

## Supporting Information

### Surface relief grating growth in thin films of mexylaminotriazine-functionalized glass-forming azobenzene derivatives

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### Contents

- I. Synthetic procedures and spectral data for compounds 4b-e (S2-S4)**
- II. Additional data on SRG growth for compounds 1 and 4a-e (S5)**
- III. NMR spectra of compounds 4a-e (S6-S21)**

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## I. Synthetic procedures and spectral data for compounds 4b-e

### Synthesis of Azo Glass 4b

Glass **4b** was synthesized from 4-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-ethylamino)-3',5'-dichloroazobenzene by a procedure similar to that used for compound **4a**. Yield: 90 %;  $T_g$  68 °C; FTIR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/KBr) 3300, 3052, 2955, 2919, 2848, 1709, 1629, 1598, 1577, 1568, 1536, 1515, 1451, 1384, 1358, 1244, 1192, 1140, 1125, 1101, 957, 887, 855, 822, 809, 798, 725, 671, 656 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 363 K) δ 8.83 (br s, 1H), 7.79 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (s, 2H), 6.93 (br s, 3H), 6.88 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 4.19 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.66 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.52 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.42 (br s, 2H), 3.25 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 2.86 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 6H), 1.18 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 164.4, 162.8, 156.6, 154.6, 151.7, 142.6, 140.2, 137.6, 135.2, 128.4, 126.3, 123.9, 120.7, 118.1, 111.8, 61.5, 49.2, 45.5, 40.4, 40.4, 27.7, 21.6, 12.4 ppm; UV-Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): λ<sub>max</sub> (ε) 435 nm (20 000); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>37</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 651.2473, found: 651.2473.

### Synthesis of Azo Glass 4c

Glass **4c** was synthesized from 4-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-ethylamino)-4'-phenylazoazobenzene by a procedure similar to that used for compound **4a**. Yield: 94 %;  $T_g$  64 °C; FTIR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/KBr) 3405, 3283, 3059, 2969, 2924, 2855, 1709, 1599, 1563, 1512, 1442, 1392, 1353, 1320, 1241, 1189, 1143, 1124, 1000, 851, 822, 810, 768, 735, 687 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 363 K) δ 8.29 (br s, 1H), 8.03 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (m, 3H), 7.41 (s, 2H), 6.90 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (br s, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 6.40 (br s, 1H), 6.33 (br s, 1H), 4.21 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.52 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.43 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.26 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 2.84 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 4.5 Hz, 3H), 2.24 (s, 6H), 1.19 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 166.5, 166.1, 164.4, 156.7, 154.4, 152.5, 152.2, 151.3, 143.3, 141.0, 137.4, 132.1, 129.9, 126.0, 124.2, 123.3, 123.1, 117.6, 111.8, 61.6, 49.2, 45.5, 40.4, 40.4, 27.7, 21.7, 12.4 ppm; UV-Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): λ<sub>max</sub> (ε) 475 nm (28 000); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 709.3446, found: 709.3453.

### Synthesis of Azo Glass 4d

To a stirred suspension of *N,N'*-carbonyldiimidazole (0.700 g, 4.32 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL) in a dry round-bottomed flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer was slowly added a solution of 2-[4-(*N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N*-ethylamino)phenylazo]-6-nitrobenzothiazole (1.07 g, 2.88 mmol) in dry DMF (7 mL) at ambient temperature, then the mixture was stirred for 18 h under nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was poured in water-saturated ethyl ether, then the precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with ethyl ether. The crude residue was redissolved in THF (20 mL), then 2-methylamino-4-methylamino-6-(2-aminoethylamino)-1,3,5-triazine (0.993 g, 3.46 mmol) was added and the mixture was refluxed for 18 h. The solvent was evaporated, then 1M aqueous HCl was added, then the precipitated product was collected by filtration and washed with 1M aq. HCl and H<sub>2</sub>O until the effluent was colorless. The residue was dissolved in acetone, then CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> were added. The layers were separated, the organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and the volatiles were thoroughly evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was filtered on a short silica pad with 10% acetone/CHCl<sub>3</sub> as eluent to yield, after thorough drying, 1.46 g of compound **4d** (2.13 mmol, 74%). *T*<sub>g</sub> 72 °C; FTIR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/KBr) 3407, 3304, 2970, 2923, 2857, 1709, 1600, 1566, 1517, 1437, 1354, 1329, 1309, 1271, 1192, 1140, 1114, 1074, 1043, 1014, 997, 911, 887, 826, 810, 752, 737 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 363 K) δ 8.92 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 9.1 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (br s, 1H), 8.11 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (s, 2H), 6.99 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (br s, 1H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 6.36 (br s, 1H), 6.30 (br s, 1H), 4.24 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.61 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.24 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 2.84 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 4.5 Hz, 3H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 1.22 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 182.3, 166.5, 166.0, 164.4, 157.0, 156.5, 154.4, 144.8, 142.7, 141.0, 137.4, 134.3, 123.7, 123.0, 122.0, 119.6, 117.6, 113.1, 61.5, 49.6, 46.1, 40.4, 40.4, 27.7, 21.7, 12.5 ppm; UV-Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): λ<sub>max</sub> (ε) 539 nm (24 000); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>12</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S: 685.2776, found: 685.2780.

### Synthesis of Azo Glass 4e

To a stirred suspension of *N,N'*-carbonyldiimidazole (0.757 g, 4.67 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL) in a dry round-bottomed flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer was slowly added a solution of 2-[4-(*N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N*-ethylamino)phenylazo]-5-nitrothiazole (1.00 g, 3.11 mmol) in dry DMF (7 mL) at

ambient temperature, then the mixture was stirred for 18 h under nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was poured in water, NaCl (0.1 g) was added, and the mixture was stirred for 5 min, after which a dark blue precipitate had formed. The precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with water. The crude residue was redissolved in THF (20 mL), then 2-methylamino-4-methylamino-6-(2-aminoethylamino)-1,3,5-triazine (1.07 g, 3.73 mmol) was added and the mixture was refluxed for 18 h. The solvent was evaporated, then 1M aqueous HCl was added, then the precipitated product was collected by filtration and washed with 1M aq. HCl and H<sub>2</sub>O until the effluent was colorless. The residue was dissolved in acetone, then CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> were added. The layers were separated, the organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and the volatiles were thoroughly evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was redissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and filtered to remove insoluble precipitate, then the filtrate was recovered and the volatiles were thoroughly removed under reduced pressure to give 1.44 g of compound **4e** (2.27 mmol, 73%). T<sub>g</sub> 73 °C; FTIR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/KBr) 3395, 3283, 3094, 2971, 2932, 2860, 1710, 1626, 1600, 1561, 1517, 1442, 1336, 1290, 1238, 1188, 1133, 1116, 1072, 997, 887, 839, 828, 810, 788, 735, 698, 687 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 363 K) δ 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.26 (br s, 1H), 7.86 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (s, 2H), 7.02 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (br s, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 6.36 (br s, 1H), 6.30 (br s, 1H), 4.24 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.21 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.82 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 4.5 Hz, 3H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 1.23 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 181.5, 164.0, 162.7, 162.0, 156.5, 155.5, 155.2, 145.9, 145.5, 142.6, 139.9, 137.7, 124.1, 118.1, 113.7, 61.6, 49.7, 46.3, 40.4, 40.4, 27.7, 21.6 ppm; UV-Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): λ<sub>max</sub> (ε) 571 nm (18 000); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>12</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S: 657.2439, found: 657.2444.

## II. Additional data on SRG growth for compounds 1 and 4a-e

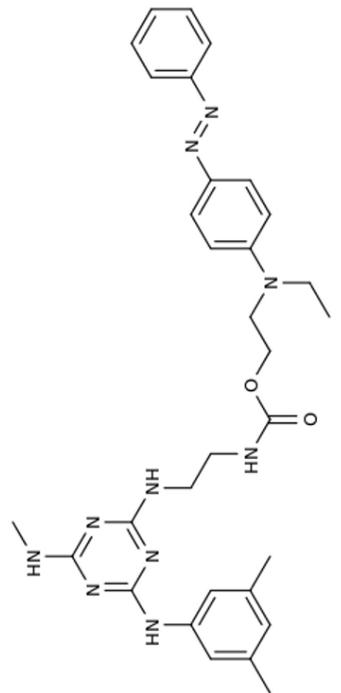
**Table S1.** Final diffraction efficiencies for SRG of compounds 1 and 4a-e. Wavelengths and irradiances used are indicated.

Wavelength (nm)	Irradiance (mW/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Compound	Diffraction Efficiency (%)
488	80	1	10.2
		4a	4.2
		4b	4.3
		4c	4.8
496.5	31	1	4.5
		4a	2.1
		4b	3.4
		4c	5.2
514	95	1	10.1
		4a	1.4
		4b	2.8
		4c	5.9
532	157	1	11.5
		4a	0.88
		4b	5.1
		4c	7.1
532	344	1	10.6
		4a	3.1
		4b	4.3
		4c	5.6
532	521	1	6.5
		4a	3.3
		4b	6.3
		4c	4.2
532	809	4d	0.83
		4e	0.055
532	1509	4d	0.20
		4e	0.0090
632	76	1	8.6
		4c	6.3

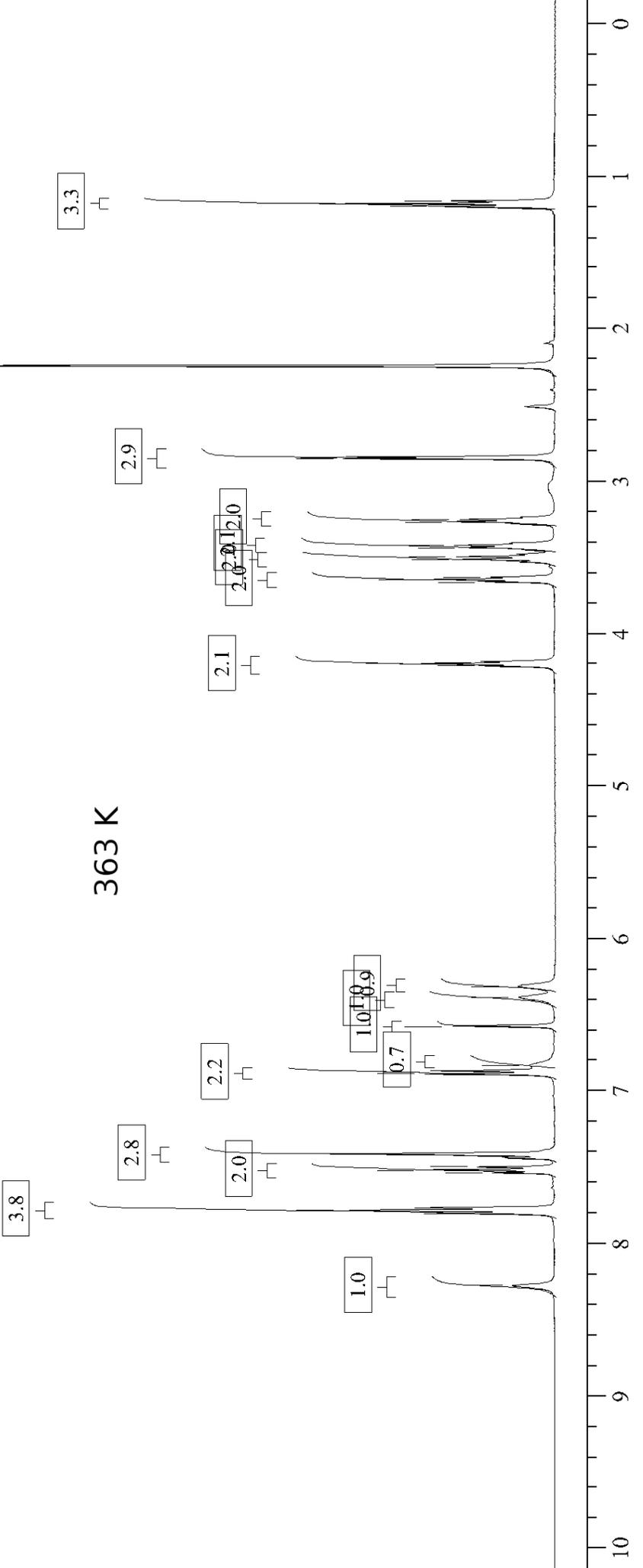


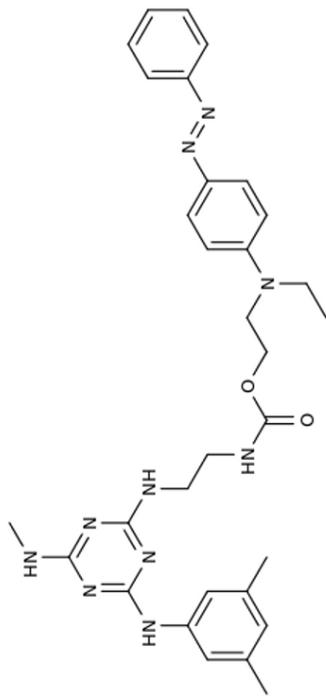
### **III. NMR spectra of compounds 4a-e**

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 7.534  
 7.516  
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 7.411  
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 6.866  
 6.833  
 6.573  
 6.385  
 6.314  
 4.211  
 4.196  
 4.182  
 3.658  
 3.643  
 3.629  
 3.512  
 3.494  
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 1.160

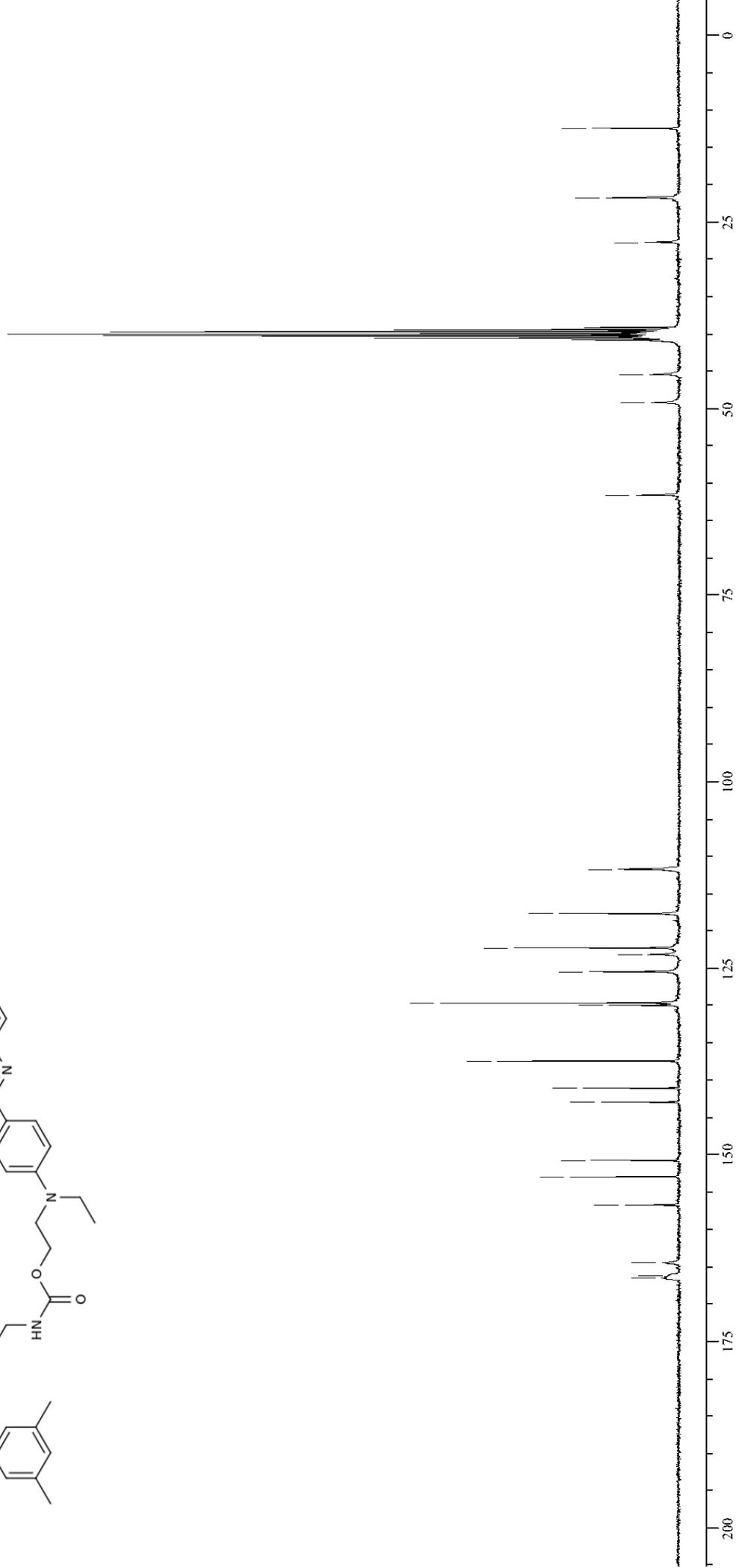


363 K

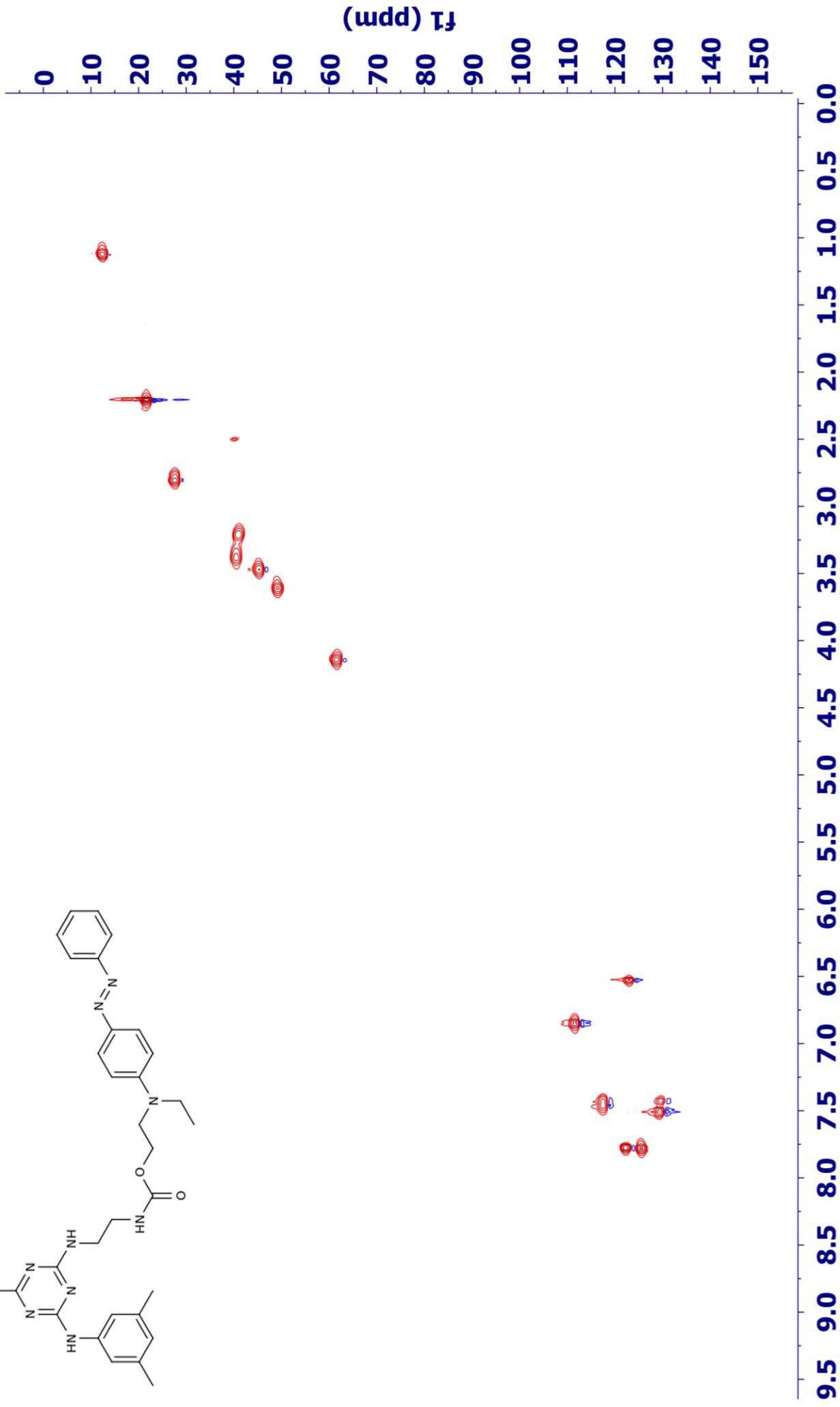
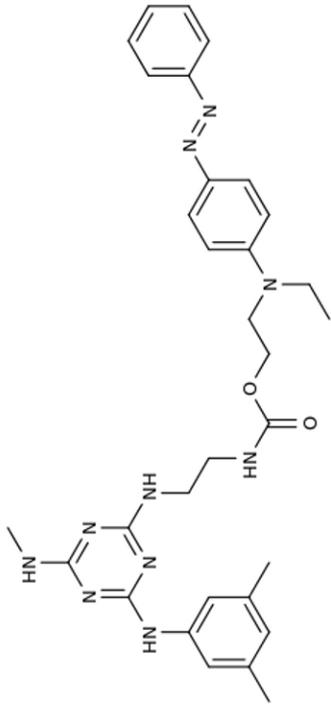




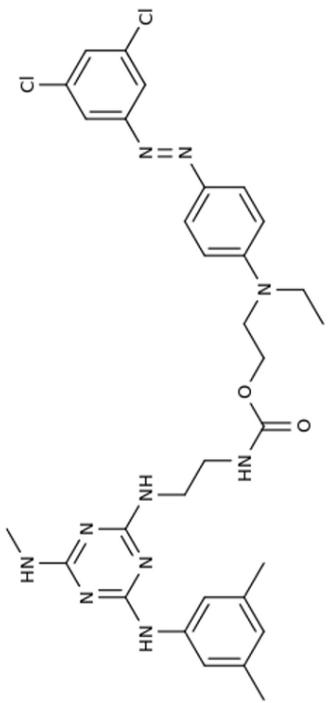
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- 61.540
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- 123.139
- 125.442
- 129.605
- 129.940
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- 142.918
- 150.747
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- 156.684
- 164.406
- 166.101
- 166.514



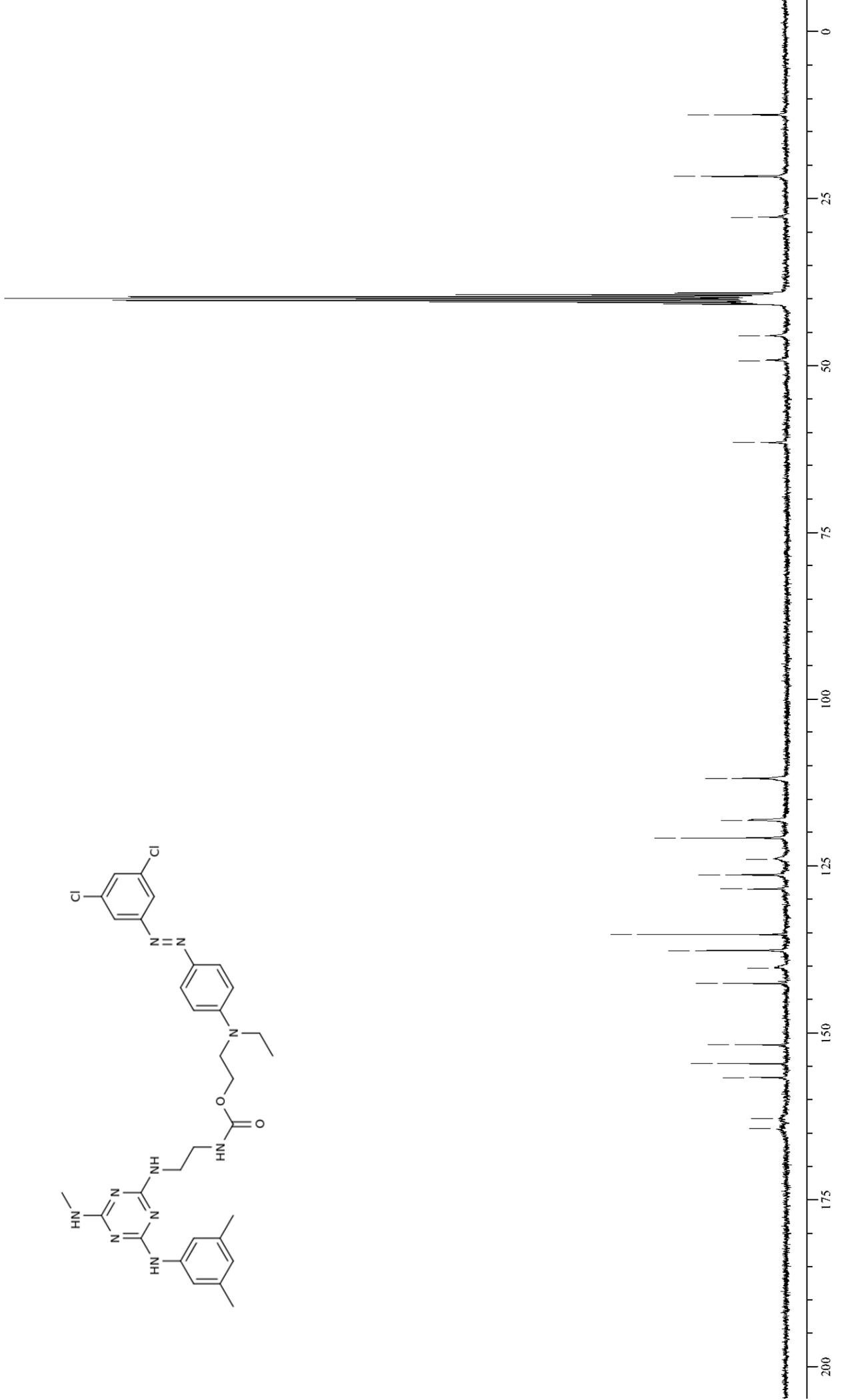
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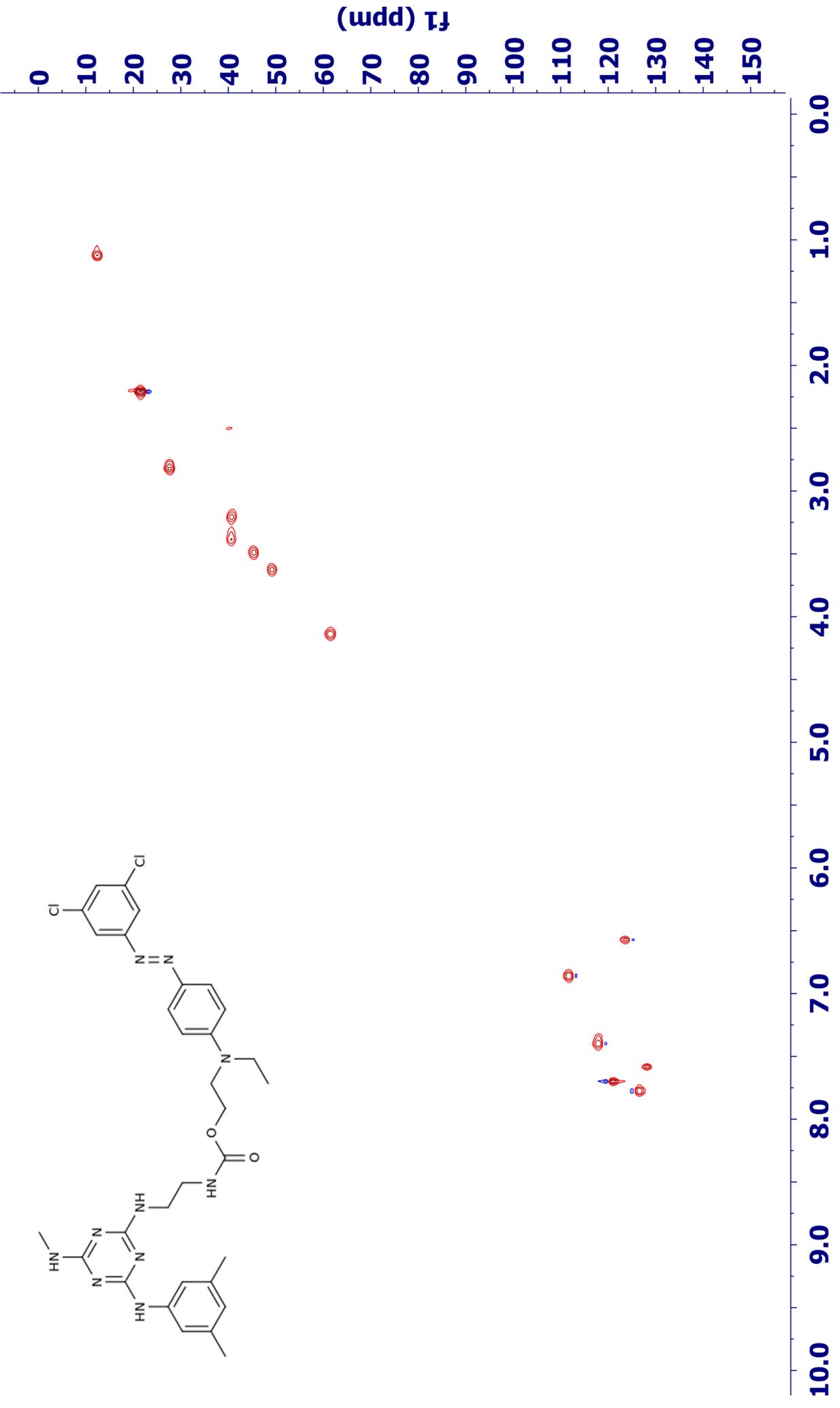




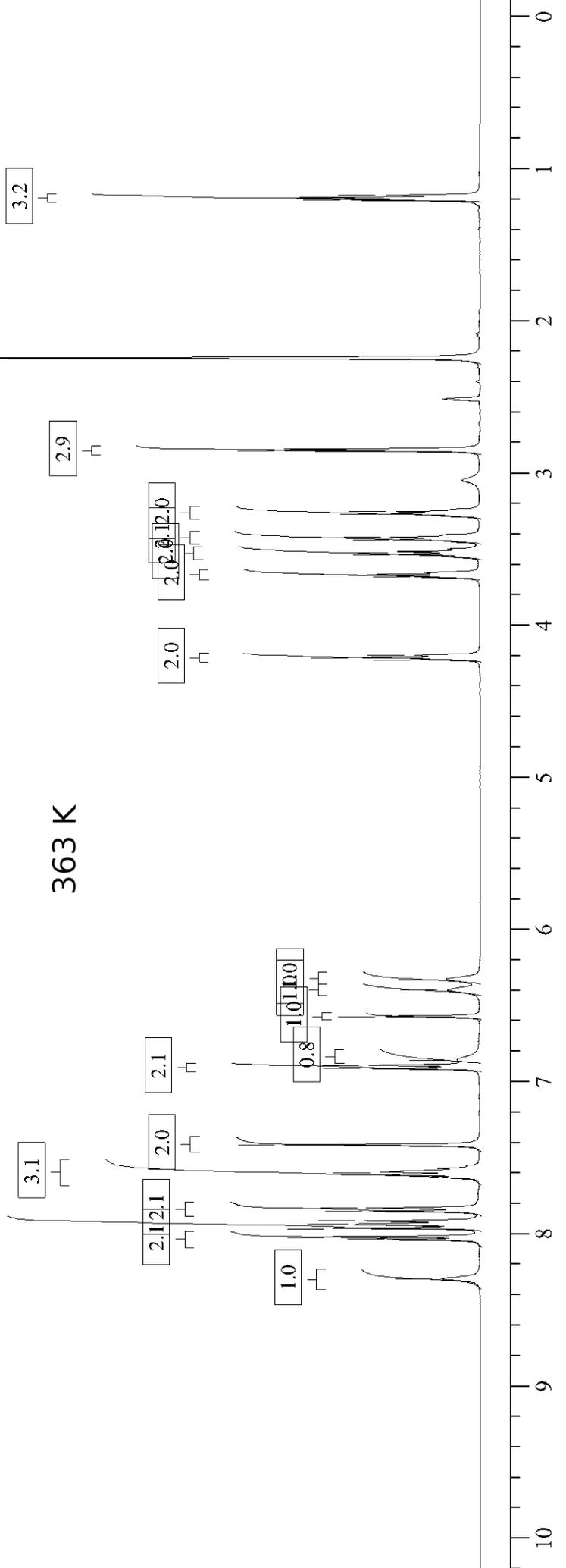
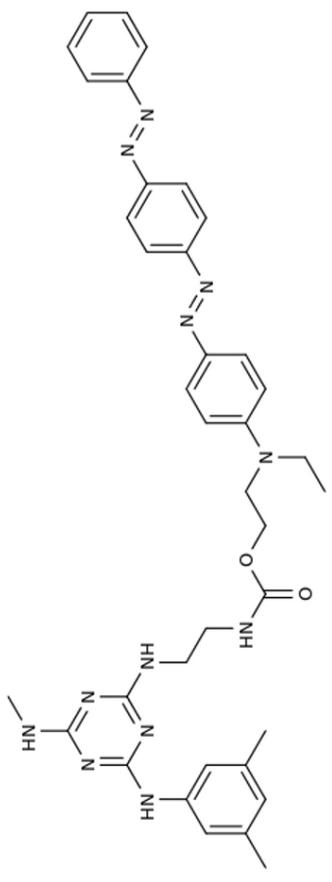


- 12.411
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- 27.735
- 45.511
- 49.186
- 61.499
- 111.845
- 118.086
- 120.735
- 123.889
- 126.289
- 128.404
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- 137.604
- 140.242
- 142.558
- 151.713
- 154.588
- 156.635
- 162.802
- 164.360



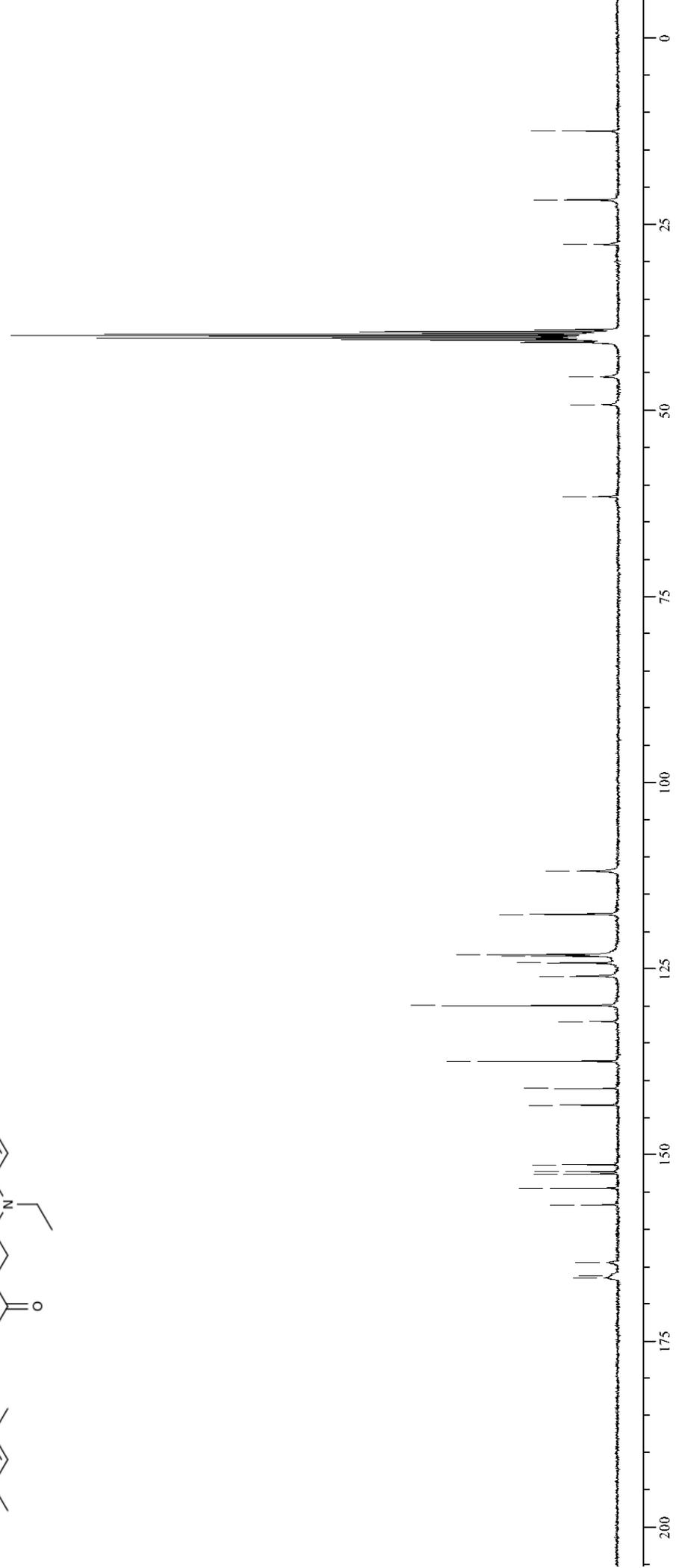
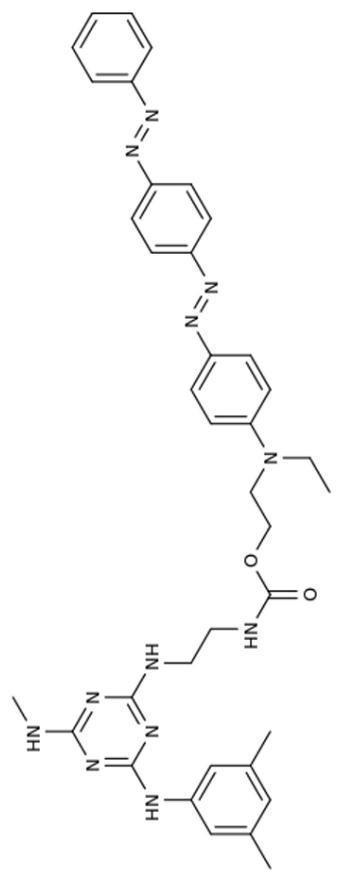


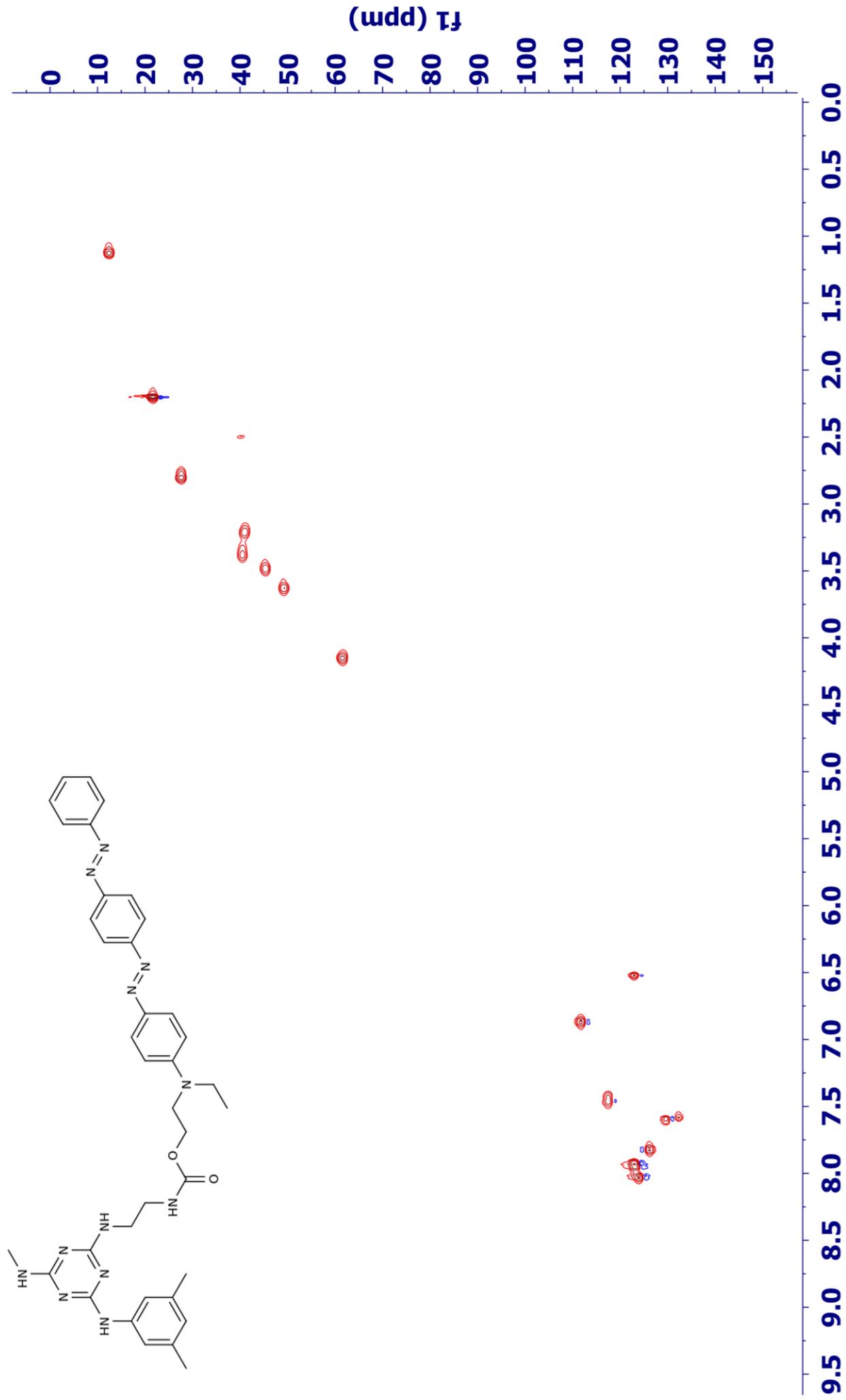
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 6.888  
 6.857  
 6.568  
 6.396  
 6.325  
 4.222  
 4.208  
 4.194  
 3.681  
 3.666  
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 3.514  
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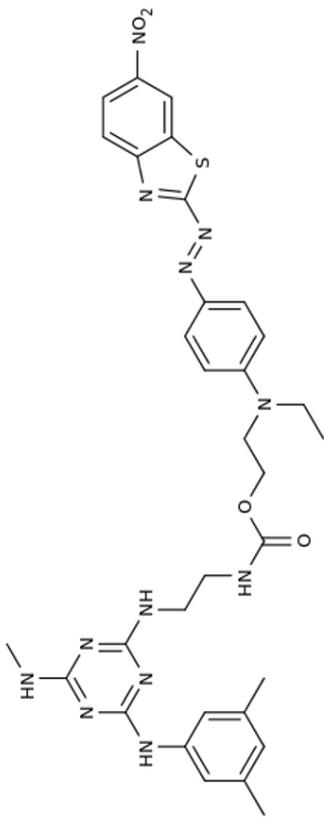


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125.967  
129.912  
132.064  
137.400  
141.033  
143.276  
151.289  
152.210  
152.518  
154.427  
156.669  
164.416  
166.130  
166.502







363 K

1.239  
1.222  
1.199

3.3

6.0  
2.227

2.9

2.830  
2.841  
3.235  
3.249  
3.401  
3.415  
3.603  
3.620  
3.756  
3.770  
3.784

4.230  
4.243  
4.257

6.299  
6.361  
6.553

6.850  
6.977  
7.000

7.390

7.867  
7.889  
8.100  
8.122  
8.261  
8.288

8.916

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2.0

1.9

1.0  
1.0  
1.0

1.9

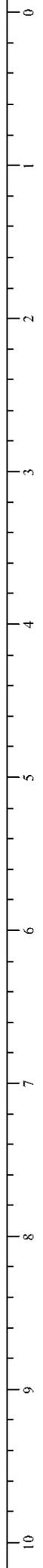
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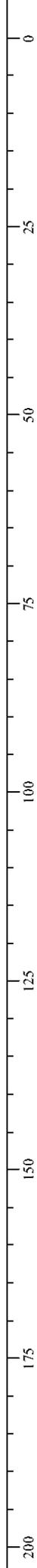
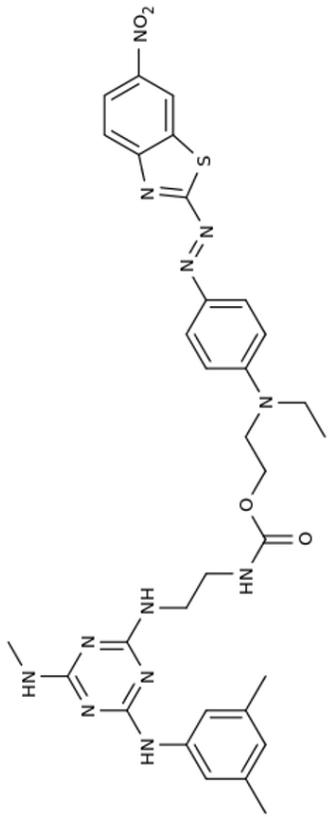
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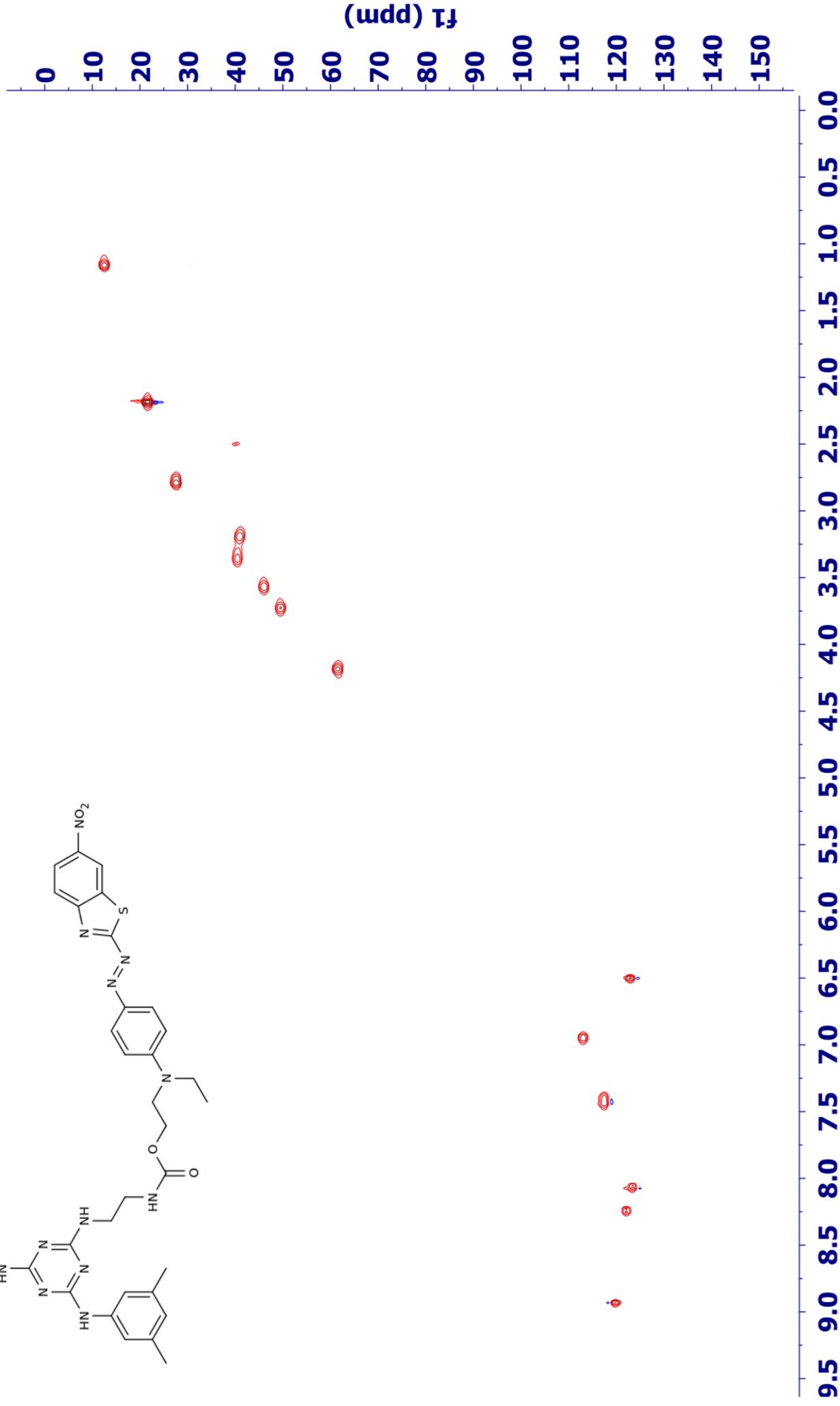
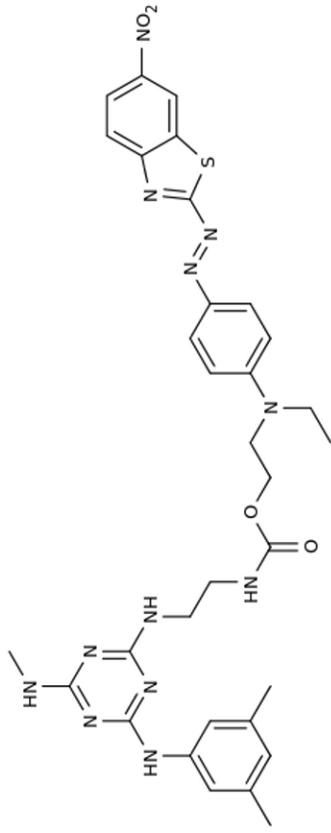
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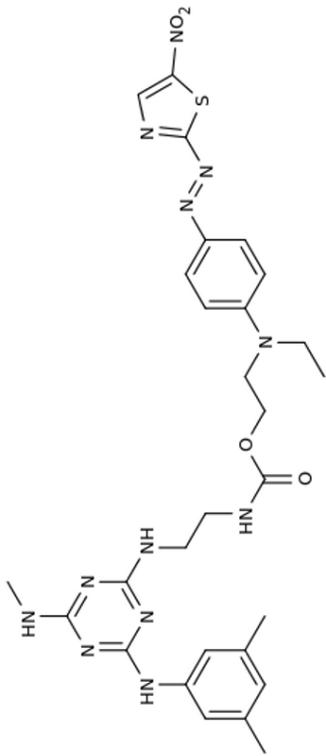
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0.8









363 K

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1.208

2.230

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3.222  
3.372

3.386  
3.631  
3.649

3.786  
3.800  
3.814

4.227  
4.241  
4.255

6.301  
6.355

6.561

6.852  
7.012  
7.036

7.382

7.874  
7.850

8.260

8.746

6.6

3.2

3.3

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2.1

1.9  
1.9

1.9

1.1  
1.1

1.0  
1.0

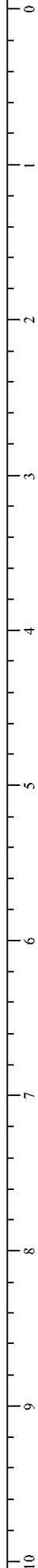
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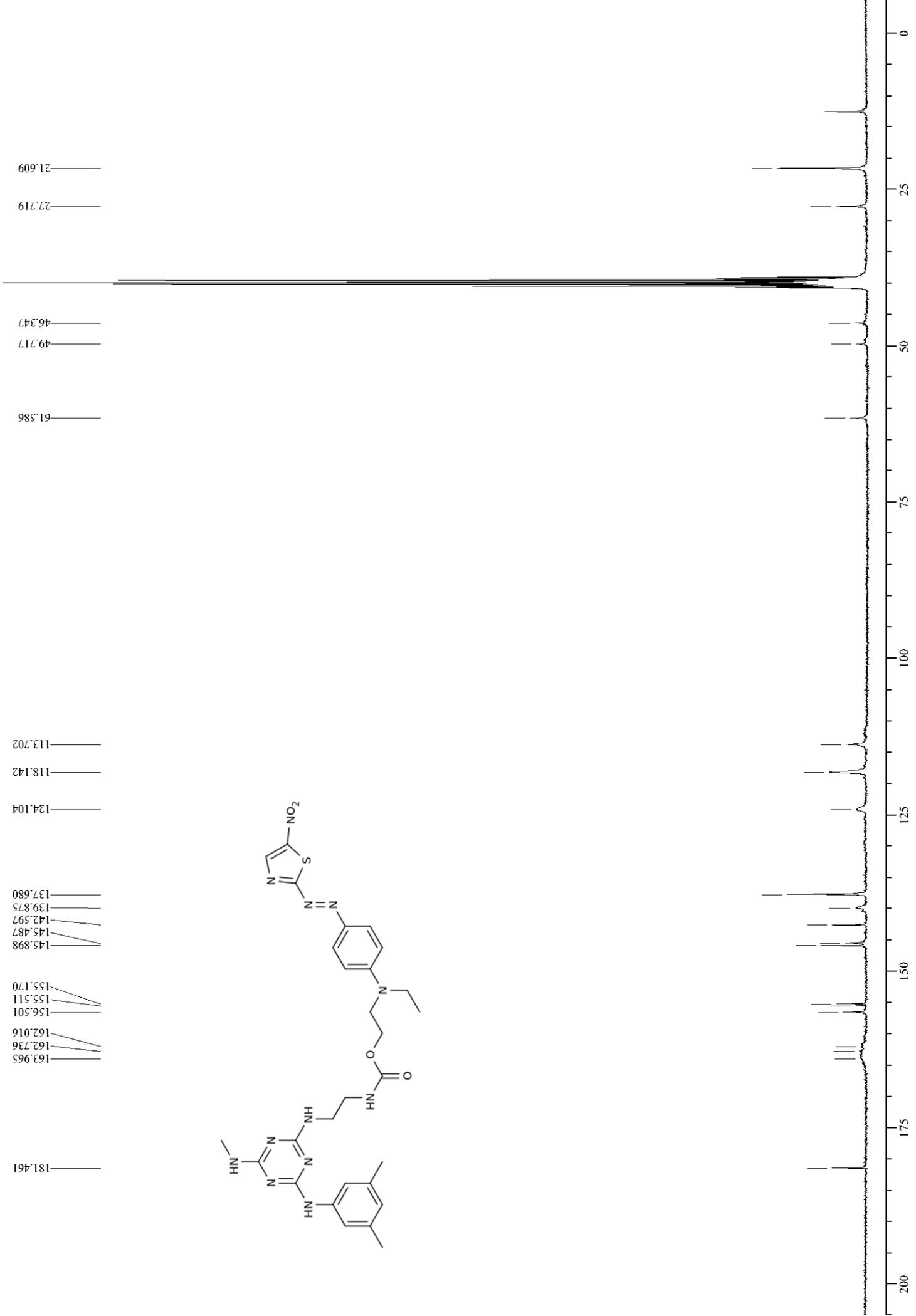
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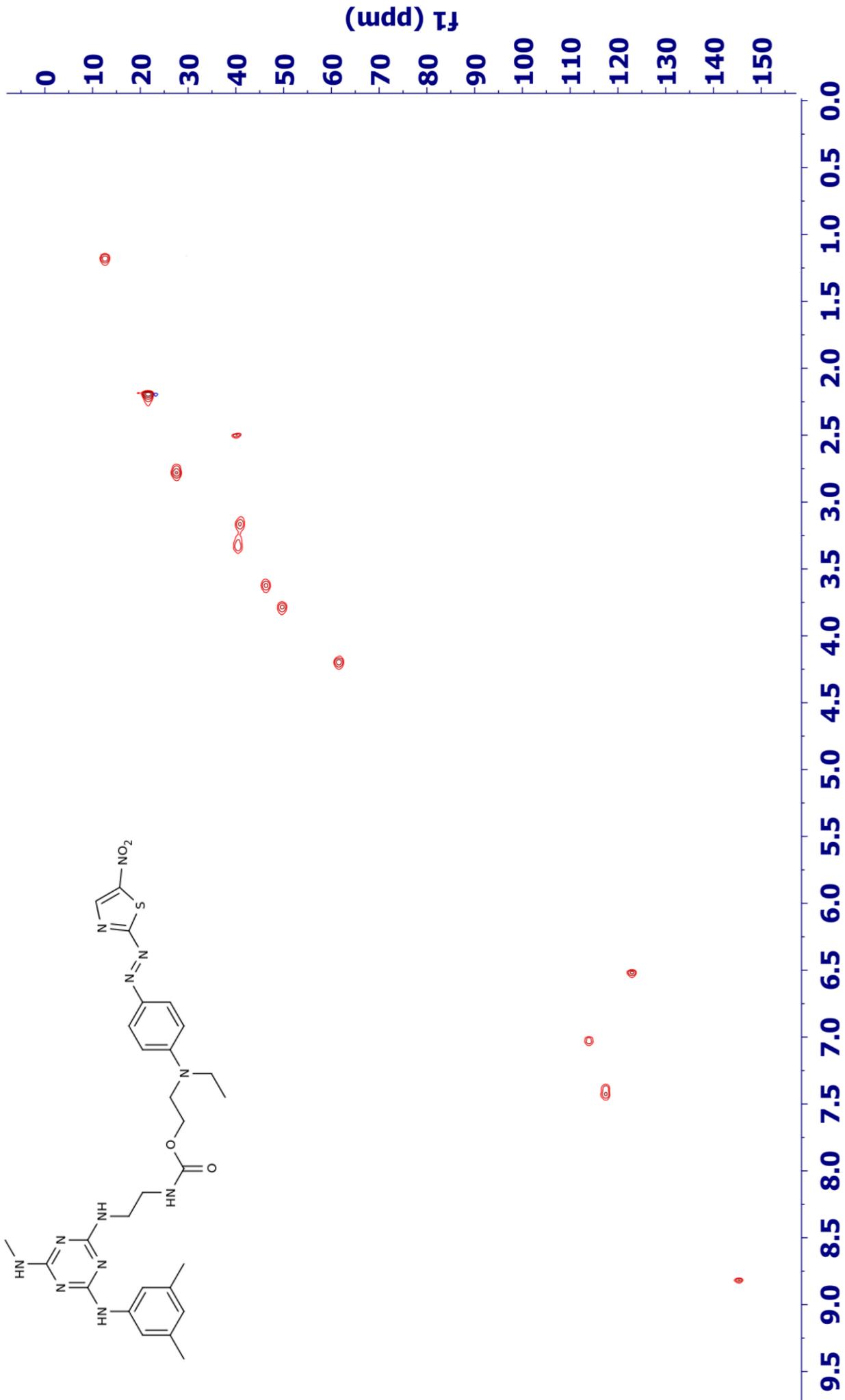
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1.0

0.8







0

10

20

30

40

50

60

70

80

90

100

110

120

130

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150

9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0