

Supplementary information

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Materials and methods

General informations

(*R,R*)-1,2-diaminocyclohexane·HCl and (*S,S*)-1,2-diaminocyclohexane·HCl were purchased from Arran Chemical Company LTD, 4-chlorobutyrophenone from Alfa Aesar, 4'-bromo-4-chlorobutyrophenone from Acros Organics and 4-bromophenyl isocyanate, 4-Chloro-1-(4-methylphenyl)-1-oxobutane and 5-chloro-1-(4-methylphenyl)-1-oxopentane from Fluorochem. All other reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used as supplied, unless otherwise stated. Toluene, tetrahydrofuran and diethyl ether were dried with a Grubbs type Pure Solv-400-3-MD solvent purification system supplied by Innovative Technology Inc. Dichloromethane was dried over 4Å molecular sieves. Dry solvents were stored in J Young flasks over 4Å molecular sieves. The water content in all solvents was monitored before use by titration on an Aquamax KF instrument.

Oxygen-free nitrogen was obtained from BOC gases and passed over dry molecular sieves 4Å. Flash column chromatography was performed on Davisil silica with particle size 40-63 µm. Thin layer chromatography was performed on Merck pre-coated Kieselgel 60F₂₅₄ aluminium plates with UV realisation.

NMR spectra were recorded on Varian VNMRS 400 and 500 spectrometers at 25 °C. Assignments were based on standard ¹H-¹H and ¹H-¹³C two-dimensional techniques. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm relative to residual solvent signals for ¹H and ¹³C NMR (¹H-NMR: 7.26 ppm and ¹³C NMR: 77.16 ppm for CDCl₃). Coupling constants (J) are in Hz. Multiplicities are reported as follow: s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublets, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet and br = broad.

HPLC analysis was performed on Agilent Technologies 1260 Infinity system equipped with auto-sampler and Agilent UV-Vis detector operating at 210, 230 and 254 nm. Enantiomers were separated on chiral stationary phases Daicel Chiraldpak® IA, IB, IC, AS-H, Chiracel® OJ-H, OB-H and Regis (*S,S*)-Whelk-O® 1 250 mm L x 4.6 mm ID, 5 µm particle size, coupled to a guard column 50 mm L x 4.6 mm ID.

Specific rotations were measured with a PerkinElmer Model 343 polarimeter, reported as [100·deg·dm⁻¹·cm³·g⁻¹] and are uncorrected for enantiomeric excess.

HRMS were measured with a LCT mass spectrometer Micromass/Waters corp. USA and a Waters GC/MS GCT premier mass spectrometer. The tertiary alcohols were unstable under both ESI and EI ionization methods. However, although the derived THF and THP were unstable under ESI ionization, their HRMS could be obtained under EI (at 35 eV) on the GC/MS system, which in all cases showed only one peak.

Grignard reagent solutions (MeMgBr 3.0 M in Et₂O, MeMgI 3.0 M in Et₂O, EtMgBr 3.0 M in Et₂O, iBuMgBr 2.0 M in Et₂O) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich except for phenethylmagnesium bromide 1.7 M in Et₂O which was prepared from (2-bromoethyl)benzene and magnesium turnings. Grignard reagents solutions were titrated before use with 1.0 M menthol solution, using 1,10-phenanthroline as indicator.¹ The solutions of ketones 0.5 M in dry toluene were stored in J Young flasks over 4Å molecular sieves.

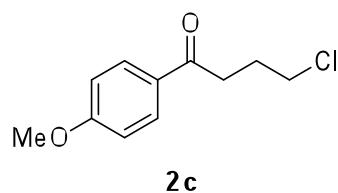
Ligands **L1** and **L2** were prepared according to our reported procedure.²

Experimental procedures and characterizations

General procedure for the preparation of ketones 2/3

In a 50 mL flame-dried Schlenk flask under nitrogen was prepared a solution of acyl chloride (10.0 mmol) in the selected arene (35.0 mmol). The solution was cooled to 0 °C and aluminium trichloride (11.0 mmol) was added portionwise over 10 minutes. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for the indicated time and then poured into ice (75 g) and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 40 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with pentane/Et₂O 97:3 to obtain the pure ketone.

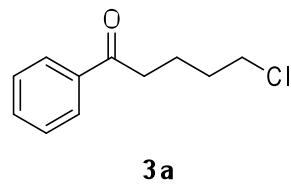
4'-methoxy-4-chlorobutyrophenone 2c



Reaction conducted for 30 minutes at 0 °C. Off-white solid, 94% yield

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.97-7.94 (m, 2H), 6.95-6.92 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.68-3.65 (m, 2H), 3.14-3.10 (m, 2H), 2.25-2.18 (m, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.6, 163.7, 130.4, 130.0, 113.9, 55.6, 44.9, 35.0, 27.1. Analytical data in accordance with literature reported results.³

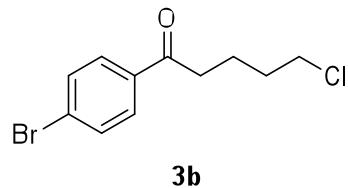
5-chlorovalerophenone 3a



Reaction conducted for 30 minutes at 0 °C. Off-white solid, 80% yield.

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.97-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 2H), 3.60-3.57 (m, 2H), 3.04-3.00 (m, 2H), 1.95-1.83 (m, 4H); ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.8, 137.0, 133.2, 128.8, 128.1, 44.9, 37.7, 32.2, 21.7. Analytical data in accordance with literature reported results.⁴

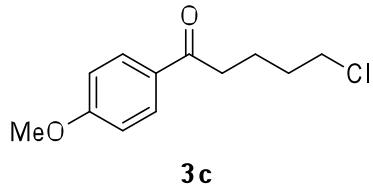
4'-bromo-5-chlorovalerophenone 3b



Reaction conducted for 3 hours at room temperature. Off-white solid, 38% yield.

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.83-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.58 (m, 2H), 3.59-3.56 (m, 2H), 2.99-2.96 (m, 2H), 1.93-1.83 (m, 4H); ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.6, 135.7, 132.1, 129.7, 128.4, 44.8, 37.7, 32.1, 21.5. Analytical data in accordance with literature reported results.⁴

4'-methoxy-5-chlorovalerophenone 3c



Reaction conducted for 30 minutes at 0 °C. Off-white solid, 93% yield.

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.96-7.92 (m, 2H), 6.95-6.91 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.59-3.56 (m, 2H), 2.98-2.94 (m, 2H), 1.93-1.82 (m, 4H); ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.3, 163.6, 130.4, 130.1, 113.9, 55.6, 44.9, 37.3, 32.3, 21.9. Analytical data in accordance with literature reported results.⁴

General procedure for the preparation of racemic tertiary alcohols

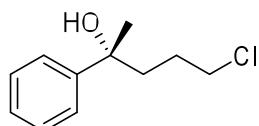
In a 50 mL flame-dried Schlenk flask under nitrogen was prepared a solution of ketone **2a-c/3a-c** (3.0 mmol) in dry toluene (10 mL). The solution was cooled to -78 °C and the Grignard reagent (4.5 mmol) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 hour and then quenched with NH₄Cl sat. (3 mL) and H₂O (3 mL). The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with pentane/Et₂O 95:5 to 80:20 to obtain the pure tertiary alcohol.

General procedure for the preparation of chiral non-racemic tertiary alcohols

To a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk flask under nitrogen was added a 0.5 M solution of ketone **2a-c/3a-c** in dry toluene (0.1 mmol, 0.200 mL) followed by dry toluene (1.3 mL). Ligand **L1** (50 mg, 0.133 mmol) was added, the solution was stirred magnetically at 750 rpm for 5 minutes at room temperature and then cooled to -78 °C. The Grignard reagent in Et₂O (0.243 mmol) was diluted with dry toluene (400 μL) and was added dropwise over 15 minutes. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 hour and then quenched at that temperature with a solution of IPA/H₂O 1:1 (0.3 mL), followed by NH₄Cl sat. (0.3 mL) and diluted with heptane (1 mL). The cooling bath was removed and the mixture allowed to warm up to room temperature under vigorous stirring. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with heptane (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with AcOH 20% solution (2 x 10 mL), H₂O (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with pentane/Et₂O 95:5 to

80:20 to obtain the pure scalemic tertiary alcohol **4/5**. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase.

5-chloro-2-phenylpentan-2-ol 4aa



4 aa

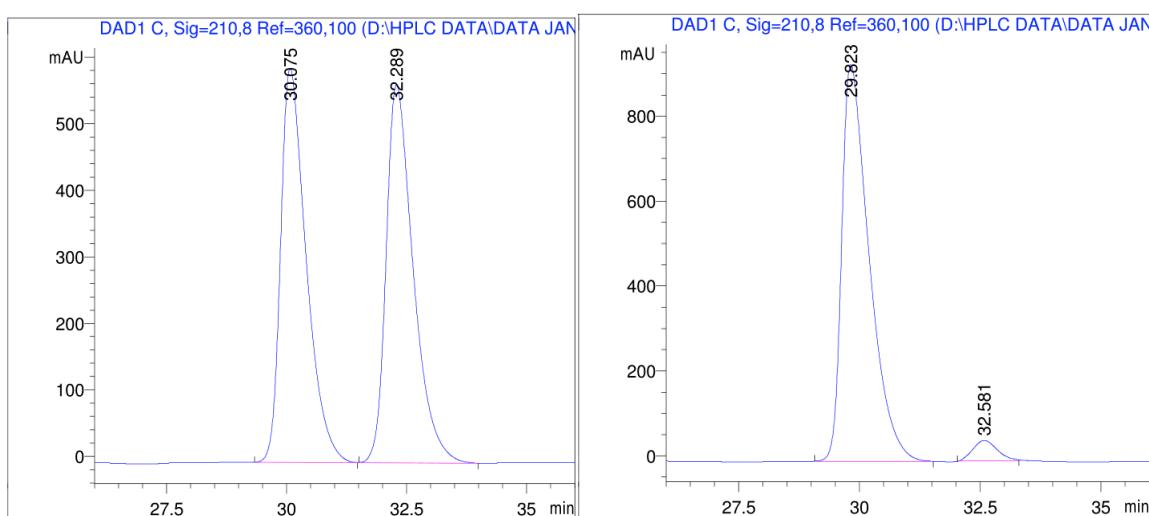
Colourless oil, 71% yield, 91% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralpak IB, Heptane/EtOH 99.7:0.3, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_M = 29.8$ min, $t_m = 32.6$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.45-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H), 2.01-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.85-1.74 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.59 (s, 3H)

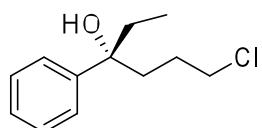
$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.4, 128.4, 126.9, 124.8, 74.5, 45.6, 41.5, 30.7, 27.6

Analytical data were in accordance with literature reported results.⁵



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 29.823 | BB | 0.5871 | 3.67805e4 | 934.58868 | 95.6276 |
| 2 | 32.581 | MM | 0.5837 | 1681.71863 | 48.02130 | 4.3724 |
| Totals : | | | | | 3.84622e4 | 982.60999 |

(R)-6-chloro-3-phenylhexan-3-ol 4ab



4ab

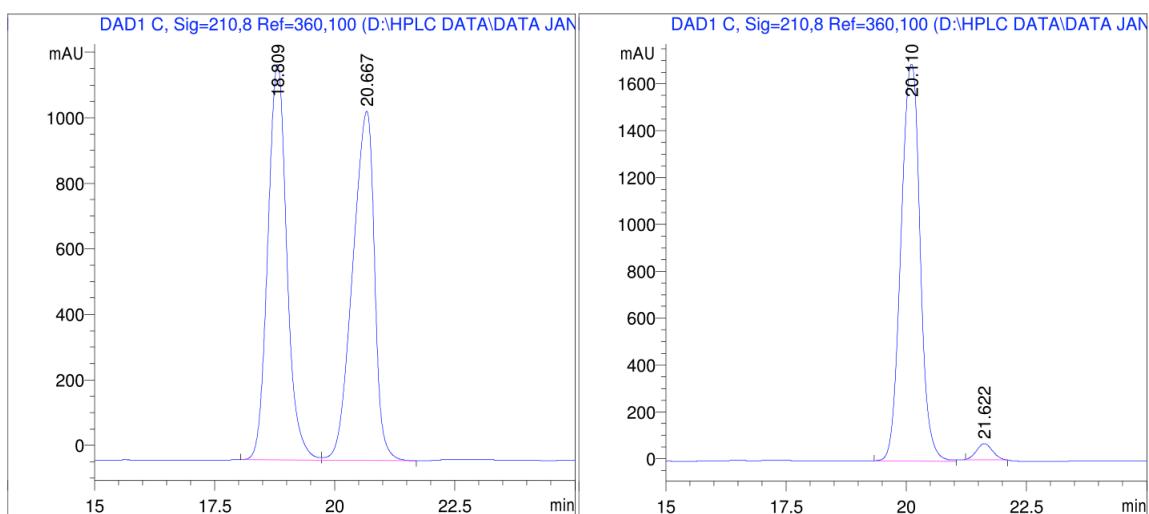
Colourless oil, 69% yield, 93% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiraldak IB, Heptane/EtOH 99.7:0.3, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C,
 $t_M = 20.1$ min, $t_m = 21.6$ min

^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.39-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.43 (m, 2H), 2.02-1.75 (m, 5H), 1.66 (br s, 1H), 1.60-1.49 (m, 1H), 0.77 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H)

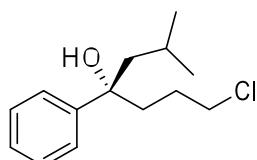
^{13}C -NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.4, 128.3, 126.7, 125.4, 77.1, 45.8, 40.0, 35.9, 27.2, 7.8

Analytical data were in accordance with literature reported results.⁵



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 20.110 | BB | 0.4360 | 4.67509e4 | 1693.75146 | 96.7783 |
| 2 | 21.622 | MM | 0.3815 | 1556.30811 | 67.98848 | 3.2217 |
| Totals : | | | | | 4.83072e4 | 1761.73994 |

1-chloro-6-methyl-4-phenylheptan-4-ol 4ac



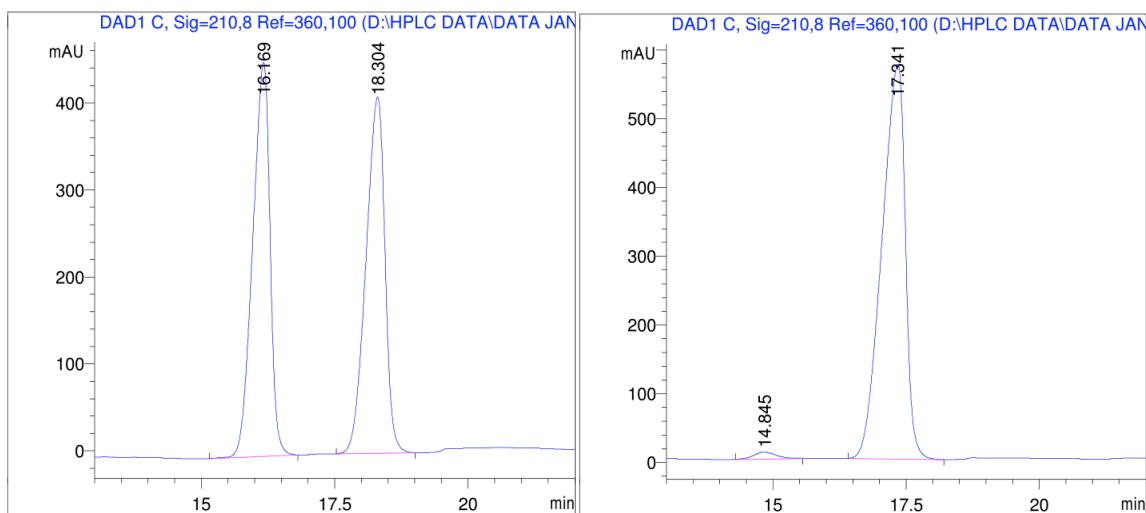
4ac

Colourless oil, 63% yield, 96% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralpak IB, Heptane/EtOH 99.7:0.3, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 14.8$ min, $t_M = 17.3$ min

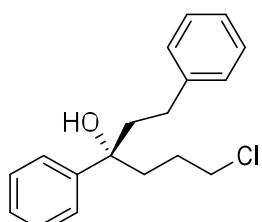
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.40-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.40 (m, 2H), 2.02-1.42 (m, 8H), 0.91 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.69 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.8, 128.3, 126.5, 125.4, 77.4, 52.2, 45.8, 41.6, 27.0, 24.6, 24.5, 24.2



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 14.845 | BB | 0.4587 | 304.49869 | 10.07098 | 1.7050 |
| 2 | 17.341 | BB | 0.4864 | 1.75551e4 | 574.64240 | 98.2950 |
| Totals : | | | | | 1.78596e4 | 584.71337 |

6-chloro-1,3-diphenylhexan-3-ol 4ad



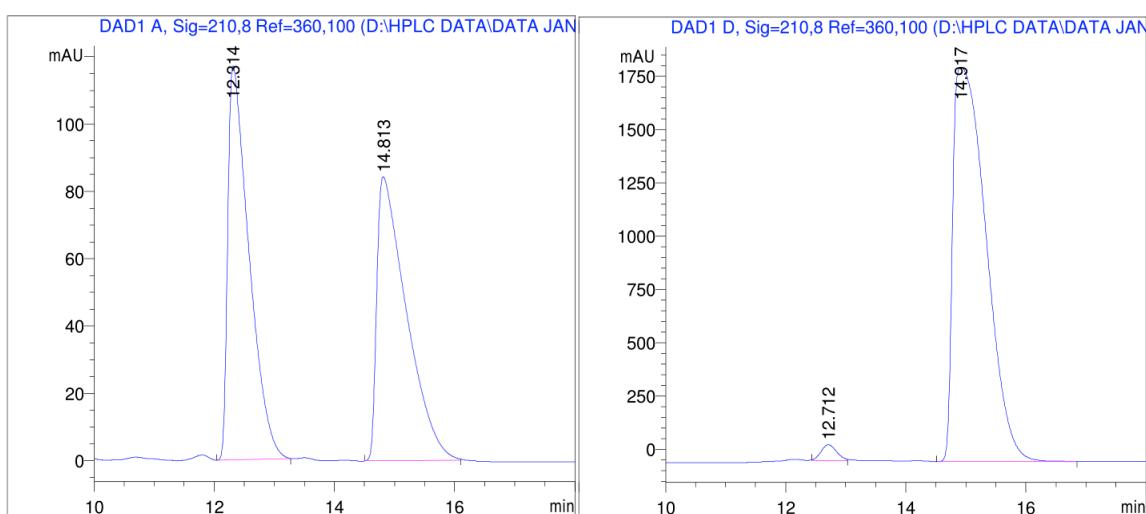
4ad

Colourless oil, 70% yield, 96% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiraldak IA, Heptane/EtOH 95:5, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m=12.7$ min , $t_M=14.9$ min

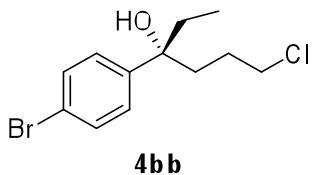
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.45-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.09 (m, 6H), 3.53-3.42 (m, 2H), 2.67-2.57 (m, 1H), 2.43-2.33 (m, 1H), 2.26-1.92 (m, 4H), 1.89-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.72 (br s, 1H), 1.63-1.49 (m, 1H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.2, 142.2, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 126.9, 126.0, 125.3, 77.0, 45.6, 45.2, 40.7, 30.1, 27.1



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 12.712 | MM | 0.2981 | 1311.56409 | 73.33271 | 1.8164 |
| 2 | 14.917 | VB | 0.6129 | 7.08954e4 | 1850.93774 | 98.1836 |
| Totals : | | | | | 7.22069e4 | 1924.27045 |

3-(4-bromophenyl)-6-chlorohexan-3-ol 4bb

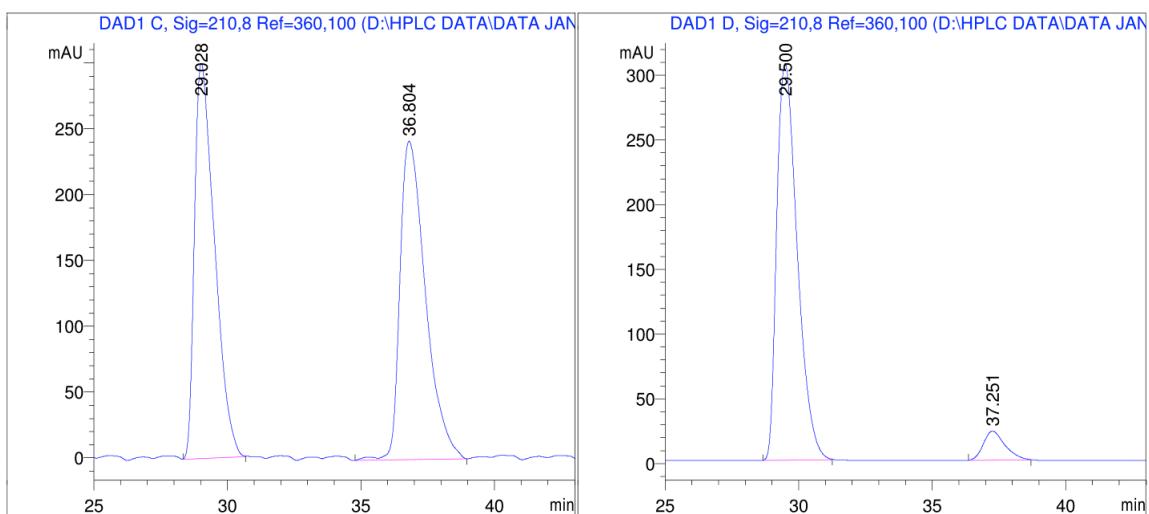


Colourless oil, 83% yield, 88% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralpak AS-H, Heptane/EtOH 99:1, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C,
 $t_M = 29.5$ min, $t_m = 37.3$ min

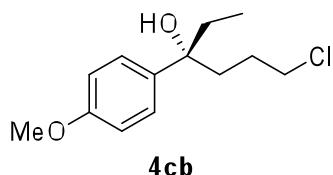
^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.47-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 2H), 3.51-3.42 (m, 2H), 1.98-1.73 (m, 5H), 1.65 (br s, 1H), 1.56-1.43 (m, 1H), 0.75 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H);

^{13}C -NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.4, 131.4, 127.4, 120.6, 76.9, 45.6, 40.0, 35.9, 27.0, 7.7



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 29.500 | BB | 0.8328 | 1.72259e4 | 321.67413 | 94.0501 |
| 2 | 37.251 | MM | 0.8201 | 1089.75647 | 22.14764 | 5.9499 |
| Totals : | | | | | 1.83156e4 | 343.82177 |

6-chloro-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)hexan-3-ol 4cb

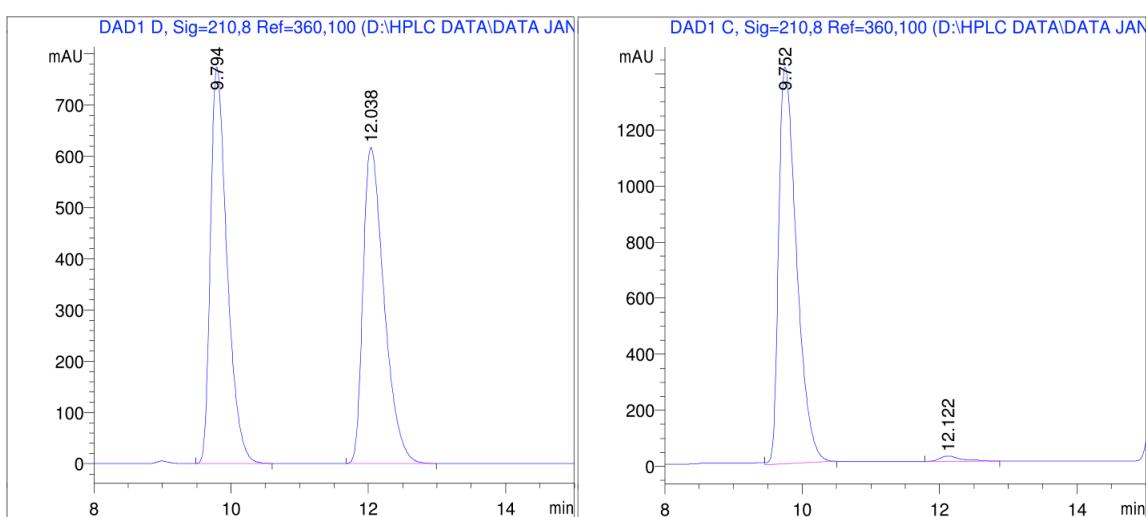


Colourless oil, 68% yield, 97% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 90:10, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C,
 $t_M = 9.8 \text{ min}$, $t_m = 12.1 \text{ min}$

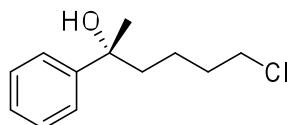
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.89-6.86 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.52-3.43 (m, 2H), 1.98-1.73 (m, 5H),
 1.62-1.51 (m, 2H), 0.76 (t, $J = 7.4 \text{ Hz}$, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.3, 137.5, 126.6, 113.6, 76.8, 55.4, 45.8, 40.0, 35.8, 27.2, 7.9



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 9.752 | MM | 0.3004 | 2.54841e4 | 1413.87439 | 98.6087 |
| 2 | 12.122 | BB | 0.3318 | 445.82925 | 19.42445 | 1.3913 |
| Totals : | | | | | 2.59300e4 | 1433.29884 |

(R)-6-chloro-2-phenylhexan-2-ol 5aa



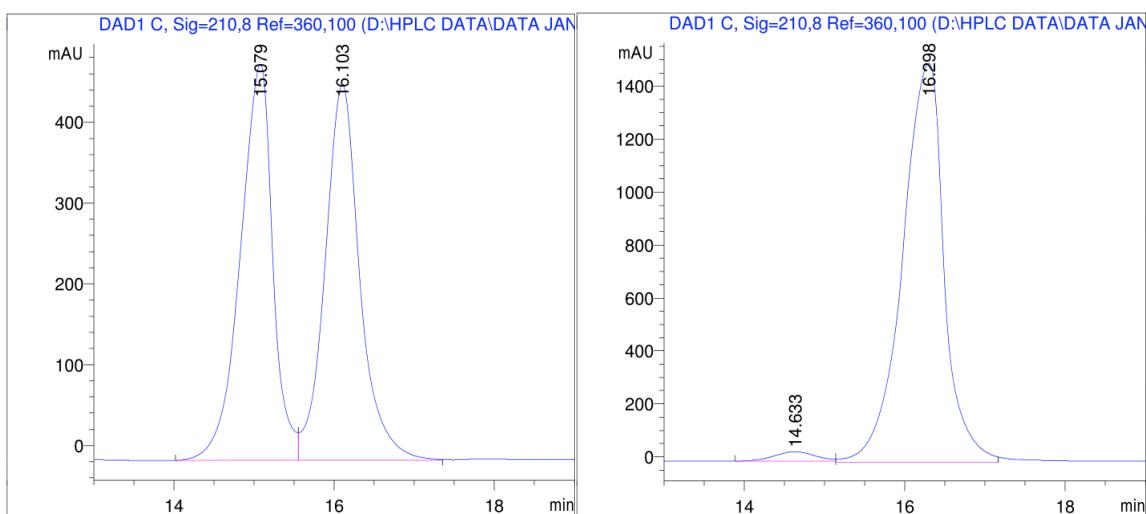
5aa

Colourless oil, 69% yield, 95% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column (S,S)-Whelk-O 1, Heptane/EtOH 99.7:0.3, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 14.6$ min, $t_M = 16.3$ min

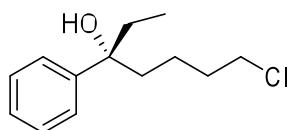
^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.44-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H), 3.47 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.88-1.69 (m, 5H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.49-1.38 (m, 1H), 1.35-1.23 (m, 1H)

^{13}C -NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.8, 128.4, 126.8, 124.9, 74.7, 45.0, 43.5, 33.0, 30.3, 21.6



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 14.633 | BV | 0.5610 | 1294.63440 | 35.70463 | 2.3274 |
| 2 | 16.298 | MM | 0.6006 | 5.43313e4 | 1507.58057 | 97.6726 |
| Totals : | | | | | 5.56259e4 | 1543.28519 |

7-chloro-3-phenylheptan-3-ol 5ab



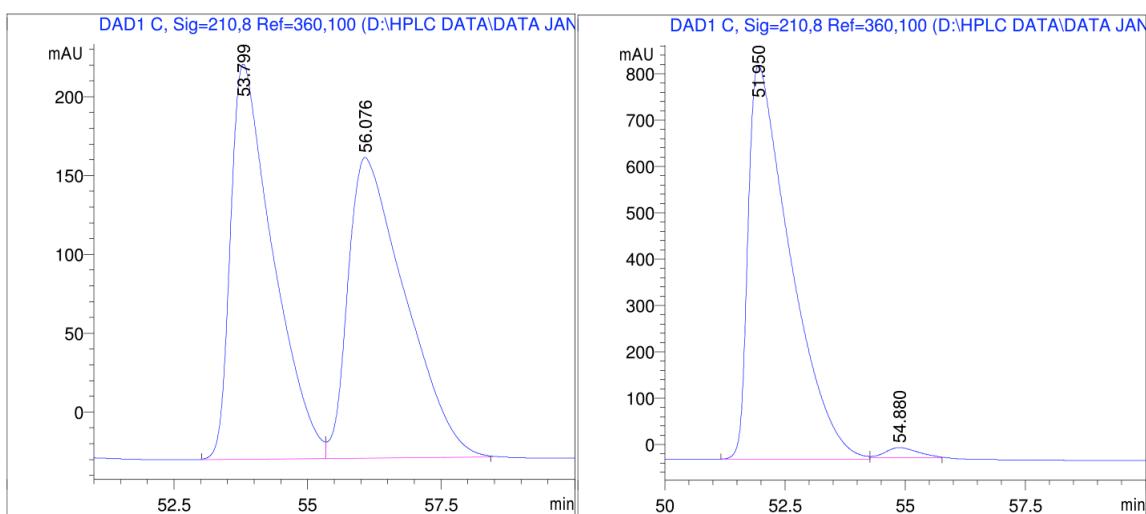
5ab

Colourless oil, 72% yield, 95% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiraldak IB, Heptane/EtOH 99.9:0.1, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C,
 $t_M = 52.0 \text{ min}$, $t_m = 54.9 \text{ min}$

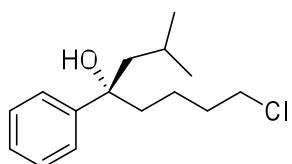
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.39-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 1H), 3.50-3.41 (m, 2H), 1.94-1.66 (m, 7H), 1.51-1.39 (m, 1H), 1.26-1.14 (m, 1H), 0.76 (t, $J = 7.4 \text{ Hz}$, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.8, 128.2, 126.6, 125.4, 77.2, 44.9, 42.0, 35.5, 33.1, 21.2, 7.9



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 51.950 | BV | 0.8710 | 5.17038e4 | 850.75348 | 97.9291 |
| 2 | 54.880 | MM | 0.8081 | 1093.35901 | 22.55054 | 2.0709 |
| Totals : | | | | | 5.27971e4 | 873.30402 |

8-chloro-2-methyl-4-phenyloctan-4-ol 5ac



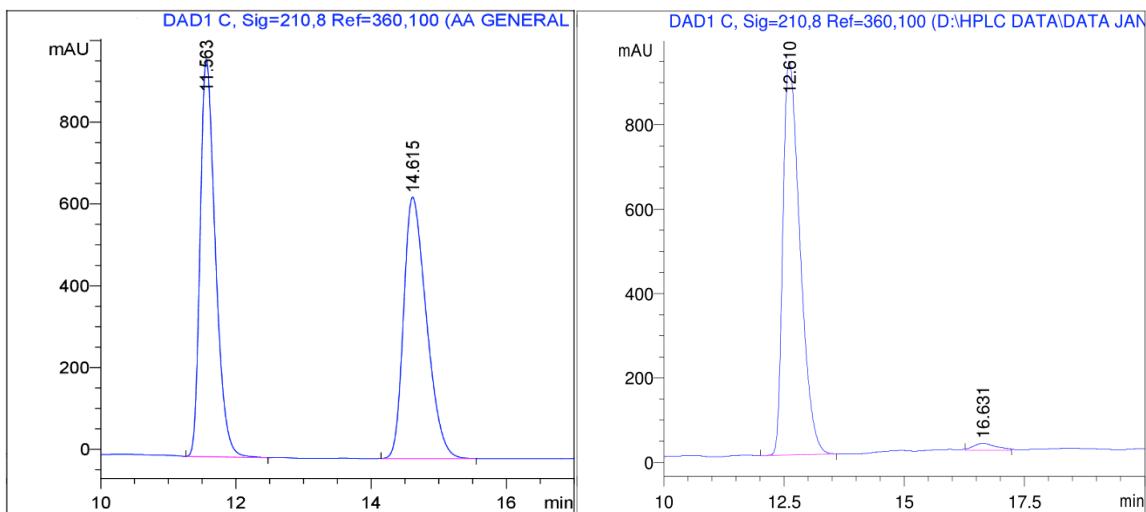
5ac

Colourless oil, 65% yield, 95% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99:1, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_M = 12.6$ min, $t_m = 16.6$ min

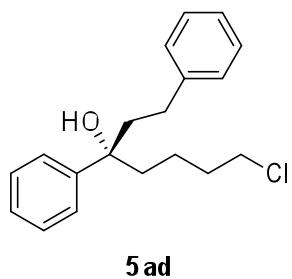
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.39-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 1H), 3.49-3.40 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.64 (m, 7H), 1.62-1.39 (m, 2H), 1.19-1.08 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.69 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.2, 128.2, 126.4, 125.4, 77.6, 51.9, 44.9, 43.6, 33.0, 24.7, 24.5, 24.2, 21.0



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 12.610 | VB | 0.3832 | 2.31566e4 | 934.06403 | 97.7677 |
| 2 | 16.631 | MM | 0.5482 | 528.72235 | 16.07480 | 2.2323 |
| Totals : | | | | | 2.36853e4 | 950.13883 |

7-chloro-1,3-diphenylheptan-3-ol 5ad

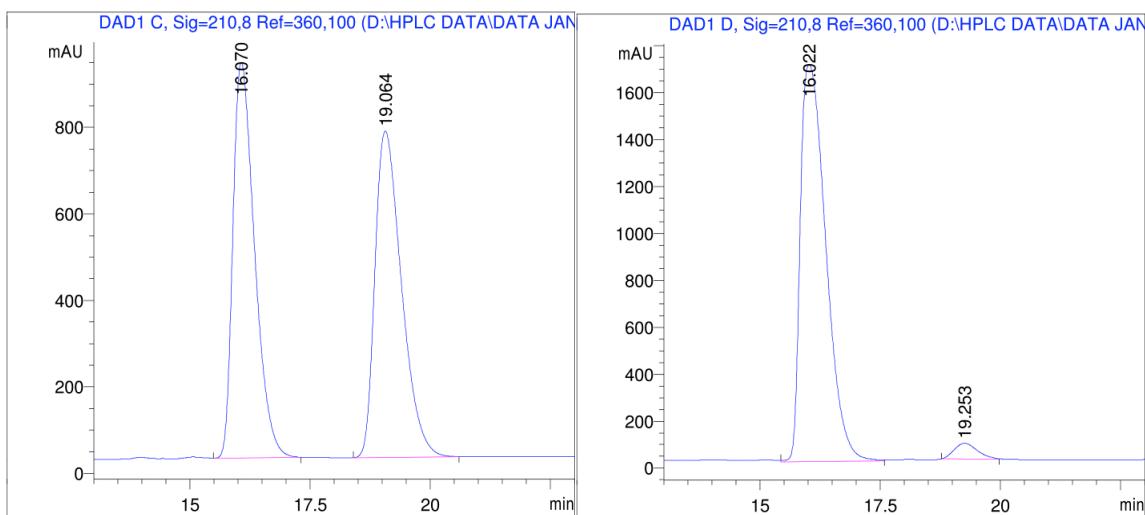


Colourless oil, 72% yield, 93% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralpak AS-H, Heptane/EtOH 95:5, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_M = 16.0$ min, $t_m = 19.3$ min

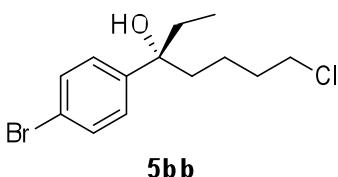
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.44-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.19-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.10 (m, 2H), 3.49-3.43 (m, 2H), 2.62 (ddd, $J = 13.6, 11.1, 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.37 (ddd, $J = 13.6, 11.2, 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.22-2.09 (m, 2H), 1.93-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.79-1.64 (m, 3H), 1.53-1.42 (m, 1H), 1.27-1.16 (m, 1H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.6, 142.3, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 126.8, 126.0, 125.3, 77.1, 44.9, 44.9, 42.7, 33.0, 30.1, 21.1



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 16.022 | VB | 0.5815 | 6.23631e4 | 1693.98120 | 96.4563 |
| 2 | 19.253 | MM | 0.5684 | 2291.14697 | 67.18126 | 3.5437 |
| Totals : | | | | | 6.46543e4 | 1761.16246 |

3-(4-bromophenyl)-7-chloroheptan-3-ol 5bb

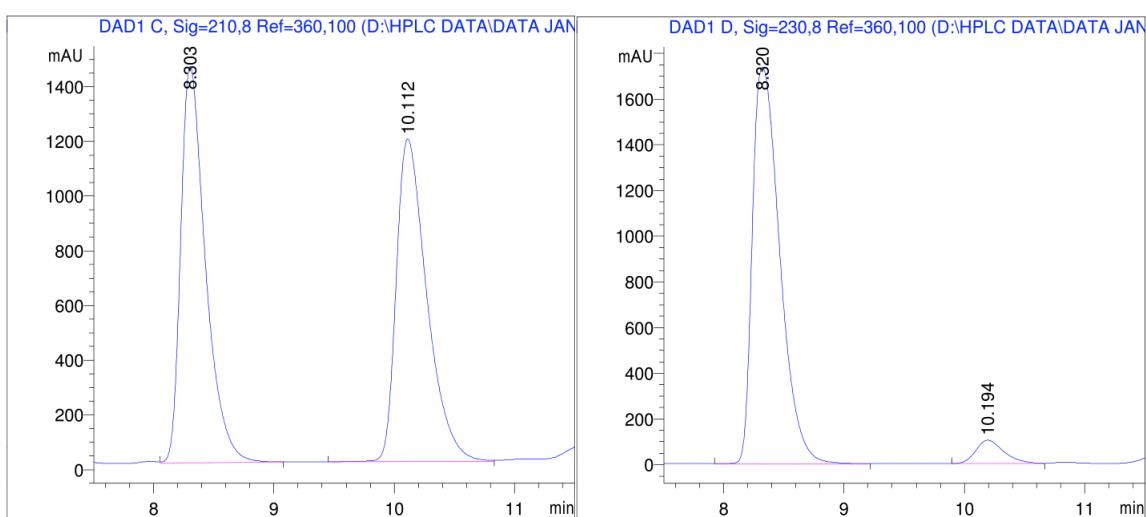


Colourless oil, 80% yield, 88% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralpak AS-H, Heptane/EtOH 95:5, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C,
 $t_M = 8.3$ min, $t_m = 10.2$ min

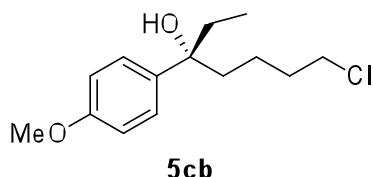
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.47-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 2H), 3.50-3.41 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.65 (m, 6H), 1.62 (br s, 1H), 1.50-1.40 (m, 1H), 1.22-1.11 (m, 1H), 0.75 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.8, 131.3, 127.4, 120.5, 77.0, 44.9, 42.0, 35.6, 32.9, 21.1, 7.8



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 8.320 | MM | 0.2644 | 2.75580e4 | 1737.25415 | 94.2565 |
| 2 | 10.194 | BV | 0.2464 | 1679.23865 | 102.88029 | 5.7435 |
| Totals : | | | | | 2.92373e4 | 1840.13445 |

7-chloro-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)heptan-3-ol 5cb

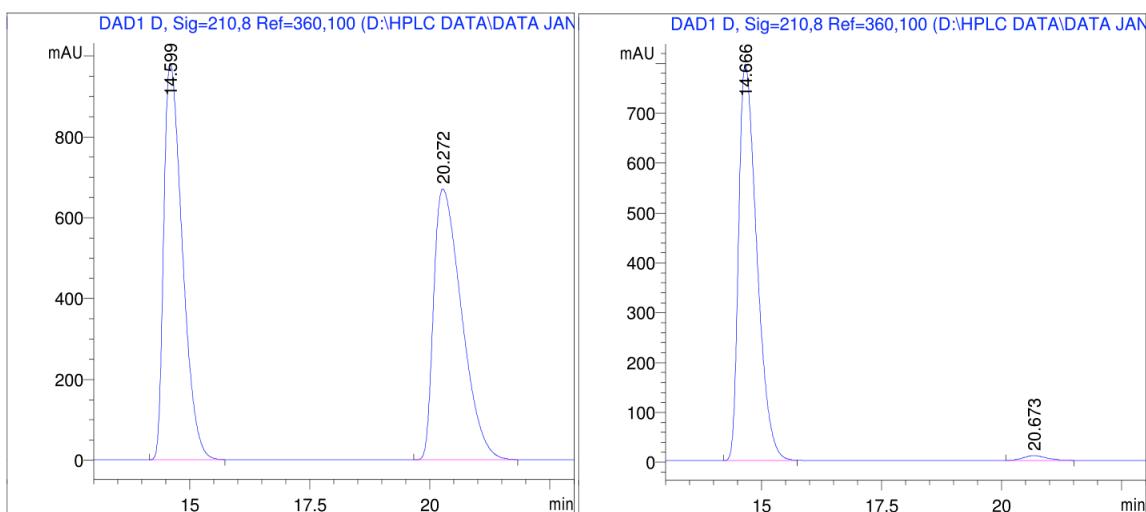


Colourless oil, 64% yield, 97% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 95:5, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_M = 14.7$ min, $t_m = 20.7$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.89-6.85 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.50-3.42 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.67 (m, 6H), 1.63 (br s, 1H), 1.48-1.37 (m, 1H), 1.27-1.15 (m, 1H), 0.76 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.2, 137.9, 126.6, 113.5, 76.9, 55.3, 45.0, 41.9, 35.4, 33.1, 21.2, 7.9



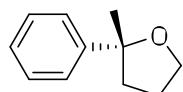
| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 14.666 | BB | 0.4056 | 2.08464e4 | 795.81323 | 98.5342 |
| 2 | 20.673 | BB | 0.5061 | 310.10803 | 9.37131 | 1.4658 |
| Totals : | | | | | 2.11565e4 | 805.18454 |

General procedure for the NaH-promoted cyclization to tetrahydrofurans (Method A)

In a 10 mL flame-dried Schlenk flask under nitrogen was prepared a solution of the γ -chloro alcohol **4** (0.1 mmol) in dry THF (1 mL). The solution was cooled to 0 °C and NaH 95% (13 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 18 hours at room temperature. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C and carefully quenched by adding H_2O (1 mL) drop wise under vigorous stirring. The mixture was extracted with Et_2O (3 x 5 mL) and the combined organic

phases were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with pentane/Et₂O 99:1 to obtain pure 2,2-disubstituted tetrahydrofurans **6**. The enantiomeric excess was calculated by HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase.

(R)-2-methyl-2-phenyltetrahydrofuran 6aa



6aa

Colourless oil, 93% yield, 91% ee

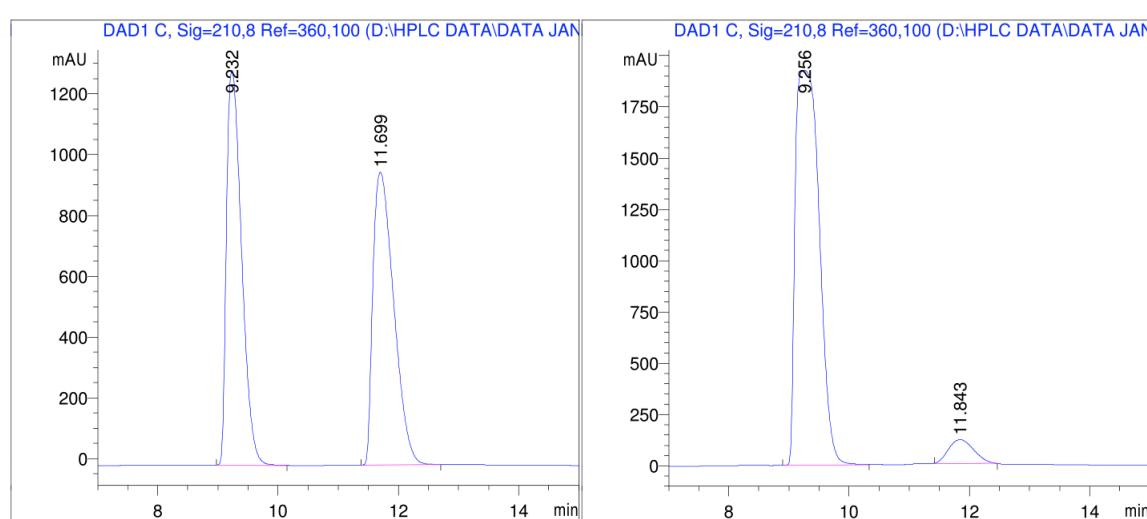
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99.8:0.2, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, t_M= 9.3 min, t_m= 11.8 min

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 1H), 4.05-4.00 (m, 1H), 3.95-3.89 (m, 1H), 2.25-2.18 (m, 1H), 2.06-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.76 (m, 1H), 1.54 (s, 3H)

¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.3, 128.2, 126.4, 124.8, 84.4, 67.7, 39.6, 29.8, 25.9

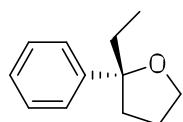
[α]_D²⁰: + 4.7 (c. 0.8, CHCl₃); Lit. (for (S)-8aa) [α]_D²⁵: - 4.1 (c. 0.64, CH₂Cl₂)⁶

Analytical data were in accordance with literature reported results.⁵



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 9.256 | BB | 0.4497 | 5.31047e4 | 1925.97913 | 95.4727 |
| 2 | 11.843 | MM | 0.4898 | 3448.91919 | 117.35313 | 4.5273 |
| Totals : | | | | | 5.65536e4 | 2043.33226 |

(R)-2-ethyl-2-phenyltetrahydrofuran 6ab



6ab

Colourless oil, 91% yield, 93% ee

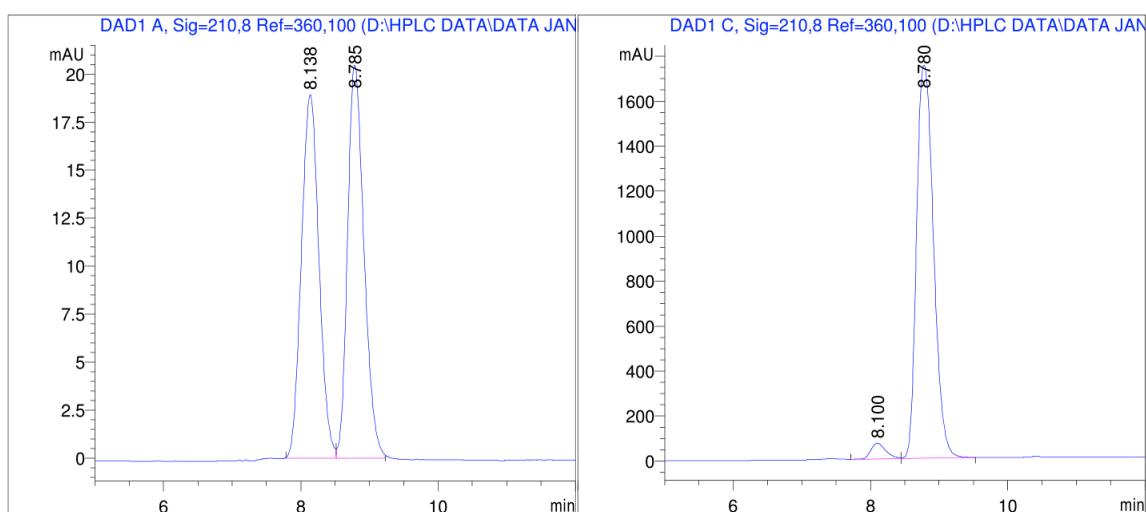
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99.5:0.5, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 8.1$ min, $t_M = 8.8$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.37-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 1H), 3.99-3.95 (m, 1H), 3.91-3.86 (m, 1H), 2.20-2.15 (m, 1H), 2.07-2.01 (m, 1H), 1.97-1.89 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.73 (m, 3H), 0.76 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125.7 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.8, 128.0, 126.3, 125.5, 87.3, 67.6, 37.9, 35.2, 25.8, 8.9

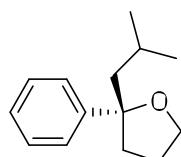
$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -9.0$ (c. 0.7, CHCl_3)

Analytical data were in accordance with literature reported results.⁵



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 8.100 | VV | 0.2338 | 1066.71484 | 70.00732 | 3.4459 |
| 2 | 8.780 | VB | 0.2695 | 2.98895e4 | 1748.31543 | 96.5541 |
| Totals : | | | | | 3.09562e4 | 1818.32275 |

2-isobutyl-2-phenyltetrahydrofuran 6ac



6ac

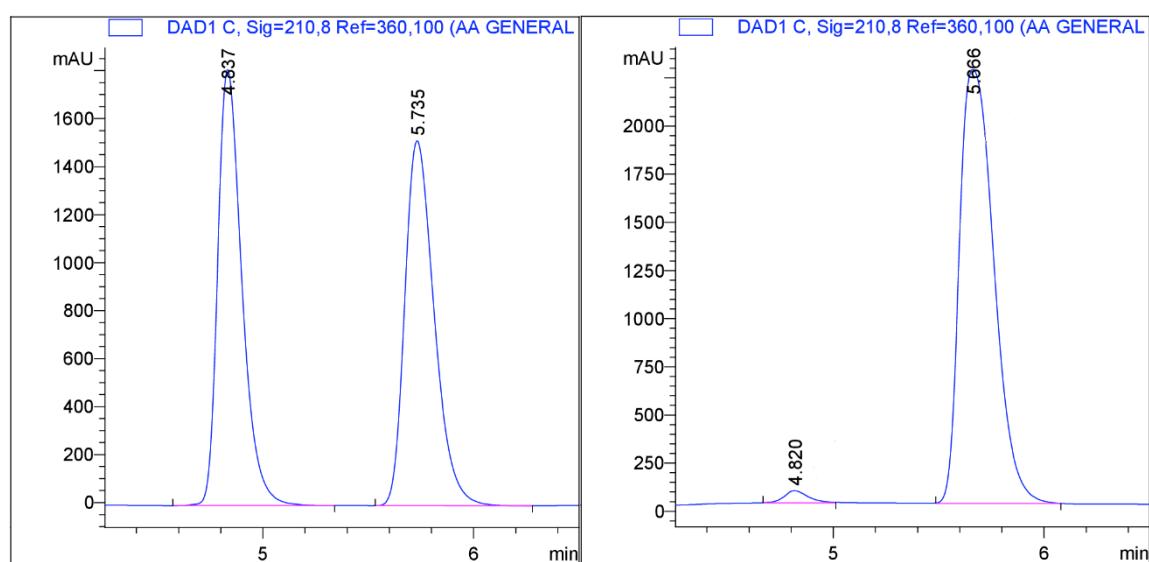
Colourless oil, 93% yield, 96% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99.7:0.3, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 4.8$ min, $t_M = 5.7$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.38-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H), 4.00-3.87 (m, 2H), 2.21-2.15 (m, 1H), 2.03-1.80 (m, 3H), 1.76-1.66 (m, 2H), 1.51-1.41 (m, 1H), 0.88 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.69 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H)

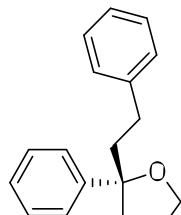
$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.0, 128.0, 126.3, 125.5, 87.4, 67.4, 51.0, 39.8, 25.3, 24.9, 24.4, 24.1

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -7.6$ (c. 1.1, CHCl_3)



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 4.820 | MM | 0.1348 | 520.34540 | 64.35488 | 1.9948 |
| 2 | 5.666 | MM | 0.1889 | 2.55644e4 | 2255.30518 | 98.0052 |
| Totals : | | | | | 2.60847e4 | 2319.66006 |

2-phenethyl-2-phenyltetrahydrofuran 6ad



6ad

Colourless oil, 94% yield, 94% ee

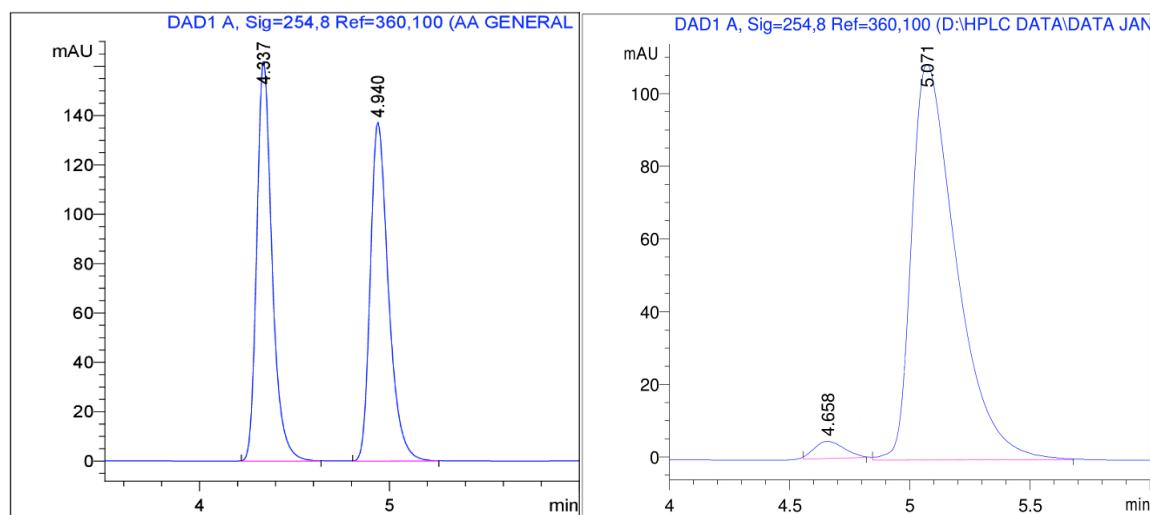
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralpak IC, Heptane/EtOH 99.7:0.3, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 4.7$ min, $t_M = 5.1$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.44-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 3H), 4.07-3.94 (m, 2H), 2.71-2.63 (m, 1H), 2.36-2.29 (m, 1H), 2.25-2.05 (m, 4H), 2.02-1.93 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.77 (m, 1H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.6, 142.8, 128.4, 128.4, 128.2, 126.5, 125.7, 125.4, 86.7, 67.8, 44.6, 38.9, 31.0, 25.7

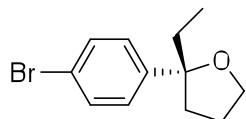
HRMS: (EI, 35 eV) Calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}$ 252.1514 ($[\text{M}]^+$); found 252.1504

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : +12.3$ (c. 1.0, CHCl_3)



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 4.658 | MM | 0.1452 | 41.88210 | 4.80791 | 2.8912 |
| 2 | 5.071 | VB | 0.1946 | 1406.74805 | 109.01232 | 97.1088 |
| Totals : | | | | | 1448.63014 | 113.82023 |

2-ethyl-2-(4-bromophenyl)tetrahydrofuran 6bb



6bb

Colourless oil, 95% yield, 87% ee

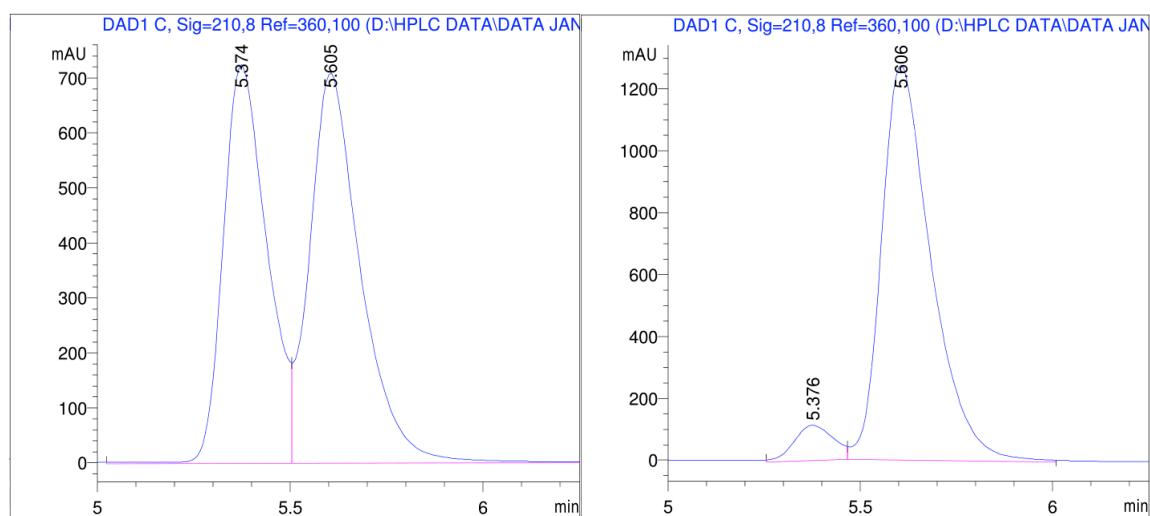
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99.5:0.5, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 5.4$ min, $t_M = 5.6$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 2H), 3.98-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.88-3.83 (m, 1H), 2.14-1.88 (m, 3H), 1.83-1.70 (m, 3H), 0.75 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.9, 131.1, 127.5, 120.2, 87.0, 67.7, 38.0, 35.1, 25.7, 8.8

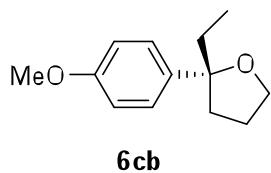
HRMS: (EI, 35 eV) Calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{OBr}$ 254.0306 ($[\text{M}]^+$); found 254.0303

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -3.1$ (c. 1.0, CHCl_3)



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 5.376 | MM | 0.1190 | 816.96680 | 114.41199 | 6.6600 |
| 2 | 5.606 | MM | 0.1493 | 1.14499e4 | 1278.02954 | 93.3400 |
| Totals : | | | | | 1.22668e4 | 1392.44153 |

2-ethyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)tetrahydrofuran 6cb



Colourless oil, 91% yield, 96% ee

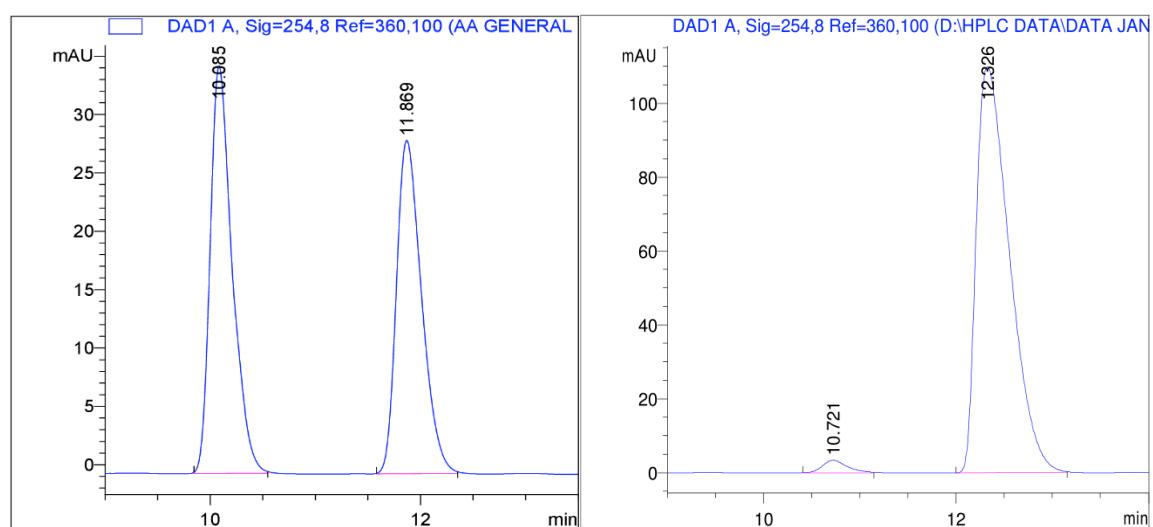
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99:1, flow 1 mL/min, 254 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 10.7$ min, $t_M = 12.3$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.29-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.87-6.84 (m, 2H), 3.97-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.89-3.83 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.18-2.12 (m, 1H), 2.03-1.87 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.72 (m, 3H), 0.76 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.2, 138.7, 126.6, 113.4, 87.0, 67.4, 55.4, 37.8, 35.3, 25.7, 9.0

HRMS: (EI, 35 eV) Calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ 206.1307 ($[\text{M}]^+$); found 206.1309

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -9.1$ (c. 1.0, CHCl_3)

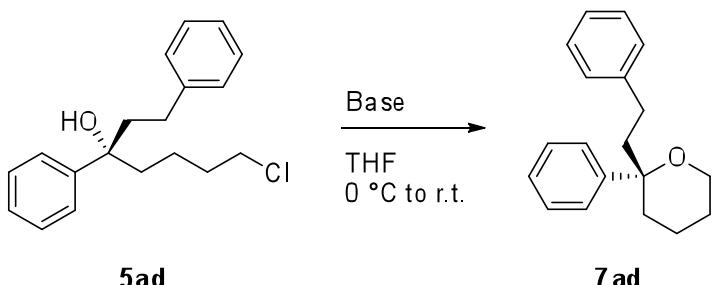


| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 10.721 | BB | 0.2648 | 58.36172 | 3.32537 | 2.1675 |
| 2 | 12.326 | BB | 0.3695 | 2634.25024 | 109.96635 | 97.8325 |
| Totals : | | | | | 2692.61197 | 113.29172 |

Conditions screening for the base-promoted cyclization to tetrahydropyrans

Alcohol **5ad** was chosen as model compound due to the lower volatility of the cyclized product **7ad** compared to other THP derivatives. A screening of different non-nucleophilic bases showed KHMDS in THF being the reagent of choice for the transformation, furnishing **7ad** in high yield after 1 hour (Table 1, entry 5).

Table 1 Optimization of conditions for base-promoted cyclization of δ -chloro tertiary alcohols to 2,2-disubstituted THPs.^a



| Entry | Base (equiv.) | Time (h) | Yield (%) ^b | ee (%) ^c |
|-------|---------------|----------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | NaH (5.0) | 24 | 31 | - |
| 2 | NaH (10.0) | 48 | 43 | - |
| 3 | tBuOK (1.5) | 24 | 45 | - |
| 4 | LDA (1.5) | 24 | 14 | - |
| 5 | KHMDS (1.5) | 1 | 89 | 93 |

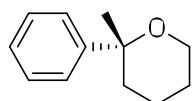
^a Reactions were run on 0.1 mmol scale. ^b Isolated yields.

^c Determined by HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase.

General procedure for the KHMDS-promoted cyclization to tetrahydropyrans (Method B)

In a 10 mL flame-dried Schlenk flask under nitrogen was prepared a solution of the δ -chloro alcohol **5** (0.1 mmol) in dry THF (1 mL). The solution was cooled to 0 °C and KHMDS 1.0 M solution in THF (150 μ L, 0.15 mmol) was added drop wise. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature, stirred for 1 hour and then quenched with NH₄Cl sat. (1 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 5 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with pentane/Et₂O 98:2 to obtain pure 2,2-disubstituted tetrahydropyrans **7**. The enantiomeric excess was calculated by HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase.

(R)-2-methyl-2-phenyltetrahydro-2H-pyran 7aa



7aa

Colourless oil, 90% yield, 93% ee

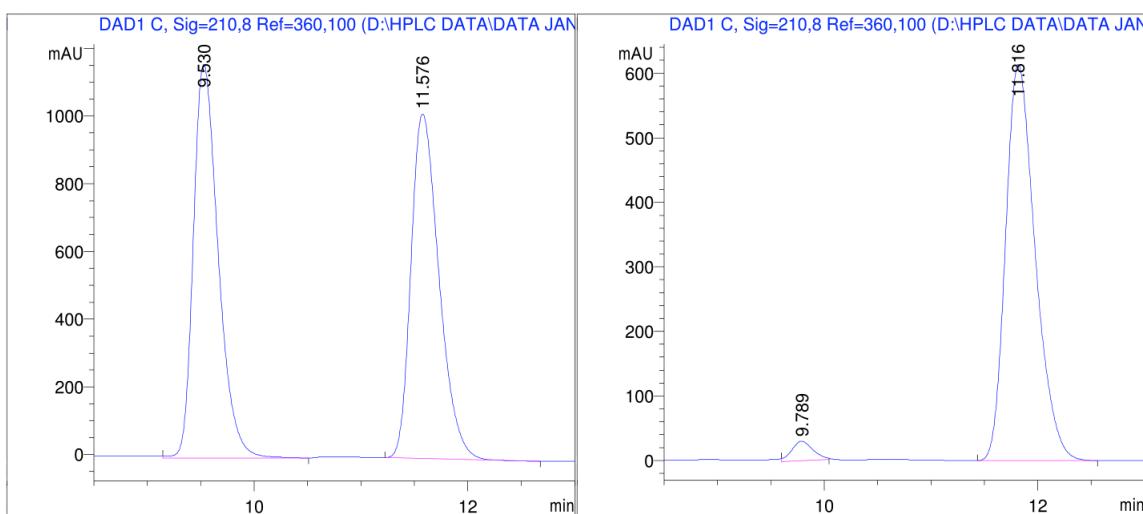
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralpak AS-H, Heptane/EtOH 99.5:0.5, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 9.8$ min, $t_M = 11.8$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.44-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 3.76-3.71 (m, 1H), 3.53-3.46 (m, 1H), 2.43-2.28 (m, 1H), 1.79-1.59 (m, 3H), 1.56-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.39 (s, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.5, 128.6, 126.6, 126.1, 76.1, 62.9, 34.7, 32.9, 26.1, 20.2

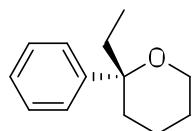
HRMS: (EI, 35 eV) Calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}$ 176.1201 ($[\text{M}]^+$); found 176.1208

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -48.2$ (c. 0.6, CHCl_3); Lit. (for (S)-9aa) $[\alpha]_D^{25} : +59.1$ (c. 0.34, CH_2Cl_2)⁶



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 9.789 | MM | 0.2293 | 414.54944 | 30.12720 | 3.3848 |
| 2 | 11.816 | BB | 0.2967 | 1.18327e4 | 614.39600 | 96.6152 |
| Totals : | | | | | 1.22472e4 | 644.52320 |

2-ethyl-2-phenyltetrahydro-2H-pyran 7ab



7ab

Colourless oil, 88% yield, 95% ee

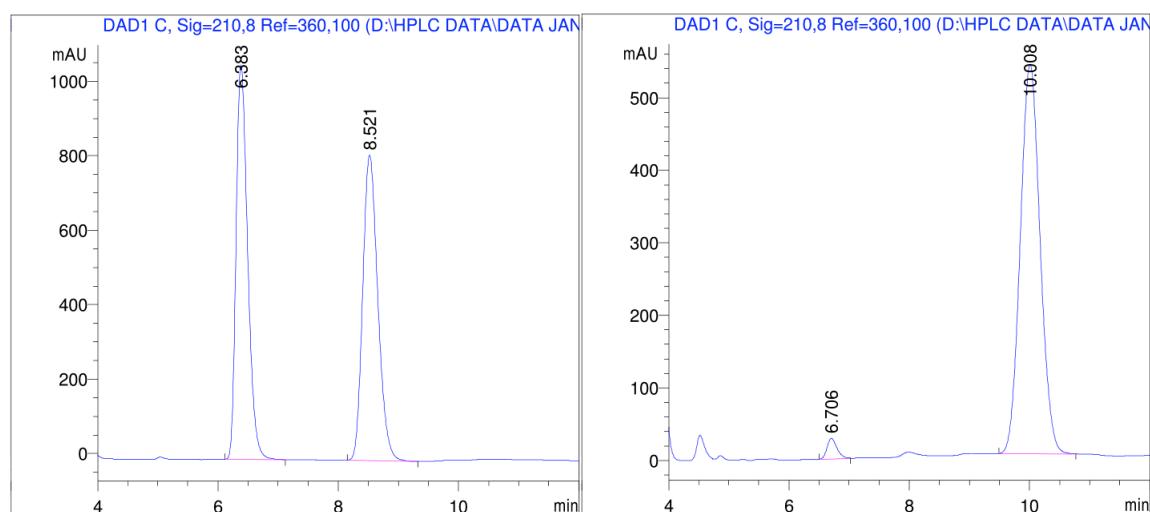
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99.7:0.3, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 6.7$ min, $t_M = 10.0$ min

^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.38-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 1H), 3.73-3.68 (m, 1H), 3.53-3.47 (m, 1H), 2.32-2.26 (m, 1H), 1.80-1.58 (m, 5H), 1.53-1.38 (m, 2H), 0.66 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H)

^{13}C -NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 143.4, 128.3, 127.1, 126.5, 78.8, 62.7, 37.6, 32.7, 26.4, 20.0, 7.8

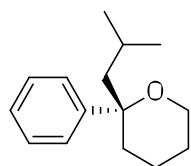
HRMS: (EI, 35 eV) Calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}$ 190.1358 ($[\text{M}]^+$); found 190.1360

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -11.4$ (c. 1.0, CHCl_3)



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 6.706 | MM | 0.1908 | 327.27475 | 28.58263 | 2.5893 |
| 2 | 10.008 | MM | 0.3818 | 1.23122e4 | 537.46356 | 97.4107 |
| Totals : | | | | | 1.26394e4 | 566.04619 |

2-isobutyl-2-phenyltetrahydro-2H-pyran 7ac



7ac

Colourless oil, 90% yield, 95% *ee*

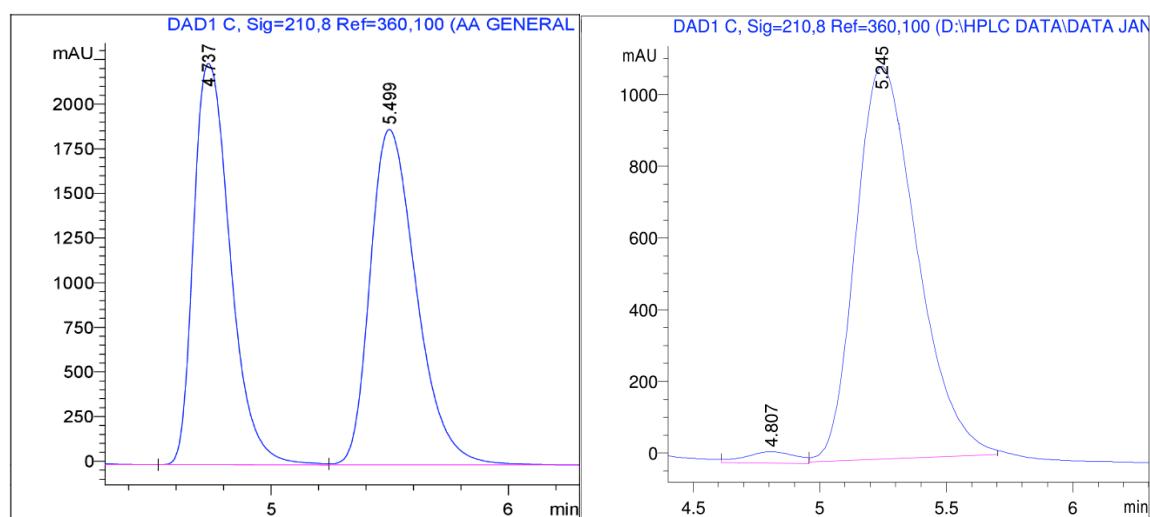
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99.9:0.1, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 4.8$ min, $t_M = 5.2$ min

^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.40-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 1H), 3.73-3.68 (m, 1H), 3.54-3.48 (m, 1H), 2.29-2.24 (m, 1H), 1.79-1.58 (m, 4H), 1.54-1.38 (m, 4H), 0.73-0.70 (m, 6H)

^{13}C -NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.2, 128.3, 126.9, 126.4, 78.9, 62.5, 53.5, 34.1, 26.3, 24.8, 24.5, 23.7, 20.1

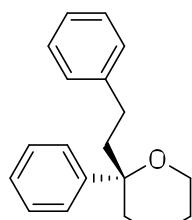
HRMS: (EI, 35 eV) Calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}$ 218.1671 ($[\text{M}]^+$); found 218.1676

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -54.3$ (c. 1.5, CHCl_3)



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 4.807 | VV | 0.2086 | 439.78687 | 31.55182 | 2.3284 |
| 2 | 5.245 | MM | 0.2806 | 1.84478e4 | 1095.72144 | 97.6716 |
| Totals : | | | | | 1.88876e4 | 1127.27326 |

2-phenethyl-2-phenyltetrahydro-2H-pyran 7ad



7ad

Colourless oil, 89% yield, 93% ee

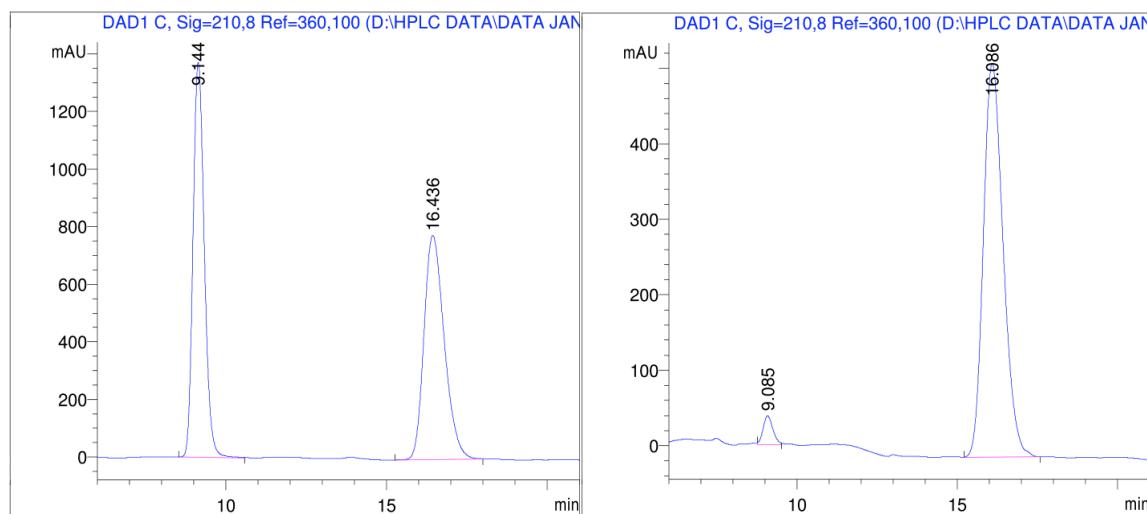
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99.5:0.5, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 9.1$ min, $t_M = 16.1$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.46-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.08-7.06 (m, 2H), 3.81-3.76 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.42-2.28 (m, 2H), 2.14-2.06 (m, 1H), 1.96-1.88 (m, 1H), 1.85-1.78 (m, 1H), 1.75-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.45 (m, 2H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 143.6, 142.7, 128.4, 128.4, 128.3, 126.8, 126.6, 125.7, 78.2, 62.7, 46.0, 33.7, 29.8, 26.3, 20.0

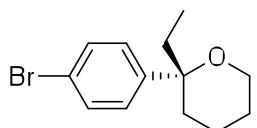
HRMS: (EI, 35 eV) Calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}$ 266.1671 ($[\text{M}]^+$); found 266.1677

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : +4.0$ (c. 1.0, CHCl_3)



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 9.085 | MM | 0.3493 | 796.88702 | 38.02518 | 3.4366 |
| 2 | 16.086 | BB | 0.6643 | 2.23914e4 | 522.15582 | 96.5634 |
| Totals : | | | | | 2.31883e4 | 560.18100 |

2-ethyl-2-(4-bromophenyl)tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran 7bb



7bb

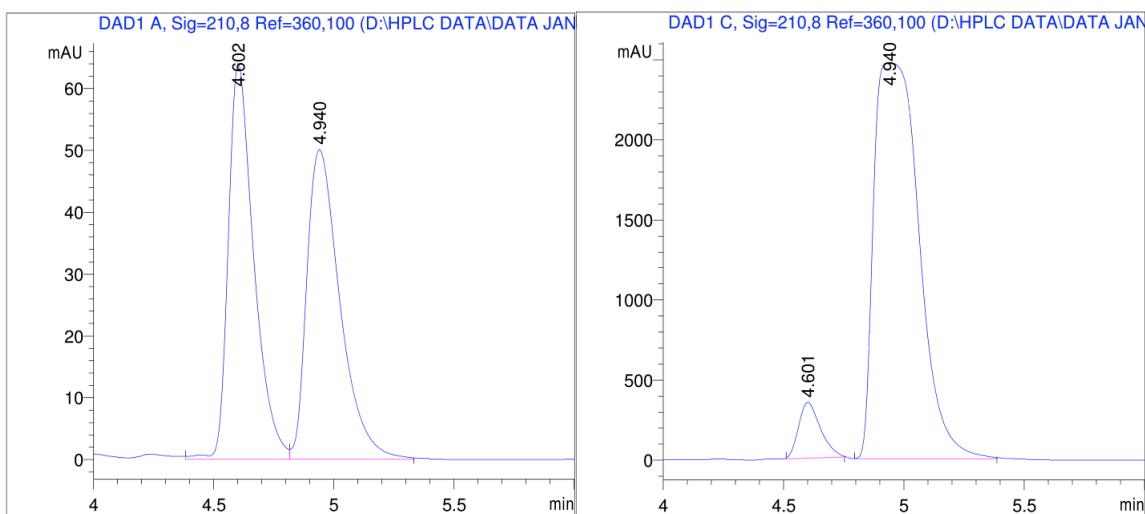
Colourless oil, 89% yield, 87% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralpak AS-H, Heptane/EtOH 99:1, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 4.6$ min, $t_M = 4.9$ min

^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.49-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 3.72-3.68 (m, 1H), 3.48-3.42 (m, 1H), 2.23-2.18 (m, 1H), 1.78-1.56 (m, 5H), 1.49-1.37 (m, 2H), 0.65 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H)

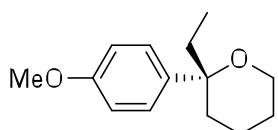
^{13}C -NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 142.7, 131.4, 128.9, 120.5, 78.5, 62.7, 37.1, 32.7, 26.3, 19.9, 7.7

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -36.0$ (c. 1.0, CHCl_3)



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 4.601 | MM | 0.1052 | 2213.96484 | 350.69925 | 6.4275 |
| 2 | 4.940 | MM | 0.2170 | 3.22310e4 | 2475.28223 | 93.5725 |
| Totals : | | | | | 3.44450e4 | 2825.98148 |

2-ethyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran 7cb



7 cb

Colourless oil, 90% yield, 96% ee

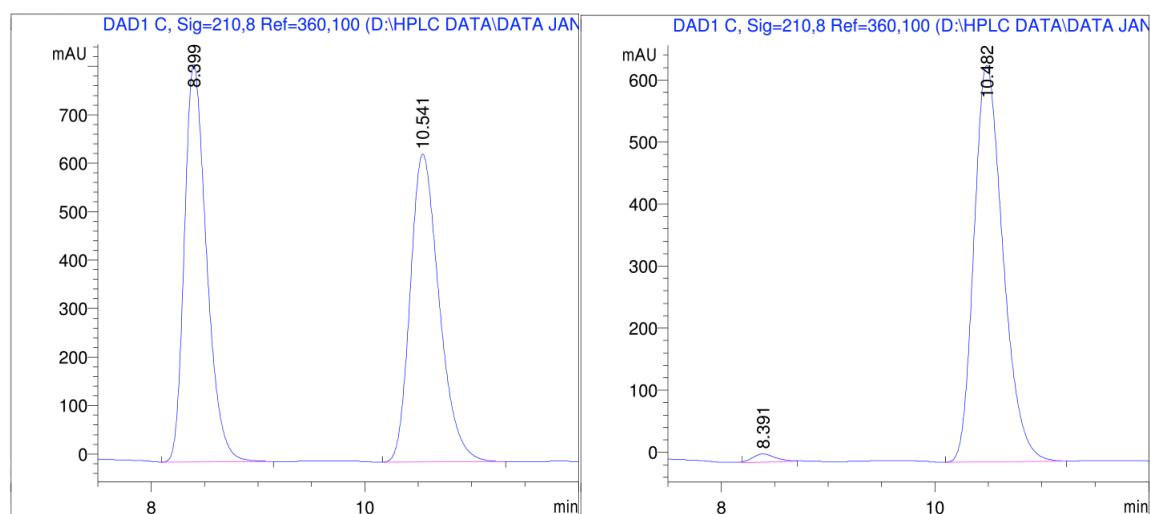
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99:1, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 8.4$ min, $t_M = 10.5$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.28-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.88 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.69-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.51-3.44 (m, 1H), 2.29-2.23 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.56 (m, 5H), 1.52-1.38 (m, 2H), 0.66 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.2, 135.2, 128.3, 113.6, 78.6, 62.6, 55.3, 37.8, 32.6, 26.4, 20.0, 7.9

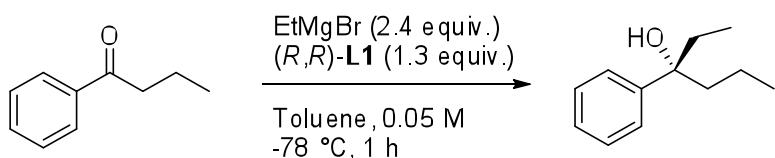
HRMS: (EI, 35 eV) Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2$ 220.1463 ($[\text{M}]^+$); found 220.1456

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -28.3$ (c. 1.0, CHCl_3)



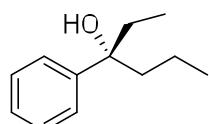
| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 8.391 | MM | 0.2434 | 193.19537 | 13.23096 | 1.5818 |
| 2 | 10.482 | BB | 0.2894 | 1.20204e4 | 639.08350 | 98.4182 |
| Totals : | | | | | 1.22136e4 | 652.31445 |

Asymmetric addition of ethylmagnesium bromide to butyrophenone.



Reaction of butyrophenone with EtMgBr in Et_2O , in the presence of ligand $(R,R)\text{-L1}$, followed the general procedure for the preparation of tertiary alcohols described above.

3-phenylhexan-3-ol

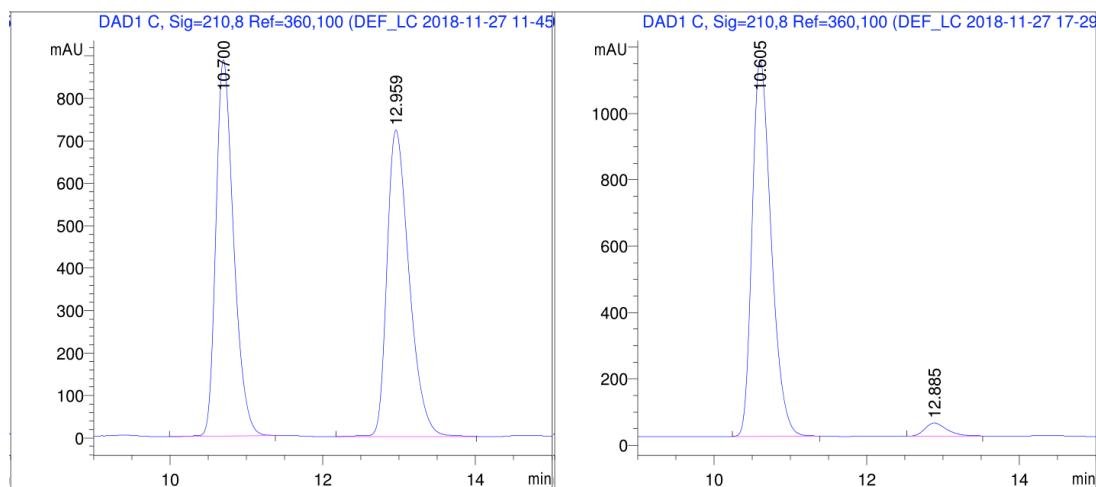


Colourless oil, 67% yield, 92% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralcel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99:1, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_M = 10.6$ min, $t_m = 12.9$ min

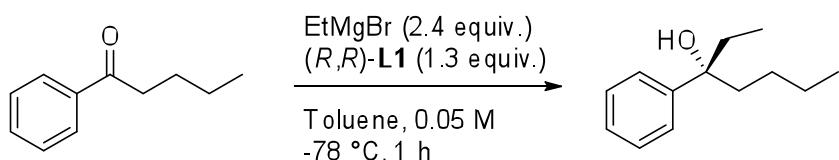
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.37-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 1H), 1.91-1.70 (m, 4H), 1.66 (s, 1H), 1.35-1.22 (m, 1H), 1.12-1.01 (m, 1H), 0.84 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H), 0.74 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.2, 128.1, 126.4, 125.5, 77.4, 45.1, 35.5, 16.9, 14.6, 7.9



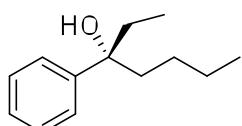
| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 10.605 | BB | 0.2667 | 1.97347e4 | 1135.67139 | 96.1201 |
| 2 | 12.885 | BB | 0.3073 | 796.59833 | 39.50235 | 3.8799 |
| Totals : | | | | | 2.05313e4 | 1175.17374 |

Asymmetric addition of ethylmagnesium bromide to valerophenone.



Reaction of valerophenone with EtMgBr in Et₂O, in the presence of ligand (R,R)-L1, followed the general procedure for the preparation of tertiary alcohols described above.

3-Phenylheptan-3-ol

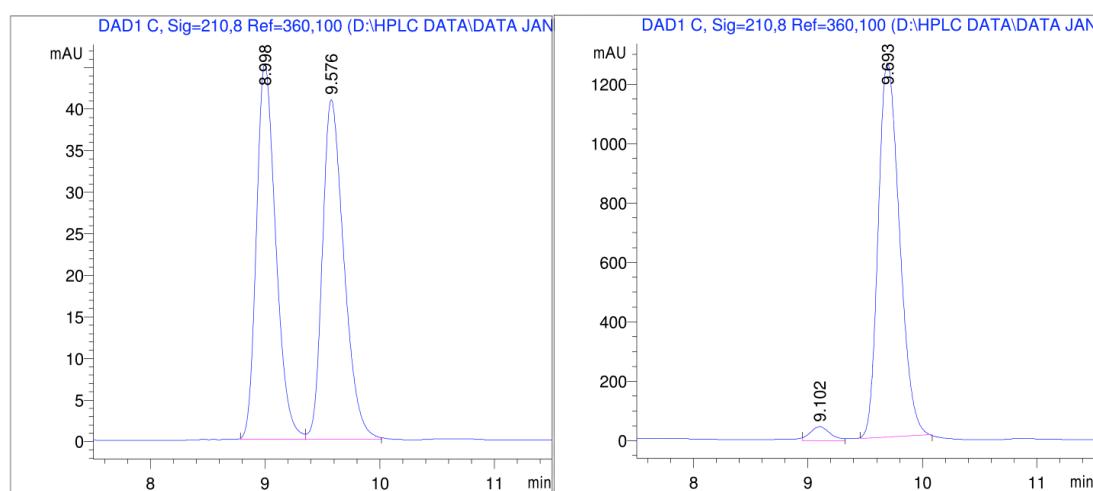


Colourless oil, 69% yield, 93% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiraldak IA, Heptane/EtOH 99:1, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, t_m= 9.1 min, t_M= 9.7 min

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.40-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 1H), 1.91-1.74 (m, 4H), 1.70 (s, 1H), 1.30-1.22 (m, 3H), 1.06-1.02 (m, 1H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.76 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H)

¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.3, 128.1, 126.3, 125.5, 77.3, 42.4, 35.5, 25.8, 23.2, 14.2, 7.9



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | 9.102 | MM | 0.1995 | 555.09113 | 46.37671 | 3.2852 |
| 2 | 9.693 | MM | 0.2162 | 1.63414e4 | 1259.87537 | 96.7148 |
| Totals : | | | | | 1.68965e4 | 1306.25208 |

Preparation of (*S*)-(-)-Gossonorol and (*R*)-(+)-Gossonorol

Preparation of 5-methyl-1-(4-methylphenyl)-1-oxo-hex-4-ene **1**

Various bases and conditions were screened for the preparation of ketone **1** in one step by reaction of *p*-methylacetophenone with 3,3-dimethylallyl bromide (Table 2). Lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (LiHMDS) showed the best selectivity between mono and bis alkylation, delivering the desired mono alkylate ketone **1** in high yield. On the other hand, the use of NaH or KHMDS yielded significant amounts of the bis alkylated ketone **1a**.

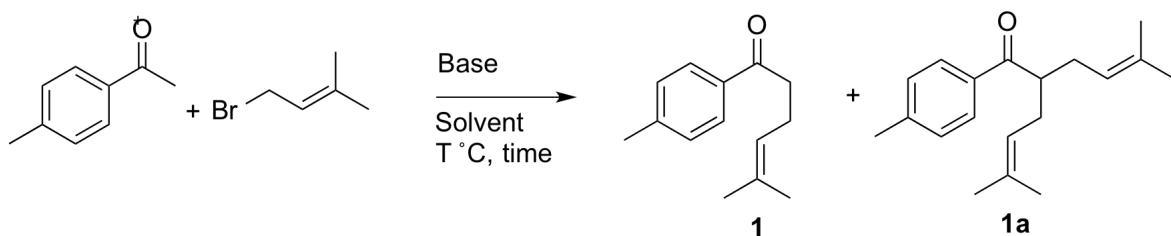


Table 2 Screening of conditions for the preparation of ketone **1**.^a

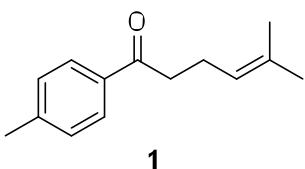
| Entry | Base (equiv.) | 15 (equiv.) | 16 (equiv.) | T (°C) | Solvent | 1/1a ^b | Yield 1 |
|----------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | NaH (2.0) | 1.0 | 2.0 | -20 °C to r.t. | DMF | 5:95 | - |
| 2 | NaH (1.0) | 1.0 | 1.0 | -20 °C to r.t. | DMF | 27:73 | - |
| 3 | NaH (1.0) | 5.0 | 1.0 | -20 °C to r.t. | DMF | 72:28 | - |
| 4 | KHMDS (1.0) | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0 °C | THF | 38:62 | - |
| 5 | LiHMDS (1.0) | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0 °C | THF | 96:4 | 63% |
| 6 | LiHMDS (1.0) | 2.0 | 1.0 | 0 °C | THF | 95:5 | 86% |

^a Reactions were run on 0.2 mmol scale. ^b Ratio calculated by ¹H-NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture.

Procedure:

In a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk flask under nitrogen was prepared a solution of *p*-methylacetophenone (0.139 mL, 0.987 mmol) in anhydrous THF (2 mL). The solution was cooled to 0 °C with an ice bath and LiHMDS 1.0 M solution in THF (0.987 mL, 0.987 mmol) was added dropwise. The yellow solution was stirred at 0 °C for 20 minutes, then 3,3-dimethylallyl bromide (0.057 mL, 0.493 mmol) was added dropwise and the mixture stirred at 0 °C for 2 hour. The reaction was quenched with NH₄Cl sat. solution (4 mL), the phases separated and the aqueous phase extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with pentane/Et₂O 98:2 to obtain pure ketone **1**.

5-methyl-1-(4-methylphenyl)-1-oxo-hex-4-ene 1



Colourless oil, 86% yield

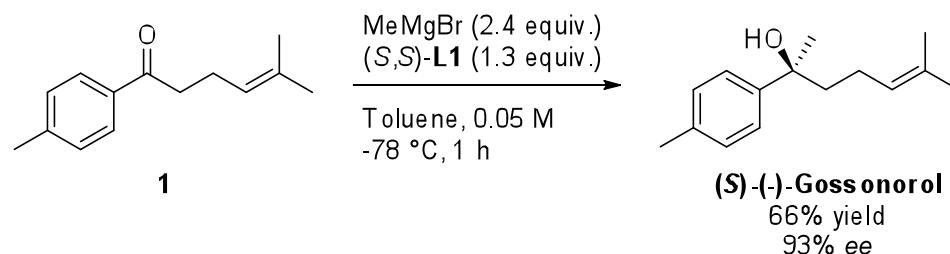
¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H), 5.20-5.17 (m, 1H), 2.99-2.96 (m, 2H), 2.44-2.40 (m, 5H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.64 (s, 3H)

¹³C-NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.9, 143.8, 134.7, 132.8, 129.4, 128.3, 123.2, 38.8, 25.8, 23.2, 21.8, 17.8

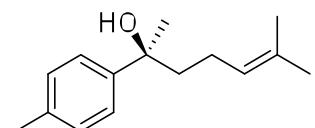
Analytical data were in accordance with literature reported results.⁷

Preparation of (S)-(-)-Gossonorol and (R)-(+)-Gossonorol

(S)-(-)-Gossonorol was prepared by reaction of ketone **1** with MeMgBr in the presence of ligand (S,S)-**L1**, following the general procedure for the preparation of chiral non-racemic tertiary alcohols described above.



(S)-(-)-Gossonorol



Colourless oil, 66% yield, 93% ee

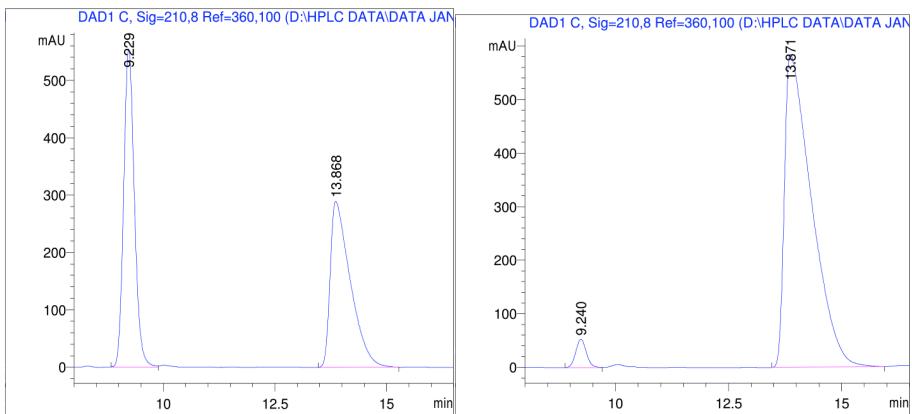
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralpak IA, Heptane/EtOH 97:3, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, t_m= 9.2 min, t_M= 13.9 min

¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.14 (m, 2H), 5.11-5.08 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.98-1.81 (m, 5H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.53 (s, 3H), 1.50 (s, 3H)

¹³C-NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.1, 136.1, 132.3, 129.0, 124.8, 124.4, 75.0, 43.8, 30.7, 25.8, 23.1, 21.1, 17.8

[α]_D²⁰ : -11.9 (c. 1.0, CHCl₃); Lit. (for (R)-Gossonorol) [α]_D²⁰ : + 15.0 (c. 1.0, CHCl₃)⁸

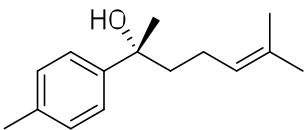
Analytical data were in accordance with literature reported results.⁸



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 9.240 | BB | 0.2540 | 872.63062 | 53.01289 | 3.4591 |
| 2 | 13.871 | BB | 0.6021 | 2.43544e4 | 584.53186 | 96.5409 |
| Totals : | | | | | | 2.52270e4 637.54475 |

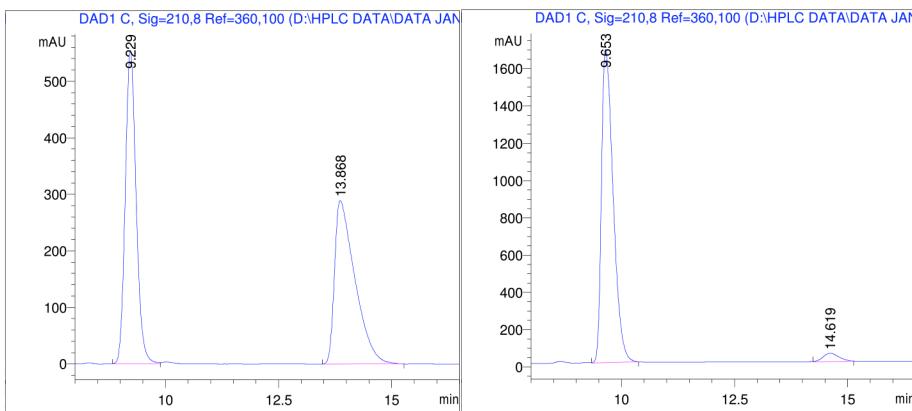
The opposite enantiomer (*R*)-(+)-Gossonorol was obtained by switching the ligand to (*R,R*)-L1.

(*R*)-(+)-Gossonorol



Colourless oil, 64% yield, 93% ee

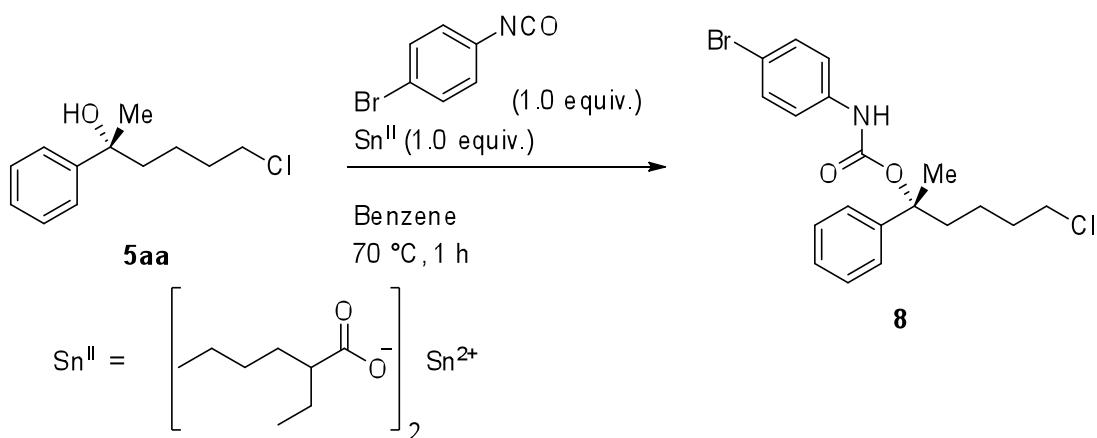
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiraldak IA, Heptane/EtOH 97:3, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_M = 9.7$ min $t_m = 14.6$ min; $[\alpha]_D^{20} : +15.1$ (c. 1.3, CHCl₃); Lit.: $[\alpha]_D^{20} : + 15.0$ (c. 1.0, CHCl₃)⁸



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 9.653 | MM | 0.2993 | 3.01791e4 | 1680.40979 | 96.6124 |
| 2 | 14.619 | MM | 0.4025 | 1058.20740 | 43.81570 | 3.3876 |
| Totals : | | | | | | 3.12373e4 1724.22549 |

Carbamate Derivative for X-Ray analysis

Preparation of (*R*)-6-chloro-2-phenylhexan-2-yl (4-bromophenyl)carbamate **8**



In a 15 mL flame-dried J Young flask, under nitrogen, tin(II) 2-ethylhexanoate (57 mg, 0.141 mmol) was dissolved in dry benzene (1 mL). To the solution was added 6-chloro-1,3-diphenylhexan-3-ol **5aa** (30 mg, 0.141 mmol, 95% ee) followed by 4-bromophenyl isocyanate (28 mg, 0.141 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 1 hour and then diluted with H₂O (2 mL) and Et₂O (1 mL). The phases were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with Et₂O (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with NaHCO₃ sat. (2 x 5 mL), H₂O (5 mL) and brine (5 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with pentane/EtOAc 95:5 to obtain the pure carbamate **8**. Recrystallization from MeOH delivered suitable crystals for X-Ray analysis.

White solid, 72% yield, 96% ee

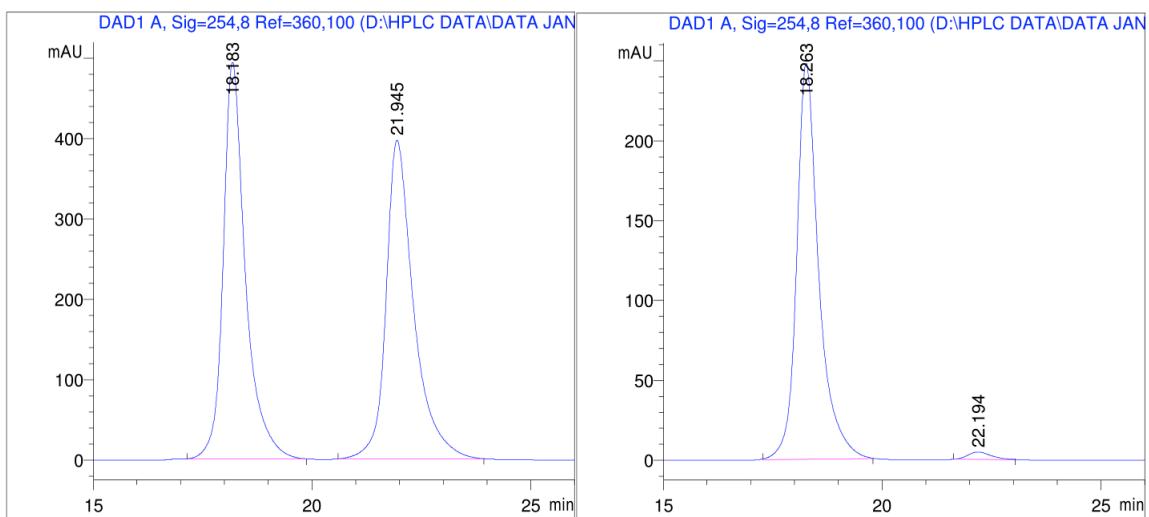
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column (S,S)-Whelk-O 1, Heptane/EtOH 97:3, flow 1 mL/min, 254 nm, 21 °C, t_M= 18.3 min, t_m= 22.2 min

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38-7.35 (m, 6H), 7.29-7.23 (m, 3H), 6.69 (br s, 1H), 3.51-3.48 (m, 2H), 2.07-2.03 (m, 2H), 1.92 (s, 3H), 1.77-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.46-1.37 (m, 2H)

¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.8, 144.8, 137.3, 132.0, 128.5, 127.3, 124.6, 120.2, 115.8, 84.4, 44.9, 42.2, 32.7, 25.1, 21.4

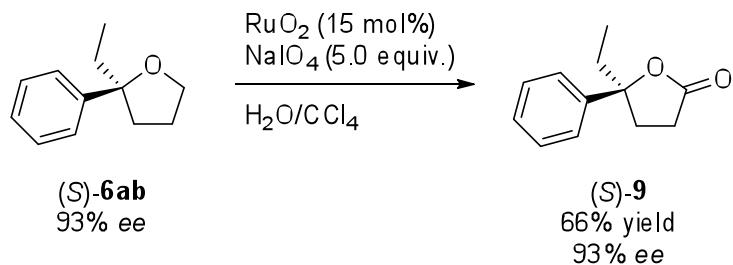
HRMS: (ESI) Calculated for C₁₉H₂₁NO₂NaBrCl 432.0342 ([M+Na]⁺); found 432.0341

[α]_D²⁰: - 6.5 (c. 0.2, CHCl₃)



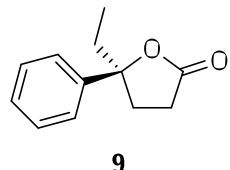
| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 18.263 | BB | 0.5224 | 8765.48633 | 247.95958 | 98.0671 |
| 2 | 22.194 | BB | 0.5315 | 172.76842 | 4.64922 | 1.9329 |
| Totals : | | | | | 8938.25475 | 252.60880 |

Preparation of (*S*)- γ -ethyl- γ -phenylbutyrolactone **9**



(*S*)- γ -Ethyl- γ -phenylbutyrolactone **9** was prepared by oxidation of compound (S)-6ab, following the procedure reported by Capriati and co-workers.⁹

(*S*)- γ -Ethyl- γ -phenylbutyrolactone **9**



Colourless oil, 66% yield, 93% ee

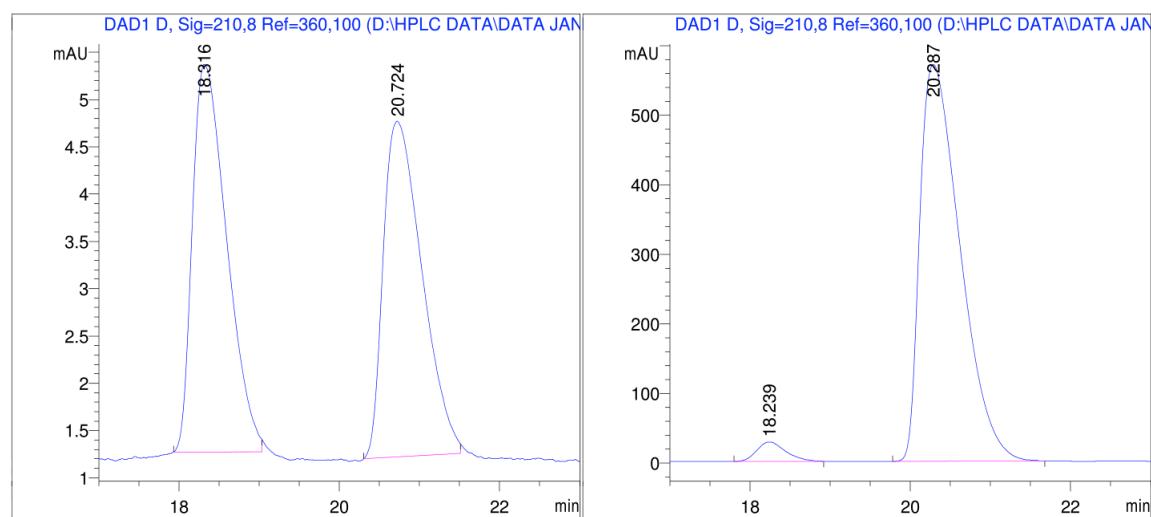
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 95:5, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 18.2$ min, $t_M = 20.3$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.39-7.27 (m, 5H), 2.65-2.53 (m, 1H), 2.51-2.41 (m, 3H), 2.00 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 176.8, 142.8, 128.6, 127.6, 124.9, 90.0, 35.4, 34.7, 28.9, 8.4

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -62$ (c. 0.4 in CCl_4); Lit. (for (*S*)-**11**): $[\alpha]_D^{23} : -70$ (c. 0.56, CCl_4)¹⁰

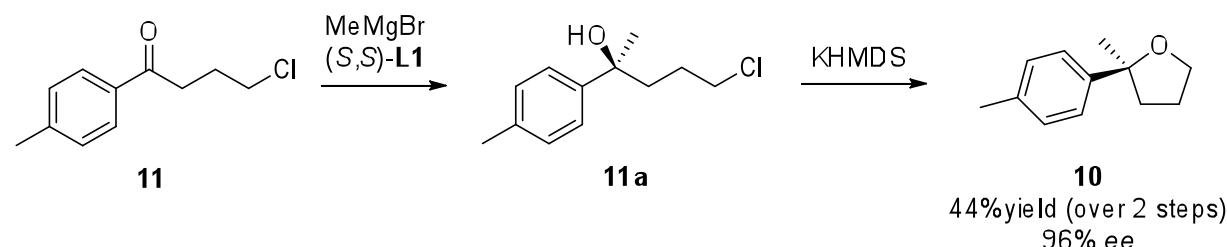
Analytical data were in accordance with previously reported results.⁹



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 18.239 | BB | 0.3825 | 703.89984 | 28.07863 | 3.4139 |
| 2 | 20.287 | BB | 0.5452 | 1.99150e4 | 570.57556 | 96.5861 |
| Totals : | | | | | 2.06189e4 | 598.65419 |

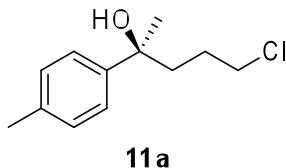
Preparation of (*S*)-(-)-Boivinianin A

Preparation of (*S*)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)tetrahydrofuran **10**



(S)-2-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)tetrahydrofuran **10** was prepared in two steps from 4-chloro-1-(4-methylphenyl)-1-oxobutane **11** following the procedures described above for chiral non-racemic tertiary alcohols. The intermediate tertiary alcohol (S)-5-chloro-2-(p-tolyl)pentan-2-ol **11a** was used immediately in the following cyclization (using Method A) due to racemization on standing.

(S)-5-chloro-2-(p-tolyl)pentan-2-ol 11a



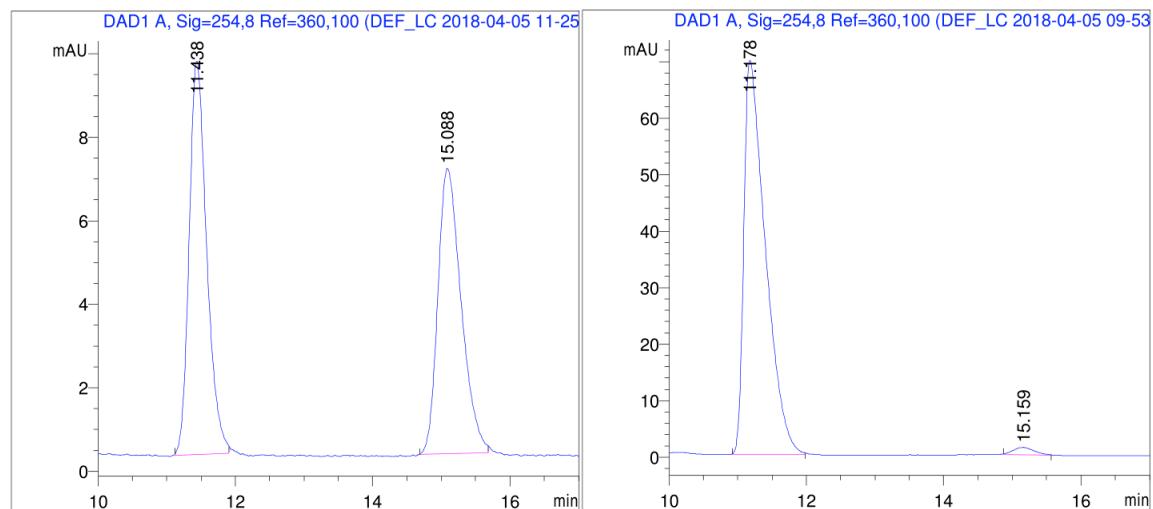
Colourless oil, 50% yield, 96% ee (the rest of the material was remaining starting ketone **11** recovered)

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiraldak IA, Heptane/EtOH 95:5, flow 1 mL/min, 254 nm, 21 °C, $t_m=11.1$ min, $t_m=15.2$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.32-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.15 (m, 2H), 3.52-3.44 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.99-1.87 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.73 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.57 (s, 3H)

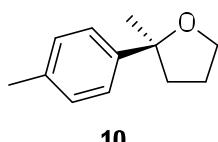
$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.5, 136.5, 129.1, 124.8, 74.4, 45.6, 41.5, 30.8, 27.6, 21.1

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -8.3$ (c. 1.0, CHCl_3)



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| 1 | 11.178 | BB | 0.3223 | 1522.24634 | 69.84538 | 98.2111 |
| 2 | 15.159 | BB | 0.2994 | 27.72806 | 1.30754 | 1.7889 |
| Totals : | | | | | 1549.97440 | 71.15291 |

(S)-2-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)tetrahydrofuran 10



Colourless oil, 88% yield, 96% *ee*

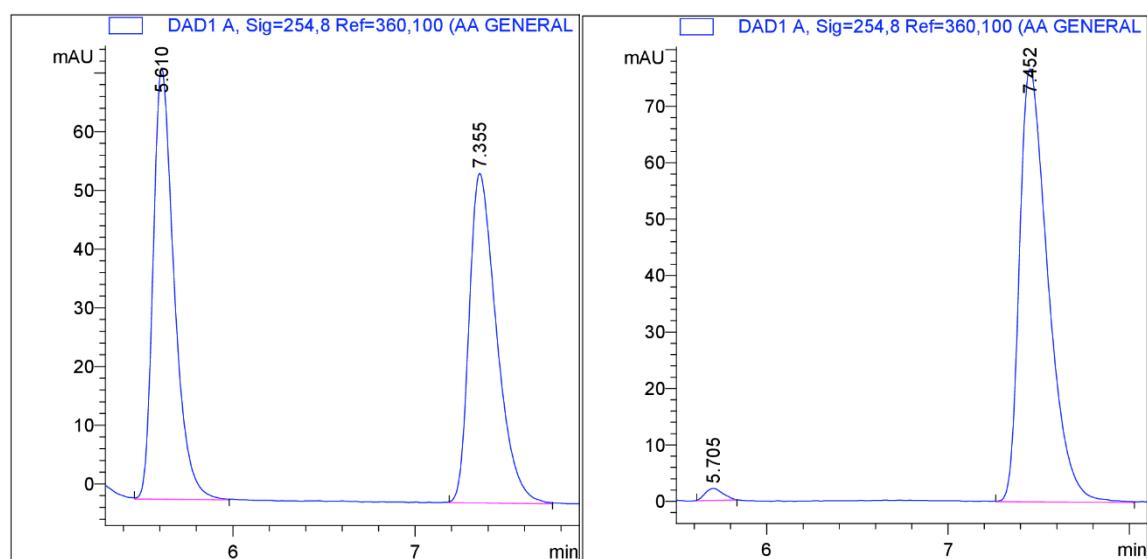
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 90:10, flow 1 mL/min, 254 nm, 21 °C,
 $t_m = 5.7 \text{ min}$, $t_M = 7.5 \text{ min}$

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.30-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.13 (m, 2H), 4.03-3.98 (m, 1H), 3.93-3.88 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H),
 2.23-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.03-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.52 (s, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.3, 136.0, 128.9, 124.8, 84.3, 67.6, 39.6, 29.9, 25.9, 21.1

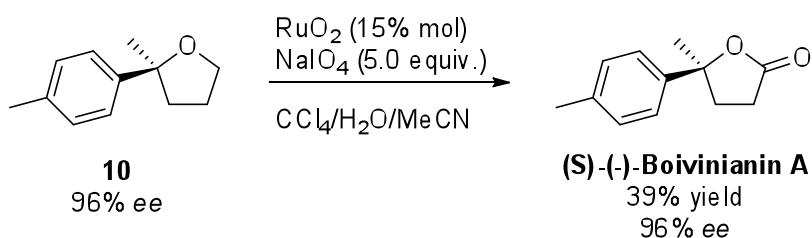
$[\alpha]_D^{20} : +7.8$ (c. 0.4, CHCl_3); Lit.: $[\alpha]_D^{25} : +6.5$ (c. 0.28, CH_2Cl_2)⁶

Analytical data were in accordance with literature reported results.⁶



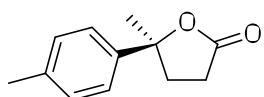
| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| 1 | 5.705 | MM | 0.1148 | 14.76613 | 2.14439 | 1.7290 |
| 2 | 7.452 | MM | 0.1822 | 839.28564 | 76.76058 | 98.2710 |
| Totals : | | | | | 854.05178 | 78.90498 |

Oxidation of compound **10** to (*S*)-(-)-Boivinianin A



The oxidation of (*S*)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)tetrahydrofuran **10** was performed applying the conditions reported by Sharpless and co-workers using $\text{RuO}_2/\text{NaIO}_4$ in $\text{CCl}_4/\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{MeCN}$.¹¹

(*S*)-(-)-Boivinianin A



Colourless oil, 39% yield, 96% ee

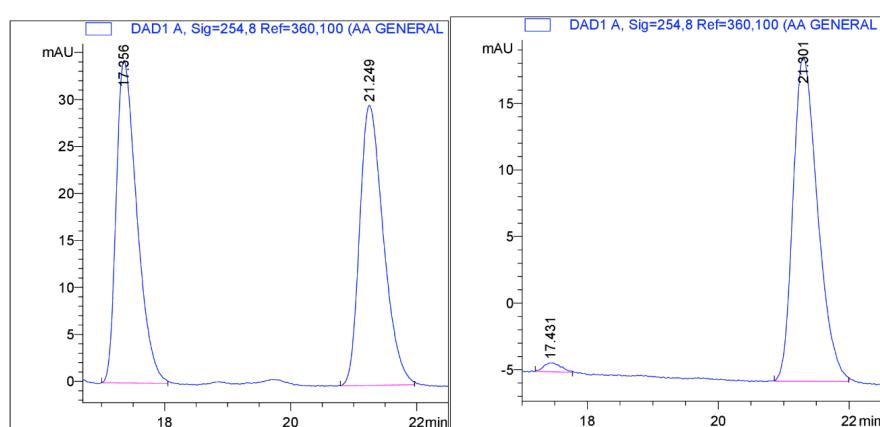
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 85:15, flow 0.5 mL/min, 254 nm, 21 °C,
 $t_m = 17.4$ min, $t_M = 21.3$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.17 (m, 2H), 2.66-2.58 (m, 1H), 2.54-2.44 (m, 2H), 2.43-2.36 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.71 (s, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 176.7, 141.5, 137.5, 129.4, 124.2, 87.2, 36.4, 29.6, 29.2, 21.1

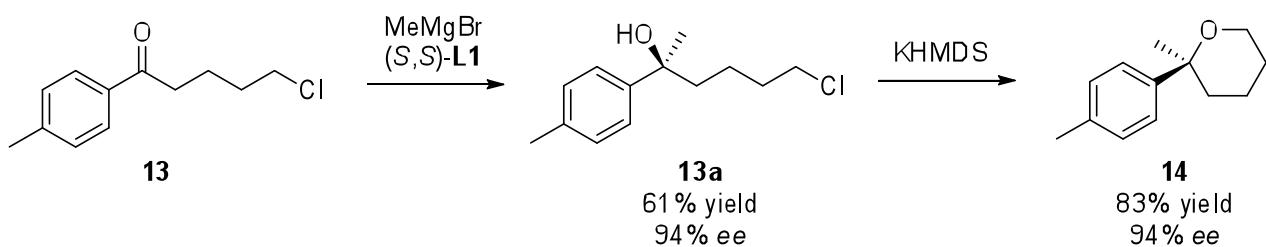
$[\alpha]_D^{20} : -38.0$ (c. 0.25, CHCl_3); Lit.: $[\alpha]_D^{25} : -40$ (c. 0.25, CHCl_3)⁶

Analytical data were in accordance with previously reported results.⁶



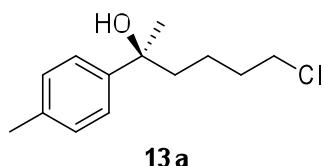
| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| 1 | 17.431 | MM | 0.3071 | 12.34708 | 6.70048e-1 | 1.9059 |
| 2 | 21.301 | BB | 0.3844 | 635.49646 | 24.36029 | 98.0941 |
| Totals : | | | | | 647.84354 | 25.03034 |

Preparation of 2-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran 12



(*S*)-2-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran **14** was prepared in two steps from 5-chloro-1-(p-tolyl)-1-oxopentane **13** following the procedures described above for chiral non-racemic tertiary alcohols and cyclisation (Method B). The intermediate tertiary alcohol (*S*)-6-chloro-2-(p-tolyl)hexan-2-ol **13a** was used immediately in the cyclisation due to racemization on standing.

(*S*)-6-chloro-2-(p-tolyl)hexan-2-ol **13a**

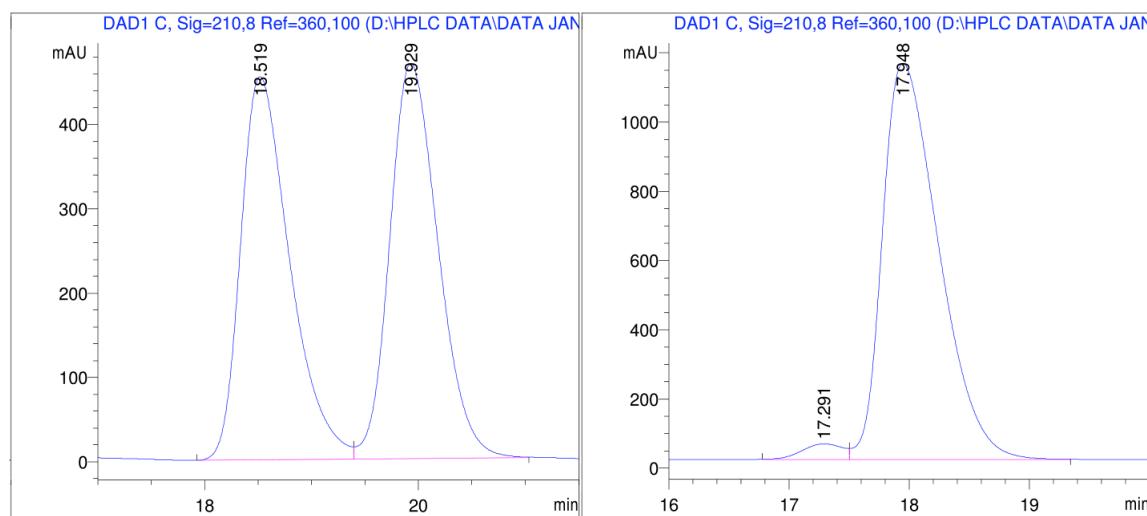


Colourless oil, 61% yield, 94% ee

HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralpak IC, Heptane/EtOH 99.5:0.5, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_m = 17.3$ min, $t_M = 17.9$ min

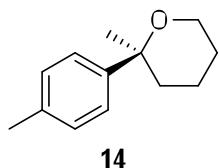
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.32-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.15 (m, 2H), 3.47 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.86-1.68 (m, 5H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.46-1.26 (m, 2H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.9, 136.3, 129.0, 124.8, 74.6, 45.0, 43.5, 33.0, 30.3, 21.7, 21.1



| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 17.291 | BV | 0.3632 | 1046.04248 | 44.67373 | 2.7460 |
| 2 | 17.948 | VB | 0.4996 | 3.70469e4 | 1144.74109 | 97.2540 |
| Totals : | | | | | | 3.80929e4 1189.41481 |

(S)-2-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran 14



Colourless oil, 83% yield, 94% ee

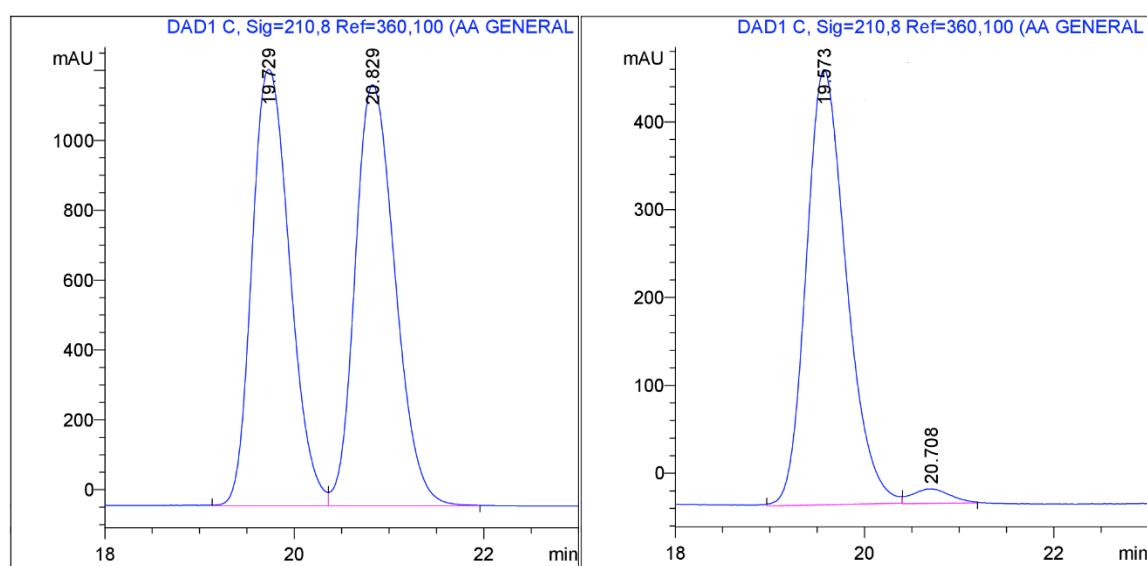
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiracel OJ-H, Heptane/EtOH 99.5:0.5, flow 0.5 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, $t_M = 19.6$ min, $t_m = 20.7$ min

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.31-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.17 (m, 2H), 3.74-3.69 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.45 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.32-2.27 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.39 (m, 5H), 1.37 (s, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 142.4, 136.1, 129.3, 126.1, 76.0, 62.9, 34.7, 33.1, 26.1, 21.1, 20.3

HRMS: (EI, 35 eV) Calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}$ 190.1358 ($[\text{M}]^+$); found 190.1349

$[\alpha]_D^{20} : +97.7$ (c. 1.0, Acetone)

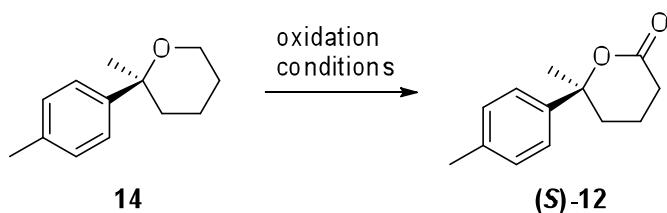


| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 19.573 | MM | 0.4919 | 1.46288e4 | 495.64679 | 96.9673 |
| 2 | 20.708 | MM | 0.4666 | 457.52127 | 16.34122 | 3.0327 |
| Totals : | | | | | | 1.50864e4 511.98801 |

Oxidation of compound **14** to (*S*)-(-)-6-methyl-6-(p-tolyl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one **12**

Various oxidation methods were tested for the preparation of compound **12** (Table 3). The RuO₂/NaIO₄ system in this case was not effective leading to degradation to mixtures of unidentified products. Methyltrioxorhenium/hydrogen peroxide¹² as well as sodium bromate/potassium hydrogen sulfate¹³ showed no reactivity, with recovery of unreacted **14**. On the other hand, oxidation with iron (III) chloride/potassium permanganate¹⁴ delivered the desired lactone **12**.

Table 3 Screening of conditions for the oxidation of tetrahydropyran **14** to lactone **12**.^a



| Entry | Oxidative system (equiv.) | Solvent | T (°C) | Time (h) | Yield 12 (%) ^b |
|----------|--|---|------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | RuO ₂ (0.03) NaIO ₄ (5.0) | CCl ₄ /H ₂ O | r.t. | 18 | - ^c |
| 2 | RuO ₂ (0.03) NaIO ₄ (5.0) | CCl ₄ /H ₂ O/MeCN | r.t. | 18 | - ^c |
| 3 | RuO ₂ (0.15) NaIO ₄ (5.0) | CCl ₄ /H ₂ O/MeCN | r.t. | 6 | - ^c |
| 4 | MeReO ₃ (0.03) H ₂ O ₂ (3.0) | MeOH | r.t. | 24 | - ^d |
| 5 | NaBrO ₃ (1.0) NaHSO ₄ (1.0) | Et ₂ O/H ₂ O | r.t. | 24 | - ^d |
| 6 | FeCl ₃ (1.0) KMnO ₄ (3.0) | Acetone | -78 to r.t | 18 | 18 |
| 7 | FeCl ₃ (3.0) KMnO ₄ (6.0) | Acetone | -78 to r.t | 18 | 49 |

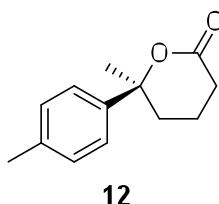
^a Reactions were run on 0.2 mmol scale. ^b Isolated yields. ^c Degradation of compound **14**. [d] Recovery of compound **14**.

Procedure:

A solution of (*S*)-2-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran **14** (38 mg, 0.2 mmol, 94% ee) in acetone (2 mL) was cooled to -78 °C and KMnO₄ (190 mg, 1.2 mmol) and FeCl₃ (97 mg, 0.6 mmol) were added. The temperature was slowly raised

to r.t. over 2 hours and the mixture was stirred at r.t. for 18 hours. The mixture was then diluted with DCM 15 mL and H₂O (5 mL), the phases were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with DCM (5 x 15 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with pentane/EtOAc 80:20 to obtain compound **12** (49% yield, 91% ee)

(S)-(-)-6-methyl-6-(p-tolyl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one 12



White solid, 49% yield, 91% ee

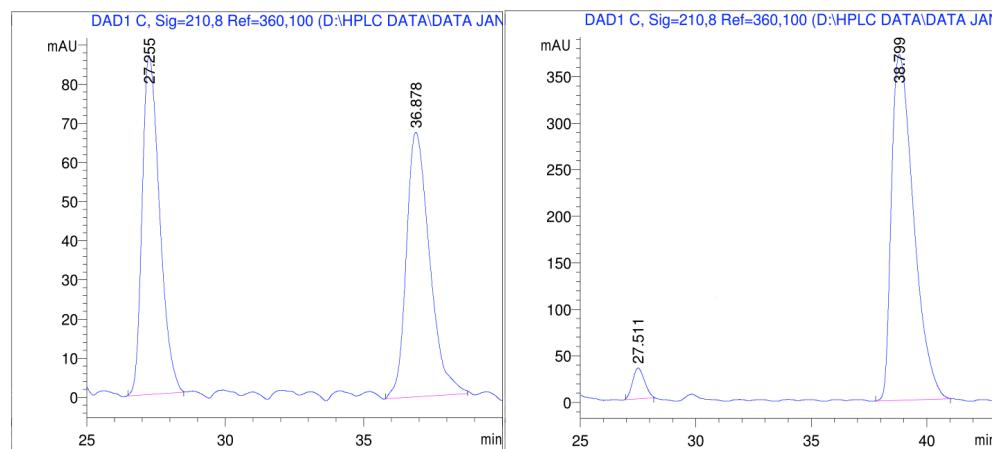
HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase: Column Chiralpak AS-H, Heptane/EtOH 99:1, flow 1 mL/min, 210 nm, 21 °C, t_m = 27.5 min, t_M = 38.8 min

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.23-7.16 (m, 4H), 2.52-2.37 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.33-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.02-1.94 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.64-1.58 (m, 1H)

¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.8, 141.7, 137.2, 129.5, 124.5, 85.5, 34.4, 31.6, 29.2, 21.1, 16.7

[α]_D²⁰ : -32.5 (c. 0.2, MeOH); Lit.: [α]_D²⁰ : -38.0 (c. 0.17, MeOH)¹⁵

Analytical data were in accordance with literature reported results.¹⁵

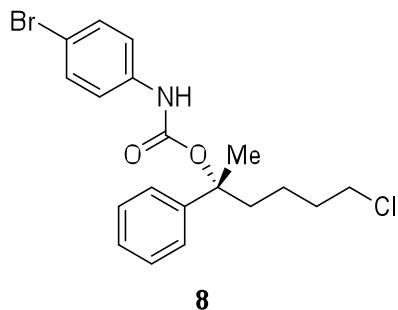


| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | 27.511 | MM | 0.6002 | 1195.22253 | 33.18724 | 4.5899 |
| 2 | 38.799 | BB | 1.0281 | 2.48452e4 | 371.55084 | 95.4101 |
| Totals : | | | | | 2.60404e4 | 404.73809 |

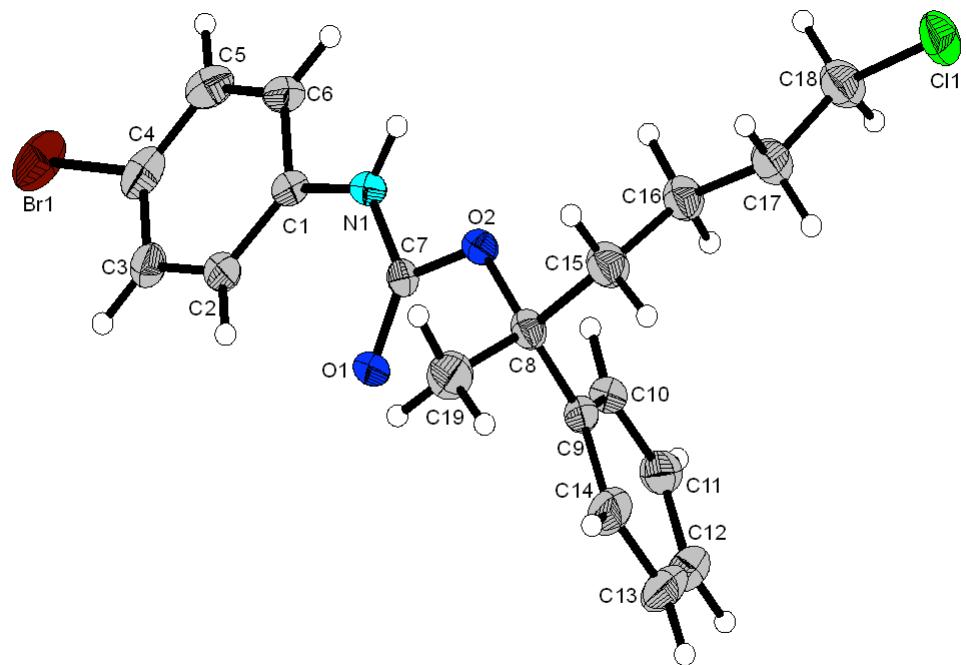
X-Ray analysis of compound 8

Crystal data were collected using a Rigaku Oxford Diffraction (former Agilent Technologies, former Oxford Diffraction) SuperNova A diffractometer, using Cu-K α (1.54184 Å). An analytical absorption correction based on the shape of the crystal was performed.¹⁶ The structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97 and refined by full matrix least-squares on F² for all data using SHELXL-97.¹⁷ Anisotropic thermal displacement parameters were used for all non-hydrogen atoms. Crystals were selected at low temperature.¹⁸

Crystallographic data for compound **8** have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre [CCDC 1883098]



8



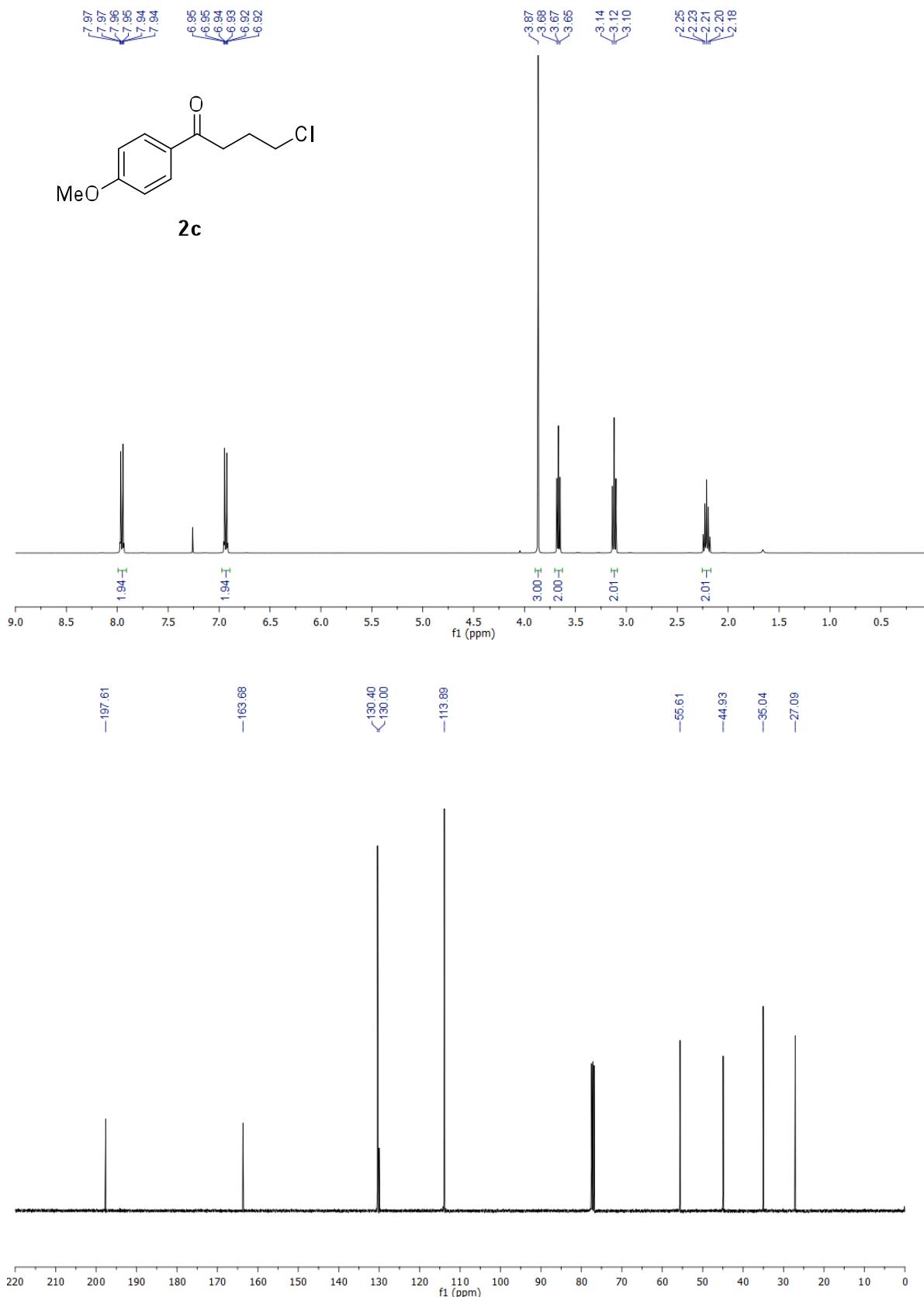
Crystallographic data

Table 4. Crystal data and structure refinement for compound **8**.

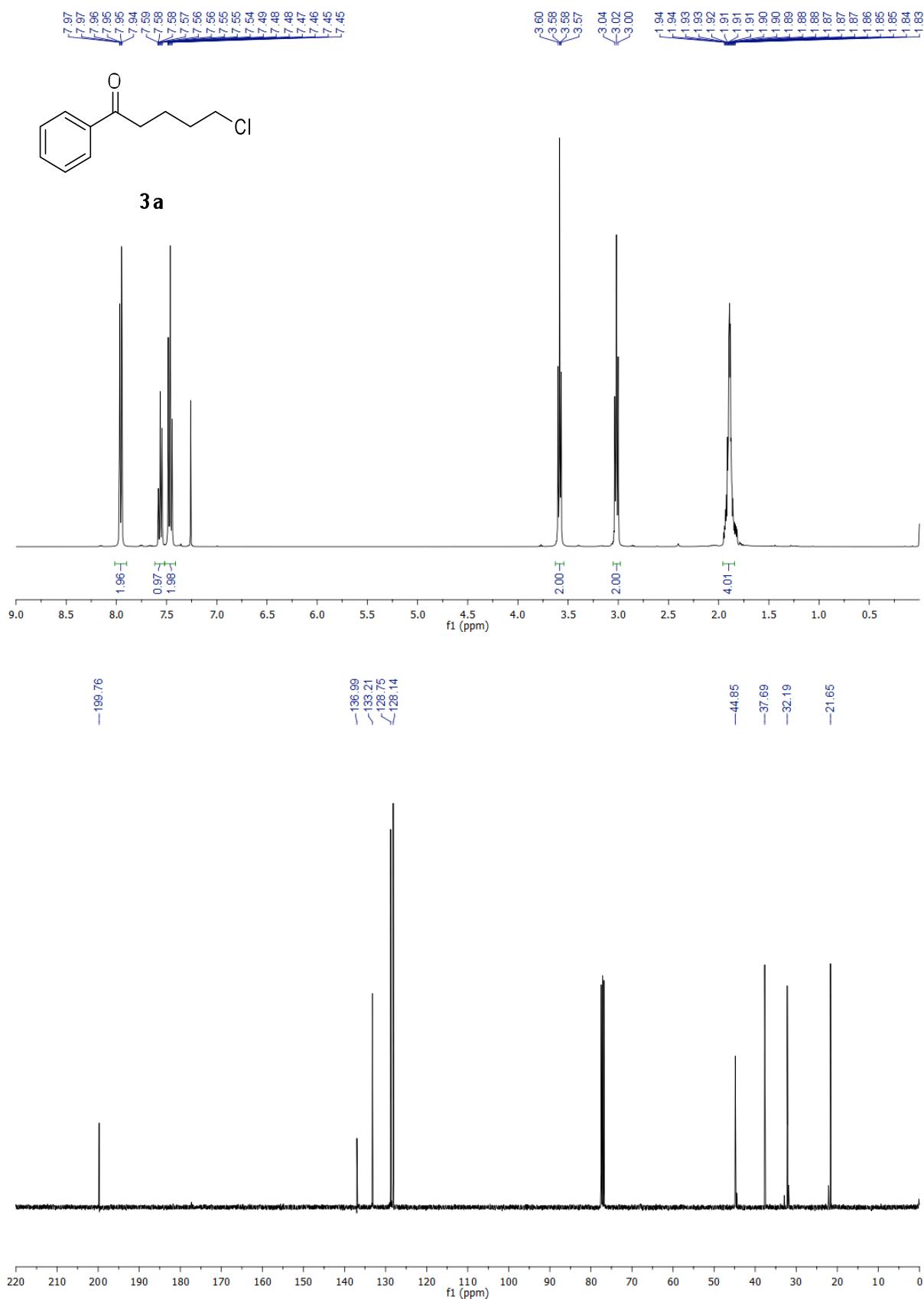
| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Identification code | gil104 |
| Empirical formula | C ₁₉ H ₂₁ N O ₂ Cl Br |
| Formula weight | 410.73 |
| Temperature | 100(2) K |
| Wavelength | 1.54184 Å |
| Crystal system | Monoclinic |
| Space group | P2 ₁ (#4) |
| Unit cell dimensions | a = 9.5181(2) Å α = 90°. b = 11.3448(2) Å β = 105.143(2)°. c = 18.2344(4) Å γ = 90°. |
| Volume | 1900.60(7) Å ³ |
| Z | 4 |
| Density (calculated) | 1.435 Mg/m ³ |
| Absorption coefficient | 4.323 mm ⁻¹ |
| F(000) | 840 |
| Crystal size | 0.191 x 0.160 x 0.024 mm ³ |
| Theta range for data collection | 3.896 to 77.106°. |
| Index ranges | -10<=h<=11, -14<=k<=14, -22<=l<=23 |
| Reflections collected | 20680 |
| Independent reflections | 7823 [R(int) = 0.0414] |
| Completeness to theta = 67.684° | 100.0 % |
| Absorption correction | Gaussian |
| Max. and min. transmission | 0.907 and 0.550 |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least-squares on F ² |
| Data / restraints / parameters | 7823 / 1 / 436 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 1.016 |
| Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] | R1 = 0.0377, wR2 = 0.0965 |
| R indices (all data) | R1 = 0.0389, wR2 = 0.0983 |
| Absolute structure parameter | -0.012(15) |
| Extinction coefficient | n/a |
| Largest diff. peak and hole | 0.929 and -0.595 e.Å ⁻³ |

NMR spectra

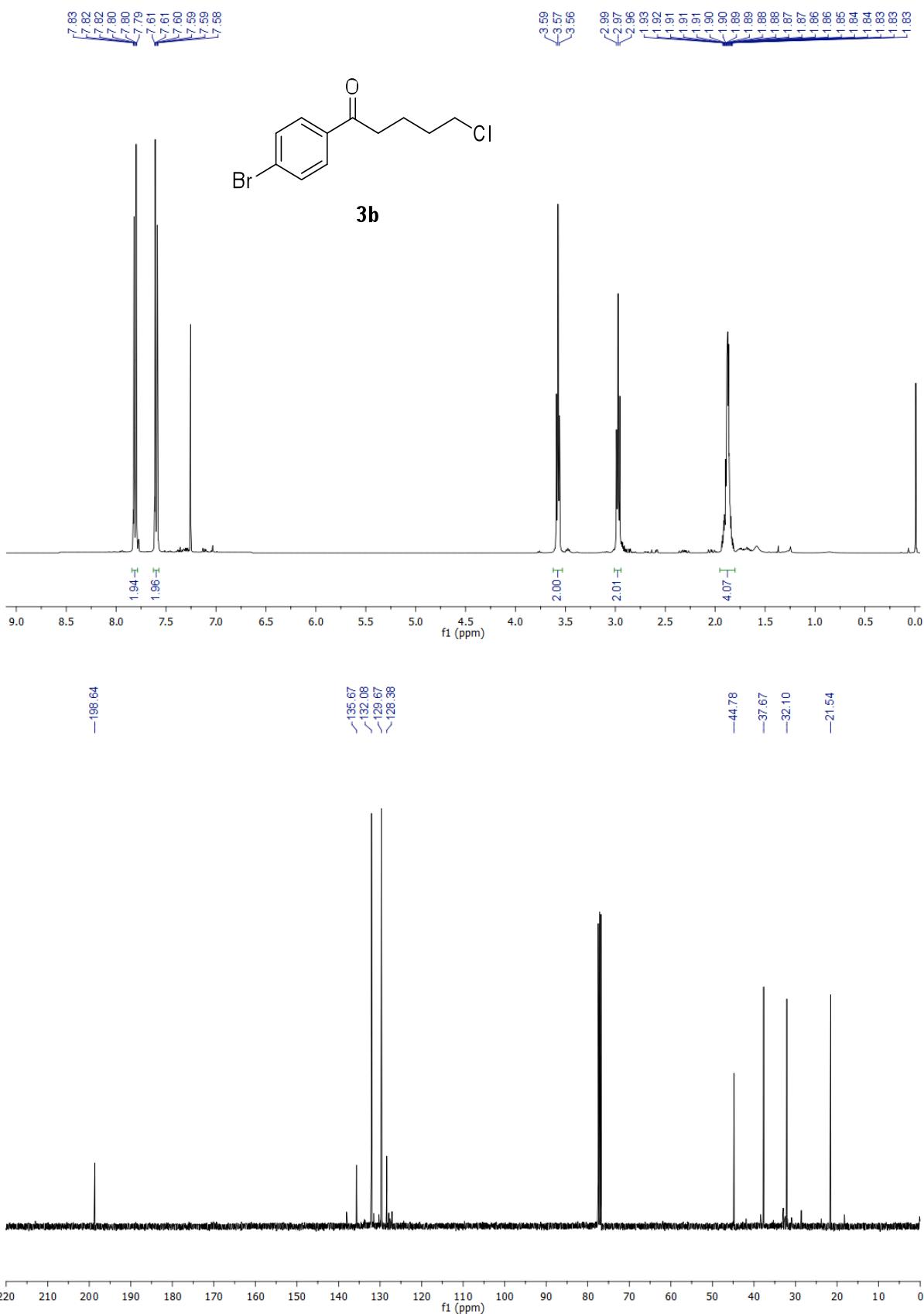
4'-methoxy-4-chlorobutyrophenone 2c



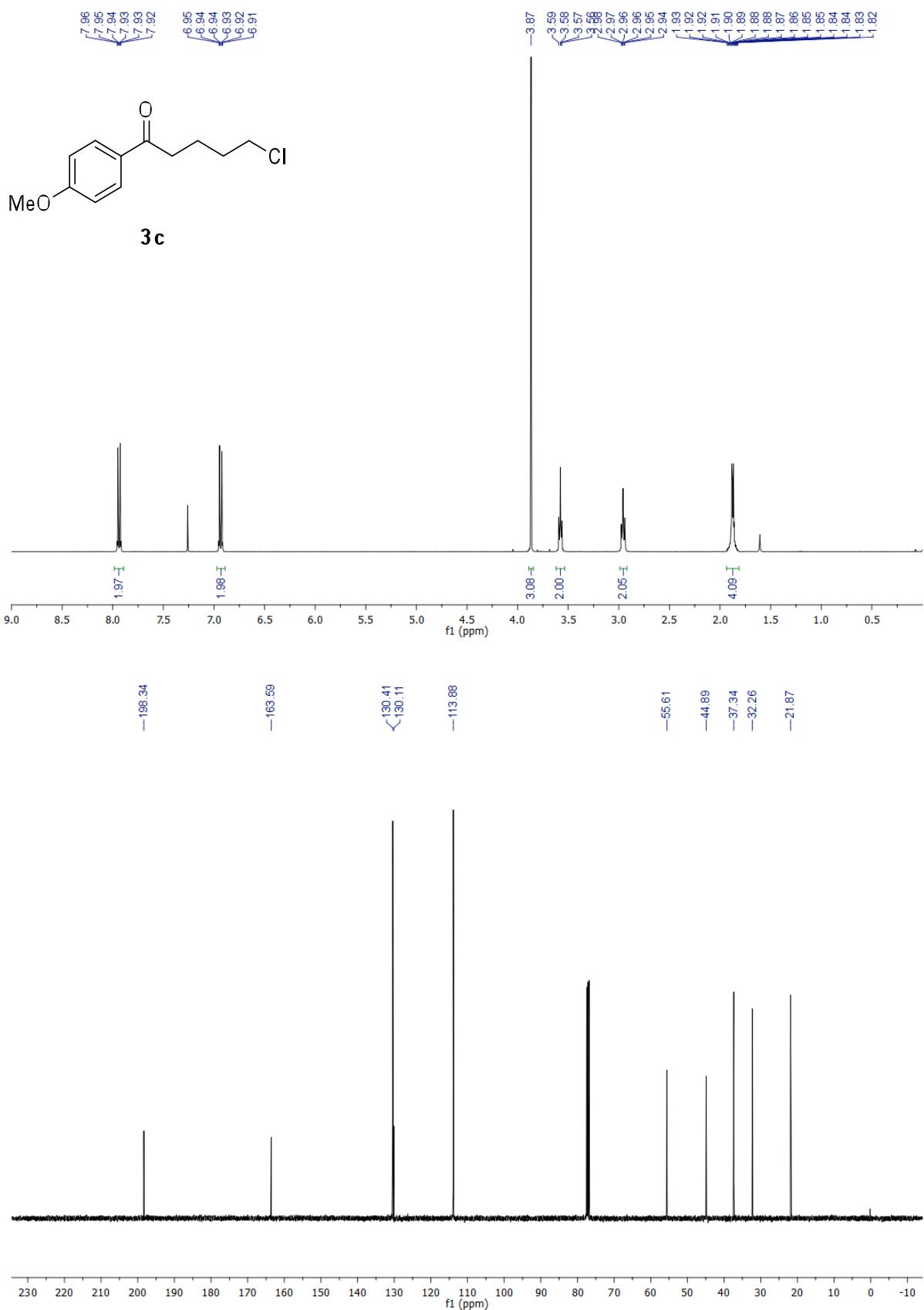
5-chlorovalerophenone 3a



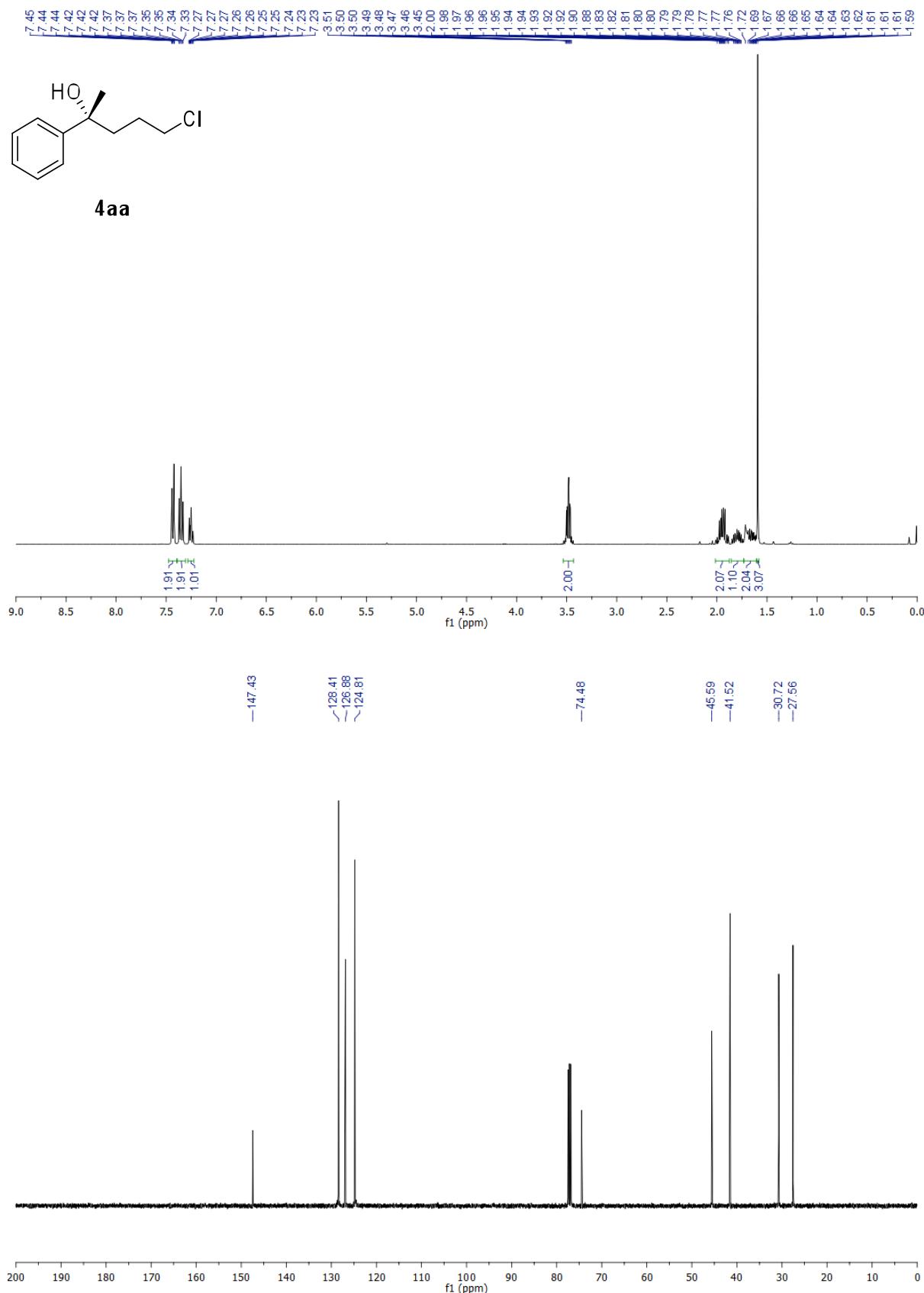
4'-bromo-5-chlorovalerophenone 3b



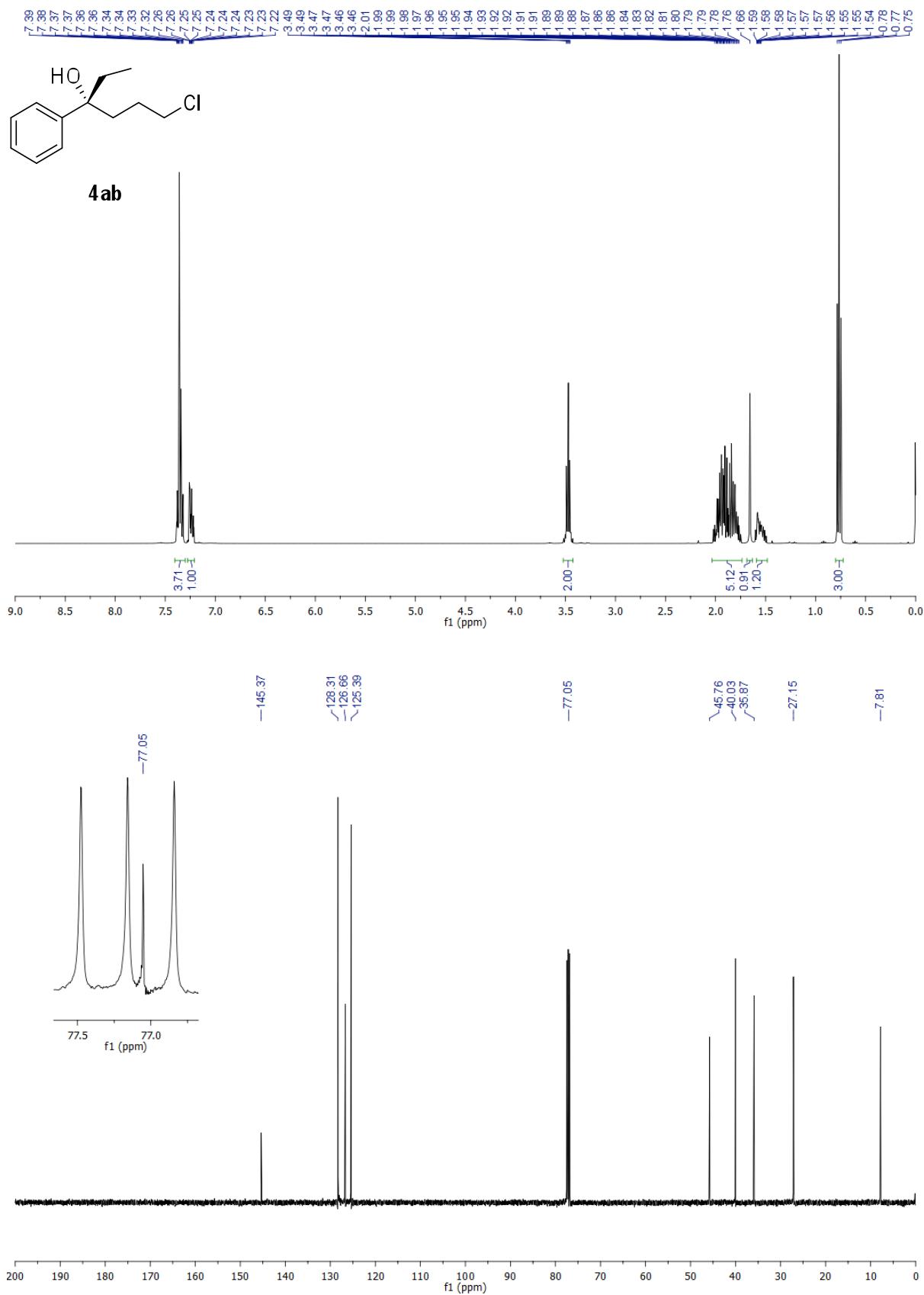
4'-methoxy-5-chlorovalerophenone 3c



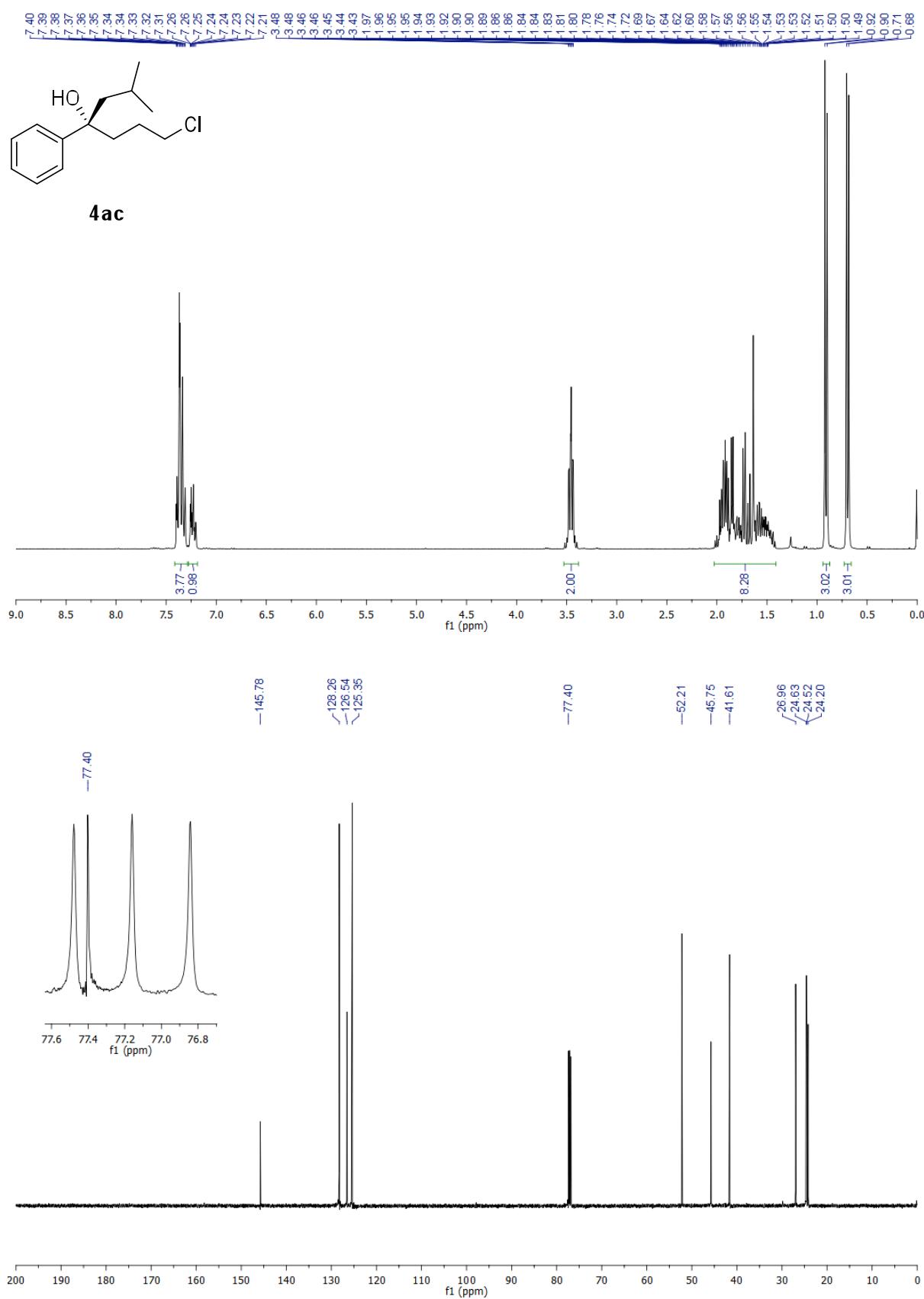
5-chloro-2-phenylpentan-2-ol 4aa



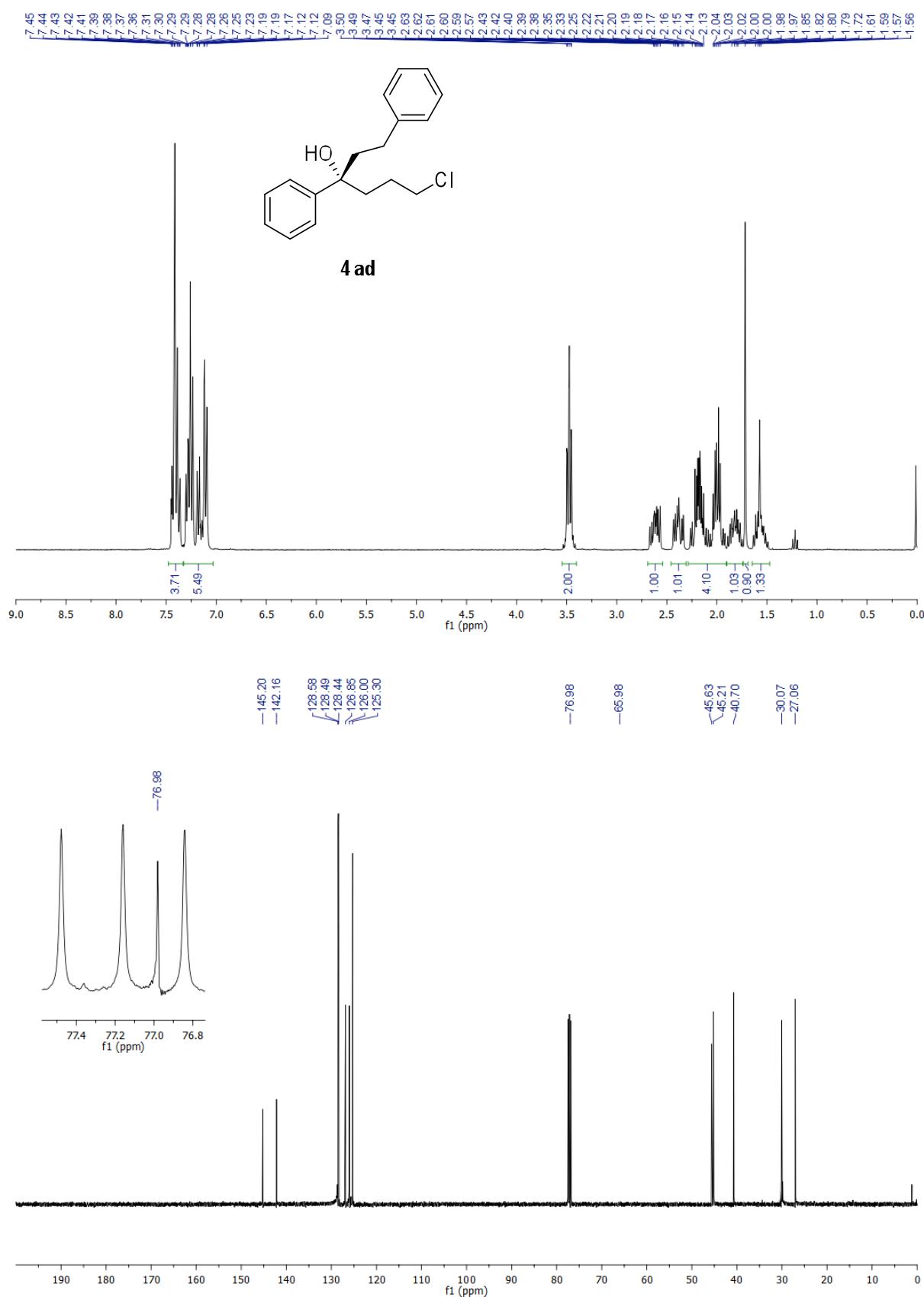
(R)-6-chloro-3-phenylhexan-3-ol 4ab



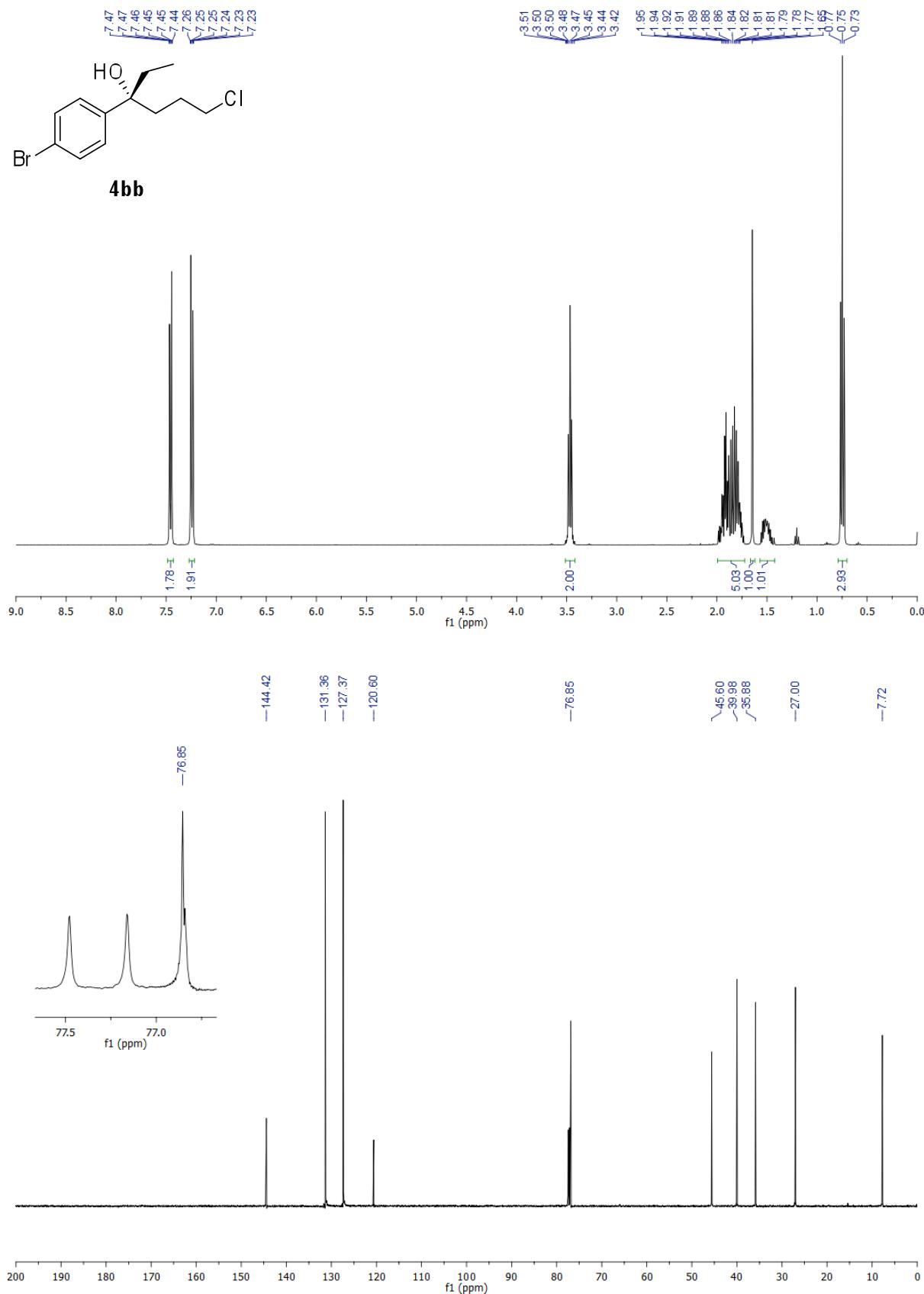
1-chloro-6-methyl-4-phenylheptan-4-ol 4ac



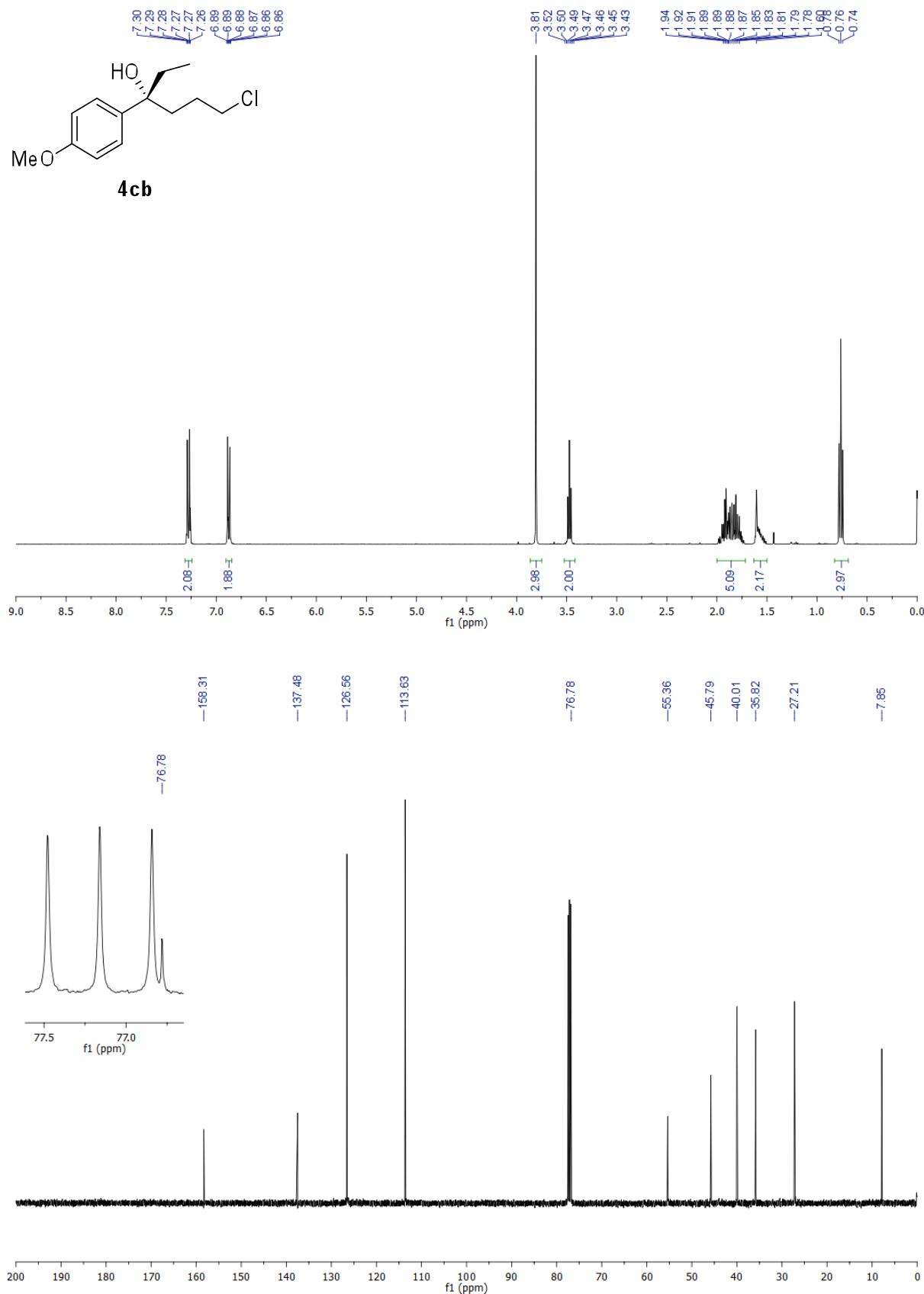
6-chloro-1,3-diphenylhexan-3-ol 4ad



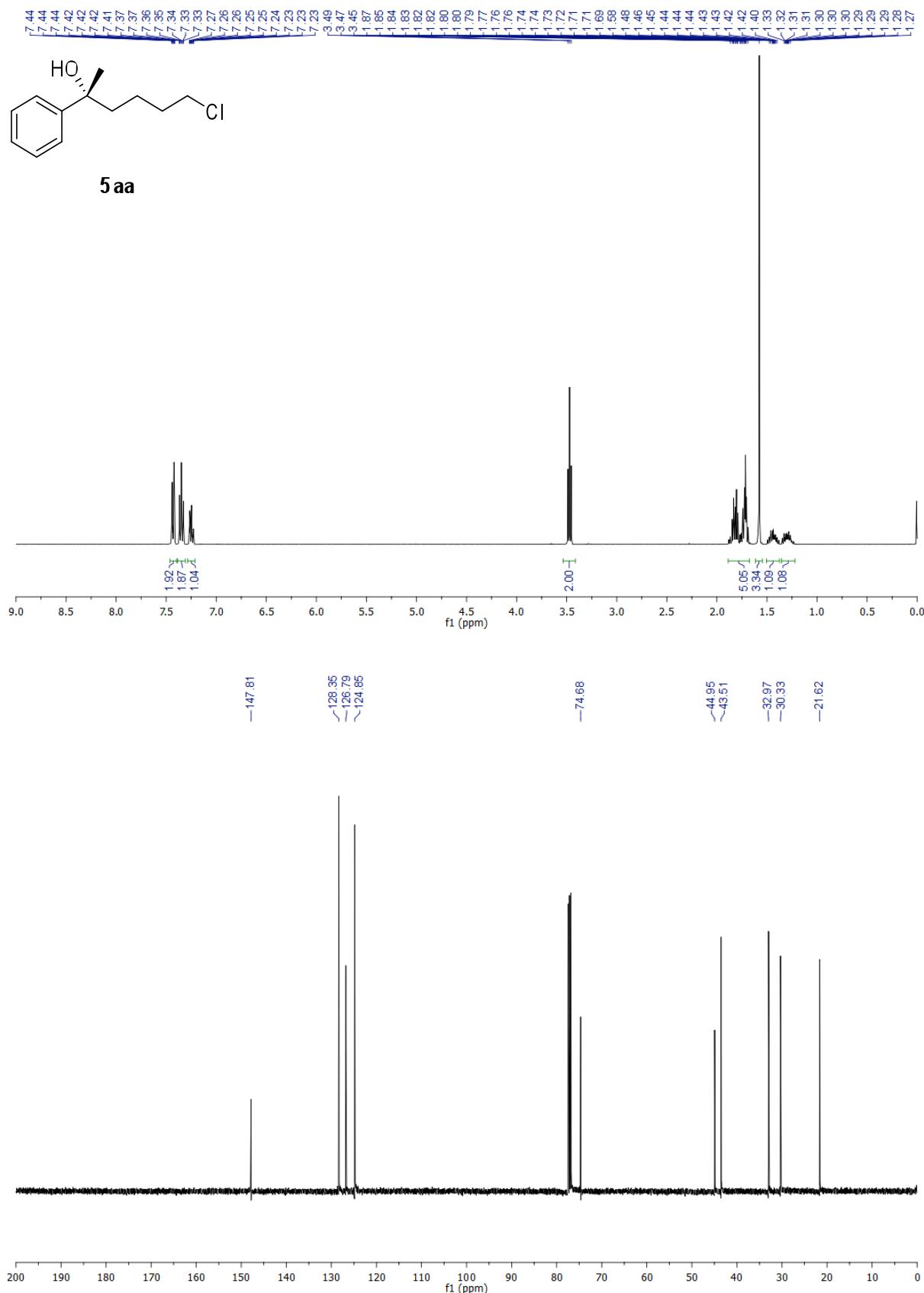
3-(4-bromophenyl)-6-chlorohexan-3-ol 4bb



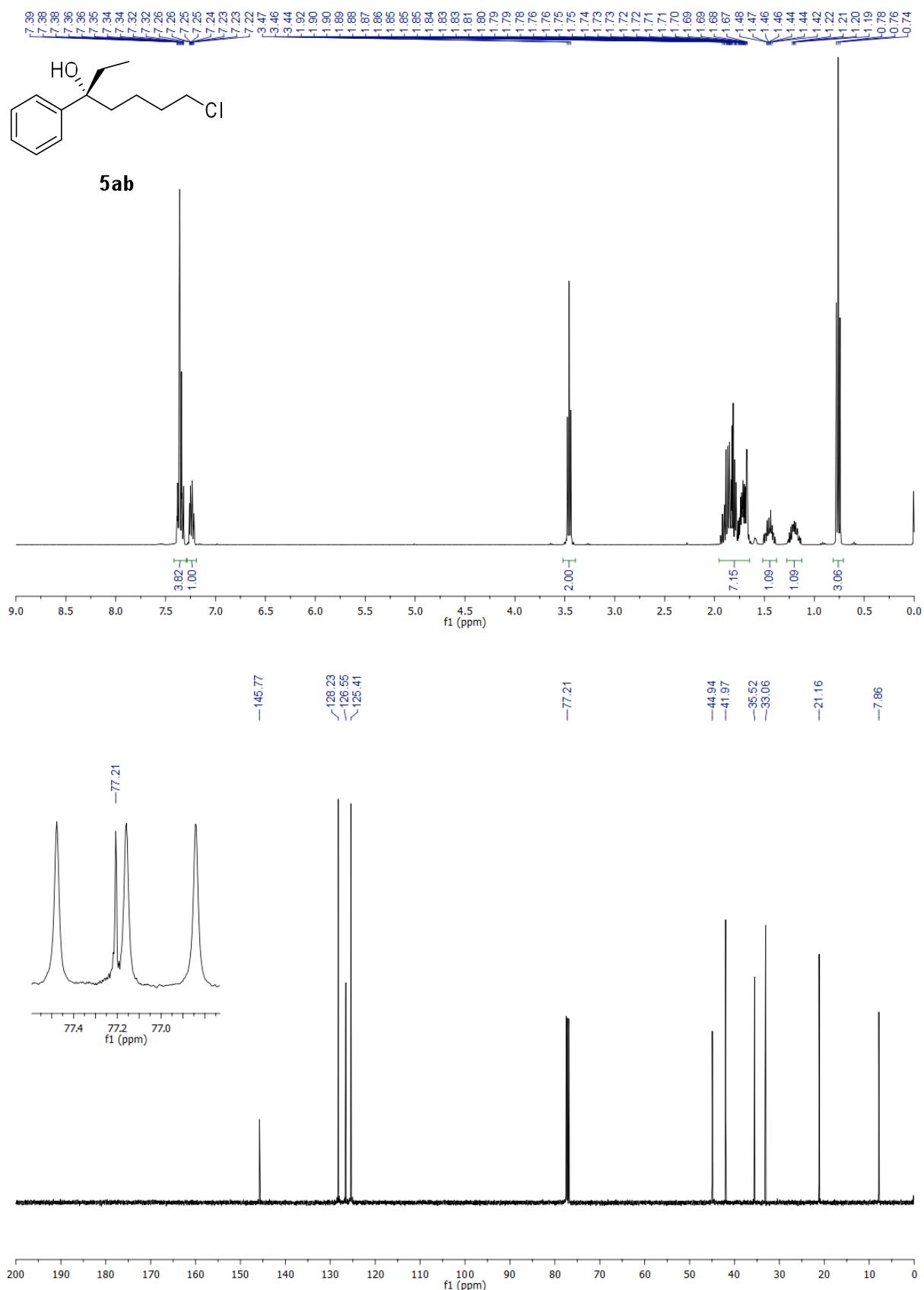
6-chloro-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)hexan-3-ol 4cb



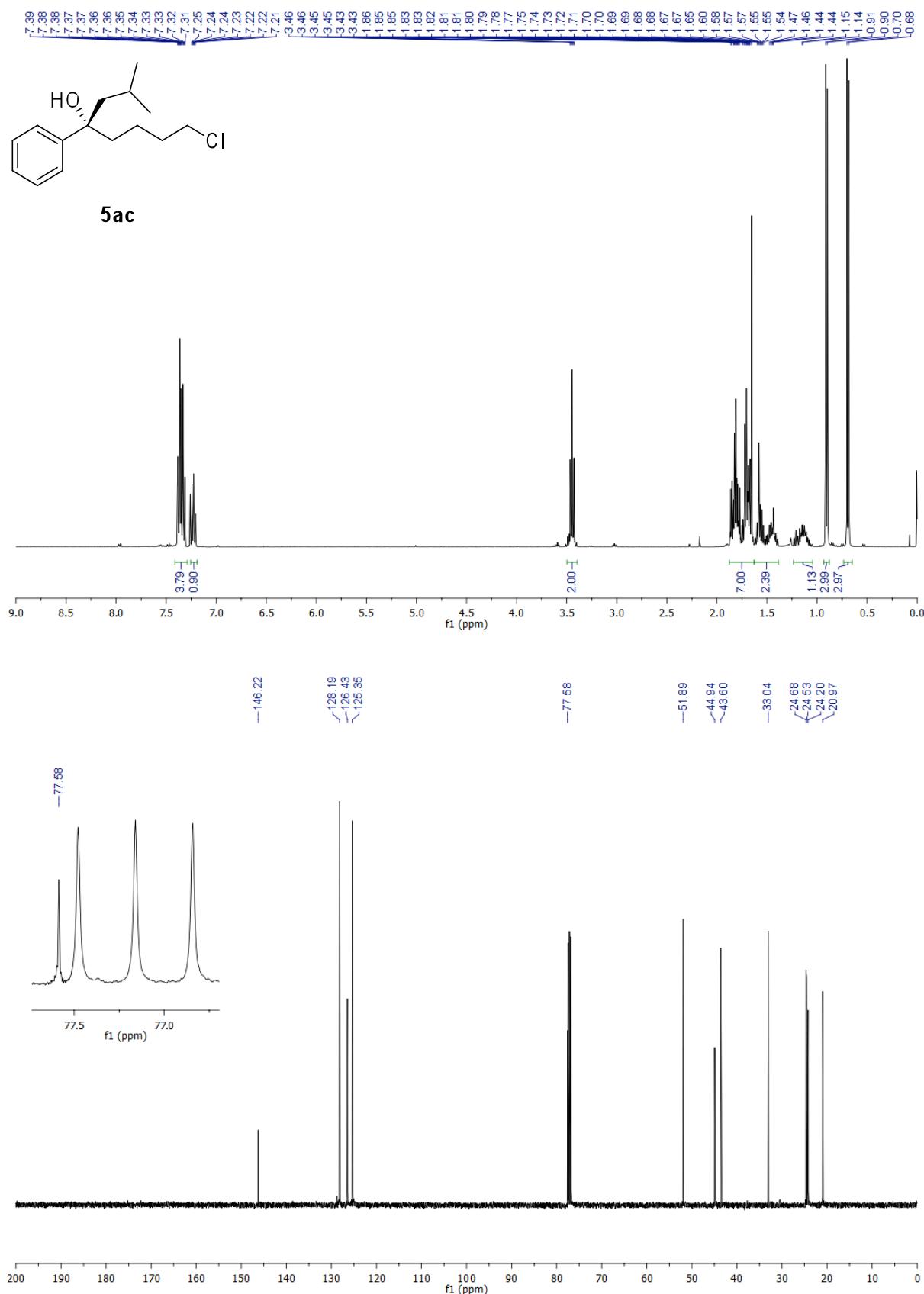
(R)-6-chloro-2-phenylhexan-2-ol 5aa



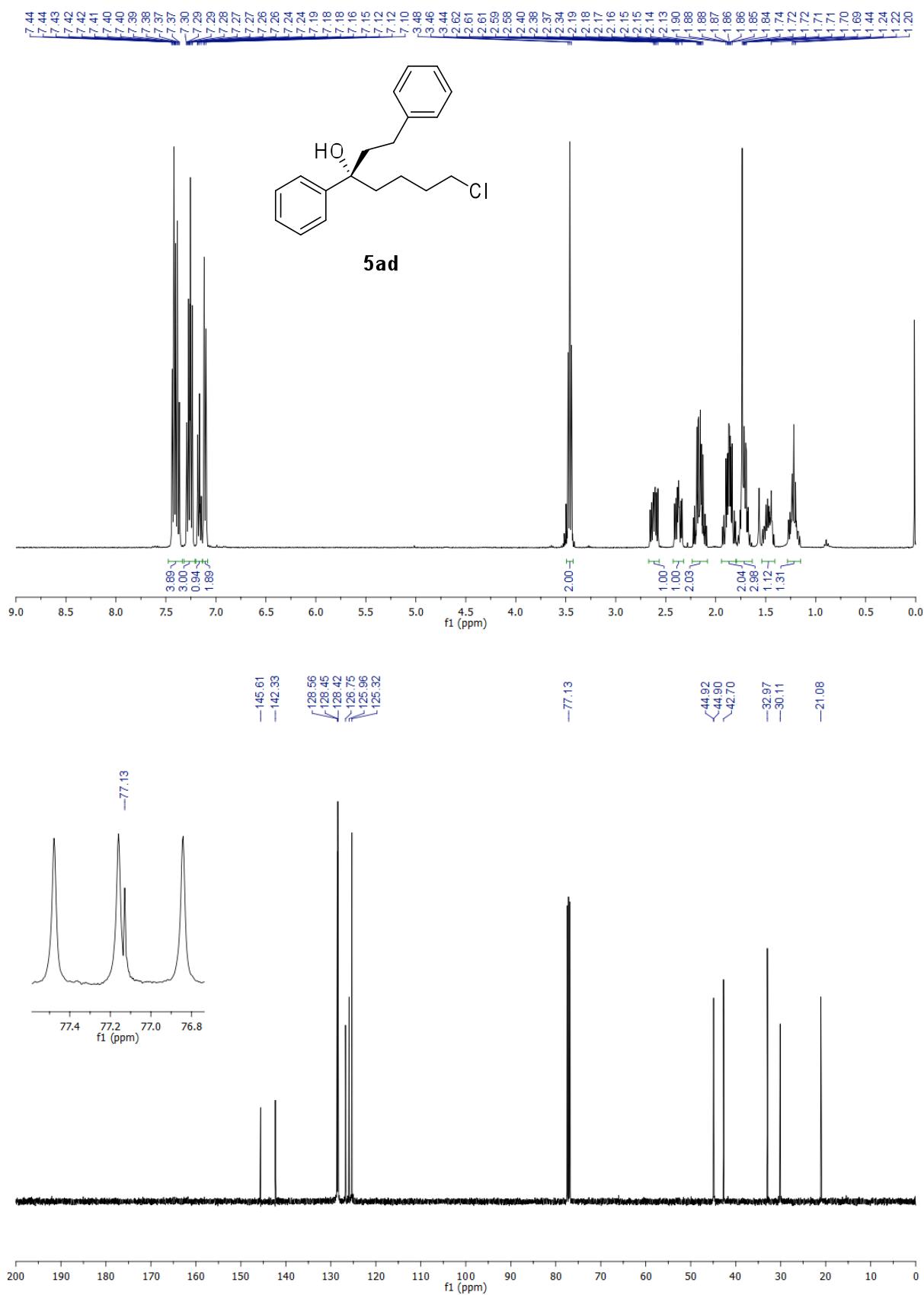
7-chloro-3-phenylheptan-3-ol 5ab



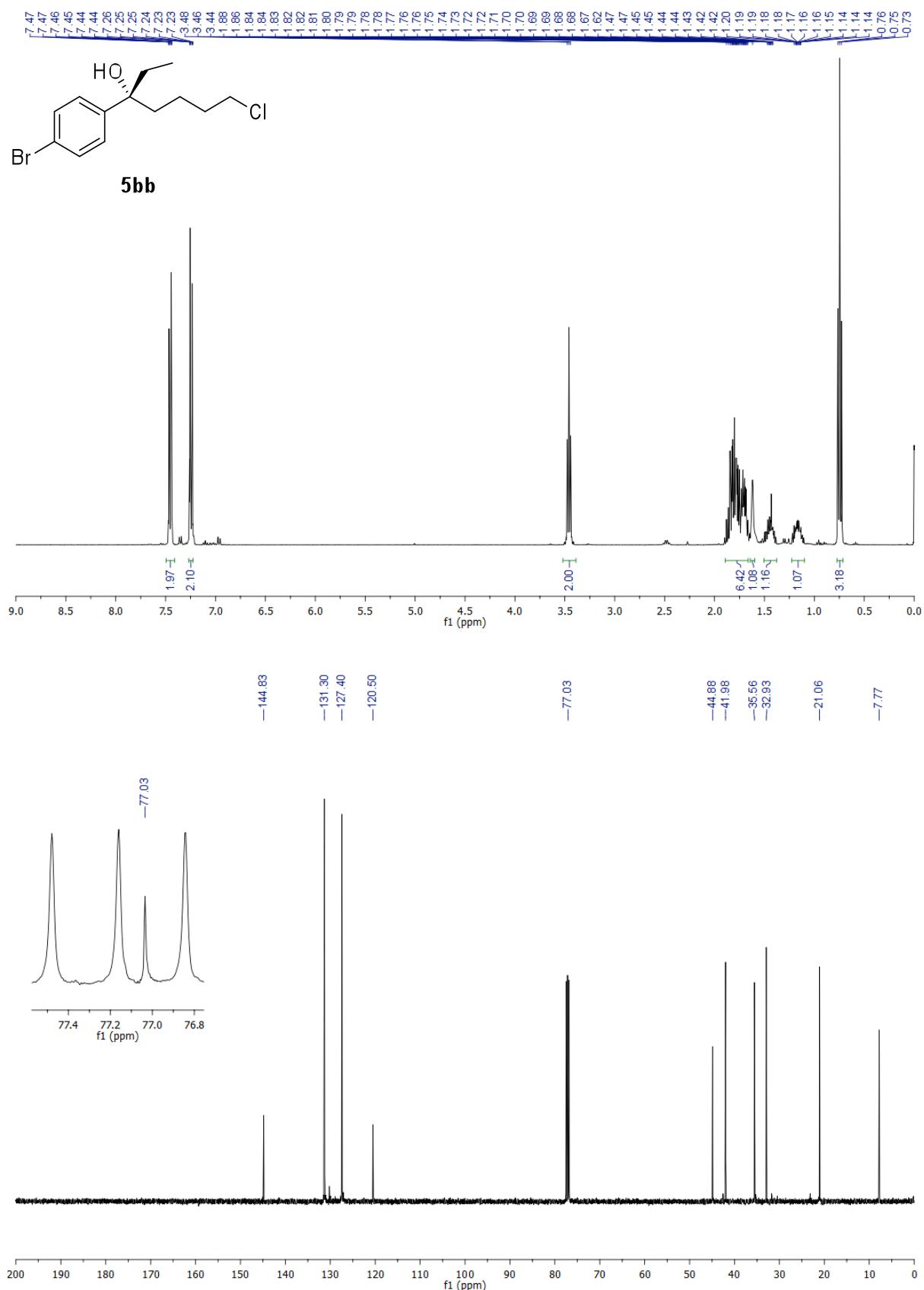
8-chloro-2-methyl-4-phenyloctan-4-ol 5ac



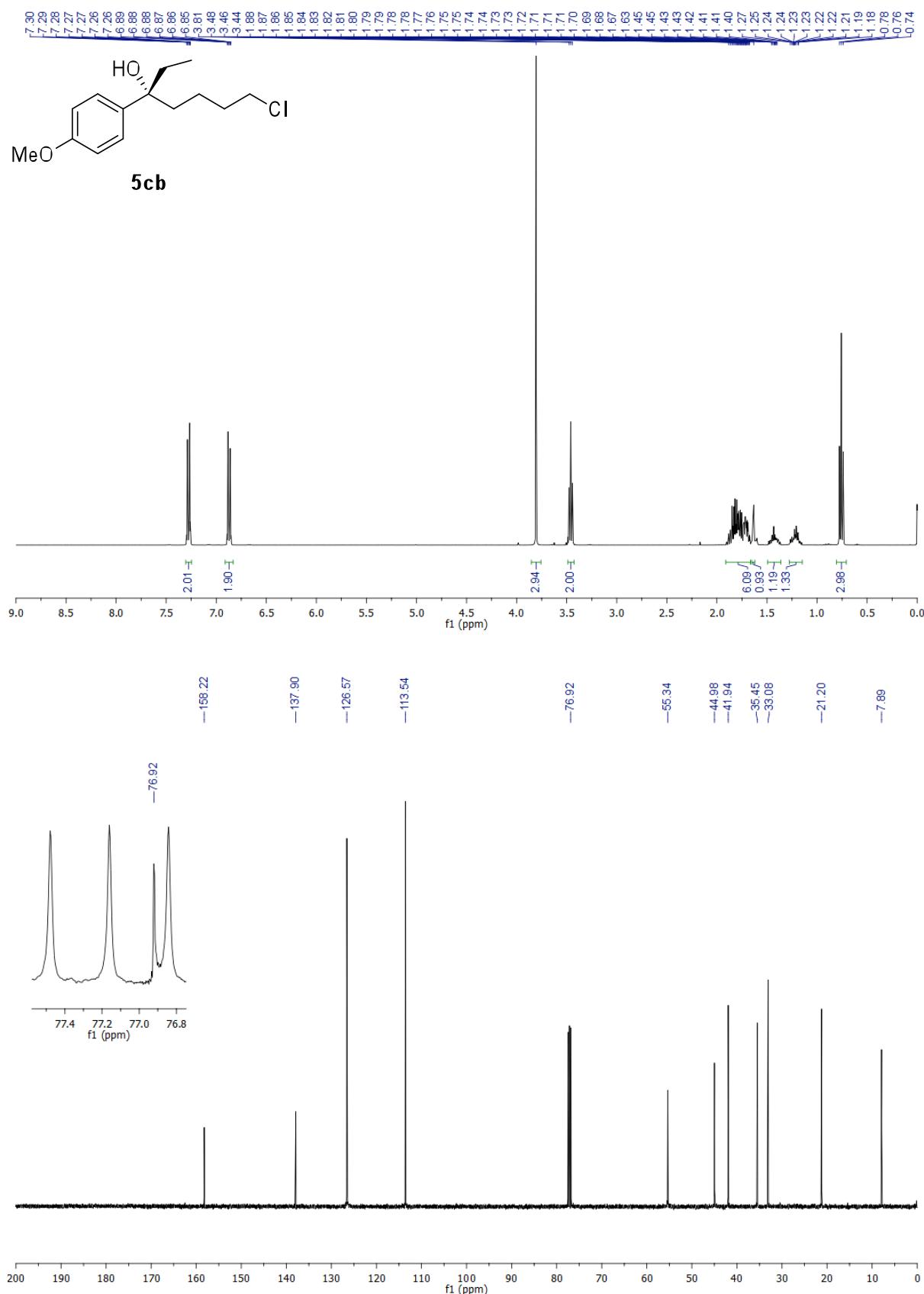
7-chloro-1,3-diphenylheptan-3-ol 5ad



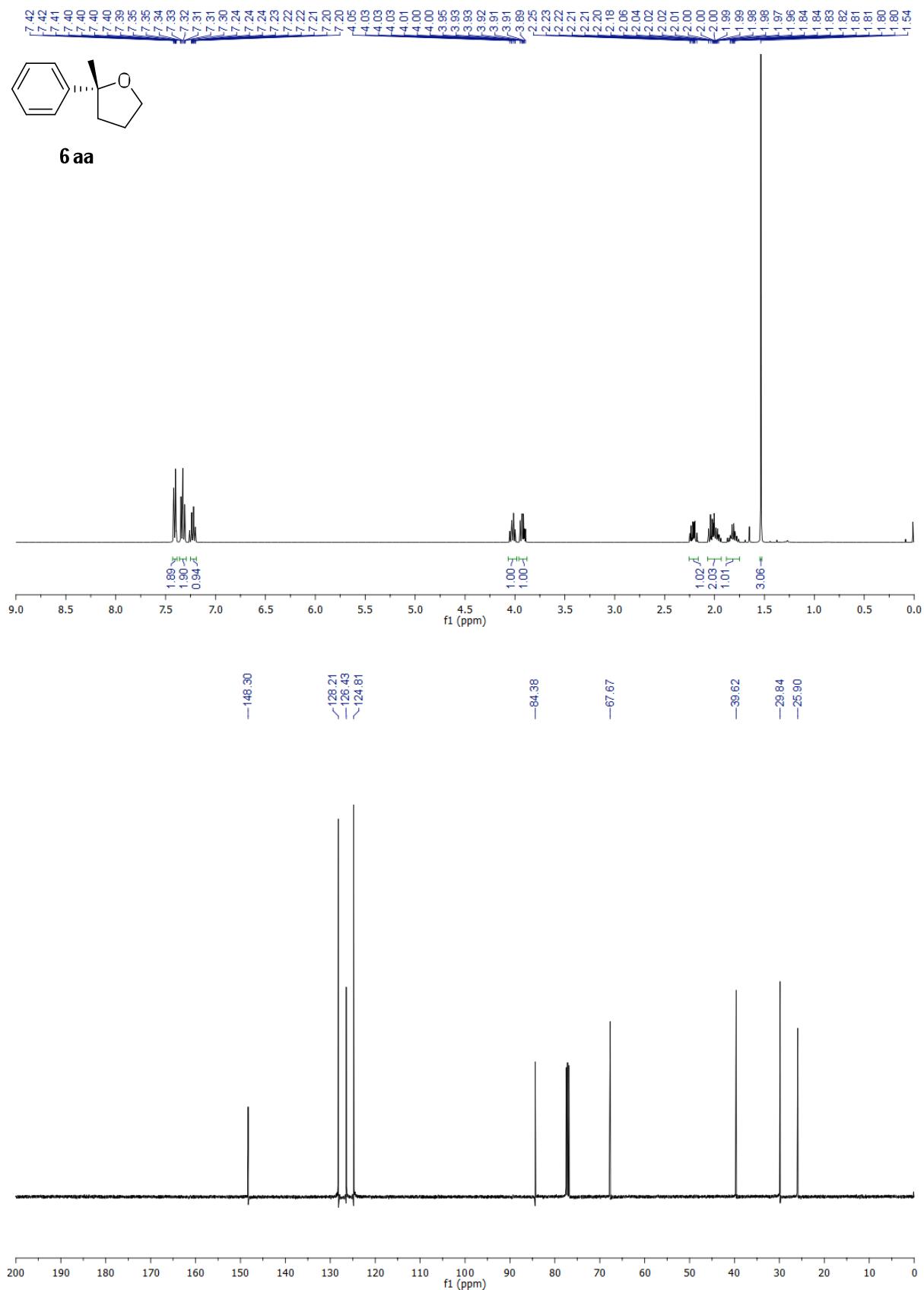
3-(4-bromophenyl)-7-chloroheptan-3-ol 5bb



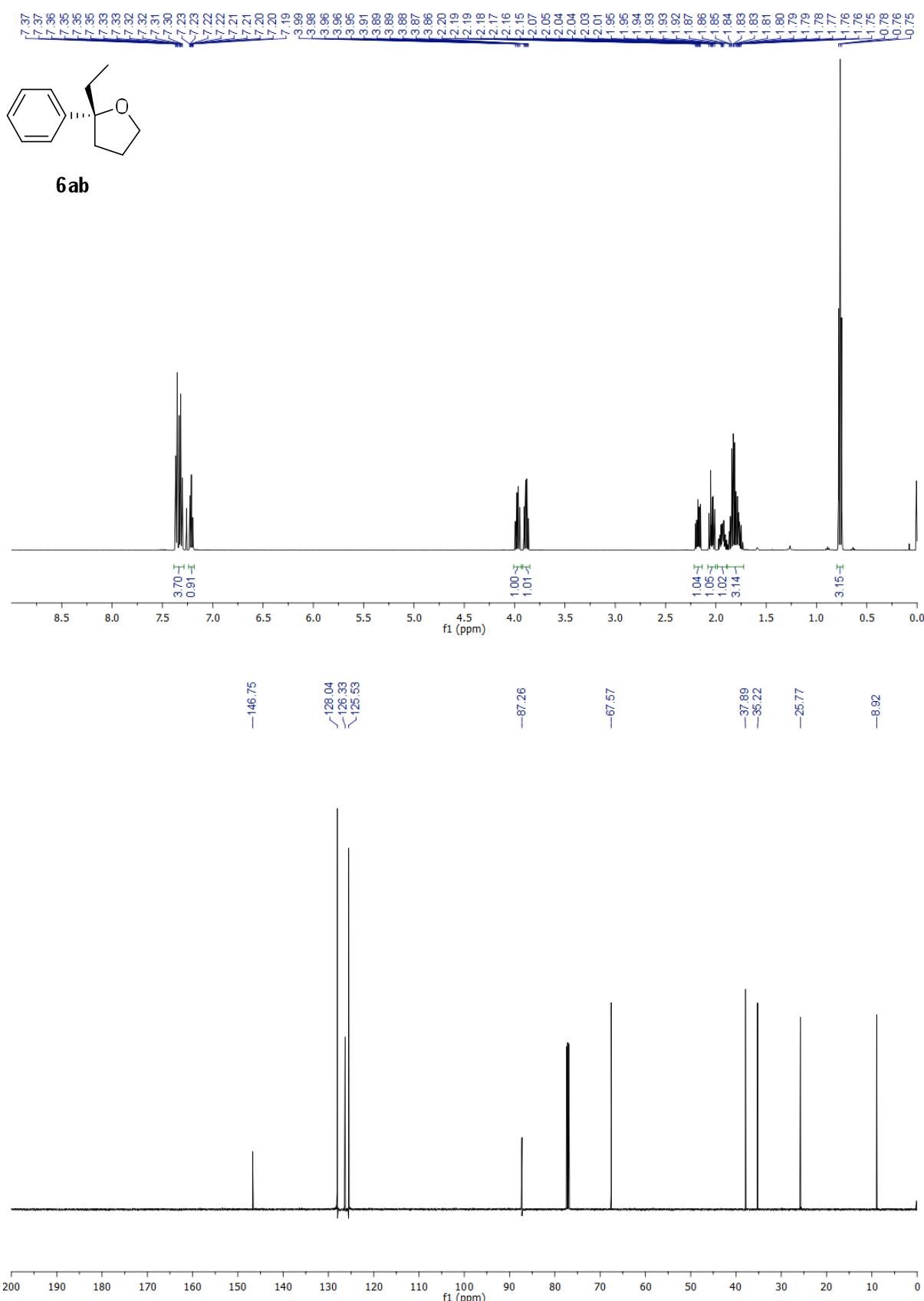
7-chloro-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)heptan-3-ol 5cb



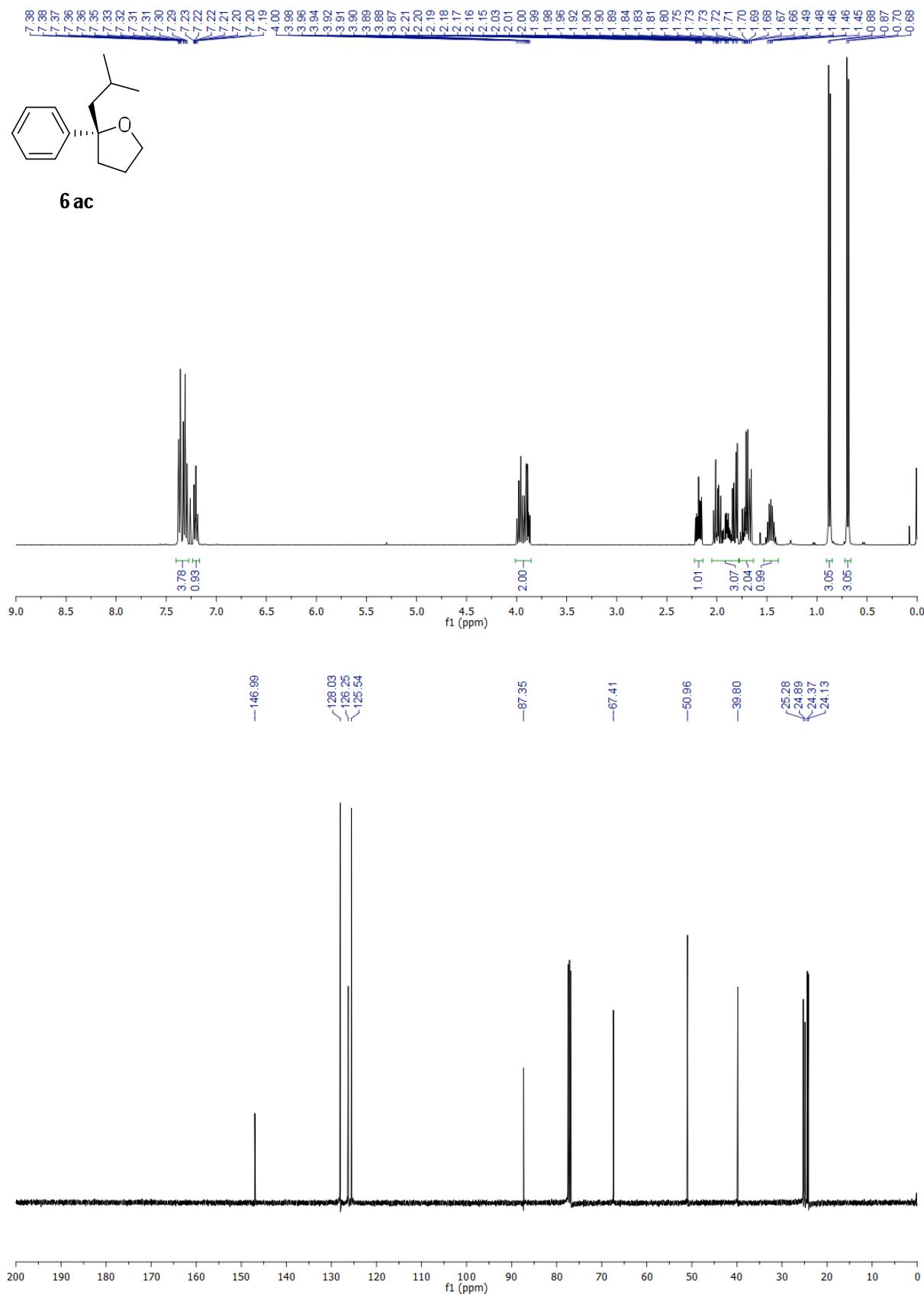
(R)-2-methyl-2-phenyltetrahydrofuran 6aa



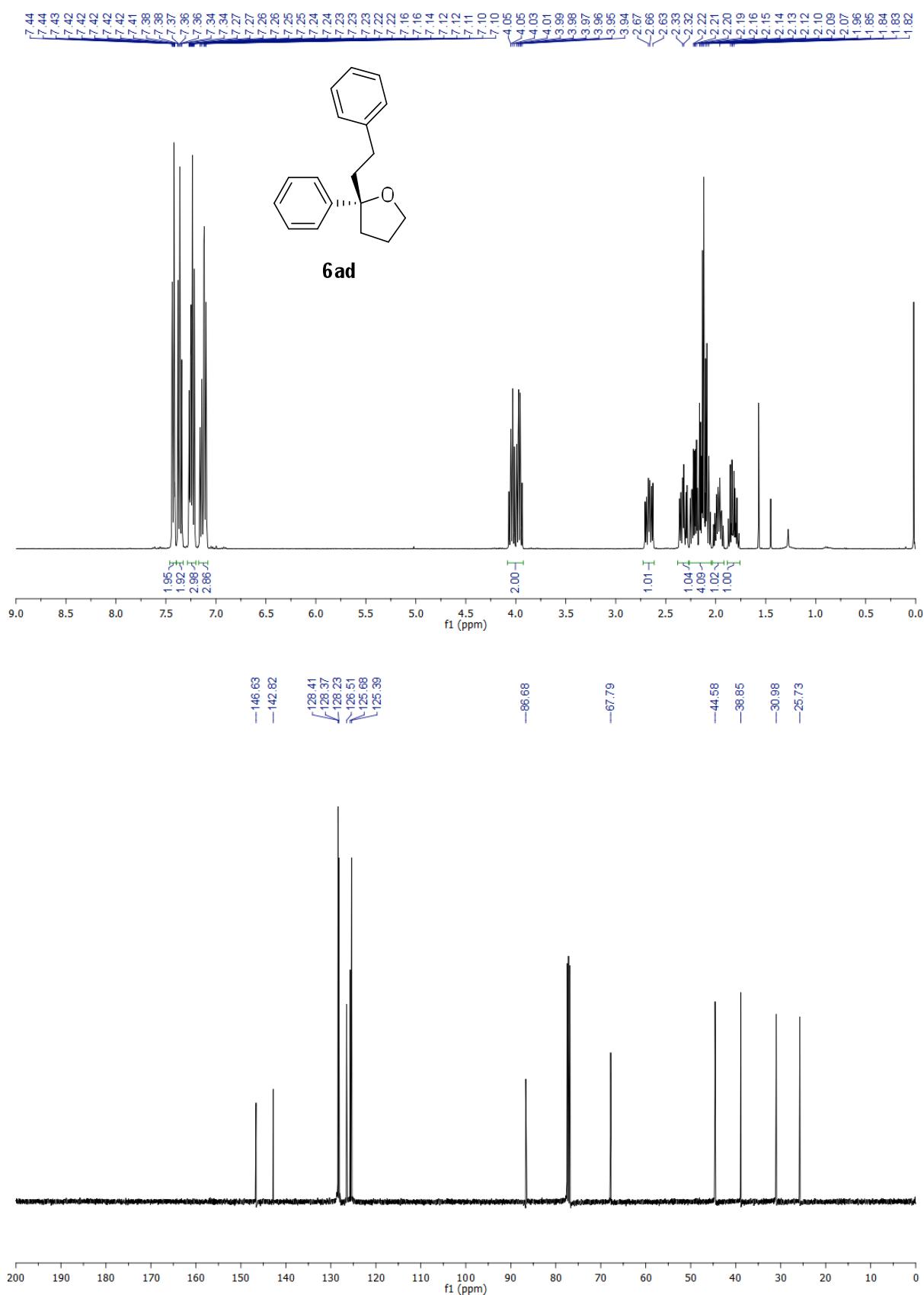
(*R*)-2-ethyl-2-phenyltetrahydrofuran 6ab



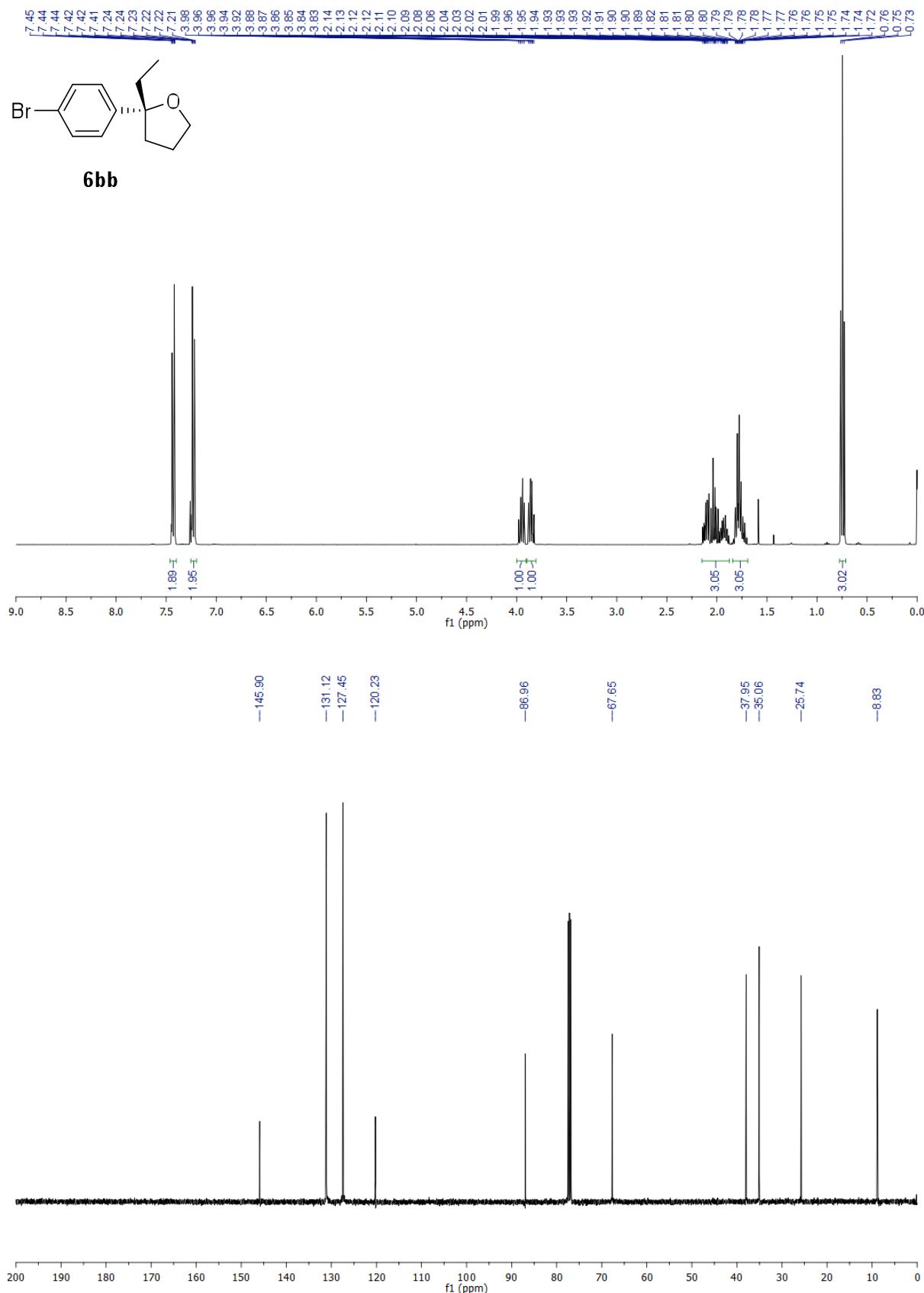
2-isobutyl-2-phenyltetrahydrofuran 6ac



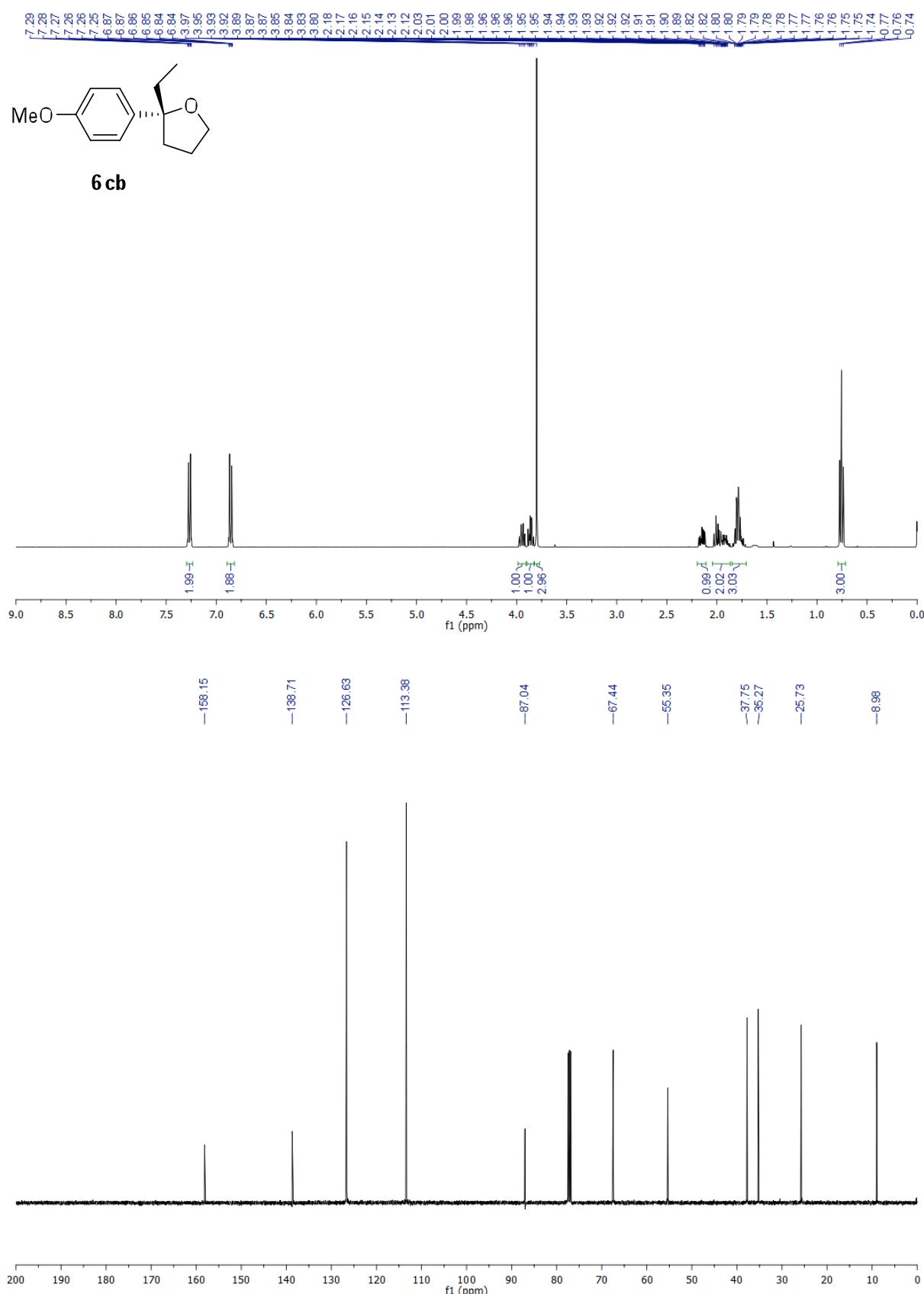
2-phenethyl-2-phenyltetrahydrofuran 6ad



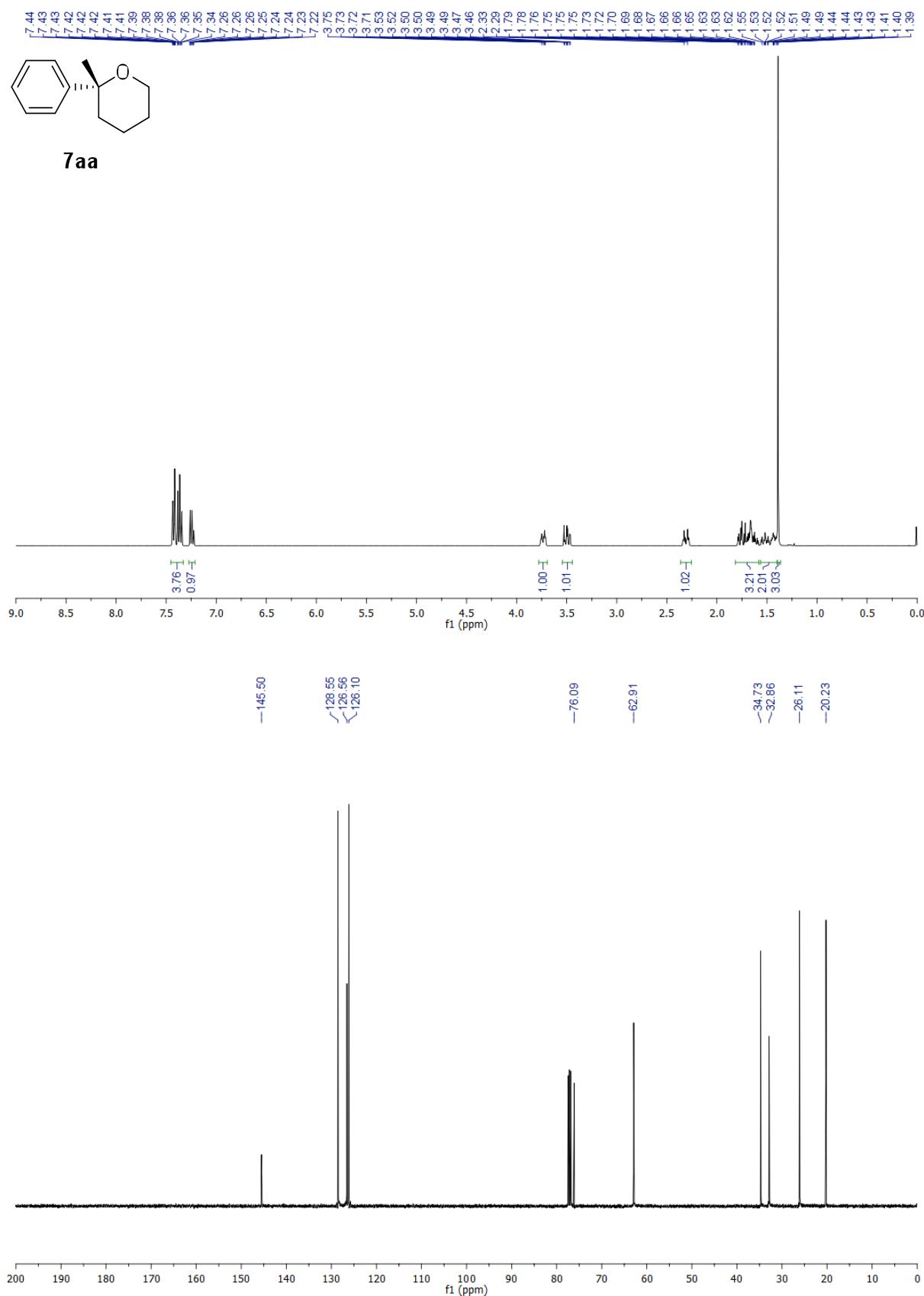
2-ethyl-2-(4-bromophenyl)tetrahydrofuran 6bb



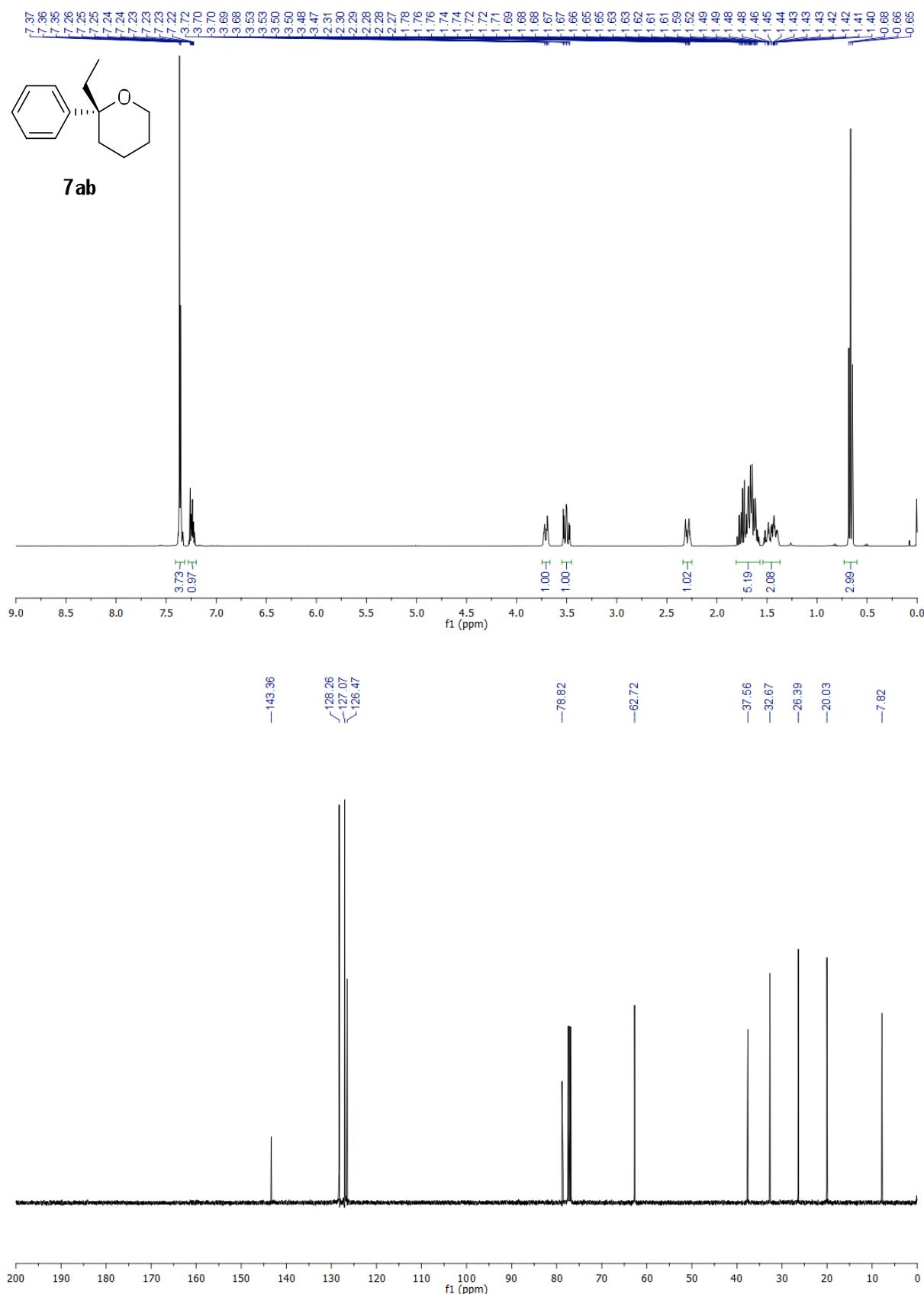
2-ethyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)tetrahydrofuran 6cb



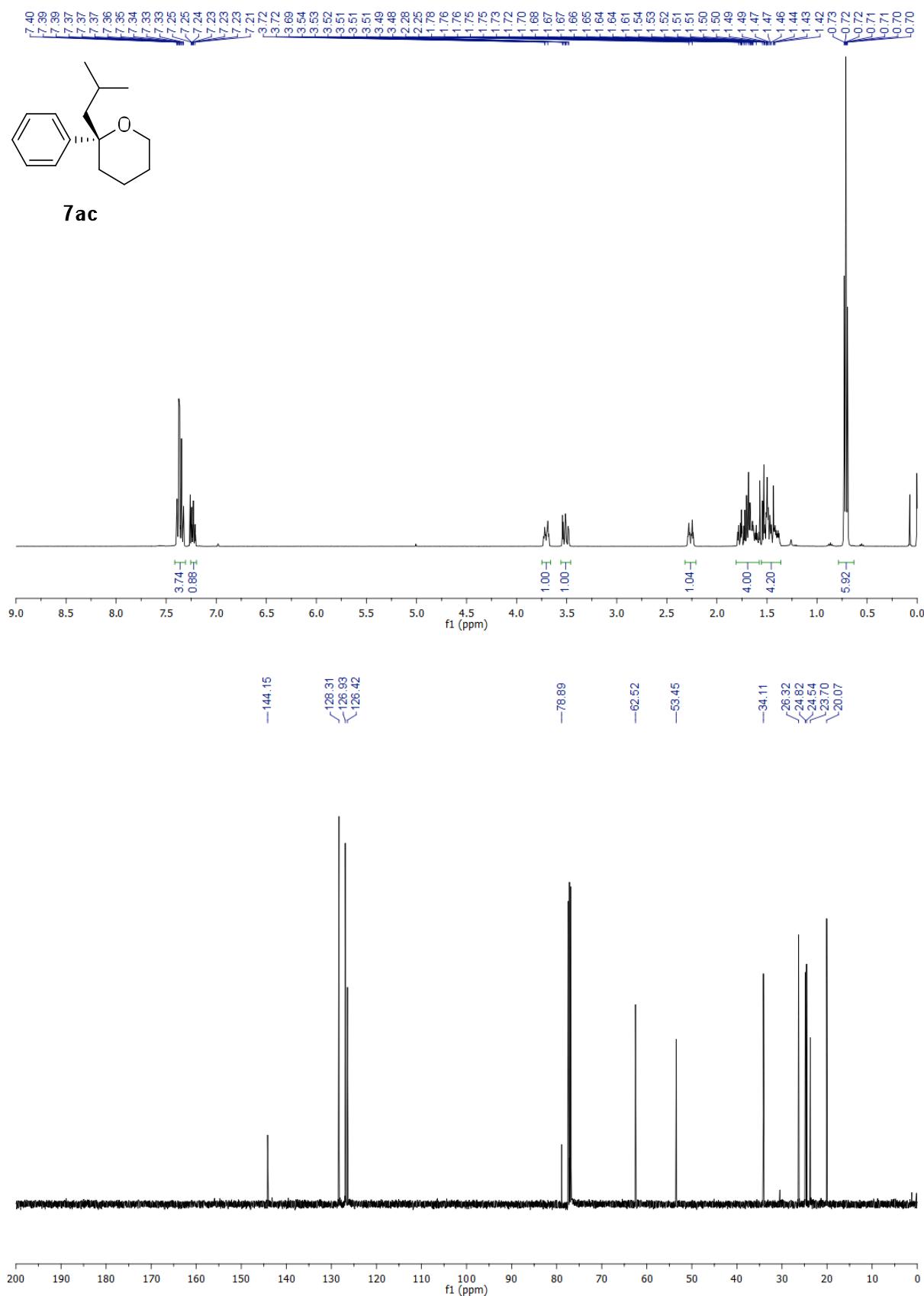
(R)-2-methyl-2-phenyltetrahydro-2H-pyran 7aa



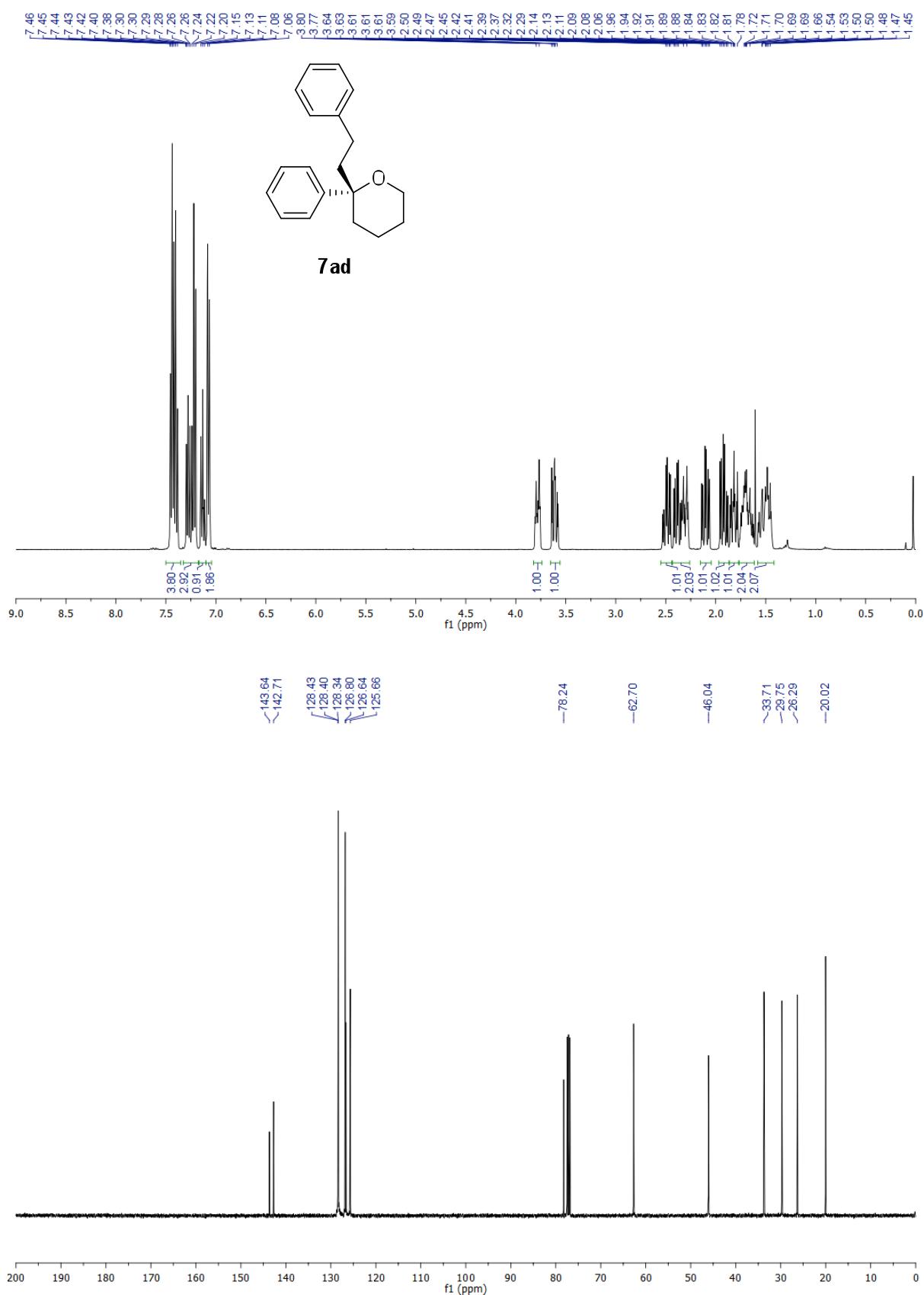
2-ethyl-2-phenyltetrahydro-2H-pyran 7ab



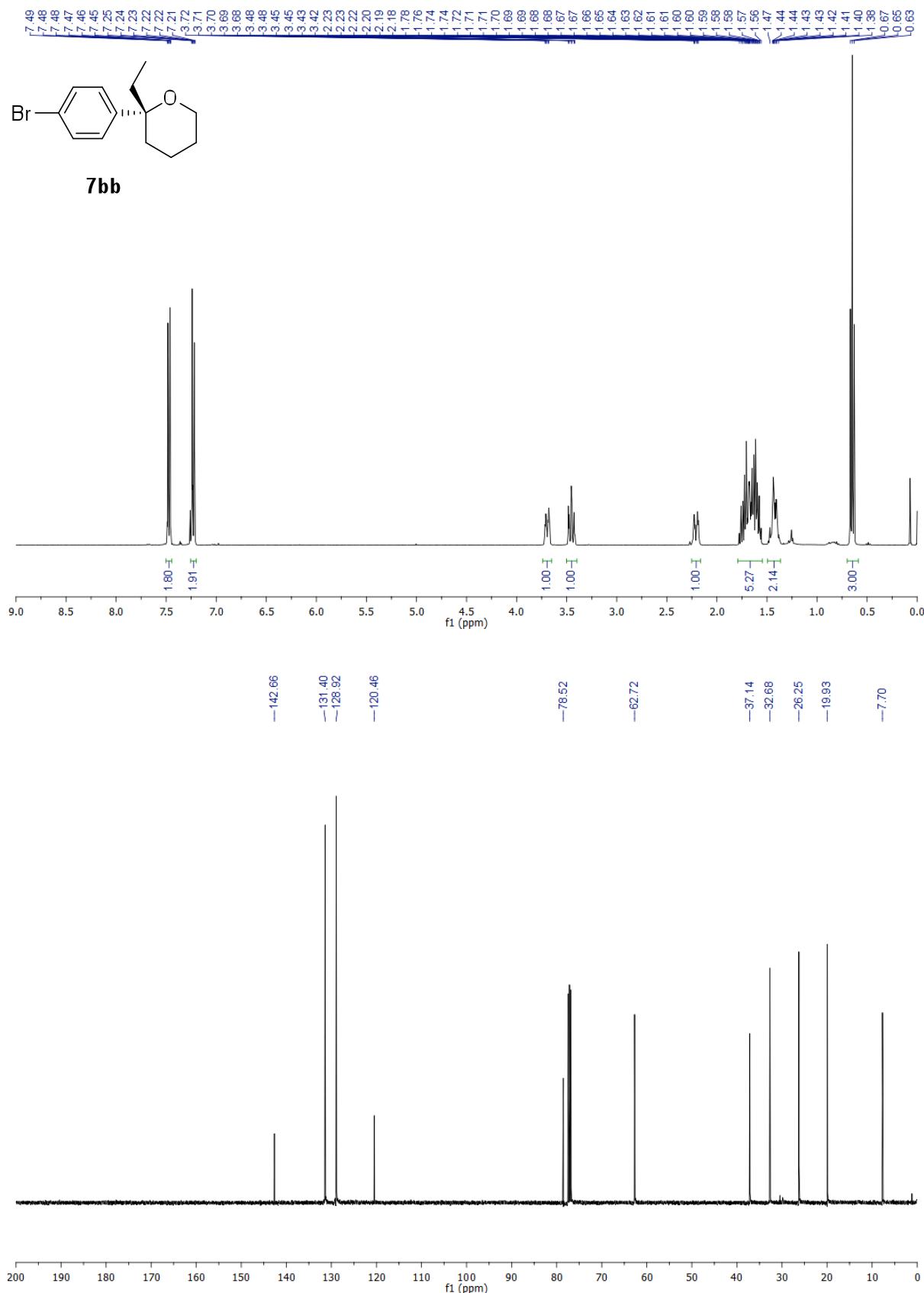
2-isobutyl-2-phenyltetrahydro-2H-pyran 7ac



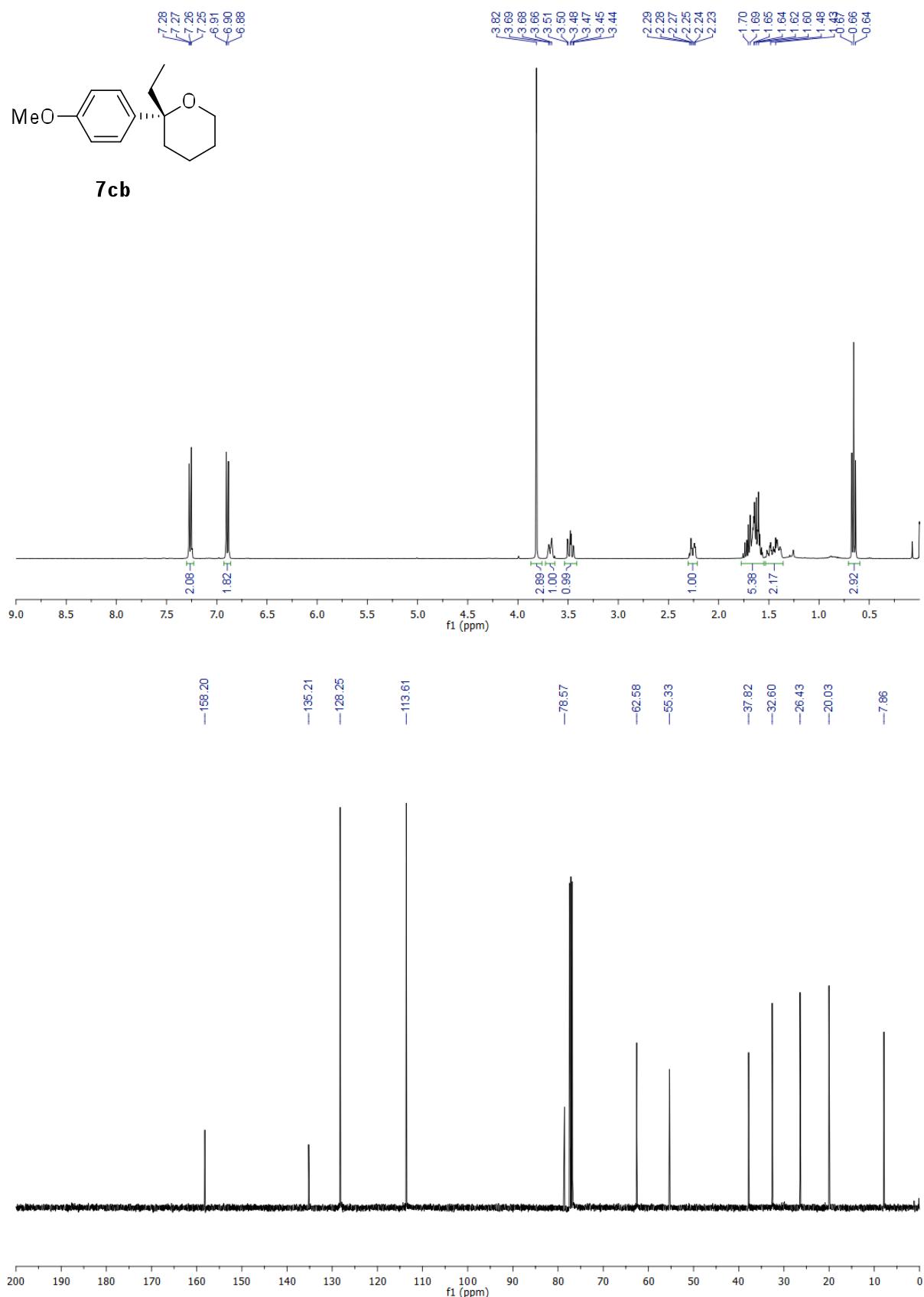
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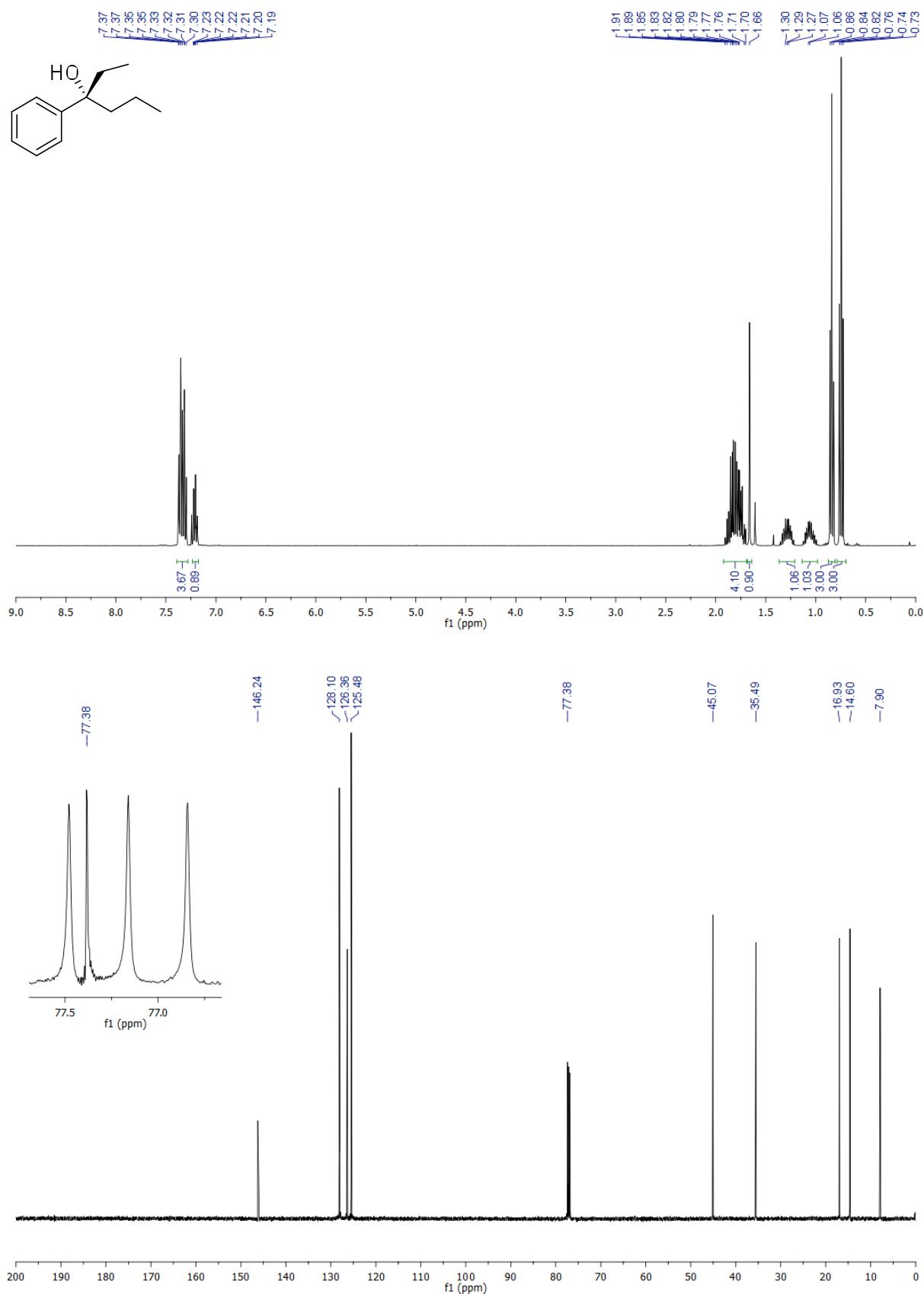
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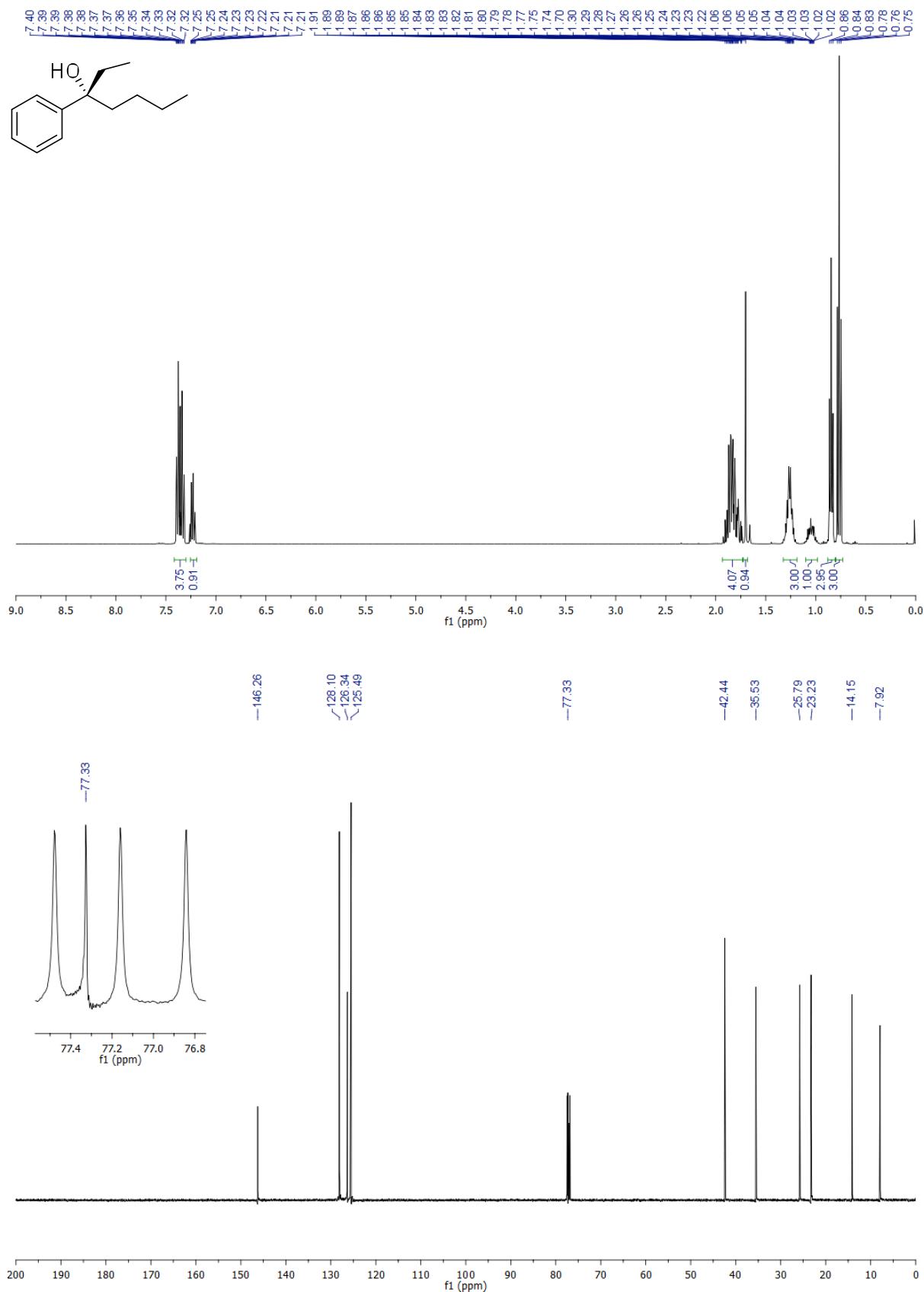
2-ethyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran 7cb



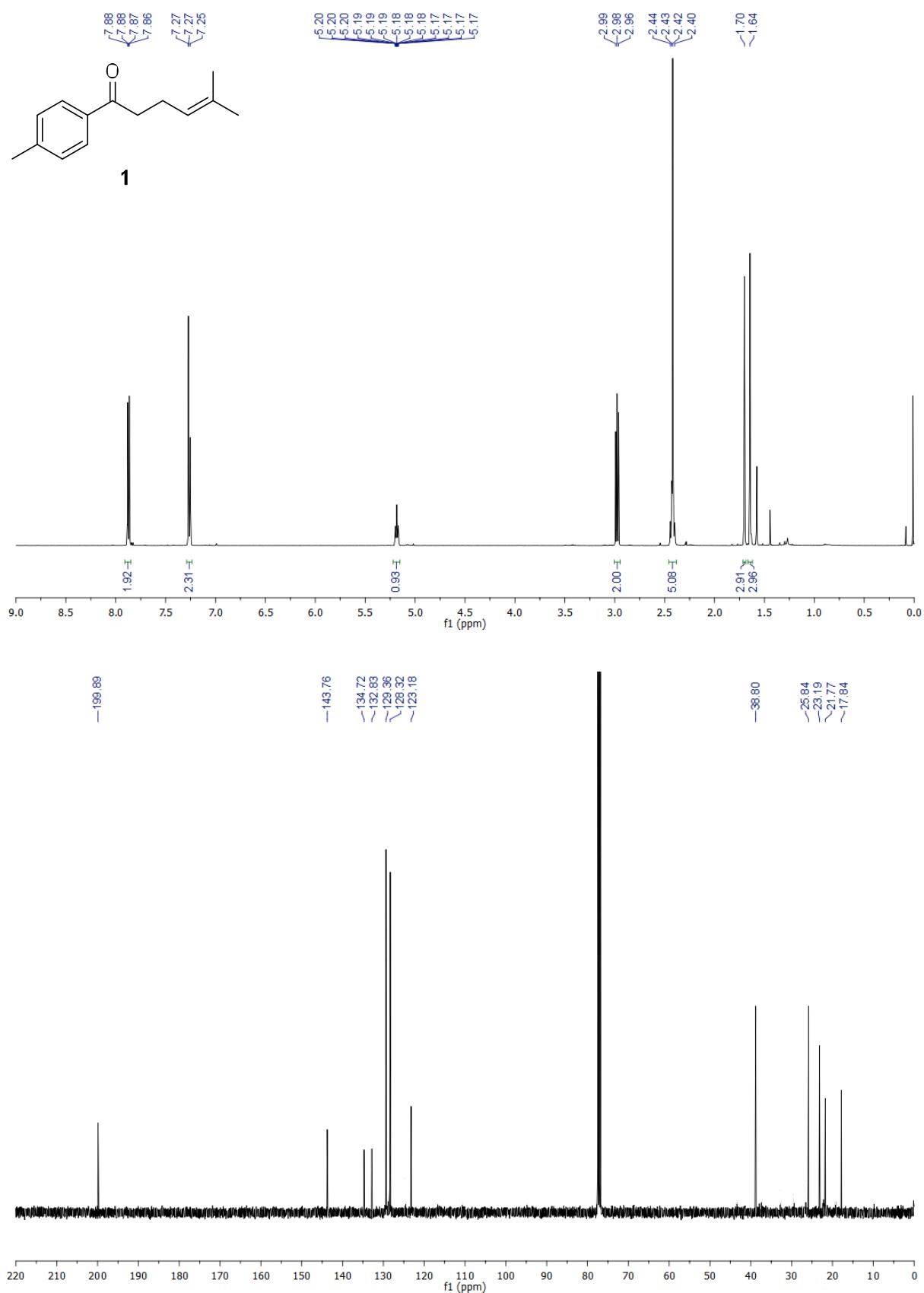
3-phenylhexan-3-ol



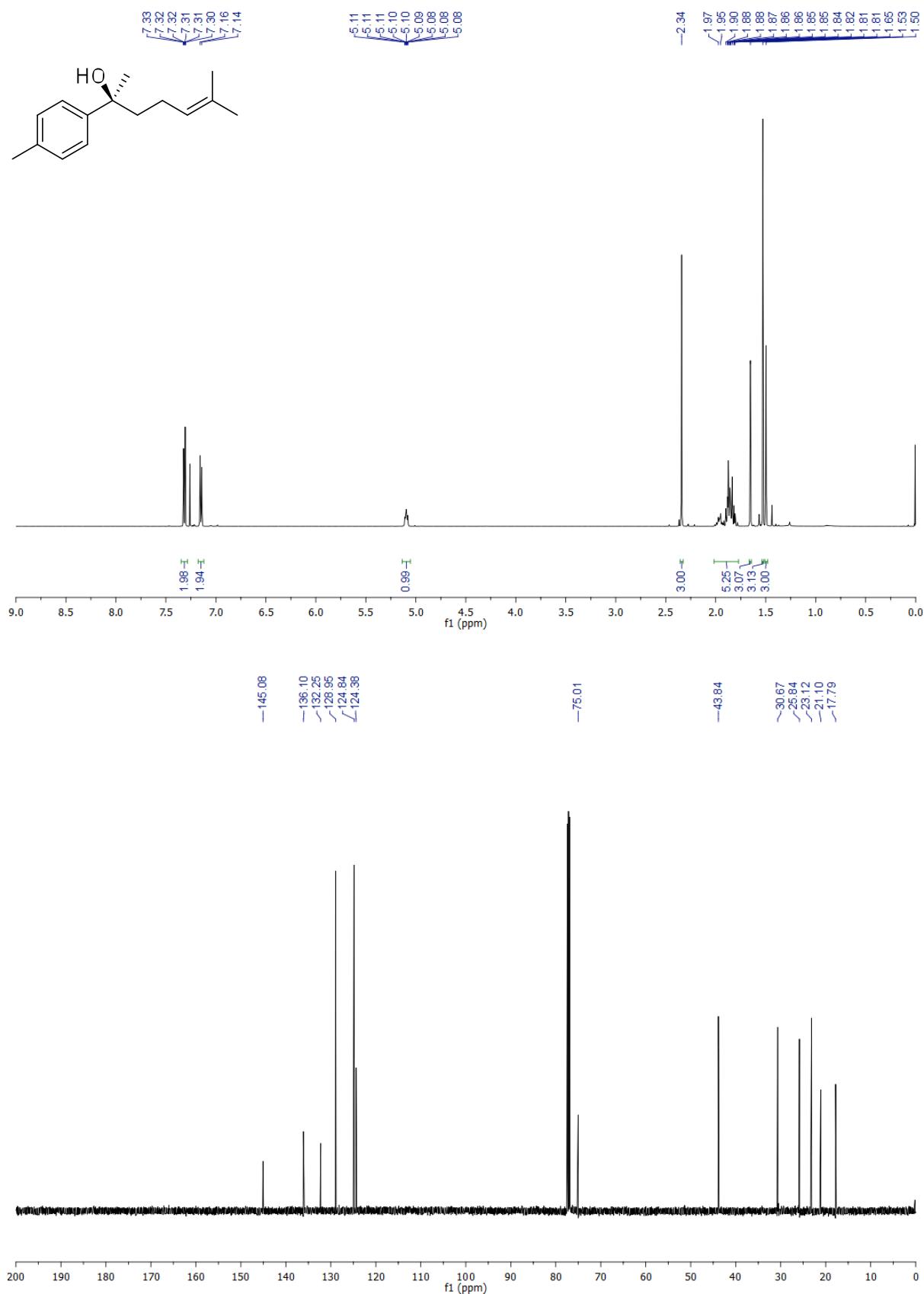
3-Phenylheptan-3-ol



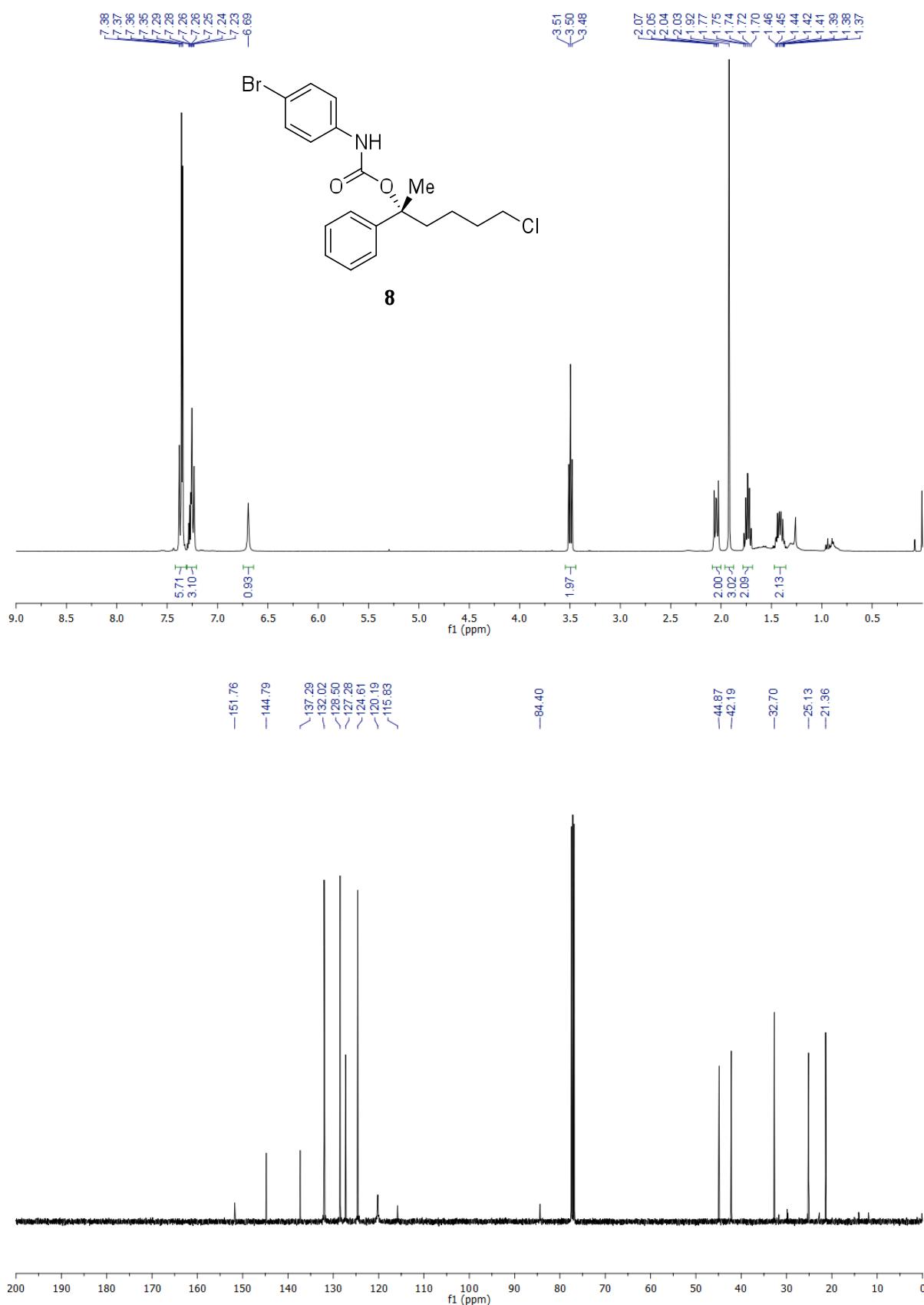
5-methyl-1-(4-methylphenyl)-1-oxo-hex-4-ene 1



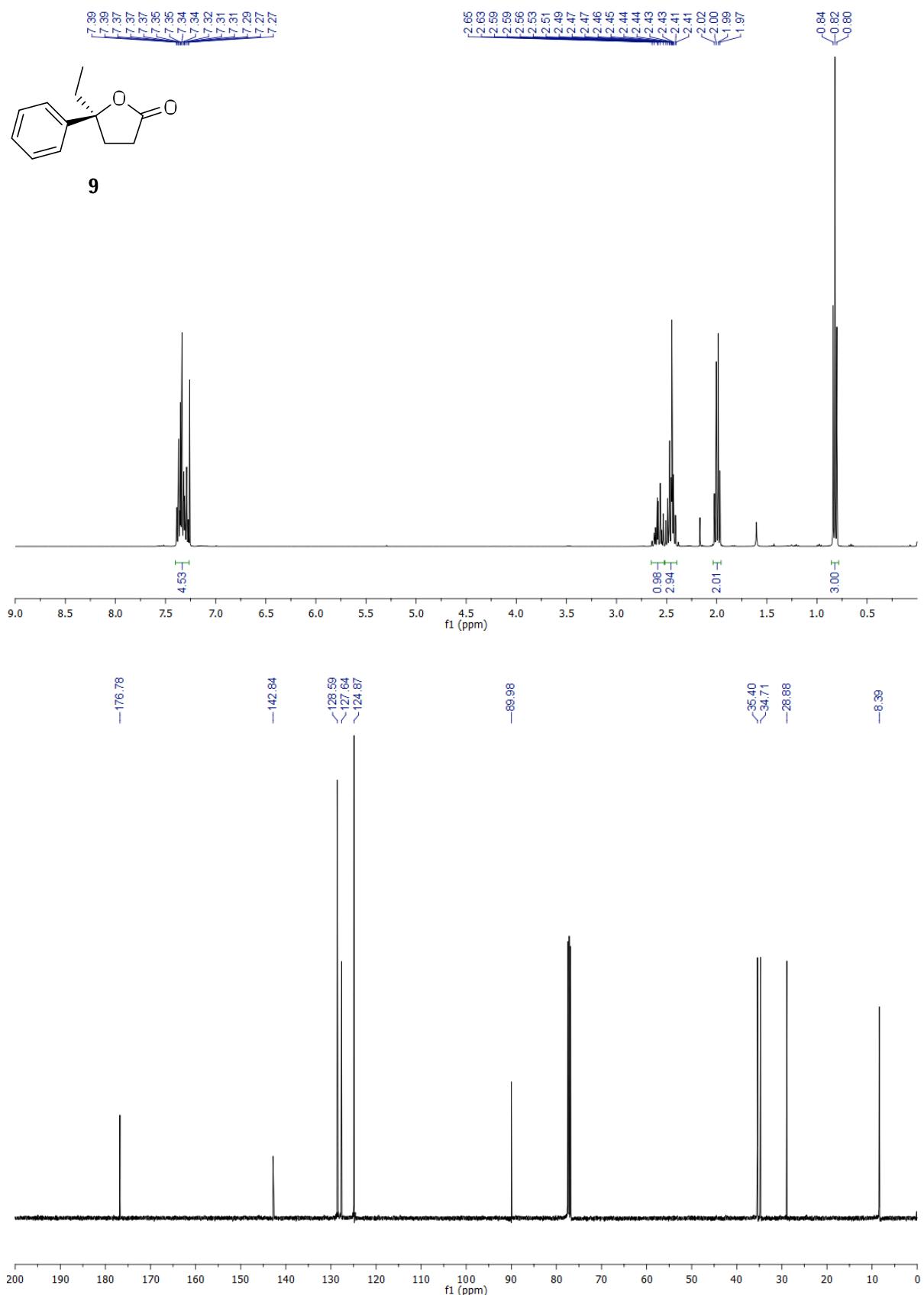
(S)-(-)-Gossonorol



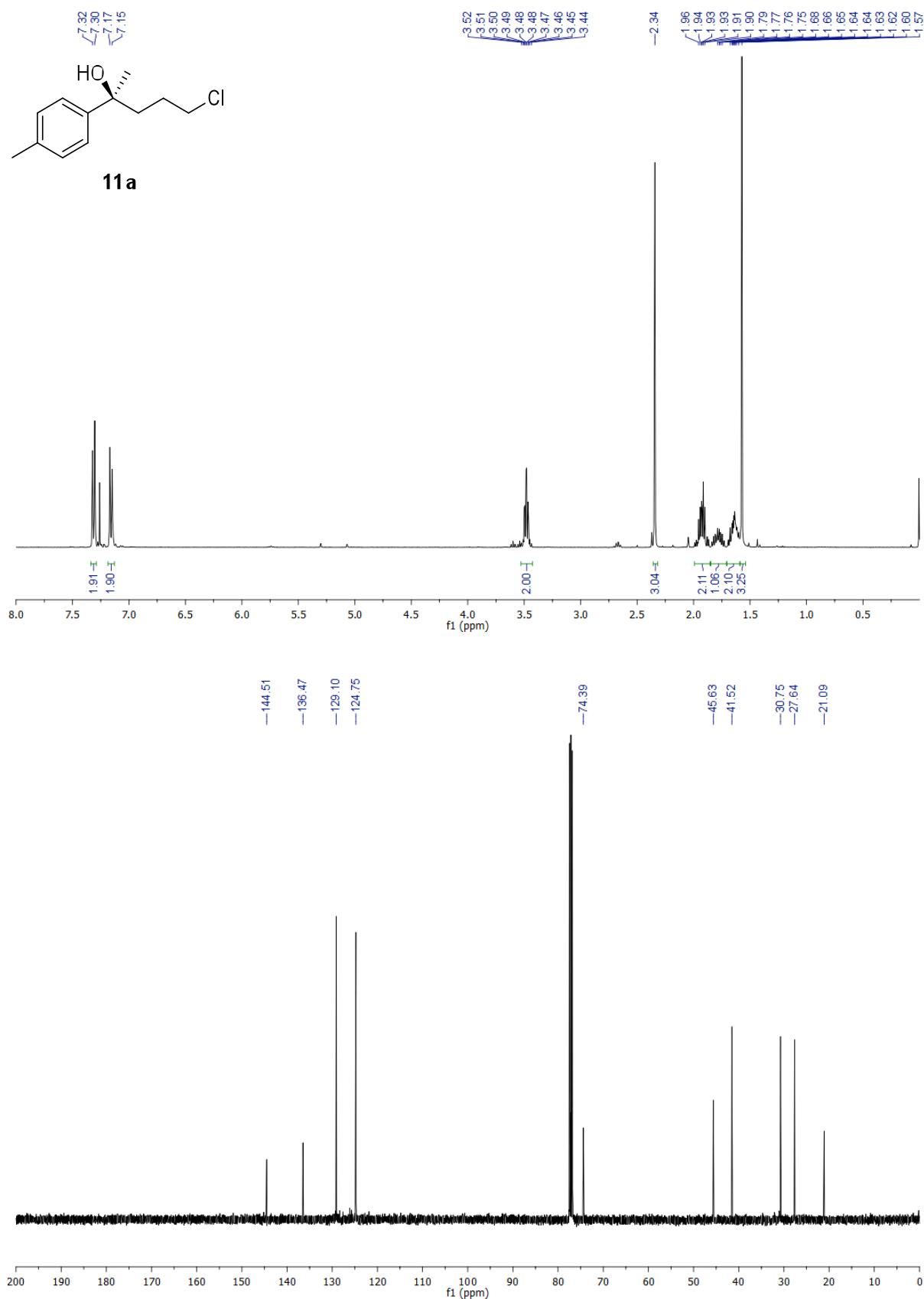
(R)-6-chloro-2-phenylhexan-2-yl (4-bromophenyl)carbamate 8



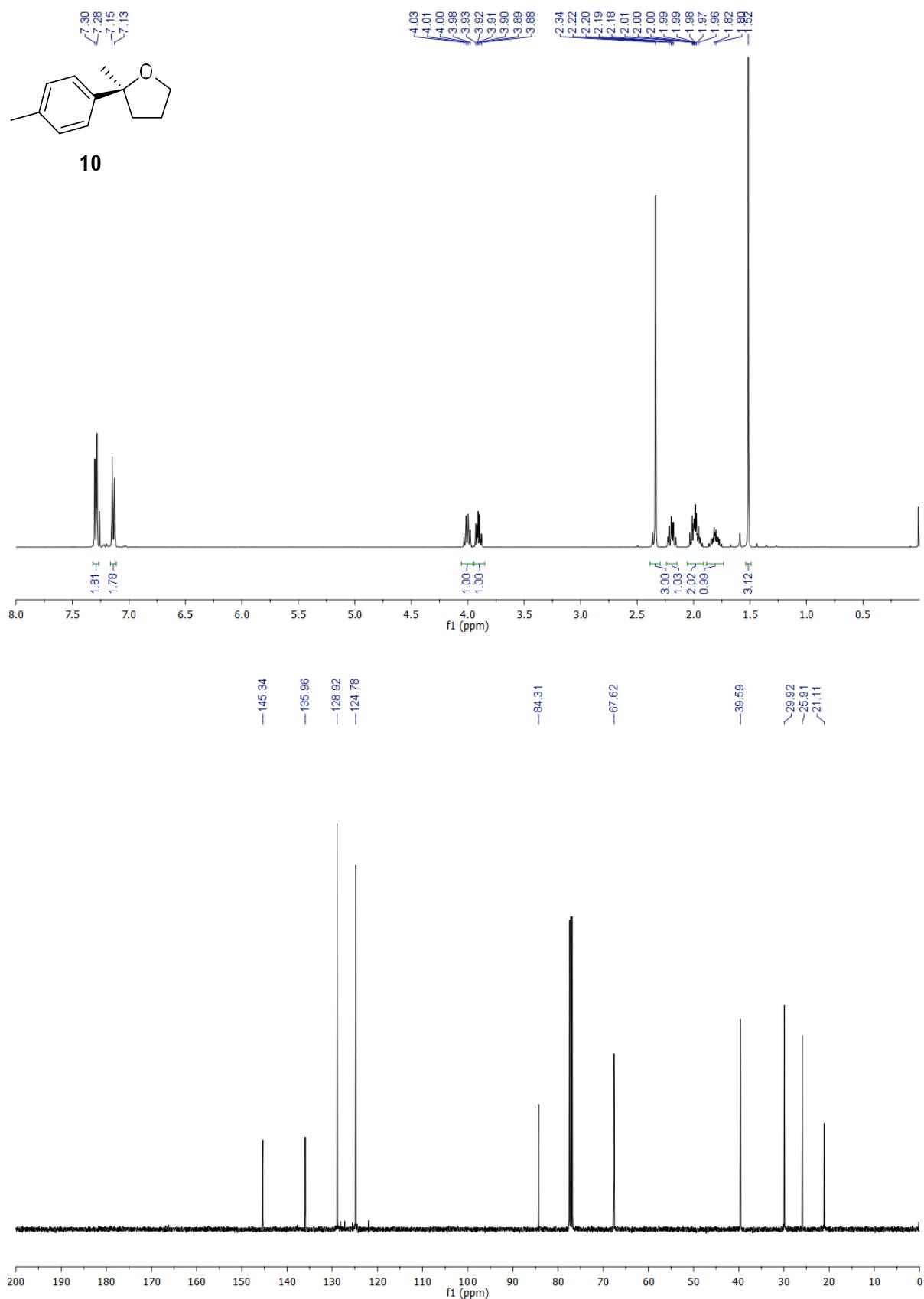
(S)- γ -ethyl- γ -phenylbutyrolactone 9



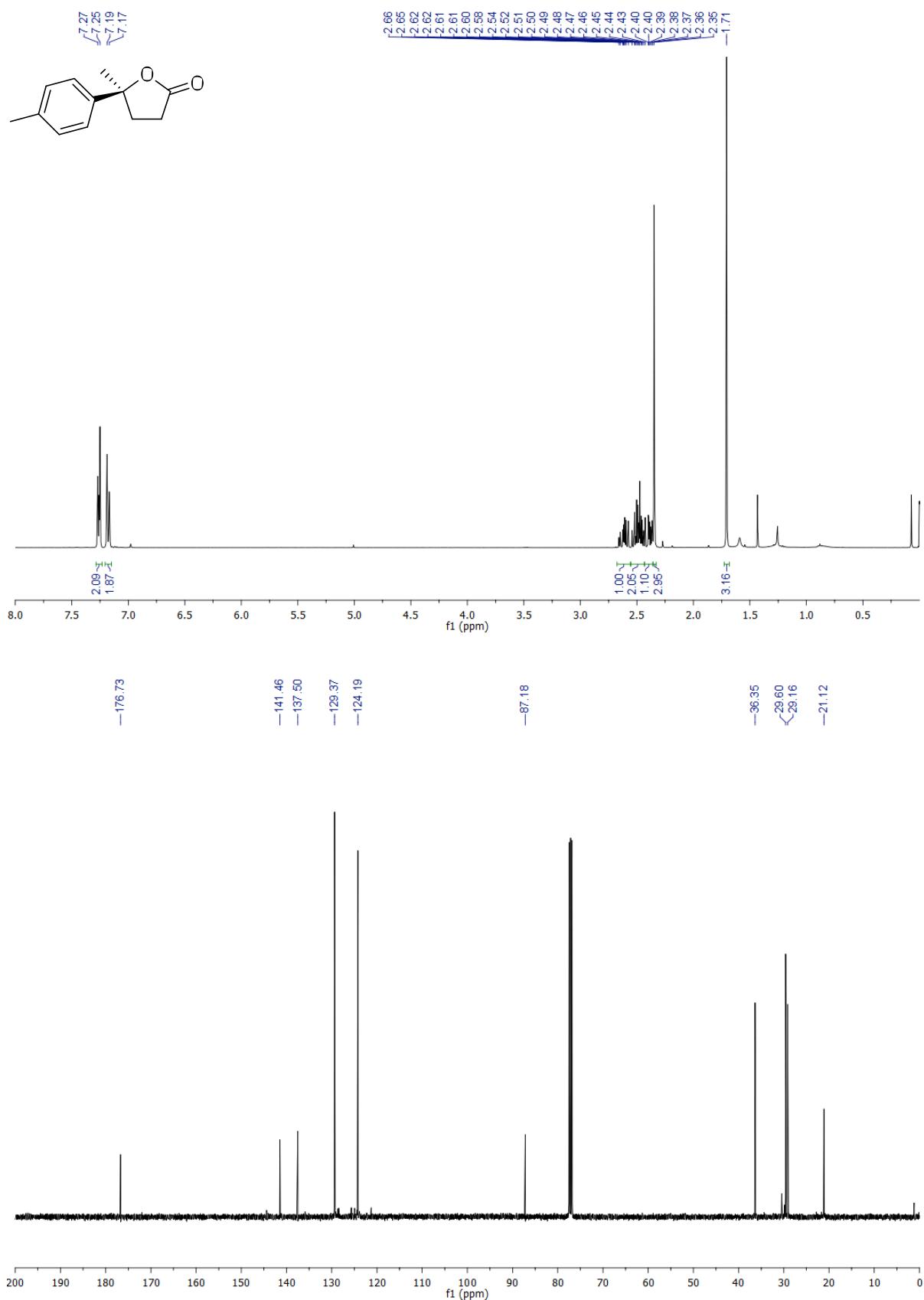
(S)-5-chloro-2-(p-tolyl)pentan-2-ol 11a



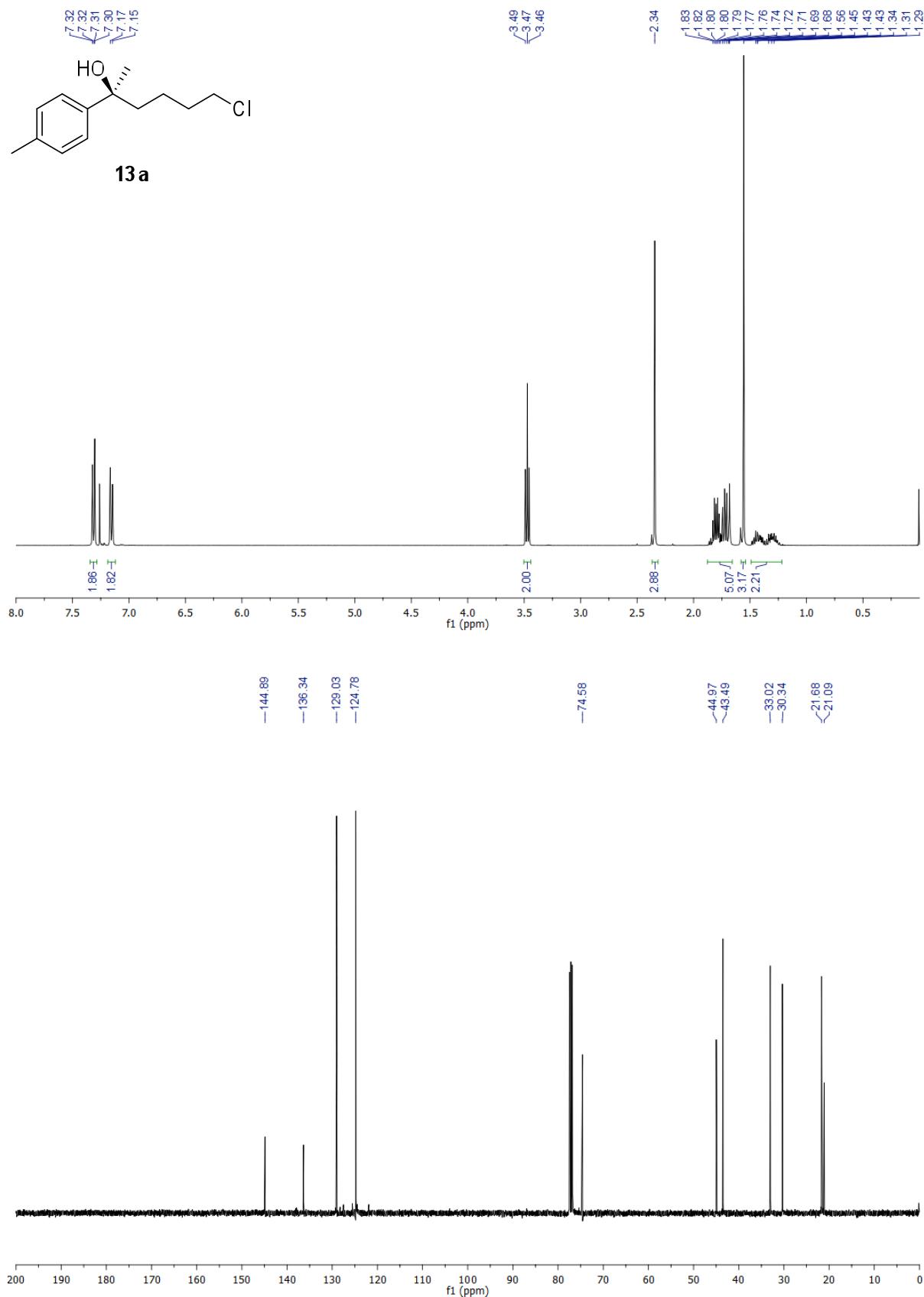
(S)-2-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)tetrahydrofuran 10



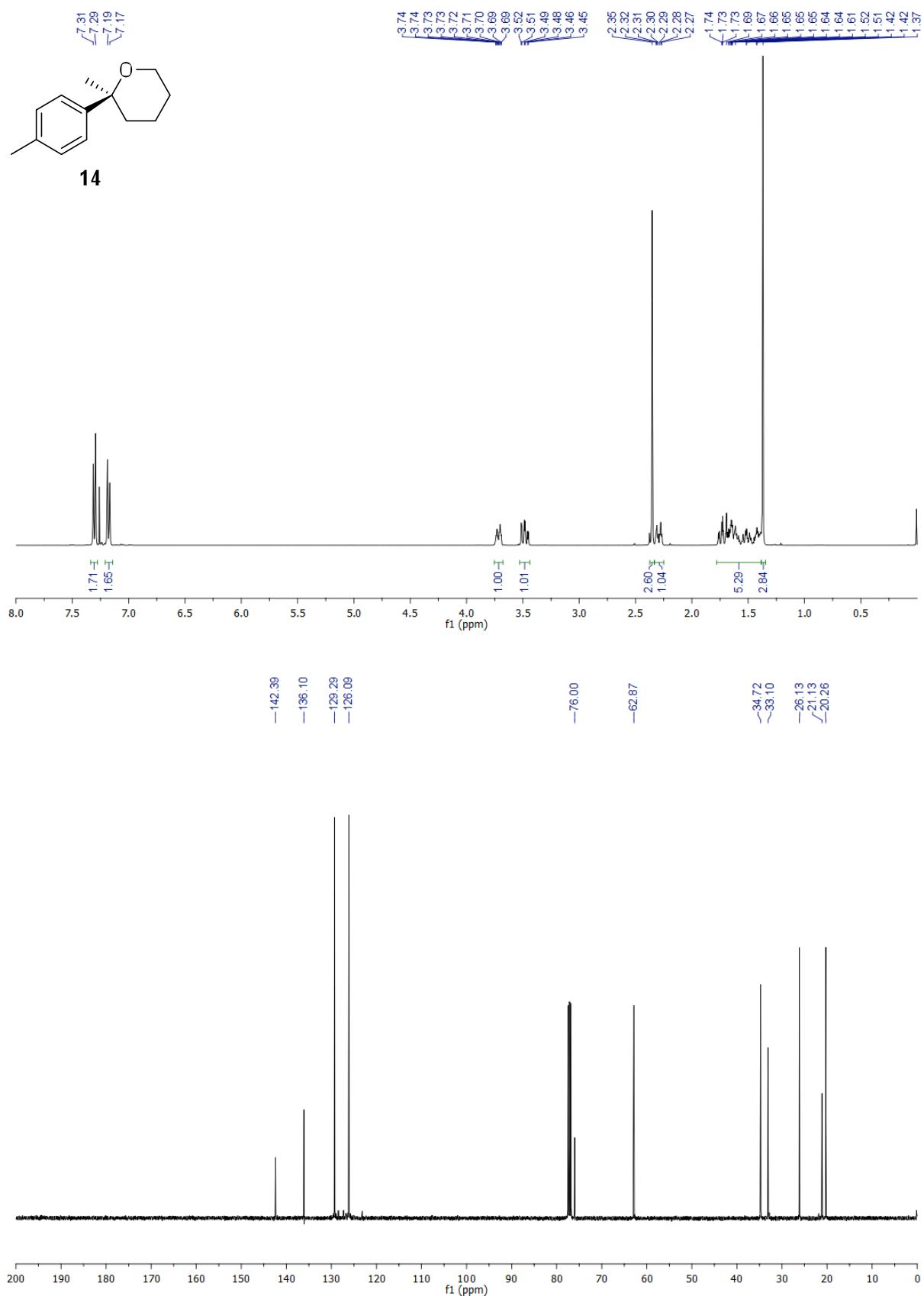
(S)-(-)-Boivinianin A



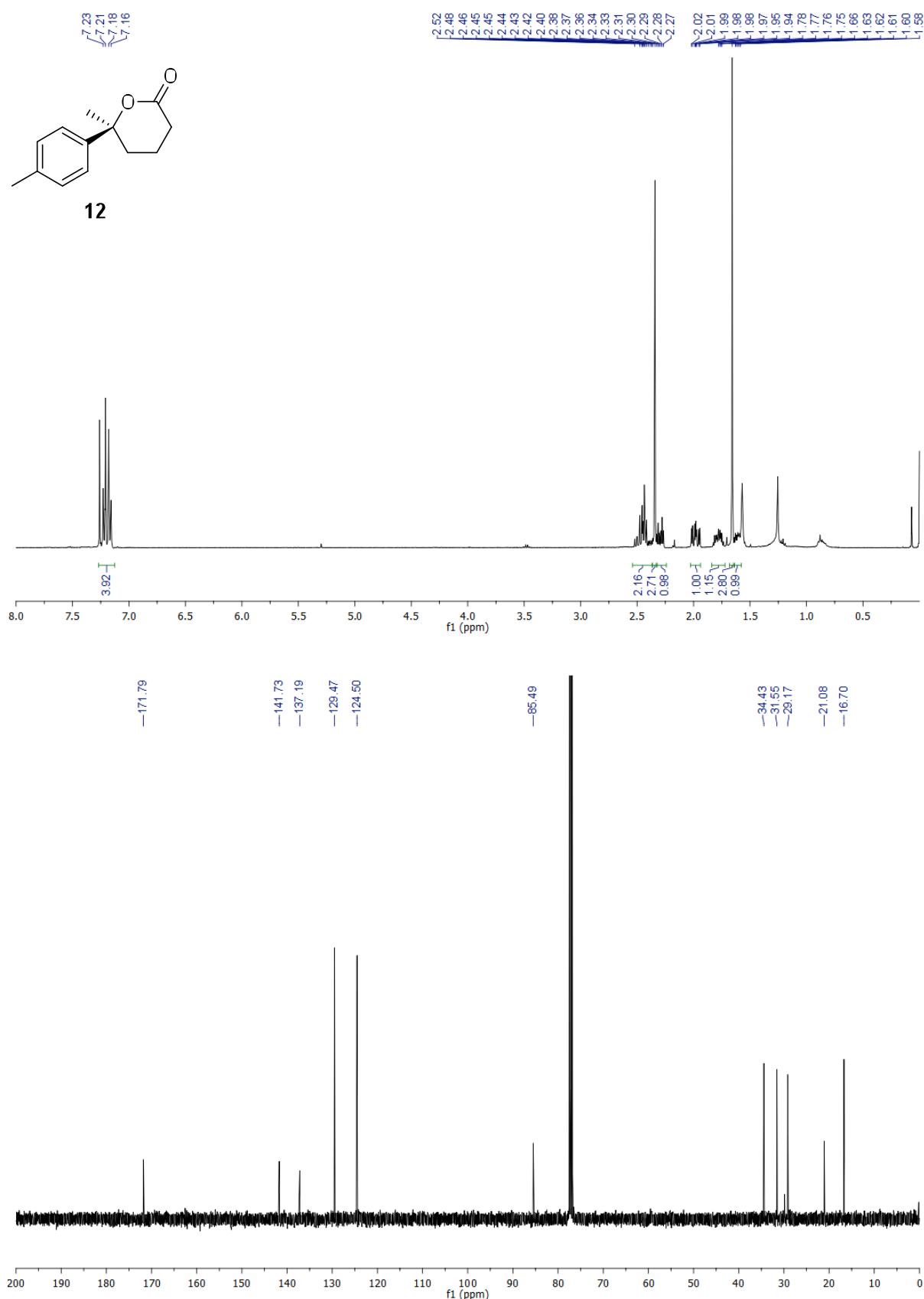
(S)-6-chloro-2-(p-tolyl)hexan-2-ol 13a



(S)-2-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran 14



(S)-6-methyl-6-(p-tolyl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one 12



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