP, was one of the major causative agents of toxicity.⁸⁹ However, using MEHP as the sole biomarker to determine phthalate exposure may prove to be an inefficient means of analysis. MEHP is externally formed from DEHP by abiotic processes and can exist as a standalone environmental contaminant.⁶² When investigating individuals for exposure to phthalates in a 2541 person study,⁸⁸ MEHP levels were much lower than expected, despite the ubiquity of



Scheme 1.4 DEHP Metabolic Products ⁸⁵

DEHP in consumer products: this brought in to question the accuracy of using MEHP as a biomarker for assessing DEHP exposure.

In a study done by Koch,⁸⁵ MEHP represented only 7.3% of the original DEHP dose administered, as analyzed in urine, while possessing the shortest half-life of elimination compared to other metabolites investigated. Oxidized secondary metabolites have been shown to be up to 100 times more embryotoxic than MEHP, with considerably longer half-lives.^{62, 85} In humans, secondary metabolites such as 5OH-MEHP and 5oxo-MEHP make up 38.5% of the oral DEHP dose given after 24 hours.⁸⁵ In total, approximately 70% of DEHP metabolites found in urine are oxidized secondary metabolites, which include 5OH-MEHP, 5oxo-MEHP, 5cx-MEPP, and 2cx-MMHP.⁹⁰ Half-lives of DEHP metabolites were found to be: 5 hours (MEHP), 10 hours (5OH-MEHP and 5oxo-MEHP), 12 to 15 hours (5cx-MEPP) and 24 hours (2cx-MMHP).⁸⁵ Unlike MEHP, accurate analysis of these oxidized secondary metabolites is not subject to external environmental contamination. In combination with longer half-lives, higher toxicity and lower contamination risks than MEHP, urinary analysis of DEHP exposure has been shifting toward these oxidized species as biomarkers.

Androgens are steroids essential to the development of the male internal and external male reproductive tract.⁹¹ During fetal development, androgens are produced by the testes and mediate the formation of the mesonephric (Woffian) duct. In proto-male development, the mesonephric duct differentiates into the vas deferens, epididymis, ejaculatory ducts, and seminal vesicles. This masculinization process is regulated *via* testosterone. External male genitalia and prostate development are mediated by a potent metabolite of testosterone, dihydrotestosterone (DHT). The role of the endocrine system in male reproductive development is easily affected by endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) such as DEHP, which interfere with the production, distribution, and action of androgens. DEHP and other phthalates have been shown to profoundly disrupt the physical development of the male reproductive tract in rodent models, in an array of *in vivo* studies.⁹² In general,

physical abnormalities caused by DEHP during and post-natal development of rodent models include: malformed external genitalia, hypospadias, cryptorchidism, Leydig cell hyperplasia, seminiferous cord and prostate abnormalities, malformation of the epididymis and vas deferens, retention of thoracic nipples/areolae, and reductions in anogenital distance (AGD).⁹³ For context, AGD is the distance between the anus and genitals, and is considered an important endpoint for hormonally regulated sex differentiation in rodents, as it is controlled by dihydrotestosterone, a potent steroid agonist of the androgen receptor (AR).⁹⁴ AGDs are normally twice as long in males (compared to females) in both rodents and humans.⁹⁵

A study by Vinggaard and co-workers⁹⁶ observed the biochemical effects of DEHP on gonocytes and Leydig cells. Quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reactions revealed reduced testicular mRNA expression of many steroidogenesis related factors.⁹⁶ Nuclear receptor SF-1 (a Leydig cell product responsible for the first phase of testicular descent during fetal development) is crucial in regulating key steps of steroid biosynthesis, germ cell survival, bone metabolism, and INSL-3.⁹⁷ Decreased expression of SF-1 led to reduced INSL-3 levels, which is commonly associated with cryptorchidism. Immunohistochemistry studies showed a decrease in SR-B1 (an integral membrane protein involved in the uptake of cholesteryl esters from high-density lipoproteins in the liver), StAR (a transport protein that regulates cholesterol transfer in the mitochondria, which is the rate-limiting step in steroidogenesis), PBR (a translocator protein of the steroidogenic machinery mediating cholesterol delivery from the outer to the inner mitochondrial membrane), and P450_{scc} (cholesterol side-chain cleavage enzyme, a mitochondrial enzyme that normally catalyzes the conversion of cholesterol to pregnenolone) levels in Leydig cells. From the immunology assays, a particular protein of interest is PPAR γ : a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor, which regulates fatty acid storage and glucose metabolism, also experienced decreased expression. The decrease in expression of these key receptors and enzymes are involved in

the downregulation of steroidogenesis, which may explain the observed physical effects in the mis-development of the male reproductive tract.⁹⁶

Oxidized secondary metabolites of MEHP are the chemical agents responsible for reprotoxic effects in rodent models. Parks⁹⁸ investigated the mechanism by which DEHP affects transgenerational reproductive toxicity in a rat model. DEHP causes a decrease of testosterone (T) levels in male fetal and neonatal specimens upon maternal treatment with DEHP from gestation to postnatal day. Anogenital distance (AGD) was reduced by 36% in exposed male, but not in female specimens. After 20 days post-gestation, DEHP maternal exposure significantly reduced testicular mass. The authors note large, less dispersed clusters of Leydig cells (LC) in 3 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (3 β -HSD) staining in the testes of the treatment group than for the control. 3 β -HSD is an enzyme responsible for converting androstenediol to testosterone. Using a human androgen receptor (hAR) transfected COS cell line, neither DEHP nor MEHP exhibited affinity for hAR receptor at concentrations up to 10 μ M *in vitro*. An anti-androgenic effect is observed *in vivo*, but not *in vitro*, with DEHP or MEHP. This implies that the metabolites subsequently produced from MEHP, not MEHP itself, are the cause for developmental dysfunction of male sexual organs in the rat model, which can be transmitted in a transgenerational manner between mother and male fetus.

Foster et al.^{93a} investigated phthalate esters and their effect on HepG2 cells transfected with AR and a reporter gene. Examination from testes of fetal rats indicated markedly lower T levels and increased Leydig cell abundance after phthalate exposure to pregnant female rats. Malformations of the epididymis, vas deferens, and hypospadias were observed in DEHP treated specimens. Anogenital distance was reduced in males, as in the study done by Parks et al.,⁹⁸ while a retention of thoracic nipples/areolae was also noted. Adenomas of Leydig cells were also observed to form approximately 100 days after birth. All male offspring with maternal treatment of DEHP experienced similar phenotypes, while the

mother exhibited no symptoms, despite treatment with DEHP. Neither DNBP, DEHP, nor their major primary metabolites (MEHP) interacted with human or rodent androgen receptors in transcriptional activation assays *in vitro*. Once again, evidence of the anti-androgenic effect of DEHP in male mammalian development points to the secondary metabolites of DEHP/MEHP as the toxic causative agent, in agreement with the study by Parks.⁹⁸

Stroheker et al.⁹⁹ reported that neither DEHP nor MEHP appeared to be androgen receptor (AR) agonists in the breast cancer cell line MDA-MB453. Neither phthalate species antagonized dihydrotestosterone (DHT) activity on the MDA-MB453 cell line. However, when 5OH-MEHP and 5oxo-MEHP were tested, both oxidized metabolites of DEHP were anti-androgenic *in vitro*. Furthermore, the Hershberger assay was used on an immature castrated rat model, which examined the antagonism of DEHP on the testosterone propionate androgenic effect with respect to accessory sex organ development. The bulbocavernosus and levator ani muscles, prostate, and seminal vesicle masses were shown to decrease with increasing exposure of DEHP, while liver mass increased with exposure. Increase in liver mass may be correlated to the peroxisome proliferation effect DEHP has *in vivo*, which has been shown to cause hepatocellular tumors in rodent models.^{87a} Therefore, concomitant with the observations made by Parks⁹⁸ and Foster,^{93a} DEHP or MEHP acts as an anti-androgenic agent *in vivo*, while no androgenic effect is observed *in vitro*. The oxidized secondary metabolites of DEHP, 5OH-MEHP and 5oxo-MEHP, have an anti-androgenic effect *in vivo* due to the eventual metabolic breakdown of DEHP/MEHP into these anti-androgenic agents, while *in vitro*, there are no metabolic processes to produce the oxidized secondary metabolites from DEHP or MEHP: no anti-androgenic effect is observed. Ultimately, the studies done by Parks,⁹⁸ Foster,^{93a} and Stroheker⁹⁹ demonstrate that DEHP and its monoester metabolite MEHP are not necessarily the major causative agent of illness: rather, the oxidized secondary metabolites post-hydrolysis may be the toxic agents, possessing anti-androgenic effects on developing male rodent models.

In terms of human exposure, urinary metabolites from DEP, DNBP, BBzP and DEHP were known to be highly prevalent in the population of the United States since 1999-2000, when the Nation Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) first systematically quantified phthalate metabolites.⁶³ Higher concentrations of phthalate metabolites are commonly found in different sociodemographic populations, including children,⁸⁰ females,¹⁰⁰ non-white populations,^{100b} and individuals of lower socioeconomic status.¹⁰¹ From data gathered throughout the years, DEHP's action is known to be dose, time, gender, and age dependent.^{87b} From the studies done on rats,^{93a, 98-99} it is evident that two particularly vulnerable demographics for DEHP exposure are male children and pregnant women carrying a male fetus.

Infants and young children between 0.5 and 4 years of age consume more phthalate per kilogram of body weight than any other age demographic;⁹⁴ this is presumably due to oral exposure *via* toys and other childcare articles softened with DEHP. DEHP calculated exposure of children sucking or chewing toys and miscellaneous items reaches up to 0.085 mg/kg bw/day.⁶² DINP exposures ranged from 0.005 to 0.040 mg/kg bw/day, with 99th percentiles reaching up to 0.183 mg/kg bw/day.⁸⁹ Adolescents younger than 19 years of age are the next second largest consumers of phthalates. In Canada, estimations of DEHP consumption for infants are 0.009 mg/kg bw/day, 0.019 mg/kg bw/day for toddlers, 0.014 mg/kg bw/day for children, and 0.006 mg/kg bw/day for adults.¹⁰² In 2006, a European study found concomitant results with these statistics: exposure of DEHP and other phthalates through oral, dermal and inhalation pathways are statically higher in infants and toddlers than other age demographics.¹⁰³ In infants and toddlers, mean exposure of DINP and DIDP are calculated to be higher than the maximum exposure to any other phthalate, including DEHP. This is probably due to legislation by the European Union^{64d} to ban the use of DEHP in toys and articles used by children, which was subsequently replaced with DINP and DIDP. The maximum exposure of infants and toddlers to DEHP and DINP is higher than 0.100 mg/kg

bw/day, mainly by mouthing of toys, and the ingestion of food and dust contaminated with these phthalates.¹⁰³ This level of exposure exceeds the recommended levels prescribed by panels in the European Union (CSTEE, ECB/EU) and Canada (Health Canada) for DEHP and DINP as shown in **Table 1.8**.

The high level of phthalate exposure to developing fetuses, infants, toddlers, and children has been shown to have an array of pre and postnatal developmental effects, notably in males. Low sperm counts, hypospadias, cryptorchidism, and testicular germ cell cancer are interrelated disorders comprising testicular dysgenesis syndrome (TDS), also known as phthalate syndrome.⁹¹ TDS likely stems from environmental exposure of phthalates to pregnant women carrying a male fetus.¹⁰⁴ In 2005, Swan and co-workers¹⁰⁵ investigated the effect of prenatal environmental exposure to phthalates on human genital development. A relationship between anogenital distance (AGD) and maternal urinary concentrations of phthalate was noted. A standardized measure of AGD in 134 boys between 2 to 36 months of age was obtained, correlating penile volume with AGD. The authors created an anogenital index (AGI), which is defined as the AGD divided by the child's weight at examination. From here, an age-adjusted AGI by regression analysis was performed. Maternal prenatal urinary samples of 85 pregnant women were examined for four phthalate metabolites: monoethyl phthalate (MEP), mono-*n*-butyl phthalate (MNBP), monobenzyl phthalate (MBzP) and mono-*isobutyl* phthalate (MIBP), which were measured as predictors of AGD due to their inverse relation to age-adjusted AGI. After age adjustment, p-values were calculated for regression coefficients. For context, p-values test a null hypothesis of which the coefficient is equal to zero. If a p-value is less than 0.05, one can reject the null hypothesis, meaning that there is a meaningful addition to a statistical model. The authors obtained p-values for this metric ranging from 0.007 to 0.097. A summary phthalate score was defined to quantify the joint exposure to the four phthalates in the study. Ultimately, the data shows that the age-adjusted AGI decreased with increasing phthalate score. The authors report that the median

concentration of phthalate metabolites that are associated with a small AGI and incomplete testicular descent are below those found in 25% of the female population in the United States, and that the data support the hypothesis that prenatal exposure to environment phthalates can affect male reproductive tract develop in humans.¹⁰⁵

Subsequently in 2008, Swan et al.¹⁰⁶ investigated AGD and other genital parameters in human infants with respect to phthalate exposure, as an extension to the 2005 study. Physical examination data of 140 boys and 153 girls was taken between the ages of 2 to 36 months of age. In this population subset, 75% of the subjects also had corresponding phthalate data from maternal urine. In this case, 106 mother-son pairs with urine data and AGD were investigated. In boys, mean AGD was 70.4 mm while in girls AGD averaged 47.3 mm: males possessed on average an AGD 49% longer than females. Mothers with DEHP urinary metabolite concentrations several times higher than average gave birth to boys with shorter AGDs compared to the mean. Residual AGD correlated with penile width and length was also calculated: penile width, not length, was significantly associated with concentration of the sum of DEHP metabolites and MEHP.¹⁰⁶ Of the boys in the study who possessed information on testicular location and phthalate concentrations (n = 119), 12 had incomplete testicular descent, representing 10% of the subset. Higher DEHP metabolite concentrations were correlated with a greater probability of incomplete testicular descent. Summary phthalate scores ranged from 0 to 15, with a median value of 9. Of the 29 boys with shorter AGDs, none were born to a mother with a low summary phthalate score.¹⁰⁶ In juxtaposition, 28 of the boys with longer than average AGD values, only 1 was born to a mother with a high phthalate summary score. Once again, the authors report that urinary phthalate metabolite concentrations in prenatal development of males have an effect on AGD, and transitively, on male genital development.

Studies on the effect of phthalates on human male development are scarce, as one cannot treat expecting human mothers with phthalates and observe if the newborn male

possesses malformations of the reproductive system. It is of utmost importance to understand the effects of phthalates on developing human males, therefore a method of investigating the effects of these endocrine disruptors was developed in a rodent model using xenografted human fetal testis tissue.¹⁰⁷ Heger and co-workers¹⁰⁸ investigated the effect of di-*n*-butyl phthalate (DNBP) on human fetal testis xenografted rats. *In utero* rat models exposed to phthalate are susceptible to multinucleated germ cell (MNG) induction and suppressed steroidogenic gene expression and testosterone production in the fetal testis.¹⁰⁸ Multinucleated germ cells in males are spermatozoa with more than one nucleus, where normally only a single nucleus exists.¹⁰⁹ In contrast, mice models exhibited only MNG induction, without any steroidogenic inhibition, supporting a species-specific sensitivity to phthalate mediated suppression of steroidogenesis in Leydig cells. The rationale behind the study was to investigate human fetal testis response to phthalates, on the premise of species specific responses. Fetal rat, mouse and human testes were xenografted into immunodeficient rodent hosts. These rodent hosts were not castrate-type specimens, and as a result, the presence of host testosterone may skew the results obtained during the study.¹⁰⁷ The xenografted specimens were dosed with DNBP in corn oil for up to 3 consecutive days. AGD was assessed by treating rodent hosts at 3 days *postnatal* with DNBP. The authors deem this method “*in utero*,” however, this implies that the unborn rodent would be in the maternal host. AGD data shows reduction in rat, but not mouse postnatal models. Rats with xenografted fetal testicular tissue exhibited similar trends: fetal rat testes displayed MNG induction and suppressed gene expression of steroidogenic genes, while xenografted fetal mice testes experienced MNG induction without suppressed expression of steroidogenic genes. Xenografted fetal human testes exhibited similar results to the mice xenograph: induction of MNG without suppression of steroidogenic genes. Malformation of the seminiferous cords was observed, which is a result of MNG induction. The authors conclude “phthalate exposure of grafted human fetal testis altered germ cells but did not reduce expression of genes that regulate fetal testosterone biosynthesis.”¹⁰⁸ The phthalate under

study was DNBP, which may not produce the same toxic secondary metabolites as DEHP, which have unequivocally been shown to be reprotoxic.^{93a, 98-99} As a result, one cannot generalize to any phthalate, and a direct comparison of DNBP and DEHP in a species-specific study may not yield comparable results *in utero* or otherwise.

In a similar study by Mitchell and co-workers,¹¹⁰ the effect of DNBP exposure on testosterone production by normally human fetal testis xenographs was investigated. The human fetal testes were xenographed into castrate nude mice, which were treated for 4 to 21 days with DNBP or MDBP. All mice were treated with human chorionic gonadotropin to mimic normal human pregnancy. As a control, rat fetal testis xenografts were exposed for 4 days to DNBP. The results show that human fetal testis xenographs have a high survival rate of approximately 80%. Total graft weight, serum testosterone levels, and seminal vesicle (SV) weight did not change in DNBP or MNBP treated specimens compared to xenographed mice without treatment with DNBP. Rat xenographed specimens experienced reduced SV weight and testis Cyp11a1/StAR expression, along with reduced testosterone levels.¹¹⁰ The conclusion is that DNBP does not suppress testosterone production in human fetal testis xenographed specimens, while rat fetal xenographs are highly susceptible to the reprotoxic effects of DNBP. This conclusion is sound, as it does not generalize all phthalates as the same reprotoxic molecule. DNBP does indeed appear not to affect testosterone biosynthetic production in xenographed human fetal testes. However, the effect of DEHP on human xenographed specimens has not been investigated, and a direct comparison of DNBP to DEHP should not be made. The studies done by Heger¹⁰⁸ and Mitchell¹¹⁰ indicate that DNBP may mechanistically affect germ and Sertoli cells differently: the anti-androgenic effects of DNBP on Leydig cell steroidogenic processes are not required to cause malformations in the seminiferous cord.¹⁰⁷ In a review, Spade¹⁰⁷ comments that the human fetal testis tissues utilized in the xenographed rodents were not from the range of gestational ages identified as in the “masculinization programming window,” where phthalates would have the greatest

impact on male reproductive tract development.¹¹¹ Therefore, studies utilizing the xenograft method with human male fetal testis cells from the proper masculinization programming window of development with DNBP, DEHP, and their respective oxidized secondary metabolites would more effectively exhibit the effects of these phthalates on human male development.

Desdoits-Lethimonier et al.¹¹² examined human male testis explants and NCI-H295R adrenocortical human cells cultured *in vitro* with DEHP or MEHP to investigate the effect that the phthalates would have on an organotypic adult human testis culture. Organotypic culturing, also known as *ex-vivo* 3D culturing, involves explanting human testis tissue from prostate cancer patients in a cube, into a polyethylene terephthalate insert at the interface of air and culturing media. This maintains the three-dimensional organization of cells and extracellular matrix within the organ or tissue, giving a more accurate depiction of the subcellular biological system being investigated.¹¹³ In this study, the culturing media, Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium, contained DMSO as a control, or DEHP at different concentrations. In both human male testis explant and NCI-H295R cells, lower testosterone levels were observed. INSL3 production by Leydig cells were not affected after incubation. Reduction in fetal expression of INSL-3 is commonly associated with testicular dysgenesis syndrome.⁹⁷ The unaffected INSL-3 production implies that DEHP and MEHP effect solely steroidogenic pathways. Inhibin B production by Sertoli cells was also unaffected by DEHP or MEHP. Sertoli cells are somatic cells of the testis that are key in testis formation and spermatogenesis.¹¹⁴ Inhibin B is a protein complex that downregulates follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) secretion *via* a negative feedback loop. There is a strong positive correlation of serum inhibin B levels with testicular volume and sperm counts.¹¹⁵ Low DEHP and MEHP concentrations were reported in the human testis explant. Again, it is probable that the oxidized secondary metabolites of MEHP are responsible for the reprotoxic effects observed in mammals. The paper concluded: "the DEHP-induced inhibition of testosterone production

by our models most probably results from the activities of MEHP and 5OH-MEHP. The decline in the anti-androgenic effects observed after 48 hours of culture most likely results from this biotransformation.”¹¹² Overall, the study provides direct evidence that DEHP is able to suppress human testicular steroidogenesis.

1.8 Phthalate Plasticizer Alternatives for PVC

There is unequivocal evidence that phthalates, most notably DEHP, have adverse health effects on young developing human males. Phthalate exposure from multiple modalities during gestation results in testicular dysgenesis syndrome, which can lead to infertility, hypospadias, cryptorchidism, and testicular germ cell cancer later in life. The reprotoxic effects of DEHP outweigh its benefits as an efficient plasticizer for PVC. Global bans of DEHP by the European Union (EU)⁶⁴ and the United States⁶⁵ in children’s articles, along with restrictions in other items has spurred the development and implementation of less toxic PVC plasticizer alternatives.⁹ Examples of these alternative plasticizers include terephthalates,¹¹⁶ citrates,¹¹⁷ trimellitates,¹¹⁸ succinates,¹¹⁹ sebacates,¹²⁰ and isosorbates.¹²¹ While these purportedly less toxic plasticizers are used to soften PVC, they all share a common detriment with phthalates: they migrate and leach out of PVC.

Plasticizer migration and leaching is most effectively prevented through covalent attachment of a plasticizer to PVC,⁶²⁻⁶³ also known as internal plasticization. In the case of phthalates, DEHP leaching has led to ubiquitous contamination of materials and solvents used in the laboratory setting.¹²² Grob and Fankhauser-Noti¹²³ noted the pervasive contamination and concurrent interference of laboratory equipment measurements with DEHP and DNBP from plastic articles, solvents, and air. Marega et al.¹²⁴ examined the absorption of phthalates from the laboratory air on the outer wall of the syringe needle, which contributes to blank problems during gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC-MS) injections. Oca and co-workers¹²⁵ expressed the challenge in determining the presence of

plasticizers and other additives from plastic materials, when the substances were already present in the laboratory environment, leading to contamination of their equipment and results.

Another factor to consider with an internally plasticized PVC system is longevity of the PVC item. When a plasticizer migrates out of the PVC matrix, the original physical properties imparted by the plasticizer are decreased, and leads to degradation of the plastic over time. Ito and Nagai¹²⁶ artificially weathered plasticized PVC sheets by irradiation *via* a xenon discharge lamp with a cyclic spray of distilled water and thermal degradation at 100 °C. A decrease in tensile strength was noted, along with a decrease in DEHP concentration after 600 hours of xenon irradiation. Prodigious DEHP migration between 1000 and 2000 hours of irradiation was observed.¹²⁶ Thermally mediated migration of DEHP occurred, but not to the extent of xenon irradiation. Degradation of DEHP was not noted by GC-MS analysis. Chen and co-workers¹²⁷ noted the migration of DEHP from PVC following shortwave ultraviolet radiation (UV, 254 nm), resulting in increased hydrophilicity with longer exposure times. DEHP migration out of PVC were determined by extracting DEHP-PVC films after different irradiation times, then subsequently analyzing the solutions *via* high-pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC). DEHP migrated out of PVC while forming MEHP and phthalic acid after shortwave UV exposure.

The requirement of a non-migratory plasticizer for PVC is crucial: deleterious health effects for humans and wildlife, environmental contamination, and loss of desirable properties over time with conventional externally plasticized PVC systems are all prevalent reasons to develop covalently bound PVC systems. Recent efforts have been explored to create internal plasticizers that prevent the migration of emollients out of flexible PVC. Three tethering strategies are presented in the literature: 1) thioether, 2) amine (using natural product derived plasticizers), and 3) azide-alkyne cycloaddition.

1.9 Thioether Internally Plasticized Poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC)

The requirement for non-leaching poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) plasticizers globally has spurred the recent development of novel, internally plasticized poly(vinyl chloride) systems. In 1982, Martinez and co-workers¹²⁸ developed a methodology to perform S_N2 nucleophilic substitution on PVC using sodium thiophenolate (**Figure**

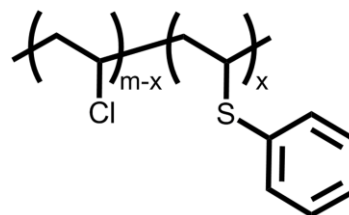


Figure 1.10 PVC Bearing Thiophenol¹²⁸

1.10). This method involved preparing sodium thiophenolate using purified sodium and thiophenol in refluxing *p*-xylene. The S_N2 reaction was performed by dissolving the sodium thiophenolate in cyclohexanone. Next, PVC was dissolved in another portion of cyclohexanone and combined with the thiophenolate solution at $-15\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ under an inert atmosphere ranging from 1 to 240 hours. Substitution was confirmed by UV-Vis spectroscopy. This initial study demonstrated that S_N2 substitution occurs on the PVC chain in three different regimes with decreasing rate constants. Subsequently, in 1986, Michel et al.¹²⁹ utilized 2-ethylhexyl esters of thiosalicylate **1.2** and thioglycolate **1.3** as plasticizing agents *via* nucleophilic substitution of the chlorine atoms in PVC. Final products contained thioether grafted (*g*) thiosalicylate and thioglycolate esters (**Figure 1.11**). In this investigation, the authors performed nucleophilic substitution reactions on poly(vinyl chloride) with thiolates **1.2**

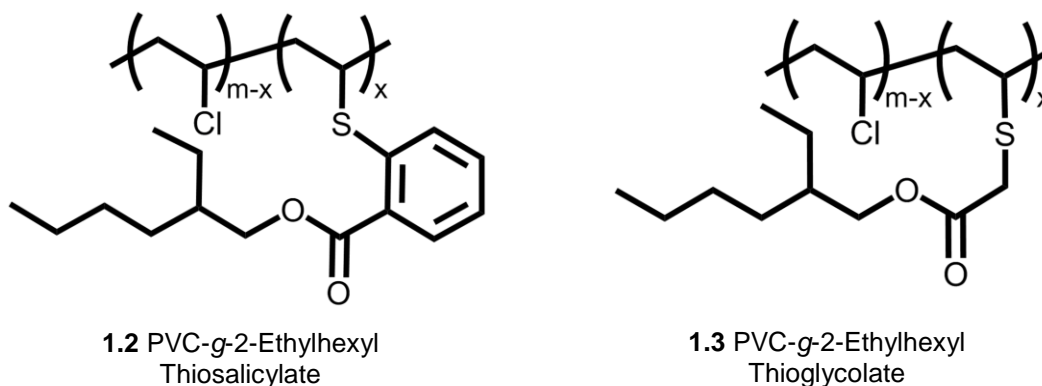


Figure 1.11 Structures of Michel's PVC Thiolate Derivatives of 2-Ethylhexyl Esters¹²⁹

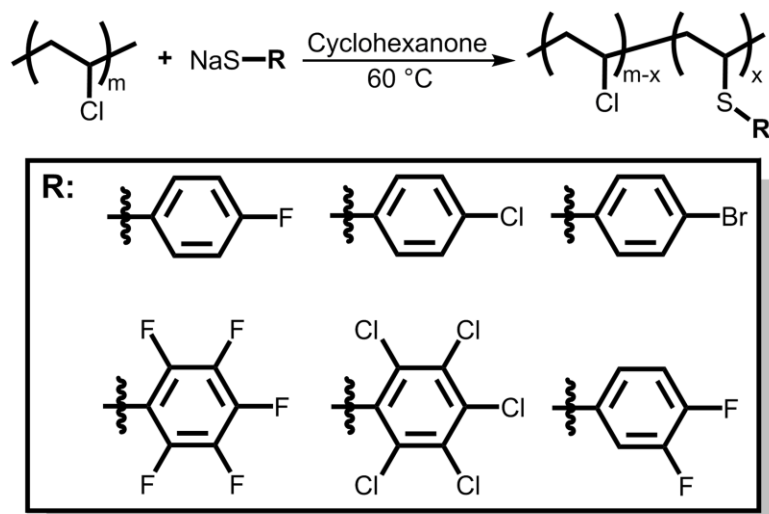
and **1.3** using thermomechanical treatments simulating industry operations with the aid of a HAAKE™ Rheomix 600 internal mixer. Solution substitution reactions were carried out for these two reagents at 160 °C in cyclohexanone with a modified version of their previously described method.¹²⁸ The authors describe decreasing glass transition temperatures (T_g) with increasing nucleophilic substitution of the chlorine atoms on PVC, as shown in **Table 1.9** below:

Sample	Nucleophile	Mol% of Nucleophile	T_g (°C)
10	Sodium 2-Ethylhexyl Thiosalicylate	0.018	66.0
11	Sodium 2-Ethylhexyl Thiosalicylate	0.082	66.0
12	Sodium 2-Ethylhexyl Thiosalicylate	0.150	59.0
13	Sodium 2-Ethylhexyl Thioglycolate	0.154	55.5
14	Sodium 2-Ethylhexyl Thioglycolate	0.126	63.3
15	HSR (Non-Grafted Thioglycolate)	0.066	13.4
16	HSR (Non-Grafted Thioglycolate)	0.102	10.0
17	HSR (Non-Grafted Thioglycolate)	0.153	17.4

Table 1.9 Michel's PVC Thiosalicylate and Thioglycolate Thermal Data¹²⁹

As a reference, the T_g of unmodified PVC is 83 °C.¹³⁰ Sample 12, containing approximately 15 mole percent of the 2-ethylhexyl thiosalicylate ester gave a T_g of 59.0 °C, while sample 13, containing a similar mole percent of the 2-ethylhexyl thioglycolate ester gave a T_g of 55.5 °C. The depression in T_g can be justified by the presence of a rigid aromatic ring in the thiosalicylate; the aromatic ring may impart rigidity to PVC, which will inherently increase the T_g over a covalently bound plasticizer without an aromatic group. In juxtaposition, non-grafted 2-ethylhexyl thioglycolate ester mixed with PVC exhibited the lowest glass transition temperatures, as demonstrated by samples 15, 16, and 17, yielding T_g values of 10.0 °C to 17.4 °C. The non-covalently bound thioglycolate esters gave the lowest T_g values, presumably due to more degrees of freedom for the plasticizer to move and create free volume within the PVC matrix, relative to the covalently bound species.

In 2008, Reinecke et al.¹³¹ described an aromatic thiol substitution system, based on work previously done by Martinez¹²⁸ and Michel.¹²⁹ In a similar vein, Reinecke performed S_N2 substitution of the chlorine atoms on PVC with different derivatives of sodium thiophenolate

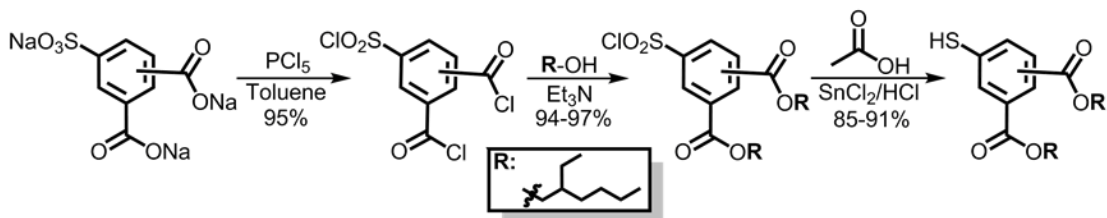


Scheme 1.5 Reinecke's Modification Reaction of PVC with Halogenated Thiolates¹³¹

(Scheme 1.5). In this formative demonstration, Reinecke reported that a myriad of halogenated thiolates were able to modify PVC without side reactions, such as elimination. Changing the halogen atoms present on the aromatic ring altered the final degree of substitution; the 4-bromo-thiophenol derivative exhibited the fastest reaction times while obtaining the highest degree of modification to PVC relative to other halogenated derivatives. However, when using potassium carbonate as a base, the reactivity of the thiolates invert: the highest degree of modification is achieved using the 4-fluoro-thiophenolate derivative.¹³¹ This tendency relates to the acidity of the thiol, which in turn correlates to nucleophilicity of the thiolate; the thiolate anion is further stabilized by induction *via* fluorine versus bromine. Conceptually, this justifies why the brominated derivative is more nucleophilically reactive under neutral conditions, and the fluorinated derivative is more active under basic conditions. Interestingly, the authors noted that at short reaction times under neutral conditions, the fastest reacting species was the 4-fluoro derivative. This may be attributed to the physically larger size of the other halogenated derivatives over the 4-fluoro substituted ring, and may support the observed kinetic effect. In this study, the authors were clearly not attempting to plasticize PVC: rather, this study prototypically demonstrated the substitution properties of the thiophenol system before moving to plasticizing derivatives. Glass transition temperatures

were measured, displaying relatively minute changes ranging from 85.4 °C (in the case of 12 mol% PVC-F5-Thiophenolate) to 54.3 °C (in the case of 55 mol% PVC-F-Thiophenolate).

Subsequently, Reinecke et al.¹³² investigated the possibility of internally plasticizing PVC utilizing mercapto-phthalate derivatives. In a three step synthesis, the desired 2-ethylhexyl-mercapto-phthalate derivatives were obtained (**Scheme 1.6**).



Scheme 1.6 Synthesis of Mercapto-Phthalate Derivatives¹³²

First, acid chloride activation of the carboxylate salt was performed, allowing the concurrent formation of the 2-ethylhexyl ester and chlorosulfone. The chlorosulfone was reduced to the mercapto-phthalate by tin(II) chloride, hydrochloric and acetic acid. Two 2-ethylhexyl-mercapto-phthalate derivatives were obtained, DEHP-SH **1.4** and ^{iso}DEHP-SH **1.5** (**Figure 1.12**).

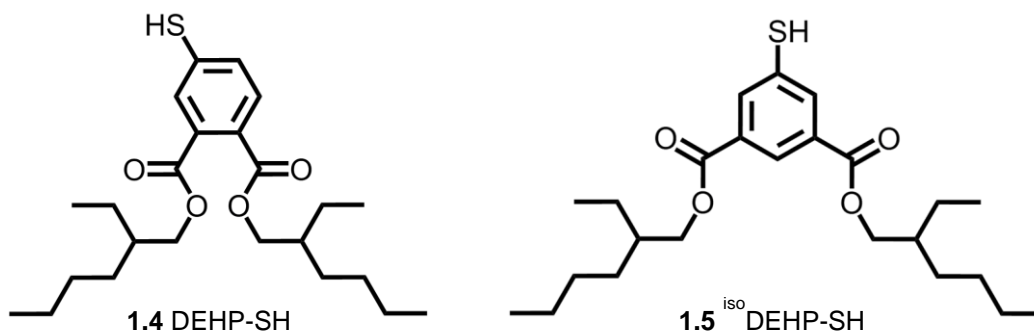
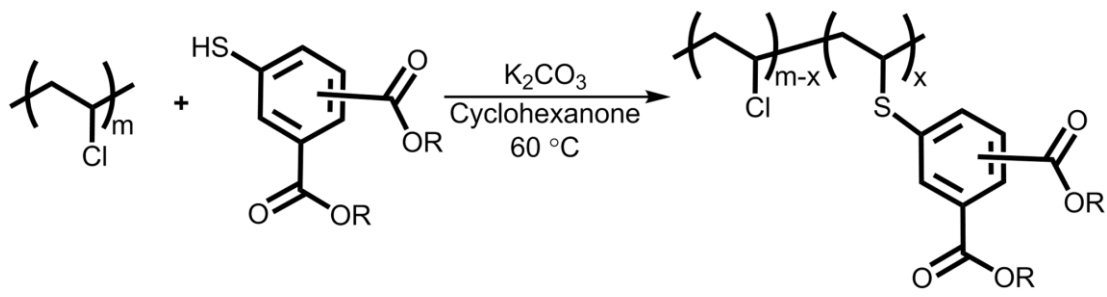


Figure 1.12 Reinecke's Mercapto-Phthalate Derivatives¹³²

Once the 2-ethylhexyl-mercapto-phthalates were obtained, PVC, cyclohexanone and potassium carbonate were collectively stirred at 60 °C with either **1.4** or **1.5** to yield thioether-tethered 2-ethylhexyl-phthalate functionalized PVC (**Scheme 1.7**).

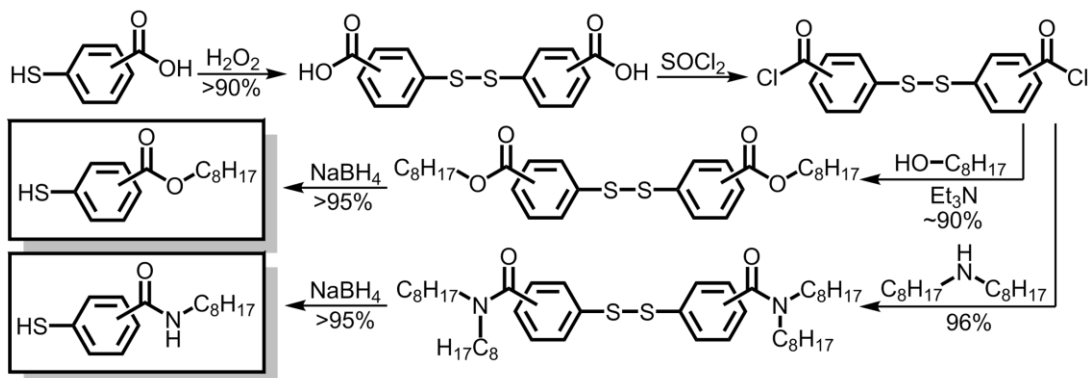


Scheme 1.7 PVC $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$ by Mercapto-Phthalate Derivatives¹³²

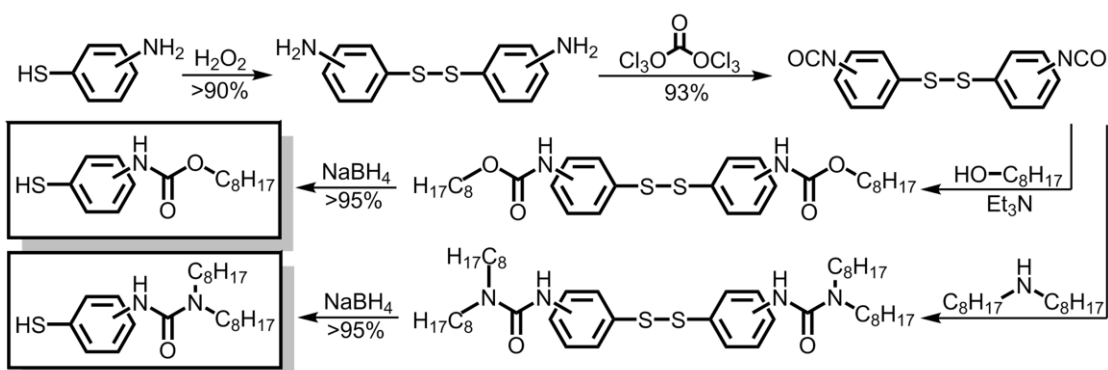
The nucleophilic substitution of DEHP-SH with PVC was characterized by $^1\text{H-NMR}$, noting an increase in proton shifts at 7.0-8.0 ppm, indicating the presence of the aromatic group present in DEHP-SH. A simultaneous increase in aliphatic proton shifts between 0.5-1.8 ppm was also observed, due to the presence of 2-ethylhexyl chains in the plasticizing moiety. No olefinic proton shifts were observed, which indicates the absence of deleterious elimination reactions on the backbone of PVC. Under the optimized reaction conditions, the amount of mercapto-phthalate substituted onto PVC was 23 mole percent (DEHP-SH-PVC) and 31 mole percent (^{18}O -DEHP-SH-PVC), giving T_g values of 0 °C and 20 °C, respectively. These low T_g values require a large mole percent of mercapto-phthalate to plasticize effectively. In contrast to the industry standard DEHP-PVC blend, 14.8 mol% DEHP gives a T_g of -35 °C.¹³⁰ Migration studies of the covalently bound thioether-linked plasticizer with *n*-heptane exhibits no detectable amount of DEHP-SH in solution, while the standard DEHP-PVC mixture experiences near complete extraction of DEHP within 3 hours from PVC.

The Reinecke group¹³³ further developed the use of thiophenolates in 2016, utilizing aliphatic non-phthalate analogs toward plasticizing PVC. The authors employed acid chloride

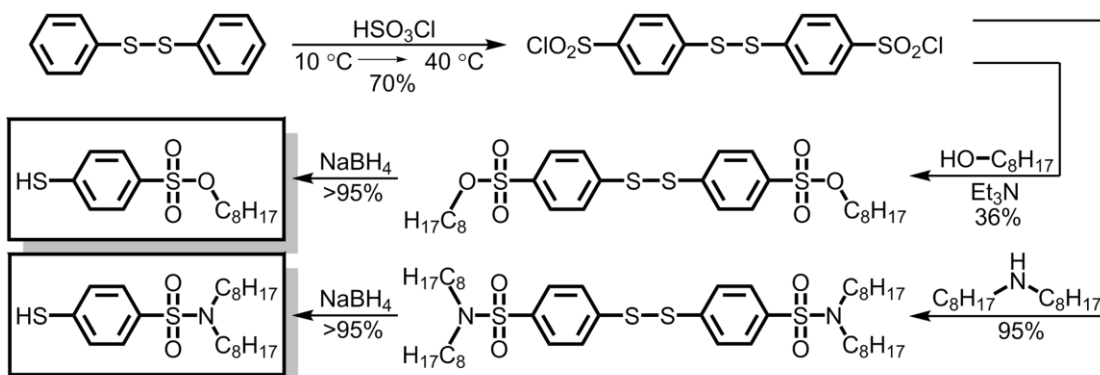
* Note: C₈H₁₇ =



Scheme 1.8 Acid Chloride Mediated Synthesis of Thiophenol Based Plasticizer ¹³³

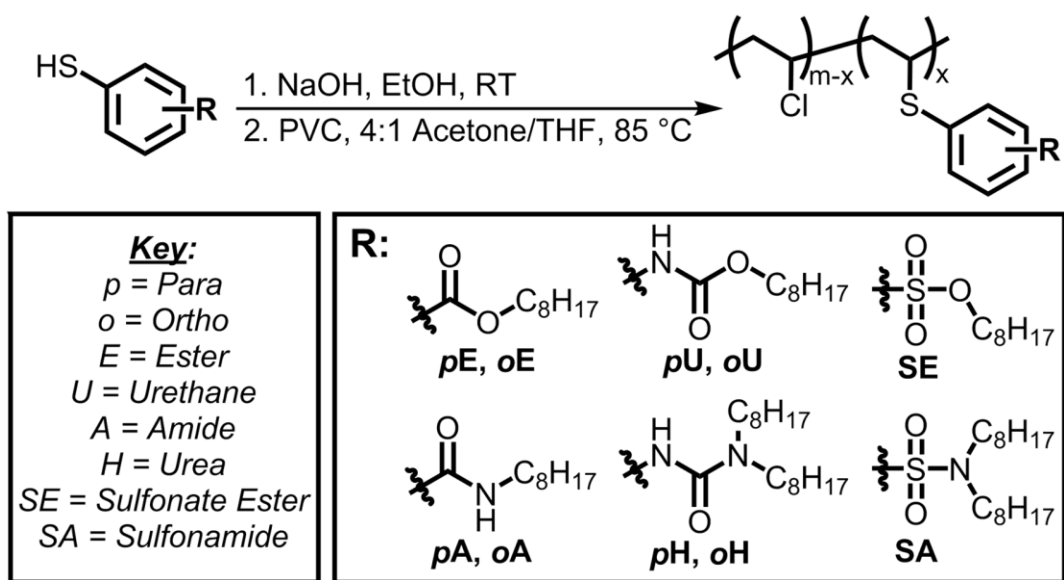


Scheme 1.9 Isocyanate Mediated Synthesis of Thiophenol Based Plasticizer ¹³³



Scheme 1.10 Chlorosulfonyl Mediated Synthesis of Thiophenol Based Plasticizer ¹³³

(**Scheme 1.8**), isocyanate (**Scheme 1.9**), and chlorosulfonyl (**Scheme 1.10**) functional groups as intermediates in the synthesis of the thiophenol plasticizer.¹³³ Subsequently, these aliphatic thiophenol plasticizers were treated with an equimolar amount of sodium hydroxide in dry ethanol, transforming the thiophenols to the thiolate salts. The salt solution was added to another reaction flask containing PVC dissolved in a 4:1 mixture of acetone/tetrahydrofuran, and heated for 2 hours at 85 °C, as shown in **Scheme 1.11**.



Scheme 1.11 S_N2 by Aliphatic Thiolate Derivatives on PVC¹³³

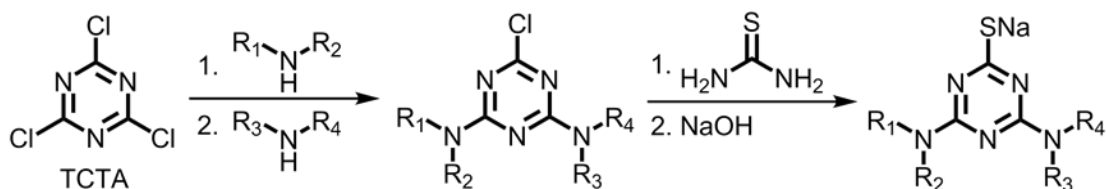
PVC was treated with 20 and 40 weight percent aliphatic thiolate, yielding ten polymer types, with a grand total of twenty polymers. Nucleophilic substitution of the chlorides on PVC was not quantitative, as shown in **Table 1.10**. The degree of modification was determined via ¹H-NMR, by comparing the aliphatic region in the plasticizer (~0.9 ppm) to the methane protons (CHCl) on PVC at 4.5 ppm. Anchorage efficiency was defined as the degree of modification divided by the total weight percentage expected. Efficiency of the substitution reaction by thiophenolates ranged from 69.5% to 97%. The sulfonic ester derivative (**SE**) did not undergo significant substitution due to the strong electron withdrawing character of the sulfonic ester,

Polymer	Modifier in Mixture (Wt %)	Covalently Bound Modifier (Wt %)	Degree of Anchorage (%)	T _g (°C)
oE	20	14.4	72.0	55
	40	34.1	85.2	35
oA	20	18.5	92.5	56
	40	37.8	94.5	37
pE	20	18.7	93.5	51
	40	38.8	97.0	29
pA	20	18.6	93.0	53
	40	38.8	97.0	32
oU	20	13.9	69.5	54
	40	32.2	77.0	38
oH	20	14.8	74.0	62
	40	30.8	77.0	41
pU	20	13.9	69.5	53
	40	31.2	78.0	39
pH	20	17.2	86.1	60
	40	35.1	87.8	33
SE	20	Unreported	Unreported	-
	40	Unreported	Unreported	-
SA	20	15.1	75.5	49
	40	36.3	90.8	28

Table 1.10 Reinecke's Aliphatic Thiophenol PVC Results¹³³

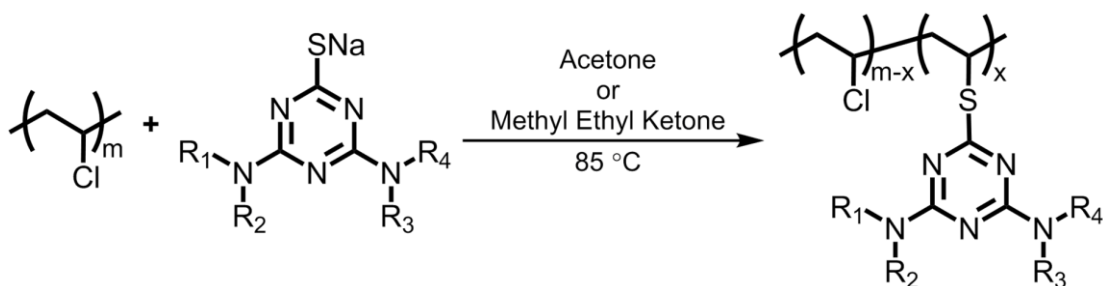
which inherently decreases the nucleophilic character of the thiolate. Ester and amide derivatives were efficient nucleophiles, generally achieving anchorage efficiencies greater than 90%, with the exception of the *ortho*-ester (**oE**) due to steric hindrance of the *ortho*-positioned aliphatic chain relative to the thiolate. Urethane and urea derivatives experienced lower anchorage efficiencies, stemming from the electron withdrawing character of these functional groups. As expected, glass transition temperatures decrease as the weight percent of plasticizer increases. The *para*-ester (**pE**) derivative at 40 weight percent gave a T_g of 29 °C, while the sulfonamide derivative (**SA**) at approximately the same weight percent gave a T_g of 28 °C. Despite lower glass transition temperatures compared to unmodified PVC, deficiencies in plasticization efficiency compared to traditional DEHP-PVC blends were observed, due to the inherent nature of having a plasticizer covalently bound to PVC. According to the authors, this may induce rigidity to those chain segments in which the bulky additive is attached.¹³³

In subsequent studies by the Reinecke group,¹³³⁻¹³⁴ a one-pot approach using trichlorotriazine chemistry to internally plasticize PVC was published in 2016. Trichlorotriazine (TCTA, **Scheme 1.12**) according to the authors, is an interesting and versatile substance, as it contains three chlorine atoms of different reactivities.¹³⁵ This, in theory, would allow one to selectively substitute different nucleophiles in a stepwise manner on the heterocyclic molecule. Synthetically, two equivalents of aliphatic amine were linked to TCTA, while the third chlorine was transformed to the thiuronium salt, which is subsequently hydrolyzed into the thiolate functionality used for PVC functionalization (**Scheme 1.12**).



Scheme 1.12 Preparation of TCTA-Based PVC Plasticizers¹³³⁻¹³⁴

After the thiolate triazine derivative was prepared, the crude reaction mixture was poured into a sealable flask with the desired amount of PVC under nitrogen, and heated at 85 °C for 2 hours (**Scheme 1.13**). The authors claim that the sealed flask contained only modified PVC with NaCl dissolved in acetone after reaction completion. The final polymer was obtained by casting the acetone solution or by precipitation in methanol/water.



Scheme 1.13 Reinecke's Attachment of Thiolate Triazine to PVC¹³³⁻¹³⁴

In the first study,¹³³ five aliphatic thiolate triazine derivatives were synthesized with 20 and 40 weight percent plasticizer, relative to PVC. In the second study,¹³⁴ six unique polymeric derivatives were synthesized in the same manner as the first study.¹³³ The ¹H-NMR spectra of the polymers showed increased signal in the aliphatic region and at 3.4 ppm (which is presumably the methylene signal adjacent to the methane bearing the aromatic heteroatom linkage). **Figure 1.13** is a graphical representation of the functional group abbreviations.

Table 1.11 summarizes the polymers obtained in the studies.¹³³⁻¹³⁴

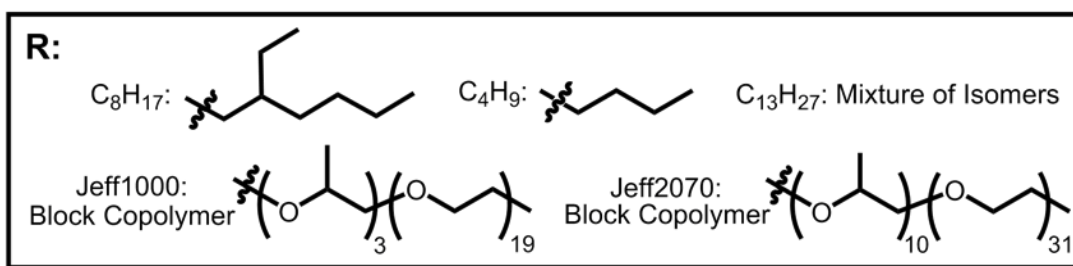


Figure 1.13 Functional Groups Utilized in TCTA-PVC Investigation¹³³

Polymer	R1	R2	R3	R4	Modifier in Mixture (Wt %)	T _g (°C)
1	C ₈ H ₁₇	C ₈ H ₁₇	C ₈ H ₁₇	C ₈ H ₁₇	20	43
					40	35
					55	27
					75	22
2	C ₄ H ₉	C ₄ H ₉	C ₄ H ₉	C ₄ H ₉	20	72
					40	55
3	C ₁₃ H ₂₇	C ₁₃ H ₂₇	C ₄ H ₉	C ₄ H ₉	20	54
					40	35
4	H	C ₈ H ₁₇	C ₈ H ₁₇	C ₈ H ₁₇	20	47
					40	31
5	H	Jeff1000	C ₄ H ₉	C ₄ H ₉	20	14
					40	-17
6	H	Jeff2070	H	Jeff2070	20	10
					40	-22
7	O (Ether)	C ₂ H ₅	C ₈ H ₁₇	C ₈ H ₁₇	20	43
					40	37
8	O (Ether)	C ₈ H ₁₇	O (Ether)	C ₈ H ₁₇	20	-
					40	-
9	S (Thioether)	C ₈ H ₁₇	S (Thioether)	C ₈ H ₁₇	20	-
					40	-

Table 1.11 Reinecke's TCTA-PVC Plasticizer Results¹³³⁻¹³⁴

To clarify, polymer samples **8** and **9** did not completely covalently attach to PVC, according to $^1\text{H-NMR}$. As a result, thermal data was not obtained on these polymers. The authors observed that only amine substituted thiolate triazine examples were quantitatively attached to PVC. For polymer **1** (also shown in **Table 1.10**), T_g values at 20 weight percent and 40 weight percent were 43 °C and 35 °C, respectively. Maximum plasticization occurs at 75 weight percent plasticizer to PVC (22 °C). Results for polymer **2** are not improved from polymer **1**, with modest T_g depressions of 72 °C and 55 °C for 20 and 40 weight percent, respectively. Polymers **3**, **4**, and **7** did not see improved T_g values over polymer **1**. However, polymer **5**, which contains the polyether Jeff1000, displayed marked improvements in T_g values at both 20 (14 °C) and 40 (-17 °C) weight percent. Polymer **6** (Jeff2070) exhibited the lowest T_g values, with 20 weight percent yielding 10 °C, while 40 weight percent displayed an impressive -22 °C. It is clear that the Jeffamine-TCTA derivatives were the most effective in this series at internally plasticizing PVC. The polyether chains effectively depress T_g values over any alkyl derivative at an equivalent weight percent of plasticizer. As an interesting comparison, polymers **5** and **6** show the expected T_g depressions, with an increase in molecular weight of the plasticizer, at an equivalent weight percent relative to PVC. In a mole percent perspective, the TCTA derivative utilized in polymer **6** is the most effective plasticizer, as its higher molecular weight (approximately four times) over the TCTA derivative in polymer **5** makes it a more efficient plasticizer per molar unit, requiring less thiol substitution sites on PVC to achieve similar glass transition temperatures. One can take away from this study that a large polyether plasticizer should increase plasticization efficiency over alkyl counterparts while imparting desirable plasticization properties to PVC, with fewer substitution sites.

In light of the promising plasticizing efficiency of polyether plasticizer systems demonstrated in the initial TCTA studies,¹³³⁻¹³⁴ Reinecke and co-workers¹³⁰ published a subsequent paper focusing on the ubiquitous issue present in all covalently bound plasticizer systems: decreased plasticizer efficiency due to induced rigidity of segments where the

plasticizer is linked. The authors claim that compatibility of the plasticizer with PVC should play a key role in increasing plasticizing efficiency.¹³⁰ The greater the compatibility of the plasticizer with the polymer, the higher the tendency for the plasticizer to interrupt chain-chain interactions, which in theory, should yield a material with superior malleability and flexibility. The use of TCTA, in combination with poly(propylene oxide) (PPO) and poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO) oligomers as a plasticizing entity for PVC were investigated.¹³⁰ These TCTA based plasticizers employ JEFFAMINES™, which are amine terminated block copolymers of poly(propylene oxide) and poly(ethylene oxide) with specified molecular weight ranges.¹³⁶ The synthetic route taken by the authors was essentially identical to their previous work¹³³⁻¹³⁴ (**Scheme 1.12, Scheme 1.13**), with the quintessential difference being the utilization of JEFFAMINES™ varying from 600 to 3085 molecular weight.¹³⁰ It is worth mentioning that Jeff600 and Jeff2005 are considered hydrophobic, while Jeff1000, Jeff2070, and Jeff3085 are considered hydrophilic, according to the manufacturer, Huntsman Corporation.¹³⁶ Poly(ethylene oxide) is completely miscible with PVC, while poly(propylene oxide) is somewhat immiscible with PVC.¹³⁷ The intention of Reinecke's study¹³⁰ was to determine the influence of molecular weight and composition on the efficiency of the covalently linked plasticizer system with polyethers. The PPO/PEO monoamines, along with a representative structure of the modified PVC are presented in **Figure 1.14**. A full set of data for the JEFFAMINE™ TCTA thiophenol plasticizers is provided with all T_g values (**Table 1.12**).

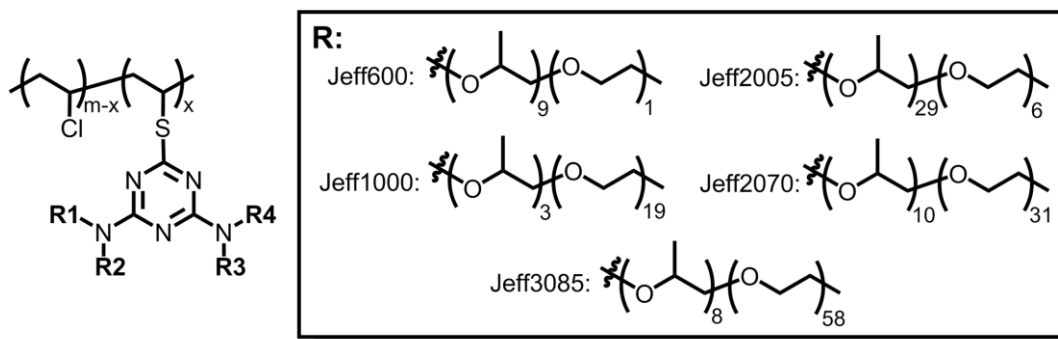


Figure 1.14 PVC-TCTA JEFFAMINE™ Structures¹³⁰

Modifier	R1	R2	R3	R4	MW (g/mol)	Modifier in Mixture (Wt %)	Mol%	T _g (°C)
Bis-600	Jeff600	H	Jeff600	H	1310	16	0.90	47
						22	1.33	38
						29	1.91	27
						39	2.96	7
						48	4.22	9
						64	7.82	-9
Mono-600	Jeff600	H	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	840	21	1.94	55
						30	3.09	40
						40	3.82	24
						47	6.19	22
Bis-1000	Jeff1000	H	Jeff1000	H	2100	18	0.65	35
						28	1.14	24
						32	1.39	12
						38	1.79	0
						45	2.34	-18
						73	7.44	-41
Mono-1000	Jeff1000	H	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	1240	21	1.32	36
						27	1.83	25
						42	3.52	4
						49	4.62	-5
Bis-2005	Jeff2005	H	Jeff2005	H	4100	13	0.27	56
						19	0.36	67
						28	0.59	61
						35	0.81	57
						45	1.23	43
Mono-2005	Jeff2005	H	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	2240	13	0.41	68
						19	0.65	46
						33	1.35	38
Bis-2070	Jeff2070	H	Jeff2070	H	4250	13	0.22	48
						19	0.34	36
						22	0.41	26
						29	0.60	10
						40	0.97	-16
						62	2.35	-50
Mono-2070	Jeff2070	H	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	2310	26	0.94	27
						33	1.32	23
						42	1.92	-5
						56	3.33	-20
Bis-3085	Jeff3085	H	Jeff3085	H	6280	8	0.09	59
						14	0.16	43
						18	0.22	33
						26	0.35	16
						34	0.53	-2
						62	1.60	-46

Table 1.12 Reinecke's JEFFAMINE™ PVC-TCTA Plasticizer Results¹³⁰

Relative to previous studies, the JEFFAMINE™ TCTA derivatives exhibit excellent low glass transition temperatures, which imply that these covalently modified PVC samples are malleable and flexible. Comparing traditional DEHP-PVC T_g values (**Table 1.13**) to the JEFFAMINE™ system (by wt%) reveals an equivalent plasticizing efficiency to free DEHP.

Modifier	MW (g/mol)	Modifier in PVC (Wt %)	Mol%	T_g (°C)
DEHP	390	0	0	83
		21	4.1	28
		32	7.0	12
		43	10.8	-24
		52	14.8	-35
		57	17.5	-43
		78	36.2	-70

Table 1.13 Non-Covalent DEHP-PVC Standard Mixture Data¹³⁰

As a standard, at 21 weight percent, DEHP-PVC gives a T_g of 28 °C. At similar weight percentages, T_g values for the novel JEFFAMINE™ system are near DEHP-PVC values: Bis-2070 (22 wt%, 26°C), Mono-2070 (26 wt%, 27 °C), and Bis-3085 (18 wt%, 33 °C). At a higher weight percent of 32, DEHP-PVC shows a T_g of 12 °C. With the JEFFAMINE™ system, Bis-1000 (32 wt%, 12 °C), Bis-2070 (29 wt%, 10°C) and Bis-3085 (34 wt%, -2 °C) show equivalent or lower T_g values when compared to DEHP-PVC at approximately the same weight percentage of plasticizer. Analogous trends continue at higher weight percentages of JEFFAMINE™ TCTA plasticizer. Also noteworthy is the overall composition of these novel polyether plasticizers. In all instances, the major constituent of the most efficacious plasticizer derivatives is poly(ethylene glycol), not poly(propylene glycol). Hydrophobic JEFFAMINE™ analogs (Jeff600, Jeff2005) containing predominantly poly(propylene glycol) do not display comparable glass transition temperatures to DEHP-PVC. These derivatives are inefficient plasticizers, likely due to the incompatibility of PVC with poly(propylene oxide).¹³⁷ Clearly, miscibility of the plasticizer is essential for effective plasticization with PVC, especially when covalently bound to the backbone of the polymer. Another interesting trend shows that the greater the molecular weight of the plasticizing species, the more efficient the plasticizing

efficiency relative to smaller, yet higher mole percentage plasticizer, despite an equivalent weight percent in PVC. The “Bis” derivatives displayed an overall better plasticizing efficiency over the “Mono” functionalized plasticizers. These trends are shown for PVC-TCTA Jeff600 (Figure 1.15), PVC-TCTA Jeff1000 (Figure 1.16), and PVC-TCTA Jeff2070 (Figure 1.17).

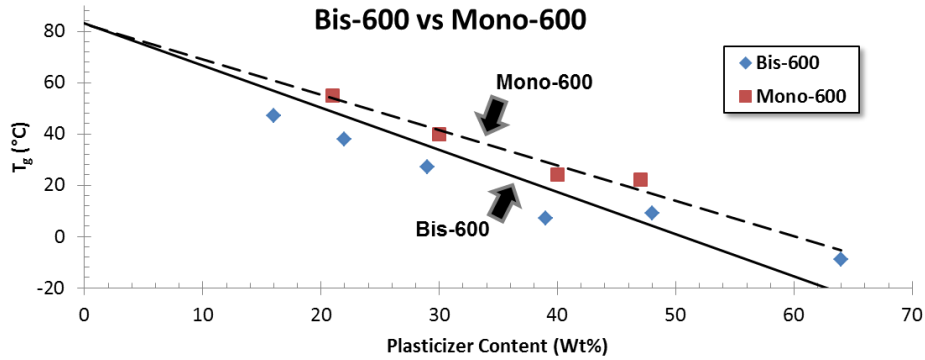


Figure 1.15 PVC-TCTA Jeff600 Comparison¹³⁰

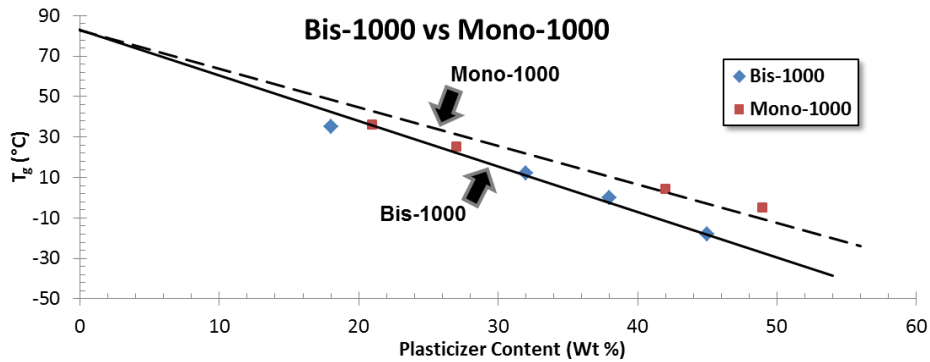


Figure 1.16 PVC-TCTA Jeff1000 Comparison¹³⁰

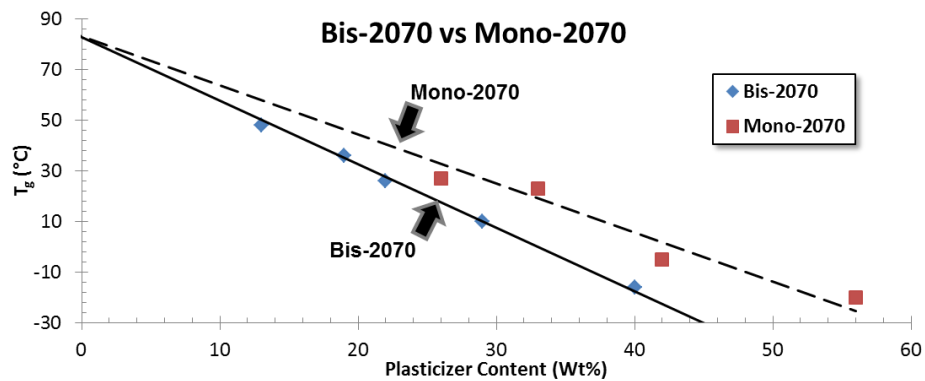


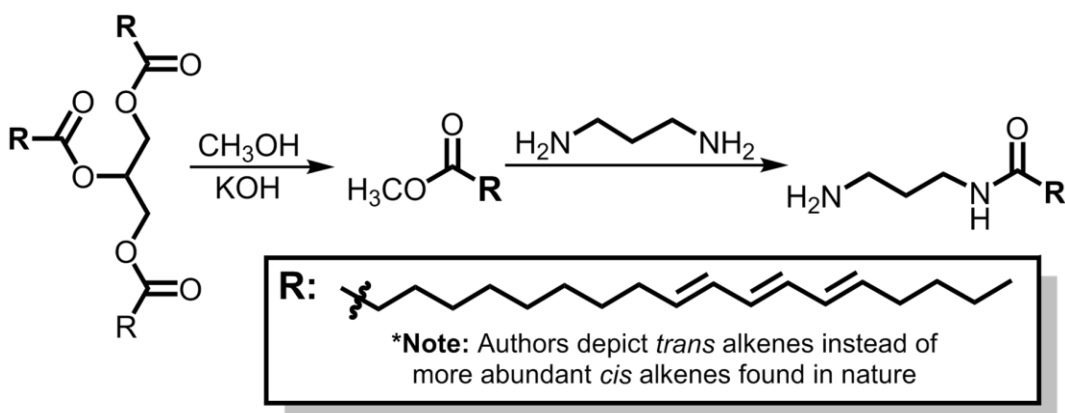
Figure 1.17 PVC-TCTA Jeff2070 Comparison¹³⁰

Reinecke formulated three conclusions that can be drawn from each graph (**Figures 1.15-1.17**) regardless of the JEFFAMINE™ utilized. First, the glass transition temperature decreases linearly with increasing amount of plasticizer. Second, trend lines corresponding to the higher molecular weight plasticizers are situated below those of their lower molecular weight counterparts, and lastly, trend lines of higher molecular weight plasticizers show a larger negative slope than lower molecular weight analogs. Reinecke postulated that these effects stem from the amount of anchoring sites present on PVC. Recall that this system utilizes TCTA, an aromatic heterocycle which contains three conjugated sp^2 bonds. The planar, rigid nature of this aromatic heterocycle imparts rigidity to localized regions of the polymer where the plasticizer is covalently linked. In extreme cases, π -stacking may occur between the aromatic anchors, which will inherently induce crystallinity and additional rigidity in the polymer. As a result, larger molecular weight plasticizers requiring less anchoring points to achieve the same weight percent of plasticizer content compared to a lower molecular weight counterpart should provide improved plasticization properties. The glass transition temperature data above corroborates this theory, and alludes to the fact that one may be able to achieve superior plasticization character by eliminating rigid anchoring points to the main chain of PVC, such as aromatic functional groups. This implies that the ultimate covalently-bound internally plasticized PVC system should contain predominantly poly(ethylene oxide), devoid of any rigid anchoring groups. The combination of compatibility between PVC and poly(ethylene oxide), and the absence of rigid functional groups should unquestionably enhance the plasticization efficiency of a covalently bound system, regardless of the mobility penalty accrued with attachment to the backbone of PVC.

1.10 Natural Product-Derived Internally Plasticized Poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC)

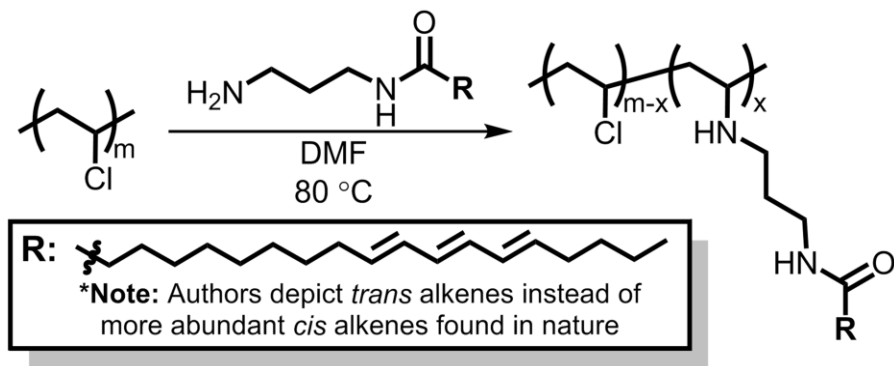
The demand for an affordable phthalate replacement has grown in recent years, with many countries around the world banning DEHP as a plasticizer for PVC. An avenue toward an economical and ecologically renewable plasticizer may be found in nature. Zhou and

coworkers¹³⁸ investigated aminated tung oil as an internal plasticizer for PVC. Tung oil, a drying oil extracted from tung tree seeds, is a poly-unsaturated triacylglycerol. It has found use in wood finishing,¹³⁹ water-proofing,¹⁴⁰ biodiesel,¹⁴¹ and as a light lubricant for porous materials.¹⁴² In Zhou's publication, a tung oil derived aliphatic amide was synthesized, *via* a diamine, which ultimately yields a nucleophilic (and basic) terminal amine (**Scheme 1.14**).



Scheme 1.14 Zhou's Tung Oil Plasticizer Synthesis¹³⁸

In a two-step reaction sequence, transesterification was performed on tung oil with methanol and potassium hydroxide, furnishing the methyl ester. Next, the aliphatic methyl ester was treated with propylenediamine to yield the final plasticizer. To obtain the internally plasticized polymer, both PVC and tung oil amine plasticizer were dissolved in DMF and heated to 80 °C, as shown in **Scheme 1.15**.



Scheme 1.15 Preparation of Tung Oil-Derived Internally Plasticized PVC¹³⁸

While the authors performed S_N2 substitution on PVC with the tung oil amine, there is a possibility of competing elimination reactions with the neural amine and PVC, despite it not being mentioned in the publication. Alkenes present in the tung oil plasticizer may overlap with olefinic $^1\text{H-NMR}$ signals formed as a result of elimination of HCl via amine on PVC.

Analysis of the PVC-tung oil system by FTIR, $^1\text{H-NMR}$, and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ was performed. Gel permeation chromatography (GPC) was carried out on PVC and the four modified polymers to determine the molecular weights of each species. DSC and TGA analyses were also done for each polymer. **Table 1.14** summarizes the GPC and DSC data.

Polymer	M_n (g/mol)	T_g ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
PVC	15100	85
PVC-Tung	18100	71
	21400	57
	22600	51
	23800	44

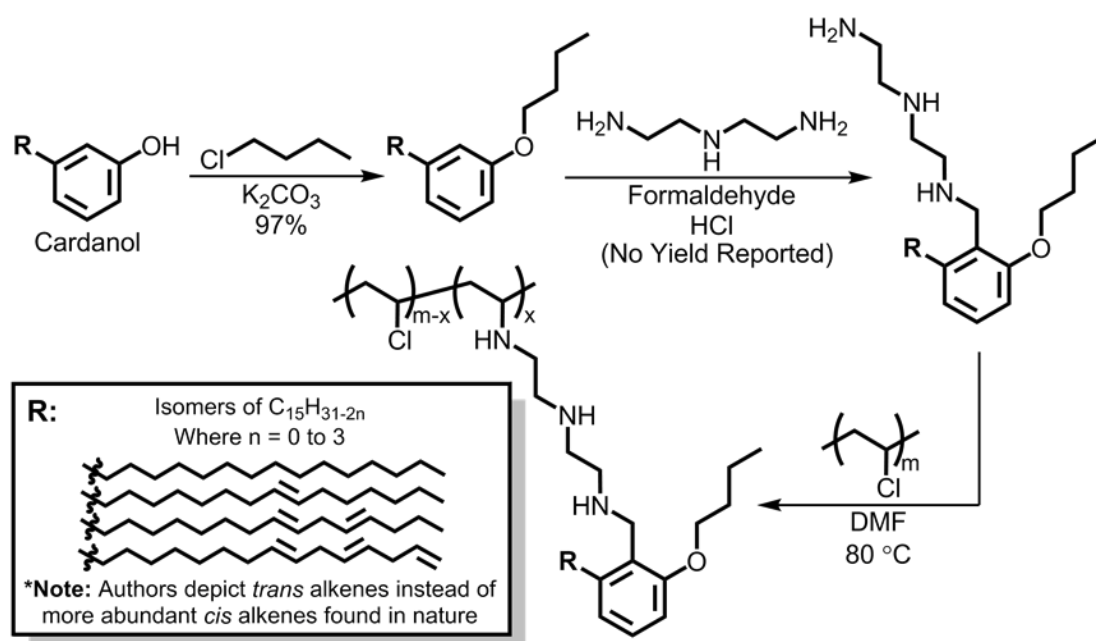
Table 1.14 Tung Oil-Derived Internally Plasticized PVC Data¹³⁸

Curiously, unmodified PVC in this study exhibited a higher than normal T_g value (85 $^{\circ}\text{C}$): this may be due to the absence of purification of PVC prior to measurement, the molecular weight, and/or inconsistent heat-cool-heat cycling of the polymer during DSC measurements. Upon careful inspection, the protocol for the DSC measurements in the experimental section states, “the temperature was over a range of -40 to -120 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ at a heating of 20 $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ The DSC data were collected from first cycle of heating.”¹³⁸ The standard heat-cool-heat cycling to erase the polymer’s thermal history was not performed. This major deficiency in the thermal protocol will inevitably yield inconsistent and inaccurate glass transition temperatures. Therefore, these T_g values must be taken provisionally, with the knowledge that the thermal measurements are conceivably erroneous. As predicted, an inversely proportional trend is observed: as substitution of the chlorine atoms with the tung oil derivative increases, the T_g values decrease. This is due to the greater presence of the tung oil-based plasticizer within the PVC matrix, which disrupt chain-chain interactions of PVC. At

the maximum level of substitution, the tung oil system gave a T_g of 44 °C. Using the M_n value of 23800 and comparing to the standard PVC value of 15100, one can approximate the weight percentage of plasticizer to be 36.5 percent. In this study, the authors did not report T_g values of standard DEHP-PVC mixtures to compare to their internally plasticized system. Comparing data gathered from others in the literature,¹³⁰ DEHP-PVC exhibits a characteristic T_g value of 12 °C at 32 weight percent DEHP and -24 °C at 42 weight percent DEHP. Generating a second order quadratic trend line from the general literature data on DEHP-PVC mixtures (**Table 1.13**)¹³⁰ reveals a predicted T_g value of -5.3 °C at 36.5 weight percent DEHP. With this approximate standard T_g value in mind, the covalently bound tung oil derived plasticizer system is not commensurate with the traditional DEHP-PVC system, despite exhibiting lower than standard glass transition temperatures over unmodified PVC.

Zhou and co-workers¹⁴³ also developed an approach to covalently attach a Mannich base cardanol-derived plasticizer to PVC. Cardanol is a renewable organic resource, originating from the thermal decomposition of anacardic acids. The molecule is the predominant component in the oil of cashew nutshells, commonly referred to as “cashew nutshell liquid” (CNSL) in industry.¹⁴⁴ CNSL is commonly employed as a surface coating, adhesive, varnish, and paint. The authors utilized a Mannich reaction to create an amine-terminated long chain tether. The cardanol-amine possesses the nucleophilic properties to displace chlorine on PVC (**Scheme 1.16**); however, elimination of HCl by the amine is also expected to be a significant side reaction.

FTIR and ¹H-NMR were performed to confirm the final structure of the internally plasticized polymer. Four separate polymer samples with varying levels of substitution were synthesized, with number average molecular weights (M_n) of 17900, 18900, 21000, and 24500 grams per mole. Standard PVC possessed a M_n value of 15100 grams per mole. DSC measurements were performed on each of the four PVC-Cardanol polymers, along with standard PVC as shown in **Table 1.15**.



Scheme 1.16 Zhou's Cardanol PVC Synthesis¹⁴³

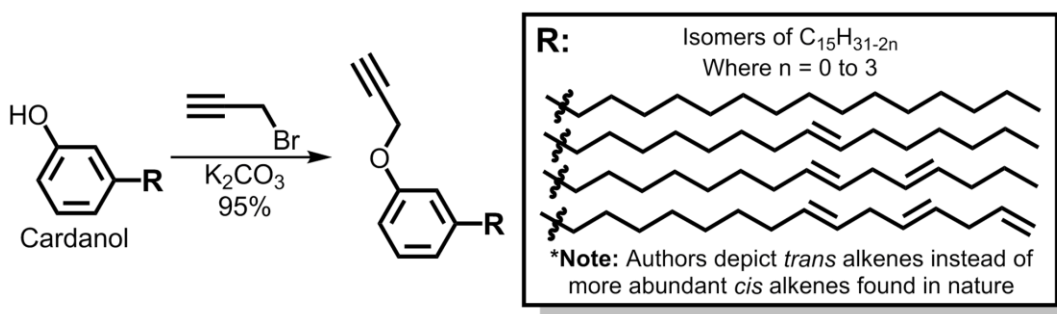
Polymer	M_n (g/mol)	T_g (°C)
PVC	15100	85.6
PVC-Cardanol	17900	69.1
	18900	58.8
	21000	56.5
	24500	49.3

Table 1.15 Zhou's T_g Data for PVC and PVC-Cardanol¹⁴³

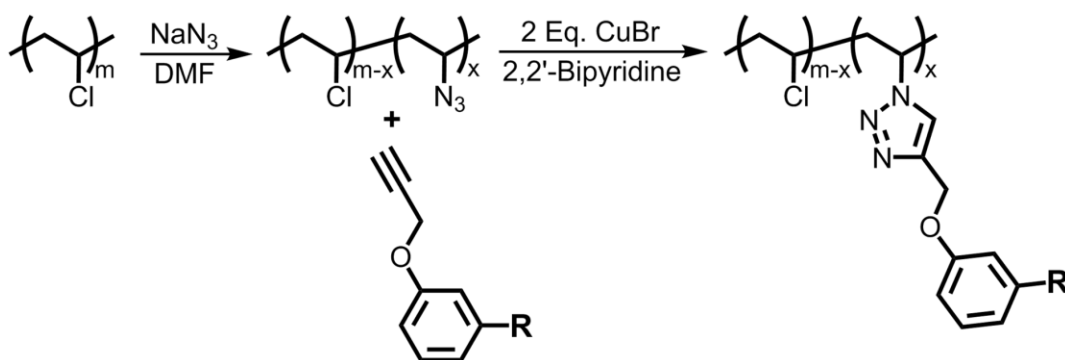
Once again, as in Zhou's previous study,¹³⁸ a higher than standard T_g for PVC is presented at 85.6 °C. To recapitulate, the protocol for the DSC measurements did not incorporate the standard heat-cool-heat cycling to erase the thermal history of the polymeric samples.¹⁴³ Thus, these thermal values may be inaccurate. As the molecular weight of the polymer increases, due to the concurrent increase in substitution of chlorine on PVC with the cardanol plasticizer, the T_g values unsurprisingly decrease. Using the M_n values given by the authors, at maximum substitution, 38.4 weight percent of the polymer is comprised of cardanol plasticizer, yielding a T_g of 49.3 °C. With the glass transition data gathered from the literature on DEHP-PVC mixtures (**Table 1.13**),¹³⁰ a T_g value of -9.1 °C is extrapolated at 38.4

weight percent of DEHP. The T_g values remain inferior to non-covalent DEHP-PVC systems, and thus does not possess the same plasticizing efficiency as DEHP.

Yang and co-workers developed an alternative strategy to covalently attach cardanol to PVC.¹⁴⁵ Cardanol was affixed to PVC using the copper-mediated azide-alkyne cycloaddition reaction (CuAAC). In contrast to Zhou,¹⁴³ Yang utilizes the phenolic alcohol on cardanol as the attachment point for the propargyl group under basic conditions, yielding a terminal alkyne derivative of cardanol. The synthesis of the cardanol alkyne is shown in **Scheme 1.17**. The copper-mediated cycloaddition of the alkyne to PVC-N₃ is shown in **Scheme 1.18**.



Scheme 1.17 Yang's Cardanol Alkyne Synthesis¹⁴⁵



Scheme 1.18 Yang's PVC-Azide and Cardanol Alkyne Copper-Mediated Cycloaddition¹⁴⁵

For the S_N2 substitution by azide on PVC, the authors reported that 10 percent of the chlorine atoms were displaced based on elemental analysis. Subsequently, the authors

monitored the progress of the copper-mediated cycloaddition *via* FTIR, paying close attention to the azide (N₃) absorption at 2114 cm⁻¹, the internal alkyne carbon absorption at 2123 cm⁻¹, and the terminal alkyne carbon absorption at 3308 cm⁻¹. Reaction completion was determined by the disappearance of the azide and both alkyne absorptions after filtration of the copper salts and precipitation in methanol. ¹H-NMR spectra exhibited the typical proton shifts of PVC-triazole, aromatics, and lipids present in the polymeric matrix. Glass transition temperatures are reported in **Table 1.16**.

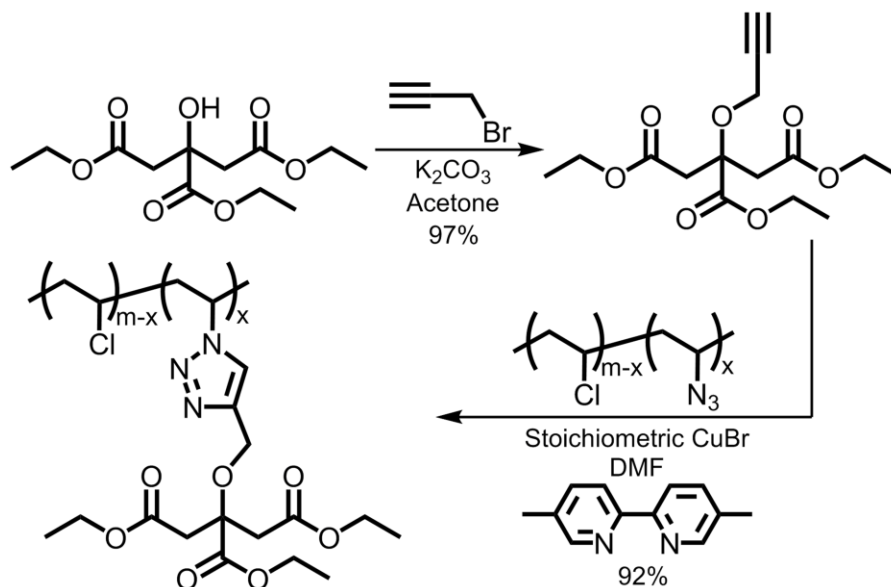
Polymer	T _g (°C)
PVC	87.1
PVC-N ₃ (10% Azide)	81.0
PVC-Triazole-Cardanol	51.0
PVC-DEHP (8.7 Wt% DEHP)	48.8

Table 1.16 Yang's T_g Data for Standards and PVC-Triazole-Cardanol¹⁴⁵

At approximately 10 mole percent triazole-cardanol on PVC, a T_g of 51.0 °C was observed. In comparison to standard PVC (87.1 °C): the cardanol derivative appears to act as a plasticizer, lowering the T_g of PVC by 36.1 °C. Although the T_g value for unmodified PVC is higher than the standard literature accepted value of 83 °C, the authors performed the necessary heat-cool-heat cycling of the polymer samples. A systematic calibration error of the DSC instrument may potentially be the cause of the elevated T_g value of PVC. Thermal gravimetric analysis of PVC-DEHP and PVC-triazole-cardanol was also performed. The non-covalent PVC-DEHP showed poor thermal stability caused by the volatilization of DEHP at high temperatures; in contrast, the cardanol sample displayed improved thermal stability throughout the temperature range, possibly due to the covalent linkage of the plasticizer to the main chain of PVC. The 1%, 5%, and 50% weight loss temperatures for PVC-DEHP were 107 °C, 160 °C, and 296 °C, respectively. PVC-triazole-cardanol gave weight loss temperatures of 143 °C, 225 °C, and 387 °C. Plasticizer migration was also investigated by treating PVC-DEHP and PVC-triazole-cardanol with *n*-heptane at 40 °C. The PVC-triazole-cardanol derivative did not show any significant migration of the cardanol plasticizer, while

the PVC-DEHP standard displayed considerable leaching of DEHP into the *n*-heptane solution.

Citric acid, a molecule ubiquitously found in citrus plants, was explored as a basis for a novel, covalently bound, plasticizing system for PVC.¹⁴⁶ Zhou et al. also employed the copper-mediated azide-alkyne cycloaddition as an attachment strategy. Citric acid is a tricarboxylic acid, manufactured globally in large quantities.¹⁴⁷ The free-acid has a multitude of applications ranging from preservatives, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, beverage additives, and dyes.¹⁴⁷ Cost-effective, renewable, and easy to manufacture, citric acid is a commodity chemical that has the potential to be an excellent internal plasticizer to PVC due to its branched structure, which allows the facile functionalization of multiple chemical moieties bearing plasticizing entities. In this study however, the authors purchased commercially available triethyl citrate for use as the main plasticizing moiety. The synthesis of the citrate alkyne and its subsequent attachment to PVC using the copper-mediated azide-alkyne cycloaddition is shown in **Scheme 1.19**.



Scheme 1.19 Zhou's Triethyl Citrate Internally Plasticized PVC Synthesis¹⁴⁶

Triethyl citrate was treated with propargyl bromide and potassium carbonate in acetone, at 65 °C for 12 hours in 97% yield. PVC-N₃ was synthesized by dissolving PVC and sodium azide in DMF at 30 °C for 24 hours, and was subsequently precipitated in a 1:1 water/methanol solution. The key azide-alkyne cycloaddition was performed with stoichiometric copper (I) bromide and 5,5'-dimethyl-2,2'-bipyridine in DMF at 30 °C for 24 hours. Polymer samples were characterized by FTIR, ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, GPC, DSC, and TGA. Mechanical properties were also investigated. **Table 1.17** shows the DSC results of the polymer samples, with corresponding molecular weights.

Sample	M _n (g/mol)	T _g (°C)
PVC	19529	87.6
PVC-Triazole-Citrate	29602	35.7
PVC-DEHP (40 Wt% DEHP)	19529	11.7

Table 1.17 Zhou's Thermal Data for PVC-Triazole-Citrate Study¹⁴⁶

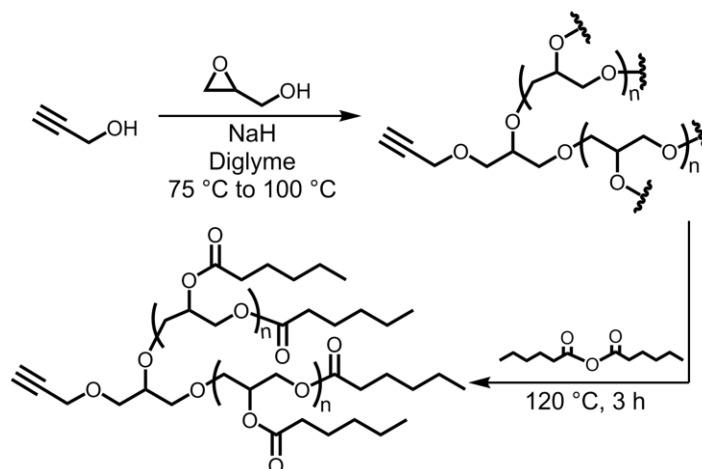
To reprise what was previously stated, Zhou et al. does not perform a heat-cool-heat cycle on each polymer sample, leaving the potential thermal history of the polymer unperturbed when measuring the glass transition temperatures. Thus, the T_g data presented in this study may not be accurate compared to experiments following the standard cycling conditions. That aside, the PVC-citrate derivative exhibited a T_g of 35.7 °C, approximately 52 °C lower than the T_g of unmodified PVC. In comparison to their PVC-DEHP mixture, the citrate derivative falls short in terms of glass transition temperature by 24 °C. Elemental analysis was performed on the PVC-N₃, giving values of 35.13% C, 8.21% H, 18.47% N, and 38.19% Cl; however, the authors failed to determine the actual degree of azidation on PVC. Using the molecular weights given by GPC, the PVC-citrate sample gained 10073 grams per mole over standard PVC, which equates to 34 weight percent triazole-citrate plasticizer. TGA revealed that the triazole-citrate plasticizer imparts improved thermal stability to the sample, by possessing higher degradation temperatures at 5, 15, and 50 percent weight loss over PVC or PVC-DEHP. Migration studies on PVC-citrate and PVC-DEHP were carried out to

ASTMD1239-98 standards with four different solvents. In distilled water, 10% (v/v) aqueous ethanol, petroleum ether, and 30% (w/v) acetic acid, DEHP migrated to a greater extent than the triazole-citrate system, which experienced no migration in any solvent, due to its covalent bond to PVC.

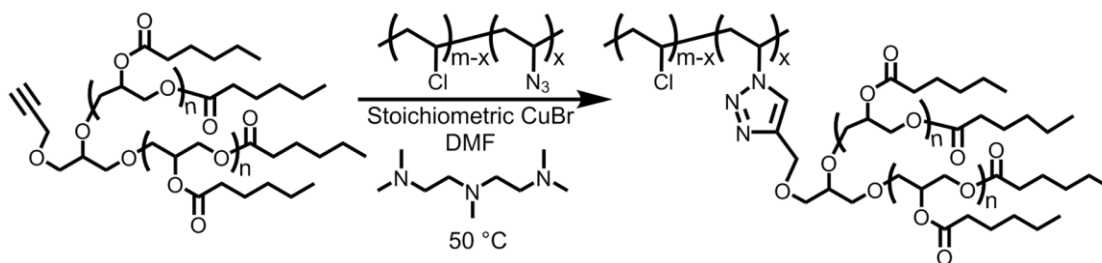
1.11 Synthetic 1,2,3-Triazole Internally Plasticized Poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC)

The copper-mediated azide-alkyne cycloaddition (CuAAC)¹⁴⁸ is currently *en vogue* as a facile means to couple organic molecules together, and is quickly becoming popular in all fields of chemistry. Consequently, CuAAC is gaining prevalence in the polymer realm as an approach to covalently attach plasticizers to PVC. In the preceding section discussing naturally-derived plasticizers, two studies¹⁴⁵⁻¹⁴⁶ harnessed the straightforward nature of the copper-mediate cycloaddition to attach plasticizers to PVC. While these two studies dealt with naturally-derived plasticizers, there are a multitude of publications that utilize wholly synthetic plasticizers covalently bonded to PVC *via* a copper-mediated azide-alkyne cycloaddition.

Kwak and coworkers developed a hyperbranched polyglycerol (HPG) plasticizer, which was grafted onto PVC utilizing copper-mediated azide-alkyne cycloaddition.¹⁴⁹ A hexyl ester-terminated HPG (HPG-C6) was synthesized with each HPG-C6 unit containing one alkyne. HPG was synthesized by an anionic ring-opening polymerization (AROP) of glycidol with propargyl alcohol under basic conditions as shown in **Scheme 1.20**. The hyperbranched polyglycerol alkyne was then mixed neat with hexanoic anhydride at 120 °C for 3 hours, yielding the final HPG-C6 alkyne. To obtain PVC with the grafted hyperbranched HPG derivative (PVC-*g*-HPG-C6), HPG-C6-alkyne and PVC-N₃ at varying degrees of azidation were combined with copper (I) bromide and *N,N,N',N'',N'''*-pentamethyldiethylenetriamine (PMDETA) in DMF, at 50 °C, for 24 hours (**Scheme 1.21**).



Scheme 1.20 Kwak's Hyperbranched Polyglycerol (HPG-C6) Alkyne Synthesis¹⁴⁹



Scheme 1.21 Kwak's PVC-g-HPG-C6 Synthesis¹⁴⁹

The PVC-N₃ used by the authors possessed different degrees of azidation ranging from 1.8% to 9.0%, depending on reaction time. A multitude of analyses were performed on the PVC-g-HPG-C6 derivatives. Beginning with the thermal data, the authors observe a progressive, significant enhancement in glass transition temperatures in the PVC-g-HPG-C6 samples (**Table 1.18**). Unmodified PVC exhibits a glass transition temperature of 81.3 °C. At 1.8 mole percent HPG-C6, a decrease in T_g is observed at 38.6 °C, representing a 42.7 °C depression

Sample	Triazole Content (mol%)	M _n (g/mol)	T _g (°C)	ΔT _g (°C)
PVC	0	42271	81.3	-
PVC _{1.8} -g-HPG-C6	1.8	50251	38.6	42.7
PVC _{3.6} -g-HPG-C6	3.6	57763	16.4	64.9
PVC _{5.8} -g-HPG-C6	5.8	83883	-4.5	85.8
PVC _{9.0} -g-HPG-C6	9.0	88404	-28.9	110.2

Table 1.18 PVC-g-HPG-C6 GPC and DSC Results¹⁴⁹

compared to standard PVC. At twice the mole percent substitution (3.6%), the grafted material displays a T_g of 16.4 °C. At 5.8 mole percent, PVC_{5.8-g}-HPG-C6 gave a T_g of -4.5 °C. At 9.0 mole percent, PVC_{9.0-g}-HPG-C6 showed an impressive T_g value of -28.9 °C, a 110.2 °C depression compared to standard PVC. The glass transition temperature depressions show an exponential decrease from 81.3 °C to -28.9 °C (**Figure 1.18**). The authors report that the decline in T_g is comparable to conventional PVC-DEHP at 60 parts per hundred resin (phr).

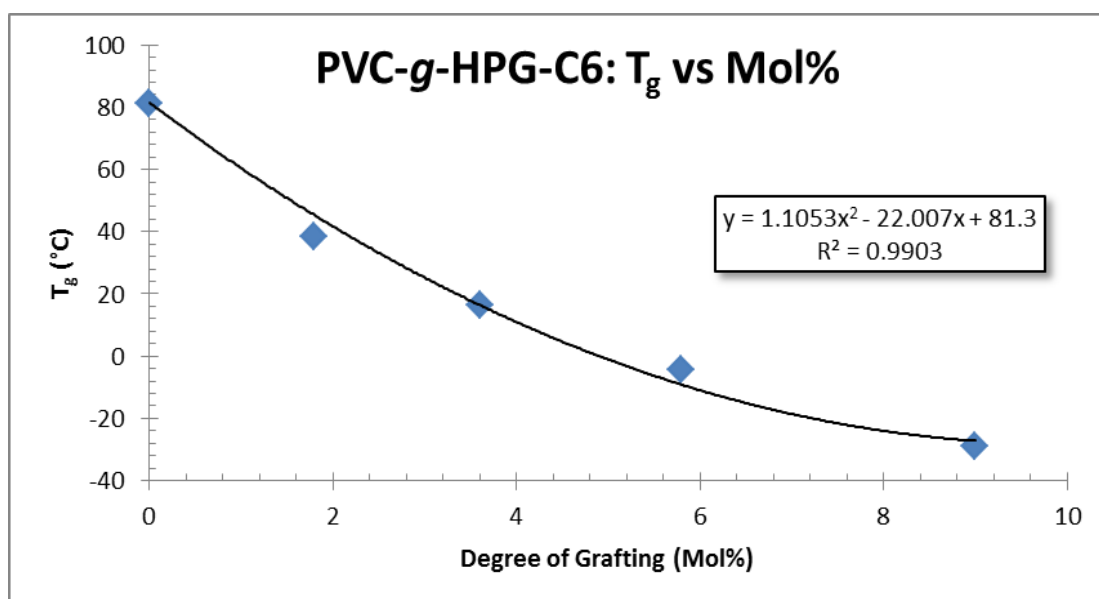


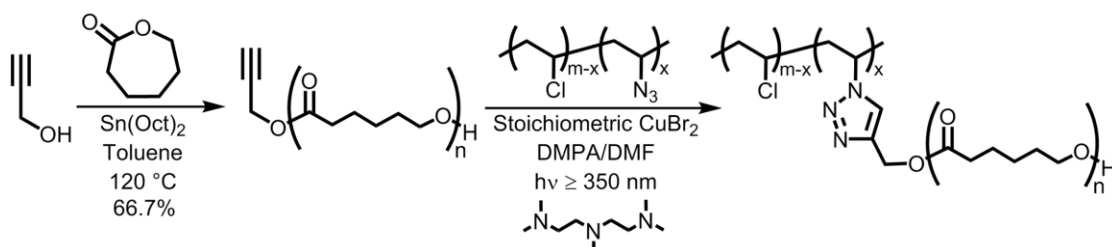
Figure 1.18 PVC-*g*-HPG-C6 T_g versus Mol%¹⁴⁹

At 60 parts per hundred resin DEHP to PVC, a T_g of -23.8 °C was obtained. The authors rationalized the decrease in T_g , writing, “the amorphous, unentangled, and bulky dendritic structure, as well as the numerous mobile polyether segments of HPG-C6 efficiently increase the free volume of the PVC-*g*-HPG-C6.” What may also contribute to the efficacy of the HPG-C6 system is the presence of the polyether segments. While the authors mention mobility of the polyglycerol segments, a statement on the *miscibility* of the polyether with PVC is absent. The storage modulus (E') and loss tangent ($\tan\delta$) were obtained as a function of temperature. The storage modulus of PVC-*g*-HPG-C6 decreased as the temperature

increased, indicating energy dissipation. Other observations included the onset of E' drop and E' value at 25 °C, which decreased from 46.1 °C to -15 °C, and from 235 to 0.12 MPa, respectively. The α -relaxation temperature was lowered in PVC-*g*-HPG-C6 and increased the height of the $\tan\delta$ peak. The authors concluded that these values indicate that grafted HPG-C6 increases segmental motion to PVC, and consequently, improves the malleability of the polymer at room temperature. To contrast, a mixture of PVC-DEHP (60 phr) exhibited onset of E' drop and α -relaxation temperatures between 5.8 mole percent and 9.0 mole percent PVC-*g*-HPG-C6, which corresponds with the T_g values taken of these samples. The E' value at 25 °C of PVC-DEHP is between the 3.6 mole percent and 5.8 mole percent PVC-*g*-HPG-C6; this phenomenon indicates that PVC-DEHP is less flexible and ductile at 25 °C than 5.8 and 9.0 mole percent PVC-*g*-HPG-C6, despite having similar T_g values.¹⁴⁹

The mechanical properties of the PVC-*g*-HPG-C6 derivatives were also investigated. To investigate the effect of covalent bonding of HPG-C6 to PVC, PVC-*g*-HPG-C6 and mixtures of PVC with unbound HPG-C6 were subjected to stress-strain tests. With both grafted and unbound HPG-C6, tensile strength decreased with higher molar percentages of HPG-C6. All tensile strength values for PVC-*g*-HPG-C6 were higher than the unbound analogs, due to the covalent attachment of HPG-C6 to PVC, which imparts strength to the polymer. Elongation at break significantly increased in all covalently grafted samples versus the unbound mixtures. The maximum elongation at break value was observed for the 9.0 mole percent PVC-*g*-HPG-C6 samples, to be 912% (380 times greater than pure PVC). For comparison, a maximum value of 153% was obtained for the unbound samples, which corresponded to 1.7 mole percent of unbound HPG-C6. Tensile strength and elongation of break of PVC-DEHP (60 phr) values were similar to that of the 3.6 mole percent PVC-*g*-HPG-C6 derivative.

In another study which utilized CuAAC for the covalent attachment of a polymeric species to PVC, Tasdelen and Demirci¹⁵⁰ grafted poly(ϵ -caprolactone) to PVC. The authors synthesize poly(ϵ -caprolactone) alkyne *via* a ring opening polymerization of ϵ -caprolactone using Sn(Oct)₂ and propargyl alcohol as shown in **Scheme 1.22**.



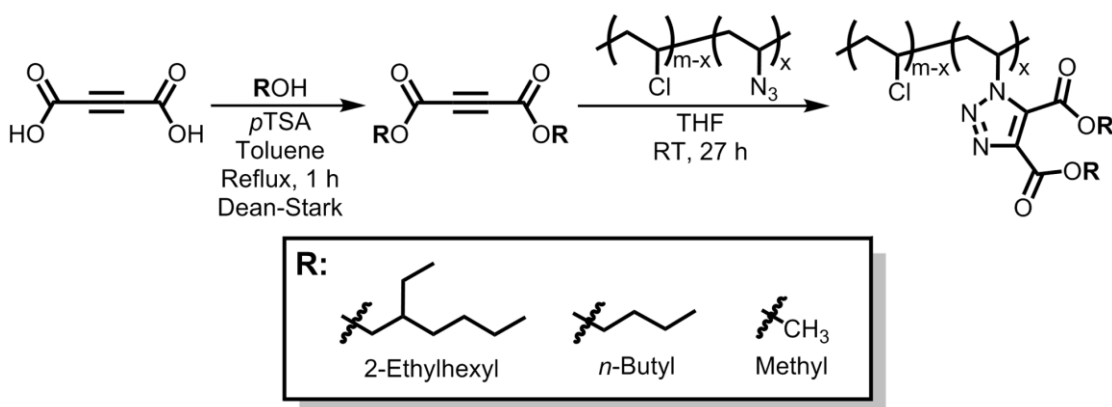
Scheme 1.22 Poly(ϵ -caprolactone) Triazole Functionalized PVC Synthesis¹⁵⁰

The subsequent azide-alkyne-cycloaddition is carried out with stoichiometric copper (II) dibromide, PMDETA, and 2,2-dimethoxy-2-phenylacetophenone (DMPA) as a photoinitiator in DMF at 60 °C. With respect to PVC-N₃, there was no indication of the degree of azidation nor elemental analysis to describe the amount of azide substitution on the PVC, although the authors reference another study that utilized similar reaction conditions to obtain PVC-N₃.¹⁵¹ However, that reference ran the S_N2 with sodium azide for 92 hours versus 42 hours, as in Tasdelen and Demirci's current study. According to the secondary reference, after 92 hours, the azidation percentage was reported to be 8.0 mole percent.¹⁵¹ Regardless of the absence of this important data, the photoinduced copper-mediated cycloaddition was monitored by FTIR, noting the disappearance of the azide stretch at 2110 cm⁻¹ after reaction completion. Other methods of characterization were carried out such as GPC and DSC, as seen in **Table 1.19**.

Sample	M _n (g/mol)	T _g (°C)
PVC	57800	-
PVC-N ₃	58400	87
PCL-Alkyne	8000	-
PVC-g-PCL	88000	76

Table 1.19 Poly(ϵ -caprolactone) Triazole Functionalized PVC Data¹⁵⁰

The authors observe a glass transition temperature of 87 °C for PVC-N₃ and 76 °C for PVC-*g*-PCL. Pure PVC was not measured for T_g as a standard. The modest T_g decrease of PVC-*g*-PCL is accompanied by a large increase in M_n compared to PVC (Δ 30200g/mol) or PVC-N₃ (Δ 29600 g/mol). If using PVC-N₃ as the standard, the difference in M_n would equate to a 33.6 weight percent increase, which can be accounted for by the cycloaddition of the poly(ε-caprolactone) alkyne. Overall, efficient plasticization was not achieved; poly(ε-caprolactone) does not appear to be an effective means of plasticizing PVC.



Scheme 1.23: Esterification and Copper-Free Azide-Alkyne Cycloaddition to Yield Phthalate Mimics¹⁵²

Braslau and Earla¹⁵² employed the use of a mild, copper-free azide-alkyne cycloaddition, to attach acetylenedicarboxylate esters bearing alkyl groups, with the intended purpose of creating phthalate analogs directly attached to PVC. The general synthesis of the acetylenedicarboxylate ester and the final PVC product are shown in **Scheme 1.23**. In this reaction scheme, acetylenedicarboxylate was esterified using one of three alcohols, *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (*p*-TSA) and toluene. The reaction was heated to reflux for one hour with a Dean-Stark apparatus to enable facile reaction completion. PVC-N₃ was then treated with the dialkyl acetylenedicarboxylate in THF at room temperature for 27 hours. After subsequent precipitation once in methanol, the final polymers were obtained with varying degrees of functionalization, bearing triazole-based phthalate mimics. As an example, the 2-ethylhexyl

triazole derivative **1.7** is compared to standard DEHP **1.6** (**Figure 1.19**). As seen in **Figure 1.19**, the structure of the novel triazole-based phthalate mimic is nearly analogous to the phthalate, except for two differences. The first difference is the presence of the triazole heterocycle. The five membered ring is aromatic, as is the phenyl group in di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate. The second difference is the facile nature of covalently attaching an alkyl group *via* the triazole, designated R_1 in **1.7**. In the present study, the covalently attached alkyl group is PVC, which is formed from a simple thermal 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of the azide and an electron poor alkyne.

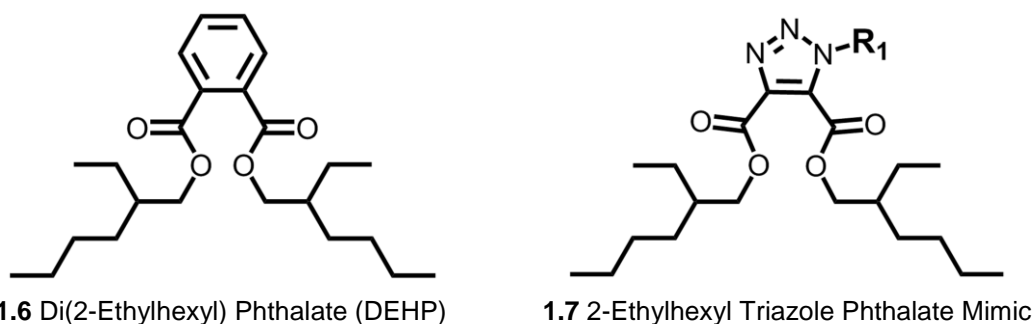
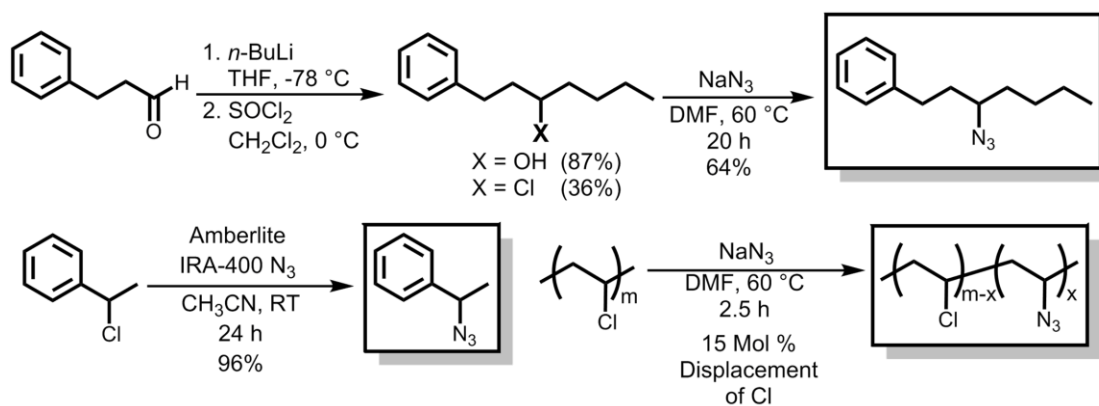


Figure 1.19: Structural Comparison of DEHP and 2-Ethylhexyl Triazole Phthalate Mimic

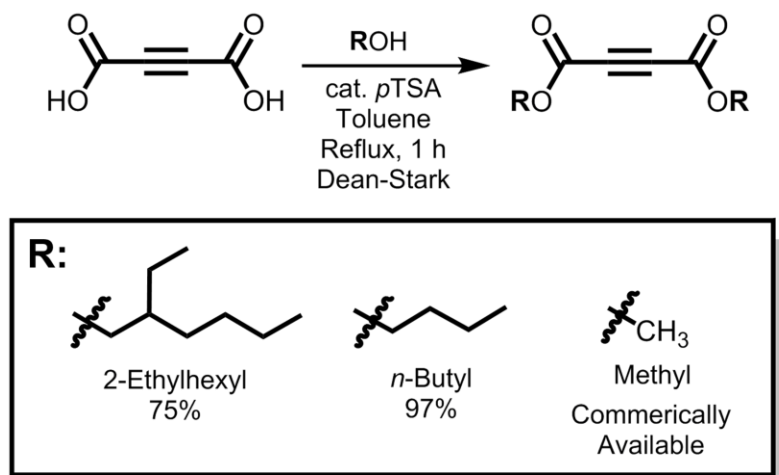
Small molecule azides and PVC-N₃ were synthesized as depicted in **Scheme 1.24**. Once the small molecule azides were prepared, three derivatives of dialkyl acetylenedicarboxylate were synthesized *via* Fischer esterification (**Scheme 1.25**). Next, the thermal azide-alkyne cycloaddition was optimized using commercially available dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate and 4-ethylbenzyl azide at varying temperatures and molar equivalents of the electron-poor alkyne (**Scheme 1.26, Table 1.20**).

Equivalents Alkyne	Solvent	Temperature (°C)	Time	Yield
50	Neat	100	40 min	91%
5	Neat	50	40 min	ND
5	Neat	RT	40 min	ND
1.5	Neat	RT	22 h	ND
1.5	CDCl ₃	RT	22 h	89%

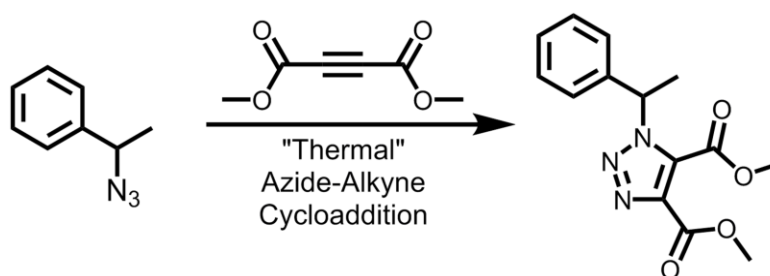
Table 1.20: Thermal Azide-Alkyne Cycloaddition Optimization Reaction Conditions¹⁵²



Scheme 1.24: Small Molecule Model Azides and PVC-N₃ Synthesis¹⁵²

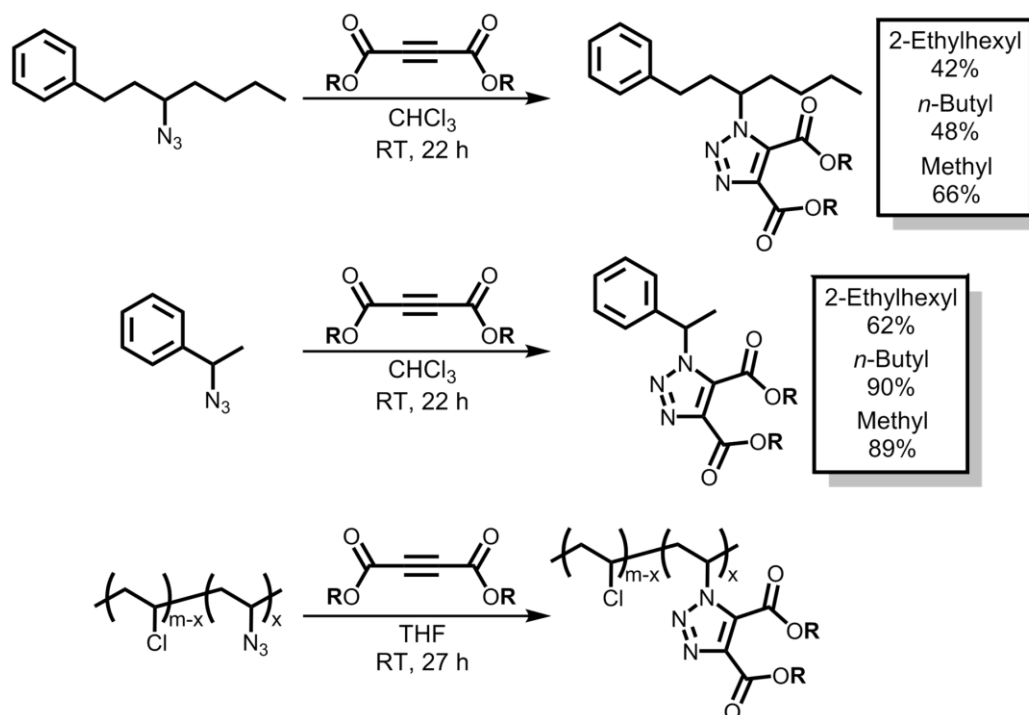


Scheme 1.25: Fischer Esterification Synthesis of Dialkyl Acetylenedicarboxylates¹⁵²



Scheme 1.26: Thermal Azide-Alkyne Cycloaddition Optimization¹⁵²

In the literature prior to this optimization study, it was reported that 50 equivalents of alkyne were required for a thermal cycloaddition to occur at 100 °C.¹⁵³ Aruna Earla discovered that the reaction proceeds at lower temperatures and vastly less equivalents of alkyne. Although reaction times increased from 40 minutes to 22 hours, the thermal azide-alkyne cycloaddition was optimized to perform under mild conditions. This is possibly due to the nature of the alkyne, which bears two electron-withdrawing esters adjacent to the sp^1 carbons of the alkyne. This lowers the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO), thus activating the alkyne and allowing the cycloaddition to occur at lower equivalents, concentrations, and temperatures. After reaction optimization, the small molecule model azides and PVC- N_3 were treated with dialkyl acetylenedicarboxylates at room temperature for approximately a day, resulting in the key thermal Huisgen 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition occurs on the azide models and PVC- N_3 (**Scheme 1.27**).

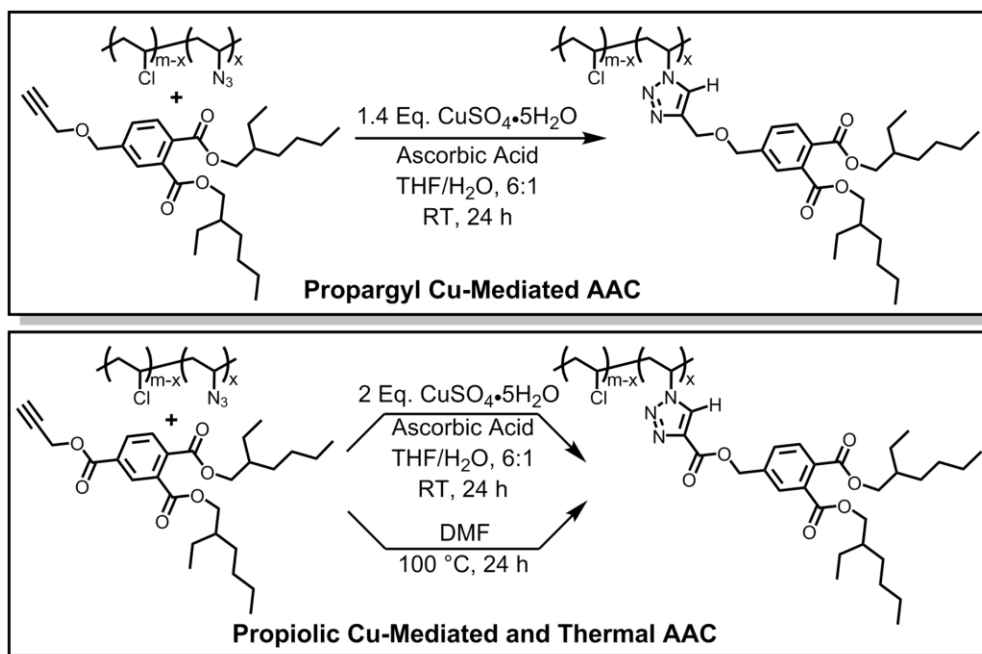


Scheme 1.27: Thermal Huisgen 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition Reactions¹⁵²

The thermal cycloadditions were monitored by FTIR. The disappearance of the characteristic azide stretch at 2100-2000 cm^{-1} is a clear indicator that the cycloaddition of azide and alkyne had transpired. In all instances, the cycloaddition occurred at room temperature. Despite PVC- N_3 containing somewhat sterically hindered 2° azide sites, the cycloaddition reached completion, yielding PVC-triazole. To determine the degree of azidation, elemental analysis was carried out on PVC- N_3 , which revealed the composition of the polymer to be 38.17% C, 4.70% H, and 9.81% N. This corresponds to 14.7% substitution of chloride with azide. Other forms of analysis were performed such as $^1\text{H-NMR}$, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$, and DEPT. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) results were absent in the publication: likewise, no T_g values were obtained. This formative investigation led to future research on the plasticizing capabilities of these triazole-based phthalate mimics covalently attached to PVC.

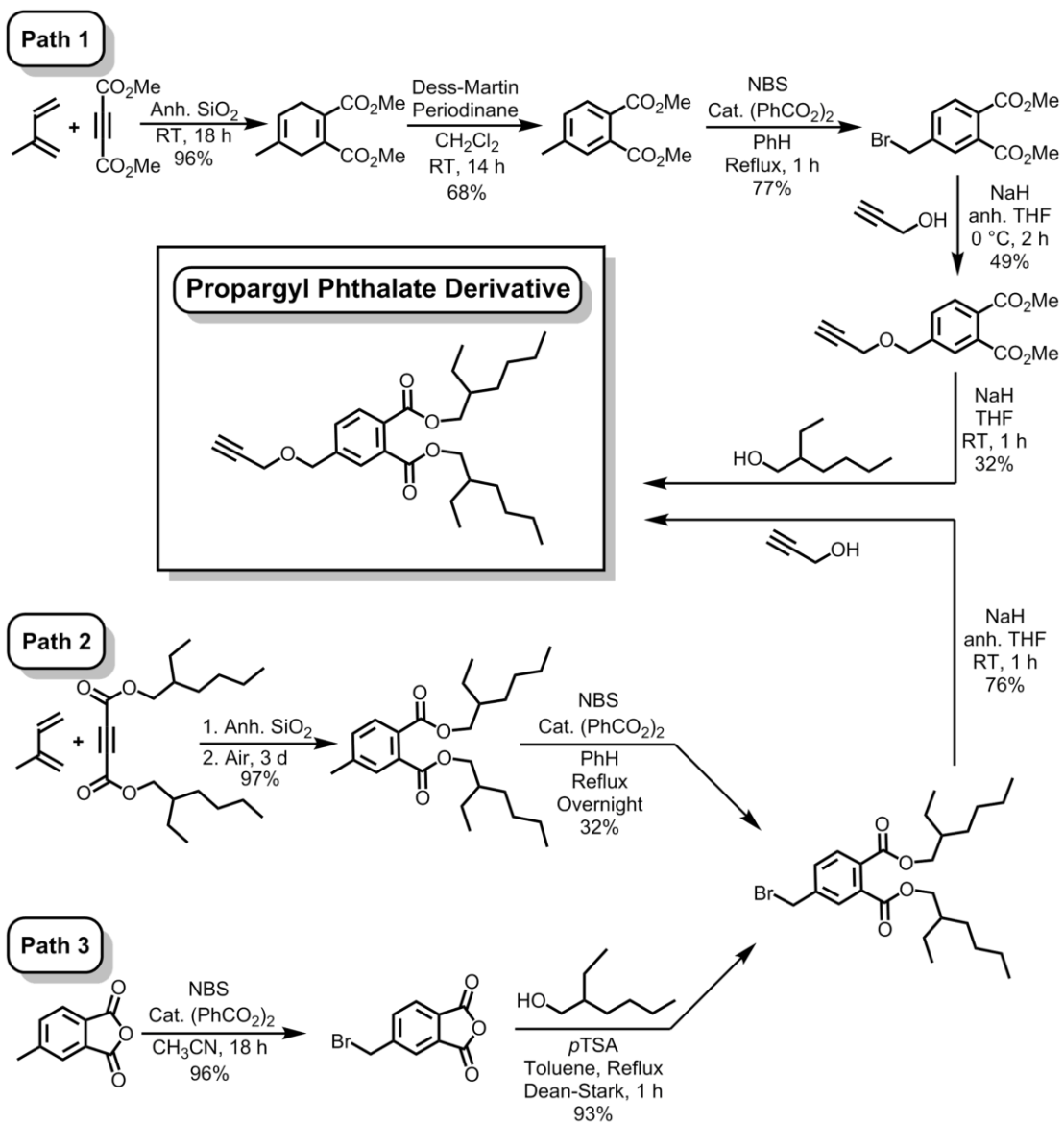
In 2017, Braslau, Earla, Li, and Costanzo¹⁵⁴ further explored the prospect of internally plasticizing PVC with triazole tethered phthalate mimics, utilizing either copper-mediated or thermal Huisgen 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition as a strategy to covalently attach the plasticizing entities (**Scheme 1.28**). It was envisaged that a phthalate covalently attached to PVC *via* the azide-alkyne cycloaddition may plasticize PVC in an efficient manner. This, in combination with a flexible linker to the final plasticizing moiety,¹⁵⁴ was theorized to increase plasticization efficiency over a triazole phthalate mimic directly attached to PVC.¹⁵² The short, flexible linker imparts mobility to the phthalate moiety, allowing the plasticizer to disrupt chain-chain interactions, thereby generating additional free volume more efficiently than an analogous triazole plasticizer tethered directly to the backbone of PVC.

Three synthetic paths were developed (**Scheme 1.29**) to prepare the propargyl-phthalate derivative. Briefly, **Path 1** involves a Diels-Alder cycloaddition with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate to give a diene, which was subsequently oxidized, forming the aromatic methyl ester phthalate. Benzylic bromination with *N*-bromosuccinimide yielded the

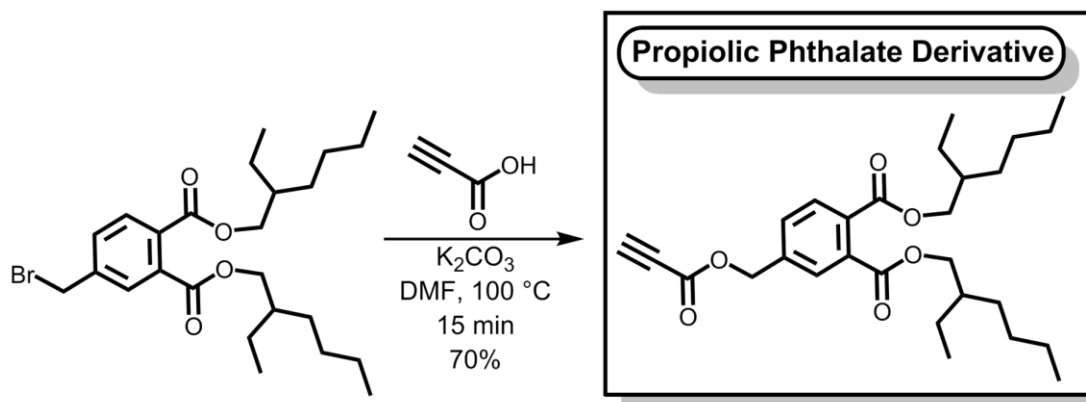


Scheme 1.28: Cu-Mediated and Thermal AAC PVC-Triazole-Phthalate Syntheses¹⁵⁴

benzyl bromide, which was subsequently treated with propargyl alcohol and sodium hydride to install the alkyne as a benzylic ether. Finally, 2-ethylhexyl alcohol was treated with sodium hydride and the propargyl phthalate methyl ester underwent a transesterification to yield the final propargyl 2-ethylhexyl phthalate derivative. **Path 2** is more convergent; first a Diels-Alder cycloaddition was performed on di(2-ethylhexyl) acetylenedicarboxylate and isoprene, using activated silica as a catalyst. The reaction was exposed to air, oxidizing the 1,4-diene to the tolyl-2-ethylhexyl phthalate intermediate. Subsequently, the benzylic methyl was brominated using *N*-bromosuccinimide, yielding the benzylic bromide, which was treated with propargyl alcohol and sodium hydride to give the desired propargyl-phthalate derivative. **Path 3** utilizes 4-methylphthalic anhydride to obtain the final product. First, 4-methylphthalic anhydride was treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide to give the benzyl brominated anhydride. Next, anhydride opening and Fischer esterification with 2-ethylhexyl alcohol gave the benzylic brominated 2-ethylhexyl phthalate. Analogous to **Path 2**, the brominated phthalate intermediate was treated with propargyl alcohol and sodium hydride to obtain the propargyl



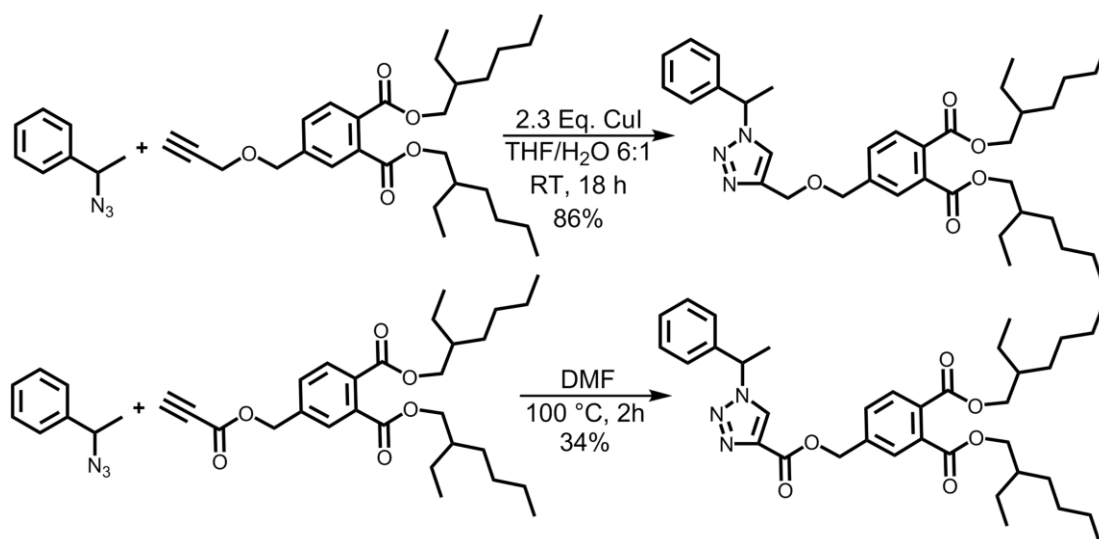
Scheme 1.29: Braslau's Three Propargyl Alkyne Tethered Phthalate Synthetic Pathways¹⁵⁴



Scheme 1.30: Braslau's Propiolic Alkyne Phthalate Synthesis¹⁵⁴

phthalate derivative. Fortunately, either **Path 2** or **Path 3** may be used to synthesize the advanced brominated intermediate shared in the syntheses of the propargyl and propiolic derivatives. In a single step, propiolic acid and potassium carbonate in DMF were heated to 100 °C for 15 minutes, to give the propiolic-phthalate derivative (**Scheme 1.30**). Once the ether and ester alkyne derivatives were prepared, model reactions were performed to investigate the feasibility of both the copper-mediated and thermal AAC with a small molecule azide model: 1-phenethyl azide (**Scheme 1.31**). This permitted the straightforward characterization of the product by FTIR, NMR and HRMS: the final polymeric species is not as amenable to these analytical methods. FTIR, NMR, and HRMS all confirmed the formation of the triazole under both copper-catalyzed and thermal conditions with 1-phenethyl azide. The conditions shown in **Scheme 1.31** were then applied to PVC-N₃. The propargyl and propiolic phthalate derivatives were each combined with PVC-N₃ (**Scheme 1.32**) to furnish PVC with covalently attached phthalate derivatives bound by a triazole with a short, flexible ether or ester linker.

Differential scanning calorimetry was performed on a multitude of polymeric samples in this study (**Table 1.21**). Unmodified PVC exhibits the common literature value for the glass transition temperature of 82 °C, while PVC-N₃ at 5 mole percent gives a slightly higher T_g of 84 °C. PVC-N₃ at 15 mole percent gives a marginally lower T_g of 75 °C.



Scheme 1.31: Cu-Mediated and Thermal AAC Model Reactions¹⁵⁴

Sample	Mol% Substitution	T _g (°C)
PVC	0	82
PVC-N ₃	5	84
	15	75
PVC-DEHT*	5	61
	15	65
PVC-DEHP-Ether	5	69
	15	55
PVC-DEHP-Ester (Cu Cat.)	5	69
	15	60
PVC-DEHP-Ester (Thermal)	5	77
	15	60
PVC-DEHP (Conventional Mixture)	5 (Wt %)	74
	15 (Wt %)	75

Table 1.21: Braslau's Thermal Data for PVC-Triazole-DEHP Derivatives¹⁵⁴

*Note: DEHT = Di(2-Ethylhexyl) Triazole

Interestingly, PVC bearing a triazole with 2-ethylhexyl esters (PVC-DEHT) exhibited a higher T_g at 15 mole percent substitution (65 °C) over the 5 mole percent analog (61 °C). This phenomenon may be rationalized by the presence of the aromatic triazole on PVC. As seen with Reinecke's mercapto-phthalate derivatives,¹³² direct aromatic substitution on the backbone of PVC possibly impedes plasticization efficiency, due to an increase of rigidity of the PVC chain due to crystallinity or π-stacking of the aromatic rings. PVC-DEHP-ester,

which is mimicked by PVC-DEHT, displayed decreased T_g values, whether prepared by copper-catalysis or dipolar cycloaddition, ranging from 77 °C for the 5 mole percent thermally coupled sample to 60 °C for both copper and thermal 15 mole percent samples. PVC-DEHP-ether gave the lowest T_g in this study: 55 °C for the 15 mole percent sample. This can be justified as previously discussed, where rigidity is induced by aromatic planarity. The sp^2 carbonyl bond of the ester appears to convey additional rigidity to PVC in juxtaposition to the ether counterpart. T_g values of the 15 mole percent ester linker were 60 °C, compared to 55 °C in the ether linked DEHP. From this data, the key concept exemplified is that any molecule bestowing rigidity to the main chain of PVC will presumably decrease plasticization efficiency at higher chlorine substitution levels.

1.12 Conclusion

While the studies discussed achieve varying levels of plasticization, design rules for covalently bound emollients on PVC have not yet been firmly established: this dissertation aims to systematically investigate the effect of plasticizer structure on glass transition temperature. Factors such as branching, plasticizing group composition, and miscibility were explored. Non-migratory plasticizers attached to pendant triazole linkages were investigated. Copper-free thermal azide-alkyne cycloadditions are employed to functionalize PVC with an array of triazole-based phthalate mimics.

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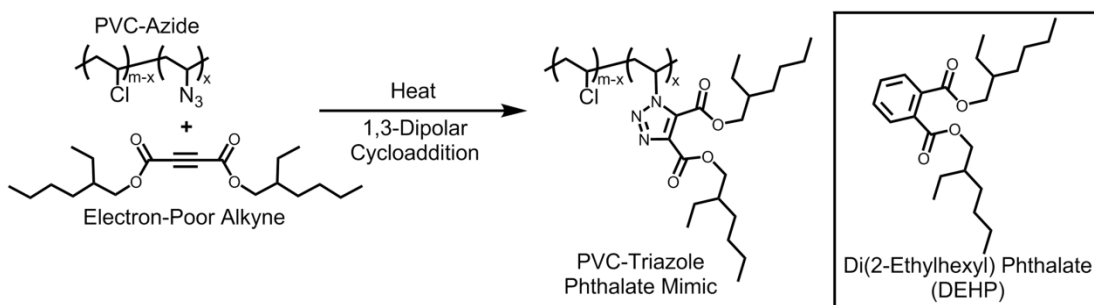
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2 Direct and Single Hexyl Tethered Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics

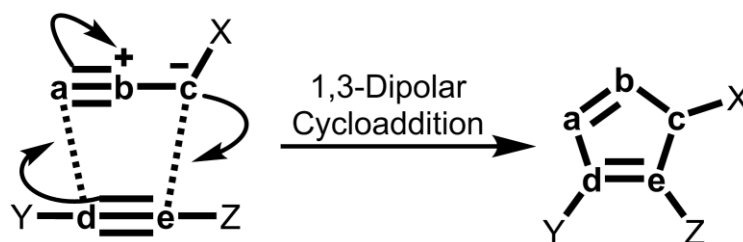
2.1 The 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition

A facile method to create a phthalate mimic covalently bound to poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) was investigated: factors considered included cost, simplicity, and ease of implementation in an industrial setting. The azide-alkyne cycloaddition was quickly recognized as an efficient method to incorporate triazole-based phthalate mimics directly bound to PVC. The PVC 1,2-diester triazole moiety closely resembles a phthalate plasticizer such as DEHP (**Scheme 2.1**). In this way, two simple synthetic steps are required to create the desired plasticizer without a metal catalyst, as compared to the copper-mediated azide alkyne cycloaddition (CuAAC) popularized by Sharpless and coworkers.¹ A metal-free reaction is preferred in most industrial modalities, as contamination can lead to deleterious post-production effects.



Scheme 2.1 Azide-Alkyne Thermal Dipolar Cycloaddition Furnishing a PVC-Triazole Phthalate Mimic

The azide-alkyne cycloaddition (AAC) belongs to a class of reactions called 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions, which generally involve an electron-rich 1,3-dipole and an electron-poor dipolarophile, forming a neutral five-membered ring (**Scheme 2.2**).² Mechanistically, this reaction is pericyclic and concerted. The cycloaddition obeys the Woodward-Hoffman³ and Dewar-Zimmermann⁴ rules. According to the Woodward-Hoffmann definition, frontier molecular orbitals of the 1,3-dipole and dipolarophile overlap in a suprafacial $\pi 4s + \pi 2s$ symmetry allowed manner. In the Dewar-Zimmerman Möbius-Hückel approach, the 1,3-



Scheme 2.2 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition Mechanism of a Dipole and Alkyne

dipolar cycloaddition is considered a Hückel $4n+2$, six-electron system with two phase inversions: therefore this reaction is thermally allowed and photochemically forbidden.

1,3-Dipole	$1 \rightarrow a \equiv b^+ - c^- \leftarrow 3$
Azide	$N \equiv N^+ - N^- - X$
Diazoalkane	$N \equiv N^+ - C^- - X$ Y
Nitrous Oxide	$N \equiv N^+ - O^-$
Nitrile Ylide	$Z - C \equiv N^+ - C^- - X$ Y
Nitrilimine	$Z - C \equiv N^+ - N^- - X$
Nitrile Oxide	$Z - C \equiv N^+ - O^-$

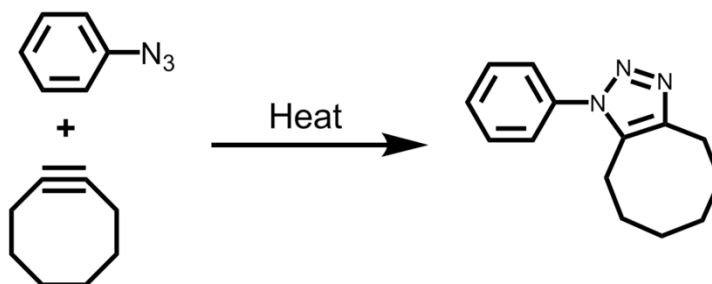
Table 2.1 Examples of 1,3-Dipoles

The 1,3-dipole is a zwitterionic species, systematically designated " $a-b-c$ " (**Table 2.1**). In the case of an azide-alkyne cycloaddition, the 1,3-dipole is an azide, while the dipolarophile is an alkyne (designated " $d-e$ ", **Scheme 2.2**). Taking into account the number of atoms in the 1,3-dipole (3) and dipolarophile (2), this reaction can also be designated as a (3+2) cycloaddition. Molecular orbitals of the dipole and dipolarophile must sufficiently overlap to allow the concerted movement of electrons to form the five-membered ring. Therefore, reaction efficiency is determined by the energy gap between the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) of the azide and the

lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) of the alkyne.⁵ Increased cycloaddition reactivity can be achieved by utilizing a strained or electron-deficient alkyne. In a strained alkyne, the angle of two p-orbitals of the sp-hybridized carbon-carbon bond are bent further apart than that in the analogous π -bond of ethylene.⁶ The overlap of the p-orbitals is less than in a

standard sp^2 or sp carbon-carbon bond: this raises the HOMO and lowers the LUMO in strained systems.

In 1961, Wittig and Krebs⁷ observed the explosive reaction of cyclooctyne and phenyl azide, forming the triazole product (**Scheme 2.3**). The strained alkyne present in cyclooctyne has a lower LUMO than a non-strained analogue. The bond angles of the sp carbons in cyclooctyne are $\sim 160^\circ$, with approximately 18 kcal/mol of ring strain, which distorts the orbitals toward the transition state and final product of the cycloaddition.⁸ In contrast to linear alkynes, the reaction takes place vigorously under mild heating.



Scheme 2.3 Wittig and Krebs' Phenyl Azide and Cyclooctyne Cycloaddition⁷

Inspired by this early work, the Bertozzi group⁸⁻⁹ pioneered a copper-free strain-promoted azide-alkyne cycloaddition (SPAAC) as a useful strategy to carry out chemical reactions that are biorthogonal: they do not interfere with biological processes.^{9a} Copper-catalyzed azide-alkyne cycloadditions (CuAAC)¹⁰ are fast, easy to work up, have no side products, and have a broad scope of applications. The system developed by Bertozzi does not require excessive heat nor a cytotoxic transition metal catalyst: the triazole is formed under biocompatible conditions. Cyclooctynes with functional groups that allow future coupling to fluorophores were synthesized (**Figure 2.1**). However, the second-order rate constants of the prototypical molecules were not sufficient to mediate the dipolar cycloaddition under ambient conditions. In order to increase the rate, fluorine atoms were placed on one of the α -carbons adjacent to the alkyne. Subsequently, aromatic groups were

fused on the cyclooctyne ring to enhance the reaction rate by further increasing the strain on the triple bond.^{9a}

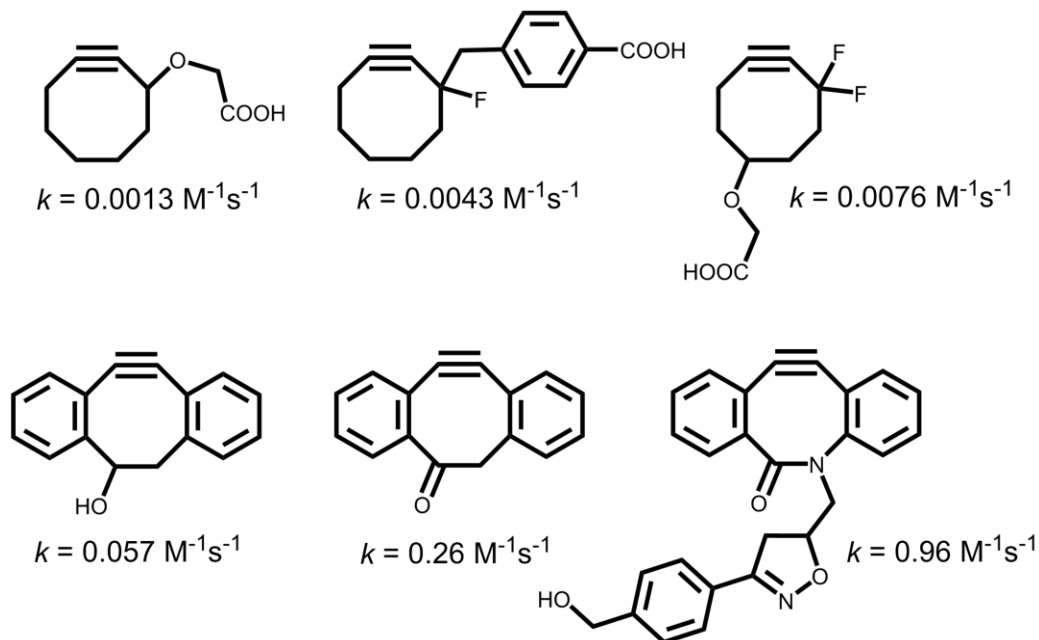
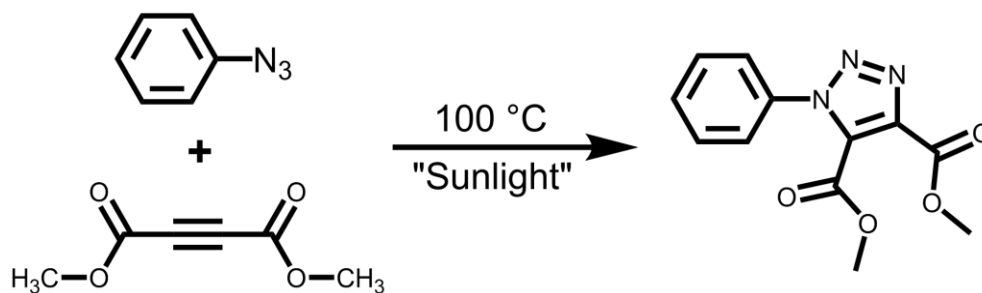


Figure 2.1 Second-Order Rate Constants of Reactions Between Alkyl Azide and Bertozzi's Cyclooctynes⁸⁻⁹

While SPAAC works well for small-scale biological applications, the cyclooctynes are challenging to synthesize and expensive to purchase. Another strategy to lower the alkyne's LUMO involves placing strong electron-withdrawing groups directly on the sp-carbons, thereby creating an electron-deficient alkyne. Electron-withdrawing groups (EWG) include halides, sulfonates, cyano, nitro groups and carbonyls such as esters, amides, ketones, aldehydes, and carboxylic acids. Synthetically, the carbonyl alkynes are often easily accessed. Enhanced cyclization rates and low temperatures are desirable reaction attributes when forming the triazole phthalate mimics on PVC.

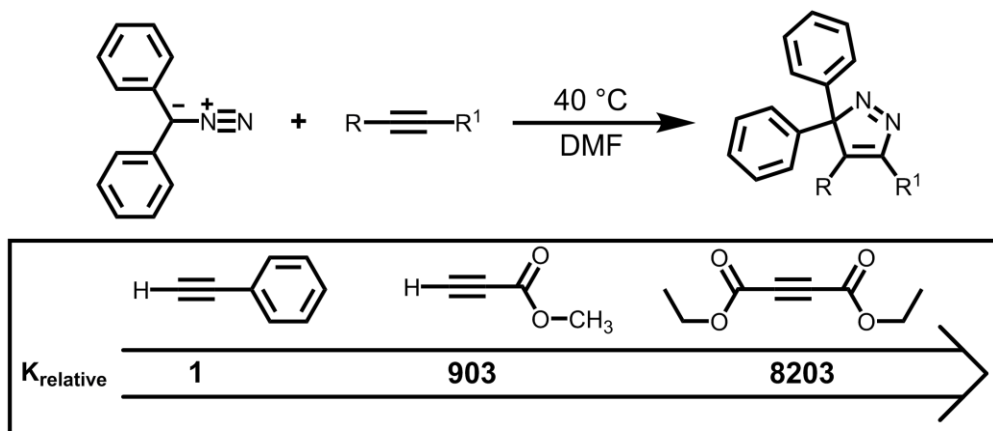
2.2 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition: Electron-Deficient Alkynes

In 1893, Arthur Michael first described the thermal dipolar azide-alkyne cycloaddition.¹¹ In this seminal publication, Michael combined phenyl azide and dimethyl



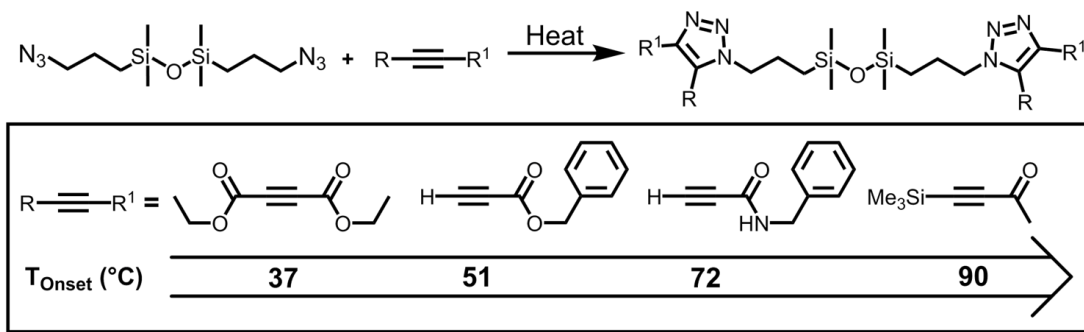
Scheme 2.4 Michael's Azide-Alkyne Cycloaddition¹¹

acetylenedicarboxylate in a sealed tube at $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 8 hours under sunlight (**Scheme 2.4**). White needles were obtained, which possessed a molecular formula of $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$. Michael commented on the similarity of the reaction done by Buchner and Witter¹² the same year, in which methyl diazoacetate and dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate were combined to produce what was then called "pyrazoltricarbonsaureester," or pyrazole tri-carbon acid ester. In this era of chemistry, cycloadditions were novel, uncommon reactions. For perspective, the thermal azide-alkyne cycloaddition done by Michael predates the Nobel Prize winning work of Diels and Alder¹³ by 35 years. The 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition¹³ was rediscovered nearly seven decades later by Huisgen,¹⁴ who recognized that reactions of this nature had been previously investigated. However, the mechanistic details, scope and applications were not thoroughly understood by Michael¹¹ 70 years prior. Huisgen¹⁵ observed a trend corresponding to the rate of a 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition between diazoalkanes (a similar 1,3 dipole to azide), and electron-poor alkynes (**Scheme 2.5**). As more electron-withdrawing groups are added to the alkyne, a rate enhancement occurs. A single electron-withdrawing ester attached to a terminal alkyne increases the relative rate of the reaction 903-fold, compared to the phenyl acetylene standard. When two esters are attached to the alkyne, the rate increases 8203-fold over the standard. From these data it is clear that as an alkyne becomes more electron-poor, the rate of cyclization increases.



Scheme 2.5 Huisgen's Diazoalkane Reaction with Electron-Deficient Alkynes¹⁵

Brook and coworkers⁵ studied the onset cycloaddition temperatures for a variety of alkynes and an alkyl azide *via* differential scanning calorimetry (**Scheme 2.6**). Similar to Huisgen's observations of reaction rates involving diazoalkanes, the relative onset temperature decreases with increasing electron-withdrawing substitution on the alkyne. Diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate, with two electron-withdrawing esters, has a low onset temperature of 37 °C. Benzyl propiolate, with a single ester, displays an intermediate onset temperature of 51 °C, while its amide derivative begins cyclization at 72 °C. The electron-donating trimethylsilane in 4-(trimethylsilyl)-3-butyn-2-one displays a high onset temperature of 90 °C. The data implies that as an alkyne becomes more electron-deficient, the amount of thermal energy to overcome E_A decreases.

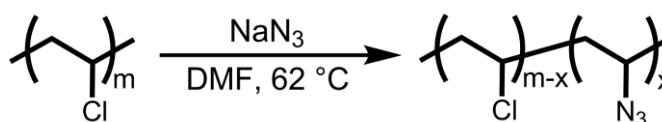


Scheme 2.6 Onset Temperatures for Brook's Azide-Alkyne Cycloadditions with Electron-Deficient Alkynes⁵

2.3 PVC Plasticization: Direct PVC Modification with Triazole-Phthalate Mimics

The azide-alkyne cycloaddition (AAC) was chosen as the simplest synthetic method to directly attach a phthalate mimic to the backbone of PVC. Development of electron-poor alkynes bearing two electron withdrawing groups facilitated decreased reaction times and improved yields. This thermal azide-alkyne cycloaddition system is modular, is synthetically simpler than current methods involving strained cyclooctynes, and creates a straightforward approach to covalently functionalize PVC with phthalate mimics. Thoughtful selection of EWGs with functionalizable tethering capabilities enables a multitude of applications under mild, copper-free conditions.

First, PVC-Azide **2.1** was synthesized in accordance to the procedure of Rusen and coworkers¹⁶ (**Scheme 2.7**). Azide is an excellent nucleophile and a poor base: previous studies by the Braslau group¹⁷ showed no indications of undesirable side reactions such as elimination.



Reaction Time	Mol % Azide
30 min	5 %
2 h	15 %

Scheme 2.7 Synthesis of PVC-Azide **2.1**

PVC (Sigma-Aldrich, M_w : 43000 g/mol, PDI: 1.95) was purified by dissolving in tetrahydrofuran (THF) and precipitating in methanol three times. Next, PVC was treated with sodium azide in dimethylformamide (DMF) at 62 °C for either 30 minutes to give 5 mole percent azide or 2 hours to give 15 mole percent azide. The amount of chloride displaced by azide was determined by elemental analysis.^{17b} After purification of PVC-azide *via* precipitation, FTIR verified that the reaction occurred, as indicated by the presence of the highly distinguishable azide stretch at 2114 cm^{-1} (**Figure 2.2**).

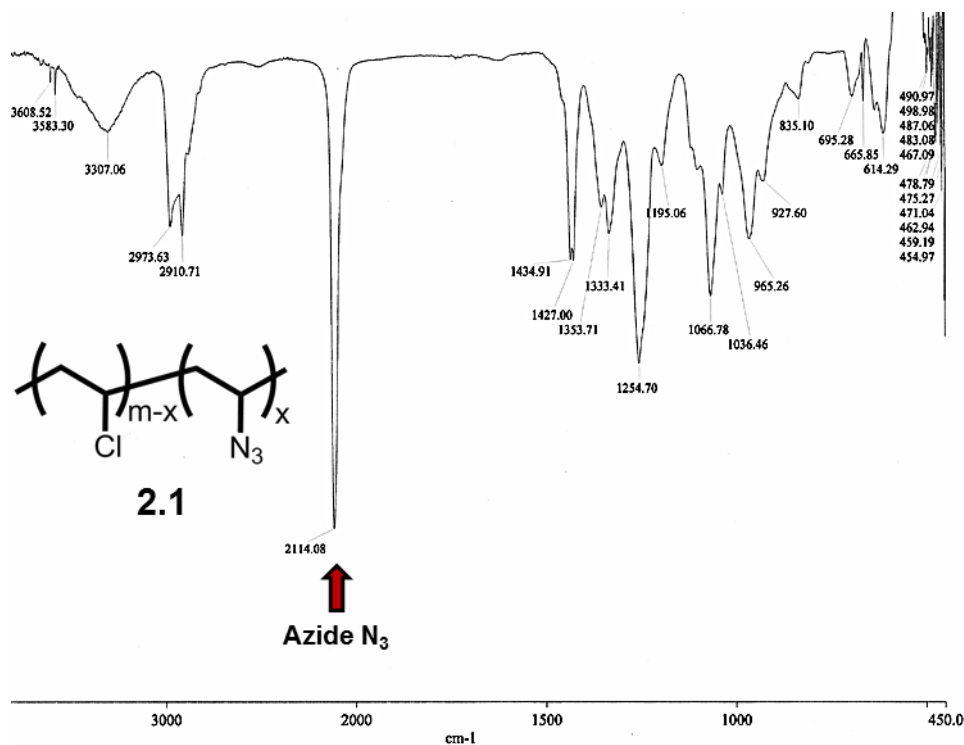


Figure 2.2 FTIR Spectrum of 15% PVC-Azide 2.1

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ verified reaction completion. The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ of PVC-azide in CDCl_3 shows characteristic shifts (**a** and **c**) between $\delta 1.77 - 2.46$ ppm for the methylene protons of $\text{N}_3\text{-CH-CH}_2$, and Cl-CH-CH_2 (**Figure 2.3**). Further downfield at $\delta 4.09$ and $\delta 4.20$ ppm, broad singlets are observed which correspond to the methine protons **d** of $\text{N}_3\text{-CH-CH}_2$. The remaining shifts are methine protons **a** adjacent to chlorine, Cl-CH-CH_2 . $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ in CDCl_3 exhibits small signals between $\delta 42.8 - 44.0$ ppm, belonging to methylene carbons **C** adjacent to the azide ($\text{N}_3\text{-C-CH}_2$) (**Figure 2.4**). A family of peaks between $\delta 44.8 - 47.3$ ppm are indicative of methylene carbons **A** adjacent to carbon bearing chloride (Cl-C-CH_2). Finally, methine shifts are observed for isotactic ($\delta 54.9 - 55.1$ ppm), heterotactic ($\delta 55.7 - 56.1$ ppm), and syndiotactic ($\delta 56.9 - 58.0$ ppm) carbons **B** and **D** belonging to $\text{N}_3\text{-CH-CH}_2$ and Cl-CH-CH_2 . In both $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$, no appreciable amount of elimination (alkene signals) were observed. Competing elimination reactions with certain nucleophiles (e.g., amine) give

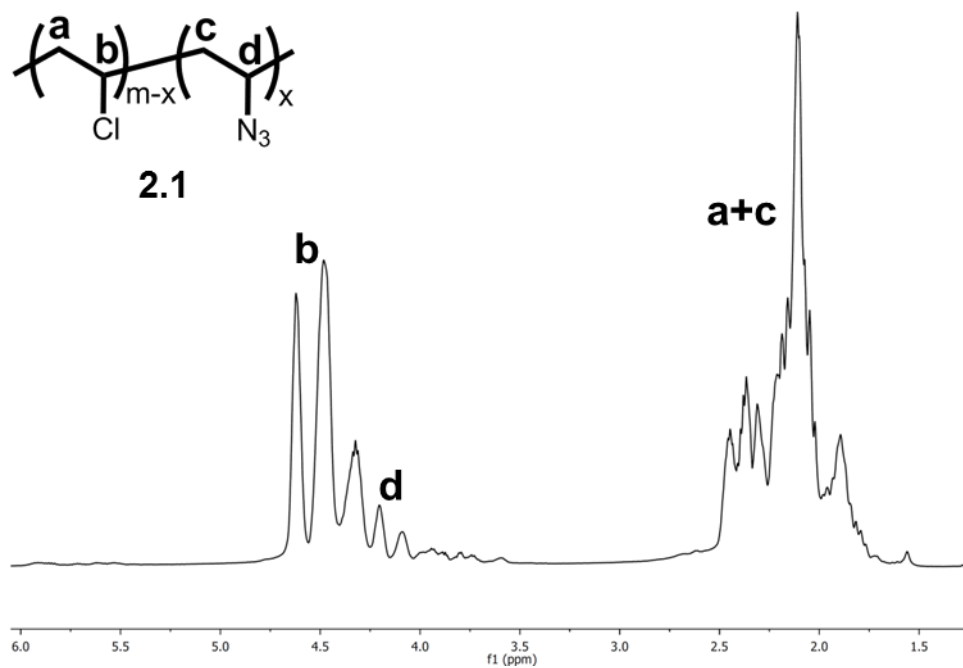


Figure 2.3 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ Spectrum of 15% PVC-Azide **2.1** in CDCl_3

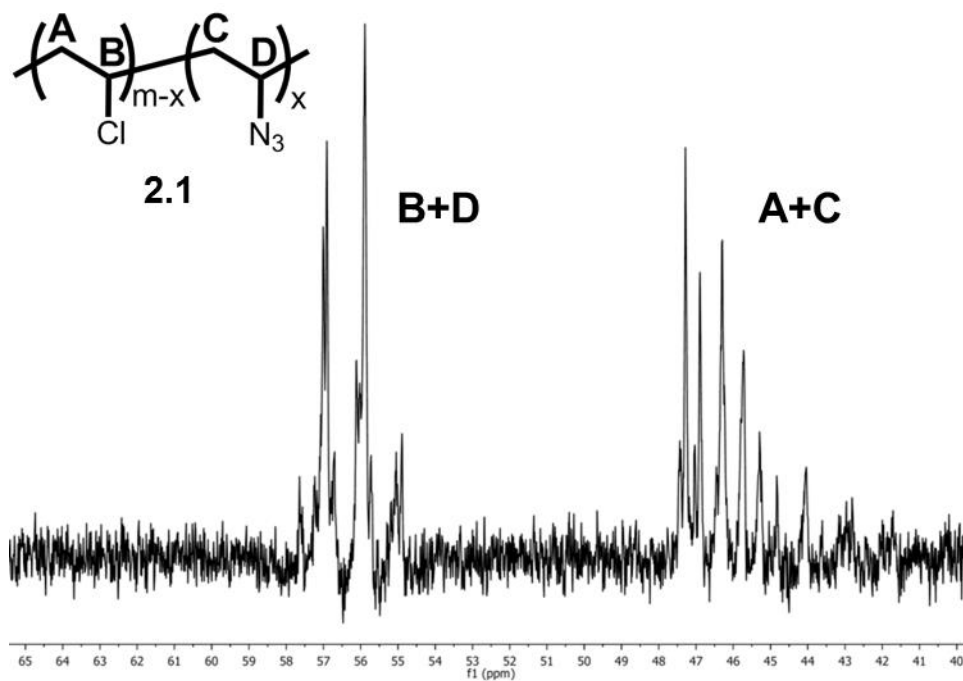
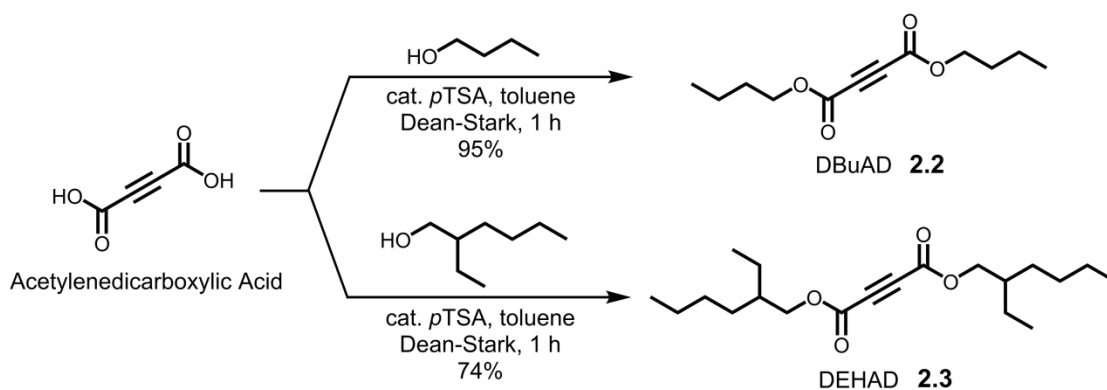


Figure 2.4 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ Spectrum of 15% PVC-Azide **2.1** in CDCl_3

rise to olefins during the S_N2 substitution on PVC. The presence of HCl byproduct catalyzes additional elimination reactions at the adjacent monomeric units. This process iteratively occurs until short polyene segments are formed throughout the main chain.¹⁸

Electron-deficient alkynes were synthesized with the intent of directly functionalizing PVC with triazole-based phthalate mimics. Following the synthesis described by Braslau and Earla,^{17b} Fischer esterifications were performed. Acetylenedicarboxylic acid was treated with either *n*-butanol or 2-ethylhexyl alcohol and catalytic *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (*p*TSA) in toluene (**Scheme 2.8**). To drive the chemical equilibrium toward the di-ester in accordance with Le Chatelier's principle, a Dean-Stark apparatus was utilized to trap water formed as a by-product of the condensation. After 1 hour under reflux, di(*n*-butyl) acetylenedicarboxylate (DBuAD, **2.2**) and di(2-ethylhexyl) acetylenedicarboxylate (DEHAD, **2.3**) were obtained in 95 and 74 percent yield, respectively.



Scheme 2.8 Fischer Esterification of Acetylenedicarboxylic Acid to Form Electron-Deficient Alkynes **2.2 - 2.3**

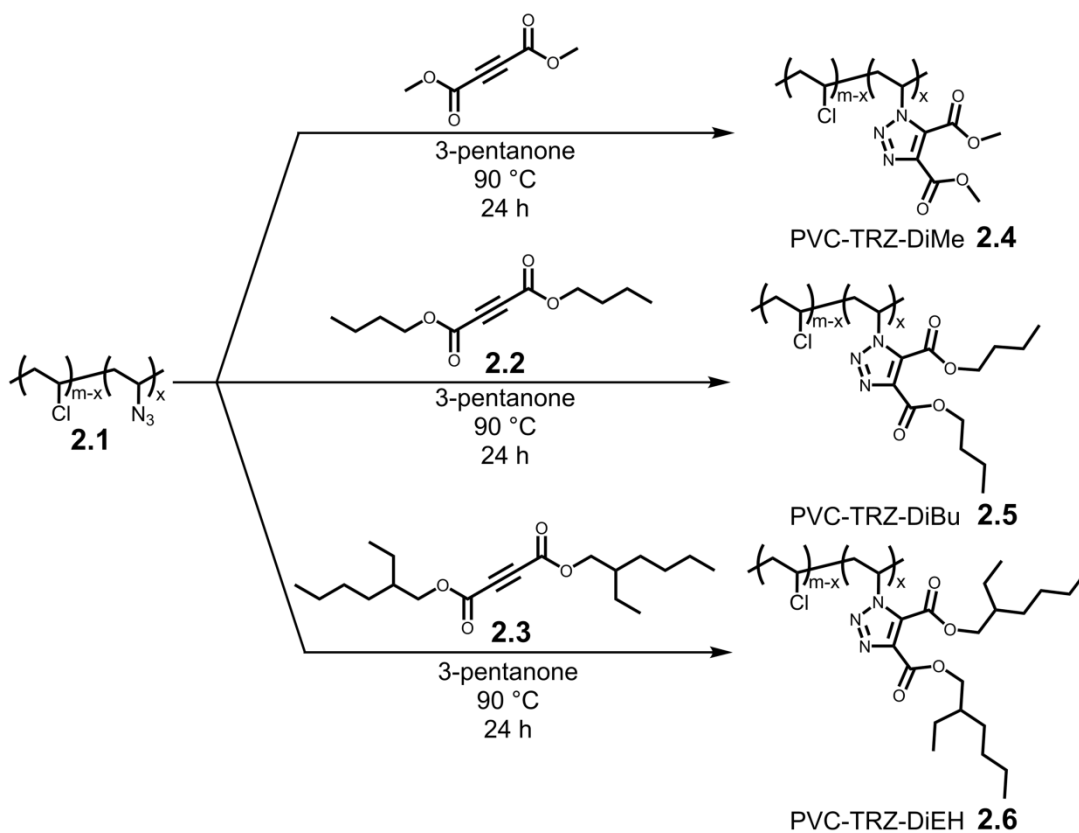
In both DBuAD and DEHAD, two electron-withdrawing esters are directly attached to the *sp*-carbons of the alkyne, lowering the LUMO and enabling enhanced reaction rates with increased thermal efficiency. These factors are imperative for the cyclization with PVC-azide: the azide is somewhat sterically hindered as it is attached to a secondary carbon. In the original publication by Braslau and Earla,^{17b} PVC-azide and alkyne di-esters were combined

in tetrahydrofuran (THF) and stirred at room temperature for 27 hours. According to the dissertation of Earla,¹⁹ the cycloaddition of DEHAD with PVC-azide took 7 days to complete at room temperature, as monitored by FTIR.

A myriad of reaction conditions for the expeditious formation of the triazole-based phthalate mimic was explored. An aspect that affects reaction efficiency is the solvent: the thermal nature of azide-alkyne cycloadditions (AAC) may be exploited to increase the reaction rate. THF has a boiling point of 66 °C under ambient conditions. Therefore, the maximum amount of heat that the system can experience is relatively low: by utilizing a higher boiling solvent, the reaction will proceed at an accelerated rate. Investigation of a suitable solvent began with 1,2-dichloroethane, which dissolved PVC, but caused the reaction to darken at its boiling point (83 °C) presumably due to degradation. Likewise, DMF at elevated temperatures (80 – 100 °C) resulted in discoloration. Inspiration came from the construction industry, which commonly uses a technique called “solvent welding” to fuse materials (e.g., PVC pipe connectors): a specialty solvent is applied to two plastic components, which temporarily dissolves the polymer chains at room temperature, allowing one to join the pieces together. A search of common solvents for this purpose revealed that ketones are able to solubilize PVC. Cyclohexanone was effective at dissolving both PVC and the alkynes at temperatures of 90 to 100 °C. However, this solvent proved difficult to work with when precipitating the polymer following cycloaddition. If the system is too dilute, the functionalized PVC will not effectively precipitate in the anti-solvent, methanol. This issue can be mitigated by concentrating the reaction *in vacuo*. Unfortunately, cyclohexanone creates an operationally challenging workup: it has an excessively high boiling point (155 °C) that makes it difficult to concentrate. After this setback, butanone (also known as methyl ethyl ketone, MEK) was considered. Although MEK dissolves PVC, its somewhat low boiling point (79 °C) limits the range of temperature tunability. After much deliberation, 3-pentanone was chosen as the final optimized solvent for the cyclization. 3-Pentanone (boiling point: 102 °C) offers a

large array of reaction temperatures, while maintaining the ability to be readily evaporated *in vacuo*. The boiling point also acts as a safety parameter with respect to PVC degradation, as the reaction cannot exceed 102 °C. HCl elimination is reported to commence above 100 °C.²⁰ In addition, 3-pentanone does not impart discoloration during the cyclization.

Copper-free azide-alkyne cycloadditions (AAC) were performed with PVC-azide (5 and 15 mole percent azide) and dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD, commercially available), DBuAD, or DEHAD in 3-pentanone. The reactions were carried out at 90 °C, for 24 hours with 2.5 – 3.0 equivalents of alkyne to each equivalent of azide (**Scheme 2.9**). A concentration ranging between 0.026 to 0.120 M (relative to azide) was chosen depending on the solubility of the alkyne and PVC-azide. Reaction progress was monitored *via* FTIR, noting the disappearance of the azide stretch (N_3) at $\sim 2110\text{ cm}^{-1}$ and the appearance of the triazole



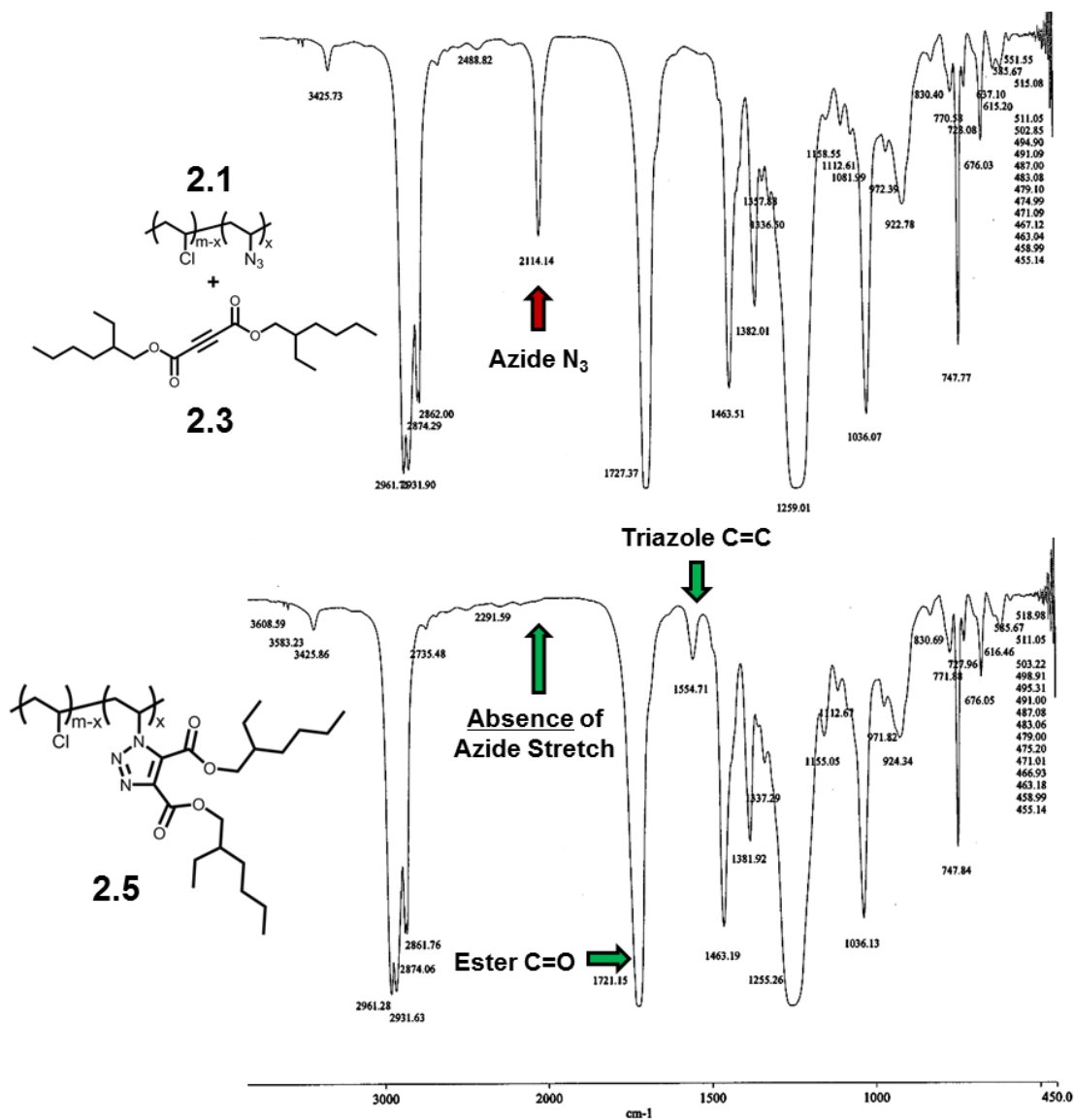


Figure 2.5 FTIR Monitoring of Cycloaddition Between 15% PVC-Azide **2.1** and DEHAD **2.3** at 90 °C
 Top: After 15 Minutes
 Bottom: After 24 Hours

(TRZ) sp² carbon-carbon stretch (C=C) at ~1550 cm⁻¹ (**Figure 2.5**). After purification, the presence of an ester carbonyl stretch (C=O) at ~1730 cm⁻¹ was also indicative of the successful formation of the triazole phthalate mimic on PVC.

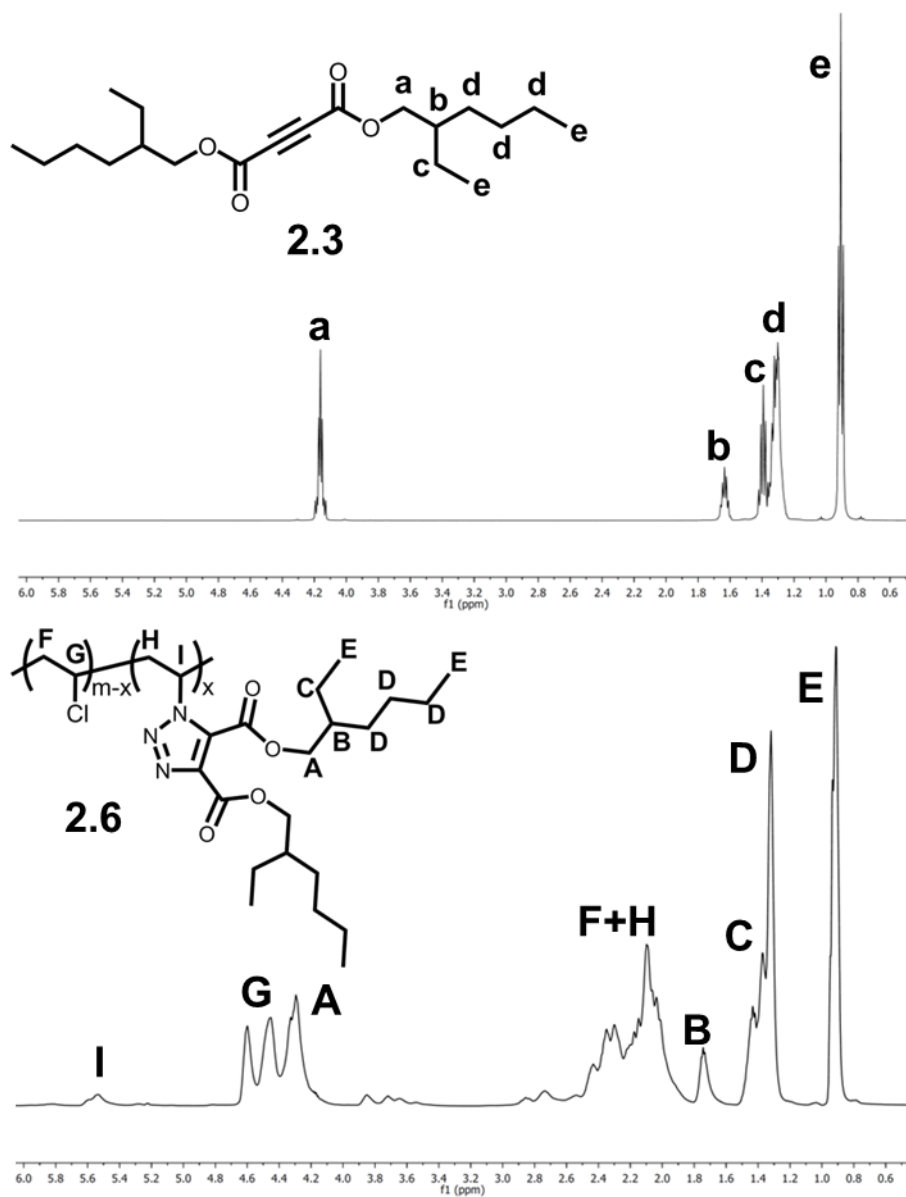


Figure 2.6 ¹H-NMR Spectra of DEHAD (2.3, Top) and 15% PVC-TRZ-DiEH (2.6, Bottom)

¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR were acquired for PVC-TRZ-DiMe, PVC-TRZ-DiBu, and PVC-TRZ-DiEH bearing both 5 and 15 mole percent triazole phthalate mimics in CDCl₃. Broadening of proton signals is ubiquitous in polymers due to heterogeneity, large size, and lack of isotropic molecular tumbling. Common to all directly modified PVC-triazole phthalate

mimics are characteristic ^1H -NMR signals **F** between δ 1.80 – 2.50 ppm, representing the methylene protons of Cl-CH-CH_2 (**Figure 2.6**). Further downfield at δ 2.50 – 2.90 ppm are the β -position methylene protons **H** of PVC with respect to the triazole (TRZ-CH-CH_2). Between δ 4.10 – 4.70 ppm are a series of broad singlets which correspond to the methine protons **G** of Cl-CH-CH_2 . Finally, methine protons **I** of PVC adjacent to a triazole appear in the range of δ 5.35 – 5.65 ppm (triazole-CH-CH_2); these are shifted downfield due to the newly formed aromatic ring's deshielding magnetic anisotropic effect.

In PVC-TRZ-DiMe, the ^1H signals of the methyl esters (TRZ Ester-O-CH_3) generally appear in the range of δ 4.00 – 4.10 as a series of singlets. In PVC-TRZ-DiBu and PVC-TRZ-DiEH, peaks ranging from δ 4.20 – 4.40 belong to the plasticizing alkyl chain methylene signals of $\text{TRZ Ester-O-CH}_2\text{-C}$. These overlap with the methine protons of PVC. The alkoxy-ester protons ($\text{Ester-O-CH}_2\text{-C}$) move further downfield once the triazole is formed due to the same deshielding anisotropic effect as the main chain methine protons (Cl-CH-CH_2). This is presented in **Figure 2.6** using 15% PVC-TRZ-DiEH **2.6** as an example: the alkoxy-protons ($\text{Ester-O-CH}_2\text{-C}$) of DEHAD **2.3** at δ 4.13 – 4.19 ppm show a well-defined multiplet **a** due to the ability of this small molecule to undergo sufficient isotropic tumbling in solution NMR. In contrast, analogous alkoxy-ester protons **A** of the triazole ($\text{TRZ Ester-O-CH}_2\text{-C}$) shift downfield and broaden due to attachment to PVC. PVC-triazole exhibits a significant amount of signal broadening due to a lack of isotropic tumbling, stemming from non-averaged anisotropic interactions. The multitude of proton signals present in the PVC-triazole spectra originate from various macromolecular regions that experience unique chemical environments. This leads to an array of peaks which become broadened and difficult to interpret.

For each PVC-triazole phthalate mimic, ^{13}C -NMR was measured in CDCl_3 (**Figure 2.7**). Carbon shifts common to all samples relate to the main chain of PVC. Methylene

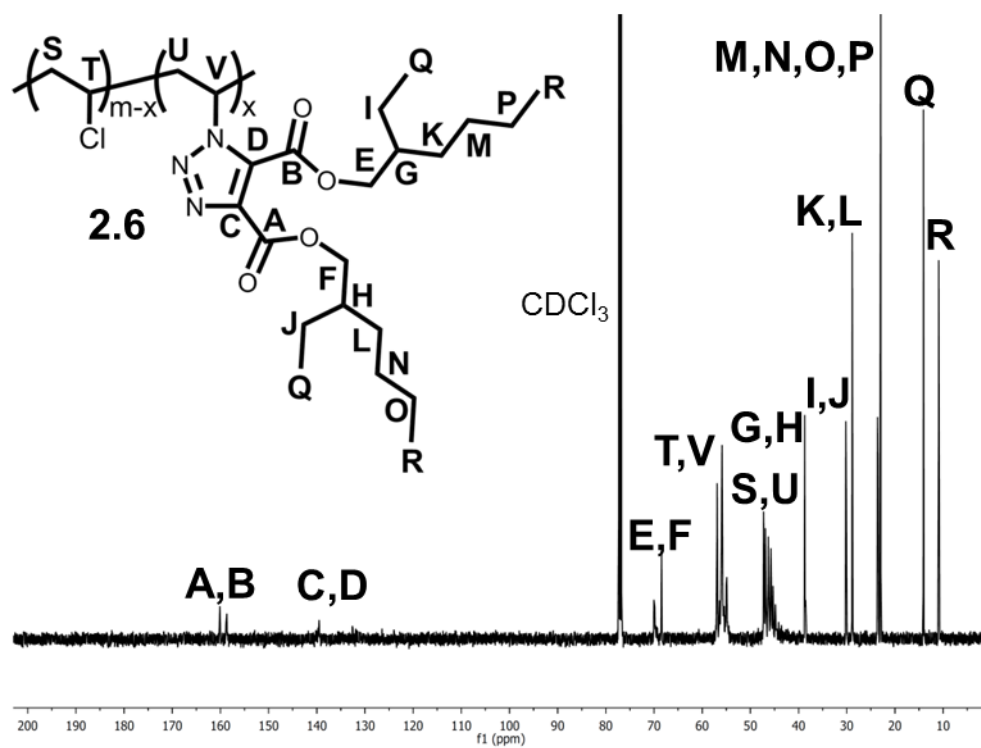
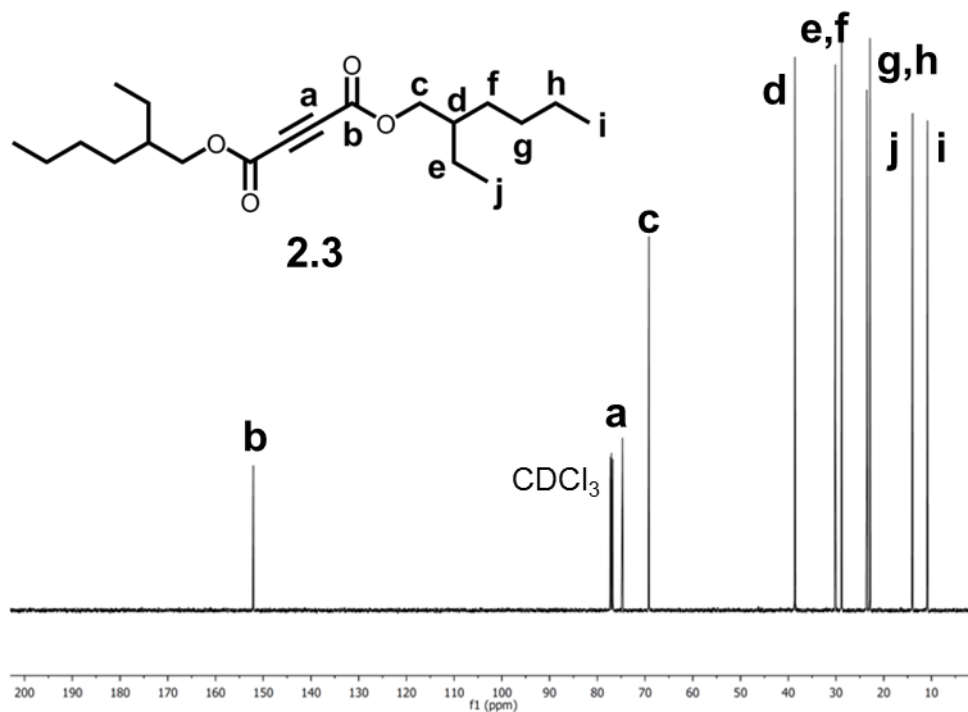


Figure 2.7 ¹³C-NMR Spectra of DEHAD (2.3, Top) and 15% PVC-TRZ-DiEH (2.6, Bottom)

carbons **S** between δ 44.8 – 47.3 ppm are representative of Cl-CH-CH₂. Methine shifts **T** of isotactic (δ 54.9 – 55.1 ppm), atactic (δ 55.7 – 56.1 ppm), and syndiotactic (δ 56.9 – 57.0 ppm) carbons belong to Cl-CH-CH₂. If the polymer concentration is high enough, methine carbons **V** of TRZ-CH-CH₂ are visible at δ 56.4 ppm and δ 53.8 ppm. Formation of a triazole on PVC imparts new carbon peaks relative to the parent alkyne. Most of the ester alkyl carbons are present in the ¹³C-NMR of the triazole-functionalized polymer, albeit shifted and increased in number due to a loss of symmetry following cyclization. The disappearance of the alkyne quaternary sp-carbon signal **a** at δ 74.7 ppm is indicative of cycloaddition and thorough purification of the plastic. If the functionalized PVC is not properly precipitated, peak **a** at δ 74.7 ppm remains, due to leftover alkyne precursor in the polymeric matrix. In the same vein, two weak quaternary carbon signals **C** and **D** belonging to the triazole appear at approximately δ 133.0 and δ 139.5 ppm. In addition, two carbonyl ester signals **A** and **B** appear at approximately δ 158.0 and δ 160.0 ppm. For reference, the parent alkyne carbonyl ester signal **b** appears at δ 152.0 ppm.

2.4 DSC Analysis: 1st Generation Triazole-Phthalate Mimics on PVC

After the PVC internally plasticized by triazole phthalate mimics were characterized via ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR and FTIR, thermal analyses were performed by collaborators Dr. Rudy Wojtecki and Andy Tek at the IBM Almaden Research Center. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) was measured in order to quantitatively determine the level of plasticization of each sample. Modulated Differential Scanning Calorimetry (MDSC) was performed on each polymer using a TA Instruments DSC Q2000 with a heat-cool-heat protocol. The general scanning ranges of MDSC analyses ranged from -90 °C to 200 °C, with an increase of 10 °C per minute. Typically, a heat-cool-reheat protocol is utilized in differential scanning calorimetry to erase the thermal history of each polymer sample. The first heat cycle assesses the “as-present” thermal properties of the sample. Workup, processing, and storage can alter the properties of a polymer, resulting in varied glass transition temperatures

for an analogous sample. Once the polymer is heated above its melt temperature, it is cooled at a controlled rate. All samples in the data set were subjected to the same cooling rate: this imparts a consistent thermal history for each polymer. The second heat cycle is subsequently performed to obtain the true glass transition temperature (T_g) of the sample. This is a quantitative indicator of the level of plasticization imparted by the novel internal plasticizer. Low T_g values indicate a high degree of plasticization. A detailed discussion on the free volume theory of plasticization with respect to T_g is discussed in *Chapter 1*.

In a DSC scan, there are two regions that represent the physical state of the polymer, as seen by the top bold green line in **Figure 2.8**. The abscissa is the temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) and the ordinate is a reversing signal of heat flow, also known as the “heat capacity component” ($\text{J/g}\cdot^{\circ}\text{C}$). Starting from the highest temperature, a plateau is observed, which corresponds to a polymer in its flexible state. A sharp decrease occurs as the system cools down: this drop eventually stabilizes as a secondary plateau, which represents the glass state. The inflection point of this descent is the glass transition temperature (T_g).

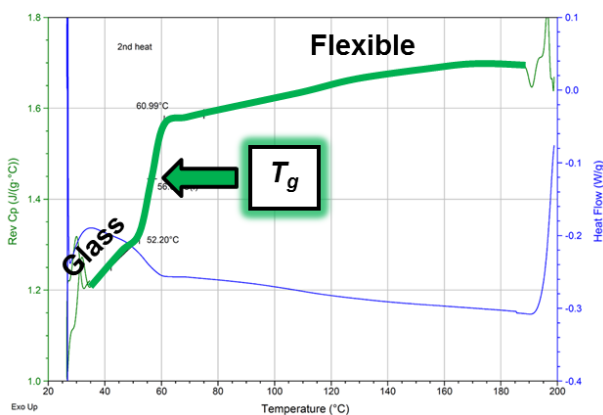


Figure 2.8 DSC Second Heat Scan of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiEH

DSC scans of PVC, 5% PVC-azide and 15% PVC-azide were measured as reference standards. Unmodified, purified PVC exhibits a T_g of 81 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. PVC-azide displays a T_g of 83 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ at 5 mole percent azide, and 78 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ at 15 mole percent azide (**Figure 2.9**). This information provides standard T_g values to assess

the efficacy of the triazole phthalate mimics as internal plasticizers (**Figure 2.10**). **Table 2.2** summarizes the T_g values of all samples synthesized.

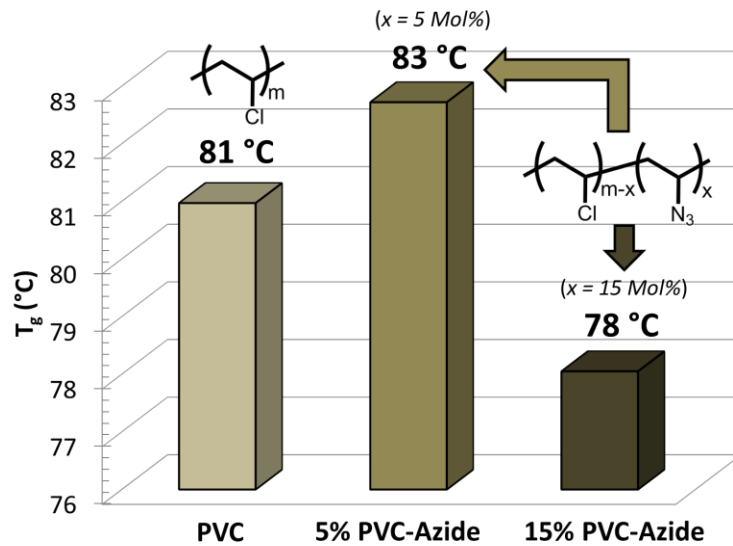


Figure 2.9 T_g Values of PVC and PVC-Azide

Polymer	5 Mol% T_g (°C)	15 Mol% T_g (°C)
PVC	81 °C	
PVC-Azide	83	78
PVC-TRZ-DiMe	88	96
PVC-TRZ-DiBu	76	74
PVC-TRZ-DiEH	65	57

Table 2.2 DSC Data of PVC Standards and 1st Generation PVC Triazole Phthalate Mimics

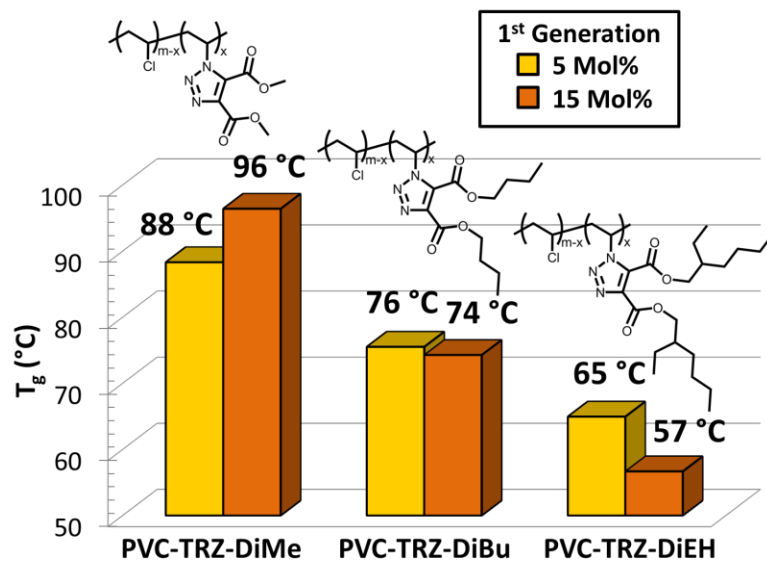


Figure 2.10 DSC Data for 1st Generation Triazole Phthalate Mimics

Differences in the glass transition temperature between a given polymer sample and unmodified PVC is defined as (**Equation 2.1**):

$$\Delta T_g \text{ PVC} = T_g \text{ Triazole Plasticized PVC} - T_g \text{ Unmodified PVC} \quad \text{Equation 2.1}$$

These $\Delta T_g \text{ PVC}$ values are shown in **Table 2.3** and are graphically illustrated in **Figure 2.11**.

Polymer	5 Mol% $\Delta T_g \text{ TRZ}$ ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	15 Mol% $\Delta T_g \text{ TRZ}$ ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
PVC	81°C	
PVC-TRZ-DiMe	+7	+15
PVC-TRZ-DiBu	-5	-7
PVC-TRZ-DiEH	-16	-24

Table 2.3 Changes in Glass Transition Temperatures ($\Delta T_g \text{ PVC}$) of 1st Generation Triazole Phthalate Mimics With Respect To Unmodified PVC

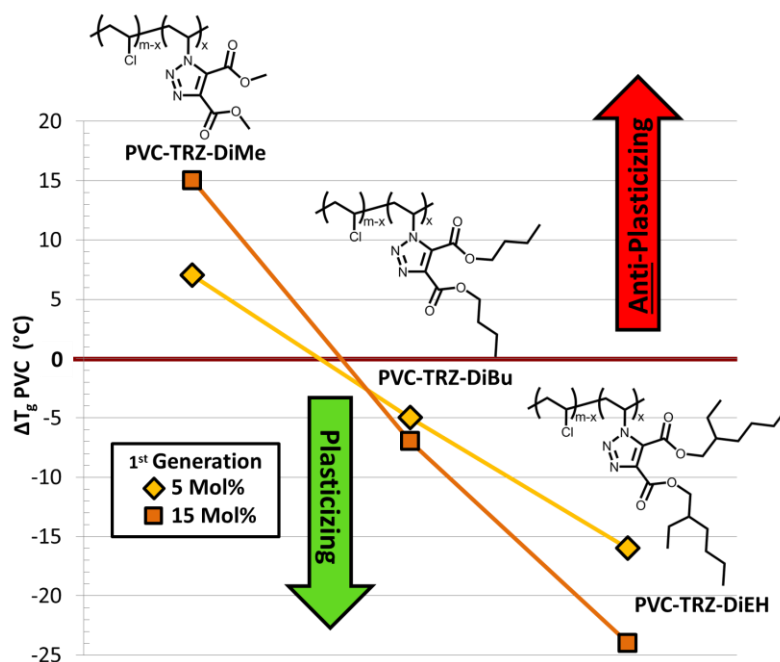


Figure 2.11 Difference in Glass Transition Temperatures of 1st Generation Triazole Phthalate Mimics with Respect to Unmodified PVC

Beginning with the 5 mole percent triazole samples, modest glass transition temperature depressions from unmodified PVC are observed. Interestingly, 5% PVC-TRZ-DiMe gives an *elevated* T_g of 88°C compared to pure PVC (81°C): this effect is called *anti-plasticization*. It appears that the absence of sufficiently large alkyl plasticizing chains in PVC-

TRZ-DiMe increases its rigidity, presumably due to π - π or edge-to-face stacking and enhanced crystallinity engendered by the directly appended aromatic triazole rings. Hypothetically, an intensified anti-plasticization effect should occur in the analogous sample containing a three-fold molar increase of this methyl ester triazole (15% PVC-TRZ-DiMe).

Glass transition temperatures at the 15 mole percent modification level are intensified compared to the 5 mole percent polymers (**Figure 2.11, Table 2.3**). PVC-TRZ-DiEH, at 15 mole percent displays a notable T_g depression (57 °C) from pure PVC ($\Delta T_g \text{ PVC} = -24$ °C) and the 5 mole percent analogue ($\Delta T_g = -8$ °C). The T_g of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiBu ($T_g = 74$ °C) remains nearly identical to its 5 mole percent relative ($\Delta T_g = -2$ °C). A remarkable T_g increase of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiMe ($T_g = 96$ °C) is observed compared to unmodified PVC ($\Delta T_g \text{ PVC} = +15$ °C) and its 5 percent congener ($\Delta T_g = +8$ °C). The stronger anti-plasticizing effect in 15% PVC-TRZ-DiMe compared to its 5 mole percent counterpart clearly indicates the detrimental effect of direct attachment of an aromatic triazole on plasticization efficiency. This phenomenon has been previously implicated in the work of both Reinecke²¹ and Braslau.^{17a} The data imply that an increased amount of triazole directly attached to PVC leads to decreased plasticization efficiency; this explains the increase in glass transition temperatures of 5 and 15 mole percent PVC-TRZ-DiMe, and the diminutive depressions observed in PVC modified with triazoles containing *n*-butyl and 2-ethylhexyl moieties, despite the 3-fold mole percent increase of triazole-based plasticizer.

2.5 2nd Generation Plasticizer: Single Hexyl Tether Alkyl Phthalate Mimics on PVC

In order to overcome the aromatic anti-plasticization penalty furnished by the triazole, free volume theory²² was considered when designing a new family of 2nd generation triazole-based internal plasticizers. Accordingly, the more space that exists between polymer chains, the more flexible the plastic will become. DSC data gathered from the 1st generation polymers imply that plasticization occurs, albeit inefficiently, due to the presence of rigid aromatic rings

on the polymeric backbone. It was envisaged that a tether between a triazole attachment to PVC (primary triazole; 1°TRZ) and a triazole phthalate mimic (secondary triazole; 2°TRZ) would boost plasticizing efficiency by distancing the plasticizer from the main chain (Figure 2.12). In effect, this extension would generate additional free space, while

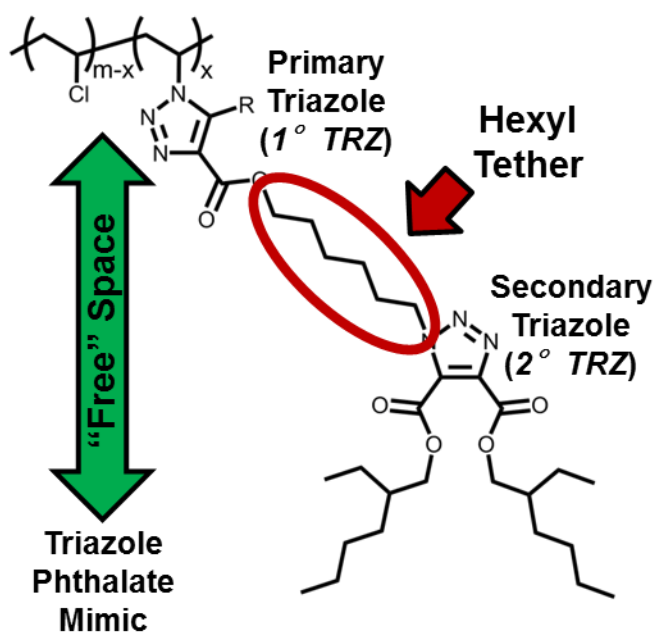
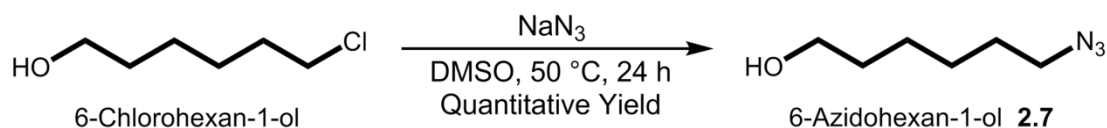


Figure 2.12 Illustration of a Single Hexyl Tether Between PVC and Triazole Phthalate Mimic

maintaining covalent attachment to PVC. This novel tethering approach also preserves the non-leaching attributes of the 1st generation system. The tether should overcome the anti-plasticization effects of the primary triazole to improve plasticizer efficacy. Although the thermal azide-alkyne cycloaddition remains the method of attachment to PVC (retaining the deleterious 1°TRZ), the facile nature and reliability of this dipolar cycloaddition continues to be an appealing method to functionalize PVC.

Numerous long chain tethers were investigated. Economic feasibility was of utmost significance during the selection process of a suitable tether. Synthetic accessibility and structural simplicity are desirable attributes for the tether: 6-chlorohexan-1-ol was the best candidate for this purpose. The process to obtain the desired azide is trivial and has literature precedence. Following the procedure of Park,²³ synthesis of the hexyl tether began with azidation of 6-chlorohexan-1-ol via an S_N2 reaction using sodium azide in DMSO at 50 °C. Reaction progress was preliminarily monitored by ¹H-NMR in d₆-DMSO to determine the amount of time the reaction takes to complete. Once it was established that the reaction took

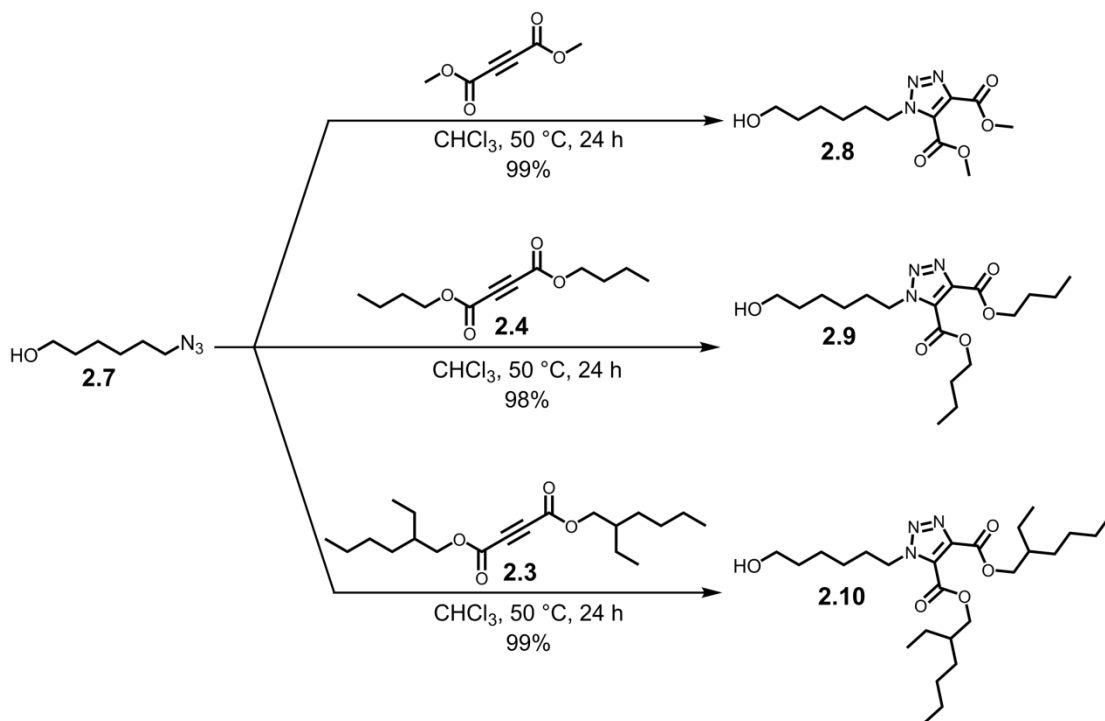
24 hours, non-deuterated DMSO was utilized in subsequent large scale syntheses. Reliable quantitative conversion to 6-azidohexan-1-ol **2.7** required no chromatographic purification (**Scheme 2.10**). Organic azides can be dangerous in nature: low molecular weight organic azides have a propensity to violently decompose. A formula to determine if an organic azide is safe to handle has been created:²⁴ $(N_{\text{Carbon}} + N_{\text{Oxygen}}) / N_{\text{Azide Nitrogen}} \geq 3$, where N = number of azide nitrogen atoms. While 6-azidohexan-1-ol **2.7** and PVC-Azide **2.1** did not violently decompose, it should be noted that extreme caution should be taken at all times when synthesizing or handling organic azides.



Scheme 2.10 Synthesis of 6-Azidohexan-1-ol **2.7** Hexyl Tether Precursor²³

Without further purification, 6-azidohexan-1-ol **2.7** and DMAD, DBuAD **2.2**, or DEHAD **2.3** were stirred in chloroform for 24 hours at 50 °C to give the hexyl tethered triazolo-alcohol phthalate mimics **2.8 - 2.10** (**Scheme 2.11**). High yields (98% to 99%) were achieved after column chromatography. The reaction concentration was set at 0.3 M, with the acetylenedicarboxylate esters used in a 1.3 equivalent excess to 6-azidohexan-1-ol **2.7**. These cycloadditions were monitored *via* TLC. The product R_f values were significantly reduced compared to the alkyne starting materials due to the polar nature of the alcohol and pendant triazole. Furthermore, the triazole is extremely UV-active, whereas 6-azidohexan-1-ol and the alkynes are not. This provided a clear qualitative indicator of product formation.

¹H-NMR was performed to confirm the structures and assess purity (**Figure 2.13**). A downfield shift of the methylene protons **A** adjacent to the secondary triazole at δ 4.6 ppm (Tether-CH₂-2°TRZ) from the protons **a**, next to the azide (δ 3.25 ppm, CH₂-N₃) is observed, stemming from an aromatic anisotropic effect. The methylene **D** adjacent to the alcohol (HO-CH₂-Tether) is present at δ 3.6 ppm, while peaks between δ 1.3 – 1.6 ppm are central



Scheme 2.11 Syntheses of Hexyl Tether Alkyl Triazolo-Alcohol Precursors

methylene protons **C** of the hexyl tether (Tether- $\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-Tether}$). Proton signal **B** two carbons away from the secondary triazole (Tether- $\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-2}^\circ\text{TRZ}$) moves downfield to δ 1.9 ppm (from δ 1.5 ppm in the azide). This is possibly due to an inductive electron-withdrawing effect of the triazole esters, in conjunction with anisotropy. Regioisomeric TRZ-DiMe hexanol **2.8** methyl ester protons **F** (2°TRZ Ester-O- CH_3) appear at δ 3.96 and δ 3.99 ppm as a pair of singlets (**Figure 2.13**). In TRZ-DiBu **2.9** and TRZ-DiEH hexanol **2.10**, alkoxy-protons (2°TRZ Ester-O- $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}$) belonging to the secondary triazole ester appear between δ 4.22 – 4.36 ppm.

^{13}C -NMR of the hexyl tethered triazolo-alcohols were performed and analyzed (**Figure 2.14**). Triazole ester carbonyl peaks **I** and **J** at δ 159.0 and δ 160.5 ppm are present in all of the derivatives. ^{13}C signals **H** and **G** appearing at approximately δ 130 and δ 140 ppm

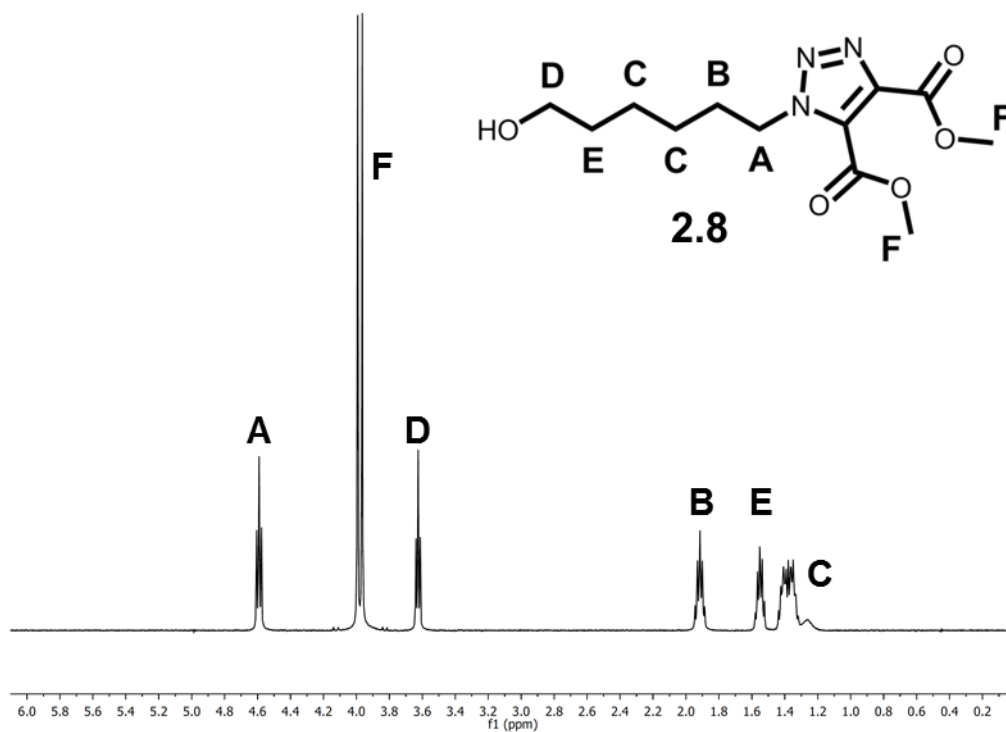
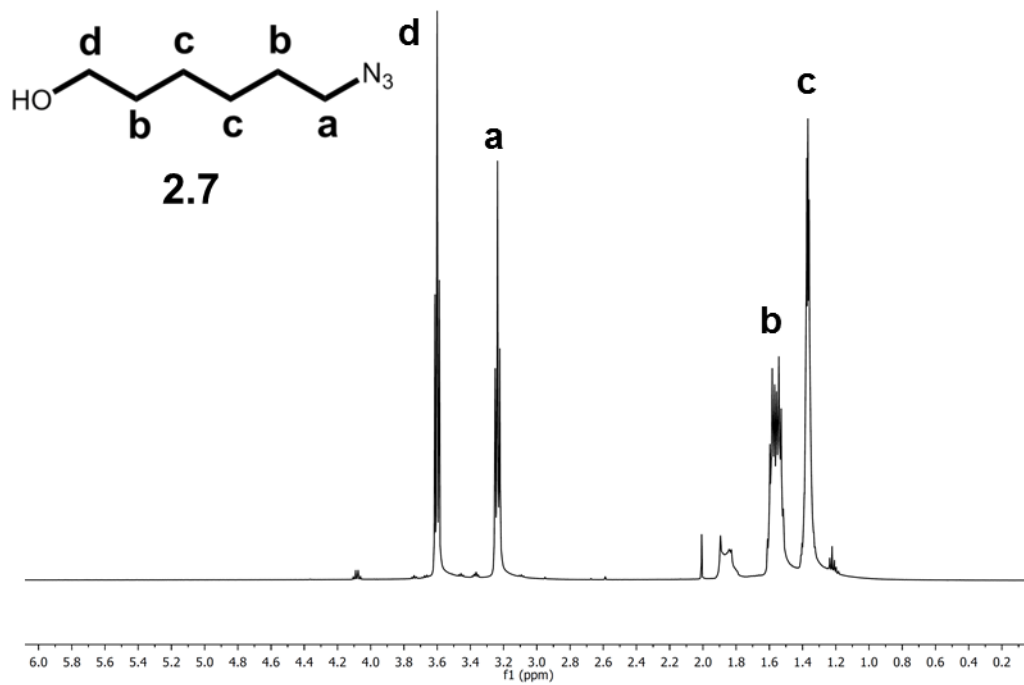


Figure 2.13 ¹H-NMR Comparing 6-Azidohexan-1-ol (2.7, Top) and TRZ-DiMe Hexanol (2.8, Bottom)

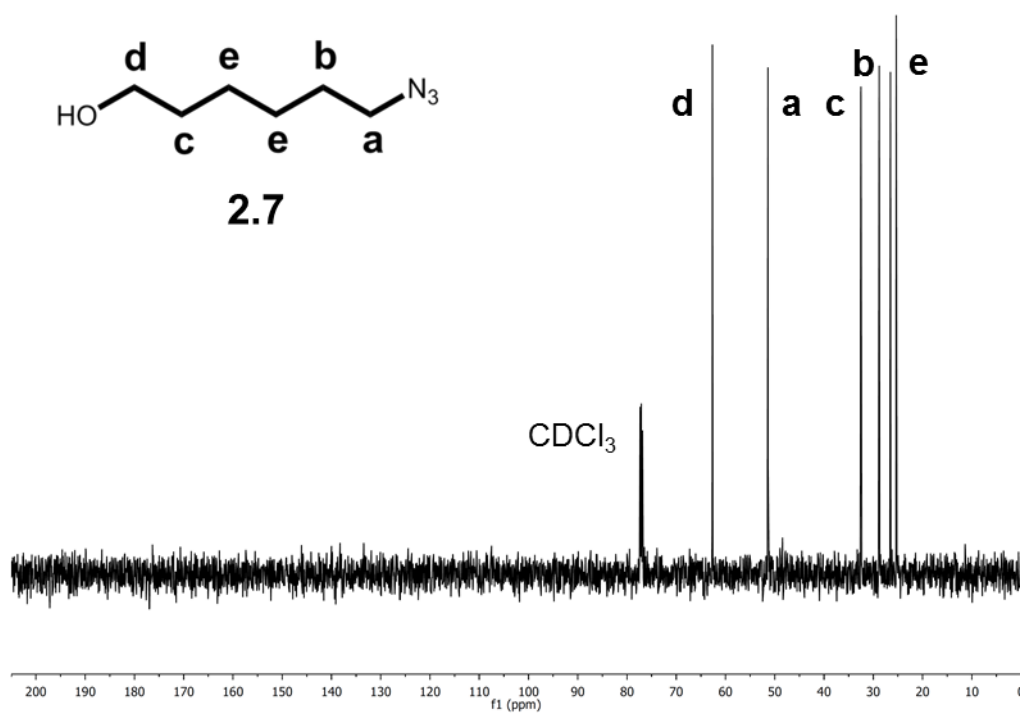
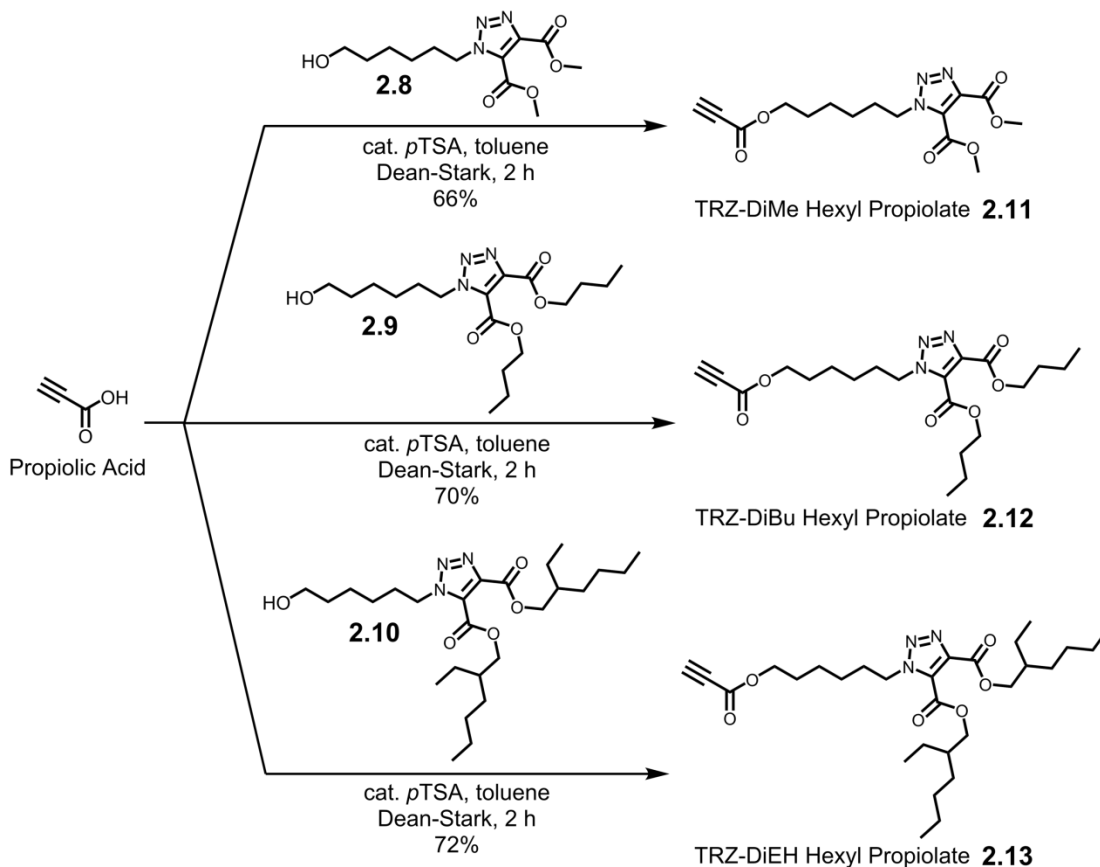


Figure 2.14 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ Comparing 6-Azidohexan-1-ol (**2.7**, Top) and TRZ-DiMe Hexanol (**2.8**, Bottom)

belong to the quaternary carbons in the triazole ring (C=C). A ubiquitous peak present in all samples is the methylene carbon **D** adjacent to the alcohol at δ 62.5 ppm (HO-CH₂-Tether). The methylene carbon **A** adjacent to the triazole (Tether-CH₂-2°TRZ) was observed at δ 50.4 ppm. Generally, signals in the range of δ 25 – 32 ppm belong to the hexyl tether: in the instance of TRZ-DiBu hexanol **2.9** and TRZ-DiEH hexanol **2.10**, some of the carbon signals originating from the aliphatic ester chains overlap with the tether.

Propiolic acid was chosen as the electron-deficient alkyne precursor: its relatively low-cost and straight-forward esterification procedures were attractive attributes. All of the 1st generation alkynes had been symmetrical acetylenedicarboxylate diesters. While these alkynes possess two electron-withdrawing groups, making the triple-bond more amenable to cycloaddition, acetylenedicarboxylic acid is substantially more expensive than propiolic acid and proves obdurate when performing esterifications with complex alcohols. The works of Huisgen¹⁵ and Brook⁵ show that the presence of a single electron-withdrawing ester in a propiolate leads to enhanced cycloaddition rates compared to non-activated alkynes. Therefore, a propiolate should be adequately activated to facilitate thermal triazole formation with PVC-azide without a transition metal catalyst.

Fischer esterifications were performed to obtain mono-ester electron-deficient alkynes (**Scheme 2.12**). Propiolic acid was treated with triazolo-alcohols **2.8** - **2.10**, *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (*p*TSA) as an acid catalyst, and toluene. A Dean-Stark apparatus was employed to trap water formed as the condensation by-product. The esterifications were complete after 2 hours, with yields ranging from 66% to 72% after purification via column chromatography.



Scheme 2.12 Fischer Esterification of Propiolic Acid and Triazolo-Alcohols **2.8 - 2.10** to Form Propiolates **2.11 - 2.13** Containing Hexyl Tethered Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics

Syntheses of the final propiolates with hexyl tethers **2.11 - 2.13** proceeded without incident. Triazolo-alcohols **2.8 - 2.10** were used in a 1.2 to 1.3 equivalent excess to propiolic acid, in 1.0 M toluene. Purification involved concentrating the crude reaction *in vacuo*, then immediately performing flash chromatography to obtain the pure product. Reaction progress was monitored via TLC: all propiolate derivatives have larger R_f values than their respective parent alcohols. Propitiously, the triazolo-alcohols are not exceptionally visible on TLC with potassium permanganate (KMnO_4), while the final propiolates are instantly visible. The oxidizing TLC stain reacts rapidly with the terminal alkyne to form a yellow spot on a magenta background. In contrast, the triazolo-alcohols do not possess functional groups that are easily oxidized by KMnO_4 , requiring heat to visualize these molecules on TLC.

For the future, an alternative synthetic strategy could use propiolic acid in stoichiometric excess to the triazolo-alcohol. The acid would be washed away during aqueous workup with a weak base, leading to increased reaction yields and simplified purification. In the reactions performed, excess alcohol was utilized to thoroughly consume the propiolic acid: this was a historic reaction practice coming from the original acetylenedicarboxylate syntheses to fully convert the expensive di-acid to the desired di-ester. However, in the case of propiolic acid, one can use more of the carboxylic acid due to its relative affordability over acetylenedicarboxylic acid. This optimization would allow for the complete conversion of the hexyl tether alcohol: an aspect that would be industrially desirable, as the triazolo-alcohol involves a multistep synthesis, whereas propiolic acid is obtained through the oxidation of propargyl alcohol via an electrochemical process.²⁵

¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra of the hexyl tethered propiolates are similar to those of the parent alcohols (**Figure 2.15**). In the ¹H-NMR, methylene protons **d** neighboring the ester (Propiolate Ester-O-CH₂-Tether) exhibit a significant downfield shift to δ 4.2 ppm, (from approximately δ 3.6 ppm as the alcohol) due to the presence of the carbonyl which deshields the ester alkoxy-methylene protons more than the alcohol due to anisotropic deshielding and the electronegative carbonyl. Furthermore, methylenes **e** two carbons away from the propiolate ester (Propiolate Ester-O-CH₂-CH₂) move slightly downfield (from δ 1.55 to δ 1.70 ppm). A lone proton **g** at δ 2.90 ppm belongs to the terminal alkyne.

¹³C-NMR spectra of the hexyl tethered propiolates gives three additional signals compared to their parent alcohols (**Figure 2.15**). First, a propiolate ester carbonyl **K** (**C**=O) appears at δ 152.7 ppm in all derivatives. In addition, sp-hybridized carbons of the terminal alkyne show two signals at δ 74.6 ppm (**M**, alkyne CH) and δ 74.7 ppm (**L**, alkyne 4°).

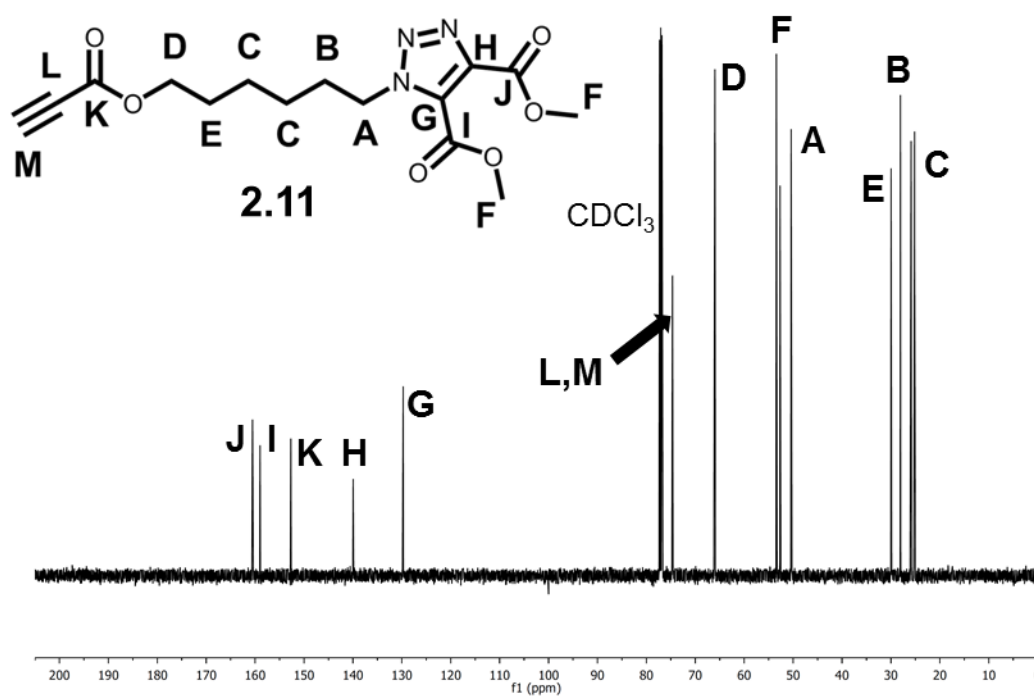
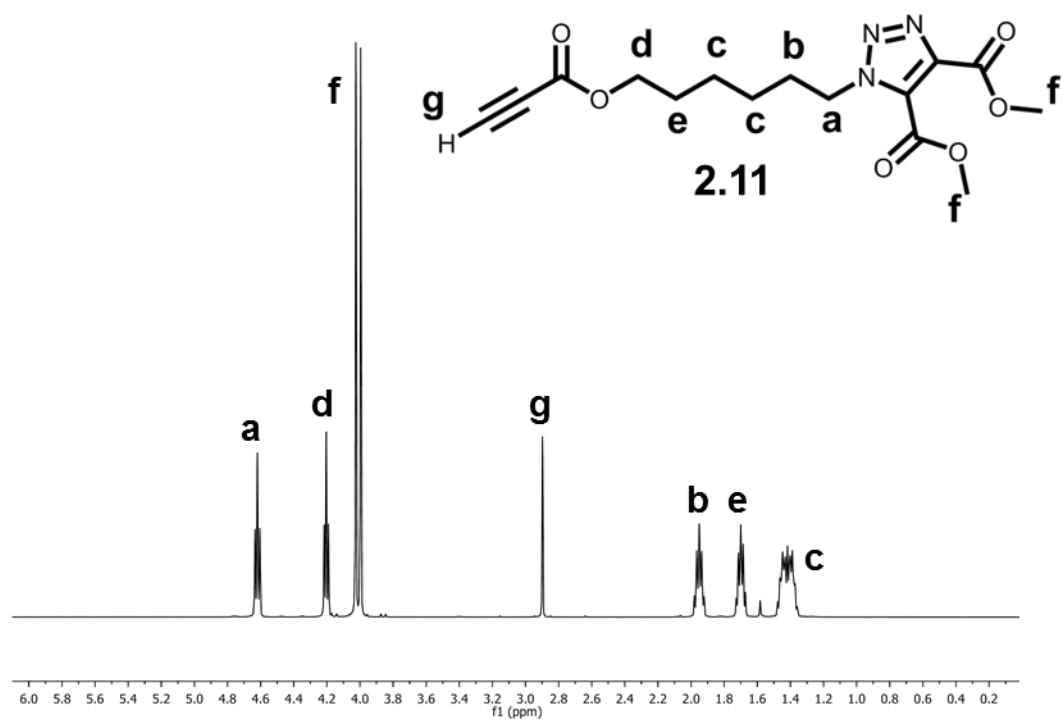
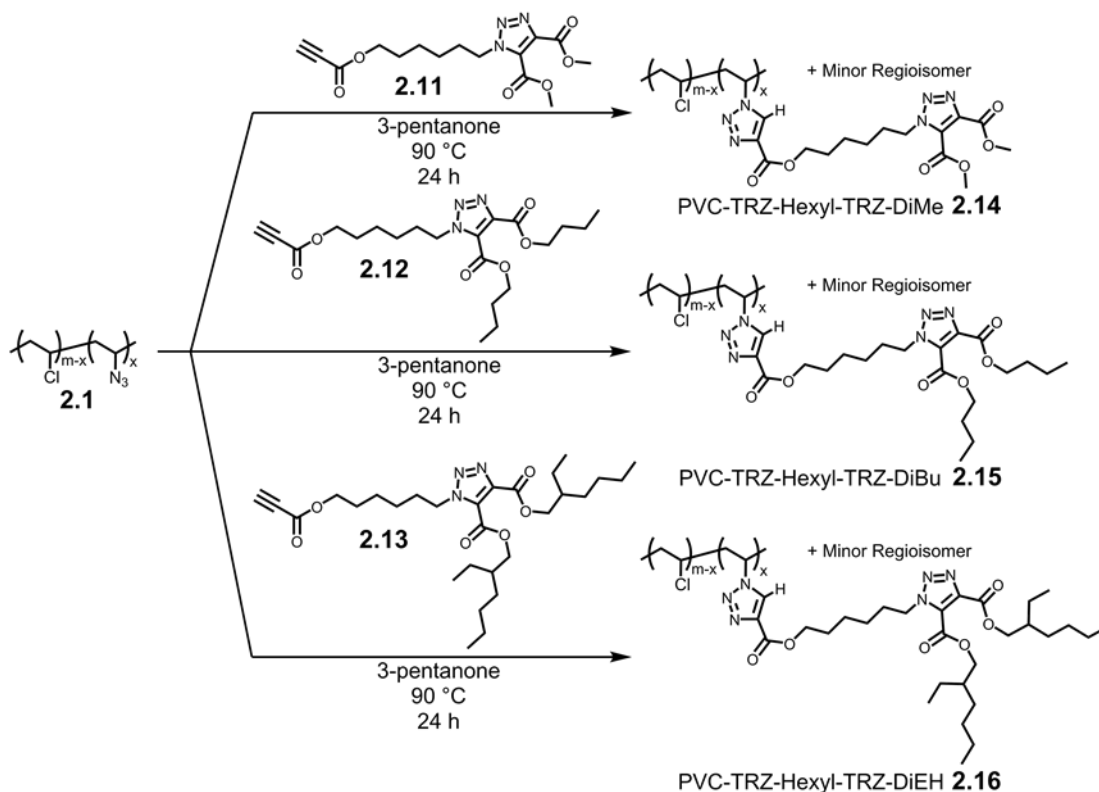


Figure 2.15 ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR of TRZ-DiMe Hexyl Propiolate **2.11**

Furthermore, a minor downfield shift of the propiolate ester alkoxy-methylene carbon **D** (Propiolate Ester-O-CH₂-C) at δ 66.0 ppm (from δ 62.5 ppm as the alcohol) is indicative of the electronegative influence of the carbonyl on the neighboring carbon atoms. All other ¹³C signals are nearly analogous to those of the alcohol precursors.



Scheme 2.13 Thermal Azide-Alkyne Cycloaddition of PVC-Azide **2.1** and Propiolate Hexyl Tethered Triazole Phthalate Mimics **2.11 - 2.13**

As with the 1st generation phthalate mimics, copper-free thermal azide-alkyne cycloadditions (AAC) were performed with PVC-azide (5 and 15 mole percent azide) in 3-pentanone. Reactions were carried out at 90 °C for 24 hours, with 2.5 – 3.0 equivalents of alkyne for each equivalent of azide (**Scheme 2.13**). The reaction concentrations ranged from 0.04 M to 0.12 M (relative to azide). Thermal azide-alkyne cycloaddition of propiolate hexyl tethered phthalate mimics **2.11 - 2.13** and PVC-azide **2.1** was tracked *via* FTIR. Distinctive

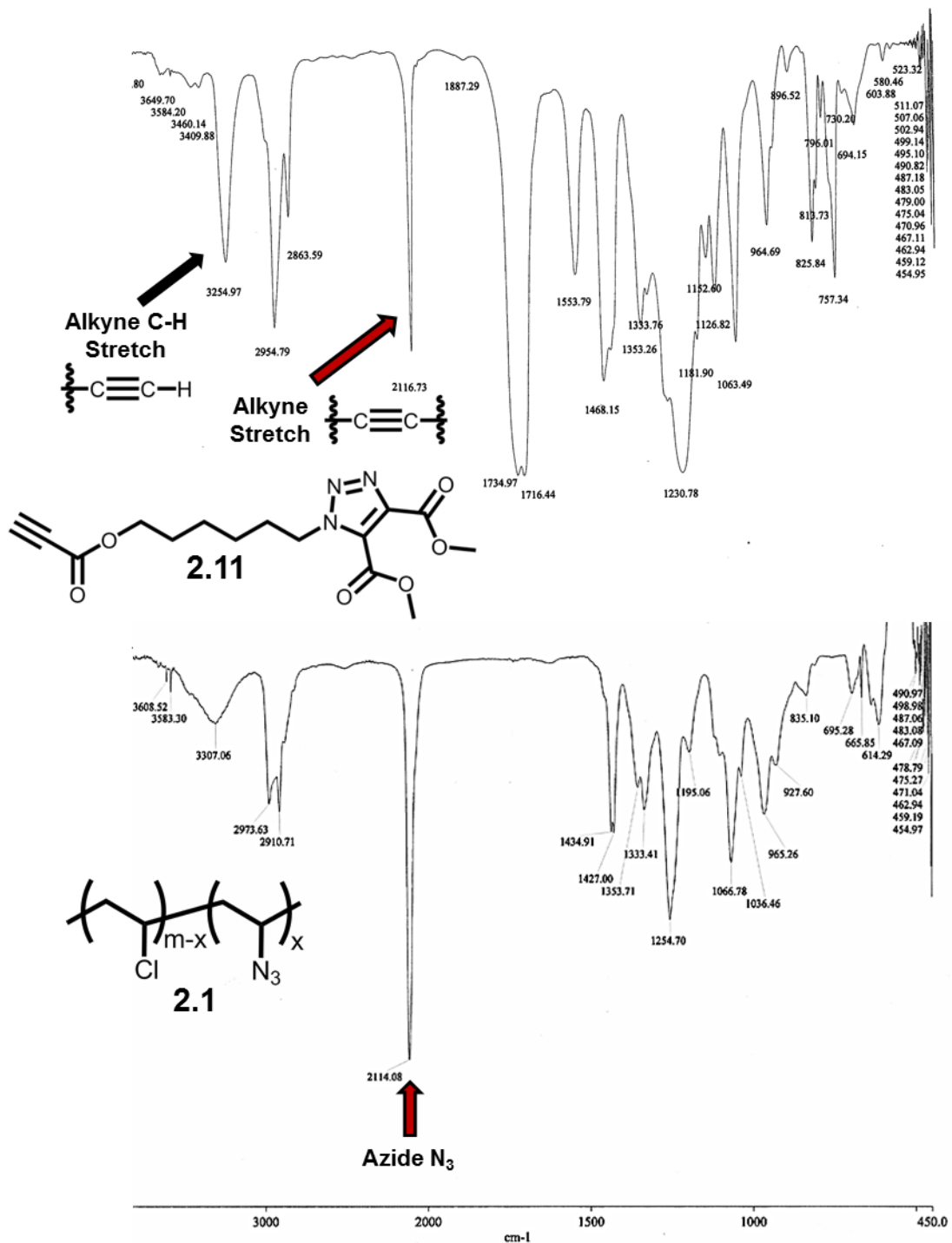


Figure 2.16 FTIR Comparison of TRZ-DiMe Hexyl Propiolate **2.11** and 15% PVC-Azide **2.1**
 (NOTE: Overlapping Alkyne and Azide Stretches at $\sim 2114\text{ cm}^{-1}$)

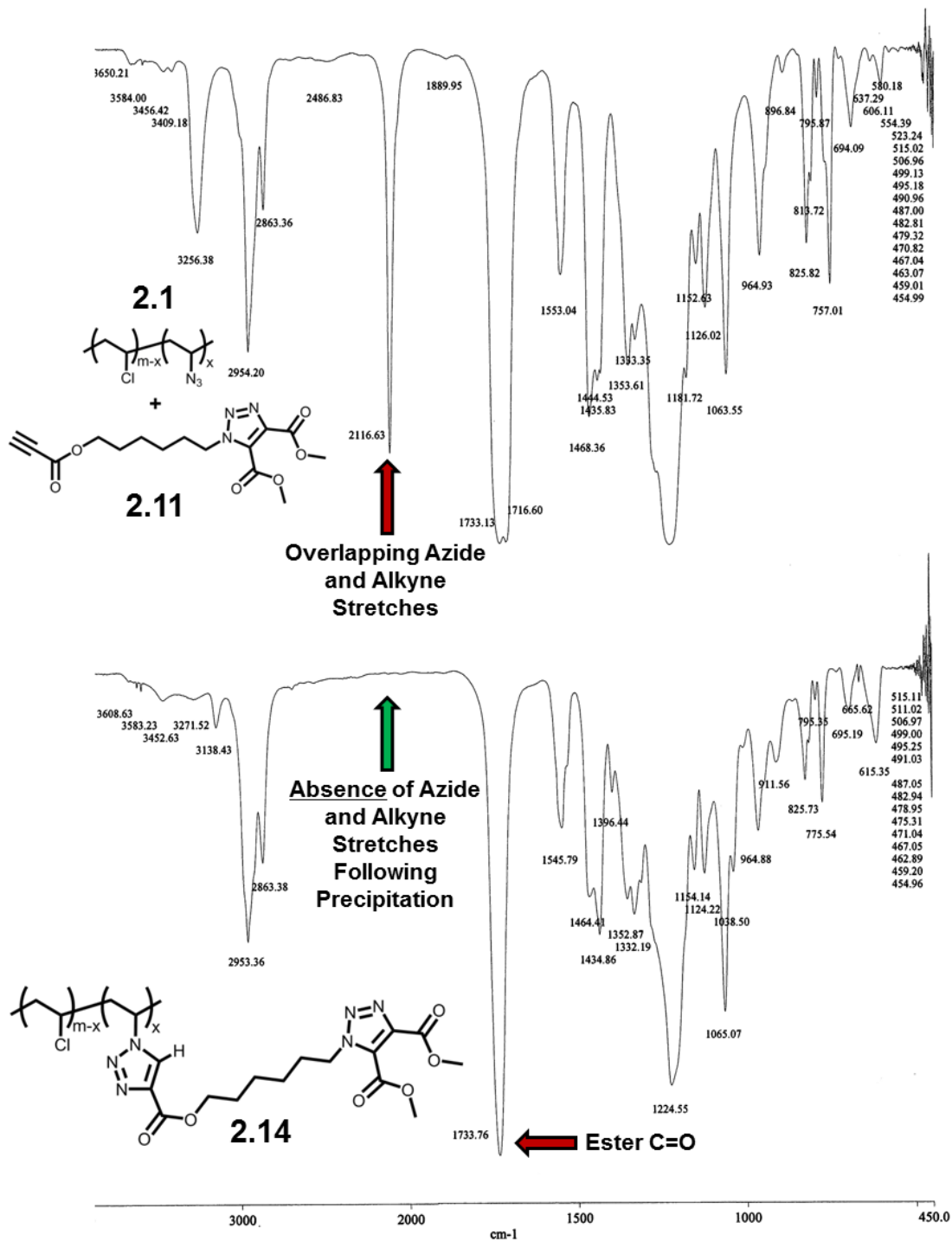


Figure 2.17 FTIR Reaction Monitoring Between 15% PVC-Azide **2.1** and **2.11**
 Top: After 15 Minutes
 Bottom: After 24 Hours Following Precipitation to Remove Excess Alkyne

terminal alkyne stretches appear at approximately 3255 cm^{-1} (alkyne C-H) and 2116 cm^{-1} (alkyne CC). As shown in **Figure 2.16**, this presents a technical challenge with respect to PVC-azide: a strong azide stretch resides at approximately $2114\text{ to }2116\text{ cm}^{-1}$, which overlaps with the propiolate's alkyne carbon-carbon stretch. Therefore, reaction monitoring using FTIR proved difficult compared to the cycloaddition of PVC-azide with the first generation acetylenedicarboxylate esters. The 1st generation's symmetrical internal alkyne diester does not absorb at the same wavenumber as azide (2114 cm^{-1}), allowing one to clearly monitor the disappearance of the azide stretch and easily determine reaction progress. Because the cyclization with PVC-azide requires an excess of electron-deficient alkyne, the propiolate stretch at 2116 cm^{-1} will never disappear regardless of reaction completion. This deceptive coincidence may lead to the false pretense that functionalization through AAC was not complete. To circumvent this complication, aliquots of the reaction mixture were taken at 12 hour intervals, and precipitated three times in methanol to assure that the disappearance of the azide stretch at 2114 cm^{-1} had occurred. In this manner, the propiolate was removed from the polymeric matrix. Cycloadditions with PVC-azide were complete after 24 hours according to FTIR of the precipitated reaction aliquots (**Figure 2.17**). The relatively high reaction temperature of $90\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, along with a single electron-withdrawing ester on the alkyne smoothly furnished PVC modified with a variety of 2nd generation, single hexyl tethered triazole phthalate mimics **2.14 - 2.16**.

Once the polymers were synthesized, $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ was acquired to confirm structure and purity of both 5 and 15 mole percent PVC functionalized with single hexyl tethered triazole phthalate mimics. Common to all PVC containing these 2nd generation triazole plasticizers are characteristic ^1H signals **G** and **G'** between $\delta\ 8.10 - 8.29\text{ ppm}$, which

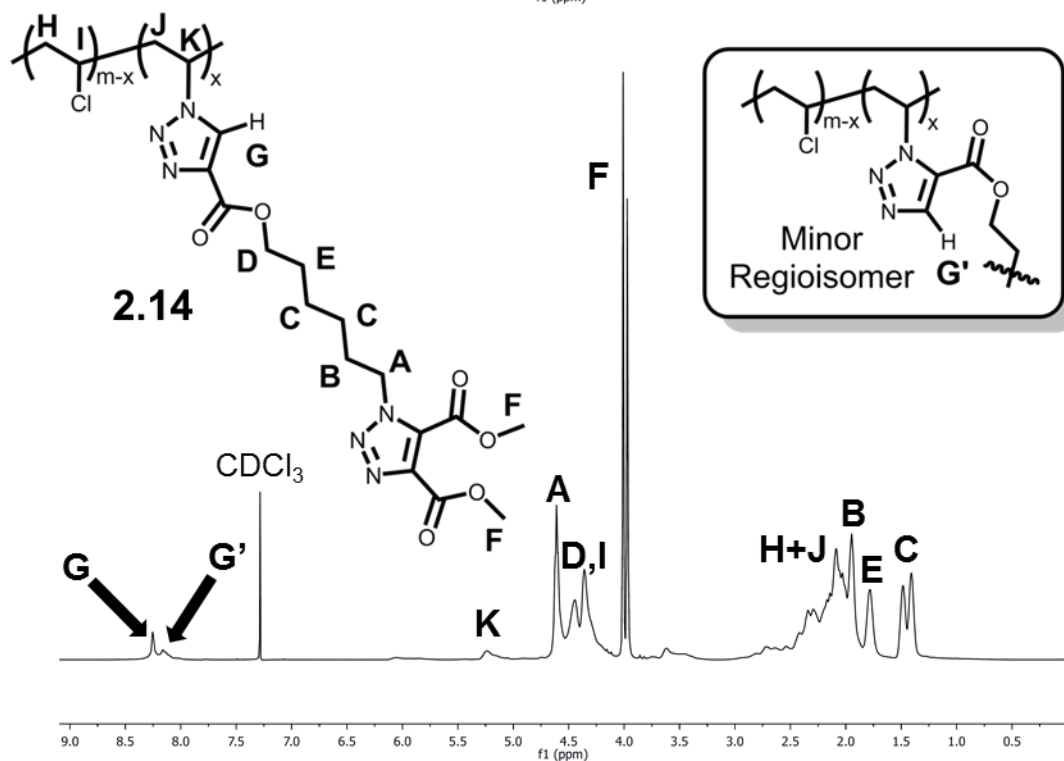
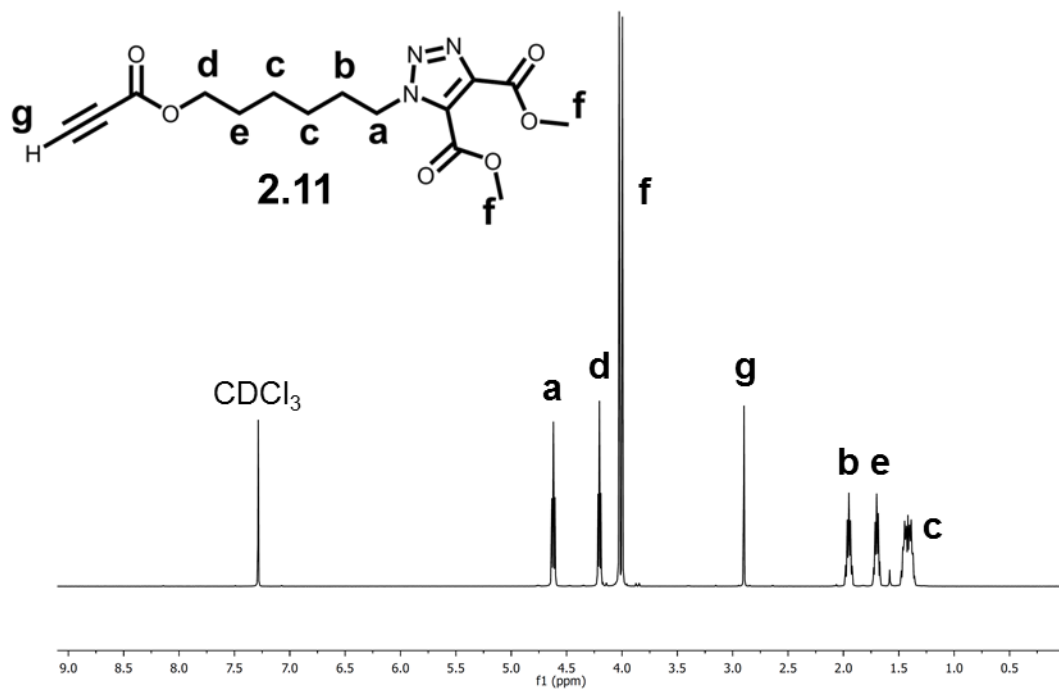


Figure 2.18 ¹H-NMR Spectra Comparing TRZ-DiMe Hexyl Propiolate (**2.11**, Top) and 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe (**2.14**, Bottom)

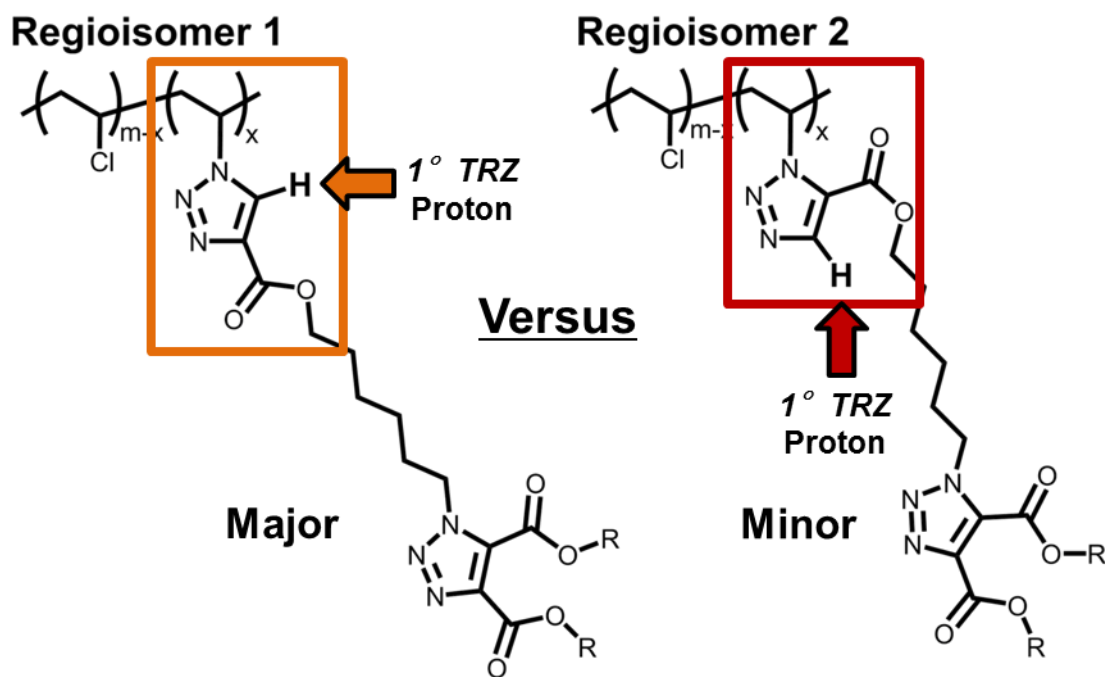


Figure 2.19 Primary Triazole Regioisomers Formed By 2nd Generation Hexyl Tethered Triazole-Based Phthalate Mimics

represent the regioisomeric protons directly attached to the triazole ring (PVC-1°TRZ-H) (**Figure 2.18**). Major *Regioisomer 1* places the hexyl tether away from PVC: the less bulky 1°TRZ proton is closer to the main chain (**Figure 2.19**). Conversely, in the minor *Regioisomer 2*, the hexyl tether is adjacent to the polymeric backbone, with its concomitant proton further away. *Regioisomer 1* is favored over 2 due to steric constraints: the less sterically hindered orientation in *Regioisomer 1* forms preferentially. As a result, the two peaks in the range of δ 8.10 – 8.30 ppm are not equal in size. The downfield signal ($\sim \delta$ 8.30 ppm) is larger and is assigned to *Regioisomer 1*.

Other $^1\text{H-NMR}$ features of PVC functionalized with 2nd generation triazole phthalate mimics include a myriad of hexyl tether methylene proton signals **C** and **E** between δ 1.25 – 1.90 ppm (**Figure 2.18**). Methylene protons **D** at δ 4.20 ppm are adjacent to the primary triazole ester oxygen (PVC-1°TRZ Ester-O-CH₂-Tether). The methylene directly attached to the secondary triazole **A** (PVC-1°TRZ-Tether-CH₂-2°TRZ) shows a peak at δ 4.60 ppm.

Plasticizing alkyl chains common to the 1st generation phthalate mimics (2-ethylhexyl and *n*-butyl derivatives) appear between δ 0.86 – 1.98 ppm, overlapping with the hexyl tether and PVC signals. Methine protons **K** of PVC adjacent to the primary triazole appear in the range of δ 5.10 – 5.30 ppm (PVC-CH-1°TRZ). All other proton shifts belonging to the polymer chain are in the same general location as in unmodified PVC.

¹³C-NMR spectra of PVC functionalized with the 2nd generation triazole phthalate mimics appear similar to those of the parent propiolates with a few key differences (**Figure 2.20**). Signals of the hexyl tether methylene carbons (**B**, **C** and **E**), quaternary carbons of the secondary triazole (**G** and **H**, at δ 133 ppm and δ 140 ppm), and secondary triazole carbonyl peaks (**I** and **J**, at δ 158 ppm and δ 160 ppm), along with its respective alkyl chain carbons are present in the ¹³C-NMR. Main chain PVC carbons remain predominately unaltered. The disappearance of the quaternary sp-carbon signals **I** and **m**, at δ 74.6 and δ 74.7 ppm is indicative of cycloaddition and thorough purification of the plastic.

The primary triazole ester carbonyl signal **K** is not appreciably present: this is presumably due to the small signal of the quaternary carbonyl carbons and the presence of regioisomers. Unlike the 1st generation acetylenedicarboxylate derivatives, which possess two esters and no regioisomers, the single hexyl tethered primary triazole has a lone carbonyl, which is averaged between two regioisomers. The carbonyl ¹³C shift is not readily visualized with a 500 MHz NMR with a room-temperature probe. ¹³C spectra of select triazole-based internal plasticizers on PVC were acquired for subsequent generations of polymers with an 800 MHz NMR equipped with a cryoprobe, which successfully detected carbonyl signals corresponding to the primary triazoles.

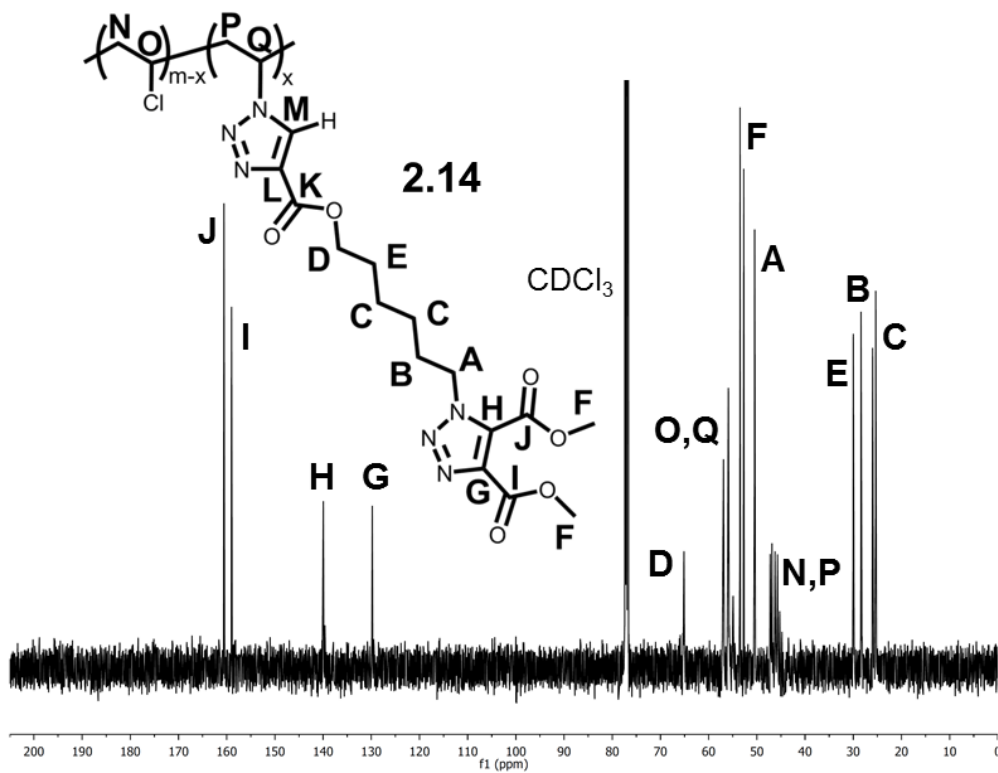
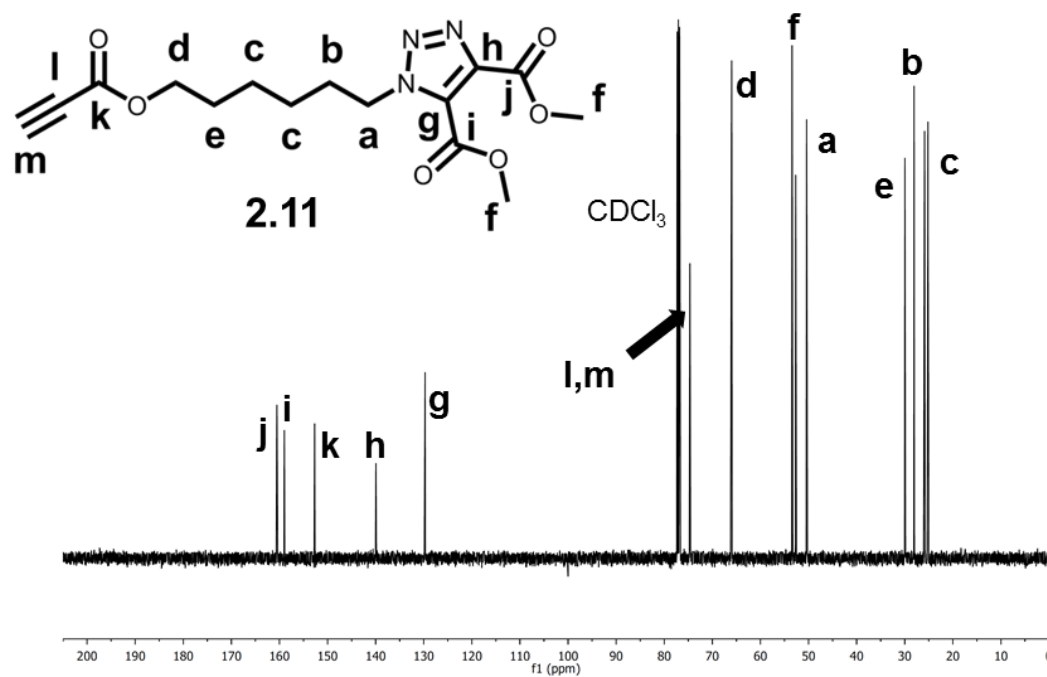


Figure 2.20 ¹³C-NMR Spectra Comparing TRZ-DiMe Hexyl Propiolate (2.11, Top) and 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe (2.14, Bottom)

2.6 DSC Analysis: 2nd Generation Single Hexyl Tether Triazole Phthalate Mimics on PVC

Thermal analyses of PVC functionalized with 2nd generation single hexyl tethered triazole phthalate mimics were performed by our collaborators at IBM Almaden in an analogous fashion to 1st generation triazole-phthalate mimics in *Section 2.4*, to quantitatively determine the degree of plasticization. **Table 2.4** summarizes the T_g values of these PVC derivatives with standards; these data are presented in **Figure 2.21**. The focus of this section will compare these 2nd generation to the 1st generation system.

Glass transition temperatures of all 2nd generation derivatives exhibit decreased values compared to unmodified PVC. No significant anti-plasticization was observed. Beginning with the 5 mole percent samples, PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe maintains a T_g similar to unmodified PVC ($T_g = 82$ °C). PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($T_g = 65$ °C) displays a much lower glass transition temperature, while PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($T_g = 56$ °C) shows a significant depression relative to unmodified PVC. At 15 mole percent, 2nd generation triazole-based plasticizers revealed lower glass transition temperatures compared to the 5 mole percent analogues and to standard PVC: PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe ($T_g = 75$ °C), PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($T_g = 54$ °C), and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($T_g = 41$ °C).

Polymer	5 Mol% T_g (°C)	15 Mol% T_g (°C)
PVC	81 °C	
PVC-Azide	83	78
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	82	75
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	65	54
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	56	41

Table 2.4 DSC Data of PVC Standards and 2nd Generation Single Hexyl Tethered Triazole Phthalate Mimics

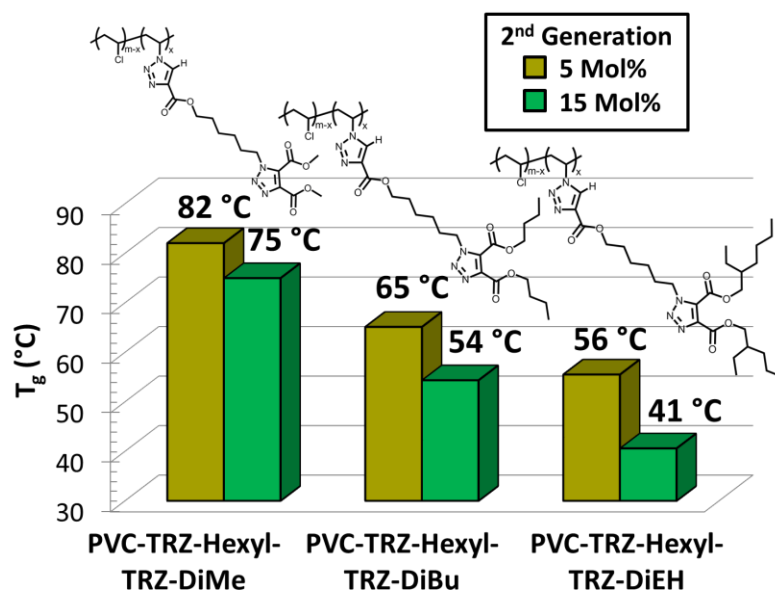


Figure 2.21 DSC Data of 2nd Generation Single Hexyl Tethered Triazole Phthalate Mimics

Polymer	5 Mol% ΔT_g PVC (°C)	15 Mol% ΔT_g PVC (°C)
PVC	81 °C	
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	+1	-6
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	-16	-27
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	-25	-40

Table 2.5 Changes in Glass Transition Temperature (ΔT_g PVC) of 2nd Generation Single Hexyl Tethered Triazole Phthalate Mimics with Respect to Unmodified PVC

The glass transition temperatures of PVC functionalized with 2nd generation triazole phthalate mimics display multiple observable phenomena. **Table 2.5** shows the glass transition difference (ΔT_g PVC) between unmodified PVC and each 2nd generation plasticized sample (**Equation 2.1**). As seen in the 1st generation triazole-based plasticizers, T_g values decrease as longer alkyl ester chains are introduced, with considerable depressions observed in the 15 mole percent PVC derivatives compared to the 5 mole percent analogues. As the plasticizer becomes structurally larger, there is a non-linear plasticization effect that occurs between the 5 and 15 mole percent samples. In **Figure 2.22**, ΔT_g PVC values taken from **Table 2.5** show that PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH, the largest alkyl ester discussed thus far, displays the most substantial intensification of plasticization from 5 to 15 mole percent. As

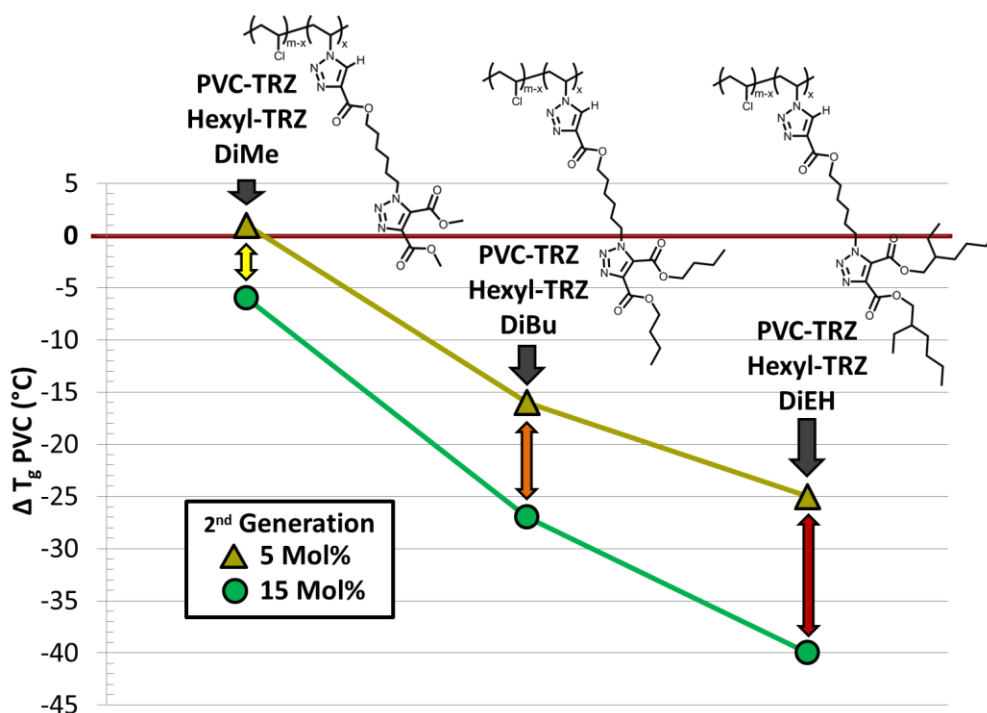


Figure 2.22 Difference in Glass Transition Temperature (ΔT_g PVC) of 2nd Generation Single Hexyl Tethered Triazole Phthalate Mimics with Respect to Unmodified PVC

the molecular weight of internal plasticizer decreases, so does this phenomenon: PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu demonstrates a moderate boost in plasticization, while PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe exhibits a minute T_g depression. Therefore, long and sterically bulky triazole emollients are superior internal PVC plasticizers. Conceptually, this is logical: as plasticizer molecular weight increases, so will its weight percent in the final material.

2.7 DSC Analysis: 1st Generation Versus 2nd Generation Triazole Phthalate Mimics on PVC

The 1st generation primary triazole directly attached to PVC conveys a slight anti-plasticization effect. This issue was alleviated in the 2nd generation system by adding a hexyl-tether to provide an efficient means of plasticization by allowing the secondary triazole-phthalate mimic to create more free volume between the PVC main chains compared to the 1st generation system.

The efficacy of the 2nd generation triazole-phthalate mimics was determined by comparing DSC data to the 1st generation system (**Figure 2.23**). PVC samples containing hexyl-tethers exhibit lower overall T_g values than their 1st generation analogues. **Table 2.6** collectively illustrates the glass transition temperatures of internally plasticized PVC encompassing 1st and 2nd generation derivatives. The aromatic anti-plasticization penalty seen with the 1st generation samples has largely been mitigated by the hexyl tether.

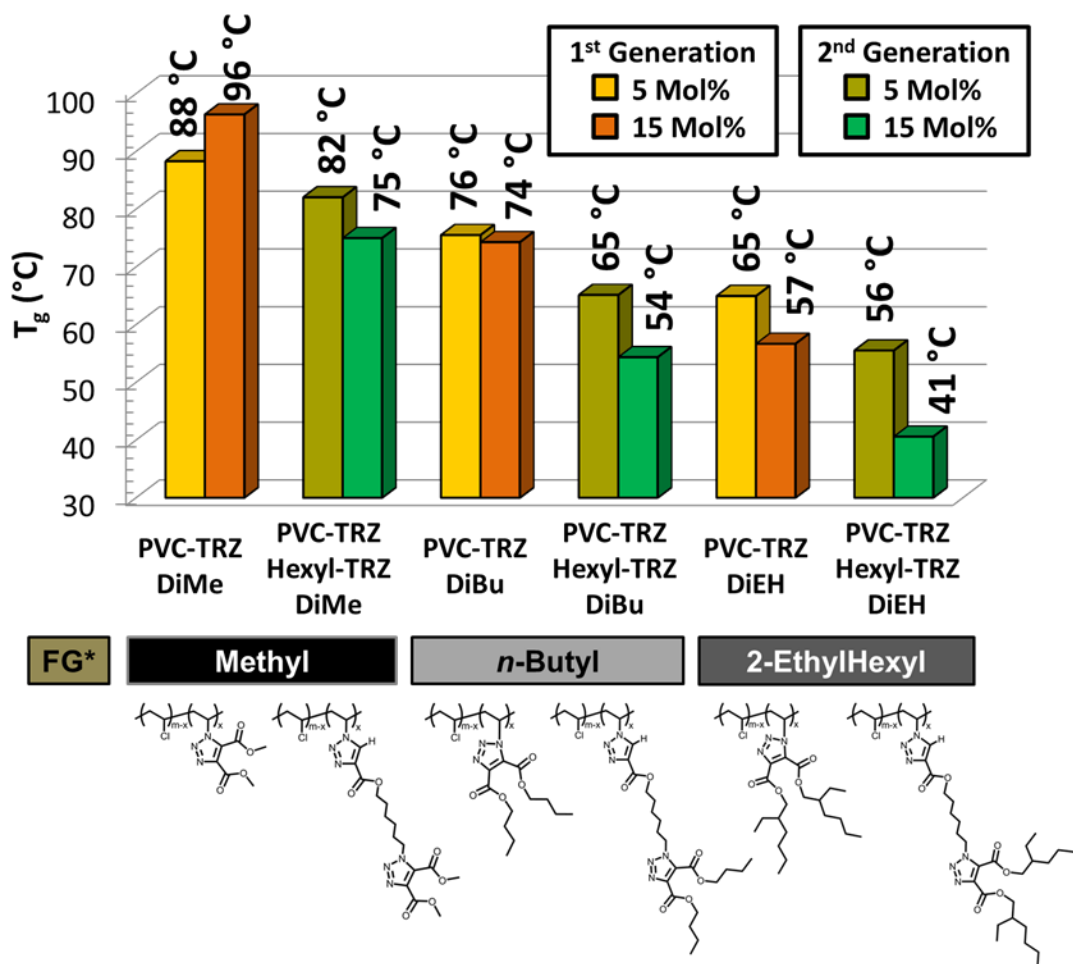


Figure 2.23 DSC Data Comparing 1st and 2nd Generation Triazole Phthalate Mimics (*FG = Functional Group)

Generation	Polymer	5 Mol% T _g (°C)	15 Mol% T _g (°C)
Standards	PVC	81 °C	
	PVC-Azide	83	78
1 st Gen.	PVC-TRZ-DiMe	88	96
	PVC-TRZ-DiBu	76	74
	PVC-TRZ-DiEH	65	57
2 nd Gen.	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	82	75
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	65	54
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	56	41

Table 2.6 DSC Data of PVC Standards with 1st and 2nd Generation Triazole Phthalate Mimics

ΔT_g PVC values of 1st and 2nd generation systems are presented in **Table 2.7**. The crystallinity engendered by the aromatic triazole is counterbalanced by the incorporation of the hexyl tether. Both 5 and 15 mole percent methyl triazole congeners belonging to the 1st generation (PVC-TRZ-DiMe) convey anti-plasticization properties to PVC. On the other hand, 2nd generation internally plasticized PVC containing the analogous secondary methyl triazole (PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe) displays lower T_g values. This represents a 6 °C depression between 5 mole percent methyl ester generations, and a staggering 21 °C decrease between the 15 mole percent relatives (**Table 2.8**). The hexyl tether unequivocally alleviates the deleterious rigidification conveyed by the primary triazole, despite largely absent plasticizing alkyl chains in the secondary dimethyl ester triazole. Comparing *n*-butyl ester relatives reveals a similar trend (**Table 2.8**): noteworthy T_g depressions between generations of 5 and 15 mole percent analogues are observed (ΔT_g 5 Mol% = -11 °C and ΔT_g 15 Mol% = -20 °C). In the same vein, 2-ethylhexyl congeners exhibited similar glass transition temperature depressions (ΔT_g 5 Mol% = -9 °C and ΔT_g 15 Mol% = -16 °C).

On average, the 5 mole percent derivatives exhibited a T_g reduction of 9 °C, while the 15 mole percent polymers saw an average decline of 19 °C. Intensified glass transition temperature depressions occur in the 15 mole percent samples compared to the 5 mole percent analogues (**Figure 2.24**). As the primary anchoring triazole becomes more ubiquitous on the backbone in the 2nd generation system, a concomitant inclusion of two new moieties

appears: 1) a hexyl tether and 2) a secondary plasticizing triazole. In contrast, the 1st generation system relies exclusively on a single plasticizing triazole directly bound to PVC (**Figure 2.25**). The hexyl tether of the 2nd generation system may synergistically enhance plasticization by acting as a pseudo-plasticizing entity, in addition to distancing the secondary triazole from the main chain of PVC. As a result, the structural configuration of the 2nd generation system may function as more than one triazole phthalate mimic per attachment point versus the 1st generation, which contains only one phthalate mimic equivalent.

Generation	Polymer	5 Mol% ΔT_g PVC (°C)	15 Mol% ΔT_g PVC (°C)
	PVC	81 °C	
1 st Gen.	PVC-TRZ-DiMe	+7	+15
	PVC-TRZ-DiBu	-5	-7
	PVC-TRZ-DiEH	-16	-24
2 nd Gen.	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	+1	-6
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	-16	-27
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	-25	-40

Table 2.7 ΔT_g PVC of 1st and 2nd Generation Triazole Phthalate Mimics

FG	Polymer	5% ΔT_g PVC	ΔT_g Gen 5%	15% ΔT_g PVC	ΔT_g Gen 15%
	PVC	81 °C			
Me	PVC-TRZ-DiMe	+7	-6	+15	-21
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	+1		-6	
n-Bu	PVC-TRZ-DiBu	-5	-11	-7	-20
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	-16		-27	
2-EH	PVC-TRZ-DiEH	-16	-9	-24	-16
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	-25		-40	

Table 2.8 ΔT_g PVC and ΔT_g Between 1st and 2nd Generation Systems Grouped By Ester Alkyl Chain

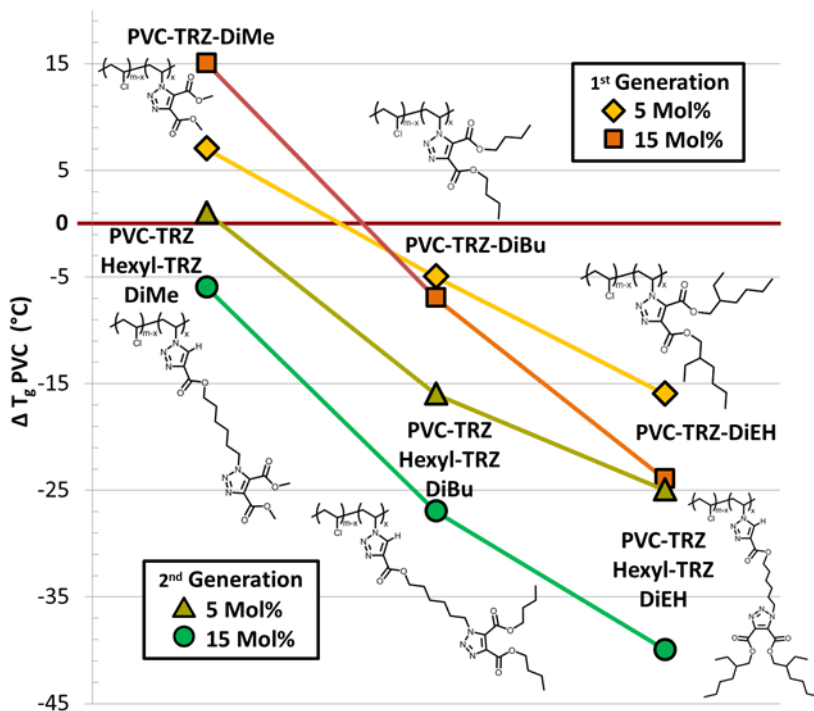


Figure 2.24 Difference in Glass Transition Temperature (ΔT_g PVC) of 1st and 2nd Generation Systems with Respect to Unmodified PVC

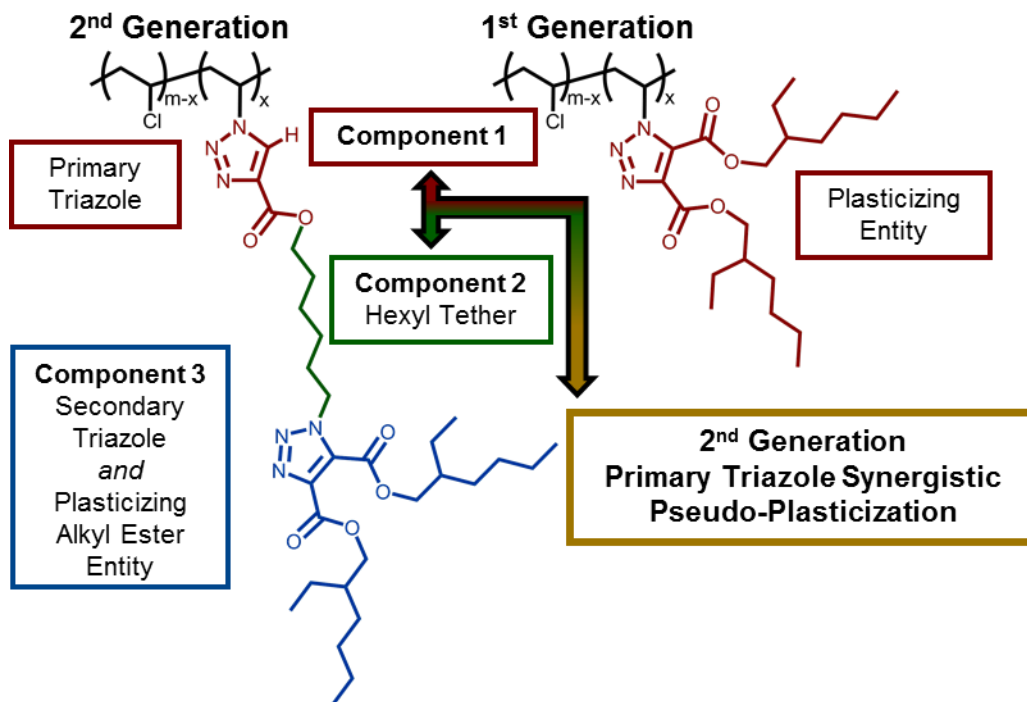


Figure 2.25 Structural Comparison of 1st and 2nd Generation Triazole Phthalate Mimics

Thus far, all internally plasticized polymers were examined in terms of mole percent triazole present on PVC. A valuable alternate analytical perspective evaluates glass transition temperatures as a function of weight percentage of plasticizer. In this manner, one can simplify alterations to the plasticizer solely by considering molecular weight. Most publications utilize *weight percent* of plasticizer as a standard metric to determine plasticization efficiency. **Figure 2.26** graphically illustrates the method to obtain the weight percent of triazole-based internal plasticizer in functionalized PVC.

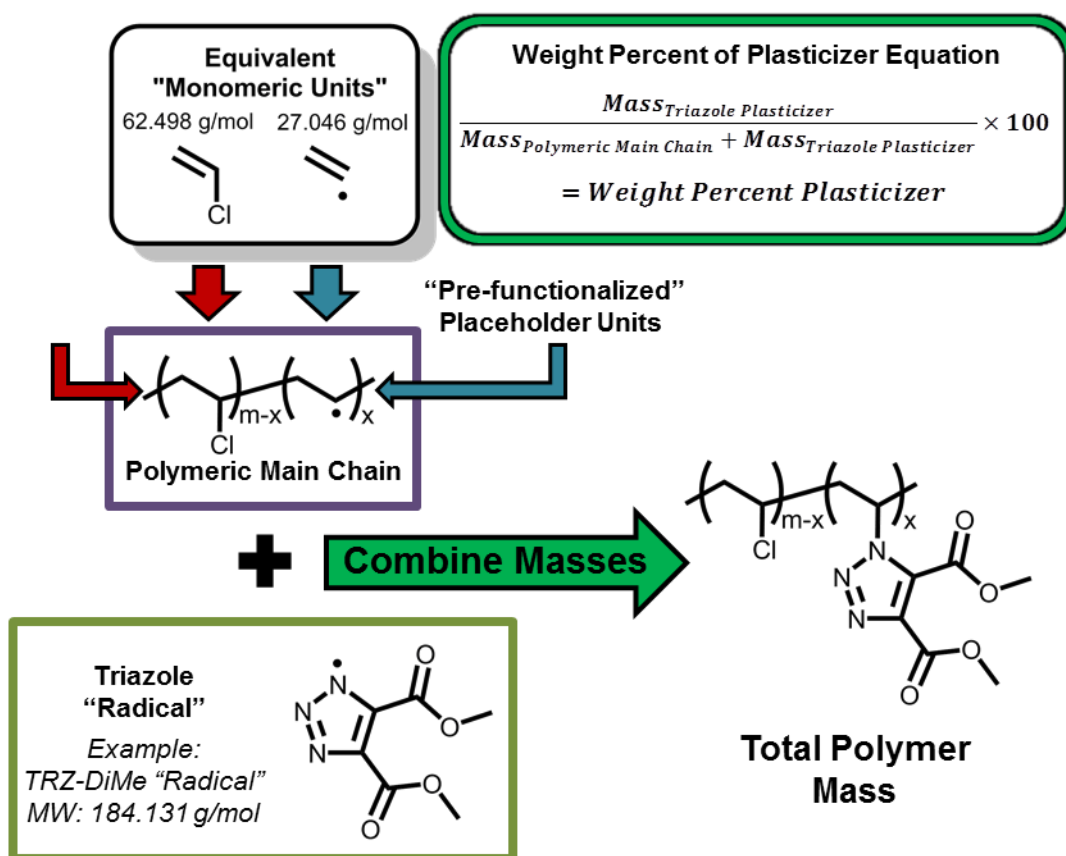


Figure 2.26 Structural Breakdown to Calculate Weight Percent Plasticizer

A mathematical expression was devised to calculate the weight percent of triazole-phthalate mimic in PVC (**Equation 2.3**):

$$X_{Mass PVC} + Y_{Mass Plasticizer} = Z_{Mass Total} \quad \text{Equation 2.2}$$

$$\frac{Y_{Mass Plasticizer}}{Z_{Mass Total}} \times 100 = \text{Wt\% Plasticizer in PVC} \quad \text{Equation 2.3}$$

On first inspection, this calculation seems fairly rudimentary; however, one must bear in mind that there was a loss of chloride on PVC, as a consequence of substitution with azide. To determine the weight percent of plasticizer, one must elucidate how many moles of azide are on PVC after S_N2 substitution. Elemental analysis data of the 5 and 15 mole percent substituted PVC-azide gives the moles of nitrogen present, thus the moles of azide can be solved mathematically.

Polymer	Alleged Mol%	Carbon (Wt%)	Hydrogen (Wt%)	Nitrogen (Wt%)
PVC-Azide	5	38.97	4.98	3.10
	15	38.17	4.70	9.81

Table 2.9 Elemental Analysis of PVC-Azide Samples

For 100 grams of sample, the weight percentage of each atom directly translates to a mass. For the approximately 15 mole percent azide polymer, 9.81 grams out of the total 100 grams of plastic is nitrogen. Utilizing the atomic weight of nitrogen (14.01 g/mol), the moles of nitrogen atoms in the 100 gram polymer is calculated (**Equation 2.4**):

$$9.81 \text{ grams Nitrogen} \left(\frac{1 \text{ Mole}}{14.01 \text{ grams Nitrogen}} \right) = 0.700 \text{ moles Nitrogen} \quad \text{Equation 2.4}$$

Likewise, the moles of carbon in the sample are determined from the data in **Table 2.9** (**Equation 2.5**):

$$38.7 \text{ grams Carbon} \left(\frac{1 \text{ Mole}}{12.01 \text{ grams Carbon}} \right) = 3.178 \text{ moles Carbon} \quad \text{Equation 2.5}$$

The molar value of nitrogen is divided by 3 to account for each atom present in the azide moiety (**Equation 2.6**). Carbon is divided by 2 to account for each atom present in a monomeric unit of the entire polymer (**Equation 2.7**):

$$\frac{0.700 \text{ Moles Nitrogen}}{3} = 0.233 \text{ Moles of Azide} \quad \text{Equation 2.6}$$

$$\frac{3.178 \text{ Moles Carbon}}{2} = 1.589 \text{ Moles in Each Carbon Monomeric Unit} \quad \text{Equation 2.7}$$

The value for nitrogen and carbon are taken as a molar ratio and multiplied by 100 to give the degree of azidation in the polymer (**Equation 2.8**):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{0.233 \text{ Moles of Azide}}{1.589 \text{ Moles in Each Carbon Monomeric Unit}} \times 100 & \quad \text{Equation 2.8} \\ & = 14.69 \text{ Azide Moieties Per 100 Monomeric Units} \end{aligned}$$

The calculation for the “5%” PVC-azide sample yields 4.547 azide moieties per 100 monomeric units. To account for the mole percent of plasticizer, an arbitrary 100 millimoles (mmol) of PVC is multiplied by the value elucidated for degree of azidation, which is directly related to the millimoles of plasticizer on modified PVC (**Equation 2.9**):

$$100 \text{ mmol Polymer} - 14.69 \text{ mmol Plasticizer} = 85.31 \text{ mmol Unmodified PVC} \quad \text{Equation 2.9}$$

The mass of unmodified PVC is calculated from the molecular weight for vinyl chloride monomer (62.498 g/mol) and the mmol value obtained from **Equation 2.9** (**Equation 2.10**):

$$85.31 \text{ mmol PVC} \left(\frac{62.498 \text{ grams}}{1000 \text{ mmol}} \right) = 5.332 \text{ grams of Unmodified PVC} \quad \text{Equation 2.10}$$

The amount of plasticizer in mmol is identical to the amount of chlorine atoms lost, due to S_N2 displacement with azide in the first substitution reaction. This equates to the millimolar equivalents of polymerized “monomeric units” with a triazole. The total mass of the unfunctionalized backbone (the main chain mass of PVC without chlorine or triazole) must be

determined at the specific mole percent substitution of plasticizer chosen (5 or 15 Mol%). A theoretical ethylene radical (MW: 27.05 g/mol, **Figure 2.26**) is utilized as a “pre-functionalized unit placeholder” for the incorporation of a future triazole, thereby factoring the loss of chlorine into the mass calculation of the main chain (**Equation 2.11**):

$$14.69 \text{ mmol Ethylene Radical} \left(\frac{27.05 \text{ grams}}{1000 \text{ mmol}} \right) \quad \text{Equation 2.11}$$

$$= 0.397 \text{ grams of Pre - Functionalized Units}$$

The masses of unmodified PVC and the pre-functionalized placeholder are combined to yield 5.729 grams of polymeric main chain, which includes unmodified and pre-functionalized units (**Equation 2.12**). In “5” mole percent samples, there is 6.089 grams of polymeric main chain.

$$5.332 \text{ grams Unmodified PVC} + 0.397 \text{ grams Pre Functionalized Units} \quad \text{Equation 2.12}$$

$$= 5.729 \text{ grams of Polymeric Main Chain}$$

To account for the triazole phthalate mimic, a theoretical triazole “radical” acts as a means to determine the molecular weight of “pure” triazole plasticizer (**Figure 2.26**). As an *example*, methyl ester triazole (found in PVC-TRZ-DiMe) is calculated based on its “radical” form, which selectively gives the molecular weight of the plasticizer (in this instance, 184.13 g/mol, **Figure 2.26**). The triazole’s molecular weight, in combination with the known mmol value of plasticizer attached to PVC (**4.547 mmol for 5 Mol% or 14.69 mmol for 15 Mol%**), allows one to calculate the mass of “pure” triazole-phthalate mimic present in the final material (**Equation 2.13**):

$$14.69 \text{ mmol Triazole Plasticizer} \left(\frac{184.13 \text{ grams}}{1000 \text{ mmol}} \right) \quad \text{Equation 2.13}$$

$$= 2.705 \text{ grams Triazole Plasticizer}$$

Finally, the weight percent of triazole-based plasticizer present in PVC is calculated using the general equation below (**Equation 2.14**):

$$\frac{Mass_{Triazole\ Plasticizer}}{Mass_{Polymeric\ Main\ Chain} + Mass_{Triazole\ Plasticizer}} \times 100 \quad \text{Equation 2.14}$$

$$= \text{Weight Percent Plasticizer}$$

The mass of the triazole plasticizer is divided by the total mass of the polymer, which consists of the plasticizer and polymeric main chain. This accurately yields the weight percent of plasticizer present for the modified PVC. For the example with approximately 5 mole percent dimethyl ester triazole (PVC-TRZ-DiMe), a sample calculation is illustrated by **Equation 2.15**:

$$\frac{2.705\ \text{grams Triazole Plasticizer}}{5.729\ \text{grams Polymeric Main Chain} + 2.705\ \text{grams Triazole Plasticizer}} \times 100 \quad \text{Equation 2.15}$$

$$= 32.07\% \text{ Triazole Phthalate Plasticizer}$$

These calculations were applied to the first two generations of internally plasticized PVC.

DEHP-PVC mixtures were prepared to establish a standard T_g curve following the current industry benchmark. By comparing the T_g values of the DEHP-PVC standards, it is possible to determine the efficacy of the triazole-based system with respect to DEHP. Glass transition temperatures of DEHP-PVC standard mixtures are listed in **Table 2.10**.

Polymer	Wt % DEHP Plasticizer	T_g Standards (°C)
DEHP-PVC	0	80.97
	20	19.39
	30	-3.52
	40	-26.57
	50	-43.40
	60	-56.85
	70	-67.02

Table 2.10 Glass Transition Temperatures of DEHP-PVC Standard Mixtures with Respect to Weight Percent DEHP Plasticizer

Weight percentages and glass transition temperatures of the 1st and 2nd generation polymers are presented in **Table 2.11**. An overlay of these T_g values versus weight percent plasticizer with DEHP-PVC standards is illustrated in **Figure 2.27**.

Generation	Polymer	Mol %	Wt % Plasticizer	T _g (°C)
1st Gen.	PVC-TRZ-DiMe	5	12.1	88
		15	32.1	96
	PVC-TRZ-DiBu	5	16.7	76
		15	40.8	74
	PVC-TRZ-DiEH	5	22.1	65
		15	49.4	57
2nd Gen.	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	5	22.1	82
		15	49.3	75
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	5	25.7	65
		15	54.3	54
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	5	30.1	56
		15	59.6	41

Table 2.11 Glass Transition Temperatures and Weight Percentages of 1st and 2nd Generation Triazole-Based Phthalate Mimics in Modified PVC

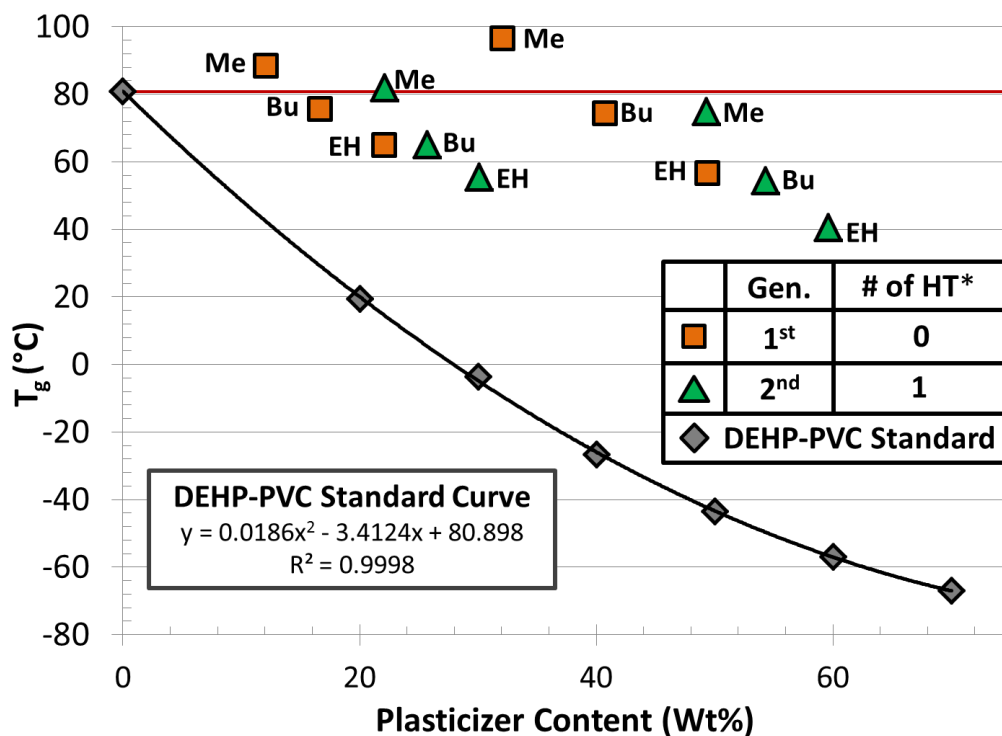


Figure 2.27 Overlay of T_g Values Versus Weight Percent of Plasticizer with DEHP-PVC Standard Mixtures and Generations 1-2 Triazole Phthalate Mimics (*HT = Hexyl Tethers)

There are two major clusters of data in **Figure 2.27**. The first cluster, located approximately between 10 and 30 weight percent plasticizer, correlates to the 5 mole percent derivatives, while samples between 32 and 60 weight percent belong to the 15 mole percent polymers. The red line in **Figure 2.27** represents the standard glass transition temperature of unmodified PVC ($T_g = 81\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$). Three samples are above the red line, demonstrating anti-plasticizing properties: both 5 and 15% PVC-TRZ-DiMe, along with 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe exhibit T_g values higher than PVC. A decrease in T_g for all species is concomitant with the enlargement of the alkyl plasticizing chain, regardless of mole percent or generation. A striking juxtaposition of glass transition temperatures can be seen between 15% PVC-TRZ-DiMe ($T_g = 96\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 32.1 Wt% Plasticizer) and 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($T_g = 56\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 30.1 Wt% Plasticizer): despite the similarity in weight percentage of plasticizer, 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH has a ΔT_g of $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ when compared to 5% PVC-TRZ-DiMe, illustrating the advantage of a long, bulky ester chain and tether. Likewise, 5% PVC-TRZ-DiEH ($T_g = 65\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 22.2 Wt% Plasticizer) and 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe ($T_g = 82\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 22.1 Wt% Plasticizer) show significantly different glass transition temperatures ($\Delta T_g = -17\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$). In a similar vein, 15% PVC-TRZ-DiEH ($T_g = 57\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 49.4 Wt% Plasticizer) and 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe ($T_g = 75\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 49.3 Wt% Plasticizer) also demonstrate decreased T_g values ($\Delta T_g = -18\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) with similar weight percentages of plasticizer. While PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe has a hexyl-tether, it lacks long, bulky alkyl moieties to effectively create free space between chains of PVC, whereas PVC-TRZ-DiEH has no tether, but contains the longest, most sterically hindered and branched plasticizing chains.

Analyzing **Figure 2.27** horizontally, inspection of the 5 mole percent cluster shows that PVC-TRZ-DiEH ($T_g = 65\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 22.1 Wt% Plasticizer) and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($T_g = 65\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 25.7 Wt% Plasticizer) have the same glass transition temperature, despite a slight difference in weight percentage of plasticizer. While PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu has a tether, PVC-TRZ-DiEH contains the large, branched 2-ethylhexyl chains, furnishing nearly

analogous glass transition temperatures at a lower weight percent. A corresponding observation in the 15 mole percent samples of PVC-TRZ-DiEH ($T_g = 57\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 49.4 Wt% Plasticizer) and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($T_g = 54\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 54.3 Wt% Plasticizer) was found: regardless of the greater percentage of plasticizer by weight present in PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu, the difference in glass transition temperatures relative to PVC-TRZ-DiEH is marginal ($\Delta T_g = -3\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$). It is evident that a long and branched alkyl plasticizing moiety is essential for plasticization efficacy. The hexyl tether merely enhances the ability of a secondary triazole with smaller ester alkyl chains to work in a similar fashion to its larger-chain congeners. Therefore, a combination of a tether with 2-ethylhexyl groups on the secondary triazole should provide the most pronounced plasticization effect with the lowest weight percentage of plasticizer. This phenomenon was observed between 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($T_g = 56\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 30.1 Wt% Plasticizer) and 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($T_g = 54\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 54.3 Wt% Plasticizer); comparable glass transition temperatures were found for both polymers despite a large difference in weight percent of plasticizer ($\Delta\text{Wt\% Plasticizer} = 24.2\%$). Another example occurs comparing plasticizers containing 2-ethylhexyl groups: 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($T_g = 56\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 30.1 Wt% Plasticizer) and 15% PVC-TRZ-DiEH ($T_g = 57\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 49.4 Wt% Plasticizer) gave nearly identical T_g values, but contain a vastly disparate weight percentage of plasticizer ($\Delta\text{Wt\% Plasticizer} = 19.3\%$). The major difference in the architecture of these two 2-ethylhexyl functionalized plasticizers lies in the presence of the hexyl-tether. Evidently, the tether maximizes the ability of the secondary triazole to soften PVC and requires significantly less plasticizer to attain comparable T_g values.

2.8 Plasticizer Efficiencies: 1st and 2nd Generation Systems Versus DEHP-PVC

Thus far, the analysis of DSC data from the 1st and 2nd generation systems has been framed in comparative terms to unmodified PVC. However, industry rarely uses PVC in its pure brittle form and most frequently mixes in DEHP to provide a cost-effective method to access flexibility and resistivity towards weathering, temperature extremes, and electrical

conductivity. Therefore, a more accurate measure of triazole-based plasticizer efficacy is a comparison with the ubiquitous DEHP-PVC system. Plasticizer efficiency related to the reduction in T_g of polyglycerol externally plasticized PVC, with respect to pure PVC and a PVC standard with a matched weight percentage of DEHP to polyglycerol has been previously reported.²⁶ A modification of this calculation was adopted for the current study. The plasticizer efficiency percentage ($E\Delta T_g$) is determined as follows (**Equation 2.16**):

$$E\Delta T_g = \frac{\Delta T_g TRZ}{\Delta T_g DEHP} \times 100 \quad \text{Equation 2.16}$$

In order to obtain $\Delta T_g TRZ$, one must calculate the difference of T_g between unmodified PVC ($T_{g PVC}$) and the triazole modified PVC ($T_g TRZ$) (**Equation 2.17**):

$$\Delta T_g TRZ = T_{g PVC} - T_g TRZ \quad \text{Equation 2.17}$$

where $T_g TRZ$ is the observed glass transition temperature of the novel triazole-based system, and $T_{g PVC}$ is 80.97 °C, obtained by experimental DSC.

A similar process is employed to determine $\Delta T_g DEHP$ (**Equation 2.18**):

$$\Delta T_g DEHP = T_{g PVC} - T_g DEHP \quad \text{Equation 2.18}$$

To determine $\Delta T_g DEHP$, a standard curve was generated using various weight percentages of DEHP in PVC. Utilizing the identical DSC heat-cool-heat protocol as all other measured polymer samples, glass transition temperature data (**Table 2.10**) was obtained and an equation for a DEHP-PVC standard curve was generated in terms of weight percent DEHP versus T_g , following **Figure 2.27** (**Equation 2.19**):

$$y = 0.0186x^2 - 3.4124x + 80.898 \quad \text{Equation 2.19}$$

where x represents the weight percentage of DEHP in a PVC mixture, and y is the T_g of the DEHP-PVC mixture. Employing the weight percentage calculation method outlined in *Section*

2.7, the weight percent of triazole-based plasticizer was obtained: this value is substituted for x in **Equation 2.19**. This yields the predicted T_g of the DEHP-PVC blend with the identical weight percentage of DEHP emollient as the triazole-based system, in terms of y . The output value for y is applied in the calculation of $\Delta T_g DEHP$, the difference in T_g between the DEHP-PVC mixture and pure PVC (**Equation 2.20**):

$$\Delta T_g DEHP = 80.97 - y \quad \text{Equation 2.20}$$

By placing the ΔT_g values from **Equation 2.19 and 2.20** into **Equation 2.16**, the plasticizer efficiency percentage ($E\Delta T_g$) is obtained for any triazole-based plasticized PVC sample (**Equation 2.21**):

$$E\Delta T_g = \frac{80.97 - T_{g \text{ Triazole Plasticized PVC}}}{80.97 - y} \times 100 \quad \text{Equation 2.21}$$

$E\Delta T_g$ is a value representing how similar the triazole-plasticizers compare to the standard DEHP-PVC mixture. Conveniently, the large variability of plasticizer weight percentages between triazole functionalized PVC samples is compensated in this calculation. The effectiveness of covalently-bound plasticizers can be directly compared and analyzed without regard to weight percent plasticizer, as each internally plasticized sample is now standardized to DEHP-PVC. A range from 0 to 100 is typical for $E\Delta T_g$. However, a value below zero indicates anti-plasticization, while a value above 100 describes an emollient more efficient than DEHP at a specific weight percent of plasticizer. $E\Delta T_g$ values for all 1st and 2nd generation samples were calculated and are presented in **Table 2.12** (5 mole percent) and **Table 2.13** (15 mole percent), organized in descending order of efficiency percentages. $E\Delta T_g$ values for 3rd generation polymers are depicted as a bar graph in **Figure 2.28**.

Utilizing the quantitative $E\Delta T_g$ values from **Table 2.12** and **Table 2.13**, it is apparent that 5 and 15 mole percent polymers require slightly different structural configurations to achieve high efficiency percentages. For the 5 mole percent triazole samples, the presence

Polymer	Wt% TRZ (x)	T _g TRZ	ΔT _g TRZ	DEHP T _g (y)	ΔT _g DEHP	EΔT _g
5% PVC TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	30.1	55.5	25.5	-4.9	85.9	29.7
5% PVC TRZ-DiEH	22.1	65	16.0	14.5	66.5	24.1
5% PVC TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	25.7	65	15.8	5.5	75.5	21.0
5% PVC TRZ-DiBu	16.7	75.5	5.5	29.1	51.9	10.5
5% PVC TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	22.1	82.1	-1.1	14.6	66.3	-1.6
5% PVC TRZ-DiMe	12.1	88.3	-7.3	42.4	38.6	-19.0

Table 2.12 Plasticization Efficiencies of 5 Mol % 1st and 2nd Generation Triazole Internally Plasticized PVC Ranked by Descending EΔT_g Values

Polymer	Wt% TRZ (x)	T _g TRZ	ΔT _g TRZ	DEHP T _g (y)	ΔT _g DEHP	EΔT _g
15% PVC TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	59.6	40.6	40.4	-56.4	137.4	29.4
15% PVC TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	54.3	54.4	26.6	-49.6	130.5	20.4
15% PVC TRZ-DiEH	49.4	56.7	24.3	-42.3	123.2	19.7
15% PVC TRZ-DiBu	40.8	74.3	6.7	-27.3	108.3	6.2
15% PVC TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	49.3	75.0	6.0	-42.1	123.1	4.9
15% PVC TRZ-DiMe	32.1	96.4	-15.4	-9.4	90.4	-17.1

Table 2.13 Plasticization Efficiencies of 15 Mol % 1st and 2nd Generation Triazole Internally Plasticized PVC Ranked by Descending EΔT_g Values

of 2-ethylhexyl moieties appears to be more important than the hexyl tether in engendering better plasticization efficiencies (**Table 2.12**). A sequential decrease in EΔT_g is observed with the 2nd generation PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH, exhibiting the highest value of 29.7, while the 1st generation PVC-TRZ-DiEH (EΔT_g = 24.1), 2nd generation PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu (EΔT_g = 21.0) and 1st generation PVC-TRZ-DiBu (EΔT_g = 10.5) show lower efficiencies. Both generations of derivatives containing methyl-triazole (PVC-TRZ-DiMe and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe) give negative EΔT_g values, indicating anti-plasticization. The 1st generation sample, PVC-TRZ-DiMe (EΔT_g = -19.0) is much less efficient than its 2nd generation analogue, PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe (EΔT_g = -1.6) at conveying flexibility to PVC. The addition of the hexyl tether enhances the efficiency between generations of methyl-triazoles by 17.4%.

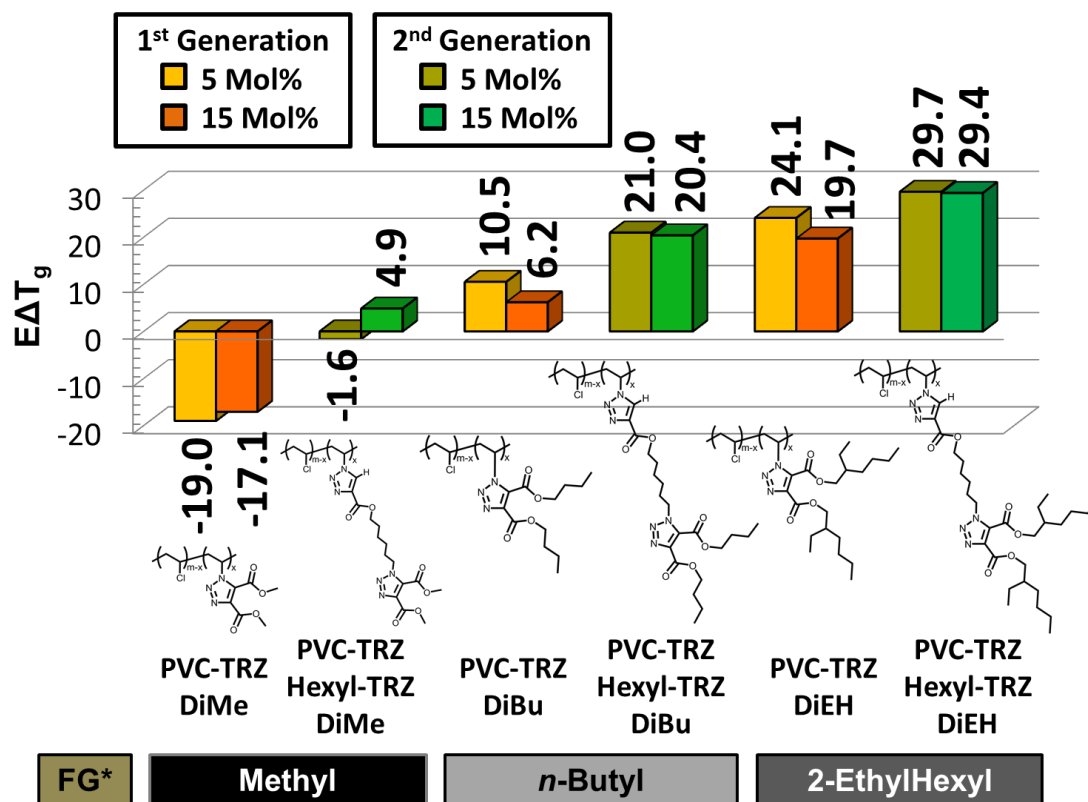


Figure 2.28 Efficiency Values ($E\Delta T_g$) of 1st and 2nd Generation Internally Plasticized PVC (*FG = Functional Group)

In the 15 mole percent samples, the hexyl tether in 2nd generation triazole plasticizers plays a critical role in enhancing plasticizing efficiency (**Table 2.13**). The highest efficiencies are observed in 2nd generation samples PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g = 29.4$) and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g = 20.4$), with the 1st generation PVC-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g = 19.7$) coming in a close third. The 1st generation PVC TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g = 6.2$) experiences a severe reduction in $E\Delta T_g$ relative to its 2nd generation hexyl tethered analogue, PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu, corresponding to a 14.2% deficit. Methyl-triazole analogues at 15 mole percent are also not effective in plasticizing PVC: the 1st generation sample, PVC-TRZ-DiMe, displays anti-plasticization characteristics ($E\Delta T_g = -17.1$), while the 2nd generation relative, PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe ($E\Delta T_g = 4.9$), effectively counteracts anti-plasticization. Interestingly, PVC-TRZ-DiMe shows decreased efficiencies at 5 mole percent compared to 15 mole percent

($E\Delta T_g$ 5 Mol% = -19.0, $E\Delta T_g$ 15 Mol% = -17.1) despite a significant increase in T_g at the higher mole percentage of triazole.

In this capacity, the plasticizers in both 1st and 2nd generations remain less effective from a weight percentage perspective than traditional non-covalently bound DEHP. While effective plasticization is achieved with these triazole phthalate mimics, as the weight percentage of plasticizer increases, the chasm of glass transition temperatures between the novel triazole-plasticized polymers progressively widens compared to the traditional DEHP-PVC blends. At 5 mole percent of covalently-bound plasticizer, the triazole system appears to approach closer to the DEHP standard T_g curve than the 15 mole percent samples. This effect likely stems from the reduced presence of aromatic anchoring points in the internal plasticizers: a spacing strategy containing a primary triazole will accumulate a commensurate amount of rigid moieties on the backbone of PVC as the mole percent increases. As the molar presence of the stiff triazole rings escalates, a paradoxical magnification of anti-plasticization occurs, thereby diminishing the efficacy of the phthalate mimic. This may be due in part to the π - π stacking of the triazole rings in the three-dimensional matrix of PVC, which imparts crystallization and firmness to the composite. Ideally, the next generation of internal plasticizers would possess a higher molecular weight per triazole attachment point and will be designed to reduce stacking of primary triazoles on the PVC backbone, while conveying flexibility to the secondary triazole. This should contribute to lower glass transition temperatures per weight percent of plasticizer and improve plasticization efficacy compared to the 1st and 2nd generation systems.

2.9 Thermogravimetric Analysis: 1st and 2nd Generation Systems

The thermal stability of PVC and its internally plasticized analogues was measured by our collaborators at IBM Almaden Research Center through derivative thermogravimetry (DTG) and thermogravimetric analyses (TGA) with a TA Instruments TGA Q500. The TGA

standard protocol specifies a scanning range of 30 °C to 500 °C with a heating rate of 10 °C per minute, in both air and nitrogen atmospheres.

TGA provides a general indication of weight (in units of Wt%) lost during the decomposition process of a polymer. The atmosphere around the polymer often affects this process; the relative amounts of different decomposition products vary with the gas utilized. DTG affords information on specific decomposition constituents of a polymer at specific temperatures as peaks, corresponding to the first derivative of a TGA curve in units of derivative weight (Wt% / °C).

DTG of unmodified PVC reveals two peaks, indicative of a multistage decomposition process with an initial decrease in mass at the first derivative peak ($T_{d,PVC1}$) of 289 °C, and a second loss ($T_{d,PVC2}$) at 442 °C when measured using air as the surrounding atmosphere (**Figure 2.29**). The first peak ($T_{d,PVC1}$) signifies a complete dehydrochlorination of PVC with concomitant loss of hydrochloric acid, formation of various cyclic aromatic compounds and vinyl chloride. Between 227 °C and 277 °C, hydrogen chloride gas is evolved in a near quantitative manner by a chain stripping mechanism.²⁷ The second peak ($T_{d,PVC2}$) represents the loss of higher molecular weight hydrocarbon fragments due to chain scission of the carbonaceous backbone. Between 440 °C and 477 °C, hydrogen is evolved during carbonization with a subsequent cyclization of these products. An explicit discussion on PVC degradation was outlined in *Chapter 1*.

DTG of PVC-azide at 5 and 15 mole percent azide exhibit lower degradation temperatures compared to unmodified PVC (**Table 2.14**). The first degradation peak ($T_{d,PVC1}$) of 5% PVC-azide occurs at 227 °C in a nitrogen (N_2) atmosphere and 229 °C when surrounded by air. The second degradation peak ($T_{d,PVC2}$) was observed at 447 °C (N_2) and 453 °C (air). A progressive decrease in degradation temperature occurs with an increasing amount of azide substituted on PVC. In 15% PVC-azide, $T_{d,PVC1}$ occurs at 214 °C (N_2) and

219 °C (air), while $T_{d,PVC2}$ was observed at 444 °C (N₂) and 451 °C (air). Degradation temperatures of PVC internally plasticized by the 1st generation system is given in **Table 2.15**, while the 2nd generation polymers are shown in **Table 2.16**.

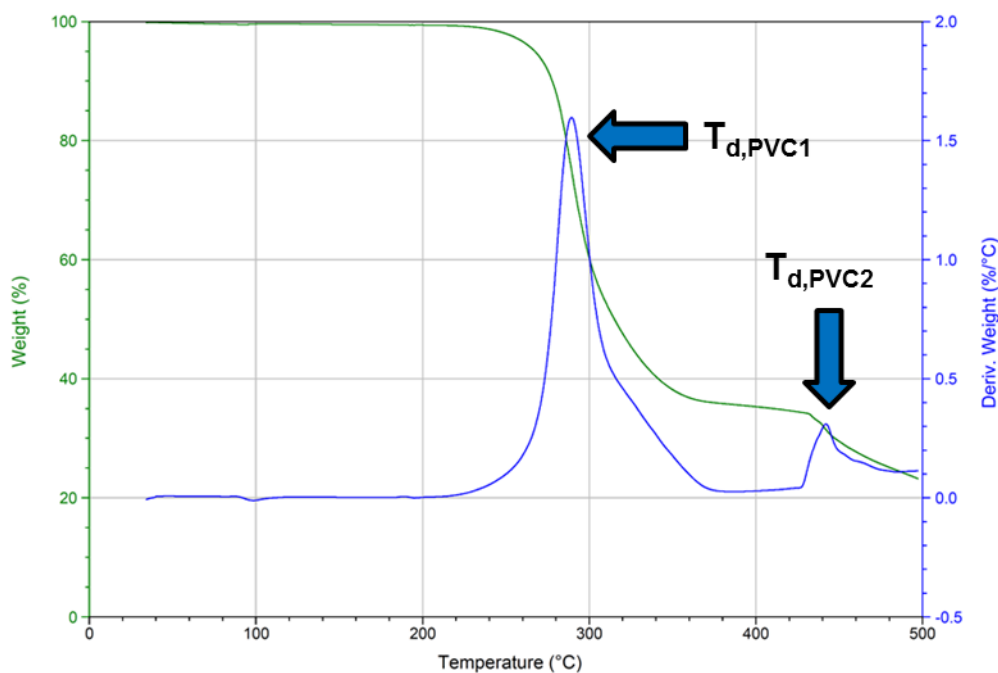


Figure 2.29 TGA (Green) and DTG (Blue) of Unmodified PVC (Air)

Polymer	Atm	$T_{d,PVC1}$ (°C)	$T_{d,PVC2}$ (°C)
Unmodified PVC	N ₂	283	319 and 327
	Air	289	442
5% PVC-Azide	N ₂	227	447
	Air	229	453
15% PVC-Azide	N ₂	214	444
	Air	219	451

Table 2.14 Degradation Temperatures of PVC and PVC-Azide (5 and 15 Mol % Azide)

Polymer	Atm	T _{d,PVC1} (°C)	T _{d,PVC2} (°C)	T _{d,EH} (°C)	T _{d,TRZ1} (°C)	T _{d,TRZ2} (°C)	T _{d,TRZ3} (°C)
Unmodified PVC	N ₂	283	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	289	442	-	-	-	-
5% PVC-Azide	N ₂	227	447	-	-	-	-
	Air	229	453	-	-	-	-
15% PVC-Azide	N ₂	214	444	-	-	-	-
	Air	219	451	-	-	-	-
5% PVC-TRZ-DiMe	N ₂	269	442	-	432	-	-
	Air	274	440	-	-	-	465
15% PVC-TRZ-DiMe	N ₂	248	440	-	429 (w)	-	-
	Air	254	441	-	-	455 (w)	-
5% PVC-TRZ-DiBu	N ₂	268	446	-	434 (w)	-	-
	Air	275	443	-	-	-	464 (w)
15% PVC-TRZ-DiBu	N ₂	279	448	-	435	-	-
	Air	290	444	-	-	457 (w)	-
5% PVC-TRZ-DiEH	N ₂	270	446	-	433	-	-
	Air	280	451	-	429	457 (w)	466 (w)
15% PVC-TRZ-DiEH	N ₂	285	-	367	436	455	-
	Air	306	-	416 (w)	-	456 (w)	-

Table 2.15 TGA/DTG Degradation Temperatures of Unmodified PVC, PVC-Azide and 1st Generation Internally Plasticized PVC

PVC-TRZ-DiMe displays lower T_{d,PVC1} temperatures than unmodified PVC at 5 mole percent (269 °C N₂, 274 °C air) and 15 mole percent (248 °C N₂, 254 °C air). PVC second degradation temperatures (T_{d,PVC2}) in these methyl triazole functionalized samples remain similar to unmodified PVC at 5 mole percent (442 °C N₂, 440 °C air) and 15 mole percent (440 °C N₂, 441 °C air). DTG events occurring at 432 °C (5% PVC-TRZ-DiMe, N₂) and 429 °C (15% PVC-TRZ-DiMe, N₂) represent the triazole ester hydrolyzing into its respective alcohol and carboxylic acid. T_{d,TRZ2} (465 °C, 5% PVC-TRZ-DiMe) and T_{d,TRZ3} (455 °C, 15% PVC-TRZ-DiMe) appear as weak DTG peaks when the measurements are performed in air. This is presumably due to the degradation of an oxidized triazole species.

Dehydrochlorination peaks (T_{d,PVC1}) of PVC-TRZ-DiBu appear as slightly lower values at 5 mole percent (268 °C N₂, 275 °C air), while similar values to unmodified PVC was

recorded at 15 mole percent (279 °C N₂, 290 °C air). Weak DTG peaks at 434 °C (5 Mol %, N₂) and 435 °C (15 Mol %, N₂) originate from triazole hydrolyzation. Equivalent DTG peaks seen in PVC-TRZ-DiMe occur with PVC-TRZ-DiBu at 464 °C (5 Mol %, air) and 457 °C (15 Mol %, air), stemming from an oxidized triazole degradation process.

The 1st generation polymers display common degradation events relating to the triazole (**Table 2.15**). At 5 mole percent, PVC-TRZ-DiEH exhibits depressed T_{d,PVC1} values (270 °C N₂, 280 °C air) and elevated T_{d,PVC2} values (446 °C N₂, 451 °C air) compared to unmodified PVC. Minor T_{d,TRZ1} (433 °C N₂, 429 °C air) and T_{d,TRZ2} (457 °C air, 466 °C air) peaks represent analogous triazole degradation processes seen in PVC-TRZ-DiMe and PVC-TRZ-DiBu. At 15 mole percent, PVC-TRZ-DiEH displays increased T_{d,PVC1} temperatures (285 °C N₂, 306 °C air) with respect to unmodified PVC, while T_{d,PVC2} was not readily visible. In nitrogen, a strong T_{d,TRZ1} peak (436 °C, N₂) may overlap with T_{d,PVC2}. An additional DTG peak at 455 °C (N₂) was noted, which might originate from the delayed degradation of PVC main chain regimes functionalized with the 2-ethylhexyl triazole, or the hydrolyzation of the triazole itself. A broad shoulder at 367 °C (N₂) represents the degradation of the 2-ethylhexyl groups on the triazole. When the thermogravimetric scan was performed in air for 15% PVC-TRZ-DiEH, less prominent DTG peaks are observed from approximately 400 °C, compared to measurements in nitrogen. Two weak yet discernable degradation events at 416 °C and 456 °C are indicative of the oxidized 2-ethylhexyl triazole. No T_{d,PVC2} peak is observed when scanned in air.

The 2nd generation polymers exhibit similar degradation trends to the 1st generation samples (**Table 2.16**). At 5 mole percent, PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe displays decreased T_{d,PVC1} temperatures (243 °C N₂, 248 °C air) with concomitant elevated T_{d,PVC2} values (450 °C N₂, 445 °C air). A minor DTG peak at 437 °C (N₂) is indicative of triazole ester hydrolyzation or an alternate regime of the PVC main chain degradation. A broad shoulder originating from an oxidized triazole degradation (T_{d,TRZ3}) is observed when measured in air (459 °C). At 15

mole percent, PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe gives significantly lower $T_{d,PVC1}$ values (221 °C N_2 , 227 °C air) compared to unmodified PVC. $T_{d,TRZ1}$ peaks at 428 °C (air) and 432 °C (weak, N_2) are indicative of triazole ester hydrolysis.

Polymer	Atm	T_d PVC1 (°C)	T_d PVC2 (°C)	T_d EH (°C)	T_d Hexyl (°C)	T_d TRZEH (°C)	T_d TRZ1 (°C)	T_d TRZ2 (°C)	T_d TRZ3 (°C)
Unmodified PVC	N_2	283	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	289	442	-	-	-	-	-	-
5% PVC-Azide	N_2	227	447	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	229	453	-	-	-	-	-	-
15% PVC-Azide	N_2	214	444	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	219	451	-	-	-	-	-	-
5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	N_2	243	450	-	-	-	437	-	-
	Air	248	445	-	-	-	-	-	459
15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	N_2	221	442	-	-	-	432	-	-
	Air	227	442	-	-	-	428	449	460
5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	N_2	271	441	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	274	438	-	-	-	-	-	-
15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	N_2	271	442	-	350	-	-	452	-
	Air	273	442	-	325	-	419	-	-
5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	N_2	271	445	-	358	-	434	-	-
	Air	275	441	-	-	-	-	-	462
15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	N_2	267	448	303	360	-	-	-	-
	Air	279	442	307	340	403	413	-	461

Table 2.16 TGA/DTG Degradation Temperatures of Unmodified PVC, PVC-Azide and 2nd Generation Internally Plasticized PVC

It appears that regardless of generation, methyl triazoles cause a notable decrease in $T_{d,PVC1}$, particularly in 15 mole percent samples. This may stem from the amount of energy that is required to hydrolyze the methyl ester on the triazole, compared to congeners with larger alkyl esters. If the methyl ester requires less energy to hydrolyze than the alkyl analogues containing *n*-butyl or 2-ethylhexyl groups, the resulting triazole carboxylic acid and alcohol are formed at lower temperatures, thereby initiating the acid-catalyzed dehydrochlorination of PVC ($T_{d,PVC1}$). This is observed in 1st and 2nd generation polymers:

triazoles with large alkyl groups exhibit progressively elevated $T_{d,PVC1}$ temperatures as the size of the carbon chain increases (**Table 2.15** and **Table 2.16**). For example, PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH give $T_{d,PVC1}$ temperatures lower than unmodified PVC, but greater than all methyl triazole derivatives.

Broad DTG peaks exclusively observed in 2nd generation samples occur in 15 mole percent PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu at 325 °C (air) and 350 °C (N₂). This may originate from the hexyl tether (**Table 2.16**). In the 2nd generation polymers, the tether is attached to the primary triazole by a single ester: this may hydrolyze and cause the loss in mass observed in the TGA and DTG. Likewise, 15 mole percent PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH exhibits analogous degradation events at 340 °C (air) and 360 °C (N₂). As with the 1st generation samples, the primary or secondary triazole esters in the 2nd generation polymers should take more energy to hydrolyze as the alkyl chains increase in size. The DTG data of the 2nd generation samples corroborates this hypothesis, showing elevated degradation temperatures originating from the hexyl tether ($T_{d,Hexyl}$) between *n*-butyl and 2-ethylhexyl derivatives. Comparable degradation events occurring only in air are observed with PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu (15%, 413 °C) and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH (15%, 419 °C). This may stem from the hydrolysis of the primary or secondary triazole esters. PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH displays additional DTG peaks ($T_{d,EH}$) not seen in any other 1st or 2nd generation derivative at 303 °C (N₂) and 307 °C (air). This is possibly due to regimes of PVC heavily functionalized with 2nd generation plasticizers containing 2-ethylhexyl triazole esters. The acid strength of the catalyst determines the rate of thermal degradation in PVC.²⁸ The presence of internal plasticizer may deter the initial dehydrochlorination of PVC in these localized regions due to the larger pK_a value of the triazole carboxylate ($pK_a = 2.95$)²⁹ relative to HCl ($pK_a \approx -7$). The pK_a value associated with the carboxylate implicate a slower onset of dehydrochlorination by sequestering some of the thermal energy required to hydrolyze the triazole esters, that would have otherwise gone towards the elimination of HCl from the main chain.

2.10 References

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3 Double Hexyl Tethered Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics

3.1 Increasing Plasticizing Efficiency Utilizing Alkyl Plasticizer Chains with the Triazole Anchoring Strategy

In a quest to increase plasticizing efficiency of the direct triazole attachment system, data from the first two generations of plasticizers were analyzed, revealing intriguing trends. As discussed in *Chapter 2*, there are quintessential structural attributes that must exist in the covalently-bound triazole-based phthalate mimics to achieve maximal emollient capabilities. When utilizing alkyl esters, long, sterically hindered plasticizer chains are required, as any species with the 2-ethylhexyl moiety demonstrates improved plasticizing efficacy over its congeners with smaller, non-branched aliphatic groups. Despite containing a lower weight percentage of plasticizer when compared to *n*-butyl and methyl triazole derivatives, polymers possessing the 2-ethylhexyl triazole proved more effective at imparting decreased glass transition temperatures and therefore increased pliability to the final plastic. Additionally, samples at 5 mole percent triazole plasticizer exhibited T_g values closer to the standard curve comprised of DEHP-PVC mixtures than the 15 mole percent analogues. The data imply that at higher substitution levels, the aromatic triazole ring engenders rigidity to the backbone of PVC, which may stem from π - π or edge-to-face stacking. Hexyl tethers of the 2nd generation system enhanced the plasticization abilities of the triazole-based phthalate mimics over its directly tethered first generation counterparts. This is due to the additional space generated between the secondary plasticizing triazole and PVC. The single hexyl tethered triazole phthalate mimics is engineered to maximize the mobility of secondary triazole within the polymer matrix relative to the original 1st generation triazole diester emollients. This 2nd generation system was created due to ease of synthetic access and low cost of the final plasticized material. Although plasticization was achieved in the first two generations of triazole-based plasticizers, efficiency of these internally plasticized systems still falls short of the industry standard DEHP-PVC system.

Thus, an improved triazole-based plasticizer must contain higher molecular weight substituents per anchoring point on PVC compared to its predecessors. A decreased amount of attachment points to the backbone should suppress aromatic stacking, which is expected to enable augmented plasticization per unit weight of plasticizer. Structurally, a plasticizer with the 2-ethylhexyl plasticizing entity should convey the lowest glass transition temperatures, in juxtaposition to smaller alkyl groups. With this in mind, the endeavor to create a superior plasticizer was pursued. In the 1st generation plasticizers, a double-sided alkyne was synthesized as a precursor to generate the directly bound triazole phthalate mimic. It was envisaged that a double hexyl tethered plasticizer would satisfy the goals of the 3rd generation system: the larger size will expand on the steric properties of the emollient, while increasing the molecular weight of the plasticizer per anchoring point (**Figure 3.1**). Likewise, the inclusion of the hexyl tether will supplement the ability of the secondary triazole to better generate free volume in the polymeric matrix.

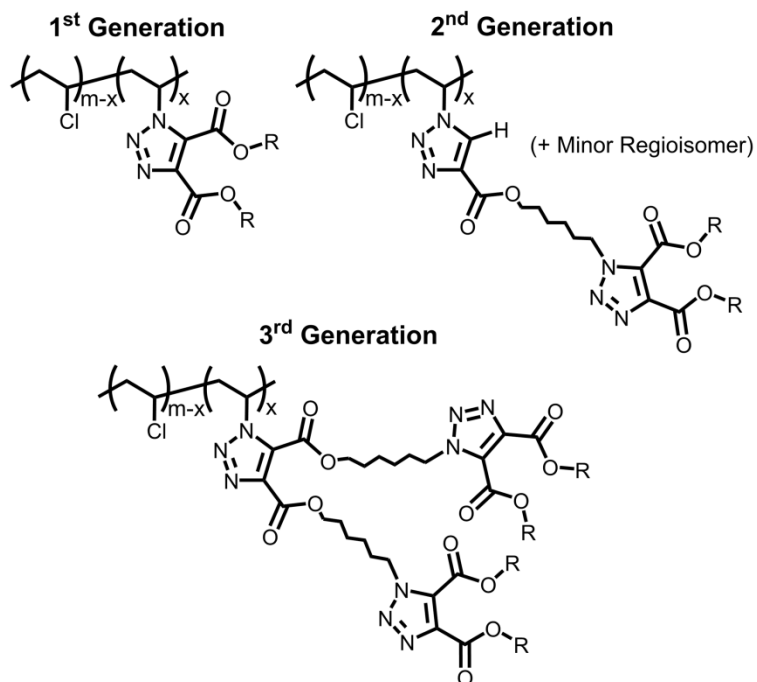
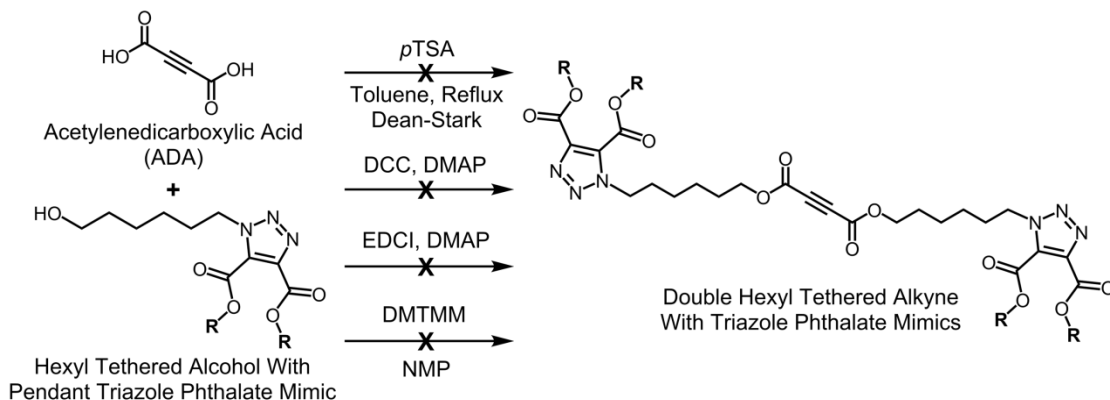


Figure 3.1 Structures of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Generation Triazole Phthalate Mimics

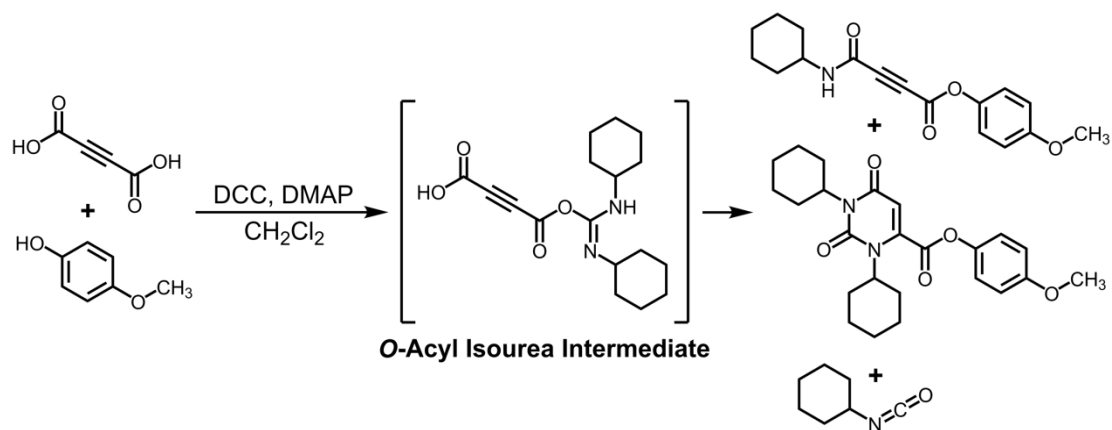
3.2 Synthetic Challenges: Esterification of Acetylenedicarboxylic Acid with Hexyl Tethered Alcohols Containing Pendant Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics



Scheme 3.1 Attempted Syntheses to Obtain Double Hexyl Tethered Alkynes

As a starting point, acetylenedicarboxylic acid (ADA) was employed as the precursor to create the double hexyl tethered plasticizers. Synthesis of the hexyl tether triazolo-alcohols were outlined in *Chapter 2*. Overall, esterification of acetylenedicarboxylic acid is a challenging prospect when utilizing complex alcohols (**Scheme 3.1**). Initially, esterification of ADA was attempted with triazolo-alcohols **2.8 - 2.10** *via* the Fischer method, to no avail. This was in contrast with earlier attempts in the 1st and 2nd generation system, which proved straightforward and high yielding. The key difference in the two syntheses is the alcohols: in the 1st generation esterifications, simple alkyl alcohols were used, while in this 3rd generation system, complex hexyl tether alcohols must be utilized. In the 2nd generation syntheses, Fischer esterification of alcohols **2.8 - 2.10** with propiolic acid occurred without incident. To alleviate this synthetic issue with ADA, other esterification methods were pursued using carbodiimide coupling chemistry. First, Steglich esterifications with *N,N'*-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) were performed in a range of solvents at different temperatures with no success.¹ Next, a water soluble coupling agent, 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide (EDCI) with DMAP as a catalyst was employed: no appreciable diester was formed.² Upon further literature research on these

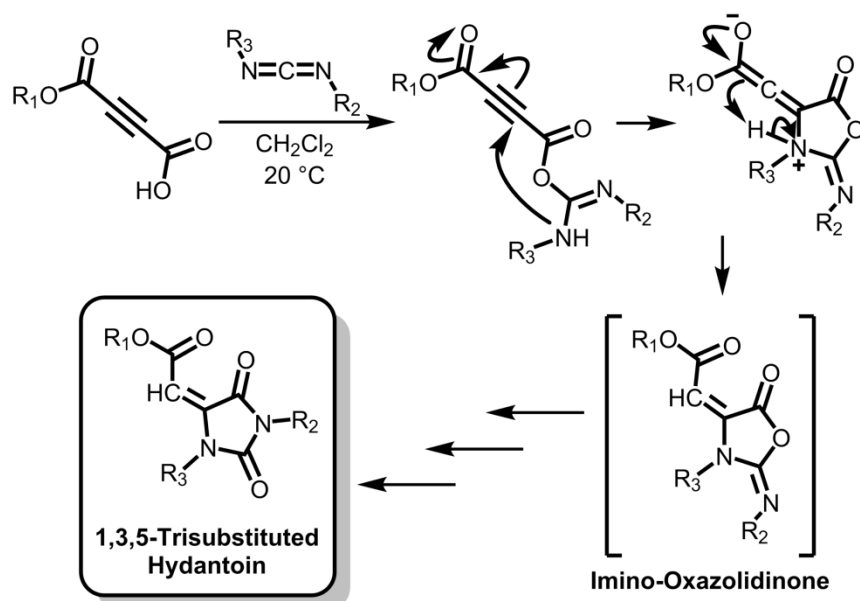
carbodiimide-based methods, Garcia and Miranda³ attempted to couple ADA with 4-methoxyphenol using DCC and DMAP as a catalyst. The symmetric diester was not detected: instead an assortment of products including an asymmetric ester amide, an alleged substituted uracil, and cyclohexylisocyanate were formed (**Scheme 3.2**).



Scheme 3.2 Garcia and Miranda's DCC Coupling of ADA and 4-Methoxyphenol³

The available concentrations of the reactive species are of great importance to the rate of carbodiimide couplings: the carboxylate anion and protonated carbodiimide must both be present in appreciable amounts in order for amidation or esterification to occur. The rate determining step is the reaction between a carboxylic acid and the carbodiimide.⁴ Acetylenedicarboxylic acid (ADA) has pK_a values of 1.73 and 4.40 in water.⁵ The first pK_a of ADA (1.73) is much lower than most carbodiimide reagents (EDCI in water, pK_a = 4.7),⁴ which allows smooth coupling of the first carboxylic acid with the alcohol. Once the first coupling occurs, acetylenedicarboxylate monoester's remaining carboxylic acid *should* possess a pK_a of approximately 4. The newly formed ester is strongly electron-withdrawing and should decrease the pK_a of the second carboxylic acid by better stabilizing the conjugate base. The presence of DMAP as a base enables anion formation on the remaining carboxylic acid, which *increases* electron density of the alkyne. Thus far, one would expect that the second carboxylic acid should readily couple with the triazolo-alcohols using carbodiimide chemistry.

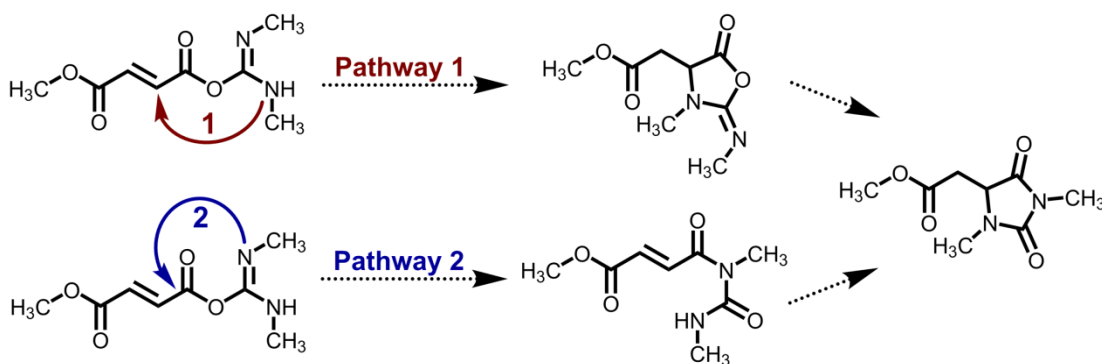
However, once the second carboxylate anion forms the *O*-acyl isourea intermediate, the alkyne becomes significantly more electron-deficient, further increasing its susceptibility to nucleophilic addition. Presumably, the amine of the isourea acts as a nucleophile, in an intramolecular Michael addition to the triple bond; as been demonstrated with activated α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acids.⁶ Volonterio and coworkers⁷ describe the synthesis of hydantoins under mild conditions through a regioselective domino process involving carbodiimides and acetylenedicarboxylate monoesters (**Scheme 3.3**). The *O*-acyl isourea is formed by the condensation of the carbodiimide and carboxylic acid. Next, a nucleophilic aza-Michael addition to the activated alkyne occurs, leading to an imino-oxazolidinone, which subsequently undergoes an acid-mediated *O*→*N* acyl migration.⁷ This furnishes the reported 1,3,5-trisubstituted hydantoins.



Scheme 3.3 Volonterio's Carbodiimide Reaction with ADA Monoesters⁷

Subsequently, Volonterio et al.^{6c} utilized density functional theory (DFT) calculations to determine the mechanism of hydantoin formation. B3LYP and MPW1K functionals were used with the 6-311+G(2d,2p) basis set. The B3LYP functional results best matched the experimental data than the MPW1K results. In this study, two mechanistic pathways were

considered: 1) through an imino-oxazolidinone intermediate and 2) through an *N*-acyl urea intermediate (**Scheme 3.4**). The calculations indicate that both reaction pathways have similar overall barriers, with B3LYP showing a preference for Pathway 1. This occurs when the *O*-acyl isourea is formed, followed by *E/Z* isomerization and an 1,3 O→N acyl shift. Interestingly, a Bucherer-Bergs-like isomerization⁸ with an isocyanate intermediate was not considered as an alternative mechanistic pathway.



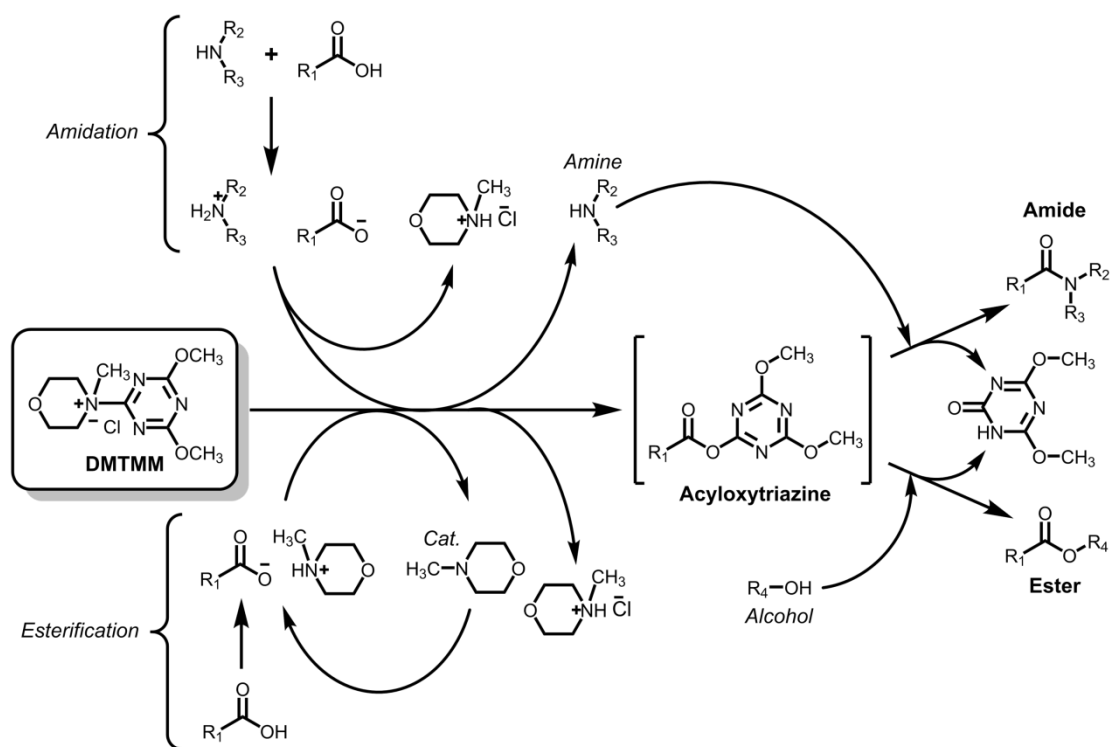
Scheme 3.4 Volonterio's DFT Mechanism Pathways^{6c}

Upon careful observation, Volonterio's hydantoins synthesized from acetylenedicarboxylate monoesters⁷ and the substituted uracil described by Garcia and Miranda³ are constitutional isomers, if the same monoester and carbodiimide were used. It is possible that the alleged uracil was actually the hydantoin, following the plausible mechanism outlined by Volonterio and co-workers.^{6c} Historically, nucleic acid thymine bases are known to give hydantoins *via* free-radical oxidation.⁹ This may justify the observance of the uracil derivative, which may have not yet oxidized to its hydantoin congener. However, this is unlikely given the DFT data.^{6c}

The triazene coupling reagent 4-(4,6-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)-4-methylmorpholinium chloride (DMTMM) with *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) as a solvent, was utilized, which is expected to function through a directly-activated ester mechanism similar to that of carbodiimide reagents (**Scheme 3.5**).¹⁰ However, DMTMM does not form a

nucleophilic species in the activated acyloxytriazine intermediate. This is in contrast to DCC and EDCI, which contain a nucleophilic amine in the *O*-acyl isourea species. Therefore, using an acyloxytriazine should prevent intramolecular Michael addition, thus mitigating the formation of hydantoins.

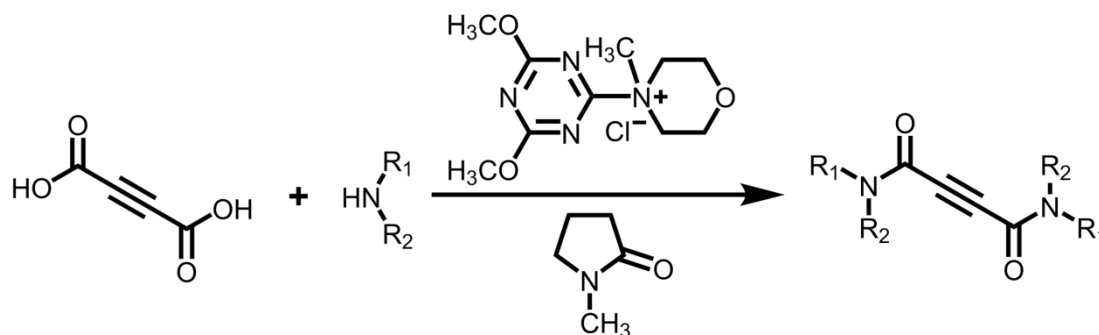
In the original publication describing DMTMM by Kunishima and coworkers,^{10a} there is a detailed discussion on the possible mechanism of condensation (**Scheme 3.5**). The authors state that carboxylic acids reacts slower with DMTMM than carboxylate anions: therefore, premixing the carboxylic acid and amine to form the ammonium carboxylate salt is essential.^{10a} This assists in forming the active species, acyloxytriazine, and the hydrochloride salt of *N*-methylmorpholine (NMM-HCl). Furthermore, generation of the ammonium carboxylate salt prevents the free amine from attacking DMTMM. The amine is regenerated from NMM-HCl, thereby restoring its nucleophilicity and ability to react with the



Scheme 3.5 Kunishima's DMTMM Coupling Reaction Cycle^{10a}

acyloxytriazine to give the amide. The presence of an amine base is imperative for this reaction to proceed efficiently. By contrast, an alcohol is not basic and does not have the ability to deprotonate carboxylic acids. In order to mitigate this problem, esterifications were carried out with the addition of catalytic *N*-methylmorpholine (NMM). NMM acts as a tertiary amine base, enabling the reaction to proceed with a neutral nucleophile such as an alcohol: this promotes the formation of carboxylate anions, thereby generating the acyloxytriazine intermediate. Addition of an alcohol yields the ester.

Fessner and Heyl¹¹ successfully employed DMTMM in the synthesis of acetylenedicarboxamides directly from ADA with an assortment of primary and secondary amines with yields ranging from 52 to 80% (**Scheme 3.6**). With respect to acetylenedicarboxylic acid, the ammonium carboxylate intermediate generated in the first step of the reaction increases the electron density of the triple bond *via* the carboxylate anion, thereby deactivating the alkyne from nucleophilic attack.¹² This ionic intermediate present during DMTMM's coupling cycle led the authors to utilize the reagent in synthesizing the acetylenedicarboxamides. The choice of solvent played a key role in obtaining the symmetrical diamide: tetrahydrofuran (THF) and ethyl acetate gave gels with erratic yields during the initial formation of the ammonium carboxylate salt. Dimethylformamide (DMF) and *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) gave the best results, probably due to these solvent's ability to

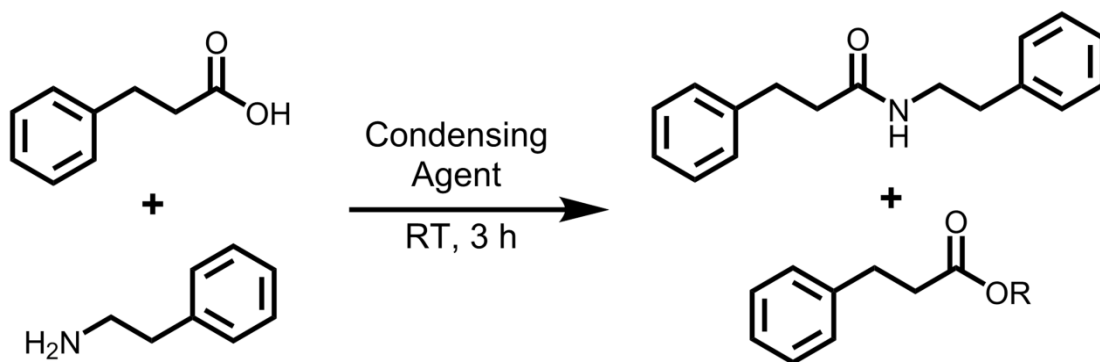


Scheme 3.6 Heyl and Fessner's DMTMM Coupling of ADA and Amines¹¹

solubilize polar, ionic compounds. Methanol gave low yields, while aqueous mixtures of DMF and NMP (10% H₂O v/v) exhibited remarkably lower yields. Pure water did not afford the diamide. Generally, nucleophilic acyl substitutions are performed in aprotic solvents, as hydrogen bonding to the nucleophile will hinder its attack on the electrophile. Primary and secondary amines can hydrogen bond to water and other protic solvents, possibly explaining why protic solvents were unproductive. The reactions were performed at 0 °C to prevent degradation of the acetylenedicarboxylate and DMTMM, and were effective for coupling a multitude of amines with ADA.

With this in mind, DMTMM coupling seemed like a promising prospect to obtain the diesters of ADA and the long chain tethers containing pendant triazole-phthalate mimics. However, esterifications using DMTMM and triazolo-alcohols **2.8 - 2.10** proved fruitless; as the desired diesters were not obtained after many reaction trials in either DMF and NMP. NMM was utilized as a base to deprotonate ADA with the aim of generating the essential ammonium carboxylate salt: no appreciable esterification was observed. A factor that may have contributed to unsuccessful diesterification is the nucleophilicity of the alcohol. While the alcohol is primary in the hexyl tethered triazole precursor, it may not be sufficiently nucleophilic to react with the activated intermediate. The greater nucleophilicity of an amine compared to an alcohol increases the rate of acyl substitution when utilizing DMTMM.

This concept is illustrated by Kunishima; amines were preferentially coupled with carboxylic acids, despite the use of alcohol solvents (**Scheme 3.7, Table 3.1**).^{10b} DMTMM exhibited excellent selectivity for amines, forming 98-99% of the desired amide. On the other hand, carbodiimides demonstrated low yields and poor selectivity, with DCC giving 27% amide (with 21% *N*-acylurea isolated) and 7% ester, while EDCI furnished 53% amide and 16% ester. The authors commented on the key reaction attributes that will lead to a successful acyl substitution with an active-ester coupling agent: first, a coupling agent should



Scheme 3.7 Kunishima's DMTMM Coupling of Carboxylic Acids and Amines in Alcohol Solvents^{10b}

Condensing Agent	Solvent	Amide (%)	Ester (%)	Amide/Ester
DMTMM	MeOH	98	1.0	98
DMTMM	EtOH	99	0.7	141
DMTMM	<i>i</i> -PrOH	96	0.7	137
DCC	MeOH	27	7.0	4
EDCI	MeOH	53	16	3.3

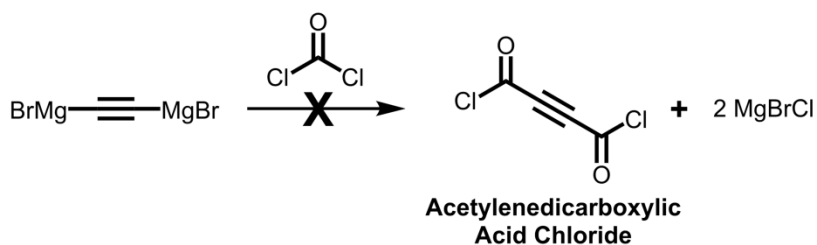
Table 3.1 Kunishima's DMTMM Coupling Data of Amines in Alcohol Solvents^{10b}

be stable and soluble in a chosen solvent and react selectively with the carboxyl group to produce the activated acid-derivatives faster than the solvent or nucleophile can react with the reagent itself. Furthermore, the reaction between the activated acid derivative and the selected nucleophile must be faster than solvolysis. According to the original publication by the same group,^{10a} DMTMM does not experience solvolysis in water or methanol. Therefore, the triazolo-alcohol is not reactive enough to form esters. Paradoxically, the monoester's electron-withdrawing nature should increase the propensity for esterification with the second carboxylate: this was observed by Kunishima when investigating substituted aromatic carboxylic acids and alcohols.^{10a} Despite this, esterifications using DMTMM typically require an extreme excess of alcohol, and is often used as the solvent.^{10a} This makes acyl substitution with the triazolo-alcohols impractical, as the advanced intermediate is not commercially available and must be synthesized through a convergent three-step process.

3.3 Synthesis of Acetylenedicarboxylate Esters with Hexyl Tethered Alcohols Containing Pendant Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics

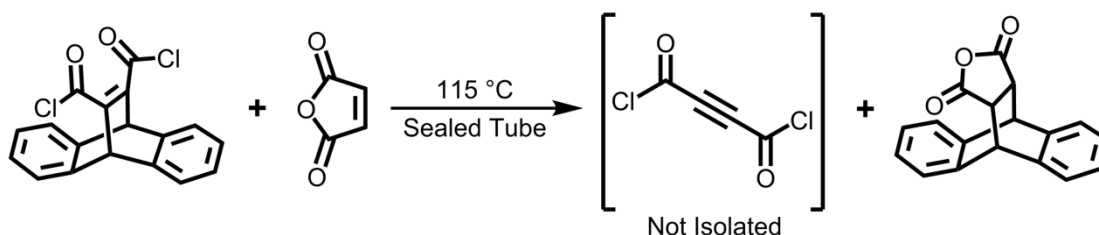
An alternative to Fischer esterification, carbodiimide, and triazine couplings is through a reaction of an alcohol with an acid halide intermediate. The acid chloride of acetylenedicarboxylic acid remains elusive in the literature: this is due to the internal alkyne's high reactivity, caused by two adjacent electron-withdrawing carbonyls. A number of studies have demonstrated the facile nature of nucleophiles adding to ADA's triple bond.¹³ Therefore, obtaining the acid chloride through the direct chlorination of ADA has proven challenging throughout the last century.

In 1920, Ruggli¹⁴ attempted to synthesize acetylenedicarboxylate acid chloride (ADACl) from phosgene and a Grignard derivative of acetylene. Unfortunately, the reaction gave a viscous tar, likely resulting from the extremely reactive acetylene acyl chloride intermediate (**Scheme 3.8**).



Scheme 3.8 Ruggli's Attempt to Synthesize ADACl¹⁴

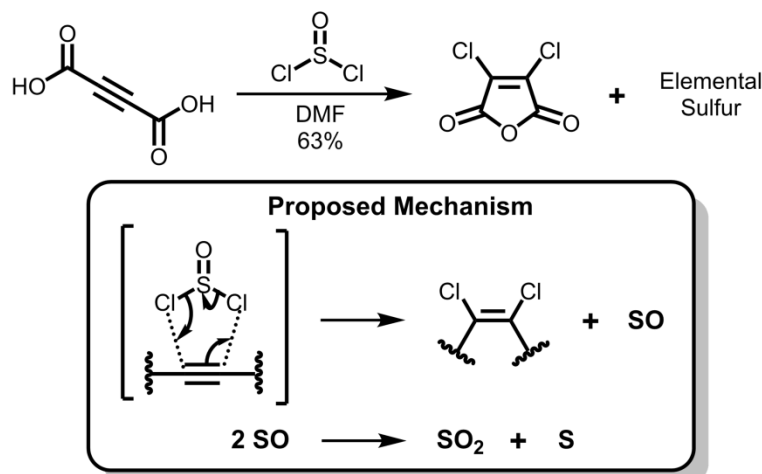
In 1938, Diels and Thiele¹⁵ described a method to obtain ADACl through thermal decomposition. The authors cite that ADACl cannot be obtained through conventional synthetic methods due to the formation of HCl during the direct chlorination of ADA with PCl_5 , which adds to the triple bond; this gave chlorofumaryl dichloride. In the publication, the Diels-Alder adduct of maleic anhydride and anthracene was obtained, then subsequently subjected to chlorination *via* PCl_5 , yielding 9,10-dihydro-9,10-ethenoanthracene-11,12-dicarbonyl dichloride. Next, the chlorinated anthracene derivative was heated for 4 hours in a sealed



Scheme 3.9 Diels and Thiele's Putative Synthesis of ADACl¹⁵

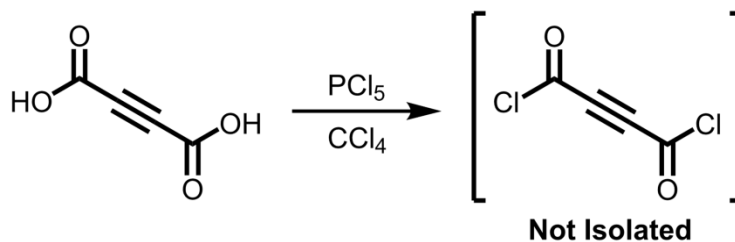
tube at 115 °C (**Scheme 3.9**). Although it was claimed that ADACl was obtained, it is unclear whether the compound was isolated, due to the lack of instrumentation available at the time of publication that could definitively characterize the putative diacid chloride product.

In 1963, Krueger and McDonald¹⁶ attempted to synthesize acetylenedicarboxylic chloride using thionyl chloride (SOCl_2) in DMF: after work up, dichloromaleic anhydride was isolated in 63% yield with sulfur as a byproduct (**Scheme 3.10**). The authors state that this process appears to be a, "*cis*-chlorination of the triple bond and dehydration of the diacid to the anhydride."¹⁶ Interestingly, the reaction forms tars without DMF and commercial samples of SOCl_2 give variable yields of the anhydride. In addition to DMF, pyridine and triethylamine also act as catalysts, albeit resulting in lower yields of the anhydride product. It is hypothesized that the catalysts complex with SOCl_2 , thereby enabling the *cis*-addition of the chlorides, and accounts for the elemental sulfur byproduct found in the reaction.



Scheme 3.10 Krueger and McDonald's Attempt to Synthesize ADACl¹⁶

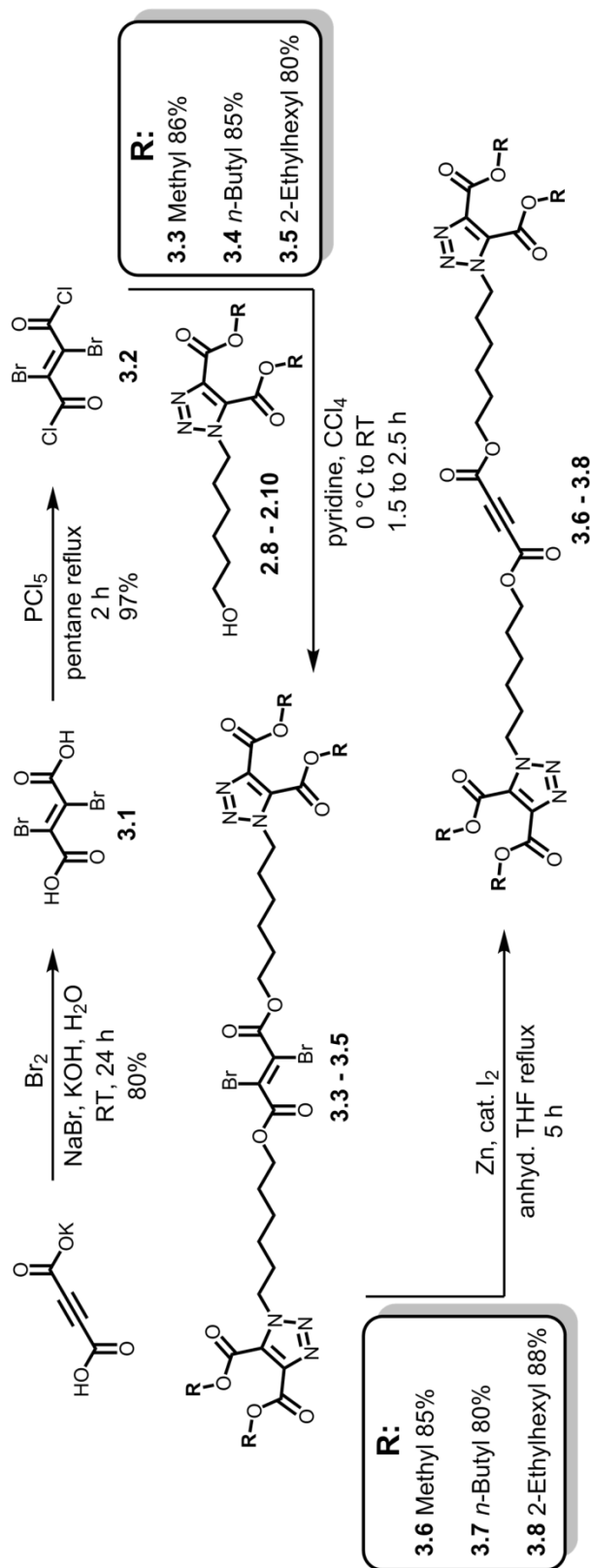
In 1982, Maier and Jung¹⁷ claimed that they successfully synthesized acetylenedicarboxylic acid chloride with PCl_5 in CCl_4 under a stream of argon (**Scheme 3.11**). However, the authors did not succeed in isolating ADACl due to its high reactivity: an FTIR, ^{13}C -NMR and HRMS was obtained of the alleged molecule. According to the publication, ADACl can readily undergo Diels-Alder reactions with dienes to cleanly form adducts.



Scheme 3.11 Maier and Jung's Synthesis of ADACl¹⁷

The collective problem with the syntheses of acetylenedicarboxylic acid chloride stems from the highly reactive triple bond. In order to mitigate this issue, the alkyne can be inactivated by increasing the electron density in the triple bond, or *via* a protecting group to inhibit unwanted nucleophilic addition. The method of protection must be reversible and produce the desired acetylenic diesters in high yields. In 1912, Ott¹⁸ synthesized a protected form of ADA, dibromofumaric acid (DBFA), by direct bromination. The process to obtain dibromofumaric acid is challenging, involving bubbling bromine gas through a solution of ADA for several days, in the absence of light. Ott also reported the synthesis of dibromofumaric acid chloride by treating dibromofumaric acid with PCl_5 in petroleum ether at room temperature. This advanced intermediate should allow one to perform esterifications that would eventually lead to the diester of ADA.

In order to mitigate nucleophilic addition to the triple bond, a strategy involving protection of the alkyne was carried out. Charlton and Chee¹⁹ described the synthesis of ADA chiral esters using bromine as a protecting group to obtain dibromofumaric acid.^{12, 18} A slightly modified version of Charlton and Chee's approach was performed to obtain the double hexyl



Scheme 3.12 Synthesis of Double Hexyl Tethered Acetylenedicarboxylate Esters

tethered acetylenedicarboxylate esters (**Scheme 3.12**). To protect ADA, acetylenedicarboxylic acid monopotassium salt was neutralized with an aqueous KOH solution. Sodium bromide aqueous solution was combined with the neutralized ADA. Bromine was added and allowed to stand overnight, giving dibromofumaric acid **3.1** in 80% yield. The acid chloride was made *via* Ott's procedure with slight modifications.¹⁸ Dibromofumaric acid **3.1** was treated with PCl_5 in pentanes under reflux for 2 hours, affording dibromofumaryl chloride **3.2** in 97% yield. Next, triazolo-alcohols **2.8 - 2.10** were diluted in carbon tetrachloride with pyridine, then cooled to 0 °C under nitrogen. Dibromofumaryl chloride **3.2** was added dropwise and stirred for 1.5 to 2.5 hours to give the brominated diesters **3.3 - 3.5** in 80% to 86% yield. Deprotection involved refluxing the protected ester with granular zinc and catalytic iodine in anhydrous THF, to give the final double-sided hexyl tethered alkynes **3.6 - 3.8** in 80% to 88% yield.

3.4 Synthetic Optimization and Analysis of Acetylenedicarboxylate Esters with Hexyl Tethered Alcohols Containing Pendant Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics

During the synthesis of dibromofumaric acid **3.1**, it was found that concentrated HCl solution was required to reprotonate the anion of DBFA. Also, the use of saturated aqueous sodium bisulfite was necessary to thoroughly quench any remaining bromine. Purification *via* reprecipitation was carried out using diethyl ether and chloroform. Subsequently, ^{13}C -NMR was performed to assess the presence and purity of dibromofumaric acid **3.1** (**Figure 3.2**). Acetone- d_6 was selected as the NMR solvent over D_2O ,^{19b} due to the enhanced solubility and increased signal strength of acetylenedicarboxylic acid (ADA) and dibromofumaric acid in acetone. A substantial downfield movement of the alkyne quaternary carbons in ADA is observed after bromination: ADA displays a signal **a** at δ 74.6 ppm, while the brominated sp^2 carbon **A** in DBFA exhibit a signal at δ 111.7 ppm. The carbonyl signal also moves downfield from δ 151.8 ppm in ADA (**b**) to δ 162.8 ppm in dibromofumaric acid (**B**). ^1H -NMR was not performed, as both ADA and dibromofumaric acid **3.1** possess only carboxylic acid protons.

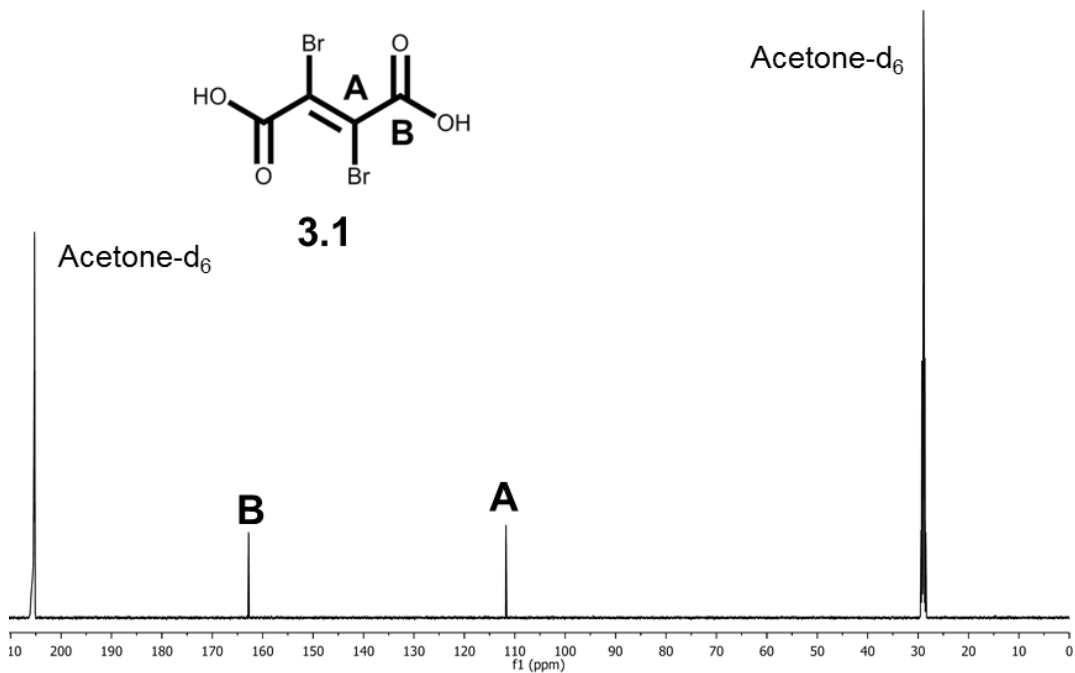
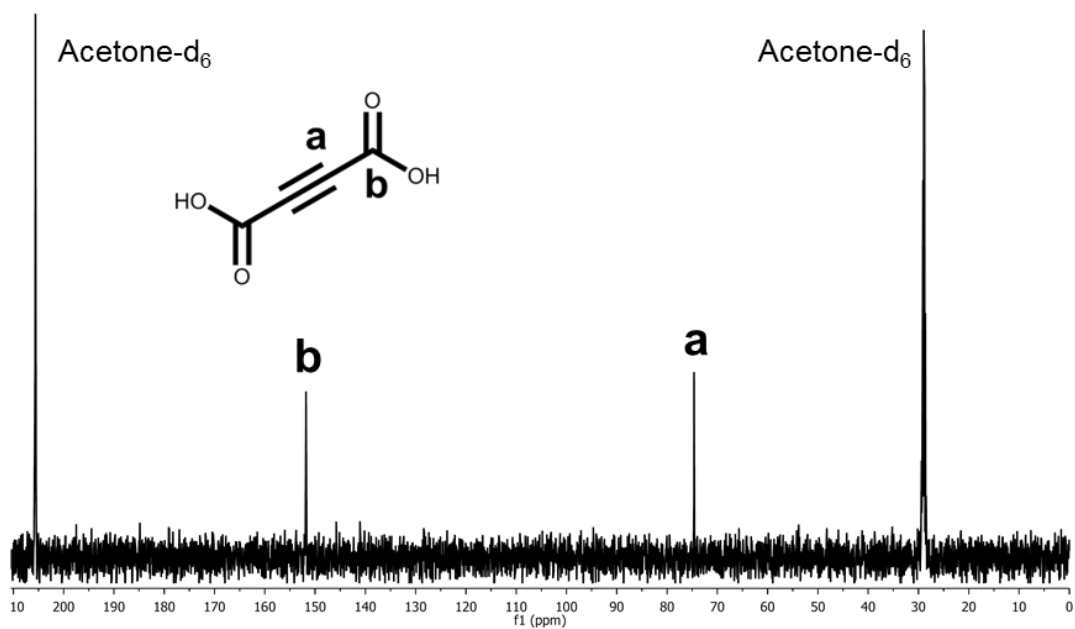


Figure 3.2 ¹³C-NMR Comparison of Acetylenedicarboxylic Acid (Top) and Dibromofumaric Acid (**3.1**, Bottom)

During the synthesis of dibromofumaryl chloride **3.2**, it was discovered that raising the reaction temperature to pentanes reflux furnished the acid chloride rapidly, in comparison to previous methods.¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Reaction times were reduced by 50%, as prior publications required five hours at room temperature. Oddly, no acid chloride was observed following the literature procedure¹⁸ using petroleum ether as the solvent, whereas using pentanes gave the desired acid chloride. Reaction monitoring was done visually: the solids present in the reaction mixture are insoluble in pentanes. Once the chlorination is complete, the reaction becomes *transparent* yellow, due to the greater solubility of **3.2** in pentanes. Workup involved pouring the crude reaction mixture on ice to quench PCl_5 and solubilize any acids formed during the chlorination. This seems counterintuitive, as water hydrolyzes acid chlorides. However, the use of extremely non-polar pentanes in combination with ice proved effective in eliminating residual acids while retaining the acid chloride.

When the acyl substitution reactions were conducted with triazolo-alcohols **2.8 - 2.10**, 2.2 equivalents of alcohol was typically added to assure complete esterification. In contrast to other methods, which require an extreme excess of alcohol,¹⁰ exact equivalents may be utilized with dibromofumaryl chloride **3.2**: this allows one to employ precious alcohol intermediates in this esterification. The couplings were monitored *via* TLC; protected diester R_f values increased significantly relative to both precursors, due to the conversion of the polar alcohol and acid chloride to the diester. As with the propiolate esters discussed in *Chapter 2*, the triazole present in the starting material and product is extremely UV-active, providing a clear indicator of product formation. Both $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ of the brominated diesters **3.3 - 3.5** were similar to the parent alcohols (**Figure 3.3**). Methylene protons **d** ($\text{HO-CH}_2\text{-Tether}$) of the triazolo-alcohol displays a downfield shift from $\sim\delta$ 3.6 ppm to δ 4.2 ppm as the diester **D**. This stems from the greater deshielding effect of the newly formed ester compared to the alcohol. Likewise, tether methylenes **E** two carbons away from the oxygen of the dibromofumatate esters ($\text{Ester-O-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-Tether}$) move downfield from δ 1.55 ppm as the

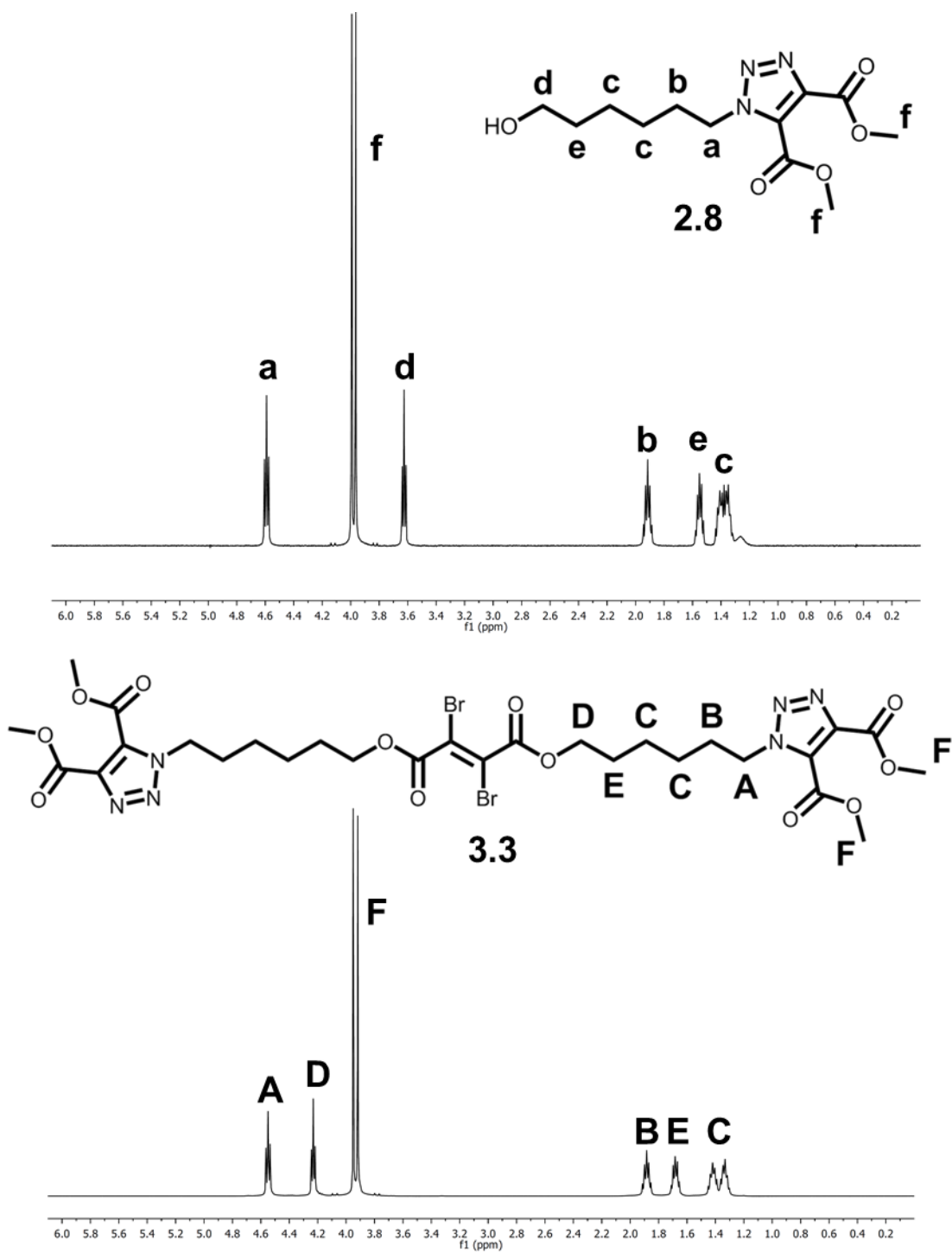


Figure 3.3 ¹H-NMR Comparison of TRZ-DiMe Hexanol (**2.8**, Top) and Bis(TRZ-DiMe Hexyl) Dibromofumarate (**3.3**, Bottom)

alcohol to δ 1.68 ppm as the ester. ^{13}C -NMR reveals two additional signals relative to the parent alcohol (**Figure 3.4**). A new carbonyl peak **K** appears at δ 162.2 ppm in all dibrominated ester derivatives. Also, a downfield shift of carbon carbon **D** directly attached to the ester (Ester-O-**C**H₂-C) occurs at δ 66.8 ppm. The brominated central sp² carbon **L** is noted by a signal at δ 112.7 ppm. All other ^{13}C signals are nearly analogous to the alcohol precursor.

During the final deprotection reaction with zinc, addition of catalytic elemental iodine assured complete formation of the alkyne **3.6 - 3.8**. Similar to the initial bromination, sodium bisulfite was used to quench any residual iodine, although it was not part of the literature procedure.¹⁹ Successful deprotection of the dibromofumarate esters **3.3 - 3.5** was not readily apparent *via* TLC monitoring. The loss of two bromines does not drastically alter the alkyne's polarity, making reaction evaluation difficult. Eventually, the difference in the oxidative susceptibility between the starting material and product was utilized to determine reaction completion. Potassium permanganate stain (KMnO₄) reacts with readily oxidizable functional groups such as alkenes and alkynes. Dibromofumarates are not especially reactive with KMnO₄ stain, whereas the alkynes are extremely reactive, instantly showing a yellow spot when stained. Although not quantitative, this method permits one to quickly identify alkyne formation. The zinc deprotection was allowed to react for five hours, which was the maximum length specified in the literature.¹⁹ Once the reaction was complete, ^1H -NMR and ^{13}C -NMR confirmed the presence of alkynes **3.6 - 3.8** (**Figure 3.5**). ^1H -NMR of the deprotected molecules was generally uninformative, with trivial changes of proton signals relative to the dibromofumarates. In contrast, ^{13}C -NMR produced pertinent information on the double hexyl tethered alkynes. Carbonyl signal **K** belonging to the ester adjacent to the alkyne (Alkyne-**C**=O-O-C) experiences a considerable upfield shift with respect to the dibromofumarate precursor at δ 151.8 ppm. Similarly, the quaternary carbon **L** of the alkyne displays an upfield

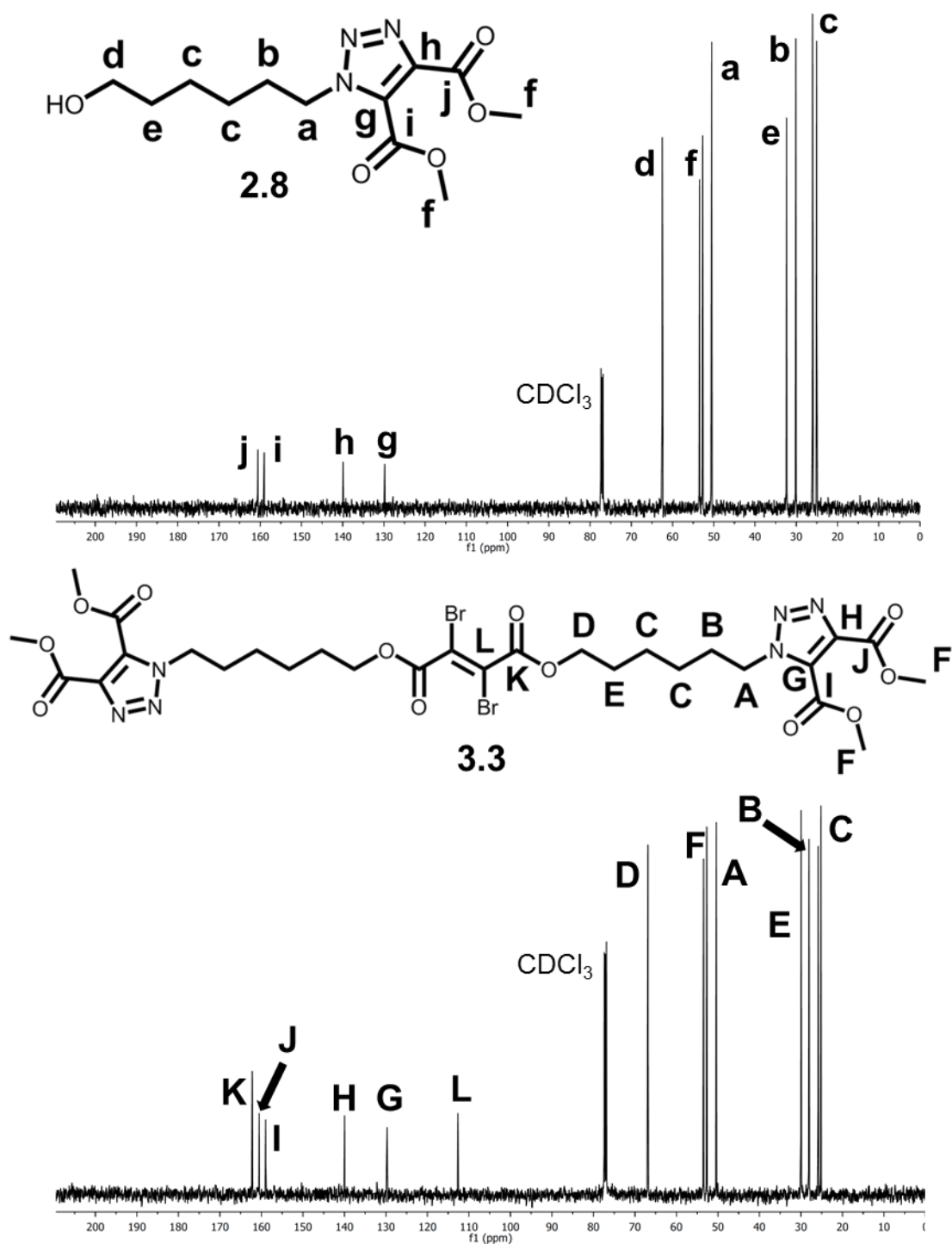


Figure 3.4 ^{13}C -NMR Comparison of TRZ-DiMe Hexanol (2.8, Top) and Bis(TRZ-DiMe Hexyl) Dibromofumarate (3.3, Bottom)

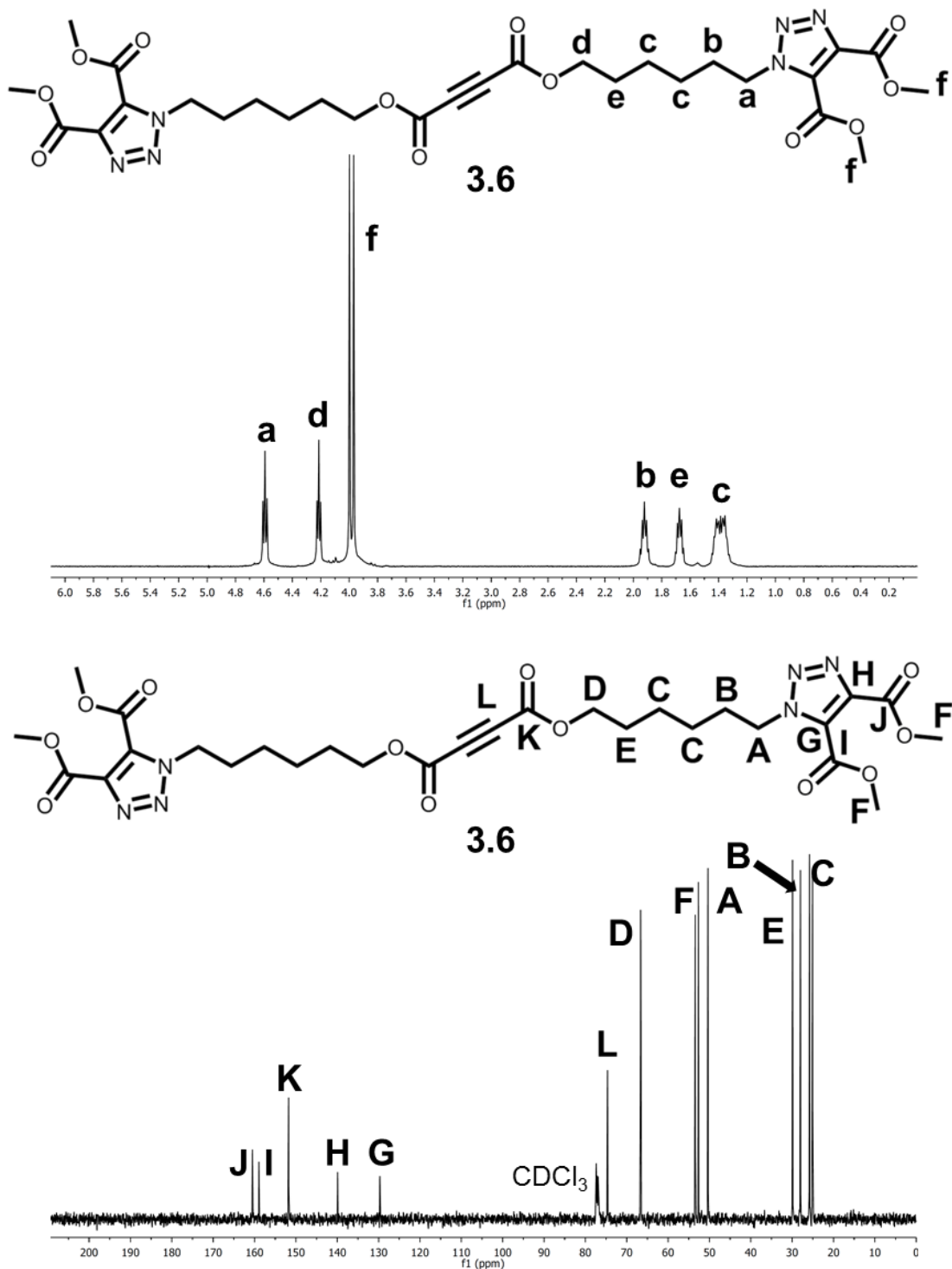


Figure 3.5 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ of Bis(TRZ-DiMe Hexyl) Acetylenedicarboxylate **3.6**

shift to δ 74.7 ppm, from δ 112.7 ppm in the dibromofumarate. These perturbations in the ^{13}C -NMR of all doubly hexyl tethered alkynes stem from the loss of two bromine atoms. This is due to a major change in the magnetic anisotropic shielding cone going from the dibromofumarate to the acetylenedicarboxylate (**Figure 3.6**). The observed downfield chemical signals of the dibrominated alkene occur due to an increased amount of electron circulation when the sp^2 carbons are perpendicular to the magnetic field.²⁰ In contrast, the shielding cone of an acetylene²¹ is oriented 90 degrees relative to an alkene. This is partially due to the cylindrical symmetry of the alkyne. As a result of these shielding cones possessing perpendicular orientations relative to each other, the carbon signals from the dibrominated alkene to the internal alkyne shift upfield: the sp -carbons in the final product is directly in the shielding cone of the alkyne.

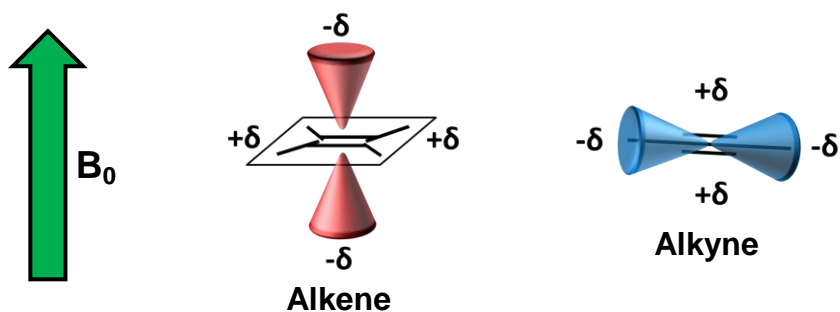
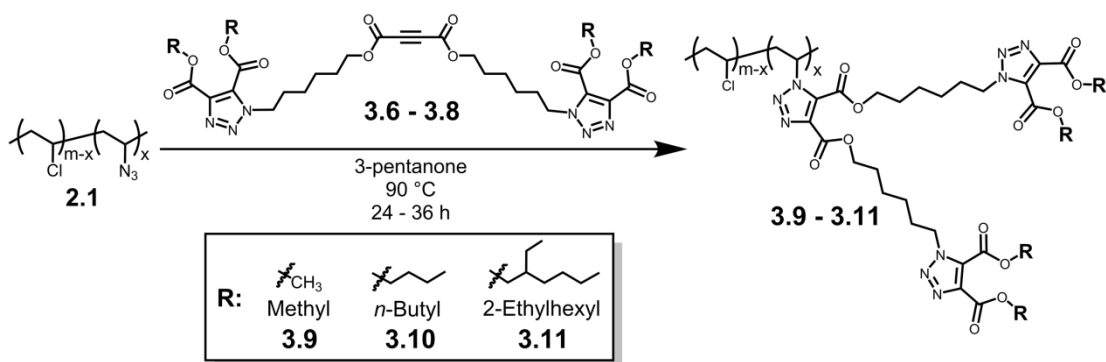


Figure 3.6 Magnetic Anisotropic Shielding Cones

3.5 3rd Generation Plasticizer: Synthesis and Characterization of Double Hexyl Tethered Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics on PVC

As with the first two generations of triazole-based phthalate mimics, copper-free azide-alkyne cycloadditions (AAC) were performed with PVC-azide in 3-pentanone (**Scheme 3.13**). Reactions were typically carried out at 90 °C for 24 hours with 2.5 to 3.0 equivalents of alkyne to each equivalent of azide. Some cyclizations took up to 36 hours to complete. AAC of the ADA hexyl tethered phthalate mimics **3.6** - **3.8** and PVC-azide **2.1** were tracked *via*

FTIR, noting the disappearance of the azide stretch (N_3) at $\sim 2110\text{ cm}^{-1}$ and the appearance of the triazole sp^2 carbon-carbon stretch ($C=C$) at $\sim 1550\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (**Figure 3.7**). No issues in reaction monitoring occurred with these 3rd generation plasticizers, as the internal alkyne does not possess the terminal CC stretch at 2116 cm^{-1} , present in the 2nd generation hexyl



Scheme 3.13 Thermal Azide-Alkyne Cycloaddition of PVC-Azide **2.1** and Double Hexyl Tethered Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics **3.6 - 3.8**

tethered propiolates.

Once the doubly hexyl tethered internally plasticized PVC samples **3.9 - 3.11** were synthesized, $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ was performed to confirm structure and purity. Spectra of both 5 and 15 mole percent 3rd generation plasticized polymers were measured in CDCl_3 . Similar to the 2nd generation single tether analogues, PVC containing two hexyl tethers with pendant triazole-phthalate mimics include a number of methylene tether signals (**Figure 3.8**): δ 1.30 – 1.90 ppm are central tether protons **C** (Tether- CH_2 - CH_2 -Tether), while methylene protons **D** adjacent to the primary triazole esters (PVC-1 $^\circ$ TRZ Ester-O- CH_2 -Tether) appear at δ 4.30 – 4.40 ppm. The signal at δ 4.60 ppm originates from methylene **A** directly attached to the secondary triazole (Tether- CH_2 -2 $^\circ$ TRZ). Plasticizing alkyl chains on the secondary triazole (2-ethylhexyl and *n*-butyl) appear between δ 0.86 – 1.98 ppm, which overlap with the hexyl-tether and PVC signals. Methine protons **J** of PVC adjacent to the primary triazole (PVC- CH -1 $^\circ$ TRZ) appear in the range of δ 5.10 – 5.65 ppm. All other proton signals

belonging to these 3rd generation internally plasticized PVC samples are in the same general location as those in unmodified PVC.

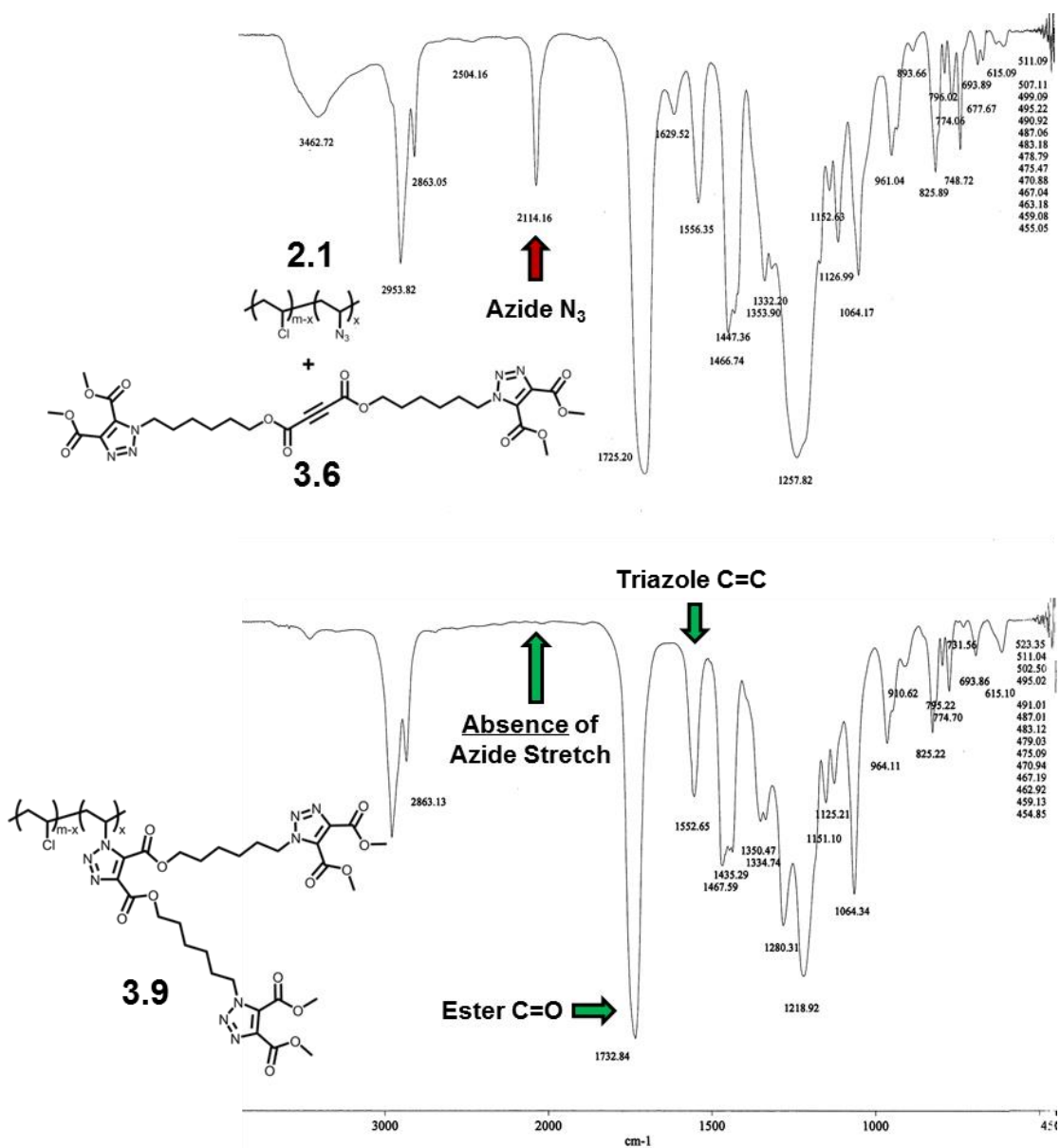


Figure 3.7 FTIR Monitoring of Cycloaddition Between 15% PVC-Azide **2.1** and Bis(TRZ-DiMe Hexyl) Acetylenedicarboxylate **3.6**

Top: Reaction After 15 Minutes
 Bottom: Reaction After 24 Hours

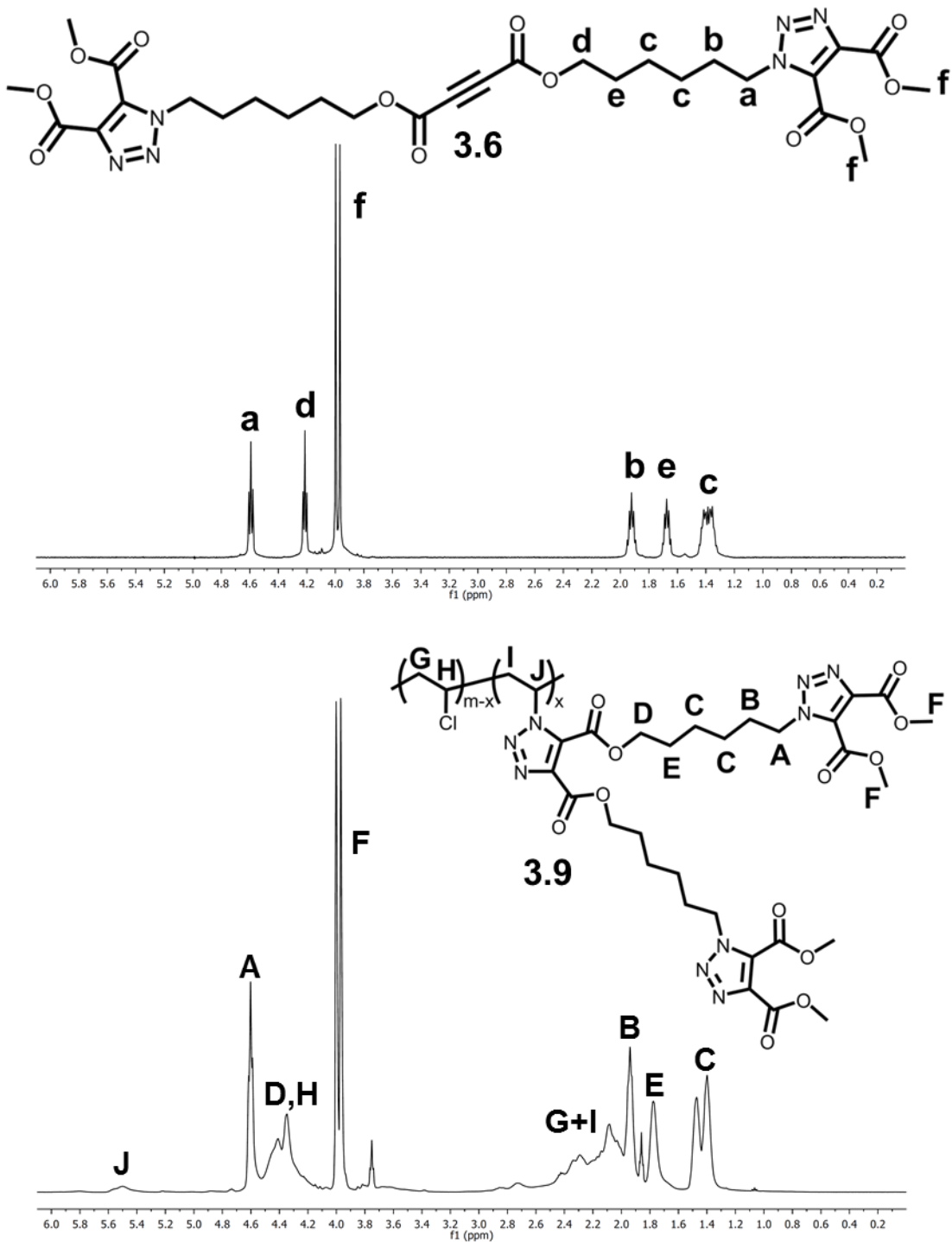


Figure 3.8 ¹H-NMR Spectra of Bis(TRZ-DiMe Hexyl) Acetylenedicarboxylate (**3.6**, Top) and 15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe (**3.9**, Bottom)

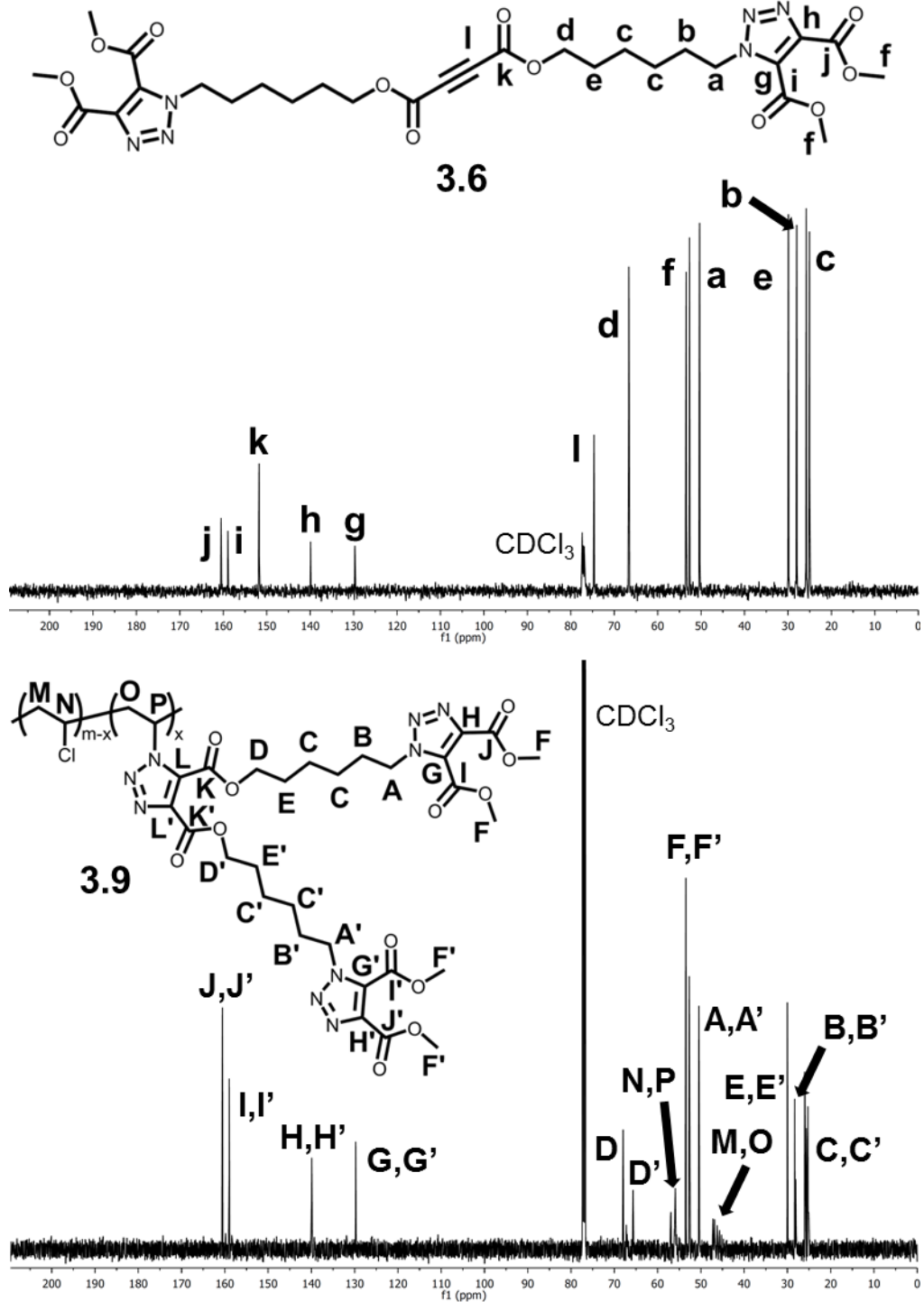


Figure 3.9 ^{13}C -NMR Spectra of Bis(TRZ-DiMe Hexyl) Acetylenedicarboxylate (3.6, Top) and 15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe (3.9, Bottom)

^{13}C -NMR of polymers **3.9** - **3.11** functionalized with 3rd generation plasticizers appear similar to the parent acetylenedicarboxylates **3.6** - **3.8** with a few key differences (**Figure 3.9**). The regioisomeric primary triazole ester carbonyl signals **K** and **K'** were not observed due to a lack of isotropic molecular tumbling. The bulky, sterically congested doubly hexyl tethered plasticizer bound to PVC leads to non-averaged anisotropic interactions, thereby weakening the carbonyl signal. Furthermore, the primary triazole quaternary carbons **L** and **L'** are not readily visible in the ^{13}C -NMR. Distinct ^{13}C -signals of the hexyl tether include the quaternary carbons of the secondary triazole (**G,G'** at δ 129.6 ppm and **H,H'** at δ 140 ppm) and the secondary triazole carbonyls (**I,I'** at δ 159 ppm and **J,J'** at δ 161 ppm). Each 3rd generation polymer contains aliphatic carbon signals similar to the parent alkyne, which originate from the alkyl chains on the secondary triazole. Main chain PVC carbons remain largely unaltered. The absence of signals at δ 74.6 and δ 74.7 ppm indicates polymers free of excess alkyne.

3.6 DSC Analysis: Double Hexyl Tethered Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics on PVC

Thermal analyses of PVC functionalized with 3rd generation double hexyl tethered triazole phthalate mimics were performed by collaborators at IBM Almaden in an analogous fashion to the previous generations of polymers. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) was performed on all 3rd generation polymers to determine the extent of plasticization and degradation properties. **Table 3.2** summarizes the T_g values of these derivatives and PVC standards. DSC results of the 3rd generation polymers are displayed in **Figure 3.10**.

Polymer	5 Mol % T_g ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	15 Mol % T_g ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
PVC	81 $^{\circ}\text{C}$	
PVC-Azide	83	78
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	66	48
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	42.8	12
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	43.5	-6

Table 3.2 DSC Data of PVC Standards, 5 and 15 Mol % Double Hexyl Tethered Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics

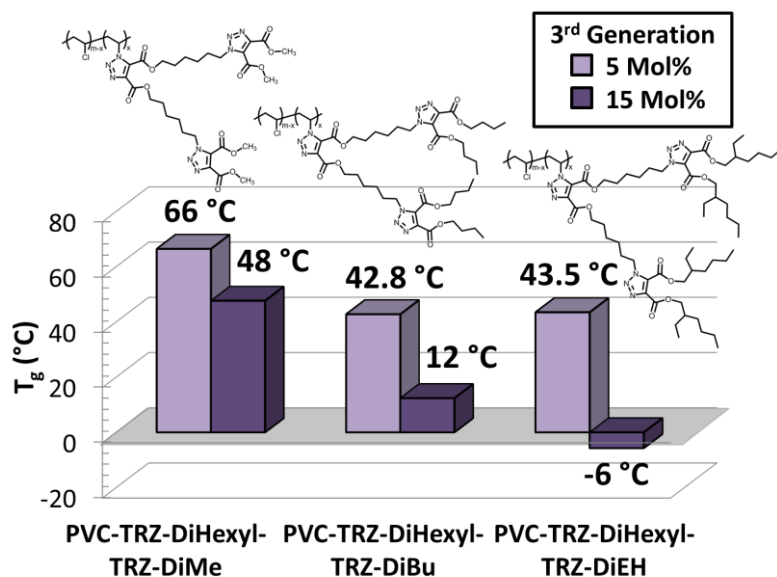


Figure 3.10 DSC Data of 3rd Generation Double Hexyl Tethered Triazole Phthalate Mimics

The first sub-zero glass transition temperature employing the copper-free triazole anchoring strategy was observed with the 3rd generation polymer, PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH, at 15 mole percent ($T_g = -6$ °C). The glass transition temperatures of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd generations of triazole-plasticizers are presented in **Figure 3.11** and **Table 3.3**. Progressive T_g depressions in the 3rd generation samples relative to the prior generations of internal plasticizers stem from the addition of two hexyl tethers containing pendant triazole-phthalate mimics. The lowest T_g values were observed with the 3rd generation triazole-plasticizers functionalized with *n*-butyl or 2-ethylhexyl groups.

Generation	Polymer	5 Mol% T _g (°C)	15 Mol% T _g (°C)
Standards	PVC	81 °C	
	PVC-Azide	83	78
1 st Gen.	PVC-TRZ-DiMe	88	96
	PVC-TRZ-DiBu	76	74
	PVC-TRZ-DiEH	65	57
2 nd Gen.	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	82	75
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	65	54
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	56	41
3 rd Gen.	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	66	48
	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	42.8	12
	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	43.5	-6

Table 3.3 DSC Data of PVC Standards and Generations 1-3 Triazole-Plasticizers

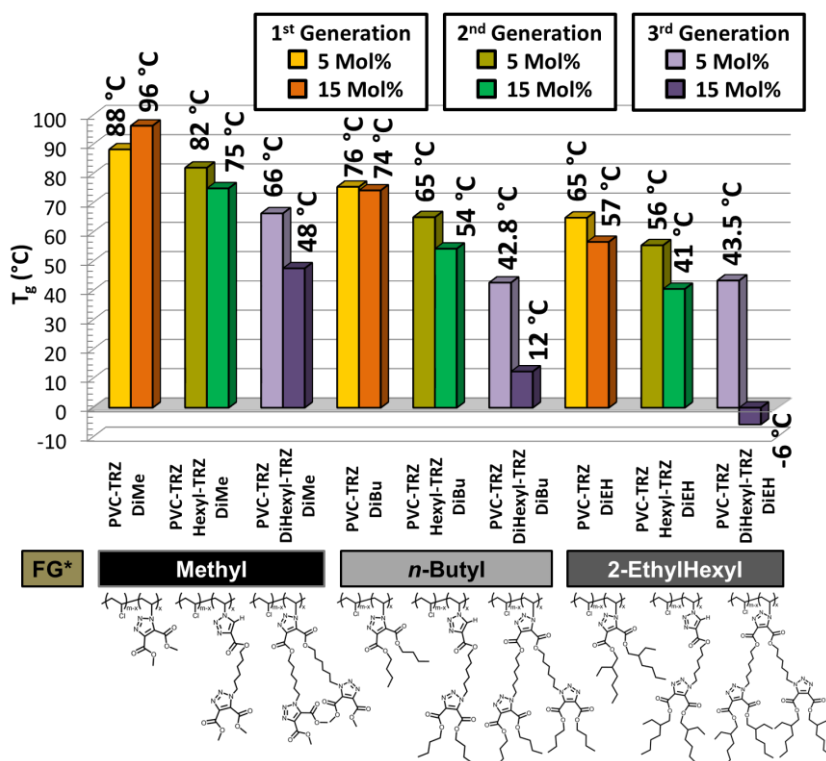


Figure 3.11 DSC Data Comparing Generations 1-3 Triazole Phthalate Mimics (*FG = Functional Group)

Weight percentages of all plasticizers hitherto utilizing the method outlined in *Chapter 2* are displayed in **Figure 3.12** and **Table 3.4**. At 15 mole percent, T_g values exhibit a roughly exponential decrease in the 3rd generation system with increasing size of the alkyl chain on the triazole ester. However, at 5 mole percent, there appears to be an anomalous glass transition temperature belonging to PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($T_g = 43.5$ °C). A slightly higher T_g compared to PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($T_g = 42.8$ °C) is observed despite a larger amount of plasticizer by weight present in the 2-ethylhexyl analogue. Free volume theory²² may offer a possible explanation for the elevated glass transition temperature of 5 mole percent PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH: larger polymer chains containing more surface area and a low relative abundance of chain ends will inherently give higher glass transition temperatures in comparison to smaller polymers with less surface area and a greater relative abundance of chain ends. Purification of all samples involved iterative precipitation of the

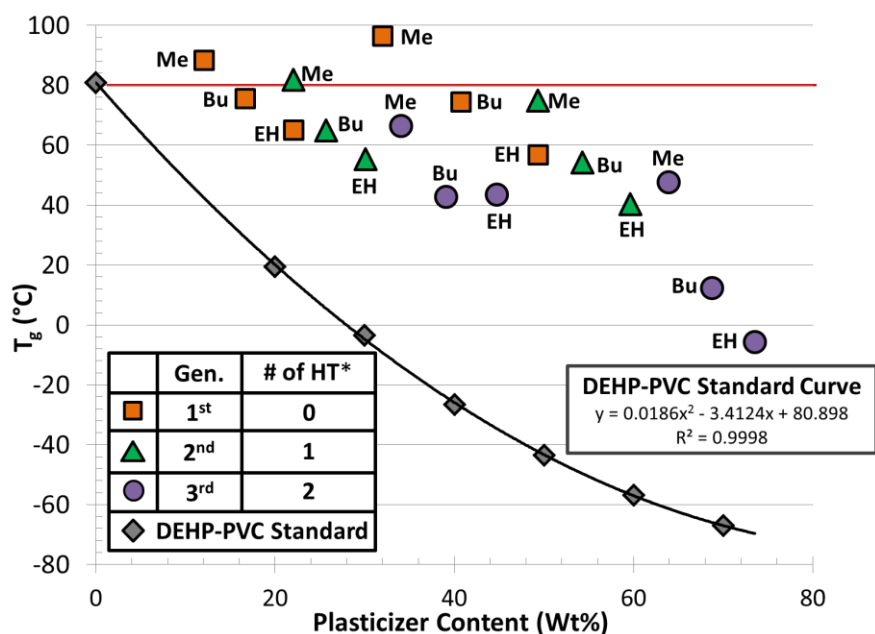


Figure 3.12 Overlay of T_g Values Versus Weight Percent Plasticizer of DEHP-PVC and Generations 1-3 Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics (*HT = Hexyl Tethers)

Generation	Polymer	Mol%	Wt % Plasticizer	T_g (°C)
1 st Gen.	PVC-TRZ-DiMe	5	12.1	88
		15	32.1	96
	PVC-TRZ-DiBu	5	16.7	76
		15	40.8	74
	PVC-TRZ-DiEH	5	22.1	65
		15	49.4	57
2 nd Gen.	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	5	22.1	82
		15	49.3	75
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	5	25.7	65
		15	54.3	54
	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	5	30.1	56
		15	59.6	41
3 rd Gen.	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	5	34.0	66
		15	63.9	48
	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	5	39.1	42.8
		15	68.8	12
	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	5	44.7	43.5
		15	73.5	-6

Table 3.4 Glass Transition Temperatures and Weight Percentages of Generations 1-3 Alkyl Triazole Phthalate Mimics

dissolved polymer in methanol. This method may inadvertently fractionate the internally plasticized sample, thereby leading to preferential isolation of lengthier main chains. Longer polymers tend to precipitate more readily than those of shorter lengths: oligomeric polymers often become suspensions if the polarity of the anti-solvent is not conducive toward precipitation. Likewise, for the PVC samples covalently modified with 3rd generation triazole-plasticizers containing *n*-butyl or 2-ethylhexyl moieties, the difference in size of the alkyl chain may play a role in the ability of the polymer to precipitate out of methanol and may result in different chain lengths between samples. It is possible that PVC covalently functionalized with triazoles containing different length plasticizing alkyl chains produce varied free volume effects as a function of the interaction within the 3-dimensional matrix of PVC. Plasticizer compatibility was discussed in *Chapter 1*: phthalates are known to exhibit a range of different Flory-Huggins interaction parameters in PVC. Perhaps the 3rd generation *n*-butyl derivative at 5 mole percent is more soluble in PVC than the 2-ethylhexyl analogue due to less carbons on the secondary triazoles. In addition, the enhanced miscibility of the *n*-butyl triazole phthalate mimic may impart increased polar properties to the functionalized main chain, thereby increasing the solubility of PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu in methanol.

3.7 Plasticizer Efficiencies: Generations 1 – 3 Triazole Plasticizers Versus DEHP-PVC

To gain an understanding of how efficient the doubly hexyl tethered PVC samples are with respect to DEHP-PVC, plasticizer efficiencies ($E\Delta T_g$) were determined for all 3rd generation samples at both 5 mole percent (**Table 3.5**) and 15 mole percent (**Table 3.6**). $E\Delta T_g$ values for 3rd generation polymers are presented as a bar graph in **Figure 3.13**. The 3rd generation system exhibits superior $E\Delta T_g$ values compared to the 1st and 2nd generation triazole-plasticizers, as illustrated in **Table 3.7** and **Table 3.8**. $E\Delta T_g$ values for PVC samples internally plasticized by generation 1-3 emollients are depicted as a bar graph in **Figure 3.14**.

Polymer	Wt% TRZ	T _g TRZ (°C)	ΔT _g TRZ	DEHP T _g (°C)	ΔT _g DEHP	EΔT _g
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	39.1	42.8	38.2	-24.1	105.0	36.4
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	44.7	43.5	37.5	-34.5	115.5	32.5
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	34.0	66	14.5	-13.7	94.7	15.4

Table 3.5 Descending EΔT_g Values of 5 Mol % 3rd Generation Internally Plasticized PVC

Polymer	Wt% TRZ	T _g TRZ (°C)	ΔT _g TRZ	DEHP T _g (°C)	ΔT _g DEHP	EΔT _g
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	73.5	-6	86.7	-69.5	150.4	57.6
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	68.8	12	68.6	-65.8	146.8	46.7
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	63.9	48	33.3	-61.2	142.2	23.4

Table 3.6 Descending EΔT_g Values of 15 Mol % 3rd Generation Internally Plasticized PVC

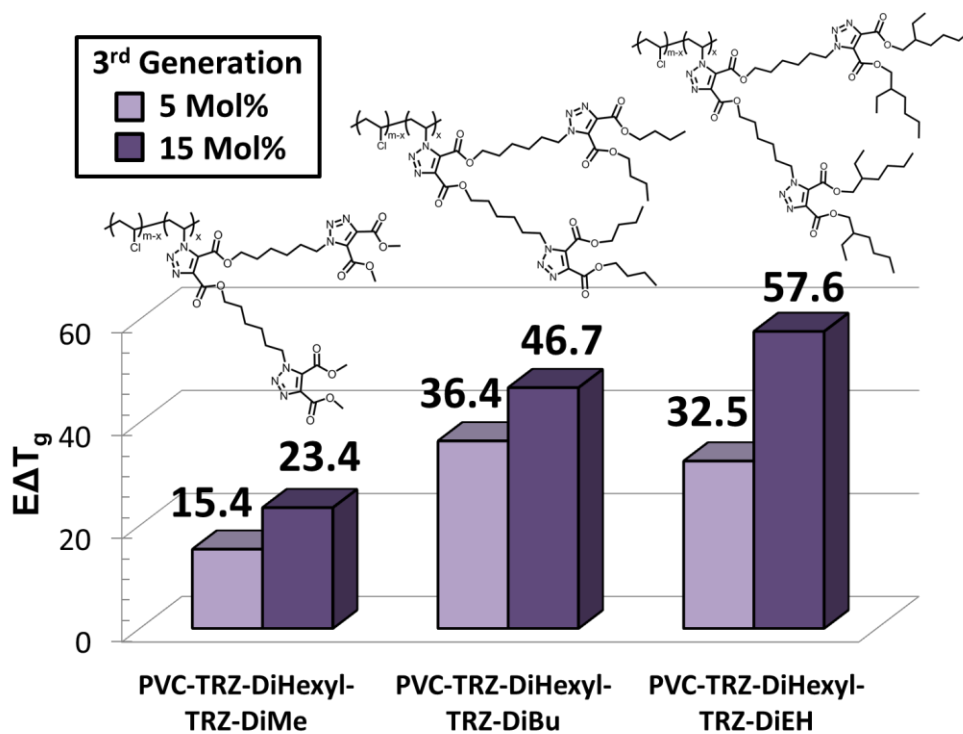


Figure 3.13 Efficiency Values (EΔT_g) of 3rd Generation Internally Plasticized PVC

At 5 mole percent, the $E\Delta T_g$ for PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g = 36.4$) is greater than PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g = 32.5$) by 3.9%. At 15 mole percent however, PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g = 57.6$) displays a 10.9% increase in efficiency compared to PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g = 46.7$). Within the 3rd generation polymers, it is clear that the alkyl plasticizing chains on the secondary triazole significantly contribute toward plasticizing efficiency. The 2-ethylhexyl group enhances plasticizing efficiency at high mole percentages, while the *n*-butyl moiety appears to be more efficient at lower mole percentages. The methyl triazoles demonstrate decent plasticization efficiencies, but are approximately 50% less efficient than other 3rd generation congeners incorporating longer alkyl chains.

At 5 mole percent, the top two efficiencies belong to 3rd generation polymers PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g = 36.4$) and PVC TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g = 32.5$). The 2nd generation sample PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g = 29.7$) is 2.8% less efficient than its 3rd generation counterpart, PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH. Furthermore, the 1st generation

Polymer	Wt% TRZ	T_g TRZ (°C)	ΔT_g TRZ	DEHP T_g (°C)	ΔT_g DEHP	$E\Delta T_g$
5% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	39.1	42.8	38.2	-24.1	105.0	36.4
5% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	44.7	43.5	37.5	-34.5	115.5	32.5
5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	30.1	56	25.5	-4.9	85.9	29.7
5% PVC-TRZ-DiEH	22.1	65	16.0	14.5	66.5	24.1
5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	25.7	65	15.8	5.5	75.5	21.0
5% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	34.0	66	14.5	-13.7	94.7	15.4
5% PVC-TRZ-DiBu	16.7	76	5.5	29.1	51.9	10.5
5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	22.1	82	-1.1	14.6	66.3	-1.6
5% PVC-TRZ-DiMe	12.1	88	-7.3	42.4	38.6	-19.0

Table 3.7 Plasticization Efficiencies of 5 Mol % Generations 1-3 Internally Plasticized PVC Ranked By Descending $E\Delta T_g$ Values

Polymer	Wt% TRZ	T _g TRZ (°C)	ΔT _g TRZ	DEHP T _g (°C)	ΔT _g DEHP	EΔT _g
15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	73.5	-6	86.7	-69.5	150.4	57.6
15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	68.8	12	68.6	-65.8	146.8	46.7
15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	59.6	41	40.4	-56.4	137.4	29.4
15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	63.9	48	33.3	-61.2	142.2	23.4
15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	54.3	54	26.6	-49.6	130.5	20.4
15% PVC-TRZ-DiEH	49.4	57	24.3	-42.3	123.2	19.7
15% PVC-TRZ-DiBu	40.8	74	6.7	-27.3	108.3	6.2
15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	49.3	75	6.0	-42.1	123.1	4.9
15% PVC-TRZ-DiMe	32.1	96	-15.4	-9.4	90.4	-17.0

Table 3.8 Plasticization Efficiencies of 15 Mol % Generations 1-3 Internally Plasticized PVC Ranked By Descending EΔT_g Values

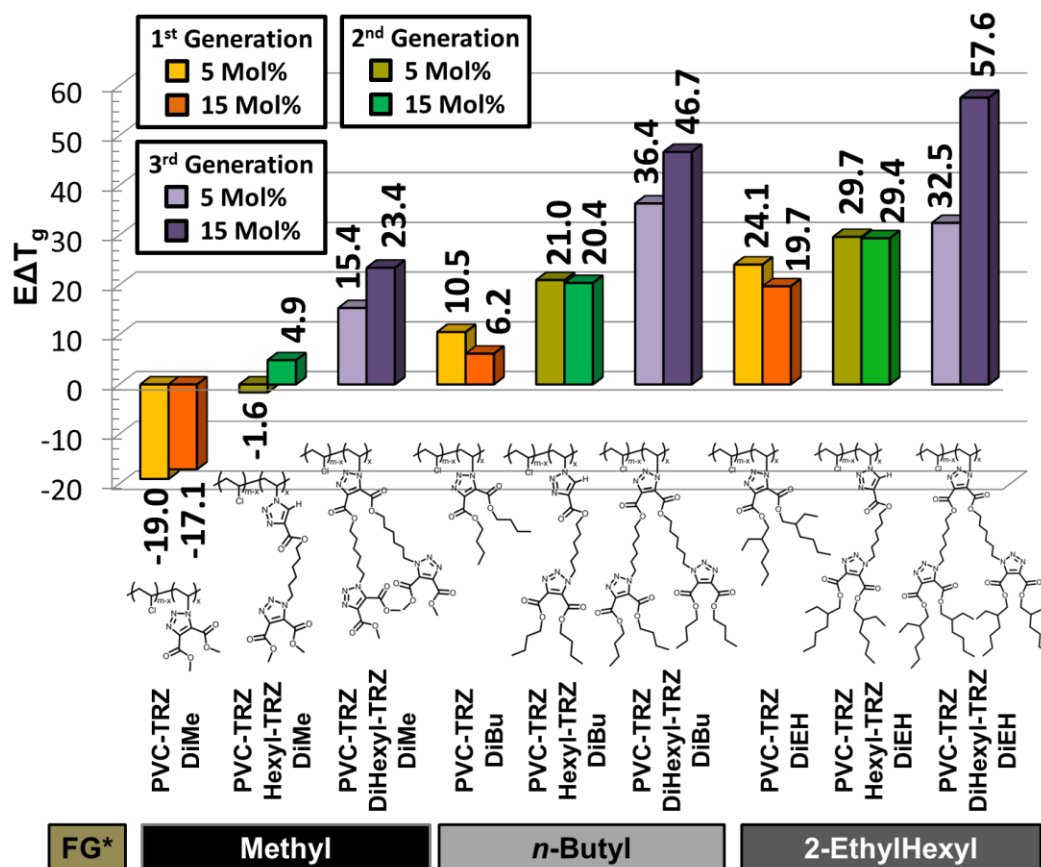


Figure 3.14 Efficiency Values (EΔT_g) of Generations 1-3 Internally Plasticized PVC (*FG = Functional Group)

polymer PVC-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g = 24.1$) is 5.6% less efficient than its 2nd generation analogue, PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH. It is evident that regardless of generation, the 2-ethylhexyl moiety is essential in engendering efficient plasticization properties to PVC at 5 mole percent. While PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu was calculated to have the highest plasticization efficiency at 5 mole percent, all three generations of 2-ethylhexyl internal plasticizers exhibit relatively high efficiencies giving the second, third and fourth best $E\Delta T_g$ values (**Table 3.7, Figure 3.14**). These 2-ethylhexyl relatives display descending $E\Delta T_g$ values according to generation: 3rd generation PVC TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH possesses the highest plasticization efficiency ($E\Delta T_g = 32.5$), 2nd generation PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH exhibits medium efficiency ($E\Delta T_g = 29.7$), and 1st generation PVC-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g = 24.1$) gives the lowest $E\Delta T_g$ value. Unsurprisingly, 2nd generation PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g = 21.0$) with a single hexyl tether displays the fifth highest $E\Delta T_g$, representing a 3.1% efficiency decrease relative to 1st generation PVC-TRZ-DiEH. The 3rd generation methyl ester triazole, PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe ($E\Delta T_g = 15.4$) is 4.8% more efficient than 1st generation PVC-TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g = 10.5$): this implies that the hexyl tethers in the double hexyl tethered internal plasticizers may synergistically act as pseudo-1st generation plasticizers while conveying increased flexibility and mobility to the secondary triazoles. Incorporation of hexyl tethers appears to be a successful solution to counteract the anti-plasticization engendered by the primary triazole, most noticeable in the 1st generation PVC-TRZ-DiMe samples.

A similar trend in plasticizing efficiencies is observed in polymers functionalized with 15 mole percent triazole plasticizer, as the 5 mole percent analogues (**Table 3.8, Figure 3.14**). Ranked by $E\Delta T_g$, the top five samples correspond to 2nd or 3rd generation systems: the two highest efficiency values belong to 3rd generation double hexyl tethered plasticizers containing 2-ethylhexyl ($E\Delta T_g = 57.6$) and *n*-butyl ($E\Delta T_g = 46.7$) triazole esters. The 2nd generation sample, PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g = 29.4$), is 17.4% less efficient than the 3rd generation PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g = 46.7$). In terms of $E\Delta T_g$, the next best

polymer is 3rd generation PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe ($E\Delta T_g = 23.4$). A 3.1% decrease in plasticization efficiency was calculated for PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g = 20.4$) relative to PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe. This is likely due to the greater weight percentage of plasticizer in PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe (63.9 Wt% Plasticizer) compared to PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu (54.3 Wt% Plasticizer). As discussed in *Chapter 2*, the calculation of $E\Delta T_g$ compensates for weight percentage of plasticizer between samples, suggesting that branching at the primary triazole and solubility is critical in enhancing plasticizing efficiencies. The next best $E\Delta T_g$ value in **Table 3.8** belongs to 1st generation PVC-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g = 19.7$), which is a mere 0.7% less efficient than 2nd generation PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g = 20.4$). A considerable 13.5% decrease in $E\Delta T_g$ is observed between PVC-TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g = 6.2$) and PVC-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g = 19.7$).

It appears that extended branching, at both the primary and secondary triazoles, are necessary to convey the maximum efficiencies when utilizing alkyl plasticizing groups. Significant increases in $E\Delta T_g$ is achieved by incorporating two hexyl tethers into the primary triazole, evidenced by all generations of methyl functionalized triazoles at 15 mole percent (**Table 3.8**): PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe ($E\Delta T_g = 23.4$), PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe ($E\Delta T_g = 4.9$), and PVC-TRZ-DiMe ($E\Delta T_g = -17.0$). A similar trend in $E\Delta T_g$ also occurs at 5 mole percent (**Table 3.7**): PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe ($E\Delta T_g = 15.4$), PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe ($E\Delta T_g = -1.6$), and PVC-TRZ-DiMe ($E\Delta T_g = -19.0$). Regardless of the rigidification engendered by the methyl triazole, the inclusion of hexyl tethers counteracts this anti-plasticization effect. Steric bulk generated by alkyl moieties on the secondary triazole enhances the efficacy of the covalently-bound plasticizers. Branching at the primary triazole (not necessarily limited to hexyl tethers), in combination with large alkyl chains on either triazole should furnish improved $E\Delta T_g$ values that better match the plasticization efficiency of traditional DEHP-PVC blends.

3.8 Thermogravimetric Analysis: Double Hexyl Tethered Alkyl Triazole Phthalate

Mimics on PVC

The thermal stability of PVC and the 3rd generation internally plasticized analogues were measured by our collaborators by derivative thermogravimetry (DTG) and thermogravimetric analyses (TGA) with a TA Instruments TGA Q500 in both air and nitrogen atmospheres, with a heating rate of 10 °C per minute. Degradation temperatures of PVC internally plasticized by the 3rd generation system are given in **Table 3.9**.

Polymer	Atm	T _d PVC1 (°C)	T _d PVC2 (°C)	T _d Hexyl (°C)	T _d TRZ (°C)	T _d TRZ1 (°C)	T _d TRZ2 (°C)	T _d TRZ3 (°C)
Unmodified PVC	N ₂	283	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	289	442	-	-	-	-	-
5% PVC-Azide	N ₂	227	447	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	229	453	-	-	-	-	-
15% PVC-Azide	N ₂	214	444	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	219	451	-	-	-	-	-
5% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	N ₂	231	446	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	236	447	-	-	-	-	-
15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	N ₂	223	442	-	-	431	-	-
	Air	231	-	-	-	-	452	461
5% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	N ₂	264	447	-	-	436	-	-
	Air	286	439	-	-	-	-	469
15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	N ₂	279	439	337	-	-	448	-
	Air	284	443	337	413	427	-	-
5% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	N ₂	261	446	-	-	433	-	-
	Air	270	441	-	-	427	-	459
15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	N ₂	311	442	353	-	-	-	-
	Air	317	441	351	-	422	453	-

Table 3.9 TGA/DTG Degradation Temperatures of Unmodified PVC, PVC-Azide and 3rd Generation Internally Plasticized PVC

PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe at 5 mole percent plasticizer exhibits decreased T_{d,PVC1} temperatures (231 °C N₂, 236 °C air) with slightly elevated T_{d,PVC2} temperatures (446 °C N₂, 447 °C air) relative to unmodified PVC. At 15 mole percent, PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe

gives drastically lower $T_{d,PVC1}$ values (223 °C N_2 , 231 °C air) compared to PVC. A DTG peak at 431 °C (weak, N_2) is indicative of triazole hydrolyzation. As noted with the 1st and 2nd generation methyl triazole analogues, a decrease in $T_{d,PVC1}$ is observed in the 3rd generation samples containing methyl triazoles relative to unmodified PVC. Presumably, the methyl ester requires less energy to hydrolyze than the larger alkyl analogues, liberating the alcohol and the carboxylic acid from the triazole ester. This results in a lower degradation temperature ($T_{d,PVC1}$) when the dehydrochlorination of PVC occurs. With 15 mole percent PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe measured in air, the second PVC degradation event ($T_{d,PVC2}$) is not observed at 442 °C: this peak appears to be buried in the large oxidized triazole degradation peak at 452 °C.

$T_{d,PVC1}$ values increased in PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu relative to PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe. At 5 mole percent, weak DTG peaks corresponding to triazole degradation occur at 436 °C (N_2) and 469 °C (air). At 15 mole percent, PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu exhibits hexyl tether hydrolyzation at 337 °C. Likewise, at the same mole percentage of plasticizer, PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH demonstrates hexyl tether degradation events at 353 °C (N_2) and 351 °C (air). At both substitution levels, PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH displays triazole ester hydrolyzation events at 427 °C (5 mol %, air) and 422 °C (15 mol %, air). Significantly elevated $T_{d,PVC1}$ values with 15 mole percent PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH (311 °C N_2 , 317 °C air) are observed, compared to all triazole plasticized PVC samples and unmodified PVC. Apparently, the enhanced thermal stability of this 3rd generation sample containing 2-ethylhexyl triazole esters originates from the large alkyl moieties and high weight percentage of plasticizer (73.5 Wt%). Alkyl degradation processes ensue at much higher temperatures than PVC dehydrochlorination ($T_{d,PVC1}$). Because 15 mole percent PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH is comprised of predominately alkyl-based triazole plasticizer, in combination with difficult to hydrolyze 2-ethylhexyl esters, $T_{d,PVC1}$ occurs at elevated temperatures relative to unmodified PVC. Enhanced thermal stability may also

stem from the overall polarity of the polymeric matrix. This sample contains primarily non-polar alkyl groups.²³ The pK_a values (in water) of hydrochloric acid ($pK_a \approx -7$) and triazole carboxylic acid ($pK_a = 2.95$)²⁴ are dependent on the nature of the surrounding environment. The low polarity of the modified polymeric matrix raises these pK_a values, thereby delaying the initial thermal degradation of 15 mole percent PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH.

3.9 References

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4 Poly(ethylene oxide) Triazole Phthalate Mimics

4.1 Miscibility of Polyethers with PVC

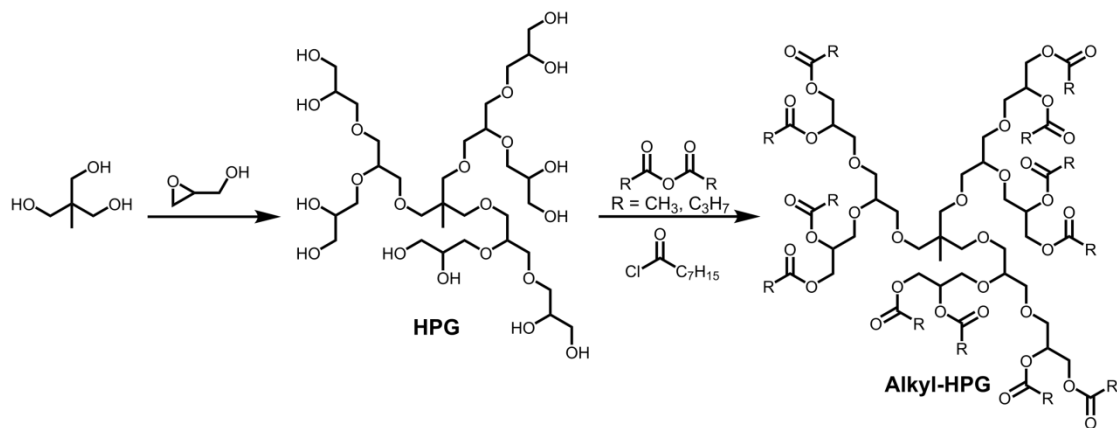
Polyethers are miscible with PVC and thus may increase the efficiency of an internal plasticizer compared to a system that is predominantly comprised of alkyl groups. Muniz and coworkers¹ investigated the miscibility of blends containing PVC and poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO) with viscosimetric, microscopic and thermal analyses. In accordance with Sun theory², attractive forces between PEO and PVC were evaluated by the determination of α parameters. Thermal and viscosimetric data indicate that the PEO/PVC blends are miscible at all weight percentages of PEO tested. Polymer-polymer interaction parameters (X_{12}) determined by depression of the melting temperature (T_m) were found to be negative (-0.028 to -0.102) and dependent on the molecular weight of PVC: this implies that PEO and PVC are miscible. X_{12} values calculated utilized T_m values that were not at equilibrium when measured. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) revealed PVC rich phases in the PEO/PVC blends, indicating non-homogenous mixing. The authors suggested that the polar interactions between chlorine atoms in PVC and oxygen atoms in PEO are responsible for the miscibility between the two components.

Subsequently, Muniz³ described the crystallization properties of PEO and its influence on miscibility with PVC. Isothermal crystallization of PEO was influenced by PVC as determined by the various temperatures and crystallization times noted during the experiments of different ratios of these two components. PEO/PVC blends were analyzed by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), using PEO as a reference. The Hoffmann-Weeks⁴ plot procedure was utilized to determine the equilibrium melt temperatures (T_m°), while the Nishi-Wang equation was employed to quantify the polymer-polymer interaction parameter (X_{12}) of pure PEO and PEO/PVC blends. From the melting depression data, mixtures of PEO/PVC containing 20 to 60 percent by weight PVC, has an X_{12} (X_{PEO}/X_{PVC}) value of -0.02, indicating miscibility. According to the authors, a minute T_m° depression was noted by

increasing the PVC content, suggesting that PEO miscibility can be affected with different weight percentages of PVC. Blends richer in PEO have higher crystallization rates. As the content of PVC increases, the mobility of the PEO chains as melted segments toward the interface of the growing PEO crystals decreases, implying that PVC may interfere with the PEO nucleation process and can alter its miscibility.

The influence of PVC on PEO was also described by Fatou⁵ through dynamic and isothermal crystallization methods: a progressive reduction in the overall rate of PEO crystallization occurs with increasing PVC content. The publication states that “when a polymer chain crystallizes in the presence of a non-crystallizable component, the accumulation of the non-crystallizable component outside the crystalline regions will cause a depression in the melting point... [of the crystallizable component].”⁵ In this study, the X_{12} interaction parameter between PEO and PVC is -0.094, suggesting that the blends are thermodynamically stable in the melt for compositions greater than 40 percent by weight of PVC. The authors report a lower interaction value (X_{12}) than in previous studies due to the lower molecular weight of the PEO; this caused a higher entropic contribution to the free energy of the blend and a decreased X_{12} value.

Kwak⁶ investigated alkyl terminated hyperbranched polyglycerols (alkyl-HPG) as external PVC plasticizers (**Scheme 4.1**). The polyglycerol emollient was synthesized by reacting glycidol with trimethylolpropane via anionic ring opening polymerization followed by esterification using an anhydride or acid chloride. A number of HPGs with various amounts of glycerol repeat units, along with different chain lengths of terminating alkyl groups were investigated. Solubility parameters were measured using density, group molar attraction constants, and molecular weight. Substances with similar solubility parameters values of $\pm 1.8 \text{ cal}^{1/2} \text{ cm}^{3/2}$ are considered miscible.⁷ PVC has a solubility parameter of $9.66 \text{ cal}^{1/2} \text{ cm}^{3/2}$. Solubility parameter values of alkyl-HPGs in PVC are reported to be between 8.32 and 8.82 $\text{cal}^{1/2} \text{ cm}^{3/2}$, while non-alkylated HPG derivatives are between 12.46 and 12.85 $\text{cal}^{1/2} \text{ cm}^{3/2}$.



Scheme 4.1 Kwak's Alkyl-HPG External PVC Plasticizer⁶

The authors demonstrated that polyglycerol is miscible with PVC when alkylated. In contrast, non-alkylated HPG derivatives were shown to be immiscible. External alkyl-HPG plasticizers are effective at decreasing the glass transition temperature (T_g) of PVC. Increasing the amount of polyether repeat units did not entail a concurrent decrease in T_g ; higher values were observed due to the diminishing presence of chain ends relative to the larger polyether core.⁸ Furthermore, reduced T_g values were reported as the amount of carbons in the terminating group grew. Using HPG with nine repeat units terminated by either two, four and eight carbon moieties exhibited progressive T_g depressions (-32.6 °C, -65.4 °C, and -71.4 °C).

Currently, there are only two publications that describe PVC internal plasticizers incorporating polyether groups.⁹ Kwak^{9a} functionalized PVC by grafting alkyl terminated hyperbranched polyglycerol onto PVC via copper-mediated azide-alkyne cycloaddition (CuAAC): **Figure 4.1**. Hyperbranched polyglycerol (HPG) was synthesized by anionic ring-opening polymerization of glycidol initiated by propargyl alcohol. The propargyl-HPG intermediate was treated with hexanoic anhydride to furnish the hexyl-terminated HPG-C6 alkyne. This was grafted onto PVC-azide containing 1.8 to 9.0 mole percent azide, resulting in PVC-*g*-HPG-C6 analogues with various quantities of internal plasticizer.

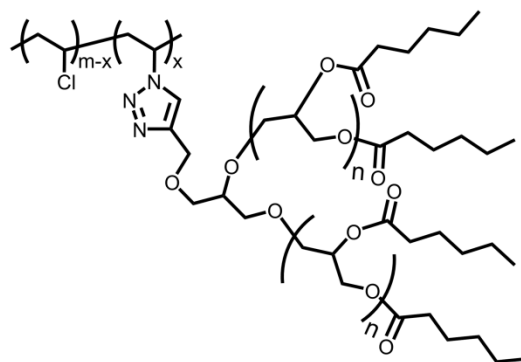


Figure 4.1 Kwak's Polyglycerol-Based Internal Plasticizer: PVC-*g*-HPG-C6^{9a}

Sample	Triazole Content (mol%)	M _n (g/mol)	T _g (°C)	ΔT _g (°C)
PVC	0	42271	81.3	-
PVC _{1.8} - <i>g</i> -HPG-C6	1.8	50251	38.6	42.7
PVC _{3.6} - <i>g</i> -HPG-C6	3.6	57763	16.4	64.9
PVC _{5.8} - <i>g</i> -HPG-C6	5.8	83883	-4.5	85.8
PVC _{9.0} - <i>g</i> -HPG-C6	9.0	88404	-28.9	110.2

Table 4.1 DSC and GPC Data: Kwak's PVC-*g*-HPG-C6^{9a}

As shown in **Table 4.1**, a decline in glass transition temperatures with increasing triazole content was observed. The authors report comparable T_g depressions of the HPG-*g*-C6 system to a traditional DEHP-PVC blend at 60 parts per hundred resin (T_g DEHP 60 phr = -23.8 °C). Polyglycerol segment mobility was mentioned as a possible mechanism leading to efficient PVC plasticization. However, a statement on the miscibility of the polyether with PVC was absent from this paper. It should be noted that these same authors published a study eight months earlier on the solubility of external alkyl-HPG emollients in PVC.⁶

Reinecke^{9b} covalently modified PVC with trichlorotriazines (TCTA) containing nucleophilic thiolates (**Figure 4.2**). These TCTA derivatives were functionalized with JEFFAMINES™, which are amine terminated block copolymers of poly(propylene oxide) and poly(ethylene oxide) with specified molecular weight ranges.¹⁰ A range of glass transition temperatures were reported from 68 °C to -50 °C. All T_g values from this study were given in *Chapter 1* (**Table 1.12**). A previous publication by the same group showed that incorporation

of JEFFAMINEs into the internal plasticizer greatly decreased T_g values of the modified PVC samples compared to TCTA functionalized exclusively with alkyl chains.¹¹

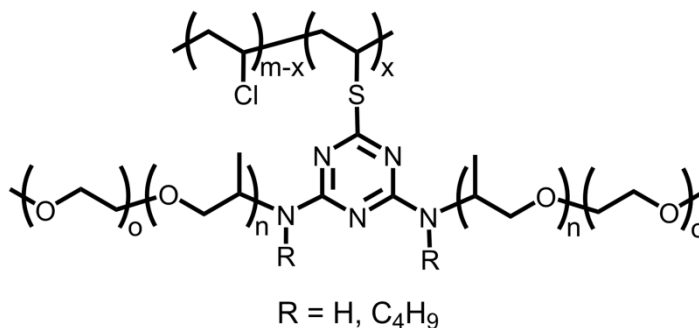


Figure 4.2 Reinecke's PVC Internal Plasticizer: TCTA Incorporating JEFFAMINEs™^{9b}

The advantageous use of polyethers in the literature prompted an investigation into PEO-based internal plasticizers using the thermal copper-free azide-alkyne cycloaddition anchoring strategy. Due to the synthetic modularity of the first three generations of triazole-plasticizers, the alkyl chains were interchanged with various lengths of poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ethers (PEO). Each PEO contains a single alcohol functional group per molecule, allowing for selective esterification with acetylenedicarboxylic acid or propiolic acid.

A new nomenclature based on the triazole plasticizer architecture was devised to streamline the identification of the internally plasticized PVC samples spanning all three generations. Three types of triazole-plasticizers were developed: "Type 0" has no tether, "Type 1" contains a single hexyl tether, and "Type 2" possesses two hexyl tethers. The "D" or "M" designation represents *di*-substituted or *mono*-substituted triazoles (Type 0D and Type 0M). In this way, the "Type" designation consolidates all generations of internal plasticizer into a unified naming system and allows one to quickly identify the overall structure of the triazole-based emollient.

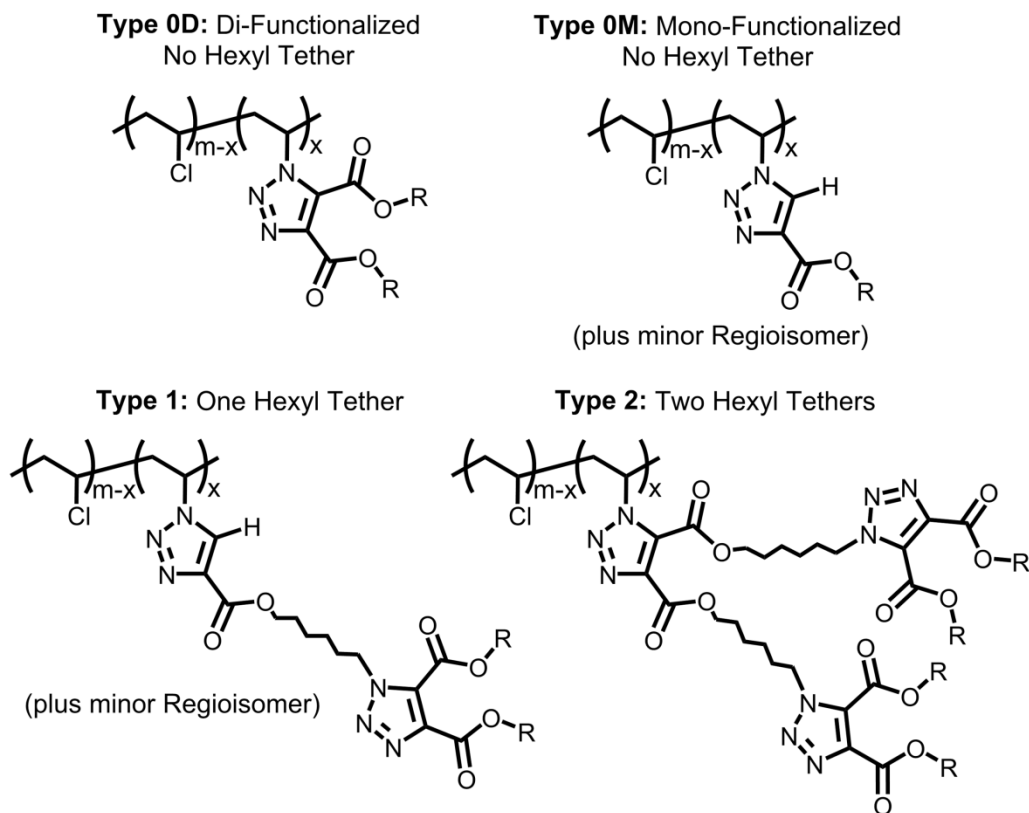
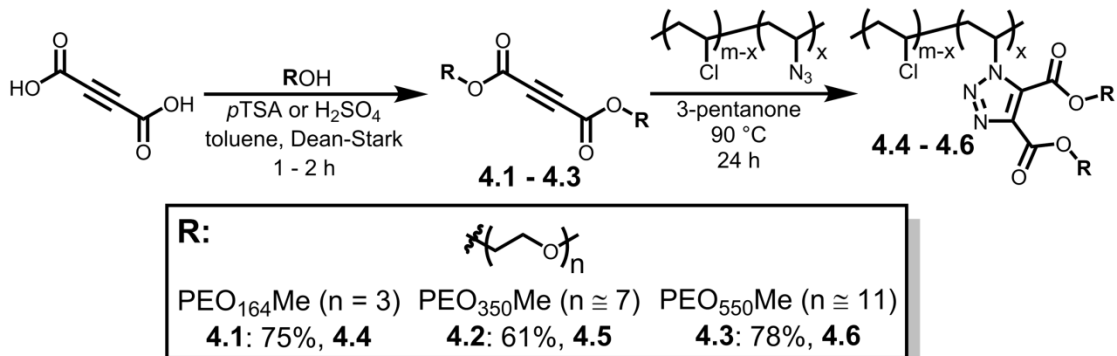


Figure 4.3 “Type” Designations of PVC Triazole-Plasticizers

4.2 Synthesis of Type 0D Poly(ethylene oxide) Triazole-Plasticized PVC

Commercially available poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ethers (PEO) were utilized in the synthesis of electron-deficient alkynes to directly functionalize PVC, with improved miscibility between the internal plasticizer and PVC. Acetylenedicarboxylic acid was treated with poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ethers with a molecular weight of exactly 164 g/mol (PEO₁₆₄Me), an average of 350 g/mol (PEO₃₅₀Me), or an average of 550 g/mol (PEO₅₅₀Me) and catalytic sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) in toluene (**Scheme 4.2**). To drive the chemical equilibrium toward the diester in accordance with Le Chatelier's principle, a Dean-Stark apparatus was utilized to trap the water formed as a by-product of the condensation. After 1 hour under reflux, di(PEO₁₆₄Me) acetylenedicarboxylate **4.1**, di(PEO₃₅₀Me) acetylenedicarboxylate **4.2**,

and di(PEO₅₅₀Me) acetylenedicarboxylate **4.3** were obtained in 75%, 61%, and 78% yields, respectively.



Scheme 4.2 Fischer Esterification of PEO and Acetylenedicarboxylic Acid to Form Type 0D Internally Plasticized PVC

Copper-free thermal azide-alkyne cycloadditions (AAC) were performed with PVC-azide (5 and 15 mole percent azide) and **4.1 - 4.3** in 3-pentanone. The reactions were carried out at 90 °C for 24 hours with 2.5 – 3.0 equivalents of alkyne to each equivalent of azide (**Scheme 4.2**). Reaction progress was monitored *via* FTIR, noting the disappearance of the azide stretch at ~2110 cm⁻¹ and the appearance of the triazole sp² carbon-carbon stretch at ~1550 cm⁻¹ (**Figure 4.4**). After purification by precipitation in methanol three times, the presence of an ester carbonyl stretch (C=O) at ~1730 cm⁻¹ was indicative of the successful formation of the triazole-plasticizer attached to PVC (**4.4 - 4.6**). Polyether stretches at ~1250 cm⁻¹ and ~1100 cm⁻¹ are present in all polymers containing PEO.

¹H-NMR in CDCl₃ was acquired for all Type 0D PEO acetylenedicarboxylates as well as PVC-TRZ-Di(PEO₁₆₄Me), PVC-TRZ-Di(PEO₃₅₀Me), and PVC-TRZ-Di(PEO₅₅₀Me). For NMR analysis, di(PEO₁₆₄Me) acetylenedicarboxylate and PVC-TRZ-Di(PEO₁₆₄Me) are chosen, as they are representative of the other Type 0D PEO-functionalized polymers (**Figure 4.5**). Di(PEO₁₆₄Me) acetylenedicarboxylate **4.1** displays a 4H multiplet between δ 4.39 – 4.31 ppm, corresponding to the ester methylene protons **a** (Ester-O-CH₂-C-O). Although one would expect a triplet, it appears that alkynes containing PEO esters may self-

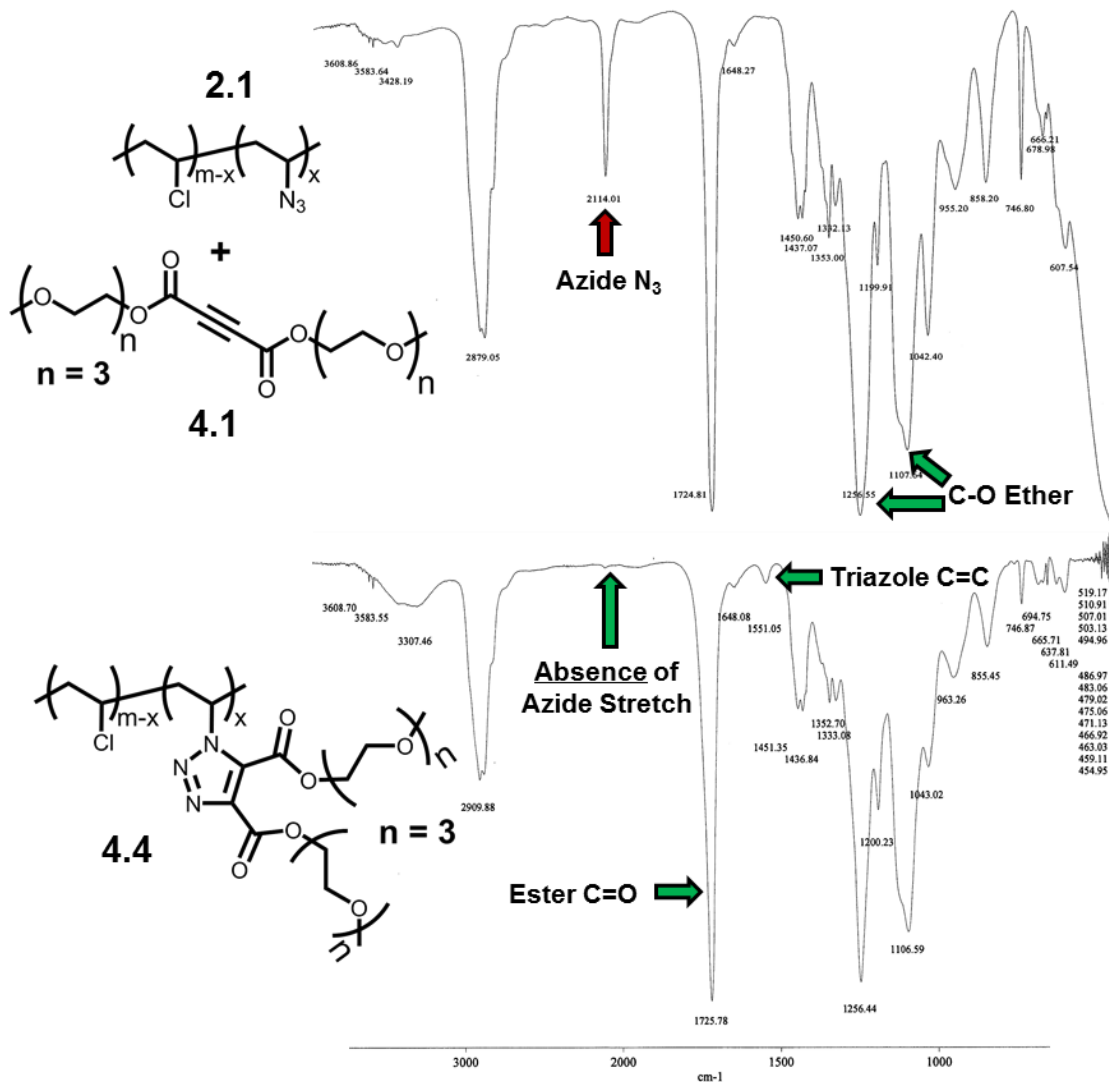


Figure 4.4 FTIR Monitoring of Reaction Between 5% PVC-Azide **2.1** and Di(PEO₁₆₄Me) Acetylenedicarboxylate **4.1** at 90 °C

Top: After 15 Minutes
Bottom: After 24 Hours

assemble in CDCl₃, which widens the proton shifts. Irradiation of the alkyne with a short wave UV lamp gives blue fluorescence (**Figure 4.5**). Aggregation of the PEO-functionalized alkynes may lead to the observed fluorescence and ¹H-NMR signal broadening. Another 4H multiplet **b** at δ 3.74 – 3.70 ppm is assigned to the second methylene away from the ester carbonyl (Ester-O-C-CH₂-O). Central methylene ether signals **c** overlap with each other as a

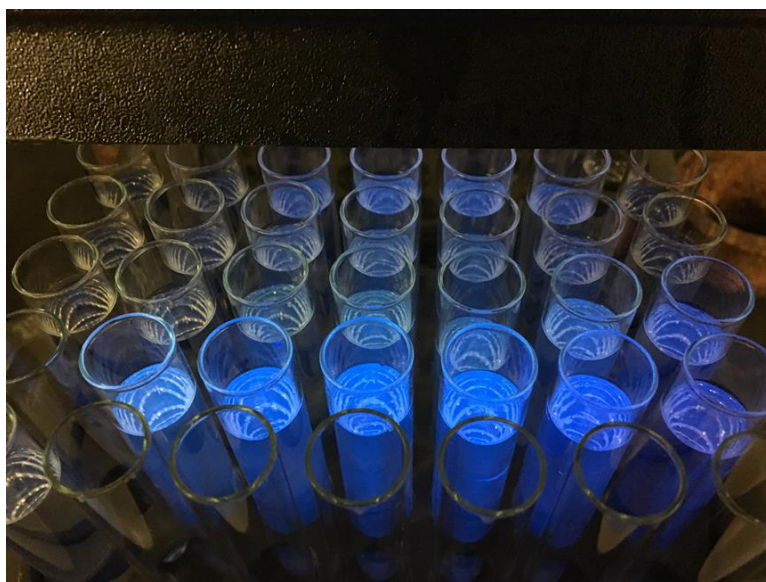
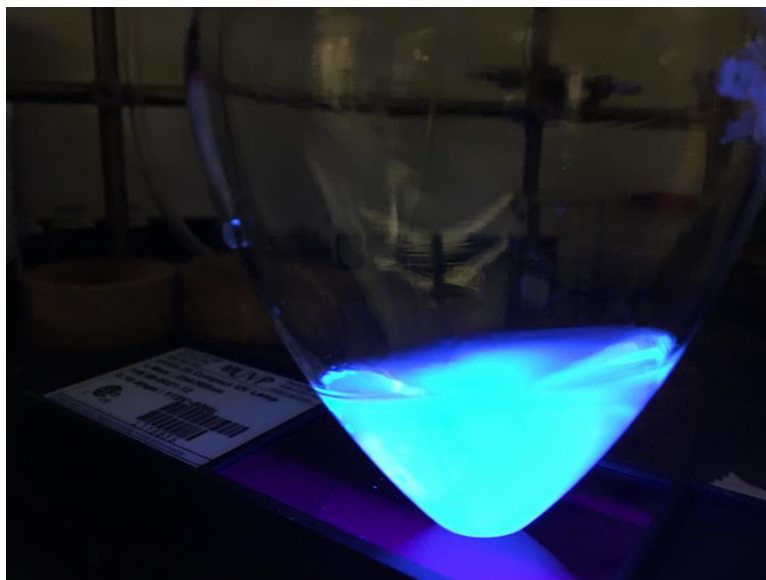


Figure 4.5 Blue Fluorescence of $\text{Di}(\text{PEO}_{164}\text{Me})$ Acetylenedicarboxylate **4.1** Under Irradiation with a Short Wave UV Lamp

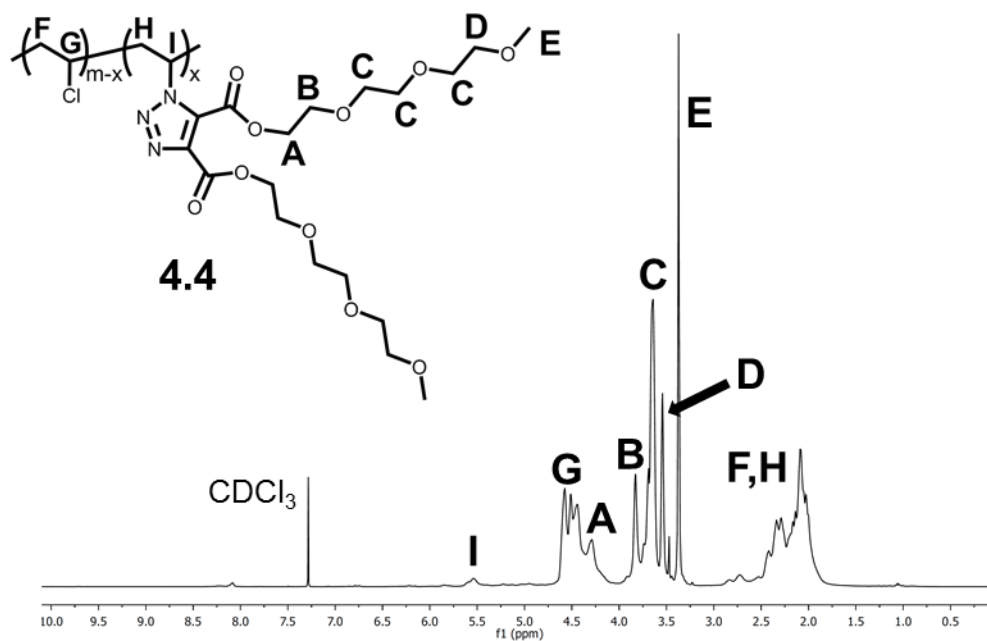
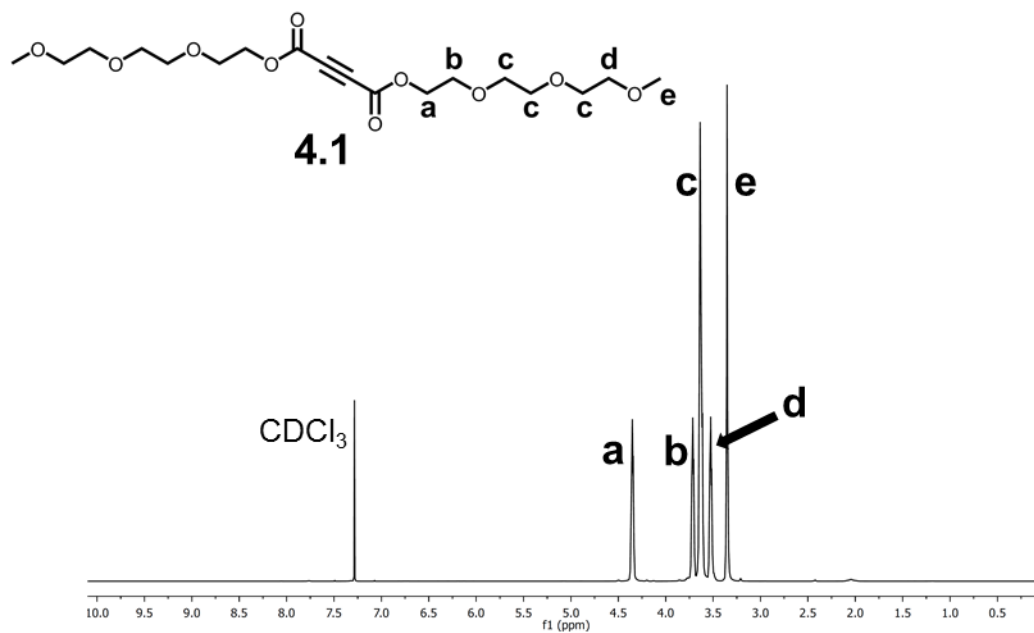


Figure 4.6 ¹H-NMR of Di(PEO₁₆₄Me) Acetylenedicarboxylate (4.1, Top) and Type 0D 15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me (4.4, Bottom)

12H broad multiplet at δ 3.65 – 3.60 ppm. The methylene adjacent to the terminal ether oxygen **d** (PEO-CH₂-O-CH₃) is represented as a 4H multiplet at δ 3.56 – 3.49 ppm. The terminal methyl groups overlap as a 6H singlet **e** at δ 3.37 – 3.33 ppm (PEO-CH₃).

Common to all PEO triazole-plasticized PVC are characteristic ¹H-NMR shifts between δ 5.65 – 5.35 ppm (PVC-C-CH-1°TRZ) **I**: the methines bearing triazoles are shifted downfield relative to unperturbed methines due to the newly formed aromatic ring's deshielding magnetic anisotropic effect (**Figure 4.6**). At δ 4.70 – 4.10 ppm are a series of broad singlets **G** which correspond to the methine protons of Cl-CH-CH₂. Further upfield at δ 2.50 – 2.90 ppm are the methylene protons **H** of PVC in the β -position with respect to the triazole (PVC-CH₂-CH-1°TRZ). Finally, the methylene protons **F** of Cl-CH-CH₂ are observed between δ 1.80 – 2.50 ppm. In internally plasticized Type 0D PEO PVC, the shifts of the ester methylene protons **A** (PVC-1°TRZ-Ester-O-CH₂) appear in the range of δ 4.54 – 4.39 as a broad singlet, which slightly overlaps with PVC methine protons **G**. Polyether methylene protons **B**, **C**, **D** and **E** appear in approximately the same ranges as the alkyne precursor, albeit broadened due the lack of isotropic molecular tumbling of the primary triazole ester directly attached to PVC.

¹³C-NMR spectra taken in CDCl₃ of Type 0D PEO alkynes exhibit a characteristic ester carbonyl signal **f** at δ 151.6 ppm (**Figure 4.7**). The alkyne quaternary carbons **g** appear at δ 74.7 ppm. Ester methylene carbons **a** (Ester-O-CH₂-C-O) are present at δ 71.9 ppm. Adjacent methylenes two carbons away from the ester **b** (Ester-O-C-CH₂-O) are observed at δ 68.4 ppm. Large overlapping peaks at δ 70.7 and δ 70.6 ppm represent centrally located poly(ethylene oxide) methylene carbons **c**. The PEO methylene carbon **d** adjacent to the terminal ether oxygen (PEO-CH₂-O-CH₃) appears at δ 65.8 ppm. The terminal PEO methyl carbon **e** is represented by a peak at δ 58.9 ppm (PEO-C-O-CH₃).

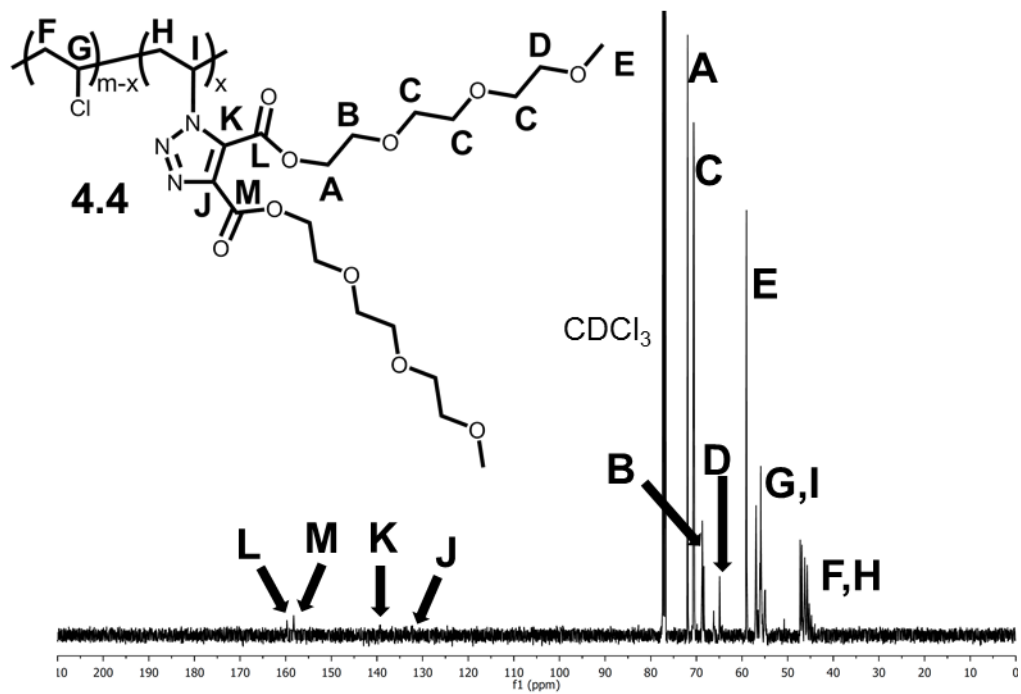
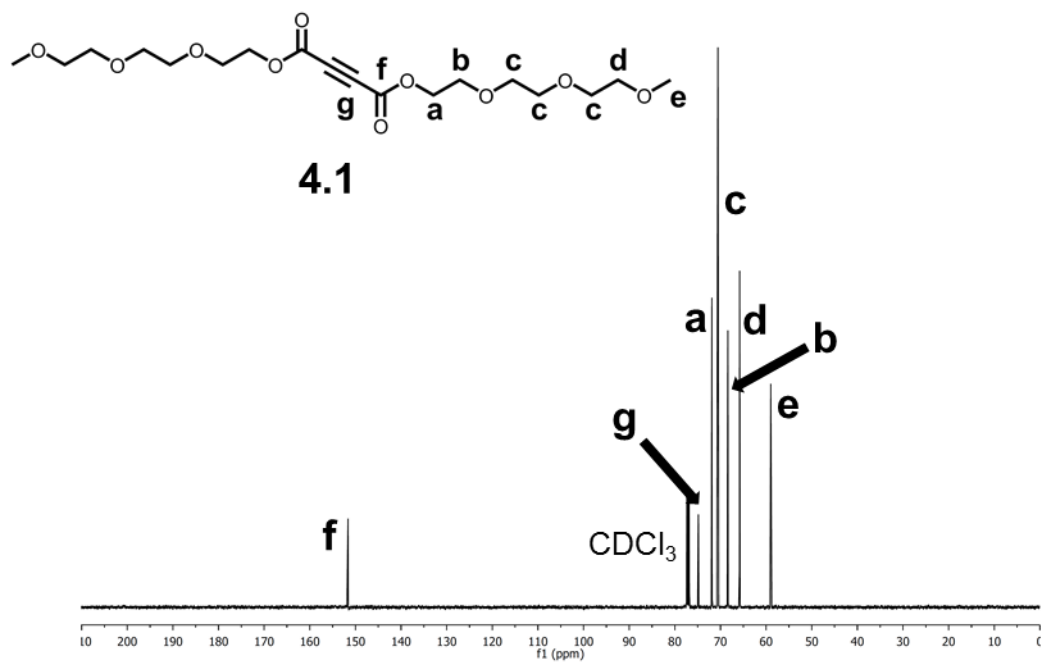
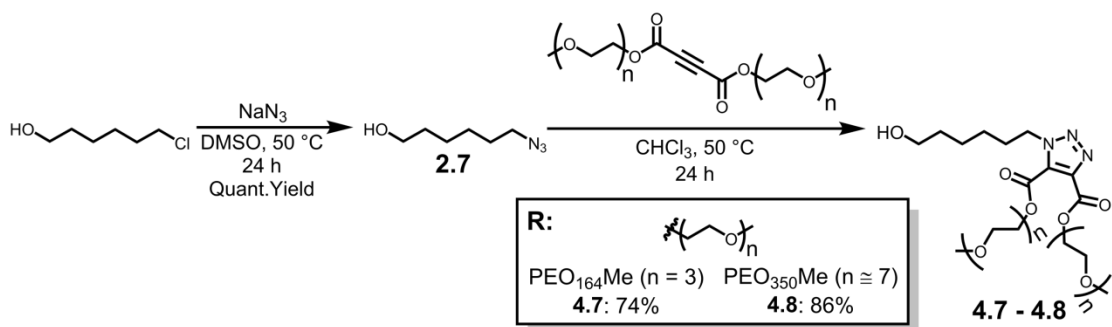


Figure 4.7 ¹³C-NMR of Di(PEO)₁₆₄Me Acetylenedicarboxylate (4.1, Top) and Type 0D 15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me (4.4, Bottom)

All PEO triazole-plasticized PVC possess characteristic ^{13}C -NMR signals originating from the main chain of PVC (**Figure 4.7**). Methylene carbons **F** and **H** between δ 44.8 – 47.3 ppm are representative of $\text{Cl-CH-}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$. Methine shifts of isotactic (δ 54.9 – 55.1 ppm), atactic (δ 55.7 – 56.1 ppm), and syndiotactic (δ 56.9 – 57.0 ppm) carbons **G** and **I** belong to $\text{Cl-}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H-CH}_2$. The PEO esters on the triazole in Type 0D PEO plasticized PVC undergo desymmetrization relative to the alkyne precursor. Two new regioisomeric triazole ester peaks, δ 159.7 and δ 158.3 ppm, appear as the carbonyl signals **L** and **M**. Weak quaternary triazole carbon peaks appear at δ 138.6 and δ 131.7 ppm as signals **K** and **J**. The ester methylene carbons **A** ($1^\circ\text{TRZ Ester-O-}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$) appear at δ 71.9 and δ 72.5 ppm. Polyether methylene carbons **B** appear at δ 68.7 and 68.4 ppm. Central polyether methylene carbons **C** are observed as overlapping signals at δ 70.6 and δ 70.5 ppm. The methylene carbons **D** adjacent to the terminal ether oxygen ($\text{PEO-}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{-O-CH}_3$) is noted at δ 64.9 ppm. The terminal methyl carbons **E** are present at δ 59.0 ppm ($\text{PEO-C-O-}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_3$). The disappearance of the alkyne quaternary sp-carbon signal at δ 74.7 ppm is indicative of cycloaddition and thorough purification of the plastic from the excess alkyne.

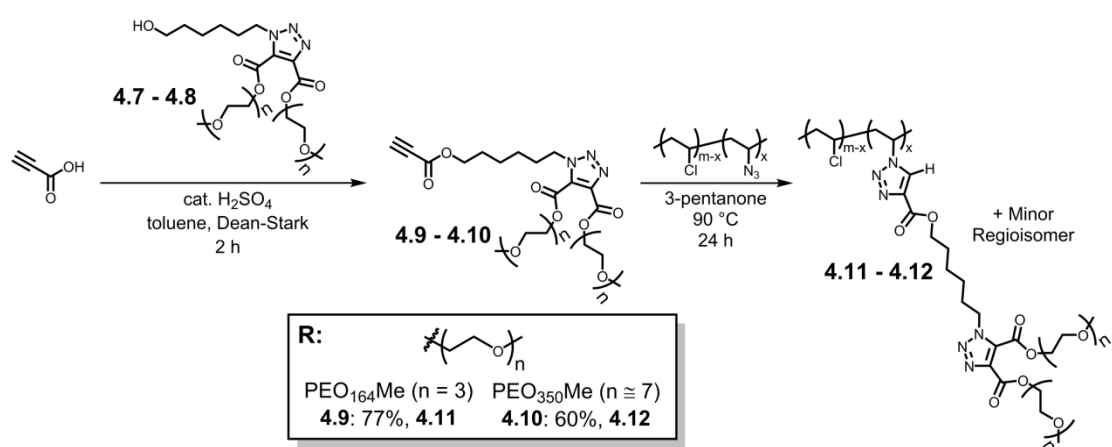
4.3 Synthesis of Type 1 Poly(ethylene oxide) Triazole Plasticizers

Synthesis of Type 1 PEO plasticizers began with 6-chlorohexan-1-ol, which was converted to 6-azidohexan-1-ol **2.7**. Di($\text{PEO}_{164}\text{Me}$) acetylenedicarboxylate **4.1** or di($\text{PEO}_{350}\text{Me}$) acetylenedicarboxylate **4.2** was stirred in chloroform with azide **2.7** for 24 hours at 50 °C to give the hexyl tether triazolo-alcohols **4.7** and **4.8** (**Scheme 4.3**). Satisfactory yields of 74% and 86% were achieved after column chromatography. The acetylenedicarboxylate esters were used in a 1.3 equivalent excess to 6-azidohexan-1-ol **2.7**, with cycloadditions monitored *via* TLC.



Scheme 4.3 Synthesis of PEO Triazolo-Alcohols

Fischer esterifications were performed to obtain Type 1 monoester electron-deficient alkynes (**Scheme 4.3**). Propiolic acid was treated with TRZ-Di(PEO₁₆₄Me) hexanol **4.7** or TRZ-Di(PEO₃₅₀Me) hexanol **4.8**, H₂SO₄ as an acid catalyst, and toluene using a Dean-Stark apparatus. The PEO triazolo-alcohols **4.7** and **4.8** were used in a 1.2 – 1.3 equivalent excess compared to propiolic acid, under concentrated conditions (1.0 M). The reactions were complete within 2 hours, furnishing TRZ-Di(PEO₁₆₄Me) hexyl propiolate **4.9** in 60% yield and TRZ-Di(PEO₃₅₀Me) hexyl propiolate **4.10** in 77% yield. Purification involved concentrating the crude reaction *in vacuo*, then performing flash chromatography. Reaction progress was monitored *via* TLC. All propiolate derivatives have slightly larger R_f values than their respective parent alcohols.



Scheme 4.4 Synthesis of Type 1 PEO Triazole-Plasticizers Attached to PVC

Copper-free azide-alkyne cycloadditions (AAC) were performed with PVC-azide (5 and 15 mole percent) in 3-pentanone. Reactions were carried out at 90 °C for 24 hours, with 2.5 – 3.0 equivalents of alkyne for each equivalent of azide (**Scheme 4.4**). Cyclizations of Type 1 PEO propiolates **4.9** and **4.10** with PVC-azide were tracked *via* FTIR. Aliquots of the reaction mixture were taken at 12 hour intervals, then precipitated three times in methanol to determine if the disappearance of the azide stretch at 2114 cm⁻¹ had occurred. AAC between Type 1 alkynes and PVC-azide were complete after 24 hours.

¹H-NMR of Type 1 PEO hexyl tethered propiolates and their corresponding internally plasticized PVC analogues were performed (**Figure 4.8**). For this discussion, TRZ-Di(PEO₁₆₄Me) hexyl propiolate and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-Di(PEO₁₆₄Me) were chosen as representative Type 1 PEO-functionalized examples. In TRZ-Di(PEO₁₆₄Me) hexyl propiolate, protons **f** belong to the hexyl tether methylene connected to the secondary triazole (Tether-CH₂-2°TRZ), giving a 2H triplet at δ 4.59 ppm. Another set of 2H triplets, upfield at δ 4.50 and 4.54 ppm correspond to methylene protons **a** of both regioisomeric PEO triazole esters (2°TRZ Ester-O-CH₂-C-O). Methylene protons producing signal **j** at δ 4.2 ppm belong to the hexyl tether next to the propiolate ester (Propiolate Ester-O-CH₂-Tether). The PEO methylenes producing signal **b** is a 4H overlapping triplet at δ 3.82 ppm (2°TRZ Ester-O-C-CH₂-O-). A broad 12H multiplet **c** between δ 3.72 – 3.60 ppm are central PEO methylenes. Methylenes **d** at the ends of the PEO chains (PEO-CH₂-O-CH₃) are seen as a 4H multiplet between δ 3.57 – 3.49 ppm. Terminal PEO methyl groups appear as two 3H singlets **e** at δ 3.36 and 3.37 ppm (PEO-C-O-CH₃). A lone proton **k** at δ 2.93 ppm belongs to the terminal alkyne. Hexyl-tether methylene protons **g**, two carbons from the secondary triazole (Tether-CH₂-CH₂-2°TRZ) are observed as a 2H pentet at δ 1.93 ppm. In the same vein, methylene protons **i**, two carbons away from the propiolate ester (Propiolate Ester-O-CH₂-CH₂-Tether), are present as a 2H multiplet at δ 1.68 ppm. Two adjacent hexyl tether methylene protons **h**

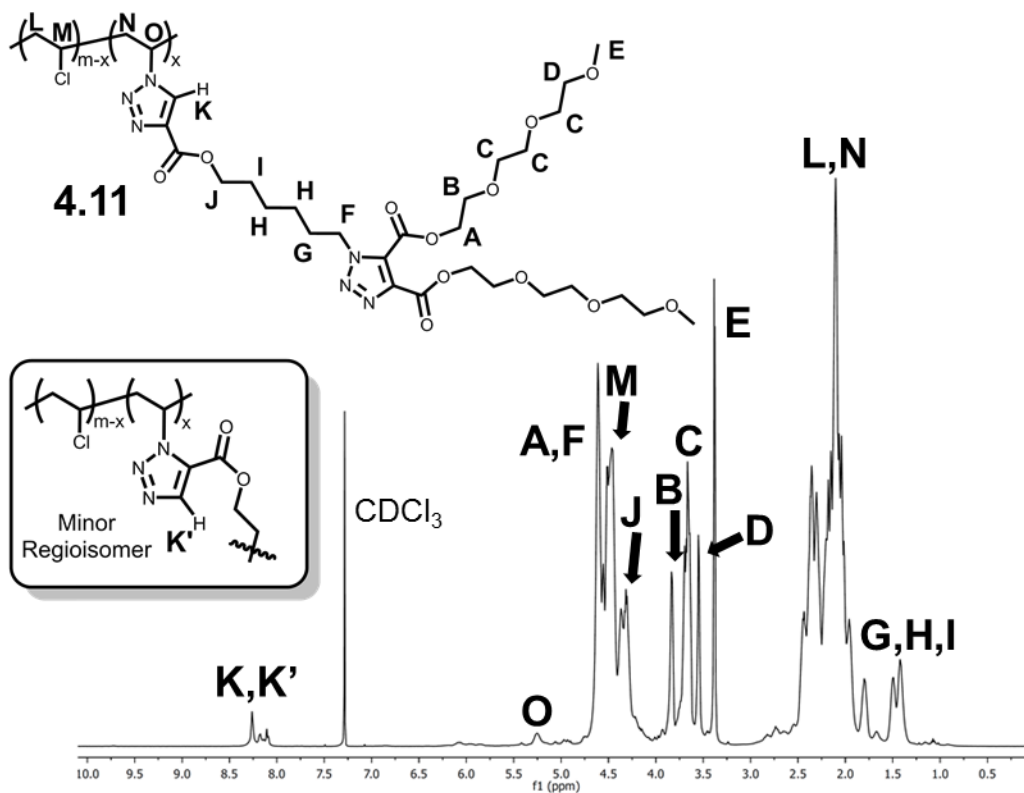
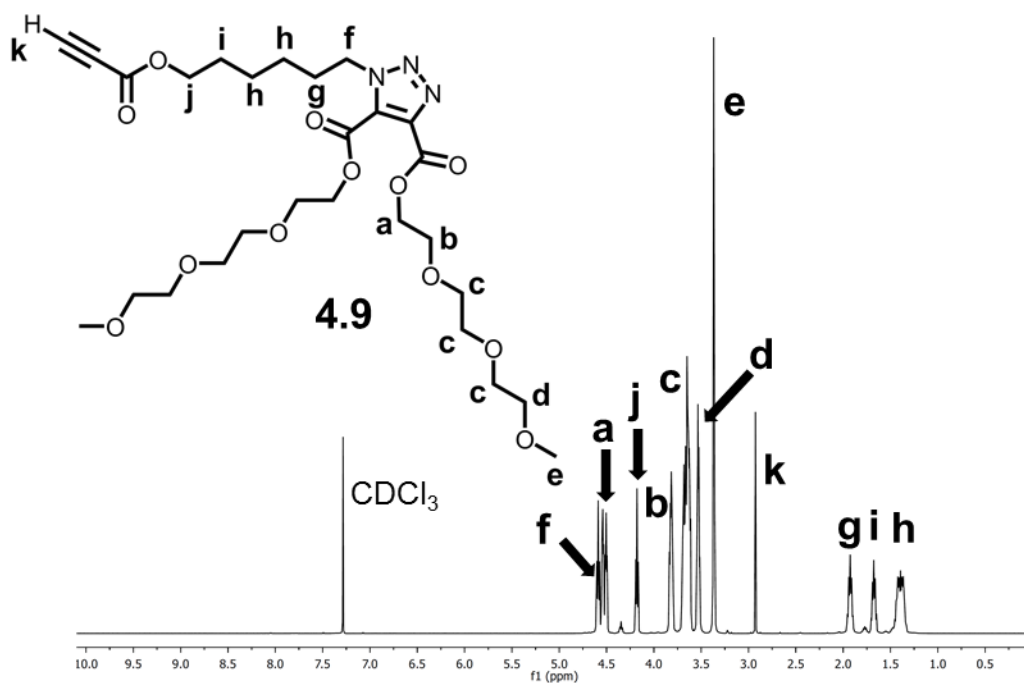


Figure 4.8 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ of TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me Hexyl Propiolate (4.9, Top) and Type 1 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-DiPEO₁₆₄Me (4.11, Bottom)

are represented by an overlapping 4H multiplet between δ 1.45 – 1.34 ppm (Propiolate Ester-O-C-C-CH₂-CH₂-).

¹H-NMR spectra of Type 1 PEO functionalized polymers at both 5 and 15 mole percent triazole plasticizer give characteristic signals between δ 8.05 and 8.35 ppm, representing the proton directly attached to the primary triazole ring, as **K** (and **K'**) in **Figure 4.8** (PVC-1°TRZ-H). There are two broadened peaks in this region due to triazole regioisomers. The less sterically hindered regioisomer in **4.11** predominates. A broad multiplet **J** belonging to the alkoxy-protons adjacent to the primary triazole (PVC-1°TRZ-Ester-O-CH₂-Tether) displays a downfield shift at δ 4.26 – 4.41 ppm from the parent alkyne signal **j** at δ 4.2 ppm. Methylene protons **I**, two carbons away from the primary triazole (PVC-1°TRZ-O-CH₂-CH₂-Tether) move downfield between δ 1.72 – 1.86 ppm, from δ 1.68 ppm in the parent alkyne. The methylene directly attached to the secondary triazole **F** (PVC-1°TRZ-Tether-C-CH₂-2°TRZ) gives a broad multiplet between δ 4.59 – 4.70 ppm, exhibiting a downfield shift from δ 4.59 ppm in the parent alkyne: This signal overlaps with PEO signal **A** and PVC main chain chlorinated methine **M**. Signal **O**, corresponding to the methine of PVC covalently bonded to the primary triazole (PVC-CH-1°TRZ), appears as a broadened multiplet between δ 5.12 – 5.32 ppm. All other proton shifts of the PVC main chain (**L** and **N**) are in the same general location as in unmodified PVC.

¹³C-NMR spectra of Type 1 PEO alkynes show the newly formed propiolate ester carbonyl signal **m** at δ 152.7 ppm (**Figure 4.9**). Also, the sp-hybridized carbons of the terminal alkyne are present as two peaks at δ 74.6 ppm (Alkyne CH) **k** and δ 74.7 ppm (Alkyne 4°) **l**. A minor downfield shift of the propiolate ester hexyl tether methylene **j** (Propiolate Ester-O-CH₂-C) at δ 65.6 ppm, from δ 62.5 ppm (HO-CH₂-C) in the alcohol, is indicative of the electronegative influence of the carbonyl on the proximal carbon atom. Secondary triazole esters **p** and **q** are observed at δ 158.4 and 160.1 ppm. Quaternary carbons **n** and **o** of the secondary triazole appear at δ 129.6 and 140.0 ppm. The hexyl tether

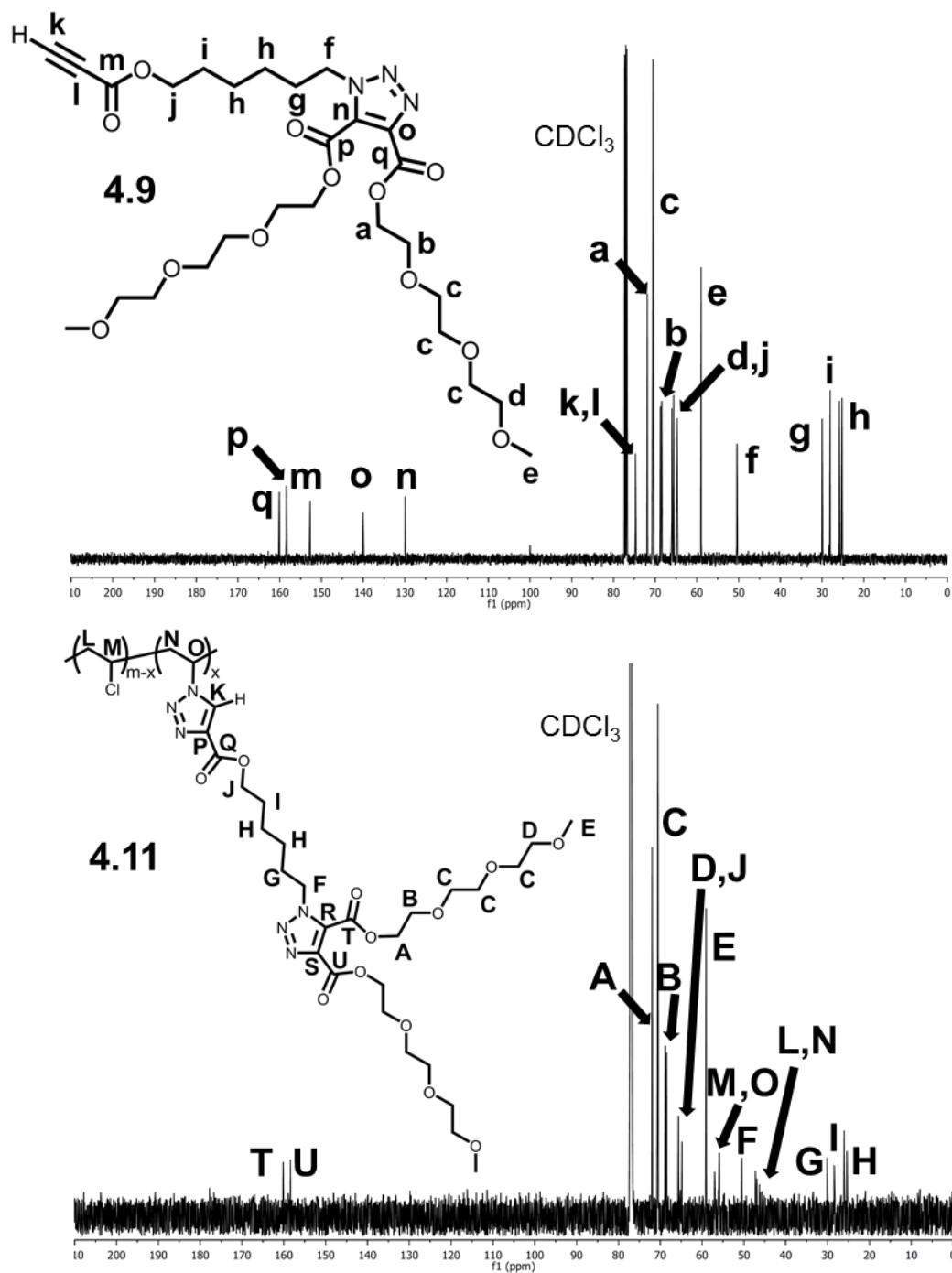


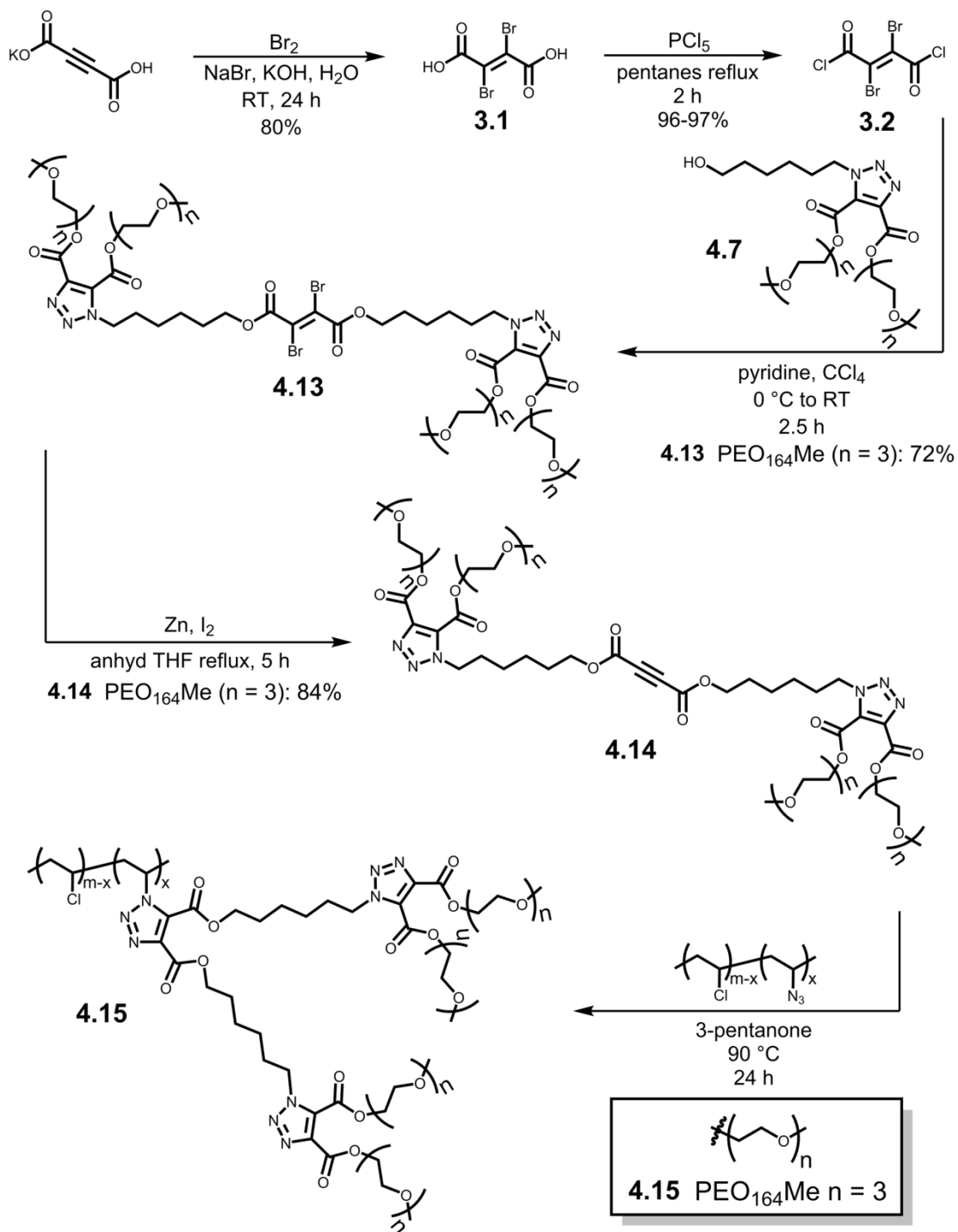
Figure 4.9 ^{13}C -NMR of TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me Hexyl Propiolate (4.9, Top @ 125 MHz) and Type 1 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me (4.11, Bottom @ 200 MHz)

methylene **f**, attached to the secondary triazole ester, displays a peak at δ 50.4 ppm (Tether-CH₂-2°TRZ). The tether methylene two carbons away from the secondary triazole ester **g**, displays a peak at δ 30.0 ppm (Tether-CH₂-CH₂-2°TRZ). The methylene **i** two carbons away from the propiolate ester, produces a peak at δ 28.1 ppm (Propiolate Ester-O-C-CH₂-Tether). Central hexyl tether carbons **h** are observed at δ 25.2 ppm and δ 25.9 ppm. Secondary triazole ester methylenes **a** (2°TRZ-Ester-O-CH₂-C-O) are observed at δ 71.9 ppm and δ 72.5 ppm. Three overlapping peaks at δ 70.5 ppm, δ 70.6 ppm, and δ 70.7 ppm represent centrally located PEO carbons **c**. Regioisomeric methylenes two carbons away from the secondary triazole ester **b** (2°TRZ-Ester-O-C-CH₂-O) are noted at δ 68.4 ppm and δ 68.7 ppm. PEO carbons **d** adjacent to the terminal ether oxygen (PEO-CH₂-O-CH₃) appear at δ 64.8 and δ 66.0 ppm. The PEO methyl carbon **e** appears at δ 59.0 ppm (PEO-O-CH₃).

Type 1 PEO internally plasticized PVC samples did not produce ¹³C signals corresponding to the primary triazole carbons **K** and **P** (**Figure 4.9**). Likewise, the primary triazole carbonyl **Q** is not observed. However, the peaks corresponding to the secondary triazole carbonyls (**T** and **U**) are observed at δ 158.4 ppm and δ 160.2 ppm. The disappearance of the alkyne quaternary sp-carbon signals **k** and **l** at δ 74.6 ppm and δ 74.7 ppm is indicative of cycloaddition and thorough purification. The hexyl tether carbon **J** directly attached to the primary triazole (PVC-1°TRZ Ester-O-CH₂-Tether) produces a significantly weaker signal than the parent alkyne at δ 65.2 ppm, while the methylene two carbons from the primary triazole **I** (PVC-1°TRZ Ester-O-C-CH₂-Tether) displays a signal at δ 28.4 ppm, representing a slight downfield shift from the parent alkyne. All other ¹³C signals in Type 1 PEO internally plasticized PVC are similar to the parent Type 1 PEO alkyne.

4.4 Synthesis of Type 2 Poly(ethylene oxide) Triazole Plasticizer

Protective bromination of the electron-deficient alkyne in acetylenedicarboxylic acid,¹² followed by acid chloride activation¹³ was used to generate the Type 2 PEO double hexyl



Scheme 4.5 Synthesis of Type 2 PEO Triazole-Plasticizer Attached to PVC

tethered alkyne (**Scheme 4.5**). TRZ-Di(PEO₁₆₄Me) hexanol **4.7** was diluted in carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) and pyridine, then allowed to react with dibromofumaryl chloride **3.2** for 2.5 hours: This furnished the brominated diester **4.13** in 72% yield. Deprotection involved refluxing the protected di-ester with granular zinc and catalytic iodine in anhydrous THF, affording Type 2 PEO alkyne **4.14** in 84% yield after purification via column chromatography. Copper-free azide-alkyne cycloaddition was performed with PVC-azide in 3-pentanone (**Scheme 4.5**). Reactions were carried out at 90 °C for 24 hours, with 3.0 equivalents of alkyne to each equivalent of azide. Cyclizations were monitored *via* FTIR, noting the disappearance of the azide stretch at ~2110 cm⁻¹ and the appearance of the triazole sp² carbon-carbon stretch at ~1550 cm⁻¹.

¹H-NMR spectra of bis(hexyl TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me) acetylenedicarboxylate **4.14** and the Type 2 PEO PVC analogues (PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me, **4.15**) were acquired (**Figure 4.10**). In CDCl₃, bis(hexyl TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me) acetylenedicarboxylate **4.14** gave broadened signals, akin to that observed in Type 0D PEO alkynes. d₆-Benzene produced better splitting patterns: however, PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me **4.15** was not soluble in d₆-benzene, making comparative analysis of the precursor and final polymer difficult. As a result, NMR results measured in CDCl₃ will be discussed, as alkyne **4.14** and its polymers **4.15** were sufficiently soluble in CDCl₃ to give analytically useful spectra. Bis(hexyl TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me) acetylenedicarboxylate methylene protons **j** proximal to the alkyne ester (Alkyne Ester-O-CH₂-Tether), give a 4H broad multiplet at δ 4.22 ppm. Type 2 PEO plasticizers containing two hexyl tethers display numerous methylene signals: δ 1.30 – 1.50 ppm are tether protons **h**, δ 1.63 – 1.73 ppm are protons **i**, and δ 1.85 – 1.97 ppm belong to protons **g**. Terminal PEO methyl protons **e** are observed as overlapping signals between δ 3.32 – 3.40 ppm. PEO methylene protons **d** are present between δ 3.49 – 3.57 ppm. Protons originating from central PEO methylenes **c** exhibit signals between δ 3.57 – 3.73 ppm.

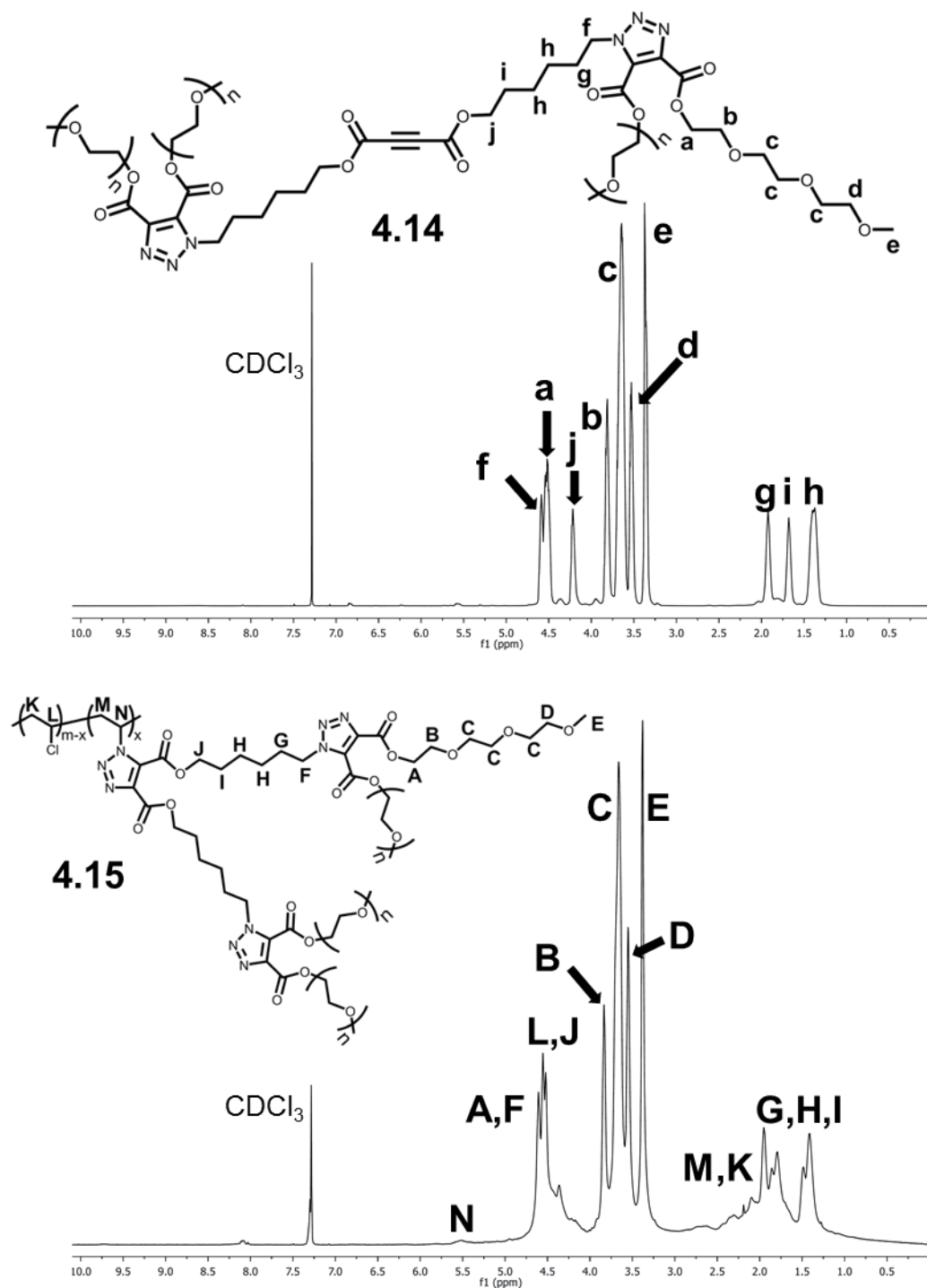


Figure 10 ¹H-NMR of Bis(Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄-Me) Acetylenedicarboxylate (**4.14**, Top) and Type 2 15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄-Me (**4.15**, Bottom)

Methylene protons **b** two carbons away from the secondary triazole ($2^\circ\text{TRZ Ester-O-C-CH}_2\text{-O}$) appear as a broad multiplet between δ 3.77 and 3.86 ppm. PEO methylene protons **a** directly attached to the secondary triazole ester ($2^\circ\text{TRZ Ester-O-CH}_2\text{-C-O}$) give peaks at δ 4.46 – 4.55 ppm. Methylene protons **f** of the hexyl tether (Tether- $\text{CH}_2\text{-}2^\circ\text{TRZ}$) display signals between δ 4.55 – 4.63 ppm.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ of Type 2 PEO functionalized PVC **4.15** is presented in **Figure 4.10**. The broad multiplet **J** of the hexyl tether proximal to the primary triazole (PVC- $1^\circ\text{TRZ-Ester-O-CH}_2\text{-Tether}$) demonstrates a significant downfield shift and signal weakening at δ 4.24 – 4.39 ppm, compared to the parent alkyne peak **j** at δ 4.22 ppm. Hexyl tether methylene **I** (PVC- $1^\circ\text{TRZ-Ester-O-C-CH}_2\text{-Tether}$) also moves downfield to δ 1.60 – 1.89 ppm, compared to the parent alkyne. Methylene **F** directly attached to the secondary triazole (PVC- $1^\circ\text{TRZ-Tether-C-CH}_2\text{-}2^\circ\text{TRZ}$) gives a broad multiplet between δ 4.58 – 4.67 ppm: this signal overlaps with PEO signal **A** and PVC main chain chlorinated methine **L**. Signal **N** corresponding to the PVC methine covalently bound to the primary triazole (PVC- $\text{CH-}1^\circ\text{TRZ}$) appears as a broad multiplet between δ 5.35 – 5.65 ppm. All other proton shifts belonging to the PVC main chain (**K** and **M**) are in the same location as unmodified PVC.

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ of Type 2 PEO alkyne **4.14** displays an upfield shift of the carbonyls adjacent to the alkyne at δ 151.8 ppm, from δ 162.2 ppm as the dibromofumarate (**Figure 4.11**). Likewise, quaternary carbons of the internal alkyne move upfield from δ 112.7 ppm as the brominated sp^2 alkene, to δ 74.7 ppm as the alkyne. Methylene **j** of the hexyl tether (Alkyne Ester-O- $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}$) is present at δ 66.7 ppm. Secondary triazole esters **o** and **p** are observed at δ 158.4 and 160.1 ppm. Secondary triazole quaternary carbons **m** and **n** appear at δ 129.9 and 140.0 ppm. Methylene **f** attached to the secondary triazole ester displays a peak at δ 50.4 ppm (Tether- $\text{CH}_2\text{-}2^\circ\text{TRZ}$). Methylene **g** of the hexyl tether, two carbons away from the secondary triazole ester, produce a peak at δ 30.0 ppm (Tether- $\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-}2^\circ\text{TRZ}$), while methylene **i** give a signal at δ 28.0 ppm (Alkyne Ester-O-C- $\text{CH}_2\text{-Tether}$). Central hexyl

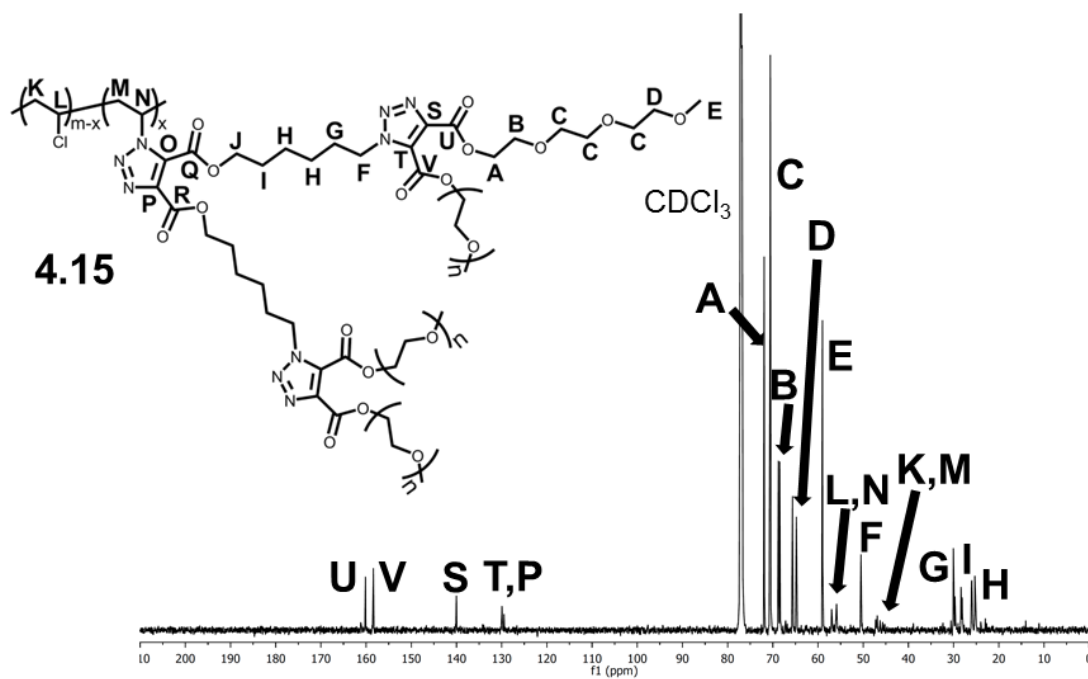
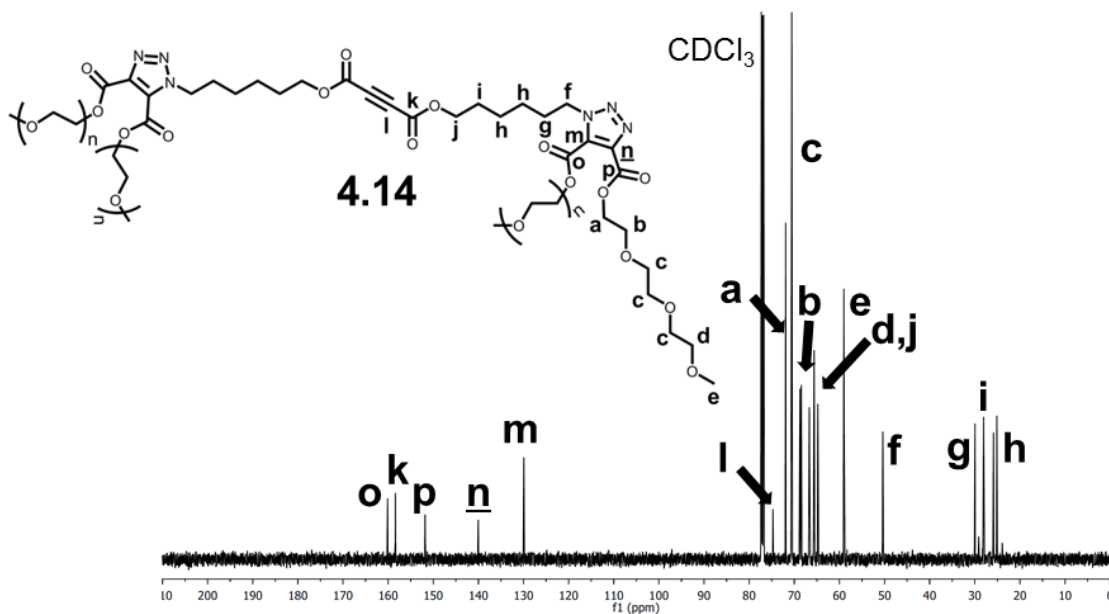


Figure 4.11 ^{13}C -NMR of Bis(Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄-Me) Acetylenedicarboxylate (4.14, Top @ 125 MHz) and Type 2 15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄-Me (4.15, Bottom @ 200 MHz)

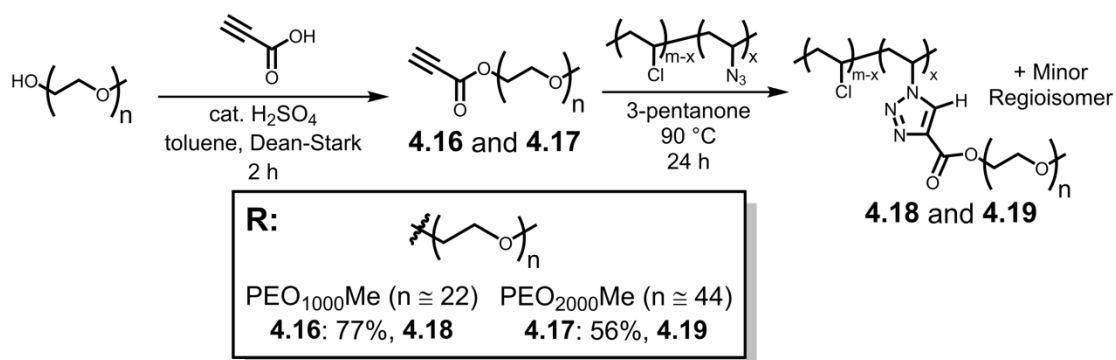
tether carbons **h** are observed at δ 25.1 and 25.9 ppm. Three peaks at δ 70.55, 70.59 and 70.67 ppm represent centrally located PEO carbons **c**. Secondary triazole ester methylene **a** ($2^\circ\text{TRZ-Ester-O-}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{-C-O}$) gives a signal at δ 71.9 ppm. Methylenes **b** two carbons away from the secondary triazole ester ($2^\circ\text{TRZ-Ester-O-C-}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{-O}$) are observed at δ 68.5 and 68.7 ppm. PEO carbons **d** proximal to the terminal ether oxygen ($\text{PEO-}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{-O-CH}_3$) appears at δ 64.8 and 65.6 ppm. PEO methyl carbon **e** displays a peak at δ 59.0 ppm ($\text{PEO-}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_3$).

^{13}C -NMR spectra of PVC functionalized with the Type 2 PEO triazole-plasticizer **4.15** appear similar to the parent acetylenedicarboxylate with a few key differences (**Figure 4.11**). The sterically congested acetylenedicarboxylate containing two hexyl tethers does not display ^{13}C signals originating from the primary triazole carbonyls **Q** and **R**, quaternary carbon **O**, nor hexyl tether methylene **J** ($1^\circ\text{TRZ Ester-O-}\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{-Tether}$). However, utilization of a ^{13}C -NMR at 200 MHz equipped with a cryoprobe, produce a primary triazole quaternary carbon signal **P** at δ 129.5 ppm. The remaining hexyl tether carbons **H** (δ 25.2, 25.3, 25.96, 26.0 ppm), **I** (δ 28.1, 28.4 ppm), and **G** (δ 29.7, 30.0 ppm) are observed. The secondary triazole quaternary carbons **S** and **T** (δ 129.9 ppm, 140 ppm) and its associated carbonyl peaks **U** and **V** (δ 158.4 ppm, 160.1 ppm) are also present. The remaining PEO chain signals are similar to the alkyne precursor. Absence of the quaternary sp-carbon signal at δ 74.7 ppm indicates pure internally plasticized PVC samples, free of excess precursor. Main chain PVC carbons remain predominately unaltered relative to the Type 1 PEO system.

4.5 Synthesis of Type 0M Poly(ethylene oxide) Triazole Plasticizer

In a quest to decrease the number of synthetic steps while increasing plasticization efficiency, propiolates of large PEO chains were synthesized (**Scheme 4.6**). PEO with average molecular weights of 1000 g/mol or 2000 g/mol were utilized to incorporate substantial amounts of poly(ethylene oxide) to the primary triazole, while avoiding the use of acetylenedicarboxylic acid required in Type 1 and 2 triazole-plasticizers. A single Fischer

esterification, involving propiolic acid and PEO using catalytic H_2SO_4 and toluene under Dean-Stark conditions gave $\text{PEO}_{1000}\text{Me}$ propiolate **4.16** and $\text{PEO}_{2000}\text{Me}$ propiolate **4.17** in yields of 56% and 77%. Cycloadditions to PVC-azide were carried out in the same manner as Type 1 derivatives, furnishing Type 0M PEO plasticized PVC **4.18** and **4.19**. The entire reaction sequence to obtain Type 0M PEO PVC from unmodified PVC requires only three synthetic steps.



Scheme 4.6 Synthesis of Type 0M PEO Triazole-Plasticizer Attached to PVC

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ was acquired for Type 0M PEO propiolates and PVC functionalized with both 5 and 15 mole percent Type 0M triazole-plasticizer in CDCl_3 . For this analysis, $\text{PEO}_{1000}\text{Me}$ propiolate **4.16** and PVC-TRZ- $\text{PEO}_{1000}\text{Me}$ **4.18** were chosen as representative Type 0M PEO triazole-plasticizers (**Figure 4.12**). $\text{PEO}_{1000}\text{Me}$ propiolate gives a broad 2H multiplet between δ 4.32 – 4.37 ppm, corresponding to the ester methylene protons **a** (Propiolate Ester-O- CH_2 -C-O). Another broad 2H multiplet **b** at δ 3.72 – 3.76 ppm is the second methylene from the ester (Propiolate Ester-O-C- CH_2 -O). Central PEO methylene proton signals **c** overlap with each other as an extremely large broad multiplet at δ 3.58 – 3.72 ppm. The PEO methylene protons adjacent to the terminal ether oxygen **d** (PEO-CH_2 -O- CH_3) are represented as another broad 2H multiplet at δ 3.53 – 3.58 ppm. The terminal methyl groups overlap as a singlet **e** at δ 3.35 – 3.42 ppm (PEO-C-O-CH_3). A 1H singlet **f** at δ 2.99 ppm belongs to the terminal alkyne.

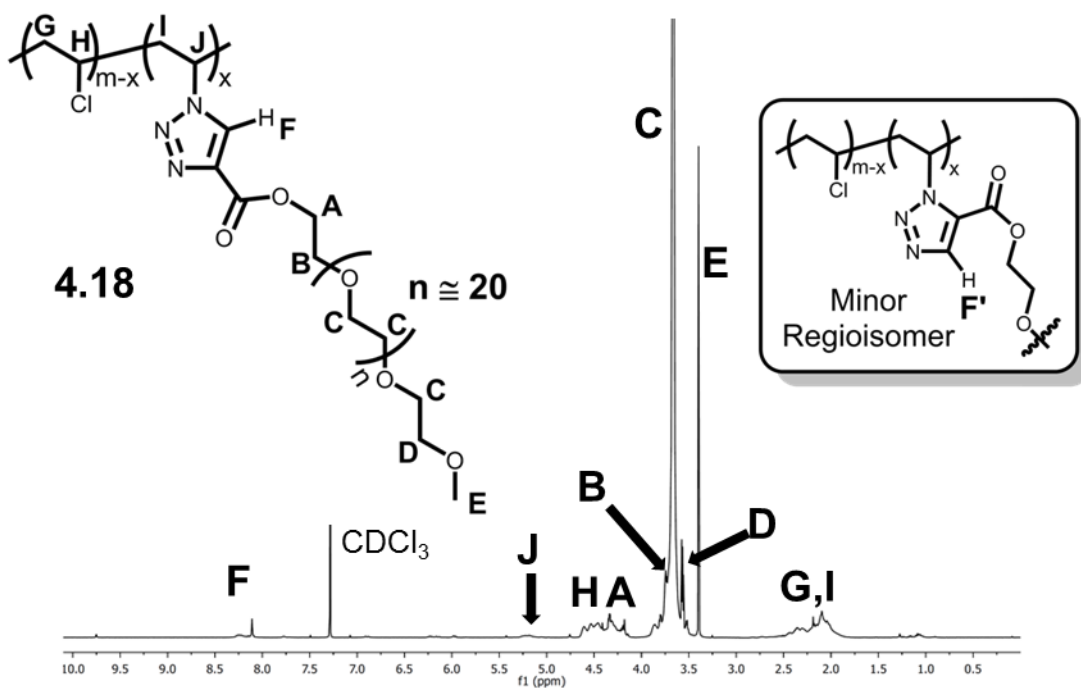
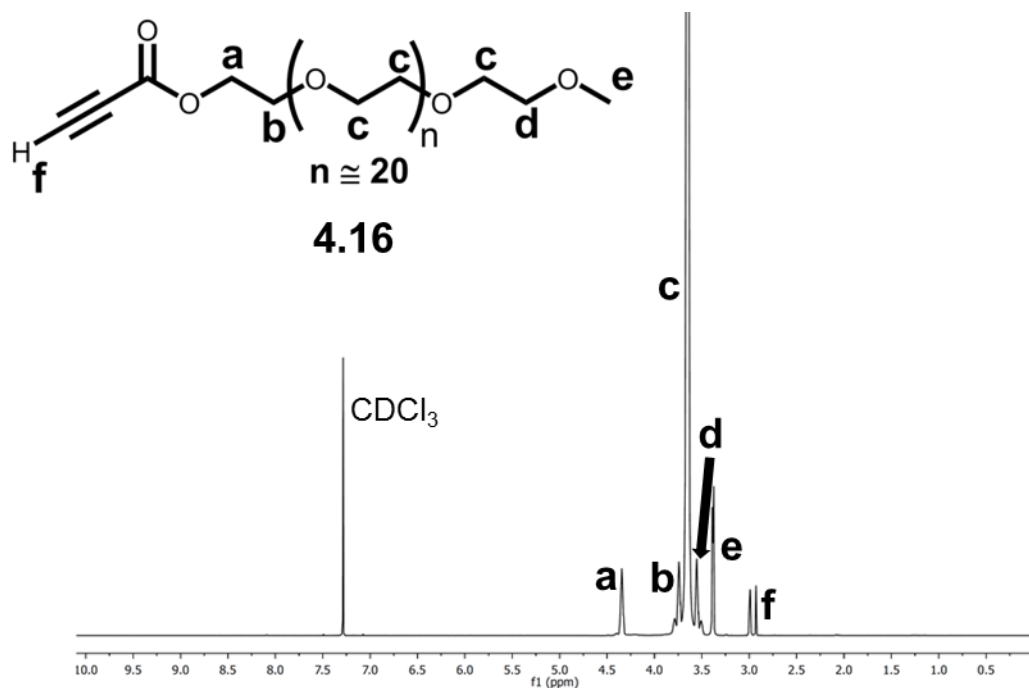


Figure 4.12 ¹H-NMR Spectra of PEO₁₀₀₀Me Propiolate (4.16, Top) and Type 0M 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me (4.18, Bottom)

The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of Type 0M PEO internally plasticized PVC gives signals between δ 8.07 – 8.29 ppm, representing the proton directly attached to the primary triazole ring, as **F** in **Figure 4.12** (PVC-1°TRZ-**H**). The two broadened peaks originating from triazole regioisomers observed in Type 1 derivatives are not as pronounced in the Type 0M PEO polymers. The primary triazole ester methylene protons **A** (PVC-1°TRZ-Ester-O-**CH₂**) appear in the range of δ 4.50 – 4.56 as a broad multiplet, which overlaps with PVC protons **H**. PEO methylene protons **B** are downfield shifted from the propiolate precursor at δ 3.82 – 3.95 ppm. Central PEO methylene signals **C** (δ 3.59 – 3.82 ppm), methylene protons adjacent to the terminal ether oxygen **D** (δ 3.54 – 3.58 ppm) and PEO methyl groups **E** (δ 3.38 – 3.41 ppm) appear in approximately the same ranges as the alkyne precursor, albeit broadened. The absence of the terminal alkyne proton signal **f** indicates pure Type 0M PEO PVC free of propiolate.

The $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectrum of Type 0M PEO propiolate measured in CDCl_3 exhibits an ester carbonyl signal **h** at δ 152.6 ppm (**Figure 4.13**). Alkyne sp-carbons **f** and **g** produce signals at δ 74.5 and 75.3 ppm. Propiolate ester methylene carbons **a** (Propiolate Ester-O-**CH₂**-C-O) are present at δ 71.9 ppm. Adjacent methylenes two carbons away from the ester **b** (Propiolate Ester-O-C-**CH₂**-O) are observed at δ 68.5 ppm. Large overlapping peaks at δ 70.55, 70.64 and 70.7 ppm represent centrally located PEO methylene carbons **c**. PEO methylene carbons **d** adjacent to the terminal ether oxygen (PEO-**CH₂**-O- CH_3) appears at δ 65.2 ppm, while the PEO methyl carbon **e** gives a signal at δ 59.0 ppm (PEO-C-O-**CH₃**).

The $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectrum of Type 0M PEO internally plasticized PVC displays a primary triazole ester carbonyl signal **L** at δ 161.0 ppm (**L'** minor regioisomer at δ 160.4 ppm), with concomitant quaternary carbon **K** (δ 138.1 ppm) and aromatic triazole carbon **F** (δ 129.7 ppm) as shown in **Figure 4.13**. Regioisomeric methylenes **A** adjacent to the primary triazole ester (1°TRZ Ester-O-**CH₂**) are observed at δ 71.9 and δ 72.5 ppm. PEO methylene carbon **B**

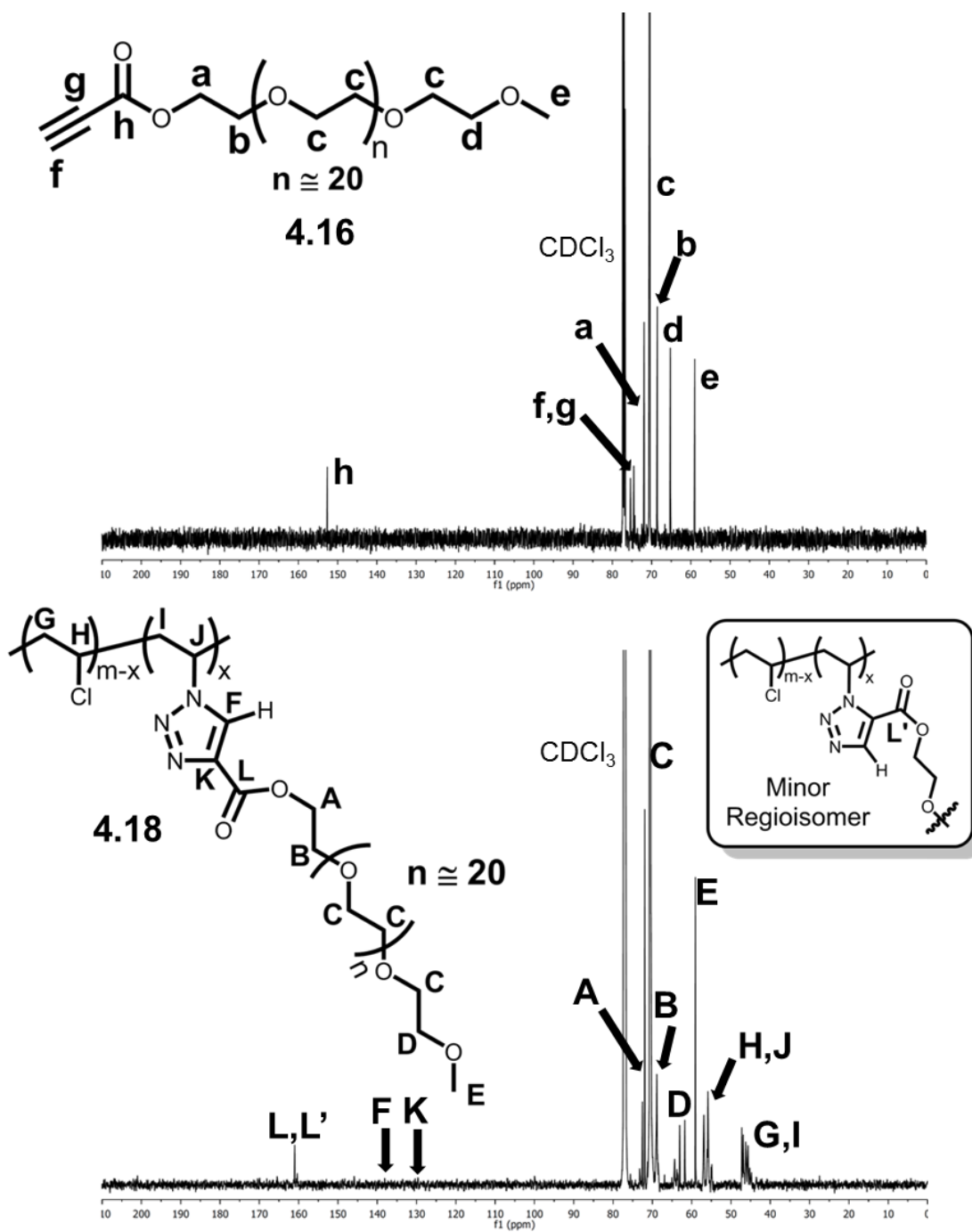


Figure 4.13 ¹³C-NMR Spectra of PEO₁₀₀₀Me Propiolate (4.16, Top @ 125 MHz) and Type 0M 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me (4.18, Bottom @ 200 MHz)

(1°TRZ Ester-O-C-CH₂-O) appears at δ 68.9 ppm. PEO methylene carbons **C** produce overlapping signals at δ 70.6 ppm. Carbons **D** next to the terminal ether oxygen (PEO-CH₂-O-CH₃) are noted at δ 63.0 and 64.9 ppm. PEO methyl carbons **E** are visible at δ 59.0 and 61.8 ppm (PEO-C-O-CH₃). The disappearance of the precursor PEO propiolate sp-carbon signals **f** and **g** (δ 74.5 and 75.3 ppm) is indicative of thorough polymer purification. Main chain PVC carbons remain predominately unaltered relative to the Type 0D PEO system.

4.6 DSC Analysis: 4th Generation PEO Triazole-Plasticizers

All 4th generation polymers contain PEO. Thermal analyses of PVC functionalized with 4th generation triazole-phthalate mimics were performed by our collaborators at IBM Almaden in an analogous fashion to samples internally plasticized by all prior generations of plasticizers. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) was performed for each 4th generation polymer to quantitatively determine the degree of plasticization. **Table 4.2** summarizes the T_g values and weight percentages of the 4th generation internally plasticized polymers with unmodified PVC. DSC results of PVC with PEO triazole-plasticizers are illustrated as a bar graph in **Figure 4.14**. Glass transition temperatures versus weight percent plasticizer of 4th generation analogues with DEHP-PVC standards are presented in **Figure 4.15**. DSC data reveals numerous samples with sub-zero glass transition temperatures. Common to all samples displaying sub-zero T_g values are high weight percentages of plasticizer at 15 mole percent functionalization: PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me contains the lowest weight percent plasticizer (67.8 Wt% Plasticizer), while PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me has the highest weight percent plasticizer (84.3 Wt% Plasticizer). Interestingly, Type 1 PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me at 72.3 weight percent plasticizer displayed a higher than expected glass transition temperature ($T_g = -1$ °C) when compared to its other 4th generation congeners. The closest relative to Type 1 PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me is another Type 1 analogue, PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me functionalized with three ethylene oxide repeat units in the PEO chain ($T_g = 18$ °C, 62.3 Wt% Plasticizer). Other 4th generation plasticizers gave lower glass transition

Polymer	Type	Mol %	Wt % Plasticizer	T _g (°C)
PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	0D PEO	5	25.1	61
		15	53.5	42
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	1 PEO	5	32.5	57
		15	62.3	18
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	2 PEO	5	47.7	24
		15	75.8	-17
PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	0D PEO	5	38.0	49
		15	67.8	-3
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	1 PEO	5	43.2	71
		15	72.3	-1
PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₅₅₀ Me	0D PEO	5	47.7	27
		15	75.8	-29
PVC-TRZ-PEO ₁₀₀₀ Me	0M PEO	5	45.0	65
		15	73.7	-35
PVC-TRZ-PEO ₂₀₀₀ Me	0M PEO	5	61.0	22
		15	84.3	-42

Table 4.1 Glass Transition Temperatures and Weight Percentages of 4th Generation PEO Triazole Plasticizers

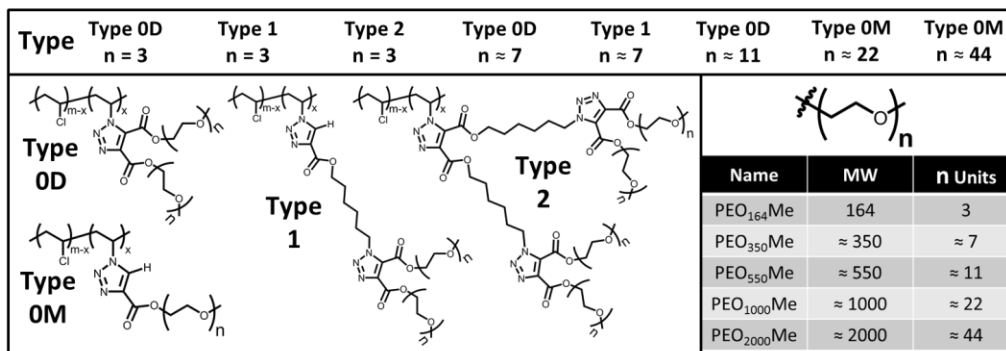
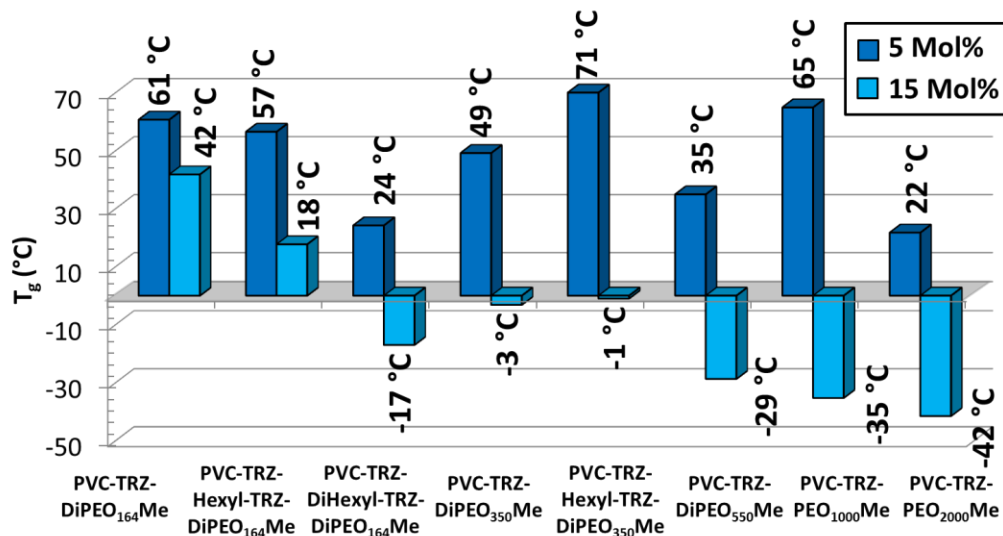


Figure 4.14 DSC Data for 4th Generation PEO Triazole Plasticizers

temperatures than Type 1 PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me with about the same amount of plasticizer. For example, Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me containing less plasticizer by weight (67.8 Wt% Plasticizer) has a glass transition temperature of -3 °C, while PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me at a marginally higher weight percent plasticizer (75.8 Wt% Plasticizer) exhibits a T_g of -29 °C. Likewise, Type 2 PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me (T_g = -17 °C, 75.8 Wt% Plasticizer) displays a lower T_g than Type 1 PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me. At 5 mole percent, Type 1 PEO plasticizers displayed anomalous glass transition temperatures: PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me (T_g = 57 °C, 32.5 Wt% Plasticizer) and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me (T_g = 71 °C, 43.2 Wt% Plasticizer) gave higher T_g values than many of the 4th generation relatives.

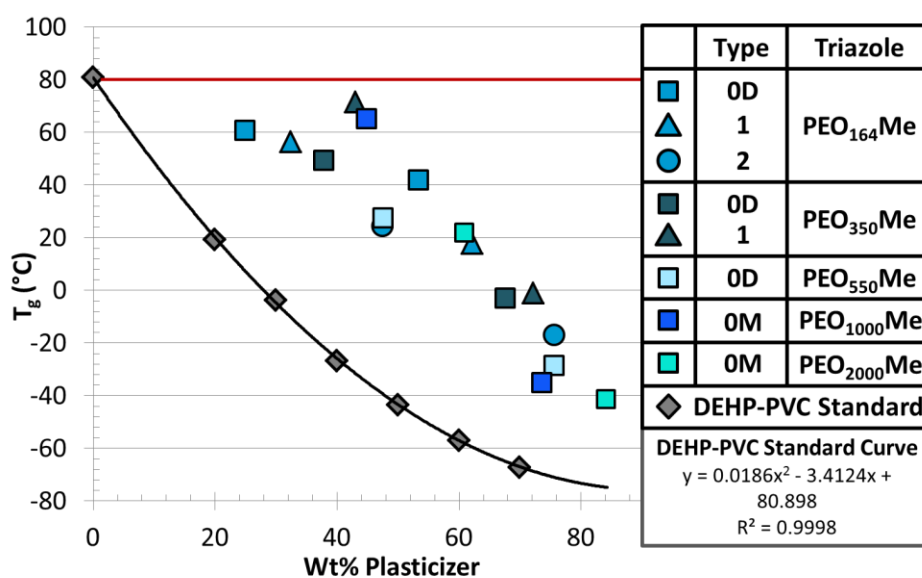


Figure 4.15 Overlay of T_g Values vs. Weight Percent of Plasticizer with DEHP-PVC Standard Mixtures and 4th Generation Triazole Plasticizers

Out of all the 4th generation plasticizers synthesized and tested, Type 0M samples PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me (T_g = -35 °C, 73.7 Wt% Plasticizer) and PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me (T_g = -42 °C, 84.3 Wt% Plasticizer) at 15 mole percent gave the lowest glass transition temperatures. Type 0M PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me containing less plasticizer by weight than Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me (T_g = -29 °C, 75.8 Wt% Plasticizer) has a lower T_g (T_g = -35 °C).

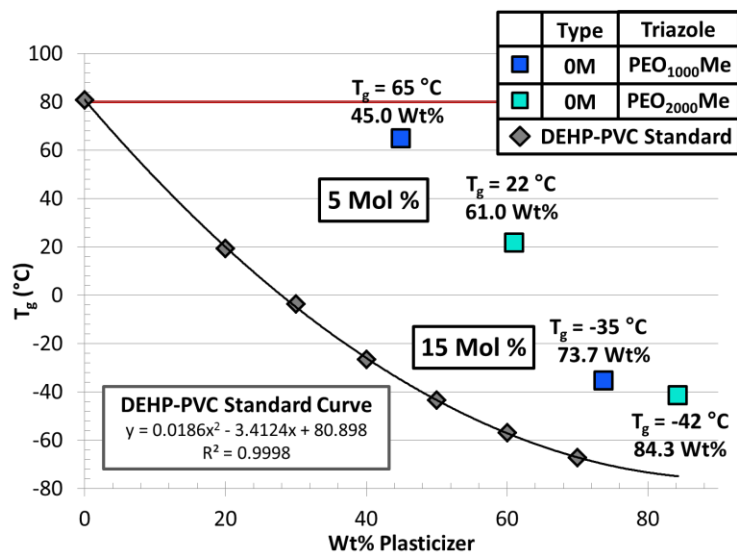


Figure 4.16 Glass Transition Temperatures Versus Weight Percent Plasticizer of Type 0M PEO PVC and DEHP-PVC Standards

A large disparity in glass transition temperatures is noted between Type 0M PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me and PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me (**Figure 4.16**). At 5 mole percent, PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me ($T_g = 65\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 45.0 Wt% Plasticizer) exhibits a much higher T_g relative to PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me ($T_g = 22\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 61.0 Wt% Plasticizer). In contrast, 15 mole percent PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me ($T_g = -35\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 73.7 Wt% Plasticizer) displays a similar T_g to PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me ($T_g = -42\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 84.3 Wt% Plasticizer). This phenomenon can be explained by the plasticizer weight percentages when utilizing PEO₂₀₀₀Me versus PEO₁₀₀₀Me. PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me has 16.0% more plasticizer by weight than PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me. Increasing the plasticizer molecular weight by the addition of PEO repeat units per triazole anchoring point leads to vastly decreased glass transition temperatures: this highlights the necessity of large molecular weight internal plasticizers with small amounts of covalent attachment points to PVC. As demonstrated by the 15 mole percent Type 0M samples, an increase of anchoring points diminishes the plasticization effect stemming from increased plasticizer molecular weight: the presence of low molecular weight plasticizers is compensated by more covalent attachment points, which incorporates more plasticizer into the PVC matrix.

4.7 Plasticizer Efficiencies: 4th Generation PEO Triazole-Plasticizers Versus DEHP-PVC

Plasticization efficiency ($E\Delta T_g$) values were calculated for 5 mole percent (**Table 4.3**) and 15 mole percent (**Table 4.4**) polymers incorporating 4th generation PEO triazole internal plasticizers. $E\Delta T_g$ values for 4th generation polymers are depicted in **Figure 4.17**.

Polymer	Wt% TRZ	T _g TRZ (°C)	ΔT_g TRZ	DEHP T _g (°C)	ΔT_g DEHP	$E\Delta T_g$	Type
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	47.7	24	56.8	-39.5	120.5	47.1	2 PEO
PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₅₅₀ Me	47.7	27	53.6	-39.5	120.5	44.5	0D PEO
PVC-TRZ-PEO ₂₀₀₀ Me	61.0	22	59.2	-58.0	139.0	42.6	0M PEO
PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	38.0	49	31.8	-21.9	102.9	30.9	0D PEO
PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	25.1	61	20.3	7.0	74.0	27.5	0D PEO
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	32.5	57	24.5	-10.3	91.2	26.8	1 PEO
PVC-TRZ-PEO ₁₀₀₀ Me	45.0	65	16.1	-34.9	115.9	13.9	0M PEO
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	43.1	71	9.5	-31.7	112.7	8.5	1 PEO

Table 4.3 Plasticization Efficiencies of 5 Mol % 4th Generation PEO Internally Plasticized PVC Ranked By Descending $E\Delta T_g$ Values

Polymer	Wt% TRZ	T _g TRZ (°C)	ΔT_g TRZ	DEHP T _g (°C)	ΔT_g DEHP	$E\Delta T_g$	Type
PVC-TRZ-PEO ₂₀₀₀ Me	84.3	-42	122.5	-74.6	155.6	78.7	0M PEO
PVC-TRZ-PEO ₁₀₀₀ Me	73.7	-35	116.3	-69.6	150.6	77.2	0M PEO
PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₅₅₀ Me	75.8	-29	109.7	-70.9	151.8	72.2	0D PEO
PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	75.8	-17	98.0	-70.9	151.8	64.5	2 PEO
PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	67.8	-3	84.1	-65.0	145.9	57.7	0D PEO
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	72.3	-1	82.0	-68.6	149.5	54.8	1 PEO
PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	62.3	18	63.3	-59.5	140.4	45.1	1 PEO
PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	53.5	42	39.2	-48.4	129.4	30.3	0D PEO

Table 4.4 Plasticization Efficiencies of 15 Mol % 4th Generation PEO Internally Plasticized PVC Ranked By Descending $E\Delta T_g$ Values

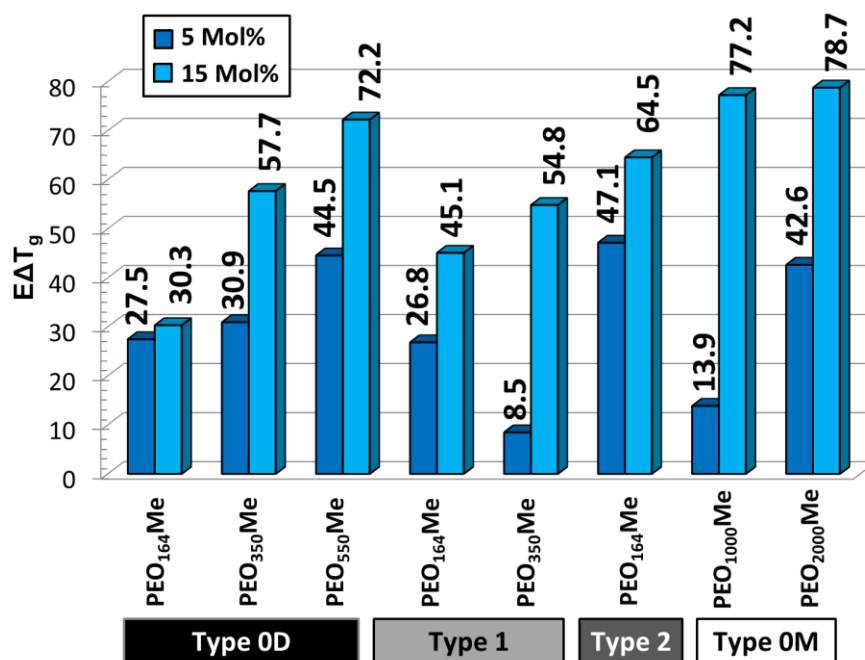


Figure 4.17 Efficiency Values (EAT_g) of 4th Generation Internally Plasticized PVC

At 5 mole percent, Type 2 PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me gives the highest EAT_g value ($EAT_g = 47.1$). Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me ($EAT_g = 44.5$) and Type 0M PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me ($EAT_g = 42.6$) furnished similar plasticization efficiency values to the Type 2 PEO sample. A notable efficiency decrease in Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me ($EAT_g = 30.9$) represents an 11.7% drop compared to Type 0M PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me. Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me ($EAT_g = 27.5$) has a similar EAT_g to its relative, PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me. Type 1 PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me possessing three ethylene oxide repeat units, gives an efficiency value of 26.8. A significantly worse EAT_g was calculated for PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me ($EAT_g = 13.9$), representing a 13.0% decrease from PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me. The lowest efficiency value belongs to Type 1 PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me ($EAT_g = 8.5$) with approximately 7 to 8 ethylene oxide repeat units. Its analogue, Type 1 PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me, is 18.4% more efficient.

Miscibility of the internal plasticizer plays a key role in its ability to soften PVC. While Type 1 PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me contains a greater mass of plasticizer than PVC-

TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me, the longer PEO chain does not necessarily equate to better efficiencies and depressed glass transition temperatures, especially when functionalized at 5 mole percent. In externally plasticized polyether-based systems,⁶ miscibility with PVC plays a major role in how efficiently an emollient engenders flexibility.⁷ The increase in ethylene oxide repeat units in combination with the hexyl tether may decrease the compatibility of the Type 1 PEO plasticizers with PVC.⁶ In addition, the diminished presence of chain ends with respect to the increasing size of the PEO chains in the polymer may contribute to elevated glass transition temperatures and significant decreases in $E\Delta T_g$: the scarcity of chain ends may impede the ability of these Type 1 PEO plasticizers to optimally generate space between PVC chains at 5 mole percent in PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me.

At 15 mole percent, Type 0M PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me ($E\Delta T_g = 78.7$) and PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me ($E\Delta T_g = 77.2$) exhibited the two highest $E\Delta T_g$ values of all 4th generation PEO triazole-plasticizers. Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me ($E\Delta T_g = 72.2$) gave the next highest efficiency value, followed by Type 2 PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me ($E\Delta T_g = 64.5$) and Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me ($E\Delta T_g = 57.7$). Type 1 PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me ($E\Delta T_g = 54.8$) and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me ($E\Delta T_g = 45.1$) reveal inverted efficiency values compared to their 5 mole percent analogues. Finally, Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me ($E\Delta T_g = 30.3$) displays the lowest plasticization efficiency value of the 4th generation plasticizers at 15 mole percent.

Branching at the PVC backbone appears to be imperative to enhanced plasticization efficiencies at 5 mole percent. Type 2 PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me ($E\Delta T_g = 47.1$), containing two hexyl tethers and PEO chains with three repeat units proved more efficient than Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me ($E\Delta T_g = 44.5$) and Type 0M PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me ($E\Delta T_g = 42.6$). Analyzing the structural Type of these PEO plasticizers, Type 0D TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me is branched at the primary triazole with two PEO₅₅₀Me chains, while Type 0M

TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me is functionalized with a single PEO chain and is comparatively linear. The high weight percentage of internal plasticizer in PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me (61.0 Wt% Plasticizer) compared to PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me (47.7 Wt% Plasticizer) compensates for the lack of branching at the primary triazole, yielding similar T_g values. The next two most efficient samples were also branched Type 0D PEO plasticizers. In contrast, the samples with the lowest efficiencies are Type 1 and Type 0M. Inversion of $E\Delta T_g$ values between Type 1 PEO samples at 5 and 15 mole percent plasticizer illustrates that at different levels of functionalization, branching and long PEO chains are required to impart enhanced plasticization efficiencies. At 5 mole percent, compatibility of TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me may be better than that of TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me, while at 15 mole percent, the plasticizer mass increase between TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me (72.3 Wt% Plasticizer) and TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me (62.3 Wt% Plasticizer) takes precedence. The hexyl-tether does not seem to be essential in enhancing plasticization efficiency in PEO-functionalized triazole-plasticizers at 5 mole percent. However, a synergism of primary triazole branching and the hexyl-tether in Type 2 PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me gives the best $E\Delta T_g$ value, showing that the optimal internal plasticizer design contains a combination of these structural attributes.

In contrast, at 15 mole percent, high plasticizer molecular weight per anchoring unit takes precedence over structural branching. Long PEO chains are present in the top three samples. The highest $E\Delta T_g$ values belong to Type 0M PEO polymers. Compared to Type 0D TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me ($E\Delta T_g = 72.2$), a 7.7% $E\Delta T_g$ decrease in Type 2 PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me ($E\Delta T_g = 64.5$) shows that while branching at the primary triazole is key in enhancing plasticizing efficiency, the relative amount of PEO incorporated into the plasticizer is more important at high mole percentages.

4.8 Cumulative Thermal Analysis and Plasticizer Efficiencies: Triazole-Based Internally Plasticized PVC Versus DEHP-PVC

DSC results of all PVC samples containing triazole-plasticizers are illustrated in **Figure 4.18**. Glass transition temperatures versus weight percent plasticizer of the 4th generation analogues with DEHP-PVC standards are presented in **Figure 4.19**. Cumulative T_g values and weight percentages for all generations of plasticizer are listed in **Table 4.5**. $E\Delta T_g$ values for all samples are given in **Table 4.6** and **Table 4.7**. $E\Delta T_g$ values for PVC samples plasticized by all generations of triazole emollients are depicted in **Figure 4.20**.

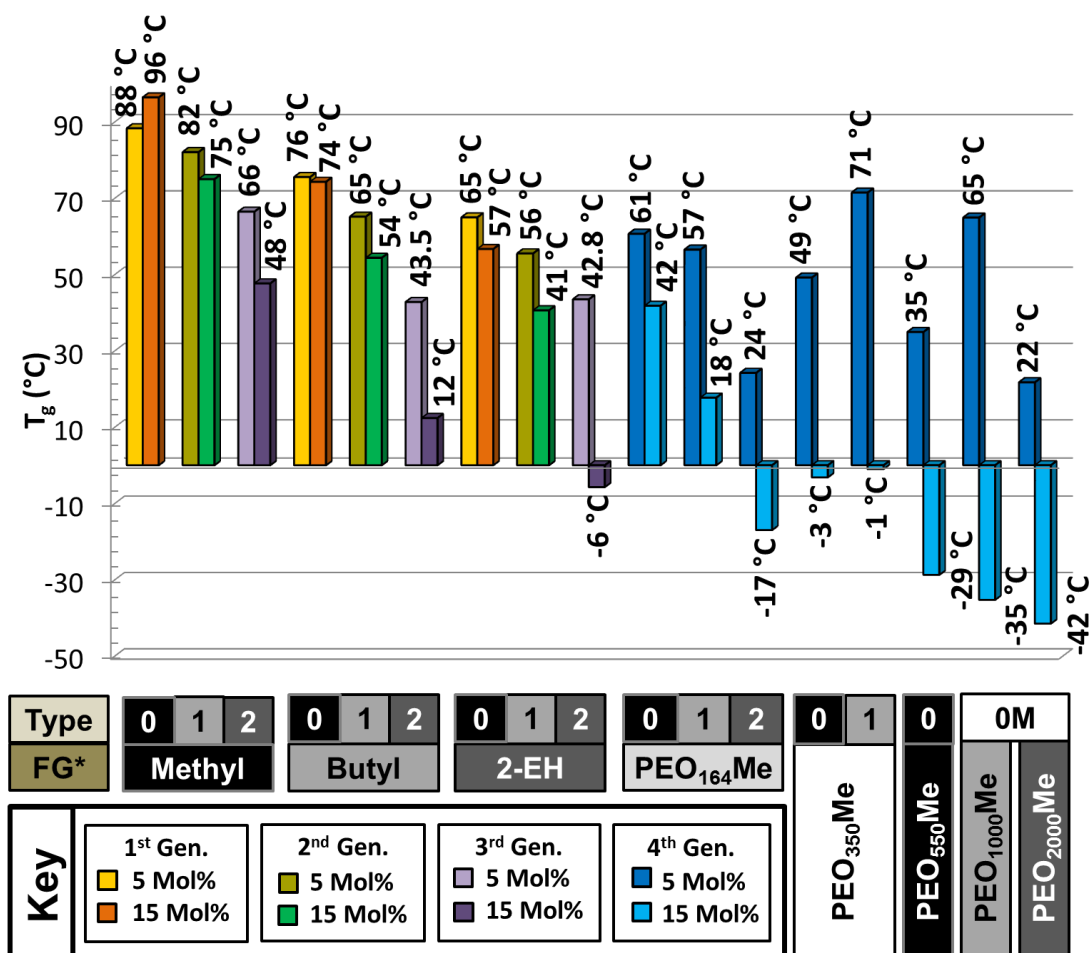


Figure 4.18 DSC Data for All Triazole Internally Plasticized PVC (*FG = Functional Group)

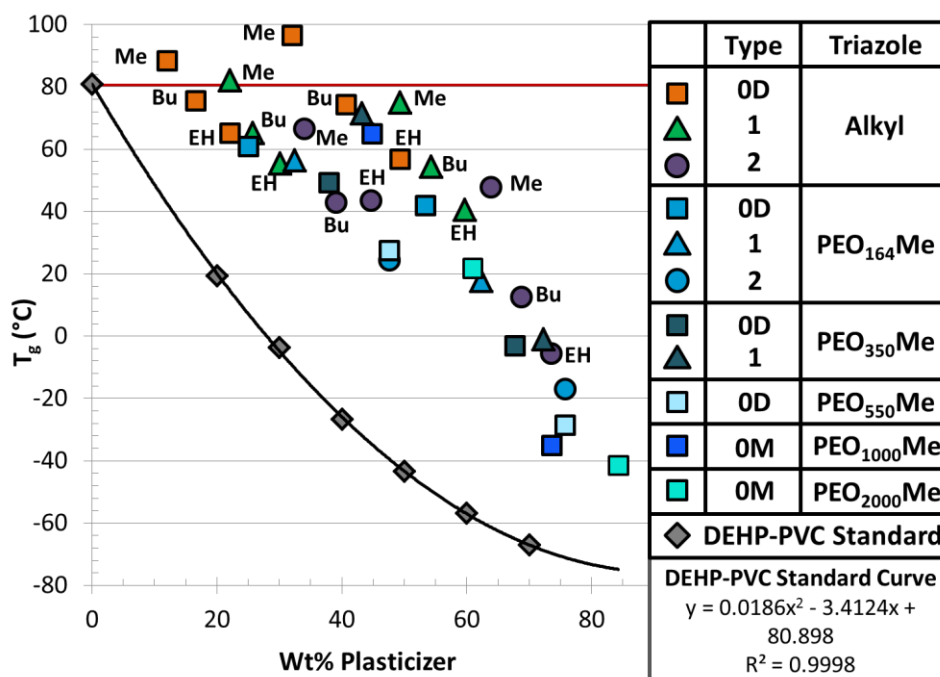


Figure 4.19 T_g Values Versus Weight Percent Plasticizer with DEHP-PVC Standard Mixtures and All Triazole Internally Plasticized PVC

As a whole, the triazole-plasticizer systems exhibiting higher efficiencies favor poly(ethylene oxide) moieties. For Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiMe containing only methyl ester groups (at 5 and 15 mole percent triazole), significant *anti*-plasticization is observed ($T_g = 88$ °C and 96 °C). At 5 mole percent, PVC-TRZ-DiMe displays an $E\Delta T_g$ of -19.0, and -17.1 at 15 mole percent. This is due to the rigid aromatic nature of the primary triazole anchor: π - π stacking of these triazole rings in the three-dimensional matrix of PVC can impart crystallization and stiffness to the modified polymer. DSC data gathered from PVC samples containing Type 0D alkyl emollients implies that plasticization occurs, albeit less efficiently, due to the inability to move about the polymeric matrix, stemming from anchoring the short alkyl plasticizing motifs directly to PVC. When utilizing alkyl groups, long, bulky, sterically hindered chains are necessary to obtain lower glass transition temperatures. This is apparent with the 1st generation Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiEH ($E\Delta T_g$ 5 Mol% = 24.1 and $E\Delta T_g$ 15 Mol% = 19.7) showing improved plasticizing efficacy over PVC-TRZ-DiBu ($E\Delta T_g$ 5 Mol% = 10.5 and $E\Delta T_g$ 15 Mol% = 6.2). The 4th generation Type 0D PEO system exhibits significant enhancements in plasticization efficiencies compared to the 1st generation Type 0D alkyl

Gen.	Polymer	Mol %	Wt %	T _g (°C)	Type	FG*
4	PVC-TRZ-PEO ₂₀₀₀ Me	15	84.3	-42	0M	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-PEO ₁₀₀₀ Me	15	73.7	-35	0M	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₅₅₀ Me	15	75.8	-29	0D	PEO
4	PVC-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	15	75.8	-17	2	PEO
3	PVC-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	15	73.5	-6	2	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	15	67.8	-3	0D	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	15	72.3	-1	1	PEO
3	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	15	68.8	12	2	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	15	62.3	18	1	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-PEO ₂₀₀₀ Me	5	61.0	22	0M	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	5	47.7	24	2	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₅₅₀ Me	5	47.7	27	0D	PEO
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	15	59.6	41	1	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	15	53.5	42	0D	PEO
3	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	5	39.1	42.8	2	Alkyl
3	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	5	44.7	43.5	2	Alkyl
3	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	15	63.9	48	2	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	5	38.0	49	0D	PEO
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	15	54.3	54	1	Alkyl
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	5	30.1	56	1	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	5	32.5	57	1	PEO
1	PVC-TRZ-DiEH	15	49.4	57	0D	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	5	25.1	61	0D	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-PEO ₁₀₀₀ Me	5	45.0	65	0M	PEO
1	PVC-TRZ-DiEH	5	22.1	65	0D	Alkyl
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	5	25.7	65	1	Alkyl
3	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	5	34.0	66	2	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	5	43.1	71	1	PEO
1	PVC-TRZ-DiBu	15	40.8	74	0D	Alkyl
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	15	49.3	75	1	Alkyl
1	PVC-TRZ-DiBu	5	16.7	76	0D	Alkyl
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	5	22.1	82	1	Alkyl
1	PVC-TRZ-DiMe	5	12.1	88	0D	Alkyl
1	PVC-TRZ-DiMe	15	32.1	96	0D	Alkyl

Table 4.5 Glass Transition Temperatures of All Triazole Internally Plasticized PVC Ordered By Ascending T_g Values (*FG = Functional Group)

Gen.	Polymer	Wt %	T _g (°C)	EΔT _g	Type	FG*
4	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	47.7	24	47.1	2	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₅₅₀ Me	47.7	27	44.5	0D	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-PEO ₂₀₀₀ Me	61.0	22	42.6	0M	PEO
3	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	39.1	42.8	36.4	2	Alkyl
3	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	44.7	43.5	32.5	2	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	38.0	49	30.9	0D	PEO
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	30.1	56	29.7	1	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	25.1	61	27.5	0D	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	32.5	57	26.8	1	PEO
1	PVC-TRZ-DiEH	22.1	65	24.1	0D	Alkyl
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	25.7	65	21.0	1	Alkyl
3	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	34.0	66	15.4	2	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-PEO ₁₀₀₀ Me	45.0	65	13.9	0M	PEO
1	PVC-TRZ-DiBu	16.7	76	10.5	0D	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	43.1	71	8.5	1	PEO
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	22.1	82	-1.6	1	Alkyl
1	PVC-TRZ-DiMe	12.1	88	-19.0	0D	Alkyl

Table 4.6 Plasticization Efficiencies of All 5 Mol% Triazole Internally Plasticized PVC Ranked By Descending EΔT_g Values (*FG = Functional Group)

Gen.	Polymer	Wt %	T _g (°C)	EΔT _g	Type	FG*
4	PVC-TRZ-PEO ₂₀₀₀ Me	84.3	-42	78.7	0M	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-PEO ₁₀₀₀ Me	73.7	-35	77.2	0M	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₅₅₀ Me	75.8	-29	72.2	0D	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	75.8	-17	64.5	2	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	67.8	-3	57.7	0D	PEO
3	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH	73.5	-6	57.6	2	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	72.3	-1	54.8	1	PEO
3	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu	68.8	12	46.7	2	Alkyl
4	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	62.3	18	45.1	1	PEO
4	PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	53.5	42	30.3	0D	PEO
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH	59.6	41	29.4	1	Alkyl
3	PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiMe	63.9	48	23.4	2	Alkyl
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu	54.3	54	20.4	1	Alkyl
1	PVC-TRZ-DiEH	49.4	57	19.7	0D	Alkyl
1	PVC-TRZ-DiBu	40.8	74	6.2	0D	Alkyl
2	PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiMe	49.3	75	4.9	1	Alkyl
1	PVC-TRZ-DiMe	32.1	96	-17.1	0D	Alkyl

Table 4.7 Plasticization Efficiencies of All 15 Mol% Triazole Internally Plasticized PVC Ranked By Descending EΔT_g Values (*FG = Functional Group)

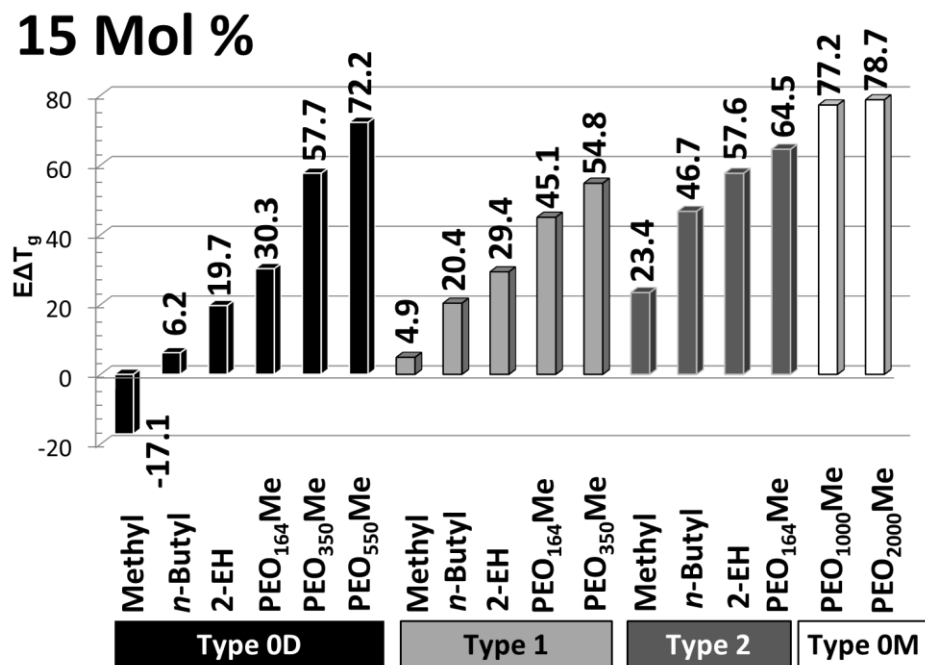
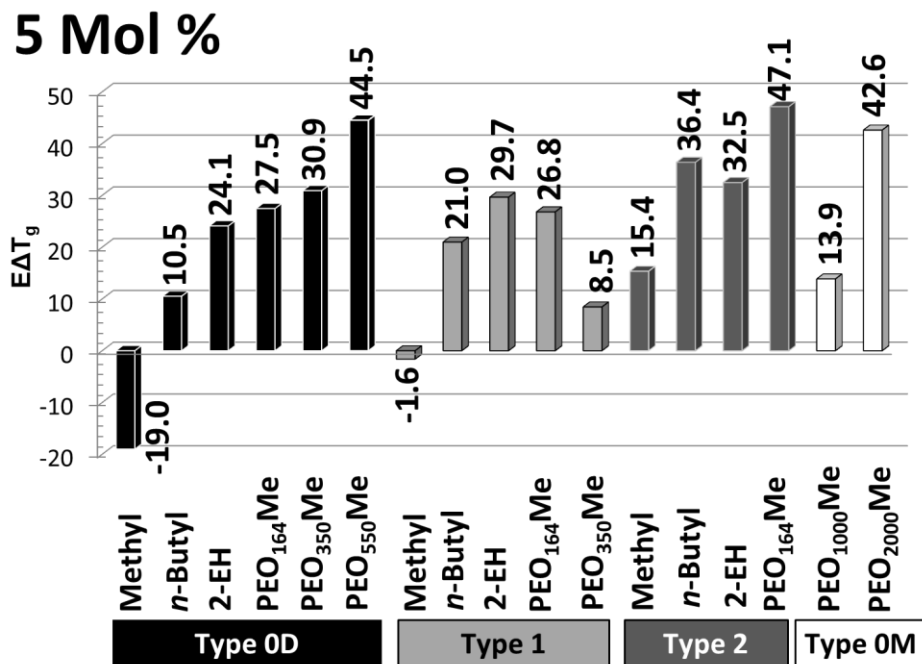


Figure 4.20 Efficiency Values of All Triazole Internally Plasticized PVC
 Top: 5 Mol % EAT_g Values Grouped by Type
 Bottom: 15 Mol % EAT_g Values Grouped by Type

analogues. PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me, with three ethylene oxide repeat units, give EΔT_g values of 27.5 at 5 mole percent and 30.3 at 15 mole percent, while PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me (EΔT_g 5 Mol% = 30.9 and EΔT_g 15 Mol% = 57.7) and PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me (EΔT_g 5 Mol% = 44.5 and EΔT_g 15 Mol% = 72.2) displays EΔT_g values surpassing all Type 0D alkyl derivatives. Longer PEO chains improves plasticization efficacy, which is further amplified at higher mole percentages.

The Type 1 system containing a single hexyl tether enhanced the efficacy of the triazole-plasticizers over the Type 0D emollients. This is presumably due to the space created between PVC and the secondary triazole, which was designed to maximize the mobility of the plasticizer amongst the polymeric matrix. Out of the 2nd generation Type 1 alkyl derivatives, PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH possesses the highest efficiency values (EΔT_g 5 Mol% = 29.7 and EΔT_g 15 Mol% = 29.4) over the *n*-butyl and methyl relatives. Type 1 PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH shows improvement over the Type 0D predecessor, PVC-TRZ-DiEH, notably at 15 mole percent. The anti-plasticization effect of the rigid primary triazole directly on PVC is quelled with the addition of the hexyl tether. Comparatively, at 5 mole percent, Type 1 PEO samples PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me (EΔT_g 5 Mol% = 26.8) and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me (EΔT_g 5 Mol% = 8.5) are less efficient than PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH. Nonetheless, efficiencies are restored at 15 mole percent with both PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me (EΔT_g 15 Mol% = 45.1) and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me (EΔT_g 15 Mol% = 54.8) displaying EΔT_g values greater than PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH.

Type 2 triazole-plasticizers demonstrate superior EΔT_g values over the Type 1 system. These covalently-bound plasticizers contain a branch point at the primary triazole created by two hexyl tethers. Alkyl functionalized Type 2 PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu (EΔT_g 5 Mol% = 36.4 and EΔT_g 15 Mol% = 46.7) and PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH (EΔT_g 5 Mol% = 32.5 and EΔT_g 15 Mol% = 57.6) display greater efficiencies over Type 1 alkyl PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu and PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH, and Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiBu and PVC-

TRZ-DiEH. Extended branching and lengthy alkyl chains present in both the primary and secondary triazoles are imperative in conveying the maximum plasticizing efficiency when utilizing alkyl moieties to internally plasticize PVC. Type 2 PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me ($E\Delta T_g$ 5 Mol% = 47.1 and $E\Delta T_g$ 15 Mol% = 64.5), which has PEO-functionalized secondary triazole esters, have the highest $E\Delta T_g$ out of all 5 mole percent samples, and is the most efficient Type 2 analogue. At 15 mole percent, PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me has nearly the same plasticizer weight percentage as Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me; despite this, the Type 2 sample, PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me ($T_g = -17\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) exhibits a glass transition temperature approximately $12\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ higher than Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me ($T_g = -29\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$), with a concomitant $E\Delta T_g$ decrease of 7.7%. Taken together, the higher abundance of PEO at elevated levels of substitution takes precedence over increasing the distance and mobility of the secondary triazole with PVC. Type 0M PEO triazole-plasticizers PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me and PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me were synthesized to test this observation.

Poly(ethylene oxide) mono methyl ethers, with an average molecular weight of 1000 and 2000 g/mol, were employed to create Type 0M triazole plasticizers which are predominantly comprised of PEO. These propiolates are readily synthesized and cyclized onto PVC-azide, furnishing PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me and PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me. At 15 mole percent, the Type 0M PEO system gives the two highest $E\Delta T_g$ values. At 5 mole percent, disparate $E\Delta T_g$ values between Type 0M PEO plasticizers highlights the prerequisite for covalently-bound plasticizers to possess large molecular weights per anchoring point (**Figure 4.16**)

Due to the reduced amount of anchoring points at 5 mole percent, an amplified effect on efficiency and glass transition temperatures takes place with structural branching, spacing, and compatibility with PVC. **Table 4.6** shows that at 5 mole percent, many other polymers ranging from Type 0D, 1, and 2 containing less plasticizer by weight, give lower glass

transition temperatures and better $E\Delta T_g$ values than Type 0M PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me ($E\Delta T_g$ 5 Mol% = 13.9, 45.0 Wt% Plasticizer), which has no hexyl tether or appreciable structural branching. The best $E\Delta T_g$ values observed at 5 mole percent are with Type 2 PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me ($E\Delta T_g$ 5 Mol% = 47.7), which possesses two hexyl tethers with pendant PEO secondary triazoles, and Type 0D PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me ($E\Delta T_g$ 5 Mol% = 44.5), incorporating two esters of PEO₅₅₀Me, branching off the primary triazole.

At 15 mole percent, structural aspects are less important to achieve enhanced plasticizer efficiency. The greater abundance of covalently-bound emollient partially compensates for the lack of branching and spacing that is imperative to plasticizing efficacy at low mole and weight percentages. The upper half of **Table 4.7** is dominated by PEO-functionalized plasticizers: the top five polymers exhibiting the highest $E\Delta T_g$ values contain PEO chains. Within this subcategory, the two samples displaying the best efficiencies are Type 0M PEO plasticizers, which have no branching at the primary triazole. The most efficient alkyl-based triazole-plasticizer is Type 2 PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH (T_g = -6 °C, $E\Delta T_g$ 15 Mol% = 57.6, 73.5 Wt% Plasticizer). At nearly the same weight percent plasticizer (73.72 Wt% Plasticizer), Type 0M PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me displays a superior plasticization efficiency value ($E\Delta T_g$ 15 Mol% = 77.2) and lower glass transition temperature (T_g = -35 °C) than PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH. At 15 mole percent, the only alkyl-based polymers that rank within the top ten $E\Delta T_g$ values belong to 3rd generation, Type 2 plasticizers: PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH and PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiBu (**Table 4.7**). When utilizing alkyl functionalized plasticizing groups, triazole branching points, spacing the secondary triazole away from the PVC backbone, and long branched alkyl chains are necessary to obtain optimized PVC internal plasticizers regardless of weight percentage of emollient. In contrast, for PEO-based plasticizers at high mole percentages, the length of the PEO chain influences the plasticizing efficiency and glass transition temperature more than branching and distancing of the emollient from PVC.

4.9 Thermogravimetric Analysis: PEO-Triazole Internal Plasticizers

The thermal stability of 4th generation PEO triazole internally plasticized PVC was measured by our collaborators at IBM Almaden Research Center through derivative thermogravimetry (DTG) and thermogravimetric analyses (TGA) with a TA Instruments TGA Q500. A scanning range between 30 °C to 500 °C with a heating rate of 10 °C per minute was implemented in both air and nitrogen atmospheres. Degradation temperatures of PVC internally plasticized by the 4th generation system are given in **Table 4.8**.

All 4th generation PEO triazole internal plasticizers exhibit decreased $T_{d,PVC1}$ temperatures compared to unmodified PVC. However, many of these samples containing high weight percentages of triazole-plasticizer produce a DTG peak adjacent to $T_{d,PVC1}$ at elevated temperatures ranging from 270 °C to 309 °C. One possibility for this second peak may stem from a secondary dehydrochlorination event, where the PEO-based emollient retards the elimination of HCl at a lower temperatures: this phenomenon is labeled as $T_{d,PVC1.5}$ in **Table 4.8**.

For many PEO 4th generation samples, two unique DTG peaks appear between 336 °C to 366 °C and 383 °C to 418 °C (**Table 4.8**). These degradation events relate to PEO. PEO peaks in the range of 336 °C to 366 °C occur exclusively in Type 0D, Type 1 and Type 2 samples. All but one of these polymers (5% PVC-TRZ-PEO₅₅₀Me) with this peak is functionalized with 15 mole percent triazole-plasticizer. In addition, this event was measured primarily in nitrogen, with the exception of two samples exhibiting peaks in this range when measured in air (15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me and 15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me). These samples share identical secondary triazoles and contain hexyl tethers belonging to Type 1 and 2 PEO plasticizers. Slightly lower degradation temperatures (~340 °C) were observed in these samples compared to Type 0D PEO samples (~350 °C to 360 °C). At 15 mole percent, alkyl-based triazole-plasticized PVC from the 2nd

Polymer	Atm	T _d	T _d	T _d	T _d	T _d	T _d	T _d	T _d	T _d
		PVC1 (°C)	PVC1.5 (°C)	PVC2 (°C)	Hexyl (°C)	PEO (°C)	PEO2 (°C)	TRZ (°C)	TRZ1 (°C)	TRZ2 (°C)
5% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	N ₂	262	-	441	-	-	-	-	453	-
	Air	269	-	444	-	-	-	434	451	463
15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	N ₂	269	-	-	-	-	-	438	-	-
	Air	273	-	446	-	-	-	431	456	-
5% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	N ₂	256	-	437	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	266	-	442	-	-	-	434	-	459
15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	N ₂	265	300	442	-	361	-	429	-	-
	Air	271	302	447	-	-	409	436	-	-
5% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₅₅₀ Me	N ₂	265	-	-	-	366	-	433	-	-
	Air	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₅₅₀ Me	N ₂	253	291	-	-	350	418	432	-	-
	Air	262	299	442	-	-	413	-	-	463
5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	N ₂	263	-	443	-	-	-	432	-	-
	Air	268	-	445	-	-	-	435	-	468
15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	N ₂	267	-	439	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	271	-	445	343	-	415	-	-	-
5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	N ₂	253	-	442	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₃₅₀ Me	N ₂	245	270	-	345	-	-	432	-	-
	Air	253	278	444	-	-	410	-	457	-
5% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	N ₂	261	284	447	-	-	-	435	-	-
	Air	266	285	443	-	-	-	432	454	-
15% PVC-TRZ-iHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO ₁₆₄ Me	N ₂	276	307	446	-	-	-	434	-	-
	Air	282	-	441	336	-	398	-	-	-
5% PVC-TRZ-PEO ₁₀₀₀ Me	N ₂	261	-	442	-	-	-	430	-	-
	Air	264	-	443	-	-	-	435	-	461
15% PVC-TRZ-PEO ₁₀₀₀ Me	N ₂	254	-	449	-	-	383	433	-	-
	Air	260	309	-	-	-	398	-	-	470
5% PVC-TRZ-PEO ₂₀₀₀ Me	N ₂	249	-	443	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Air	255	-	448	-	-	-	428	-	465
15% PVC-TRZ-PEO ₂₀₀₀ Me	N ₂	247	-	-	-	-	388	434	-	-
	Air	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 4.8 TGA/DTG Degradation Temperatures of 4th Generation PEO-Functionalized Internally Plasticized PVC

and 3rd generation showed similar degradation events in samples containing n-butyl or 2-ethylhexyl groups as the Type 1 and 2 PEO samples. In *Chapter 2*, 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu gave a DTG peak at 325 °C, while 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH displayed a peak 340 °C when measured in air (**Table 2.16**). Likewise, 3rd generation polymers displayed comparable degradation temperatures in air: 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu produced a peak at 337 °C and 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH gave a peak at 351 °C (**Table 3.10**). All 4th generation Type 1 and 2 polymers at 15 mole percent exhibit DTG peaks in this range: 336 °C (15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me), 343 °C (15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me) and 345 °C (15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me). Another degradation event stemming from PEO occurs at marginally higher temperatures in Type 0D PEO plasticizers: 15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me (350 °C, N₂), 15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me (361 °C, N₂), and 5% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me (366 °C, N₂). Although the DTG peaks of Type 0D, Type 1 and Type 2 4th generation analogues appear similar, it is evident that the degradation events of Type 1 and 2 PEO samples between 336 °C and 345 °C must originate from the hexyl-tether ($T_{d,Hexyl}$), while the events between 350 °C and 366 °C belonging to Type 0D PEO polymers are specific to poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether chains ($T_{d,PEO}$).

A secondary degradation event unique to PEO occurs at elevated temperatures between 383 °C and 398 °C ($T_{d,PEO2}$). All emollients possessing a PEO peak ($T_{d,PEO}$) at approximately 360 °C contain relatively short PEO chains compared to Type 0M derivatives which possess long chains of 1000 g/mol or 2000 g/mol. This is particularly apparent in Type 0M plasticized PVC, which have DTG spectra dominated by peaks originating from PEO. Both 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me (383 °C N₂, 398 °C air) and 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me (388 °C, N₂) are principally comprised of PEO, exhibiting substantial degradation events in this range. Polymers with intermediate length PEO chains (PEO₃₅₀Me and PEO₅₅₀Me) containing 15 mole percent plasticizer produce DTG peaks similar to Type 0M derivatives, albeit weaker and at an elevated temperature range between 409 °C and 418 °C. $T_{d,PEO2}$ of

Type 0M plasticized PVC is quite large and broad, which appear to overshadow degradation events between approximately 410 °C and 420 °C, observed in samples containing intermediate length PEO chains.

Many 4th generation polymers did not have a distinctive $T_{d,PVC2}$ peak at 442 °C. Broad DTG peaks were measured between 428 °C to 438 °C. Numerous samples displayed extremely weak $T_{d,PVC2}$ peaks, which overlap with a triazole degradation event ($T_{d,TRZ} = \sim 430$ °C) transpiring at temperatures near $T_{d,PVC2}$. TGA and DTG data from the first three generations of internally plasticized PVC implies that degradation in this temperature range arise from ester hydrolysis on the primary or secondary triazole. Hydrolysis at approximately 430 °C was not as prevalent in the alkyl-based emollients compared to the 4th generation PEO polymers. Another explanation for this broadened degradation event may originate from the increase in polarity of the polymeric matrix. In juxtaposition to the 3rd generation analogue containing two non-polar hexyl tethers with 2-ethylhexyl triazole esters (15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-DiEH), the 4th generation samples possess polar PEO chains. In the first degradation event stemming from PVC ($T_{d,PVC1}$), hydrochloric acid (HCl) is liberated through the dehydrochlorination of PVC. The reactivity of HCl would increase in this relatively polar environment. Therefore, ester hydrolysis mediated by catalytic HCl should ensue at lower temperatures. This reasoning also predicts the ubiquitous decrease in $T_{d,PVC1}$ of all polymers incorporating PEO chains.

4.10 Plasticizer Migration: *n*-Hexane Extraction of Triazole-Based Internally Plasticized PVC Versus DEHP-PVC

The degree of plasticizer migration was determined by a process derived from an ASTM International standard test method (ASTM-D5227). This method describes an extraction/gravimetric procedure for determination of the amount of hexane-soluble low molecular weight material in a polymer matrix. Samples were extracted as thin square films

(approximately 15 x 15 mm), dried by high vacuum overnight and weighed. A Berzelius beaker (150 mL) with a stir bar (25mm x 8mm diameter) was utilized as the extraction apparatus. The procedure involved pre-heating 50 mL of *n*-hexane (Alfa Aesar, 95% HPLC distilled in glass at 50 °C for 15 minutes, prior to placing the polymer in the beaker. A stir rate of 100 revolutions per minute was used for all extractions. Each sample was extracted for 2 hours at 50 °C. After the extraction, the solvent was decanted. The polymer was placed in a 20 mL scintillation vial and dried at room temperature under high vacuum overnight. The mass of each sample post-extraction was determined. The degree of plasticizer migration was calculated using **Equation 4.1**:

Equation 4.1

$$\text{Degree of Plasticizer Migration (\%)} = \frac{\text{Initial Mass} - \text{Mass After Extraction}}{\text{Initial Mass} \times \text{Weight Fraction Plasticizer}} \times 100$$

where the “weight fraction plasticizer” is the weight percentage of plasticizer, divided by 100. The top 3 polymers with the highest plasticizing efficiency values ($E\Delta T_g$) were chosen for this migration study. Traditional DEHP-PVC (containing 60 weight percent DEHP) was used as a standard. Each polymer sample was extracted in triplicate. Plasticizer migration data are shown in **Table 4.9**. A stacked bar graph comparing average plasticizer migration percentages between DEHP-PVC standard (60 Wt% DEHP), 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me, 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me and 15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me is illustrated in **Figure 4.21**.

The traditional DEHP-PVC blend containing 60 percent DEHP by weight exhibits complete plasticizer migration ($99.96 \pm 0.07\%$). In contrast, PVC internally plasticized by triazole emollients display no appreciable plasticizer migration: 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me ($0.68 \pm 0.15\%$), 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me ($1.00 \pm 0.14\%$) and 15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me ($0.78 \pm 0.11\%$). These samples are substantially more stable under these conditions than the DEHP-PVC standard.

DEHP-PVC (60 Wt% DEHP)		
Before (mg)	After (mg)	% Migration
39.02	15.59	100.08
42.18	16.91	99.85
40.27	16.12	99.95
Average (% Migration)		99.96
Standard Error		0.07

15% PVC-TRZ-PEO ₂₀₀₀ Me		
Before (mg)	After (mg)	% Migration
54.31	54.13	0.39
55.83	55.46	0.79
54.69	54.29	0.87
Average (% Migration)		0.68
Standard Error		0.15

15% PVC-TRZ-PEO ₁₀₀₀ Me		
Before (mg)	After (mg)	% Migration
61.38	60.83	1.22
60.52	60.05	1.05
61.86	61.52	0.75
Average (% Migration)		1.00
Standard Error		0.14

15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO ₅₅₀ Me		
Before (mg)	After (mg)	% Migration
57.57	57.31	0.60
56.85	56.52	0.77
56.37	55.95	0.98
Average (% Migration)		0.78
Standard Error		0.11

Table 4.9 Plasticizer Migration Data (*n*-Hexane) of DEHP-PVC (60 Wt % DEHP) Versus 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me, 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me and 15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me

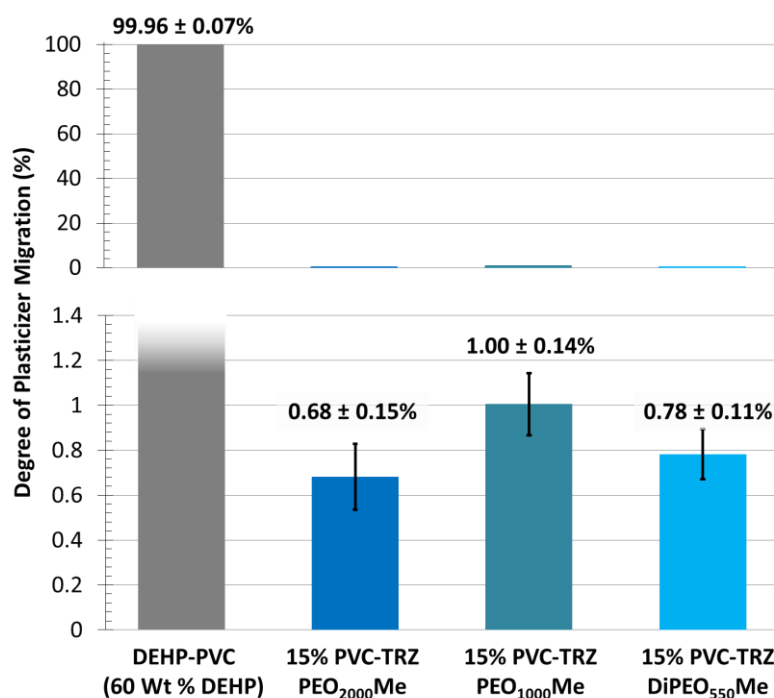


Figure 4.21 Degree of Plasticizer Migration (*n*-Hexane). Average Migration Percentages of DEHP-PVC (60 Wt % DEHP), 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me, 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me and 15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me

4.11 Conclusion

Type OD methyl esters directly appended to PVC displays the inherent anti-plasticization effect of the triazole ring, which diminishes with increasing molecular weight and branching of the alkyl ester chains. Introduction of a flexible hexyl tether to the secondary triazole group (Type 1) acts as additional molecular weight and branching, further lowering T_g values. Attachment of two hexyl tethered secondary triazoles (Type 2) follows this trend by enforcing another branch point and increasing molecular weight. Utilization of PEO esters in all architectural types significantly enhances T_g depressions, with longer PEO chains exhibiting remarkable results. Single PEO ester triazoles (Type OM) readily prepared from propionic esters using low-cost, commercially available materials combine excellent plasticization with straightforward synthesis, making these non-migratory internal plasticizers extremely attractive for industrial applications.

4.12 References

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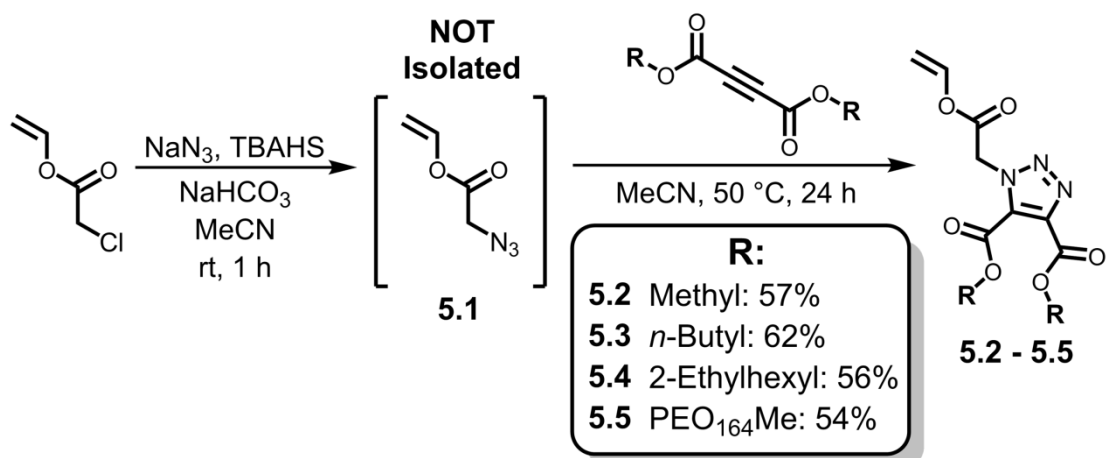
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5 Plasticizing Triazole Monomers For Copolymerization With Vinyl Chloride

5.1 Synthesis of Vinyl Acetate Triazole Phthalate Mimics

An alternative strategy to post-polymerization direct modification of poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) to obtain internally plasticized materials involves the copolymerization of vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) with a monomer functionalized with a triazole-phthalate mimic. It was envisaged that an electron-rich monomer such as vinyl acetate (VAc) with an appended triazole-plasticizer could be synthesized for this purpose.

Azidation of vinyl chloroacetate *via* typical S_N2 conditions was not trivial. Relatively high temperatures required for this S_N2 reaction caused vinyl chloroacetate to autopolymerize. Inspired by chemistry applied to sensitive carbohydrates, use of phase transfer catalysis (PTC) was investigated.¹ Conceivably, a PTC would decrease the amount of thermal energy required to displace chloride by the azide nucleophile. Initially, tetrabutylammonium hydrogensulfate (TBAHS) was utilized in a two-phase benzene-water system, but did not adequately transfer sodium azide (NaN_3) into the benzene phase. Aliquat 336 was subsequently adapted and demonstrated successful azide displacement of chloride as monitored by $^1\text{H-NMR}$. However, $^1\text{H-NMR}$ also revealed significant reductions in signal intensity of both vinyl chloroacetate and vinyl azidoacetate **5.1** as the reaction progressed. Realization that the aqueous phase caused hydrolysis of the vinyl acetates to acetaldehyde and acetic acid by-products² prompted a change in reaction conditions. Eventually, acetonitrile was found to be the optimal polar aprotic solvent for the azidation, due to its relatively low boiling point (82 °C) compared to other alternatives such as dimethylformamide (153 °C) or dimethyl sulfoxide (189 °C). High boiling solvents are challenging to remove during workup. The S_N2 reaction between vinyl chloroacetate and NaN_3 in acetonitrile requires TBAHS as a solubilization reagent for successful azide substitution. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ monitoring of vinyl chloroacetate, TBAHS, NaN_3 , and NaHCO_3 in CD_3CN revealed complete displacement of the chloride after 1 hour at room temperature, furnishing vinyl azidoacetate



Scheme 5.1 Synthesis of Vinyl Acetate Containing Pendant Triazole-Phthalate Mimics

5.1 (Scheme 5.1). Subsequent azidations were scaled up and utilized non-deuterated acetonitrile. The azide **5.1** was not isolated due to its dangerous nature: low molecular weight organic azides have a propensity to decompose violently. A formula to indicate if an organic azide is likely safe to handle has been created:³ $(N_{\text{Carbon}} + N_{\text{Oxygen}}) / N_{\text{Azide Nitrogen}} \geq 3$, where N = number of atoms. Using this formula, vinyl azidoacetate **5.1** gives a value of 1.6 and *should not be handled in its pure form*. After the azidation was complete, the reaction was filtered via glass sintered funnel into another round bottom flask and diluted with acetonitrile. Acetylenedicarboxylates containing alkyl and poly(ethylene oxide) diesters were combined with azide **5.1** and stirred for 24 hours at 50 °C (**Scheme 5.1**). After the azide-alkyne cycloaddition was complete, the volatiles were concentrated *in vacuo* and purified via column chromatography to furnish vinyl acetates **5.2 - 5.5** functionalized with pendant triazole-phthalate mimics in 54% to 62% yield. For extended storage of vinyl acetates **5.2 - 5.5**, 4-methoxyphenol (MEHQ) was used as a stabilizer.

¹H-NMR of the vinyl acetate monomers **5.2 - 5.5** bearing pendant triazole-phthalate mimics were acquired in CDCl₃ (**Figure 5.1**). All derivatives gave vinylic proton signals indicative of vinyl acetates. Vinylic proton **a** produces a signal at approximately δ 4.70 ppm,

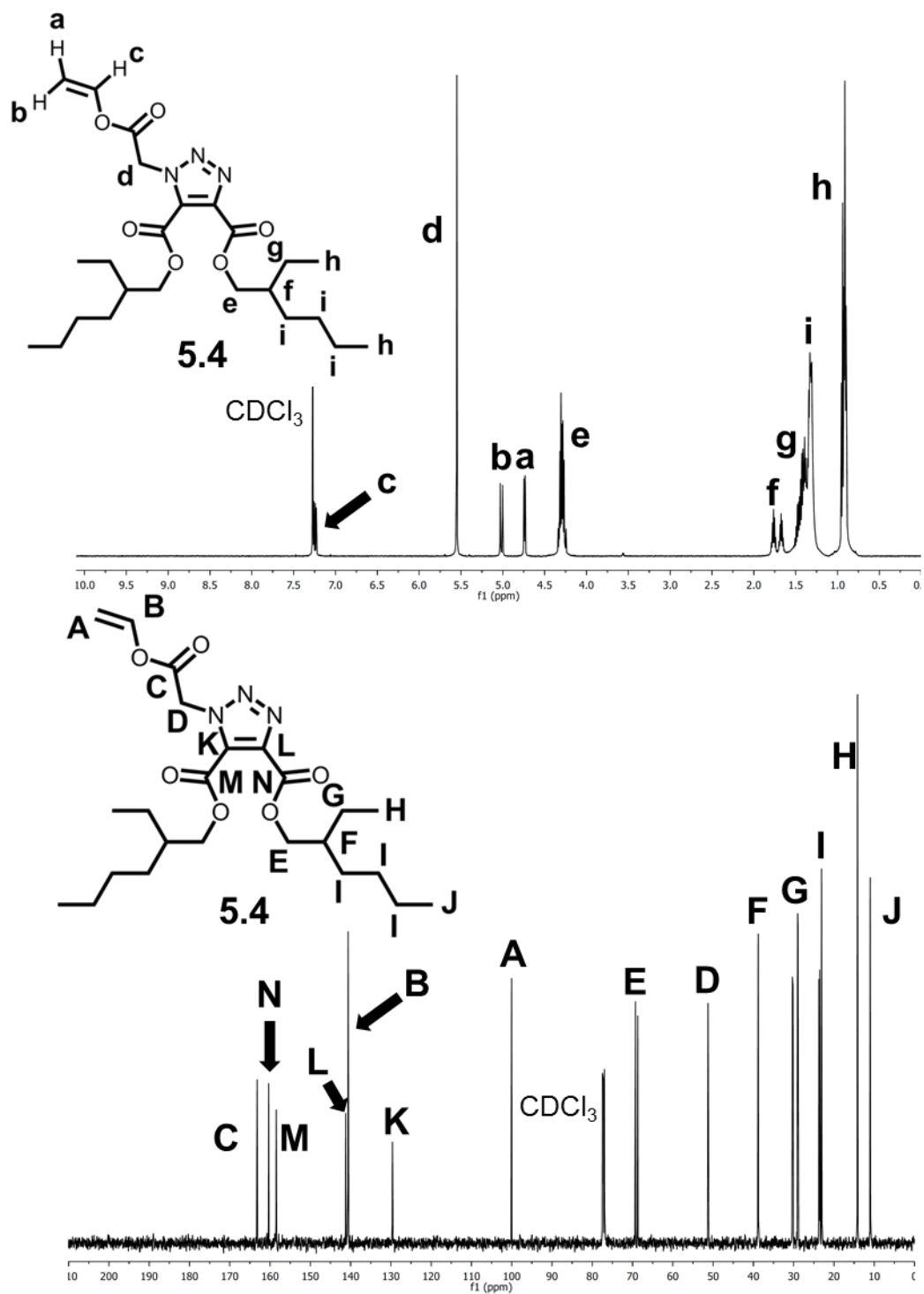


Figure 5.1 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ Spectra of VAc-TRZ-DiEH 5.4

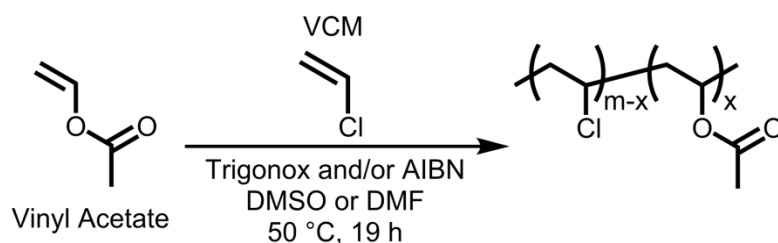
while **b** appears at δ 5.0 ppm: both **a** and **b** are split as doublet of doublets. Vinylic proton **c** is noted at δ 7.25 ppm as a doublet of doublets, and shows the typical vinyl coupling constants. Methylene protons **d** between the acetate ester and triazole give a singlet at δ 5.55 ppm. Regioisomeric triazole esters functionalized with *n*-butyl **5.3** or 2-ethylhexyl groups **5.4** both display peaks **e** between δ 4.20 to δ 4.40 ppm, originating from the methylene protons adjacent to the triazole ester oxygen atoms. VAc-TRZ-DiMe **5.2** gives two singlets at δ 3.98 ppm and δ 4.00 ppm, representing the regioisomeric methyl esters. Unique peaks to VAc-TRZ-DiEH **5.4** belong to methine protons **f** on the 2-ethylhexyl chain, appearing as heptets at δ 1.67 ppm and δ 1.76 ppm. Signals between δ 1.27 ppm and δ 1.51 ppm are alkyl chain methylenes **i**, which overlap with methylene protons **g**. VAc-TRZ-DiBu **5.3** displays analogous methylene signals between δ 1.39 ppm to δ 1.51 ppm. Methyl protons **h** of the 2-ethylhexyl chain in **5.4** are present as multiplets between δ 0.79 ppm and δ 1.00 ppm.

^{13}C -NMR of all vinyl acetate derivatives exhibit signals originating from the alkene (**Figure 5.1**). Terminal vinyl carbon **A** appears at approximately δ 100 ppm, while carbon **B** gives a signal at δ 140 ppm. The acetate carbonyl **C** displays a signal at δ 163 ppm. Peaks at δ 158 ppm and δ 160 ppm belong to regioisomeric triazole carbonyls **M** and **N**. Methylene carbon **D** is observed around δ 51 ppm. Quaternary triazole carbons **K** and **L** appear at δ 130 ppm and δ 141 ppm. In VAc-TRZ-DiEH **5.4**, signals at δ 68.7 and δ 69.3 ppm represent the methylenes **E** adjacent to the triazole esters. VAc-TRZ-DiBu **5.3** shows comparable triazole ester methylene peaks to **5.4**, albeit shifted upfield to δ 65.9 ppm and δ 68.8 ppm, while VAc-TRZ-DiMe **5.2** produce methyl triazole signals at δ 52.9 ppm and δ 53.5 ppm. ^{13}C signals unique to VAc-TRZ-DiEH **5.4** appearing at δ 38.8 ppm and δ 38.9 ppm belong to methine **F** on the 2-ethylhexyl chain. Methylene carbons **G** in monomer **5.4** are observed between δ 28.9 and δ 30.3 ppm, while methylenes **I** are present in the range of δ 23.0 and δ 23.7 ppm. Monomer **5.3** containing *n*-butyl chains show similar methylene signals to **5.4** (δ 18.9 ppm to δ 19.1 ppm and δ 30.3 ppm to δ 30.6 ppm). Methyl carbons **H** and **J** in VAc-TRZ-DiEH **5.4**

are noted at δ 11.0 ppm and δ 14.2 ppm. Likewise, VAc-TRZ-DiBu **5.3** has methyl peaks at δ 13.6 ppm and δ 13.7 ppm.

5.2 Polymerization Experiments of Vinyl Acetate Triazole-Phthalate Mimics

Vinyl acetate monomers **5.2** - **5.5** were sent to our collaborators Dr. Jorge Coelho and Dr. Armenio Serra at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, for polymerization experiments. Vinyl chloride is a toxic gas (bp = -13.4 °C) and can only be handled safely with specialized equipment. Coelho and Serra at the Department of Chemical Engineering have the required equipment and years of experience working with vinyl chloride free radical polymerizations. Homopolymerizations of vinyl acetate (VAc) and vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) provided preliminary polymerization conditions. Copolymerizations of equal parts VAc and VCM (1 part monomer to 3 parts solvent) using Trigonox/AIBN as an initiator at 50 °C were conducted for 19 hours to establish optimized conditions in DMSO or DMF (**Scheme 5.2**). The highest level of VAc incorporation with VCM used 0.5% Trigonox/0.5% AIBN initiator in DMSO (**Table 5.1**: Exp 9). With these preliminary optimized reaction parameters, copolymerizations of vinyl acetates **5.3** - **5.4** and VCM were performed (**Scheme 5.3**).



Scheme 5.2 Copolymerization of Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) and Vinyl Acetate (VAc)

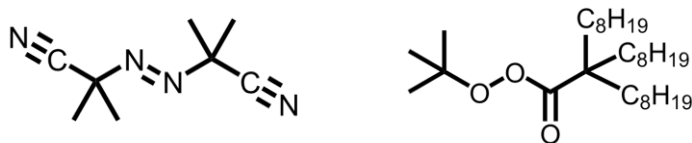
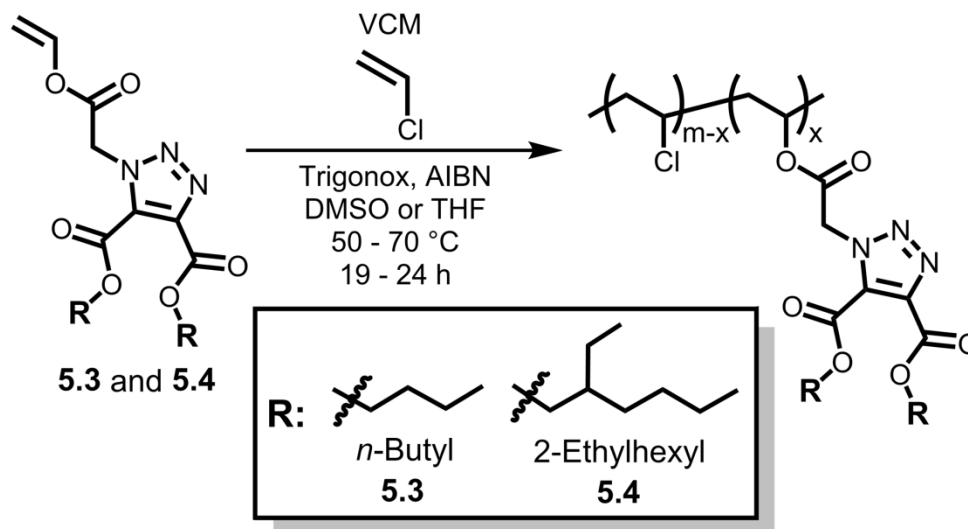


Figure 5.2 Structures of Azobisisobutyronitrile (AIBN, Left) and Trigonox 23 (Right)

Exp	Monomer*	Initiator (%)	Solvent	Conv. VC (%)	Conv. VAc (%)	$M_{n,SEC} \times 10^{-3}$	PDI	% (m/m) VC
1	VCM	0.1 Trigonox	DMSO	30		8.9	2.19	
2	VAc + VCM	0.1 Trigonox	DMSO	~0	~0			
3	VAc + VCM	0.05 Trigonox + 0.05 AIBN	DMSO	~0	~0			
4	VAc	0.1 Trigonox	DMSO		24	102.7	1.62	
5	VAc + VCM	0.1 Trigonox	DMSO	~0	~0			
6	VAc + VCM	0.1 Trigonox	DMF	~0	~0			
7	VAc + VCM	1 Trigonox	DMSO	53	28	12.3	1.78	82
8	VAc + VCM	1 Trigonox	DMF	54	6	7.4	2.16	86
9	VAc + VCM	0.5 Trigonox + 0.5 AIBN	DMSO	84	42	16.9	1.76	73
10	VAc + VCM	0.25 Trigonox + 0.75 AIBN	DMSO	82	42	20.7	1.67	79
11	VAc + VCM	1 AIBN	DMSO	82	37	8.9	1.79	74
12	VAc + VCM	0.5 Trigonox + 0.5 AIBN	DMF	81	22	8.8	1.74	79

Table 5.1 (Co)Polymerization Results of Vinyl Chloride and Vinyl Acetate at 50 °C
*Monomer Ratio= 1:1; Monomer to Solvent Ratio (v/v) = 1:3



Scheme 5.3 Copolymerization of Vinyl Chloride and Vinyl Acetates Containing Pendant Triazole-Phthalate Mimics

Exp	Monomer*	Time (h)	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	Conv. VC (%)	Conv. VAc (%)	$M_{n,SEC} \times 10^{-3}$	PDI	% (m/m) VC
0	VAc + VCM	19	50	DMSO	87	91	19.6	2.04	80
1	5.4 + VCM	19	50	DMSO	36	0	13.2	1.81	100
2	5.4	24	50	DMSO	-	0.88	-	-	-
		24	70	DMSO	-	61.4	12.6	1.72	-
		24	90	DMSO	-	77.2	9.9	1.98	-
3	5.4 + VCM	19	70	DMSO	63	0	15.6	2.26	100
4	5.4 + VCM	19	70	DMF	88	0	8.0	2.00	100
5	5.4 + VCM	19	65	THF	87	0	6.3	1.87	100
6	5.3 + VCM	22	70	DMSO	42	0	12.3	1.87	100
7	5.3 + VCM (90/10)	19	70	DMSO	73	6.54	12.4	1.75	29

Table 5.2 (Co)Polymerization Results of Vinyl Chloride and Vinyl Acetates Containing Pendant Triazole-Phthalate Mimics

*Monomer Ratio= 1:1 Unless Otherwise Stated; Monomer to Solvent Ratio (v/v) = 1:1.5

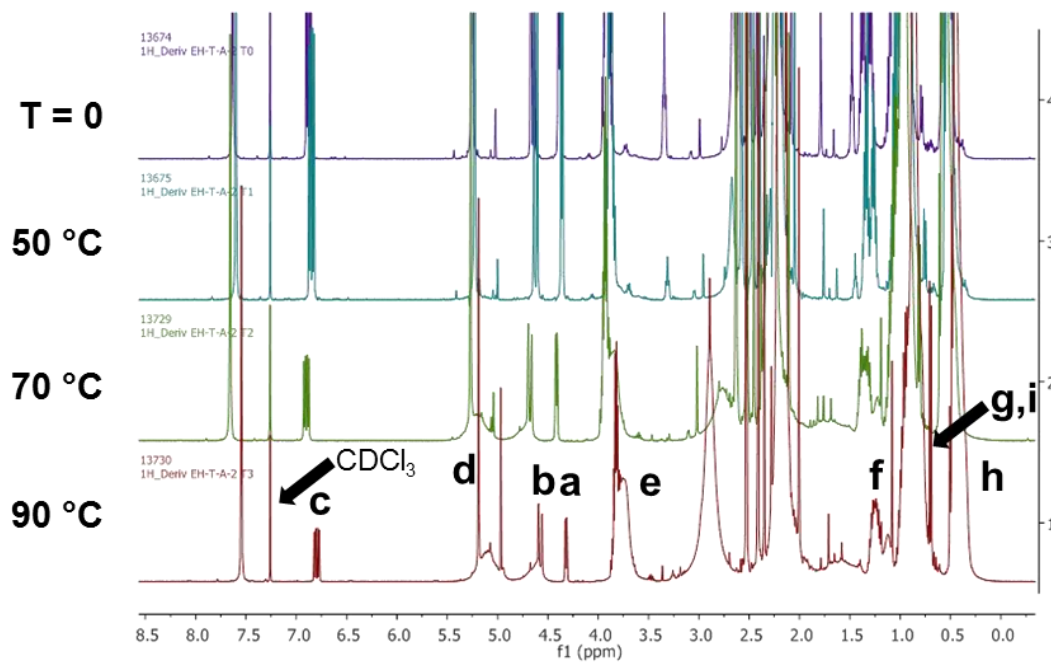


Figure 5.3 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ Spectra of Exp 2: VAc-TRZ-DiEH **5.4** Homopolymerizations as a Function of Temperature After 24 Hours

All polymerization experiments were carried out in a 15 mL reactor by graduate student Carlos Abren at the University of Coimbra. The results are displayed in **Table 5.2**. Exp 0 (**Table 5.2**) utilized the optimized conditions from the initial copolymerizations of vinyl chloride and vinyl acetate (**Table 5.1**: Exp 9). An analogous result to Exp 9 using a 50 mL reactor was observed with the 15 mL reactor (**Table 5.2**: Exp 0). Exp 1 (**Table 5.2**) showed no incorporation of VAc-TRZ-DiEH **5.4** with VCM (36% VCM conversion) during the attempted copolymerization. Because of this, homopolymerizations of VAc-TRZ-DiEH **5.4** were investigated at increasing temperatures for 24 hours (**Table 5.2**: Exp 2). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectra provided by our collaborators of VAc-TRZ-DiEH **5.4** indicates that homopolymerization does occur (**Figure 5.3**). Enhanced conversions were observed as the temperature increased. After 24 hours at 90 °C, monomer **5.4** exhibited 77.2% conversion (**Table 5.2**: Exp 2). Optimization of polymerization solvents utilizing DMSO, DMF and THF were investigated (**Table 5.2**: Exp 3, Exp 4, Exp 5).

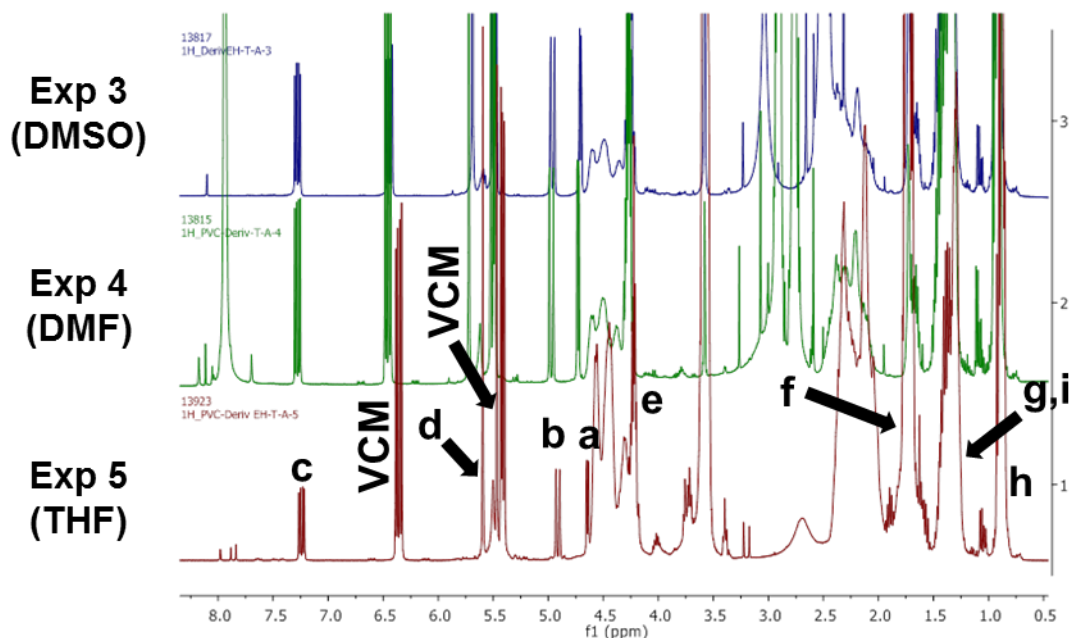


Figure 5.4 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ Spectra of VCM and VAc-TRZ-DiEH **5.4** Copolymerizations as a Function of Solvent (Top DMSO, Middle: DMF, Bottom: THF)

However, moving to copolymerization with VCM at 70 °C, no conversion of VAc-TRZ-DiEH **5.4** with VCM (63 to 88% VCM conversion) occurred after 19 hours. ¹H-NMR spectra of solvent optimization copolymerization experiments are presented in **Figure 5.4**. Regardless of solvent, no appreciable incorporation of VAc-TRZ-DiEH **5.4** into PVC was noted by ¹H-NMR. The presence of peaks at approximately δ 5.5 ppm and δ 6.5 ppm originate from VCM trapped in the polymeric matrix. While there appears to be signal broadening from the formation of poly(vinyl chloride) at δ 2.0 – 2.4 ppm and δ 4.2 – 4.6 ppm, the vinylic protons **a-c** of monomer **5.4** at δ 4.70 ppm (**a**), δ 5.0 ppm (**b**) and δ 7.25 ppm (**c**) (**Figure 5.1**) do not diminish nor form broadened peaks indicative of successful copolymerization (**Figure 5.4**).

Subsequently, copolymerization in DMSO (Exp 6, **Table 5.2**) was performed with VAc-TRZ-DiBu **5.3** and VCM. No incorporation of monomer **5.3** with VCM (42% VCM conversion) was observed during this attempted copolymerization. The ¹H-NMR spectrum of Exp 6 in THF-d₆ exhibits VCM peaks at δ 5.5 ppm and δ 6.5 ppm (**Figure 5.5**). Broad PVC signals between \sim δ 2.0 – 2.4 ppm and δ 4.4 – 4.6 ppm are also present. There appears to be a new broadened peak at approximately δ 5.6 ppm; this may stem from monomer methylene protons **d** (**Figure 5.1**) integrated into the copolymer, which inherently experiences anisotropic tumbling. However, vinylic proton signals **a** and **b** of monomer **5.3** remain in the ¹H-NMR spectrum, indicating incomplete incorporation of the vinyl acetate triazole with VCM. Methylene peaks belonging to the *n*-butyl triazole ester chains are present at δ 1.39 – 1.51 ppm and δ 1.68 – 1.81 ppm. Terminal methyl groups of the *n*-butyl chains are observed at δ 0.96 ppm.

In Exp 7, VAc-TRZ-DiBu **5.3** was copolymerized with VCM in a 9 to 1 ratio ([VAc-TRZ-DiBu]/[VCM]) at 70 °C in DMSO (**Table 5.2**). According to our collaborator, the ¹H-NMR spectrum indicates formation of copolymer, with approximately 6.5% conversion of VAc-TRZ-DiBu **5.3** and 73% conversion of VCM (**Figure 5.6**). The broadened signal appearing at δ 5.6 ppm in Exp 6 (**Figure 5.5**) is also present in Exp 7 (**Figure 5.6**). As with Exp 6, PVC signals

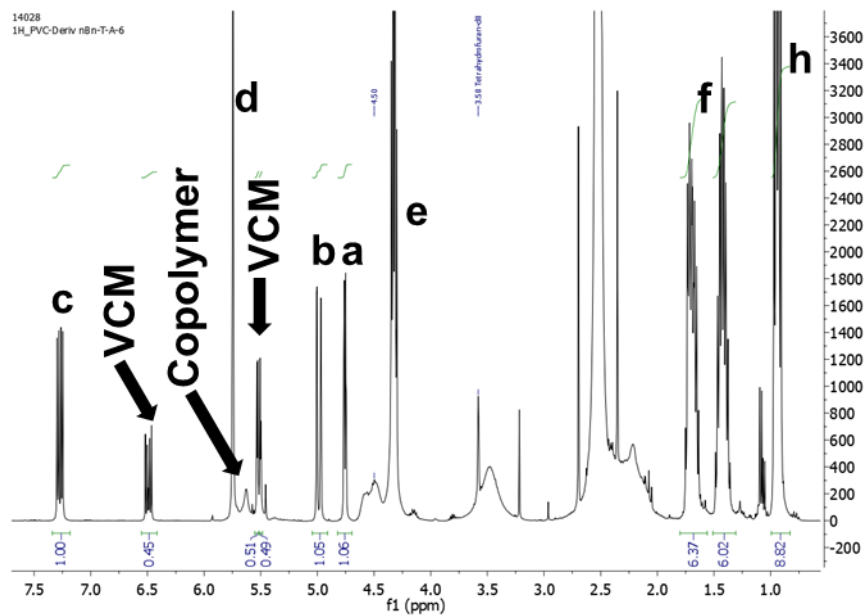


Figure 5.5 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ of Exp 6: VCM and VAc-TRZ-DiBu **5.3** Copolymerization (in THF-d_8)

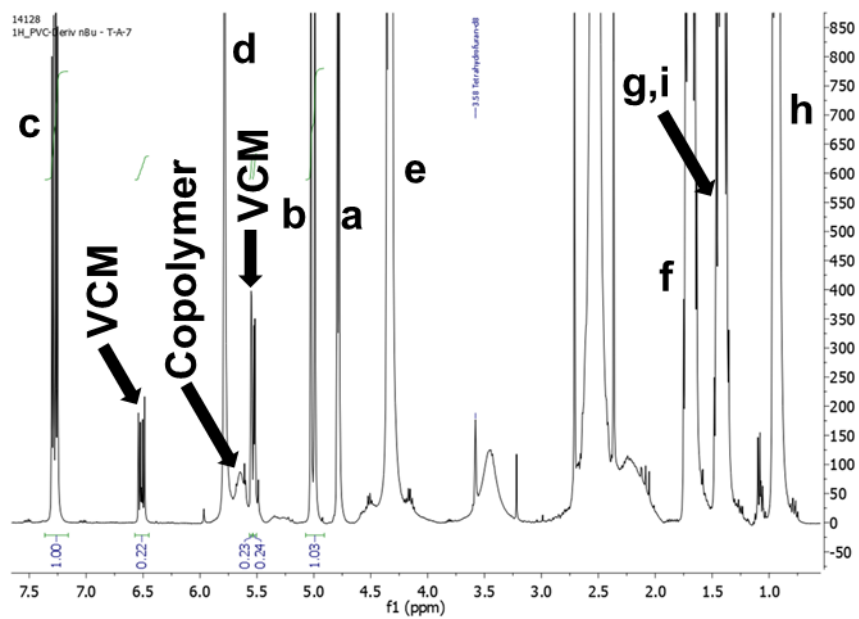
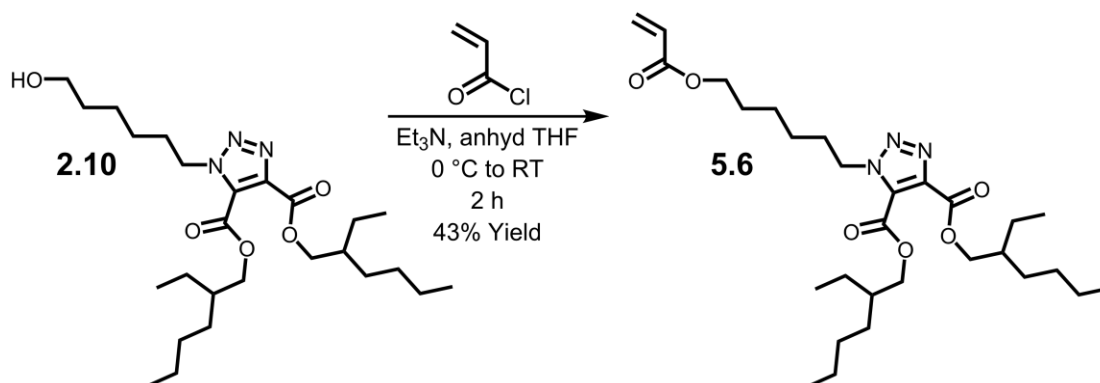


Figure 5.6 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ of Exp 7: VCM and VAc-TRZ-DiBu **5.3** Copolymerization at 70 °C Using DMSO ($[\text{VAc-TRZ-DiBu}]/[\text{VCM}] = 90/10$)

between δ 2.0 – 2.4 ppm and δ 4.4 – 4.6 ppm are observed. The presence of methylene signals belonging to the triazole ester *n*-butyl chains between δ 1.39 – 1.51 ppm and δ 1.68 – 1.81 ppm are diminished, due to partial consumption of VAc-TRZ-DiBu **5.3** during polymerization. Consequently, signal broadening of copolymer regions incorporating the vinyl acetate derivative **5.3** occurs. Additionally, well-defined signals due to isotropic tumbling of monomer **5.3** decrease in intensity compared to Exp 6.

5.3 Synthesis of Acrylate Hexyl Tethered Triazole Phthalate Mimics

Our collaborators suggested that an acrylate derivative might remedy the low reactivity of vinyl acetate monomers **5.2** - **5.5** toward VCM copolymerization. Apparently, the appended triazole-phthalate mimic decreases the activity of the vinyl acetate. An acrylate incorporating a hexyl-tethered triazole-phthalate mimic was envisaged to serve two purposes: 1) generate space between the triazole and polymerizing vinyl group to prevent monomer deactivation and, 2) enhance the plasticization efficiency of the triazole, as demonstrated in *Chapter 2*. A synthesis derived from the double-arm hexyl-tethered acetylenedicarboxylates outlined in *Chapter 3* was implemented to obtain the desired acrylate. Under anhydrous conditions, the triazolo-alcohol containing 2-ethylhexyl triazole esters (TRZ-DiEH hexanol, **2.10**) was combined with Et₃N in anhydrous THF at 0 °C. Acryloyl chloride was slowly added



Scheme 5.5 Synthesis of Acrylate Containing Hexyl Tethered 2-Ethylhexyl Triazole Phthalate Mimic **5.6**

and stirred for 2 hours (**Scheme 5.5**). Acidic aqueous workup and subsequent purification via column chromatography furnished acrylate **5.6** as a clear oil in 43% yield.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ of Acrylate-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH **5.6** was acquired in CDCl_3 (**Figure 5.7**). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ of Acrylate-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH **5.6** exhibits characteristic vinylic signals: **a** appears as a doublet at δ 6.41 ppm, while **b** is present as a doublet of doublets at δ 6.13 ppm. Vinylic proton **c** produces a doublet at δ 5.84 ppm and shows the typical vinyl coupling constants. Methylene protons **d** adjacent to the acrylate carbonyl gives a triplet at δ 4.16 ppm. Signal **h** at δ 4.60 ppm is indicative of methylene protons neighboring the triazole. The multiplet at δ 4.29 ppm represents methylene protons **i** bound to the oxygen in the 2-ethylhexyl ester. Hexyl tether methylene **e** overlaps with 2-ethylhexyl methines **j** between δ 1.64 – 1.79 ppm. A multiplet between δ 1.28 – 1.51 ppm belongs to the overlapping signals of the hexyl tether methylene **f** and 2-ethylhexyl methylenes **k** and **m**. Methyl groups **l** and **n** of the 2-ethylhexyl chains appear as a multiplet in the range of δ 0.87 – 0.98 ppm.

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ of Acrylate-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH **5.6** exhibits a signal indicative of the terminal vinylic acrylate carbon **A** at δ 130.6 ppm. Neighboring vinylic carbon **B** gives a peak at δ 128.5 ppm. The acrylate carbonyl **C** exhibits a signal at δ 166.2 ppm. Further upfield are carbonyl peaks of the triazole esters **L** (δ 158.9 ppm) and **M** (δ 160.6 ppm). Quaternary triazole carbons **J** and **K** are present at δ 129.6 ppm and δ 140.5 ppm. The 2-ethylhexyl groups display a myriad of carbon signals corresponding to each chain on the triazole. Methylene carbons **N** and **N'** give peaks at δ 68.4 ppm and δ 69.1 ppm. Methines **I** and **I'** appear at δ 38.70 ppm and δ 38.73 ppm, while **P** and **P'** are represented by signals at δ 23.5 ppm and δ 23.6 ppm. Methylene carbons **R** and **R'** are present at δ 30.17 and δ 30.21 ppm. Adjacent methylenes **S** and **S'** are observed at δ 28.86 ppm and δ 28.89 ppm. Peaks at δ 22.94 ppm and δ 22.96 ppm are indicative of methylenes **T** and **T'**. Signals **Q** and **U** appear at δ 10.9 ppm and δ 14.0 ppm, accounting for two methyl groups each.

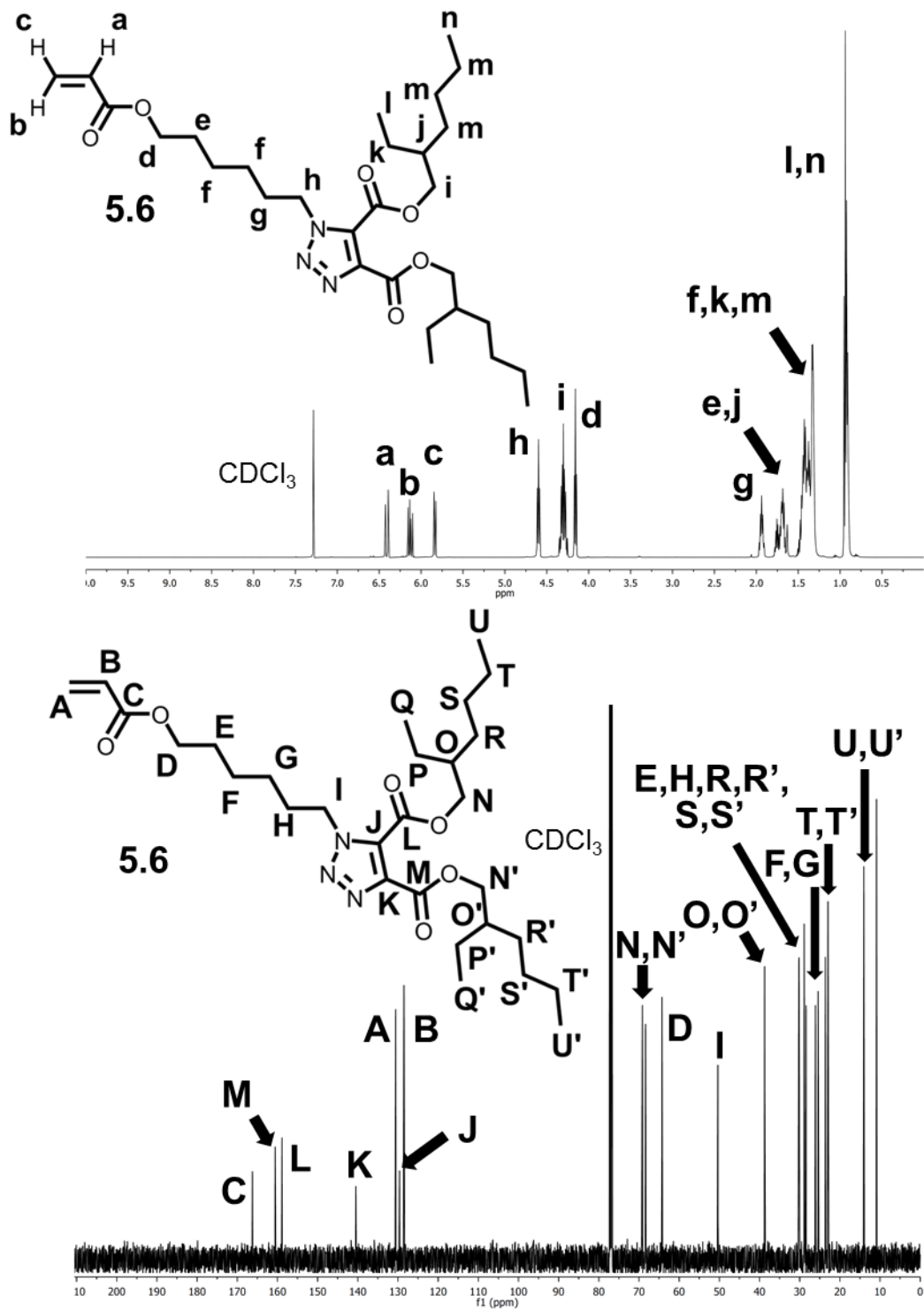
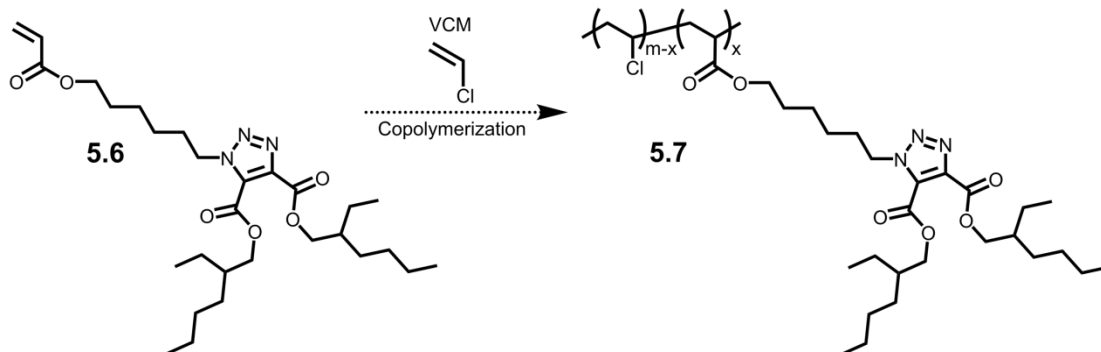
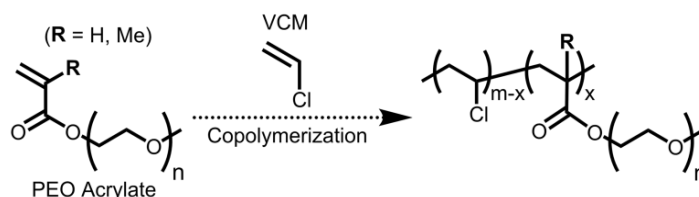


Figure 5.7 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ Spectra of Acrylate-Hexyl-TRZ-DIEH 5.6

Acrylate-Hexyl-TRZ-DiEH **5.6** and commercially available poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether (PEO) acrylate and methacrylate will be sent to our collaborator for copolymerizations with VCM, to act as internal PVC plasticizers (**Scheme 5.6** and **Scheme 5.7**). These polymerization experiments are currently ongoing.



Scheme 5.6 Copolymerization of Vinyl Chloride and Acrylate **5.6** Containing Hexyl Tethered 2-Ethylhexyl Triazole Phthalate Mimic



Scheme 5.7 Copolymerization of Vinyl Chloride and PEO Acrylate and PEO Methacrylate

5.4 Conclusion

Difficulties were encountered when attempting to copolymerize VCM and vinyl acetates containing triazole-phthalate mimics. To remedy the inactivity found with vinyl acetate triazoles, acrylate derivatives were sent, and are presently undergoing polymerization studies. While the copolymerization strategy is promising, it is currently easier to modify PVC with triazole-based phthalate mimics to obtain internally plasticized materials. VCM requires many safety protocols as it is a toxic gas under ambient conditions. Specialized equipment is required to copolymerize VCM with a monomer containing an appended plasticizing moiety. In comparison, post-polymerization direct modification of PVC using the triazole attachment

strategy outlined in *Chapters 2, 3 and 4* relies on minimal laboratory equipment. The copolymerization method may prove amiable to industry once reaction conditions involving VCM and a pre-plasticizing monomer are optimized. If the copolymers exhibit characteristics of internally plasticized PVC, this approach may be preferred in some applications to the post-polymerization functionalization strategy.

5.5 References

1. Kumar, R.; Tiwari, P.; Maulik, P. R.; Misra, A. K. A Generalized Procedure for the One-Pot Preparation of Glycosyl Azides and Thioglycosides Directly from Unprotected Reducing Sugars under Phase - Transfer Reaction Conditions. *European Journal of Organic Chemistry* **2005**, (1), 74-79.
2. (a) Fujii, K.; Matsumoto, M.; Ukida, J. Hydrolysis of Poly(vinyl acetate)s of Various Tacticities. *Journal of Polymer Science Part B-Polymer Letters* **1963**, 1 (12), 687-691; (b) Noyce, D. S.; Pollack, R. M. Mechanisms for the Acid-Catalyzed Hydrolysis of Vinyl Acetate and Isopropenyl Acetate. *Journal of the American Chemical Society* **1969**, 91 (25), 7158-7163.
3. Brase, S.; Gil, C.; Knepper, K.; Zimmermann, V. Organic Azides: An Exploding Diversity of a Unique Class of Compounds. *Angewandte Chemie-International Edition* **2005**, 44 (33), 5188-5240.

6 Experimental Section

6.1 General Materials and Methods

PVC (M_w : 43000 g/mol, PDI: 1.95) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and purified by dissolution of 20.00 grams of PVC in 240 mL of THF at 50 °C. This solution was allowed to cool to room temperature and precipitated in 800 mL of methanol. The mother liquor was filtered and the dissolution-precipitation process was repeated two more times. Tetrahydrofuran (Fisher Scientific, HPLC grade, submicron filtered, uninhibited) was dried over sodium and benzophenone, under argon when anhydrous conditions were required. Silica gel (Sorbent Technologies, Fisher Scientific, or Sigma-Aldrich; grade 60, 230-400 mesh, 40-63 μm particle size) was utilized for column chromatography. All other chemicals were used as received.

The following chemicals were purchased from Fisher Scientific: hexanes (ACS certified, 4.2% methylpentanes), ethyl acetate (ACS certified), dichloromethane (stabilized HPLC grade, submicron filtered), methanol (ACS certified), ethanol (absolute, 200 proof, molecular biology grade), acetonitrile (Optima™, LC/MS grade), tetrahydrofuran (HPLC grade, submicron filtered, uninhibited), toluene (HPLC grade, ACS certified), acetone (HPLC grade), dimethylformamide (sequencing grade), pentanes (HPLC grade, submicron filtered), diethyl ether (BHT stabilized, ACS certified), sodium chloride (crystalline, ACS certified), sodium bromide (granular, ACS certified), sodium bicarbonate (granular powder, ACS certified), potassium hydroxide (pellets, ACS certified), magnesium sulfate (anhydrous, certified powder), sodium sulfate (anhydrous, granular ACS certified), concentrated hydrochloric acid (36.9%, ACS Certified), concentrated sulfuric acid (certified ACS Plus), bromine (ACS certified), zinc powder (99.2%), *n*-butanol (HPLC grade), Celite™ 545 filtering aid (non-acid washed). The following chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich: dimethylsulfoxide ($\geq 99.9\%$ ACS Reagent), carbon tetrachloride (anhydrous, $\geq 99.5\%$), 3-pentanone ($\geq 99\%$), phosphorous pentachloride ($\geq 98.0\%$, purum p.a.), pyridine (anhydrous,

99.8%), triethylamine (anhydrous, $\geq 99.5\%$), iodine ($\geq 99.99\%$ trace metals basis), tri(ethylene glycol) monomethyl ether (95%), poly(ethylene glycol) monomethyl ether 350, poly(ethylene glycol) monomethyl ether 550, acryloyl chloride ($\geq 97\%$, 400 ppm phenothiazine stabilizer). The following chemicals were purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industries (TCI): 6-chlorohexanol ($>96\%$), poly(ethylene glycol) monomethyl ether 1000, poly(ethylene glycol) monomethyl ether 2000, acetylenedicarboxylate monopotassium salt ($>95\%$), tetrabutylammonium hydrogensulfate ($>98\%$), vinyl chloroacetate ($>99\%$, MEHQ stabilizer), 3-pentanone ($>98.0\%$). The following chemicals were purchased from Acros Organics: sodium azide (99%, extra pure), acetylenedicarboxylic acid (98%), propiolic acid (98%), p-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (99%, extra pure), pyridine (99%), potassium bromide (ACS certified). The following chemicals were purchased from Alfa Aesar: dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (98%), 2-ethyl-1-hexanol (99%), propiolic acid ($>98\%$). The following chemicals were purchased from Spectrum: dioctyl phthalate (CAS: 117-81-7), sodium bisulfite (granular, F.C.C.). The following chemicals were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc.: chloroform-D (D, 99.8%), benzene-d₆ (D, 99.5%).

6.2 Instrumentation

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded with a Bruker Avance III HD 4 channel 500 MHz Oxford Magnet NMR Spectrometer with Automation, Varian Unity Plus 500 MHz Oxford Magnet NMR Spectrometer, or Bruker Avance III HD 800 MHz NMR Spectrometer. ¹H-NMR spectra taken in deuterated chloroform (CDCl₃) used the CHCl₃ signal (δ 7.26 ppm) as an internal standard, and the CDCl₃ triplet (δ 77.27 ppm) for ¹³C-NMR. ¹H-NMR spectra taken in benzene-d₆ utilized the C₆H₆ (δ 7.15 ppm) as an internal standard, and the C₆D₆ triplet (δ 127.68 ppm) for ¹³C-NMR. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) was recorded with a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum One Spectrometer, with sodium chloride (NaCl) plates. Liquids were measured neat. Polymers were measured as dried thin films. Solid molecules were combined, ground and pressed into potassium bromide (KBr) plates using a

Carver press. High Resolution Mass Spectroscopy (HRMS) was recorded with a Thermo Scientific LTQ-Orbitrap Velos Pro MS. HRMS was taken with samples dissolved in acetonitrile (CH₃CN). Elemental analysis was performed by MHW Laboratories, P.O. Box 15149, Phoenix, AZ, 85060. Modulated Differential Scanning Calorimetry (MDSC) was performed on each polymer using a TA Instruments DSC Q2000 with a heat-cool-heat protocol. The general scanning ranges of MDSC analyses ranged from -90 °C to 200 °C, with a heating rate of 10 °C per minute. Derivative thermogravimetry (DTG) and thermal gravimetric analyses (TGA) were performed with a TA Instruments TGA Q500. TGA was performed within a scanning range of 30 °C to 500 °C, with a heating rate of 10 °C per minute in air or nitrogen.

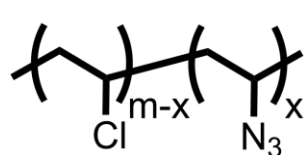
6.3 Plasticizer Migration Studies

The degree of plasticizer migration was determined by a process derived from an ASTM International standard test method (ASTM-D5227). This method describes an extraction/gravimetric procedure for determination of the amount of hexane soluble low molecular weight material in a myriad of polymers. Samples were extracted as square films (~15 x 15 mm²), dried by high vacuum overnight and weighed. A Berzelius beaker (150 mL) with a stir bar (25 mm x 8 mm diameter) was utilized as the extraction apparatus. 50 mL of *n*-hexane (Alfa Aesar, 95% HPLC distilled in glass) was pre-heated at 50 °C for 15 minutes prior to placing the polymer in the beaker. A stir rate of 100 revolutions per minute was used for all extractions. Each sample was extracted for 2 hours at 50 °C. After the extraction, the solvent was decanted. The polymer was placed in a 20 mL scintillation vial and dried under high vacuum at room temperature overnight. The mass of each sample post-extraction was determined. The degree of plasticizer migration was calculated using **Equation 4.1**. Traditional DEHP-PVC (containing 60 weight percent DEHP) was used as a standard. Each polymer sample was extracted in triplicate. Plasticizer migration data is shown in **Table 4.9**.

6.4 Warning on Organic Azides

Organic azides can be dangerous in nature: low molecular weight organic azides have a propensity to violently decompose. A formula to indicate if an organic azide is likely safe to handle has been created:¹ $(N_{\text{Carbon}} + N_{\text{Oxygen}}) / N_{\text{Azide Nitrogen}} \geq 3$, where N = number of atoms. Using this formula, vinyl azidoacetate **5.1** gives a value of 1.6 and *should not be handled in its pure form*. While 6-azidohexanol and PVC-azide did not show signs of violent decomposition, it should be noted that extreme caution should be taken at all times when synthesizing or handling organic azides.

6.5 Chapter 2 Experimental Section



Preparation of 5% PVC-Azide.²

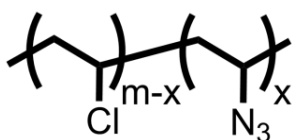
Purified poly(vinyl chloride) (2.000 g, 21.68 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of dimethylformamide at 62 °C. Sodium azide (2.000 g, 30.764 mmol) was subsequently added and stirred for 30 min. The reaction was immediately filtered through a large Buchner funnel with a WHATMAN™ grade 1 qualitative filter paper into a vacuum flask. The reaction solution was slowly precipitated into 200 mL of MeOH then filtered through a Buchner funnel and WHATMAN™ grade 1 qualitative filter paper into a vacuum flask. The polymer was dried for 15 min under house vacuum, then dissolved in 20 mL of THF. The dissolved polymer was slowly precipitated into 100 mL of MeOH then filtered through a Buchner funnel and WHATMAN™ grade 1 qualitative filter paper into a vacuum flask. This process was repeated once more with MeOH. The dissolved PVC was dissolved into 10 mL of THF and slowly precipitated in 100 mL of a 3:1 mixture of MeOH:H₂O, filtered and dried for 15 min under house vacuum then dissolved in 20 mL of THF. The final precipitation was performed in 100 mL of MeOH. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 5 days *via* Buchner funnel to give 1.4314 g of the title compound as a flocculent white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.68 – 4.26 (br m, Cl-C-H), 4.21 (br s, N-C-H), 4.08 (br s, N-C-H), 2.45 – 2.02 (br m, $\text{Cl-C-CH}_2\text{-C-Cl}$), 1.94 – 1.77 (br m, $\text{Cl-C-CH}_2\text{-C-N}_3$ and $\text{N}_3\text{-C-CH}_2\text{-C-N}_3$).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 peaks), 44.1 (N-C-CH_2).

IR (Neat): 2974 (m, alkane CH), 2911 (m, alkane CH), 2875 (m, alkane CH), 2114 (s, N_3), 1435 (m, methylene stretch CH_2), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 83 $^\circ\text{C}$.



Preparation of 15% PVC-Azide.² Purified poly(vinyl chloride) (2.000 g, 21.68 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of dimethylformamide at 62 $^\circ\text{C}$. Sodium

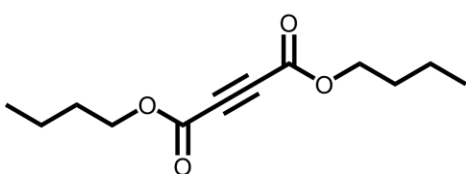
azide (2.000 g, 30.764 mmol) was subsequently added and stirred for 2 h. The reaction was immediately filtered through a large Buchner funnel with a WHATMANTM grade 1 qualitative filter paper into a vacuum flask. The reaction solution was slowly precipitated into 200 mL of MeOH then filtered through a Buchner funnel and WHATMANTM grade 1 qualitative filter paper into a vacuum flask. The polymer was dried for 15 min under house vacuum, then dissolved in 20 mL of THF. The dissolved polymer was slowly precipitated into 100 mL of MeOH then filtered through a Buchner funnel and WHATMANTM grade 1 qualitative filter paper into a vacuum flask. This process was repeated once more with MeOH. The dissolved PVC was dissolved into 10 mL of THF and slowly precipitated in 100 mL of a 3:1 mixture of MeOH:H₂O, filtered and dried for 15 min under house vacuum then dissolved in 20 mL of THF. The final precipitation was performed in MeOH. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 5 days *via* Buchner funnel to give 1.2058 g of the title compound as a flocculent white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.68 – 4.26 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 4.20 (br s, *N-C-H*), 4.09 (br s, *N-C-H*), 2.51 – 2.02 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*), 1.98 – 1.77 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-N₃* and *N₃-C-CH₂-C-N₃*).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.7 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 peaks), 44.0 – 42.8 (N-C- CH_2).

IR (Neat): 2975 (m, alkane CH), 2911 (m, alkane CH), 2114 (s, N_3), 1435 (m, methylene stretch CH_2), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 78 °C.



Preparation of 1,4-dibutyl but-2-ynedioate.²

2-ynedioic acid (4.000 g, 35.07 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask. *n*-Butanol (7.798 g, 105.21 mmol) was then added along with 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid (0.400 g, 2.104 mmol) and 50 mL of dry toluene. Using a Dean-Stark apparatus, the reaction was heated and stirred at reflux for 1.5 h. The organic layer was concentrated *in vacuo* to give a crude brown oil. purified *via* flash chromatography using 95:5 hexanes:ethyl acetate affording 7.538 g (33.314 mmol, 94.99% yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

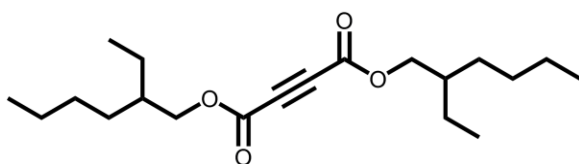
TLC: 95:5 hexanes:ethyl acetate, $R_f=0.43$, UV, KMnO_4 stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.25 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 4H), 1.68 (p, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 4H), 1.42 (h, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 4H), 0.96 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 152.0 (C=O), 74.7 (4°), 66.8 (O- CH_2), 30.3 (CH_2), 18.9 (CH_2), 13.5 (CH_3).

IR: 2963 (s, alkane CH), 2938 (s, alkane CH), 2876 (s, alkane CH), 1728 (s, ester C=O), 1467 (s, methylene bending CH_2), 1252 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 227.1278; Found 227.1283.



Preparation of 1,4-bis(2-ethylhexyl) but-

2-ynedioate.² But-2-ynedioic acid (3.422

g, 30.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL

round bottom flask. 2-Ethylhexan-1-ol (8.595 g, 66.00 mmol) was then added along with 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid (0.342 g, 1.800 mmol) and 42 mL of dry toluene. Using a Dean-Stark apparatus, the reaction was heated and stirred at reflux for 1 h. The organic layer was concentrated *in vacuo* to give a crude brown oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 95:5 hexanes:ethyl acetate afforded 9.211 g (27.213 mmol, 73.69% yield) of a colorless oil, as a mixture of diastereomers.

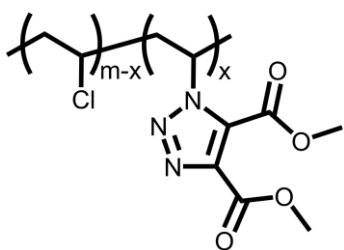
TLC: 95:5 hexanes:ethyl acetate, $R_f=0.80$, UV, KMnO_4 stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.19 – 4.13 (m, 4H), 1.66 – 1.61 (m, 2H), 1.42 – 1.36 (m, 4H), 1.35 – 1.25 (m, 12H), 0.91 (t, 12H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 152.0 (C=O), 74.7 (4°), 69.2 (O- CH_2), 38.6 (CH), 30.1 (CH_2), 28.8 (CH_2), 23.5 (CH_2), 22.9 (CH_2), 14.0 (CH_3), 10.8 (CH_3).

IR: 2962 (s, alkane CH), 2932 (s, alkane CH), 2875 (s, alkane CH), 2862 (s, alkane CH), 1725 (s, ester C=O), 1464 (s, methylene bending CH_2), 1255 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{35}\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 339.2529; Found 339.2525.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-DiMe.

Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C.

Dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (0.284g, 2.0 mmol) dissolved in 10 mL 3-pentanone was added to the PVC solution and

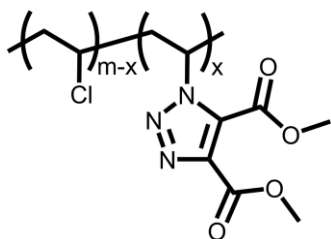
stirred for 24 h. The reaction was precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 2 days to yield 0.850 g of a flocculent white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.65 – 5.50 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.66 – 4.24 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 4.08 – 4.02 (br m, *O-CH₃*), 4.00 (br s, *O-CH₃*), 2.93 – 2.55 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.90 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 139.0 (4°), 130.7 (4°), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 52.8 (O-CH₃), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ peaks).

IR (Neat): 2976 (w, alkane CH), 2955 (w, alkane CH), 2912 (w, alkane CH), 1728 (s, ester C=O), 1556 (w, triazole C=C), 1436 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1268 (s, ester stretch C-O), 614 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 88 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiMe. Poly(vinyl chloride)

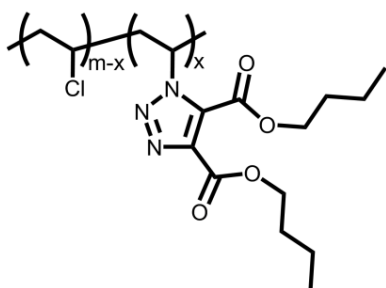
15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. Dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (1.023 g, 7.2 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 2 days to yield 1.1 g of a flocculent white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.65 – 5.35 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.65 – 4.15 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 4.07 – 4.02 (br m, *O-CH₃*), 4.00 (br s, *O-CH₃*), 2.92 – 2.52 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.85 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.1 (C=O), 158.7 (C=O), 139.0 (4°), 132.9 (4°), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.4 (CH-triazole syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 53.9 – 53.8 (CH-triazole iso), 52.8 (O- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_3$), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 peaks).

IR (Neat): 2956 (w, alkane CH), 2912 (w, alkane CH), 2845 (w, alkane CH), 1729 (s, ester C=O), 1556 (w, triazole C=C), 1436 (m, methylene stretch CH_2), 1269 (s, ester stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 96 $^\circ\text{C}$.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-DiBu. Poly(vinyl chloride)

5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 30 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$. 1,4-Dibutyl but-2-ynedioate (0.452 g, 2.0 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The

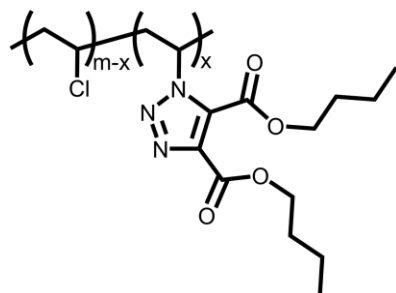
reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 2 days to yield 0.7 g of a flocculent white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.64 – 5.40 (br m, C- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}$ -triazole), 4.65 – 4.42 (br m, Cl-C- $\underline{\text{H}}$), 4.41 – 4.35 (br m, O- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$ -C), 4.34 – 4.24 (br m, Cl-C- $\underline{\text{H}}$), 2.92 – 2.81 (br t, Cl-C- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$ -C-triazole and triazole-C- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$ -C-triazole), 2.80 – 2.69 (br m, Cl-C- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$ -C-triazole and triazole-C- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$ -C-triazole), 2.50 – 1.85 (br m, Cl-C- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$ -C-Cl), 1.82 – 1.72 (br m, O-C- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$ -C), 1.52 – 1.40 (br m, O-C-C- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$ -C), 0.98 (t, $J = 7.2$, $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_3$).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.9 (C=O), 158.5 (C=O), 139.3 (4°), 132.8 (4°), 67.4 (O- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$), 65.8 (O- $\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2$), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.4 (CH-triazole syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 53.9 – 53.8 (CH-triazole iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 PVC peaks), 30.6 (CH_2), 30.3 (CH_2), 19.1 (CH_2), 13.74 (CH_2), 13.68 (CH_2).

IR (Neat): 2963 (w, alkane CH), 2936 (w, alkane CH), 2875 (w, alkane CH), 1723 (s, ester C=O), 1551 (w, triazole C=C), 1465 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1256 (s, ester C-O) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 76 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiBu. Poly(vinyl chloride)

15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 1,4-Dibutyl but-2-ynedioate (1.6291 g, 7.2 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred

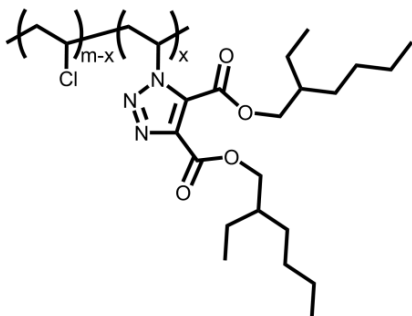
for 24 h. The reaction was precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 2 days to yield 0.97 g of a flocculent white solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.65 – 5.45 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.67 – 4.41 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 4.40 – 4.34 (br m, *O-CH₂-C*), 4.34 – 4.10 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 2.92 – 2.81 (br t, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.80 – 2.67 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.85 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*), 1.82 – 1.65 (br m, *O-C-CH₂-C*), 1.52 – 1.35 (br m, *O-C-C-CH₂-C*), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.3, *CH₃*).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 159.9 (C=O), 158.5 (C=O), 139.3 (4°), 132.8 (4°), 67.4 (O-CH₂), 67.3 (O-CH₂), 65.8 (O-CH₂), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.4 (CH-triazole syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 53.9 – 53.8 (CH-triazole iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 30.6 (CH₂), 30.3 (CH₂), 19.1 (CH₂), 19.0 (CH₂), 13.73 (CH₂), 13.67 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 2963 (w, alkane CH), 2937 (w, alkane CH), 2876 (w, alkane CH), 1725 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (w, triazole C=C), 1466 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1255 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 74 °C.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-DiEH. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 30 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 1,4-Bis(2ethylhexyl) but-2-yndioate (0.676 g, 2.0 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was

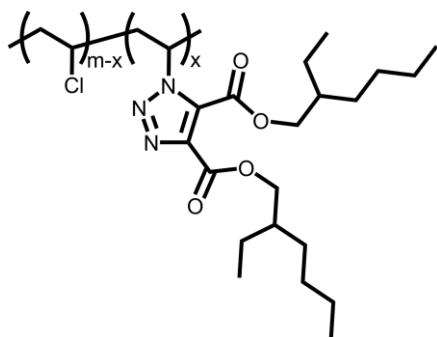
precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 2 days to yield 0.8216 g of a flocculent white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.65 – 5.45 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.66 – 4.40 (br m, Cl-C-H), 4.39 – 4.20 (br m, Cl-C-H and $\text{O-CH}_2\text{-C}$), 2.92 – 2.81 (br t, $\text{Cl-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$ and $\text{triazole-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$), 2.81 – 2.67 (br m, $\text{Cl-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$ and $\text{triazole-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$), 2.50 – 1.85 (br m, $\text{Cl-C-CH}_2\text{-C-Cl}$), 1.80 – 1.69 (br m, O-C-CH-C), 1.52 – 1.36 (br m, O-C-C-CH_2), 1.35 – 1.26 (br s, $\text{O-C-C-C-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2$), 0.98 – 0.87 (m, CH_3).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.1 (C=O), 158.7 (C=O), 139.5 (4°), 132.5 (4°), 70.1 (O- CH_2), 69.9 (O- CH_2), 68.5 (O- CH_2), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.5 – 56.4 (CH-triazole syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 PVC peaks), 38.7 (CH), 38.6 (CH), 30.2 (CH_2), 30.1 (CH_2), 28.9 (CH_2), 23.6 (CH_2), 23.5 (CH_2), 23.0 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 10.9 (CH_3).

IR (Neat): 2961 (w, alkane CH), 2931 (w, alkane CH), 2873 (w, alkane CH), 2861 (w, alkane CH), 1725 (s, ester C=O), 1553 (w, triazole C=C), 1460 (m, methylene stretch CH_2), 1256 (s, ester stretch C-O), 613 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 65 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiEH. Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 1,4-Bis(2ethylhexyl) but-2-yne-dioate (2.4369 g, 7.2 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h.

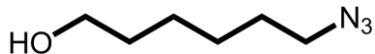
The reaction was precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 2 days to yield 0.93 g of a flocculent white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.65 – 5.40 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.67 – 4.40 (br m, Cl-C-H), 4.39 – 4.10 (br m, Cl-C-H and $\text{O-CH}_2\text{-C}$), 2.92 – 2.81 (br t, $\text{Cl-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$ and $\text{triazole-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$), 2.81 – 2.67 (br m, $\text{Cl-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$ and $\text{triazole-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$), 2.50 – 1.85 (br m, $\text{Cl-C-CH}_2\text{-C-Cl}$), 1.80 – 1.60 (br m, O-C-CH-C), 1.52 – 1.36 (br m, O-C-C-CH_2), 1.35 – 1.26 (br s, $\text{O-C-C-C-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2$), 0.97 – 0.85 (m, CH_3).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.1 (C=O), 158.7 (C=O), 139.5 (4°), 132.6 (4°), 70.0 (O- CH_2), 69.9 (O- CH_2), 68.5 (O- CH_2), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.4 (CH-triazole syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 PVC peaks), 38.7 (CH), 38.6 (CH), 30.2 (CH_2), 30.1 (CH_2), 28.9 (CH_2), 28.8 (CH_2), 23.6 (CH_2), 23.5 (CH_2), 23.0 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 10.9 (CH_3).

IR (Neat): 2961 (s, alkane CH), 2932 (s, alkane CH), 2874 (s, alkane CH), 2862 (s, alkane CH), 1721 (s, ester C=O), 1555 (w, triazole C=C), 1463 (m, methylene stretch CH_2), 1255 (s, ester stretch C-O), 616 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 57 °C.



Preparation of 6-azido-1-hexanol.³ 6-chlorohexan-1-ol (1.500 g, 10.98 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round

bottom flask with 20 mL of dimethyl sulfoxide. NaN₃ (1.071 g, 16.47 mmol) was carefully added to the reaction flask and stirred at 50 °C for 24 h. Water (40 mL) was added to the reaction to quench NaN₃. The reaction mixture was extracted five times using 30 mL each of ethyl acetate. The organic layers were washed with brine four times using 20 mL each, then dried with Na₂SO₄. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* affording 1.572 g (10.98 mmol, quantitative yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

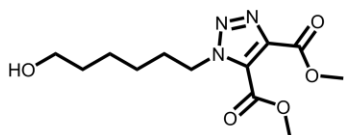
TLC: 3:2 hexanes:ethyl acetate, R_f=0.46, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, green-orange spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.60 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.24 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.61 – 1.52 (m, 4H), 1.41 – 1.31 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 62.7 (CH₂-OH), 51.4 (CH₂-N₃), 32.5 (CH₂), 28.8 (CH₂), 26.5 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 3351 (s, OH), 2937 (s, alkane CH), 2862 (s, alkane CH), 2097 (s, N₃), 1457 (m, methylene bending CH₂), 1056 (s, 1° alcohol stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for C₆H₁₃N₃O [M+H]⁺ 144.1131; Found 144.9812.



Preparation of 4,5-dimethyl 1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate. 6-Azido-1-hexanol (1.570 g, 10.98 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask with

35 mL of CHCl₃. Dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (2.028 g, 14.27 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at 50 °C for 24 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* affording a crude pale yellow oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 7:3 ethyl acetate:hexanes furnished 3.125 g (10.953 mmol, 99.76% yield) of the title compound as a pale yellow oil.

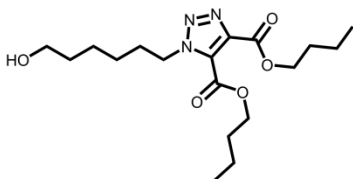
TLC: 7:3 ethyl acetate:hexanes, R_f=0.34, UV, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, purple spot.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.59 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.63 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.91 (p, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.55 (p, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.43 – 1.32 (m, 5H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.6 (C=O), 159.0 (C=O), 139.9 (4°), 129.8 (4°), 62.5 (CH_2), 53.5 (CH_3), 52.7 (CH_3), 50.5 (CH_2), 32.3 (CH_2), 30.1 (CH_2), 26.1 (CH_2), 25.1 (CH_2).

IR (Neat): 3429 (s, OH), 3006 (s, alkane CH), 2938 (s, alkane CH), 2862 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1555 (m, triazole C=C), 1469 (s, methylene bending CH_2), 1283 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1224 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1063 (s, 1° alcohol stretch C-O) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 286.1397; Found 286.1393.



Preparation of 4,5-dibutyl 1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate. 6-Azidohexan-1-ol (1.570 g,

10.98 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask

with 35 mL of CHCl_3 . 1,4-Dibutyl but-2-ynedioate (3.229 g, 14.27 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at 50°C for 24 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* affording a colorless crude oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 3:2 hexanes:ethyl acetate furnished 4.013 g (10.862 mmol, 98.9% yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

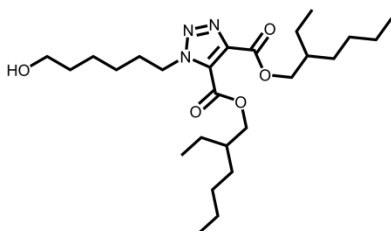
TLC: 3:2 hexanes:ethyl acetate, $R_f=0.25$, UV, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, purple spot.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.57 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.36 (overlapping t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 4H), 3.62 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.90 (p, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.74 (overlapping p, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 4H), 1.55 (p, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.49 – 1.30 (m, 9H), 1.02 – 0.85 (m, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.5 (C=O), 158.8 (C=O), 140.3 (4°), 129.8 (4°), 66.7 (CH_2), 65.7 (CH_2), 62.6 (CH_2), 50.4 (CH_2), 32.4 (CH_2), 30.6 (CH_2), 30.3 (CH_2), 30.2 (CH_2), 26.1 (CH_2), 25.1 (CH_2), 19.1 (CH_3), 19.0 (CH_3), 13.7 (CH_3), 13.6 (CH_3).

IR (Neat): 3439 (s, OH), 2961 (s, alkane CH), 2936 (s, alkane CH), 2874 (s, alkane CH), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1553 (m, triazole C=C), 1467 (s, methylene bending CH₂), 1280 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1065 (s, 1° alcohol stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for C₁₈H₃₁N₃O₅ [M+H]⁺ 370.2336; Found 370.2330.



Preparation of 4,5-bis(2-ethylhexyl) 1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.

6-Azidohexan-1-ol (1.570 g, 10.98 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask with 35 mL of CHCl₃. 1,4-Bis(2-ethylhexyl) but-2-ynedioate (4.830 g, 14.27 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at 50 °C for 24 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* affording a colorless crude oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate furnished 5.2641 g (10.929 mmol, 99.5% yield) of a colorless oil, as a mixture of diastereomers.

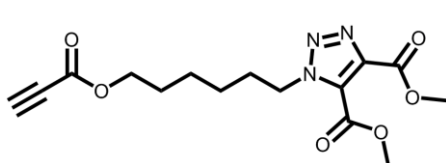
TLC: 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate, R_f=0.29, UV, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, purple spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.58 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.33 – 4.22 (m, 4H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.91 (p, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.77 – 1.64 (m, 2H), 1.55 (p, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.44 – 1.26 (m, 21H), 0.97 – 0.80 (m, 12H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 160.5 (C=O), 158.8 (C=O), 140.4 (4°), 129.7 (4°), 69.1 (CH₂), 68.3 (CH₂), 62.5 (CH₂), 50.4 (CH₂), 38.7 (CH), 38.7 (CH), 32.4 (CH₂), 30.2 (CH₂), 28.9 (CH₂), 26.1 (CH₂), 25.1 (CH₂), 23.6 (CH₂), 23.5 (CH₂), 22.9 (CH₂), 14.0 (CH₃), 10.9 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 3436 (s, OH), 2959 (s, alkane CH), 2932 (s, alkane CH), 2861 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1555 (m, triazole C=C), 1466 (s, methylene bending CH₂), 1279 (m, ester stretch C-O), 1060 (1° alcohol stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for C₂₆H₄₇N₃O₅ [M+H]⁺ 482.3588; Found 482.3588.



Preparation of 4,5-dimethyl-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate. Propiolic acid (0.500 g, 7.138 mmol)

was added to a 25 mL round bottom flask with 7 mL of toluene. 4,5-Dimethyl 1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (2.6472 g, 9.279 mmol) and 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid (0.0815 g, 0.428 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at reflux for 2 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a light brown crude oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 1:1 hexanes:ethyl acetate furnished 1.5981 g (4.738 mmol, 66.37% yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

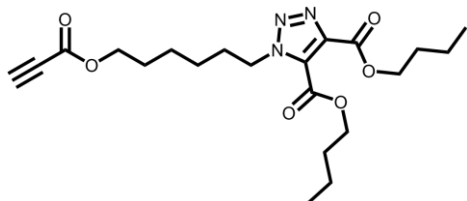
TLC: 1:1 hexanes:ethyl acetate, $R_f=0.61$, UV, KMnO_4 stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, yellow spot.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.62 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.20 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 2.90 (s, 1H), 1.95 (p, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.70 (p, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.47 – 1.36 (m, 4H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.5 (C=O), 159.0 (C=O), 152.7 (C=O), 140.0 (4°), 129.7 (4°), 74.7 (alkyne 4°), 74.67 (alkyne CH), 66.0 (CH_2), 53.4 (CH_3), 52.7 (CH_3), 50.4 (CH_2), 30.0 (CH_2), 28.1 (CH_2), 25.9 (CH_2), 25.2 (CH_2).

IR (Neat): 3255 (s, alkyne CH) 2955 (s, alkane CH), 2864 (s, alkane CH), 2117 (s, alkyne CC), 1735 (s, ester C=O), 1716 (s, ester C=O), 1554 (m, triazole C=C), 1466 (s, methylene bending CH_2), 1267 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1235 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 338.1347; Found 338.1340.



Preparation of 4,5-dibutyl-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-

dicarboxylate. Propiolic acid (1.500 g, 21.413 mmol) was added to a 25 mL round bottom flask

with 21 mL of toluene. 4,5-Dibutyl 1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (9.4935 g, 25.6956 mmol) and 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid (0.2443 g, 1.2847 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at reflux for 2 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a light brown crude oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate afforded 6.3370 g (15.0349 mmol, 70.21% yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

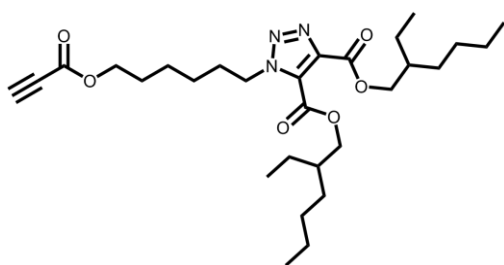
TLC: 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate, $R_f=0.53$, UV, KMnO_4 stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, yellow spot.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.60 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.39 (overlapping t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4H), 4.20 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.90 (s, 1H), 1.94 (p, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.77 (overlapping p, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4H), 1.69 (p, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.51 – 1.35 (m, 8H), 1.00 – 0.96 (m, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.4 (C=O), 158.7 (C=O), 152.7 (C=O), 140.4 (4°), 129.7 (4°), 74.7 (alkyne 4°), 74.6 (alkyne CH), 66.7 (CH_2), 66.0 (CH_2), 65.7 (CH_2), 50.3 (CH_2), 30.6 (CH_2), 30.0 (CH_2), 28.1 (CH_2), 25.9 (CH_2), 25.2 (CH_2), 19.1 (CH_2), 19.0 (CH_2), 13.6 (CH_3), 13.0 (CH_3).

IR (Neat): 3254 (s, alkyne CH), 2961 (s, alkane CH), 2937 (s, alkane CH), 2874 (s, alkane CH), 2117 (s, alkyne CC), 1718 (s, ester C=O), 1553 (m, triazole C=C), 1467 (s, methylene bending CH_2), 1267 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1235 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 422.2286; Found 422.2274.



Preparation of 4,5-bis(2-ethylhexyl)-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.

Propiolic acid (0.500 g, 7.138 mmol) was added to a 25 mL round bottom flask with 7 mL of toluene. 4,5-Bis(2-ethylhexyl) 1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (4.1256 g, 8.5652 mmol) and 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid (0.0815 g, 0.428 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at reflux for 2 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a light brown crude oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 4:1 hexanes:ethyl acetate afforded 2.7286 g (5.1126 mmol, 71.64% yield) of a colorless oil, as a mixture of diastereomers.

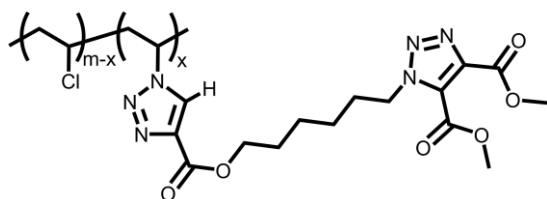
TLC: 4:1 hexanes:ethyl acetate, $R_f=0.56$, UV, KMnO_4 stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue-yellow spot.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.59 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 4.35 – 4.23 (m, 4H), 4.19 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.90 (s, 1H), 1.93 (p, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.71 (m, 4H), 1.50 – 1.27 (m, 20H), 0.96 – 0.87 (m, 12H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.5 (C=O), 158.8 (C=O), 152.7 (C=O), 140.5 (4°), 129.6 (4°), 74.7 (alkyne 4°), 74.6 (alkyne CH), 69.2 (CH_2), 68.4 (CH_2), 66.0 (CH_2), 50.3 (CH_2), 38.73 (CH), 38.70 (CH), 30.20 (CH_2), 30.15 (CH_2), 30.1 (CH_2), 28.9 (CH_2), 28.9 (CH_2), 28.1 (CH_2), 26.0 (CH_2), 25.3 (CH_2), 23.6 (CH_2), 23.5 (CH_2), 22.94 (CH_2), 22.93 (CH_2), 14.0 (CH_3), 10.88 (CH_3), 10.87 (CH_3).

IR (Neat): 3255 (s, alkyne CH), 2960 (s, alkane CH), 2931 (s, alkane CH), 2862 (s, alkane CH), 2117 (s, alkyne CC), 1717 (s, ester C=O), 1555 (m, triazole C=C), 1465 (s, methylene bending CH_2), 1268 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1220 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{47}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 534.3538; Found 534.3521.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-

DiMe. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-

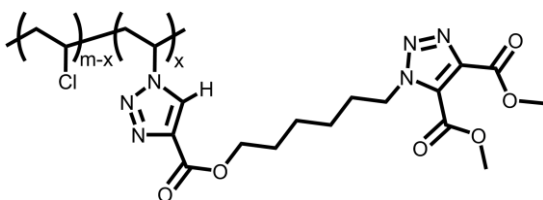
pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Dimethyl-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (0.674 g, 2.0 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 36 h. The reaction was precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, two times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 2 days to yield 0.880 g of a flocculent white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.27 – 8.23 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 8.19 – 8.16 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 5.31 – 5.18 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.66 – 4.55 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole*), 4.46 (br s, *Cl-C-H*), 4.40 – 4.34 (br m, *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker*), 4.34 – 4.25 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 4.02 (br s, *O-CH₃*), 3.98 (br s, *O-CH₃*), 2.85 – 2.80 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.76 – 2.71 (br t, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.69 – 2.60 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.99 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*), 1.99 – 1.90 (br m, *PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole*), 1.85 – 1.75 (br m, *PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker*), 1.55 – 1.36 (br m, *linker CH₂'s*).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.6 (C=O), 159.0 (C=O), 140.0 (4°), 129.8 (4°), 65.2 (O-CH₂), 65.1 (O-CH₂), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 53.5 (CH₃), 52.7 (CH₃), 50.5 (CH₂) 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 3140 (w, triazole CH), 2975 (m, alkane CH), 2938 (m, alkane CH), 2912 (m, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1714 (s, ester C=O), 1547 (w, triazole C=C), 1459 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1435 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1254 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1230 (s, ester stretch C-O), 611 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 82 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-

DiMe. Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of

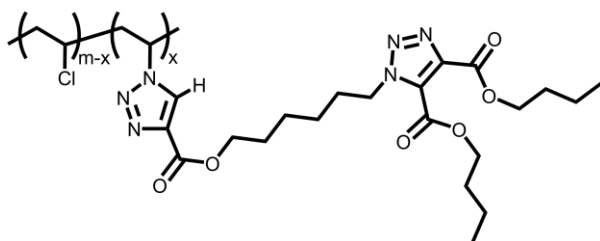
3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Dimethyl-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (2.4287 g, 7.2 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 2 days to yield 0.5 g of a flocculent white solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.27 – 8.23 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 8.18 – 8.10 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 5.31 – 5.10 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.66 – 4.55 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole*), 4.44 (br s, *Cl-C-H*), 4.40 – 4.25 (br m, *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker* and *Cl-C-H*), 4.01 (br s, *O-CH₃*), 3.97 (br s, *O-CH₃*), 2.85 – 2.60 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.99 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*), 1.94 (br s, *PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole*), 1.79 (br s, *PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker*), 1.49 – 1.41 (br m, *linker CH₂'s*).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 160.6 (C=O), 159.0 (C=O), 139.9 (4°), 129.8 (4°), 65.2 (O-CH₂), 65.1 (O-CH₂), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 53.5 (CH₃), 52.7 (CH₃), 50.5 (CH₂) 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 3138 (w, triazole CH), 2953 (m, alkane CH), 2863 (m, alkane CH), 1734 (s, ester C=O), 1546 (w, triazole C=C), 1464 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1435 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1225 (s, ester stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 75 °C.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-

TRZ-DiBu. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide

(1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and

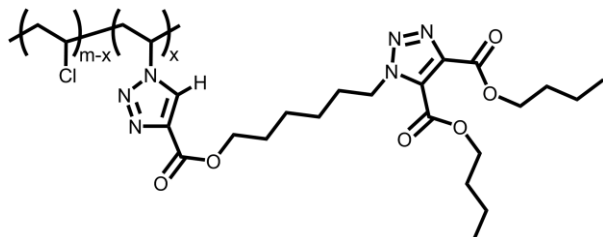
dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Dibutyl-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (0.8427 g, 2.0 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 48 h. The reaction was precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 2 days to yield 0.96 g of a flocculent white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.29 – 8.23 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 8.19 – 8.16 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 5.30 – 5.20 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.66 – 4.55 (br s, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole*), 4.46 (br s, *Cl-C-H*), 4.42 – 4.35 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-linker-triazole-O-CH₂*), 4.34 – 4.26 (br m, *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker*), 2.85 – 2.80 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.78 – 2.69 (br t, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.68 – 2.60 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.99 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*), 1.98 – 1.90 (br m, *PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole*), 1.80 – 1.72 (br m, *PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker* and *linker-triazole-O-C-CH₂*), 1.54 – 1.37 (br m, *linker CH₂'s* and *linker-triazole-O-C-CH₂-CH₂-C*), 1.01 – 0.95 (br m, *CH₃*).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.4 (C=O), 158.7 (C=O), 140.3 (4°), 129.7 (4°), 66.7 (O-CH₂), 65.7 (O-CH₂), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 50.4 (CH₂), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 30.6 (CH₂), 30.3 (CH₂), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 28.3 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.4 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂), 19.1 (CH₂), 19.0 (CH₂), 13.74 (CH₃), 13.71 (CH₃), 13.7 (CH₃), 13.6 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 3140 (w, triazole CH), 2962 (m, alkane CH), 2937 (m, alkane CH), 2873 (m, alkane CH), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (w, triazole C=C), 1464 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1435 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1255 (m, ester stretch C-O), 1202 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 65 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-DiBu. Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask

and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Dibutyl-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (3.0347 g, 7.2 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 0.80 g of an off-white solid.

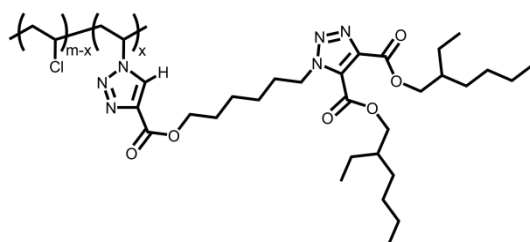
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.29 – 8.23 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 8.17 – 8.10 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 5.30 – 5.10 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.65 – 4.55 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole*), 4.45 (br s, *Cl-C-H*), 4.42 – 4.34 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker* and *PVC-linker-triazole-O-CH₂*), 2.85 – 2.80 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.78 – 2.69 (br t, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.68 – 2.51 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.99 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*), 1.98 – 1.85 (br s, *PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole*), 1.85 – 1.71 (br m, *PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker* and *linker-triazole-O-C-CH₂*), 1.54 – 1.37 (br m, *linker CH₂'s* and *linker-triazole-O-C-CH₂-CH₂-C*), 1.01 – 0.94 (br m, *CH₃*).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 160.4 (C=O), 158.7 (C=O), 140.3 (4°), 129.7 (4°), 66.7 (O-CH₂), 65.7 (O-CH₂), 65.2 (O-CH₂), 57.1 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 50.4 (CH₂), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 30.6 (CH₂), 30.3 (CH₂),

30.0 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 28.3 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.4 (CH₂), 19.1 (CH₂), 19.0 (CH₂), 13.72 (CH₃), 13.65 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 3138 (w, triazole CH), 2961 (m, alkane CH), 2937 (m, alkane CH), 2873 (m, alkane CH), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1551 (m, triazole C=C), 1465 (m, methylene stretch CH₂ stretch CH₂), 1435 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1203 (s, ester stretch C-O), 616 (w, C-Cl) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 54 °C.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-

DiEH. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-

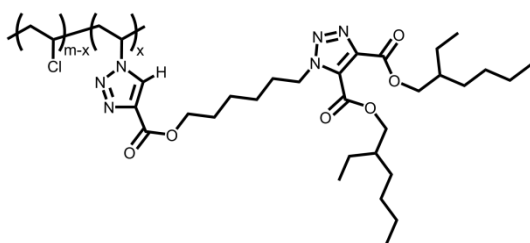
pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Bis(2-ethylhexyl)-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (1.0674 g, 2.0 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 36 h. The reaction was precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 2 days to yield 0.96 g of a flocculent white solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.28 – 8.23 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 8.19 – 8.16 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 5.25 (br s, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.65 – 4.55 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole*), 4.46 (br s, *Cl-C-H*), 4.40 – 4.24 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker* and *PVC-linker-triazole-O-CH₂*), 2.88 – 2.79 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.78 – 2.69 (br t, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.68 – 2.51 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.98 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-C*), 1.98 – 1.86 (br m, *PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole*), 1.85 – 1.77 (br m, *PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker*), 1.76 – 1.68 (br m, *PVC-linker-triazole-O-C-CH₂-C*), 1.54 – 1.29 (br m, *linker CH₂'s* and *linker-triazole-O-C-C-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-C*), 0.96 – 0.89 (br m, *CH₃*).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.6 (C=O), 158.8 (C=O), 140.4 (4°), 129.6 (4°), 69.2 (O- CH_2), 68.4 (O- CH_2), 65.2 (O- CH_2), 57.1 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 50.4 (CH_2), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 PVC peaks), 38.73 (CH), 38.69 (CH), 30.19 (CH_2), 30.16 (CH_2), 30.1 (CH_2), 28.88 (CH_2), 28.86 (CH_2), 28.4 (CH_2), 26.1 (CH_2), 25.4 (CH_2), 23.0 (CH_2), 22.96 (CH_2), 22.95 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 14.0 (CH_3), 10.9 (CH_3).

IR (Neat): 3144 (w, triazole CH), 2960 (s, alkane CH), 2931 (s, alkane CH), 2861 (s, alkane CH), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1553 (m, triazole C=C), 1465 (m, methylene stretch CH_2), 1435 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1254 (m, ester stretch C-O), 1201 (s, ester stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 56 $^\circ\text{C}$.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-

DiEH. Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-

pentanone at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$. 4,5-Bis(2-ethylhexyl)-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (3.8426 g, 7.2 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 2 days to yield 1.11 g of an off-white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.25 – 8.20 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 8.19 – 8.07 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 5.26 – 5.10 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.65 – 4.52 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole*), 4.45 (br s, *Cl-C-H*), 4.40 – 4.22 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker* and *PVC-linker-triazole-O-CH₂*), 2.87 – 2.79 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.78 – 2.69 (br s, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.68 – 2.51 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.99 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*),

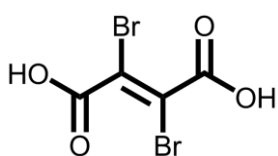
1.98 – 1.86 (br s, PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole), 1.85 – 1.77 (br s, PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker), 1.76 – 1.65 (br m, PVC-linker-triazole-O-C-CH-C), 1.55 – 1.25 (br m, linker CH₂'s and linker-triazole-O-C-C-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-C), 0.97 – 0.86 (br m, CH₃).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT) δ 160.6 (C=O), 158.8 (C=O), 140.4 (4°), 129.6 (4°), 69.2 (O-CH₂), 68.4 (O-CH₂), 65.2 (O-CH₂), 57.1 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.0 – 54.9 (CH iso), 50.4 (CH₂), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 38.72 (CH), 38.69 (CH), 30.19 (CH₂), 30.16 (CH₂), 30.1 (CH₂), 28.88 (CH₂), 28.86 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.4 (CH₂), 23.6 (CH₂), 23.5 (CH₂), 22.96 (CH₂), 22.94 (CH₂), 14.1 (CH₃), 10.9 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 3139 (w, triazole CH), 2960 (s, alkane CH), 2932 (s, alkane CH), 2861 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (m, triazole C=C), 1465 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1436 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1202 (s, ester stretch C-O), 616 (w, C-Cl) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 41 °C.

6.6 Chapter 3 Experimental Section



Preparation of Dibromofumaric Acid.⁴

Acetylenedicarboxylic acid monopotassium salt (5.522 g, 36.30 mmol) was added to a 500 mL round bottom flask and dissolved into ~20 mL of 2M aqueous KOH solution while stirring. NaBr (102.89 g, 26.149 mmol) was dissolved in 80 mL of H₂O via sonication. Br₂ (6.381 g, 39.93 mmol) was quickly added to the NaBr aqueous solution. The resulting orange NaBr/Br₂ solution was subsequently added to the acetylenedicarboxylate solution. Stirring was ceased for the remainder of the reaction to prevent Br₂ degradation. The reaction flask was covered in aluminum foil, and an additional 50 mL of H₂O was added to bring the total volume to 150 mL, and was left for 24 h at room temperature. After 24 h, a transparent colorless solution was observed. To the reaction flask, 3 mL of saturated aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ solution was added to quench the excess Br₂ while stirring. The reaction was saturated with NaCl and acidified with 12 mL of concentrated HCl

and extracted with 50 mL of ethyl acetate each four times. The organic layers were dried with Na_2SO_4 . The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* to afford a white solid. After recrystallization in chloroform, 8.000 g (29.21 mmol, 80.47% yield) of the title compound was recovered as colorless needles: mp 239 – 240 °C.

Alternative Purification Method: A faster method providing purer product involved dissolving the crude solid into a minimal amount of Et_2O , which was subsequently slowly rotavapped to deposit solid on the sides of a pear shaped flask. The solid was washed with CHCl_3 , carefully avoiding pushing the deposited solid down the flask. The light brown to orange mother liquor was pipetted out and placed into a beaker. This washing process was repeated three times. The dissolution-washing process was repeated until the CHCl_3 mother liquor became colorless.

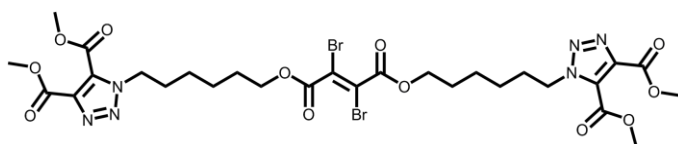
TLC: Not UV Active nor Stain Active.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, d_6 -Acetone): No Detectable Protons.

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, d_6 -Acetone): δ 162.8 (C=O), 111.7 (C-Br).

IR (KBr Pellet): 3013 (s, OH stretch), 1699 (s, carboxylic acid C=O), 1405 (m, alcohol bending OH), 686 (m, C-Br) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Not Detectable.



**Preparation of 4,5-dimethyl 1-
(6-(((2E)-4-((6-[4,5-
bis(methoxycarbonyl)-1H-1,2,3-**

**triazol-1-yl]hexyl)oxy)-2,3-dibromo-4-oxobut-2-enoyl]oxy)hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-
dicarboxylate.**⁴⁻⁵ Dibromofumaric acid (1.5000 g, 5.4765 mmol) and PCl_5 (2.3370 g, 11.226 mmol) was added to a 25 mL round bottom flask with 5 mL of pentane. The reaction was refluxed for 2 h while stirring. Reaction completeness was determined by observing the

dissolution of solids into a clear yellow solution. After the dissolution of solids was noted, the reaction was immediately diluted with 5 mL of pentane. The diluted reaction was added slowly to a 150 mL beaker of crescent-cube ice, and was allowed to stand for 10 min with occasional swirling. The quenched reaction solution was transferred to a 150 mL separatory funnel. The organic layer was collected and dried with Na₂SO₄. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a clear yellow oil (1.6457g, 5.2959 mmol, 96.7% yield) of (2E)-dibromobut-2-enedioyl dichloride. The acid chloride was immediately diluted with 30 mL of CCl₄ under N₂ in a 250 mL pear flask. Next, 4,5-dimethyl 1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (3.1729 g, 11.121 mmol) and pyridine (0.8797 g, 11.121 mmol) were added to a 250 mL round bottom flask with 60 mL of CCl₄ and cooled to 0 °C under N₂ with stirring. The acid chloride solution was slowly added *via* syringe over 10 min, noting the formation of pyridine salts in solution. After the addition of the acid chloride, the reaction was allowed to stir at 0 °C for 30 min, then at room temperature for an additional 1 h. The reaction was poured into a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 20 mL of 5% aqueous HCl, two times each. The organic layer was collected, dried with MgSO₄ and filtered. The volatiles were then evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a clear yellow oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 7:3 ethyl acetate:hexanes furnishing 3.6947 g (4.5702 mmol, 86.29% yield) of the title compound as a clear pale yellow oil.

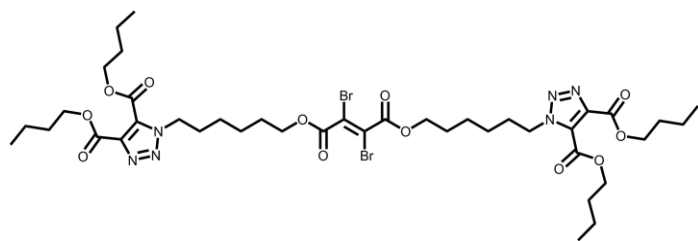
TLC: 7:3 ethyl acetate:hexanes, R_f=0.53, UV, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, purple spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.55 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 4.23 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 3.95 (s, 6H), 3.92 (s, 6H), 1.88 (p, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 1.68 (p, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 1.45 – 1.39 (m, 4H), 1.36 – 1.30 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 162.2 (C=O), 160.5 (C=O), 159.0 (C=O), 140.0 (4°), 129.7 (4°), 112.7 (C-Br), 66.9 (CH₂), 53.5 (CH₃), 52.7 (CH₃), 50.4 (CH₂), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 25.8 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 3003 (s, alkane CH), 2954 (s, alkane CH), 2863 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1554 (m, triazole C=C), 1468 (s, methylene bending CH₂), 1272 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1231 (s, ester stretch C-O), 914 (s, alkene bending C=C), 733 (s, alkene bending C=C) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for C₂₈H₃₆Br₂N₆O₁₂ [M+H]⁺ 807.0831; Found 807.0831. (Br isotopes): 809.0804, 811.0782, 812.0808.



Preparation of 4,5-dibutyl 1-(6-((2E)-4-((6-[4,5-bis(butoxycarbonyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl)oxy)-2,3-

dibromo-4-oxobut-2-enoyl]oxy)hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.⁴⁻⁵

Dibromofumaric acid (1.5000 g, 5.4765 mmol) and PCl₅ (2.3940 g, 11.496 mmol) was added to a 25 mL round bottom flask with 5 mL of pentane. The reaction was refluxed for 2 h while stirring. Reaction completeness was determined by observing the dissolution of solids into a clear yellow solution. After the dissolution of solids was noted, the reaction was immediately diluted with 5 mL of pentane. The diluted reaction was added slowly to a 150 mL beaker of crescent-cube ice, and was allowed to stand for 10 min with occasional swirling. The quenched reaction solution was transferred to a 150 mL separatory funnel. The organic layer was collected and dried with Na₂SO₄. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a clear yellow oil (1.6605 g, 5.3434 mmol, 97.5% yield) of (2E)-dibromobut-2-enedioyl dichloride. The acid chloride was immediately diluted with 30 mL of CCl₄ under N₂ in a 250 mL pear flask. Next, 4,5-dibutyl 1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (4.1457 g, 11.221 mmol) and pyridine (0.8870 g, 11.221 mmol) were added to a 250 mL round bottom flask with 60 mL of CCl₄ and cooled to 0 °C under N₂ with stirring. The acid chloride solution was slowly added *via* syringe over 10 min, noting an orange color and the formation of pyridine salts in solution. After the addition of the acid chloride, the reaction was allowed to stir at 0 °C for 30 min, then at room temperature for an additional 2 h. The reaction

was poured into a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 20 mL of 5% aqueous HCl, two times each. The organic layer was collected, dried with MgSO₄ and filtered. The volatiles were then evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a dark red oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 1:1 hexanes:ethyl acetate was performed, furnishing 4.4136 g (4.5186 mmol, 84.56% yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

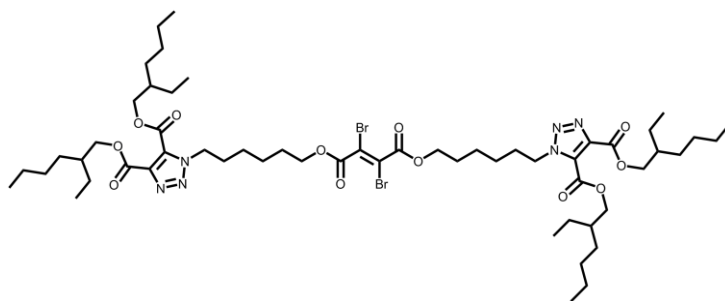
TLC: 1:1 hexanes:ethyl acetate, R_f=0.78, UV, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, purple spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.56 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 4.34 (overlapping t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 8H), 4.25 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 1.90 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 1.77 – 1.63 (m, 12H), 1.48 – 1.30 (m, 16H), 0.99 – 0.75 (m, 12H).

¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 162.2 (C=O), 160.4 (C=O), 158.7 (C=O), 140.4 (4°), 129.6 (4°), 112.7 (C-Br), 66.9 (CH₂), 66.7 (CH₂), 65.7 (CH₂), 50.3 (CH₂), 30.6 (CH₂), 30.3 (CH₂), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 25.9 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂), 19.1 (CH₂), 19.0 (CH₂), 13.7 (CH₃), 13.6 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 2961 (s, alkane CH), 2937 (s, alkane CH), 2873 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1553 (m, triazole C=C), 1467 (s, methylene bending CH₂), 1267 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1214 (s, ester stretch C-O), 755 (m, alkene bending C=C) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for C₄₀H₆₀Br₂N₆O₁₂ [M+H]⁺ 975.2708; Found 975.2708. (Br isotopes): 976.2737, 977.2684, 979.2668, 980.2695.



Preparation of 4,5-bis(2-ethylhexyl) 1-(6-(((2E)-4-(6-ethylhexyl)oxy)carbonyl))-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl}oxy)-2,3-dibromo-4-oxobut-2-enoyl]oxy)hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-

dicarboxylate.⁴⁻⁵ Dibromofumaric acid (1.5200 g, 5.5502 mmol) and PCl_5 (2.4270 g, 11.655 mmol) was added to a 25 mL round bottom flask with 5 mL of pentane. The reaction was refluxed for 2 h while stirring. Reaction completeness was determined by observing the dissolution of solids into a clear yellow solution. After the dissolution of solids was noted, the reaction was immediately diluted with 5 mL of pentane. The diluted reaction was added slowly to a 150 mL beaker of crescent-cube ice, and was allowed to stand for 10 min with occasional swirling. The quenched reaction solution was transferred to a 150 mL separatory funnel. The organic layer was collected and dried with Na_2SO_4 . The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a clear yellow oil (1.6563 g, 5.3299 mmol, 96.0% yield) of (2E)-dibromobut-2-enedioyl dichloride. The acid chloride was immediately diluted with 30 mL of CCl_4 under N_2 in a 250 mL pear flask. Next, 4,5-bis(2-ethylhexyl) 1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (5.3913 g, 11.193 mmol) and pyridine (0.8853 g, 11.193 mmol) were added to a 250 mL round bottom flask with 60 mL of CCl_4 and cooled to 0 °C under N_2 with stirring. The acid chloride solution was slowly added *via* syringe over 10 min, noting an orange-brown color and the formation of pyridine salts in solution. After the addition of the acid chloride, the reaction was allowed to stir at 0 °C for 30 min, then at room temperature for an additional 2 h. The reaction was poured into a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 20 mL of 5% aqueous HCl, two times each. The organic layer was collected, dried with MgSO_4 and filtered. The volatiles were then evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a dark red oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate was performed,

furnishing 5.1462 g (4.2842 mmol, 80.38% yield) of a colorless oil, as a mixture of diastereomers.

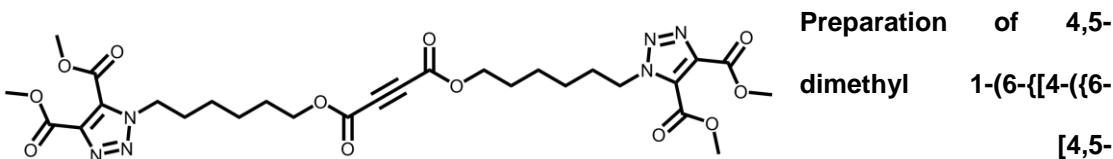
TLC: 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate, $R_f=0.64$, UV, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.55 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 4H), 4.30 – 4.19 (m, 12H), 1.89 (p, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 4H), 1.73 – 1.62 (m, 8H), 1.47 – 1.21 (m, 40H), 0.93 – 0.79 (m, 24H).

^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 162.2 (C=O), 160.6 (C=O), 158.8 (C=O), 140.5 (4°), 129.6 (4°), 112.7 (C-Br), 69.1 (CH_2), 68.4 (CH_2), 66.9 (CH_2), 50.3 (CH_2), 38.7 (CH), 30.2 (CH_2), 30.2 (CH_2), 30.1 (CH_2), 28.9 (CH_2), 28.1 (CH_2), 25.9 (CH_2), 25.2 (CH_2), 23.6 (CH_2), 23.5 (CH_2), 22.9 (CH_2), 14.0 (CH_3), 10.9 (CH_3).

IR (Neat): 2959 (s, alkane CH), 2932 (s, alkane CH), 2872 (s, alkane CH), 2861 (s, alkane CH), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1554 (m, triazole C=C), 1466 (s, methylene bending CH_2), 1267 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1235 (s, ester stretch C-O), 758 (m, alkene bending C=C) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{92}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_6\text{O}_{12}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 1199.5213; Found 1199.5212. (Br isotopes): 1201.5193, 1203.5179, 1204.5198.



⁶ To a 250 mL round bottom flask, 4,5-dimethyl 1-(6-{{(2E)-4-{{(6-[4,5-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl}oxy)-2,3-dibromo-4-oxobut-2-enoyl]oxy}hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (1.000 g, 1.236 mmol) was added to 12 mL of anhydrous THF. Subsequently, Zn metal (0.4849 g, 7.416 mmol) and I_2 (0.020 g, 0.0787 mmol) were added and stirred at reflux for 5 h under N_2 . The reaction was cooled and filtered through CELITETM then concentrated *in vacuo* with 80 mL of ethyl acetate. The

solution was poured into a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 20 mL of 10% aqueous $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$, two times each. The organic layer was collected and dried with MgSO_4 . The volatiles were then evaporated *in vacuo*, and immediately purified *via* flash chromatography using 7:3 ethyl acetate:hexanes, affording 0.711 g (1.0928 mmol, 88.41% yield) of the title compound as a viscous clear yellow oil.

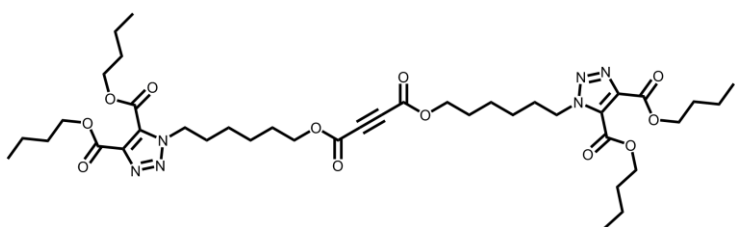
TLC: 7:3 ethyl acetate:hexanes, UV, $R_f=0.54$, KMnO_4 stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.59 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 4.21 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 4H), 4.00 (s, 6H), 3.97 (s, 6H), 1.92 (p, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 4H), 1.67 (p, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 4H), 1.44 – 1.33 (m, 8H).

^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.5 (C=O), 159.0 (C=O), 151.8 (C=O), 139.9 (4°), 129.7 (4°), 74.7 (alkyne 4°), 66.6 (CH_2), 53.4 (CH_3), 52.7 (CH_3), 50.4 (CH_2), 29.9 (CH_2), 28.0 (CH_2), 25.8 (CH_2), 25.1 (CH_2).

IR (Neat): 3010 (s, alkane CH), 2954 (s, alkane CH), 2863 (s, alkane CH), 1729 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (m, triazole C=C), 1468 (methylene bending CH_2), 1259 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1227 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_6\text{O}_{12}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 649.2463; Found 649.2463.



Preparation of 4,5-dibutyl

1-(6-((4-((6-[4,5-bis(butoxycarbonyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl)oxy)-4-oxobut-2-ynoyl]oxy)hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.⁶

To a 250 mL round bottom flask, 4,5-dibutyl 1-(6-((4-((6-[4,5-bis(butoxycarbonyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl)oxy)-2,3-dibromo-4-oxobut-2-enoyl]oxy)hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (7.780 g, 8.057 mmol) was added to 70 mL of anhydrous THF. Subsequently, Zn metal (3.1607 g, 48.343 mmol) and I_2 (0.1226 g, 0.48342 mmol) were added and stirred at reflux for

5 h under N₂. The reaction was cooled and filtered through CELITE™ then concentrated *in vacuo* with 80 mL of ethyl acetate. The solution was poured into a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 20 mL of 10% aqueous Na₂S₂O₃, two times each. The organic layer was collected and dried with MgSO₄. The volatiles were then evaporated *in vacuo*, and immediately purified *via* flash chromatography using 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate, affording 5.2953 g (6.4817 mmol, 80.44% yield) of the title compound as a viscous colorless oil.

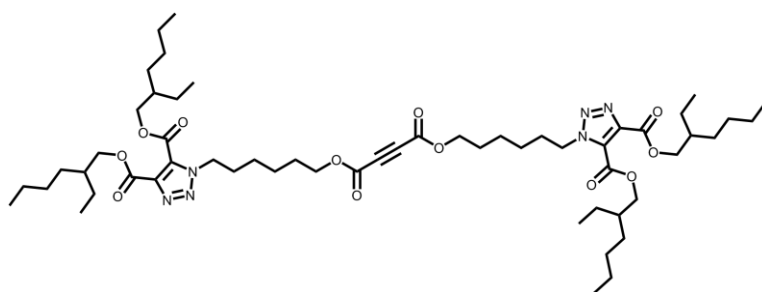
TLC: 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate, R_f=0.39, UV, KMnO₄ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.55 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 4.34 (overlapping t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 8H), 4.18 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.89 (p, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 1.72 (overlapping p, *J* = 6.7, 8H), 1.65 (p, *J* = 6.6, 4H), 1.45 – 1.32 (m, 16H), 0.98 – 0.88 (m, 12H).

¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 160.2 (C=O), 158.7 (C=O), 151.8 (C=O), 140.4 (4°), 129.7 (4°), 74.7 (alkyne 4°), 66.7 (CH₂), 66.7 (CH₂), 65.7 (CH₂), 50.3 (CH₂), 30.6 (CH₂), 30.3 (CH₂), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 25.9 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂), 19.1 (CH₂), 19.0 (CH₂), 13.7 (CH₃), 13.6 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 2961 (s, alkane CH), 2937 (s, alkane CH), 2873 (s, alkane CH), 1725 (s, ester C=O), 1553 (triazole alkene, C=C), 1467 (methylene bending CH₂), 1259 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1207 (s, ester stretch, C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for C₄₀H₆₀N₆O₁₂ [M+H]⁺ 817.4342; Found 817.4326.



Preparation of 4,5-bis(2-ethylhexyl) 1-(6-((2-ethylhexyl)oxy)carbonyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl}oxy)-4-oxobut-2-enoyl]oxy)hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.⁶

To a 250 mL round bottom flask, 4,5-bis(2-ethylhexyl) 1-(6-((2E)-4-((6-[4,5-bis(((2-ethylhexyl)oxy)carbonyl))-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl)oxy)-2,3-dibromo-4-oxobut-2-enoyl]oxy)hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (7.207 g, 6.0 mmol) was added to 60 mL of anhydrous THF. Subsequently, Zn metal (2.353 g, 36.0 mmol) and I₂ (0.1827 g, 0.72 mmol) were added and stirred at reflux for 5 h under N₂. The reaction was cooled and filtered through CELITE™ then concentrated *in vacuo* with 80 mL of ethyl acetate. The solution was poured into a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 20 mL of 10% aqueous Na₂S₂O₃, two times each. The organic layer was collected and dried with MgSO₄. The volatiles were then evaporated *in vacuo*, and immediately purified *via* flash chromatography using 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate, affording 5.3218 g (5.1104 mmol, 85.17% yield) of a colorless oil, as a mixture of diastereomers.

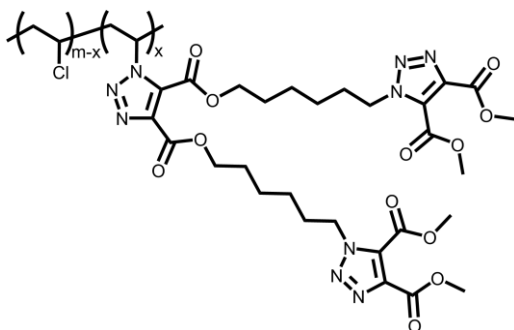
TLC: 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate, R_f=0.63, UV, KMnO₄ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.56 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 4.31 – 4.22 (m, 8H), 4.19 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.90 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 1.74 – 1.63 (m, 8H), 1.48 – 1.28 (m, 40H), 0.91 – 0.87 (m, 24H).

¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 160.6 (C=O), 158.8 (C=O), 151.8 (C=O), 140.5 (4°), 129.6 (4°), 74.7 (alkyne 4°), 69.2 (CH₂), 68.4 (CH₂), 66.7 (CH₂), 50.3 (CH₂), 38.7 (CH), 30.2 (CH₂), 30.2 (CH₂), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.9 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 25.9 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂), 23.6 (CH₂), 23.6 (CH₂), 23.0 (CH₂), 14.1 (CH₃), 10.9 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 2959 (s, alkane CH), 2932 (s, alkane CH), 2872 (s, alkane CH), 2862 (s, alkane CH), 1727 (s, ester C=O), 1554 (m, triazole C=C), 1466 (s, methylene bending CH₂), 1256 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1215 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for C₅₆H₉₂N₆O₁₂ [M+H]⁺ 1041.6846; Found 1041.6843.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-

DiMe. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (0.500 g, 8.00 mmol) was added to a 50 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Dimethyl 1-(6-{{[4-{{(6-[4,5-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-

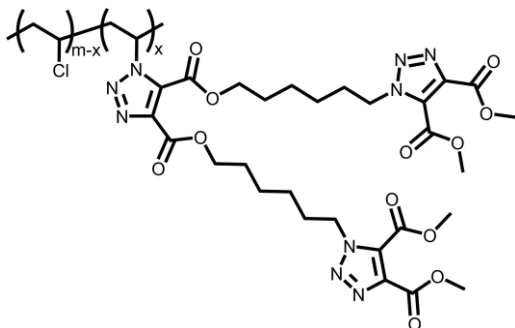
yl]hexyl}oxy)-4-oxobut-2-ynoyl]oxy}hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (0.520 g, 0.80 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 2 days to yield 0.413 g of a flocculent white solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.62 – 5.42 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.66 – 4.54 (br m, Cl-C-H and PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole), 4.45 (br s, Cl-C-H), 4.37 – 4.34 (br m, PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker), 4.33 – 4.25 (br m, Cl-C-H), 4.01 (br s, O-CH₃), 3.97 (br s, O-CH₃), 2.91 – 2.80 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.74 (br s, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.49 – 1.99 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl), 1.98 – 1.89 (br m, PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole), 1.83 – 1.73 (br m, PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker), 1.55 – 1.36 (br m, linker CH₂'s).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.6 (C=O), 159.0 (C=O), 139.9 (4°), 129.8 (4°), 67.3 (O-CH₂), 65.7 (O-CH₂), 57.1 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 53.5 (CH₃), 52.7 (CH₃), 50.5 (CH₂), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.3 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.9 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 2942 (s, alkane CH), 2864 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1556 (m, triazole C=C), 1462 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1436 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1230 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 66 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-

DiMe. Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Dimethyl 1-(6-{{[4-(6-{{[4,5-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-

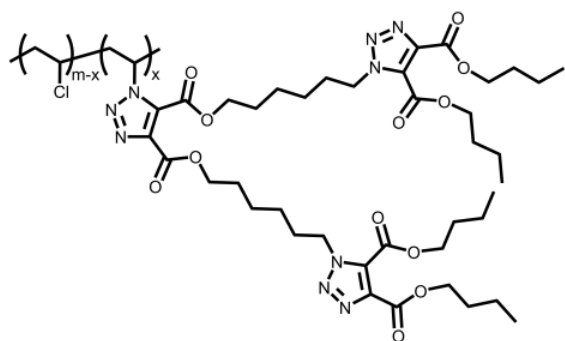
yl]hexyl}oxy)-4-oxobut-2-ynoyl]oxy}hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (3.6098 g, 7.2 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 20 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 1.6847 g of an off-white solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.62 – 5.35 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.66 – 4.54 (br m, Cl-C-H and PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole), 4.45 (br s, Cl-C-H), 4.35 (br s, PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker), 4.33 – 4.25 (br m, Cl-C-H), 4.00 (br s, O-CH₃), 3.97 (br s, O-CH₃), 2.91 – 2.80 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.73 (br s, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.40 – 1.99 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl), 1.98 – 1.89 (br m, PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole), 1.78 (br s, PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker), 1.53 – 1.34 (br m, linker CH₂'s).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 160.6 (C=O), 159.0 (C=O), 139.9 (4°), 129.8 (4°), 67.3 (O-CH₂), 67.1 (O-CH₂), 65.7 (O-CH₂), 57.1 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 53.5 (CH₃), 52.7 (CH₃), 50.5 (CH₂), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.3 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.9 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 2953 (s, alkane CH), 2863 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1553 (m, triazole C=C), 1468 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1435 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1280 (m, ester stretch C-O), 1219 (s, ester stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 48 °C.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-

TRZ-DiBu. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 30 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Dibutyl 1-

(6-{{[4-{{6-[4,5-bis(butoxycarbonyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl}oxy)-4-oxobut-2-ynoyl]oxy}hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (1.307 g, 1.6 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 1.2034 g of an off-white solid.

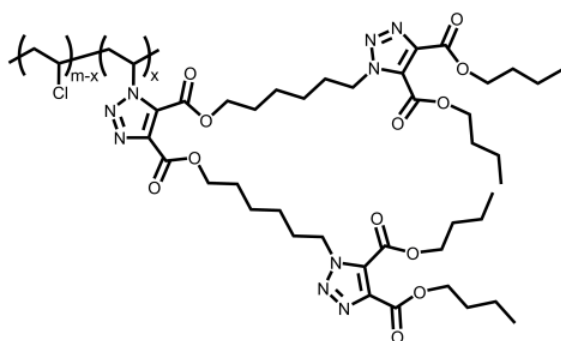
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.62 – 5.40 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.65 – 4.55 (br m, Cl-C-H and PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole), 4.45 (br s, Cl-C-H), 4.40 – 4.24 (br m, Cl-C-H and PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker and PVC-linker-triazole-O-CH₂), 2.90 – 2.80 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.74 (br s, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.50 – 1.98 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl), 1.98 – 1.89 (br m, PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole), 1.85 – 1.71 (br m, PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker and linker-triazole-O-C-CH₂), 1.54 – 1.36 (br m, linker CH₂'s and linker-triazole-O-C-CH₂-CH₂-C), 1.01 – 0.94 (br t, CH₃).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.4 (C=O), 158.7 (C=O), 140.3 (4°), 129.7 (4°), 66.7 (O-CH₂), 65.7 (O-CH₂), 65.2 (O-CH₂), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 50.4 (CH₂), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 30.6 (CH₂), 30.4 (CH₂), 30.1

(CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 26.1 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂), 19.1 (CH₂), 19.0 (CH₂), 13.72 (CH₃), 13.65 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 2961 (s, alkane CH), 2937 (s, alkane CH), 2873 (s, alkane CH), 1729 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (m, triazole C=C), 1466 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1435 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1264 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1203 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 43 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-

TRZ-DiBu. Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Dibutyl 1-(6-[[4-({6-[4,5-bis(butoxycarbonyl)-1H-1,2,3-

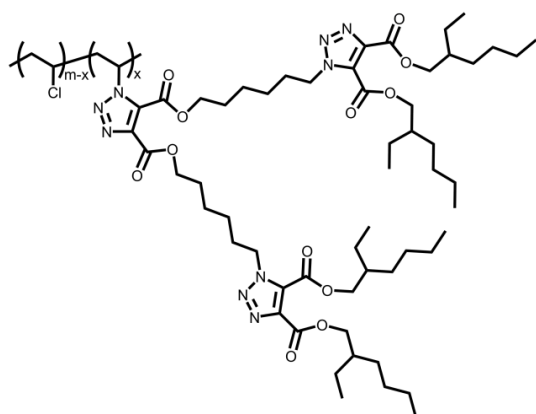
triazol-1-yl]hexyl)oxy)-4-oxobut-2-ynoyl]oxy)hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (5.50 g, 6.73 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 27 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 2.0206 g of a flexible pale yellow solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.62 – 5.35 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.65 – 4.55 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole*), 4.45 – 4.20 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker* and *PVC-linker-triazole-O-CH₂*), 2.90 – 2.80 (br s, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.79 – 2.64 (br s, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.98 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*), 1.98 – 1.86 (br s, *PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole*), 1.83 – 1.68 (br s, *PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker* and *linker-triazole-O-C-CH₂*), 1.53 – 1.33 (br s, *linker CH₂'s* and *linker-triazole-O-C-CH₂-CH₂-C*), 1.02 – 0.91 (br s, *CH₃*).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.4 (C=O), 159.8 (C=O), 158.7 (C=O), 140.3 (4°), 129.7 (4°), 66.7 (O- CH_2), 65.7 (O- CH_2), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 50.4 (CH_2), 47.3 – 45.3 (family of CH_2 PVC peaks), 30.6 (CH_2), 30.3 (CH_2), 30.1 (CH_2), 28.3 (CH_2), 28.1 (CH_2), 26.1 (CH_2), 26.0 (CH_2), 25.3 (CH_2), 25.2 (CH_2), 19.1 (CH_2), 19.0 (CH_2), 13.7 (CH_3), 13.6 (CH_3).

IR (Neat): 2961 (s, alkane CH), 2937 (s, alkane CH), 2873 (s, alkane CH), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (s, triazole C=C), 1467 (s, methylene stretch CH_2), 1436 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1267 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1203 (s, ester stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 12 $^\circ\text{C}$.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-

DiEH. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$. 4,5-Bis(2-ethylhexyl) 1-

(6-[[4-((6-[4,5-bis((2-ethylhexyl)oxy]carbonyl))-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-

yl]hexyl]oxy)-4-oxobut-2-ynoyl]oxy}hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (2.0827 g, 2.0 mmol) was diluted with 10 mL of 3-pentanone and added to the PVC solution, then stirred for 36 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, two times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 2 days to yield 1.02 g of an off-white solid.

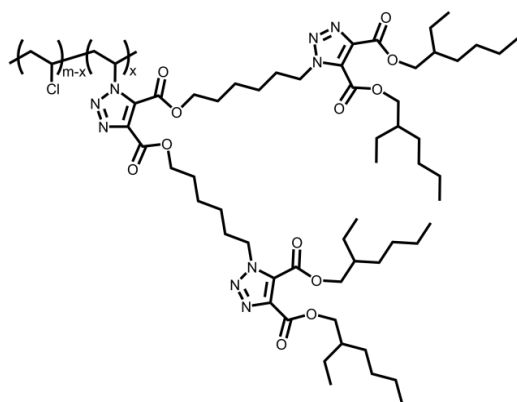
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.62 – 5.44 (br m, C- $\underline{\text{H}}$ -triazole), 4.67 – 4.56 (br m, Cl-C- $\underline{\text{H}}$ and PVC-linker-C- $\underline{\text{CH}_2}$ -triazole), 4.54 – 4.39 (br m, Cl-C- $\underline{\text{H}}$ and PVC-triazole-O- $\underline{\text{CH}_2}$ -linker and PVC-linker-triazole-O- $\underline{\text{CH}_2}$ -C), 4.39 – 4.22 (br m, Cl-C- $\underline{\text{H}}$), 2.92 – 2.81 (br m, Cl-C- $\underline{\text{CH}_2}$ -C-

triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.81 – 2.66 (br s, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.50 – 1.99 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl), 1.98 – 1.88 (br m, PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole), 1.85 – 1.77 (br m, PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker), 1.76 – 1.65 (br m, PVC-linker-triazole-O-C-CH-C), 1.54 – 1.26 (br m, linker CH₂'s and linker-triazole-O-C-C-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-C), 0.97 – 0.88 (br m, CH₃).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.6 (C=O), 158.8 (C=O), 140.5 (4°), 129.6 (4°), 69.2 (O-CH₂), 68.4 (O-CH₂), 65.7 (O-CH₂), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 50.4 (CH₂), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 38.72 (CH), 38.69 (CH), 30.19 (CH₂), 30.15 (CH₂), 30.1 (CH₂), 28.88 (CH₂), 28.86 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 26.1 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂), 25.23 (CH₂), 25.16 (CH₂), 23.6 (CH₂), 23.5 (CH₂), 22.96 (CH₂), 22.95 (CH₂), 14.1 (CH₃), 10.92 (CH₃), 10.90 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 2960 (s, alkane CH), 2932 (s, alkane CH), 2872 (s, alkane CH), 2861 (s, alkane CH), 1729 (s, ester C=O), 1554 (s, triazole C=C), 1465 (s, methylene stretch CH₂), 1436 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1260 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1203 (s, ester stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 43 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-

DiEH. Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Bis(2-ethylhexyl) 1-(6-[[4-((6-[4,5-bis((2-ethylhexyl)oxy)carbonyl)]-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)]hexyl]oxy)-4-oxobut-2-

ynonyl]oxy)hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (7.4978 g, 7.2 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 28 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, four times each. The isolated polymer

was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 3 days to yield 2.3972 g of a flexible pale yellow solid.

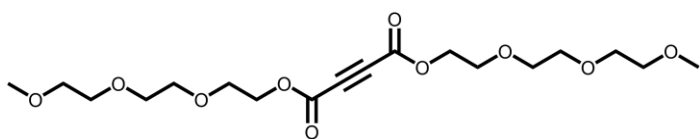
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.63 – 5.34 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.67 – 4.52 (br m, Cl-C-H and PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole), 4.51 – 4.38 (br m, Cl-C-H and PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker and PVC-linker-triazole-O-CH₂-C), 4.38 – 4.15 (br m, Cl-C-H), 2.92 – 2.80 (br s, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.80 – 2.66 (br s, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.50 – 1.98 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl), 1.98 – 1.87 (br s, PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole), 1.84 – 1.64 (br m, PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker and PVC-linker-triazole-O-C-CH-C), 1.54 – 1.24 (br m, linker CH₂'s and linker-triazole-O-C-C-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-C), 0.98 – 0.83 (br m, CH₃).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.6 (C=O), 158.8 (C=O), 140.5 (4°), 129.6 (4°), 69.1 (O-CH₂), 68.3 (O-CH₂), 66.4 (O-CH₂), 65.7 (O-CH₂), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 50.4 (CH₂), 47.3 – 45.2 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 38.72 (CH), 38.68 (CH), 30.2 (CH₂), 30.14 (CH₂), 30.1 (CH₂), 28.87 (CH₂), 28.85 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 26.1 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂), 25.16 (CH₂), 23.6 (CH₂), 23.5 (CH₂), 22.95 (CH₂), 22.93 (CH₂), 14.0 (CH₃), 10.90 (CH₃), 10.88 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 2960 (s, alkane CH), 2932 (s, alkane CH), 2861 (s, alkane CH), 1729 (s, ester C=O), 1553 (s, triazole C=C), 1465 (s, methylene stretch CH₂), 1437 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1260 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1204 (s, ester stretch C-O), 616 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): -6 °C.

6.7 Chapter 4 Experimental Section



Preparation of 1,4-bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl})but-2-yne-1,4-dioate. But-2-

yne-1,4-dioic acid (1.0000 g, 8.767 mmol) was added to a 50 mL round bottom flask. Triethylene glycol monomethyl ether (3.1670 g, 19.290 mmol) was then added along with 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid (0.1667 g, 0.876 mmol) and 13 mL of dry toluene. Using a Dean-Stark apparatus, the reaction was heated and stirred at reflux for 5 h. The reaction was transferred to a 150 mL separatory funnel and diluted with 40 mL of toluene and washed with 20 mL of saturated NaHCO₃ three times each. The aqueous layer was extracted with 60 mL of ethyl acetate, three times each. The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 95:5 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH afforded 2.673 g (6.576 mmol, 75.02% yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

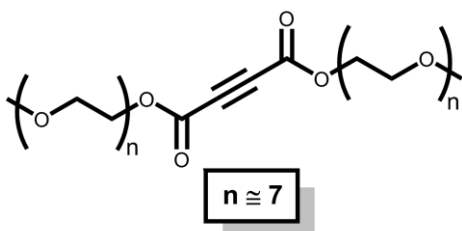
TLC: 95:5 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH, R_f=0.53, UV, KMnO₄ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot. Blue fluorescence at 395 nm.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.39 – 4.31 (m, 4H), 3.74 – 3.70 (m, 4H), 3.65 – 3.60 (m, 12H), 3.56 – 3.49 (m, 4H), 3.37 – 3.33 (m, 6H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 151.6 (C=O), 74.7 (alkyne 4°), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.7 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 68.4 (CH₂), 65.8 (CH₂), 58.9 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 2879 (s, alkane CH), 1725 (s, ester C=O), 1259 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1110 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for C₁₈H₃₀O₁₀ [M+H]⁺ 407.1912; Found 407.1895. [M+Na]⁺ 429.1731; Found 429.1708.



Preparation of 1,4-bis-[methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 350]-but-2-ynedioate.

But-2-ynedioic acid (4.000 g, 35.069 mmol) was added to a 250 mL round bottom flask. Poly(ethylene glycol) monomethyl ether 350 (28.231 g, 80.659 mmol) was added along with 0.2 mL H₂SO₄ and 40 mL of dry toluene. Using a Dean-Stark apparatus, the reaction was heated and stirred at reflux for 2 h. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*, and diluted with 100 mL ethyl acetate. The solution was transferred to a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 10 mL of saturated NaHCO₃ three times each. The aqueous layer was extracted with 60 mL of ethyl acetate, three times each. The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 93:7 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH afforded 16.750 g (21.502 mmol, 61.31% yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

TLC: 93:7 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH, R_f=0.71, UV, KMnO₄ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot. Blue fluorescence at 395 nm.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.39 (t, 4H), 3.75 (t, 4H), 3.67 (br s, 36H), 3.59 – 3.53 (m, 4H), 3.41 – 3.37 (m, 6H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 151.6 (C=O), 74.9 (alkyne 4°), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.71 (CH₂), 70.66 (CH₂), 70.62 (CH₂), 70.59 (CH₂), 70.5 (CH₂), 68.4 (CH₂), 65.8 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃).

IR (Neat): 2874 (s, alkane CH), 1724 (s, ester C=O), 1257 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1107 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for (n=6,6) C₃₀H₅₄O₁₆ [M+H]⁺ 671.3485; Found 671.3477.

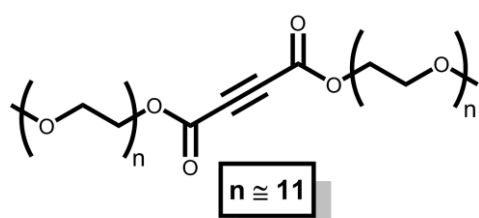
Calcd. for (n=6,7) C₃₂H₅₈O₁₇ [M+H]⁺ 715.3747; Found 715.3736.

Calcd. for (n=7,7) C₃₄H₆₂O₁₈ [M+H]⁺ 759.4009; Found 759.3997.

Calcd. for (n=7,8) C₃₆H₆₆O₁₉ [M+H]⁺ 803.4271; Found 803.4260.

Calcd. for (n=8,8) C₃₈H₇₀O₂₀ [M+H]⁺ 847.4533; Found 847.4520.

Calcd. for (n=8,9) C₄₀H₇₄O₂₁ [M+H]⁺ 891.4795; Found 891.4779.



Preparation of 1,4-bis-[methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 550]-but-2-yne-1,4-dioate.

But-2-yne-1,4-dioic acid (2.000 g, 17.534 mmol) was added to a 250 mL round bottom flask. Poly(ethylene glycol) monomethyl ether 550 (20.252 g, 36.821 mmol) was then added along with 0.2 mL H₂SO₄ and 40 mL of dry toluene. Using a Dean-Stark apparatus, the reaction was heated and stirred at reflux for 2 h. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*, and diluted with 100 mL ethyl acetate. The solution was transferred to a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 10 mL of saturated NaHCO₃ three times each. The aqueous layer was extracted with 60 mL of ethyl acetate, three times each. The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 93:7 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH afforded 16.153 g (13.712 mmol, 78.20% gravimetric yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

TLC: 93:7 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH, R_f=0.65, UV, KMnO₄ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.39 (m, 2H), 4.35 (m, 1H), 3.75 (m, 4H), 3.66 (br s, 84H), 3.56 (m, 4H), 3.41 – 3.37 (m, 6H), 2.98 (br s, 0.36H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 152.6 (C=O, propiolic ester), 151.7 (C=O ADC ester), 75.3 (propiolic C-H), 74.9 (alkyne 4° ADC), 74.6 (alkyne 4° propiolic), 72.5 (CH₂), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.71 (CH₂), 70.66 (CH₂), 70.58 (CH₂), 70.52 (CH₂), 70.4 (CH₂), 68.6 (CH₂), 68.4 (CH₂), 65.8 (CH₂), 65.2 (CH₂), 61.8 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃).

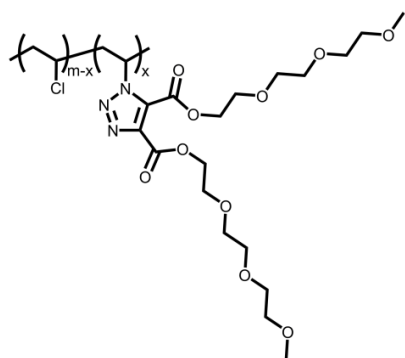
IR (Neat): 2874 (s, alkane CH), 2111 (m, alkyne CH), 1720 (s, ester C=O), 1252 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1107 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Calcd. for (n=10,11) $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{90}\text{O}_{25}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 1067.5844; Found 1067.5823.

Calcd. for (n=11,11) $\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{94}\text{O}_{26}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 1111.6106; Found 1111.6086.

Calcd. for (n=11,12) $\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{98}\text{O}_{27}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 1155.6368; Found 1155.6348.

Calcd. for (n=12,12) $\text{C}_{54}\text{H}_{102}\text{O}_{28}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 1199.6630; Found 1199.6608.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 30 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 1,4-Bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl})but-2-ynedioate (2.0827 g, 2.0 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for

24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 0.970 g of a flocculent white solid.

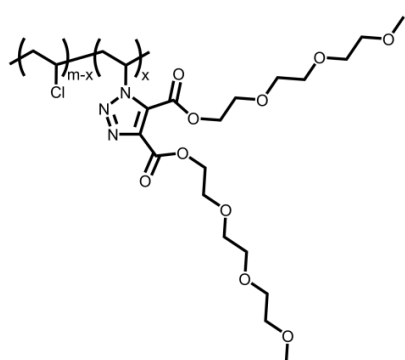
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.66 – 5.48 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.66 – 4.55 (br s, Cl-C-H), 4.55 – 4.39 (br s, Cl-C-H and triazole-O-CH₂), 4.38 – 4.24 (br m, Cl-C-H), 3.87 – 3.81 (br m, triazole-O-C-CH₂-O), 3.73 – 3.60 (br m, triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-C), 3.57 – 3.52 (br m, C-CH₂-O-CH₃), 3.40 – 3.34 (br s, O-CH₃), 2.90 – 2.80 (br s, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.80 – 2.66 (br s, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.50 – 1.85 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 159.7 (C=O), 158.3 (C=O), 139.4 (4°), 132.2 (4°), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.65 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 70.55 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 68.4 (CH₂), 66.2 (CH₂), 64.9 (CH₂),

59.0 (CH₃), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ peaks).

IR (Neat): 2910 (s, alkane CH), 1726 (s, ester C=O), 1551 (s, triazole C=C), 1451 (s, methylene stretch CH₂), 1437 (m, methyl stretch CH), 1256 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1200 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1107 (s, ether stretch C-O), 611 (w, C-Cl) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 61 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me.

Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 1,4-Bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl})but-2-ynedioate (2.4238 g, 6.0 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for

72 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 3 days to yield 1.33 g of a white solid.

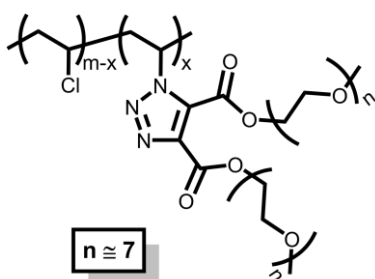
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.66 – 5.44 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.63 – 4.54 (br s, Cl-C-H), 4.54 – 4.39 (br s, Cl-C-H and triazole-O-CH₂), 4.36 – 4.24 (br m, Cl-C-H), 3.87 – 3.79 (br m, triazole-O-C-CH₂-O), 3.76 – 3.68 (br m, triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-C), 3.58 – 3.53 (br m, C-CH₂-O-CH₃), 3.40 – 3.36 (br s, O-CH₃), 2.92 – 2.81 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.80 – 2.66 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.50 – 1.95 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 159.7 (C=O), 158.3 (C=O), 138.6 (4°), 131.7 (4°), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.67 (CH₂), 70.62 (CH₂), 70.57 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 68.4 (CH₂), 66.2 (CH₂), 64.9 (CH₂),

59.0 (CH₃), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ peaks).

IR (Neat): 2879 (s, alkane CH), 1734 (s, ester C=O), 1549 (s, triazole C=C), 1452 (s, methylene stretch CH₂), 1259 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1200 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1107 (s, ether stretch C-O), 611 (w, C-Cl) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 42 °C.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 1,4-Bis-[methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 350]-but-2-ynedioate (1.558 g, 2.0 mmol) was added to the

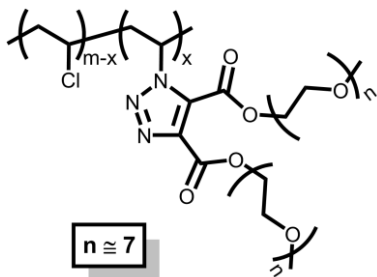
PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 1.0872 g of a white solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.69 – 5.40 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.66 – 4.55 (br s, Cl-C-H), 4.55 – 4.39 (br s, Cl-C-H and triazole-O-CH₂), 4.38 – 4.12 (br s, Cl-C-H), 3.89 – 3.80 (br s, triazole-O-C-CH₂-O), 3.72 – 3.59 (br m, triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-), 3.58 – 3.54 (br s, C-CH₂-O-CH₃), 3.41 – 3.37 (br s, O-CH₃), 2.92 – 2.81 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.80 – 2.67 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.50 – 1.90 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 71.9 (CH₂), 70.61 (CH₂), 70.58 (CH₂), 70.52 (CH₂), 68.9 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 68.4 (CH₂), 64.9 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 57.1 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.9 (family of CH₂ peaks).

IR (Neat): 2910 (s, alkane CH), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1551 (w, triazole C=C), 1435 (s, methylene stretch CH₂), 1254 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1202 (m, ester stretch C-O), 1105 (s, ether stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 49 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me.

Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 35 mL of 3-pentanone at 96 °C. 1,4-Bis-[methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 350]-but-2-ynedioate (5.6088 g, 7.2 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 48 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately one-third its volume *in vacuo*. To a 250 mL beaker, 100 mL of MeOH was added, then placed in a dry ice-acetone bath for 2 min. The polymer was precipitated by dropwise addition of the reaction solution in 2 mL increments into the cooled MeOH. After the addition of reaction solution, the mother liquor was decanted and replaced with 100 mL of fresh MeOH. The beaker was cooled to -78 °C for 2 min, upon which another 2 mL of reaction solution was added dropwise. This process was repeated until the entire polymer was precipitated. When all of the reaction solution was precipitated, the last volume of mother liquor was decanted. Subsequently, the neat polymer was cooled to -78 °C and washed with 50 mL of MeOH four times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 3 days to yield 2.0000 g of a flexible orange solid.

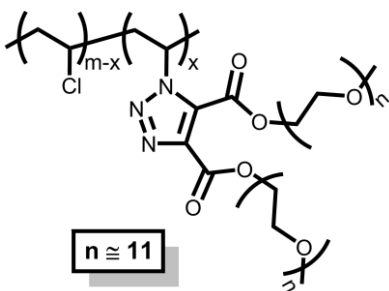
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.67 – 5.40 (br m, C-CH-Triazole), 4.67 – 4.56 (br s, Cl-C-H), 4.56 – 4.50 (br s, Cl-C-H and triazole-O-CH₂), 4.50 – 4.40 (br s, Cl-C-H and triazole-O-CH₂), 4.38 – 4.15 (br m, Cl-C-H), 3.89 – 3.79 (br s, triazole-O-C-CH₂-O), 3.78 – 3.59 (br m, triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-), 3.58 – 3.55 (br t, C-CH₂-O-CH₃), 3.41 – 3.38 (br s, O-CH₃), 2.92 –

2.81 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.81– 2.65 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.85 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*).

¹³C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.0 (C=O), 159.8 (C=O), 158.3 (C=O), 139.3 (4°), 131.7 (4°), 72.5 (CH₂), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 68.9 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 68.4 (CH₂), 66.2 (CH₂), 66.1 (CH₂), 64.9 (CH₂), 63.1 (CH₂), 61.7 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 56.9 – 56.5 (CH syndio), 56.0 – 55.6 (CH hetero), 55.0 – 54.5 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ peaks).

IR (Neat): 2877 (s, alkane CH), 1729 (s, ester C=O), 1548 (w, triazole C=C), 1456 (s, methylene stretch CH₂), 1283 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1198 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1108 (s, ether stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): -3 °C.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 20 mL of 3-pentanone at 95 °C. 1,4-Bis-[methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 550]-but-2-yndioate (2.827 g, 2.4 mmol) was

added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated once in 80 mL of MeOH. The crude polymer was dissolved in 15 mL of 3-pentanone and 1,4-Bis-[methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 550]-but-2-yndioate (2.827 g, 2.4 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, two times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 0.704 g of an off- white solid.

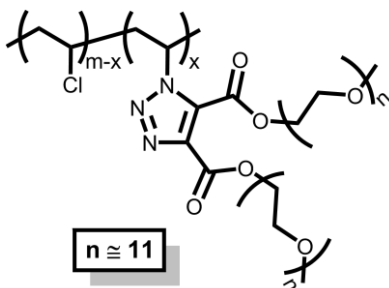
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.30 – 8.20 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 8.12 – 8.08 (br s, *PVC-triazole-H*), 5.66 – 5.50 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 5.30 – 5.15 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.67 – 4.56

(br s, $Cl-C-H$), 4.55 – 4.40 (br s, $Cl-C-H$ and $triazole-O-CH_2-C-O$), 4.40 – 4.25 (br m, $Cl-C-H$ and $triazole-O-CH_2-C-O$), 3.90 – 3.78 (br m, $triazole-O-C-CH_2-O$), 3.76 – 3.59 (br s, $triazole-O-C-C-O-CH_2-CH_2-O$), 3.58 – 3.54 (br m, $C-CH_2-O-CH_3$), 3.41 – 3.37 (br s, $O-CH_3$), 2.92 – 2.81 (br m, $Cl-C-CH_2-C-triazole$ and $triazole-C-CH_2-C-triazole$), 2.90 – 2.69 (br m, $Cl-C-CH_2-C-triazole$ and $triazole-C-CH_2-C-triazole$), 2.50 – 1.80 (br m, $Cl-C-CH_2-C-Cl$).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$, DEPT): δ 71.9 (CH_2), 70.62 (CH_2), 70.59 (CH_2), 70.53 (CH_2), 68.9 (CH_2), 68.9 (CH_2), 68.4 (CH_2), 64.9 (CH_2), 63.1 (CH_2), 59.0 (CH_3), 57.1 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 peaks).

IR (Neat): 2909 (s, alkane CH), 2877 (s, alkane CH), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1551 (w, triazole C=C), 1435 (m, methylene stretch CH_2), 1254 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1200 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1106 (s, ether stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 27 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiPEO₅₅₀Me. Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 40 mL of 3-pentanone at 96 °C. 1,4-Bis-[methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 550]-but-2-ynedioate (8.4816 g, 7.2 mmol) was

added to the PVC solution and stirred for 48 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately one-third its volume *in vacuo*. To a 250 mL beaker, 100 mL of MeOH was added, then placed in a dry ice-acetone bath for 2 min. The polymer was precipitated by dropwise addition of the reaction solution in 2 mL increments into the cooled MeOH. After the addition of reaction solution, the mother liquor was decanted and replaced with 100 mL of fresh MeOH. The beaker was cooled to -78 °C for 2 min, upon which another 2 mL of reaction solution was added dropwise. This process was repeated until the entire polymer was precipitated. When all of the reaction solution was precipitated, the last volume of mother

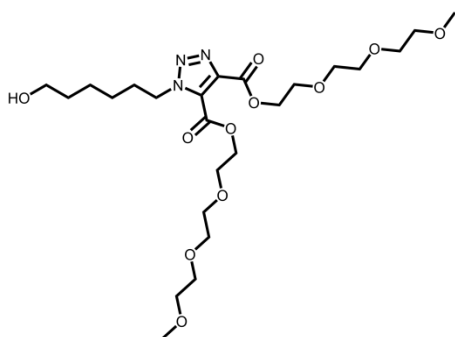
liquor was decanted. Subsequently, the neat polymer was cooled to -78 °C and washed with 50 mL of MeOH four times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 3 days to yield 3.8272 g of a flexible orange solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.66 – 4.57 (br s, *Cl-C-H*), 4.56 – 4.50 (br s, *Cl-C-H* and *triazole-O-CH₂-C-O*), 4.49 – 4.43 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-C-O*), 4.37 – 4.28 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-C*), 3.91 – 3.78 (br m, *triazole-O-C-CH₂-O*), 3.77 – 3.60 (br m, *triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O*), 3.59 – 3.55 (br m, *C-CH₂-O-CH₃*), 2.80 – 2.70 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.85 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*).

¹³C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.0 (C=O), 158.3 (C=O), 72.5 (CH₂), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 68.9 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 68.4 (CH₂), 66.3 (CH₂), 66.1 (CH₂), 64.9 (CH₂), 63.1 (CH₂), 61.8 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 56.9 – 56.5 (CH syndio), 56.0 – 55.6 (CH hetero), 55.0 – 54.5 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.7 (family of CH₂ peaks).

IR (Neat): 2873 (s, alkane CH), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1540 (w, triazole C=C), 1452 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1253 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1201 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1105 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): -29 °C.



Preparation of 4,5-bis((2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl)) 1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.

6-Azidohexan-1-ol (1.0000 g, 6.983 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask with 30 mL of CHCl₃.

1,4-Bis((2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl))but-2-ynedioate (3.4061 g, 8.381 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at 50 °C for 24 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* affording a

colorless crude oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 95:5 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH afforded 2.8533 g (5.191 mmol, 74.34% yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

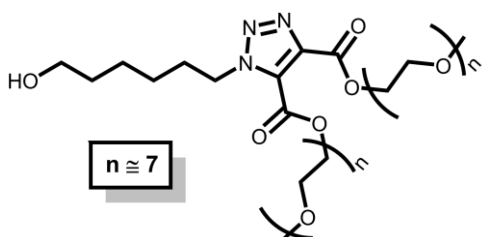
TLC: 95:5 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH, R_f=0.48, UV, KMnO₄ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, dark blue spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.60 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.55 (t, *J* = 4.5, 2H), 4.51 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (overlapping t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 3.72 – 3.60 (m, 14H), 3.56 – 3.53 (m, 4H), 3.37 – 3.36 (m, 6H), 1.93 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.69 (s, 1H), 1.56 (p, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.47 – 1.30 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 160.1 (C=O), 158.5 (C=O), 140.0 (4°), 130.1 (4°), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.7 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 70.5 (CH₂), 68.8 (CH₂), 68.5 (CH₂), 65.6 (CH₂), 64.8 (CH₂), 62.5 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 50.5 (CH₂), 32.4 (CH₂), 30.1 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.1 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 3472 (s, OH), 2930 (s, alkane CH), 2874 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (m, triazole C=C), 1468 (s, methylene bending CH₂), 1281 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1247 (s, ether stretch C-O), 1111 (s, ether stretch C-O), 1067 (s, 1° alcohol stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for C₂₄H₄₃N₃O₁₁ [M+H]⁺ 550.2970; Found 550.2948.



Preparation of 4,5-bis[2-methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 350]-1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.

6-Azidohexan-1-ol (3.144 g, 21.958 mmol) was added to a 250 mL round bottom flask with 50 mL of CHCl₃. 1,4-Bis[2-methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 350]-but-2-enedioate (18.816 g, 24.154 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at 55 °C for 24 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a pale yellow crude oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 93:7 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH afforded 17.473 g (18.947 mmol, 86.29% yield) of the title compound as a pale yellow oil.

TLC: 93:7 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH, R_f=0.48, UV, KMnO₄ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, white spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.59 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.54 (br s, 2H), 4.50 (br s, 2H), 3.81 (br s, 4H), 3.64 (br s, 5H), 3.55 (br s, 5H), 3.38 (br s, 6H), 1.98 – 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.55 (br s, 2H), 1.47 – 1.30 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 160.1 (C=O), 158.4 (C=O), 140.0 (4°), 130.1 (4°), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.7 (CH₂), 70.60 (CH₂), 70.56 (CH₂), 70.5 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 68.5 (CH₂), 65.6 (CH₂), 64.8 (CH₂), 62.4 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 50.5 (CH₂), 32.4 (CH₂), 30.1 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.1 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 3501 (s, OH), 2873 (s, alkane CH), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (m, triazole C=C), 1470 (s, methylene bending CH₂), 1283 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1249 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1108 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for (n = 5,6) C₃₄H₆₃N₃O₁₆ [M+H]⁺ 770.4281; Found 770.4272.

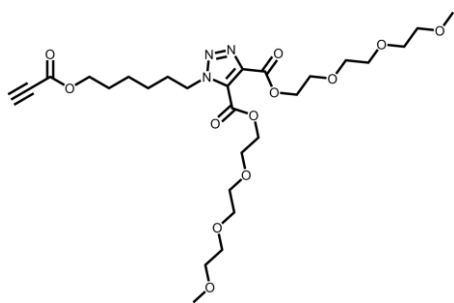
Calcd. for (n = 6,6) C₃₆H₆₇N₃O₁₇ [M+H]⁺ 814.4543 Found 814.4531.

Calcd. for (n = 6,7) C₃₈H₇₂N₃O₁₈ [M+H]⁺ 858.4805 Found 858.4791.

Calcd. for (n = 7,7) C₄₀H₇₅N₃O₁₉ [M+H]⁺ 902.5068; Found 902.5054.

Calcd. for (n = 7,8) C₄₂H₇₉N₃O₂₀ [M+H]⁺ 946.5330; Found 946.5315.

Calcd. for (n = 8,8) C₄₄H₈₃N₃O₂₁ [M+H]⁺ 990.5592; Found 990.5573.



Preparation of 4,5-bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl})-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-

dicarboxylate. Propiolic acid (1.0000 g, 14.2755 mmol) was added to a 50 mL round bottom flask

with 14 mL of toluene. 4,5-Bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl})-1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (9.4152 g, 17.1306 mmol) and 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid (0.2715 g, 1.4275 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at reflux for 3 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a light brown crude oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 95:5 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH afforded 6.6122 g (10.9902 mmol, 76.99% yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

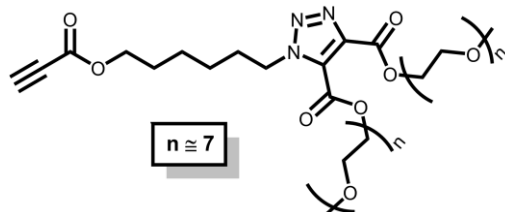
TLC: 95:5 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH, R_f=0.50, UV, KMnO₄ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue-yellow spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.59 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.54 (t, *J* = 4.8, 2H), 4.50 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 4.18 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (overlapping t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 4H), 3.72 – 3.60 (m, 12H), 3.57 – 3.49 (m, 4H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 2.93 (s, 1H), 1.93 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.68 (p, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.45 – 1.34 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 160.1 (C=O), 158.4 (C=O), 152.7 (C=O), 140.0 (4°), 129.6 (4°), 74.7 (alkyne 4°), 74.6 (alkyne CH), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.7 (CH₂), 70.60 (CH₂), 70.56 (CH₂), 68.8 (CH₂), 68.5 (CH₂), 66.0 (CH₂), 65.6 (CH₂), 64.8 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 50.4 (CH₂), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 25.9 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 3220 (m, alkyne CH), 2874 (s, alkane CH), 2114 (s, alkyne CC), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1715 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (triazole C=C), 1469 (methylene bending CH₂), 1271 (m, ester stretch C-O), 1235 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1108 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for $C_{27}H_{43}N_3O_{12}$ $[M+H]^+$ 602.2920; Found 602.2917. $[M+Na]^+$ 624.2739; Found 624.2720.



Preparation of 4,5-bis[2-methoxyethoxy]-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate. Propiolic acid (2.543 g, 36.3044 mmol) was added to a 100

mL round bottom flask with 30 mL of toluene. 4,5-Bis[2-methoxyethoxy]-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (11.160 g, 12.1015 mmol) and 0.15 mL H_2SO_4 was added to the reaction flask and stirred at reflux for 2 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a light brown crude oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 95:5 CH_2Cl_2 :MeOH afforded 7.073 g (7.2601 mmol, 59.97% yield) of the title compound as a pale yellow oil.

TLC: 95:5 CH_2Cl_2 :MeOH, R_f =0.44, UV, $KMnO_4$ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue-yellow spot.

1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 4.60 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.55 (t, 2H), 4.51 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.85 – 3.81 (m, 4H), 3.68 – 3.63 (m, 50H), 3.57 – 3.54 (m, 4H), 3.39 (bs, 6H), 2.96 (s, 1H), 1.94 (p, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.69 (p, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.48 – 1.34 (m, 4H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$, DEPT): δ 160.1 (C=O), 158.4 (C=O), 152.7 (C=O), 140.0 (4°), 130.0 (4°), 74.7 (alkyne 4°), 74.6 (alkyne CH), 71.9 (CH_2), 70.72 (CH_2), 70.67 (CH_2), 70.61 (CH_2), 70.58 (CH_2), 70.5 (CH_2), 68.8 (CH_2), 68.6 (CH_2), 68.5 (CH_2), 66.0 (CH_2), 65.6 (CH_2), 65.2 (CH_2), 64.8 (CH_2), 59.0 (CH_3), 50.4 (CH_2), 30.0 (CH_2), 28.1 (CH_2), 25.9 (CH_2), 25.2 (CH_2).

IR (Neat): 3214 (s, alkyne CH), 2873 (s, alkane CH), 2112 (s, alkyne CC), 1715 (s, ester C=O), 1551 (m, triazole C=C), 1467 (s, methylene bending CH_2), 1236 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1108 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Calcd. for (n = 5,5) C₃₅H₅₉N₃O₁₆ [M+H]⁺ 778.3968; Found 778.3958.

Calcd. for (n = 5,6) C₃₇H₆₃N₃O₁₇ [M+H]⁺ 822.4230; Found 822.4221.

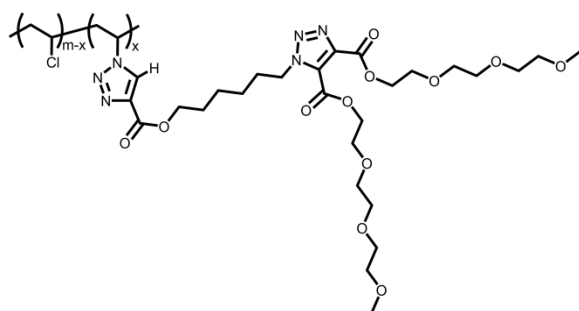
Calcd. for (n = 6,6) C₃₉H₆₇N₃O₁₈ [M+H]⁺ 866.4492; Found 866.4481.

Calcd. for (n = 6,7) C₄₁H₇₁N₃O₁₉ [M+H]⁺ 910.4755; Found 910.4741.

Calcd. for (n = 7,7) C₄₃H₇₅N₃O₂₀ [M+H]⁺ 954.5017; Found 954.5000.

Calcd. for (n = 7,8) C₄₅H₇₉N₃O₂₁ [M+H]⁺ 998.5279; Found 998.5264.

Calcd. for (n = 8,8) C₄₇H₈₃N₃O₂₂ [M+H]⁺ 1042.5541; Found 1042.5521.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-TRZ-

DiPEO₁₆₄Me. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 30 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Bis({2-[2-(2-

methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl)-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (1.203 g, 2.0 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 0.9573 g of a flocculent white solid.

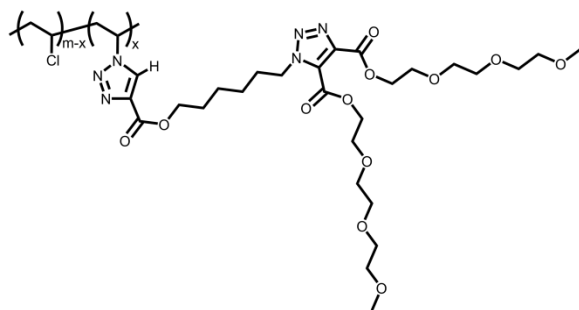
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.32 – 8.22 (br s, PVC-triazole-H), 8.18 – 8.14 (br m, PVC-triazole-H), 8.11 – 8.07 (br m, PVC-triazole-H), 5.32 – 5.17 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.67 – 4.57 (br m, Cl-C-H and PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole), 4.54 – 4.50 (br m, Cl-C-H and PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker), 4.50 – 4.41 (br m, Cl-C-H), 4.40 – 4.24 (br m, Cl-C-H), 3.87 – 3.80 (br m, triazole-O-C-CH₂-O), 3.73 – 3.61 (br m, triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-C), 3.58 – 3.52 (br m, C-

$\text{CH}_2\text{-O-CH}_3$), 3.384 (br s, O-CH_3), 3.377 (br s, O-CH_3), 2.87 – 2.78 (br m, $\text{Cl-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$ and $\text{triazole-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$), 2.78 – 2.60 (br m, $\text{Cl-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$ and $\text{triazole-C-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$), 2.50 – 1.99 (br m, $\text{Cl-C-CH}_2\text{-C-Cl}$), 1.86 – 1.75 (br m, $\text{PVC-linker-CH}_2\text{-C-triazole}$), 1.72 – 1.60 (br s, $\text{PVC-triazole-O-C-CH}_2\text{-linker}$), 1.56 – 1.34 (br m, linker CH_2 's).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 160.1 (C=O), 158.4 (C=O), 140.0 (4°), 71.9 (CH_2), 70.67 (CH_2), 70.61 (CH_2), 70.57 (CH_2), 68.7 (CH_2), 68.5 (CH_2), 66.2 (CH_2), 65.6 (CH_2), 64.8 (CH_2), 59.0 (CH_3), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 50.5 (CH_2), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 peaks), 30.0 (CH_2), 28.4 (CH_2), 26.0 (CH_2), 25.4 (CH_2).

IR (Neat): 3140 (w, triazole CH), 2973 (s, alkane CH), 2937 (s, alkane CH), 2911 (s, alkane CH), 1734 (s, ester C=O), 1551 (m, triazole C=C), 1459 (s, methylene stretch CH_2), 1435 (s, methyl stretch CH), 1254 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1201 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1121 (s, ether stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 57 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-

TRZ-DiPEO₁₆₄Me. Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 30 mL of 3-pentanone at

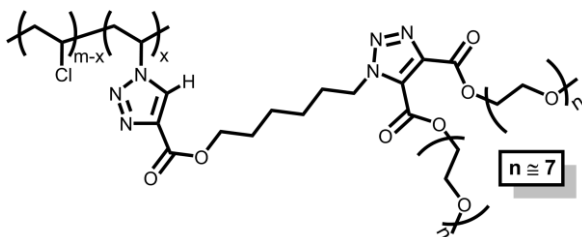
90 °C. 4,5-Bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl})-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (3.6098 g, 6.0 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 3 days to yield 1.9197 g of a white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.35 – 8.05 (br m, PVC-triazole-H), 5.32 – 5.12 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.70 – 4.59 (br m, Cl-C-H and PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole), 4.58 – 4.54 (br s, Cl-C-H and triazole-O-CH₂-C-O), 4.54 – 4.50 (br m, Cl-C-H and triazole-O-CH₂-C-O), 4.49 – 4.42 (br s, Cl-C-H), 4.41 – 4.26 (br m, Cl-C-H and PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker), 3.90 – 3.81 (br m, triazole-O-C-CH₂-O), 3.73 – 3.62 (br m, triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-C), 3.58 – 3.53 (br m, C-CH₂-O-CH₃), 3.39 (br s, O-CH₃), 3.38 (br s, O-CH₃), 2.87 – 2.79 (br s, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.78 – 2.61 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.51 – 2.00 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl), 1.86 – 1.72 (br m, PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole), 1.72 – 1.62 (br s, PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker), 1.56 – 1.33 (br m, linker CH₂'s).

^{13}C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.2 (C=O), 158.4 (C=O), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.67 (CH₂), 70.61 (CH₂), 70.57 (CH₂), 68.8 (CH₂), 68.5 (CH₂), 65.7 (CH₂), 64.8 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 50.5 (CH₂), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ peaks), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 25.4 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 3137 (w, triazole CH), 2936 (s, alkane CH), 2874 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1551 (m, triazole C=C), 1466 (s, methylene stretch CH₂), 1438 (s, methyl stretch CH), 1247 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1203 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1121 (s, ether stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 18 °C.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-

TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me. Poly(vinyl chloride)

5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask

and dissolved in 15 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Bis[methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 350]-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (2.3381 g, 2.4 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to

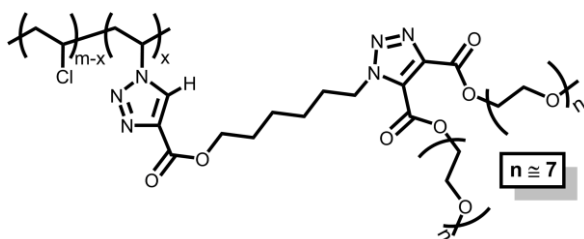
approximately one-third its volume *in vacuo* then precipitated once in 80 mL of MeOH. The crude polymer was dissolved in 15 mL of 3-pentane and 4,5-Bis[methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 350]-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoxyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (2.3381 g, 2.4 mmol) was added to the solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was once again concentrated to approximately one-third its volume *in vacuo* then precipitated once in 80 mL of MeOH, two times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 0.6447 of a white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.37 – 8.21 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 8.21 – 8.16 (br s, *PVC-triazole-H*), 8.16 – 8.08 (br s, *PVC-triazole-H*), 5.32 – 5.16 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.67 – 4.55 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole*), 4.55 – 4.40 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker*), 4.40 – 4.25 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 3.92 – 3.80 (br m, *triazole-O-C-CH₂-O*), 3.73 – 3.60 (br s, *triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O*), 3.58 – 3.55 (br m, *C-CH₂-O-CH₃*), 3.42 – 3.37 (br s, *O-CH₃*), 2.92 – 2.65 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.90 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*), 1.86 – 1.74 (br s, *PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole*), 1.74 – 1.60 (br s, *PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker*), 1.56 – 1.34 (br m, *linker CH₂'s*).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 71.9 (CH_2), 70.6 (CH_2), 66.2 (CH_2), 66.0 (CH_2), 65.6 (CH_2), 64.3 (CH_2), 63.8 (CH_2), 59.0 (CH_3), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.2 – 54.9 (CH iso), 50.5 (CH_2), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 peaks).

IR (Neat): 3129 (w, triazole CH), 2975 (s, alkane CH), 2938 (s, alkane CH), 2911 (s, alkane CH), 1714 (s, ester C=O), 1548 (w, triazole C=C), 1459 (s, methylene stretch CH_2), 1435 (s, methyl stretch CH), 1283 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1198 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1108 (s, ether stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): 71 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-Hexyl-

TRZ-DiPEO₃₅₀Me.

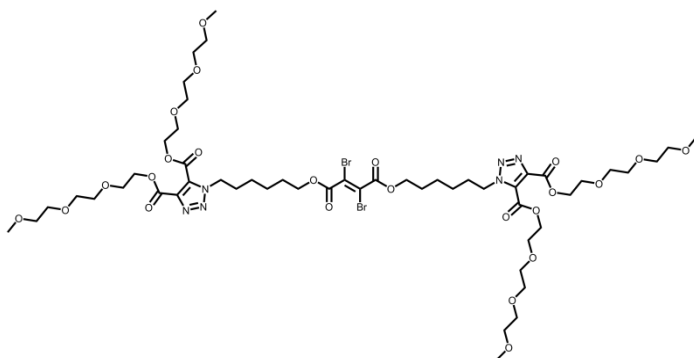
Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 35 mL of 3-pentanone at 96 °C. 4,5-Bis[methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 350]-1-[6-(prop-2-ynoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (7.014 g, 7.2 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately one-third its volume *in vacuo*. To a 250 mL beaker, 100 mL of MeOH was added, then placed in a dry ice-acetone bath for 2 min. The polymer was precipitated by dropwise addition of the reaction solution in 2 mL increments into the cooled MeOH. After the addition of reaction solution, the mother liquor was decanted and replaced with 100 mL of fresh MeOH. The beaker was cooled to -78 °C for 2 min, upon which another 2 mL of reaction solution was added dropwise. This process was repeated until the entire polymer was precipitated. When all of the reaction solution was precipitated, the last volume of mother liquor was decanted. Subsequently, the neat polymer was cooled to -78 °C and washed with 50 mL of MeOH four times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 3 days to yield 2.3169 g of a flexible orange solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.29 – 8.24 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 8.20 – 8.15 (br s, *PVC-triazole-H*), 8.13 – 8.06 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 5.40 – 5.10 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.70 – 4.57 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole*), 4.57 – 4.54 (br s, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker*), 4.54 – 4.41 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 4.40 – 4.25 (br m, *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker*), 4.25 – 4.10 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 3.92 – 3.80 (br m, *triazole-O-C-CH₂-O*), 3.77 – 3.59 (br m, *triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-C*), 3.59 – 3.55 (br t, *C-CH₂-O-CH₃*), 3.41 – 3.38 (br s, *O-CH₃*), 2.87 – 2.60 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 2.01 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*), 2.01– 1.85 (br s, *PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole*), 1.75 – 1.60 (br s, *PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker*), 1.56 – 1.34 (br m, *linker CH₂'s*).

^{13}C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.0 (C=O), 160.1 (C=O), 158.4 (C=O), 140.1 (4°), 129.9 (4°), 71.9 (CH_2), 70.6 (CH_2), 68.9 (CH_2), 68.8 (CH_2), 68.5 (CH_2), 65.6 (CH_2), 64.8 (CH_2), 59.0 (CH_3), 56.9 (CH syndio), 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.0 – 54.9 (CH iso), 50.5 (CH_2), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 peaks), 30.0 (CH_2), 29.7 (CH_2), 28.3 (CH_2), 26.01 (CH_2), 25.92 (CH_2), 25.35 (CH_2), 25.28 (CH_2).

IR (Neat): 3133 (w, triazole CH), 2878 (s, alkane CH), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (w, triazole C=C), 1456 (m, methylene stretch CH_2), 1253 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1201 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1105 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): -1°C .



Preparation of 4,5-bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl}) 1-(6-[[[(2E)-4-({6-[bis(2,5,8,11-tetraoxadodecanoyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl)oxy]-2,3-dibromo-4-oxobut-2-

enoyl]oxy]hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.⁴⁻⁵ Dibromofumaric acid (1.5000 g, 5.4765 mmol) and PCl_5 (2.394 g, 11.5007 mmol) was added to a 25 mL round bottom flask with 5 mL of pentane. The reaction was refluxed for 2 h while stirring. Reaction completeness was determined by observing the dissolution of solids into a clear yellow solution. After the dissolution of solids was noted, the reaction was immediately diluted with 5 mL of pentane. The diluted reaction was added slowly to a 150 mL beaker of crescent-cube ice, and was allowed to stand for 10 min with occasional swirling. The quenched reaction solution was transferred to a 150 mL separatory funnel. The organic layer was collected and dried with Na_2SO_4 . The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* affording a clear yellow oil (1.701 g, 5.4765 mmol, quantitative yield) of (2E)-dibromobut-2-enedioyl dichloride. The acid chloride was

immediately diluted with 30 mL of CCl₄ under N₂ in a 250 mL pear flask. Next, 4,5-bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl})-1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (6.3208 g, 11.5007 mmol) and pyridine (0.9097 g, 11.5007 mmol) were added to a 250 mL round bottom flask with 60 mL of CCl₄ and cooled to 0 °C under N₂ with stirring. The acid chloride solution was slowly added *via* syringe over 10 min, noting a light-yellow color and the formation of pyridine salts in solution. After the addition of the acid chloride, the reaction was allowed to stir at 0 °C for 2 hours, then at room temperature for an additional 22 hours. The reaction was poured into a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 20 mL 5% aqueous HCl two times each. The organic layer was collected, dried with MgSO₄ and filtered. The volatiles were then evaporated *in vacuo*. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 95:5 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH was performed, affording 5.2615 g (3.9350 mmol, 71.85% yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

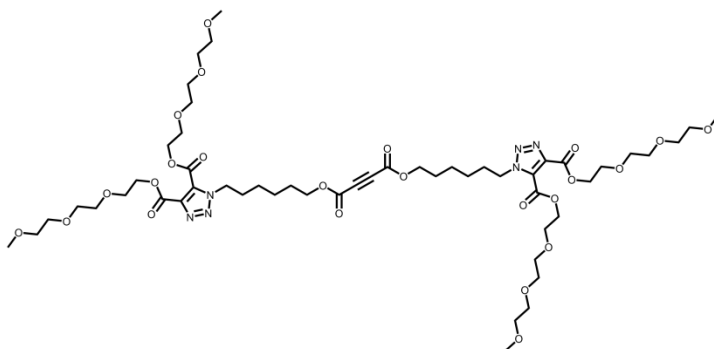
TLC: 95:5 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH, R_f=0.47, UV, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Benzene-*d*₆): δ 4.36 (t, *J* = 4.9, 4H), 4.30 (t, 4H), 4.11 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 3.50 – 3.45 (m, 8H), 3.45 – 3.39 (m, 24H), 3.36 – 3.30 (m, 8H), 3.13 (s, 6H), 3.12 (s, 6H), 1.49 (p, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.22 (p, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.00 – 0.84 (m, 8H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Benzene-*d*₆, DEPT): δ 162.0 (C=O), 160.6 (C=O), 158.5 (C=O), 141.0 (4°), 129.5 (4°), 112.9 (C-Br), 72.0 (CH₂), 71.98 (CH₂), 70.63 (CH₂), 70.59 (CH₂), 70.51 (CH₂), 70.50 (CH₂), 70.47 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 68.3 (CH₂), 66.7 (CH₂), 65.3 (CH₂), 64.7 (CH₂), 58.3 (CH₃), 49.7 (CH₂), 29.6 (CH₂), 27.8 (CH₂), 25.5 (CH₂), 24.9 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 2874 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (m, triazole C=C), 1468 (methylene bending CH₂), 1270 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1242 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1111 (s, ether stretch C-O), 755 (m, alkene bending C=C) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for C₅₂H₈₄Br₂N₆O₂₄ [M+H]⁺ 1335.3976; Found 1335.3981.



Preparation of 4,5-bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl}) 1-(6-{{[4-{{6-[bis(2,5,8,11-tetraoxadodecanoyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl}oxy)-

4-oxobut-2-ynoyl]oxy}hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.⁶ To a 250 mL round bottom flask, 4,5-bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl}) 1-(6-{{[4-{{6-[bis(2,5,8,11-tetraoxadodecanoyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl}oxy)-2,3-dibromo-4-oxobut-2-enoyl]oxy}hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (5.2210 g, 3.9048 mmol) was added to 40 mL of anhydrous THF. Subsequently, Zn metal (1.5317 g, 23.4288 mmol) and I₂ (0.0471 g, 0.1857 mmol) were added and stirred at reflux for 5 h under N₂. The reaction was cooled and filtered through CELITE™. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo* and diluted with 80 mL of ethyl acetate. The solution was poured into a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 10 mL of 10% aqueous Na₂S₂O₃, two times each. The organic layer was collected and dried with MgSO₄. The volatiles were then evaporated *in vacuo*, and immediately purified *via* flash chromatography using 95:5 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH, affording 3.8523 g (3.2723 mmol, 83.80% yield) of the title compound as a pale yellow oil.

TLC: 95:5 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH, R_f=0.47, UV, KMnO₄ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot.

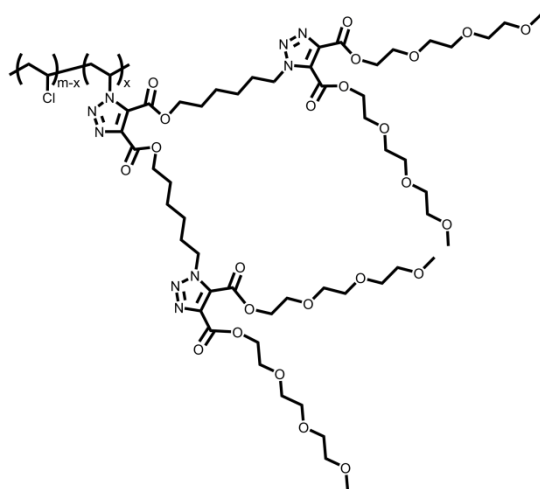
¹H NMR (500 MHz, Benzene-*d*₆) δ 4.36 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 4H), 4.31 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 4.09 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 3.76 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 3.47 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 8H), 3.45 – 3.39 (m, 24H), 3.35 – 3.30 (m, 8H), 3.13 (s, 6H), 3.12 (s, 6H), 1.45 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 1.10 (p, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 4H), 0.87 – 0.80 (m, 8H).

¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, Benzene-*d*₆, DEPT): δ 160.6 (C=O), 158.5 (C=O), 151.6 (C=O), 140.9 (4°), 129.5 (4°), 74.9 (alkyne 4°), 72.0 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 70.49 (CH₂), 70.48

(CH₂), 70.46 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 68.3 (CH₂), 66.3 (CH₂), 65.3 (CH₂), 64.7 (CH₂), 58.3 (CH₃), 49.7 (CH₂), 29.6 (CH₂), 27.7 (CH₂), 25.5 (CH₂), 24.7 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 2874 (s, alkane CH), 1727 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (m, triazole C=C), 1469 (s, methylene bending CH₂), 1259 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1110 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for C₅₂H₈₄N₆O₂₄ [M+H]⁺ 1177.5610; Found 1177.5616. [M+Na]⁺ 1199.5429; Found 1199.5411.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-

DiPEO₁₆₄Me. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 30 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl}) 1-(6-{{4-({6-[bis(2,5,8,11-tetraoxadodecanoyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl)oxy}-4-oxobut-2-

ynoyl]oxy}hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (2.8253g, 2.4 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, three times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 1.5201 g of a white solid.

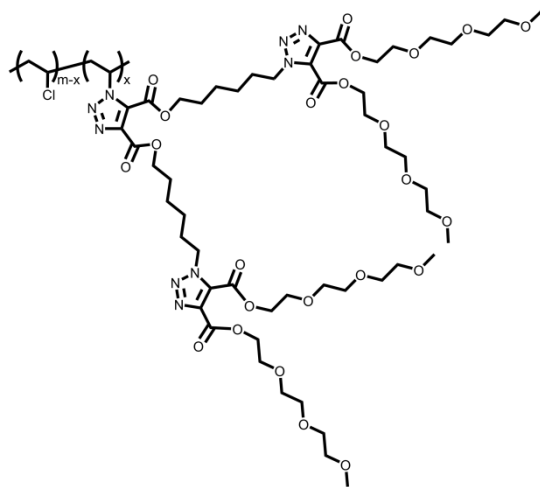
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.65 – 5.45 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.67 – 4.58 (br m, Cl-C-H and PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole), 4.57 – 4.54 (br s, Cl-C-H and triazole-O-CH₂-C-O), 4.54 – 4.50 (br m, triazole-O-CH₂-C-O), 4.50 – 4.41 (br s, Cl-C-H), 4.40 – 4.34 (br m, PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker), 4.34 – 4.25 (br m, Cl-C-H), 3.87 – 3.81 (br m, triazole-O-C-CH₂-O), 3.73 – 3.62 (br m, triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-C), 3.58 – 3.52 (br m, C-CH₂-O-CH₃), 3.39 (br s, O-CH₃), 3.38 (br s, O-CH₃), 2.92 – 2.82 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-

triazole), 2.82 – 2.68 (br s, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.99 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*), 1.85 – 1.75 (br m, *PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole*), 1.72 – 1.60 (br s, *PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker*), 1.55 – 1.33 (br m, *linker CH₂'s*).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 160.1 (C=O), 158.4 (C=O), 145.5 (4°), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.67 (CH₂), 70.61 (CH₂), 70.57 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 68.5 (CH₂), 65.6 (CH₂), 64.8 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 50.5 (CH₂), 47.3 – 44.9 (family of CH₂ peaks), 30.0 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 27.2 (CH₂), 27.0 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 2934 (s, alkane CH), 2875 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (m, triazole C=C), 1467 (s, methylene stretch CH₂), 1271 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1202 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1111 (s, ether stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 24 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-DiHexyl-TRZ-

DiPEO₁₆₄Me. Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide

(1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 30 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. 4,5-Bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl})

1-(6-[[4-({6-[bis(2,5,8,11-tetraoxadodecanoyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl]hexyl)oxy]-4-oxobut-2-

ynoyl]oxy)hexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (7.063 g, 6.0 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately one-third its volume *in vacuo*. To a 250 mL beaker, 100 mL of MeOH was added, then placed in a dry ice-acetone bath for 2 min. The polymer was precipitated by dropwise addition of the reaction solution in 2 mL increments into the cooled MeOH. After the addition of reaction solution, the mother liquor was decanted and replaced with 100 mL of fresh MeOH. The beaker was

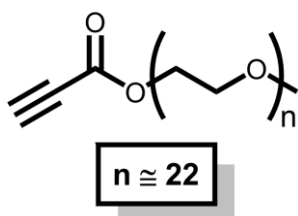
cooled to -78 °C for 2 min, upon which another 2 mL of reaction solution was added dropwise. This process was repeated until the entire polymer was precipitated. When all of the reaction solution was precipitated, the last volume of mother liquor was decanted. Subsequently, the neat polymer was cooled to -78 °C and washed with 50 mL of MeOH four times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 3 days to yield 3.3816 g of a flexible pale yellow solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.65 – 5.35 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.67 – 4.58 (br s, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-linker-C-CH₂-triazole*), 4.58 – 4.54 (br s, *Cl-C-H* and *triazole-O-CH₂-C-O*), 4.54 – 4.48 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *triazole-O-CH₂-C-O*), 4.39 – 4.24 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *PVC-triazole-O-CH₂-linker*), 3.88 – 3.78 (br m, *triazole-O-C-CH₂-O*), 3.75 – 3.60 (br m, *triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-C*), 3.59 – 3.48 (br m, *C-CH₂-O-CH₃*), 3.43 – 3.31 (br s, *O-CH₃*), 2.90 – 2.80 (br s, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.80 – 2.53 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.90 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*), 1.89 – 1.60 (br m, *PVC-linker-CH₂-C-triazole* and *PVC-triazole-O-C-CH₂-linker*), 1.57 – 1.30 (br m, *linker CH₂'s*).

^{13}C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.1 (C=O), 158.4 (C=O), 140.0 (4°), 129.9 (4°), 129.5 (4°), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.67 (CH₂), 70.60 (CH₂), 70.56 (CH₂), 68.8 (CH₂), 68.5 (CH₂), 66.2 (CH₂), 65.6 (CH₂), 64.8 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 56.9 (CH syndio), 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.0 – 54.9 (CH iso), 50.5 (CH₂), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ peaks), 30.0 (CH₂), 29.7 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 26.04 (CH₂), 25.96 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂).

IR (Neat): 2928 (s, alkane CH), 2874 (s, alkane CH), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1552 (m, triazole C=C), 1464 (s, methylene stretch CH₂), 1279 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1202 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1111 (s, ether stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): -17 °C.



Preparation of methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 1000 prop - 2 -

ynoate. Propiolic acid (4.2000 g, 60.000 mmol) was added to a 250 mL round bottom flask with 40 mL of toluene. Methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 1000 (20.0000 g, 20.000 mmol) and 0.2 mL

H_2SO_4 was added to the reaction flask and stirred at reflux for 2 h. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*, and diluted with 100 mL ethyl acetate. The solution was transferred to a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 5 mL of saturated NaHCO_3 three times each. The aqueous layer was extracted with 60 mL of ethyl acetate, three times each. The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO_4 , filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*, affording 16.1738g (15.374 mmol, 76.87% gravimetric yield) of the title compound as a white waxy solid of varying chain lengths.

TLC: 93:7 CH_2Cl_2 :MeOH, $R_f=0.55$, KMnO_4 stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue-yellow spot.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.37 – 4.32 (m, 2H), 3.76 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.72 – 3.58 (m, 82H), 3.58 – 3.53 (m, 2H), 3.42 – 3.35 (m, 3H), 2.99 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 152.6 (C=O), 75.3 (alkyne 4°), 74.5 (alkyne CH), 71.9 (CH_2), 70.7 (CH_2), 70.64 (CH_2), 70.55 (CH_2), 68.5 (CH_2), 65.2 (CH_2), 59.0 (CH_3).

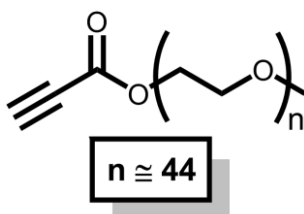
IR (Neat): 3214 (m, alkyne CH), 2871 (s, alkane CH), 2112 (s, alkyne CC), 1716 (s, ester C=O), 1244 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1108 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm^{-1} .

HRMS: Calcd. for (n =19) $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{80}\text{O}_{21}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 921.5265; Found 921.5288.

Calcd. for (n =20) $\text{C}_{44}\text{H}_{84}\text{O}_{22}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 965.5527; Found 965.5550.

Calcd. for (n =21) $\text{C}_{46}\text{H}_{88}\text{O}_{23}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 1009.5789; Found 1009.5815.

Calcd. for (n =22) $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{92}\text{O}_{24}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 1053.6051; Found 1053.6075.



Preparation of methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 2000 prop - 2 - ynoate. Propiolic acid (2.1000 g, 30.000 mmol) was added to a 250 mL round bottom flask with 40 mL of toluene. Methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 2000 (20.0000 g, 10.000 mmol) and 0.2 mL

H₂SO₄ was added to the reaction flask and stirred at reflux for 2 h. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*, and diluted with 100 mL ethyl acetate. The solution was transferred to a 500 mL separatory funnel and washed with 10 mL of saturated NaHCO₃ three times each. The aqueous layer was extracted with 100 mL ethyl acetate two times each. The organic layers were combined and dried with MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*, affording 11.5138g (5.611 mmol, 56.11% gravimetric yield) of the title compound as a white waxy solid of varying chain lengths.

TLC: 93:7 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH, R_f=0.45, KMnO₄ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue-yellow spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.41 – 4.33 (m, 2H), 3.84 – 3.78 (m, 1H), 3.77 – 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.73 – 3.61 (m, 176H), 3.59 – 3.54 (m, 2H), 3.54 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.42 – 3.35 (m, 2H), 2.99 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 153.4 (C=O), 75.4 (alkyne 4°), 74.7 (alkyne CH), 71.8 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 70.5 (CH₂), 68.5 (CH₂), 65.1 (CH₂), 60.3 (CH₂), 58.9 (CH₃).

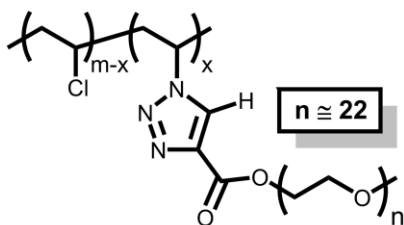
IR (Neat): 3216 (w, alkyne CH), 2876 (s, alkane CH), 2112 (m, alkyne CC), 1715 (m, ester C=O), 1244 (m, ester stretch C-O), 1111 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

HRMS: Calcd. for (n=39) C₈₂H₁₆₀O₄₁ [M+H]⁺ 1824.0327; Found 1824.0298.

Calcd. for (n=40) C₈₄H₁₆₄O₄₂ [M+H]⁺ 1868.0589; Found 1868.0557.

Calcd. for (n=41) C₈₆H₁₆₈O₄₃ [M+H]⁺ 1912.0852; Found 1912.0814.

Calcd. for (n=42) C₈₈H₁₇₂O₄₄ [M+H]⁺ 1956.1114; Found 1956.1077.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me. Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 15 mL of 3-pentanone at 96 °C. Methoxy poly(ethylene glycol)

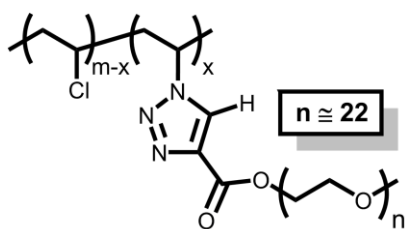
1000-prop-2-ynoate (2.524 g, 2.4 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was precipitated once in 80 mL of MeOH. The crude polymer was dissolved in 15 mL of 3-pentanone and methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 1000-prop-2-ynoate (2.524 g, 2.4 mmol) was added to the solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, two times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 0.6690 g of a white solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.40 – 8.15 (br m, PVC-triazole-H), 5.32 – 5.10 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.70 – 4.56 (br m, Cl-C-H), 4.56 – 4.40 (br s, Cl-C-H and triazole-O-CH₂), 4.38 – 4.24 (br m, Cl-C-H), 3.92 – 3.83 (br m, triazole-O-C-CH₂-O), 3.83 – 3.59 (br m, triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-), 3.58 – 3.55 (br m, C-CH₂-O-CH₃), 3.41 – 3.39 (br s, O-CH₃), 2.87 – 2.78 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.78 – 2.69 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole and triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole), 2.50 – 1.85 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 72.0 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.0 – 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ peaks).

IR (Neat): 2909 (s, alkane CH), 2874 (s, alkane CH), 1727 (s, ester C=O), 1541 (w, triazole C=C), 1435 (s, methylene stretch CH₂), 1253 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1199 (m, ester stretch C-O), 1106 (s, ether stretch C-O), 614 (w, C-Cl) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 65 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₁₀₀₀Me. Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 30 mL of 3-pentanone at 96 °C. Methoxy poly(ethylene glycol)

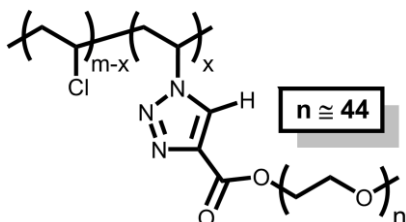
1000-prop-2-ynoate (7.5746 g, 7.2 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately one-third its volume *in vacuo*. To a 250 mL beaker, 100 mL of MeOH was added, then placed in a dry ice-acetone bath for 2 min. The polymer was precipitated by dropwise addition of the reaction solution in 2 mL increments into the cooled MeOH. After the addition of reaction solution, the mother liquor was decanted and replaced with 100 mL of fresh MeOH. The beaker was cooled to -78 °C for 2 min, upon which another 2 mL of reaction solution was added dropwise. This process was repeated until the entire polymer was precipitated. When all of the reaction solution was precipitated, the last volume of mother liquor was decanted. Subsequently, the neat polymer was cooled to -78 °C and washed with 50 mL of MeOH four times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 3 days to yield 2.2467 g of a flexible transparent yellow solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.29 – 8.07 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 5.30 – 5.10 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.66 – 4.57 (br s, *Cl-C-H*), 4.56 – 4.50 (br s, *Cl-C-H* and *triazole-O-CH₂*), 4.49 – 4.40 (br s, *Cl-C-H*), 4.36 – 4.15 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 3.95 – 3.82 (br s, *triazole-O-C-CH₂-O*), 3.82 – 3.59 (br m, *triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O*), 3.58 – 3.54 (br m, *C-CH₂-O-CH₃*), 3.41 – 3.38 (br s, *O-CH₃*), 2.87 – 2.78 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.78 – 2.68 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.85 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*).

¹³C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.0 (C=O), 160.4 (C=O), 138.1 (TRZ 4°), 129.7 (TRZ 4°) 72.5 (CH₂), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 68.9 (CH₂), 64.3 (CH₂), 63.0 (CH₂), 61.8 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.0 – 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ peaks).

IR (Neat): 2874 (s, alkane CH), 1725 (m, ester C=O), 1454 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1253 (m, ester stretch C-O), 1103 (s, ether stretch C-O) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): -35 °C.



Preparation of 5% PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me.

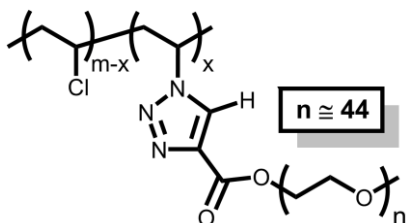
Poly(vinyl chloride) 5% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 15 mL of 3-pentanone at 96 °C. Methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 2000-prop-2-ynoate (4.9248 g, 2.4 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was precipitated once in 80 mL of MeOH. The crude polymer was then dissolved in 15 mL of 3-pentanone and methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 2000-prop-2-ynoate (4.9248g, 2.4 mmol) was added to the solution and stirred for 24 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*, then precipitated in 80 mL of MeOH, two times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 2 days to yield 1.0484 g of a white solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.32 – 8.18 (br m, *PVC-triazole-H*), 5.30 – 5.15 (br m, *C-CH-triazole*), 4.66 – 4.57 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 4.56 – 4.40 (br m, *Cl-C-H* and *triazole-O-CH₂*), 4.39 – 4.15 (br m, *Cl-C-H*), 3.82 – 3.58 (br m, *triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-*), 3.58 – 3.54 (br t, *C-CH₂-O-CH₃*), 3.53 – 3.50 (br t, *C-CH₂-O-CH₃*), 3.40 – 3.39 (br s, *O-CH₃*), 2.87 – 2.77 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.77 – 2.68 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-triazole* and *triazole-C-CH₂-C-triazole*), 2.50 – 1.85 (br m, *Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl*).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 161.0 (C=O), 72.0 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 68.9 (CH₂), 66.7 (CH₂), 63.0 (CH₂), 61.8 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 57.0 – 56.9 (CH syndio), 56.1 – 55.9 (CH hetero), 55.1 – 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH₂ peaks).

IR (Neat): 3120 (w, triazole CH), 2908 (s, alkane CH), 2873 (s, alkane CH), 1728 (m, ester C=O), 1528 (w, triazole C=C), 1435 (m, methylene stretch CH₂), 1253 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1199 (m, ester stretch C-O), 1106 (s, ether stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm⁻¹.

DSC (*T_g*): 22 °C.



Preparation of 15% PVC-TRZ-PEO₂₀₀₀Me.

Poly(vinyl chloride) 15% azide (1.000 g, 16.00 mmol) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 25 mL of 3-pentanone at 90 °C. Methoxy poly(ethylene glycol) 2000-prop-2-ynoate (7.387 g, 3.600 mmol) was added to the PVC solution and stirred for 72 h. The reaction was concentrated to approximately half its volume *in vacuo*. To a 250 mL beaker, 100 mL of MeOH was added, then placed in a dry ice-acetone bath for 2 min. The polymer was precipitated by dropwise addition of the reaction solution in 2 mL increments into the cooled MeOH. After the addition of reaction solution, the mother liquor was decanted and replaced with 100 mL of fresh MeOH. The beaker was cooled to -78 °C for 2 min, upon which another 2 mL of reaction solution was added dropwise. This process was repeated until the entire polymer was precipitated. When all of the reaction solution was precipitated, the last volume of mother liquor was decanted. Subsequently, the neat polymer was cooled to -78 °C and washed with 50 mL of MeOH four times each. The isolated polymer was dried under house vacuum for 1 day, then in a vacuum oven at 40 °C for 3 days to yield 2.9260 g of a flexible transparent yellow solid.

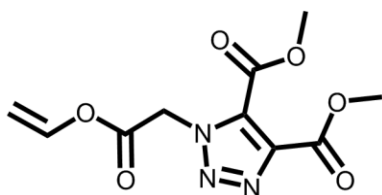
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.40 – 8.15 (br m, PVC-triazole-H), 5.35 – 5.05 (br m, C-CH-triazole), 4.65 – 4.55 (br s, Cl-C-H), 4.55 – 4.36 (br m, Cl-C-H and triazole-O-CH₂), 4.36 – 4.15 (br m, Cl-C-H), 3.95 – 3.40 (br s, triazole-O-C-CH₂-O and triazole-O-C-C-O-CH₂-CH₂-O- and C-CH₂-O-CH₃), 3.38 (br s, O-CH₃), 3.36 (br s, O-CH₃), 2.50 – 1.75 (br m, Cl-C-CH₂-C-Cl).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 161.0 (C=O), 72.5 (CH_2), 71.9 (CH_2), 70.6 (CH_2), 68.9 (CH_2), 63.0 (CH_2), 61.7 (CH_2), 59.0 (CH_3), 57.0 (CH syndio), 55.9 (CH hetero), 54.9 (CH iso), 47.3 – 44.8 (family of CH_2 peaks).

IR (Neat): 3120 (w, triazole CH), 2871 (s, alkane CH), 1726 (m, ester C=O), 1544 (w, triazole C=C), 1455 (m, methylene stretch CH_2), 1251 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1111 (s, ether stretch C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl) cm^{-1} .

DSC (T_g): -42 °C.

6.8 Chapter 5 Experimental Section



Preparation of 4,5-dimethyl 1-[2-(ethenyloxy)-2-oxoethyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.

Vinyl chloroacetate (1.000 g, 8.296 mmol) was added to an aluminum foil covered 100 mL round bottom flask with 13 mL of CH_3CN . NaN_3 (1.618 g, 24.89 mmol) and NaHCO_3 (0.348 g, 4.15 mmol) were added to the flask with stirring. Next, tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate (0.2816 g, 0.8296 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a glass sintered funnel into another 100 mL round bottom flask. The residues were washed in an additional 13 mL of CH_3CN and filtered through the glass sintered funnel. Dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (1.886 g, 13.273 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at 50 °C for 24 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a crude brown solid. The product was dry-loaded and purified via flash chromatography using 6:4 hexanes:ethyl acetate, furnishing 1.2617 g (4.6867 mmol, 56.5% yield) of the title compound as a colorless solid: mp 130-131 °C.

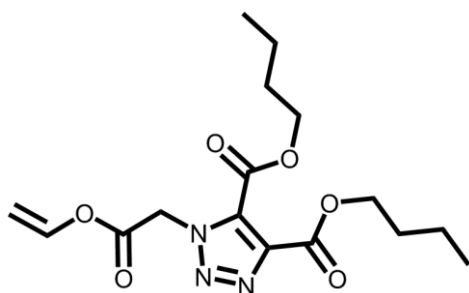
TLC: 6:4 hexanes:ethyl acetate, $R_f=0.38$, UV, KMnO_4 stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, light purple spot.

IR (KBr Pellet): 3028 (s, CH stretch alkene), 1768 (s, ester), 1749 (s, ester), 1725 (s, ester), 1651 (s, C=C alkene stretch) cm^{-1} .

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.24 (dd, $J = 13.8, 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.55 (s, 2H), 5.01 (dd, $J = 13.8, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.74 (dd, $J = 6.2, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H).

^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 163.0 (C=O), 160.2 (C=O), 158.6 (C=O), 140.5 (CH), 140.4 (4°), 129.8 (4°), 100.1 (CH_2), 53.5 (CH_3), 52.9 (CH_3), 51.3 (CH_2).

HRMS: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 270.0721, found 270.0710.



Preparation of 4,5-dibutyl 1-[2-(ethenyloxy)-2-oxoethyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.

Vinyl chloroacetate (1.000 g, 8.296 mmol) was added to an aluminum foil covered 100 mL round bottom flask with 13 mL of CH_3CN . NaN_3 (1.618 g, 24.89 mmol) and NaHCO_3 (0.348 g, 4.15 mmol) were added to the flask with stirring. Next, tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate (0.2816 g, 0.8296 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a glass sintered funnel into another 100 mL round bottom flask. The residues were washed in an additional 13 mL of CH_3CN and filtered through the glass sintered funnel. 1,4-Dibutyl but-2-yne-1,4-dioate (3.003 g, 13.273 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at 50 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a crude brown liquid. Purification via flash chromatography using 8:2 hexanes:ethyl acetate, furnishing 1.8153 g (5.1371 mmol, 61.9% yield) of the title compound as an orange oil.

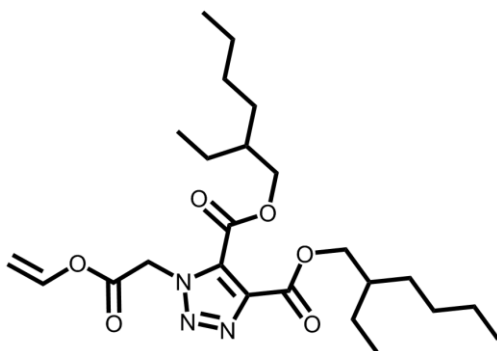
TLC: 8:2 hexanes:ethyl acetate, $R_f=0.37$, UV, KMnO_4 stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, light purple spot.

IR (Neat): 2962 (s, CH stretch alkane), 2936 (s, CH stretch alkane), 2875 (s, CH stretch alkane), 1773 (s, ester), 1730 (s, ester), 1648 (s, C=C alkene stretch) cm^{-1} .

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.24 (dd, $J = 13.8, 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.54 (s, 2H), 5.01 (dd, $J = 13.8, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.73 (dd, $J = 6.2, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.39 (t, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.36 (t, $J = 6.7, 2\text{H}$), 1.81 – 1.68 (m, 4H), 1.51 – 1.39 (m, 4H), 0.96 (two overlapping t, 6H).

^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 163.1 (C=O), 160.1 (C=O), 158.1 (C=O), 141.0 (4°), 140.5 (CH), 129.6 (4°), 99.9 (CH_2), 66.8 (CH_2), 65.9 (CH_2), 51.2 (CH_2), 30.6 (CH_2), 30.3 (CH_2), 19.1 (CH_2), 18.9 (CH_2), 13.7 (CH_3), 13.6 (CH_3).

HRMS: Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 354.1659, found 354.1632.



Preparation of 4,5-bis(2-ethylhexyl) 1-[2-(ethenyloxy)-2-oxoethyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate.

Vinyl chloroacetate (1.000 g, 8.296 mmol) was added to an aluminum foil covered 100 mL round bottom flask with 13 mL of CH_3CN . NaN_3 (1.618 g, 24.89 mmol) and NaHCO_3 (0.348 g, 4.15 mmol) were added to the flask with stirring. Next, tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate (0.2816 g, 0.8296 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a glass sintered funnel into another 100 mL round bottom flask. The residues were washed in an additional 13 mL of CH_3CN and filtered through the glass sintered funnel. 1,4-Dibutyl but-2-yne-1,4-diolate (3.003 g, 13.273 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at 50 °C for 24 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a crude brown liquid. Purification via flash chromatography using 8:2 hexanes:ethyl acetate, furnishing 1.8153 g (5.1371 mmol, 61.9% yield) of the title compound as an orange oil. 1,4-Bis(2-ethylhexyl) but-2-yne-1,4-diolate (4.492 g, 13.273 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at 50 °C for 24 h. The

volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* affording a crude brown liquid. Purification via flash chromatography using 9:1 hexanes:ethyl acetate, furnishing 2.171 g (4.6634 mmol, 56.2% yield) of the title compound as an orange oil.

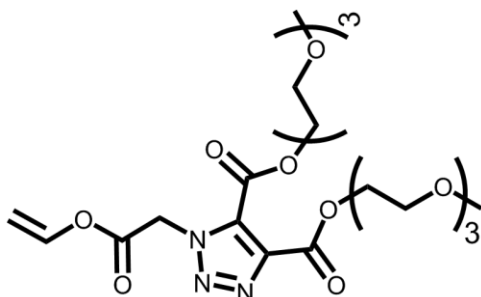
TLC: 9:1 hexanes:ethyl acetate, $R_f=0.30$, UV, KMnO_4 stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue spot.

IR (Neat): 2961 (s, CH stretch alkane), 2931 (s, CH stretch alkane), 2873 (s, CH stretch alkane), 2861 (s, CH stretch alkane), 1774 (s, ester), 1734 (s, ester), 1648 (s, C=C alkene stretch) cm^{-1} .

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.26 (dd, $J = 13.8, 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.55 (s, 2H), 5.01 (dd, $J = 13.8, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.74 (dd, $J = 6.2, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.36 – 4.22 (m, 4H), 1.76 (hept, $J = 12.0, 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.67 (hept, $J = 12.1, 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.51 – 1.27 (m, 16H), 1.00 – 0.79 (m, 12H).

^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , DEPT): δ 163.2 (C=O), 160.3 (C=O), 158.5 (C=O), 141.2 (4°), 140.6 (CH), 129.6 (4°), 100.0 (CH_2), 69.3 (CH_2), 68.7 (CH_2), 51.3 (CH_2), 38.9 (CH), 38.8 (CH), 30.3 (CH_2), 30.2 (CH_2), 29.0 (CH_2), 28.95 (CH_2), 23.7 (CH_2), 23.6 (CH_2), 23.08 (CH_2), 23.03 (CH_2), 14.2 (CH_3), 11.0 (CH_3).

HRMS: Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{39}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 466.2912, found 466.2884.



Preparation of 1-ethenyl 4,5-bis((2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl)) 1H-1,2,3-triazole-1,4,5-tricarboxylate.

Vinyl chloroacetate (3.000 g, 24.89 mmol) was added to an aluminum foil covered 50 mL round bottom flask with 18 mL of CH_3CN . NaN_3 (4.854 g, 74.67 mmol) and NaHCO_3 (0.8360 g, 9.956 mmol) were added to the flask with stirring. Next, tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate (0.8451 g, 2.489 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a glass sintered funnel into another 100 mL round bottom flask. The

residues were washed in an additional 13 mL of CH₃CN and filtered through the glass sintered funnel. 1,4-bis({2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl})but-2-ynedioate (13.1506 g, 32.357 mmol) was added to the reaction flask and stirred at 50 °C for 24 h. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a crude brown liquid. Purification via flash chromatography using 7:3 ethyl acetate:acetone furnished 7.1385 g (13.3798 mmol, 53.76% yield) of the title compound as a yellow oil.

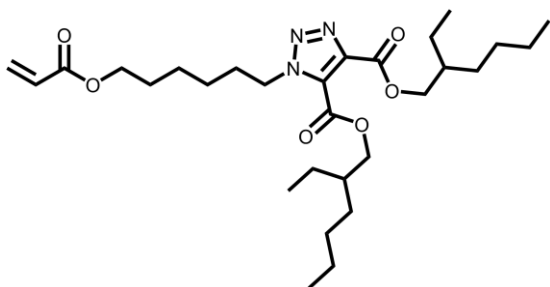
TLC: 7:3 ethyl acetate:acetone, R_f=0.64, UV, KMnO₄ stain, *p*-anisaldehyde stain, blue-yellow spot.

IR (Neat): 2880 (s, CH stretch alkane), 1733 (s, ester), 1647 (s, C=C alkene stretch) cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.26 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (s, 2H), 5.02 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (dd, *J* = 6.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.59 – 4.49 (m, 4H), 3.90 – 3.84 (m, 2H), 3.82 – 3.76 (m, 2H), 3.76 – 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.72 – 3.62 (m, 10H), 3.59 – 3.52 (m, 4H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.38 (s, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 163.1 (C=O), 159.7 (C=O), 157.5 (C=O), 140.7 (4°), 140.6 (CH), 130.2 (4°), 99.96 (CH₂), 71.9 (CH₂), 70.7 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 70.58 (CH₂), 70.55 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 68.2 (CH₂), 65.6 (CH₂), 65.0 (CH₂), 59.0 (CH₃), 51.3 (CH₂).

HRMS: Calcd. for C₂₂H₃₅N₃O₁₂ [M+H]⁺: 534.2294, found 534.2277.



Preparation of 4,5-bis(2-ethylhexyl)-1-[6-(prop-2-enoyloxy)hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate. Acryloyl chloride (5.4906 g, 60.6629 mmol) was diluted with 20 mL of anhydrous THF under N₂ in a 150 mL pear

flask. Next, 4,5-bis(2-ethylhexyl) 1-(6-hydroxyhexyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (9.740 g, 20.2209 mmol) and triethylamine (3.0692 g, 30.3314 mmol) were combined in a

250 mL round bottom flask with 50 mL of anhydrous THF and stirred. This reaction was cooled to 0 °C under N₂ for 15 min. The acryloyl chloride solution was slowly added *via* syringe over 15 min. After the addition of acryloyl chloride, the reaction was allowed to stir at 0 °C for 1 hour, then at room temperature for an additional 1 hour. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and diluted with 80 mL of ethyl acetate, then washed twice with 10 mL of 10% aqueous HCl. The organic layer was dried with MgSO₄ and filtered, then evaporated *in vacuo*, affording a crude orange oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography using 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate furnished 4.680 g (8.735 mmol, 43.2% yield) of a clear oil, as a mixture of diastereomers.

TLC: 7:3 hexanes:ethyl acetate, R_f=0.71, UV, KMnO₄ and *p*-anisaldehyde stain, purple spot.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.41 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 5.84 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (m, 4H), 4.16 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.94 (m, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.79 – 1.64 (m, 4H), 1.51 – 1.28 (m, 20H), 0.98 – 0.87 (m, 12H).

¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT): δ 166.2 (Acrylate C=O), 160.6 (C=O), 158.9 (C=O), 140.5 (4°), 130.6 (CH₂ Alkene), 129.6 (4°), 128.5 (CH Alkene), 69.1 (CH₂), 68.4 (CH₂), 64.3 (O-CH₂ Acrylate), 50.4 (CH₂), 38.73 (CH), 38.70 (CH), 30.21 (CH₂), 30.17 (CH₂), 30.1 (CH₂), 28.89 (CH₂), 28.86 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 26.1 (CH₂), 25.4 (CH₂), 23.6 (CH₂), 23.5 (CH₂), 22.96 (CH₂), 22.94 (CH₂), 14.0 (CH₃), 10.9 (CH₃).

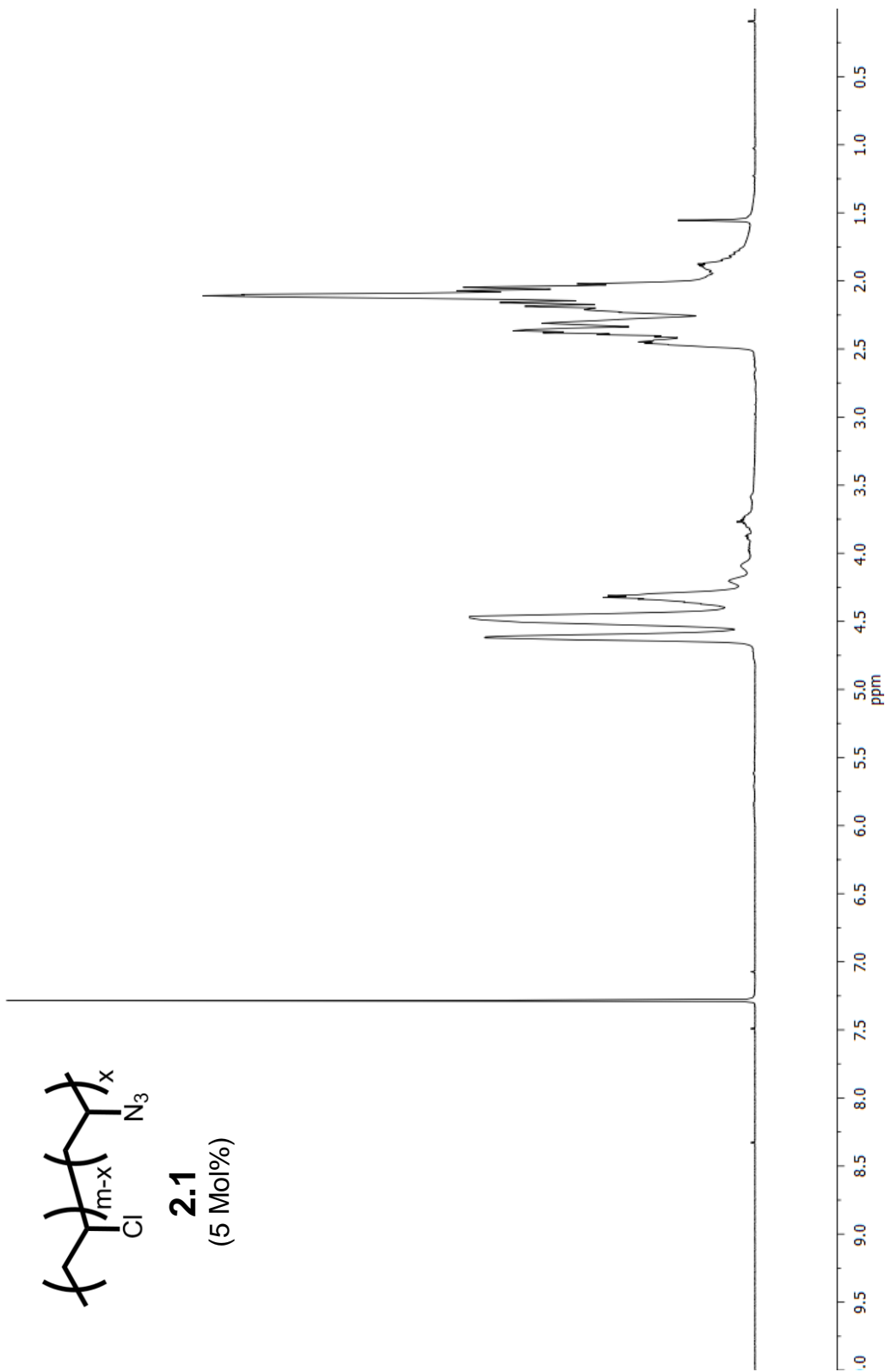
IR (Neat): 3439 (w, alkene CH), 2959 (s, alkane CH), 2932 (s, alkane CH), 2861 (s, alkane CH), 1738 (s, ester C=O), 1731 (s, ester C=O), 1636 (m, mono. sub. alkene C=C), 1620 (m, alkene C=C), 1557 (m, triazole C=C), 1463 (s, methylene bending CH₂), 1271 (s, ester stretch C-O), 1195 (s, ester stretch C-O), 985 (s, mono. sub. alkene bending C=C), 811 (s, mono. sub. alkene bending C=C) cm⁻¹.

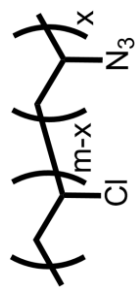
HRMS: Calcd. for C₂₉H₄₉N₃O₆ [M+H]⁺ 536.3694; Found 536.3686.

6.9 References

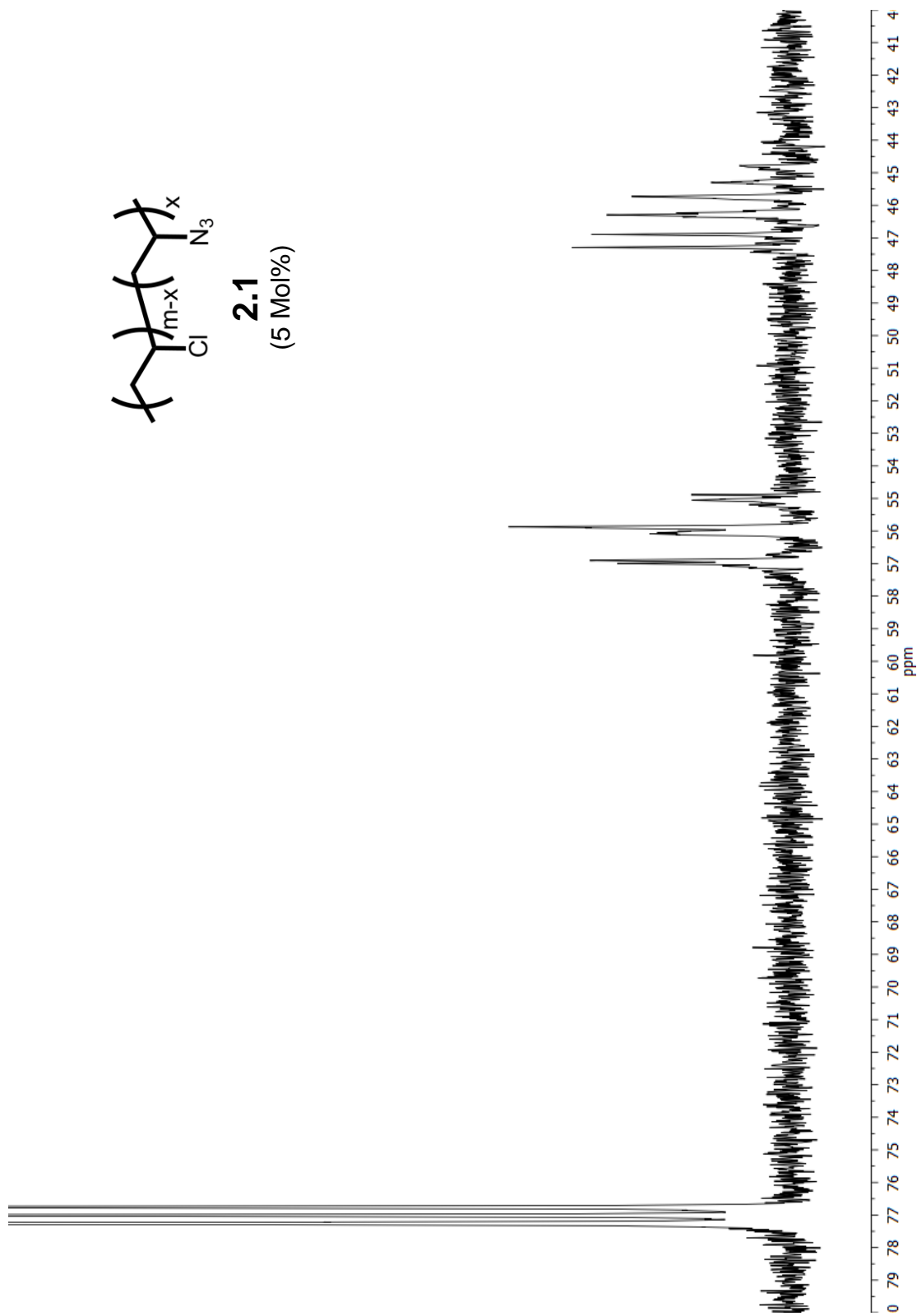
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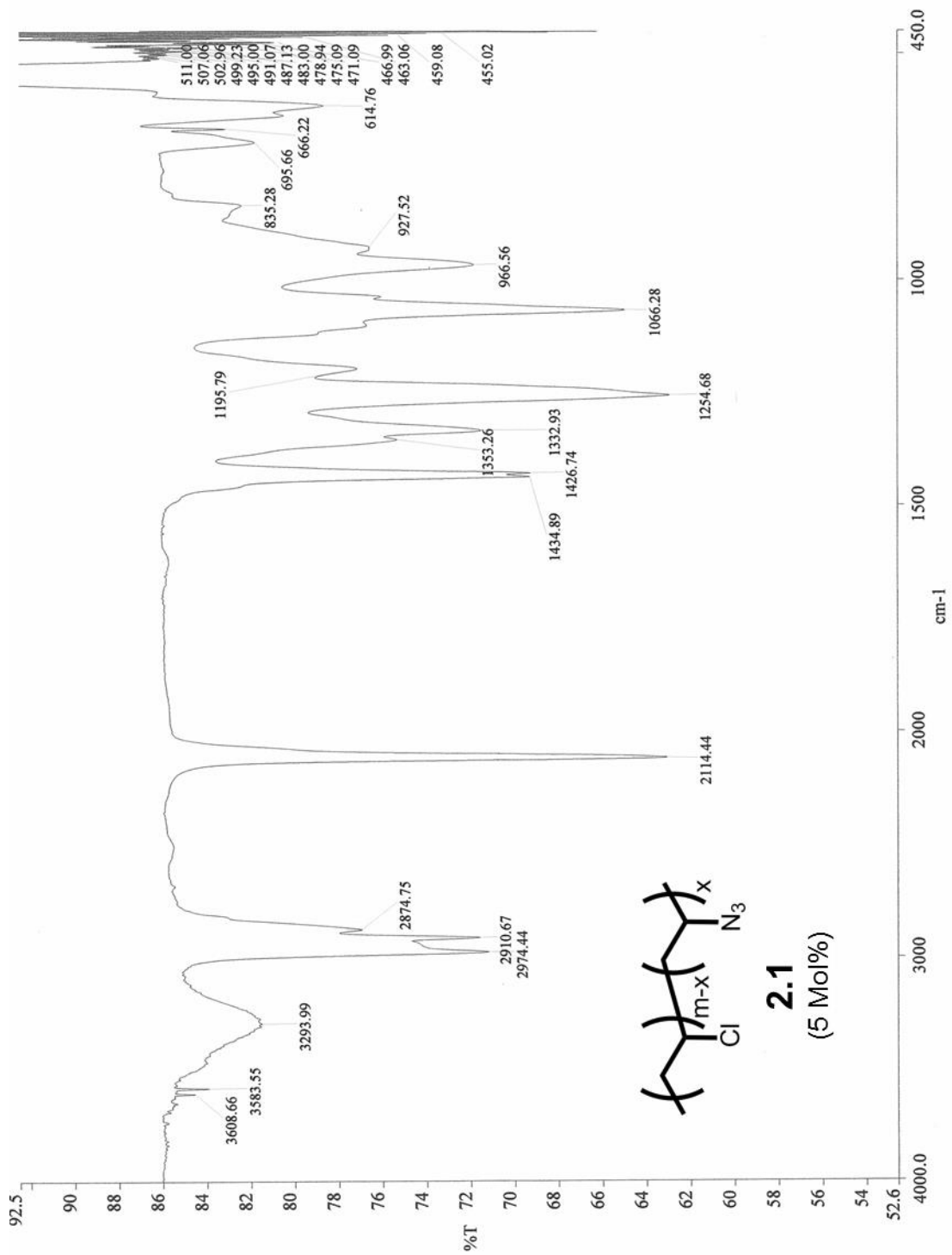
Appendix

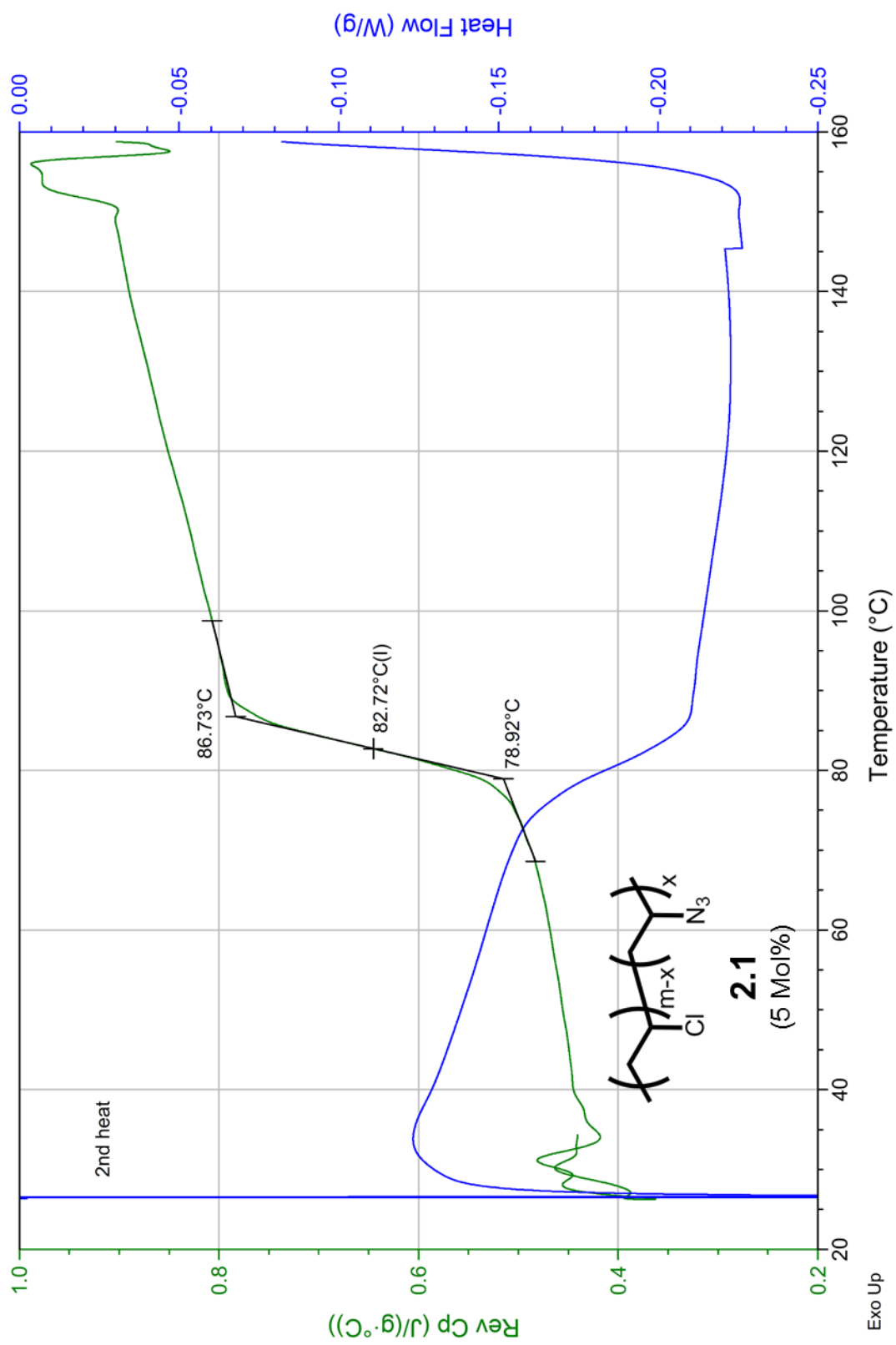


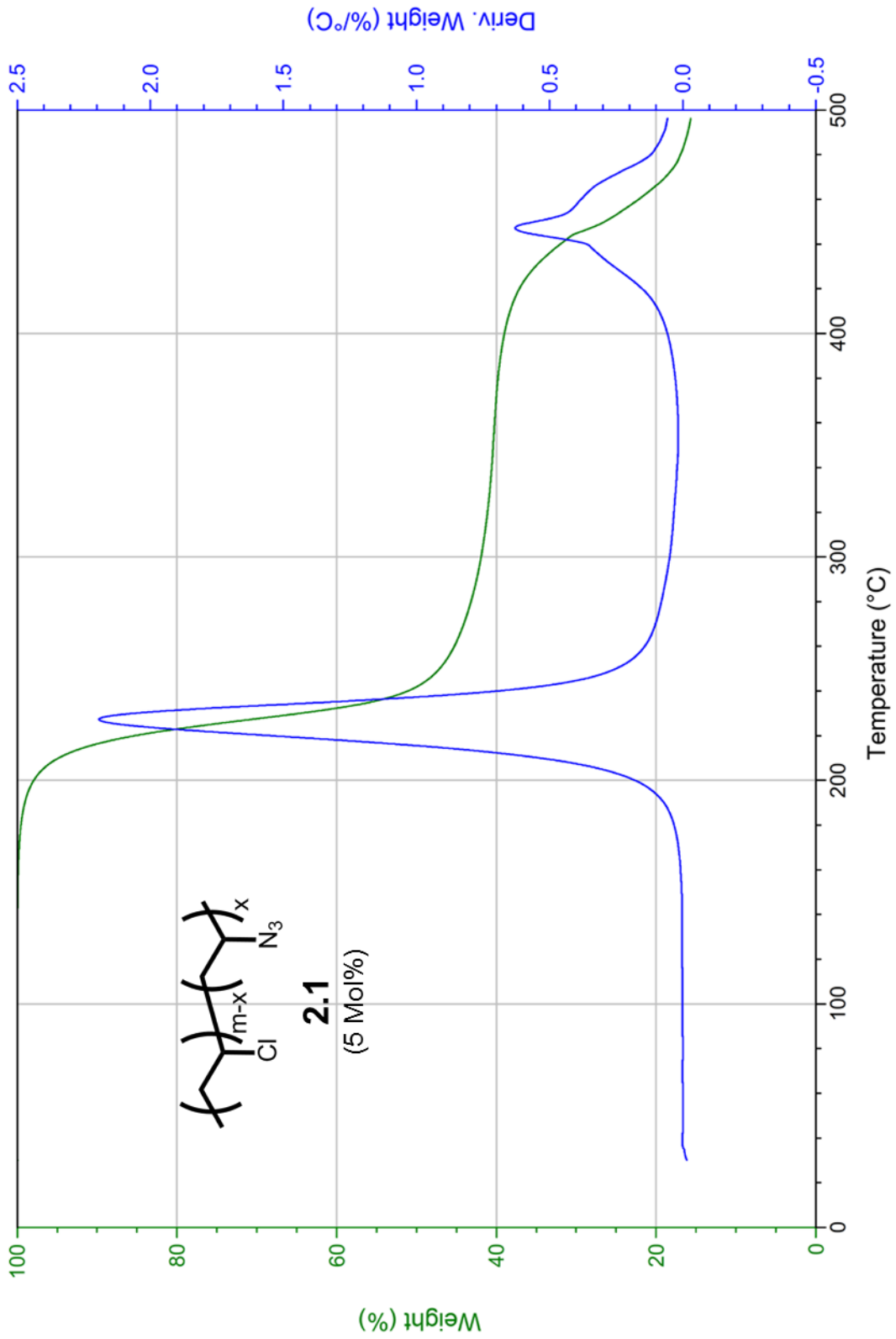


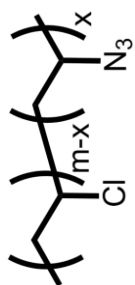
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(5 Mol%)



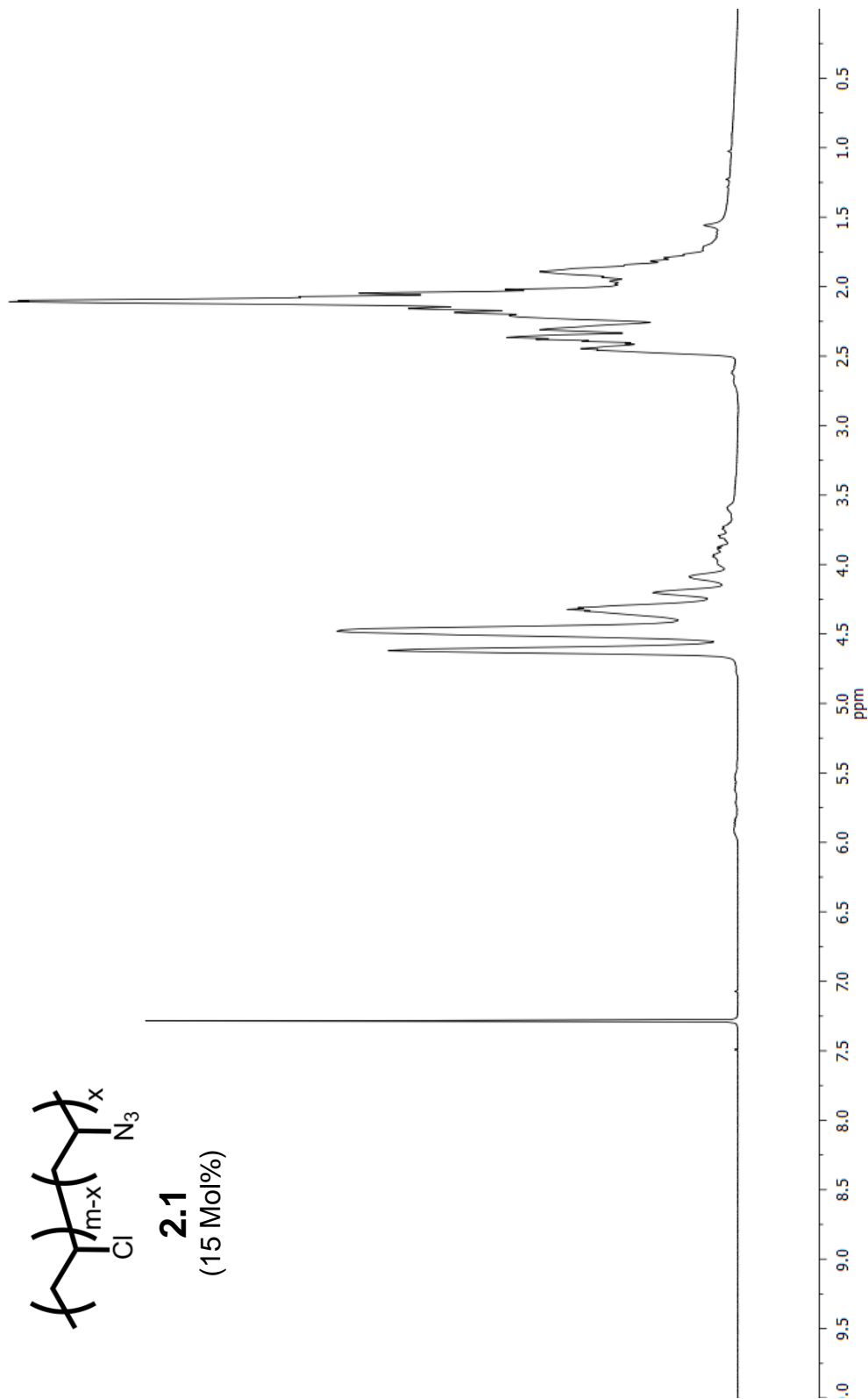


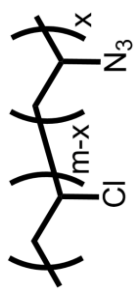




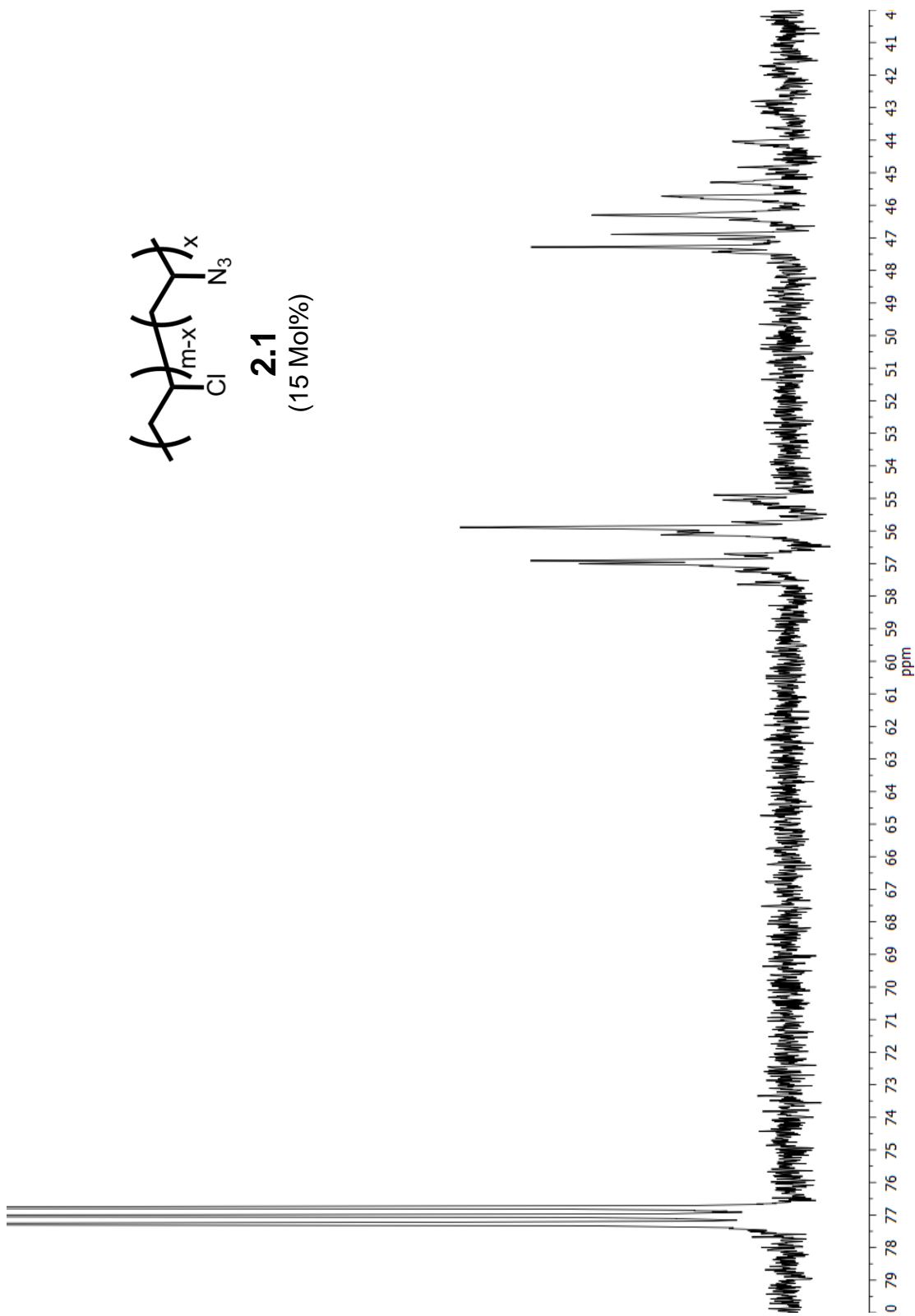


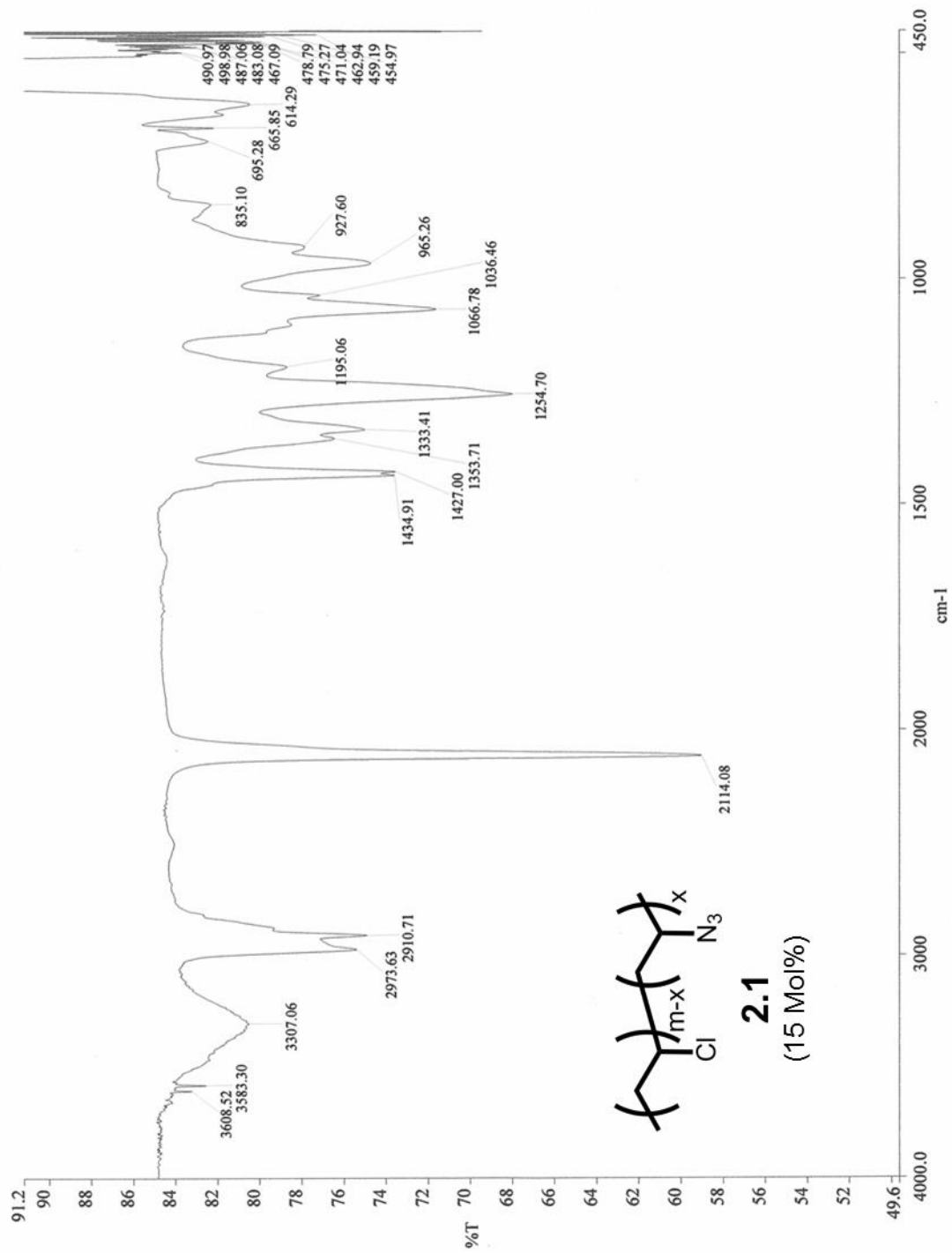
2.1
(15 Mol%)

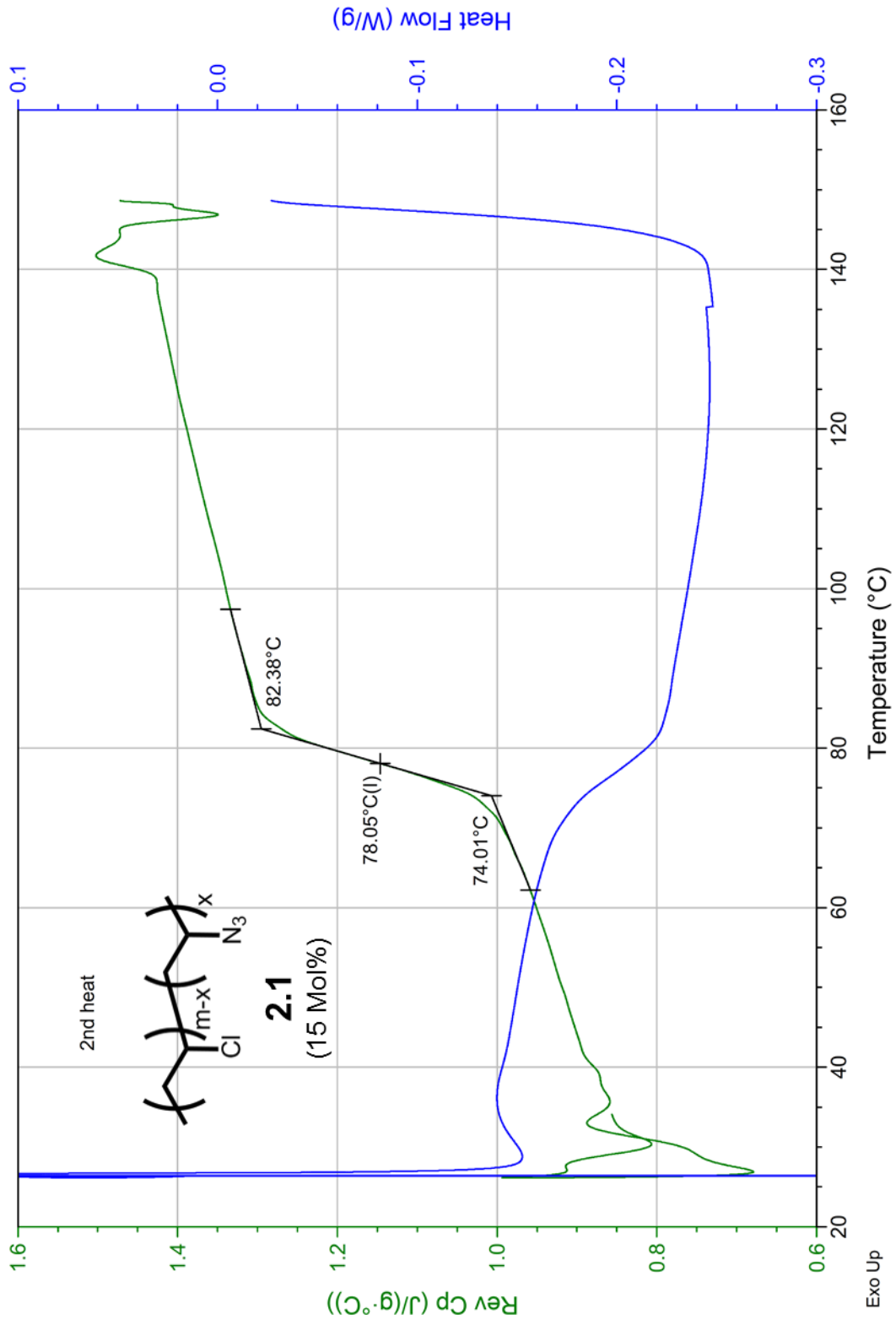


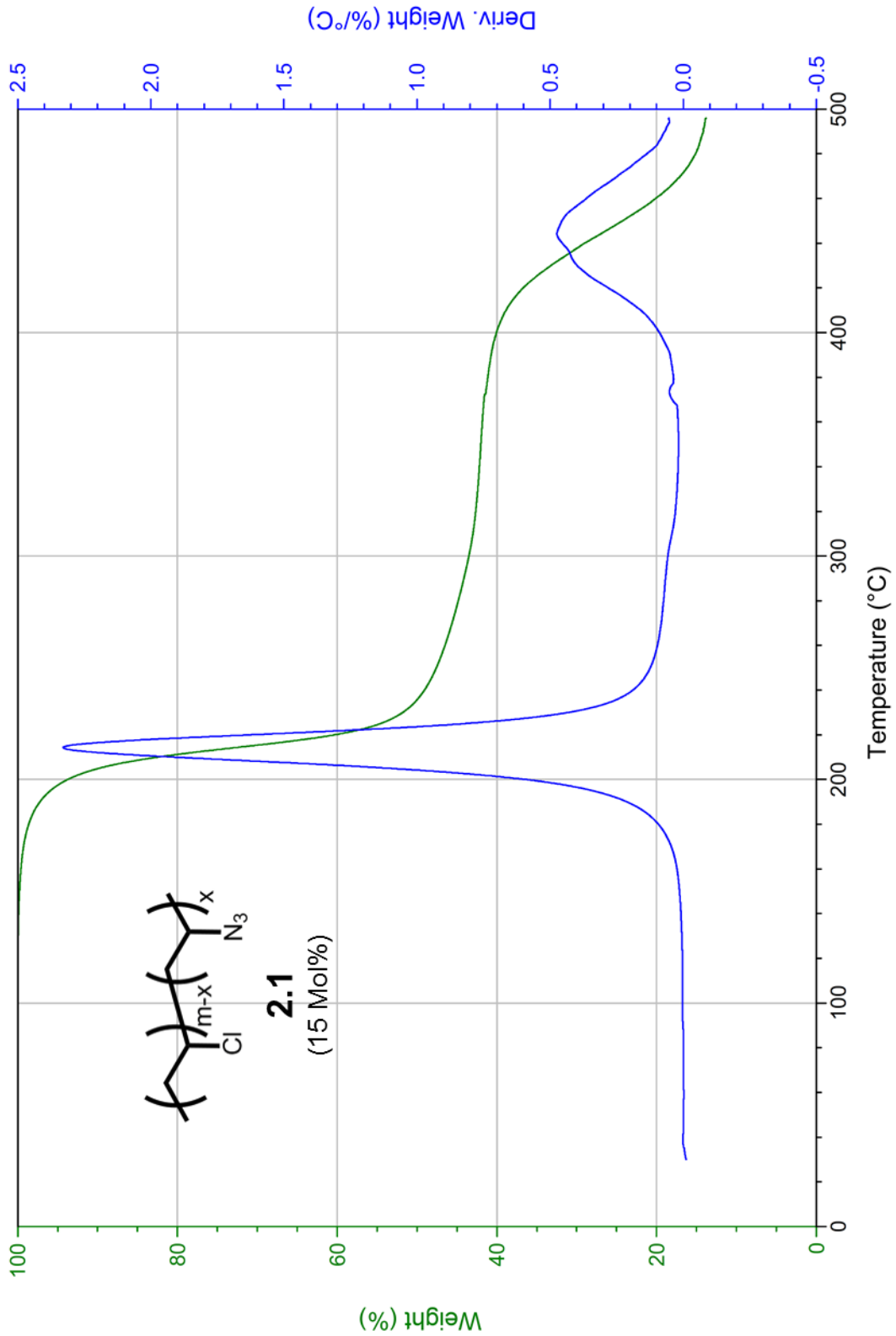


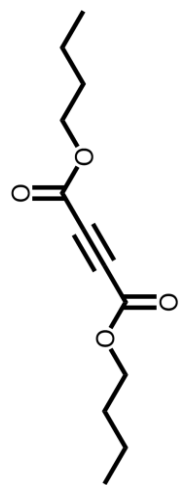
2.1
(15 Mol%)



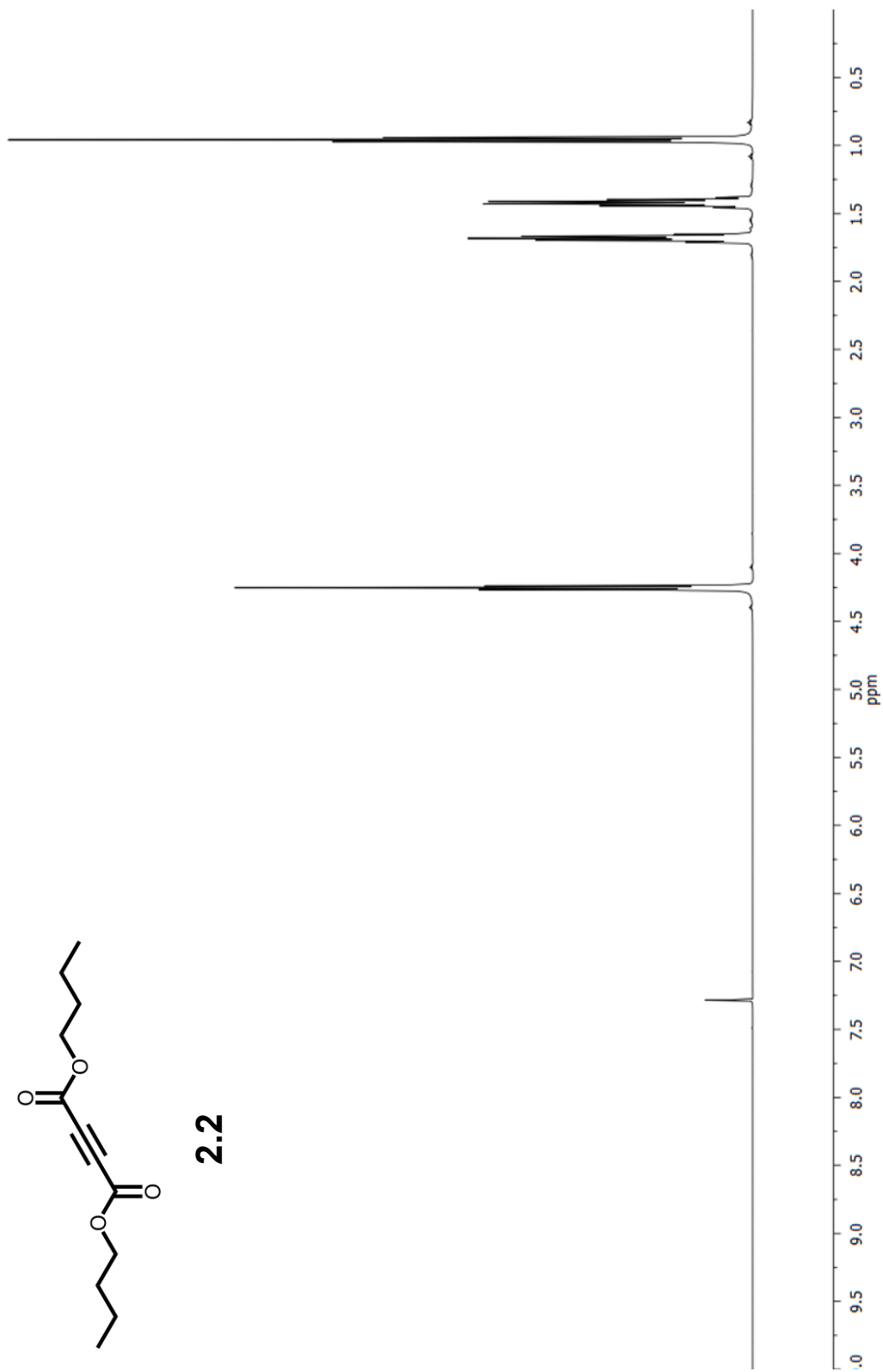


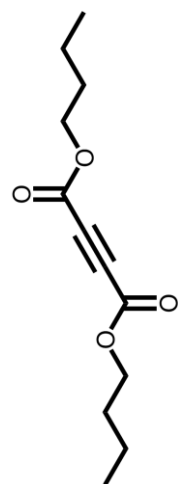




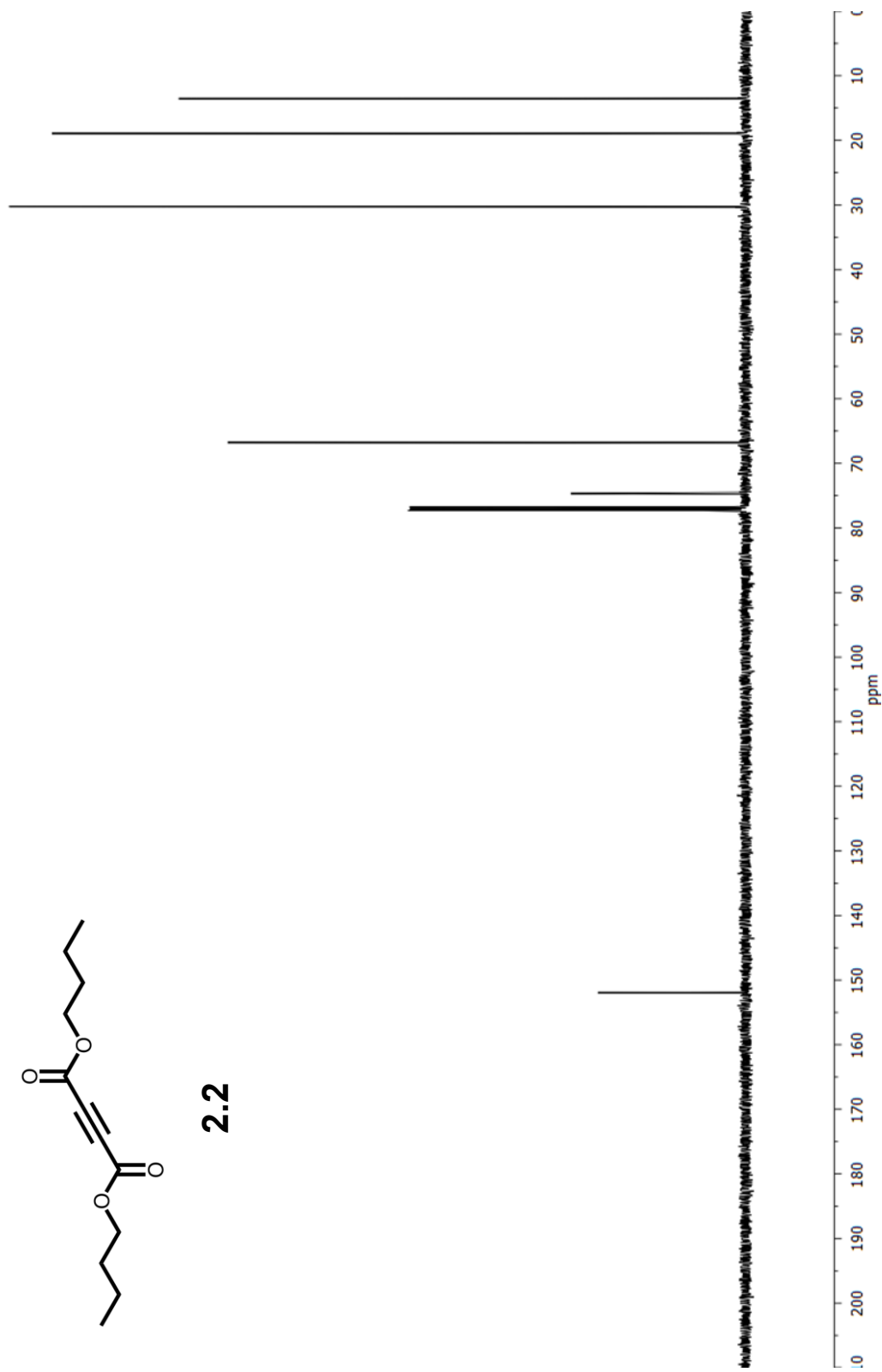


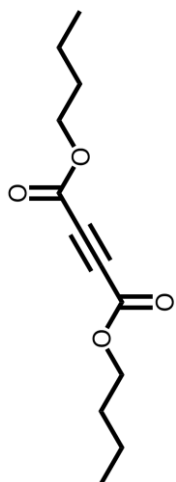
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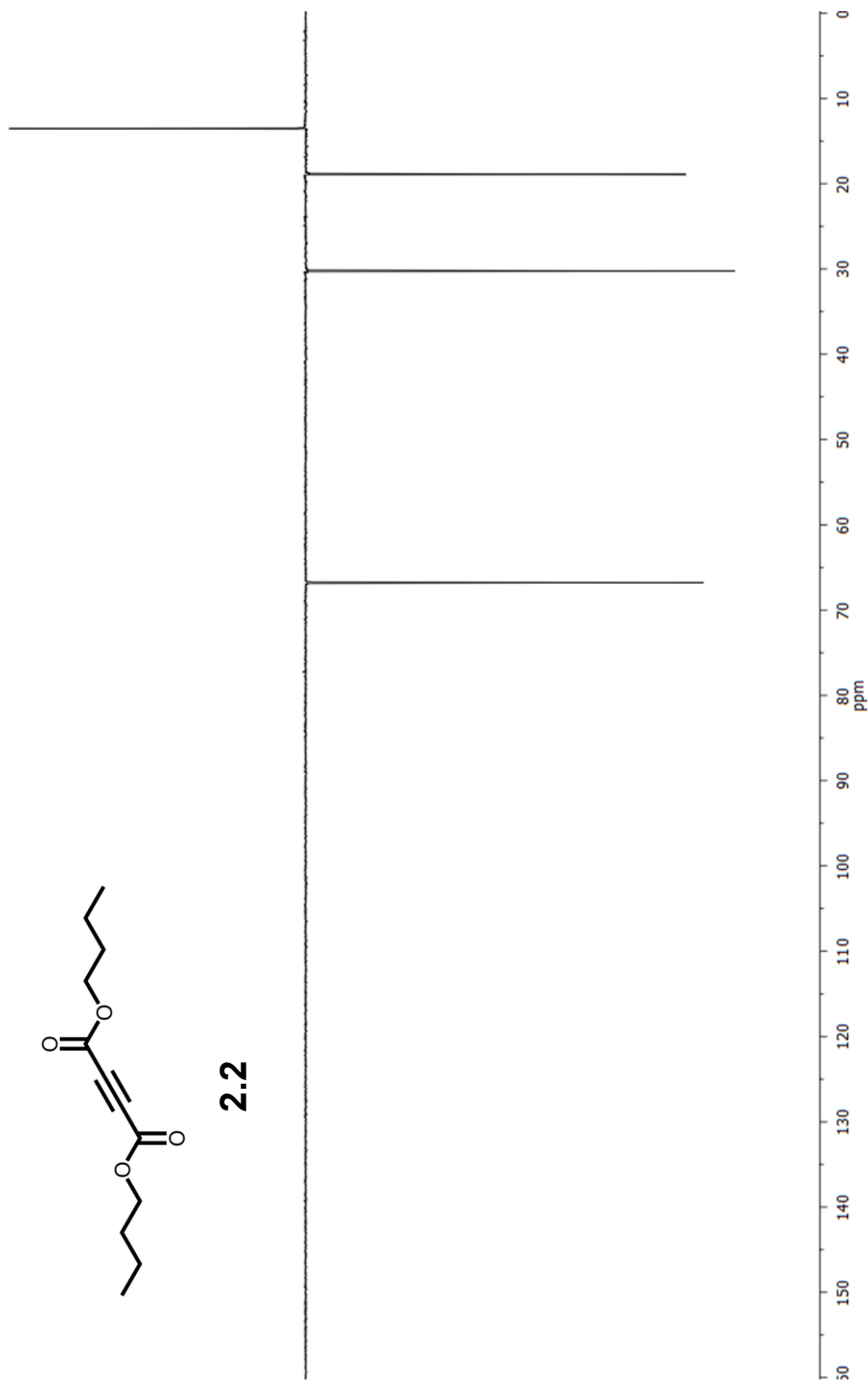


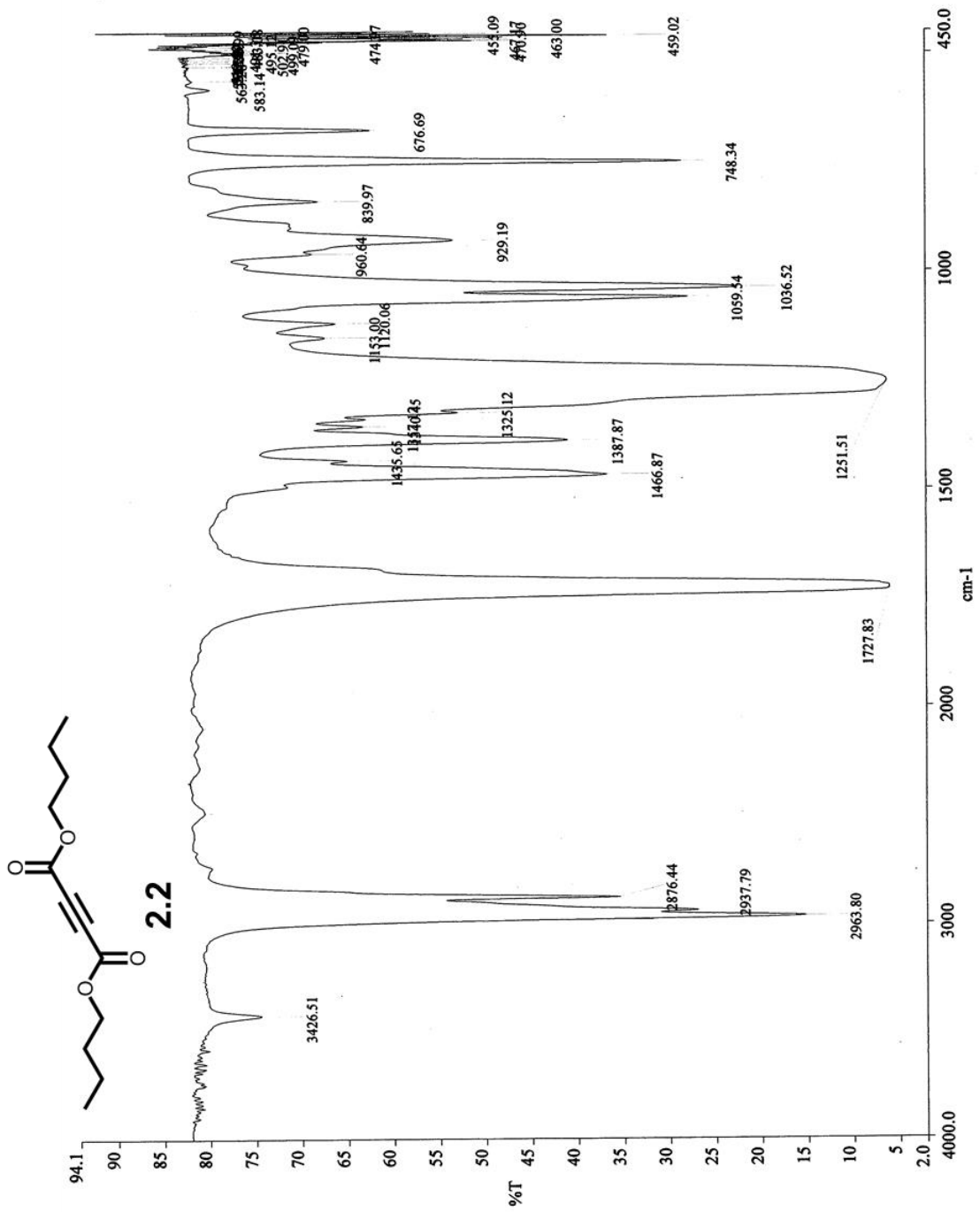
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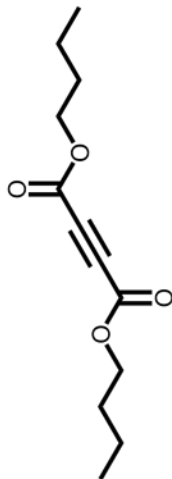




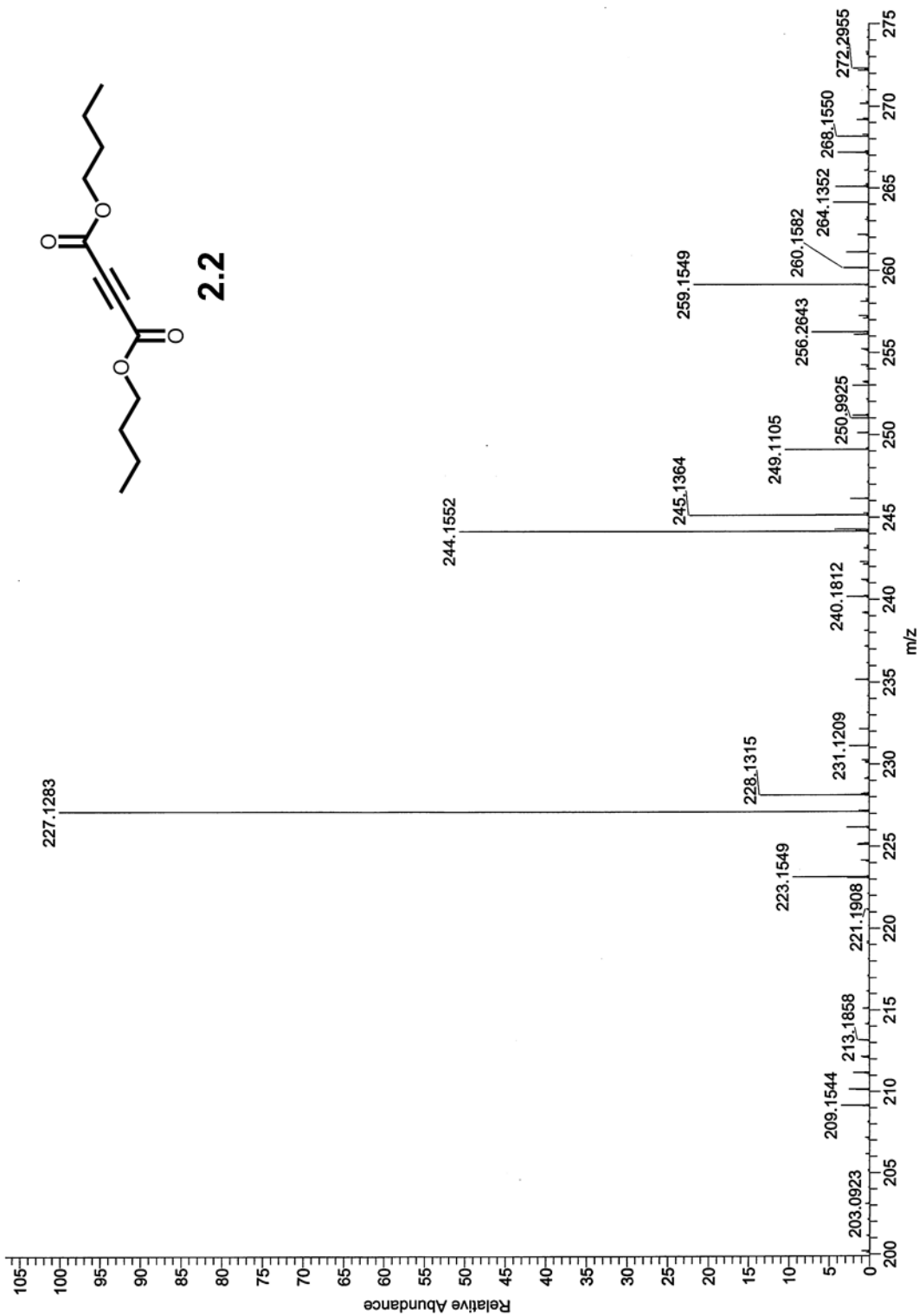
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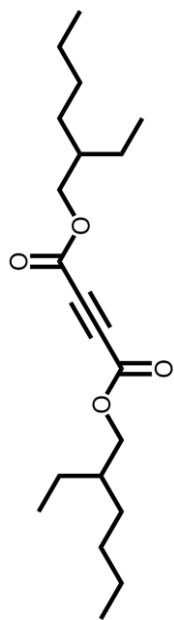




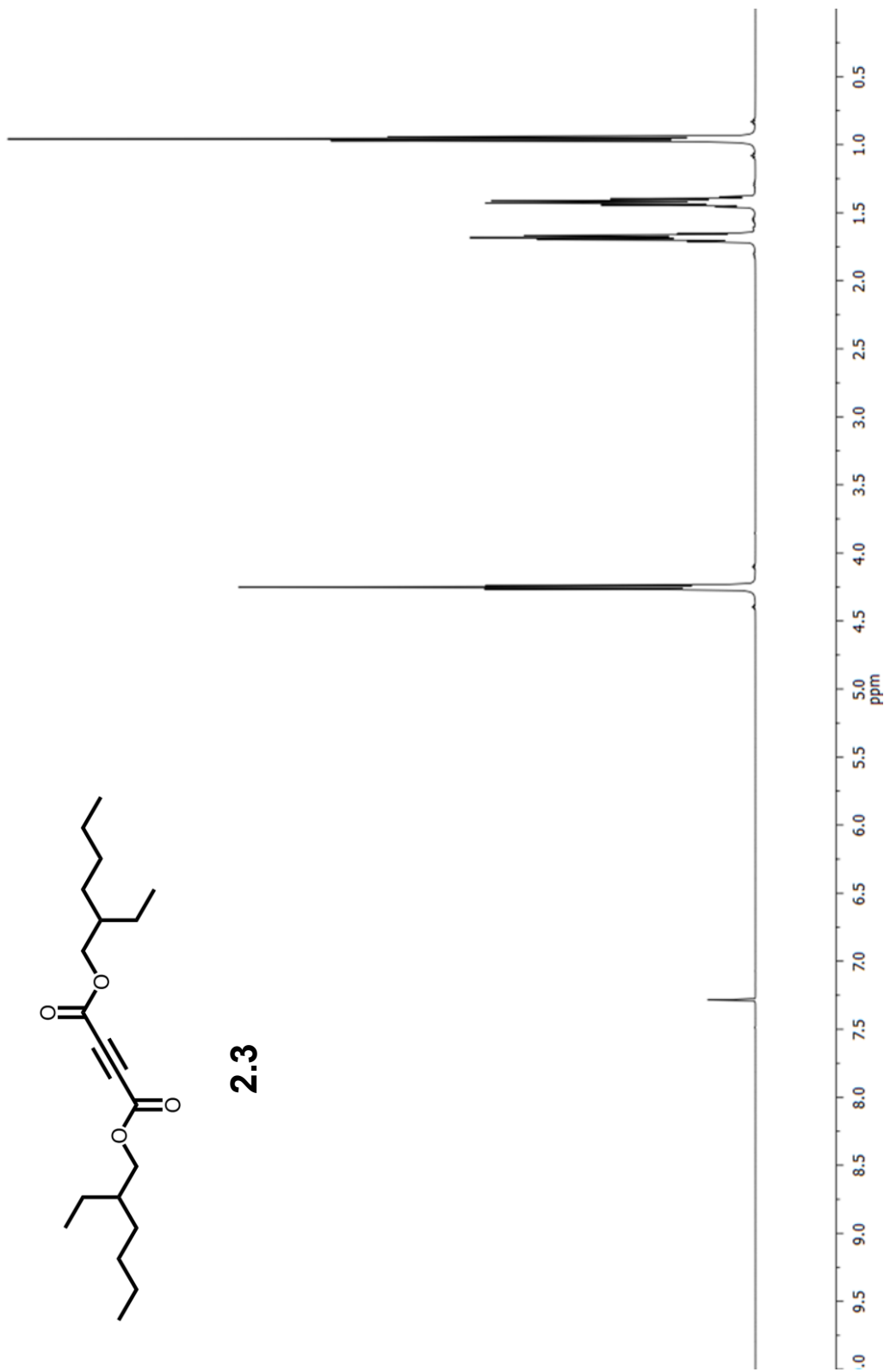


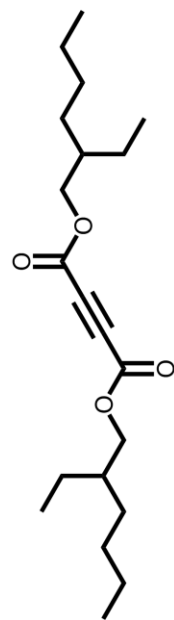
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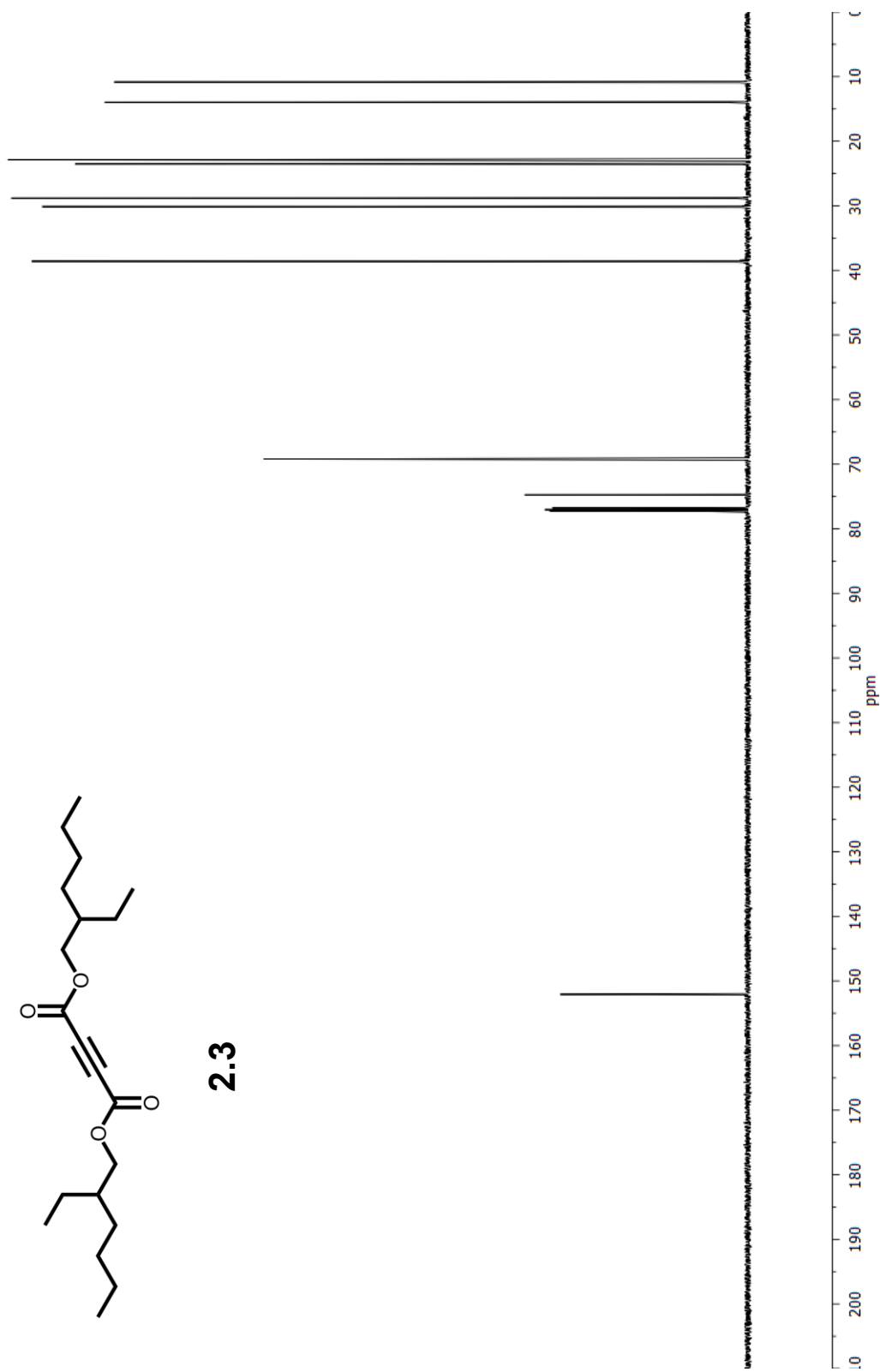


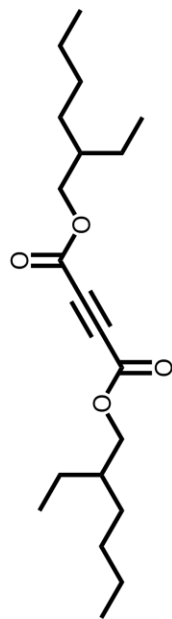
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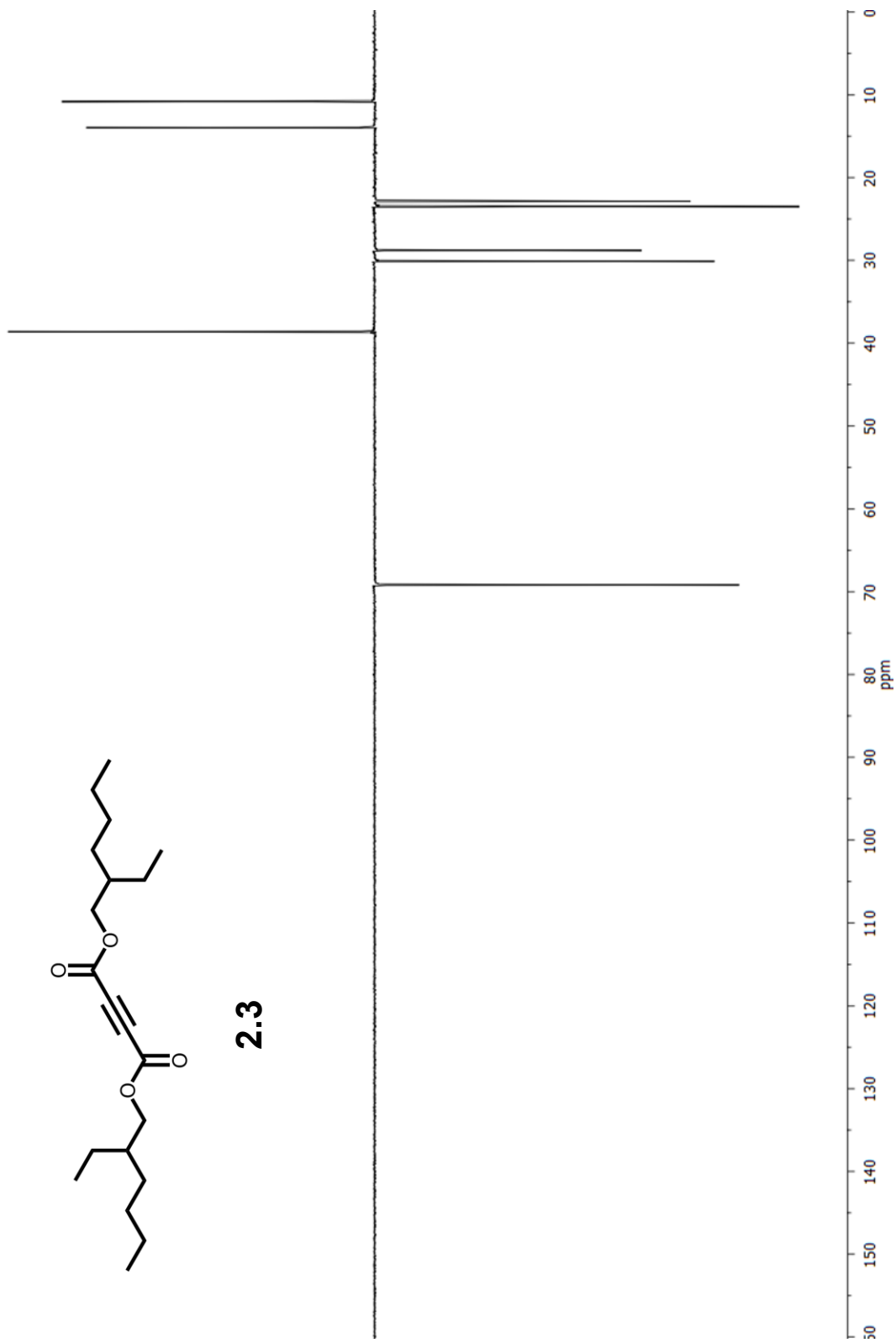


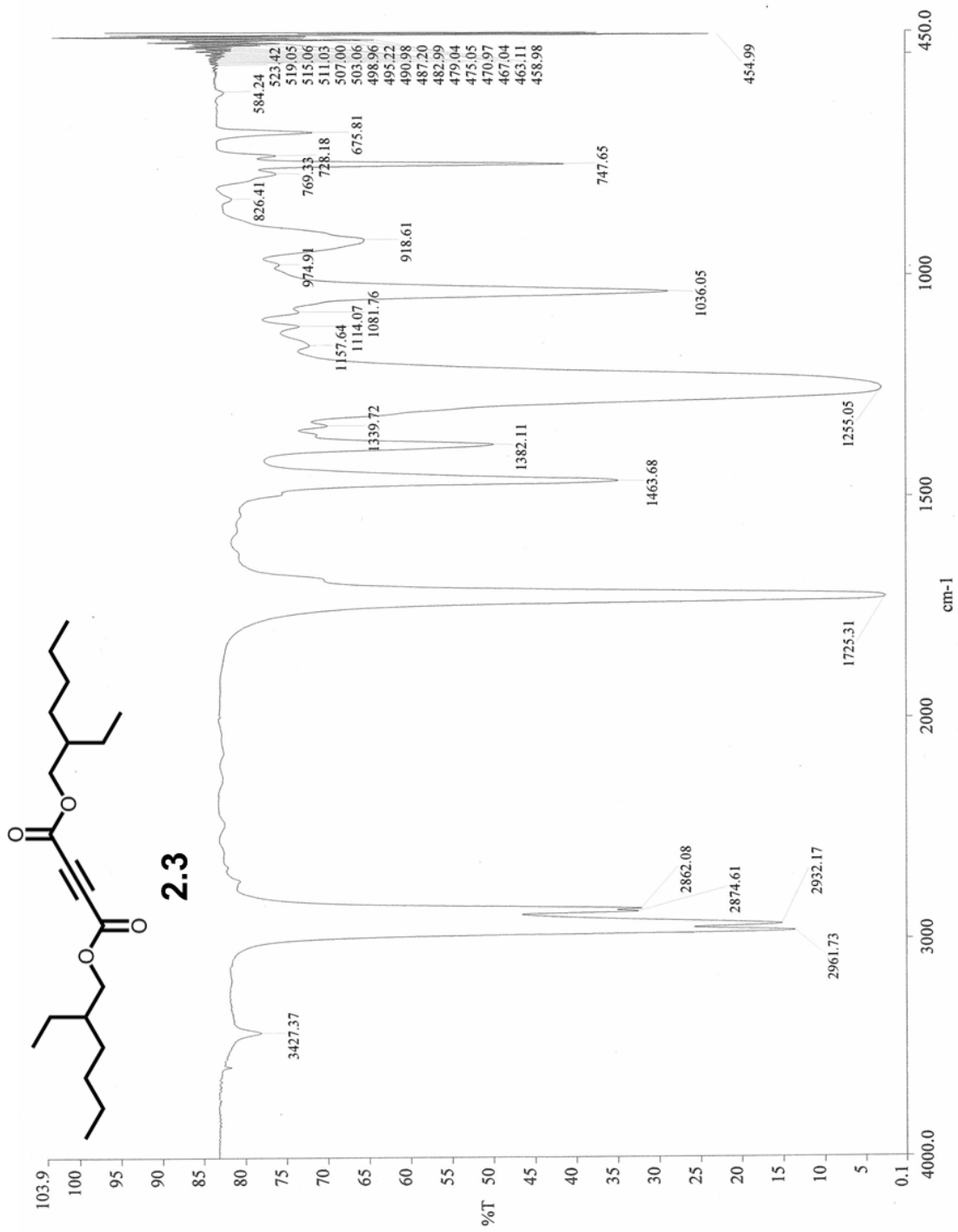
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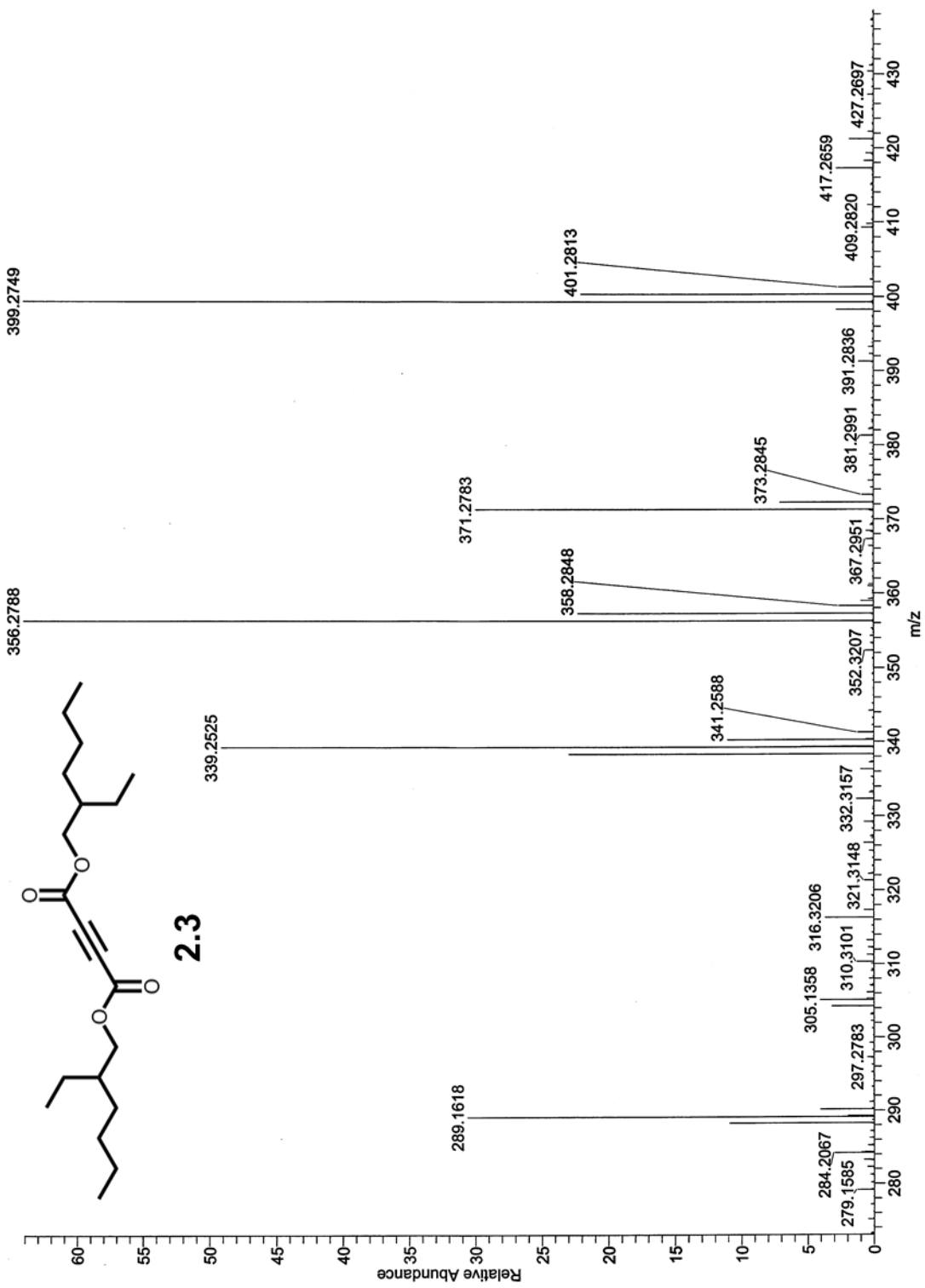


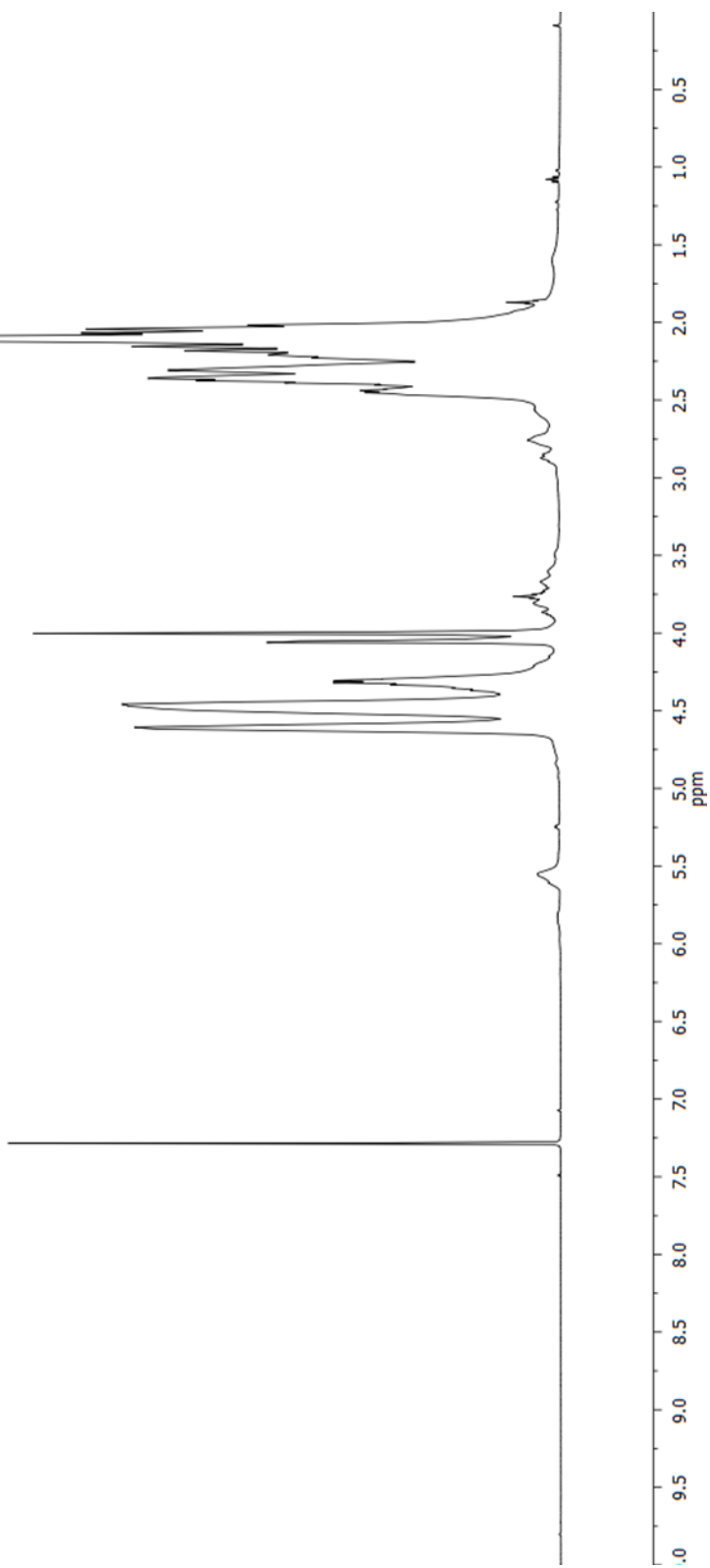
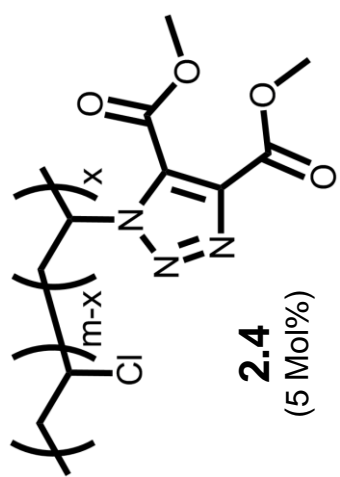


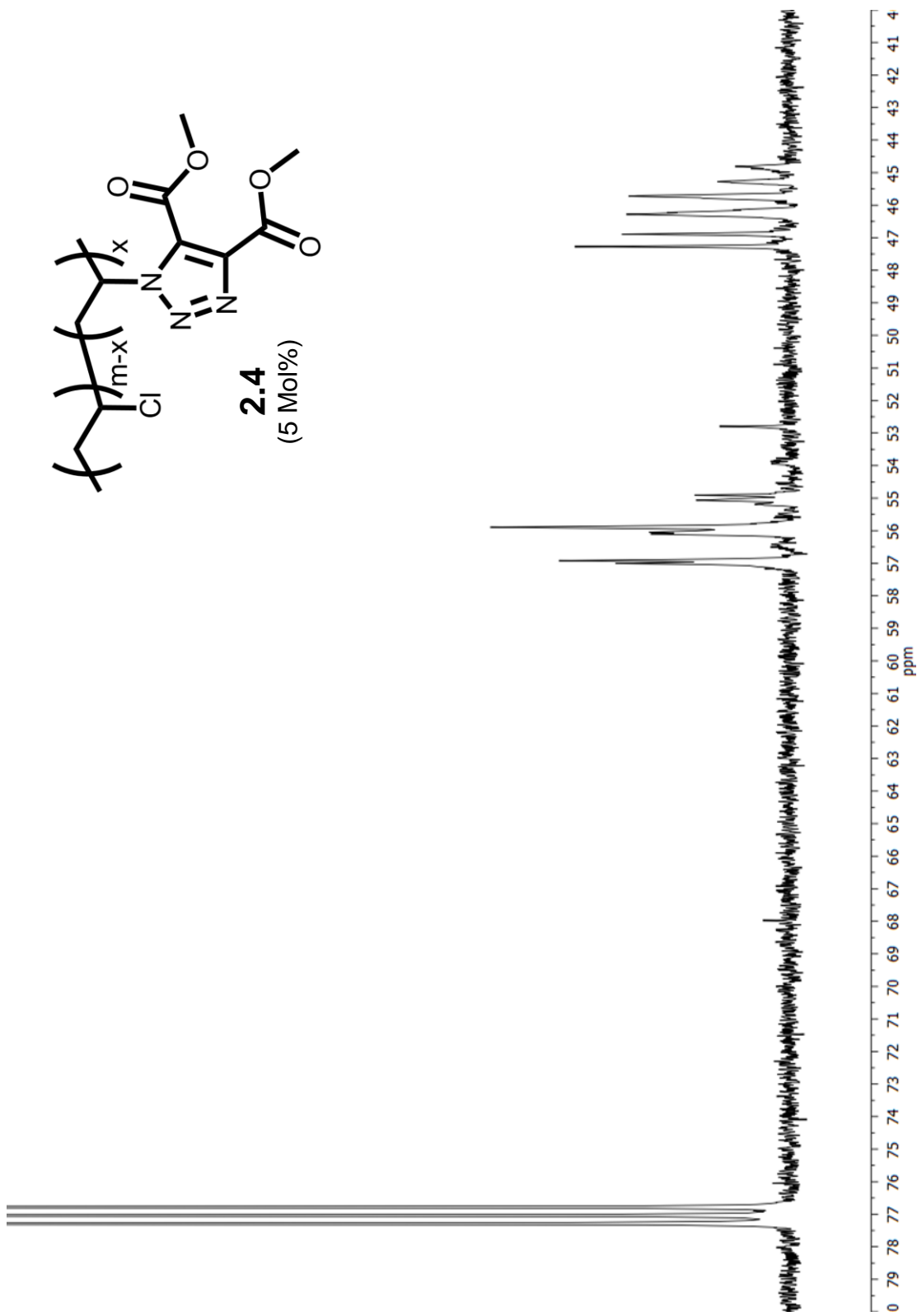
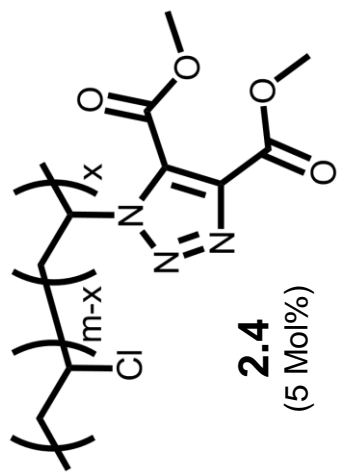
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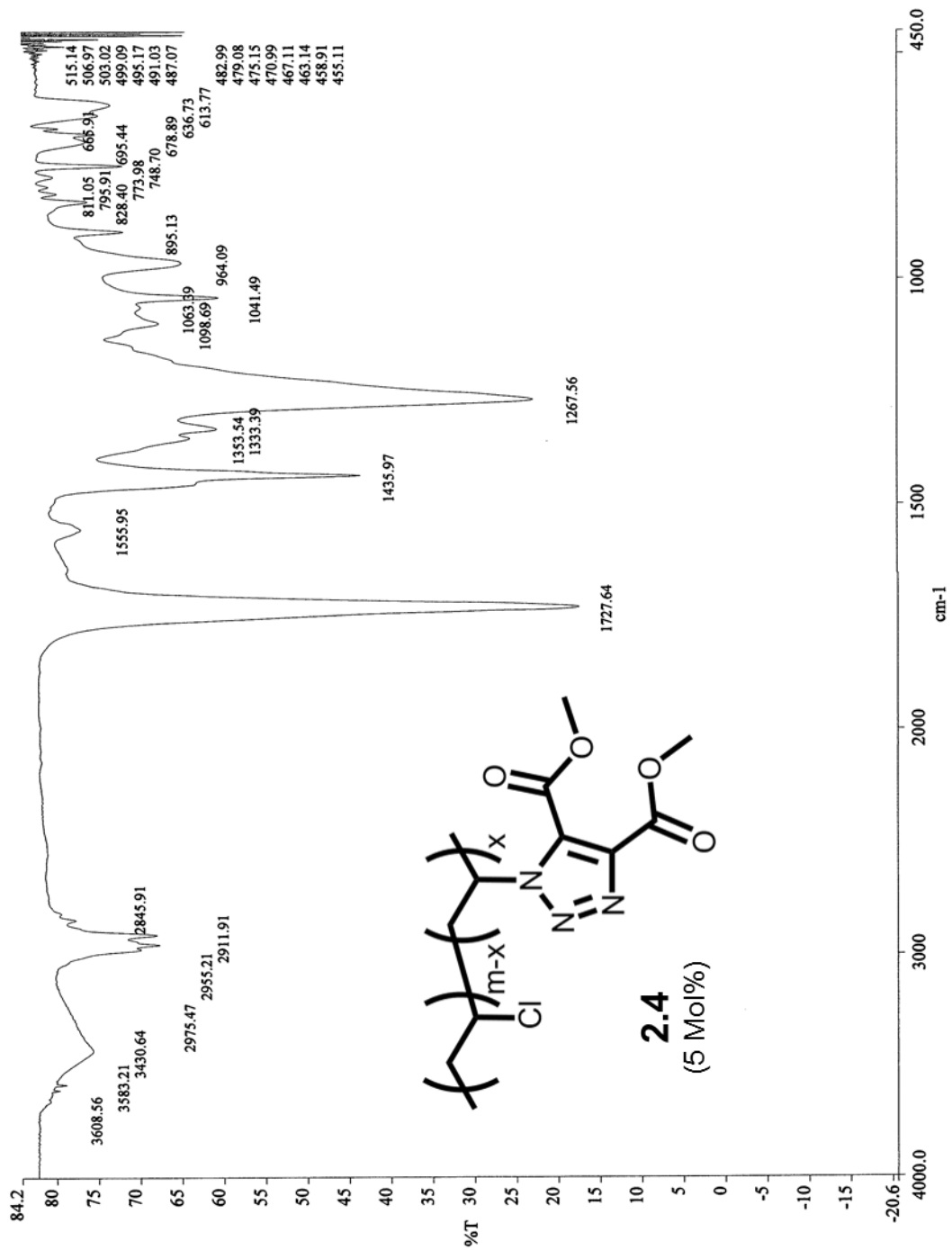


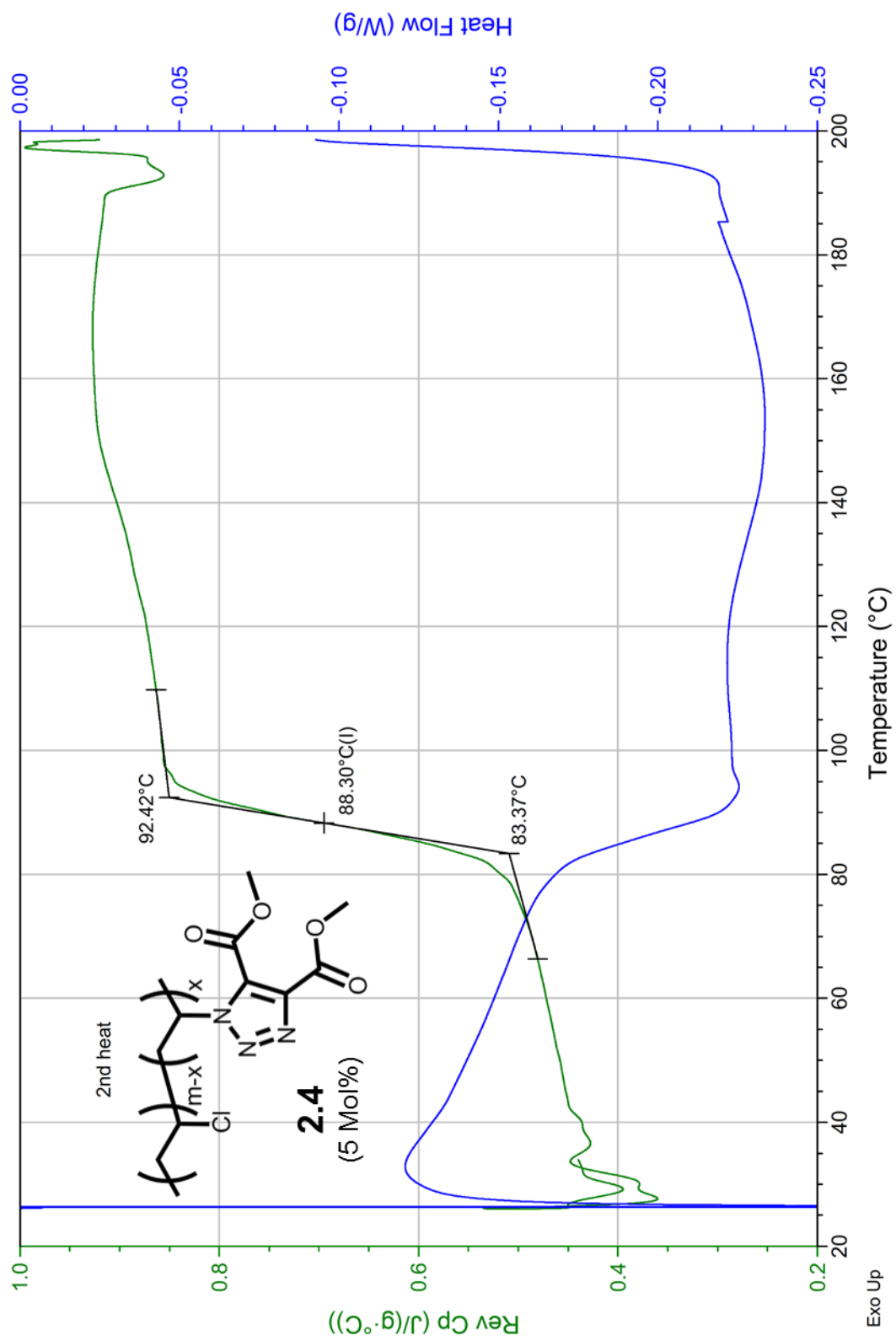


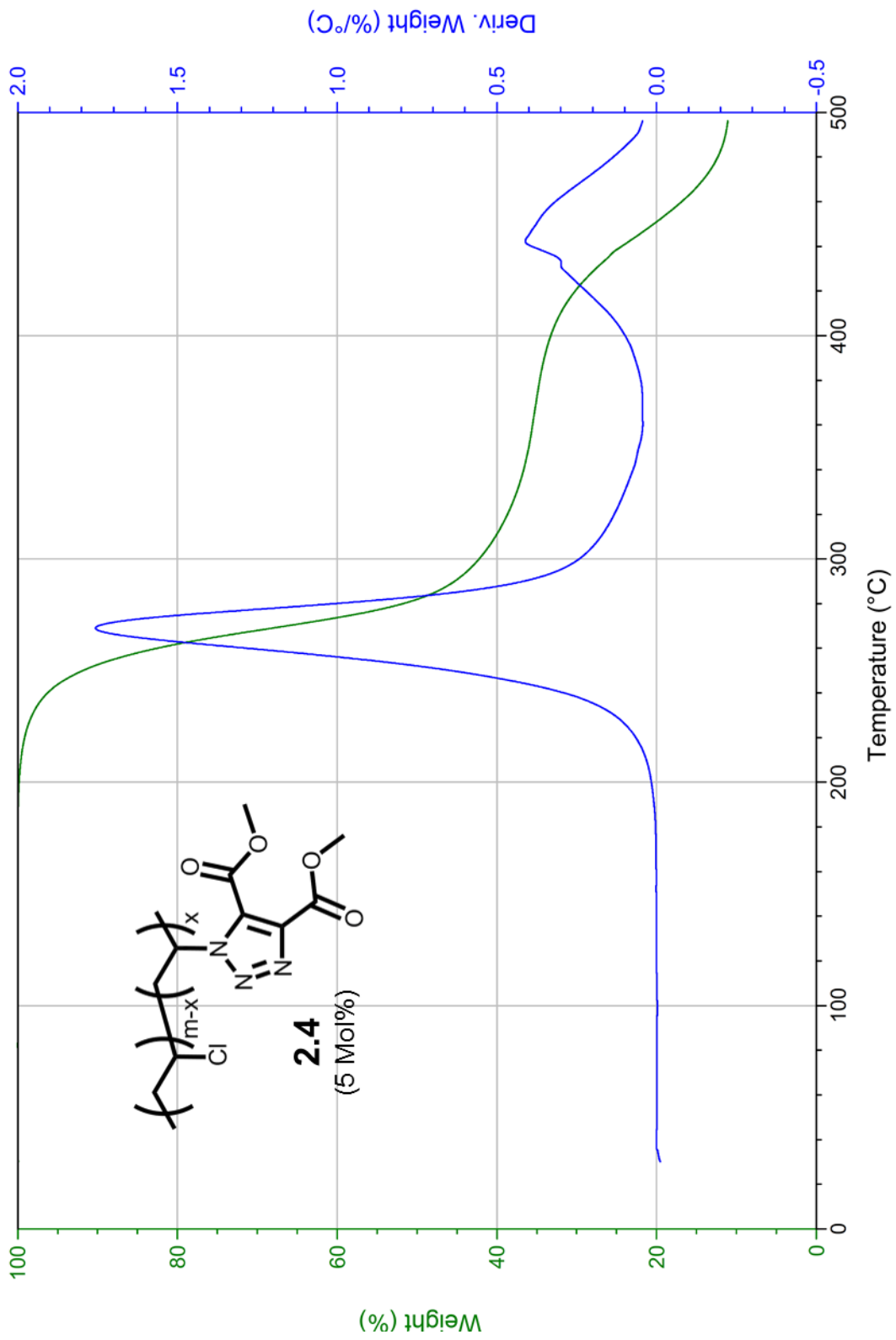


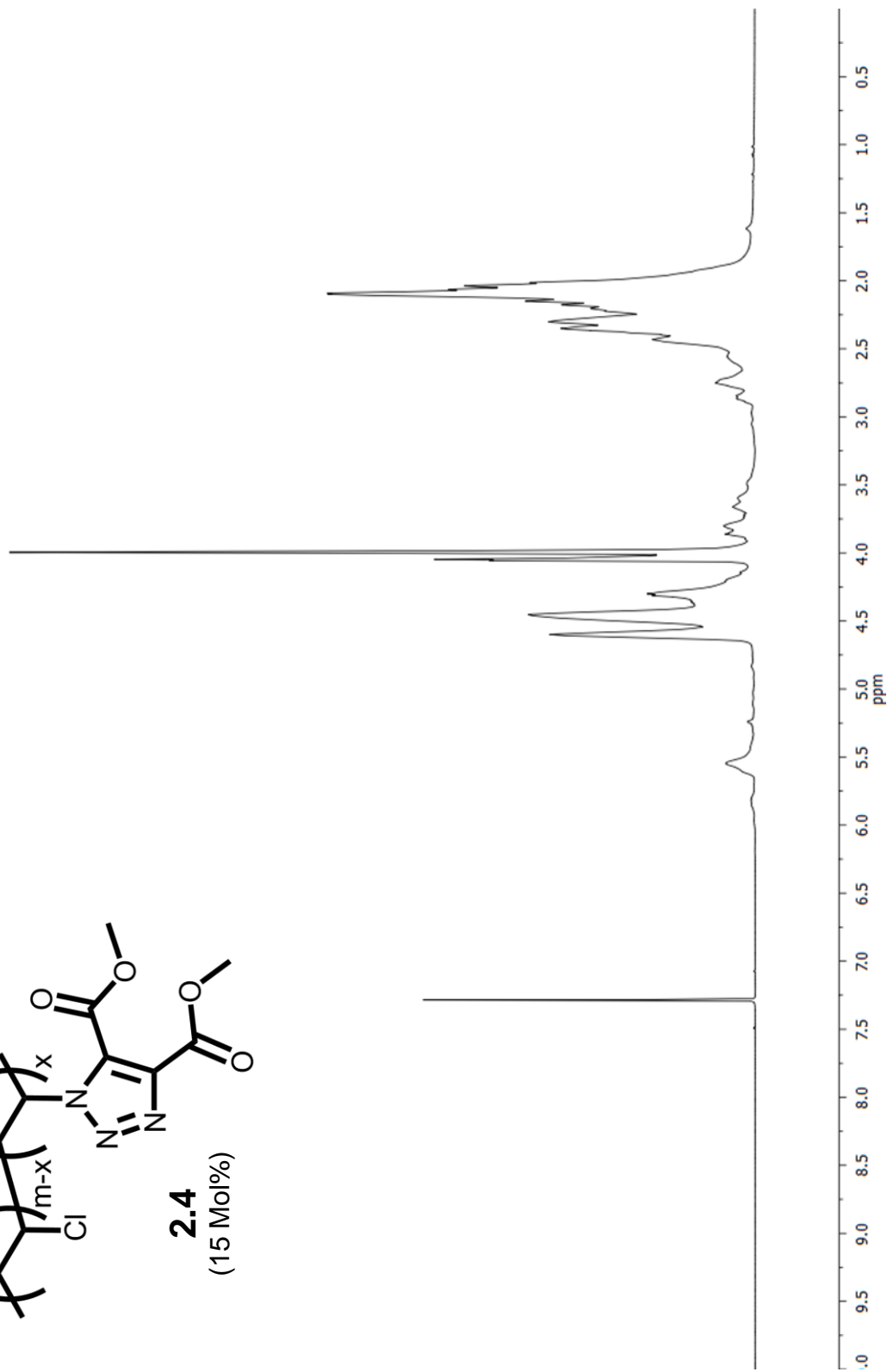
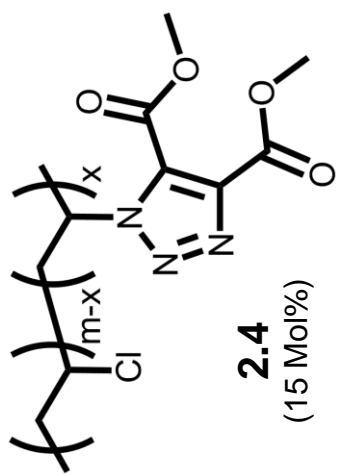


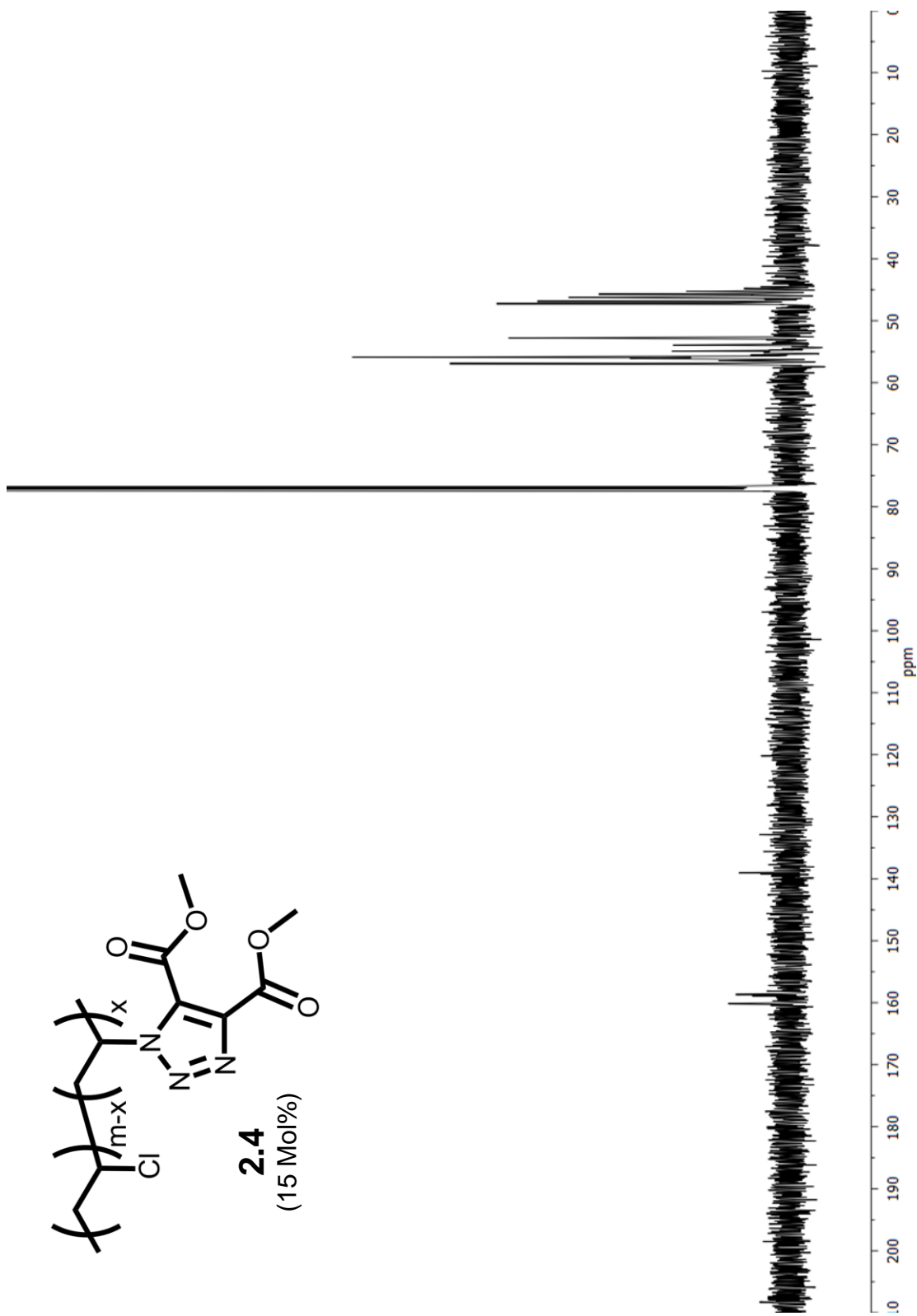
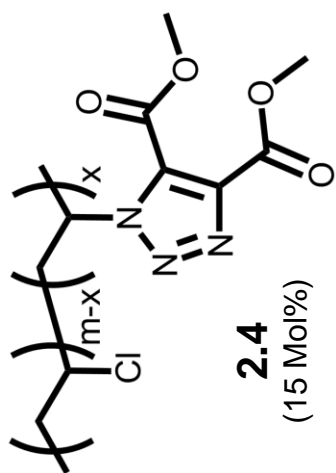


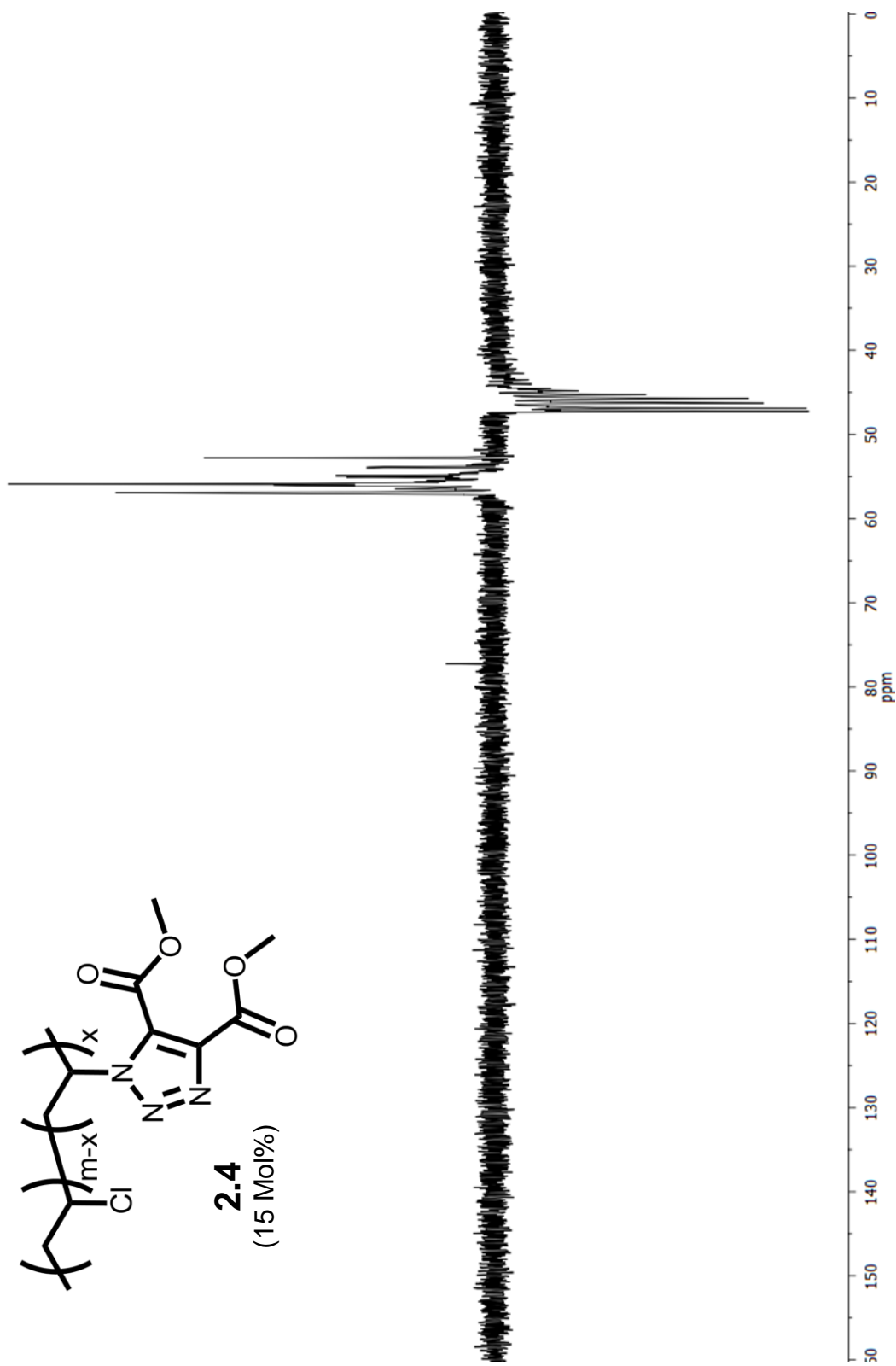
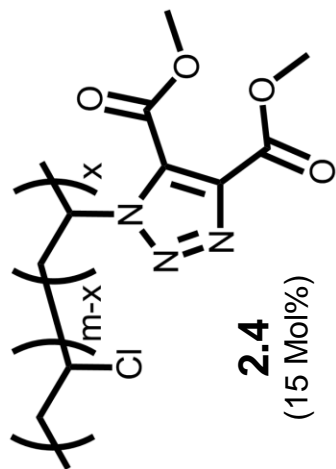


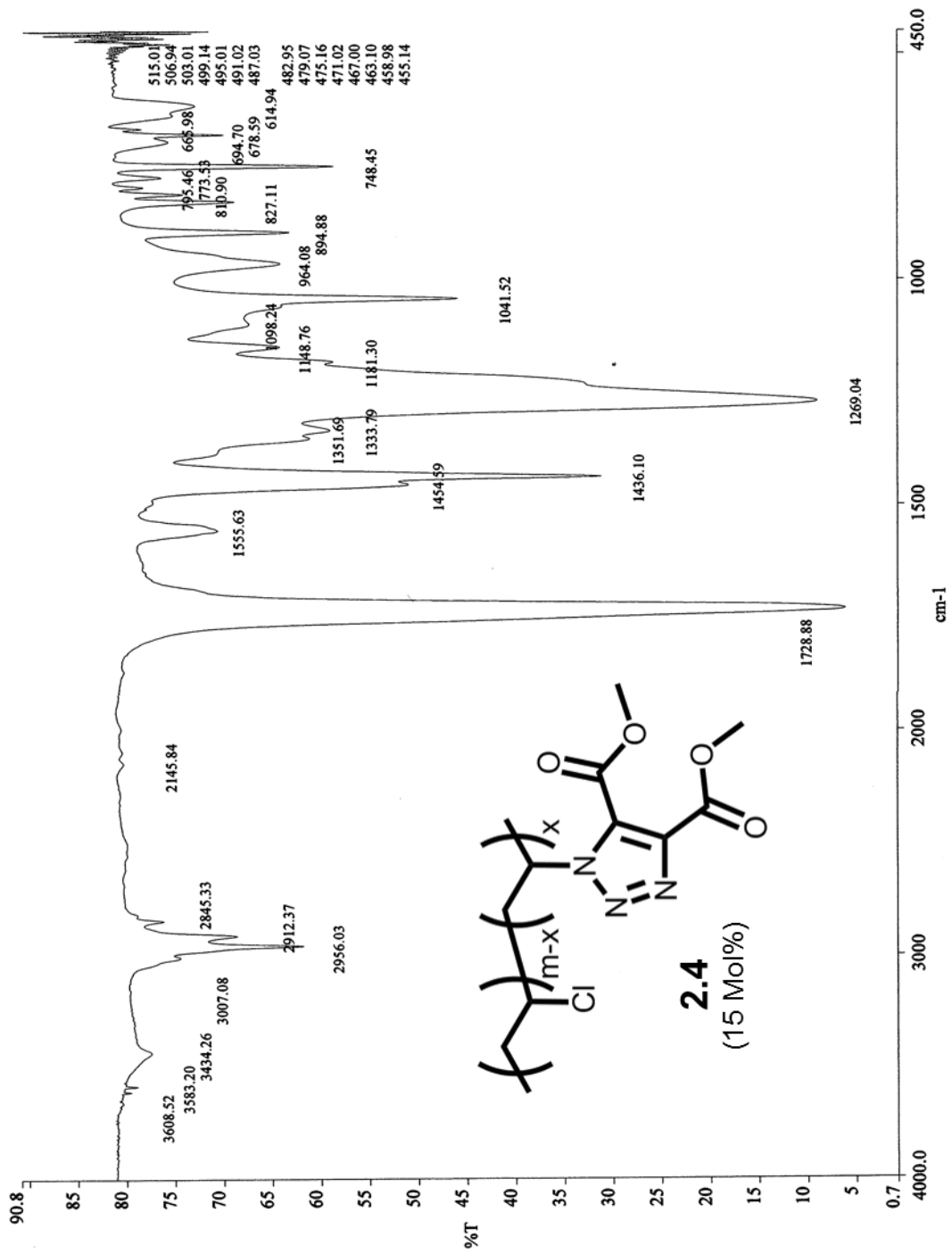


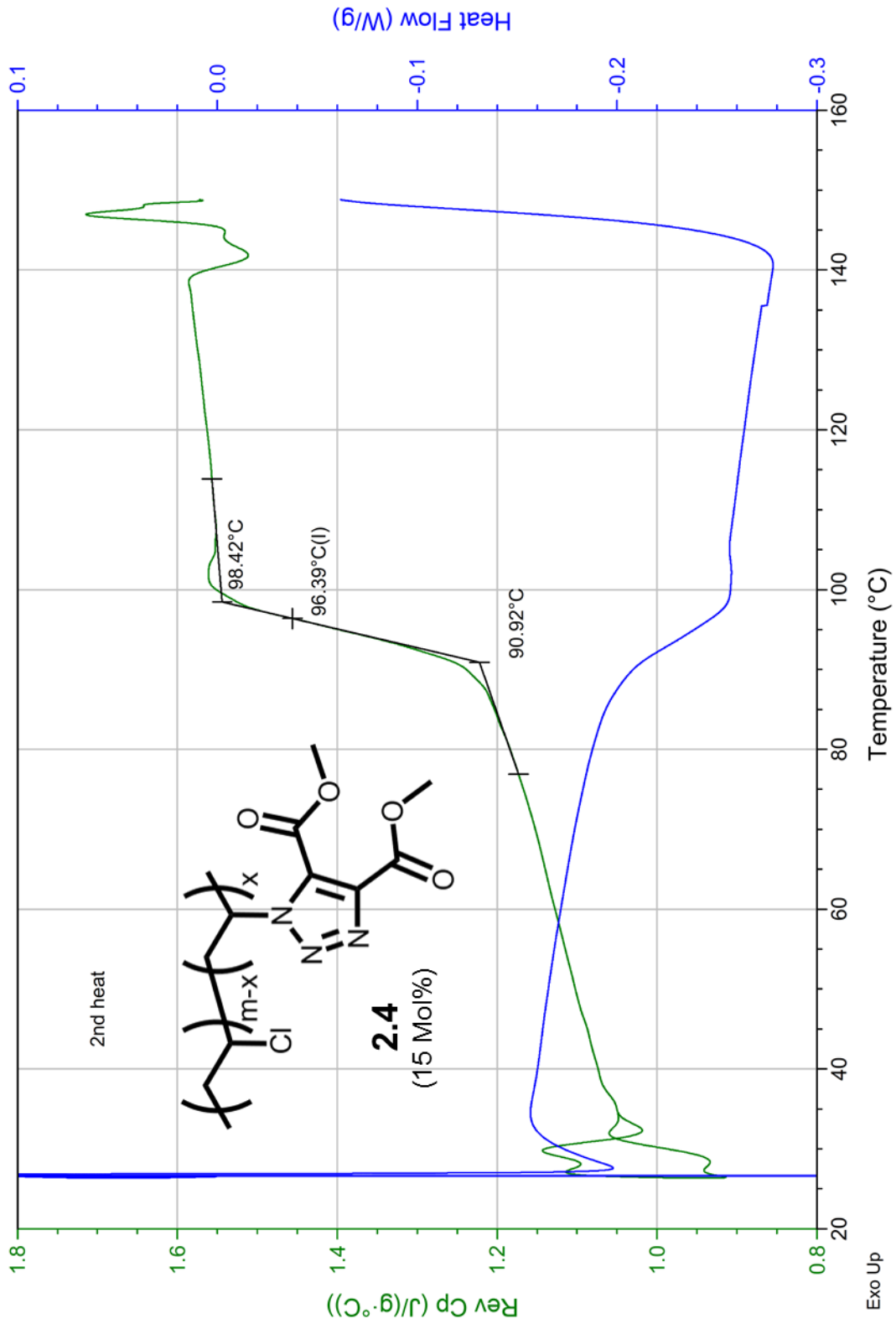


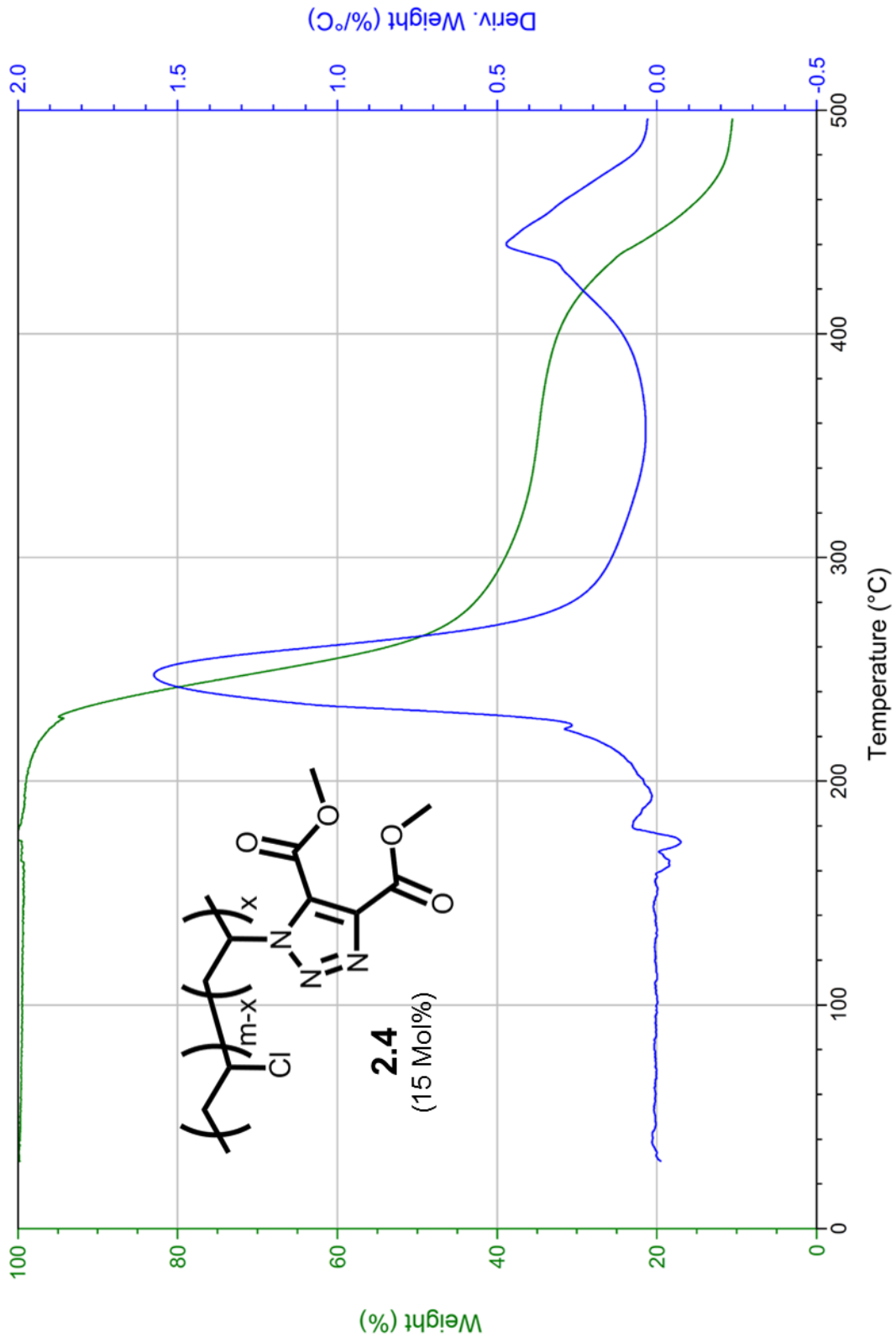


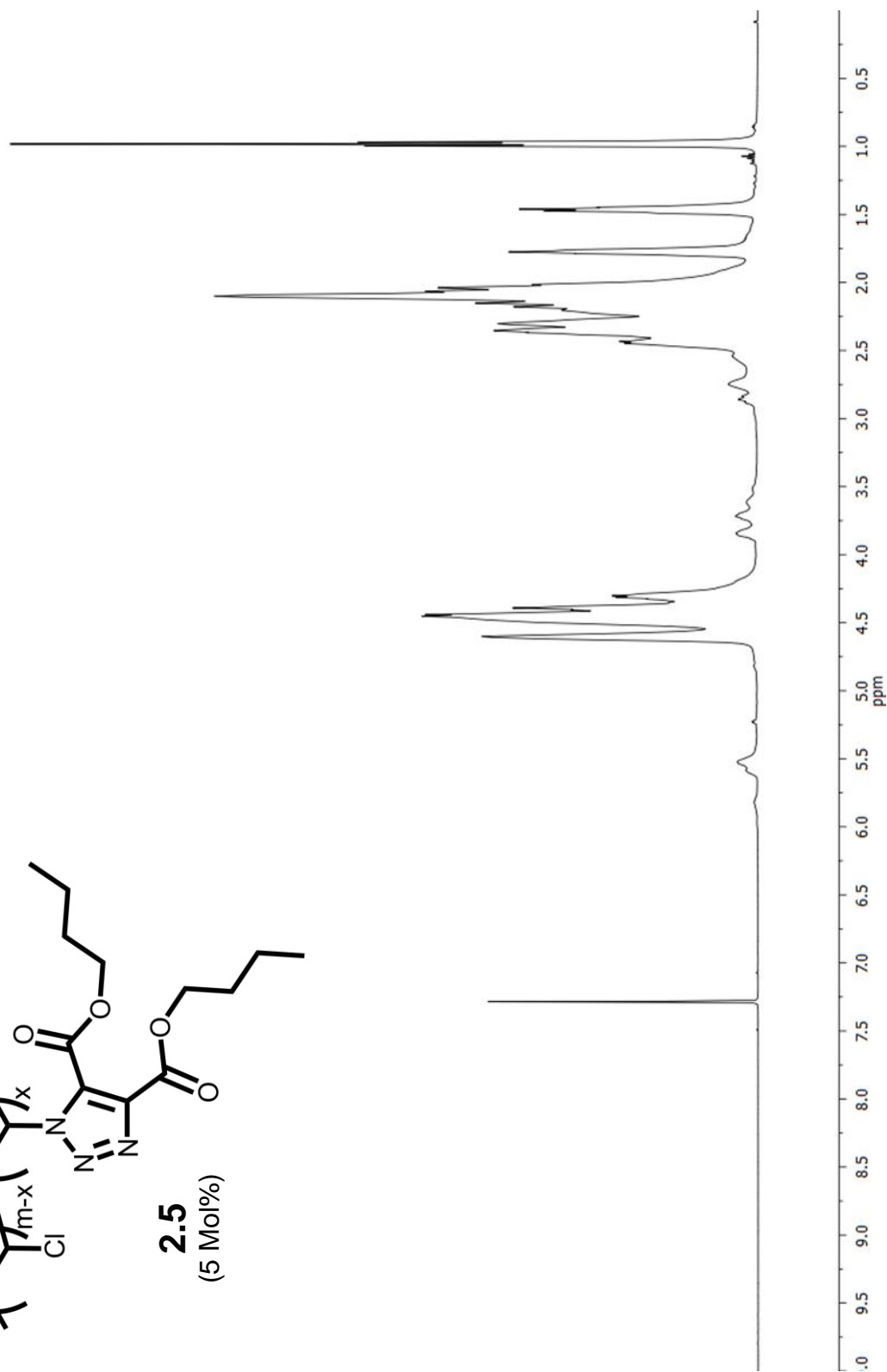
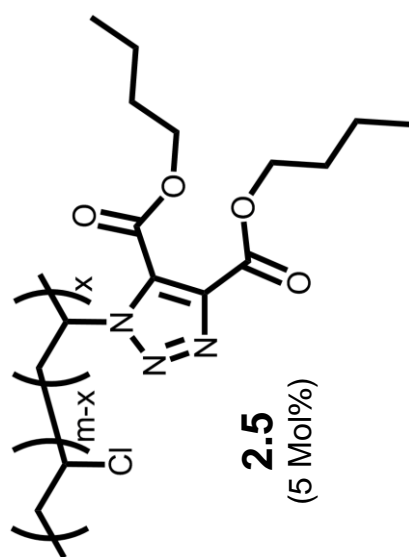


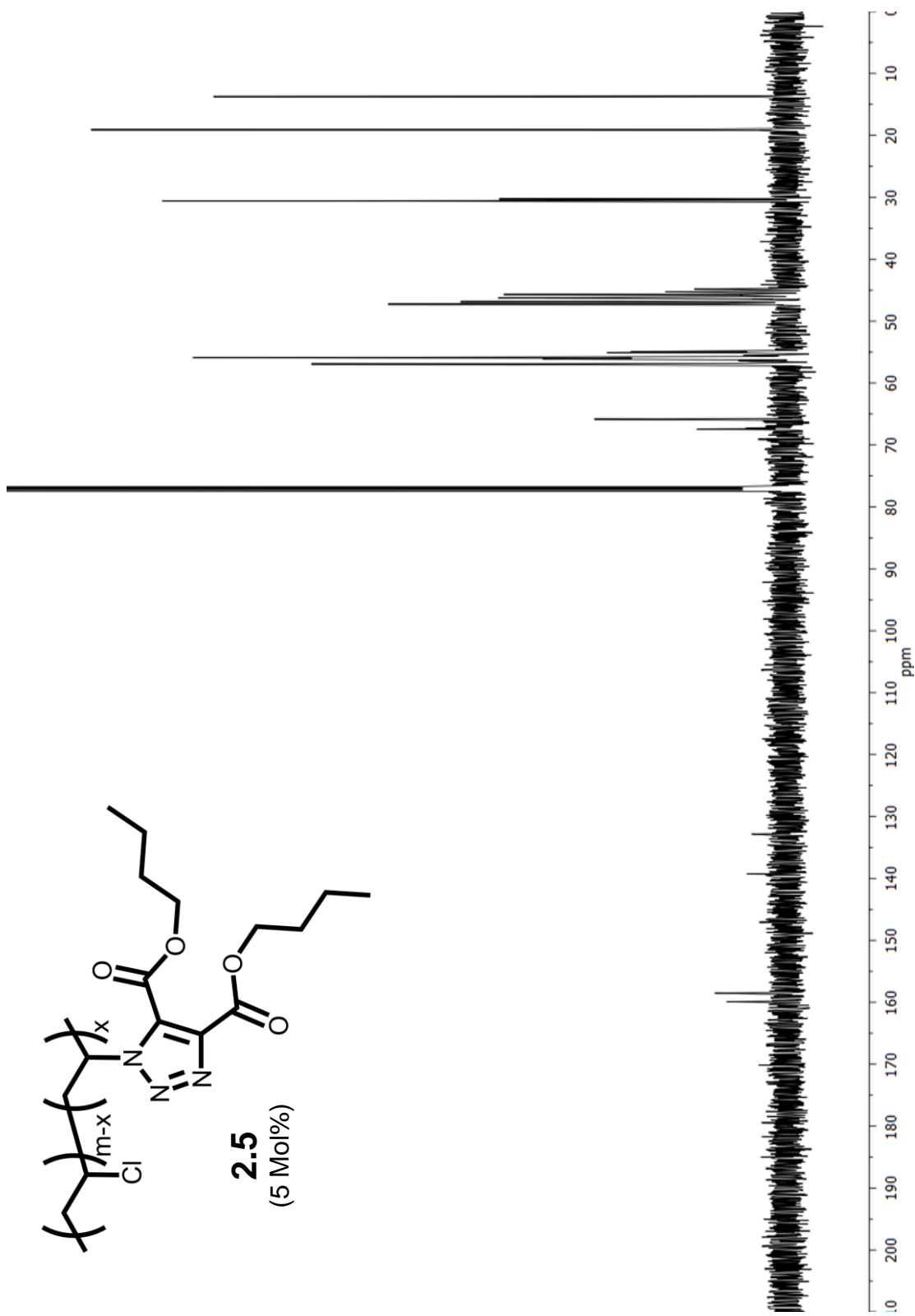
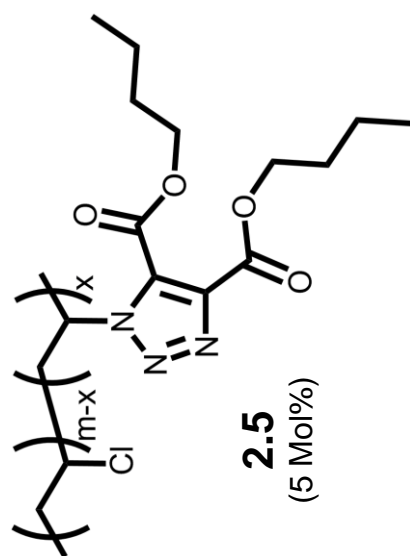


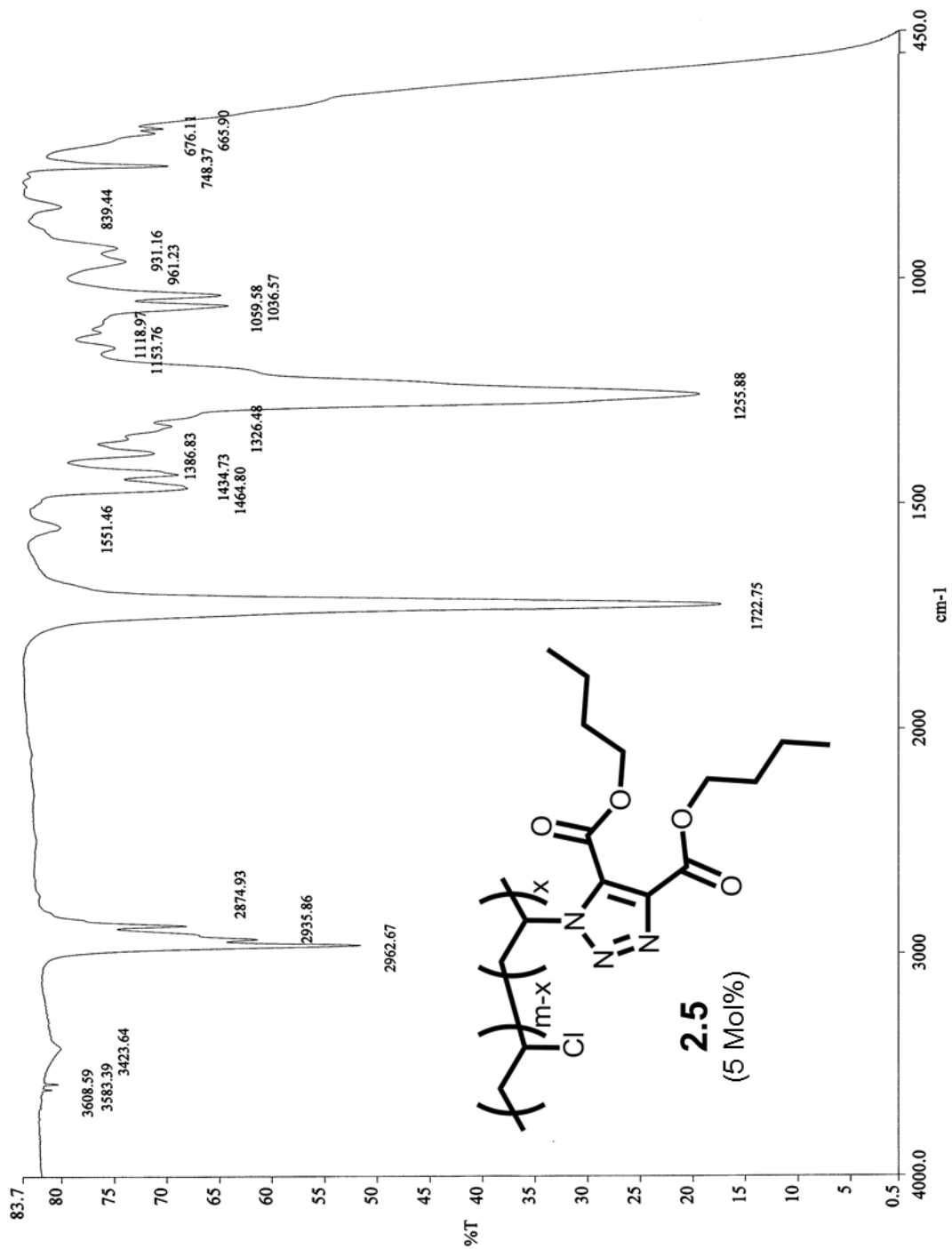


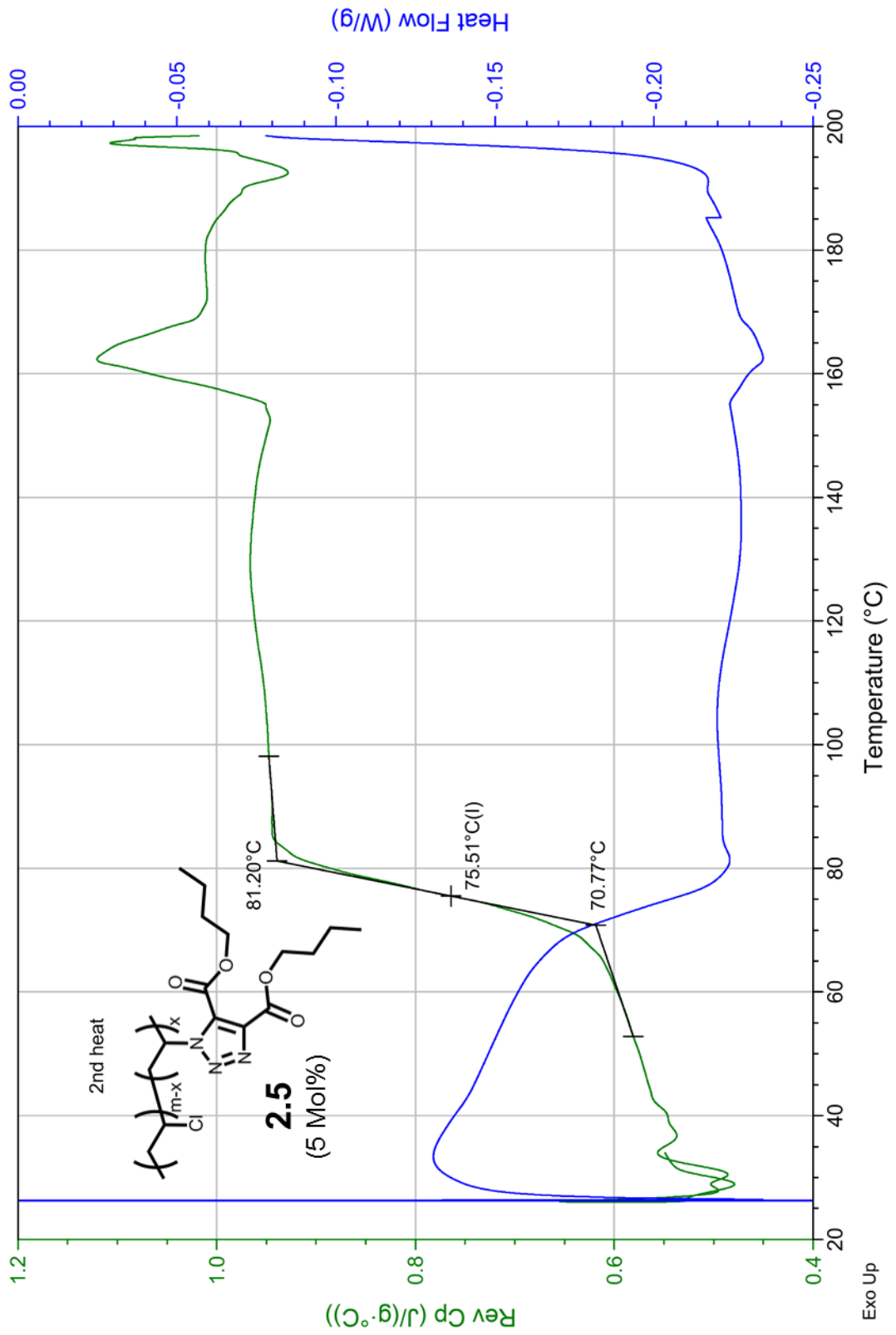


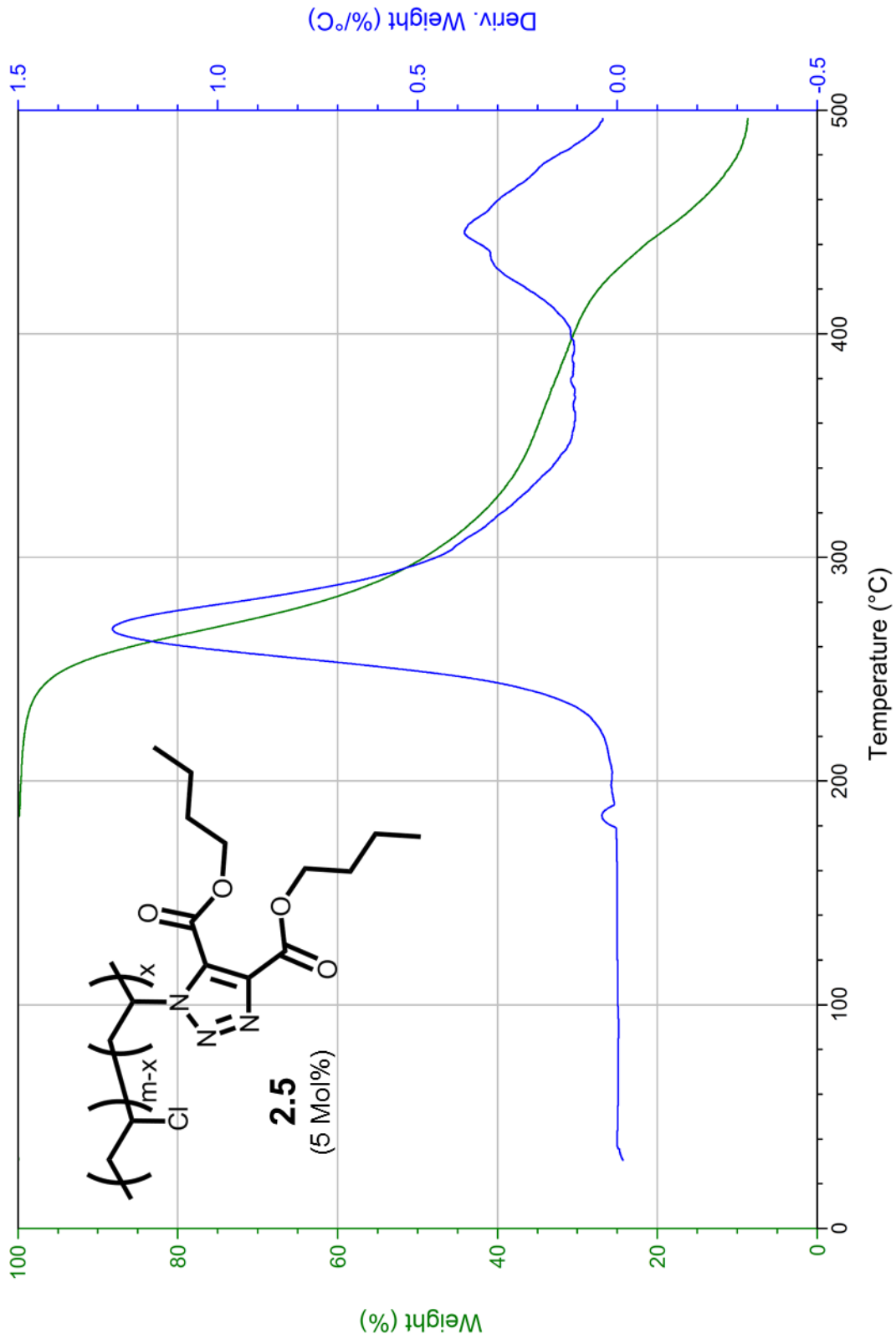


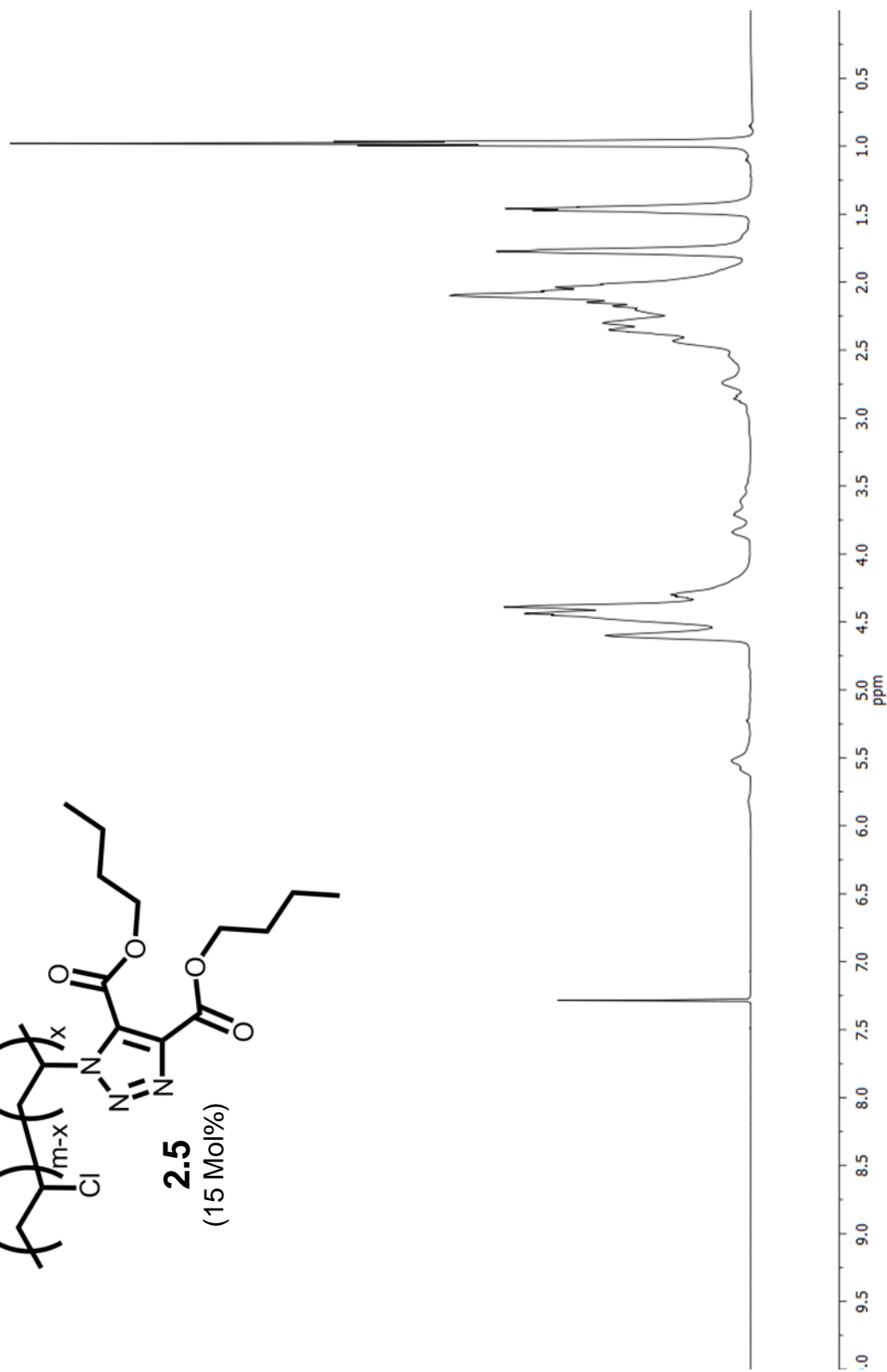
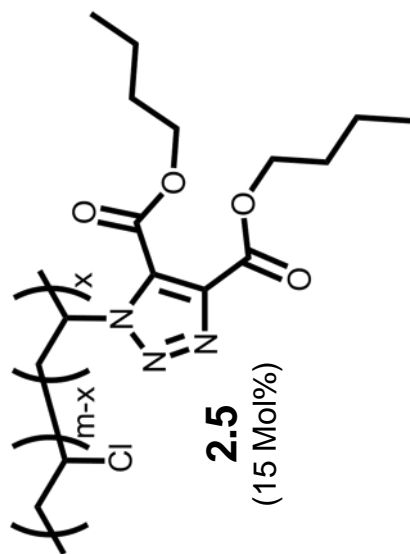


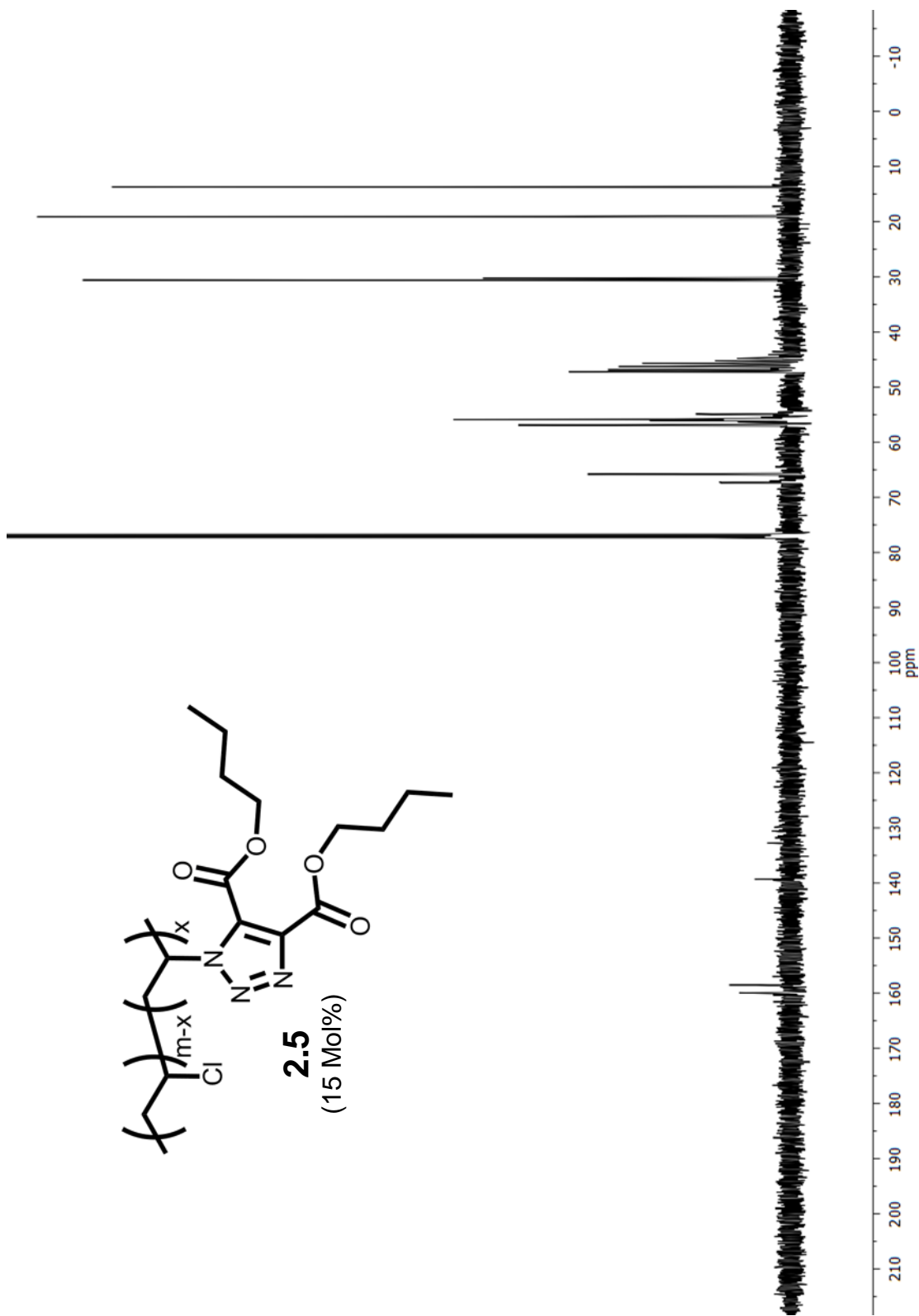


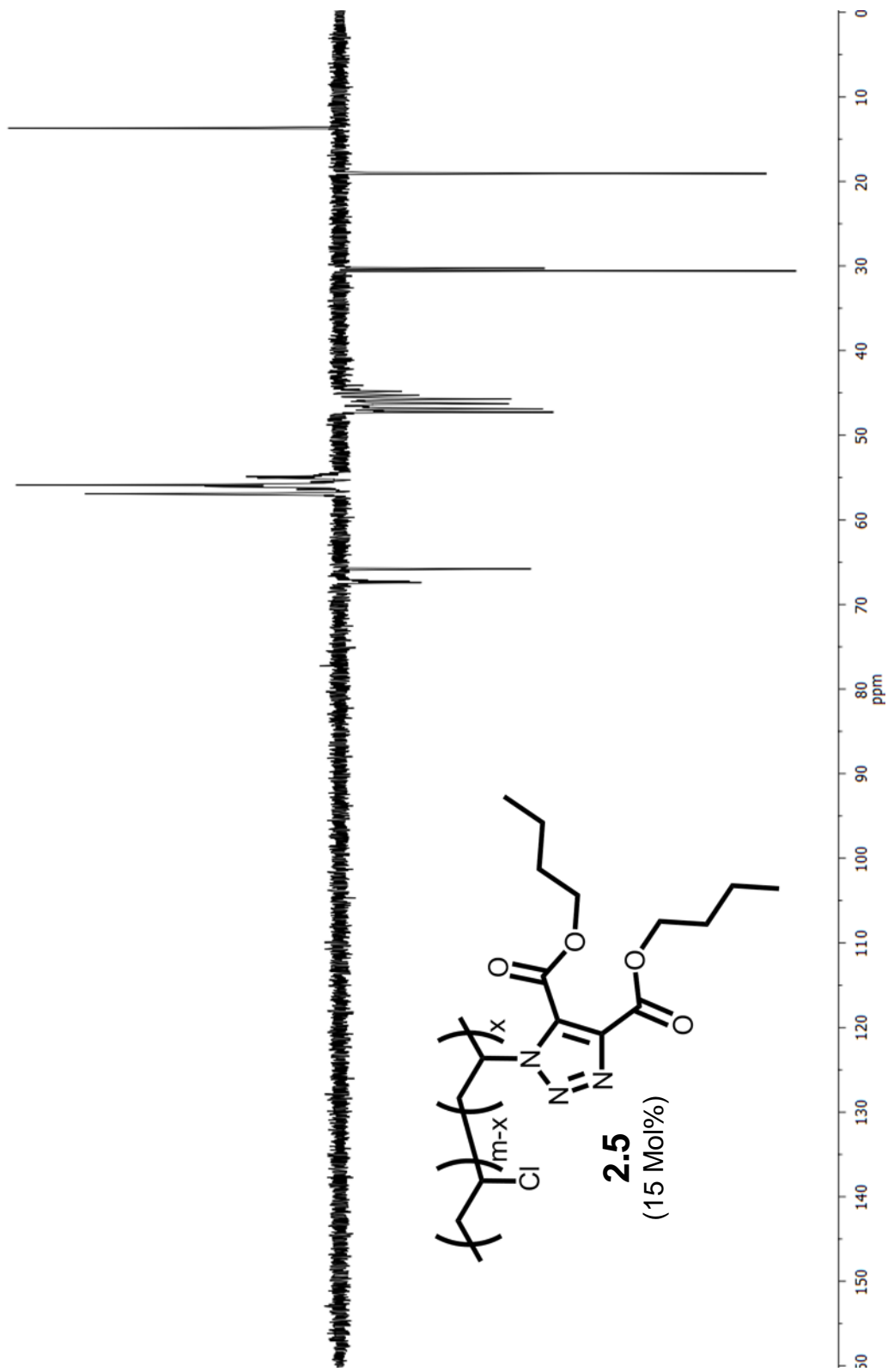


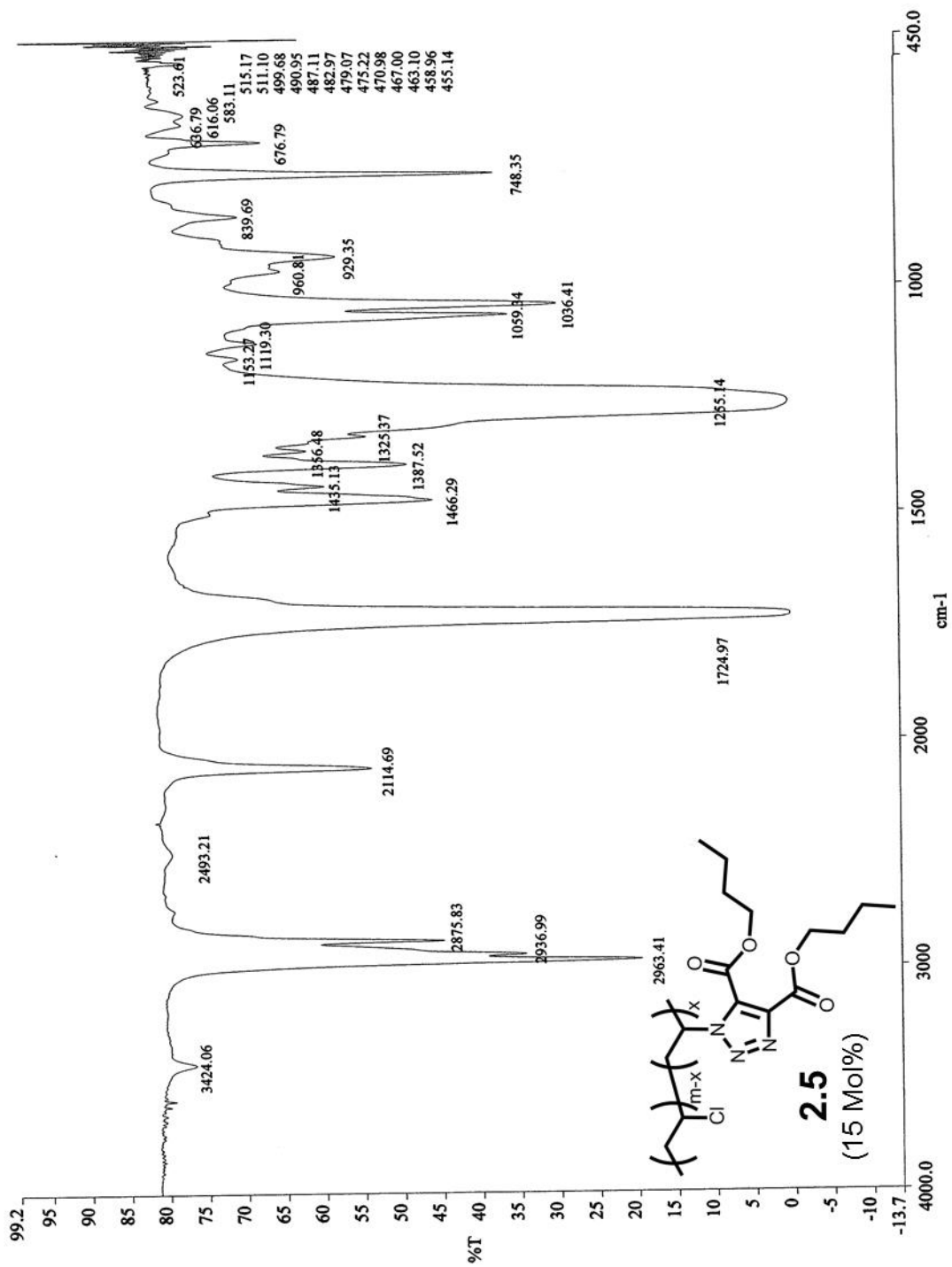


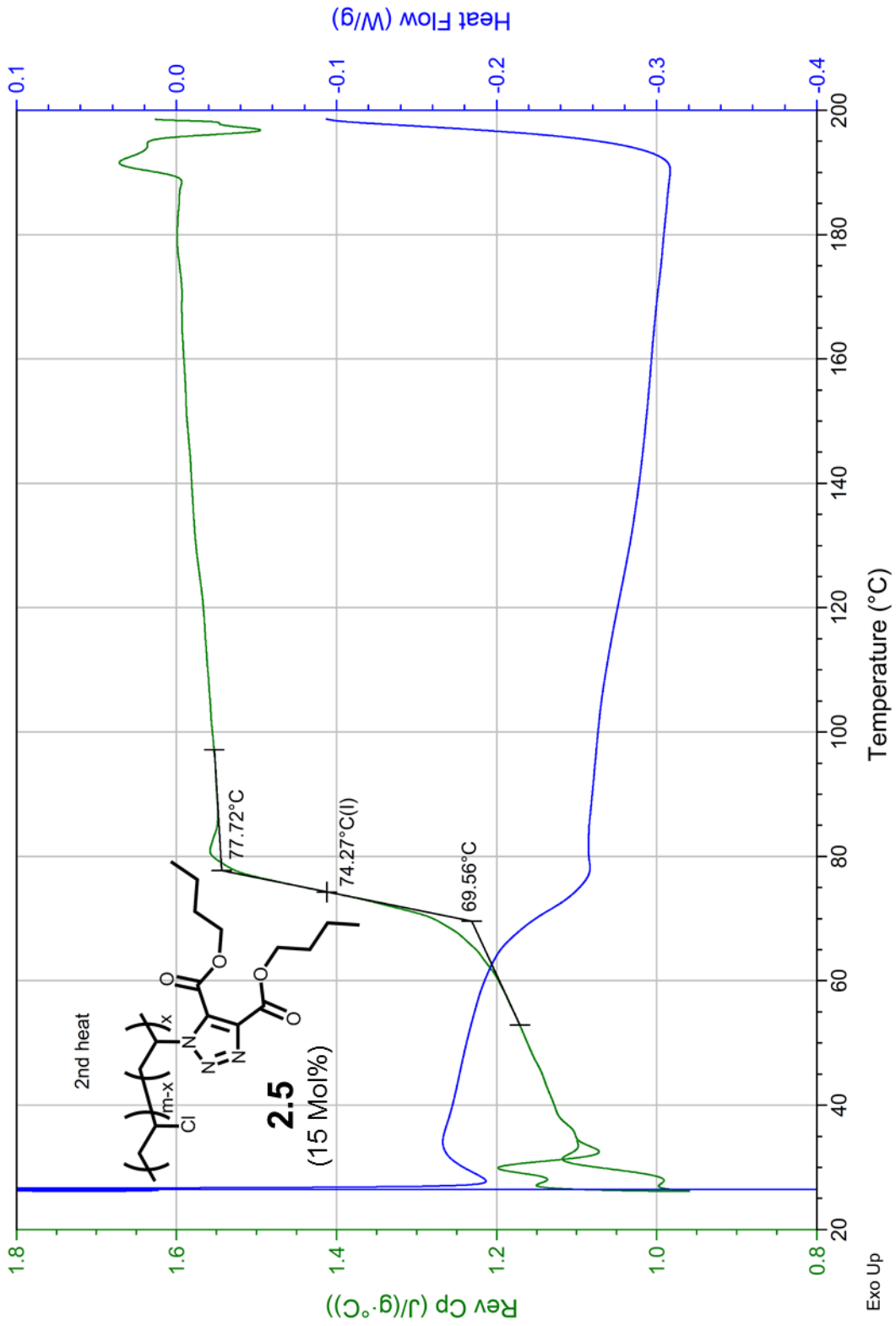


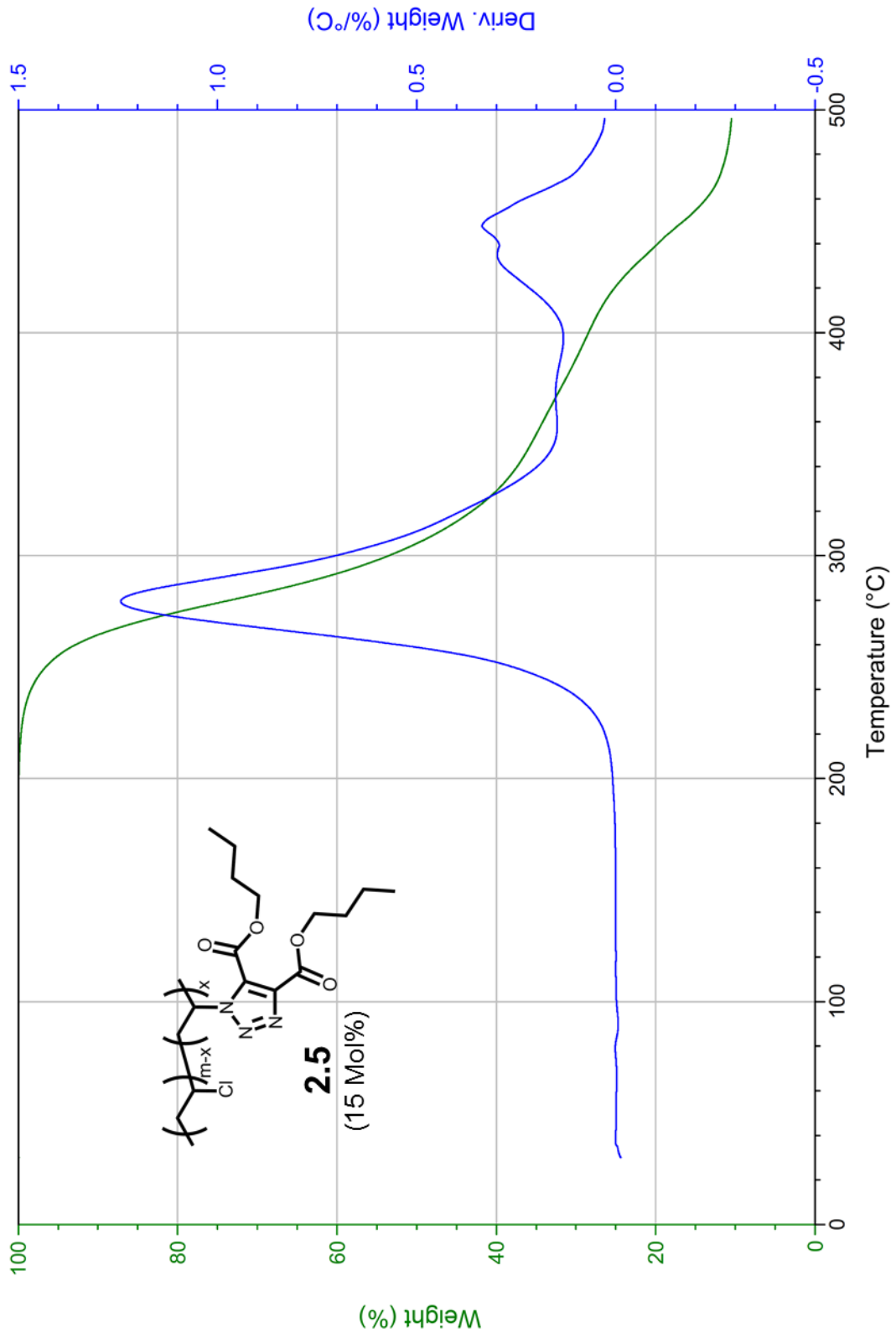


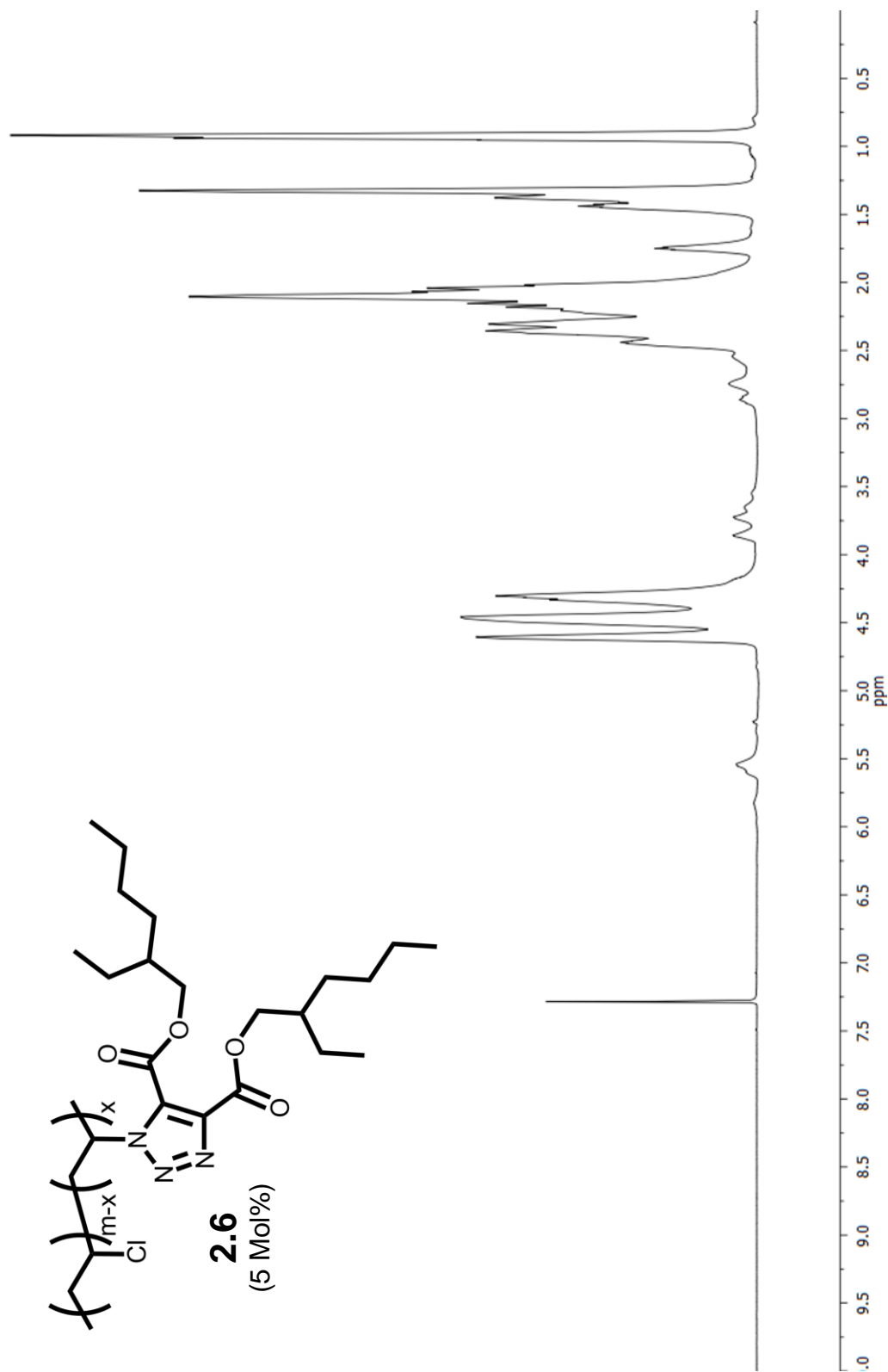


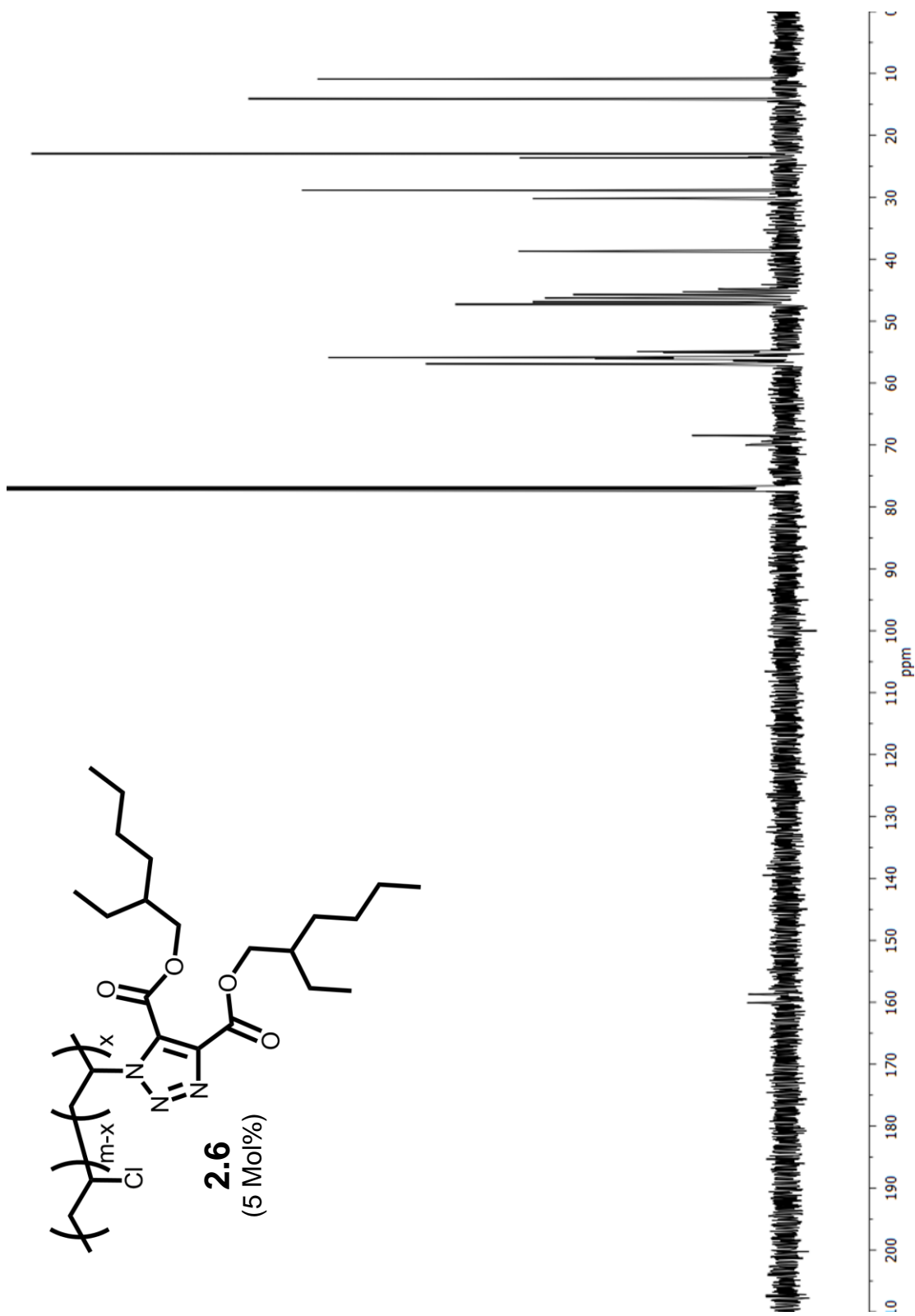
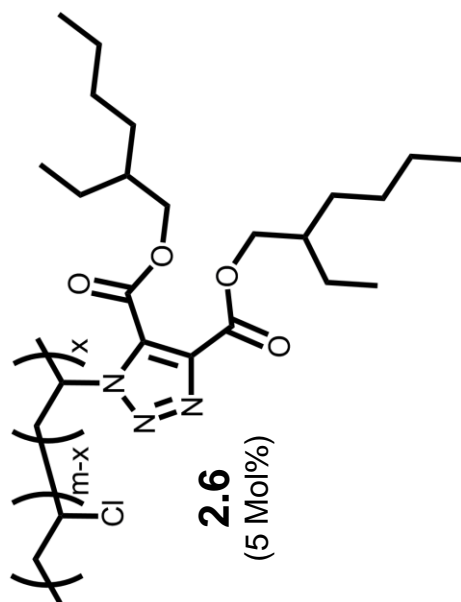


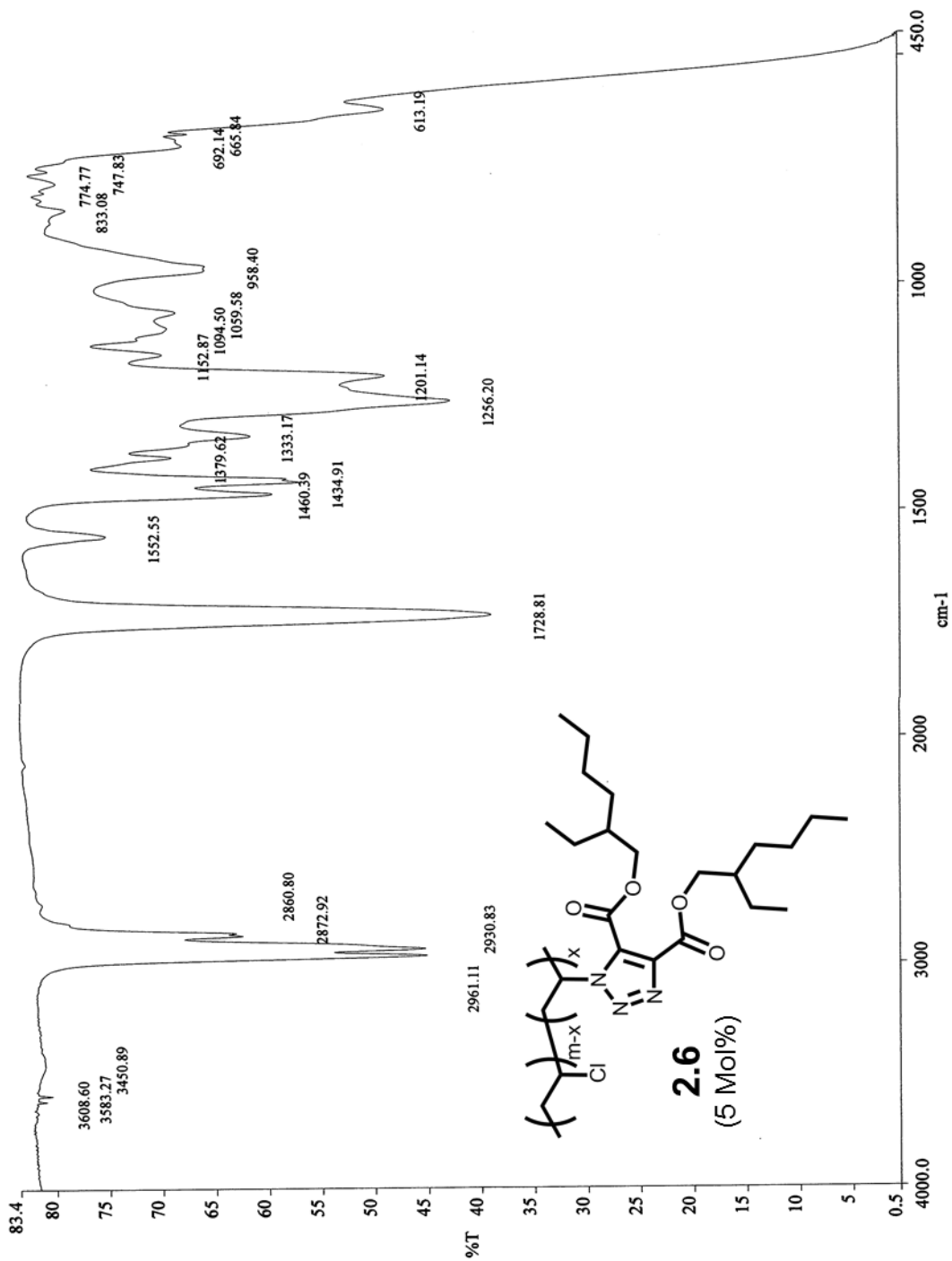


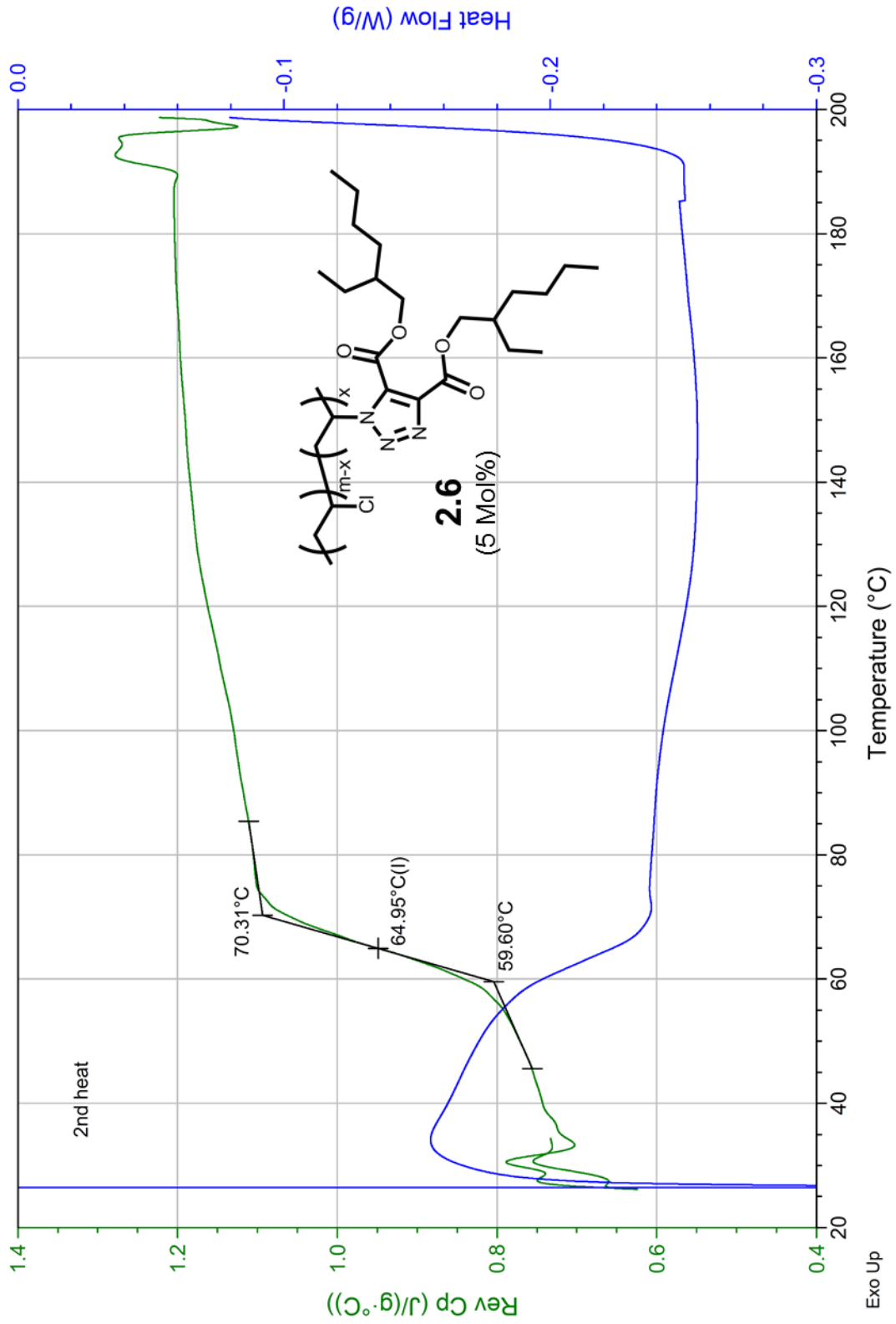


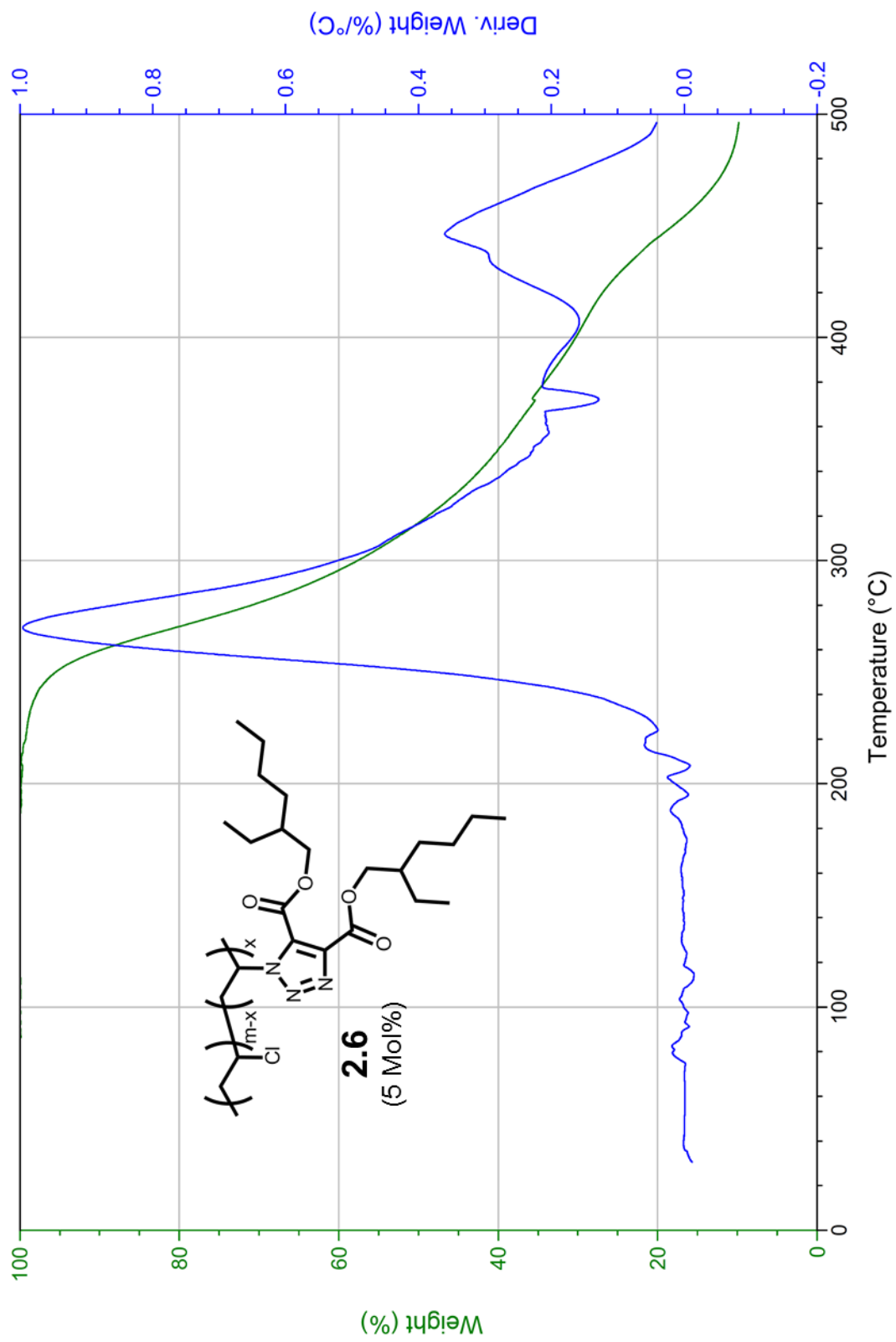


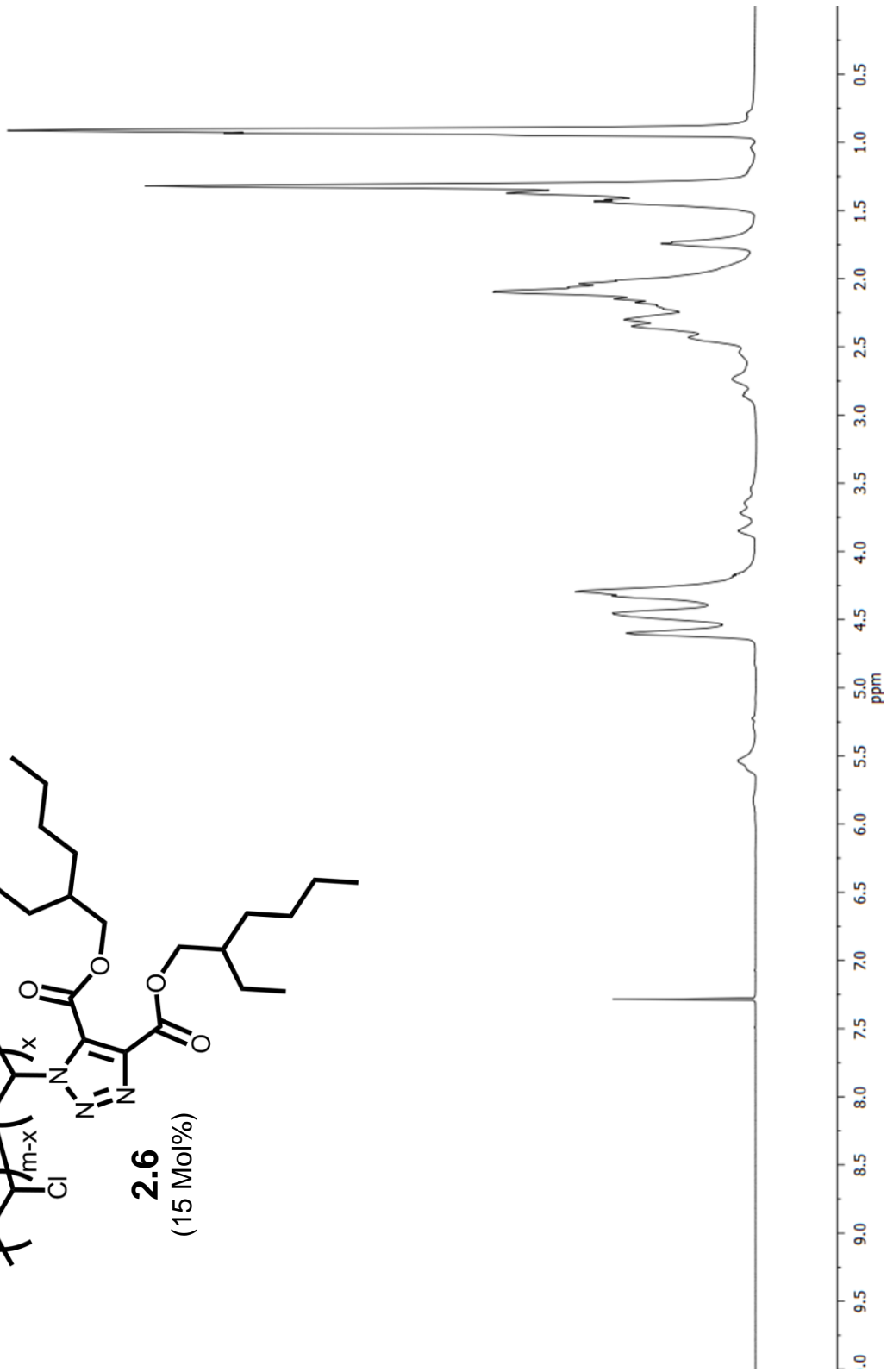
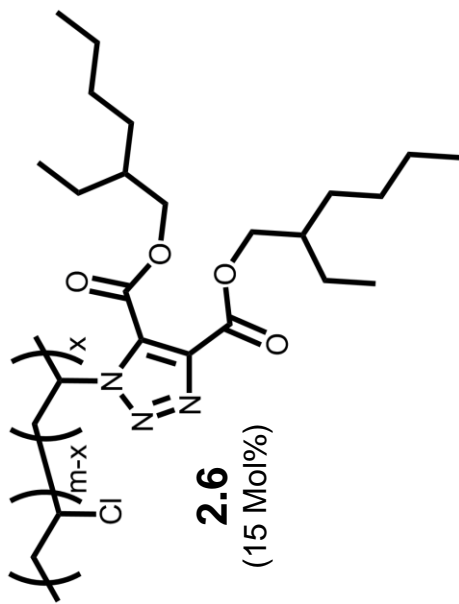


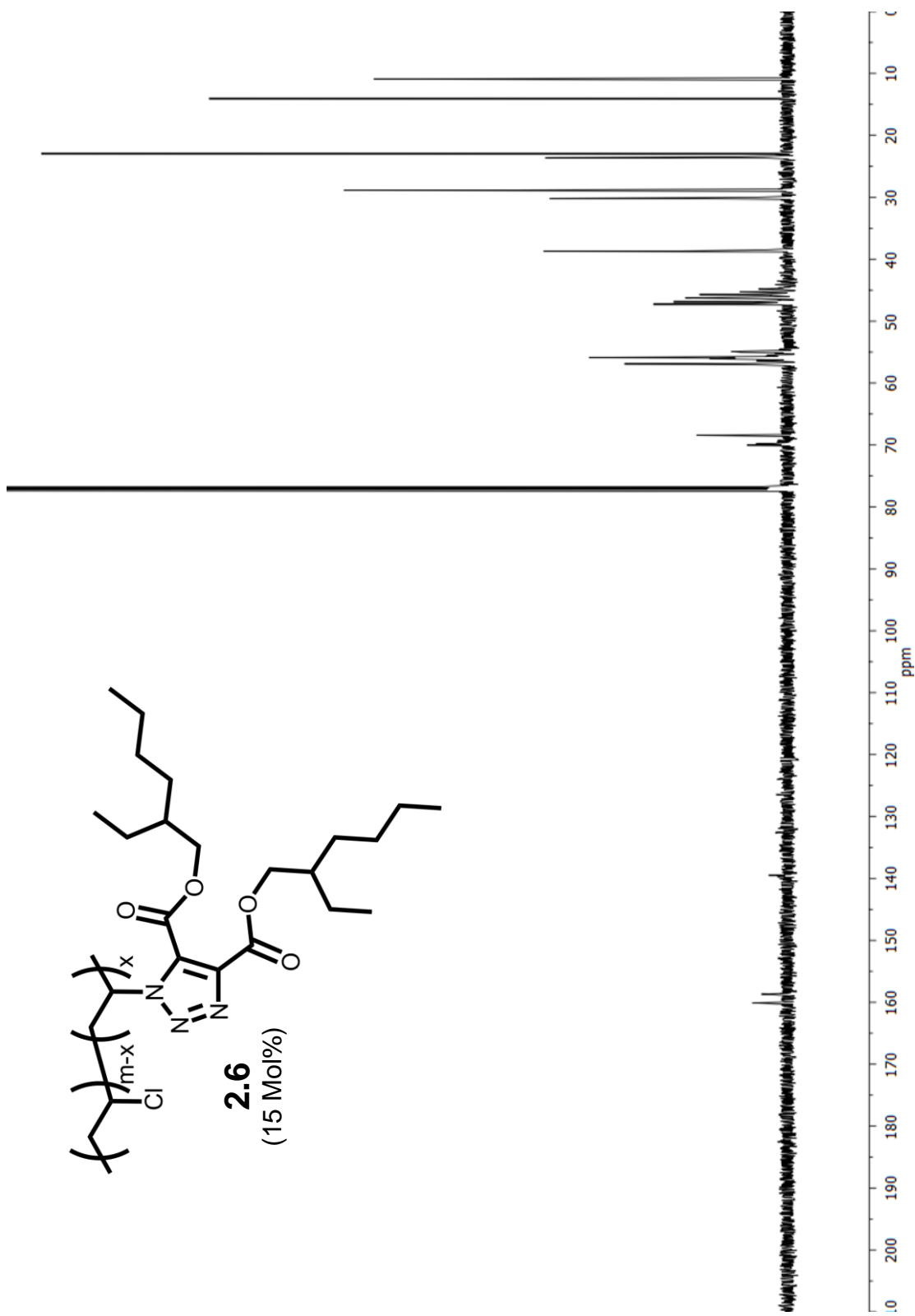
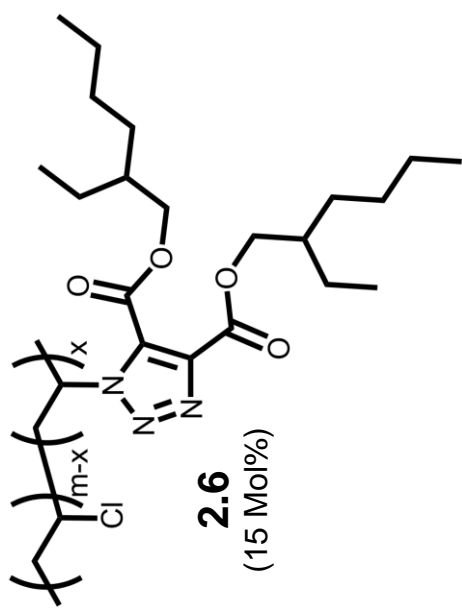


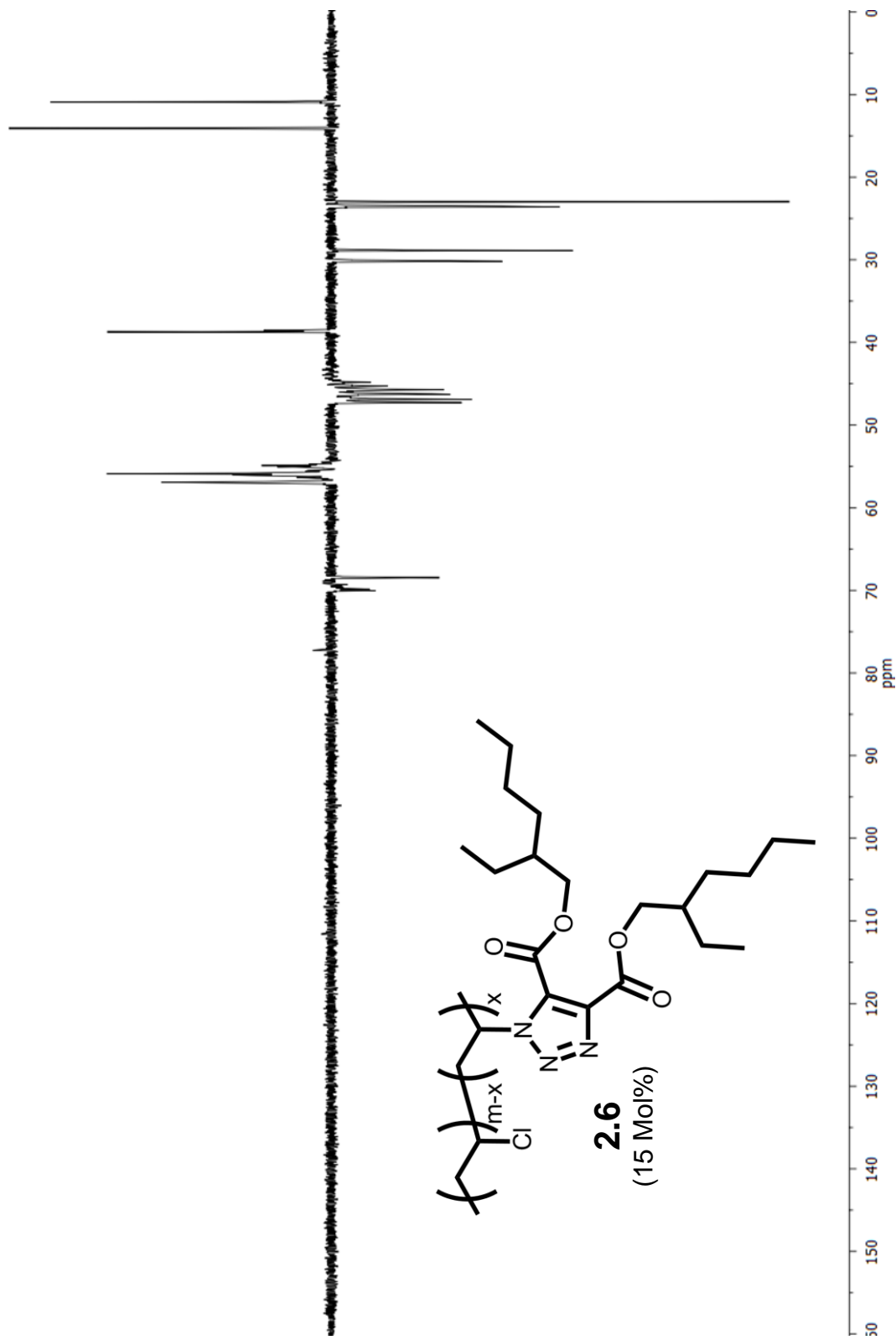


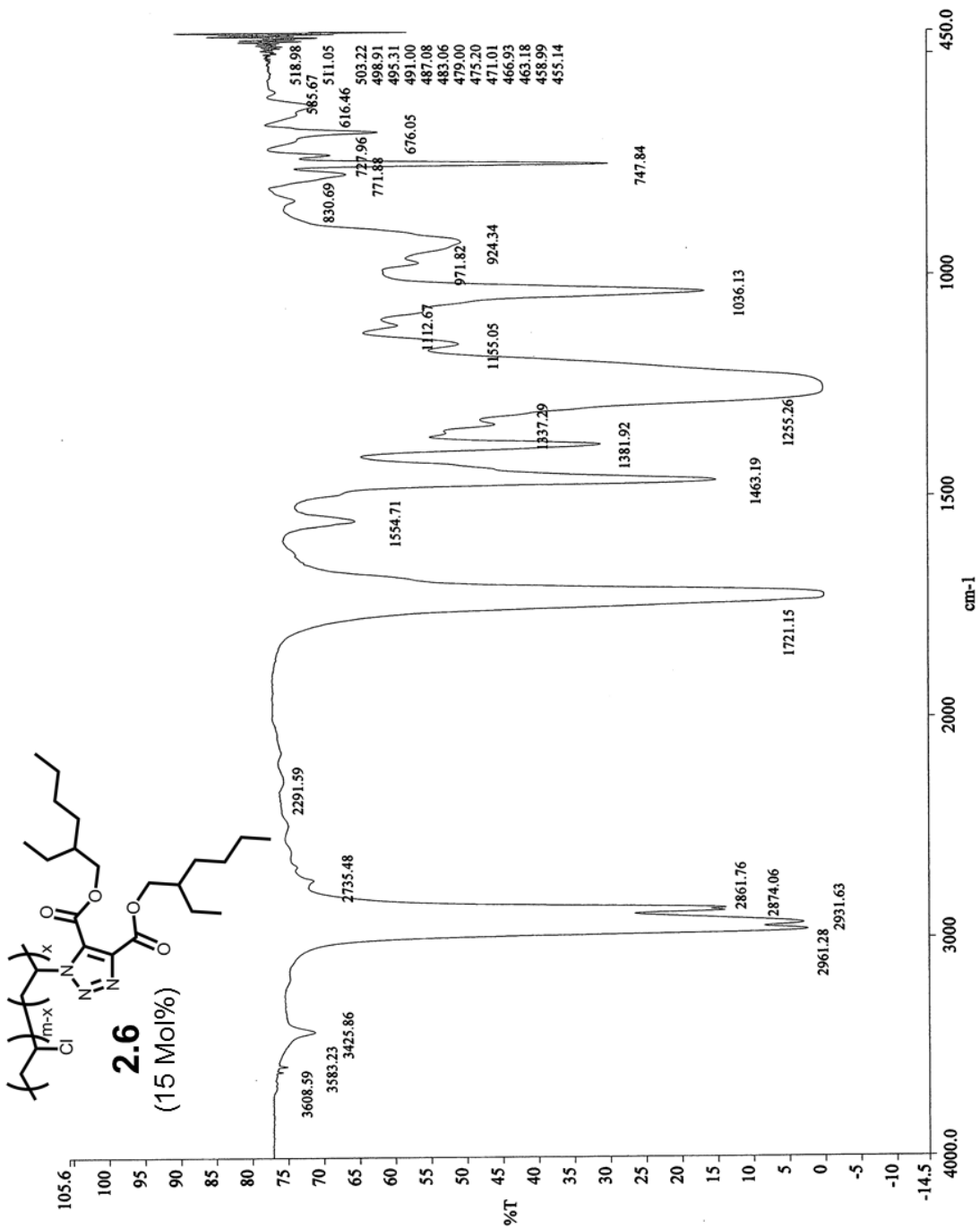


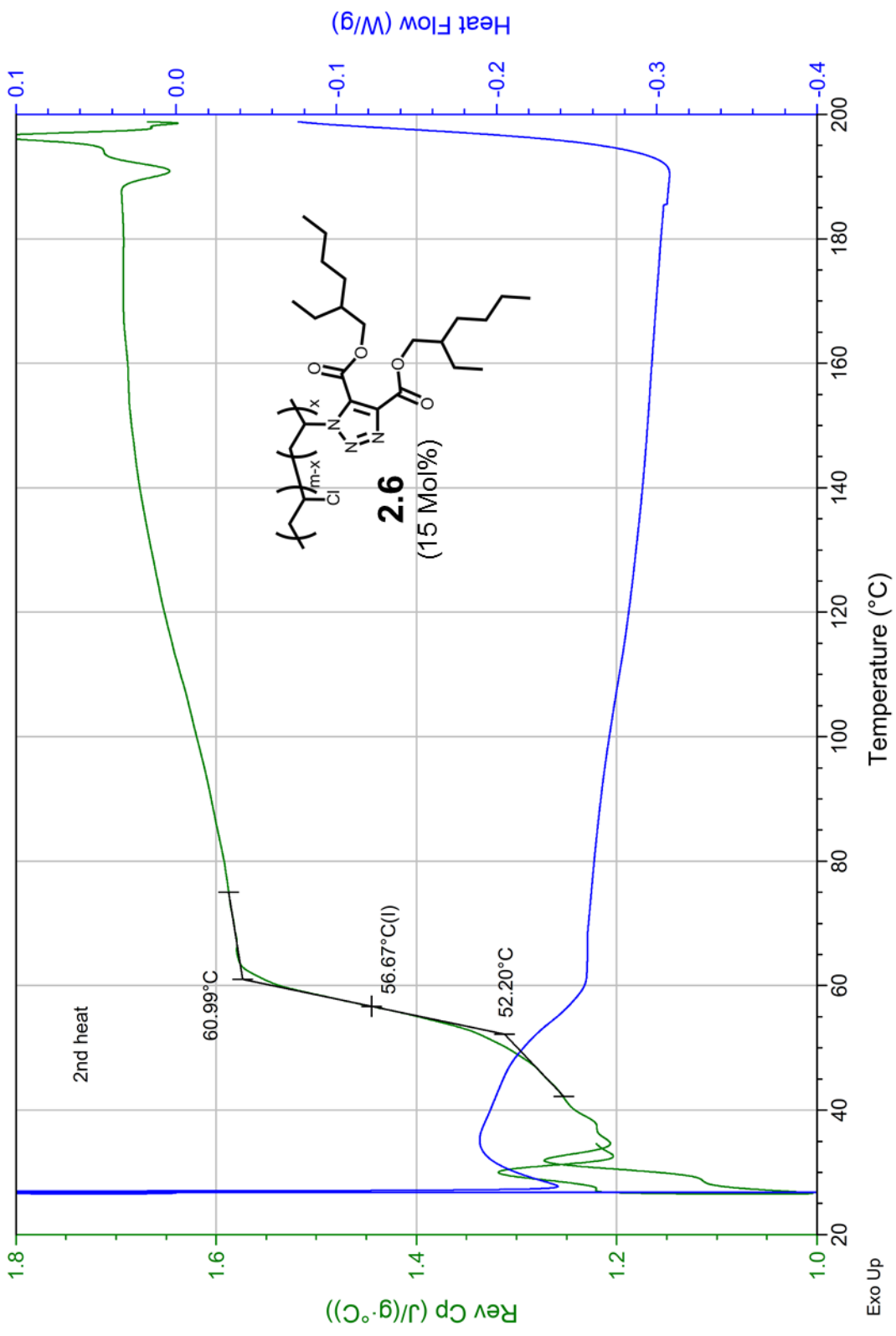


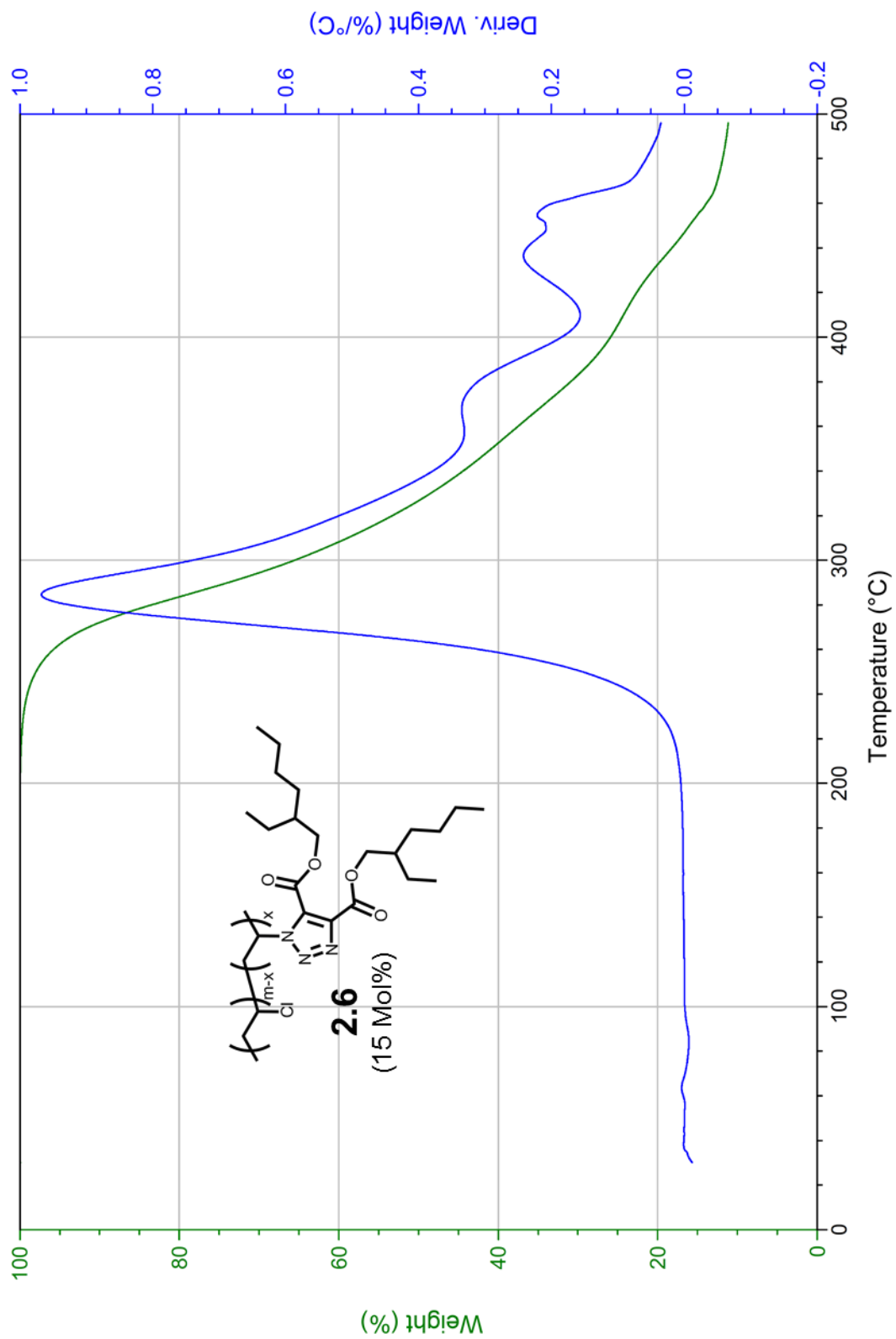


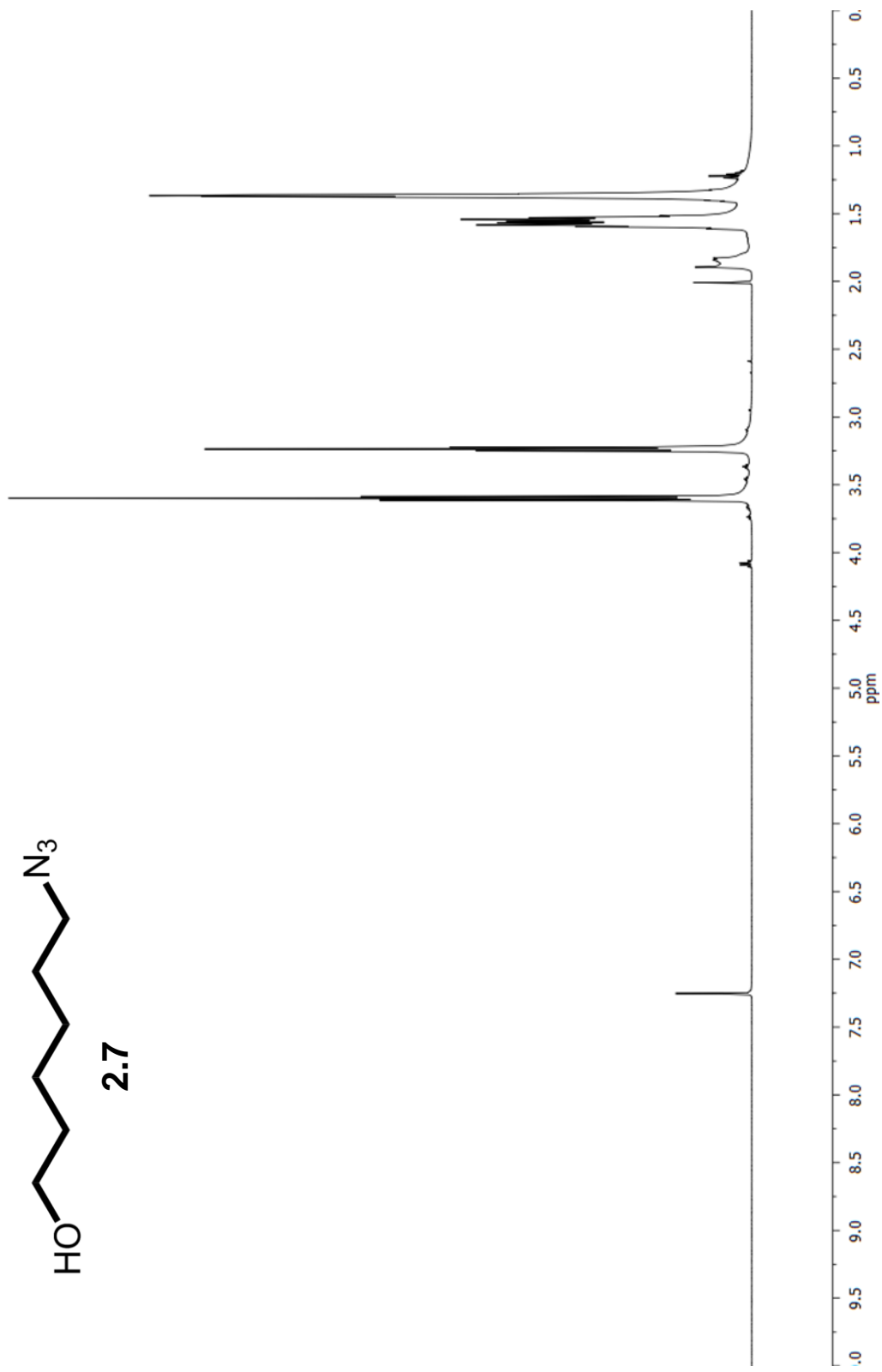


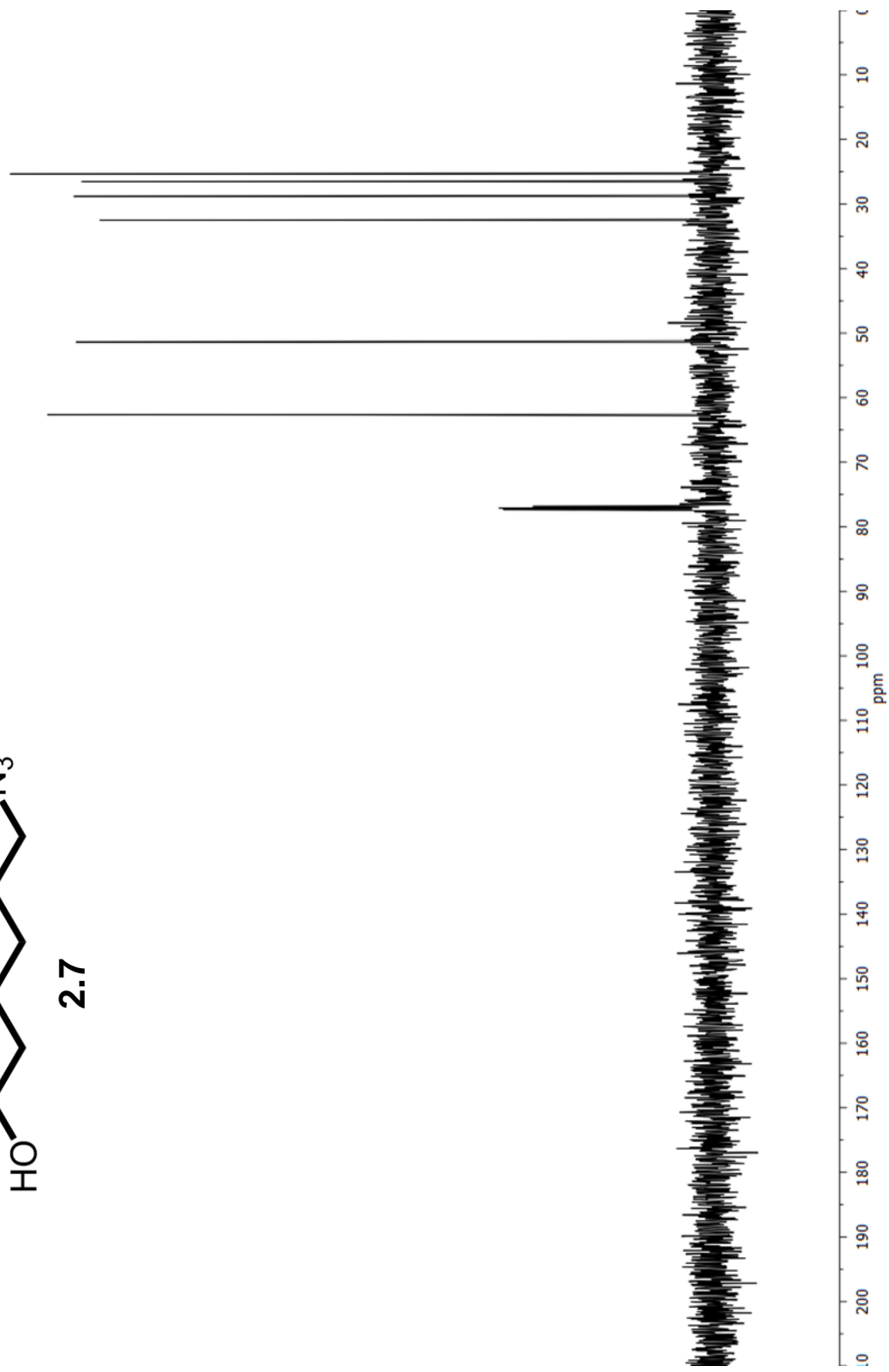
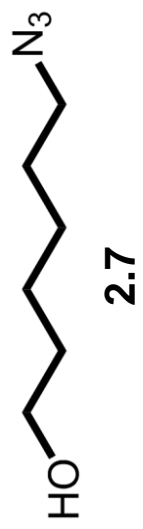


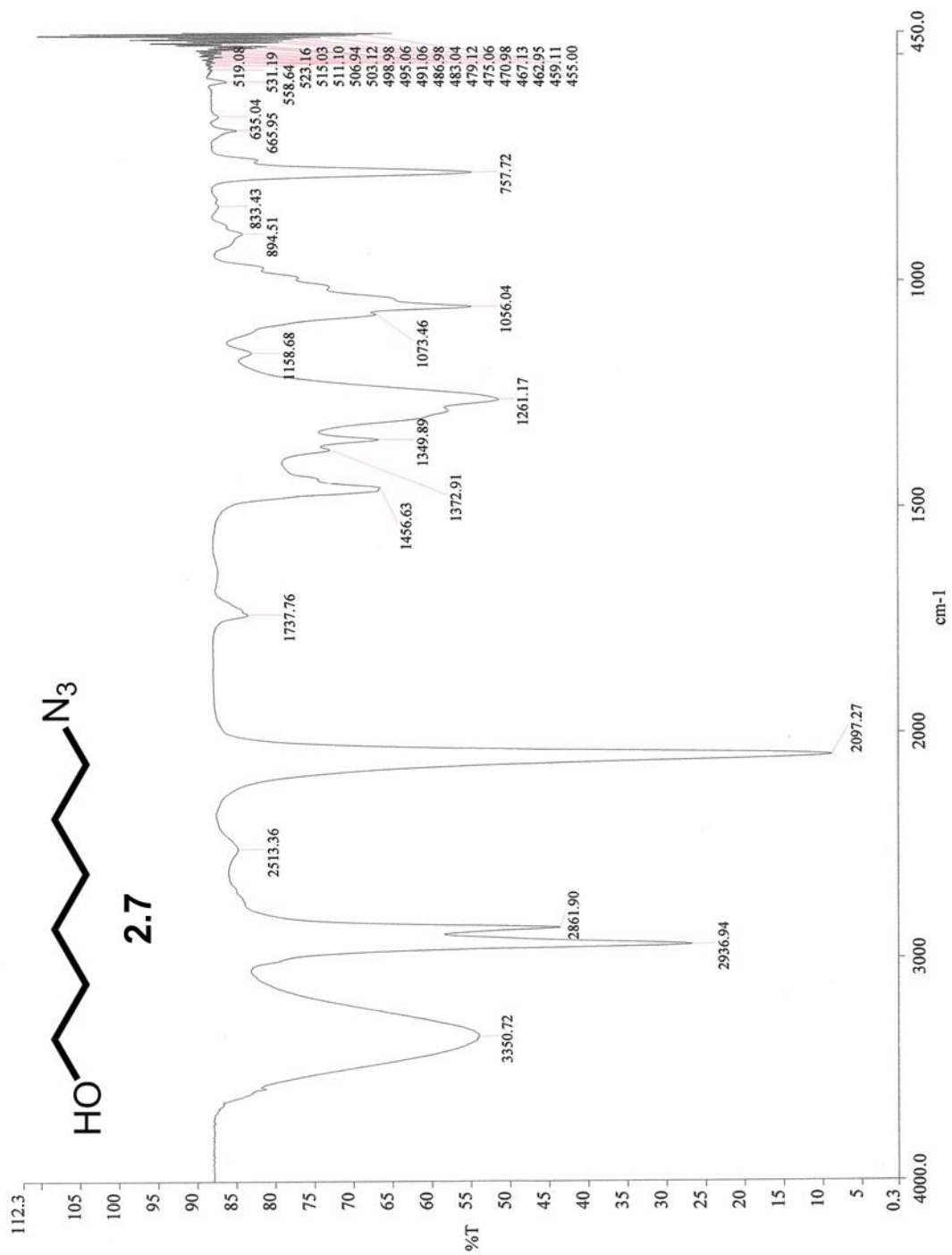






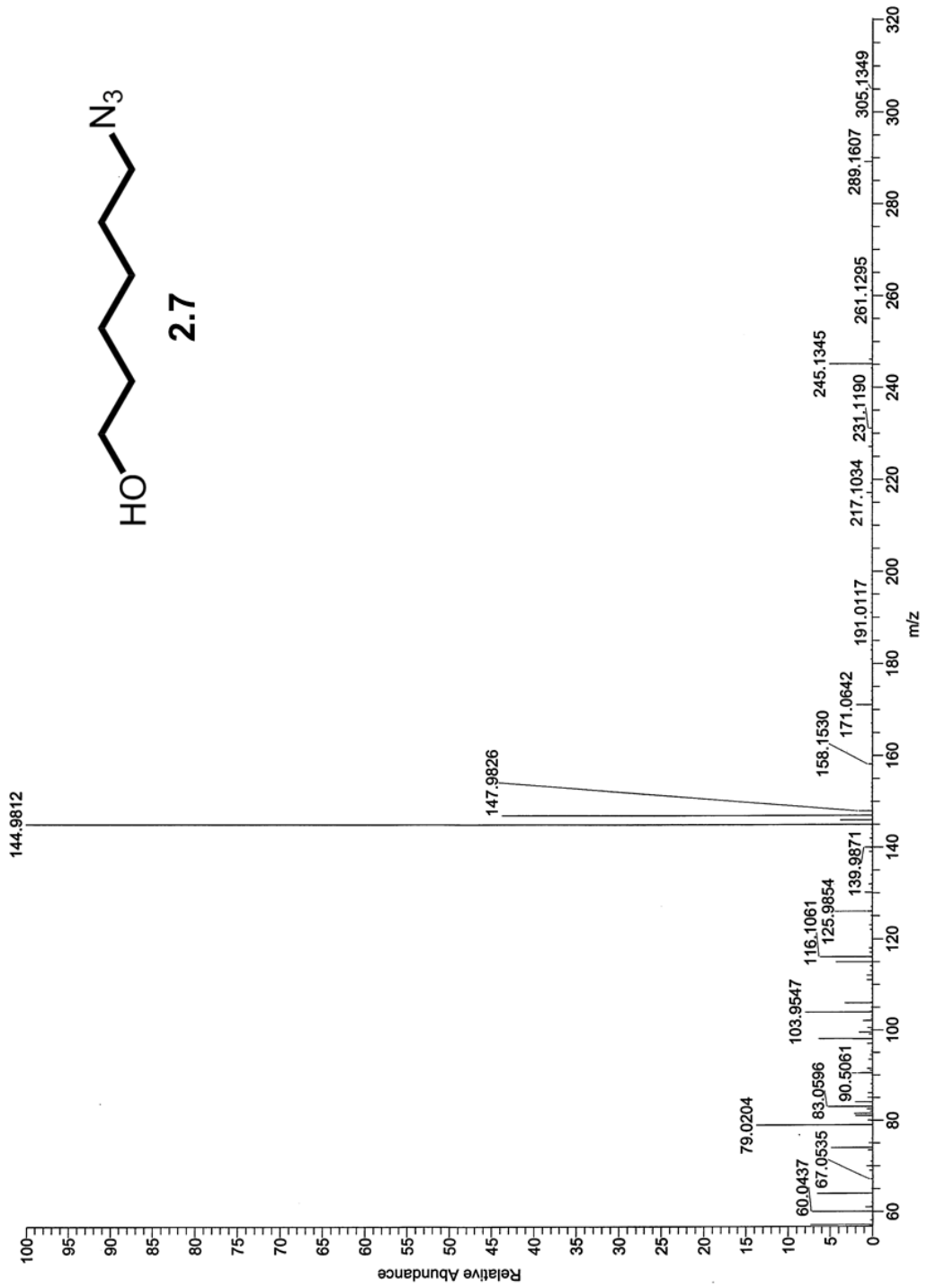


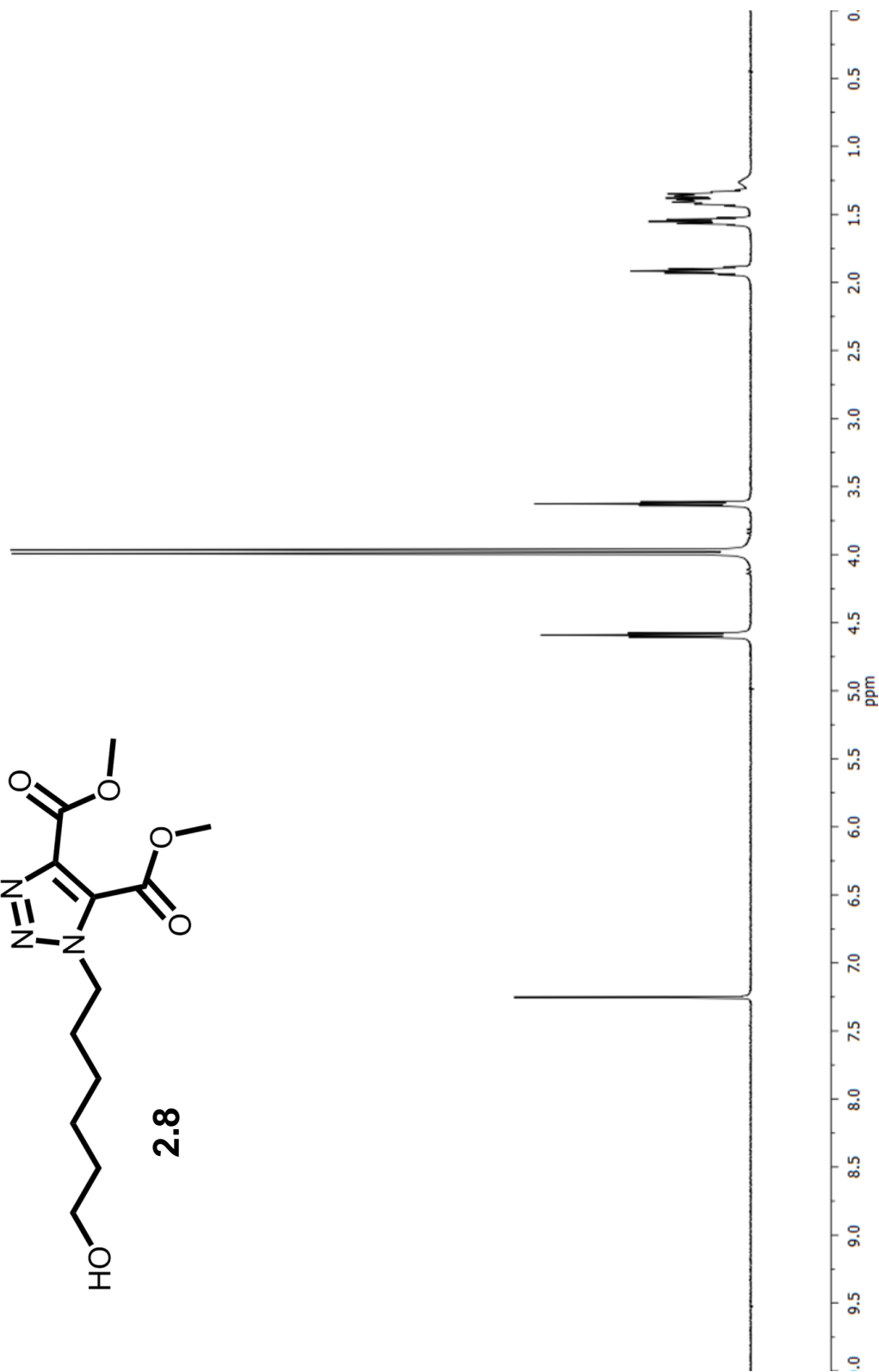
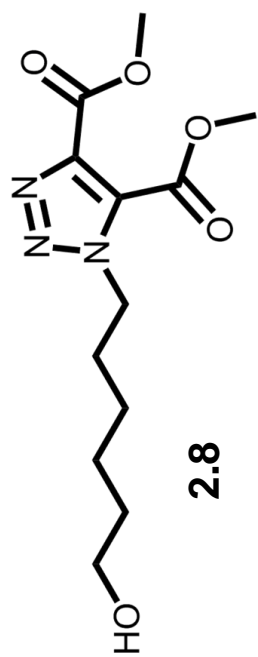


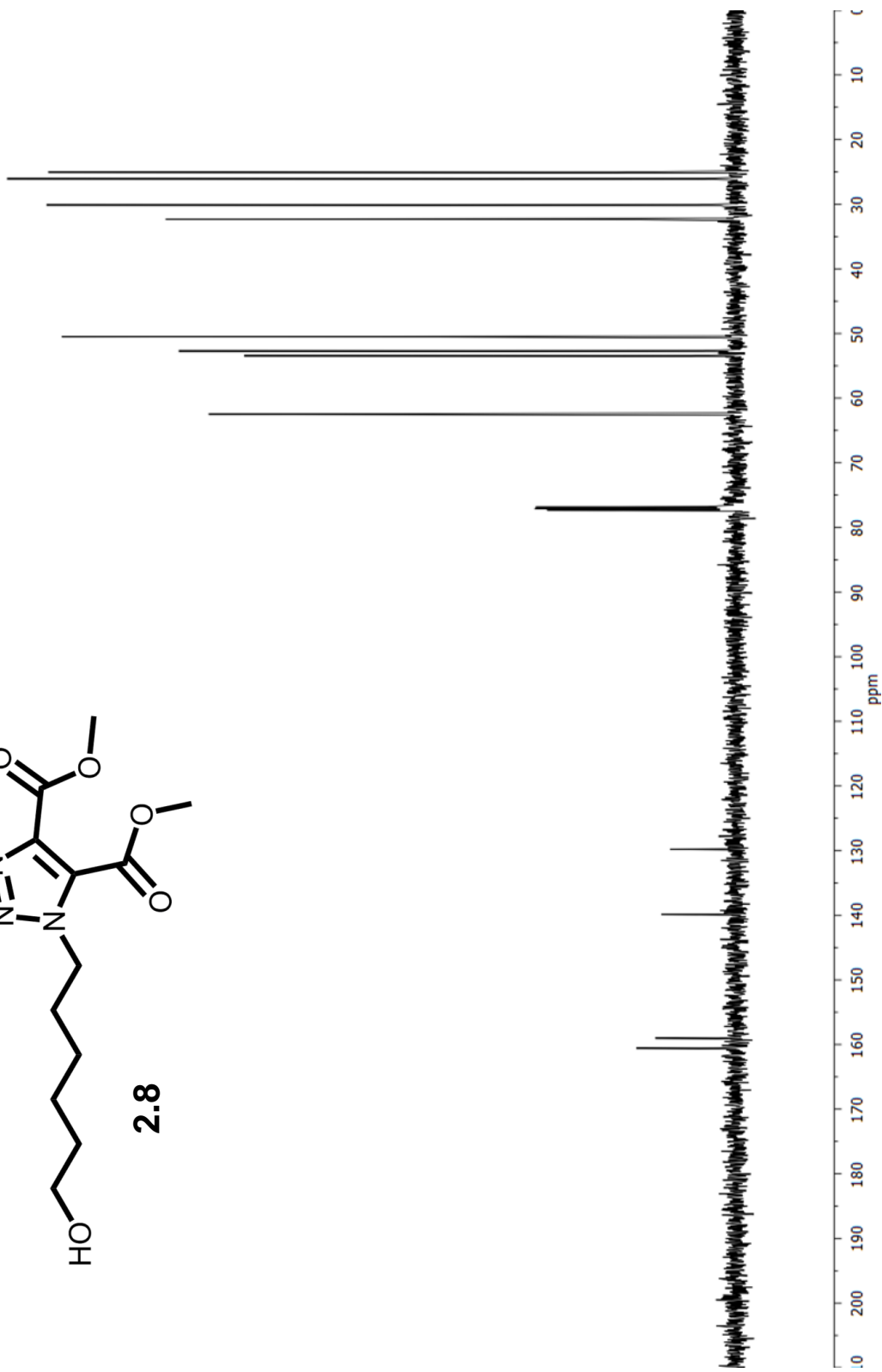
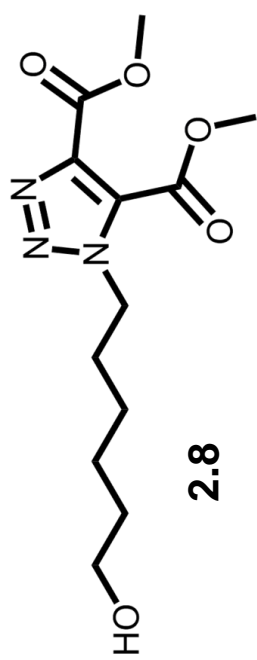


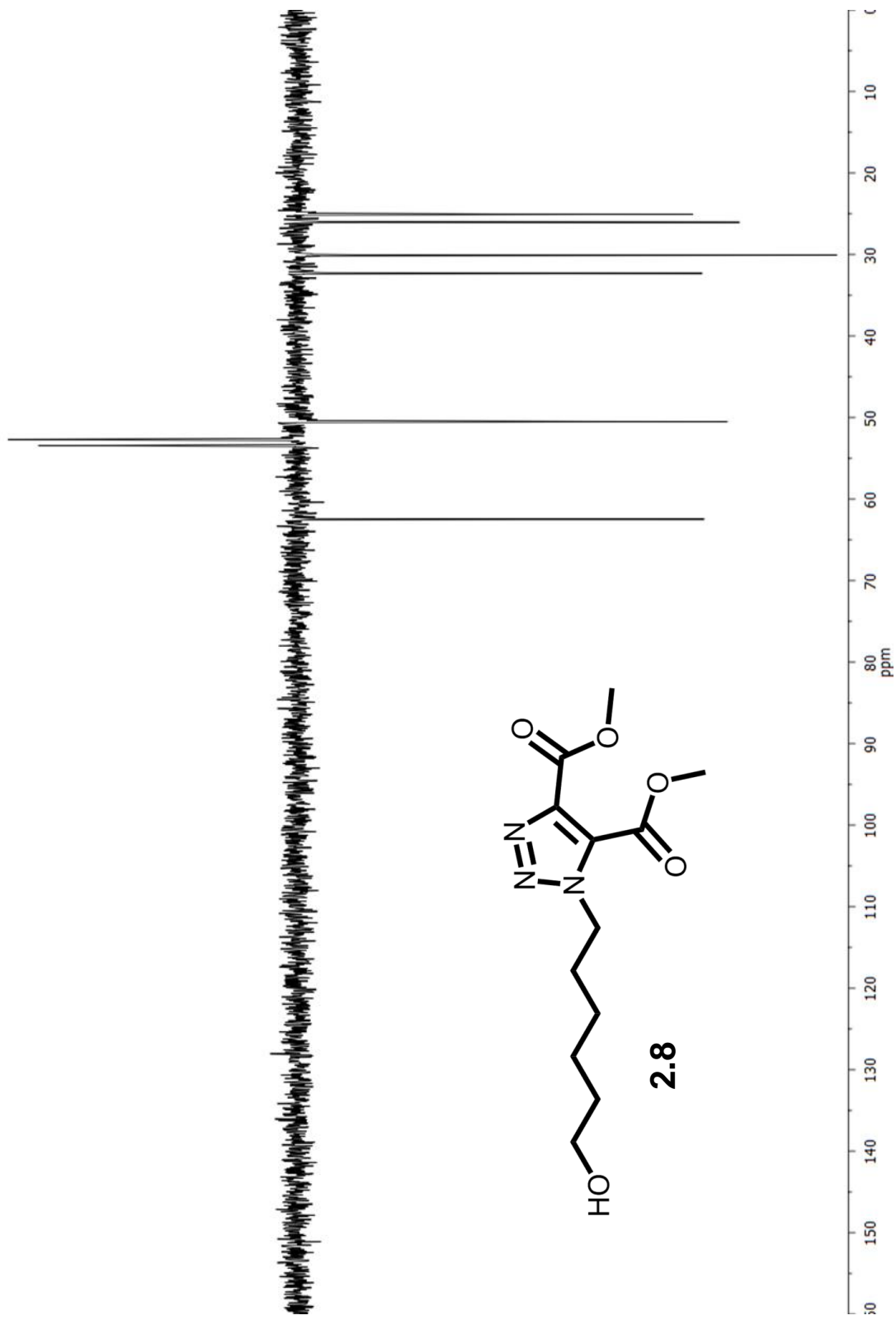


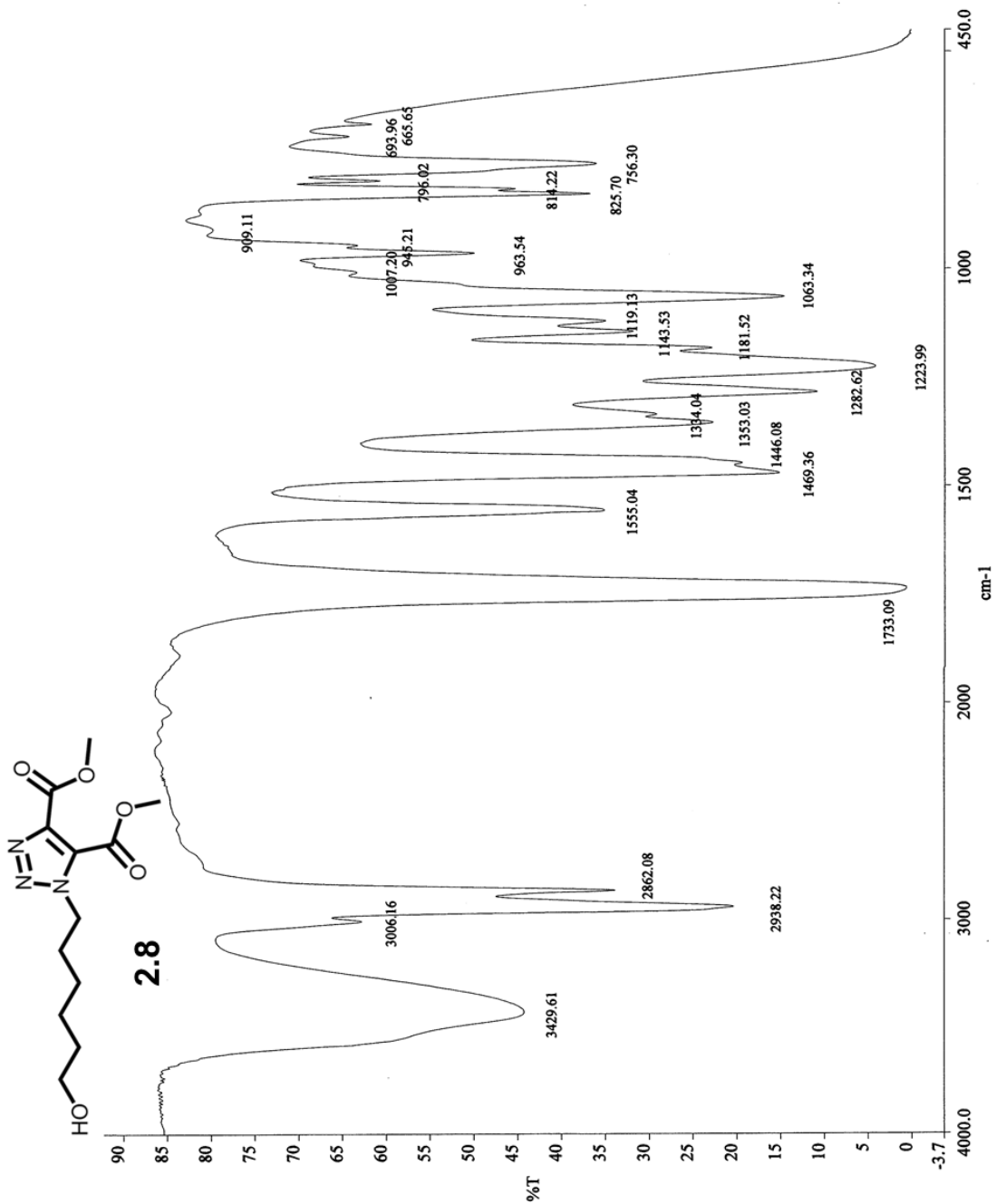
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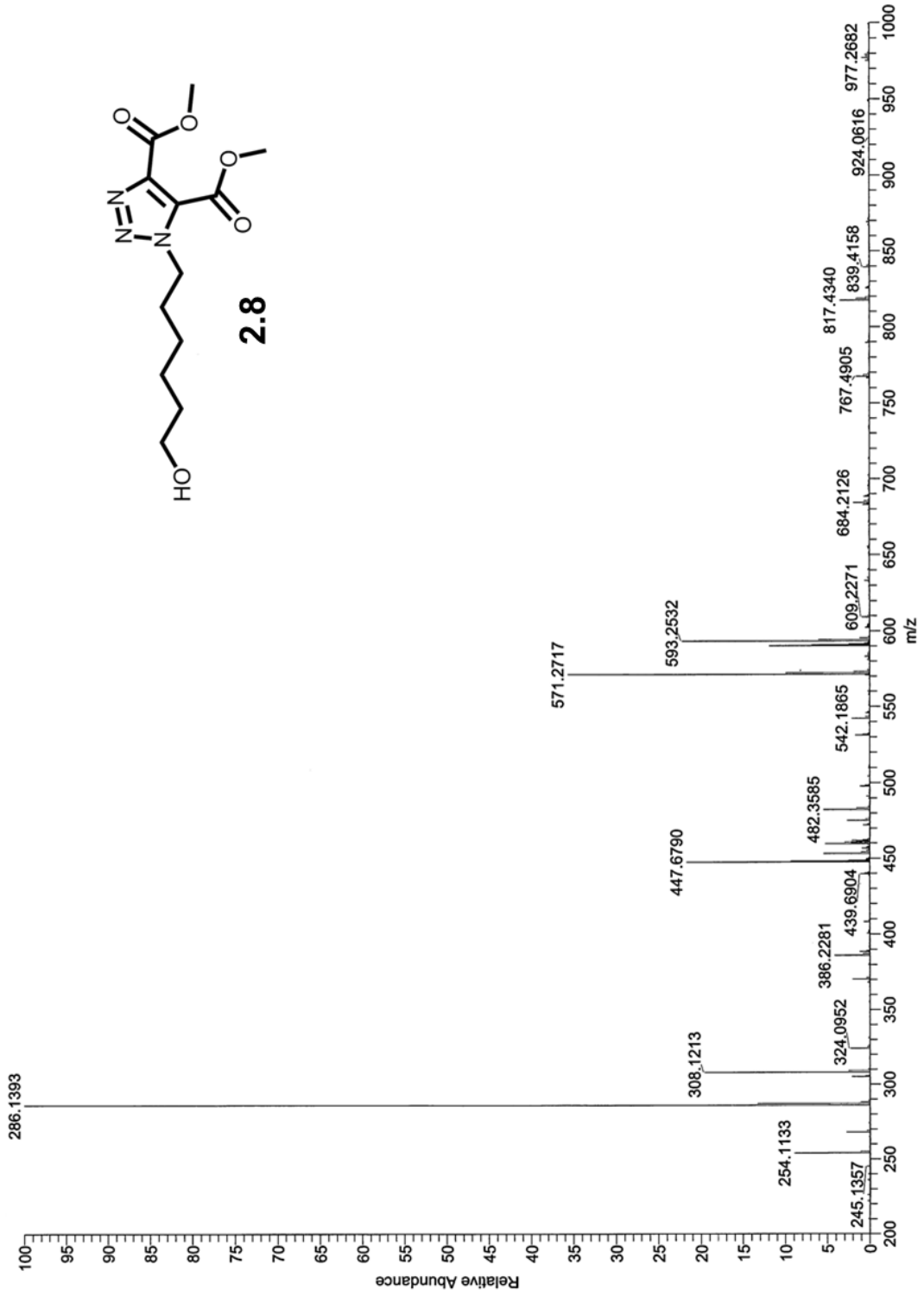
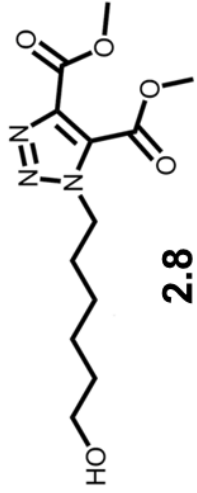


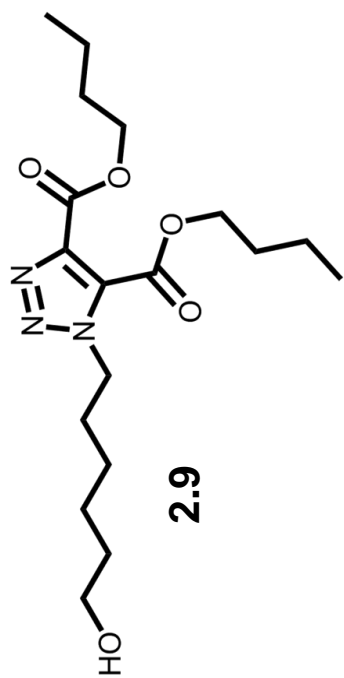




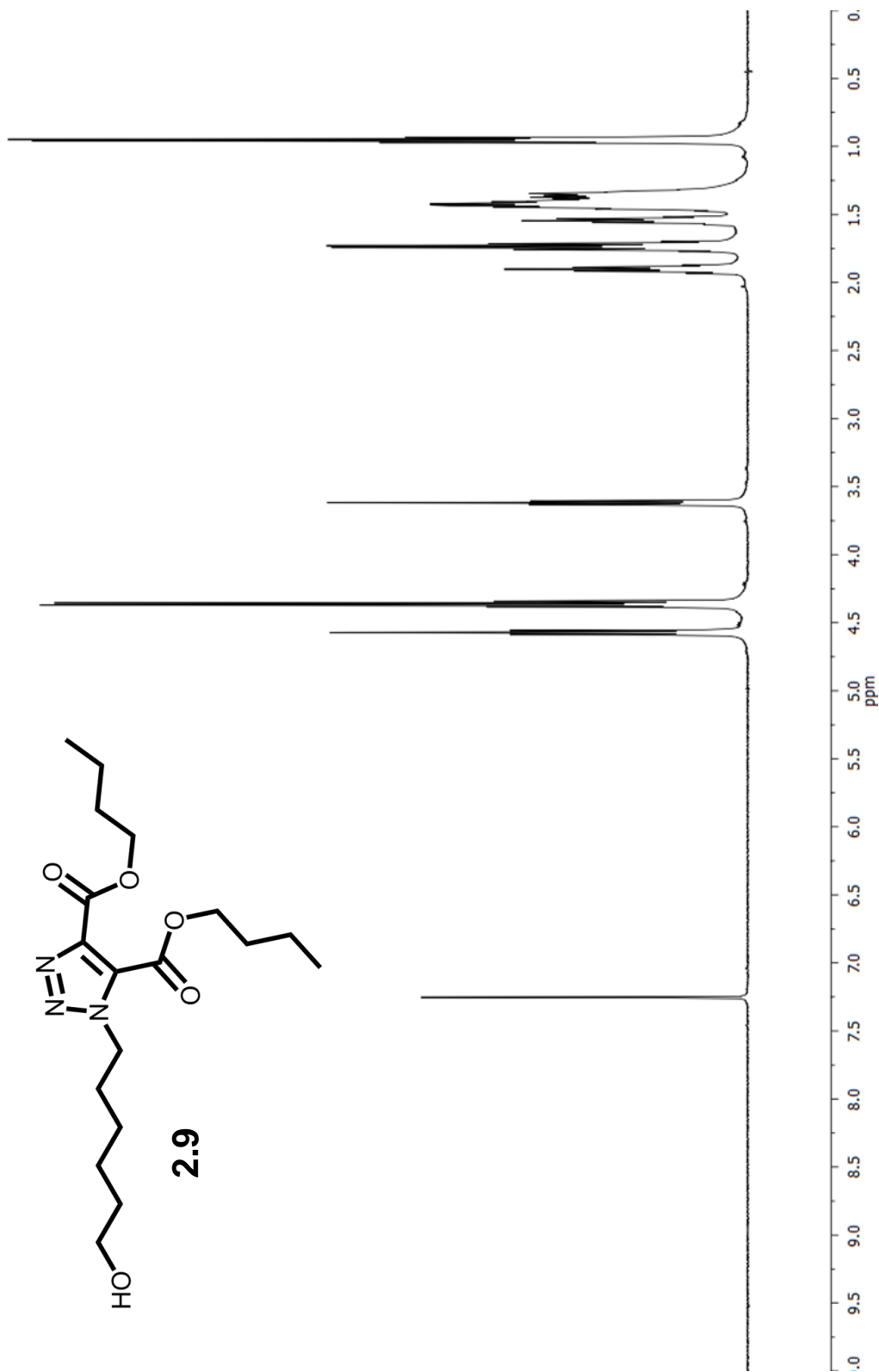


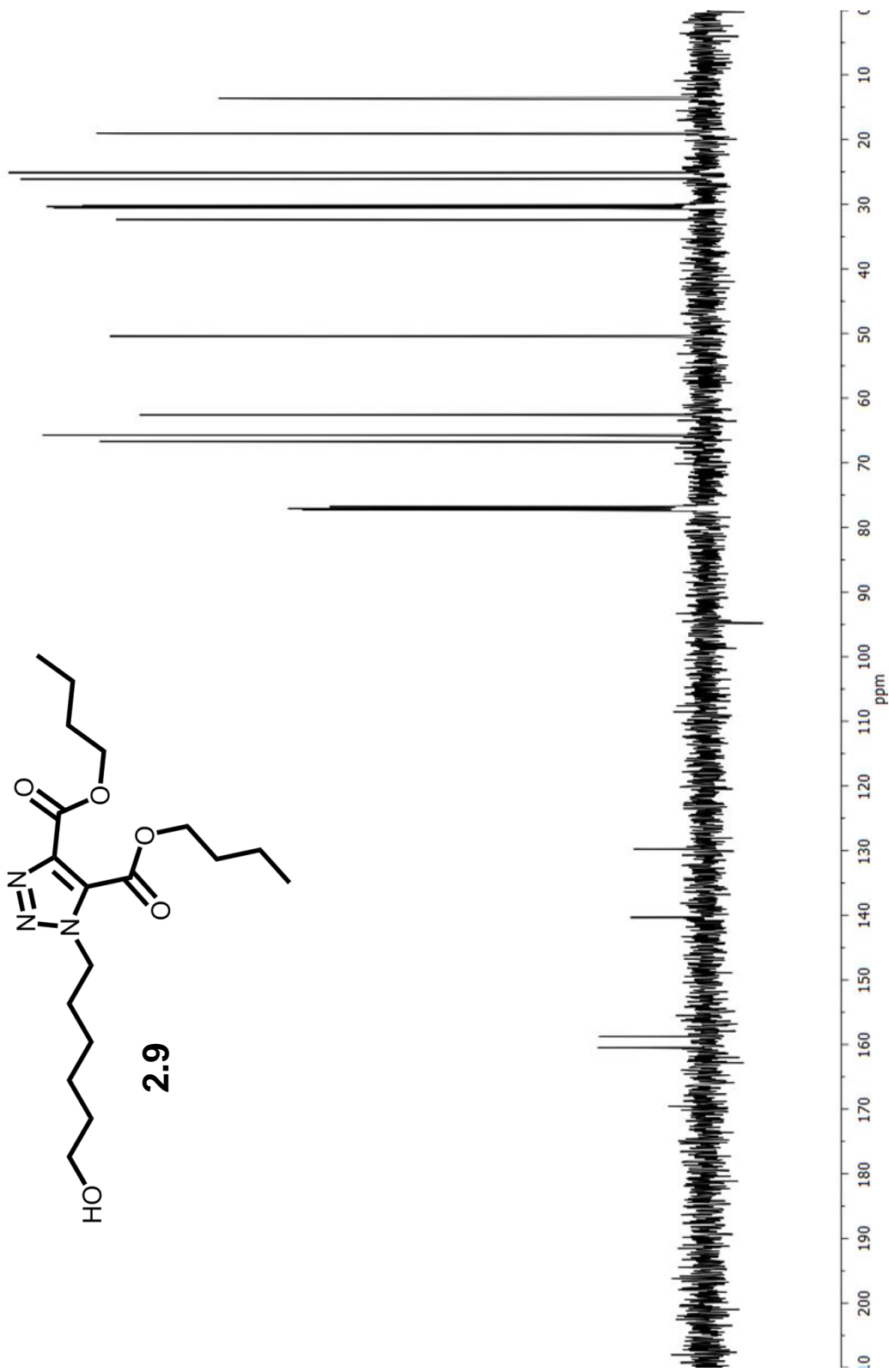
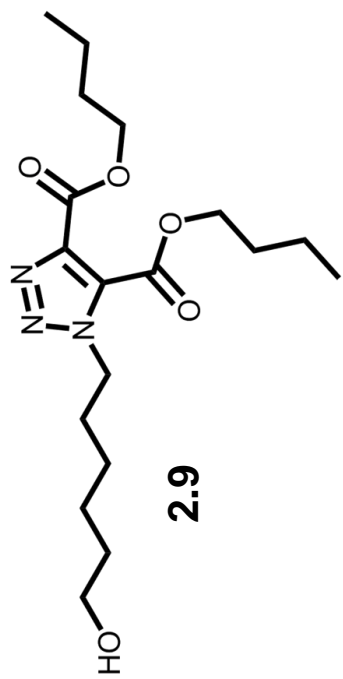


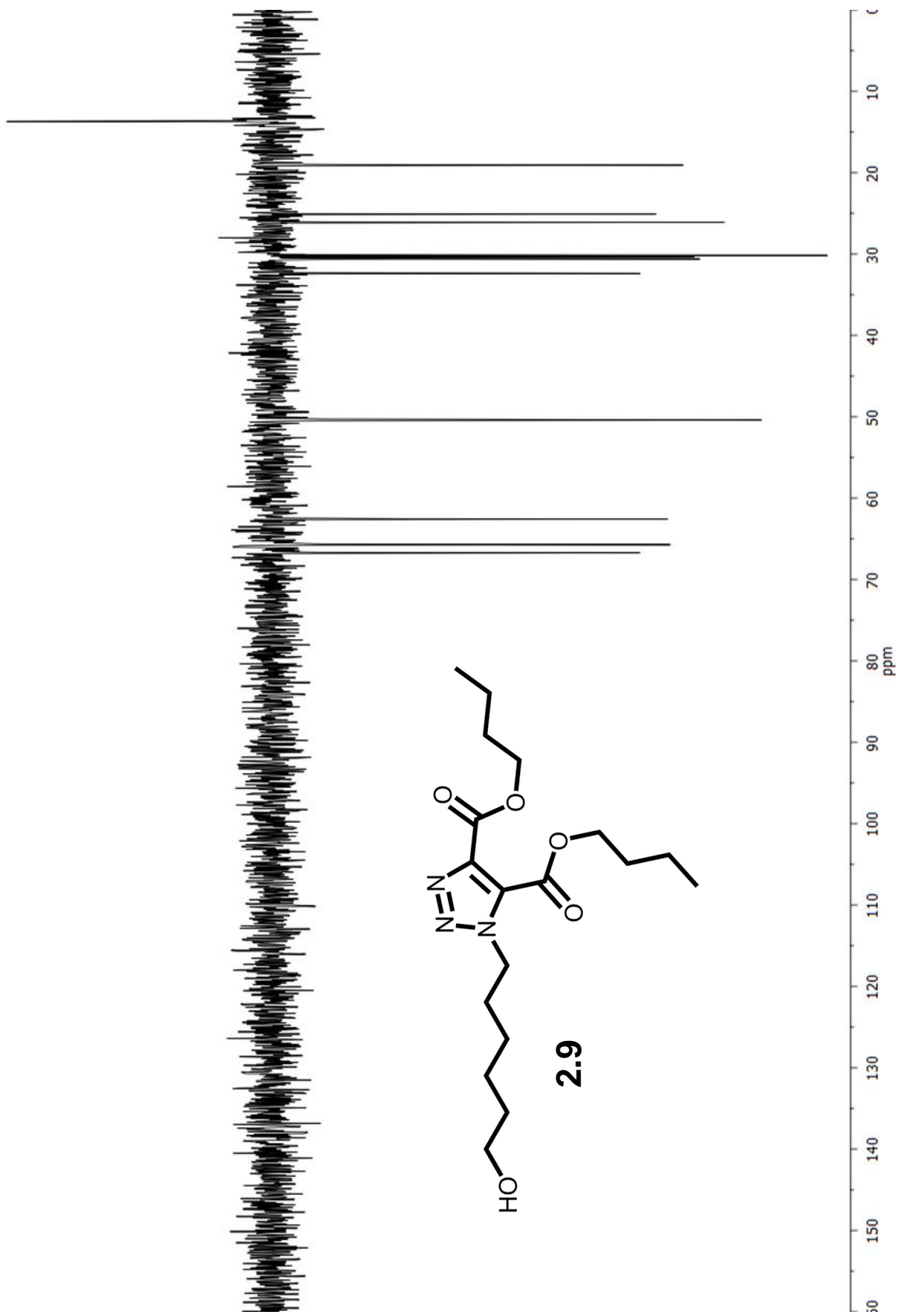


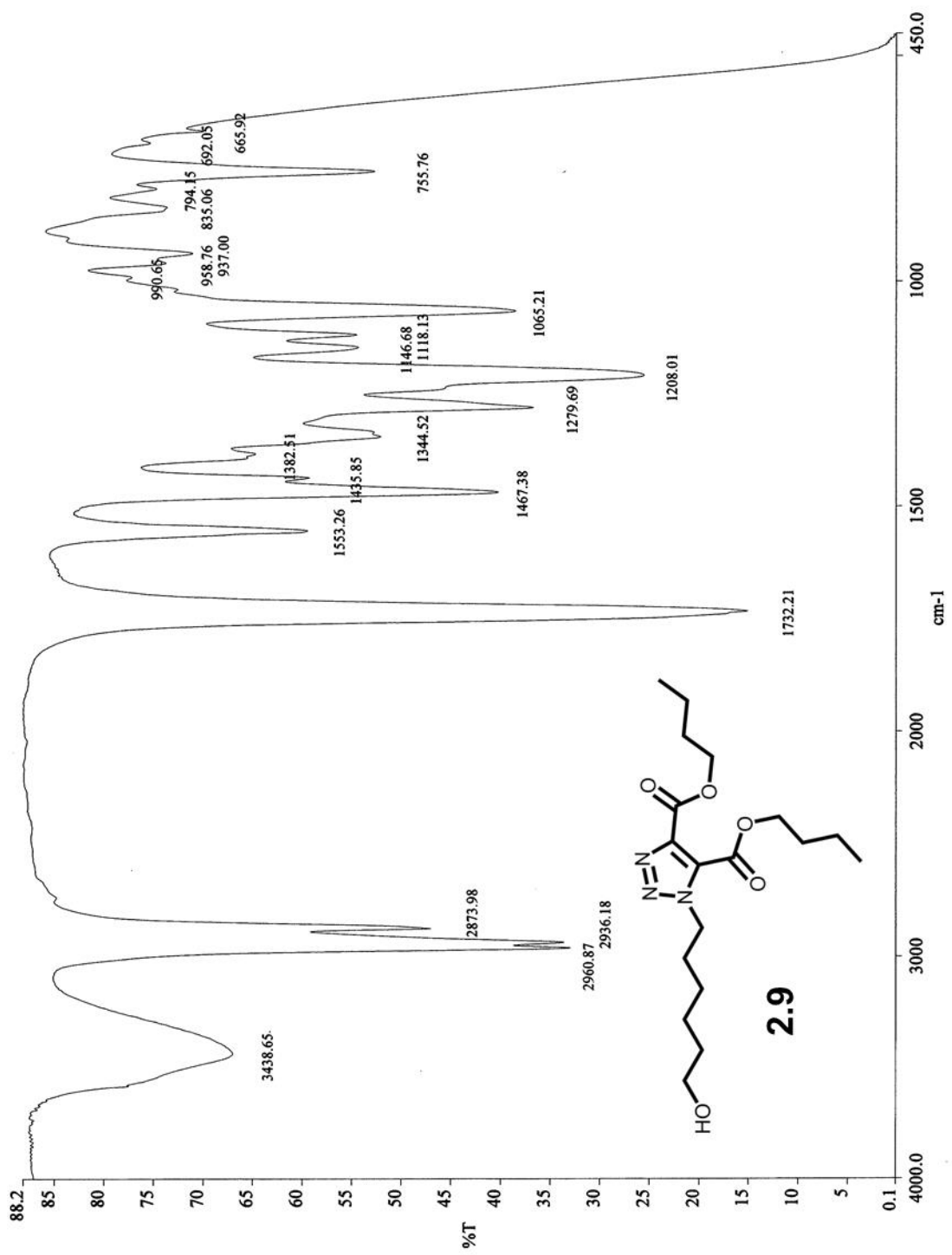


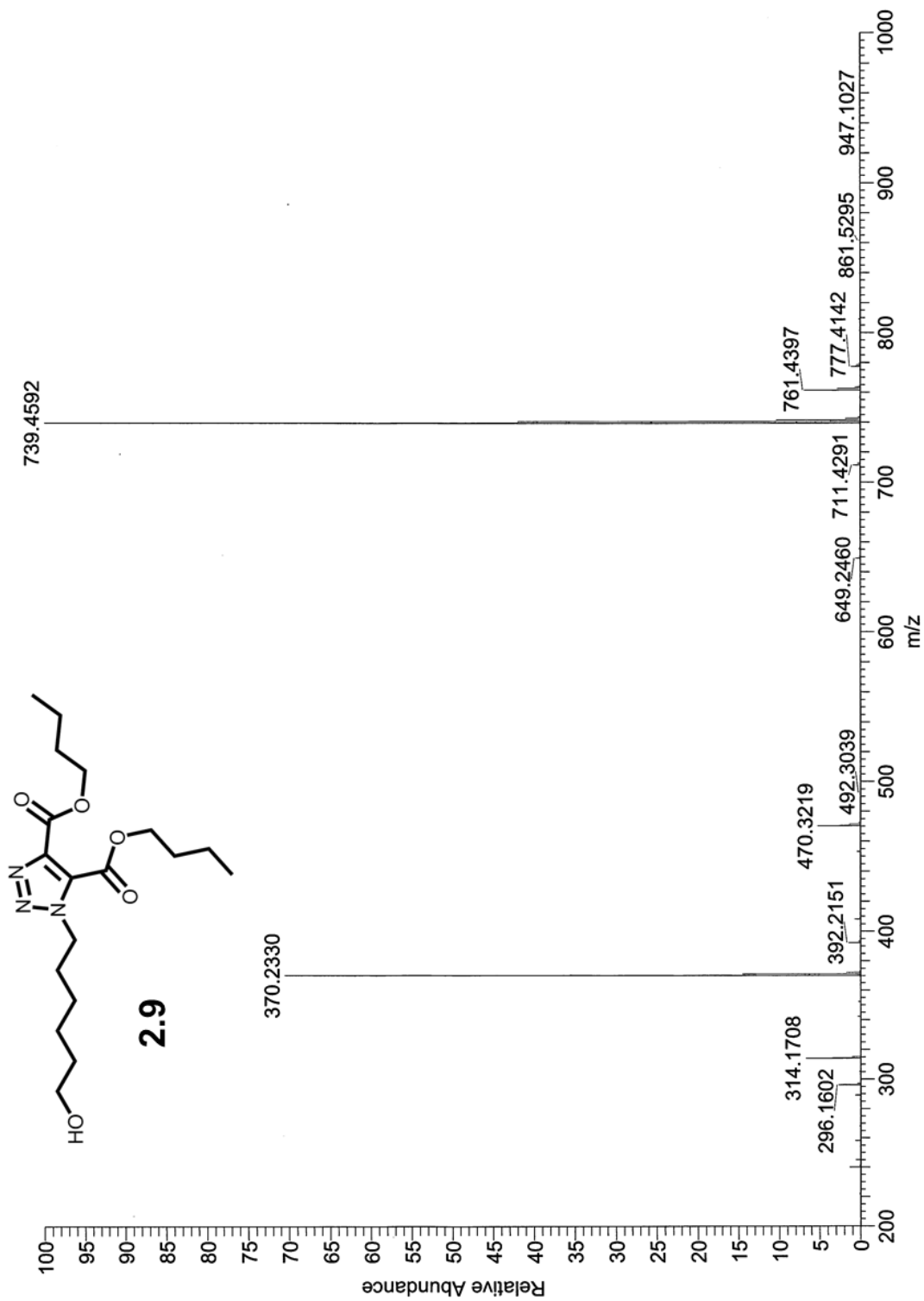
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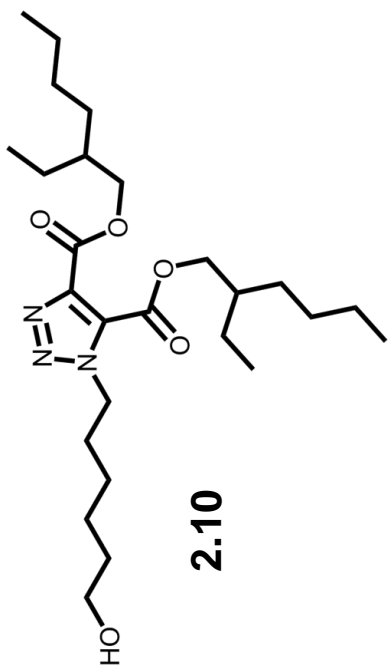




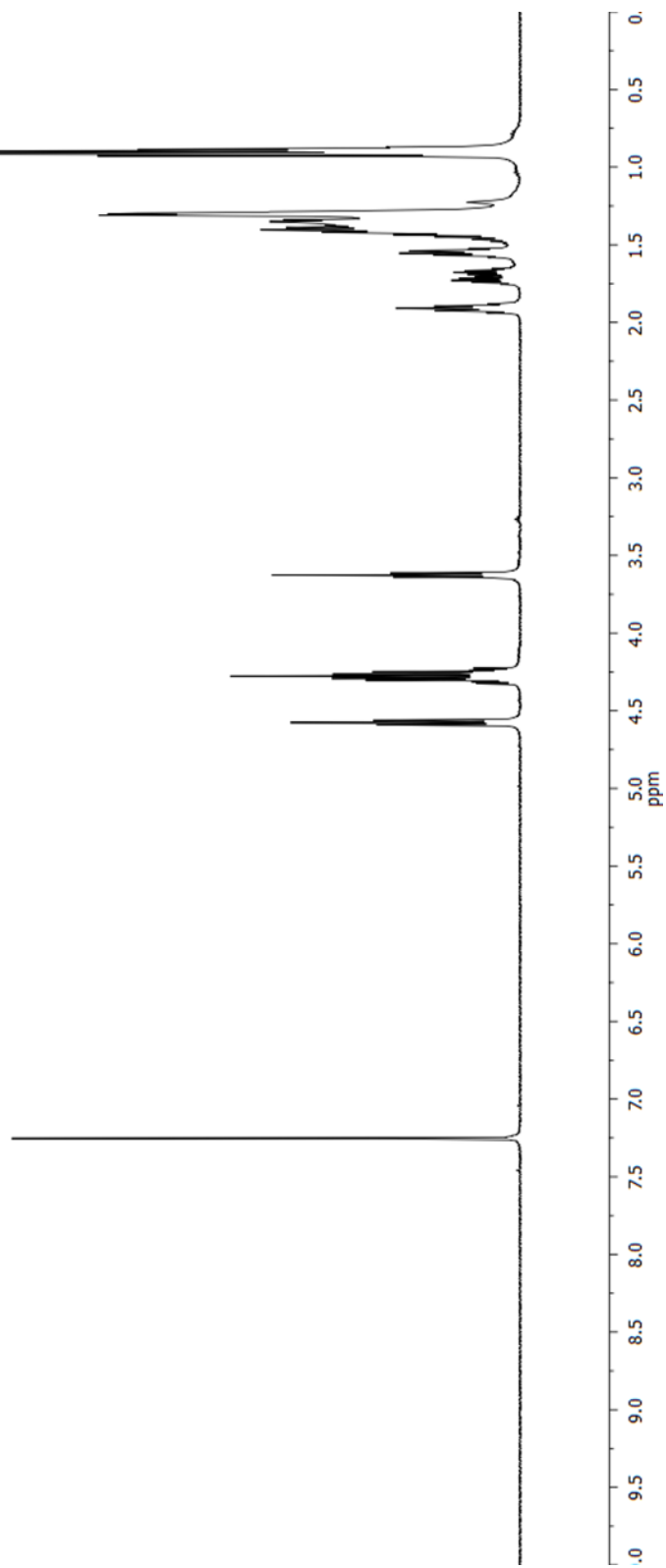


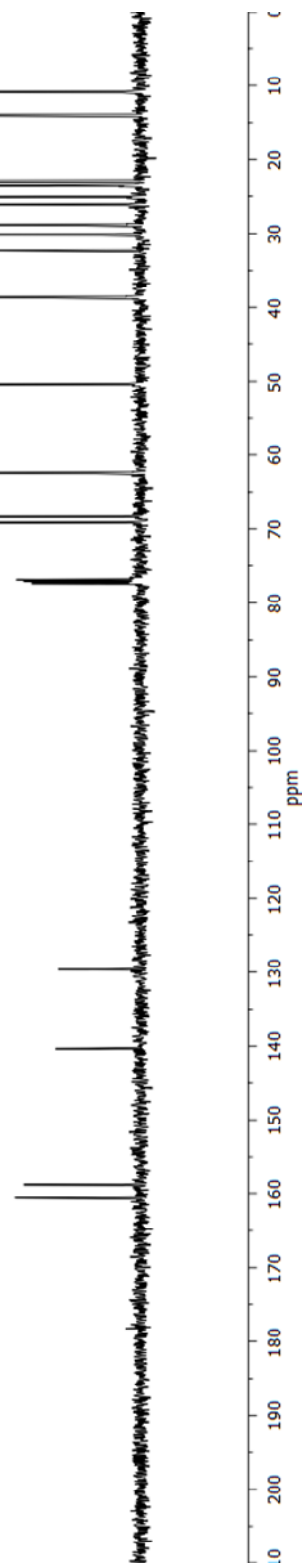
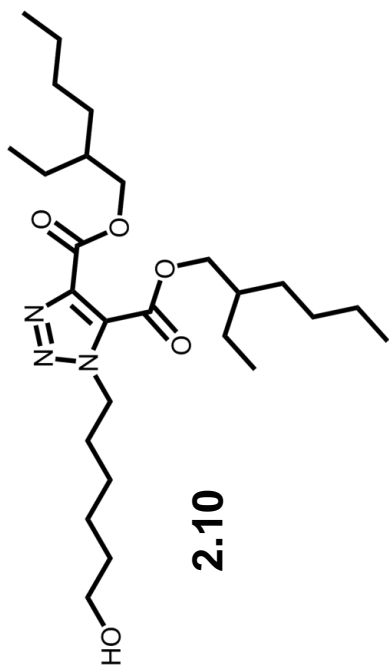


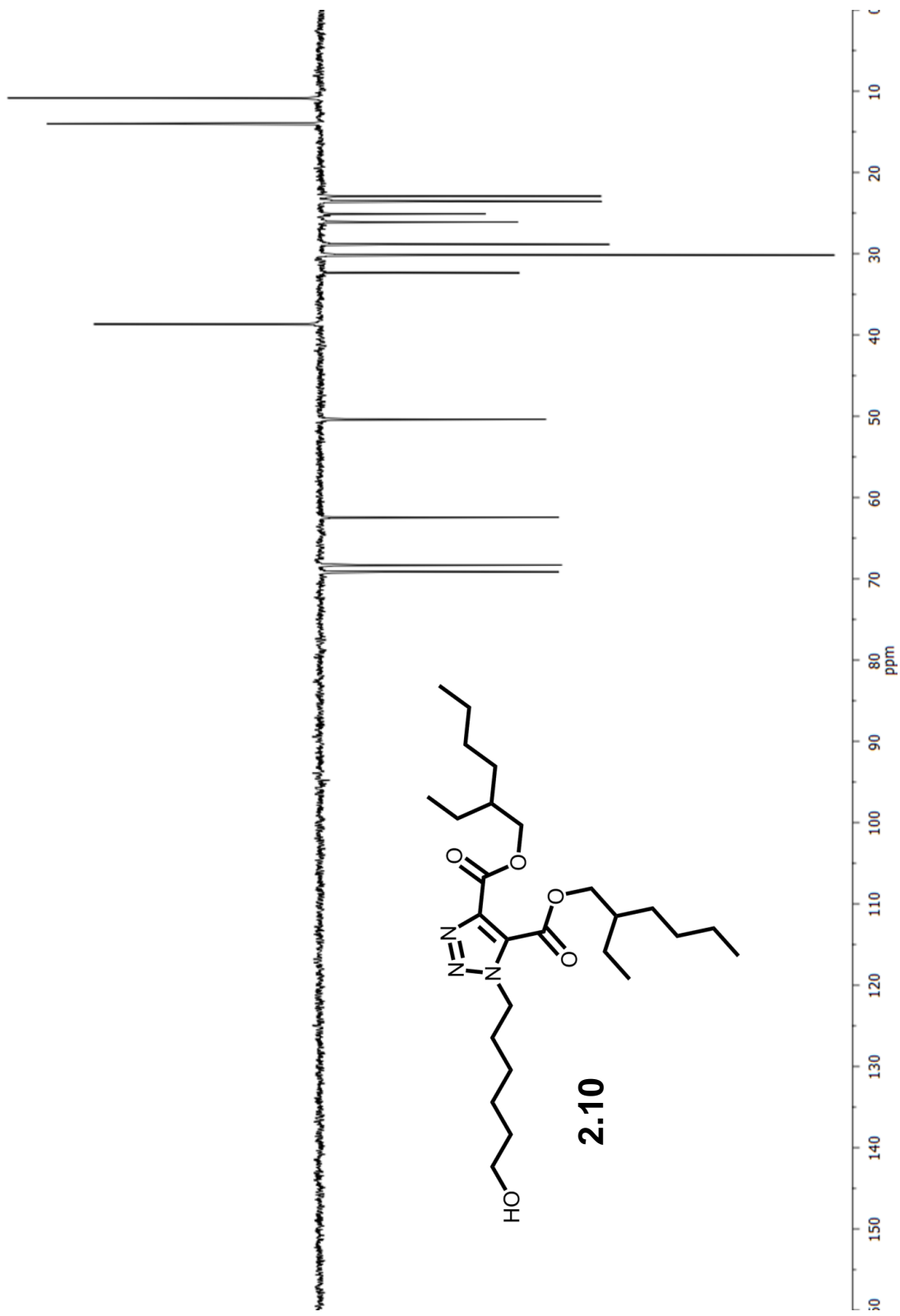


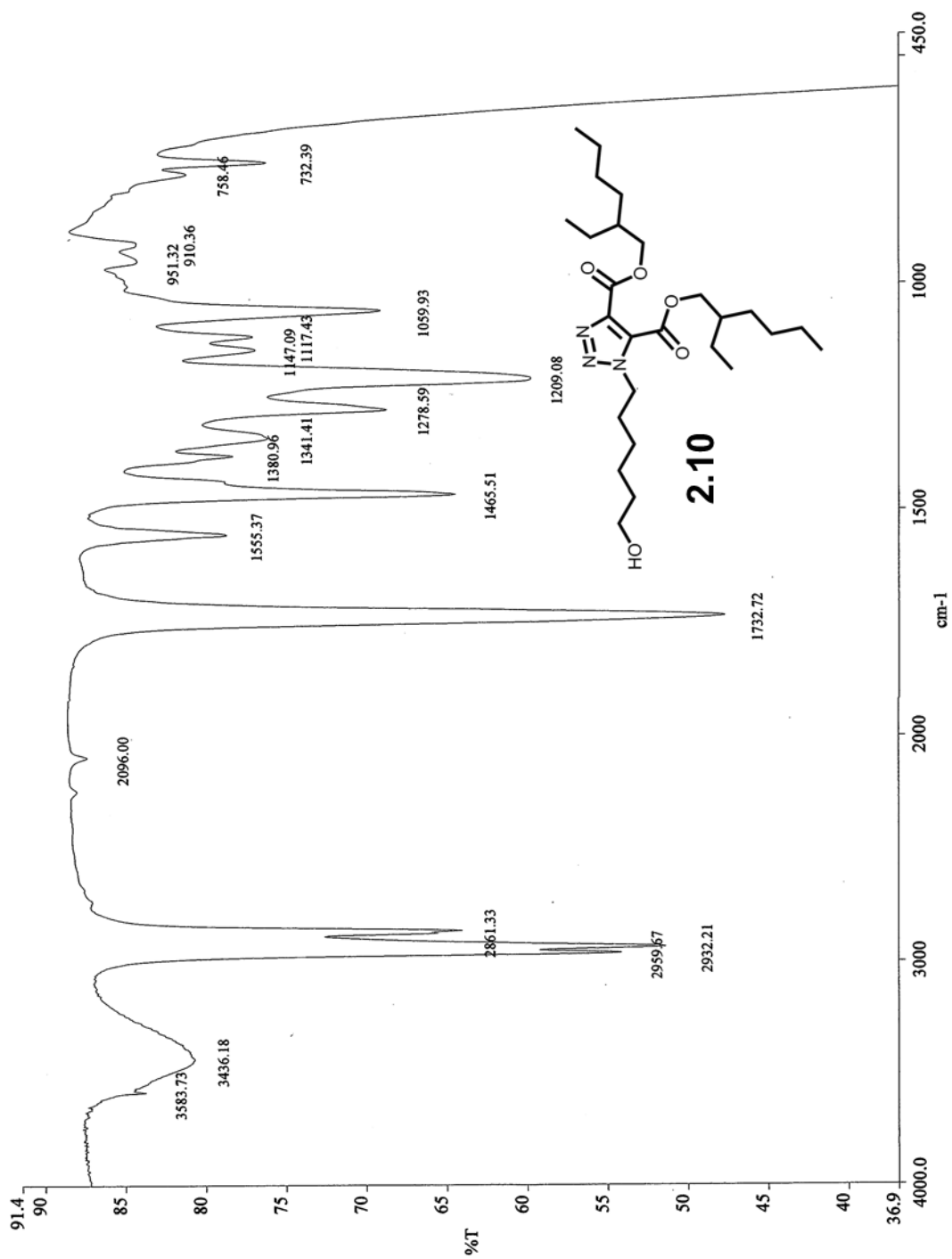


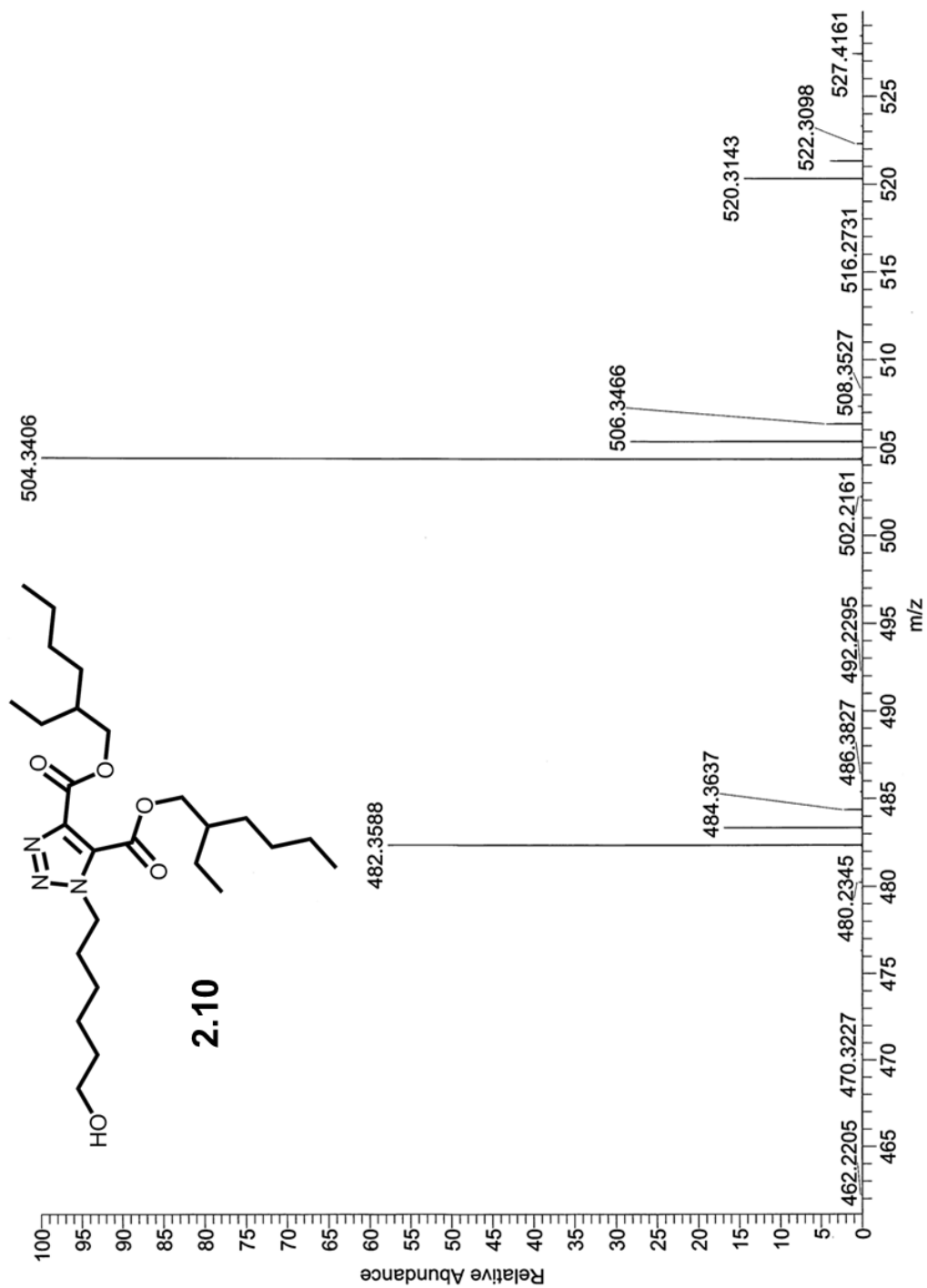
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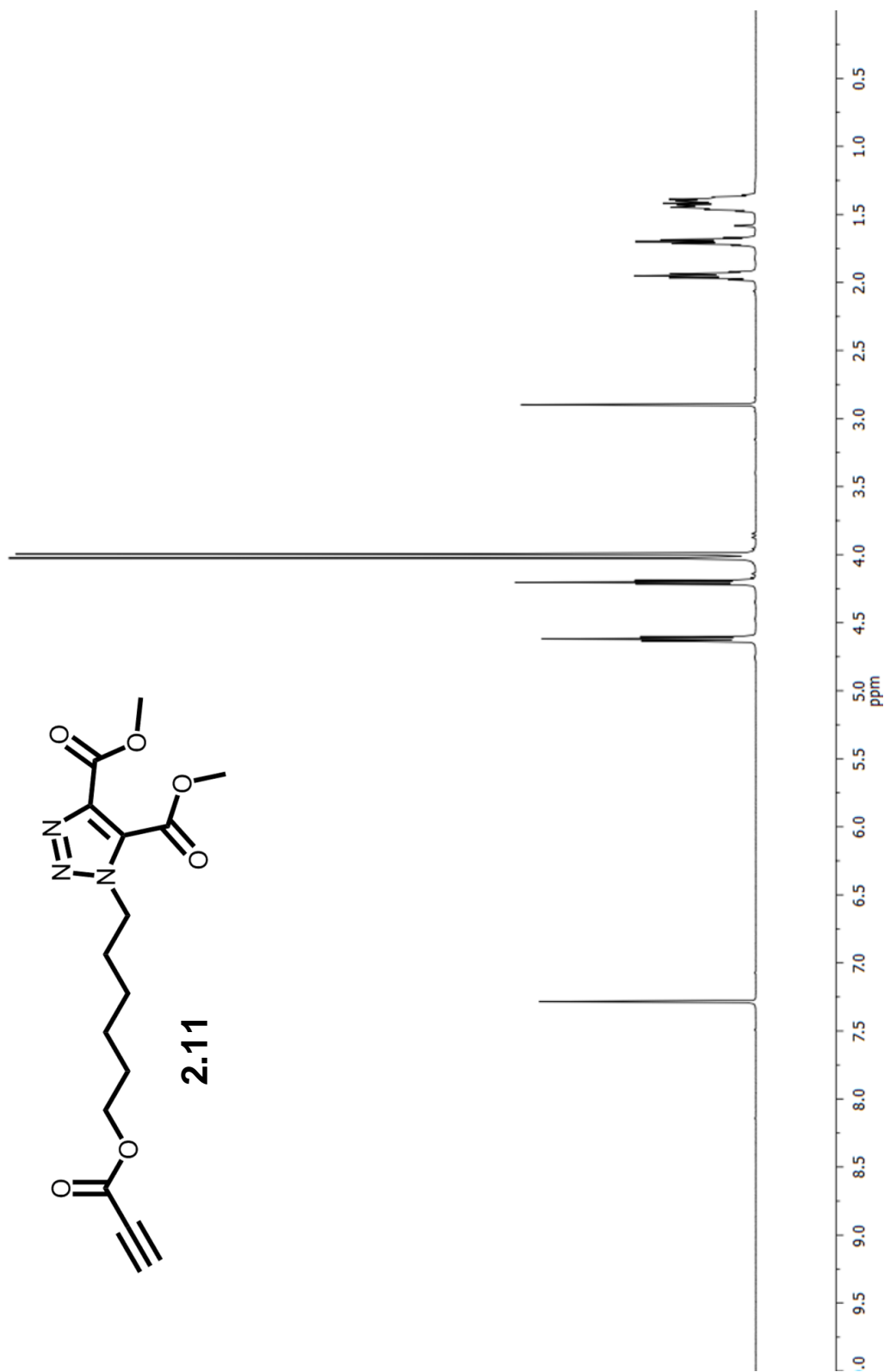


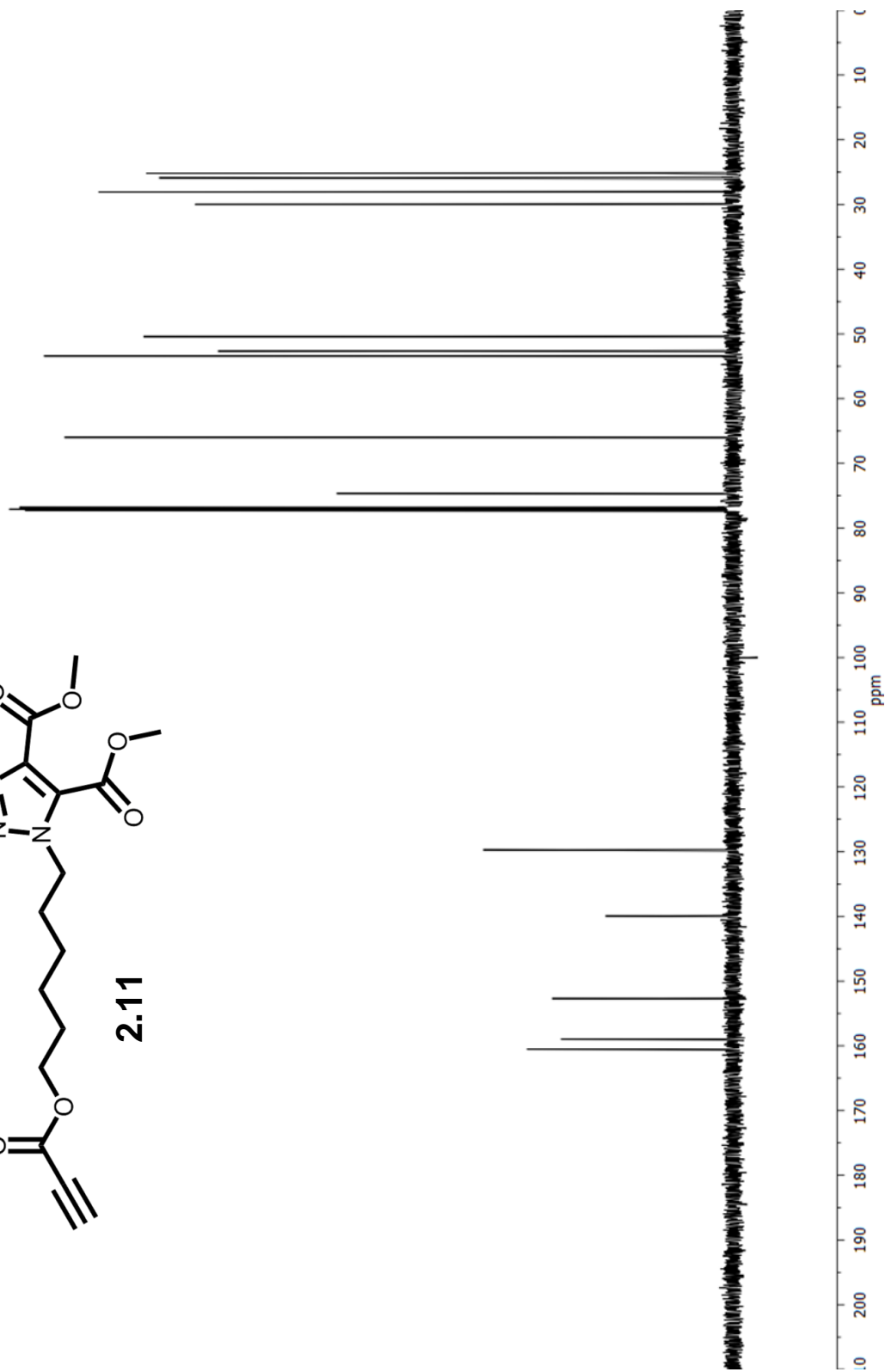
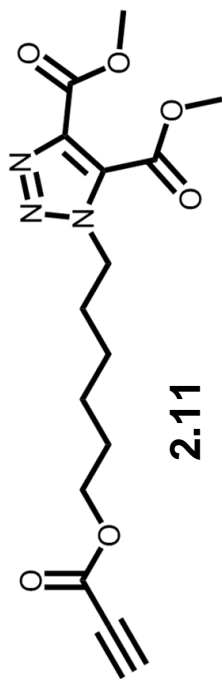


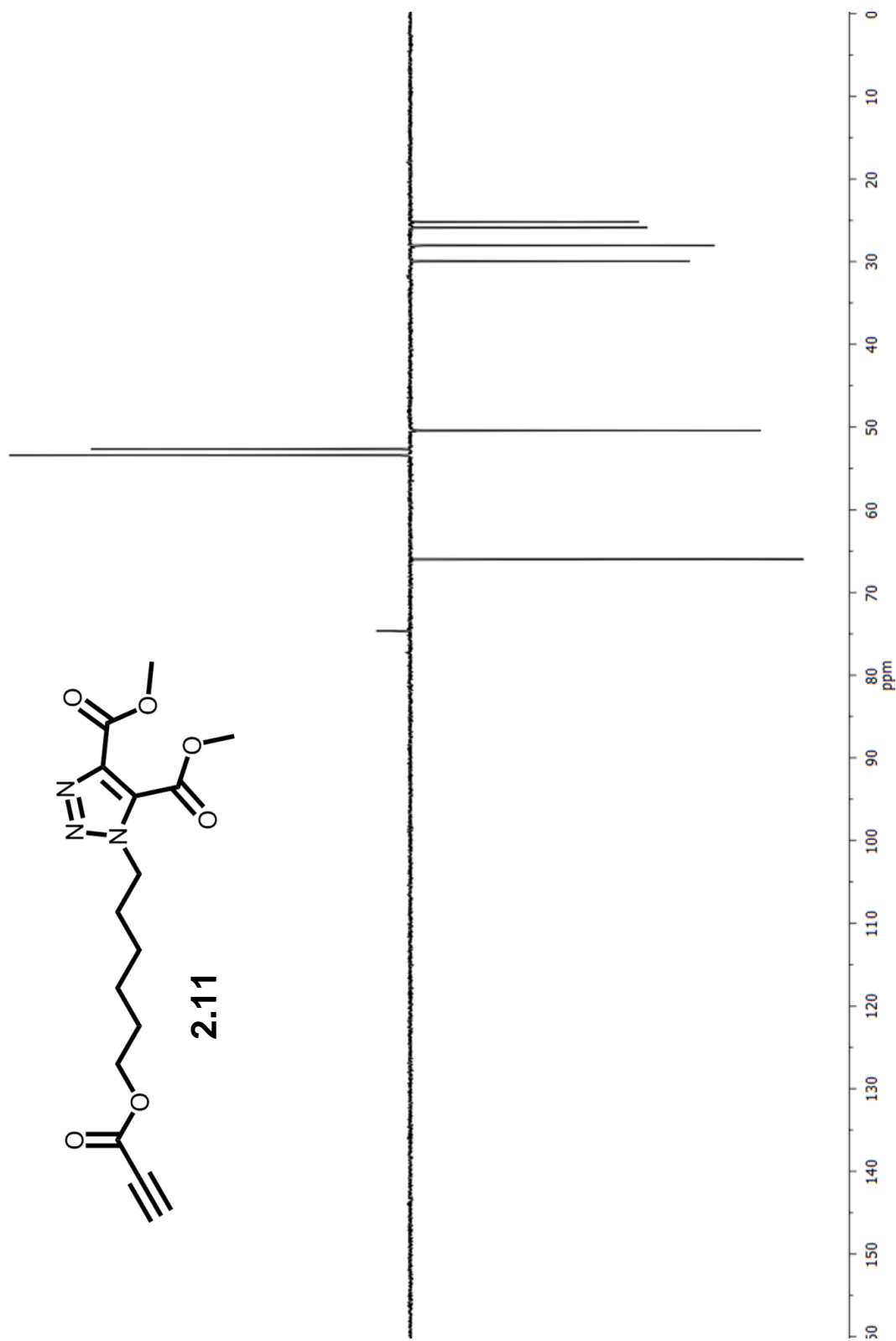
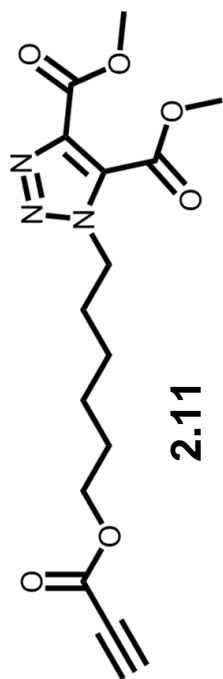


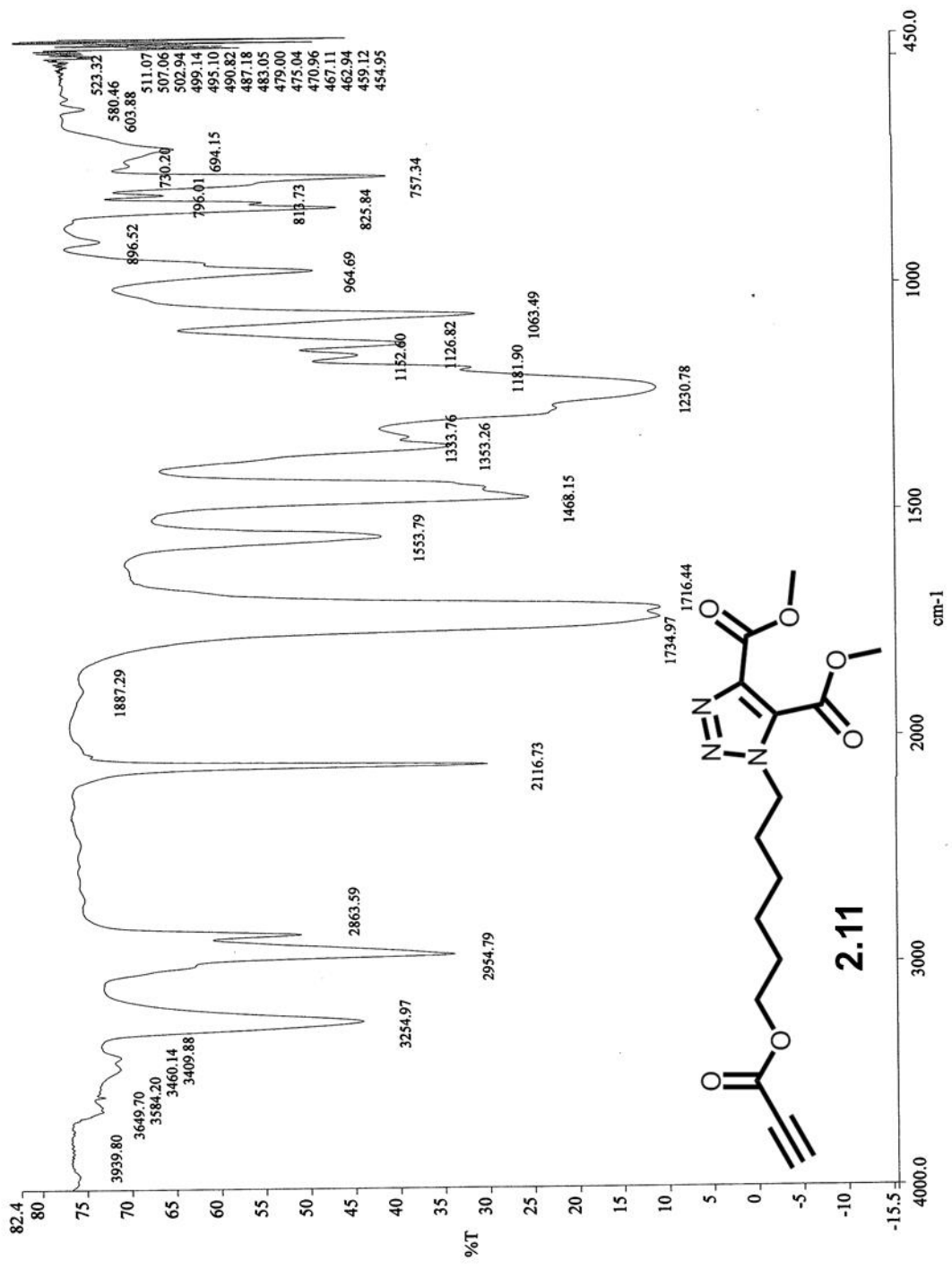


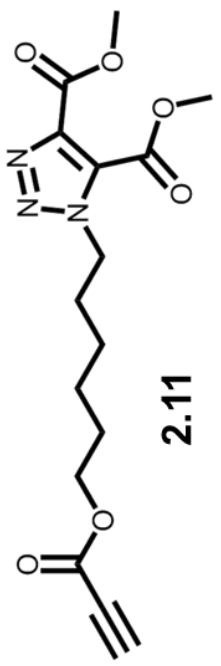
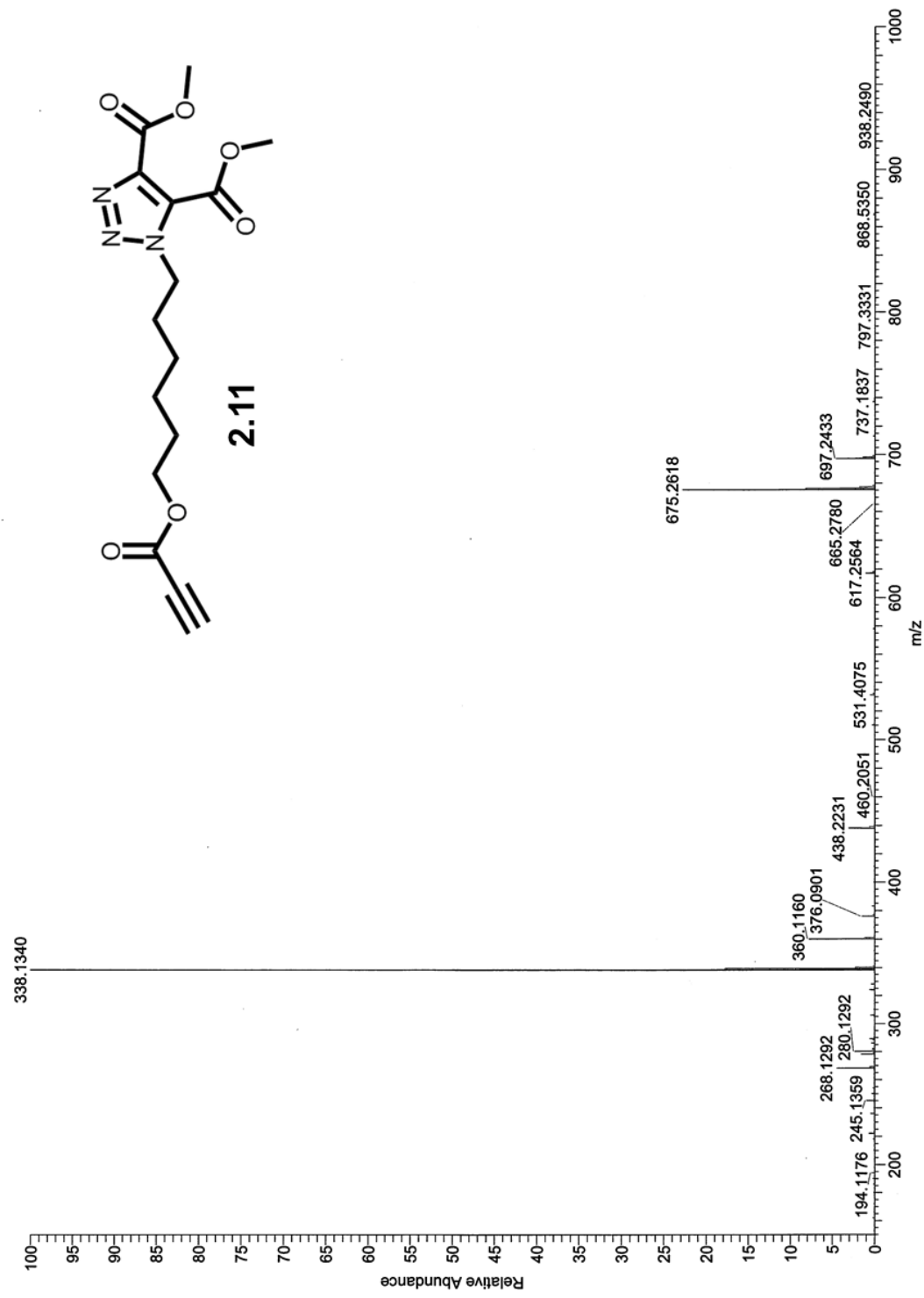




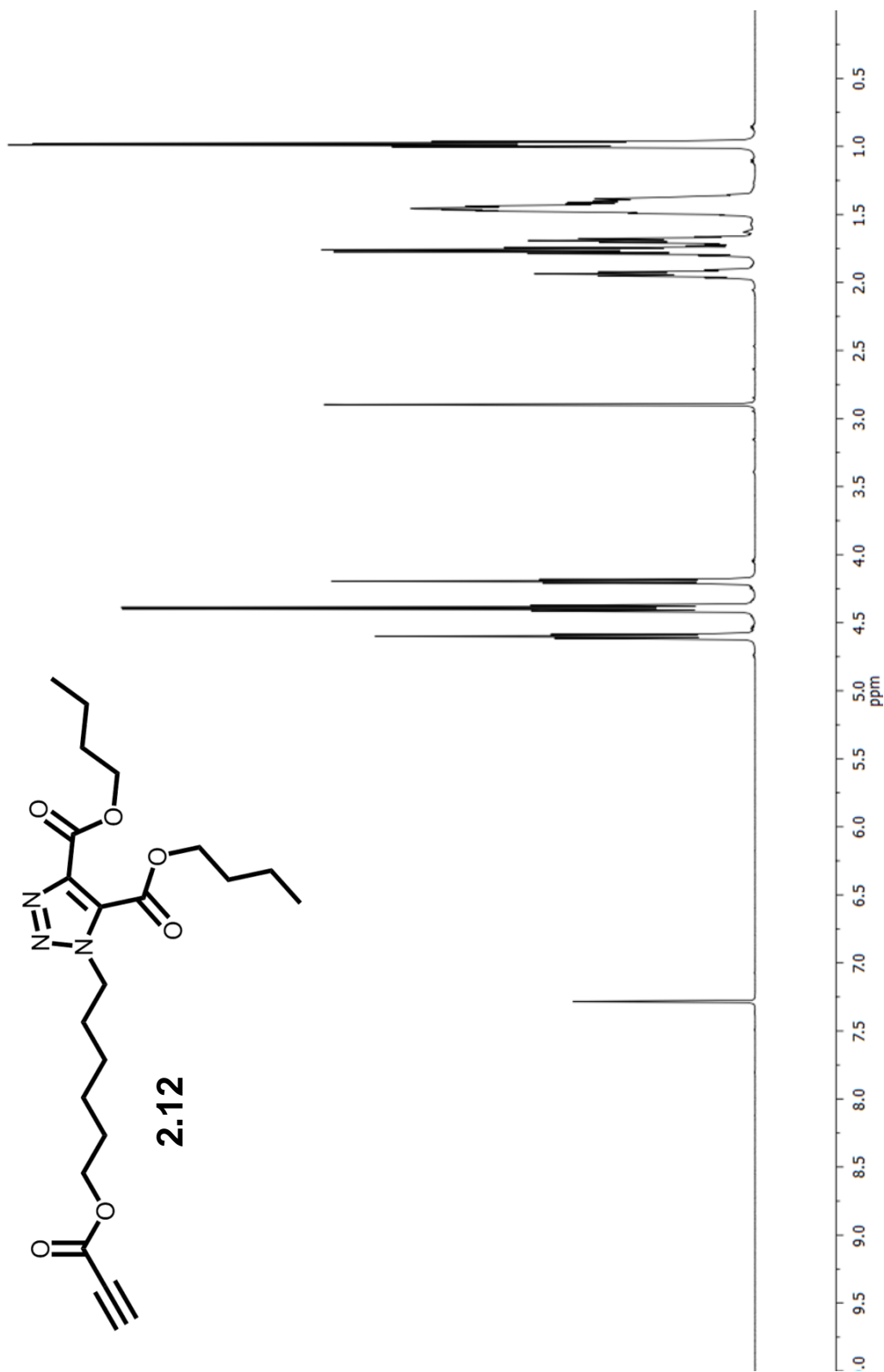


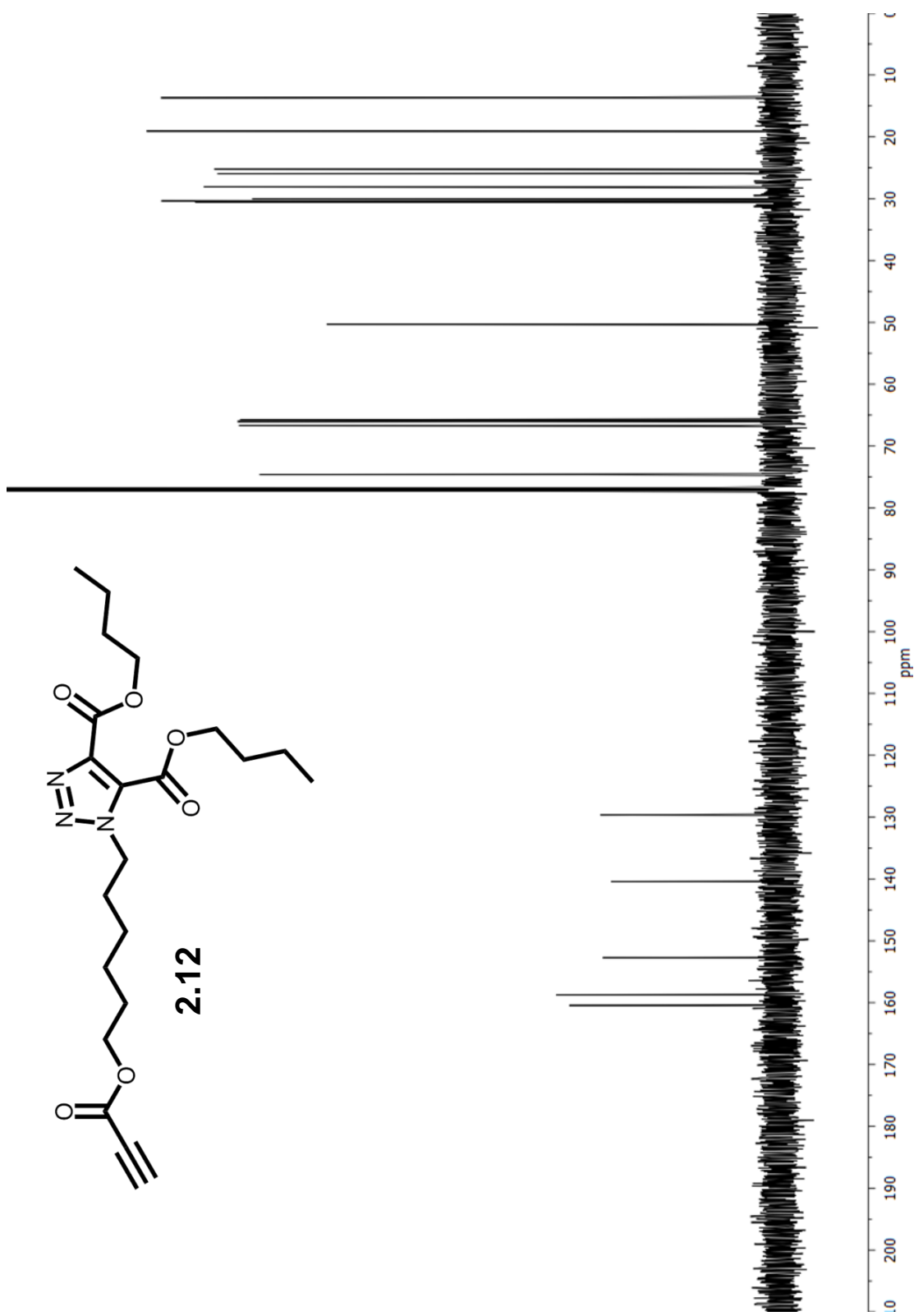


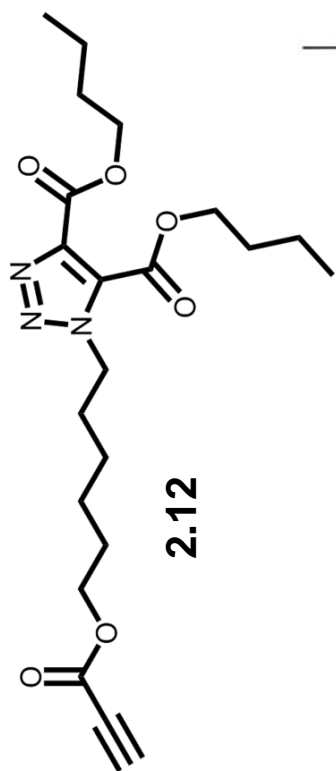




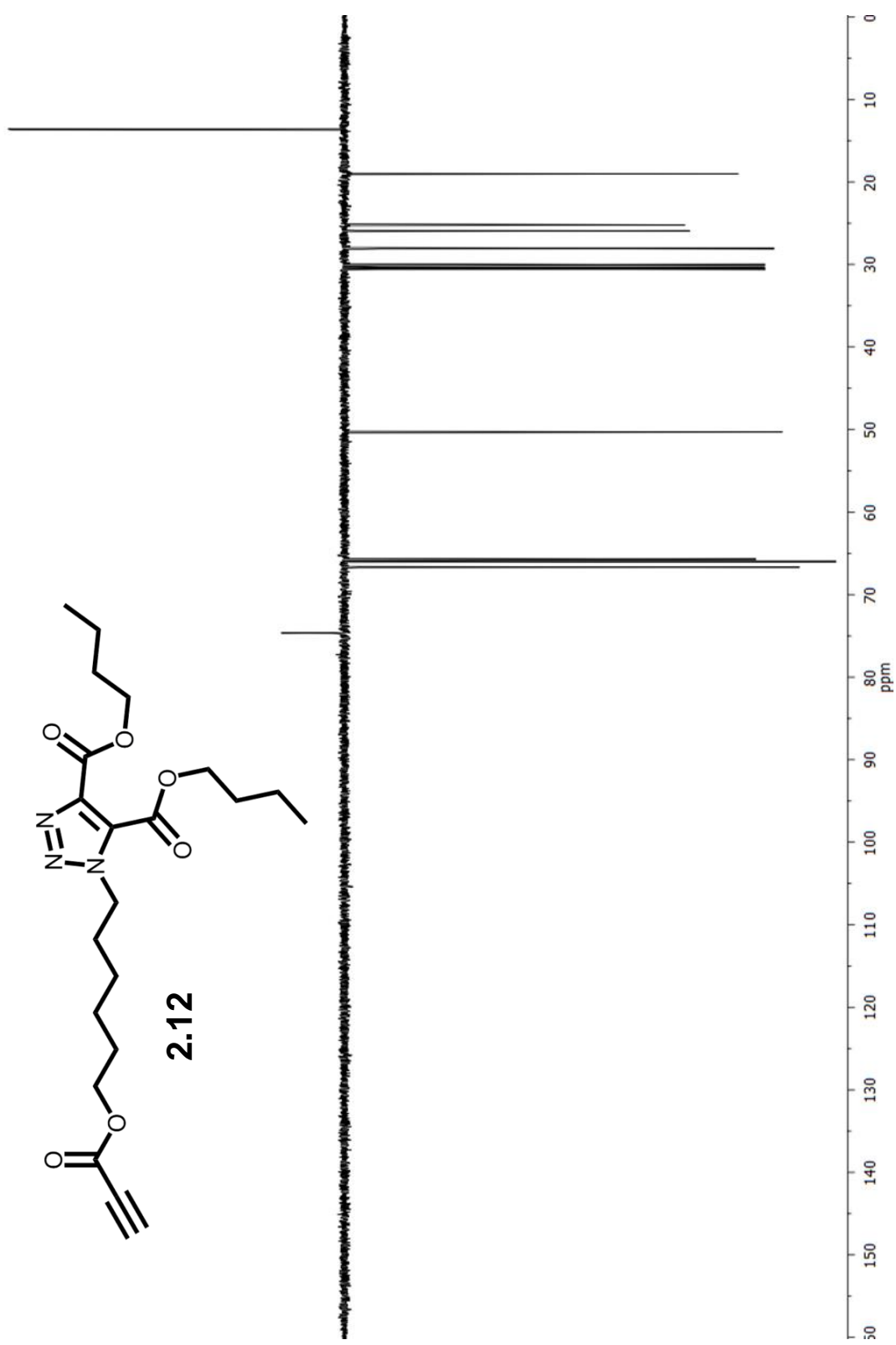
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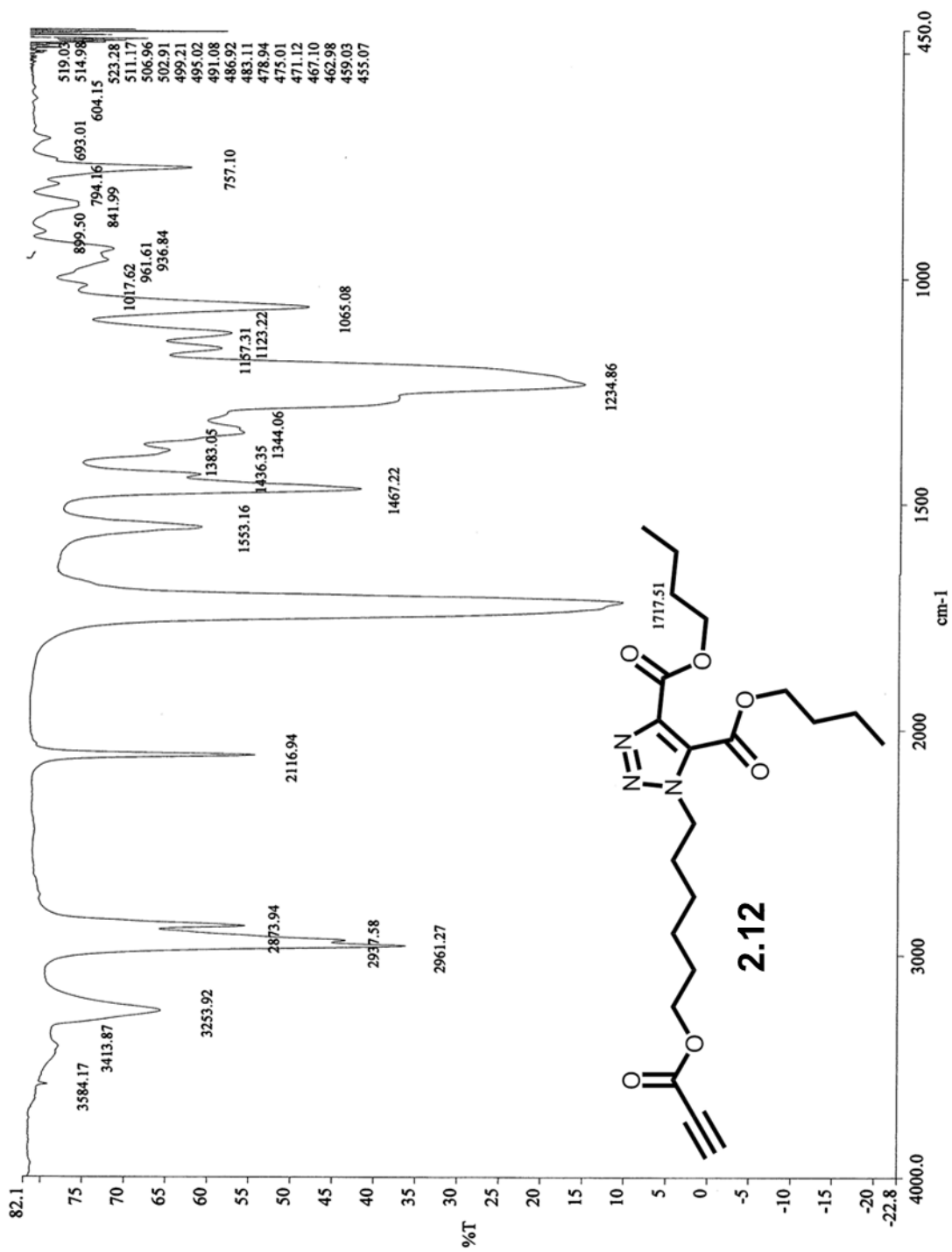


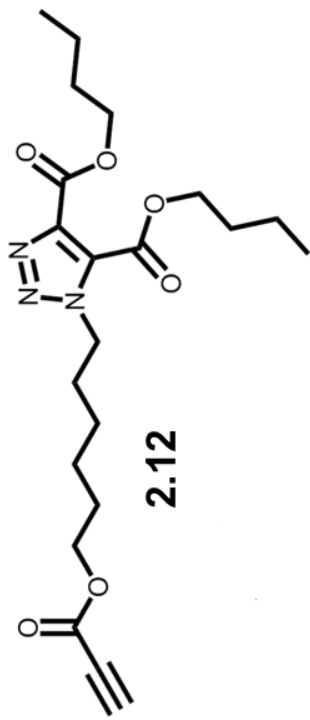
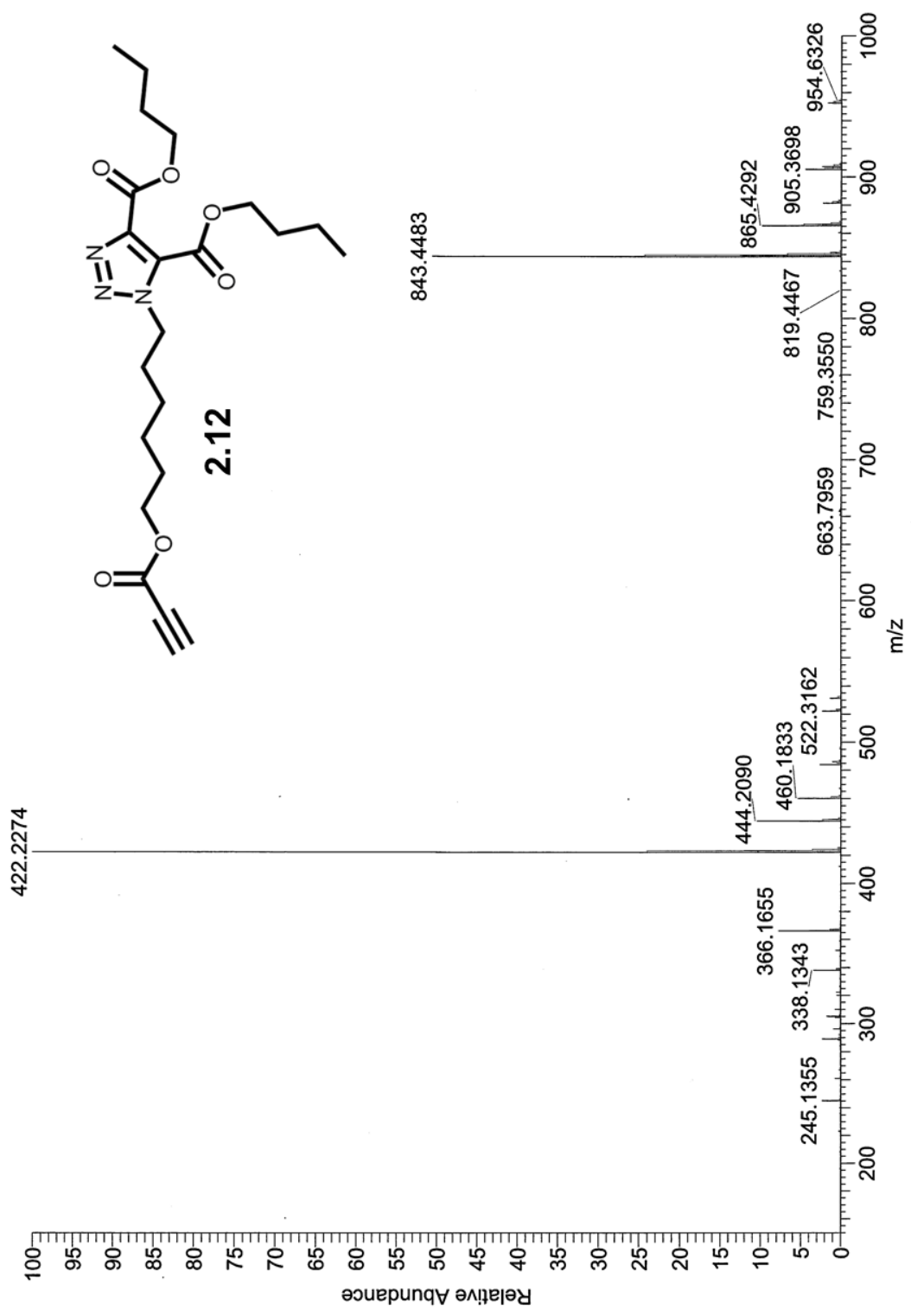


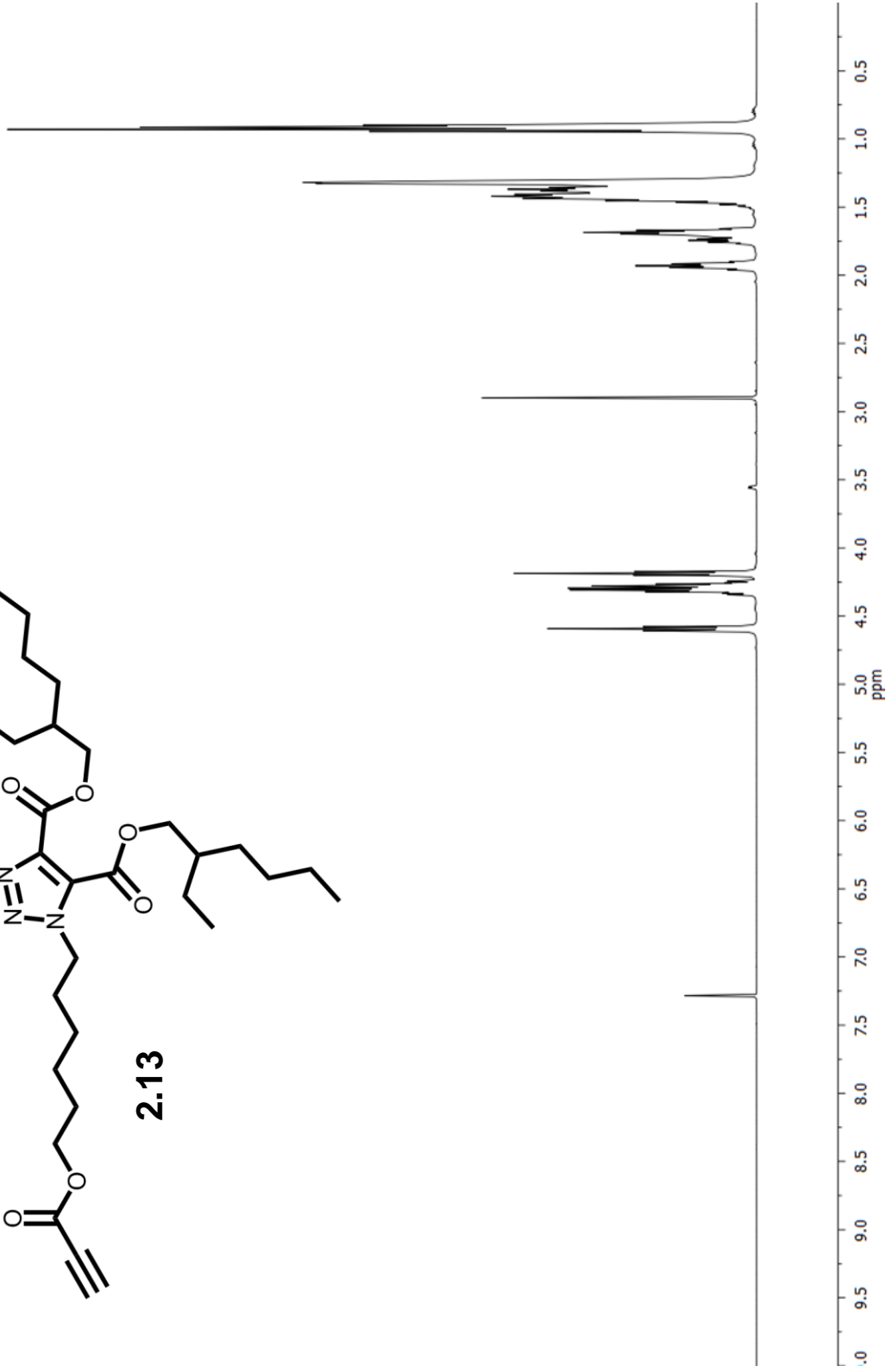
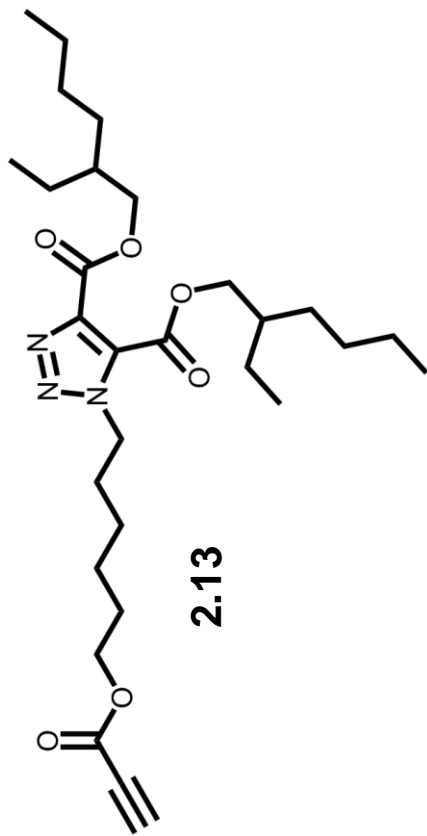


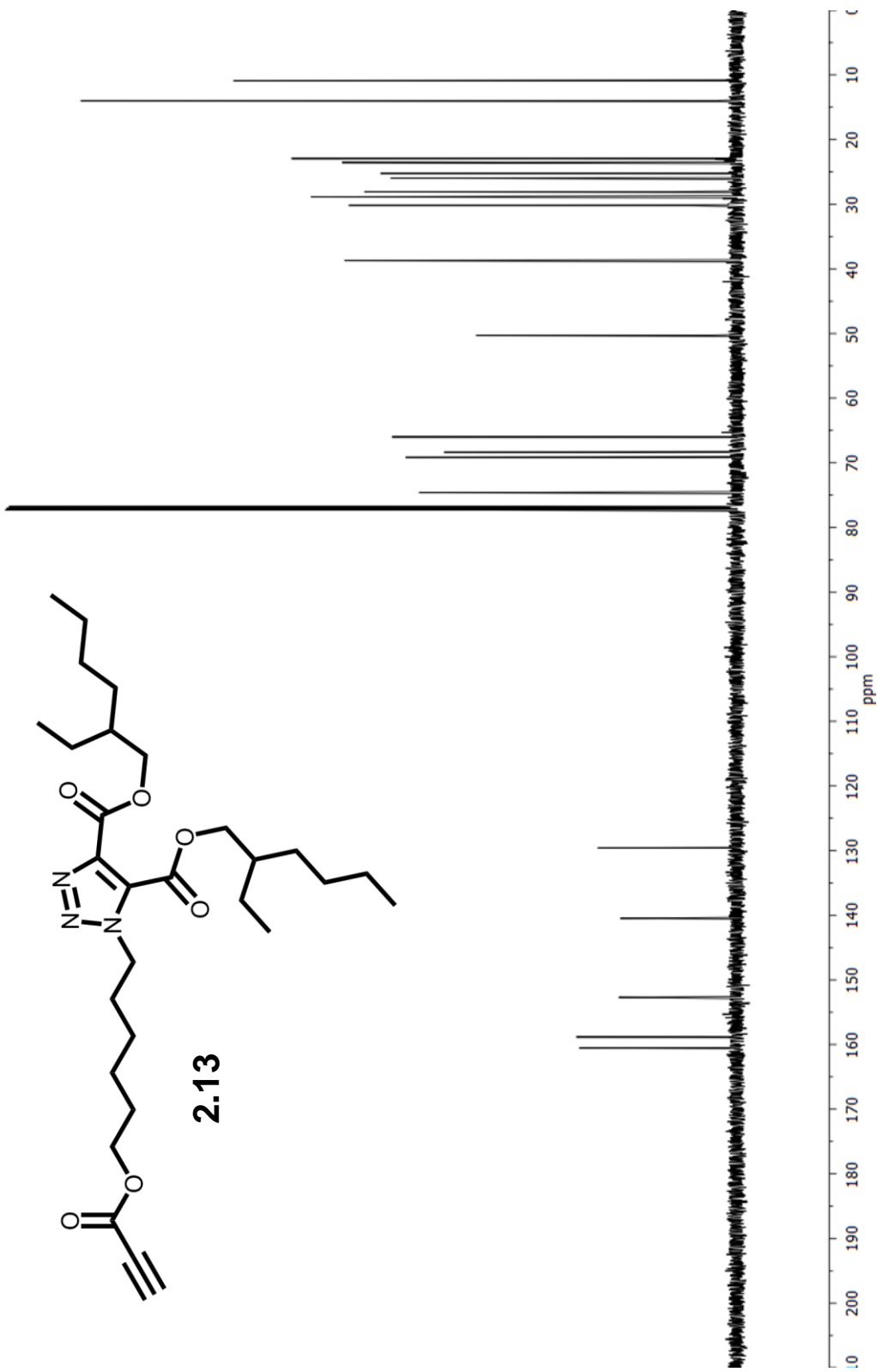
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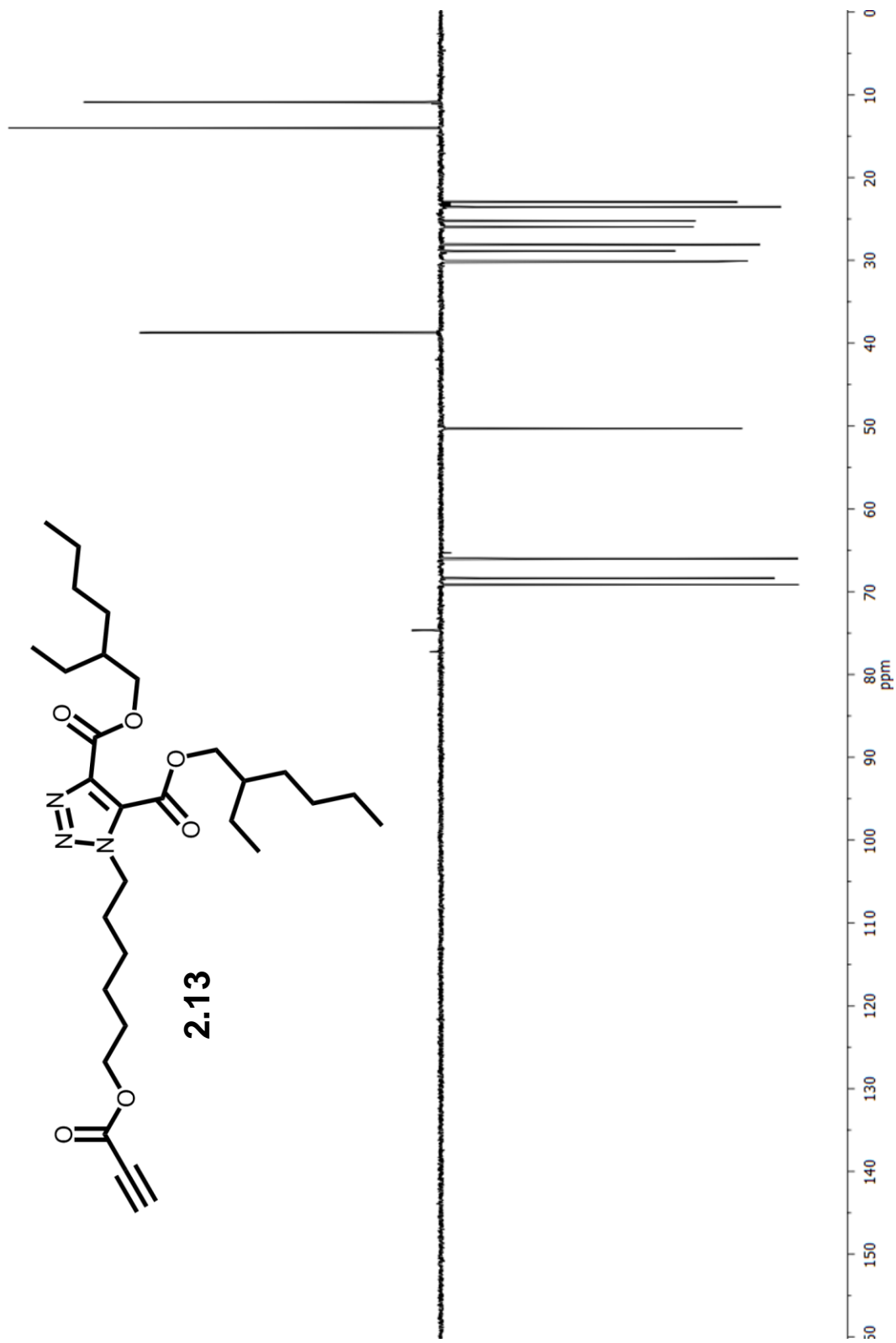


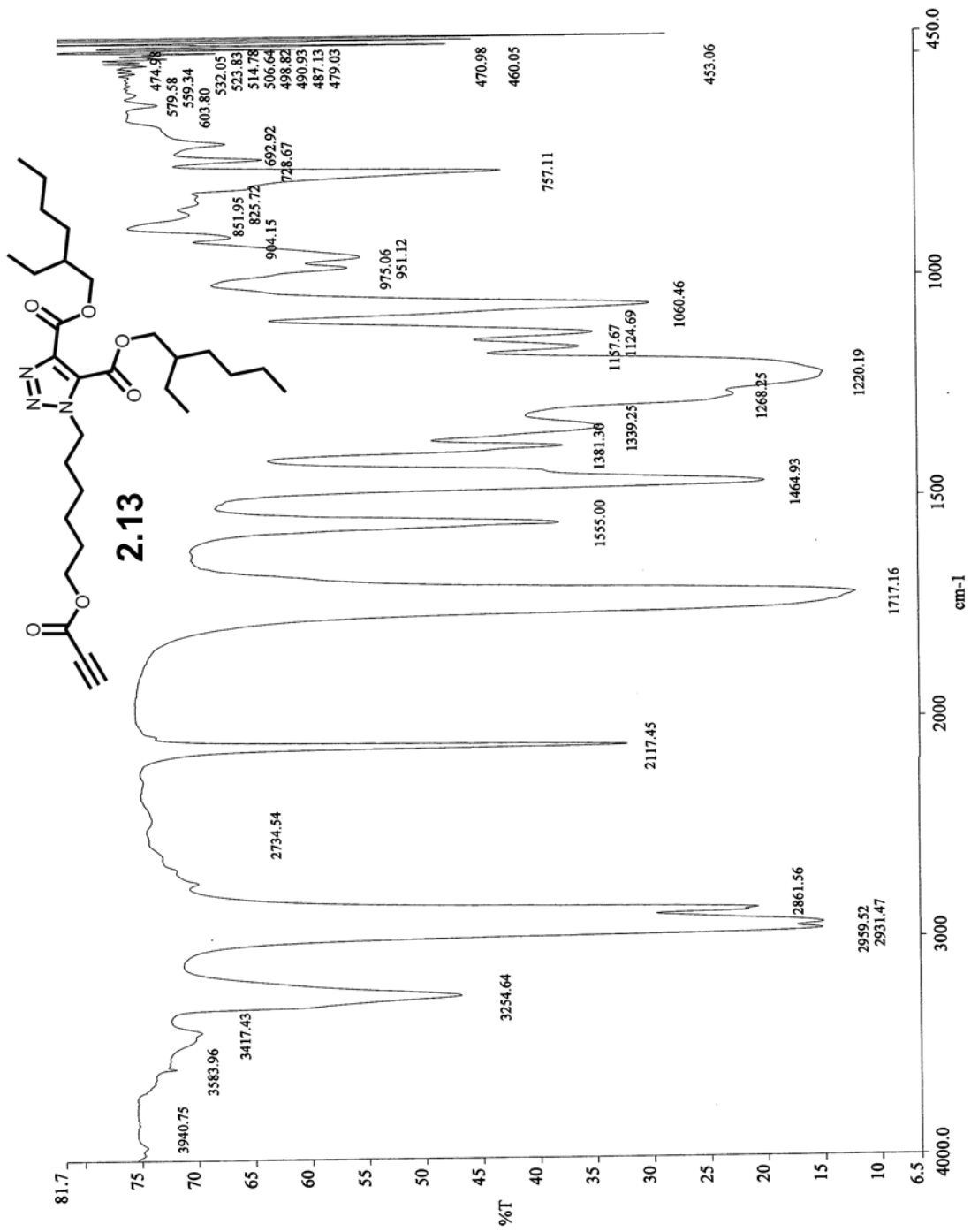


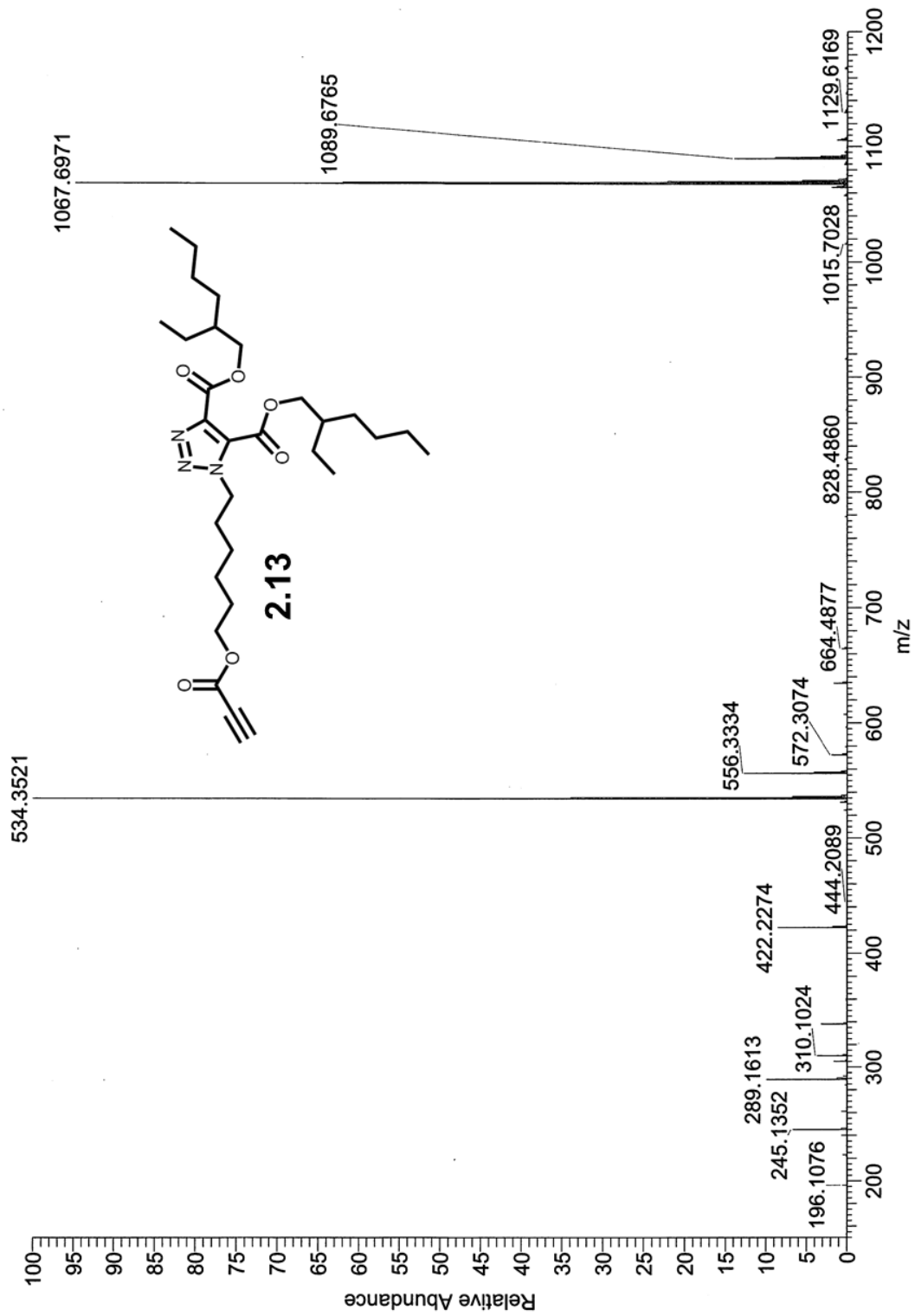


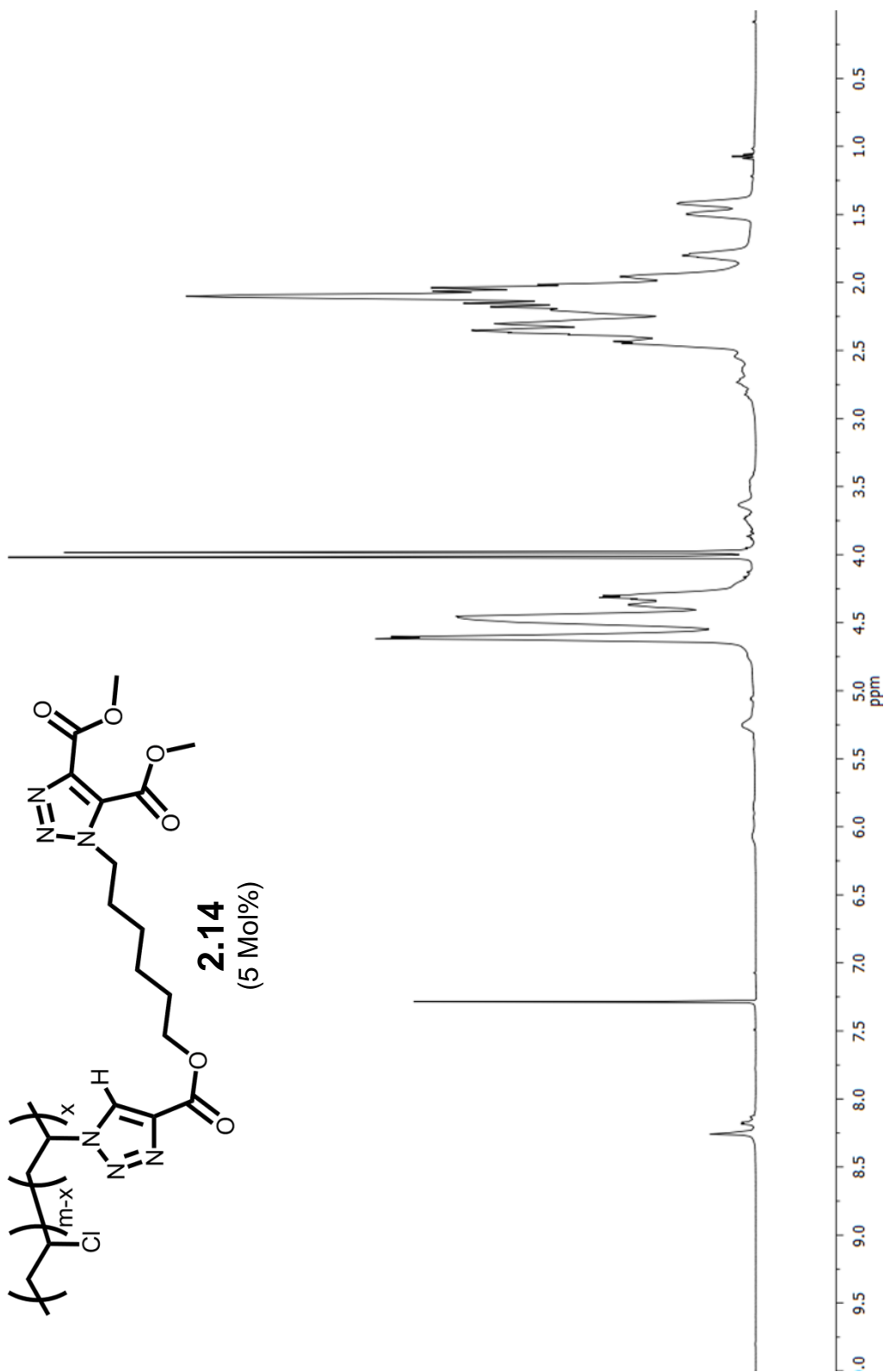


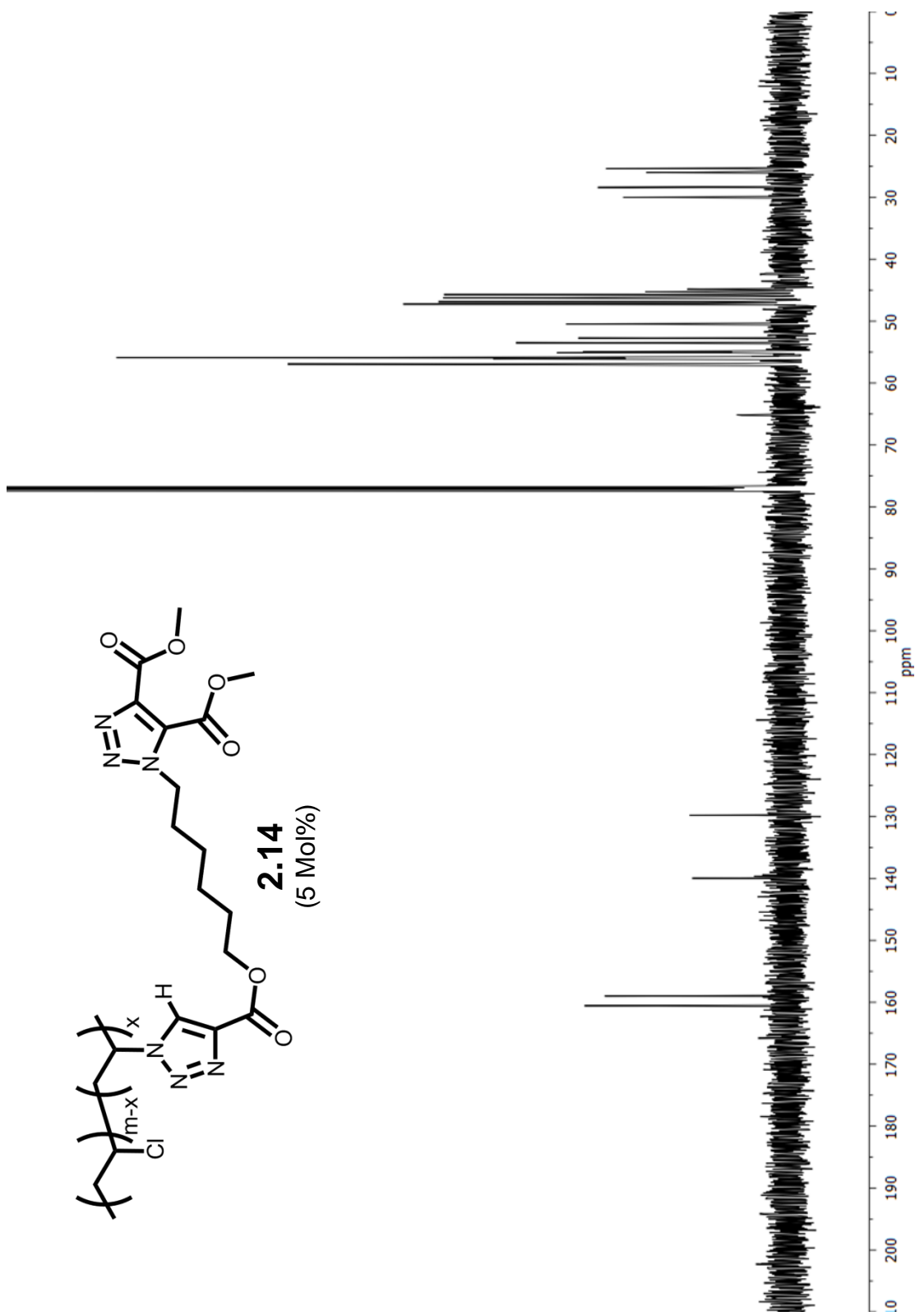
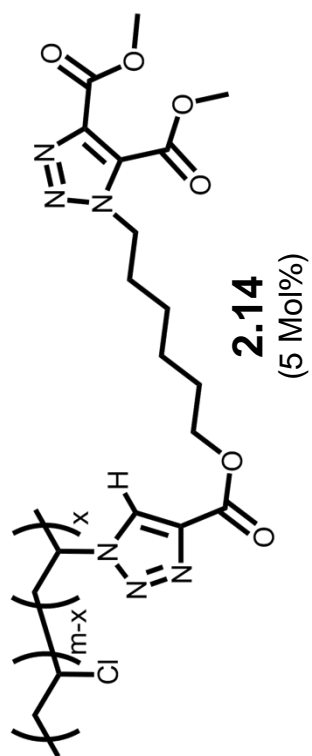


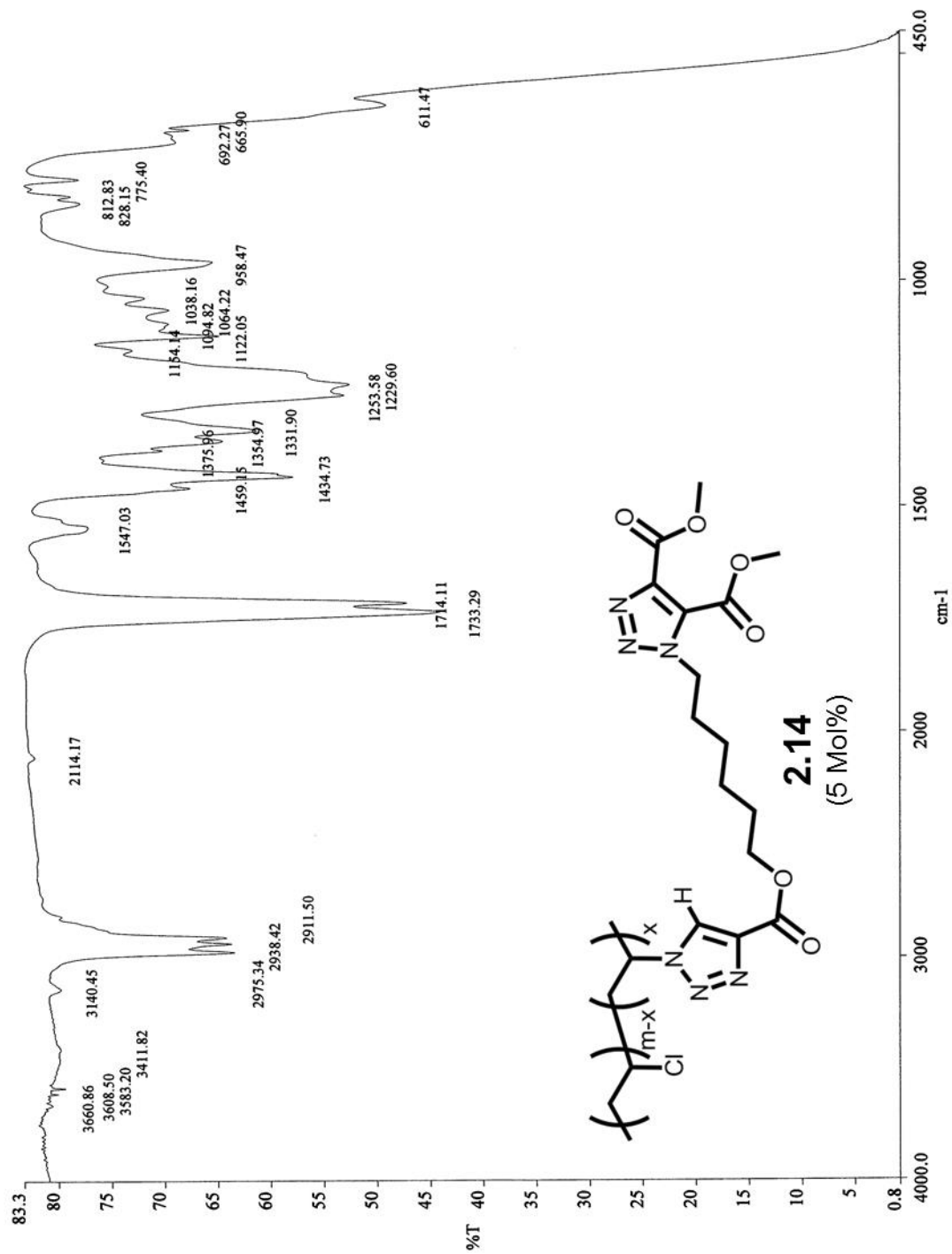


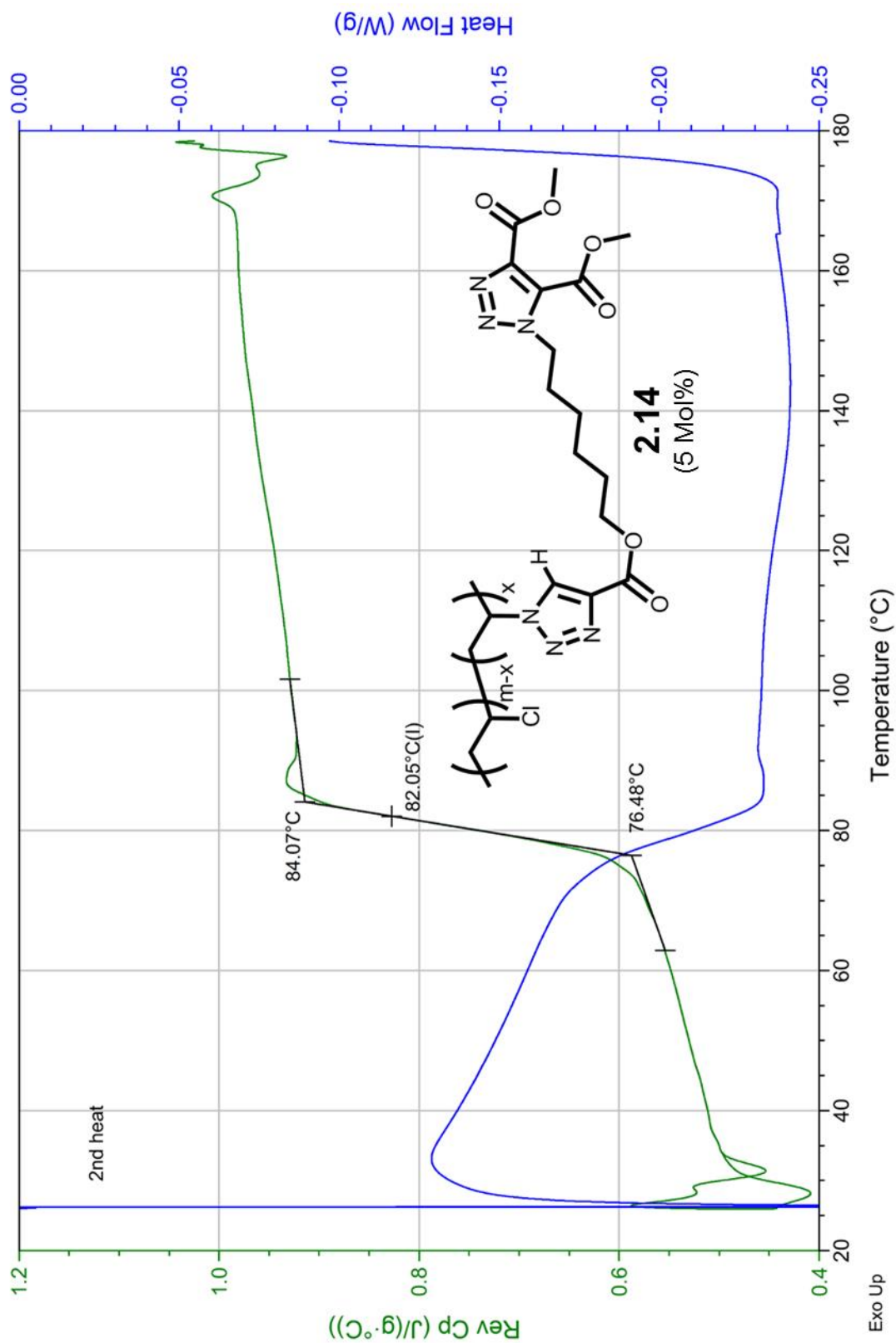


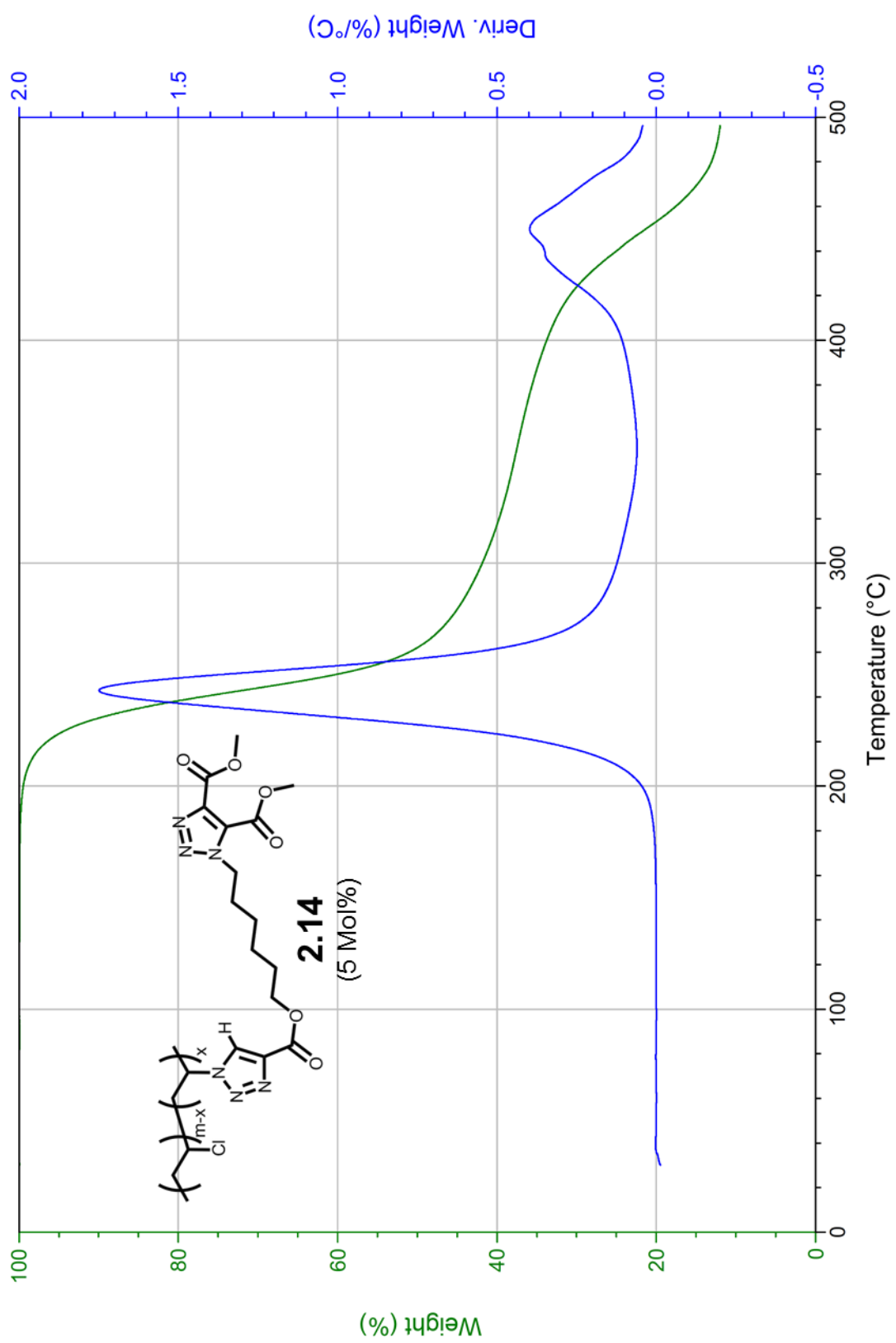


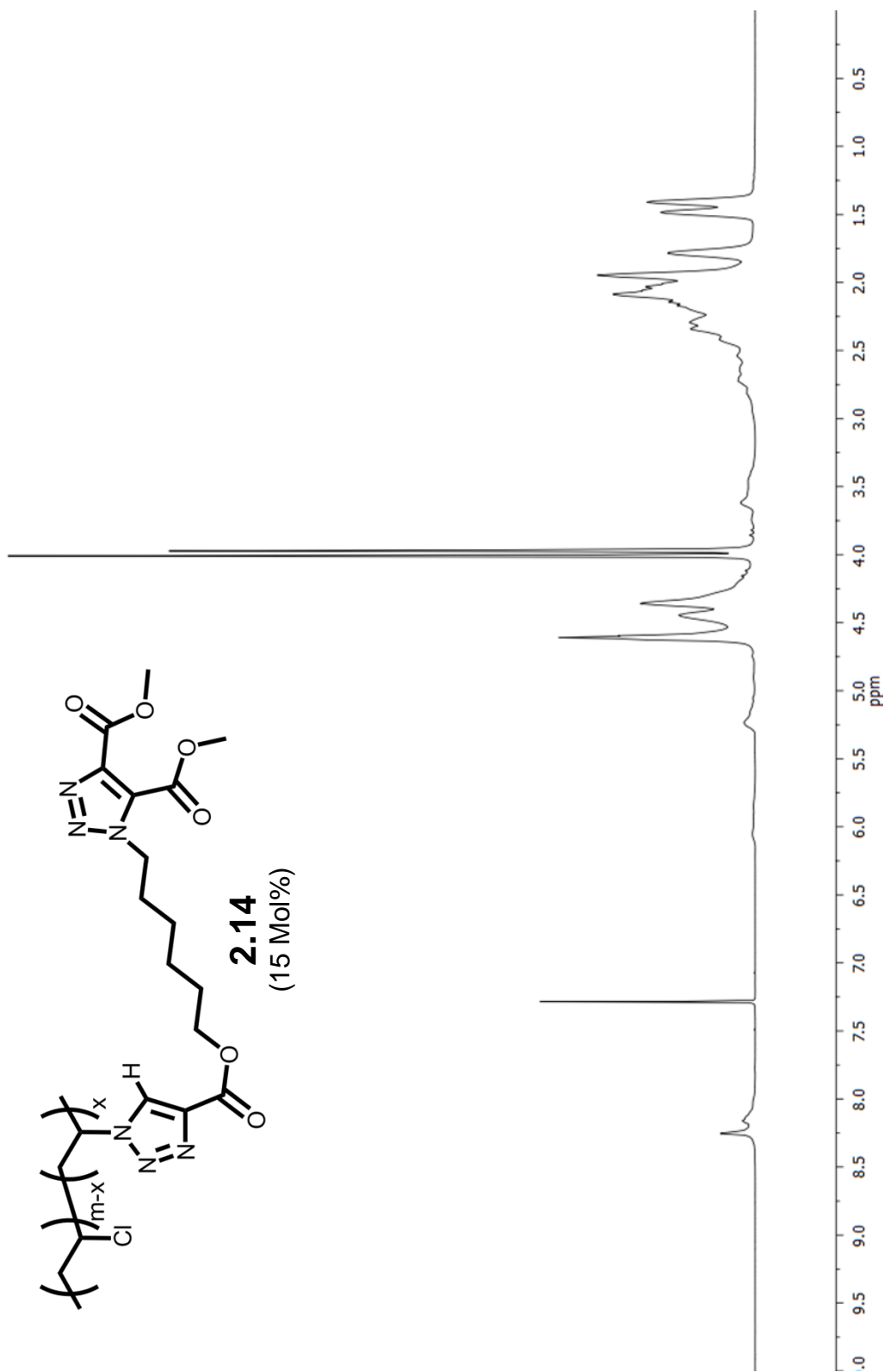


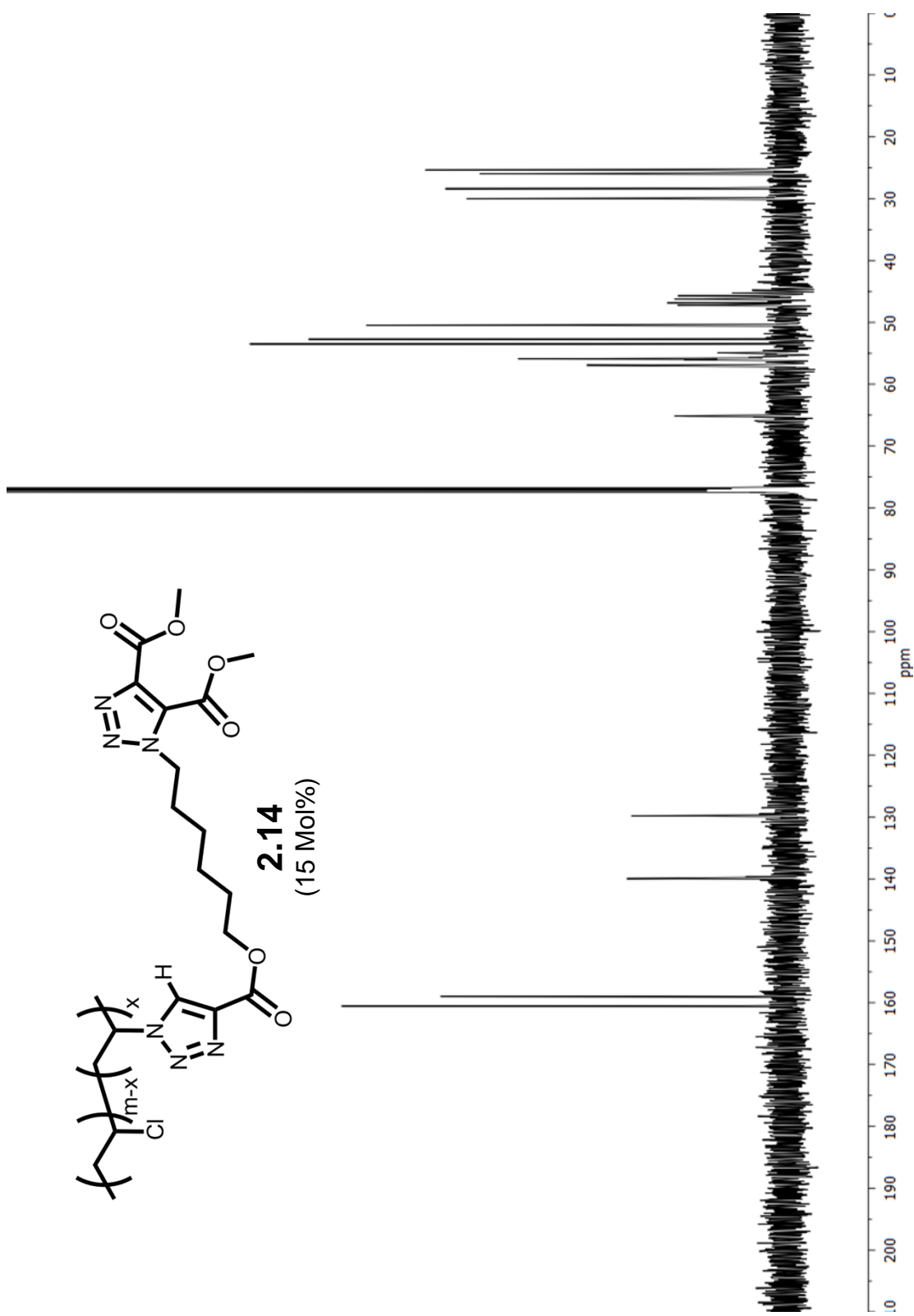


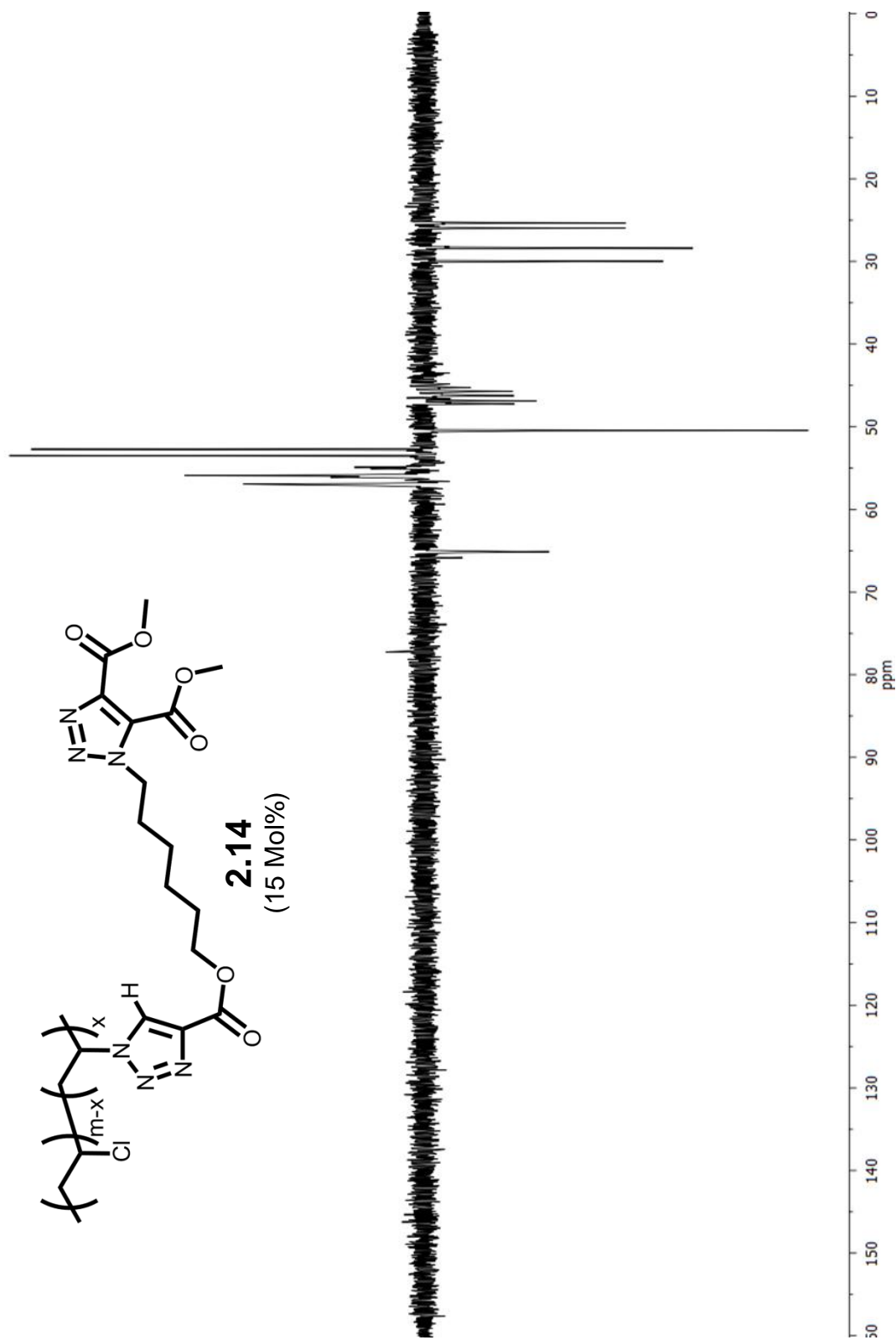
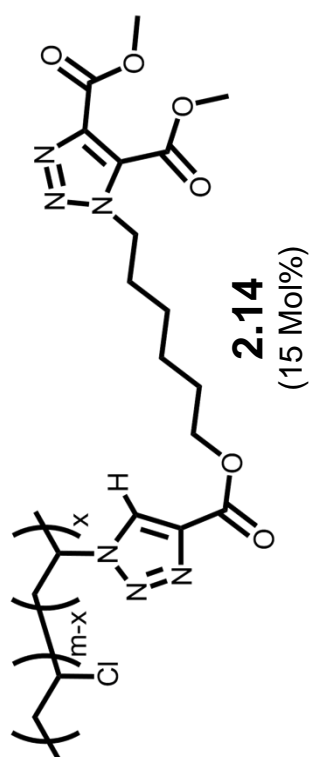


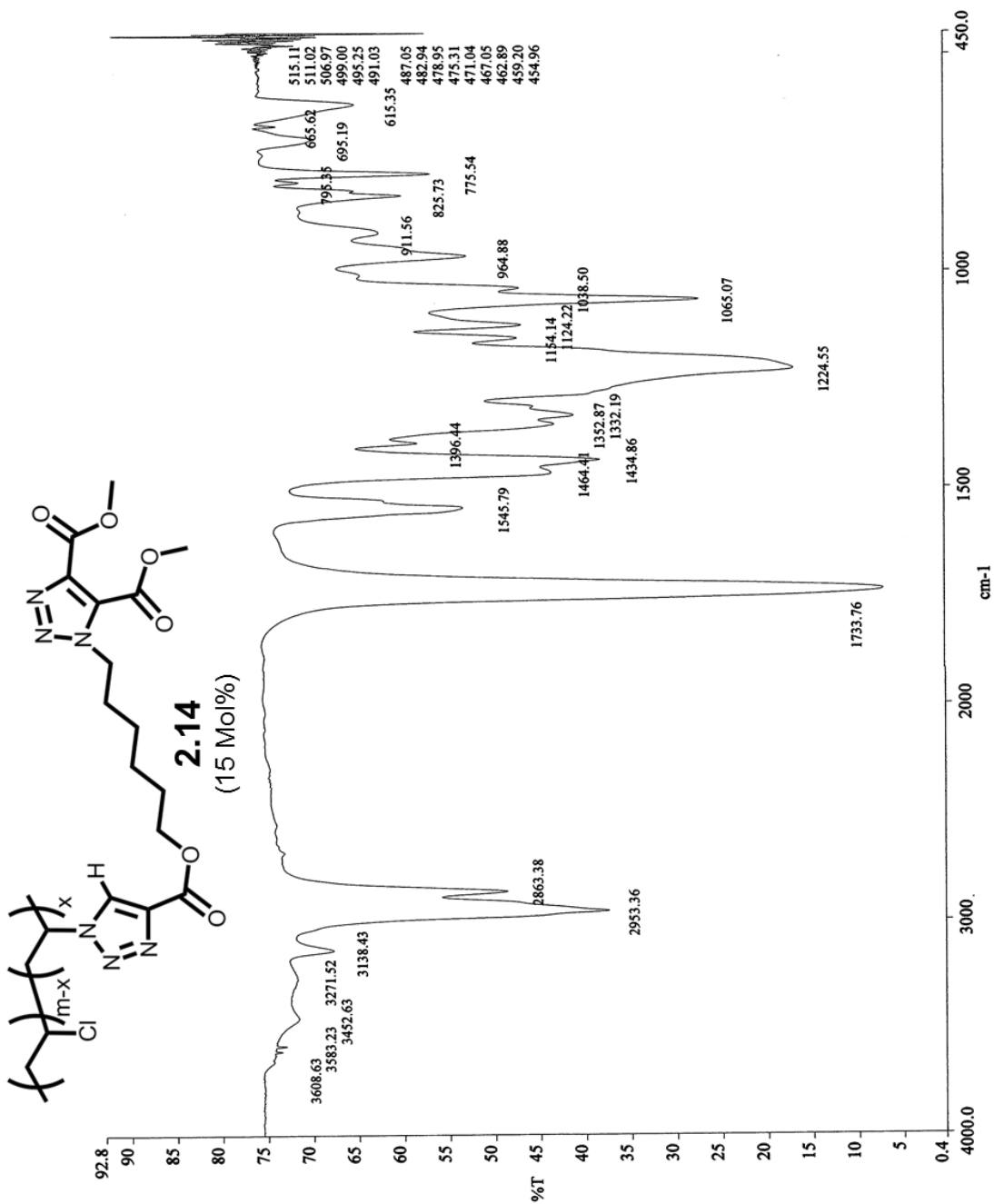


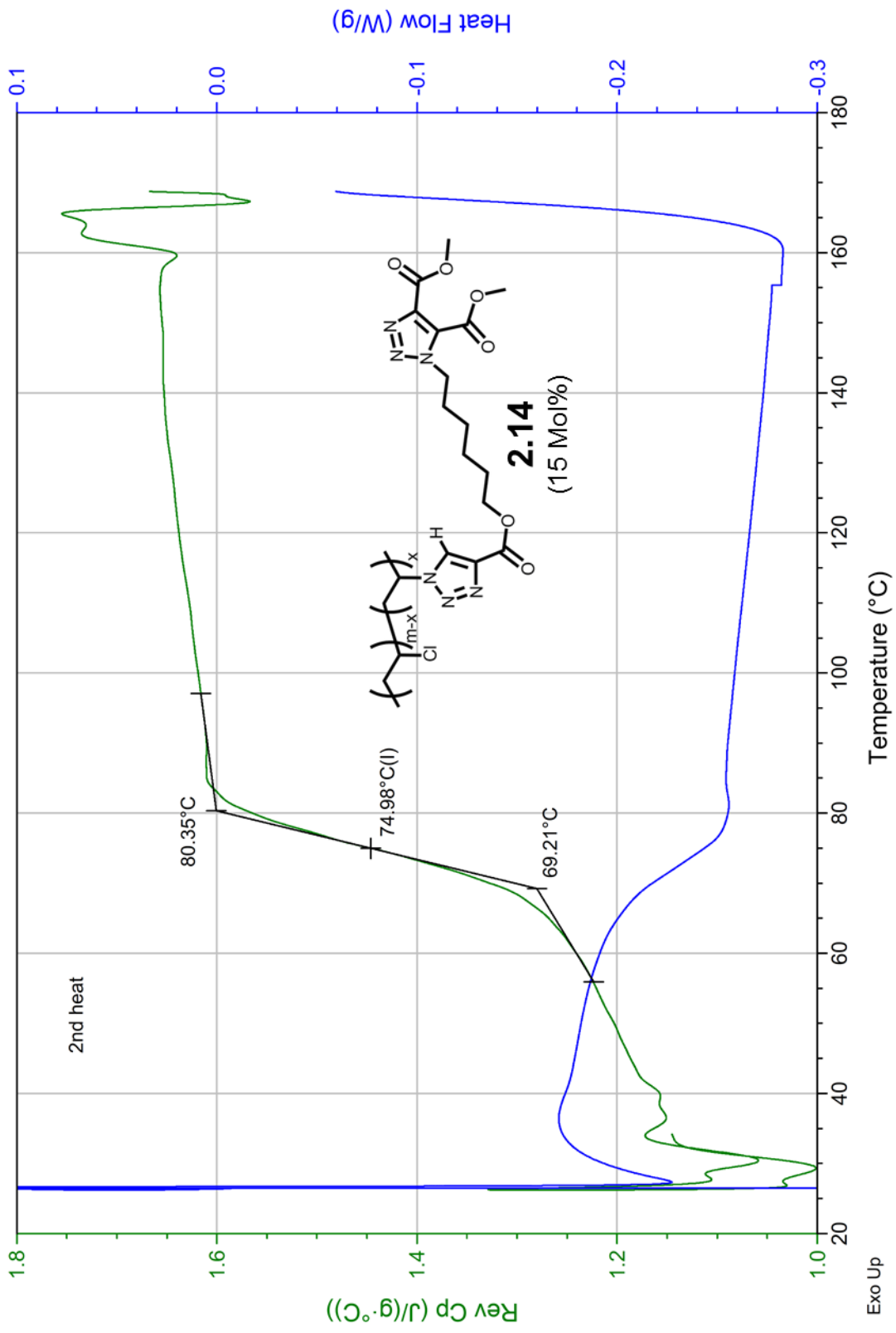


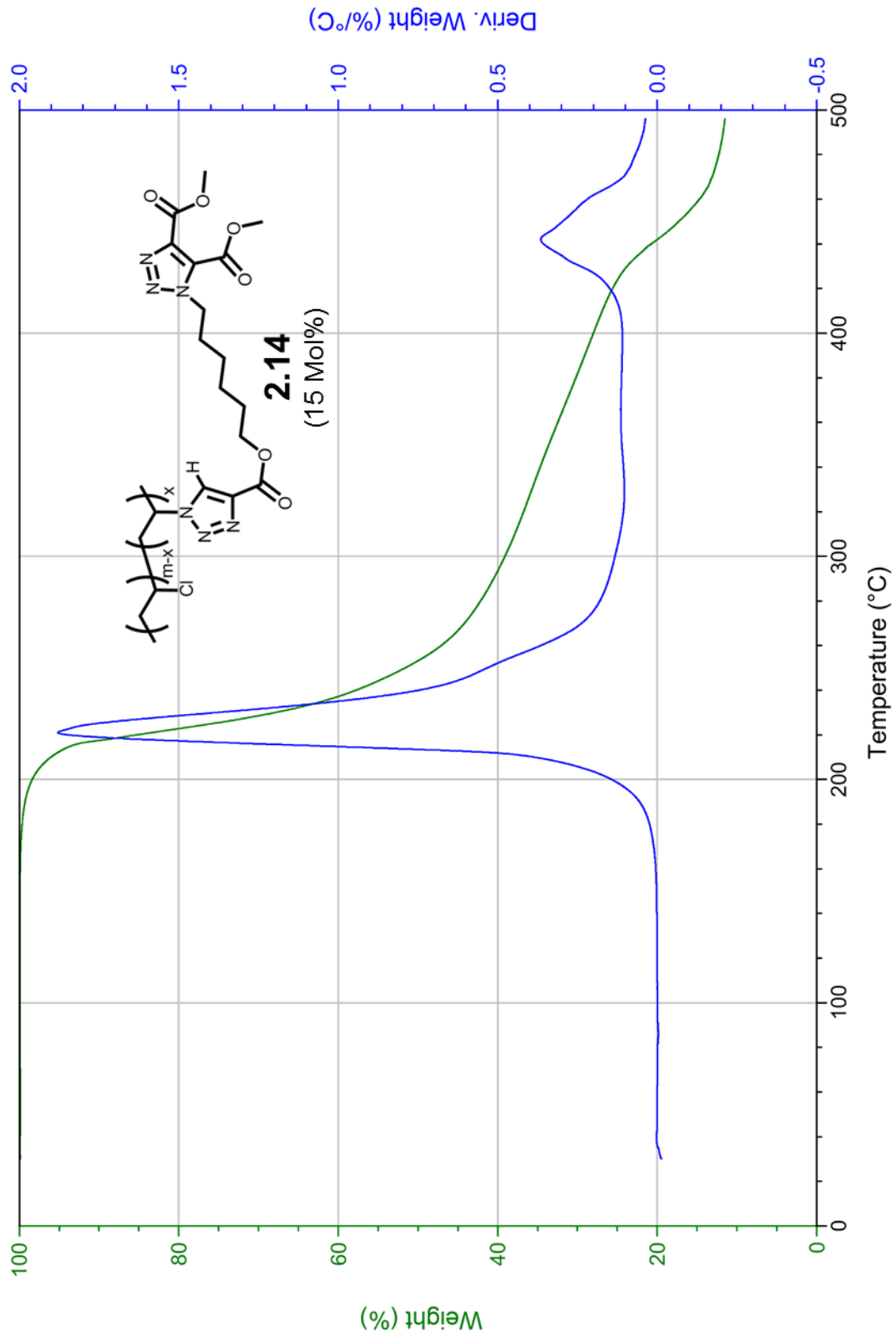


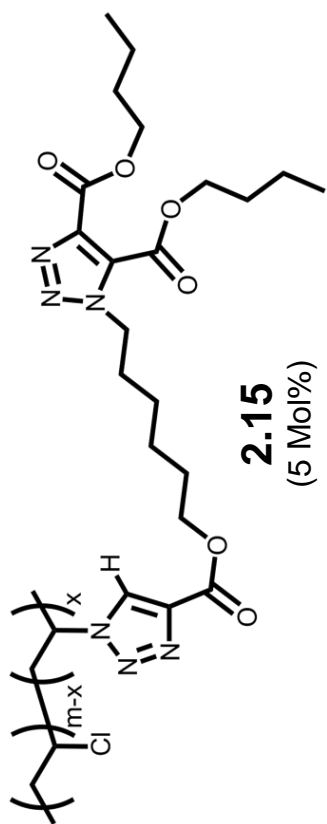




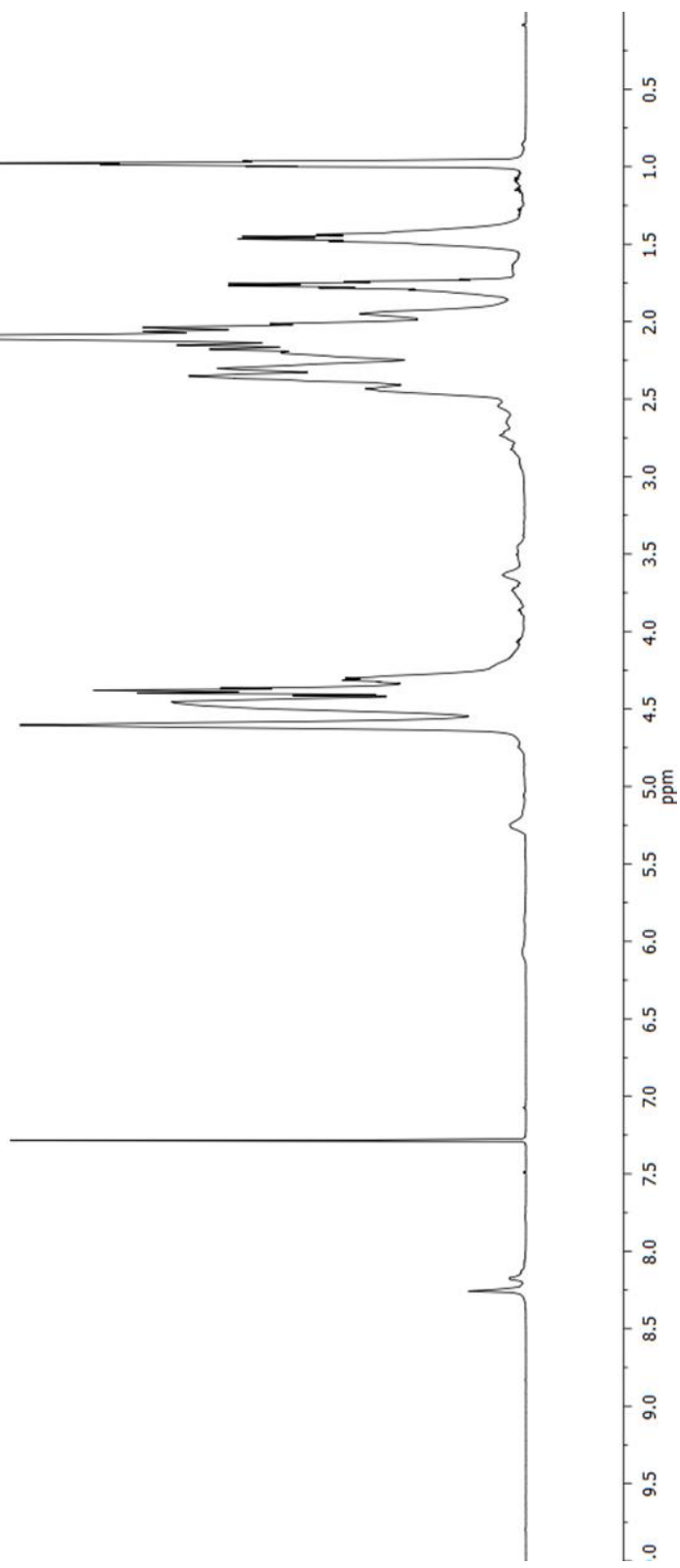


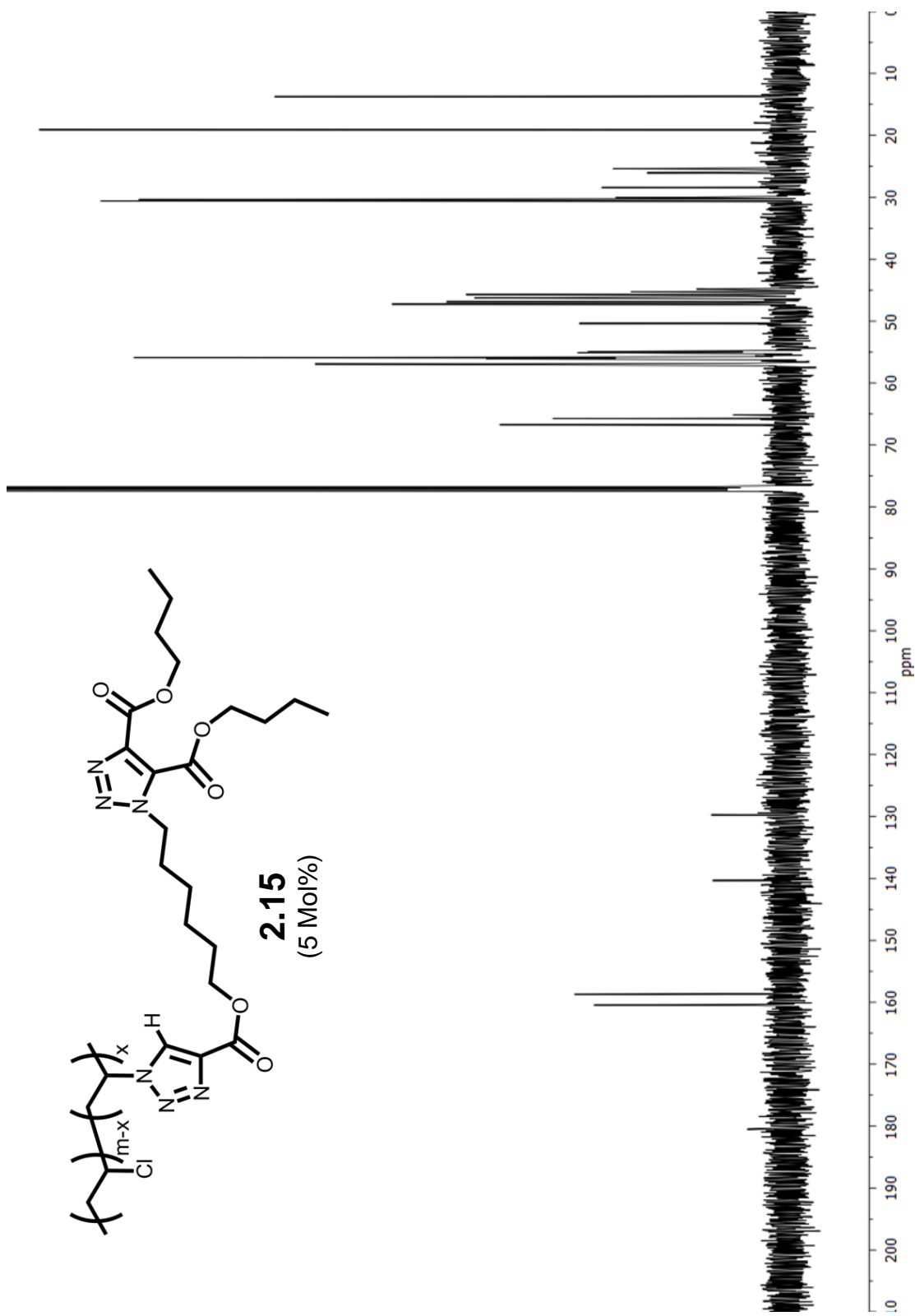
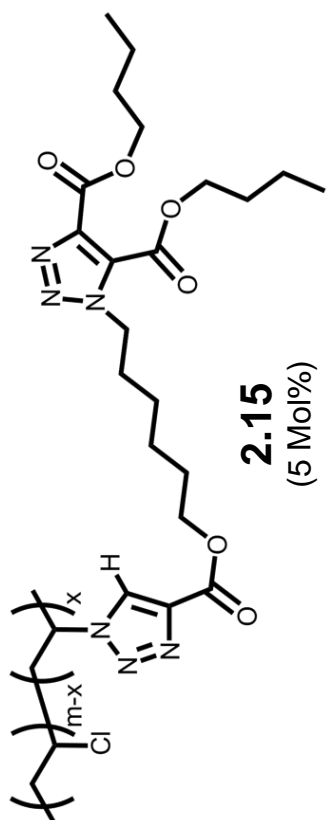


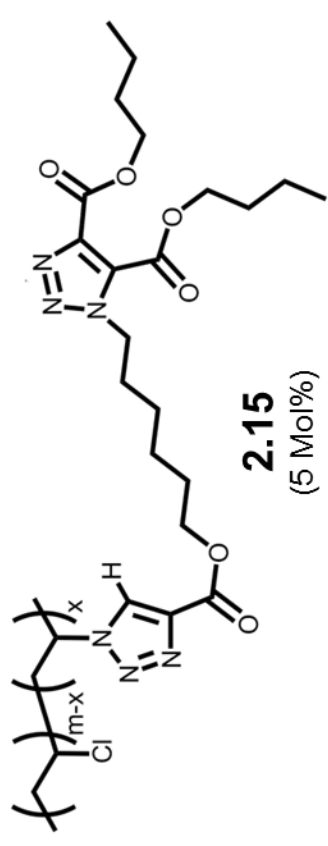
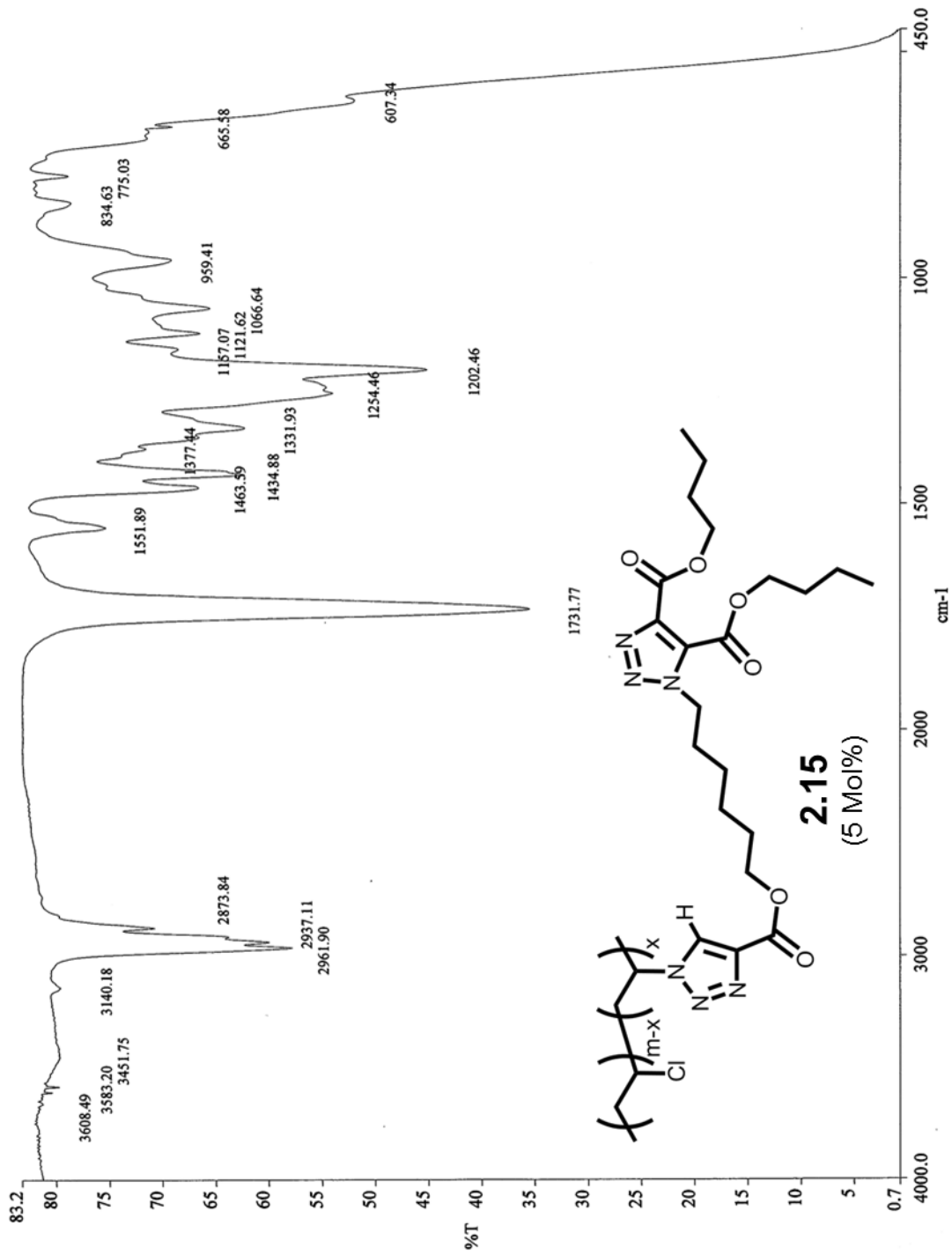


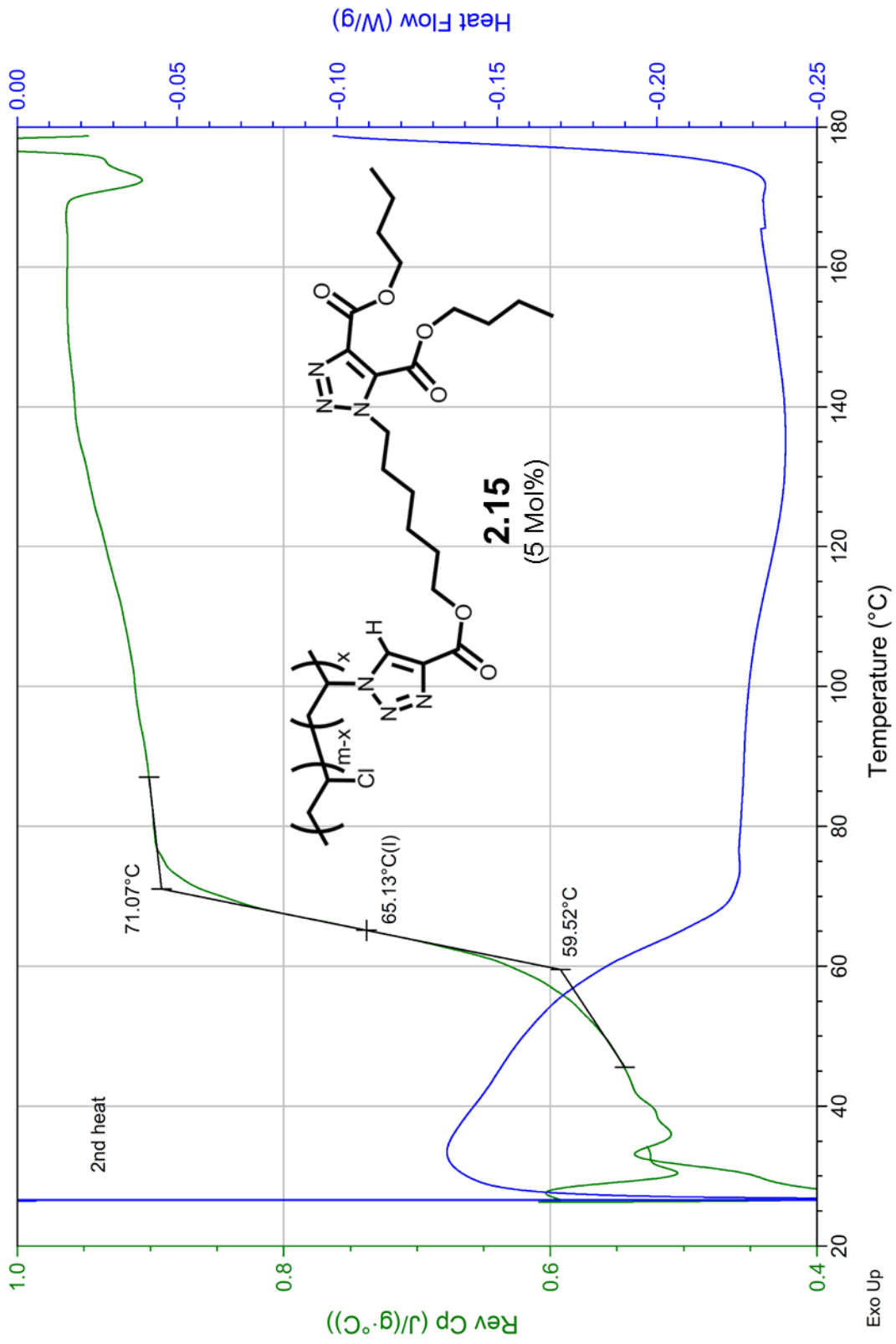


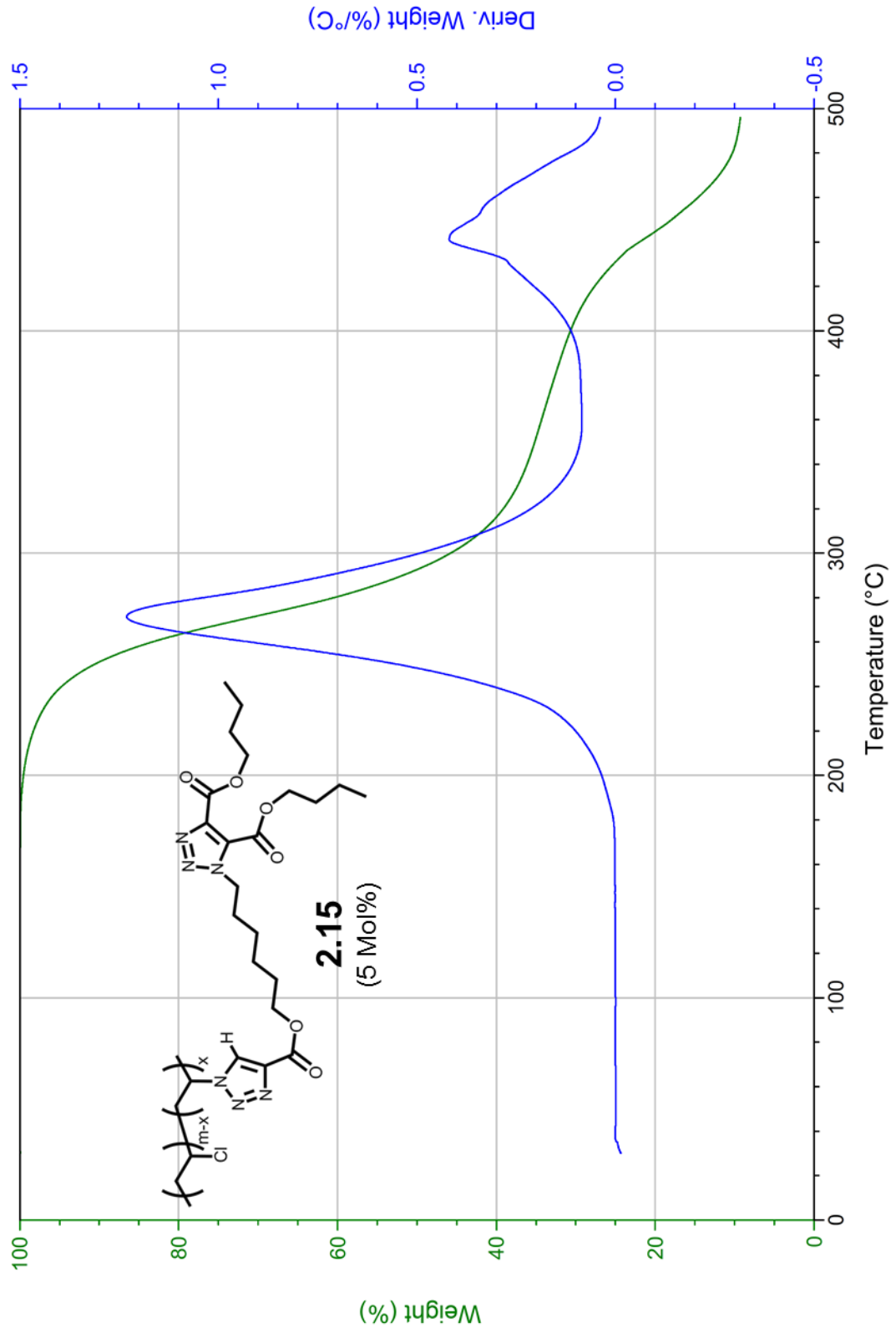
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(5 Mol%)

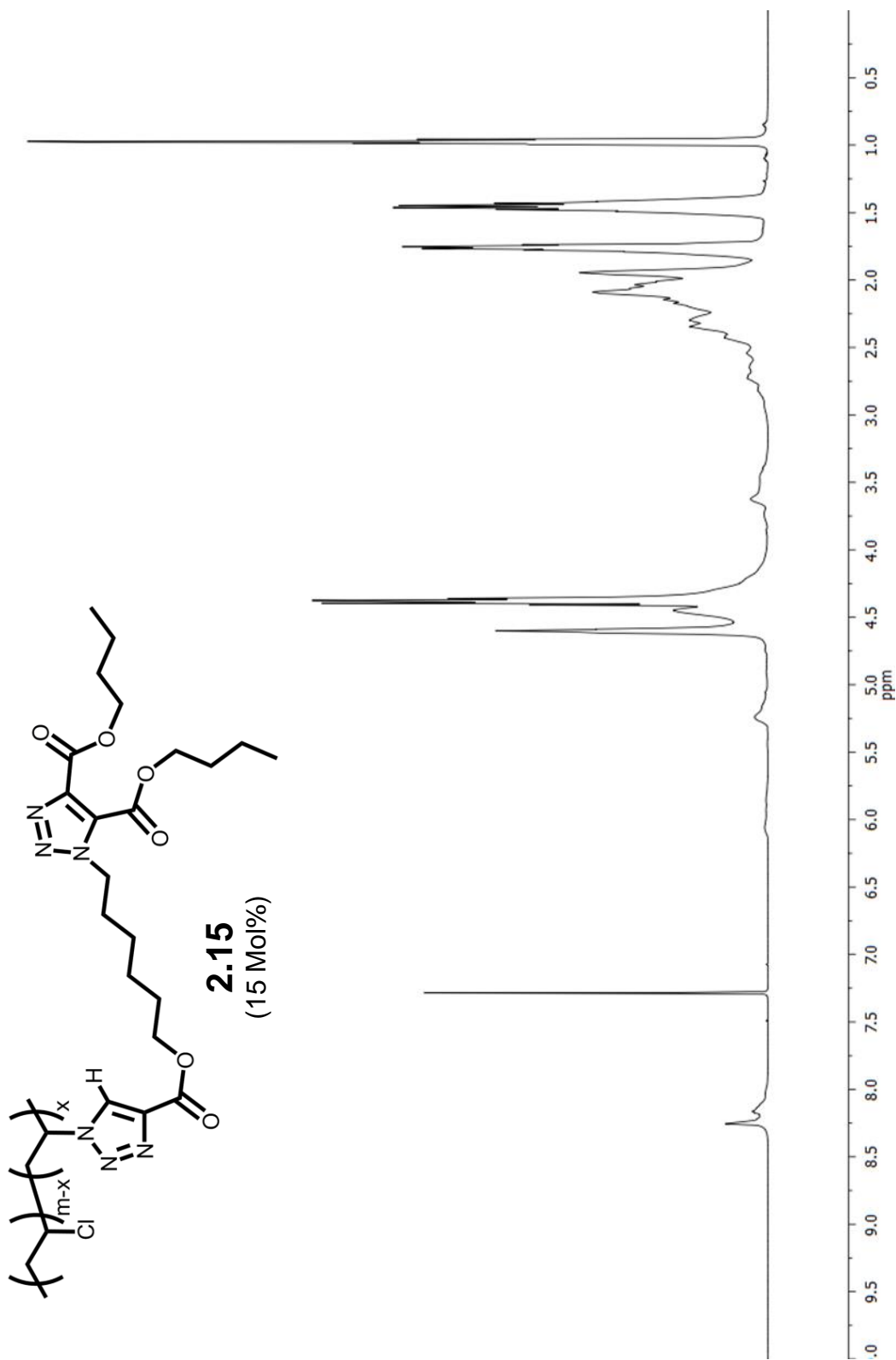


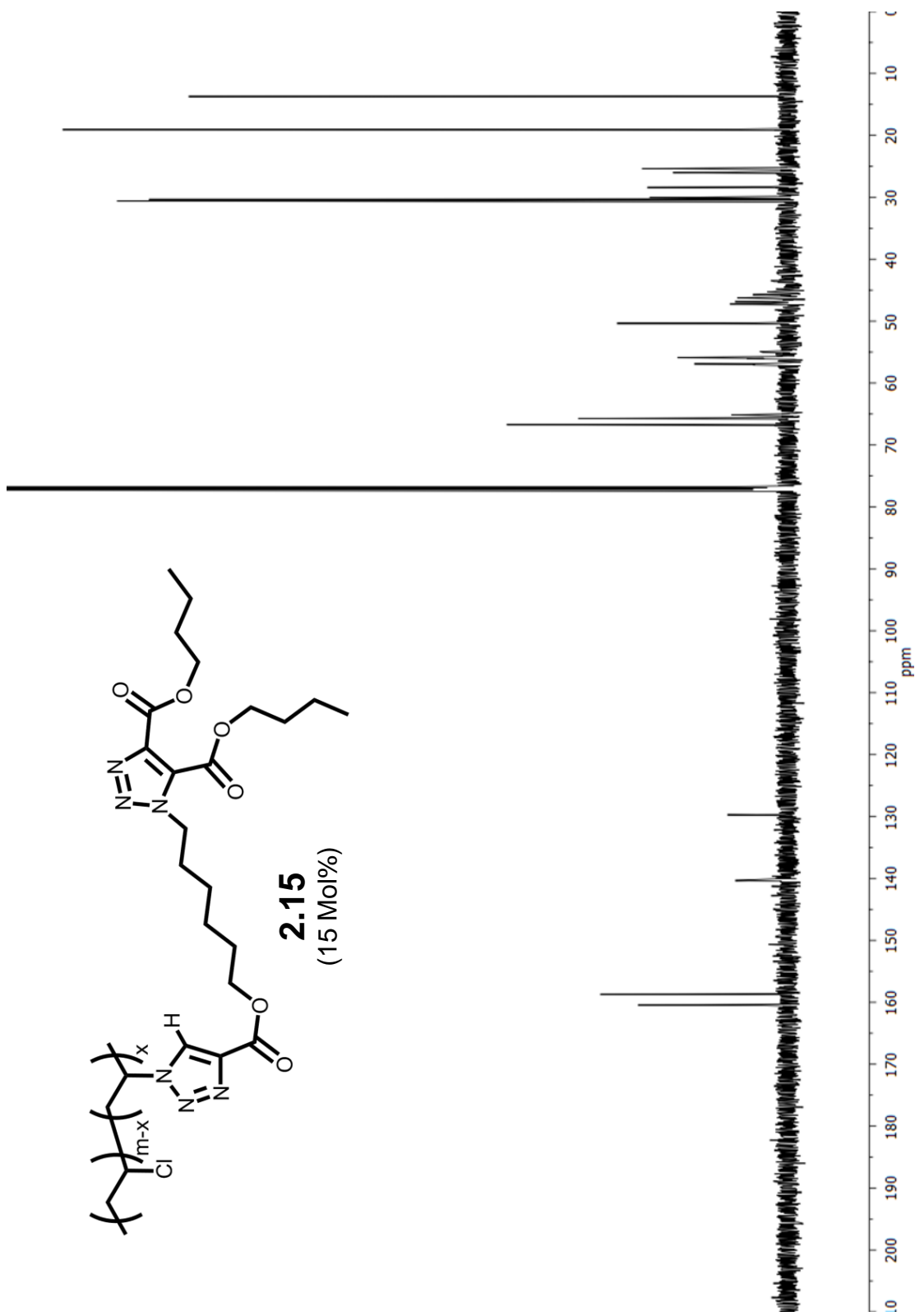
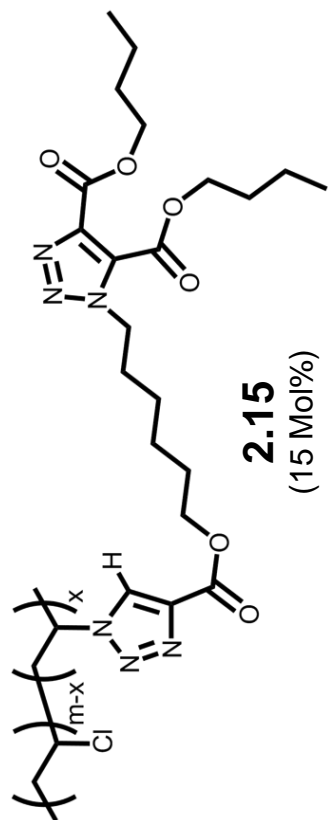


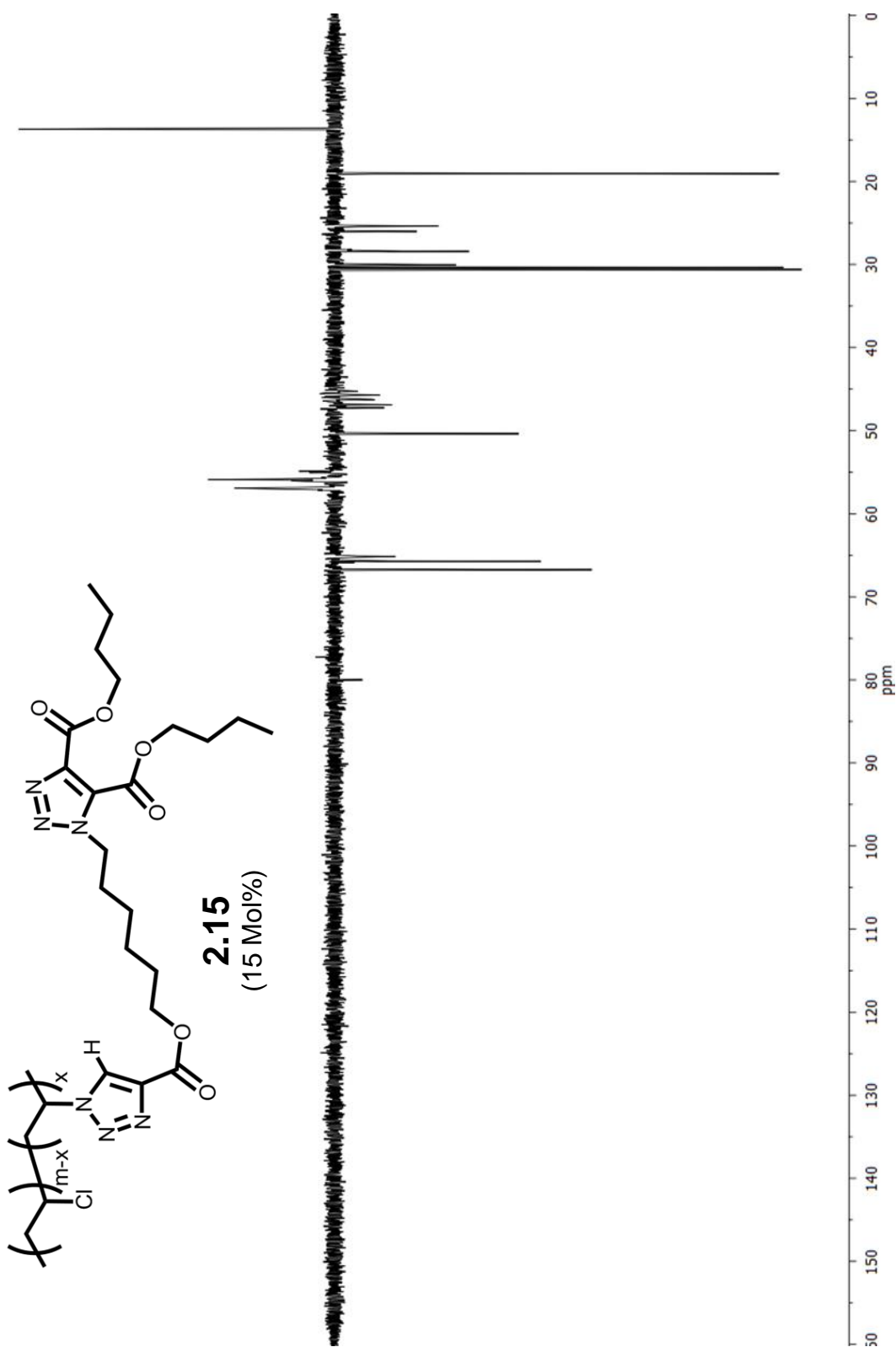


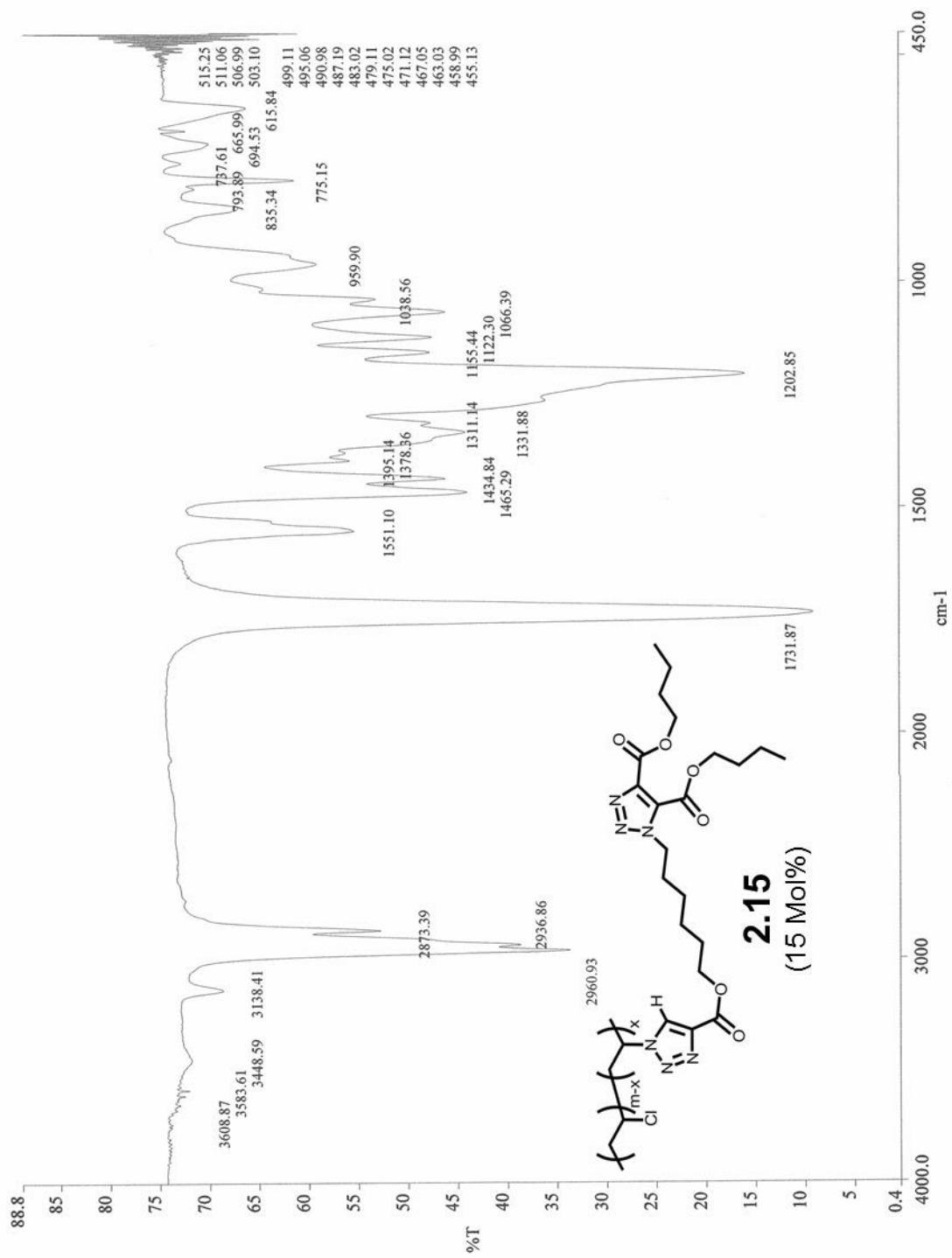


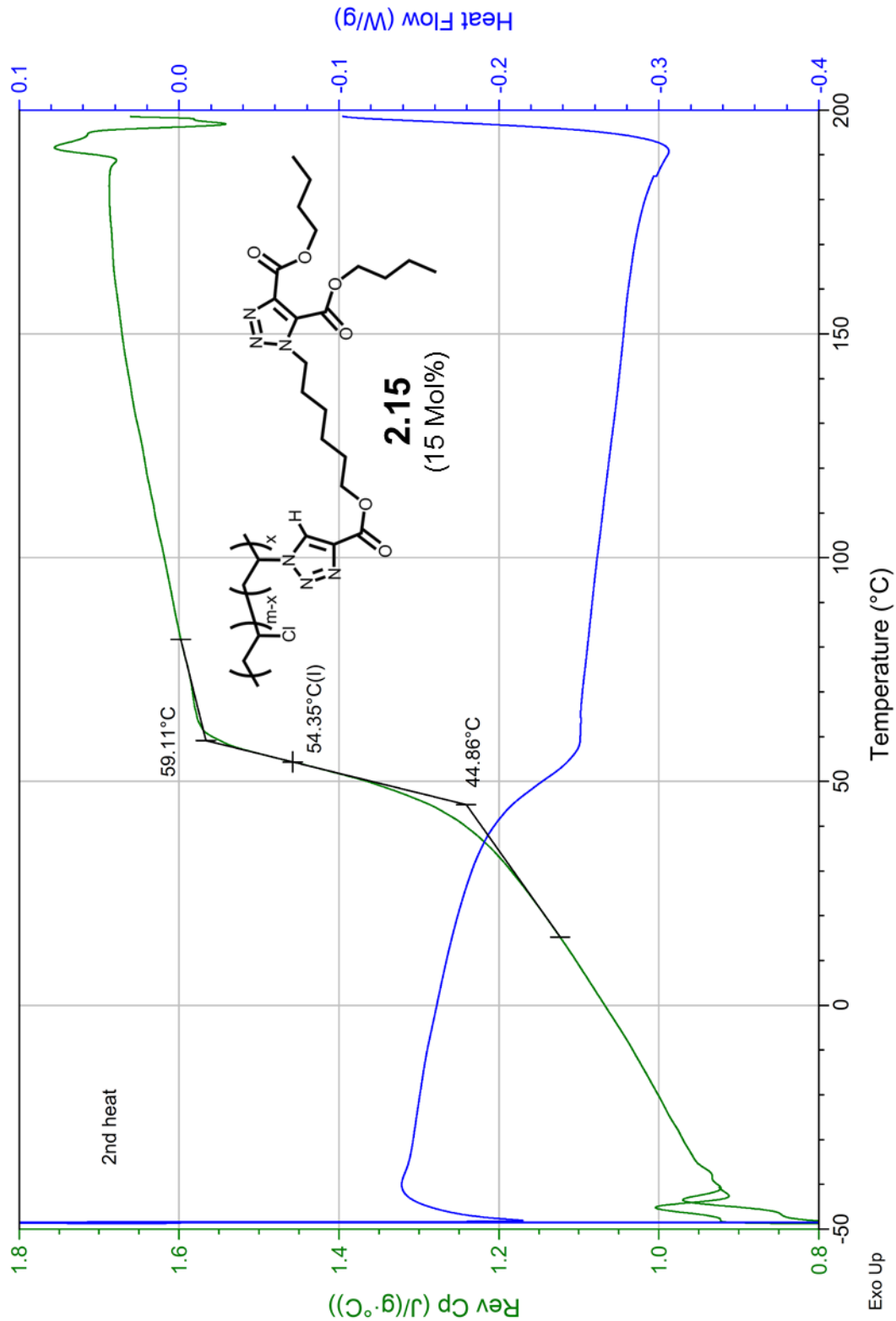


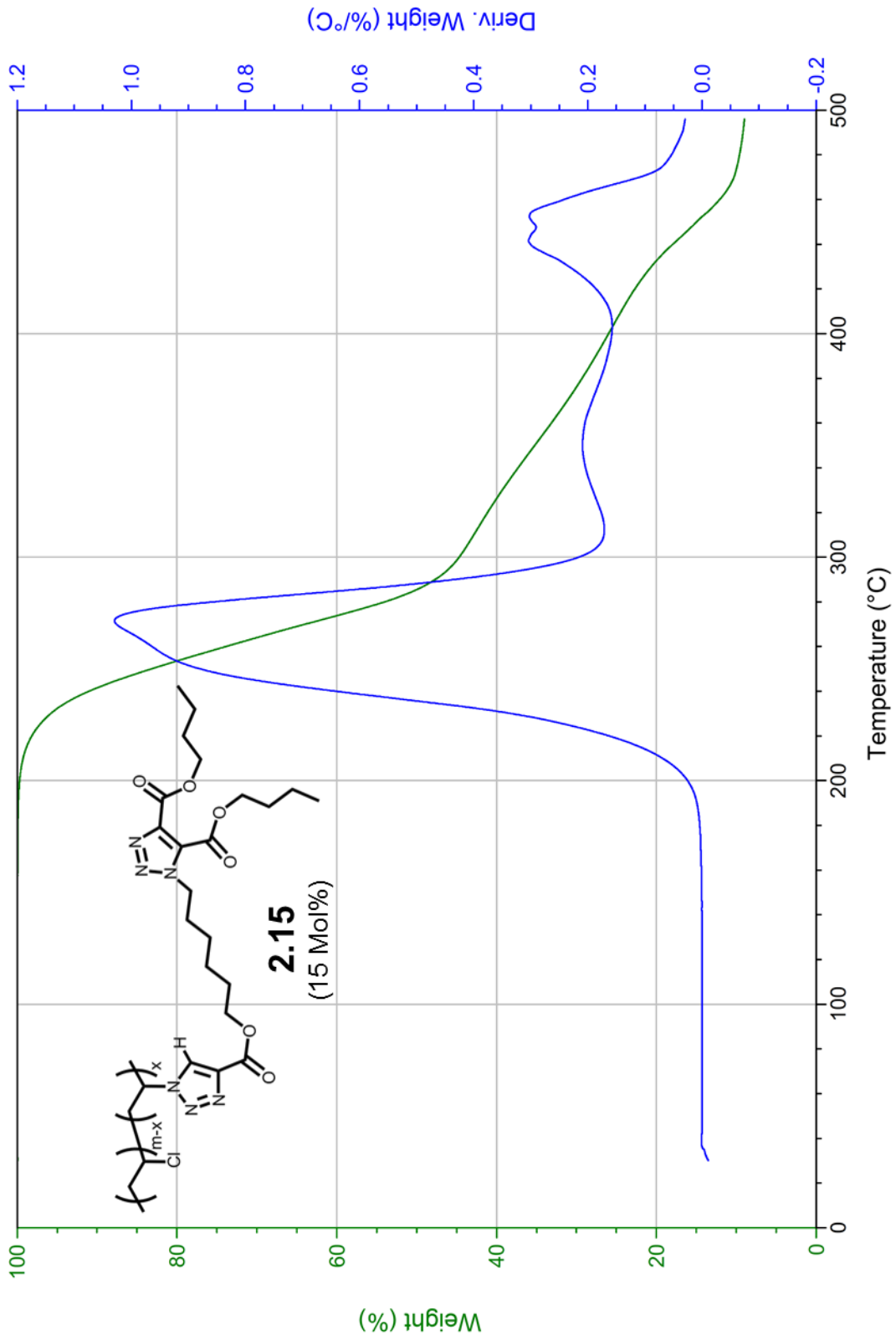


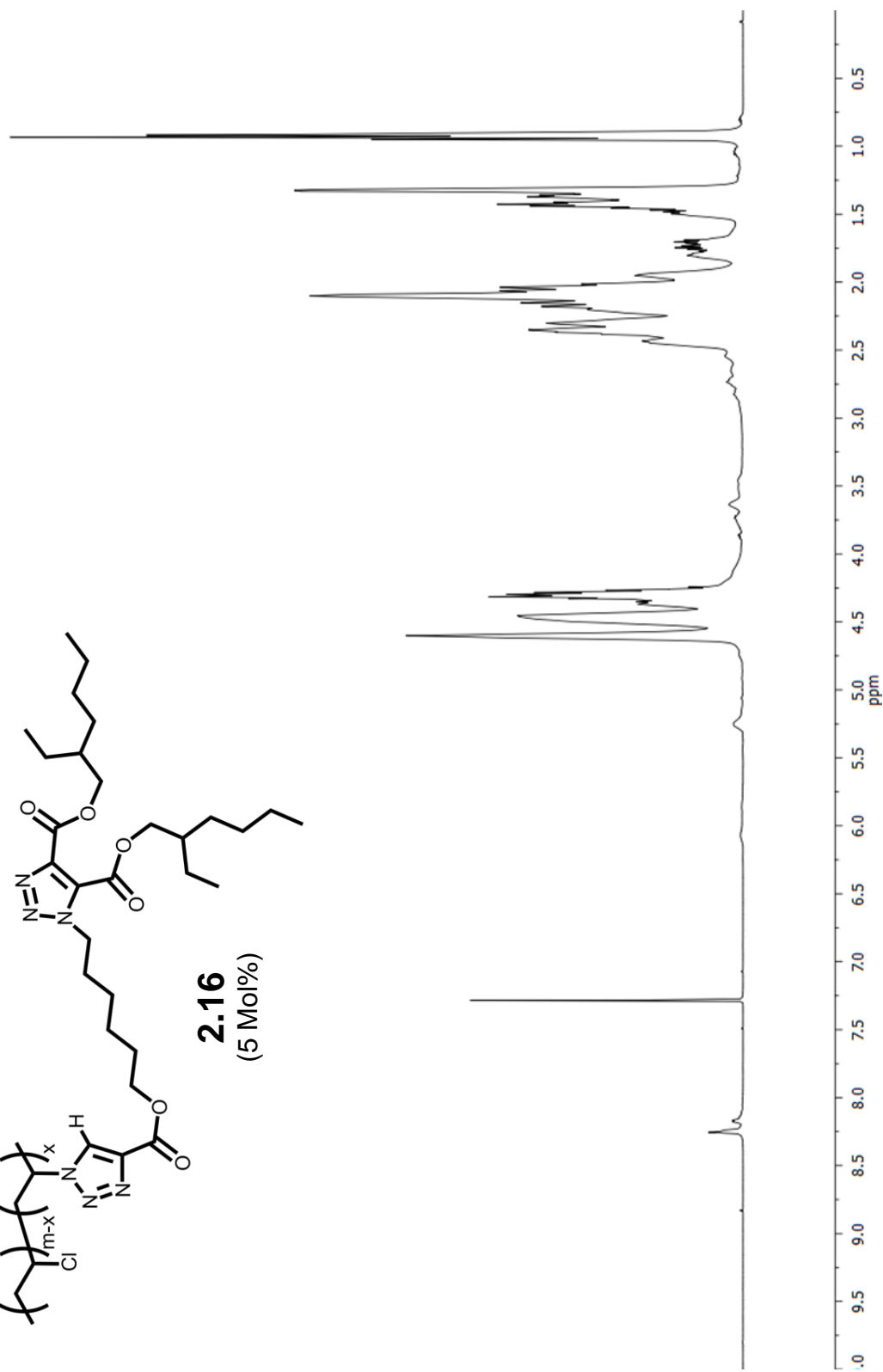
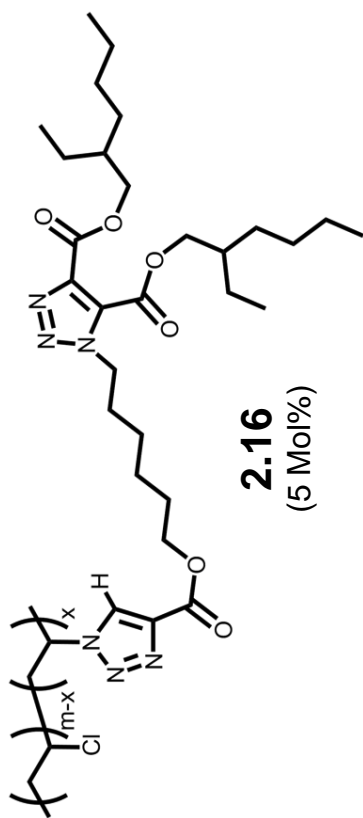


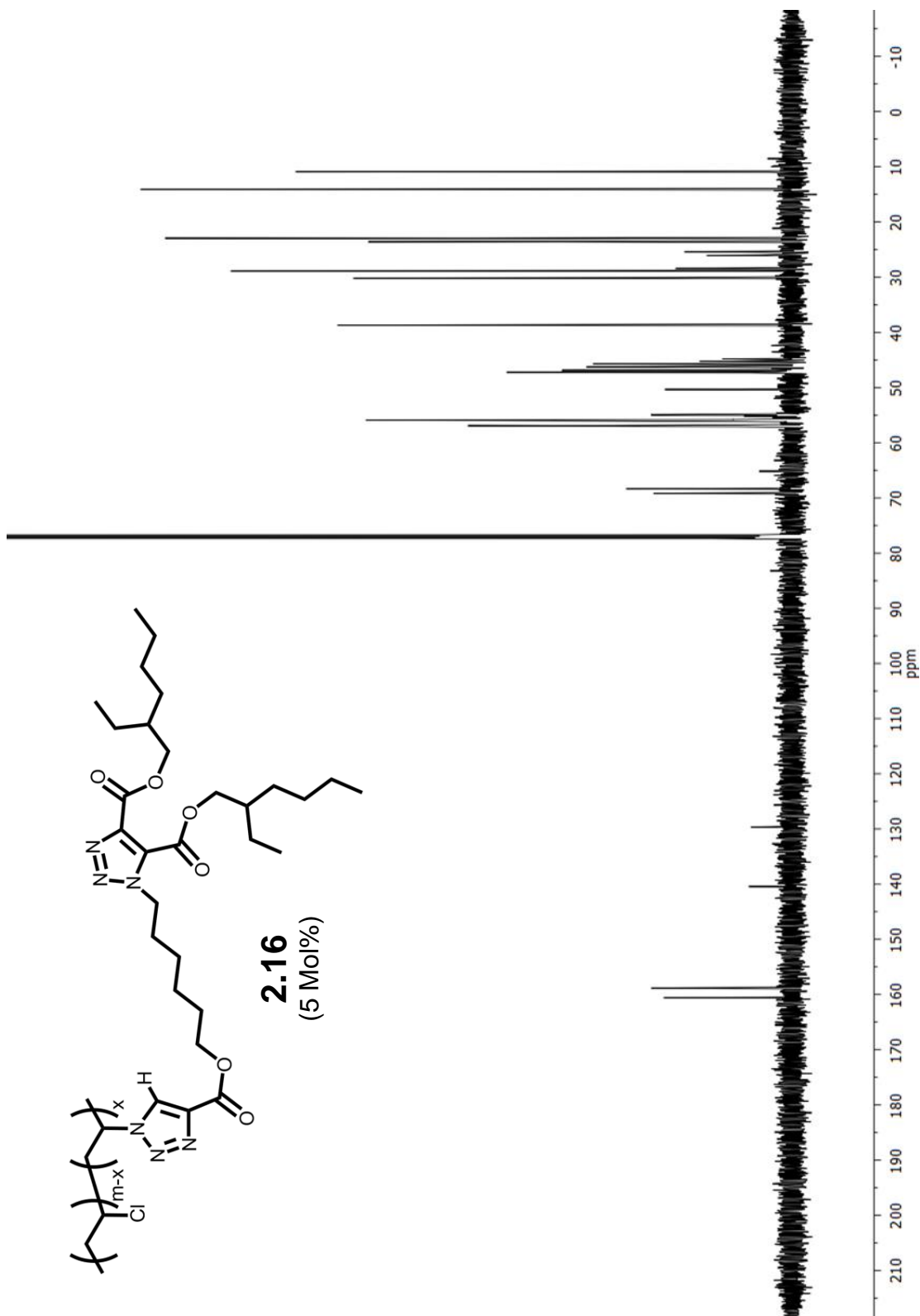
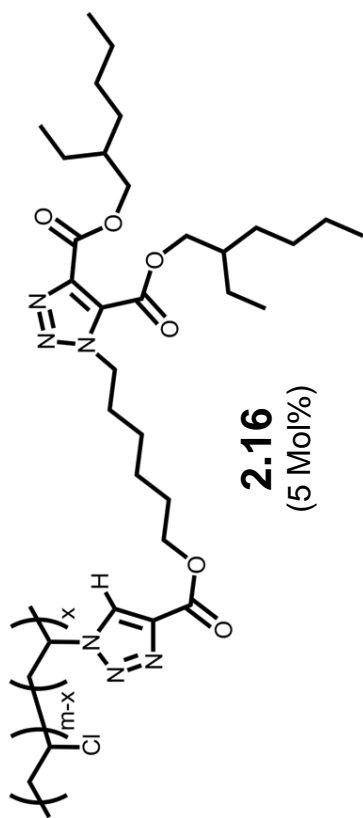


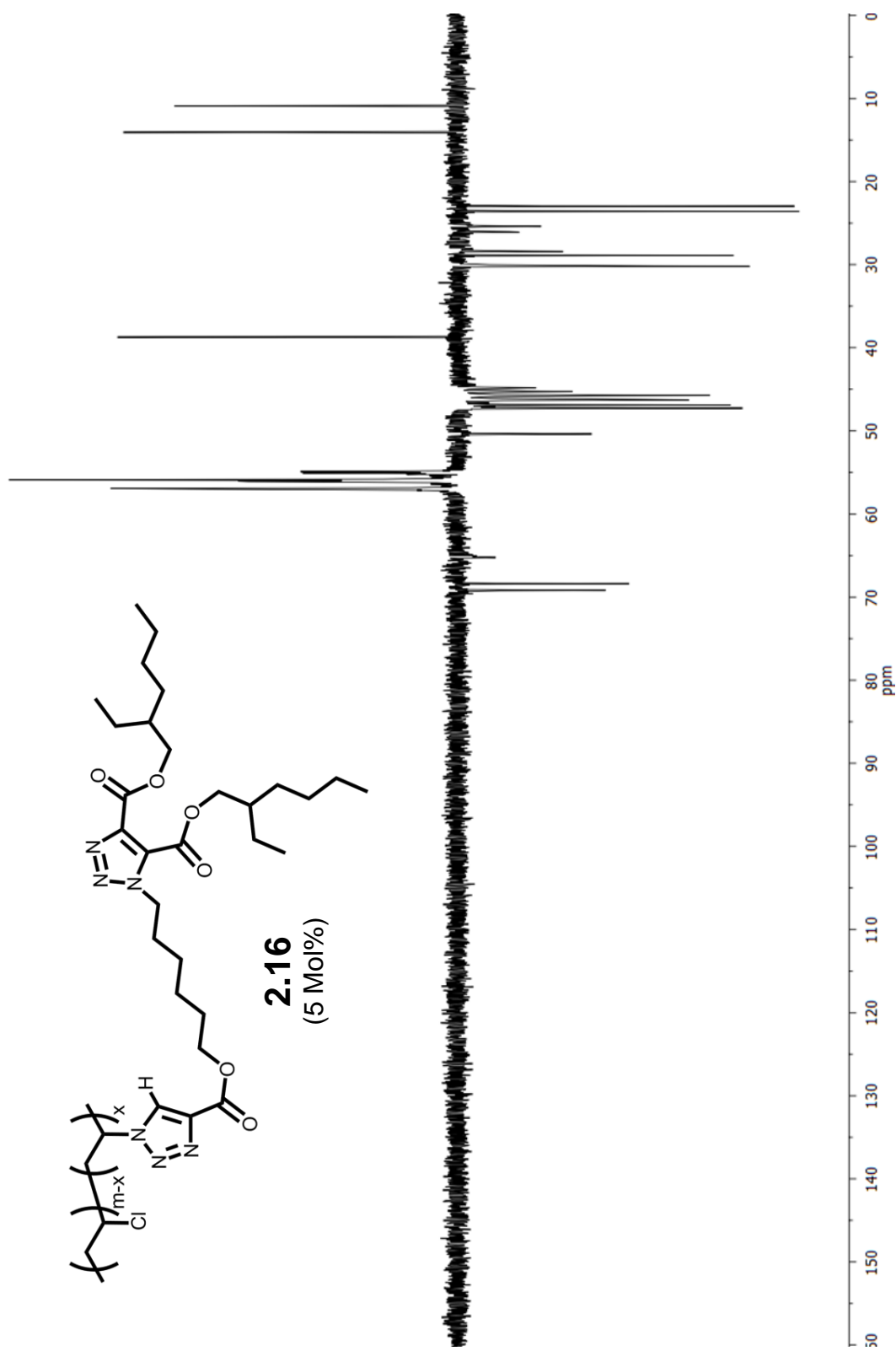


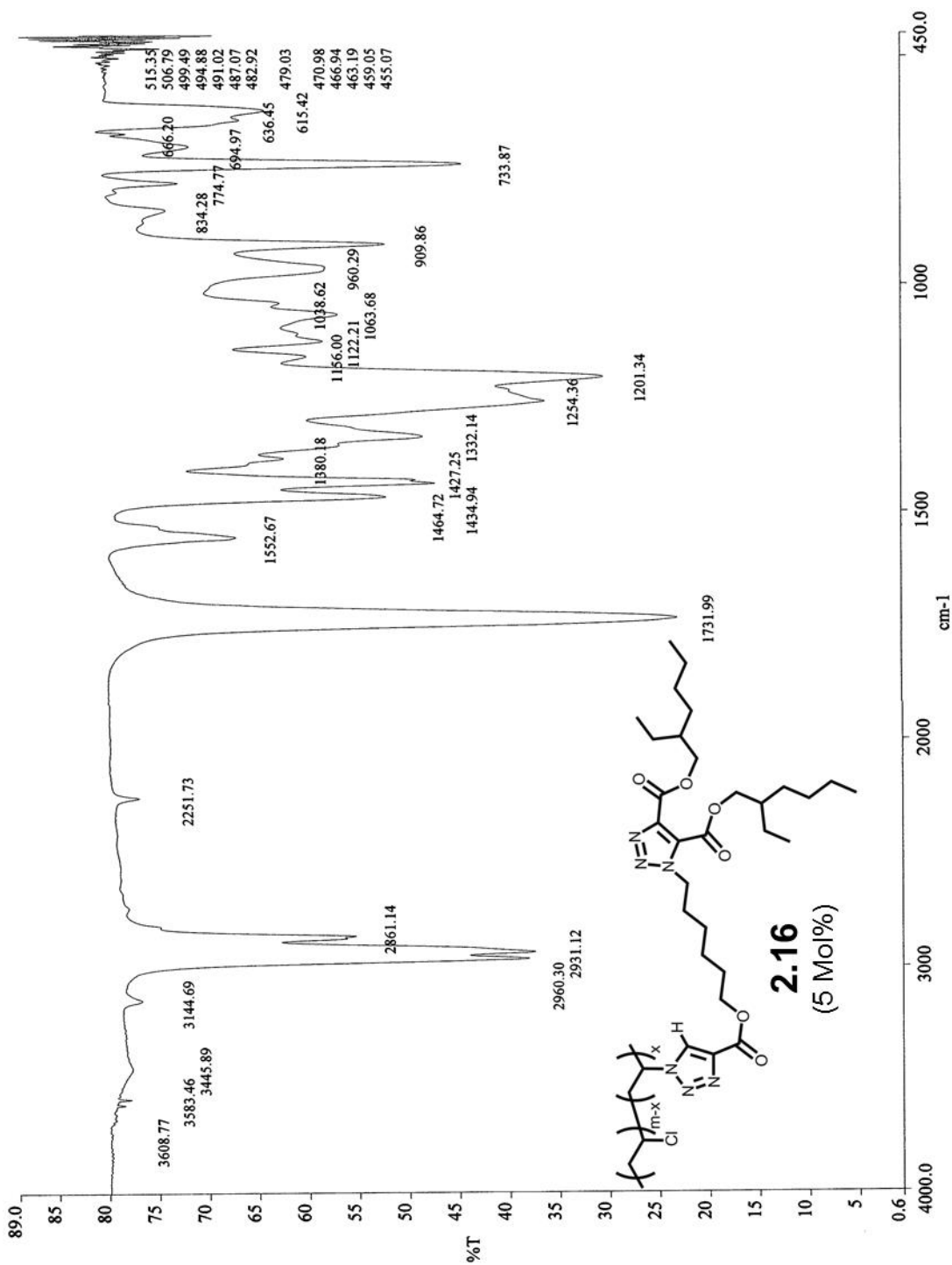


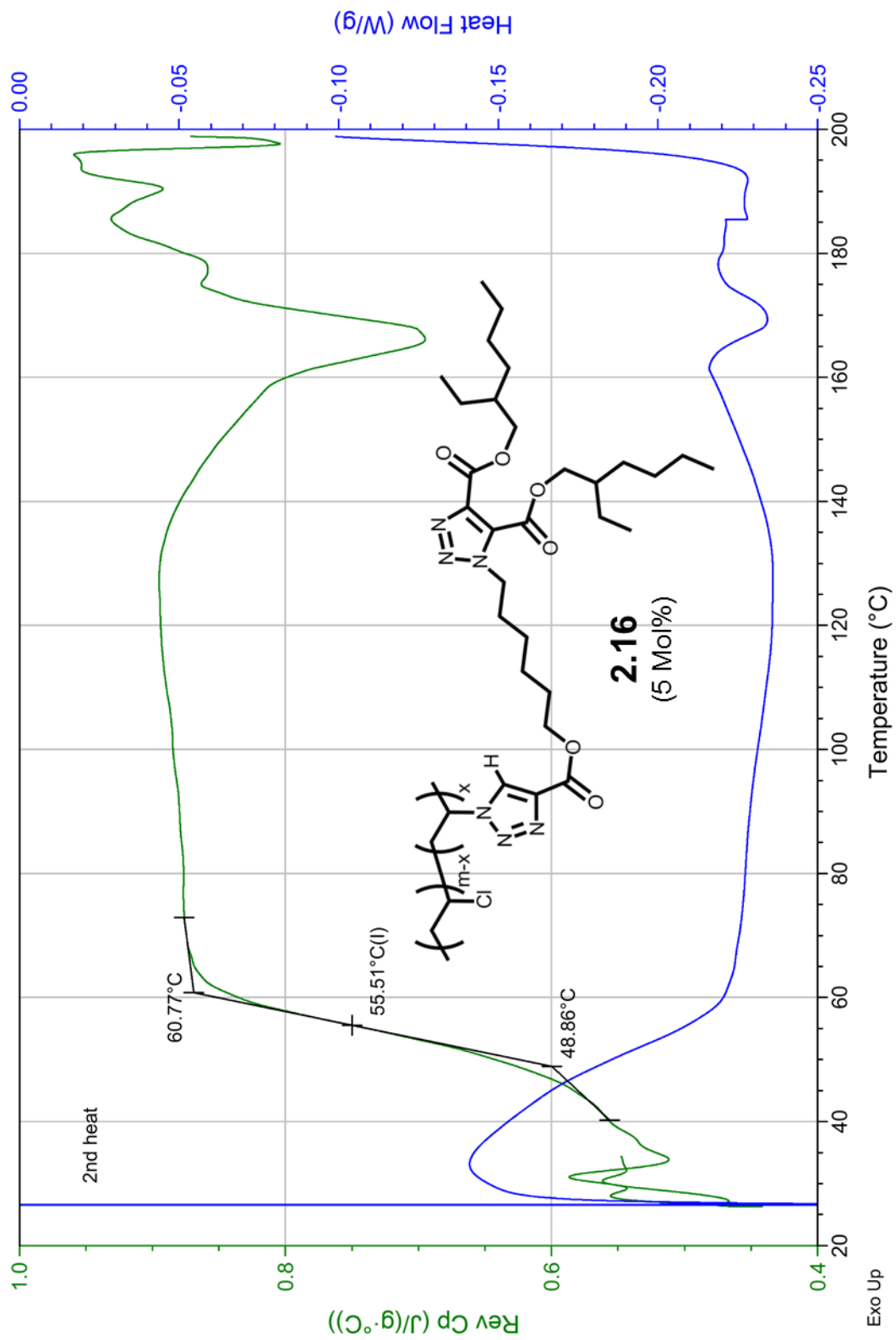


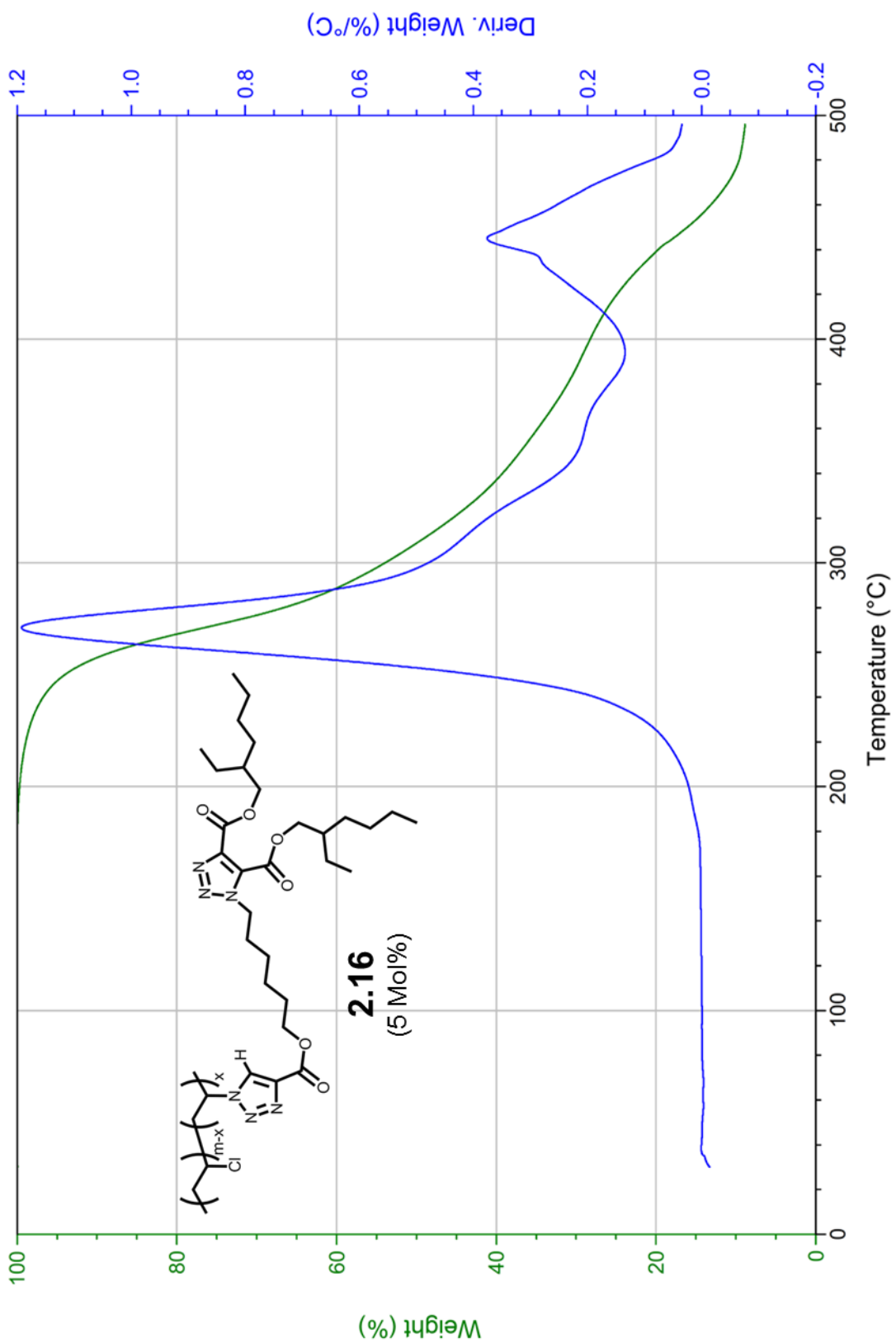


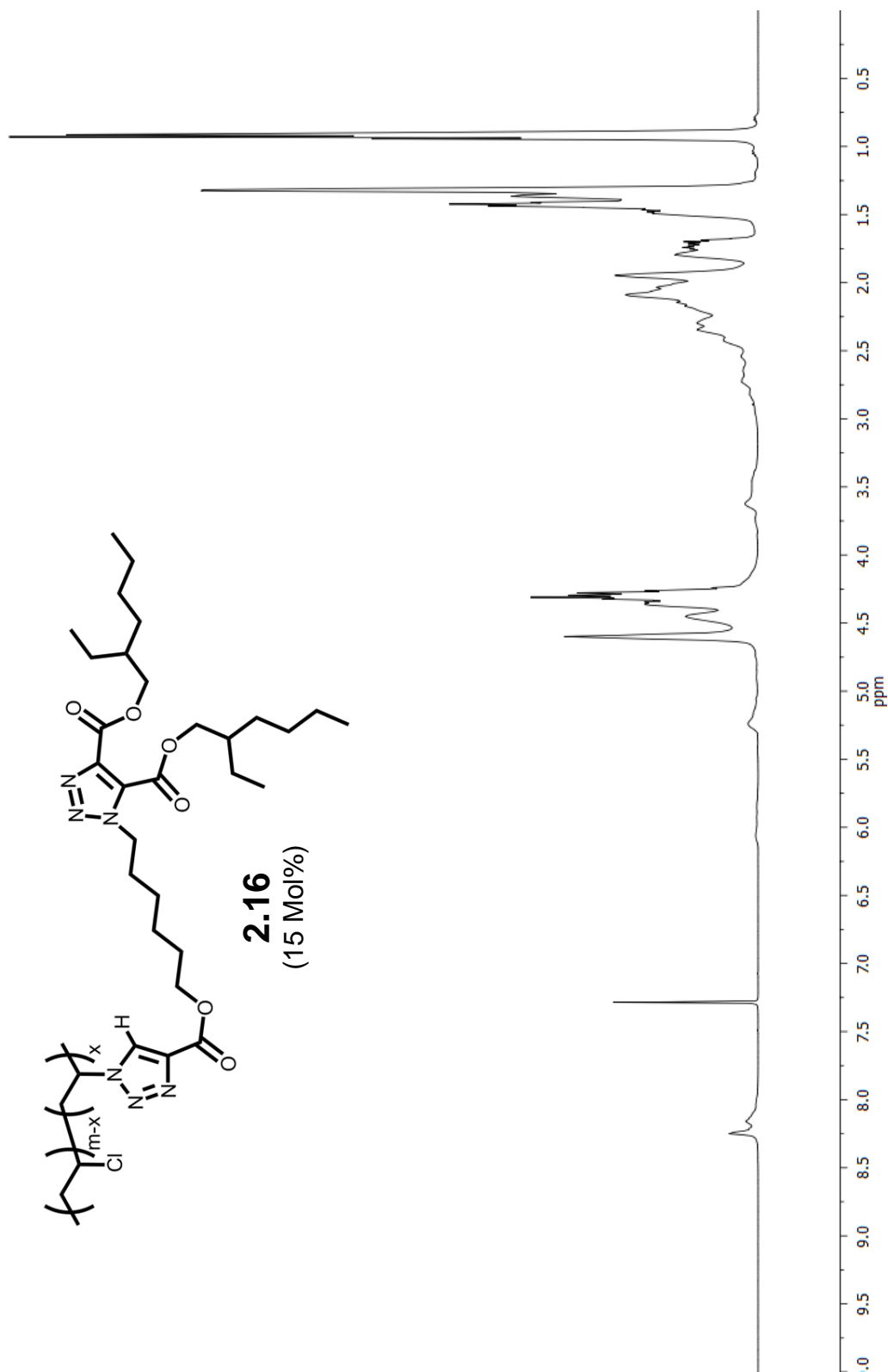


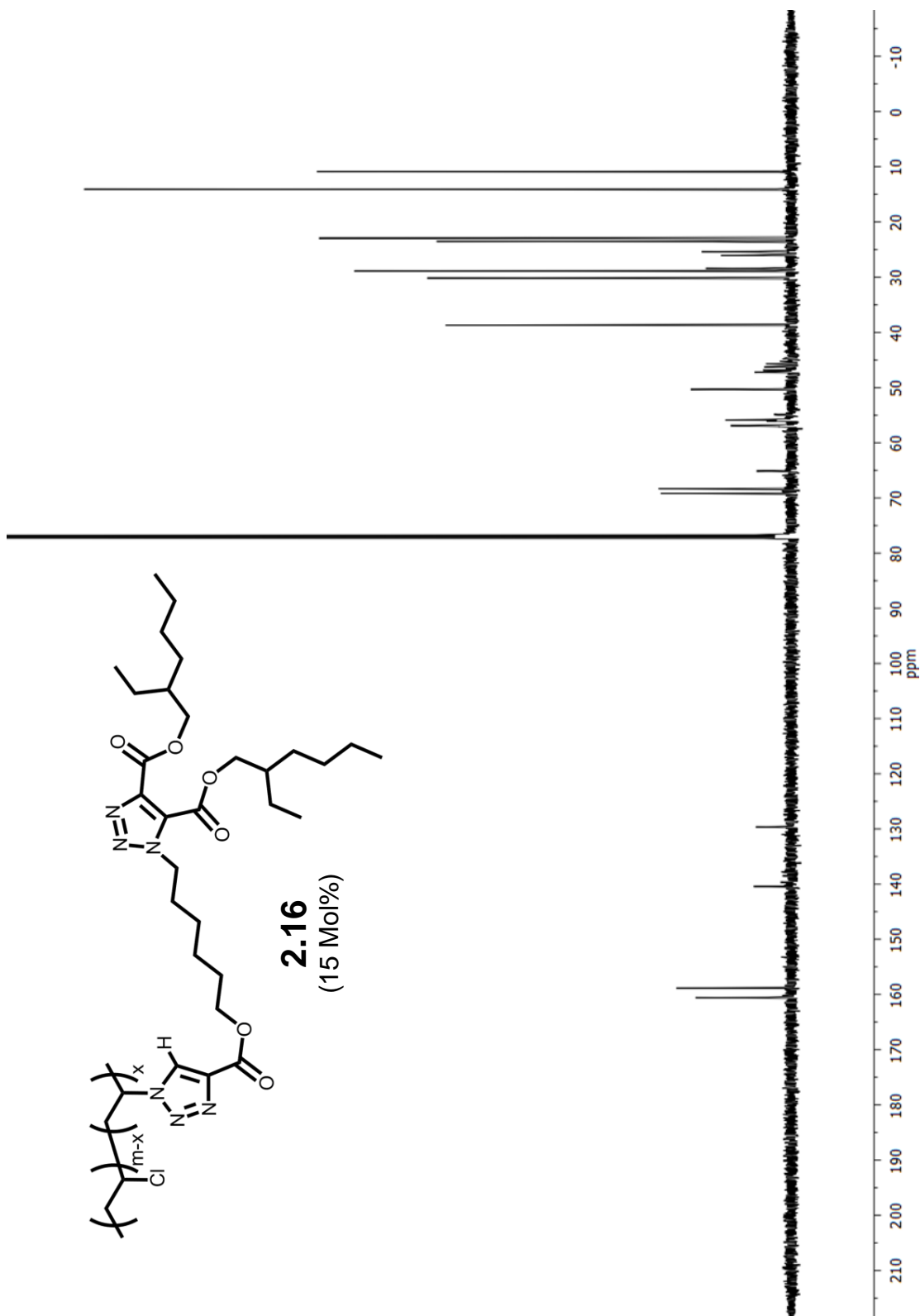


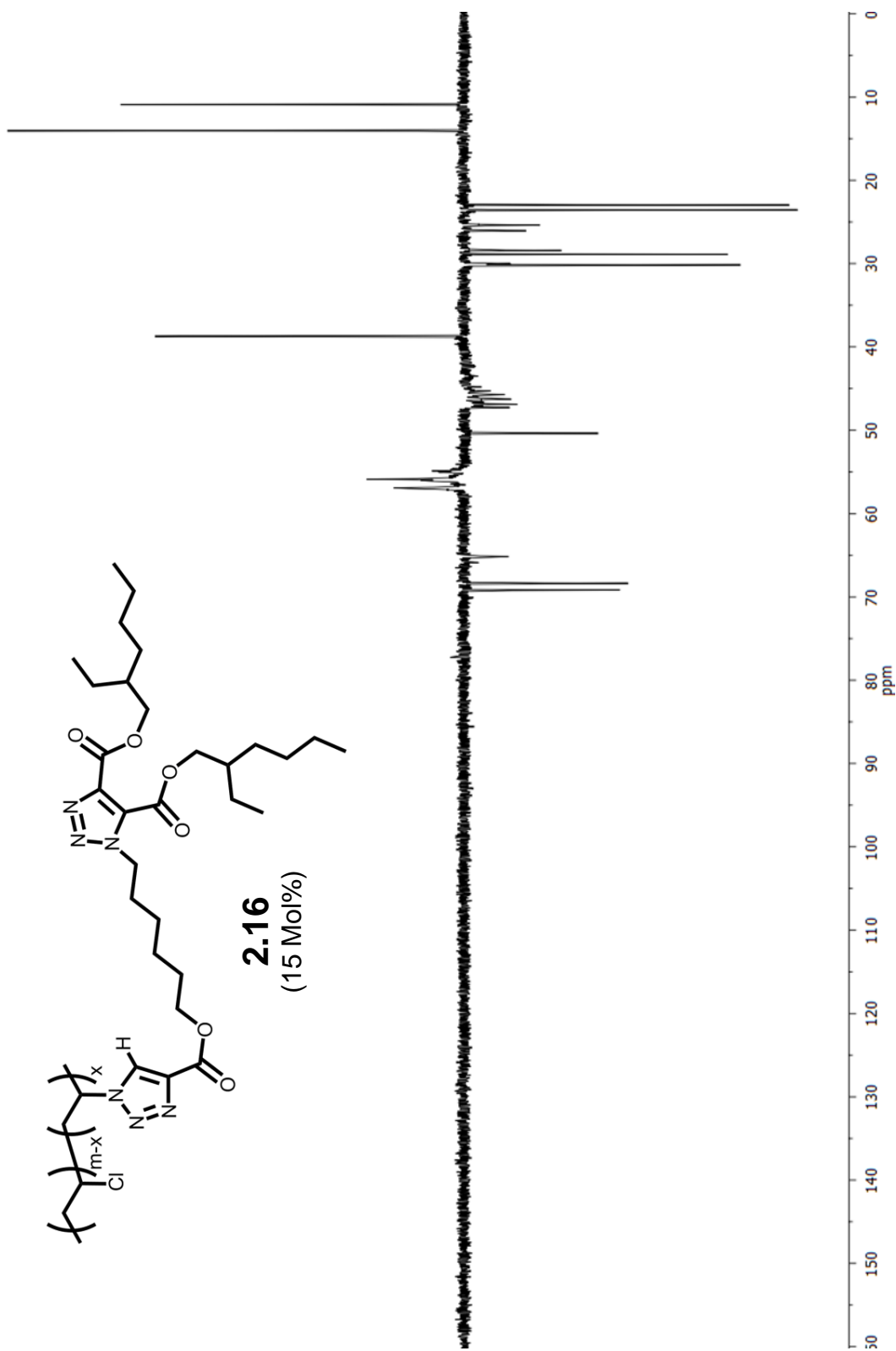


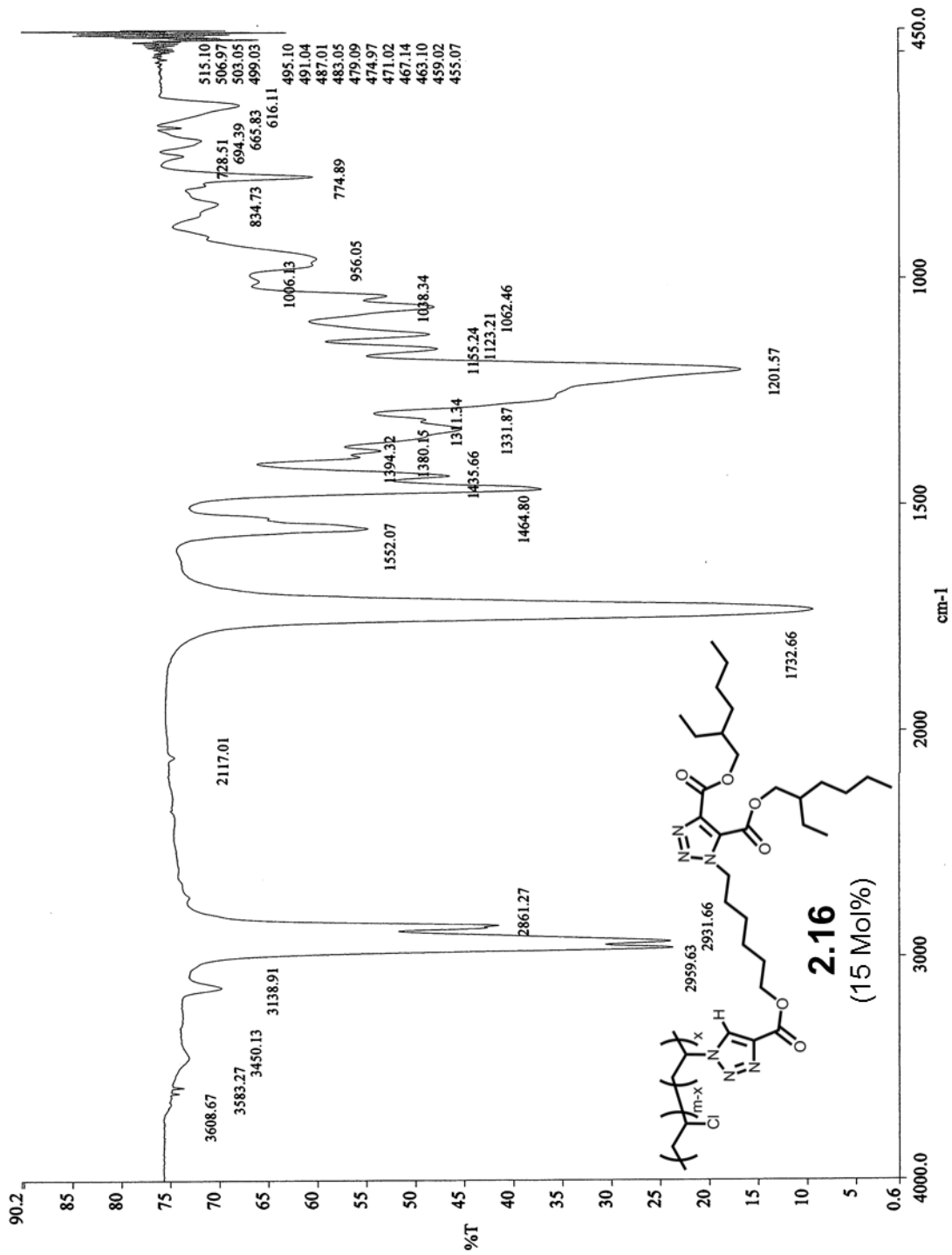


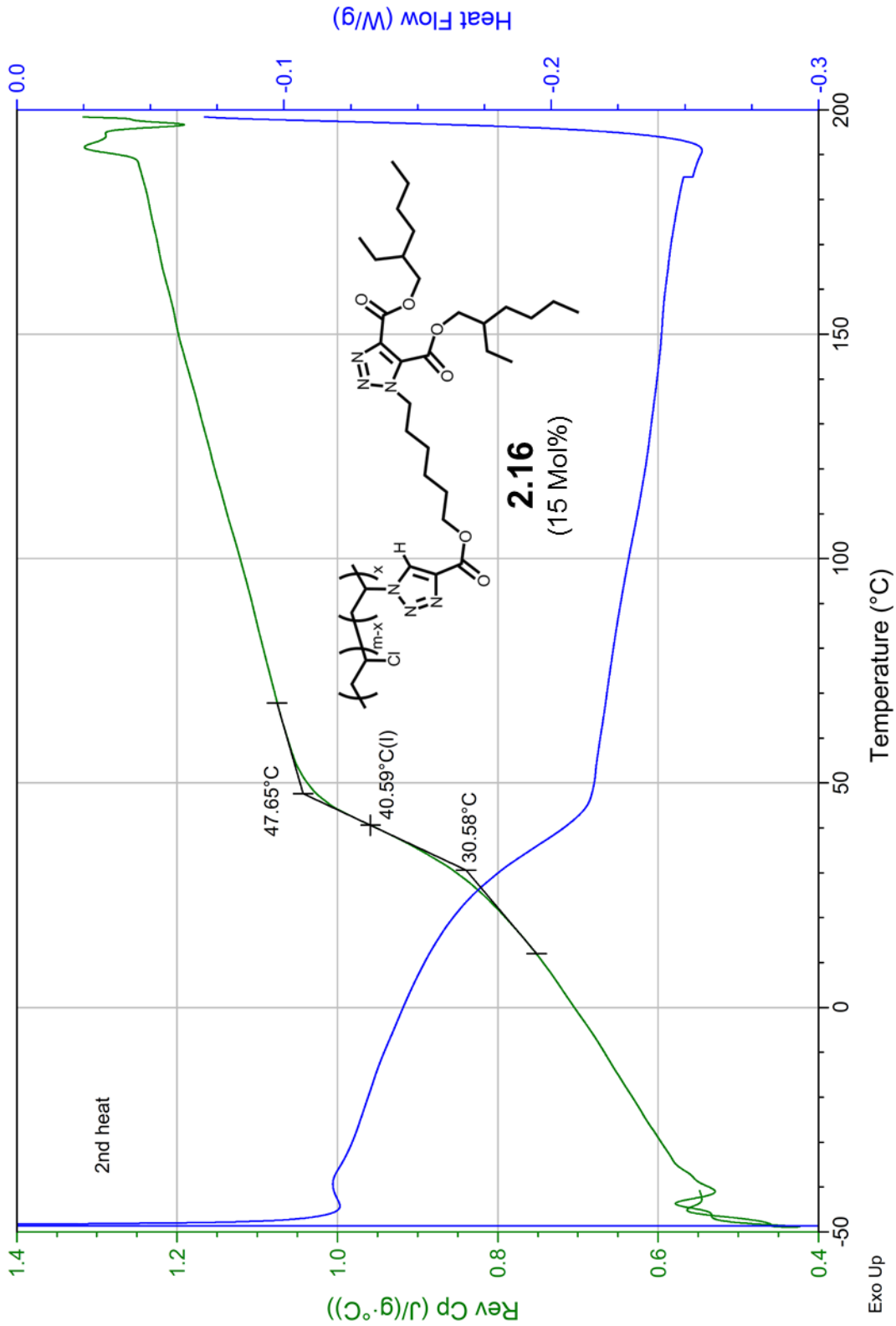


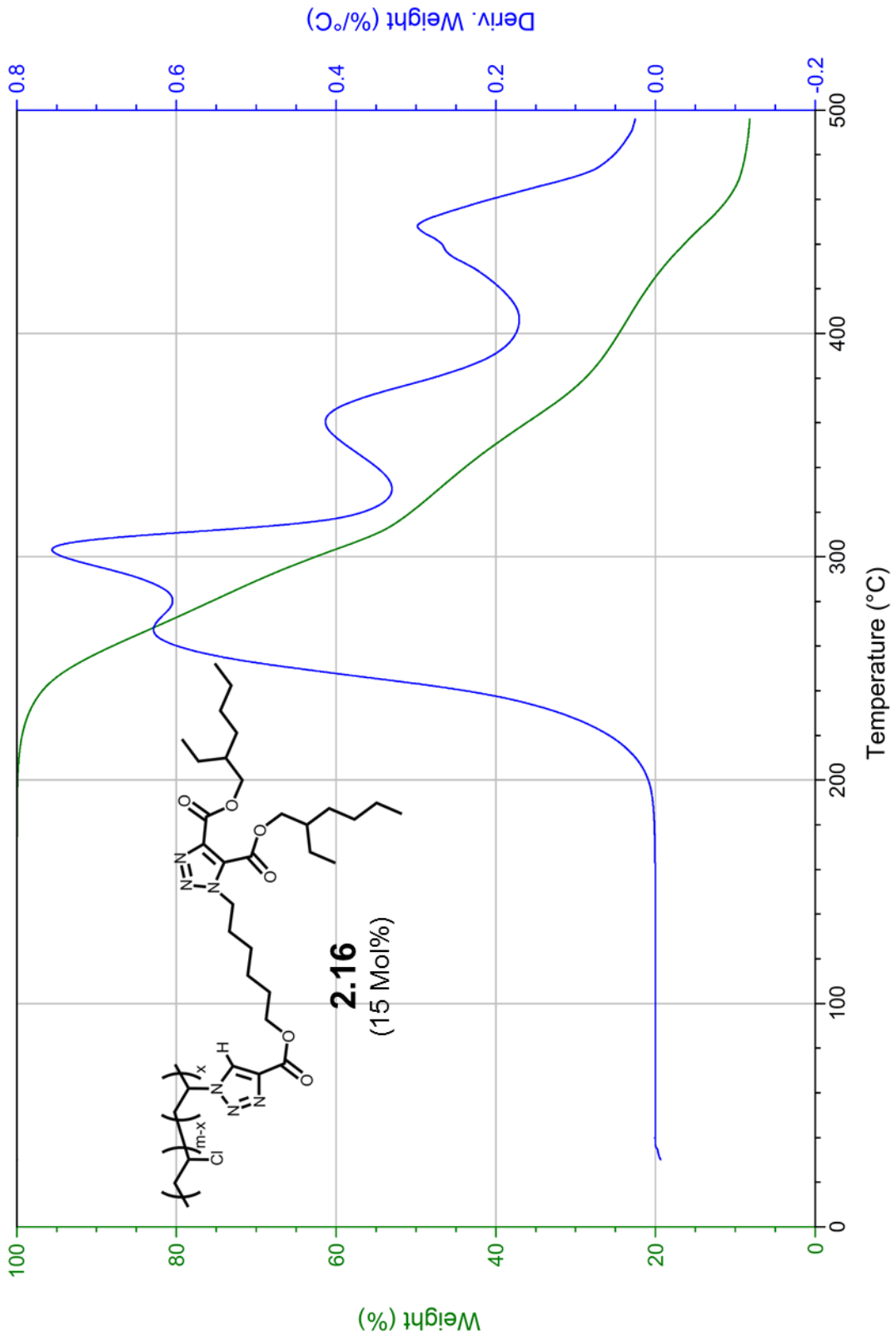


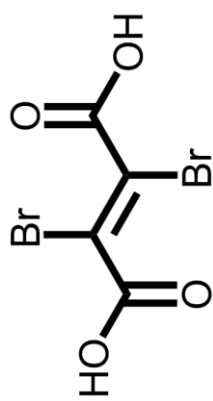




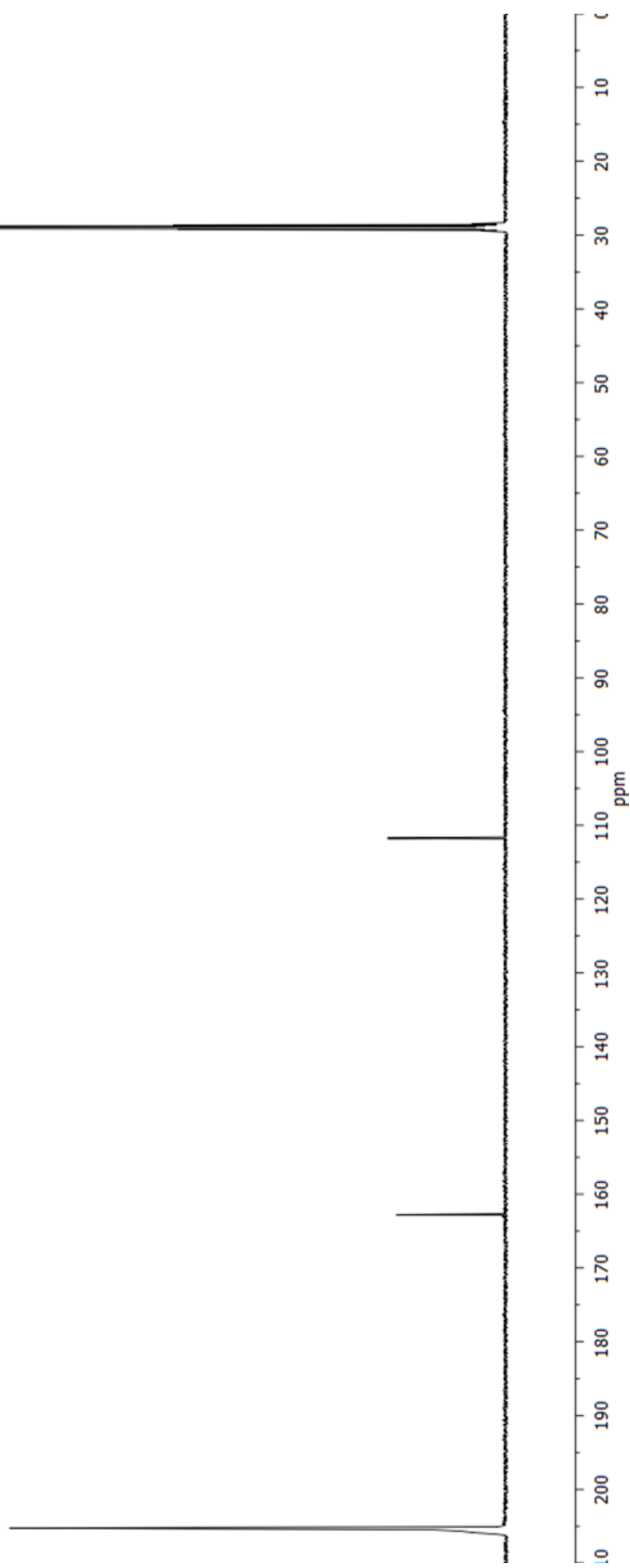


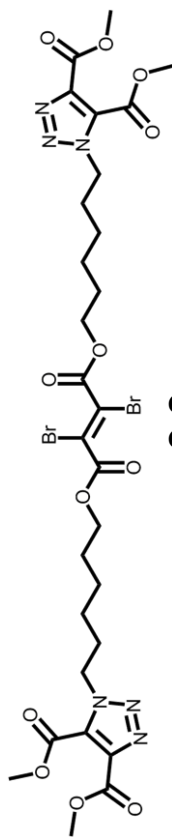




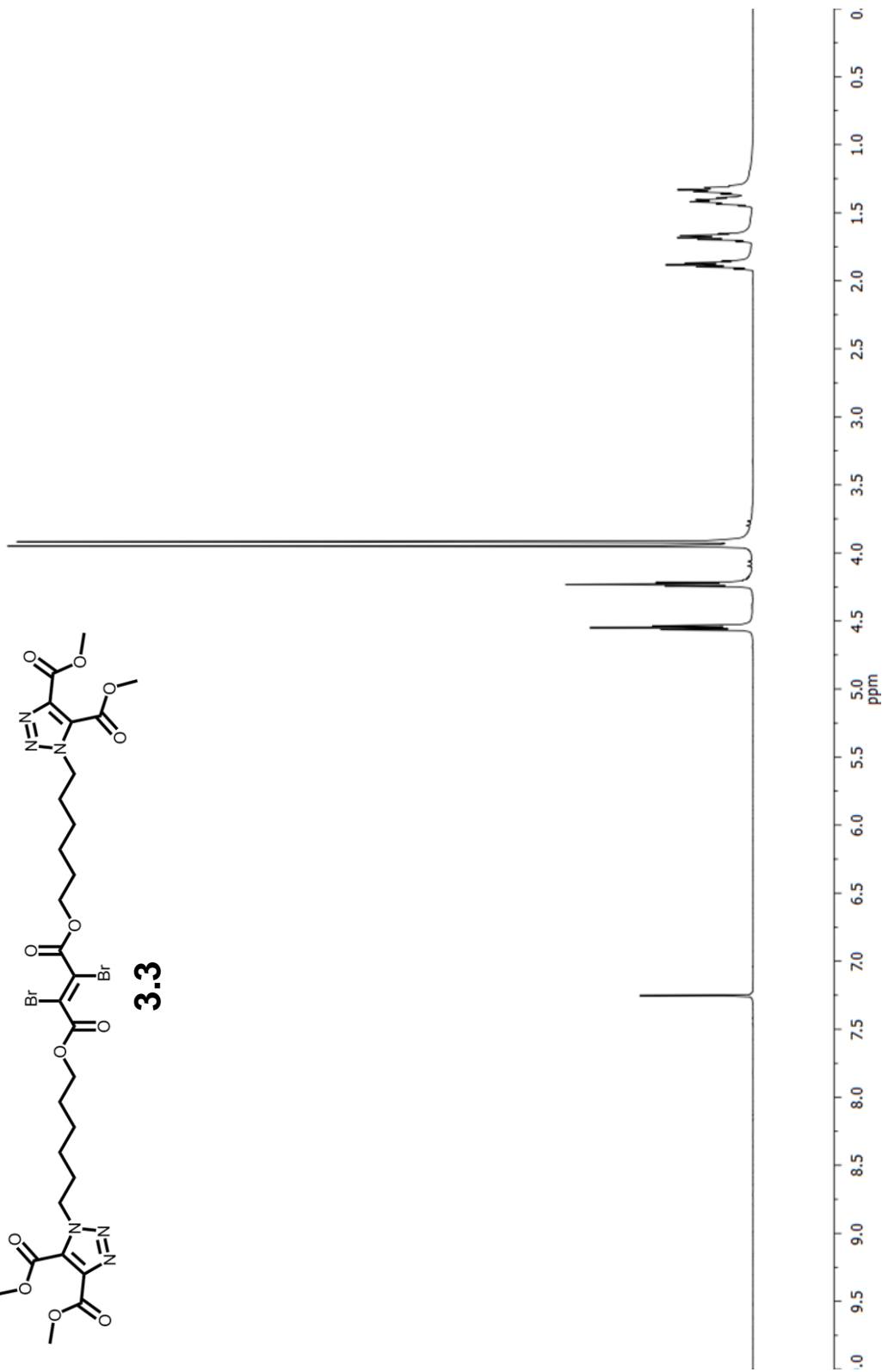


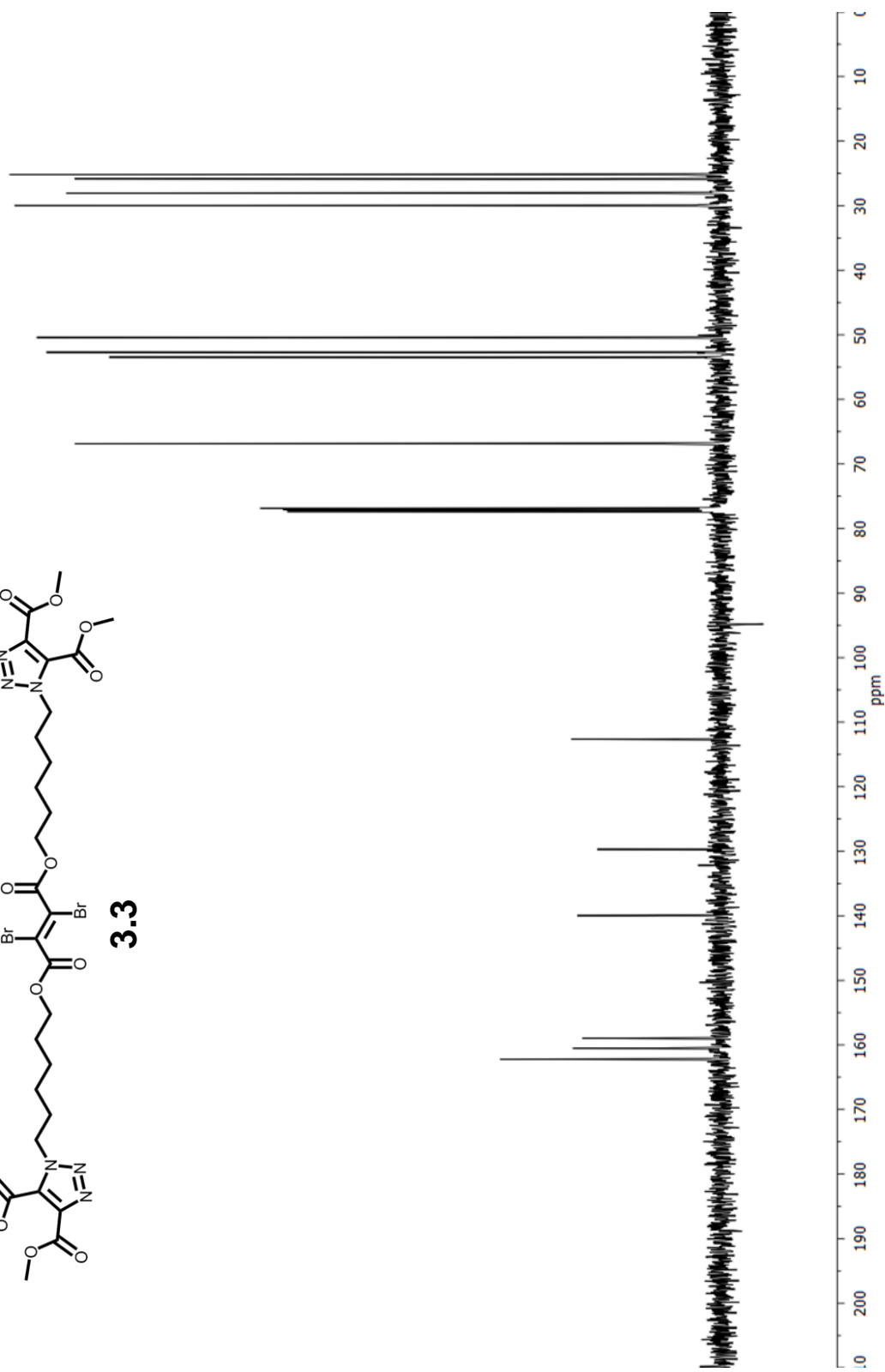
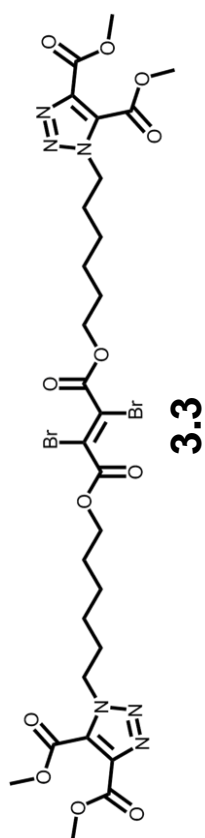
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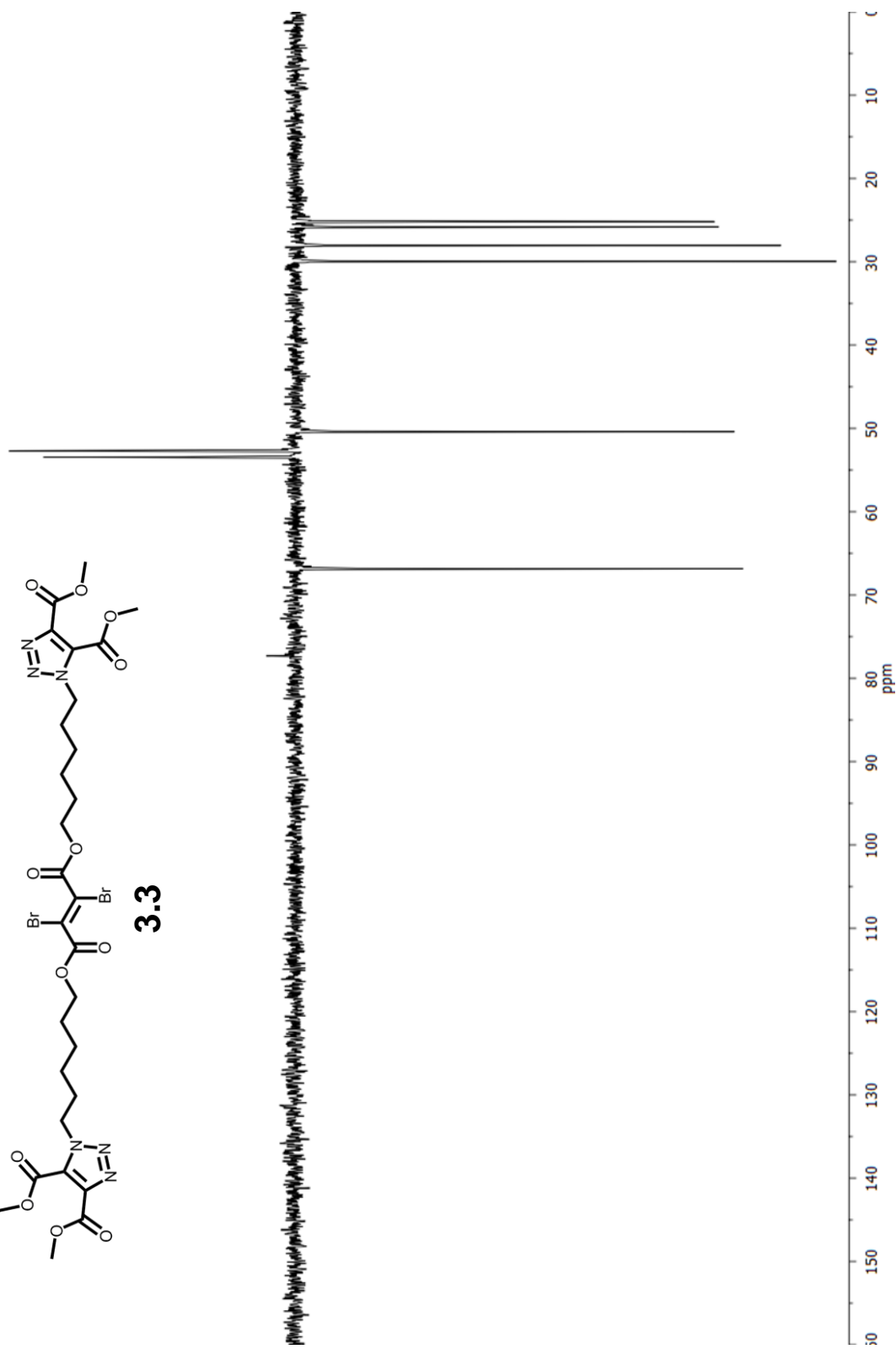
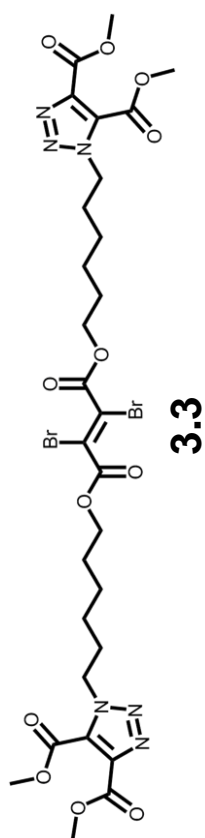


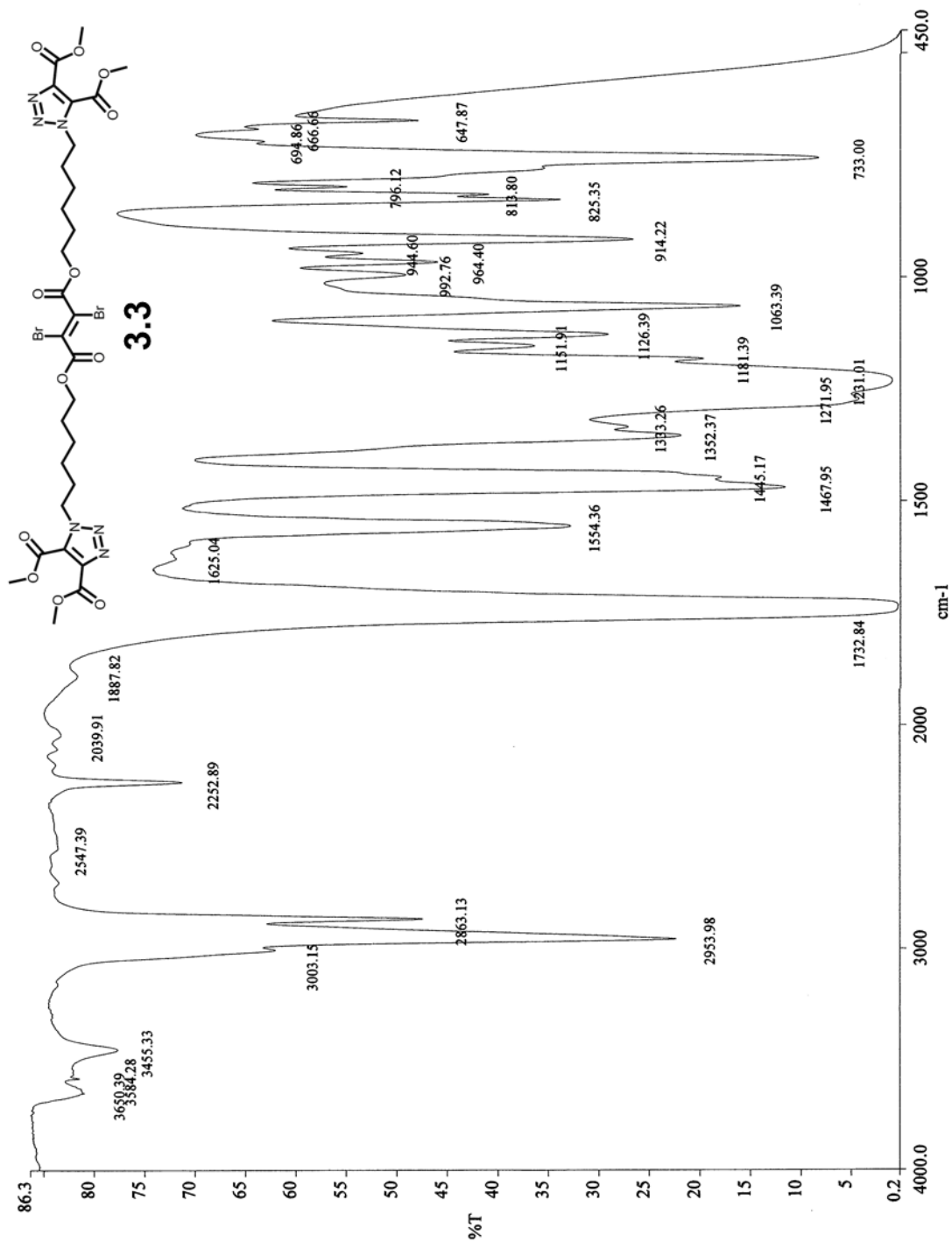


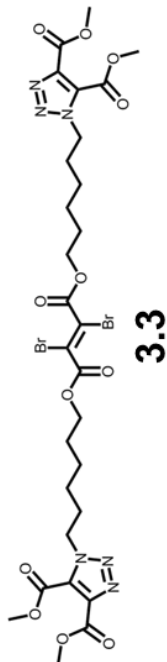
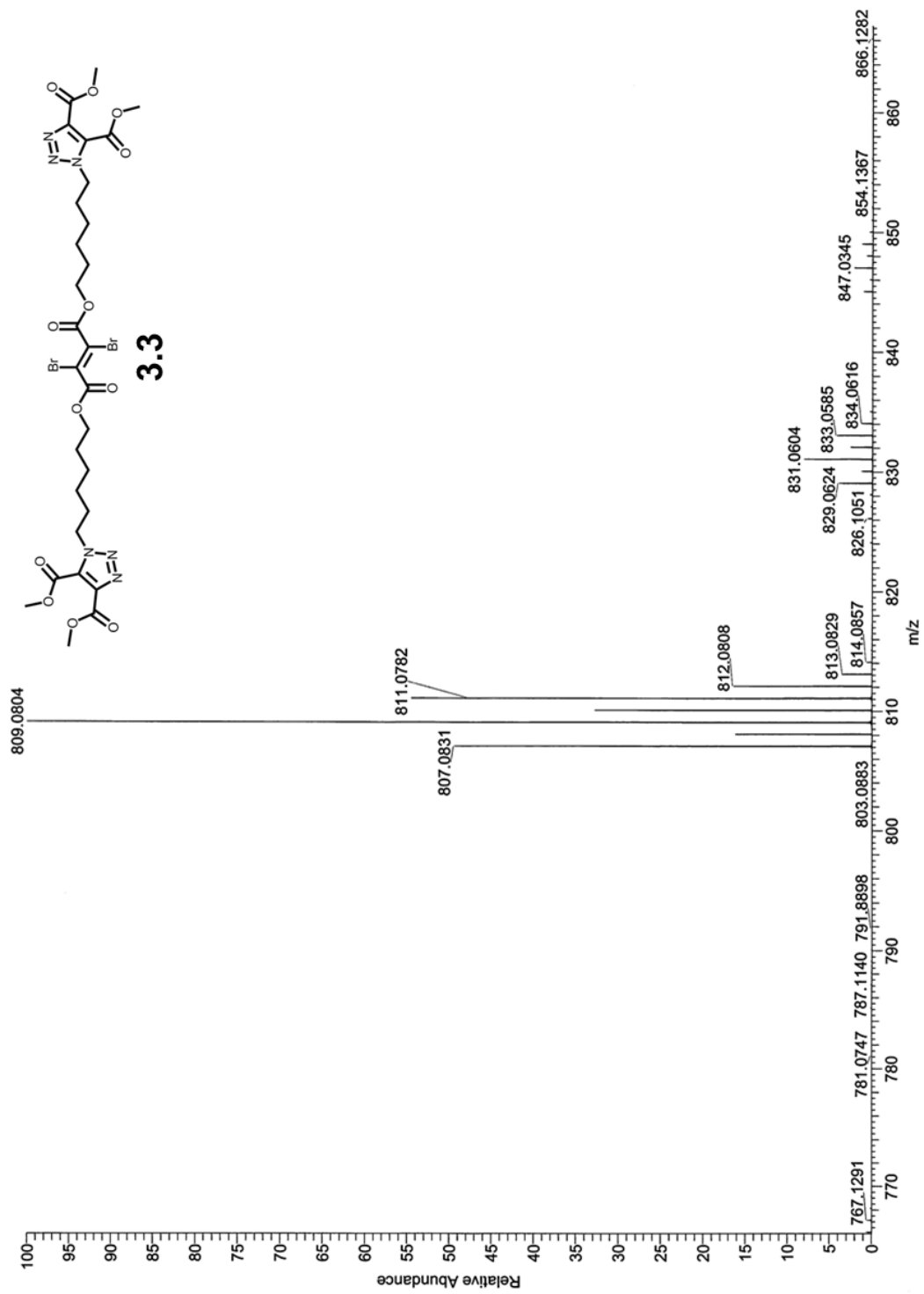
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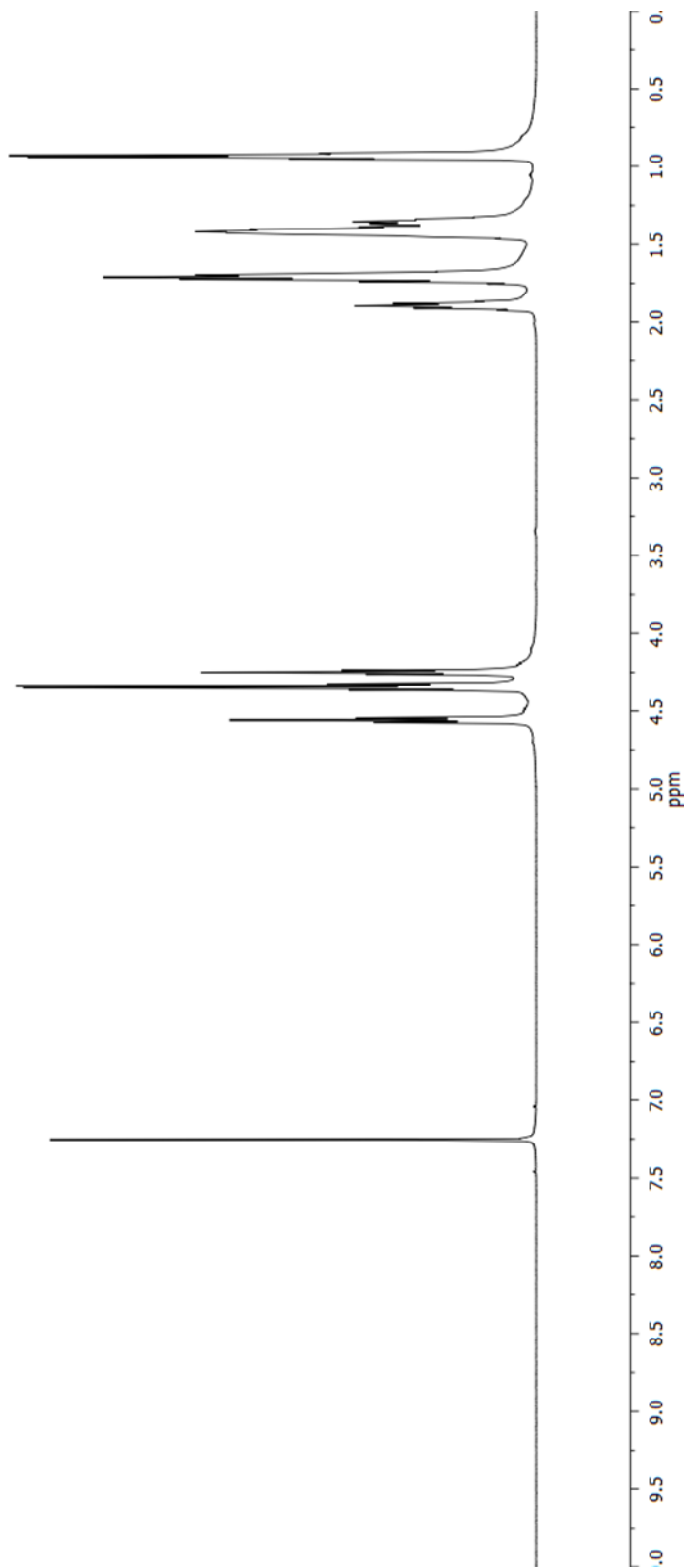
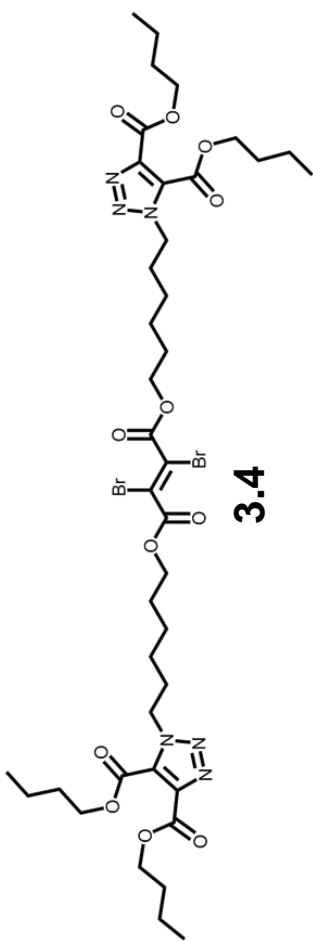


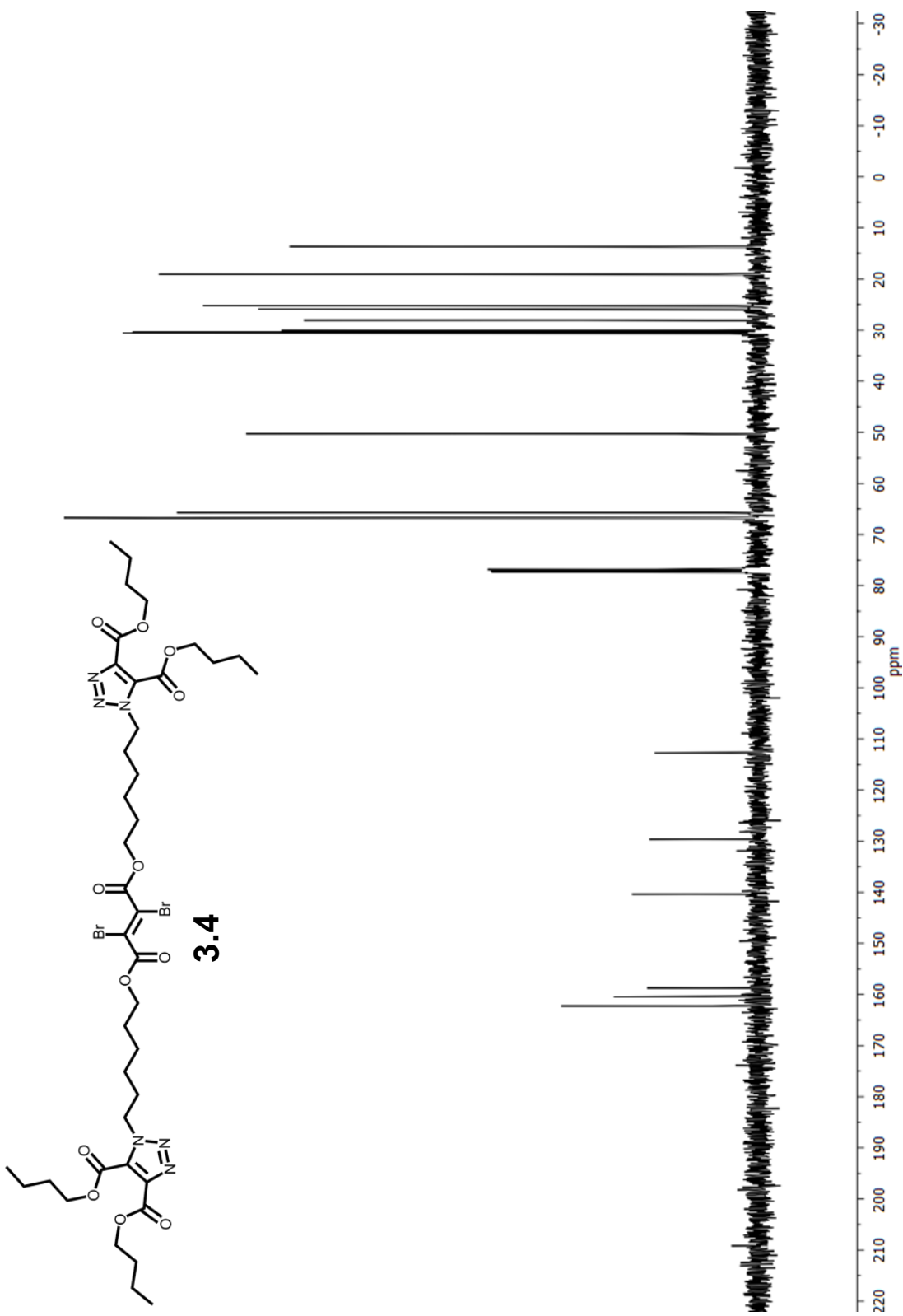


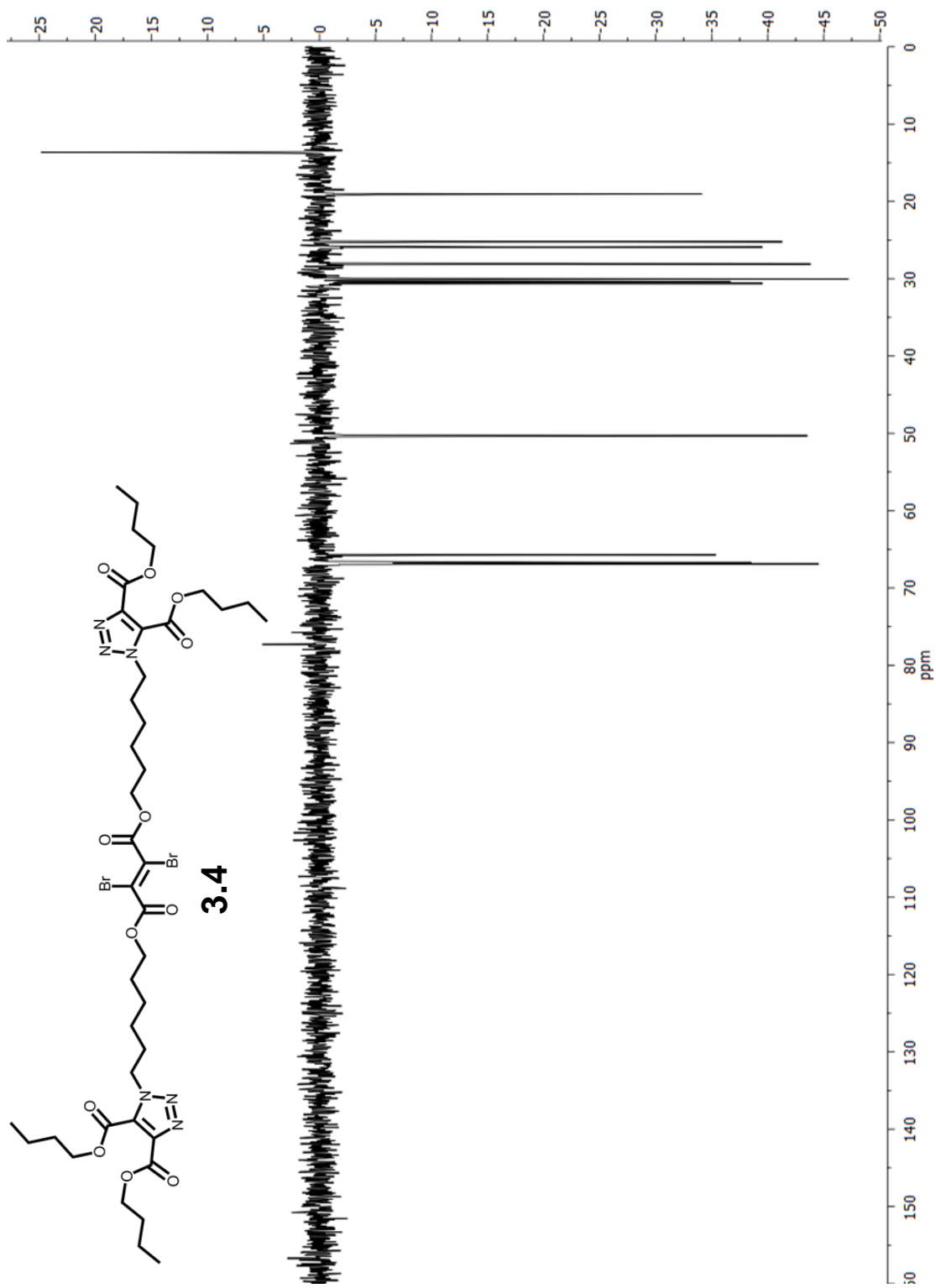


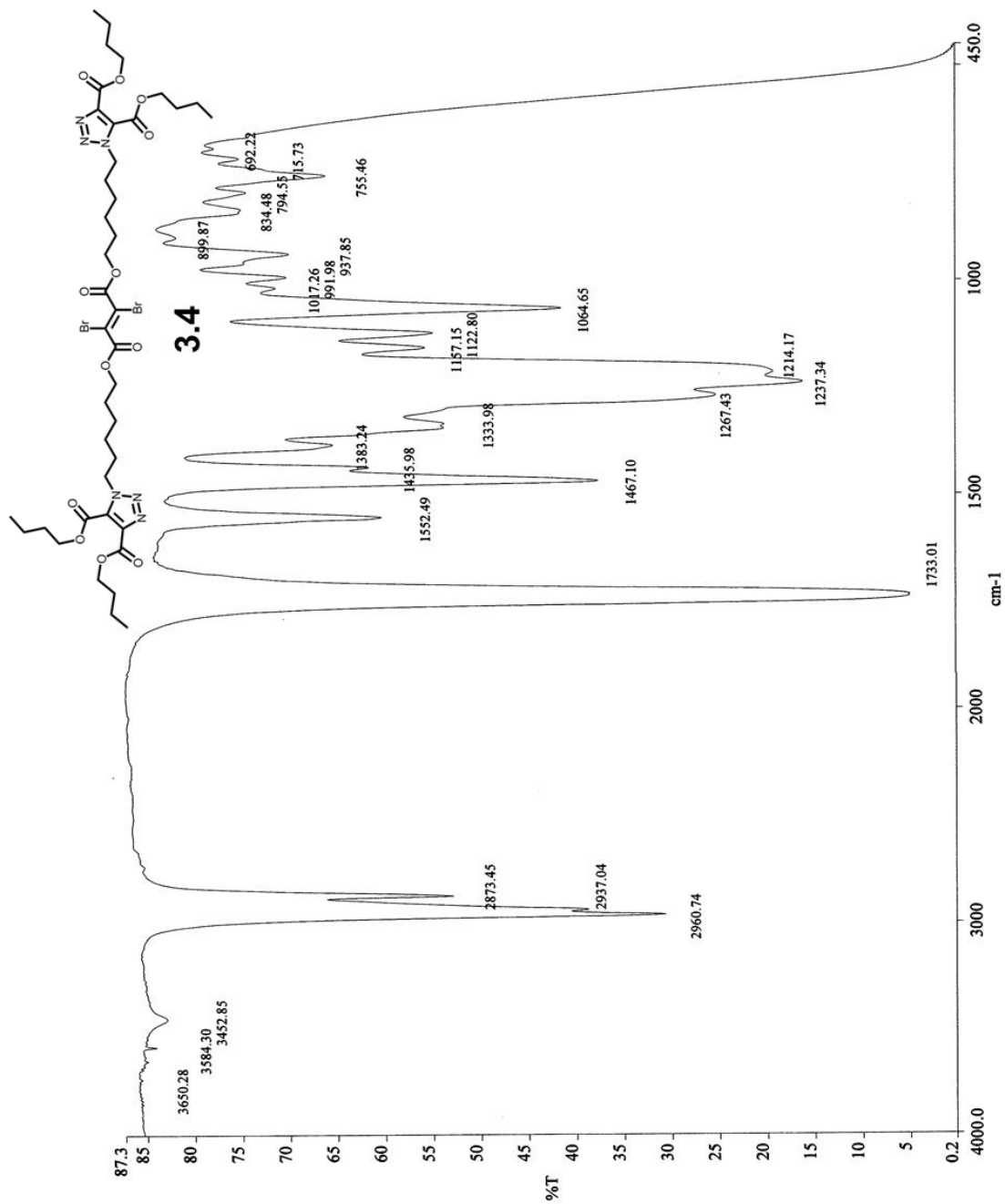


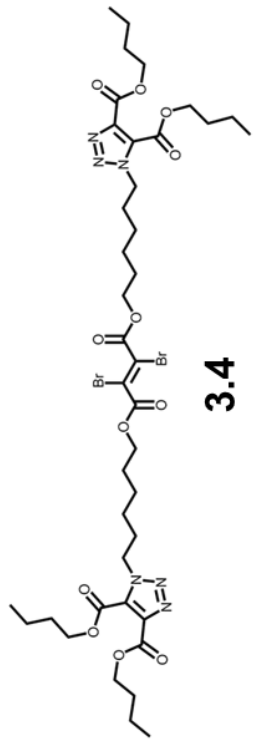
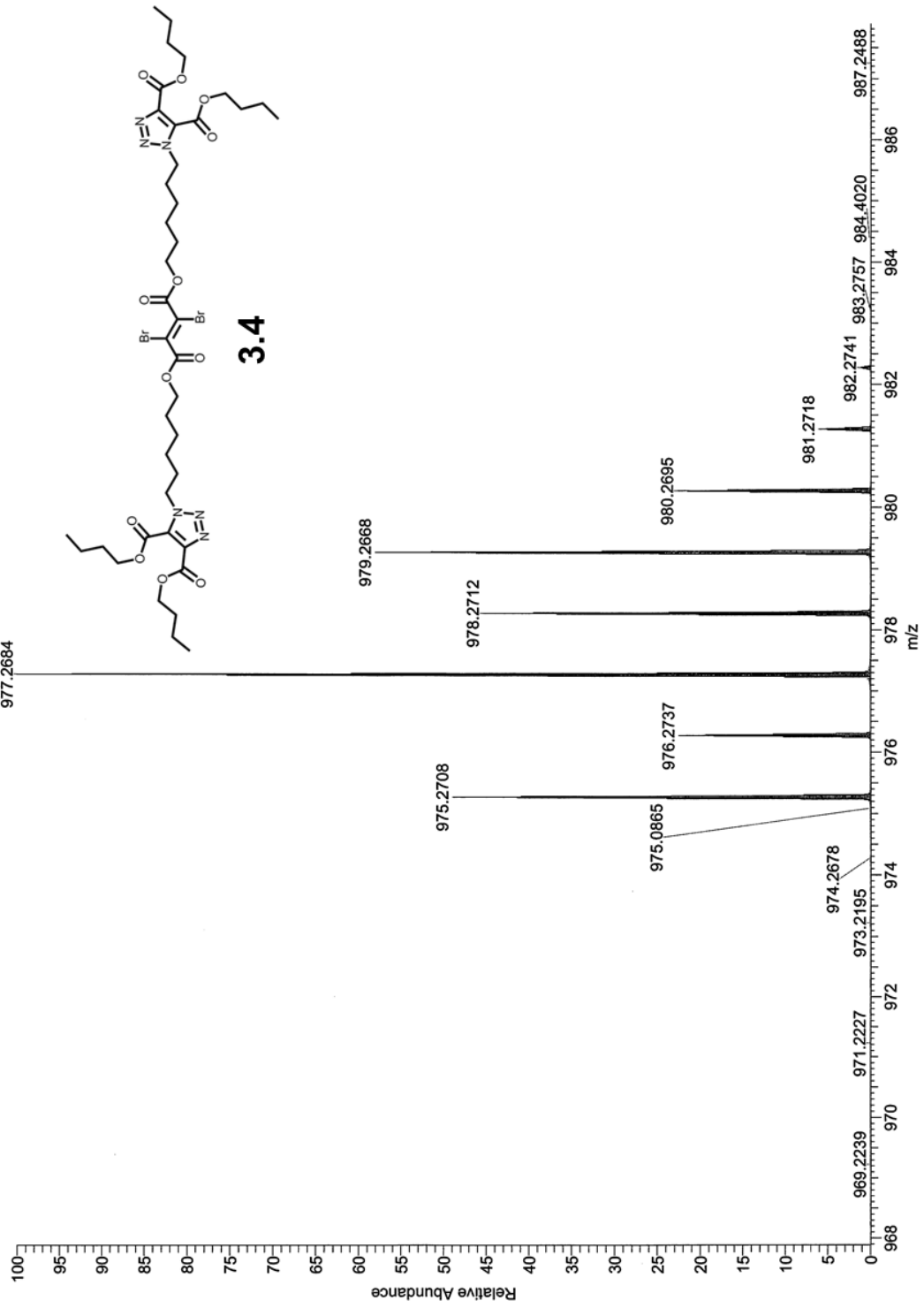


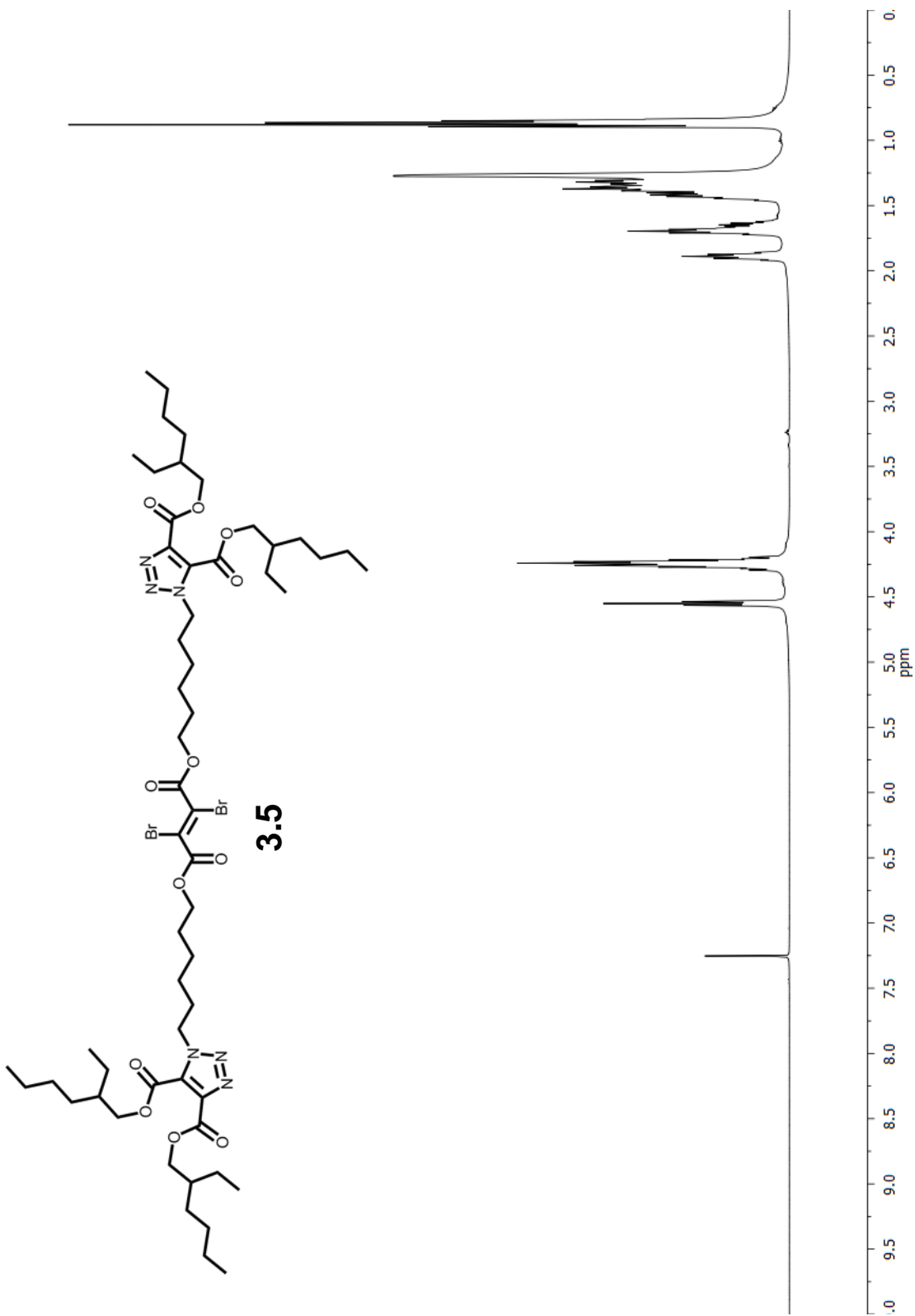


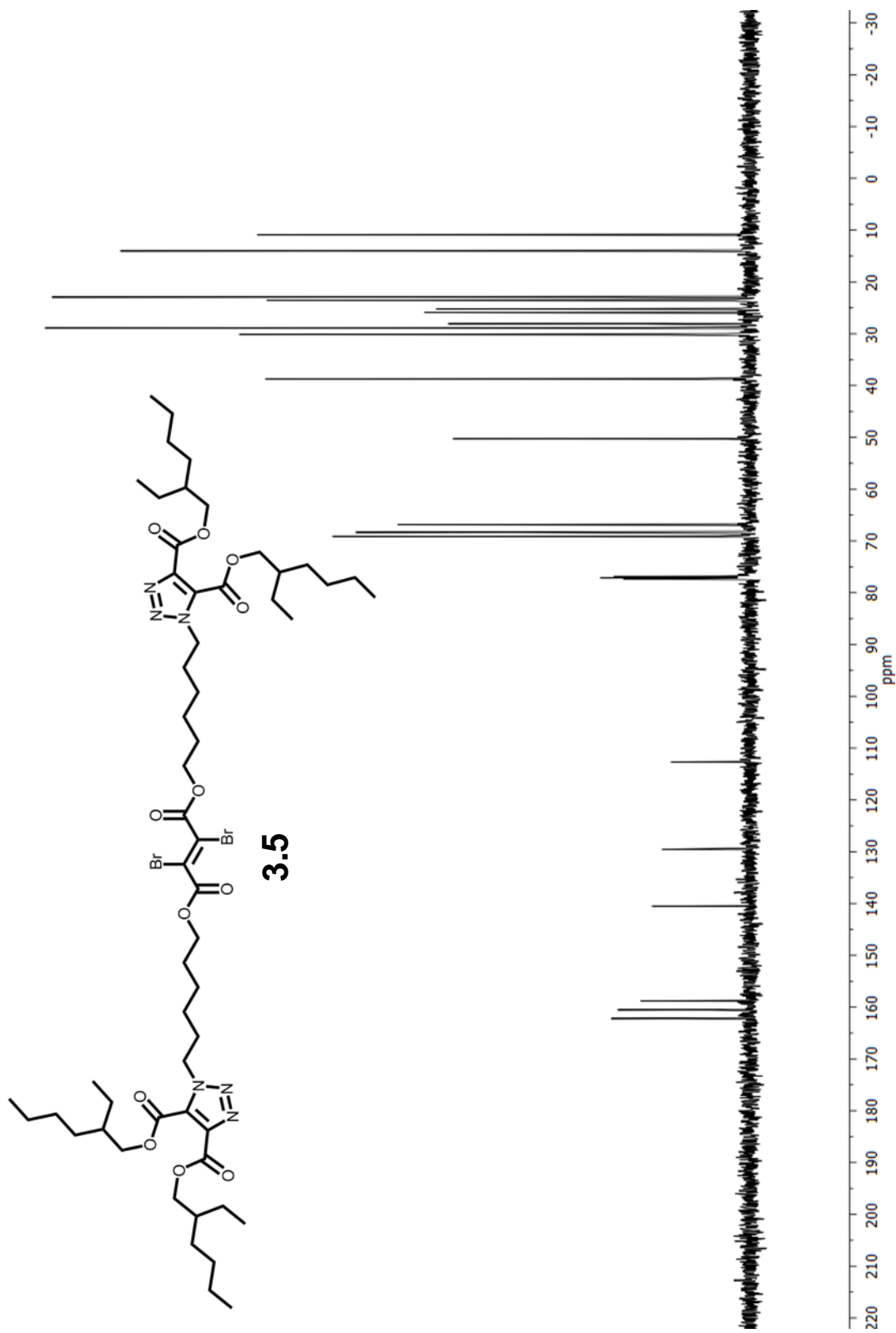


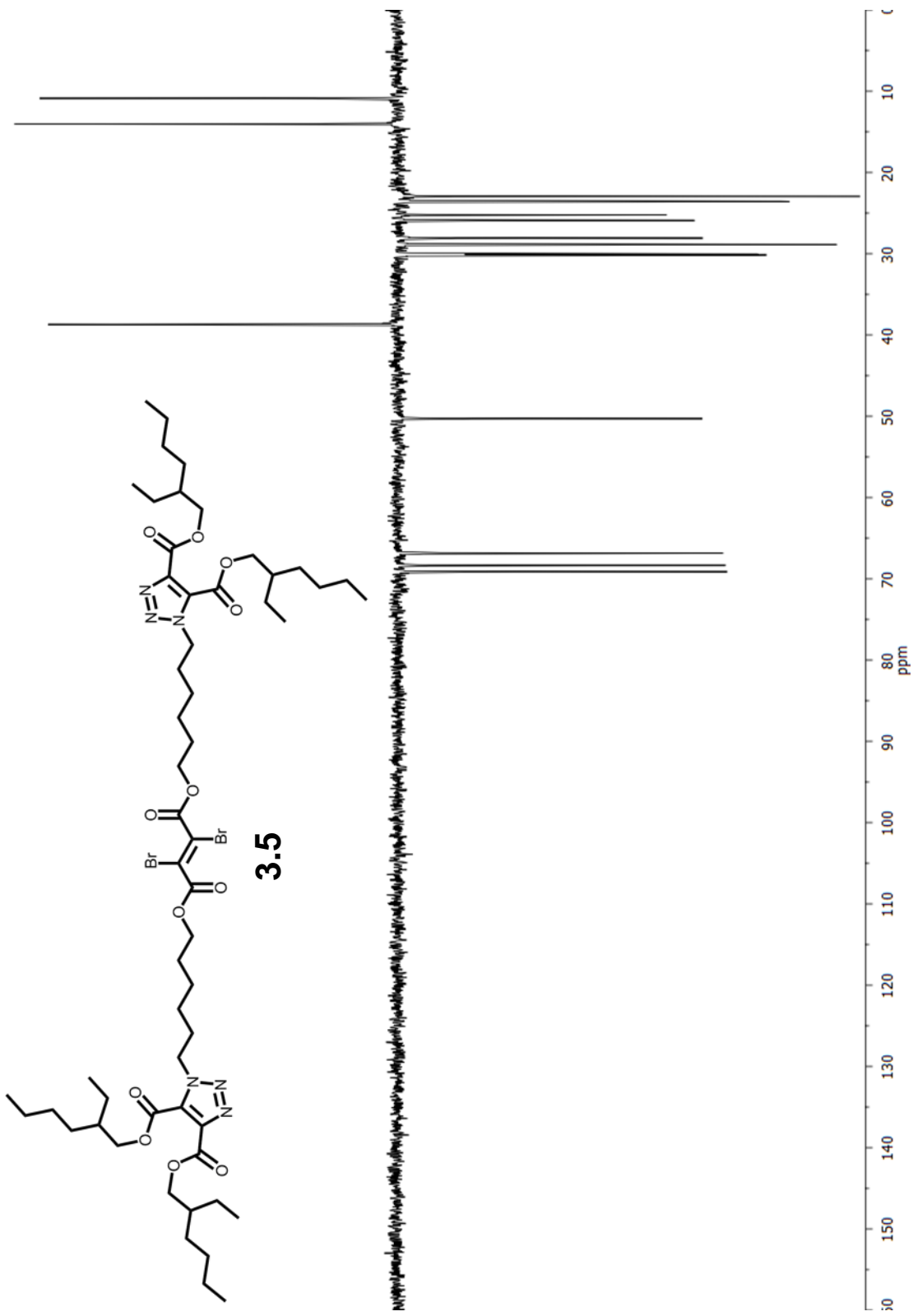


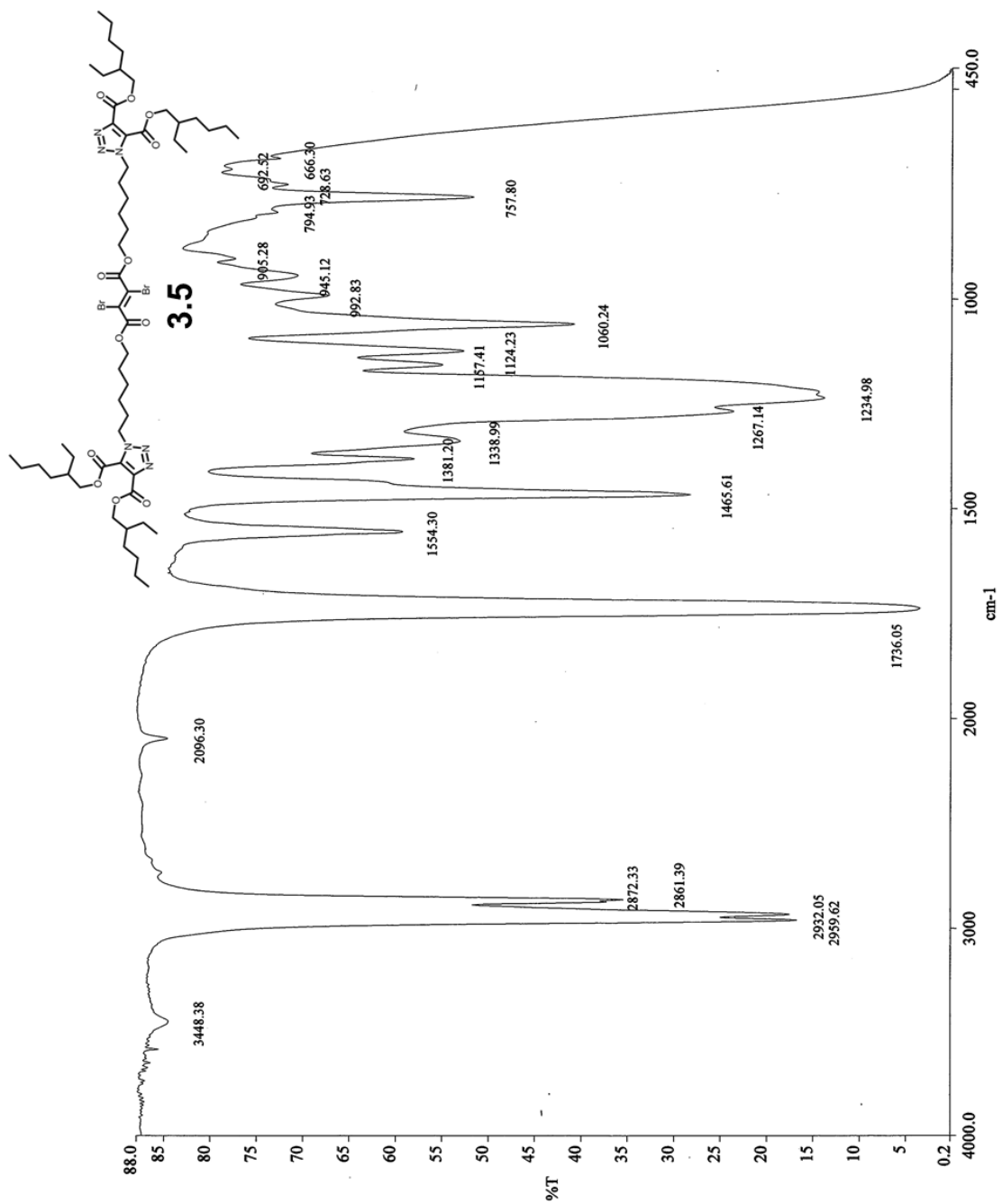


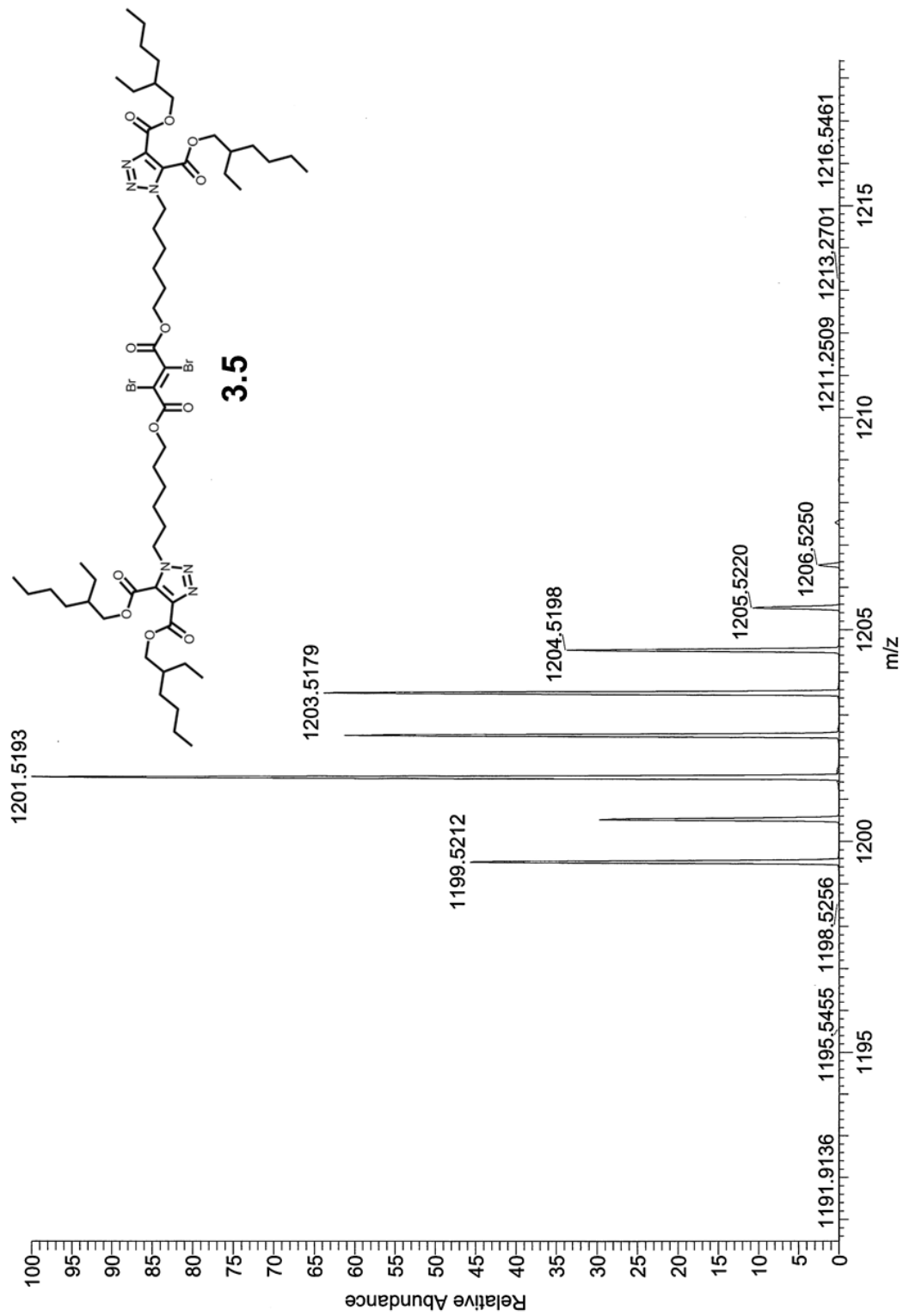


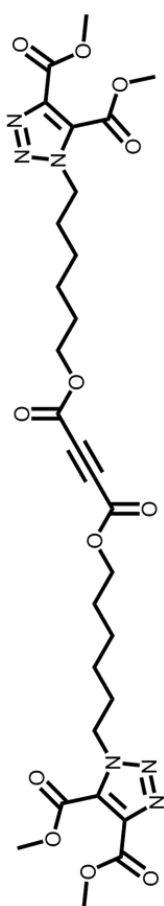




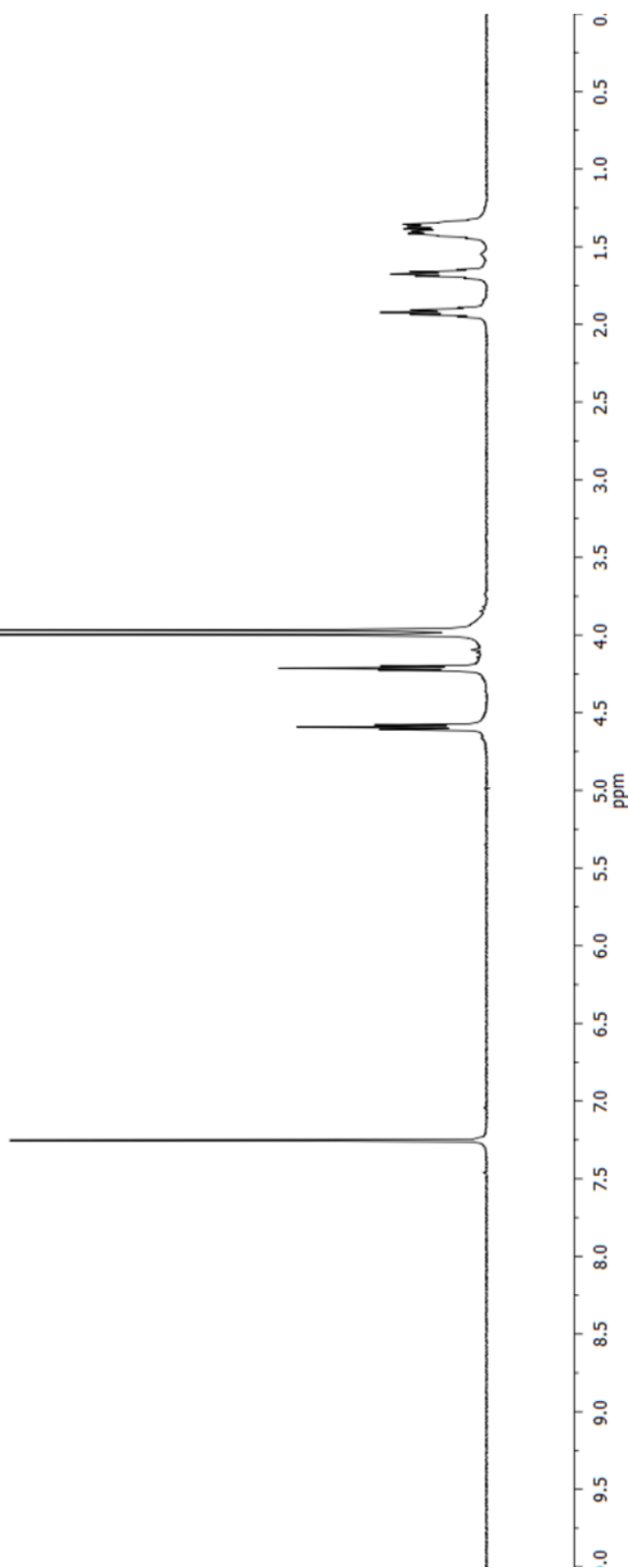


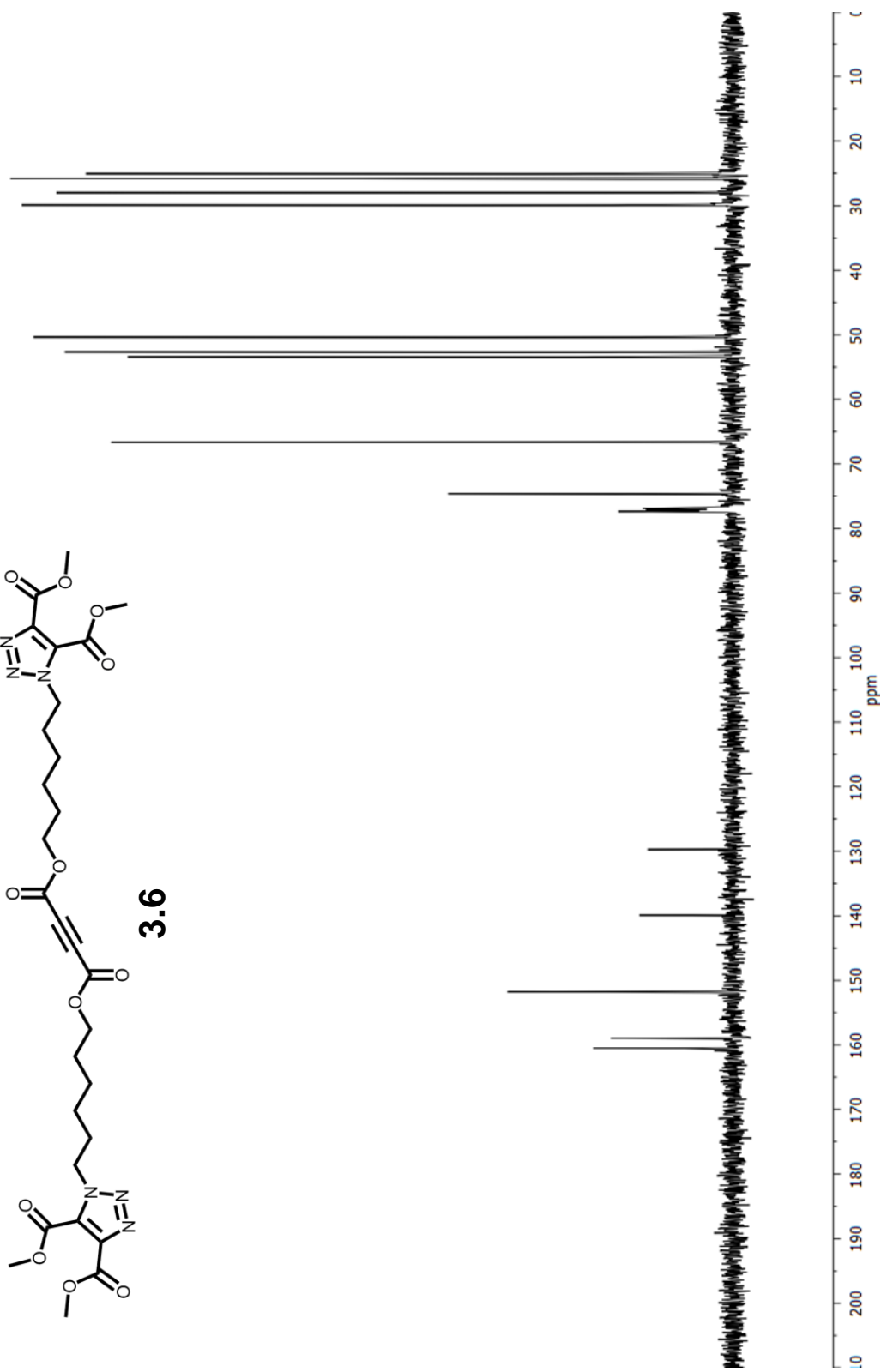
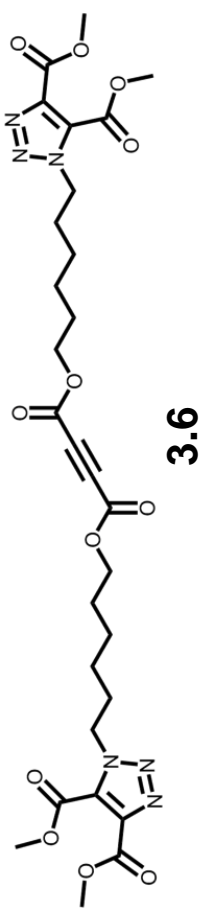


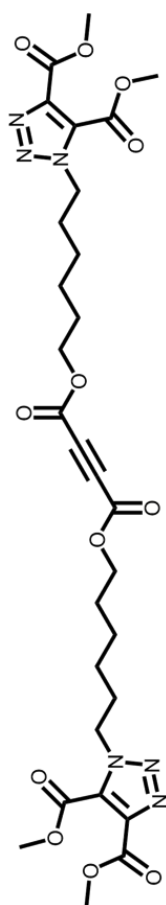




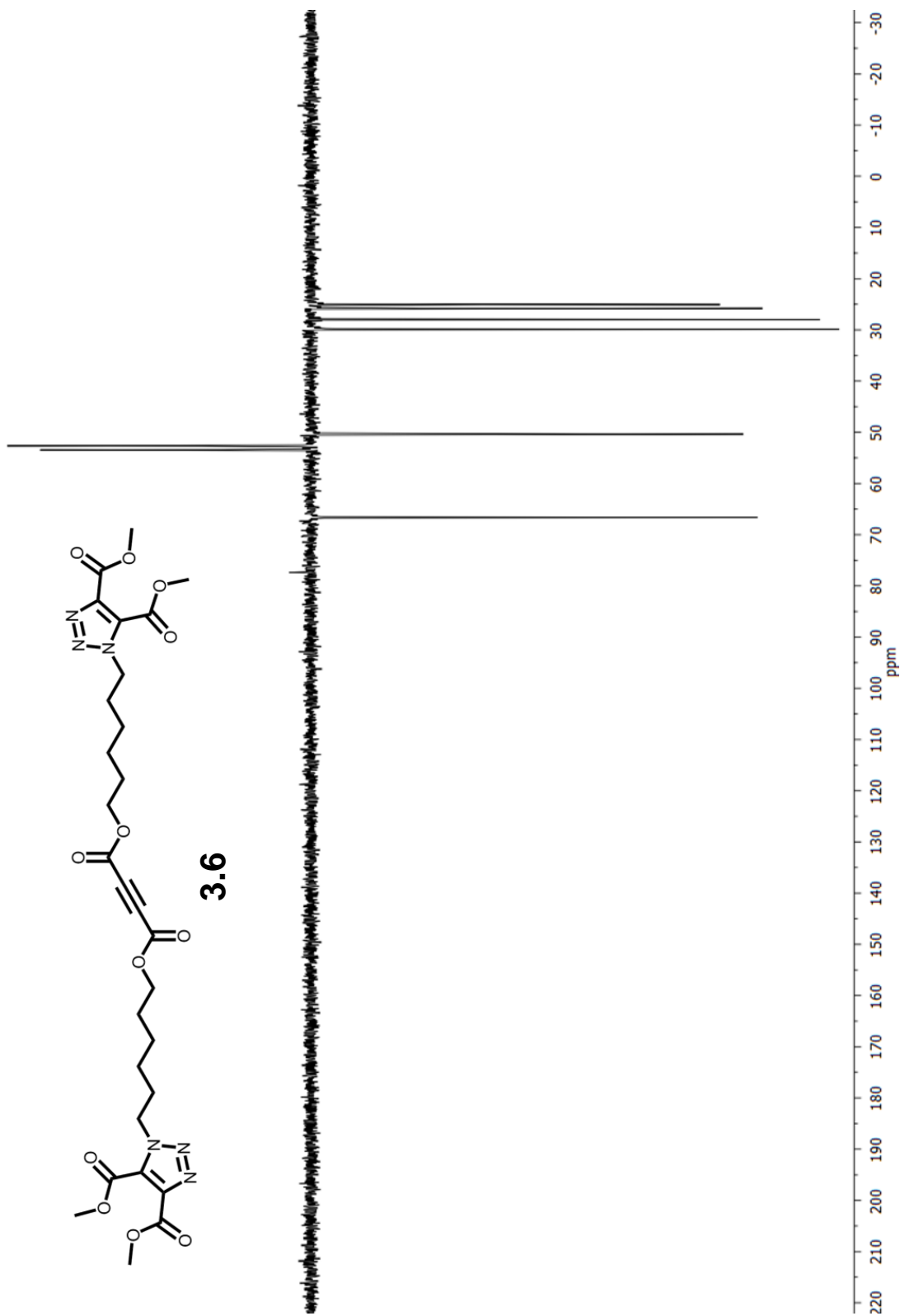
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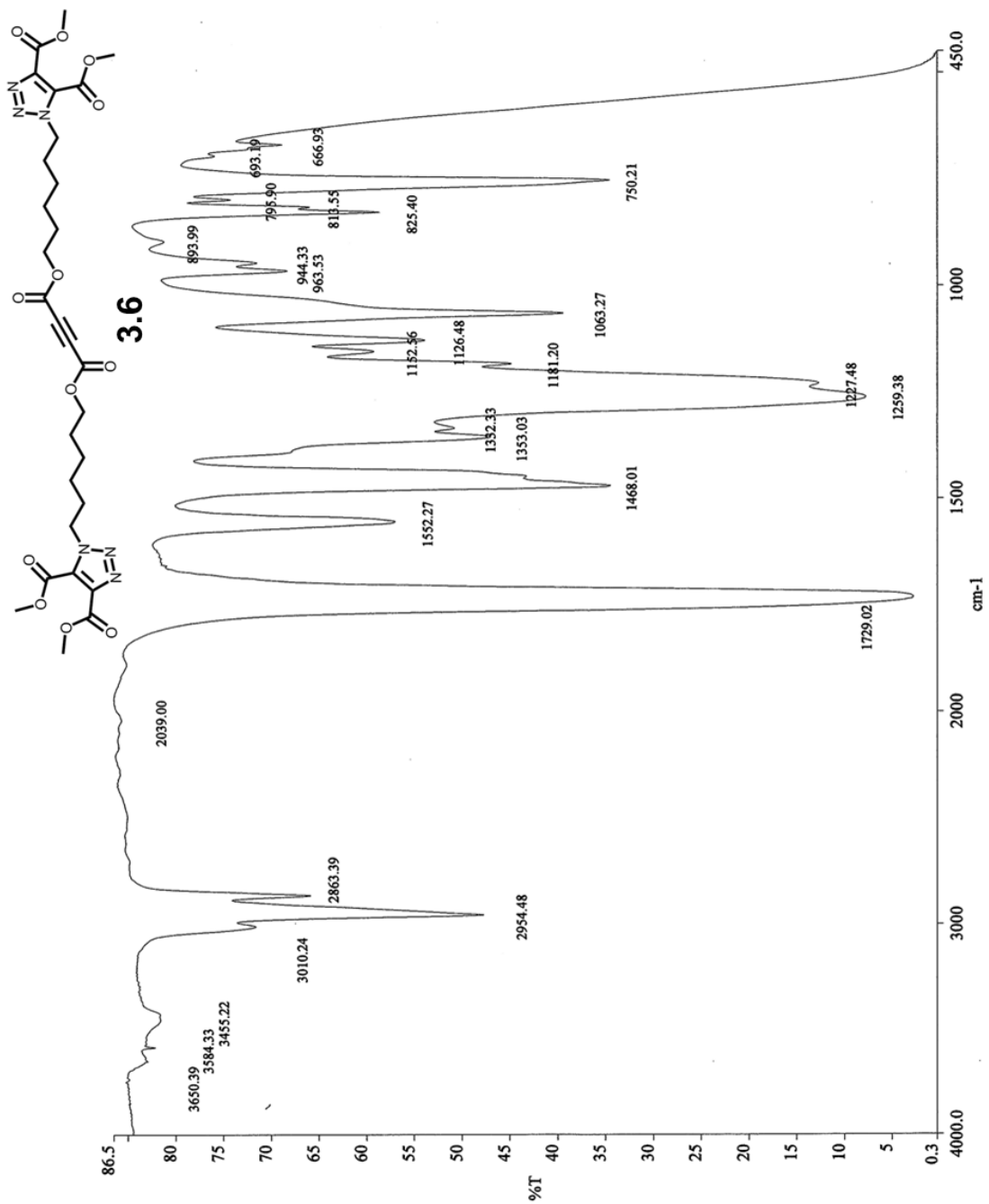


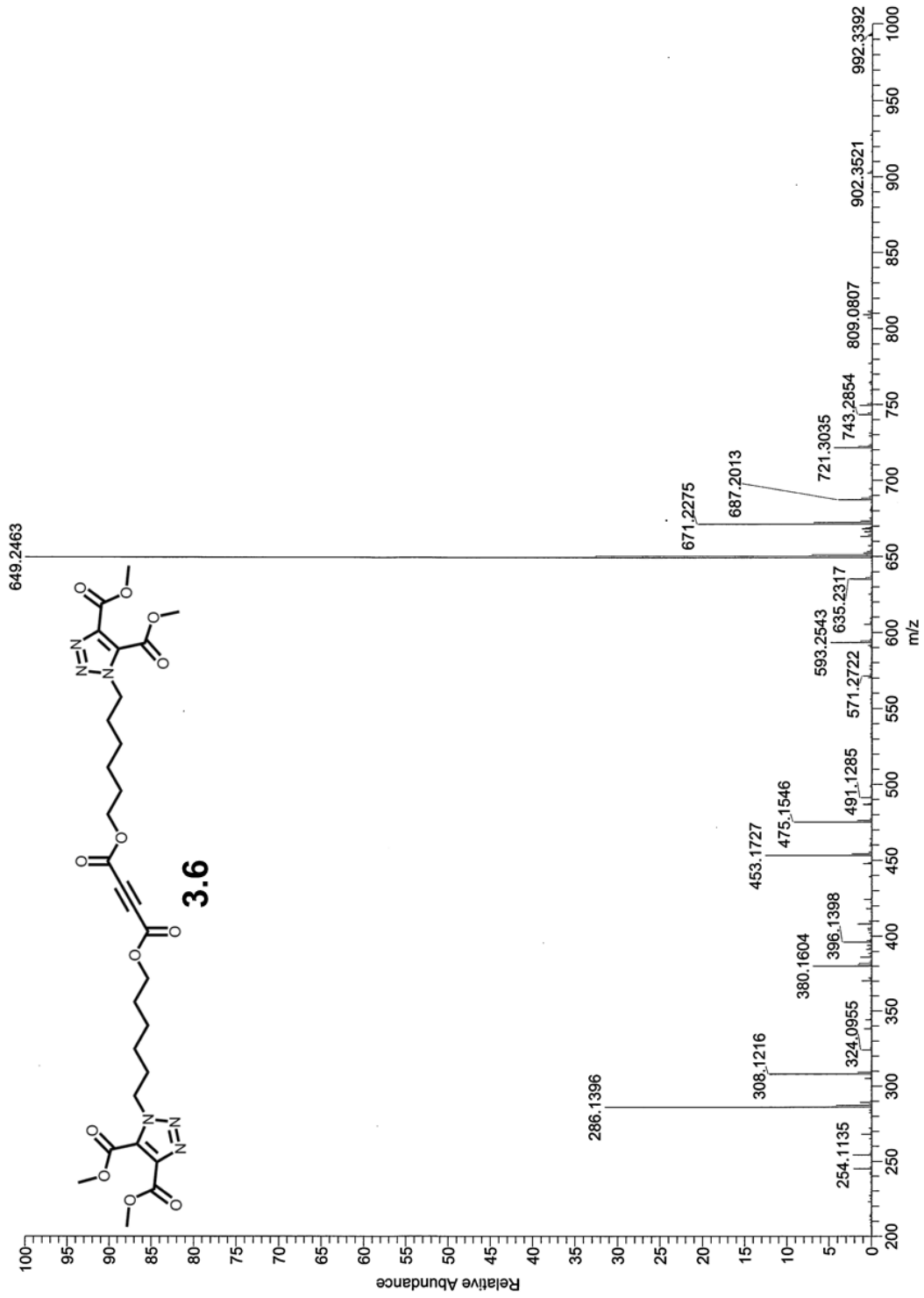


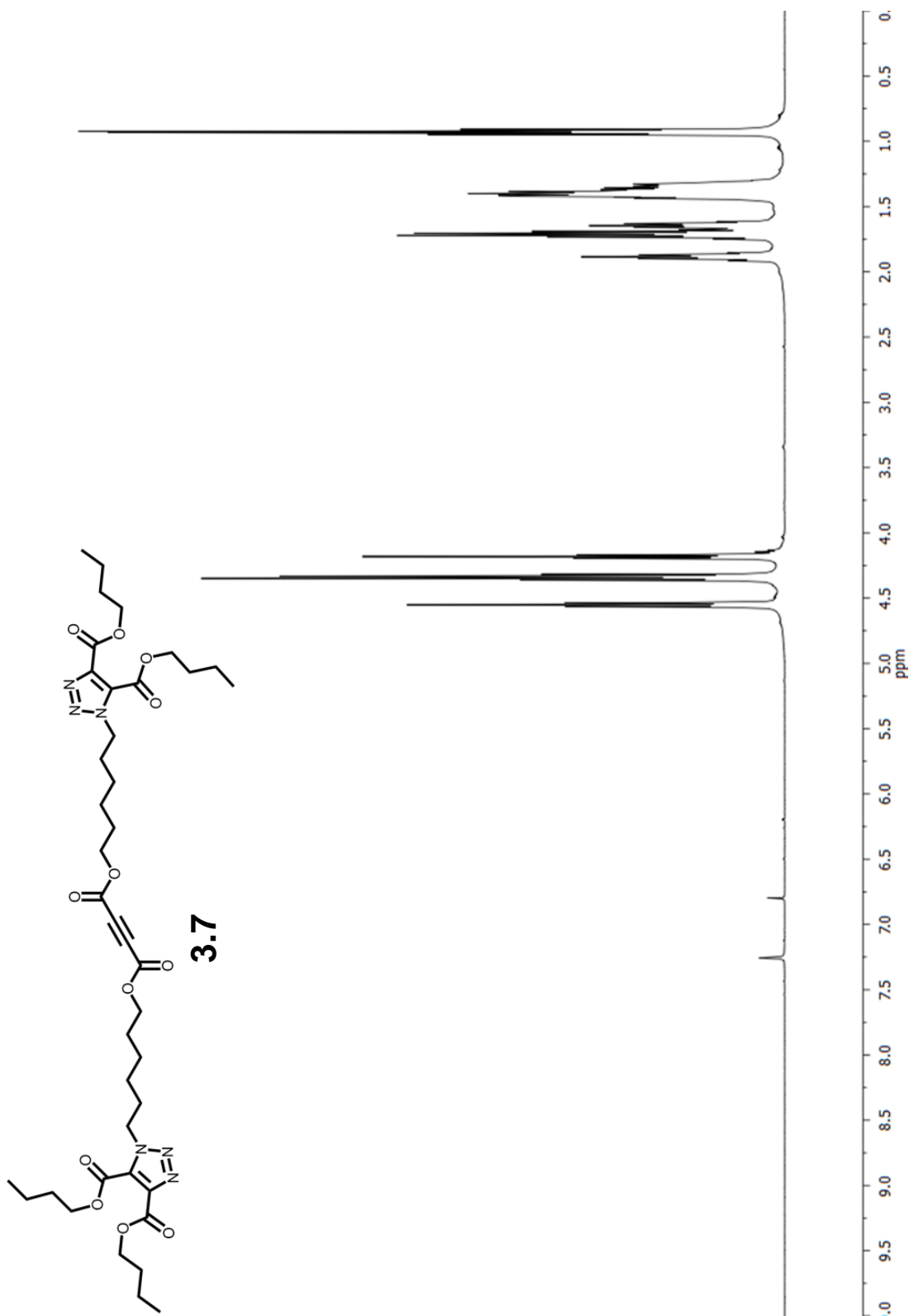


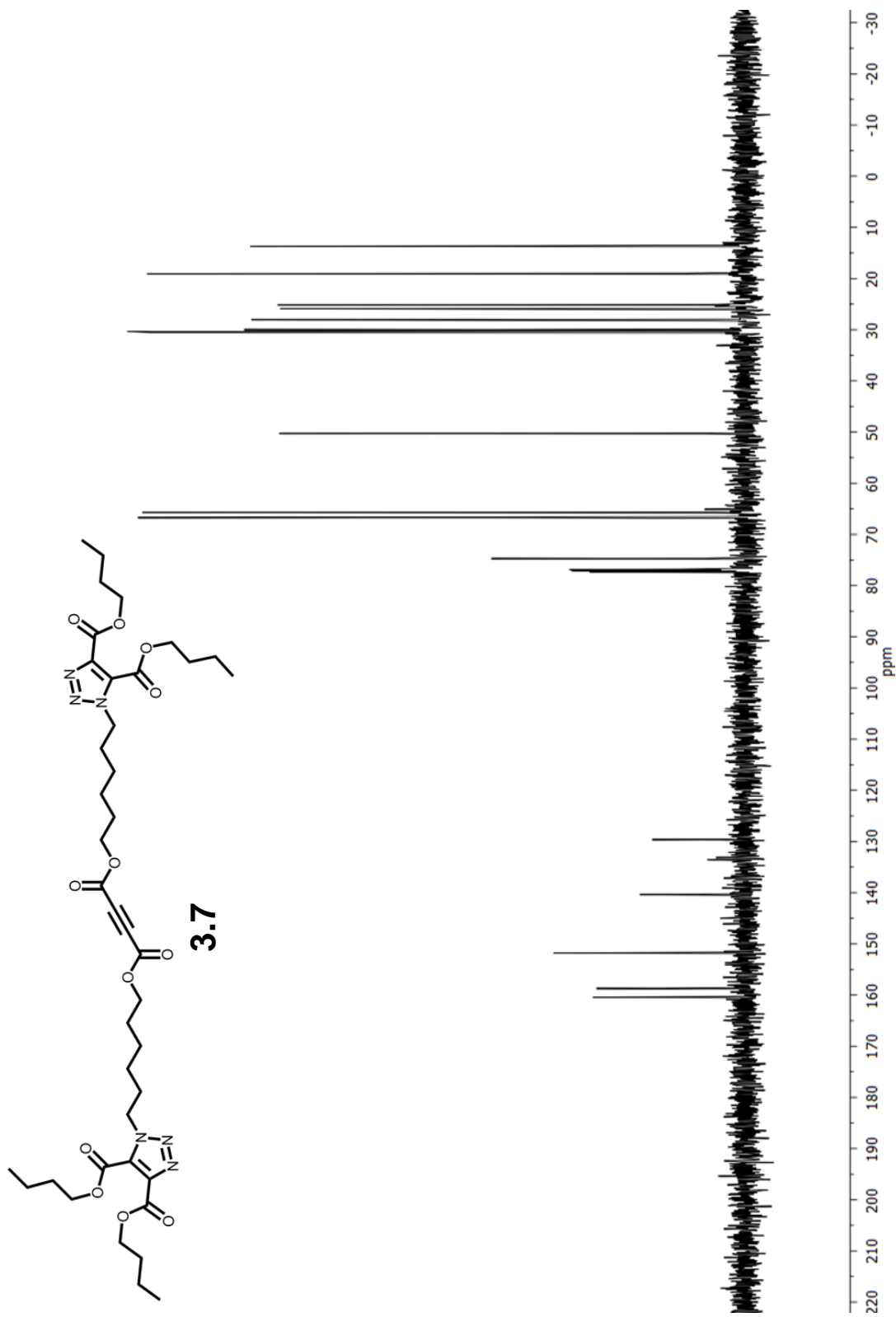
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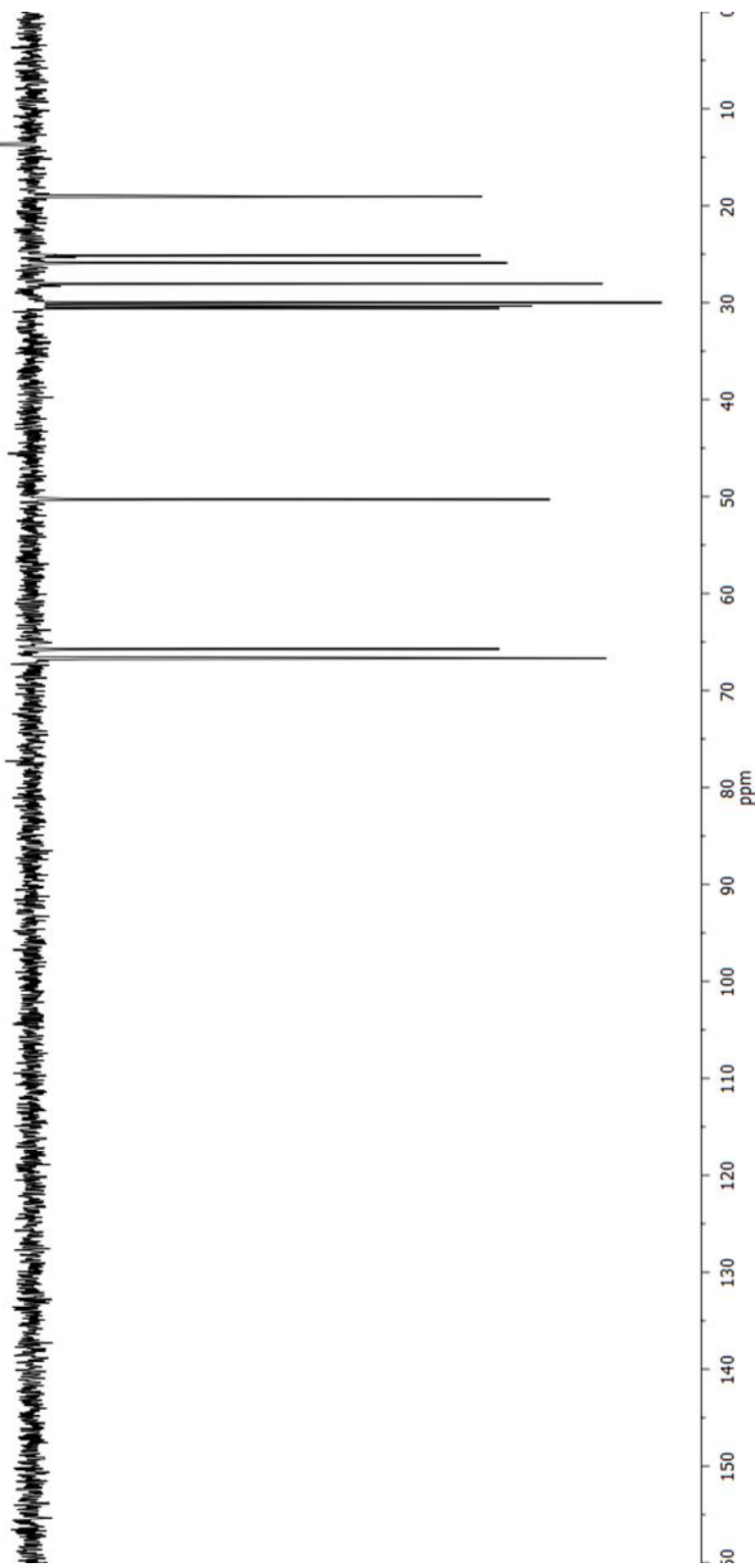
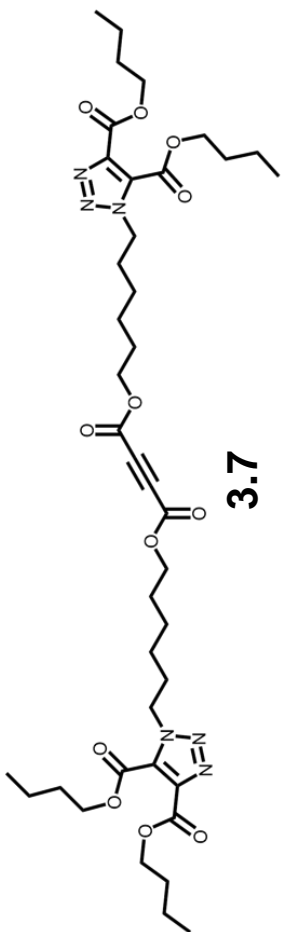


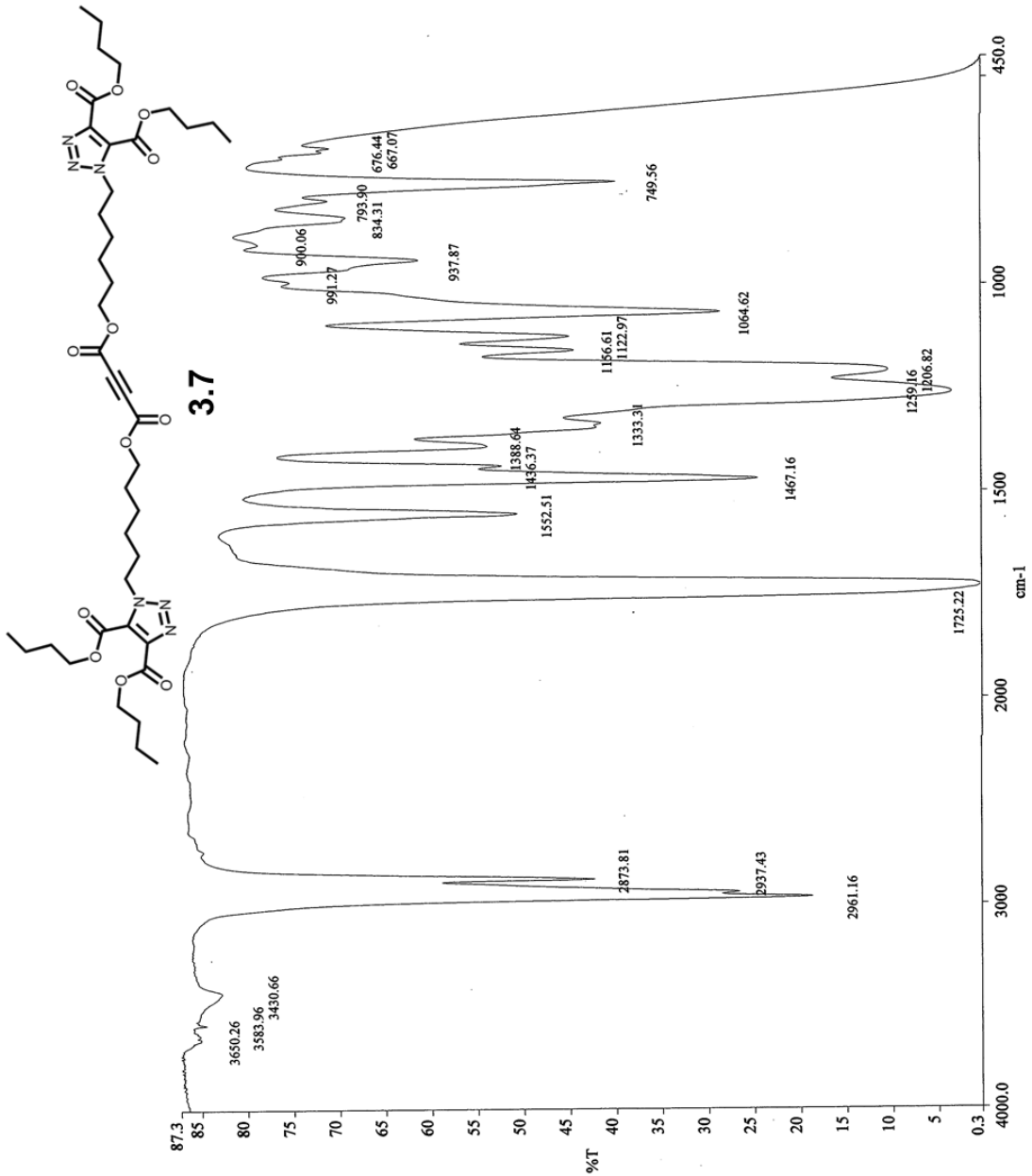


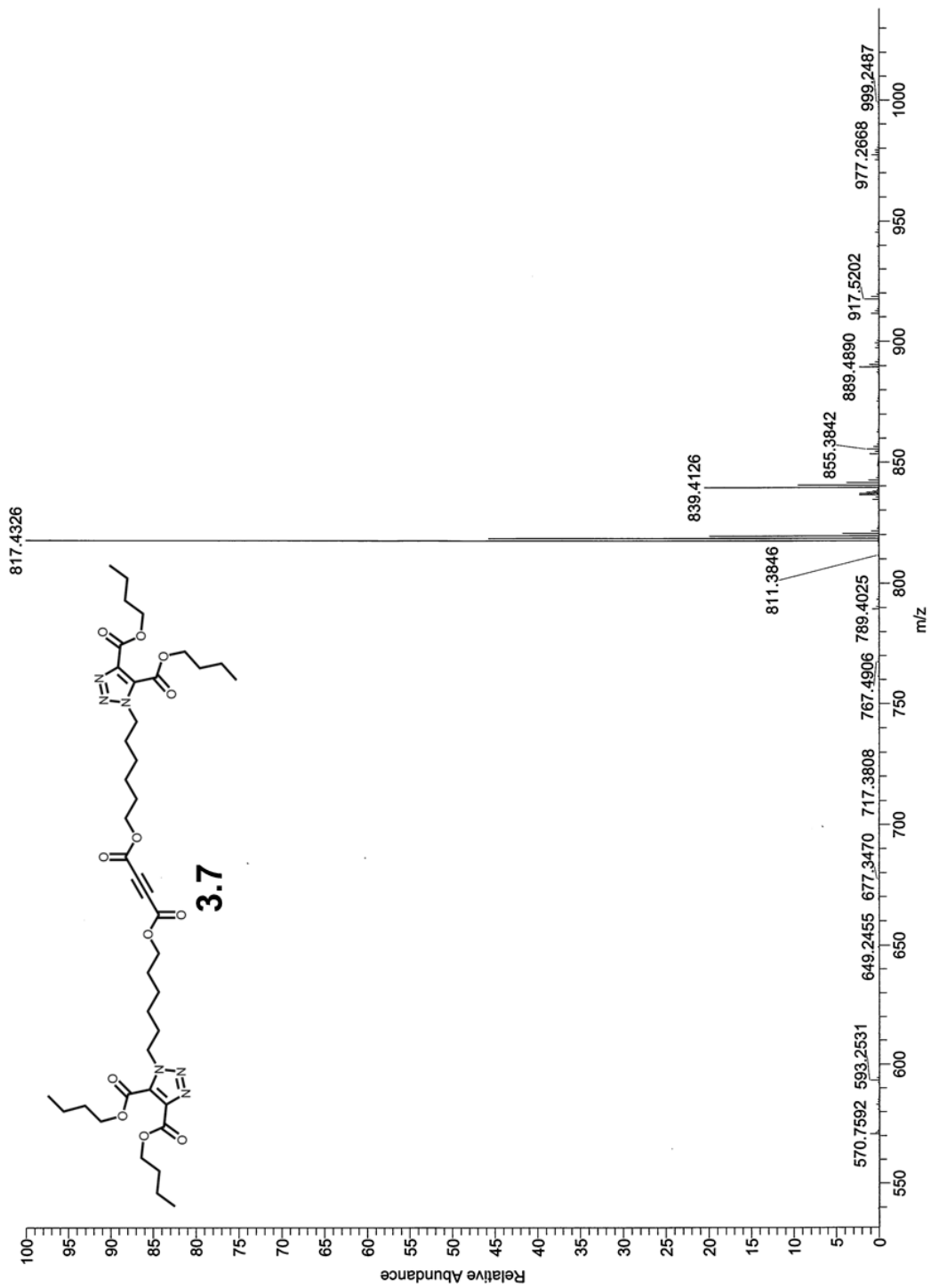


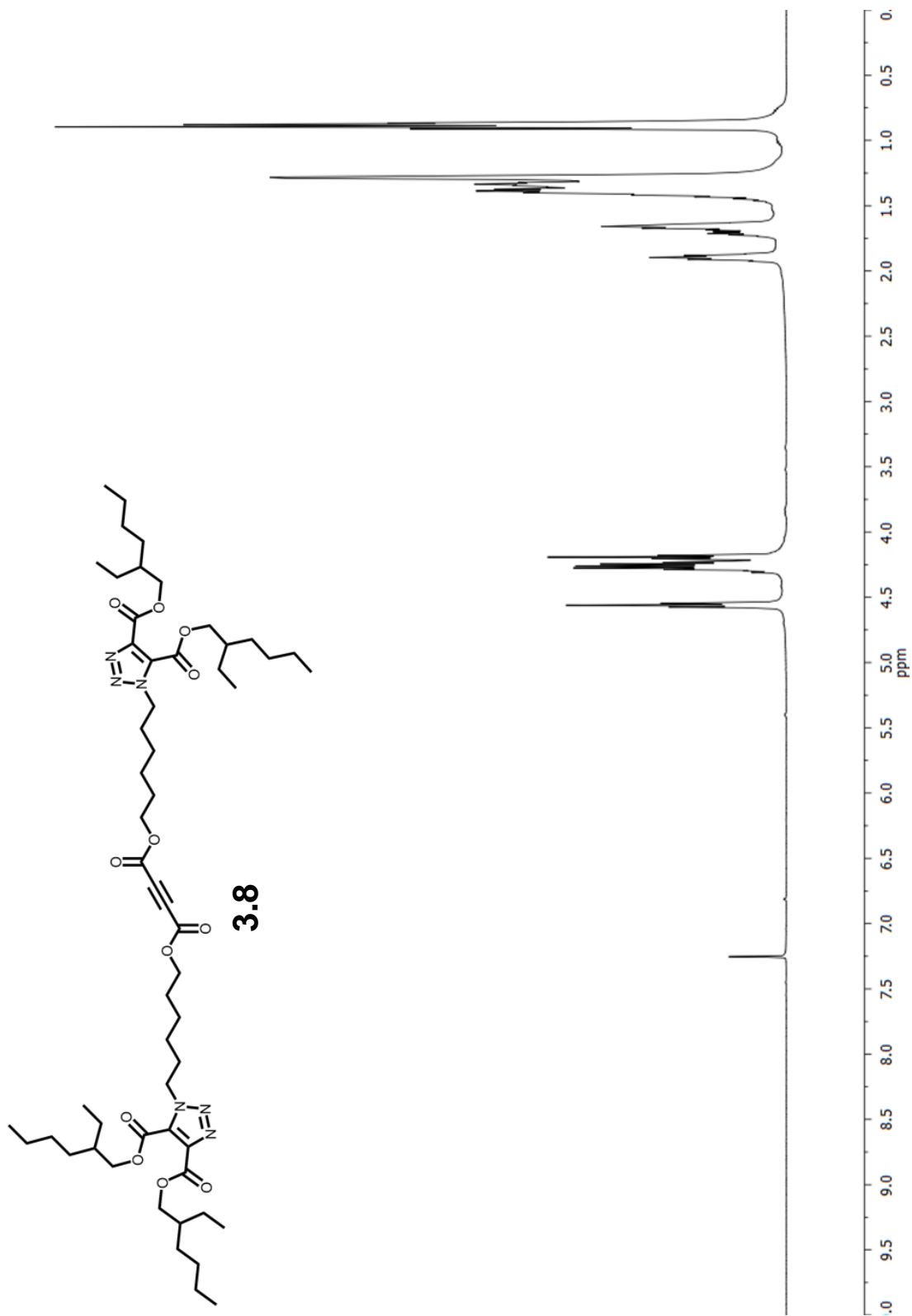


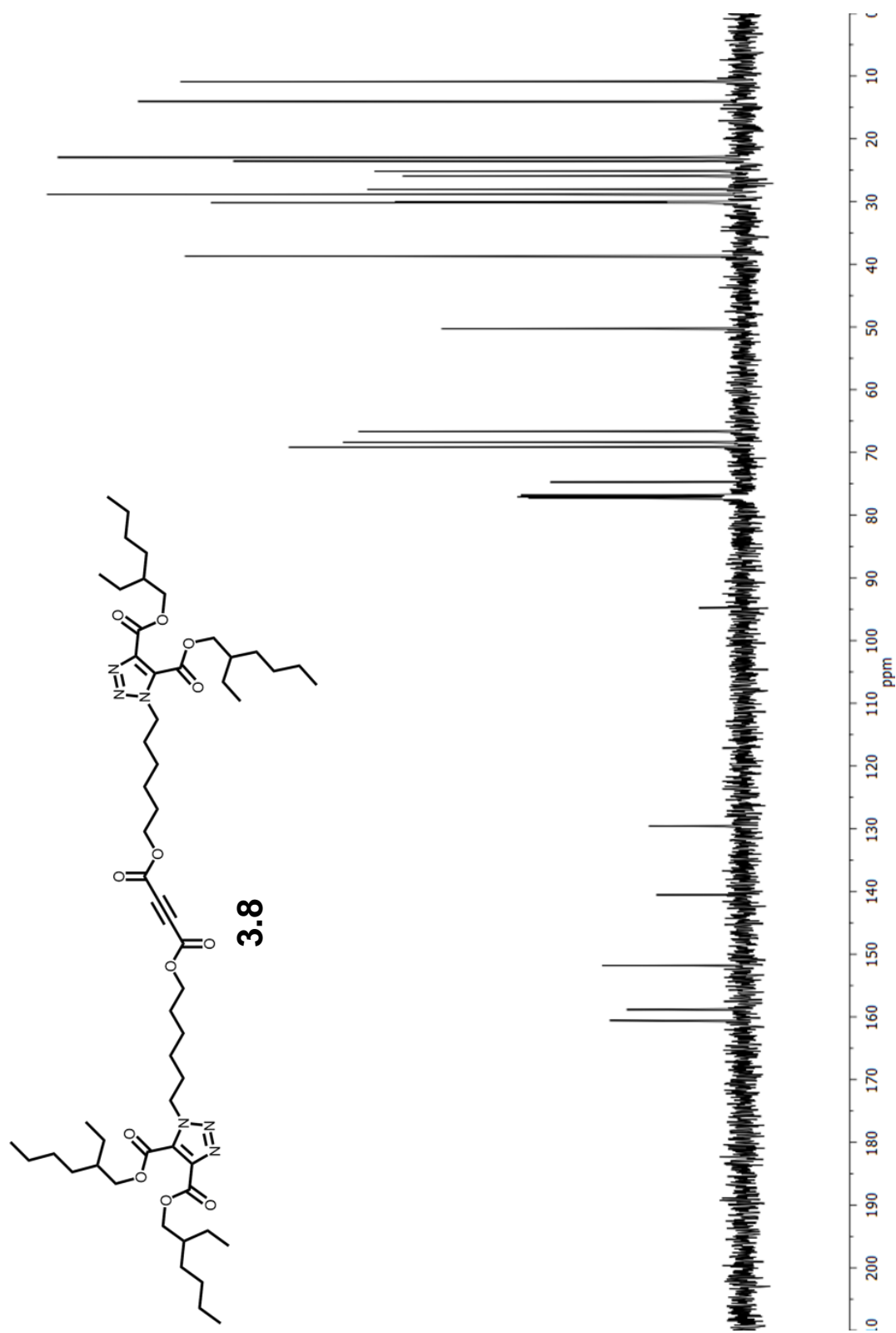


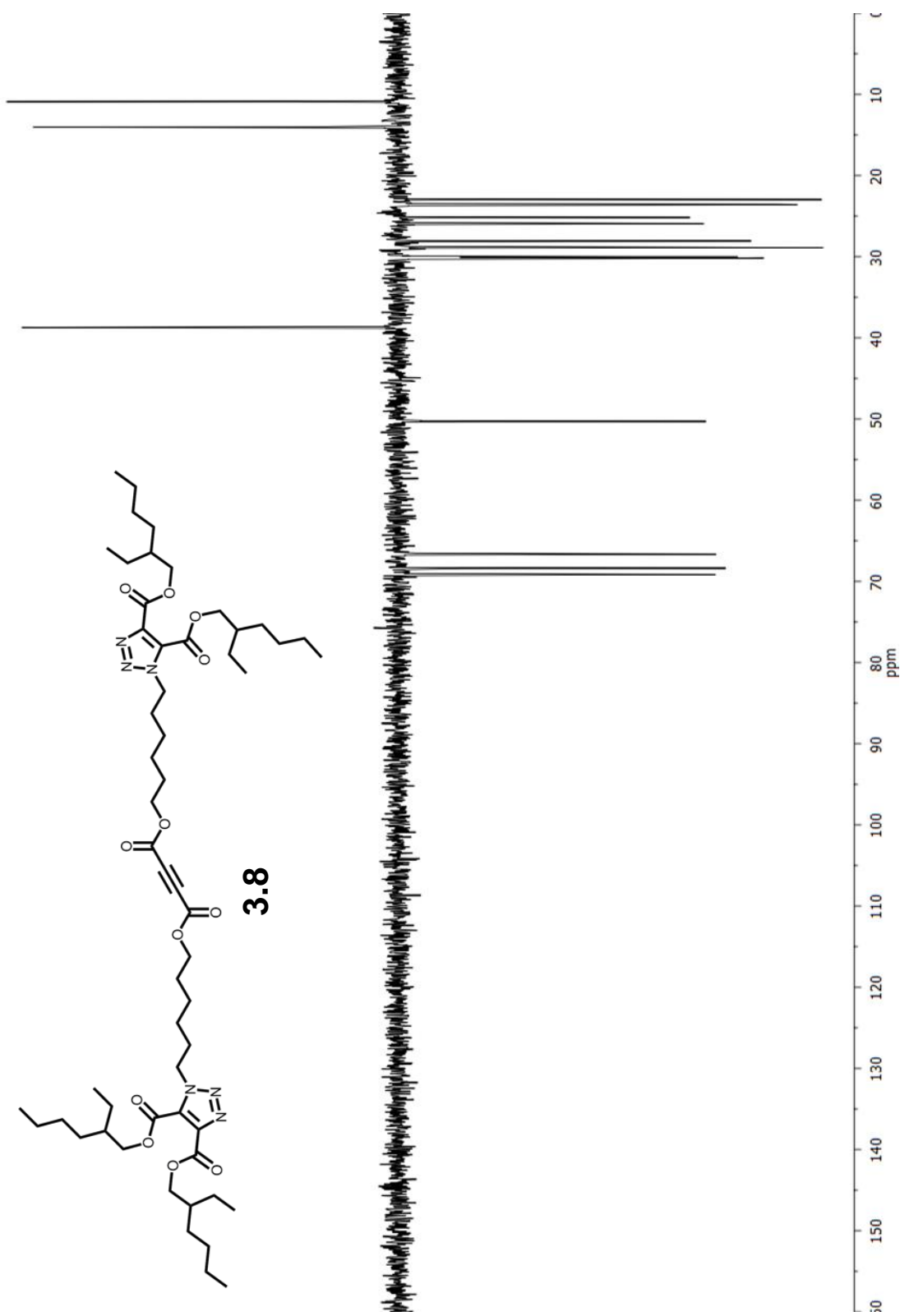


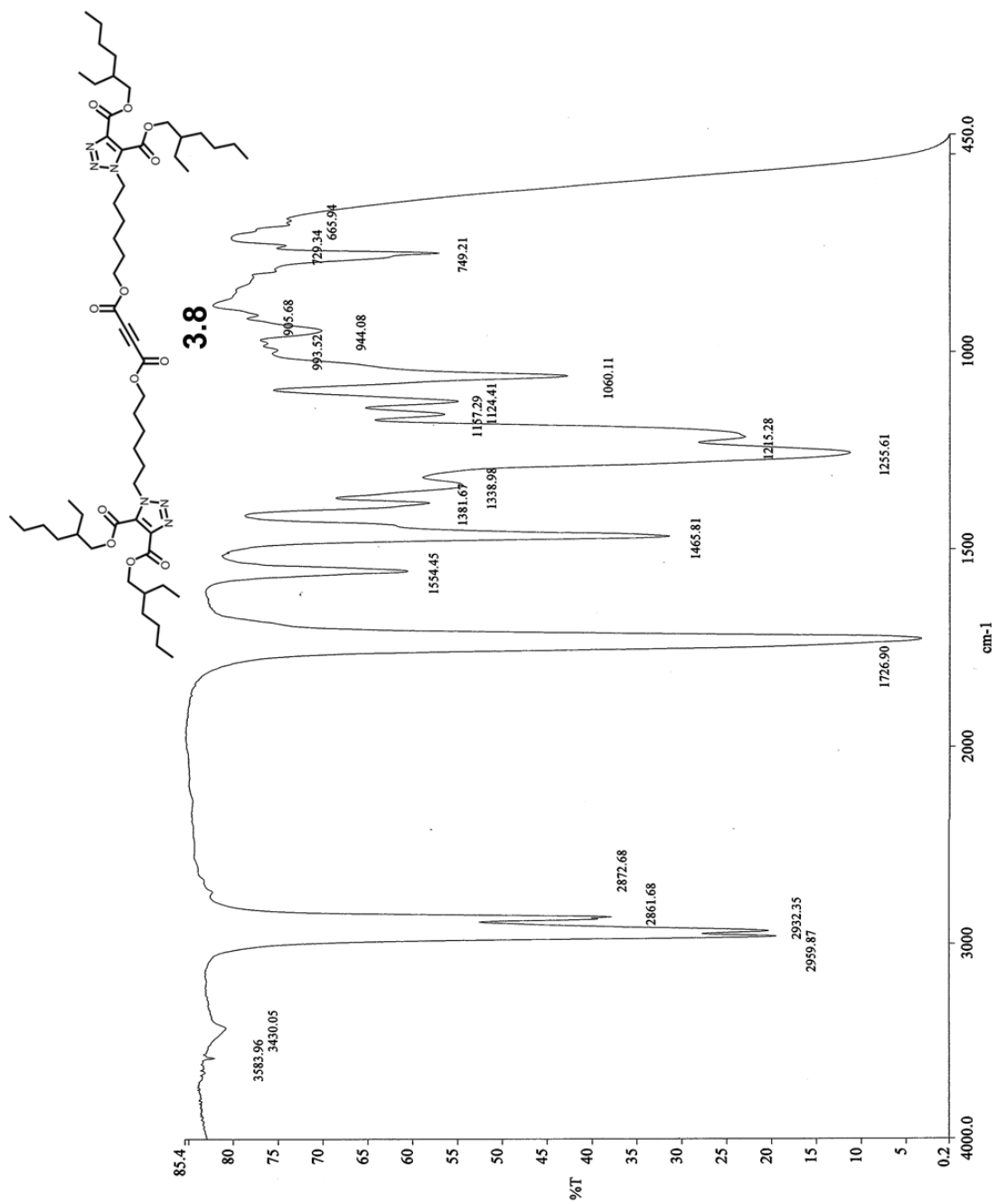


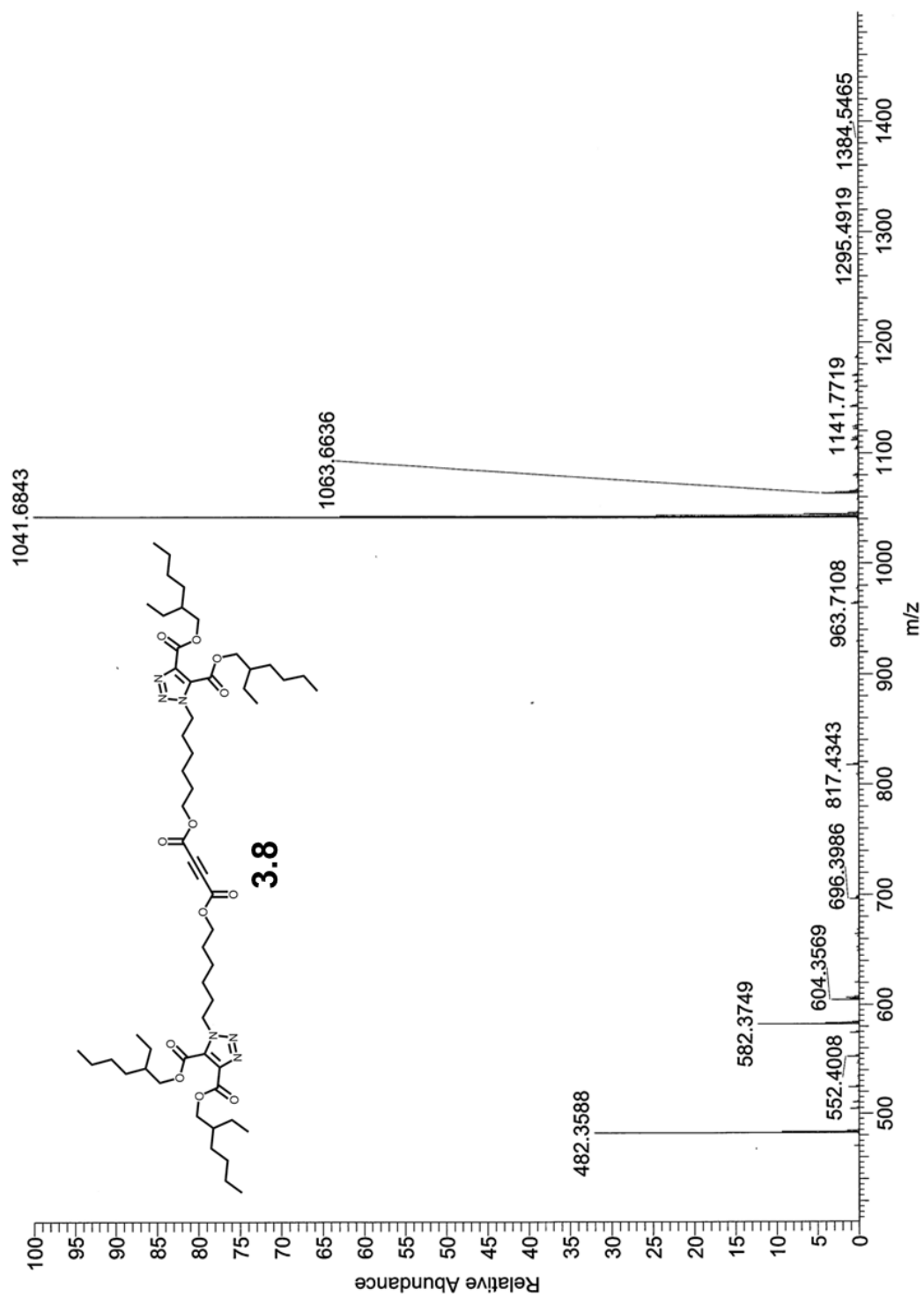


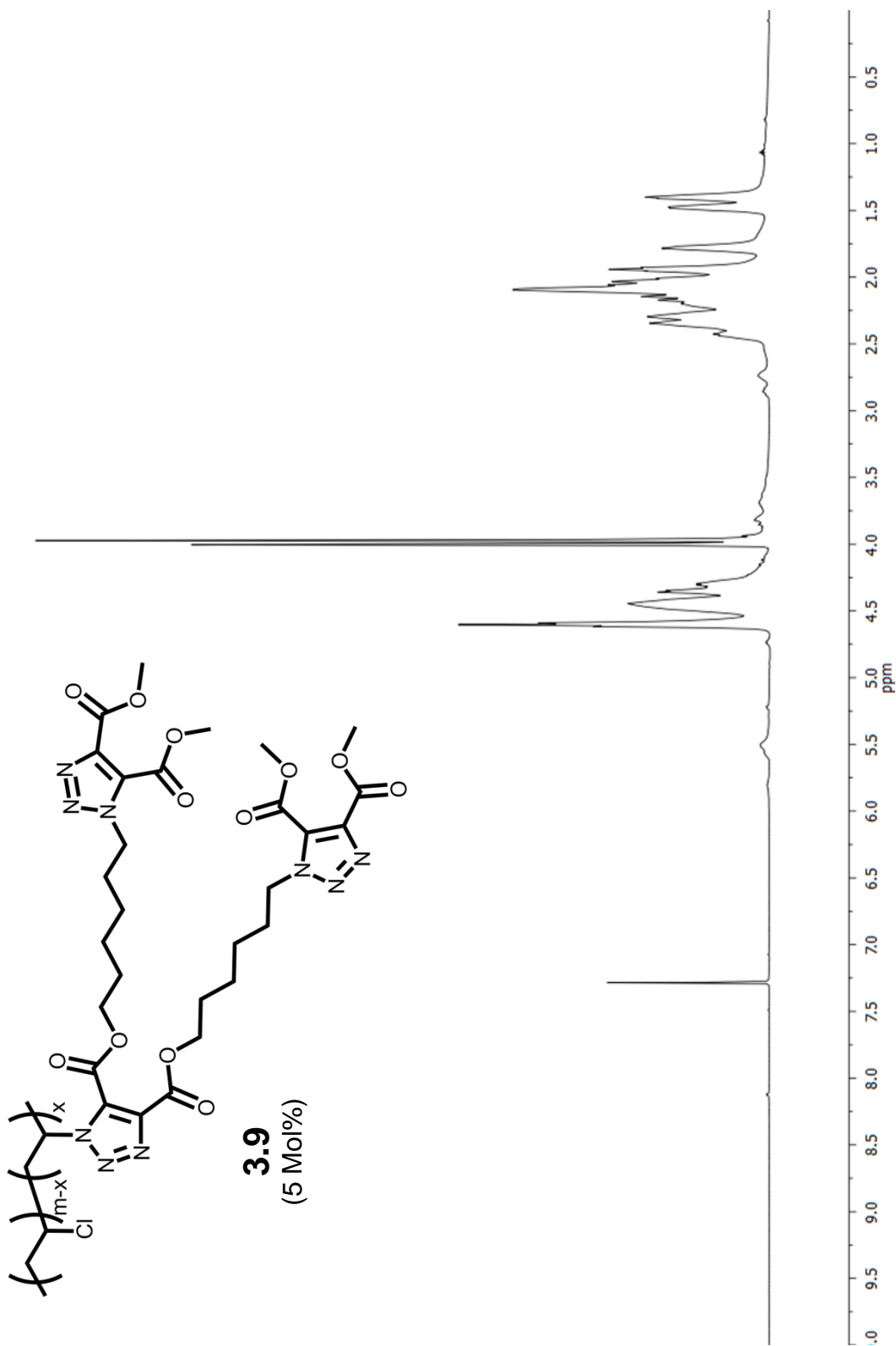


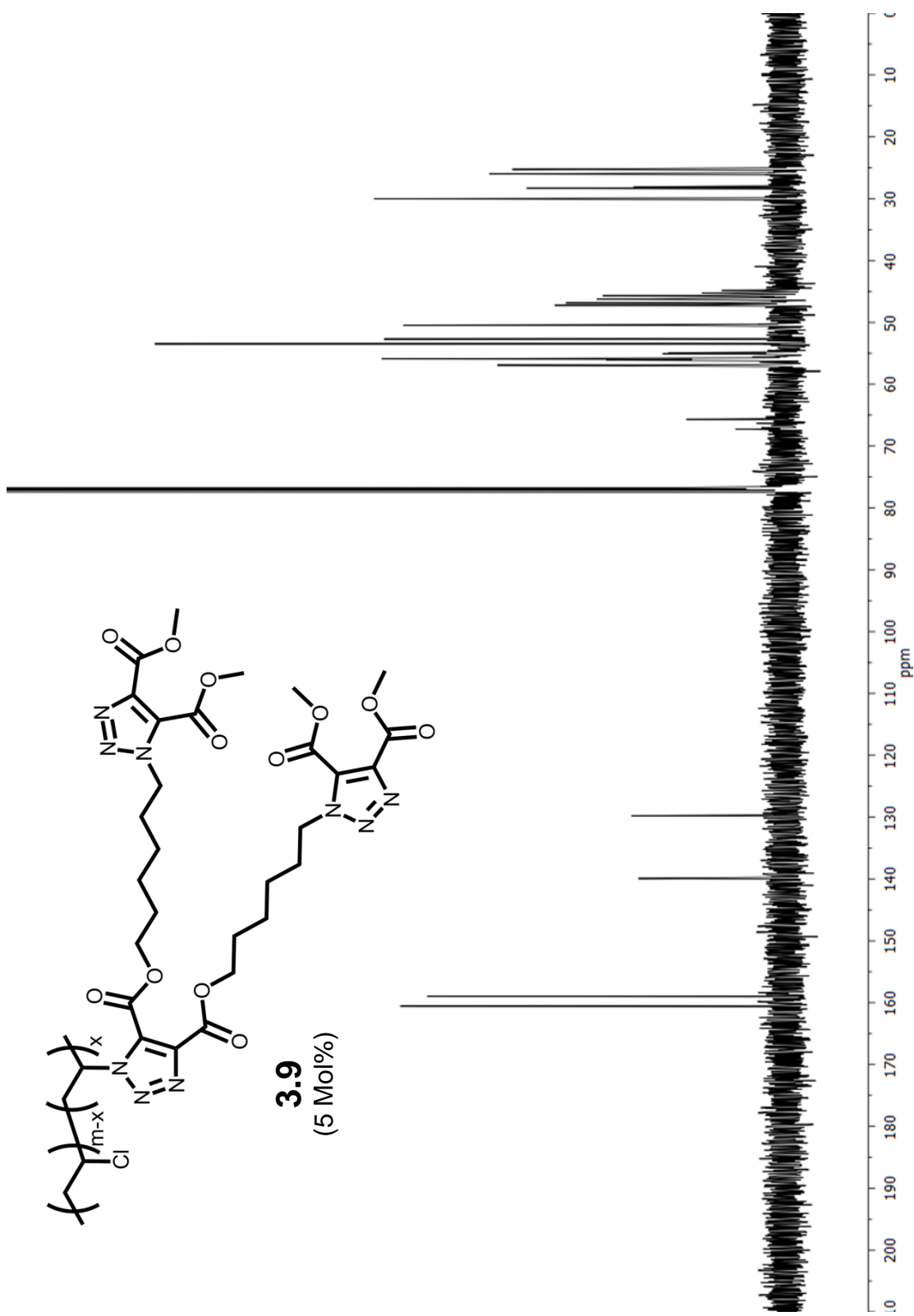


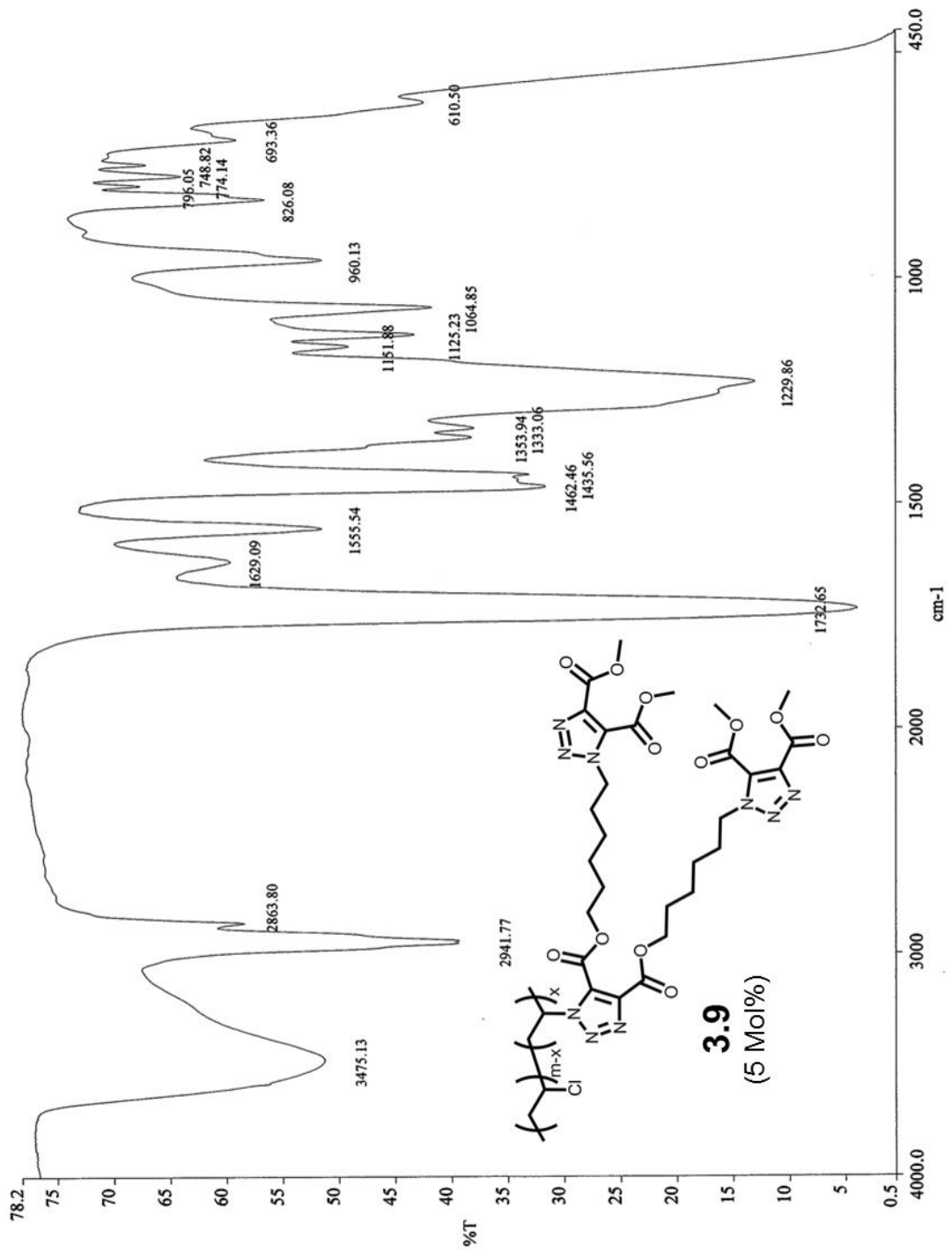


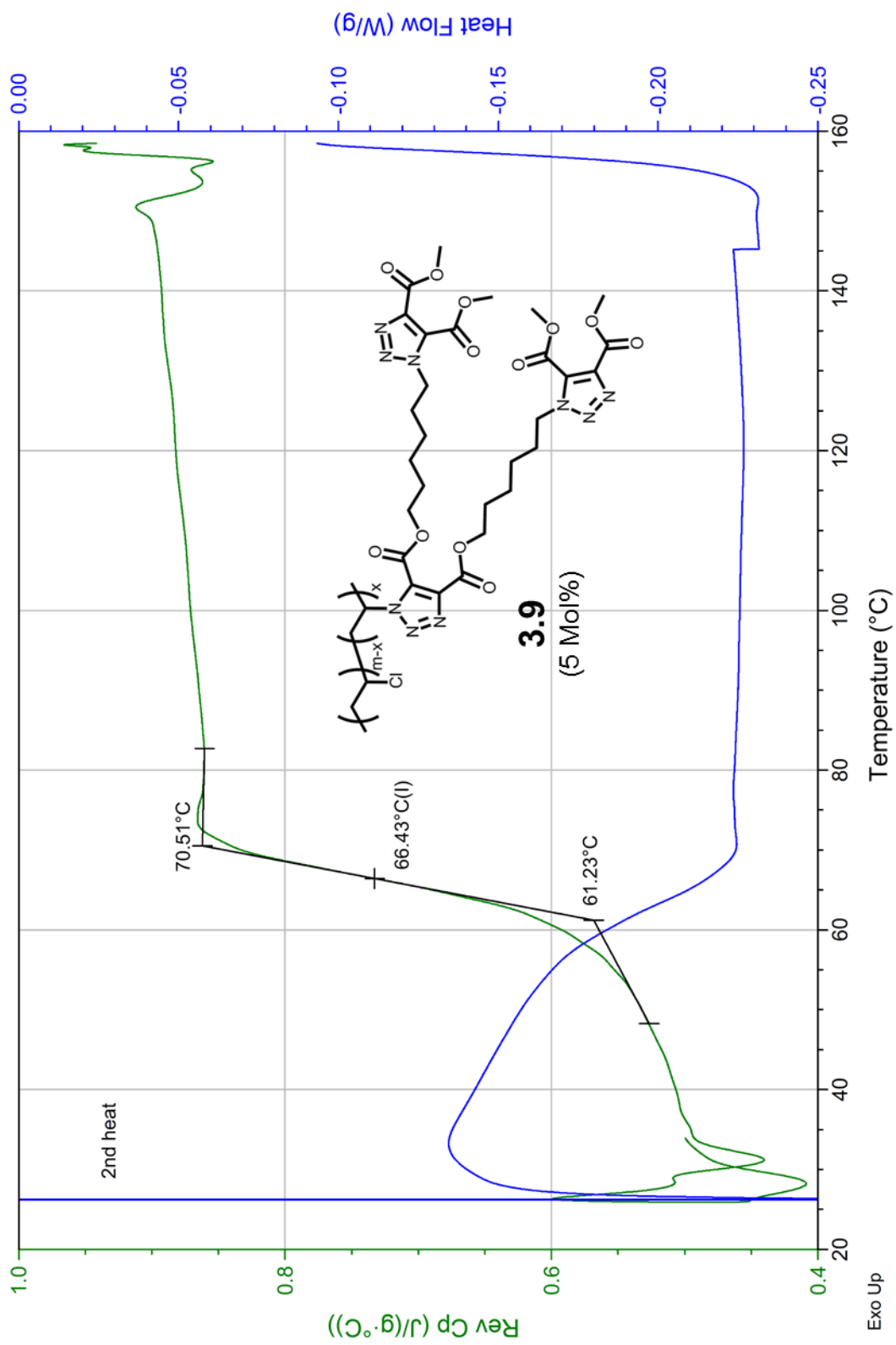


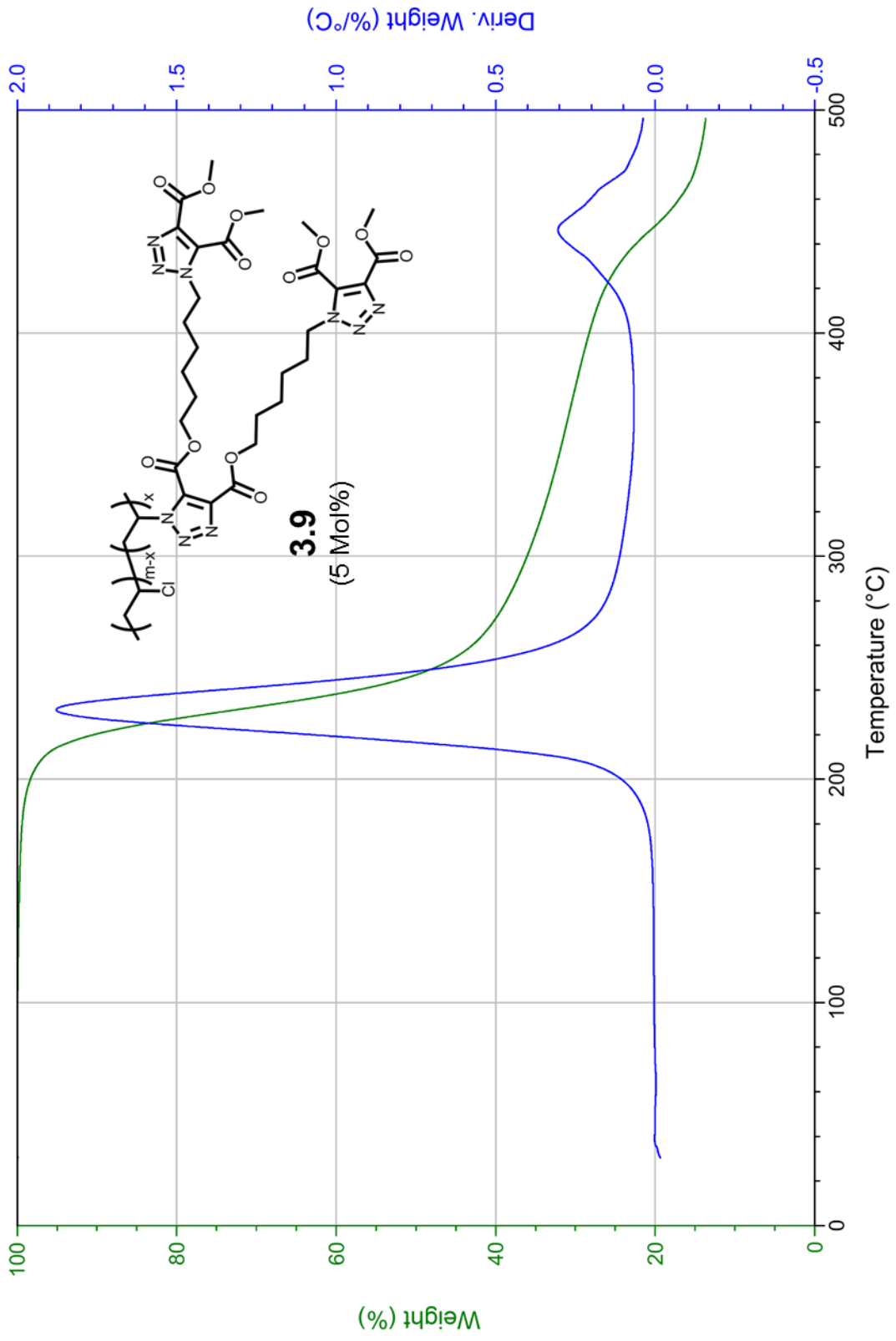


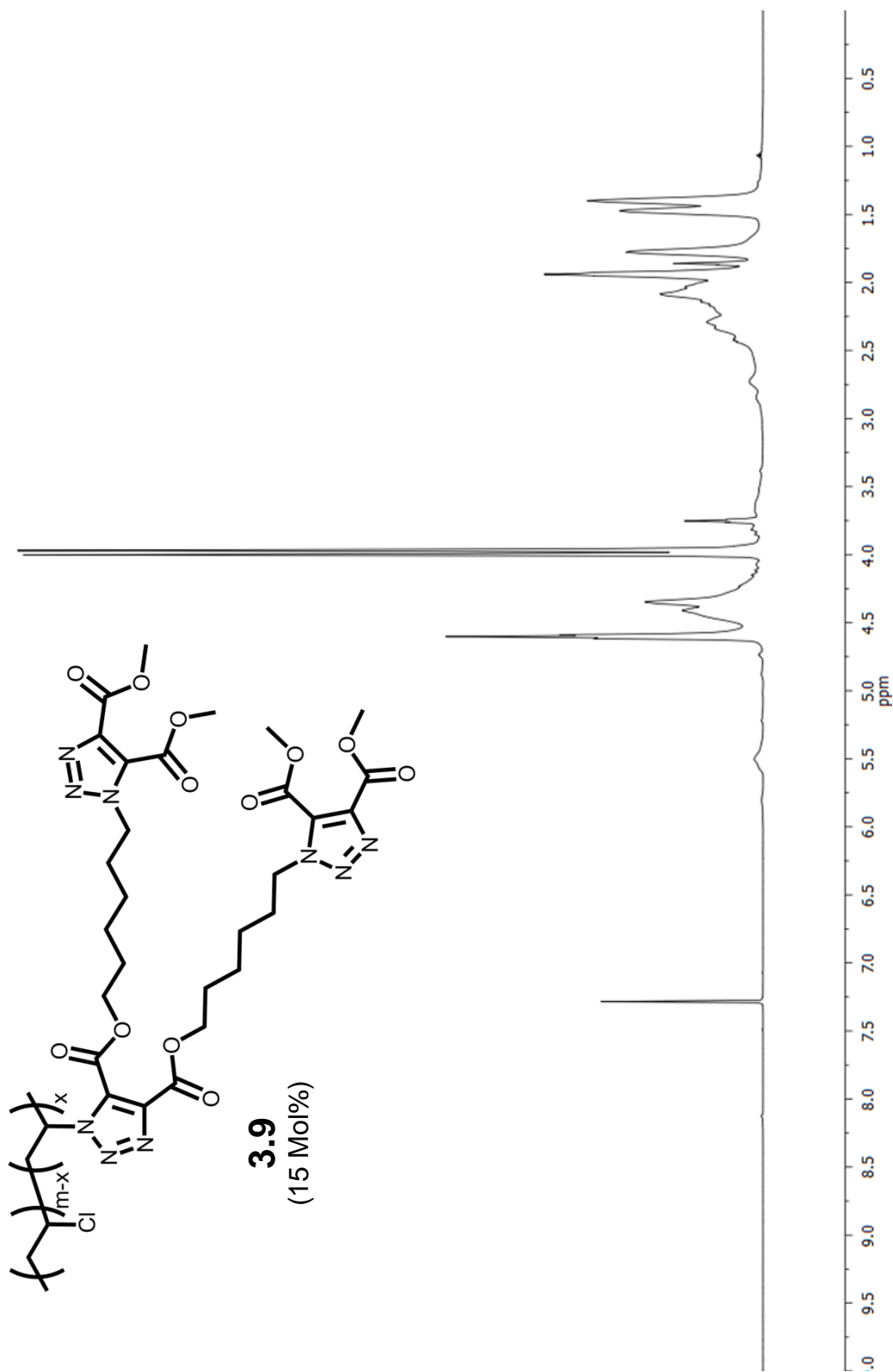


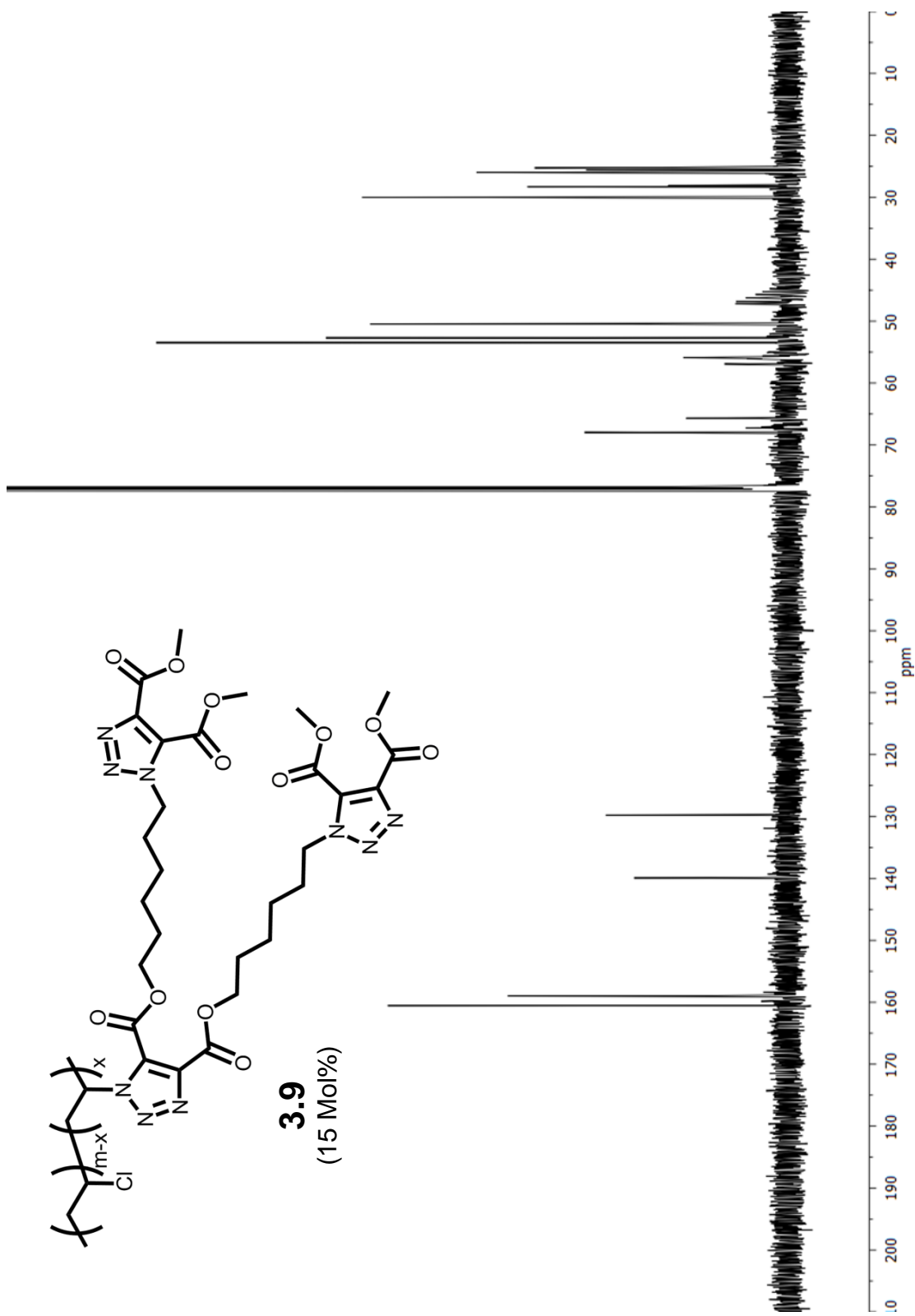
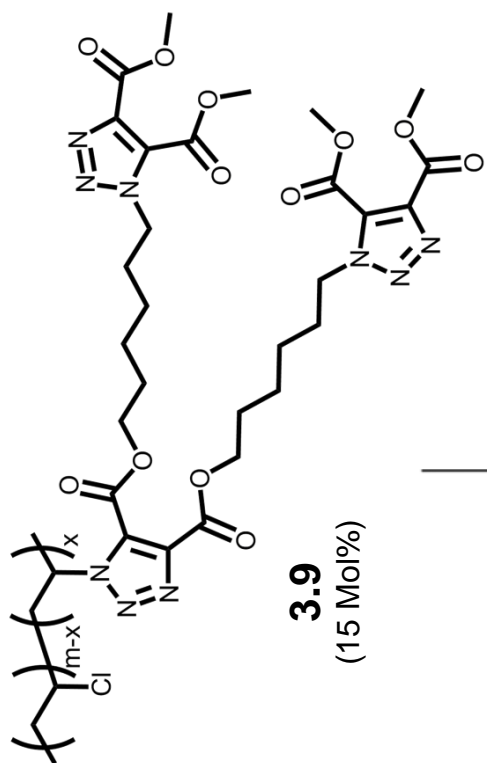


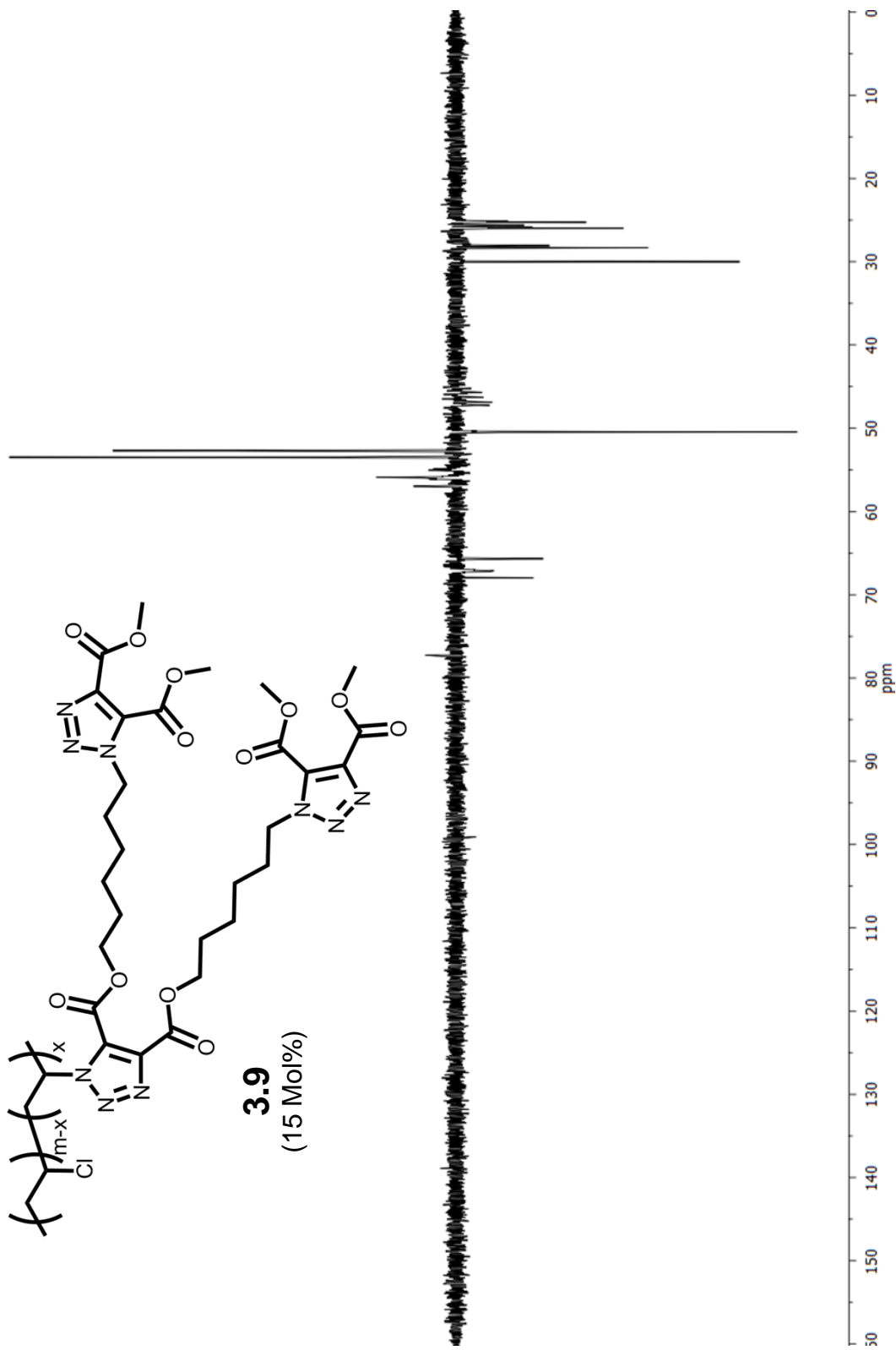


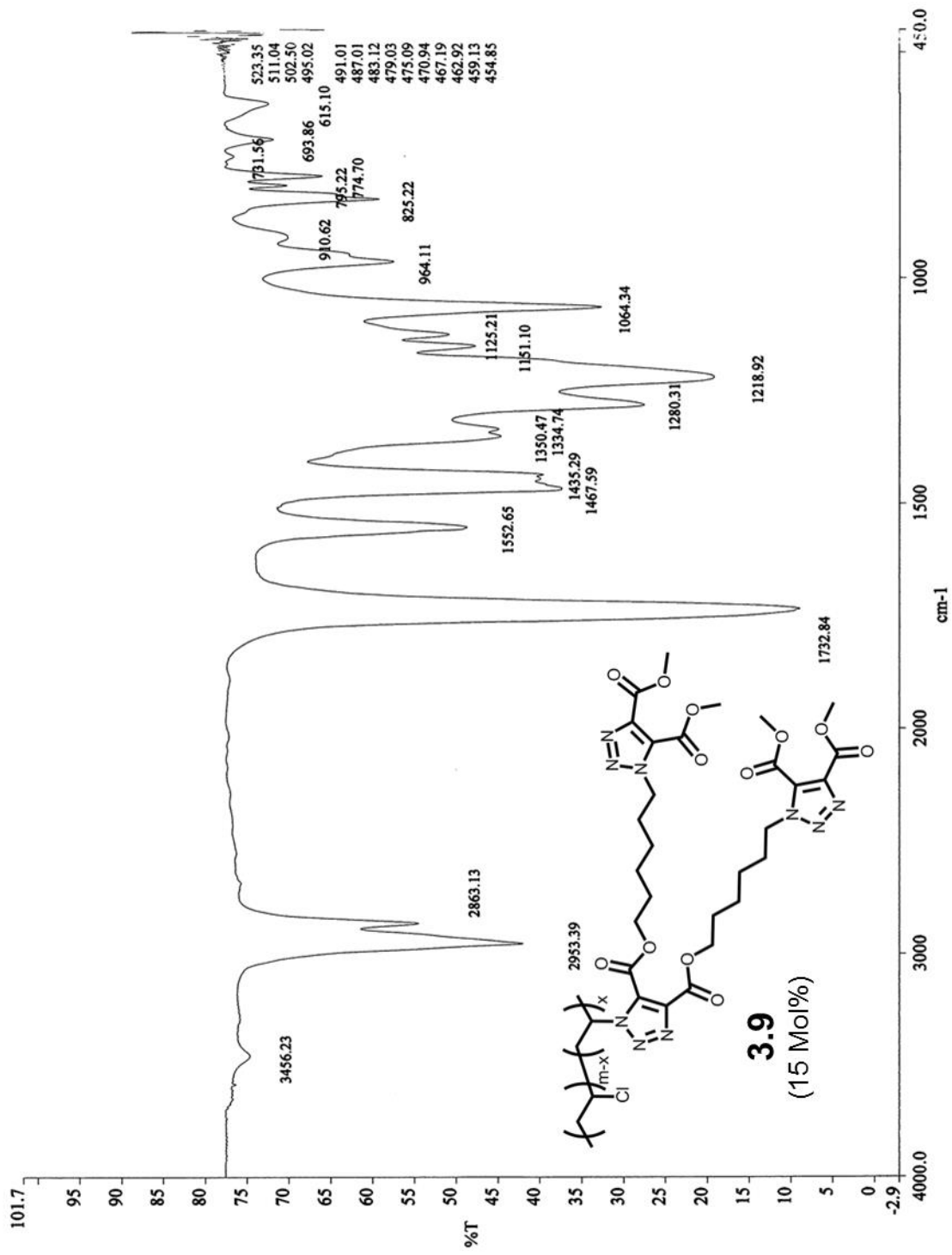


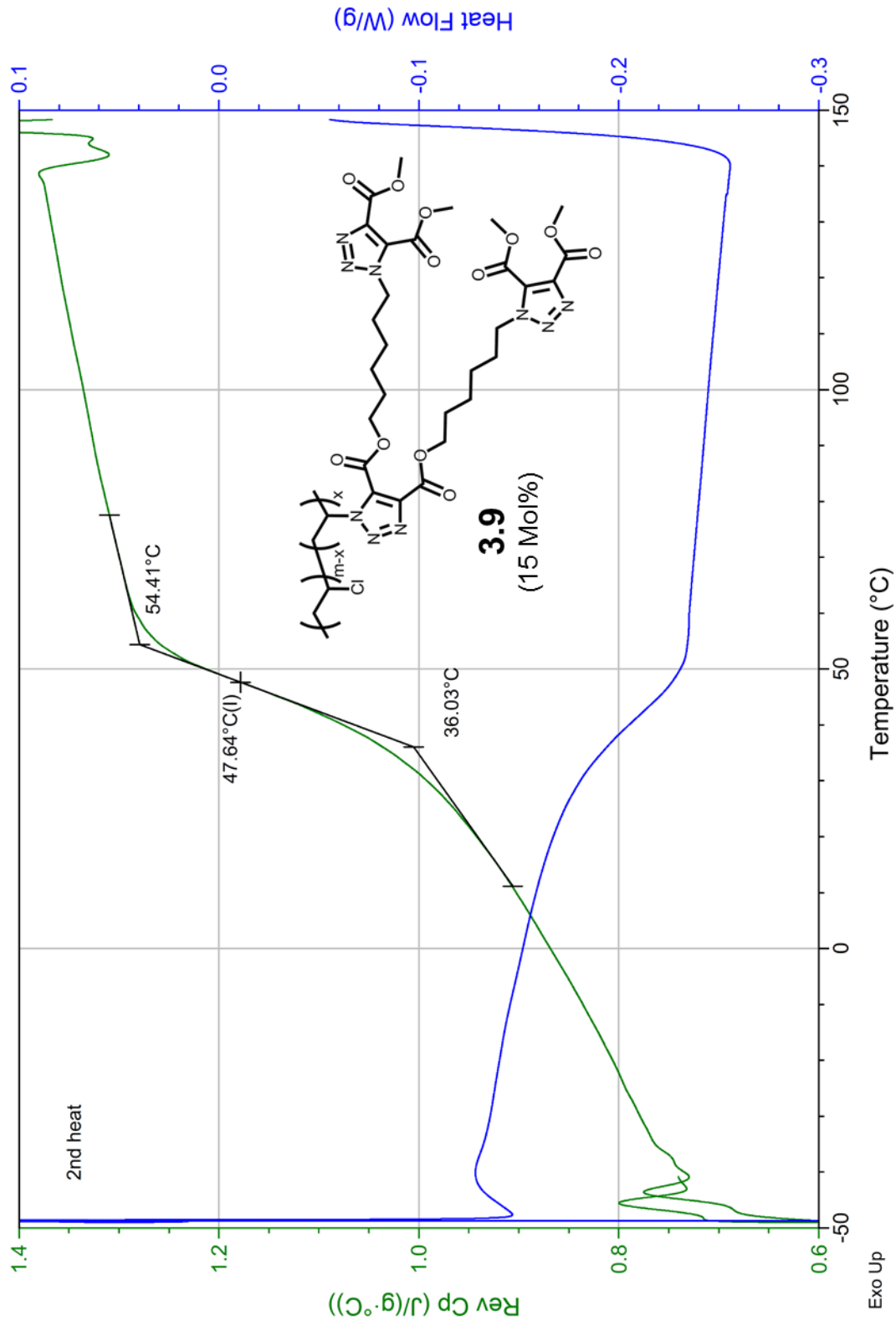


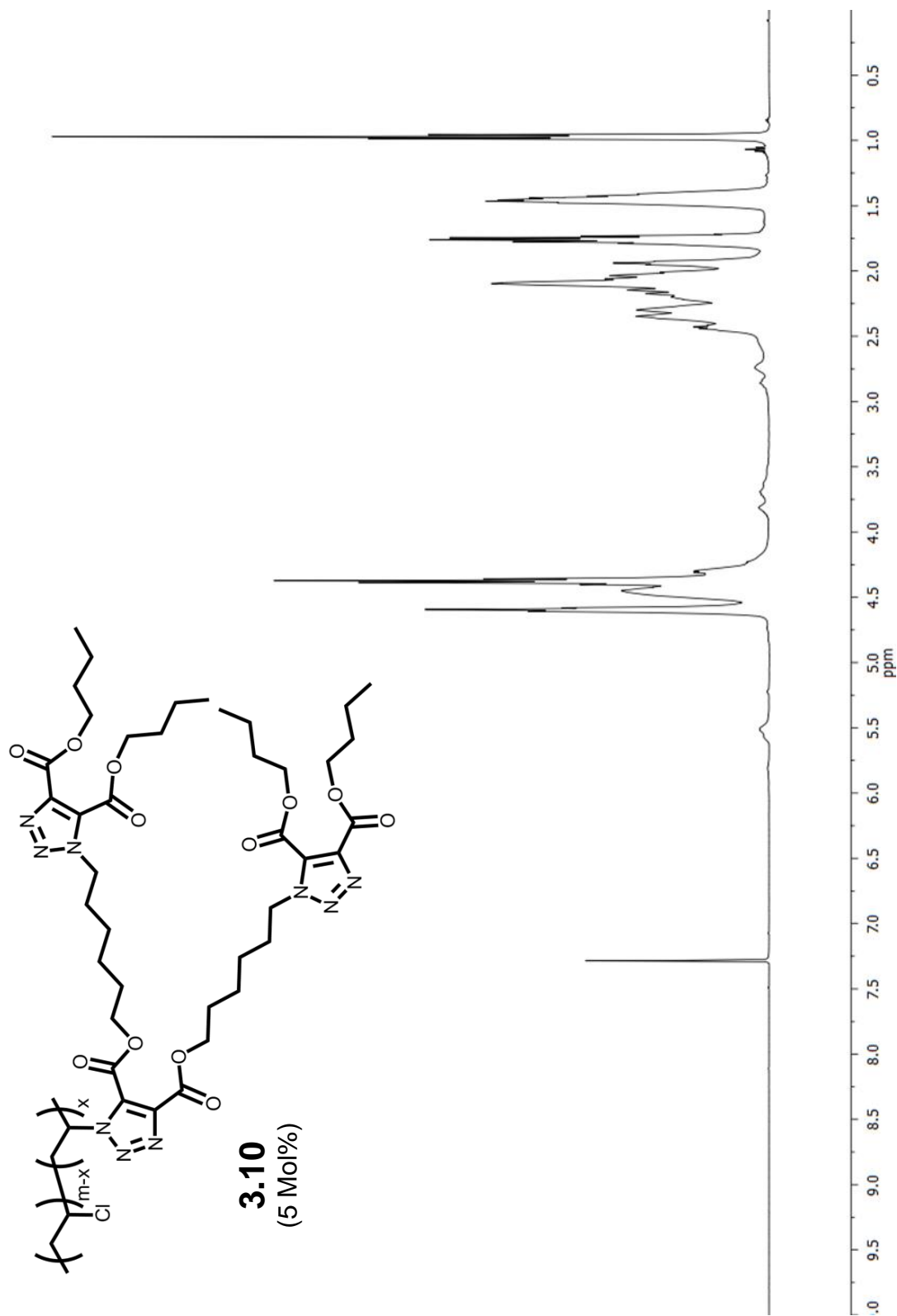


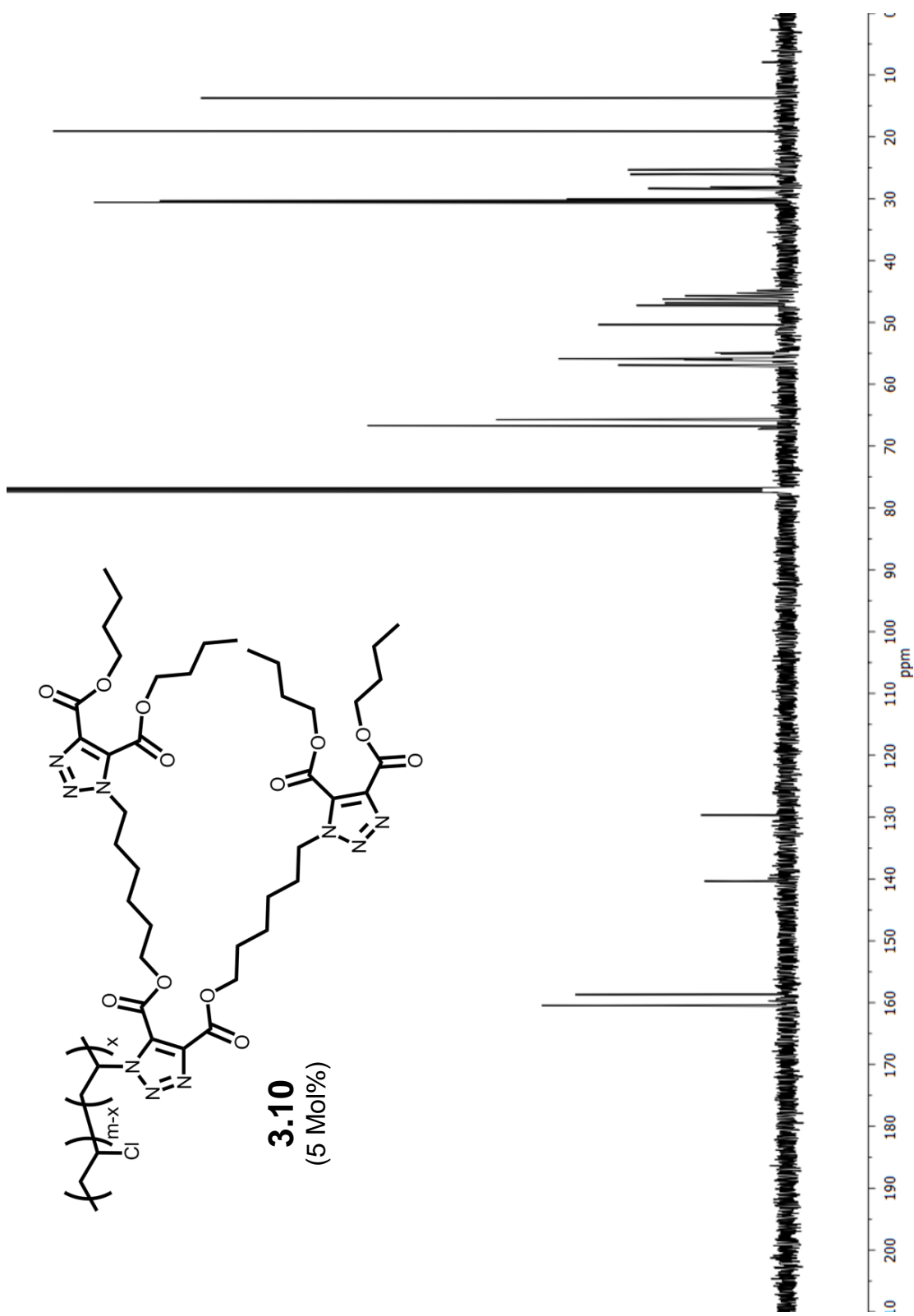


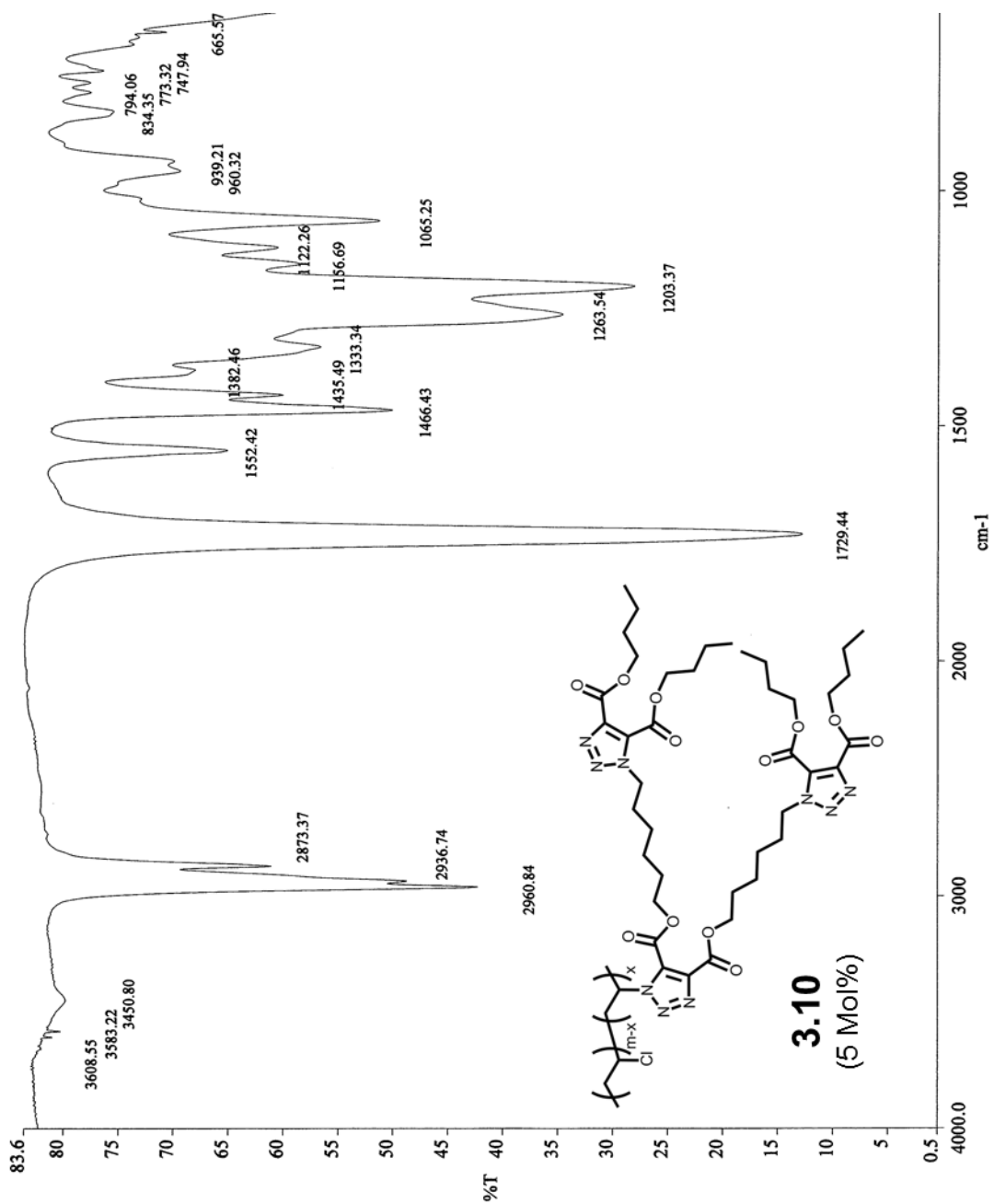


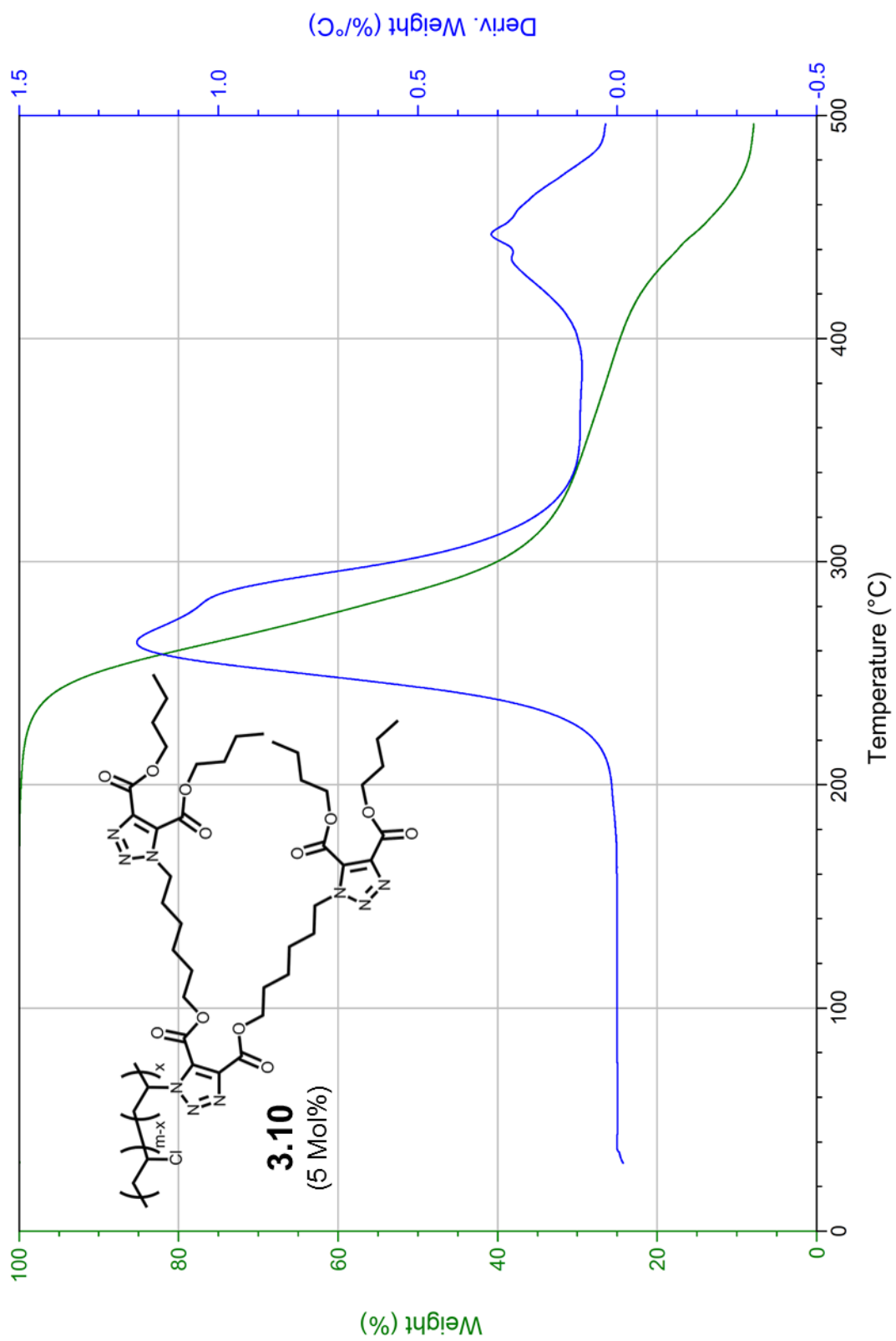


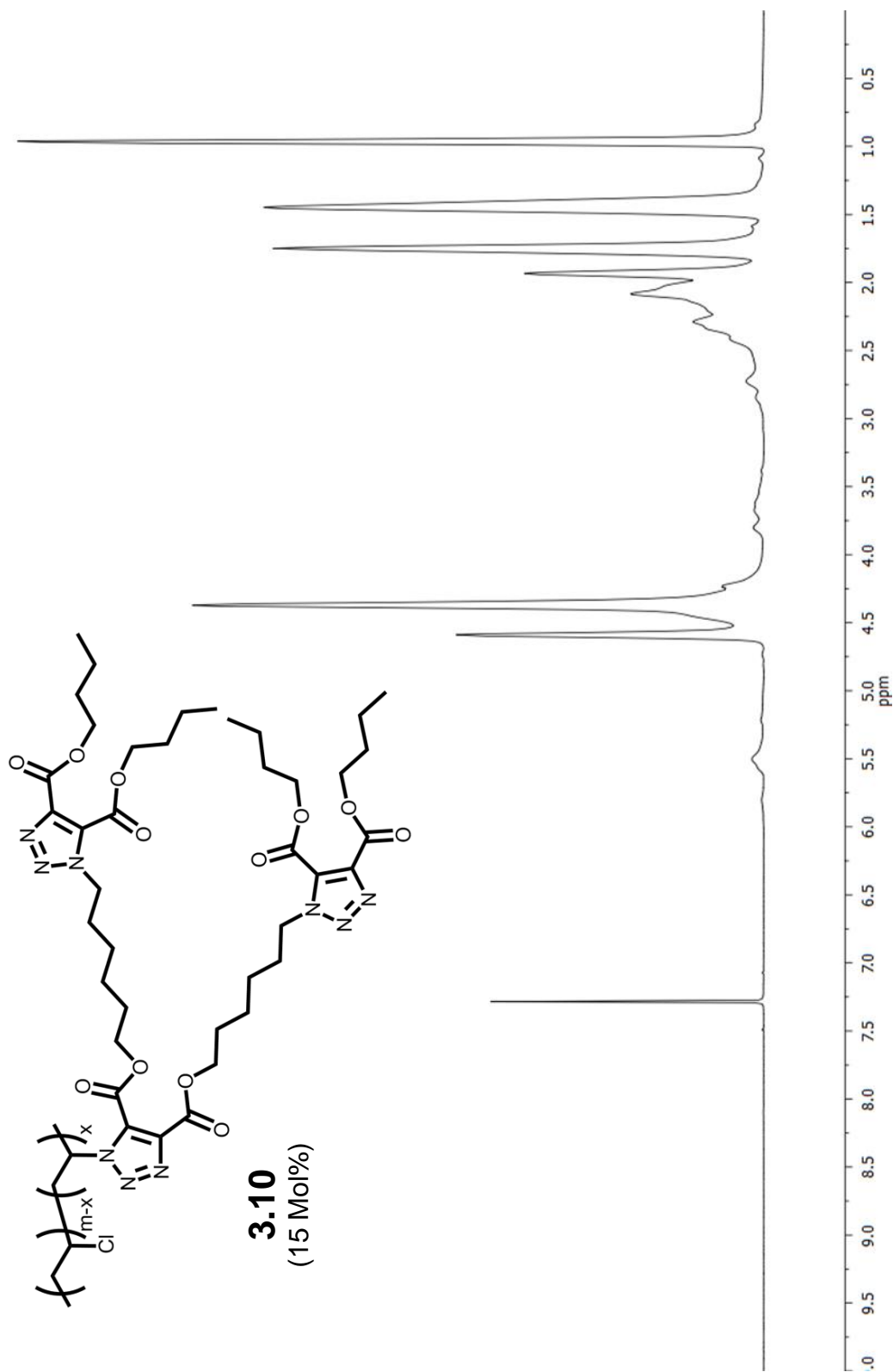


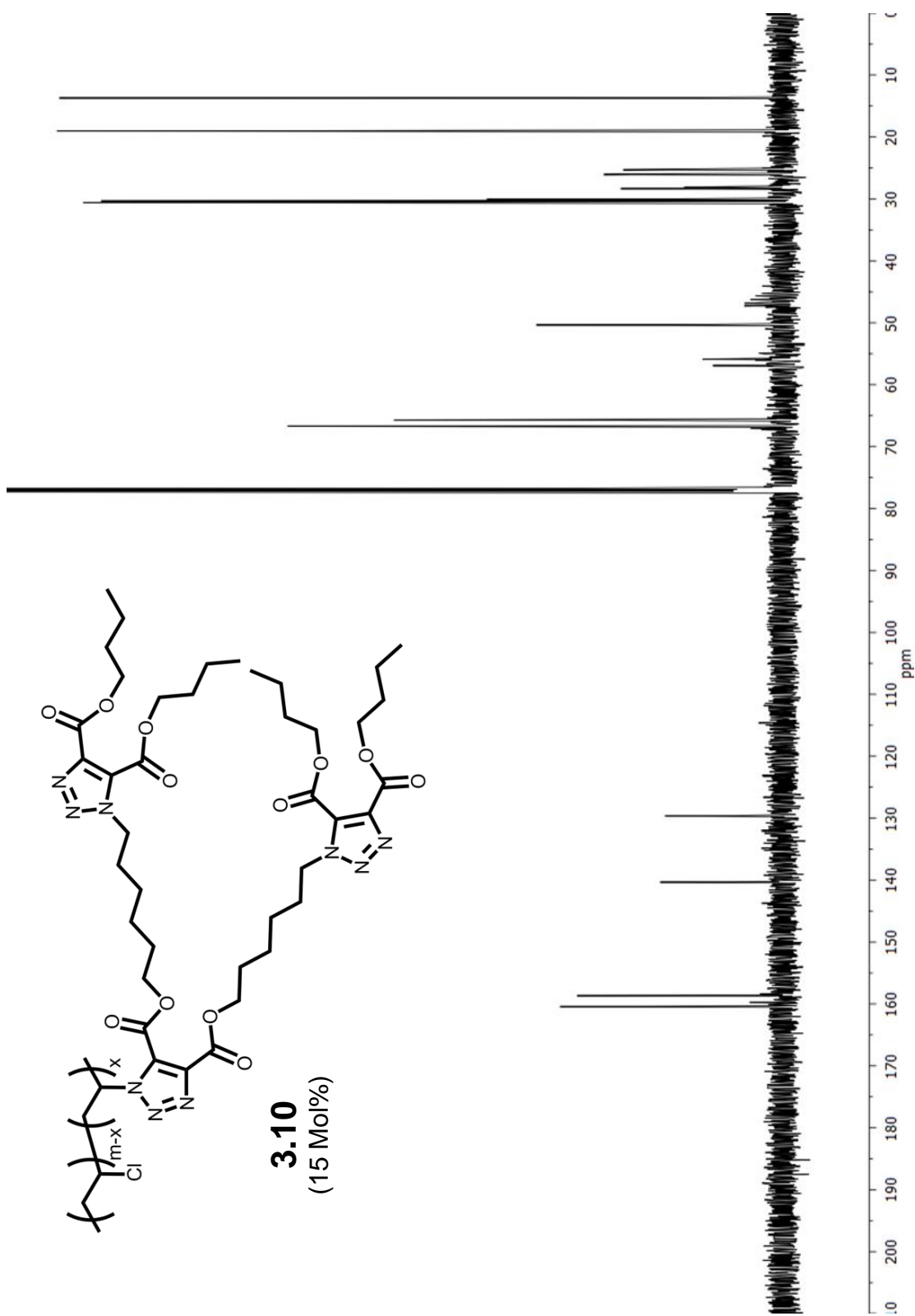


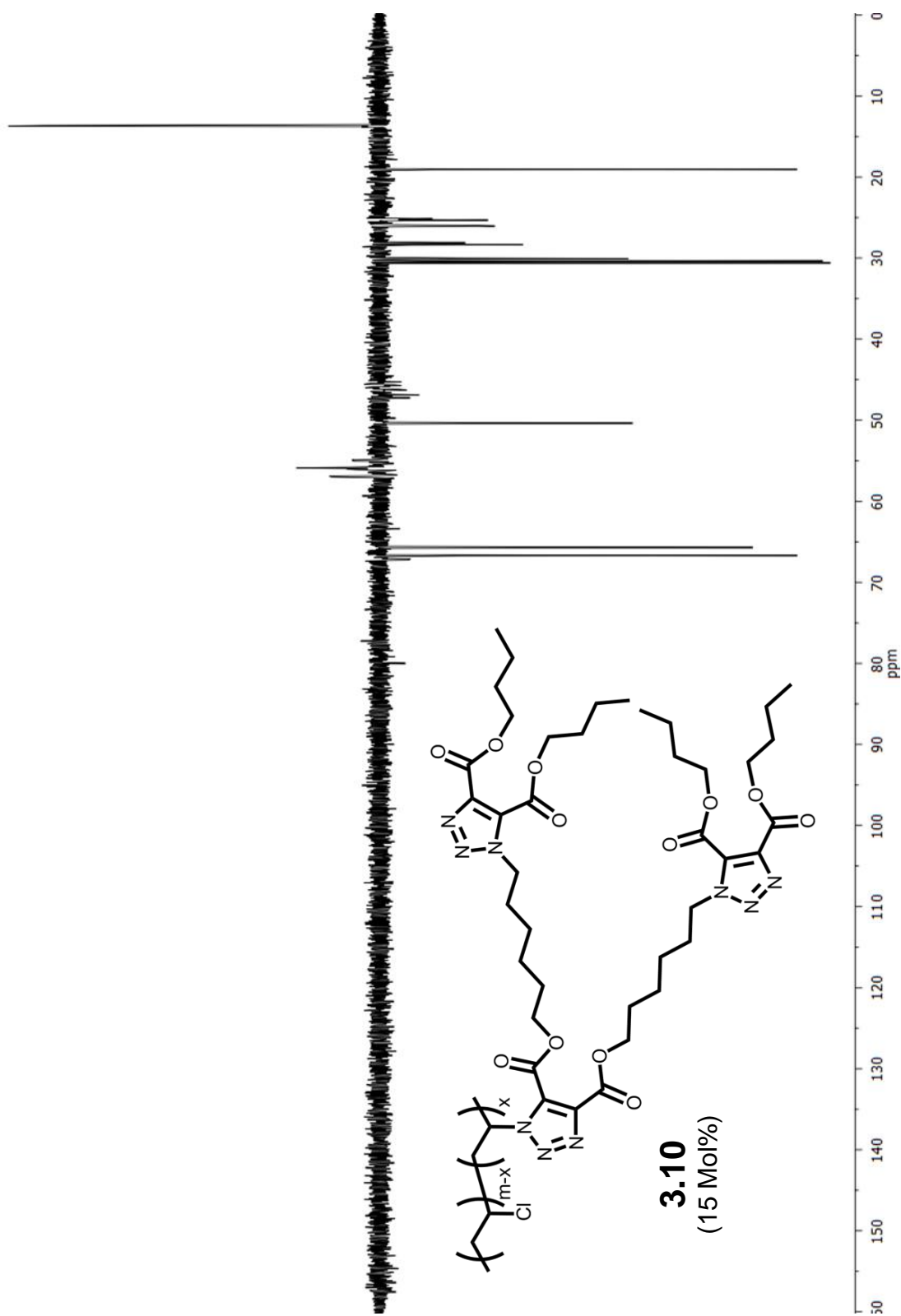


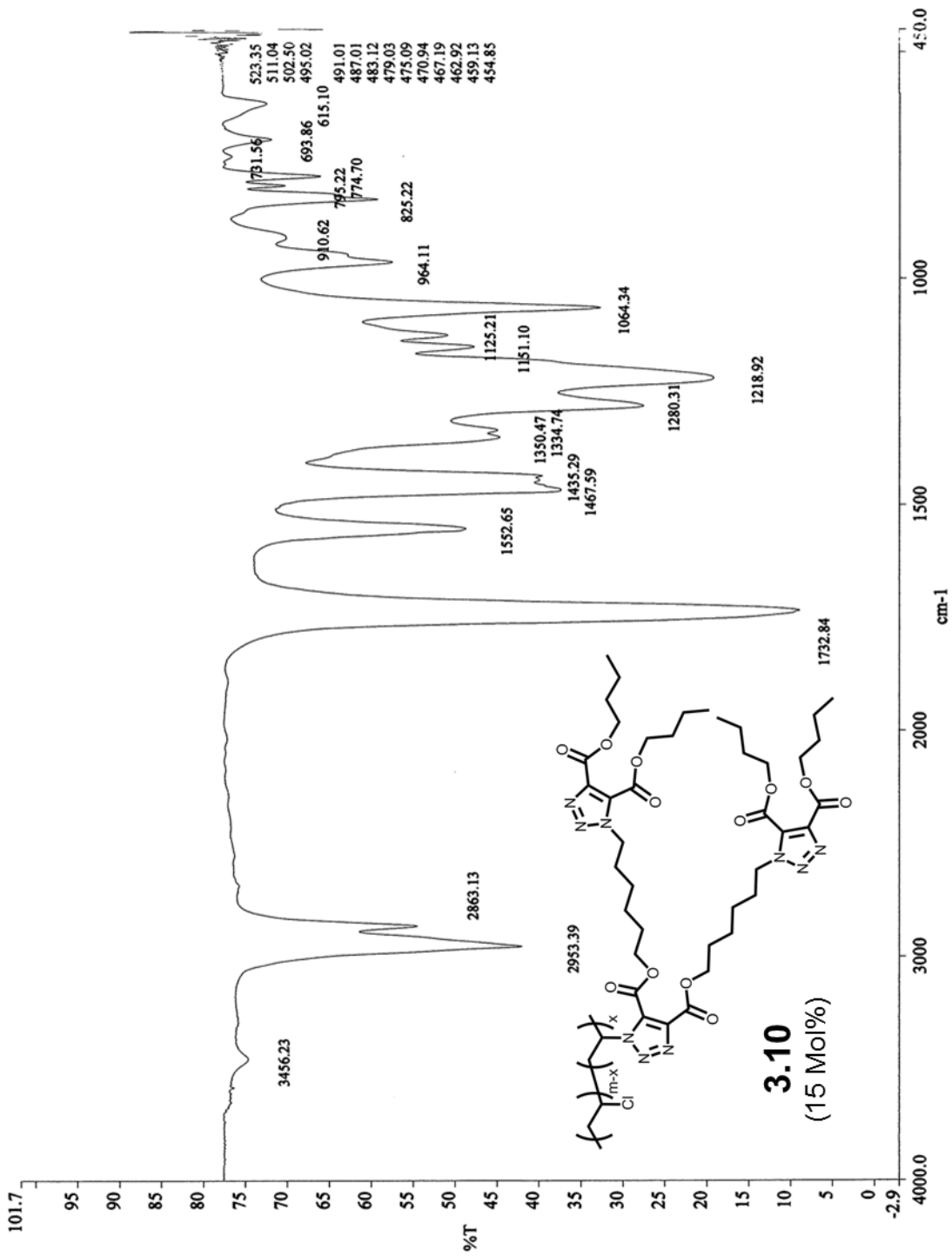


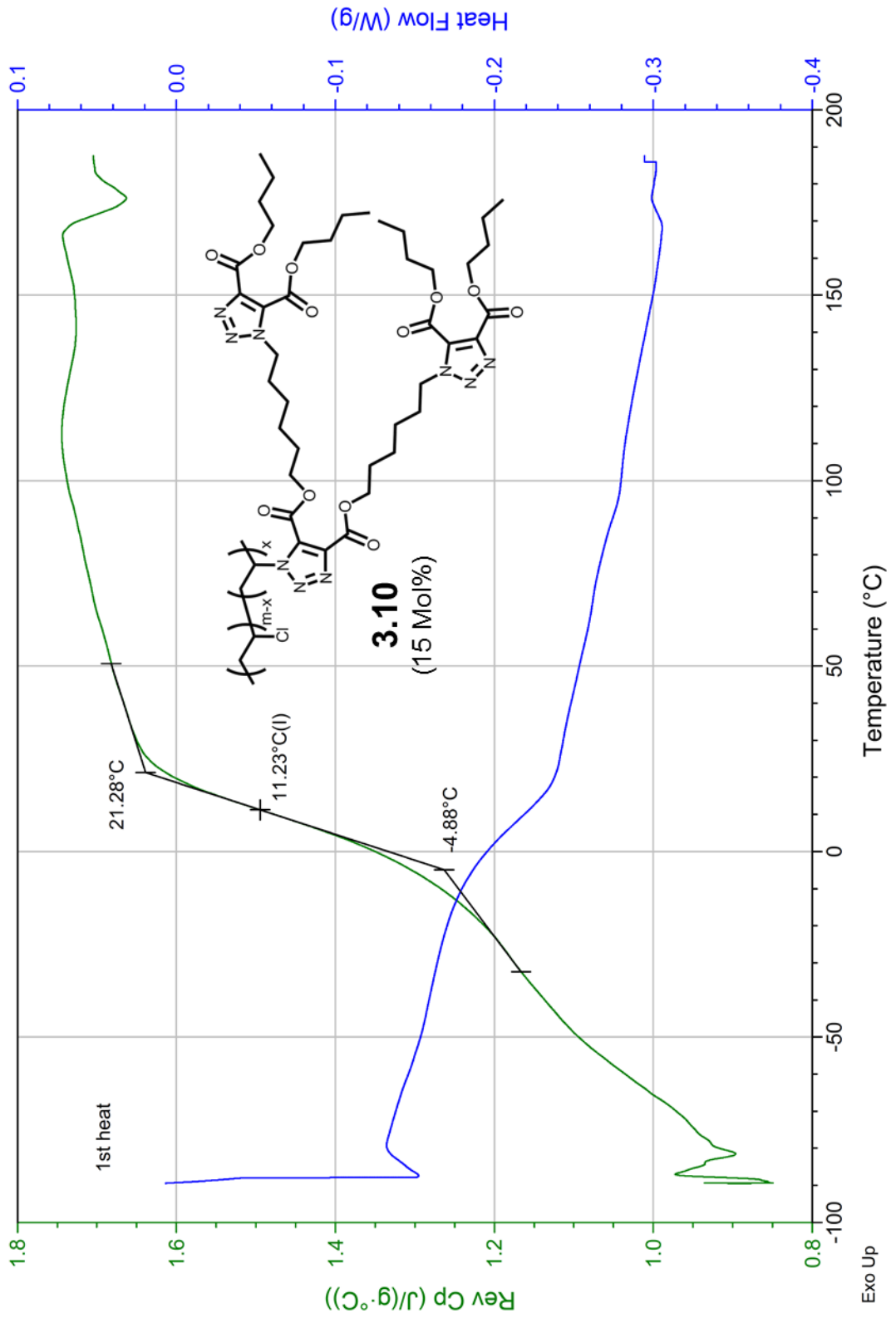


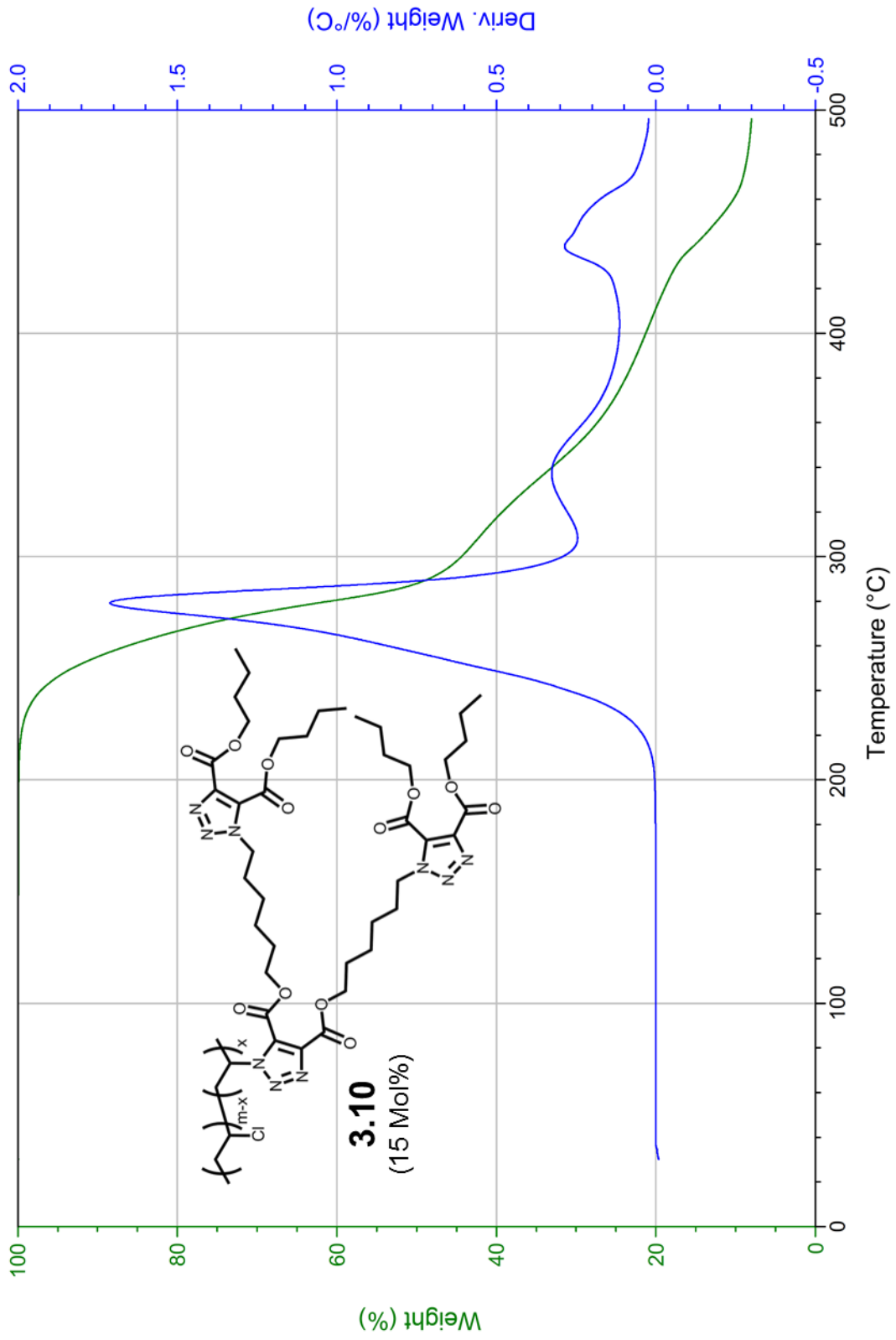


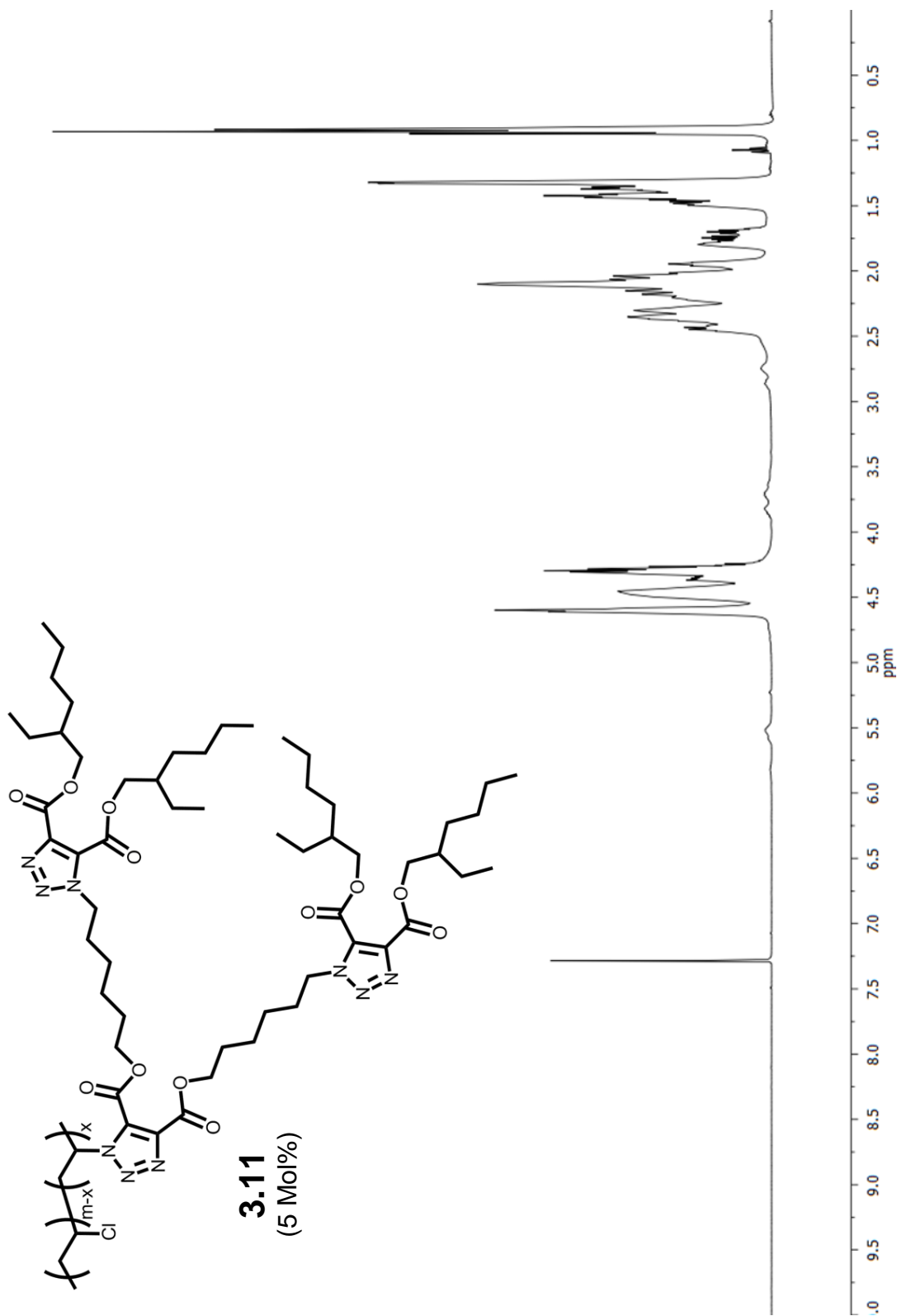


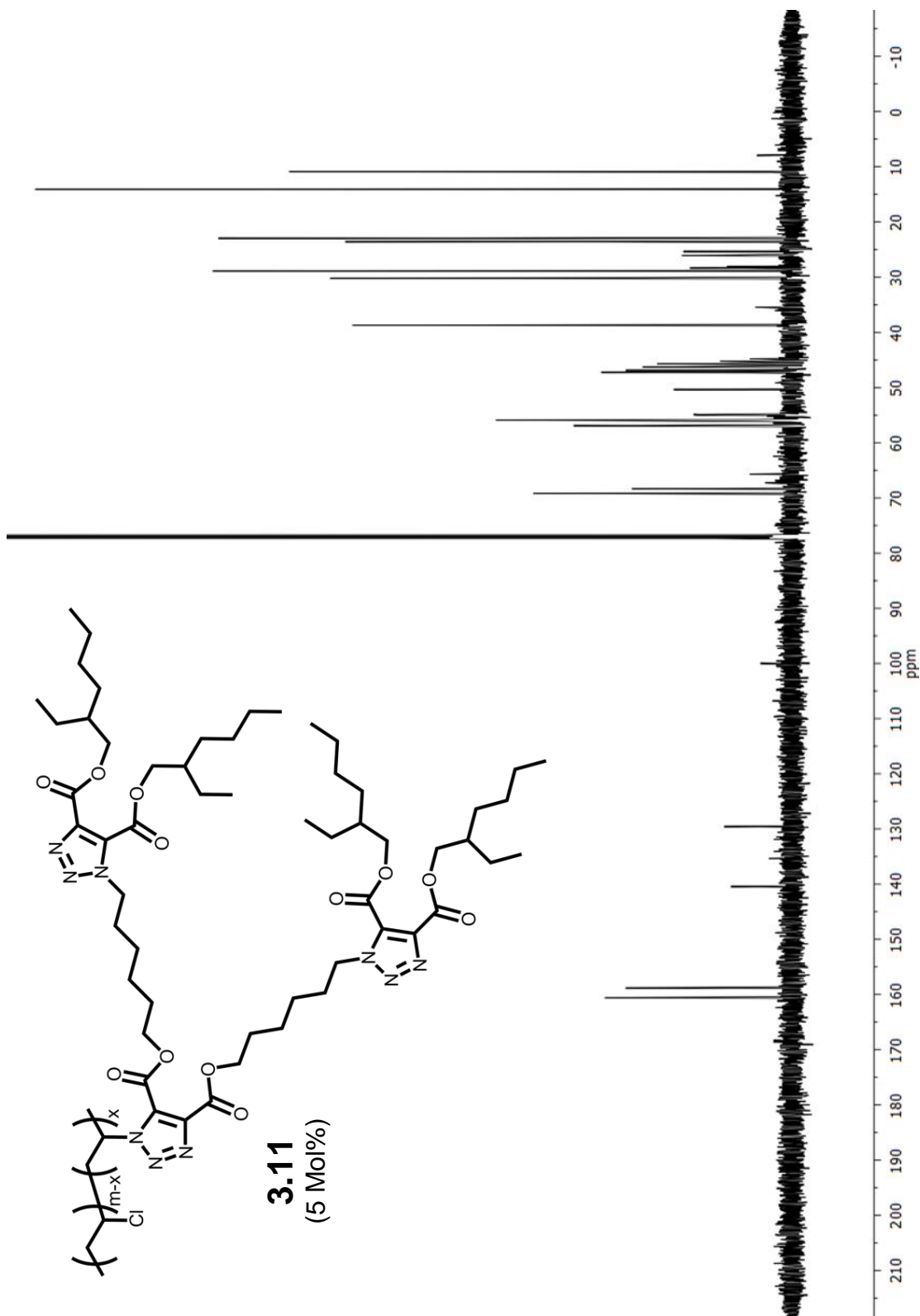


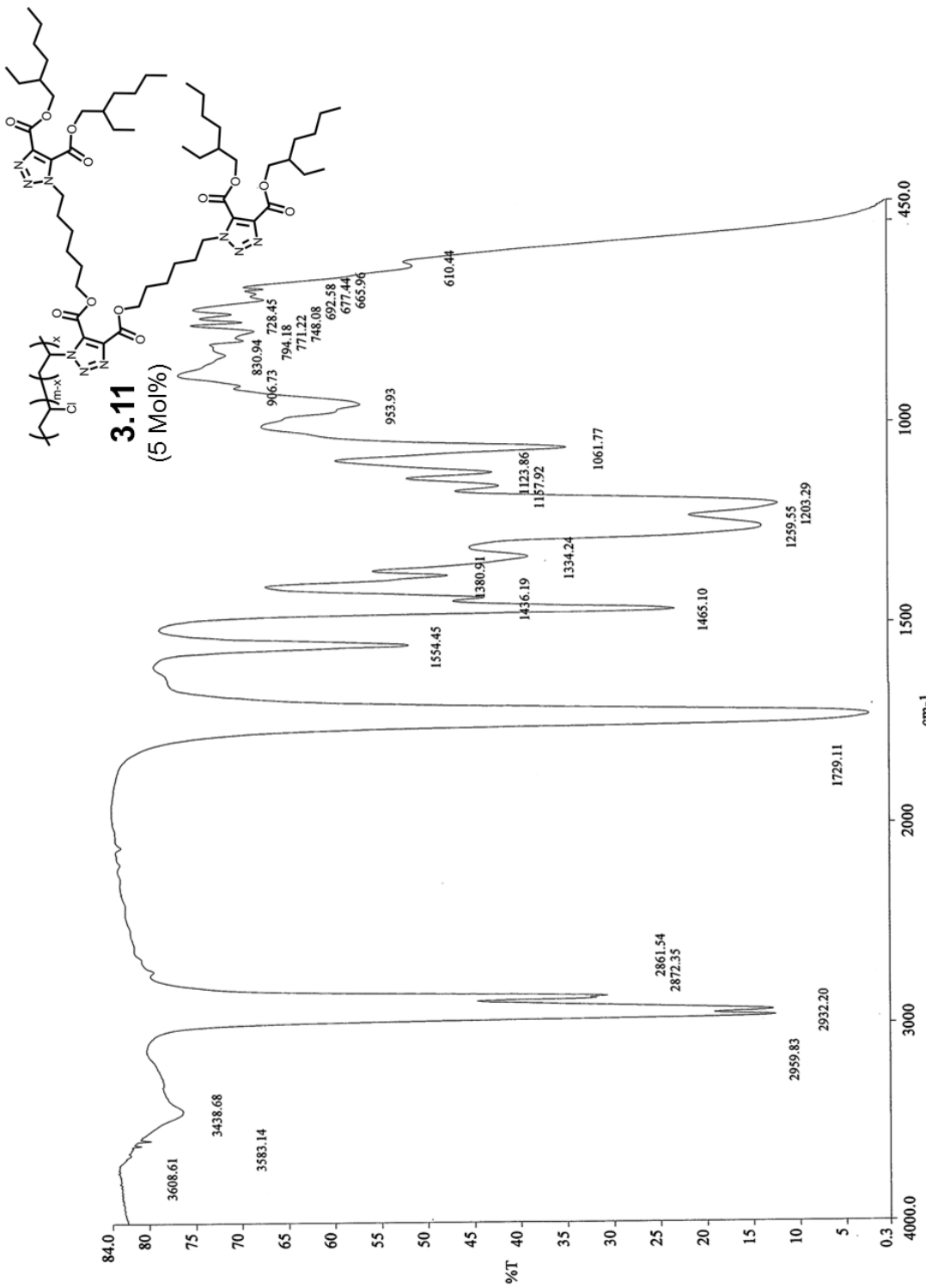


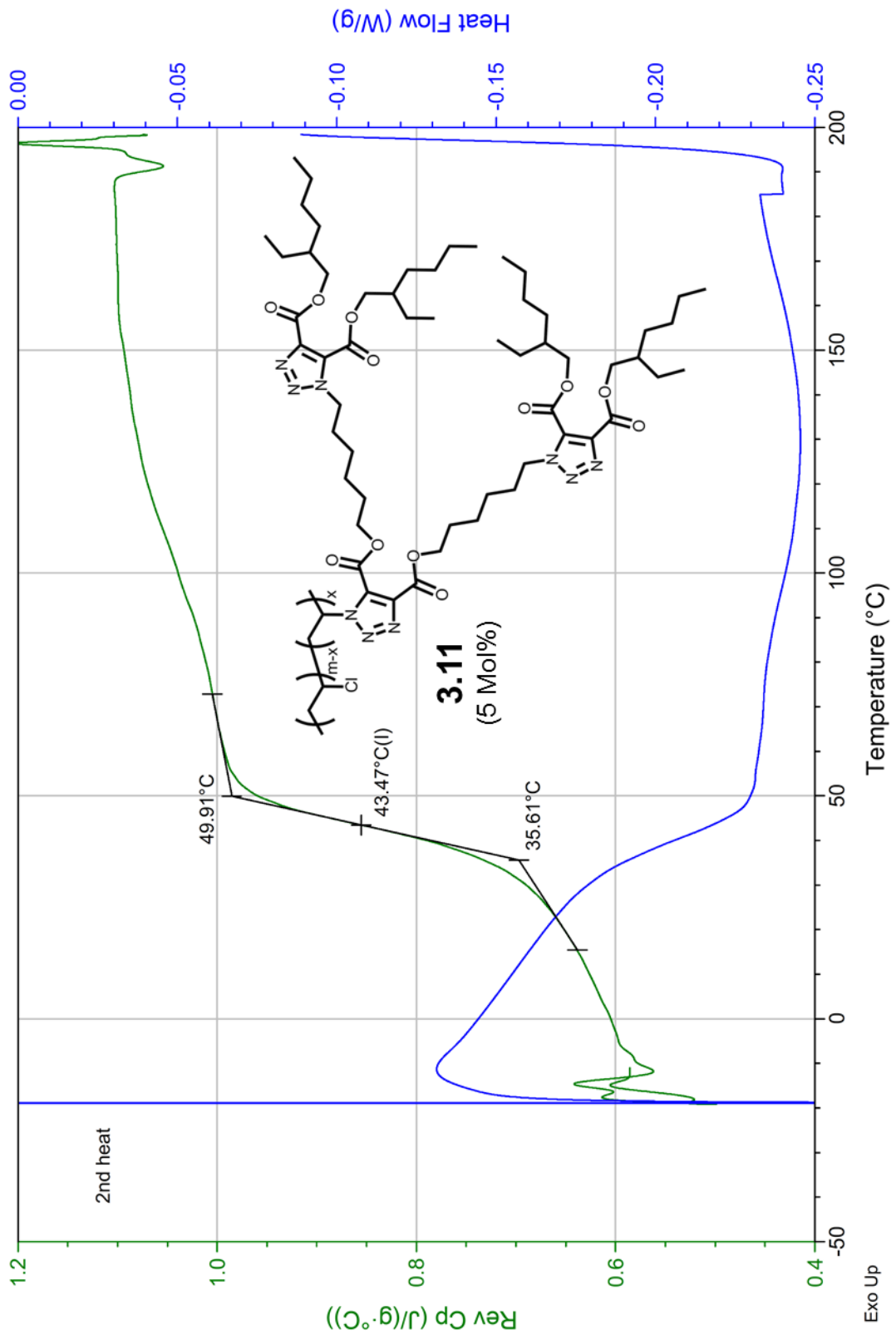


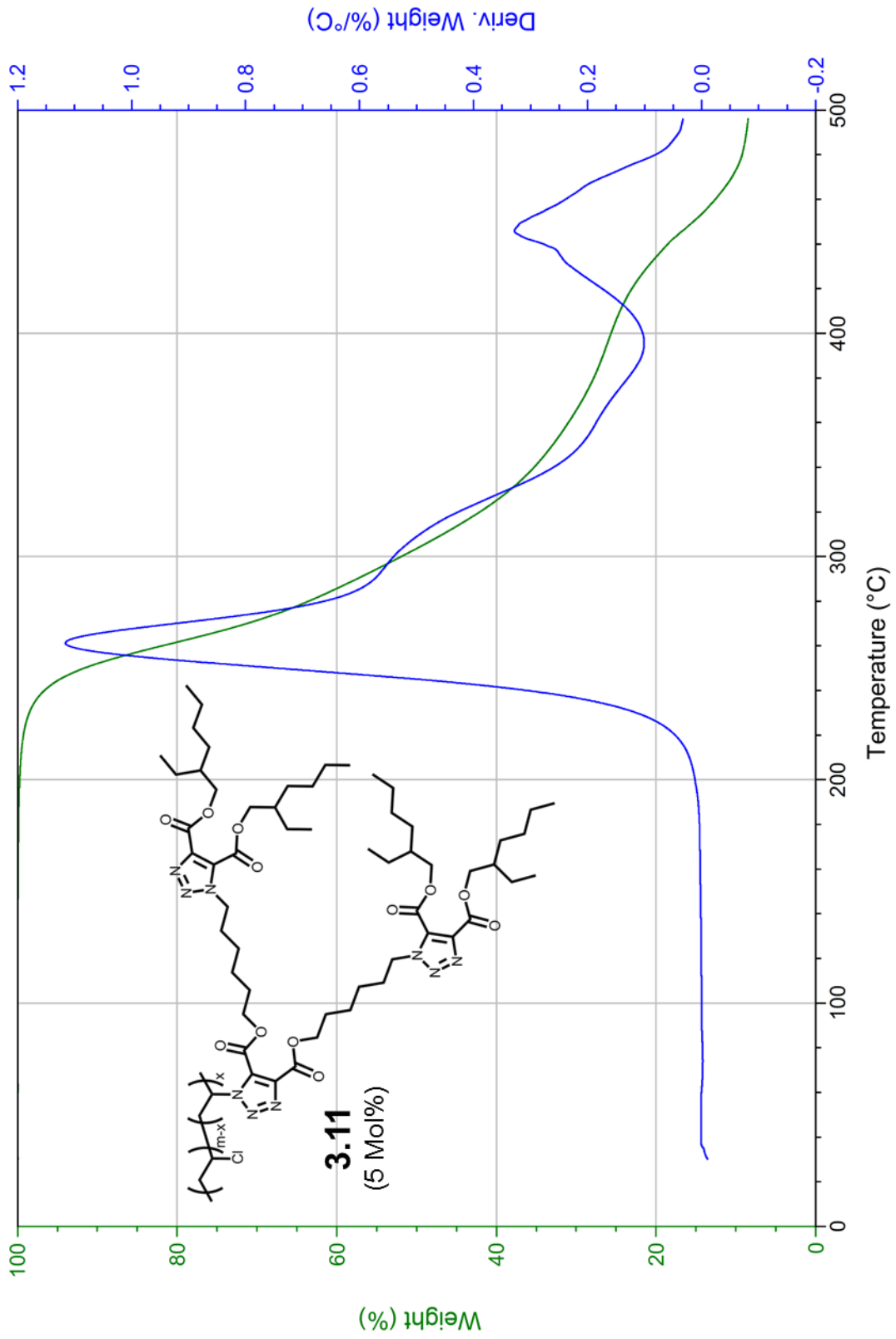


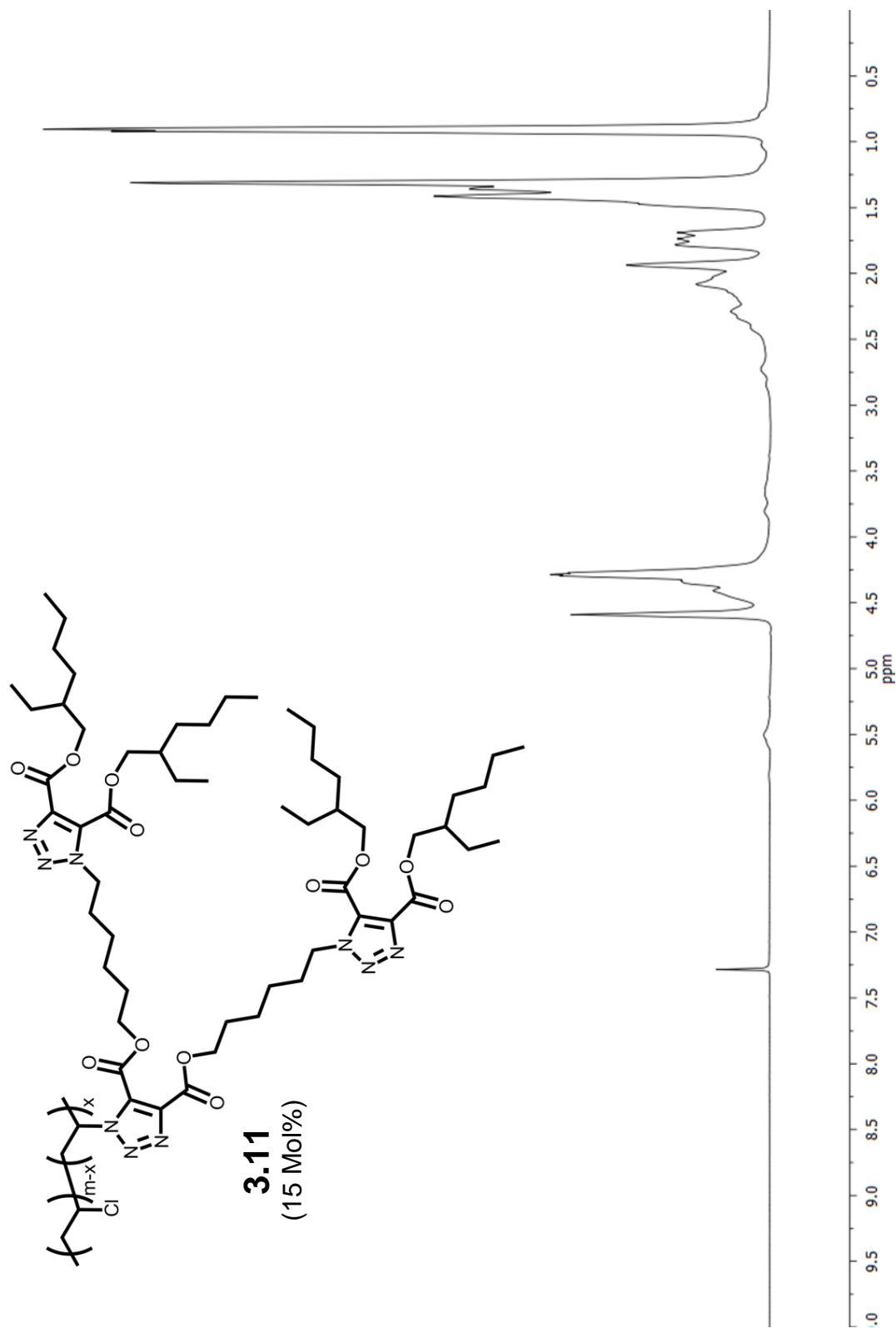


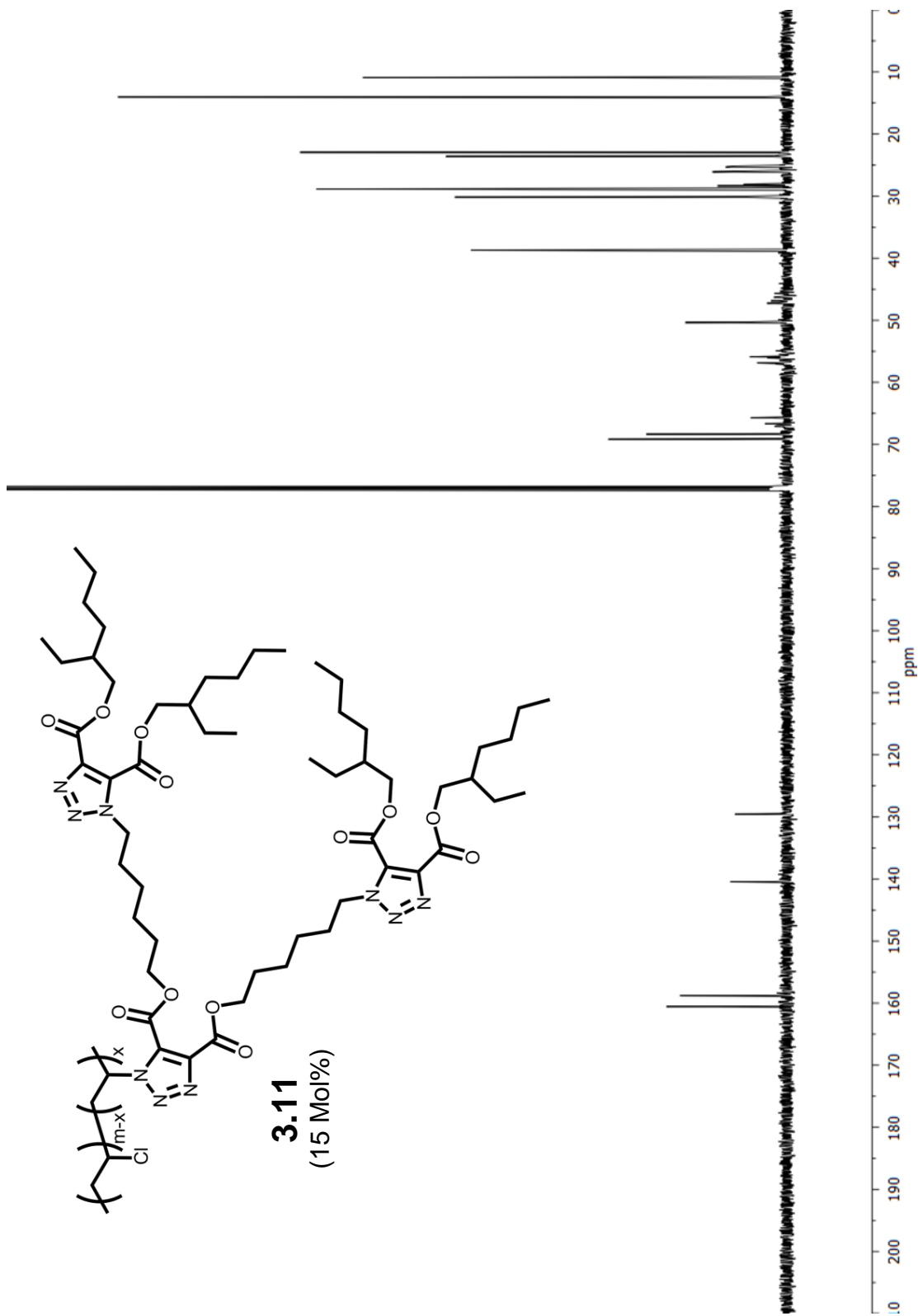


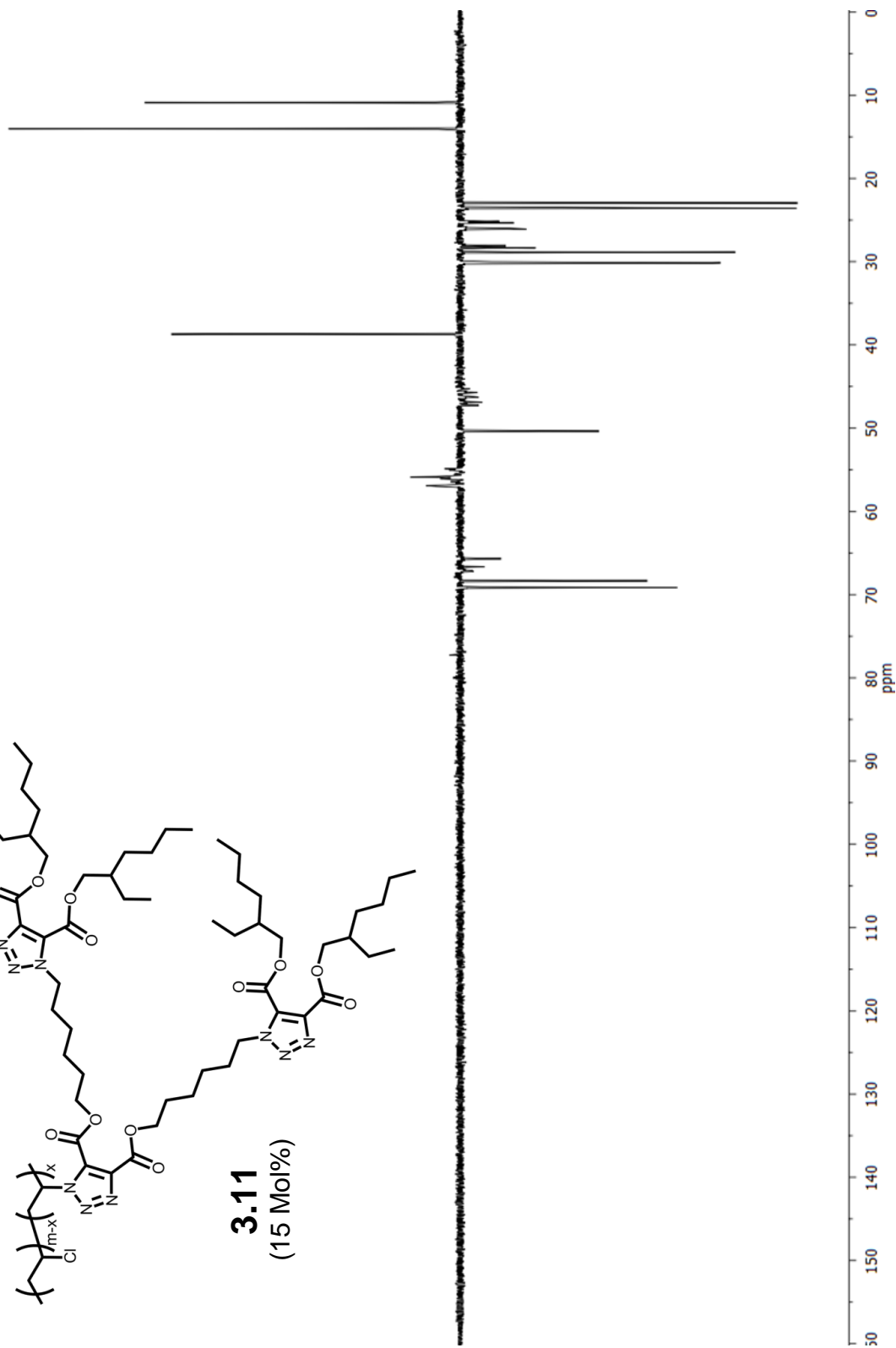
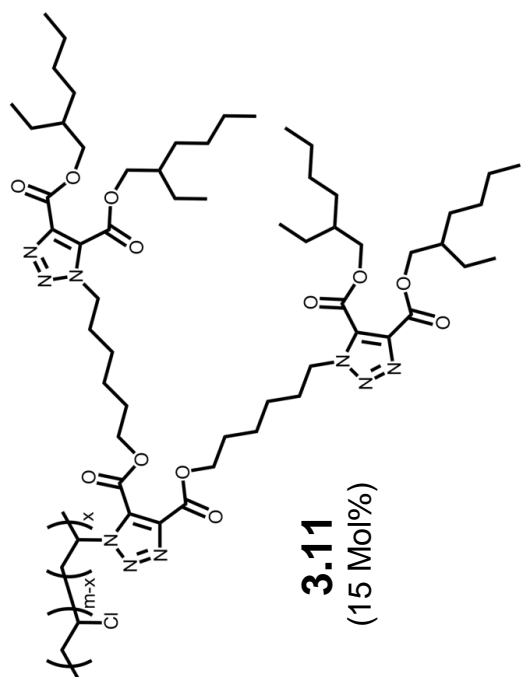


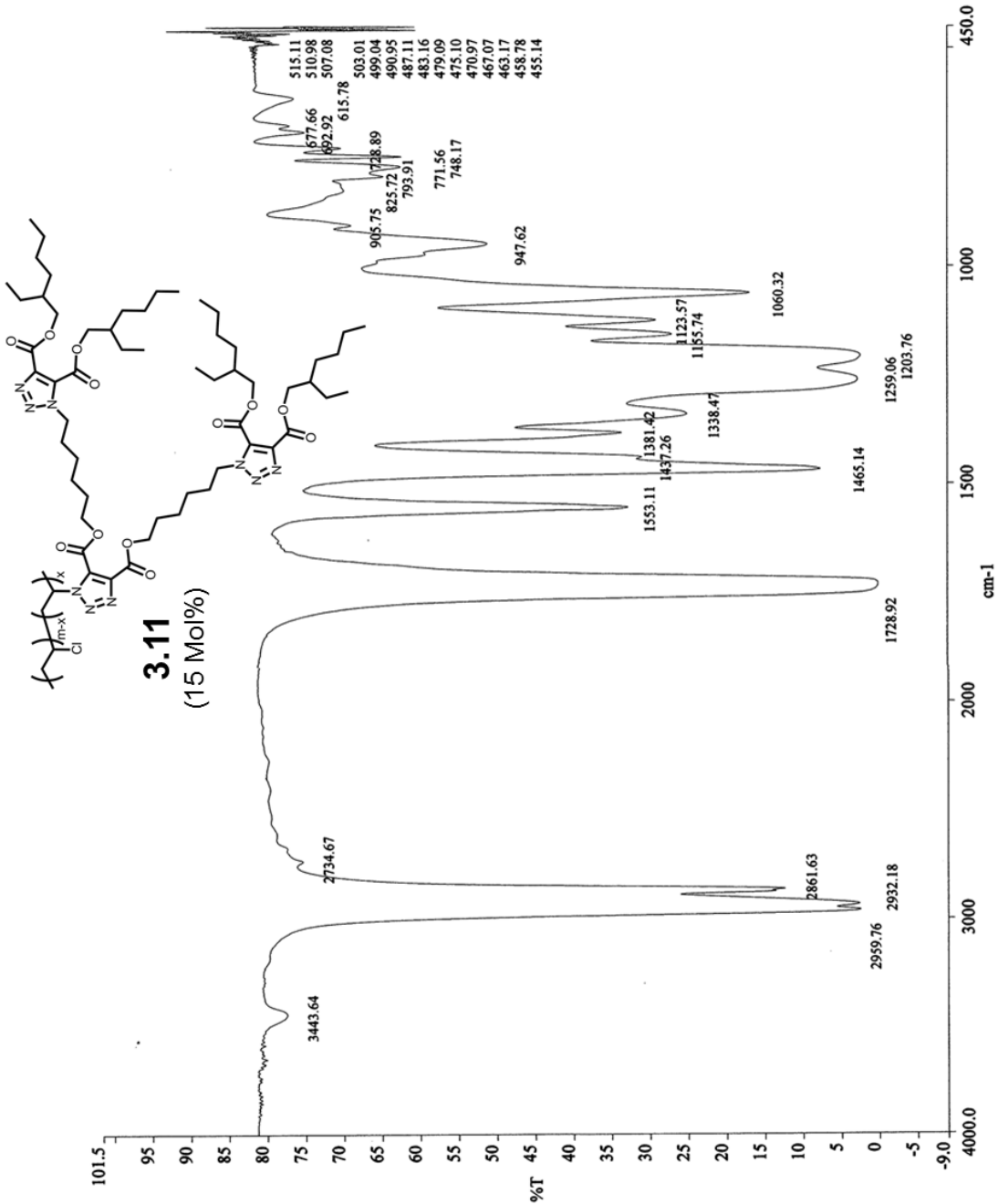


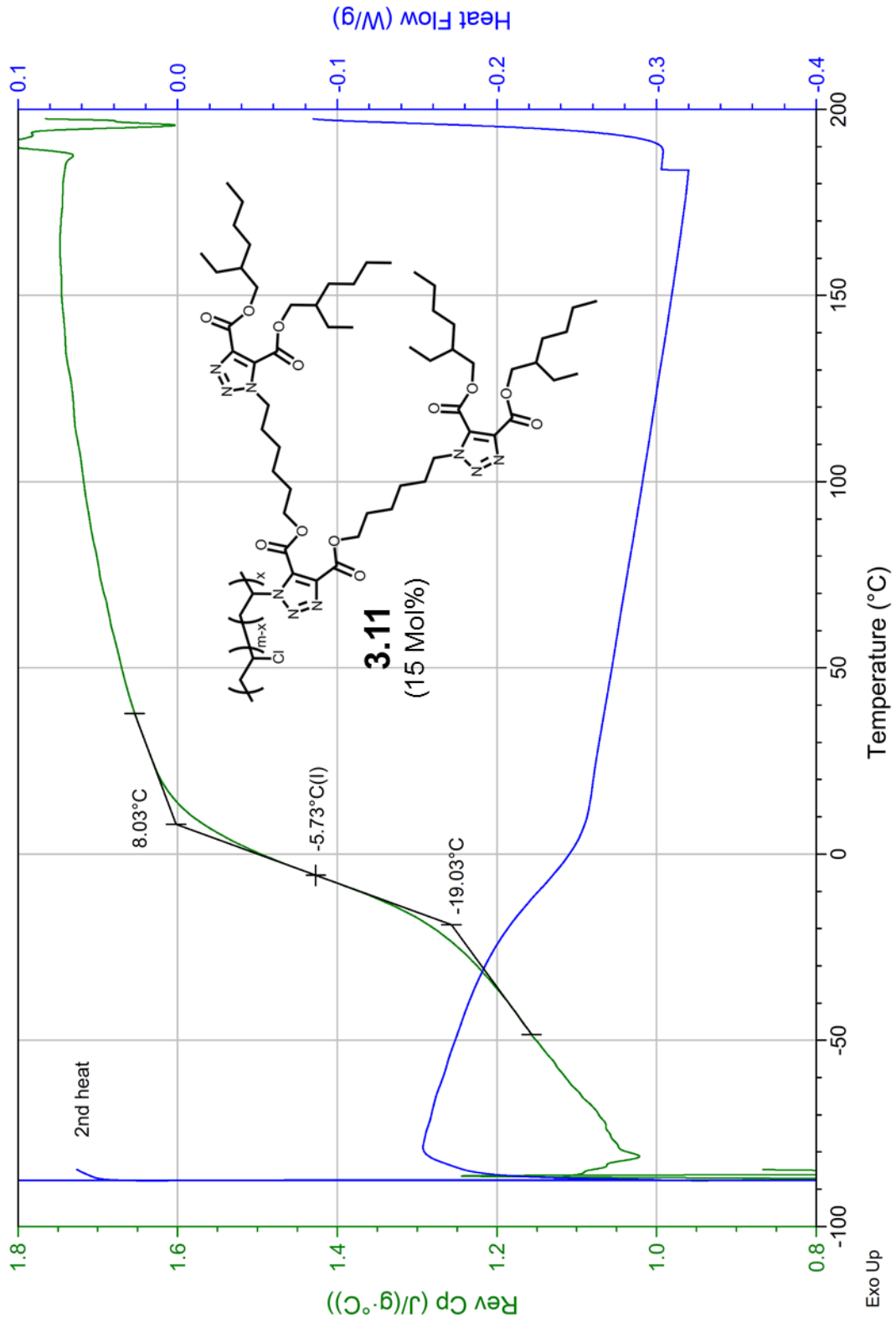


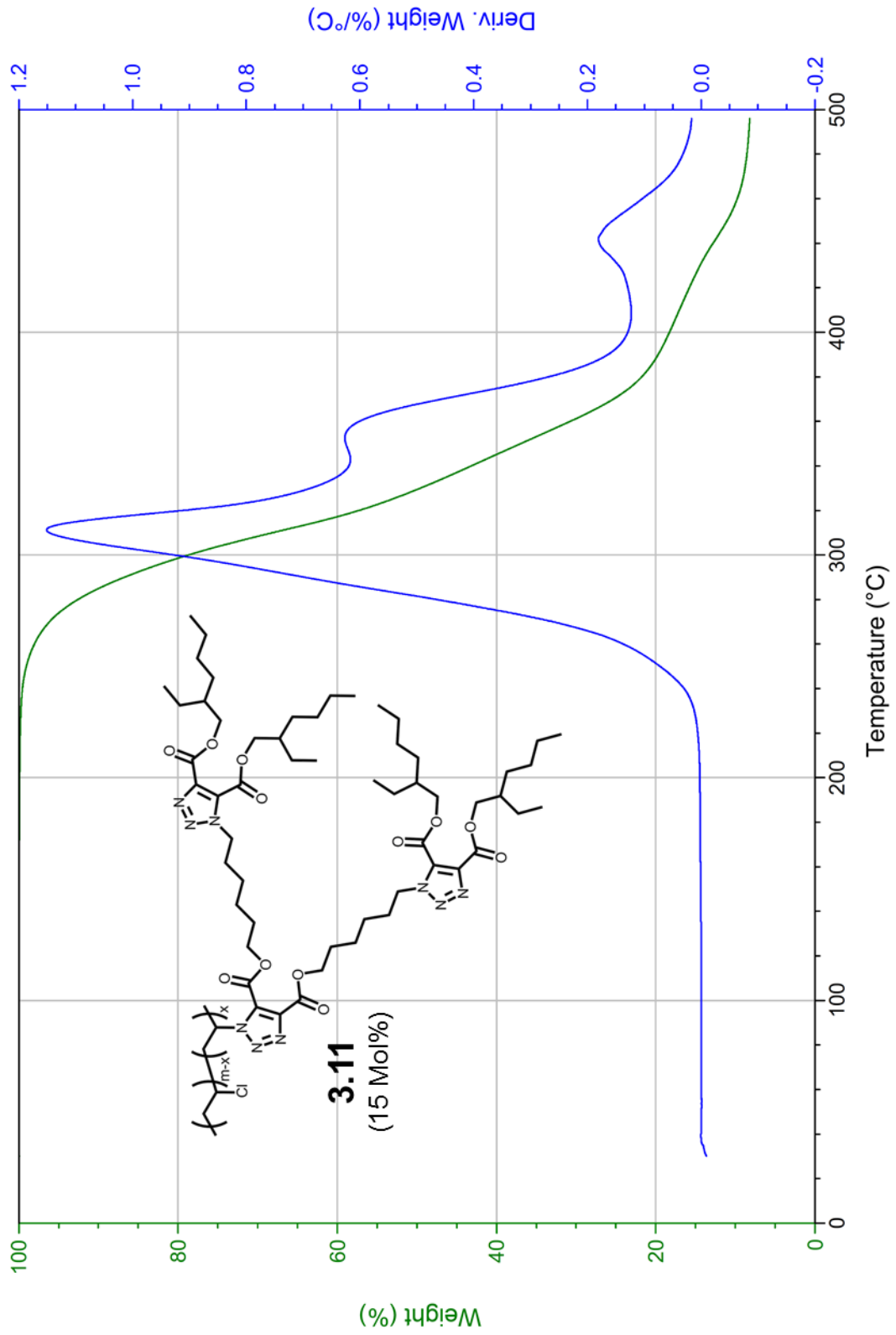


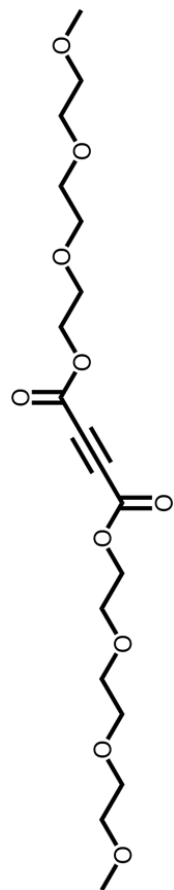




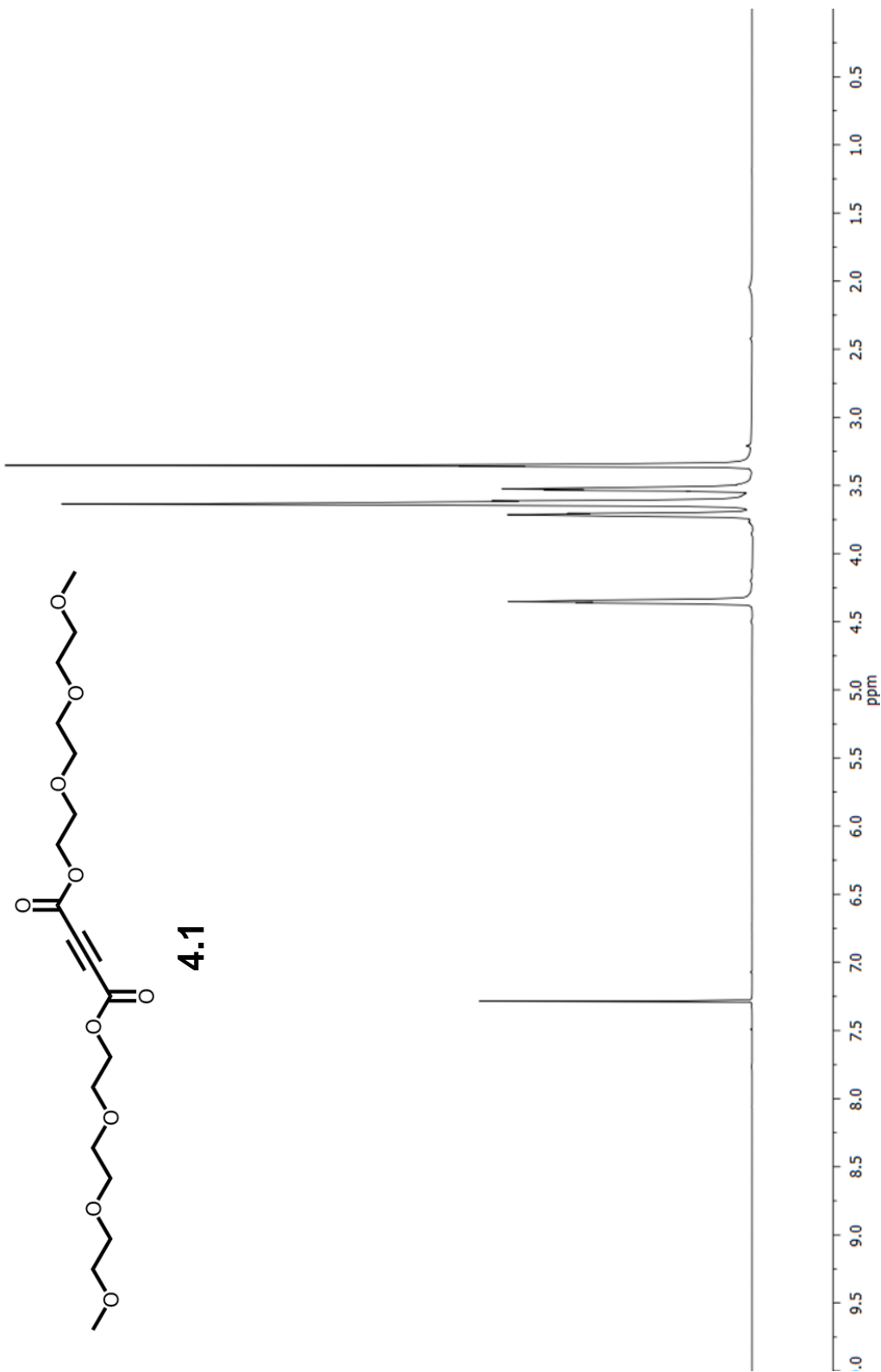


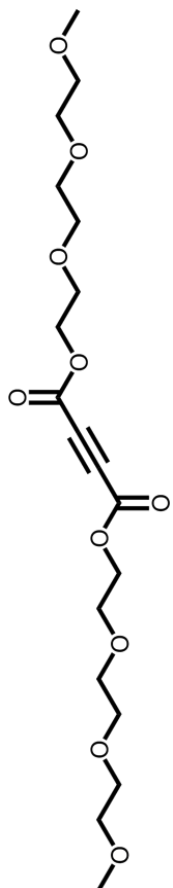




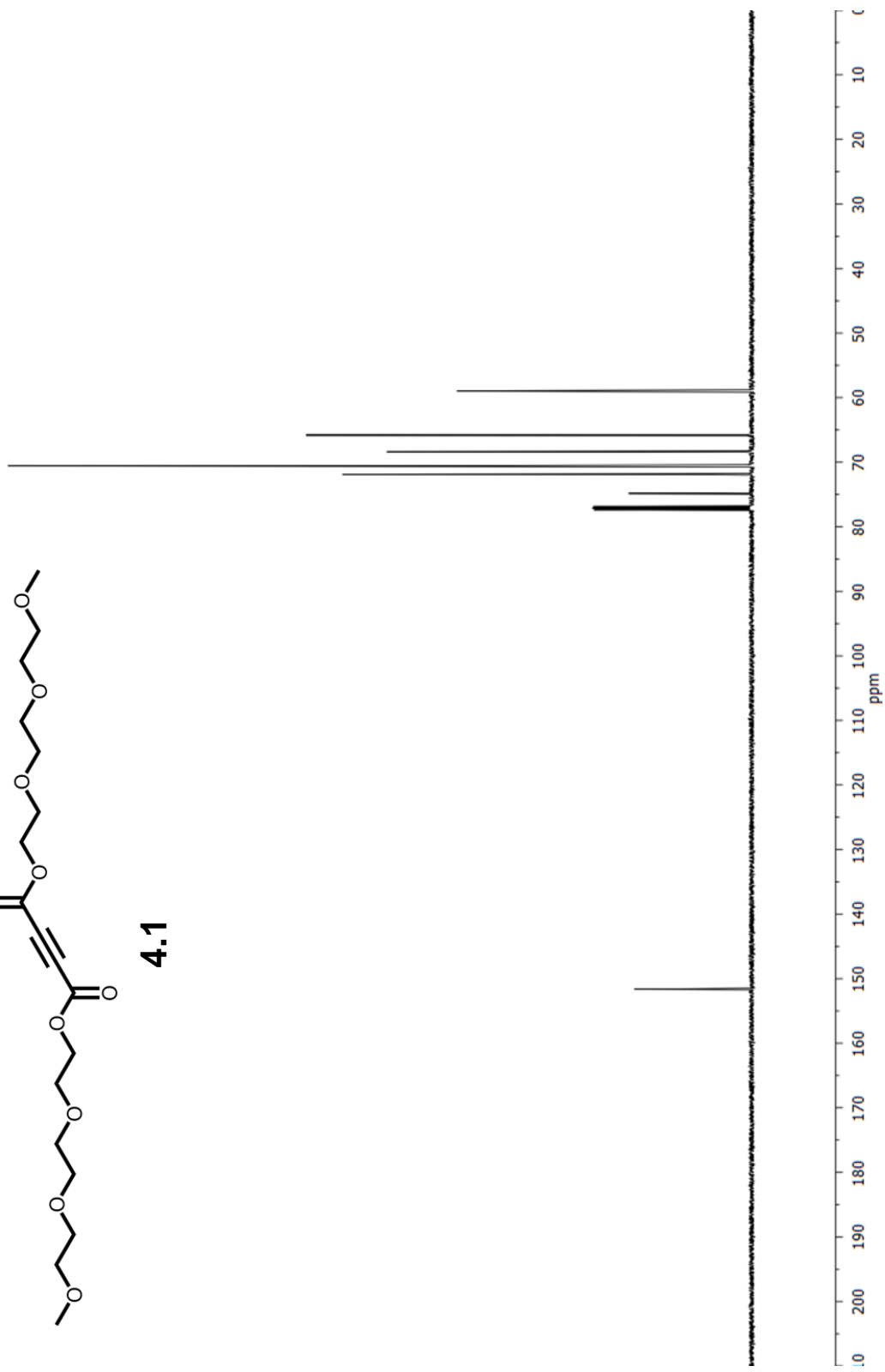


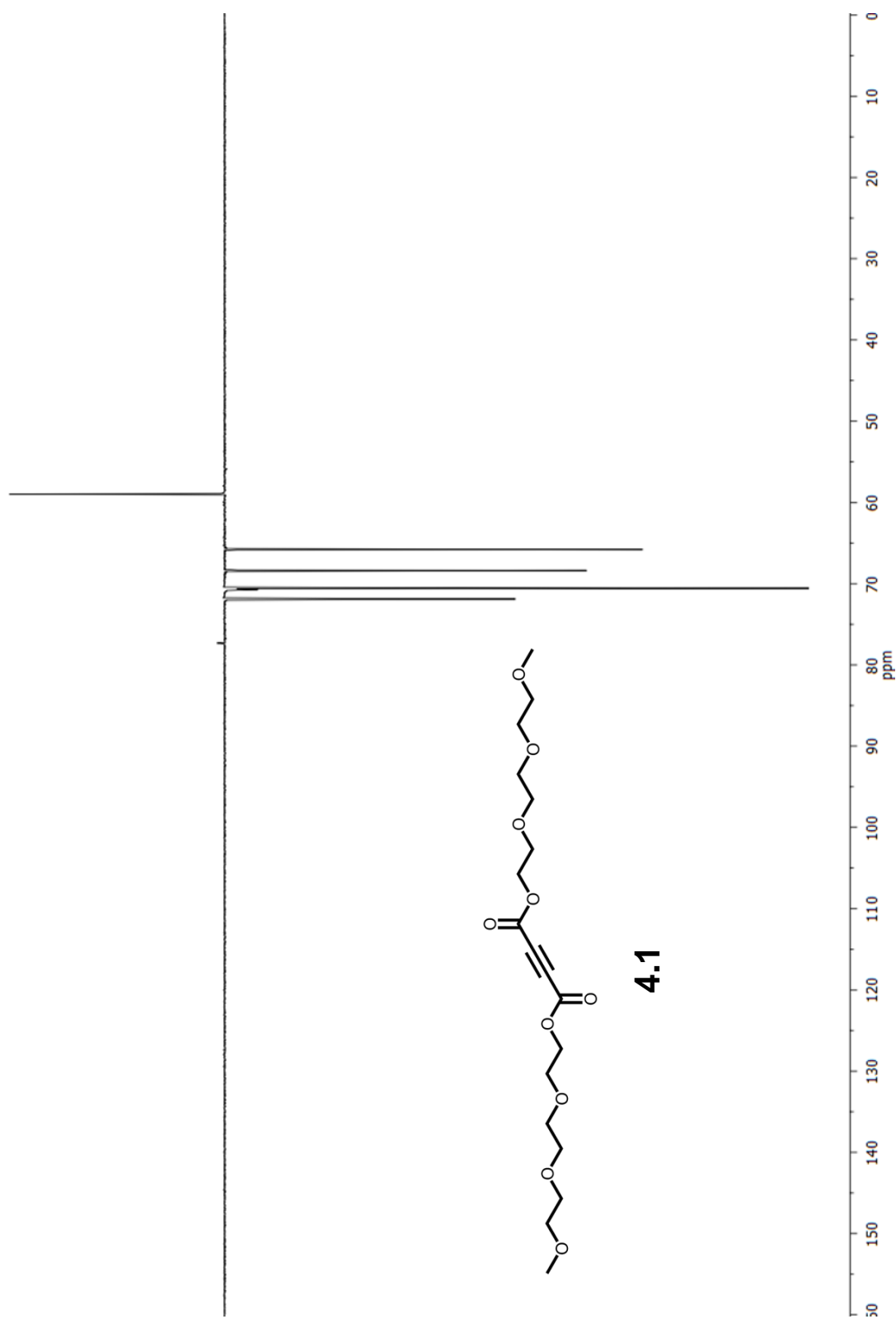
4.1



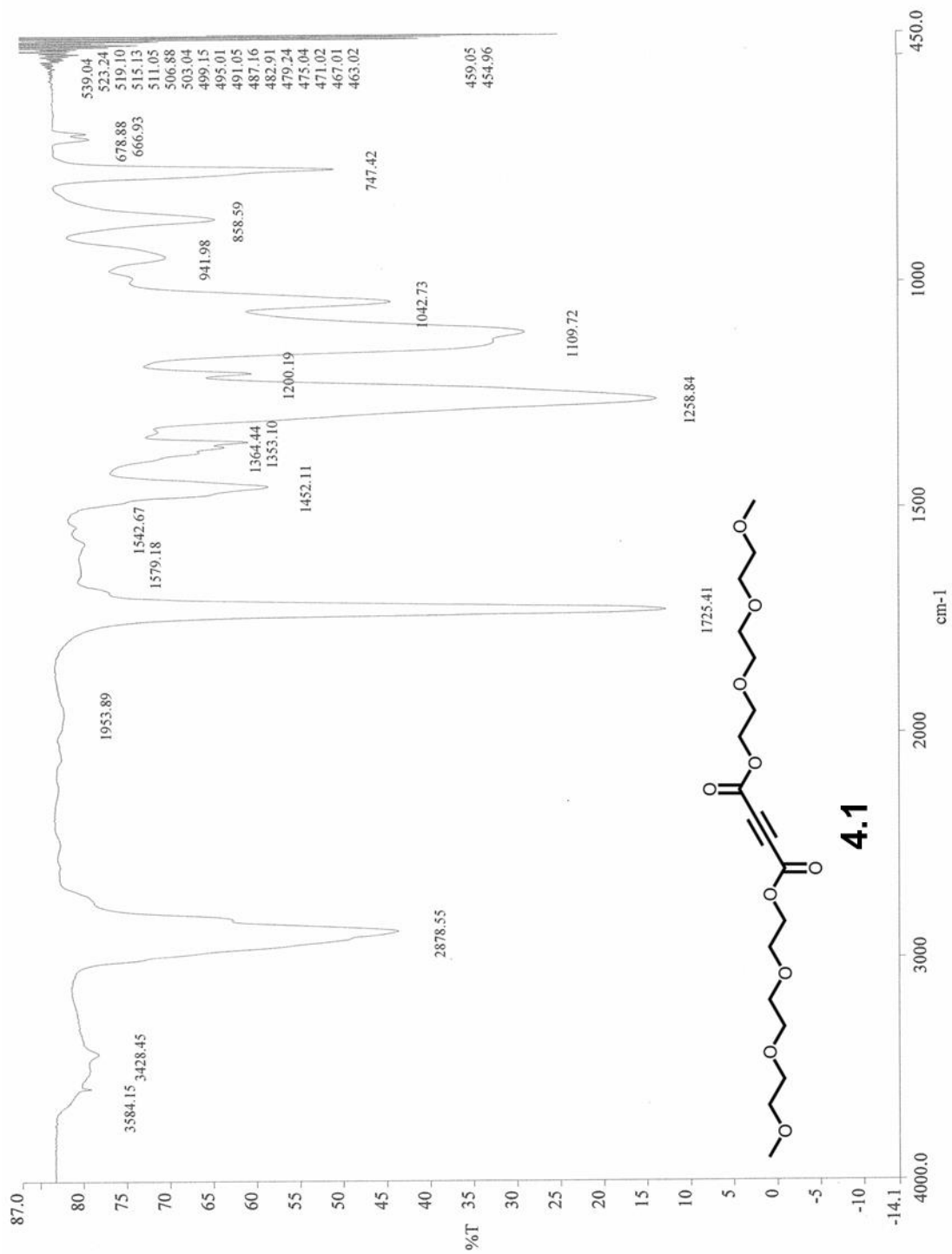


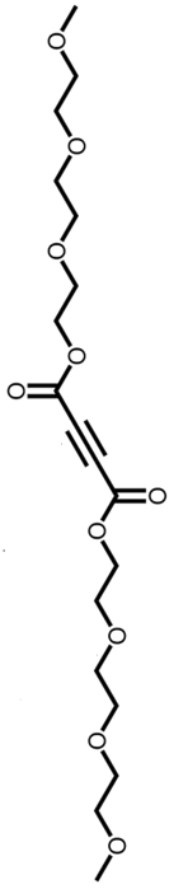
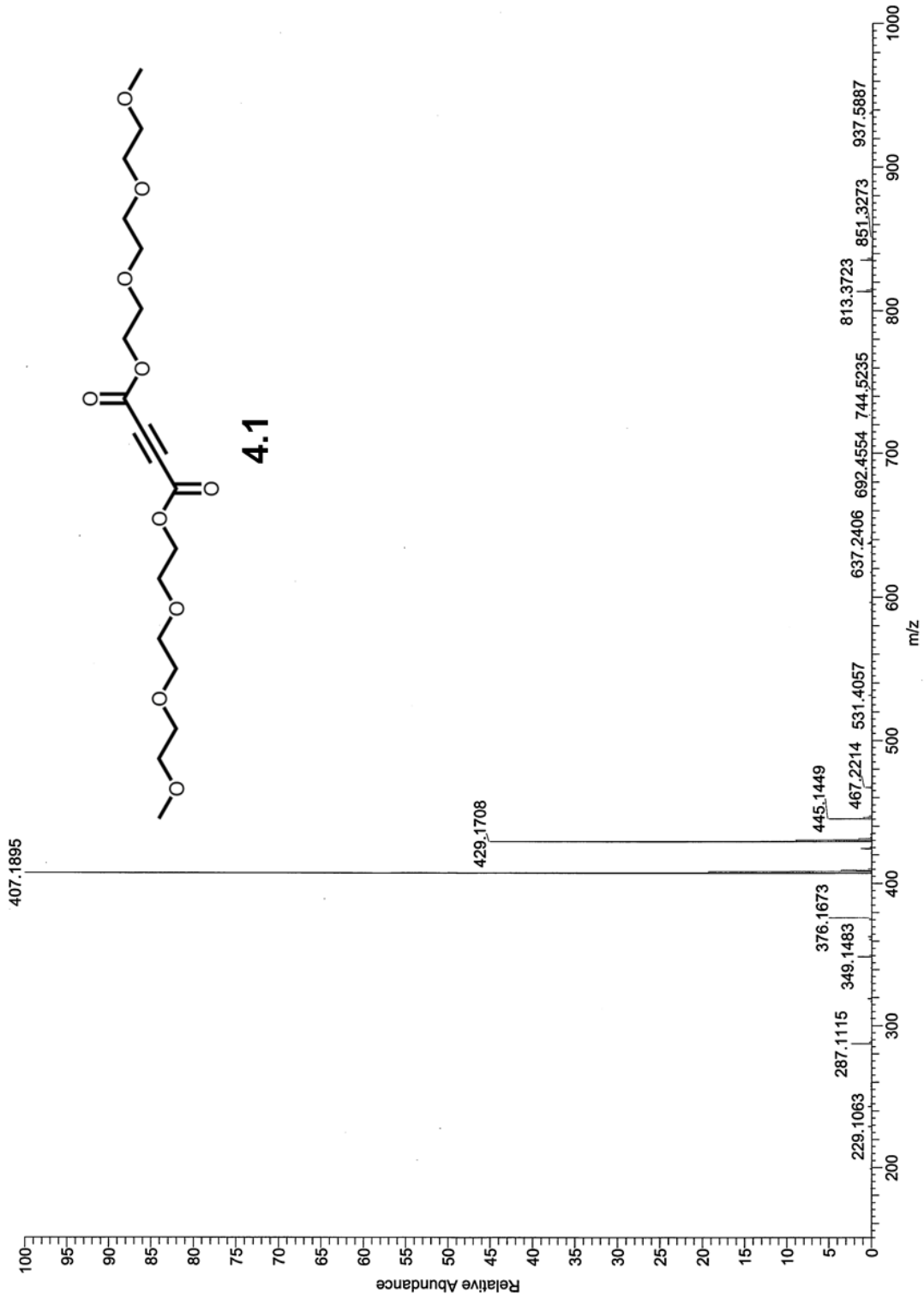
4.1



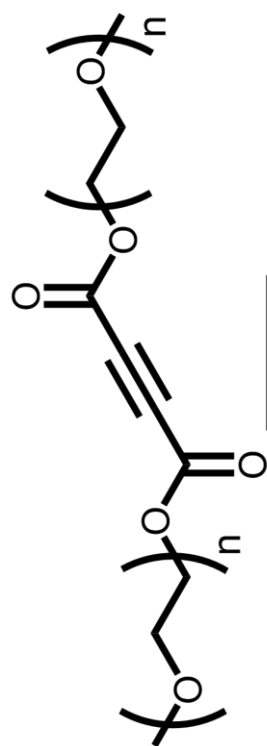


4.1



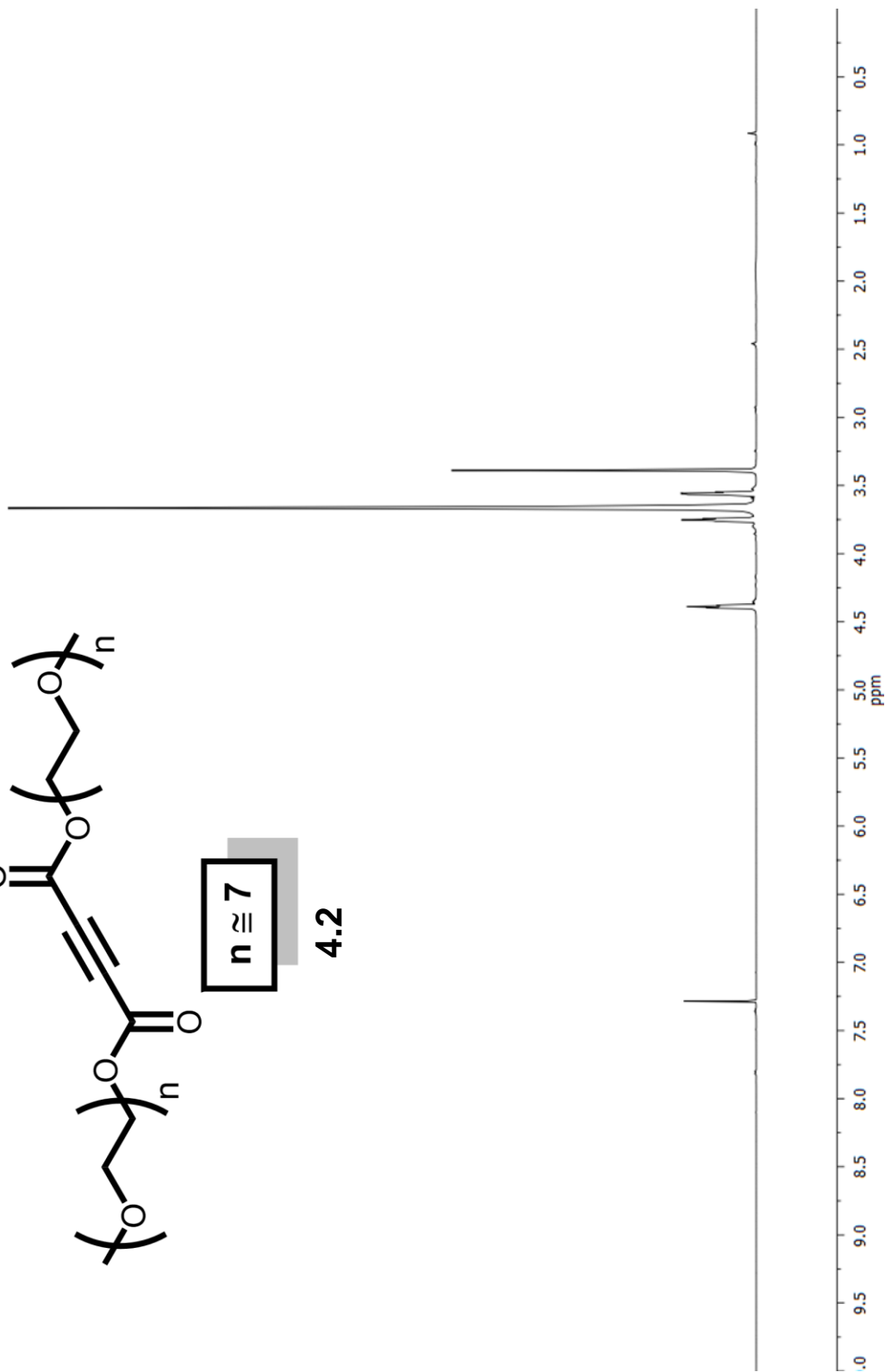


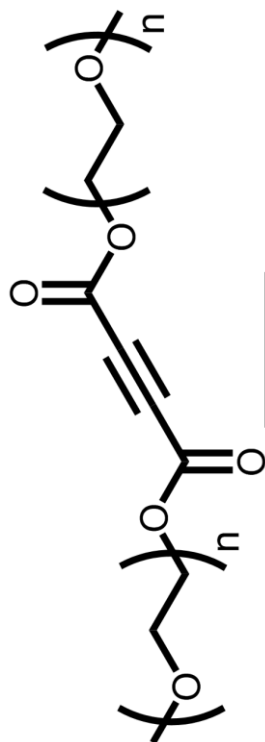
4.1



$n \approx 7$

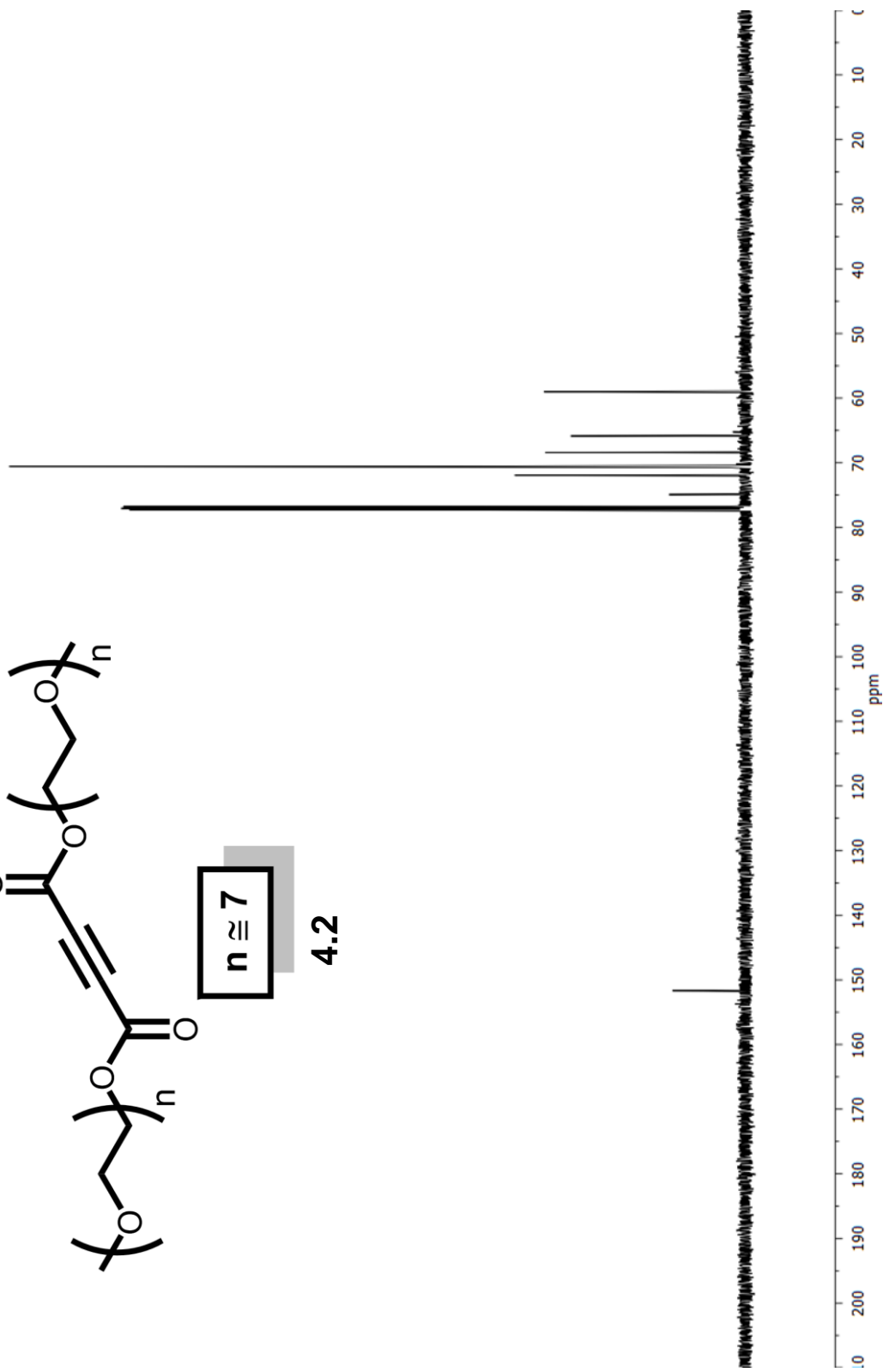
4.2

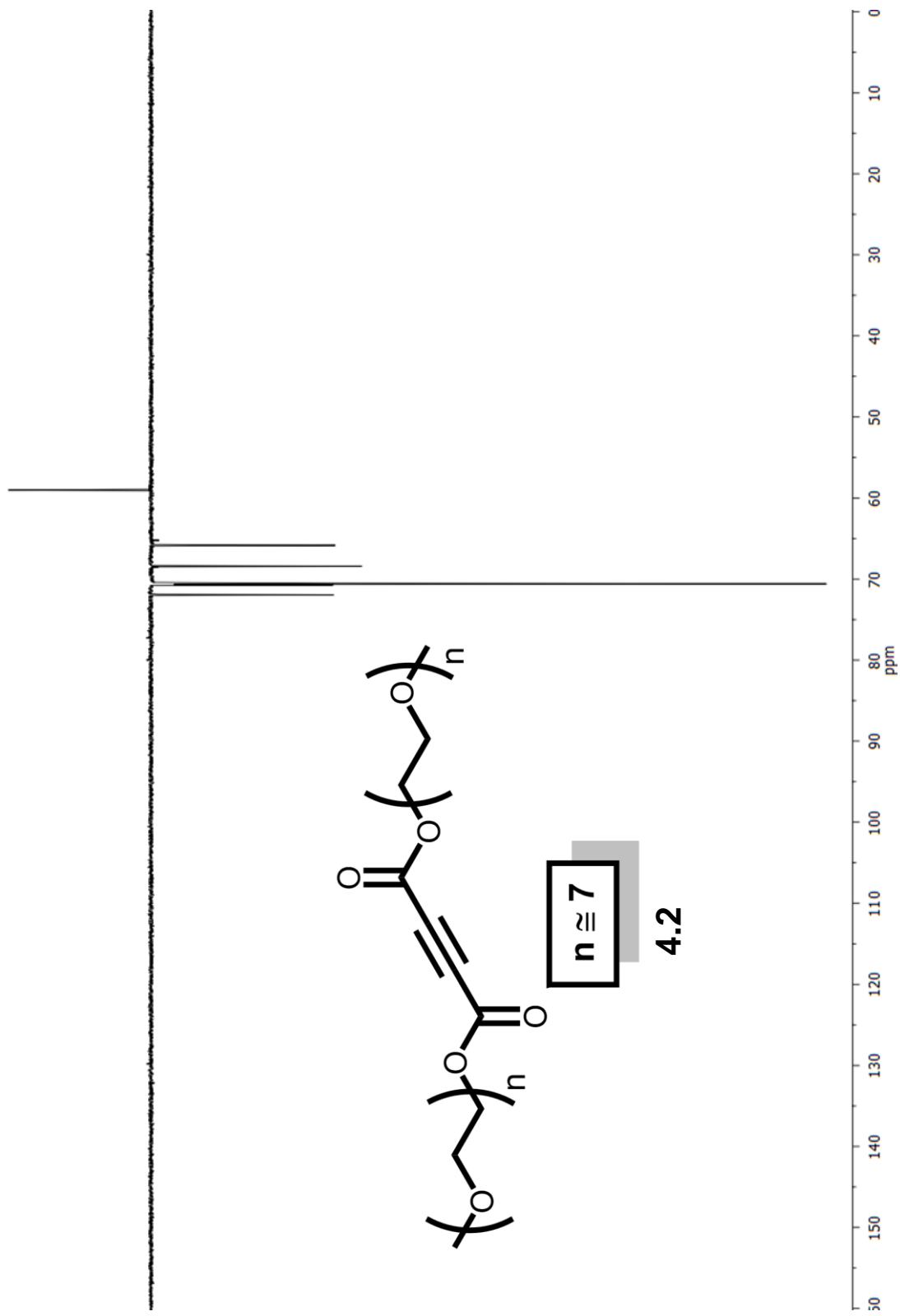


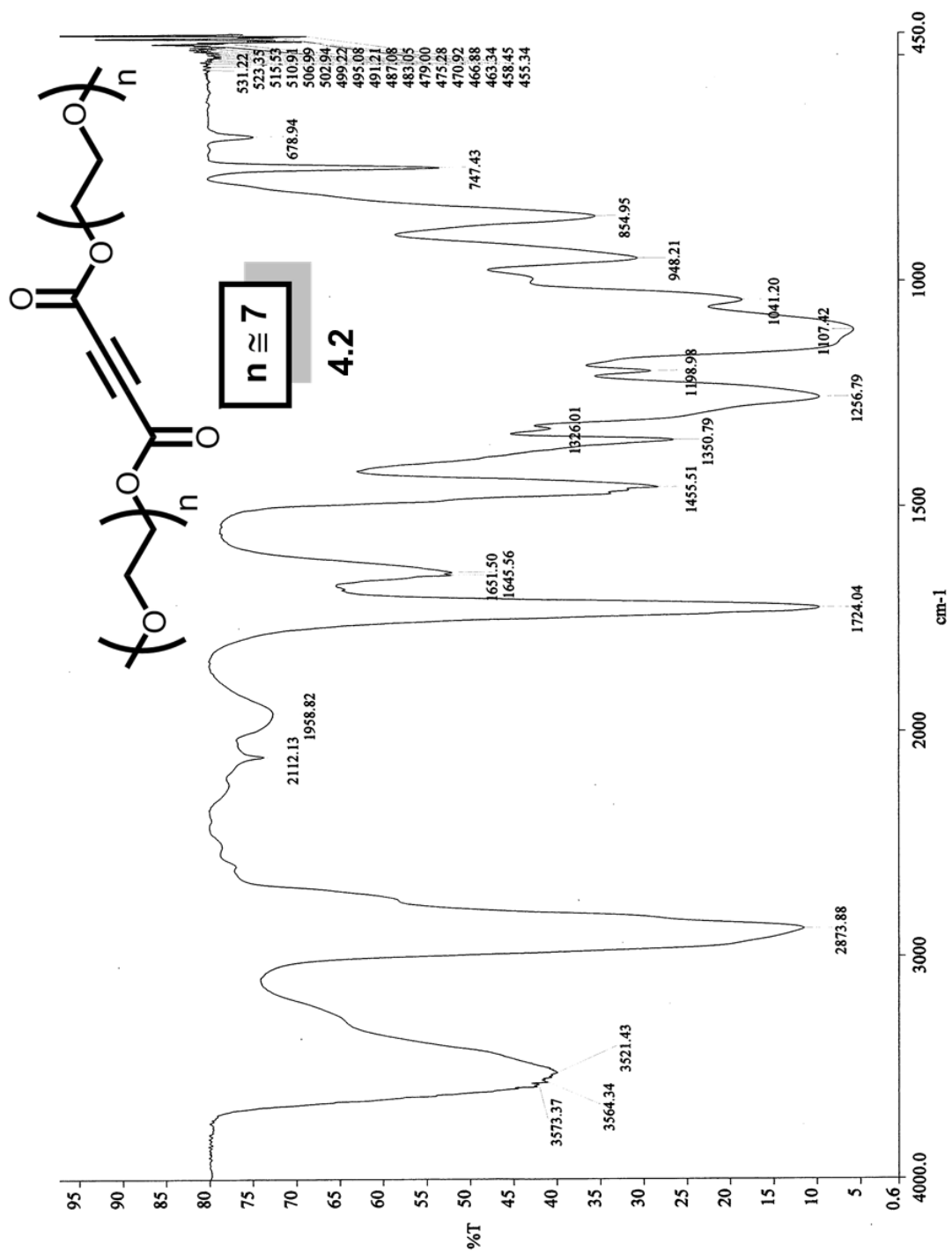


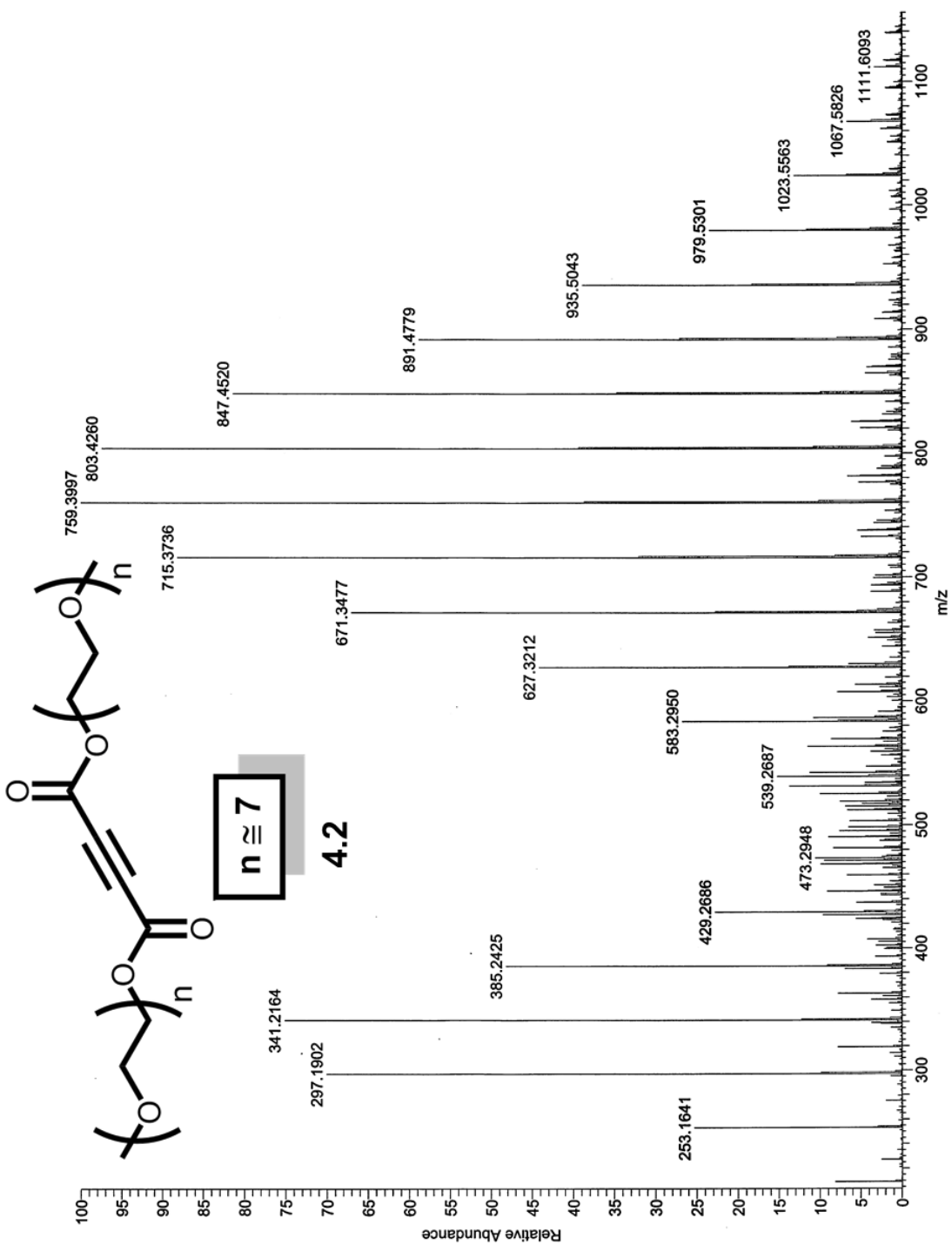
$n \approx 7$

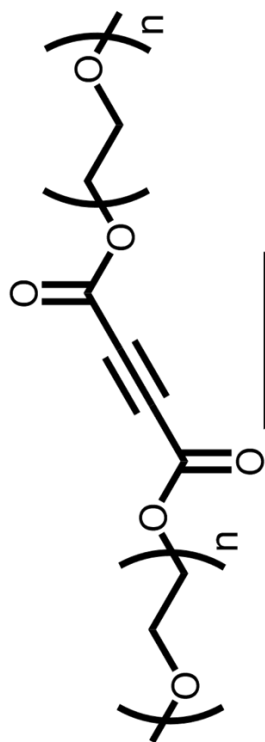
4.2





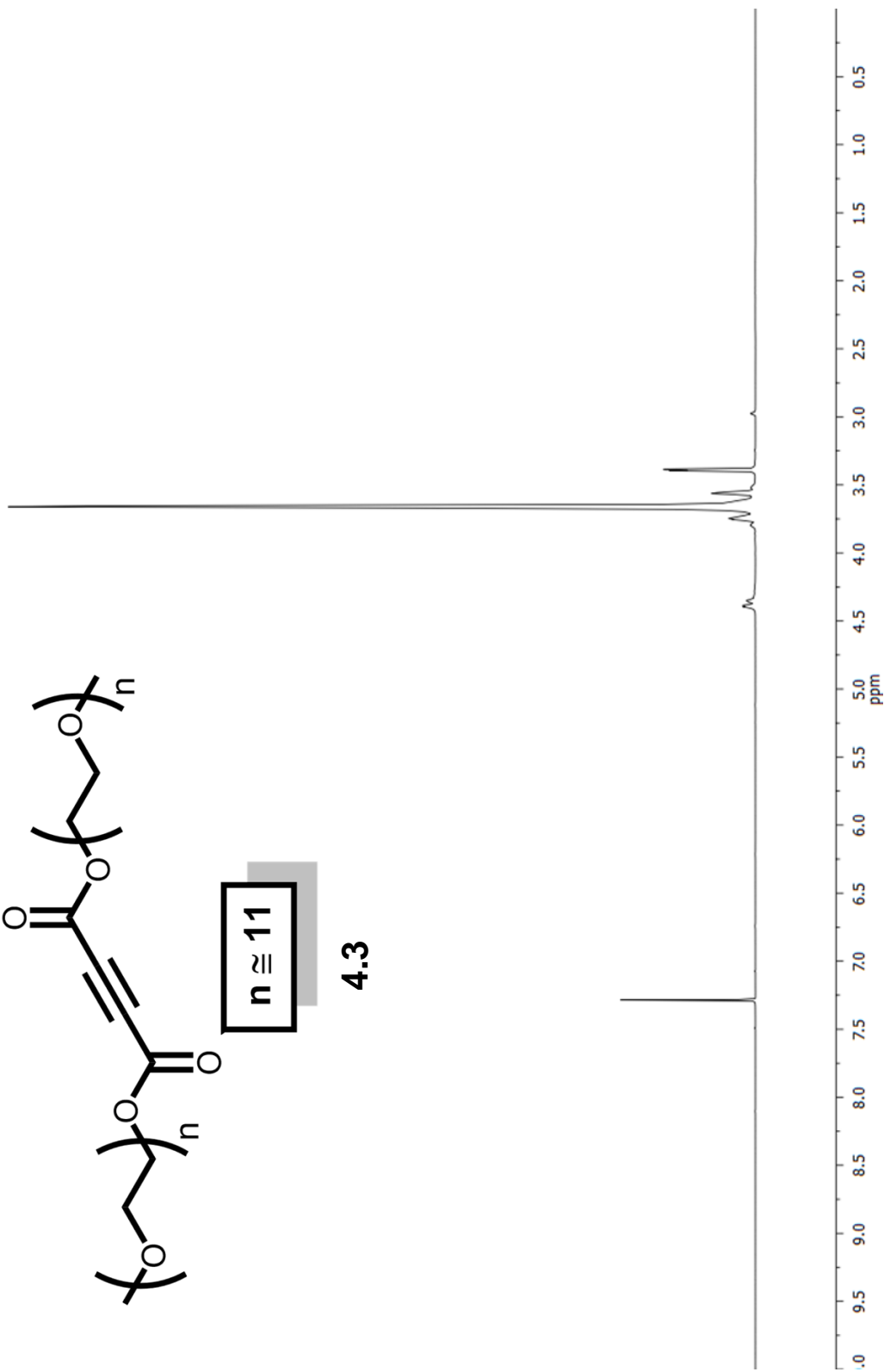


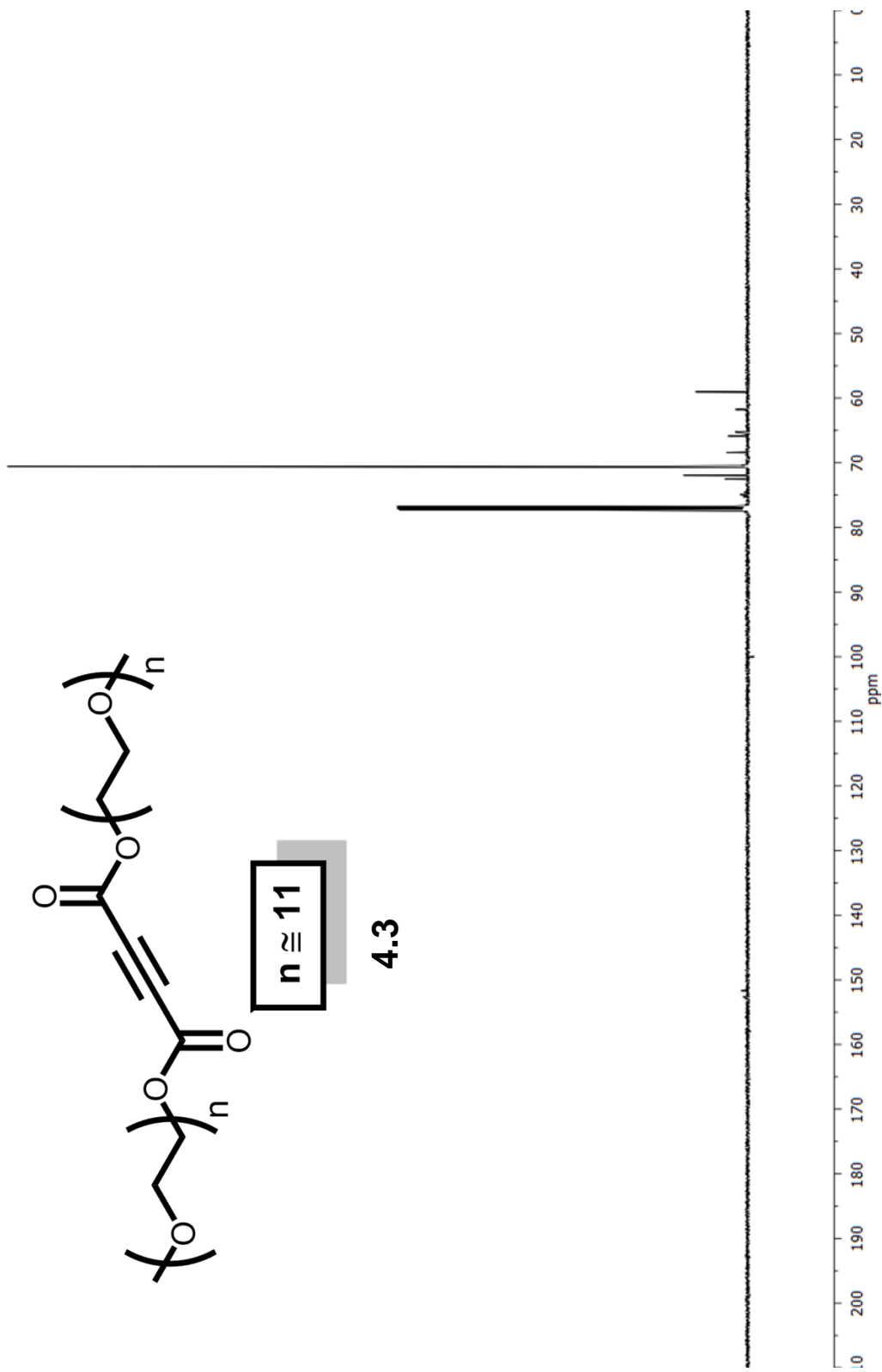


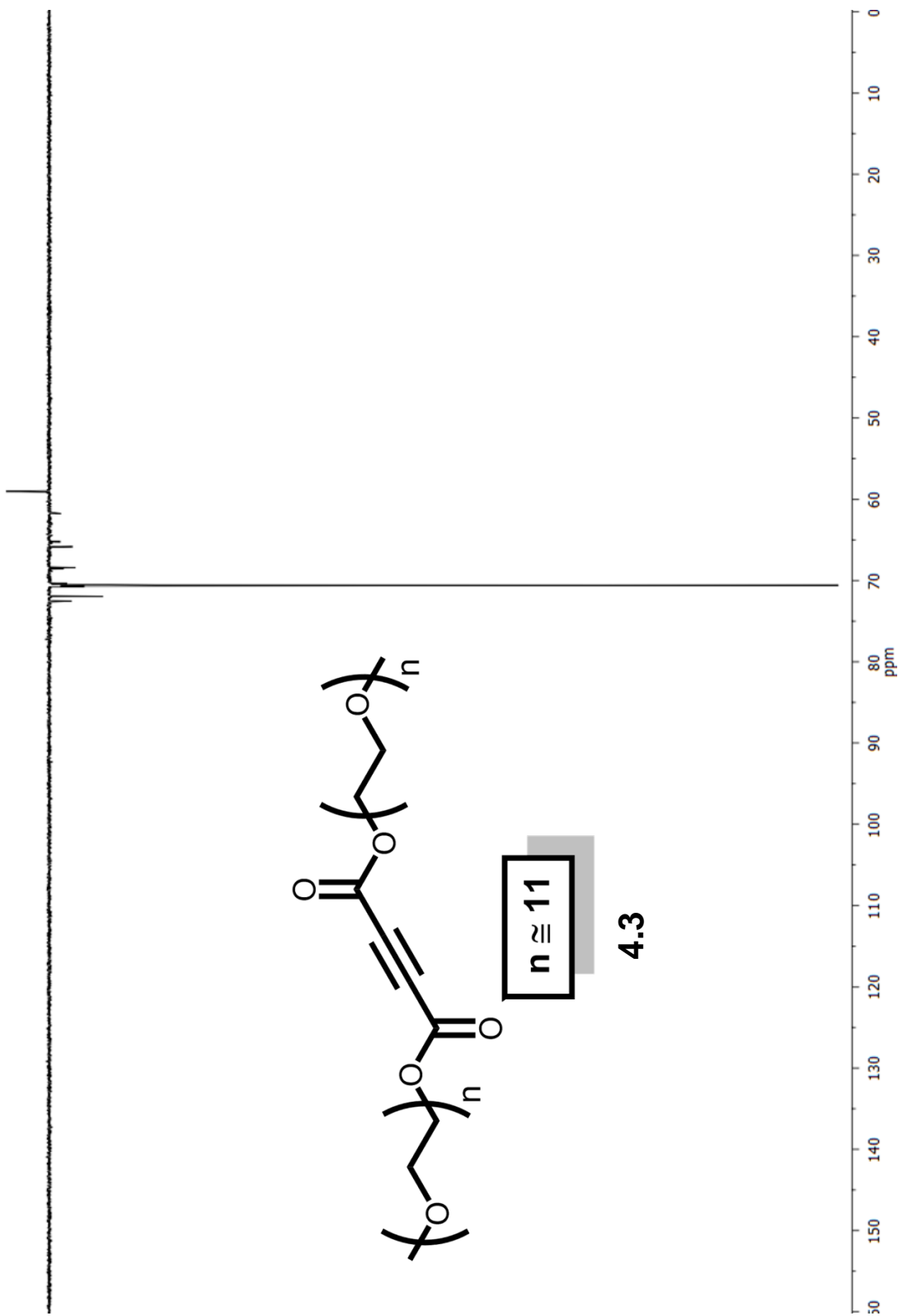


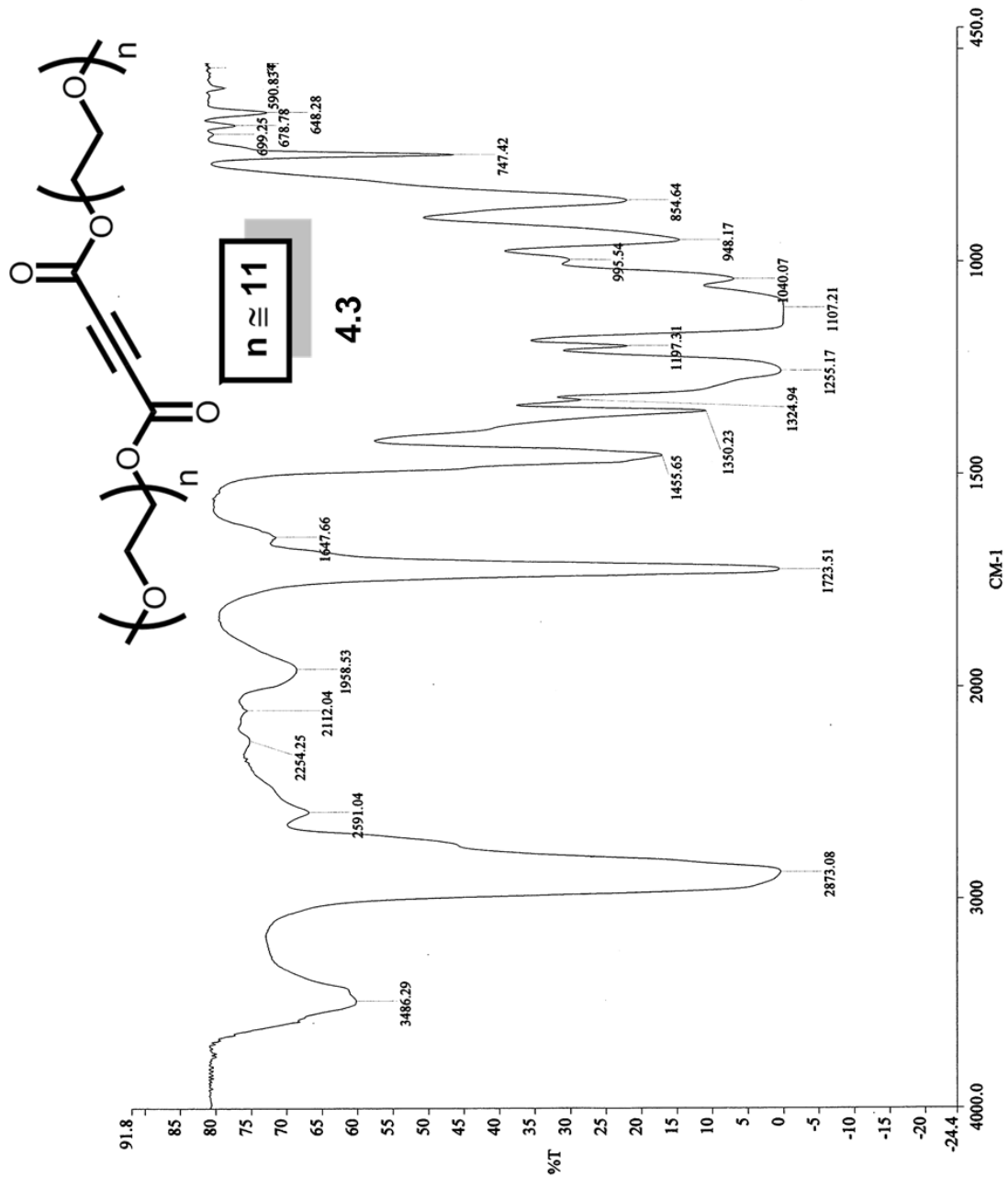
$n \approx 11$

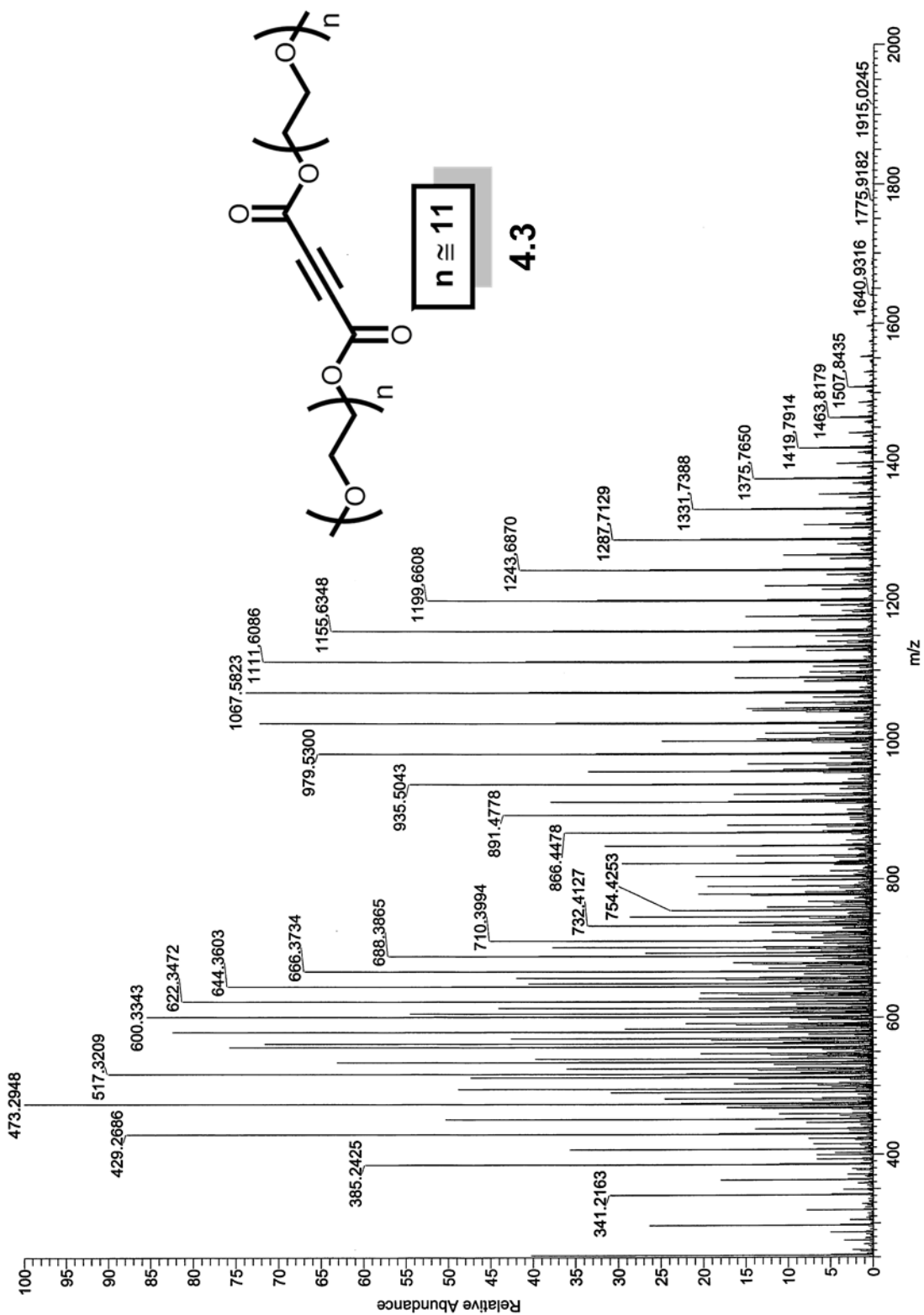
4.3

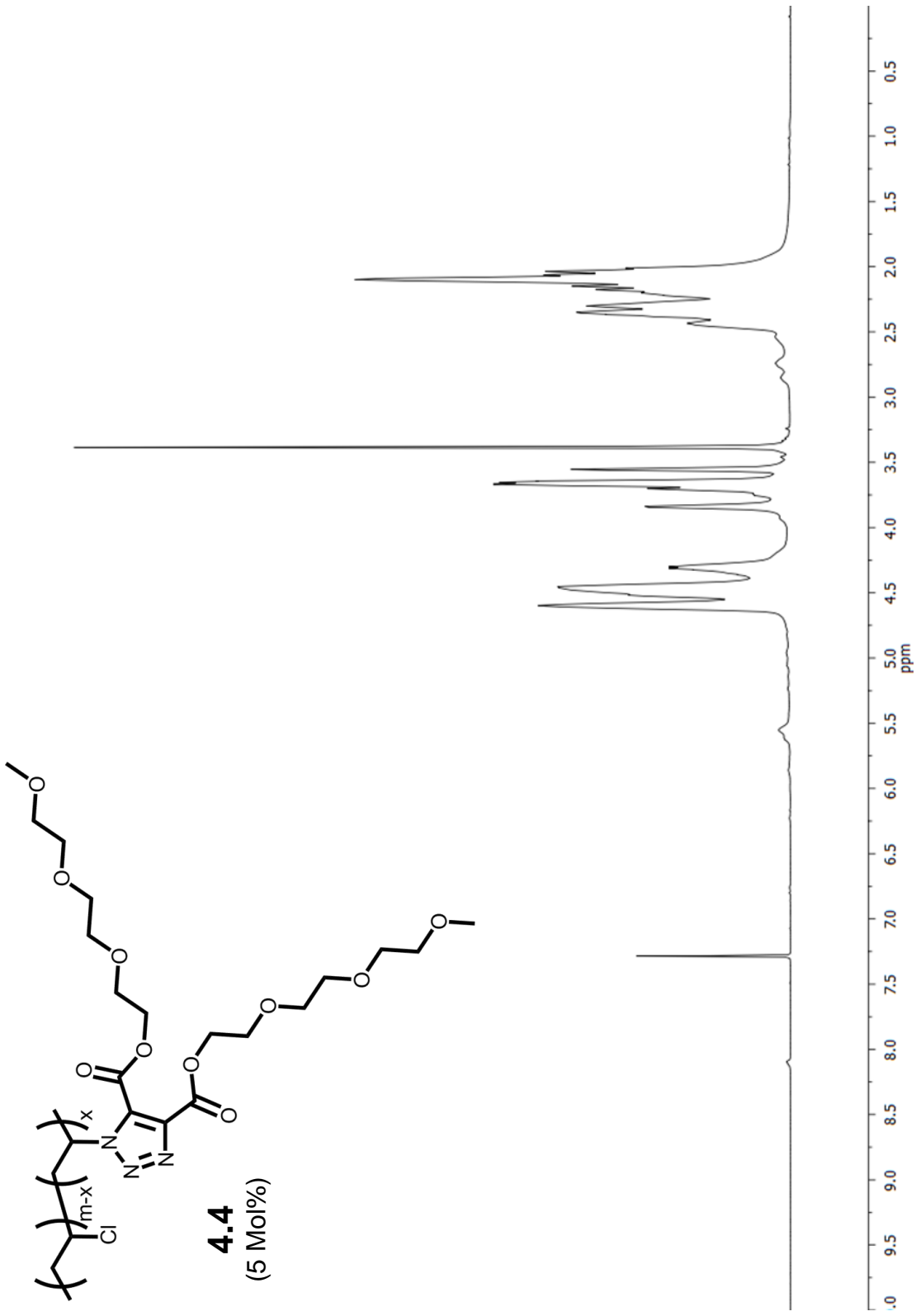


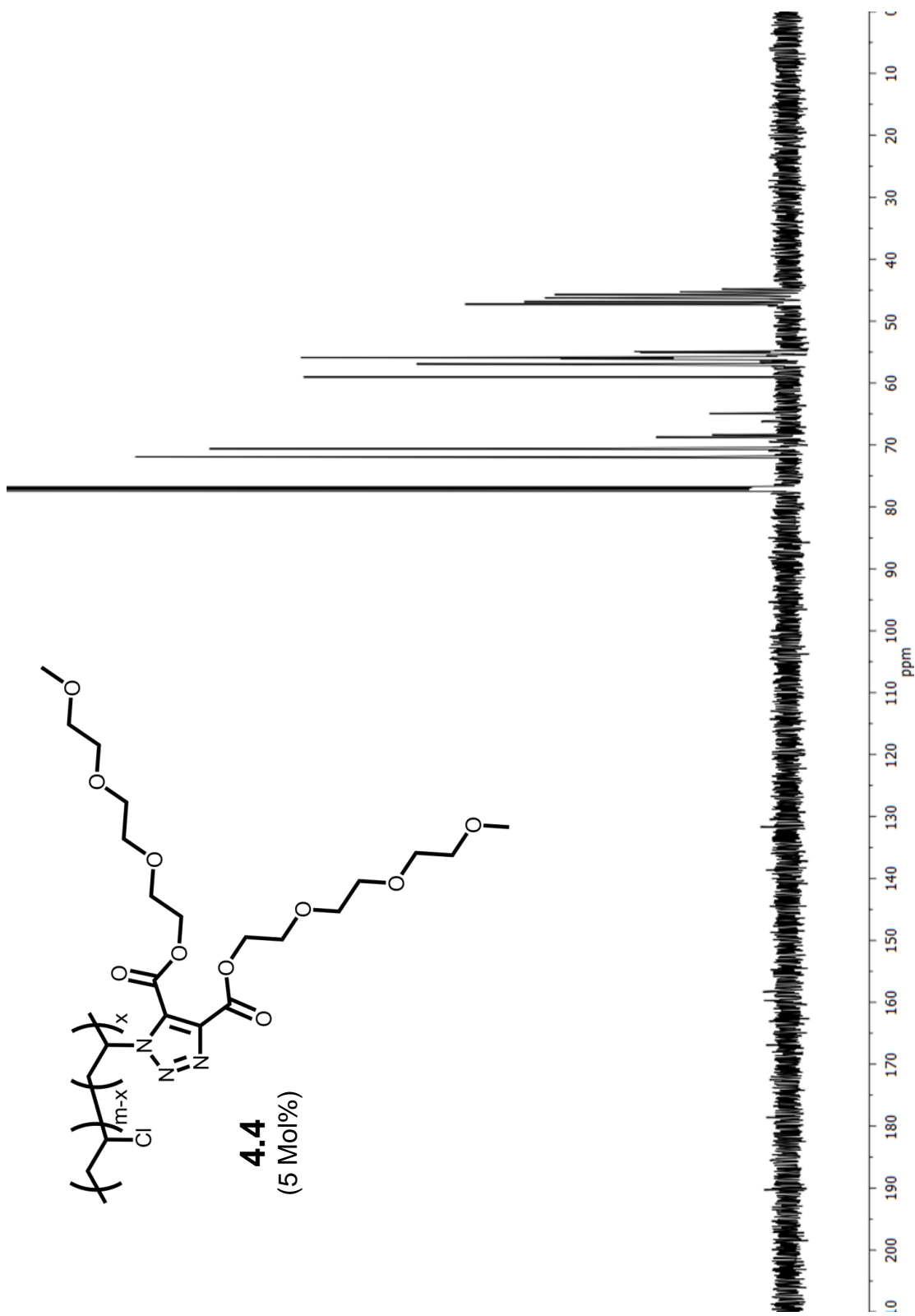


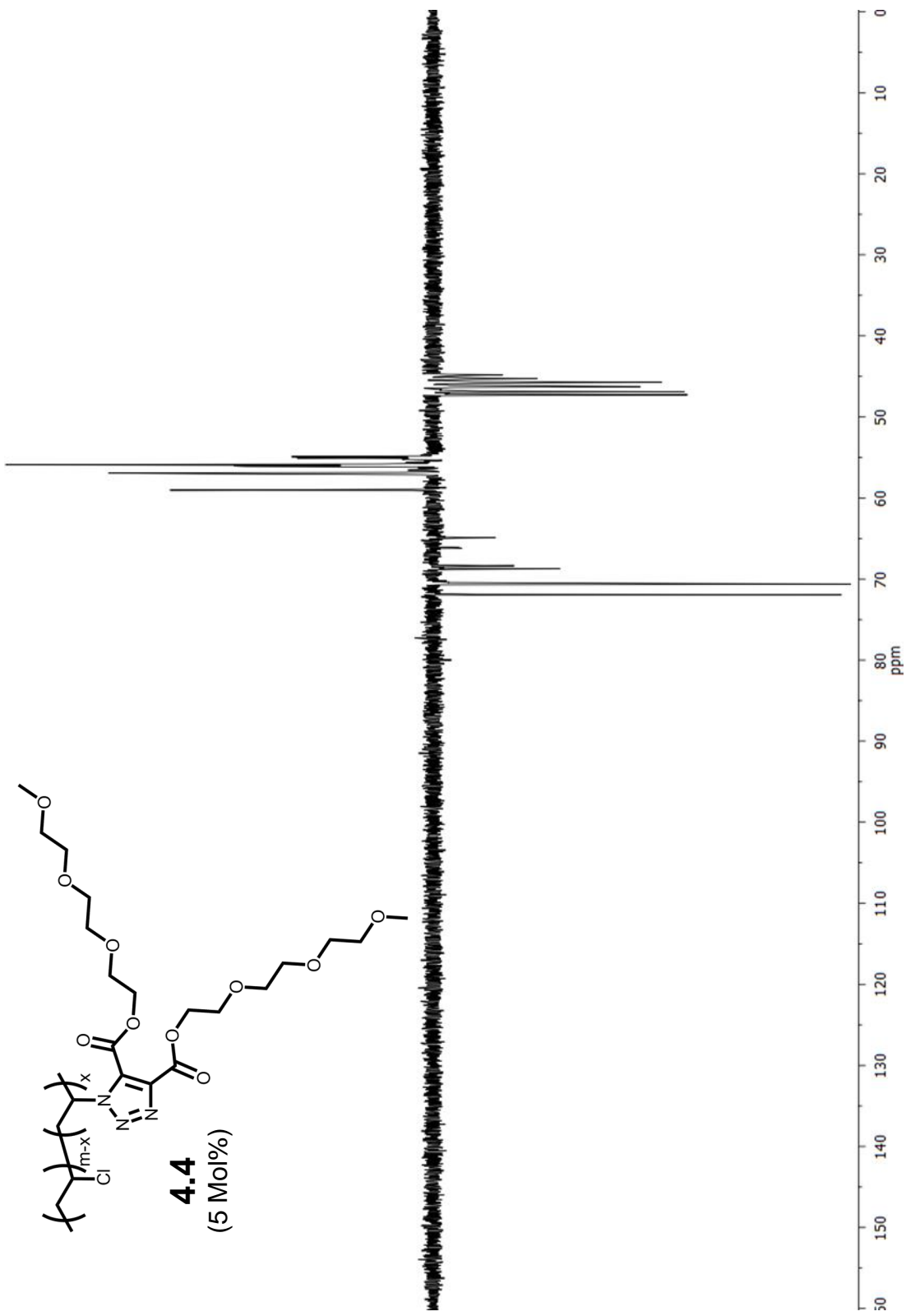


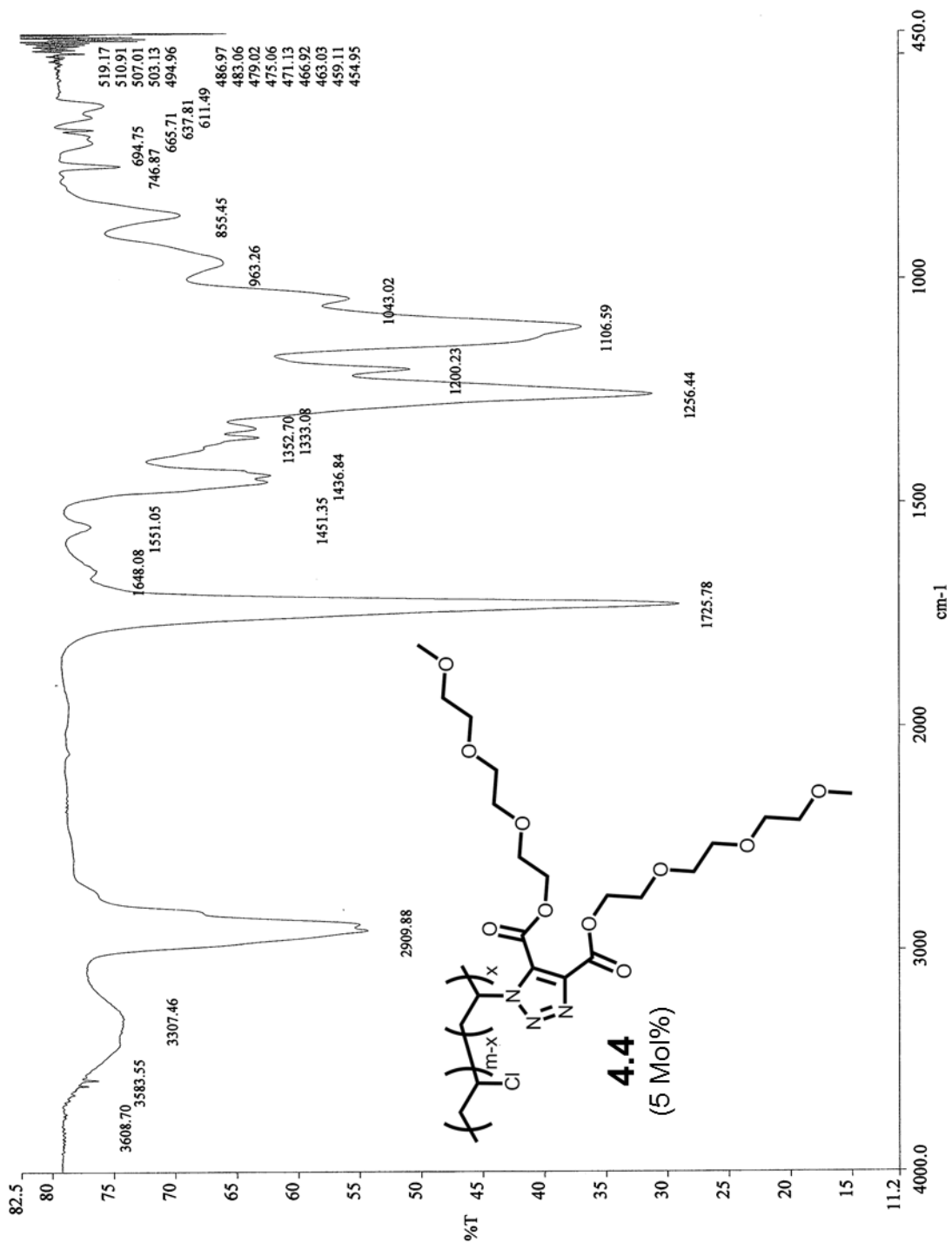


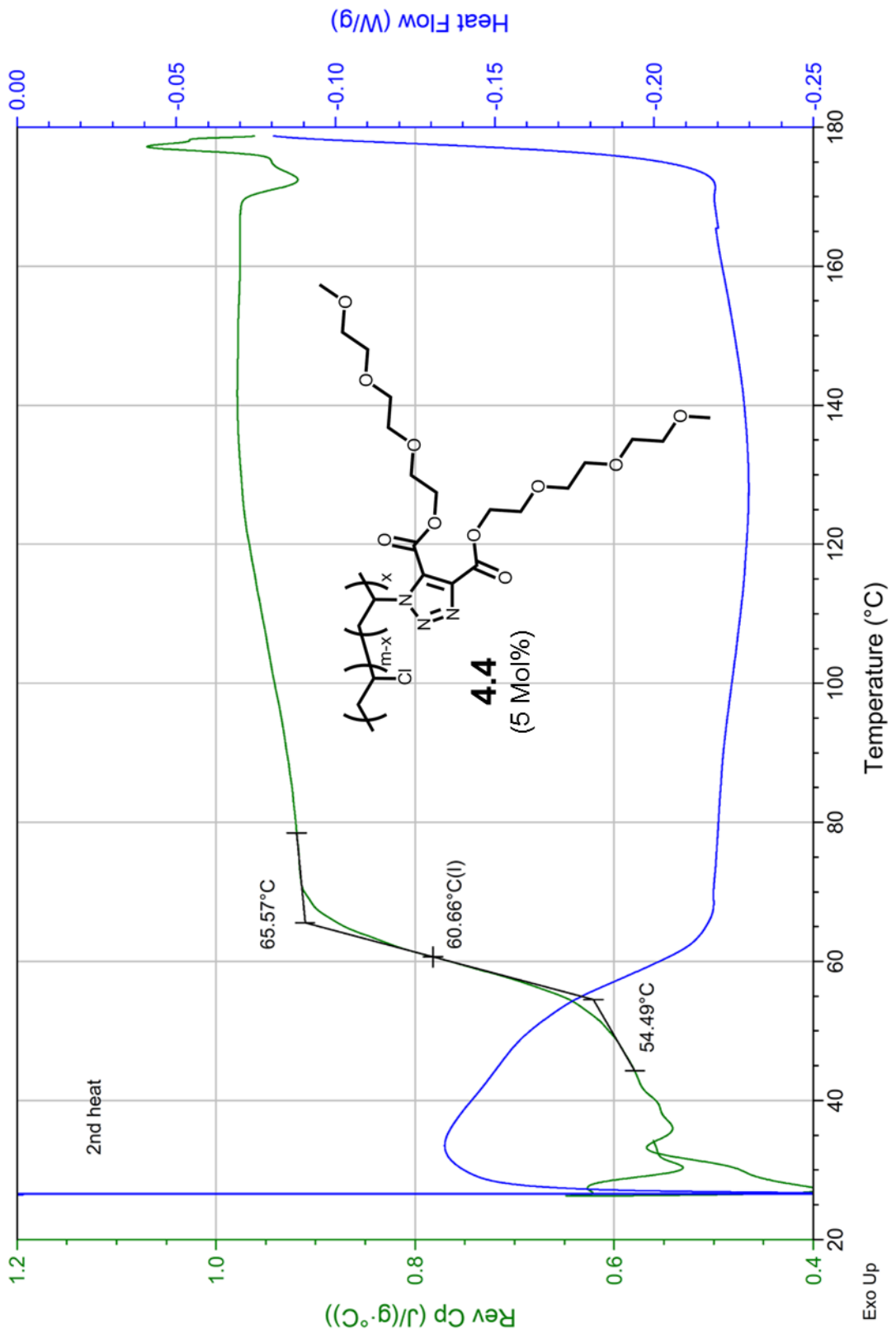


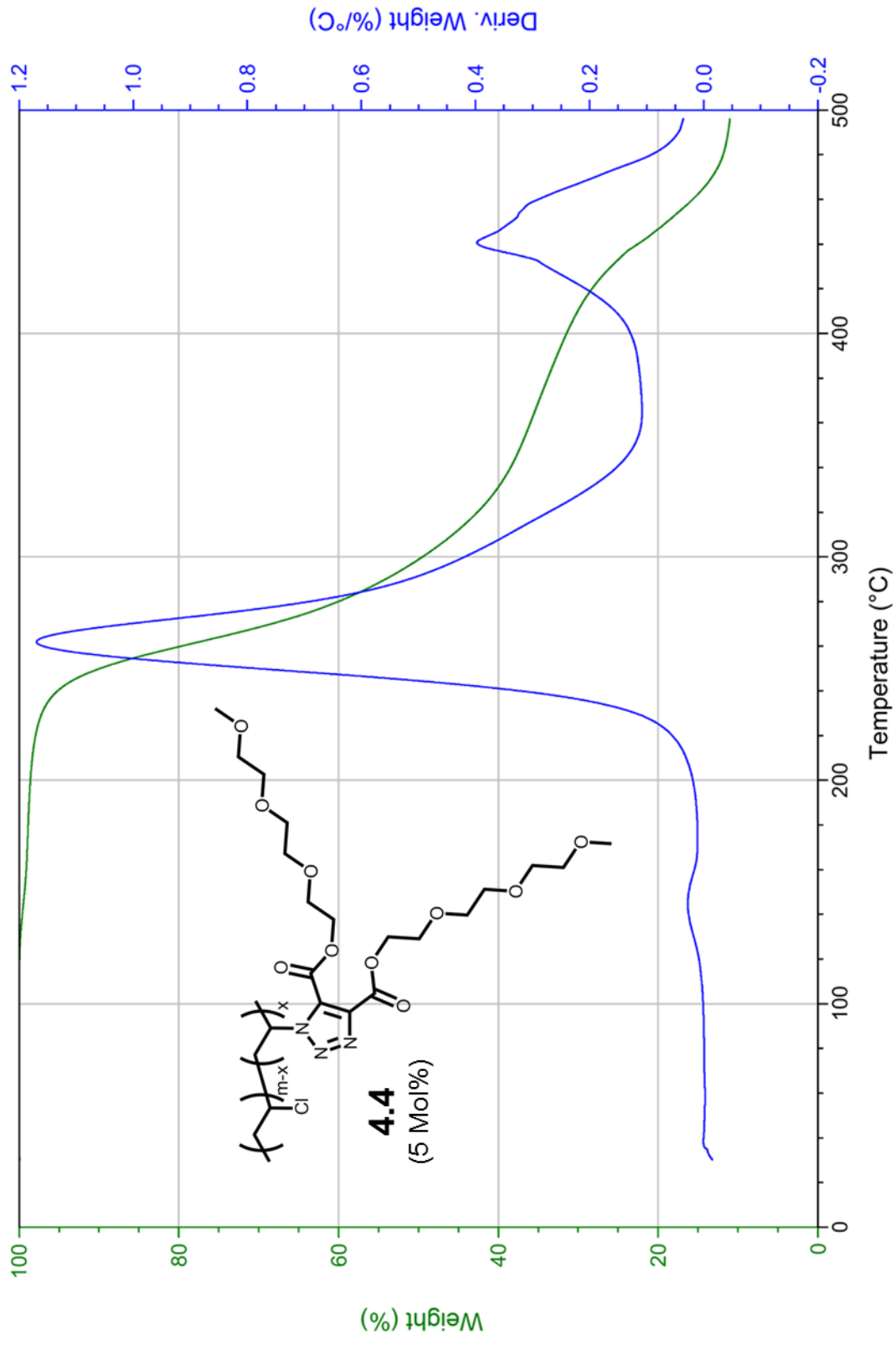


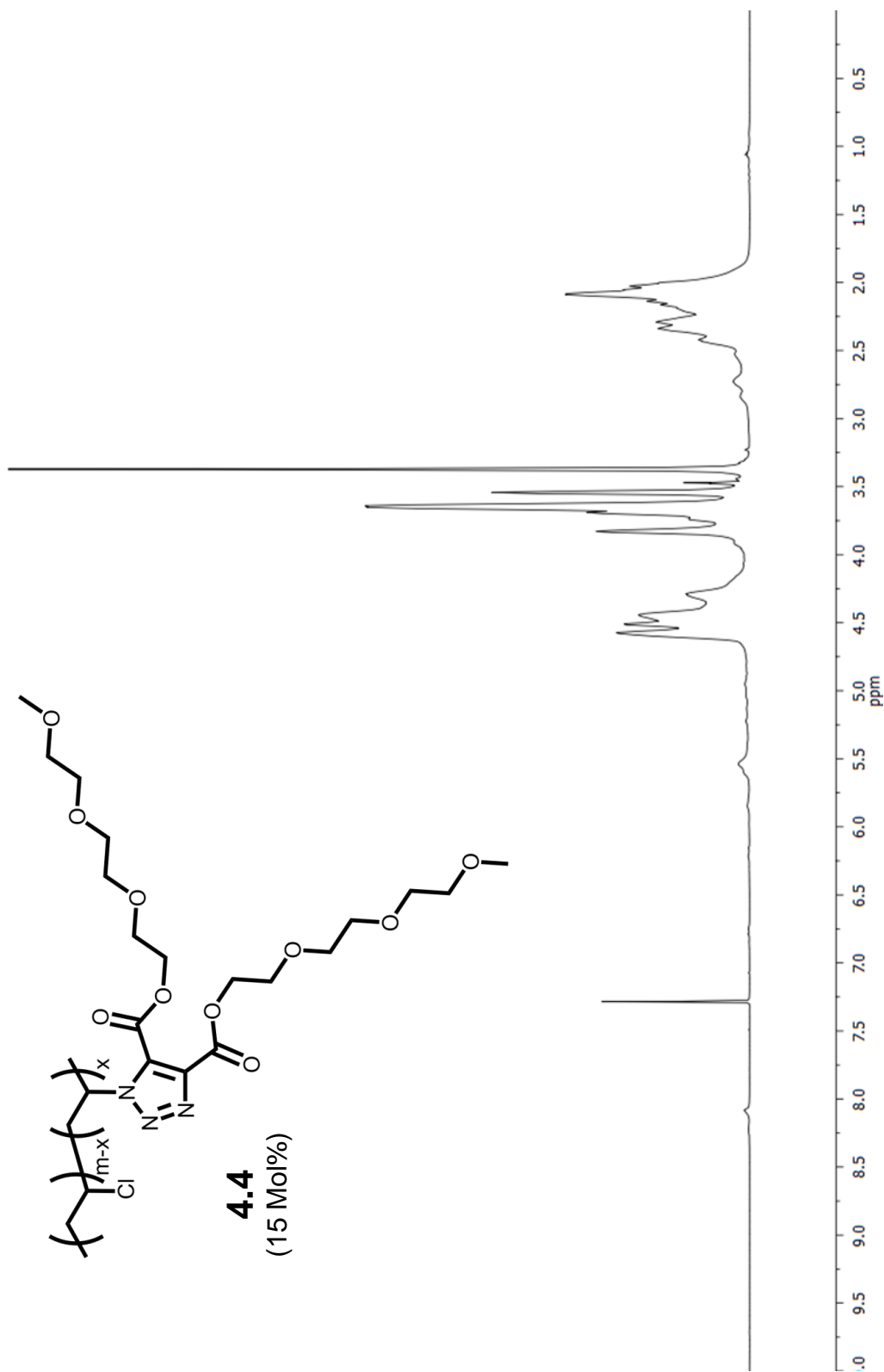


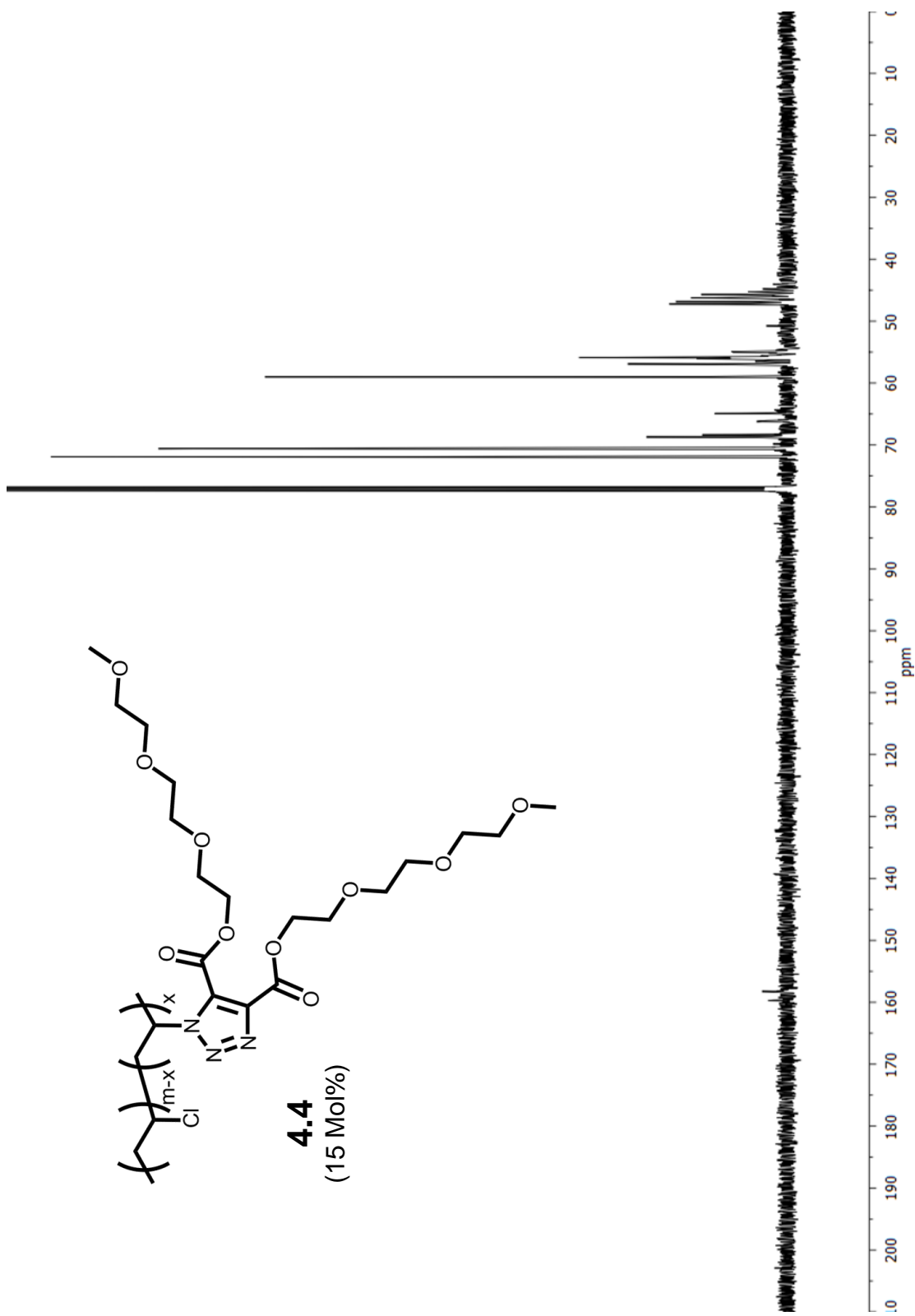
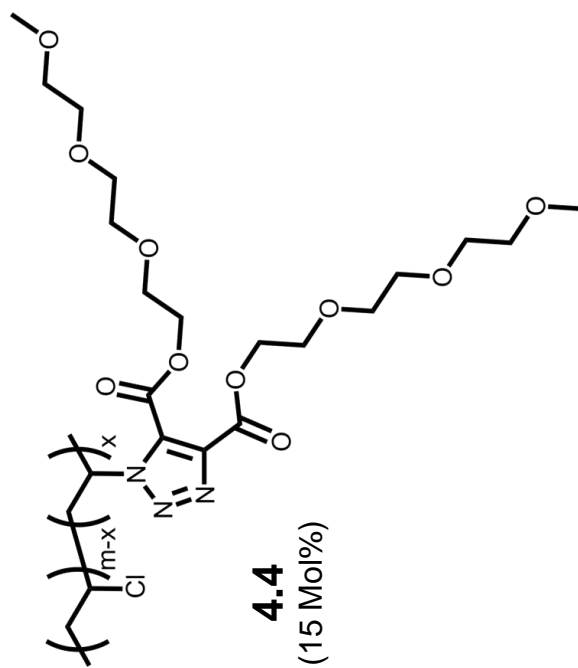


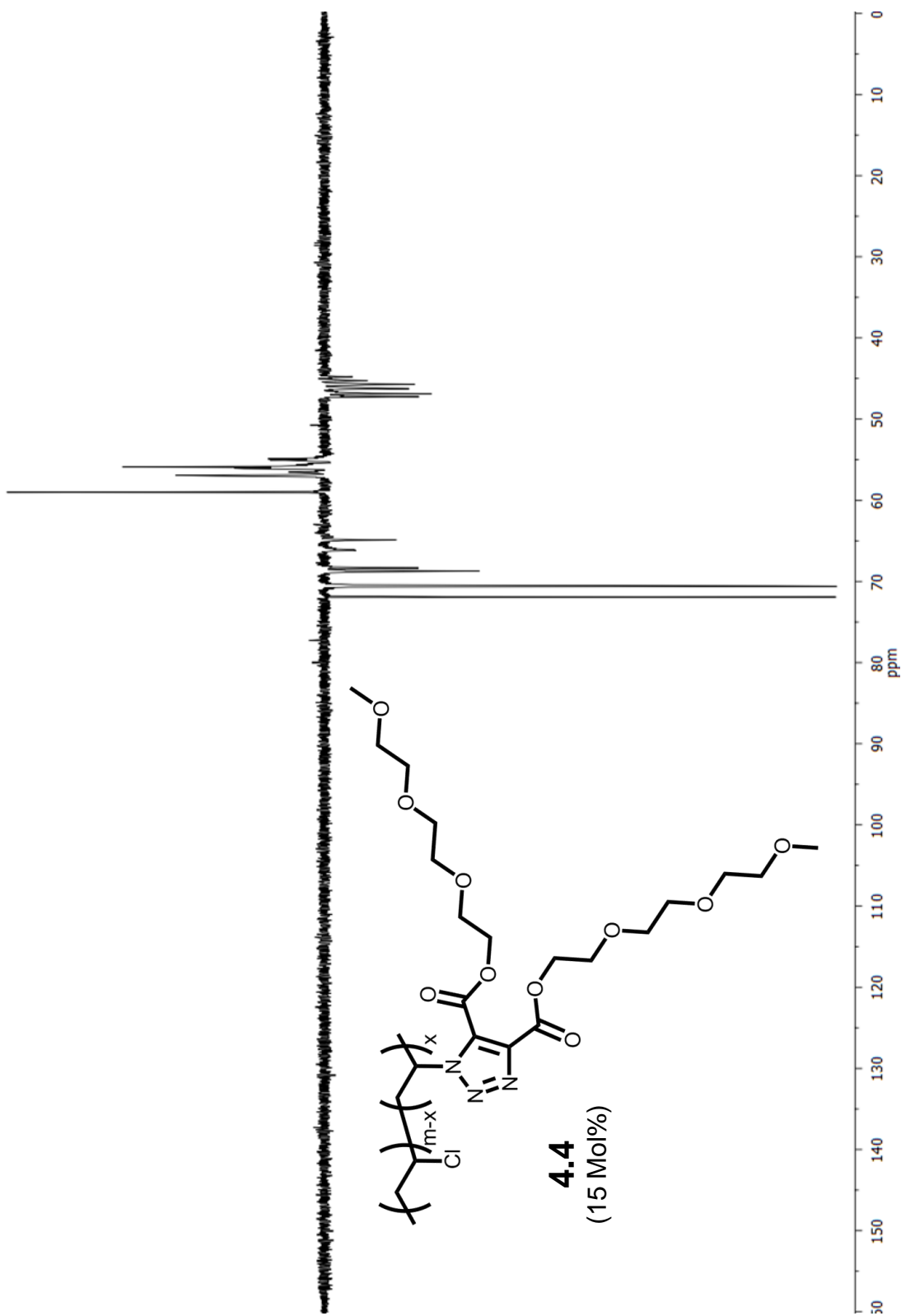


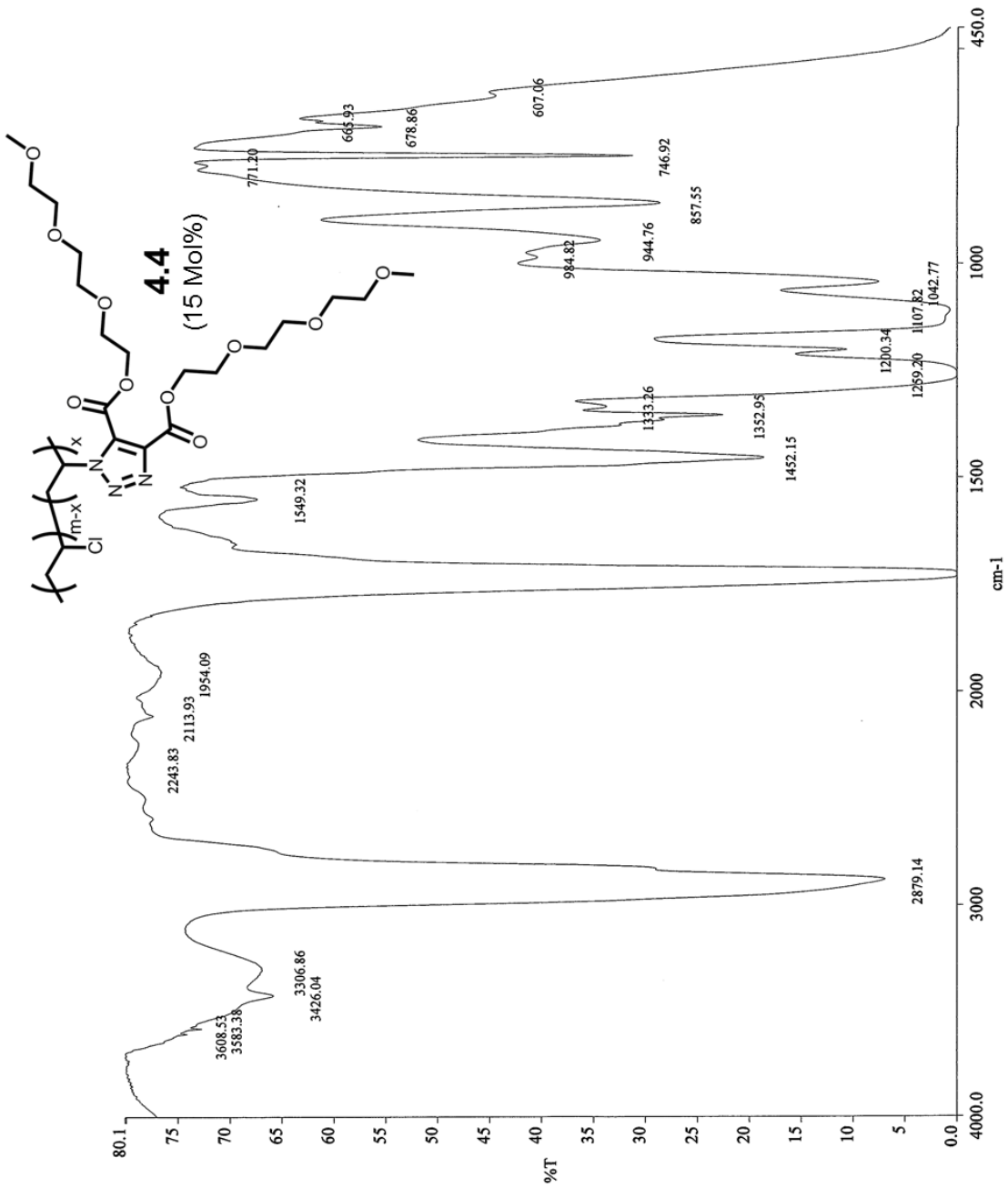


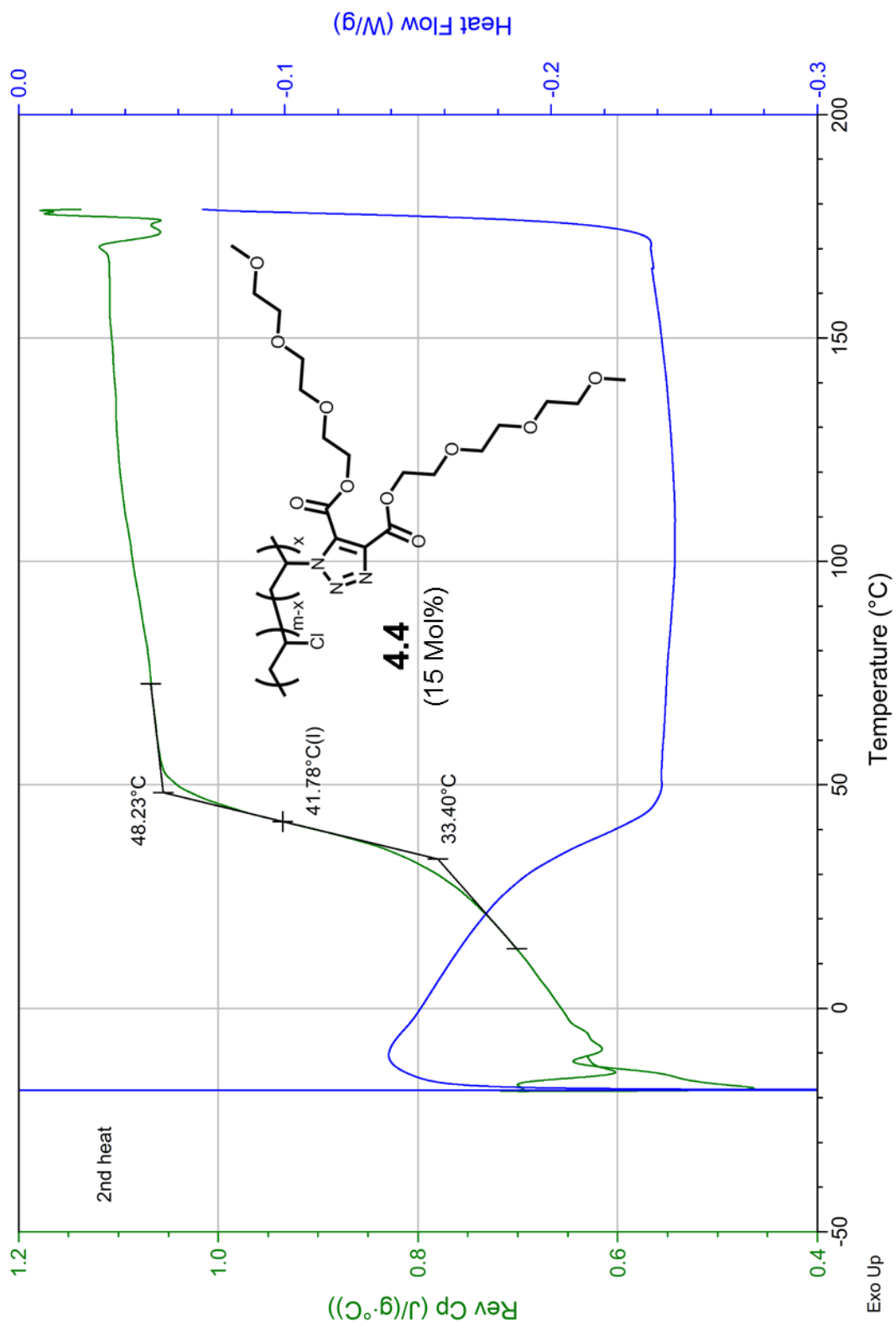


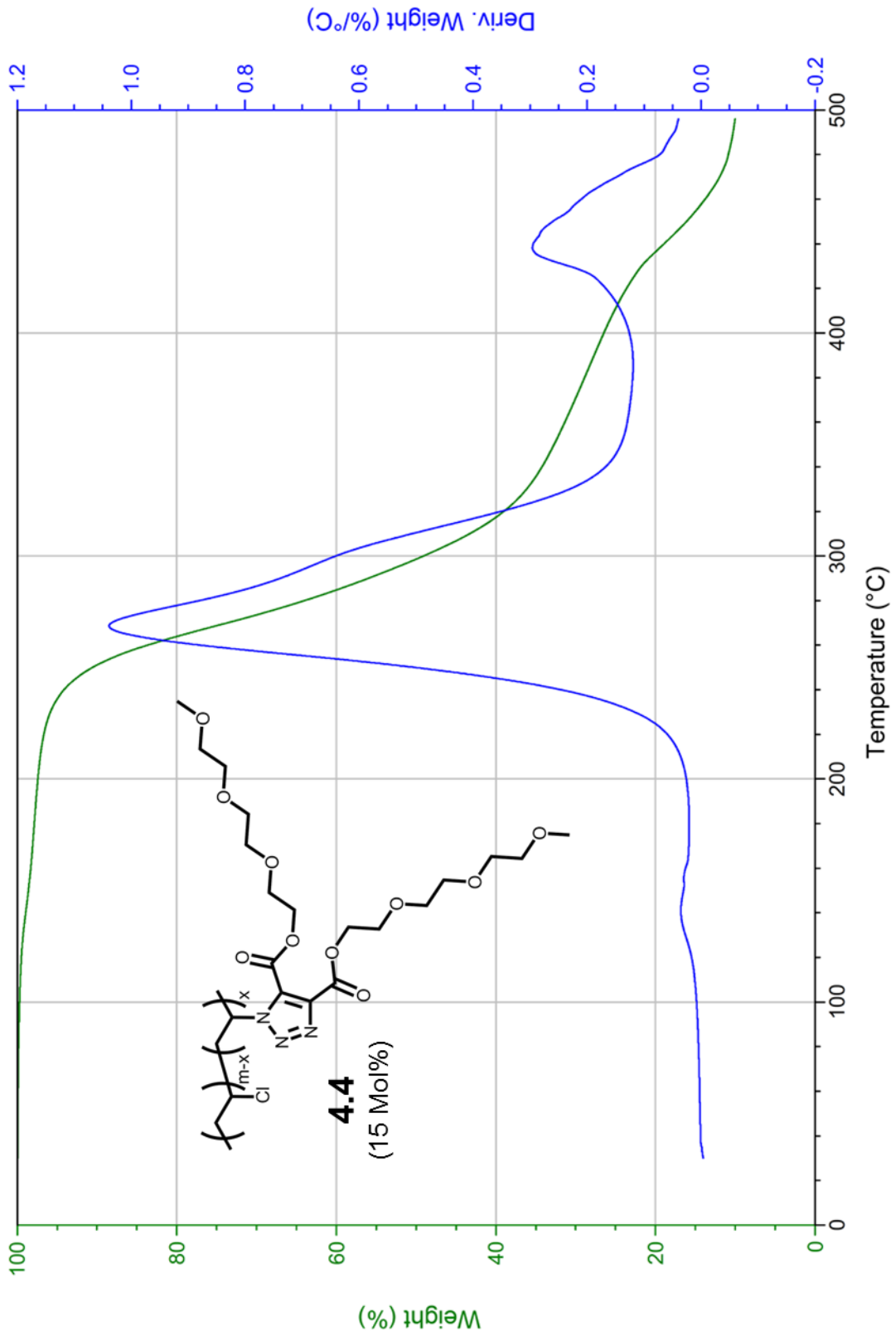


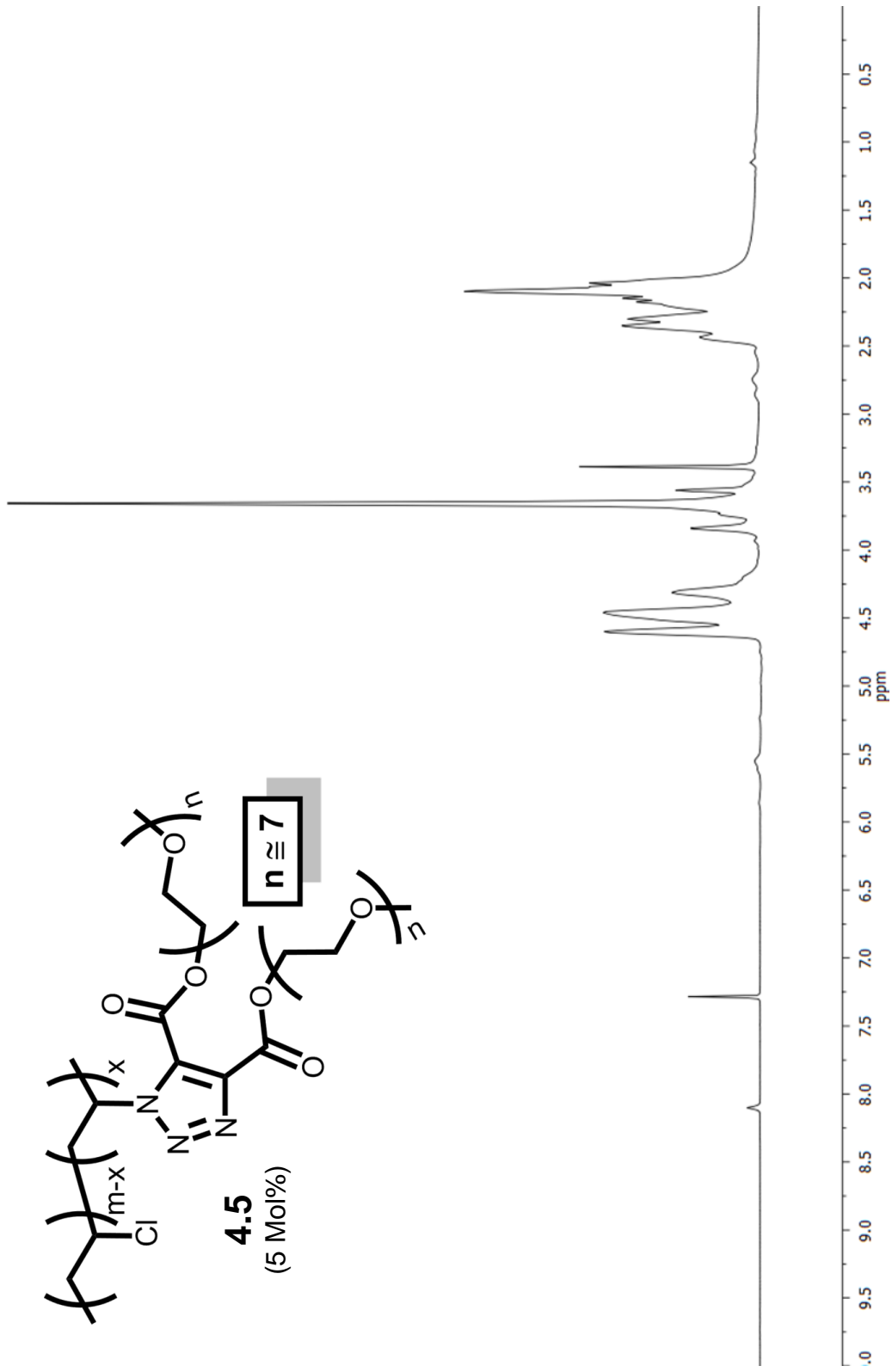


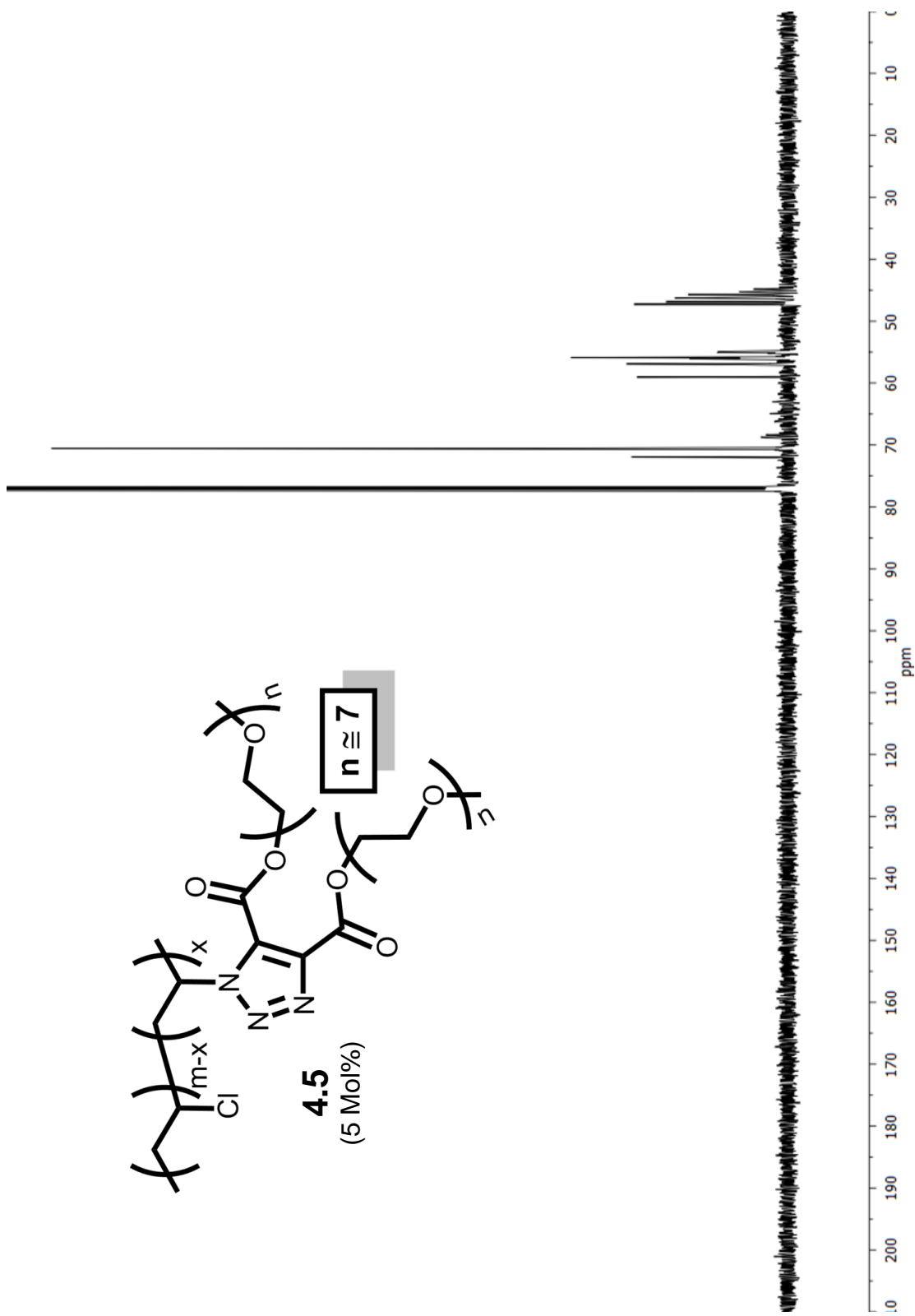
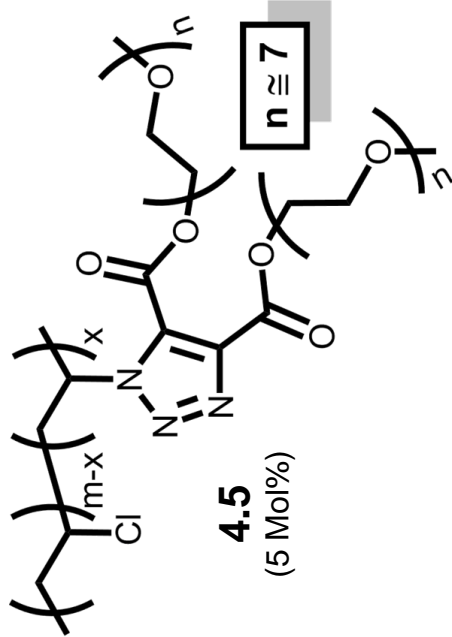


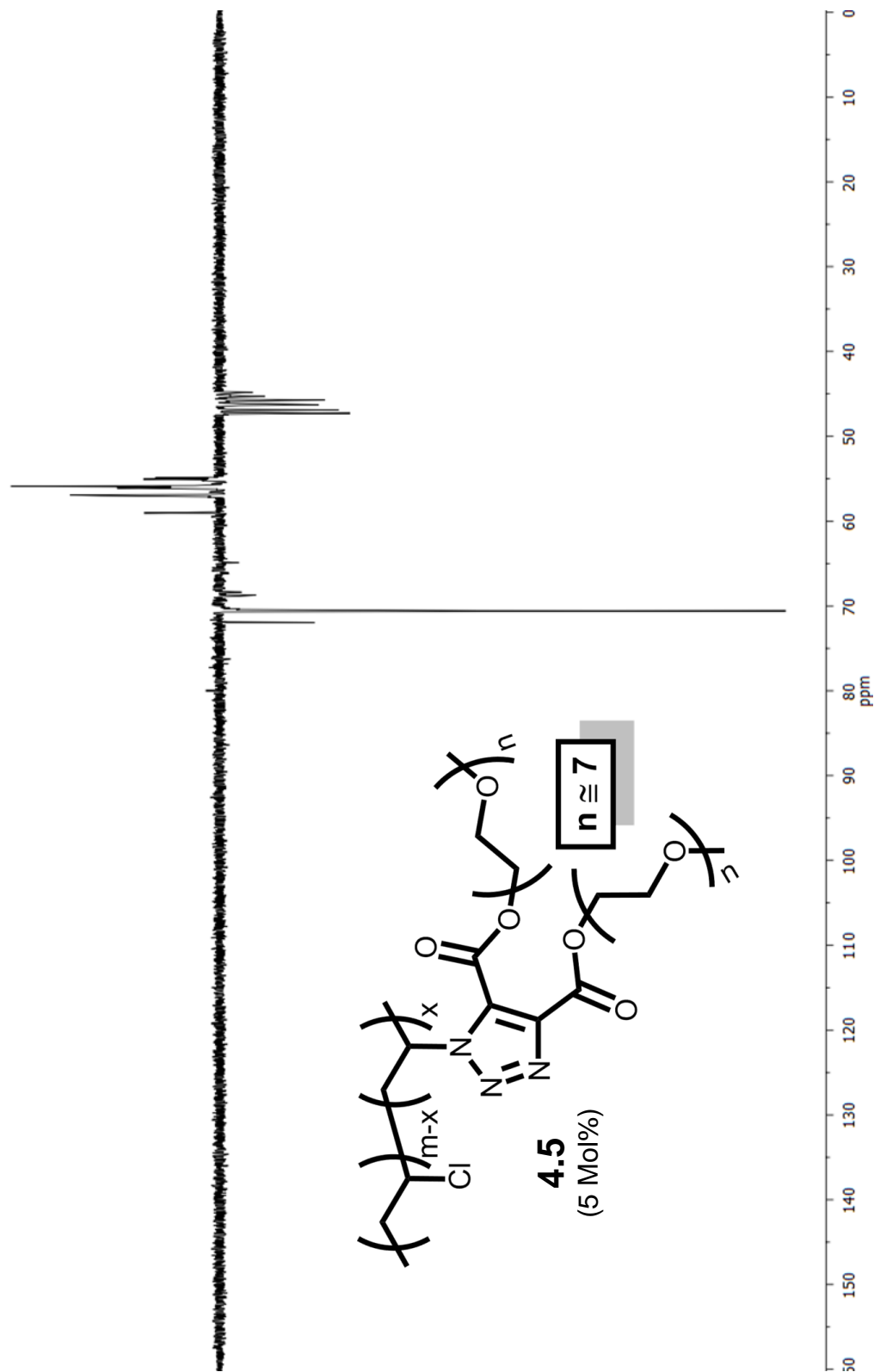


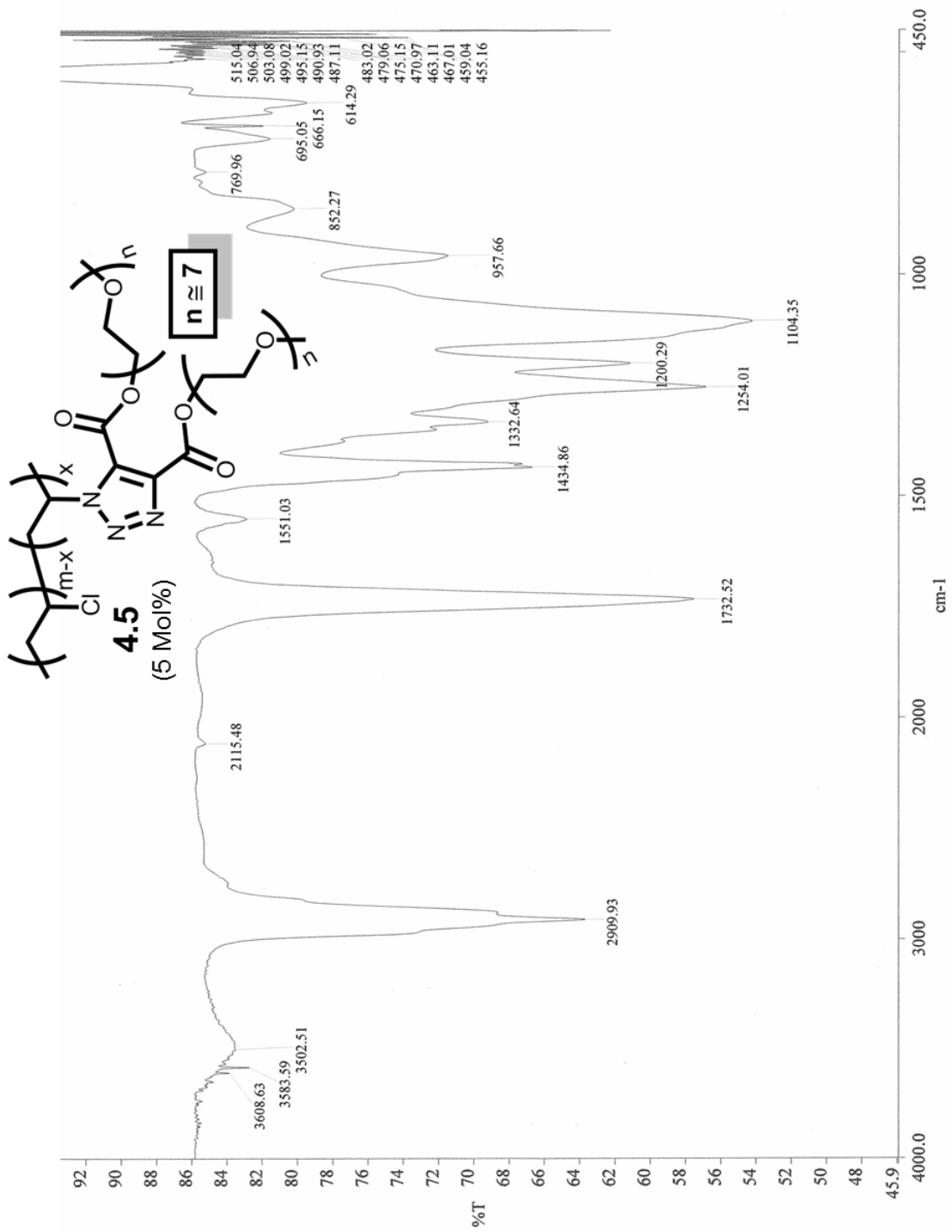


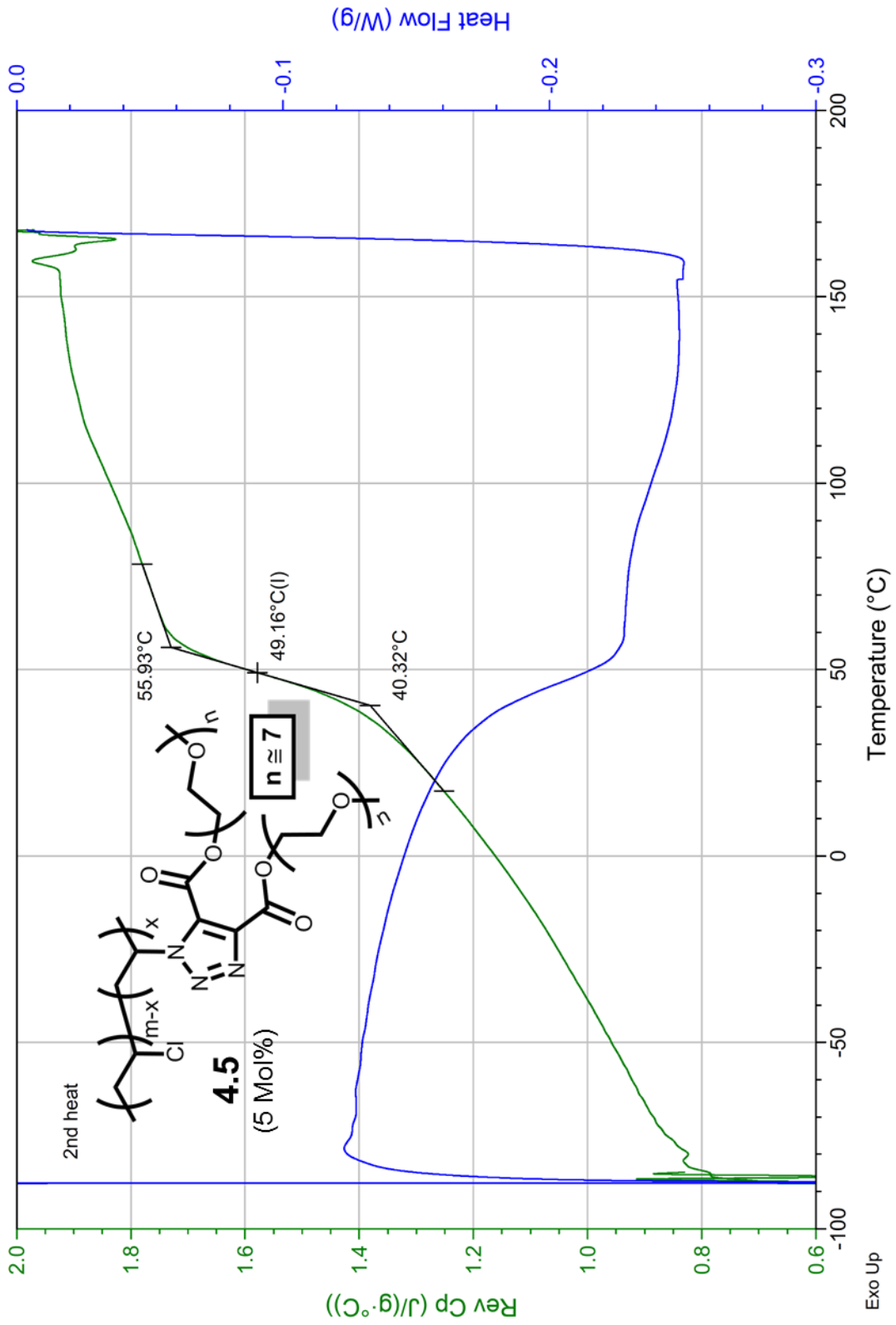


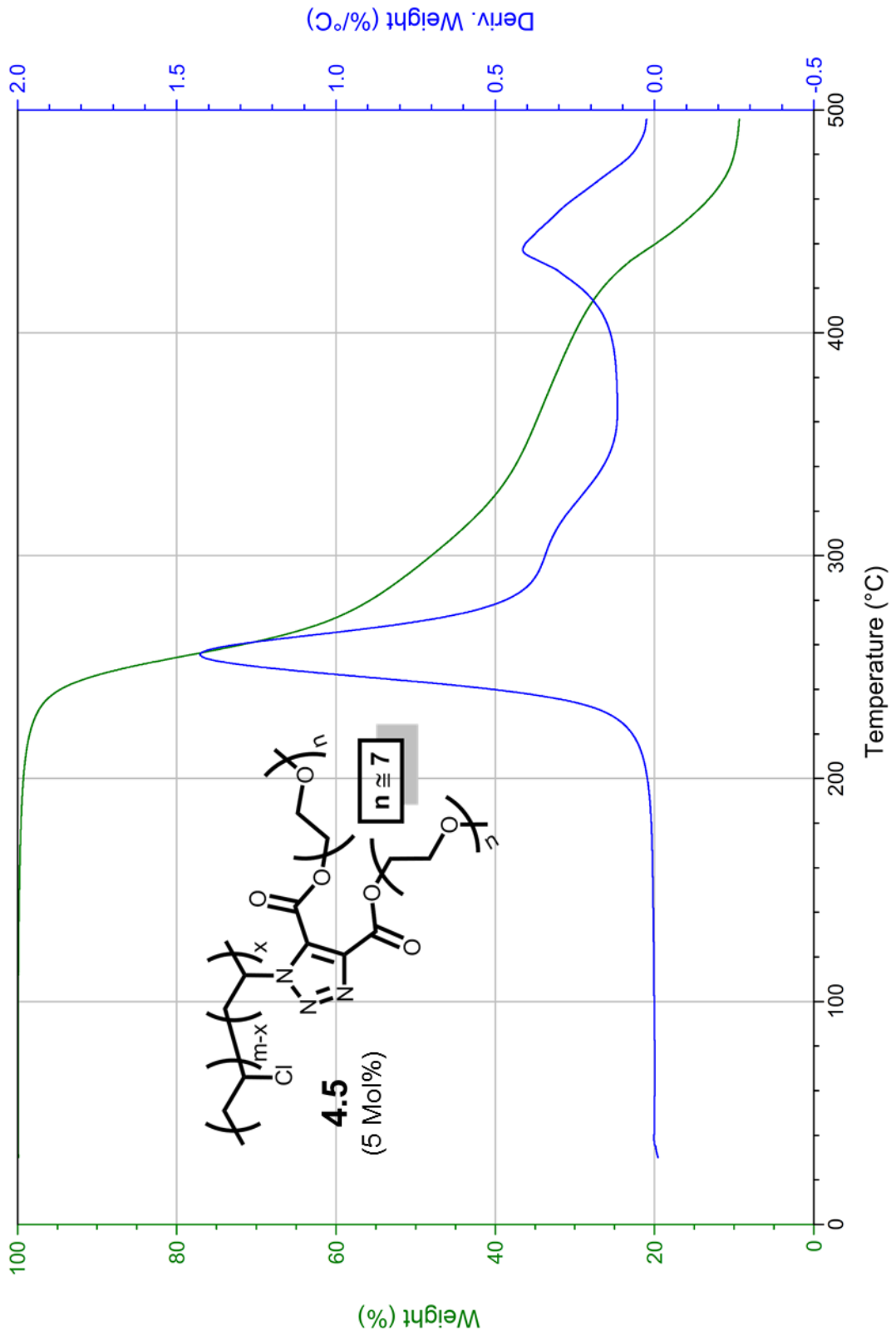


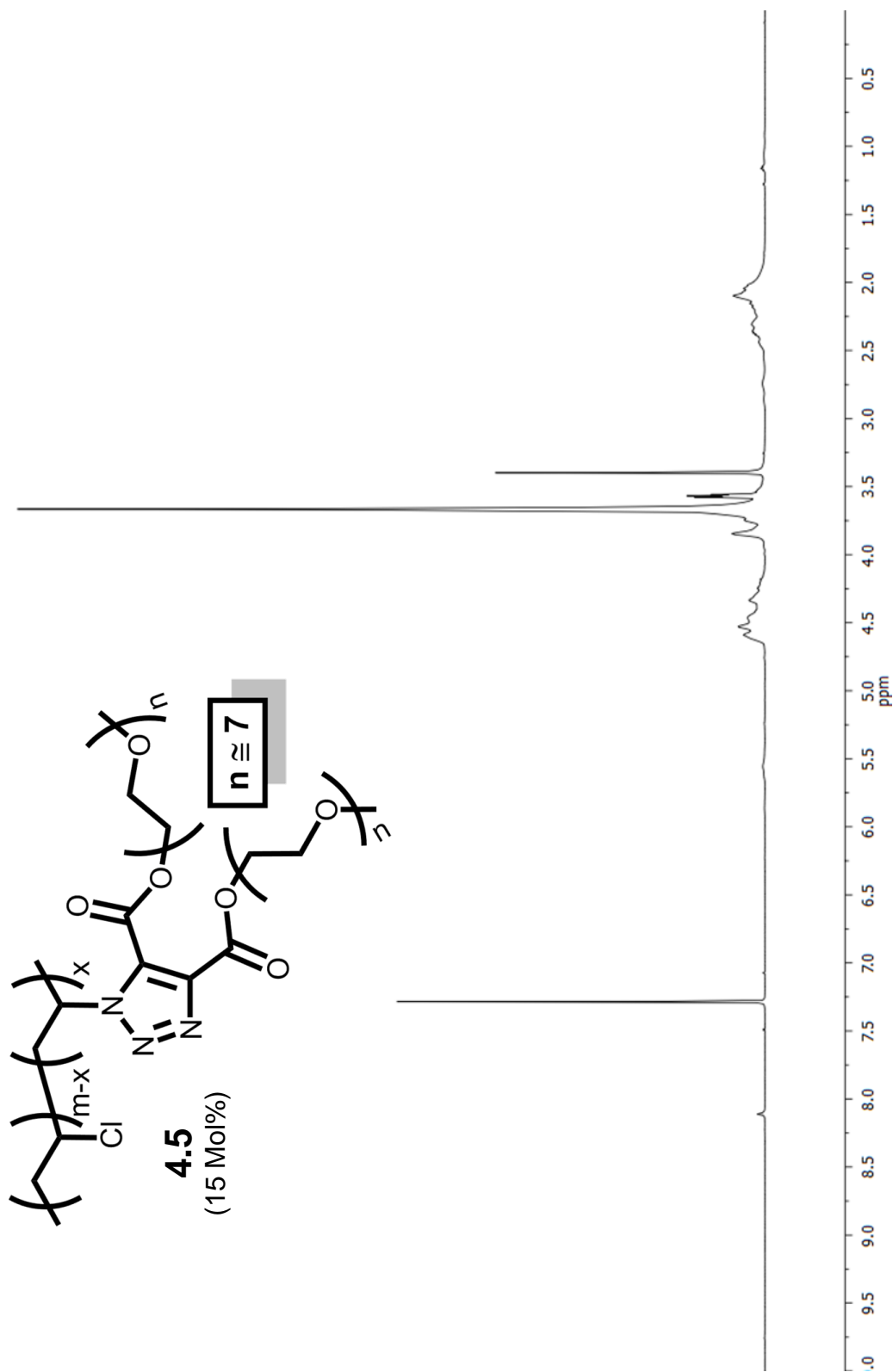


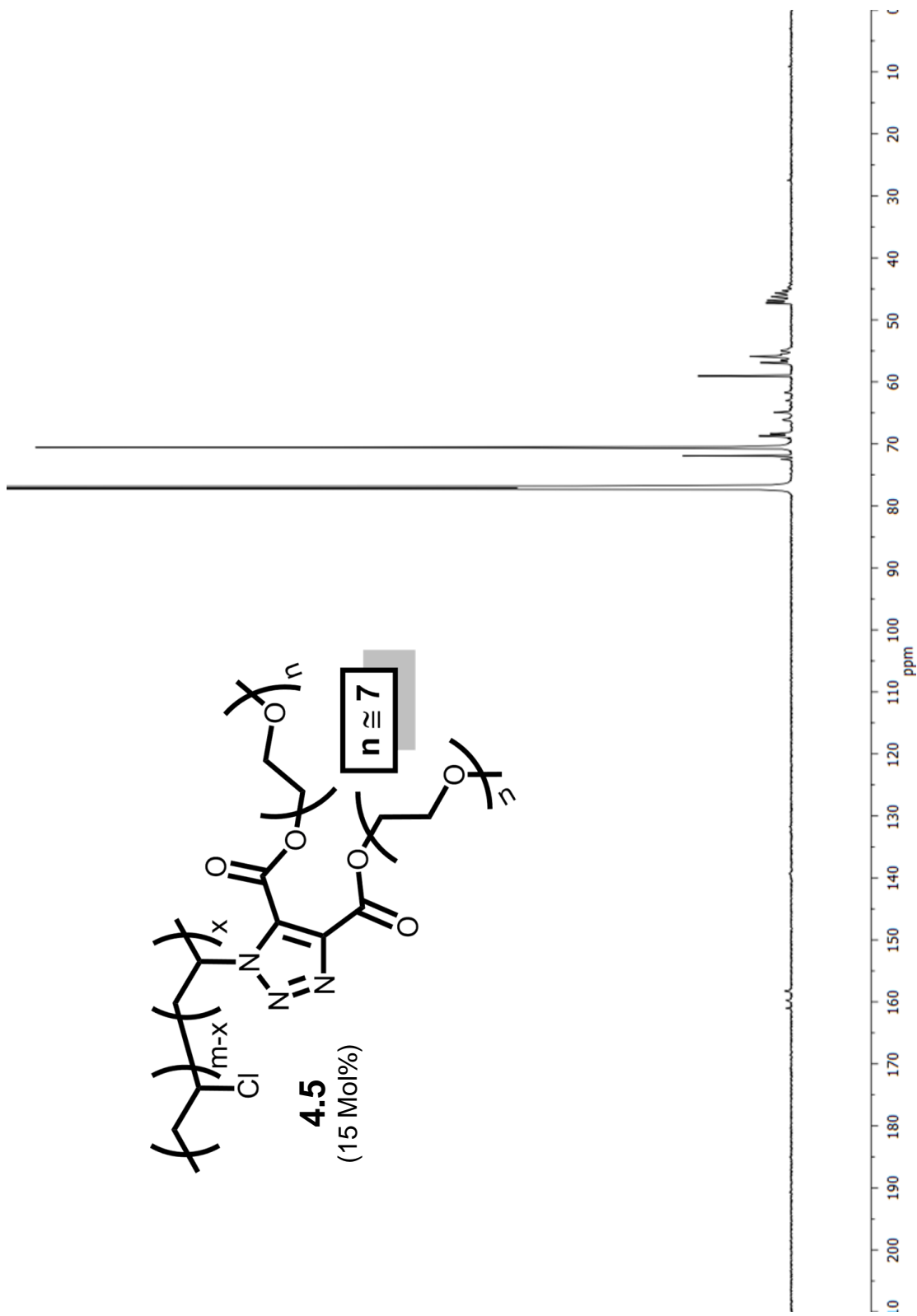
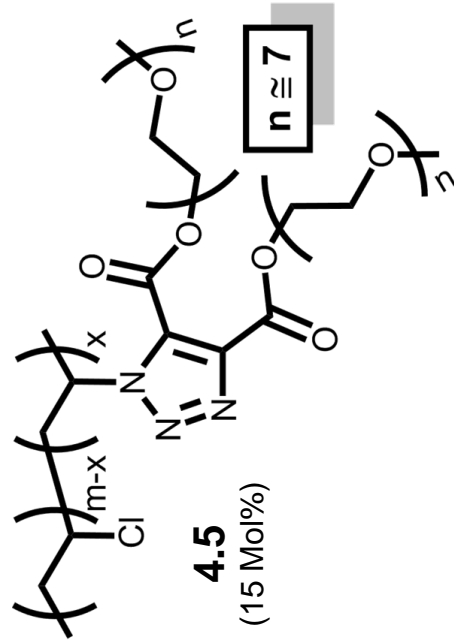


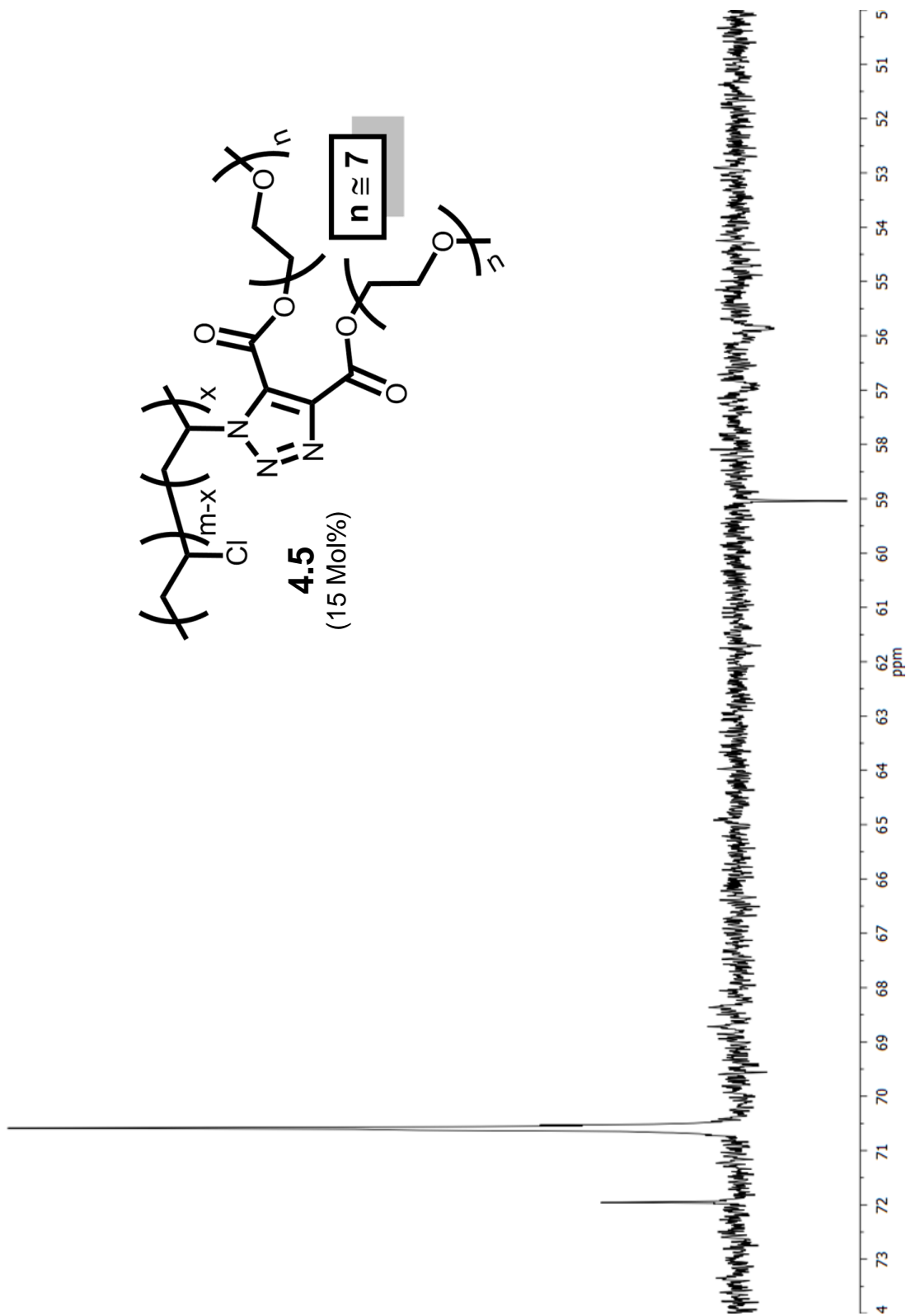
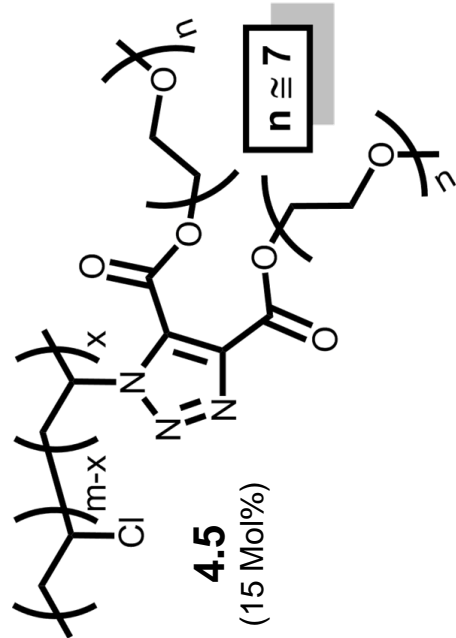


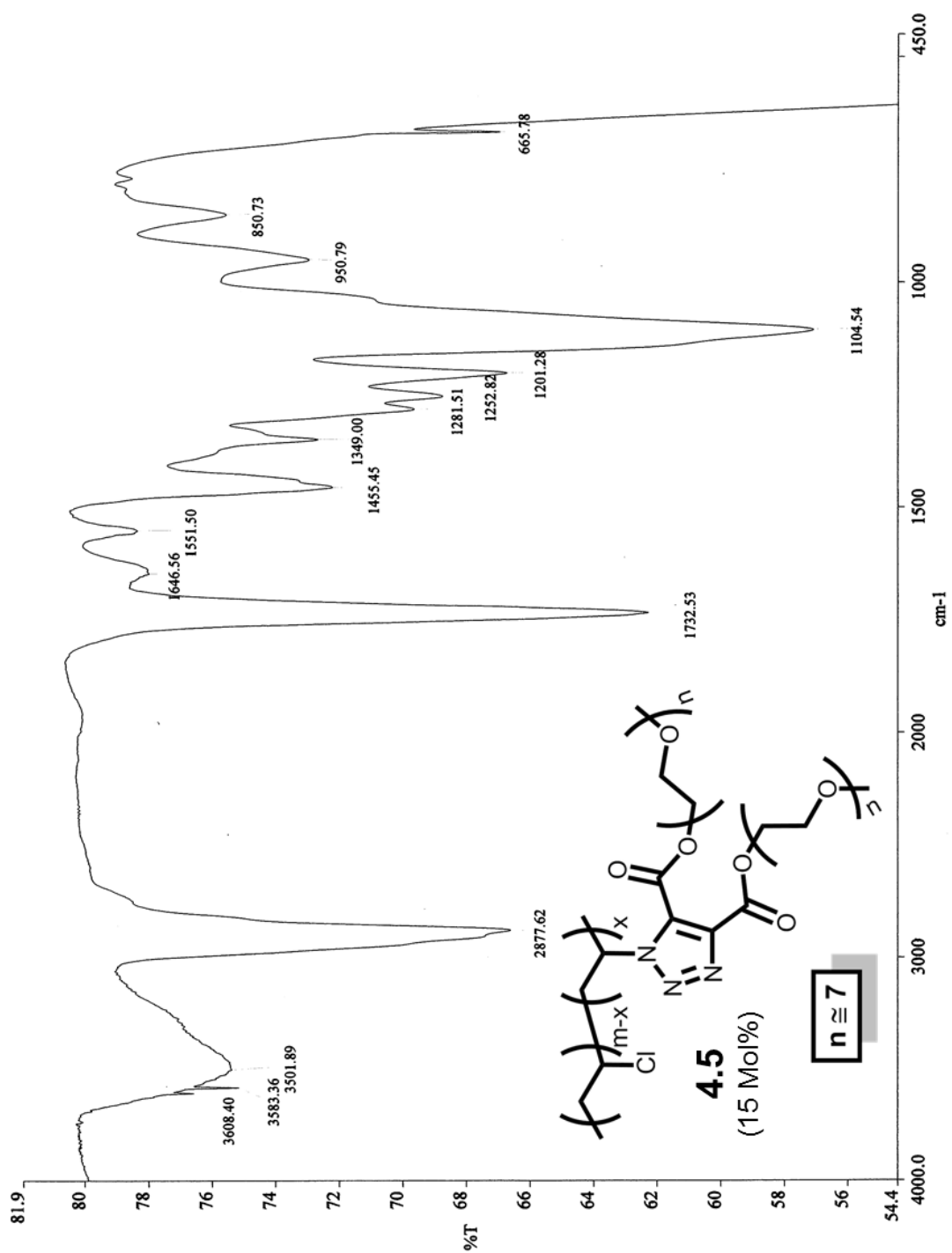


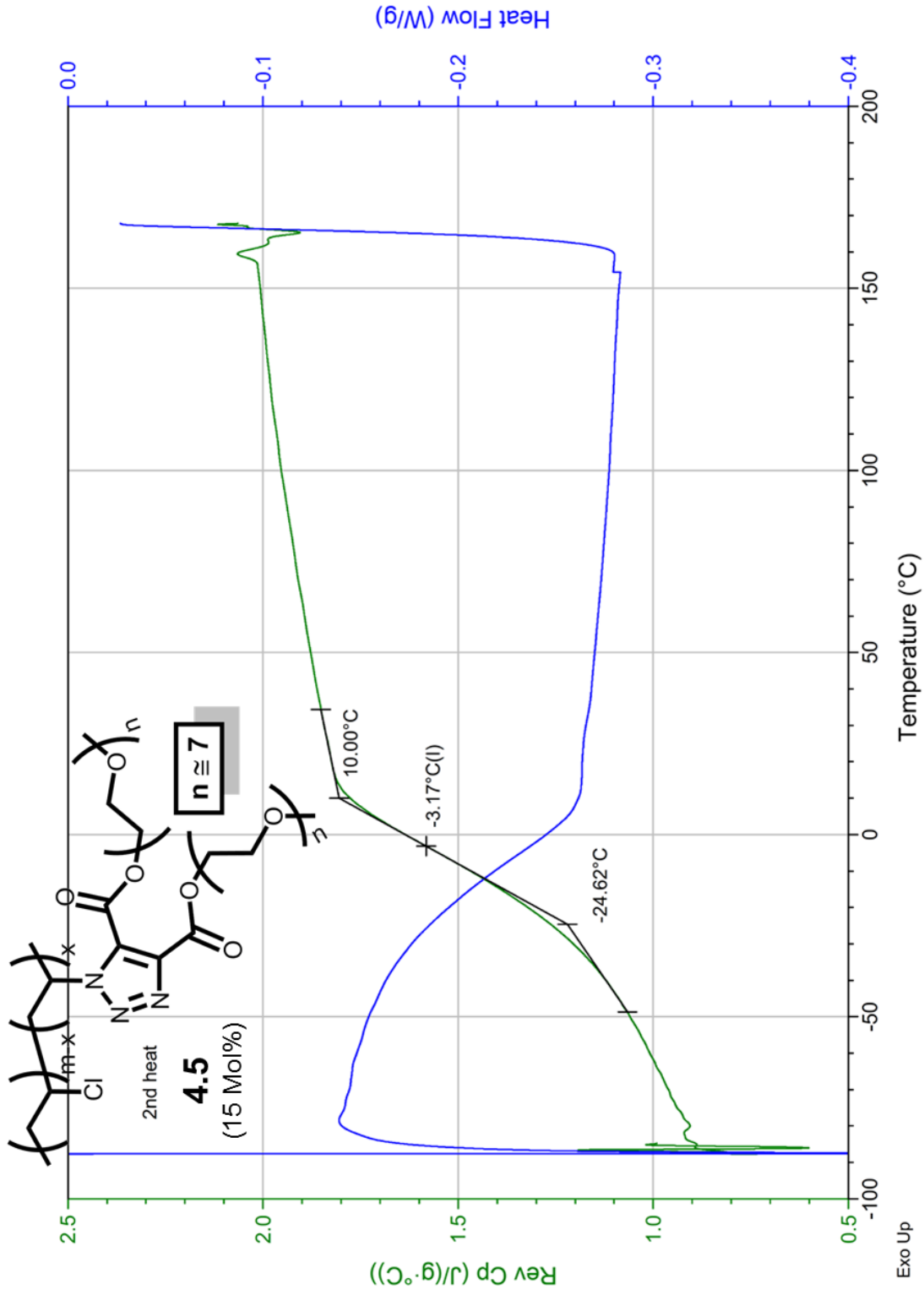


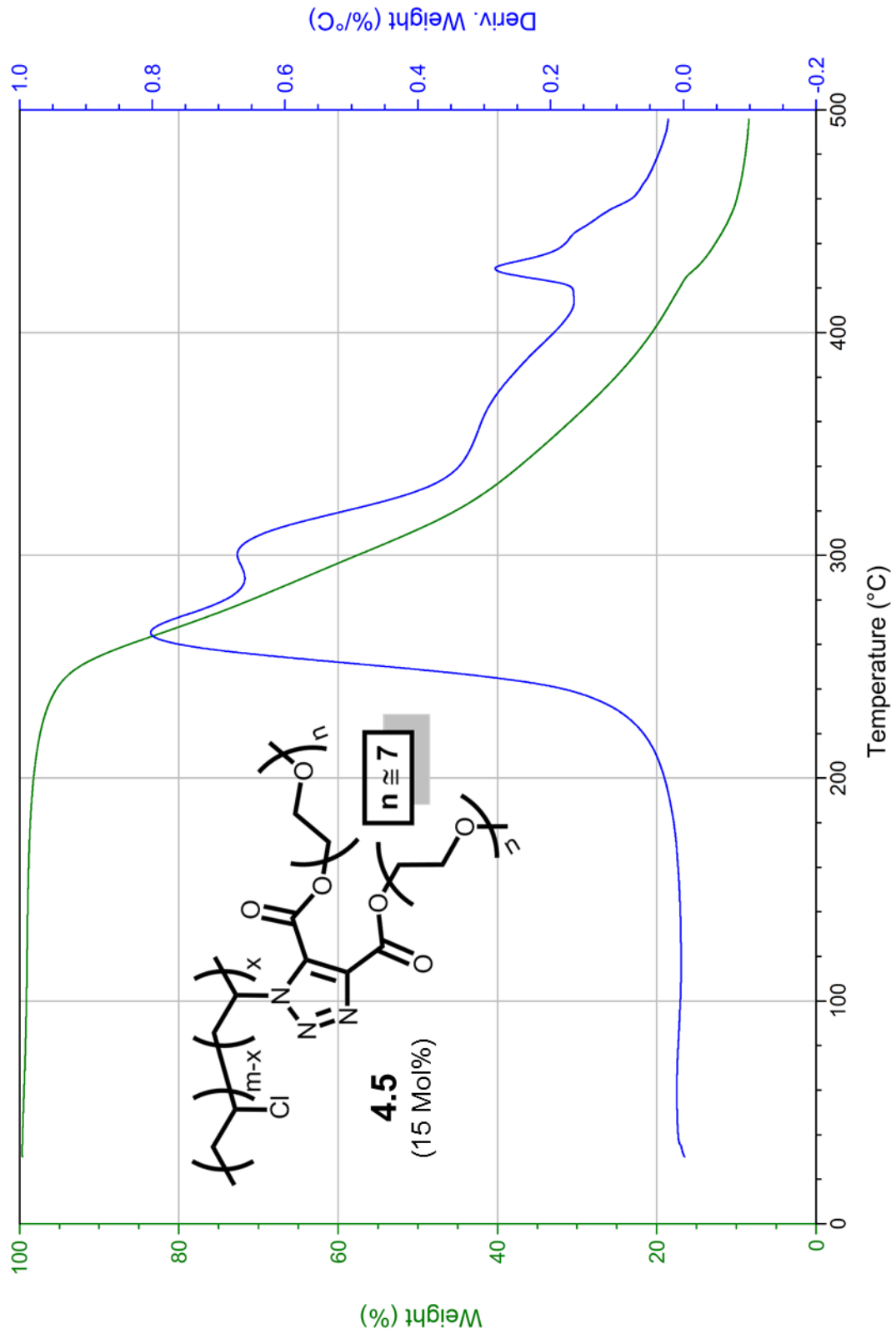


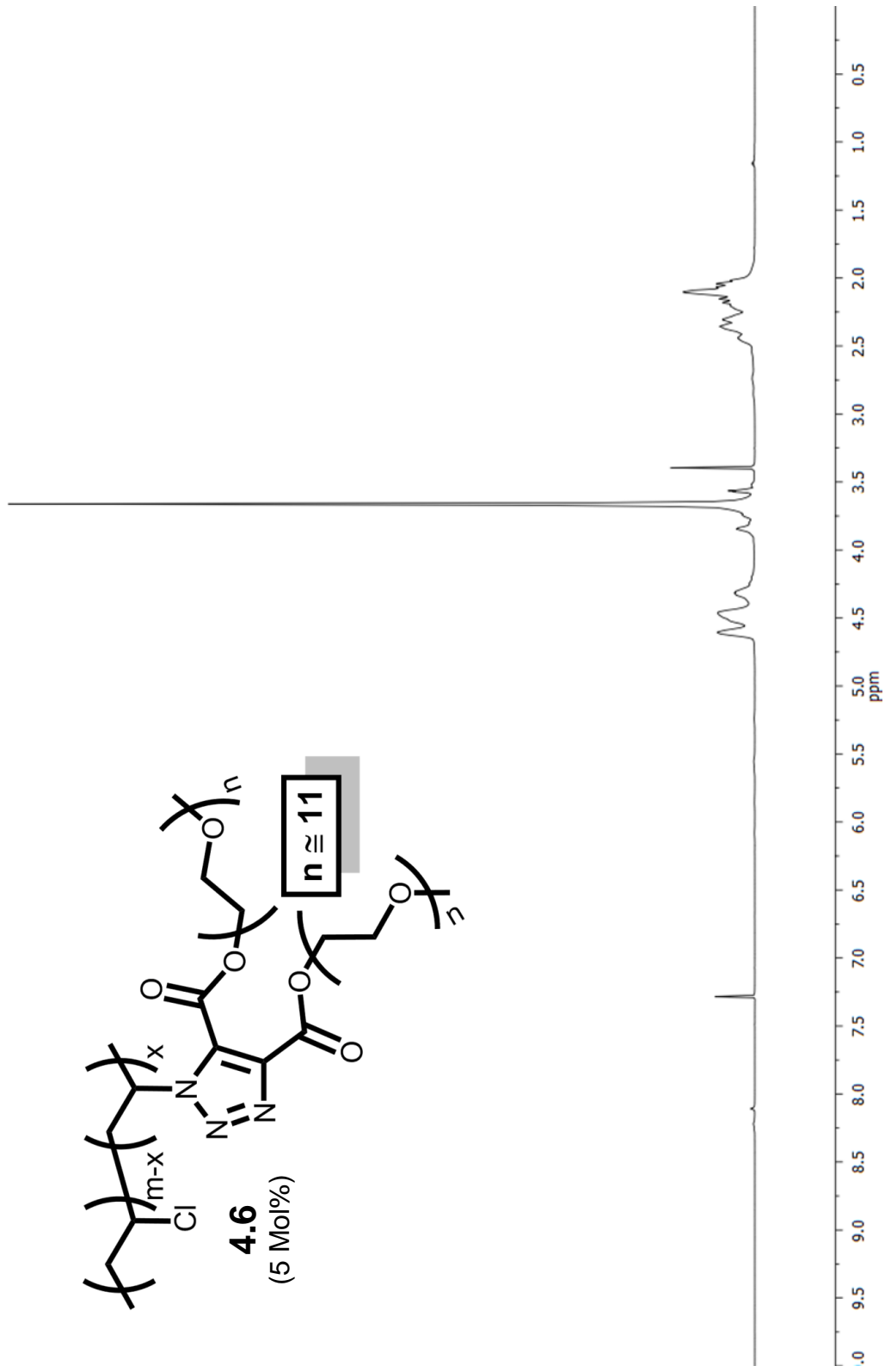
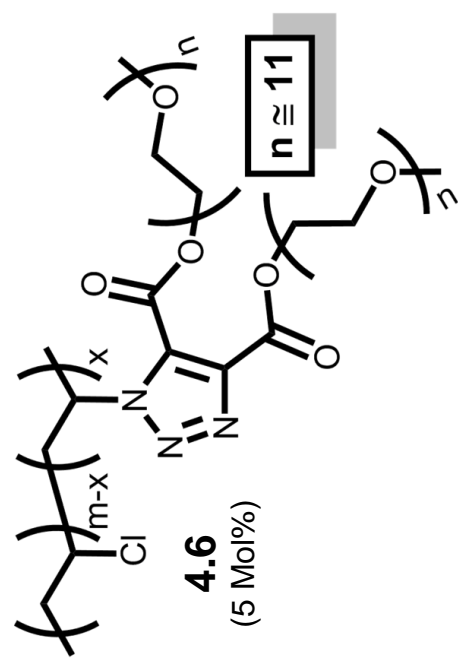


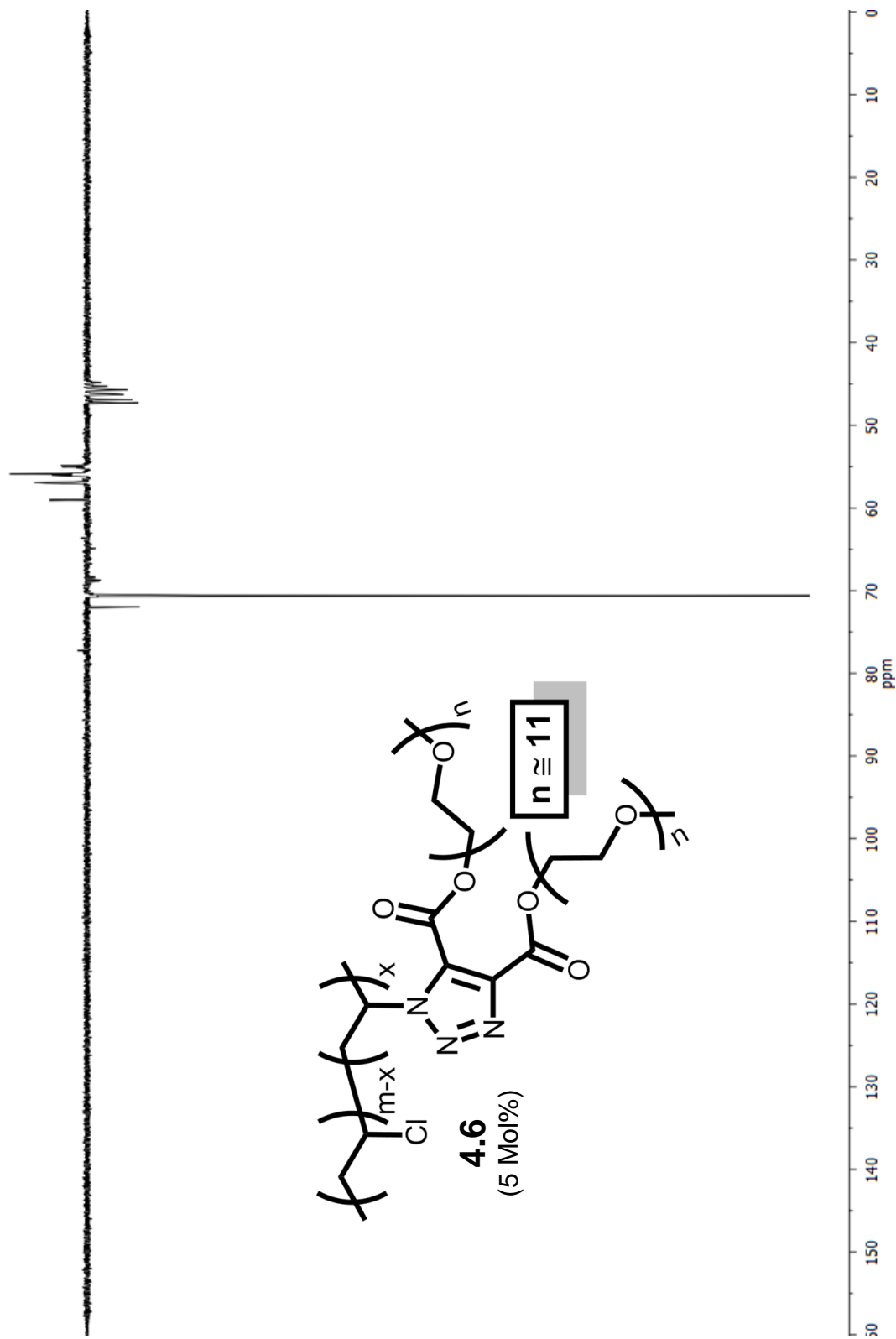


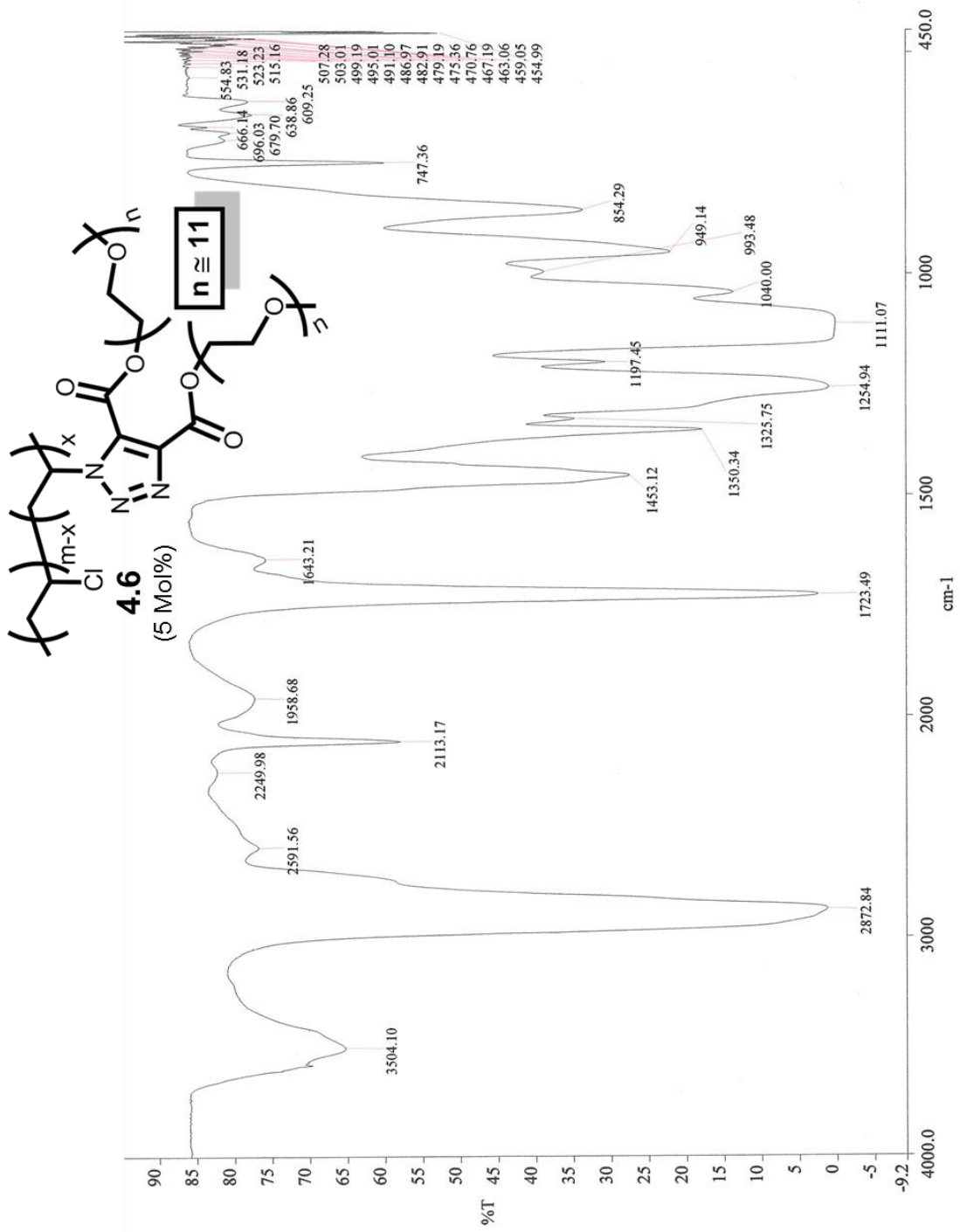


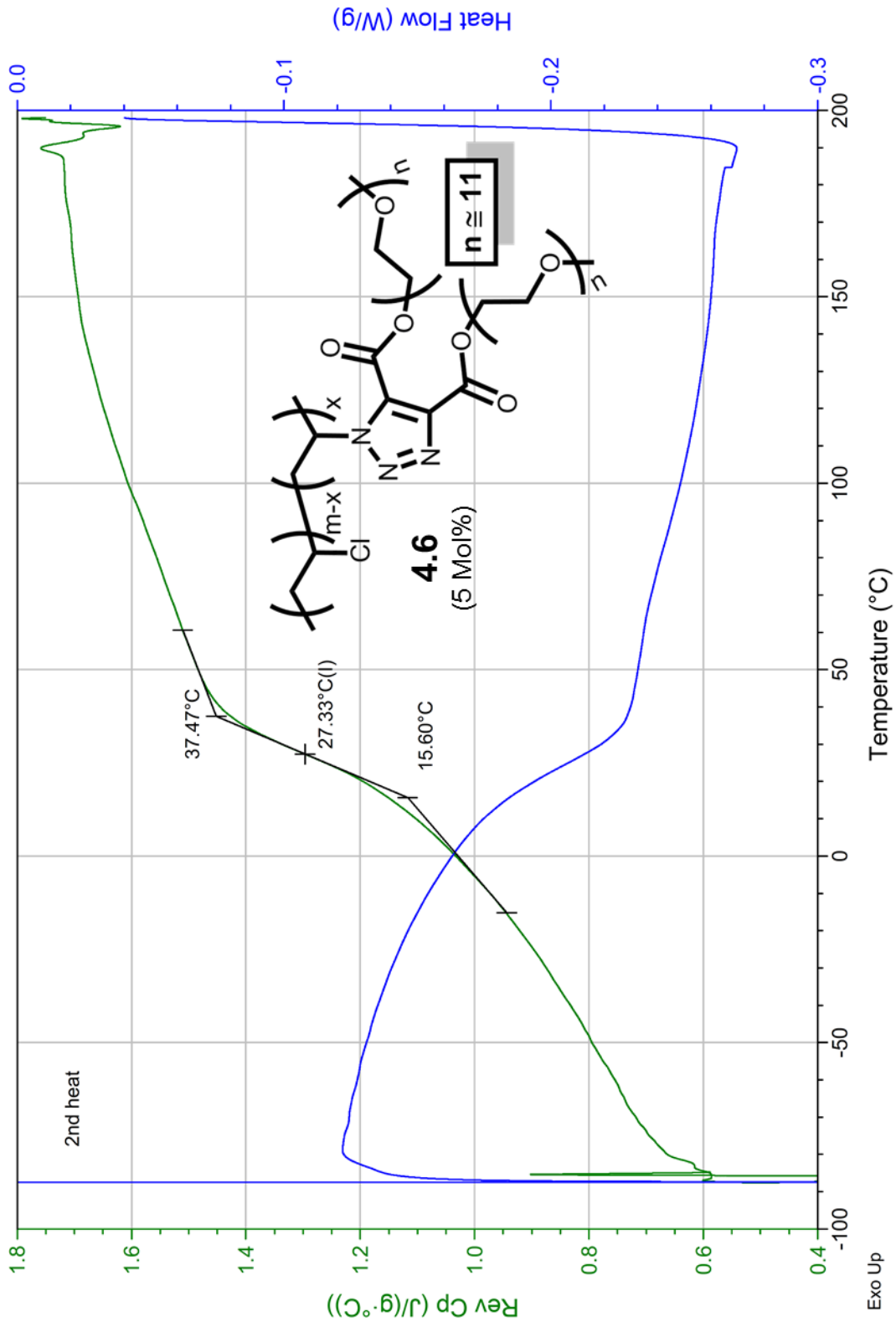


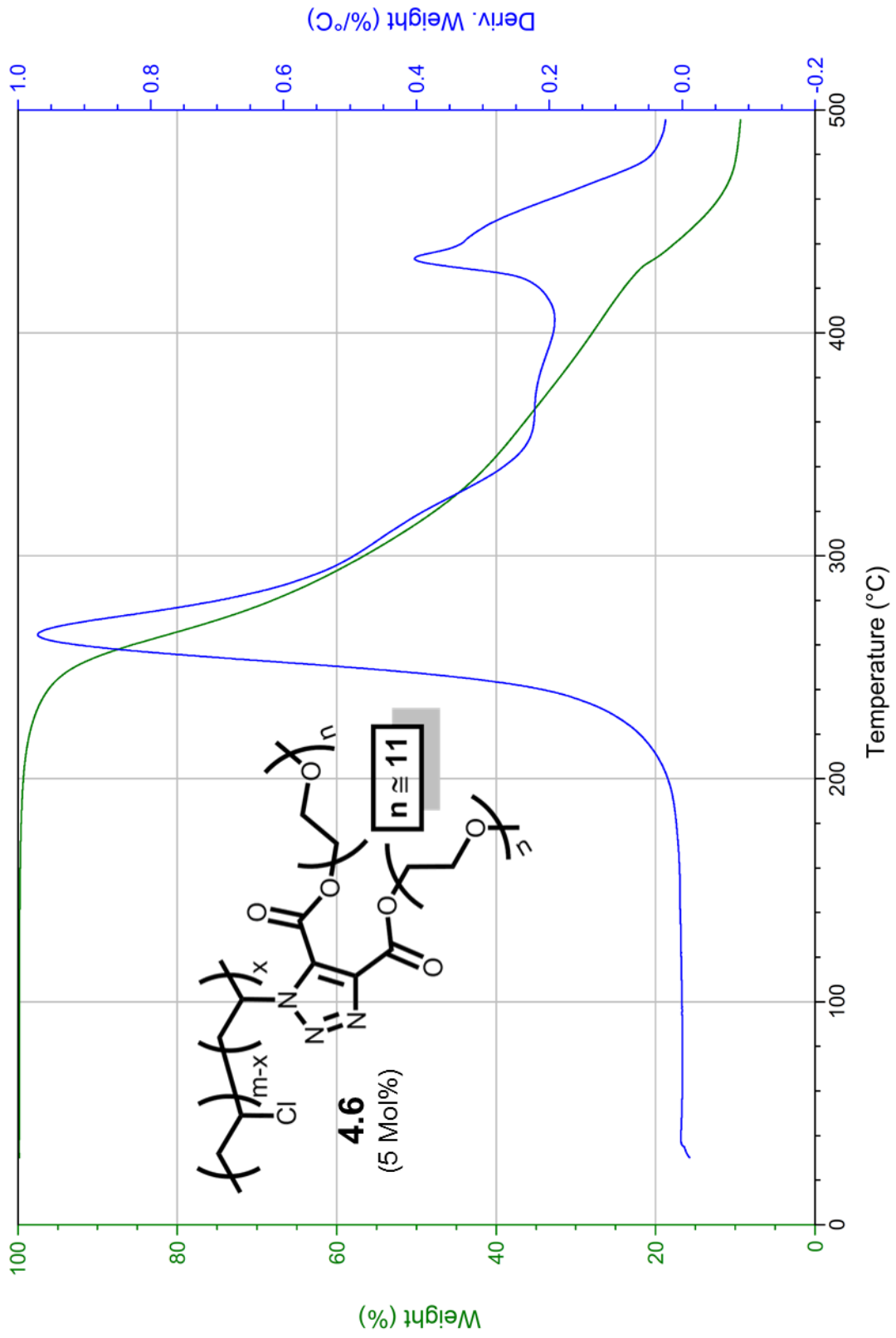


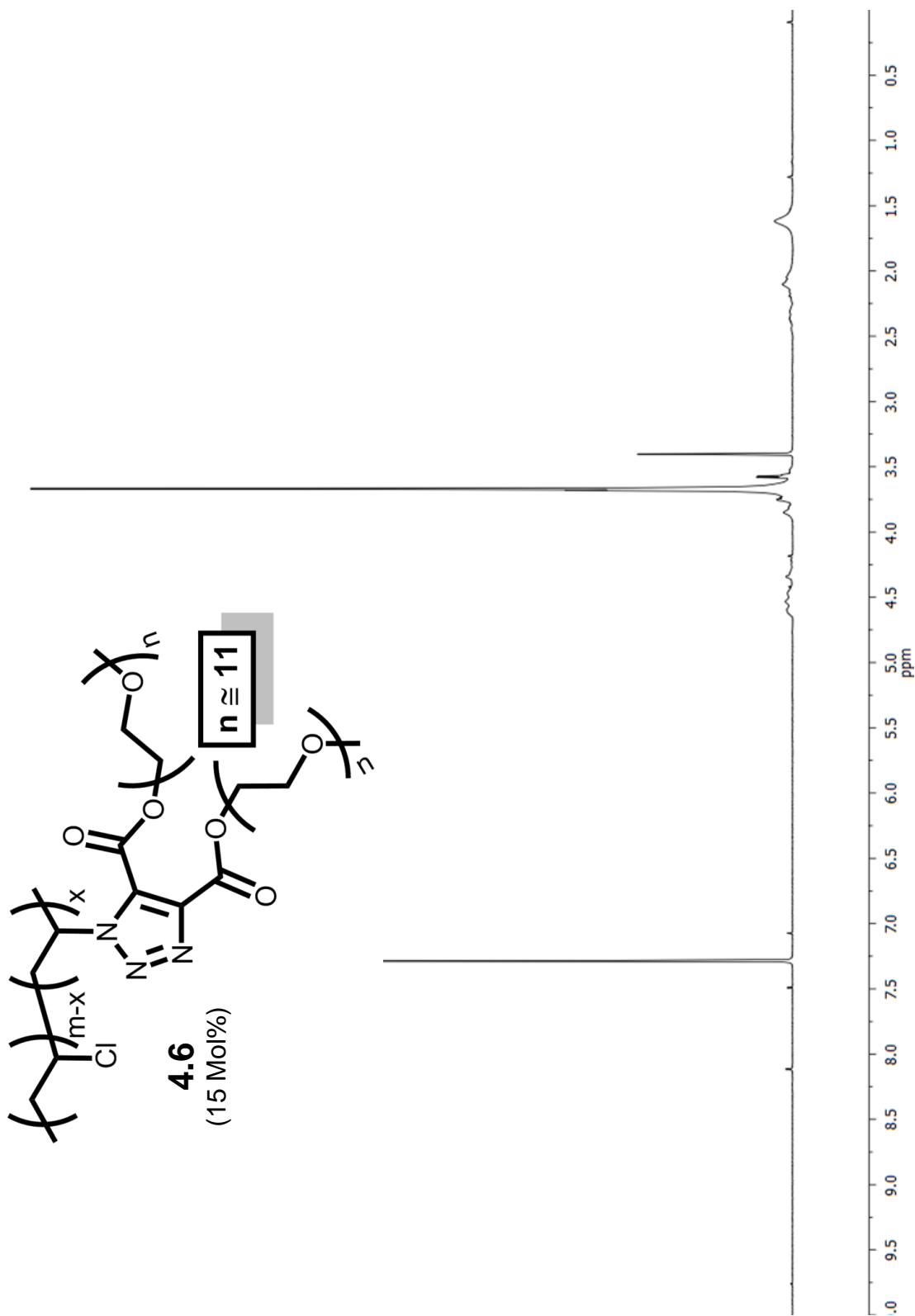


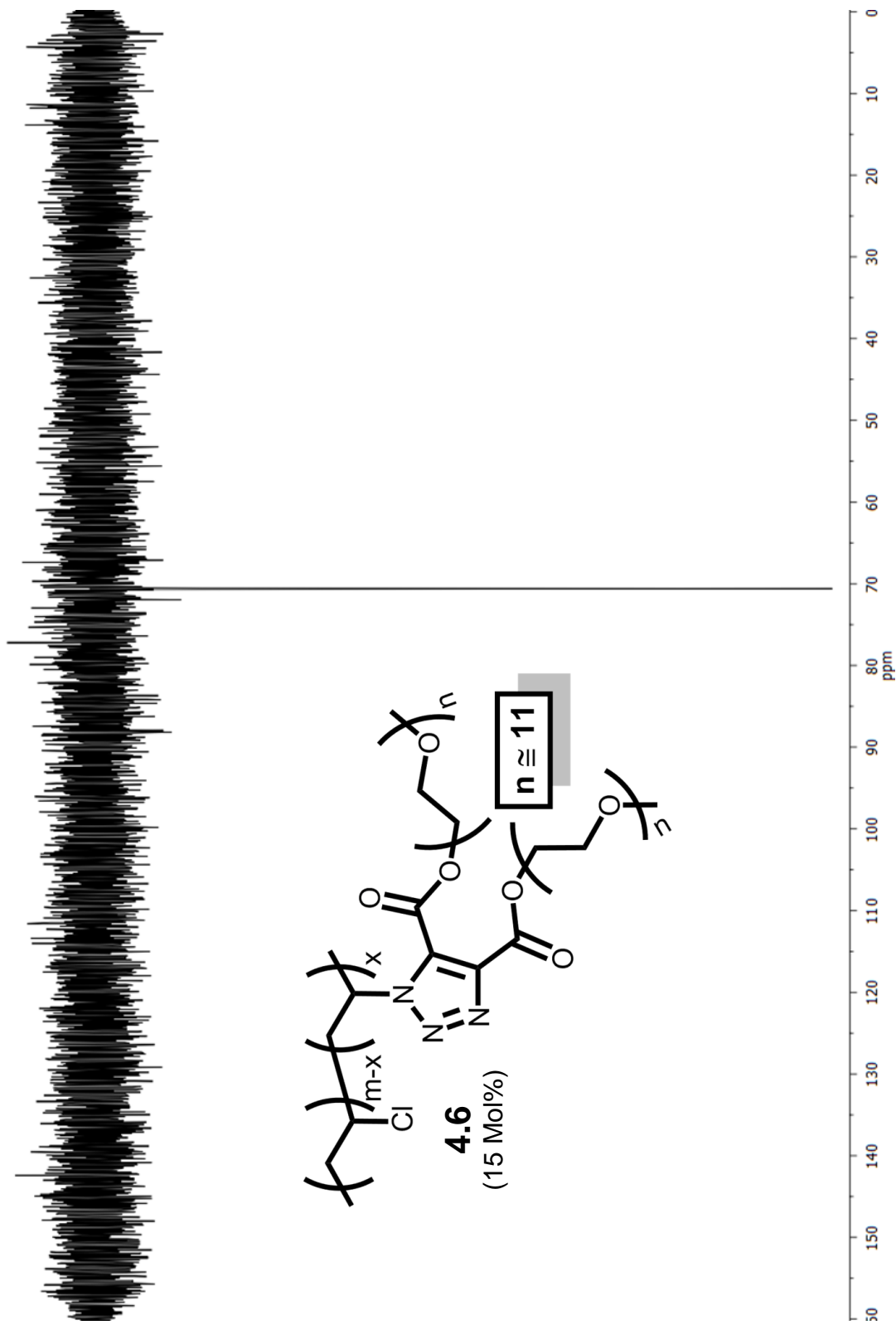


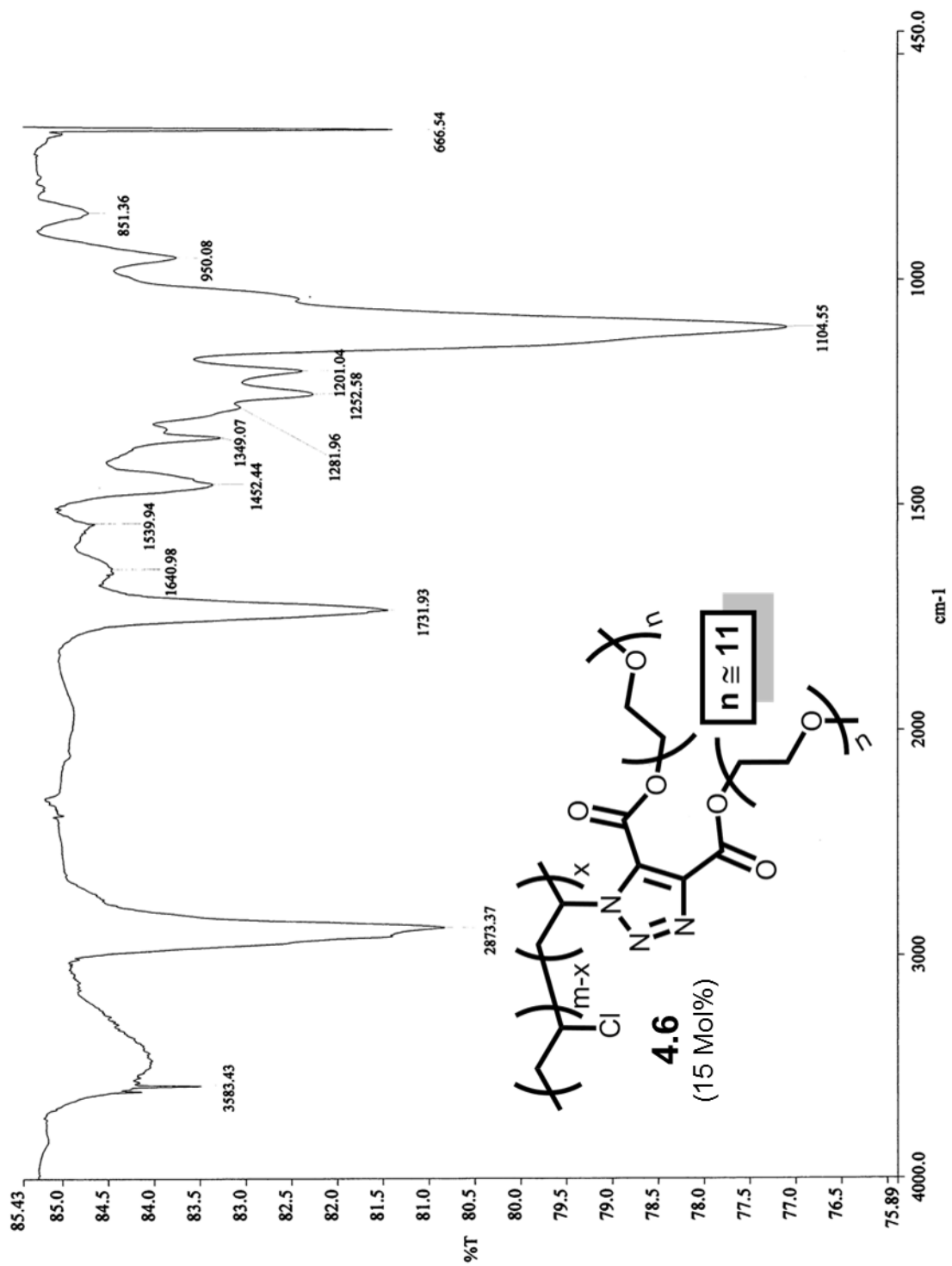


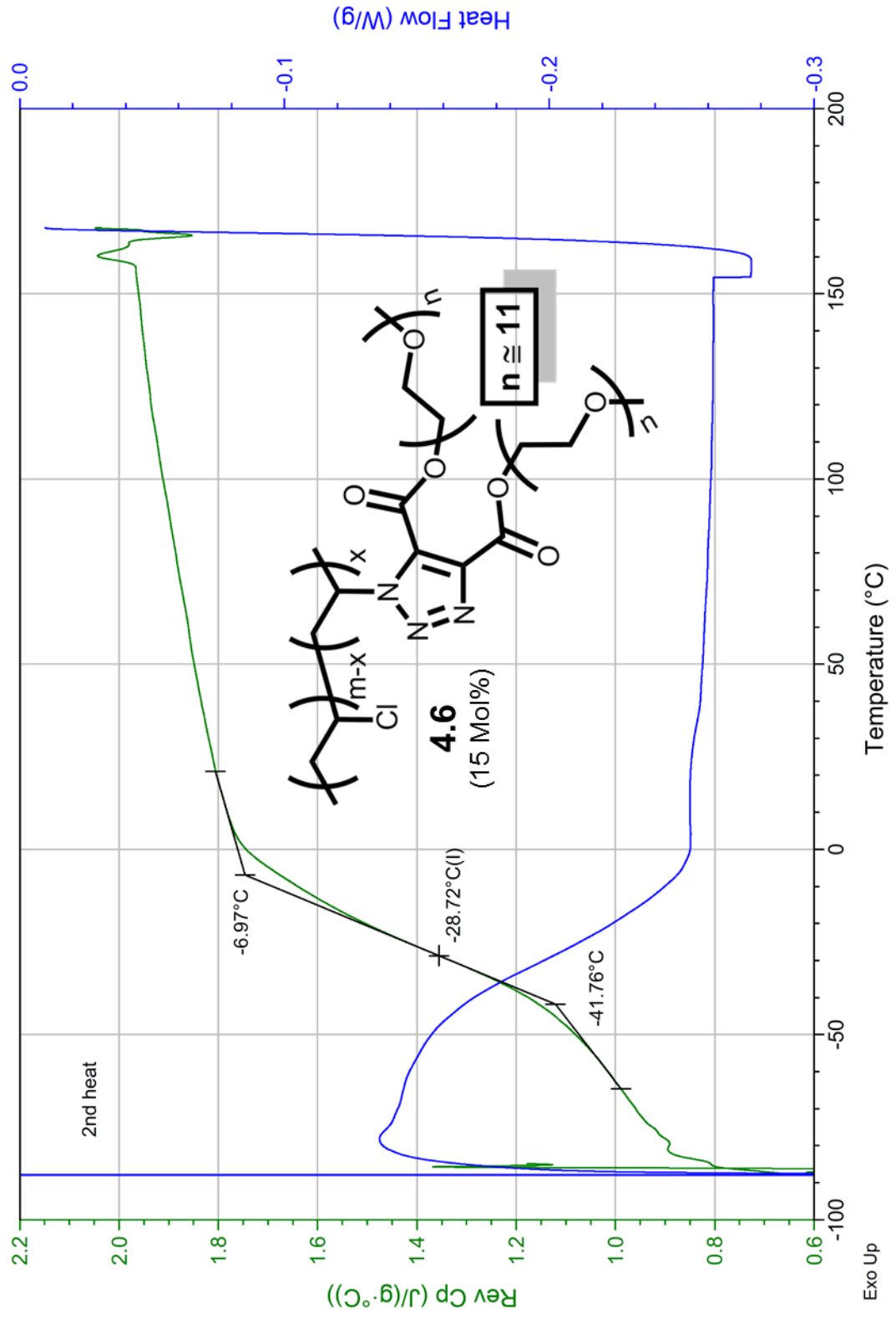


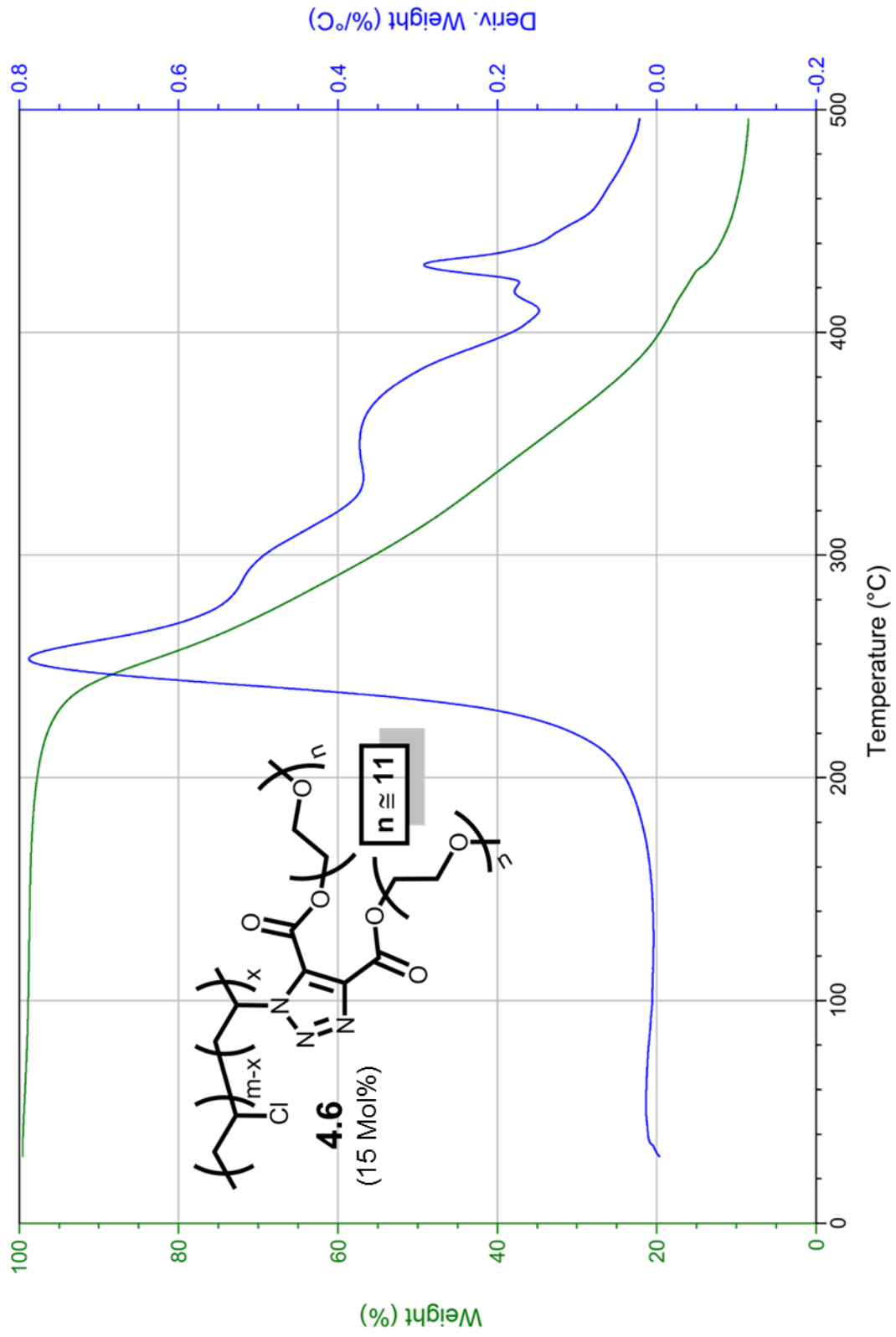


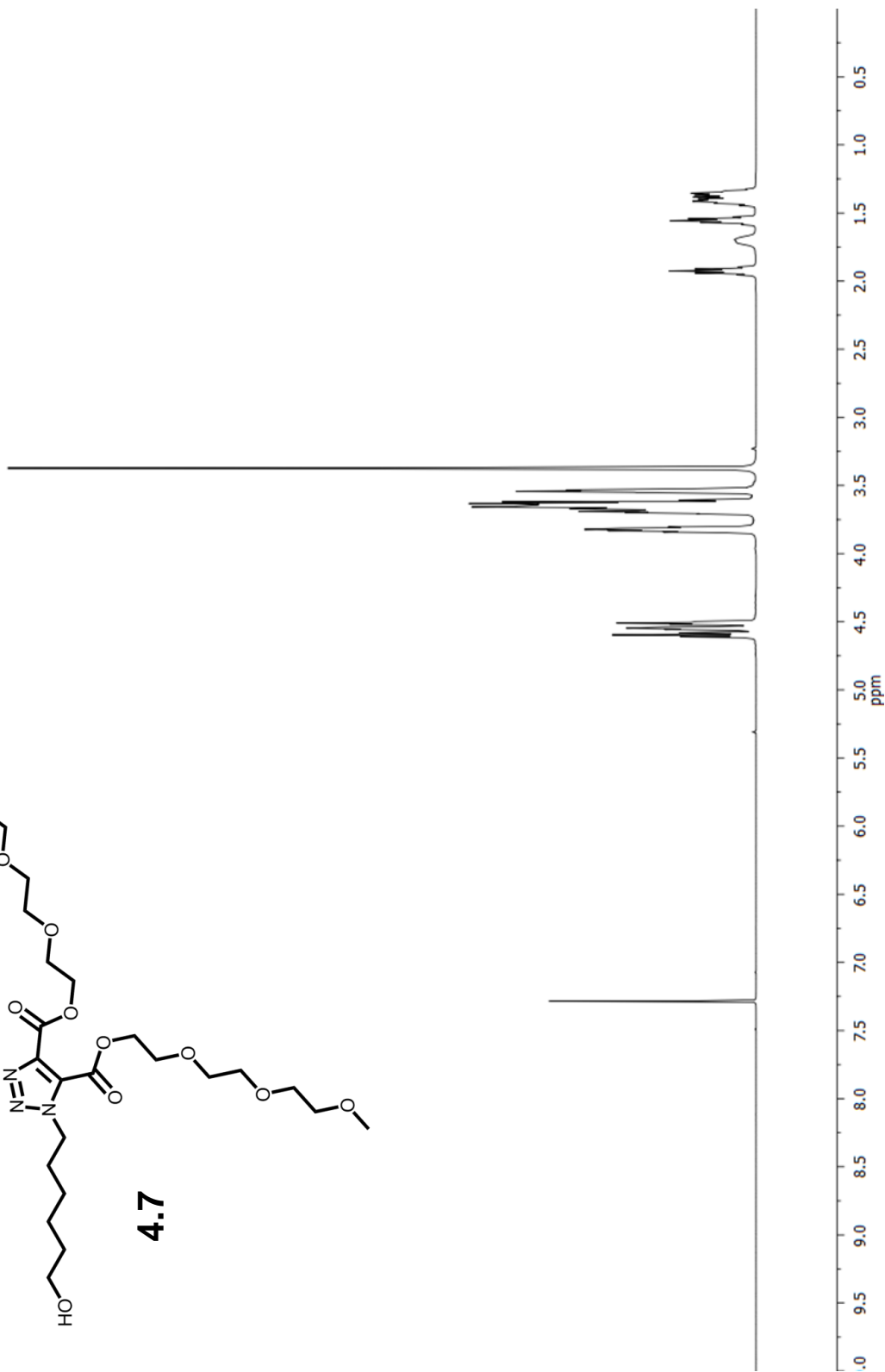
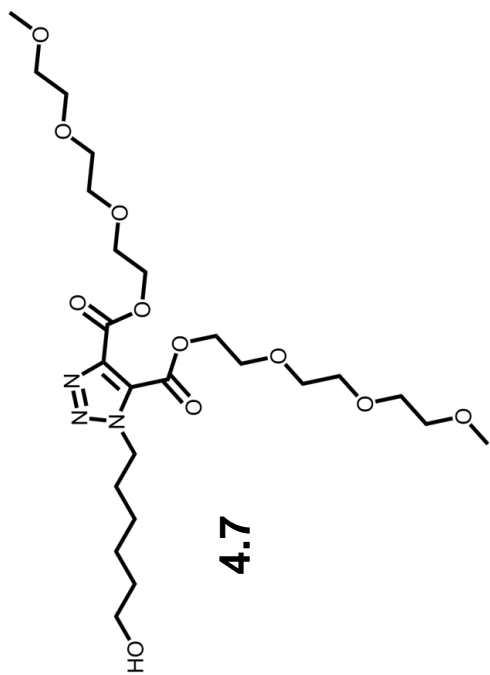


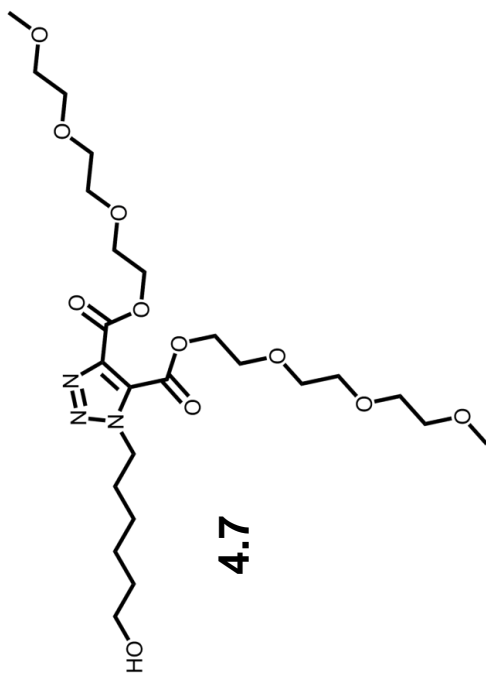




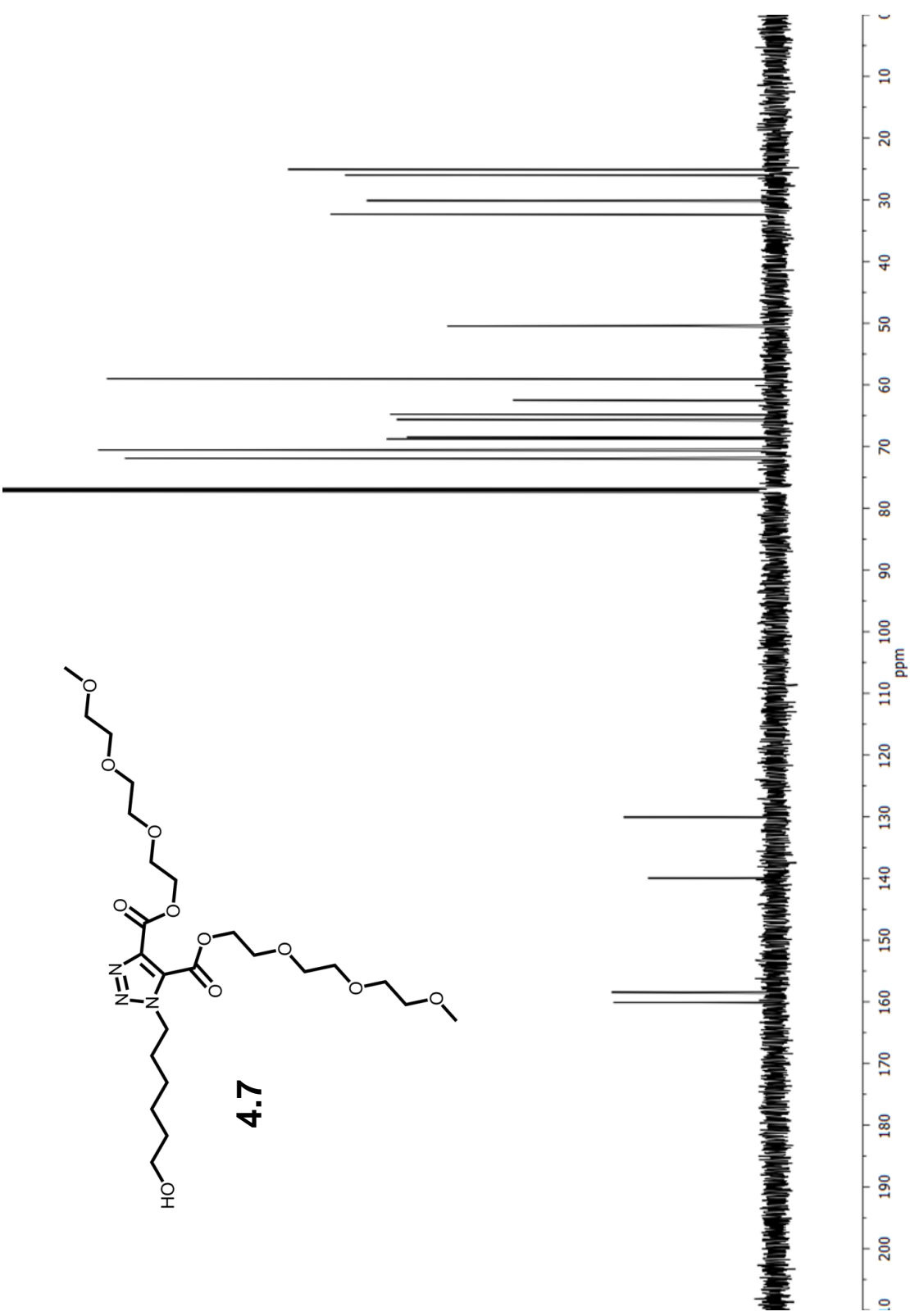


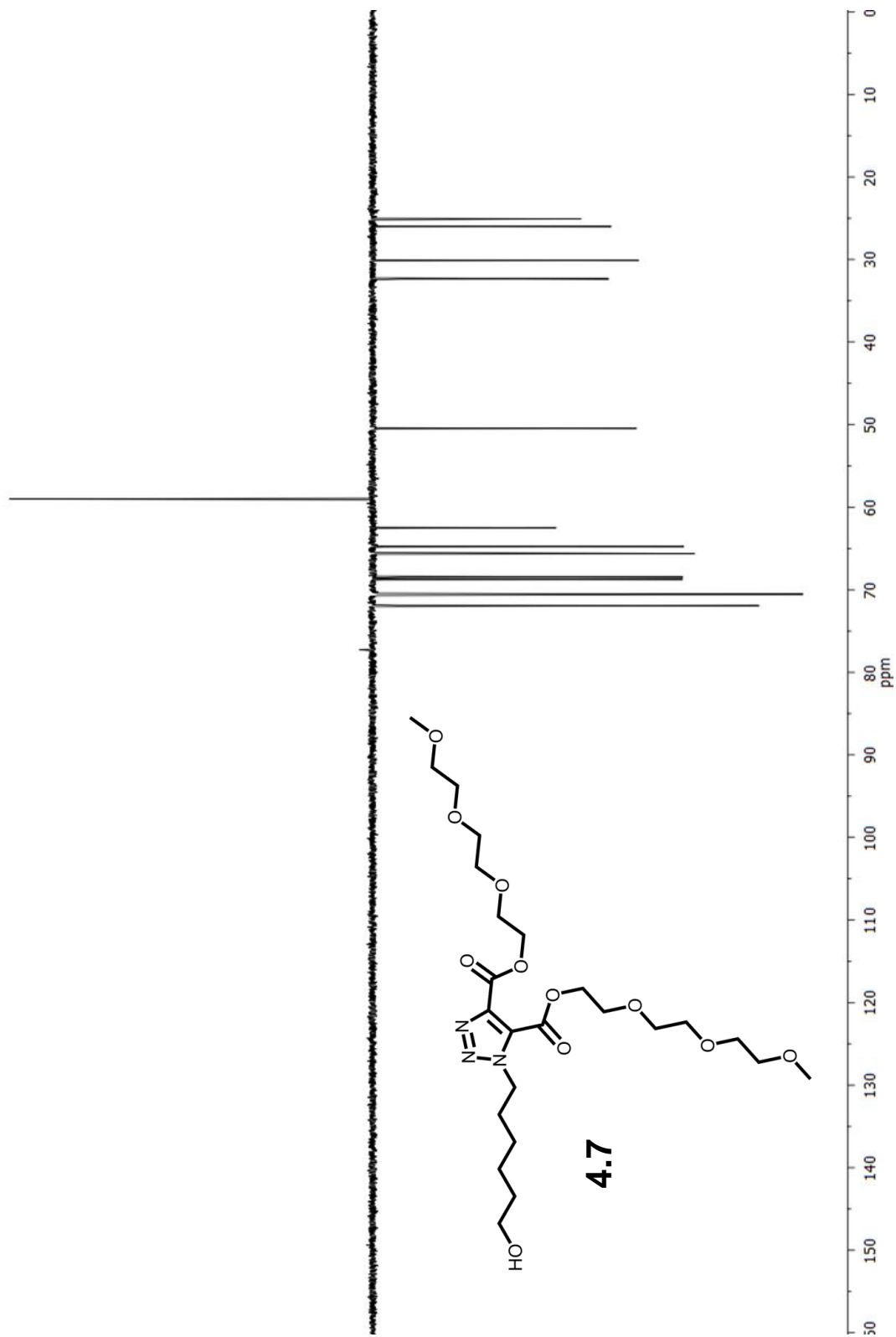


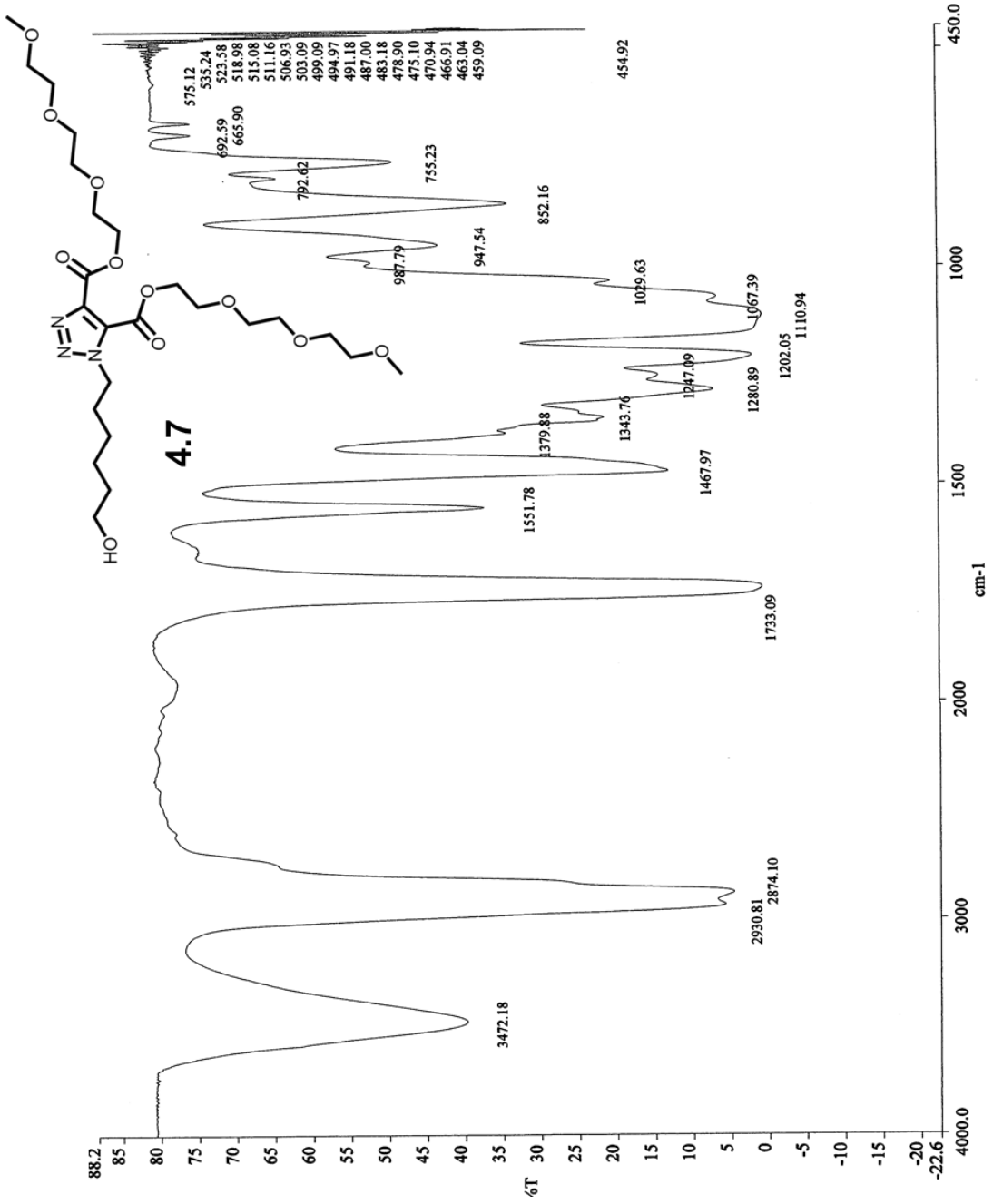


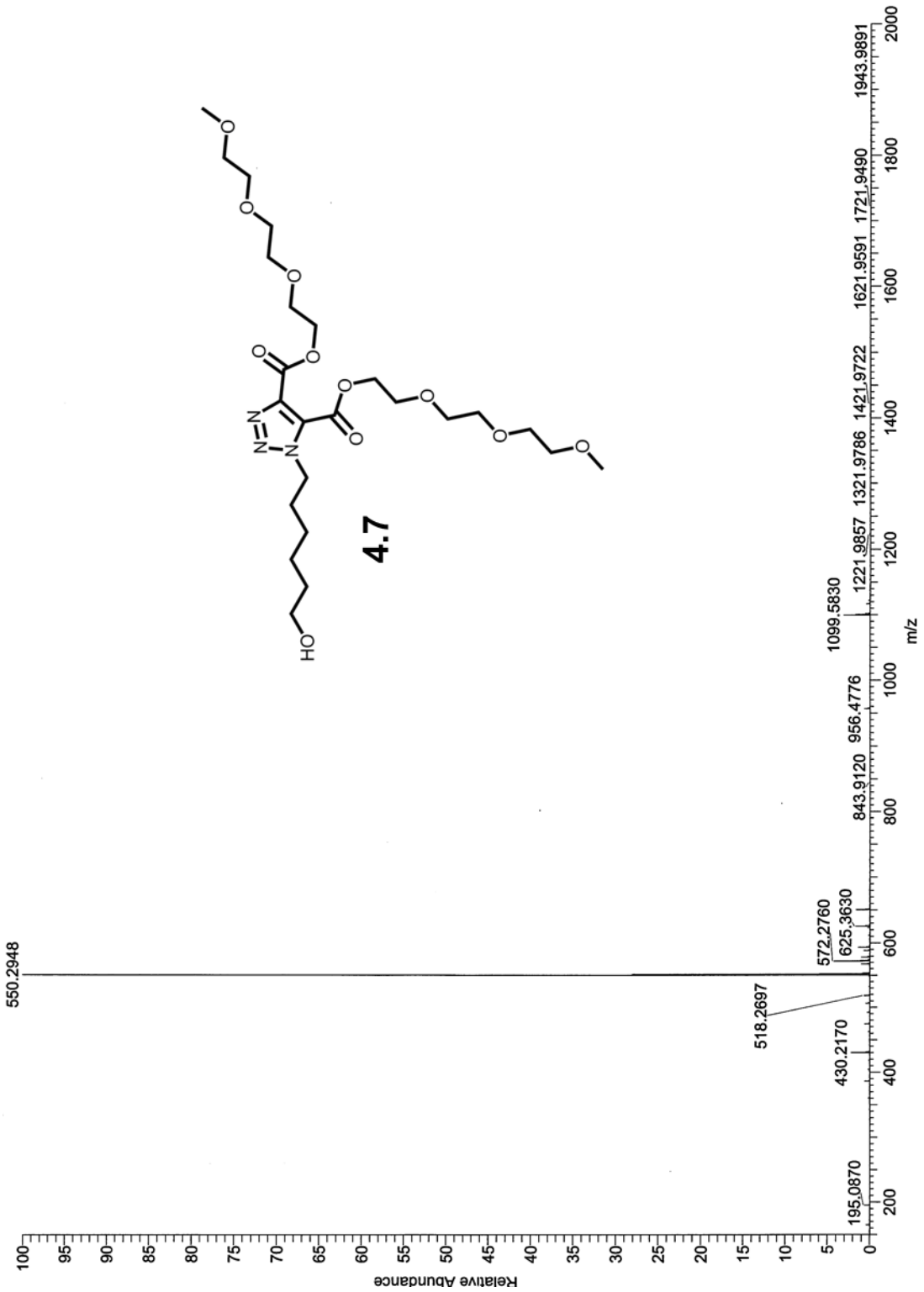


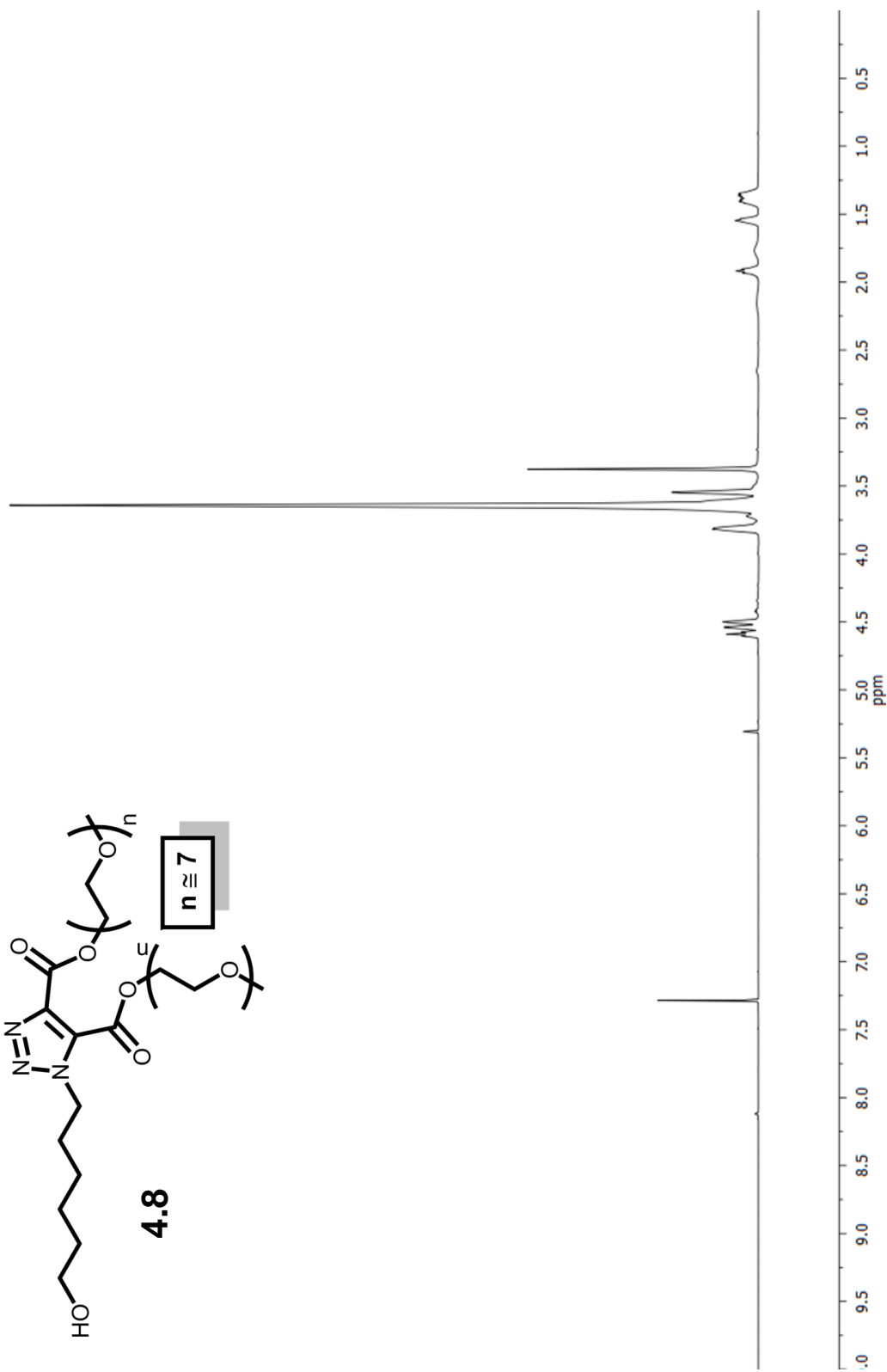
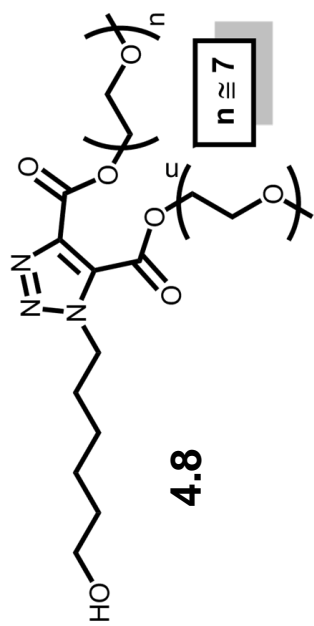
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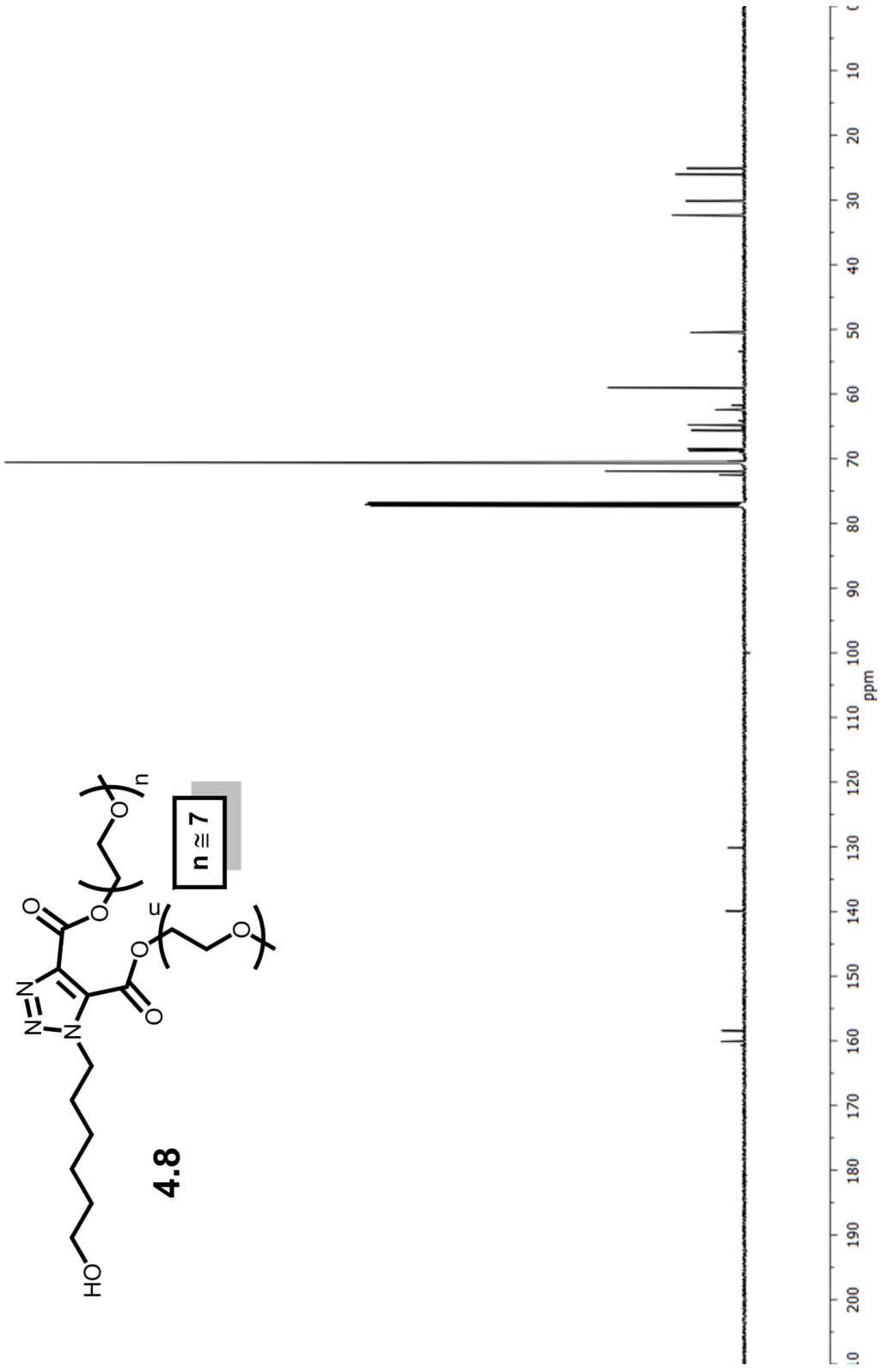
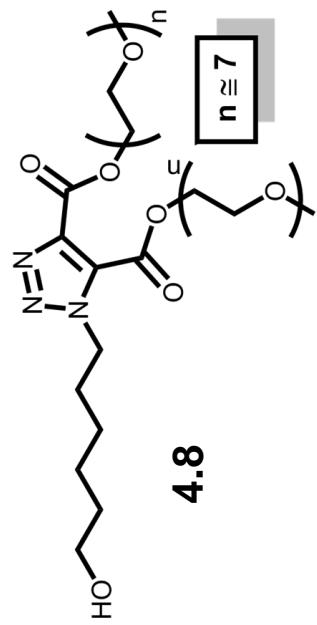


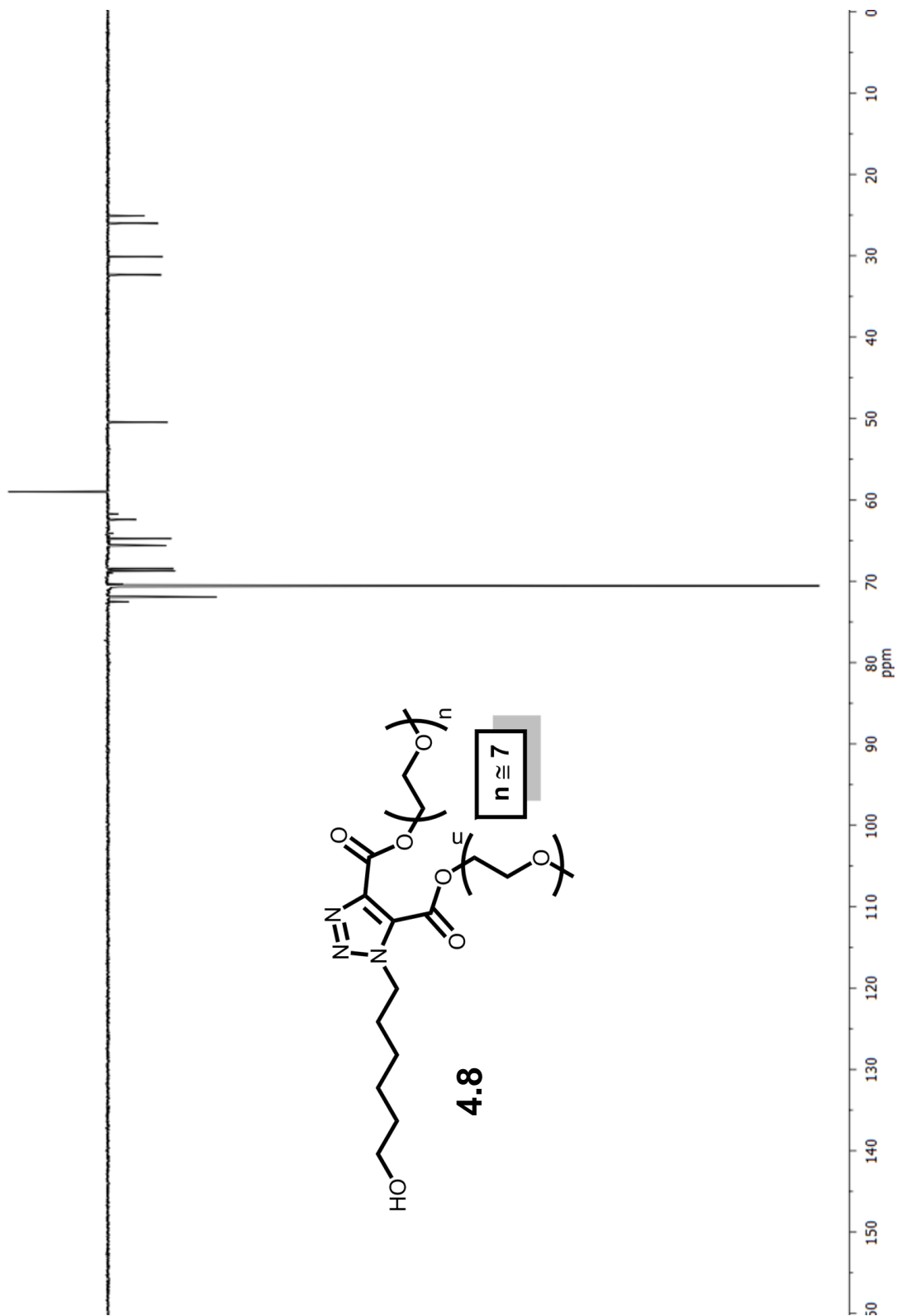


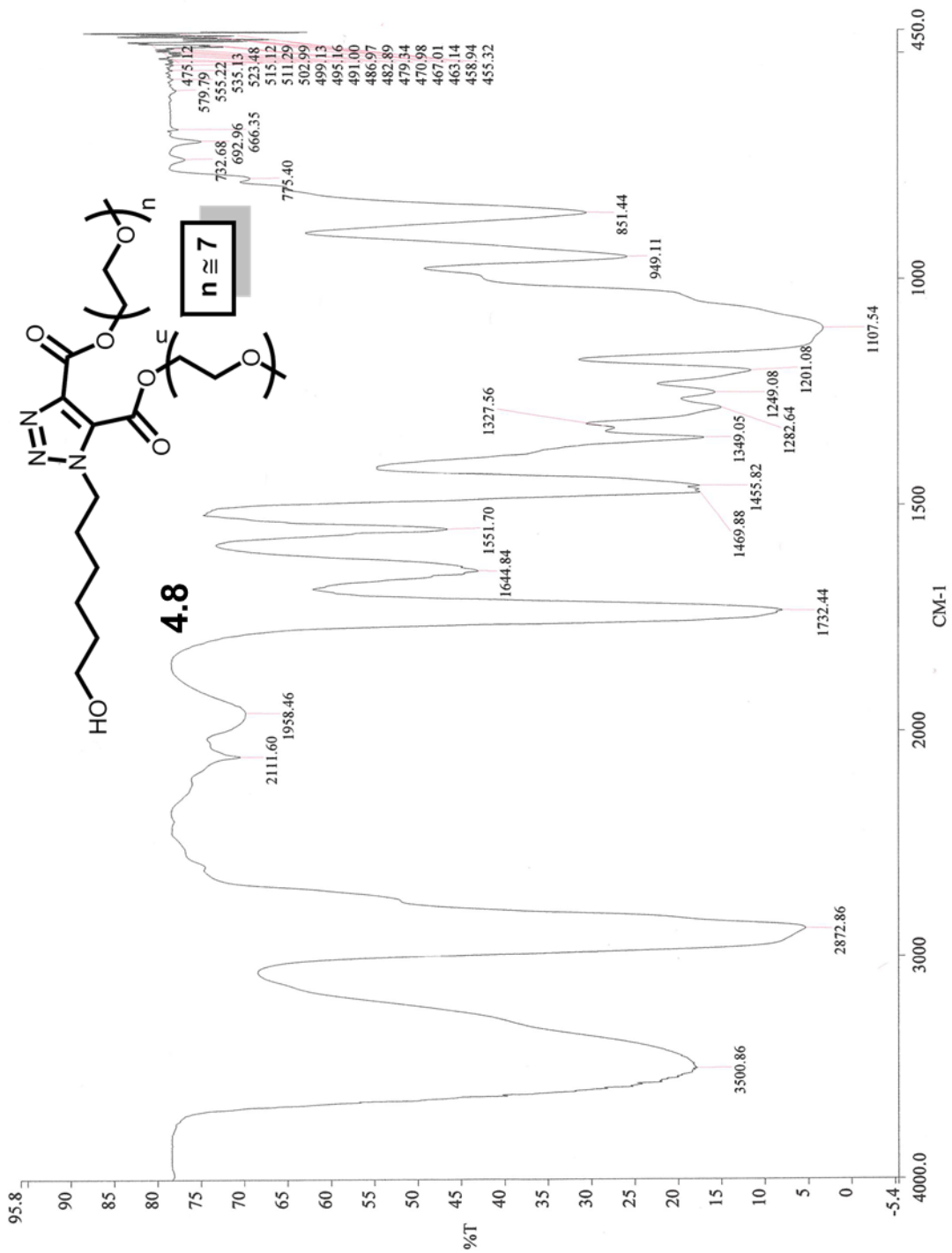


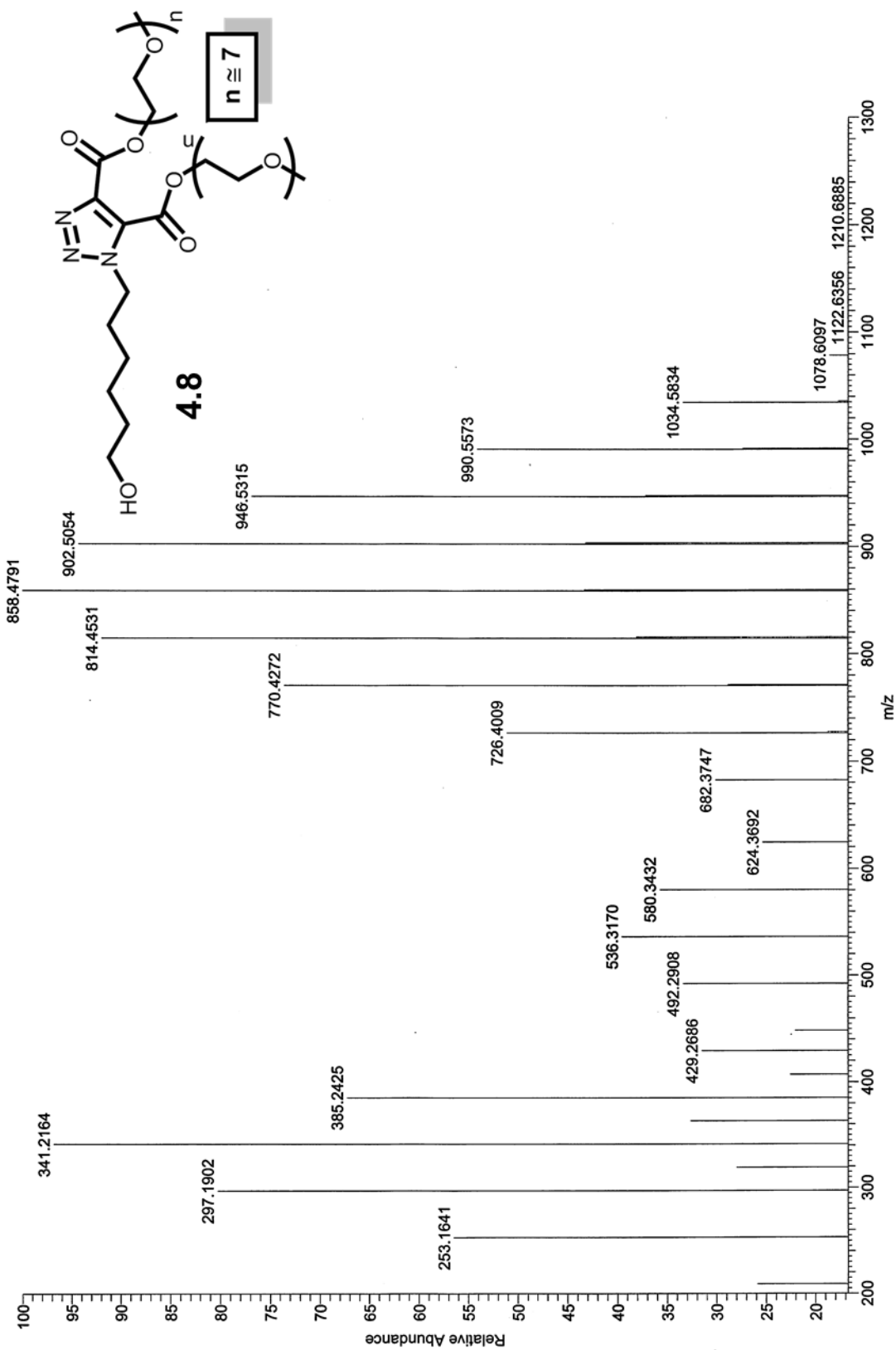


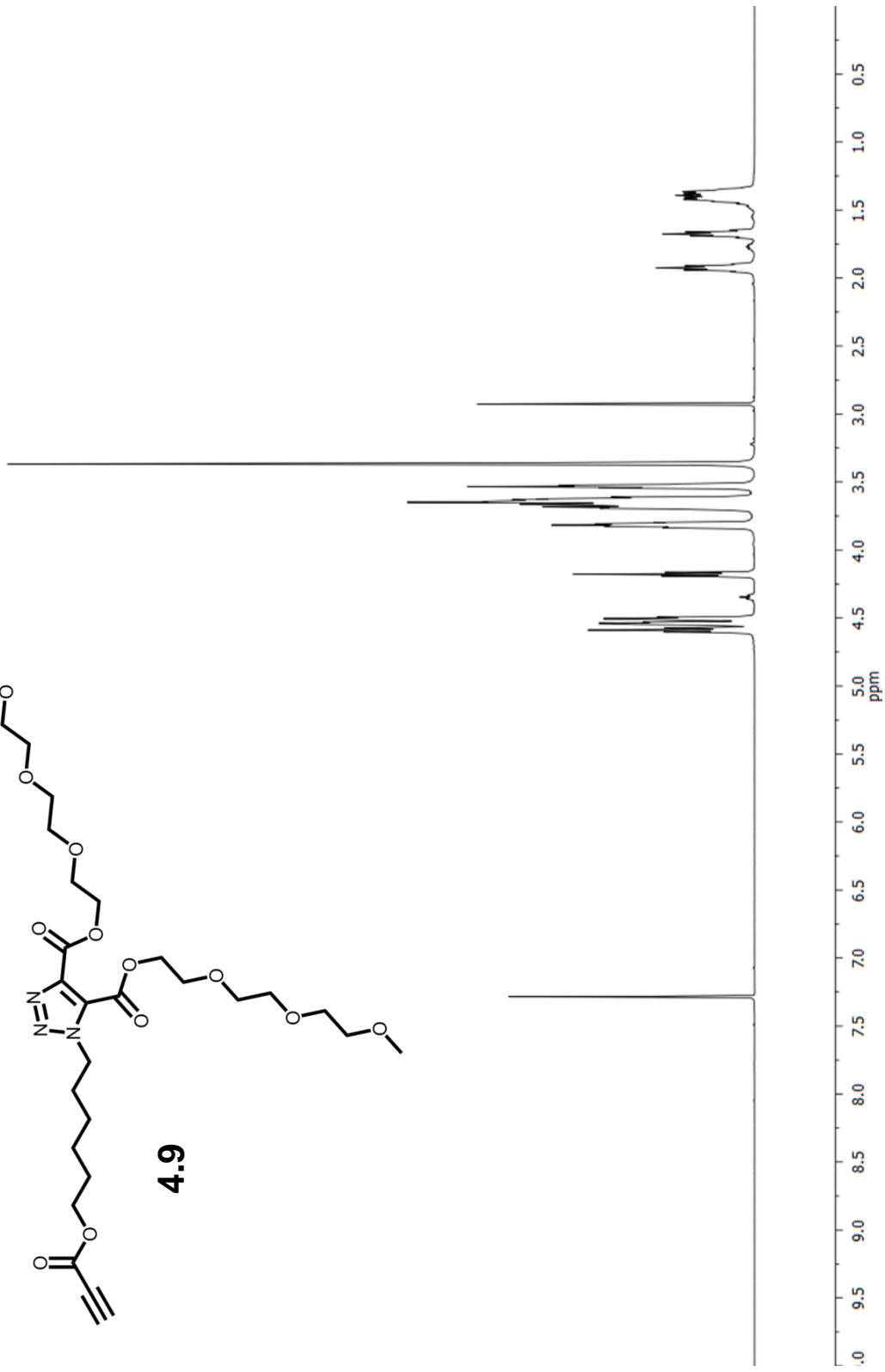
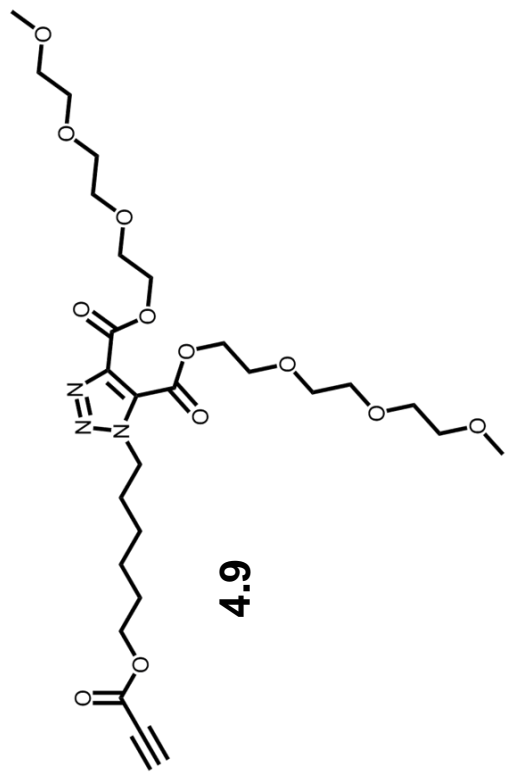


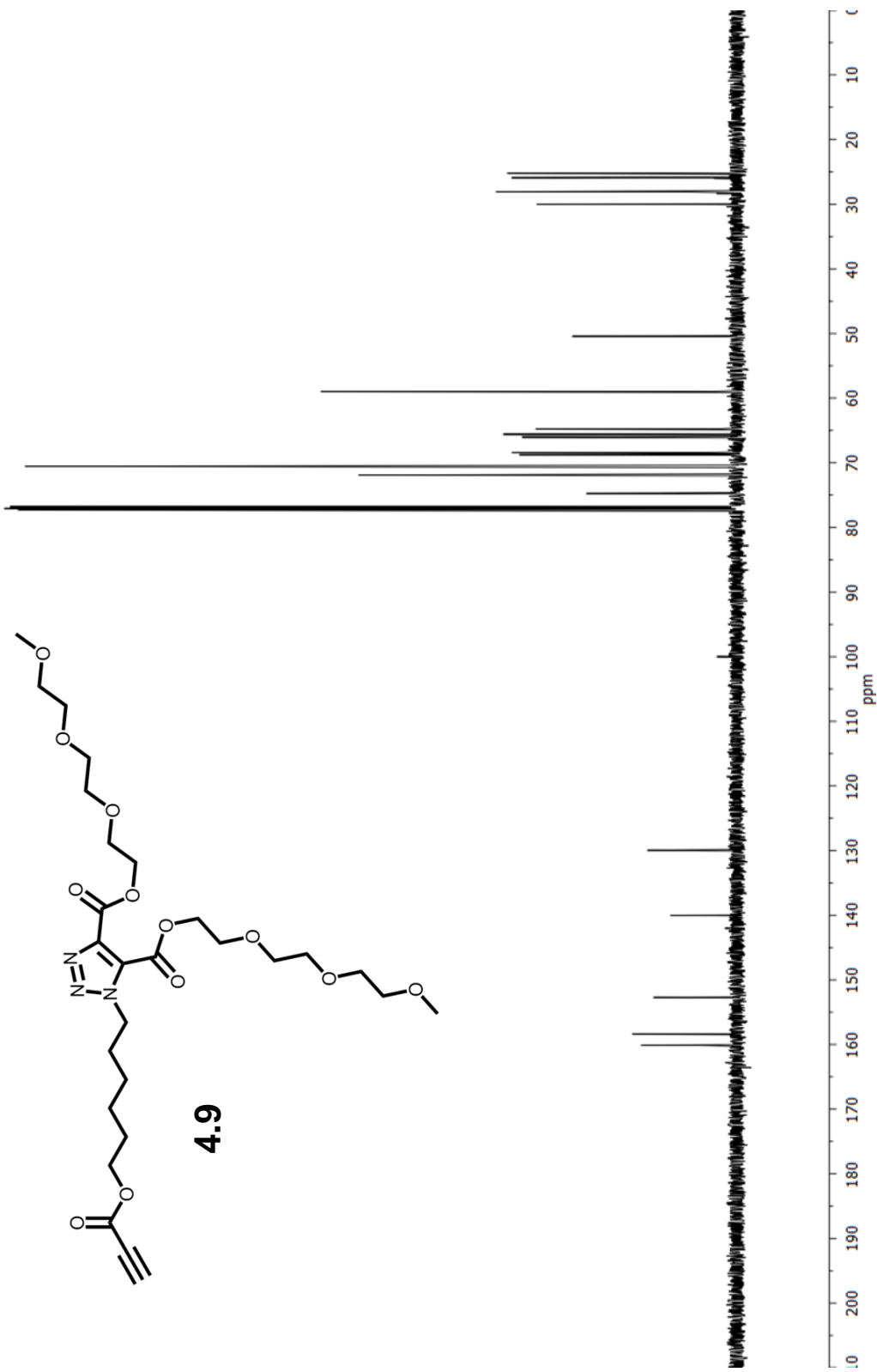


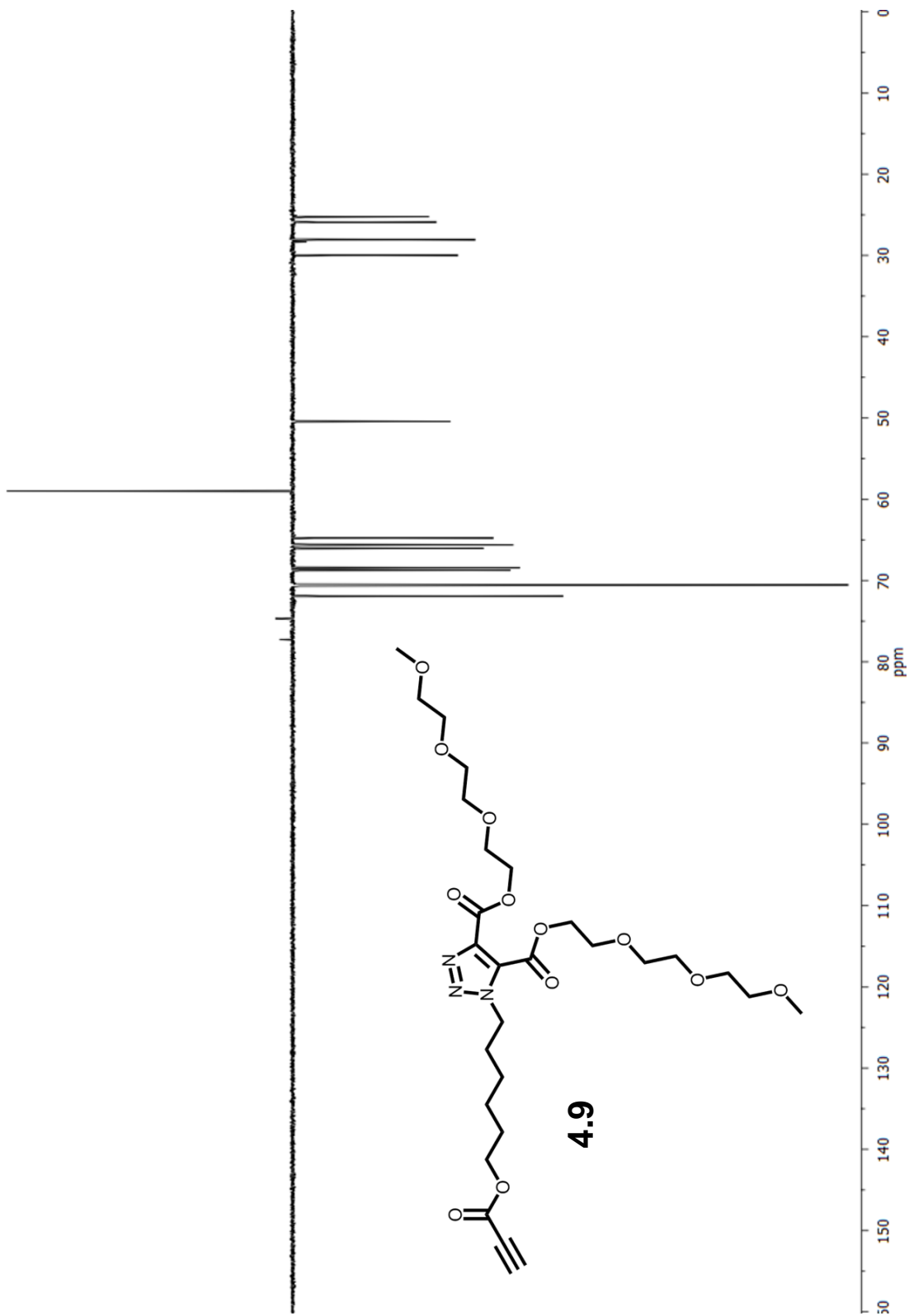


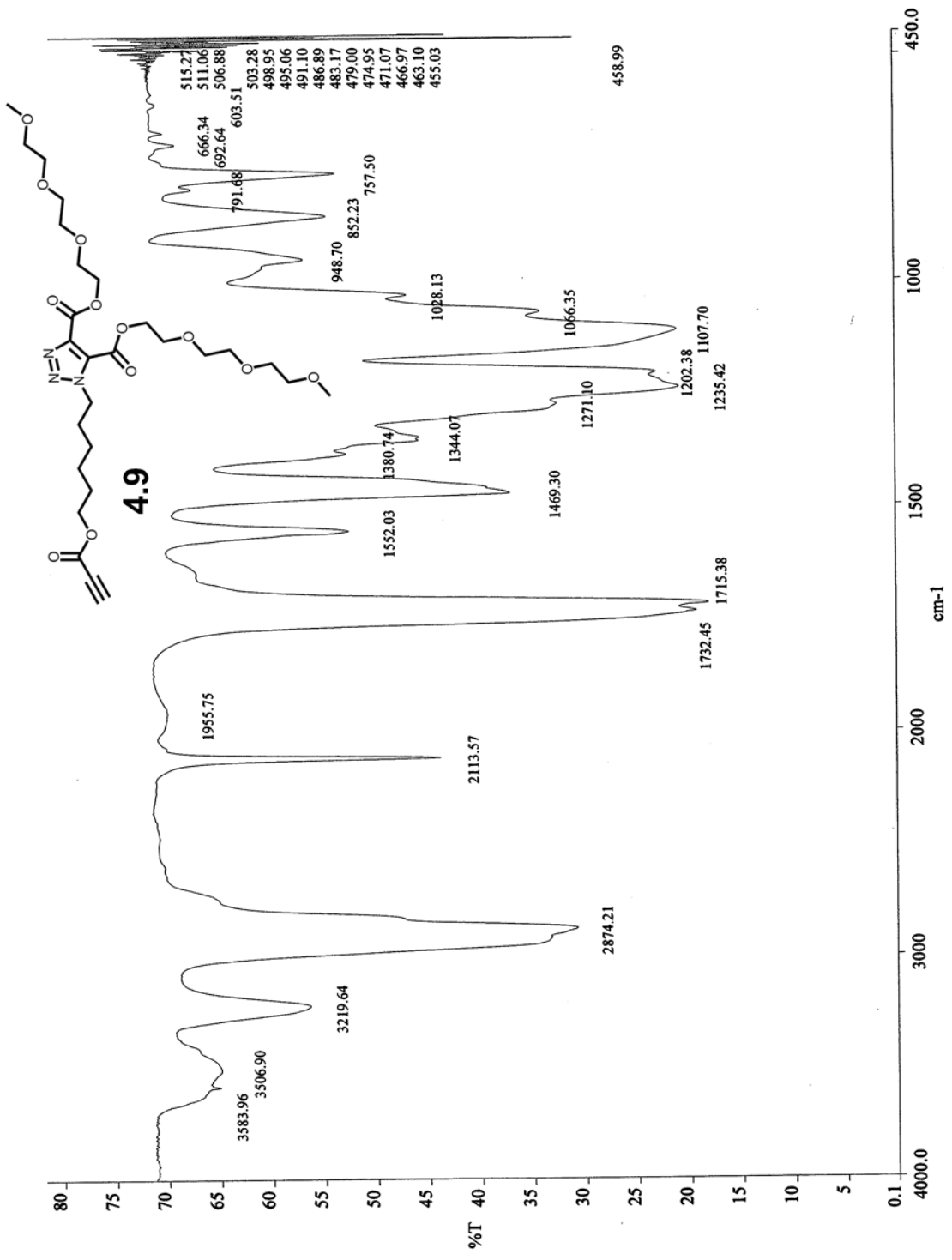


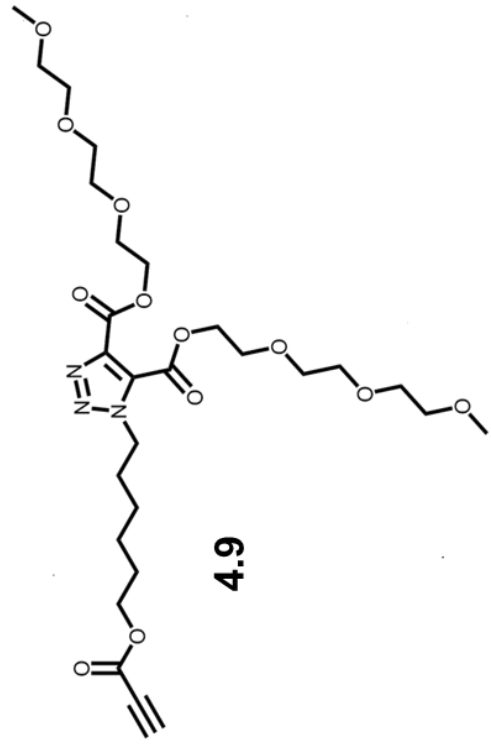
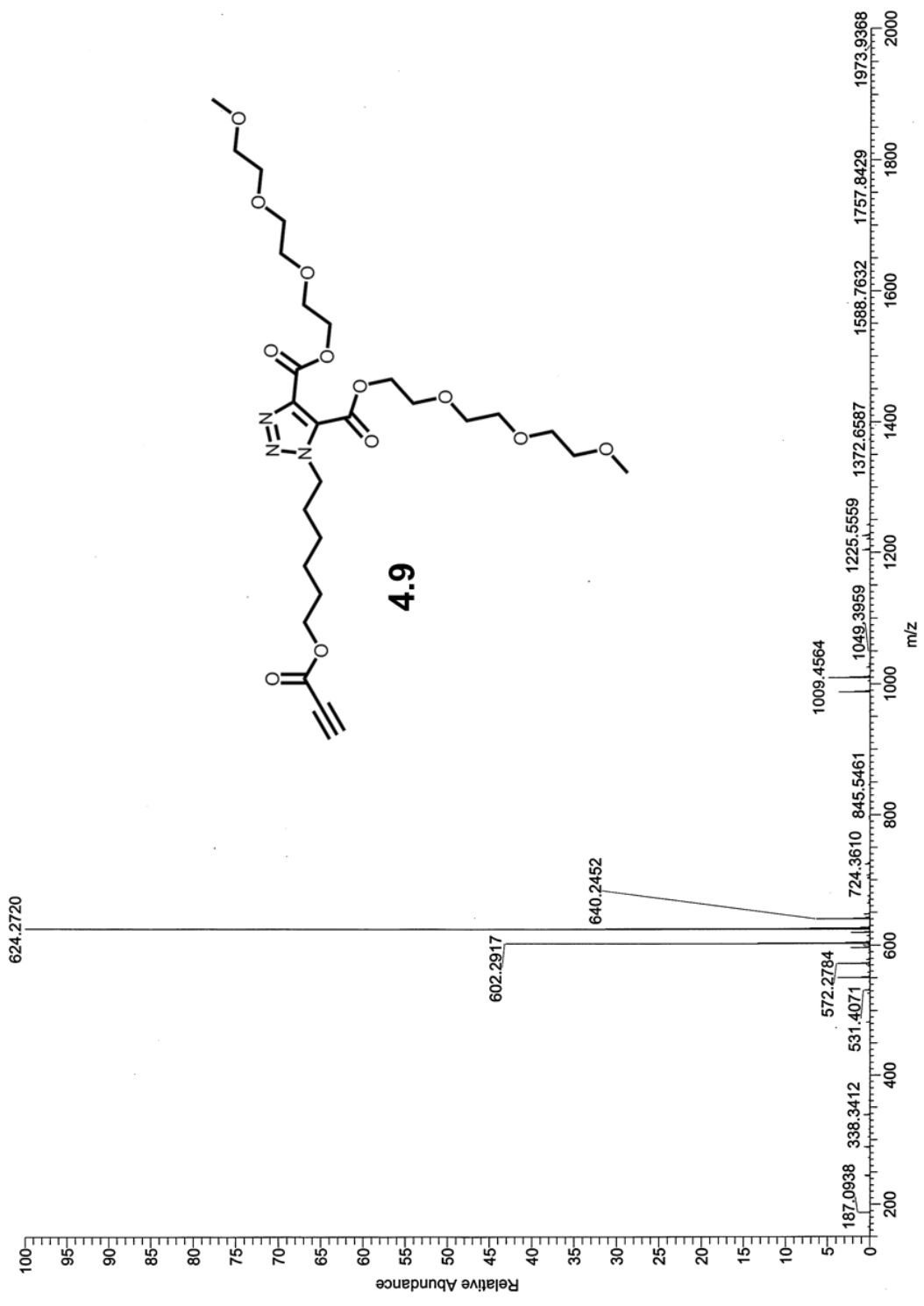




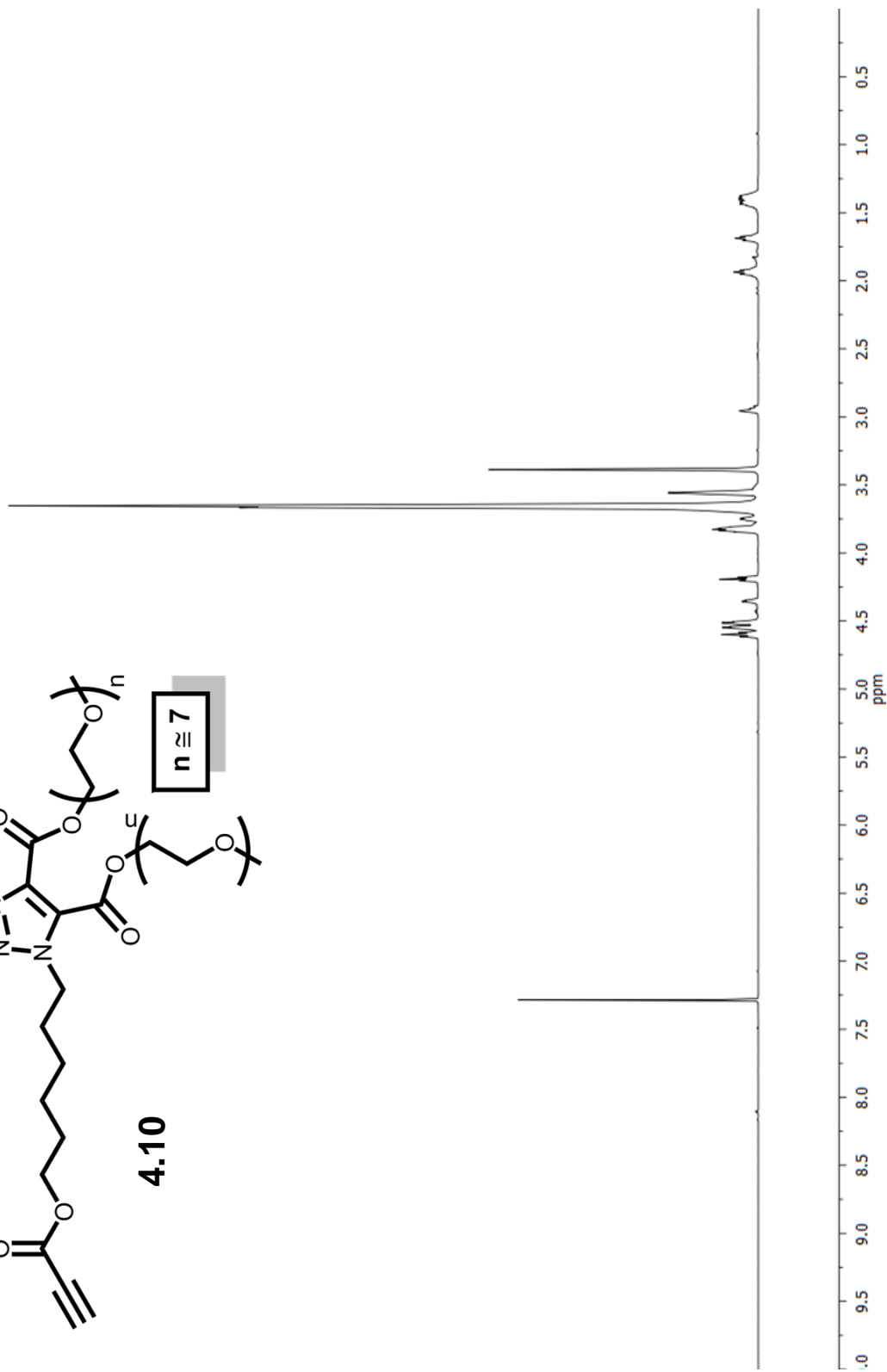
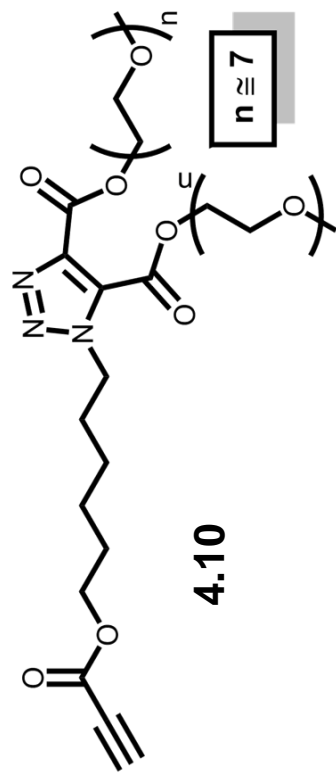


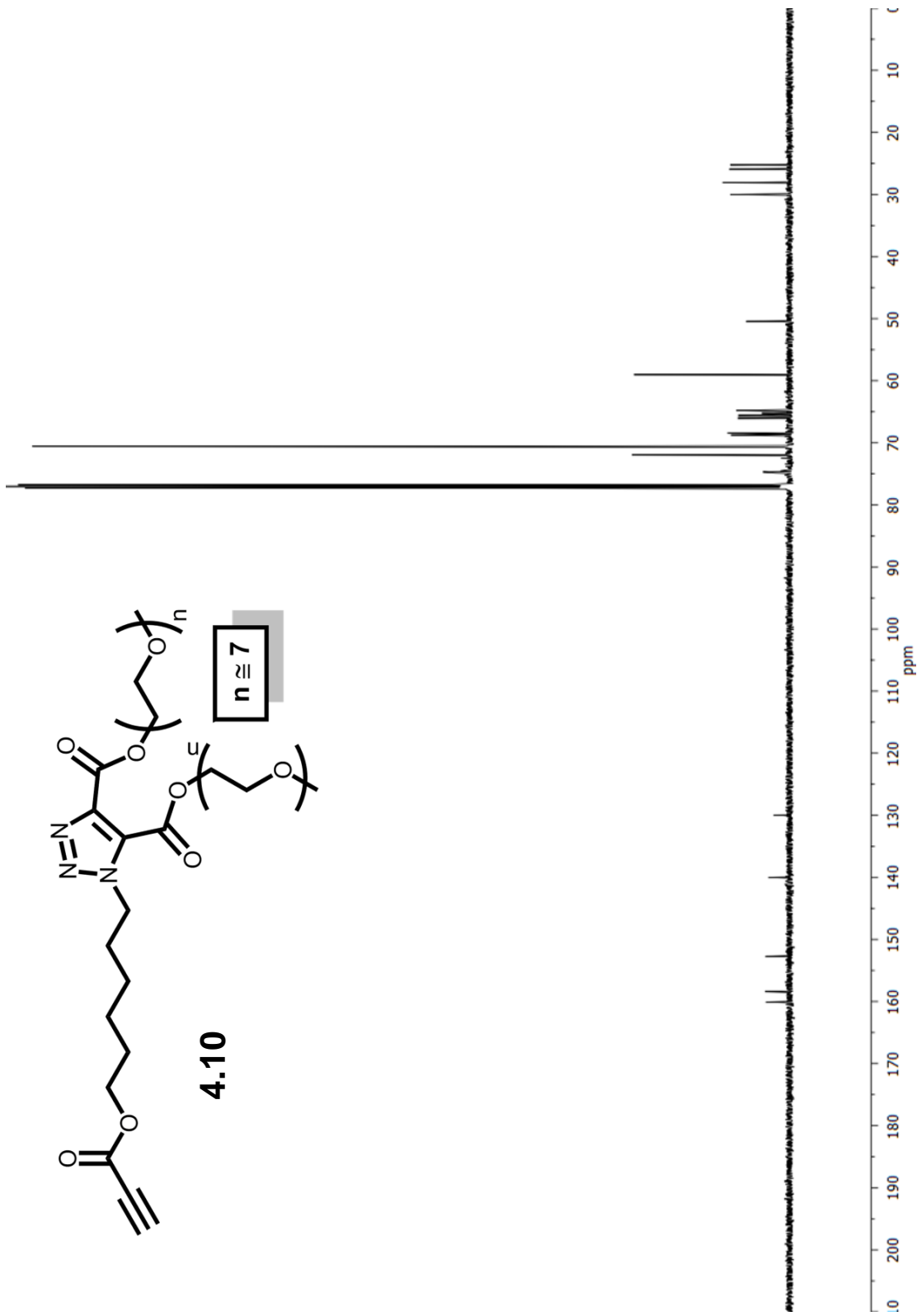
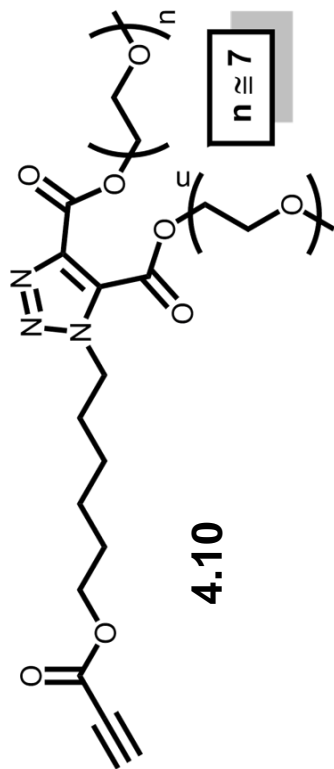


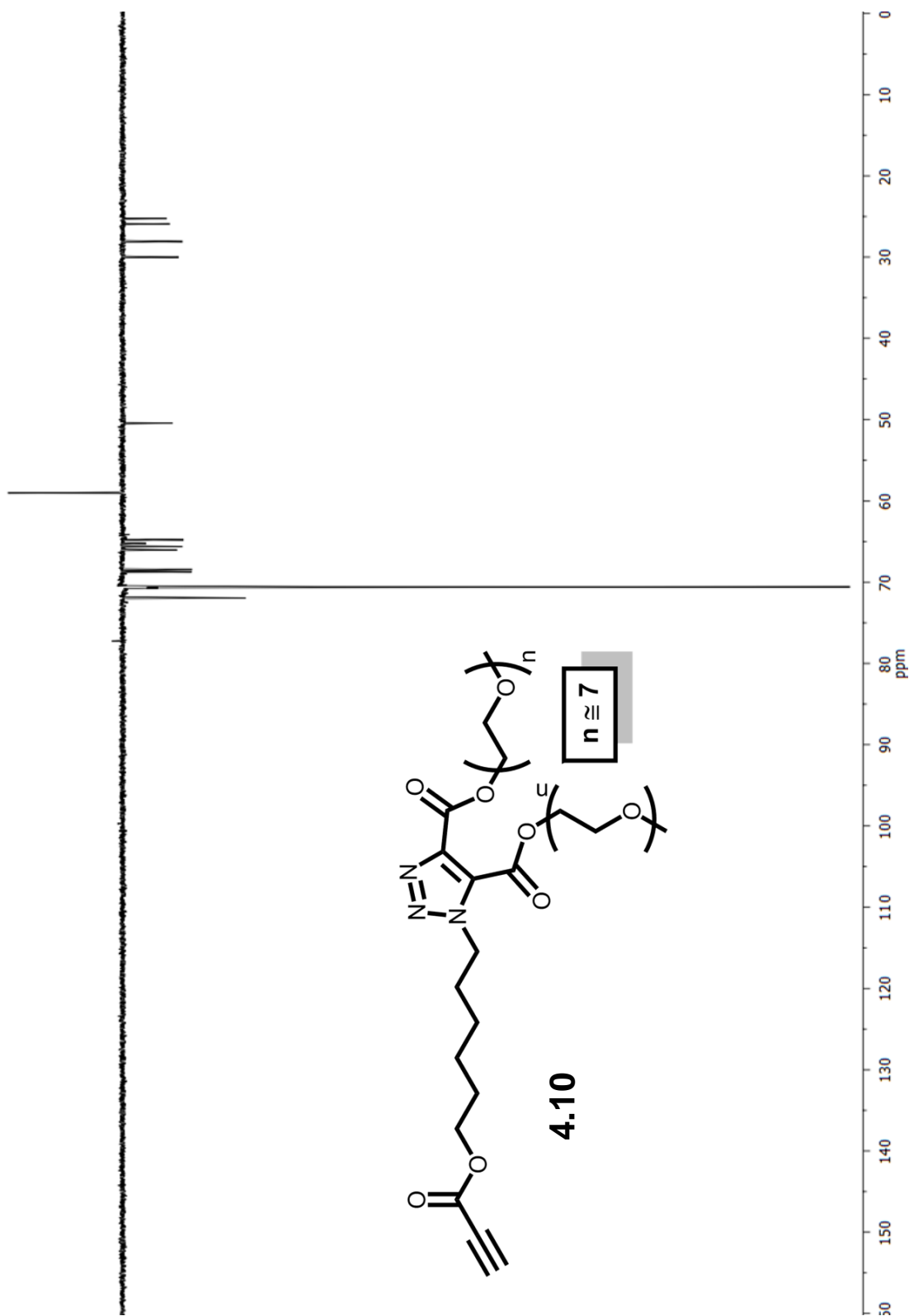


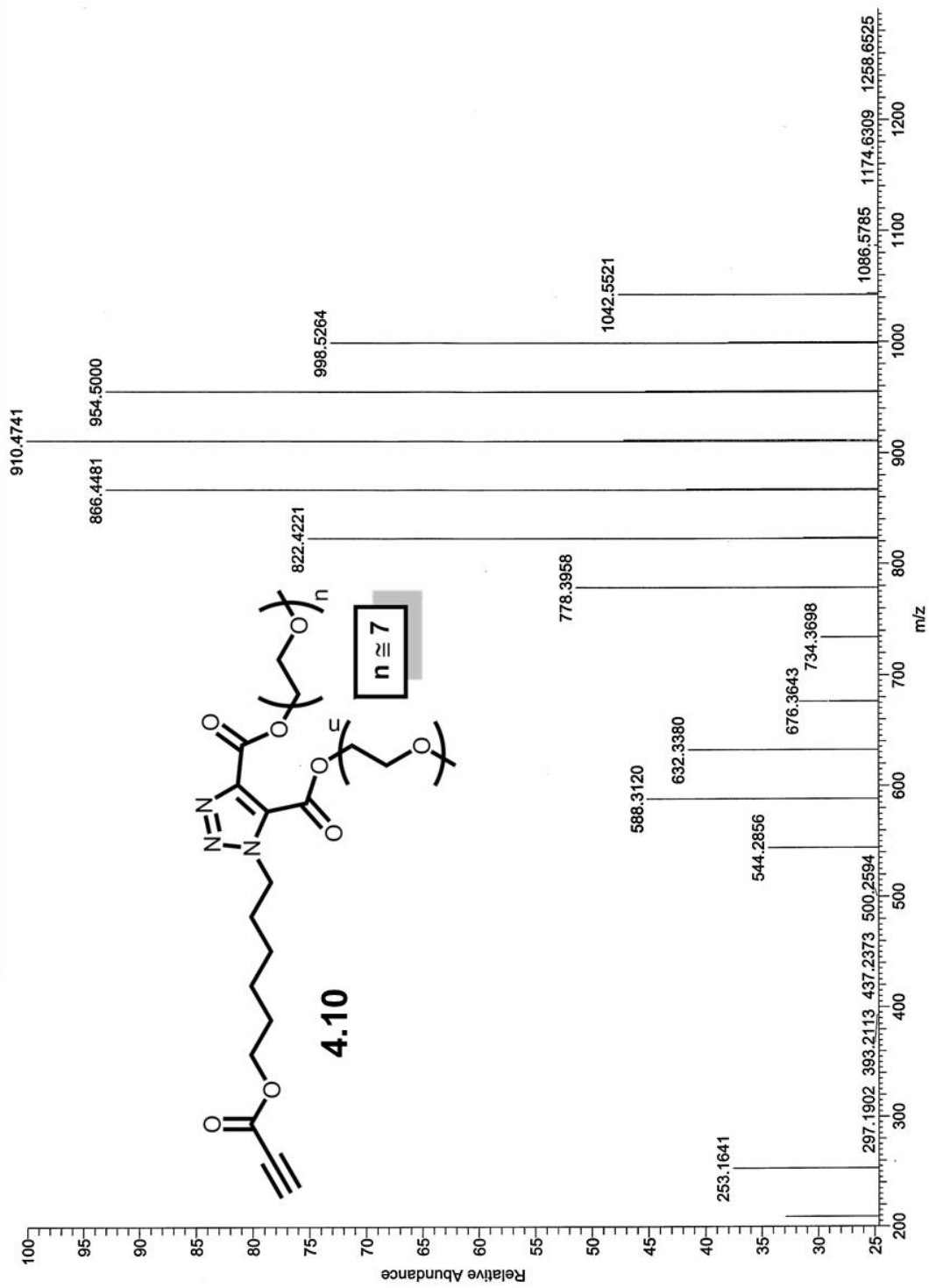


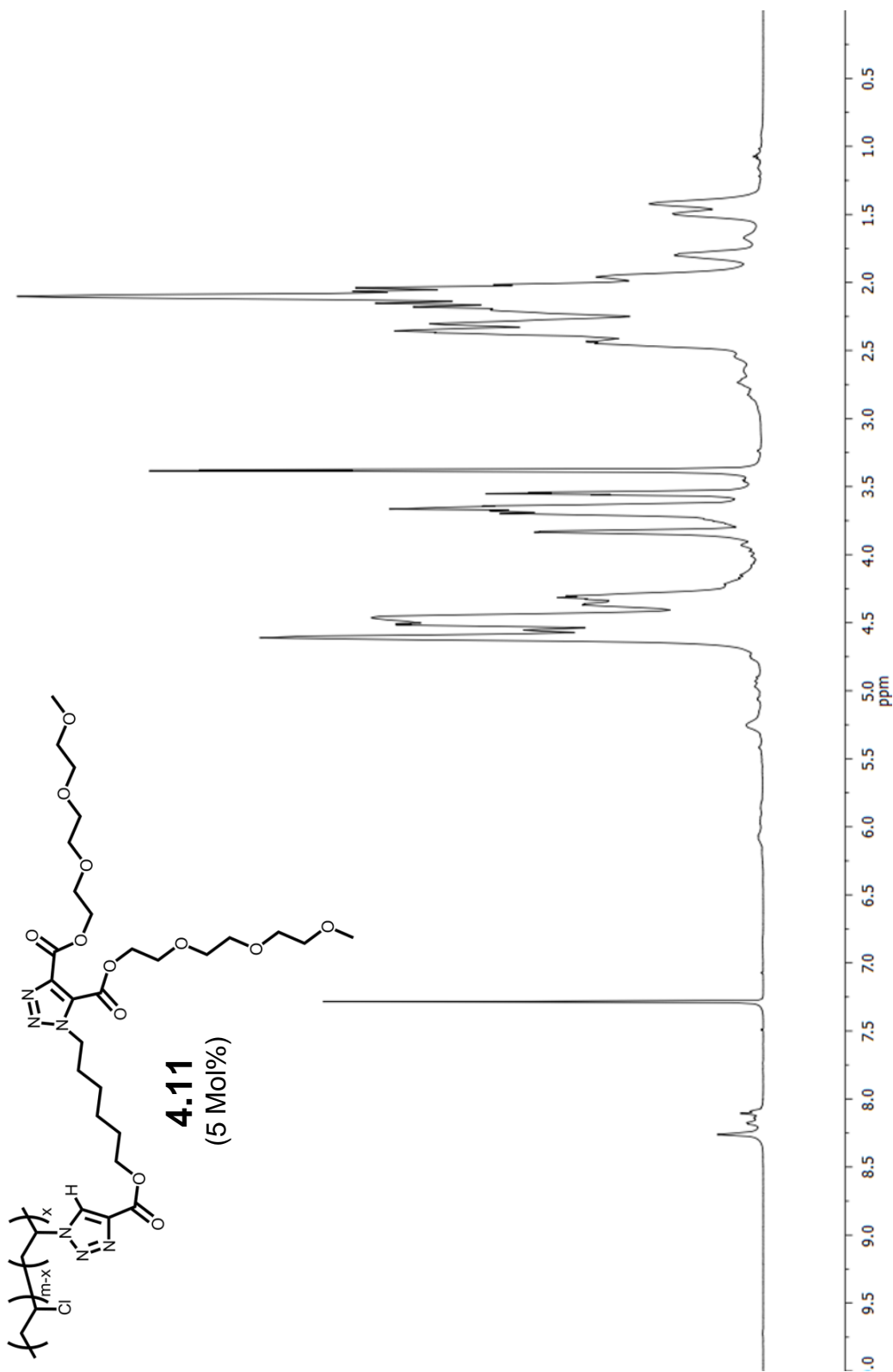
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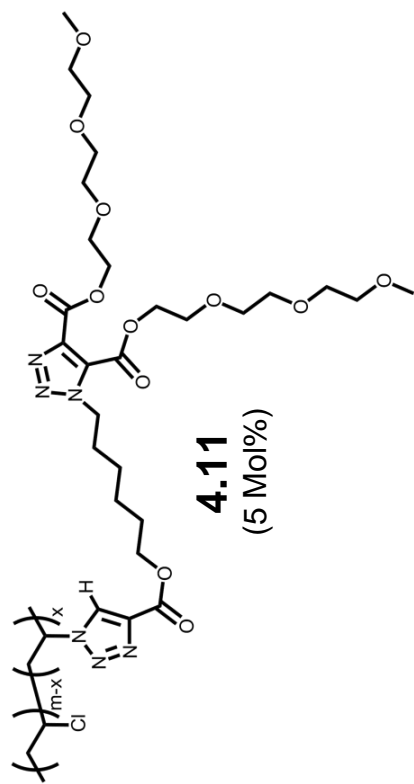




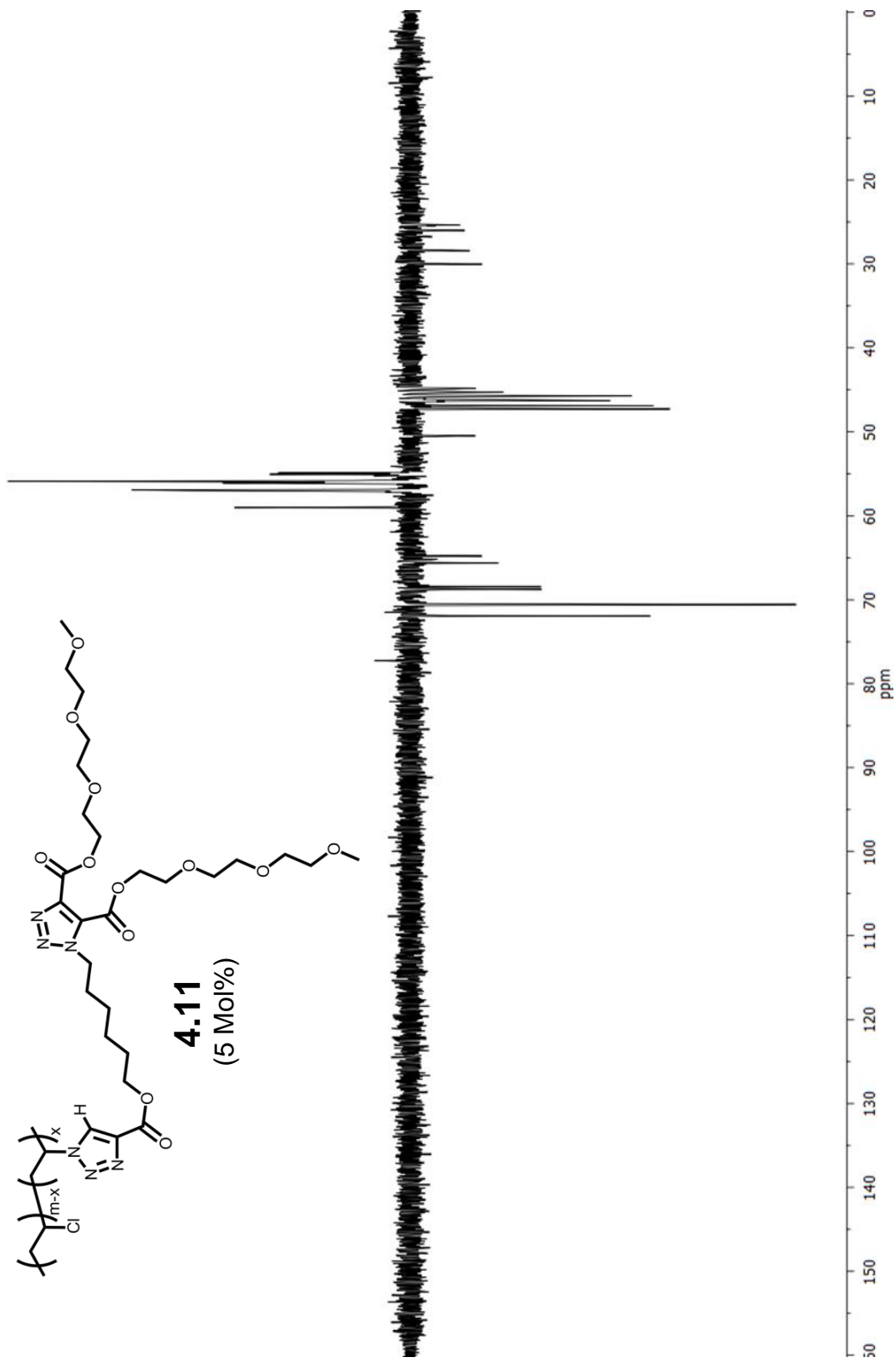


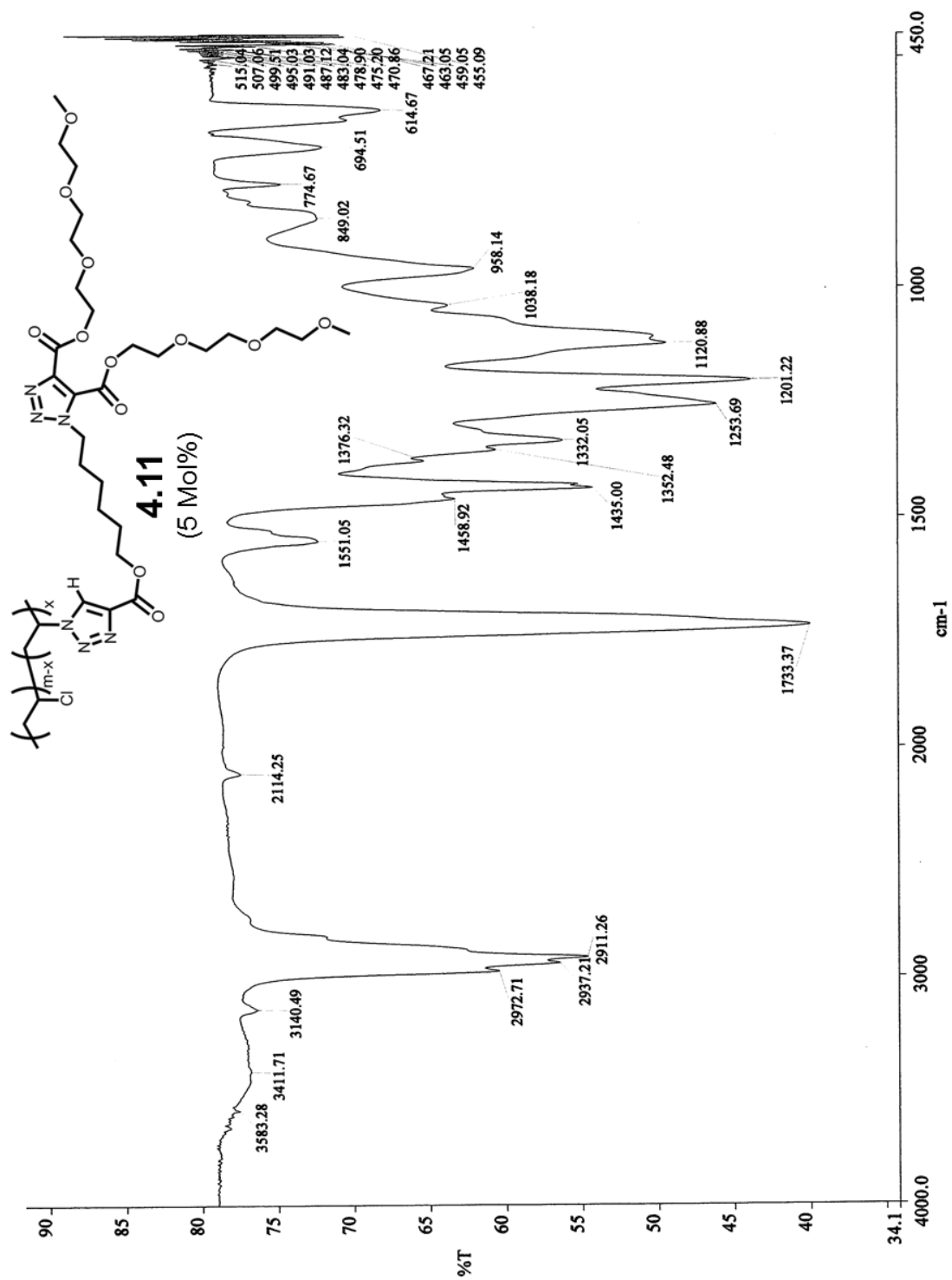


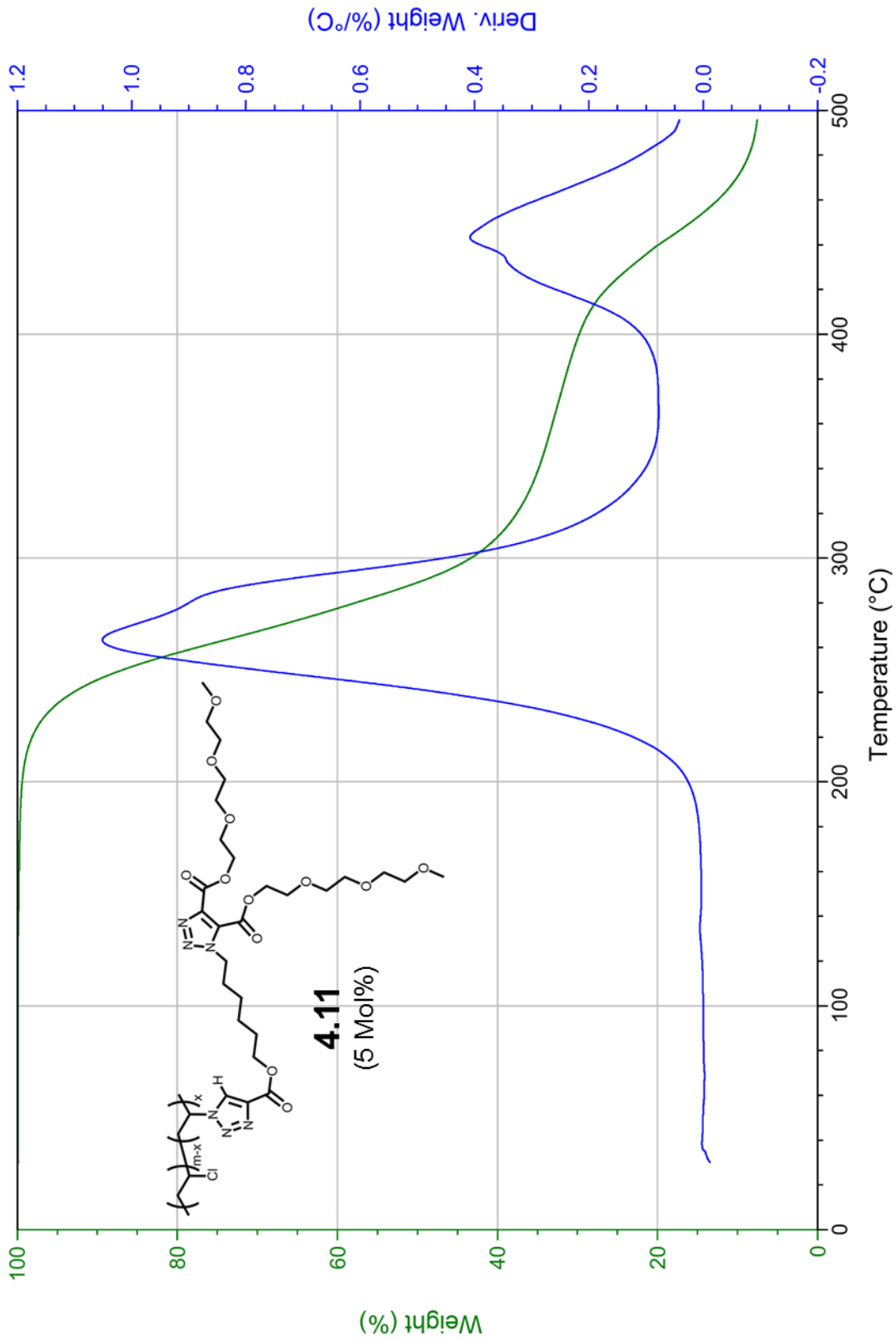


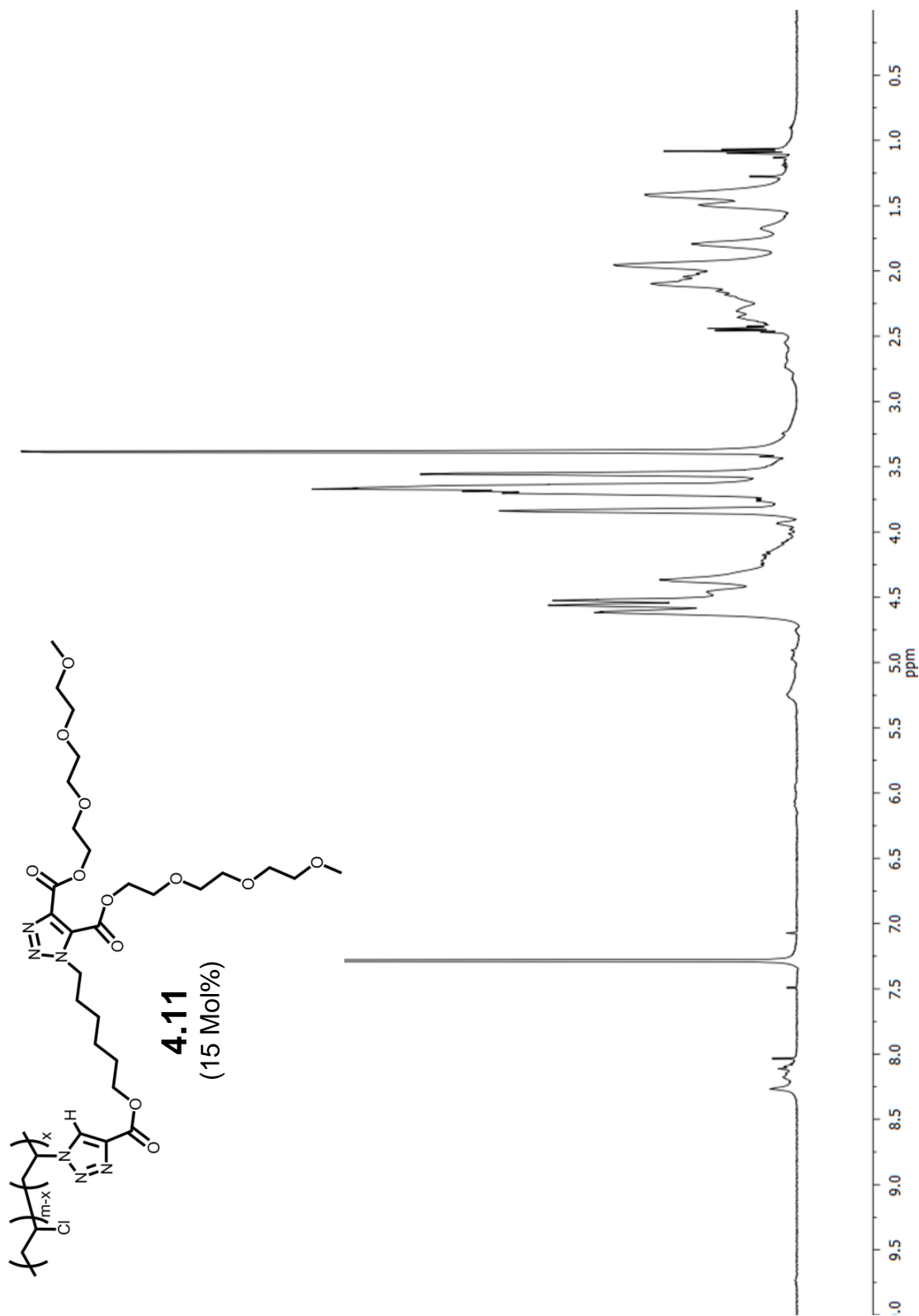


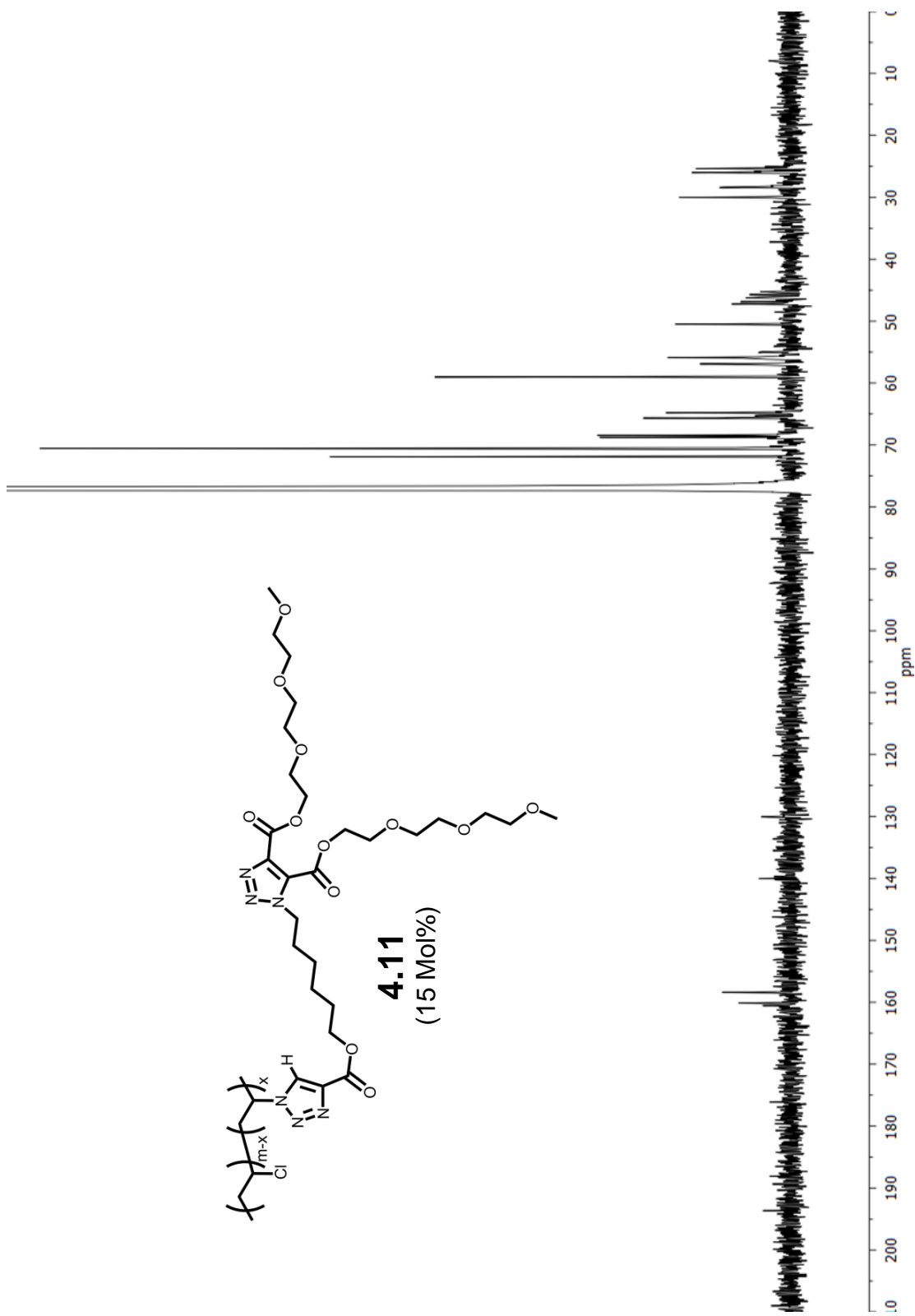
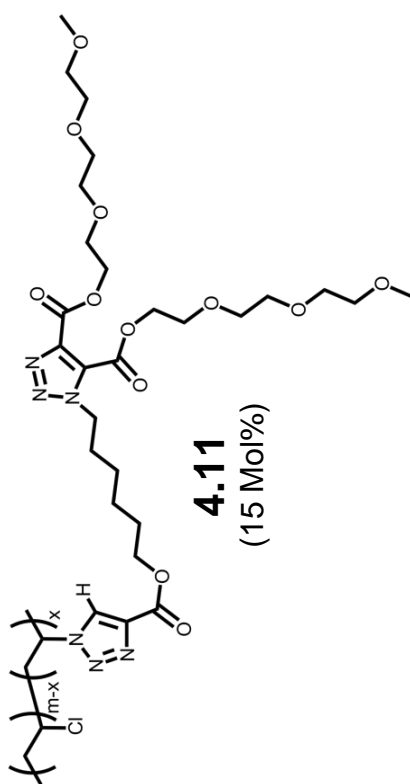
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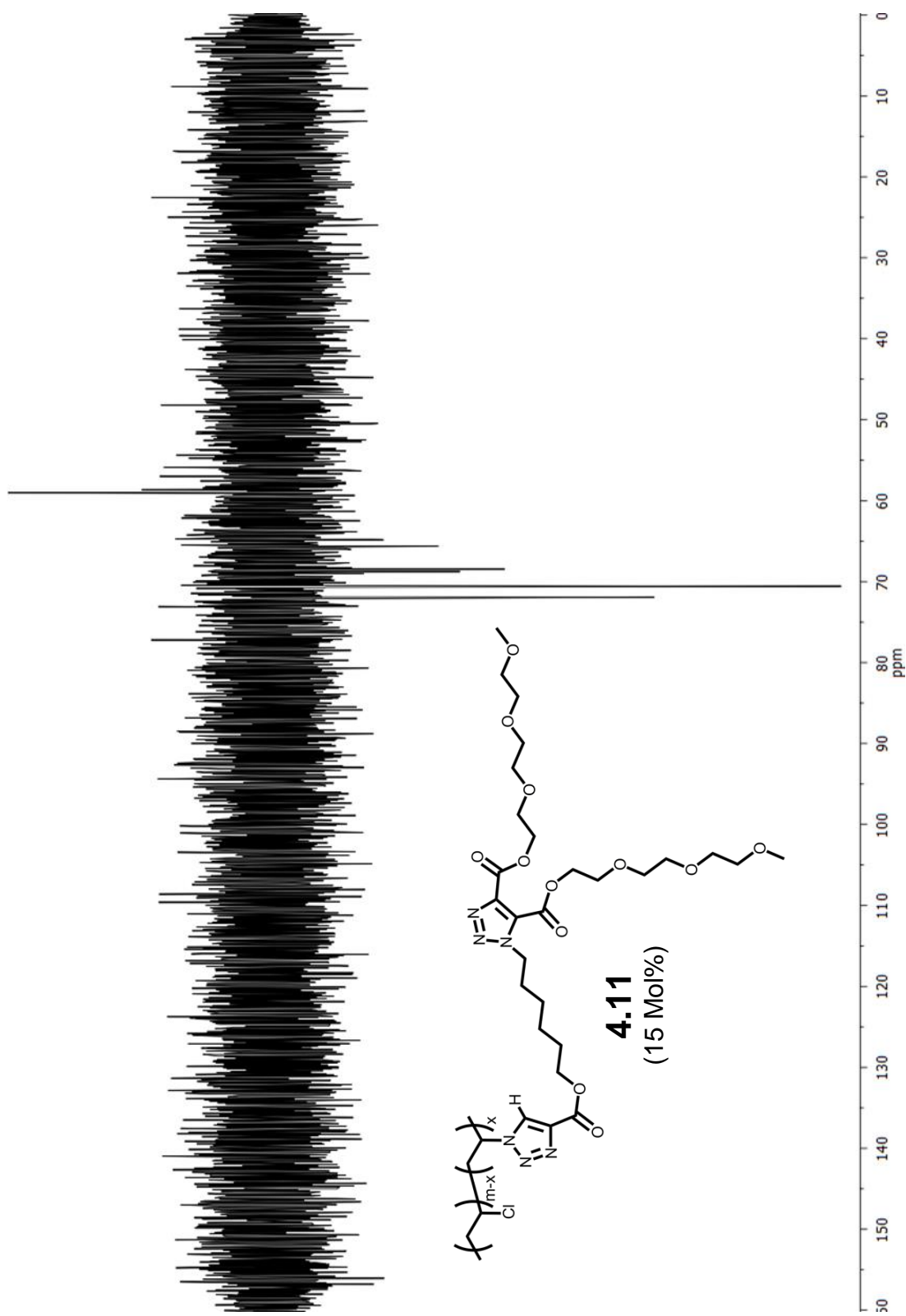


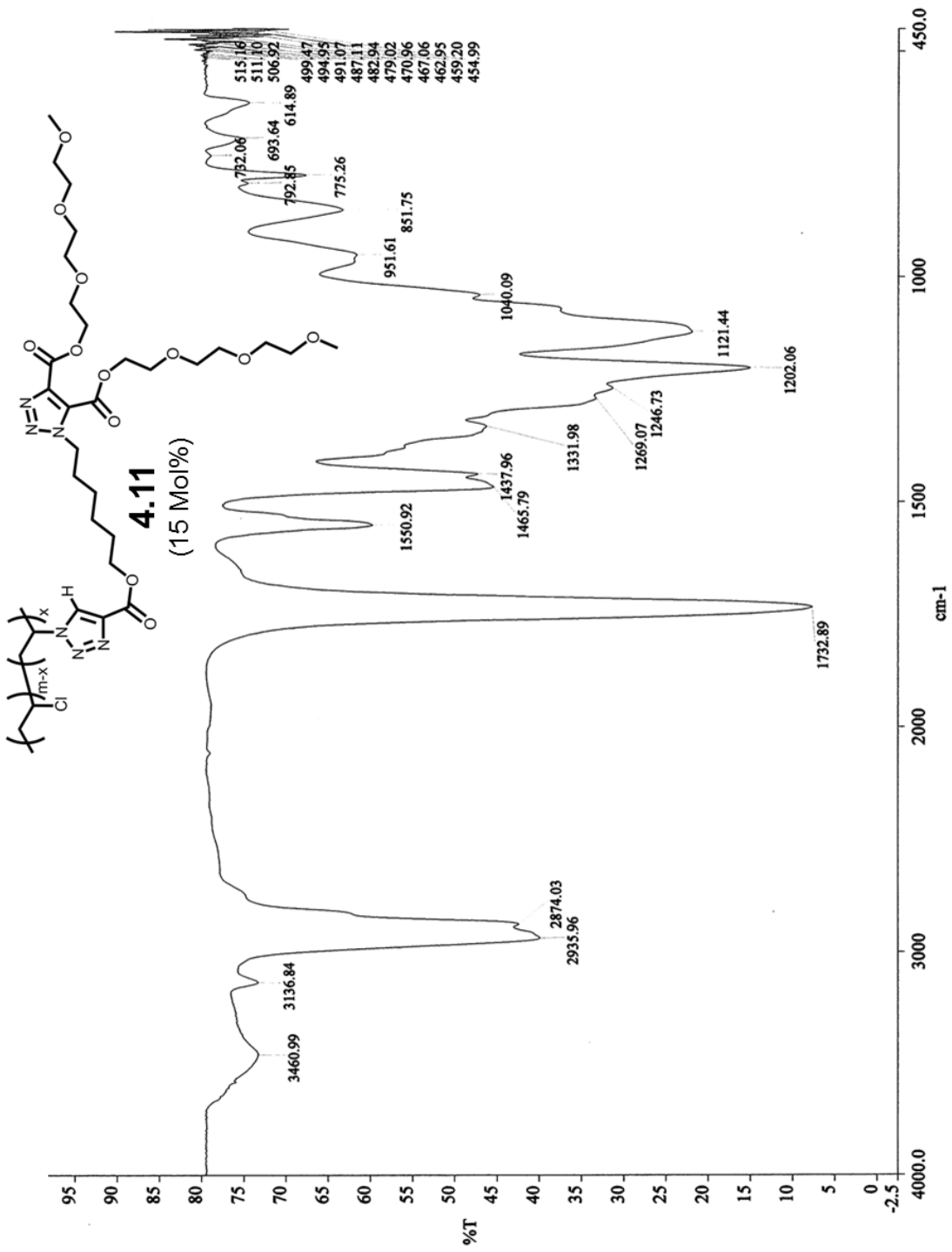


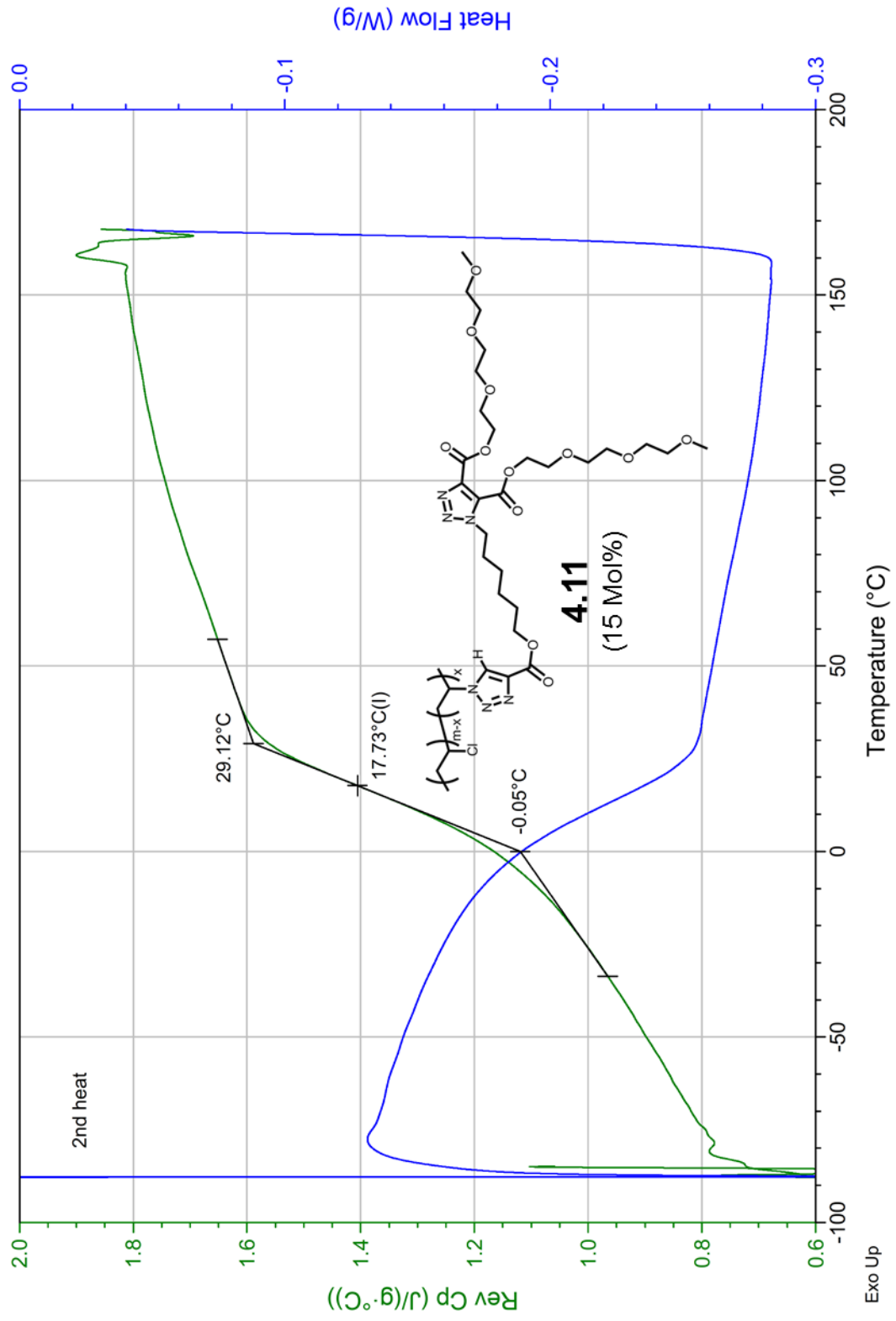


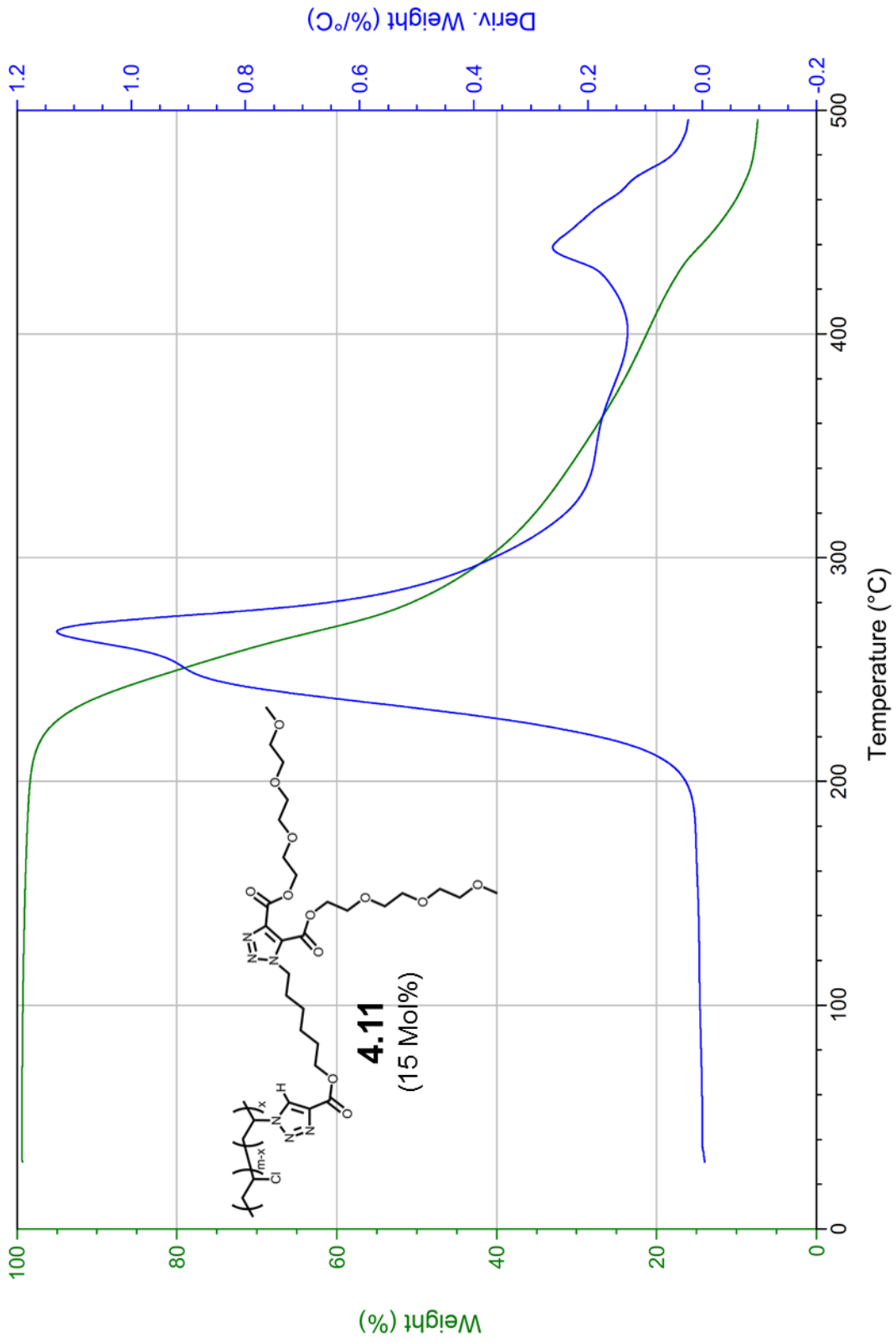


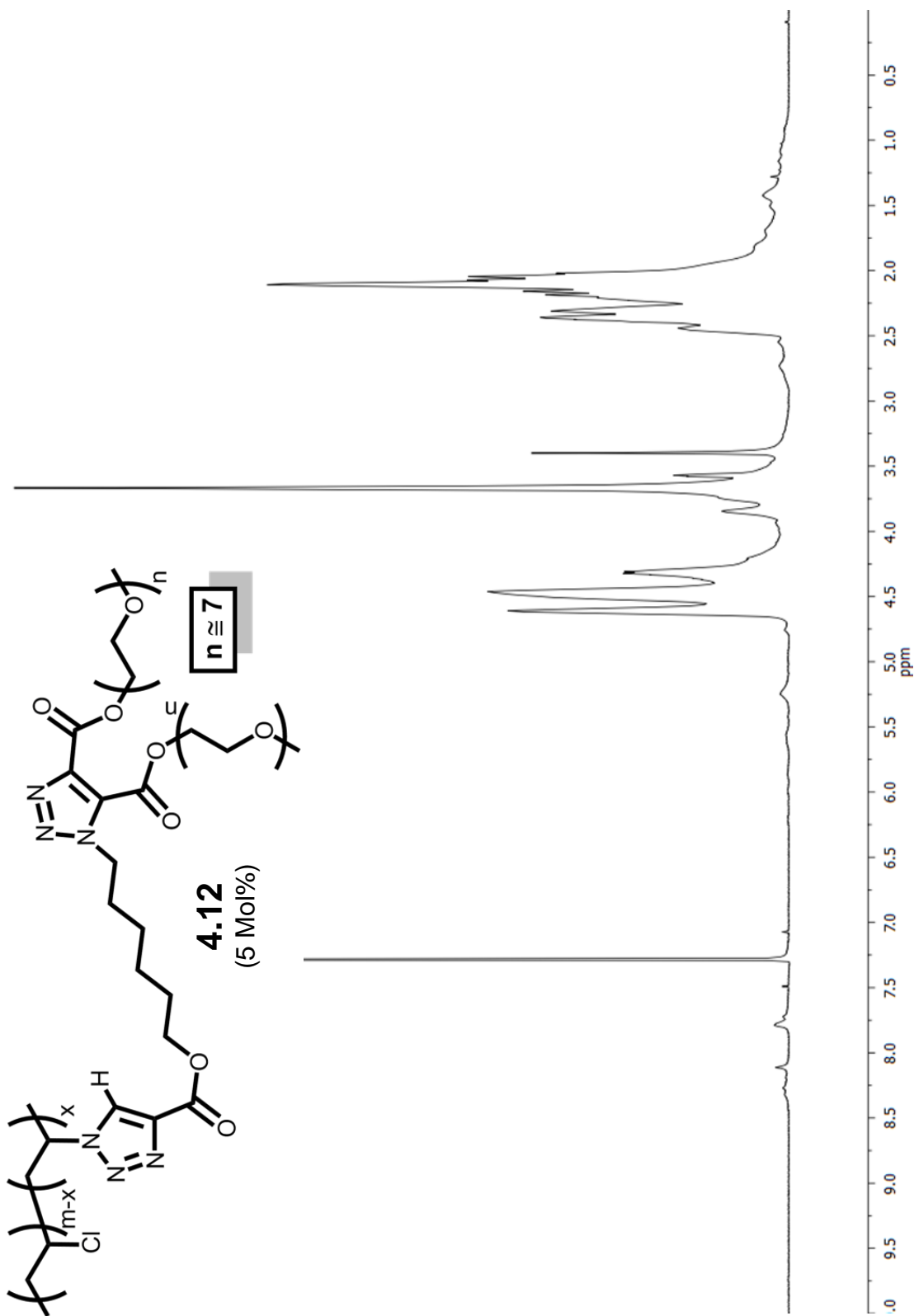


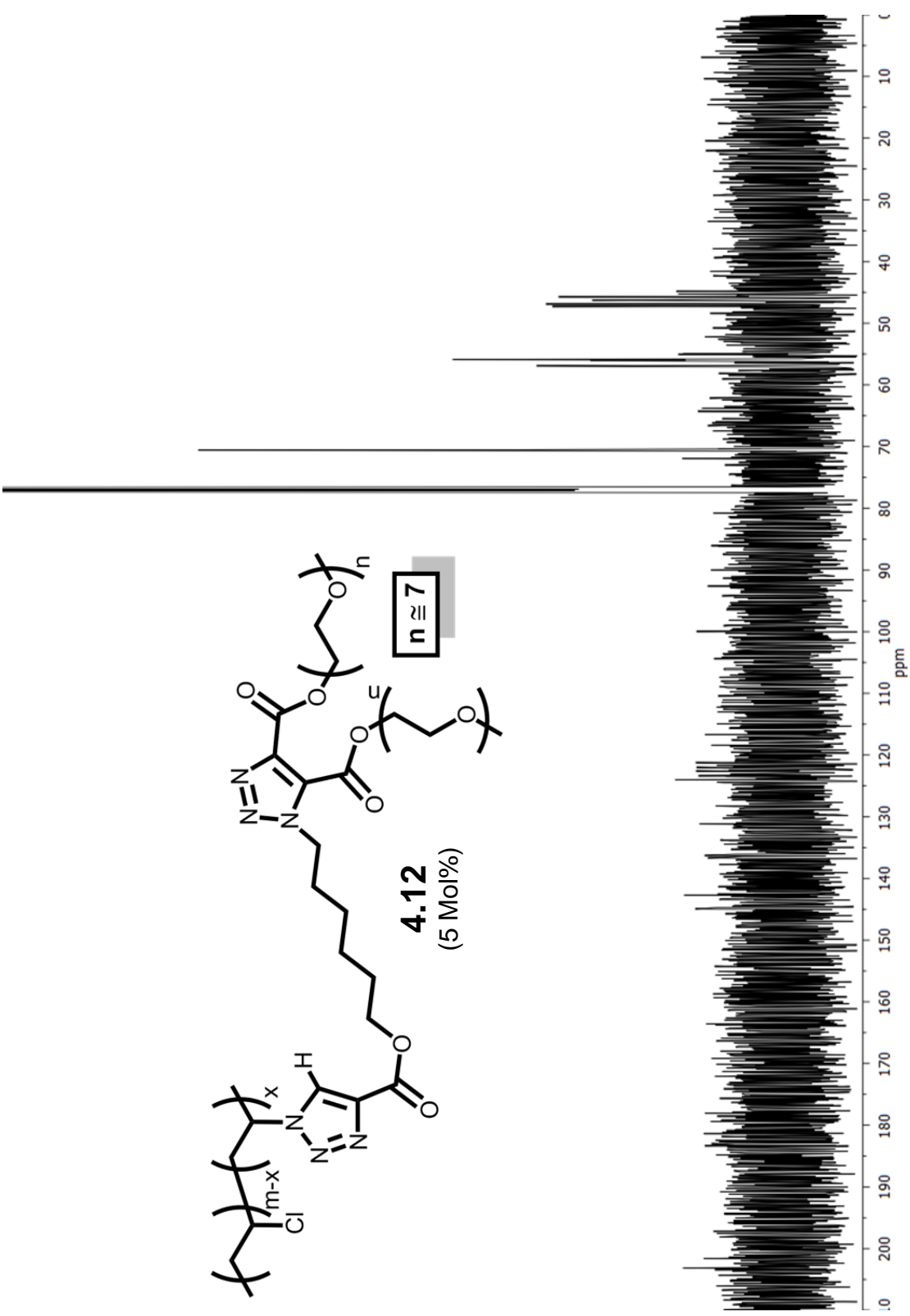
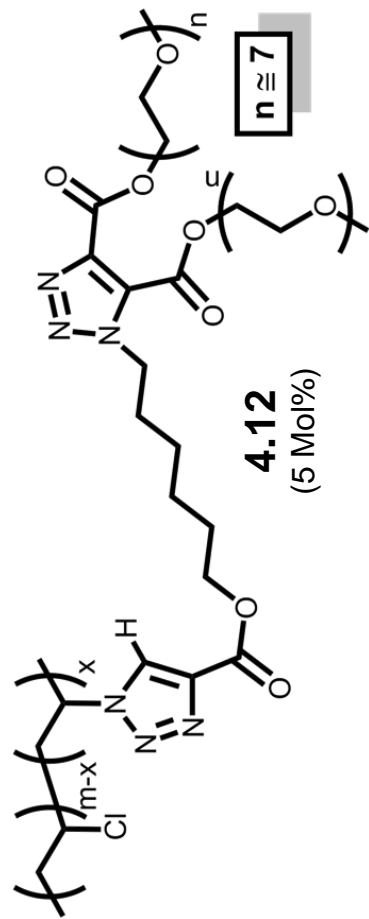


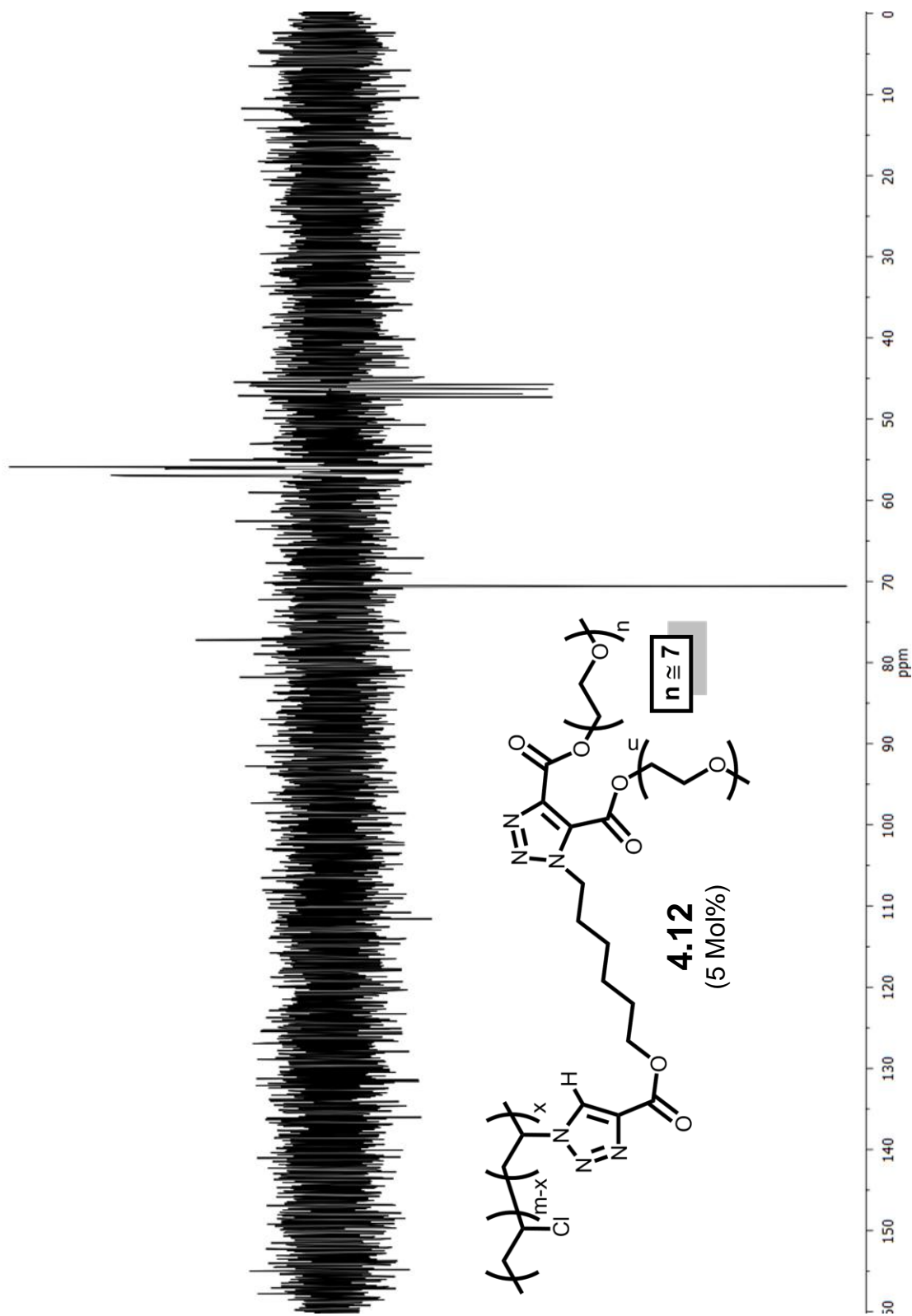


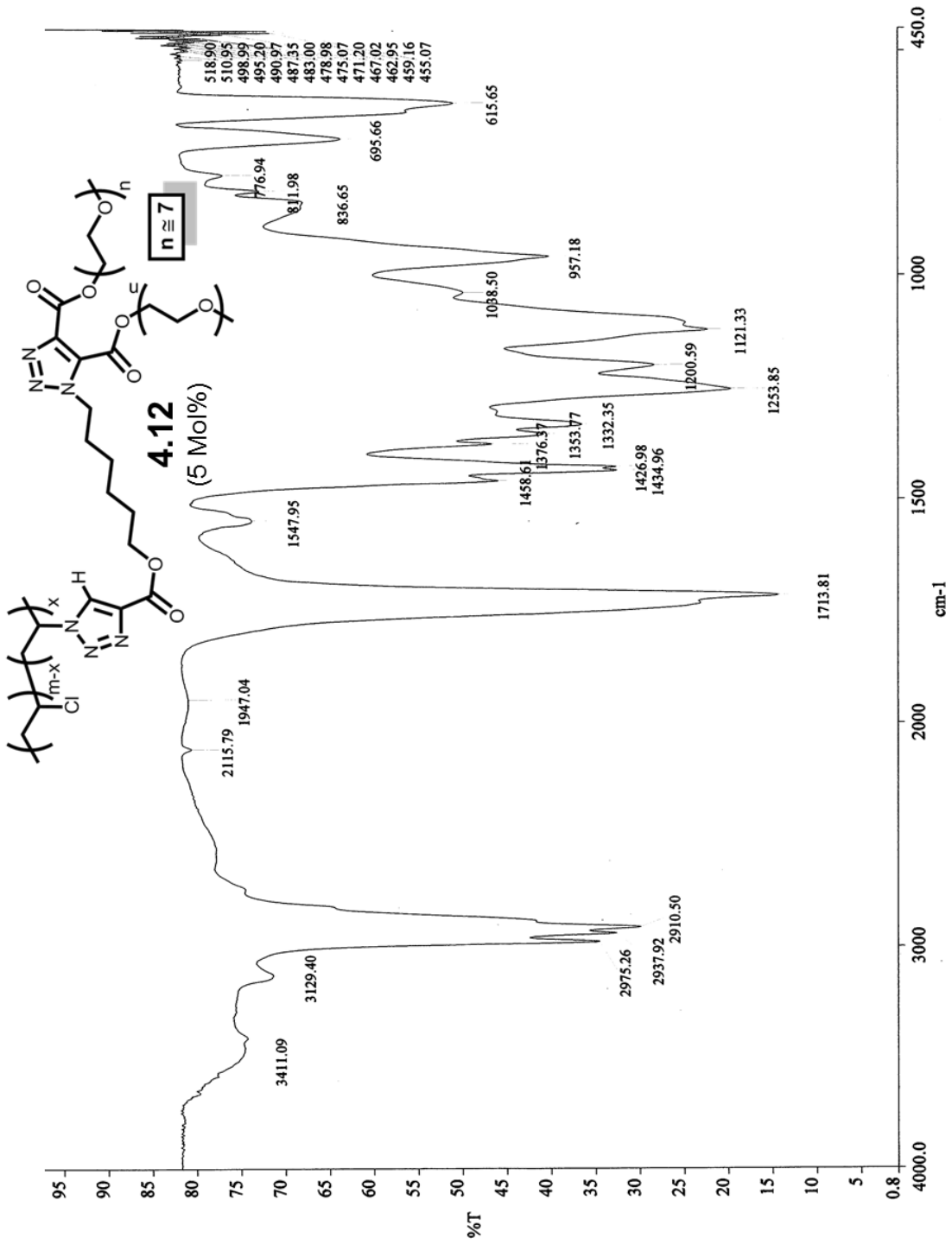


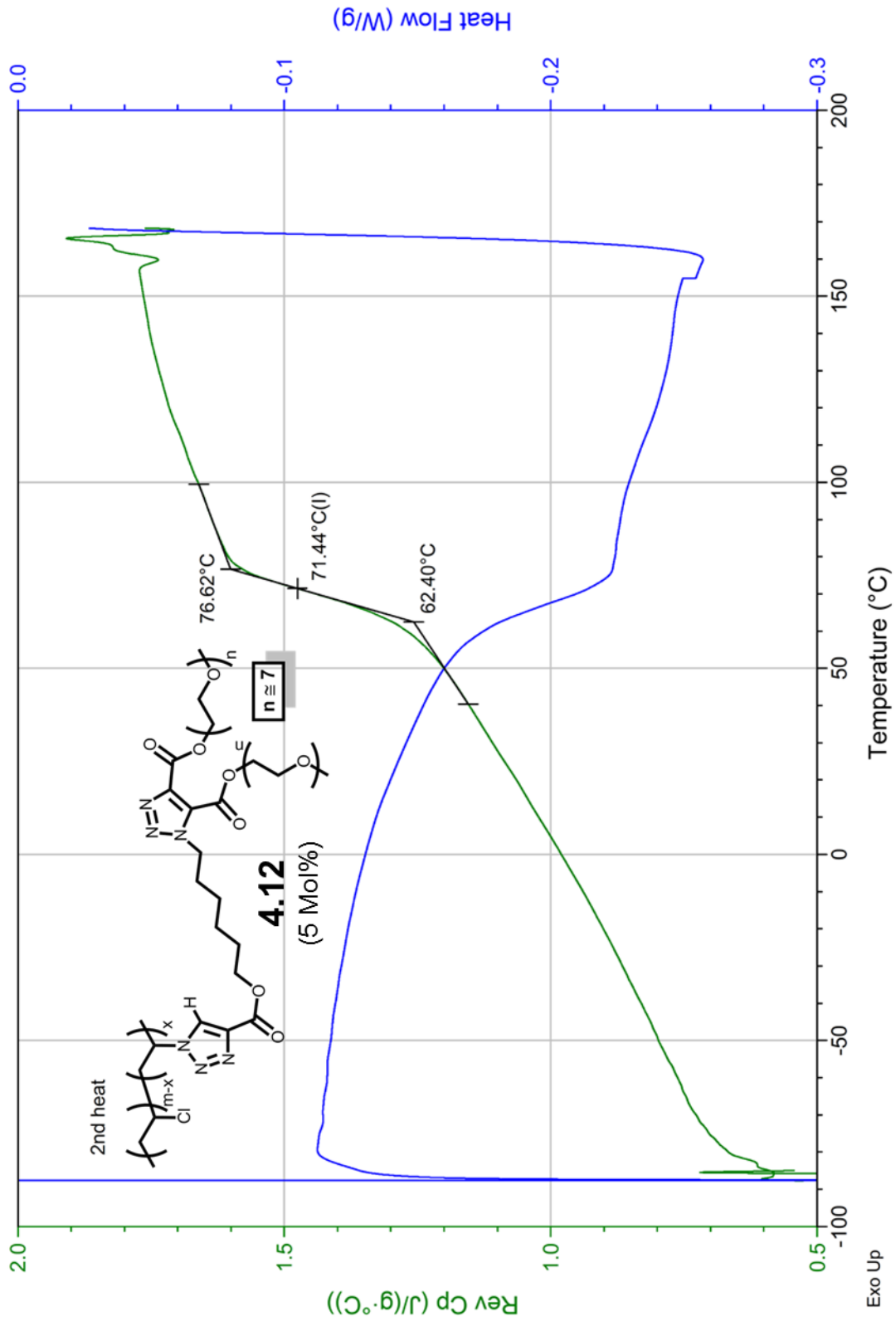


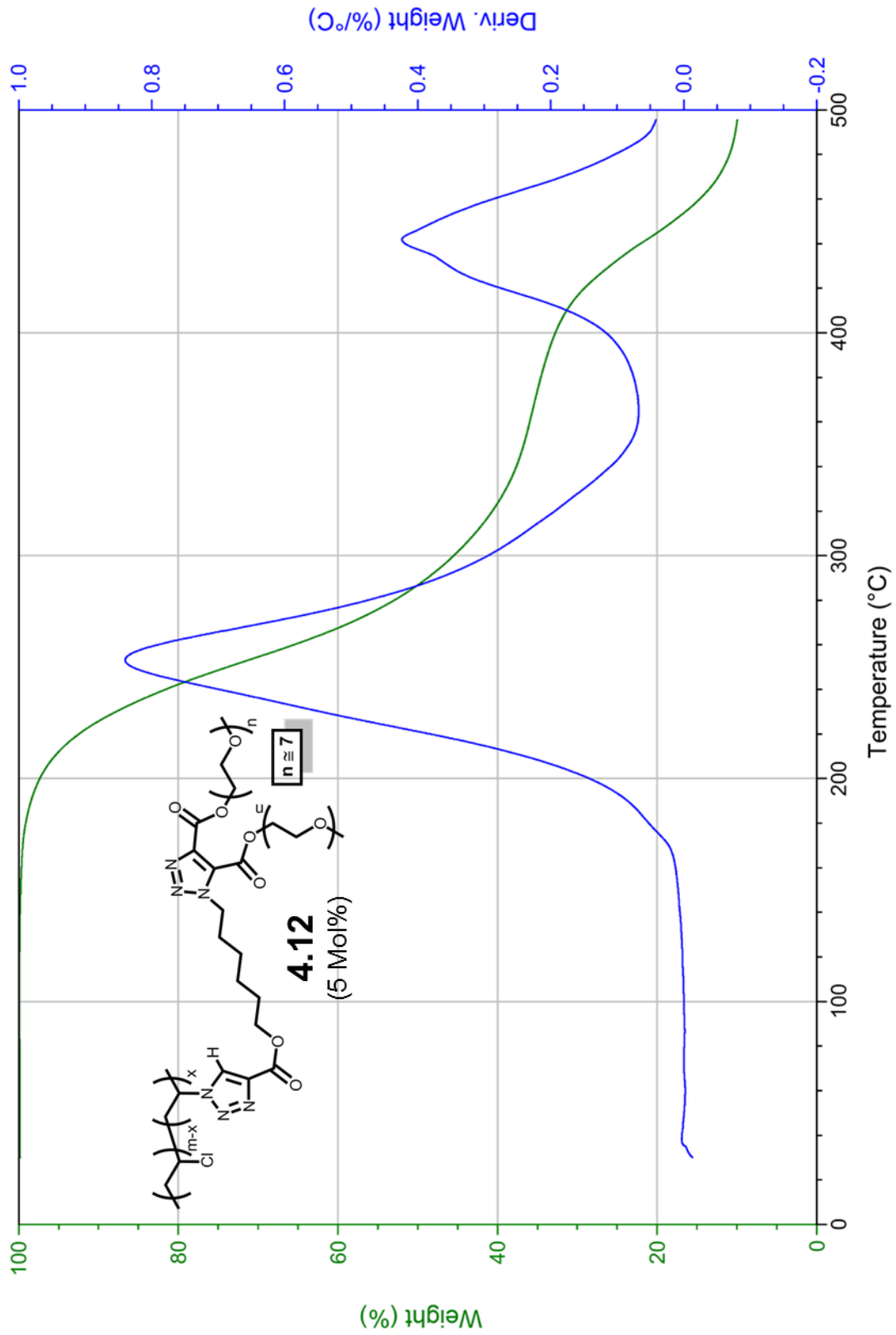


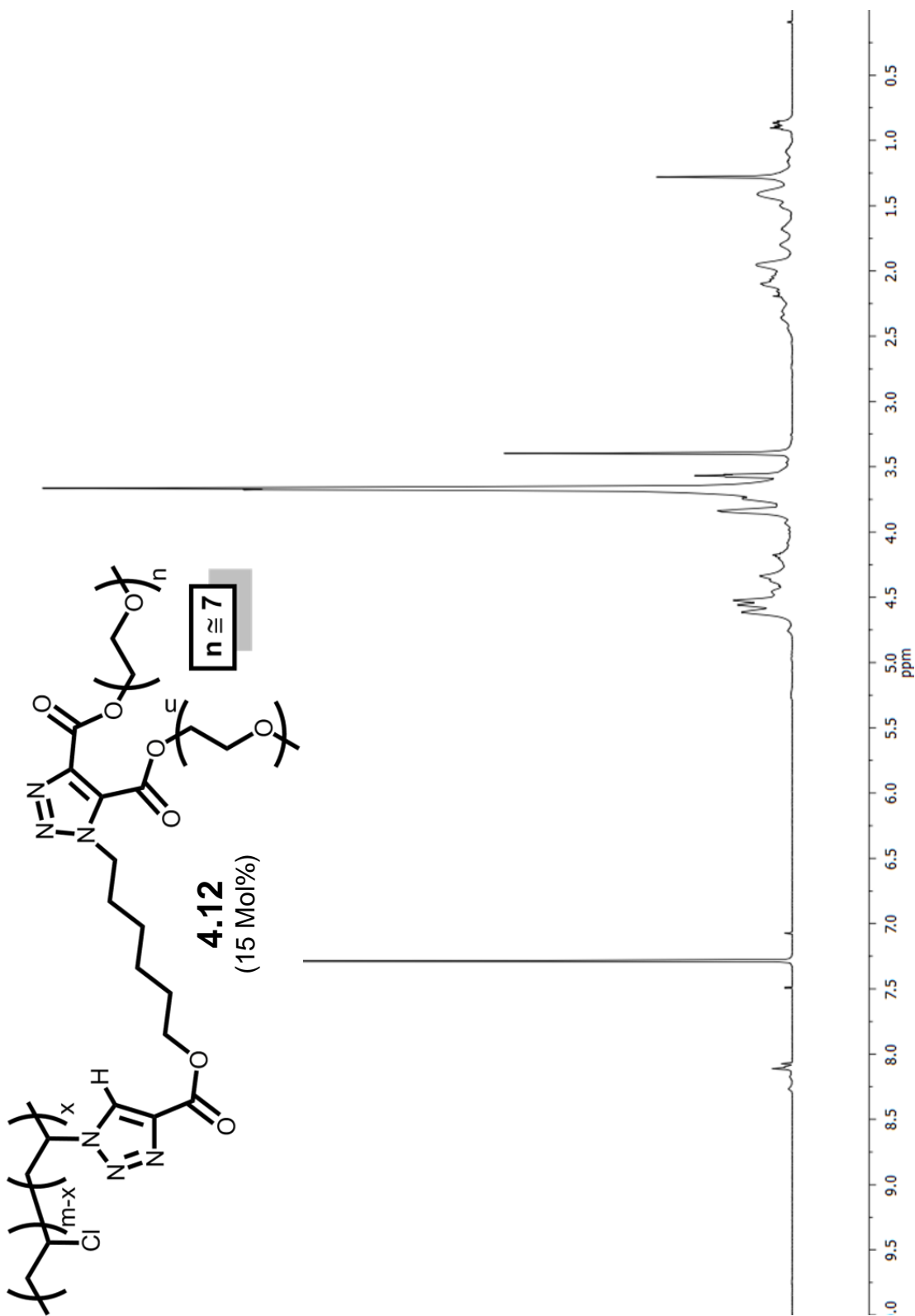


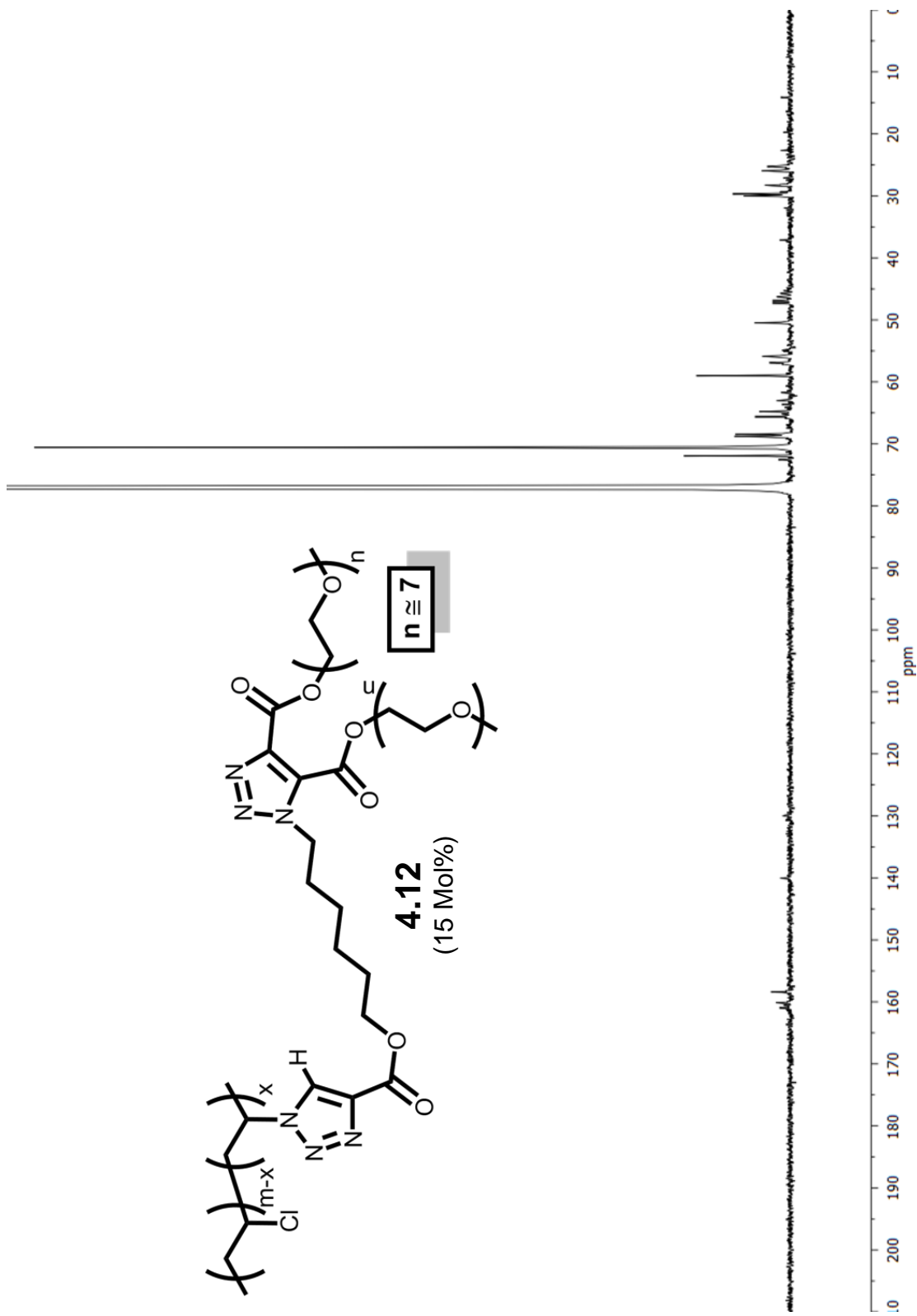


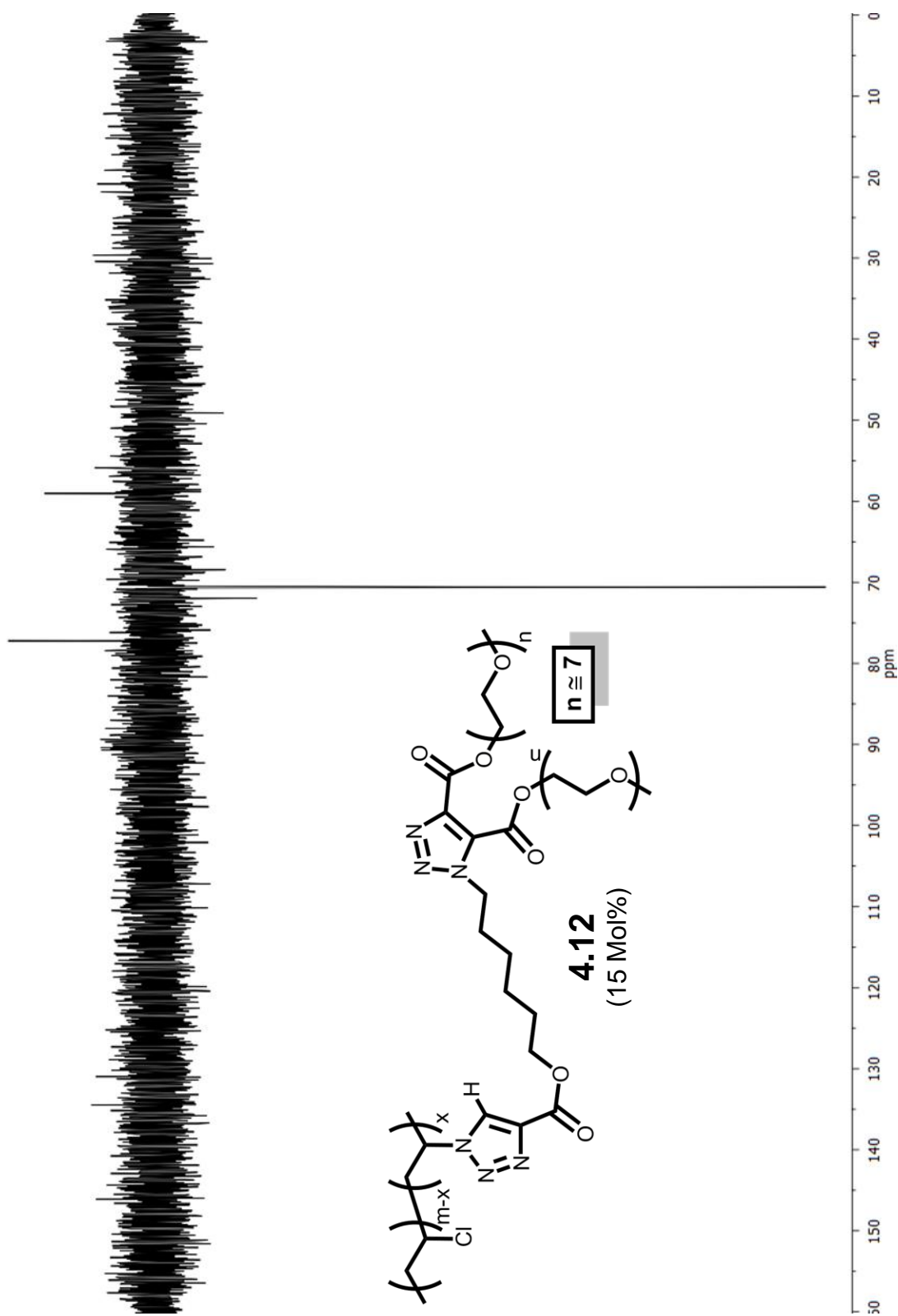


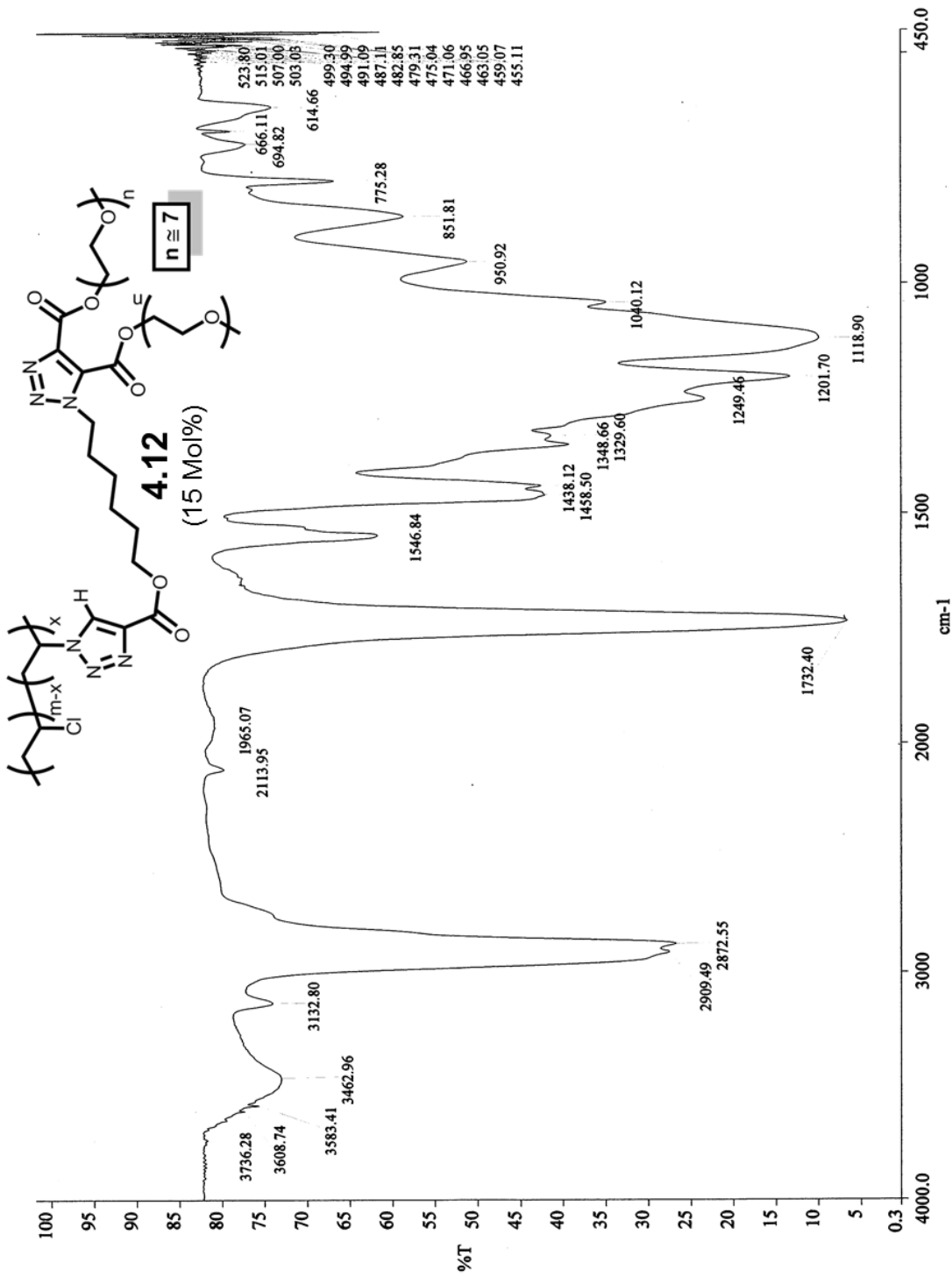


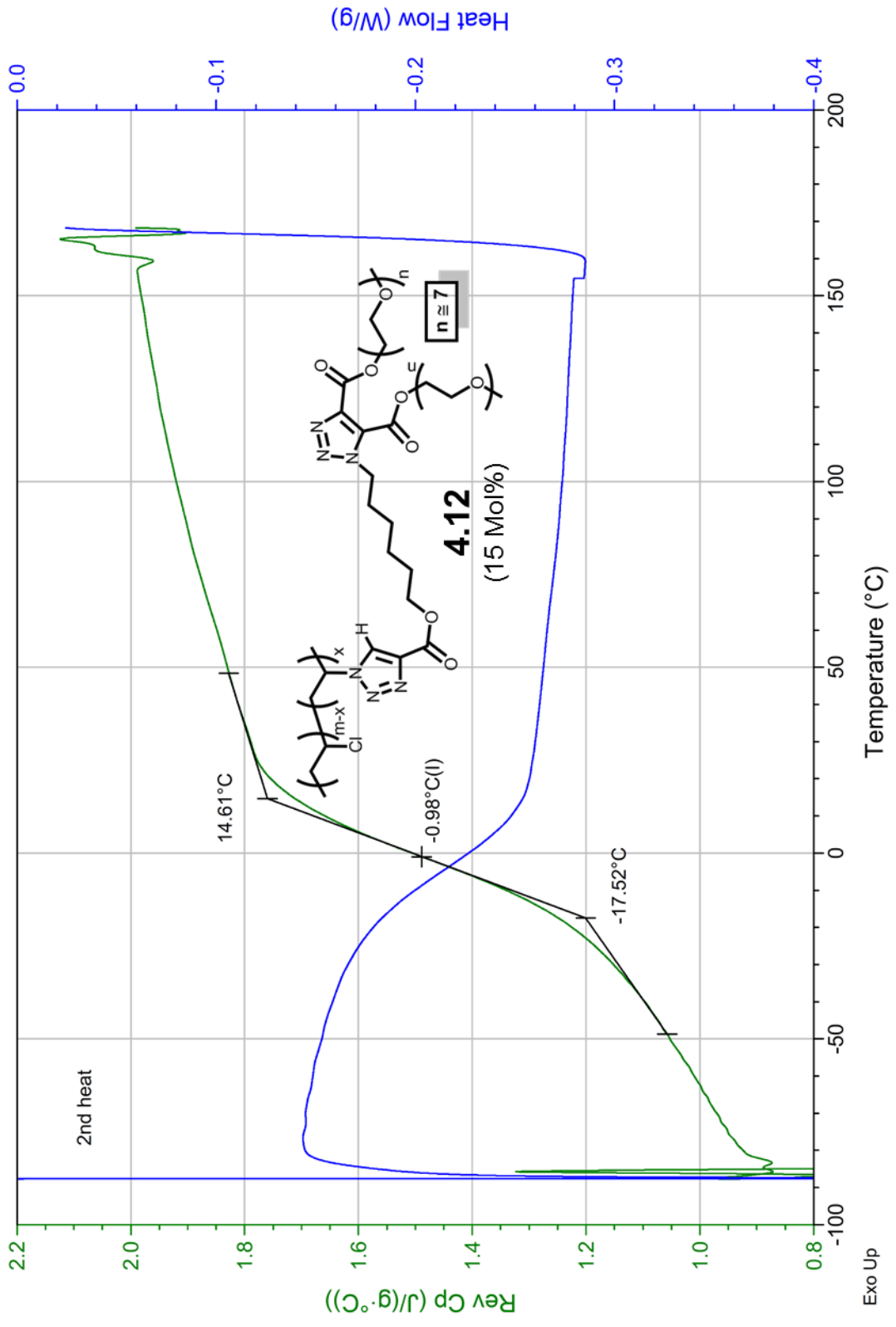


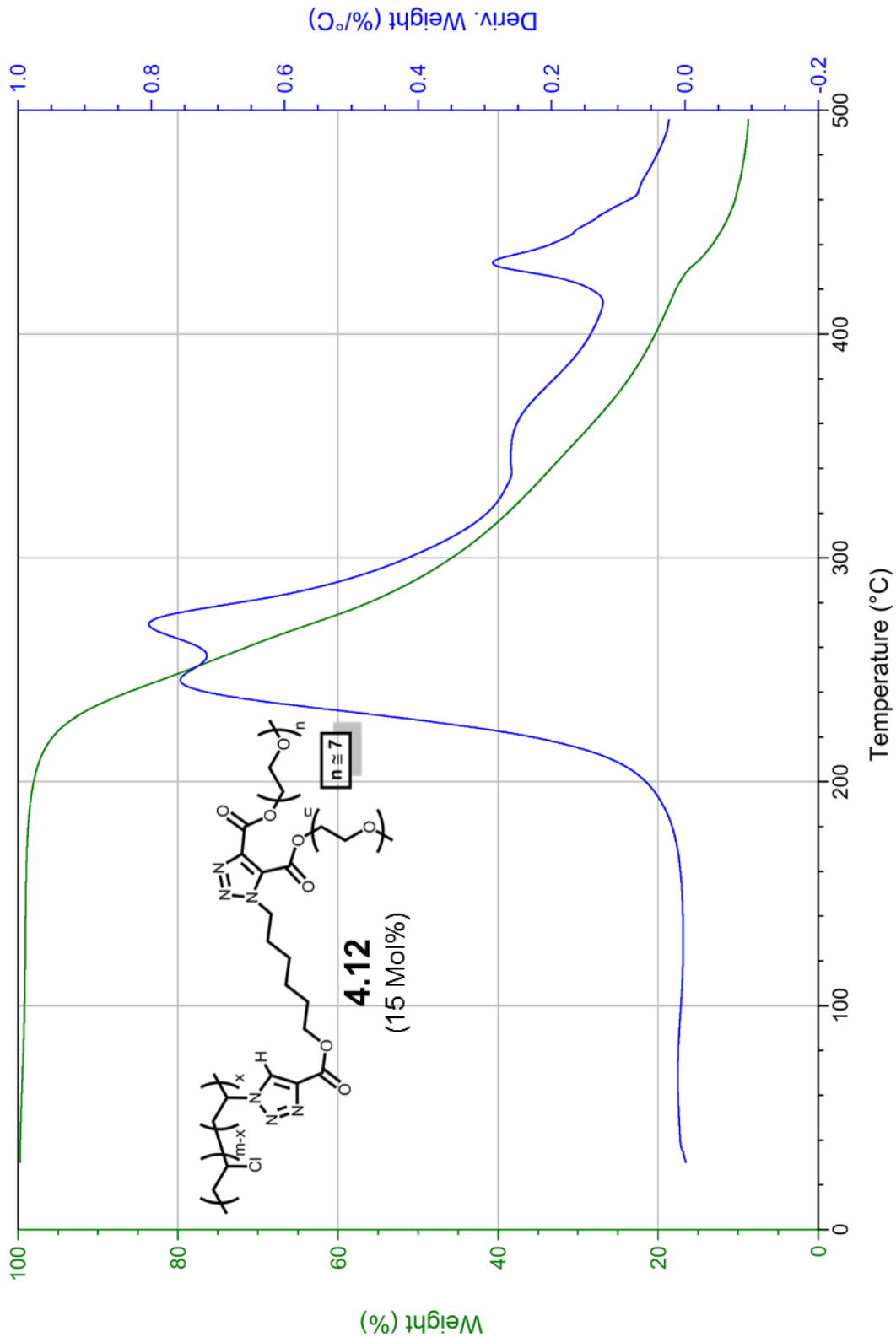


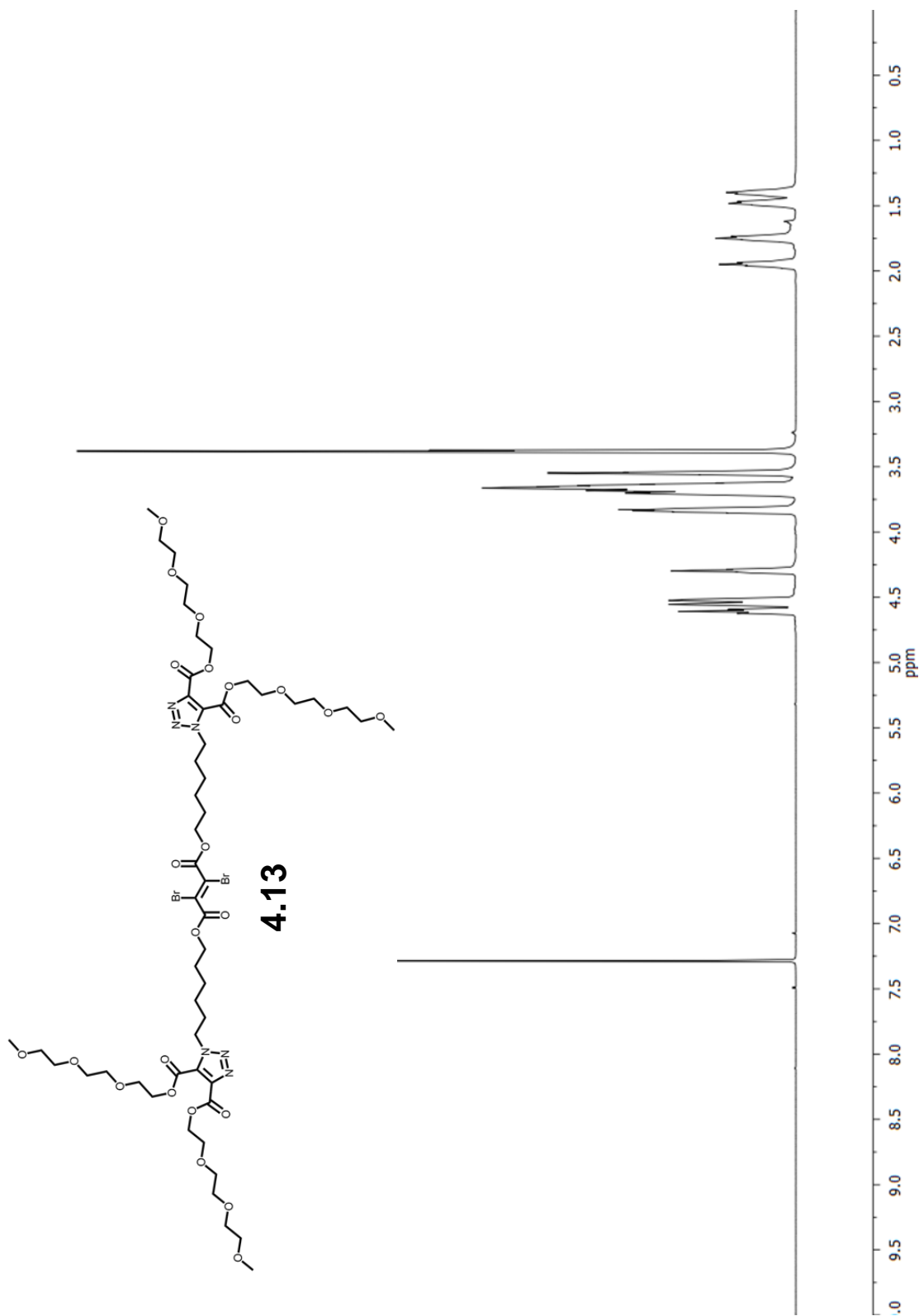


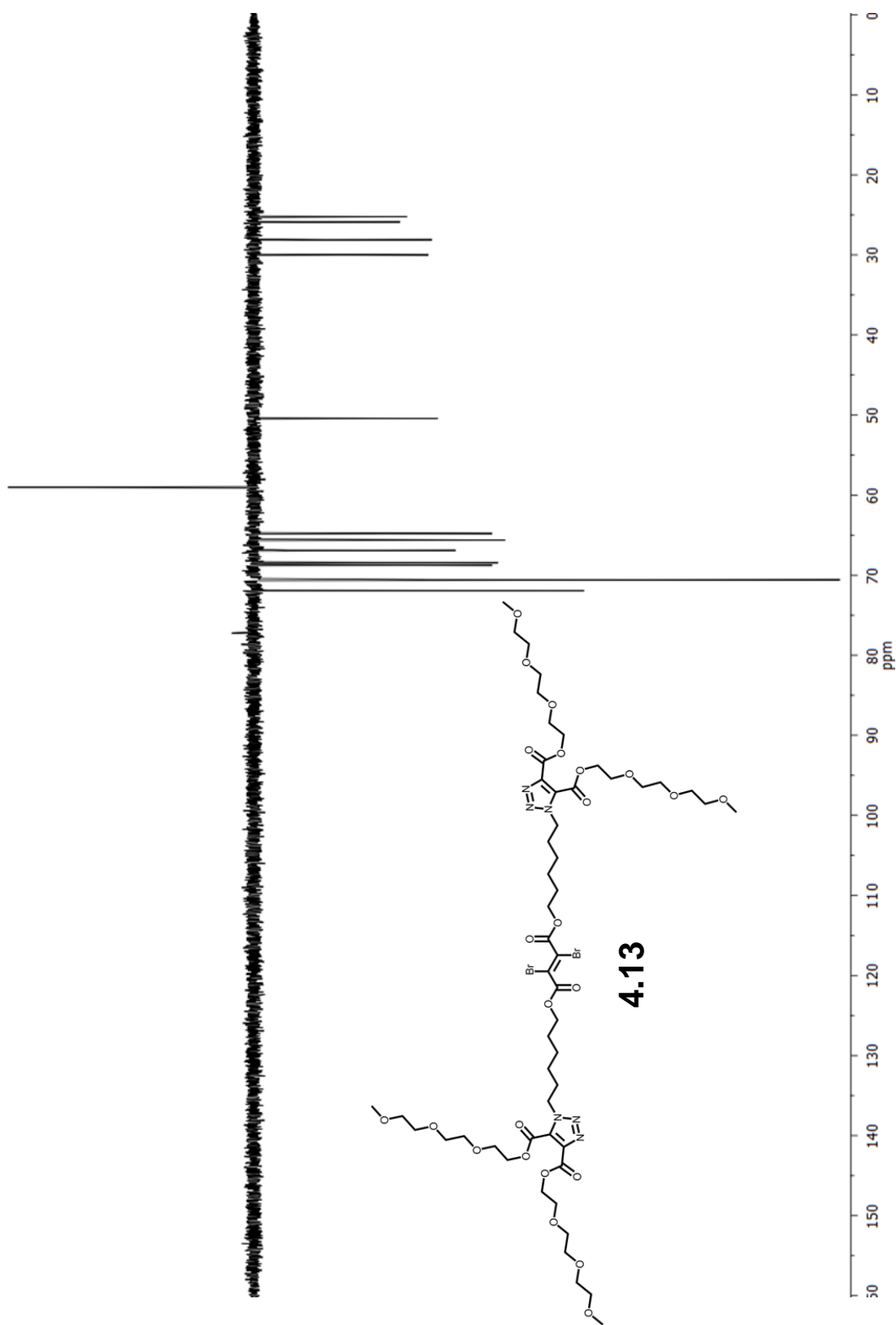


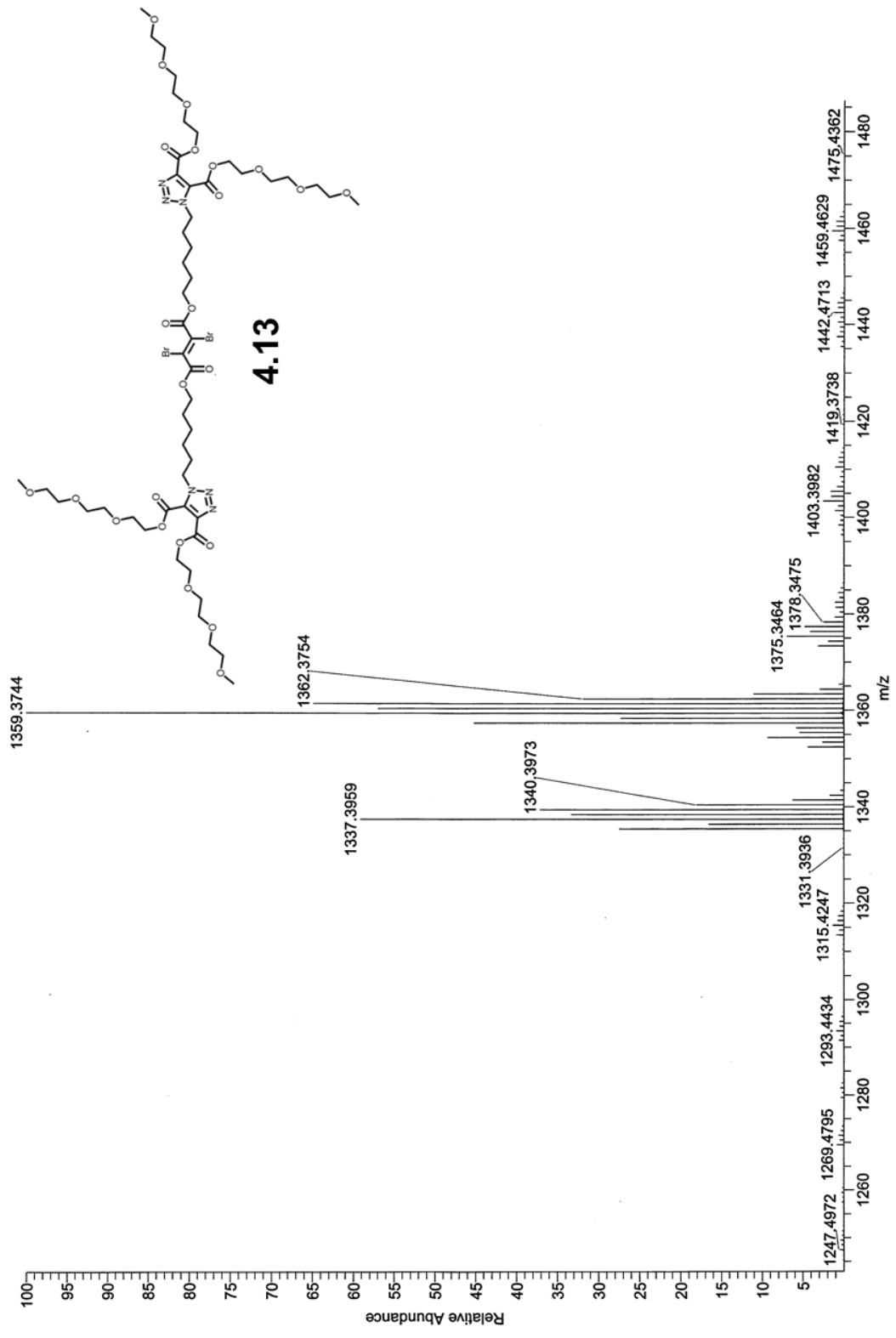


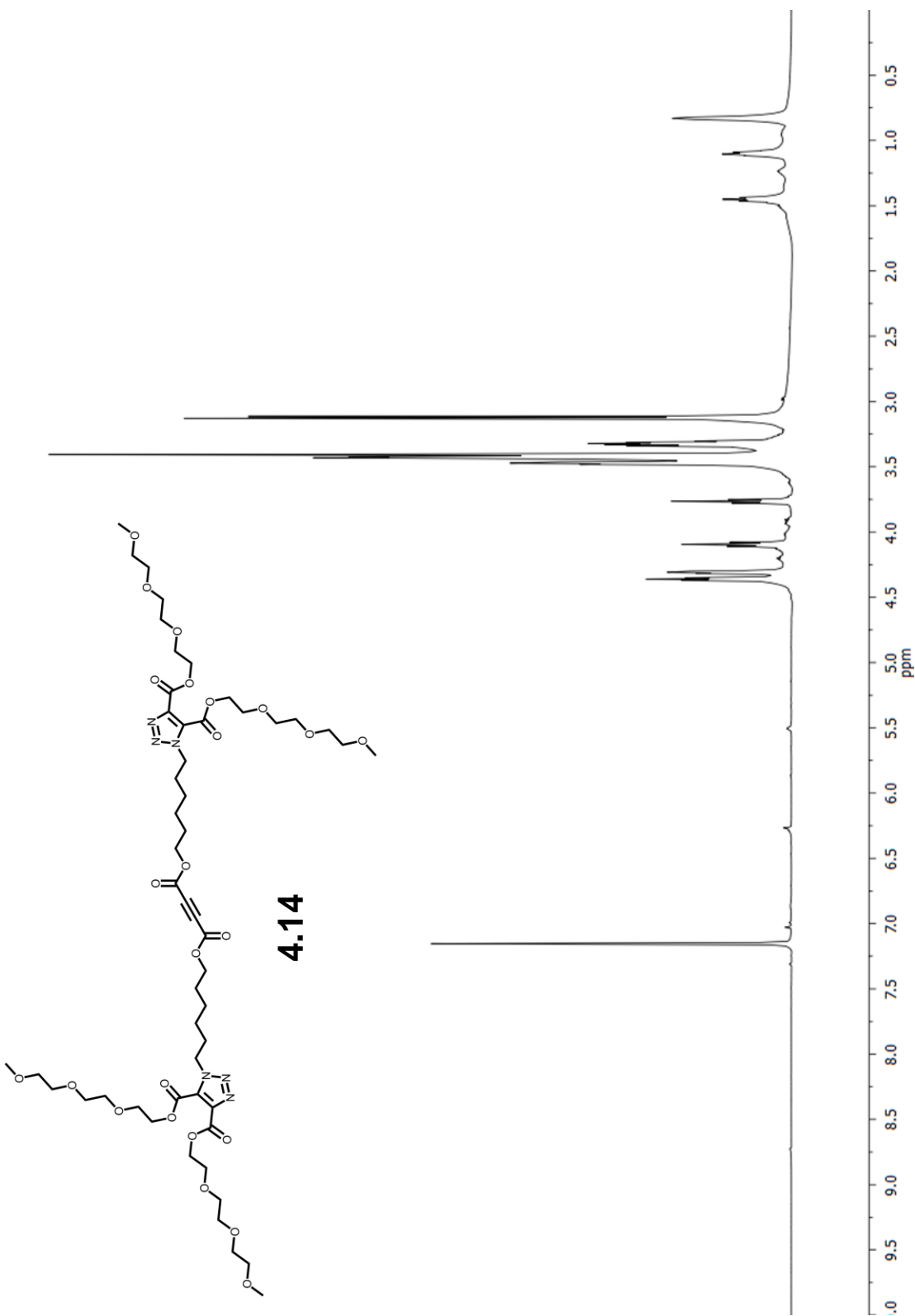


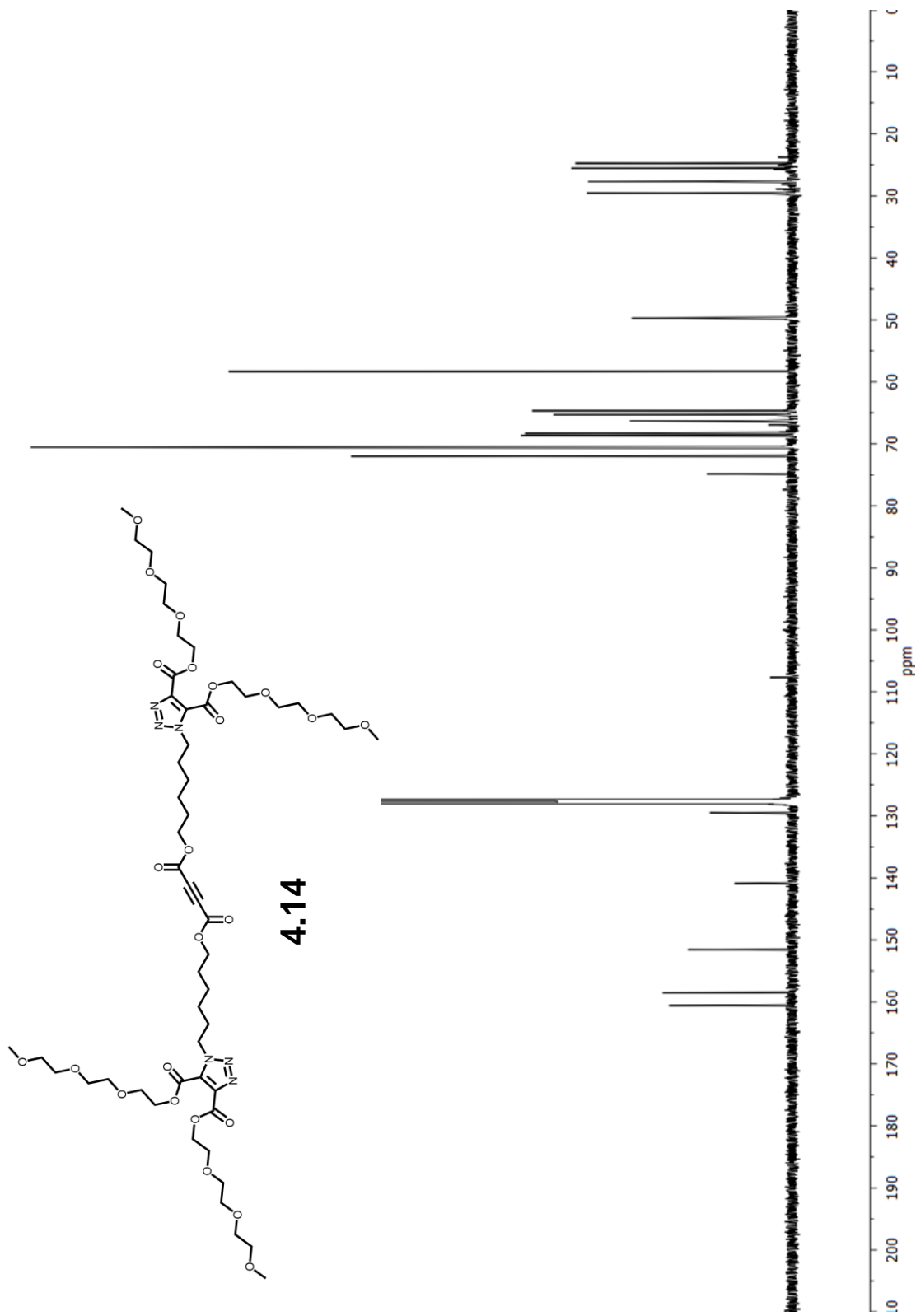


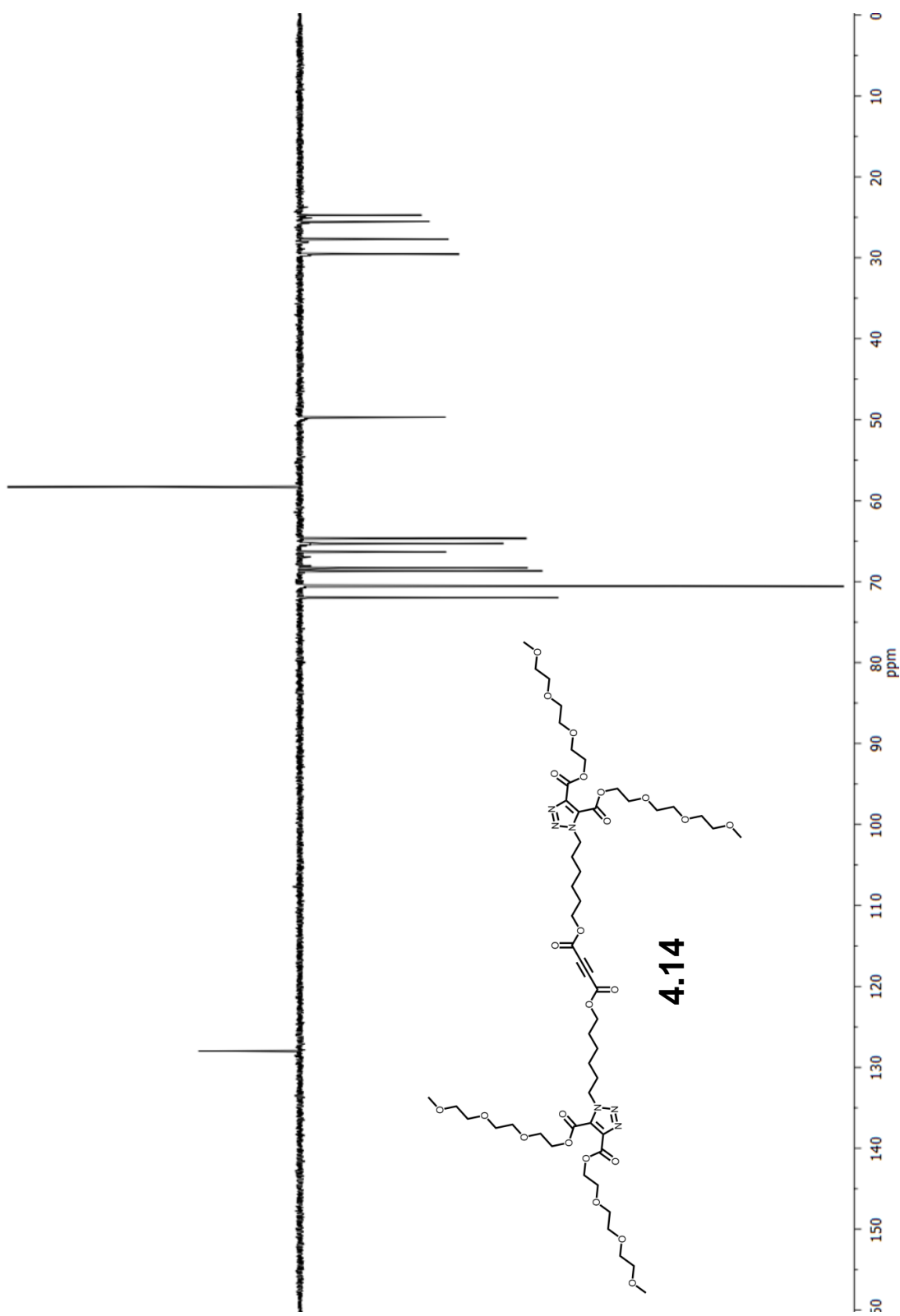


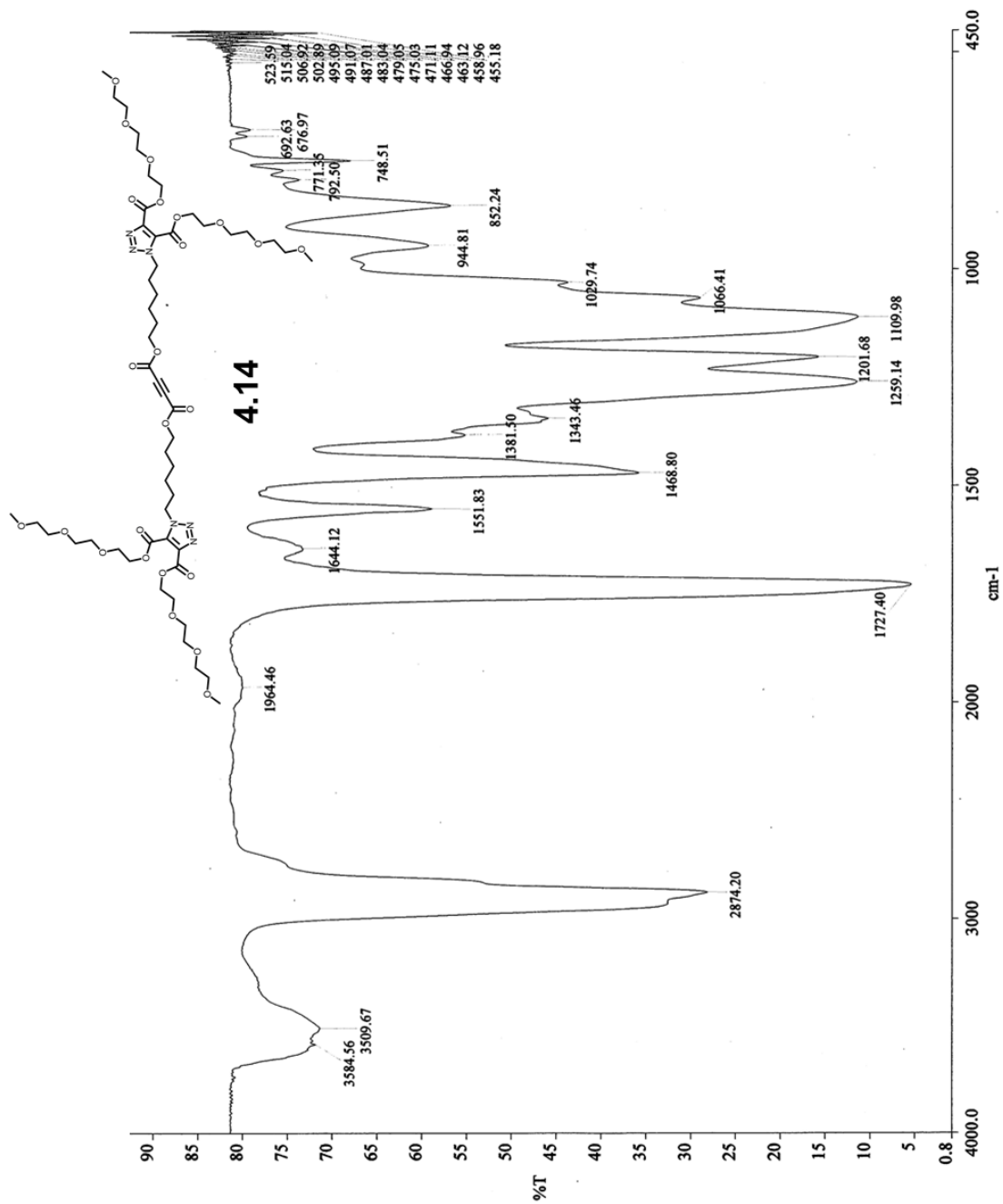


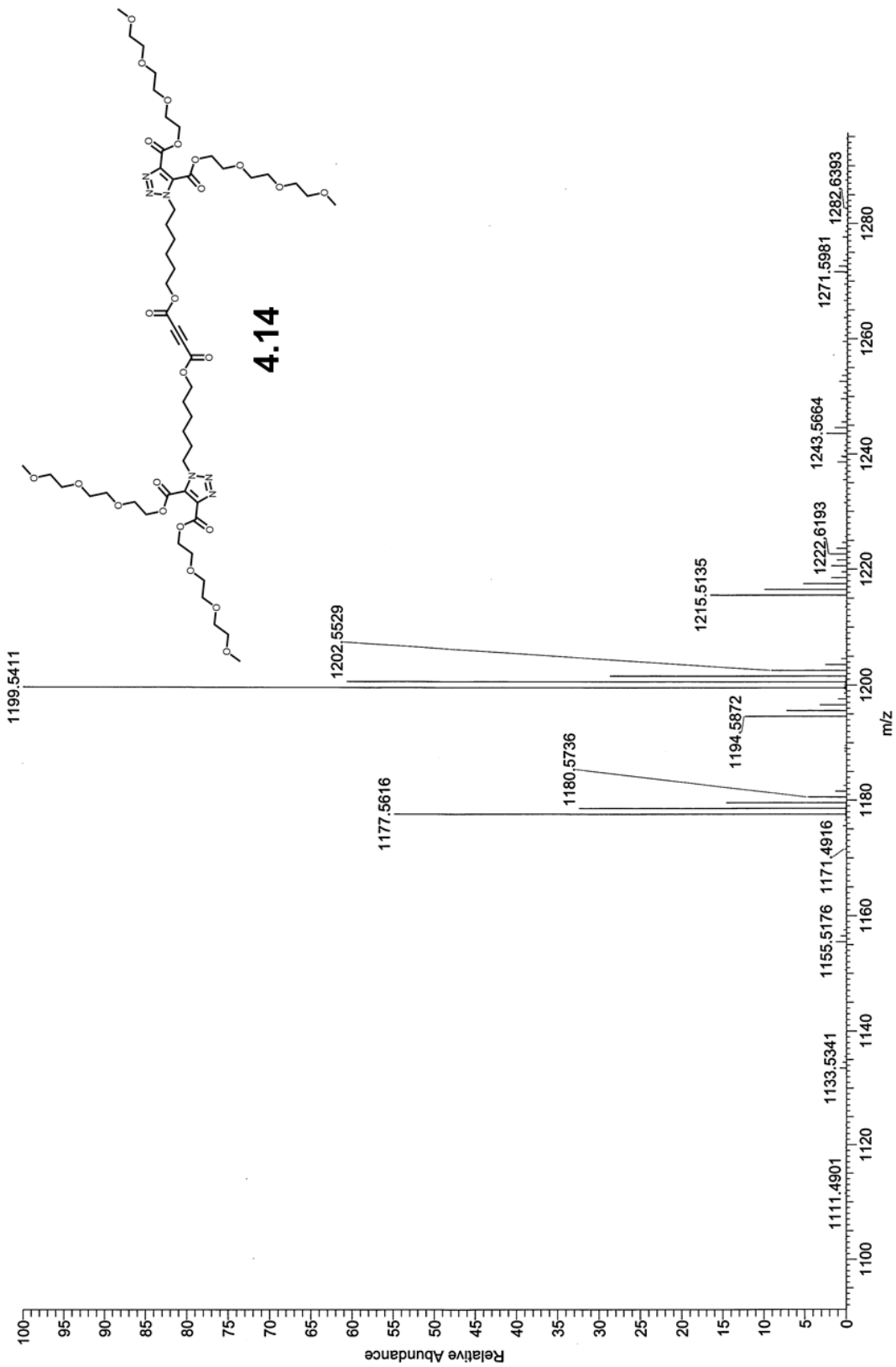


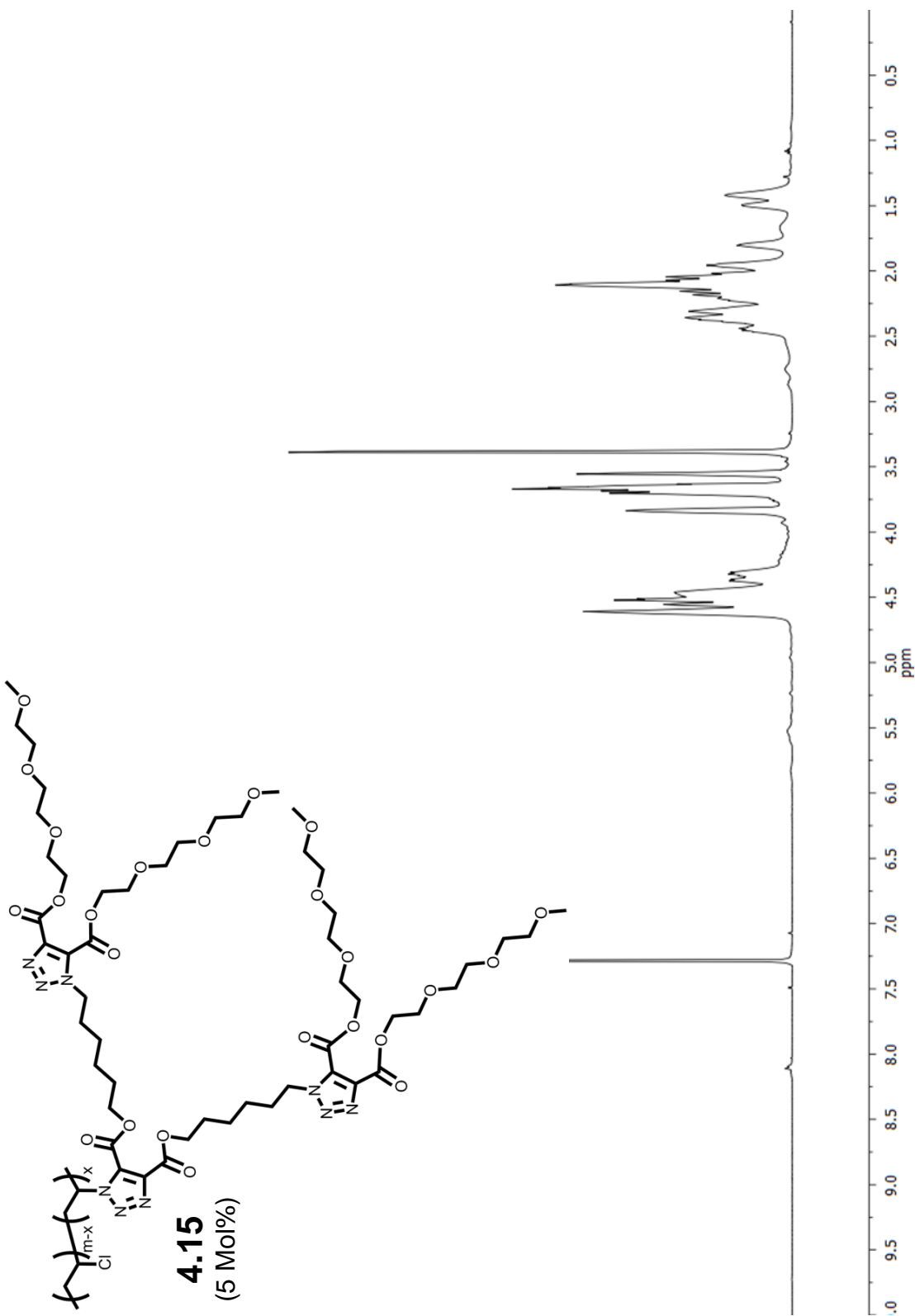


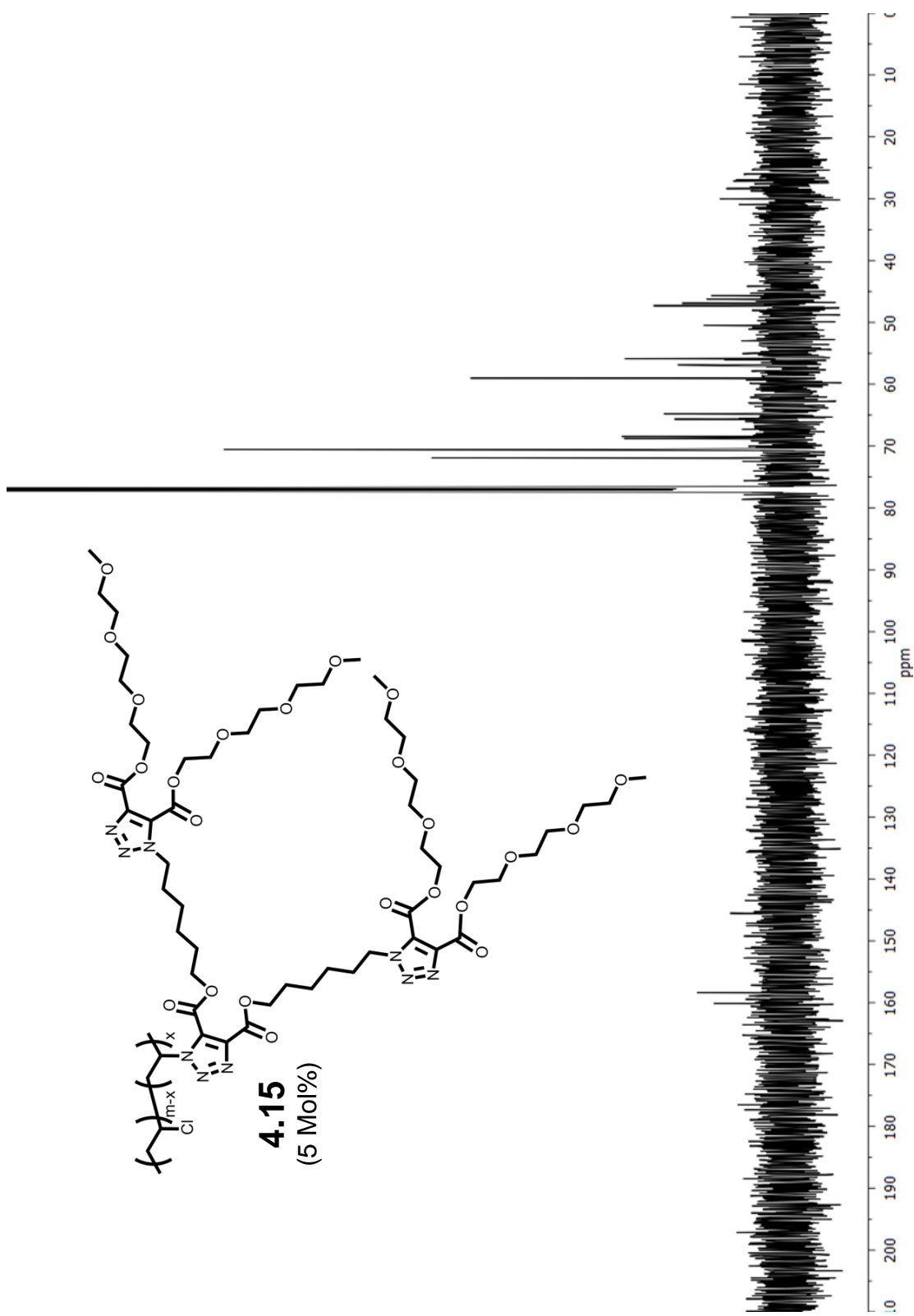


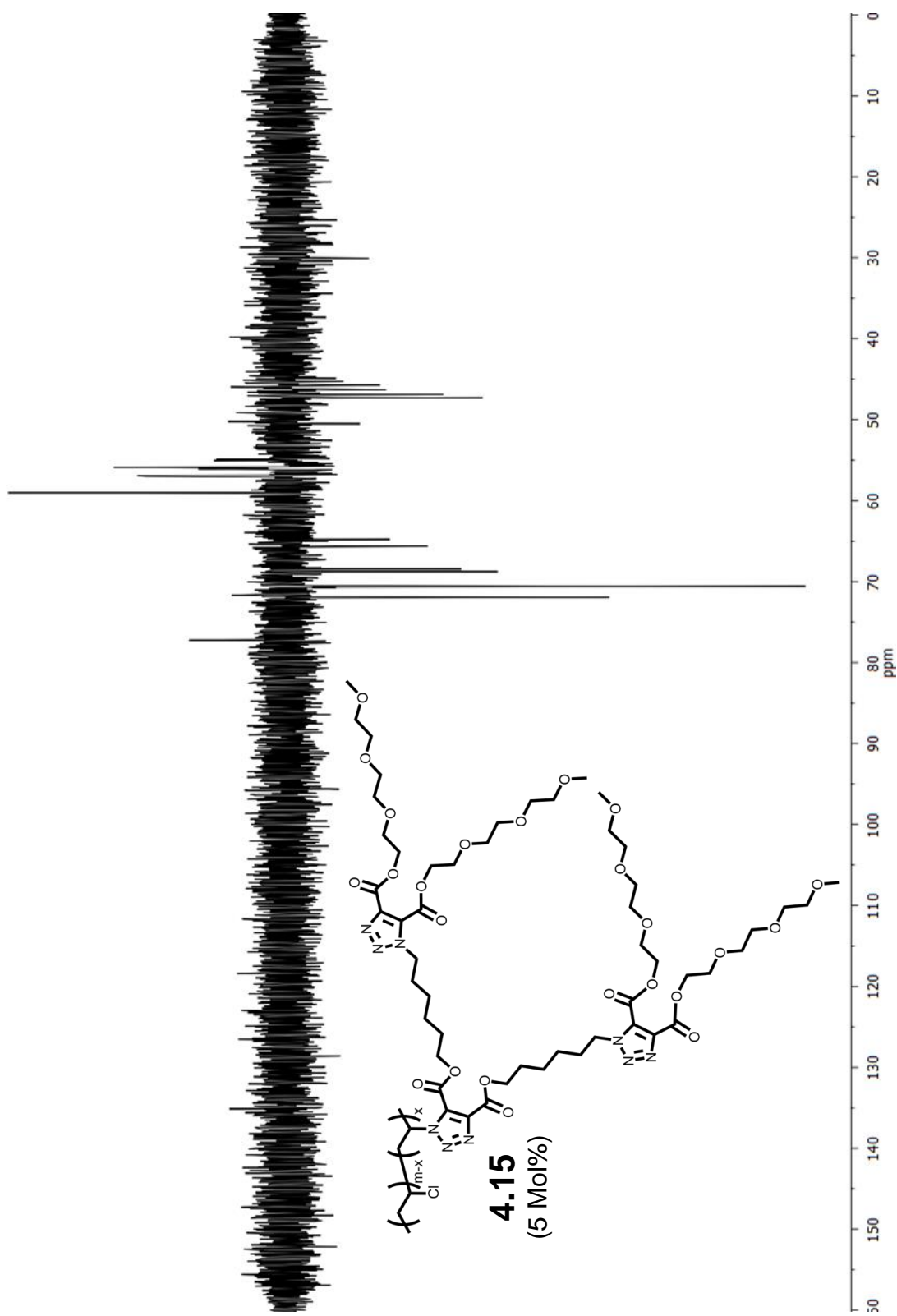


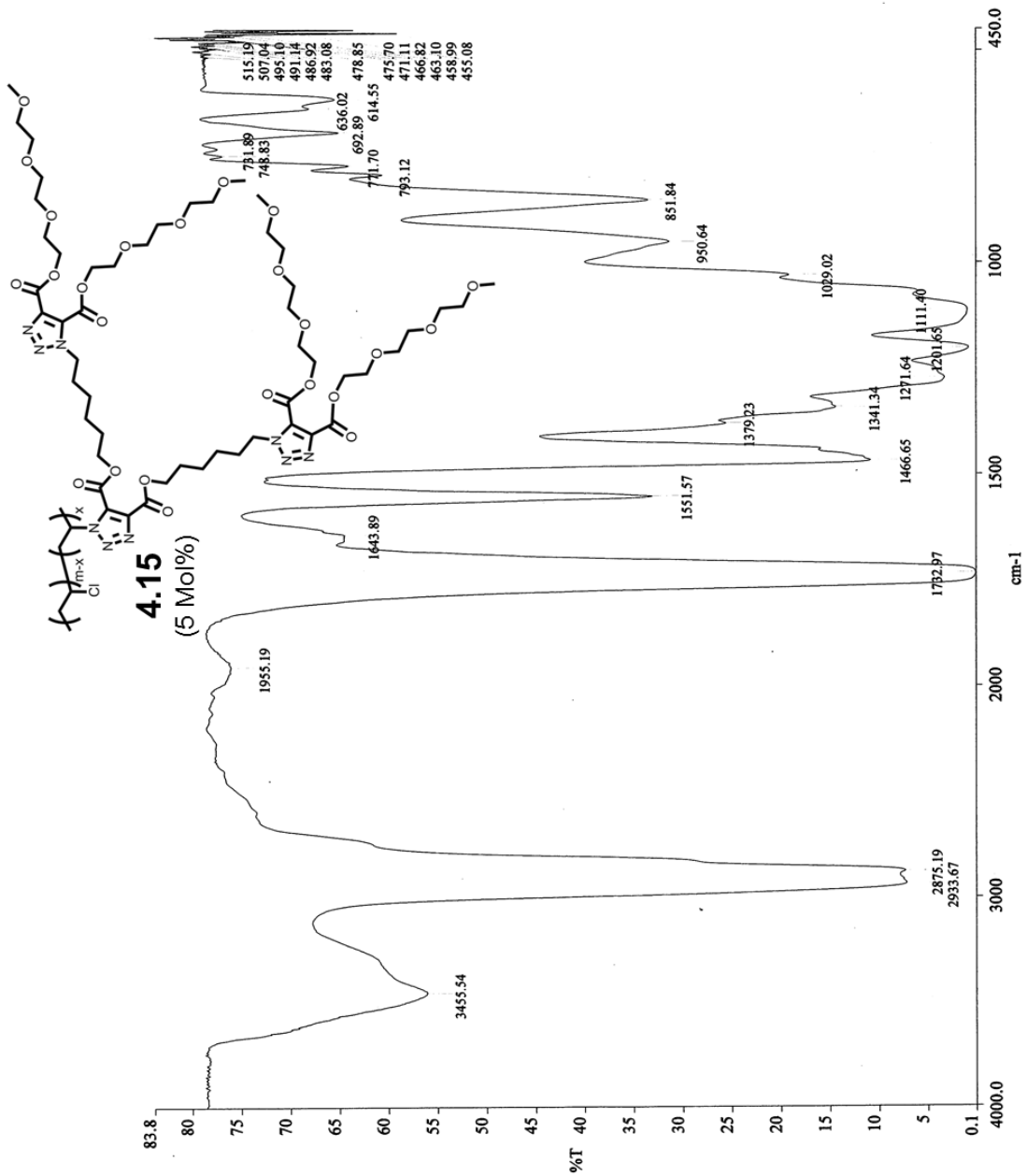


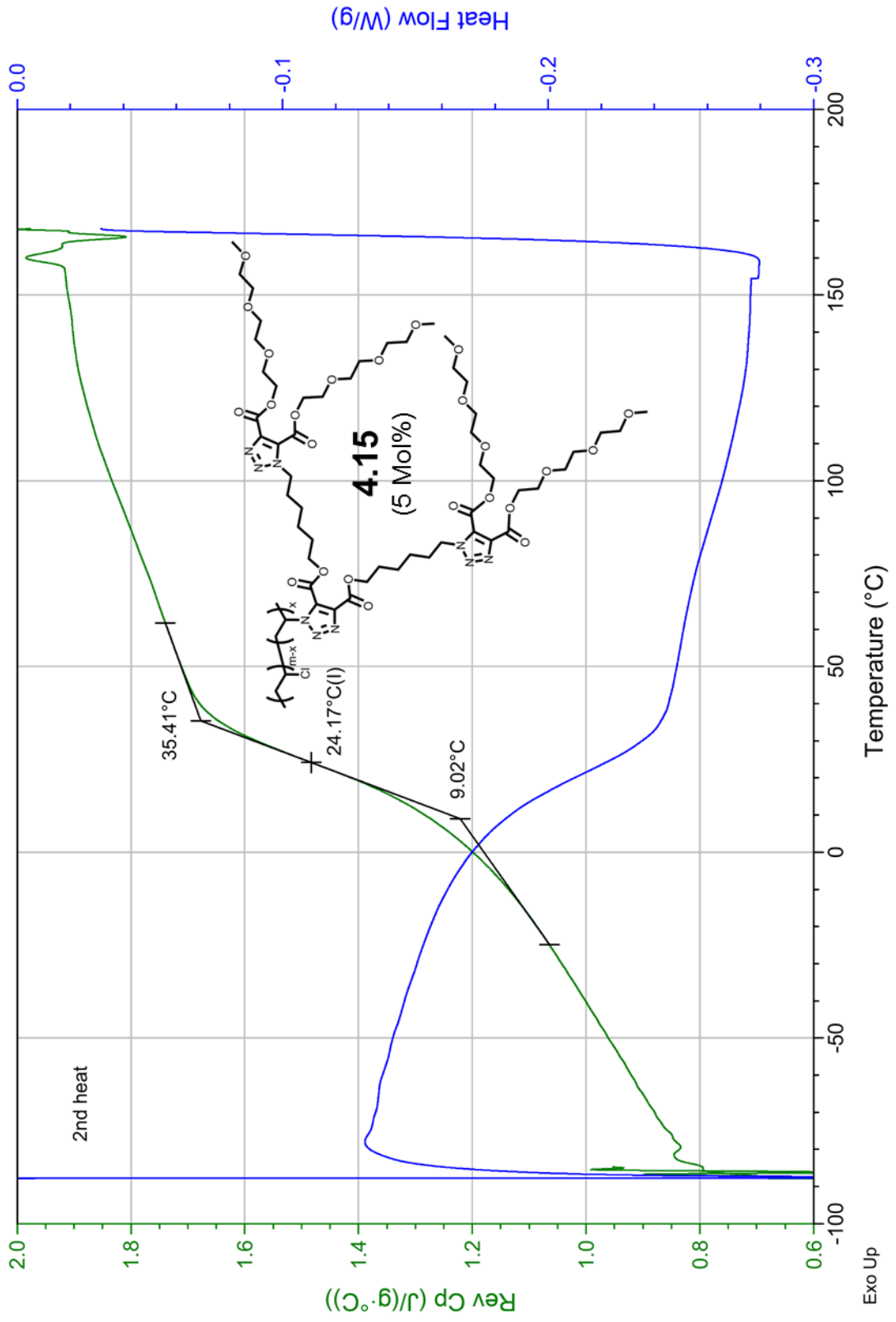


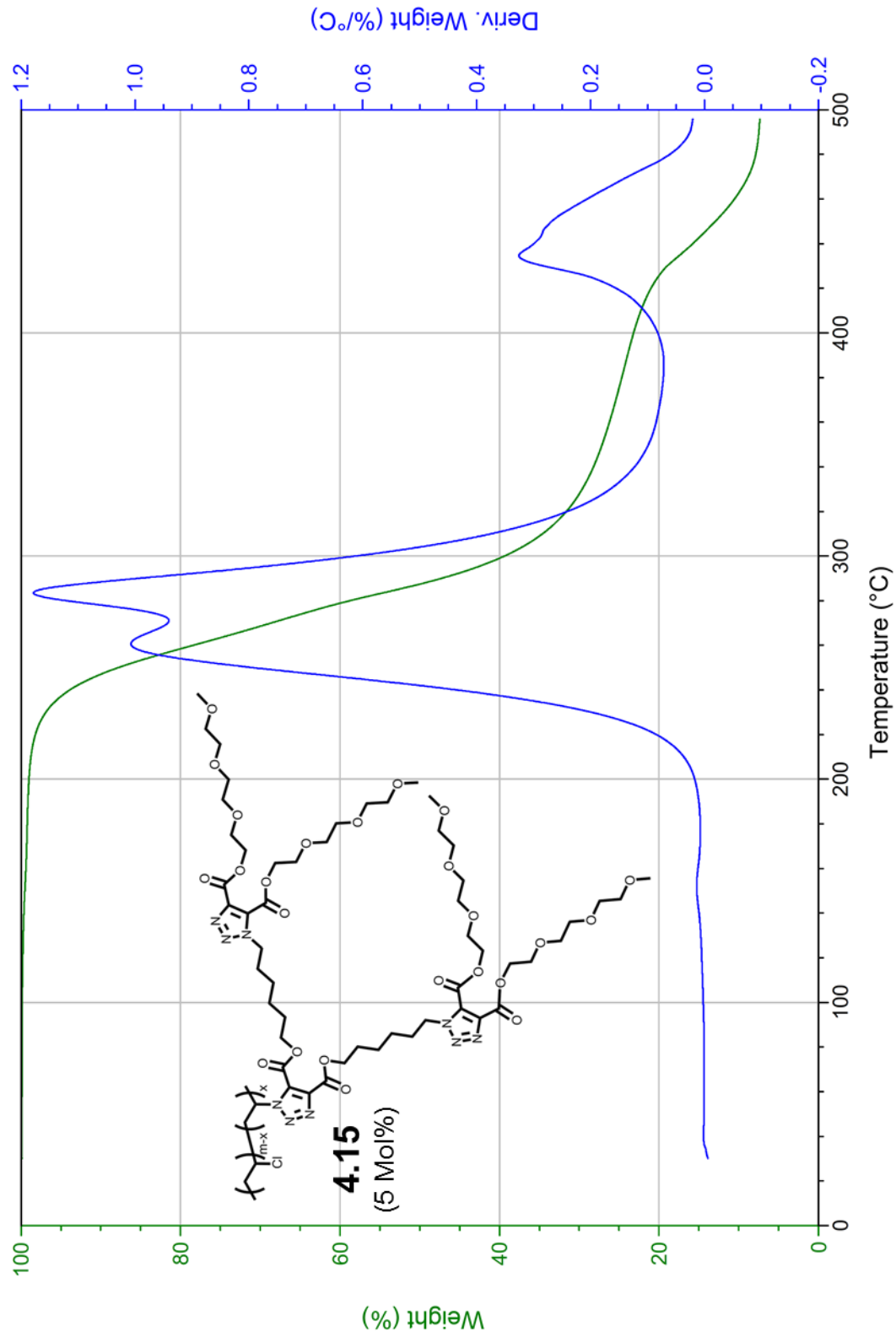


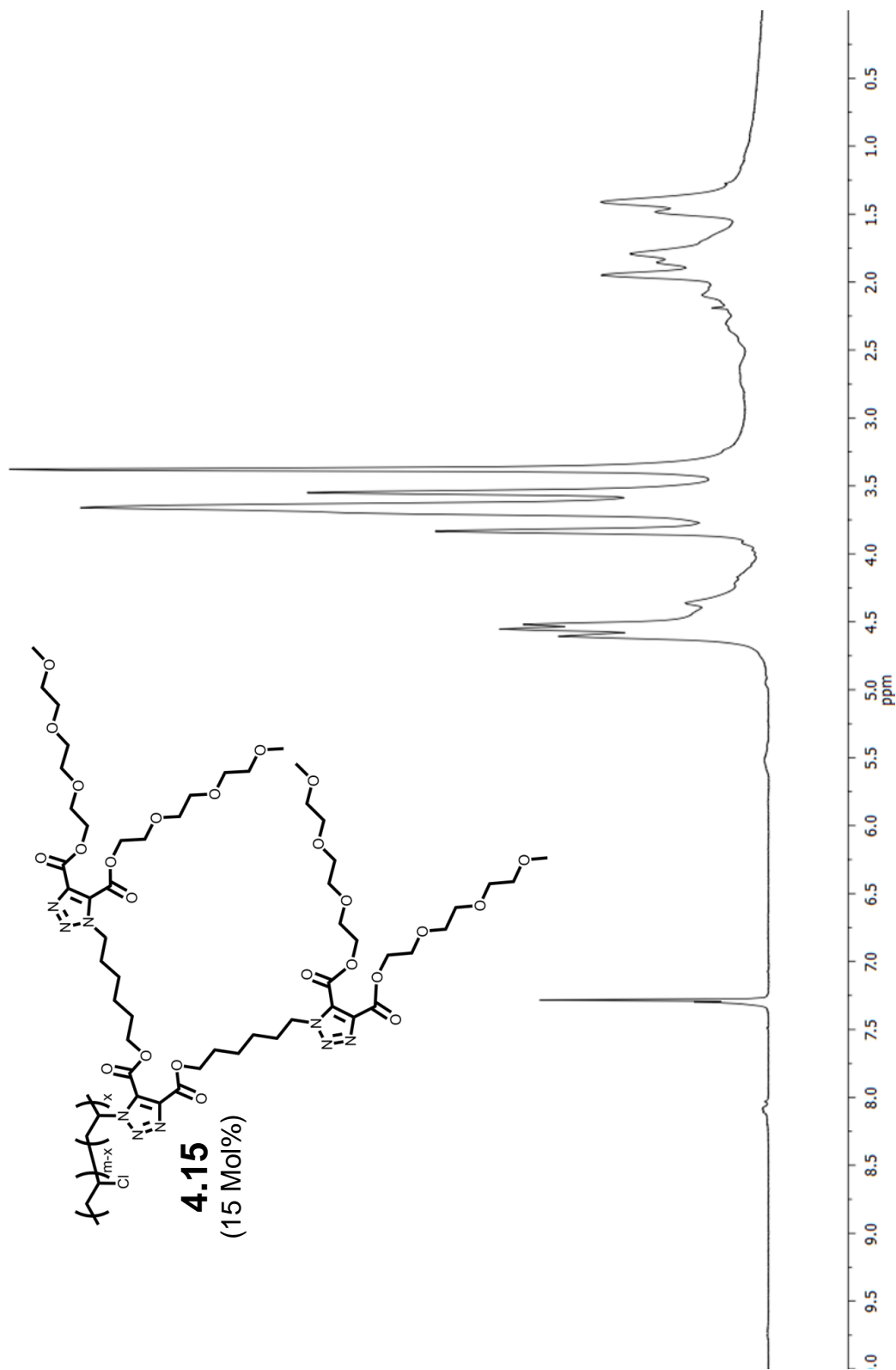


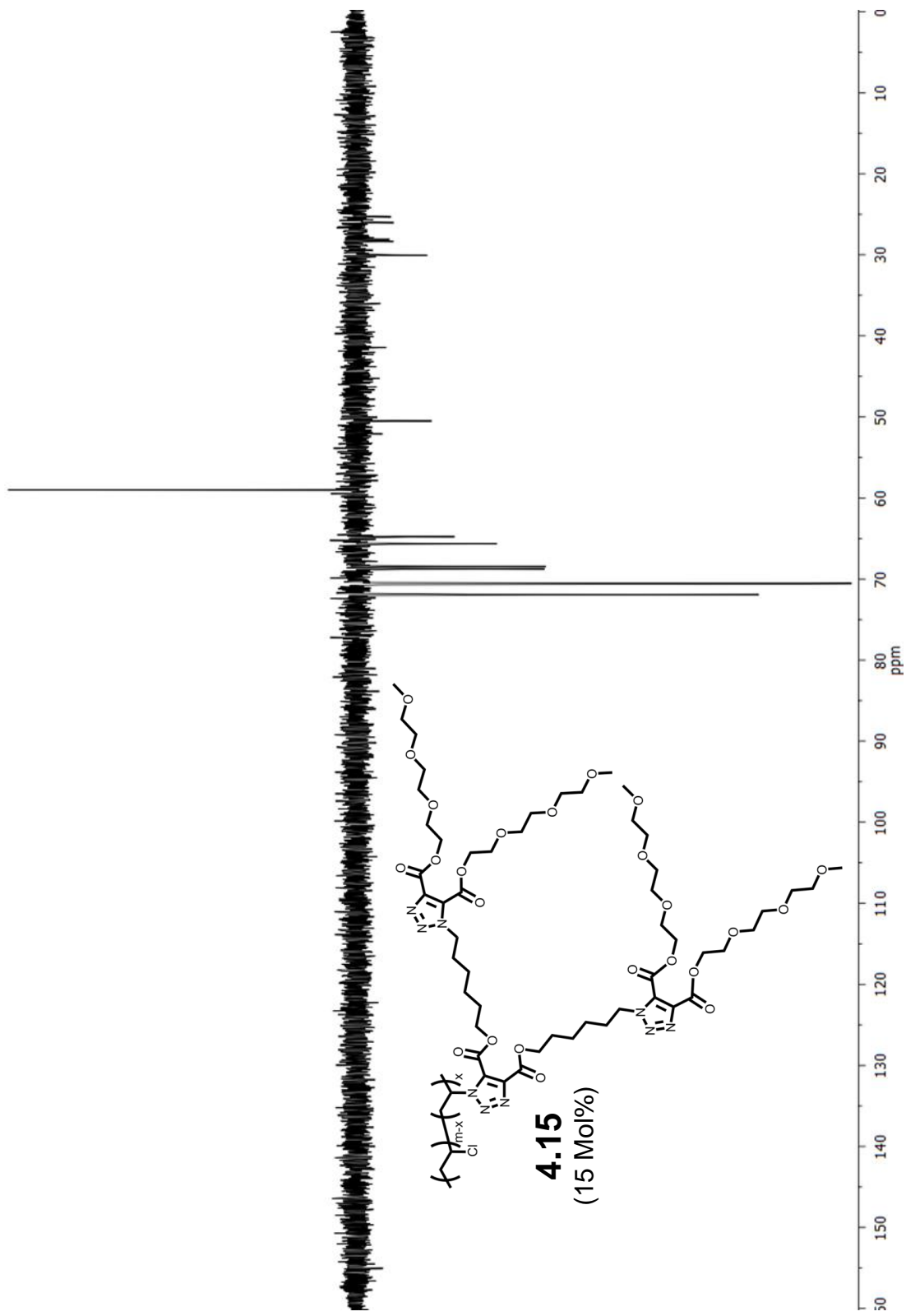


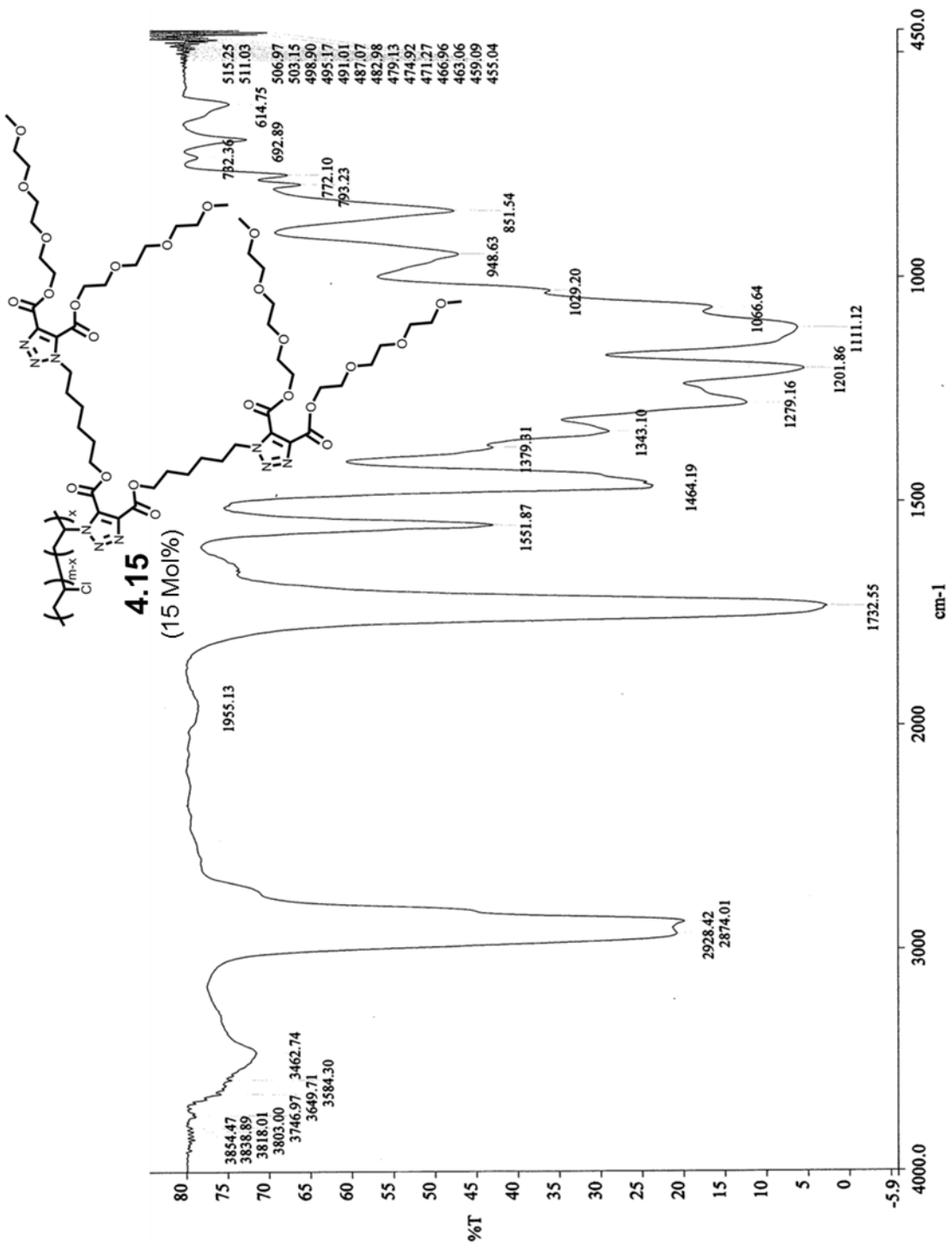


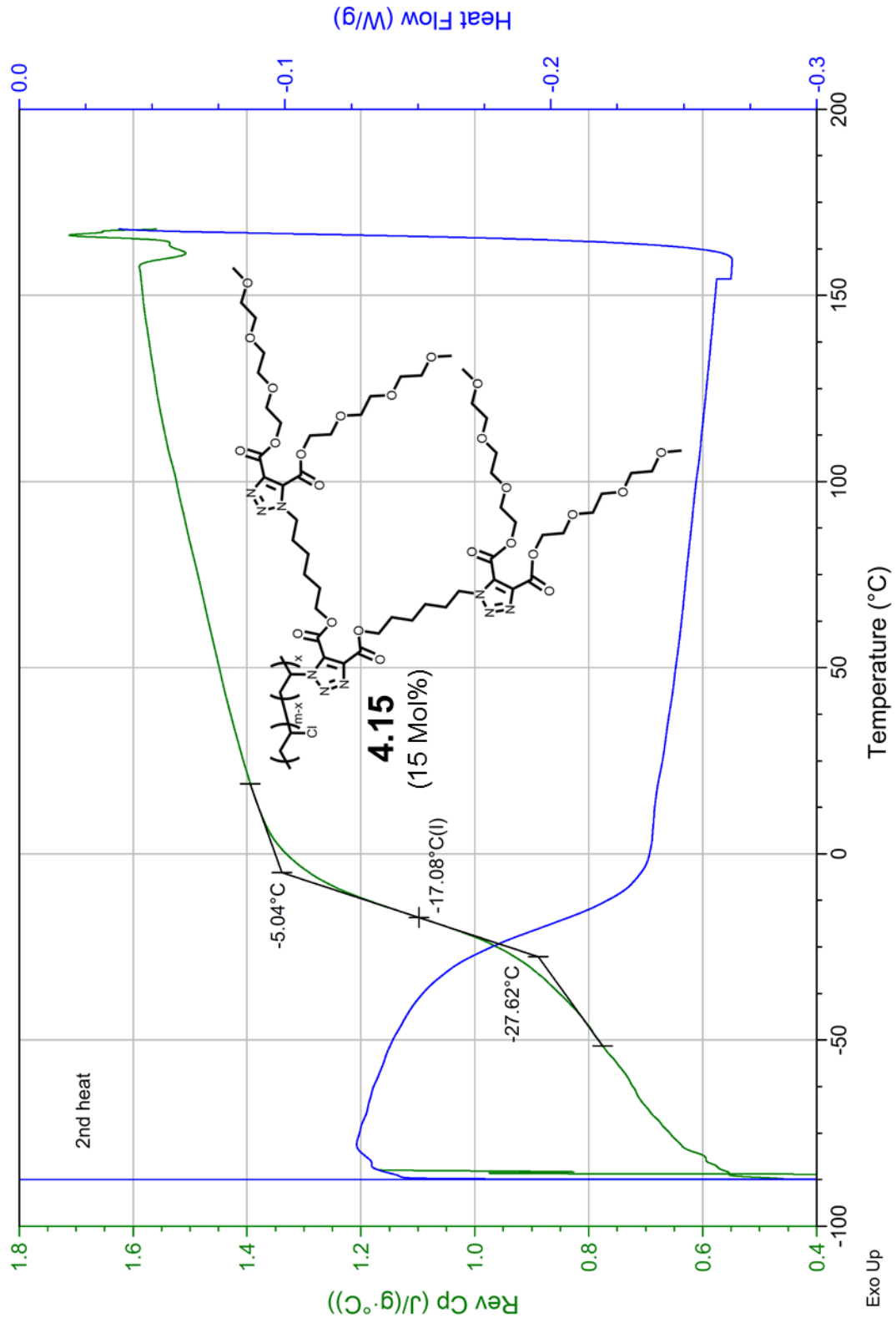


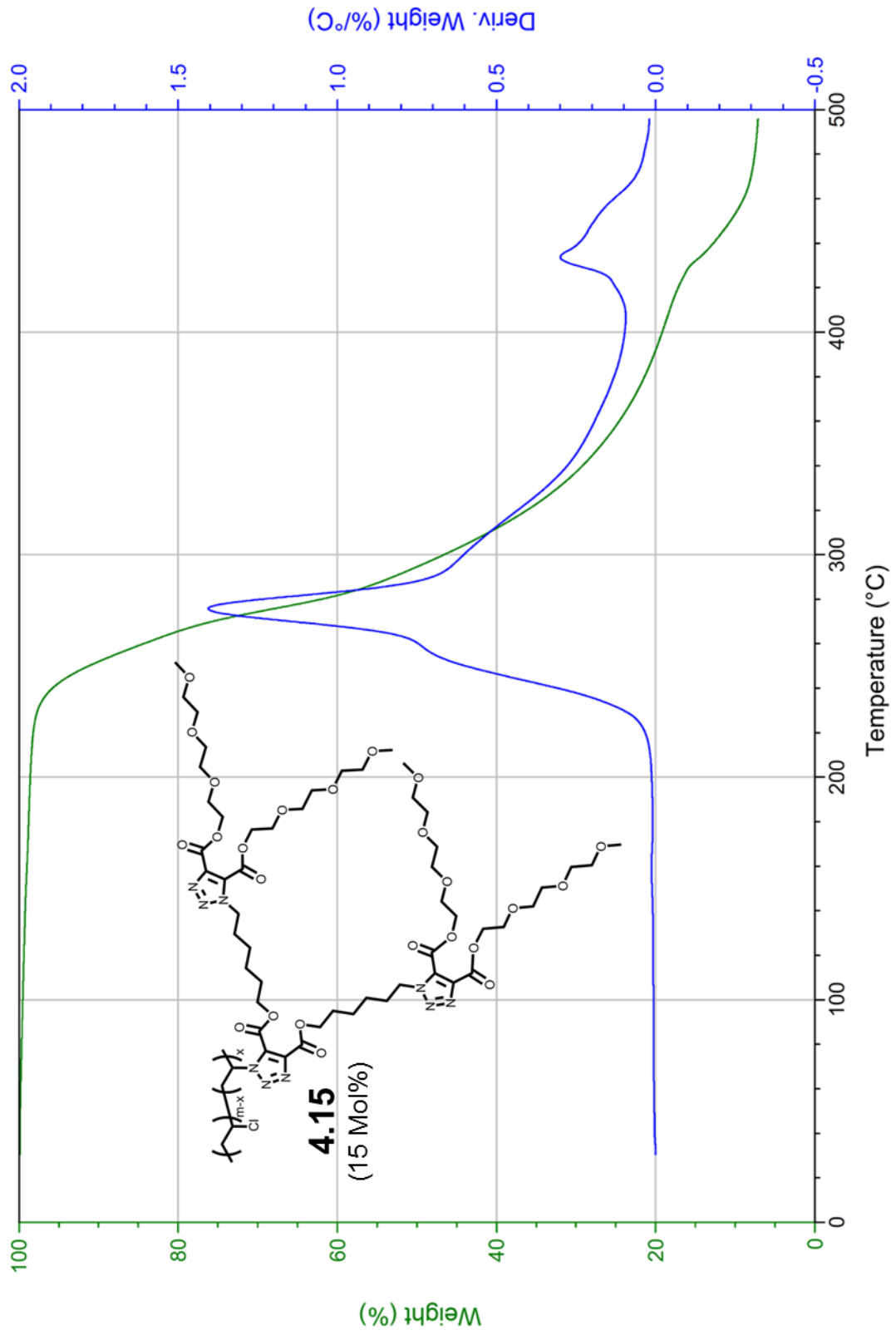








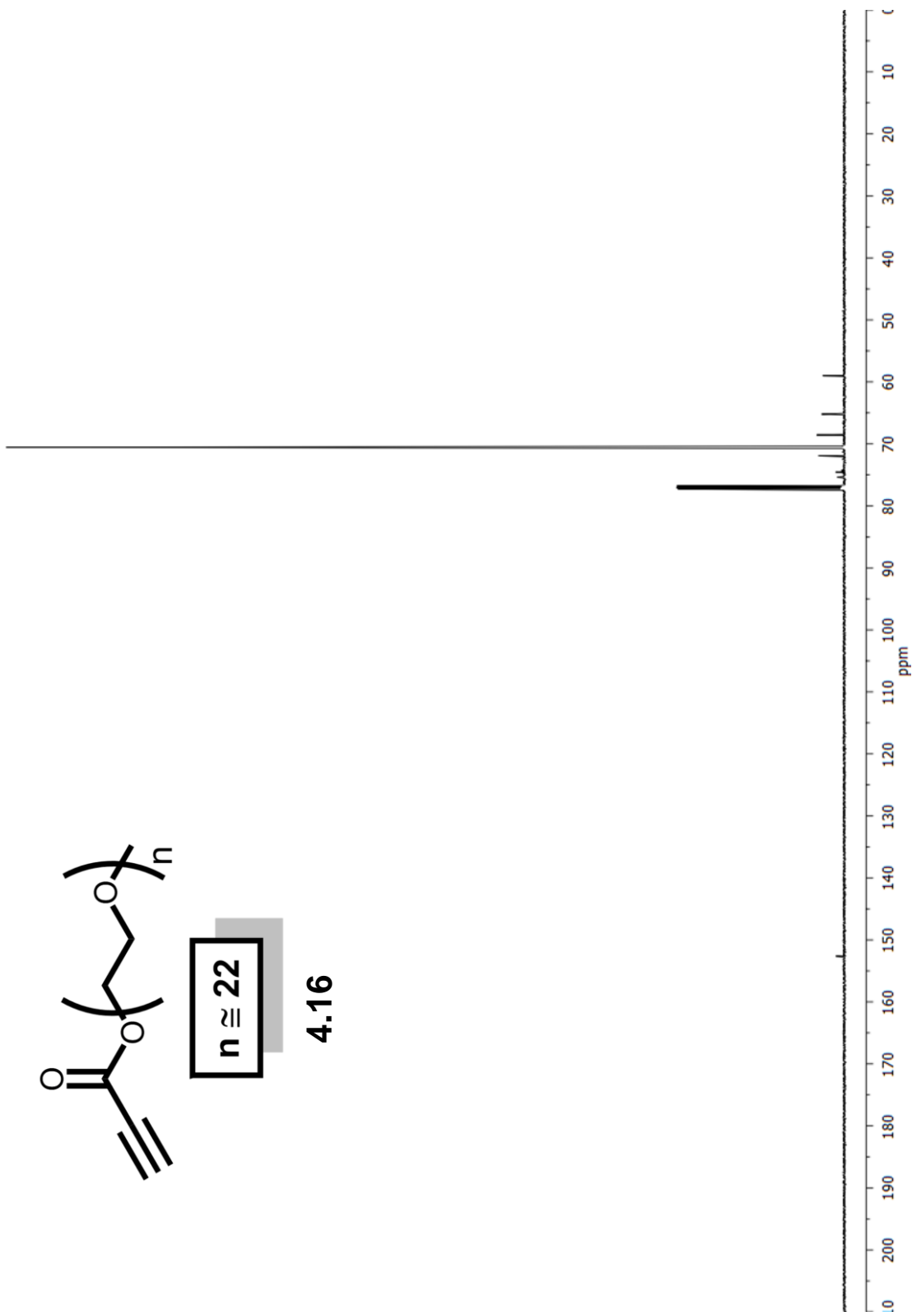


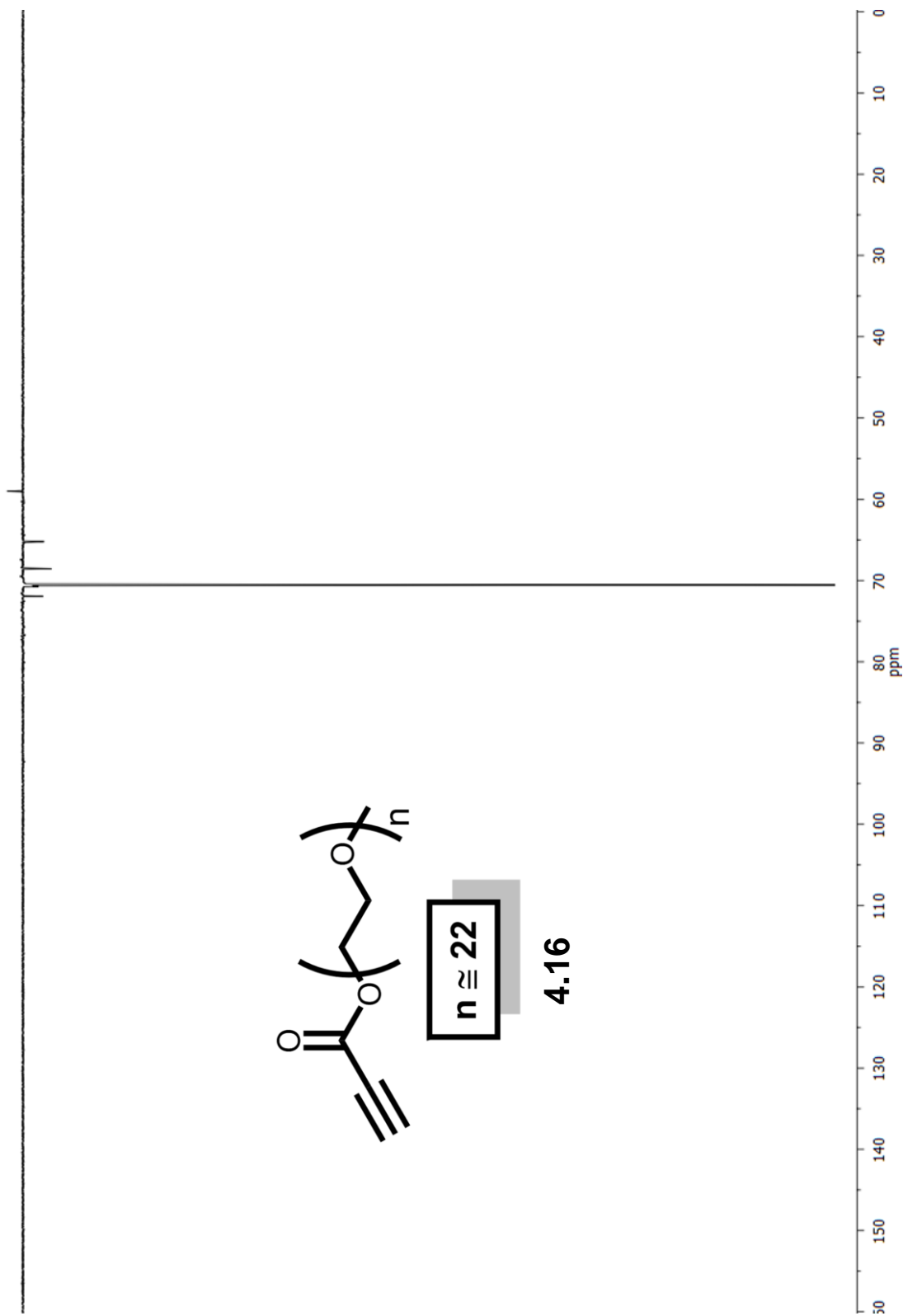


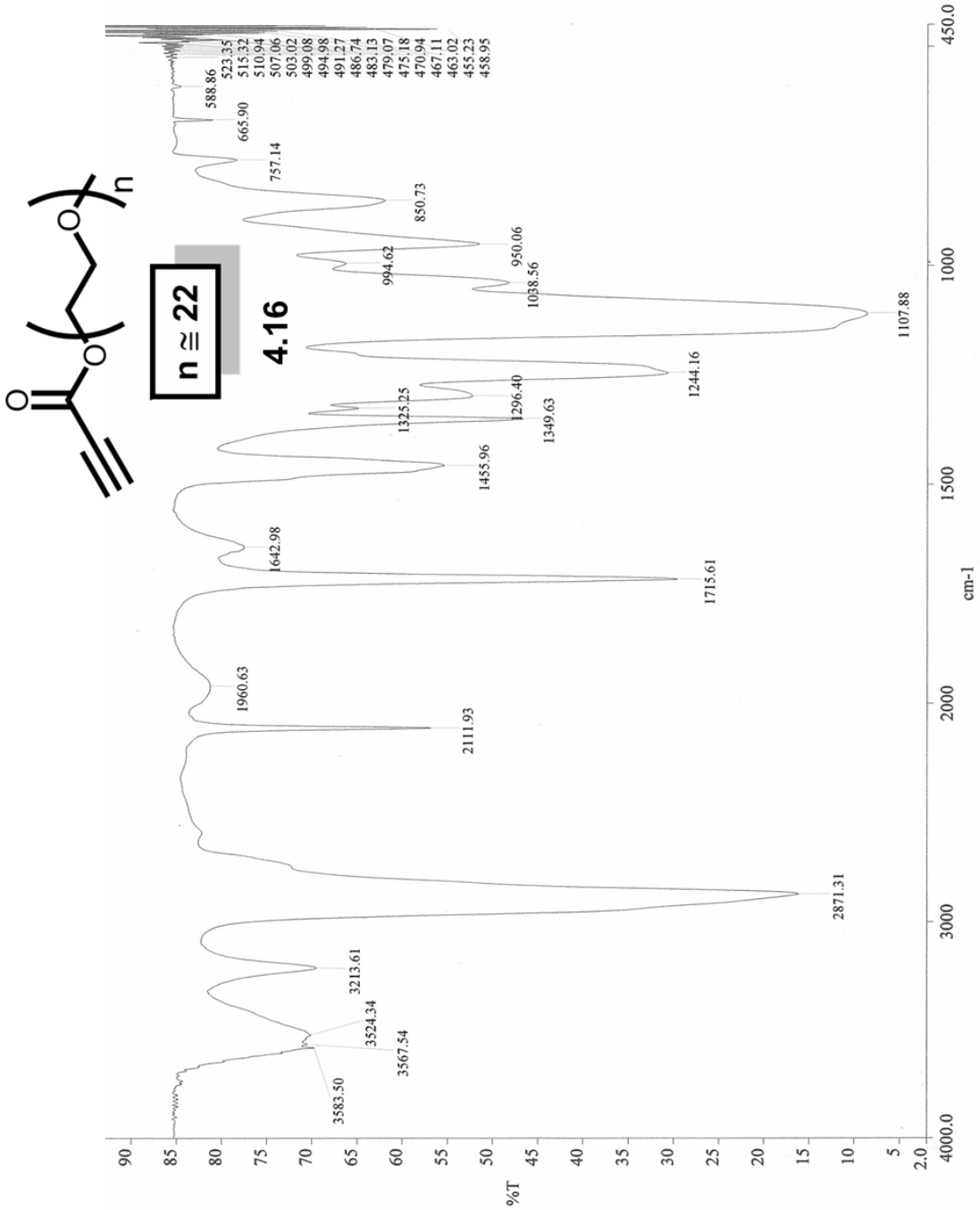


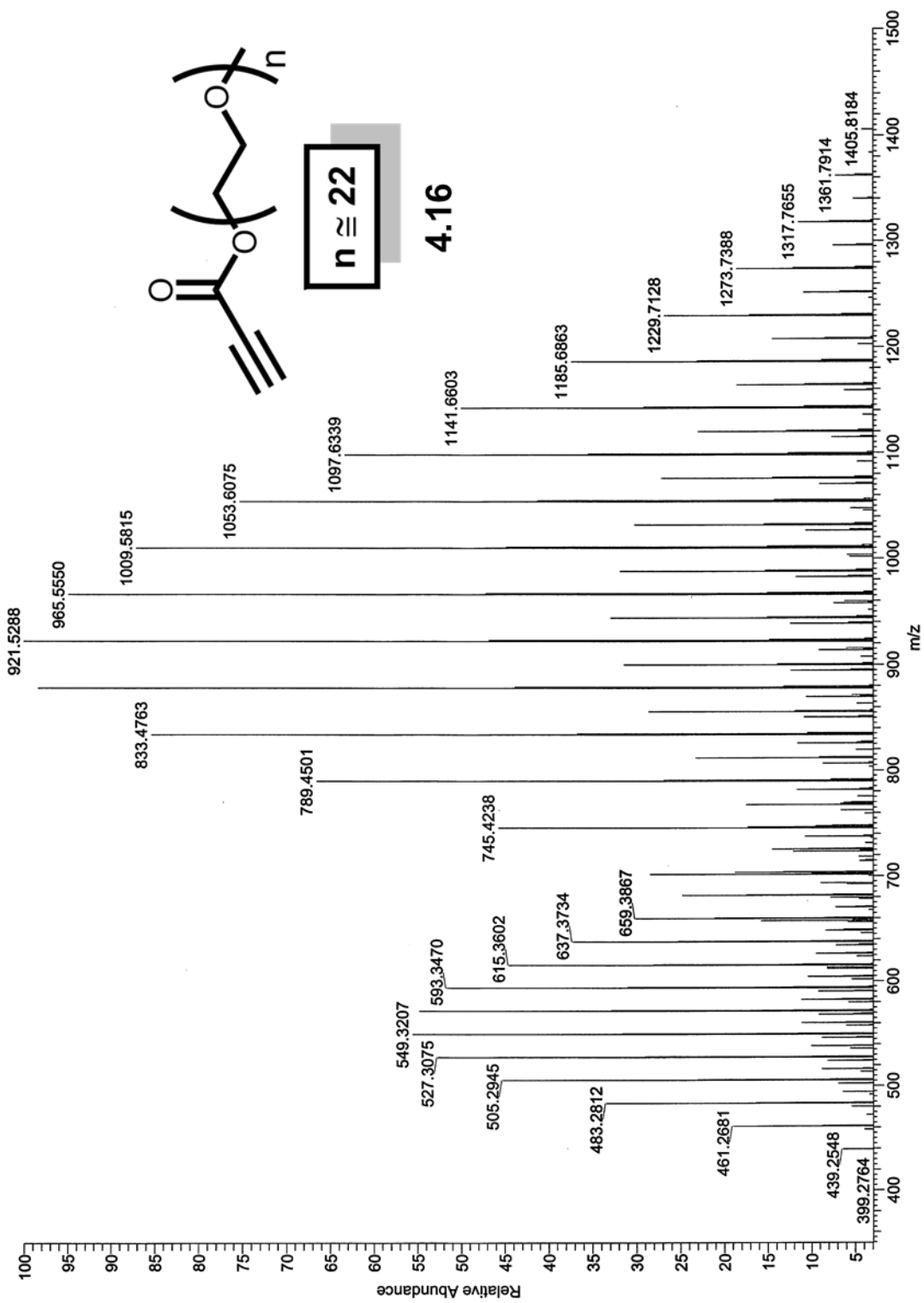
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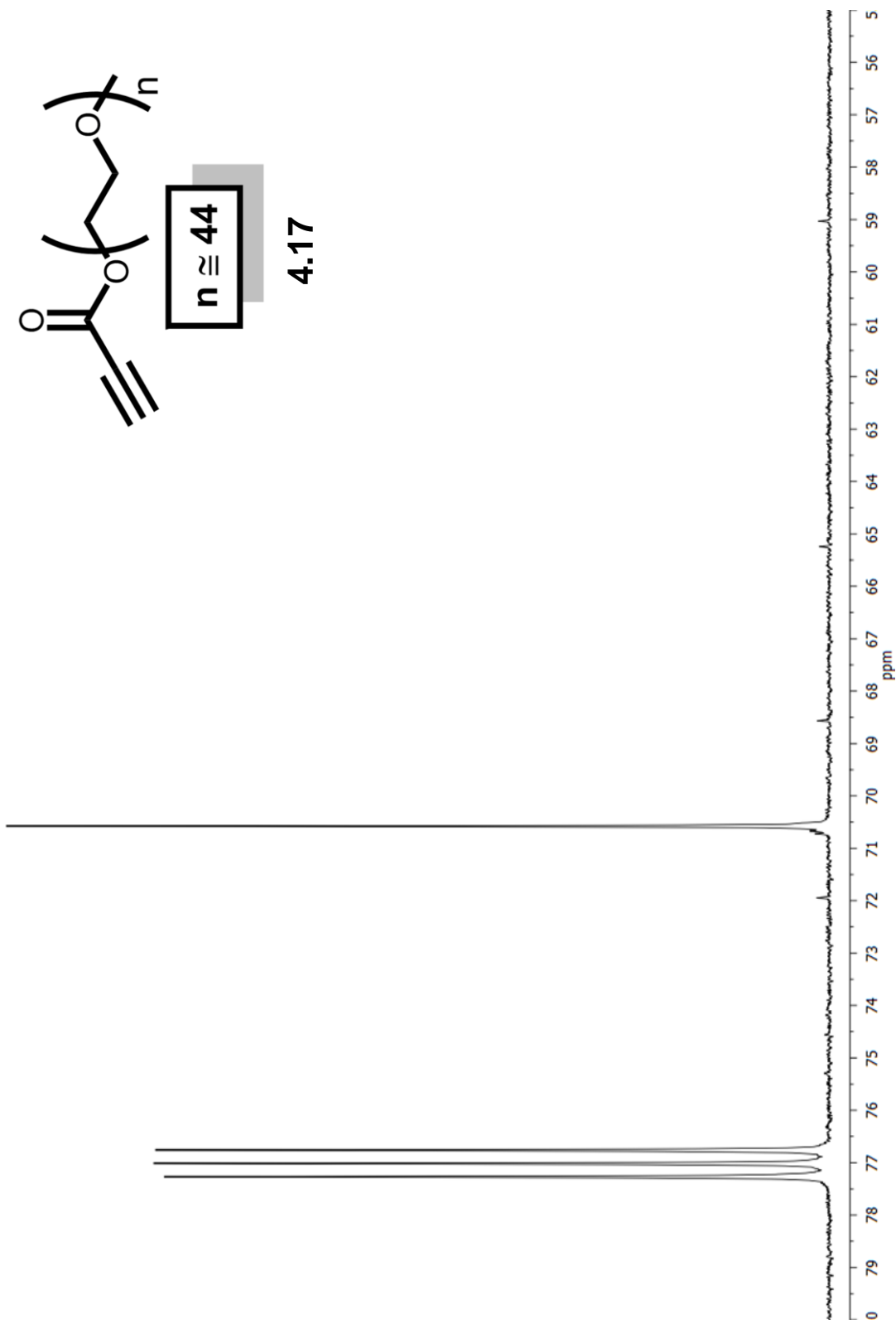
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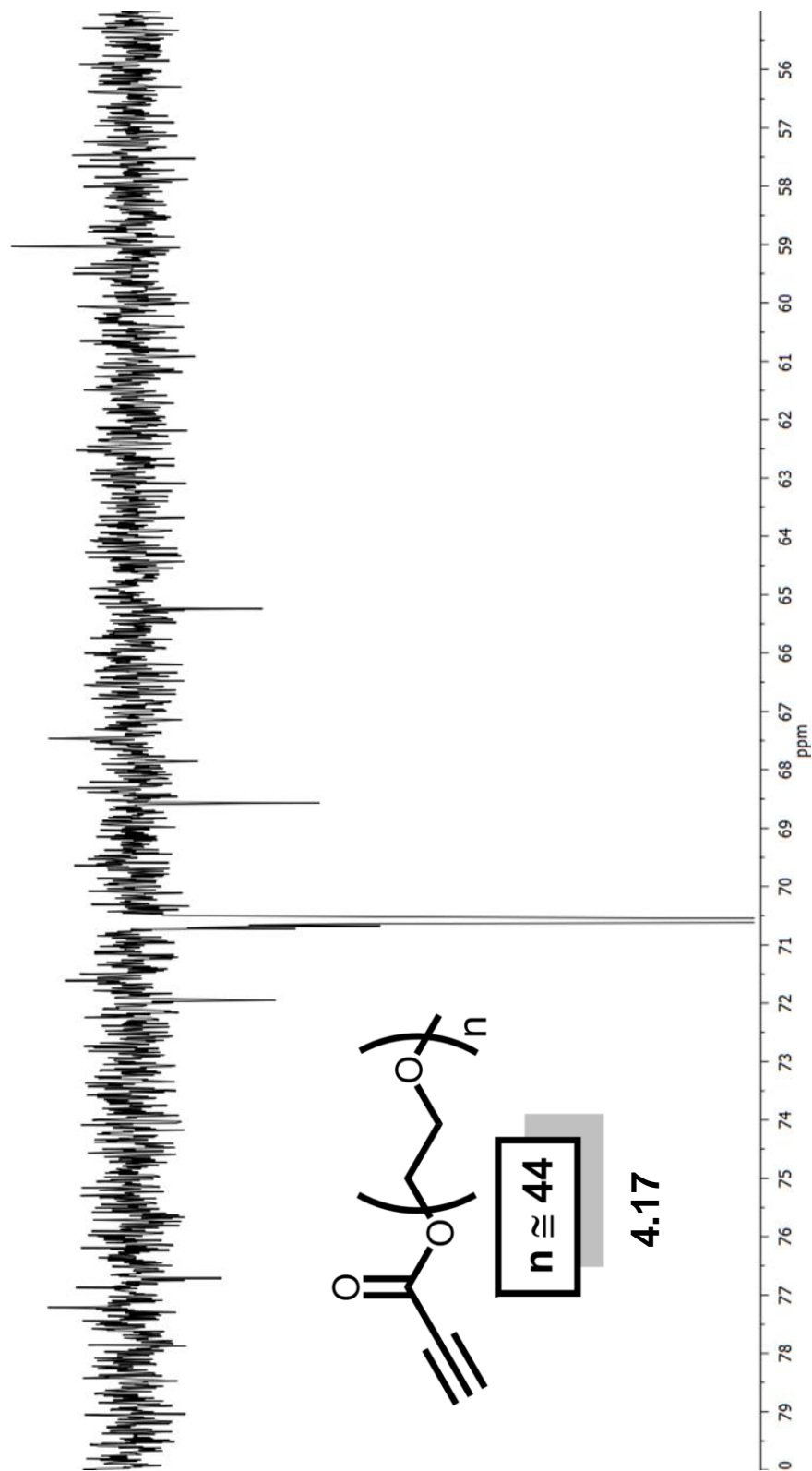


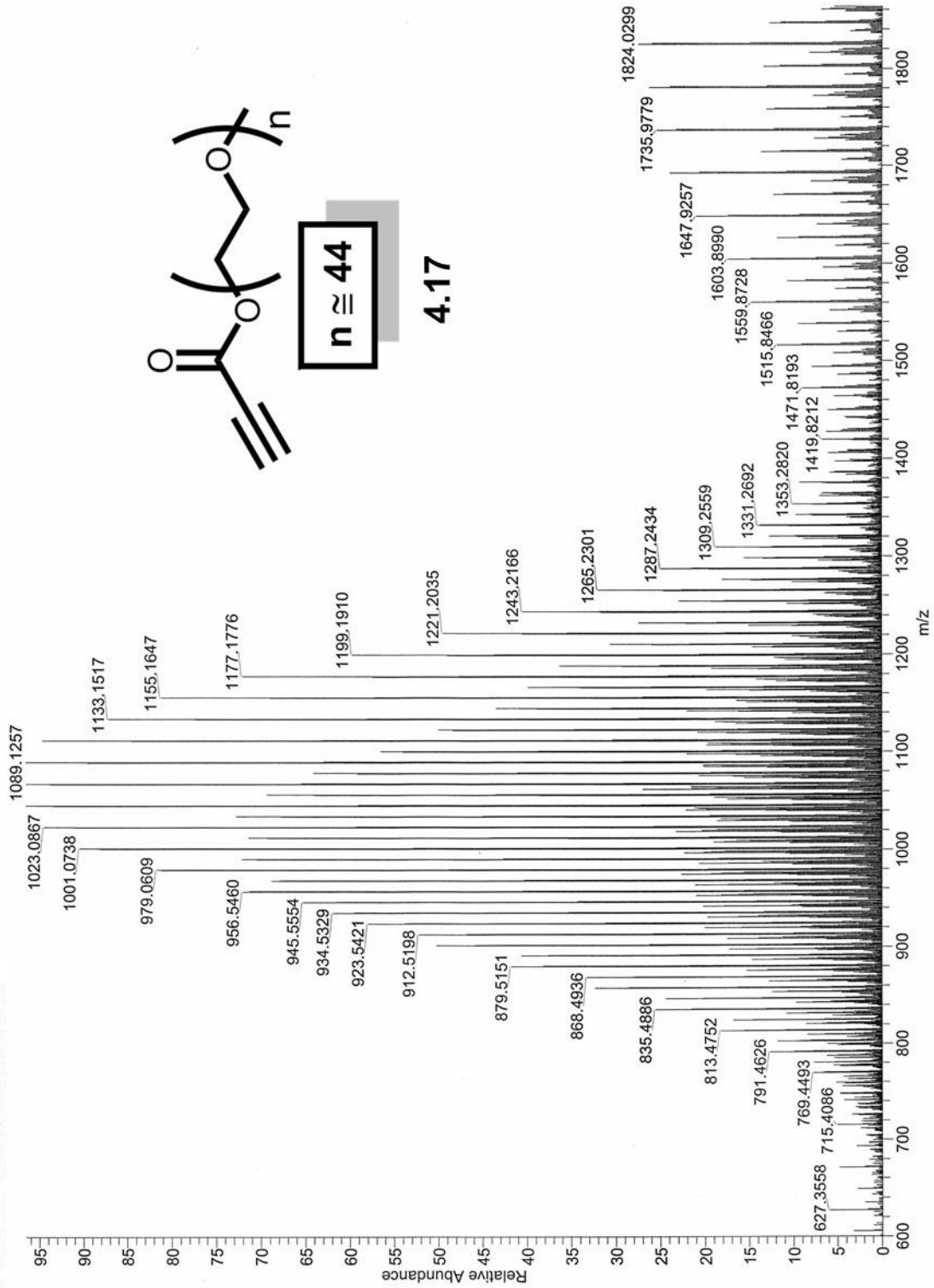


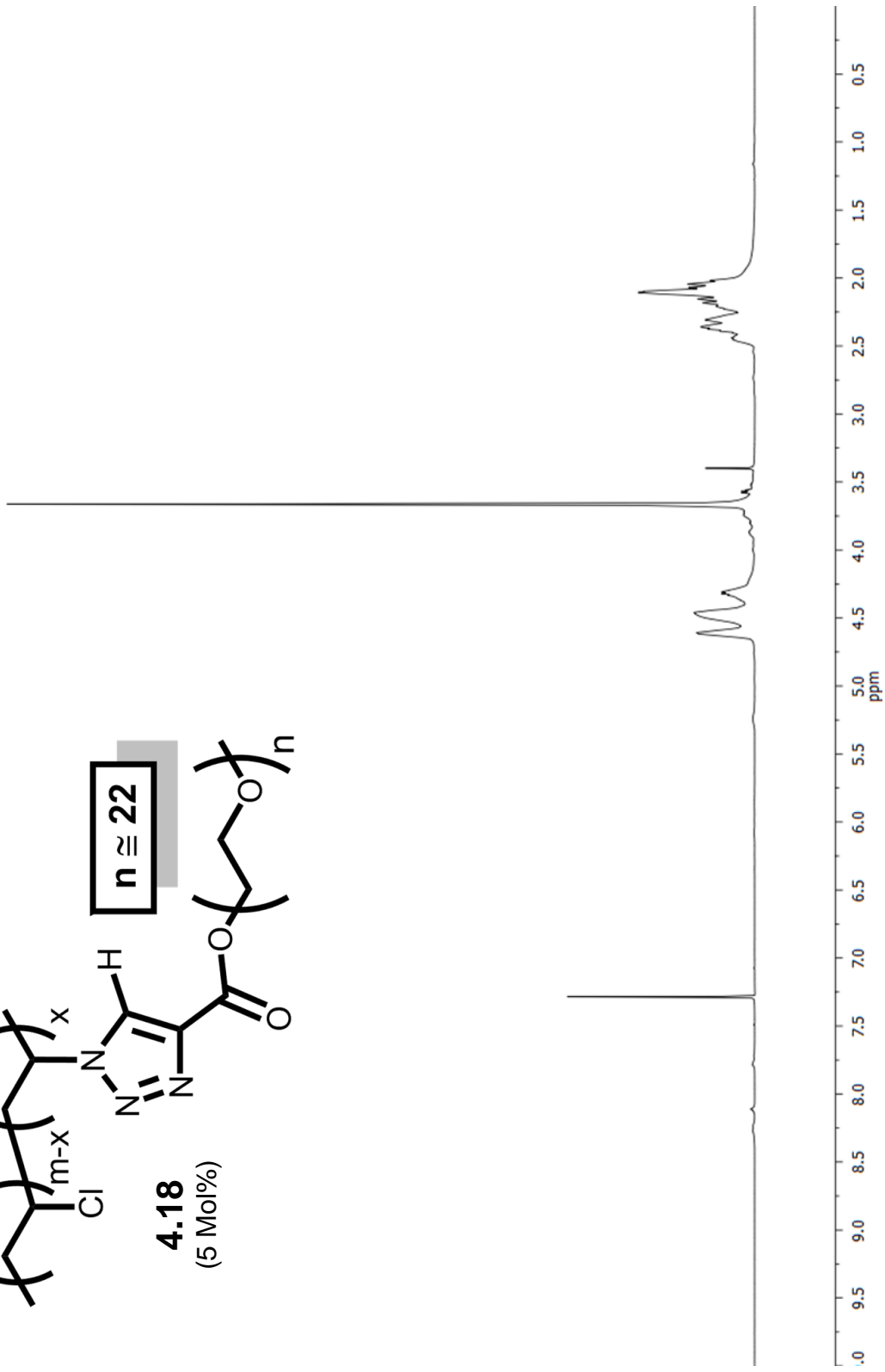
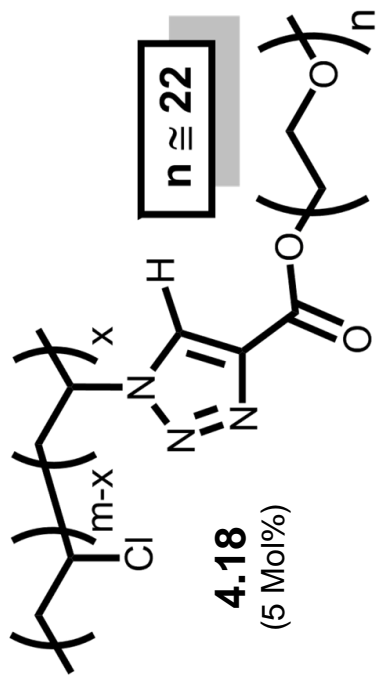


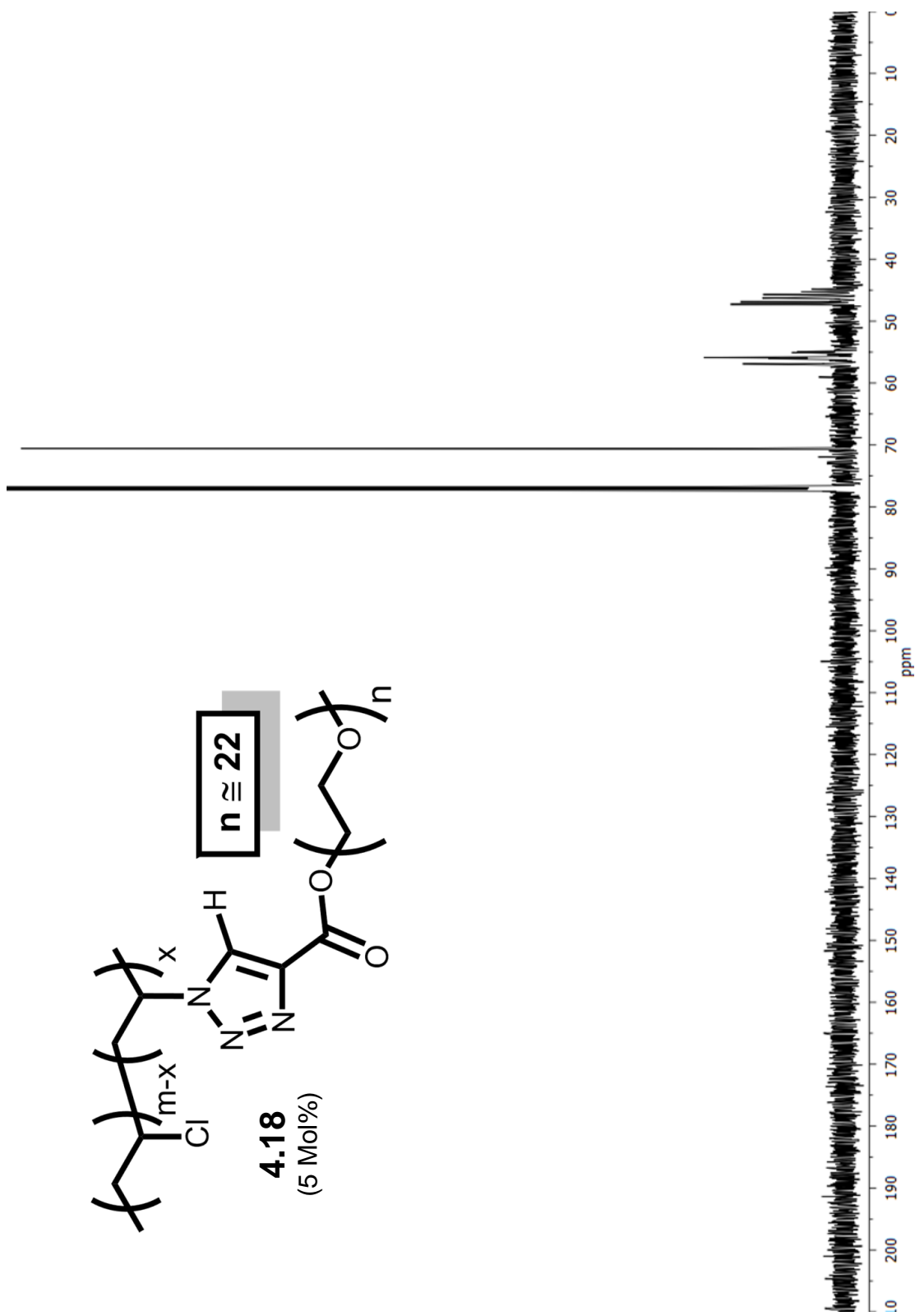
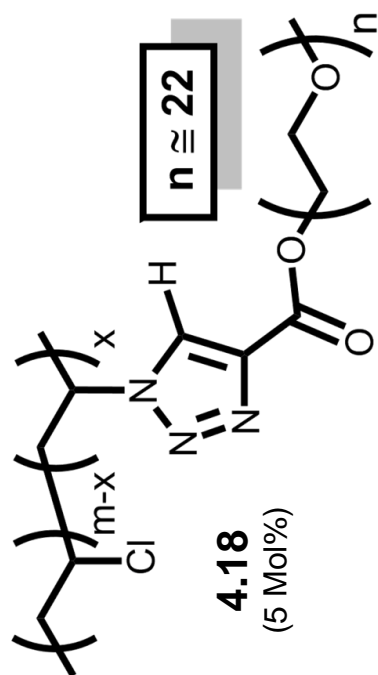


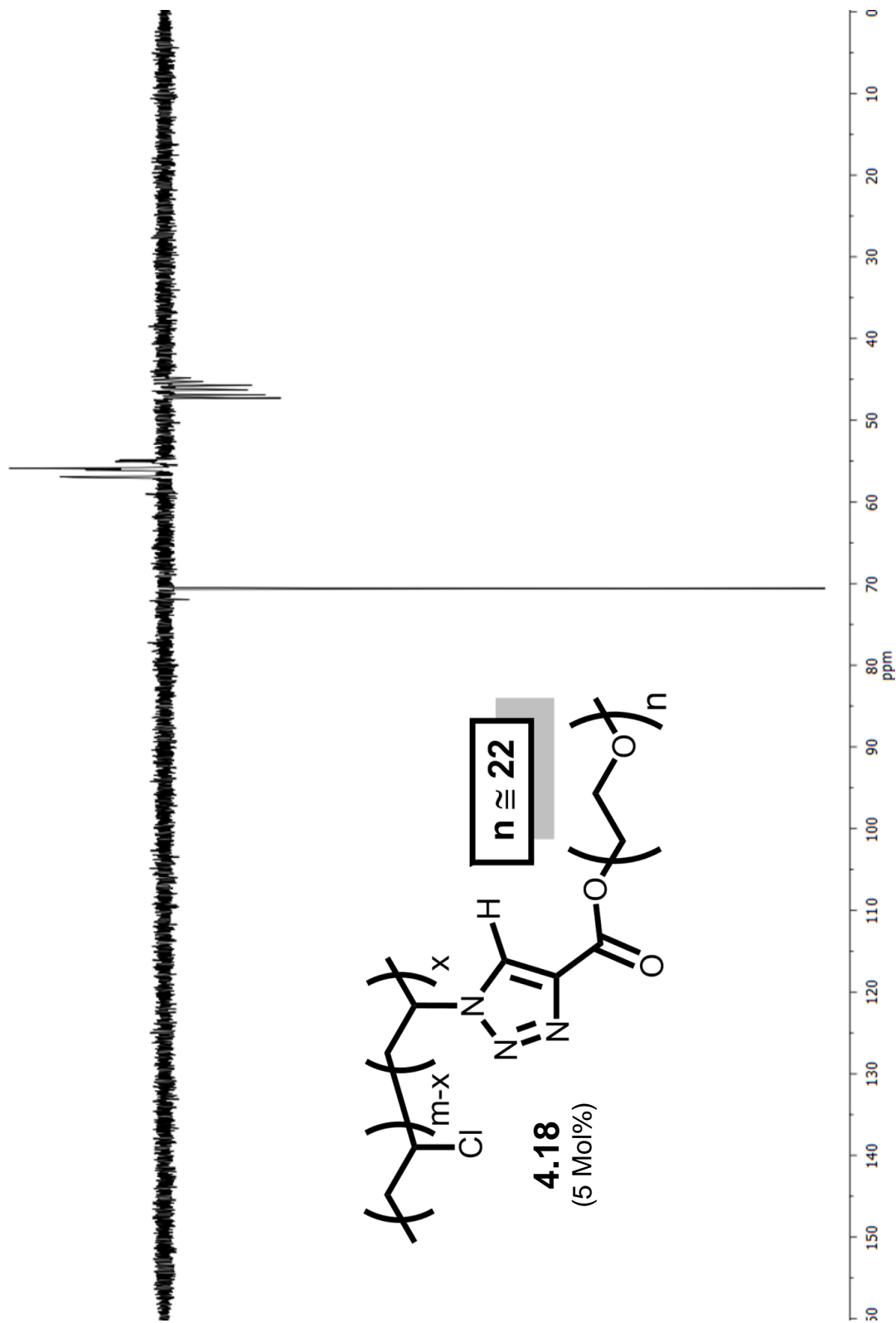


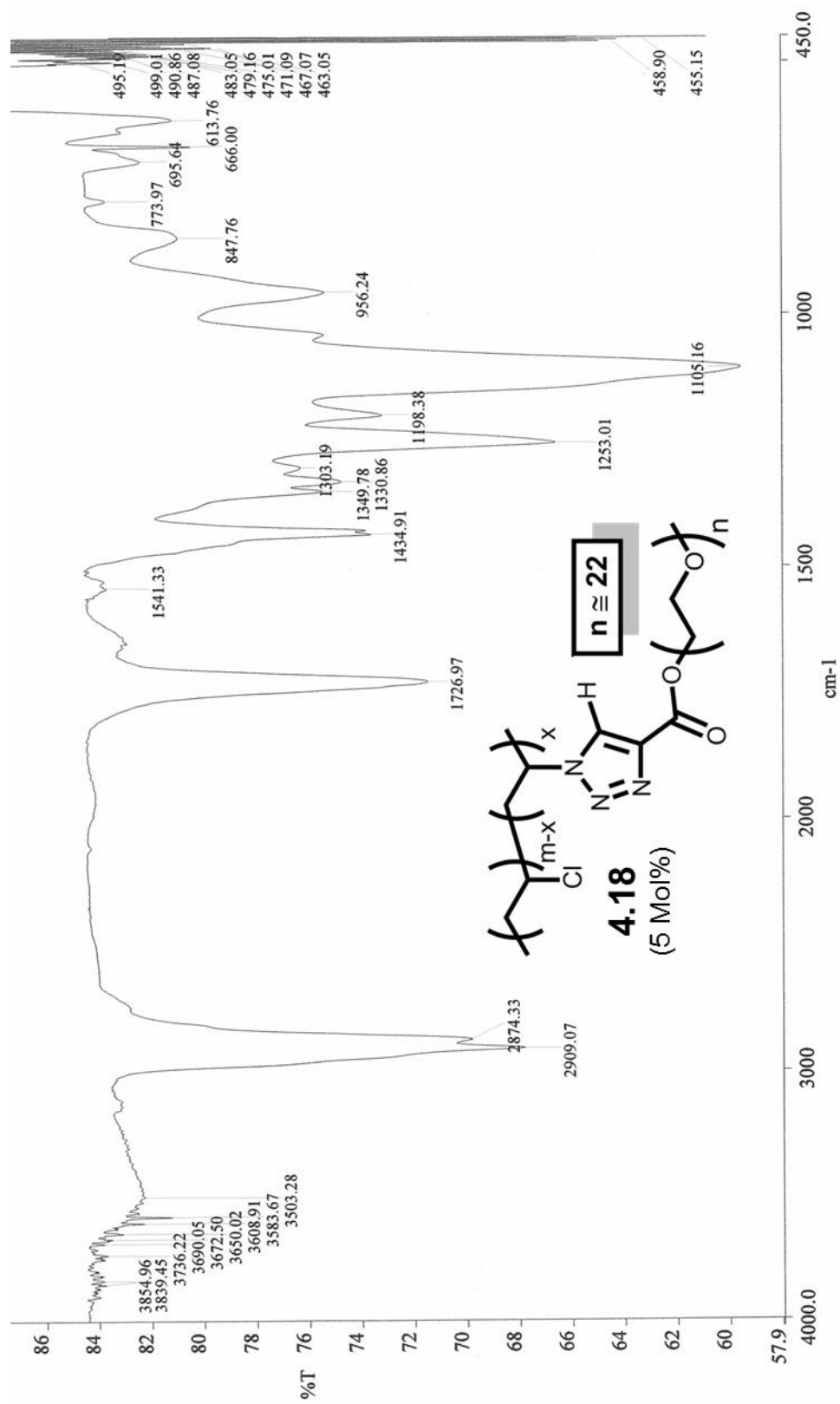


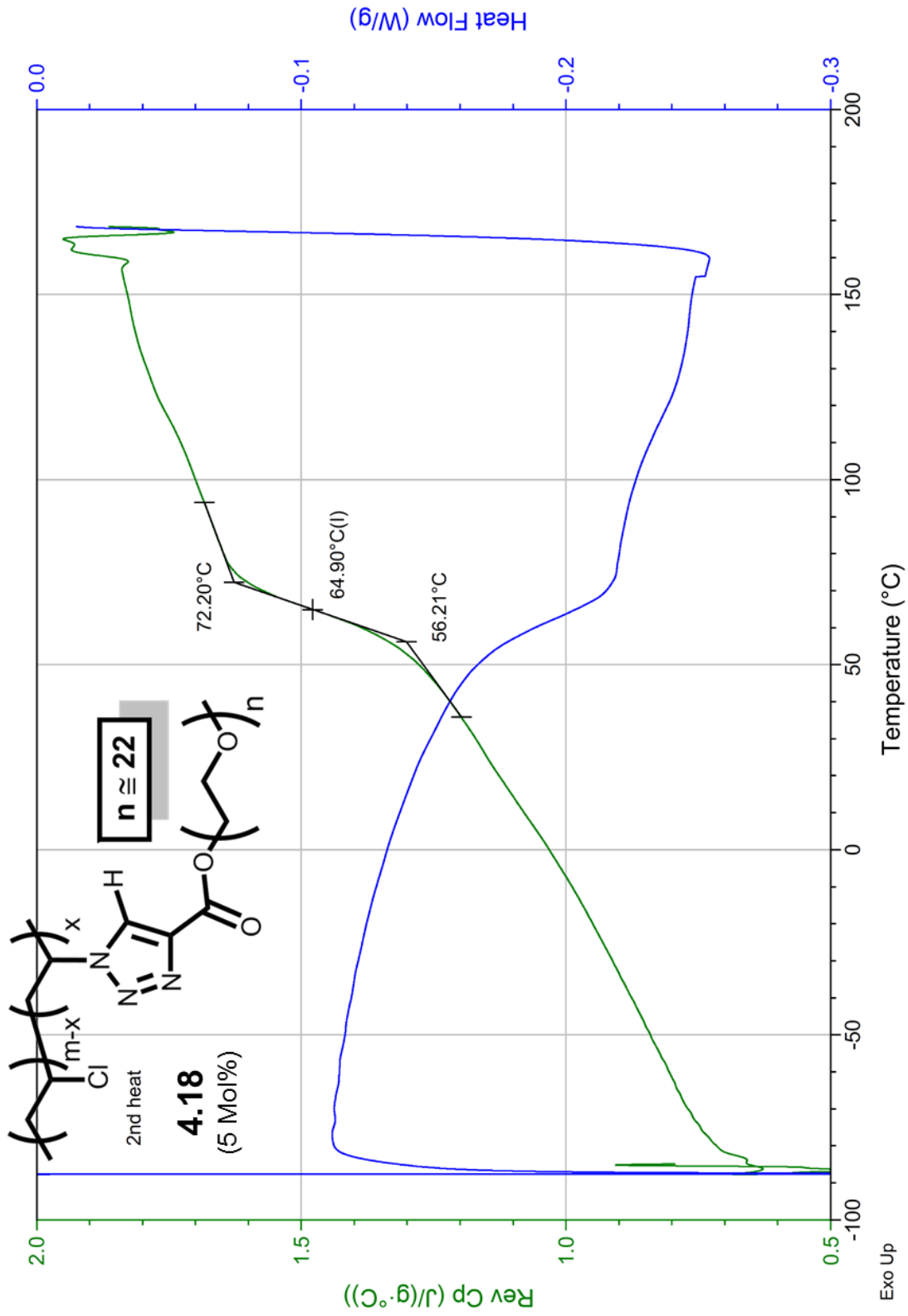


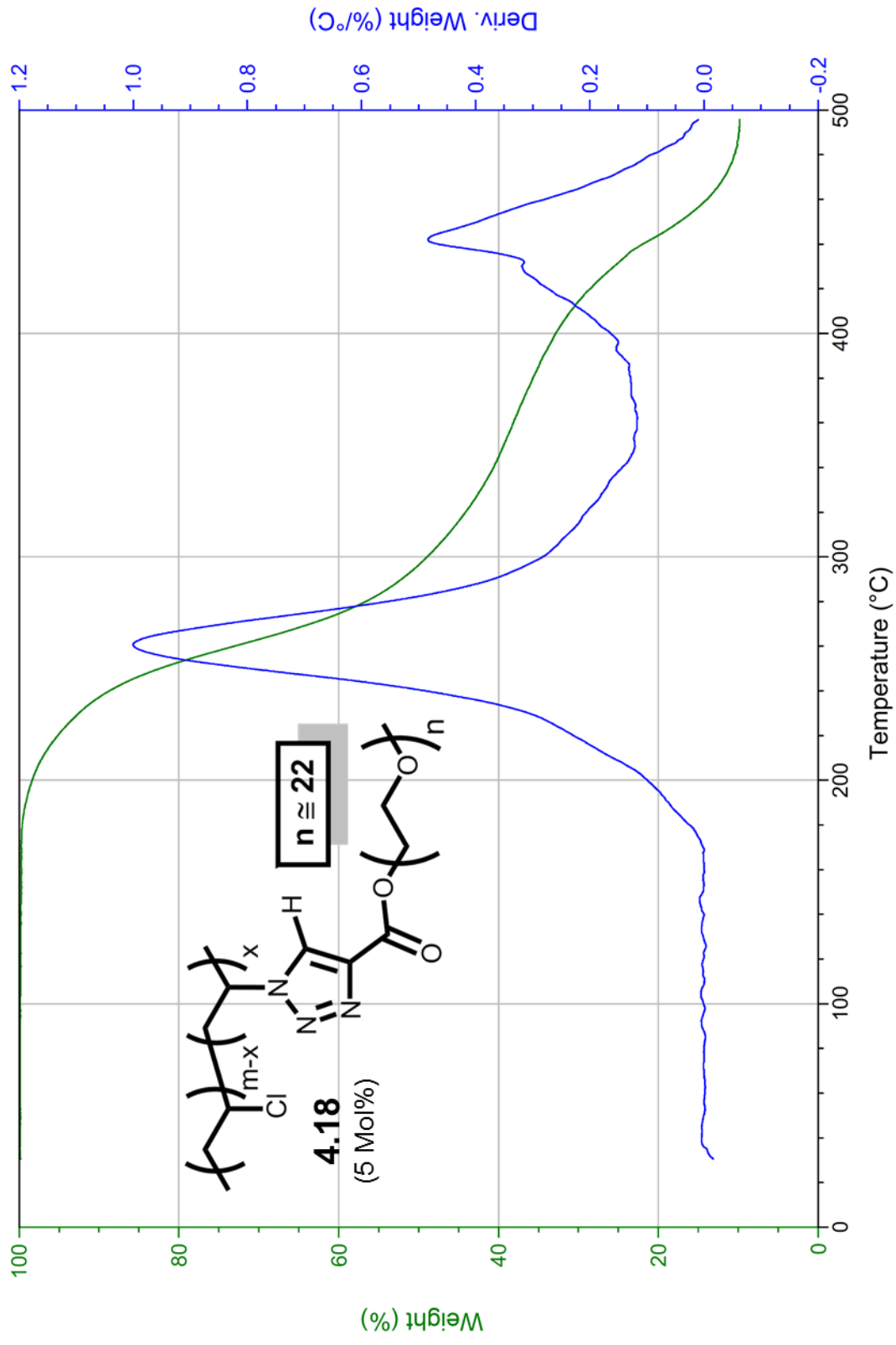


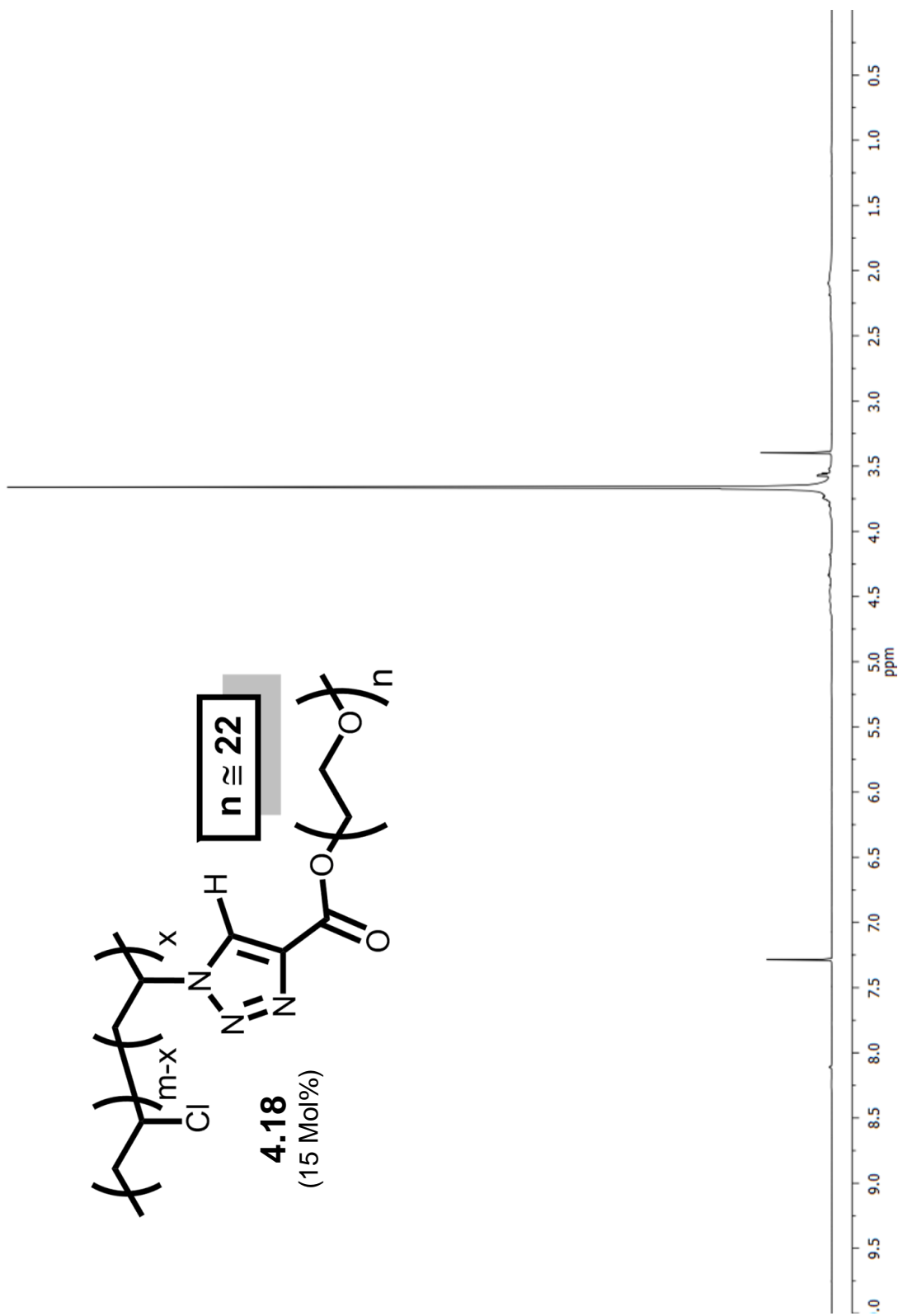
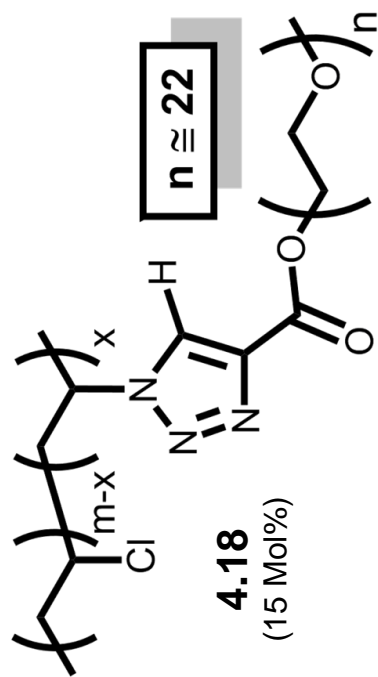


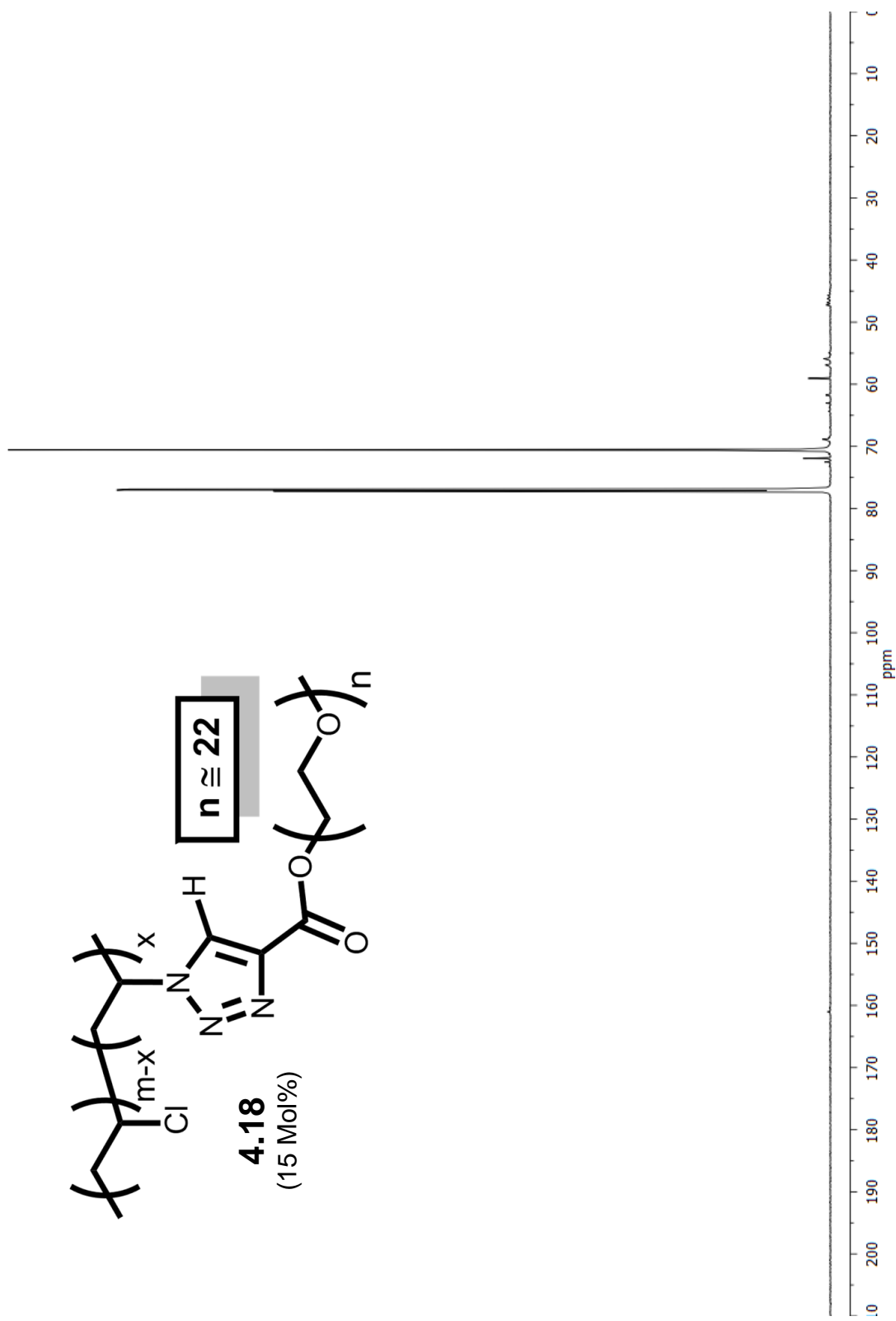
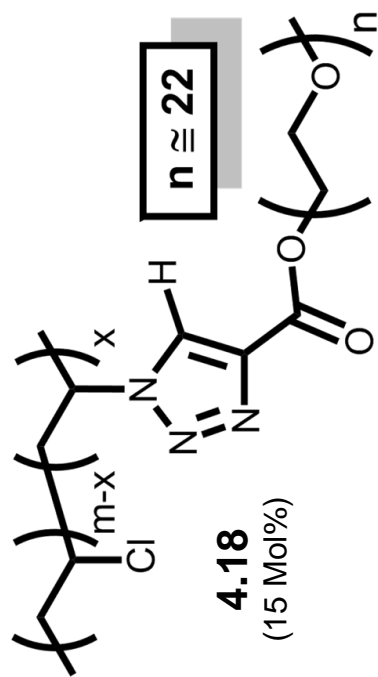


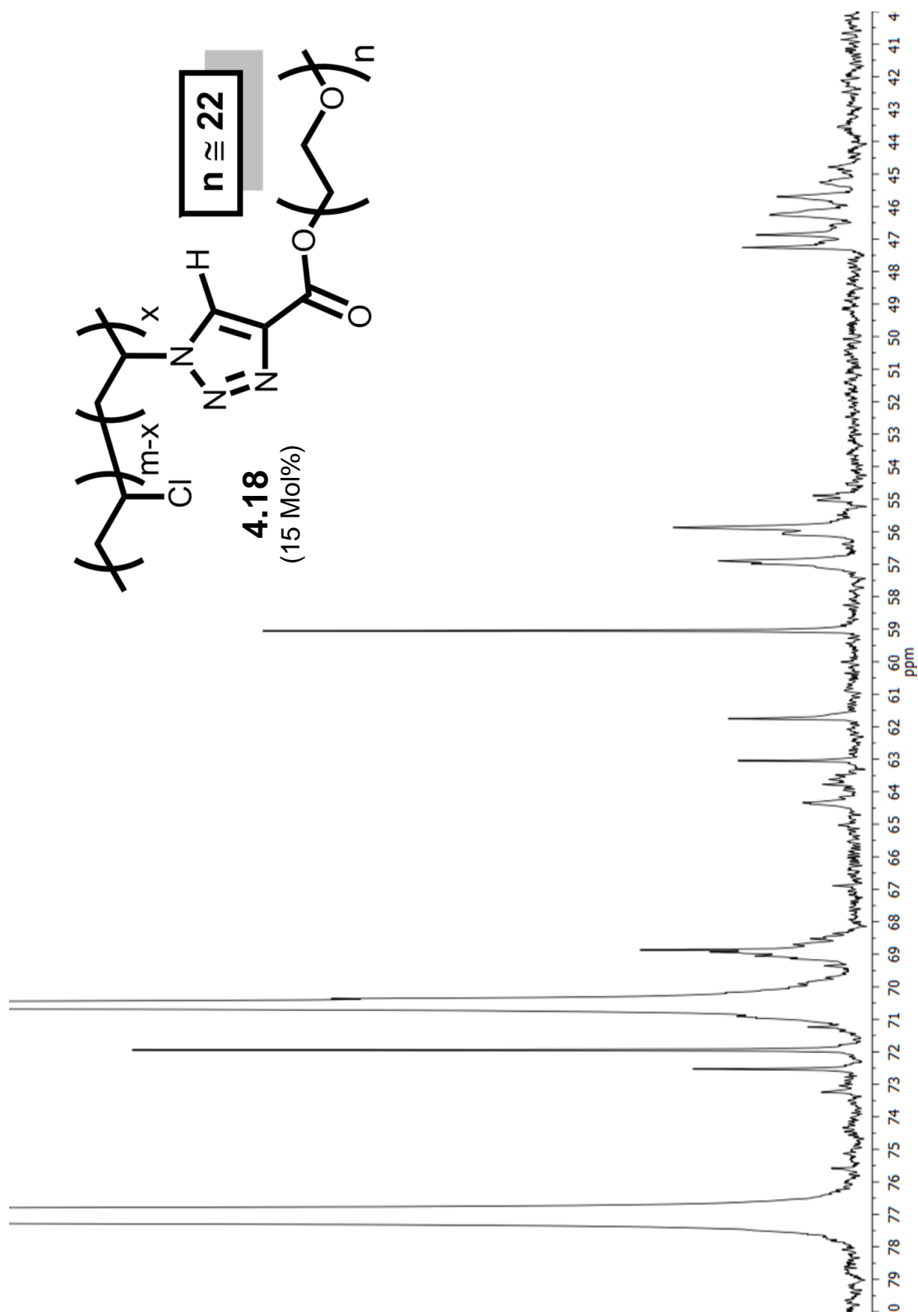


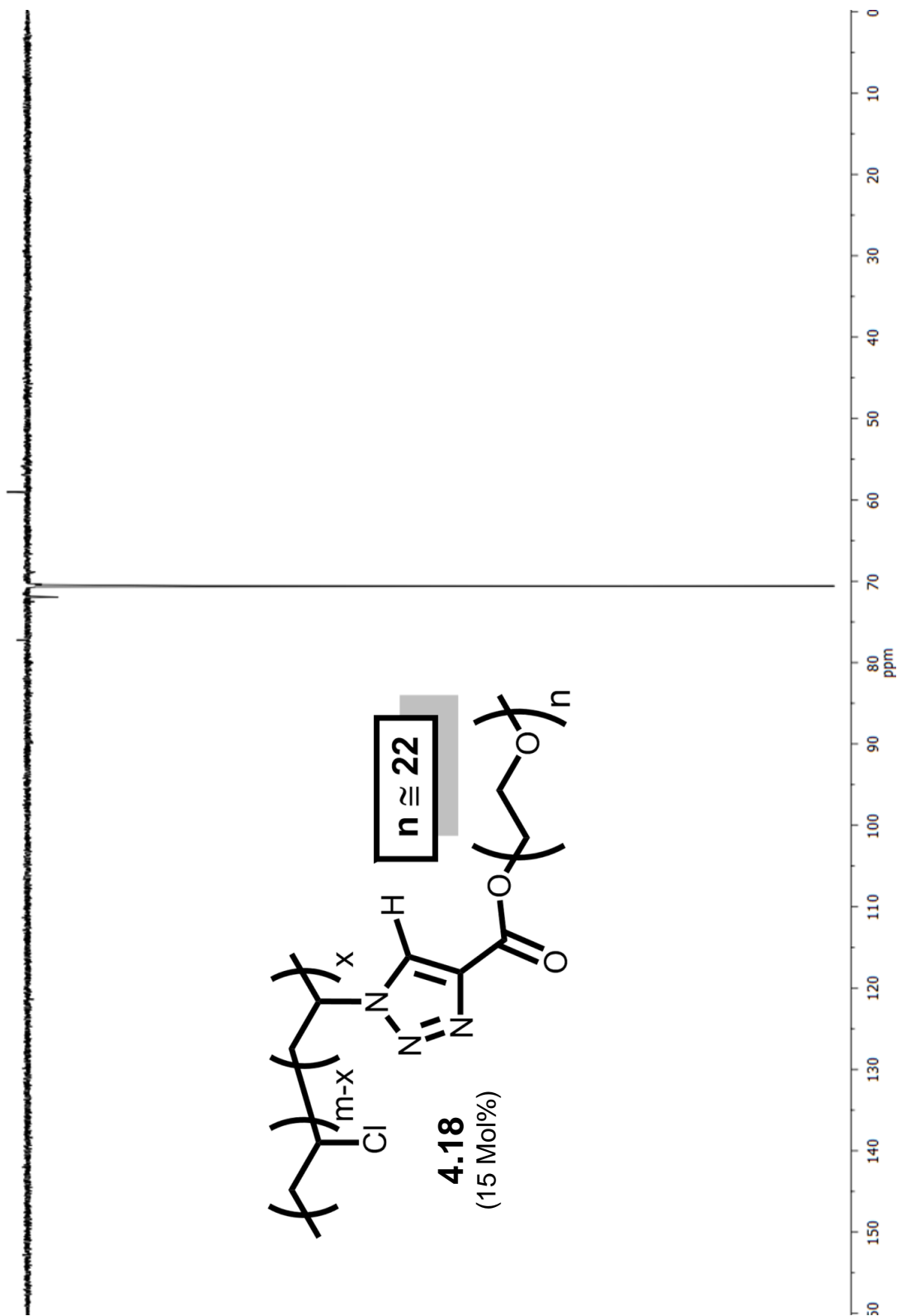


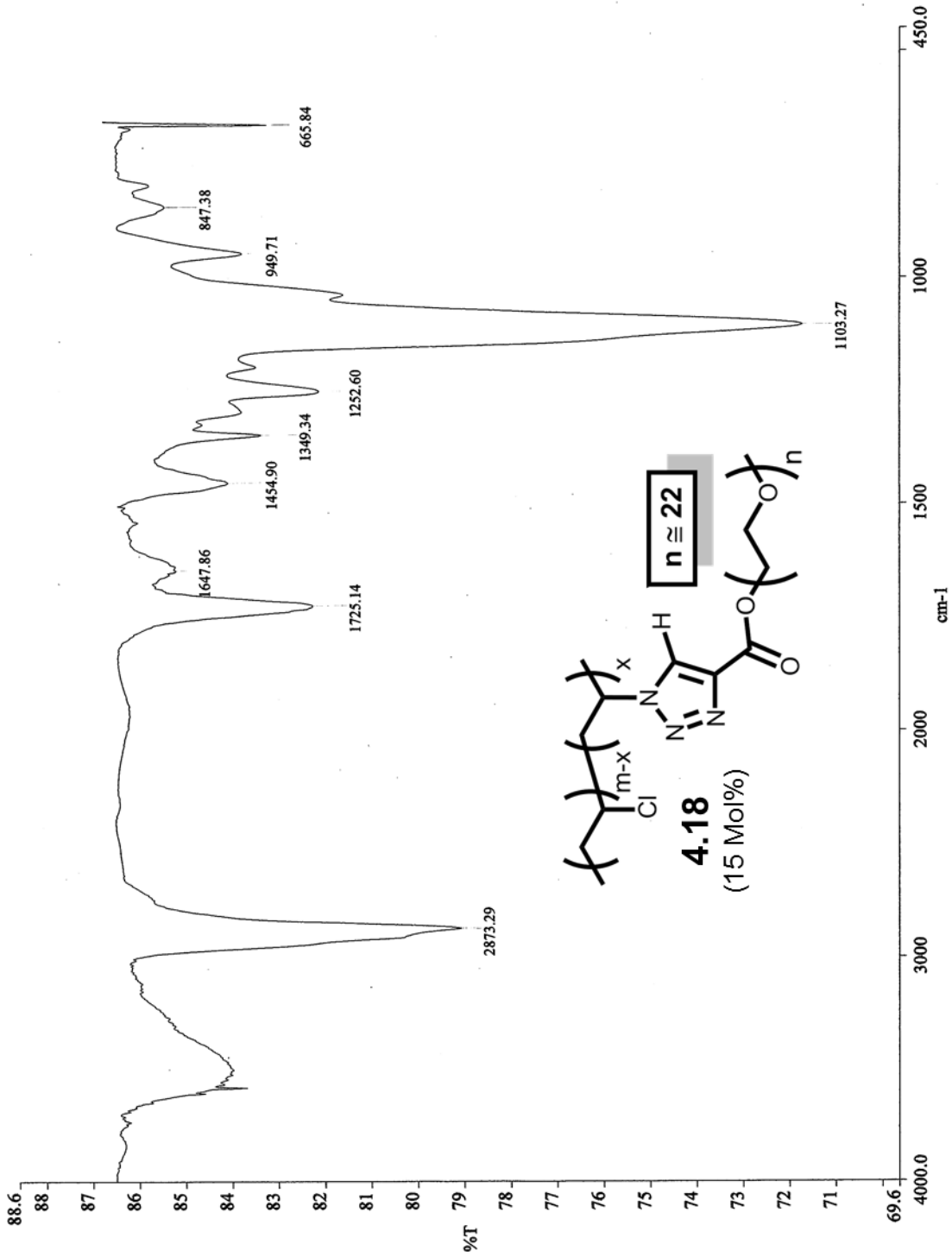


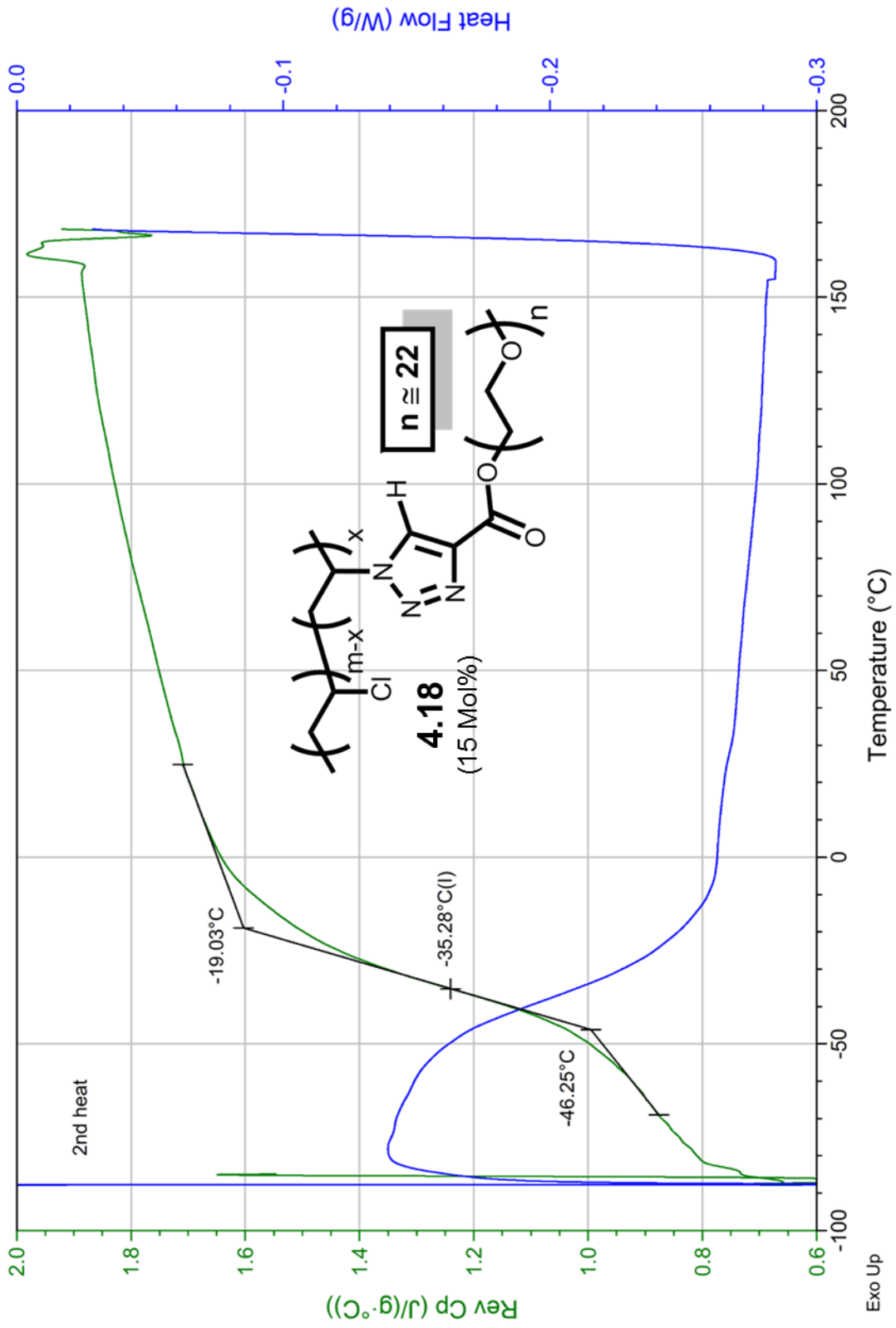


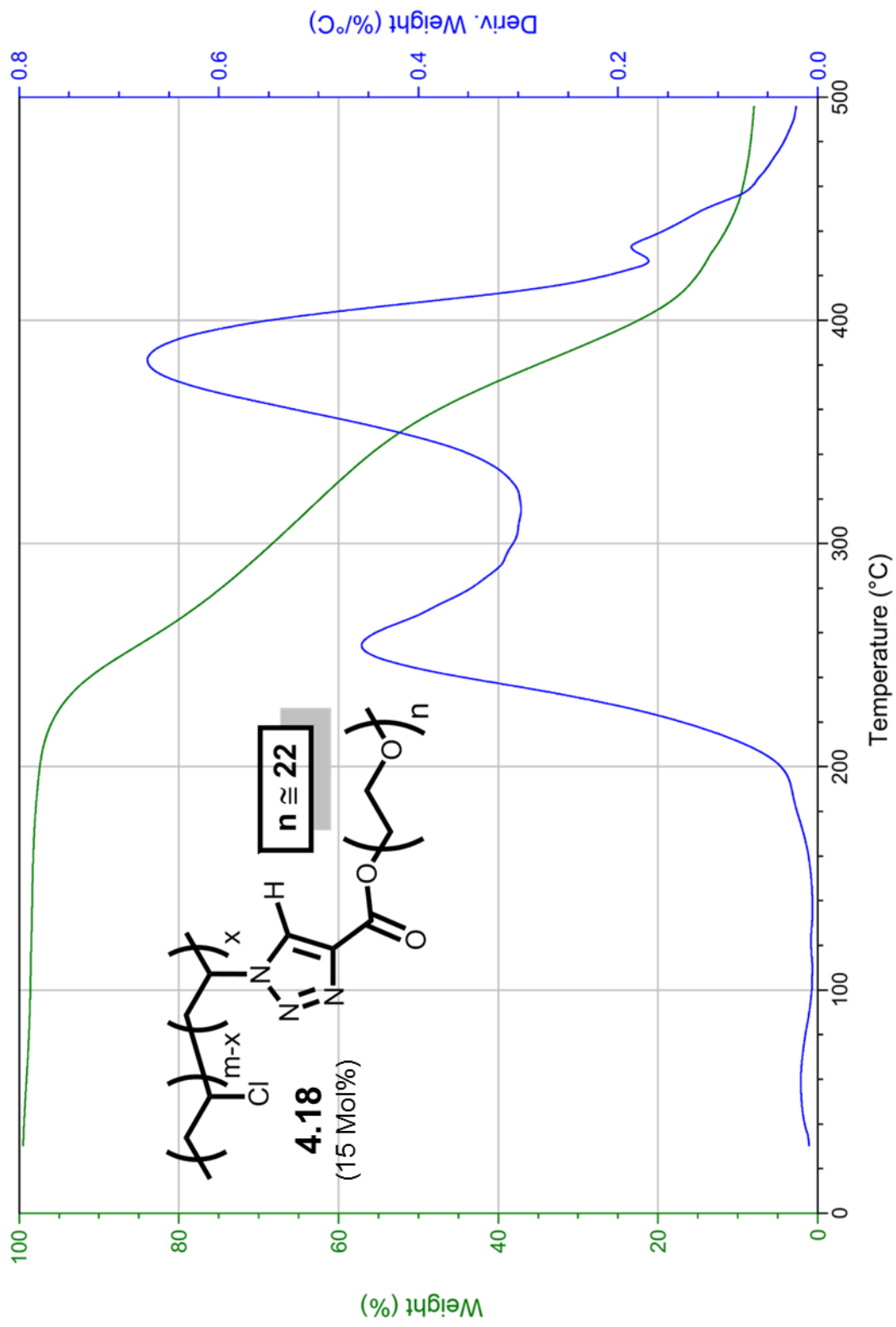


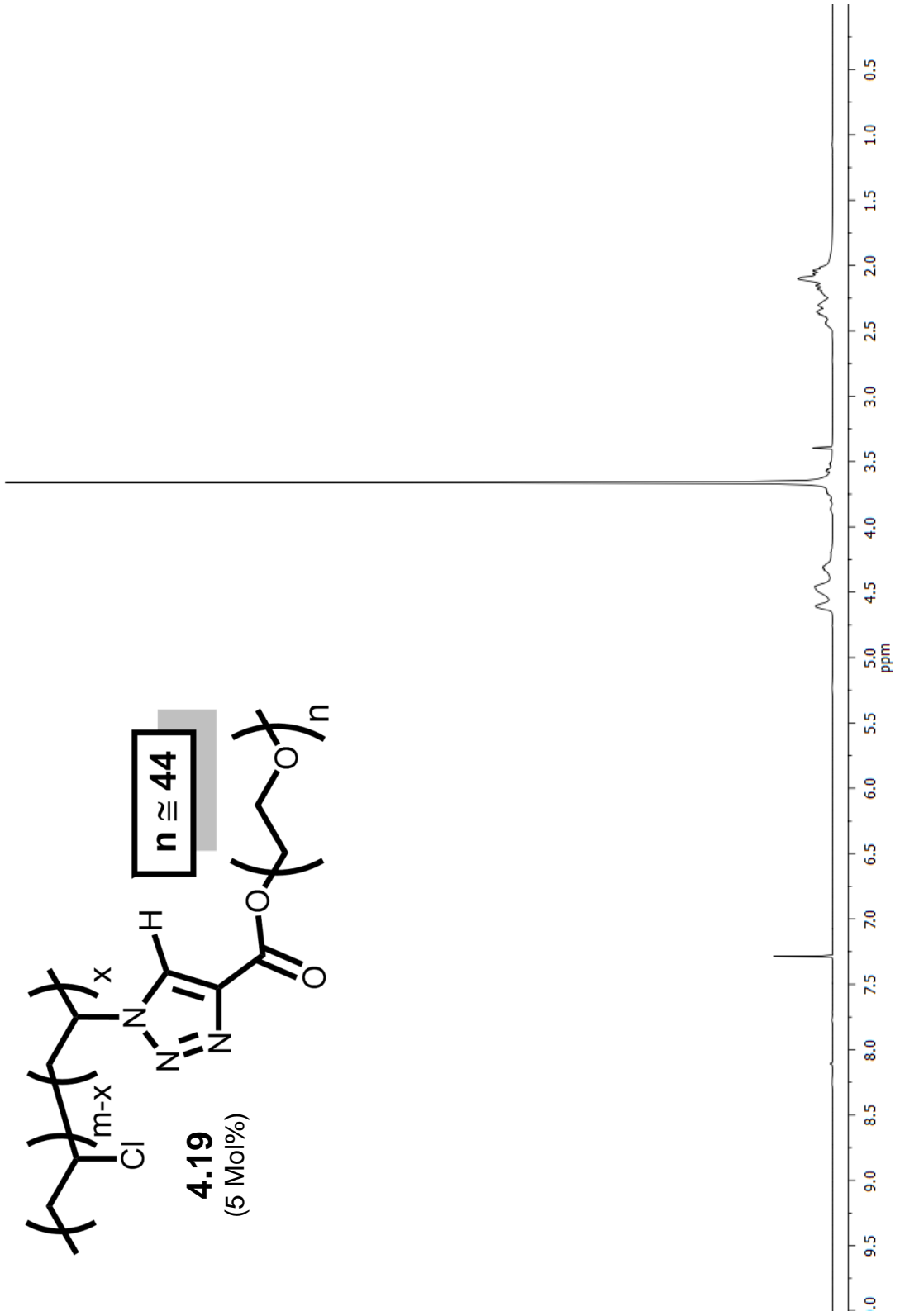
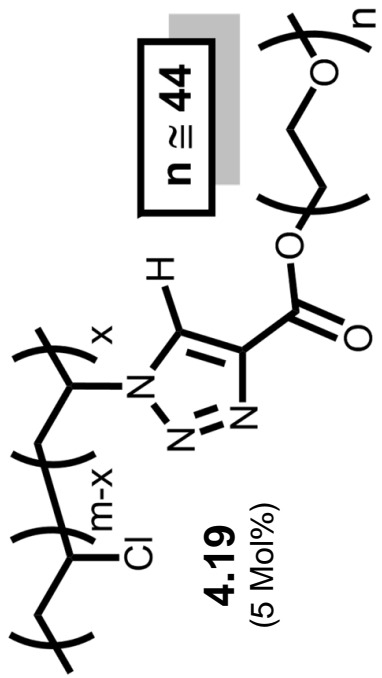


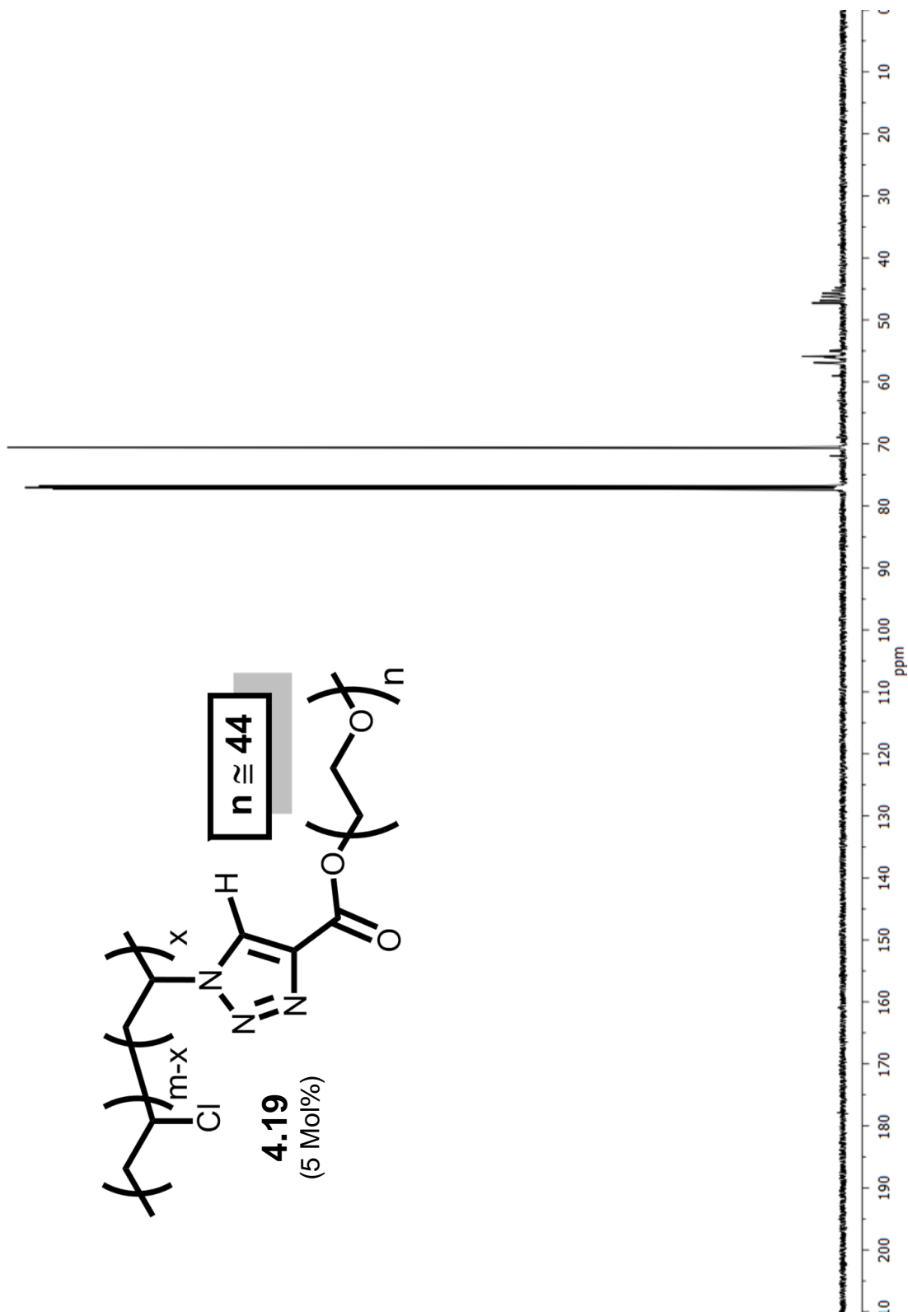
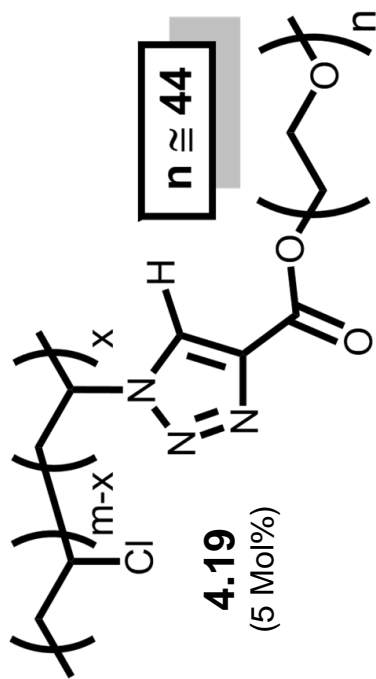


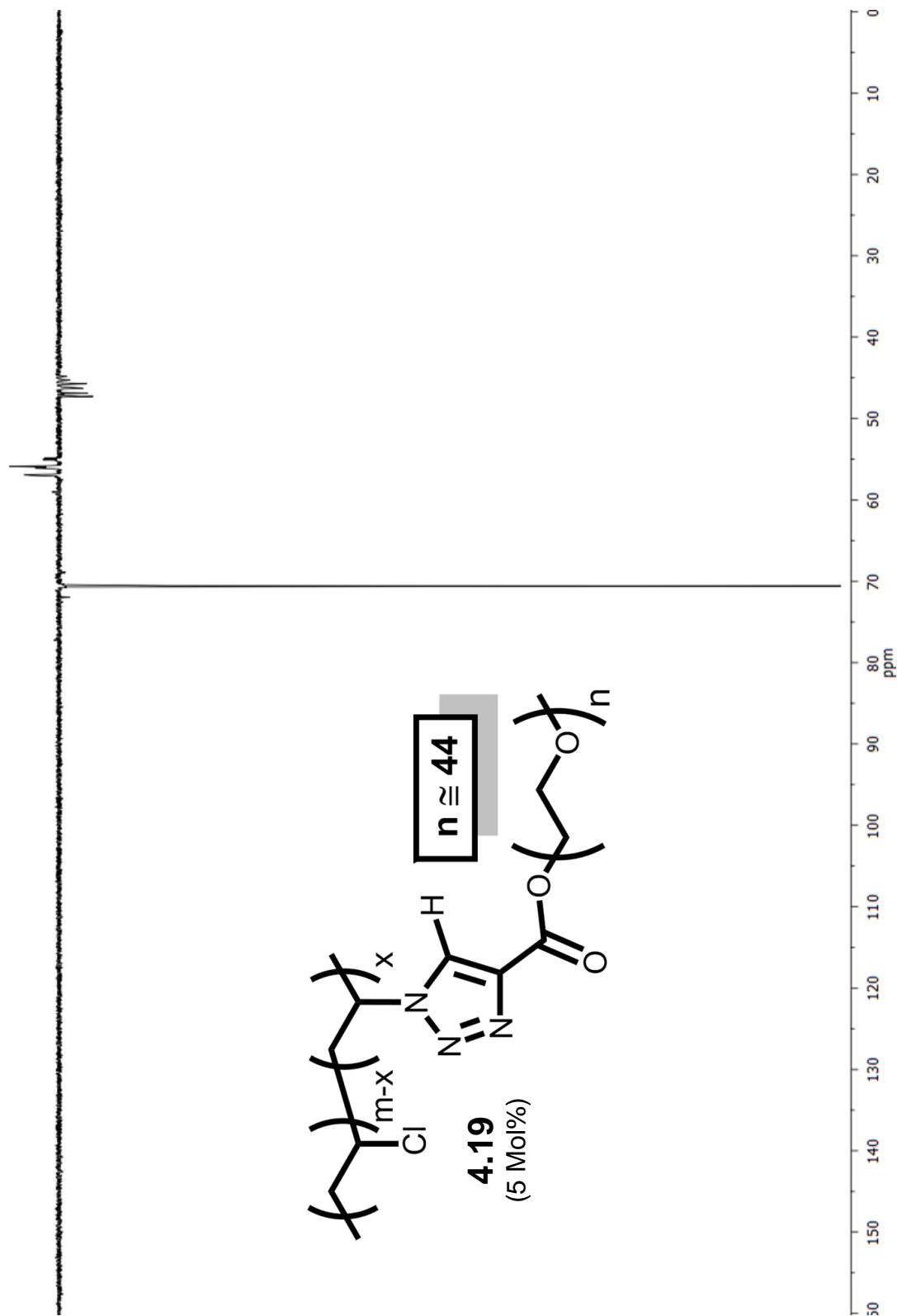


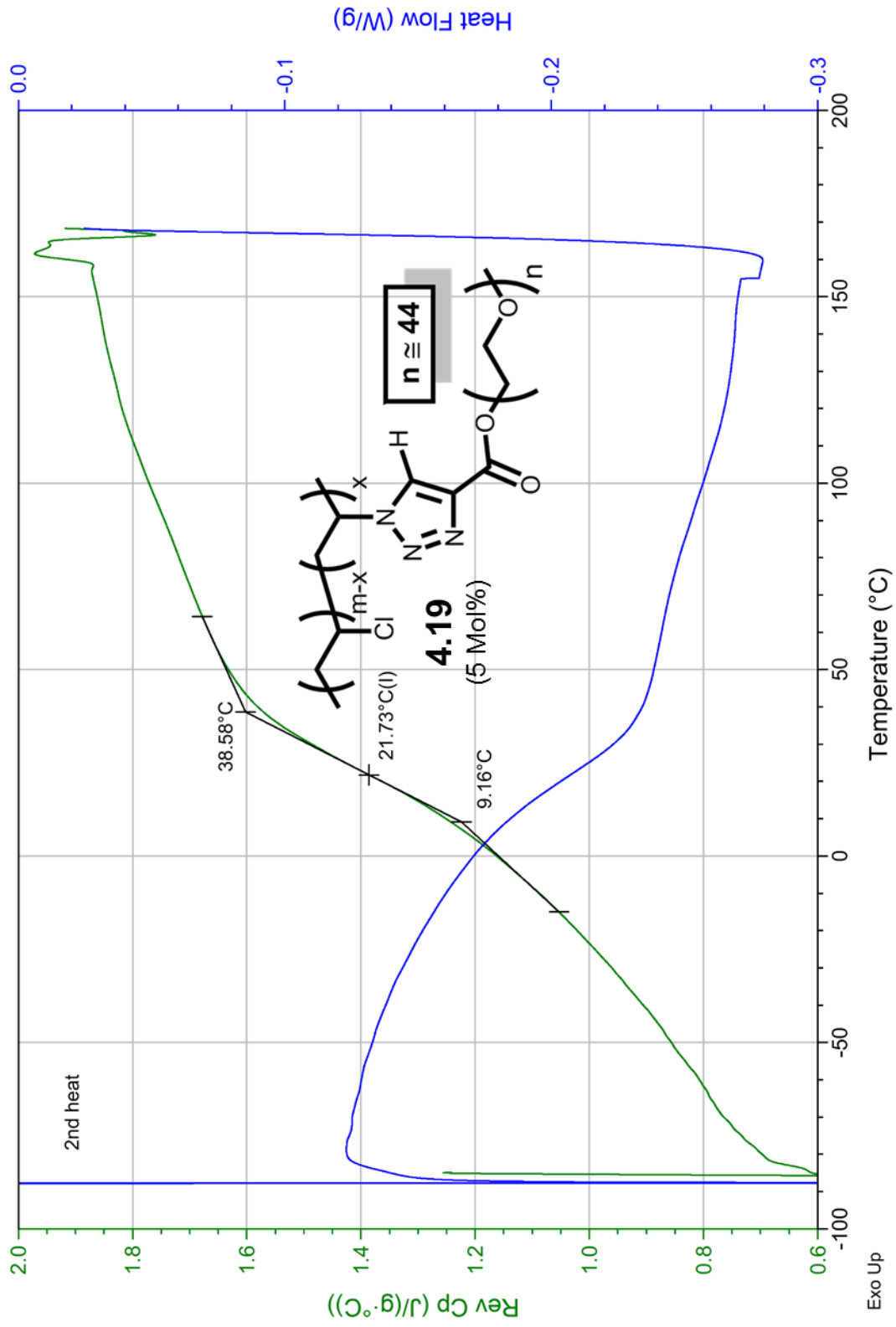


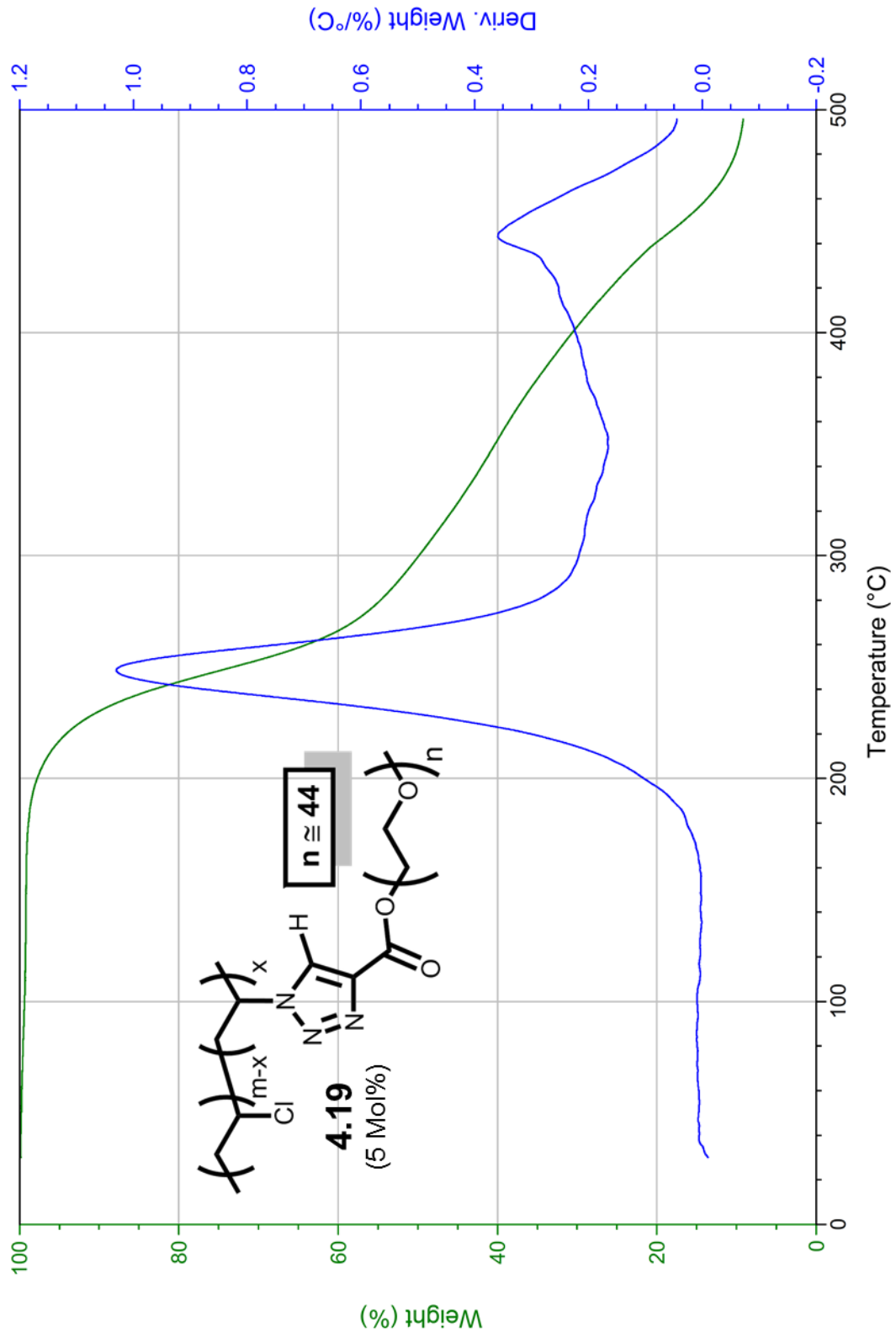


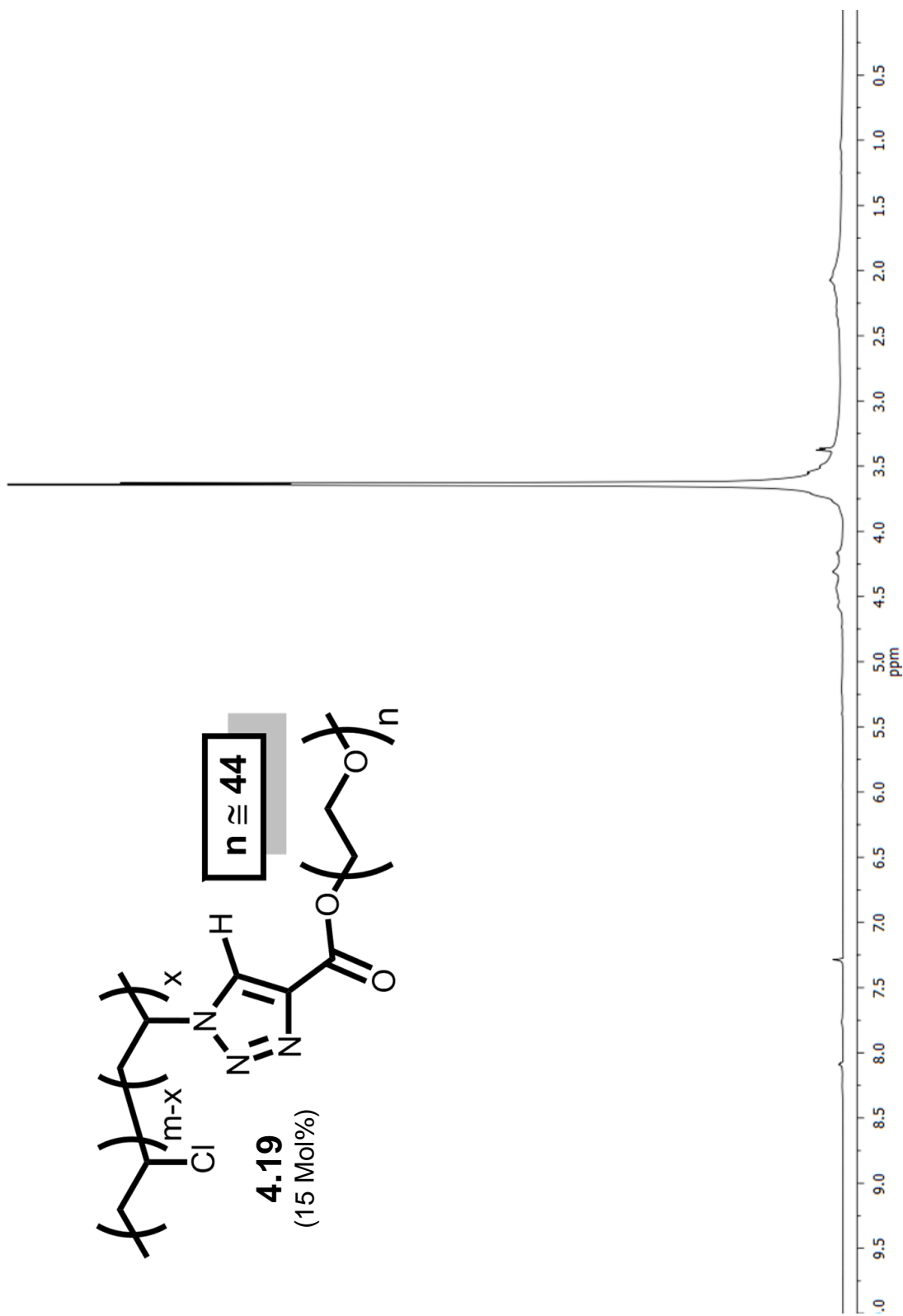
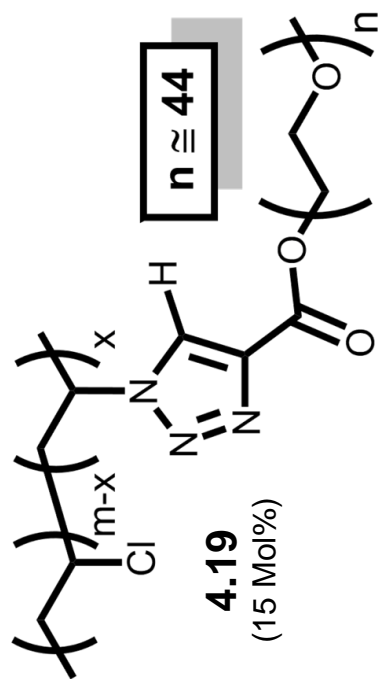


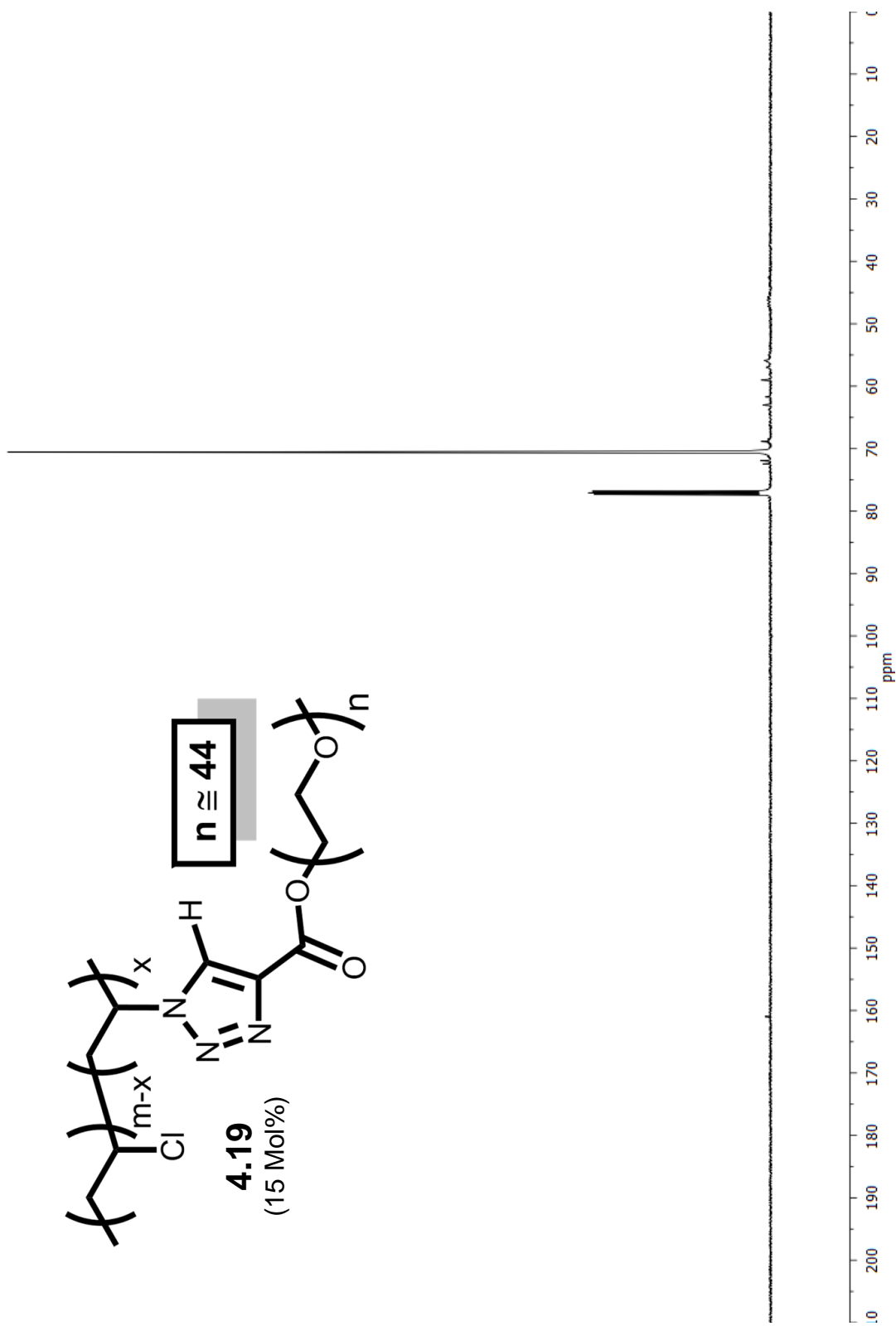
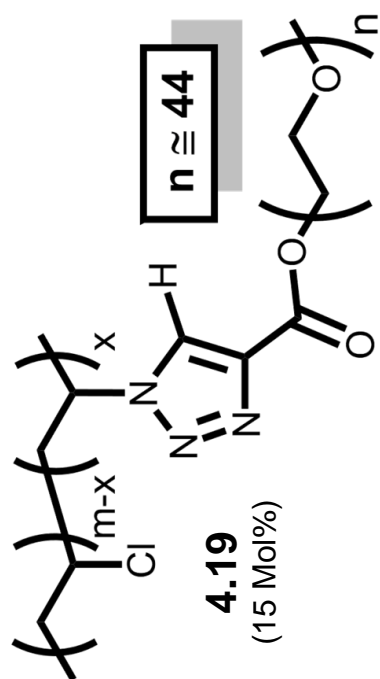


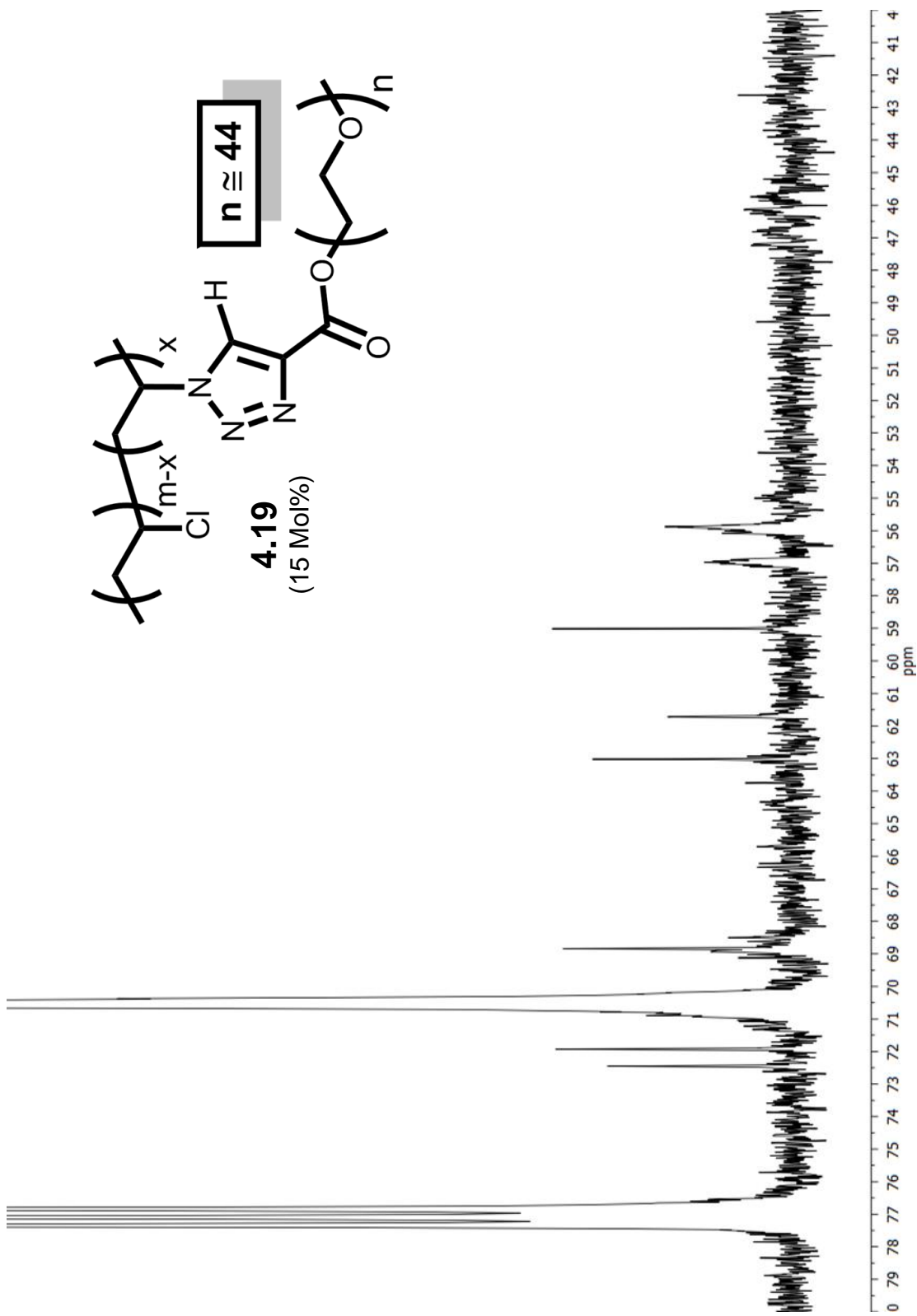


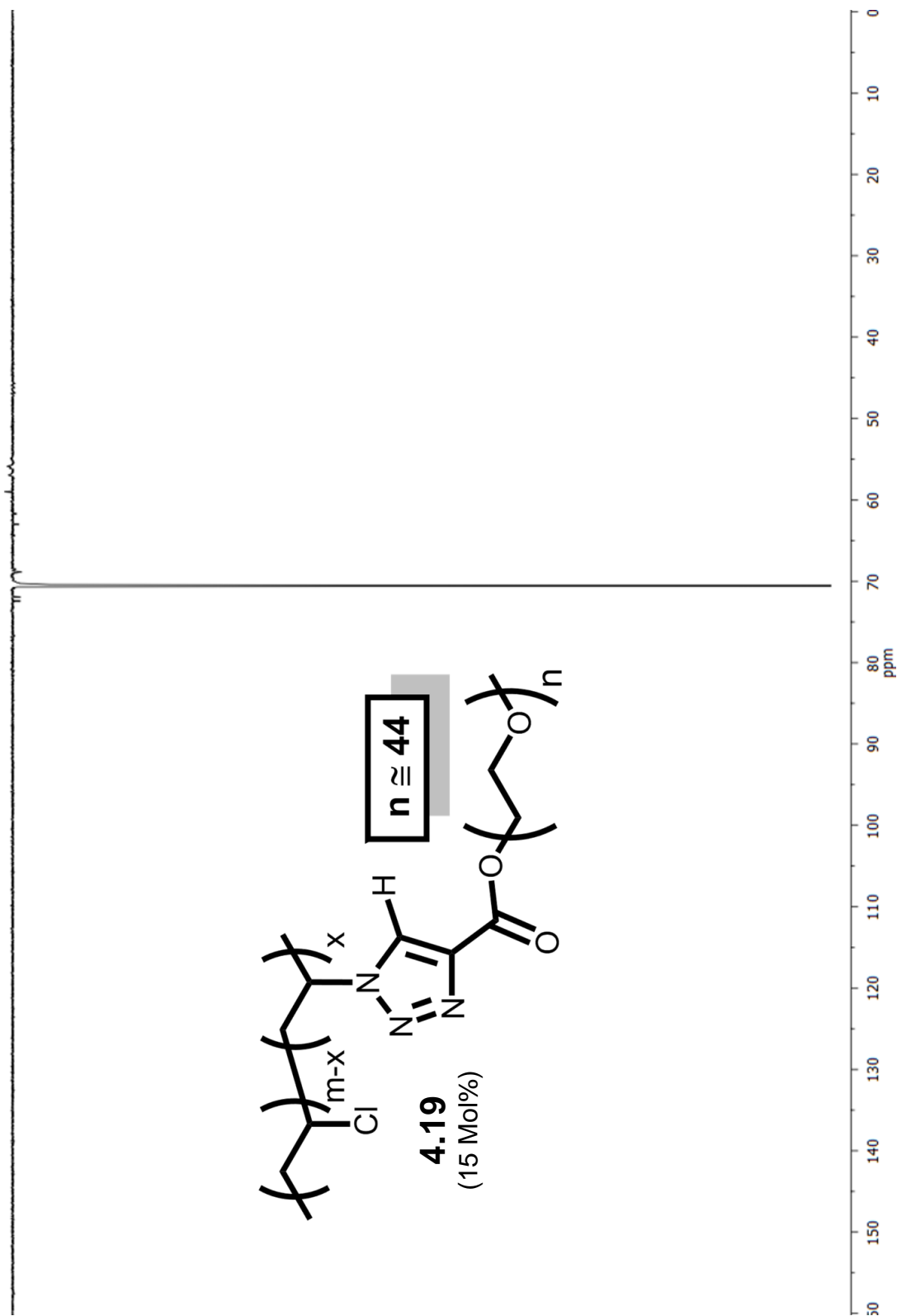


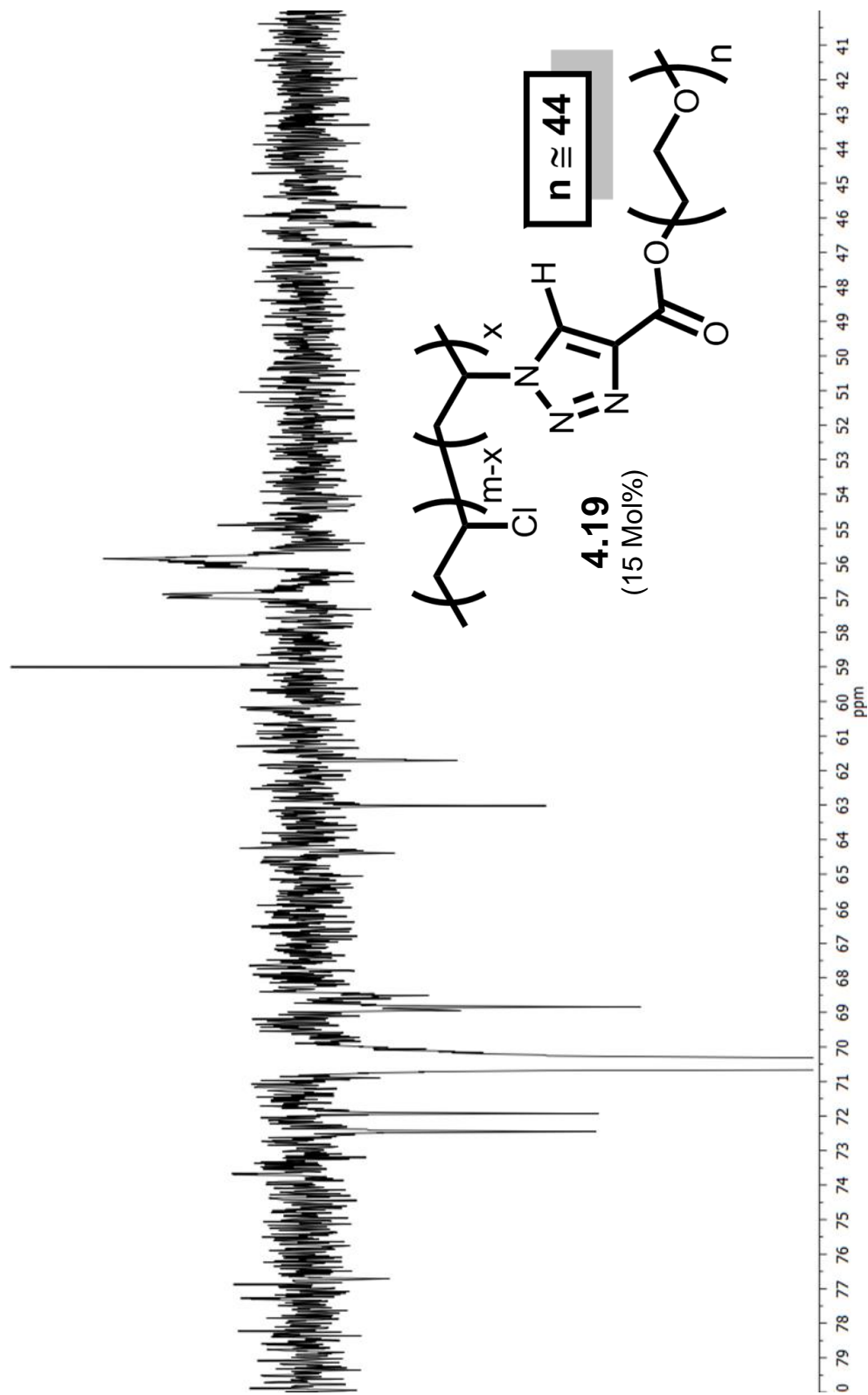


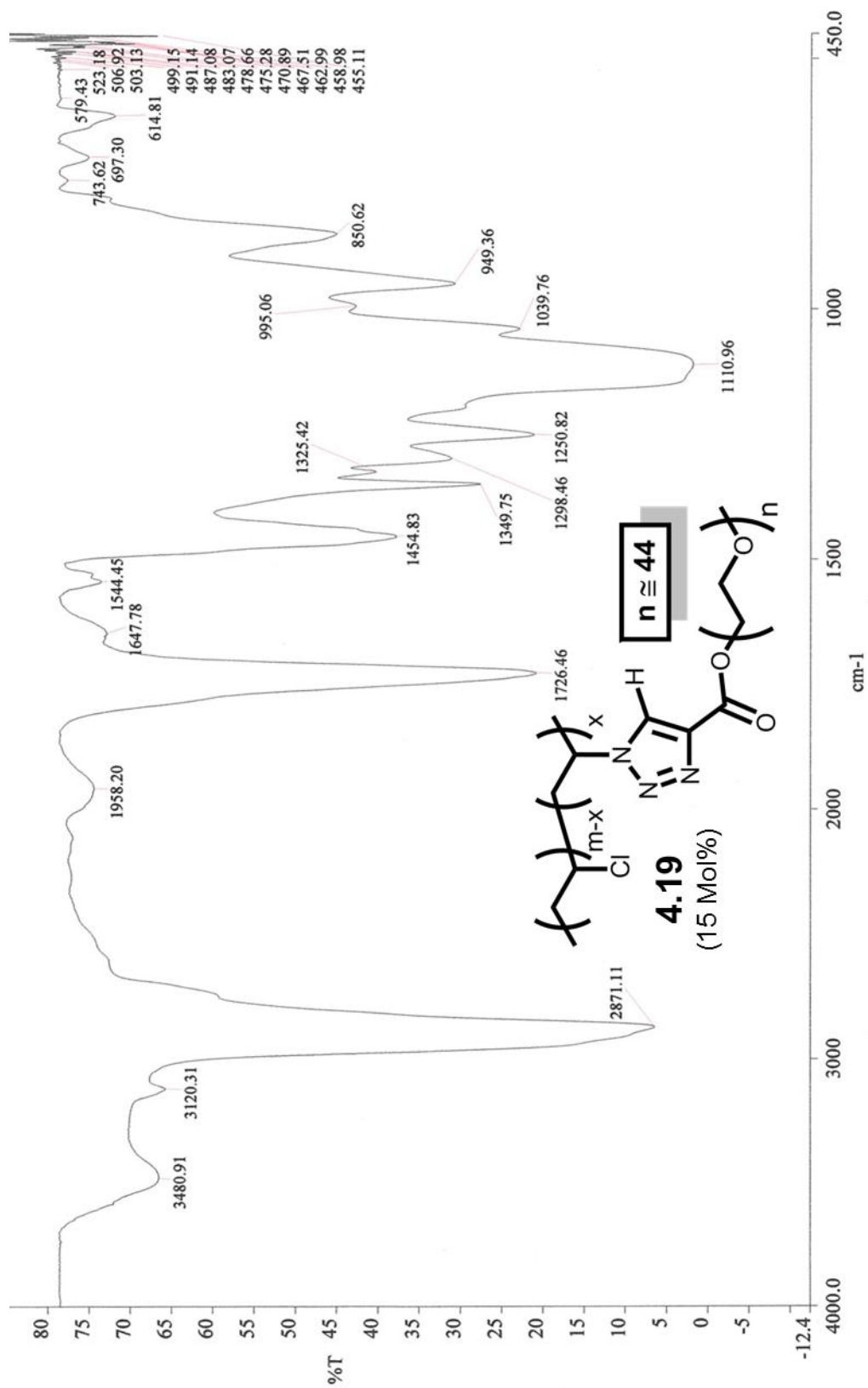


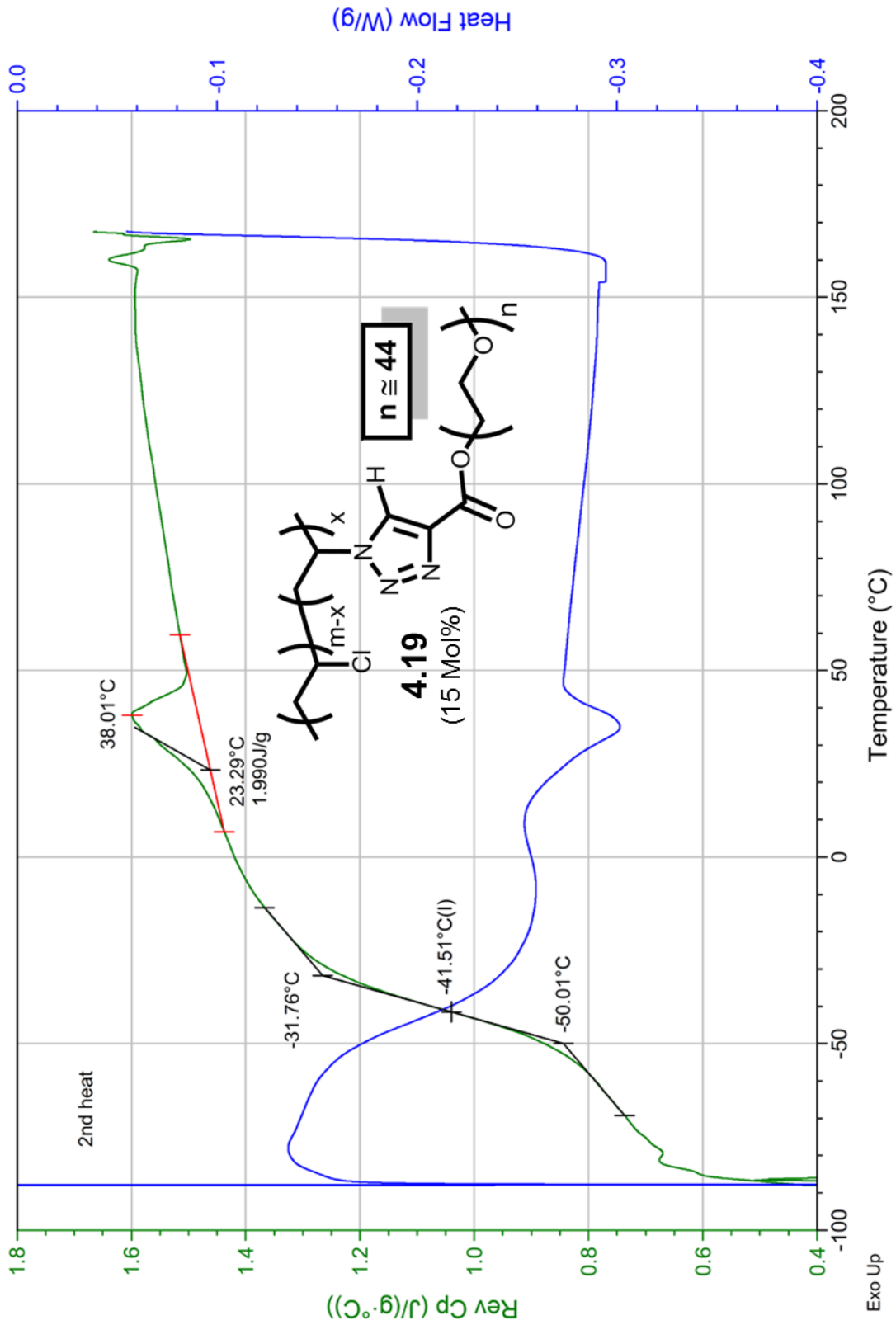


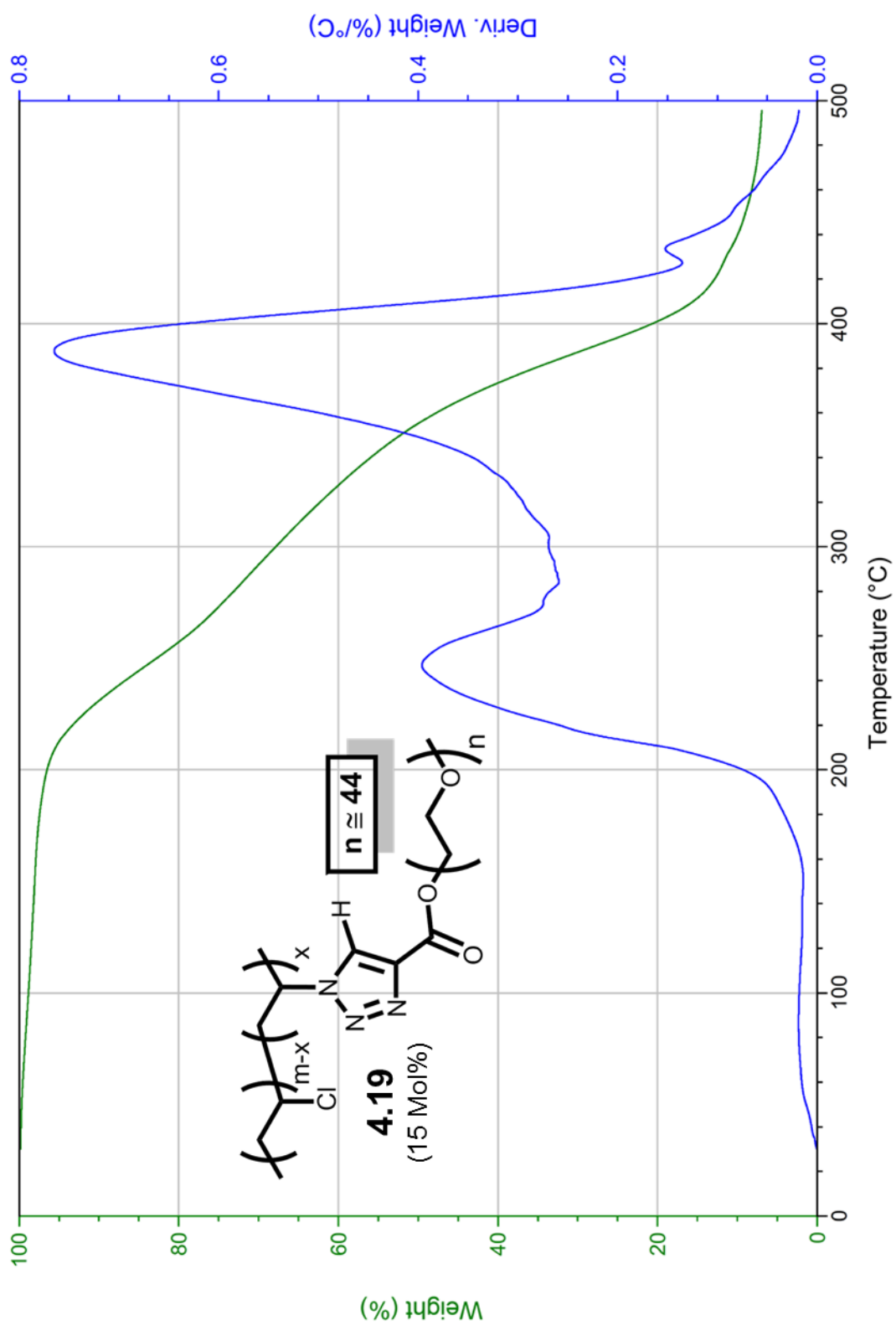


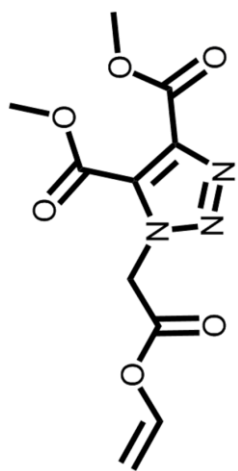




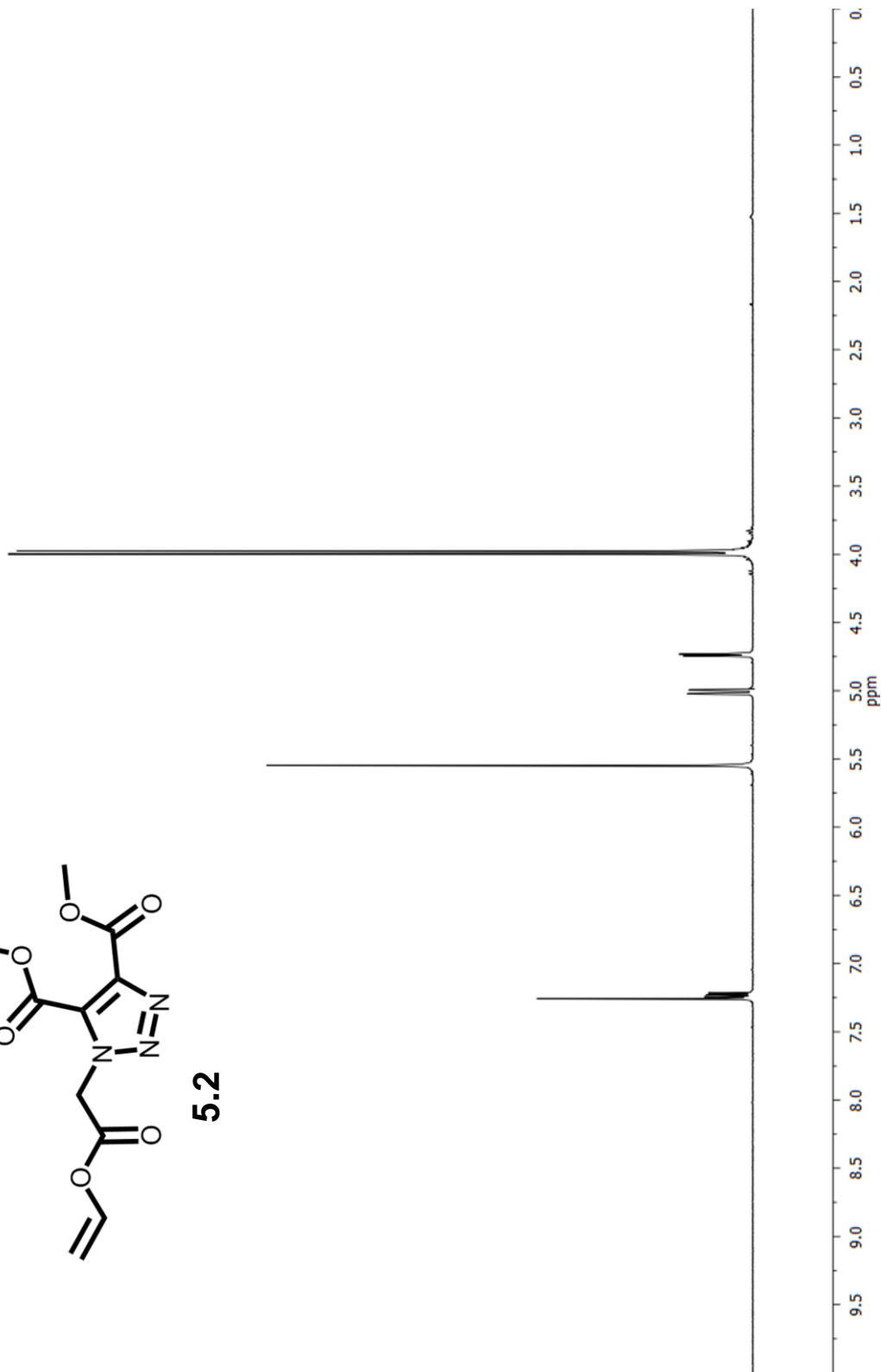


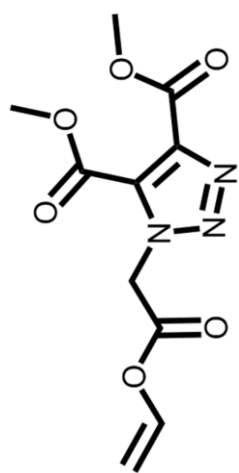




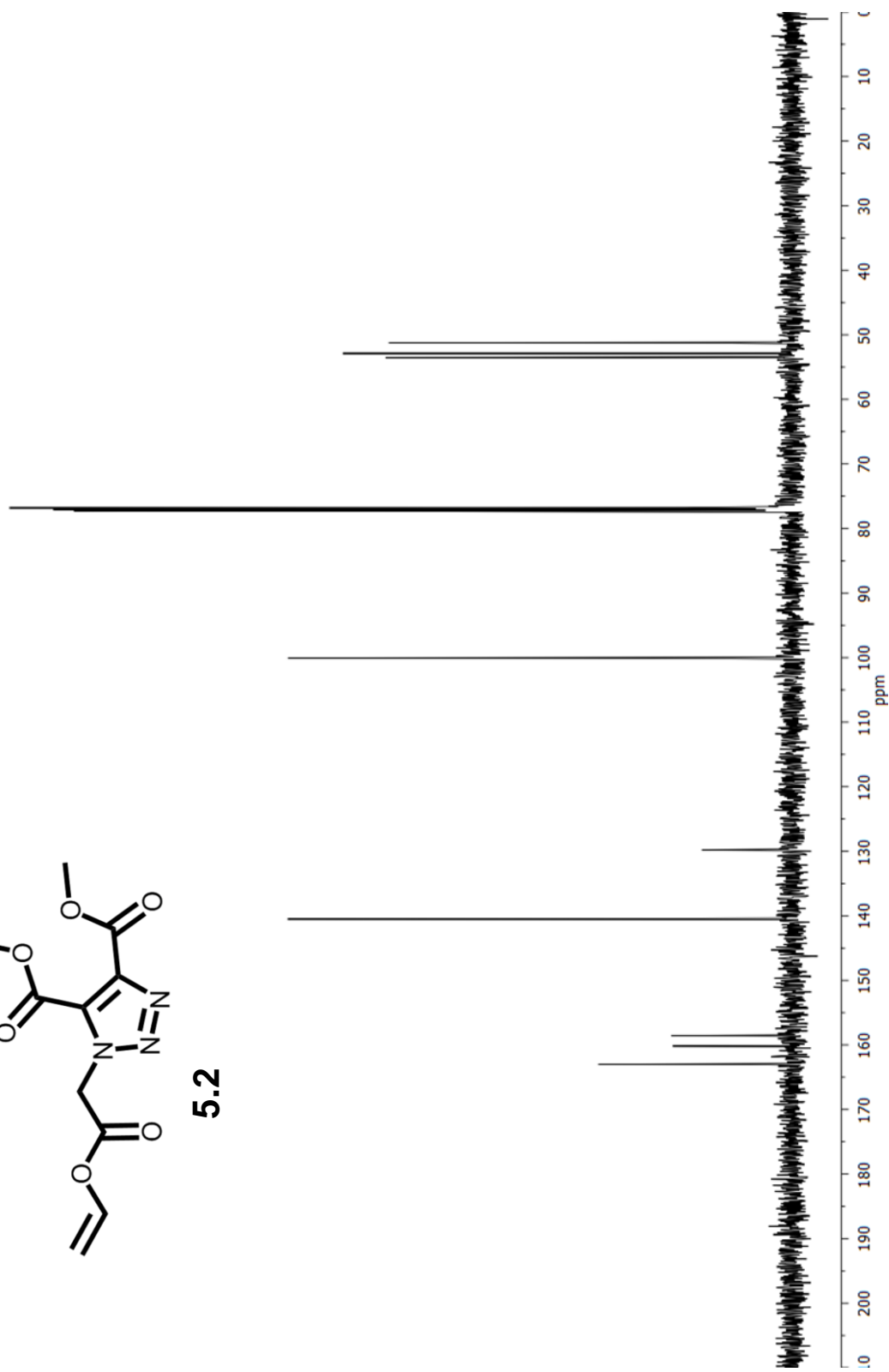


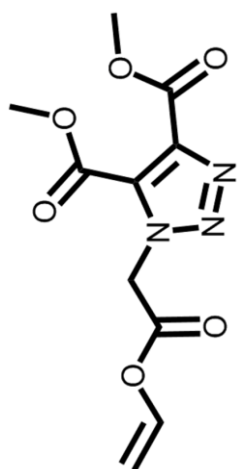
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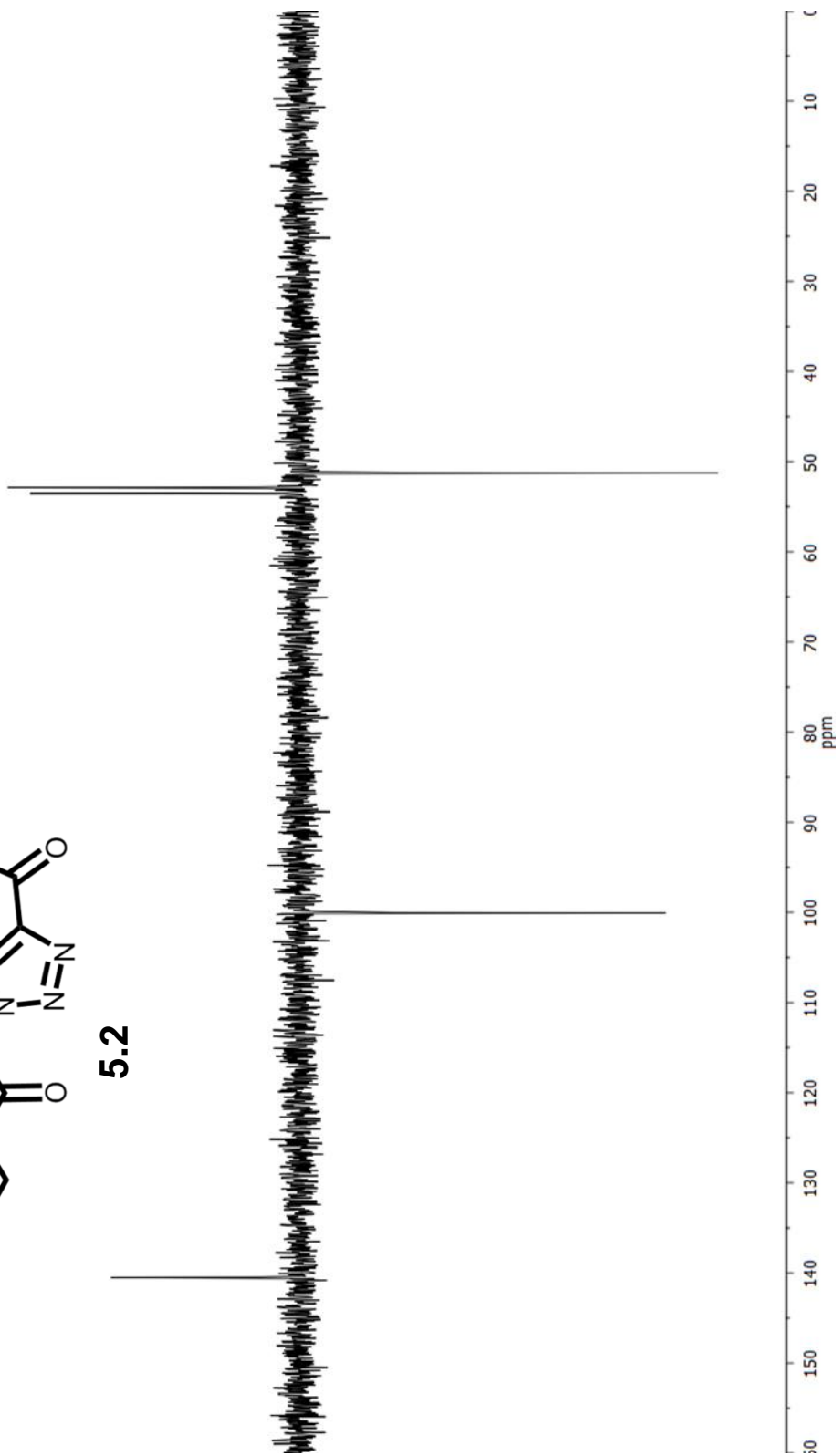


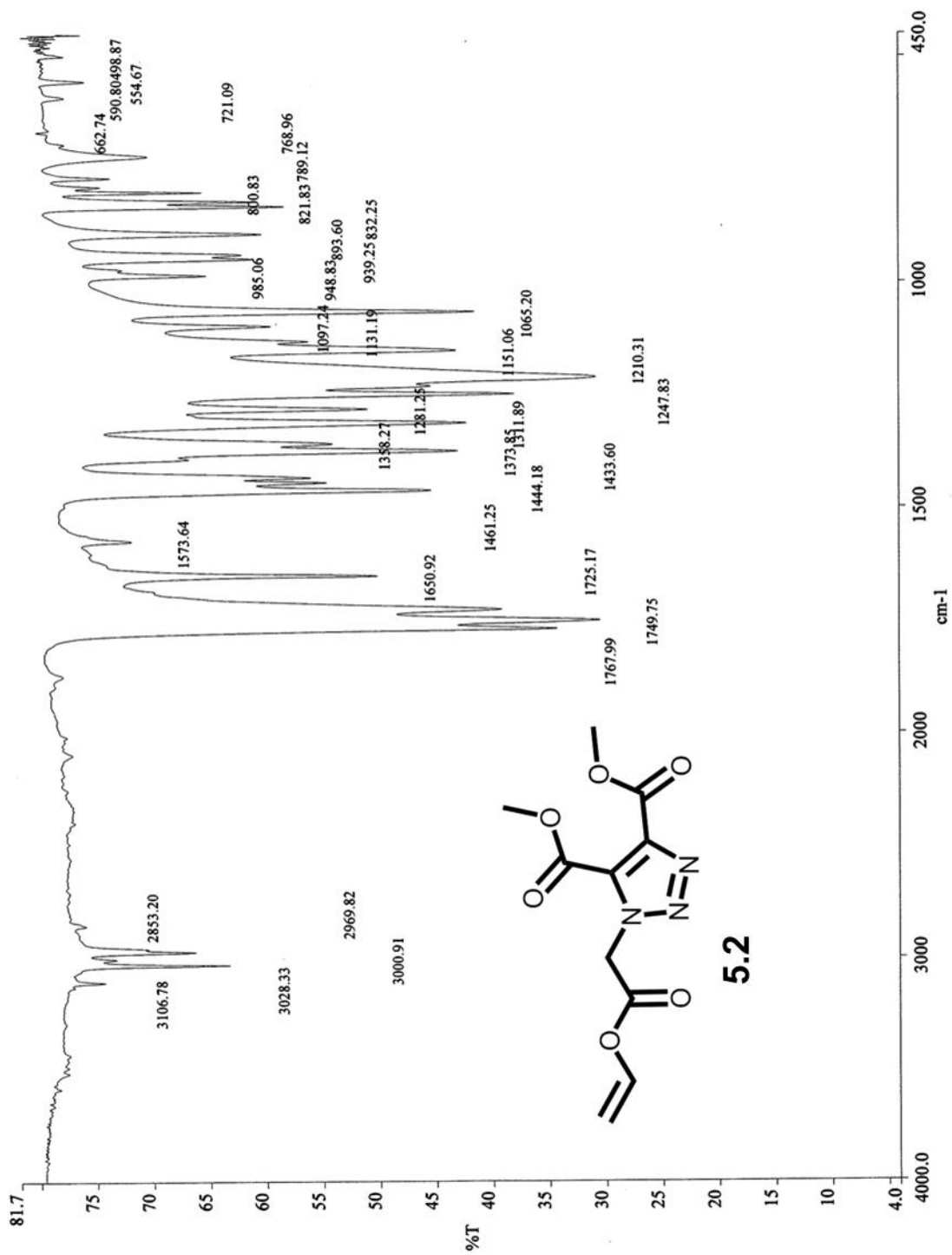
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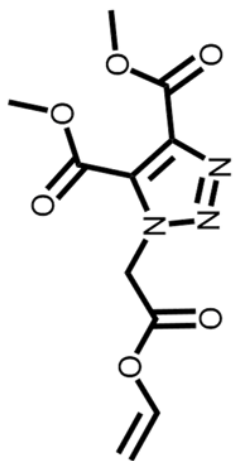




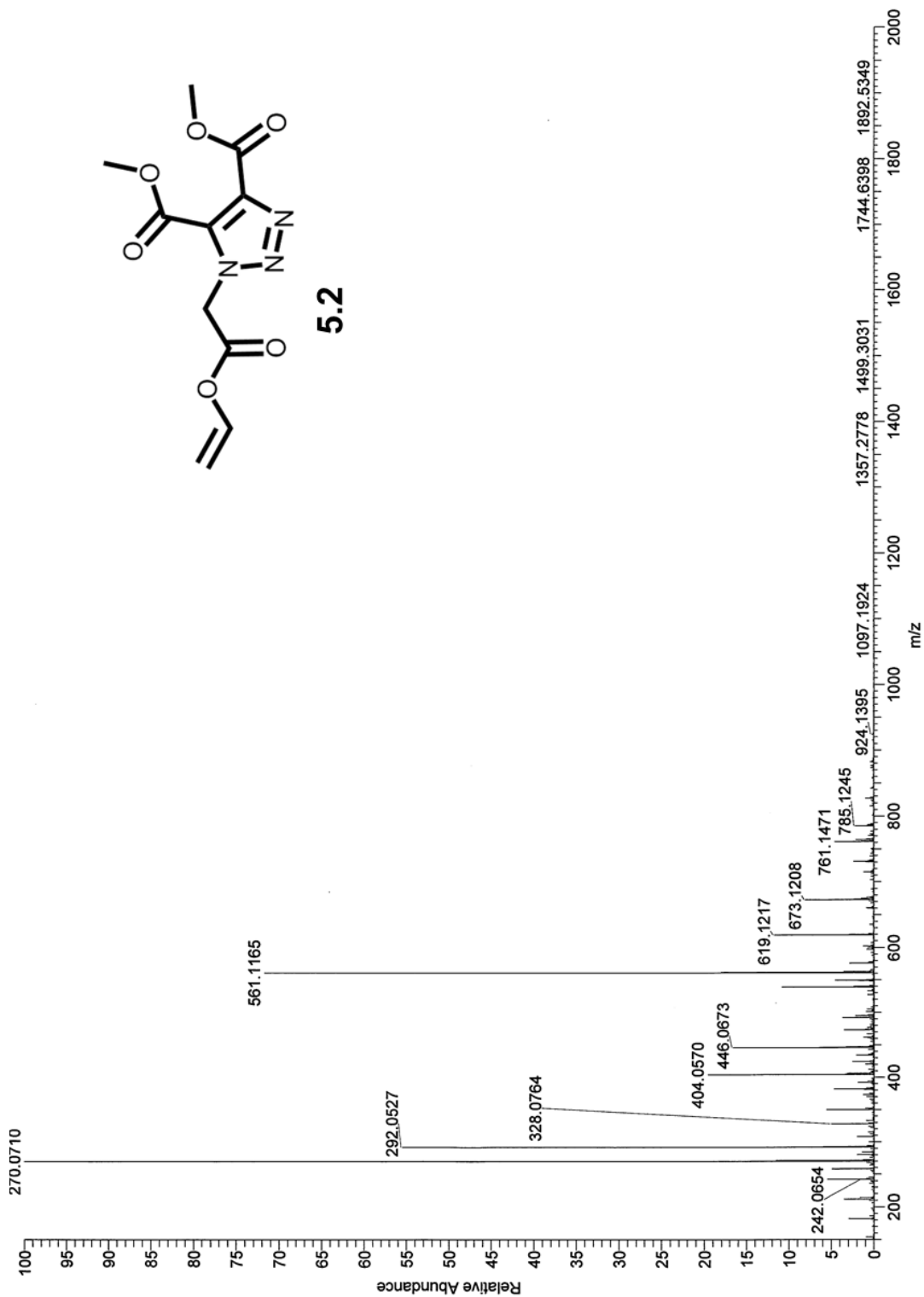
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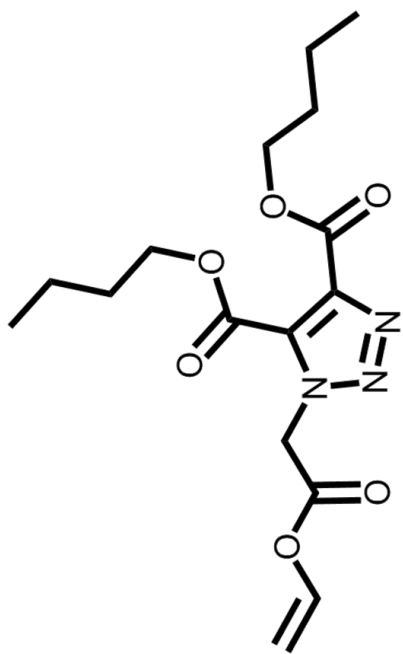




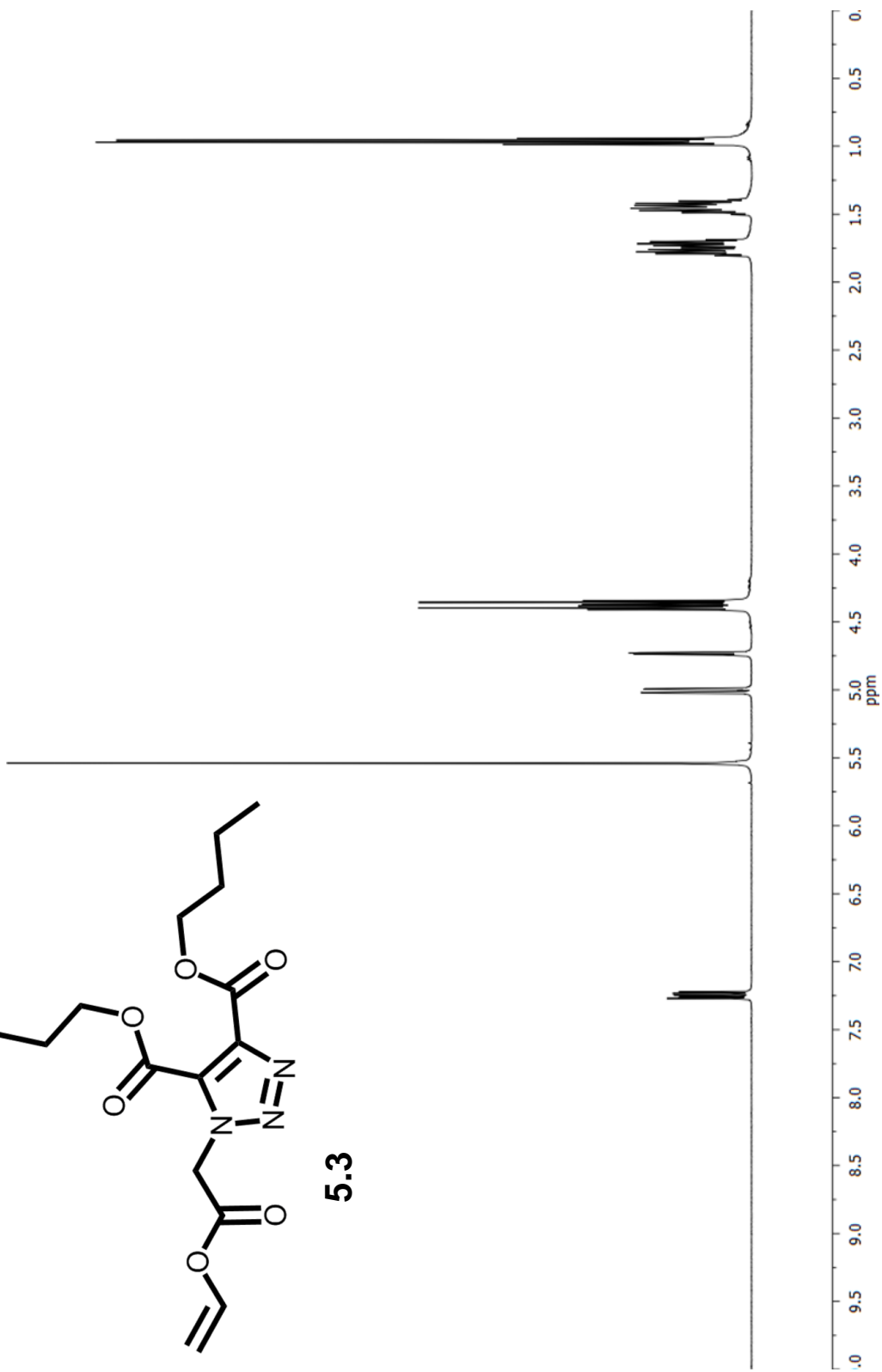


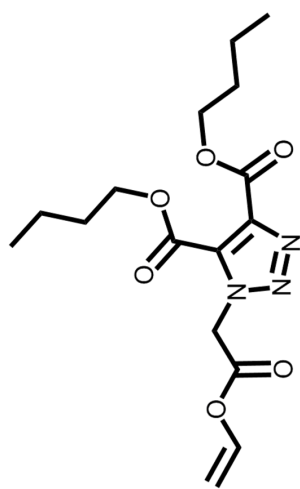
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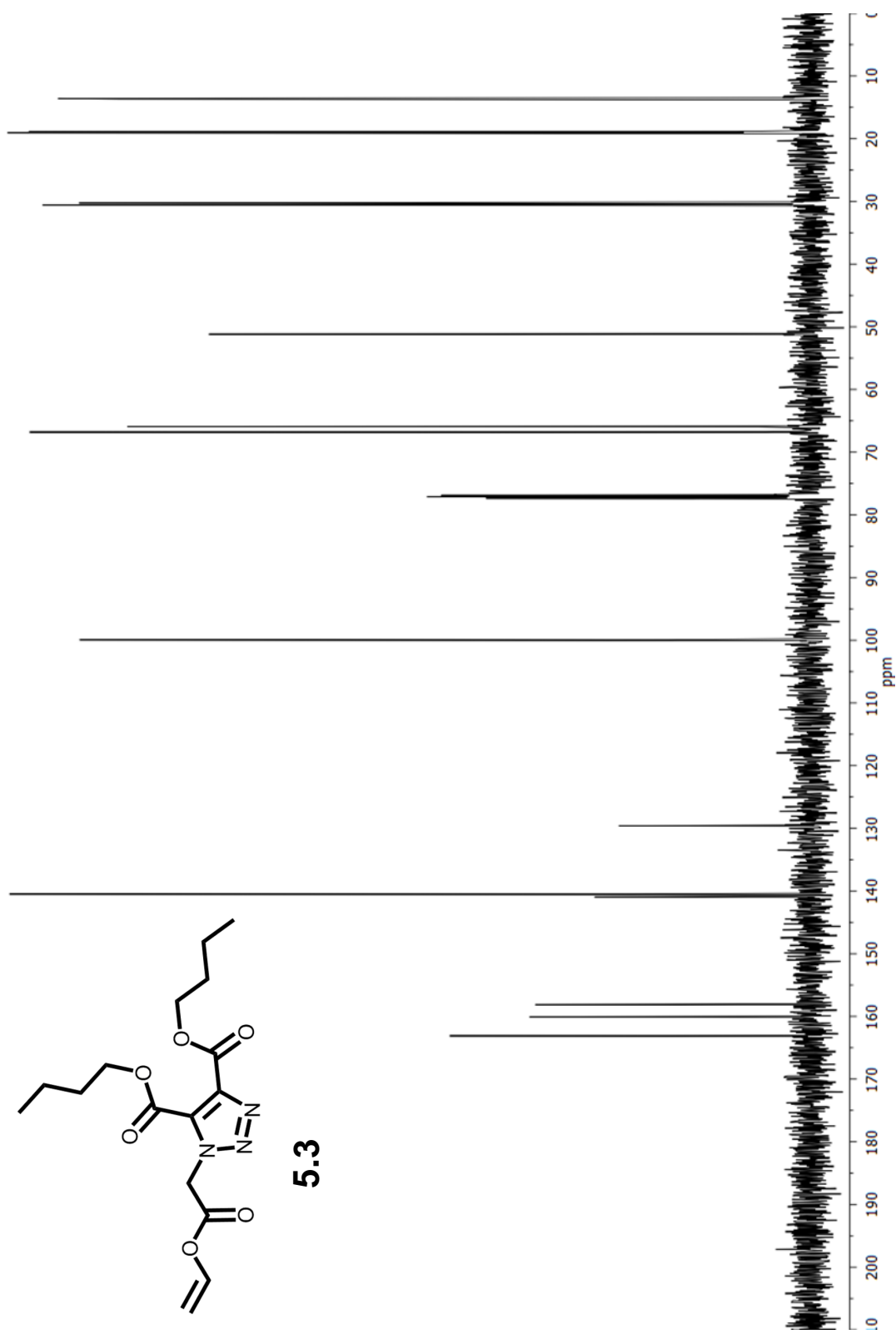


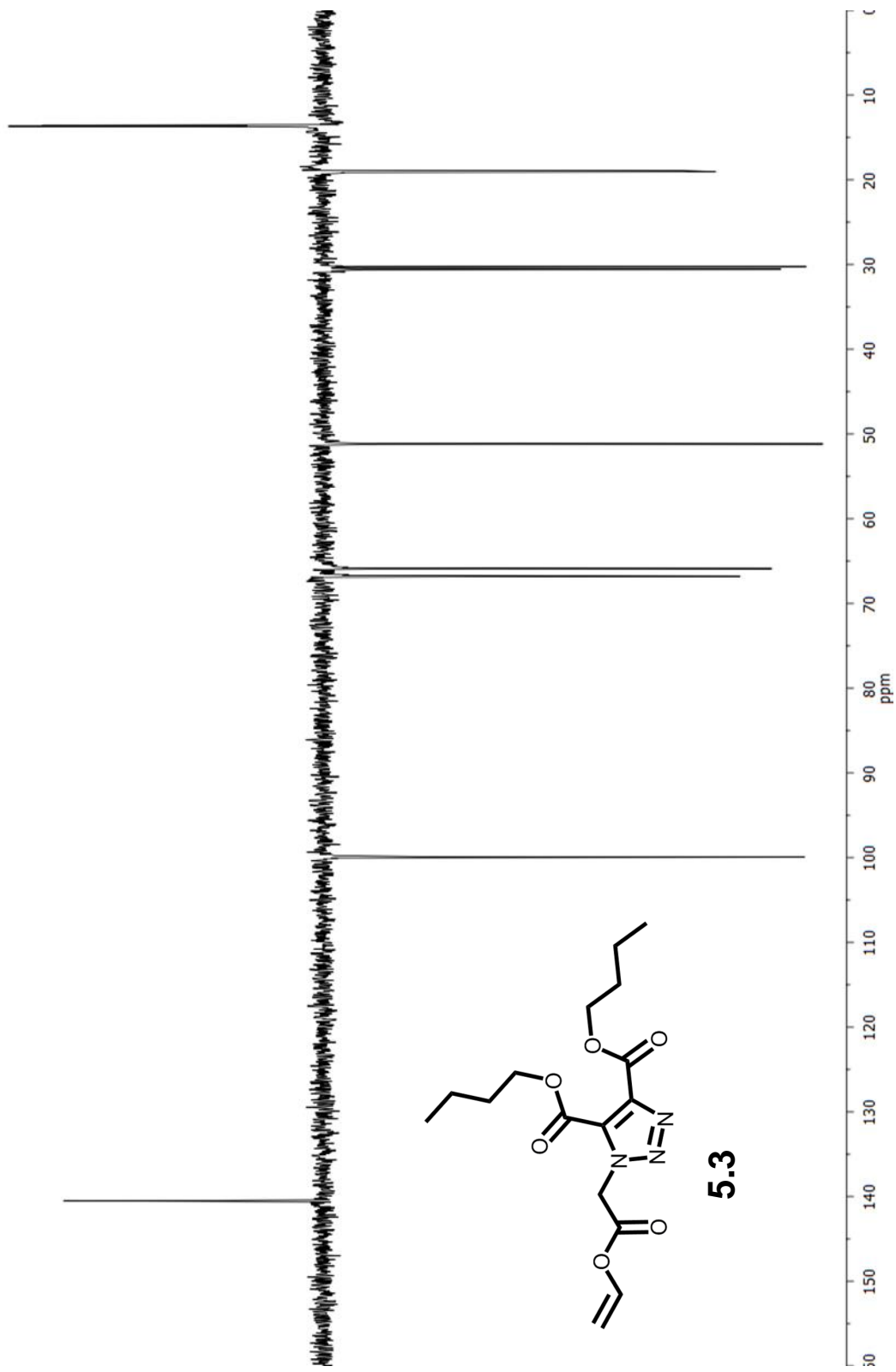
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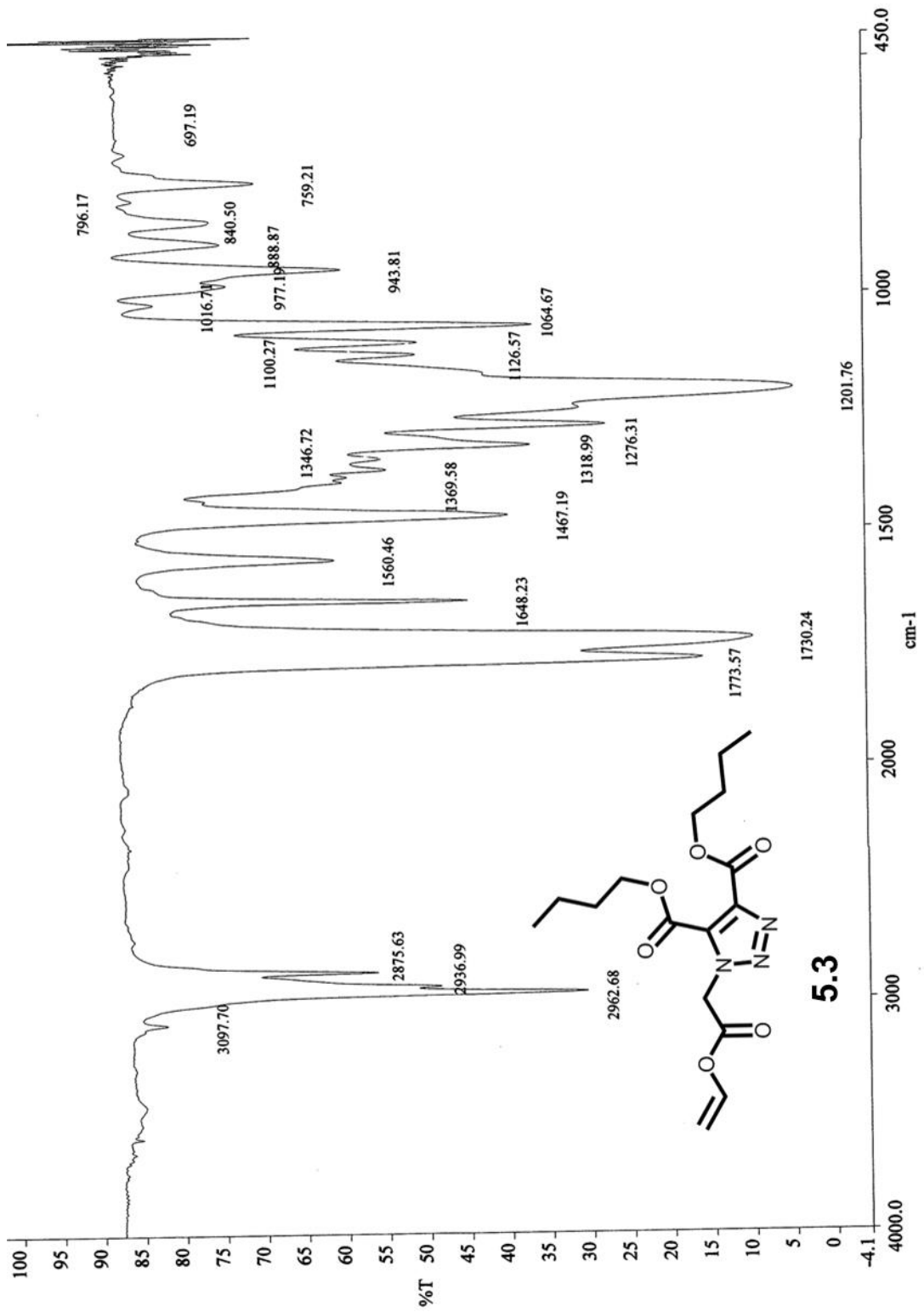


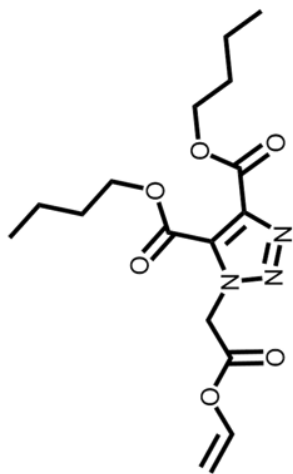
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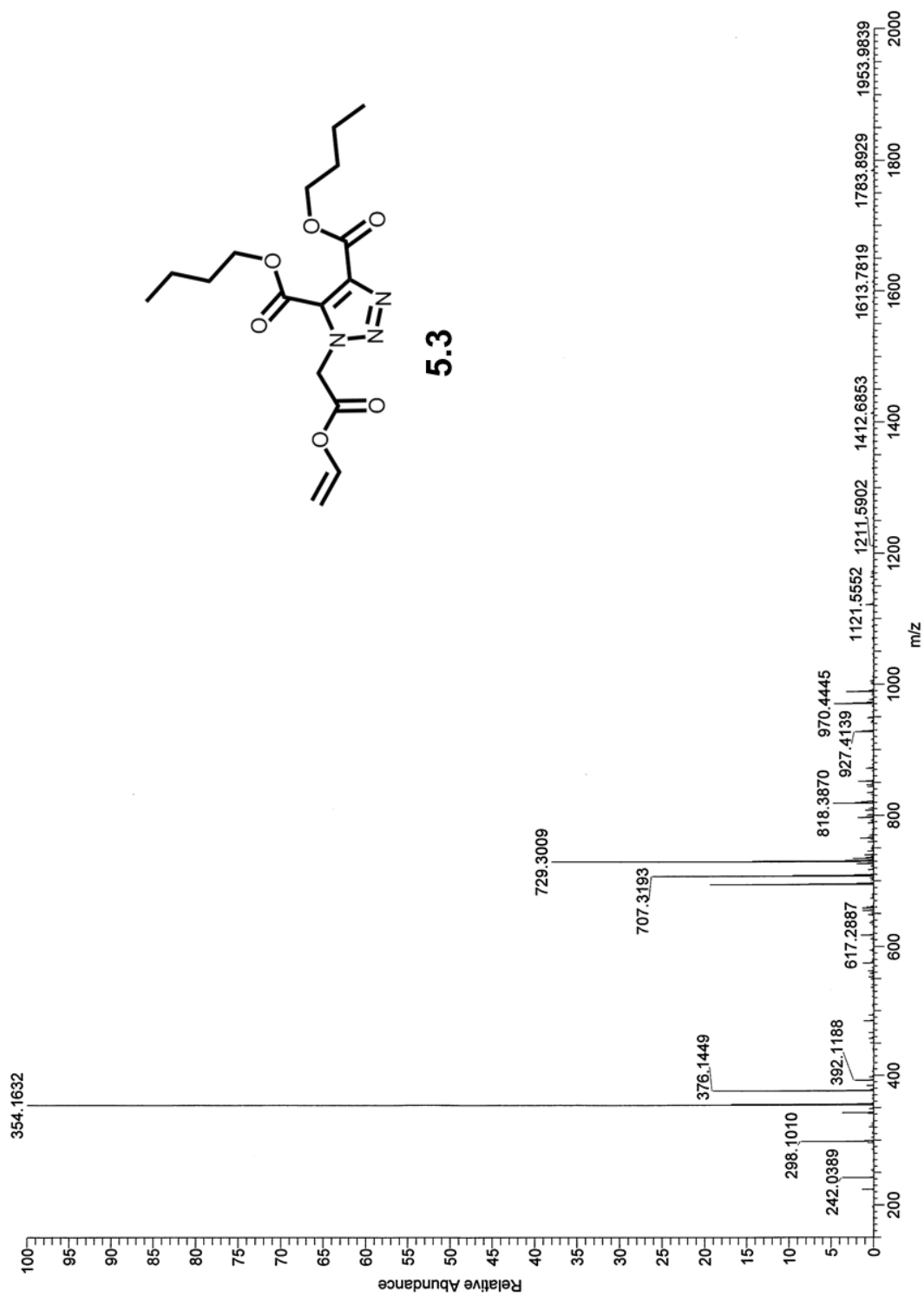


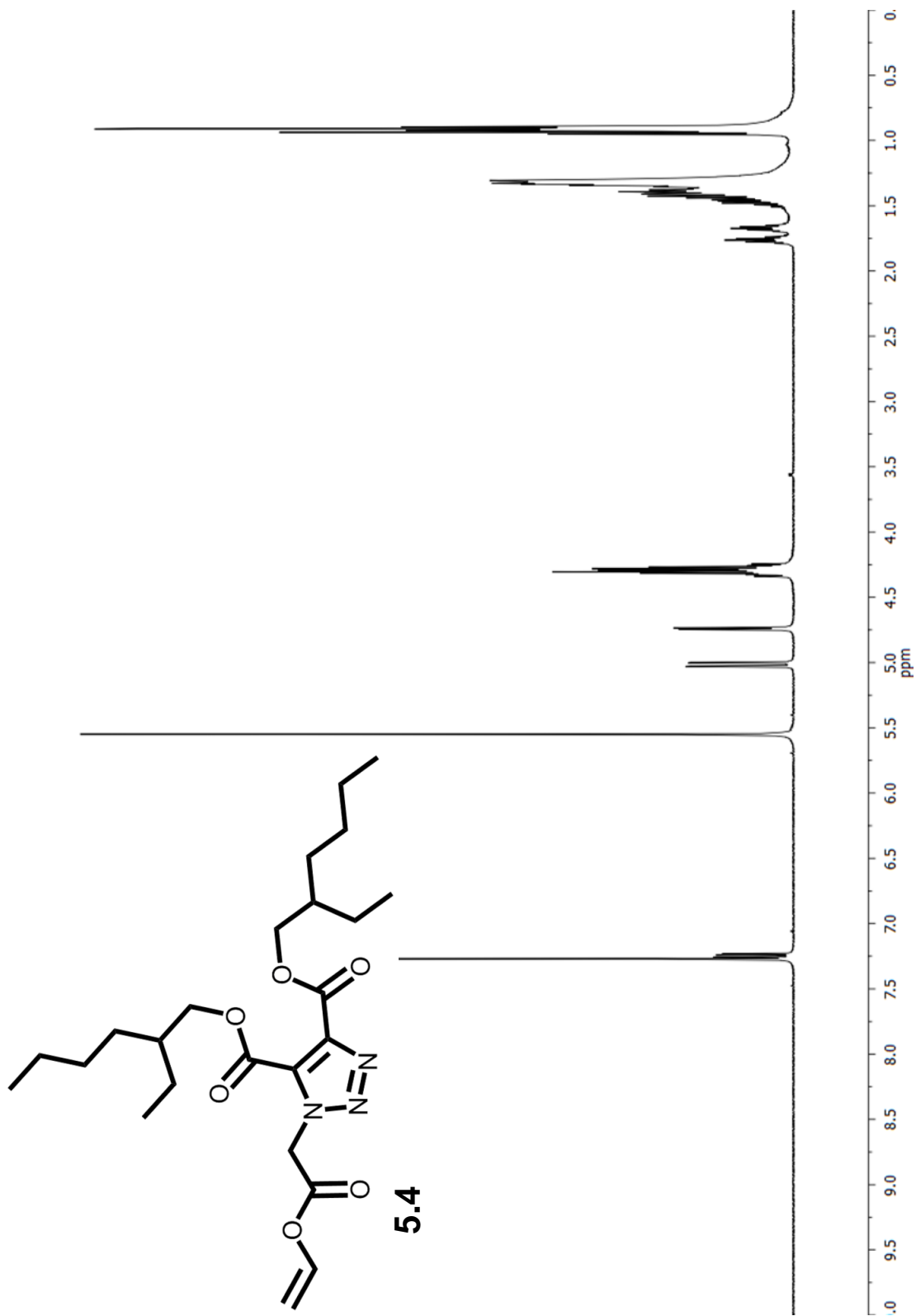
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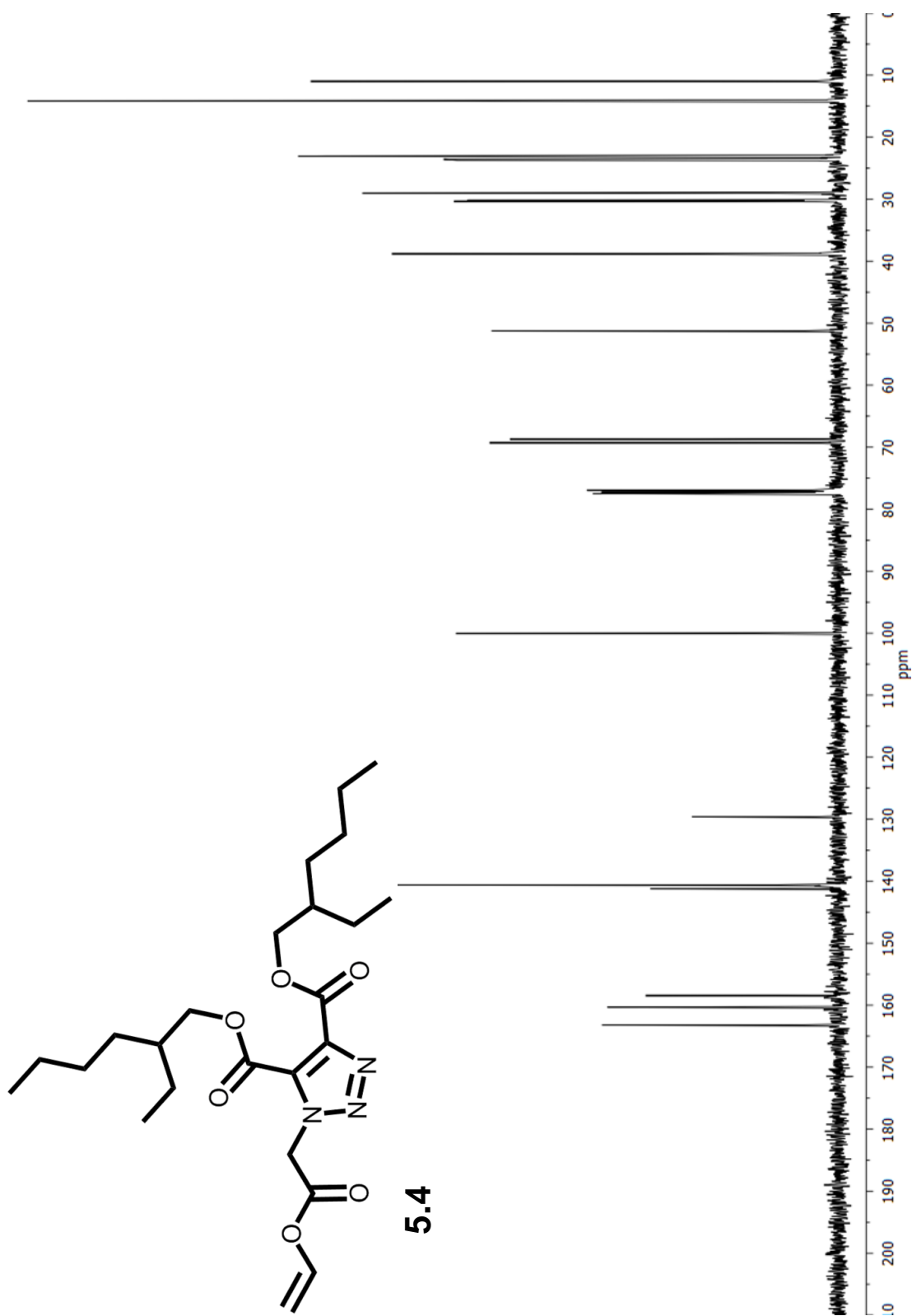




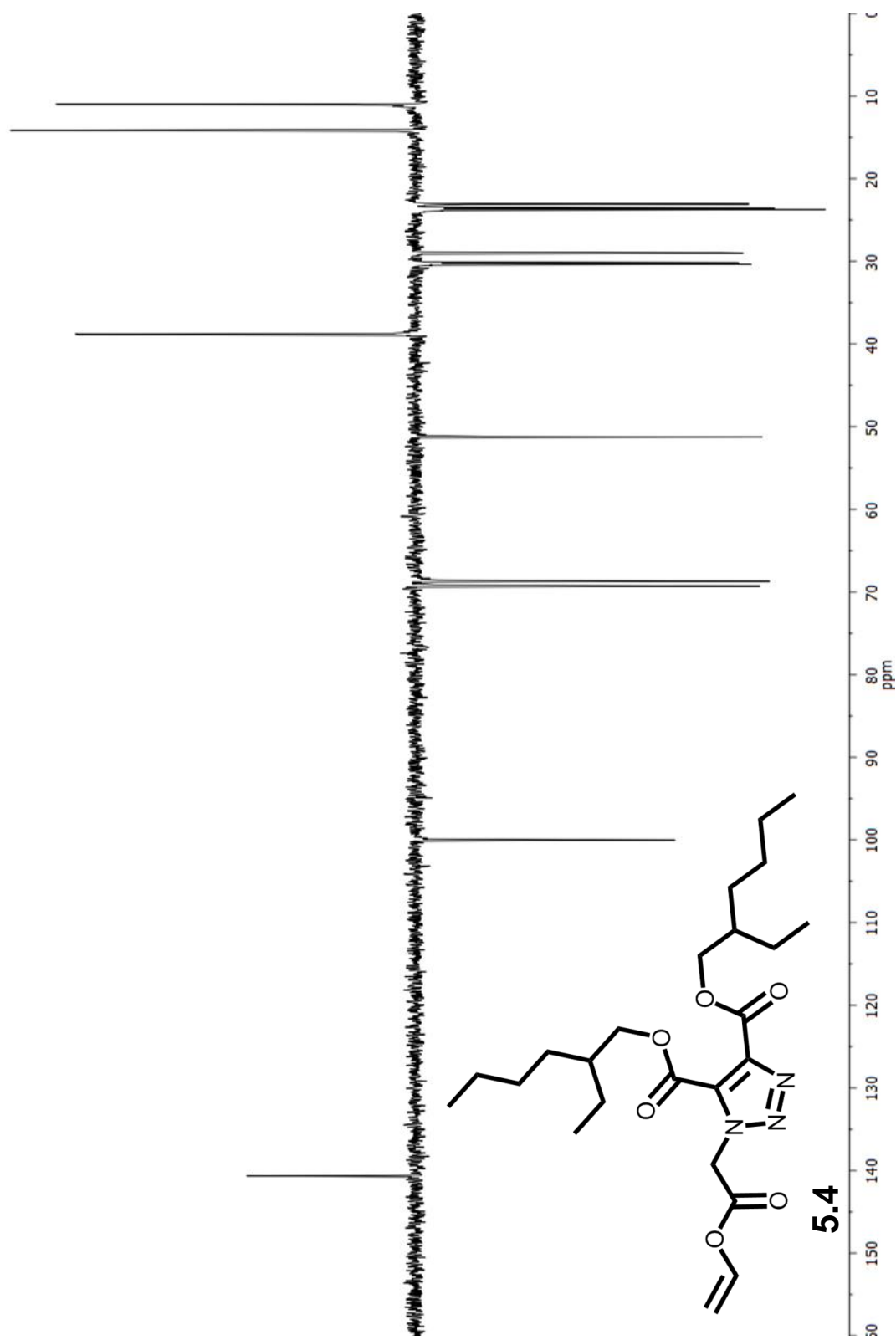
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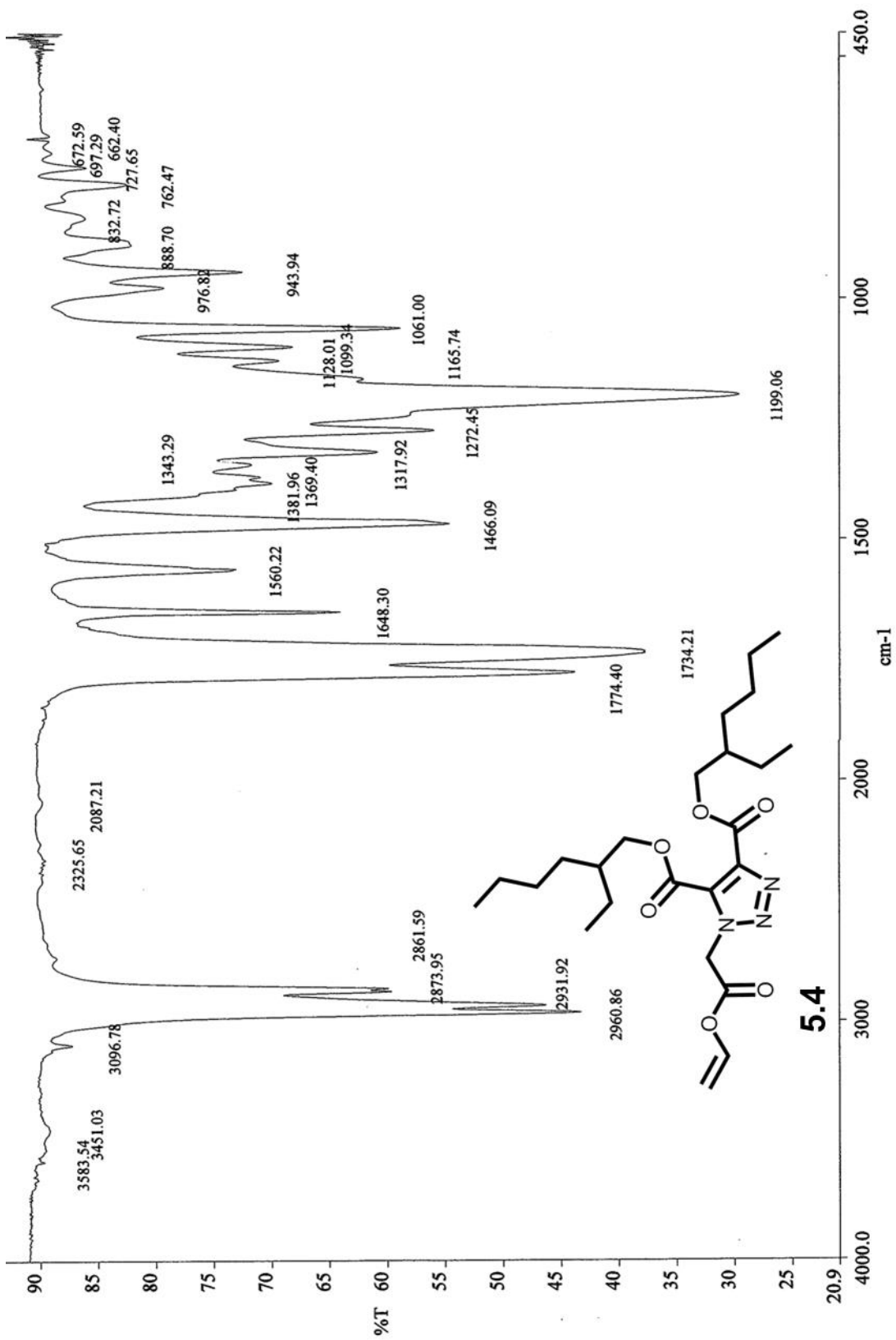


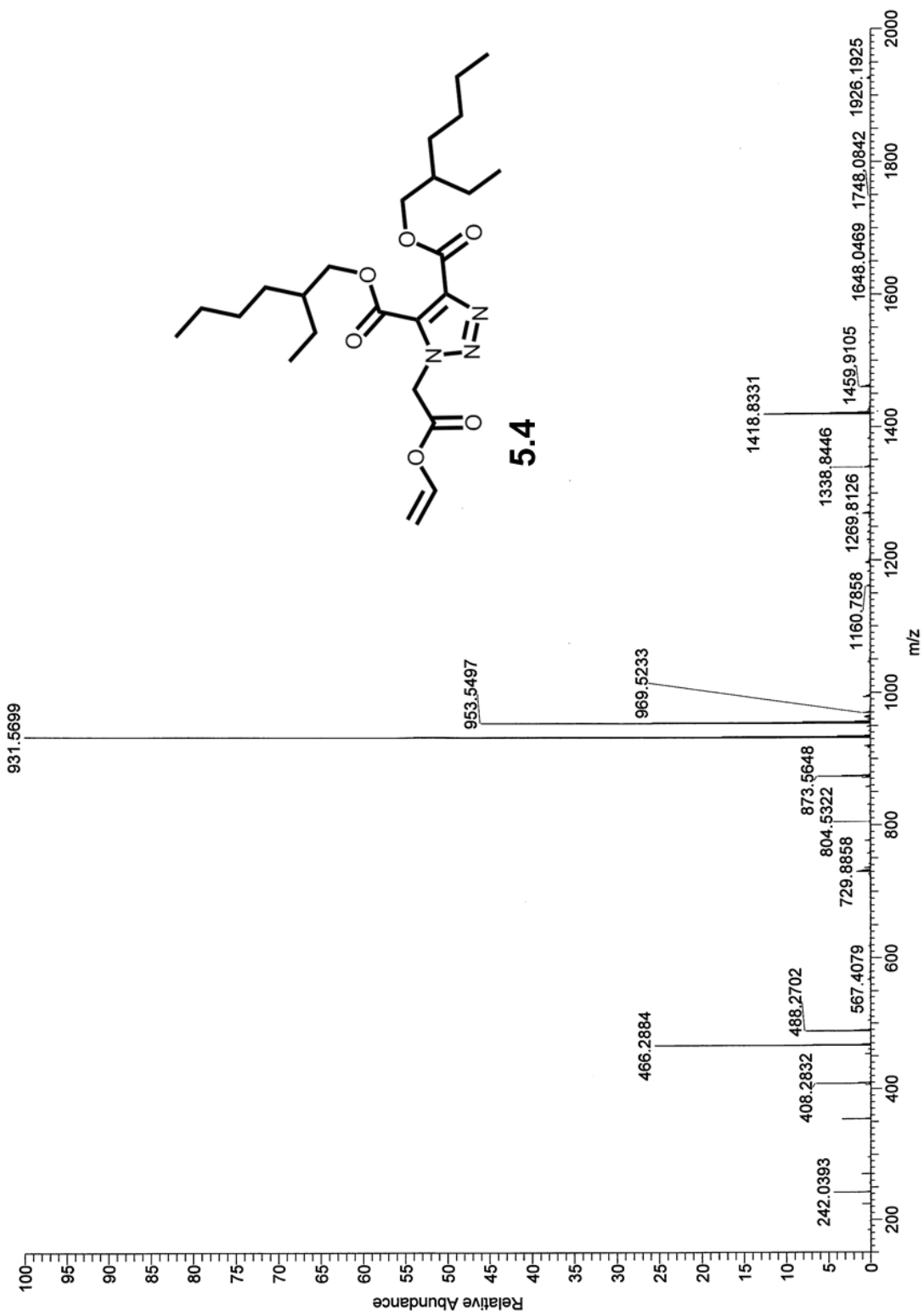


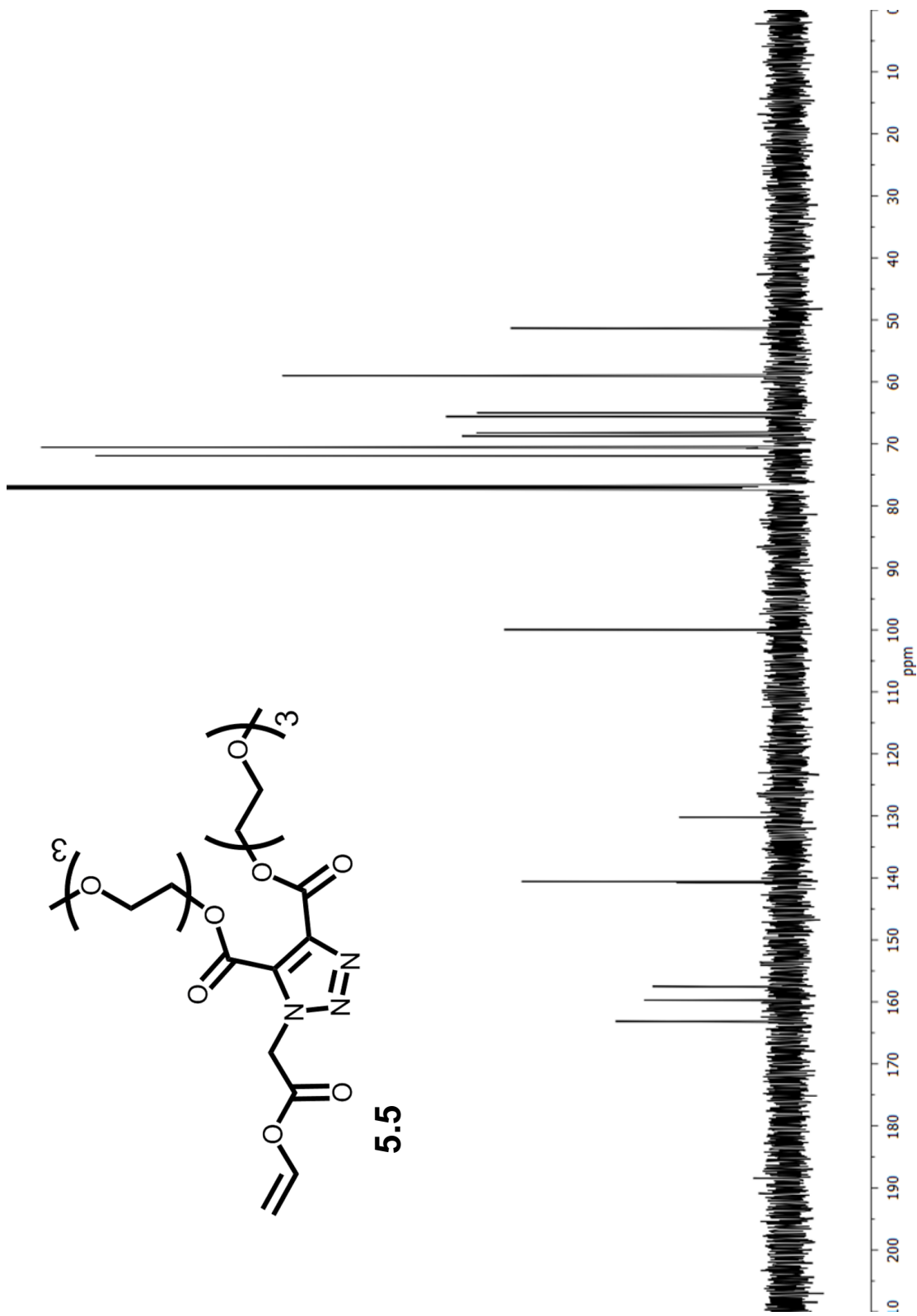


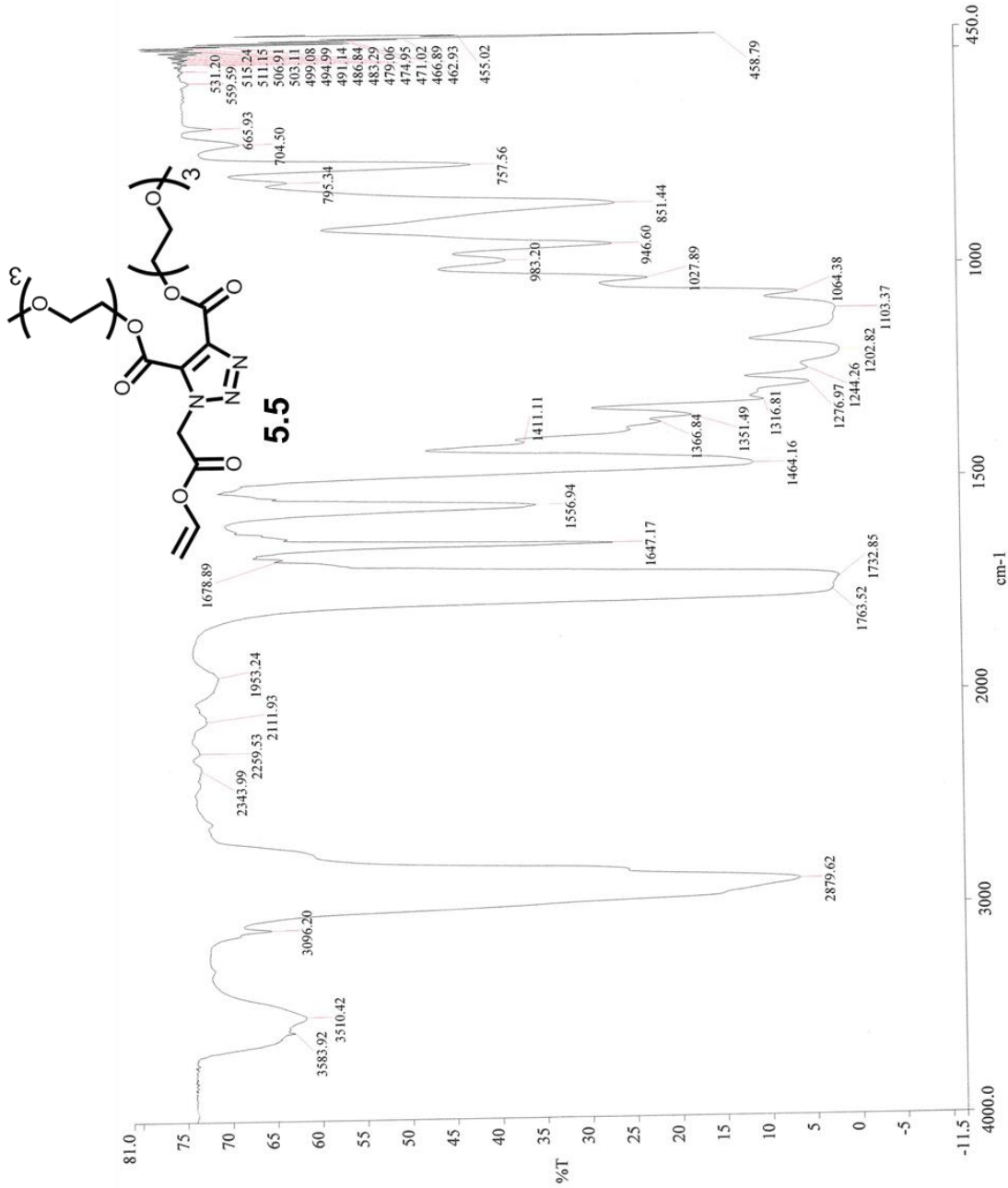
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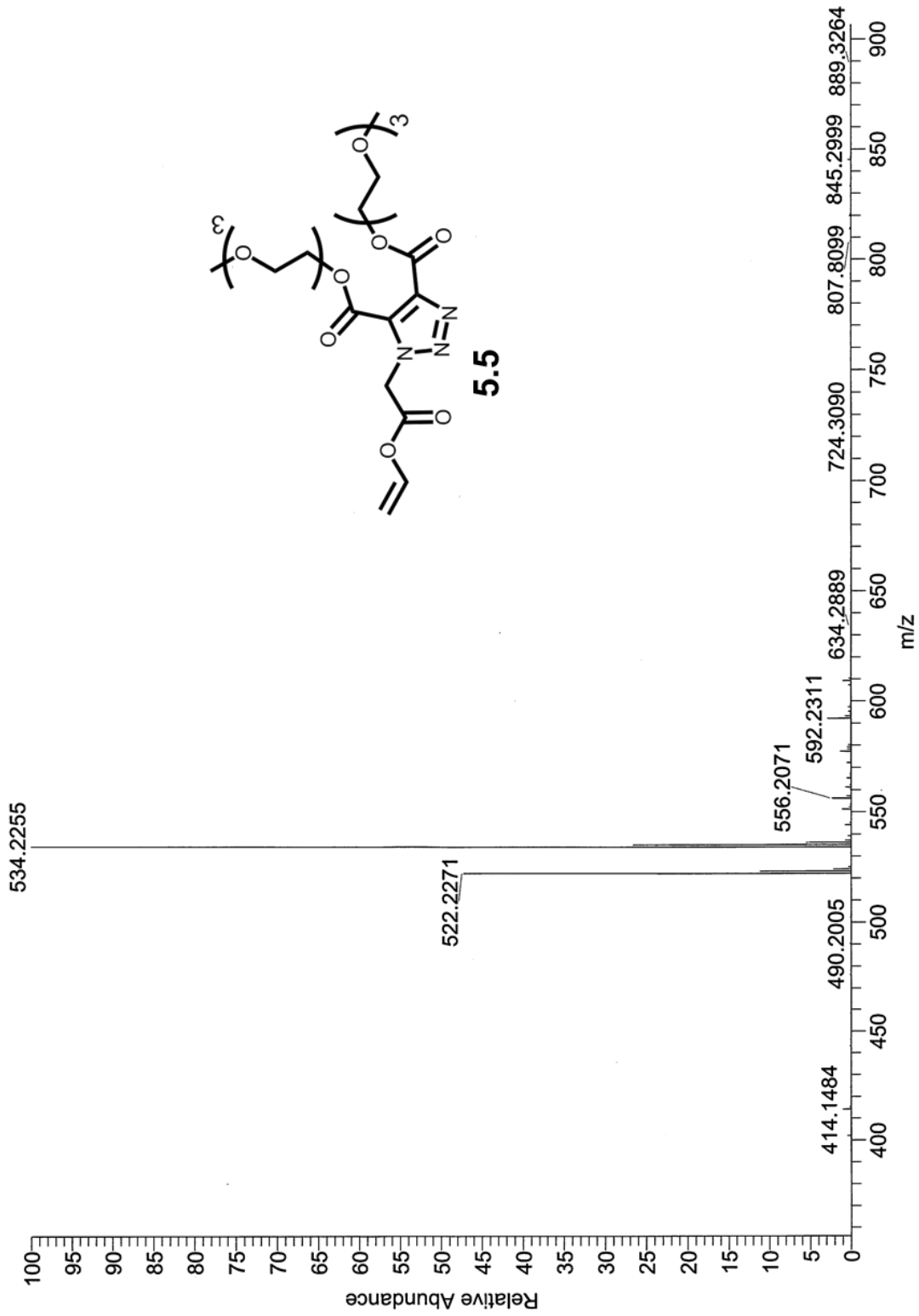


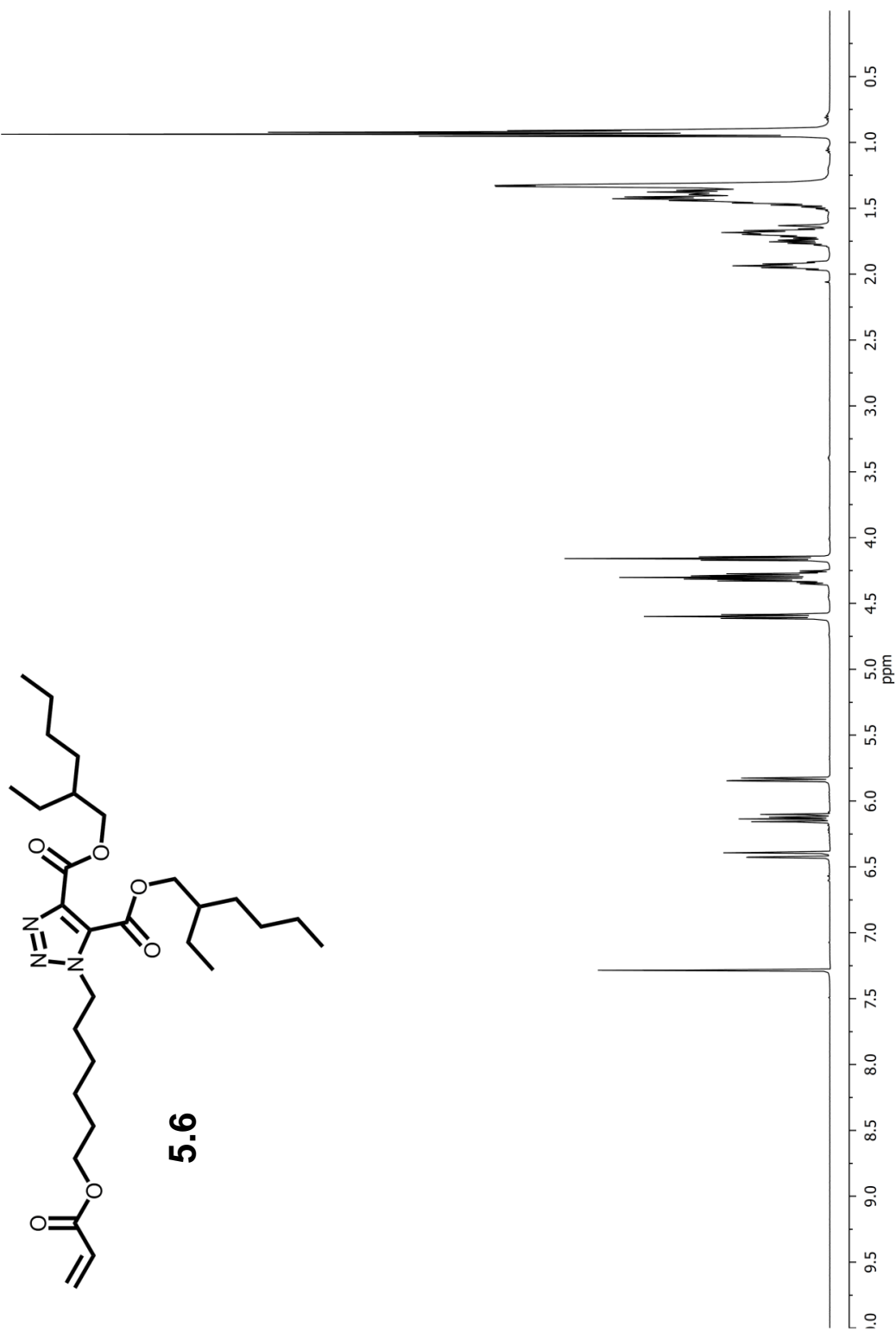


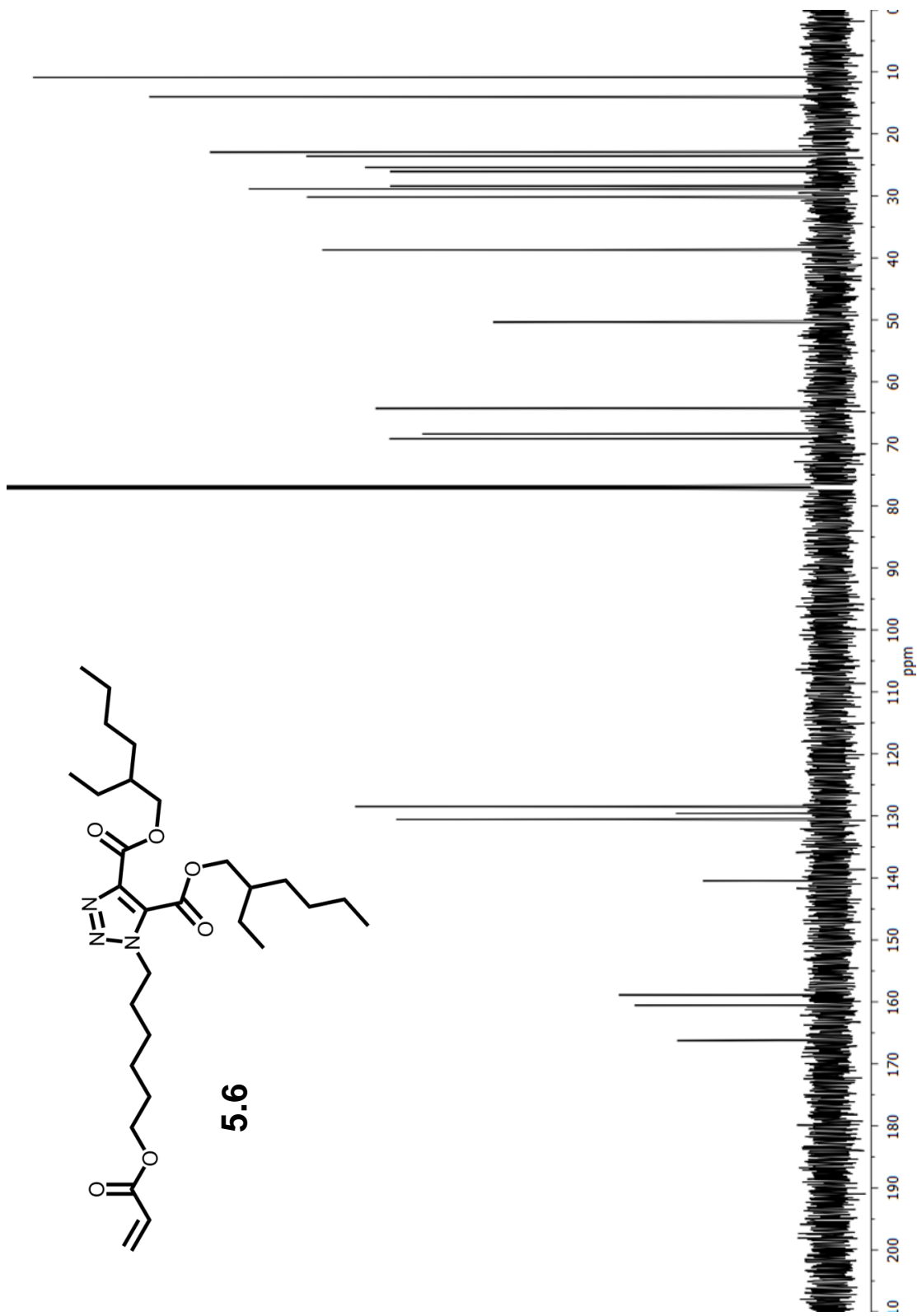


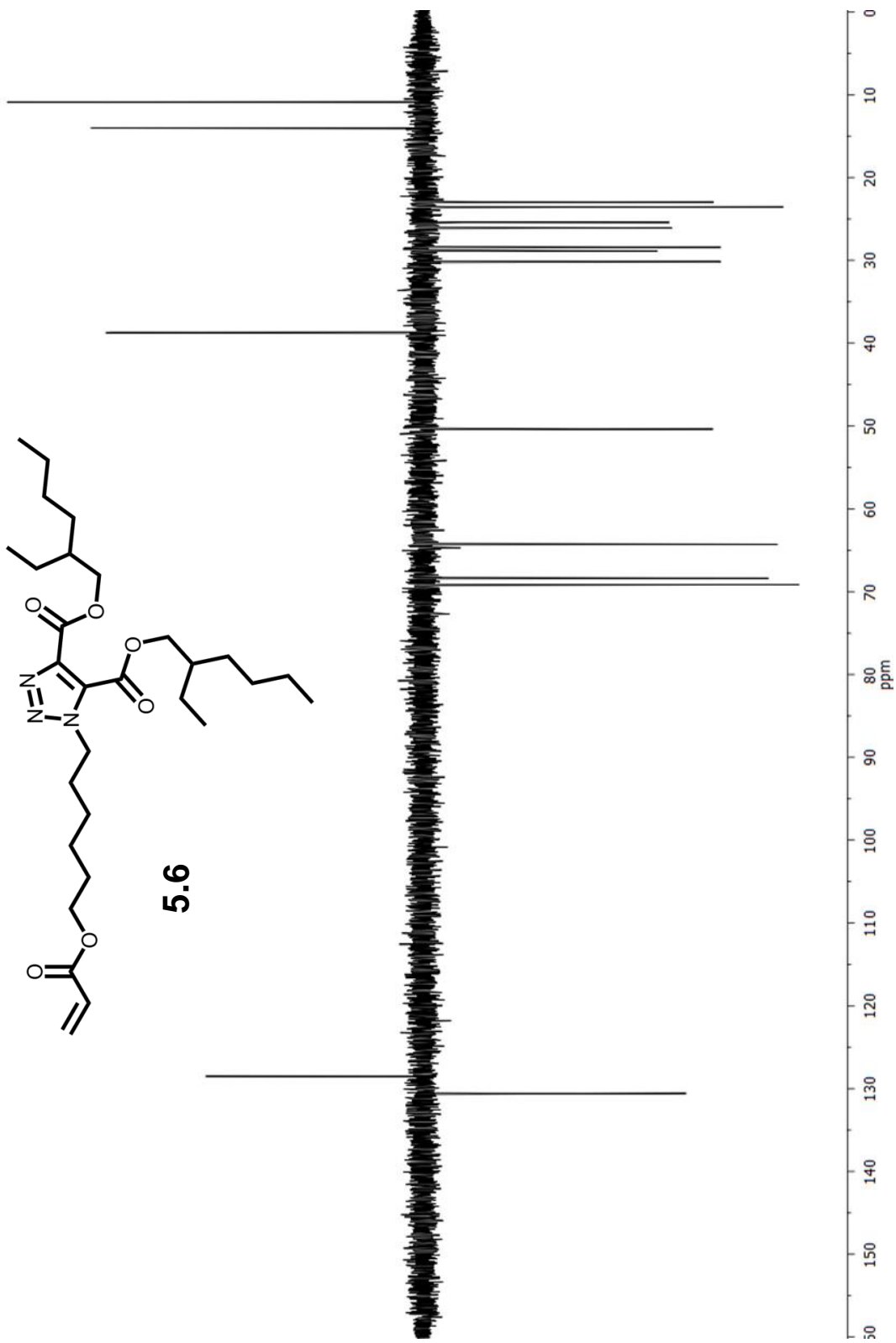


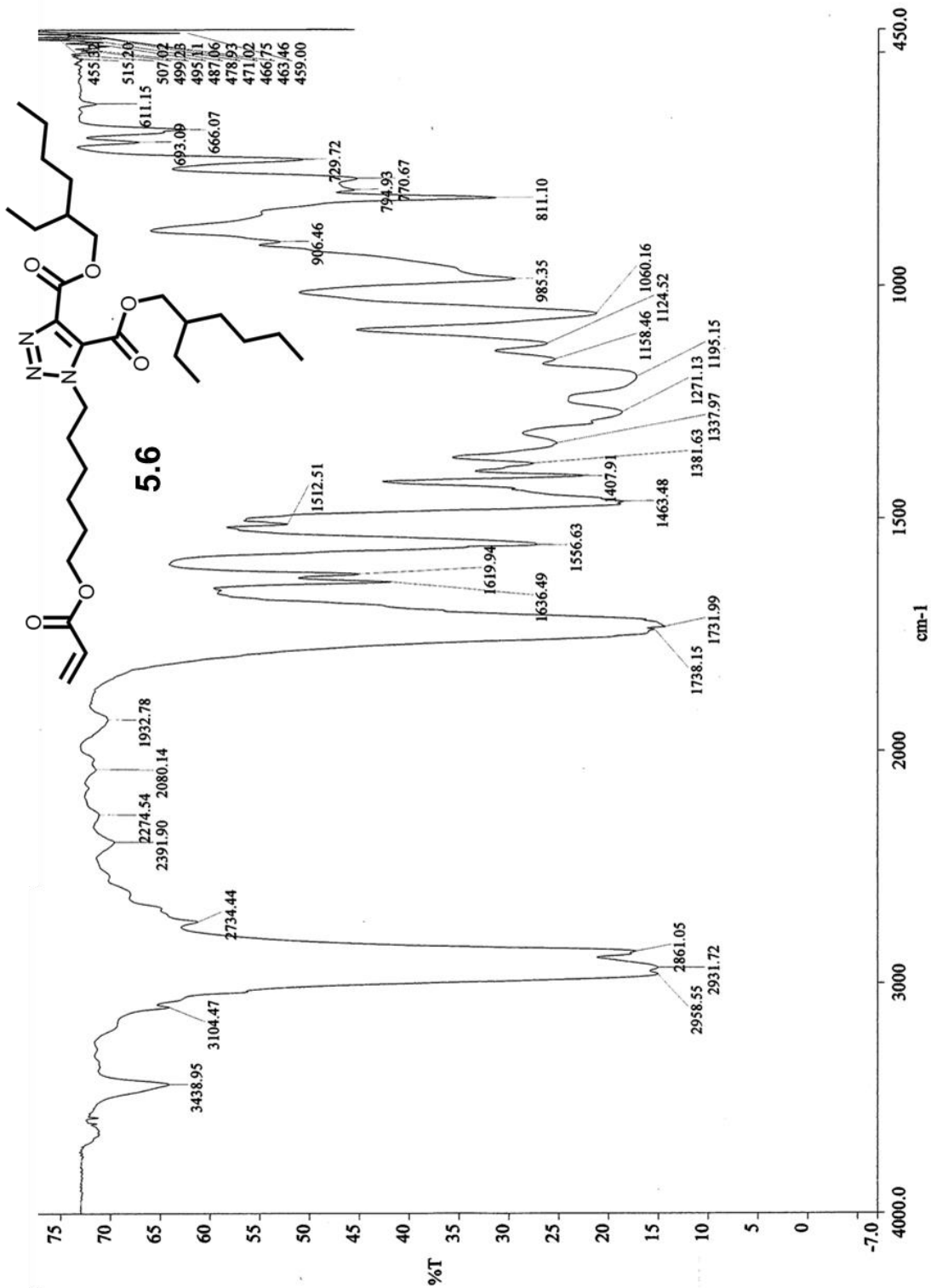


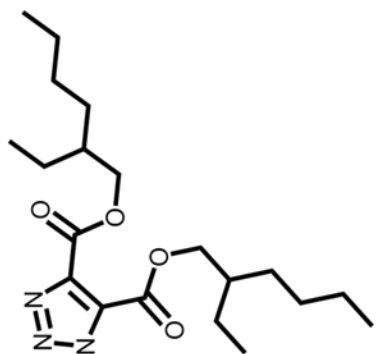
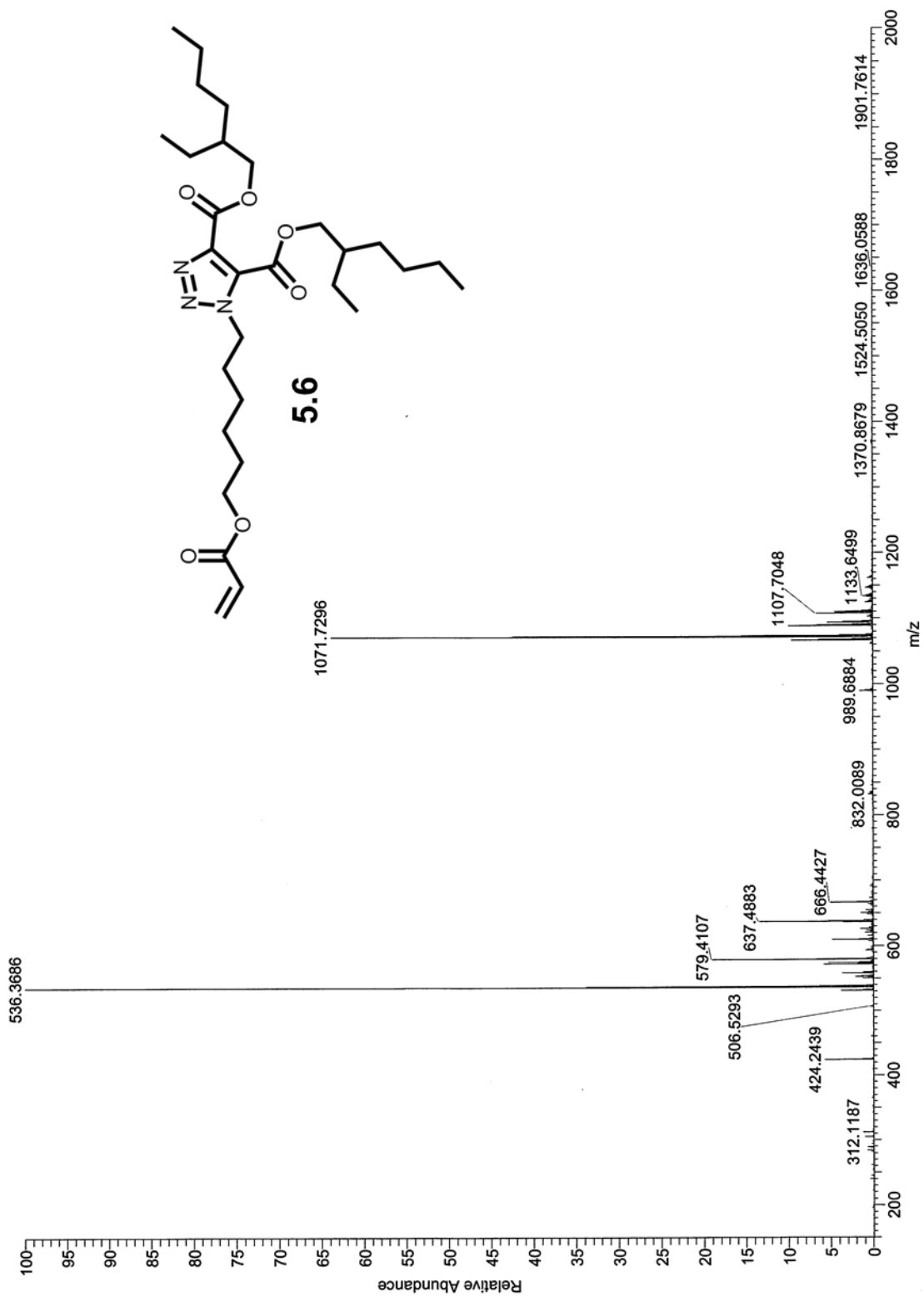












5.6

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