

Molybdate sulfuric acid (MSA): an efficient solid acid catalyst for the synthesis of diversely functionalized fused imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidines under solvent-free condition.

Vijay Vilas Shinde, Yeon Tae Jeong*

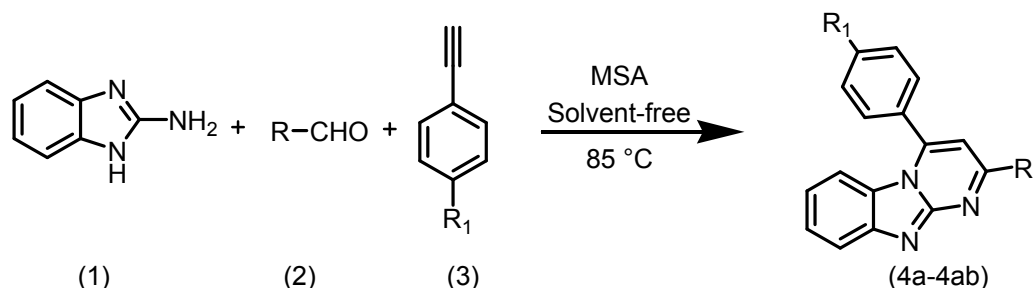
Department of Image Science and Engineering, Pukyong National University, Busan 608-737, Republic of Korea, Corresponding author: Tel.: +82-51-629-6411; fax: +82-51-629-6408

Supporting Information

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General procedures for the synthesis of imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyrimidines (4):

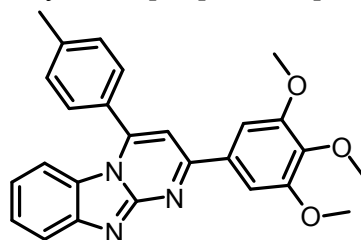


Procedure: Synthesis of 2-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)-4-*p*-tolylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]-pyrimidine (4a)

A mixture of 1H-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-amine (1, 1 mmol), 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzaldehyde (2a, 1mmol) and 1-ethynyl-4-methylbenzene (3a, 1.5 mmol) and MSA (15 mol %) was stirred at 85 °C under solvent-free condition for 2 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was washed with ethyl acetate and filtered to recover the catalyst. The filtrate was evaporated, and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (200–300mesh) with ethyl acetate and hexane as eluent to afford the product **4a** in excellent yield (87%). The MSA catalyst was reused by the way of addition of ethyl acetate to the reaction mixture and filtration followed by drying in a vacuum oven every time. Compounds **4b-4ab** were also synthesized by adopting this procedure.

Spectral data of the compounds

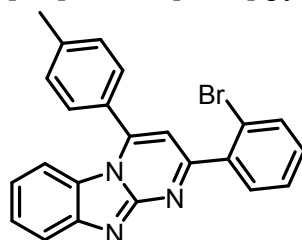
2-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)-4-*p*-tolylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]-pyrimidine (**4a**)



(**4a**)

Yield 87%; yellow solid; Mp: 258-260 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.91 (d, $J=8.1$, 1H), 7.54-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.47 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 7.01 (t, $J=7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 6H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.30, 153.53, 149.45, 145.50, 141.49, 131.97, 130.07, 128.35, 125.89, 121.08, 120.03, 114.63, 105.04, 61.04, 56.45, 21.72; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 425.1739, found: 425.1738.

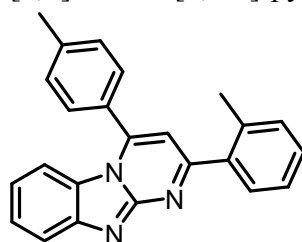
2-(2-Bromophenyl)-4-*p*-tolylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]-pyrimidine (**4b**)



(**4b**)

Yield 82%; yellow solid; Mp: 220-222 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.99 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.31 (t, $J=7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.06 (t, $J=6.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.85, 148.58, 145.43, 141.55, 139.32, 133.63, 132.04, 131.15, 130.08, 129.47, 128.31, 127.88, 127.43, 126.02, 121.47, 121.32, 120.46, 114.95, 109.89, 21.74; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrN}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 413.0527, found: 413.0528.

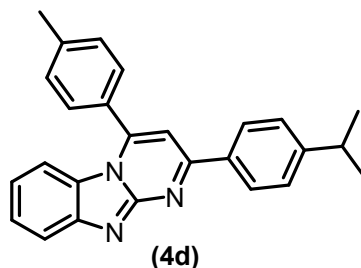
2-(2-Methylphenyl)-4-*p*-tolylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]-pyrimidine (**4c**)



(**4c**)

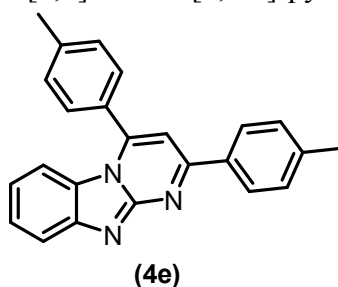
Yield 81%; yellow solid; Mp: 162-164 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.96 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 3H), 7.23-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.02 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 164.57, 149.10, 145.35, 141.42, 137.87, 137.08, 131.48, 130.00, 129.78, 129.70, 129.48, 128.21, 126.02, 125.80, 121.01, 120.19, 114.78, 109.16, 21.65, 21.05; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 349.1579, found: 349.1580.

2-(4-Isopropylphenyl)-4-p-tolylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4d**)



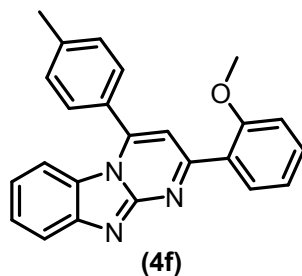
Yield 86%; yellow solid; Mp: 166-168 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.21 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 6.99 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.93-3.00 (m, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 1.28 (d, $J=7.0$ Hz, 6H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.06, 152.63, 141.37, 134.38, 130.04, 128.34, 127.94, 127.10, 125.76, 120.93, 120.08, 114.69, 105.30, 34.18, 23.86, 21.72; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 377.1892, found: 377.1894.

2-(4-Methylphenyl)-4-p-tolylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4e**)



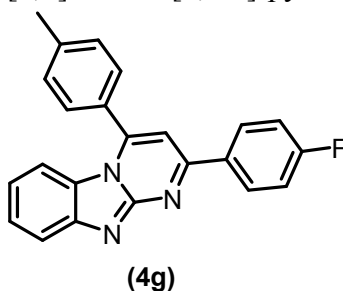
Yield 80%; yellow solid; Mp: 238-240 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.14 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 6.98 (t, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.95, 149.39, 141.73, 141.33, 133.90, 129.99, 129.74, 129.63, 128.30, 127.72, 125.71, 120.86, 120.03, 114.65, 105.20, 21.69, 21.52; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 349.1579, found: 349.1579.

2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-4-p-tolylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4f**)



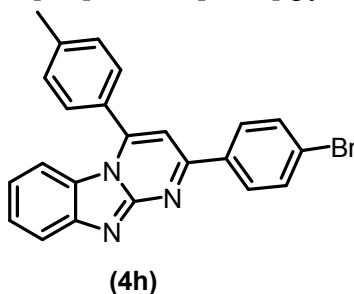
Yield 78%; yellow solid; Mp: 156-158 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.26 (d, $J=8.1$, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.41-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.11 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.23, 158.06, 147.93, 145.36, 141.14, 132.14, 131.99, 129.95, 128.41, 126.68, 125.64, 121.32, 120.76, 120.05, 114.75, 111.53, 110.16, 55.70, 21.68; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 365.1528, found: 365.1529.

2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-4-(4-tolyl)benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidine (**4g**)



Yield 81%; yellow solid; Mp: 240-242 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.21-8.24 (m, 2H), 7.90 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 3H), 6.98 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 166.05, 163.54, 159.72, 149.77, 141.49, 132.84, 130.03, 129.90, 129.82, 129.57, 128.27, 125.87, 121.08, 120.06, 116.03, 115.82, 114.72, 104.96, 21.70; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{FN}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 353.1328, found: 353.1330.

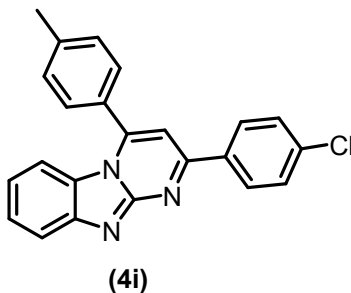
2-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-(4-tolyl)benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidine (**4h**)



Yield 84%; yellow solid; Mp: 240-242 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.09 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz,

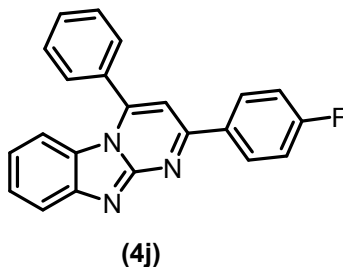
2H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, $J=6.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.00 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.66, 149.94, 141.57, 135.55, 132.11, 130.09, 129.23, 128.30, 126.00, 121.25, 120.15, 114.80, 104.92, 21.75; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrN}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 413.0527, found: 413.0526.

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-p-tolylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4i**)



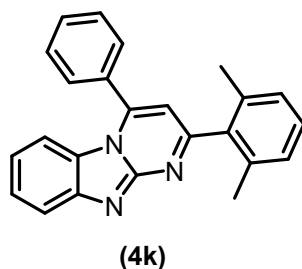
Yield 81%; yellow solid; Mp: 206-208 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.17 (d, $J=7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.91 (d, $J=7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.51 (m, 8H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.00 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.63, 149.89, 141.56, 137.52, 130.09, 129.15, 129.03, 128.29, 125.99, 121.22, 120.18, 114.77, 104.97, 21.75; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClN}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 369.1032, found: 369.1031.

2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4j**)



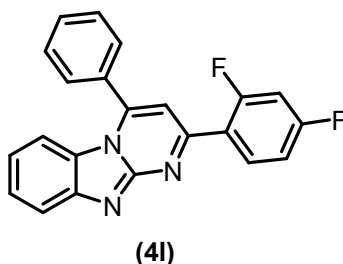
Yield 80%; yellow solid; Mp: 197-199 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.21-8.24 (m, 2H), 7.89 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.71 (m, 5H), 7.39 (t, $J=7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, $J=8.4$ Hz, 3H), 6.97 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.73, 151.96, 149.47, 145.47, 136.93, 132.47, 131.13, 129.93, 129.83, 129.41, 128.40, 127.38, 125.91, 121.20, 120.12, 116.05, 115.83, 114.56, 104.90; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{14}\text{FN}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 339.1171, found: 339.1172.

2-(2,6-Dimethylphenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4k**)



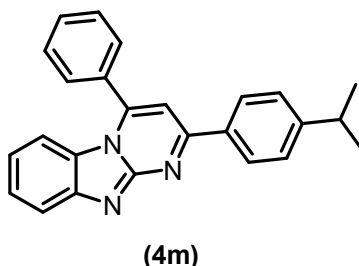
Yield 76%; yellow solid; Mp: 190-192 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.02 (d, $J=8.4$, 1H), 7.63-7.70 (m, 5H), 7.47 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.06 (t, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 2.25 (s, 6H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.98, 154.59, 147.80, 138.65, 135.43, 132.24, 131.22, 129.44, 128.79, 128.39, 127.92, 126.03, 121.33, 120.47, 114.82, 109.92, 20.42; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 349.1579, found: 349.1580.

2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidine (**4l**)



Yield 74%; yellow solid; Mp: 252-254 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.49-8.55 (m, 1H), 8.96 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.73 (m, 5H), 7.45 (t, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.08 (t, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, $J=8.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.90-6.95 (m, 1H), 6.71 (d, $J=8.4$, 1H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.46, 156.92, 151.67, 149.24, 145.41, 133.23, 133.13, 132.42, 131.16, 129.44, 128.43, 126.12, 121.35, 120.27, 114.73, 112.48, 108.52, 108.39, 104.66 ; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_2\text{N}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 357.1077, found: 357.1075.

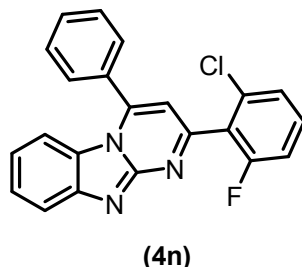
2-(4-Isopropylphenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidine (**4m**)



Yield 81%; yellow solid; Mp: 166-168 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.21 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, $J=7.7$, Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.71 (m, 5H), 7.40 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 6.98 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.93-3.0 (m, 1H), 1.28 (d,

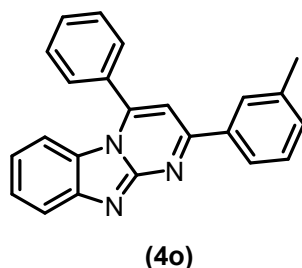
$J=6.6$ Hz, 6H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.06, 152.69, 149.18, 134.30, 132.69, 131.04, 129.42, 128.47, 127.95, 127.11, 125.80, 121.04, 120.13, 114.54, 105.23, 34.17, 23.85; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 363.1735, found: 363.1736.

2-(2-chloro-6-fluorophenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4n**)



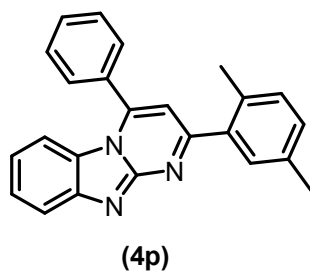
Yield 75%; yellow solid; Mp: 248-250 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.02 (d, $J=7.3$, 1H), 7.64-7.71 (m, 5H), 7.47 (t, $J=7.3$, 1H), 7.34-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.31 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.78 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.77, 159.26, 157.27, 151.50, 149.23, 145.43, 133.96, 132.08, 131.26, 131.17, 129.45, 128.40, 126.23, 125.90, 121.61, 120.67, 114.91, 114.83, 114.61, 110.11; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClFN}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 373.0782, found: 373.0784.

2-(3-Methylphenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4o**)



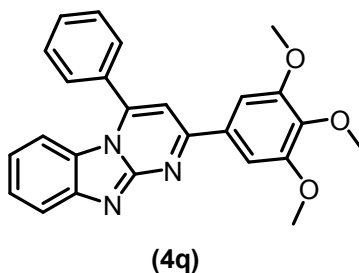
Yield 82%; yellow solid; Mp: 248-250 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, $J=7.7$, 1H), 7.94 (d, $J=8.1$, 1H), 7.62-7.72 (m, 5H), 7.42 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 6.99 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.21, 149.27, 145.60, 138.73, 136.61, 132.67, 132.14, 131.09, 129.44, 128.83, 128.57, 128.47, 125.88, 124.97, 121.13, 120.23, 114.59, 105.42, 21.57; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 335.1422, found: 335.1421.

2-(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4p**)



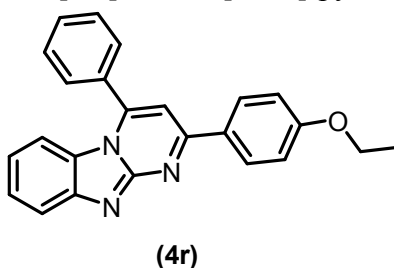
Yield 79%; yellow solid; Mp: 156-158 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.98 (d, $J=8.1$, 1H), 7.62-7.72 (m, 5H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.45 (t, $J=8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.72 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 164.87, 151.87, 148.76, 145.44, 137.72, 135.67, 134.01, 132.54, 131.56, 131.13, 130.65, 130.54, 129.48, 128.96, 128.45, 127.42, 125.93, 121.19, 120.39, 114.68, 109.24, 21.02, 20.67; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 349.1579, found: 349.1579.

2-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4q**)



Yield 84%; yellow solid; Mp: 230-232 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.88 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.71 (m, 5H), 7.53 (s, 2H), 7.39 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 6.97 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 6H), 3.93 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ ; 160.15, 153.40, 149.08, 145.33, 140.98, 132.45, 131.75, 129.34, 128.70, 128.40, 127.38, 125.80, 121.08, 119.89, 114.42, 104.92, 60.94, 56.33; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 411.1582, found: 411.1581.

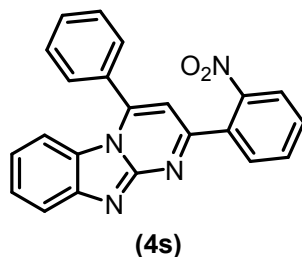
2-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4r**)



Yield 82%; yellow solid; Mp: 202-204 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.18 (d, $J=7.7$,

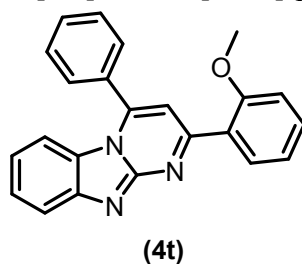
2H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.61-7.65 (m, 5H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.89-6.96 (m, 3H), 6.61 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.0 (q, $J=7.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t, $J=7.0$ Hz, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.71, 160.49, 148.90, 145.44, 132.63, 130.93, 129.42, 129.31, 128.78, 128.42, 125.59, 120.78, 119.87, 114.61, 114.41, 104.84, 63.61, 14.74; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 365.1528, found: 365.1529.

2-(2-Nitrophenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4s**)



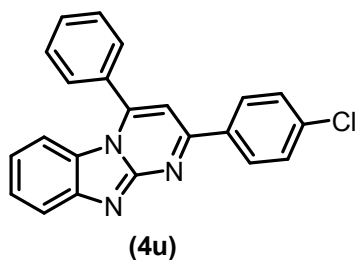
Yield 71%; yellow solid; Mp: 218-220 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.95 (d, $J=7.7$, 2H), 7.19 (d, $J=6.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.68 (m, 4H), 7.55 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, $J=6.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.05 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.75 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.59, 149.57, 148.42, 145.24, 133.62, 133.24, 131.89, 131.56, 131.37, 130.68, 129.48, 128.36, 126.32, 124.74, 121.83, 120.38, 114.93, 107.89; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 366.1116, found: 366.1117.

2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4t**)



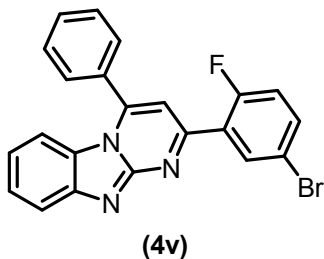
Yield 79%; yellow solid; Mp: 160-162 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.27 (d, $J=8.1$, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.70 (m, 5H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.40-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.12 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.26, 158.07, 152.28, 147.64, 145.37, 132.88, 132.20, 131.98, 130.85, 129.32, 128.53, 127.41, 126.62, 125.68, 121.33, 120.87, 120.12, 114.59, 111.54, 110.10, 55.71; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 351.13716, found: 351.13716.

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4u**)



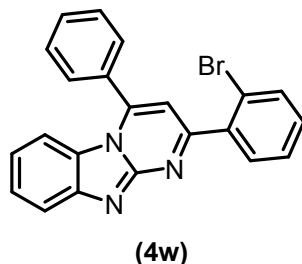
Yield 85%; yellow solid; Mp: 198-200 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.16 (d, $J=8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.73 (m, 5H), 7.42 (d, $J=8.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 6.98 (t, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.66, 151.93, 149.62, 145.57, 137.61, 135.07, 132.49, 131.20, 129.48, 129.18, 129.06, 128.44, 127.44, 126.05, 121.35, 120.25, 114.63, 104.92; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 355.0876, found: 355.0877.

2-(2-Fluoro,5-bromophenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4v**)



Yield 81%; yellow solid; Mp: 195-197 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.64 (d, $J=6.6$, 1H), 7.97 (d, $J=6.6$, 1H), 7.64-7.72 (m, 5H), 7.54-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.46 (t, $J=7.3$, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.02-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.73 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.71, 156.25, 149.49, 145.56, 135.42, 134.25, 131.27, 129.52, 128.46, 126.30, 121.59, 118.52, 118.26, 114.86, 108.59, 108.45; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrFN}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 417.0276, found: 417.0278.

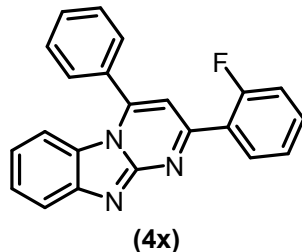
2-(2-Bromophenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4w**)



Yield 80%; yellow solid; Mp: 188-190 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.65 (m, 6H), 7.43 (t, $J=7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.01 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.75,

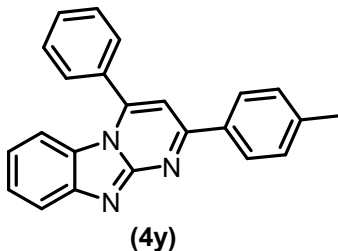
148.32, 139.18, 133.58, 132.35, 131.95, 131.15, 129.39, 128.33, 127.84, 125.95, 121.42, 121.37, 114.85, 109.83; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $C_{22}H_{14}BrN_3$ ($M+H^+$) 399.0371, found: 399.0373.

2-(2-Fluorophenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4x**)



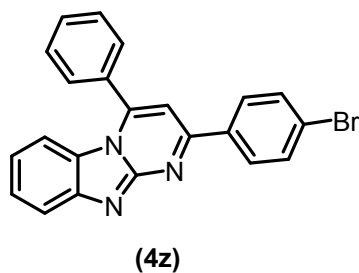
Yield 78%; yellow solid; Mp: 172-174 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.63-7.69 (m, 5H), 7.45-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.33 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.01 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 160.05, 157.68, 149.23, 147.32, 145.79, 132.69, 132.60, 131.52, 131.01, 129.28, 128.31, 125.80, 124.79, 121.26, 116.48, 116.25, 108.95, 108.82; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $C_{22}H_{14}FN_3$ ($M+H^+$) 339.1171, found: 339.1172.

2-(4-Methylphenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4y**)



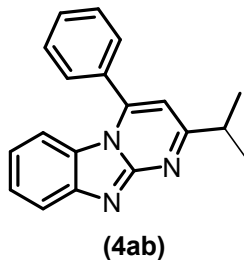
Yield 83%; yellow solid; Mp: 190-192 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.17 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 161.09, 152.29, 149.19, 145.52, 141.88, 133.92, 132.69, 131.06, 129.71, 128.42, 128.99, 128.47, 127.80, 127.53, 126.67, 125.84, 121.06, 120.14, 114.53, 105.23, 21.55; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $C_{23}H_{17}N_3$ ($M+H^+$) 335.1422, found: 335.1421.

2-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]-pyrimidine (**4z**)



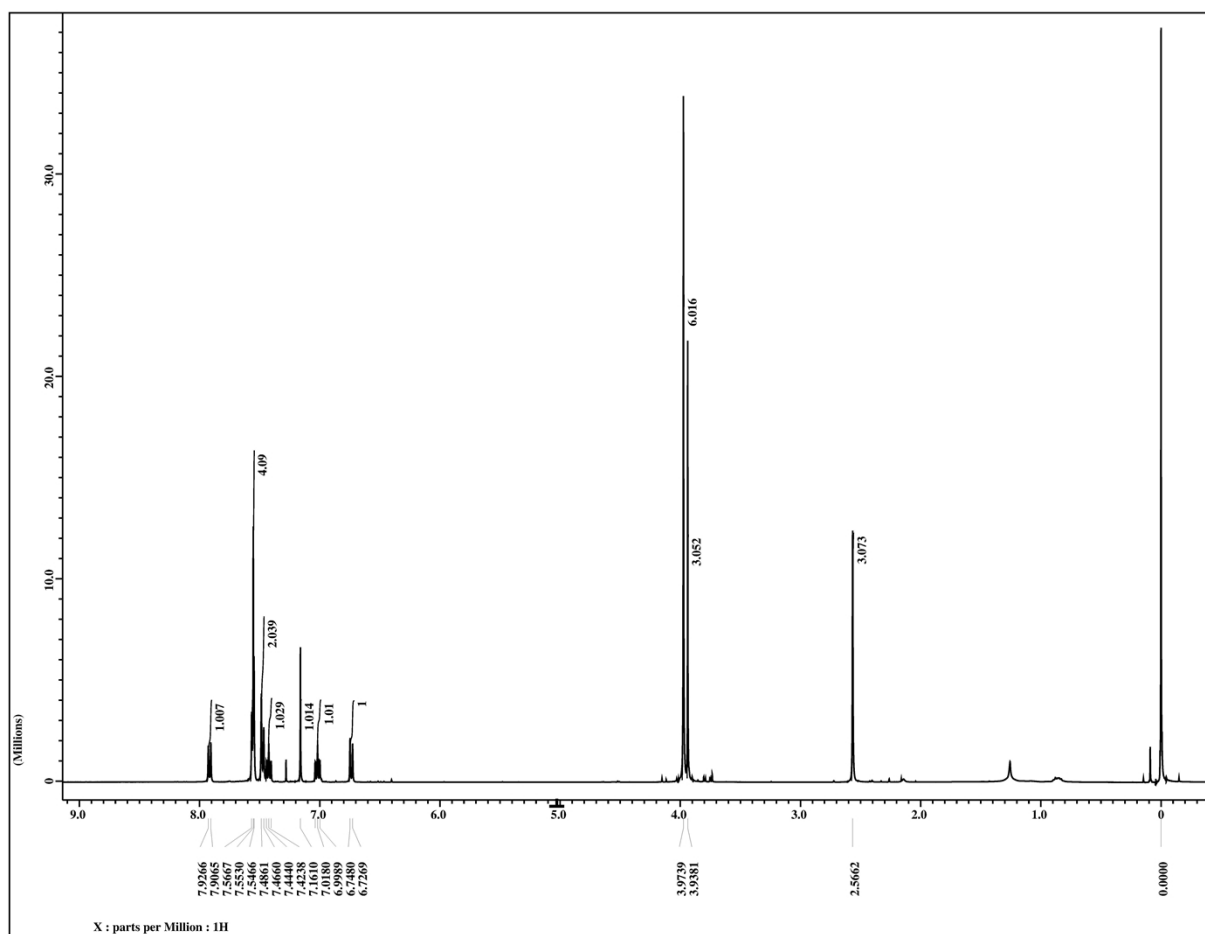
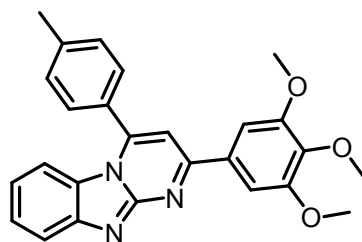
Yield 84%; yellow solid; Mp: 210-212 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.12 (d, $J=6.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.65-7.72 (m, 5H), 7.59 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.00 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.69 (d, $J=7.0$ Hz, 1H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.61, 152.40, 151.45, 138.47, 136.25, 135.58, 133.78, 132.25, 129.68, 128.18, 127.88, 125.71, 122.62, 116.54, 114.68, 103.02; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 399.0371, found: 399.0372.

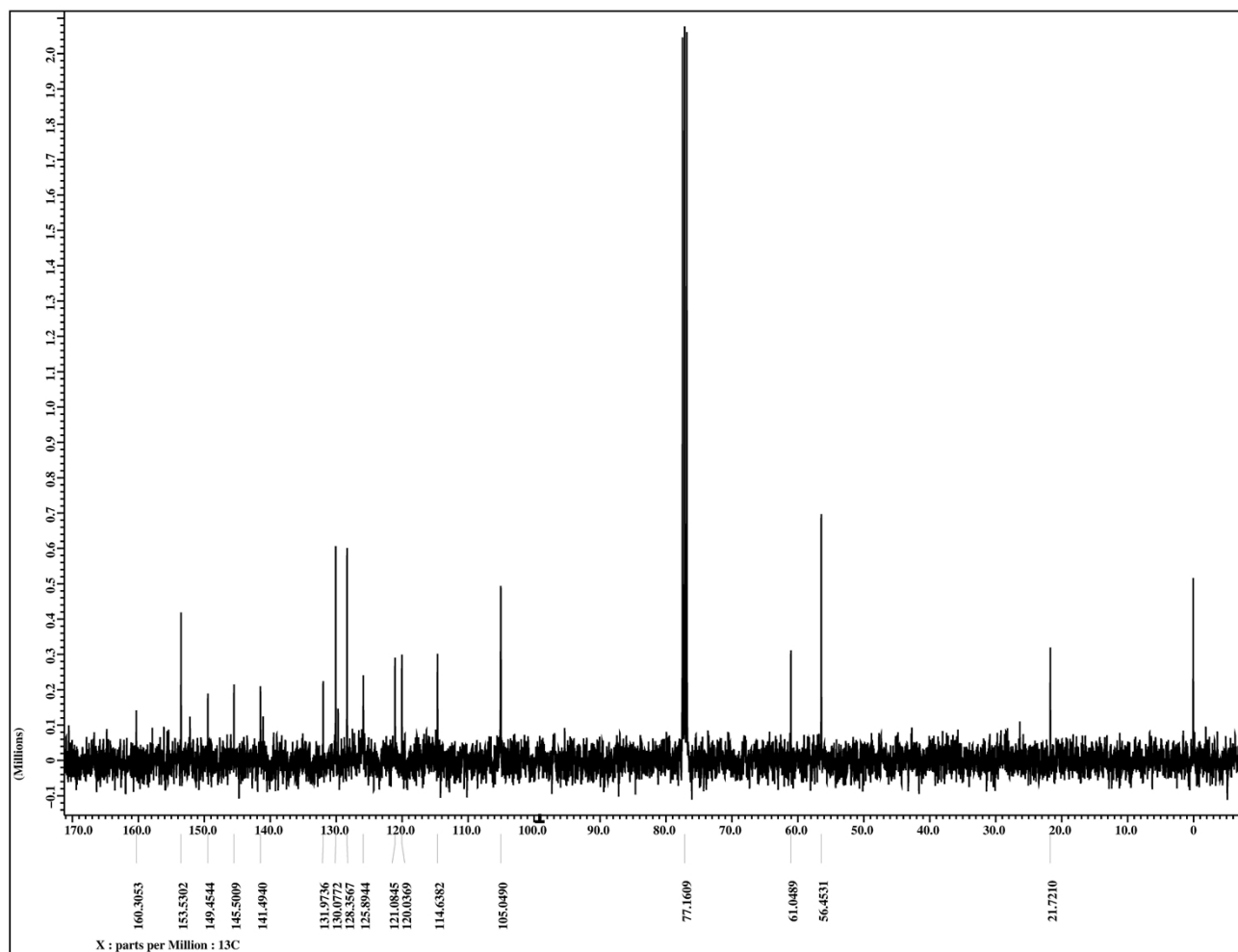
2-Isopropyl-4-phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyrimidine (**4ab**)

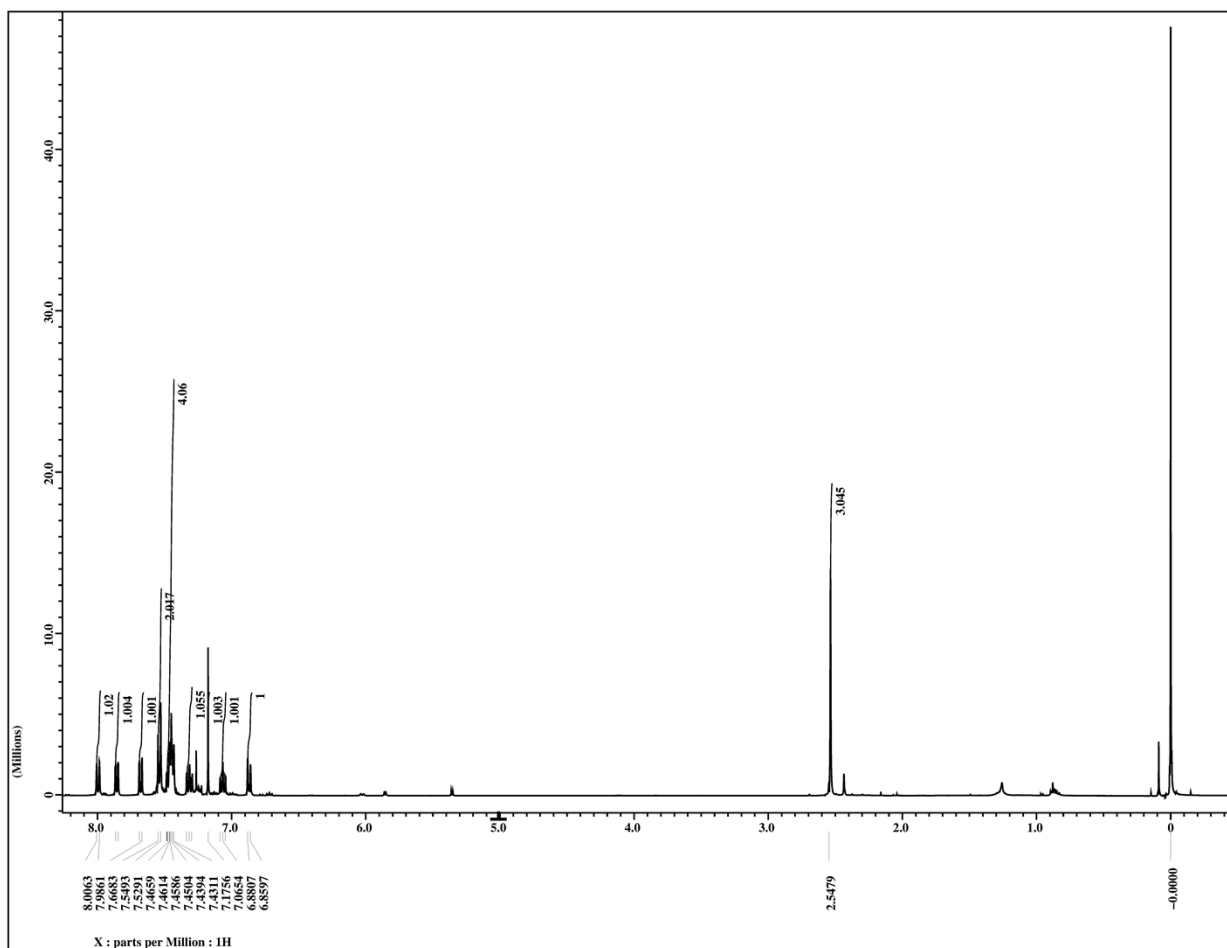
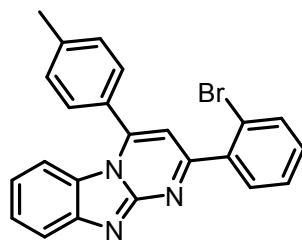


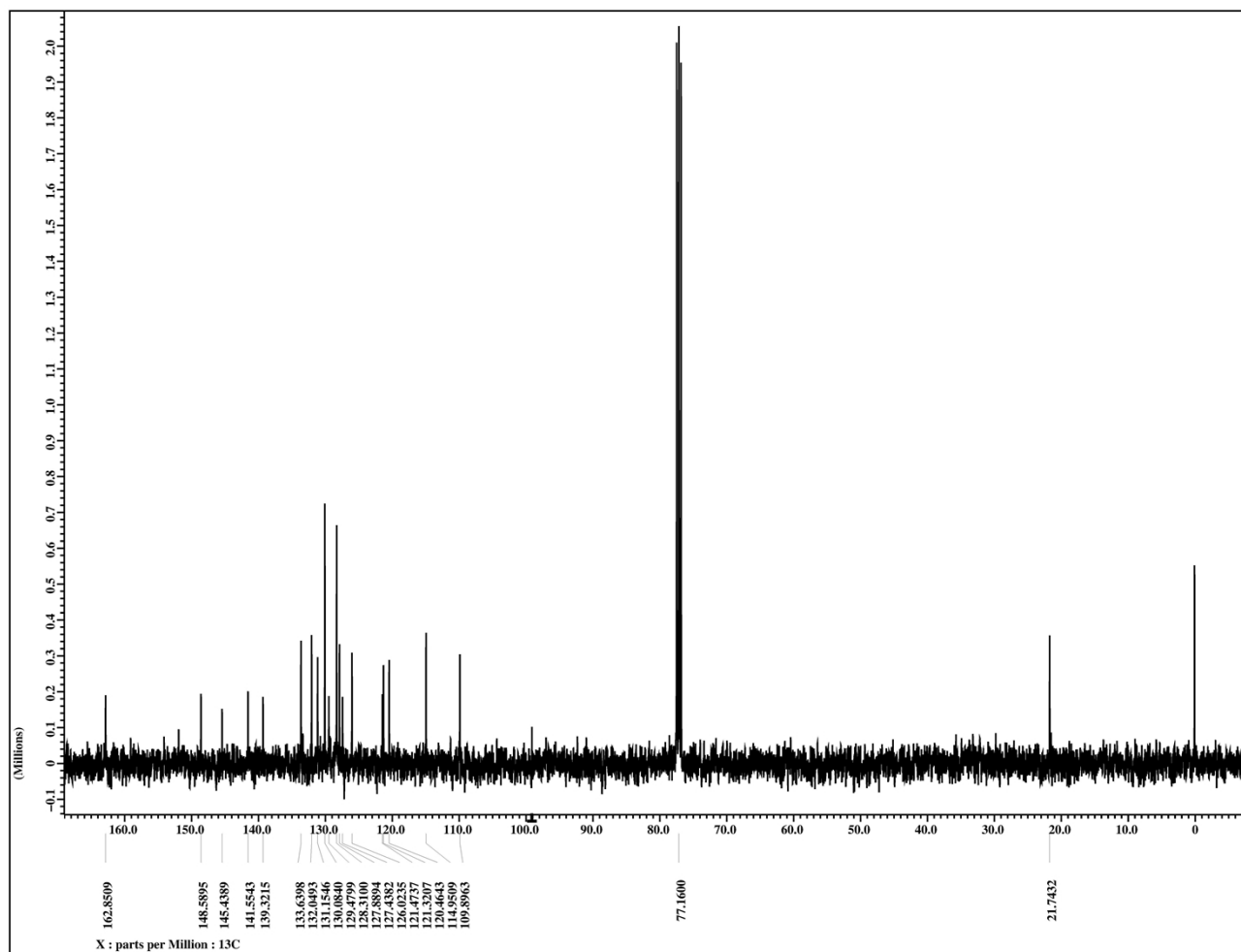
Yield 52%; yellow solid; Mp: 193-195 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.98 (br, 1H), 7.66–7.60 (m, 5H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.02 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.69 (s, 2H), 3.23 (m, 1H), 1.43 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 6H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 173.49, 148.88, 132.67, 130.89, 129.26, 128.81, 128.13, 127.78, 125.46, 120.67, 120.09, 114.39, 106.88, 37.13, 21.52; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 287.1422, found: 287.1424.

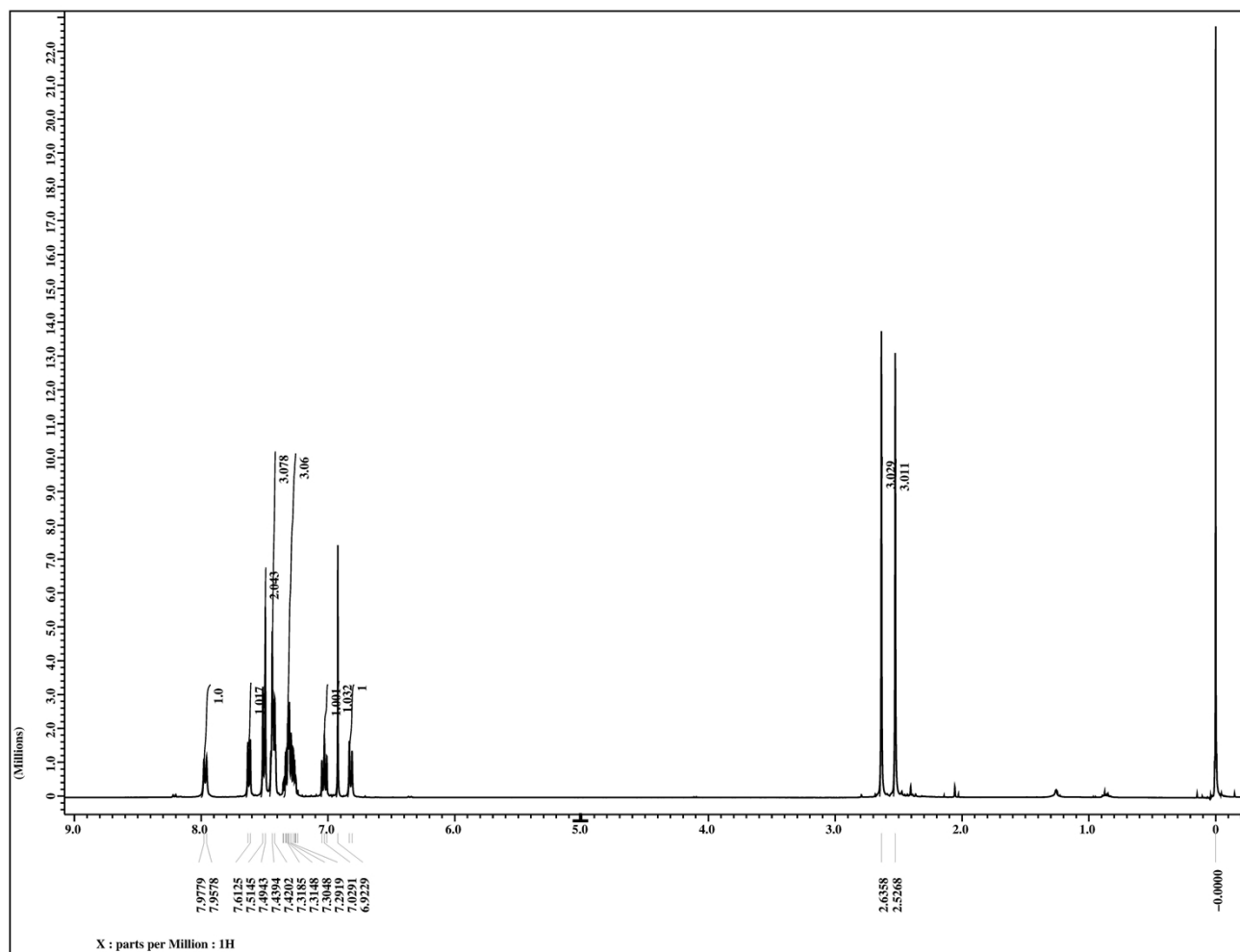
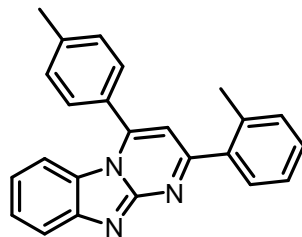
^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of the compounds

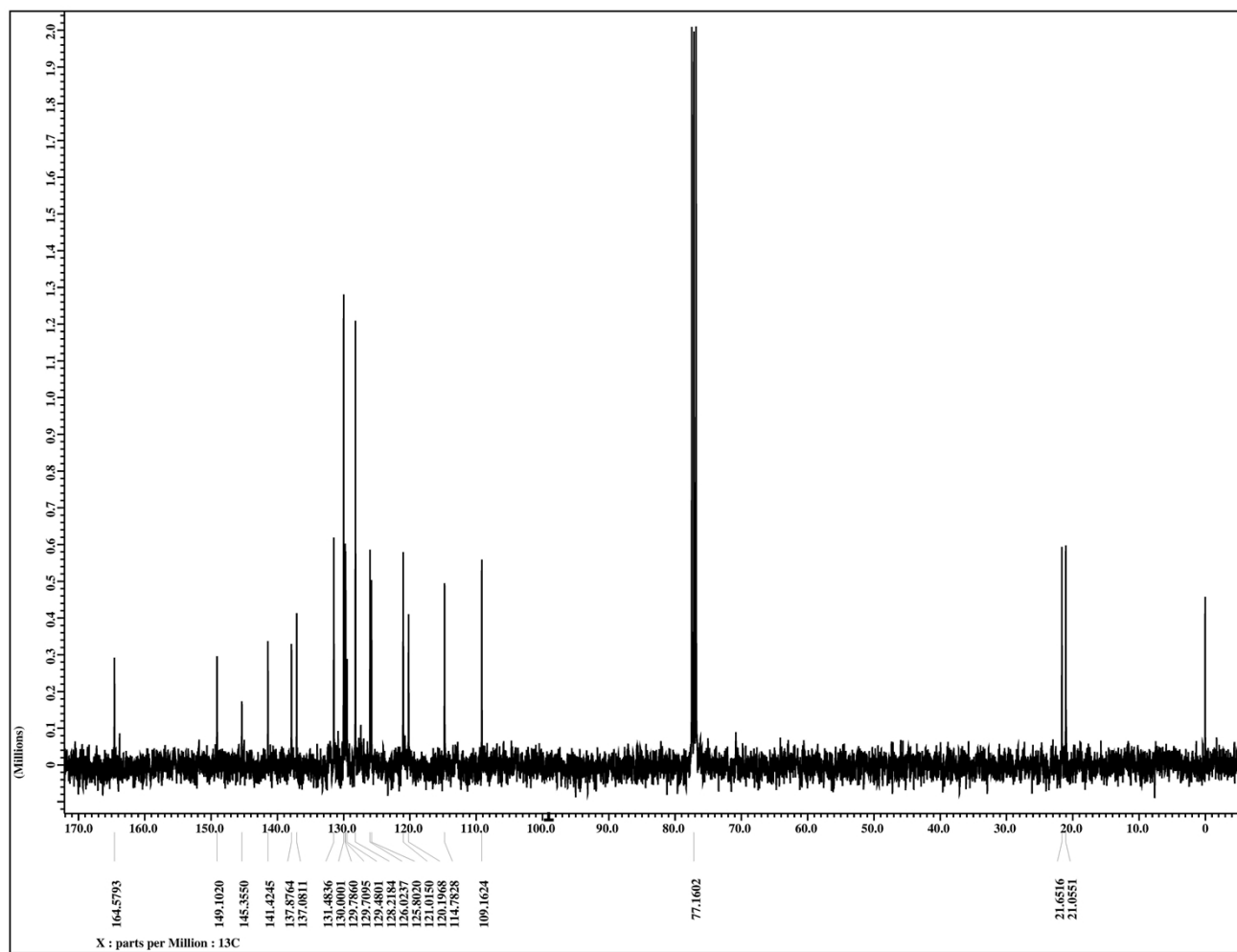


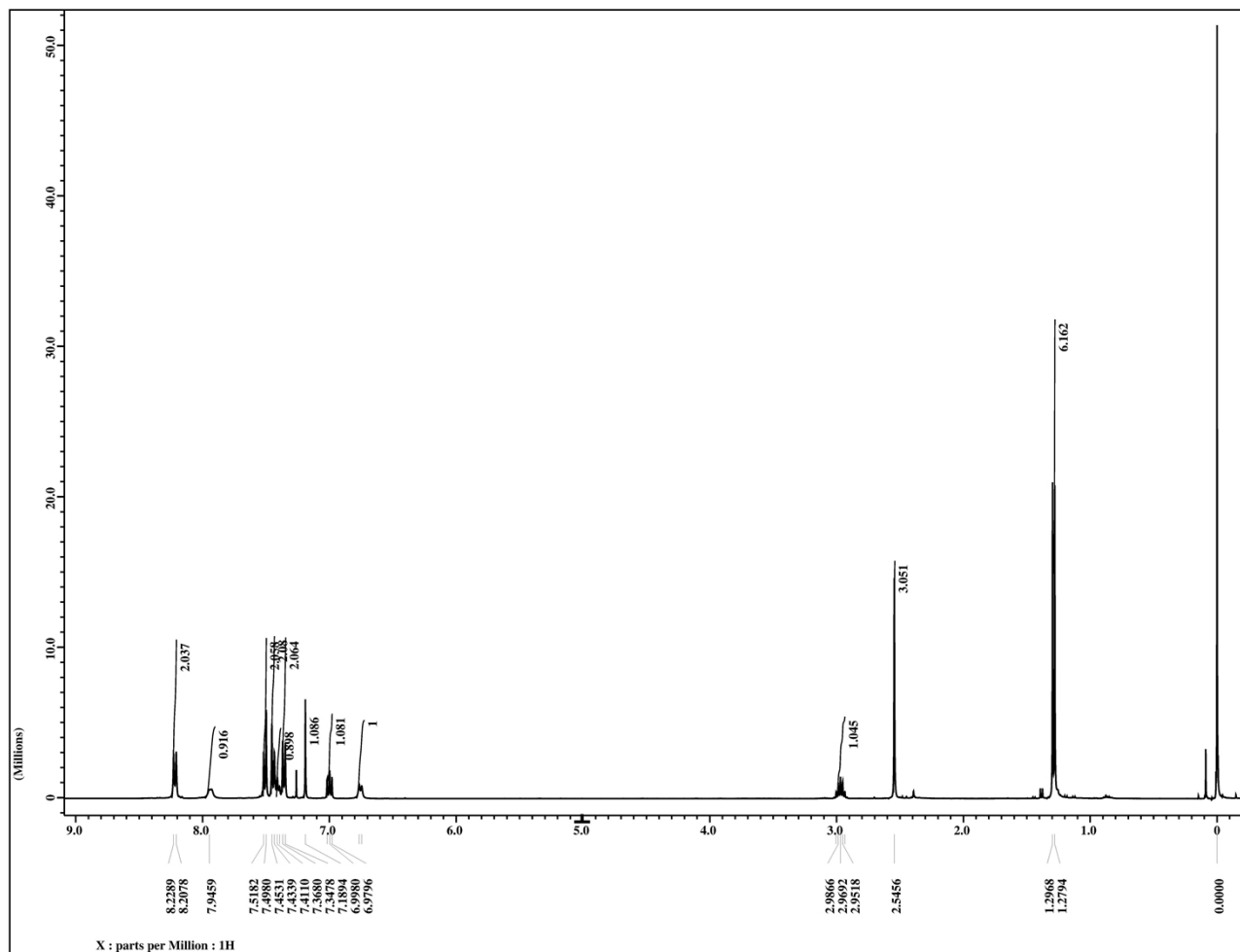
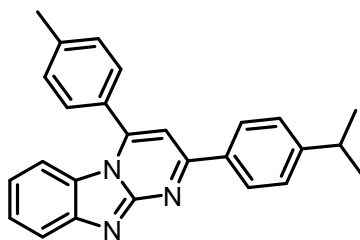


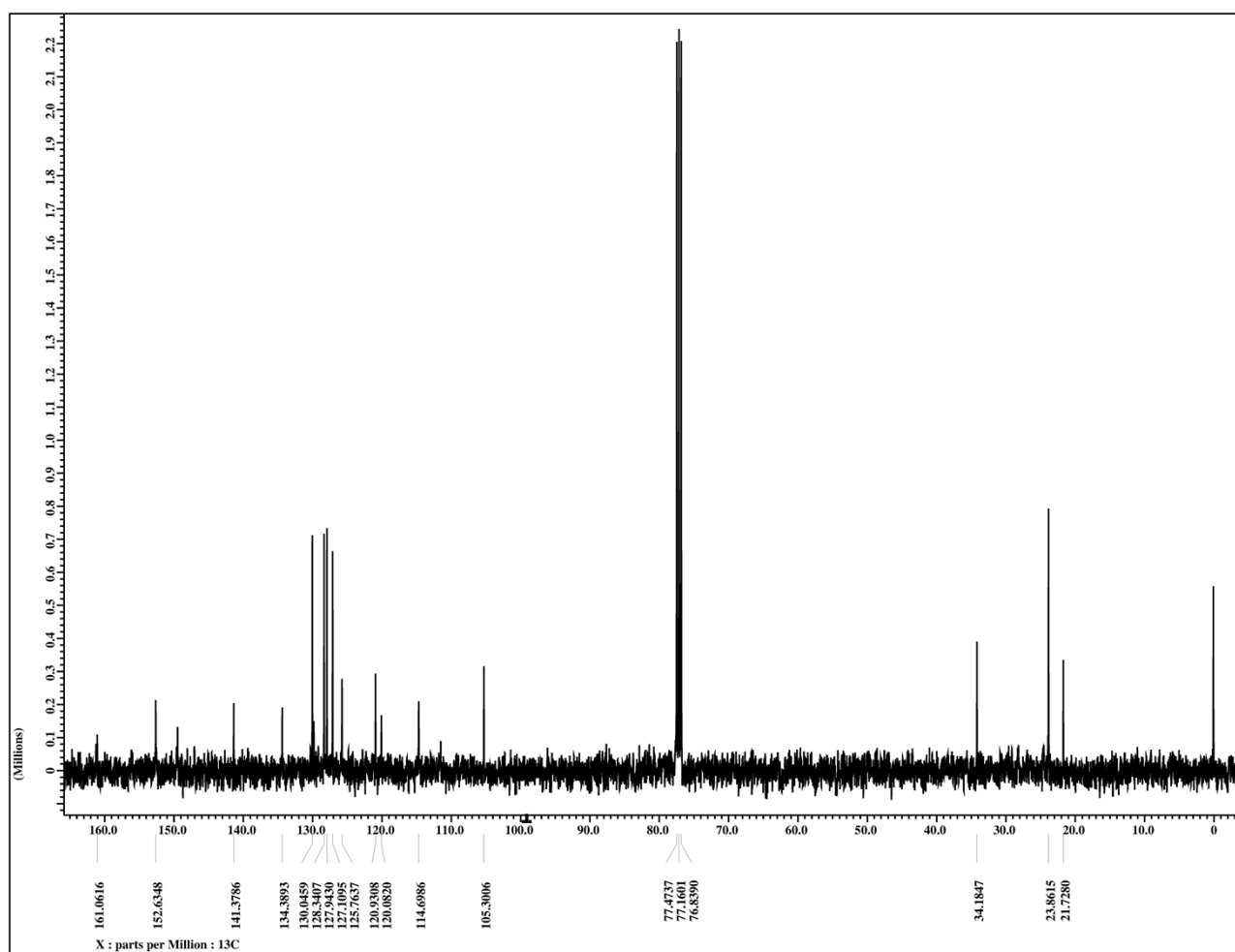


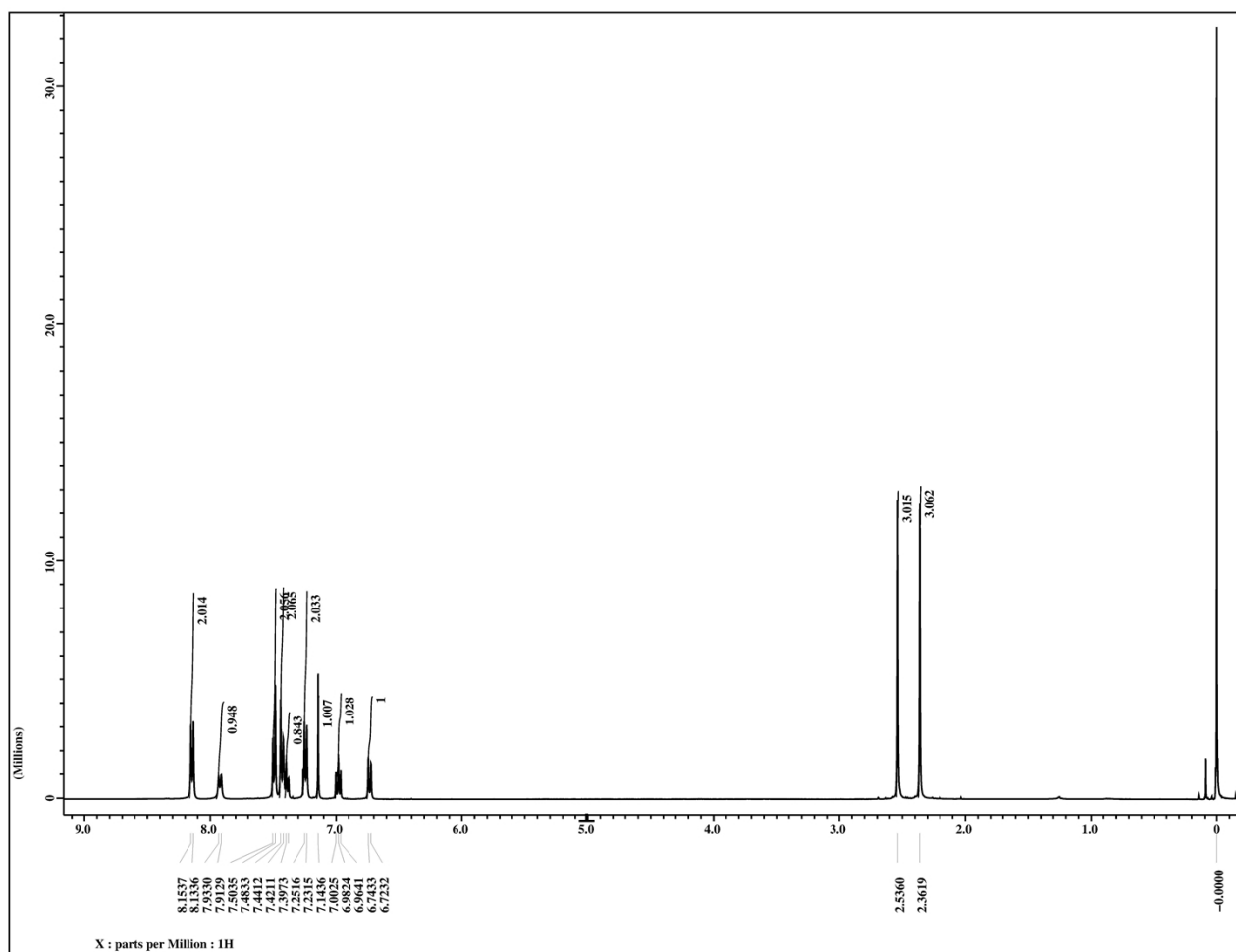
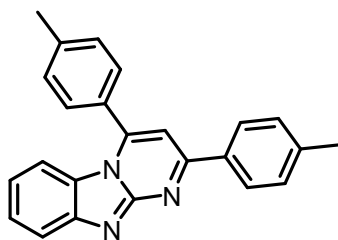


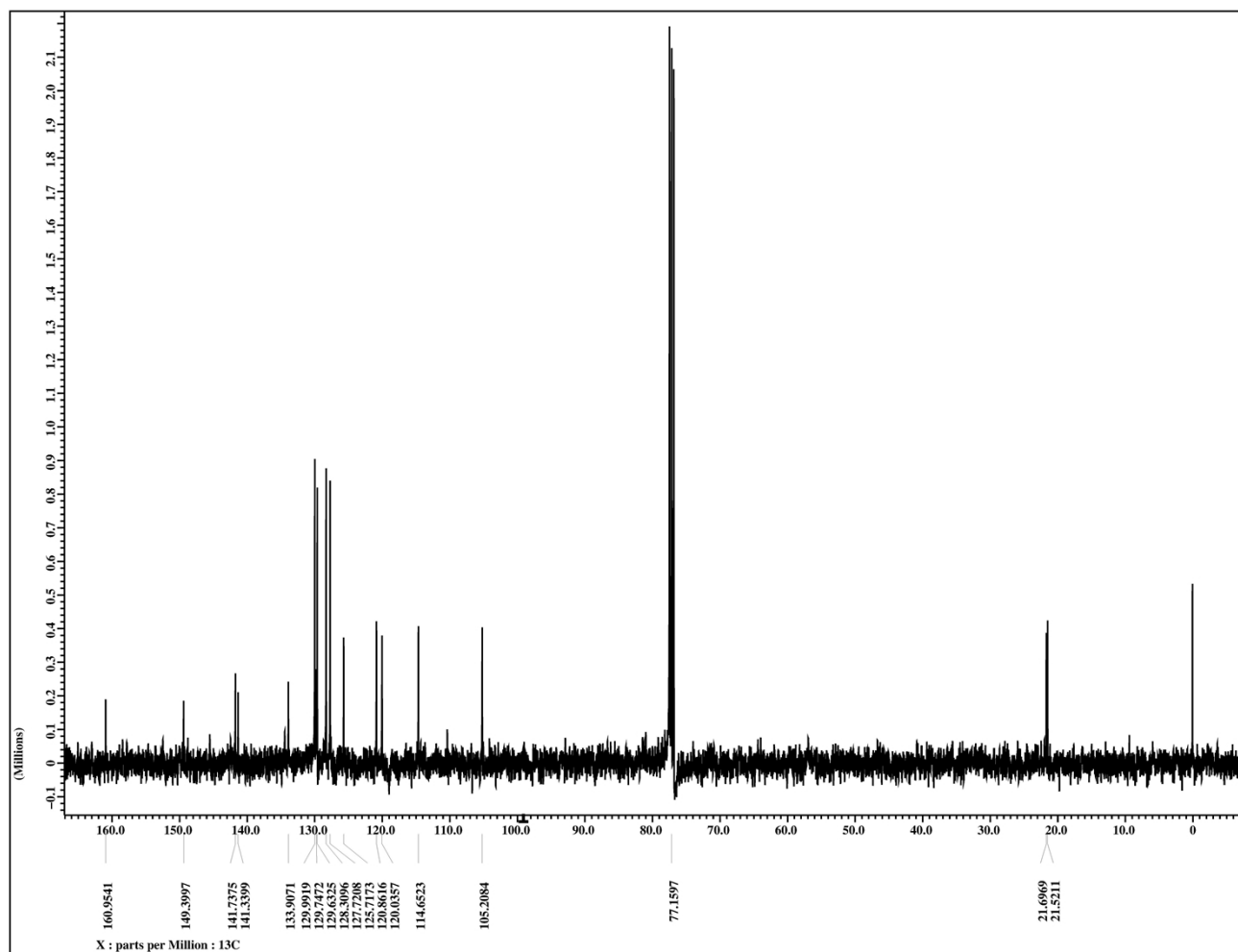


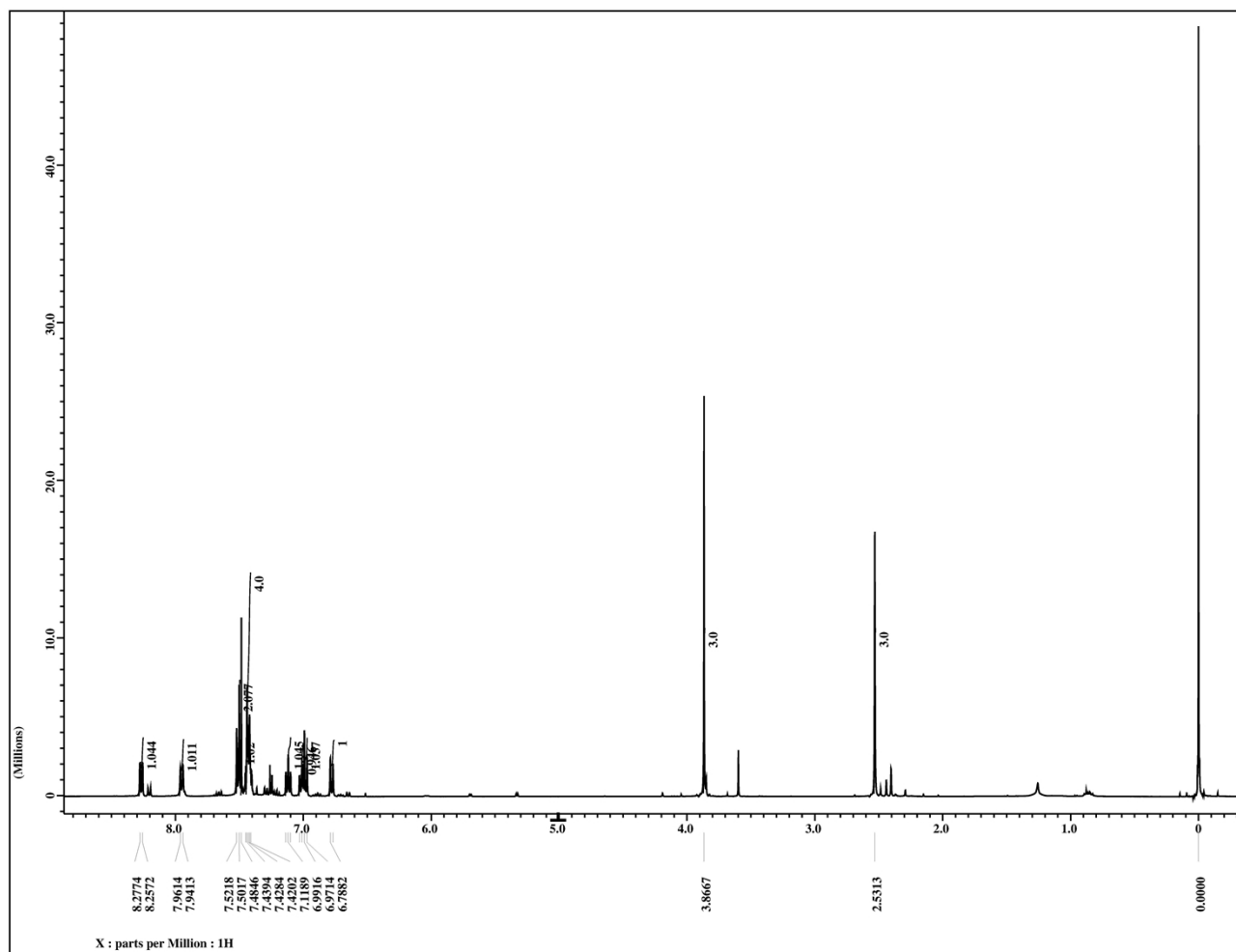
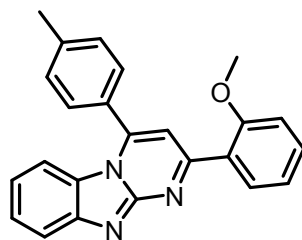


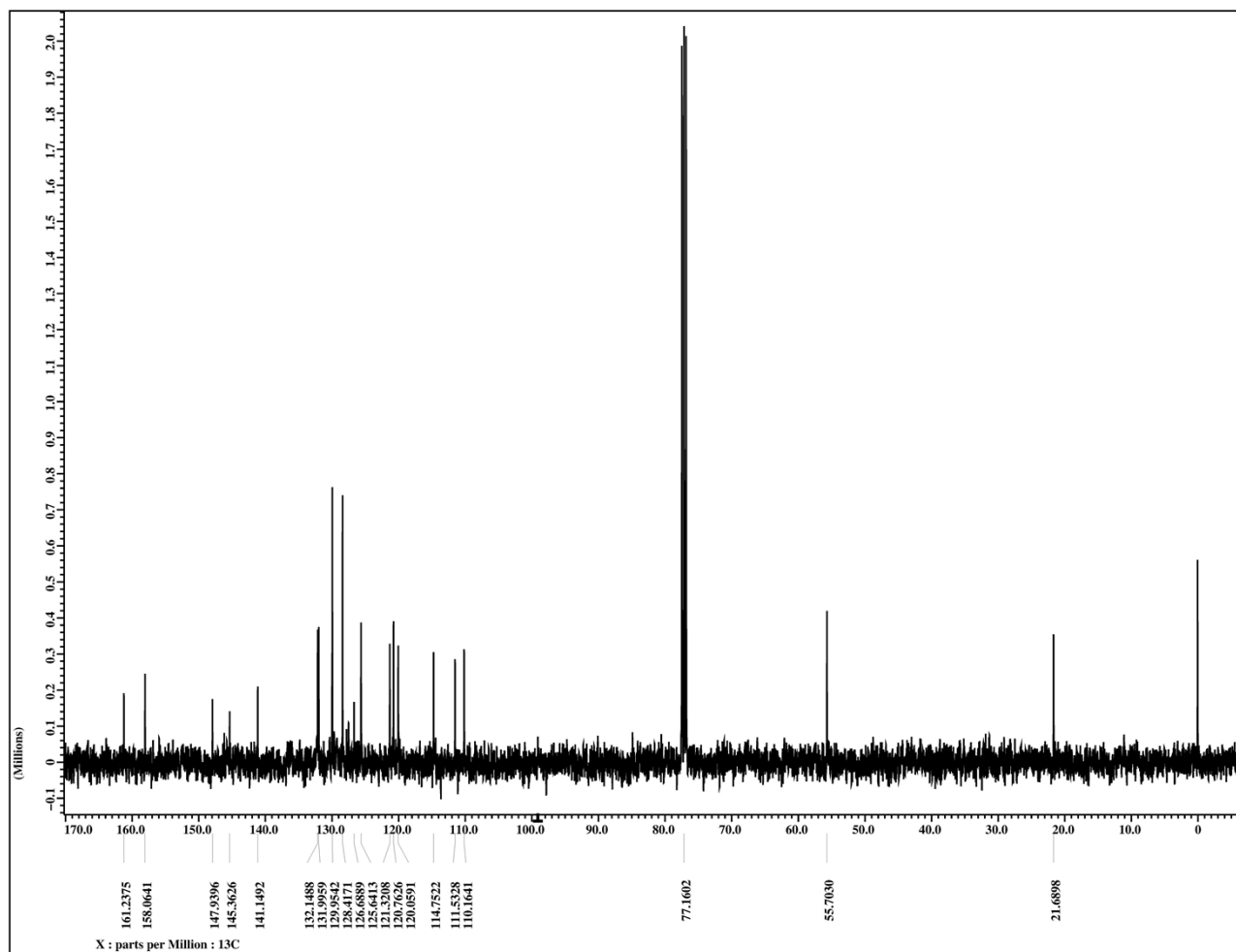


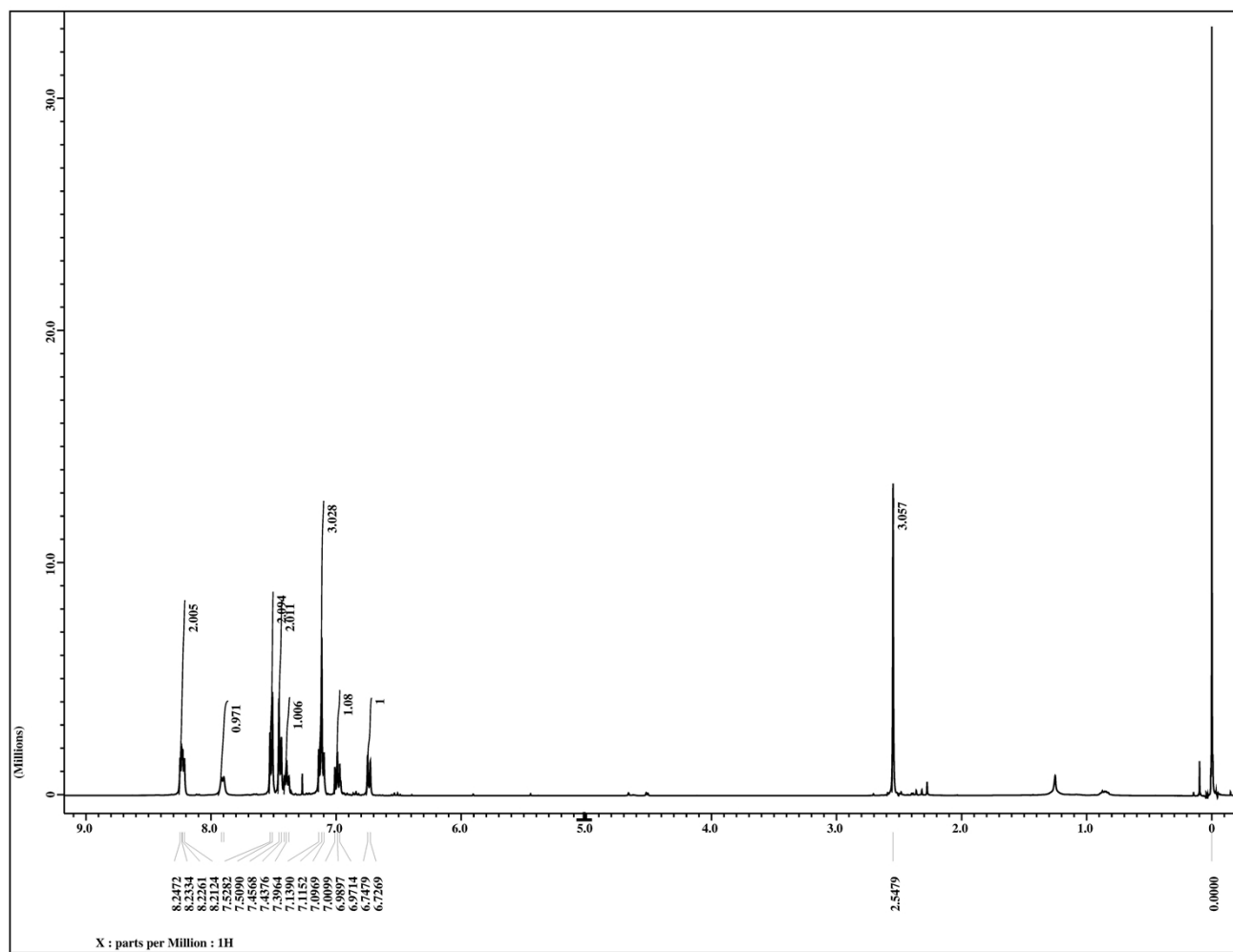
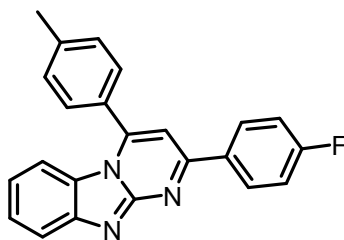


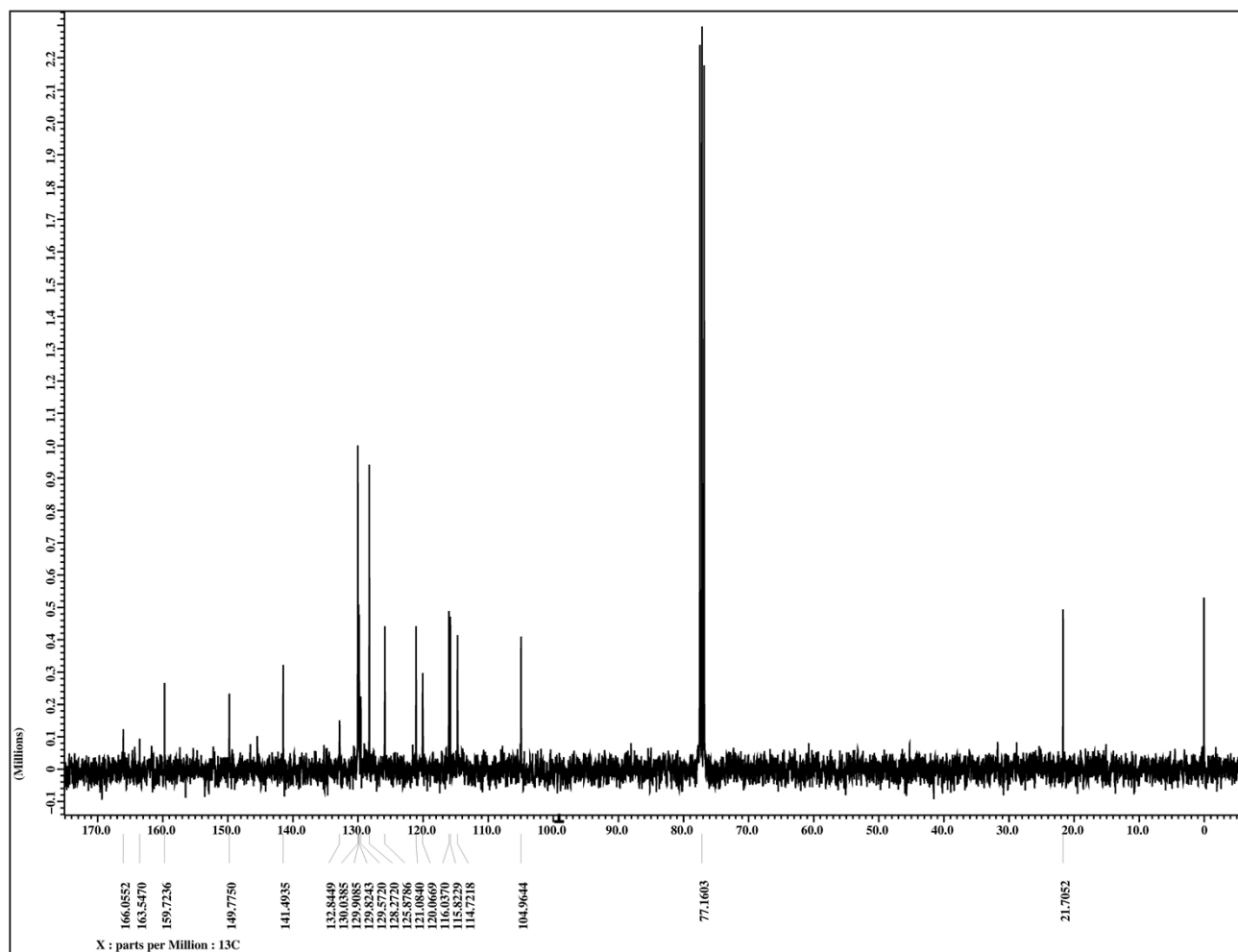


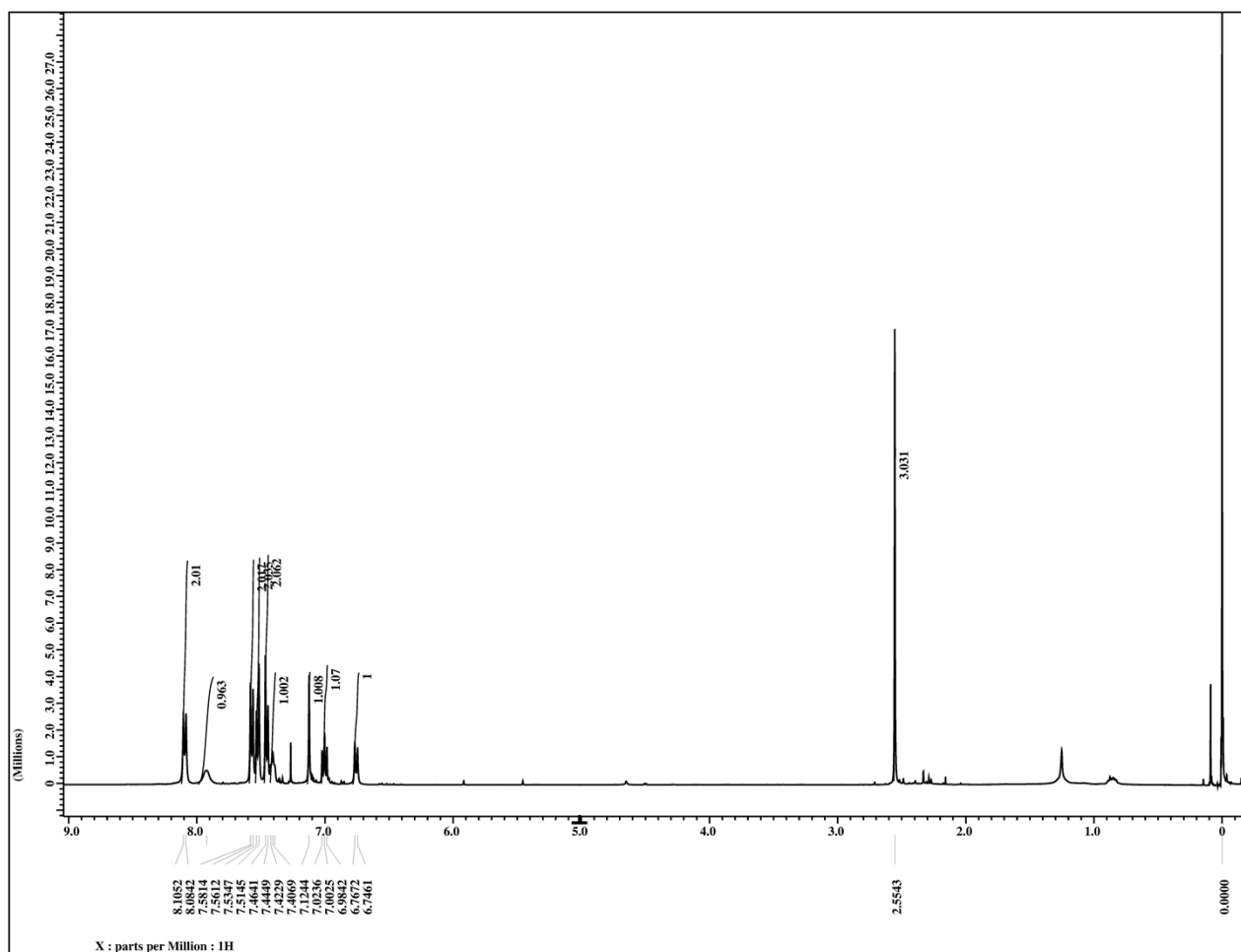
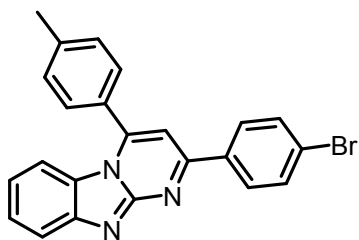


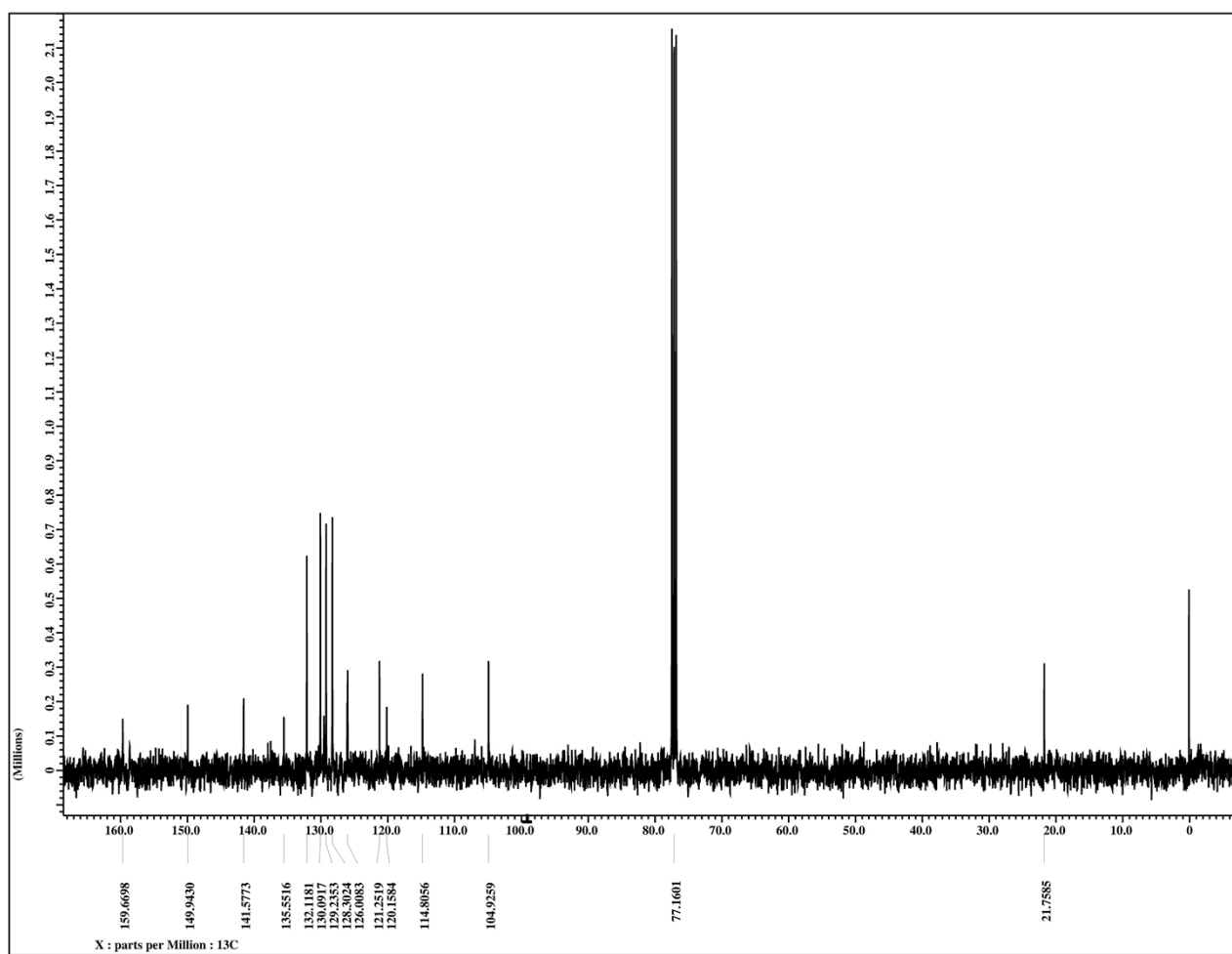


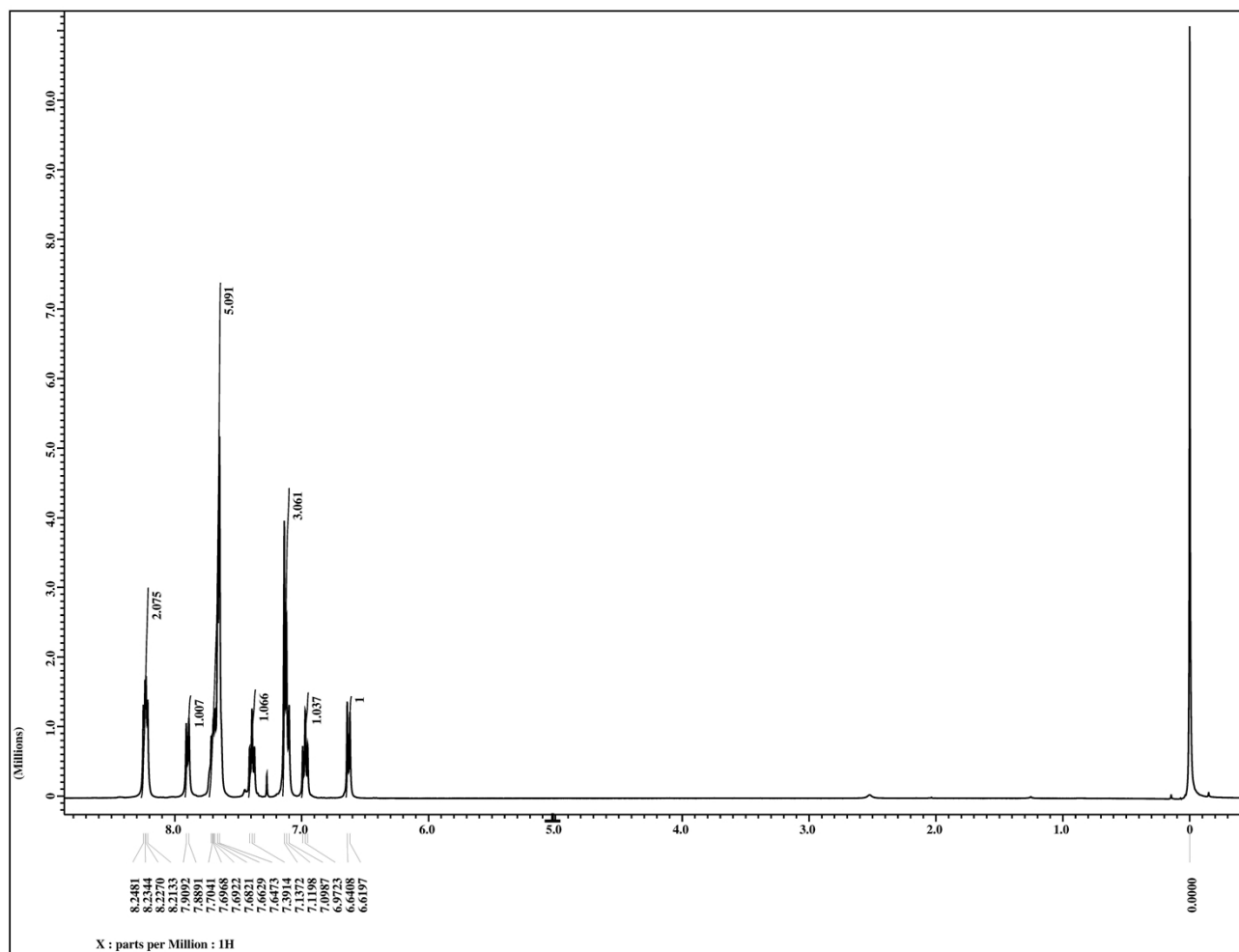
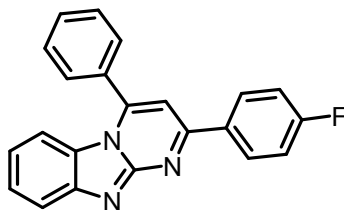


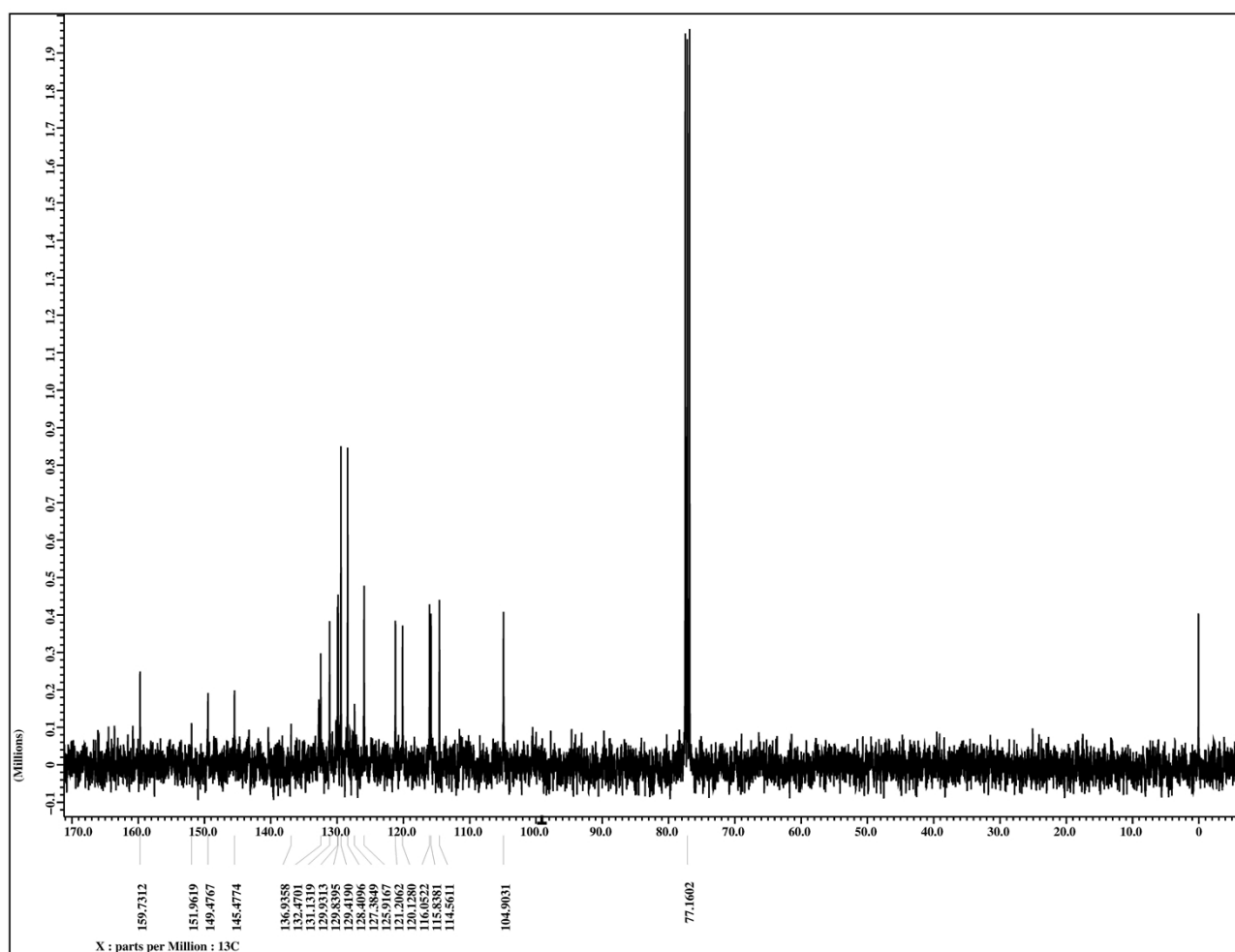


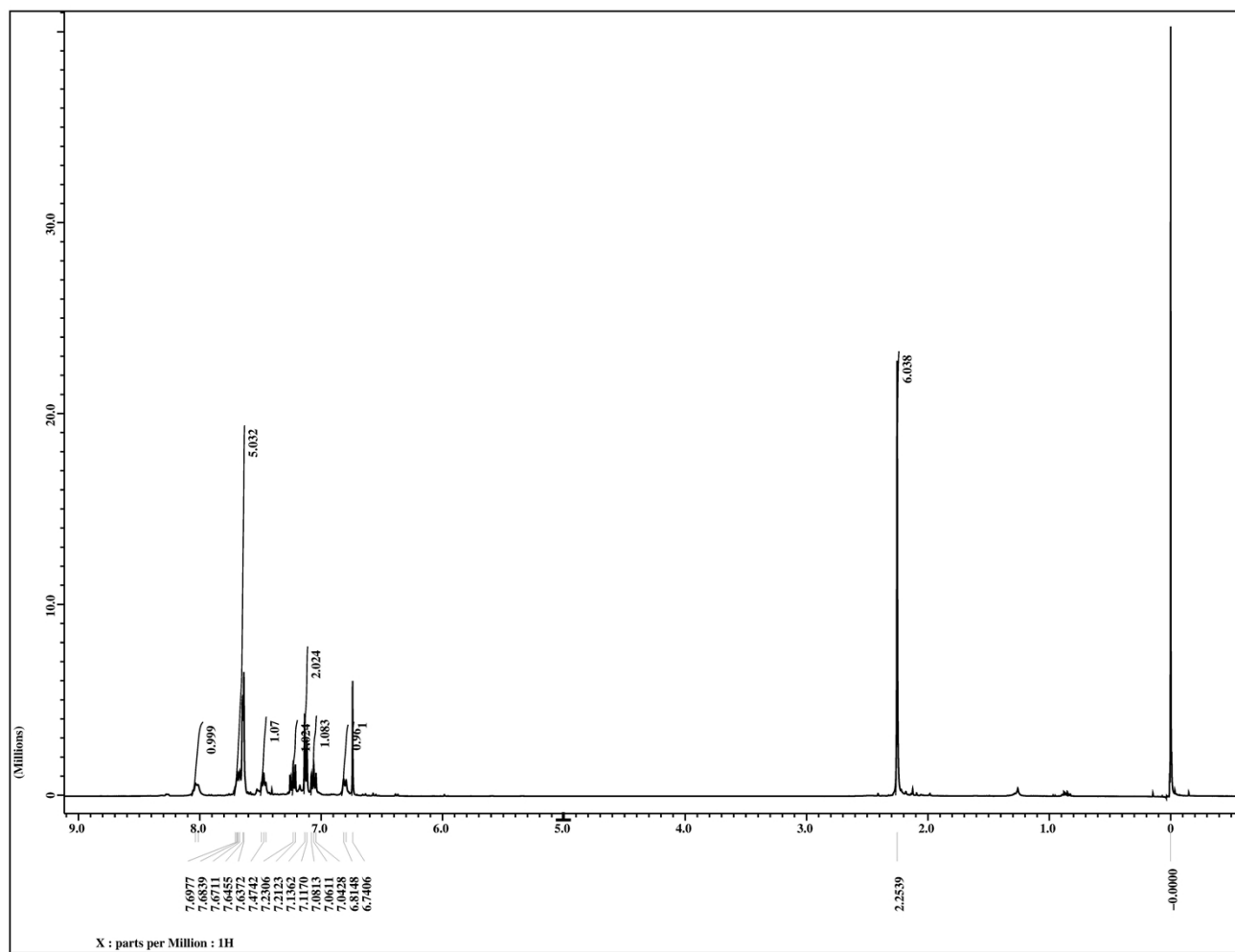
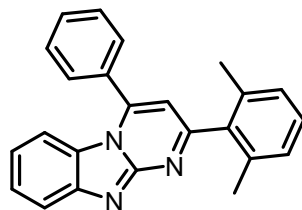


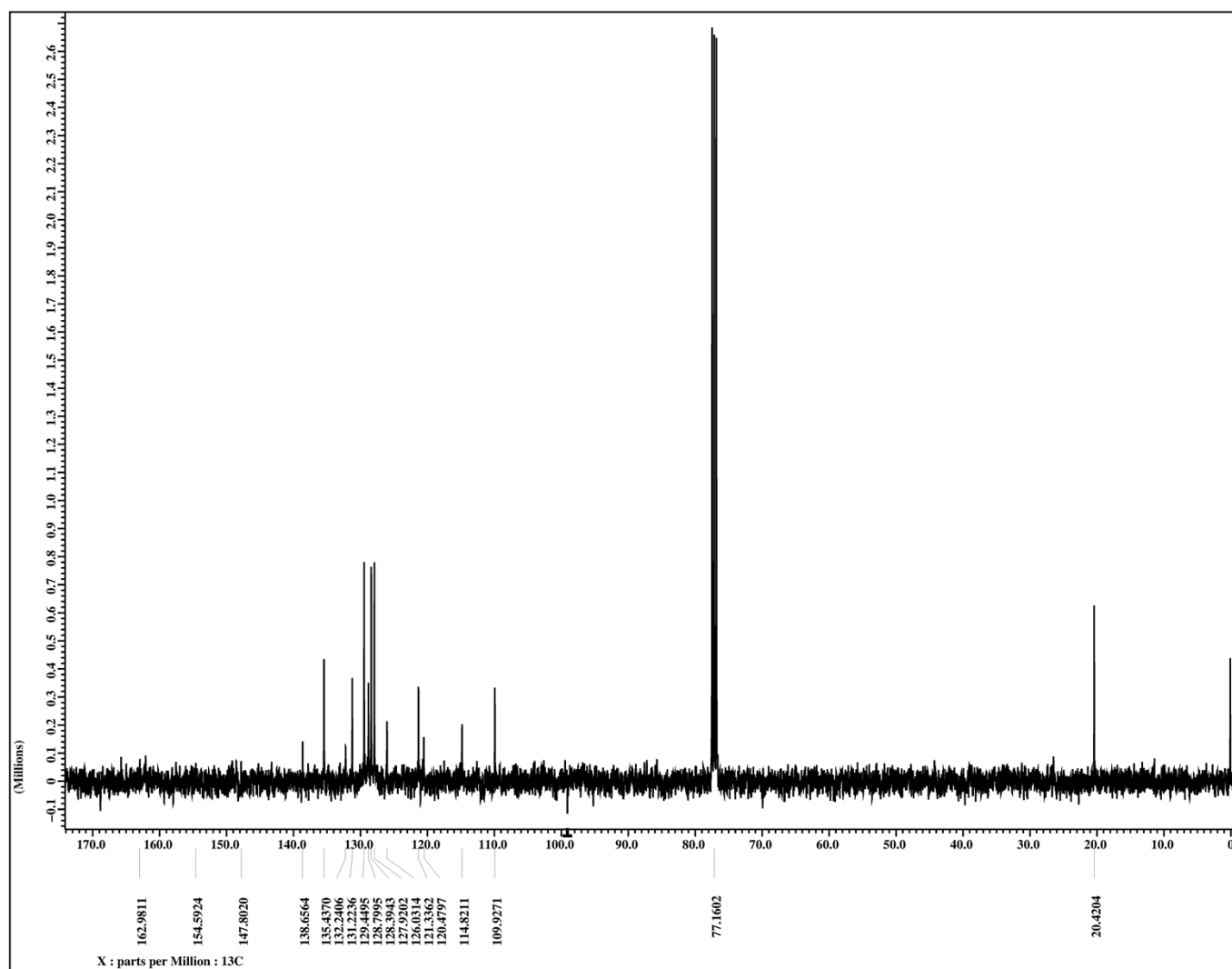


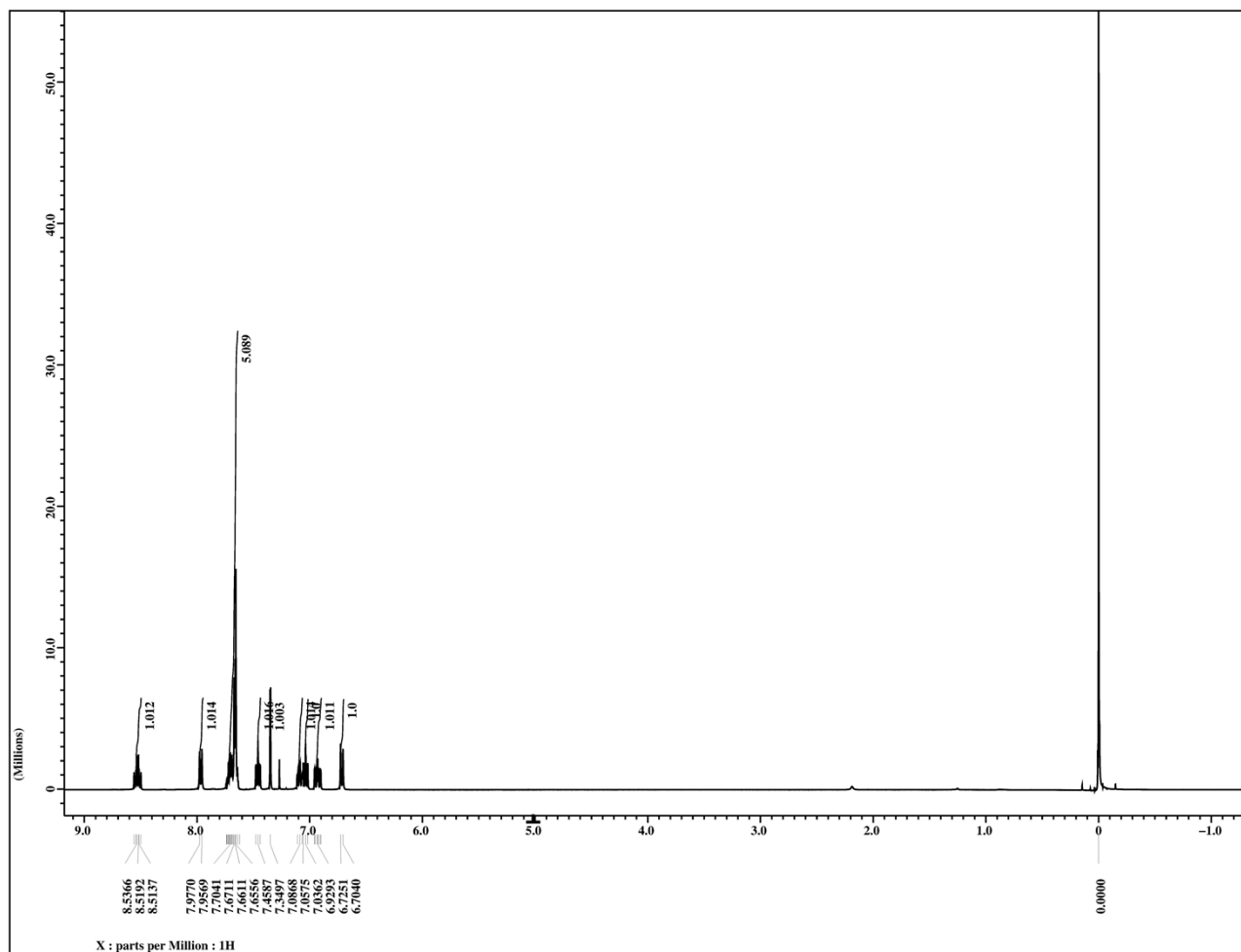
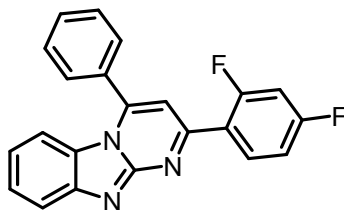


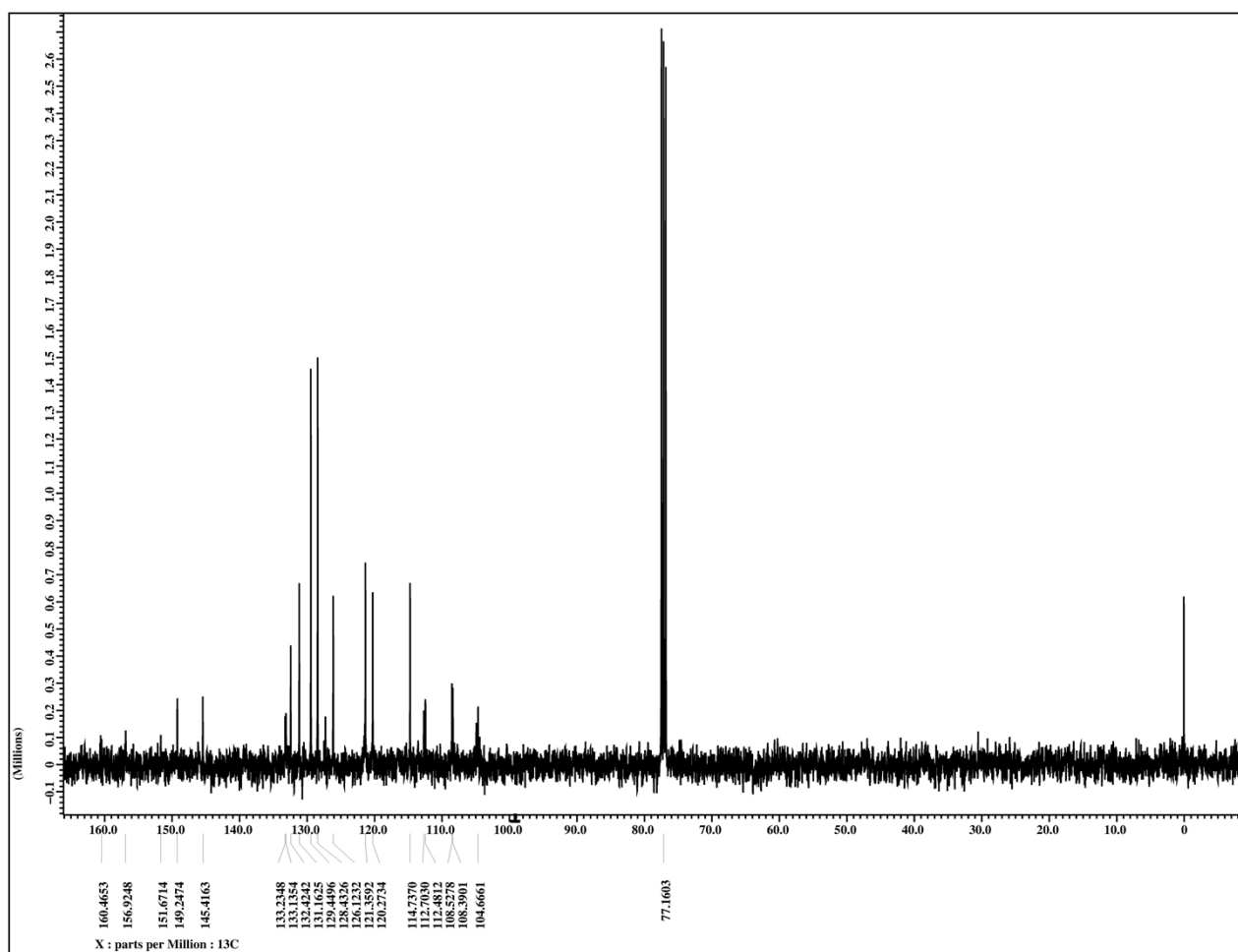


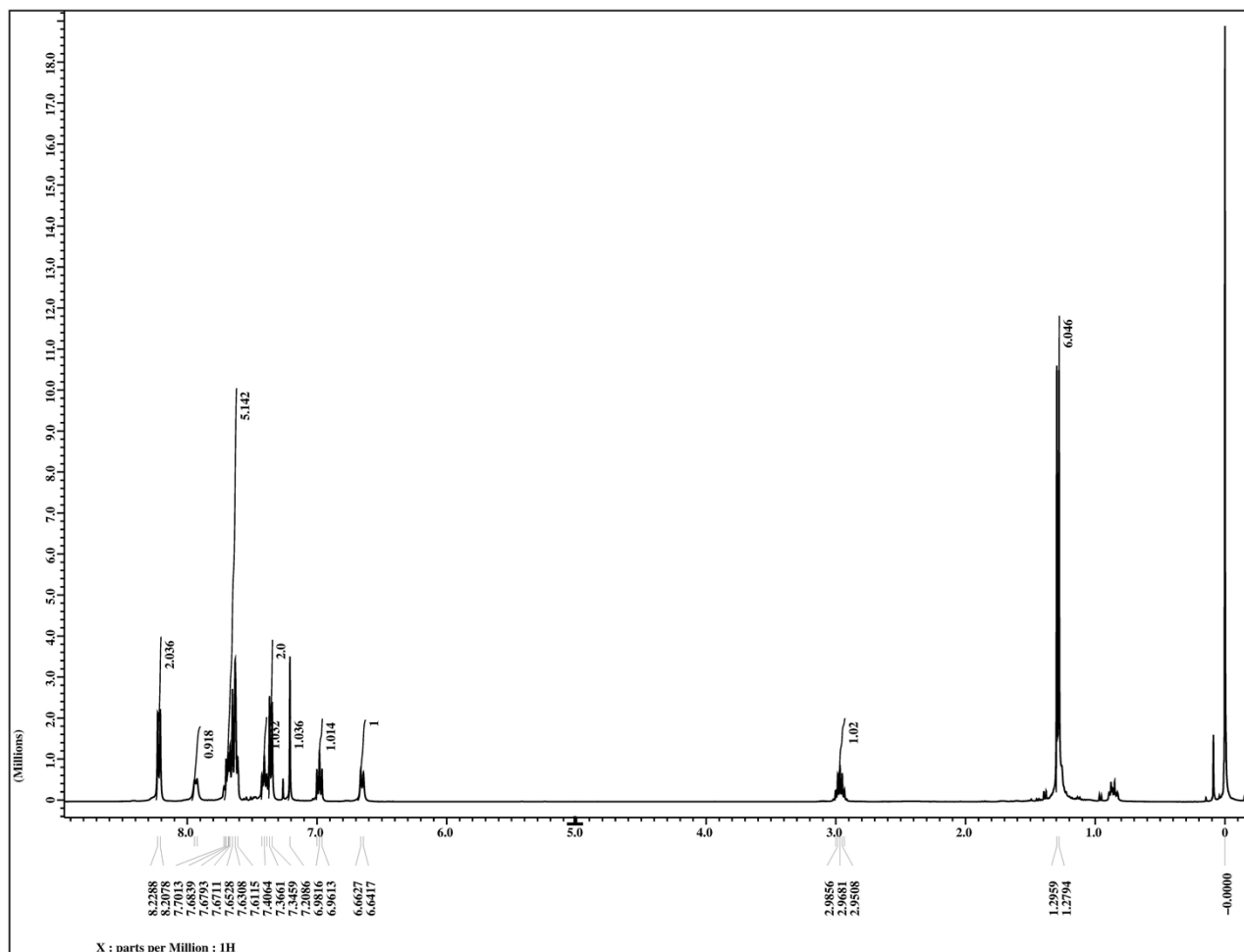
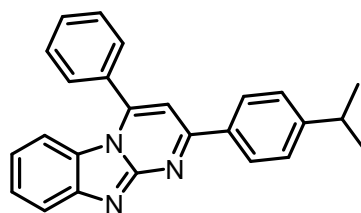


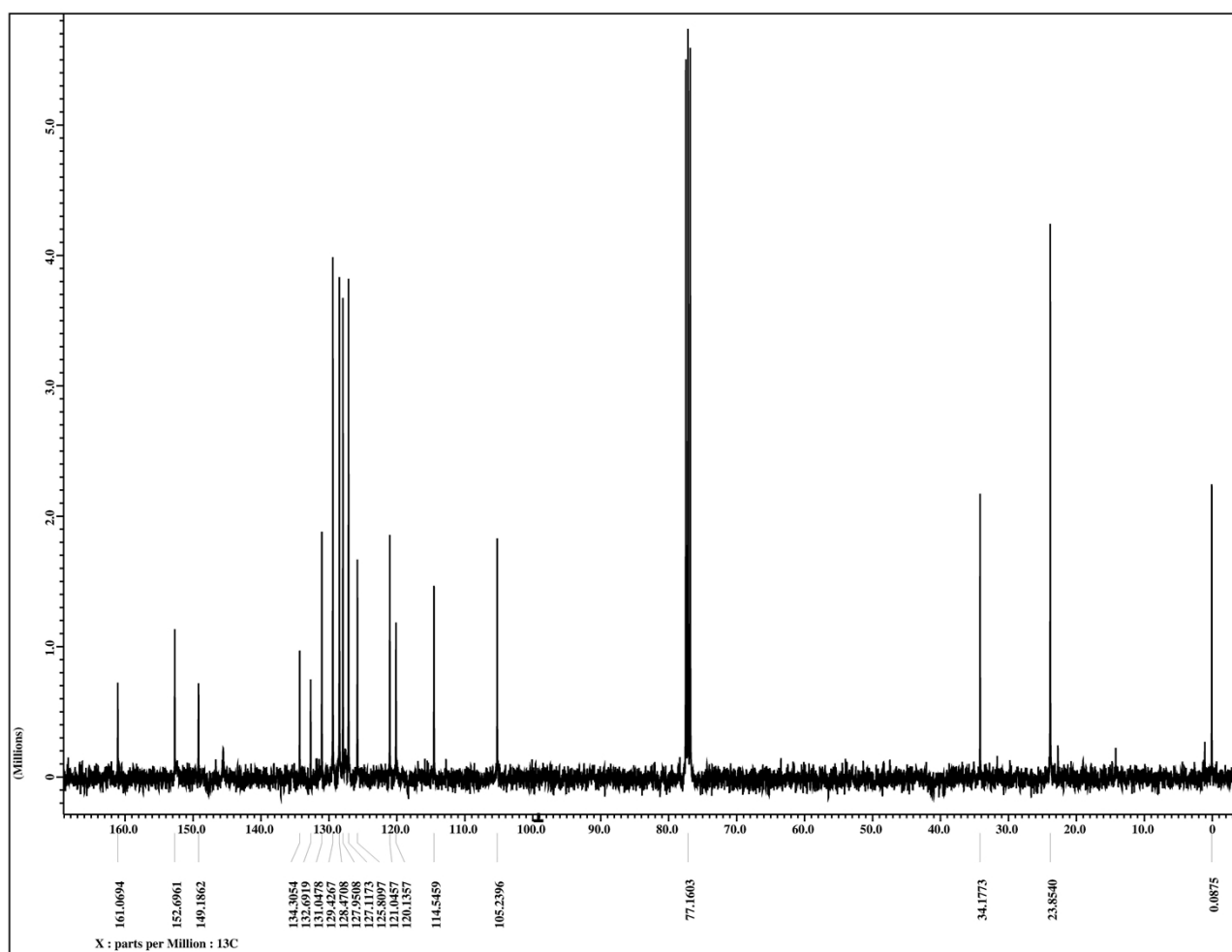


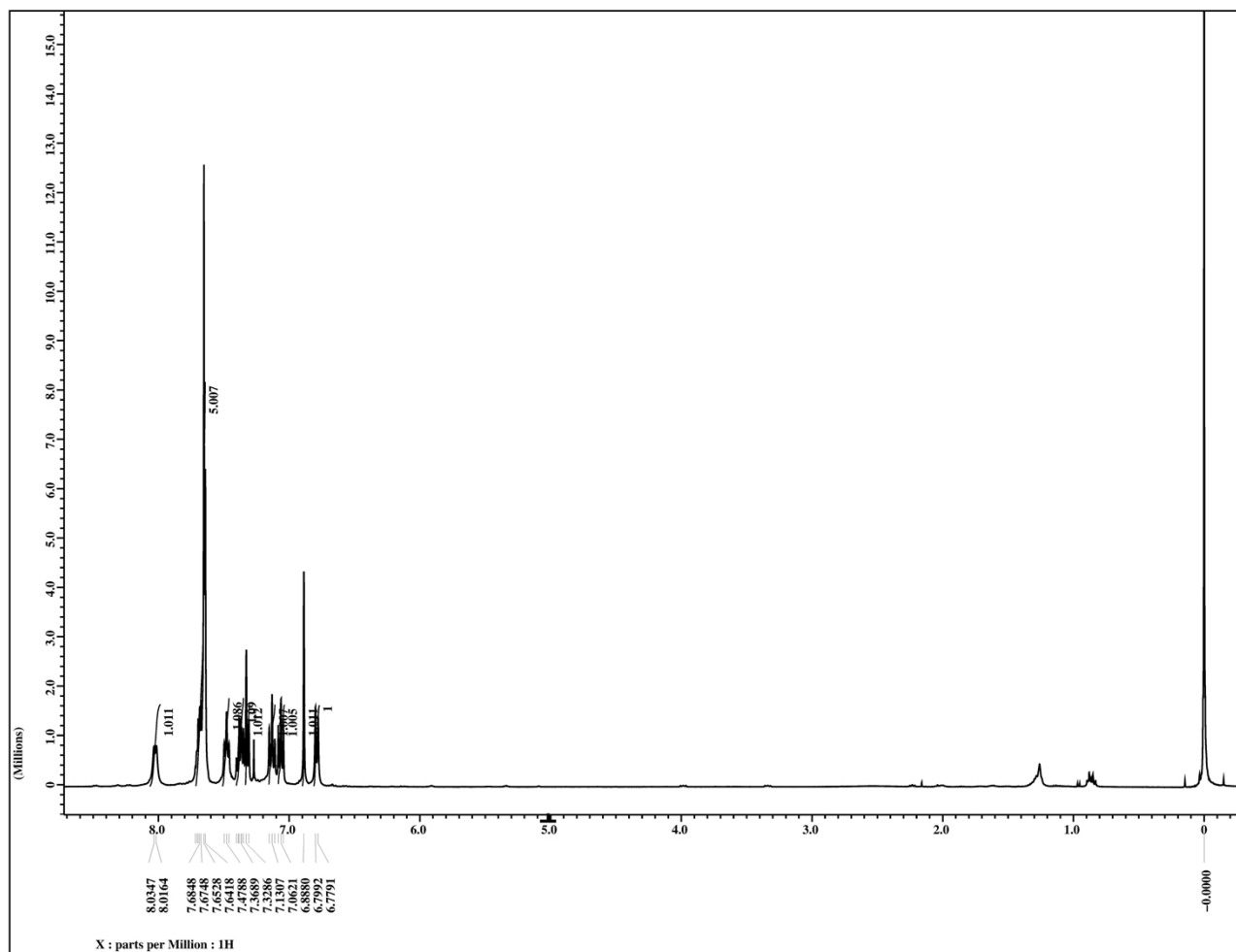
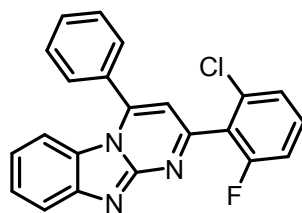


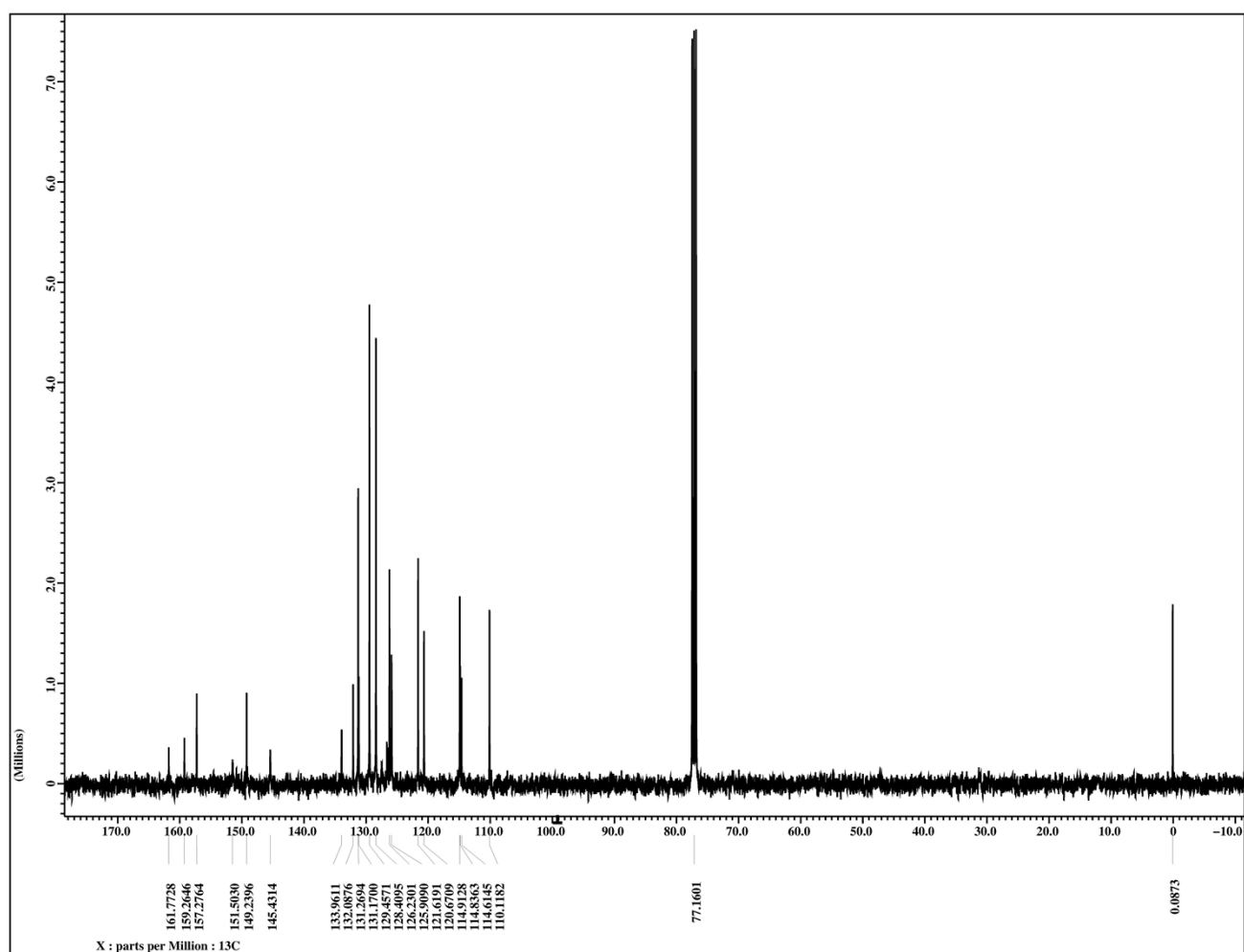


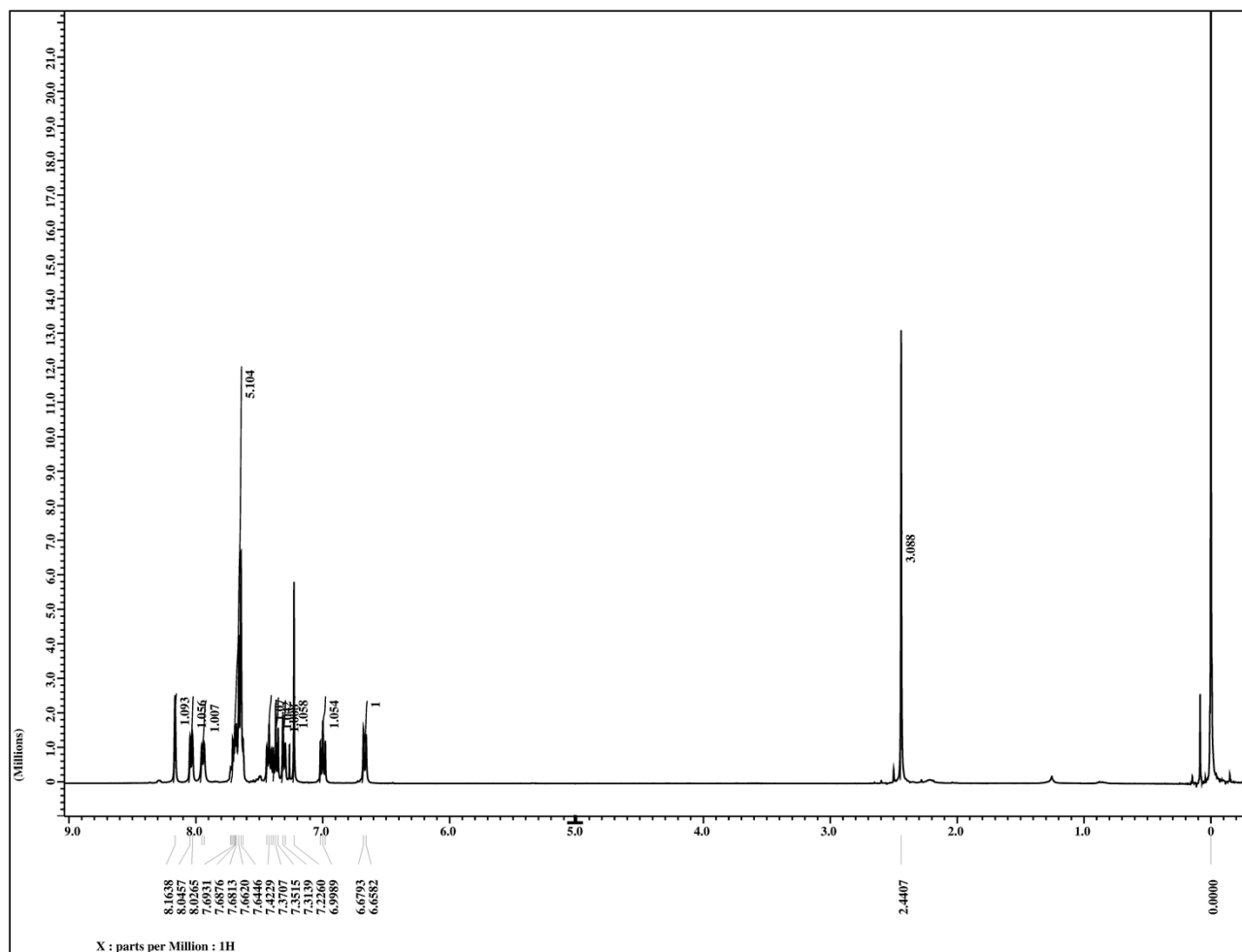
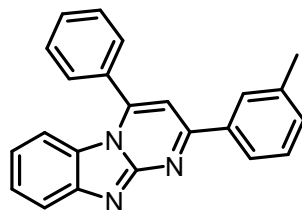


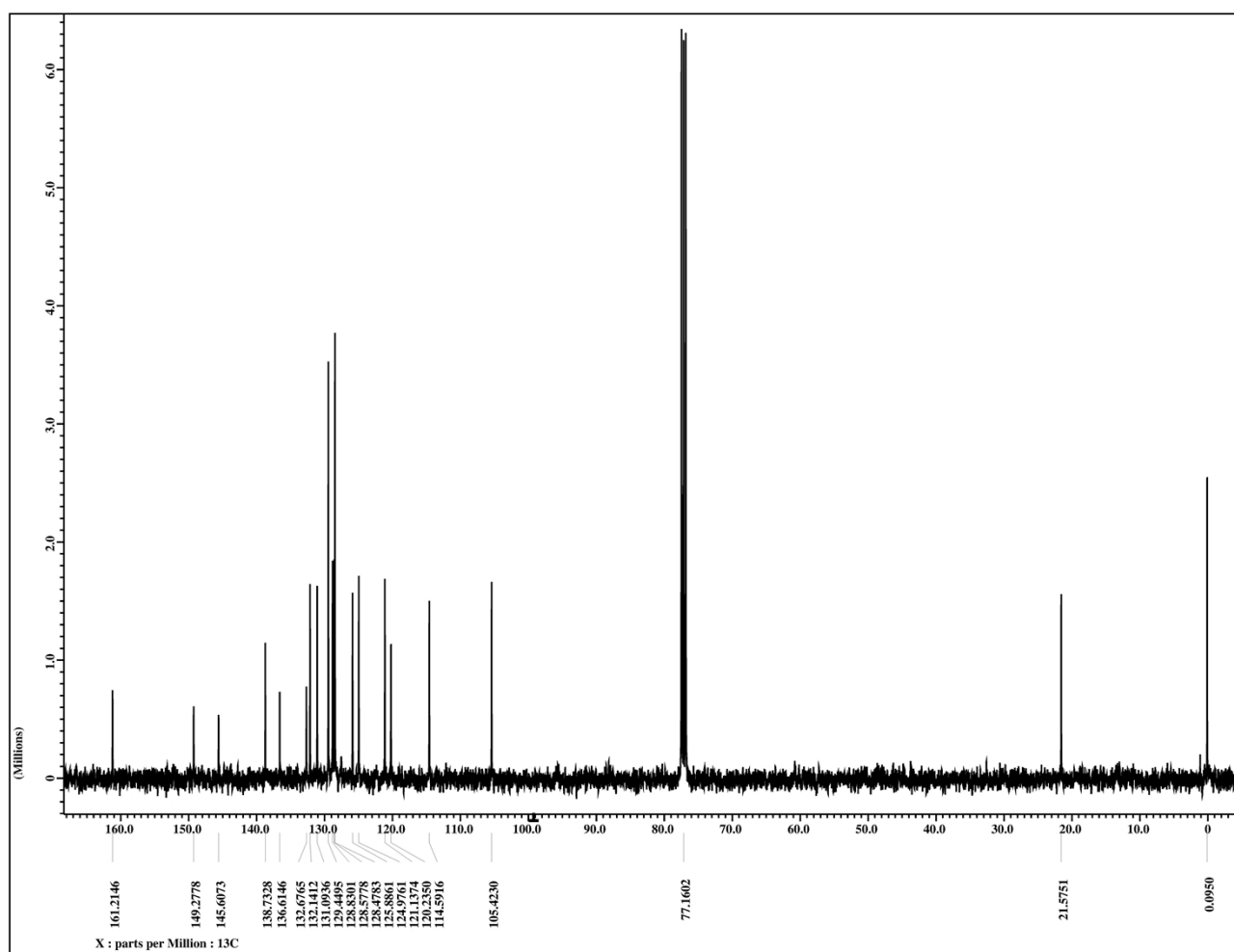


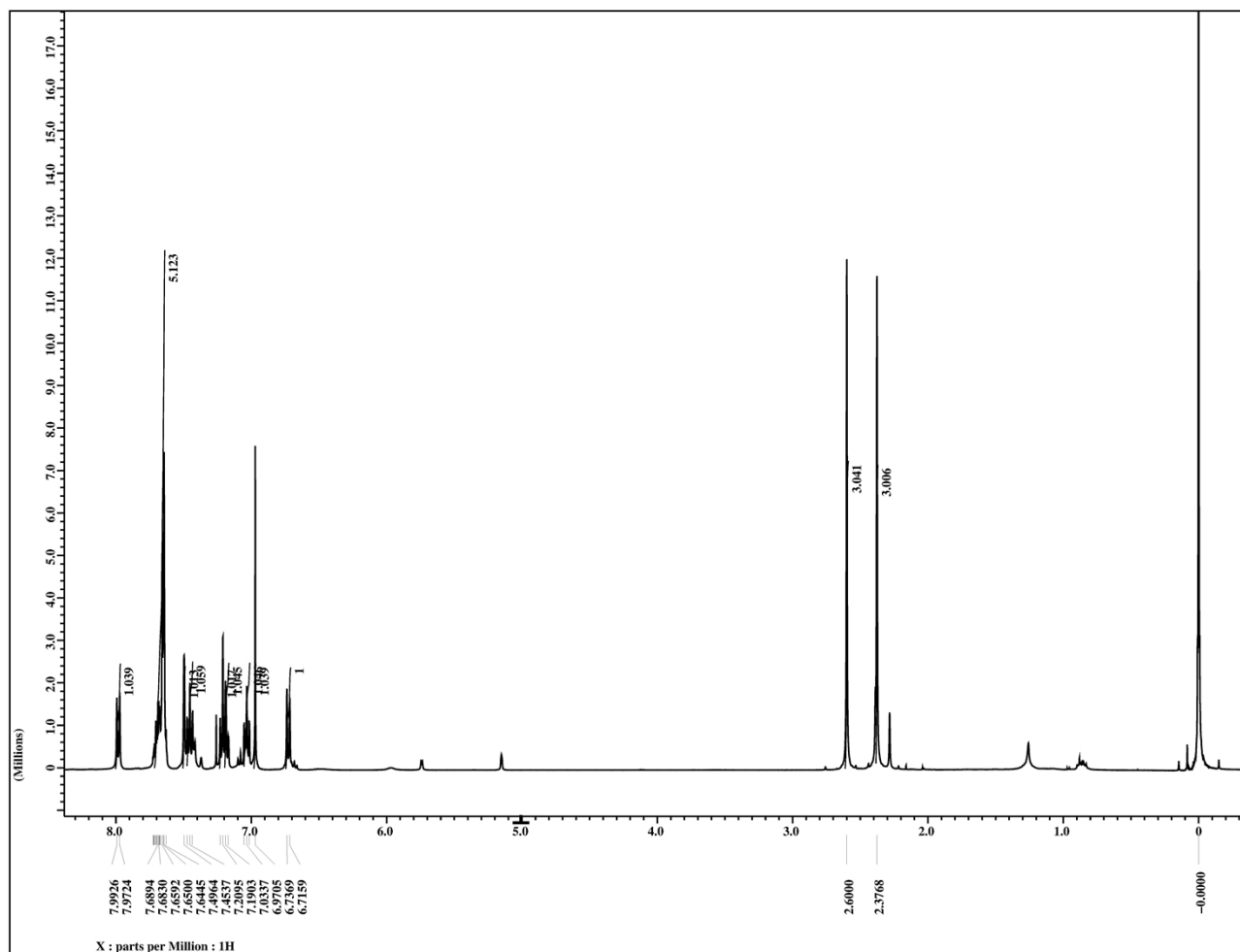
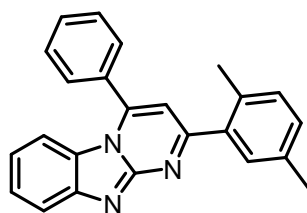


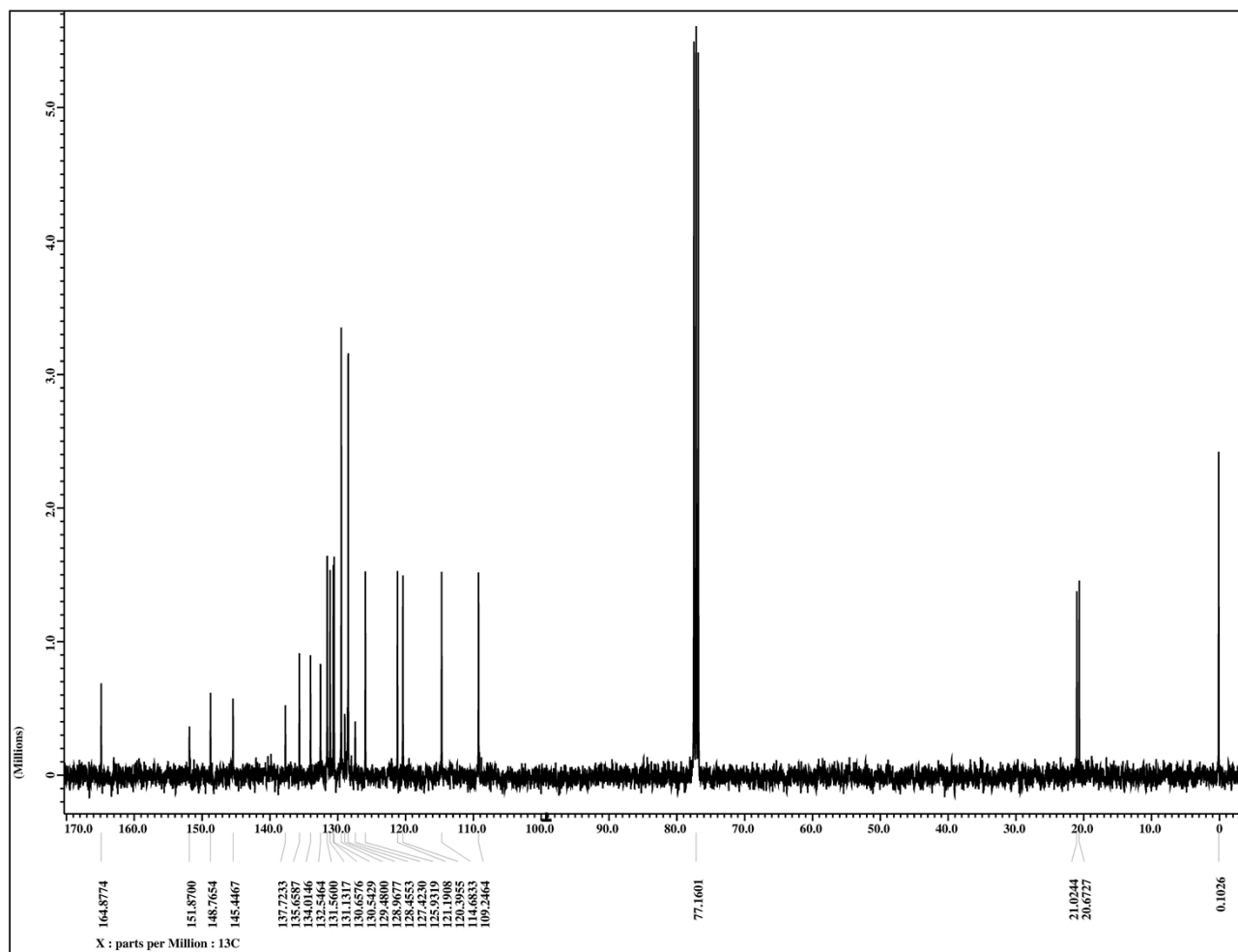


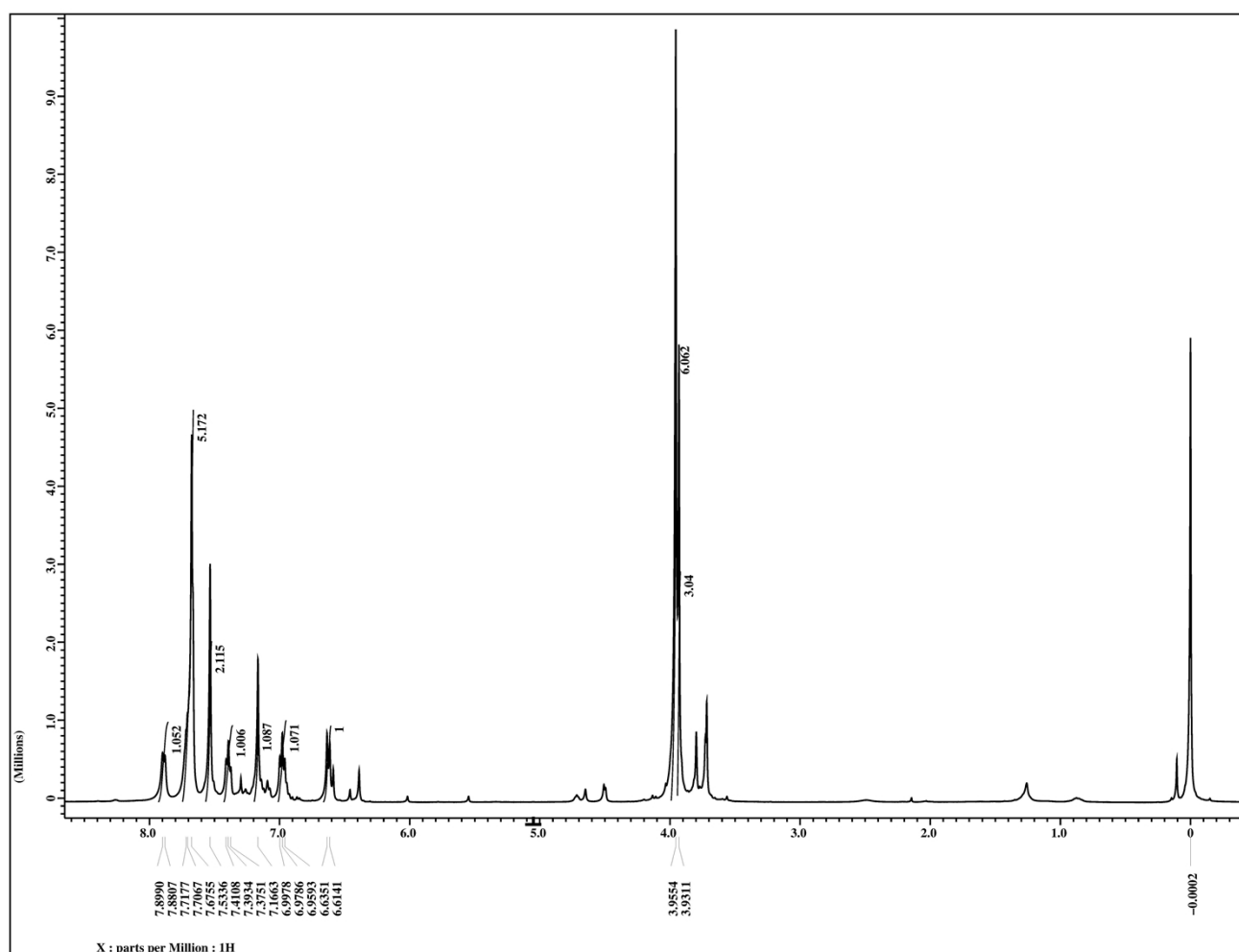
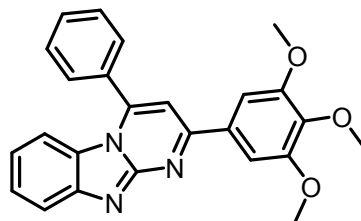


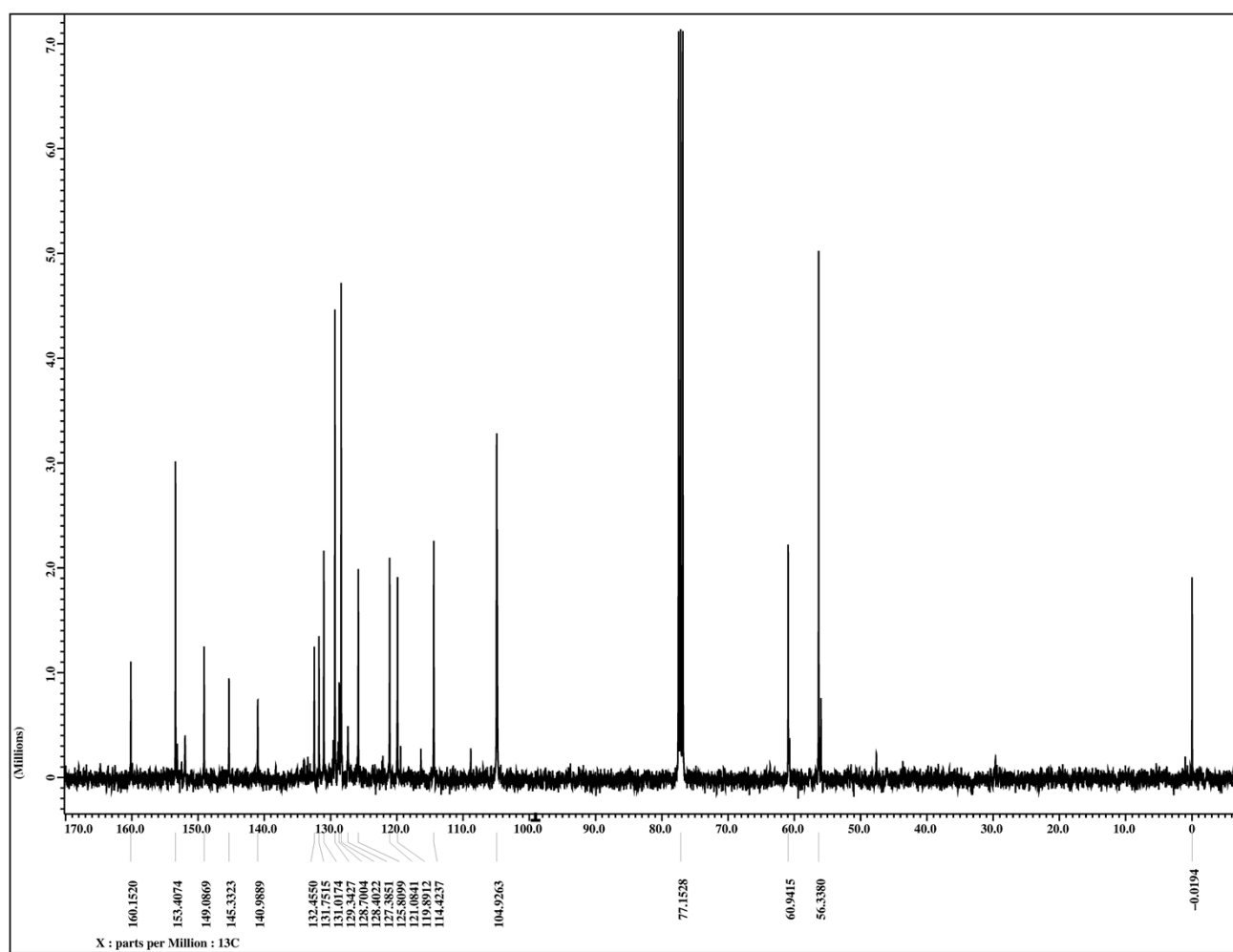


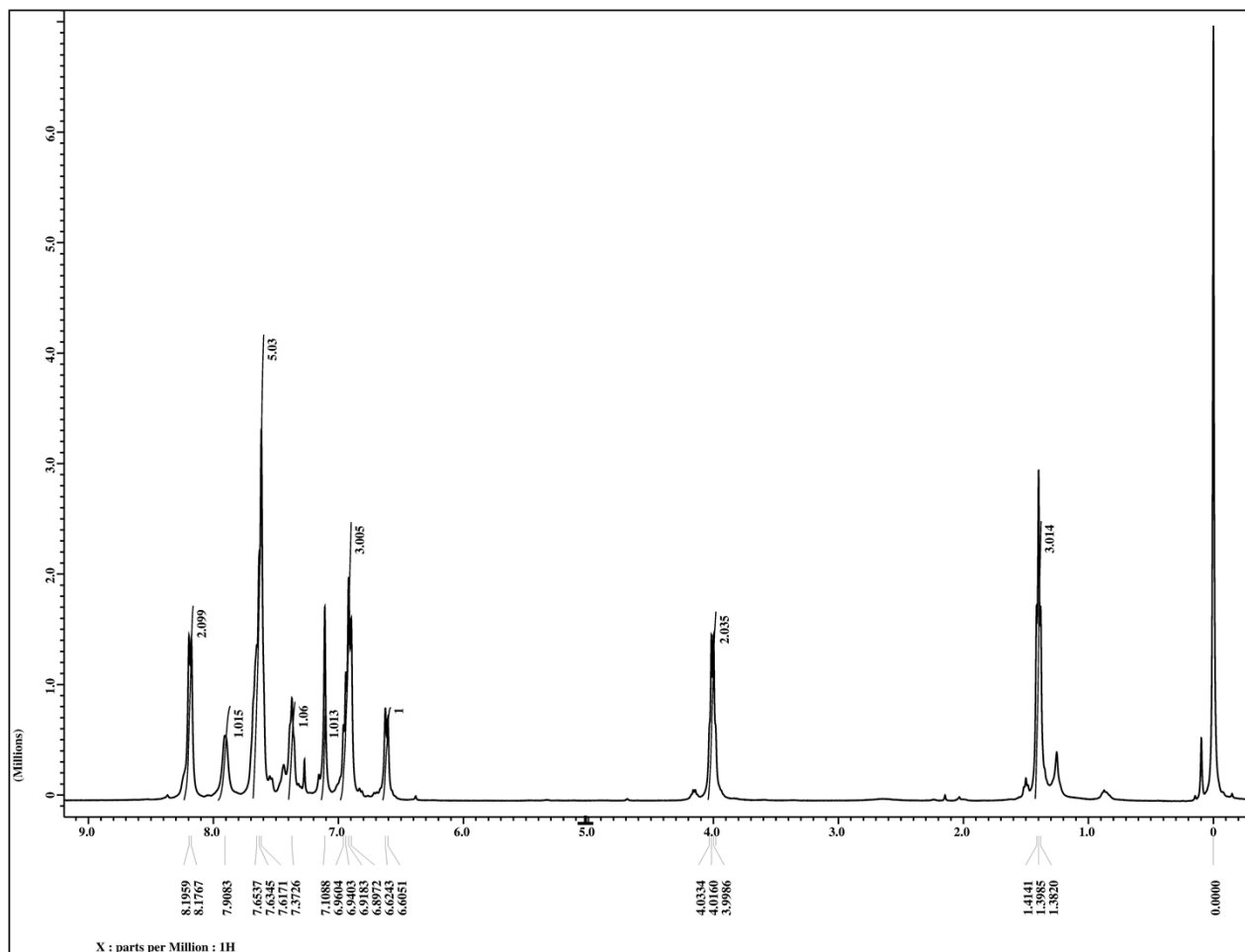
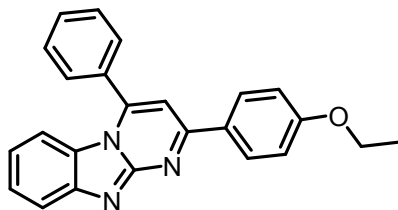


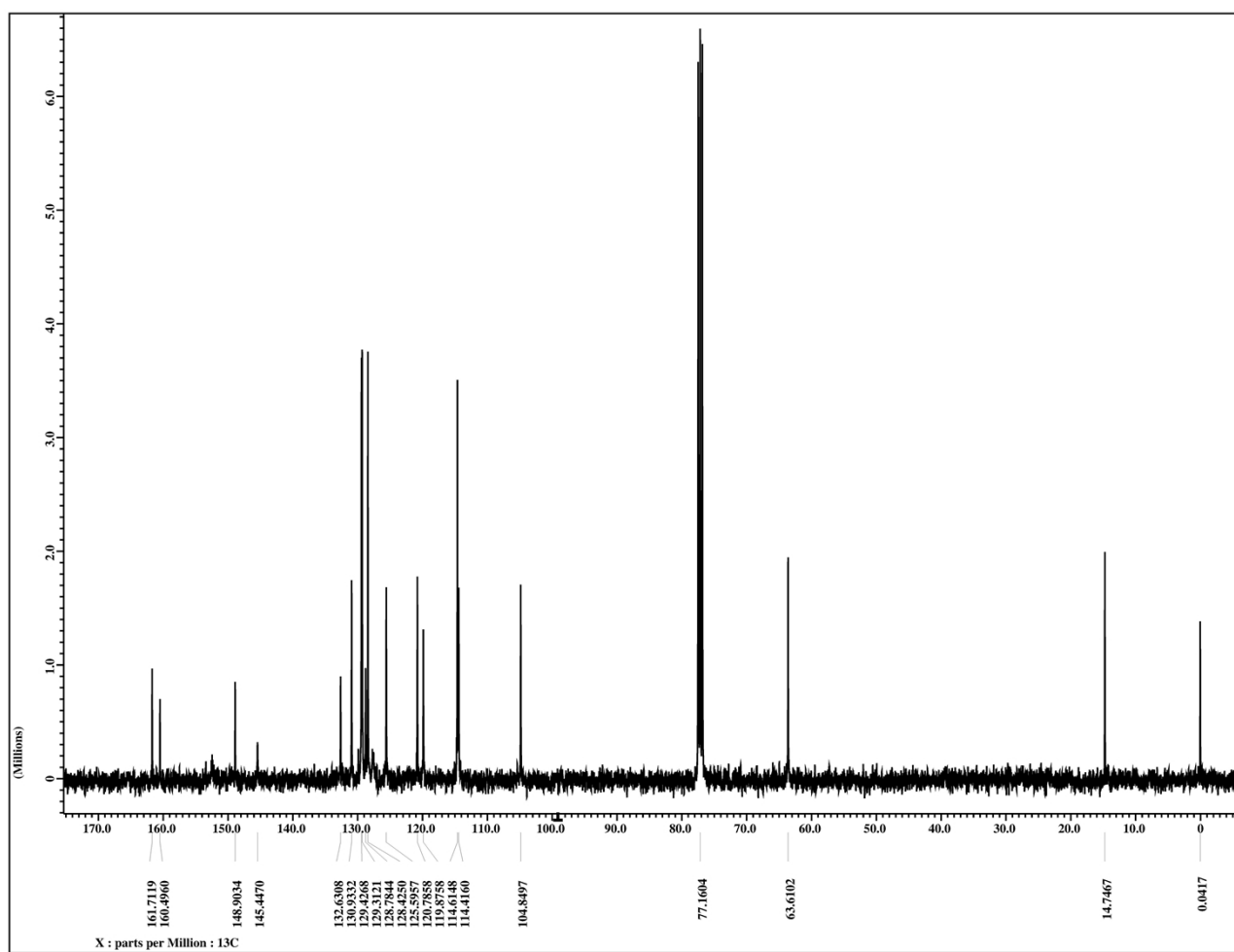


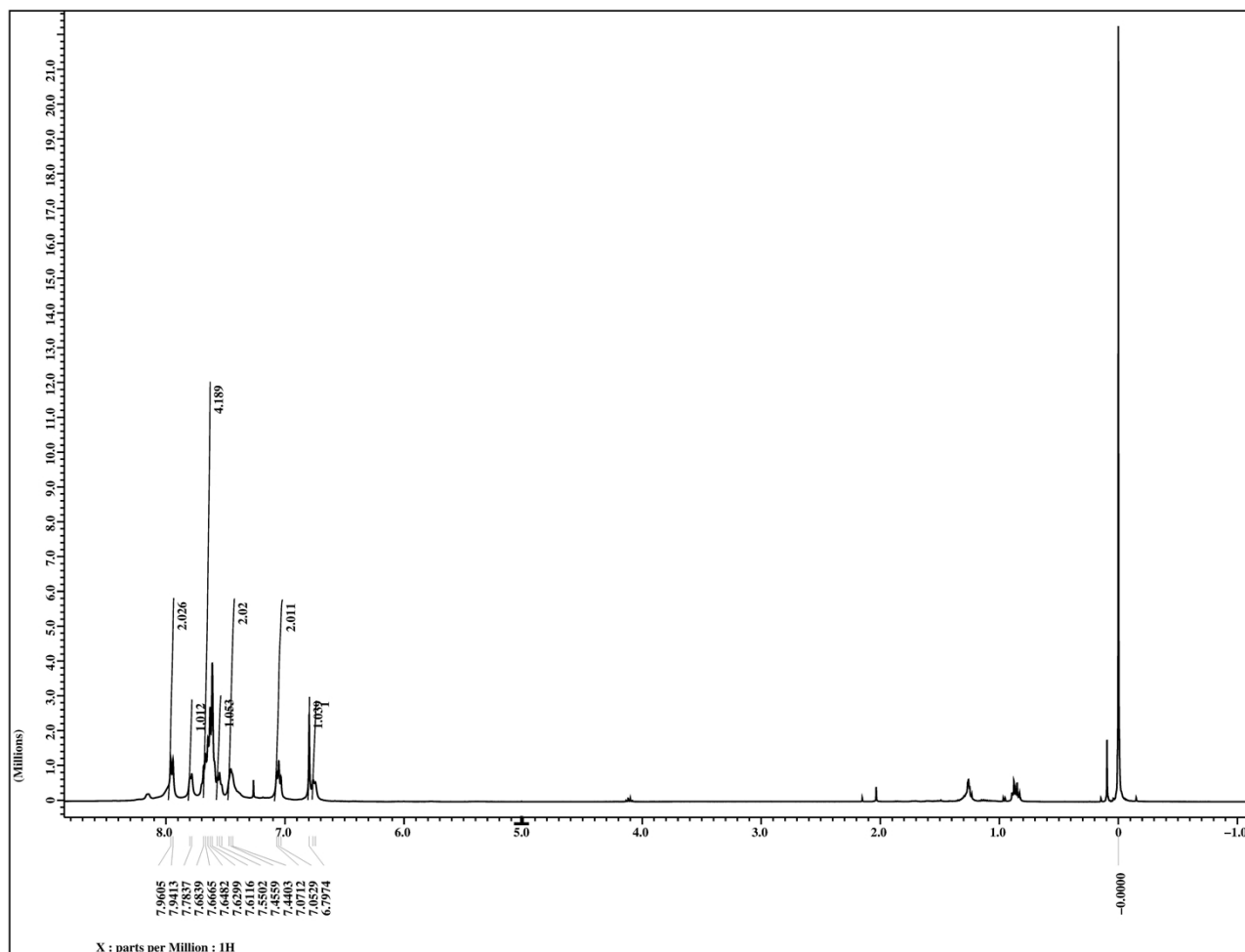
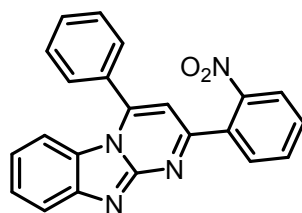


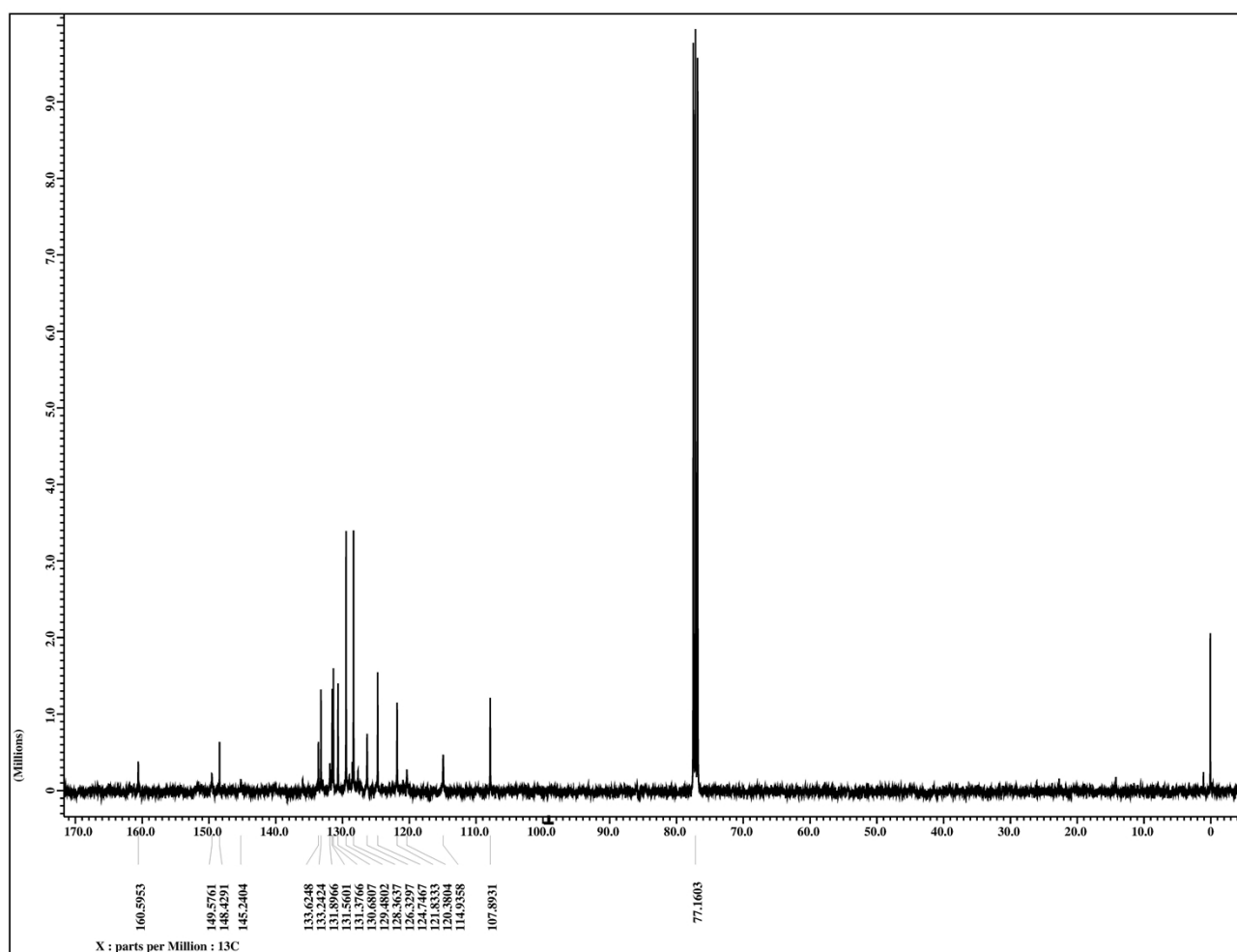


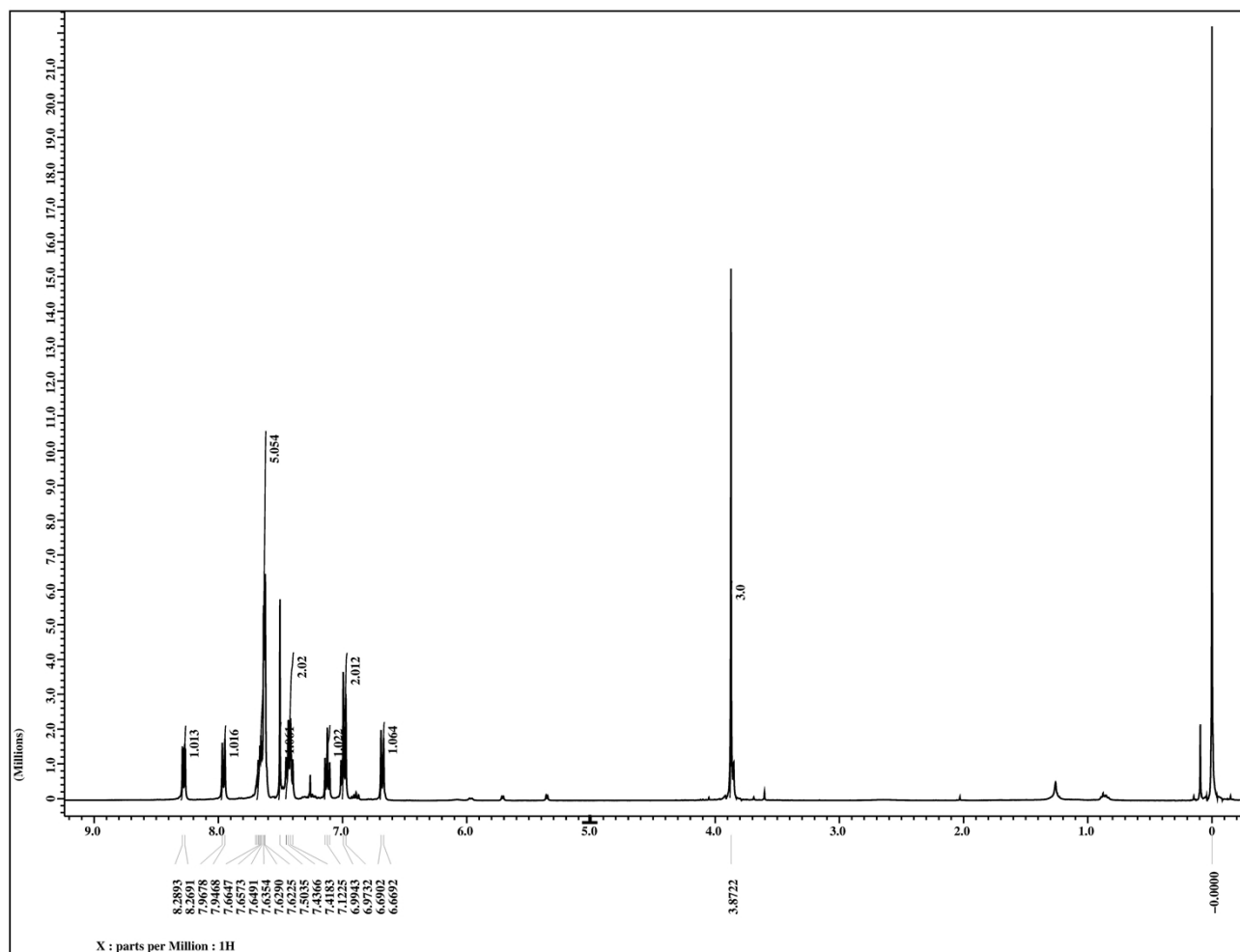
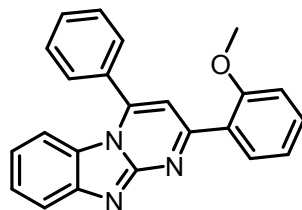


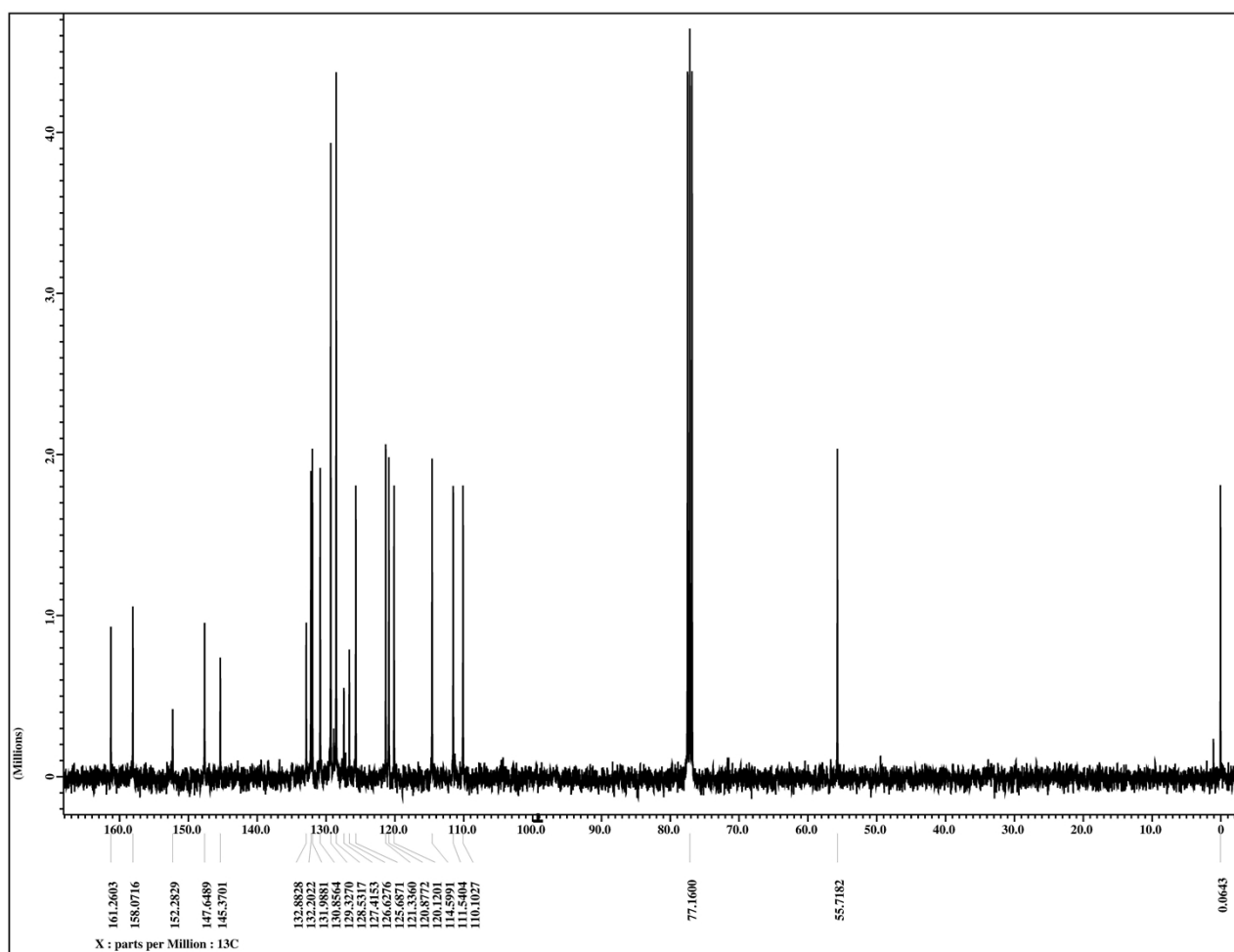


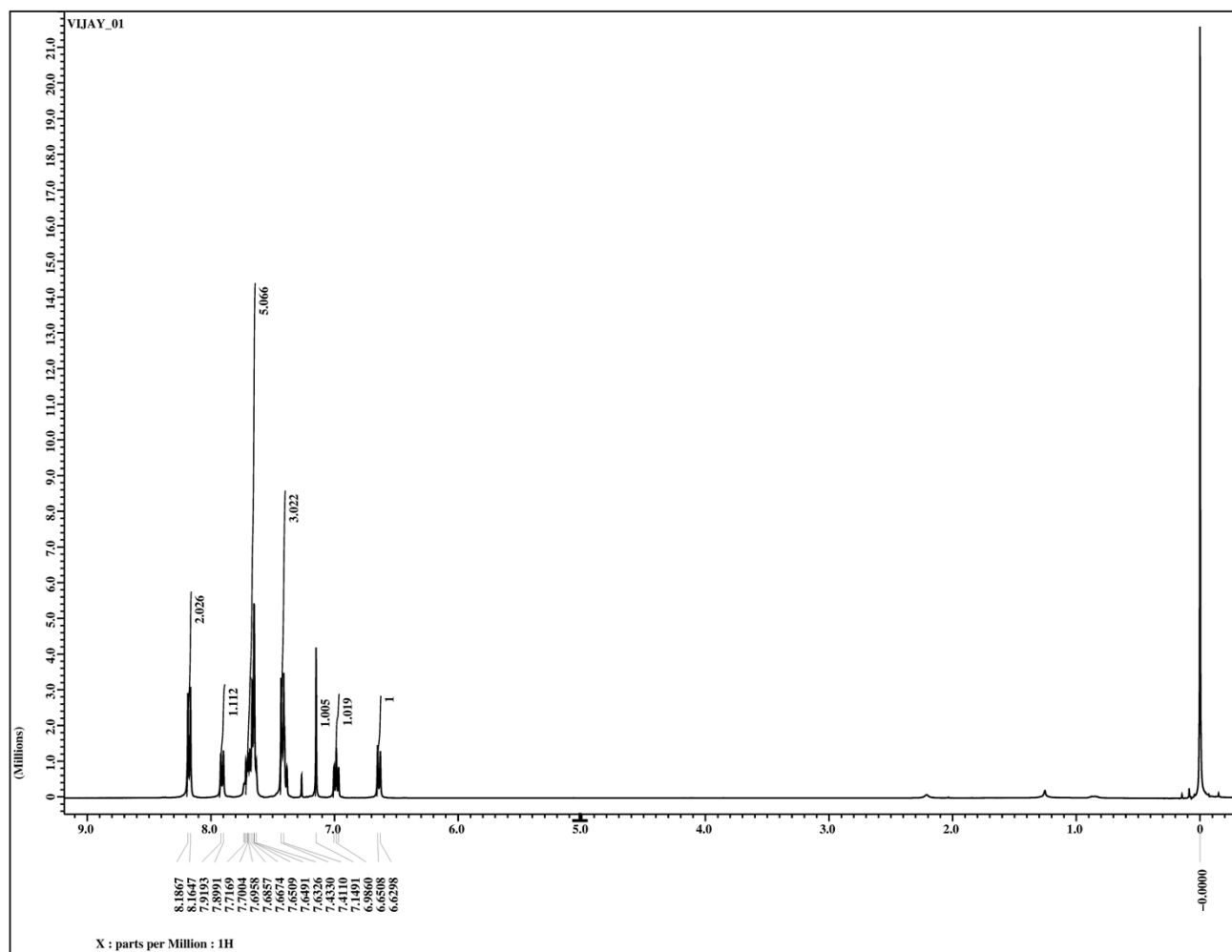
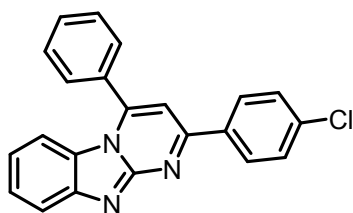


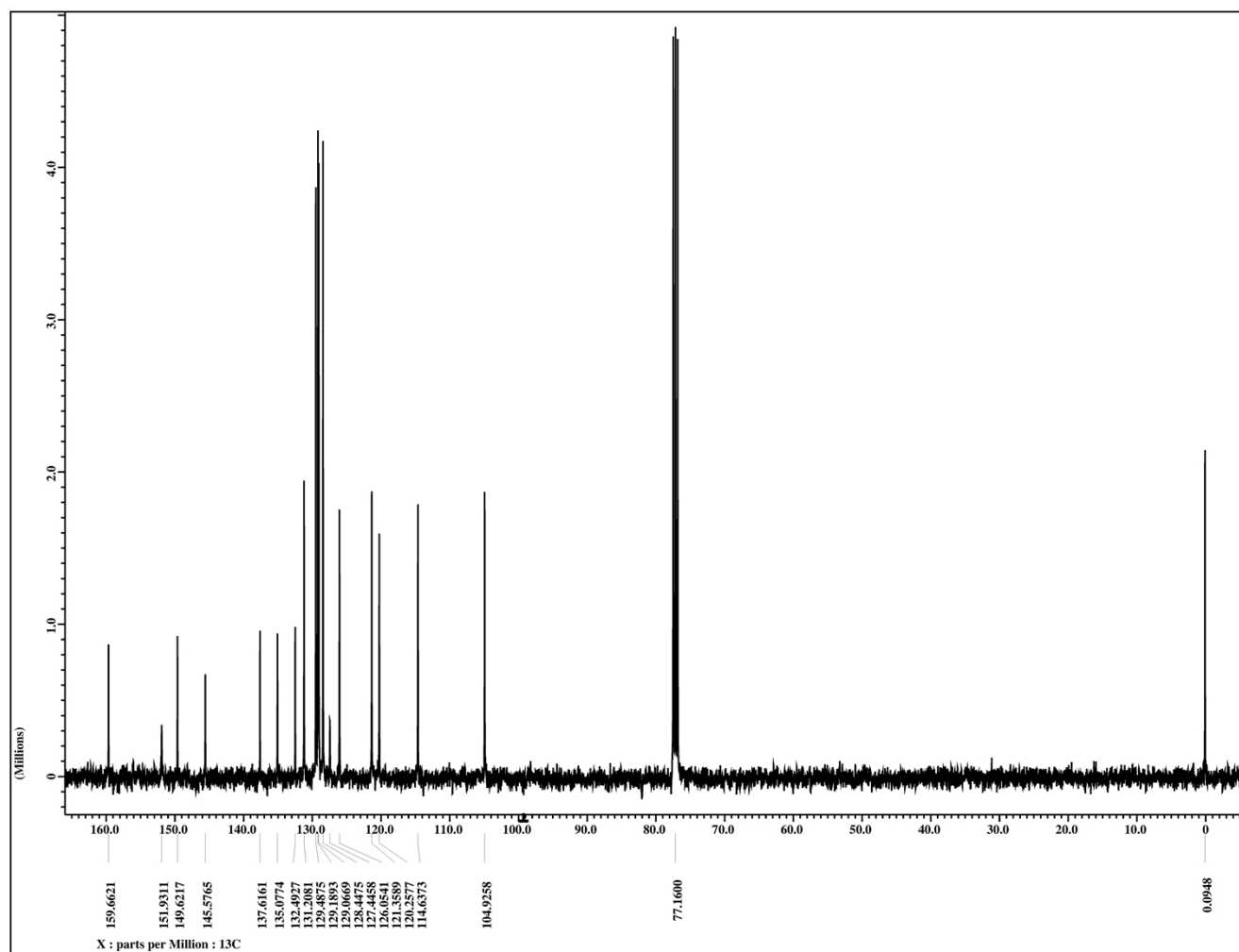


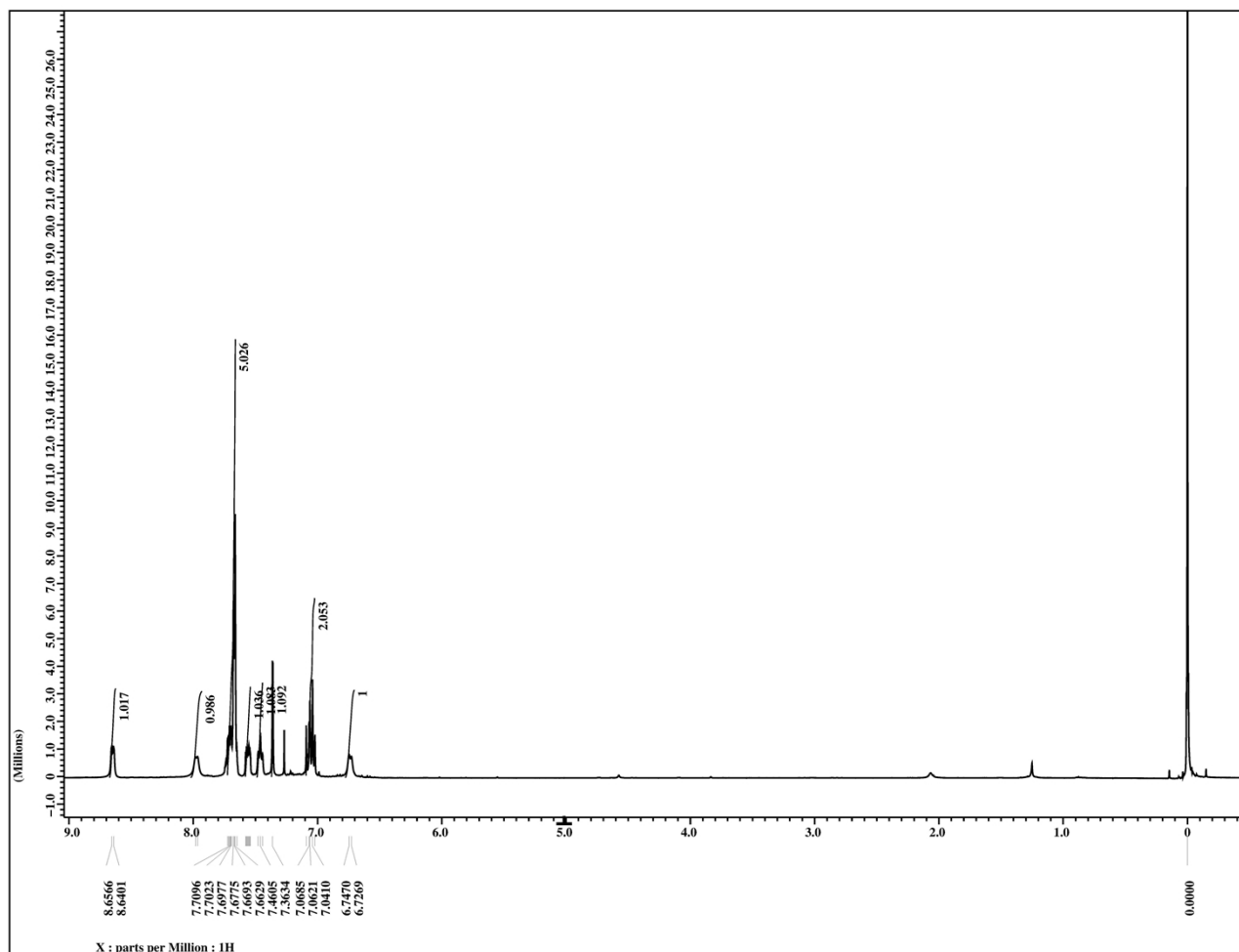
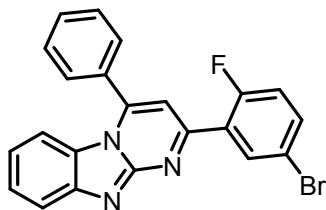


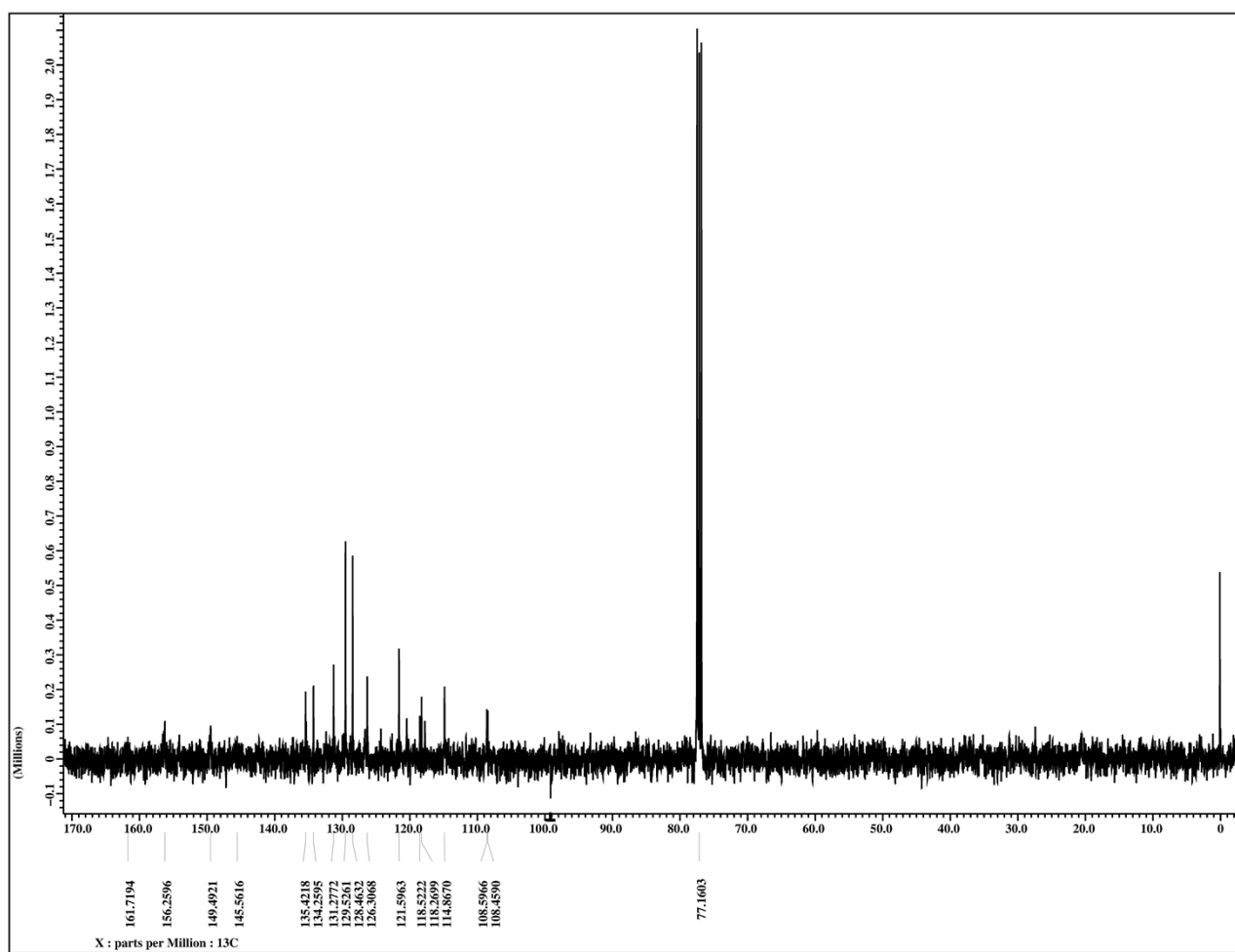


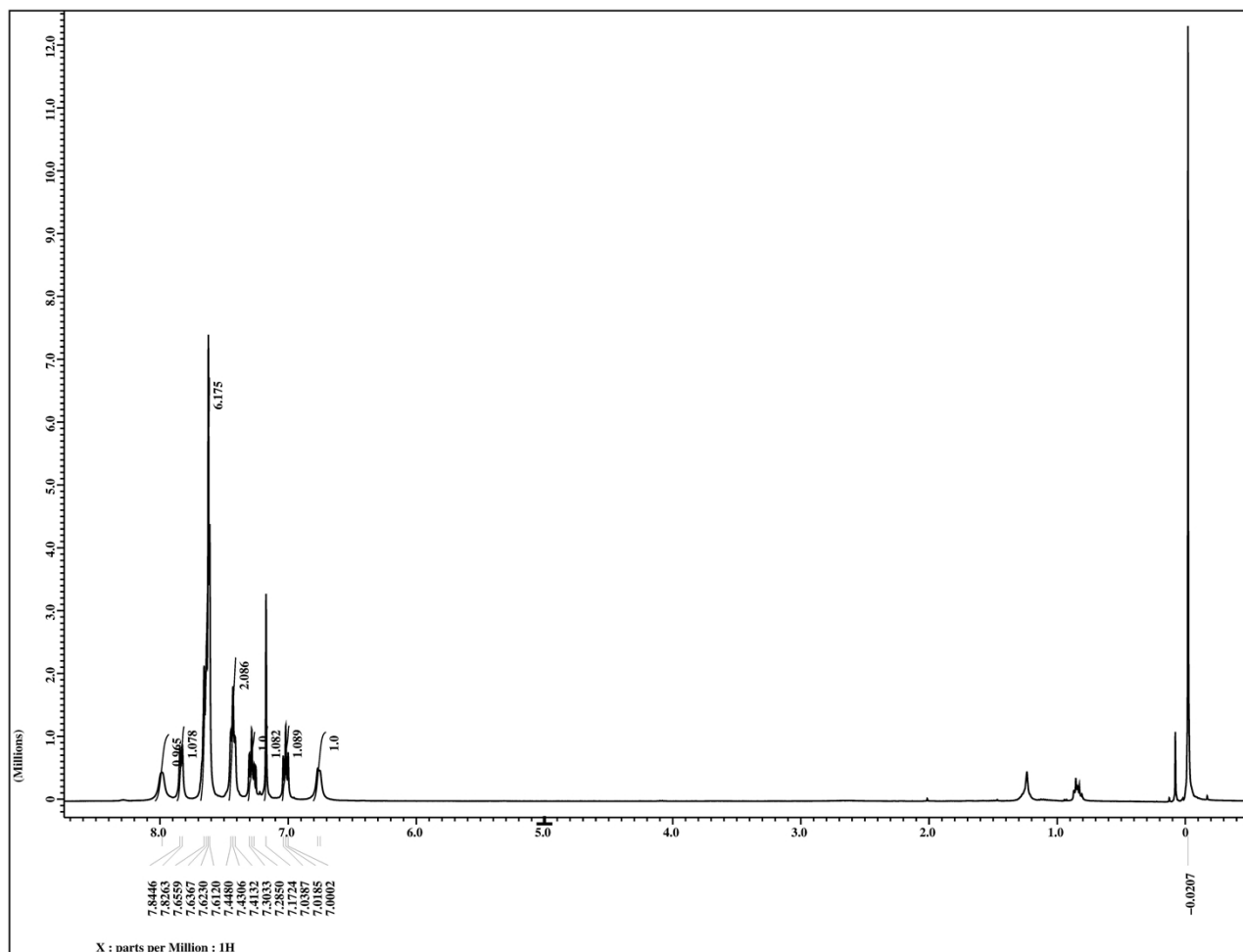
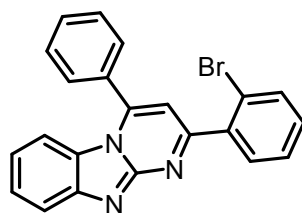












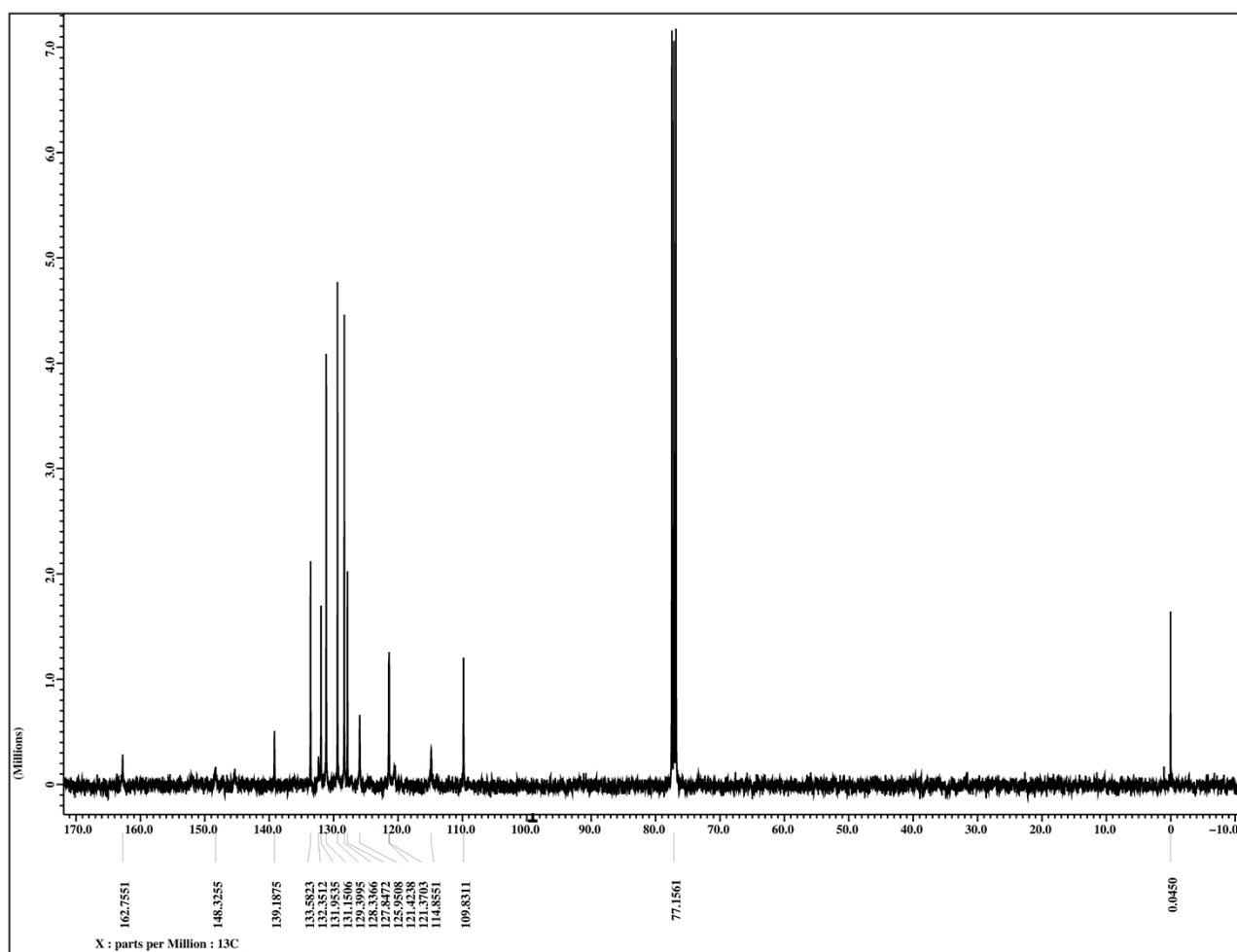


Figure S2

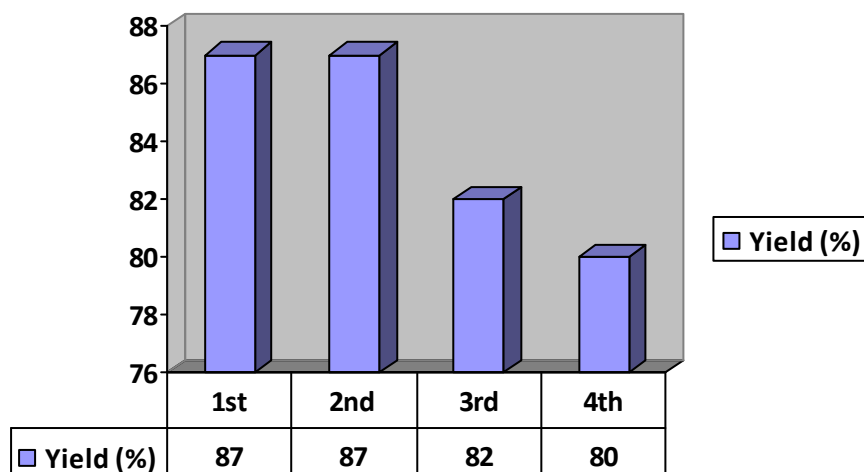


Figure S2: Reusability of the MSA catalyst.