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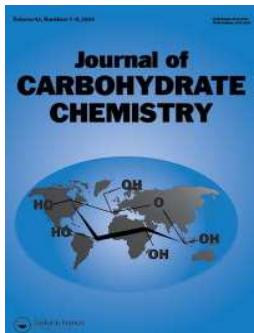
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On the relevance of glycosyl oxonium ions to 1,2-*cis*-selective O-glycosylation in ether solvents

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ABSTRACT

Since no later than the 1970s, organic chemists have speculated on the role of glycosyl oxonium ions in chemical O-glycosylation. Such species result from the attack of ethers on glycosyl oxocarbenium ions and are invoked to explain 1,2-*cis*-selectivity in ether solvents. However, a systematic study to probe this phenomenon appears to be lacking in the chemical literature. Herein, we study the effects of solvent, counteranion, protecting group electron-withdrawing effects, and acceptor on O-glycosylation stereoselectivity with D-glucosyl trichloroacetimidate donors. While many of these transformations proceed with 1,2-*cis*-selectivity, our results suggest that glycosyl oxonium ions play minimal, if any, role in O-glycosylation.

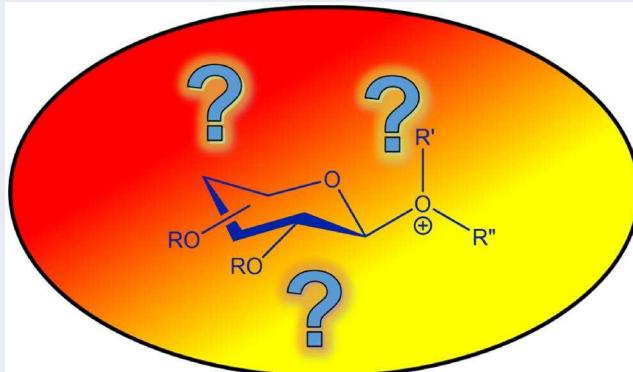
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O-glycosylation; glycosyl oxonium ion;
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GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



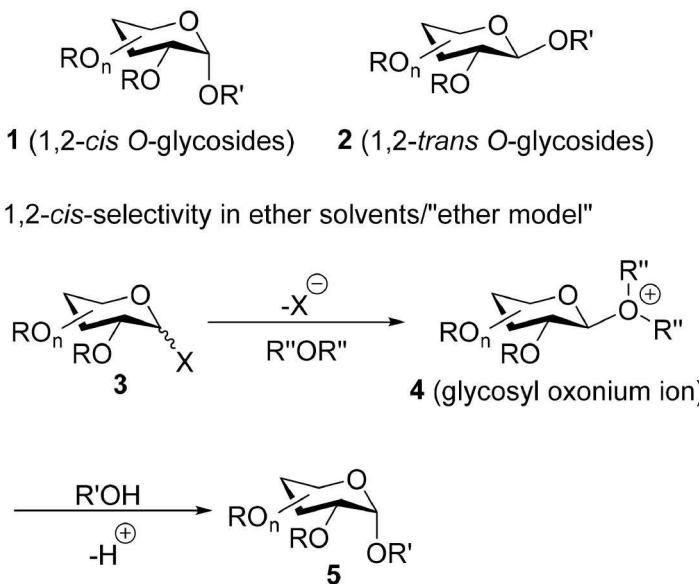
Introduction

Synthetic oligosaccharides and other O-glycosides are important molecules for the development of glycoconjugate vaccines,^[1–3] glycan arrays,^[4] and drugs.^[5] Of the synthetic operations necessary for the production of oligosaccharides using chemical means, chemical O-glycosylation involving the

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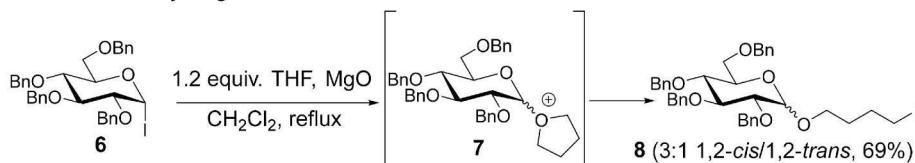
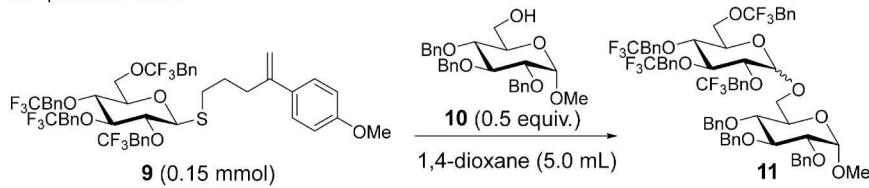
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Scheme 1. Background on 1,2-cis O-glycosides and the "ether model".

reaction of alcohol (acceptor) with glycosyl electrophile (donor) in the presence of an activating agent is perhaps the most important. However, all *O*-glycosylations with fully substituted donors can potentially produce both 1,2-*cis* and 1,2-*trans* *O*-glycosidic products (Sch. 1). While 1,2-*trans* linkages are readily accessed with high selectivity using neighboring-group participation from 2-position esters, carbonates, and carbamates, accessing 1,2-*cis* linkages with the same selectivity has proven to be a much more difficult problem. The myriad of solutions to the 1,2-*cis* problem, whether they involve use of nucleophilic additives,^[6–9] ether solvents,^[10–14] electron-withdrawing groups,^[13,15–17] benzylidene protection,^[18,19] remote/ neighboring group participation,^[20,21] and H-bonded directing groups^[22,23] just to name a few, speaks both to the ingenuity of carbohydrate chemists and the difficulty associated with this problem.^[24,25] Further, the paucity of automated syntheses of glycans rich in 1,2-*cis* linkages^[26] suggests the need for highly 1,2-*cis*-selective methods.

One of the most simple solutions to 1,2-*cis*-selective O-glycosylation involves the implementation of ether solvents especially with relatively electron-rich glycosyl O-trichloroacetimidate or thioglycoside donors in the presence of acidic/electrophilic activators.^[10-14] Investigators such as Seeberger, Boons, and especially Schmidt, as well as many others, have demonstrated the unmistakable positive effect that ether solvents have toward improving 1,2-*cis* selectivity. A common mechanistic proposal to explain this effect involves the formation of intermediate oxocarbenium ions from donor

Dabideen & Gervay-Hague:³³our previous work:¹³

entry 1: acid = HOTf, 13:1 1,2-*cis*/1,2-*trans*, 78%
 entry 2: acid = Tf₂NH, 1:1 1,2-*cis*/1,2-*trans*, 71%

Scheme 2. Indirect evidence for glycosyl oxonium ions and previous work.

substrates 3, their interception of an ether molecule to generate an equatorial glycosyl oxonium ion (4, which is likely more stable than the axial diastereomer),^[27] and subsequent backside attack of acceptor to generate 1,2-*cis* glycoside (5, Sch. 1). Indeed, organic chemists have speculated on the existence of 4 since a time no later than the 1970s.^[12,28-30] Despite direct evidence of other highly reactive species such as glycosyloxyiminium^[6] and sulfonium^[9,21,31] ions in addition to glycosyl oxocarbenium ions,^[32] we are not aware of any direct observation of species 4.

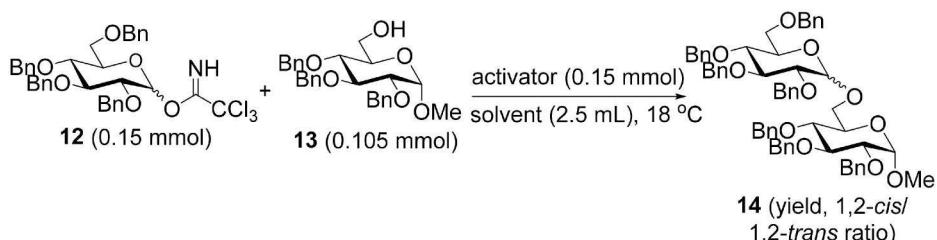
Perhaps the most compelling *indirect* evidence for 4 has been provided by Dabideen and Gervay-Hague who demonstrated that various epoxides, oxetane, and THF could give ring-opened products such as 8 (Sch. 2) via putative intermediate 7 upon reaction with glycosyl iodide substrates in the presence of MgO in CH₂Cl₂.^[33] Curiously, these processes occur with relatively low stereoselectivity which contrasts with the often high stereoselectivity in the studies detailed by references.^[10-14] In our opinion, these conditions differ dramatically from the aforementioned 1,2-*cis* selective methods in ether solvents^[10-14] which occur, *almost without exception, not in the presence of halide anions but triflate and perchlorate*.

Our previous foray into this area (Sch. 2) involved the conversion of 4-trifluoromethylbenzyl-protected (CF₃Bn) glucosyl donor 9 which can be activated toward O-glycosylation with strong acids.^[13] Activation with triflic acid in CH₂Cl₂ resulted in poor selectivity (data not shown), however, activation in 1,4-dioxane resulted in an encouraging selectivity of 13:1 in favor of 1,2-*cis* product 11 (our previous work, entry 1). During the study, we reasoned that replacement of triflic acid with similarly acidic trifluoromethanesulfonamide could be beneficial for a number of reasons.

First, glycosyl triflates are well-documented intermediates which can be generated under a host of conditions and which readily undergo reaction with acceptors to generate O-glycosides.^[34] We believed that glycosyl triflates might serve to erode selectivity by competing with ether for the formation of glycosyl triflates at the expense of equatorial glycosyl oxonium ions **4**. Second, trifluoromethanesulfonamide anion does not form glycosyl trifluoromethanesulfonamides with anything approaching the ease of glycosyl triflate formation.^[35,36] Efforts by Nokami^[35] as well as Wang & Pedersen^[36] failed to produce any evidence for glycosyl trifluoromethanesulfonamides under conditions that readily produced the glycosyl triflate analogs. With this in mind, we performed an experiment (Sch. 2, our previous work, entry 2) identical to the previous, triflic-acid-promoted protocol save for the use of trifluoromethanesulfonamide in its place. We hypothesized that the presence of the apparently less-nucleophilic trifluoromethanesulfonamide anion would result in higher proportions of a 1,4-dioxane-derived glycosyl oxonium intermediate. *To our great surprise, this second experiment proceeded with total loss of stereoselectivity (1:1 1,2-cis/1,2-trans).* This observation was highly intriguing to us, and we elected to conduct a study using glucosyl O-trichloroacetimidate donors, a species with an especially rich history of 1,2-cis selectivity in the presence of ether solvents.^[11] Herein, we provide details of this study. *While we cannot disprove the existence of glycosyl oxonium intermediates, we argue that these species bear little relevance to 1,2-cis selective processes in ether solvents and that the mechanistic picture may be far more complex than originally thought to be.*

Results and discussion

In our initial studies (Sch. 3), we employed relatively electron-rich benzyl-protected glucosyl O-trichloroacetimidate donor **12** with acceptor **13** under conditions similar to those at the bottom of Scheme 2 (Sch. 3). The D-glucose stereochemistry was chosen due to the lack of axial substituents which might bias selectivity as could be the case with the D-mannose or D-galactose analogs. The acceptor **13** was chosen due to its moderate reactivity and the relative ease of selectivity determination using integration of reducing-end methyl groups with ¹H NMR.^[13,15] Reaction with HOTf in 1,4-dioxane gave a 70% yield of product **14** with a 1,2-cis/1,2-trans selectivity of 4.6:1 (entry 1). Likewise, implementation of Et₂O provided similar yield and a similar selectivity of 2.3:1 (entry 2). Replacing HOTf with TMSOTf under these same conditions resulted in a selectivity of 3.0:1 (entry 3). These selectivities are similar to those reported in our previous work.^[13] The diminished selectivity relative to the CF₃Bn-protected

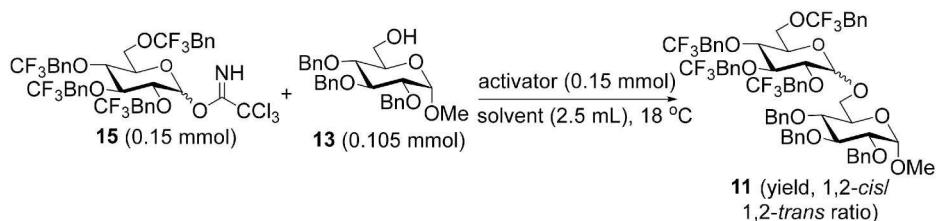


Entry	Solvent	Activator	Yield	1,2- <i>cis</i> /1,2- <i>trans</i>
1	1,4-dioxane	HOTf	70%	4.6:1
2	Et ₂ O	HOTf	78%	2.3:1
3	Et ₂ O	TMSOTf	75%	3.0:1
4	THF	HOTf	77%	1:1.3
5	1,4-dioxane	Tf ₂ NH	71%	1:1.2
6	Et ₂ O	Tf ₂ NH	72%	1:1.3
7	1,4-dioxane	BF ₃ •OEt ₂	72%	1:1.4

Scheme 3. 1,2-*cis*-Selectivity with a benzyl-protected D-glucosyl trichloroacetimidate.

substrates from **Scheme 2** is no cause for concern as we and others have shown that halogenation of benzyl protecting groups results in an increase in selectivity.^[13,15–17] Interestingly, switching to THF as solvent resulted in a total loss of selectivity but a comparable yield of 77% (1:1.3 1,2-*cis*/1,2-*trans*, entry 4). Given the high Lewis basicity of THF relative to 1,4-dioxane and diethyl ether^[37] as well as the previous results of Dabideen and Gervay-Hague, this is a surprising result. According to a mechanistic hypothesis like that shown in **Scheme 1**, one would expect glycosyl oxonium formation to be most relevant in the most Lewis-basic solvents. Just as interesting are the results of entries 5–7. Replacement of HOTf with Tf₂NH in 1,4-dioxane and diethyl ether resulted in near-total loss of 1,2-*cis* selectivity providing **14** with 1,2-*cis*/1,2-*trans* selectivities of 1:1.2 and 1:1.3, respectively (entries 5 and 6). Finally, we screened BF₃•Et₂O as activator, and this resulted in a loss of 1,2-*cis* selectivity as well (entry 7, 1:1.4 1,2-*cis*/1,2-*trans*). These results are similar to those presented at the bottom of **Scheme 2**. Triflate appears to be essential for 1,2-*cis* selectivity while alternative activators result in loss or reversal of selectivity despite the implementation of various ether solvents. In addition, the most Lewis-basic solvent screened (THF)^[37] provides the lowest selectivity under conditions otherwise identical to those in 1,4-dioxane and Et₂O.

As mentioned before, we and others have demonstrated that halogenation of benzyl groups results in an increase in 1,2-*cis* selectivity wherein we attribute this increase to electron withdrawing effects.^[13,15–17] Thus, we elected to study solvent and activator parameters with CF₃Bn-protected donor **15** and acceptor **13** (Sch. 4). As with **Scheme 3**, we observed the highest selectivity (9.1:1 1,2-*cis*/1,2-*trans*) with 1,4-dioxane (entry 1).

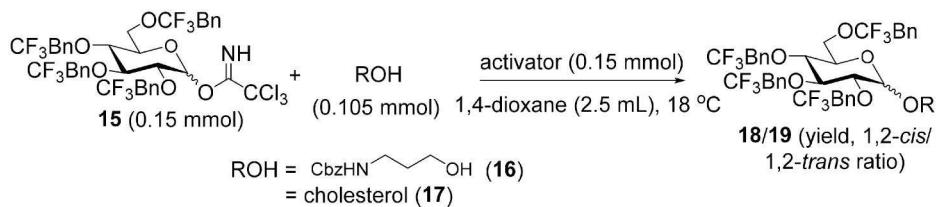


Entry	Solvent	Activator	Yield	1,2-cis/1,2-trans
1	1,4-dioxane	HOTf	90%	9.1:1
2	Et_2O	HOTf	89%	5.4:1
3	THF	HOTf	85%	1.6:1
4	THF	TMSOTf	60%	2:1
5	TBME	HOTf	75%	7.0:1
6	1,4-dioxane	Tf_2NH	70%	1.2:1
7	Et_2O	Tf_2NH	75%	1:1.1
8	TBME	Tf_2NH	80%	1:1
9	1,4-dioxane	$\text{BF}_3\bullet\text{Et}_2\text{O}$	36%	1:2.6

Scheme 4. 1,2-cis-selectivity with a CF_3Bn -protected D-glucosyl trichloroacetimidate.

Diethyl ether also provided 1,2-cis selectivity using HOTf as activator (5.4:1, entry 2). Similar to our previous observations, implementation of THF results in a loss of selectivity relative to 1,4-dioxane and ether using HOTf (1.6:1) and TMSOTf (2:1) as activators (entries 3 and 4). These results further corroborate the notion that high Lewis basicity does not guarantee the high 1,2-cis selectivity expected with glycosyl oxonium intermediates. We were also interested in screening an alternative ether solvent chosen due to an expected poor propensity toward glycosyl oxonium formation. Thus, the implementation of *tert*-butyl methyl ether (TBME, entry 5) resulted in a respectable 1,2-cis selectivity of 7:1 despite the steric hindrance about the ether oxygen! This observation corroborates those previously made by Seeberger and coworkers in which TBME engendered high 1,2-cis selectivity under a multitude of conditions.^[14] Further, we screened these same solvents using Tf_2NH as activator and observed dramatically reduced 1,2-cis selectivities with 1,4-dioxane (entry 6, 1.2:1), diethyl ether (entry 7, 1:1.1), and TBME (1:1, entry 8). Finally, the implementation of $\text{BF}_3\bullet\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (entry 9) resulted in a reversal of selectivity in favor of 1,2-trans.

We were then interested in screening other acceptors than **13** to assure that these results were not dependent on acceptor structure (Sch. 5). We elected to screen two acceptors with high reactivity (and thus low expected selectivity) relative to **13**. Reaction of CF_3Bn -protected **15** with the alcohols *N*-carbobenzyloxy-3-amino-propan-1-ol **16** and cholesterol **17** resulted in the expected 1,2-cis selectivity with HOTf as activator and a loss of selectivity with Tf_2NH .



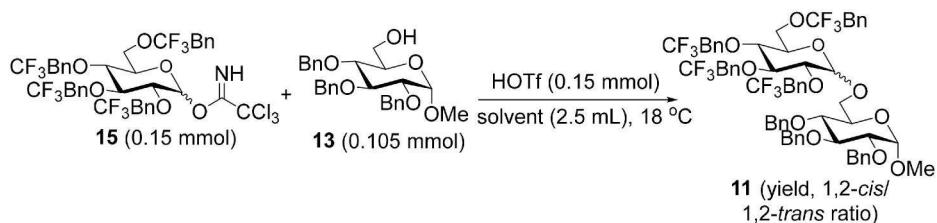
Entry	ROH	Activator	Yield	1,2-cis/1,2-trans
1	16	HOTf	73%	4.2:1
2	16	Tf ₂ NH	70%	1:1
3	17	HOTf	70%	6.9:1
4	17	Tf ₂ NH	76%	1.1:1

Scheme 5. Selectivity with additional acceptors.

Taken together, the results in [Schemes 3–5](#) cast serious doubt on the “ether model” presented in [Scheme 1](#). Particularly salient are the following three observations: 1. THF, the most Lewis-basic of the three solvents, consistently provides the poorest selectivity in the presence of activators such as HOTf and TMSOTf. 2. TBME, the most hindered of the four ether solvents screened, provides 1,2-*cis* selectivity comparable to 1,4-dioxane and diethyl ether and far superior to that observed with THF provided that the relevant counteranion is triflate. 3. Perhaps most compellingly, switching from activators such as HOTf and TMSOTf to Tf₂NH and BF₃•OEt₂ results in loss of stereoselectivity even though we would expect trifluoromethanesulfonimide to interfere less than triflate with glycosyl oxonium formation. As suggested before, these results do not disprove the formation of glycosyl oxonium ions. But they do call into serious question the agency of such species in 1,2-*cis* selective processes as shown in [Scheme 1](#).

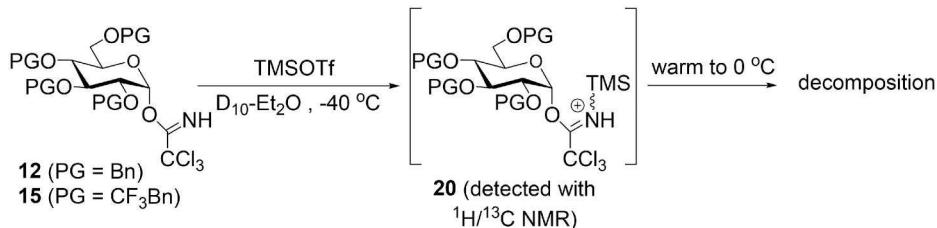
At this juncture, we conceived of alternative hypotheses. Given the loss of stereoselectivity observed with THF, we were interested in what, if any, effect solvent polarity might have on selectivity. We screened an additional 3 solvents (toluene, CH₂Cl₂, and α,α,α -trifluoromethylbenzene, [Sch. 6](#)) and compared the resulting selectivity to solvent dielectric constant (ϵ) with these new results and results from [Sch. 4](#). However, no clear trends could be discerned in comparing either ϵ or solvent polarity index (P', not shown) to 1,2-*cis* selectivity ([Sch. 6](#)).

Given the relatively high selectivity engendered in the presence of triflate anion in this study and in numerous previous studies, we also hypothesized that glycosyl triflates might play a role in 1,2-*cis* selectivity as has been postulated elsewhere.^[38] However, given the poor stability of glycosyl triflates at the temperature (18 °C) under which the reported O-glycosylations were studied herein, we elected to attempt observation of glycosyl triflates and other intermediates derived from **12** and **15** under reaction with TMSOTf in perdeuterated Et₂O at low temperature (−40 °C). Indeed,



Entry	Solvent	ϵ	Yield	1,2-cis/1,2-trans
1	1,4-dioxane	2.2	90%	9.1:1
2	toluene	2.4	75%	2.0:1
3	Et ₂ O	4.3	89%	5.4:1
4	TBME	4.5	75%	7.0:1
5	THF	7.6	85%	1.6:1
6	CH ₂ Cl ₂	8.9	71%	3.6:1
7	CF ₃ C ₆ H ₅	9.2	80%	4.0:1

Scheme 6. Solvent dielectric screen.



Scheme 7. NMR studies.

Wang & Pedersen had observed formation of glycosyl triflates from super-disarmed 2-benzyl-3,4,6-triacetyl-D-glucosyl trichloroacetimidate under similar conditions.^[36] In the event, treatment of **12/15** with TMSOTf in D_{10} -Et₂O at -40°C resulted in a clear conversion of trichloroacetimidate to silylated analogs **20** confirmed by comparison to the work of Wang & Pedersen (Sch. 7).^[36] However, there was no obvious formation of glycosyl triflate derivatives of **12/15**, and slow warming toward 0°C simply resulted in decomposition. Failure to observe glycosyl triflates under these conditions does not disprove the relevance of such intermediates to 1,2-*cis* selective O-glycosylation, and we deem these results inconclusive on the subject.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the results of this work paint a far more complicated picture than previous assumptions based on the “ether model” might predict. While observations made herein do not place us anywhere close to a full mechanistic understanding of the reasons for 1,2-*cis* selectivity in ether

solvents, we believe that this work rules out ether-derived glycosyl oxonium ions as relevant intermediates. Previous mechanistic proposals that invoke these intermediates should be reconsidered. Continuing work that will shed further light onto the mechanistic underpinnings of these processes is underway in our lab and will be reported in due course.

Experimental section

General methods

All reactions were performed under N₂ atmosphere, which was achieved by vacuum purge backfill three times. Dried solvents (CH₂Cl₂, Et₂O, THF) were used directly from a PureSolv 400-5 solvent purification system. Dry 1,4-dioxane solvent was obtained through distillation from sodium-benzophenone ketyl. Dry *tert*-butyl methyl ether (TBME) and toluene were purchased from Acros Organics. Dry CF₃C₆H₅ was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Reagents were purchased from commercial sources (Alfa Aesar, Acros Organics, Matrix Scientific (4-trifluoromethyl benzyl bromide), Sigma Aldrich, TCI). Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (60 Å) purchased from SiliCycle. Analytical TLC was performed using 60 Å silica gel with F254 indicator on aluminum sheets (Sigma Aldrich). Compound visualization on TLC was performed using a hand-held UV hand lamp and/or staining with anisaldehyde. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR experiments for intermediate compounds and anomeric ratio analysis were performed using a Bruker AVIII-400 MHz NMR spectrometer. Low-temperature NMR experiments were performed using a Bruker AVNEO 700 MHz spectrometer. CDCl₃ was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories. D₁₀-Et₂O was purchased from Thermo Fischer Scientific.

Determination of anomeric ratios

For ¹H NMR analysis of anomeric mixtures in both the crude and purified samples, the number of scans was set to 16, while relaxation delays were set to 20 seconds. For glycosylation reactions using acceptor **13** (methyl 2,3,4-tribenzyl-*a*-D-glucoside), anomeric ratios were determined according to the following set of commands using the GSD algorithm (deconvolution) in MestReNova:

1. Phase correction – Processing > Phase correction > Automatic
2. Baseline correction – Processing > Baseline > Full auto (Bernstein polynomials)
3. Analysis > Peak picking > options = Method – GSD, Refinement level – 5 fitting, Optimized for peaks – average. Then Ok.

4. Analysis > Integration > Options = Calculation method – Sum, Source – autodetect, Algorithm – peak picking, Minimum area – 3%. Then Ok.
5. Analysis > Peak picking > Automatic
6. View > Tables > Peaks.

A GSD table containing all the peaks with their respective height, width, and area was generated. The reducing-end aglycone methyl signals from both the 1,2-*cis* or *alpha* (3.35–3.36 ppm) and 1,2-*trans* or *beta* (3.32–3.33 ppm) products were analyzed. Areas of these signals were used to determine anomeric ratios in **Schemes 3, 4, and 6**. Anomeric ratios in **Scheme 5** were determined through the integration of key signals in the ^1H NMR spectra of crude and purified samples.

Synthesis of phenyl-2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-1-thio- β -D-glucopyranose (23)

To 5.10 g of 1,2,3,4,6-penta-O-acetyl- α,β -D-glucopyranose (**21**) (13.1 mmol) in an R.B.F. with a magnetic stir bar, 25.0 mL of dichloromethane was added. The flask was capped with a septum, then three cycles of nitrogen purge backfill were performed, and the resulting solution was maintained under a N_2 blanket. After all solids dissolved, the flask was placed in an ice bath, and its contents were stirred for 30 min. 12.5 mL of 33% HBr in acetic acid was added in a dropwise fashion over a period of 5 min to the flask in an ice bath with continued stirring. The ice bath was removed after 1 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. The TLC showed complete conversion after 3 h. The reaction mixture was then added to 100 mL of ice-cold water in a beaker. The mixture from the beaker was then transferred to a separatory funnel and washed with 60 mL x2 of sat. aq. NaHCO_3 solution. The organic layer was then concentrated on the rotary evaporator to obtain a brown foam. To this brown foam in an R.B.F., a magnetic stir bar was added, and the flask was then subjected to high vacuum for 1 h. The flask was then backfilled with N_2 , followed by three cycles of nitrogen purge backfill, and 25.0 mL of acetonitrile and 1.5 mL of thiophenol (15 mmol) were syringed into the flask. After a homogeneous mixture was obtained, the flask was placed in an ice bath and its contents were stirred for 30 min. 3.9 mL of triethylamine (28 mmol) was then added dropwise over a period of 5 min into the flask with continued stirring. The ice bath was removed after 1 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. The TLC showed complete conversion after 3 h. The reaction mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel, and 75 mL of dichloromethane was added to the funnel. The organic layer was then washed with 100 mL x2 of water followed by 30 mL x2 saturated brine solution. The organic layer was then dried using Na_2SO_4 and concentrated to give a crude product, which was

purified using flash column chromatography (0-20% EtOAc/hexanes) to give 2.29 g (5.20 mmol) of **23** as a white solid (40% two steps). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d): δ 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 3H), 5.22 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (t, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (d, J = 10 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (m, 2H), 3.72 (m, 1H), 2.09–2.06 (m, 6H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 3H). The ^1H NMR matched the literature spectrum.^[39]

Synthesis of phenyl-2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-1-thio- β -D-glucopyranose (25)

To 2.26 g of **23** (5.13 mmol) in an R.B.F. with a magnetic stir bar, 5 ml of methanol was added. The flask was capped with a septum. This was followed by three cycles of nitrogen purge backfill, and the resulting solution was maintained under a N_2 blanket. Then, 0.2 mL of 5 M NaOMe was added in a dropwise fashion to the flask with continued stirring. After 1 h, the spots on TLC converged onto a single, low-eluting compound. 6.00 g of Dowex[®] 50WX8, 200–400 mesh, ion exchange resin (Acros Organics) was then added to the reaction mixture to adjust the pH to 4. The reaction mixture was then filtered through a celite cake, and the filter cake was rinsed with 10.0 mL of methanol. The filtrate was concentrated using rotary evaporator and twice co-evaporated with 5.0 mL of toluene to give a white powder of phenyl- β -D-thioglucopyranoside (**24**). To this powder in an R.B.F. was added a magnetic stir bar, and the flask was then subjected to vacuum for 1 h. The flask was then backfilled with N_2 . Then, 1.87 g (5.06 mmol) of tetrabutylammonium iodide was added, and the flask was capped with a septum. This was followed by three cycles of nitrogen purge backfill, and 15.0 mL of DMF was syringed into the flask. After dissolution of all solids, the flask was lowered into an ice bath, and the flask contents were stirred for 30 min. While the flask was still in the ice bath, excess NaH (3.0 g-60% in mineral oil, 75 mmol) was added carefully portion-wise over a period of 5 min to the reaction mixture with continued stirring. Then, 3.0 mL (25 mmol) of benzyl bromide was then syringed into the reaction mixture in a dropwise fashion over a period of 2 min with continued stirring. After 10 min, the flask was removed from the ice bath and the reaction contents were stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The reaction was quenched at 0 °C by the addition of water until gas evolution ceased. The reaction mixture was then transferred to a separatory funnel, and 300.0 mL of water was added. Then, 200.0 mL of EtOAc was added followed by vigorous shaking of the separatory funnel to get rid of DMF. The organic and aqueous layers were separated, and the organic layer was washed with 50 mL x2 of saturated brine solution. The organic layer was then dried using Na_2SO_4 and concentrated to give a crude product, which was purified using flash column chromatography (0–15% EtOAc/hexanes)

to give 2.91 g (4.60 mmol) of **25** as a white solid (90% two steps). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d): δ 7.60–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.26 (m, 18H), 7.23–7.16 (m, 5H), 4.88 (dd, J = 10.9 Hz, J = 2.6 Hz, 2H), 4.84 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 4.62–4.54 (m, 3H), 3.78 (dd, J = 10.9 Hz, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.71–3.67 (m, 1H), 3.64 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.54–3.47 (m, 2H). The ^1H NMR matched the literature spectrum.^[40]

Synthesis of 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-D-glucopyranose (26)

To 3.04 g of **25** (4.80 mmol) in an R.B.F. with a magnetic stir bar, 12.7 mL of acetone was added followed by 1.6 mL of water. Then, 3.42 g (19.2 mmol) of NBS was added carefully to the reaction mixture with continued stirring. The flask was capped with a septum and three cycles of nitrogen purge refill were performed. After 3 h, the TLC showed complete consumption of the starting material. The reaction contents were concentrated on the rotary evaporator, and then 50.0 mL of dichloromethane was added to the flask. The solution was then transferred to a separatory funnel and washed with 50 mL x2 of water. The organic layer was then washed with 25 mL x2 of saturated brine solution. The organic layer was then dried using Na_2SO_4 and concentrated to give crude product, which was purified using flash column chromatography (10–40% EtOAc/hexanes) to give 1.31 g (2.42 mmol) of **26** as a white solid (50%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d): δ 7.37–7.27 (m, 23H), 7.16–7.11 (m, 2H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 4.97–4.90 (m, 2H), 4.84 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.82–4.80 (m, 1H), 4.79–4.77 (m, 1H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 4.71–4.66 (m, 1H), 4.61–4.54 (m, 2H), 4.50 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.05–4.00 (m, 1H), 3.96 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.73–3.68 (m, 1H), 3.66–3.61 (m, 2H), 3.59 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.58–3.54 (m, 1H), 2.92 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H). The ^1H NMR matched the literature spectrum.^[41]

Synthesis of 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- α -glucopyranosyl trichloroacetimidate (12)

To 1.17 g (2.16 mmol) of **26** in an R.B.F. with a magnetic stir bar, 20.0 mL of dichloromethane was added followed by 20.0 mL of trichloroacetonitrile. Then, 7.00 g (50.6 mmol) of K_2CO_3 was added to the flask. A reflux condenser was then attached to the flask, and the flask was then lowered into a temperature-controlled oil bath maintained at 45 °C with continued stirring. The reaction was refluxed for 4 h. After 4 h, the TLC showed complete conversion of the starting material. The reaction mixture was then filtered through a celite cake and washed with 10 mL x2 dichloromethane. The filtrate was then concentrated to obtain crude product, which was then

purified using flash column chromatography (0–25% EtOAc/hexanes) to give 0.81 g (1.18 mmol) of **12** as a colorless sirup (55%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d): δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.35–7.24 (m, 18H), 7.17–7.11 (m, 2H), 6.52 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 3.81–3.73 (m, 3H), 3.67 (dd, J = 11.0 Hz, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H). The ¹H NMR matched the literature spectrum.^[41]

Synthesis of phenyl-2,3,4,6-tetra-O-4'-trifluoromethylbenzyl-1-thio- β -D-glucopyranose (27)

To 1.47 g of **23** (3.34 mmol) in an R.B.F. with a magnetic stir bar, 5 mL of methanol was added. The flask was capped with a septum. This was followed by three cycles of nitrogen purge backfill, and the resulting solution was maintained under a N₂ blanket. Then, 0.2 mL of 5 M NaOMe was added in a dropwise fashion to the flask with continued stirring. After 1 h, the spots on TLC converged onto a single, low-eluting compound. Then, 7.00 g of Dowex[®] 50WX8, 200–400 mesh ion exchange resin (Acros Organics) was added to the reaction mixture to adjust the pH to 4. The reaction mixture was then filtered through a celite cake which was rinsed with 20.0 mL of methanol. The filtrate was concentrated using a rotary evaporator and twice co-evaporated with 5.0 mL of toluene to give a white powder **24**. To this powder in an R.B.F. was added a magnetic stir bar, and the flask was then subjected to vacuum for 1 h. The flask was then back-filled with N₂, 1.23 g (3.33 mmol) of tetrabutylammonium iodide, and 3.98 g (16.6 mmol) of *p*-trifluoromethylbenzyl bromide were added, and the flask was capped with a septum. This was followed by three cycles of nitrogen purge backfill, and 25.0 ml of DMF was syringed into the flask. After dissolution of all solids, the flask was lowered into an ice bath, and the flask contents were stirred for 30 min. While the flask was still in the ice bath, excess NaH (2.0 g-60% in mineral oil, 50 mmol) was added carefully to the reaction mixture with continued stirring. After 10 min, the flask was removed from the ice bath and the reaction contents were stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The reaction was quenched at 0 °C by the addition of water until gas evolution ceased. The reaction mixture was then transferred to a separatory funnel, and 300.0 mL of water was added. Then, 200.0 mL of EtOAc was added followed by vigorous shaking of the separatory funnel to get rid of DMF. The organic and aqueous layers were separated, and the organic layer was washed with 50 mL x3 of saturated brine solution. The organic layer was then dried using Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to give a

crude product which was purified using flash column chromatography (0–15% EtOAc/hexanes) to give 1.98 g (2.19 mmol) of **27** as a white solid (66% two steps). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d): δ 7.60–7.47 (m, 10H), 7.46–7.37 (m, 4H), 7.33–7.26 (m, 4H), 7.25–7.20 (m, 3H), 4.96 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 4.88–4.76 (m, 3H), 4.73–4.62 (m, 4H), 4.57 (d, J = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 3.81–3.71 (m, 2H), 3.70–3.62 (m, 2H), 3.55–3.47 (m, 2H). The ^1H NMR matched the literature spectrum.^[15]

Synthesis of 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-4'-trifluoromethylbenzyl-D-glucopyranose (28)

To 2.19 g of **27** (2.42 mmol) in an R.B.F. with a magnetic stir bar, 20.0 mL of acetone was added followed by 2.0 mL of water. Then, 1.72 g (9.66 mmol) of NBS was added quickly to the reaction mixture with continued stirring. The flask was capped with a septum, and three cycles of nitrogen purge refill were performed. After 3 h, the TLC showed complete consumption of the starting material. The reaction contents were concentrated on the rotary evaporator, and then 50.0 mL of dichloromethane was added to the flask. The solution was then transferred to a separatory funnel and washed with 50 mL x2 of water. The organic layer was then washed with 25 mL x2 of saturated brine solution. The organic layer was then dried using Na_2SO_4 and concentrated to give crude product, which was purified using flash column chromatography (0–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to give 1.08 g (1.33 mmol) of **28** as a colorless gum (55%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d): δ 7.60–7.47 (m, 14H), 7.45–7.38 (m, 7H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23–7.18 (m, 3H), 5.33 (t, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.84–4.70 (m, 7H), 4.64 (dd, J = 12.8 Hz, J = 3.2 Hz, 2H), 4.60–4.49 (m, 3H), 4.09–4.03 (m, 1H), 3.99 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.76–3.69 (m, 2H), 3.66 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.65–3.60 (m, 2H), 3.58 (dd, J = 9.5 Hz, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.43–3.37 (m, 1H), 3.35 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H). The ^1H NMR matched the literature spectrum.^[15]

Synthesis of 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-4'-trifluoromethylbenzyl- α , β -glucopyranosyl trichloroacetimidate (15)

To 0.71 g (0.87 mmol) of **28** in an R.B.F. with a magnetic stir bar, 15.0 mL of dichloromethane was added followed by 5.0 mL of trichloroacetonitrile. Then, 4.50 g of K_2CO_3 (32.6 mmol) was added to the flask. A reflux condenser was then attached to the flask, and the flask was then lowered into a temperature-controlled oil bath maintained at 45 °C with continued stirring. The reaction was refluxed for 7 h. After 7 h, the TLC showed complete conversion of the starting material. The reaction mixture was then filtered

through a celite cake which was washed with 20 mL x2 dichloromethane. The filtrate was then concentrated to obtain crude product which was then purified using flash column chromatography (0–25% EtOAc/hexanes) to give 0.46 g (0.48 mmol) of **15** as a colorless sirup (55%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d): δ 8.74 (s, 1H), 8.60 (s, 1H), 7.58–7.54 (m, 5H), 7.53–7.47 (m, 11H), 7.43–7.30 (m, 11H), 7.29–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.24–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.20–7.14 (m, 9H), 6.55 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (dd, J = 5.3 Hz, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (t, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 4.88–4.71 (m, 8H), 4.67 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 4.65–4.56 (m, 5H), 4.51 (d, J = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 4.07–3.98 (m, 2H), 3.81–3.72 (m, 8H), 3.70 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H). The ¹H NMR matched the literature spectrum.^[15]

General procedure A for glycosylation using TfOH or TMSOTf or BF₃•OEt₂ as activators

An oven dried vial was charged with 0.15 mmol of trichloroacetimidate donor and 0.105 mmol of alcohol acceptor (0.7 eq.) followed by a stir bar. The vial was capped with a septum, subjected to vacuum for 1 h, and then backfilled with N₂. Then, 2.5 mL of the specified solvent was syringed into the vial with the nitrogen line still attached. After obtaining a homogeneous mixture, 0.15 mmol (1 eq.) of activator was added using a micro-syringe, and the reaction was allowed to stir for 12 h at 18 °C. The reaction was quenched by addition of 0.05 mL of Et₃N. The reaction mixture was concentrated using a rotary evaporator and purified using flash column chromatography (0–30% EtOAc/hexanes).

General procedure B for glycosylation using Tf₂NH as activator

An oven dried vial was charged with 0.15 mmol of trichloroacetimidate donor and 0.105 mmol of alcohol acceptor (0.7 eq.) followed by a stir bar. The vial was capped with a septum, subjected to vacuum for 1 h, and then backfilled with N₂. The vial was then taken inside a glove box. Then, 42.2 mg (0.15 mmol) of Tf₂NH (1 eq.) was added to the vial, and the vial was recapped with the septum. Then, the vial was removed from the glove box, and a nitrogen line was attached to the vial. Following this, 2.5 mL of specified solvent was then added with vigorous stirring. The reaction was allowed to stir for 12 h at 18 °C. The reaction was then quenched by addition of 0.05 mL of Et₃N. The reaction mixture was concentrated using a rotary evaporator and purified using flash column chromatography (0–30% EtOAc/hexanes).

Glycosylation of acceptor **13** with donor **12**

Compound **14** produced in the course of the **Scheme 3** studies was analyzed for purity and anomeric ratios using ^1H NMR (see below). The ^1H NMR spectra matched those from the literature.^[42]

Scheme 3, Entry 1: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of 1,4-dioxane, 100.0 mg (0.1460 mmol) of **12**, 51.1 mg (0.110 mmol) of **13**, and 13 μL (0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 75.7 mg (0.076 mmol) of **14** was obtained in 70% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 4.6: 1.

Scheme 3, Entry 2: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of Et_2O , 102.0 mg (0.1490 mmol) of **12**, 52.9 mg (0.114 mmol) of **13**, and 13 μL (0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 88.3 mg (0.089 mmol) of **14** was obtained in 78% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 2.3: 1.

Scheme 3, Entry 3: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of Et_2O , 103.2 mg (0.1506 mmol) of **12**, 46.5 mg (0.100 mmol) of **13**, and 27 μL (0.15 mmol) of TMSOTf were used. 73.9 mg (0.075 mmol) of **14** was obtained in 75% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 3: 1.

Scheme 3, Entry 4: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of THF, 101.9 mg (0.1487 mmol) of **12**, 51.6 mg (0.111 mmol) of **13**, and 13 μL (0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 84.9 mg (0.086 mmol) of **14** was obtained in 77% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 1: 1.3.

Scheme 3, Entry 5: Following general procedure B, 2.5 mL of 1,4-dioxane, 108.1 mg (0.1578 mmol) of **12**, 49.1 mg (0.106 mmol) of **13**, and 42.2 mg (0.150 mmol) of Tf_2NH were used. 74.3 mg (0.075 mmol) of **14** was obtained in 71% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 1: 1.2.

Scheme 3, Entry 6: Following general procedure B, 2.5 mL of Et_2O , 101.8 mg (0.1486 mmol) of **12**, 46.7 mg (0.101 mmol) of **13**, and 43.1 mg (0.153 mmol) of Tf_2NH were used. 71.8 mg (0.073 mmol) of **14** was obtained in 72% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 1: 1.3.

Scheme 3, Entry 7: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of 1,4-dioxane, 104.4 mg (0.1524 mmol) of **12**, 48.4 mg (0.104 mmol) of **13**, and 19 μL (0.15 mmol) of $\text{BF}_3\bullet\text{OEt}_2$ were used. 74.4 mg (0.075 mmol) of **14** was obtained in 72% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 1: 1.4.

Compounds **11**, **18**, and **19** produced in the course of the **Scheme 4**, and **Scheme 5** studies were analyzed for purity and anomeric ratios using ^1H NMR (see below). The ^1H NMR spectra matched those from the literature.^[13]

Glycosylation of acceptor **13** with donor **15**

Scheme 4, Entry 1: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of 1,4-dioxane, 140.9 mg (0.1472 mmol) of **15**, 52.9 mg (0.114 mmol) of **13**, and 13 μL

(0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 129.9 mg (0.1032 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 90% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 9.1: 1.

Scheme 4, Entry 2: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of Et₂O, 145.6 mg (0.1521 mmol) of **15**, 49.2 mg (0.106 mmol) of **13**, and 13 μ L (0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 119.2 mg (0.0947 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 89% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 5.4: 1.

Scheme 4, Entry 3: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of THF, 143.7 mg (0.1501 mmol) of **15**, 49.4 mg (0.106 mmol) of **13**, and 13 μ L (0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 113.5 mg (0.0901 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 85% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 1.6: 1.

Scheme 4, Entry 4: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of THF, 147.1 mg (0.1537 mmol) of **15**, 47.4 mg (0.102 mmol) of **13**, and 27 μ L (0.15 mmol) of TMSOTf were used. 77.5 mg (0.0615 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 60% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 2: 1.

Scheme 4, Entry 5: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of TBME, 143.7 mg (0.1501 mmol) of **15**, 49.1 mg (0.106 mmol) of **13**, and 13 μ L (0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 100.1 mg (0.0794 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 75% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 7: 1.

Scheme 4, Entry 6: Following general procedure B, 2.5 mL of 1,4-dioxane, 141.3 mg (0.1476 mmol) of **15**, 48.5 mg (0.104 mmol) of **13**, and 42.4 mg (0.151 mmol) of Tf₂NH were used. 91.6 mg (0.073 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 70% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 1.2: 1.

Scheme 4, Entry 7: Following general procedure B, 2.5 mL of Et₂O, 142.5 mg (0.1489 mmol) of **15**, 47.2 mg (0.102 mmol) of **13**, and 42.2 mg (0.150 mmol) of Tf₂NH were used. 96.2 mg (0.076 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 75% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 1: 1.1.

Scheme 4, Entry 8: Following general procedure B, 2.5 mL of TBME, 145.6 mg (0.1521 mmol) of **15**, 47.9 mg (0.103 mmol) of **13**, and 43.1 mg (0.153 mmol) of Tf₂NH were used. 103.6 mg (0.0823 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 80% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 1.2: 1.

Scheme 4, Entry 9: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of 1,4-dioxane, 147.1 mg (0.1537 mmol) of **15**, 50.1 mg (0.107 mmol) of **13**, and 19 μ L (0.15 mmol) of BF₃•OEt₂ were used. 47.9 mg (0.038 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 36% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 1: 2.6.

Glycosylation of acceptors **16 and **17** with donor **15****

Scheme 5, Entry 1: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of 1,4-dioxane, 145.8 mg (0.1523 mmol) of **15**, 22.2 mg (0.106 mmol) of **16**, and 13 μ L (0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 77.6 mg (0.077 mmol) of **18** was obtained in 73% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 4.2: 1.

Scheme 5, Entry 2: Following general procedure B, 2.5 mL of 1,4-dioxane, 146.3 mg (0.1529 mmol) of **15**, 23.6 mg (0.113 mmol) of **16**, and 42.2 mg (0.150 mmol) of Tf₂NH were used. 79.4 mg (0.079 mmol) of **18** was obtained in 70% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 1: 1.

Scheme 5, Entry 3: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of 1,4-dioxane, 145.5 mg (0.1520 mmol) of **15**, 42.6 mg (0.110 mmol) of **17**, and 13 μ L (0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 89.7 mg (0.076 mmol) of **19** was obtained in 70% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 6.9: 1.

Scheme 5, Entry 4: Following general procedure B, 2.5 mL of 1,4-dioxane, 176.8 mg (0.1847 mmol) of **15**, 43.8 mg (0.113 mmol) of **17**, and 51.7 mg (0.184 mmol) of Tf₂NH were used. 100.2 mg (0.0858 mmol) of **19** was obtained in 76% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 1.1: 1.

Glycosylation of acceptor **13 with donor **15** (additional solvents)**

Scheme 6, Entry 2: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of toluene, 148.1 mg (0.1547 mmol) of **15**, 48.1 mg (0.103 mmol) of **13**, and 13 μ L (0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 97.2 mg (0.077 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 75% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 2.0: 1.

Scheme 6, Entry 6: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of DCM, 139.5 mg (0.1458 mmol) of **15**, 48.5 mg (0.104 mmol) of **13**, and 13 μ L (0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 92.8 mg (0.074 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 71% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 3.6: 1.

Scheme 6, Entry 7: Following general procedure A, 2.5 mL of trifluorotoluene, 141.5 mg (0.1478 mmol) of **15**, 47.3 mg (0.102 mmol) of **13**, and 13 μ L (0.15 mmol) of TfOH were used. 102.6 mg (0.0815 mmol) of **11** was obtained in 80% yield. 1,2-*cis*: 1,2-*trans* = 4.0: 1.

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Disclosure statement

The authors report that there are no competing interests to declare.

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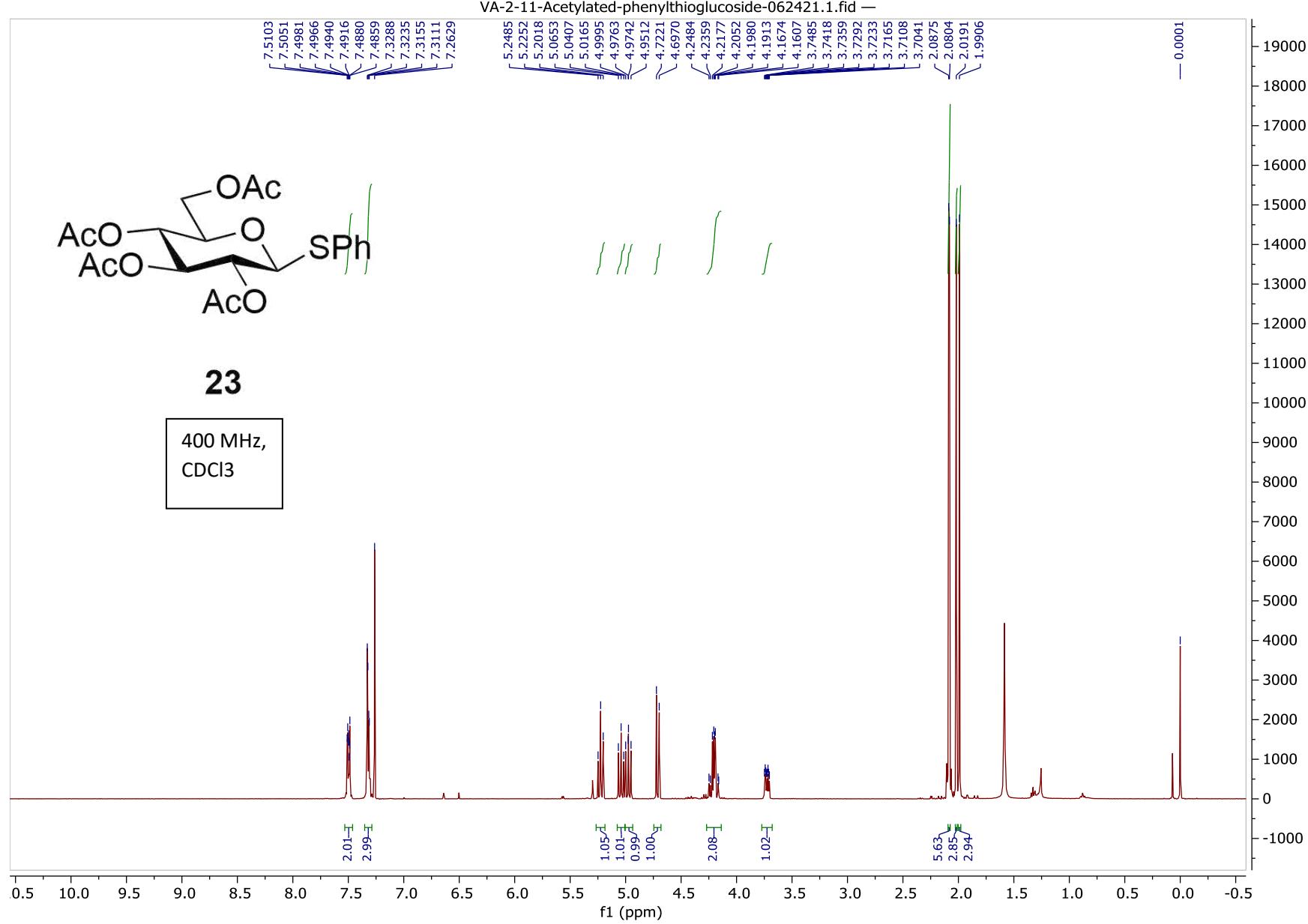
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in Ether Solvents**

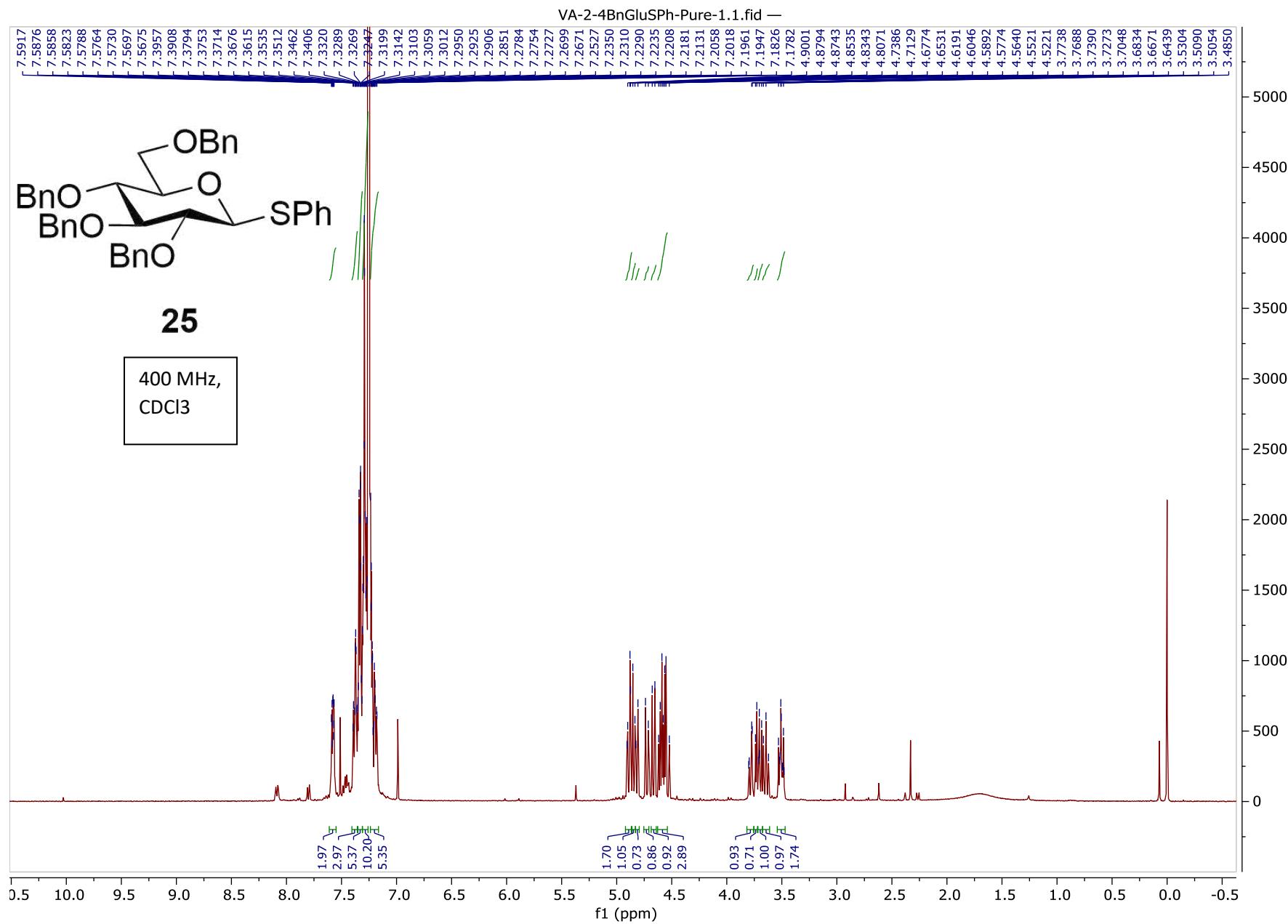
Varad Agarkar, Ava E. Hart, and Justin R. Ragains

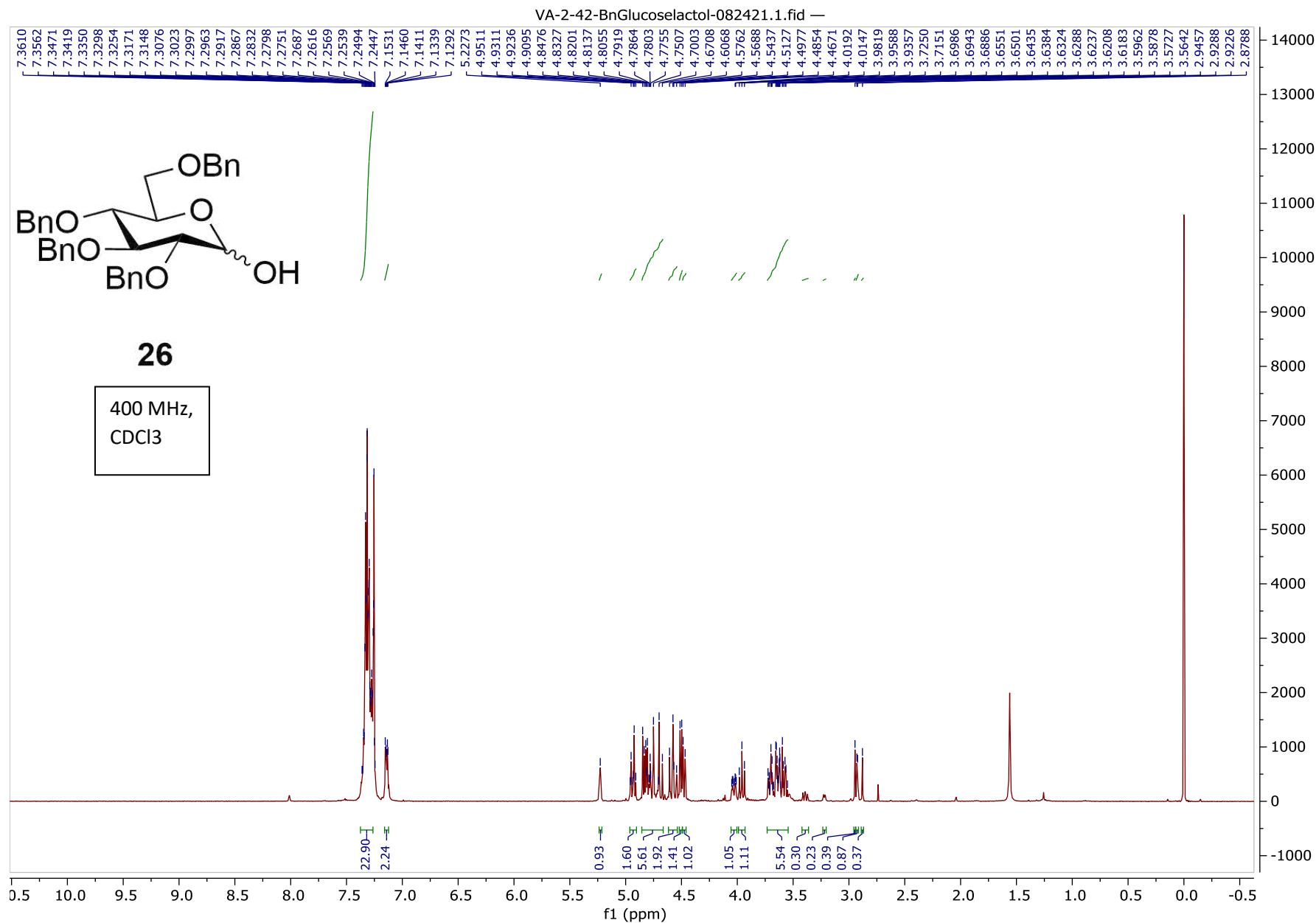
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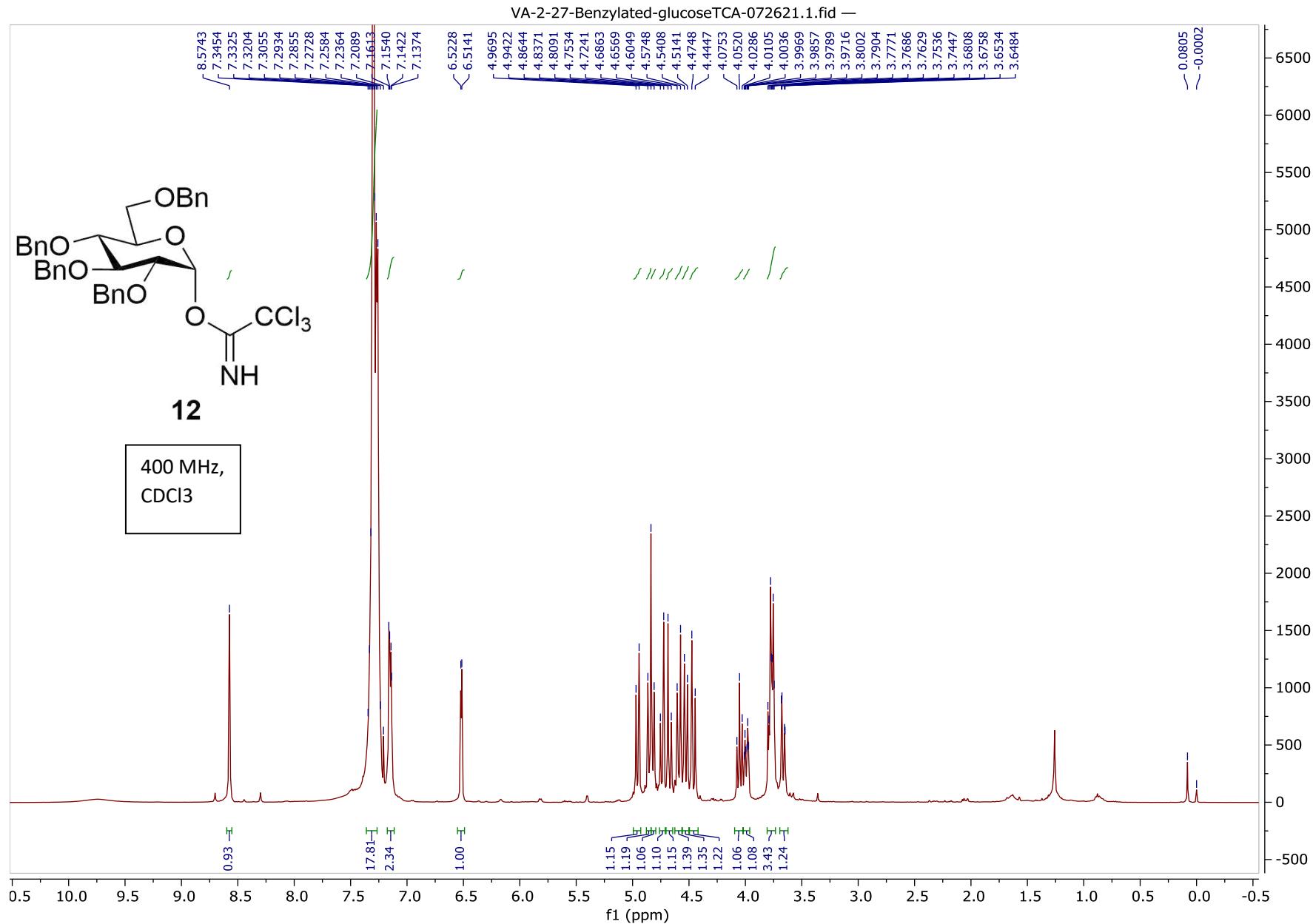
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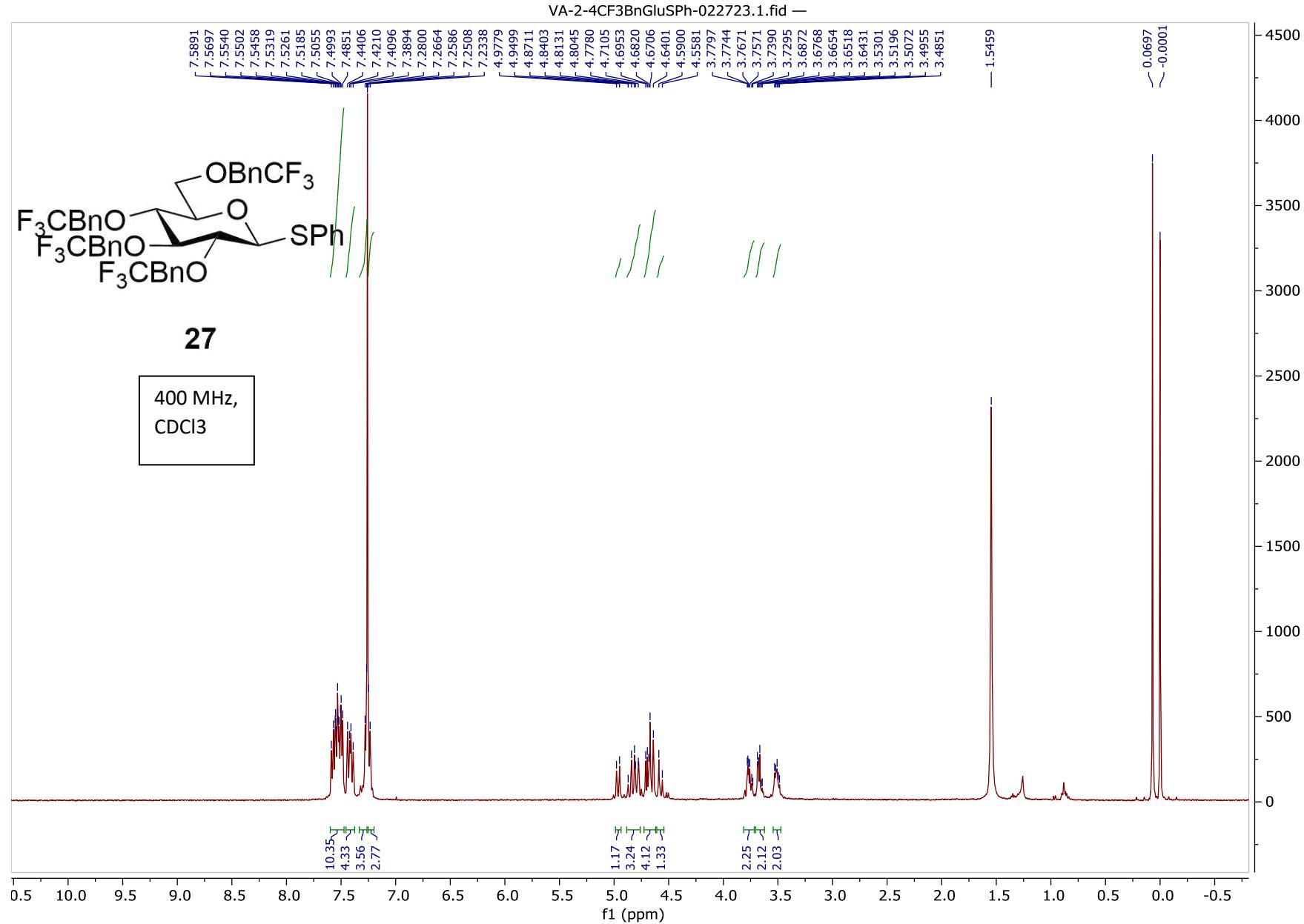
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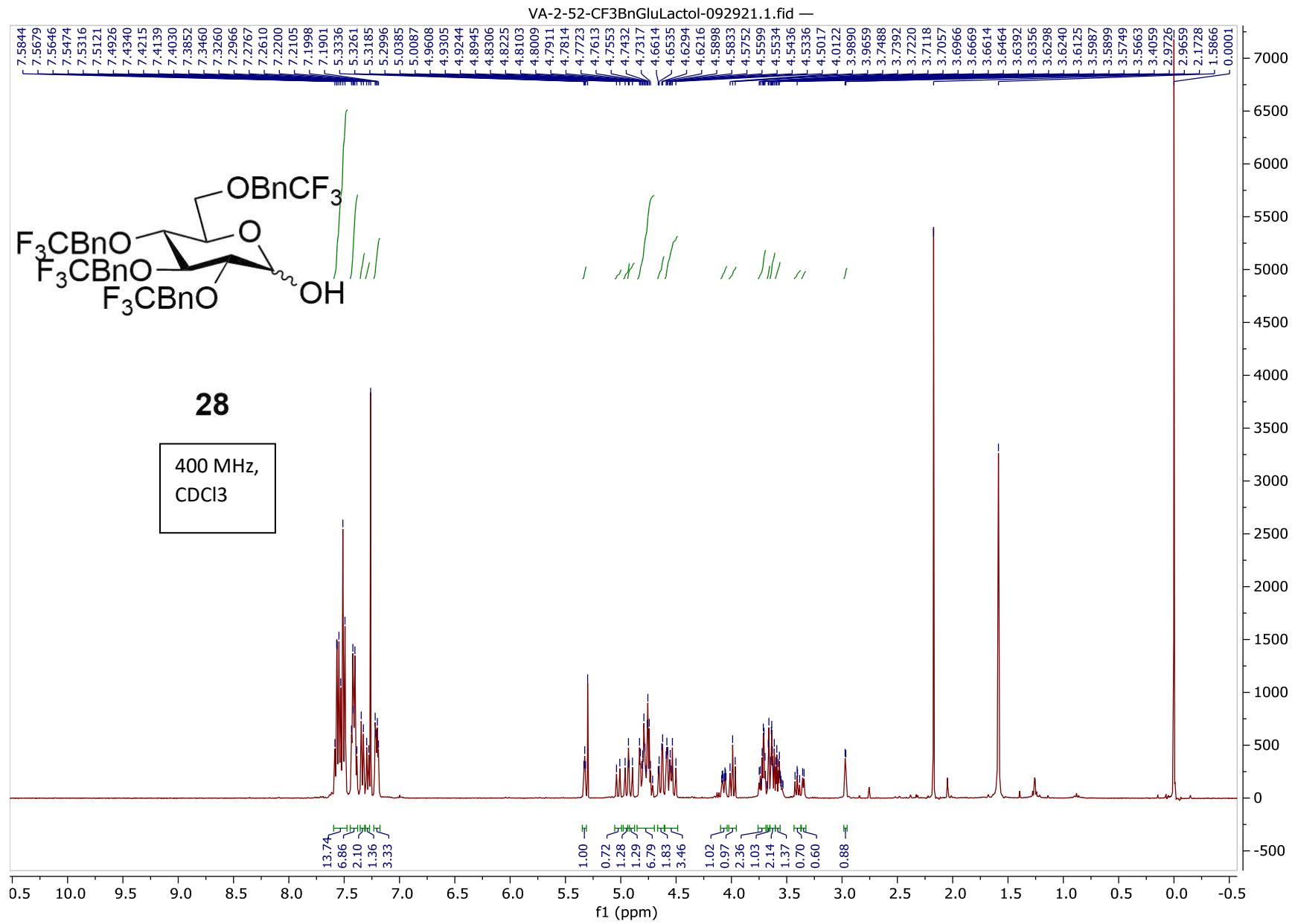


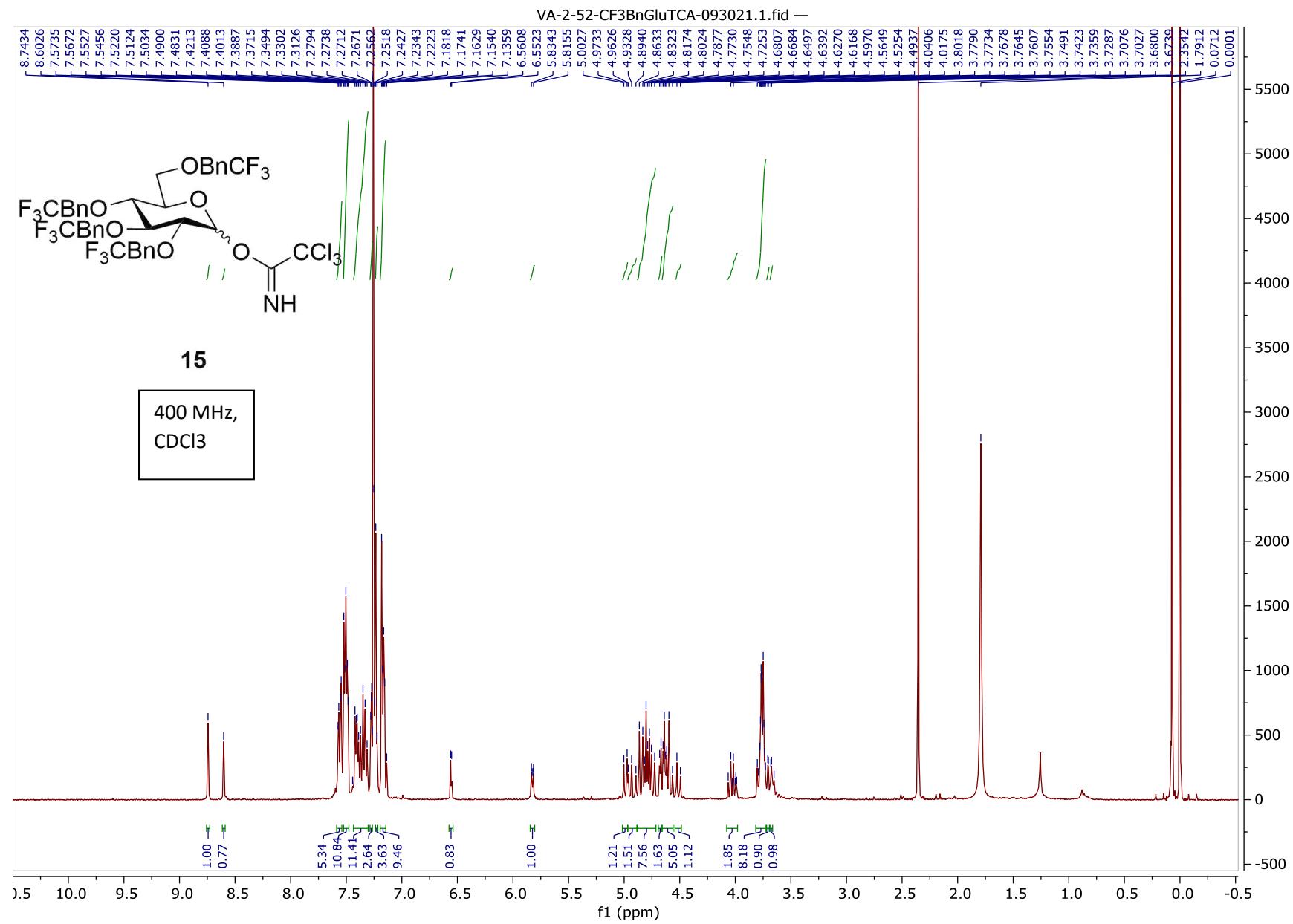


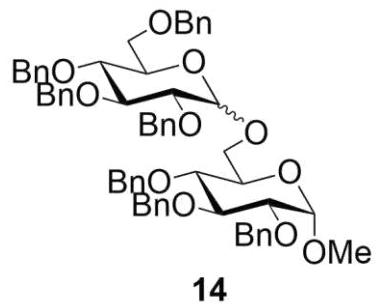
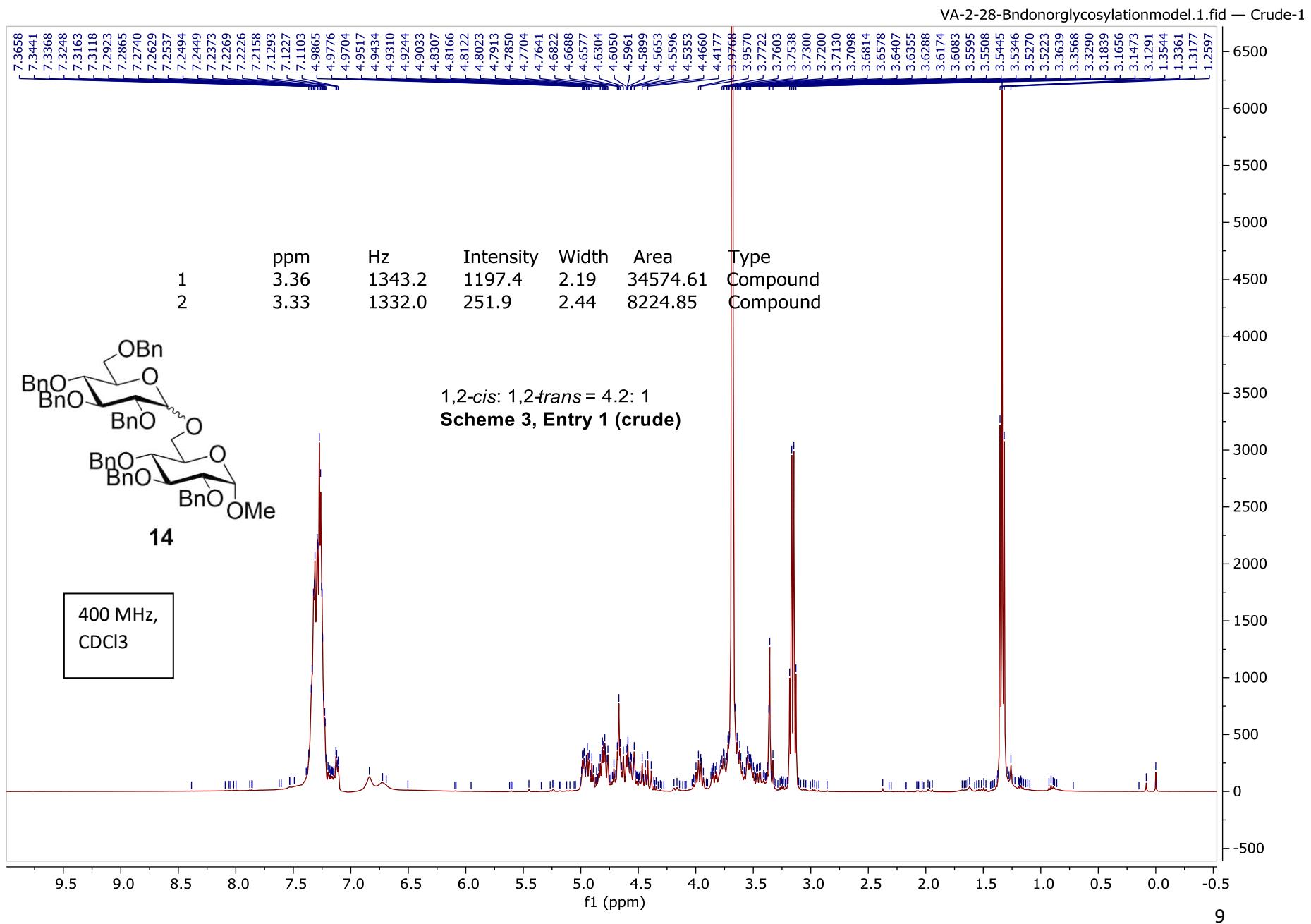












400 MHz
CDCl₃

1,2-cis: 1,2-trans = 4.2: 1
Scheme 3, Entry 1 (crude)

