A NEAR-PERFECT FRENCH 9-BY-8 WORD RECTANGLE

A. ROSS ECKLER
FAITH W. ECKLER
Morristown, New Jersey

The following 9-by-8 French word rectangle attributed to Jean-Charles Meyrignac appears on the Internet (for example, on www.mathpuzzle.com for May 25 2004). The source says that all but one of the words can be found in the Petit Larousse. This is intermediate in difficulty between an 8-by-8 and a 9-by-9 double word square, the latter of which has never been done in English. No 9-by-8 English rectangles are known by us to exist, but French is particularly adaptable to this form because of the many inflected verb forms.

DECROCHES  ECOEURANT  RONFLANTE  ATTRISTER  PARAPHERA  EMACIERAS  REITERAIS  ASSENASSE

DECROCHES – verb DECROCHER – to unhook, 2nd person sing., present
ECOEURANT – adj. m, nauseating, revolting (note that the oc is a diphthong)
RONFLANTE – adj. f, roaring, highfown, grandiloquent
ATTRISTER – verb to make sad, infinitive
PARAPHERA – verb PARAPHER – to initial, 3rd person sing., future
EMACIERAS – verb EMACIER – to emaciate, 3rd person sing., future
REITERAIS – verb REITERER – to reiterate, 2nd person sing., imperfect
ASSENASSE – verb ASSENER – to deal a blow, 1st person sing., subjunctive
DERAPERA – verb DERAPER – to get out of control, 3rd person sing., future
ECOTAMES – verb ECOTER, 1st person plural, past historic

(the source of the rectangle does not identify this word other than to say that it is from the verb ECOTER which it does not define and which is not in our French dictionary (Oxford-Hachette). We believe that this is a neologism possibly having something to do with ecology)
CONTRAIS – verb CONTRER – to counter, 1st person sing., imperfect
REFRACTE – verb REFRACTER – to refract, 1st person sing., present
OULIPIEN – adj. m, relating to the French experimental literature group Oulipo
CRASHERA – verb CRASHER – to crash, 1st person sing., future
HANTERAS – verb HANTER – to haunt, 2nd person, past historic
ENTERAIS – verb ENTER – to graft, 1st person sing., imperfect
STERASSE – verb STERER – to evaluate the volume of a quantity of wood, 1st person sing., subjunctive