

Electronic Supplementary Information

Towards a General Ruthenium-Catalyzed Hydrogenation of Secondary and Tertiary Amides to Amines

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

All the chemicals were purchased and used without further purification. All hydrogenation reactions were set up in a 300 mL autoclave (PARR Instrument Company). In order to avoid unspecific reductions, all catalytic reactions were carried out in 8 mL glass vials, which were set in an alloy plate and placed inside the autoclave. The autoclave was then purged with 30 bar of hydrogen for three times before setting the pressure to the desired value. Conversions and yields of hydrogenation reactions were determined by GC-FID, HP 6890 with FID detector, column HP530 m x 250 mm x 0.25 μ m. Mass spectra were recorded on a GC-MS Agilent 5973 Network equipped with a mass selective detector. NMR spectra were recorded using Bruker AV-300 (300 MHz for ^1H) and Bruker AV-400 (400 MHz for ^1H) spectrometers. NMR chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield from tetramethylsilane and were referenced to the residual proton resonance and the natural abundance ^{13}C resonance of the solvents. Coupling constants (J) are expressed in Hz. Abbreviations used in the reported NMR experiments: b, broad; s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet. All measurements were carried out at room temperature unless otherwise stated. HRMS measurements of the all isolated products were performed using the electrospray ionization technique in an UPLC (ultra-pressure) equipment.

2. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

General procedure for the hydrogenation of amides: A 8 mL glass vial containing a stirring bar was sequentially charged with the amide (0.5 mmol), Ru(acac)₃ (2-6 mol%), triphos (4-12 mol%), Yb(OTf)₃.H₂O (4-12 mol%), *n*-hexadecane (50 mg) as an internal standard and either THF, etilenglicol diethylether or 1,4-dioxane (2 mL) as solvent. Afterwards, the reaction vial was capped with a septum equipped with a syringe needle and set in the alloy plate, which was then placed into a 300 mL autoclave. Once sealed, the autoclave was purged three times with 30 bar of hydrogen, then pressurized to 5 bar and placed into an aluminium block, which was preheated at 150 °C. After the corresponding time (15-60 h), the autoclave was cooled in an ice bath, and the remaining gas was carefully released. Finally, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and analysed by GC. To determine the isolated yield of the amines, no internal standard was added and the reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-heptane/ethyl acetate mixtures) to give the corresponding amines.

3. ADDITIONAL TABLES

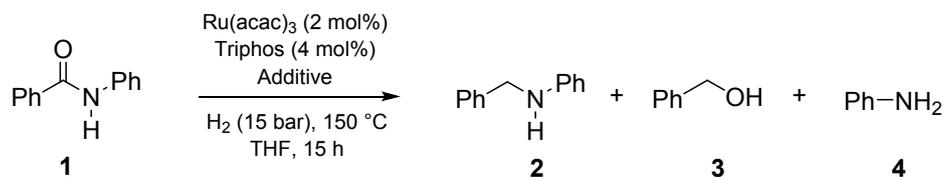
Table S1. Hydrogenation of benzanilide (**1**) with [Ru/Triphos/Hf(OTf)₄] system: Influence of the hydrogen pressure and temperature

PhC(=O)Nc1ccccc1 **1**
 $\xrightarrow[\text{THF, 15 h}]{\text{Ru(acac)}_3 \text{ (2 mol\%)} \\ \text{Triphos (4 mol\%)} \\ \text{Hf(OTf)}_4 \text{ (4 mol\%)}, \text{H}_2, T \text{ (}^\circ\text{C)}}$
PhCCNc1ccccc1 **2** + PhC(O)Cc1ccccc1 **3** + Nc1ccccc1 **4**

Entry ^[a]	T (°C)	H ₂ (bar)	Conv. (%) ^[b]	2 (%) ^[b]	3 (%) ^[b]	4 (%) ^[b]
1	170	50	100	46	45	18
2	150	50	100	42	51	37
3	130	50	96	30	67	64
4	150	25	100	57	39	26
5	150	15	100	63	32	19

[a] Standard reaction conditions: benzanilide **1** (100.6 mg, 0.5 mmol), Ru catalyst (2 mol%), triphos (4 mol%), Hf(OTf)₄ (4 mol%), THF (2 mL) and H₂ (15-50 bar) at 130-170 °C for 15 h. [b] Conversion of **1** and yields of **2**, **3**, and **4** were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard. In some cases, variable amounts of *N*-phenylpyrrolidine (5-15%) were produced following acid promoted ring-opening of THF.

Table S2. Hydrogenation of benzanilide (**1**) with [Ru/Triphos/additive] system: screening of various Lewis and Bronsted acids as co-catalyst



Entry ^[a]	Additive (mol%)	Conv. (%) ^[b]	2 (%) ^[b]	3 (%) ^[b]	4 (%) ^[b]
1	Mg(OTf) ₂ (4)	96	3	90	87
2	Sc(OTf) ₃ (4)	100	71	27	20
3	Mn(OTf) ₂ (4)	100	10	89	90
4	Fe(OTf) ₂ (4)	97	51	43	42
5	Ni(OTf) ₂ (4)	100	71	19	20
6	Zn(OTf) ₂ (4)	100	65	32	28
7	Al(OTf) ₃ (4)	100	72	27	22
8	Ga(OTf) ₃ (4)	100	63	35	24
9	In(OTf) ₃ (4)	100	61	38	29
10	La(OTf) ₃ (4)	100	54	45	41
11	Hf(OTf) ₄ (4)	100	63	32	19
12	Ce(OTf) ₃ (4)	100	62	40	35
13	Yb(OTf) ₃ .H ₂ O (2)	100	66	35	28
14	Yb(OTf)₃.H₂O (4)	100	74	24	15
15	Yb(OTf) ₃ .H ₂ O (6)	100	72	25	13
16	MeSO ₃ H (1)	2	-	2	2
17	MeSO ₃ H (2)	8	-	8	8
18	MeSO ₃ H (4)	68	36	29	24
19	HNTf ₂ (2)	98	3	77	66
20	HNTf ₂ (4)	100	42	59	55
21	HOTf (16)	84	41	39	26

[a] Standard reaction conditions: benzanilide **1** (100.6 mg, 0.5 mmol), Ru(acac)₃ (2 mol%), triphos (4 mol%), additive (2-16 mol%), THF (2 mL) and H₂ (15 bar) at 150 °C during 15 h. [b] Conversion of **1** and yields of **2**, **3**, and **4** were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard. In some cases, variable amounts of *N*-phenylpyrrolidine (5-15%) were produced following acid promoted ring-opening of THF.

Table S4. Hydrogenation of benzanilide (**1**) with [Ru/L/Yb(OTf)₃·H₂O] system: screening of different phosphorus ligands

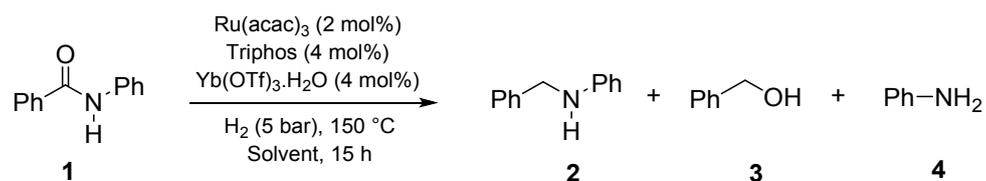
$$\text{Ph-C(=O)-NH-Ph} \xrightarrow[\text{THF, 15 h}]{\text{H}_2 \text{ (5 bar), 150 }^\circ\text{C}}$$

$$\text{Ph-CH}_2\text{-NH-Ph} + \text{Ph-CH(OH)-Ph} + \text{Ph-NH}_2$$

1 **2** **3** **4**

Entry ^[a]	Ligand	Conv. (%) ^[b]	2 (%) ^[b]	3 (%) ^[b]	4 (%) ^[b]
1		100	85	14	6
2		-	-	-	-
3		-	-	-	-
4 ^[c]		53	-	-	-
5		2	-	-	-
6		-	-	-	-
7		-	-	-	-
8		1	-	-	-
9		-	-	-	-
10		-	-	-	-

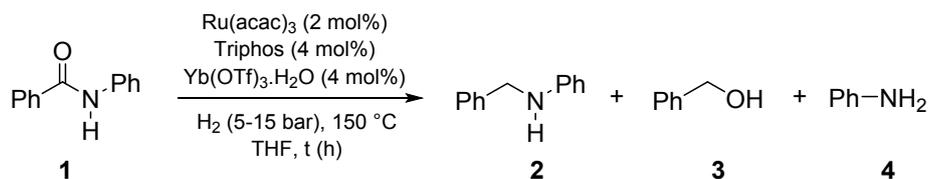
[a] Standard reaction conditions: benzanilide **1** (100.6 mg, 0.5 mmol), Ru(acac)₃ (2 mol%), ligand (4 mol%), Yb(OTf)₃·H₂O (4 mol%), THF (2 mL) and H₂ (5 bar) at 150 °C during 15 h. [b] Conversion of **1** and yields of **2**, **3**, and **4** were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard. In some cases, variable amounts of *N*-phenylpyrrolidine (5-10%) were produced following Yb(OTf)₃·H₂O promoted ring-opening of THF. [c] The main products observed were hydrogenation ring products. (Ad = adamantyl).

Table S5. Hydrogenation of benzanilide (**1**) with [Ru/Triphos/Yb(OTf)₃.H₂O] system: Influence of the solvent

Entry ^[a]	Solvent	Conv. (%) ^[b]	2 (%) ^[b]	3 (%) ^[b]	4 (%) ^[b]
1	THF	100	85	14	6
2	2-Me-THF	96	65	27	24
3	MCPE	62	32	32	31
4	Tetrahydropyrane	100	79	16	9
5	1,4-Dioxane	100	67	33	29
6	Isopropanol	100	55	36	-
7	Trifluoroethanol	79	28	48	52
8	t-Amyl alcohol	26	1	25	25
9	Ethylene glycol	100	19	82	-
10	Propanediol	100	6	94	7
11	Ethylene glycol diethylether	66	19	44	35
12 ^[c]	Ethylene glycol diethylether	100	68	29	7
13	Toluene	53	36	21	19

[a] Standard reaction conditions: benzanilide (0.5 mmol), Ru(acac)₃ (2 mol%), triphos (4 mol%), Yb(OTf)₃.H₂O (4 mol%), solvent (2 mL) and H₂ (5 bar) at 150 °C during 15 h. [b] Conversion of **1** and yields of products **2**, **3** and **4** were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard. [c] Run at 45 h.

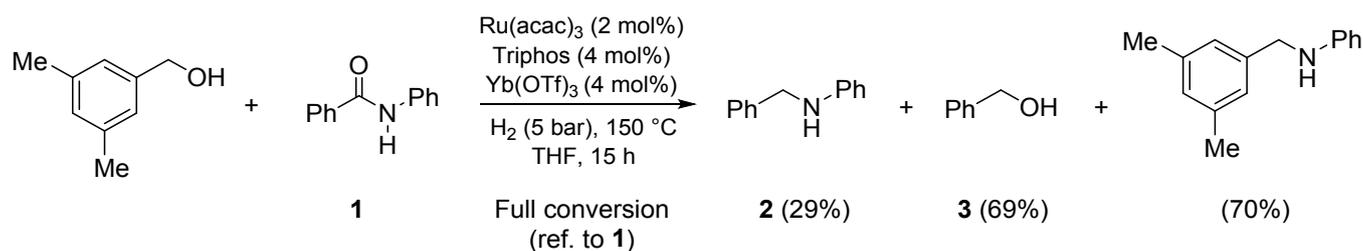
Table S6. Hydrogenation of benzanilide (**1**) with [Ru/Triphos/Yb(OTf)₃.H₂O] system: yield/time profile at 5 and 15 bars H₂



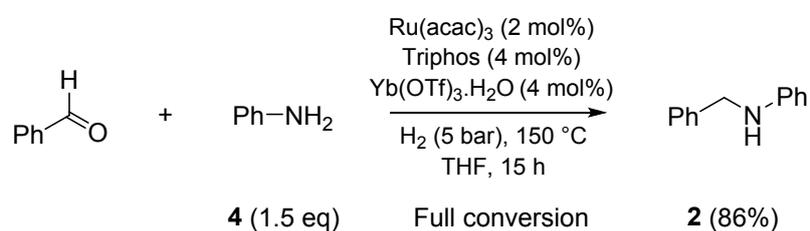
Entry ^[a]	H ₂ (bar)	t (h)	Conv. (%) ^[b]	2 (%) ^[b]	3 (%) ^[b]	4 (%) ^[b]	Sel. 2 (%)
1	15	0.5	9	-	7	7	-
2		1	53	6	47	47	11
3		2	81	19	63	64	23
4		5	98	44	54	51	45
5		15	100	74	24	15	74
6		25	100	78	20	6	78
7	5	0.5	4	-	3	3	-
8		1	23	3	20	20	5
9		2	64	17	47	46	27
10		5	77	32	46	44	42
11		15	100	85	14	6	85
12		25	100	88	6	-	88

[a] Standard reaction conditions: benzanilide **1** (100.6 mg, 0.5 mmol), Ru catalyst (2 mol%), triphos (4 mol%), Yb(OTf)₃.H₂O (4 mol%), THF (2 mL) and H₂ (5 or 15 bar) at 150 °C during 0.5-25 h. [b] Conversion of **1** and yields of **2**, **3**, and **4** were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard. Variable amounts of *N*-phenylpyrrolidine (5-10%) were produced following Yb(OTf)₃.H₂O promoted ring-opening of THF.

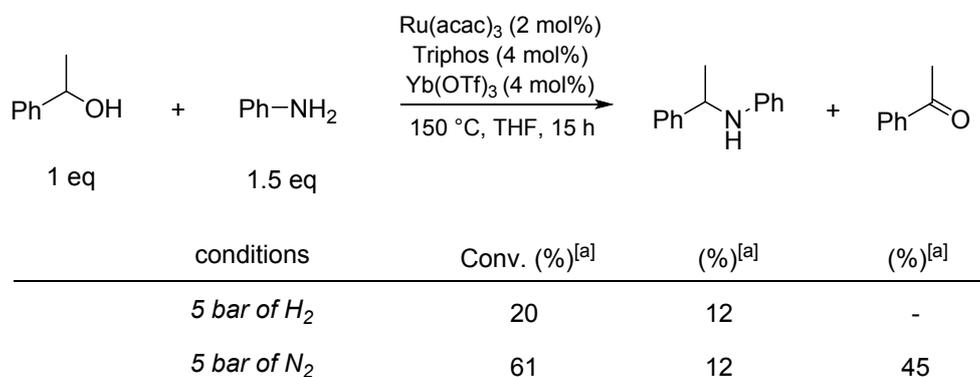
4. ADDITIONAL SCHEMES



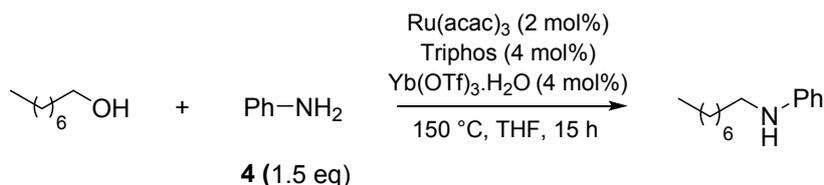
Scheme S1. Reaction control experiment using 3,5-dimethylbenzyl alcohol and benzanilide **1** as starting materials. Conversion of **1** and yields of the products were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard.



Scheme S2. Reaction control experiment using benzaldehyde and aniline as starting materials. Conversion of benzaldehyde and yield of product **2** were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard.

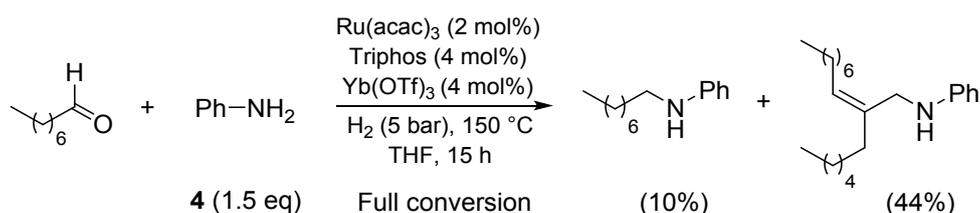


Scheme S3. Reaction control experiments using 1-phenylethanol and aniline as starting materials. [a] Conversion of 1-phenylethanol and yield of the products were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard.

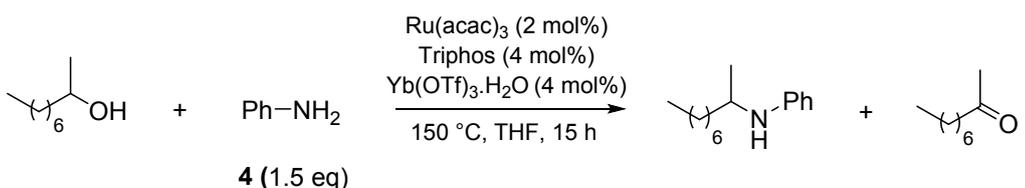


conditions	Conv. (%) ^[a]	(%) ^[a]
5 bar of H ₂	95	92
5 bar of H ₂ without Yb(OTf) ₃ ·H ₂ O	-	-
5 bar of H ₂ without Ru(acac) ₃ /Triphos	-	-
5 bar of N ₂	90	55
5 bar of N ₂ without Yb(OTf) ₃ ·H ₂ O	-	-
5 bar of N ₂ without Ru(acac) ₃ /Triphos	6	-

Scheme S4. Reaction control experiments using octanol and aniline as starting materials. [a] Conversion of octanol and yield of the product were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard. In some cases, variable amounts of *N*-phenylpyrrolidine (5-10%) were produced following Yb(OTf)₃·H₂O promoted ring-opening of THF.

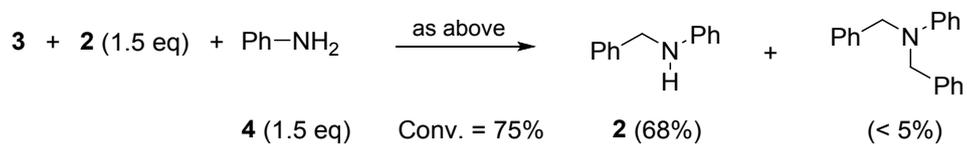
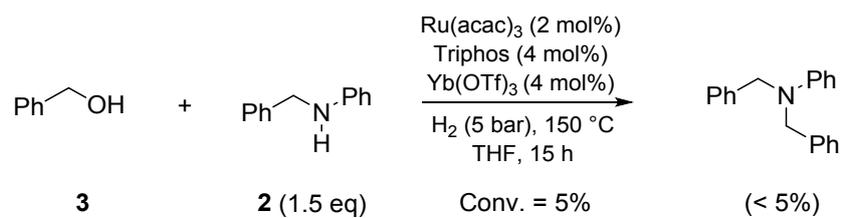


Scheme S5. Reaction control experiment using octanal and aniline as starting materials. Conversion of octanal and yield of the products were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard.



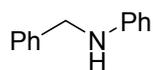
conditions	Conv. (%) ^[a]	(%) ^[a]	(%) ^[a]
5 bar of H ₂	5	-	-
5 bar of H ₂ without Yb(OTf) ₃ ·H ₂ O	-	-	-
5 bar of H ₂ without Ru(acac) ₃ /Triphos	-	-	-
5 bar of N ₂	49	-	45
5 bar of N ₂ without Yb(OTf) ₃ ·H ₂ O	-	-	-
5 bar of N ₂ without Ru(acac) ₃ /Triphos	-	-	-

Scheme S6. Reaction control experiments using 2-nonanol and aniline as starting materials. [a] Conversion of 2-nonanol and yield of the products were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard. In some cases, variable amounts of *N*-phenylpyrrolidine (5-10%) were produced following Yb(OTf)₃·H₂O promoted ring-opening of THF.

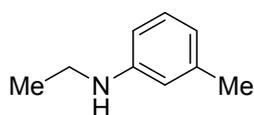


Scheme S7. Competitive experiments using N-benzylaniline **2** as starting material. Conversion of **3** and yield of the products were calculated by GC using hexadecane as internal standard.

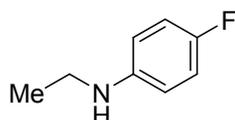
5. CHARACTERIZATION DATA OF THE ISOLATED PRODUCTS



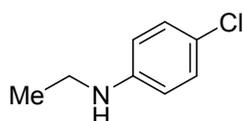
N-benzylaniline¹. Isolated yield: 80%. GC-MS (m/z, M⁺ 183), major peaks found: 183 (75%), 106 (20%), 91 (100%), 77 (19%), 65 (16%), 51 (9%). (The NMR spectrum is consistent with the reported data). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.32-7.15 (m, 5H), 7.14-7.03 (m, 2H), 6.63 (tt, *J* = 7.3, 1.1, 1H), 6.58-6.51 (m, 2H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.92 (bs, NH). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 148.25 (C), 139.54 (C), 129.38 (2xCH), 128.75 (2xCH), 127.63 (2xCH), 127.34 (CH), 117.68 (CH), 112.96 (2xCH), 48.44 (N-CH₂).



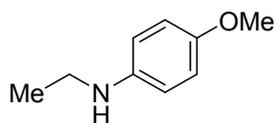
N-ethyl-3-methylaniline². Isolated yield: 82%. GC-MS (m/z, M⁺ 135), major peaks found: 135 (39%), 120 (100%), 91 (16%), 77 (8%), 65 (8%). (The NMR spectrum is consistent with the reported data). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.12-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 7.2, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 6.4, 2H), 3.17 (q, *J* = 7.1, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.1, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 148.56 (C), 139.09 (C), 129.21 (CH), 118.34 (CH), 113.70 (CH), 110.11 (CH), 38.66 (N-CH₂), 21.76 (CH₃), 15.05 (CH₃).



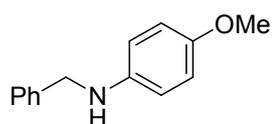
N-ethyl-4-fluoroaniline³. Isolated yield: 82%. GC-MS (m/z, M⁺ 139), major peaks found: 139 (30%), 124 (100%), 95 (12%), 83 (9%). (The NMR spectrum is consistent with the reported data). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 6.95-6.84 (m, 2H), 6.59-6.50 (m, 2H), 3.12 (q, *J* = 7.1, 2H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 155.95 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 234.6, C), 144.81 (C), 115.75 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 22.2), 113.78 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 7.4), 39.39 (N-CH₂), 14.38 (CH₃). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃): -124.65(-131.79) (m, 1F).



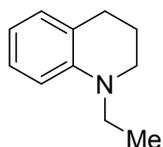
N-ethyl-4-chloroaniline⁴. Isolated yield: 70%. GC-MS (m/z, M⁺ 155), major peaks found: 157 (12%), 155 (36%), 142 (33%), 140 (100%), 111 (8%), 77 (8%). (The NMR spectrum is consistent with the reported data). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.1, 2H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 7.1, 2H), 3.55 (bs, NH), 3.12 (q, *J* = 7.1, 2H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 147.09 (C), 129.13 (2xCH), 121.79 (C), 113.87 (2xCH), 38.69 (N-CH₂), 14.85 (CH₃).



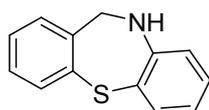
N-ethyl-4-fluoroaniline¹. Isolated yield: 82%. GC-MS (m/z, M⁺ 151), major peaks found: 151 (50%), 136 (100%), 121 (8%), 108 (15%), 80 (10%). (The NMR spectrum is consistent with the reported data). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.9, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 8.9, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.25 (bs, NH), 3.12 (q, *J* = 7.1, 2H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 152.15 (C), 142.82 (C), 114.97 (2xCH), 14.23 (2xCH), 55.91 (O-CH₃), 39.57 (N-CH₂), 15.09 (CH₃).



N-benzyl-4-methoxyaniline¹. Isolated yield: 79%. GC-MS (m/z, M⁺ 213), major peaks found: 213 (100%), 198 (10%), 136 (9%), 122 (78%), 91 (65%), 65 (12%). (The NMR spectrum is consistent with the reported data). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.33-7.10 (m, 5H), 6.75-6.63 (m, 2H), 6.57-6.45 (m, 2H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.40 (bs, NH). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 152.28 (C), 142.55 (C), 139.79 (C), 128.70 (2xCH), 127.65 (2xCH), 127.27 (CH), 115.00 (2xCH), 114.21 (2xCH), 55.89 (O-CH₃), 49.33 (N-CH₂). HRMS (ESI) [M⁺; calculated for C₁₄H₁₅ON: 213.1148] found m/z 213.1149.

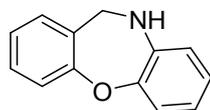


1-ethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline⁵. Isolated yield: 80%. GC-MS (m/z, M⁺ 161), major peaks found: 161 (42%), 146 (100%), 130 (20%), 118 (15%), 91 (14%), 77 (10%). (The NMR spectrum is consistent with the reported data). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.12-7.03 (m, 1H), 7.00-6.94 (m, 1H), 6.66-6.55 (m, 2H), 3.37 (q, *J* = 7.1, 2H), 3.28 (q, *J* = 5.7, 2H), 2.78 (t, *J* = 6.4, 2H), 2.06-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.1, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 145.11 (C), 129.27 (CH), 127.18 (CH), 122.55 (C), 115.46 (CH), 110.64 (CH), 48.50 (CH₂), 45.42 (CH₂), 28.30 (CH₂), 22.41 (CH₂), 10.91 (N-CH₃).

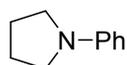


10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepine⁶. Isolated yield: 86%. GC-MS (m/z, M⁺ 212), major peaks found: 212 (100%), 197 (11%), 180 (30%), 152 (9%). (The NMR spectrum is consistent with the reported data). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.56-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.14 (m, 4H), 6.91 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.3, 1.6, 1H), 6.56 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.3, 1H), 6.36 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.3, 1H), 4.80 (s, 2H), 3.74 (bs, NH). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 146.93 (C), 142.95 (C), 137.17

(C), 132.42 (CH), 131.50 (CH), 128.69 (CH), 128.43 (CH), 128.32 (CH), 128.03 (CH), 118.37 (CH), 117.71 (CH), 116.19 (C), 48.98 (N-CH₂). HRMS (ESI) [M⁺; calculated for C₁₃H₁₀NS: 212.0528] found m/z 212.0526.



10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f][1,4]oxazepine⁶. Isolated yield: 84%. GC-MS (m/z, M⁺ 197), major peaks found: 197 (100%), 168 (40%), 139 (8%), 120 (30%). (The NMR spectrum is consistent with the reported data). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.20-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.07 (m, 2H), 7.03-6.93 (m, 2H), 6.75 (td, J = 7.9, 1.6, 1H), 6.58 (td, J = 7.9, 1.6, 1H), 6.44 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.6, 1H), 4.36 (s, 1H), 3.59 (bs, NH). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 158.44 (C), 144.93 (C), 138.90 (C), 131.82 (C), 129.13 (CH), 128.12 (CH), 124.50 (CH), 124.36 (CH), 122.11 (CH), 120.63 (CH), 119.32 (CH), 118.67 (CH), 46.97 (N-CH₂). HRMS (ESI) [M⁺H⁺; calculated for C₁₃H₁₁NO: 198.0913] found m/z 198.0913.



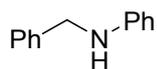
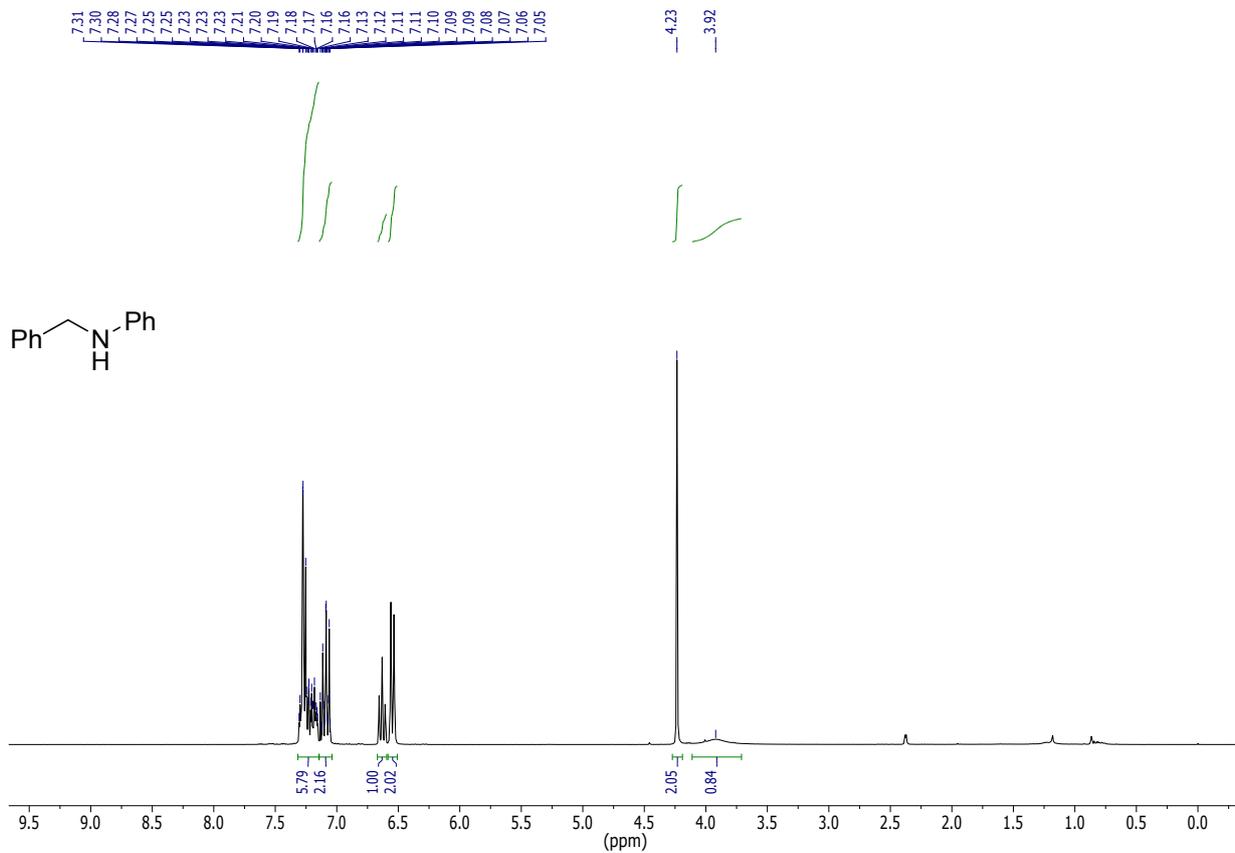
1-phenylpyrrolidine¹. Isolated yield: 70%. GC-MS (m/z, M⁺ 146), major peaks found: 146 (100%), 119 (8%), 104 (16%), 91 (45%), 77 (35%), 51 (10%). (The NMR spectrum is consistent with the reported data). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.40-7.29 (m, 2H), 6.79 (t, J = 7.3, 1H), 6.69 (d, J = 7.8, 2H), 3.42-3.35 (m, 4H), 2.19-1.96 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 148.03 (C), 129.17 (2xCH), 115.43 (CH), 111.71 (2xCH), 47.63 (2xCH₂), 25.53 (2xCH₂).

6. REFERENCES

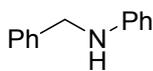
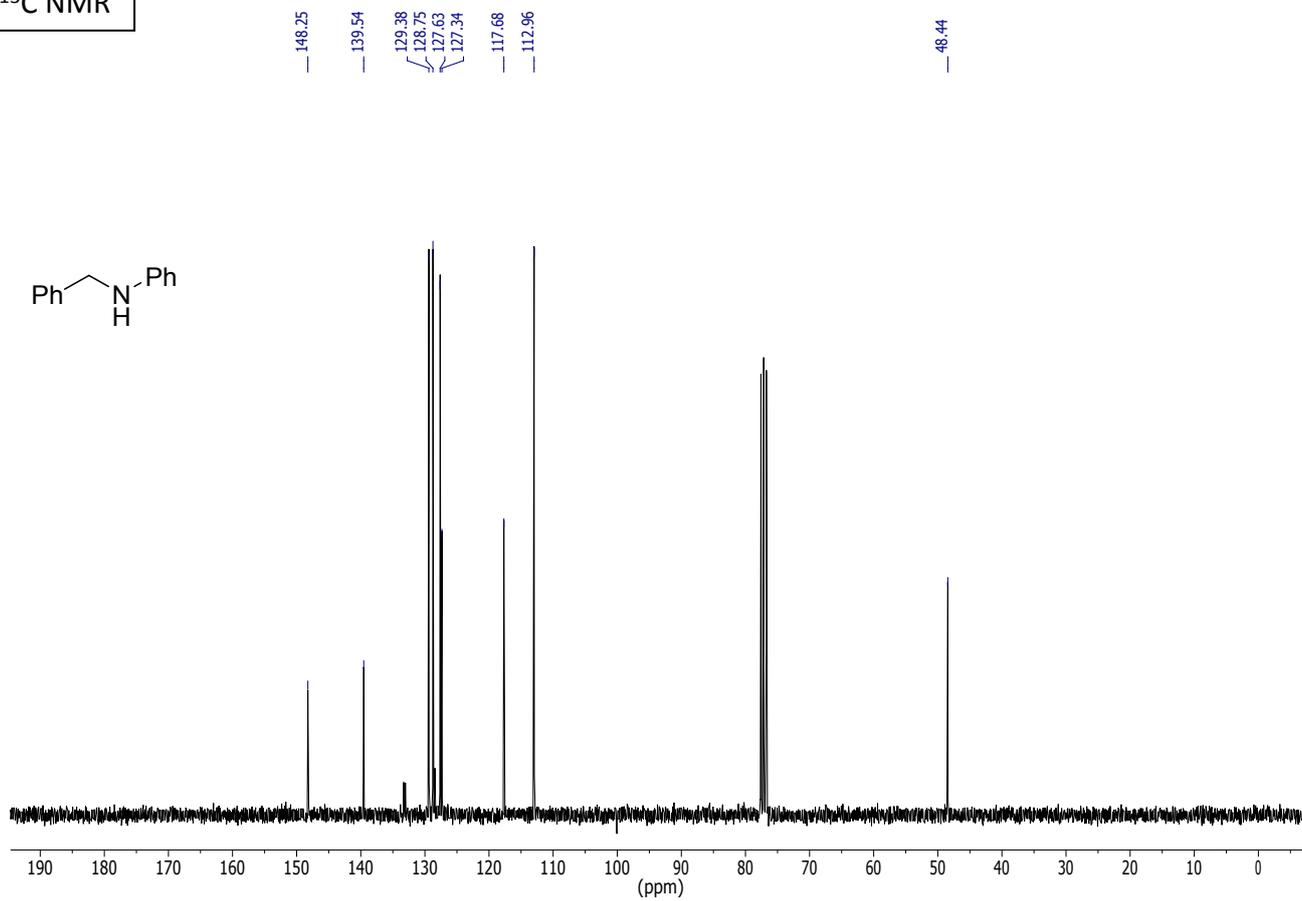
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7. NMR SPECTRA OF THE ISOLATED PRODUCTS

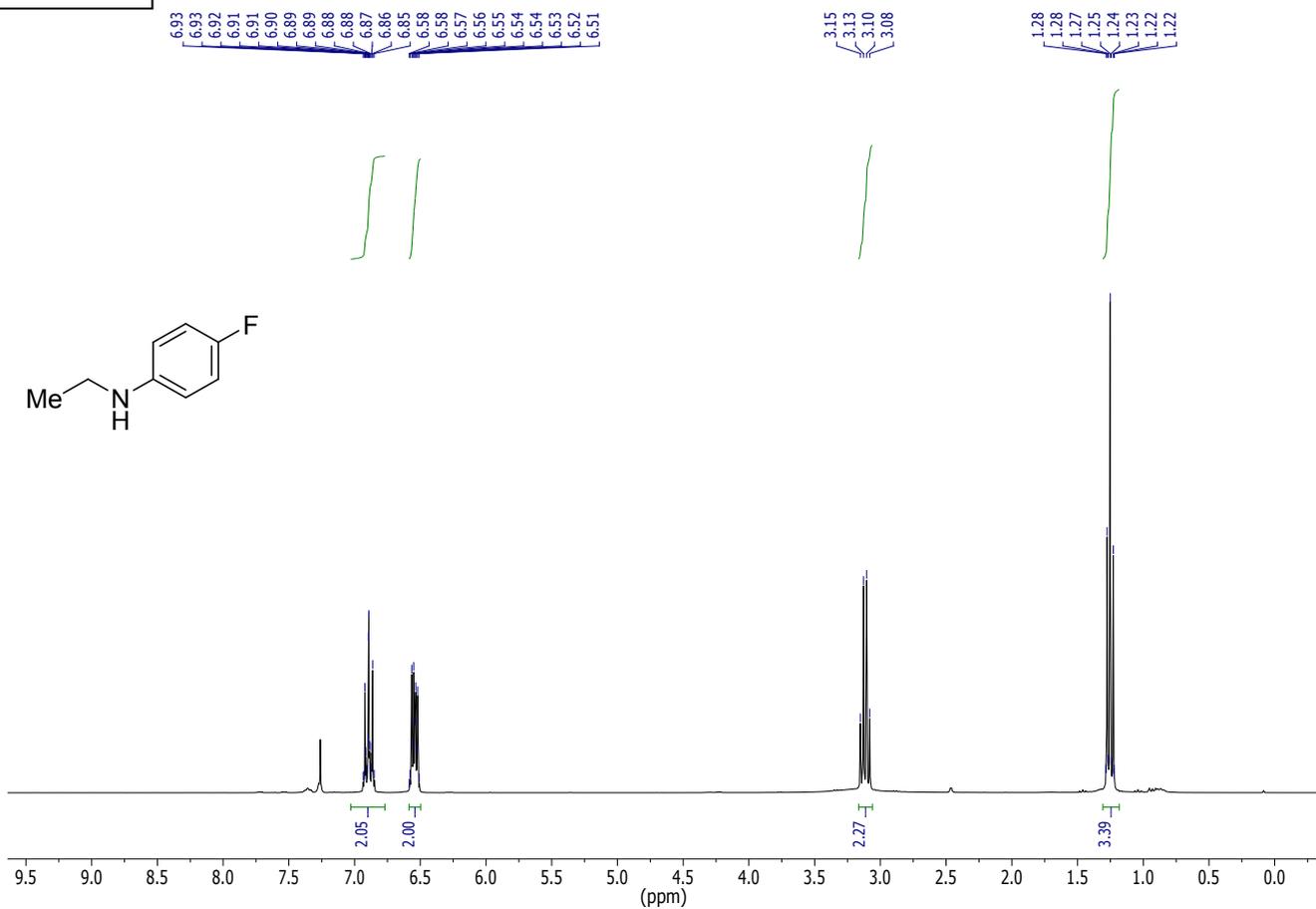
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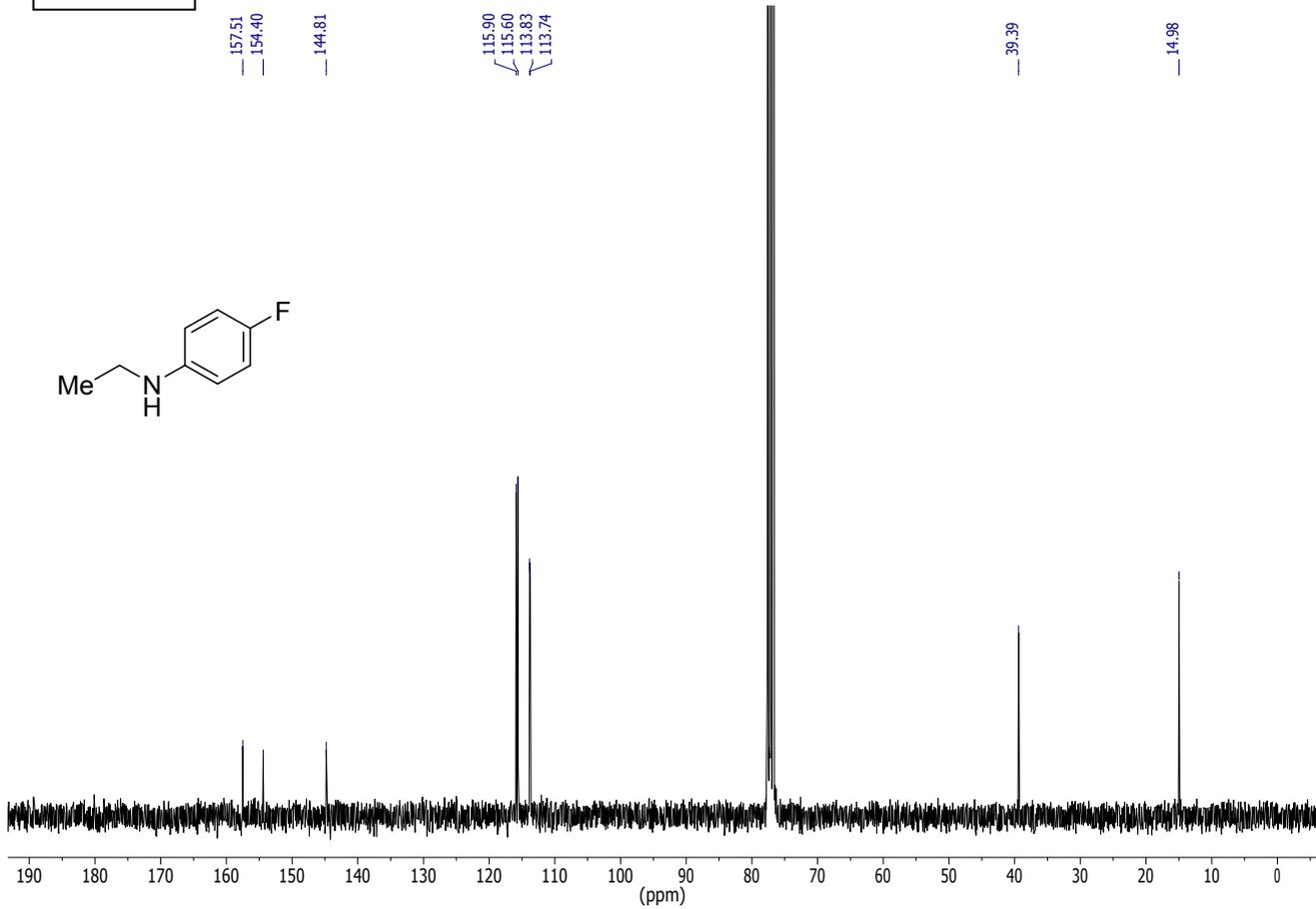
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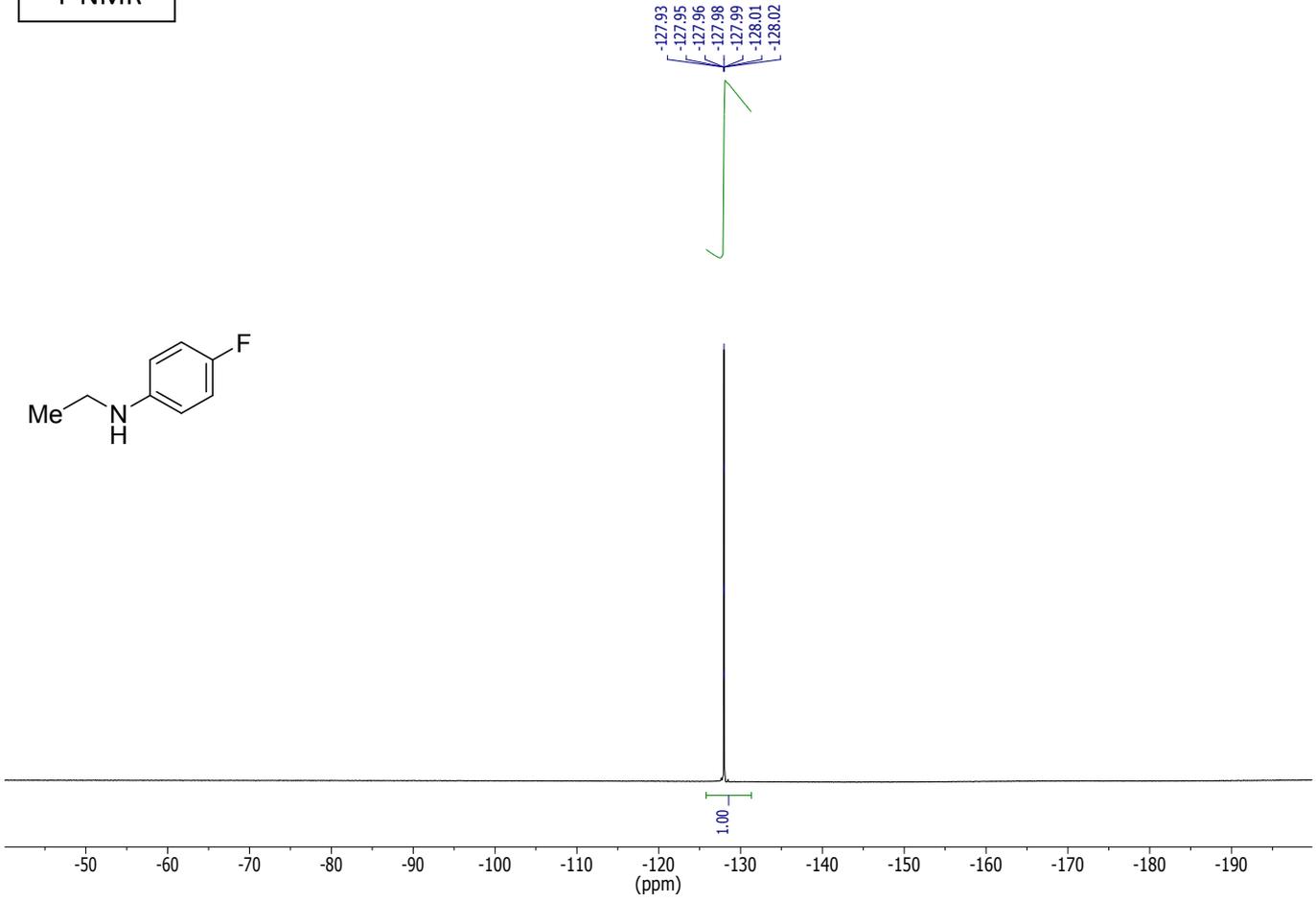
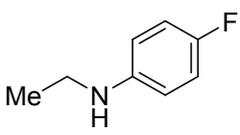
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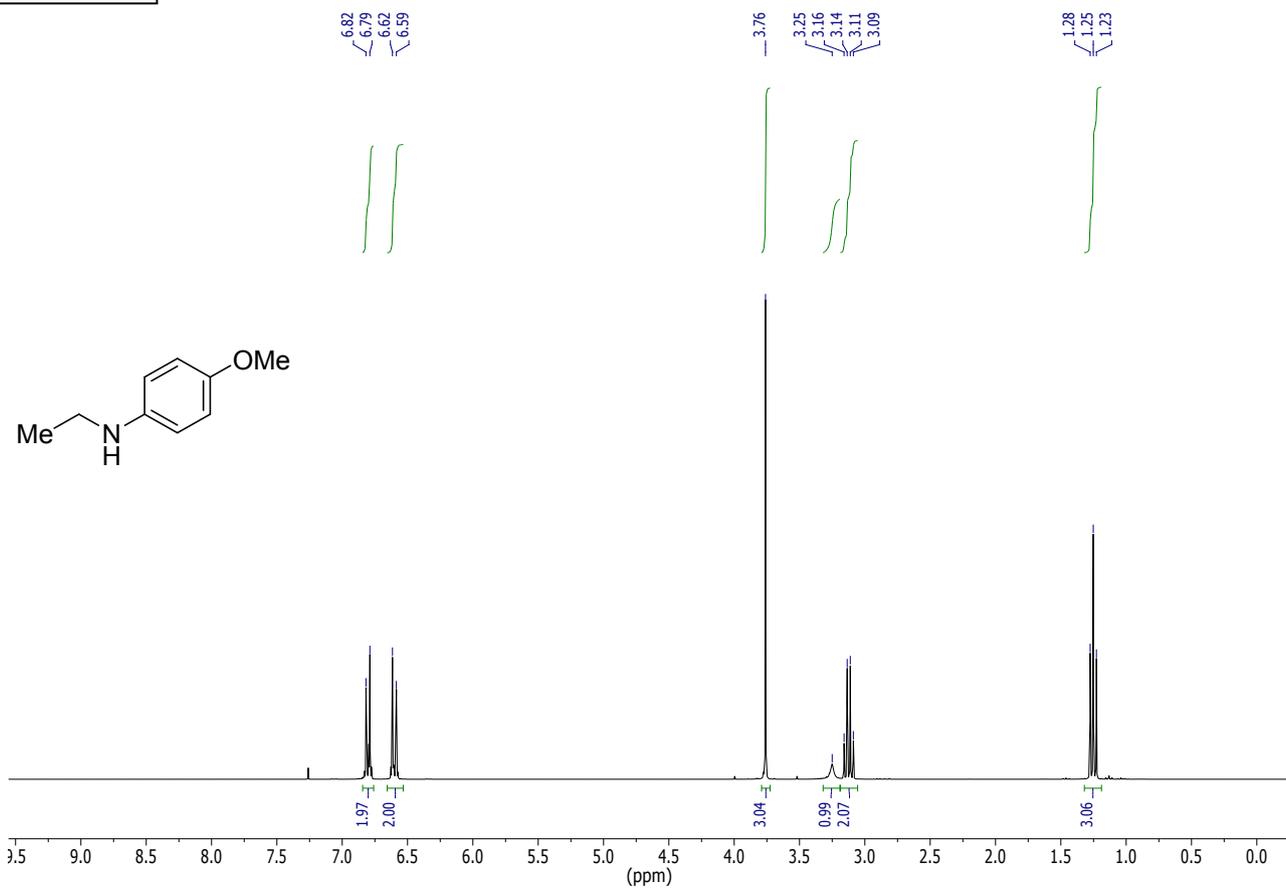
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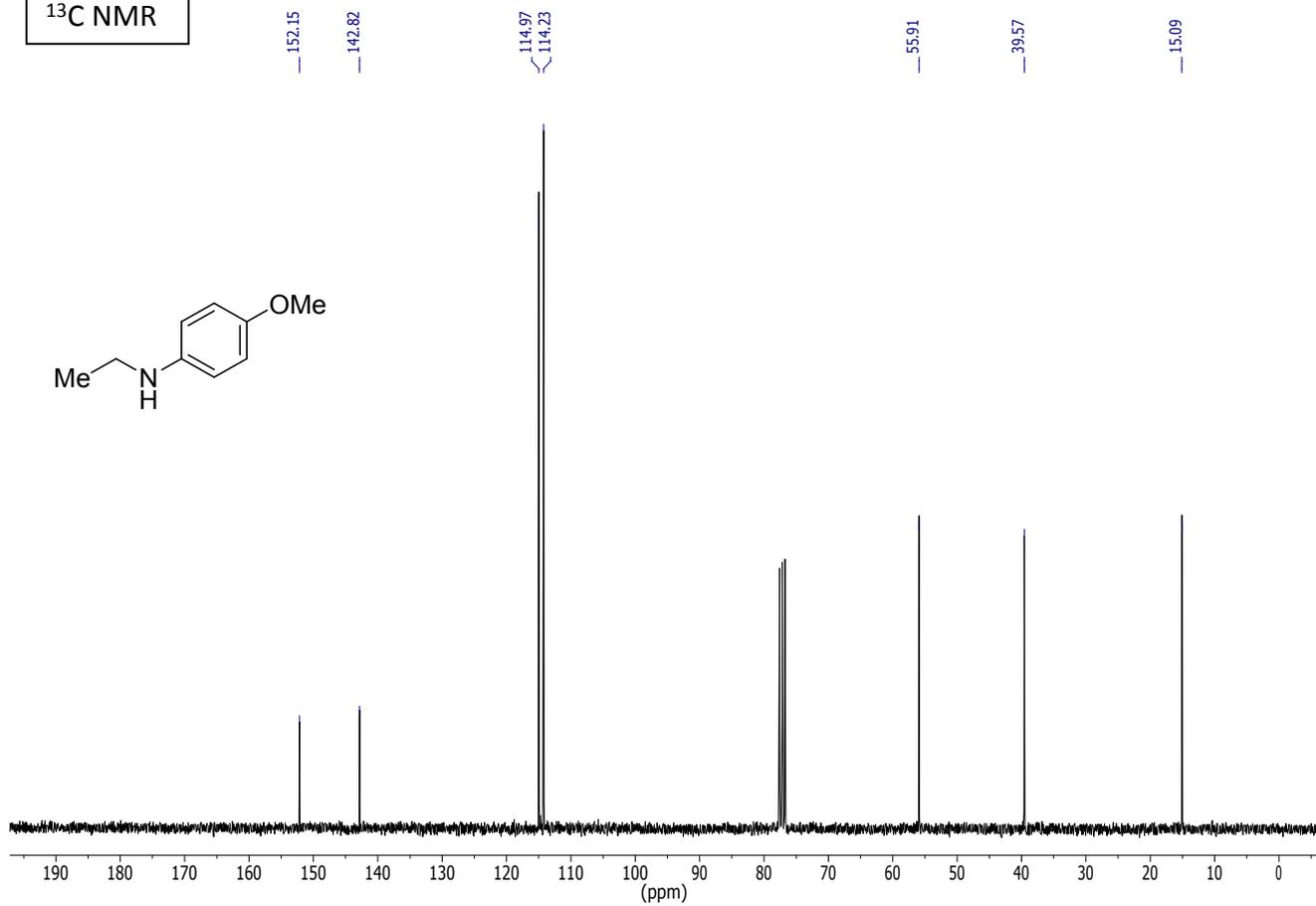
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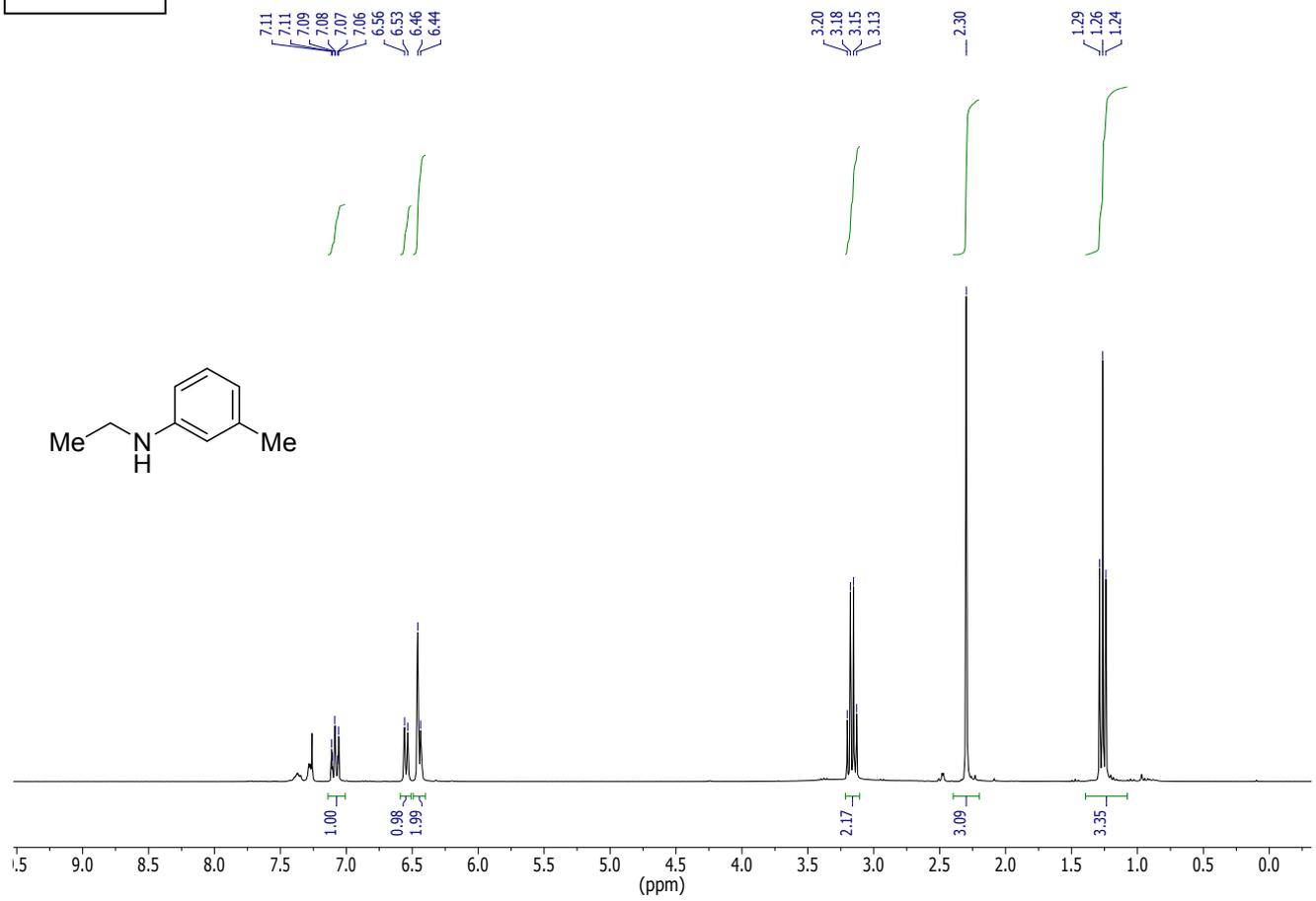
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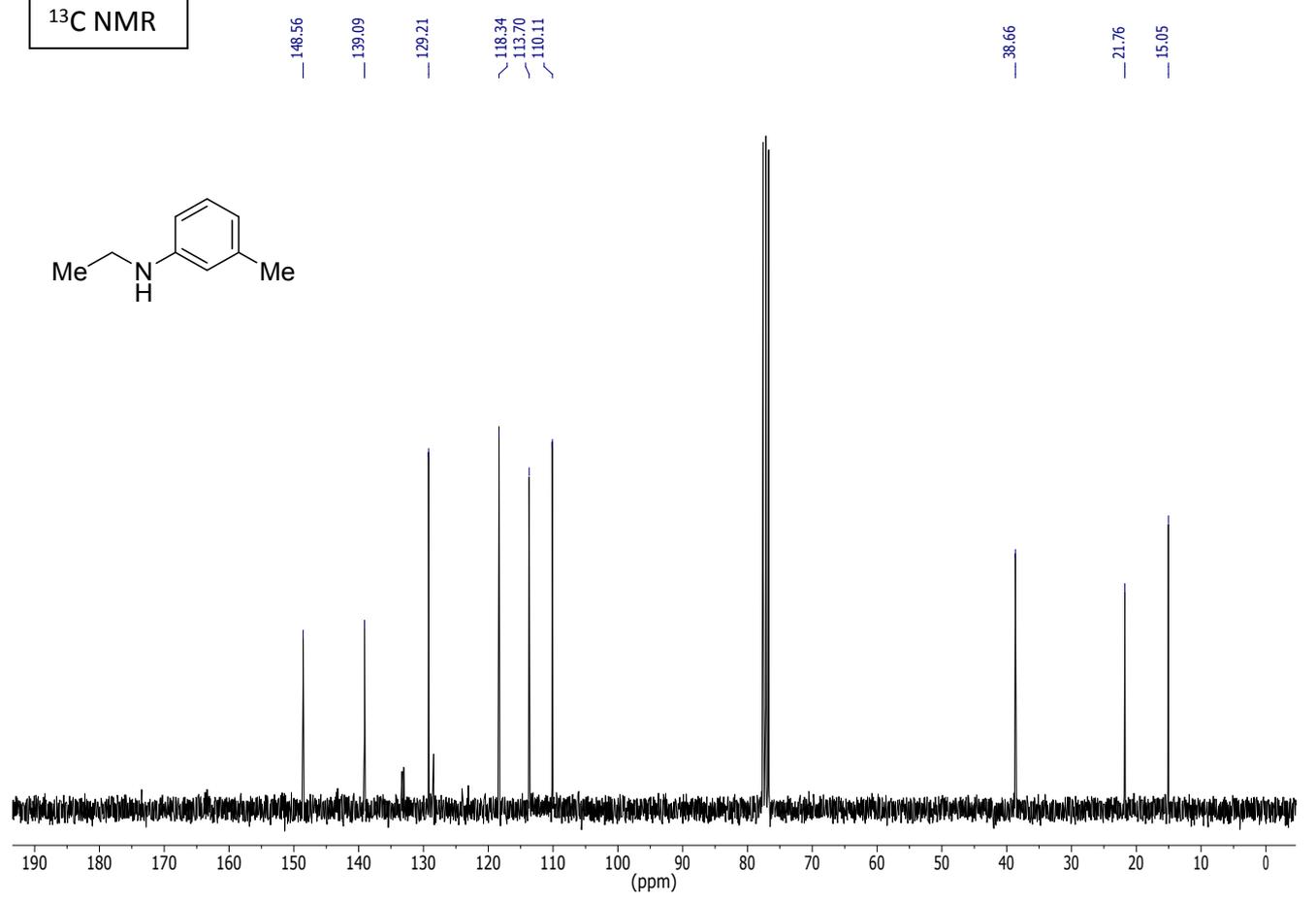
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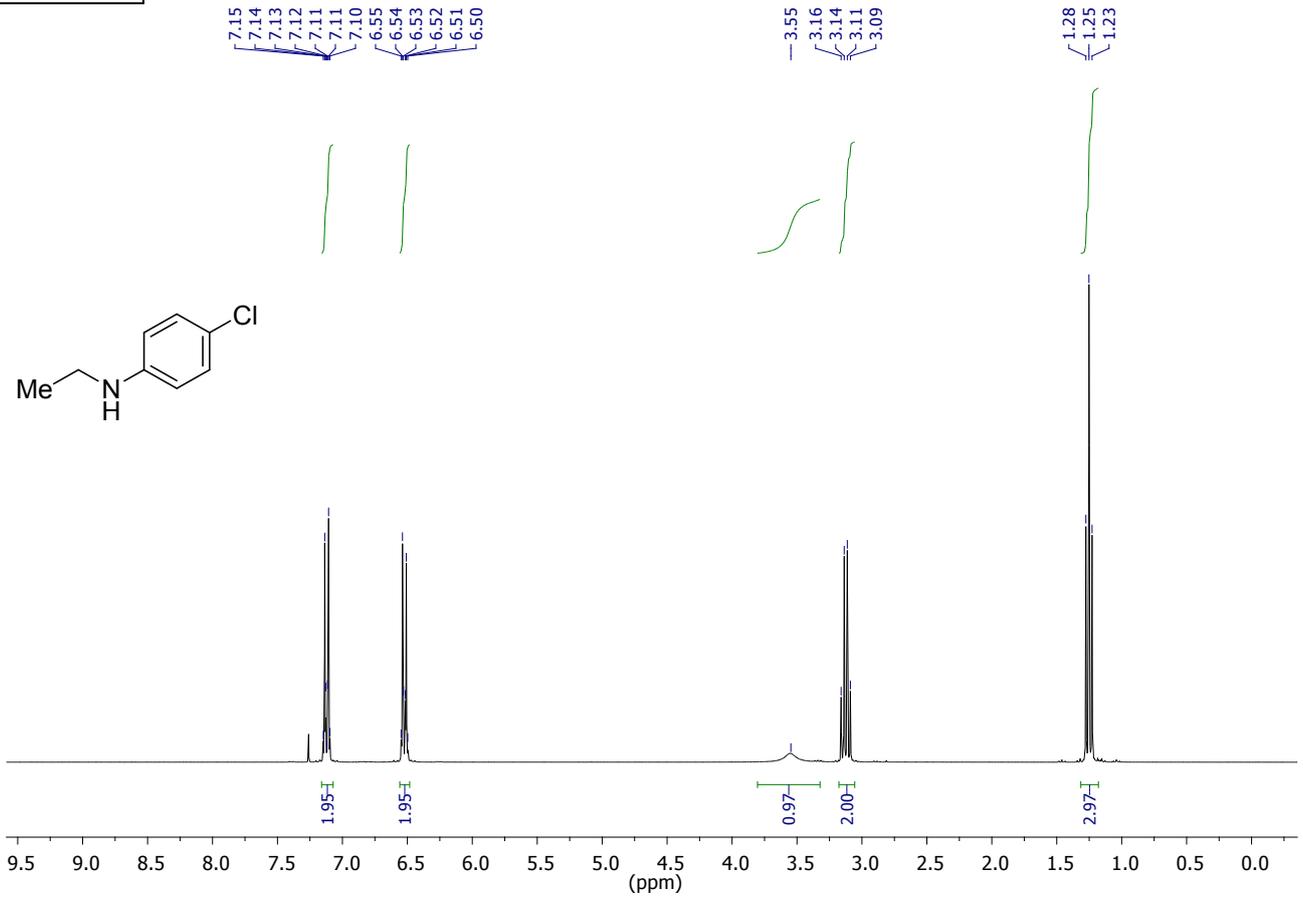
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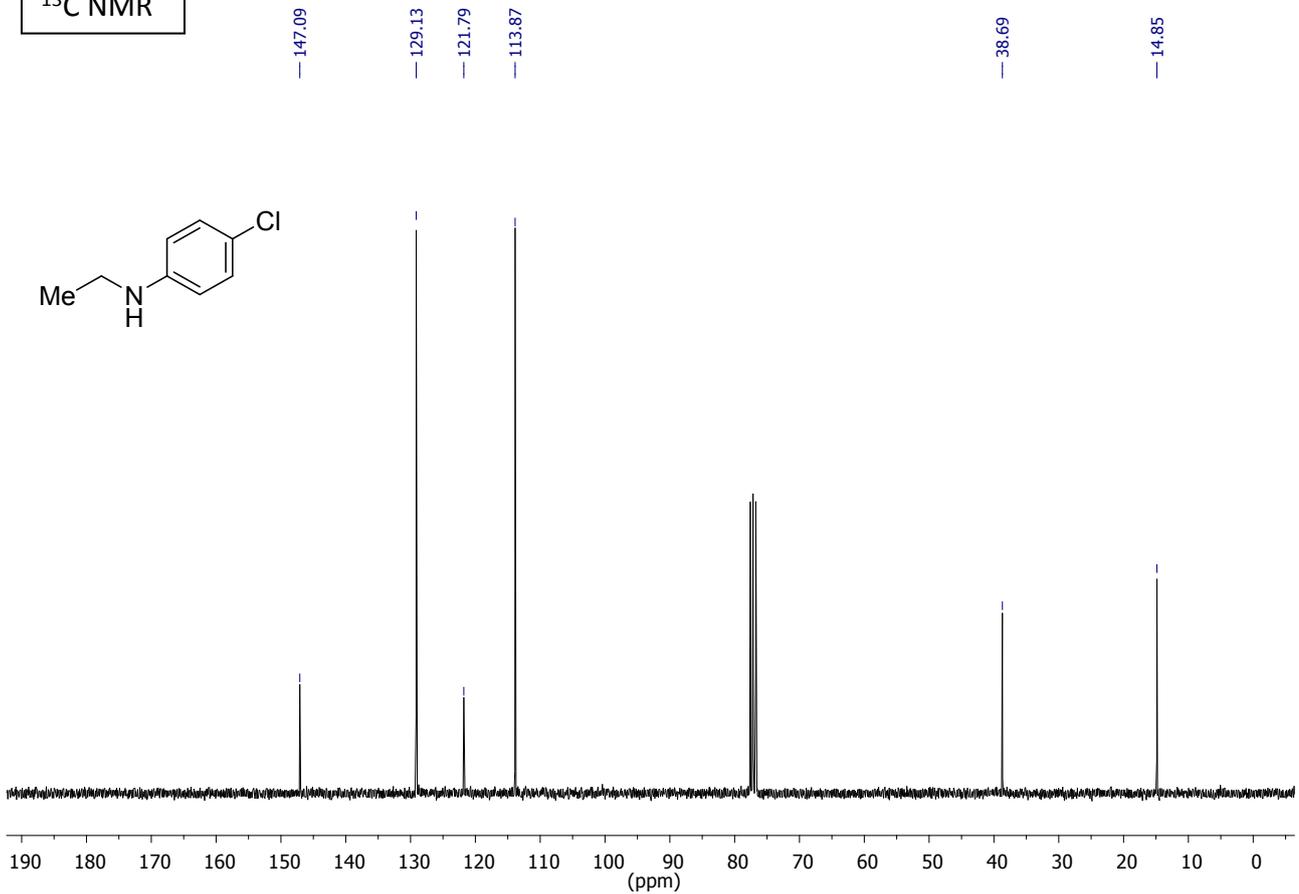
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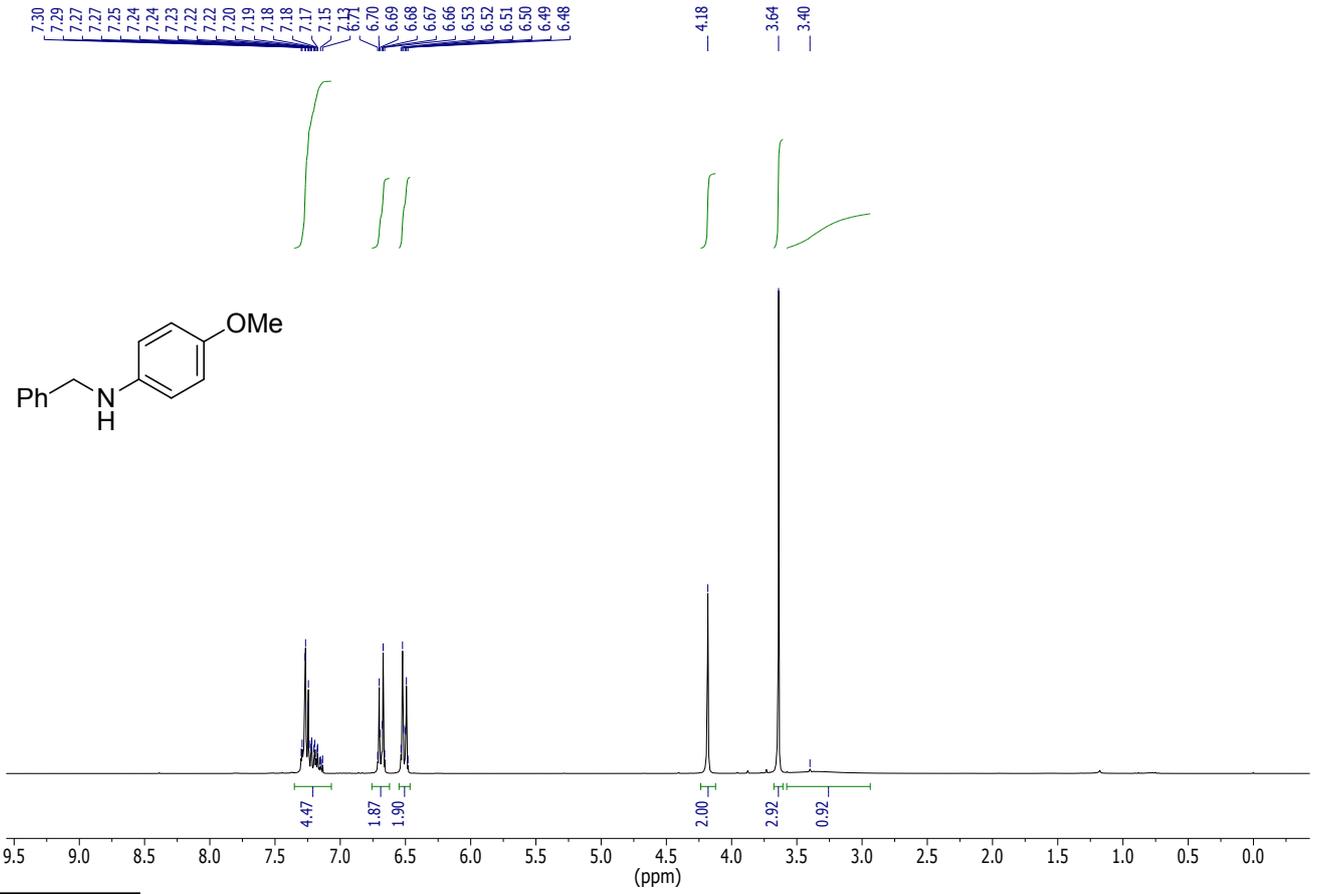
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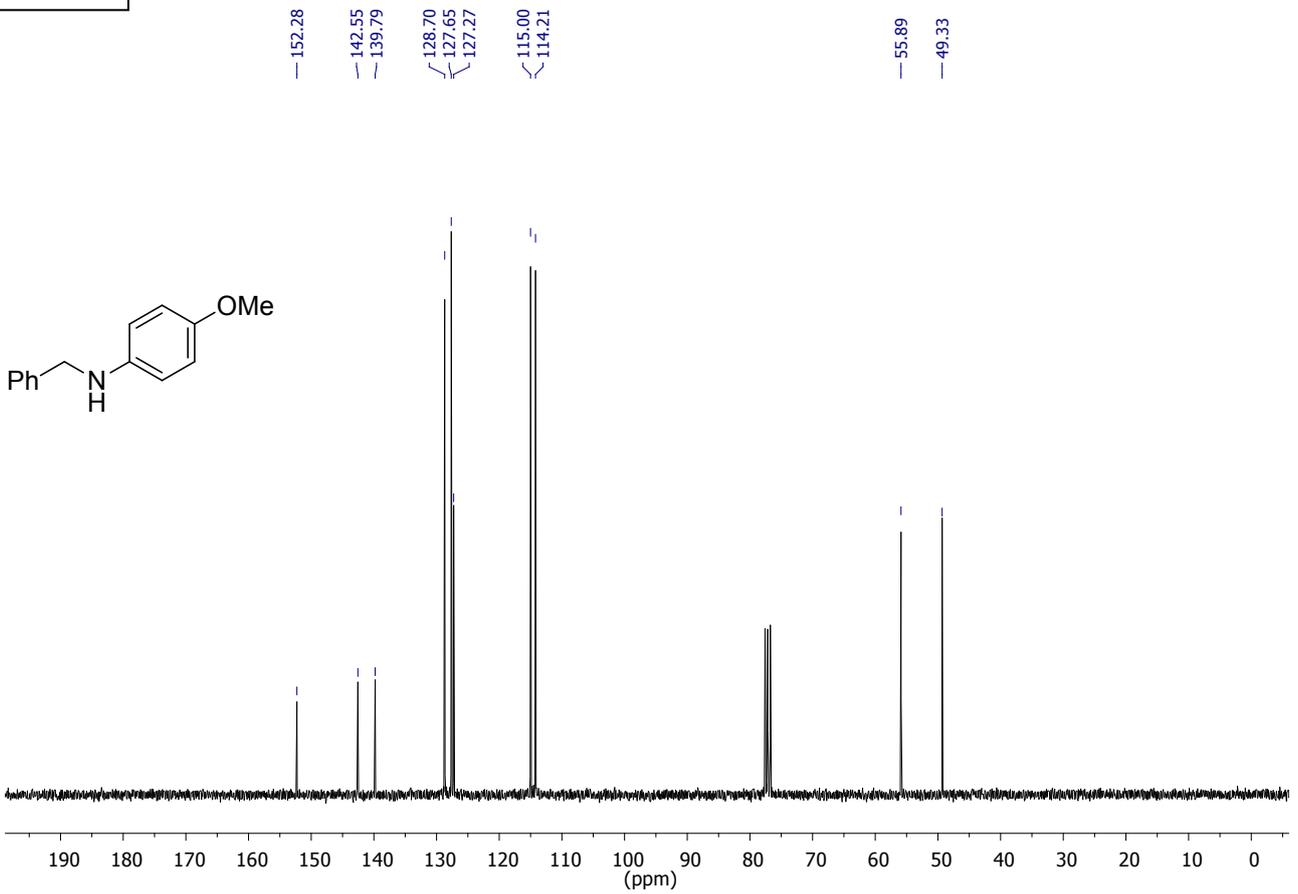
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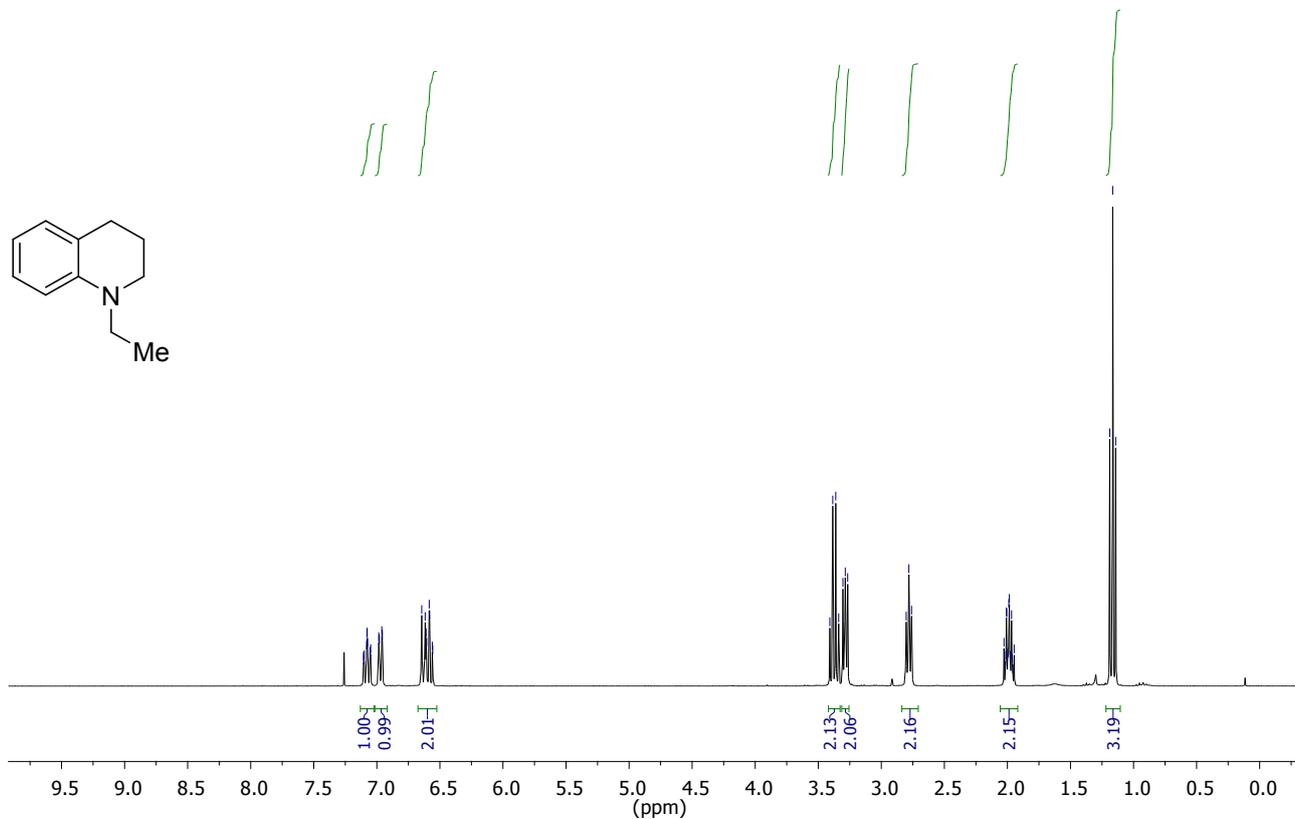
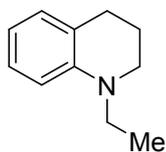


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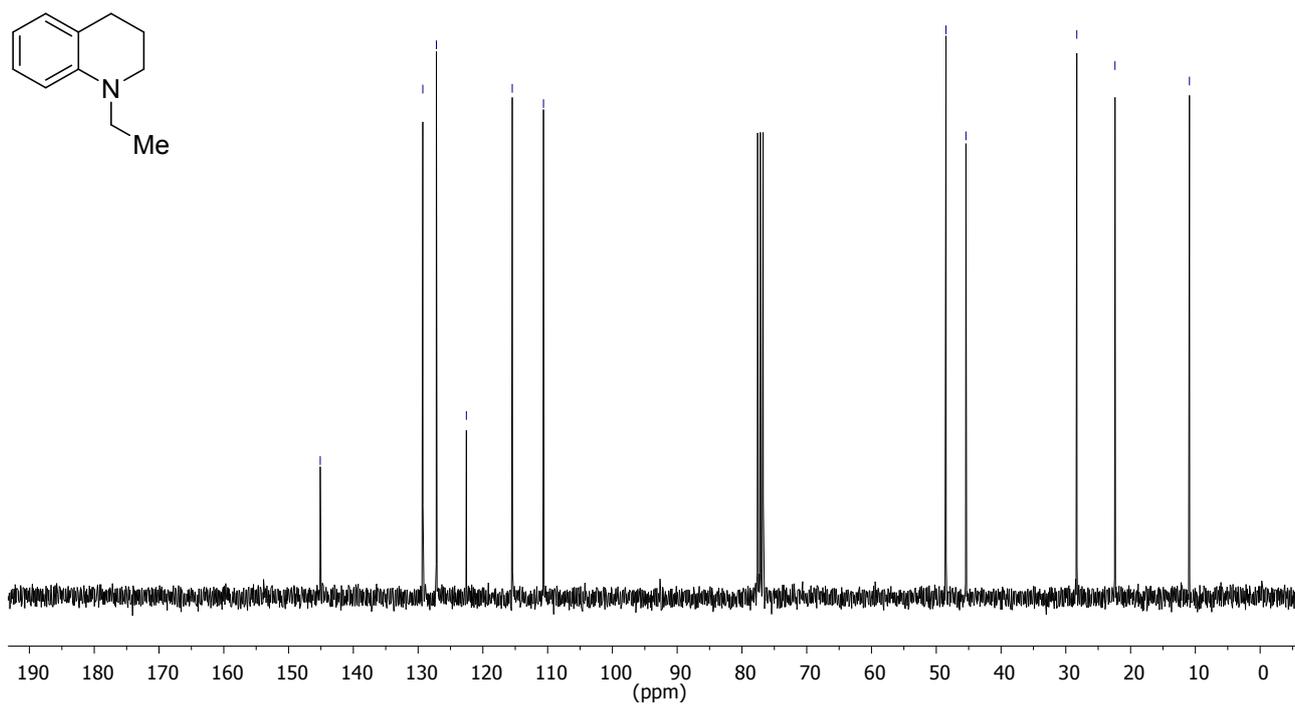
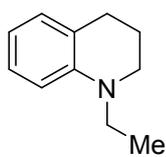
¹H NMR

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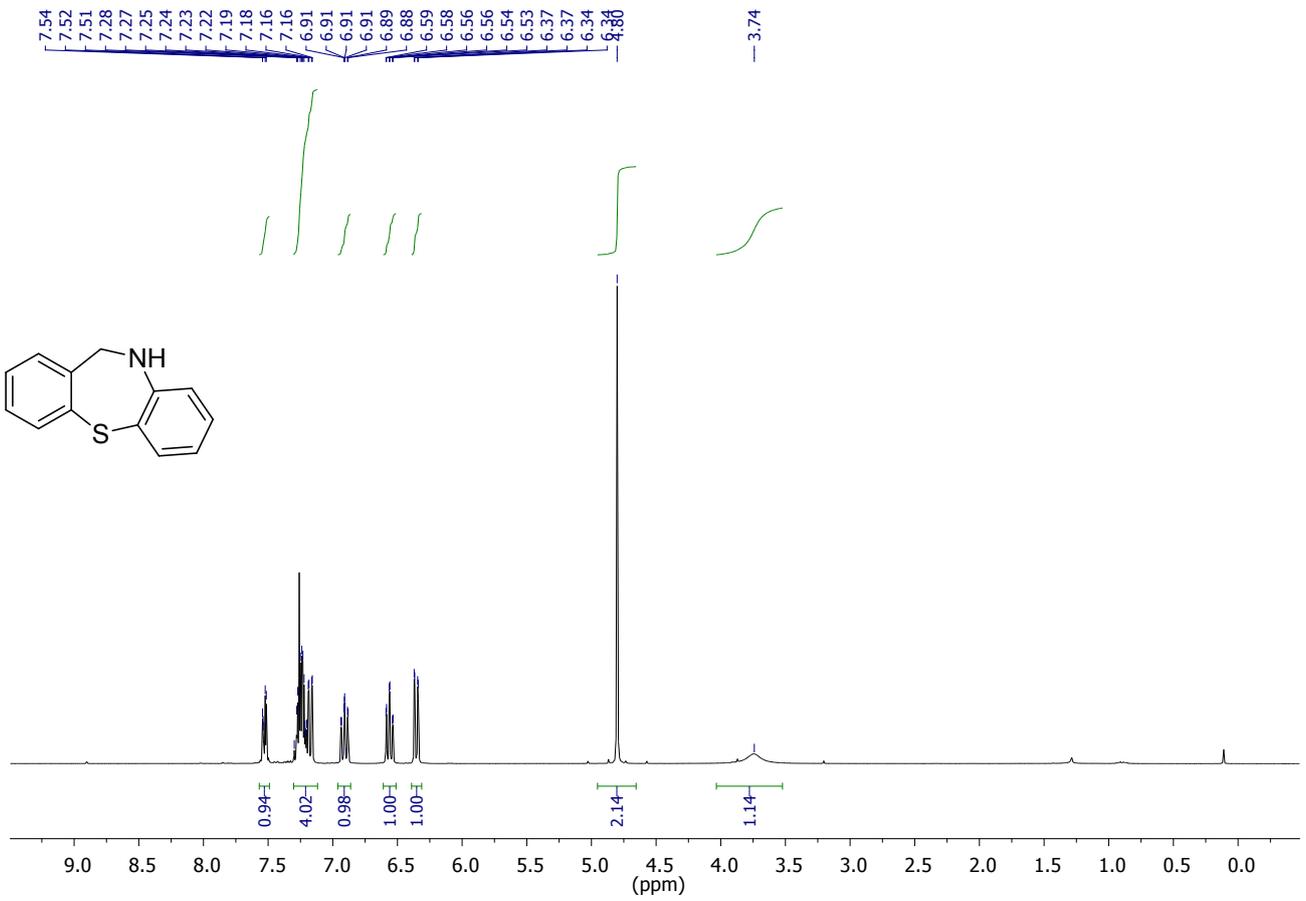


¹³C NMR

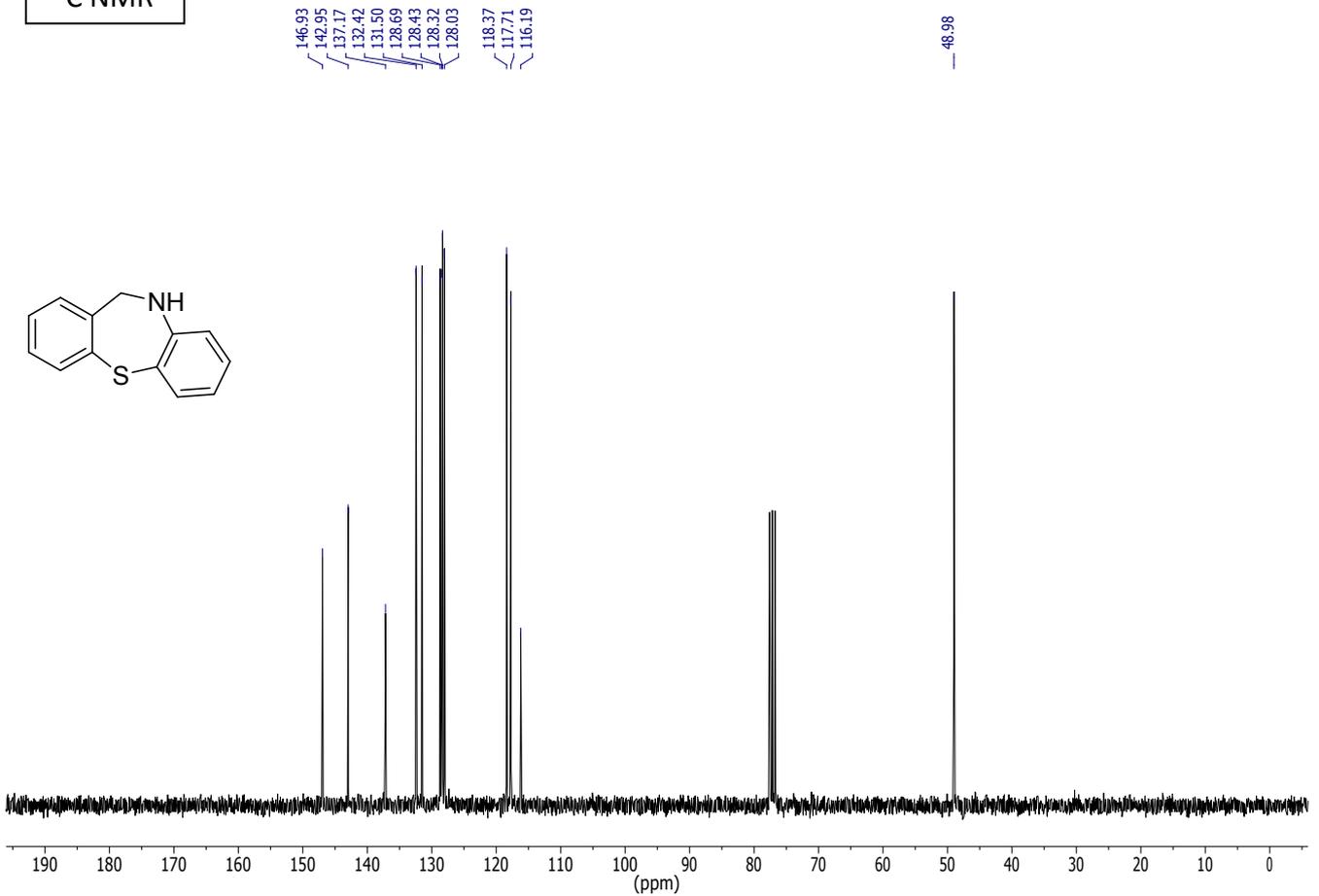
145.11, 129.27, 127.18, 122.55, 115.46, 110.64, 48.50, 45.42, 28.30, 22.41, 10.91



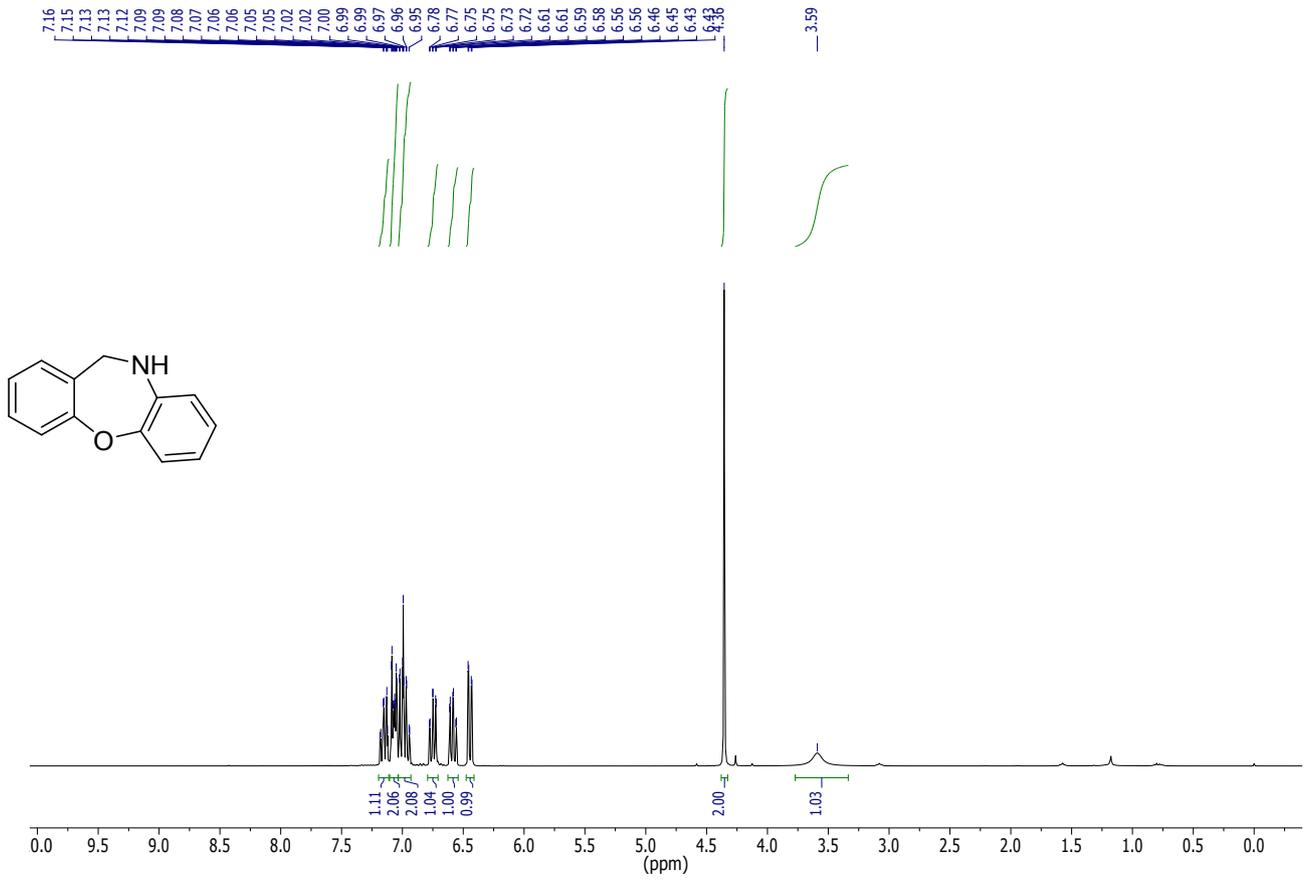
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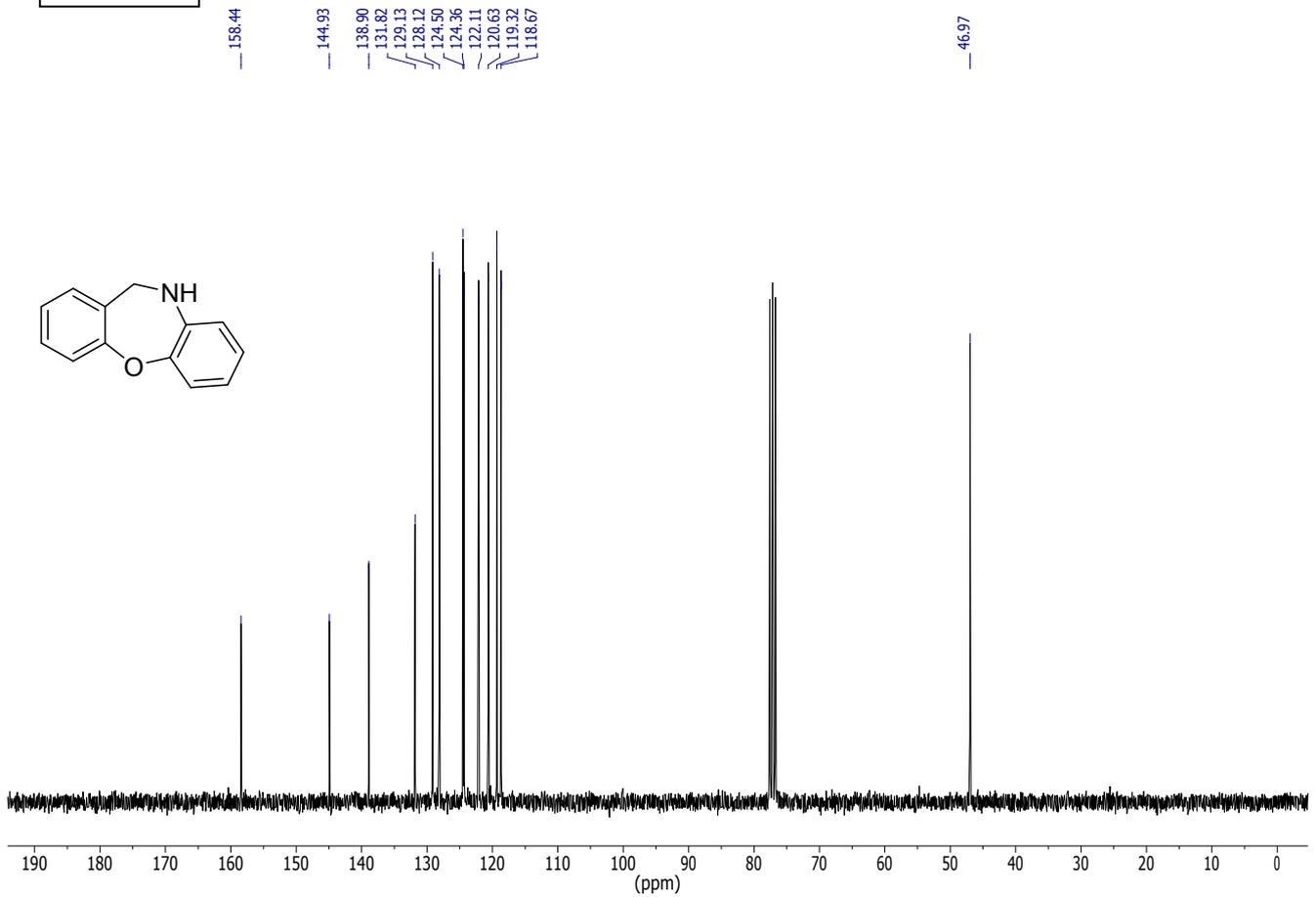
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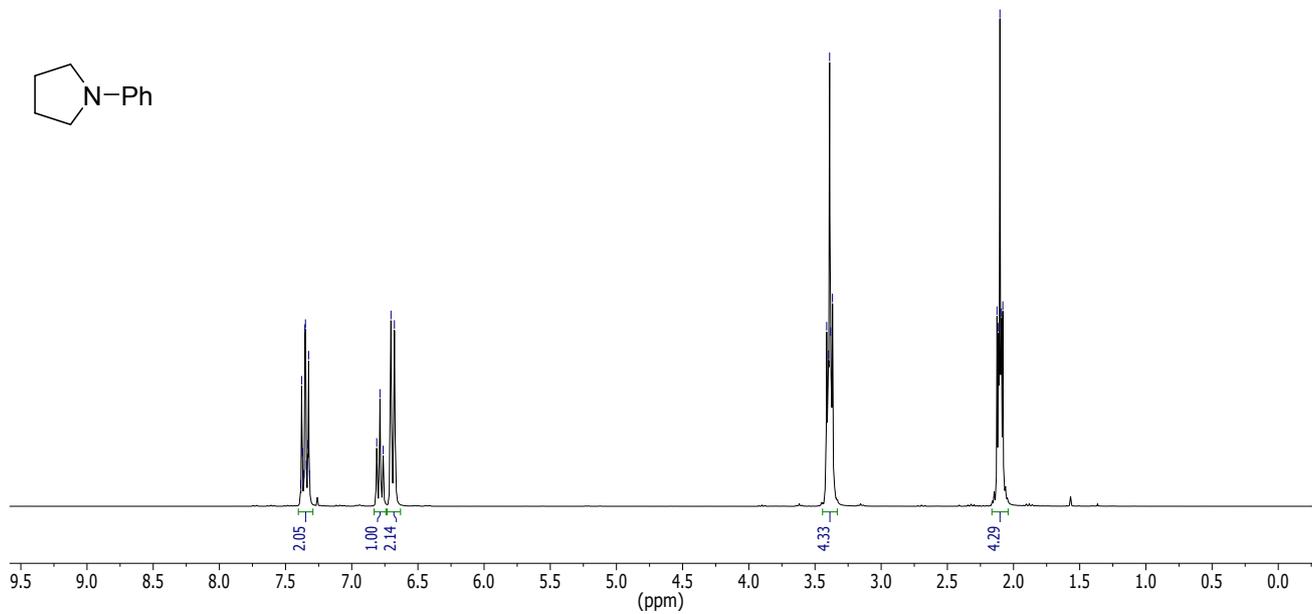
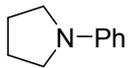
¹H NMR



¹³C NMR



¹H NMR



¹³C NMR

