

## Supporting Information

### I<sub>2</sub>- Catalyzed Synthesis of Substituted Imidazoles from vinyl azides and Benzylamines

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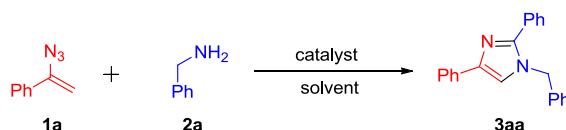
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## General remark

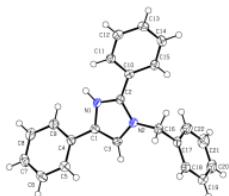
<sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on 400MHz and 100MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. All chemical shifts are given as δ value (ppm) with reference to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. All compounds were further characterized by HRMS; copies of their <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra are provided. Products were purified by flash chromatography on 200–300 mesh silica gels. All melting points were determined without correction. Unless otherwise noted, commercially available reagents and solvents were used without further purification.

**Table 1.** Optimization of reaction condition <sup>a</sup>



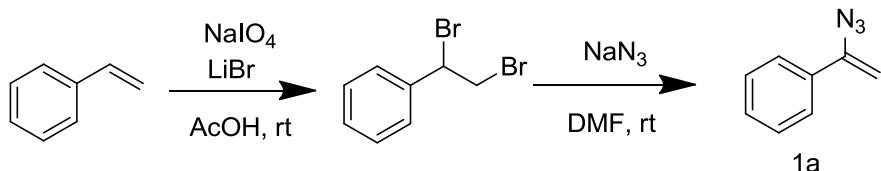
entry	catalyst (mol %)	oxidant	solvent	yields(%) <sup>b</sup>
1	I <sub>2</sub> (220)		DMF	37
2	KI(10)	TBHP	DMA	34
3	TBAI(10)	TBHP	DMA	26
4	I <sub>2</sub> (10)	TBHP	DMF	67
5	I <sub>2</sub> (5)	TBHP	DMF	72
6	-	TBHP	DMA	-
7	I <sub>2</sub> (5)	TBP	DMF	57
8	I <sub>2</sub> (5)	<i>m</i> -CPBA	DMF	48
9 <sup>c</sup>	I <sub>2</sub> (5)	O <sub>2</sub>	DMF	26
10	I <sub>2</sub> (5)	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	DMF	trace
11	I <sub>2</sub> (5)	K <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	DMF	-
12	I <sub>2</sub> (5)	BPO	DMF	43
<b>13</b>	<b>I<sub>2</sub>(5)</b>	<b>TBHP</b>	<b>DMA</b>	<b>76</b>
14	I <sub>2</sub> (5)	TBHP	DMSO	66
15	I <sub>2</sub> (5)	TBHP	toluene	60
16	I <sub>2</sub> (5)	TBHP	MeCN	64

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2a** (1.5 mmol), solvent (2 mL). <sup>b</sup> Yields of isolated products. <sup>c</sup> The reaction was carried out under O<sub>2</sub> (1 atm). Entry in bold highlights optimized reaction conditions, and the reaction time was monitored by TLC. DMF = *N,N*-dimethyl formamide, DMSO = dimethyl sulfoxide, DMA = 2-(dimethylamino)acetaldehyde, TBAI = tetrabutyl ammonium iodide, TBHP = tertbutyl hydroperoxide (5.0–6.0 M in decane), TBP = *di*-tertbutyl peroxide, BPO = benzoyl peroxide.



**Figure 1.** The X-ray structure of 3aa

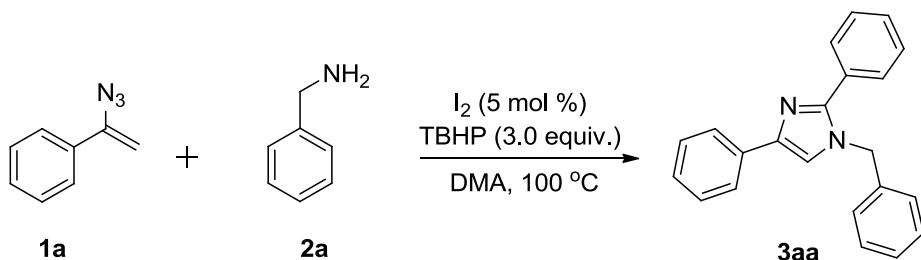
### Synthesis of vinyl azides<sup>1</sup> :



The procedure for dibromination of styrene was slightly modified from Sudalai's method. To a solution of styrene (1.00g, 9.6 mmol) and LiBr (1.82g, 21.2 mmol) in acetic acid (10 mL) was added NaIO<sub>4</sub> (1.02g, 4.8 mmol) portionwise during 15 minutes. The stirring was continued at room temperature for 5 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic layers were washed with saturated aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and brine. It was dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure to give dibromide (in quantitative yield), which can be used without further purification.

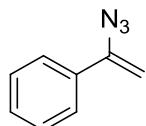
To a solution of dibromide in dry DMF (25 mL) was added NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.87g, 28.8 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature, then diluted with water and extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were washed three times with water, dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation of solvents, the crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; hexane : ethyl acetate = 99 : 1) to give vinyl azide 1a (1.27g, 8.8 mmol) in 92% yield.

### General procedure for synthesis of substituted imidazoles from vinyl azides and benzylamines :



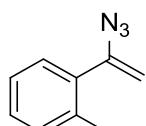
The (1-azidovinyl)benzene (**1a**, 0.5 mmol), phenylmethanamine (**2a**, 1.5 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (0.025 mmol) and TBHP (1.5 mmol) were mixed in DMA (2 mL) and this mixture was at 100 °C for 10 h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and then extracted with ethyl acetate (15 ml × 3). The combined organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was evaporated in vacuo and the crude product was purified by column chromatography, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (10:1) to afford the desired imidazoles (**3aa**).

#### (1-azidovinyl)benzene (**1a**):



Yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 7.56-7.54 (m, 2 H), 7.35-7.34 (m, 3 H), 5.43-5.42 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.95-4.94 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 145.05, 134.29, 129.15, 128.48, 125.59, 98.01.

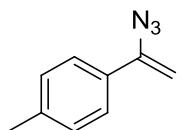
#### 1-(1-azidovinyl)-2-methylbenzene (**1b**):



Yellow solid, melting point: 133-135 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 7.30-7.18 (m, 4 H), 5.05 (d, *J* = 0.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.74 (d, *J* = 0.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C

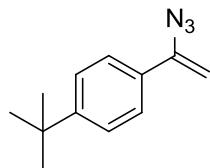
NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 145.44, 136.02, 134.95, 130.43, 129.24, 129.11, 125.90, 102.64, 19.69.

**1-(1-azidovinyl)-4-methylbenzene (1c):**



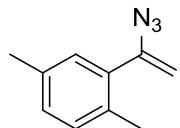
Yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 7.44-7.42 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 7.15-7.13 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 5.36 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.89-4.88 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.34 (s, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 145.06, 139.17, 131.55, 129.17, 125.50, 97.18, 21.25.

**1-(1-azidovinyl)-4-(tert-butyl)benzene (1d):**



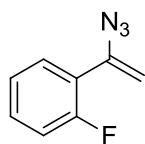
Yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 7.54-7.52 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 7.42-7.40 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H) 5.43 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.95-4.94 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.35 (s, 9 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 152.36, 144.98, 131.51, 125.42, 125.33, 97.29, 34.70, 31.26.

**2-(1-azidovinyl)-1,4-dimethylbenzene (1e):**



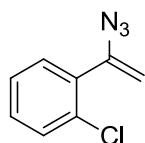
Yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 7.12-7.08 (m, 3 H), 5.03-5.02 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1 H), 4.71 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.34 (s, 3 H), 2.32 (s, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 145.57, 135.43, 134.74, 132.80, 130.35, 129.84, 129.82, 102.44, 20.87, 19.21.

**1-(1-azidovinyl)-2-fluorobenzene (1f):**



Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.50\text{-}7.46$  (m, 1 H),  $7.34\text{-}7.29$  (m, 1 H),  $7.16\text{-}7.07$  (m, 2 H),  $5.42\text{-}5.41$  (m, 1 H),  $5.18\text{-}5.17$  (m, 1 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 160.01$  (d,  $J = 250$  Hz),  $139.68$  (d,  $J = 3$  Hz),  $130.56$  (d,  $J = 9$  Hz),  $129.28$  (d,  $J = 2$  Hz),  $124.16$  (d,  $J = 4$  Hz),  $122.38$  (d,  $J = 11$  Hz),  $116.19$  (d,  $J = 22$  Hz),  $103.59$  (d,  $J = 9$  Hz).

**1-(1-azidovinyl)-2-chlorobenzene (1g):**



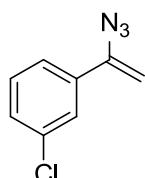
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.44\text{-}7.42$  (m, 1 H),  $7.38\text{-}7.25$  (m, 3 H),  $5.13$  (d,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1 H),  $4.90\text{-}4.89$  (d,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 143.16$ ,  $134.14$ ,  $132.72$ ,  $130.89$ ,  $130.39$ ,  $129.99$ ,  $126.95$ ,  $104.11$ .

**1-(1-azidovinyl)-2-bromobenzene (1h):**



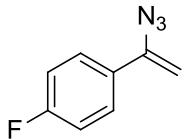
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.63\text{-}7.61$  (m, 1 H),  $7.37\text{-}7.31$  (m, 2 H),  $7.27\text{-}7.22$  (m, 1 H),  $5.11$  (d,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1 H),  $4.85$  (d,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 144.55$ ,  $136.29$ ,  $133.15$ ,  $131.00$ ,  $130.56$ ,  $127.54$ ,  $122.27$ ,  $103.95$ .

**1-(1-azidovinyl)-3-chlorobenzene (1i):**



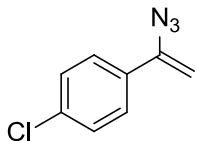
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.54$  (m, 1 H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 1 H), 7.32-7.25 (m, 2 H), 5.46-5.45 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1 H), 4.99-4.98 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 143.84$ , 136.03, 134.53, 129.70, 129.12, 125.76, 123.65, 98.81.

**1-(1-azidovinyl)-4-fluorobenzene (1j):**



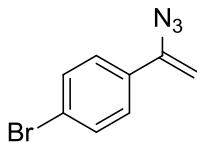
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.54$ -7.49 (m, 2 H), 7.05-6.99 (m, 2 H), 5.36-5.35 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1 H), 4.92-4.91 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 163.28$  (d,  $J = 247$  Hz), 144.16, 130.46 (d,  $J = 3$  Hz), 127.45 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz), 115.29 (d,  $J = 22$  Hz), 97.57 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz).

**1-(1-azidovinyl)-4-chlorobenzene (1k):**



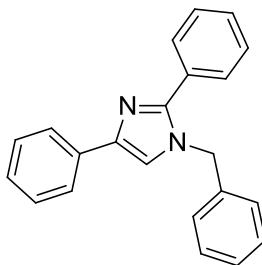
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.48$ -7.45 (m, 2 H), 7.31-7.23 (m, 2 H), 5.41 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1 H), 4.95-4.94 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 144.07$ , 135.06, 132.73, 128.64, 126.85, 98.14.

**1-(1-azidovinyl)-4-bromobenzene (1l):**



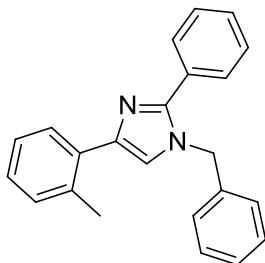
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.46$ -7.42 (m, 2 H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 2 H), 5.41-5.40 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1 H), 4.94-4.93 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 144.12$ , 133.17, 131.61, 127.12, 123.36, 98.21.

**1-benzyl-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole(3aa)<sup>2</sup>:**



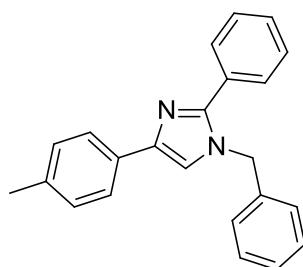
Yellow Solid, mp: 123-124 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 7.85-7.83 (m, 2 H), 7.62-7.60 (m, 2 H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 3 H), 7.38-7.29 (m, 5 H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 2 H), 7.14-7.12 (m, 2 H), 5.21 (s, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 148.79, 141.69, 137.02, 134.22, 130.62, 129.19, 129.17, 128.79, 128.69, 128.14, 126.96, 126.82, 125.08, 116.99, 50.65. HRMS calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 311.1543; found: 311.1547.

**1-benzyl-2-phenyl-4-(o-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (3ba)<sup>3</sup>:**



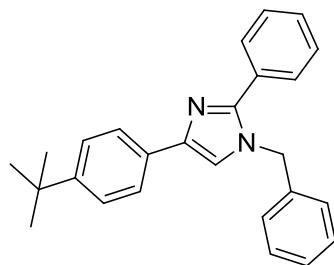
Yellow Solid, mp: 112 – 114 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 7.97-7.95 (m, 1 H), 7.64-7.60 (m, 2 H), 7.43-7.31 (m, 6 H), 7.23-7.12 (m, 6 H), 5.28 (s, 2 H), 2.50 (s, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 147.73, 140.86, 137.08, 134.84, 133.44, 130.69, 130.51, 129.02, 129.00, 128.91, 128.60, 128.57, 127.92, 126.78, 126.50, 125.93, 119.62, 50.44, 21.92. HRMS calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 325.1699; found: 325.1693.

**1- benzyl-2-phenyl-4-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (3ca)<sup>2</sup>:**



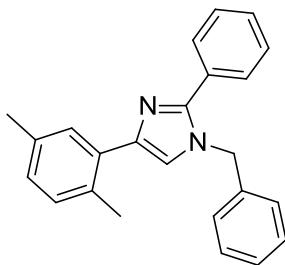
Yellow Solid, mp: 138 - 140°C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.73-7.71 (m, 2 H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 2 H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 3 H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 3 H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 3 H), 7.13-7.11 (m, 2 H), 5.19 (s, 2 H), 2.34 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 148.49, 141.65, 136.97, 136.45, 131.29, 130.56, 129.26, 129.06, 129.02, 128.96, 128.64, 127.97, 126.69, 124.87, 116.44, 50.47, 21.27. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  325.1699; found: 325.1694.

**1-benzyl-4-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3da):**



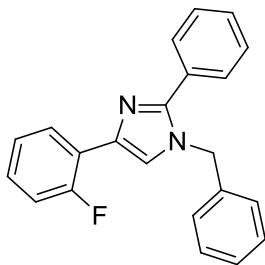
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.77-7.75 (m, 2 H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 2 H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 5 H), 7.36-7.28 (m, 3 H), 7.22 (s, 1 H), 7.12-7.10 (m, 2 H), 5.21 (s, 2 H), 1.33 (s, 9 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 149.78, 148.51, 141.61, 137.04, 131.29, 130.58, 129.06, 129.00, 128.94, 128.63, 127.93, 126.60, 125.45, 124.67, 50.44, 34.56, 31.39. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  367.2169; found: 367.2167.

**1-benzyl-4-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ea):**



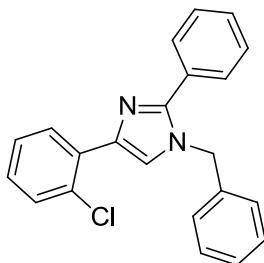
Yellow Solid, mp: 70-72°C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.82$  (s, 1 H), 7.64-7.60 (m, 2 H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 3 H), 7.38-7.24 (m, 3 H), 7.14-7.10 (m, 4 H), 7.00-6.98 (m, 1 H), 5.26 (s, 2 H), 2.44 (s, 3 H), 2.35 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 147.72, 140.83, 137.12, 125.38, 133.11, 131.62, 130.68, 130.53, 129.05, 129.02, 128.92, 128.61, 127.91, 127.55, 126.49, 119.64, 50.43, 21.51, 20.99$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  339.1856; found: 339.1855.

**1-benzyl-4-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3fa):**



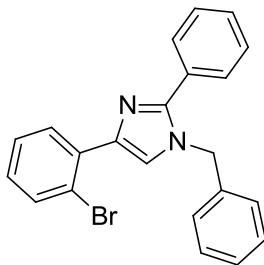
Yellow solid, mp: 68-70 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 8.32$ -8.27 (m, 1 H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 2 H), 7.48-7.47 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz, 1 H), 7.42-7.40 (m, 3 H), 7.36-7.27 (m, 3 H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 2 H), 7.13-7.05 (m, 3 H), 5.23 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 159.74$  (d,  $J = 246$  Hz), 148.10, 136.87, 135.01 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz), 130.36, 129.11, 129.05 (d,  $J = 1$  Hz), 128.70, 127.98, 127.75, 127.71, 127.66, 127.57, 126.58, 124.32 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz), 121.89 (d,  $J = 13$  Hz), 121.21 (d,  $J = 14$  Hz), 115.40 (d,  $J = 22$  Hz), 50.51. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{FN}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  329.1449; found: 329.1445.

**1-benzyl-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ga):**



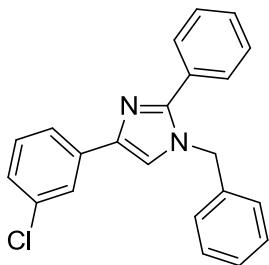
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 8.32\text{-}8.30$  (m, 1 H), 7.75 (s, 1 H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 2 H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 4 H), 7.36-7.29 (m, 4 H), 7.19-7.13 (m, 3 H), 5.27 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 147.75, 137.51, 136.86, 132.39, 130.79, 130.30, 130.14, 129.71, 129.04, 128.66, 127.97, 127.49, 126.90, 126.52, 121.63, 50.56$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClN}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  345.1153; found: 345.1147, 347.1114.

**1-benzyl-4-(2-bromophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ha):**



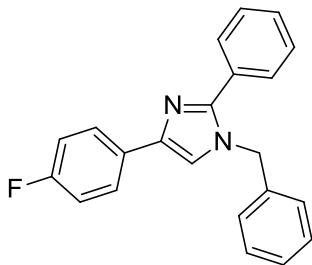
Yellow solid, mp: 106-108 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 8.21\text{-}8.19$  (dd,  $J = 8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.6$  Hz, 1 H), 7.79 (s, 1 H), 7.62-7.59 (m, 3 H), 7.42-7.40 (m, 3 H), 7.38-7.29 (m, 4 H), 7.16-7.14 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 2 H), 7.11-7.07 (m, 1 H), 5.27 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 147.73, 138.78, 136.87, 134.49, 133.52, 130.51, 130.29, 129.04, 129.03, 128.64, 127.96, 127.86, 127.44, 126.53, 121.25, 120.70, 50.57$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrN}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  389.0648; found: 389.0641, 391.0619.

**1-benzyl-4-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ia):**



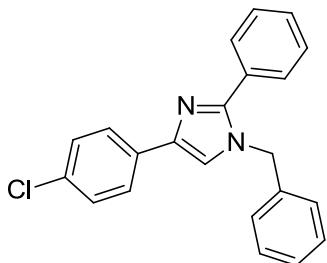
Yellow solid, mp: 96-97 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.84$  (s, 1 H), 7.70-7.68 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1 H), 7.62-7.60 (m, 2 H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 3 H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 3 H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2 H), 7.20-7.18 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1 H), 7.14-7.13 (m, 2 H), 5.22 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 148.88$ , 140.24, 136.65, 135.98, 134.57, 130.25, 129.82, 129.20, 129.10, 129.03, 128.74, 128.44, 128.12, 126.74, 124.98, 122.97, 117.41, 50.59. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClN}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  345.1153; found: 345.1146, 347.1114.

**1-benzyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ja)<sup>2</sup>:**



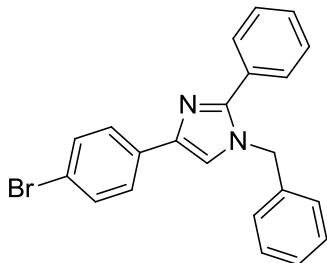
Yellow Solid, mp: 106-107 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.81$ -7.77 (m, 2 H), 7.62-7.59 (m, 2 H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 3 H), 7.38-7.31 (m, 3 H), 7.19 (s, 1 H), 7.15-7.13 (m, 2 H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 2 H), 5.21 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 162.02$  (d,  $J = 243$  Hz), 148.70, 140.76, 136.79, 130.38 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz), 129.04 (d,  $J = 3$  Hz), 128.68, 128.04, 126.71, 126.53 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz), 116.42, 115.38 (d,  $J = 21$  Hz), 50.54. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{FN}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  329.1449; found: 329.1448.

**1-benzyl-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ka)<sup>2</sup>:**



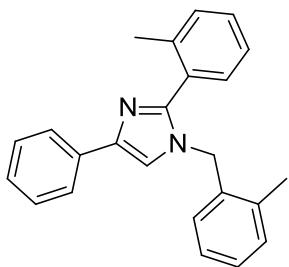
Yellow Solid, mp: 126-128 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.76\text{-}7.74$  (m, 2 H), 7.61-7.58 (m, 2 H), 7.42-7.41 (m, 3 H), 7.38-7.31 (m, 5 H), 7.22 (s, 1 H), 7.13-7.12 (m, 2 H), 5.20 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 148.82, 140.49, 136.70, 132.66, 132.31, 130.29, 129.16, 129.08, 129.02, 128.72, 128.68, 128.10, 126.73, 126.19, 116.98, 50.57$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClN}_2$  [M+H] $^+$  345.1152; found: 345.1146, 347.1113.

**1-benzyl-4-(4-bromophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3la)<sup>2</sup>:**



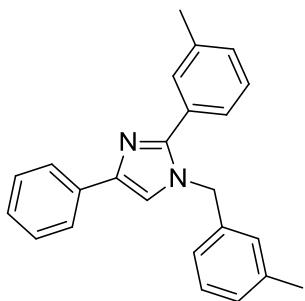
Yellow Solid, mp: 162-164 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.71\text{-}7.68$  (m, 2 H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 2 H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 2 H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 3 H), 7.38-7.29 (m, 3 H), 7.23 (s, 1 H), 7.14-7.12 (m, 2 H), 5.20 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 148.84, 140.50, 136.68, 133.11, 131.60, 130.28, 129.16, 129.08, 129.02, 128.71, 128.10, 126.74, 126.52, 120.43, 117.02, 50.58$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrN}_2$  [M+H] $^+$  389.0648; found: 389.0643, 391.0618.

**1-(2-methylbenzyl)-4-phenyl-2-(o-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (3ab):**



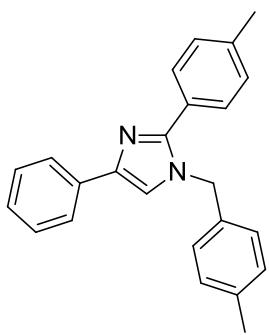
Yellow solid, mp: 104-106 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.83-7.81 (m, 2 H), 7.56-7.27 (m, 5 H), 7.24-7.17 (m, 3 H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 3 H), 6.97-6.96 (d,  $J$  = 4 Hz, 1 H), 4.90 (s, 2 H), 2.27 (s, 3 H), 2.09 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 148.07, 141.00, 138.72, 135.84, 134.50, 134.30, 130.59, 130.56, 130.43, 130.20, 129.49, 128.54, 128.18, 127.96, 126.68, 126.48, 125.72, 124.83, 115.19, 48.42, 19.93, 18.97. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  339.1856; found: 339.1859.

**1-(3-methylbenzyl)-4-phenyl-2-(m-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (3ac):**



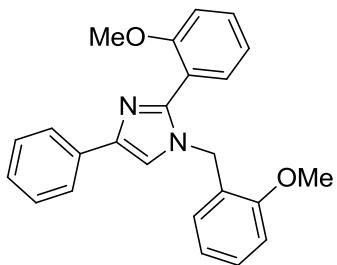
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.85-7.83 (m, 2 H), 7.49 (s, 1 H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 3 H), 7.31-7.21 (m, 5 H), 7.13-7.11 (d,  $J$  = 8 Hz, 1 H), 6.95-6.93 (m, 2 H), 5.16 (s, 2 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 2.32 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 148.82, 141.39, 138.81, 138.47, 136.90, 134.17, 130.37, 130.04, 129.78, 128.90, 128.74, 128.55, 128.41, 127.45, 126.77, 125.86, 124.95, 123.88, 116.82, 50.52, 21.46, 21.44. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  339.1856; found: 339.1854.

**1-(4-methylbenzyl)-4-phenyl-2-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (3ad)<sup>3</sup>:**



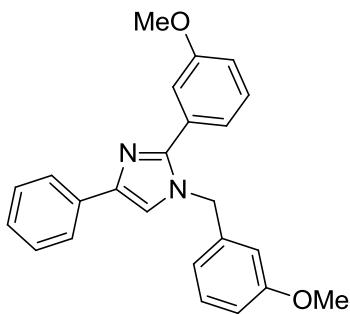
Yellow solid, mp: 94-95 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.83-7.81 (m, 2 H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 2 H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 2 H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 4 H), 7.15-7.13 (m, 2 H), 7.02-7.00 (m, 2 H), 5.13 (s, 2 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 148.73, 141.34, 138.92, 137.73, 134.24, 133.97, 129.68, 129.33, 128.96, 128.54, 127.68, 126.73, 124.94, 116.68, 50.28, 21.41, 21.16. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  339.1856; found: 339.1858.

**1-(2-methoxybenzyl)-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ae):**



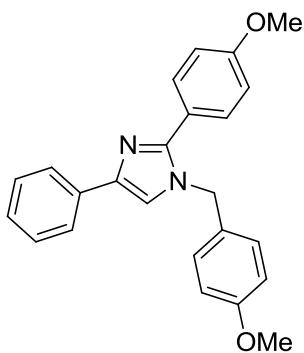
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.82-7.80 (m, 2 H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 1 H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 1 H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2 H), 7.24 (s, 1 H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 2 H), 7.05-7.01 (m, 1 H), 6.95-6.81 (m, 4 H), 4.98 (s, 2 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 3.70 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 157.65, 156.86, 146.20, 144.11, 134.53, 132.65, 130.84, 129.04, 128.93, 128.40, 126.38, 125.38, 124.82, 120.87, 120.54, 120.28, 116.16, 110.85, 110.22, 55.35, 55.26, 45.57. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  371.1754; found: 371.1755.

**1-(3-methoxybenzyl)-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3af)<sup>3</sup>:**



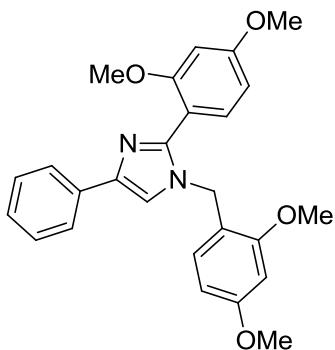
Yellow solid, mp: 120-121 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.85-7.83 (m, 2 H), 7.38-7.21 (m, 6 H), 7.17-7.15 (m, 2 H), 6.97-6.94 (m, 1 H), 6.85-6.82 (m, 1 H), 6.74-6.72 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.66 (s, 1 H), 5.19 (s, 2 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 3.75 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 160.14, 159.71, 148.45, 141.48, 138.53, 134.05, 131.64, 130.15, 129.68, 128.56, 126.84, 124.96, 121.25, 118.87, 117.01, 115.42, 114.10, 113.19, 112.45, 55.29, 55.28, 50.45. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  371.1754; found: 371.1759.

**1-(4-methoxybenzyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ag)<sup>3</sup>:**



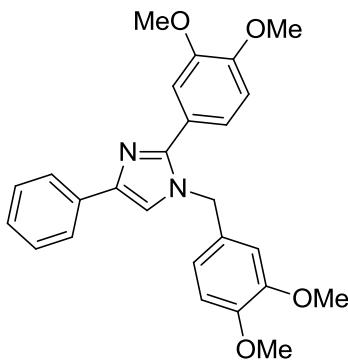
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.82-7.80 (m, 2 H), 7.53-7.51 (m, 2 H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 2 H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 2 H), 7.04-7.02 (m, 2 H), 6.94-6.92 (m, 2 H), 6.85-6.83 (m, 2 H), 5.07 (s, 2 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 160.16, 159.29, 148.43, 141.14, 134.25, 130.45, 128.93, 128.56, 128.14, 126.71, 124.89, 123.05, 116.50, 114.35, 114.06, 55.37, 55.34, 49.98. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  371.1754; found: 371.1755.

**1-(2,4-dimethoxybenzyl)-2-(2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ah):**



Yellow solid, mp: 105-106 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.80\text{-}7.78$  (m, 2 H), 7.42-7.40 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1 H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 2 H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 2 H), 6.84-6.81 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1 H), 6.59-6.56 (m, 1 H), 6.52-6.51 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz, 1 H), 6.41-6.36 (m, 2 H), 4.88 (s, 2 H), 3.84 (s, 3 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H), 3.71 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 161.99, 160.68, 158.82, 158.03, 145.96, 140.75, 134.63, 133.29, 129.95, 128.35, 126.25, 124.76, 117.87, 115.83, 113.11, 104.80, 104.07, 98.52, 98.35, 55.49, 55.43, 55.39, 55.32, 45.11$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  431.1965; found: 431.1963.

**1-(3,4-dimethoxybenzyl)-2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ai):**

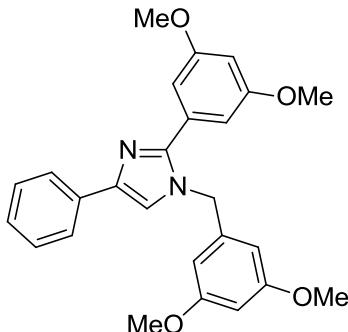


Yellow solid, mp: 182-184 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.35\text{-}7.32$  (m, 5 H), 7.32 (s, 1 H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 2 H), 6.87-6.85 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1 H), 6.77-6.75 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1 H), 6.48-6.40 (m, 1 H), 6.39 (s, 1 H), 5.22 (s, 2 H), 3.90 (s, 3 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 3.75 (s, 3 H), 3.72 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 149.52, 149.36, 149.19, 148.83, 148.24, 134.92, 130.55, 130.39, 128.82, 128.72, 128.07, 128.01,$

123.75, 121.11, 118.28, 112.03, 111.26, 110.86, 108.98, 55.90, 55.78, 55.72, 48.22.

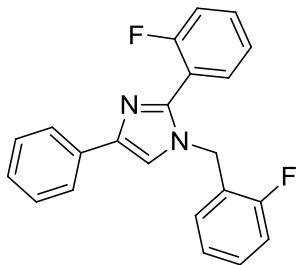
HRMS calcd for  $C_{26}H_{27}N_2O_4$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 431.1965; found: 431.1963.

**1-(3,5-dimethoxybenzyl)-2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3aj):**



Yellow solid, mp: 98-99 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.85-7.83 (d,  $J$  = 8 Hz, 2 H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 2 H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 2 H), 6.76 (d,  $J$  = 2 Hz, 2 H), 6.51-6.50 (m, 1 H), 6.38-6.37 (d,  $J$  = 4 Hz, 1 H), 6.29-6.28 (d,  $J$  = 4 Hz, 2 H), 5.15 (s, 2 H), 3.74 (s, 6 H), 3.73 (s, 6 H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm):  $\delta$  = 161.36, 160.83, 148.36, 141.39, 139.34, 134.02, 132.07, 128.55, 126.85, 124.97, 117.12, 106.95, 104.72, 101.72, 99.52, 55.42, 55.39, 50.58. HRMS calcd for  $C_{26}H_{27}N_2O_4$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 431.1965; found: 431.1967.

**1-(2-fluorobenzyl)-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3al):**

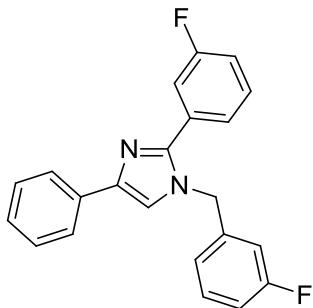


Yellow solid, mp: 72-74 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.82-7.80 (m, 2 H), 7.62-7.58 (m, 1 H), 7.48-7.42 (m, 1 H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 2 H), 7.29-7.16 (m, 5 H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 2 H), 6.97-6.93 (m, 1 H), 5.12 (m, 2 H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm):  $\delta$  = 160.38 (d,  $J$  = 246 Hz), 160.17 (d,  $J$  = 247 Hz), 143.42, 142.14, 133.88, 132.69 (d,  $J$  = 3 Hz), 131.57 (d,  $J$  = 9 Hz), 130.09 (d,  $J$  = 8 Hz), 129.51 (d,  $J$  = 3 Hz), 128.56,

126.91, 124.90, 124.75 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz), 124.56 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz), 123.58 (d,  $J = 14$  Hz), 118.73 (d,  $J = 15$  Hz), 116.46, 115.92 (d,  $J = 21$  Hz), 115.60 (d,  $J = 21$  Hz), 44.41 (m).

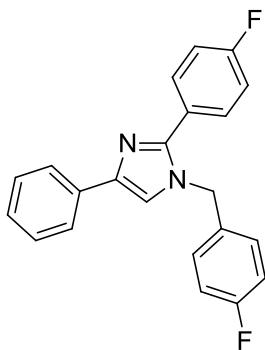
HRMS calcd for  $C_{22}H_{17}F_2N_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 347.1355; found: 347.1358.

**1-(3-fluorobenzyl)-2-(3-fluorophenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3am):**



Yellow solid, mp: 95-96 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 7.84-7.82(m, 2 H), 7.41-7.30 (m, 6 H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 2 H), 7.14-7.09 (m 1 H), 7.03-6.99 (m, 1 H), 6.90-6.89 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H), 6.83-6.81 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1 H), 5.22 (m, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 163.21 (d,  $J = 247$  Hz), 162.74 (d,  $J = 246$  Hz), 147.20, 141.97, 139.09 (d,  $J = 7$  Hz), 133.69, 132.27 (d,  $J = 9$  Hz), 130.82 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz), 130.37 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz), 128.65, 127.13, 124.98, 124.47 (d,  $J = 3$  Hz), 122.12 (d,  $J = 3$  Hz), 117.21, 116.24 (d,  $J = 3$  Hz), 116.02 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz), 115.19 (d,  $J = 21$  Hz), 113.66 (d,  $J = 22$  Hz), 50.05. HRMS calcd for  $C_{22}H_{17}F_2N_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 347.1355; found: 347.1352.

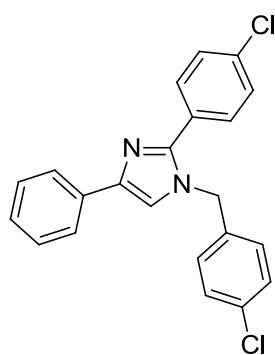
**1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3an)<sup>2</sup>:**



Yellow Solid, mp: 82-83°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ = 7.98-7.96 (m, 2 H), 7.72-7.67 (m, 2 H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 2 H), 7.41-7.38 (m 2 H), 7.29-7.16 (m, 6 H),

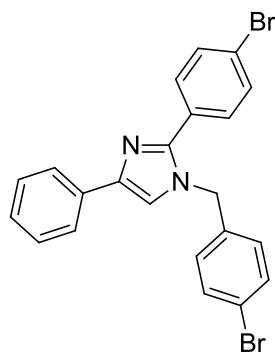
5.29 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 163.15 (d,  $J$  = 247 Hz), 162.43 (d,  $J$  = 246 Hz), 147.49, 141.58, 133.76, 132.33 (d,  $J$  = 3 Hz), 130.87 (d,  $J$  = 9 Hz), 128.55, 128.30 (d,  $J$  = 8 Hz), 126.93, 126.51 (d,  $J$  = 3 Hz), 124.84, 116.66, 116.49 (d,  $J$  = 22 Hz), 155.73 (d,  $J$  = 22 Hz), 49.80. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2$  [M+H] $^+$  347.1355; found: 347.1359.

**1-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ao)<sup>2</sup>:**



Yellow Solid, mp: 100-101°C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.82-7.80 (m, 2 H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 2 H), 7.39-7.37 (m, 4 H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 2 H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 2 H), 7.03-7.01 (m, 2 H), 5.14 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 147.38, 141.91, 135.26, 135.08, 134.06, 133.73, 130.18, 129.33, 128.99, 128.76, 128.66, 127.92, 127.11, 124.95, 117.06, 49.95. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2$  [M+H] $^+$  379.0764; found: 379.0757, 381.0724, 383.0691.

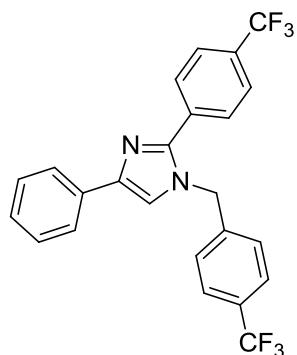
**1-(4-bromobenzyl)-2-(4-bromophenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ap):**



Yellow solid, mp: 100-101 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  = 7.82-7.80 (m, 2 H), 7.56-7.54 (m, 2 H), 7.49-7.43 (m, 4 H), 7.39-7.35 (m 2 H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 2 H),

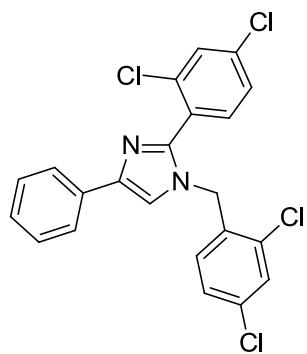
6.98-6.96 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 2 H), 5.14 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 147.41, 141.98, 135.60, 133.68, 132.29, 131.95, 130.40, 129.16, 128.66, 128.20, 127.13, 124.94, 123.54, 122.14, 117.09, 50.01$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  466.9753; found: 466.9744, 468.9722, 470.9701.

**4-phenyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-imidazole (3aq):**



Yellow solid, mp: 107-108 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.85\text{-}7.83$  (m, 2 H), 7.72-7.69 (m, 4 H), 7.67-7.63 (m, 2 H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 2 H), 7.30 (s, 1 H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 3 H), 5.31 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 147.07, 142.46, 140.43, 133.59, 133.46, 131.21, 130.89, 130.76, 130.44, 129.10, 128.71, 127.33, 126.73, 126.23$  (q,  $J = 4$  Hz,), 125.77 (q,  $J = 4$  Hz), 125.24, 125.17, 125.00, 122.53, 122.46, 117.49, 101.65, 50.18. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_6\text{N}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  447.1291; found: 447.1287.

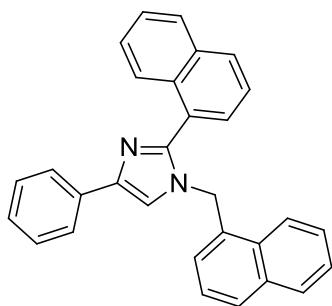
**1-(2,4-dichlorobenzyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ar):**



Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.80\text{-}7.78$  (m, 2 H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz, 1 H), 7.40-7.30 (m, 5 H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 2 H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 1 H), 6.85-6.83 (d,  $J = 21$

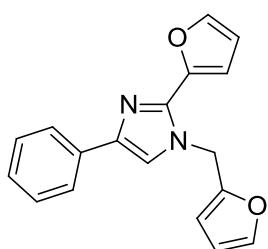
$= 8$  Hz, 1 H), 5.04 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 144.81, 142.07, 136.62, 135.50, 134.89, 133.76, 133.56, 133.52, 132.41, 129.91, 129.73, 129.70, 128.64, 128.44, 127.66, 127.57, 127.14, 124.91, 115.93, 47.76$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{Cl}_4\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  446.9984; found: 446.9978, 448.9946, 450.9915, 451.9947, 453.9916.

**2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1-(naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3as):**



Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.98\text{-}7.90$  (m, 3 H), 7.85-7.78 (m, 4 H), 7.66-7.59 (m, 2 H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 2 H), 7.51-7.40 (m, 3 H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 3 H), 7.25-7.18 (m, 3 H), 5.39 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 147.07, 141.48, 134.14, 133.85, 133.66, 132.90, 131.95, 130.64, 130.02, 128.95, 128.89, 128.70, 128.55, 128.38, 128.01, 127.06, 126.79, 126.71, 126.36, 126.11, 125.93, 125.83, 125.44, 125.10, 124.90, 122.51, 115.87, 48.60$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  411.1856; found: 411.1859.

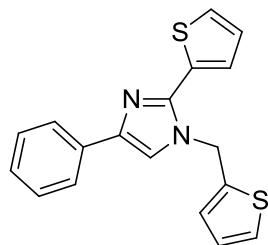
**2-(furan-2-yl)-1-(furan-2-ylmethyl)-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3at):**



Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.81\text{-}7.79$  (m, 2 H), 7.56-7.55 (m,  $J = 4$  Hz, 1 H), 7.40-7.34 (m, 3 H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 2 H), 6.94-6.93 (m, 1 H), 6.55-6.54 (m, 1 H), 6.35-6.34 (m, 1 H), 6.30-6.29 (m, 1 H), 5.38 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100

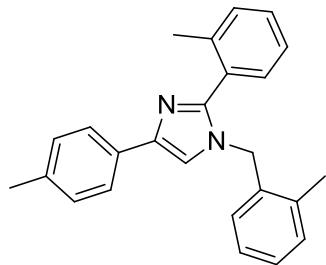
MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 149.32, 145.46, 143.06, 142.78, 141.75, 139.11, 133.73, 128.51, 126.95, 125.01, 116.65, 111.60, 110.66, 110.19, 109.00, 43.92$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  291.1128; found: 291.1126.

**4-phenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1-(thiophen-2-ylmethyl)-1H-imidazole (3au):**



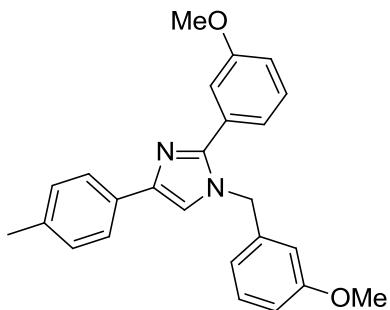
Yellow solid, mp: 92-93 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.82\text{-}7.80$  (m, 2 H), 7.42-7.41 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz, 1 H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 2 H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 3 H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 2 H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 1 H), 6.99-6.94 (m, 2 H), 5.44 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 142.05, 141.80, 138.71, 133.70, 131.92, 128.55, 127.55, 127.31, 127.25, 127.08, 127.00, 126.41, 126.06, 125.01, 116.78, 45.89$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{S}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  323.0671; found: 323.0675.

**1-(2-methylbenzyl)-2-(o-tolyl)-4-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (3cb):**



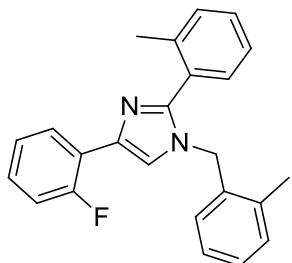
Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.71\text{-}7.69$  (m, 2 H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 3 H), 7.24-7.09 (m, 7 H), 6.97-6.95 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1 H), 4.90 (s, 2 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H), 2.27 (s, 3 H), 2.09 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 147.89, 141.08, 138.73, 136.27, 135.82, 134.57, 131.50, 130.56, 130.52, 130.44, 130.28, 129.42, 129.21, 128.13, 127.94, 126.45, 125.68, 124.75, 114.70, 48.37, 21.24, 19.92, 18.96$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  353.2011; found: 353.2019.

**1-(3-methoxybenzyl)-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (3cf):**



Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.74\text{-}7.2$  (m, 2 H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 1 H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2 H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 4 H), 6.96-6.94 (m, 1 H), 6.85-6.83 (m, 1 H), 6.75-6.73 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1 H), 6.67 (s, 1 H), 5.19 (s, 2 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 3.75 (s, 3 H), 2.35 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 160.13, 159.70, 148.28, 141.58, 138.62, 136.46, 131.72, 131.27, 130.13, 129.65, 129.25, 124.88, 121.25, 118.87, 116.58, 115.36, 114.08, 113.18, 112.41, 55.28, 55.27, 50.41, 21.26$ . HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  385.1910; found: 385.1915.

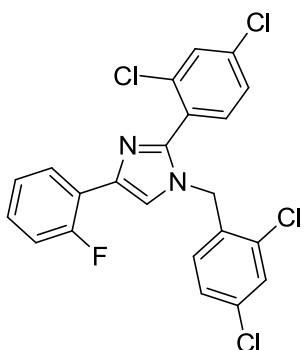
**4-(2-fluorophenyl)-1-(2-methylbenzyl)-2-(o-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (3fb):**



Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 8.29\text{-}7.26$  (m, 1 H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 2 H), 7.44-7.43 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz, 1 H), 7.24-7.13 (m, 6 H), 7.09-7.01 (m, 3 H), 5.17(s, 2 H), 2.38 (s, 3 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 159.71$  (d,  $J = 246$  Hz), 148.18, 139.01, 137.68, 134.79 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz), 133.93, 129.66, 129.34, 128.34 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz), 127.48 (d,  $J = 9$  Hz), 126.59, 124.28 (d,  $J = 3$  Hz), 121.00 (d,  $J = 15$  Hz), 115.35 (d,  $J = 22$  Hz), 50.28, 21.39, 21.13. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{FN}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  357.1762; found: 357.1760.

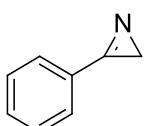
**1-(2,4-dichlorobenzyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-(2-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazole**

**(3fq):**



Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 8.22\text{-}8.18$  (m, 1 H), 7.52-7.51 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1 H), 7.46-7.45 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz, 1 H), 7.39-7.30 (m, 3 H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 3 H), 7.11-7.06(m, 1 H), 6.84-6.82 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1 H), 5.07 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 159.70$  (d,  $J = 245$  Hz), 144.32, 136.69, 135.56 (d,  $J = 5$  Hz), 134.86, 133.68, 133.44, 132.35, 129.71 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz), 129.67, 128.33, 127.95 (d,  $J = 9$  Hz), 127.59 (d,  $J = 7$  Hz), 124.34, 121.41 (d,  $J = 14$  Hz), 120.26 (d,  $J = 14$  Hz), 115.45 (d,  $J = 22$  Hz), 47.79. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{14}\text{Cl}_4\text{FN}_2$  [M+H] $^+$  464.9890; found: 464.9881, 466.9850, 468.9817, 469.9851, 471.9824.

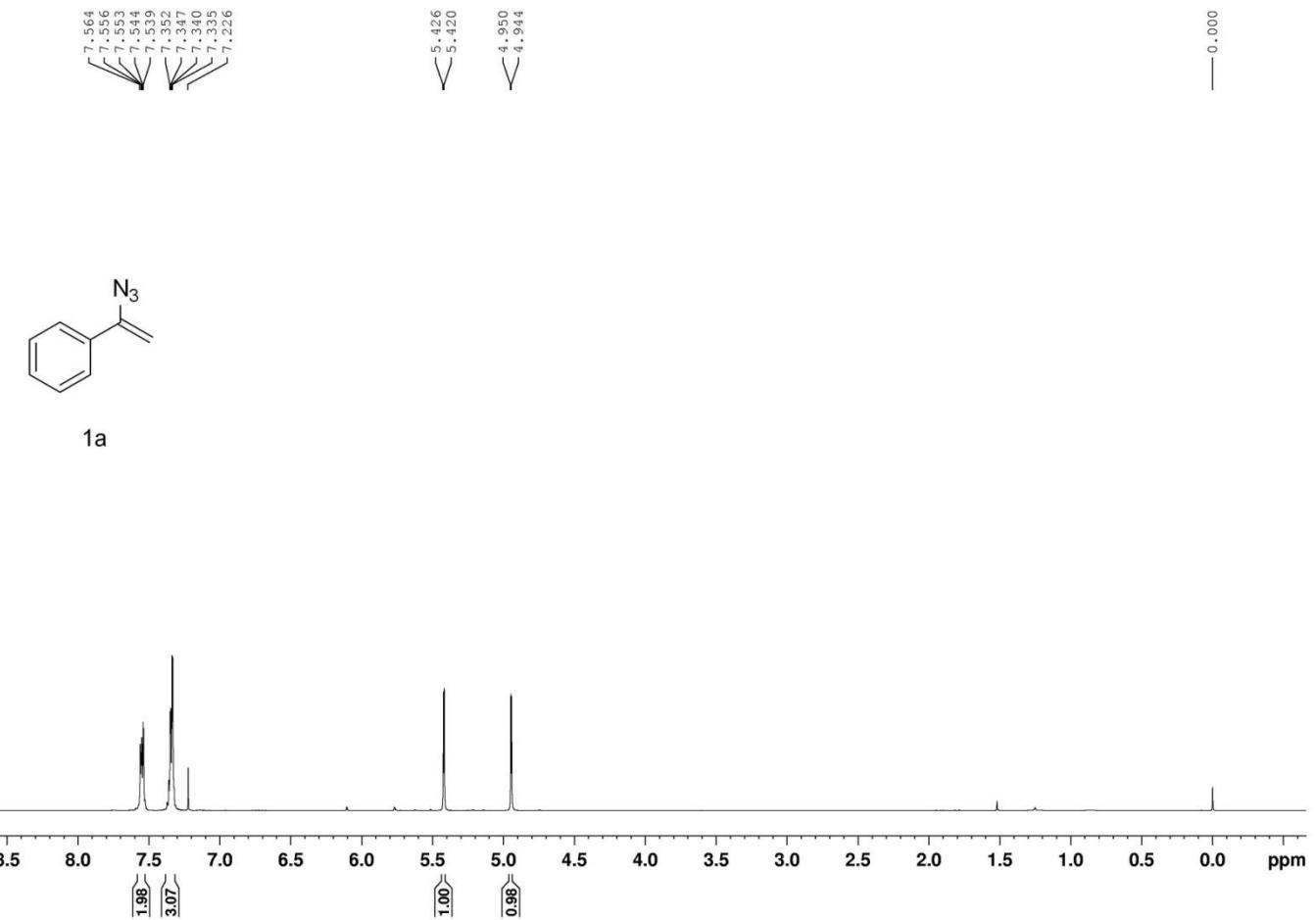
**3-phenyl-2H-azirine (4)<sup>1</sup>:**

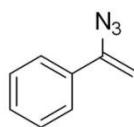


Yellow liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 7.92\text{-}7.90$  (m, 2 H), 7.61-7.53 (m, 3 H), 1.79 (d,  $J = 0.8$  Hz, 1 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta = 165.80$ , 132.94, 129.60, 129.07, 125.50, 19.70. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{N}$  [M+H] $^+$  118.0651; found: 118.0650.

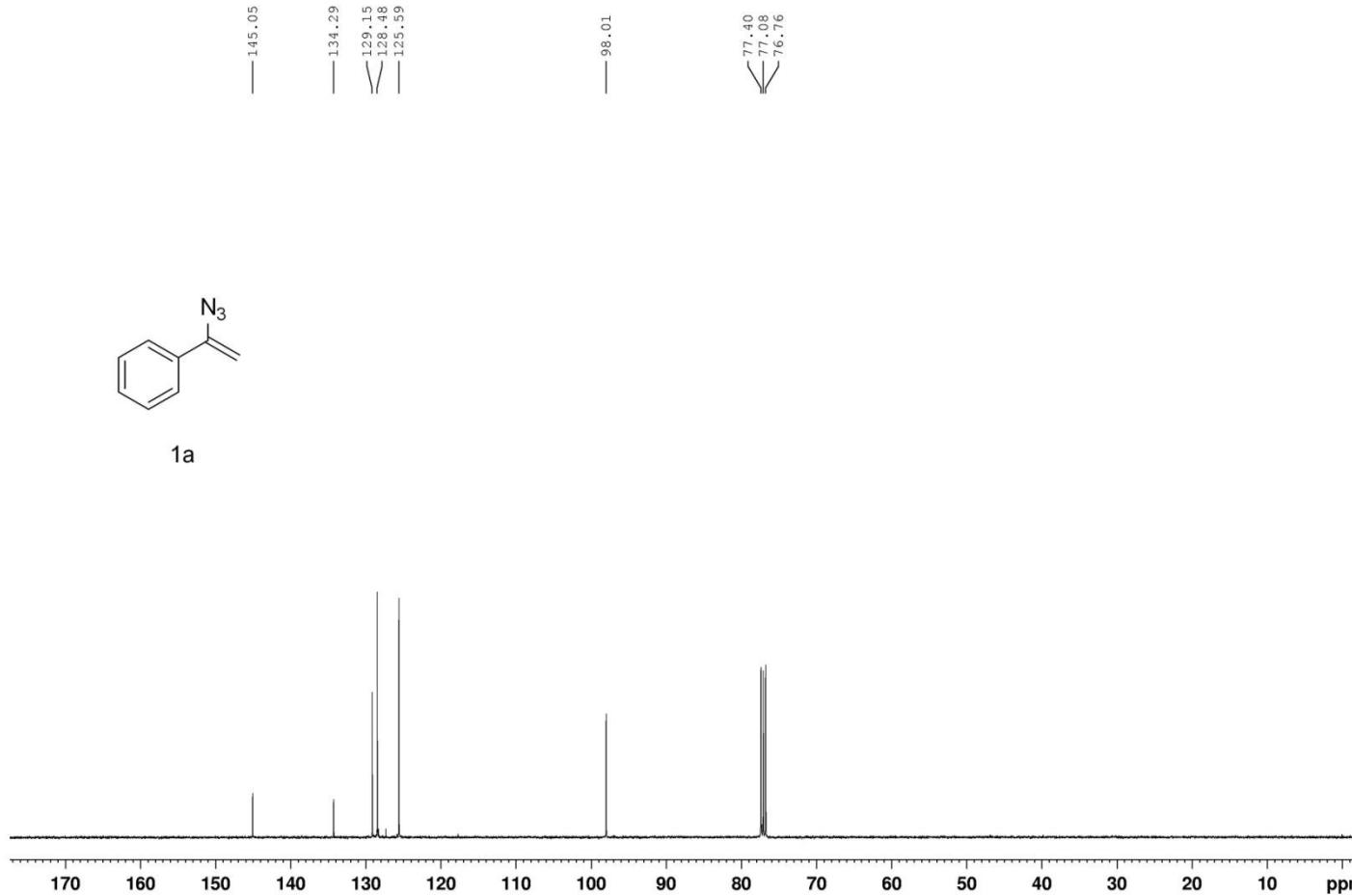
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- (1) Donthiri, R. R.; Pappula, V.; Reddy, N. N. K.; Bairagi, D.; Adimurthy, S. *J. Org. Chem.* **2014**, *79*, 11277.
- (2) Cai, Z.-J.; Wang, S.-Y.; Ji, S.-J. *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 6068.
- (3) Huang, H.; Ji, X.; Wu, W.; Jiang, H. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2014**, *355*, 170.





1a

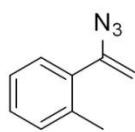


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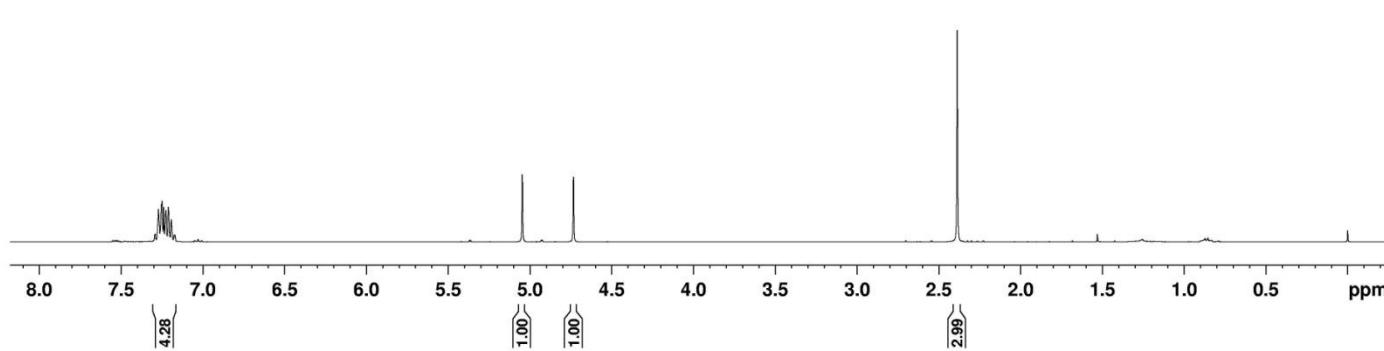
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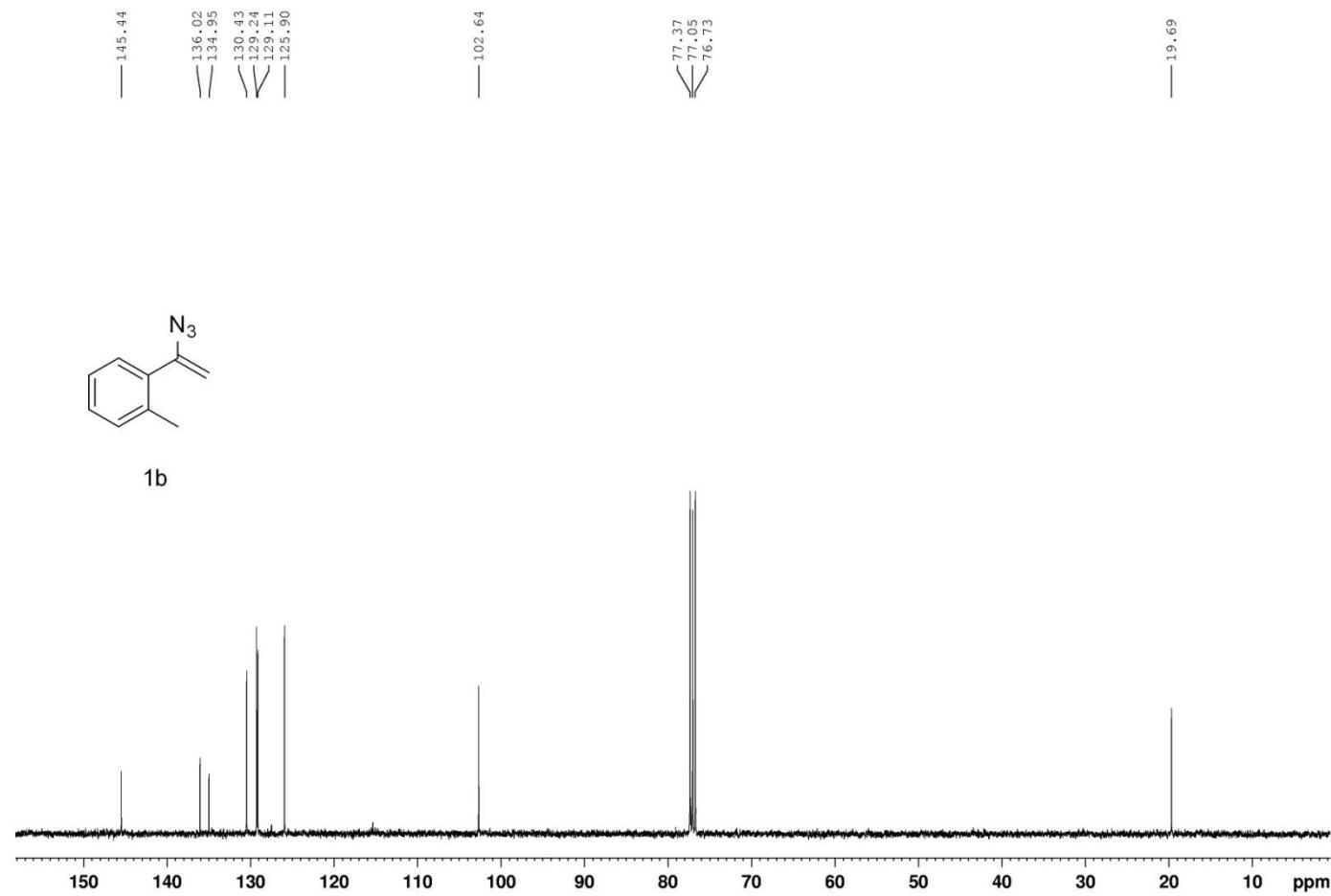
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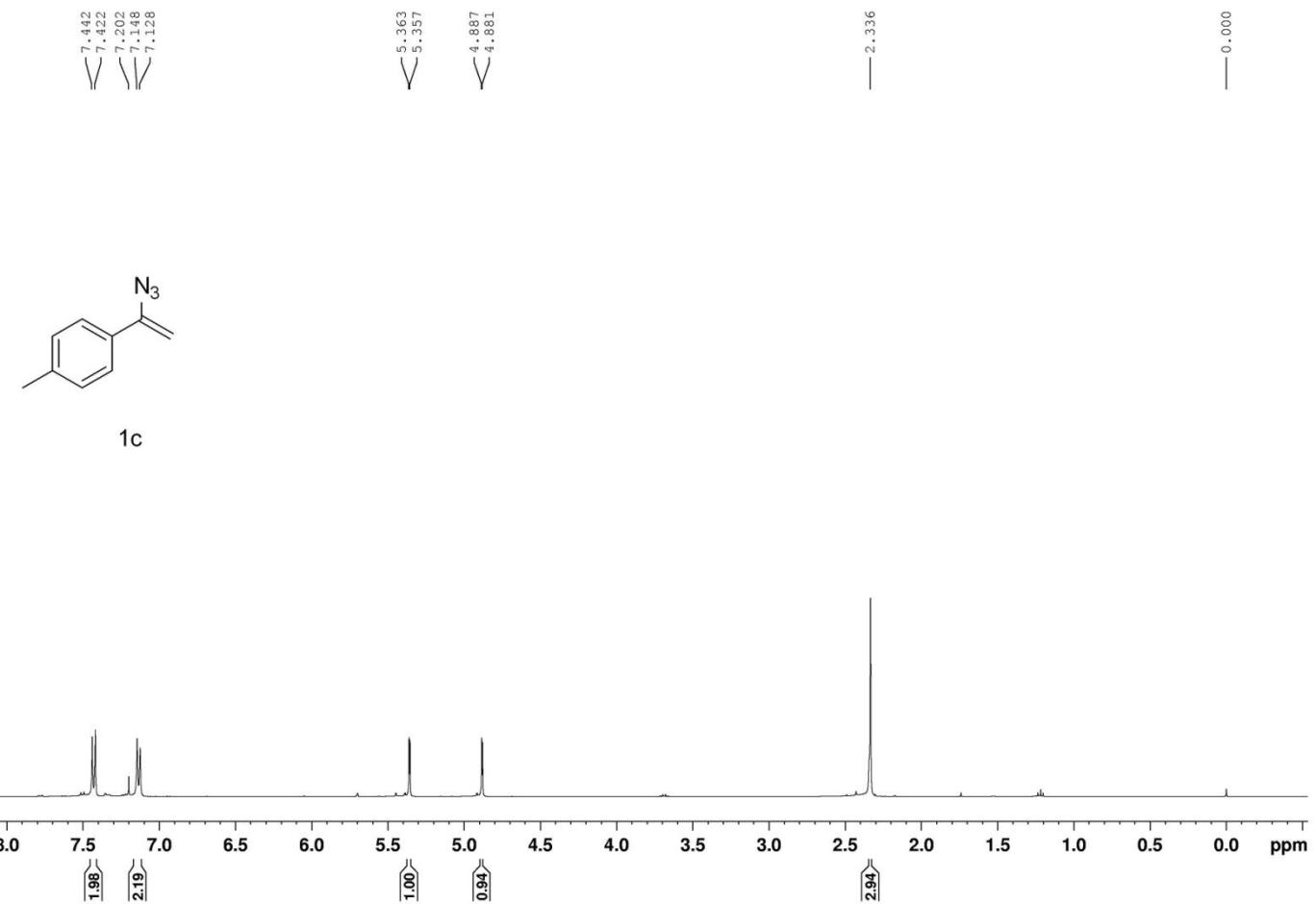
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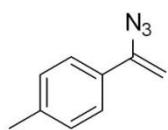


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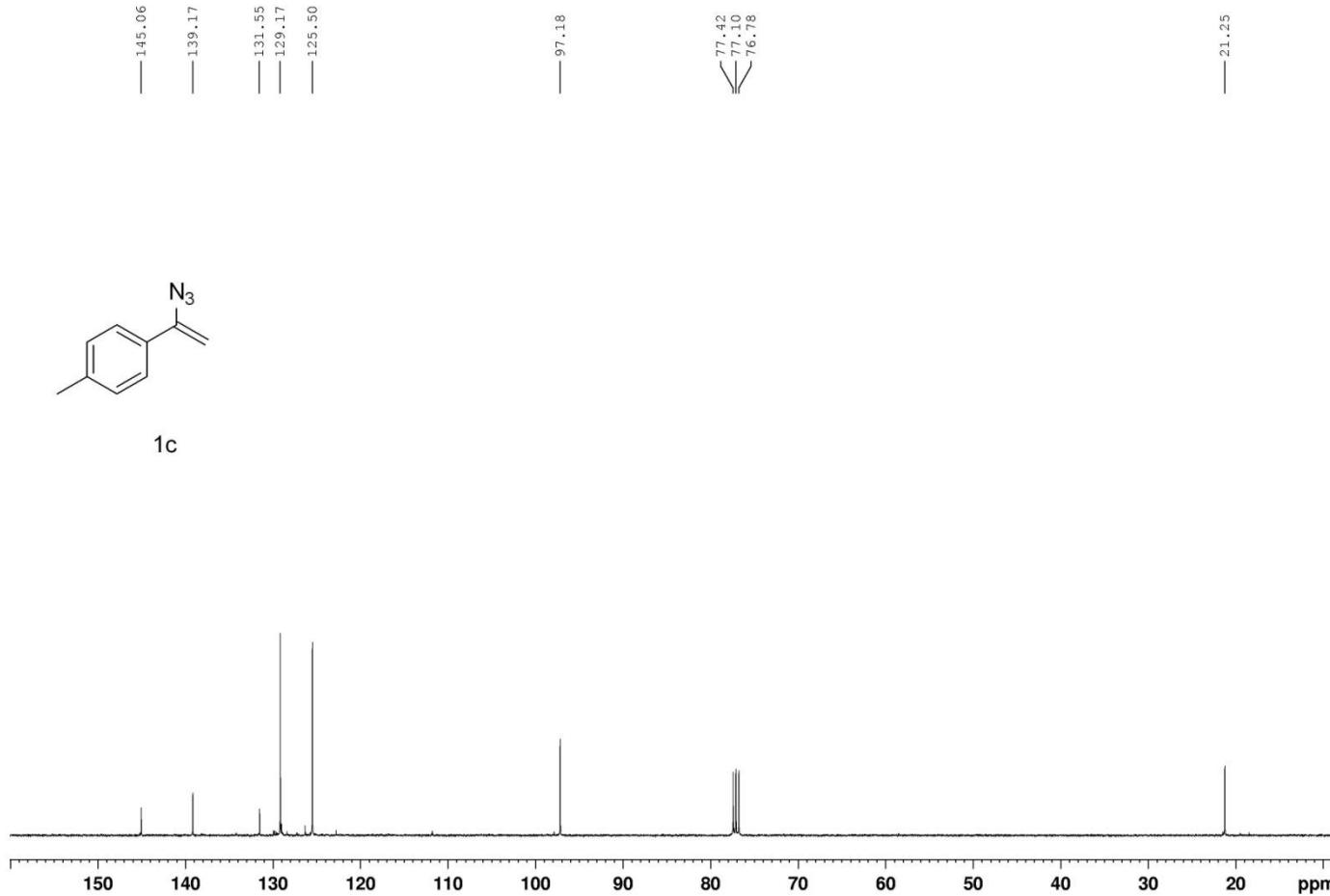








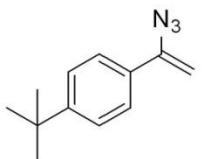
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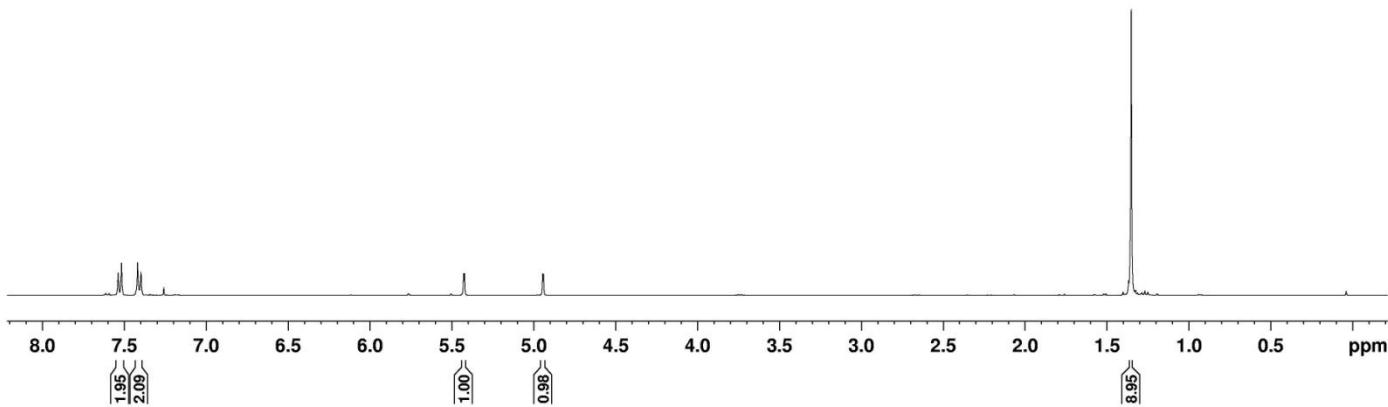
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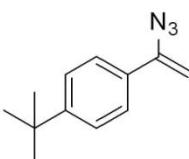
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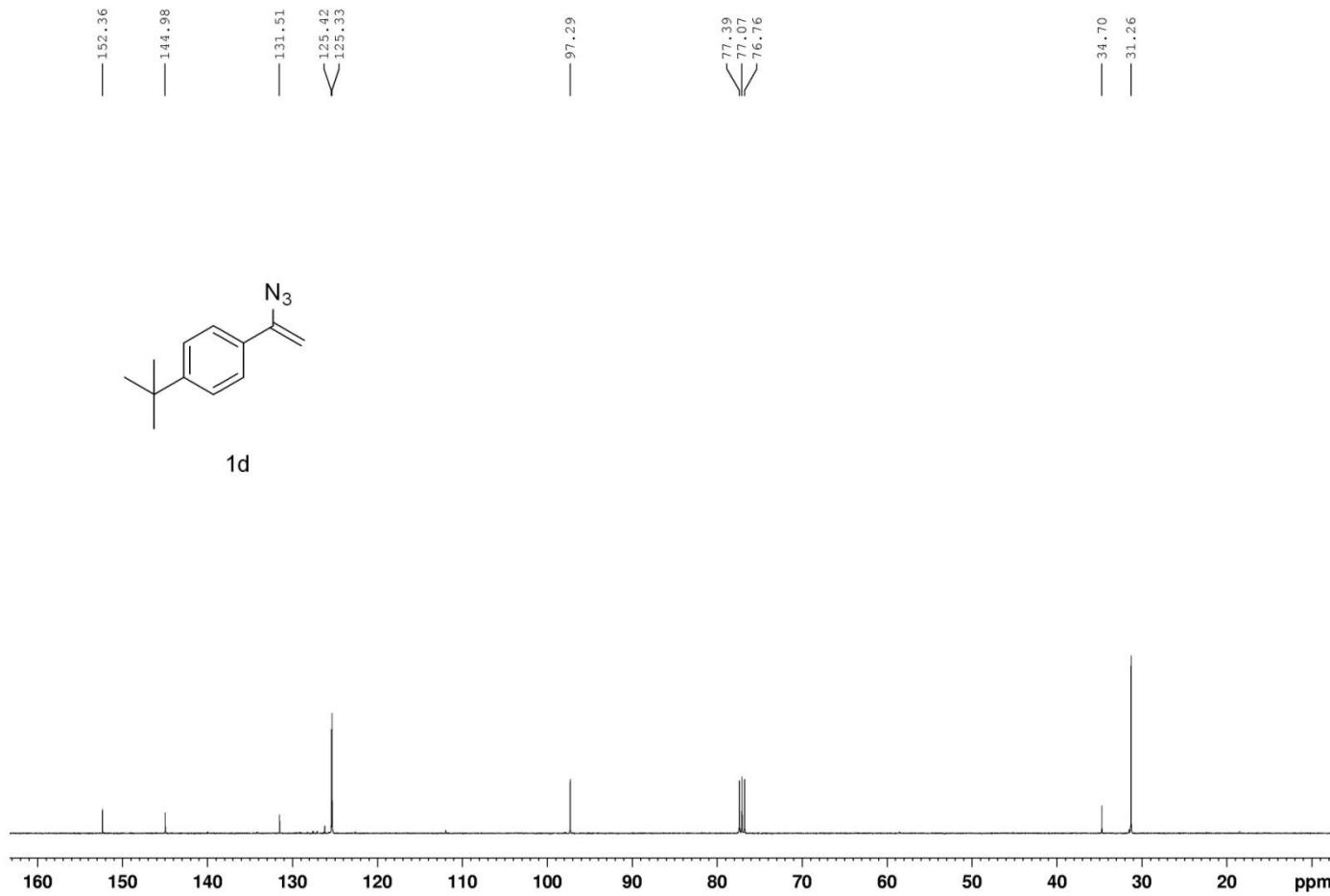


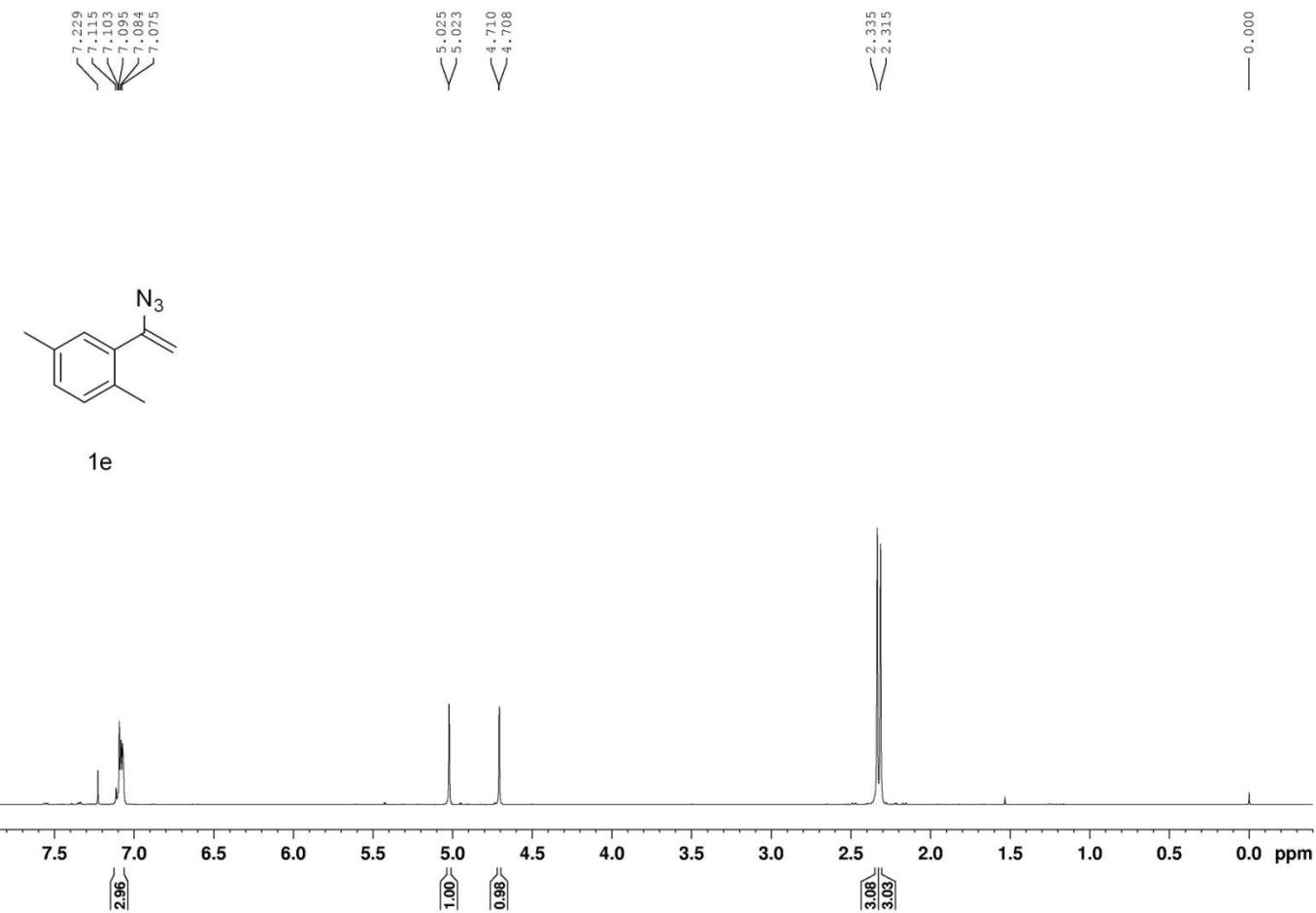
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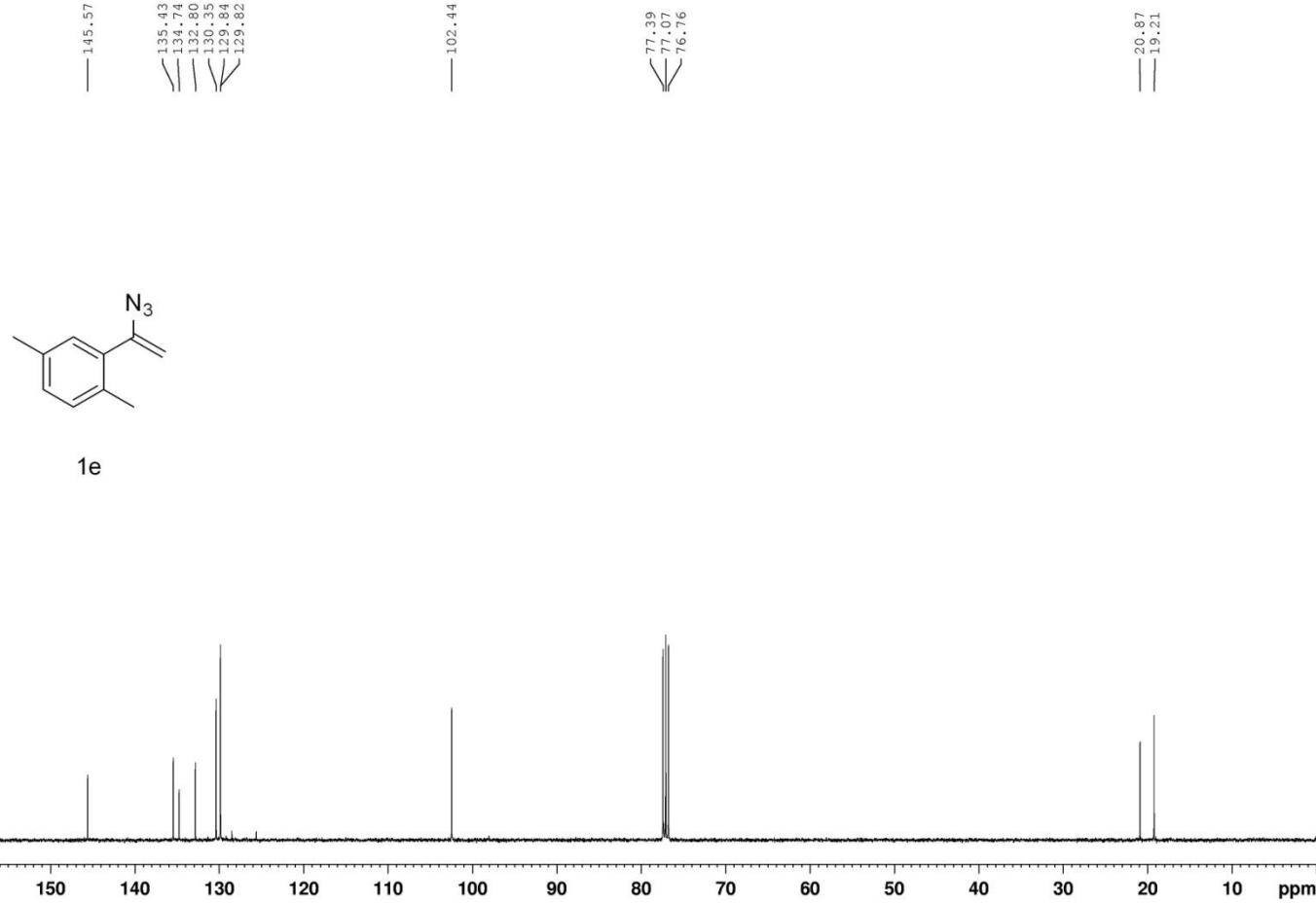


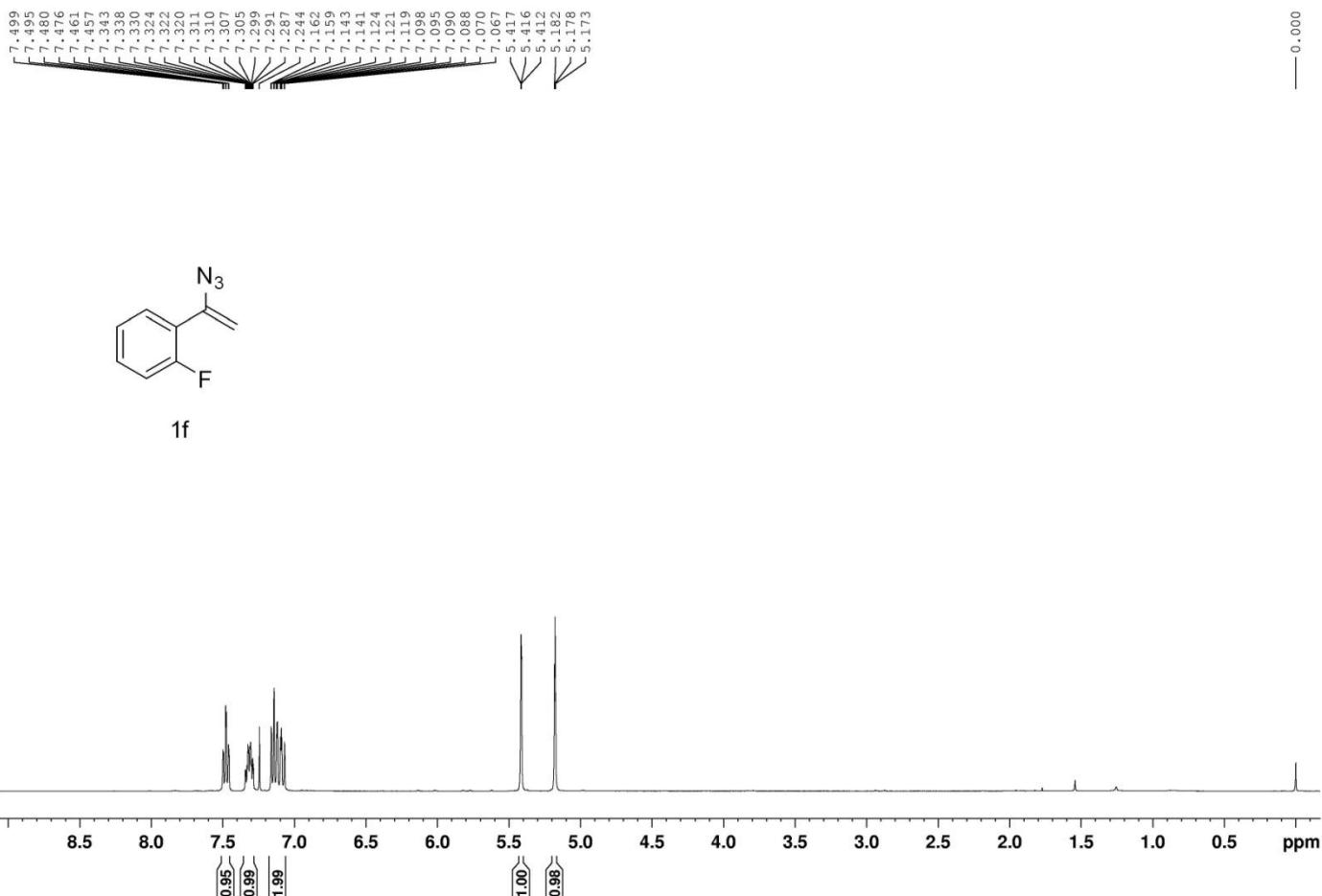


1d









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— 158.76

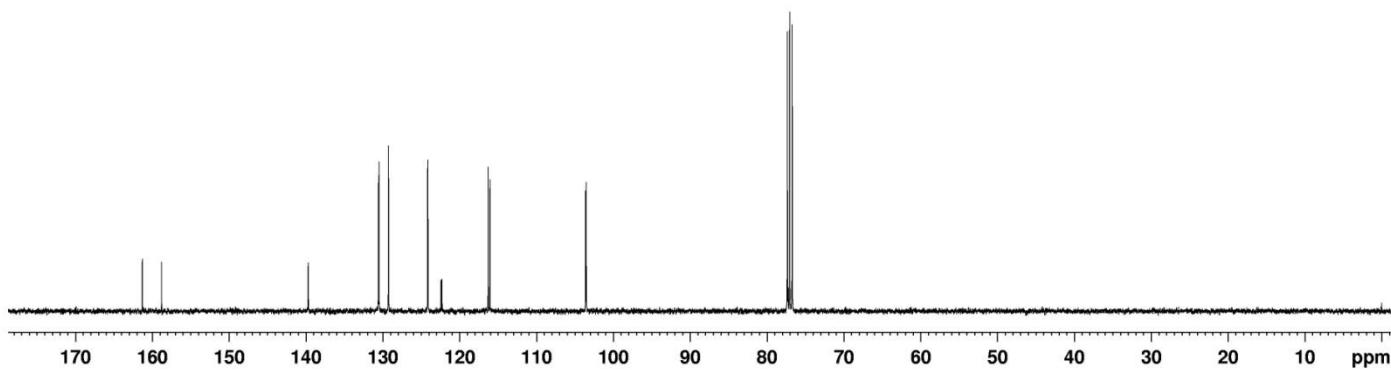
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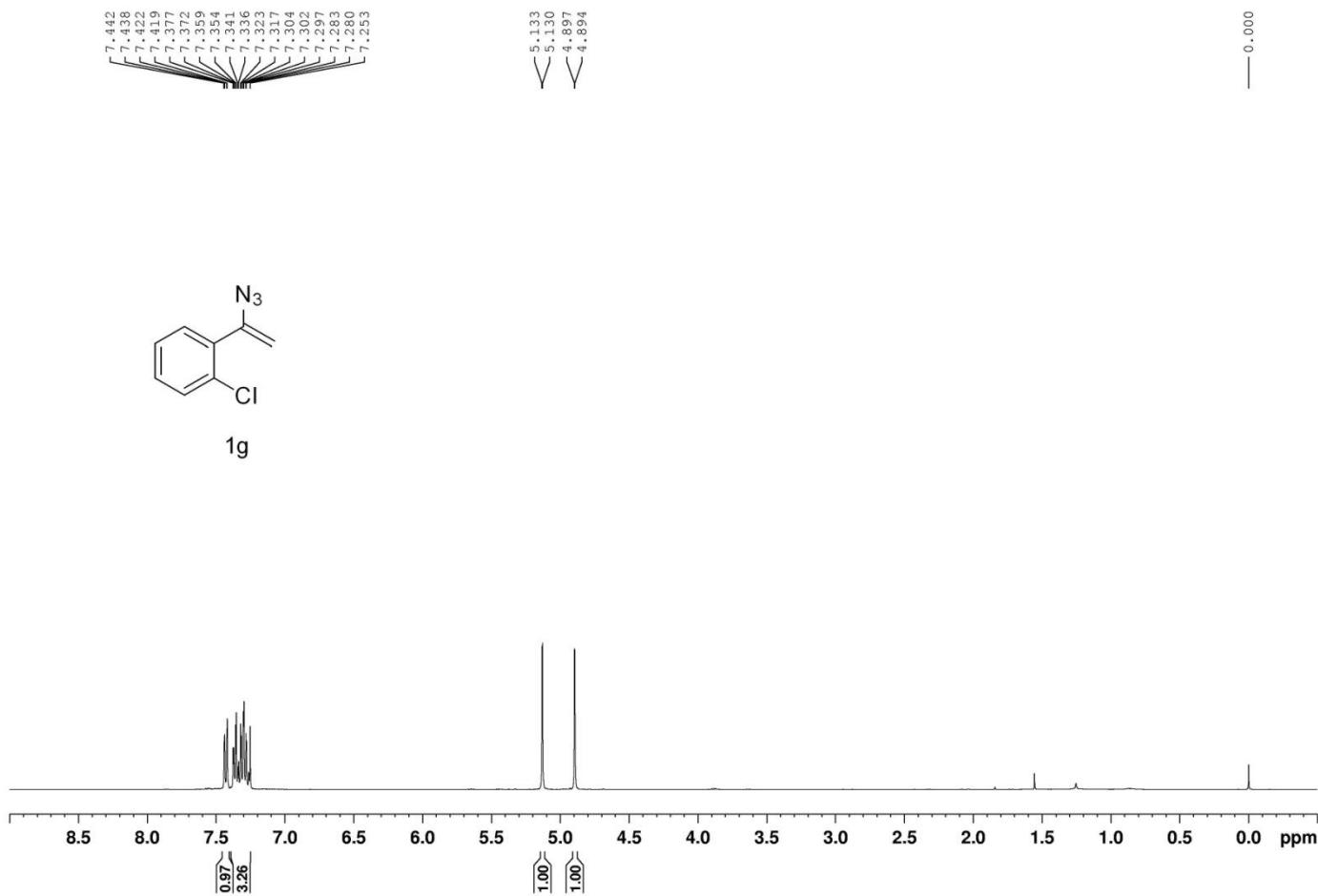
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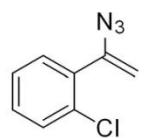
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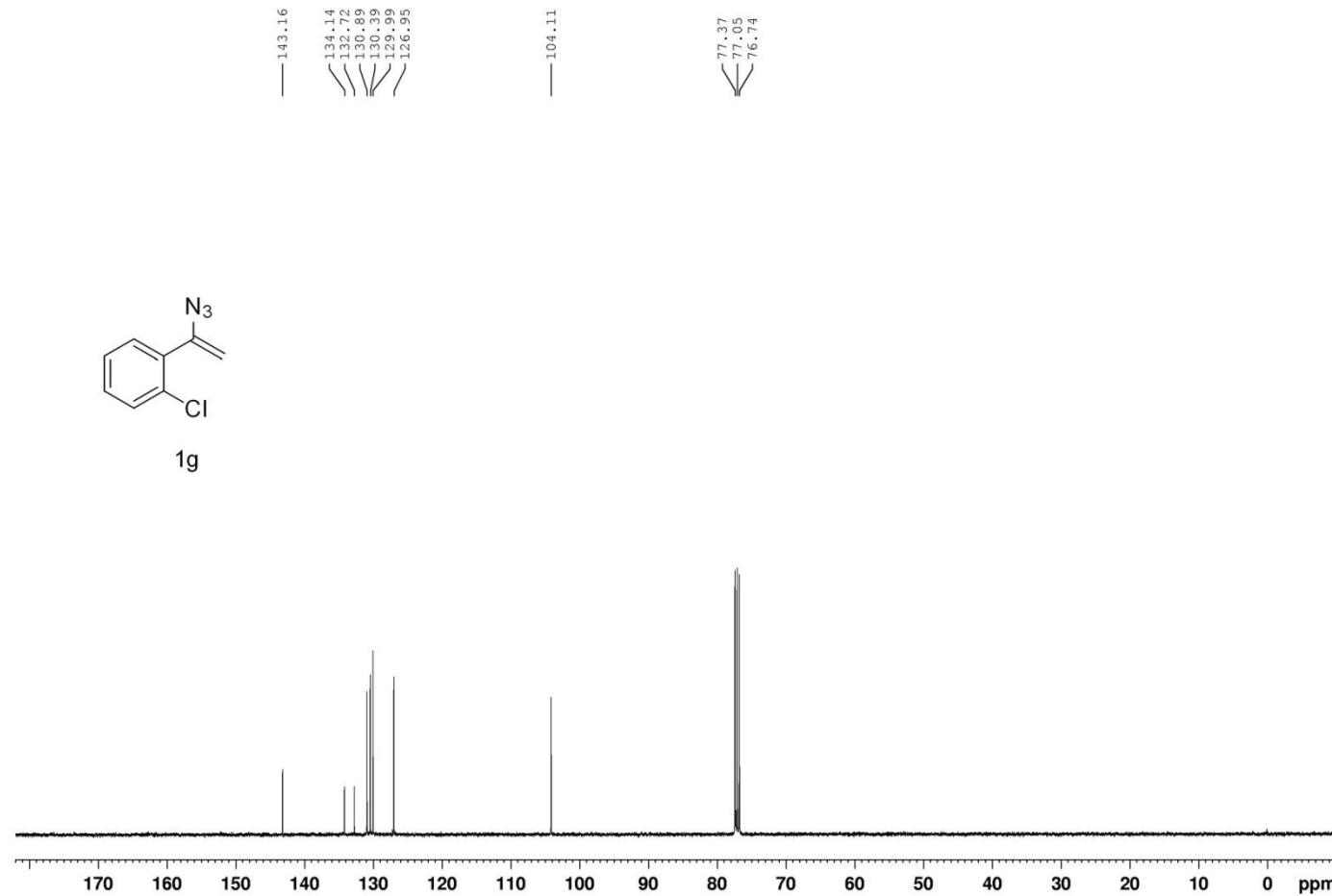
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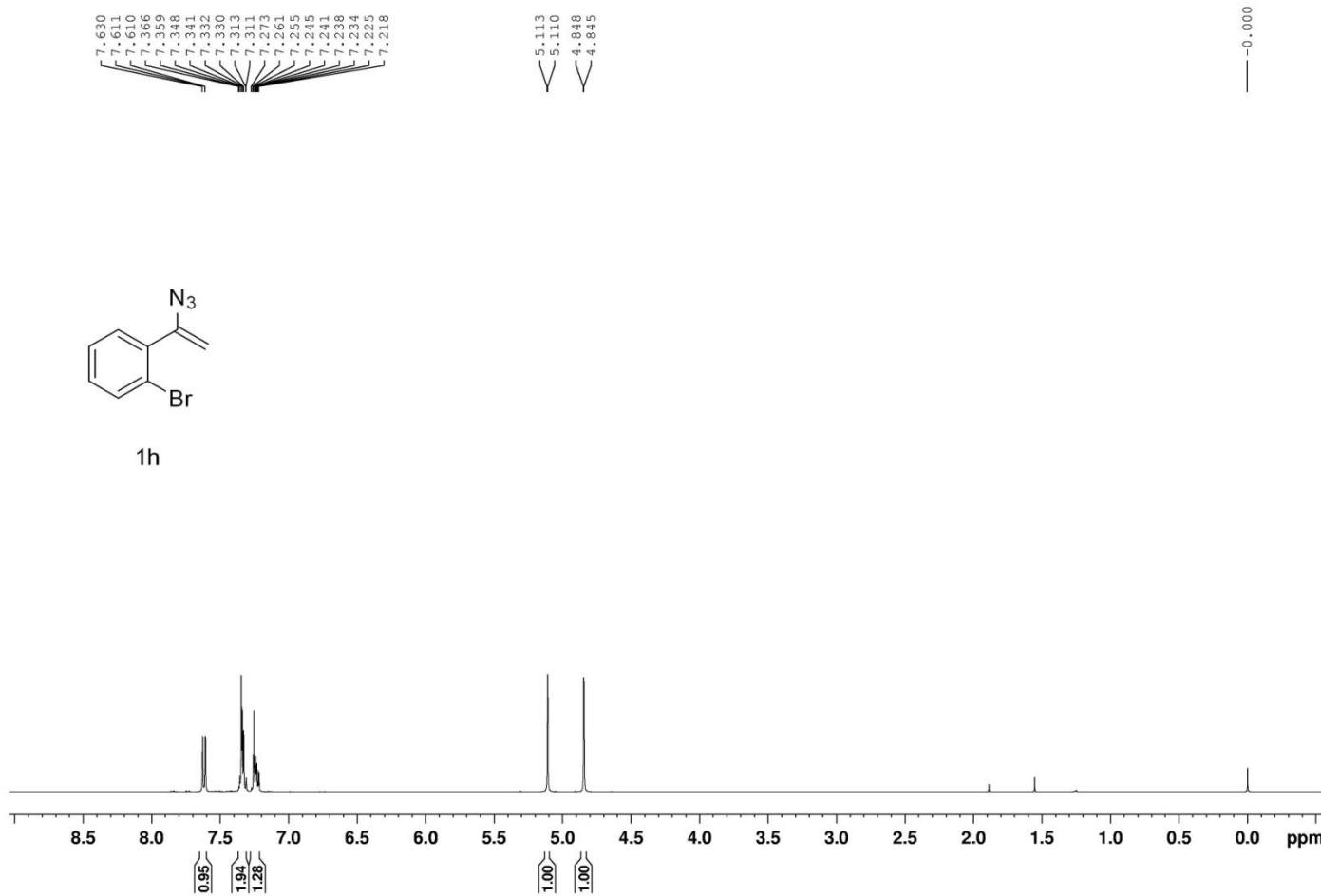


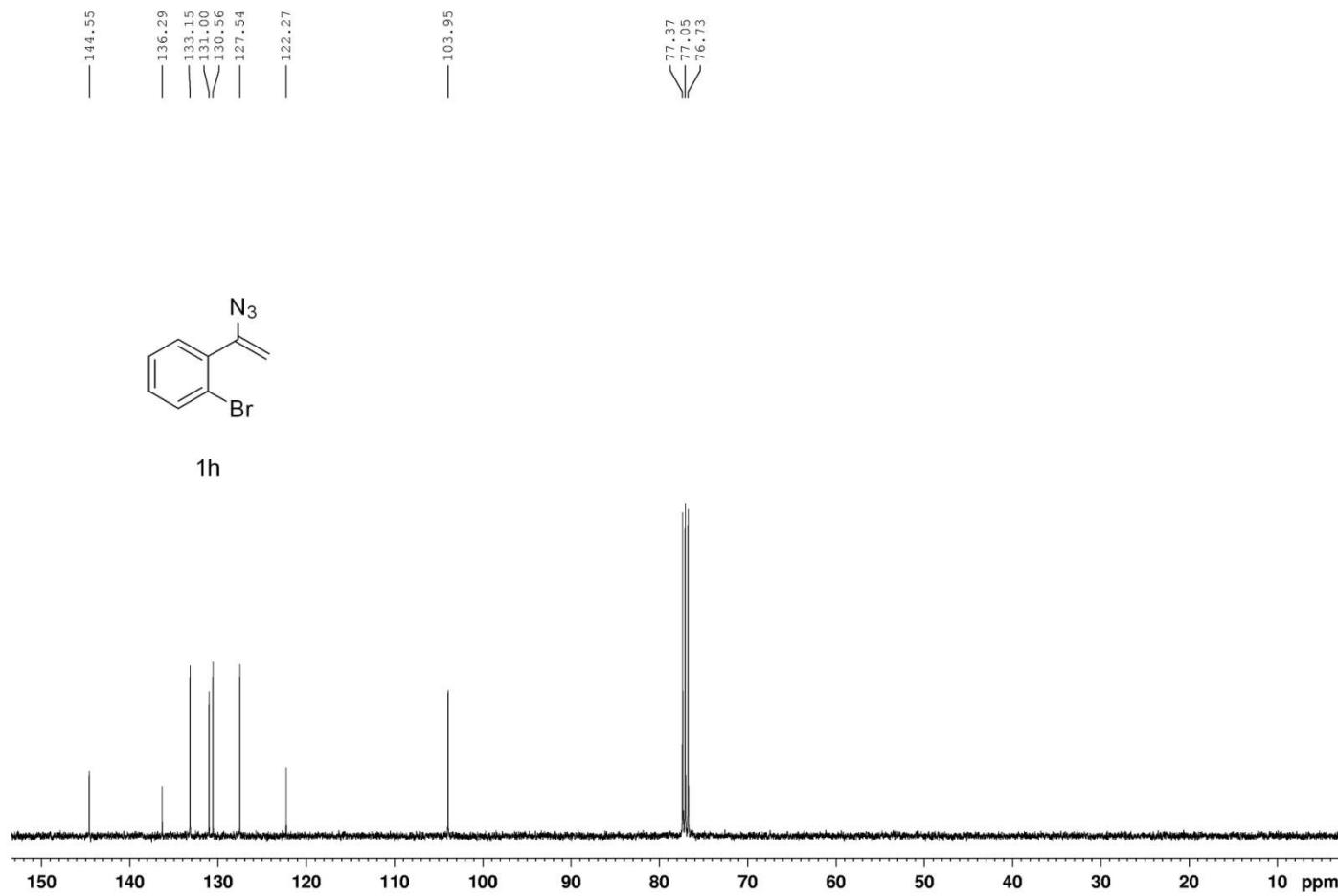


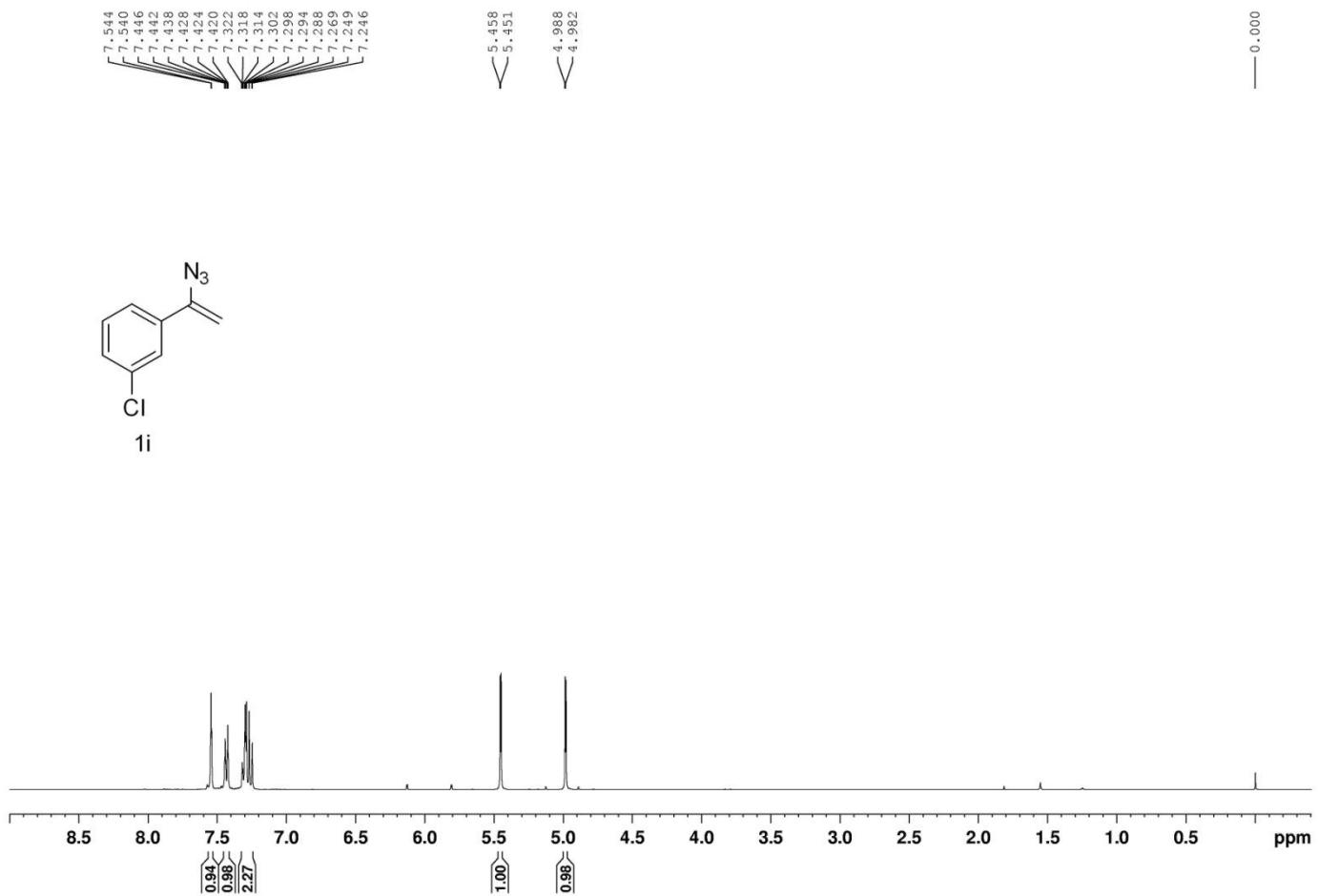


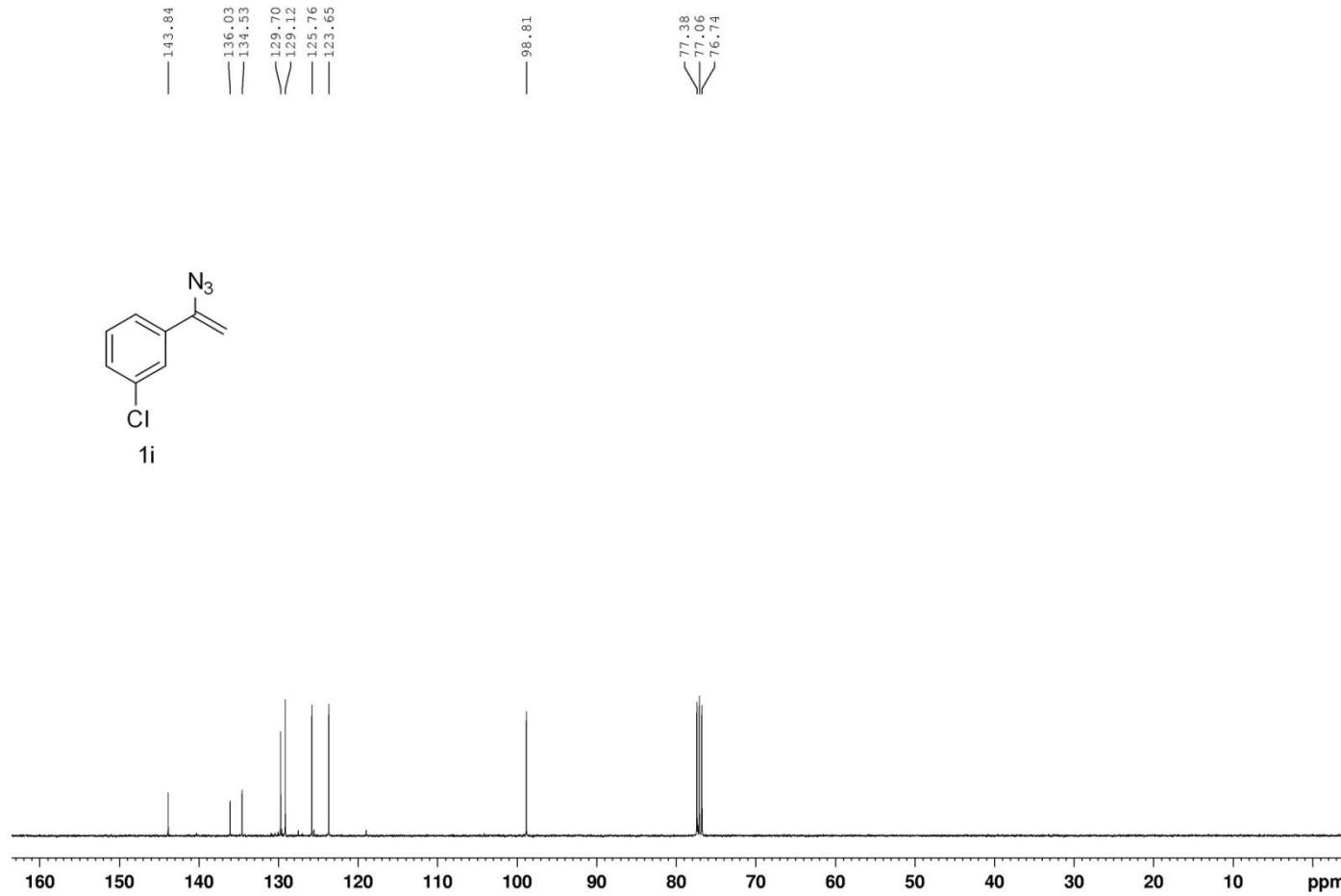
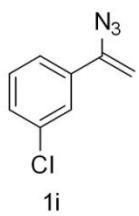
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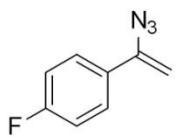




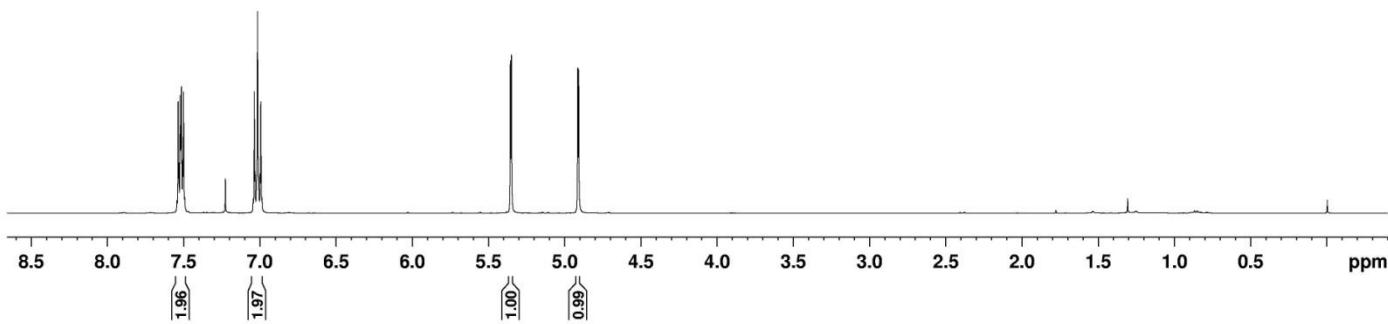


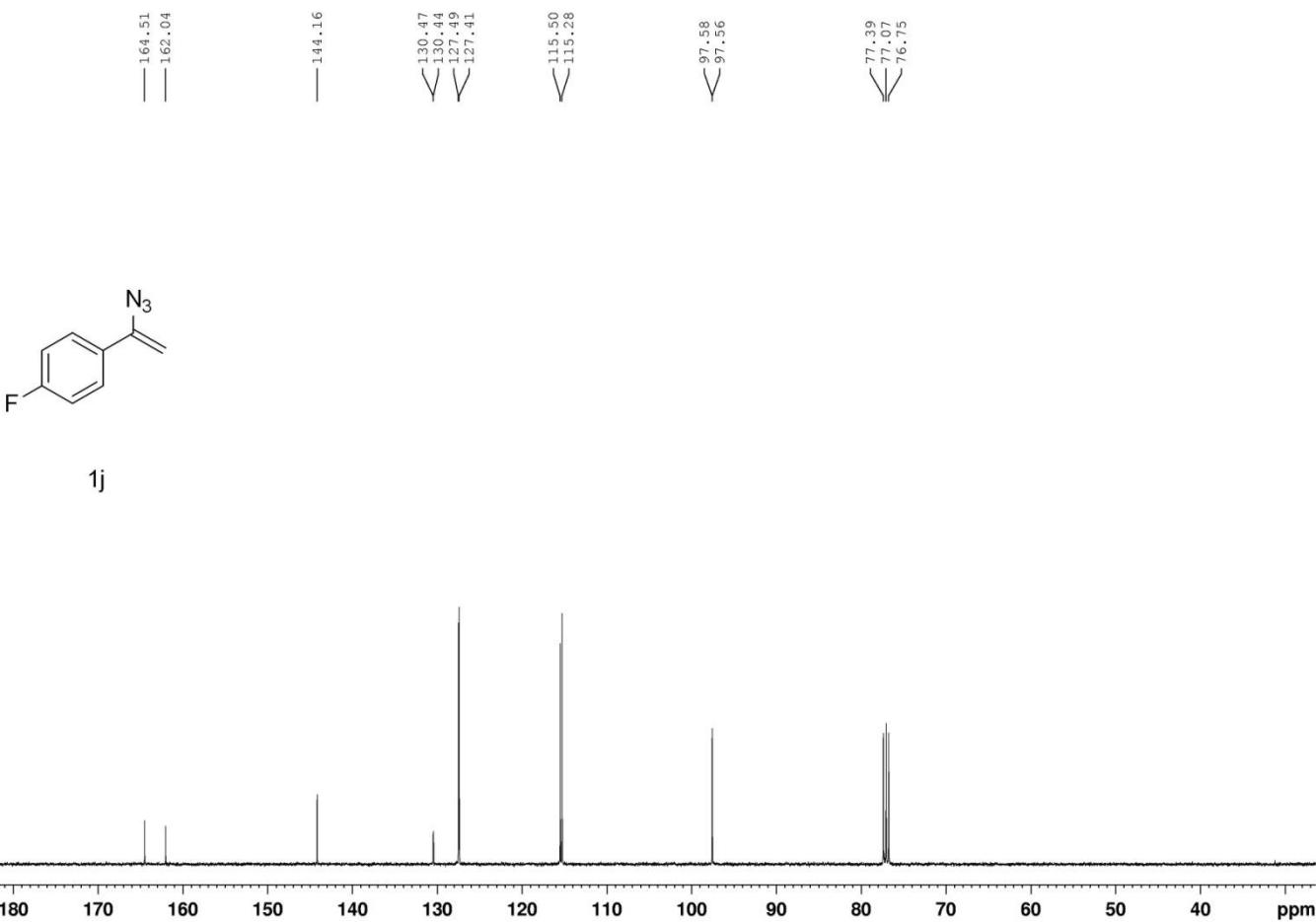


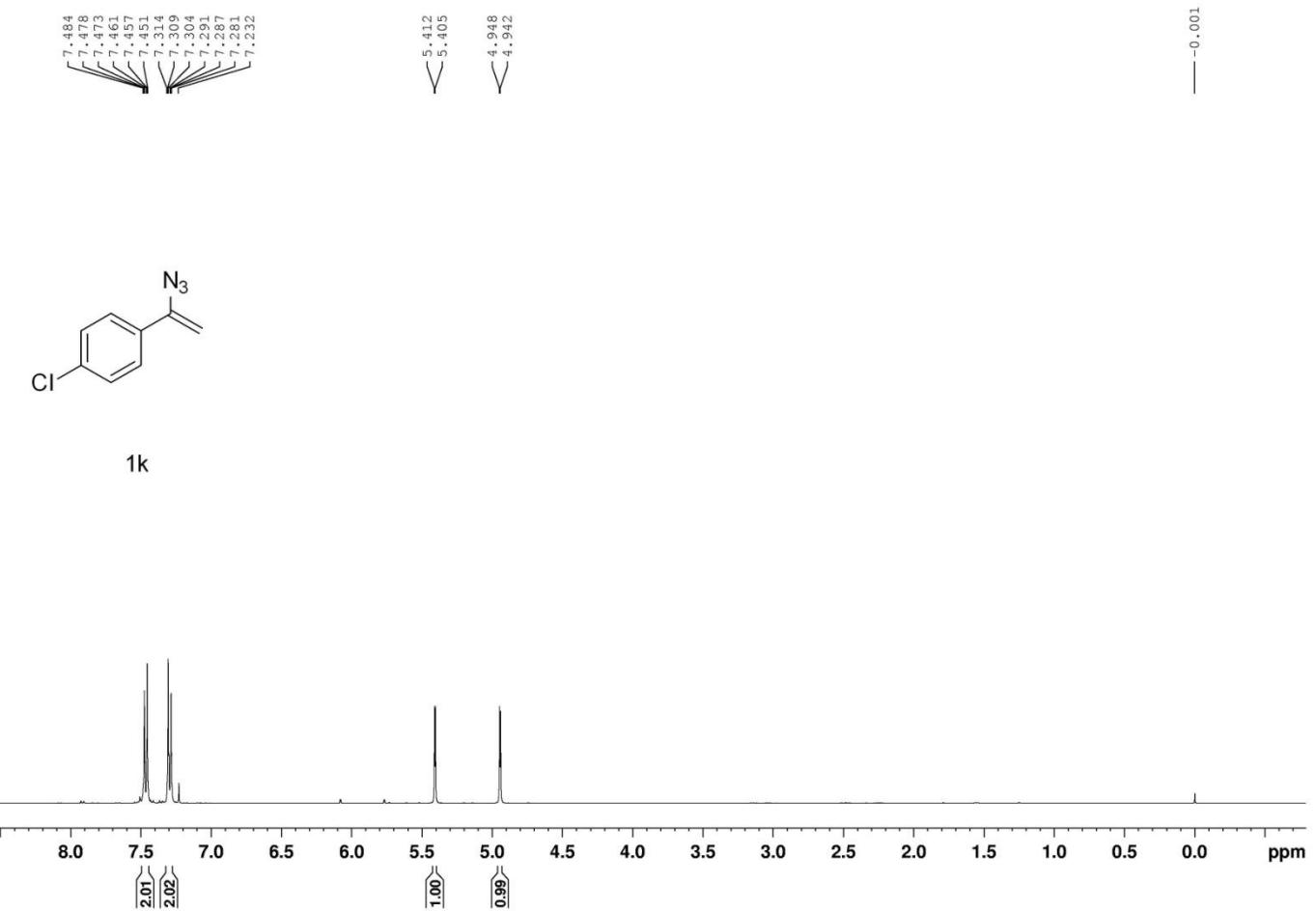


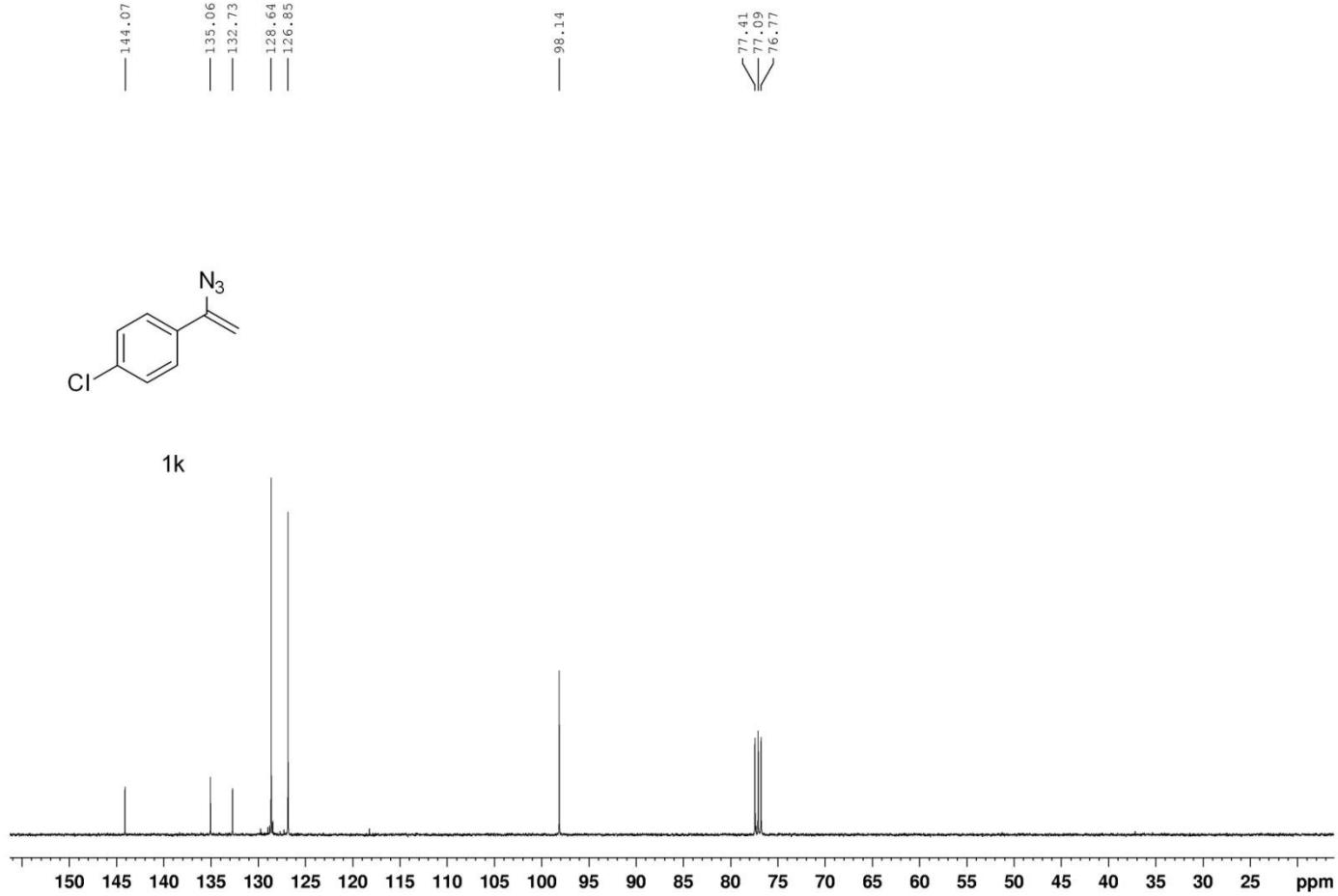


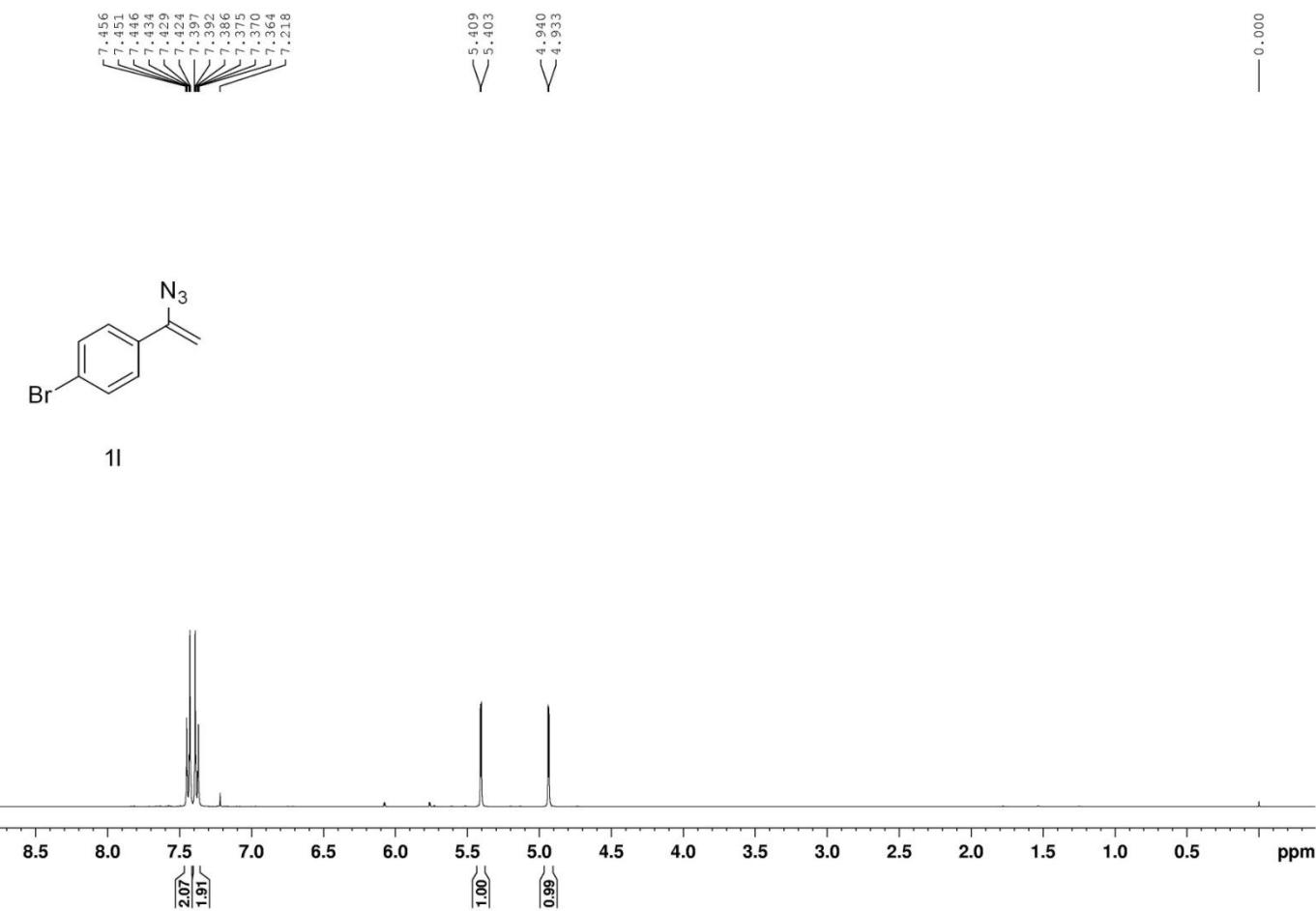
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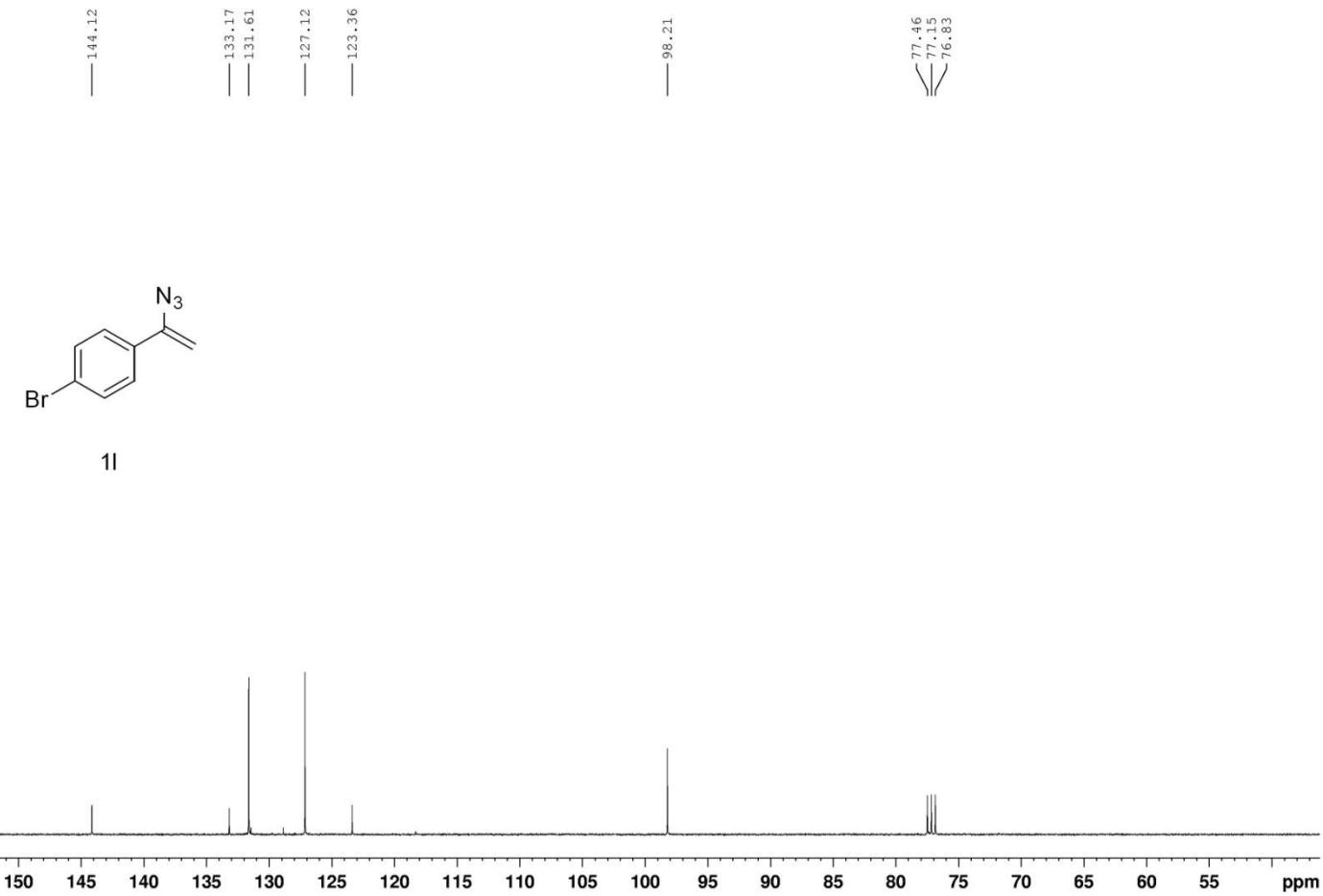


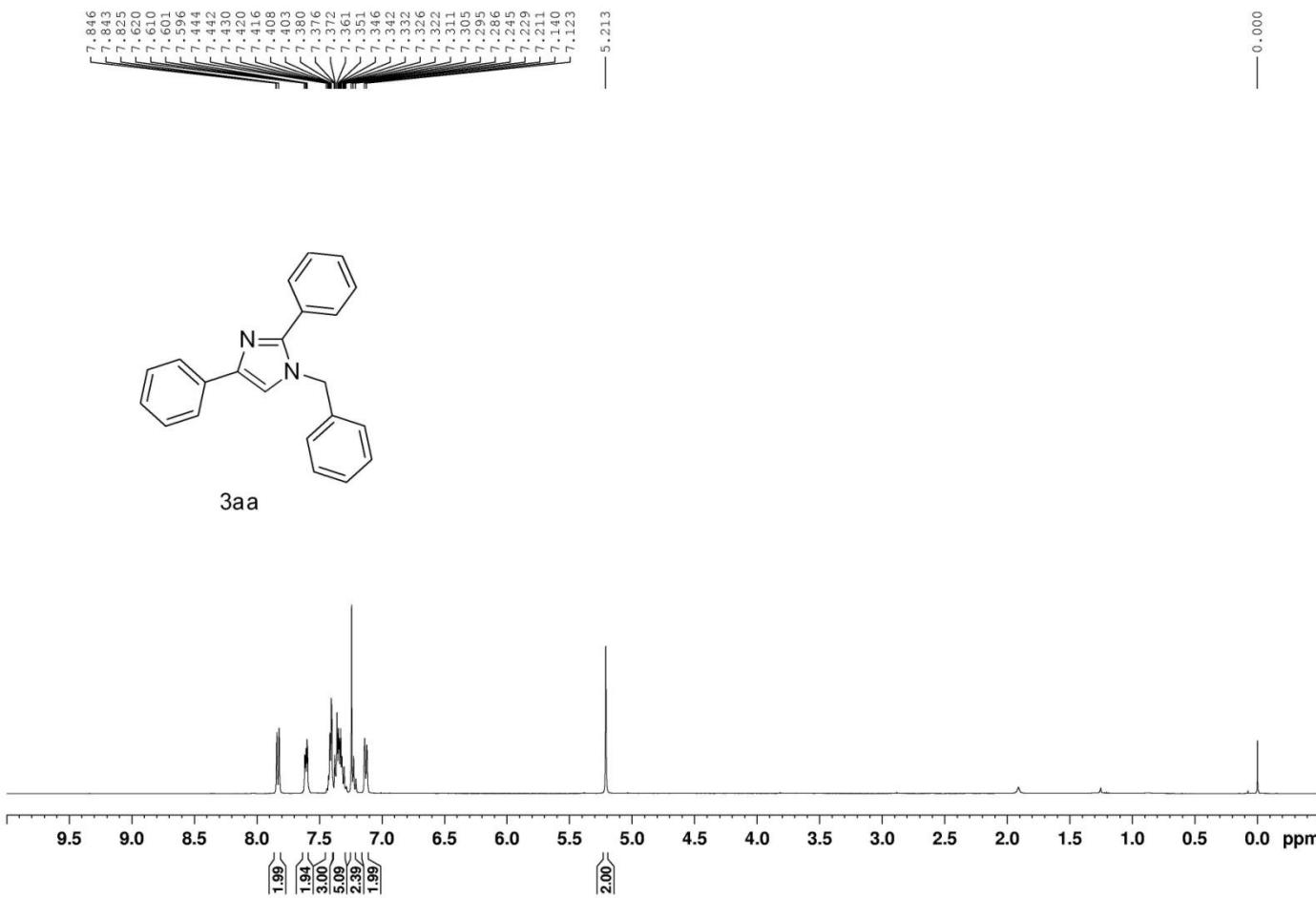


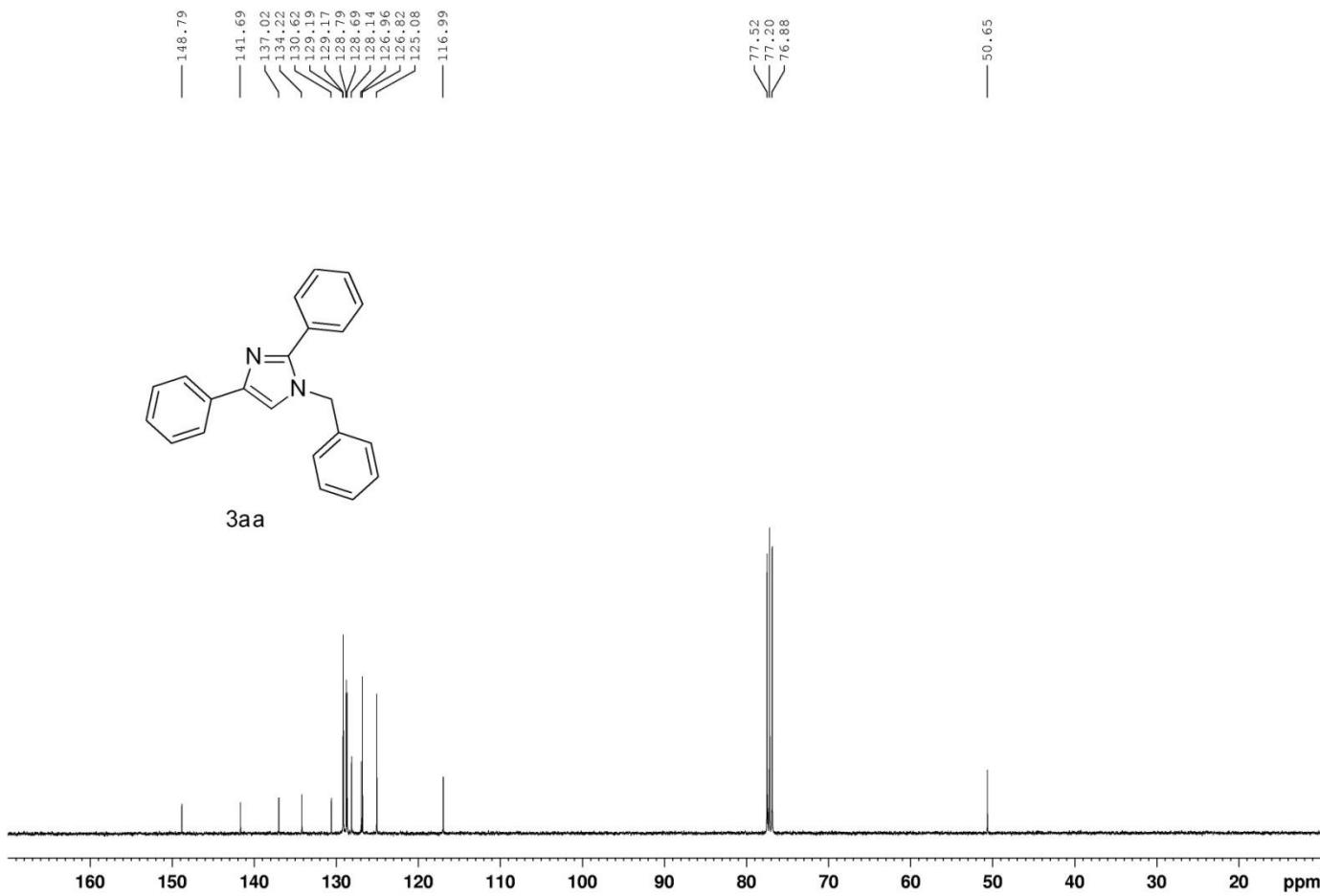


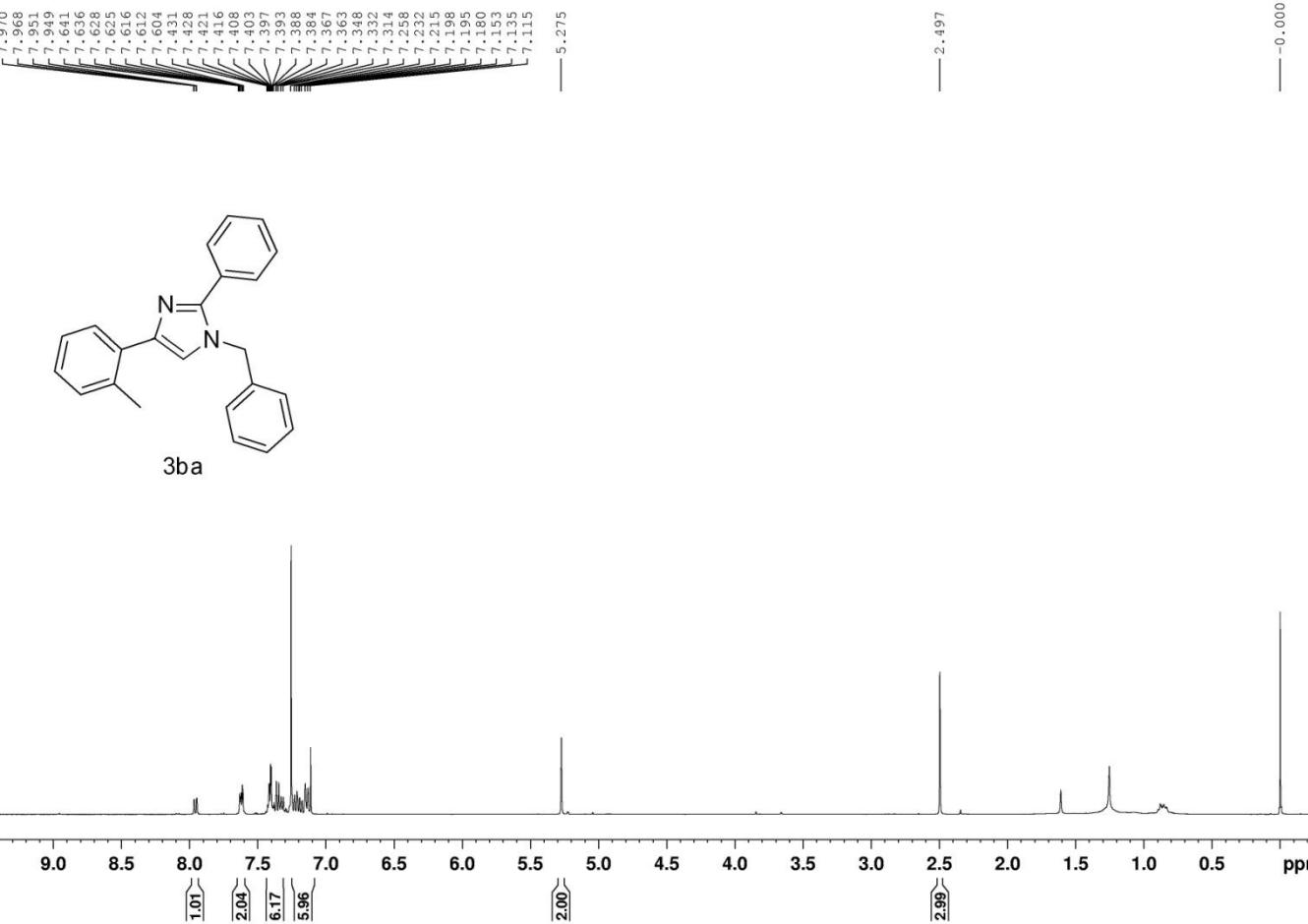


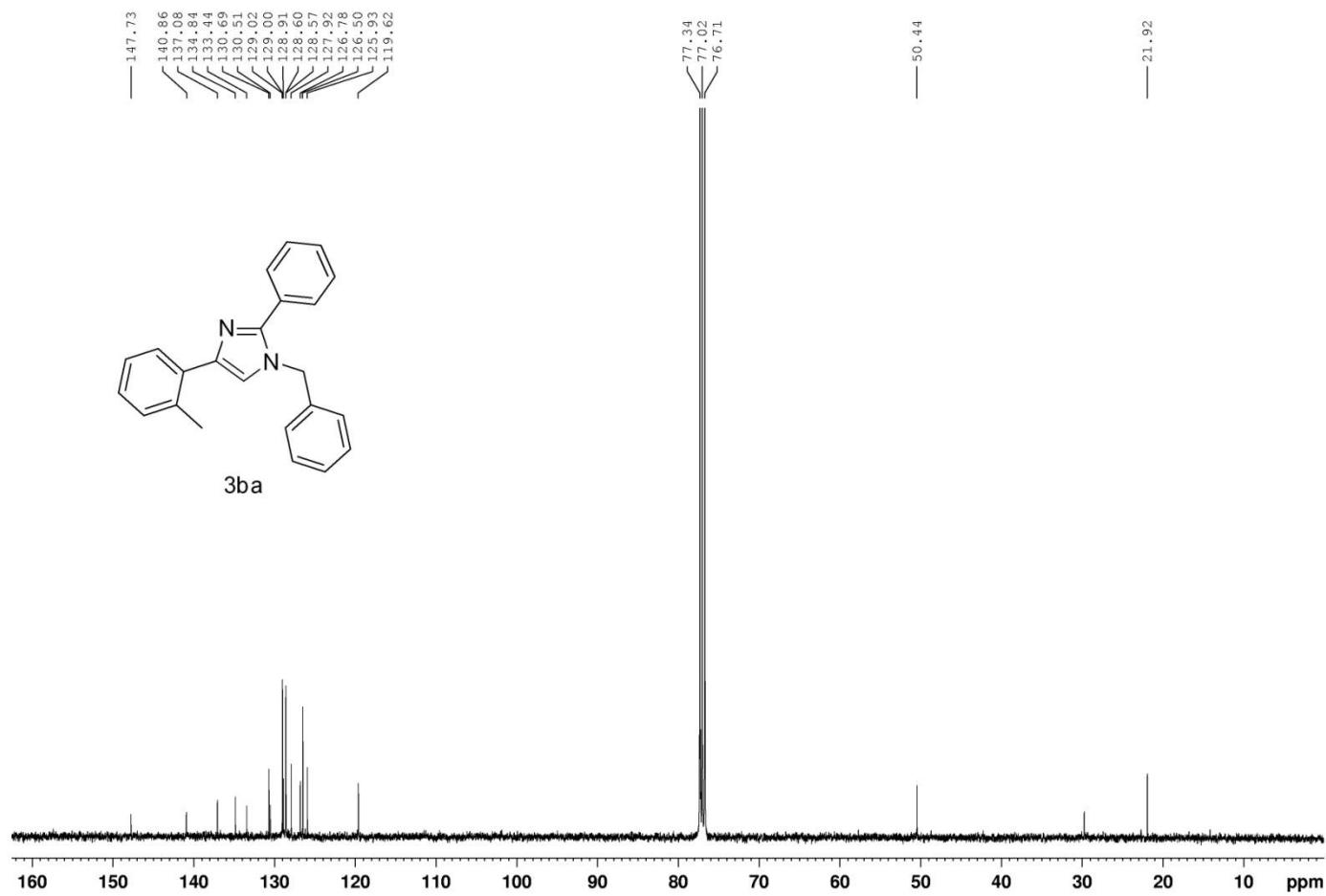


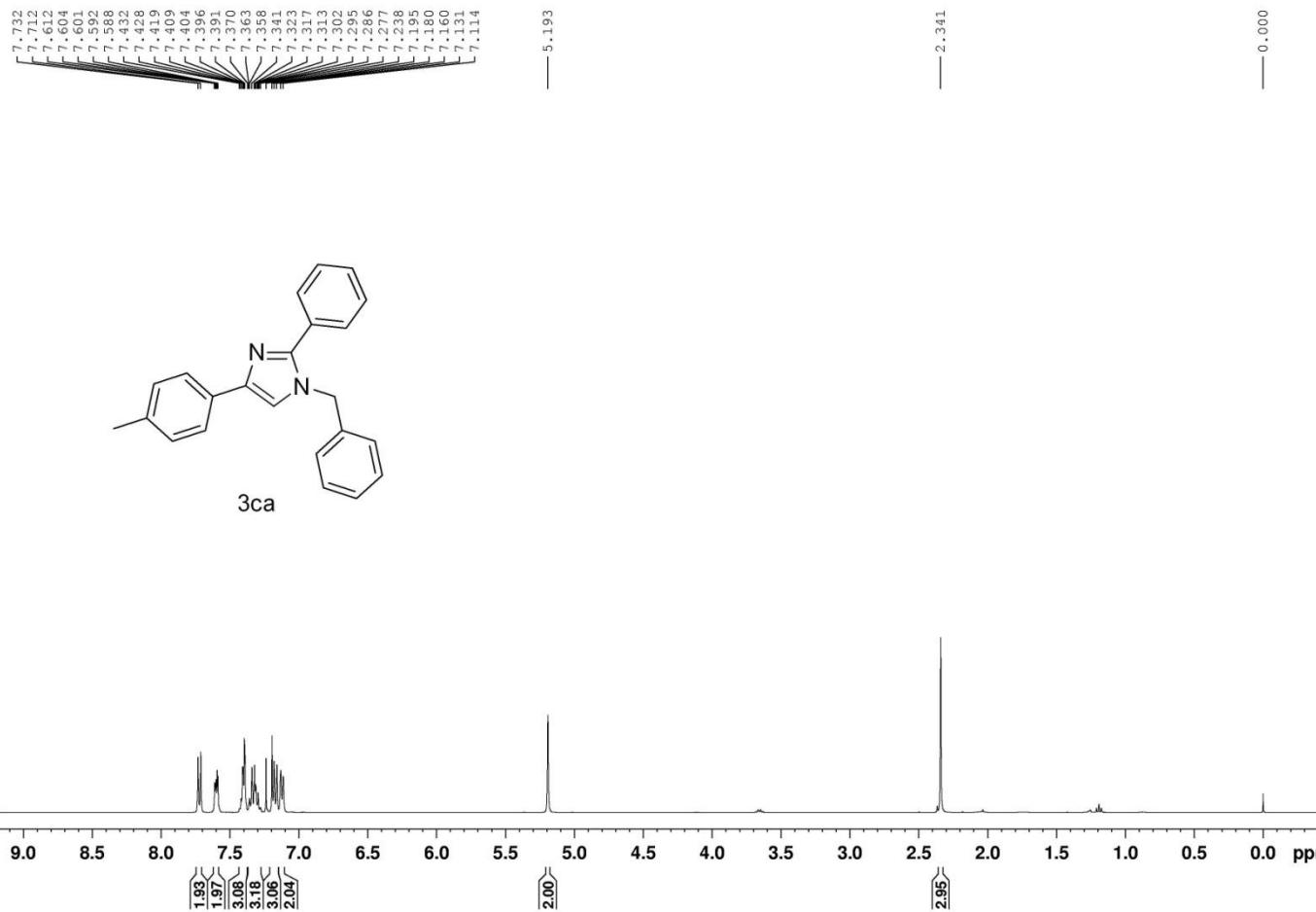


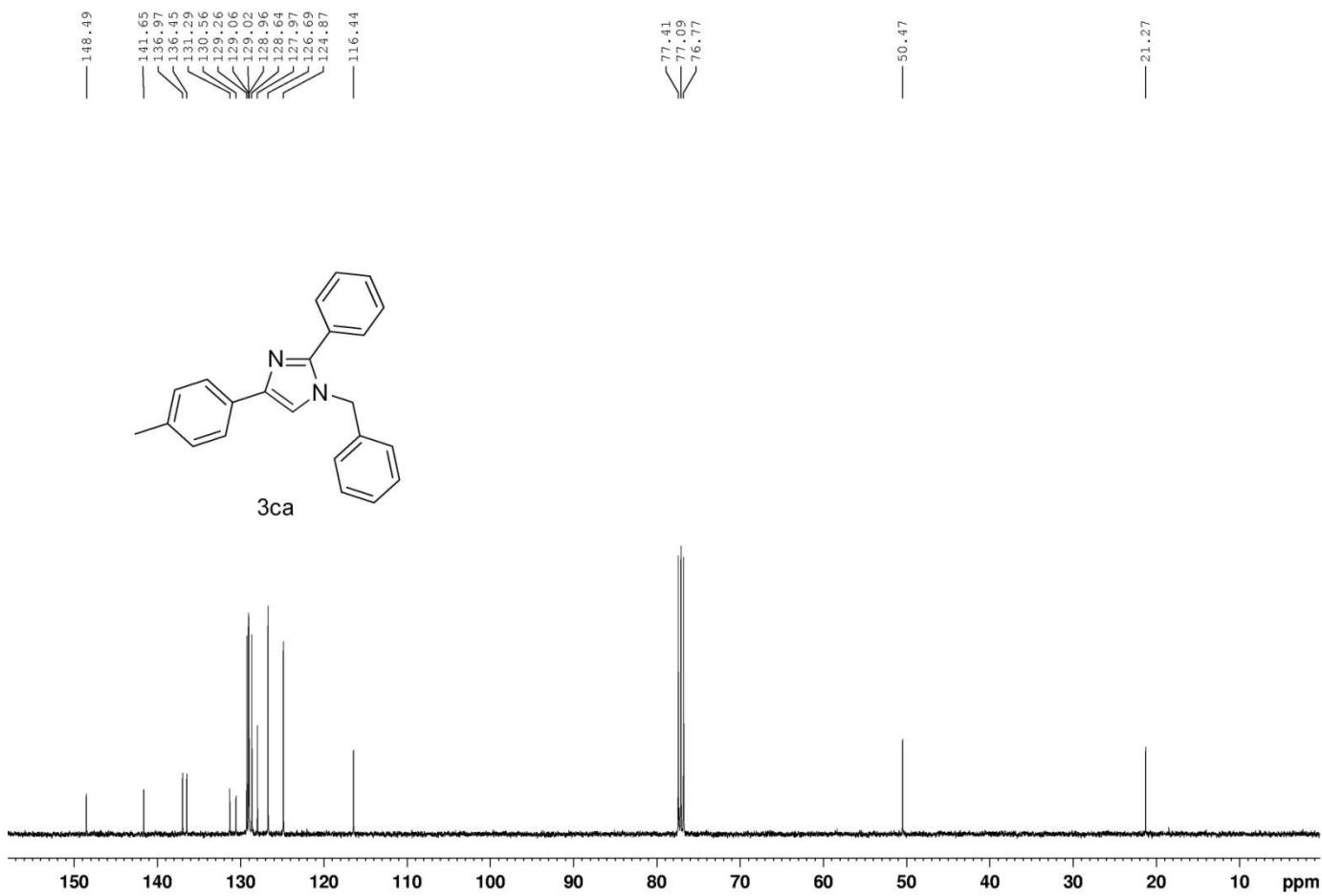


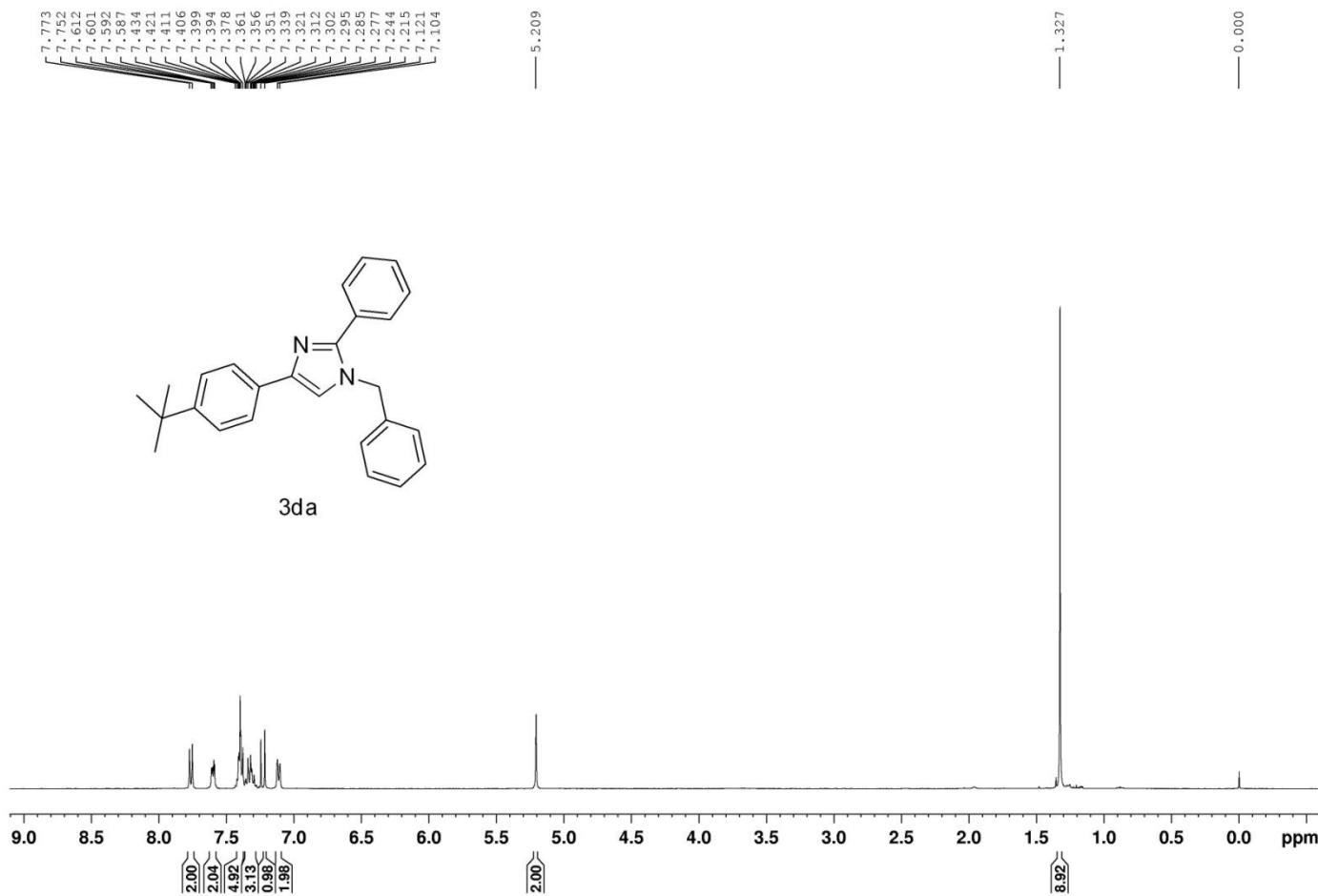


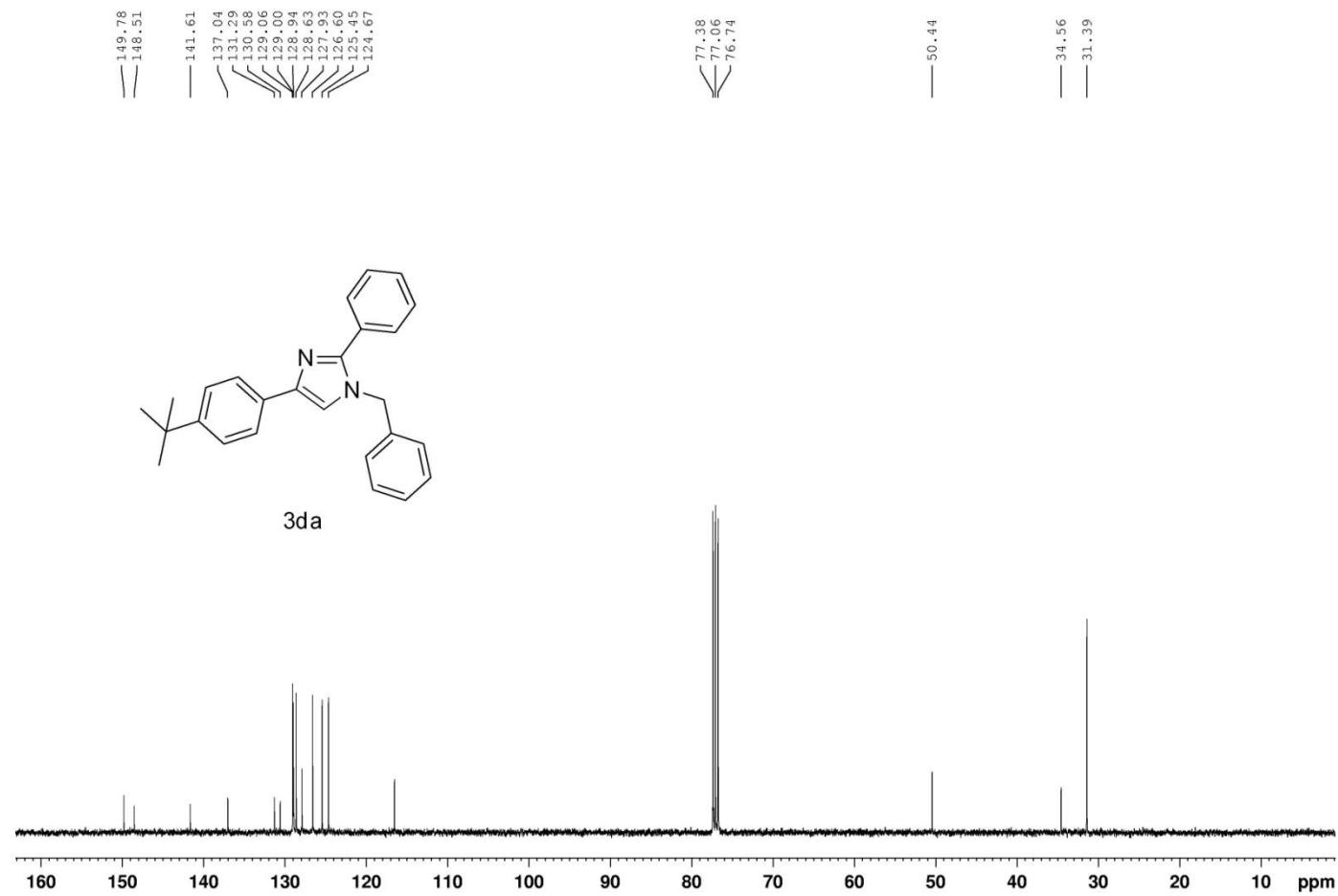


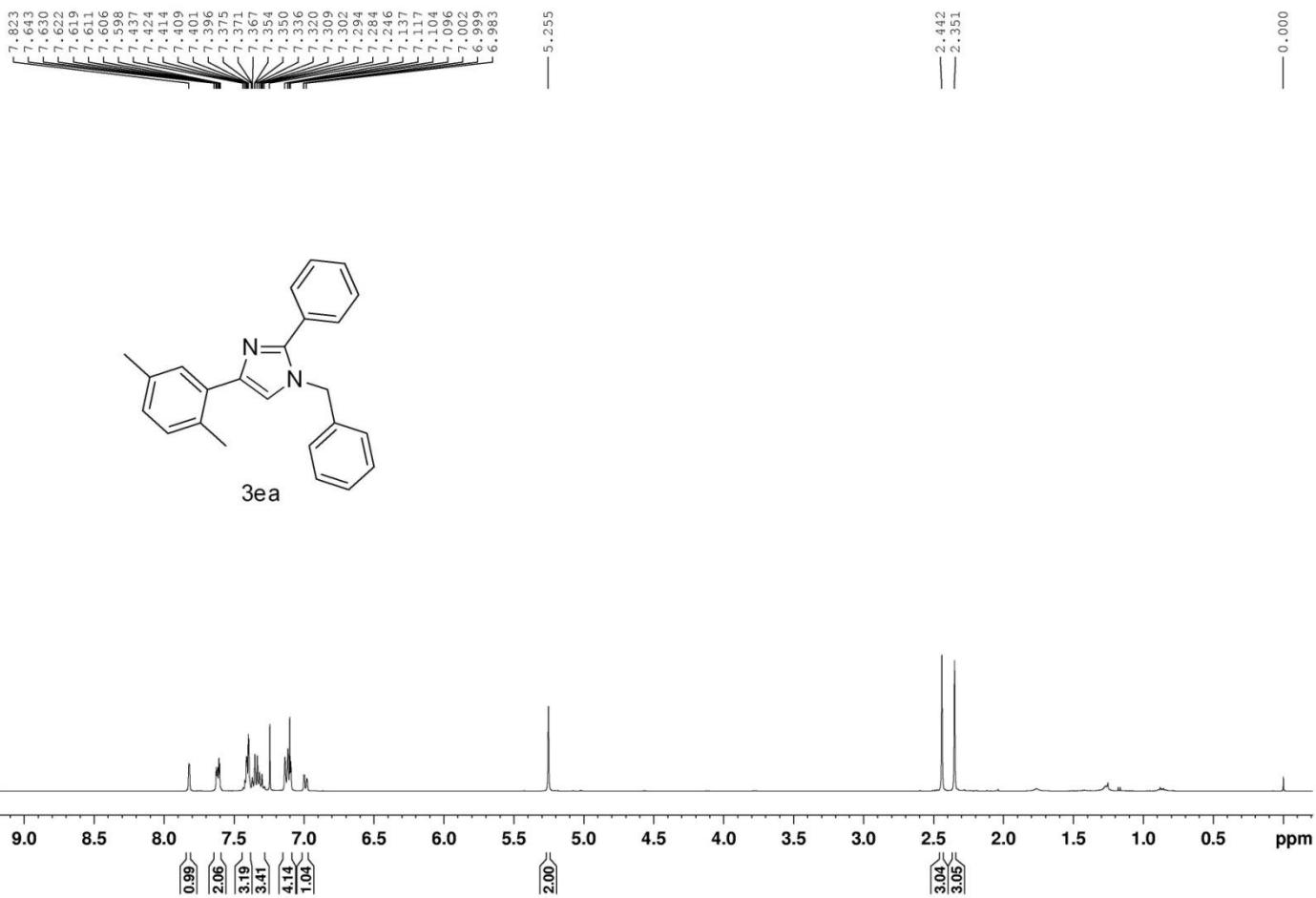


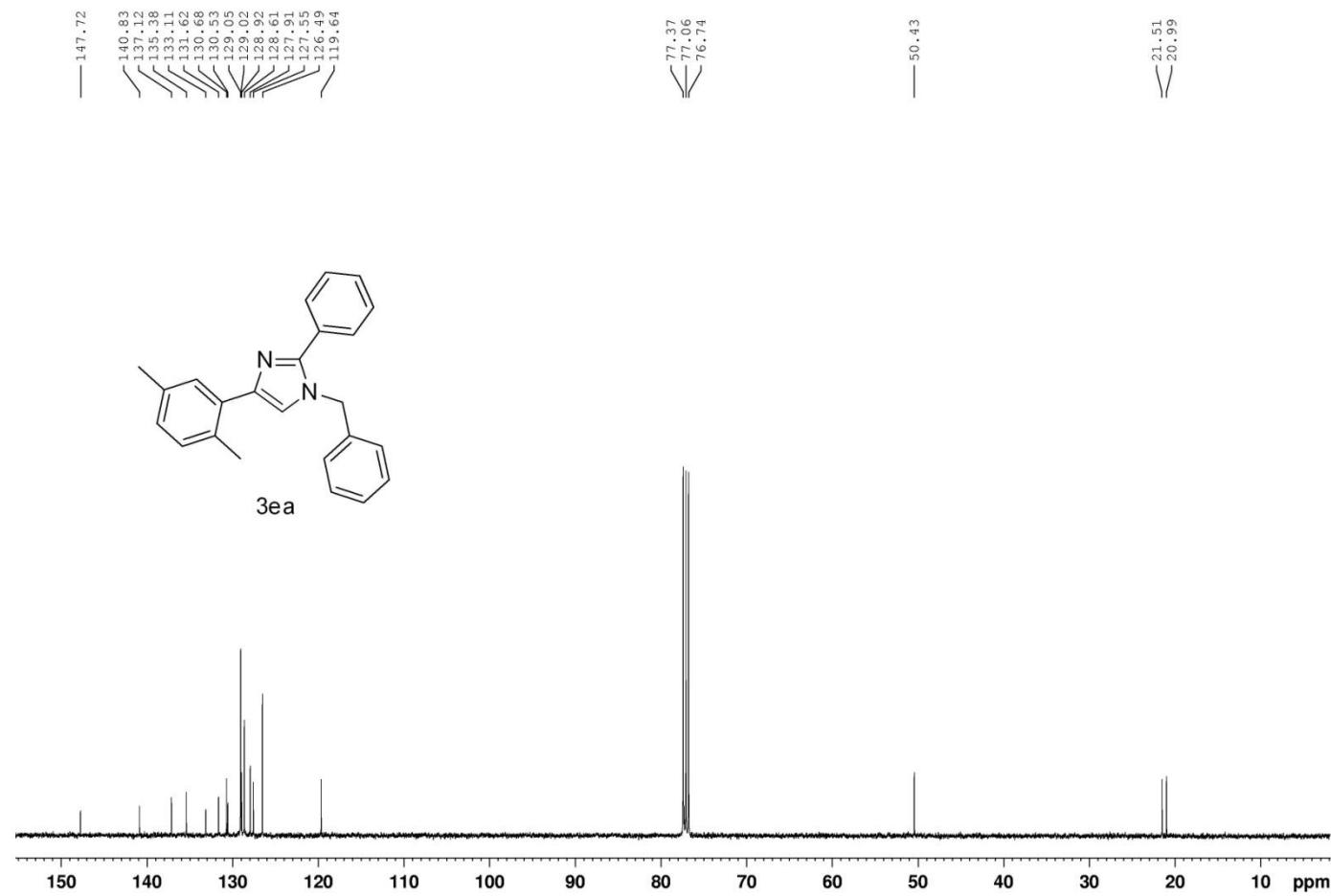


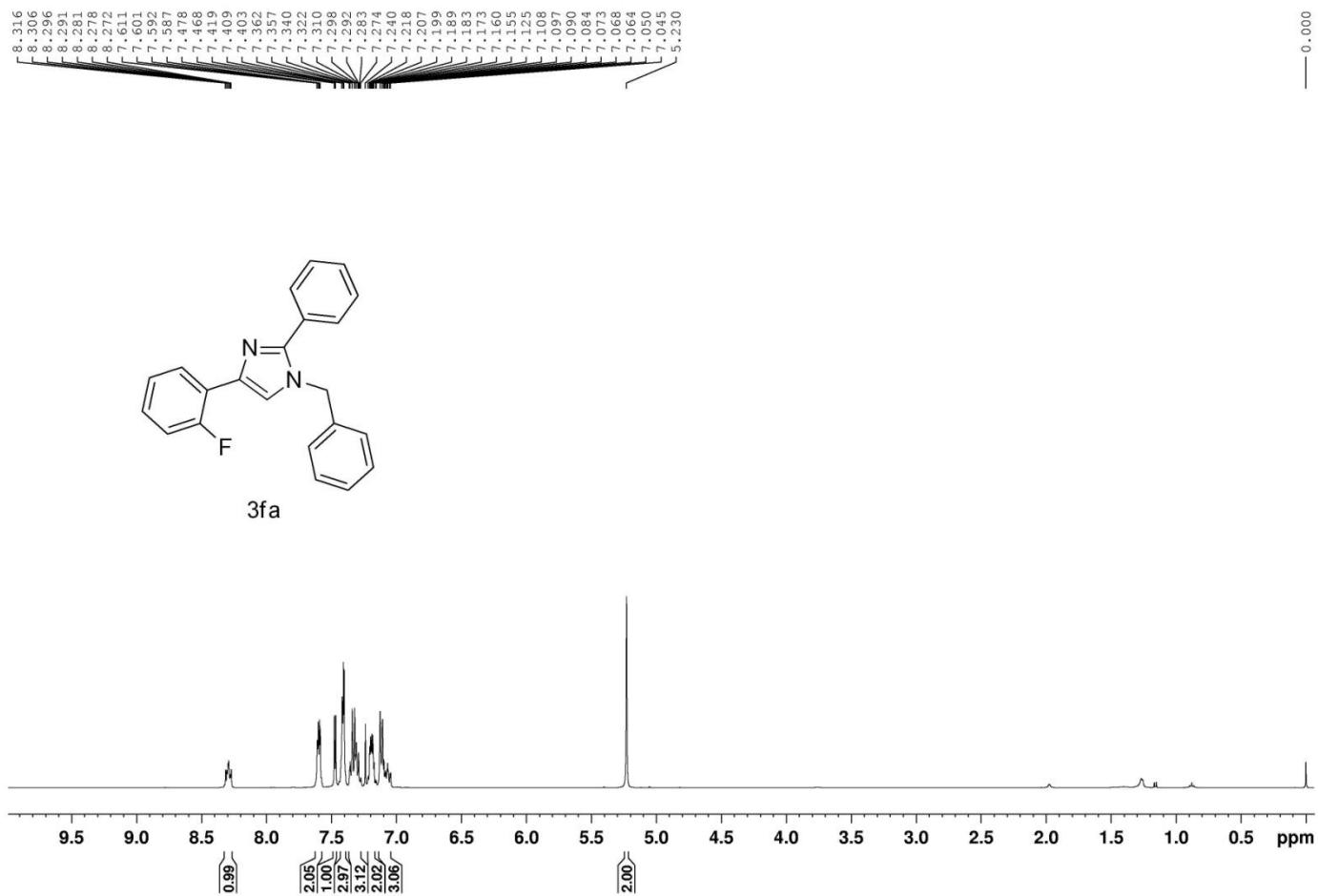


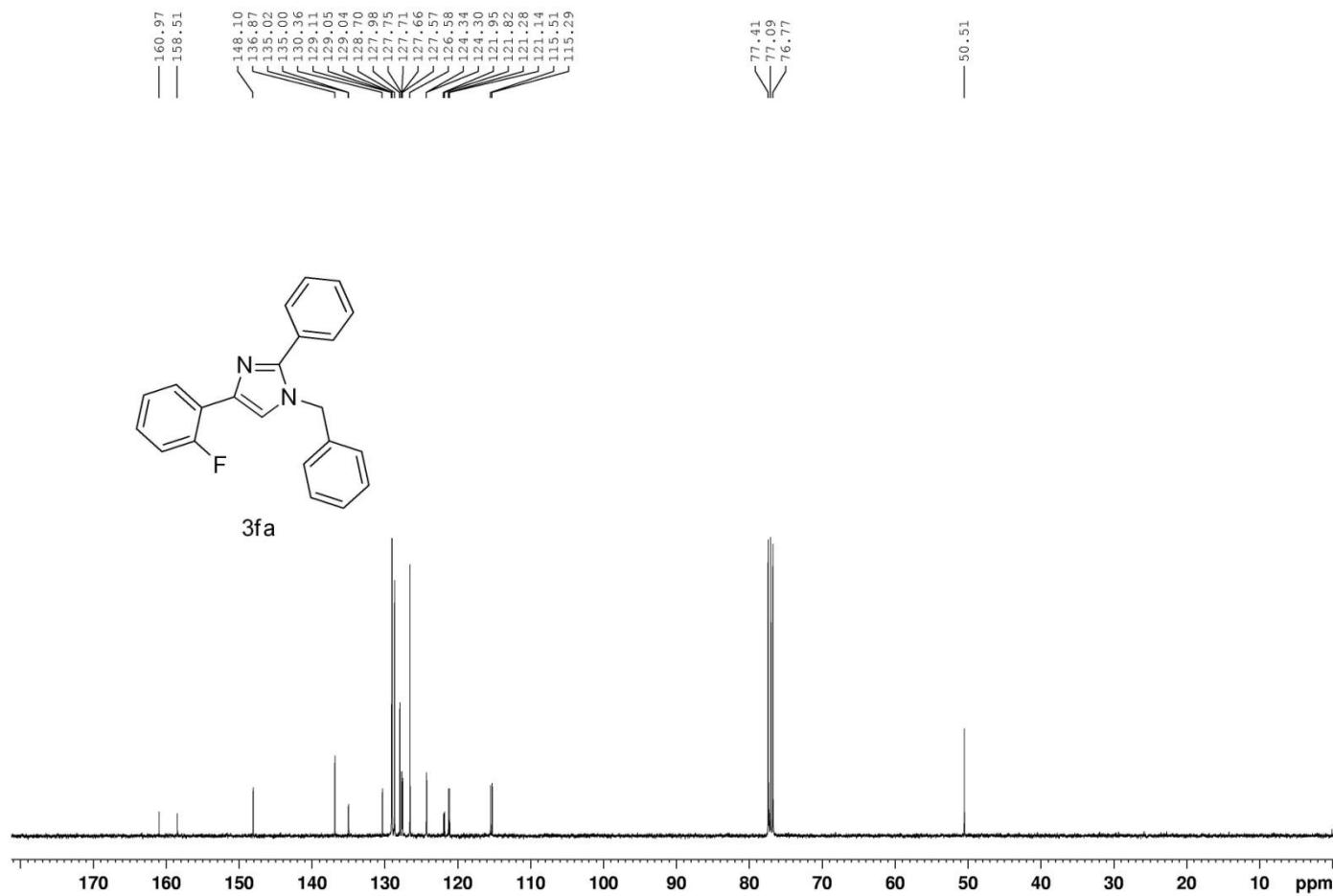


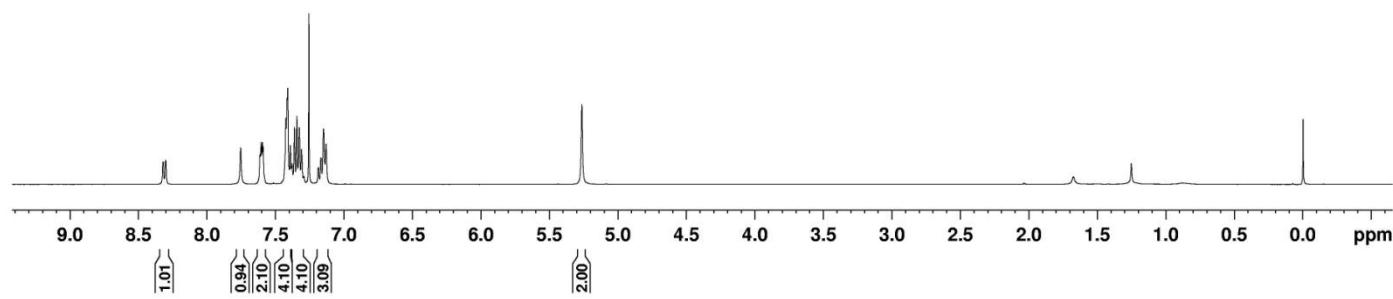
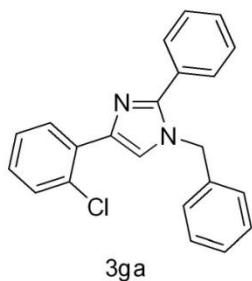


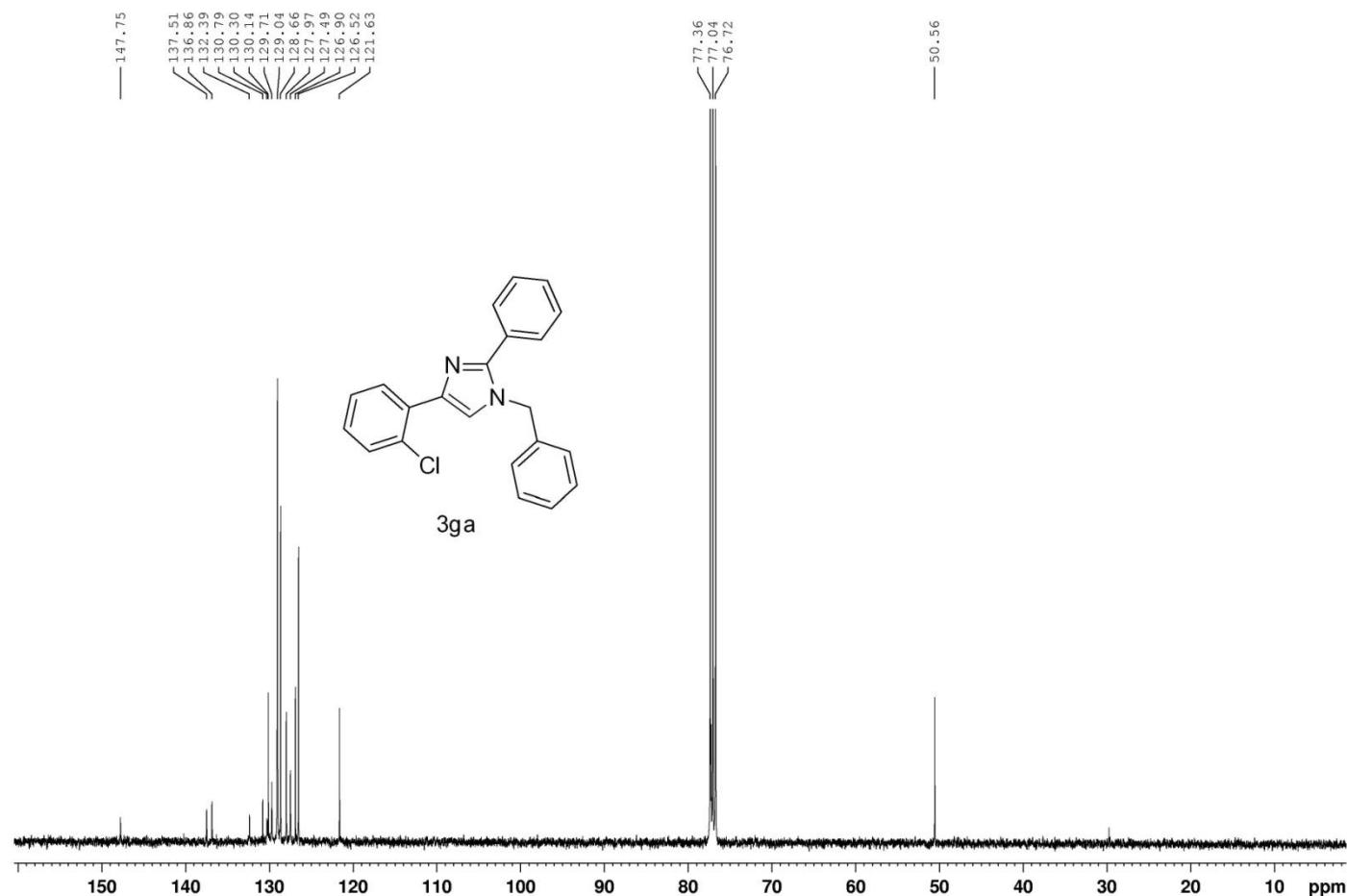


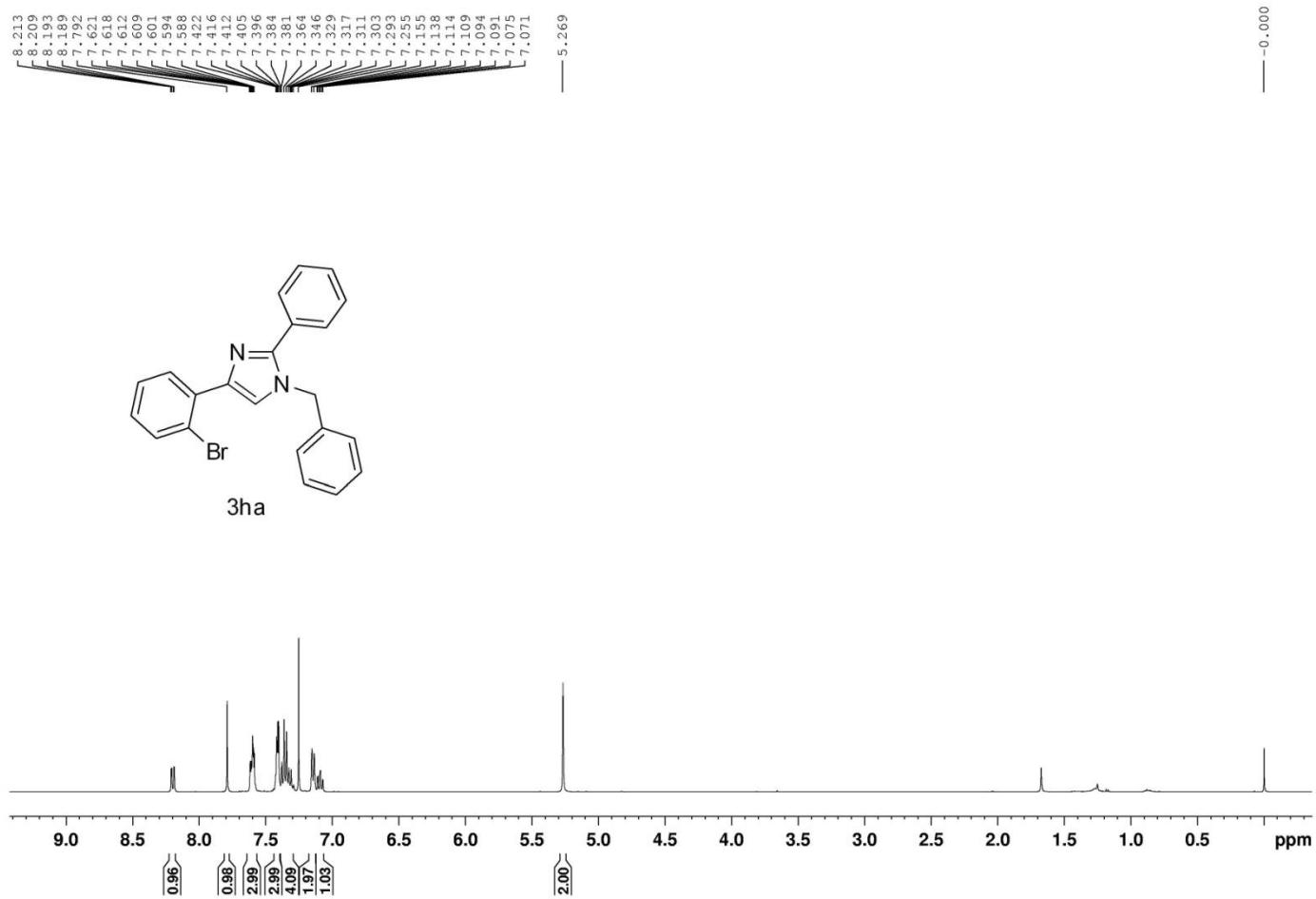


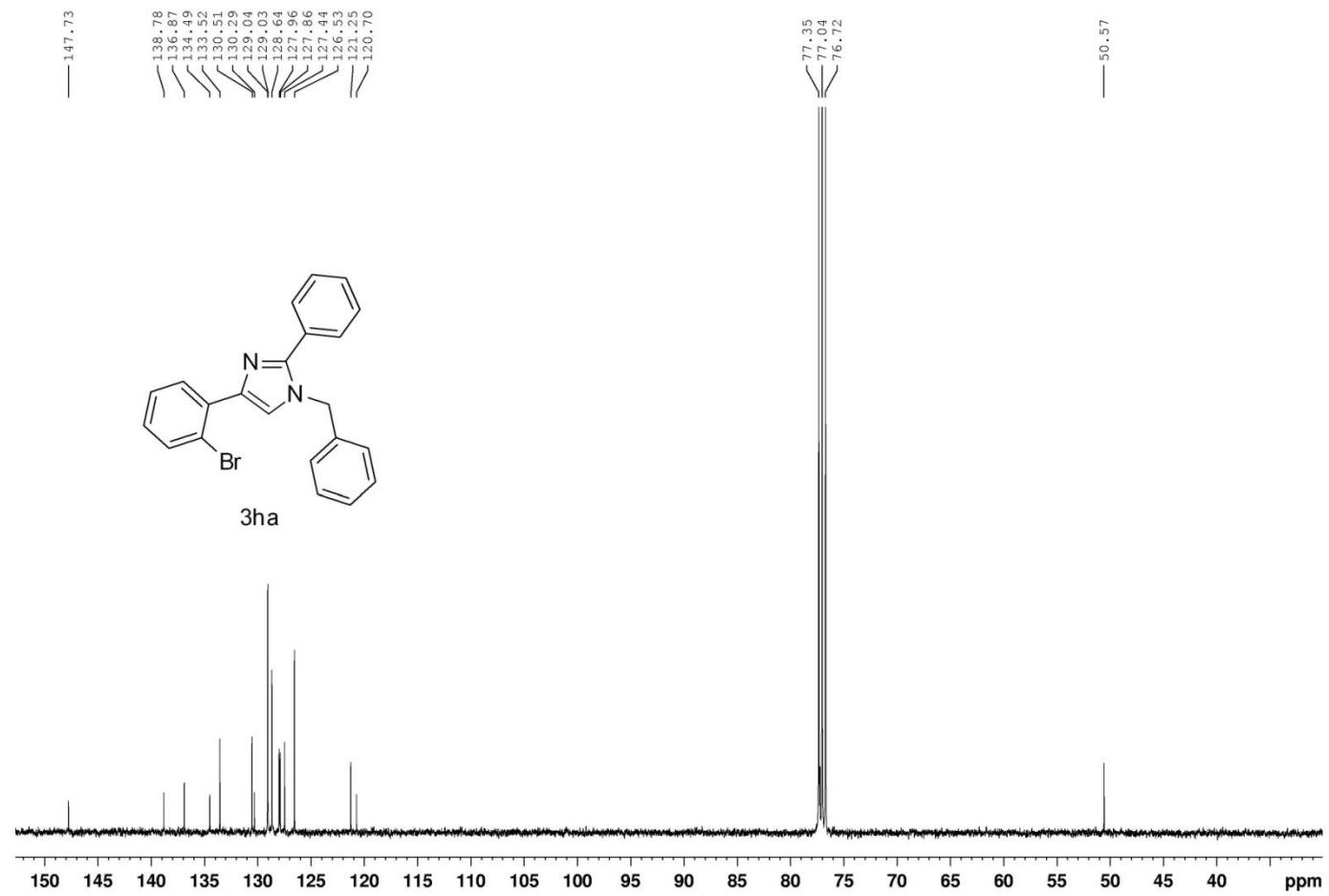


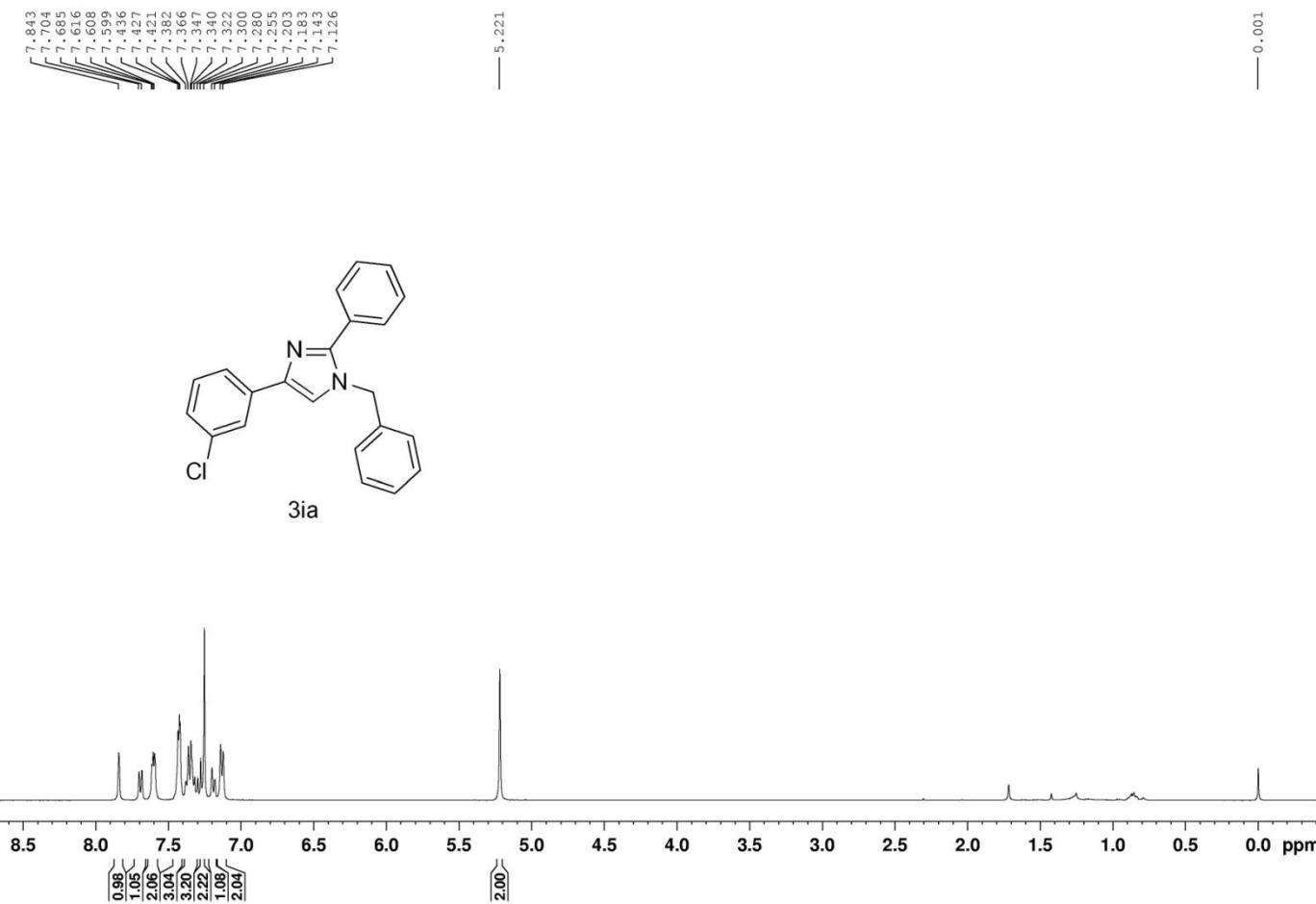


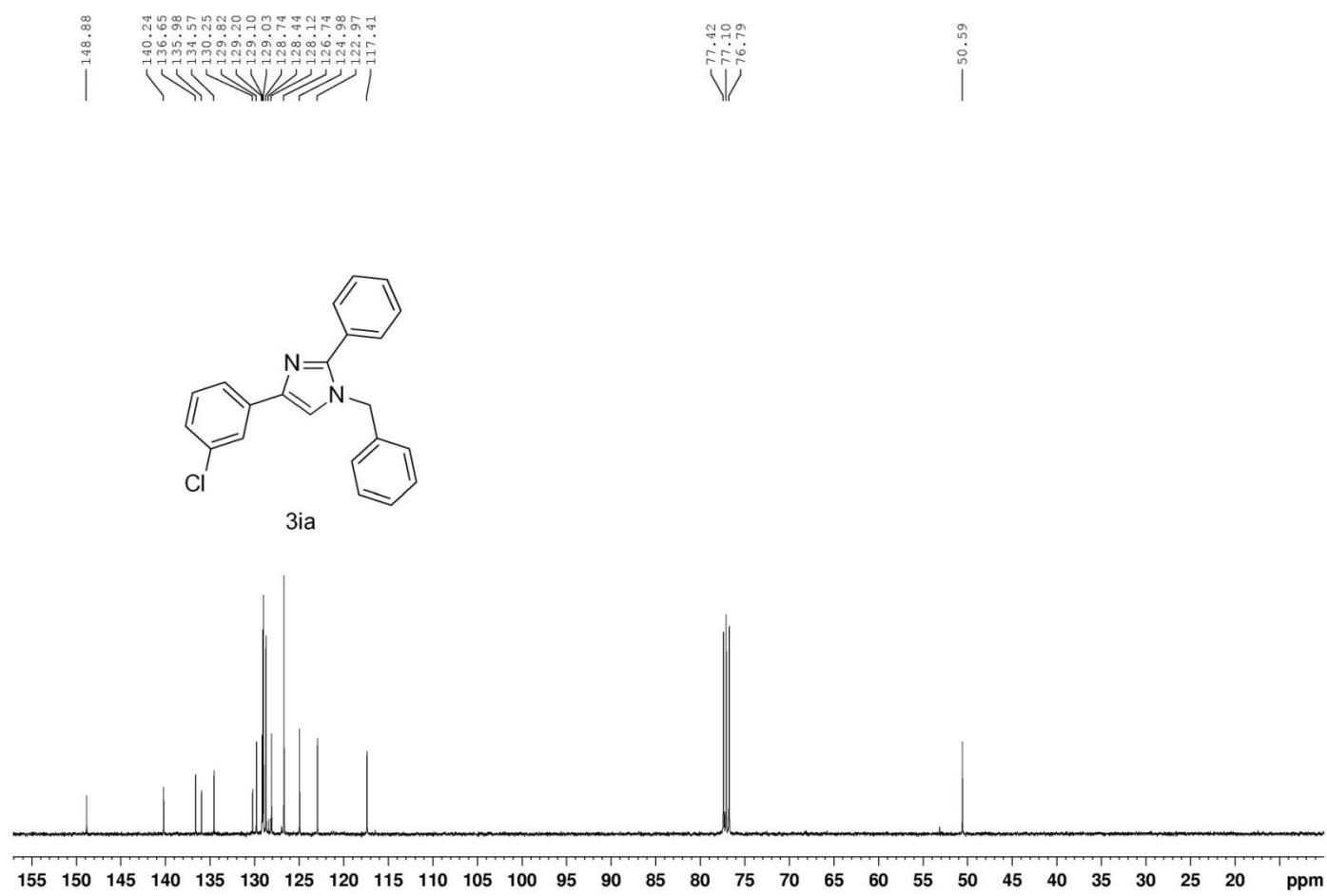


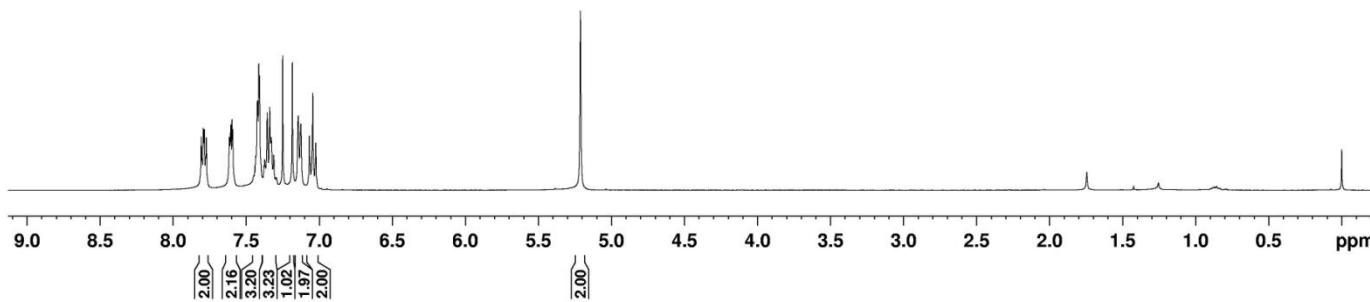
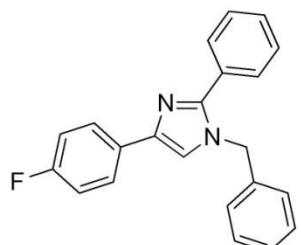


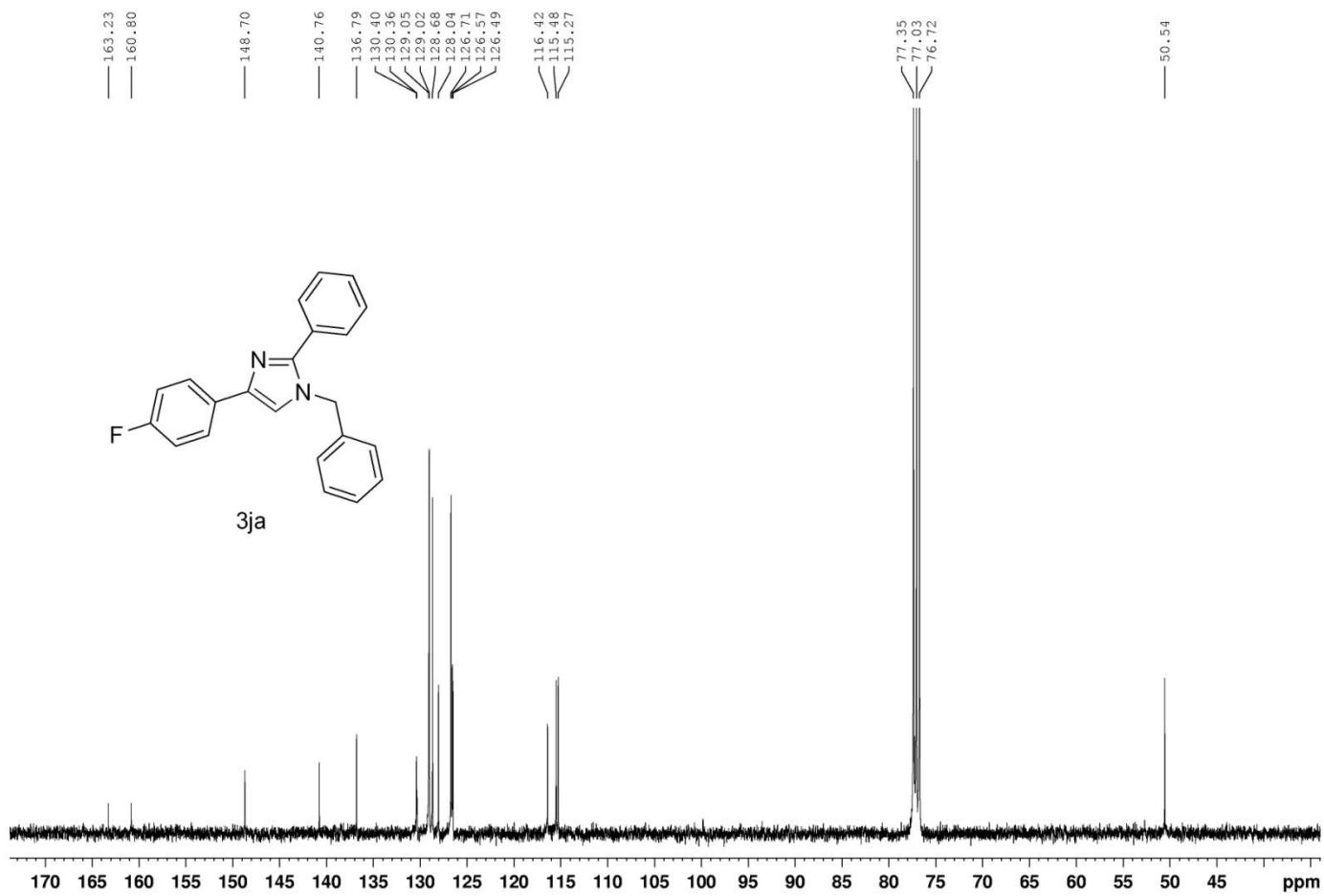


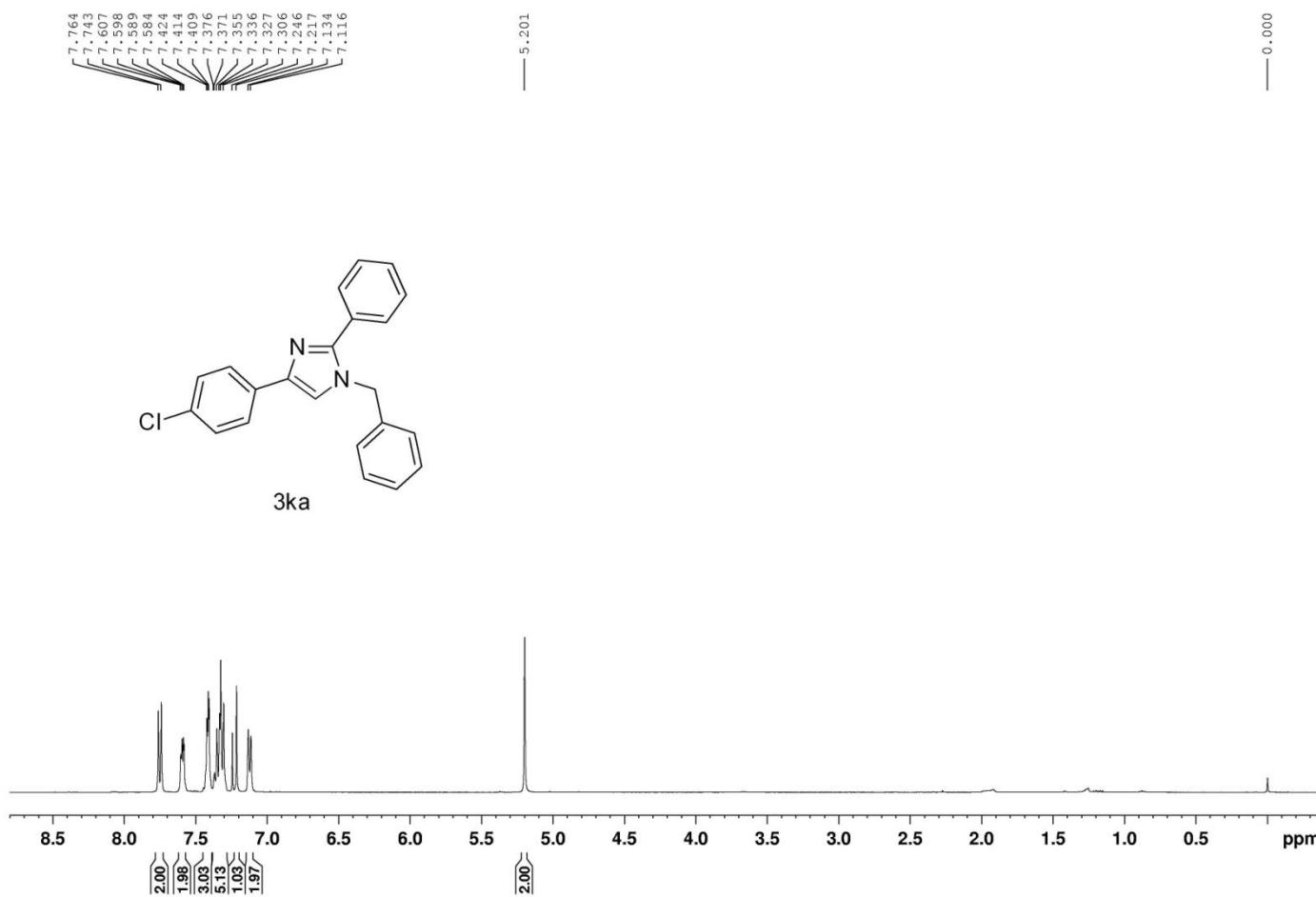


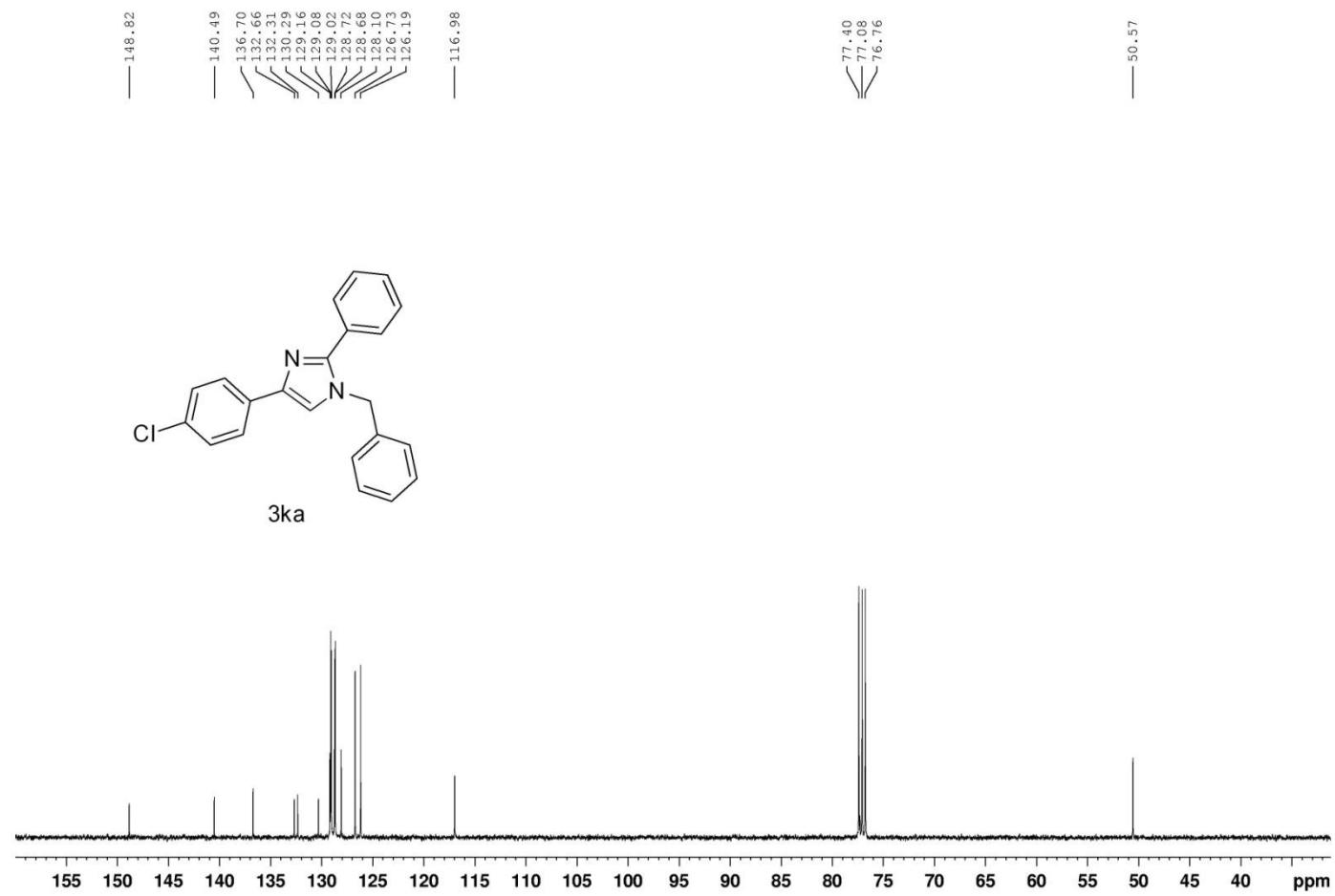


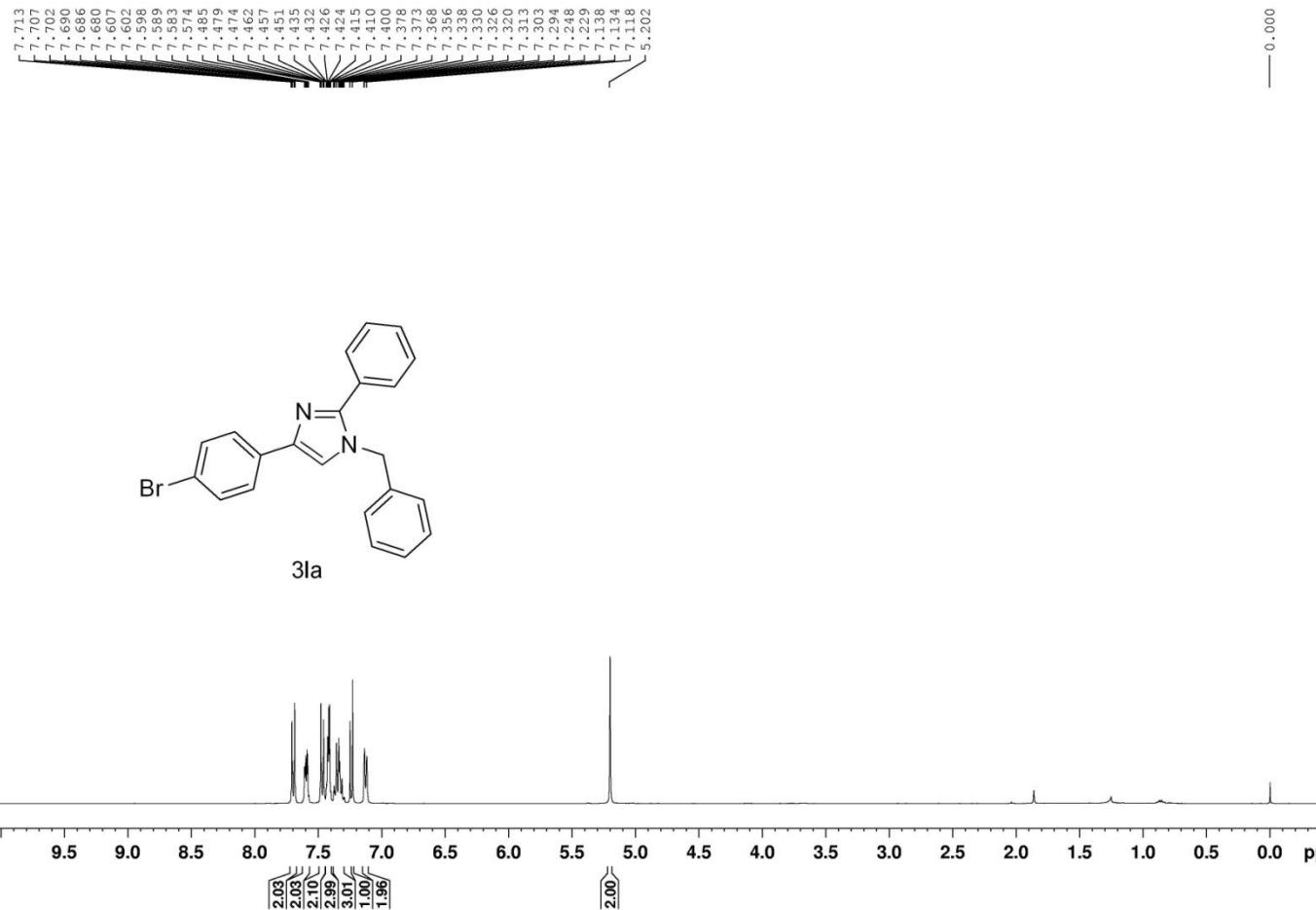


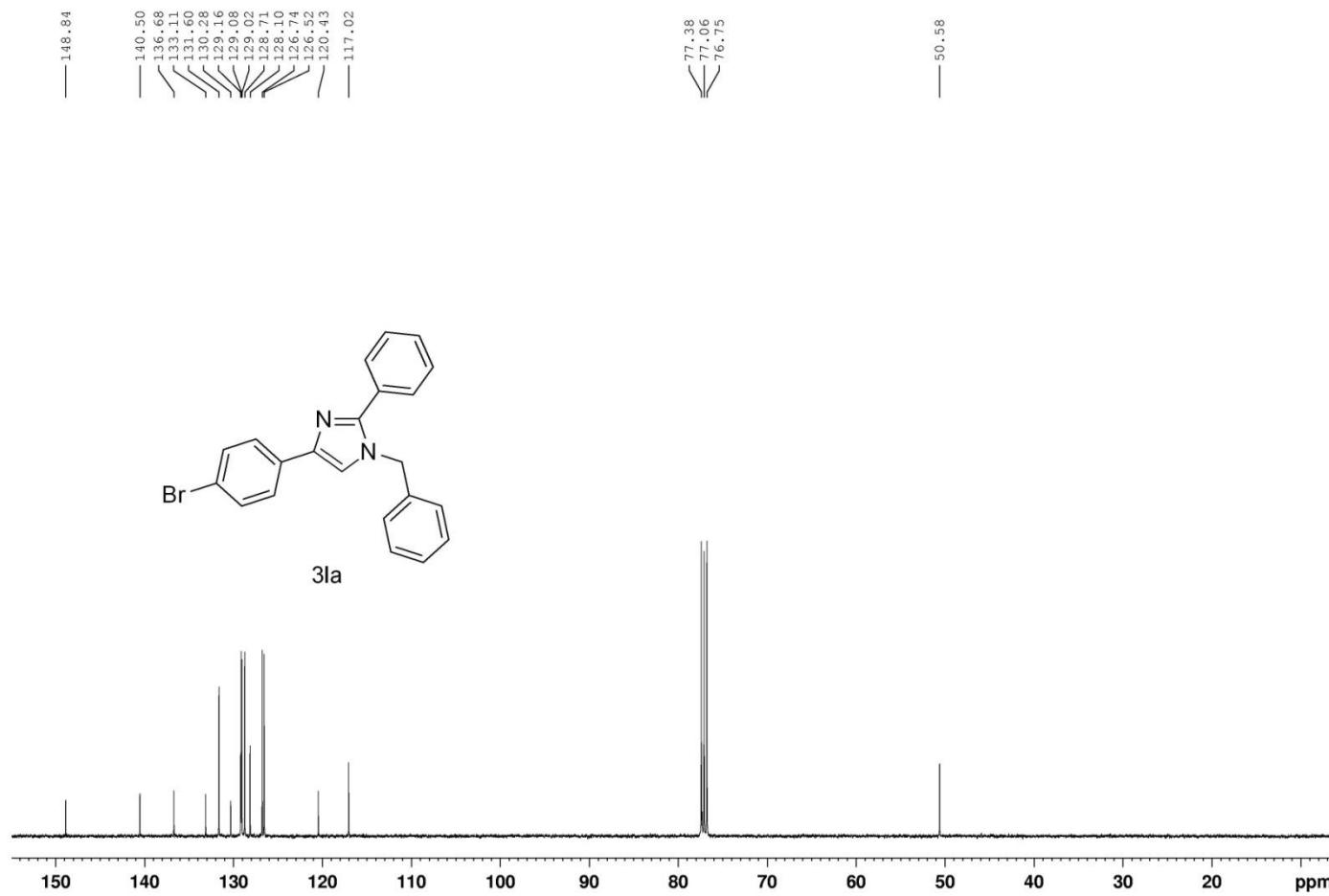


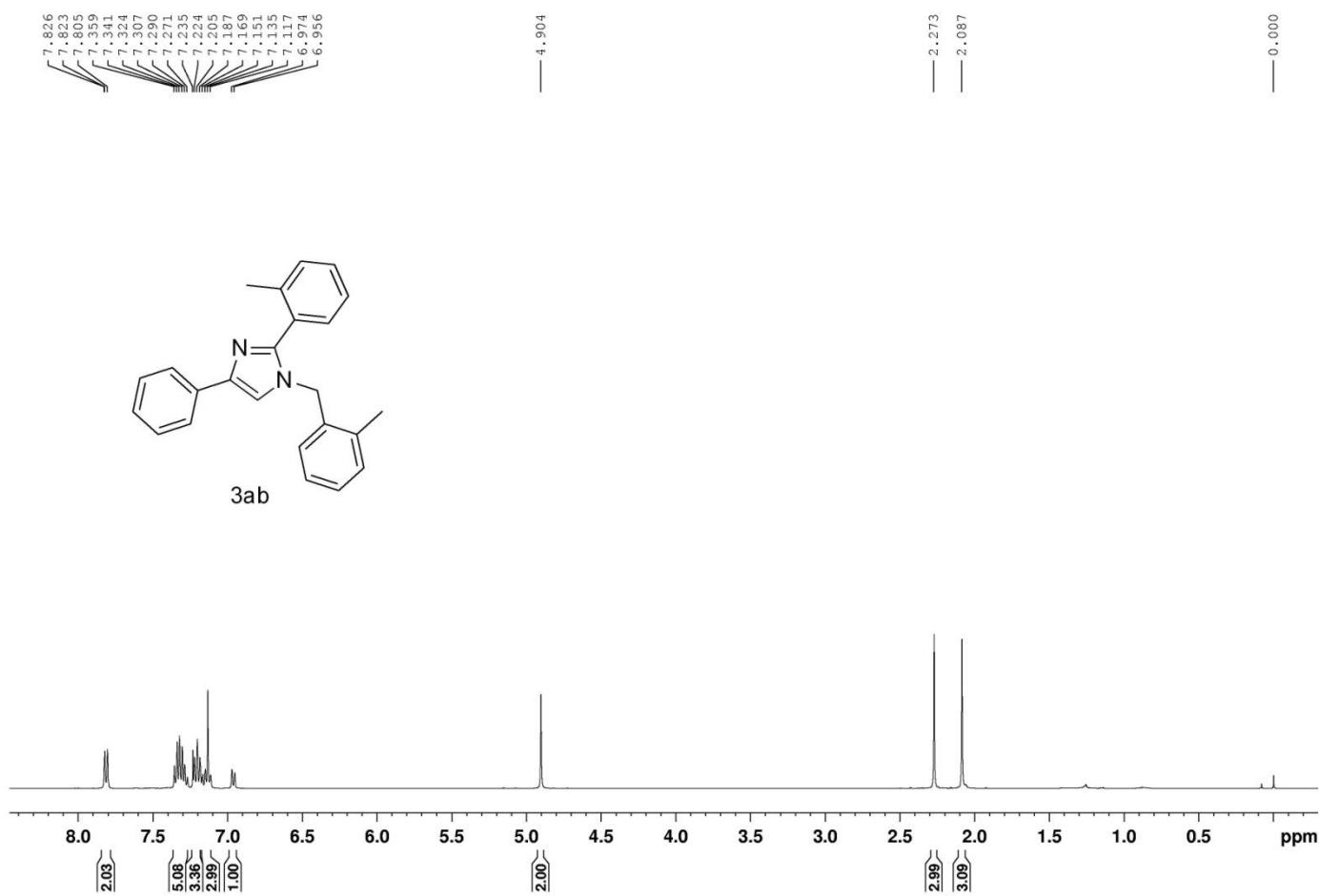


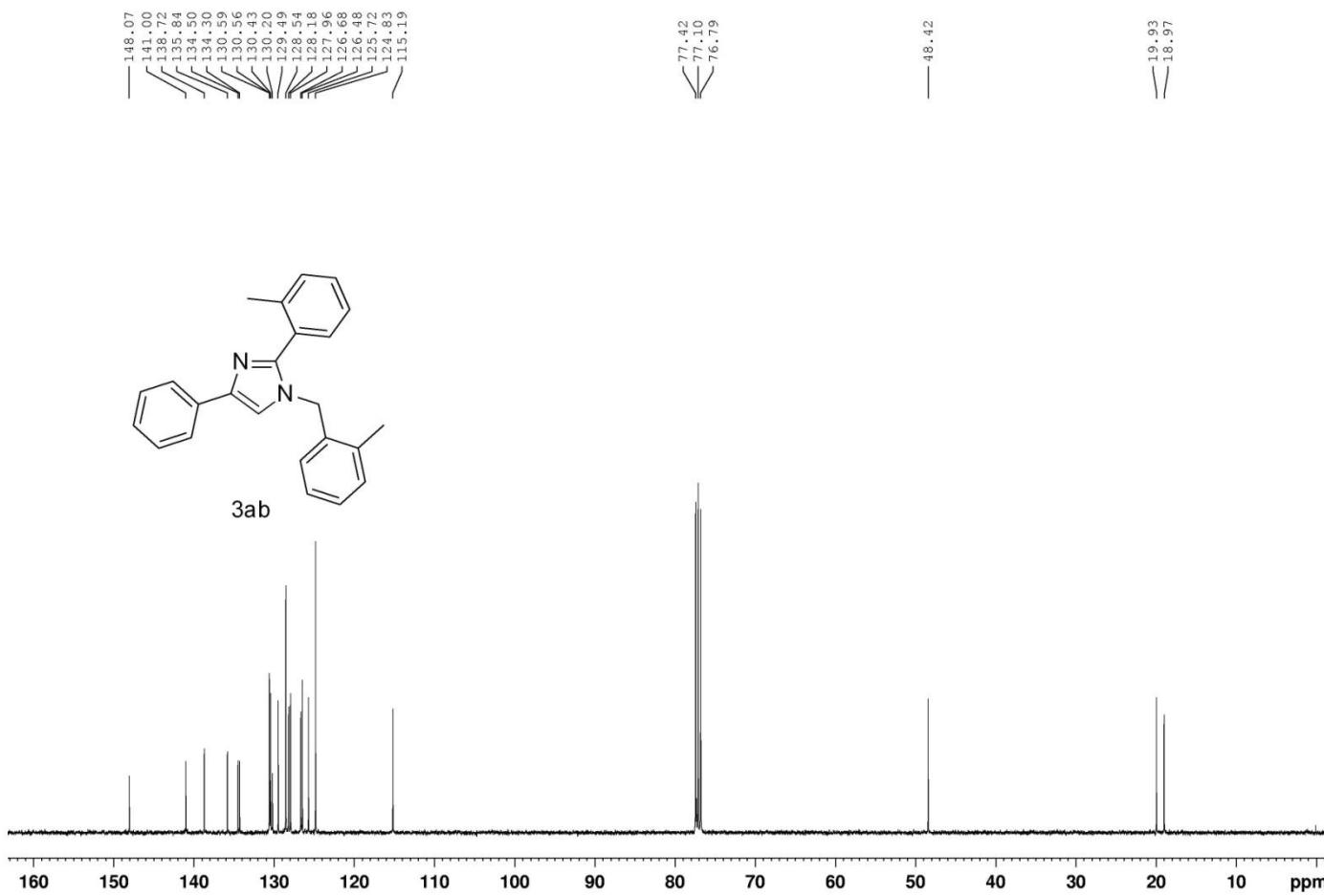










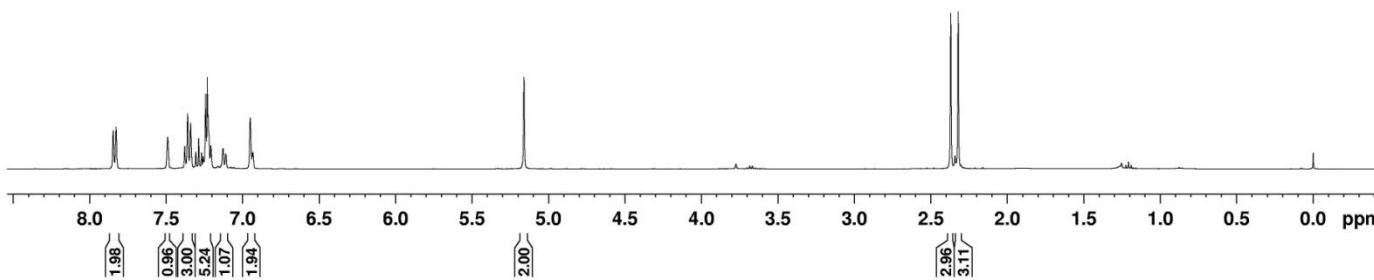
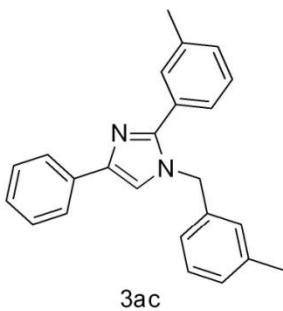


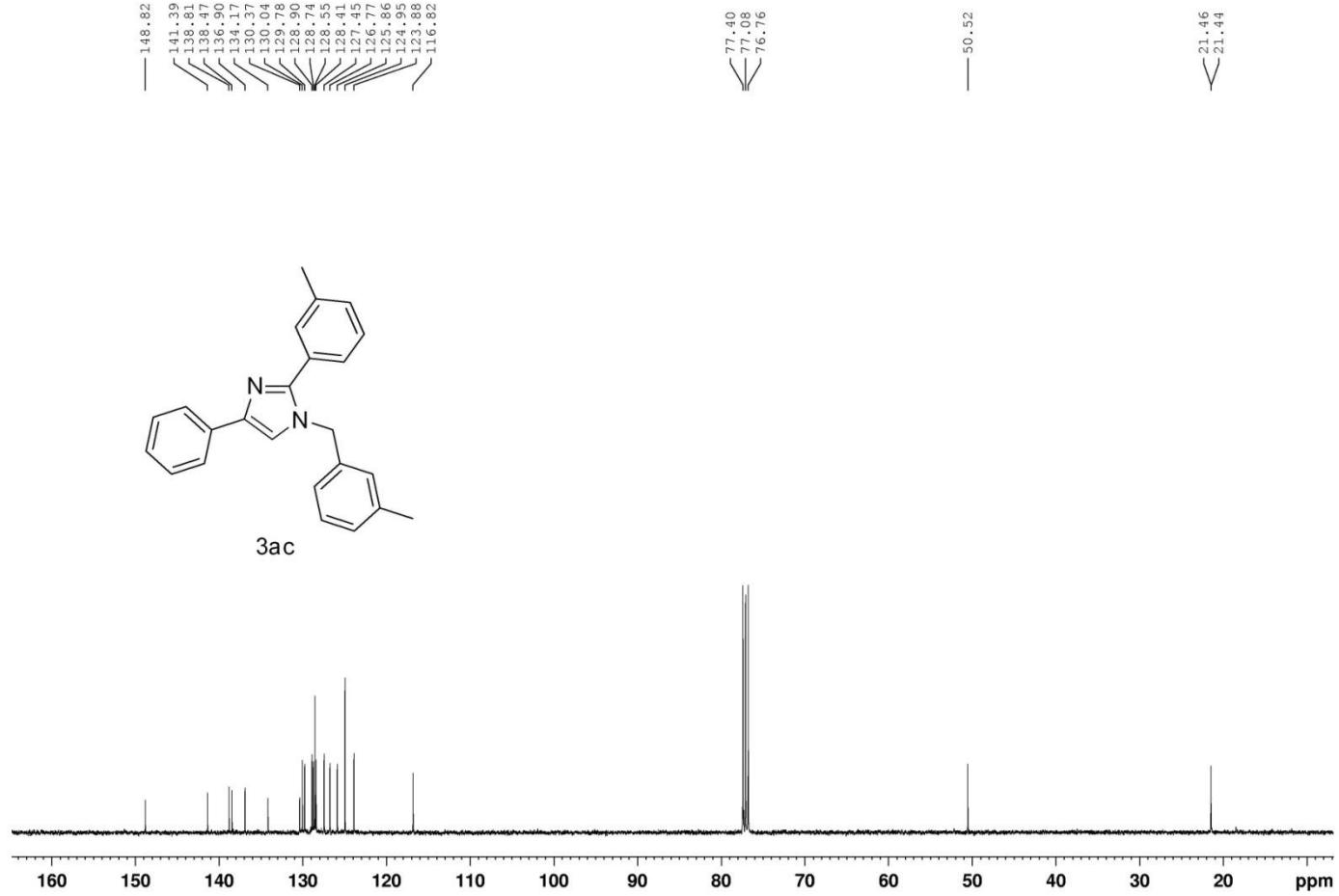
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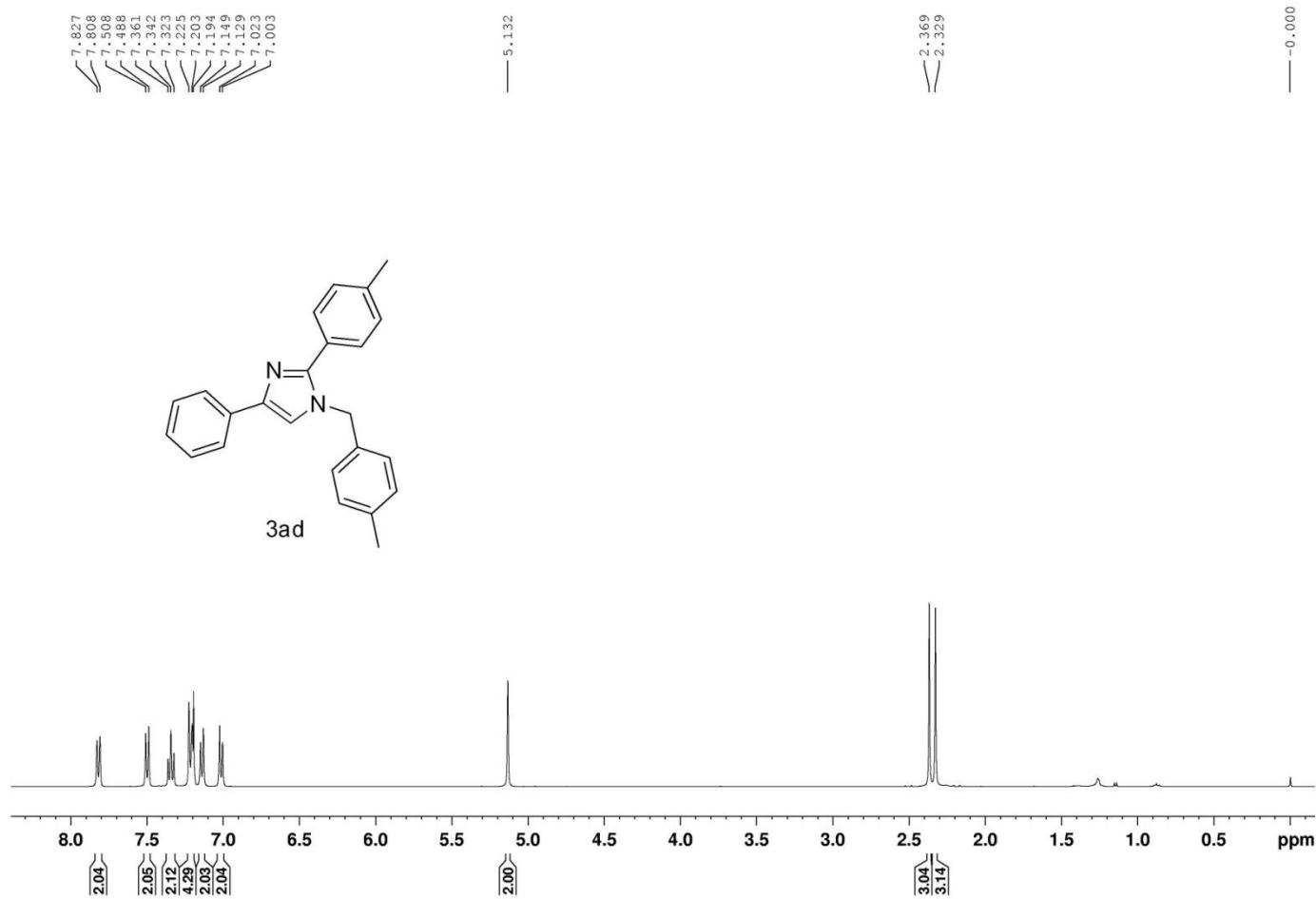
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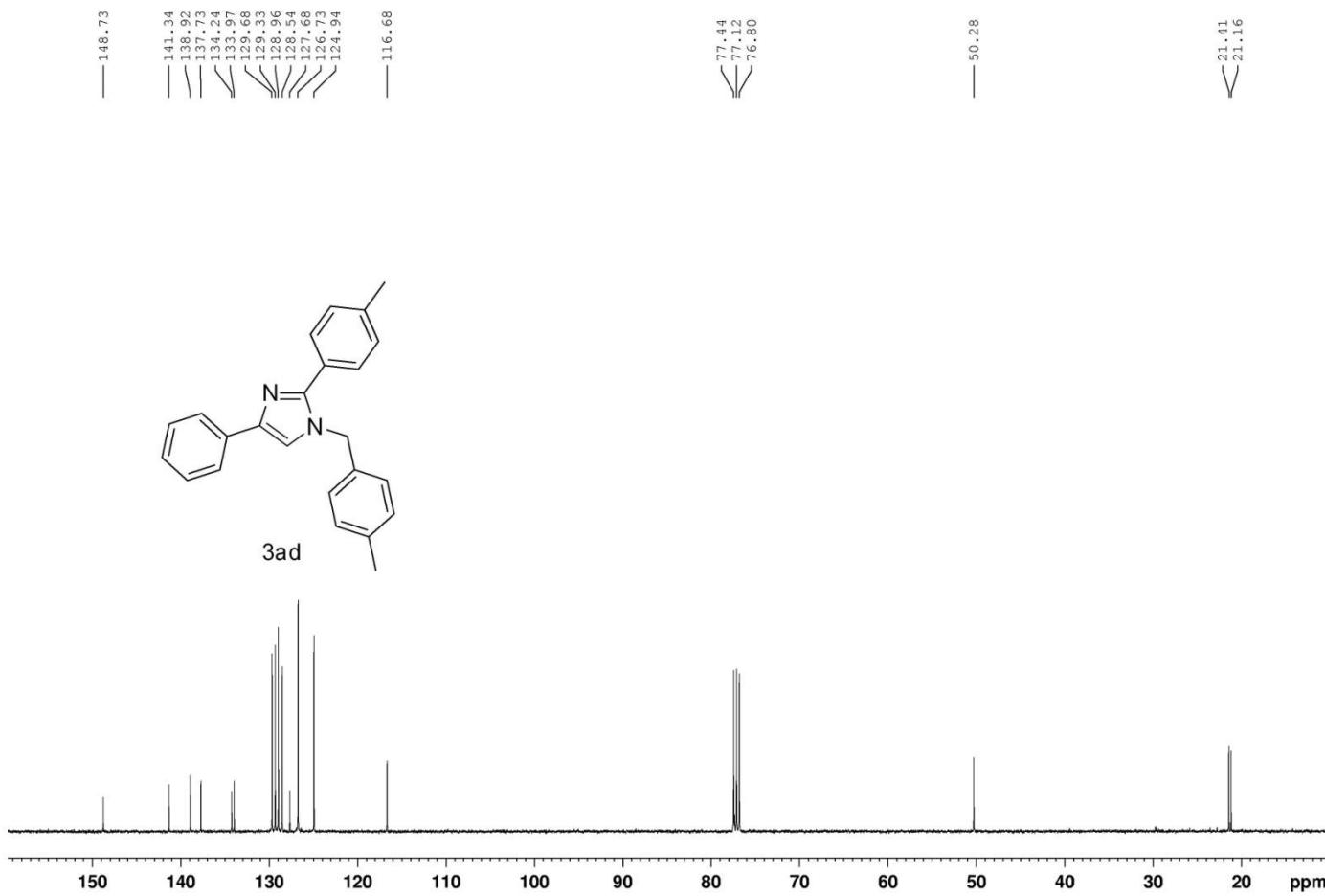
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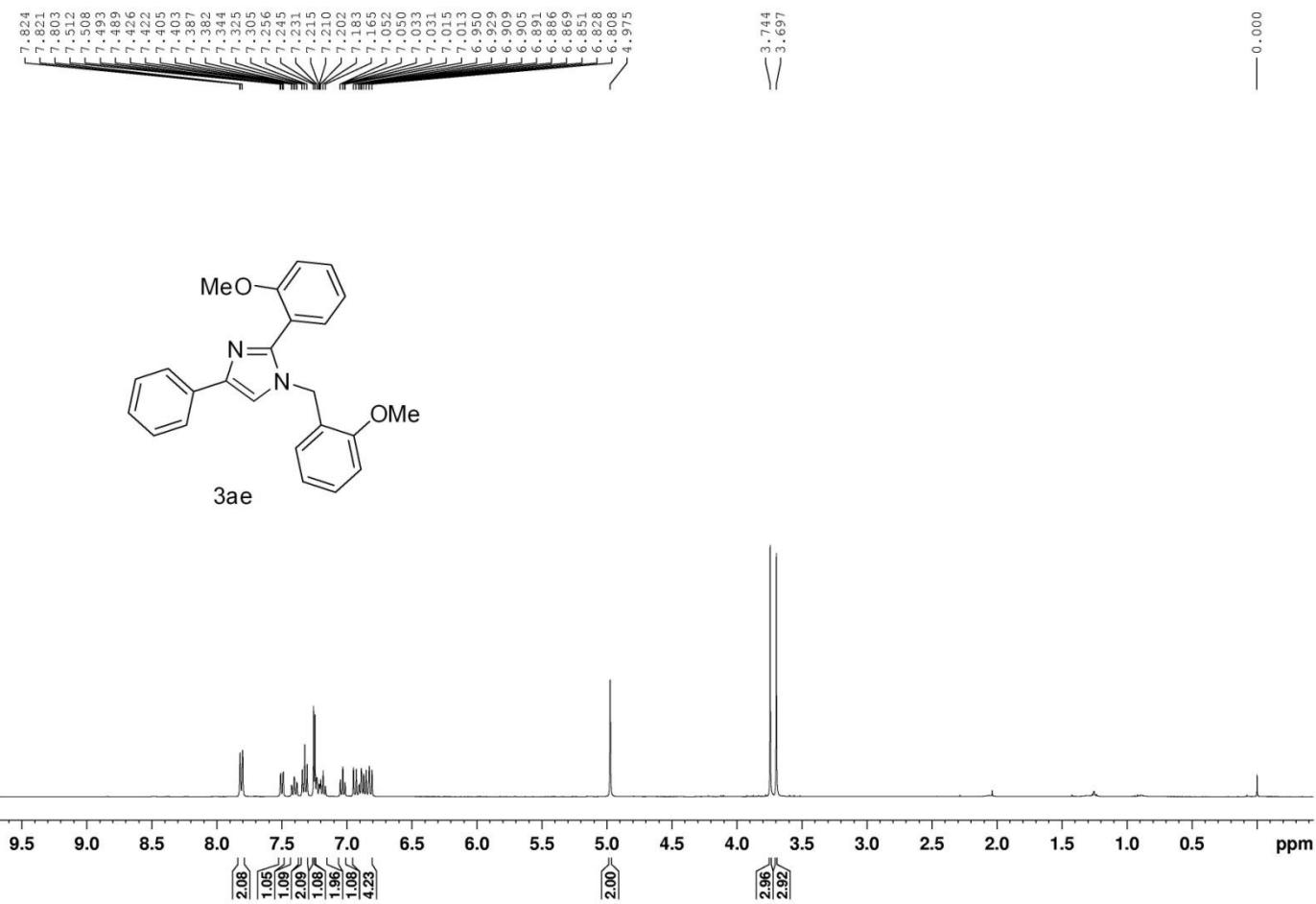
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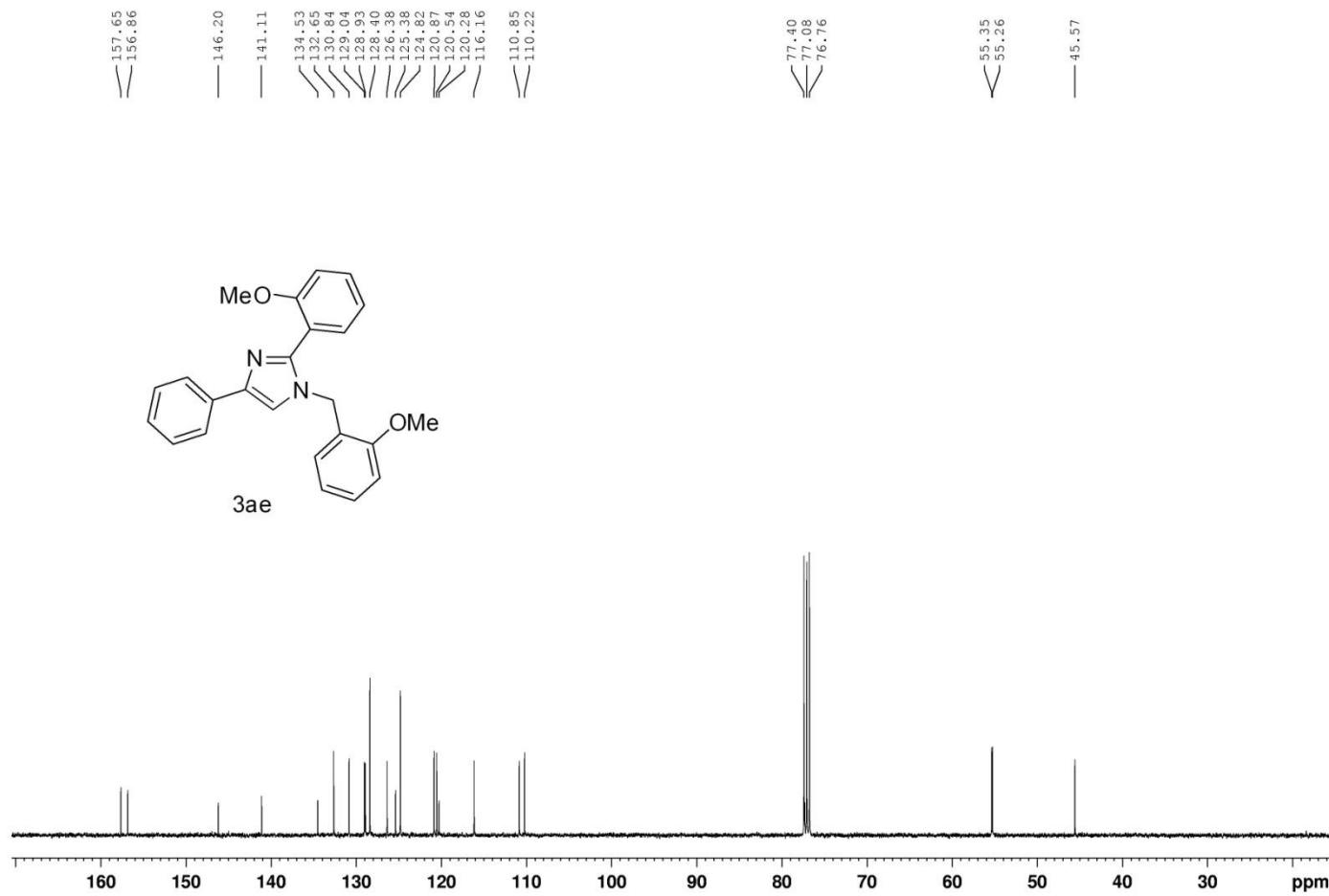


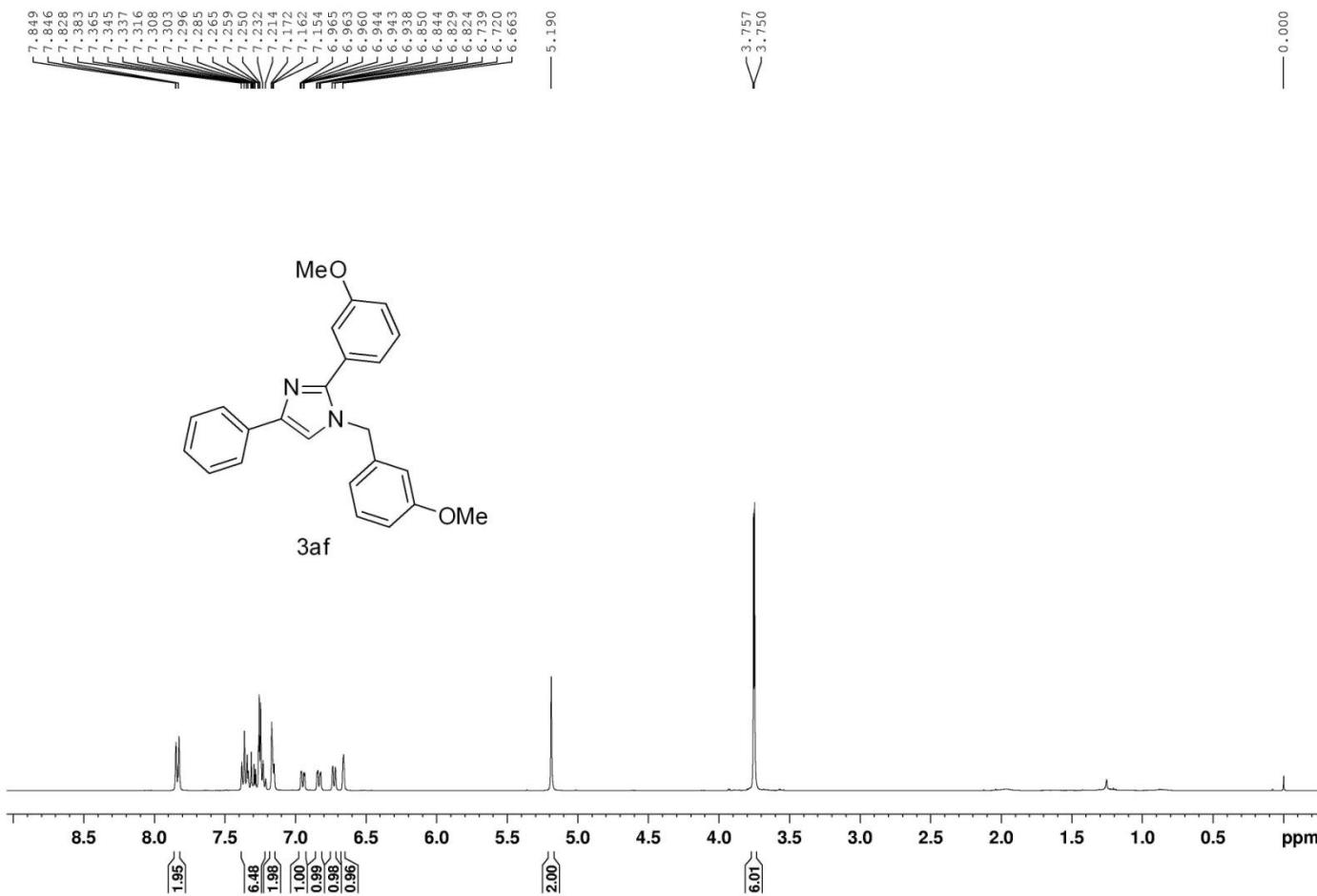


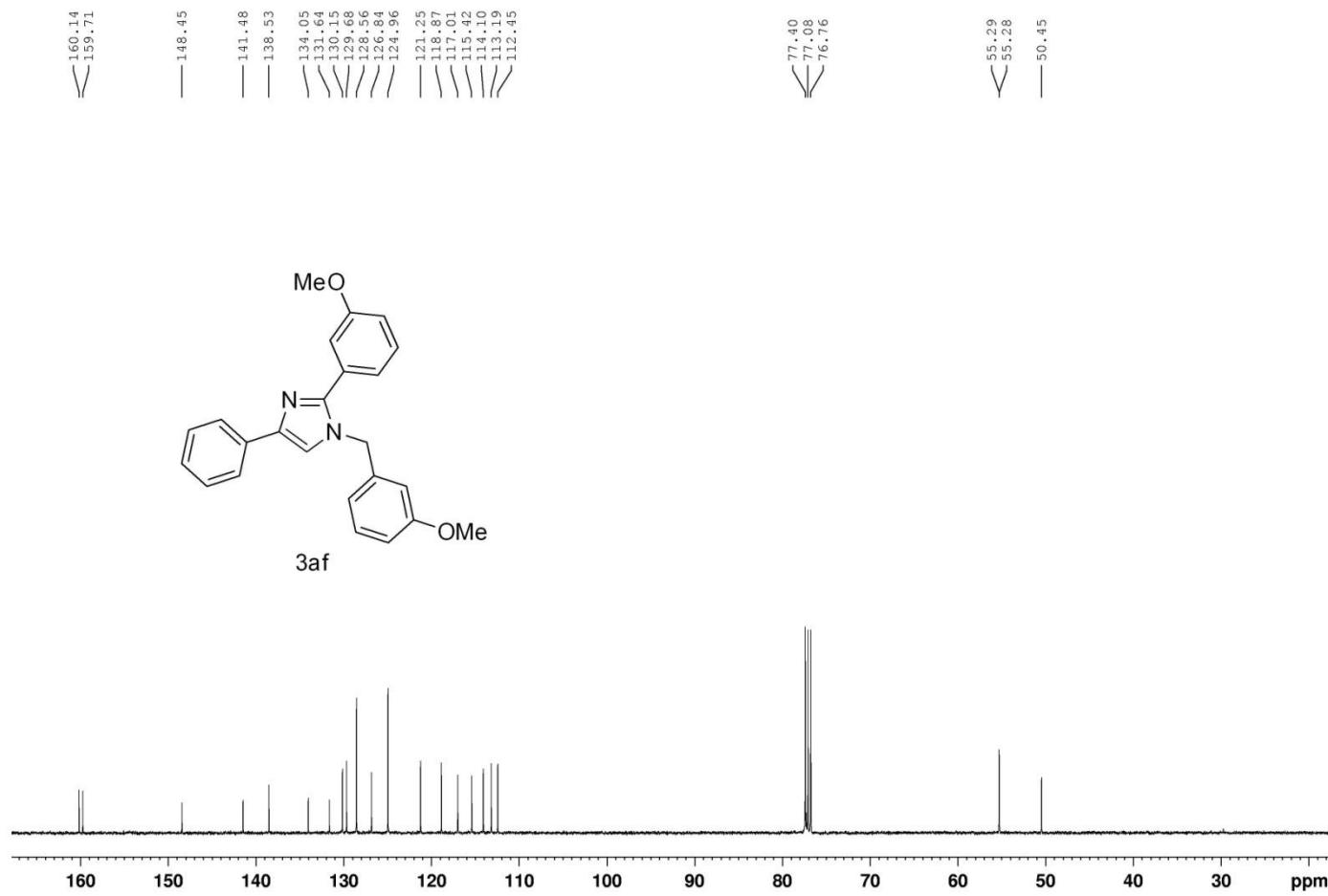


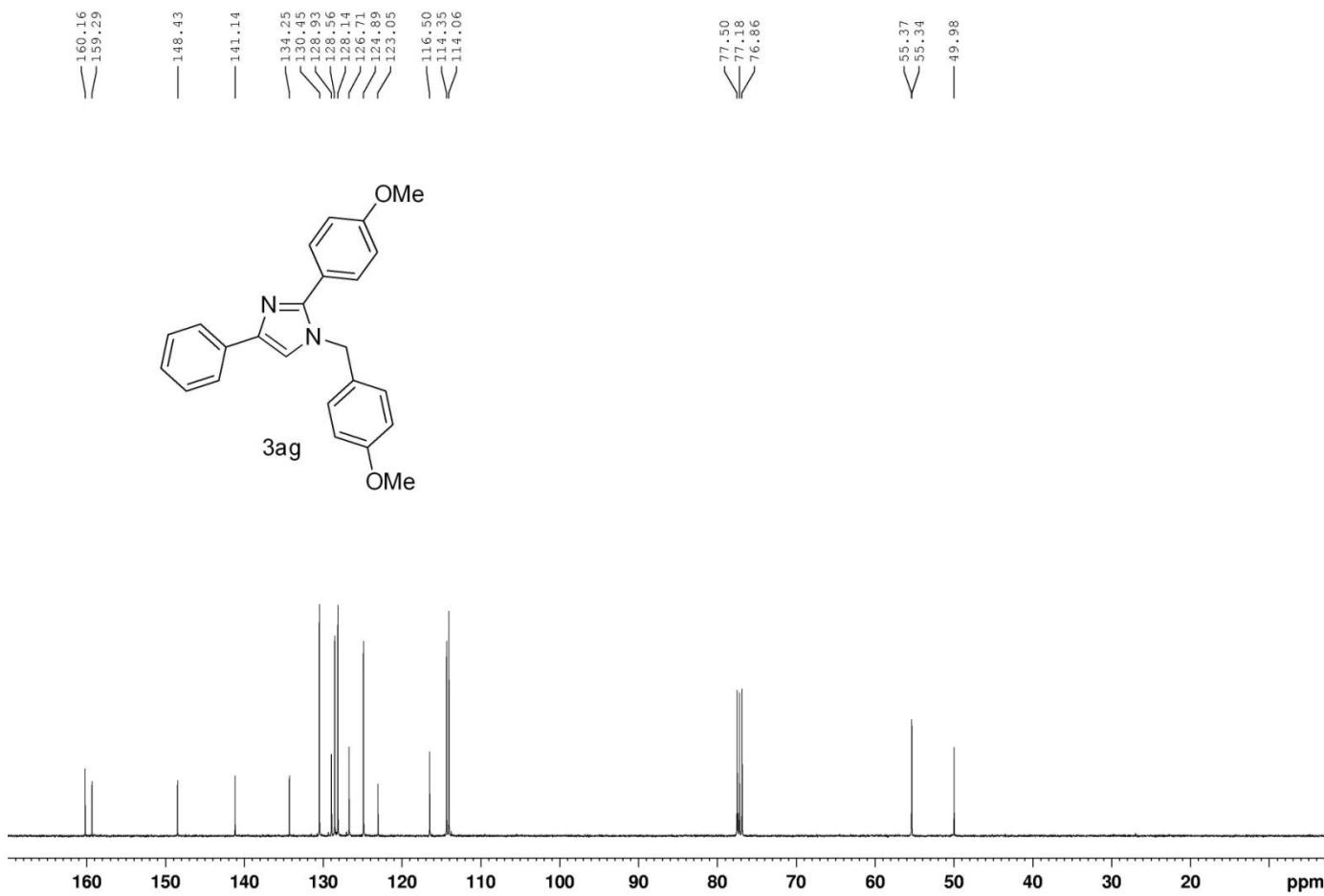


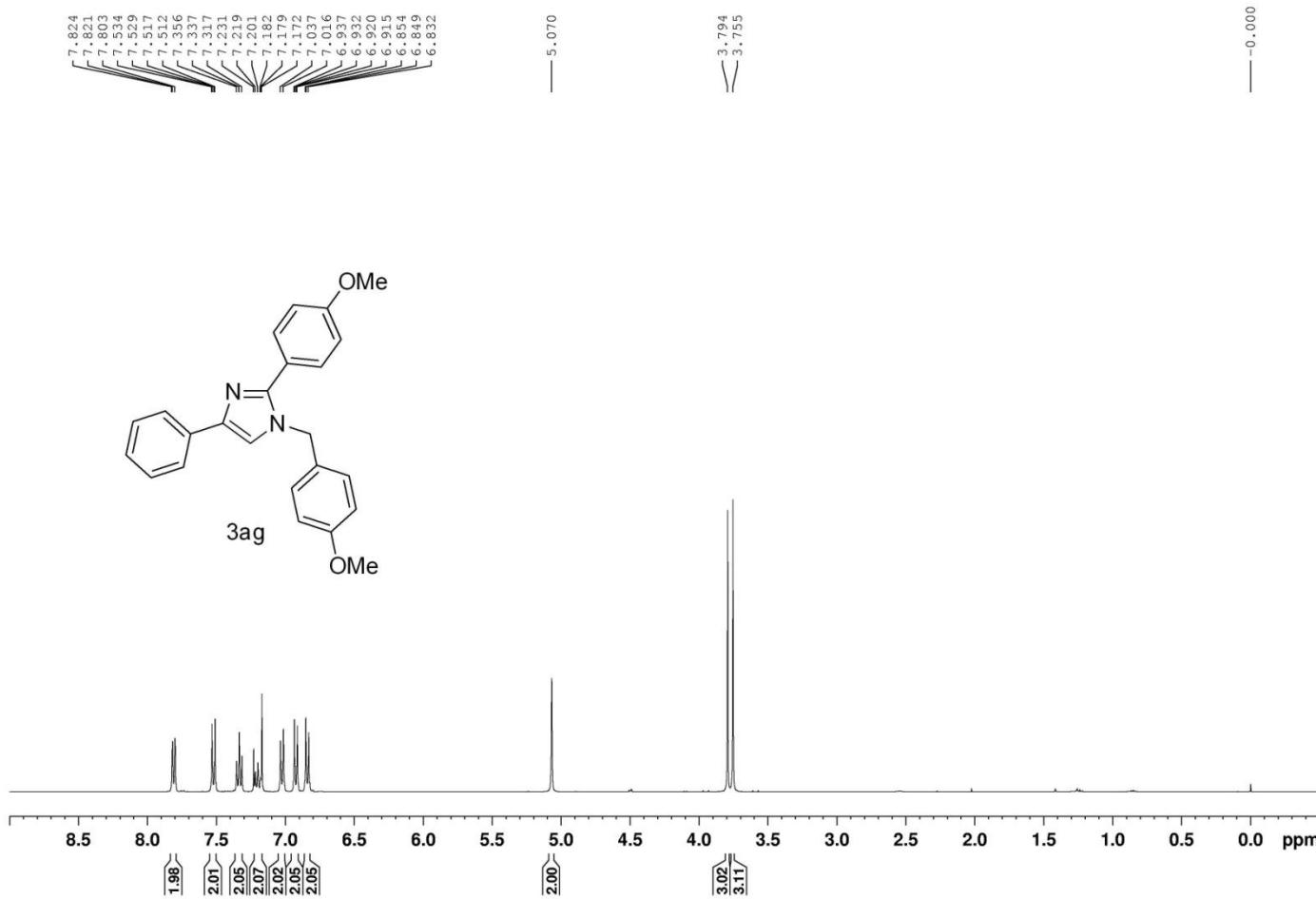


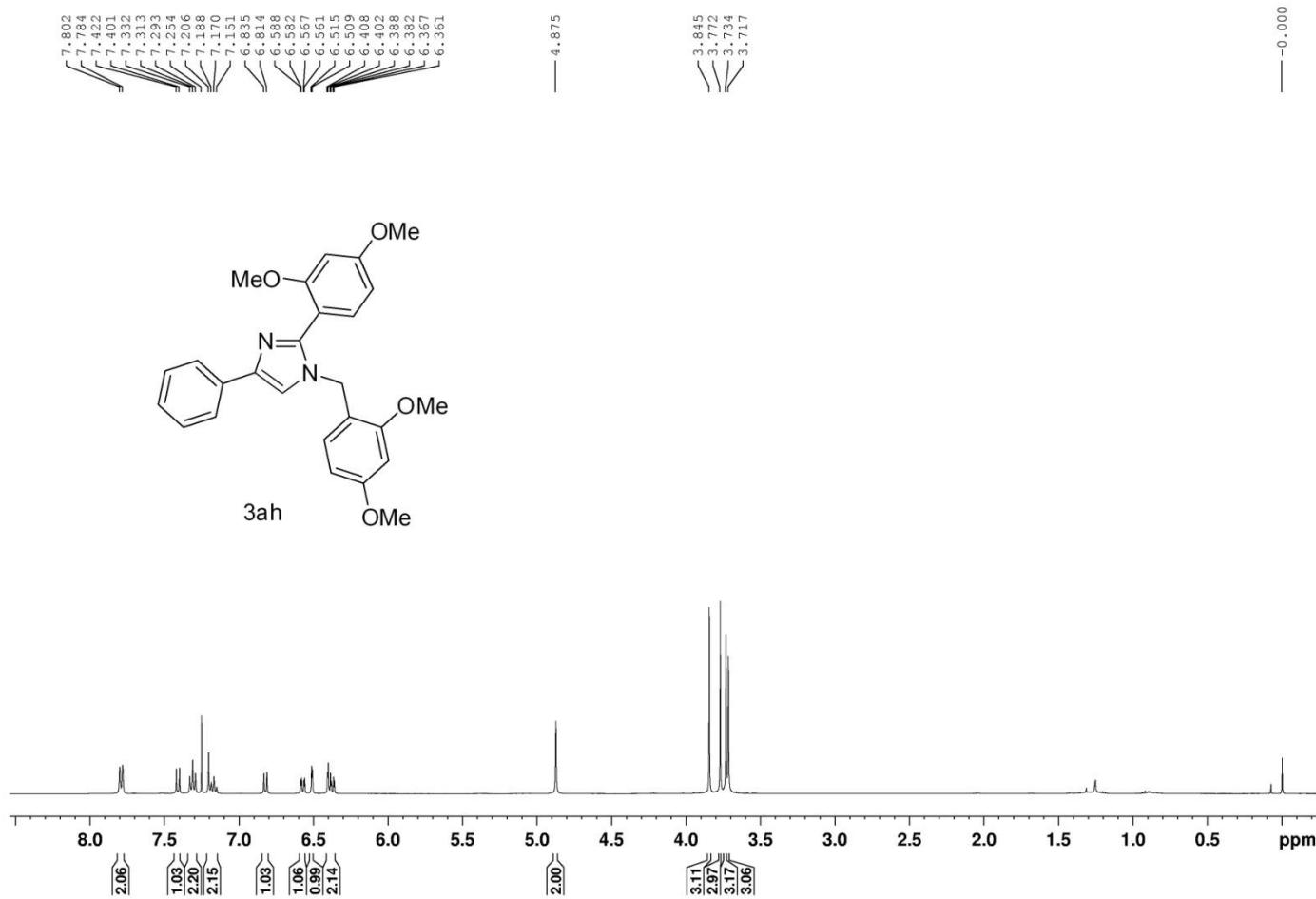


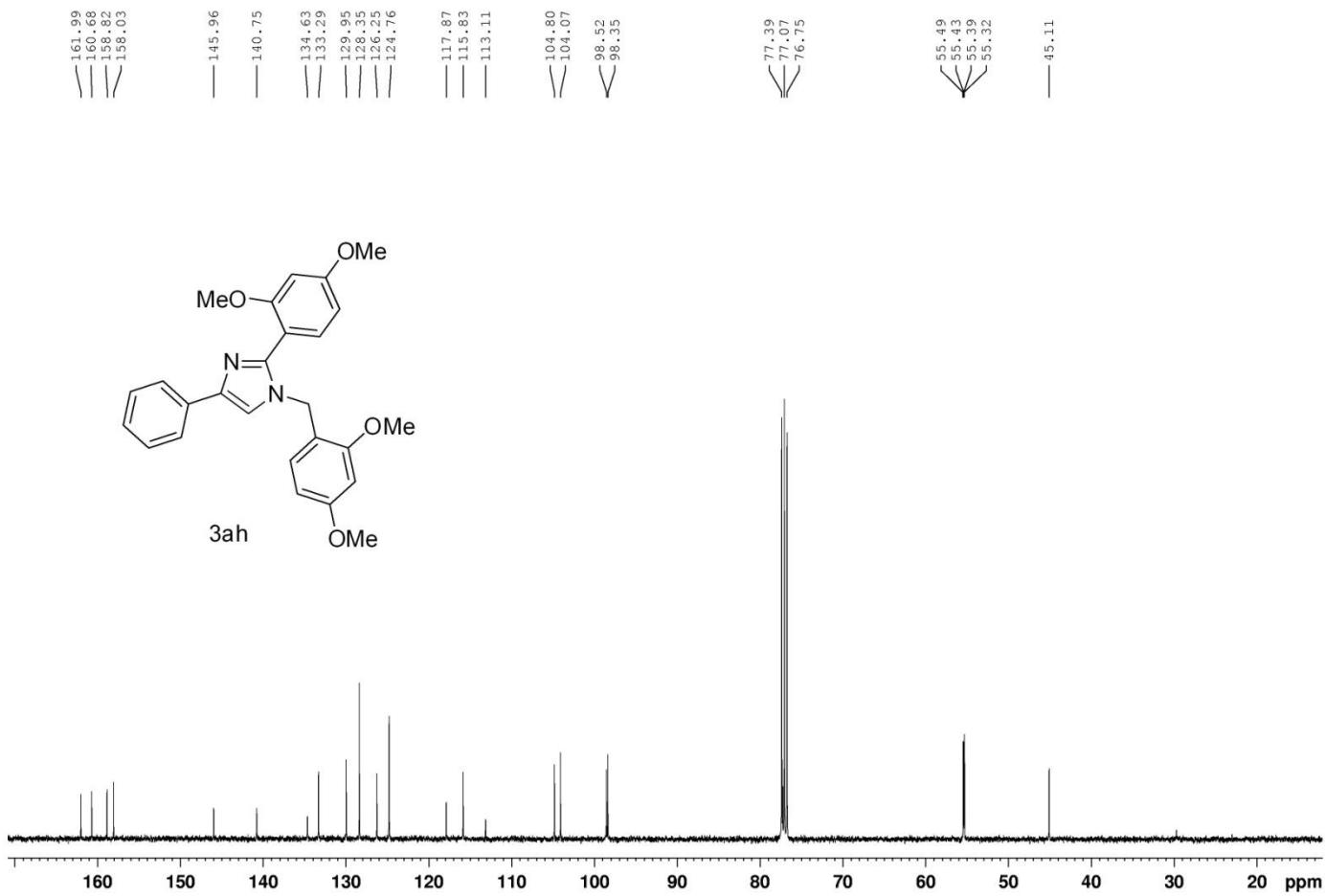


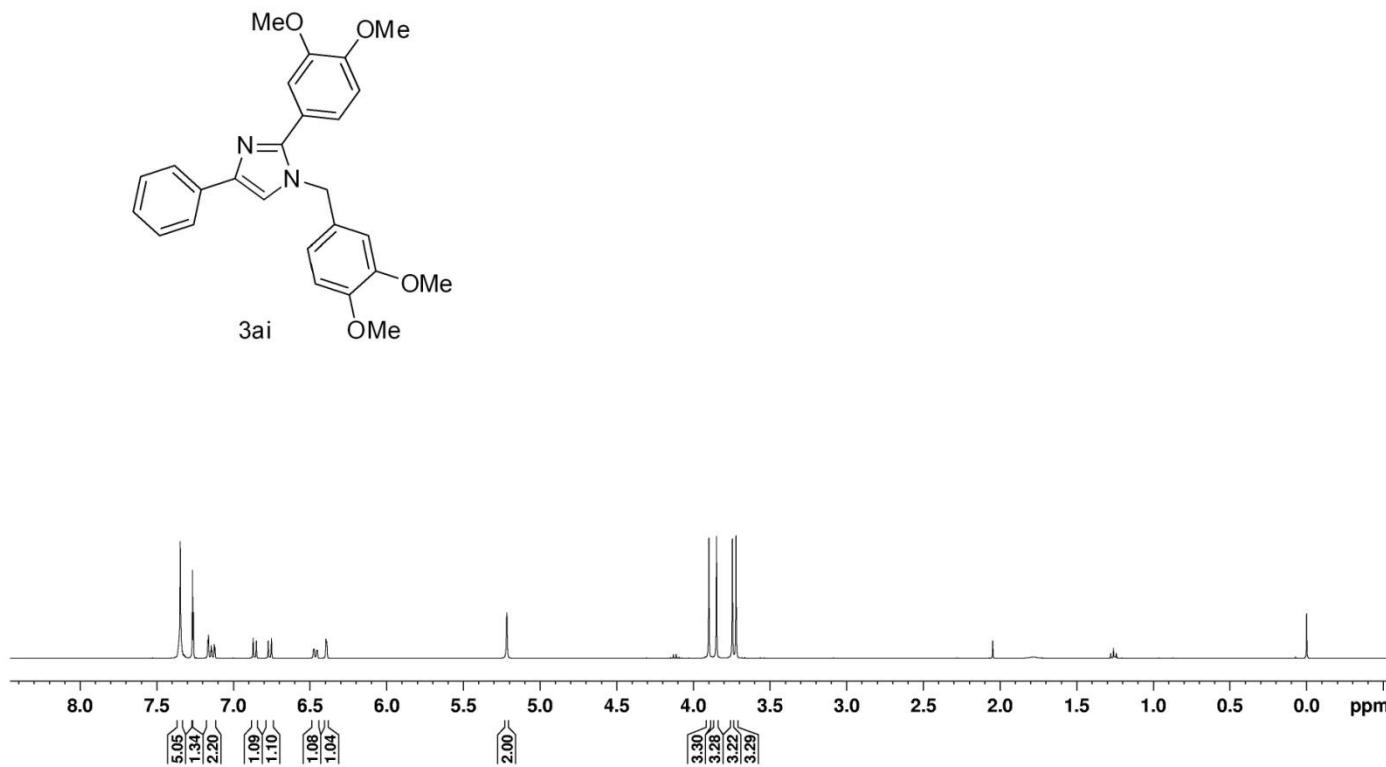
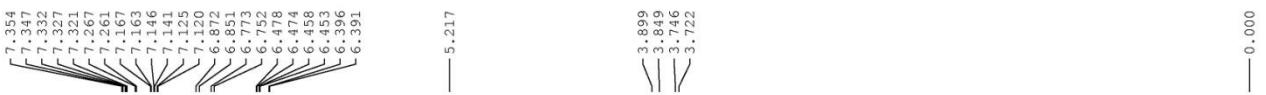


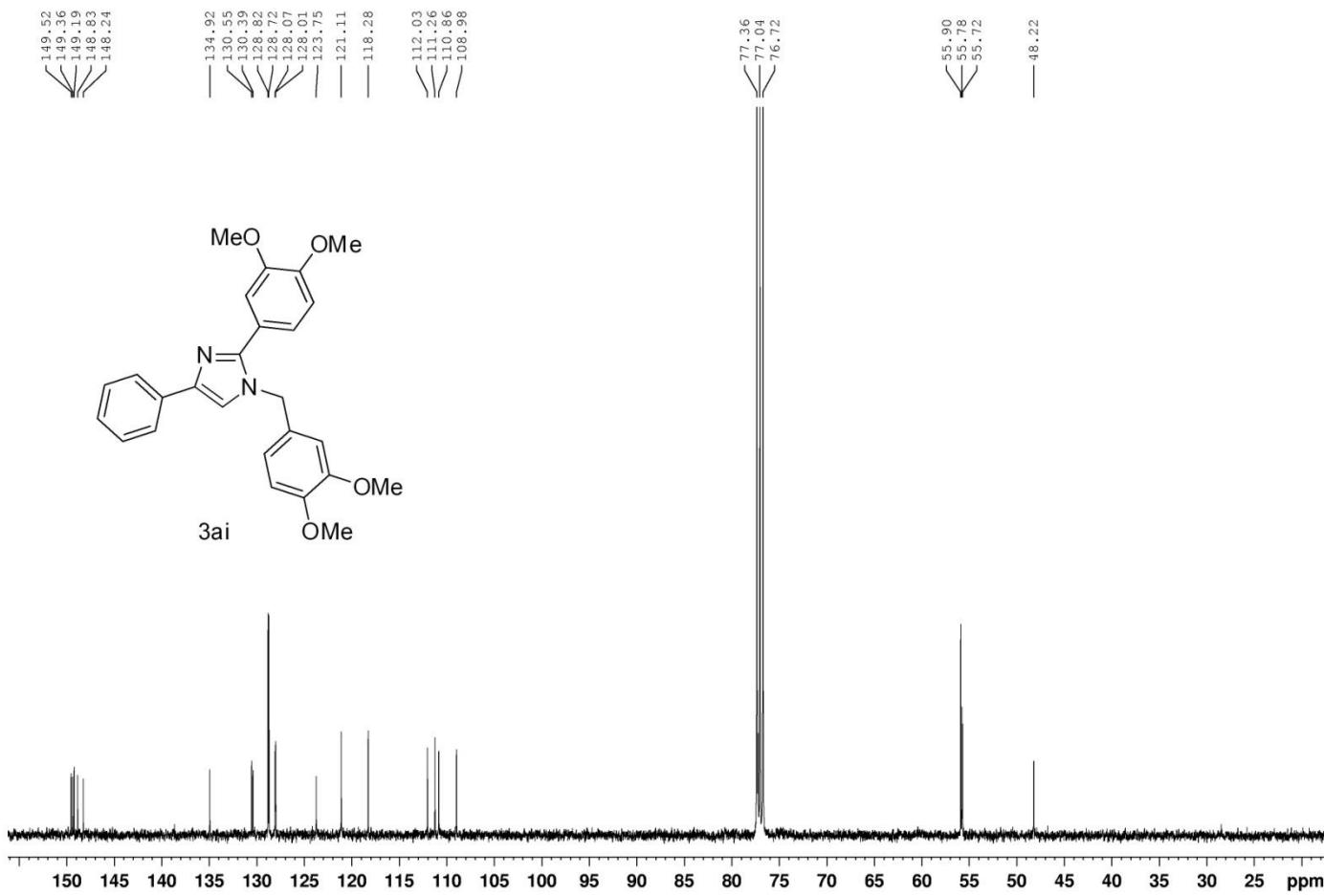


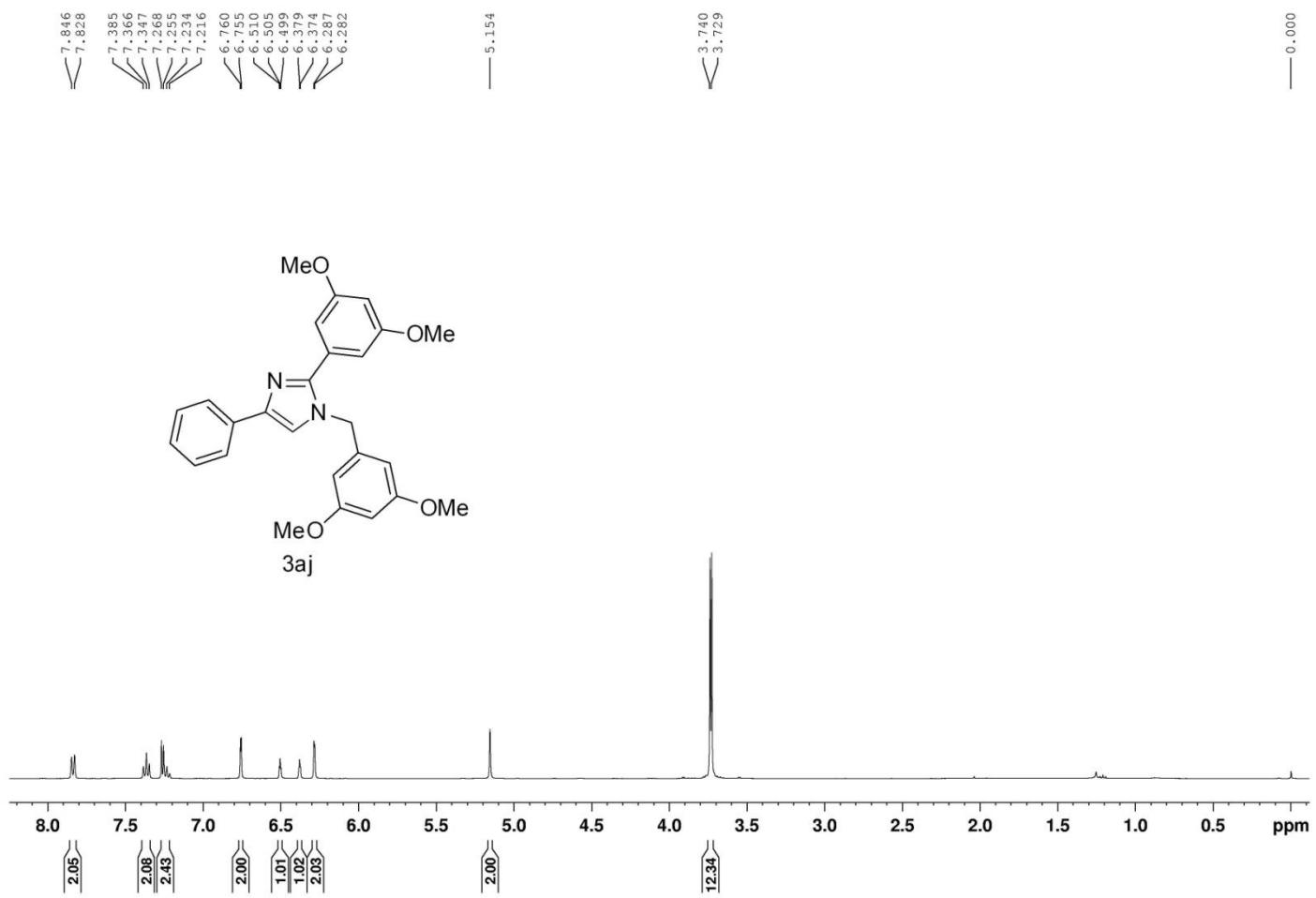


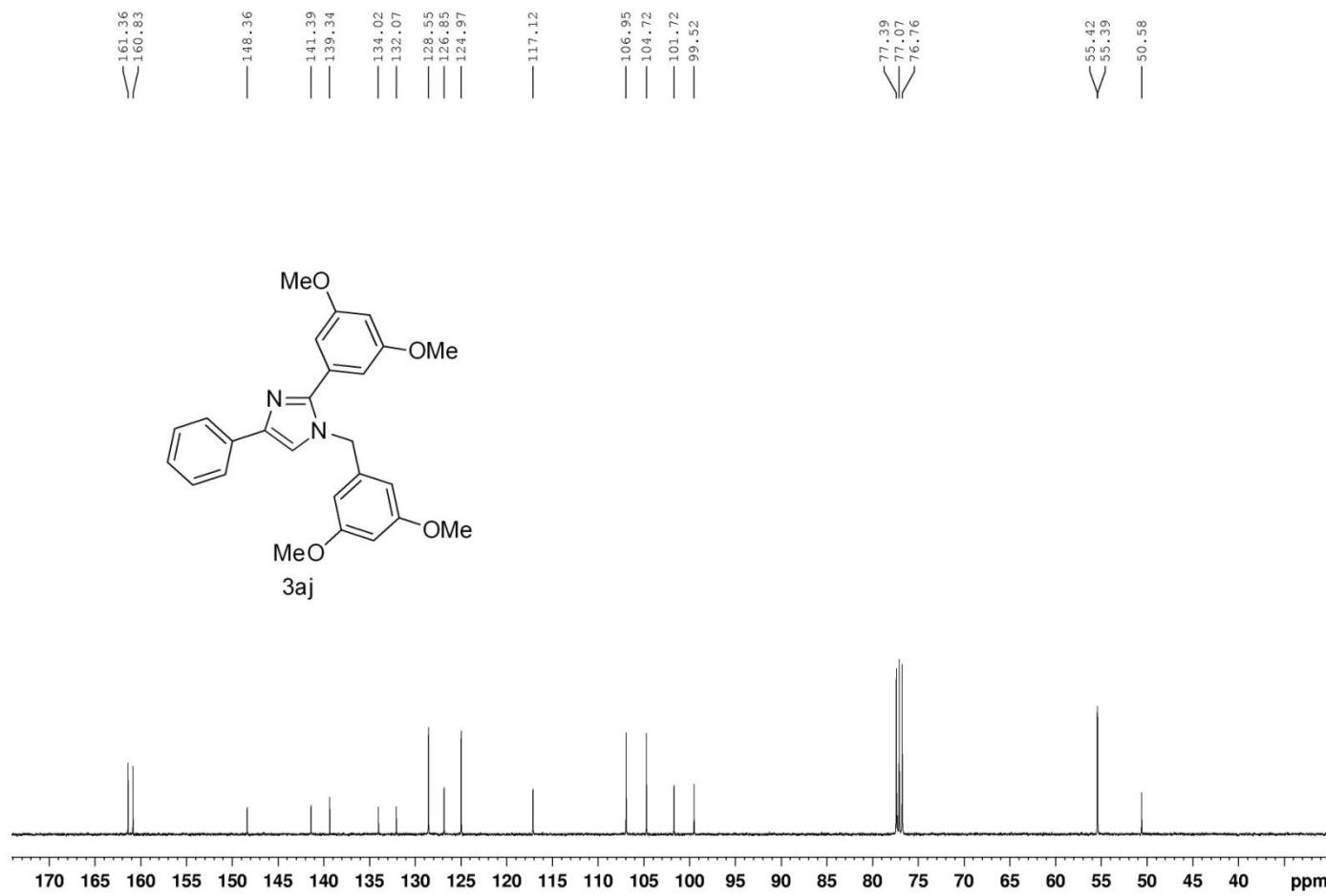


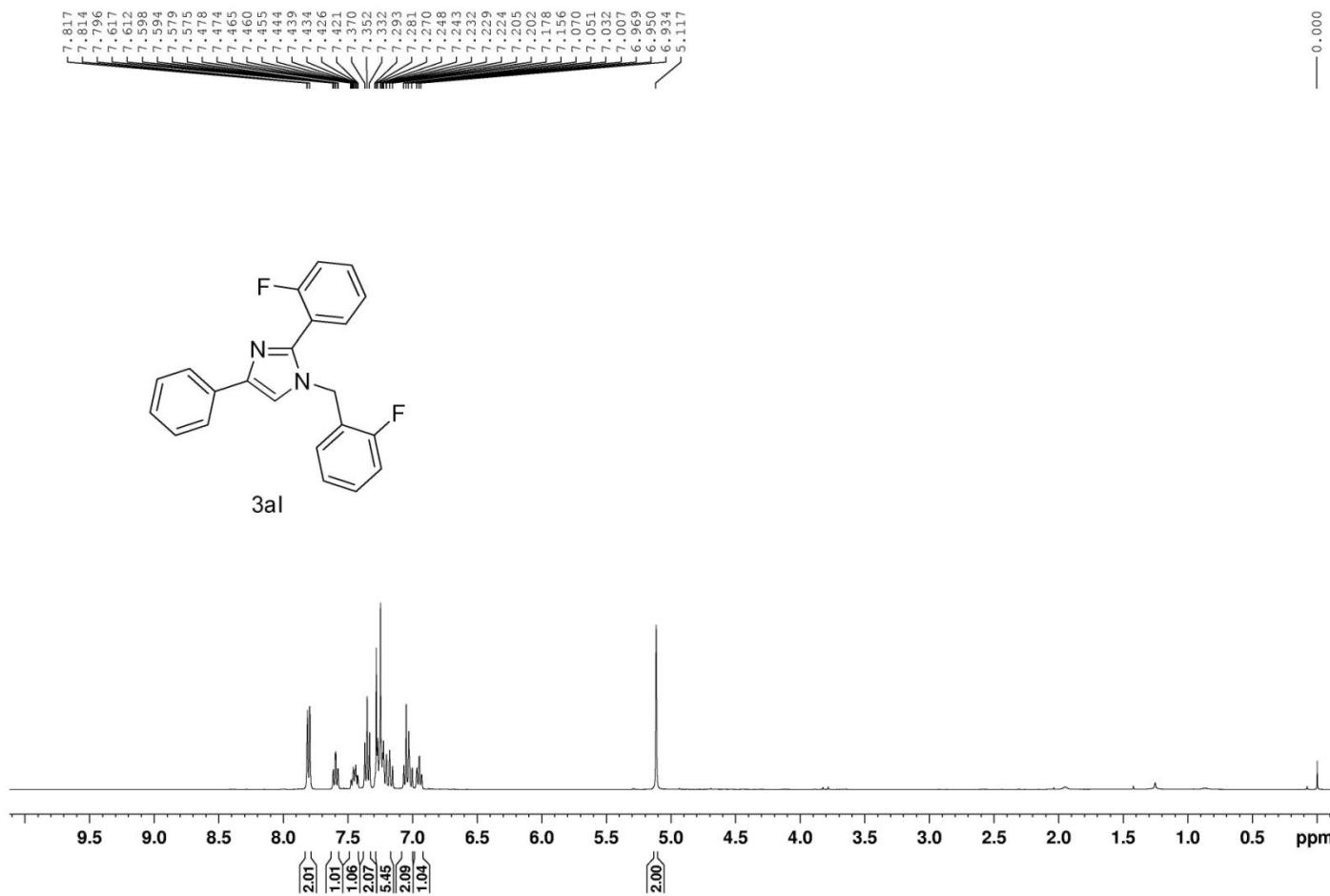


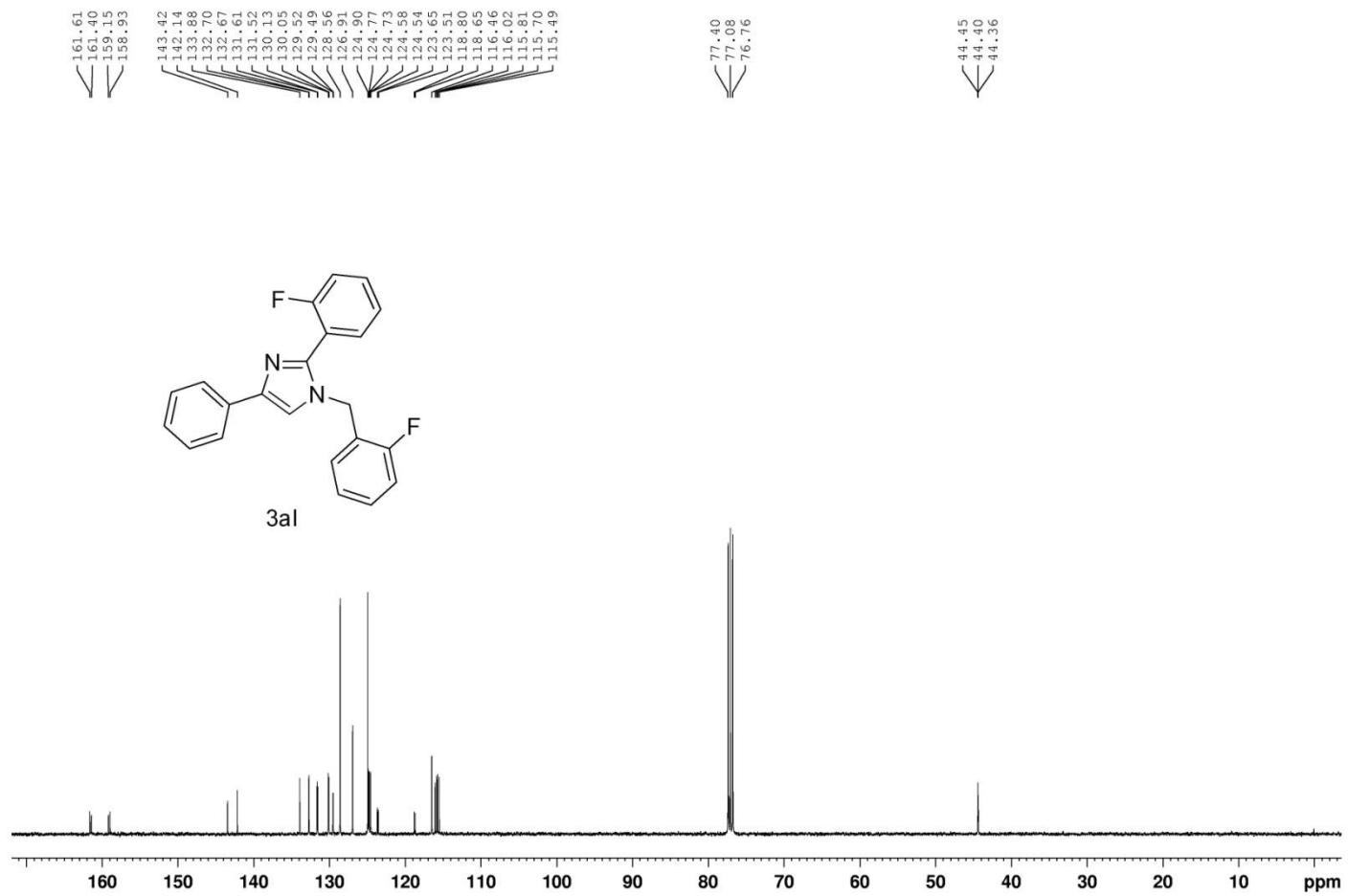


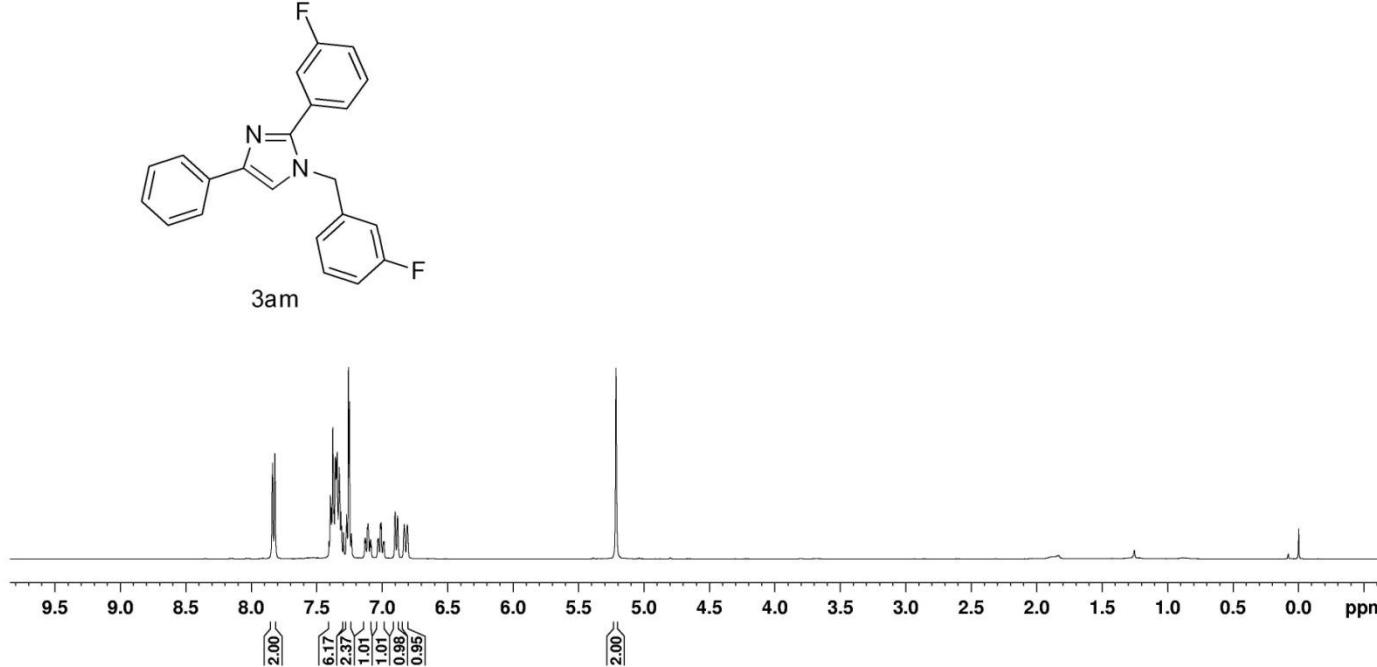
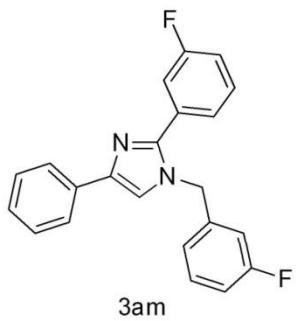
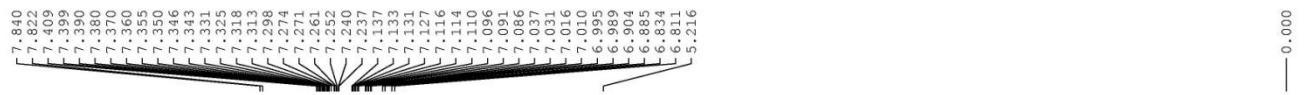


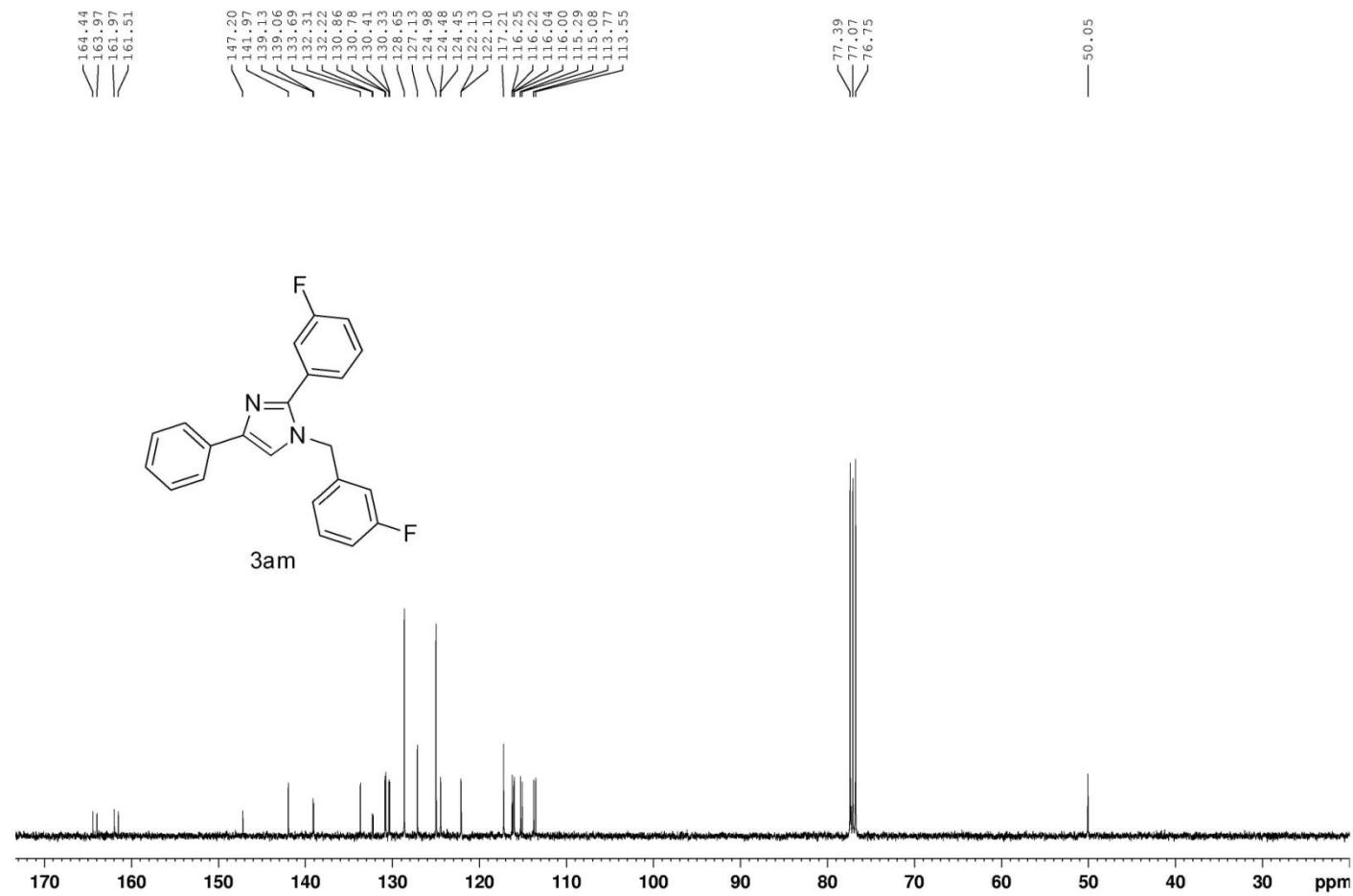


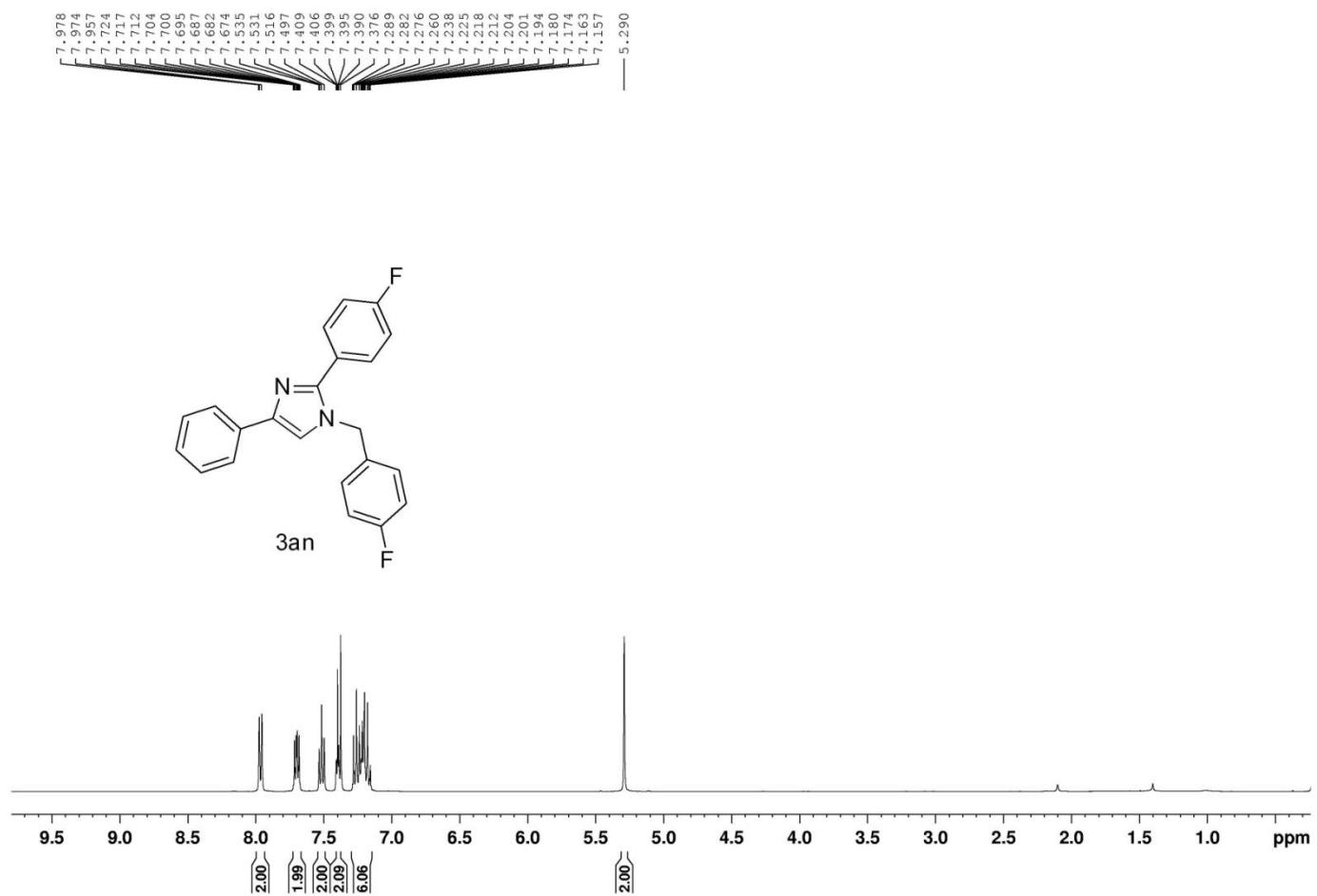


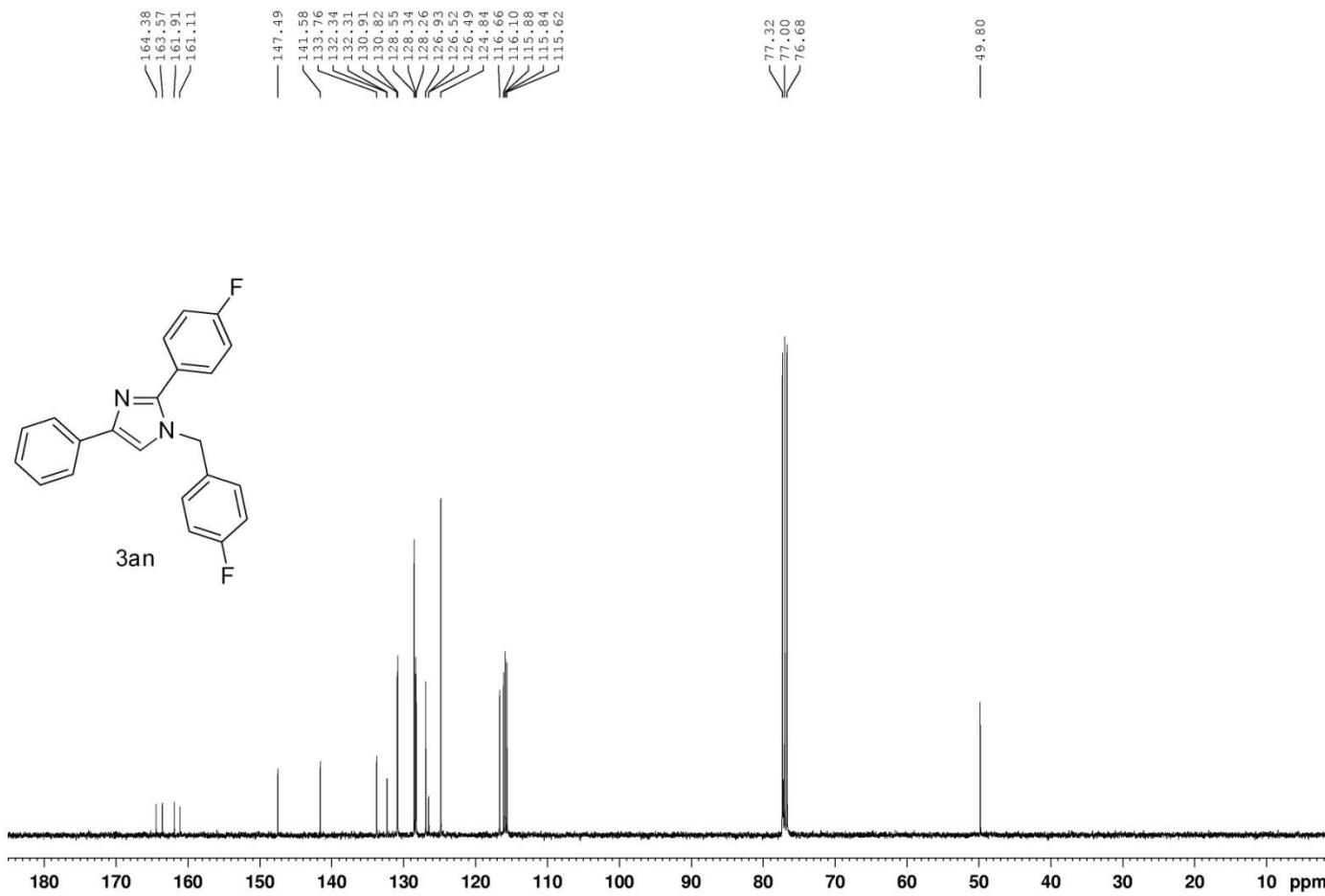


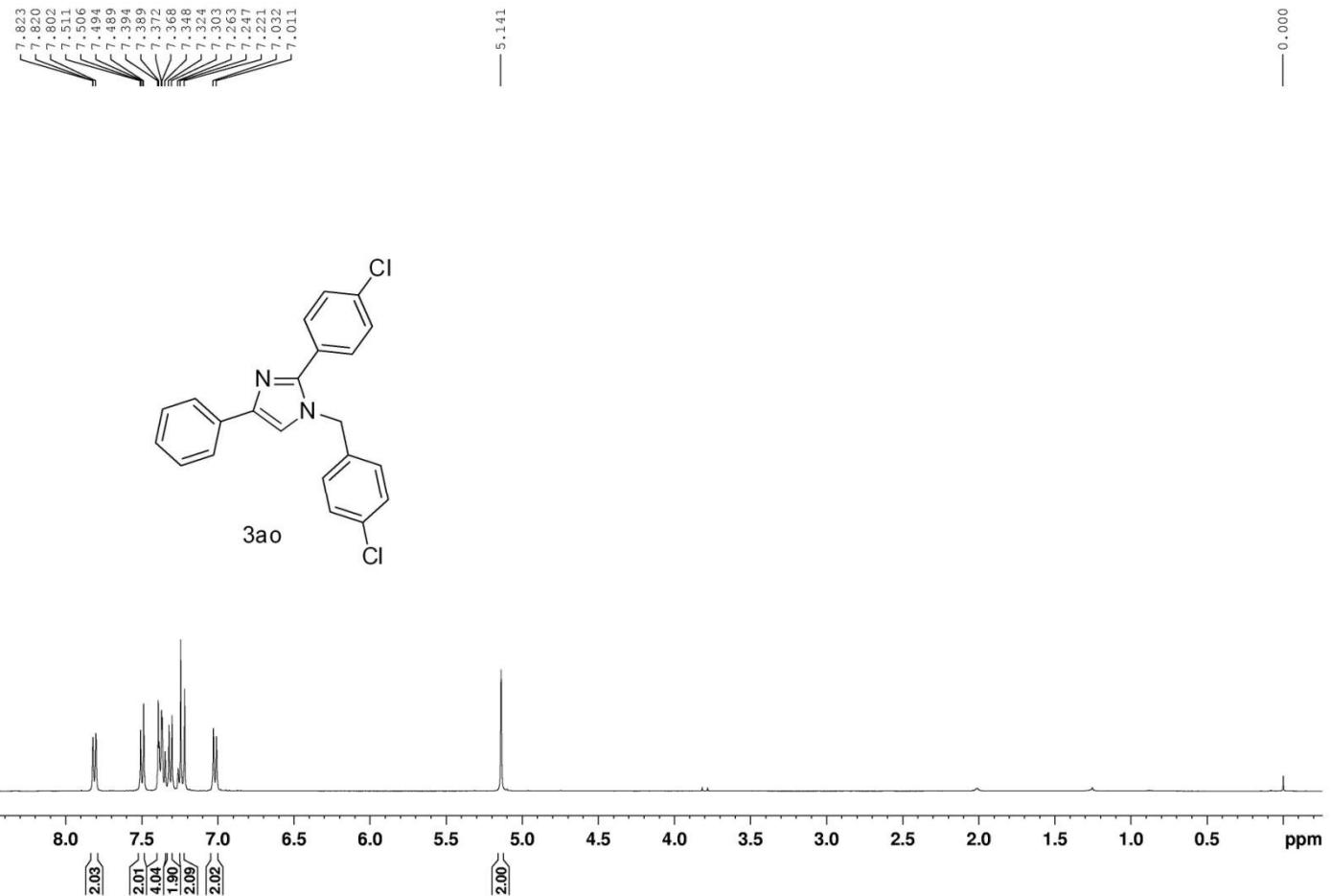


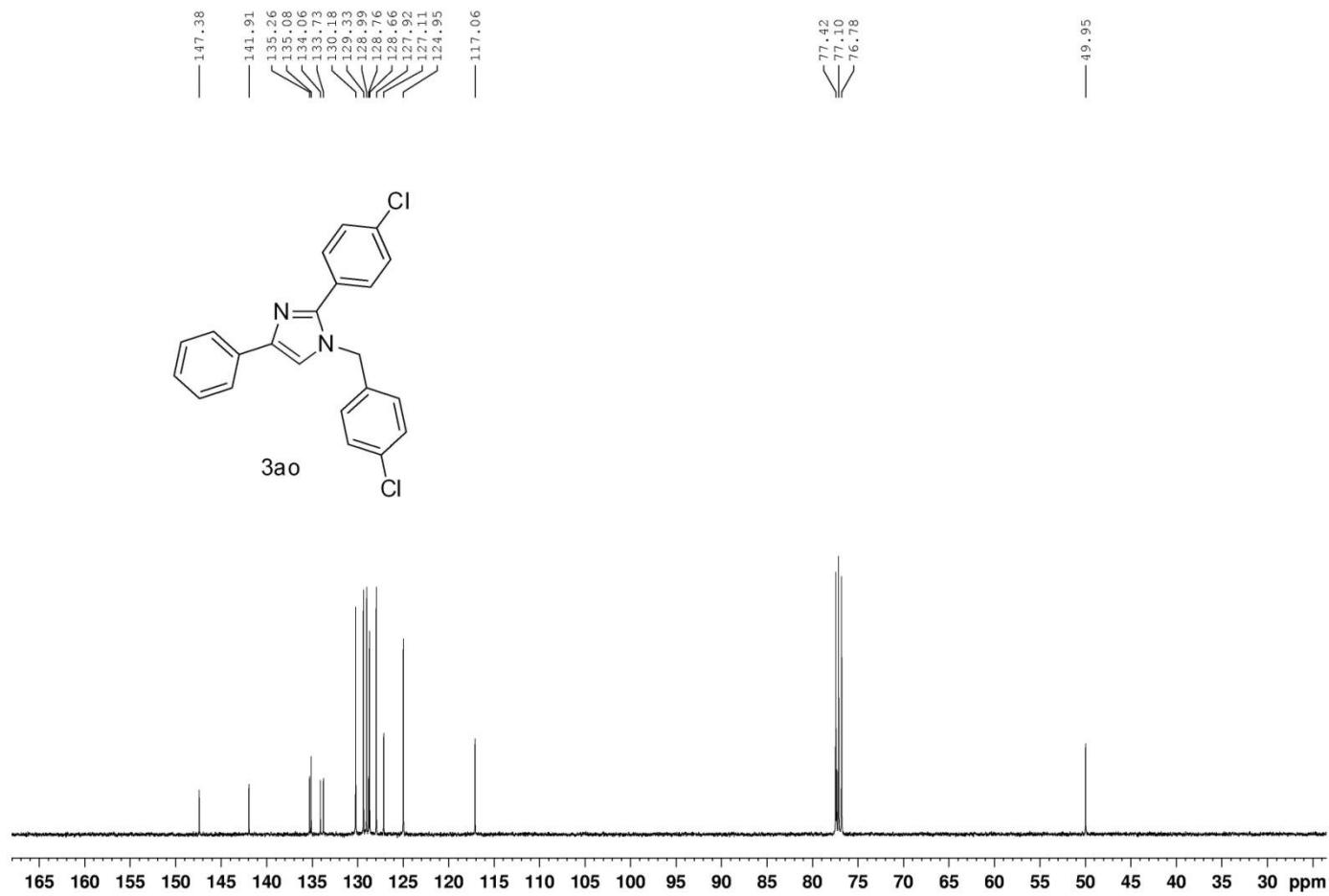


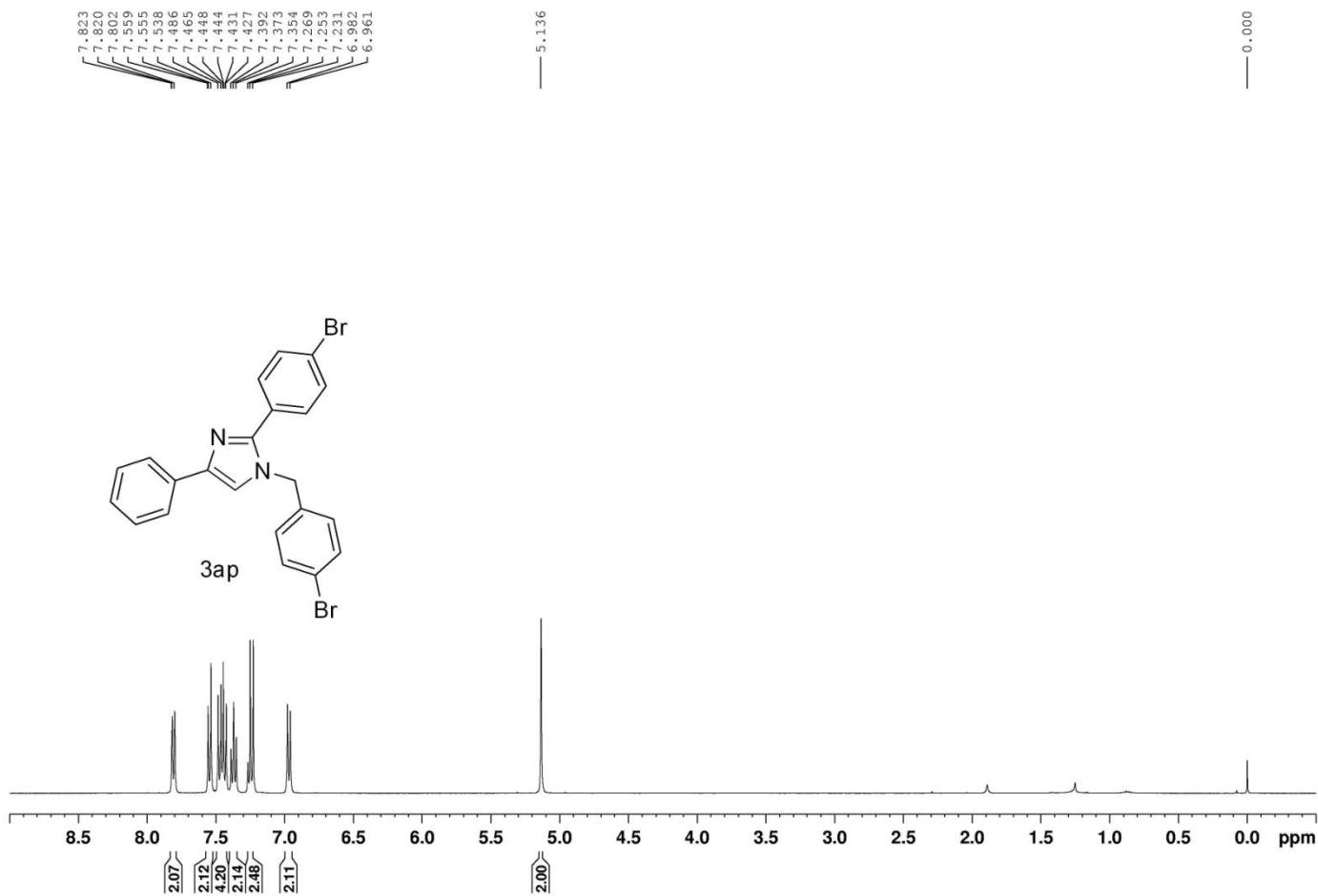


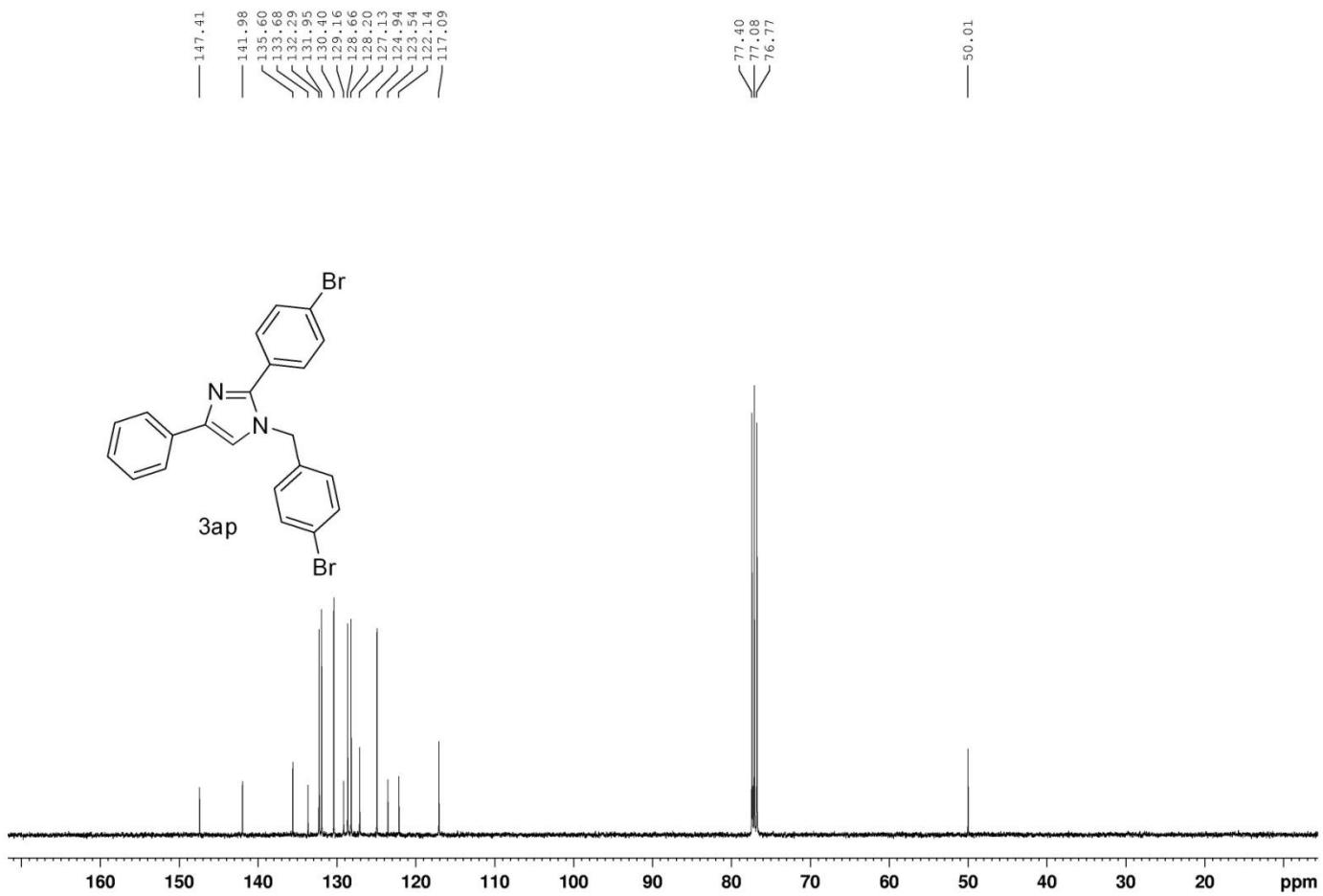








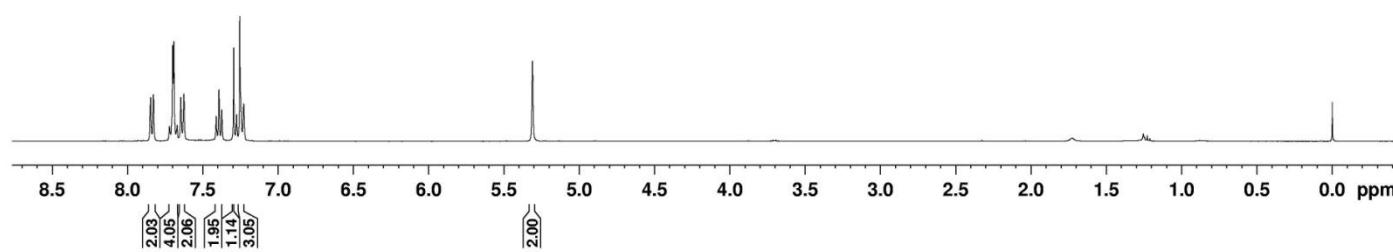
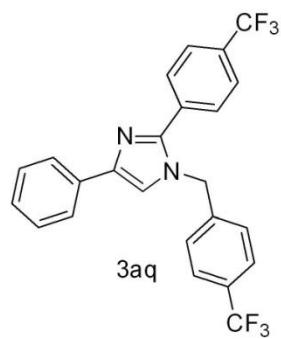


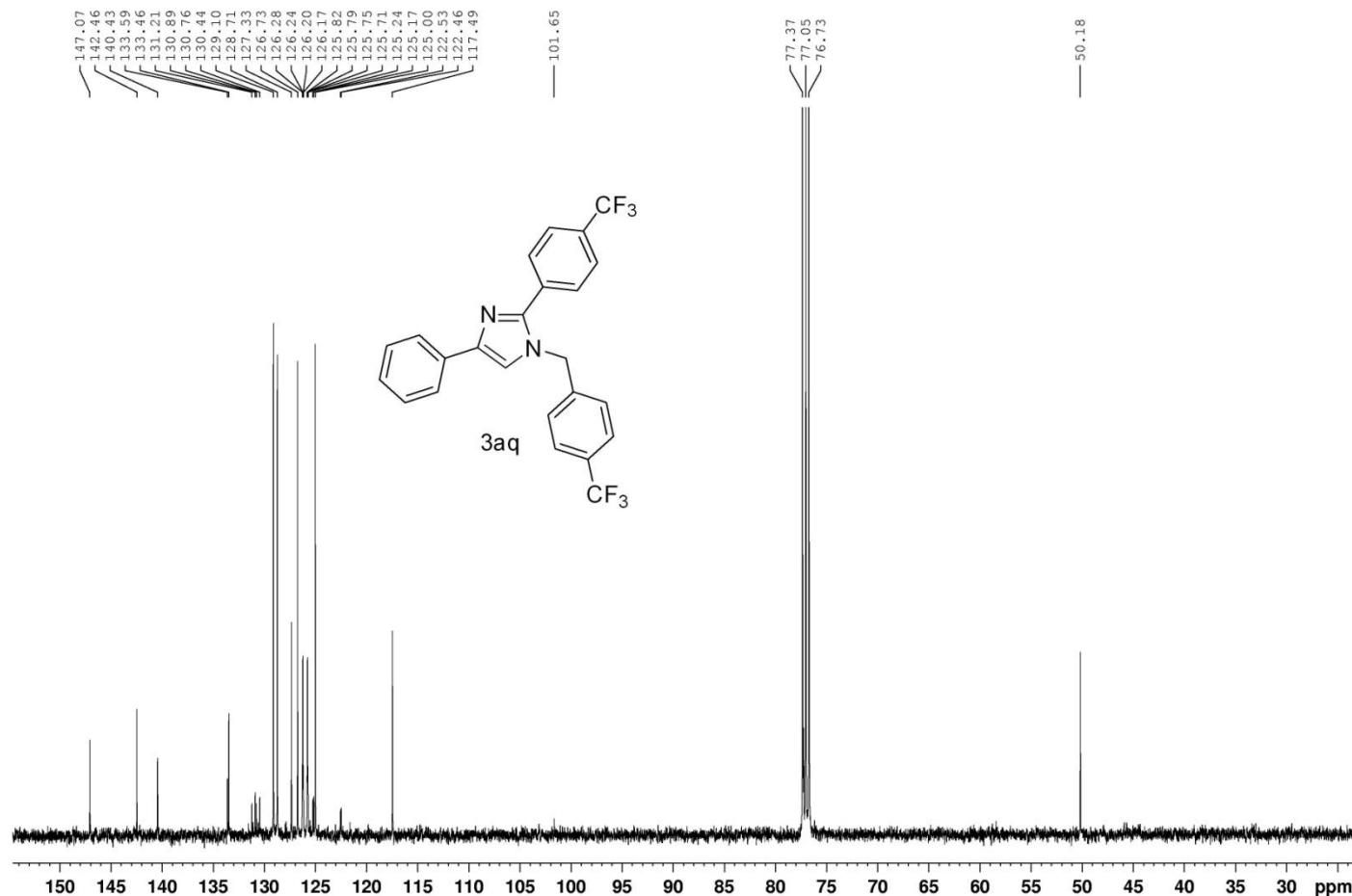


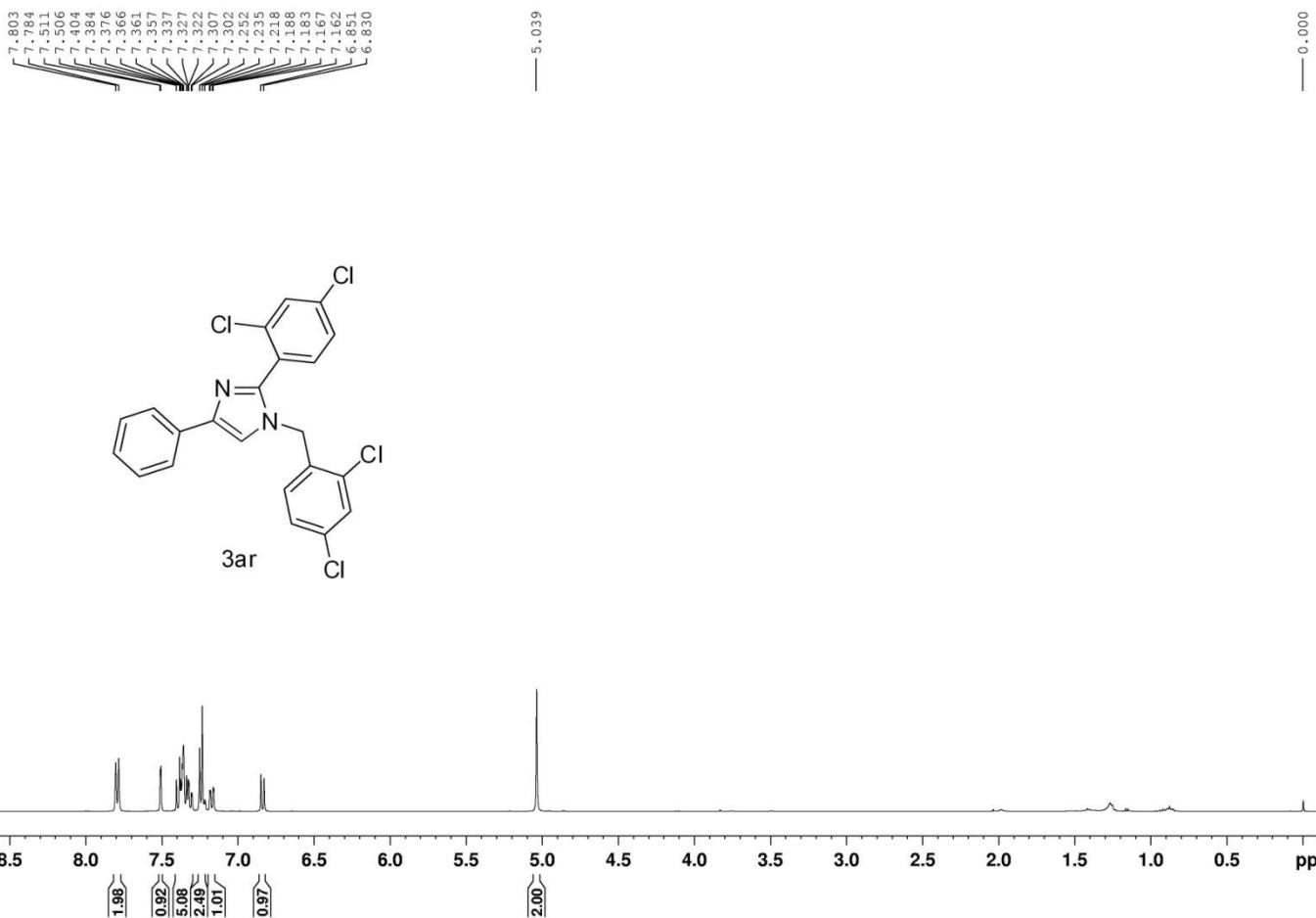
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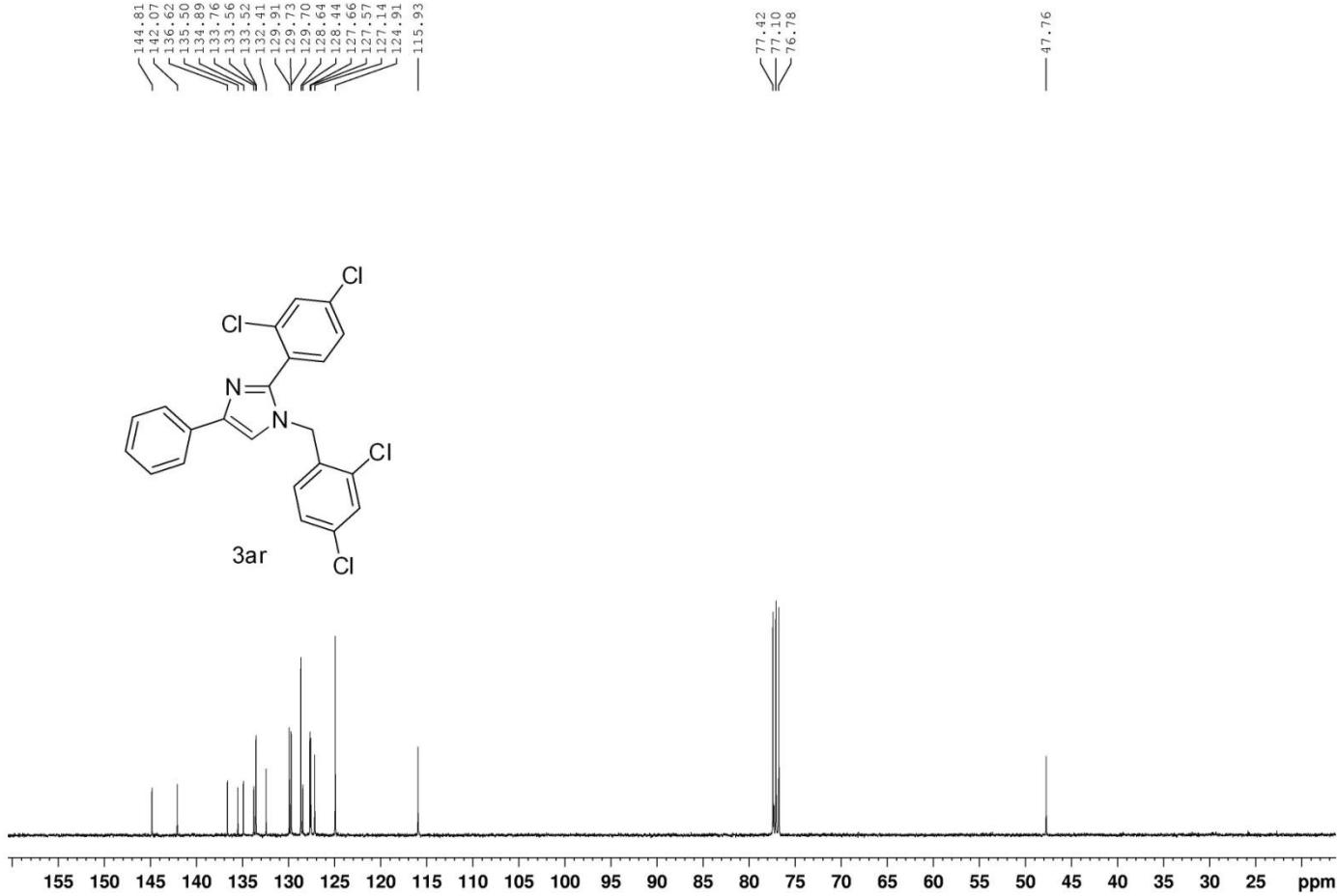
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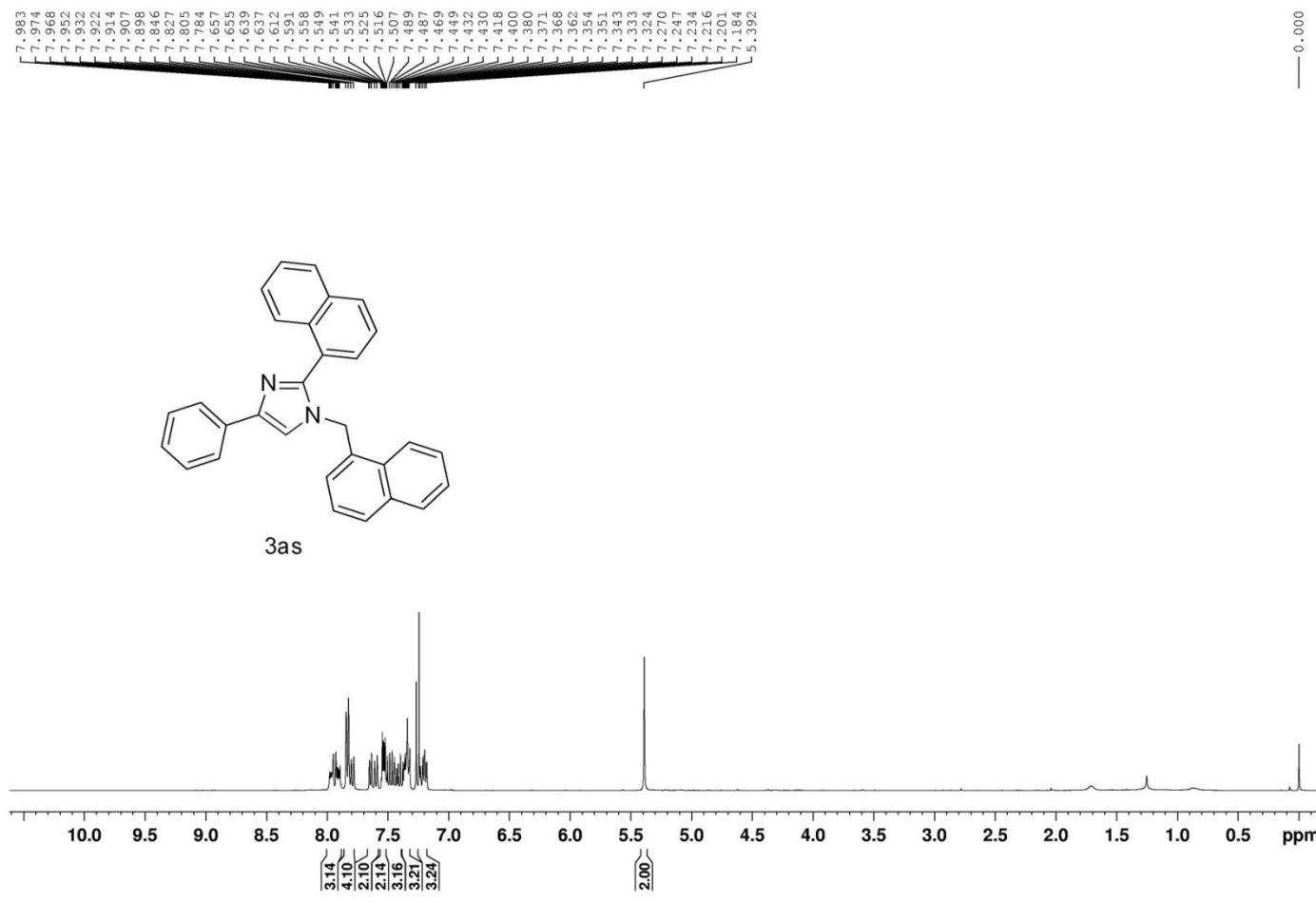
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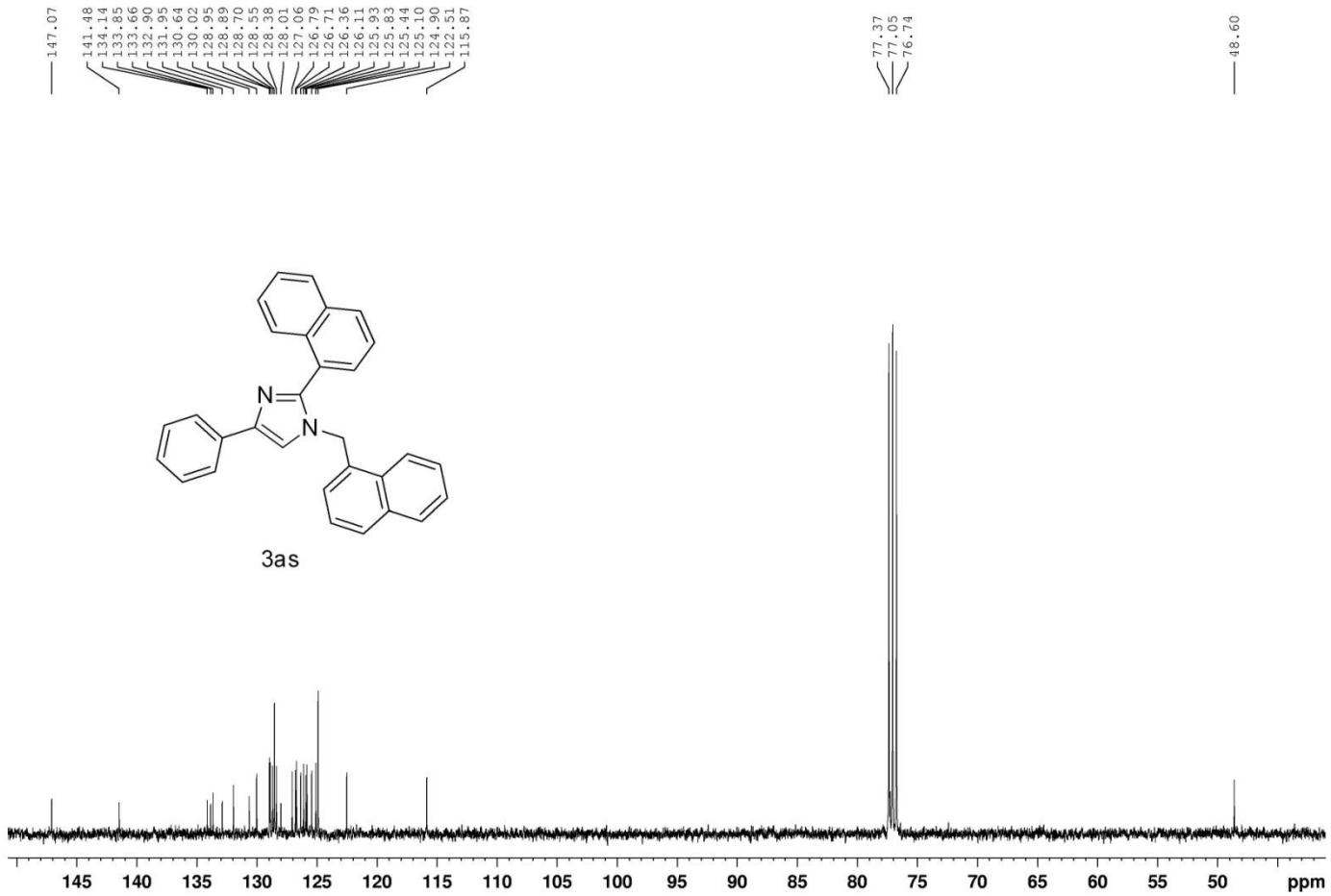


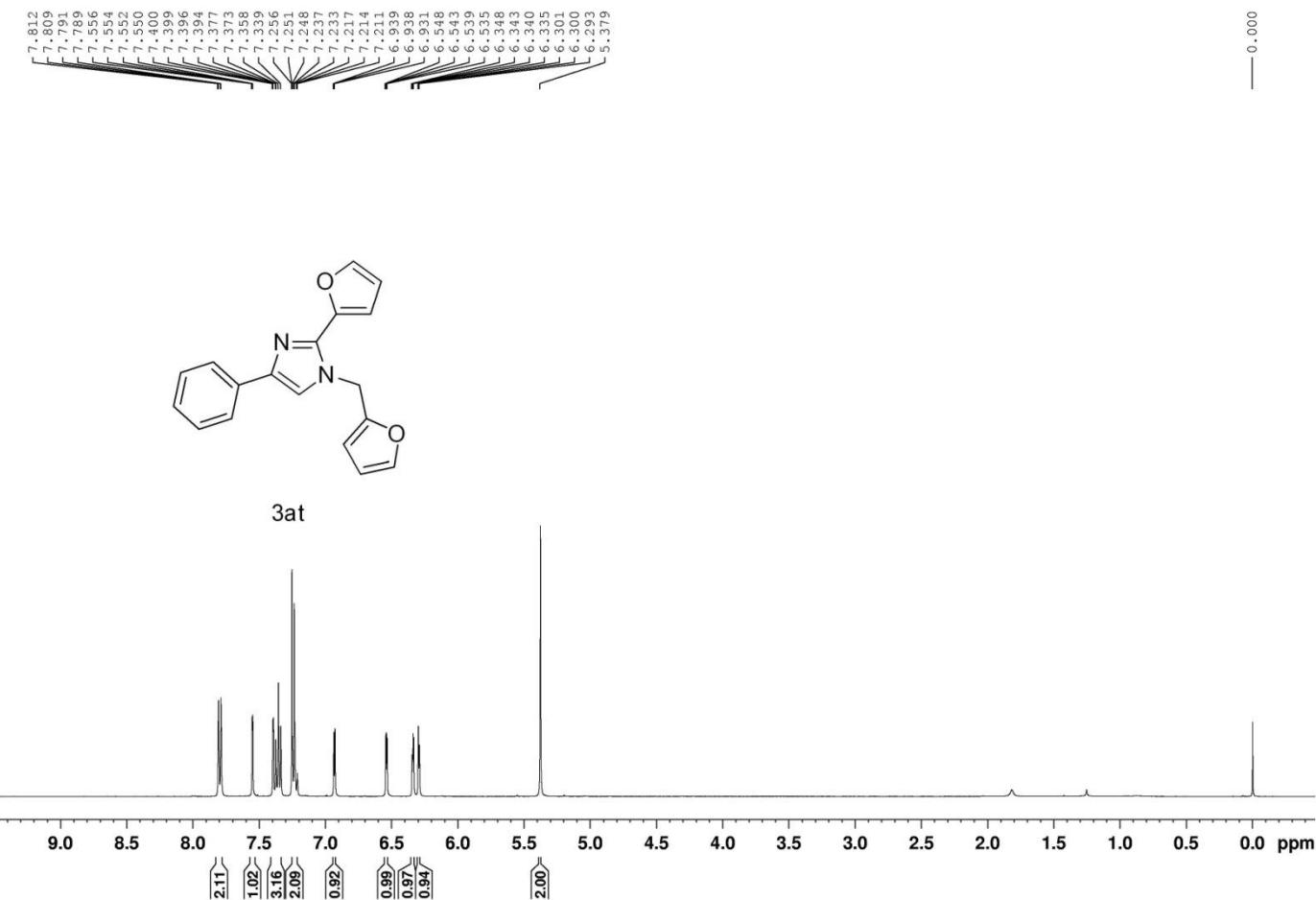


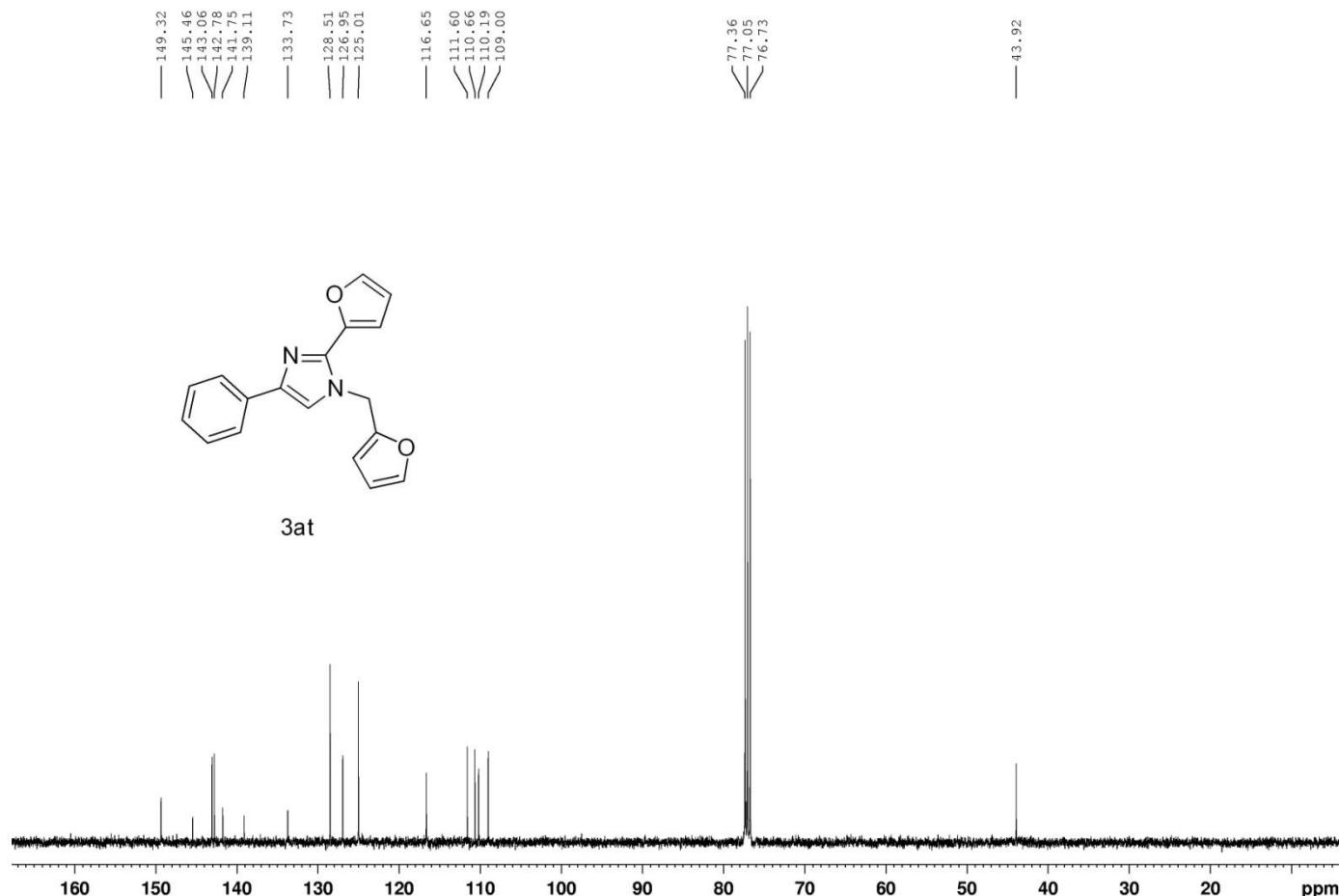










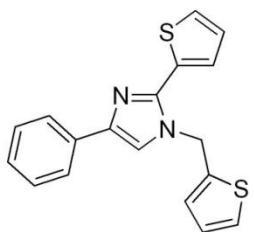


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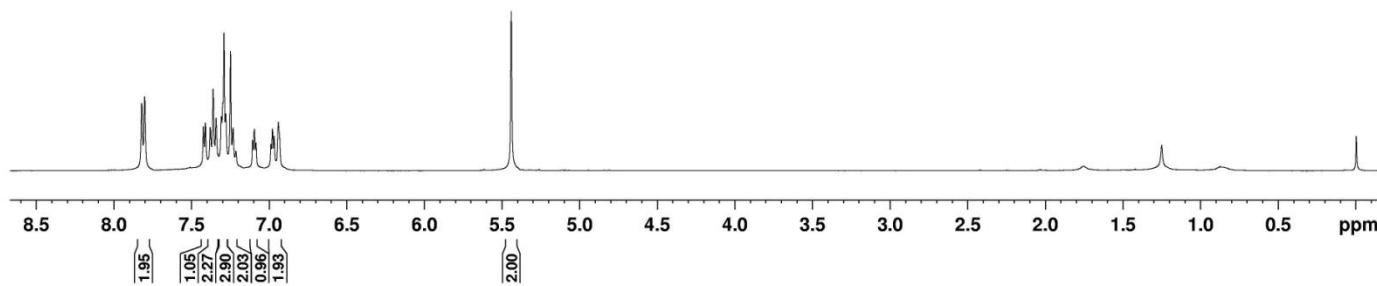
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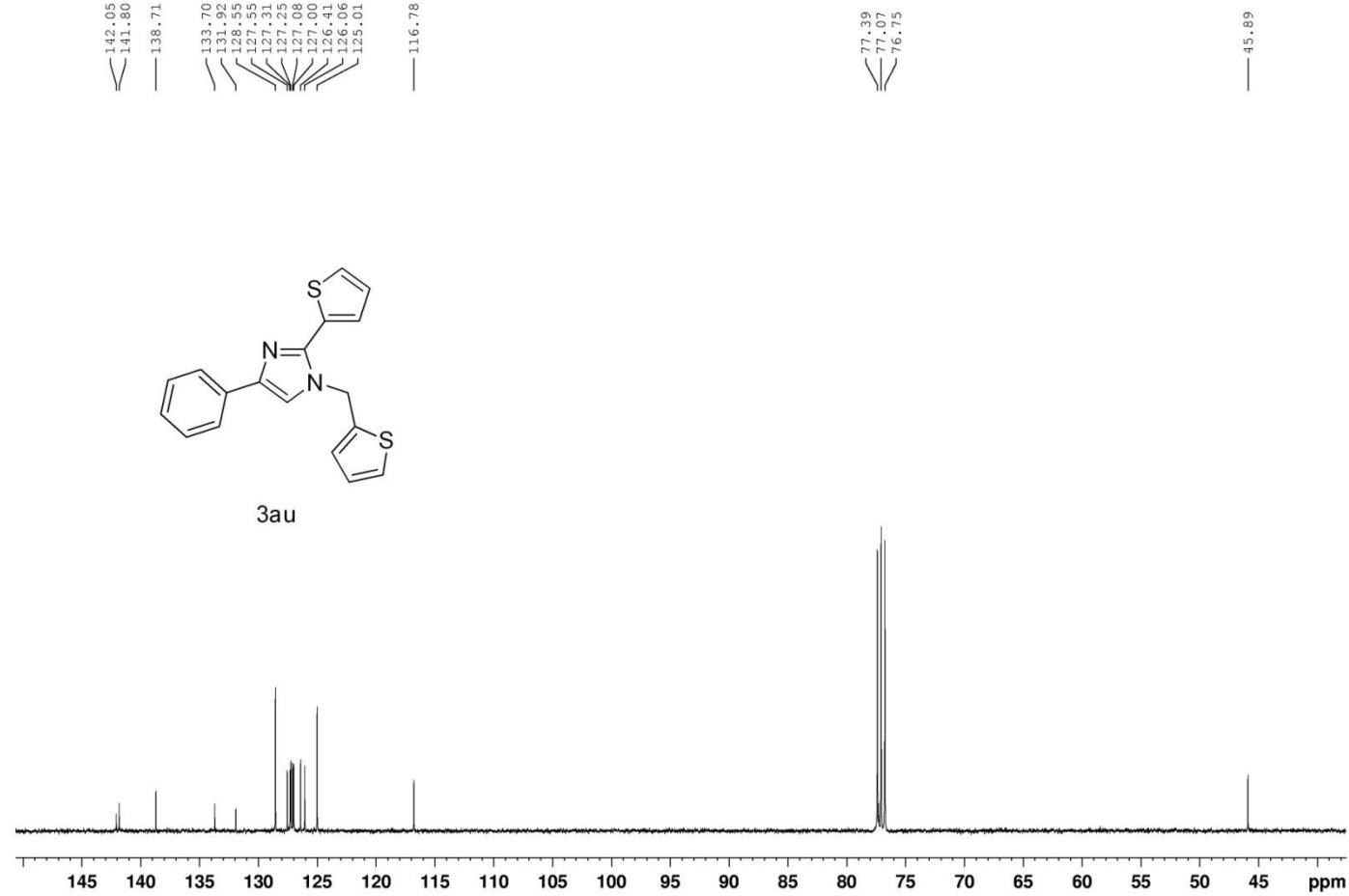
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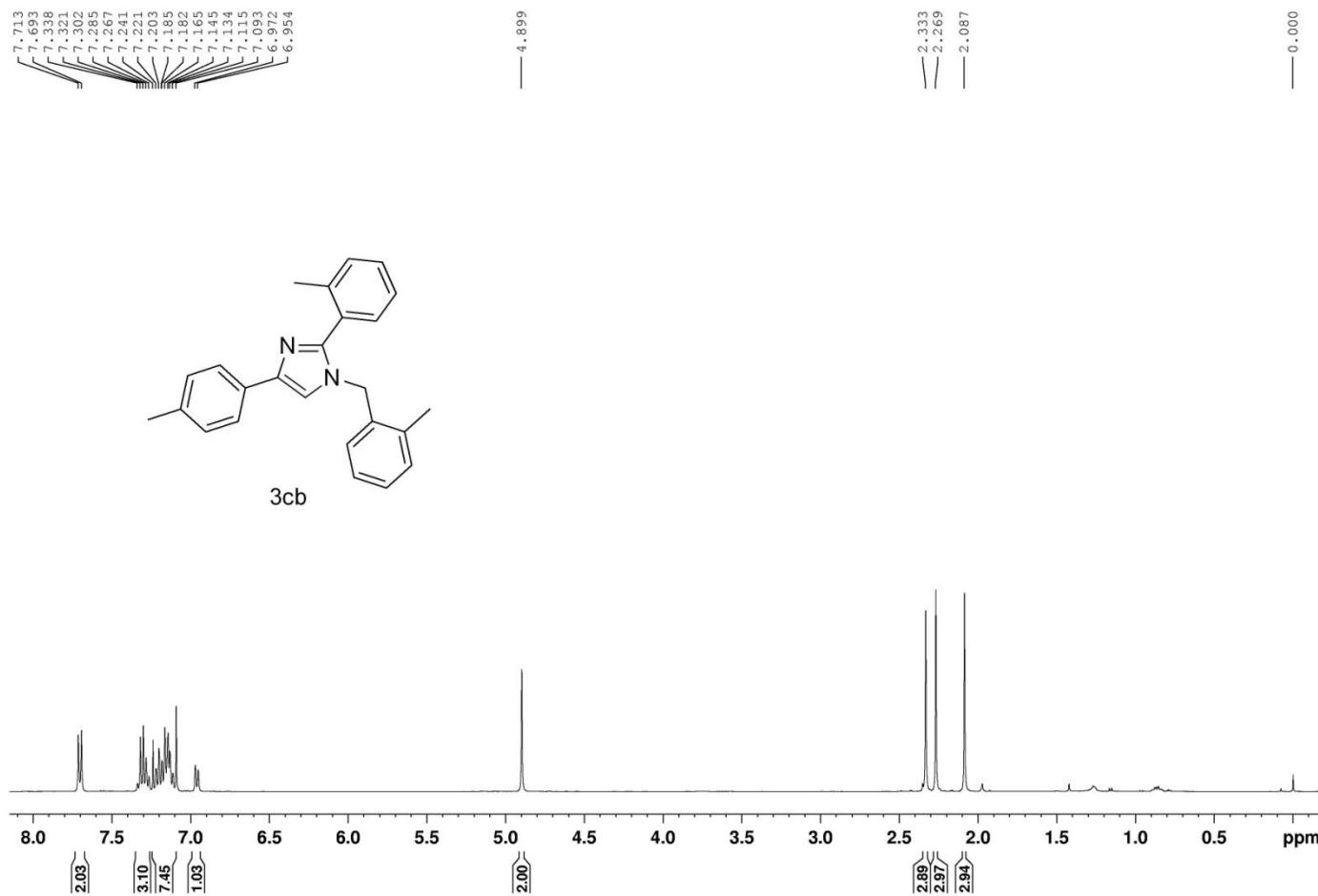
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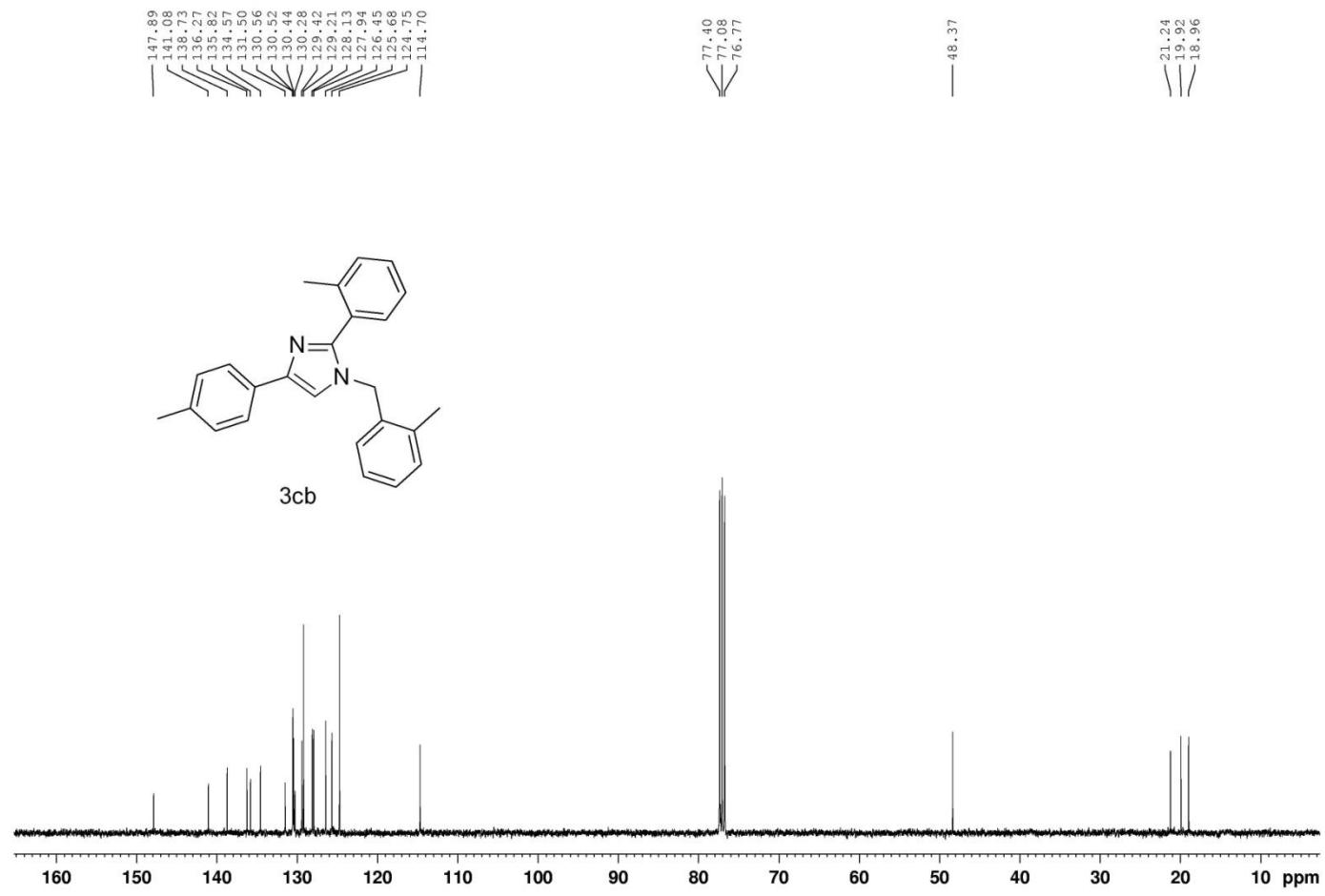


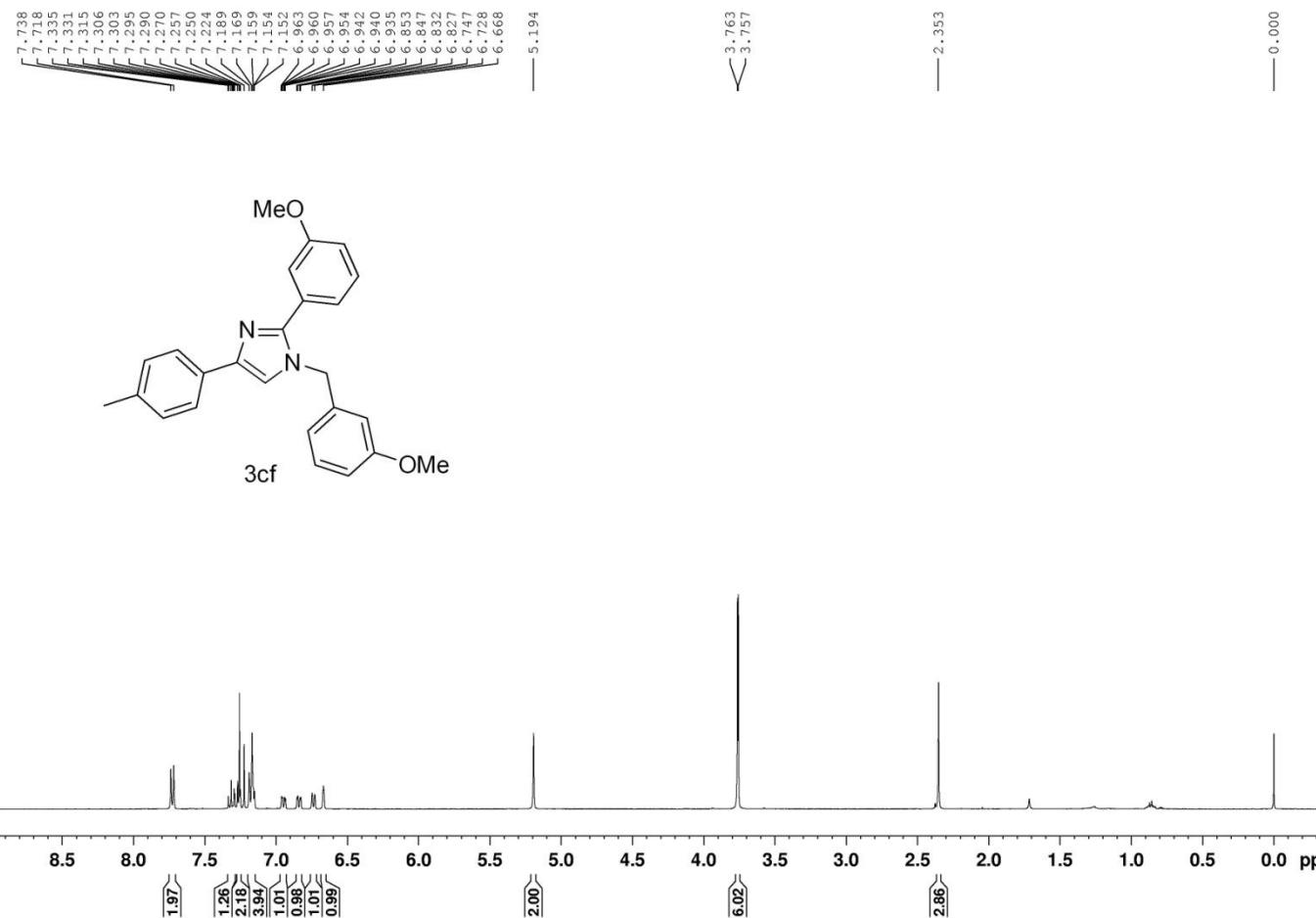
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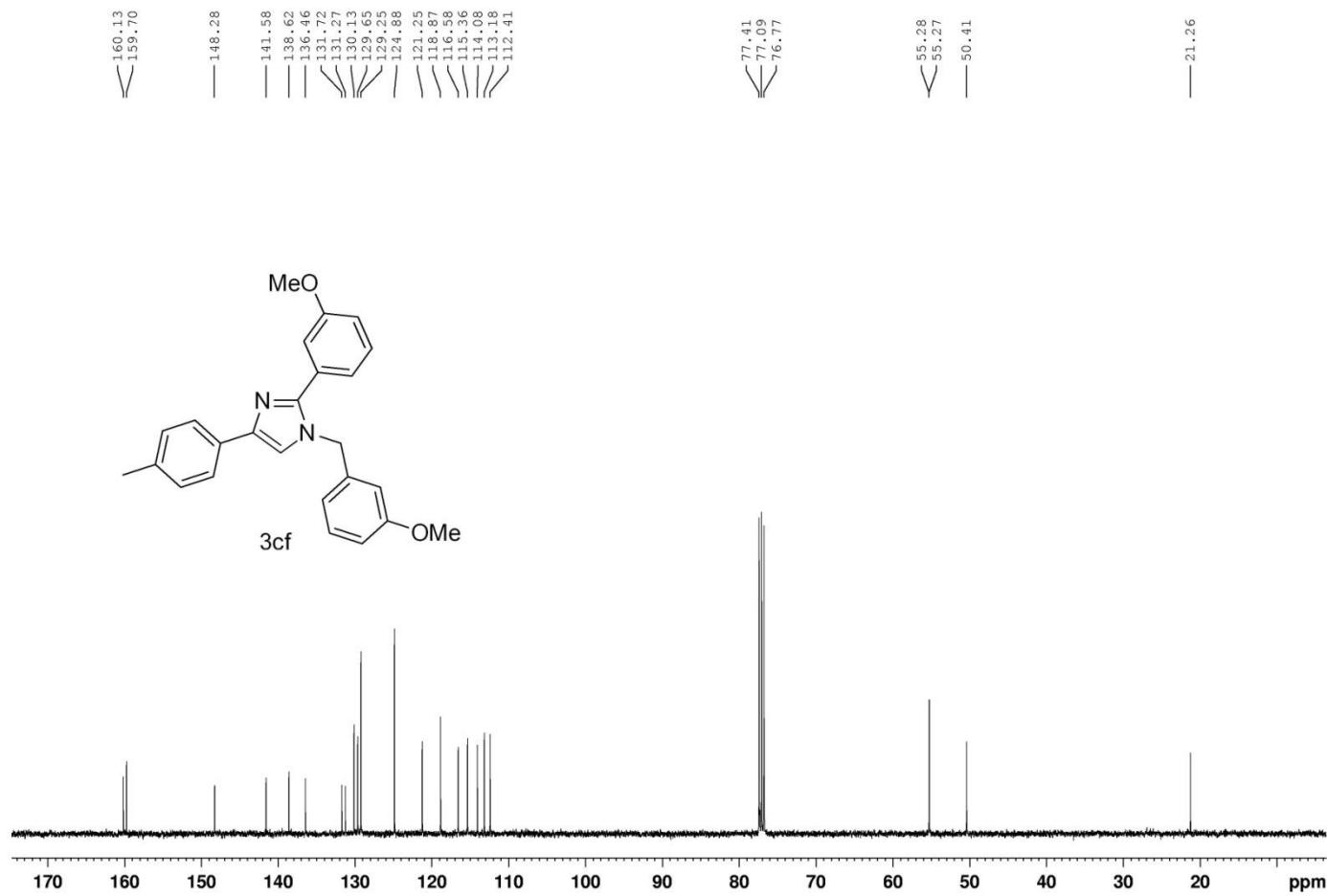


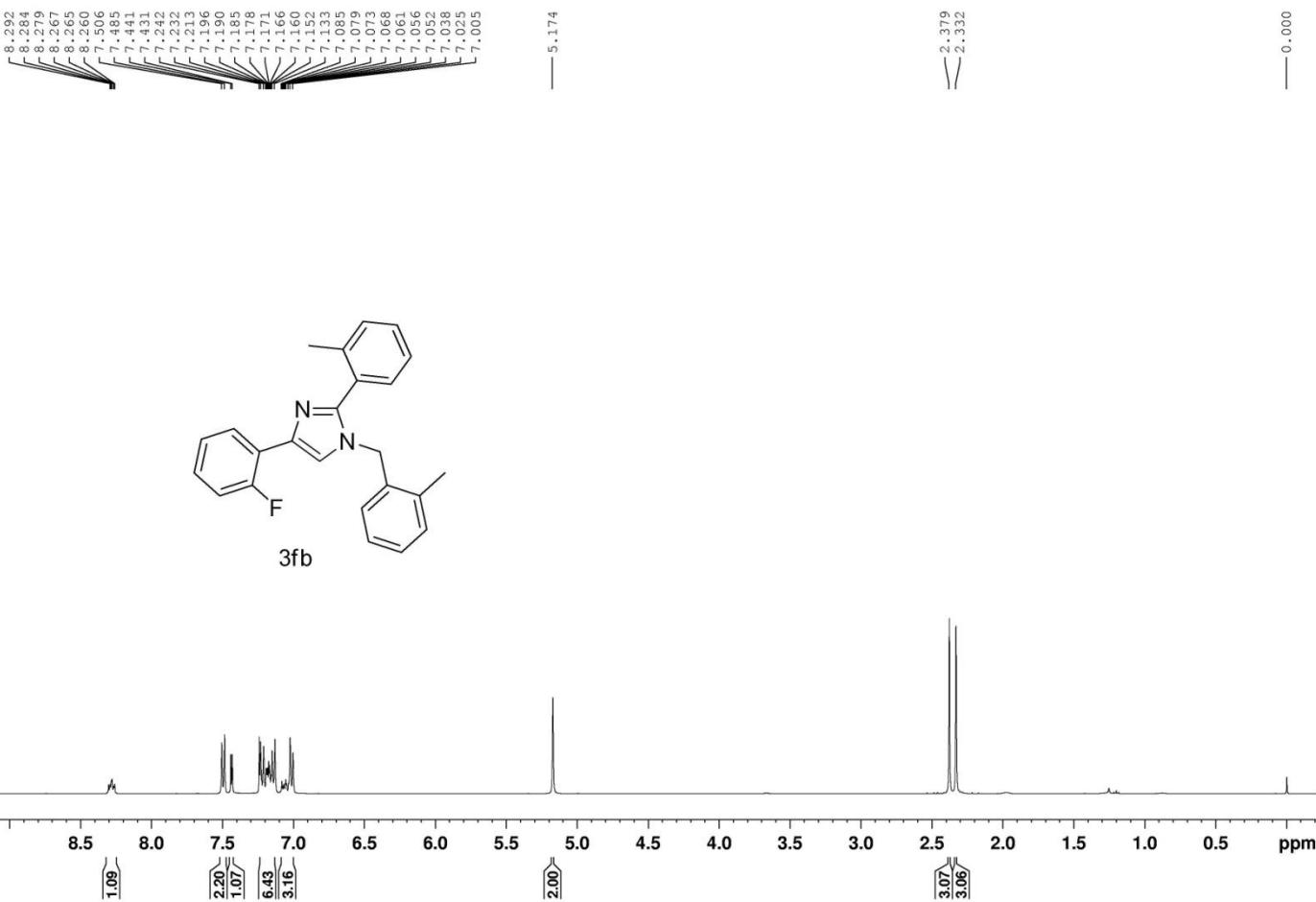


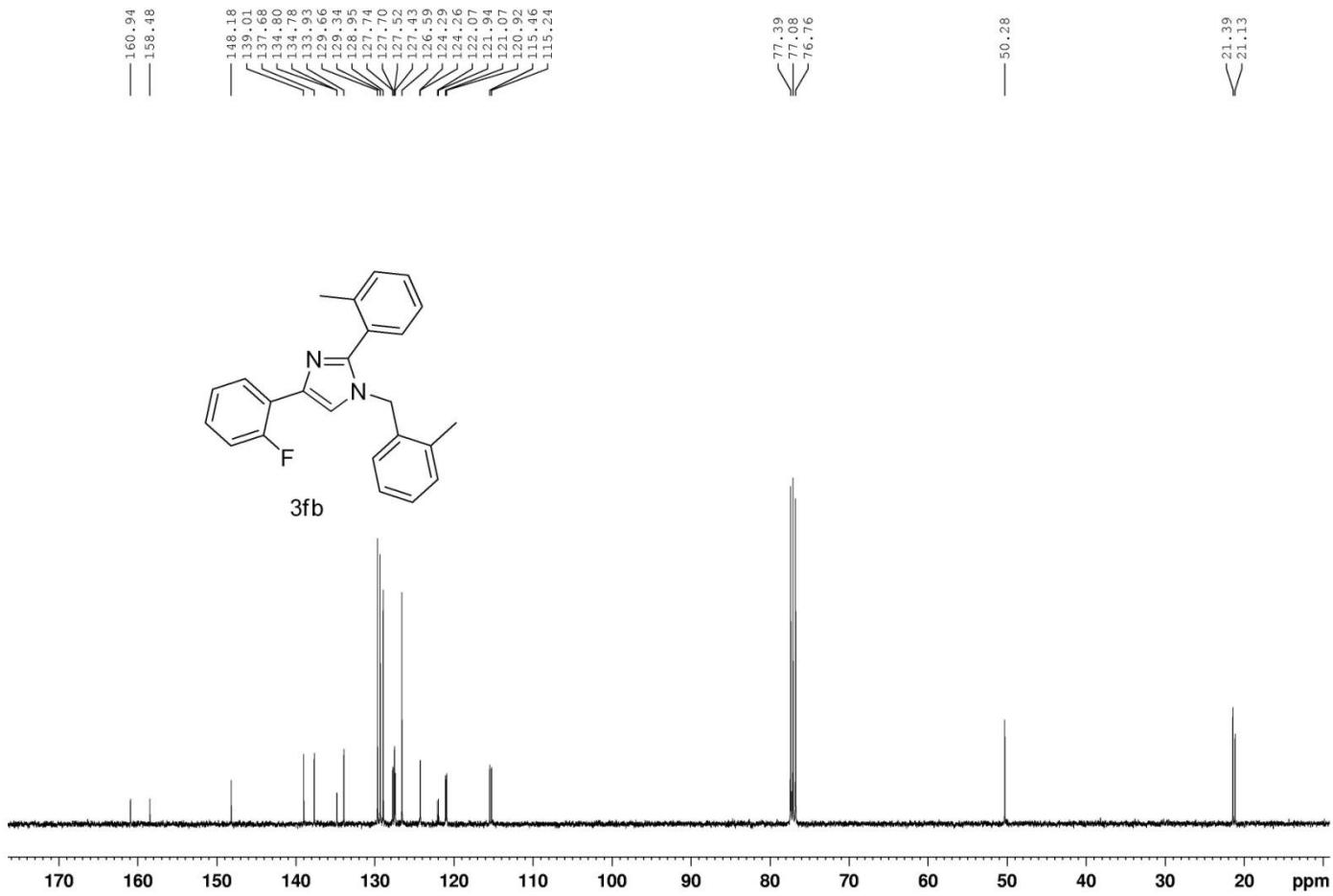


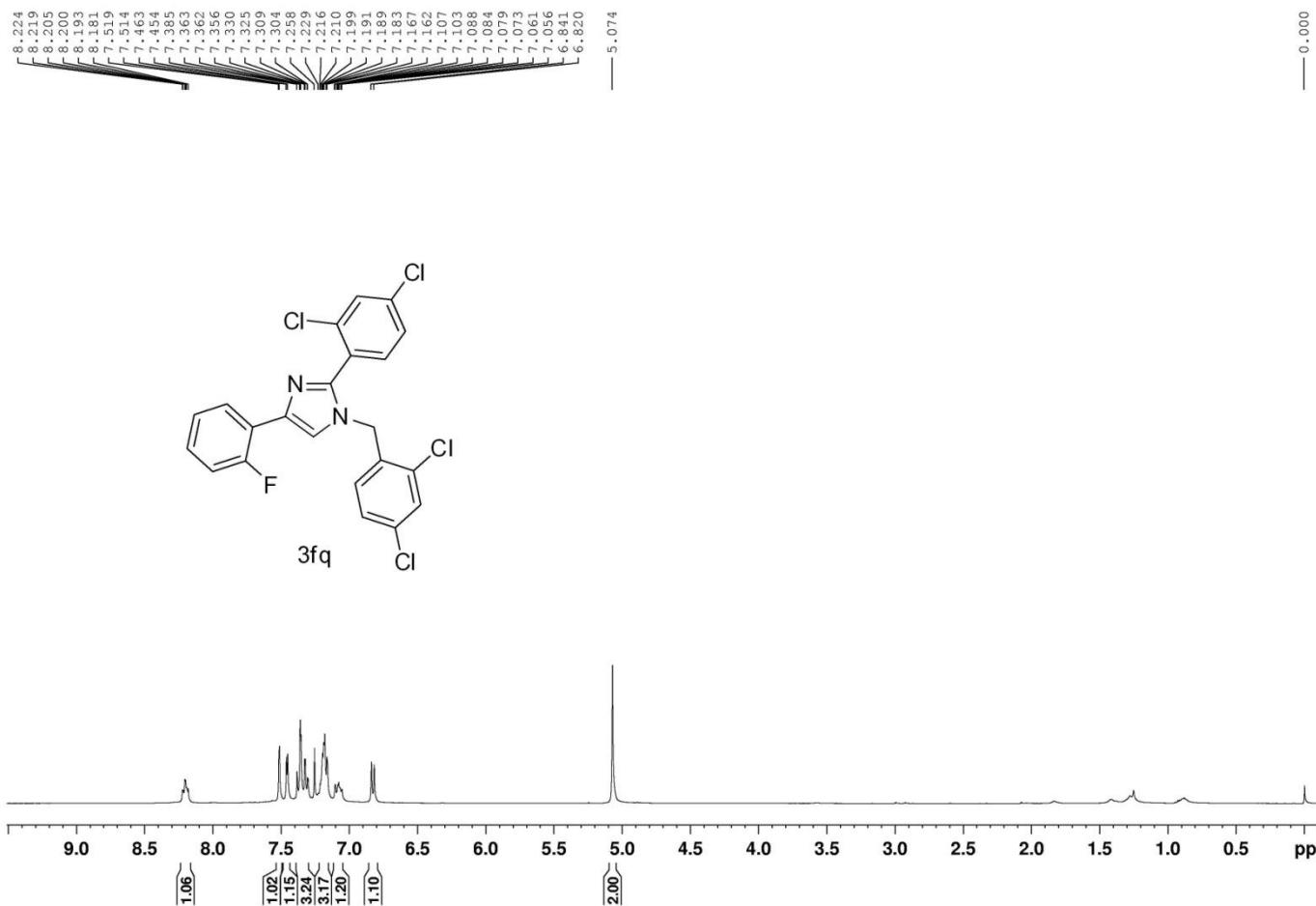


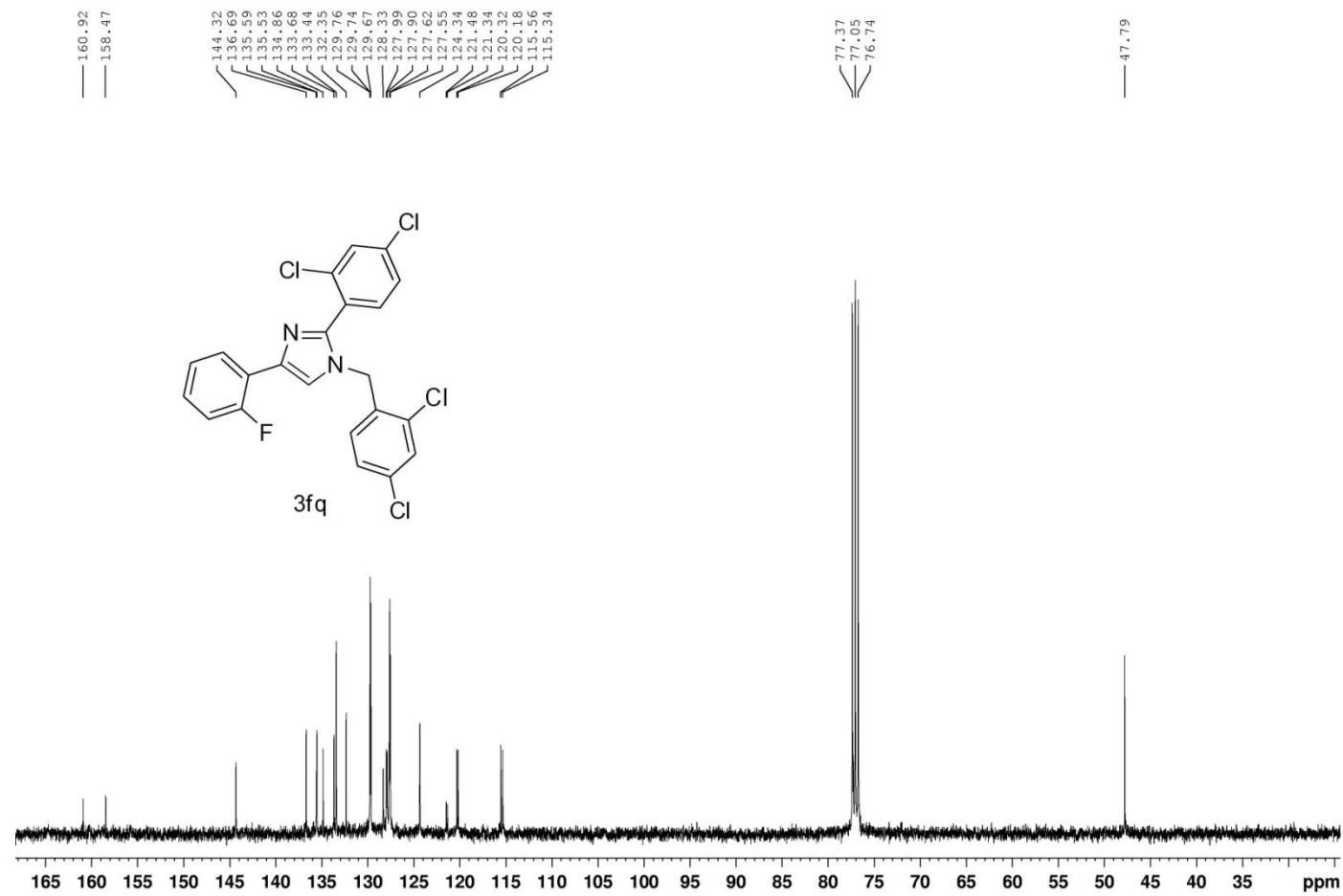








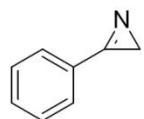




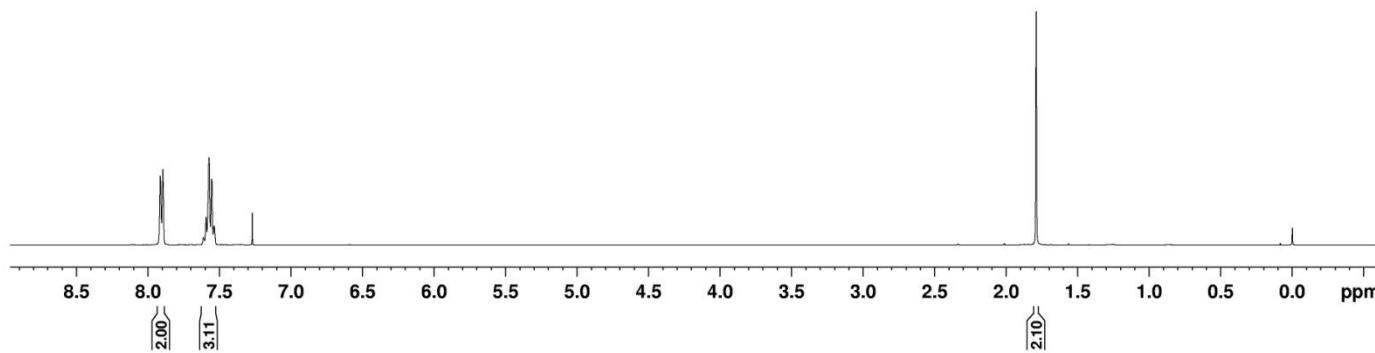
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7.915  
7.898  
7.614  
7.610  
7.606  
7.596  
7.576  
7.574  
7.558  
7.556  
7.541  
7.539  
7.533  
7.273

1.792  
1.790

0.000



4



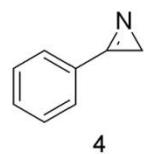
120

165.80

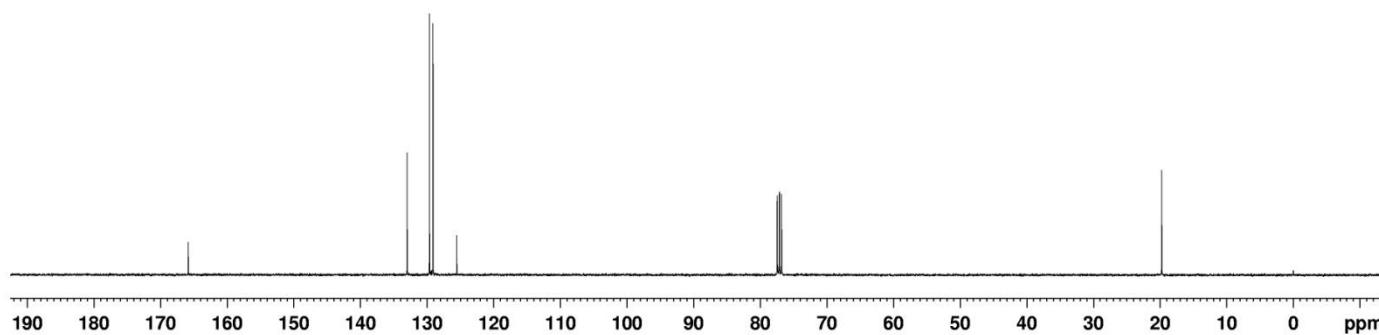
132.94  
129.60  
129.07  
125.50

77.41  
77.09  
76.77

19.70



4



121