

## Supporting information

### TFA-promoted Direct C–H Sulfenylation at the C2 position of non-protected Indoles

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## 1. General experimental methods

All reactions were run under air unless otherwise specified. Trifluoroacetic acid (ReagentPlus®, 99%) and other commercially available chemicals were purchased from Aldrich and used directly without purification. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and Et<sub>2</sub>O were distilled over CaH<sub>2</sub> and sodium/benzophenone, respectively, before the use. All other solvents (DMF, CH<sub>3</sub>CN, MeOH) were purchased from Aldrich and used directly without further purification.

NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE 400. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz and data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm from tetramethylsilane (TMS) or residual protonated solvents as an internal standard (TMS δ 0.00 ppm, CDCl<sub>3</sub> δ 7.26 ppm, DMSO δ 2.50 ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet or overlap of non-equivalent resonances), integration. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz and data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm with the solvent as an internal indicator (CDCl<sub>3</sub> δ 77.16 ppm, DMSO δ 39.52 ppm). TLCs were performed on Merck 60F<sub>254</sub> silica gel plates and visualized with UV lamp (254 nm), and by using a solution of phosphomolybdic acid in ethanol followed by heating. Flash column chromatographies were performed with Merck Geduran Si 60 silica gel (40-63 μm). Mass spectra with electronic impact (MS-EI) were recorded from a Shimadzu GCMS-QP 2010S. Infrared (IR) were recorded with a Bruker TENSOR™ 27 (IRFT), wave-numbers are indicated in cm<sup>-1</sup>. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were performed by the Centre Regional de Microanalyse (Université Pierre et Marie Curie VI, Paris, France). Melting points were determined on a Büchi Melting Point M-560 apparatus in open capillaries and are uncorrected.

## 2. Optimization of reactions conditions

### General procedure

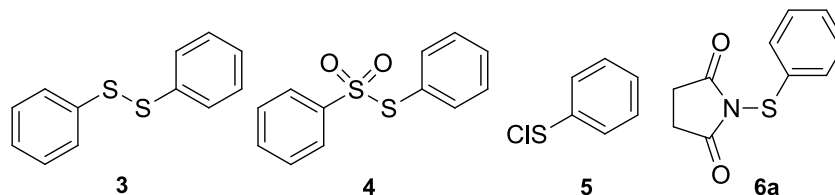
In a 10 mL oven-dried vial, equipped with a rubber septum, were added indole **1a** (35.5 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and the sulfonylating reagent **3–6** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv). Subsequently, anhydrous solvent (0.5 M) was added into the vial, followed by the acid and the resulting solution was stirred at rt for 4 h. The reaction mixture was neutralized with a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (15 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The yield of 2-(phenylsulfanyl)-1*H*-indole **2aa** was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard.

### Preparation of sulfonylating reagents (**3**, **4**, **5**, **6a**)

Diphenyl disulfide **3** and *S*-phenyl benzenethiosulfonate **4** were commercially available. Phenylsulfuryl chloride **5** was prepared according to the following procedure: sulfuryl chloride (28 μL, 0.33 mmol, 1.05 equiv) was added dropwise to a solution of thiophenol (32 μL, 0.32 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (4 μL, 0.03 mmol, 0.1 equiv) in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 M) at 0 °C under argon. After stirring for 15 min, the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at rt and concentrated under reduced pressure at

20 °C to prevent decomposition of the sulfenyl chloride. The crude product was then used without further purification.

1-(Phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** was synthesized according to the literature procedure (see section 3).<sup>1</sup>

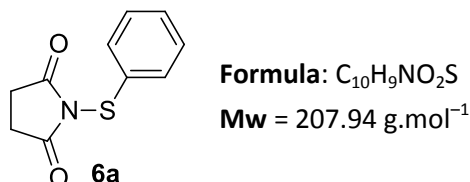


### 3. Preparation of *N*-thiosuccinimides (**6a-6h**)

#### General procedure

According to the literature procedure,<sup>1</sup> sulfonyl chloride (1.05 equiv) was added dropwise to a solution of thiol (1.0 equiv) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.1 equiv) in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 M) at 0 °C under argon. After stirring for 15 min, the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at rt and then cooled to 0 °C. The resulting solution was transferred dropwise *via* cannula to a solution of succinimide (1.0 equiv) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (1.3 equiv) in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 M) at 0 °C, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 1 h. The solution was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL for 5 mmol), extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 20 mL for 5 mmol), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of PE/EtOAc or CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Et<sub>2</sub>O as the eluent to give the desired product **6**.

#### 1-(Phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**6a**)<sup>1</sup>



Compound **6a** was synthesized from thiophenol (1.04 mL, 9.89 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 7:3) afforded **6a** (1.91 g, 9.20 mmol, 93%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>1</sup>

**mp:** 115-116 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3065, 2985, 2935, 1712, 1470, 1439, 1426, 1295, 1243, 1145, 1080, 1001 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

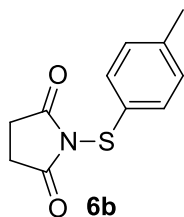
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  7.64-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.31 (m, 3H), 2.82 (s, 4H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  176.5 (2C), 134.0, 132.5 (2C), 130.1, 129.5 (2C), 28.7 (2C).

**MS:** Compound **6a** is not stable under GC/MS analysis.

<sup>1</sup> P. Saravanan and P. Anbarasan, *Org. Lett.*, 2014, **16**, 848.

### 1-[(4-Methylphenyl)sulfanyl]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**6b**)<sup>1</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S

**Mw** = 221.28 g. mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **6b** was synthesized from *p*-toluenethiol (251 mg, 1.98 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 7:3) afforded **6b** (406 mg, 1.84 mmol, 93%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>1</sup>

**mp:** 113-115 °C.

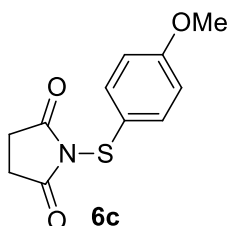
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3060, 2941, 2922, 1712, 1488, 1428, 1405, 1296, 1240, 1143, 1007 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  7.59-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 2H), 2.77 (s, 4H), 2.33 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  176.6 (2C), 141.0, 133.8 (2C), 130.5, 130.2 (2C), 28.7 (2C), 21.5.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 221 (M<sup>+</sup>, 67), 139 (20), 123 (55), 79 (31), 77 (43), 70 (16), 65 (16), 55 (100).

### 1-[(4-Methoxyphenyl)sulfanyl]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**6c**)<sup>1</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S

**Mw** = 237.27 g. mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **6c** was synthesized from 4-methoxythiophenol (0.314 mL, 2.47 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 6:4) afforded **6c** (400 mg, 1.69 mmol, 68%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>1</sup>

**mp:** 106-110 °C.

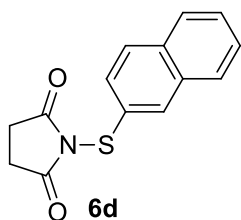
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  2945, 2844, 1715, 1591, 1569, 1493, 1461, 1446, 1293, 1255, 1238, 1150, 1104, 1090, 1022, 1009 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  7.72 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 4H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  176.7 (2C), 161.8, 137.4 (2C), 124.6, 114.8 (2C), 55.5, 28.7 (2C).

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 237 (M<sup>+</sup>, 53), 140 (17), 139 (100), 124 (10), 96 (20), 95 (18), 70 (18), 55 (41).

### 1-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**6d**)<sup>1</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S

**Mw** = 257.31 g. mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **6d** was synthesized from 2-naphthalenethiol (320 mg, 1.98 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 7:3 to 6:4) afforded **6d** (308 mg, 1.20 mmol, 61%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>1</sup>

**mp:** 154-158 °C.

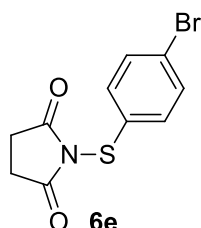
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  2924, 2835, 1720, 1585, 1502, 1295, 1256, 1227, 1132, 1006  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.19 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.79 (m, 3H), 7.66 (dd,  $J$  = 8.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.49 (m, 2H), 2.81 (s, 4H).

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  176.6 (2C), 133.7, 133.3, 133.0, 131.1, 129.4, 129.2, 128.4, 127.9, 127.7, 127.1, 28.7 (2C).

**MS:** Compound **6d** is not stable under GC/MS analysis.

### 1-[(4-Bromophenyl)sulfanyl]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**6e**)<sup>1</sup>



**Formula:**  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{BrNO}_2\text{S}$

**Mw** = 286.15 g.  $\text{mol}^{-1}$

Compound **6e** was synthesized from 4-bromothiophenol (394 mg, 1.98 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 6:4) afforded **6e** (319 mg, 1.12 mmol, 56%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>1</sup>

**mp:** 140-144 °C.

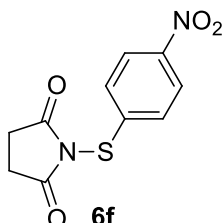
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  2925, 2853, 1715, 1471, 1423, 1303, 1247, 1232, 1134, 1085, 1069, 1003  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  7.52-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 2H), 2.81 (s, 4H).

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  176.3 (2C), 134.4 (2C), 132.9, 132.7 (2C), 124.9, 28.7 (2C).

**MS:** Compound **6e** is not stable under GC/MS analysis.

### 1-[(4-Nitrophenyl)sulfanyl]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**6f**)<sup>2</sup>



**Formula:**  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}$

**Mw** = 252.25 g.  $\text{mol}^{-1}$

Compound **6f** was synthesized from 4-nitrothiophenol (384 mg, 1.98 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  = 100:0 to 98:2) afforded **6f** (273 mg, 1.08 mmol, 55%) as a pale yellow solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>2</sup>

**mp:** 174-176 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3105, 2951, 1728, 1598, 1583, 1514, 1342, 1294, 1248, 1221, 1086, 1006  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

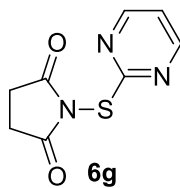
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.19-8.15 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 2H), 2.97 (s, 4H).

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  175.8 (2C), 147.5, 143.1, 127.7 (2C), 124.6 (2C), 28.7 (2C).

**MS:** Compound **6f** is not stable under GC/MS analysis.

<sup>2</sup> S. Savarin, J. Srogl and L. S. Liebeskind, *Org. Lett.*, 2002, **4**, 4309.

### 1-(Pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**6g**)



**Formula:** C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S

**Mw** = 209.23 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **6g** was synthesized from 2-mercaptopyrimidine (226 mg, 1.98 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 1:1) afforded **6g** (153 mg, 0.73 mmol, 37%) as a pale yellow solid.

**mp:** 159-162 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  2957, 2954, 2853, 1719, 1556, 1428, 1376, 1306, 1239, 1185, 1143, 1007 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

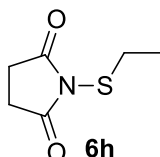
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.50 (d,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (s, 4H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  176.1 (2C), 168.0, 158.0 (2C), 118.4, 29.0 (2C).

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 209 (M<sup>+</sup>, 44), 165 (17), 154 (54), 127 (13), 112 (62), 111 (31), 98 (17), 84 (22), 79 (44), 70 (28), 57 (26), 55 (100), 53 (43), 52 (36).

**HRMS:** calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 210.0332, found : 210.0331.

### 1-(Ethylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**6h**)<sup>3</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S

**Mw** = 159.21 g. mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **6h** was synthesized from ethanethiol (0.740 mL, 9.89 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 1:1) afforded **6h** (969 mg, 6.09 mmol, 62%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>3</sup>

**mp:** 60-62 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  2966, 2931, 2871, 1712, 1456, 1419, 1376, 1310, 1262, 1244, 1145, 1006 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  2.86 (q,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.82 (s, 4H), 1.20 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  177.3 (2C), 31.8, 28.7 (2C), 13.1.

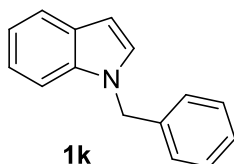
**MS:** Compound **6h** is not stable under GC/MS analysis.

<sup>3</sup> Y. Abe, T. Nakabayashi and J. Tsurugi, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.*, 1973, **46**, 1898.

#### 4. Synthesis of *N*-protected indoles (1k-1n)

All reactions were performed in oven-dried flasks under argon.

##### 1-Benzyl-1*H*-indole (1k)<sup>4</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N

**Mw** = 207.27 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

To a suspension of NaH (74.4 mg, 1.86 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in anhydrous DMF (8.5 mL) at 0 °C, was added indole (200 mg, 1.69 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in portions. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to rt over 1 h, cooled to 0 °C and benzyl bromide (0.217 mL, 1.77 mmol, 1.05 equiv) was added dropwise. The solution was allowed to warm to rt and stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL) and diluted with EtOAc (30 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 30 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine (80 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/EtOAc = 100:0 to 99:1) to afford **1k** (263 mg, 1.27 mmol, 75%) as a pale yellow solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>4</sup>

**mp:** 42-43 °C.

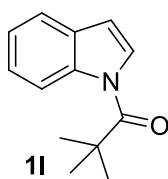
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3055, 3029, 2919, 1510, 1484, 1462, 1453, 1356, 1334, 1316, 1255, 1181, 1012 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  7.65 (ddd, *J* = 7.7, 1.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 4H), 6.55 (dd, *J* = 3.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.31 (s, 2H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  137.7, 136.4, 128.9 (2C), 128.8, 128.4, 127.7, 126.9 (2C), 121.8, 121.1, 119.7, 109.8, 101.8, 50.2.

**MS *m/z* (relative intensity):** 207 (M<sup>+</sup>, 28), 91 (100), 65 (21).

##### 1-Pivaloyl-1*H*-indole (1l)<sup>4</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO

**Mw** = 201.26 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

To a solution of indole (200 mg, 1.69 mmol, 1.0 equiv), DMAP (20.9 mg, 0.169 mmol, 0.1 equiv) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.352 mL, 2.54 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3.5 mL) at 0 °C, was added pivaloyl chloride (0.252 mL, 2.03 mmol, 1.2 equiv) dropwise. The resulting solution was allowed to warm to rt and stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, the crude product was dissolved in Et<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL) and washed with a saturated solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (15 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column

<sup>4</sup> S. Islam and I. Larrosa, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2013, **19**, 15093.

chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 98:2) to afford **1l** (329 mg, 1.64 mmol, 97%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>4</sup>

**mp:** 68-70 °C.

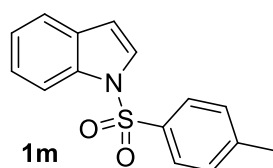
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  2977, 2934, 1679, 1537, 1471, 1448, 1403, 1309, 1185, 1157, 1101, 1076  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.54 (dq<sub>app</sub>,  $J$  = 8.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J$  = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.28 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.7, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (dd,  $J$  = 3.9, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 1.53 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  177.1, 136.8, 129.4, 125.7, 125.1, 123.6, 120.5, 117.4, 108.3, 41.3, 28.7 (3C).

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 201 ( $M^{+}$ , 24), 117 (66), 90 (14), 89 (16), 85 (13), 57 (100).

### 1-(4-Toluenesulfonyl)-1H-indole (**1m**)<sup>5</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S

**Mw** = 271.33 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

To a suspension of NaH (81.1 mg, 2.03 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in anhydrous DMF (5 mL) at 0 °C, was added indole (200 mg, 1.69 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in one portion. The resulting mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0 °C, and a solution of tosyl chloride (358 mg, 1.86 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in anhydrous DMF (3 mL) was added dropwise to the mixture at 0 °C. The resulting solution was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 6 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 98:2 to 95:5) to afford **1m** (438 mg, 1.61 mmol, 96%) as a pale yellow solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>5</sup>

**mp:** 81-83 °C.

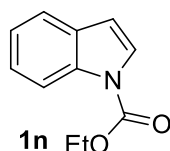
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  2923, 1597, 1483, 1444, 1365, 1303, 1282, 1261, 1169, 1121, 1090, 1018  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.01 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d,  $J$  = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 3H), 6.66 (dd,  $J$  = 3.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  145.0, 135.4, 134.9, 130.8, 130.0 (2C), 126.9 (2C), 126.4, 124.6, 123.4, 121.5, 113.6, 109.1, 21.6.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 271 ( $M^{+}$ , 16), 155 (23), 116 (46), 91 (100), 89 (44), 65 (36), 63 (27).

### Ethyl-1-carboxylate-1H-indole (**1n**)<sup>6</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>

**Mw** = 189.21 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

To a suspension of NaH (202 mg, 5.07 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in dry THF (5 mL) at 0°C, was added indole (300 mg, 2.54 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in one portion. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 15 min,

<sup>5</sup> A. García-Rubia, B. Urones, R. Gómez Arrayás and J. C. Carretero, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2010, **16**, 9676.

and ethyl chloroformate (0.375 mL, 3.8 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added dropwise. The resulting solution was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 6 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 98:2) to afford **1n** (148 mg, 0.782 mmol, 31%) as a clear yellow oil. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>6</sup>

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2982, 1732, 1534, 1452, 1401, 1379, 1342, 1324, 1297, 1242, 1211, 1176, 1118, 1079 1044, 1016 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.21 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $J$  = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.26 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.7, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H) 6.61 (dd,  $J$  = 3.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.48 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  151.2, 135.3, 130.6, 125.7, 124.5, 123.0, 121.1, 115.3, 108.0, 63.3, 14.5.

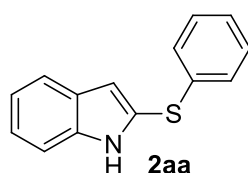
**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 189 (M<sup>+</sup>, 39), 130 (66), 117 (100), 116 (37), 90 (42), 89 (57), 63 (35).

## 5. Synthesis of thioindoles (2aa-2na and 2ab-2ah)

### General procedure

A 10 mL oven-dried vial, equipped with a rubber septum, was charged with indole **1** (1.0 equiv) and *N*-thiosuccinimide **6** (1.0 equiv). Dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 M) was added into the vial, followed by TFA (15 equiv), and the resulting solution was stirred at rt for 4-6 h. The reaction mixture was neutralized with a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (15 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of PE/EtOAc or CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Et<sub>2</sub>O as the eluent.

### 2-(Phenylsulfanyl)-1*H*-indole (**2aa**)<sup>7</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NS

**Mw** = 225.31 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2aa** was synthesized from indole **1a** (57.1 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (100 mg, 0.48 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 95:5) afforded **2aa** (86 mg, 0.38 mmol, 79%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>7</sup>

**mp:** 74-75 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3410, 3051, 1578, 1473, 1440, 1396, 1337, 1316, 1281, 1091, 1023 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> H.-C. Hsu and D.-R. Hou, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 2009, **50**, 7169.

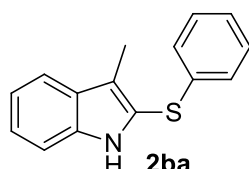
<sup>7</sup> P. Hamel, Y. Girard and J. G. Atkinson, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1992, **57**, 2694.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):** δ 7.96 (br s, 1H), 7.54 (dd<sub>app</sub>, *J* = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd<sub>app</sub>, *J* = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.03 (m, 7H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):** δ 137.7, 136.8, 129.3 (2C), 128.6, 127.6 (2C), 126.4, 125.3, 123.4, 120.8, 120.4, 111.7, 111.0.

**MS *m/z* (relative intensity):** 225 (*M*<sup>+</sup>, 100), 193 (22), 148 (14), 121 (17), 112 (13), 77 (18), 51 (12).

### 3-Methyl-2-(phenylsulfanyl)-1*H*-indole (**2ba**)<sup>8</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NS

**Mw** = 239.34 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2ba** was synthesized from 3-methylindole **1b** (48.4 mg, 0.36 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (75 mg, 0.36 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 95:5) afforded **2ba** (78 mg, 0.33 mmol, 90%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>8</sup>

**mp:** 82-83 °C.

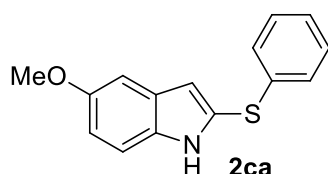
**IR (neat):** ν<sub>max</sub> 3375, 3060, 2930, 2853, 1580, 1478, 1449, 1415, 1351, 1331, 1240, 1179, 1083 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):** δ 7.91 (br s, 1H), 7.59 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 1.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.08 (m, 6H), 7.05-7.02 (m, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):** δ 137.2, 137.0, 129.2 (2C), 128.6, 126.6 (2C), 125.8, 123.6, 121.6, 120.0, 119.7, 119.6, 111.0, 9.6.

**MS *m/z* (relative intensity):** 239 (*M*<sup>+</sup>, 100), 238 (48), 206 (12), 162 (16), 130 (22), 128 (17), 77 (24), 51 (16).

### 5-Methoxy-2-(phenylsulfanyl)-1*H*-indole (**2ca**)



**Formula:** C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NOS

**Mw** = 255.34 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2ca** was synthesized from 5-methoxyindole **1c** (53.8 mg, 0.36 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (75 mg, 0.36 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 95:5) afforded **2ca** (74 mg, 0.29 mmol, 80%) as a yellowish solid.

**mp:** 61-65 °C.

**IR (neat):** ν<sub>max</sub> 3334, 3056, 2955, 2916, 2828, 1624, 1580, 1510, 1478, 1436, 1344, 1296, 1215, 1196, 1157, 1122, 1022 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):** δ 8.02 (br s, 1H), 7.24-7.12 (m, 6H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H).

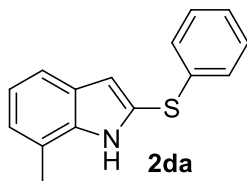
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):** δ 154.5, 137.0, 132.9, 129.3 (2C), 129.0, 127.5 (2C), 126.3, 125.6, 114.0, 111.8, 111.4, 102.0, 55.9.

**MS *m/z* (relative intensity):** 255 (*M*<sup>+</sup>, 100), 240 (33), 212 (43), 135 (12), 77 (10), 51 (13).

<sup>8</sup> F-L. Yang and S-K. Tian, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2013, **52**, 4929.

**HRMS:** calcd for  $C_{15}H_{14}NOS$  ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> : 256.0791, found : 256.0793.

### 7-Methyl-2-(phenylsulfanyl)-1*H*-indole (**2da**)



**Formula:**  $C_{15}H_{13}NS$   
**Mw** = 239.34 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2da** was synthesized from 7-methylindole **1d** (48.9 mg, 0.36 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (75 mg, 0.36 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 98:2) afforded **2da** (74 mg, 0.31 mmol, 85%) as a pale yellow solid.

**mp:** 58-60 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3406, 3052, 2915, 2853, 1581, 1477, 1440, 1415, 1338, 1248, 1101, 1084, 1023 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

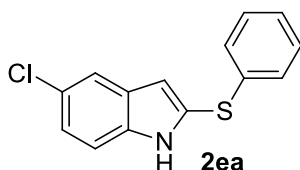
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  7.96 (br s, 1H), 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 3H), 7.00-6.94 (m, 2H), 6.81 (d,  $J$  = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  137.5, 137.1, 129.3 (2C), 128.1, 127.2 (2C), 126.2, 124.5, 123.9, 120.6, 120.3, 118.6, 112.7, 16.8.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 239 ( $M^+$ , 100), 238 (19), 223 (17), 207 (21), 206 (26), 162 (11), 112 (13), 91 (14), 77 (25), 51 (27).

**HRMS:** calcd for  $C_{15}H_{14}NS$  ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> : 240.0842, found : 240.0841.

### 5-Chloro-2-(phenylsulfanyl)-1*H*-indole (**2ea**)



**Formula:**  $C_{14}H_{10}ClNS$   
**Mw** = 259.75 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2ea** was synthesized from 5-chloroindole **1e** (56.0 mg, 0.36 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (75 mg, 0.36 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 95:5) afforded **2ea** (78 mg, 0.30 mmol, 83%) as a white solid.

**mp:** 58-59 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3412, 3058, 1582, 1476, 1454, 1437, 1395, 1324, 1096, 1064, 1023 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

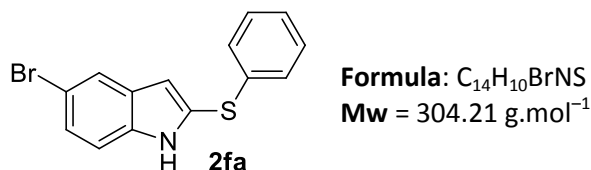
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.10 (br s, 1H), 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.16 (m, 7H), 6.79 (dd,  $J$  = 2.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  136.00, 135.95, 129.5, 129.4 (2C), 128.1 (2C), 127.5, 126.7, 126.1, 123.7, 120.1, 112.0, 110.7.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 259 ( $M^+$ , 100), 227 (14), 225 (13), 224 (67), 223 (58), 182 (15), 112 (53), 77 (21), 69 (13), 63 (12), 51 (47).

**HRMS:** calcd for  $C_{14}H_{11}ClNS$  ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> : 260.0295 and 262.0266, found : 260.0296 and 262.0266.

### 5-Bromo-2-(phenylsulfanyl)-1*H*-indole (2fa)



Compound **2fa** was synthesized from 5-bromoindole **1f** (71.7 mg, 0.36 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (75 mg, 0.36 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 95:5) afforded **2fa** (87 mg, 0.29 mmol, 79%) as a pale yellow solid.

**mp:** 61-63 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3409, 3058, 2925, 1581, 1476, 1450, 1434, 1392, 1323, 1297, 1215, 1095, 1050 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

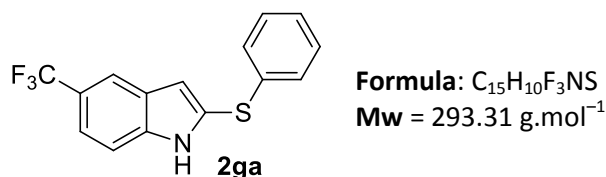
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.07 (br s, 1H), 7.72 (d<sub>app</sub>, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.12 (m, 7H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  136.2, 136.0, 130.2, 129.4 (2C), 128.1 (2C), 127.4, 126.7, 126.2, 123.2, 113.7, 112.4, 110.5.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 305 (M<sup>+</sup>, 64), 303 (62), 226 (16), 225 (17), 224 (100), 223 (71), 191 (12), 147 (13), 146 (13), 120 (25), 113 (15), 112 (75), 103 (13), 88 (16), 77 (28), 76 (14), 69 (19), 65 (13), 63 (15), 62 (16), 51 (55), 50 (19).

**HRMS:** calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>BrNS (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 303.9790 and 305.9770, found : 303.9791 and 305.9770.

### 2-(Phenylsulfanyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-indole (2ga)



Compound **2ga** was synthesized from 5-trifluoromethylindole **1g** (95.4 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (103.6 mg, 0.50 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 95:5) afforded **2ga** (97 mg, 0.33 mmol, 66%) as a white solid.

**mp:** 74-78 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3412, 3064, 2925, 2851, 1579, 1478, 1440, 1404, 1344, 1329, 1267, 1185, 1158, 1098, 1052, 1023 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

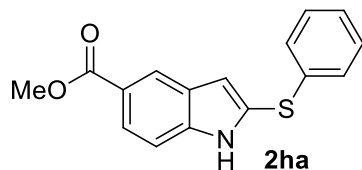
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.16 (br s, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (dd<sub>app</sub>, *J* = 8.6, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.09 (m, 5H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  138.9, 135.6, 129.5 (2C), 128.36 (2C), 128.31, 127.9, 126.9, 125.2 (q, *J* = 271.6 Hz), 122.9 (q, *J* = 31.9 Hz), 120.0 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 118.5 (q, *J* = 4.3 Hz), 111.7, 111.2.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 293 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 292 (23), 274 (13), 273 (33), 261 (21), 224 (15), 223 (30), 216 (17), 145 (13), 137 (17), 112 (15), 77 (32), 69 (19), 65 (13), 51 (60), 50 (15).

**HRMS:** calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NS (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 294.0559, found : 294.0561.

### Methyl-5-carboxylate-2-(phenylsulfanyl)-1H-indole (2ha)



**Formula:** C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S  
**Mw** = 283.35 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2ha** was synthesized from methyl-5-carboxylate indole **1h** (64.0 mg, 0.36 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (75 mg, 0.36 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 9:1 to 8:2) afforded **2ha** (62 mg, 0.22 mmol, 60%) as a white solid.

**mp:** 148-149 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3284, 2951, 1689, 1614, 1479, 1433, 1343, 1293, 1263, 1202, 1137 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

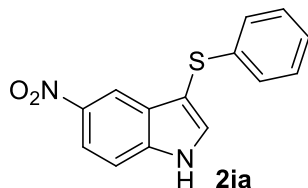
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.39 (br s, 1H), 8.38 (m, 1H), 7.92 (dd,  $J$  = 8.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dt<sub>app</sub>,  $J$  = 8.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.17 (m, 5H), 6.93 (dd,  $J$  = 2.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  168.1, 140.2, 135.8, 129.4 (2C), 128.2 (2C), 128.1, 127.7, 126.8, 124.6, 123.7, 122.5, 112.3, 110.7, 52.1.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 283 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 252 (39), 251 (17), 225 (13), 224 (60), 223 (50), 222 (13), 147 (16), 126 (20), 112 (14), 77 (26), 51 (29).

**HRMS:** calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 284.0740, found : 284.0743.

### 5-Nitro-3-(phenylsulfanyl)-1H-indole (2ia)<sup>8</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S  
**Mw** = 270.31 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2ia** was synthesized from 5-nitroindole **1i** (82.7 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (103.6 mg, 0.50 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 9:1 to 7:3) afforded **2ia** (86 mg, 0.32 mmol, 64%) as a yellow solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>8</sup>

**mp:** 170-172 °C.

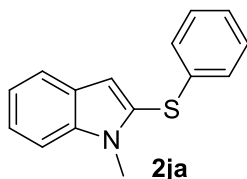
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3335, 2923, 2853, 1614, 1580, 1507, 1471, 1323, 1300, 1076 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  12.4 (br s, 1H), 8.25 (d,  $J$  = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 8.08 (dd,  $J$  = 9.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.05 (m, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  141.6, 140.0, 138.0, 136.6, 129.1 (2C), 128.2, 125.7 (2C), 125.4, 117.6, 114.8, 113.2, 102.7.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 270 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 224 (34), 223 (37), 152 (12), 112 (23), 51 (14).

### 1-Methyl-2-(phenylsulfanyl)-1H-indole (2ja)<sup>7</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NS  
**Mw** = 239.34 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2ja** was synthesized from 1-methylindole **1j** (49.0 mg, 0.36 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (75 mg, 0.36 mmol). Purification by flash column

chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 100:0 to 99:1) afforded **2ja** (70 mg, 0.29 mmol, 81%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>7</sup>

**mp:** 76-78 °C.

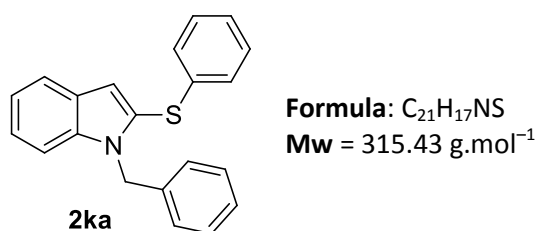
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3054, 2937, 1580, 1471, 1461, 1440, 1356, 1324, 1312, 1231, 1100, 1082, 1022  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  7.63 (dt<sub>app</sub>,  $J$  = 7.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.08 (m, 4H), 7.04-7.01 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d<sub>app</sub>,  $J$  = 0.6 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  138.8, 137.2, 129.3 (2C), 127.4, 127.2, 126.7 (2C), 125.9, 123.1, 121.0, 120.1, 111.9, 110.0, 30.0.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 239 ( $M^{+}$ , 100), 224 (16), 223 (15), 206 (13), 128 (10), 118 (15), 91 (14), 77 (13), 51 (12).

### 1-Benzyl-2-(phenylsulfanyl)-1H-indole (2ka)<sup>9</sup>



Compound **2ka** was synthesized from 1-benzylindole **1k** (79.7 mg, 0.38 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (79.7 mg, 0.38 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE 100%) afforded **2ka** (70 mg, 0.29 mmol, 81%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>9</sup>

**mp:** 106-108 °C.

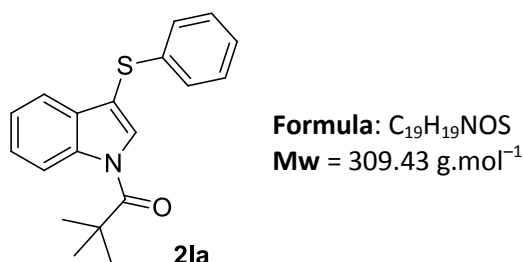
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3059, 2923, 2852, 1582, 1478, 1448, 1355, 1332, 1310, 1196, 1159, 1074  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  7.66 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.04 (m, 11H), 7.01 (d,  $J$  = 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.96-6.93 (m, 2H), 5.37 (s, 2H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  138.5, 137.7, 136.9, 129.2 (2C), 128.6 (2C), 127.7, 127.6, 127.3, 127.1 (2C), 126.6 (2C), 126.1, 123.3, 121.1, 120.3, 112.7, 110.8, 47.3.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 315 ( $M^{+}$ , 24), 224 (14), 223 (17), 91 (100), 65 (20).

### 3-(Phenylsulfanyl)-1-(pivaloyl)-1H-indole (2la)



Compound **2la** was synthesized from 1-pivaloylindole **1l** (74 mg, 0.37 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (76.2 mg, 0.37 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 99:1) afforded **2la** (107 mg, 0.35 mmol, 94%) as a white solid.

<sup>9</sup> P. Hamel, N. Zajac, J. G. Atkinson and Y. Girard, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1994, **59**, 6372.

**mp:** 80-84 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3052, 2980, 2933, 1699, 1582, 1528, 1476, 1446, 1401, 1304, 1221, 1168, 1156, 1084, 1022  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

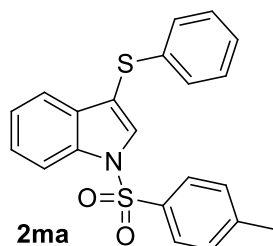
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.55 (dt<sub>app</sub>,  $J$  = 8.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.48 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (ddd,  $J$  = 9.6, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.18 (m, 5H), 7.14 (m, 1H), 1.55 (s, 9H).

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  176.9, 137.6, 136.7, 130.7, 129.7, 129.1 (2C), 127.1 (2C), 126.1, 125.8, 124.2, 119.7, 117.6, 110.7, 41.5, 28.8 (3C).

**MS  $m/z$  (relative intensity):** 309 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 13), 225 (24), 57 (100).

**HRMS:** calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NOS}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup> : 310.1260, found : 310.1260.

### 3-(Phenylsulfanyl)-1-[(4-toluenesulfonyl)-1H-indole (2ma)



**Formula:**  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2$   
**Mw** = 379.50  $\text{g}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

Compound **2ma** was synthesized from 1-(4-toluenesulfonyl)indole **1m** (108.5 mg, 0.4 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (82.9 mg, 0.4 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 95:5) afforded **2ma** (140 mg, 0.37 mmol, 92%) as a pale yellow solid.

**mp:** 79-81 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3131, 3052, 2923, 2933, 1596, 1582, 1493, 1442, 1372, 1263, 1172, 1127, 1108, 1090, 1046, 1017  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

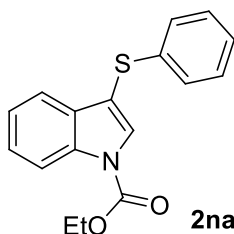
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.01 (dt<sub>app</sub>,  $J$  = 8.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.81-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.43 (dt<sub>app</sub>,  $J$  = 7.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.4, 7.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.08 (m, 8H), 2.36 (s, 3H).

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  145.5, 136.3, 135.5, 134.9, 131.1, 131.0, 130.1 (2C), 129.0 (2C), 127.3 (2C), 127.1 (2C), 125.9, 125.5, 123.9, 120.5, 113.9, 111.9, 21.7.

**MS  $m/z$  (relative intensity):** 379 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 16), 225 (19), 224 (100), 223 (51), 91 (24), 77 (22), 65 (19), 51 (17).

**HRMS:** calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2\text{Na}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ )<sup>+</sup> : 402.0593, found : 402.0596.

### Ethyl-1-carboxylate-3-(phenylsulfanyl)-1H-indole (2na)



**Formula:**  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$   
**Mw** = 297.37  $\text{g}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

Compound **2na** was synthesized from ethyl-1-carboxylateindole **1n** (96.3 mg, 0.51 mmol) and 1-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a** (105.5 mg, 0.51 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 100:0 to 98:2) afforded **2na** (50 mg, 0.17 mmol, 33%) as a white solid.

**mp:** 73-74 °C.

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  2926, 1745, 1580, 1530, 1473, 1451, 1402, 1376, 1348, 1300, 1245, 1217, 1073  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

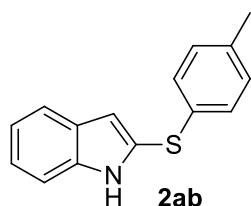
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):** δ 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.49 (ddd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (ddd, *J* = 8.9, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.10 (m, 1H), 4.51 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):** δ 150.5, 136.9, 136.0, 130.9, 130.8, 129.0 (2C), 127.2 (2C), 125.7, 125.5, 123.6, 120.2, 115.5, 110.5, 63.8, 14.5.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 297 (M<sup>+</sup>, 75), 225 (52), 224 (100), 223 (74), 193 (14), 165 (12), 148 (12), 121 (19), 120 (22), 77 (46), 51 (40).

**HRMS:** calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 298.0896, found: 298.0899.

## 2-[(4-Methylphenyl)sulfanyl]-1*H*-indole (**2ab**)<sup>10</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NS  
**Mw** = 239.34 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2ab** was synthesized from indole **1a** (50 mg, 0.42 mmol) and 1-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfanyl]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6b** (93.5 mg, 0.42 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 98:2) afforded **2ab** (78 mg, 0.33 mmol, 77%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>10</sup>

**mp:** 91-93 °C.

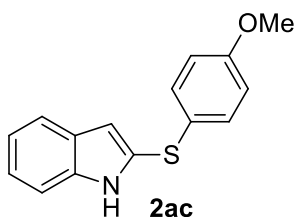
**IR (neat):** ν<sub>max</sub> 3376, 3033, 2917, 1612, 1488, 1442, 1429, 1391, 1340, 1316, 1284, 1151, 1014 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):** δ 8.05 (br s, 1H), 7.62 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 1.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 1.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):** δ 137.7, 136.7, 132.7, 130.1 (2C), 128.6, 128.5 (2C), 126.4, 123.2, 120.7, 120.4, 110.9, 110.8, 21.1.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 239 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 238 (20), 224 (17), 223 (20), 207 (20), 121 (14), 119 (13), 112 (12), 89 (13), 77 (16), 65 (11).

## 2-[(4-Methoxyphenyl)sulfanyl]-1*H*-indole (**2ac**)<sup>7</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NOS  
**Mw** = 255.34 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2ac** was synthesized from indole **1a** (60 mg, 0.51 mmol) and 1-[(4-methoxyphenyl)sulfanyl]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6c** (120.3 mg, 0.51 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 95:5) afforded **2ac** (93 mg, 0.36 mmol, 72%) as a yellow oil. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>7</sup>

**mp:** 67-68 °C.

<sup>10</sup> P. Hamel, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2002, **67**, 2854.

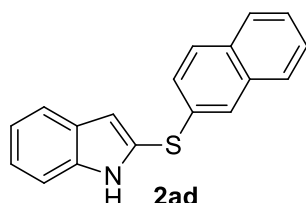
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3433, 3052, 3012, 2939, 1588, 1571, 1491, 1446, 1405, 1336, 1316, 1242, 1173, 1021, 1105  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.02 (br s, 1H), 7.58 (dd<sub>app</sub>,  $J$  = 7.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.18 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.83-6.79 (m, 2H), 6.75 (dd,  $J$  = 2.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H).

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  159.2, 137.5, 131.4 (2C), 128.7, 127.9, 126.1, 123.0, 120.6, 120.3, 115.0 (2C), 110.8, 109.5, 55.5.

**MS  $m/z$  (relative intensity):** 255 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100), 240 (35), 223 (16), 212 (12), 120 (12), 77 (12), 63 (13).

### 2-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfanyl)-1H-indole (2ad)<sup>7</sup>



**Formula:**  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{NS}$   
**Mw** = 275.37  $\text{g}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

Compound **2ad** was synthesized from indole **1a** (47.4 mg, 0.4 mmol) and 1-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6d** (102.9 mg, 0.4 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 98:2 to 95:5) afforded **2ad** (93 mg, 0.34 mmol, 84%) as a white solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>7</sup>

**mp:** 116-118  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

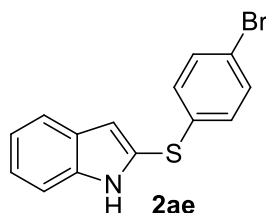
**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3403, 3049, 1576, 1492, 1446, 1403, 1338, 1315, 1274, 1231, 1157  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.07 (br s, 1H), 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.68 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.14 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd,  $J$  = 2.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H).

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  137.8, 133.9, 133.8, 132.0, 129.0, 128.6, 127.9, 127.3, 126.9, 126.08, 126.06, 125.9, 125.5, 123.4, 120.9, 120.5, 111.6, 111.0.

**MS  $m/z$  (relative intensity):** 275 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100), 274 (39), 273 (17), 243 (14), 242 (14), 241 (13), 137 (16), 136 (13), 128 (13), 121 (16), 77 (15).

### 2-[(4-bromophenyl)sulfanyl]-1H-indole (2ae)



**Formula:**  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{BrNS}$   
**Mw** = 304.21  $\text{g}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

Compound **2ae** was synthesized from indole **1a** (50 mg, 0.42 mmol) and 1-[(4-bromophenyl)sulfanyl]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6e** (120.9 mg, 0.42 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 98:2) afforded **2ae** (119 mg, 0.39 mmol, 93%) as a white solid.

**mp:** 112-113  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3376, 3071, 2924, 1468, 1441, 1385, 1340, 1287, 1082, 1003  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

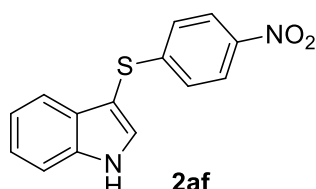
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.09 (br s, 1H), 7.65 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.26 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.89 (dd,  $J$  = 2.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):** δ 137.8, 136.2, 132.3 (2C), 128.9 (2C), 128.5, 124.4, 123.7, 121.0, 120.6, 120.1, 112.2, 111.1.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 303 (M<sup>+</sup>, 83), 273 (15), 271 (15), 224 (53), 223 (75), 191 (15), 148 (49), 121 (46), 120 (14), 113 (15), 112 (100), 108 (15), 104 (20), 89 (40), 77 (55), 76 (40), 75 (27), 74 (12), 69 (18), 63 (40), 62 (13), 51 (24), 50 (38).

**HRMS:** calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>BrNS (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 303.9790 and 305.9770, found : 303.9791 and 305.9767.

### 3-[(4-Nitrophenyl)sulfanyl]-1*H*-indole (**2af**)<sup>8</sup>



**Formula:** C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S  
**Mw** = 270.31 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2af** was synthesized from indole **1a** (88.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and 1-[(4-nitrophenyl)sulfanyl]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6f** (189.2 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 9:1 to 8:2) afforded **2af** (62 mg, 0.23 mmol, 30%) as a yellow solid. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>8</sup>

**mp:** 171-173 °C.

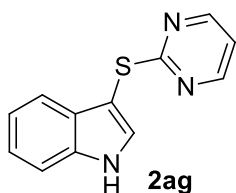
**IR (neat):** ν<sub>max</sub> 3395, 3095, 2913, 1720, 1577, 1505, 1474, 1454, 1406, 1332, 1237, 1085, 1009 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):** δ 8.70 (br s, 1H), 8.02-7.98 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.32 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 2H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):** δ 150.0, 145.0, 136.7, 131.4, 128.5, 125.2 (2C), 124.0 (2C), 123.7, 121.5, 119.3, 112.1, 100.2.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 270 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 224 (36), 223 (47), 191 (22), 148 (48), 121 (18), 112 (21), 77 (33), 63 (14), 50 (15).

### 3-(Pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl)-1*H*-indole (**2ag**)



**Formula:** C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>3</sub>S  
**Mw** = 227.29 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2ag** was synthesized from indole **1a** (48.5 mg, 0.4 mmol) and 1-(pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6g** (83.7 mg, 0.4 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 100:0 to 9:1) afforded **2ag** (55 mg, 0.24 mmol, 60%) as a pale orange solid.

**mp:** 262-266 °C.

**IR (neat):** ν<sub>max</sub> 3158, 3112, 2913, 1562, 1551, 1454, 1426, 1378, 1183, 1126, 1104, 1006 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

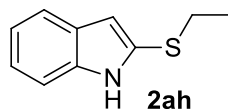
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz):** δ 11.64 (br s, 1H), 8.51 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.05 (td<sub>app</sub>, *J* = 7.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz):** δ 172.2, 157.8 (2C), 136.6, 132.4, 129.2, 121.9, 120.0, 118.5, 117.5, 112.2, 97.8.

**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 227 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 226 (45), 194 (12), 169 (25), 148 (38), 121 (27), 104 (16), 77 (44), 53 (13).

**HRMS:** calcd for  $C_{12}H_{10}N_3S$  ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> : 228.0590, found : 228.0590.

### 2-(Ethylsulfanyl)-1H-indole (**2ah**)<sup>11</sup>



**Formula:**  $C_{10}H_{11}NS$   
**Mw** = 177.27 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

Compound **2ah** was synthesized from indole **1a** (60 mg, 0.51 mmol) and 1-(ethylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6h** (80.7 mg, 0.51 mmol). Purification by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 95:5) afforded **2ah** (33 mg, 0.19 mmol, 37%) as a yellowish oil. The spectral data are in agreement with the literature report.<sup>11</sup>

**IR (neat):**  $\nu_{\max}$  3398, 3053, 2964, 2925, 2869, 1443, 1397, 1340, 1317, 1282, 1260, 1229, 1011 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.08 (br s, 1H), 7.59 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.2, 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.2, 1.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.2, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.2, 7.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (dd,  $J$  = 2.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (q,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  137.1, 128.80, 128.79, 122.6, 120.3, 120.2, 110.6, 108.9, 30.9, 15.3.

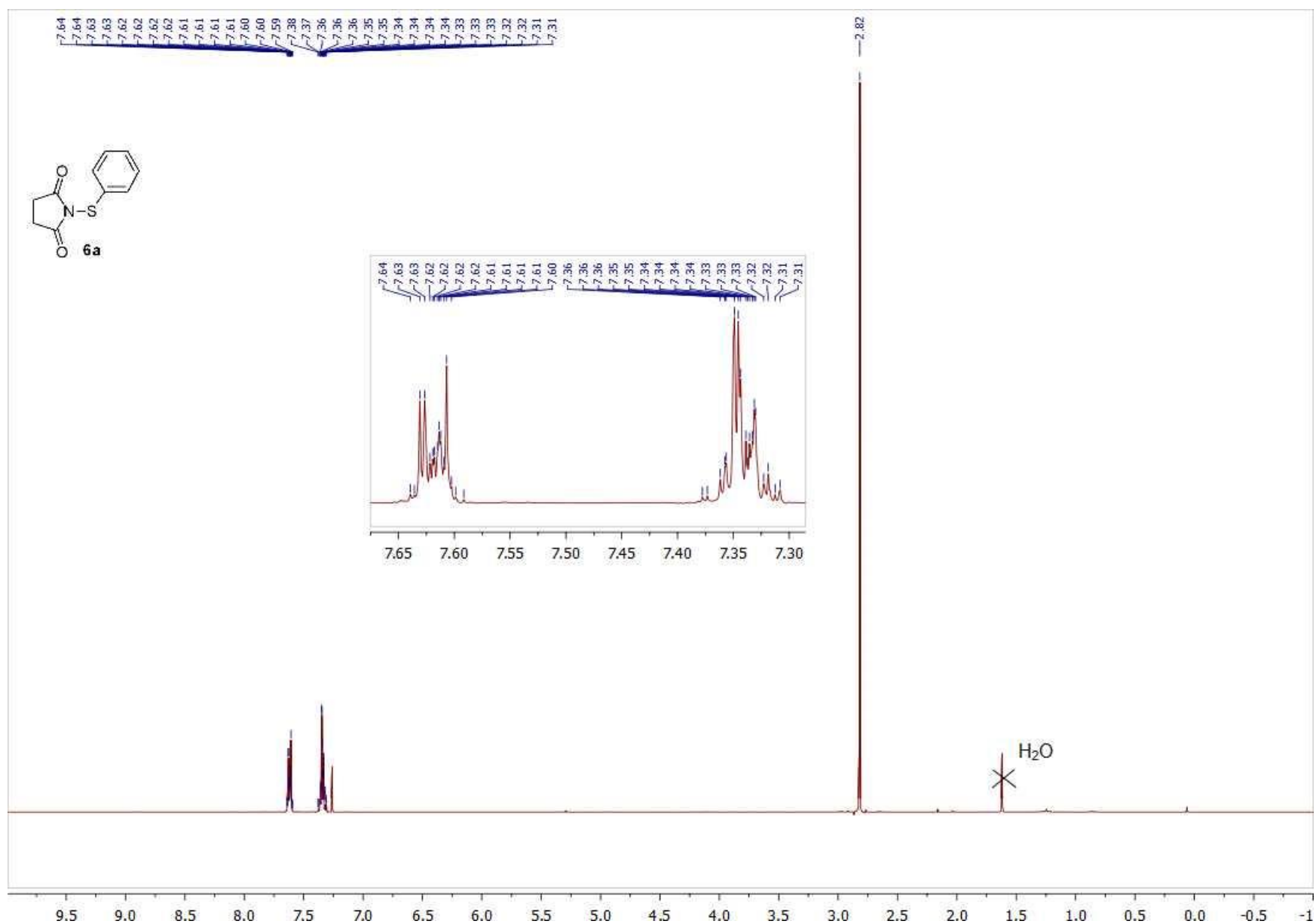
**MS m/z (relative intensity):** 177 ( $M^+$ , 86), 149 (68), 148 (100), 121 (22), 117 (19), 104 (13), 89 (13), 77 (29), 63 (11).

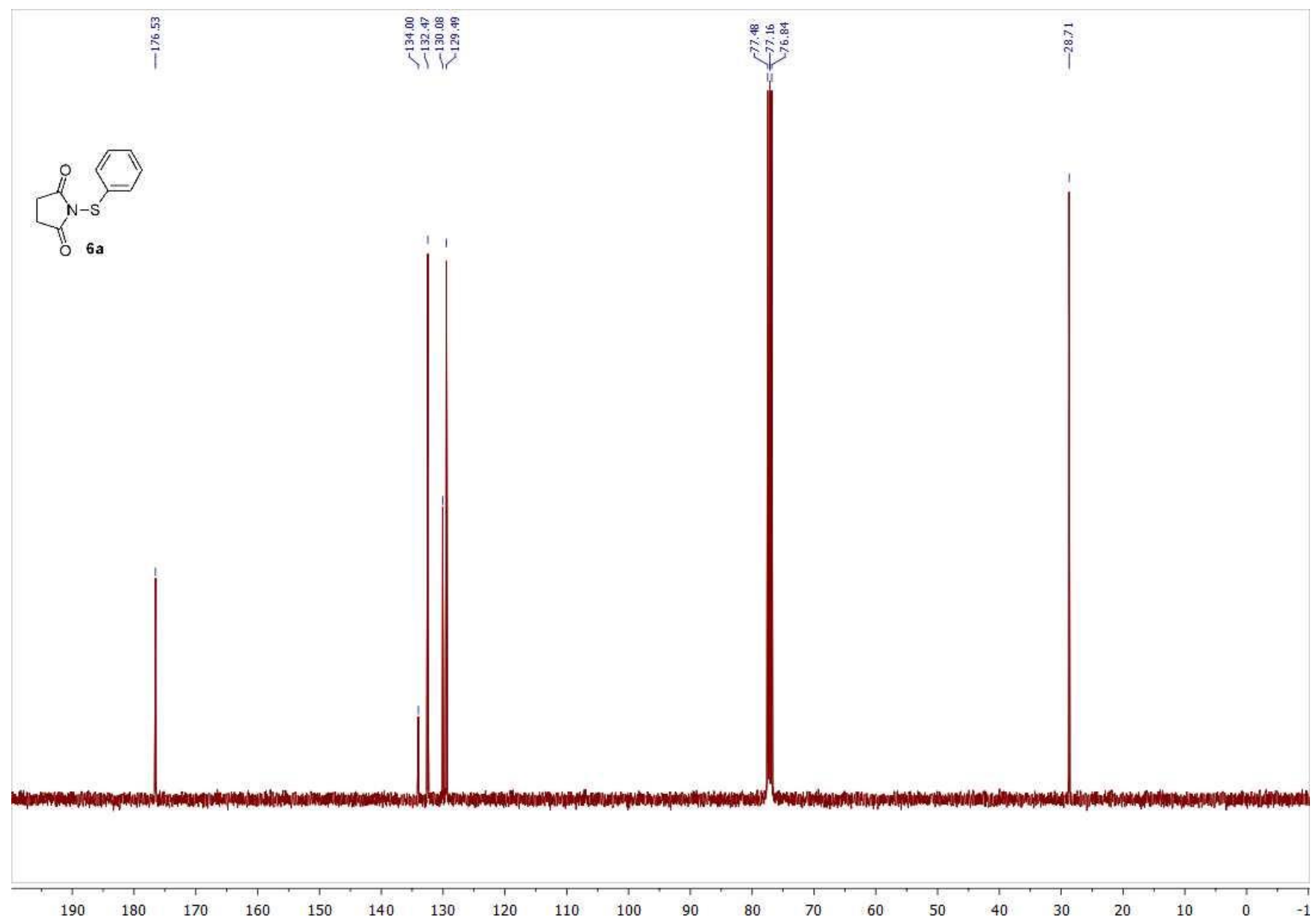
## 6. References

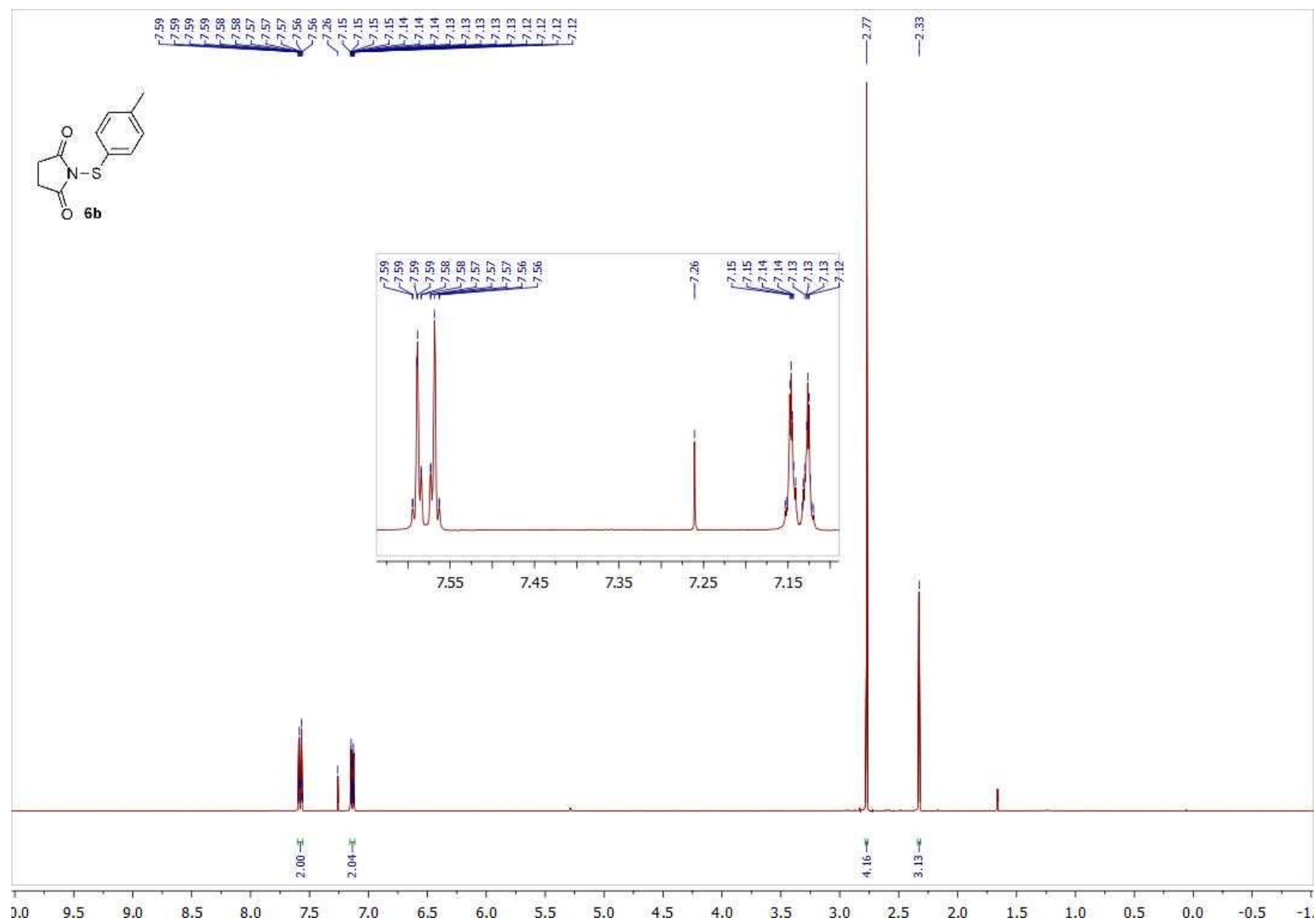
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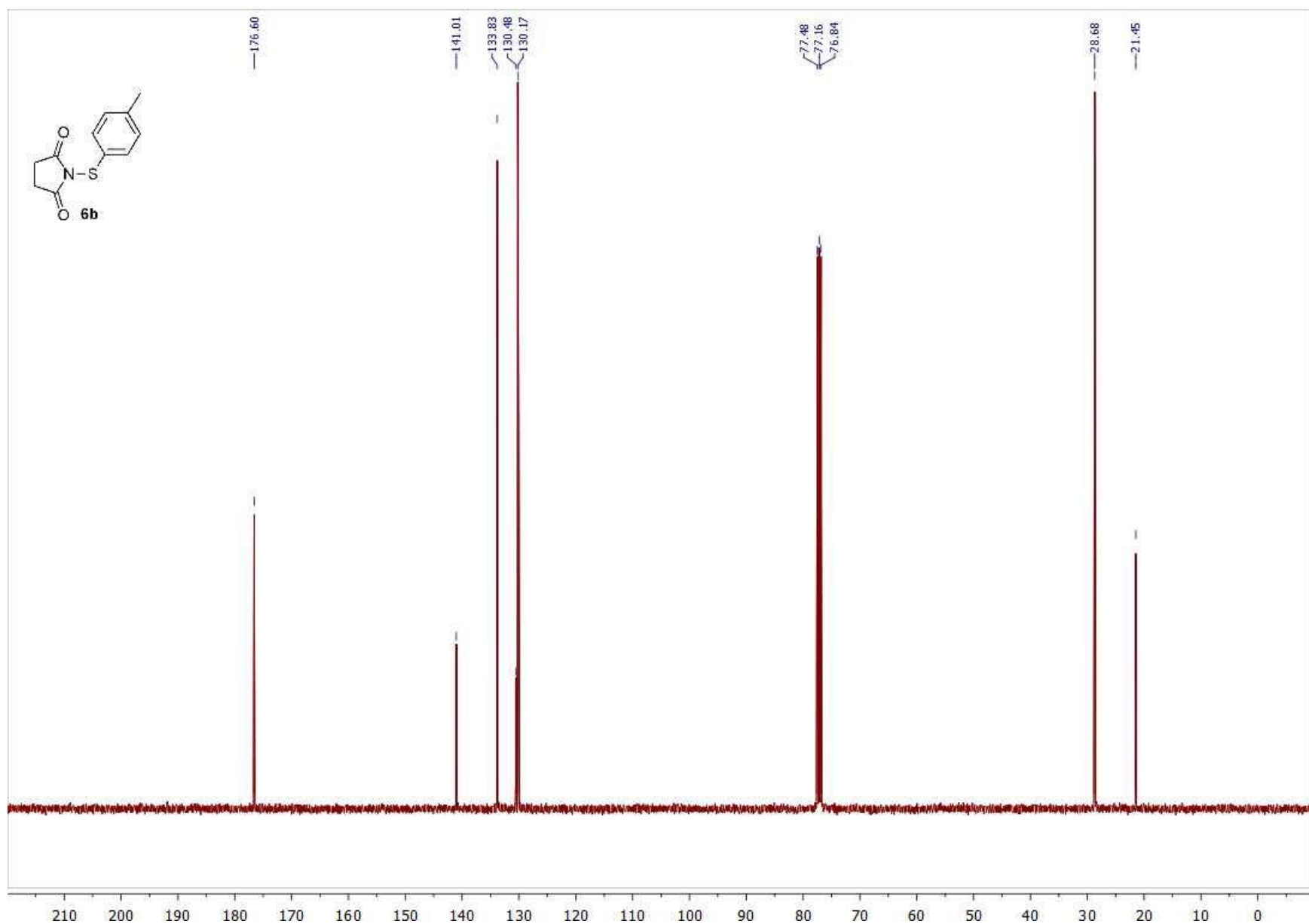
<sup>11</sup> M. Nakagawa and T. Hino, *Tetrahedron*, 1970, **26**, 4491.

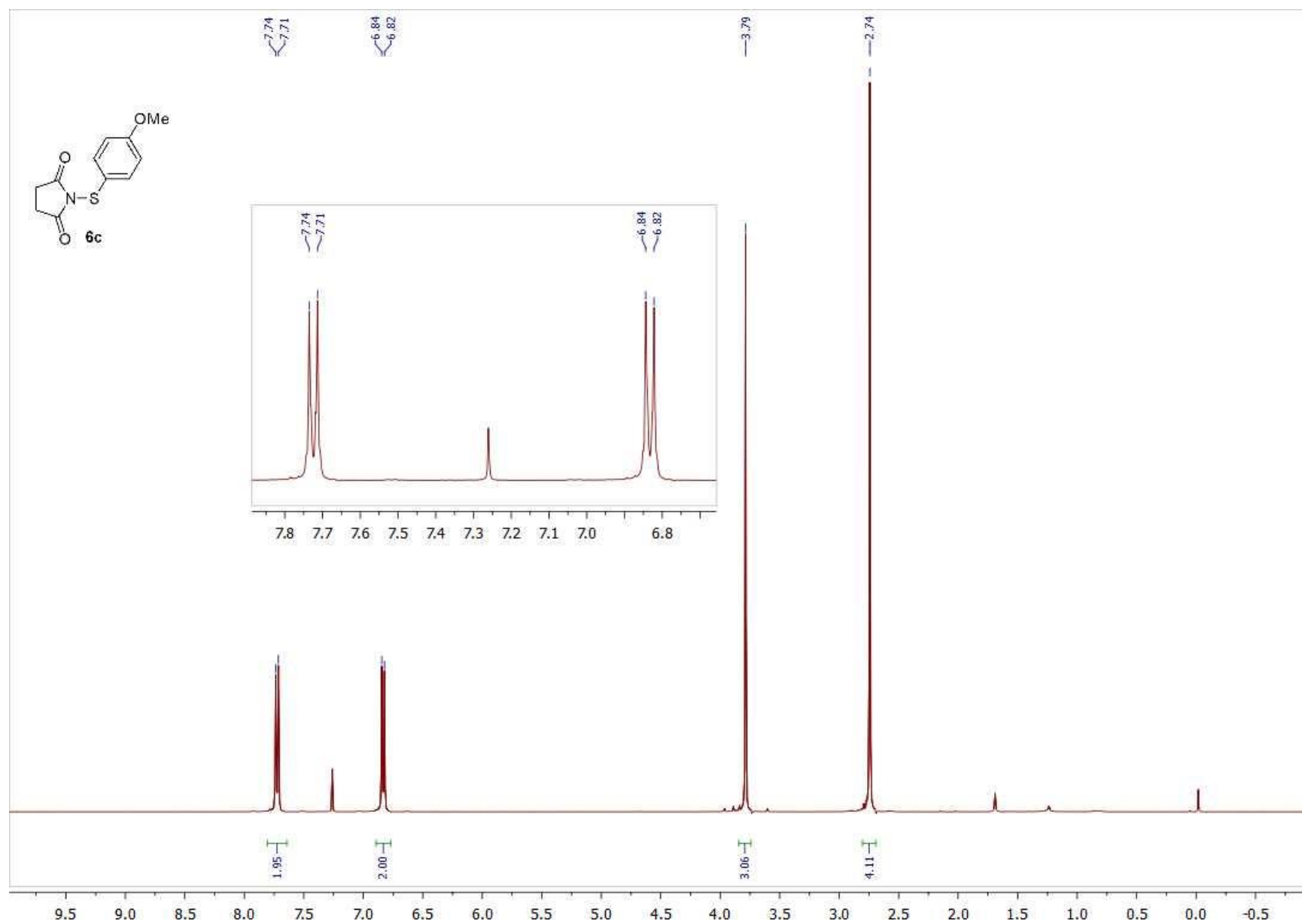
**7.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of *N*-thiosuccinimides (6a-6h)**

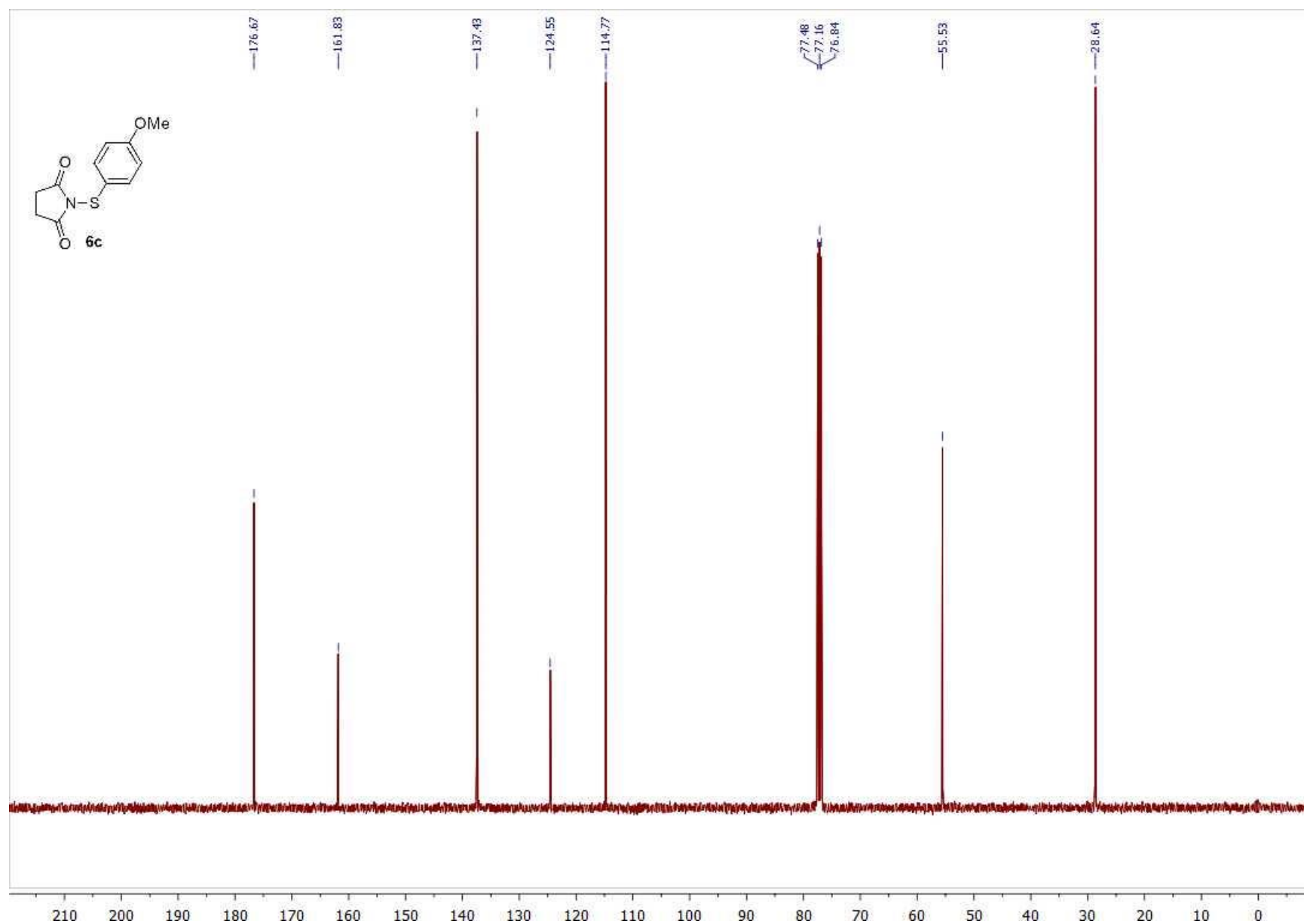


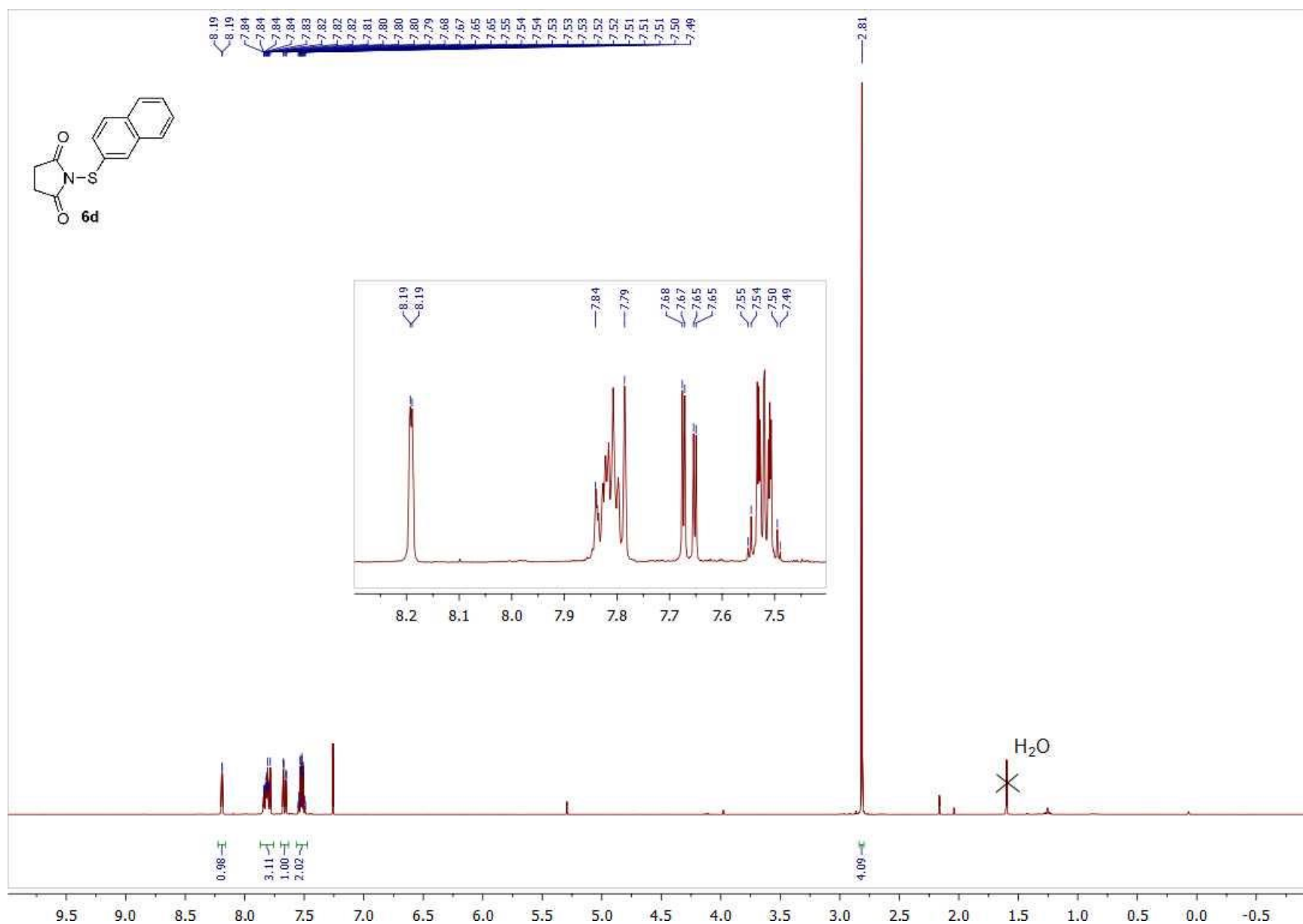


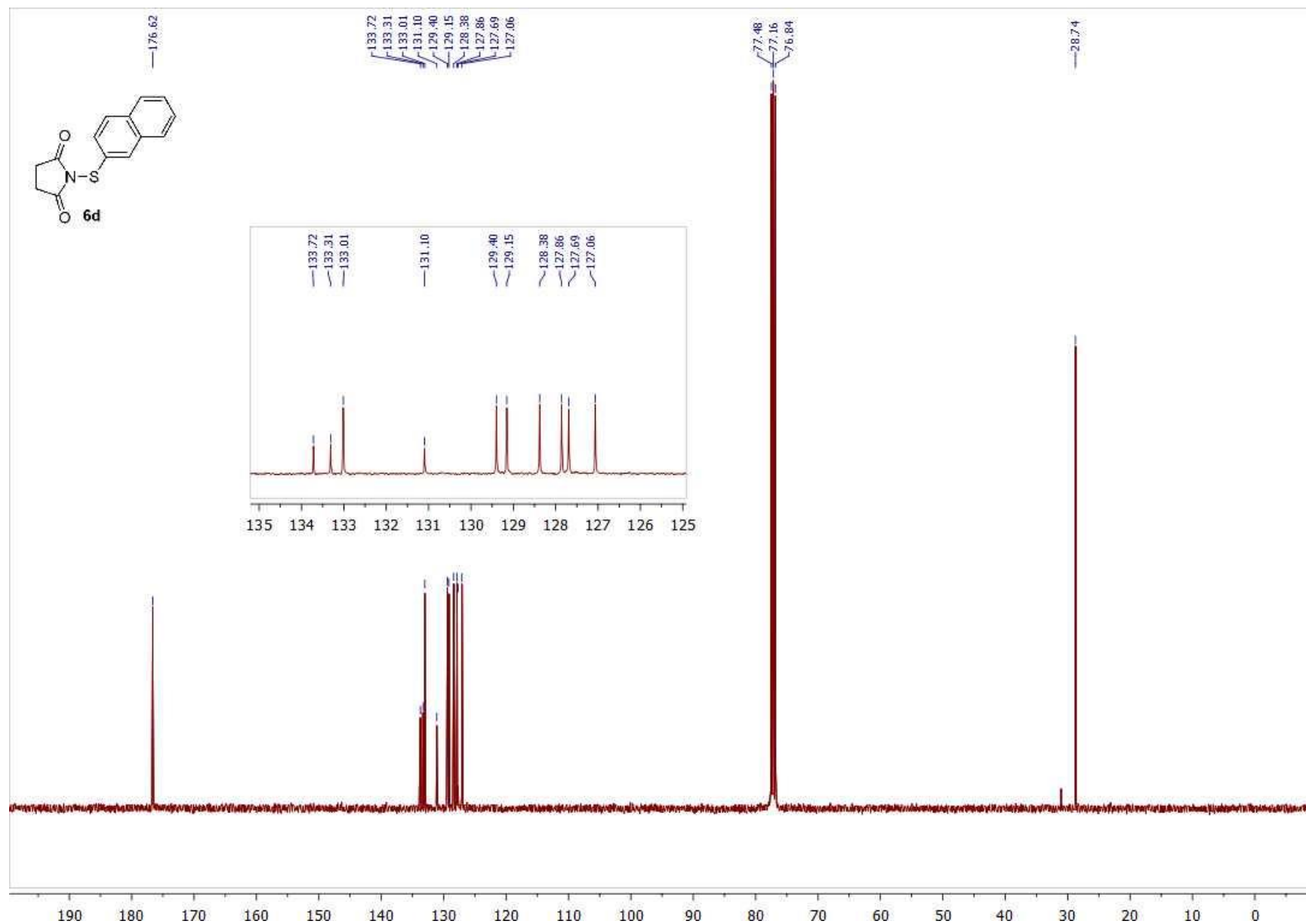


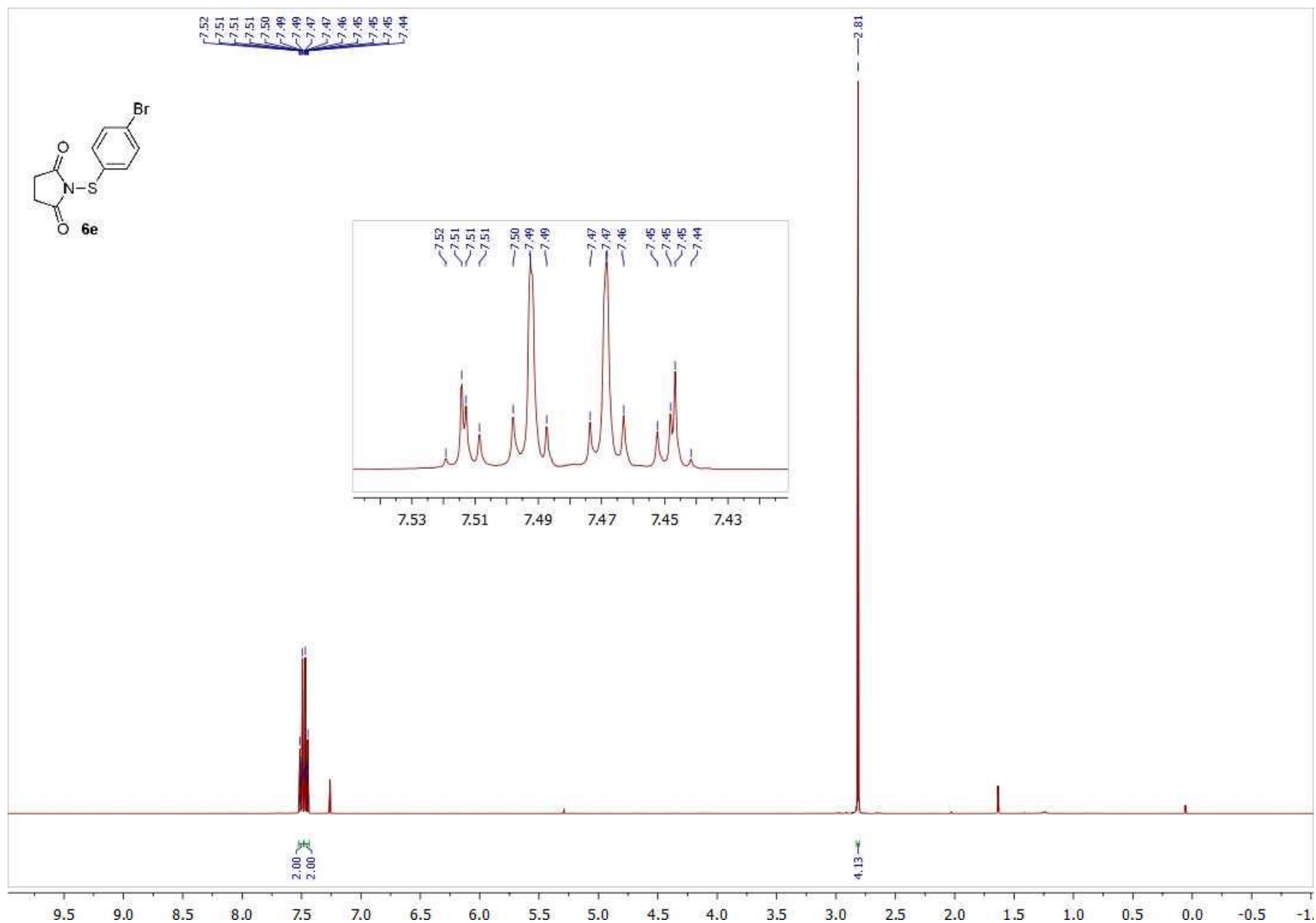


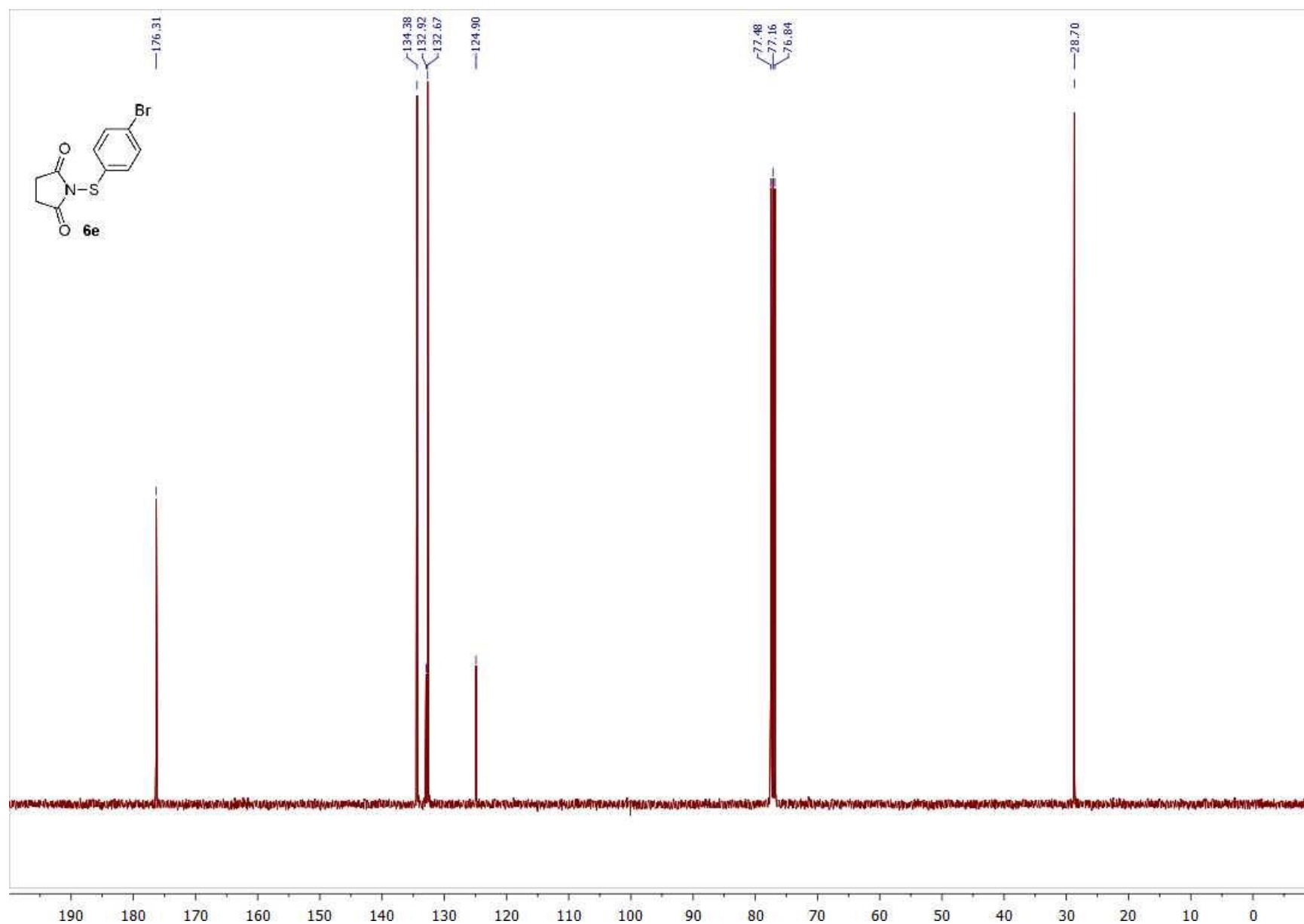


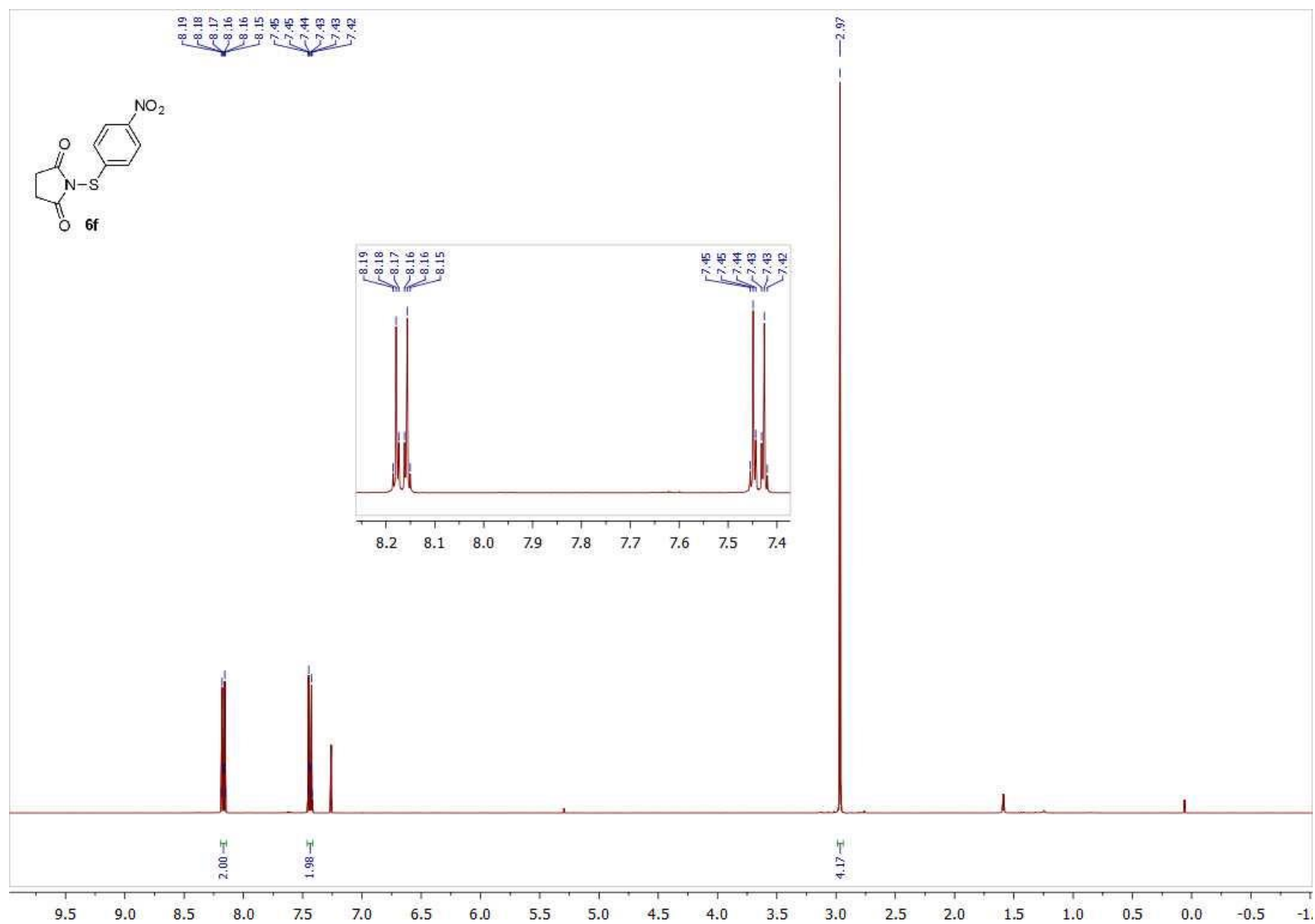


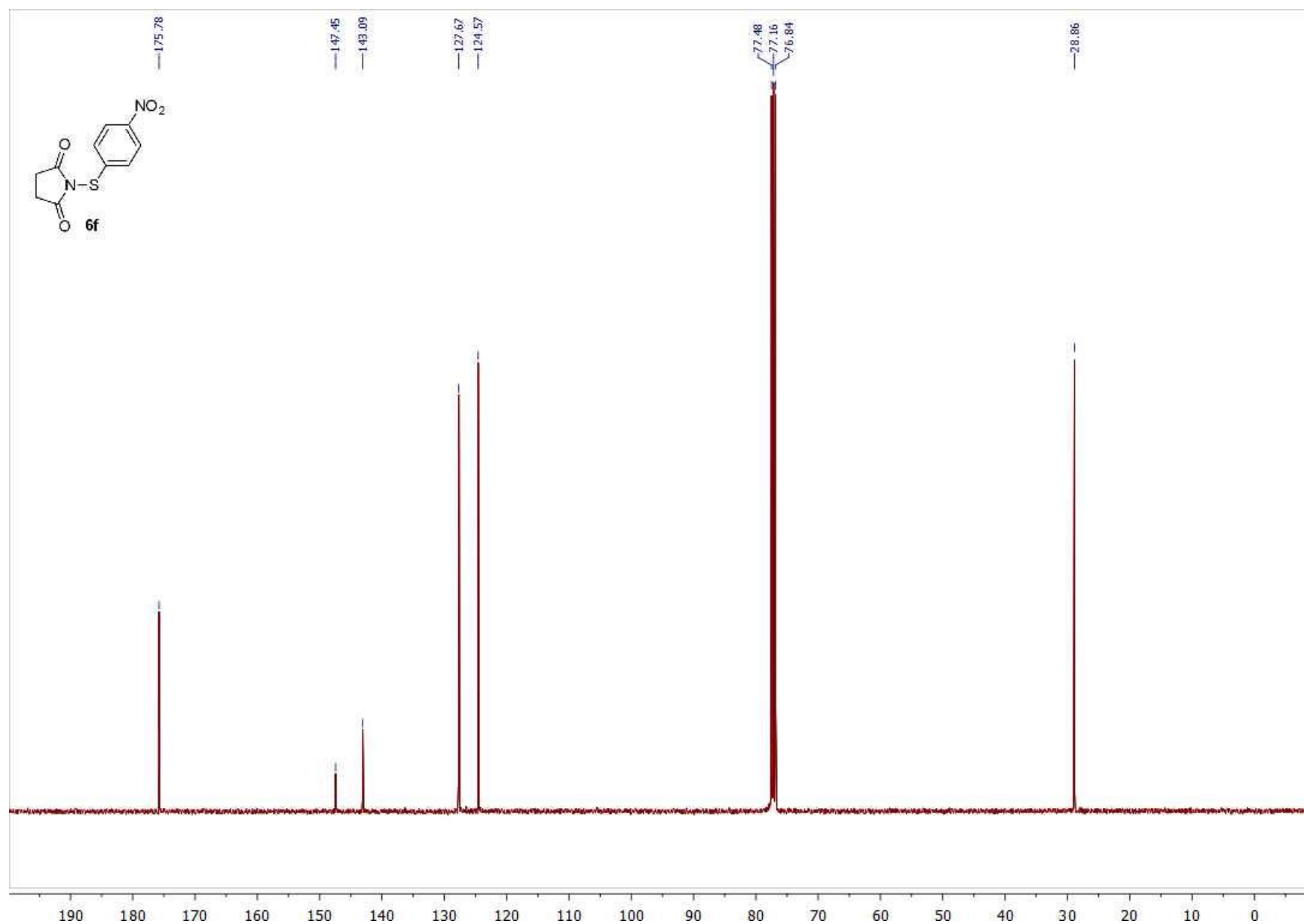


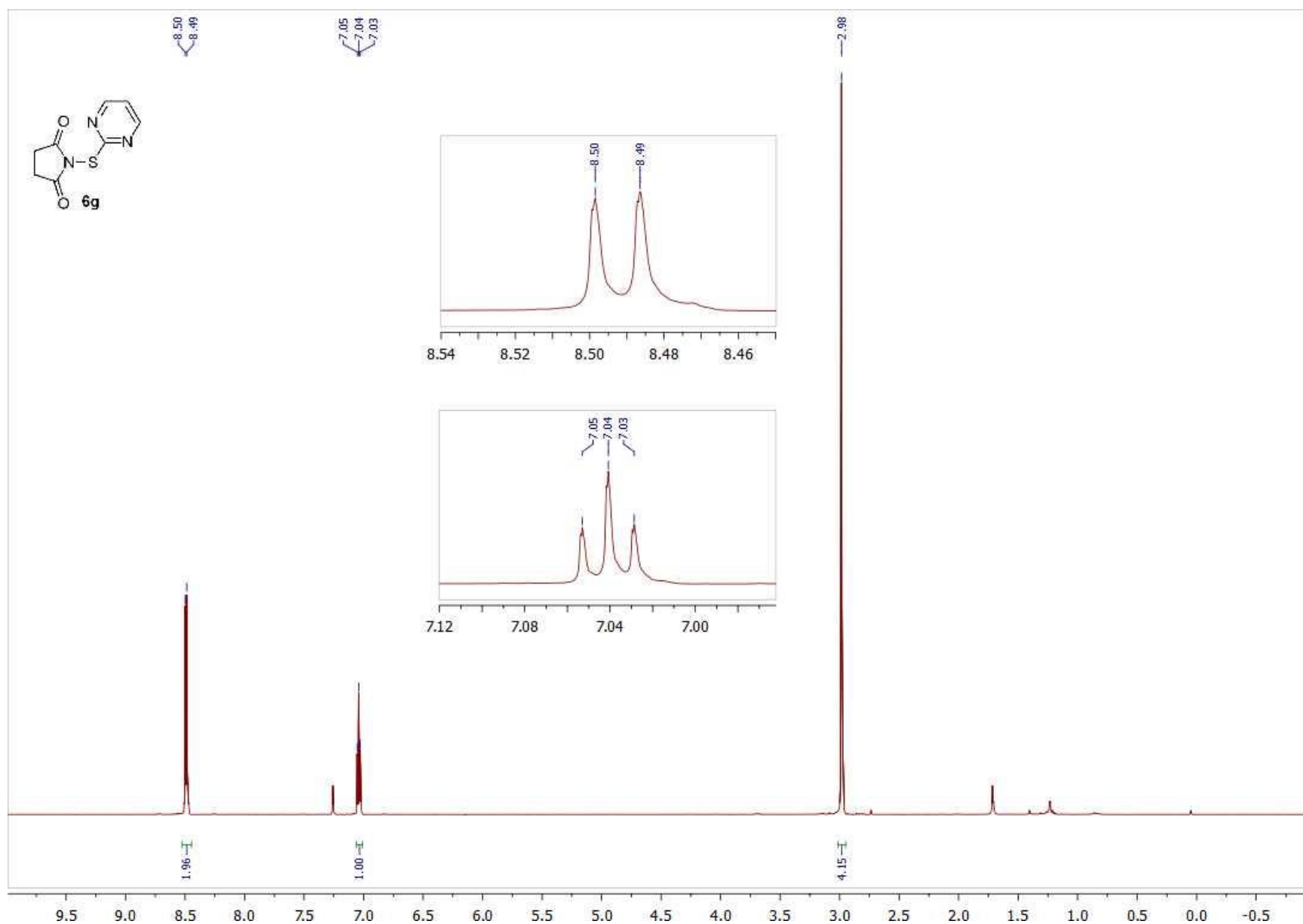


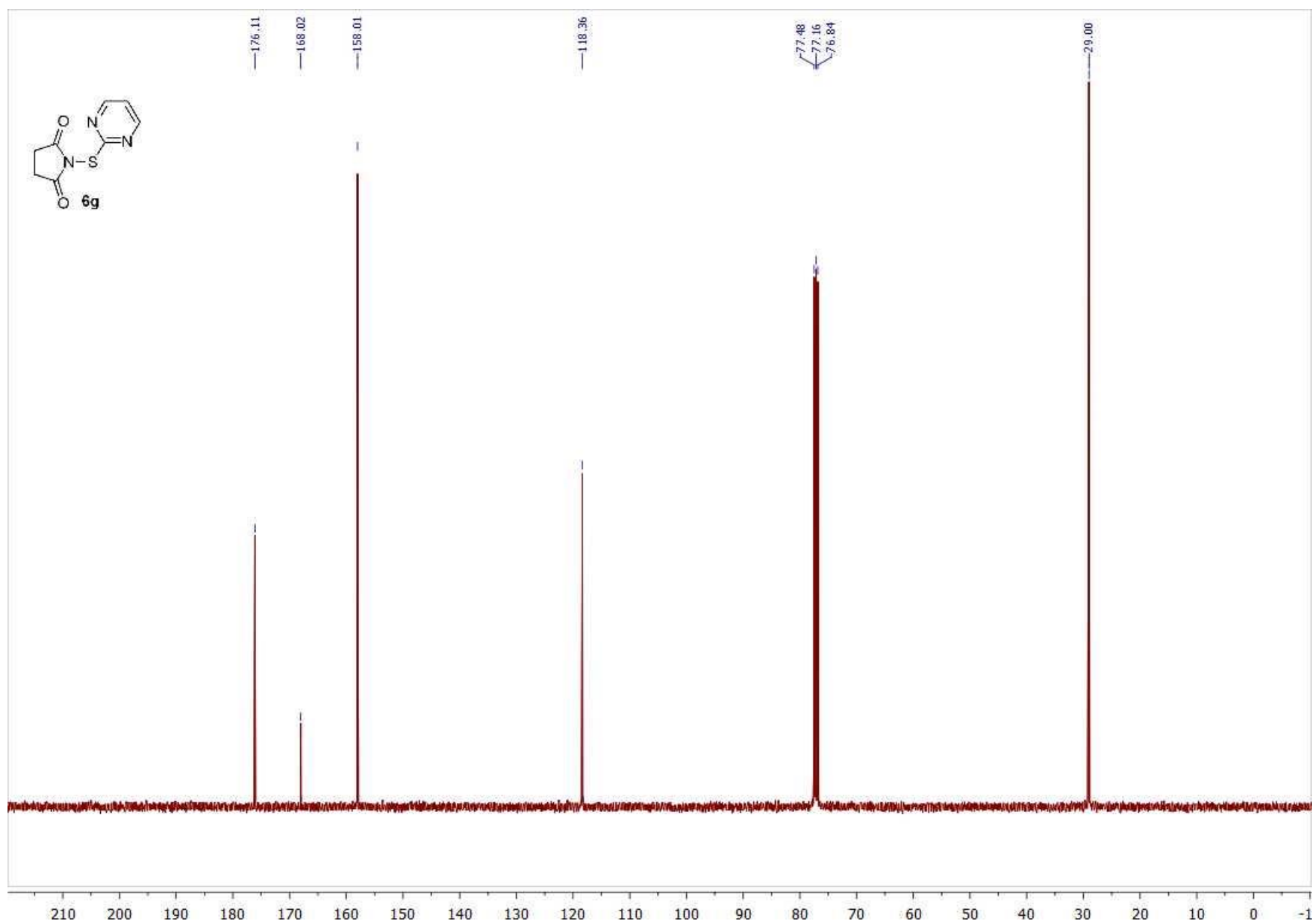


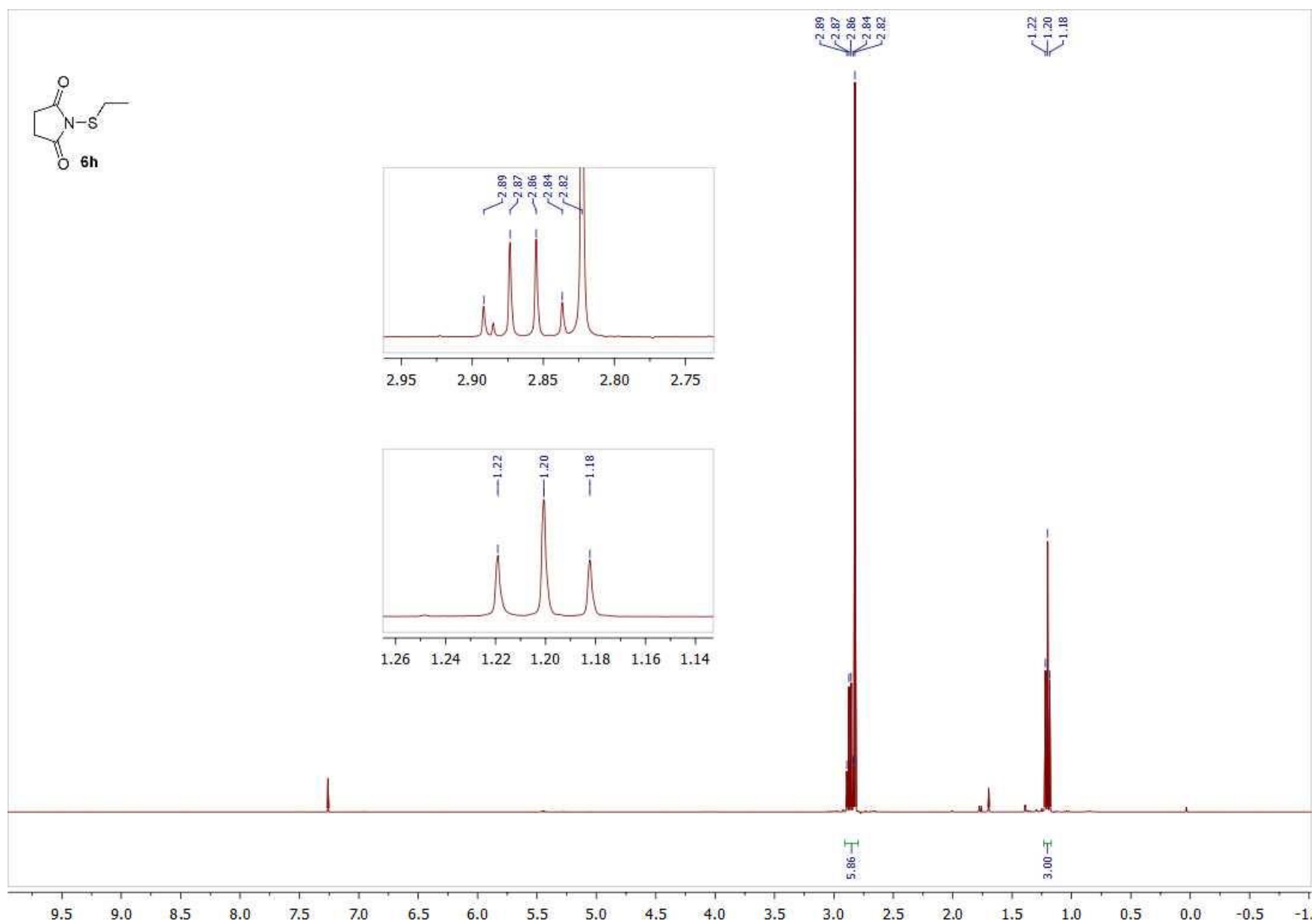


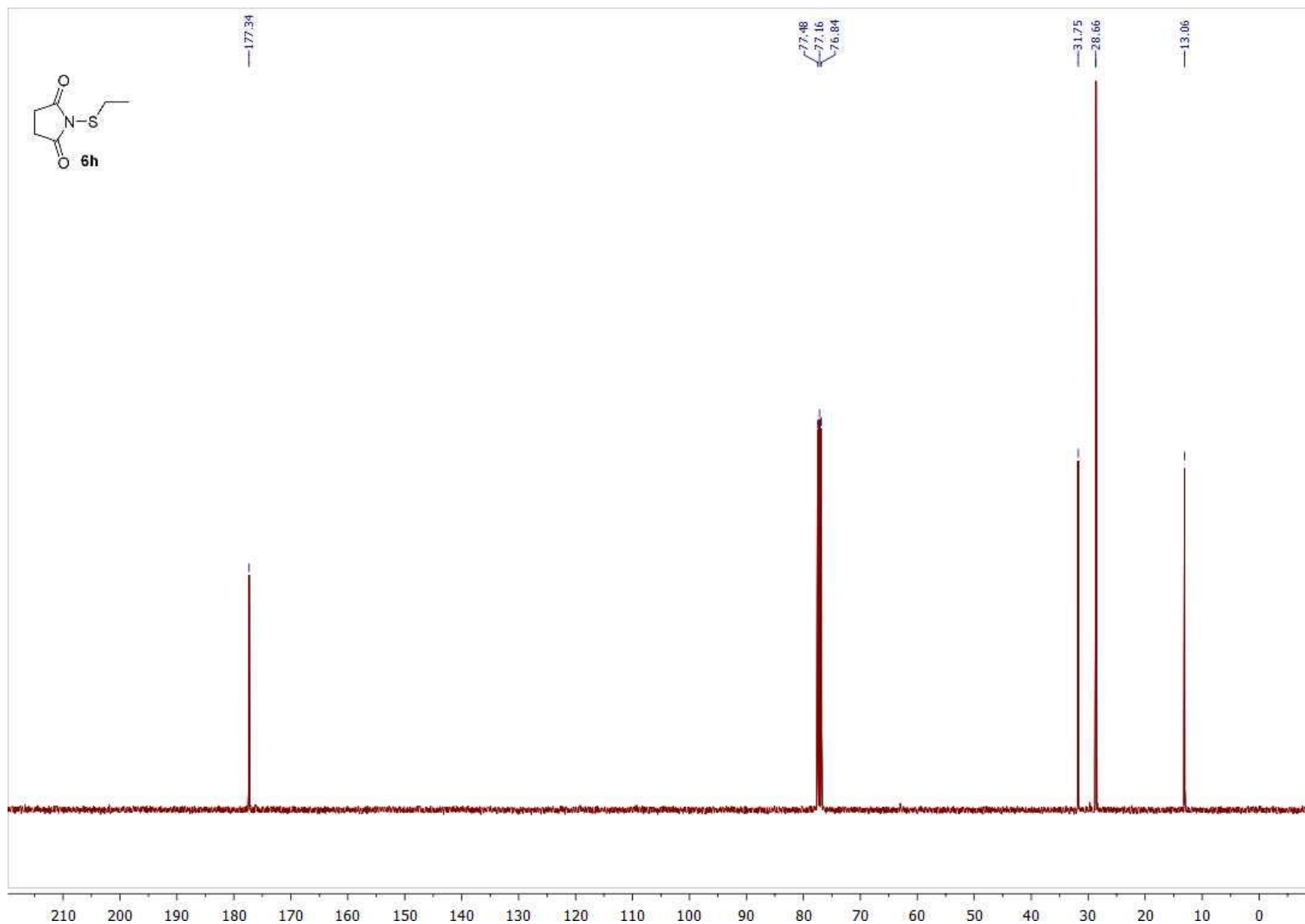




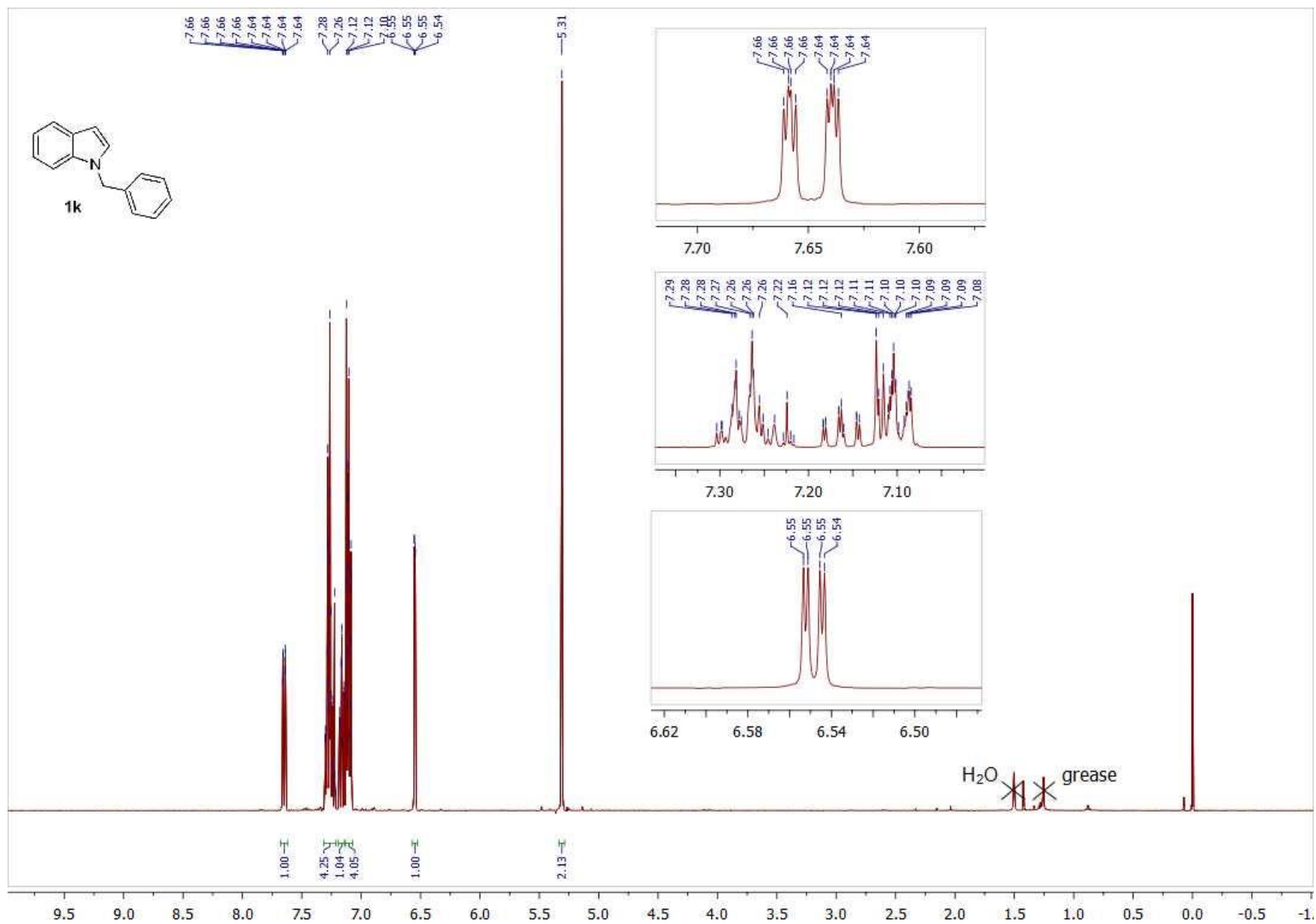


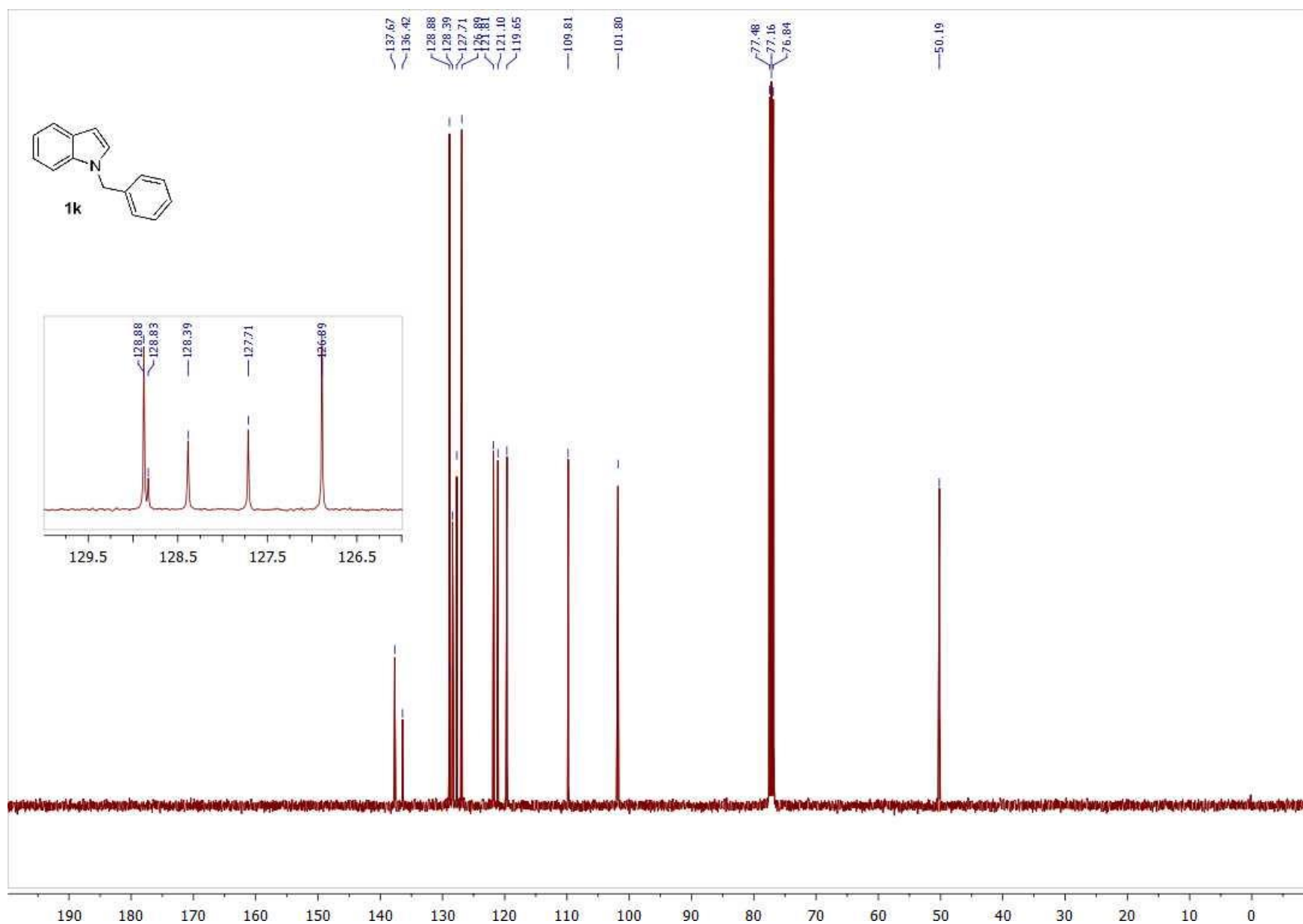


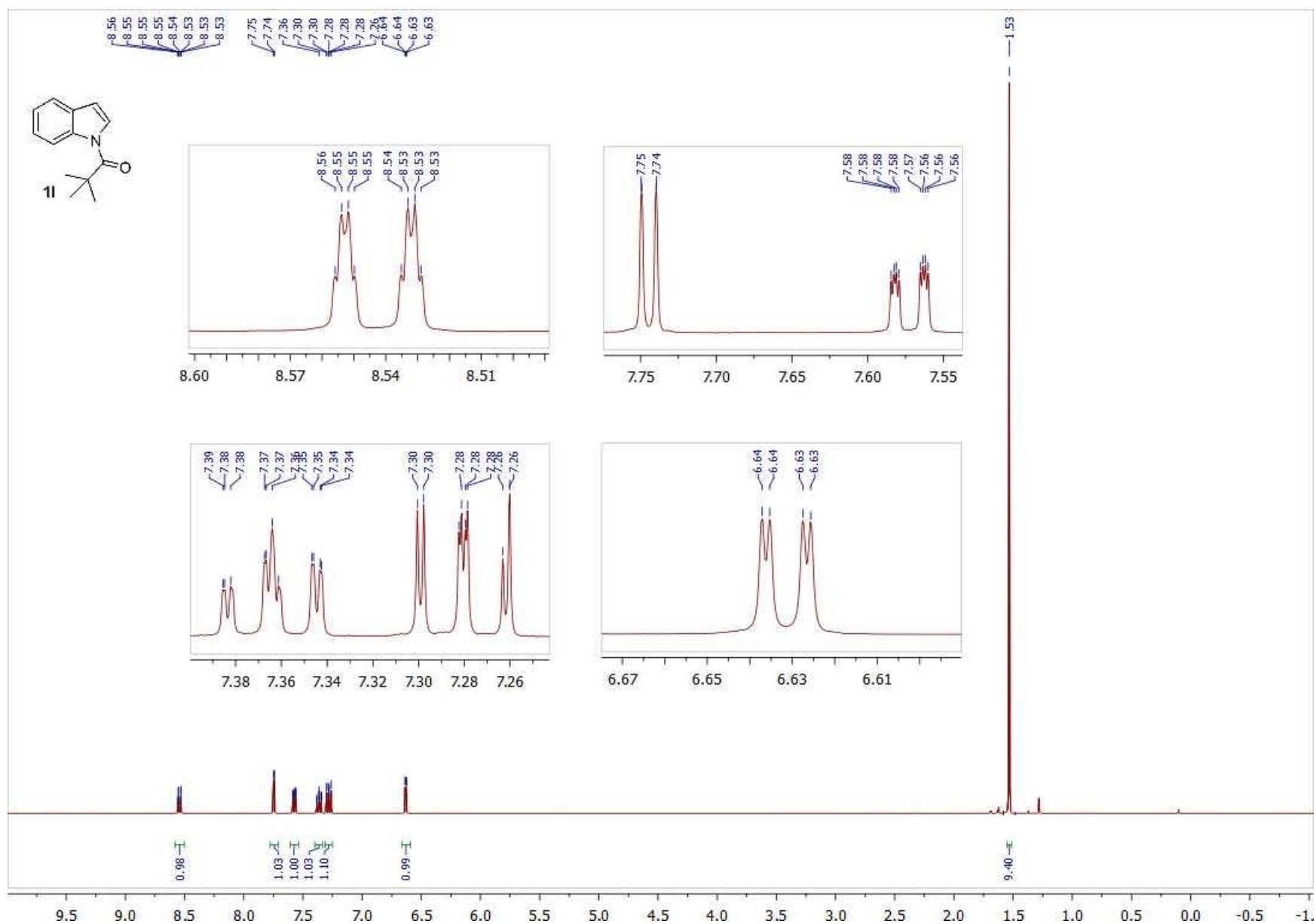


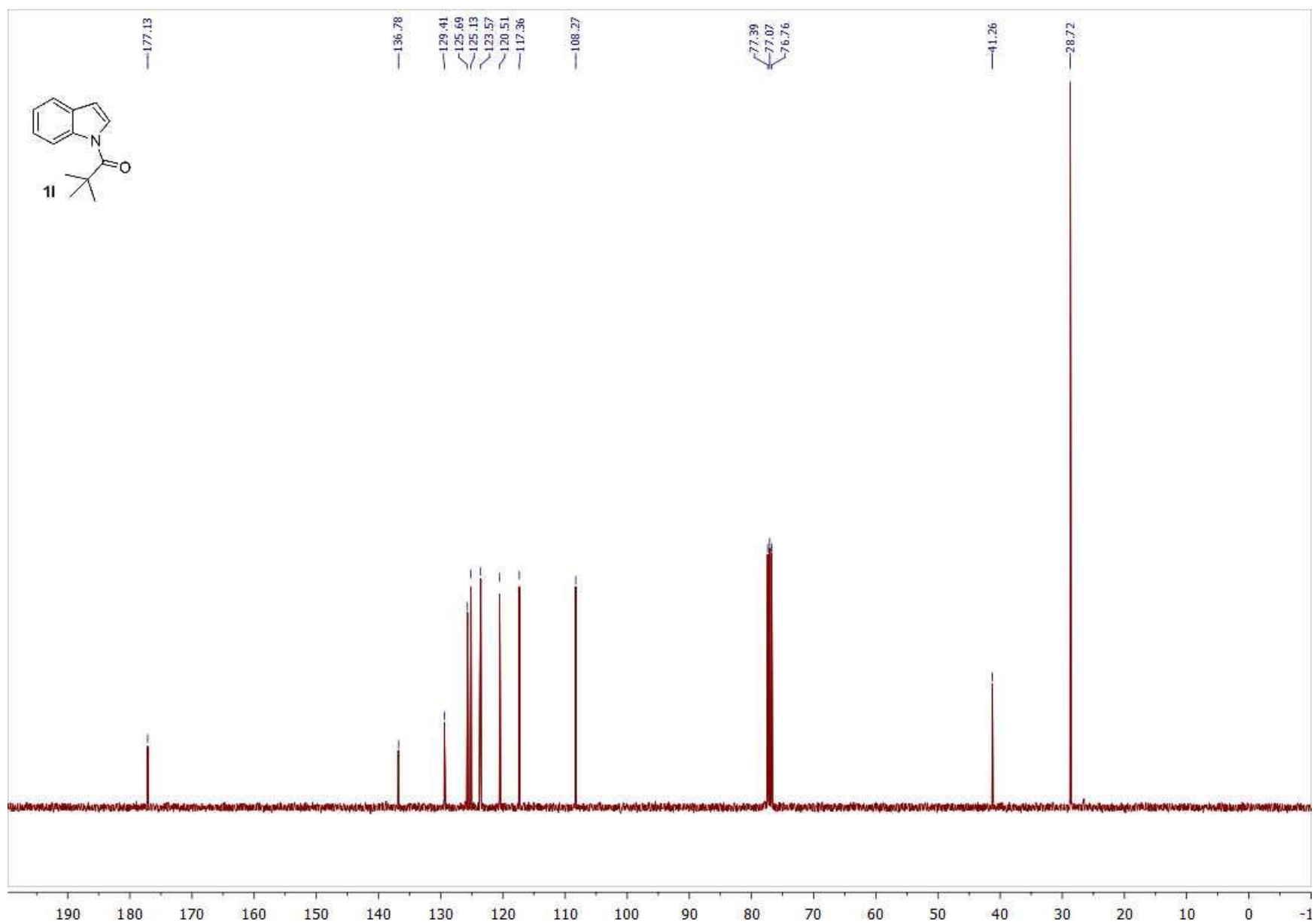


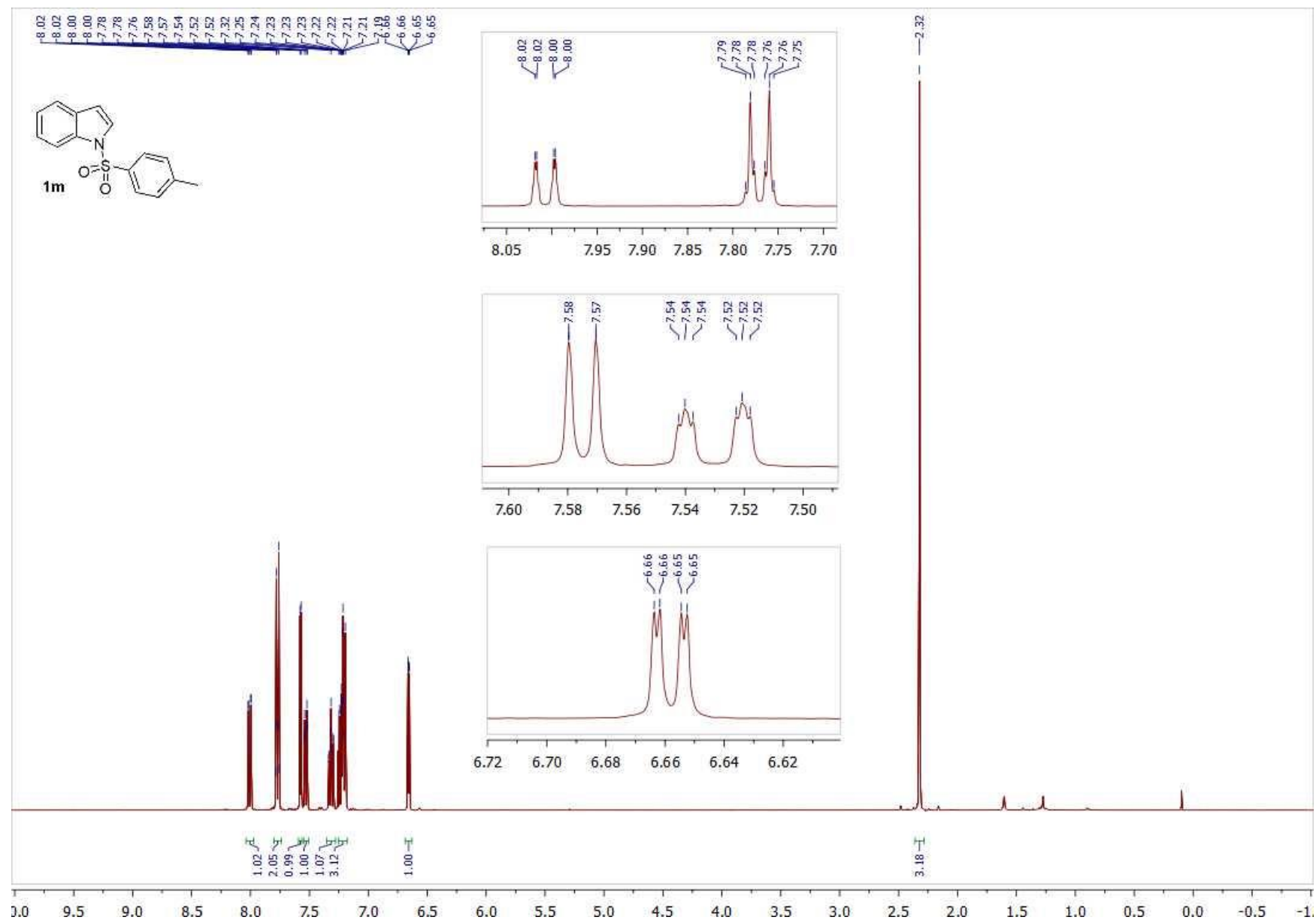
## **8. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of *N*-protected indoles (1k-1n)**

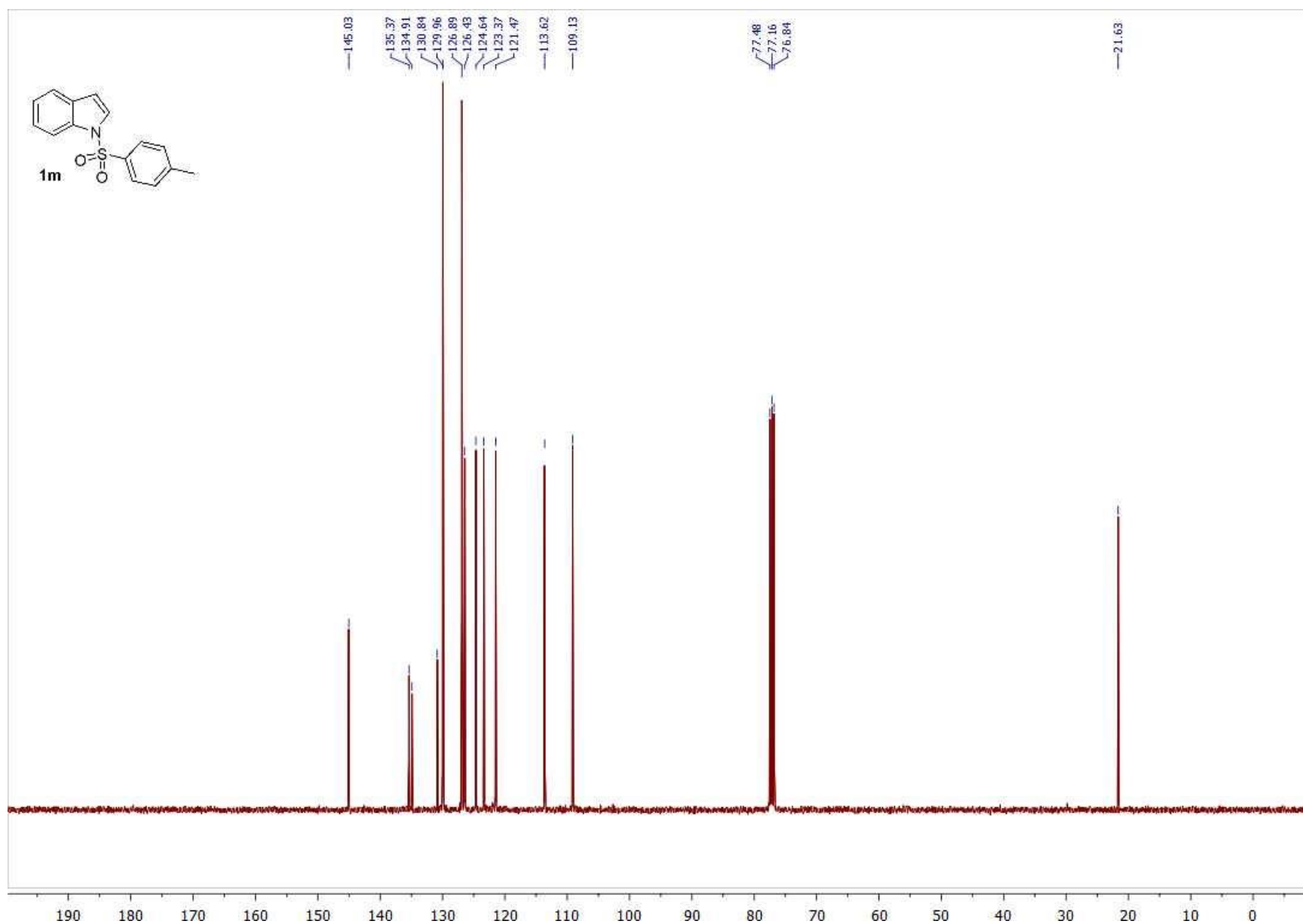


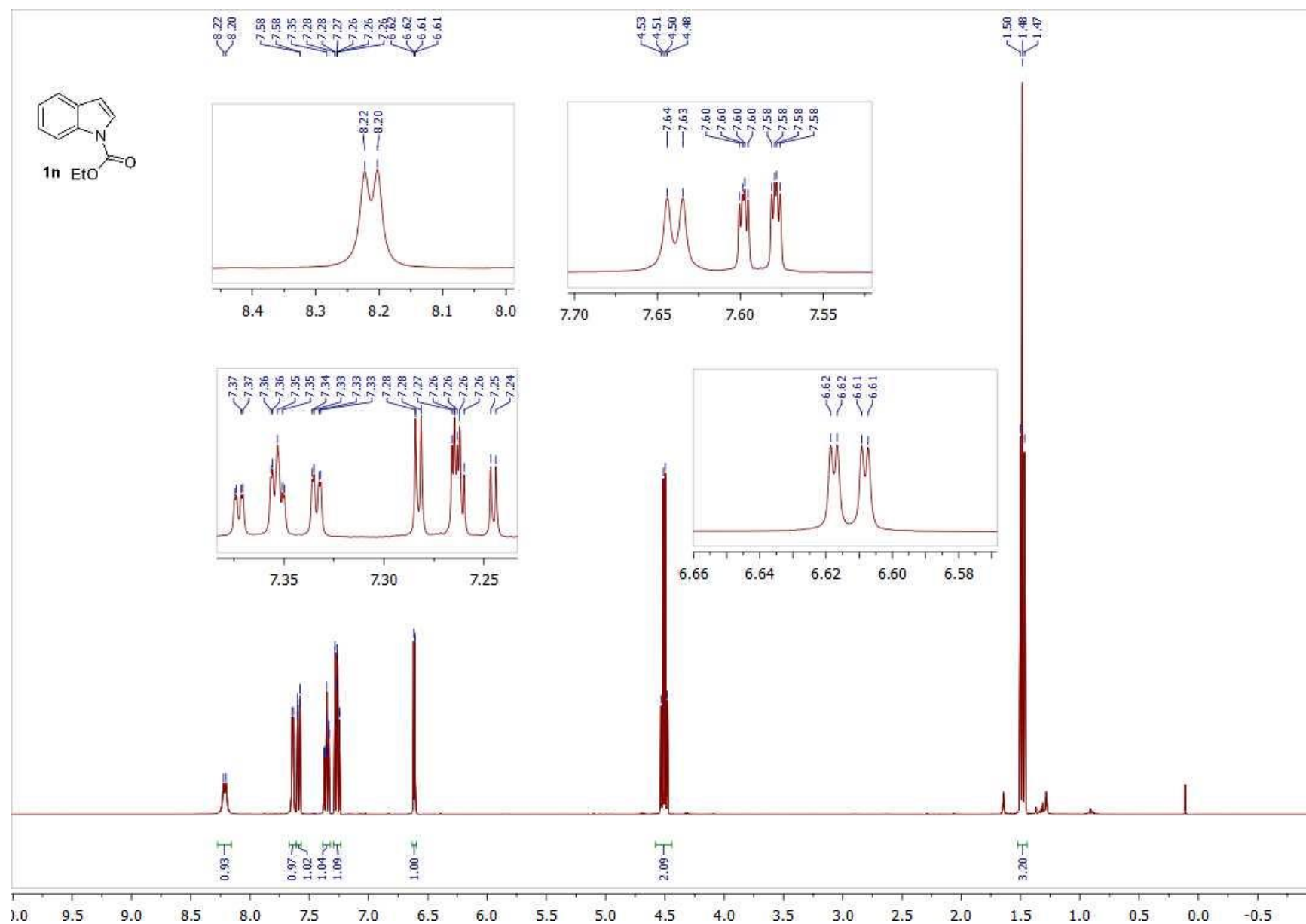


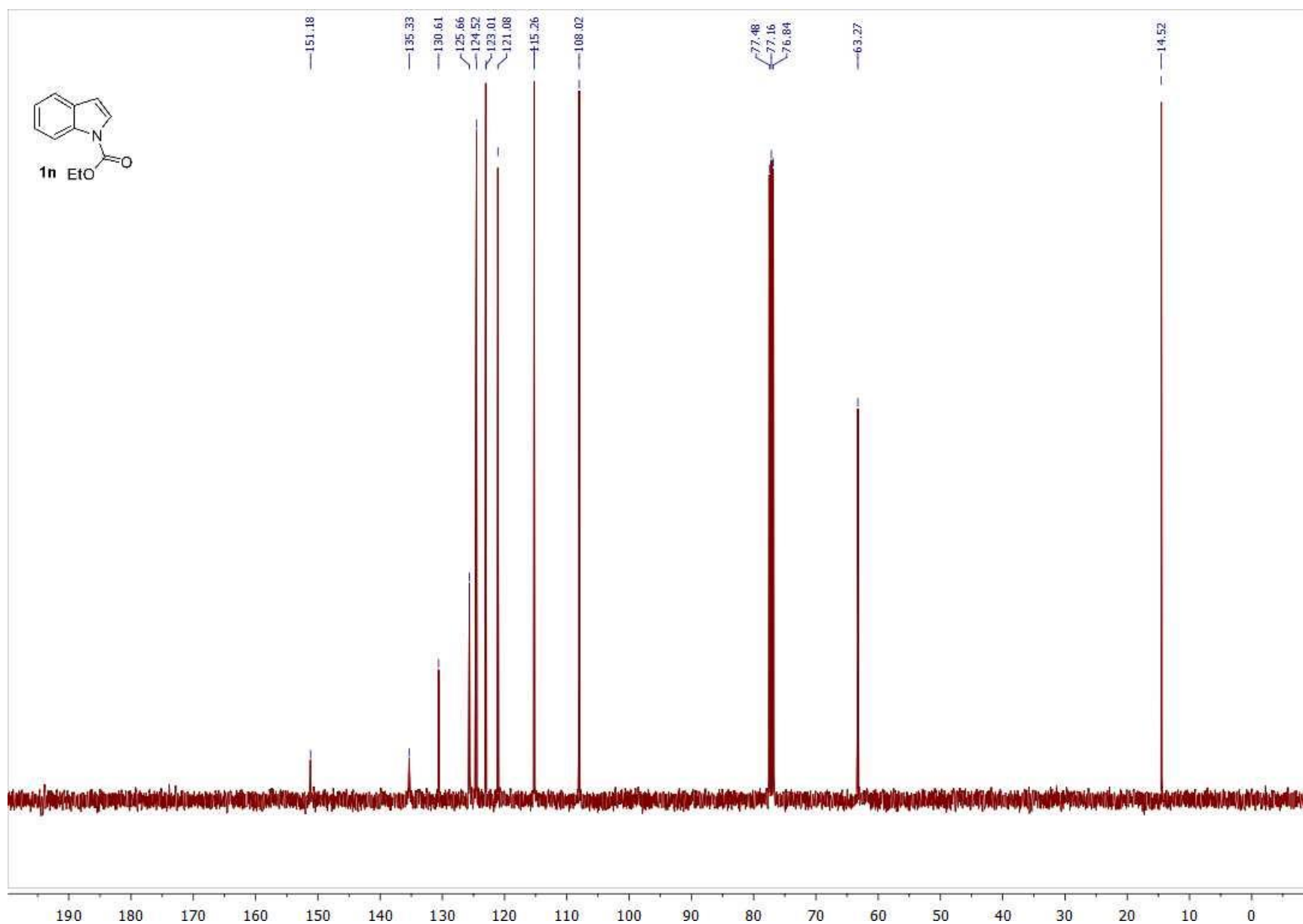












**9.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of thioindoles (2aa-2na and 2ab-2ag)**

