

**Rh-catalyzed annulations of *N*-methoxybenzamides and ketenimines:
Synthesis of 3-aminoisoindolinones and
3-diarylmethyleneisoindolinones with strong aggregation induced
emission properties**

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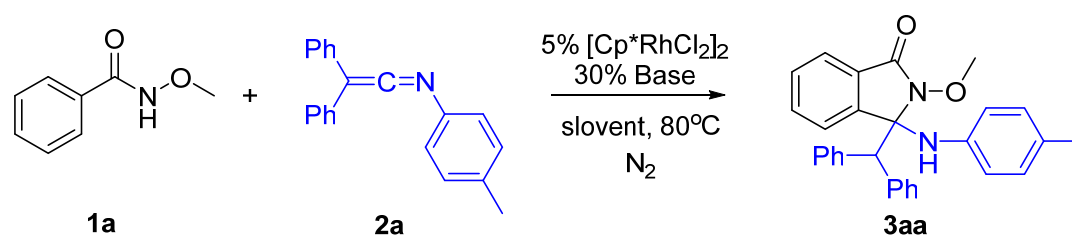
General considerations

Unless otherwise mentioned, solvents and reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. THF and toluene were distilled from Na before use. MeCN, CH₂Cl₂ and DCE was distilled from CaH₂. Melting points were measured with a micro melting point apparatus. Infrared spectra were obtained with an FTIR spectrometer. NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AVANCE DMX500 or 400 spectrometer operating at 500 MHz or 400 MHz for ¹H NMR, 126 MHz or 101 MHz for ¹³C NMR. Unless otherwise noted, all the NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature. Chemical shifts were quoted in parts per million (ppm) referenced to the appropriate solvent peak or 0.0 ppm for tetramethylsilane. Chemical shifts (in ppm) were referenced to tetramethylsilane ($\delta = 0$ ppm) in CDCl₃ and *d*₆-DMSO as an internal standard. ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained by using the same NMR spectrometers and chemical shifts were reported in ppm referenced to the center line of a triplet at 77.0 ppm of CDCl₃ or the center line of a heptet at 39.52 ppm of *d*₆-DMSO. The following abbreviations are used to describe peak patterns as appropriate: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet. Coupling constants *J* were reported in hertz unit (Hz). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) data were obtained with an electron ionization time-of-flight (EI-TOF) mass spectrometer. Flash column chromatography was performed employing 300-400 mesh silica gel. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel HSGF254.

The absorption spectra were measured using UV-vis spectrometer (Shimadzu, UV-2450, Japan). FL spectra were recorded on a fluorospectro photometer (Shimadzu, RF-5301PC, Japan) with a xenon lamp excitation source. Particle size analysis was determined at room temperature on a Brookhaven 90 Plus Particle Size Analyzer. TEM micrographs of particle size were obtained using HT7700 transmission electron microscope by copper net as a supporter. SXR D spectra was obtained using Xeuss with SAXS/WAXS system. Distilled water was filtered through a membrane with 0.22 μ m pore size. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was distilled from sodium prior to use.

Absorption and emission spectra of these compounds in solutions were measured in THF with a concentration scale of 10⁻⁵ M. Nanoparticles were formed by adding a certain volume of water into its dilute THF solution with a rotlet stirring sharply for 10 minutes, all the solution concentration was same. The absorption spectra, FL spectra and particle size distribution (DLS) of the resulting solutions were then performed immediately.

Preparation of TEM sample: solution of nanoparticles was added to a copper net with carbon membrane. Then the copper net was dried by infrared lamp.

Table S1 Optimization of the [4+1] reaction conditions^a

Entry	Solvent	Base(equiv.)	T(°C)	Atom- sphere	Cat. (%)	Add- itive	1a:2a	Yield(%) ^b
1	DCE	CsOAc	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	46
2	CH ₃ CN	CsOAc	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	trace
3	Toluene	CsOAc	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	28
4	1,4-Dioxane	CsOAc	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	Trace
5	CH ₂ Cl ₂	CsOAc	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	40
6	Acetone	CsOAc	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	35
7	DCE	CsOAc	r.t.	N ₂	5	-	1:2	N.D.
8	DCE	CsOAc	50	N ₂	5	-	1:2	21
9	DCE	CsOAc	100	N ₂	5	-	1:2	45
10	DCE	CsOAc	80	air	5	-	1:2	16
11	DCE	CsOAc	80	O ₂	5	-	1:2	Trace
12 ^c	DCE	CsOAc	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	40
13	DCE	NaOAc	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	17
14	DCE	KOAc	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	45
15	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOONa	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	55
16	DCE	PivOCs	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	39
17	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	78
18	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOK	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	70
19 ^d	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	N.D.
20 ^e	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	N.D.
21	DCE	None	80	N ₂	5	-	1:2	N.D.
22	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	5	H ₂ O(1eq.)	1:2	N.D.
23	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	5	4A MS ^f	1:2	82
24	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	5	4A MS ^f	1:1.5	81
25	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	5	4A MS ^f	1:1.2	80
26	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	5	4A MS ^f	1:1	71
27	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	5	4A MS ^f	1.2:1	81
28	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	5	4A MS ^f	1.5:1	82
29	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	5	4A MS ^f	2:1	84
30	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	4	4A MS ^f	1.2:1	76
31	DCE	Cl ₃ CCOOCs	80	N ₂	2.5	4A MS ^f	1.2:1	70

^aReaction condition: **1a** (0.3 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Base (0.09 mmol), Solvent (2 mL), N₂, 80 °C, 10 h. ^bIsolated yield. ^cCsOAc(1 equiv). ^d2% [Cp*IrCl₂]₂ instead of [Cp*RhCl₂]₂. ^e5% [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂ instead of [Cp*RhCl₂]₂. ^f4Å MS (60 mg).

Table S2. Photophysical properties of compounds **4a-p** and **5a-d**

	$\lambda_{\text{abs}}(\text{nm})$				$\lambda_{\text{em}}(\text{nm})$		$\Phi_{\text{F}} (\%)$		
	THF, ($\epsilon/10^4$) ^a	Nano, ($\epsilon/10^4$) ^b	Cal. ^c	% Δ ^d	Nano	Solid	Φ_{sol} ^e	Φ_{nano} ^e	$\Phi_{\text{nano}}/\Phi_{\text{sol}}$
4a	373(2.37)	375(1.87)	375	0.7	516	507	0.028	2.572	91.9
4b	373(1.78)	377(1.53)	375	0.5	514	482	0.028	2.571	91.7
4c	372(1.85)	377(1.62)	381	2.3	523	507	0.022	1.773	80.6
4d	376 (1.99)	381(1.62)	372	-1.1	508	510	0.034	2.969	87.3
4e	372(2.09)	379(1.81)	378	1.7	515	498	0.045	4.296	95.5
4f	405(2.61)	407(1.99)	395	-2.6	533	491	0.031	1.352	43.6
4g	375(1.98)	377(1.54)	378	0.8	518	500	0.049	3.324	67.8
4h	394(2.64)	398(2.00)	394	0.0	542	519	0.077	12.571	163.3
4i	412(2.24)	415(1.55)	403	-2.3	535	534	0.053	2.294	43.3
4j	387(2.29)	388(1.86)	381	-1.6	518	501	0.076	7.865	103.5
4k	374(2.09)	378(1.73)	380	1.7	516	525	0.046	1.967	42.8
4l	375(1.95)	379(1.65)	370	-1.5	515	527	0.041	2.102	51.3
4m	362(1.21)	371(0.97)	363	0.3	502	511	0.039	1.374	35.2
4n	357(1.47)	362(1.19)	356	-0.2	492	499	0.031	0.554	18
4o	364(1.89)	370(1.34)	362	-0.5	501	490	0.017	1.291	77.3
4p	362(1.81)	362(1.57)	355	-2.1	492	460	0.025	0.660	26.4
5a	348(1.57)	349 (0.10)	346	-0.4	454	449	0.514	4.680	9.1
5b	348(1.60)	349(0.16)	349	0.2	455	458	0.025	0.657	26.3
5c	349(1.73)	354(0.07)	351	0.6	441	451	0.269	8.797	32.7
5d	343(1.17)	348(0.16)	343	0.0	445	446	0.045	1.606	35.7

^aAbsorption spectra were measured at a concentration scale of 10^{-5} in THF solution; ^bNano-suspensions were obtained by adding water into dilute THF solution (water/THF = 95/5); ^cCalculated absorption wavelengths were obtained from HOMO-LUMO gaps using the B3LYP functional and the 6-31G* basis set. ^d% $\Delta = 100 * (\text{Cal.} - \text{THF}) / \text{Cal.}$. ^eQuantum yields were calculated referring to the standard of Quinine sulfate ($\Phi = 0.54$ in 0.1M H_2SO_4).

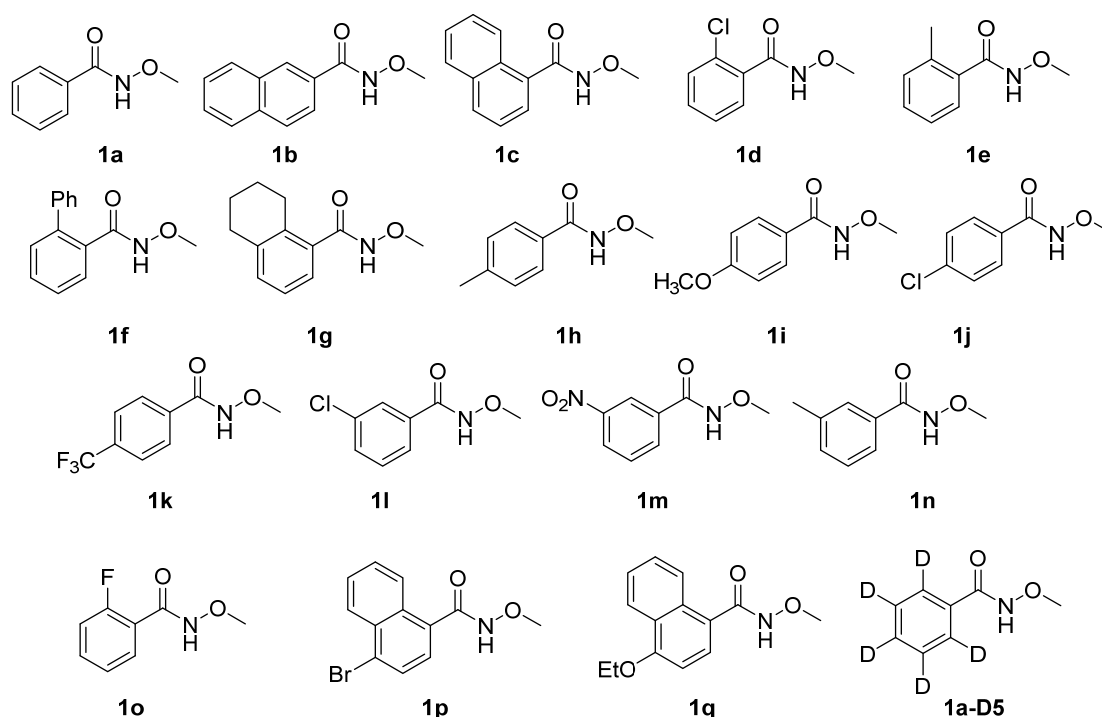
Preparation of Cesium 2,2,2-trichloroacetate and potassium

2,2,2-trichloroacetate

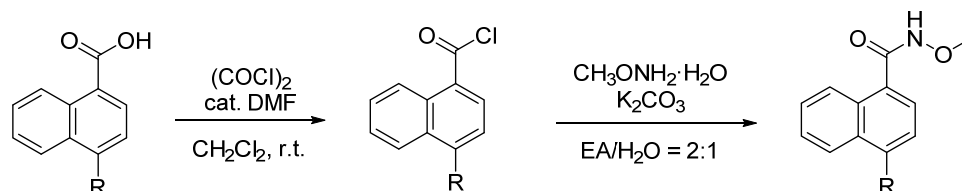
Cesium pivalate was prepared according to the reported procedure.¹

2,2,2-Trichloroacetic acid (3.24 g, 20 mmol) and cesium carbonate (3.28 g, 10 mmol) or potassium carbonate (1.38 g, 10 mmol) was dissolved in CH₃OH (20 mL). The resulting solution was stirred during 30 min at 50 °C. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure until a white solid appeared. The obtained solid was crushed into a fine powder and dry under high vacuum at 80 °C during 8 h.

General Procedure for the Preparation of N-methoxybenzamides 1



Compounds **1a** – **1o**, **1a-D5** as well as new compounds **1p** and **1q** were prepared according to the literature procedures.²

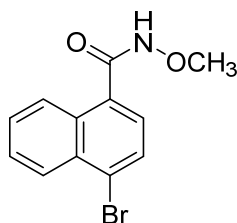


¹ (a) M. A. Campo and R. C. Larock, *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 3675. (b) T. Piou, A. Bunescu, Q. Wang, L. Neuville and J. Zhu, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 12385.

² (a) N. Guimond, C. Gouliaras and K. Fagnou, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 6908. (b) S. Rakshit, C. Grohmann, T. Besset and F. Glorius, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 2350. (c) L. E. Fisher, J. M. Caroon, Jahangir, S. R. Stabler, S. Lundberg and J. M. Muchowski, *J. Org. Chem.* **1993**, *58*, 3643.

4-Substituted-1-naphthoic acid (2 mmol) was dissolved in dry dichloromethane (5 mL), followed by addition of a drop of DMF and oxalyl chloride (0.21 mL, 1.49 g/mL, 2.4 mmol). After 2 hour, the volatile and solvent were evaporated and the resulting acid chloride was obtained and used directly for the subsequent reactions without further purification. To the crude product was then added K_2CO_3 (4 mmol), $MeONH_2 \cdot HCl$ (2.4 mmol), ethyl acetate (5 mL), and water (2.5 mL) sequentially. The resulting mixture was stirred for 16 h at r.t. and extracted twice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure. The products were obtained as pure solids without need for purification.

4-Bromo-*N*-methoxy-1-naphthamide (**1p**)



Following the general procedure afforded **1p** (530 mg, 95 %) as a white solid, **m.p.** 140 – 146 °C.

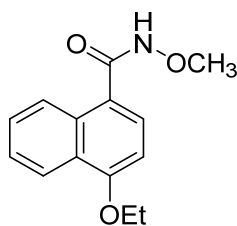
1H NMR (400 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$) δ 11.80 (s, 1H), 8.22 (td, $J = 8.9, 1.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$) δ 164.6, 131.8, 131.2, 131.1, 129.2, 128.4, 128.1, 126.8, 126.3, 125.7, 124.3, 63.5.

IR (ATR): 3140, 2979, 1640, 1563, 1512, 1439, 1296, 1256, 1193, 1072, 1006, 920, 846, 818, 756 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_{10}NO_2Br$ [M^+]: 278.9895; found: 278.9899.

4-Ethoxy-*N*-methoxy-1-naphthamide (**1q**)



Following the general procedure afforded **1q** (451 mg, 92 %) as a white solid, **m.p.** 153 – 154 °C.

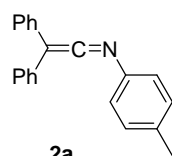
1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.33 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 6.71 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 1.57 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 157.3, 131.6, 127.9, 126.9, 125.8, 124.9, 122.4, 122.3, 102.8, 64.8, 64.0, 14.7.

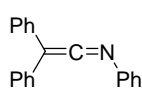
IR (ATR): 3130, 2979, 1638, 1581, 1516, 1383, 1263, 1243, 1155, 1112, 1070, 1030, 954, 902, 839, 758 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{15}NO_3$ [M^+]: 245.1052; found: 245.1053.

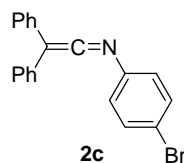
General Procedure for the Preparation of Ketenimines **2**



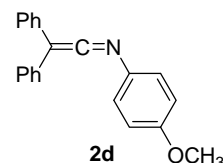
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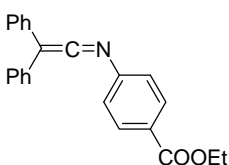
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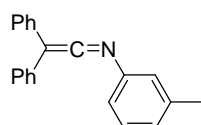
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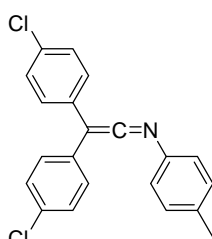
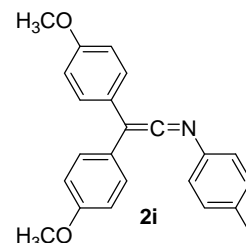
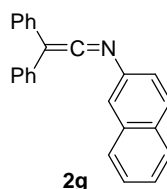
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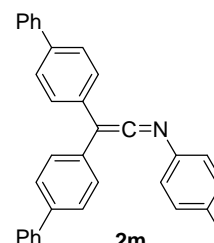
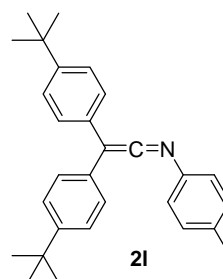
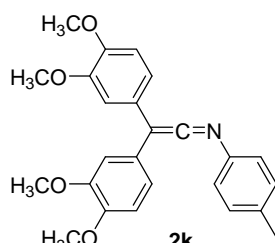
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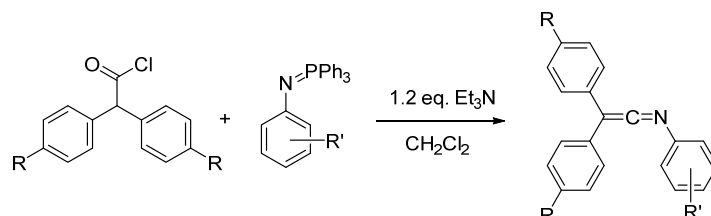
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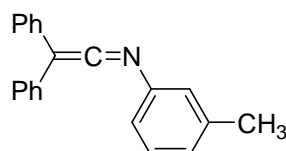


Compounds **2a-2f**, **2j** as well as new compounds **2g**, **2i**, and **2k-2m** were prepared according to the literature procedures.³



To a mixture of corresponding N-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)aniline (2 mmol), Et₃N (2.4 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was added corresponding 2,2-diarylacetyl chloride (2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) dropwise. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 min and then evaporated on vacuum. The residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography with petroleum ether as eluent.

2,2-Diphenyl-N-(*m*-tolyl)ethen-1-imine (**2f**)



Following the general procedure afforded **2f** (504 mg, 89 %) as a brown oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 8H), 7.28 – 7.17 (m, 5H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H).

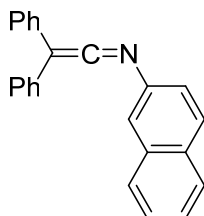
³ X. Zhou, Z. Jiang, L. Xue, P. Lu and Y. Wang, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2015**, 2015, 5789.

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 190.1 , 139.6 , 134.0 , 129.3 , 128.8 , 128.6 , 127.8 , 126.4 , 124.5 , 121.1 , 77.8 , 21.3 .

IR (film): 3057, 3023, 2001, 1596, 1581, 1493, 1454, 1175, 1123, 1072, 1030, 760, 694, 645 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₁H₁₇N [M⁺]: 283.1361; found: 283.1365.

N-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2,2-diphenylethen-1-imine (**2g**)



Following the general procedure afforded **2g** (478 mg, 75 %) as a brown solid, **m.p.** 113 – 116 °C.

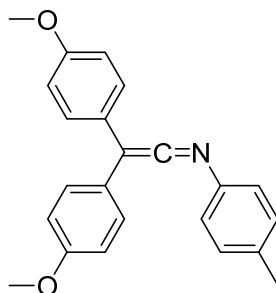
¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.86 – 7.81 (m, 4H), 7.56 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.42 – 7.33 (m, 8H), 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 191.1 , 137.8 , 133.9 , 133.7 , 132.7 , 129.6 , 128.9 , 128.1 , 127.9 , 127.8 , 126.8 , 126.5 , 126.4 , 122.9 , 122.0 , 78.3 .

IR (ATR): 1990, 1594, 1492, 1452, 1286, 1155, 1070, 1027, 815, 746, 693 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₄H₁₇N [M⁺]: 319.1361; found: 319.1359.

2,2-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-*N*-(*p*-tolyl)ethen-1-imine (**2i**)



Following the general procedure afforded **2i** (631 mg, 92 %) as a brown oil.

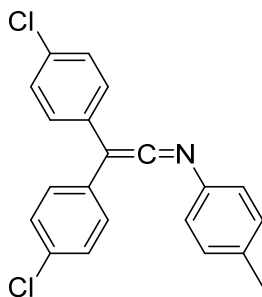
¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.30 – 7.21 (m, 6H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.93 – 6.85 (m, 4H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 2.35 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 192.5 , 158.3 , 138.5 , 137.6 , 130.0 , 128.9 , 126.2 , 123.7 , 114.3 , 77.1 , 55.3 , 21.1 .

IR (film): 2953, 2834, 1990, 1606, 1504, 1246, 1174, 1034, 829 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₃H₂₁NO₂ [M⁺]: 343.1572; found: 343.1571.

2,2-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)-*N*-(*p*-tolyl)ethen-1-imine (**2j**)



Following the general procedure afforded **2j** (498 mg, 71 %) as a brown oil.

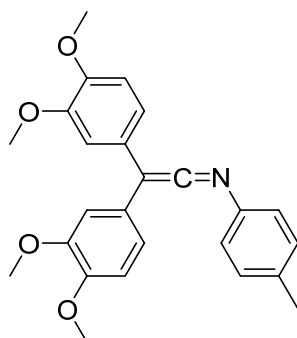
¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.28 – 7.17 (m, 8H), 2.37 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 187.9 , 138.4 , 137.0 , 132.4 , 132.1 , 130.3 , 129.1 , 128.8 , 124.0 , 76.3 , 21.2 .

IR (ATR): 2923, 1997, 1582, 1490, 1415, 1280, 1187, 1094, 1014, 911, 824, 751 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₁H₁₅NCl₂ [M⁺]: 351.0582; found: 351.0581.

2,2-Bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-N-(p-tolyl)ethen-1-imine (**2k**)



Following the general procedure afforded **2k** (446 mg, 65 %) as a brown oil.

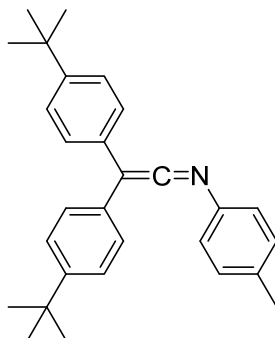
¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.92 – 6.83 (m, 6H), 3.87 (s, 6H), 3.81 (s, 6H), 2.35 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 191.8 , 149.1 , 147.6 , 138.2 , 137.6 , 130.0 , 126.4 , 123.6 , 120.1 , 111.4 , 110.8 , 77.6 , 55.8 , 55.7 , 21.0 .

IR (film): 2953, 2834, 1990, 1606, 1504, 1246, 1174, 1034, 829 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₃H₂₁NO₂ [M⁺]: 343.1572; found: 343.1571.

2,2-Bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-N-(p-tolyl)ethen-1-imine (**2l**)



Following the general procedure afforded **2l** (561 mg, 71 %) as a yellow solid, **m.p.** 113 – 115 °C.

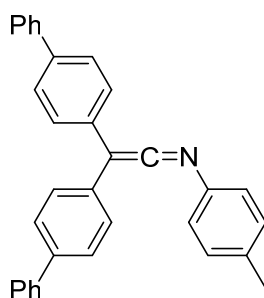
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 6H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 18H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 191.4, 149.3, 138.2, 137.7, 131.1, 130.0, 127.4, 125.7, 123.9, 77.6, 34.5, 31.3, 21.1.

IR (ATR): 2958, 2924, 2865, 1992, 1505, 1462, 1363, 1269, 1189, 1113, 1019, 828, 750, 717 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}$ [M^+]: 395.2613; found: 395.2614

2,2-Di([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-*N*-(*p*-tolyl)ethen-1-imine (**2m**)



Following the general procedure afforded **2m** (609 mg, 70 %) as a yellow solid, **m.p.** 119 – 120 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

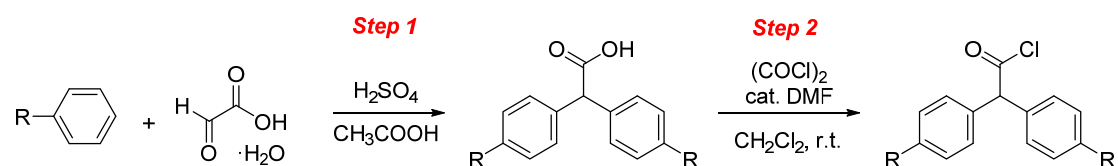
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.63 – 7.58 (m, 8H), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 8H), 7.37 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 189.7, 140.7, 139.3, 138.1, 133.1, 130.2, 128.8, 128.1, 127.5, 127.2, 126.9, 124.0, 77.5, 21.2.

IR (ATR): 3028, 2923, 1990, 1602, 1485, 1413, 1284, 1186, 909, 837, 821, 764, 730, 696, 664 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}$ [M^+]: 435.1987; found: 435.1978.

General Procedures for the Preparation of 2,2-Di(substitutedphenyl)acetyl chloride



Step 1:

Condition A ($R = \text{OCH}_3$ or 1,2 - dimethoxy):

Following a modified procedure described by Li⁴. A solution of glyoxylic acid (50 mmol) and Substituted benzene (100 mmol) in acetic acid (100 mL) was cooled in an ice bath. Concentrated sulfuric acid (6 mL) was added dropwise under stirring. The solution was then stirred at 40 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ overnight. After most solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was triturated with dichloromethane (200 mL). The solution was washed with aqueous sodium carbonate solution to pH 6, water, and brine and dried over Na_2SO_4 . After removed the solvent under reduce pressure, afforded the corresponding acid. The product was used for the next step directly without further purification.

Condition B ($R = \text{Cl}$, *t*-Bu, *Ph*):

⁴ X. Shao, X. Jiang, X. Zhao, C. Zhao, Y. Chen and Z. Li, *J. Org. Chem.* **2004**, *69*, 899.

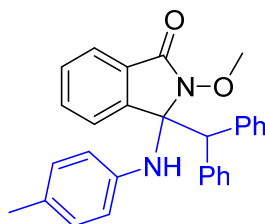
Following a modified procedure described by Marzabadi⁵. Substituted benzene (100 mmol) and glyoxylic acid monohydrate (50 mmol) were dissolved in acetic acid (60 mL). The mixture was cooled in an ice/water bath and concentrated sulfuric acid (50 mL) was added dropwise over 0.5 h. The mixture was stirred at 80°C for 12 h and then cooled to room temperature. Water (300 mL) was added and a dark solid was precipitated. The solid was washed with water (50 mL) and petroleum ether (3*50 mL) and dried in vacuum to give the desired product, which was used in the subsequent step without further purification.

Step 2:

2,2-diarylacetic acid (1.0 equiv) was dissolved in dry dichloromethane (c 0.4 M), followed by addition of a drop of DMF and oxalyl chloride (1.2 equiv). After 2 hour, the volatile and solvent were evaporated and the resulting acid chloride was obtained and used directly for the subsequent reactions without further purification.

Synthetic Procedure and Characterization Data for 3

Typical procedure for the preparation of 3-benzhydryl-2-methoxy-3-(*p*-tolylamino)-isoindolin-1-one (3a)



To an oven-dried Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar were added sequentially **1a** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol), 4A MS (60 mg) and dry DCE (2 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. The reaction vessel was heated to 80 °C in oil bath for 10 hours. Upon completion, The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and then the solvent was evaporated in vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) to give the product **3a** (107 mg, 82 %) as a white solid; **m.p.** 159 – 161 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.41 (m, 4.1 Hz, 4H), 7.34 – 7.22 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 7.10 (m, 5H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.04 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 4.51 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H).

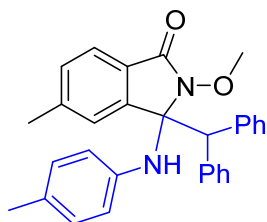
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.5, 141.8, 140.8, 137.7, 136.8, 131.9, 131.1, 130.4, 130.1, 129.4, 129.3, 128.63, 128.60, 128.2, 127.74, 127.73, 123.6, 123.4, 115.2, 82.0, 64.6, 61.1, 20.3.

IR (film): 3418, 2939, 1713, 1615, 1519, 1495, 1451, 1301, 1073, 1002, 908, 809, 716 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₉H₂₆N₂O₂ [M⁺]: 434.1994; found:434.2009.

3-Benzhydryl-2-methoxy-5-methyl-3-(*p*-tolylamino)isoindolin-1-one (3b)

⁵ Y. Jiang, C. Chen, K. Lu, I. Daniewska, J. De Leon, R. Kong, C. Forray, B. Li, L. G. Hegde, T. D. Wolinsky, D. A. Craig, J. M. Wetzel, K. Andersen and M. R. Marzabadi, *J. Med. Chem.* **2007**, *50*, 3870.



The reaction of **1h** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), Cl_3CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3b** (108 mg, 80 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a white solid; **m.p.** 181 – 182 °C.

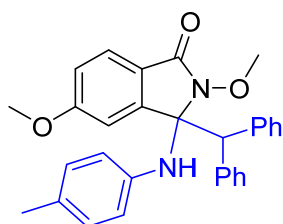
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.53 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 7.22 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 6.72 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.05 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.50 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.8, 142.7, 142.2, 140.9, 137.7, 137.0, 130.5, 130.3, 130.0, 129.4, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 127.7, 127.6, 123.9, 123.2, 115.1, 81.6, 64.5, 61.5, 22.2, 20.3.

IR (film): 3418, 2924, 1713, 1620, 1519, 1494, 1451, 1302, 1075, 1008, 908, 808, 729, 707 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ [M^+]: 448.2151; found: 448.2159.

3-Benzhydryl-2,5-dimethoxy-3-(p-tolylamino)isoindolin-1-one (3c)



The reaction of **1i** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), Cl_3CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3c** (113 mg, 81 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a white solid; **m.p.** 183 – 185 °C.

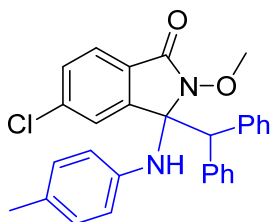
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.22 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 5H), 6.96 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.08 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.49 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.9, 163.0, 144.2, 140.8, 137.7, 136.8, 130.4, 130.1, 129.4, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.7, 125.0, 123.4, 115.4, 115.3, 108.9, 81.5, 64.6, 61.3, 55.6, 20.3.

IR (film): 3418, 2939, 1712, 1614, 1519, 1493, 1286, 1250, 1069, 1004, 909, 730, 707 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ [M^+]: 464.2100; found: 464.2094.

3-Benzhydryl-5-chloro-2-methoxy-3-(p-tolylamino)isoindolin-1-one (3d)



The reaction of **1j** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3d** (83 mg, 59 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a white solid; **m.p.** 216 – 218 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.50 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H).

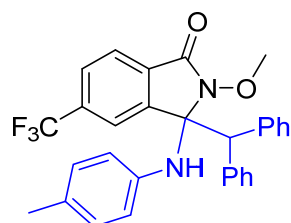
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.6, 144.0, 140.4, 138.5, 137.2, 136.5, 130.4, 130.0, 129.9, 129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.92, 127.90, 124.6, 123.8, 115.2, 81.6, 64.5, 61.4, 20.3.

IR (film): 3418, 2939, 1715, 1614, 1519, 1495, 1424, 1301, 1140, 1090, 909, 732, 707 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₈H₂₁N₂OCl [M-CH₄O]⁺: 436.1342; found:436.1339.

MALDI-TOF-MS *m/z* 469.16 ([M+H]⁺);

3-Benzhydryl-2-methoxy-3-(*p*-tolylamino)-5-(trifluoromethyl)isoindolin-1-one (**3e**)



The reaction of **1k** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3e** (92 mg, 61 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a white solid; **m.p.** 200 – 201 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.13 (m, 5H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.03 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.55 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H).

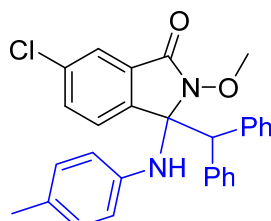
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.0, 143.0, 140.4, 137.0, 136.4, 134.3, 133.7 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 130.3, 129.9, 129.5, 129.3, 128.7, 128.4, 128.0 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz), 126.5 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 123.8, 123.5 (q, *J* = 271.4 Hz), 120.6 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 115.4, 82.1, 64.5, 61.5, 20.3.

IR (film): 3418, 3030, 2941, 1722, 1715, 1519, 1495, 1324, 1171, 1134, 1089, 1055, 909, 732, 693 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₉H₂₁N₂O₂F₃ [M-CH₄O]⁺: 470.1606; found:470.1604.

MALDI-TOF-MS *m/z* 503.19 ([M+H]⁺).

3-Benzhydryl-6-chloro-2-methoxy-3-(*p*-tolylamino)isoindolin-1-one (**3f**)



The reaction of **1l** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3f** (119 mg, 85 %)

after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a white solid; **m.p.** 186 – 188 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.24 – 7.11 (m, 5H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.04 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.49 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H).

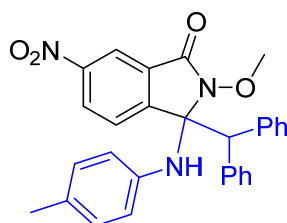
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.1, 140.5, 140.1, 137.4, 136.5, 135.6, 132.9, 132.0, 130.3, 130.0, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.92, 127.91, 125.0, 123.6, 115.3, 82.0, 64.6, 61.0, 20.3.

IR (film): 3418, 2939, 1715, 1614, 1519, 1494, 1452, 1301, 1182, 1088, 909, 808, 733, 706, 631 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₈H₂₁N₂OCl [M-CH₄O]⁺: 436.1342; found:436.1343.

MALDI-TOF-MS *m/z* 469.17 ([M+H]⁺);

3-Benzhydryl-2-methoxy-6-nitro-3-(*p*-tolylamino)isoindolin-1-one (3g)



The reaction of **1m** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp**Rh*Cl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3g** (14 mg, 10 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 186 – 188 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.46 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.15 (m, 5H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.03 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H).

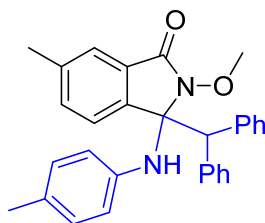
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.1, 148.9, 148.5, 140.2, 136.8, 136.0, 132.8, 130.3, 129.9, 129.6, 129.6, 128.9, 128.5, 128.21, 128.19, 126.7, 124.7, 118.6, 115.4, 82.3, 64.7, 61.2, 20.3.

IR (KBr): 3410, 2939, 1728, 1617, 1530, 1519, 1343, 1309, 1063, 1003, 725, 705 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₂₄N₃O₄ [M-C₁₂H₁]⁺: 334.1767; found:334.1723.

MALDI-TOF-MS *m/z* 480.10 ([M+H]⁺).

3-Benzhydryl-2-methoxy-6-methyl-3-(*p*-tolylamino)isoindolin-1-one (3h)



The reaction of **1n** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp**Rh*Cl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3h** (113 mg, 84 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a white solid; **m.p.** 172 – 174 °C.

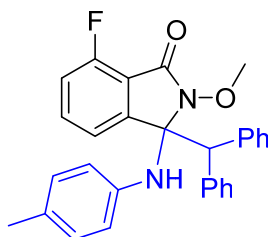
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.36 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 7.20 – 7.09 (m, 5H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.04 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 4.48 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.8, 140.9, 139.6, 138.7, 137.9, 136.9, 132.8, 131.2, 130.3, 130.1, 129.3, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 127.7, 123.7, 123.5, 115.2, 81.9, 64.5, 61.0, 21.5, 20.3.

IR (film): 3418, 3030, 2939, 1714, 1615, 1519, 1494, 1451, 1301, 1084, 909, 810, 730, 707 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₀H₂₈N₂O₂ [M⁺]: 448.2151; found:448.2152.

3-Benzhydryl-7-fluoro-2-methoxy-3-(*p*-tolylamino)isoindolin-1-one(3i)



The reaction of **1o** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3i** (39 mg, 29 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a white solid; **m.p.** 198-199°C.

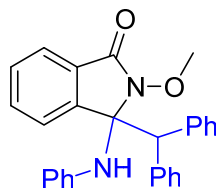
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 (td, *J* = 8.0, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.21 (m, 9H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.10 – 6.03 (m, 2H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.50 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.51 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz), 158.38 (d, *J* = 262.3 Hz), 144.75, 140.50, 137.26, 136.45, 133.82 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 130.35, 129.97, 129.39, 128.88, 128.66, 128.32, 127.92 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 119.54 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 118.11 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz), 116.92 (d, *J* = 19.5 Hz), 115.22, 81.55 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 64.54, 61.30, 20.26.

IR (film): 3416, 3030, 2939, 1721, 1714, 1625, 1519, 1495, 1492, 1452, 1301, 1252, 1181, 1003, 884, 809, 729, 707 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₉H₂₅N₂O₂F [M⁺]: 452.1900; found:452.1906.

3-Benzhydryl-2-methoxy-3-(phenylamino)isoindolin-1-one (3j)



The reaction of **1a** (0.36 mmol), **2b** (0.3 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3j** (97 mg, 77 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a white solid; **m.p.** 162 – 164 °C.

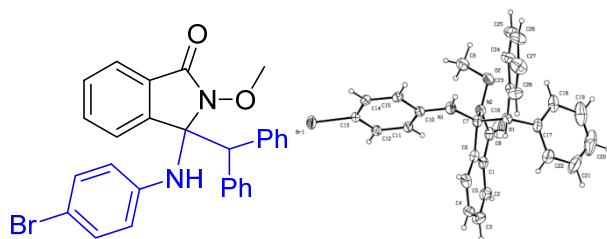
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.33 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.22 – 7.09 (m, 5H), 6.95 – 6.86 (m, 2H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.61 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.5, 143.2, 141.7, 137.6, 136.7, 132.0, 131.1, 130.4, 130.0, 129.5, 128.8, 128.7, 128.2, 127.8, 123.5, 123.4, 119.4, 115.1, 81.7, 64.6, 61.1.

IR (film): 3416, 2938, 1712, 1602, 1497, 1466, 1312, 1072, 1003, 908, 750, 718, 706 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ [M^+]: 420.1838; found: 420.1843.

3-Benzhydryl-3-((4-bromophenyl)amino)-2-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (**3k**)



The reaction of **1a** (0.36 mmol), **2c** (0.3 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), Cl_3CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3k** (105 mg, 70 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a white solid; **m.p.** 192 – 195 $^\circ\text{C}$.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (td, $J = 7.5, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (td, $J = 7.5, 0.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.08 (m, 5H), 7.00 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 6.01 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 4.64 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H).

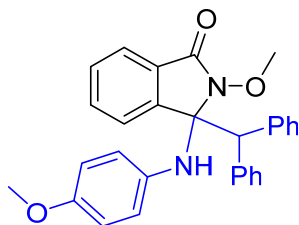
^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.5, 142.2, 141.2, 137.4, 136.4, 132.1, 131.6, 131.1, 130.3, 130.0, 129.7, 128.8, 128.2, 127.93, 127.90, 123.6, 123.5, 116.7, 111.5, 81.6, 64.6, 60.9.

IR (film): 3417, 2938, 1712, 1512, 1466, 1241, 1073, 1036, 1002, 908, 822, 732 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{OBr}$ [$\text{M}-\text{CH}_4\text{O}$] $^+$: 466.0681; found: 466.0680.

MALDI-TOF-MS m/z 499.10 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$).

3-Benzhydryl-2-methoxy-3-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)isoindolin-1-one (**3l**)



The reaction of **1a** (0.36 mmol), **2d** (0.3 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), Cl_3CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3l** (120 mg, 89 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a white solid; **m.p.** 142 – 144 $^\circ\text{C}$.

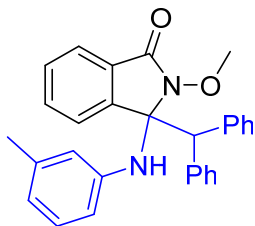
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.32 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 7.08 (m, 5H), 6.48 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.11 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.40 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.6, 153.2, 141.9, 137.8, 137.0, 131.9, 131.1, 130.3, 130.1, 129.4, 128.6, 128.2, 127.71, 127.69, 123.7, 123.3, 116.9, 114.2, 82.4, 64.4, 61.1, 55.3.

IR (film): 3417, 2938, 1714, 1593, 1494, 1310, 1182, 1071, 1003, 908, 727 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ [M^+]: 450.1943; found: 450.1940.

3-Benzhydryl-2-methoxy-3-(*m*-tolylamino)isoindolin-1-one (**3m**)



The reaction of **1a** (0.36 mmol), **2f** (0.3 mmol), [Cp**RhCl*₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3m** (60 mg, 46 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a white solid; **m.p.** 185 – 187 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.33 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.11 (m, 5H), 6.76 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 5.86 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H).

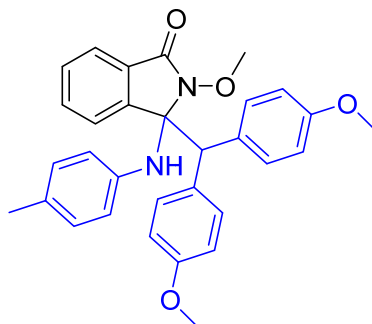
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 163.50, 143.17, 141.78, 138.62, 137.64, 136.72, 131.94, 130.37, 130.04, 129.42, 128.68, 128.64, 128.20, 127.79, 127.77, 123.56, 123.36, 120.24, 116.01, 111.97, 81.75, 64.61, 61.15, 21.38.

IR (film): 3417, 3030, 2938, 1720, 1714, 1607, 1519, 1493, 1467, 1451, 1314, 1176, 1134, 1074, 1002, 907, 772, 706 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₈H₂₂N₂O [M-CH₄O]⁺: 402.1732; found: 402.1731.

MALDI-TOF-MS *m/z* 435.21 ([M+H]⁺);

3-(Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl)-2-methoxy-3-(*p*-tolylamino)isoindolin-1-one (**3n**)



The reaction of **1a** (0.36 mmol), **2i** (0.3 mmol), [Cp**RhCl*₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3n** (55 mg, 37 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a pale yellow solid; **m.p.** 103 – 105 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 4.51 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H).

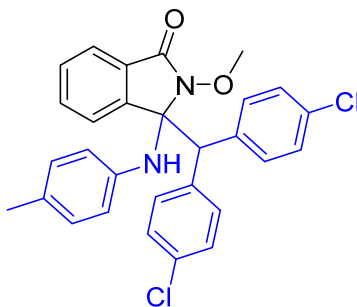
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.5, 158.84, 158.79, 141.95, 140.85, 131.8, 131.3, 131.0, 130.9, 129.9, 129.3, 129.0, 128.4, 123.3, 115.1, 113.9, 113.4, 82.0, 64.5, 59.5, 55.1, 55.0, 20.2.

IR (film): 3412, 2999, 2936, 2838, 1722, 1713, 1609, 1514, 1464, 1303, 1250, 1180, 1034, 908, 813, 736 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $C_{30}H_{26}N_2O_3$ $[M-CH_4O]^+$: 462.1943; found: 462.1947.

MALDI-TOF-MS m/z 495.23 ($[M+H]^+$);

3-(Bis(4-chlorophenyl)methyl)-2-methoxy-3-(*p*-tolylamino)isoindolin-1-one (3o)



The reaction of **1a** (0.36 mmol), **2j** (0.3 mmol), $[Cp^*RhCl_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), $Cl_3CCOOCs$ (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3o** (60 mg, 40 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1) as a pale yellow oil.

1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.68 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (td, $J = 7.5, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (td, $J = 7.5, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 6.73 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.05 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.39 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H).

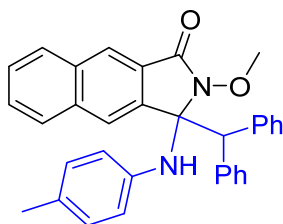
^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 163.4, 141.5, 140.4, 135.8, 135.0, 134.0, 133.9, 132.2, 131.6, 131.2, 130.8, 129.7, 129.4, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 123.7, 123.3, 115.4, 81.6, 64.6, 60.1, 20.3.

IR (film): 3419, 2939, 2920, 1722, 1713, 1616, 1519, 1493, 1467, 1301, 1093, 1073, 1014, 908, 810, 734, 695 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $C_{28}H_{20}N_2OCl_2$ $[M-CH_4O]^+$: 470.0953; found: 470.0950.

MALDI-TOF-MS m/z 503.13 ($[M+H]^+$);

3-Benzhydryl-2-methoxy-3-(*p*-tolylamino)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*f*]isoindol-1-one(3pa)



The reaction of **1b** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), $[Cp^*RhCl_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), $Cl_3CCOOCs$ (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3pa + 3pb** after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 5:1). **3pa** (45 mg, 31 %) was obtained as a white solid; **m.p.** 193 – 195 °C.

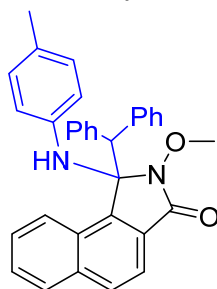
1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.20 (s, 1H), 8.01 – 7.93 (m, 1H), 7.90 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.63 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.19 – 7.09 (m, 5H), 6.66 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.04 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 4.63 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 163.3, 140.6, 137.8, 136.9, 136.8, 134.8, 133.4, 130.3, 130.1, 129.6, 129.4, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 127.9, 127.76, 127.75, 127.0, 123.9, 123.1, 115.3, 81.9, 64.5, 61.5, 20.2

IR (film): 3417, 2925, 1712, 1615, 1519, 1452, 1347, 1302, 1067, 909, 733, 707, 646 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $C_{33}H_{28}N_2O_2$ [M^+]: 484.2151; found:484.2151.

1-Benzhydryl-2-methoxy-1-(*p*-tolylamino)-1,2-dihydro-3H-benzo[*e*]isoindol-3-one(3pb)



The reaction of **1b** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), $[Cp^*RhCl_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), $Cl_3CCOOCs$ (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **3pa** + **3pb** after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 5:1). **3pb** (48 mg, 33 %) was obtained as a white solid; **m.p.** 111 – 112 °C.

1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.56 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.93 (m, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.64 – 7.52 (m, 3H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.04 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.64 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.08 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 4.79 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 163.6, 141.0, 139.4, 137.1, 136.3, 135.6, 131.5, 130.5, 129.6, 129.5, 129.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 127.67, 127.66, 127.5, 127.1, 123.5, 118.9, 115.1, 81.9, 64.5, 64.1, 20.2.

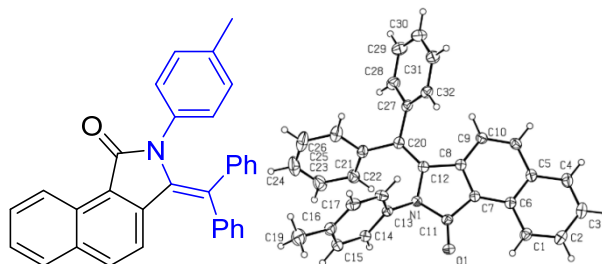
IR (film): 3413, 2925, 1714, 1615, 1519, 1495, 1452, 1301, 1034, 909, 807, 760, 732, 706 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $C_{33}H_{28}N_2O_2$ [M^+]: 484.2151; found:484.2157.

Synthetic procedure and Characterization data for 4

Typical procedure for the preparation of

3-(Diphenylmethylene)-2-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzo[*e*]isoindol-1-one (4a)



To an oven-dried Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar were added sequentially **1c** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), $[Cp^*RhCl_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), $Cl_3CCOOCs$ (0.09 mmol), 4A MS (60 mg) and dry DCE (2 mL) under N_2 atmosphere. The reaction vessel was heated to 80°C in oil bath for 10 hours. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and then the solvent was evaporated in vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) to give the product **4a** (97 mg, 74 %) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 146 – 148 °C.

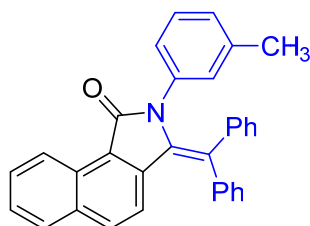
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.23 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.39 (m, 5H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.95 – 6.86 (m, 5H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.2, 141.6, 139.9, 138.1, 135.8, 134.8, 134.1, 133.3, 132.0, 131.6, 131.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 127.8, 127.6, 127.2, 127.1, 126.9, 124.5, 122.7, 120.8, 20.9.

IR (film): 3056, 1698, 1512, 1443, 1359, 1205, 1127, 1096, 825, 756, 701 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₂H₂₃NO [M⁺]: 437.1780; found:437.1782.

3-(Diphenylmethylene)-2-(*m*-tolyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindol-1-one (4b)



The reaction of **1c** (0.36 mmol), **2f** (0.3 mmol), [Cp**Rh*Cl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4b** (97 mg, 74 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 149 – 150 °C.

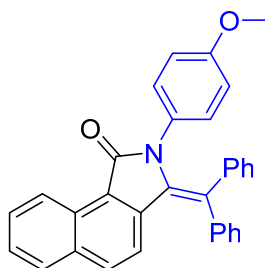
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.23 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.37 (m, 6H), 7.03 – 6.83 (m, 8H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.1, 141.6, 140.0, 138.0, 137.5, 136.4, 134.6, 133.3, 132.1, 131.5, 130.8, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 127.81, 127.75, 127.2, 127.0, 126.85, 126.84, 124.9, 124.5, 122.6, 120.8, 21.0.

IR (film): 3054, 1694, 1587, 1518, 1489, 1442, 1360, 1205, 1125, 909, 825, 755, 732, 702, 646 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₂H₂₃NO [M⁺]: 437.1780; found:437.1787.

3-(Diphenylmethylene)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindol-1-one (4c)



The reaction of **1c** (0.36 mmol), **2d** (0.3 mmol), [Cp**Rh*Cl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4c** (63 mg, 46 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 136 – 138 °C.

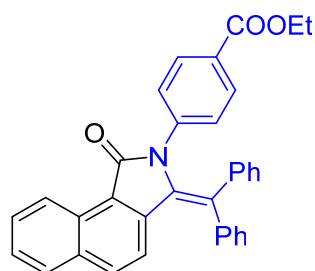
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.37 (m, 6H), 7.07 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.85 (m, 5H), 6.62 – 6.56 (m, 2H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.3, 157.6, 141.6, 139.9, 138.0, 134.9, 133.3, 132.0, 131.5, 131.0, 129.7, 129.0, 128.89, 128.86, 128.7, 128.3, 127.8, 127.2, 126.9, 124.5, 122.6, 120.8, 113.4, 55.4.

IR (film): 3045, 1694, 1510, 1442, 1293, 1246, 1207, 1129, 1031, 910, 826, 756, 732, 702, 622 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₂H₂₃NO₂ [M⁺]: 453.1729; found:453.1732.

Ethyl 4-(3-(diphenylmethylene)-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindol-2-yl)benzoate (**4d**)



The reaction of **1c** (0.36 mmol), **2e** (0.3 mmol), [Cp**Rh*Cl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4d** (94 mg, 63 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 91 – 93 °C.

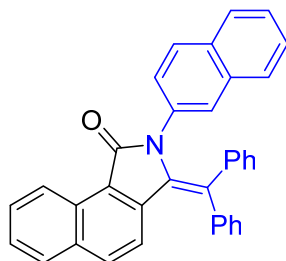
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.20 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.78 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.68 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.58 – 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.54 – 7.41 (m, 5H), 7.27 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 6.93 – 6.89 (m, 5H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.8, 166.1, 141.1, 140.9, 139.8, 138.3, 134.0, 133.4, 132.6, 131.5, 131.0, 129.5, 129.3, 129.0, 128.5, 127.9, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 127.2, 127.0, 124.4, 122.3, 120.6, 60.9, 14.3.

IR (film): 3056, 2981, 1703, 1604, 1517, 1443, 1358, 1273, 1192, 1106, 1019, 911, 825, 748, 701 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₄H₂₅NO₃ [M⁺]: 495.1834; found:495.1833.

3-(Diphenylmethylene)-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindol-1-one (**4e**)



The reaction of **1c** (0.36 mmol), **2g** (0.3 mmol), [Cp**Rh*Cl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4e** (95 mg, 67 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 211 – 212 °C.

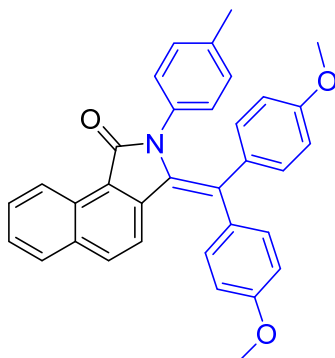
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.25 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.62 (m, 4H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.43 (m, 6H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.63 – 6.56 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.2, 141.4, 139.8, 138.1, 134.7, 134.2, 133.4, 132.7, 132.3, 131.6, 131.5, 130.8, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6, 127.3, 127.1, 127.0, 126.9, 126.7, 125.8, 125.7, 125.6, 124.5, 122.6, 120.8.

IR (film): 3054, 2924, 1698, 1597, 1517, 1469, 1442, 1367, 1266, 1207, 1117, 825, 754, 701 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₅H₂₃NO [M⁺]: 473.1780; found: 473.1776.

3-(Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)methylene)-2-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindol-1-one (4f)



The reaction of **1c** (0.36 mmol), **2i** (0.3 mmol), [Cp**Rh*Cl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4f** (107 mg, 72 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 181 – 184 °C.

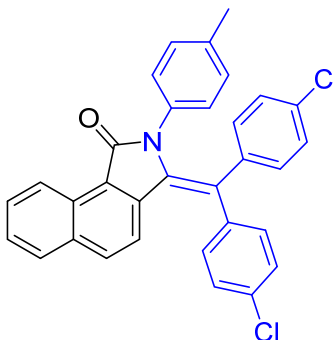
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.23 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.52 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 6.95 (m, 4H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.83 – 6.77 (m, 2H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.49 – 6.38 (m, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.1, 160.2, 158.9, 138.3, 135.5, 134.2, 134.0, 133.3, 133.08, 133.06, 132.7, 132.6, 131.9, 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 127.7, 127.4, 126.6, 124.5, 122.2, 120.8, 114.2, 112.7, 55.4, 55.2, 20.9.

IR (film): 2929, 1693, 1602, 1511, 14621, 1359, 1302, 1249, 1173, 1031, 826, 761, 732 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₄H₂₇NO₃ [M⁺]: 497.1991; found: 497.1993.

3-(Bis(4-chlorophenyl)methylene)-2-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindol-1-one (4g)



The reaction of **1c** (0.36 mmol), **2j** (0.3 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4g** (91 mg, 60 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 199 – 200 °C.

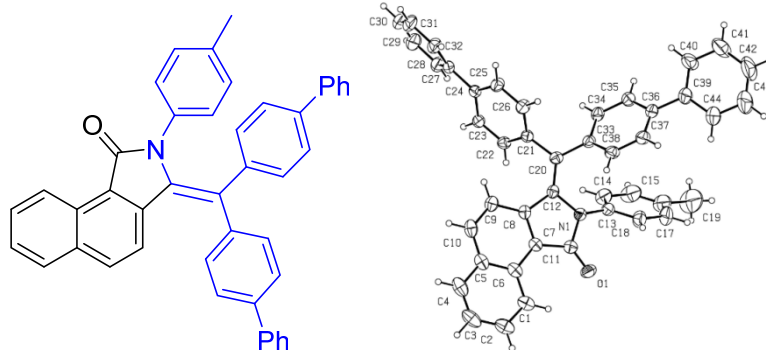
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.25 – 9.15 (m, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.92 – 6.85 (m, 4H), 6.79 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.9, 139.6, 138.0, 137.5, 136.5, 135.5, 135.0, 133.7, 133.4, 133.3, 132.9, 132.3, 132.1, 129.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 127.9, 127.6, 127.4, 127.1, 125.3, 124.5, 122.8, 120.5, 20.9.

IR (film): 2922, 1703, 1694, 1587, 1514, 1487, 1399, 1361, 1206, 1128, 1090, 1015, 908, 824, 756, 732 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₂H₂₁NOCl₂ [M⁺]: 505.1000; found: 505.1000.

3-(Di([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)methylene)-2-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindol-1-one (**4h**)



The reaction of **1c** (0.36 mmol), **2m** (0.3 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4h** (164 mg, 93 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 214 – 216 °C.

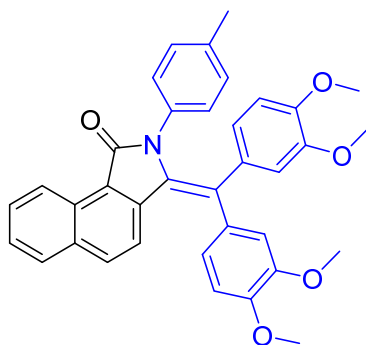
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.25 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.77 – 7.70 (m, 4H), 7.65 (td, *J* = 8.6, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 7.56 – 7.47 (m, 5H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 5H), 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.1, 141.4, 140.8, 140.4, 140.2, 138.8, 138.0, 135.9, 134.9, 134.0, 133.3, 132.2, 132.1, 131.5, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 127.83, 127.80, 127.74, 127.70, 127.4, 127.3, 127.0, 126.92, 126.87, 126.0, 124.5, 122.6, 120.9, 20.9.

IR (film): 3028, 2920, 1694, 1512, 1486, 1361, 1192, 1128, 1095, 825, 766, 740, 619 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₄₄H₃₁NO [M⁺]: 589.2406; found: 589.2411.

3-(Bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methylene)-2-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindol-1-one (**4i**)



The reaction of **1c** (0.36 mmol), **2k** (0.3 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4i** (117 mg, 70 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 180 – 183 °C.

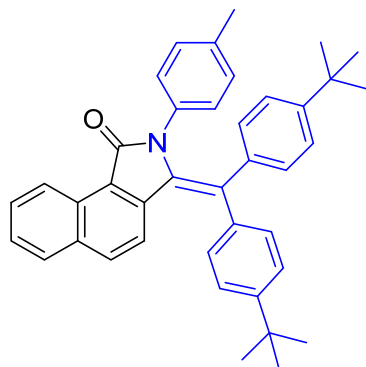
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.23 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.53 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 3H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.09, 149.79, 149.07, 148.53, 147.31, 138.28, 135.59, 134.22, 133.96, 133.48, 133.15, 132.92, 131.94, 129.08, 128.93, 128.41, 128.21, 127.77, 127.09, 126.68, 124.80, 124.66, 124.42, 122.28, 120.88, 114.42, 111.03, 110.19, 56.03, 55.95, 55.87, 55.54, 20.89.

IR (film): 2930, 1694, 1597, 1512, 1463, 1409, 1325, 1253, 1168, 1139, 1026, 826 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₆H₃₁NO₅ [M⁺]: 557.2202; found: 557.2205.

3-(Bis(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)methylene)-2-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindol-1-one(**4j**)



The reaction of **1c** (0.36 mmol), **2l** (0.3 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4j** (119 mg, 72 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 258 – 261 °C.

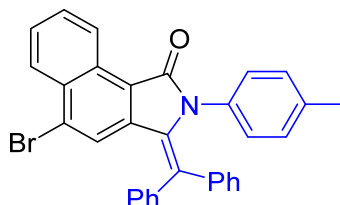
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.23 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.52 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 6.92 – 6.87 (m, 2H), 6.84 – 6.77 (m, 4H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 1.17 (s, 9H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.1 , 152.0 , 150.2 , 138.5 , 138.2 , 137.1 , 135.3 , 134.23 , 134.19 , 133.2 , 131.8 , 131.2 , 130.8 , 129.2 , 129.1 , 128.4 , 128.1 , 127.7 , 126.7 , 125.6 , 124.5 , 124.0 , 122.5 , 120.9 , 34.8 , 34.4 , 31.4 , 31.1 , 20.9 .

IR (film): 2961, 2867, 1698, 1513, 1361, 1267, 1213, 1192, 1129, 1111, 1019, 825, 777, 756 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{39}\text{NO}$ [M^+]: 549.3032; found: 549.3040.

5-Bromo-3-(diphenylmethylene)-2-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindol-1-one(4k)



The reaction of **1p** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), Cl_3CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4k** (76 mg, 49 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 234 – 235 $^\circ\text{C}$.

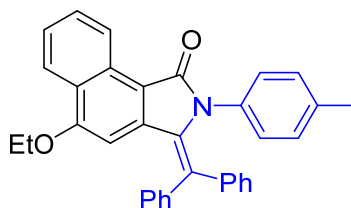
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.27 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (ddd, J = 8.3, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (ddd, J = 8.3, 6.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.40 (dt, J = 6.8, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 6.96 – 6.82 (m, 7H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.5 , 141.0 , 139.5 , 138.0 , 136.0 , 133.8 , 133.65 , 131.61 , 131.5 , 131.0 , 129.7 , 129.6 , 129.1 , 128.98 , 128.96 , 128.6 , 128.0 , 127.5 , 127.4 , 127.33 , 127.30 , 127.2 , 125.3 , 124.9 , 122.1 , 20.9 .

IR (film): 3056, 2924, 2854, 1703, 1698, 1513, 1443, 1367, 1208, 1129, 910, 764, 733, 701 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{22}\text{NOBr}$ [M^+]: 515.0885; found:515.0884.

3-(Diphenylmethylene)-5-ethoxy-2-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*e*]isoindol-1-one(4l)



The reaction of **1q** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), Cl_3CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4l** (66 mg, 46 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 262 – 263 $^\circ\text{C}$.

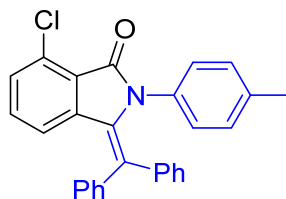
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.14 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (ddd, J = 8.3, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.41 (m, 6H), 7.03 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 6.95 – 6.87 (m, 5H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.86 (s, 1H), 3.64 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.2 , 157.6 , 141.8 , 139.8 , 139.7 , 135.5 , 135.2 , 134.3 , 131.6 , 130.9 , 129.8 , 128.9 , 128.6 , 128.45 , 128.39 , 127.8 , 127.4 , 127.1 , 126.9 , 126.1 , 125.8 , 124.3 , 122.2 , 115.5 , 99.8 , 63.2 , 20.9 , 14.6 .

IR (ATR): 3058, 1697, 1579, 1512, 1360, 1280, 1209, 1176, 1136, 1097, 1025, 827, 772, 755, 698, 623 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_2$ [M^+]: 481.2042; found: 481.2043.

7-Chloro-3-(diphenylmethylene)-2-(*p*-tolyl)isoindolin-1-one(**4m**)



The reaction of **1d** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), Cl_3CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4m** (77 mg, 61 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 156 – 158 $^\circ\text{C}$.

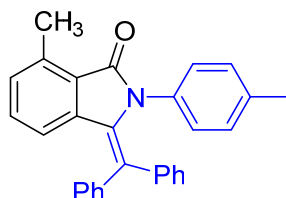
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.49 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.35 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.92 – 6.84 (m, 3H), 6.81 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 4H), 6.37 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.8, 141.4, 140.5, 139.6, 136.0, 133.6, 132.7, 132.2, 131.6, 131.0, 130.7, 130.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.0, 127.4, 127.2, 127.0, 124.8, 122.1, 20.9.

IR (film): 3056, 2923, 1714, 1596, 1512, 1463, 1360, 1330, 1261, 1229, 1099, 803, 756, 695, 669, 648 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{20}\text{NOCl}$ [M^+]: 421.1233; found: 421.1230.

3-(Diphenylmethylene)-7-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)isoindolin-1-one(**4n**)



The reaction of **1e** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (0.015 mmol), Cl_3CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4n** (54 mg, 45 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 175 – 176 $^\circ\text{C}$.

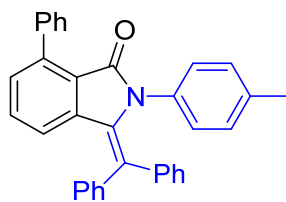
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.45 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.38 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.90 – 6.84 (m, 3H), 6.84 – 6.77 (m, 4H), 6.31 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.0, 141.8, 140.0, 138.7, 137.7, 135.7, 134.03, 133.99, 131.3, 131.1, 130.65, 130.63, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 127.1, 126.6, 126.4, 126.1, 121.2, 20.9, 17.8.

IR (film): 3055, 2923, 1704, 1601, 1513, 1444, 1361, 1332, 1219, 1115, 696, 668, 652 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}$ [M^+]: 401.1780; found: 401.1784.

3-(diphenylmethylene)-7-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)isoindolin-1-one (**4o**)



The reaction of **1f** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp**RhCl*₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4n** (33 mg, 24 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a yellow solid; **m.p.** 191 – 193 °C.

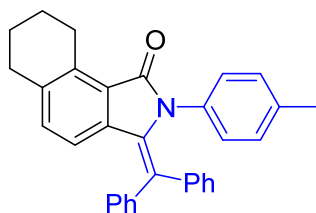
¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.58 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.35 (m, 8H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.94 – 6.90 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.81 (m, 5H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.52 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.4, 141.9, 140.9, 140.0, 139.2, 137.5, 135.7, 133.9, 133.7, 131.3, 131.2, 130.8, 130.7, 129.8, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.53, 127.48, 127.1, 126.78, 126.76, 124.7, 122.7, 20.8.

IR (film): 3057, 3029, 2924, 1711, 1597, 1513, 1474, 1444, 1360, 1259, 1223, 1118, 759, 697 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₉H₂₃NO [M⁺]: 463.1936; found: 463.1931.

3-(Diphenylmethylene)-2-(p-tolyl)-2,3,6,7,8,9-hexahydro-1H-benzo[e]isoindol-1-one(**4p**)



The reaction of **1g** (0.36 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp**RhCl*₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), Cl₃CCOOCs (0.09 mmol) and 4A MS (60 mg) in DCE (2 mL) following the typical procedure afforded **4n** (61 mg, 46 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 20:1) as a pale yellow solid; **m.p.** 157 – 158 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.38 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 6.96 – 6.90 (m, 3H), 6.89 – 6.83 (m, 3H), 6.83 – 6.77 (m, 4H), 6.19 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.76 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.86 – 1.74 (m, 4H).

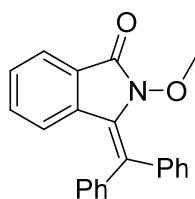
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.1, 141.9, 140.1, 138.5, 136.7, 136.6, 135.6, 134.14, 134.10, 132.7, 131.1, 130.7, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 127.4, 127.1, 126.5, 125.7, 125.5, 120.6, 29.6, 25.3, 22.6, 22.5, 20.9.

IR (film): 3028, 2927, 2857, 1704, 1698, 1513, 1486, 1444, 1360, 1203, 1135, 1100, 909, 756, 697, 652 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₂H₂₇NO [M⁺]: 441.2093; found: 441.2096.

Synthetic procedure and Characterization data for 5 and 6

Typical procedure for the preparation of 3-(Diphenylmethylene)-2-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (5a):



To a 25 ml pressure tube charged with a magnetic stir bar was added **3a** (0.1 mmol), $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ (0.3 mmol), and 1.5 mL acetone as solvent. The reaction vessel was sealed and heated to 80 °C in an oil bath for a period of 3 hours. Then the solvent was removed under reduce pressure, and the residue was subject to silica gel column chromatography with ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 10:1 (v:v) as eluent. The product **5a** was obtained as a white solid (27 mg, 83%), **m.p.** 170 – 171 °C.

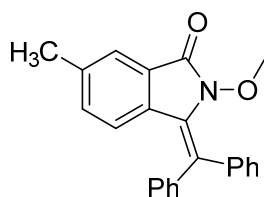
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.20 (m, 12H), 6.46 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.3 , 140.5 , 139.5 , 134.0 , 131.9 , 130.6 , 130.3 , 128.9 , 128.7 , 128.5 , 128.3 , 127.7 , 127.3 , 127.0 , 126.1 , 123.6 , 123.1 , 62.6 .

IR (ATR): 3566, 1713, 1442, 1305, 1267, 1189, 1114, 1032, 997, 951, 911, 756, 698, 638 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2$ [M^+]: 327.1259; found:327.1263.

Preparation of 3-(Diphenylmethylene)-2-methoxy-6-methylisoindolin-1-one (**5b**):



The reaction of **3h** (0.1 mmol), $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ (0.3 mmol), and acetone (1.5mL) following the typical procedure afforded **5b** (26 mg, 76 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1) as a white solid, **m.p.** 166 – 168 °C.

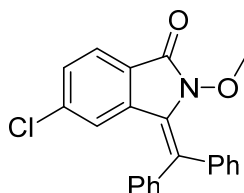
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.44 – 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 7H), 7.08 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.33 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.6 , 140.7 , 139.5 , 139.1 , 133.0 , 131.5 , 130.6 , 130.4 , 128.9 , 128.5 , 128.4 , 127.6 , 127.3 , 127.1 , 125.2 , 123.5 , 123.3 , 62.6 , 21.4 .

IR (ATR): 3055, 1710, 1488, 1443, 1320, 1264, 1194, 1128, 1017, 827, 753, 699, 651, 631 cm^{-1} ;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2$ [M^+]: 341.1416; found: 341.1414.

Preparation of 5-Chloro-3-(diphenylmethylene)-2-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (**5c**):



The reaction of **3d** (0.1 mmol), $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ (0.3 mmol), and acetone (1.5mL) following the typical procedure afforded **5c** (31 mg, 86 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1) as a white solid, **m.p.** 215 – 217 °C.

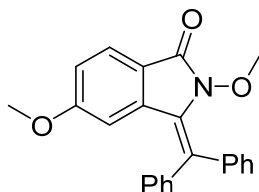
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.76 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 8H), 6.35 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.5 , 139.9 , 139.0 , 138.2 , 135.4 , 130.5 , 130.3 , 129.1 , 129.03 , 128.98 , 128.0 , 127.5 , 127.4 , 125.3 , 124.3 , 123.9 , 62.8 .

IR (ATR): 3077, 1718, 1607, 1451, 1424, 1317, 1273, 1186, 1121, 1075, 1014, 958, 761, 696 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₂H₁₆NO₂Cl [M⁺]: 361.0870; found: 361.0866.

Preparation of 3-(Diphenylmethylene)-2,5-dimethoxyisoindolin-1-one (5d):



The reaction of **3c** (0.1 mmol), BF₃·OEt₂ (0.3 mmol), and acetone (1.5mL) following the typical procedure afforded **5d** (29 mg, 81 %) after chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1) as a white solid, **m.p.** 194 – 196 °C.

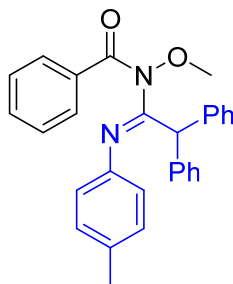
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.39 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 3.43 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.8 , 162.8 , 140.6 , 139.4 , 136.3 , 130.6 , 130.3 , 129.0 , 128.8 , 128.5 , 127.7 , 127.4 , 125.8 , 124.6 , 119.8 , 116.6 , 107.6 , 62.5 , 55.0 .

IR (ATR): 3002, 1708, 1617, 1581, 1476, 1440, 1355, 1278, 1214, 1165, 1117, 1009, 962, 757, 697, 642 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₃H₁₉NO₃ [M⁺]: 357.1365; found: 357.1368.

Preparation of *N*-(2,2-diphenyl-1-(*p*-tolylimino)ethyl)-*N*-methoxybenzamide (6):



To an oven-dried Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar were added sequentially **1a** (0.45 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.015 mmol), AgNTf₂ (0.045 mmol), 4A MS (60 mg) and dry DCE (2 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. The reaction vessel was heated to reflux in oil bath for 10 hours. Upon completion, The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and then the solvent was evaporated in vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1) to give the product **6** (125 mg, 96 %) as a white solid; **m.p.** 118 – 124 °C.

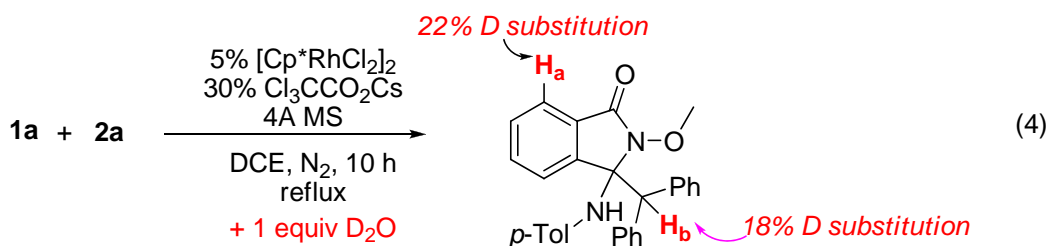
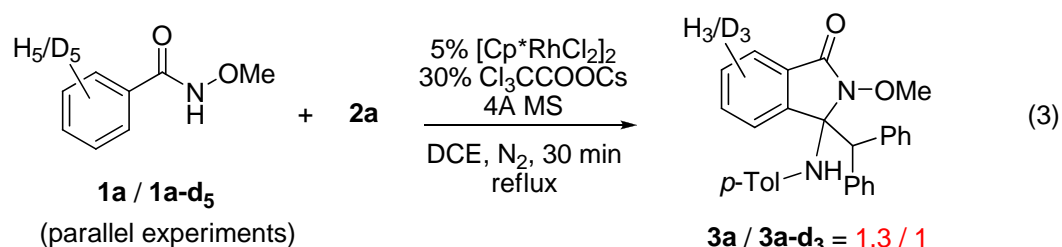
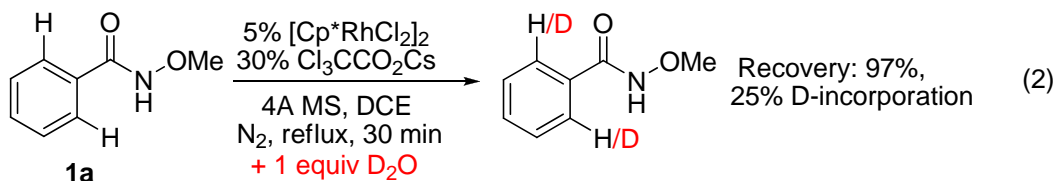
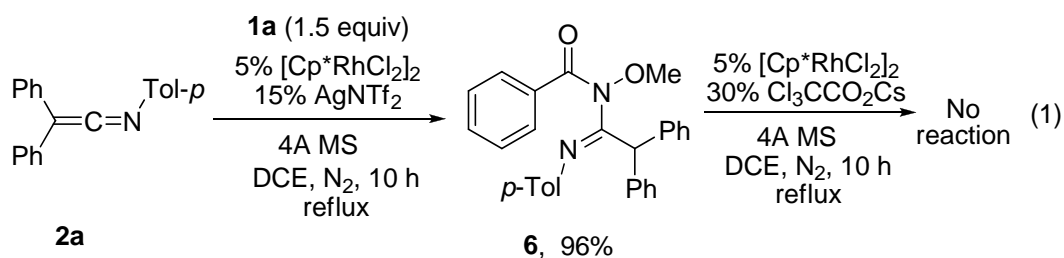
¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 8H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.12 – 7.06 (m, 4H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 171.6 , 139.3 , 138.9 , 136.6 , 135.4 , 130.0 , 129.6 , 129.4 , 128.6 , 128.0 , 127.6 , 127.3 , 126.6 , 62.1 , 54.1 , 21.0 .

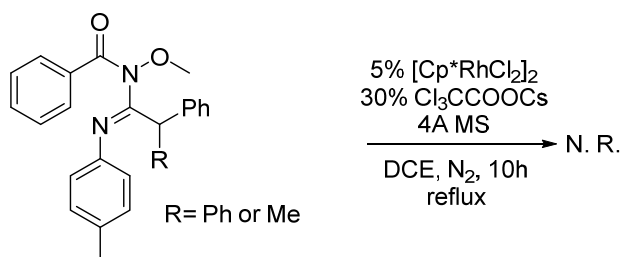
IR (ATR): 3060, 2926, 1661, 1602, 1509, 1451, 1329, 1298, 1180, 1050, 923, 897, 796, 742, 700 cm⁻¹;

HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₉H₂₆N₂O₂ [M⁺]: 434.1994; found: 434.1996.

Scheme S1. Mechanistic Experiments and Their Procedures

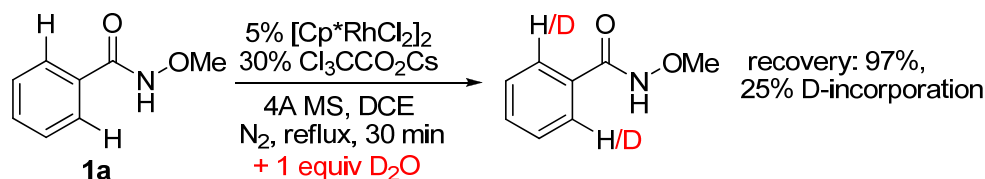


(1) Intermediate exclusion experiment

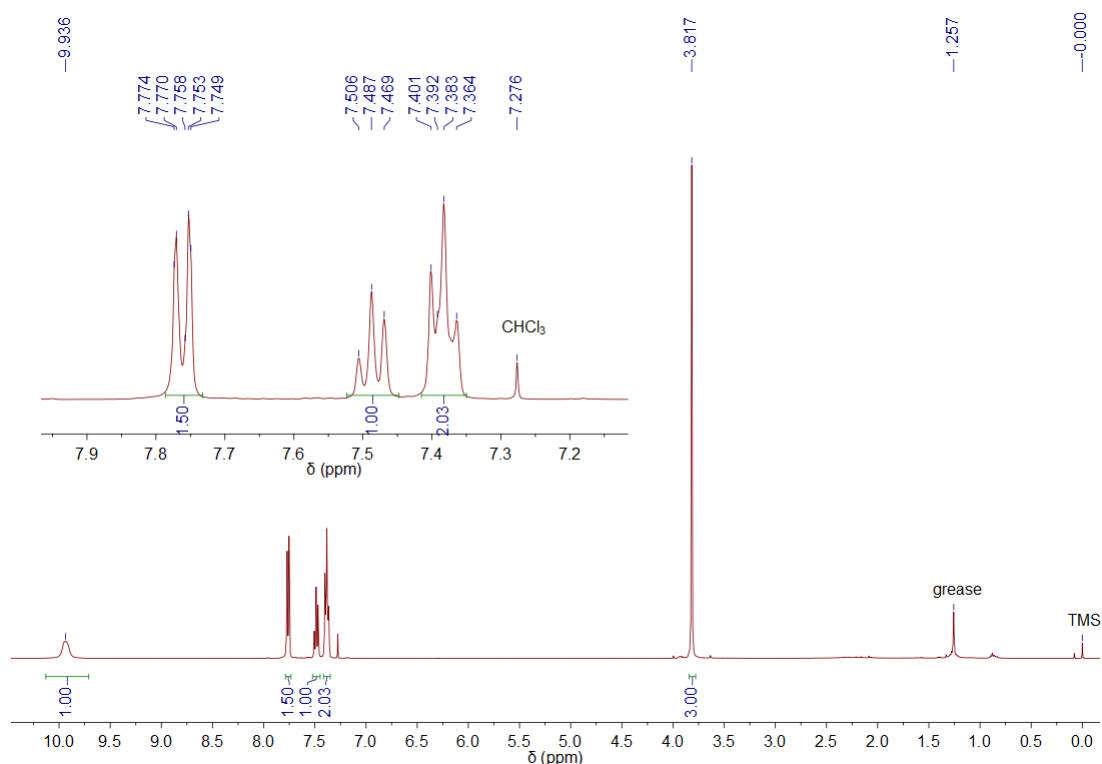


To an oven-dried Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar were added sequentially **6** (0.2 mmol), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.01 mmol), Cl₃CCO₂Cs (0.06 mmol), 4A MS (40 mg) and dry DCE (1.5 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. The reaction vessel was heated to reflux in oil bath for 10 hours. Upon completion, TLC showed that no [4+1] or [4+2] product was found and the reactant was unreacted.

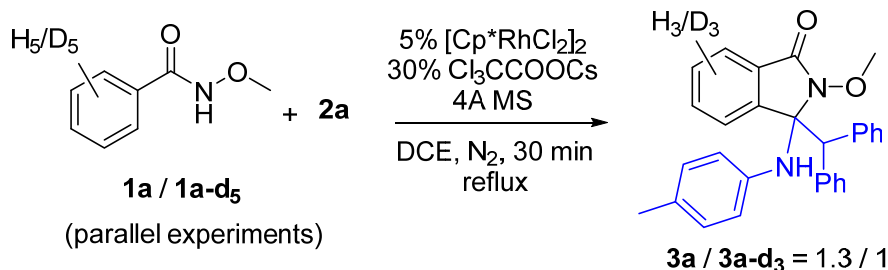
(2) The reversibility of the C–H activation step in absence of ketenimines



To a dried Schlenk tube equipped with a Teflon-coated magnetic stirring bar were added **1a** (31 mg, 0.2 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (6 mg, 0.01 mmol), $\text{Cl}_3\text{CCO}_2\text{Cs}$ (18 mg, 0.06 mmol), 4A MS (40mg), D_2O (0.2 mmol, 4 μL) and DCE (1.5 mL) under N_2 atmosphere. The reaction vessel was stirred at 80°C for 30 minutes. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 1:1) to afford **1a** (30 mg, 97%).

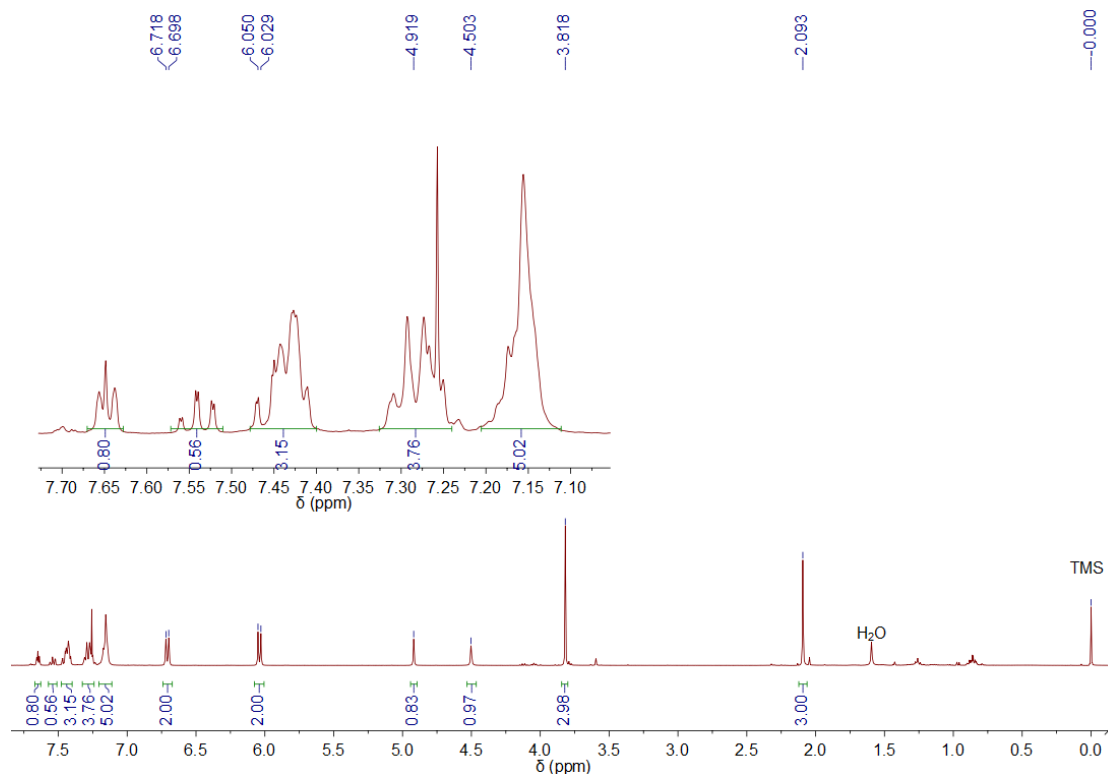


(3) Kinetic isotope effect

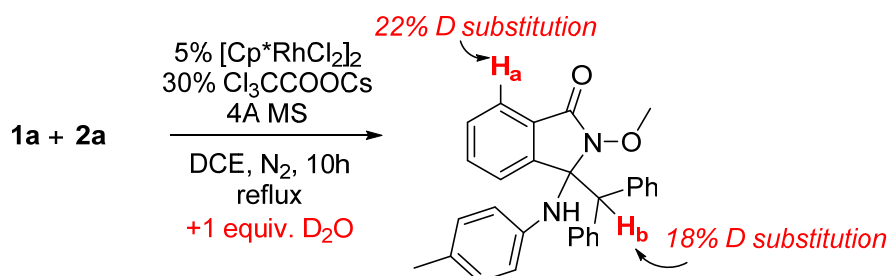


Following general procedure, to a dried Schlenk tube equipped with a Teflon-coated magnetic stirring bar were added **1a** (0.24 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (0.01 mmol), Cl_3CCOOCs (0.06 mmol), 4A M S(40 mg) and DCE (1.5 mL) under N_2 atmosphere. In another Schlenk tube, **1a-d₅** (0.24 mmol) was used instead of **1a**. The two reactions were allowed to stir at 80°C for 30 min and then were combined. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was

purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford the product (59 mg, 34% combined yield). The value of K_H/K_D was obtained based on ^1H NMR.



(4) [4+1] reaction with the additive of D_2O



To a dried Schlenk tube equipped with a Teflon-coated magnetic stirring bar were added **1a** (0.24 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (0.01 mmol), Cl_3CCOOCs (0.06 mmol), 4A MS(40mg), D_2O (0.2 mmol, 4 μL) and DCE (1.5 mL) under N_2 atmosphere. The reaction vessel was stirred at 80°C for 10 hours. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **1a** (51 mg, 59%).

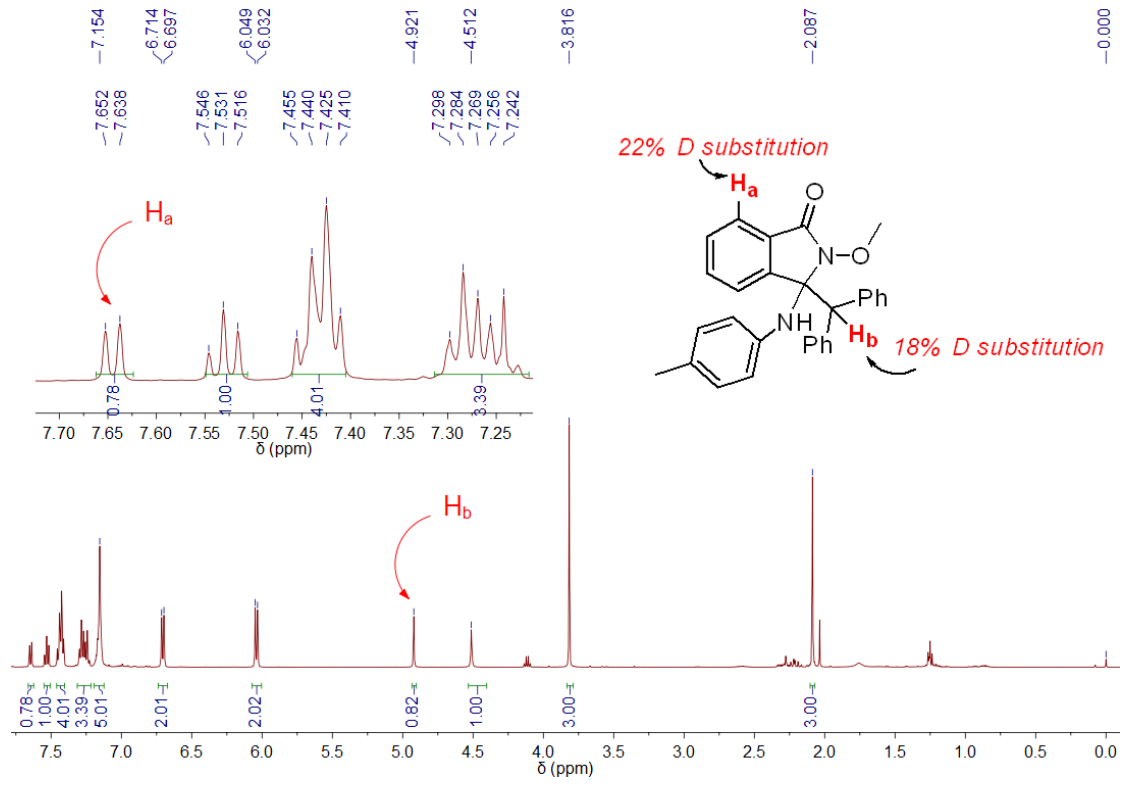
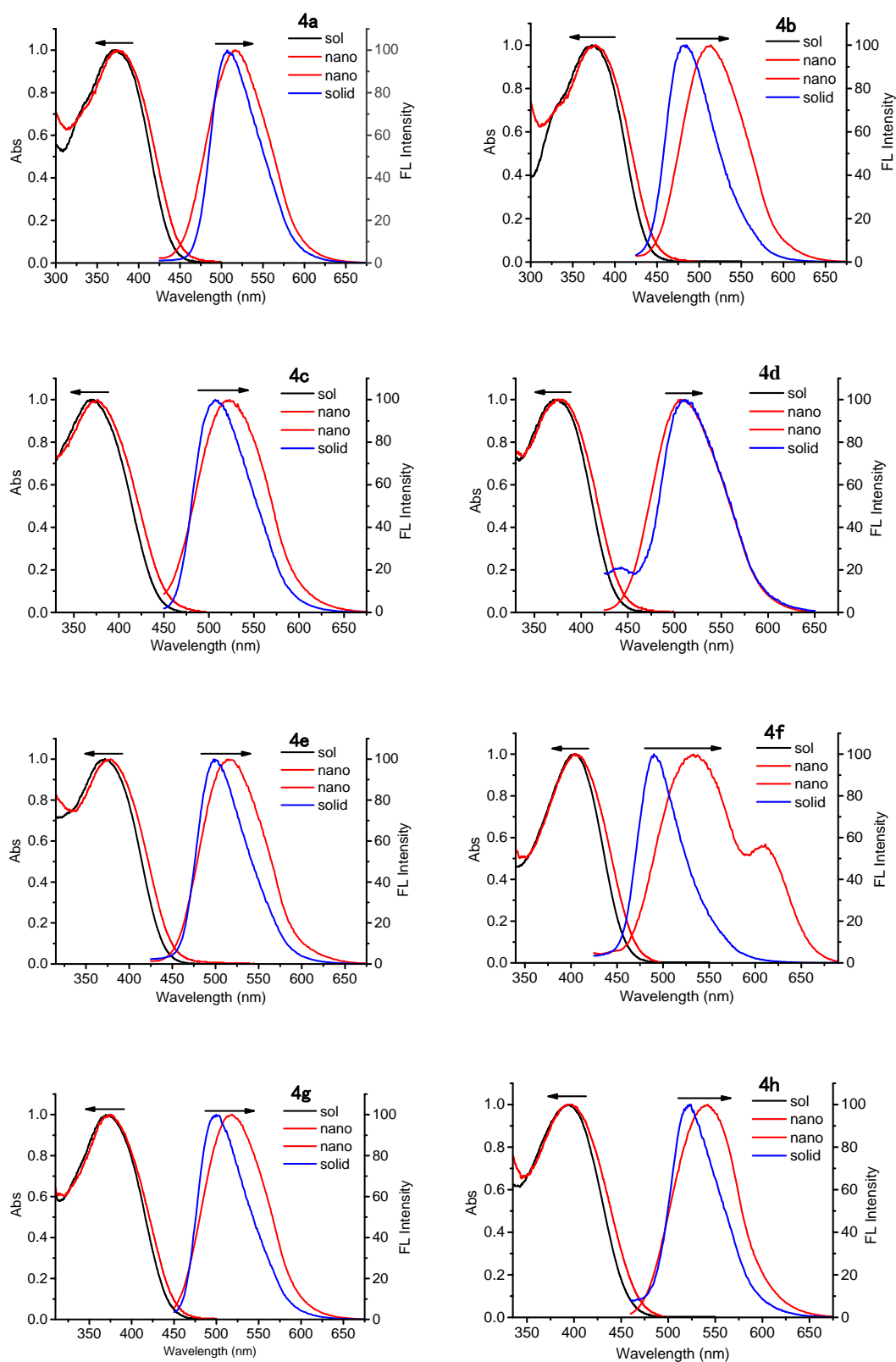
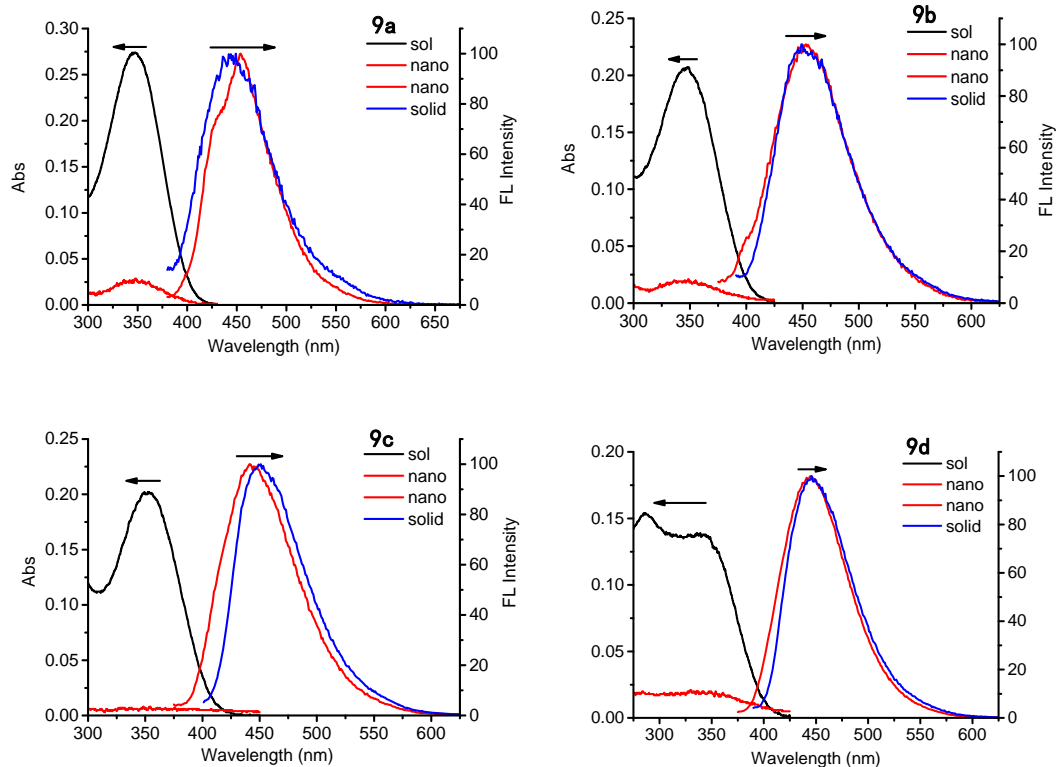


Figure S3. UV-vis absorption and fluorescence spectra of **4a-5d**





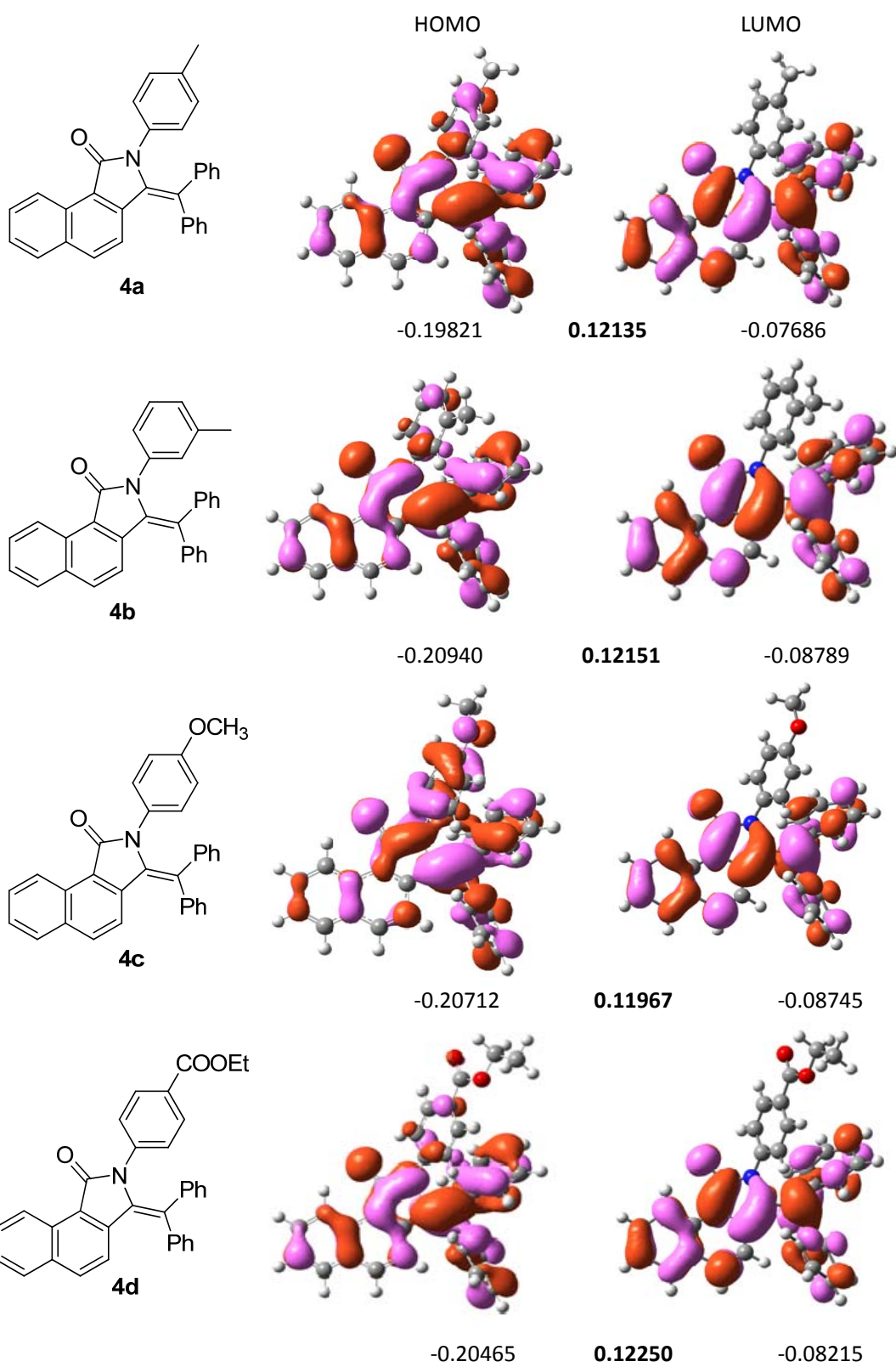
All the absorption and emission spectra were obtained in a concentration scale of 10^{-5} M. Then they were normalized except the absorption spectra of **5a-d**. Back line respects absorption in the THF. Red line respect absorption and emission in THF/water mixtures (5:95), respectively. Blue line stands for emission in solid.

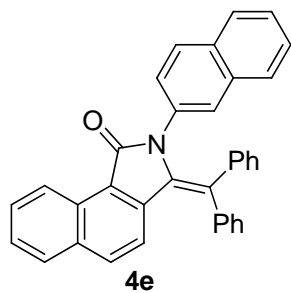
Table S3. Data of DFT Studies

Method Compound	UV	B3LYP/6-31G*				% Δ^b
	Absorption (nm) ^a	LUMO (Hartree)	HOMO (Hartree)	Gap (Hartree)	Gap (nm)	
4a	373	-0.07686	-0.19821	0.12135	375	0.7
4b	373	-0.08789	-0.20940	0.12151	375	0.5
4c	372	-0.08745	-0.20712	0.11967	381	2.3
4d	376	-0.08215	-0.20465	0.12250	372	-1.1
4e	372	-0.08904	-0.20949	0.12045	378	1.7
4f	405	-0.08240	-0.19788	0.11548	395	-2.6
4g	375	-0.09815	-0.21873	0.12058	378	0.8
4h	394	-0.08900	-0.20455	0.11555	394	0
4i	412	-0.08484	-0.19799	0.11315	403	-2.3
4j	387	-0.08279	-0.20239	0.11960	381	-1.6
4k	374	-0.09337	-0.21318	0.11981	380	1.7
4l	375	-0.08386	-0.20716	0.12330	370	-1.5
4m	362	-0.08704	-0.21248	0.12544	363	0.3
4n	357	-0.07843	-0.20627	0.12784	356	-0.2
4o	364	-0.08053	-0.20635	0.12582	362	-0.5
4p	362	-0.07522	-0.20373	0.12851	355	-2.1
5a	348	-0.08218	-0.21369	0.13151	346	-0.4
5b	348	-0.08051	-0.21113	0.13062	349	0.2
5c	349	-0.08977	-0.21950	0.12973	351	0.6
5d	343	-0.07770	-0.21056	0.13286	343	0

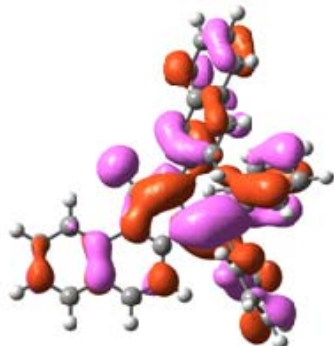
^a The wavelength of absorption was obtained by UV-vis spectrometer in the THF.

^b % Δ = 100 x (Gap - Absorption)/Gap



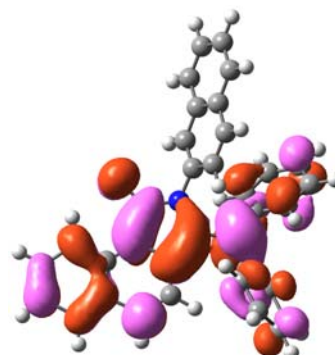


HOMO



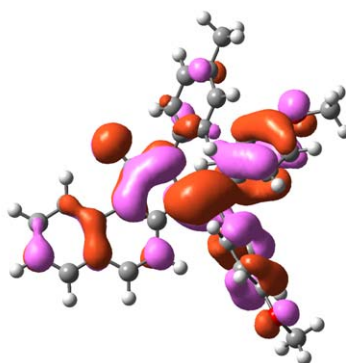
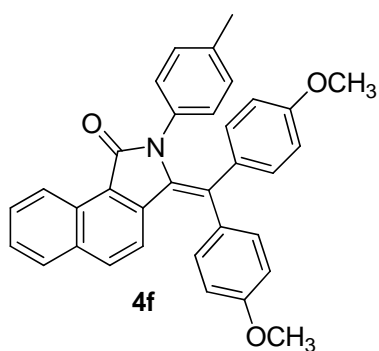
-0.20949

LUMO



-0.08904

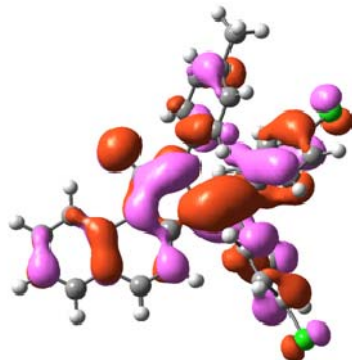
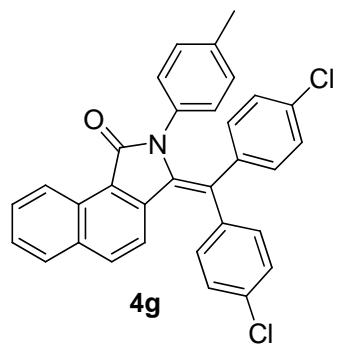
0.12045



-0.19788

-0.08240

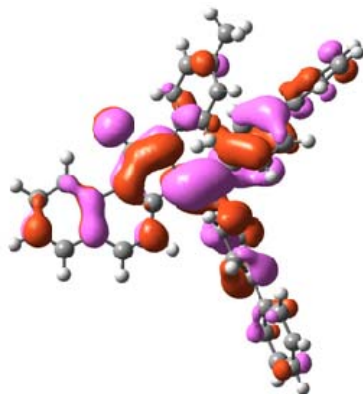
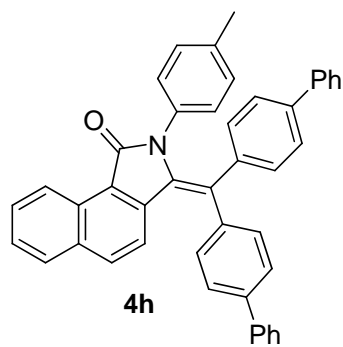
0.11548



-0.21873

-0.09815

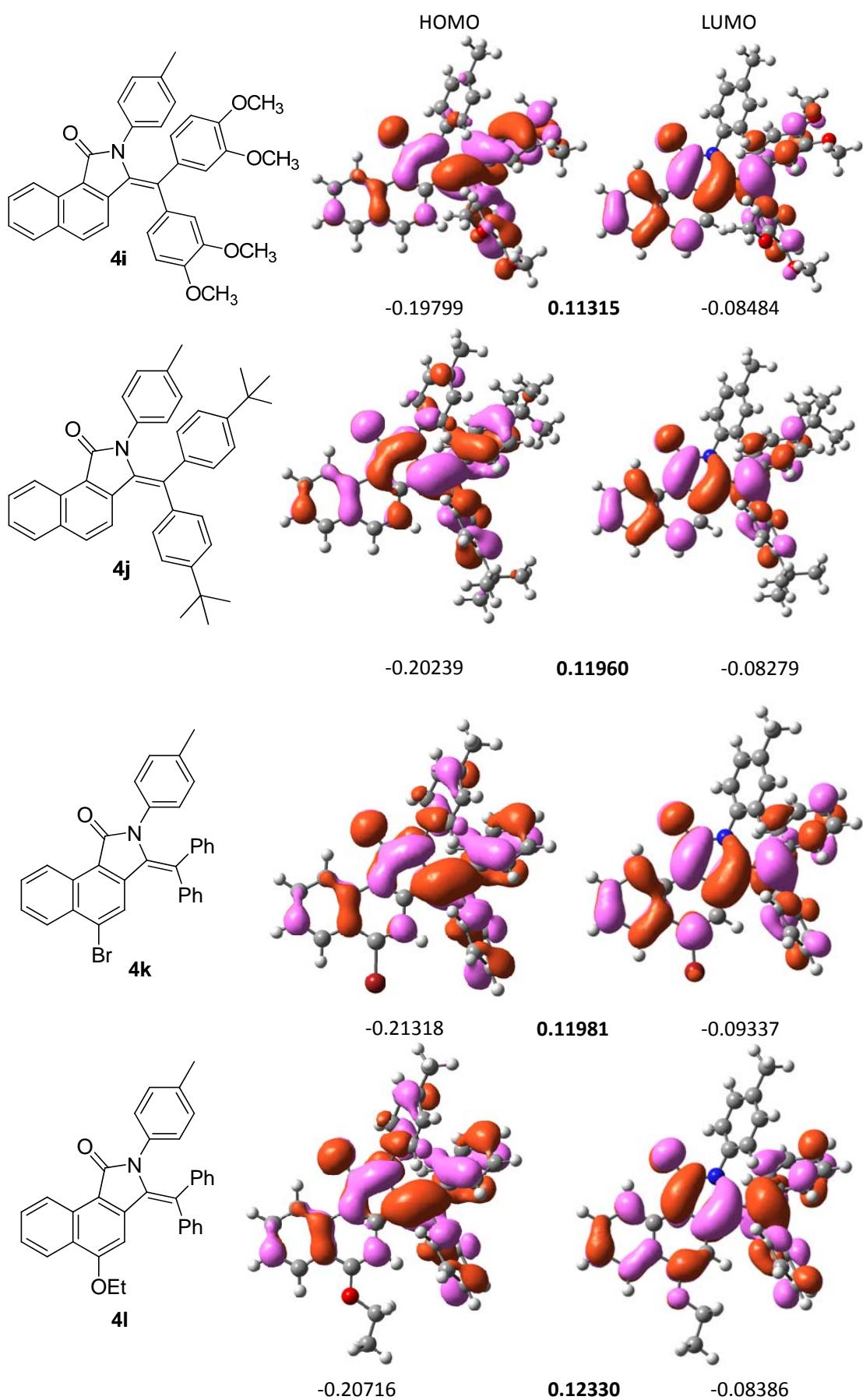
0.12058

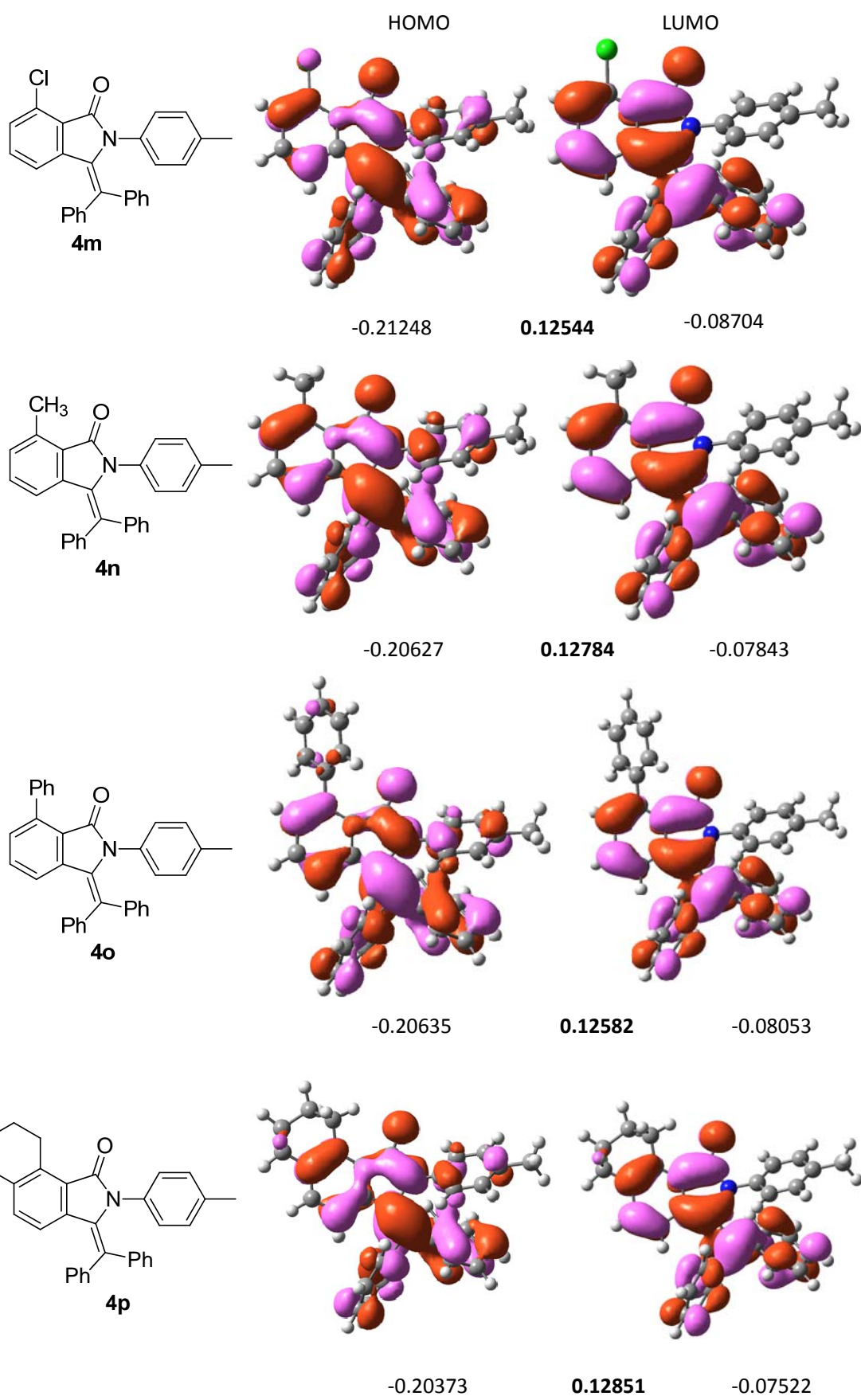


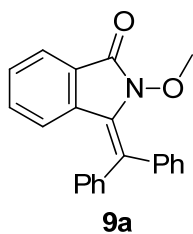
-0.20455

-0.08900

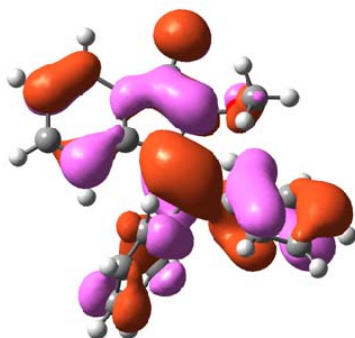
0.11555





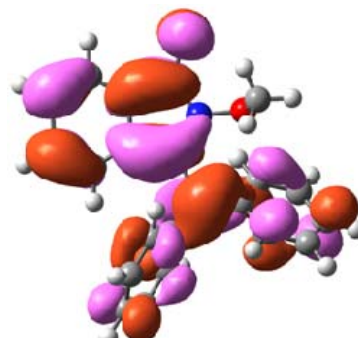


HOMO



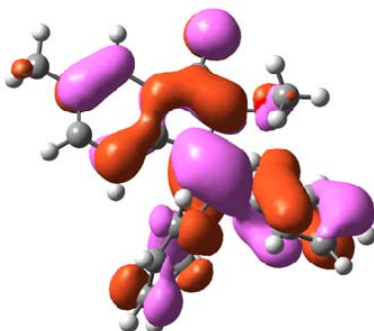
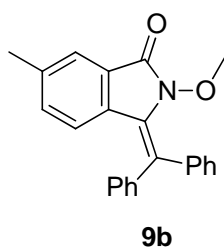
-0.21369

LUMO

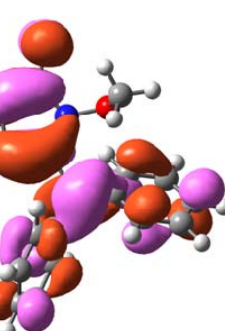


-0.08218

0.13151

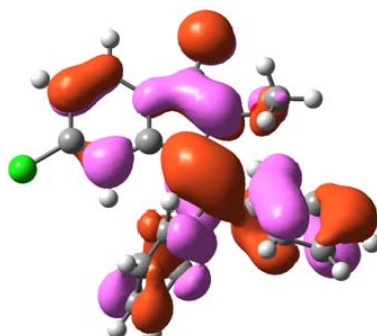
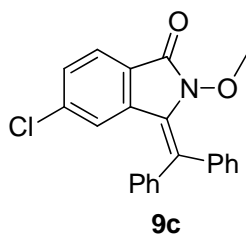


-0.21113

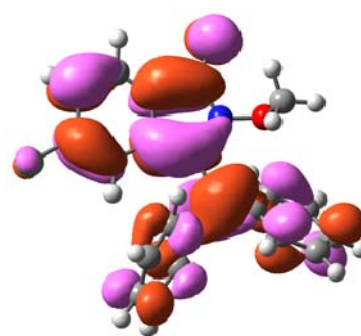


-0.08051

0.13062

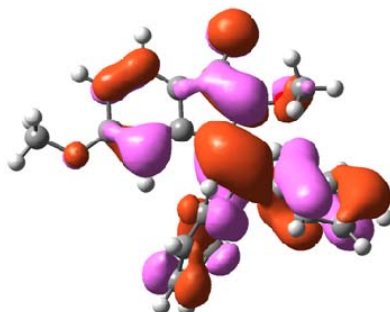
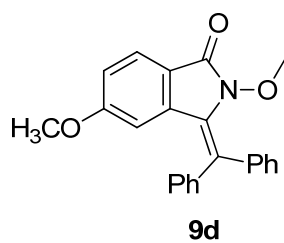


-0.21950

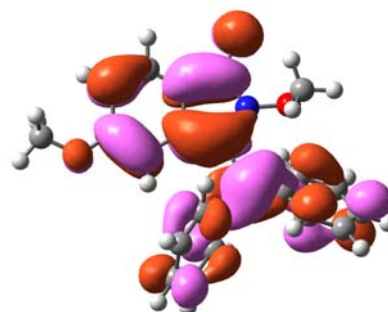


-0.08977

0.12973



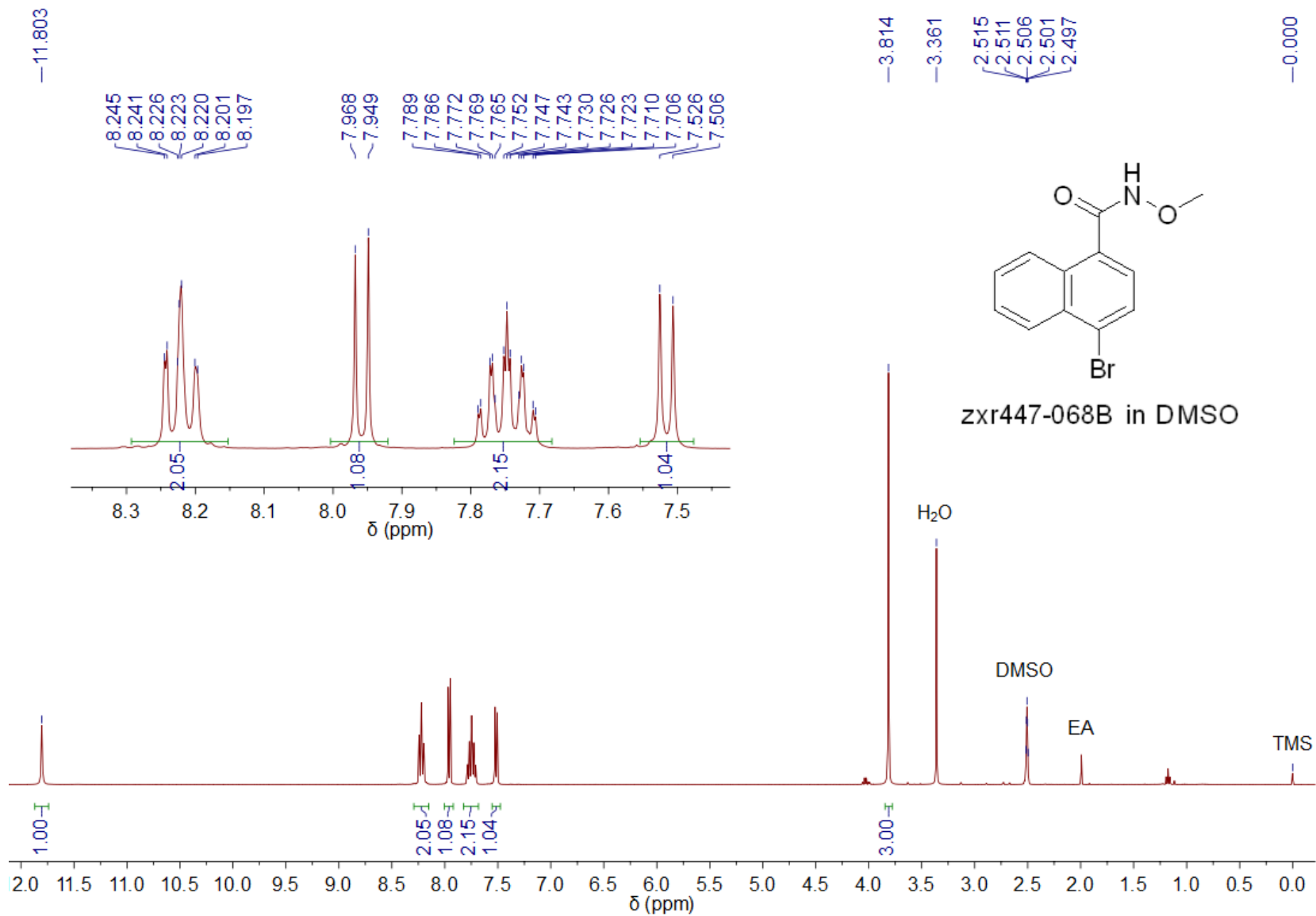
-0.21056



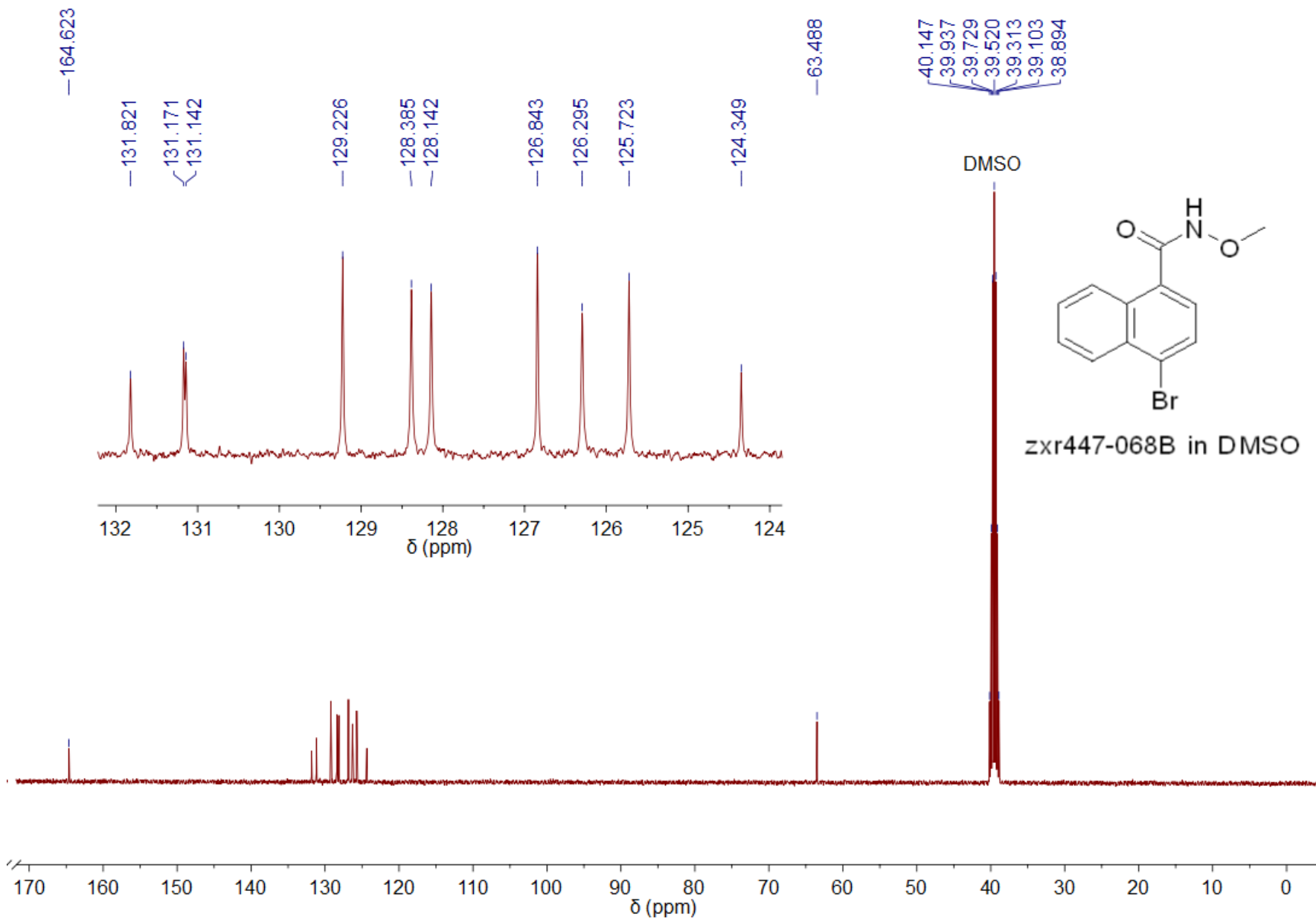
-0.07770

0.13286

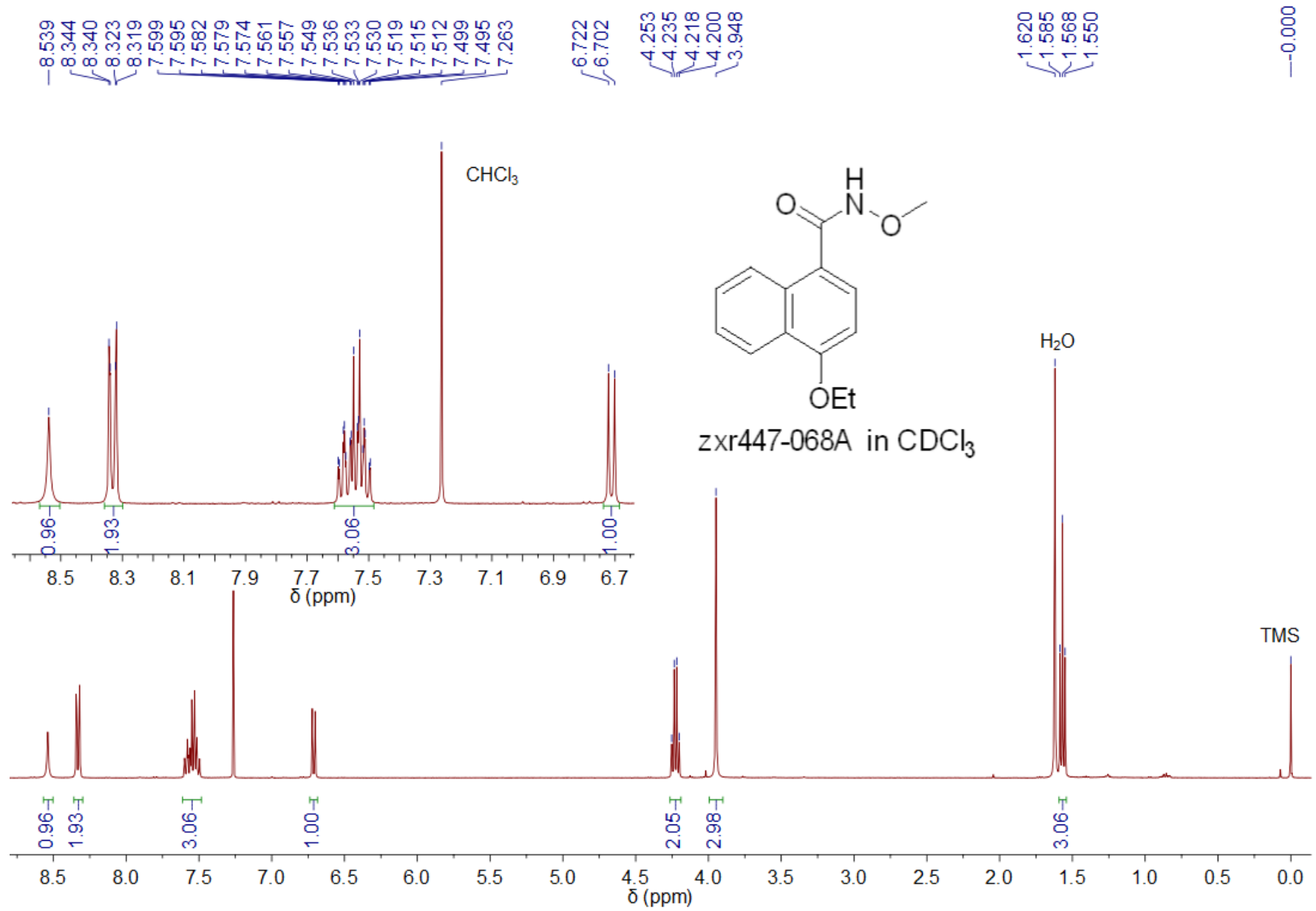
Copies of NMR Spectra

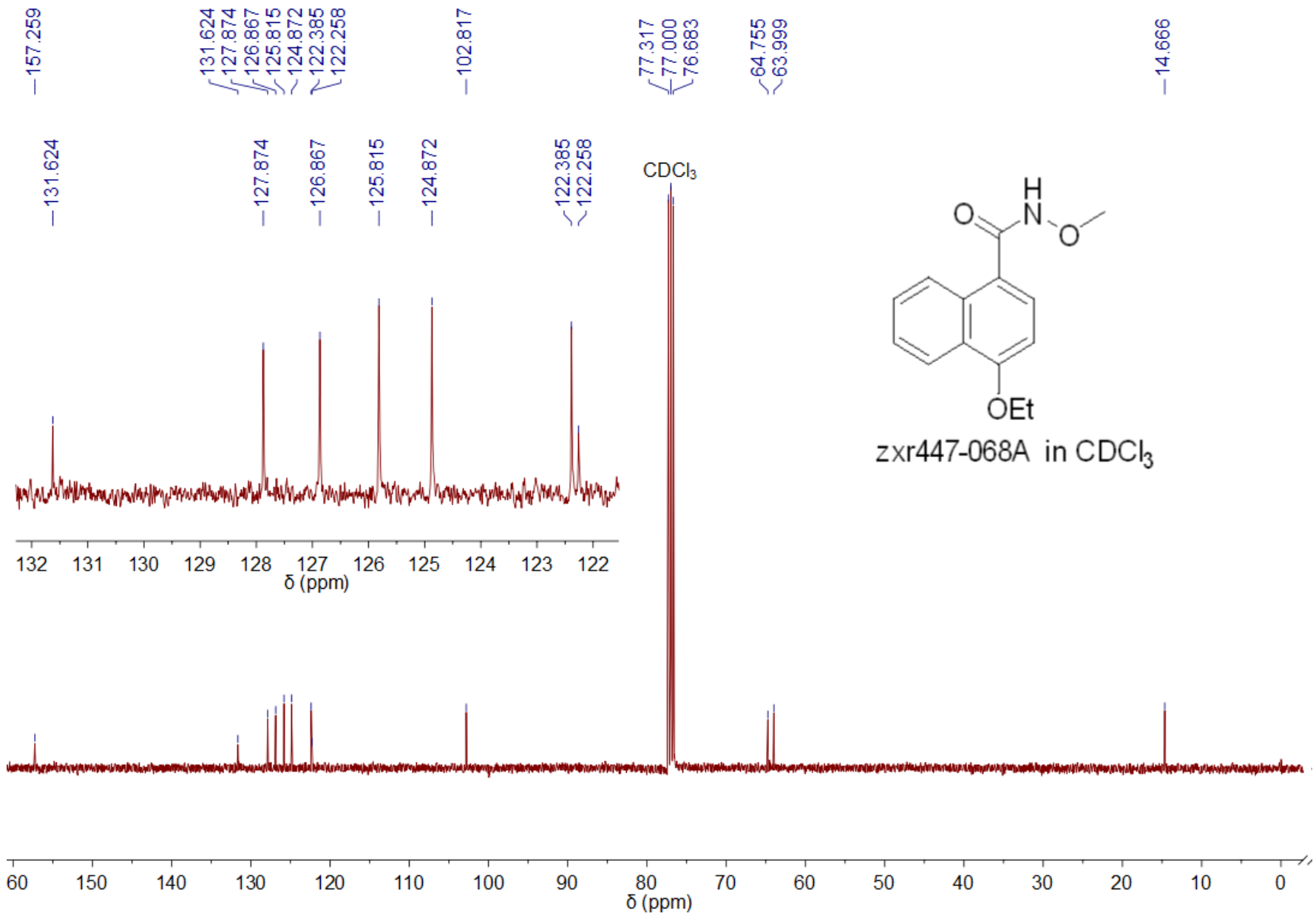


1p - ¹H NMR

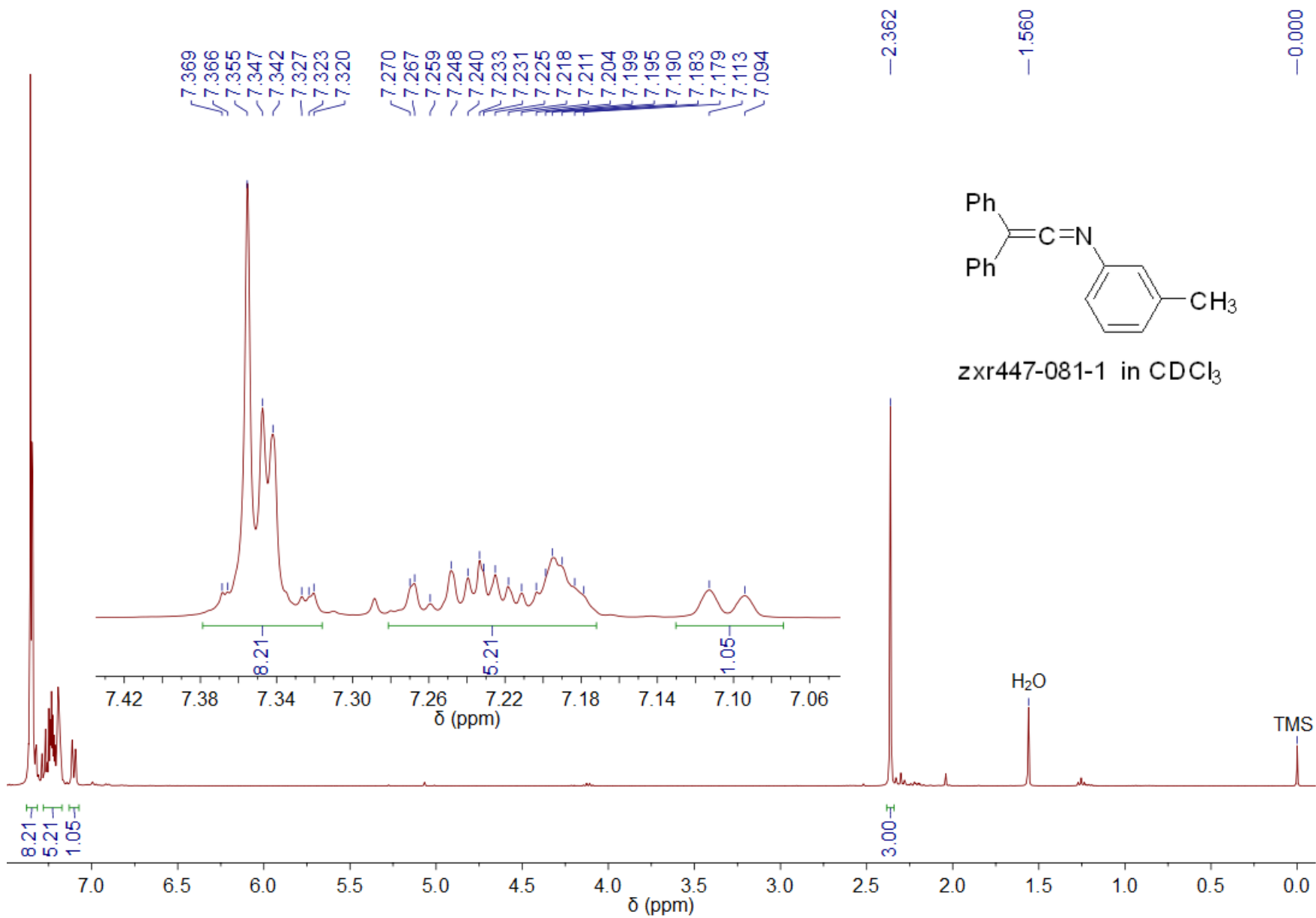


1p - ¹³C NMR

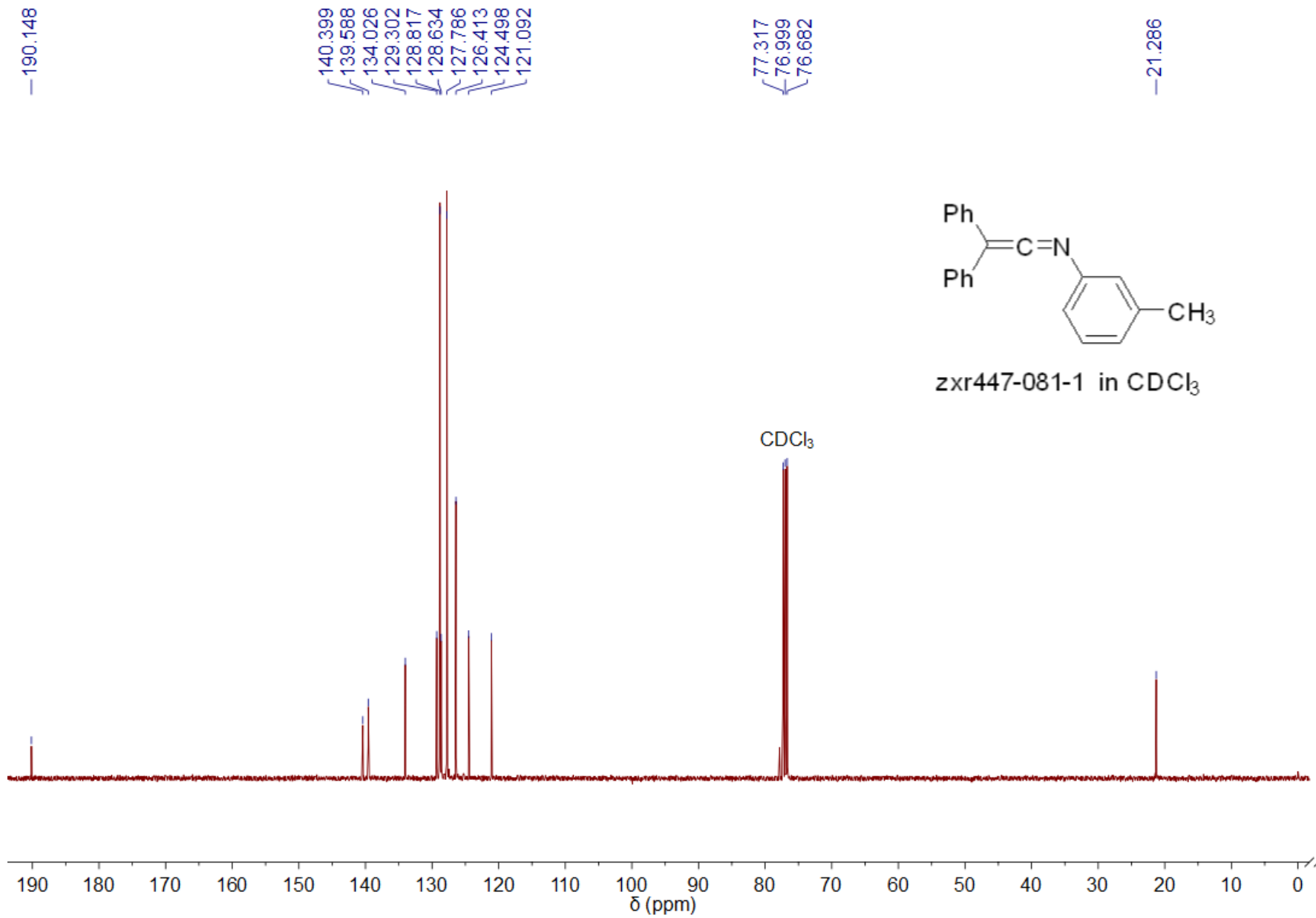




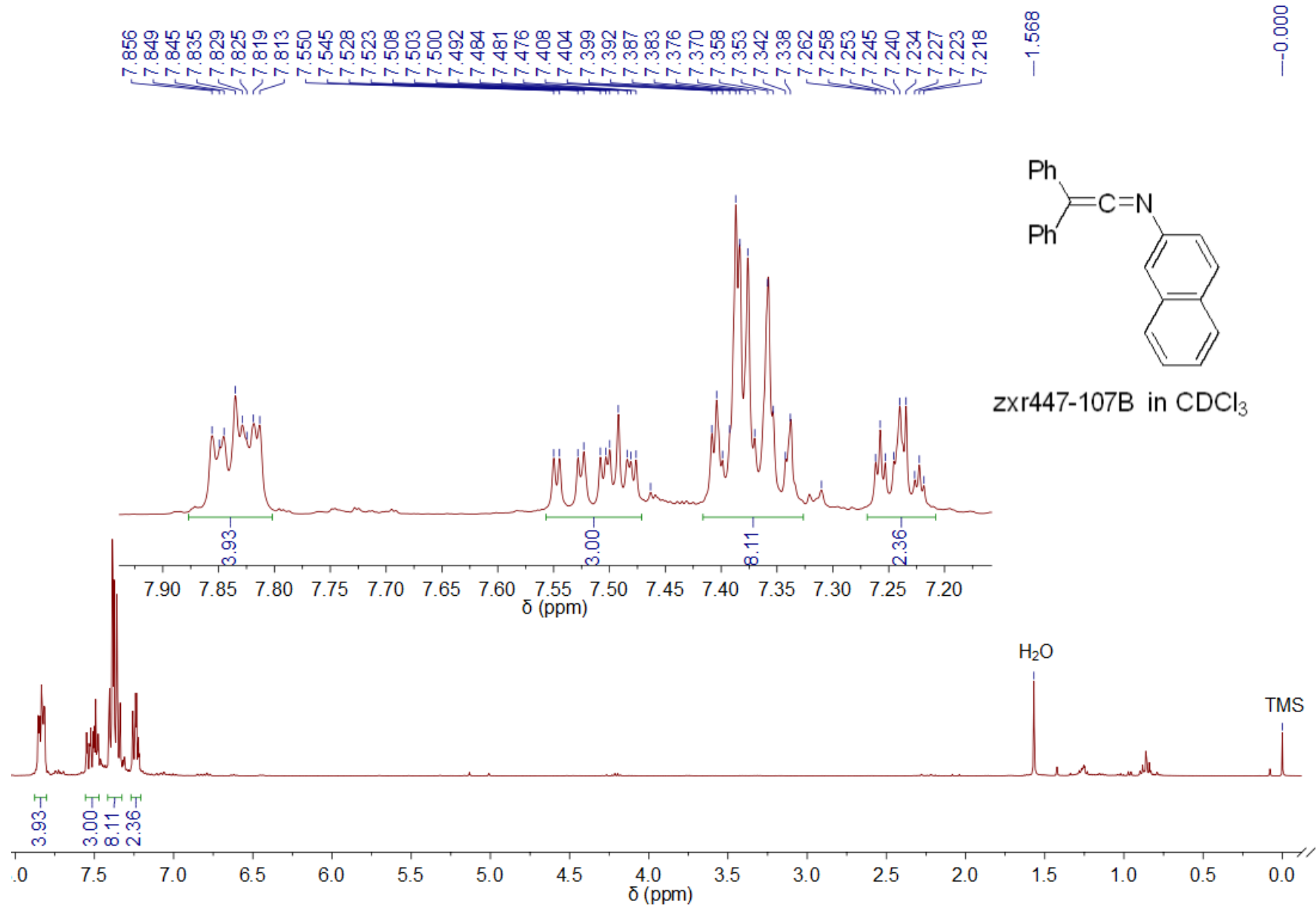
1q - ¹³C NMR

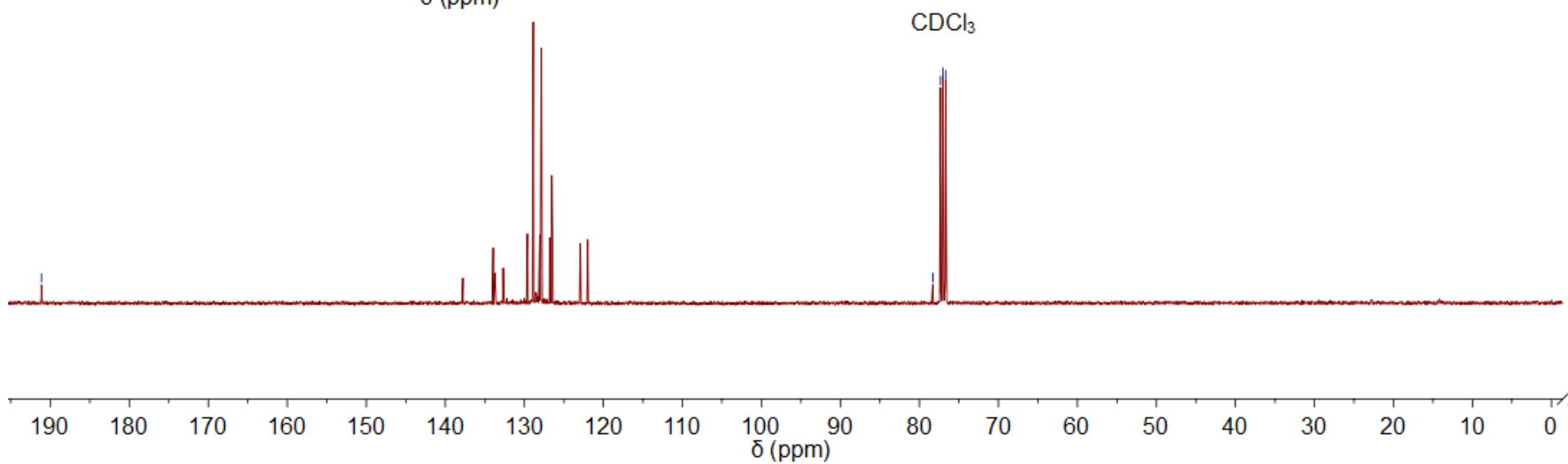
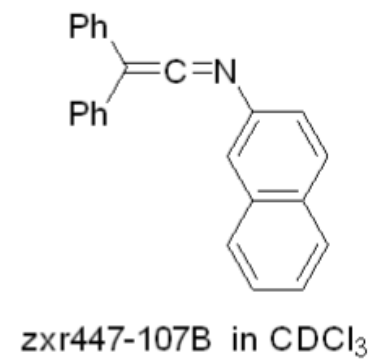
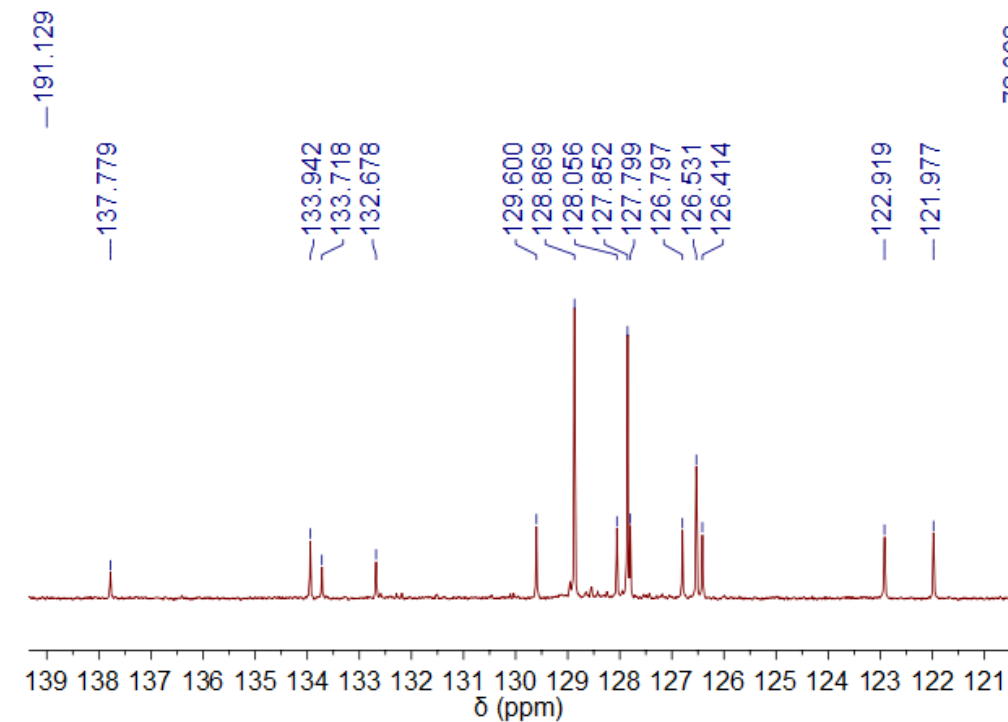


2f - ¹H NMR

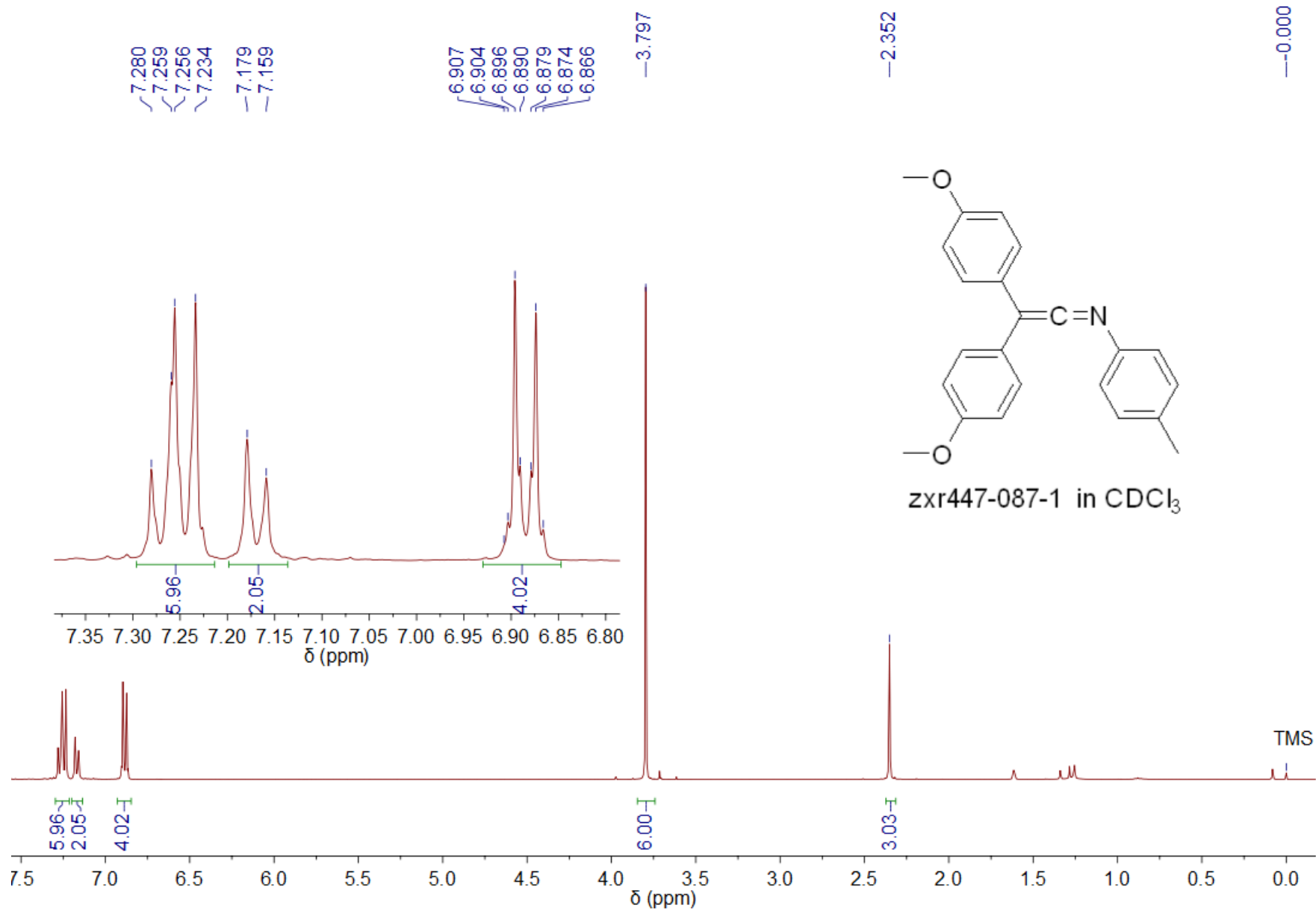


2f - ¹³C NMR

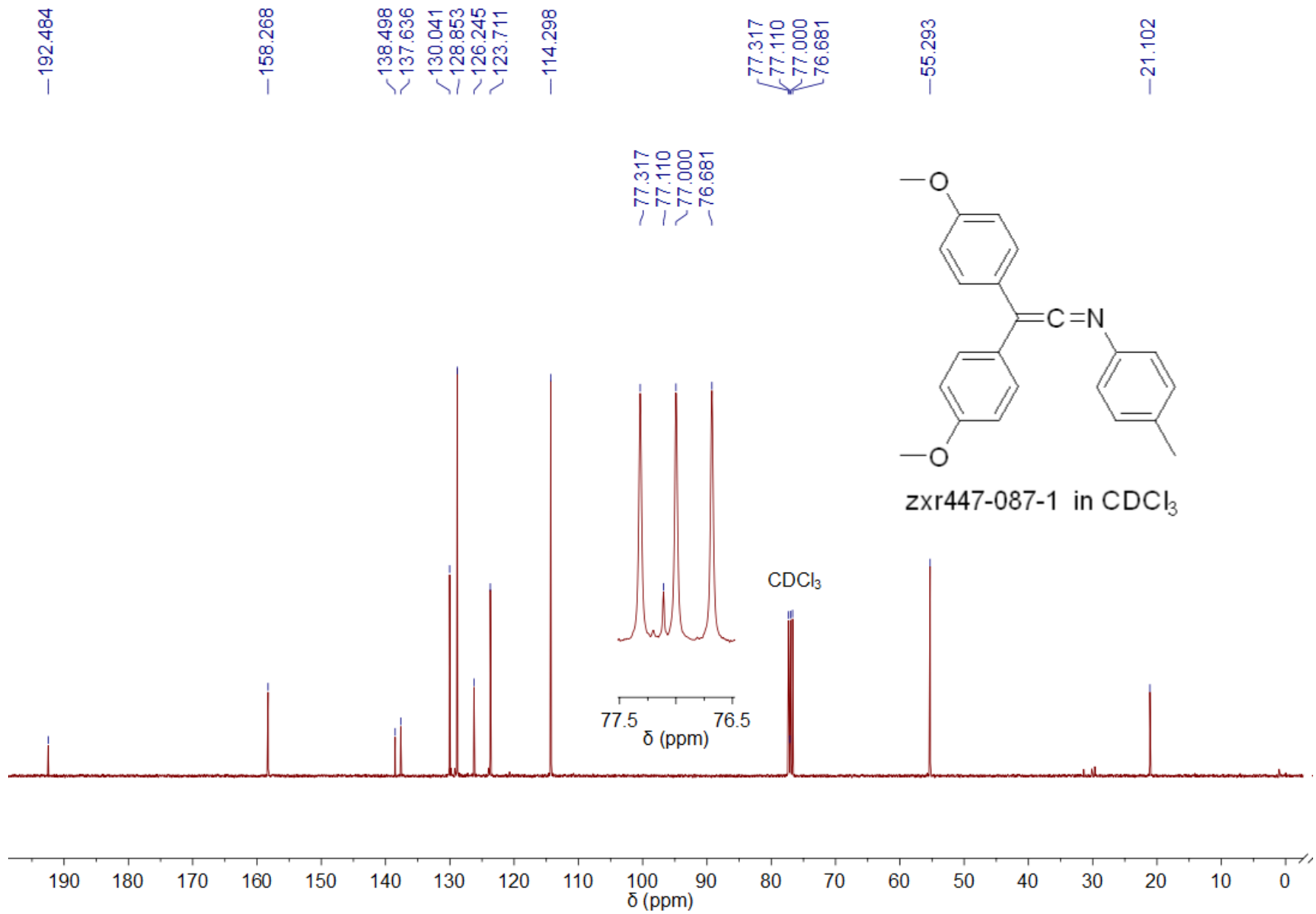




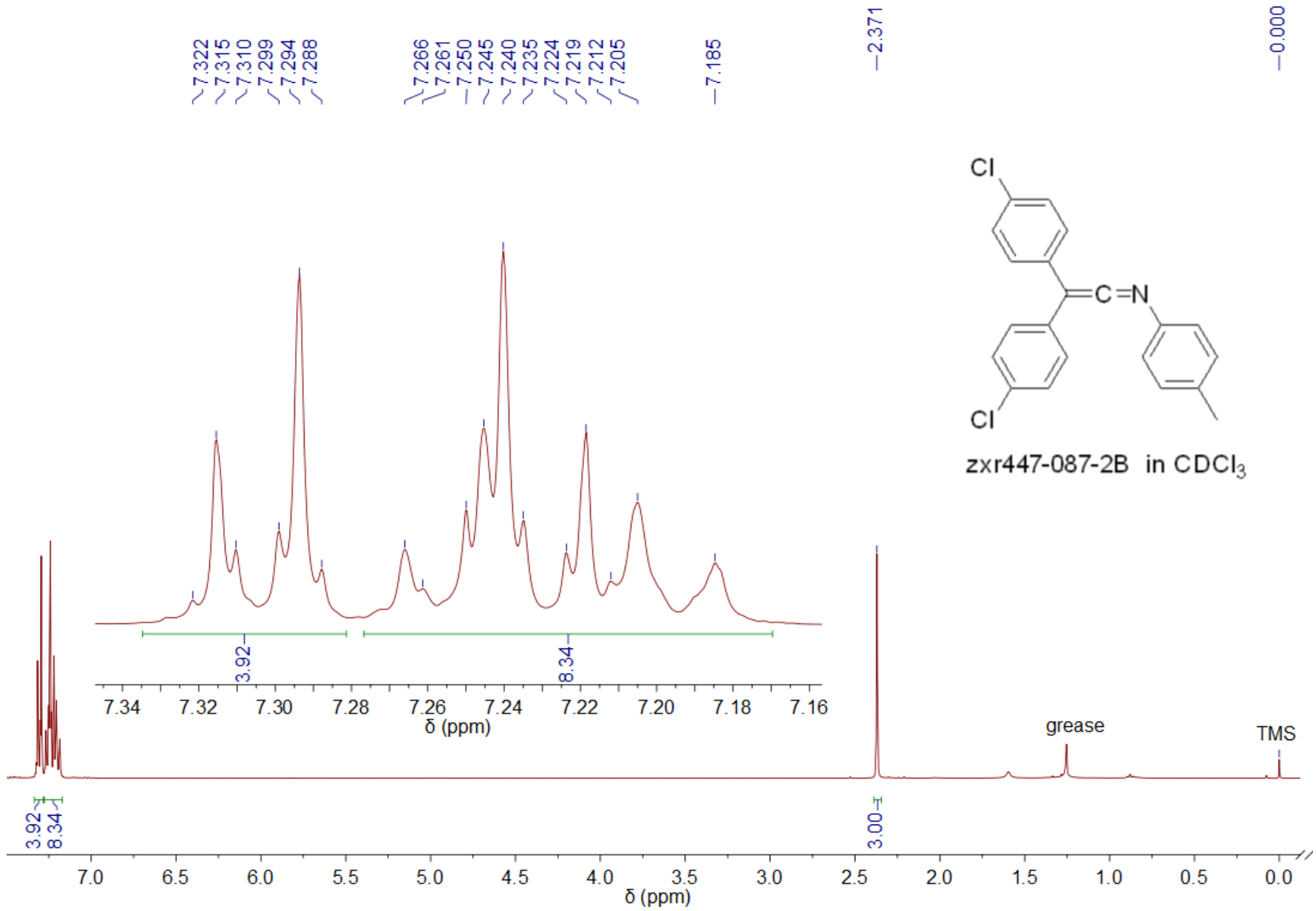
2g - ¹³C NMR



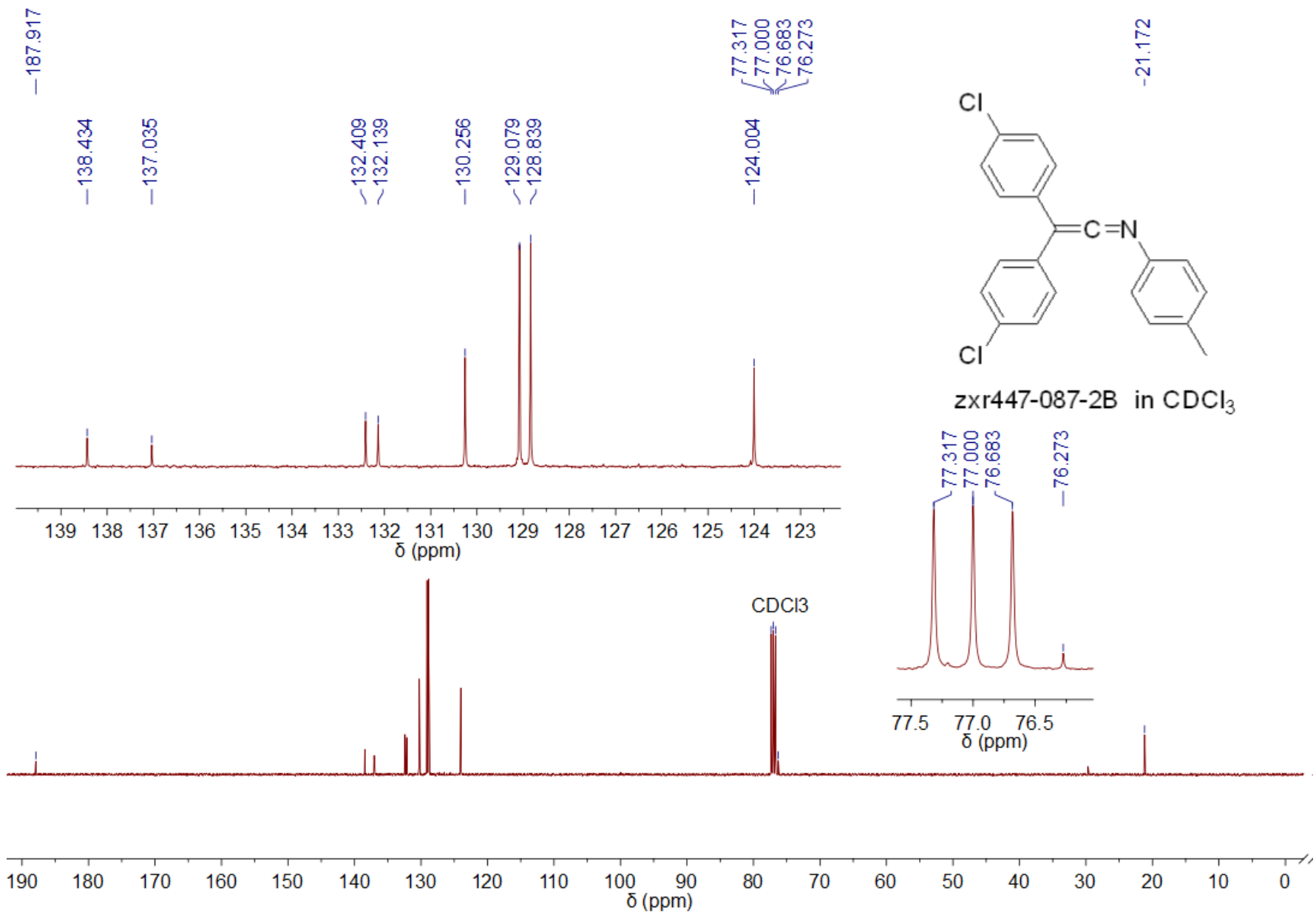
2i - ^1H NMR



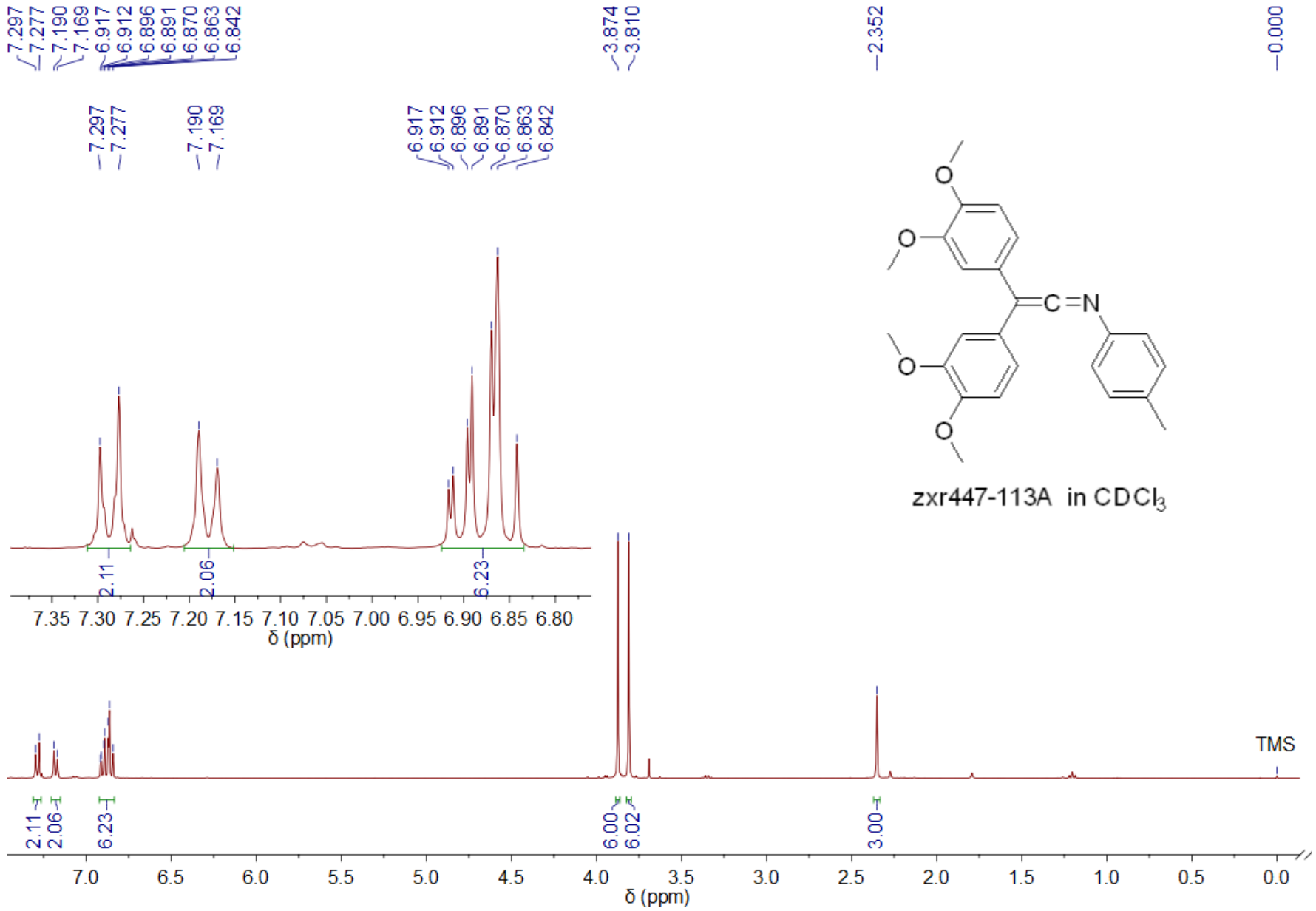
2i - ^{13}C NMR



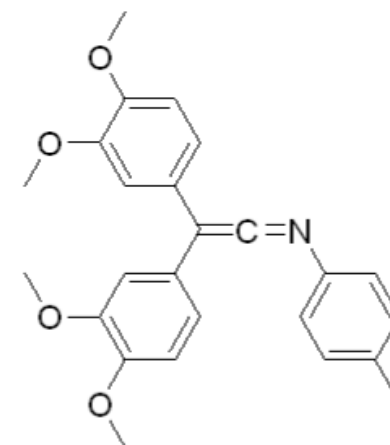
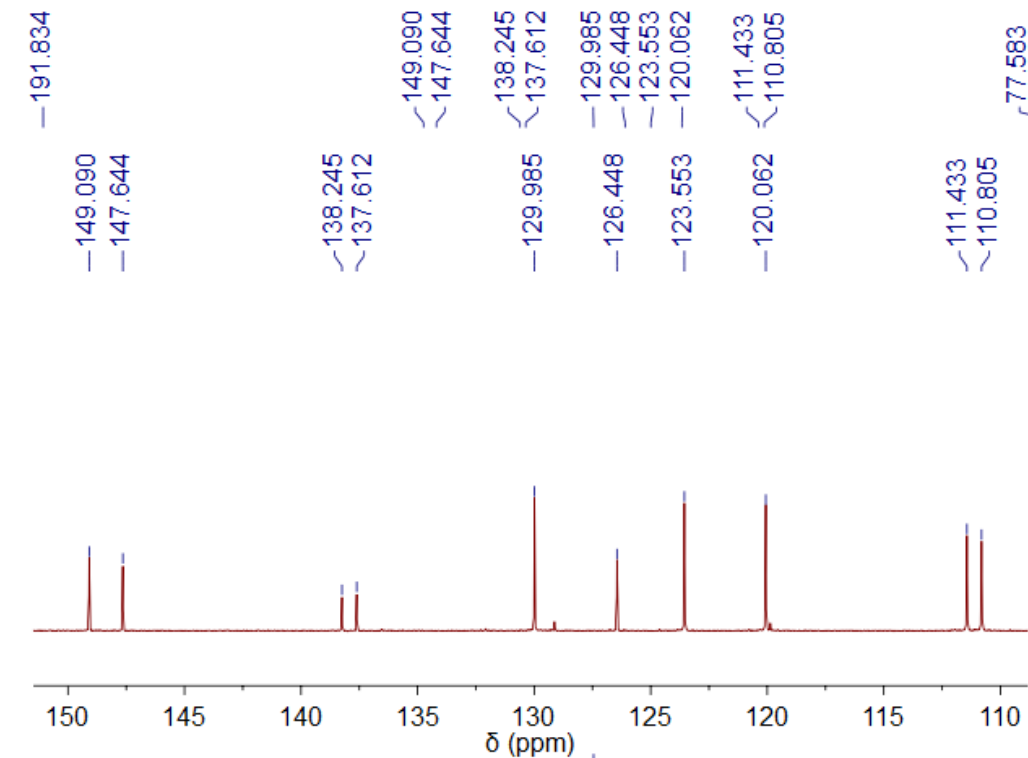
2j - ^1H NMR



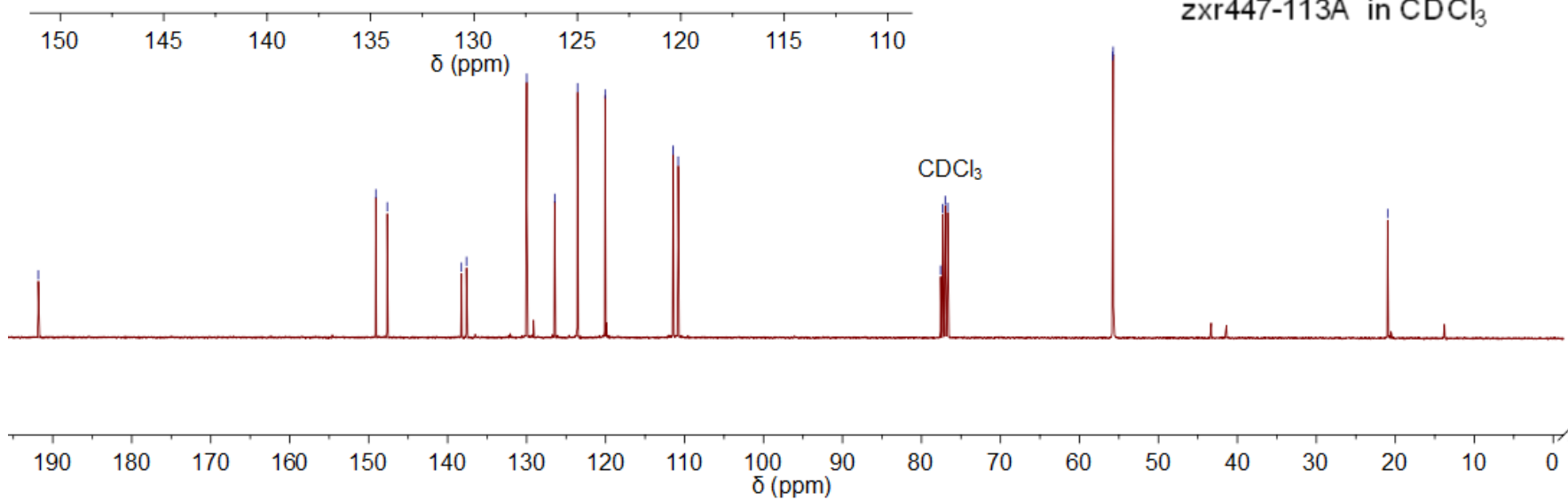
2j - ^{13}C NMR



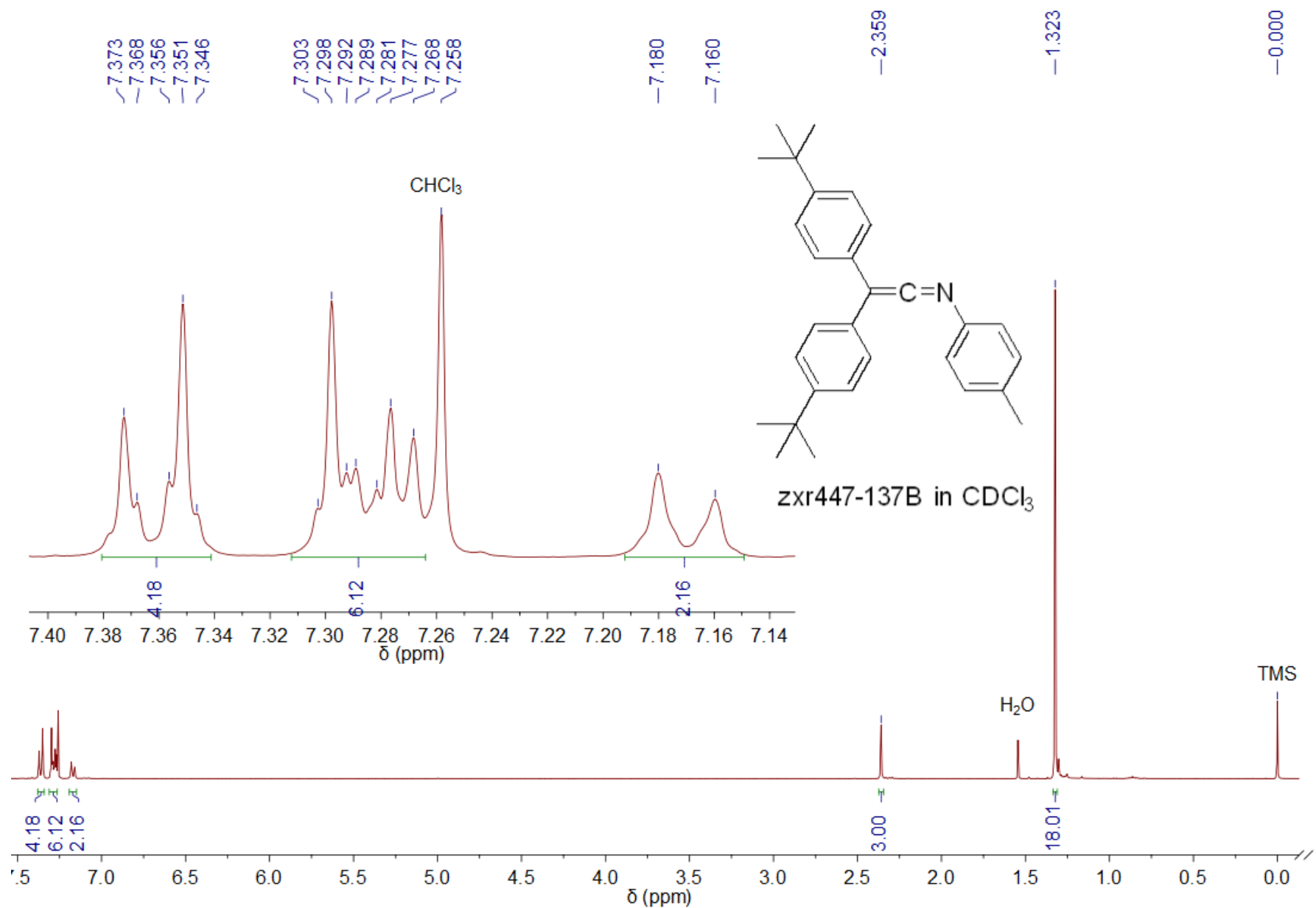
2k - ¹H NMR



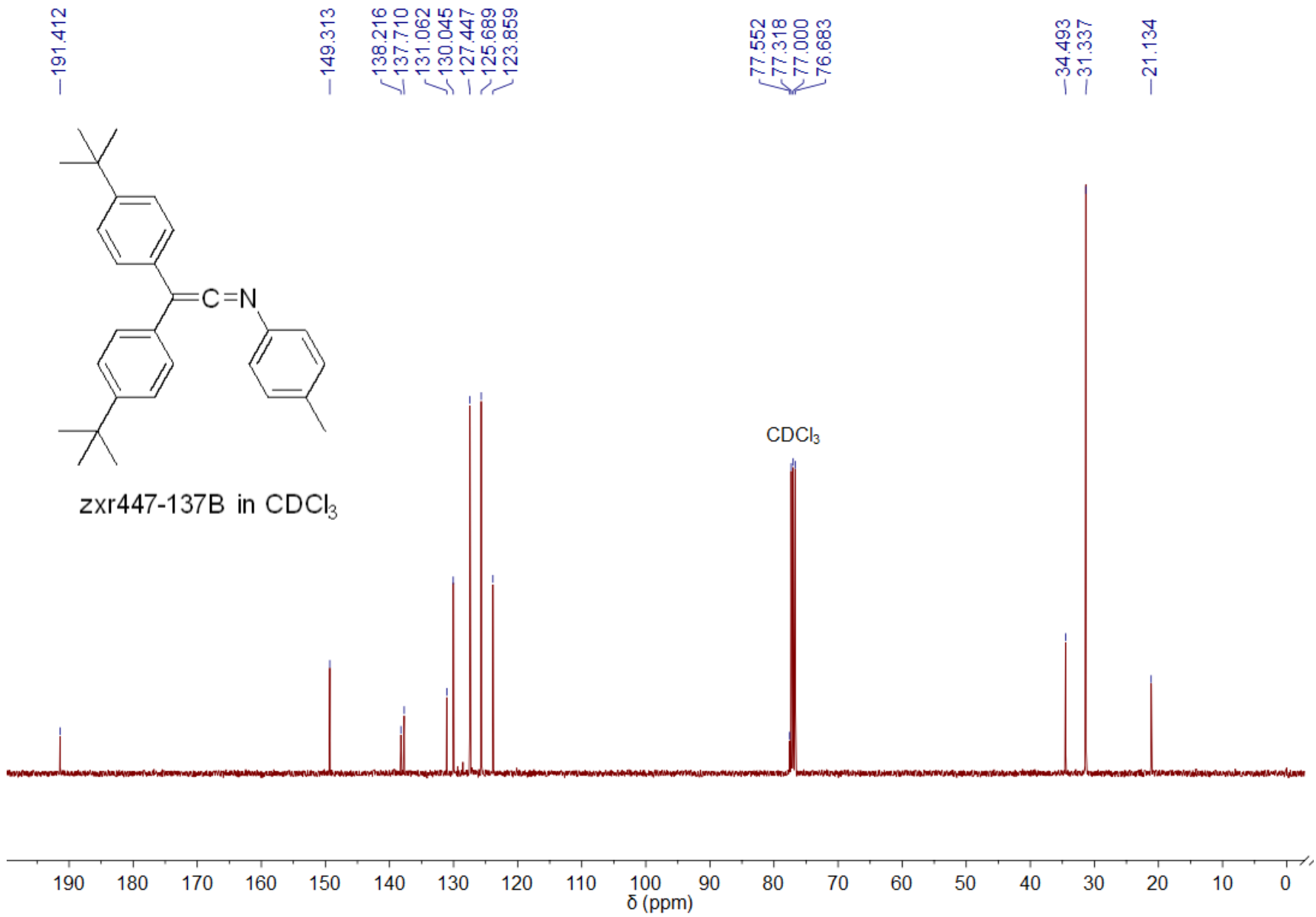
zxr447-113A in CDCl_3



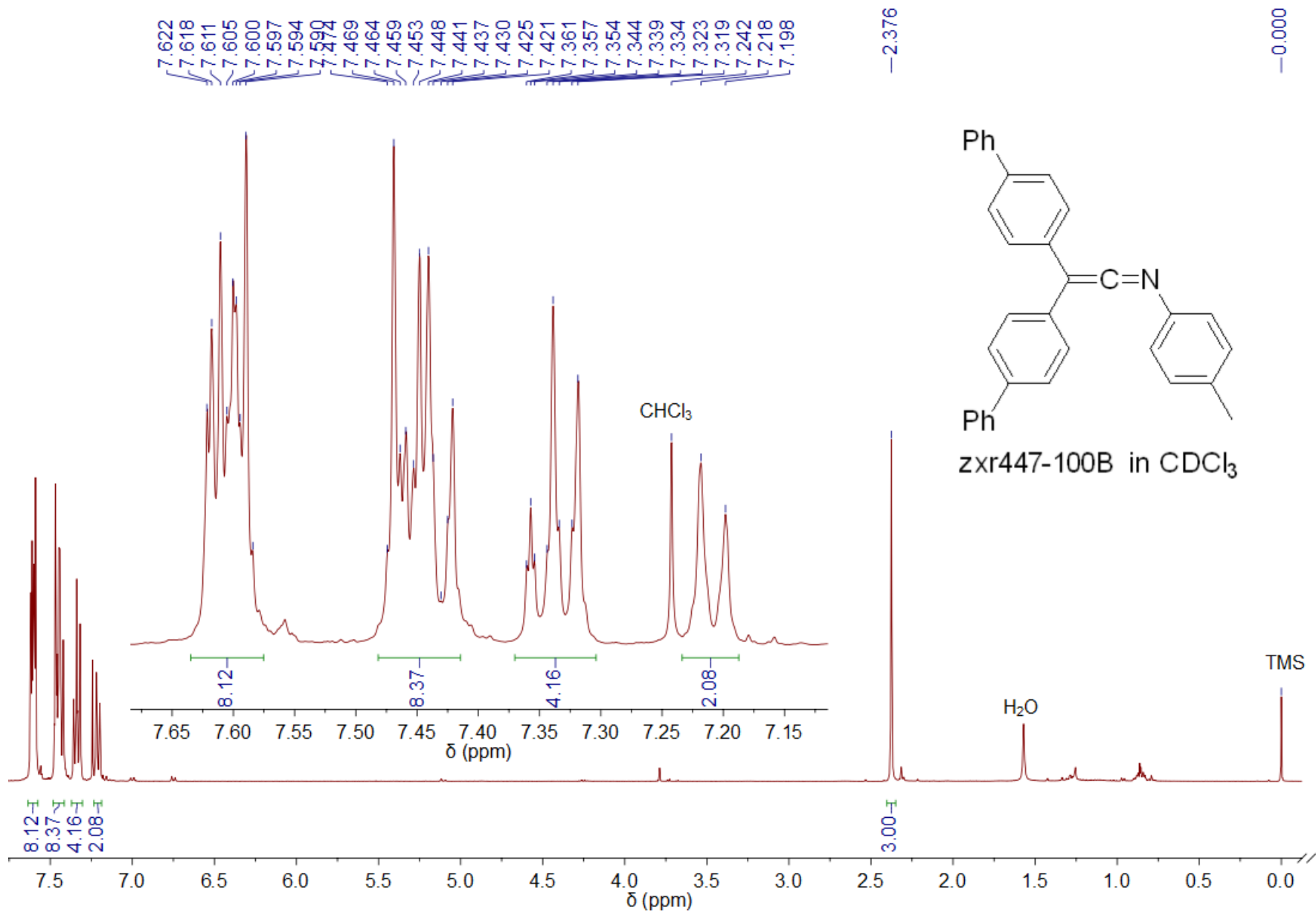
2k - ^{13}C NMR



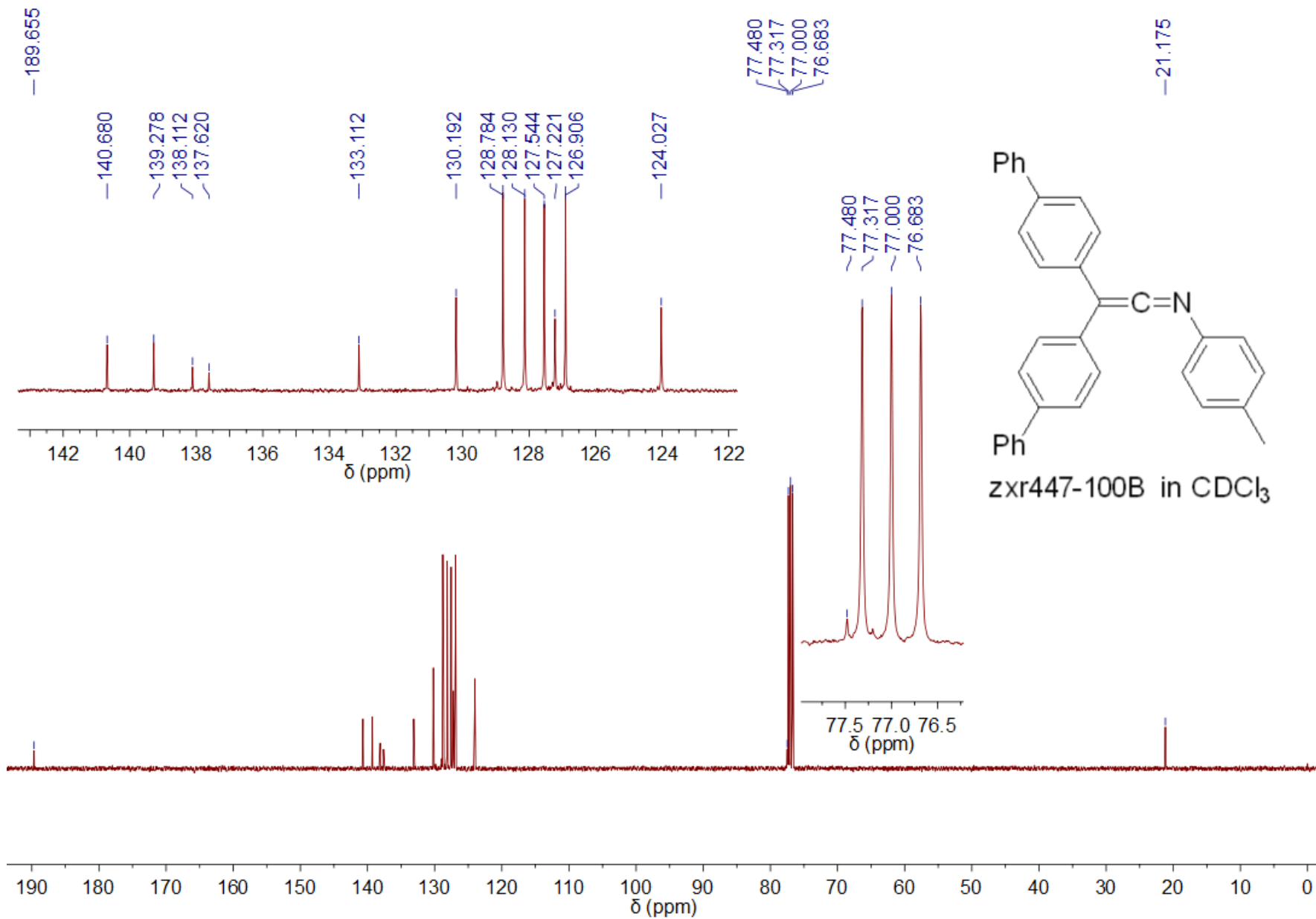
2I - ¹H NMR



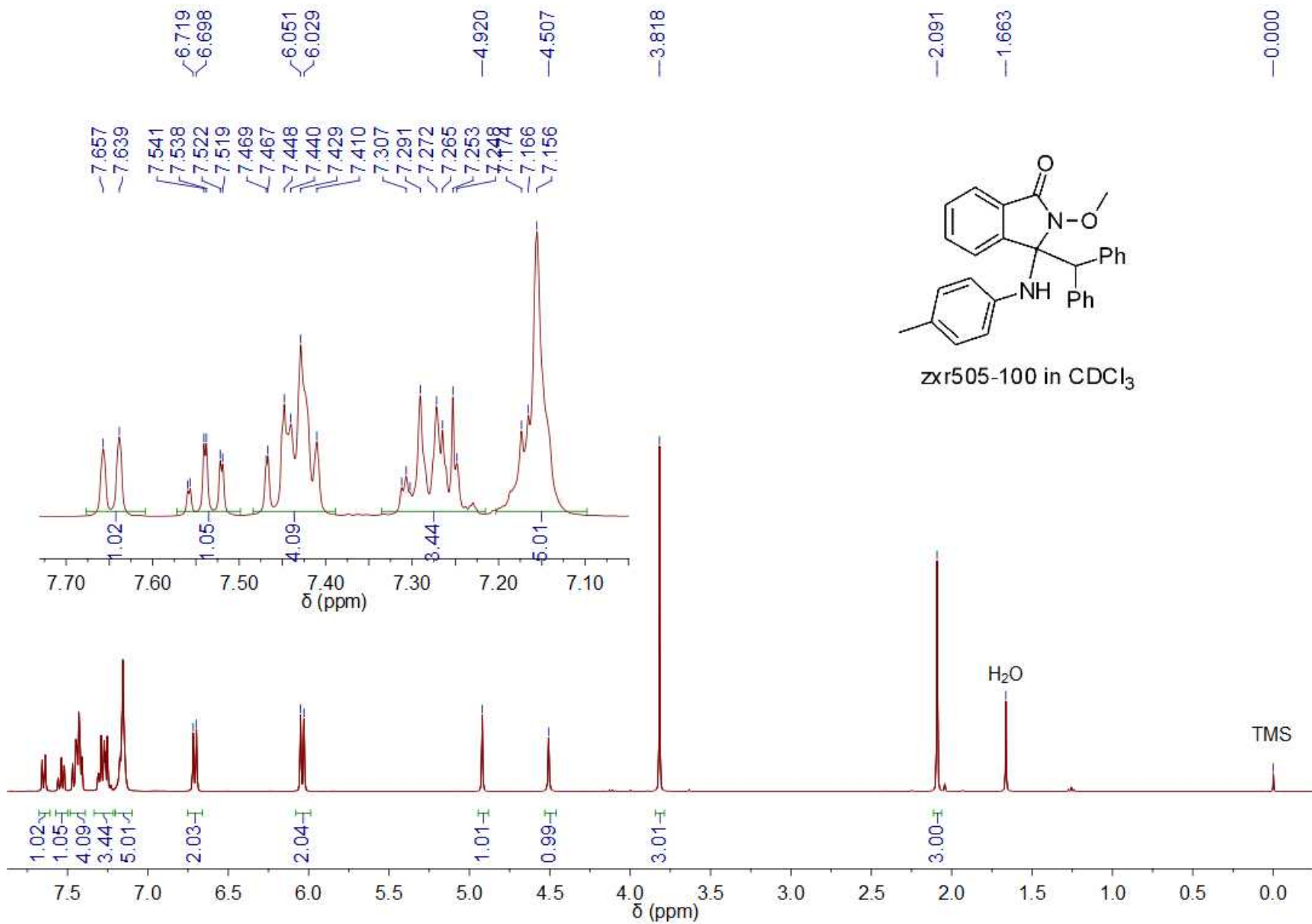
2I - ¹³C NMR



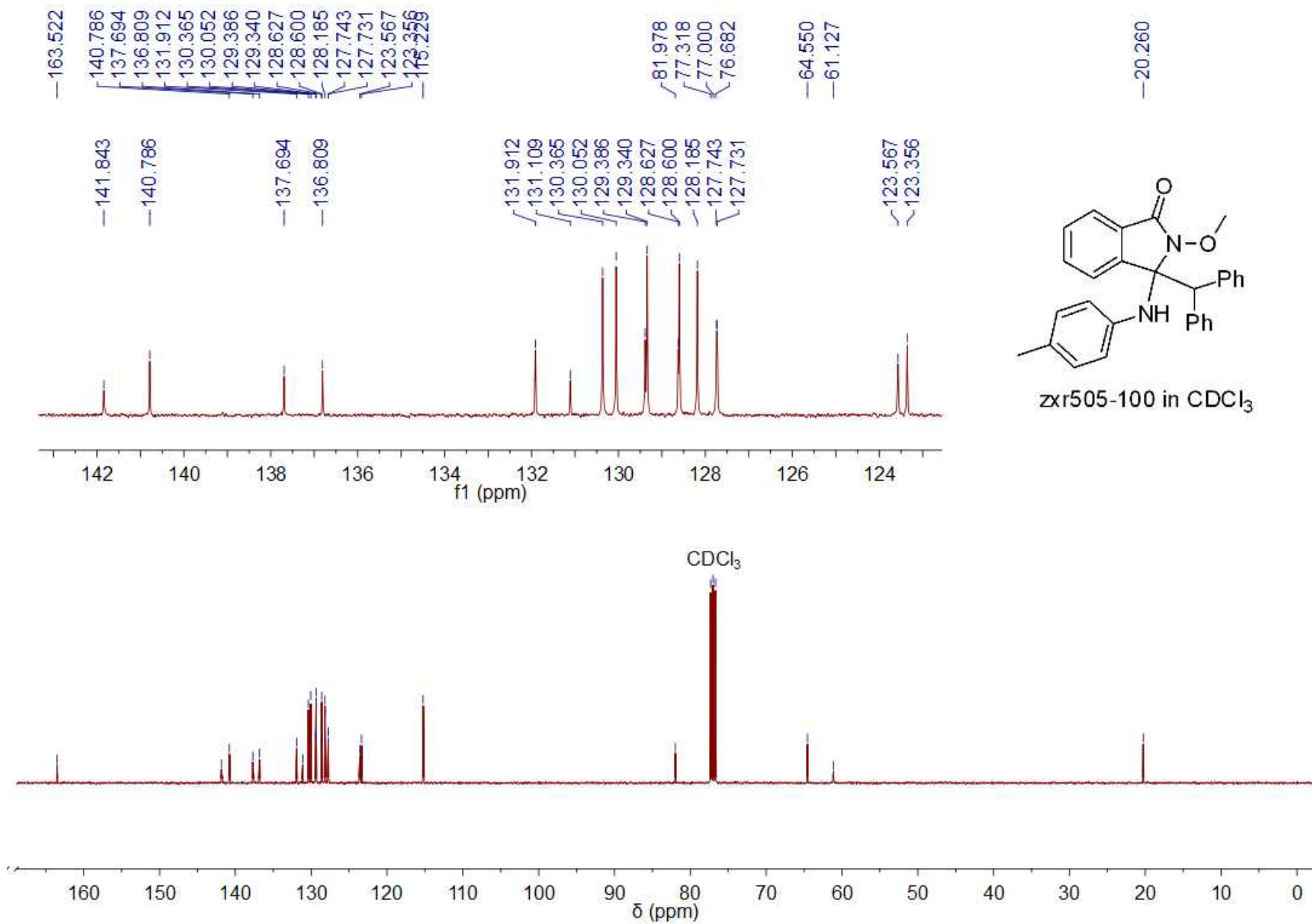
2n - $^1\text{H NMR}$



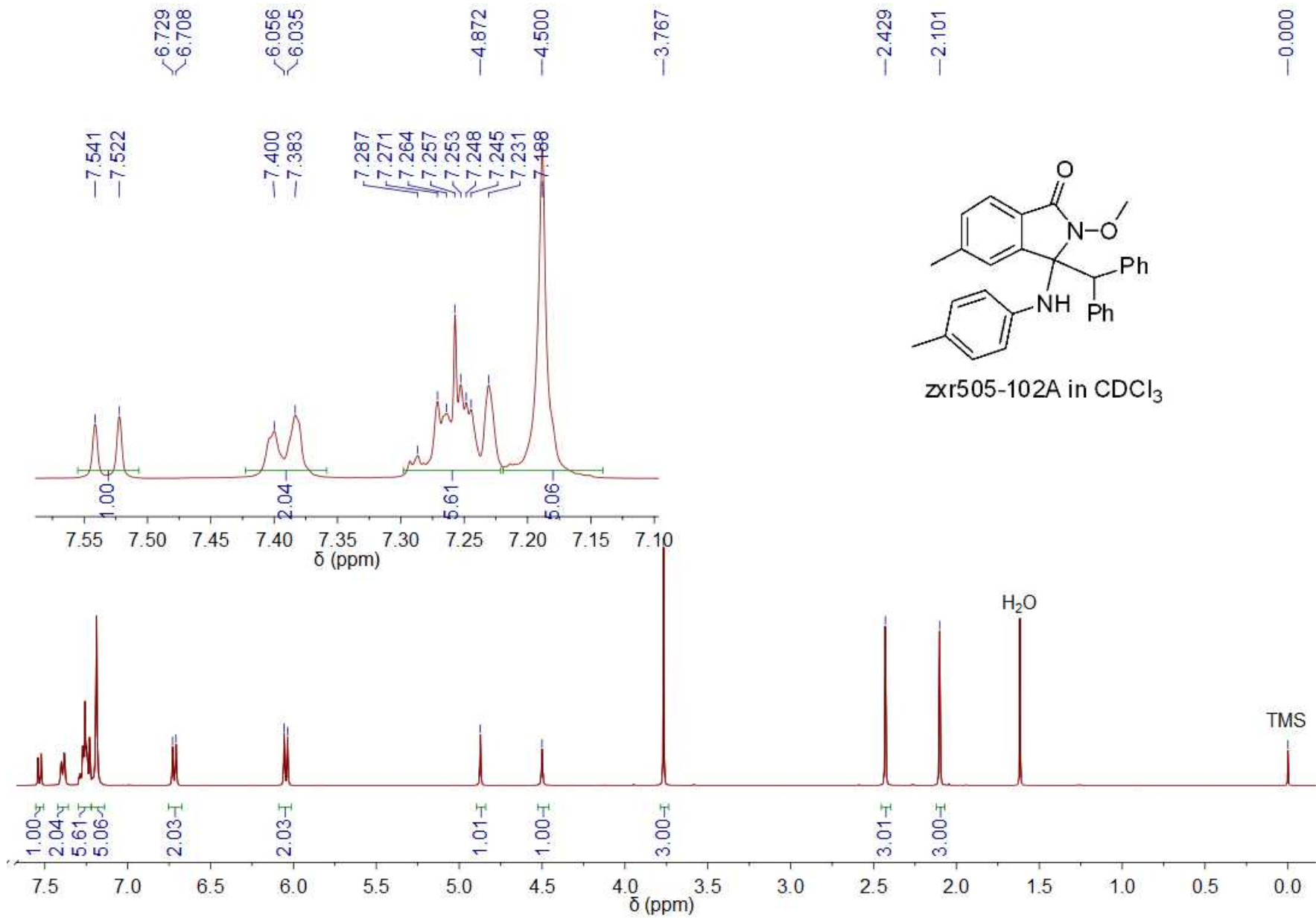
2n - ^{13}C NMR



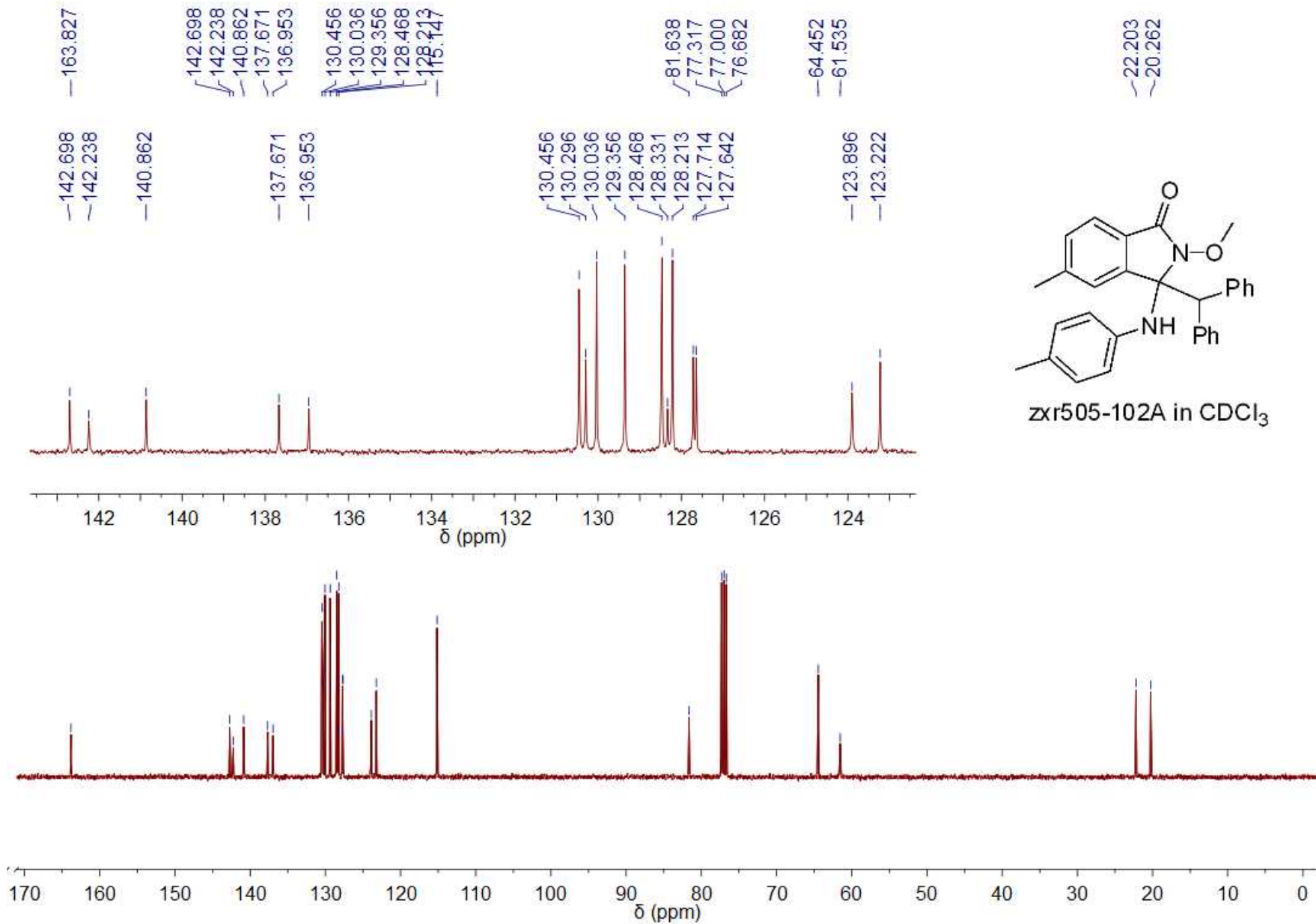
3a - ^1H NMR



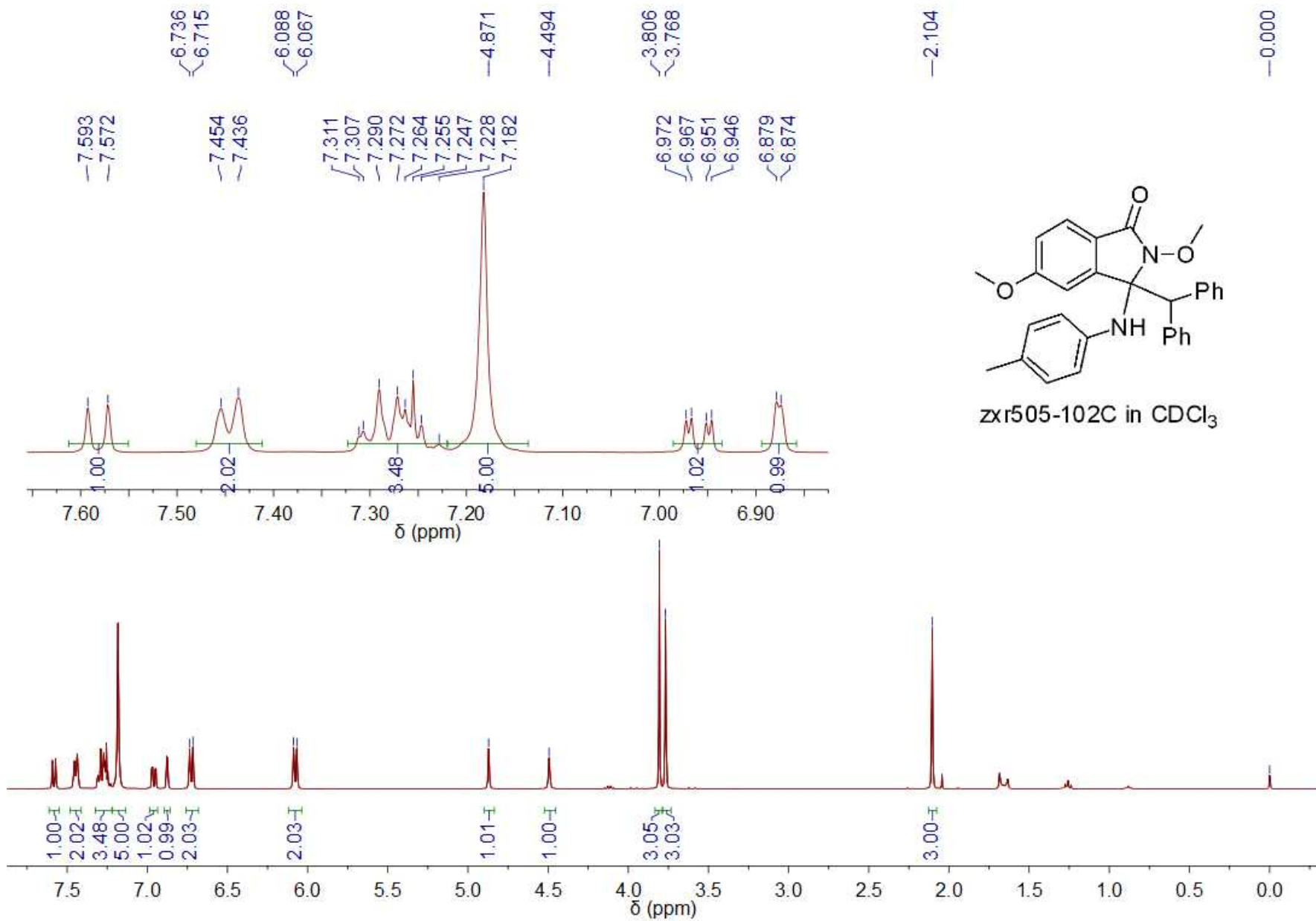
3a – ^{13}C NMR



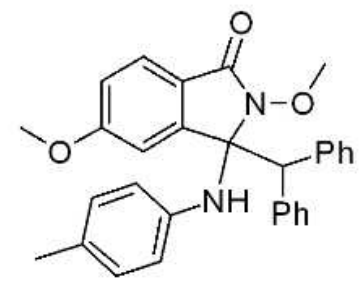
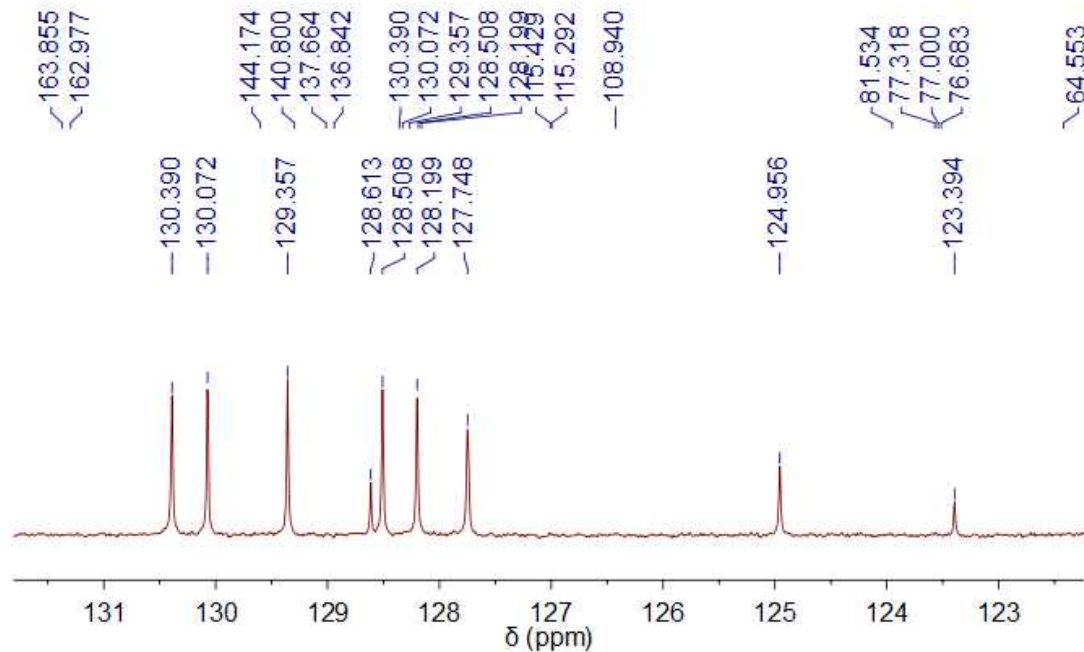
3b - ¹H NMR



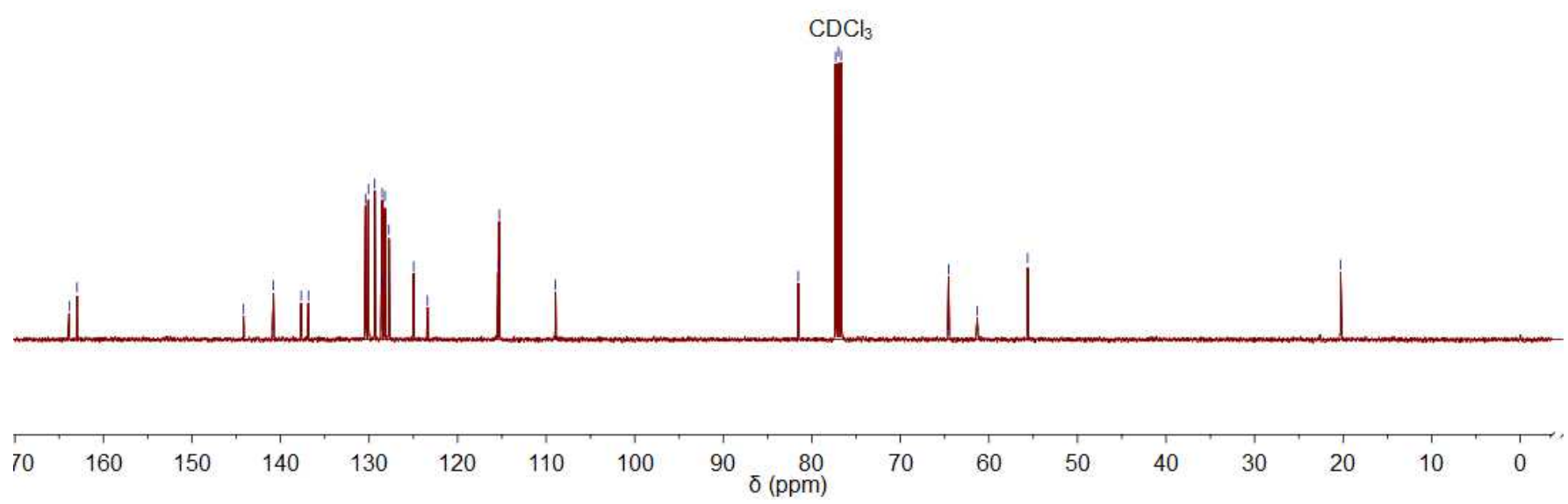
3b - ^{13}C NMR



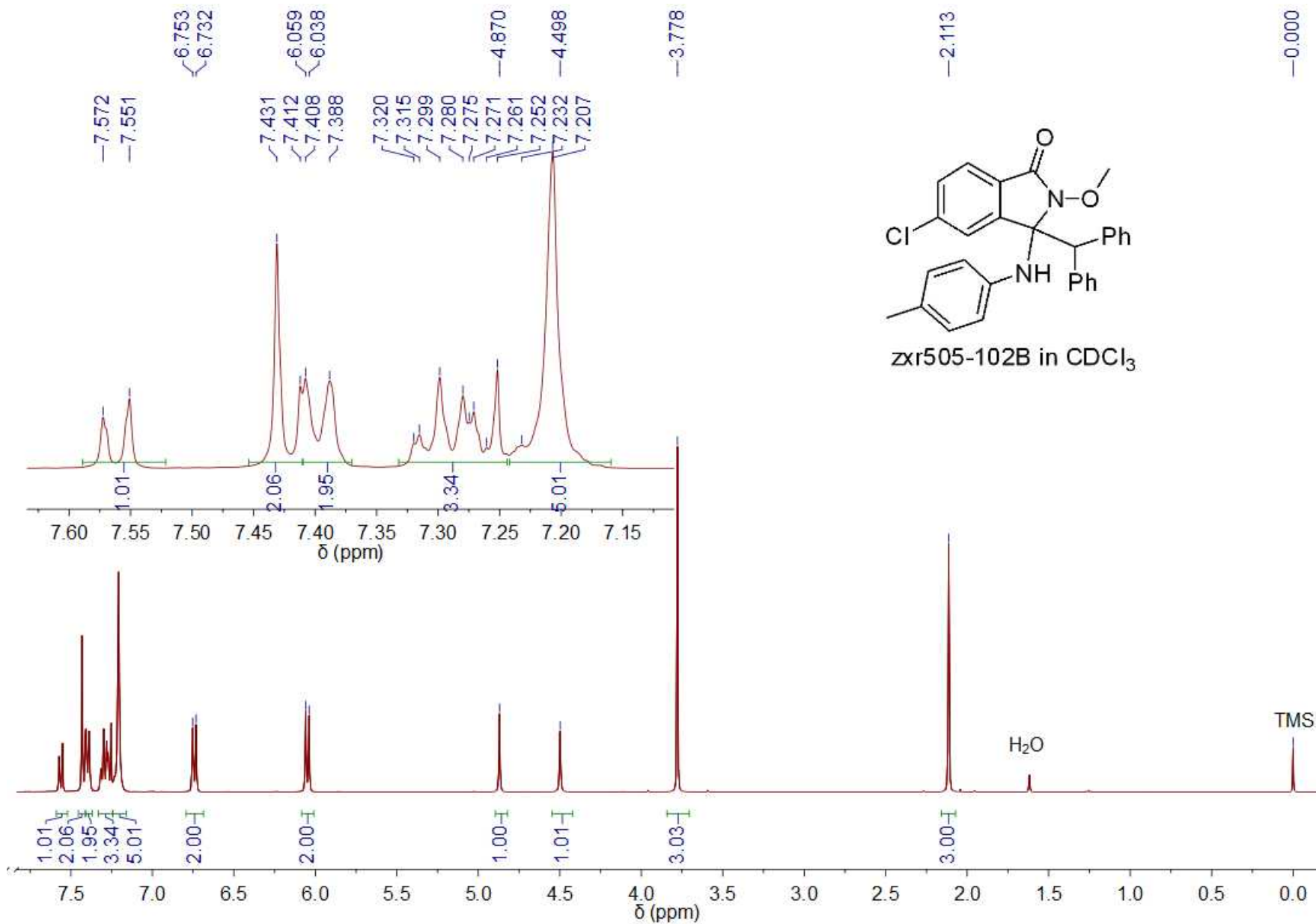
3c - ¹H NMR



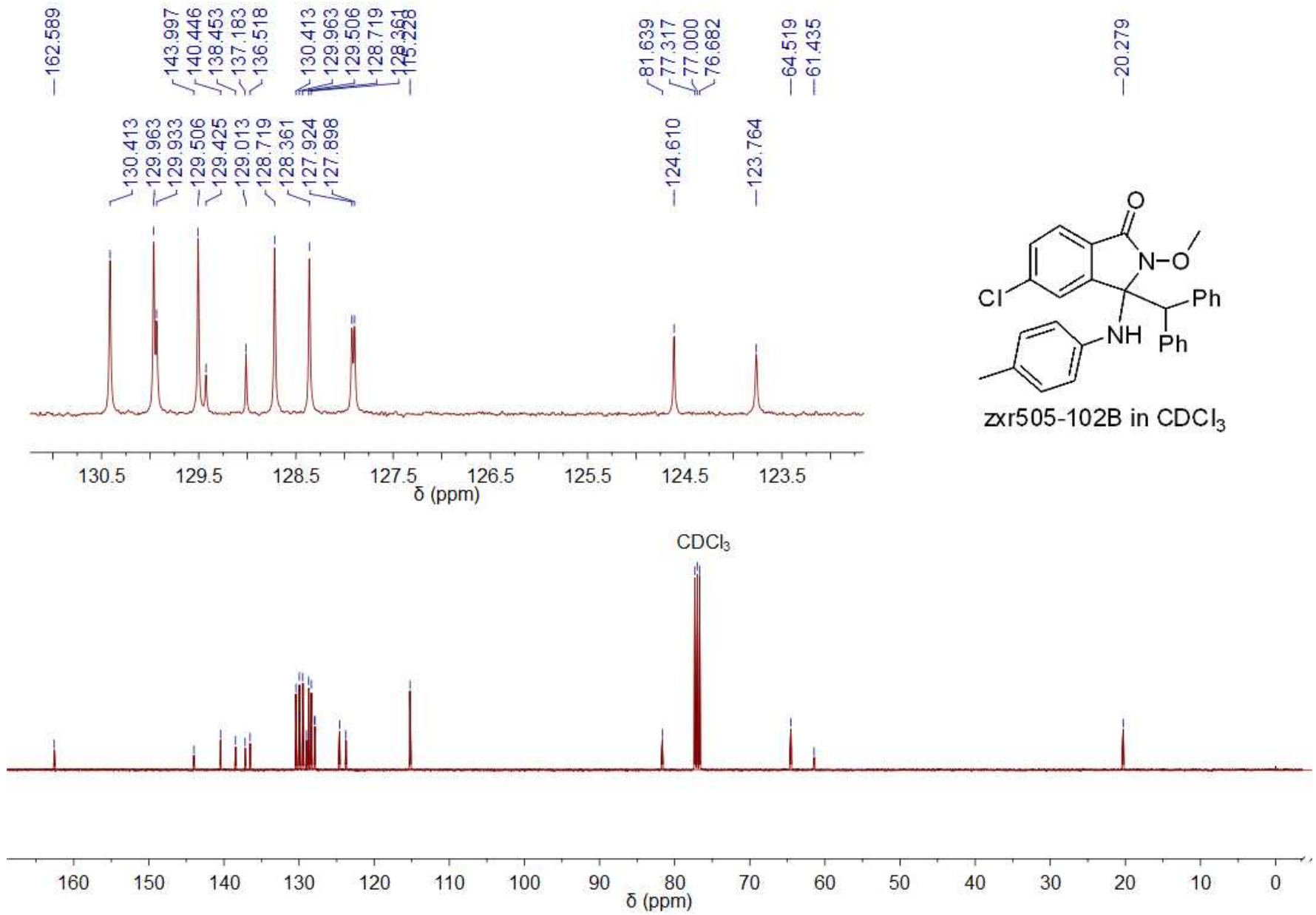
zxr505-102C in CDCl₃



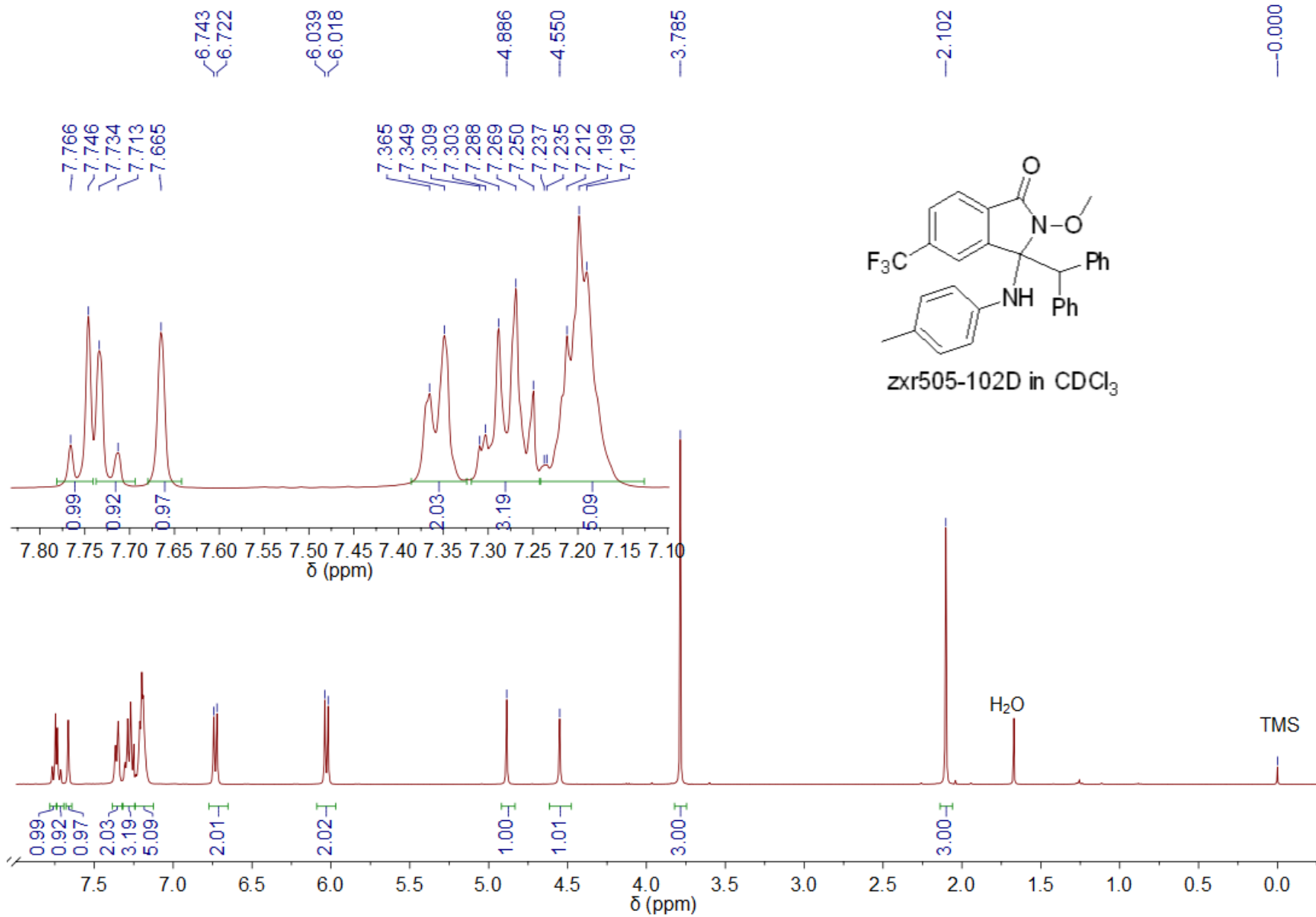
3c – ¹³C NMR



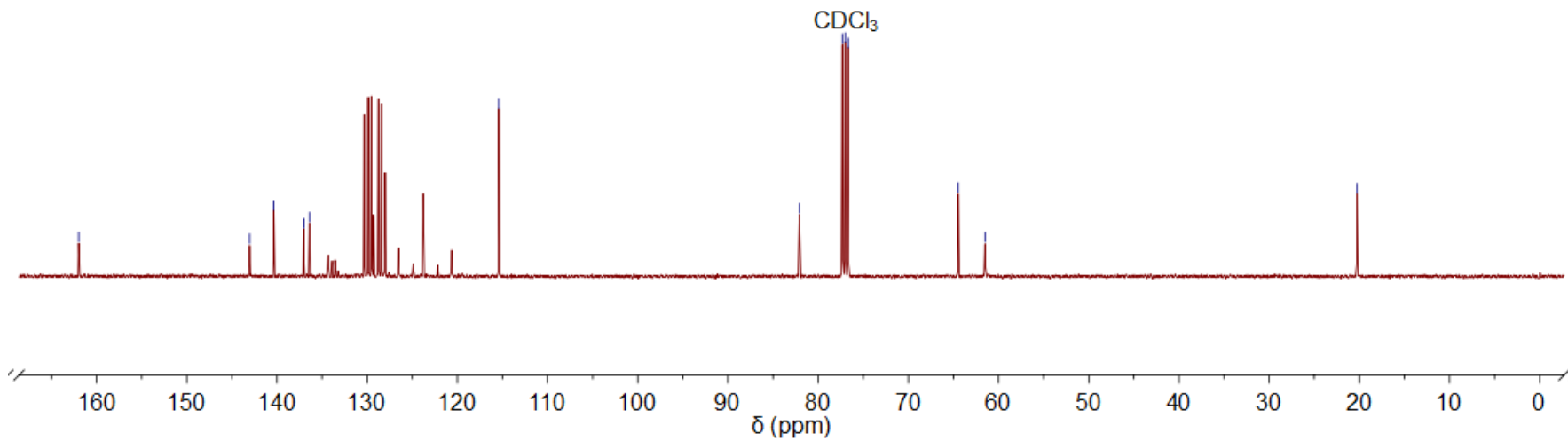
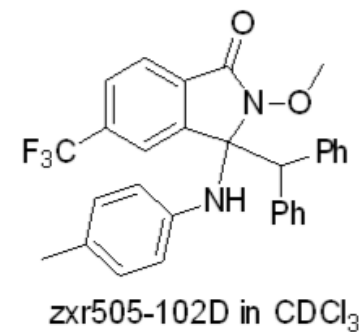
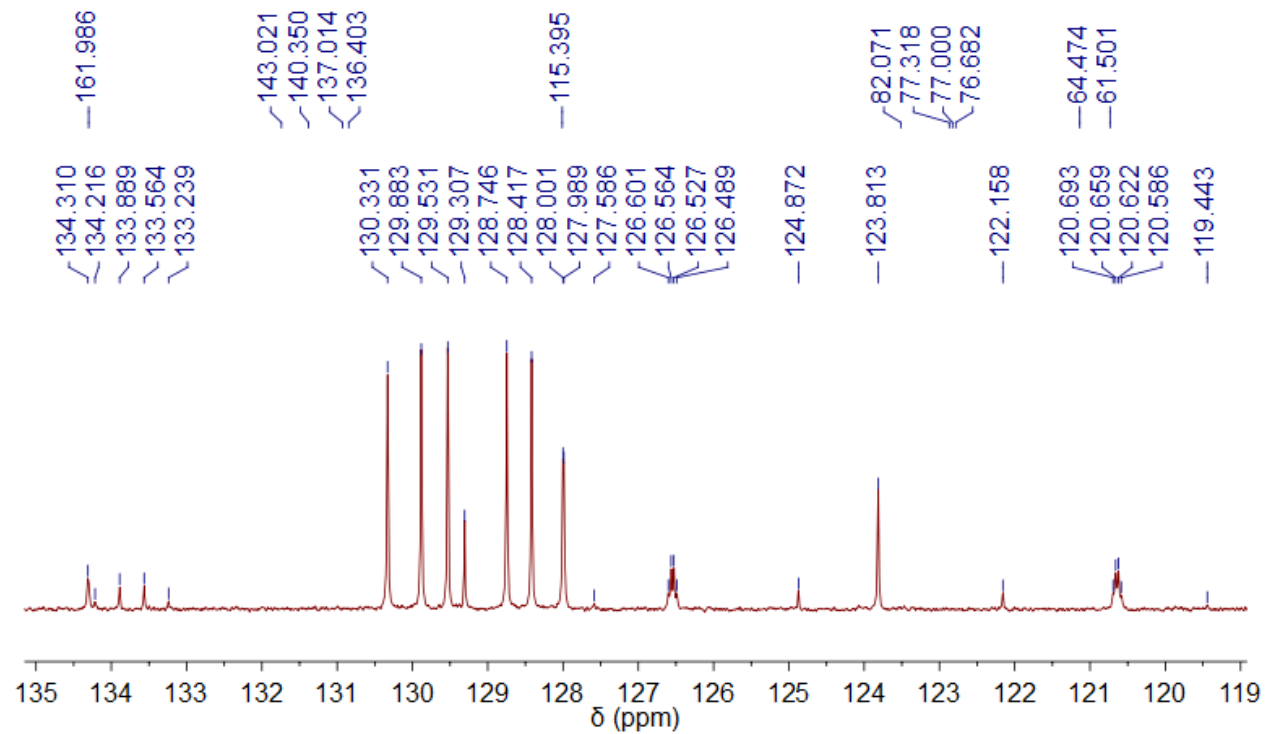
3d - ^1H NMR



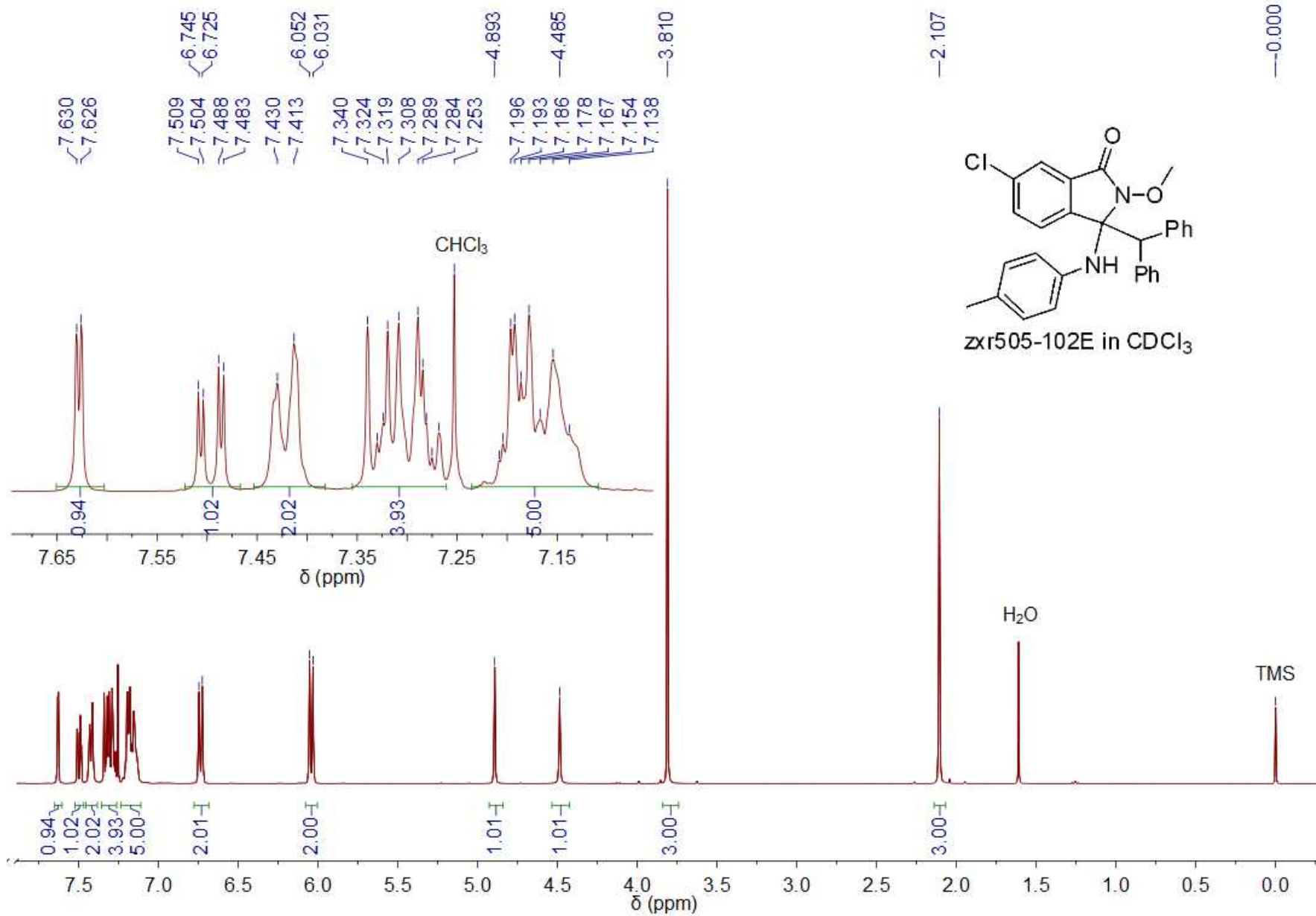
3d – ¹³C NMR

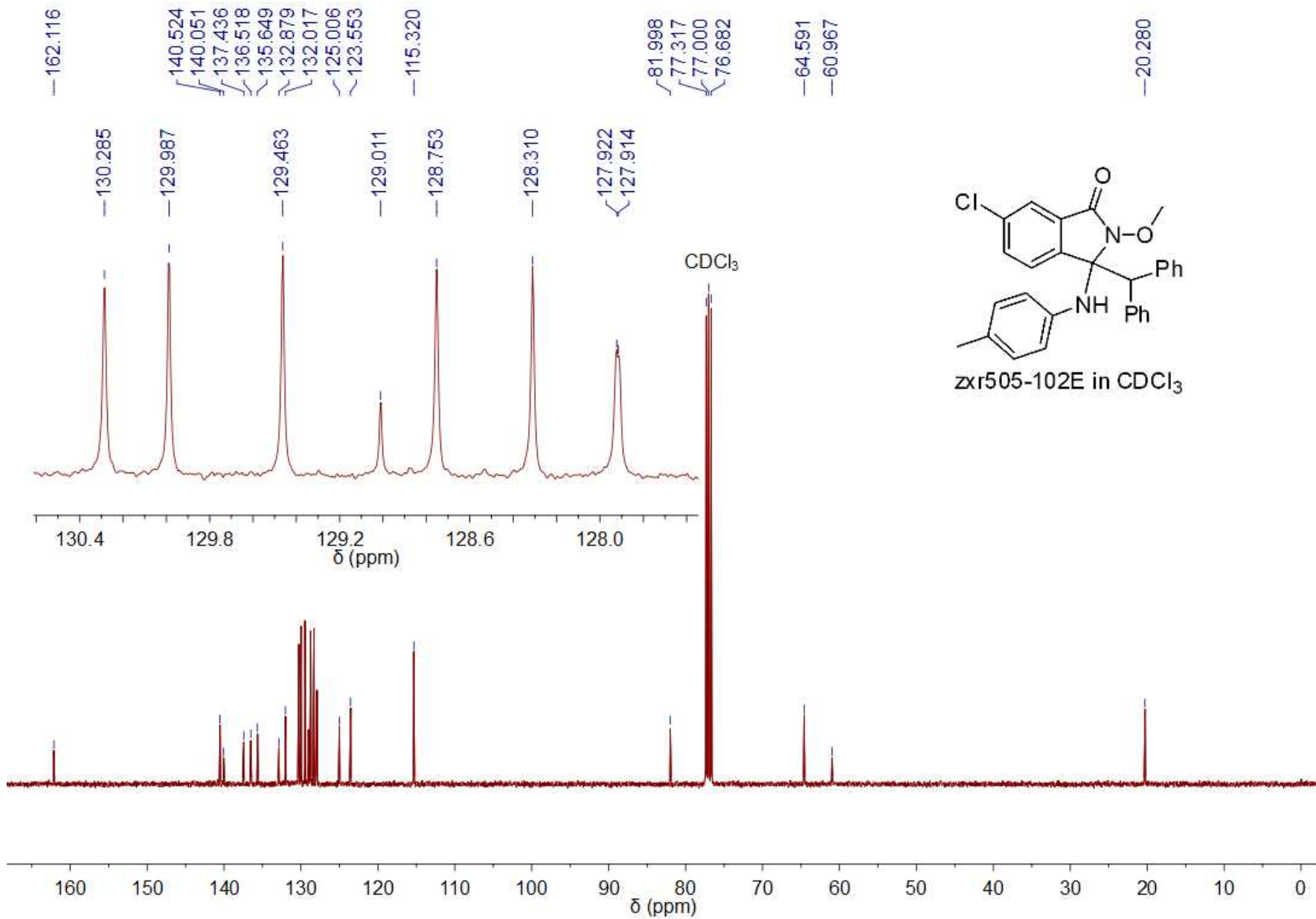


3e - $^1\text{H NMR}$

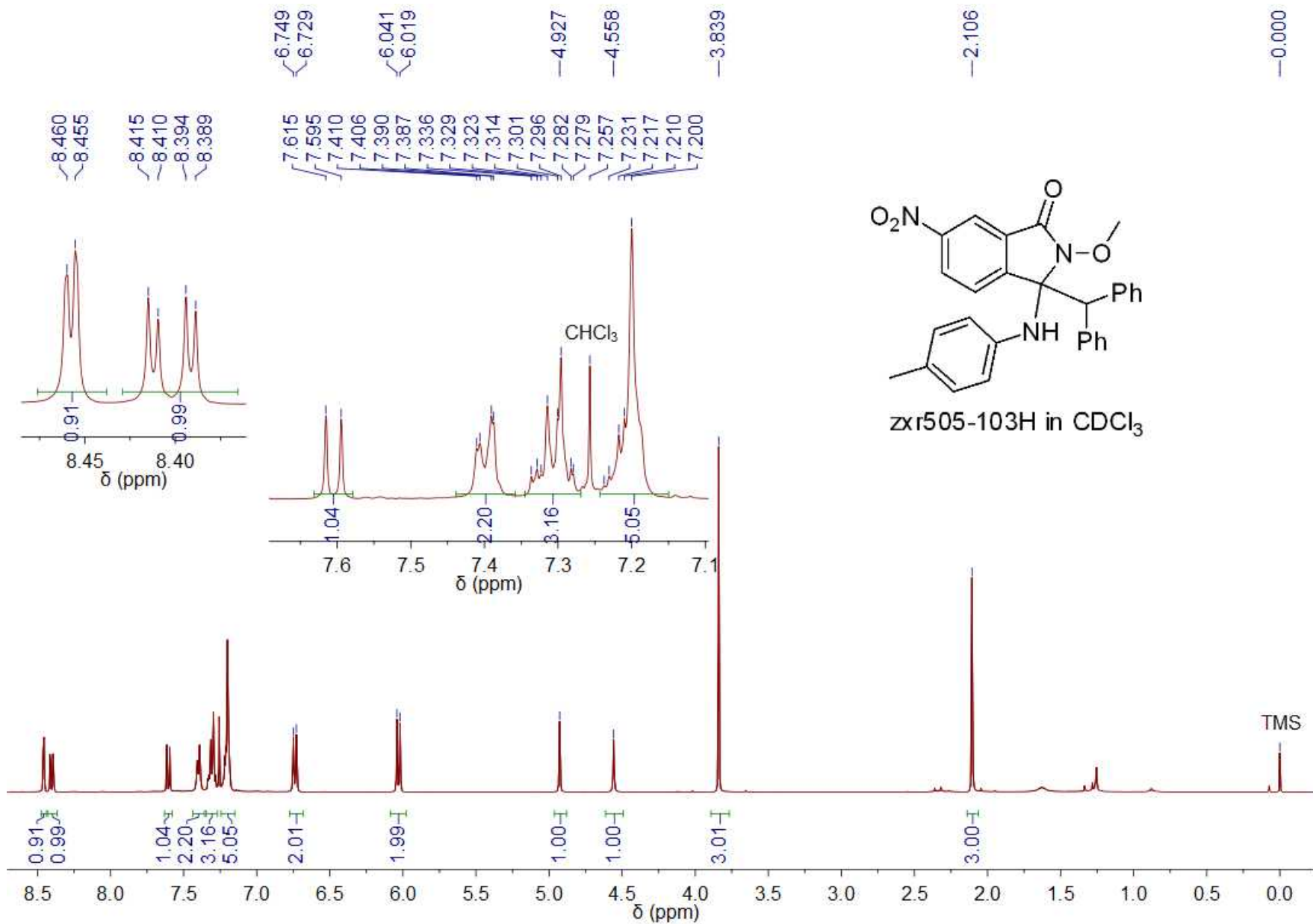


3e – ¹³C NMR

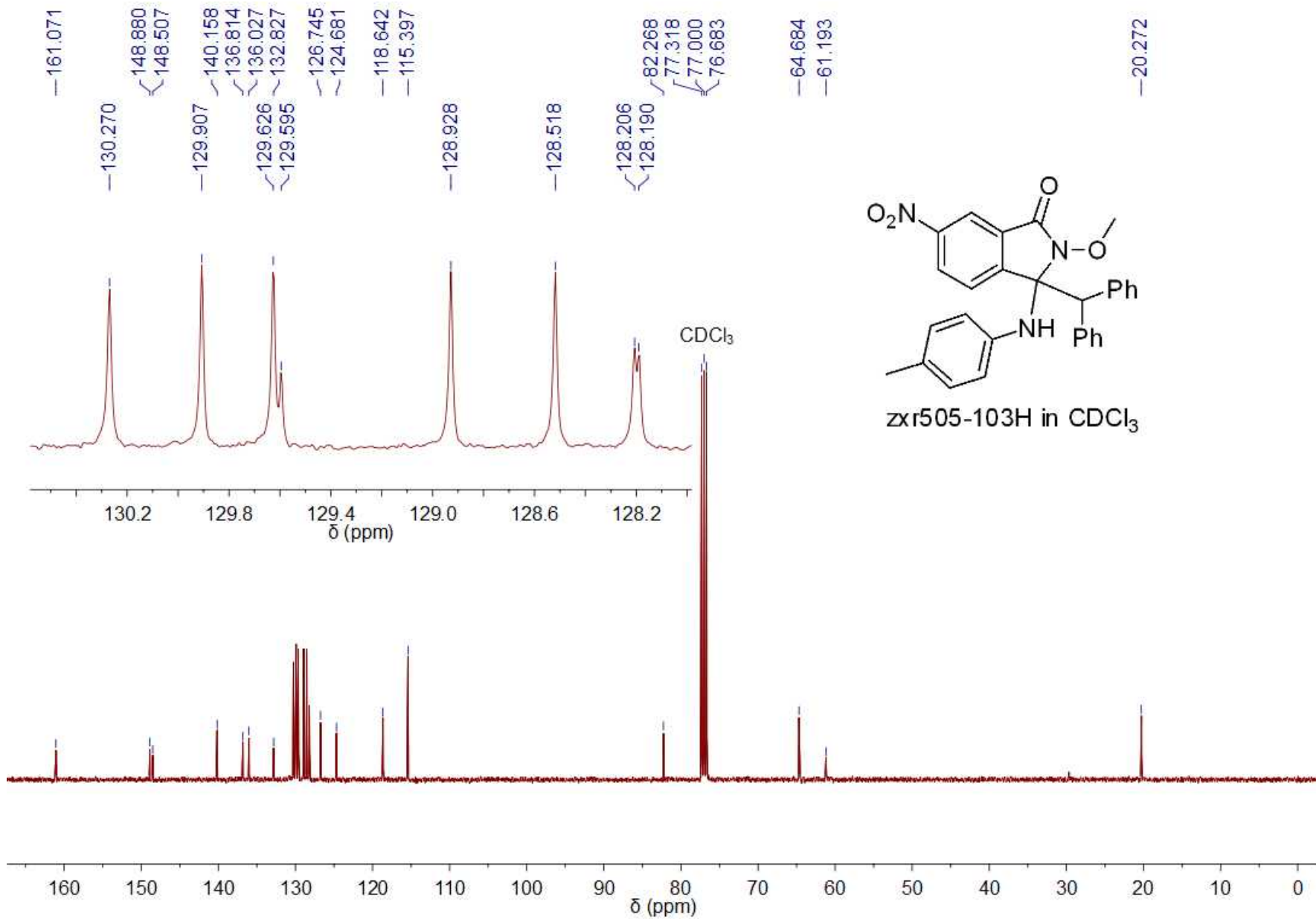




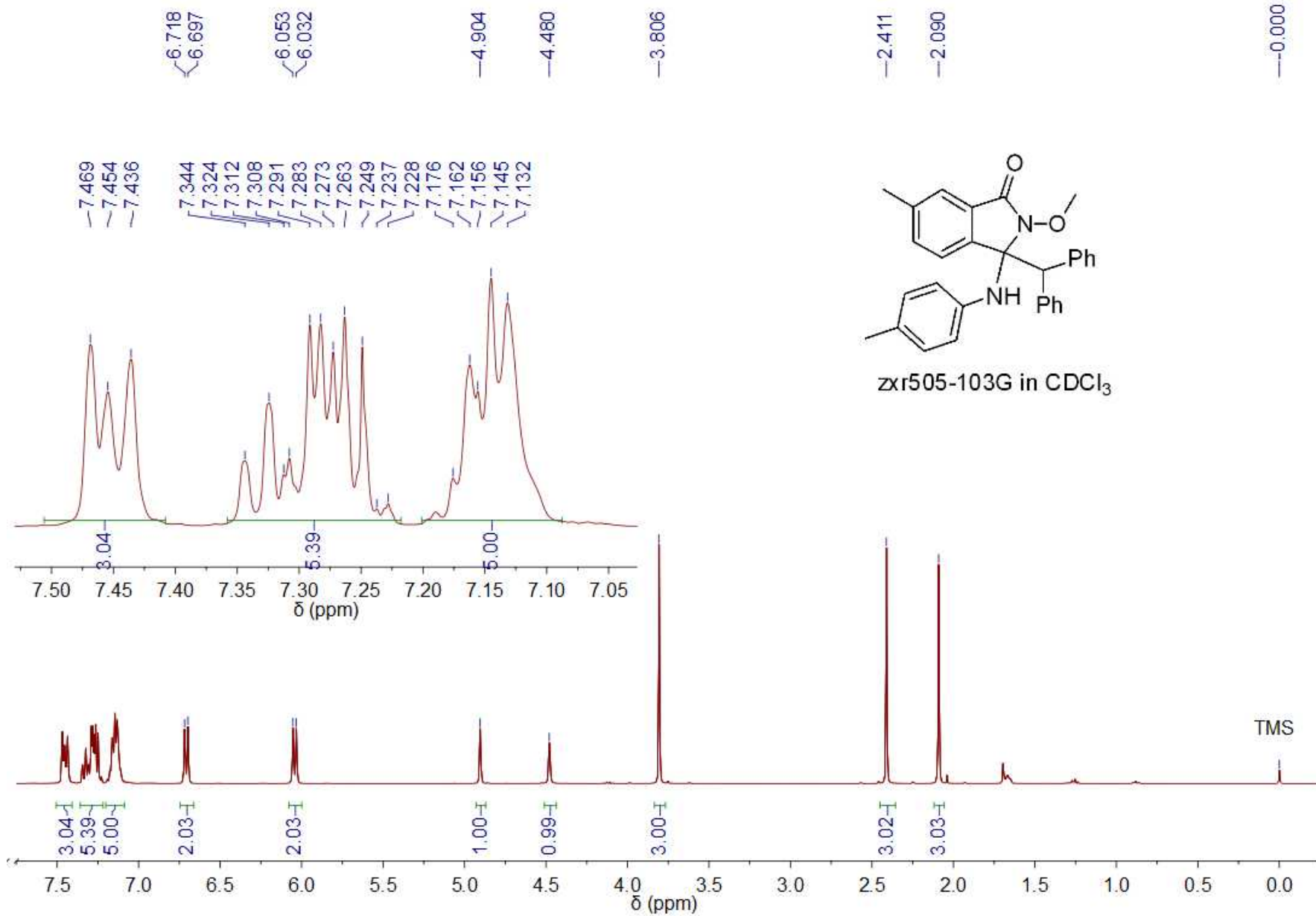
3f – ¹³C NMR



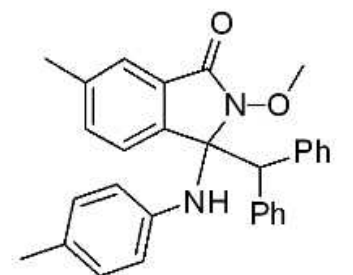
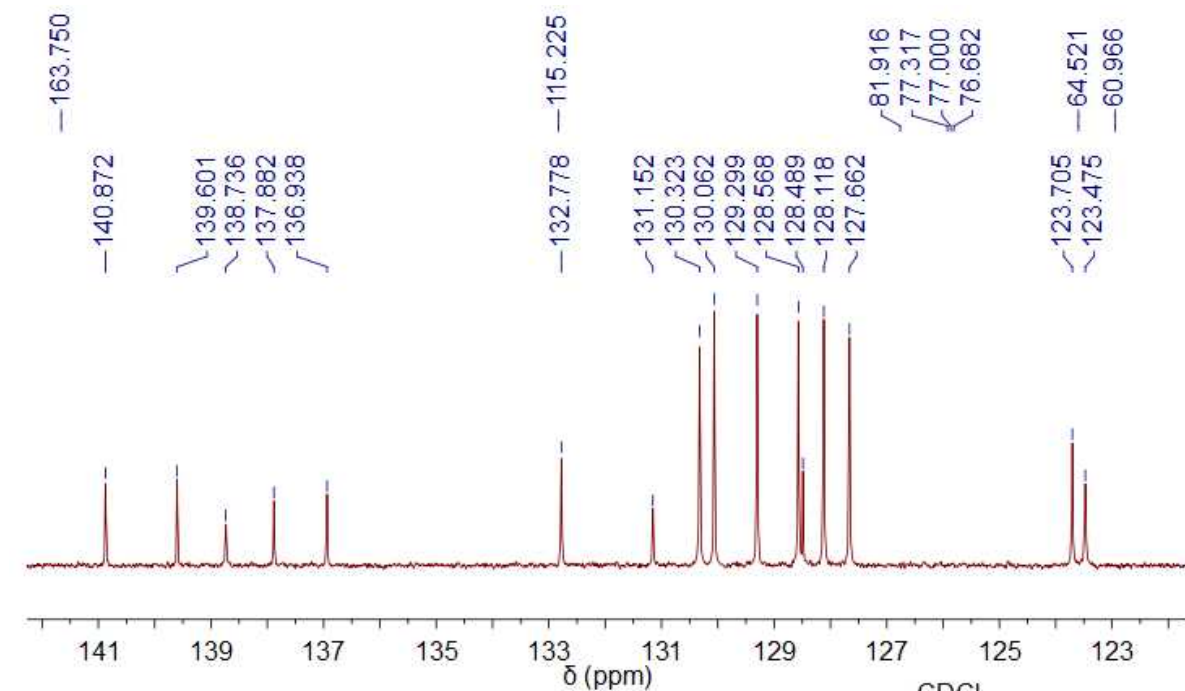
3g - ¹H NMR



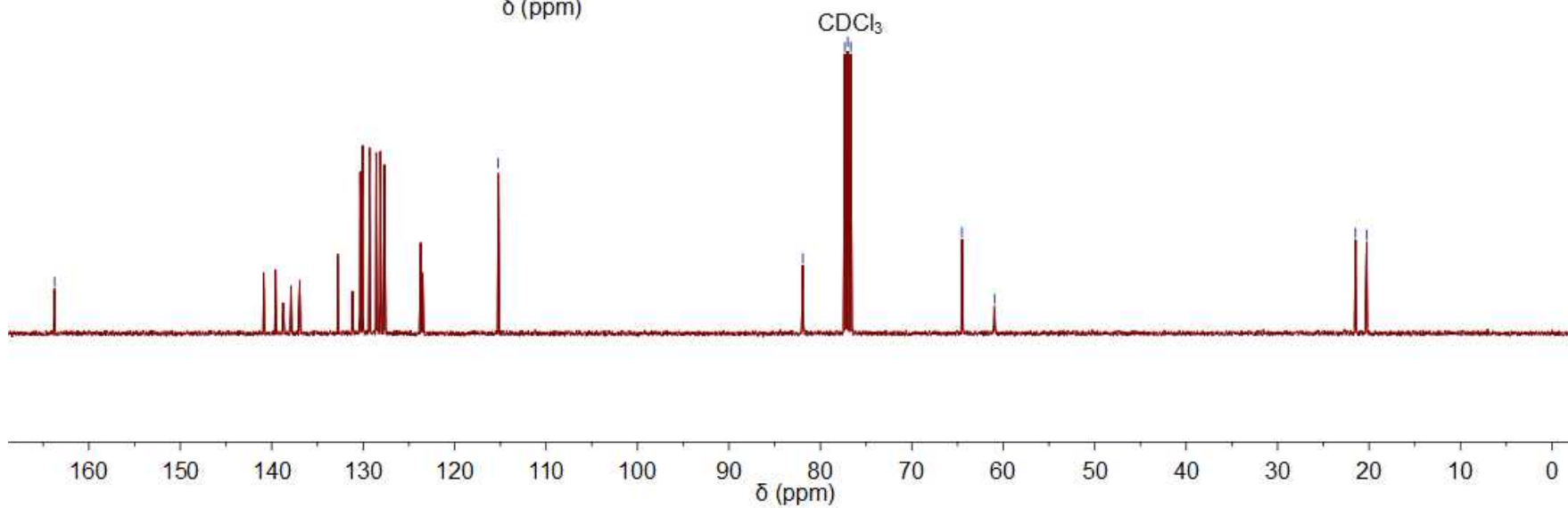
3g – ¹³C NMR



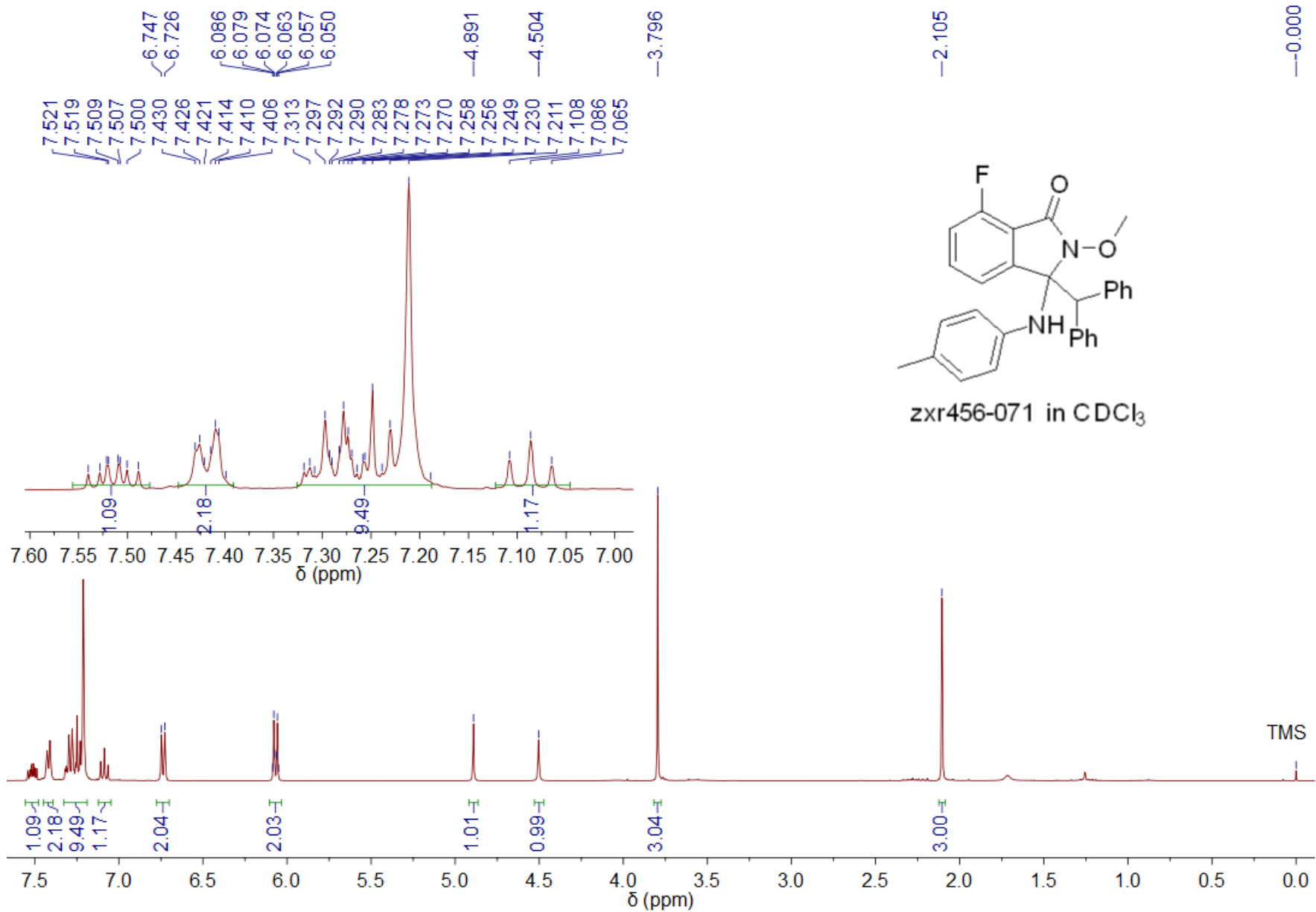
3h - ¹H NMR



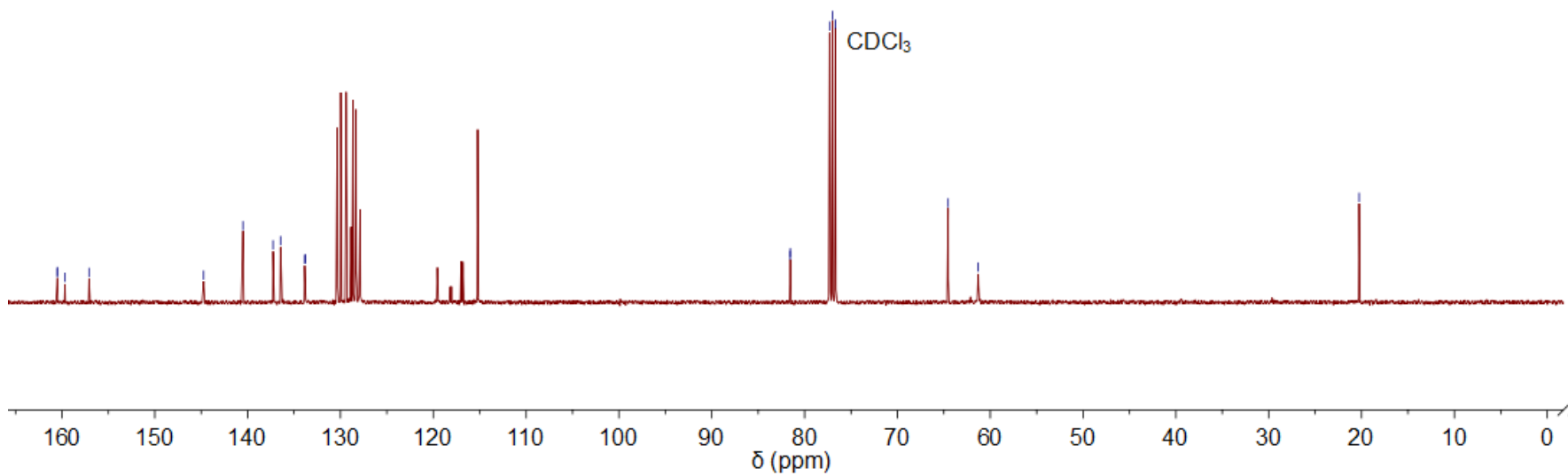
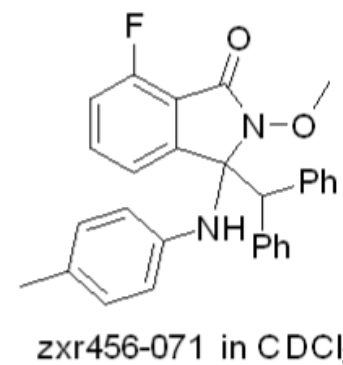
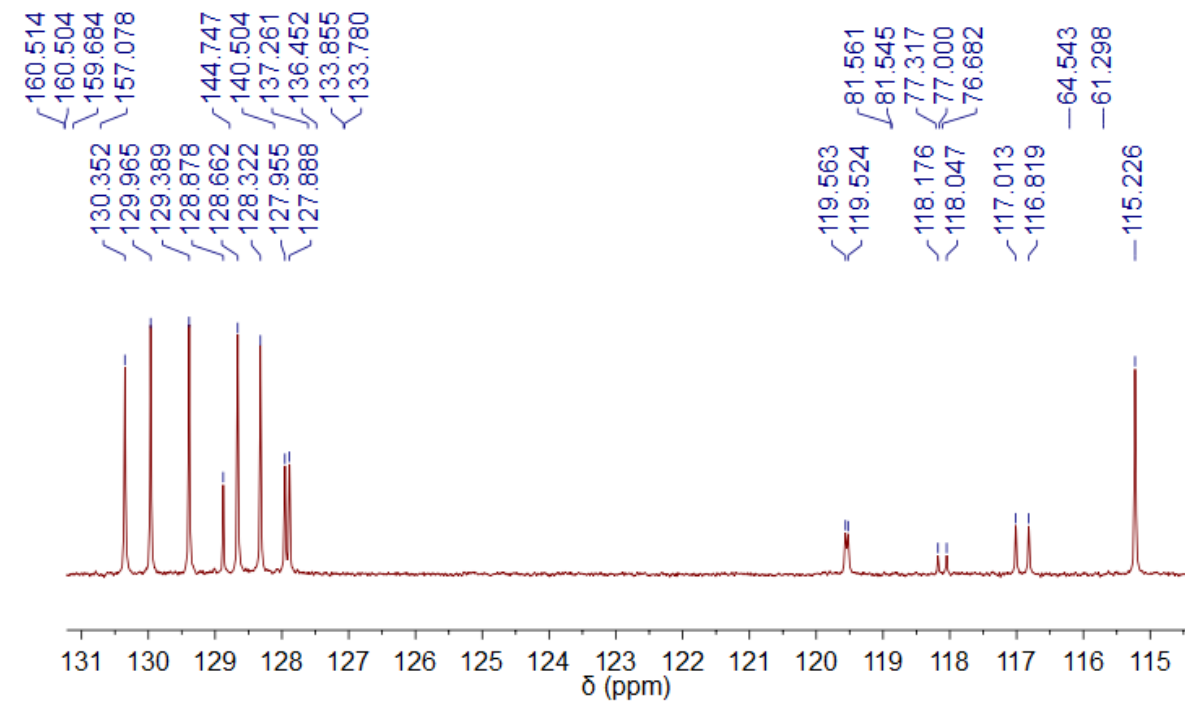
zxr505-103G in CDCl₃



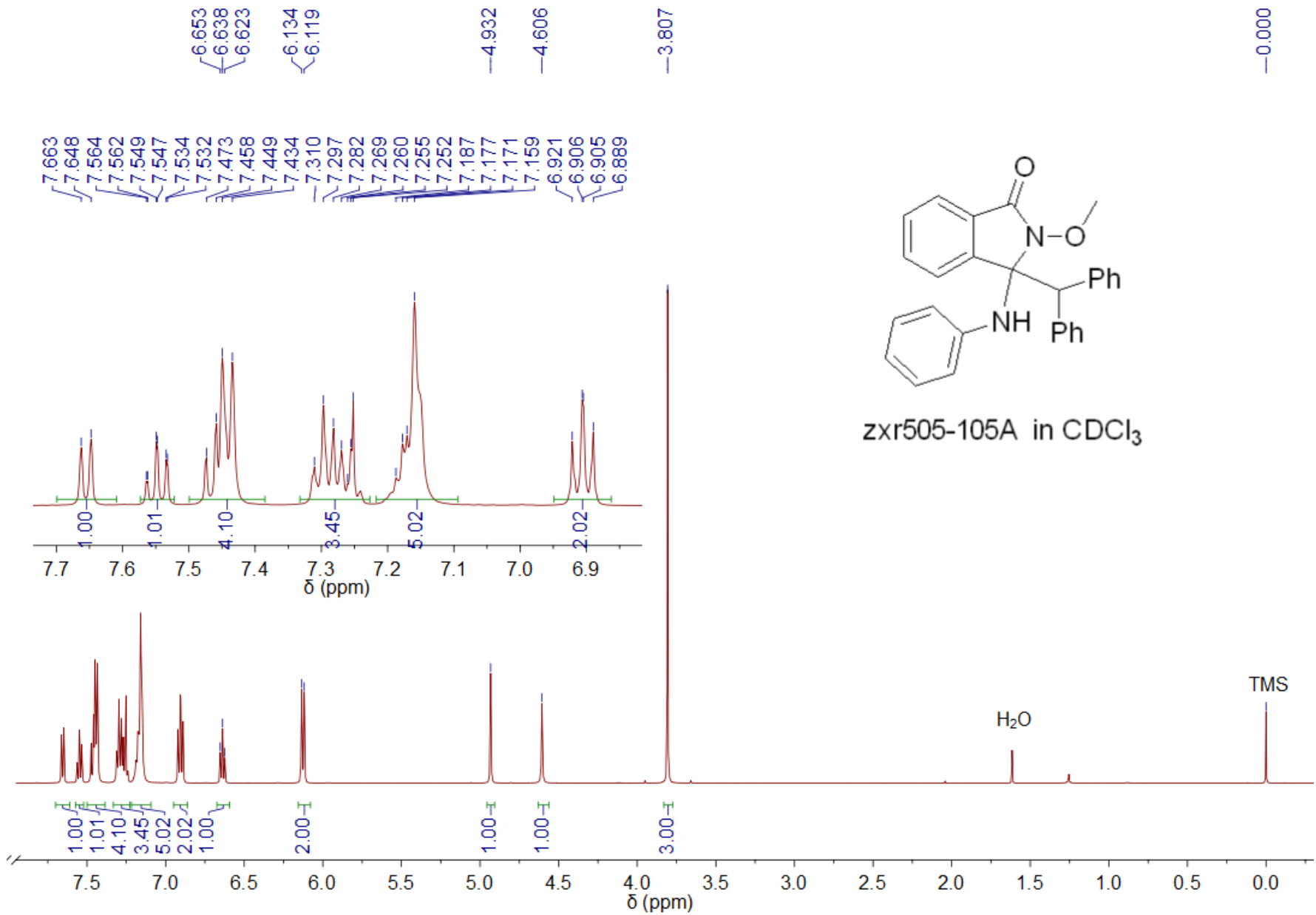
3h – ¹³C NMR



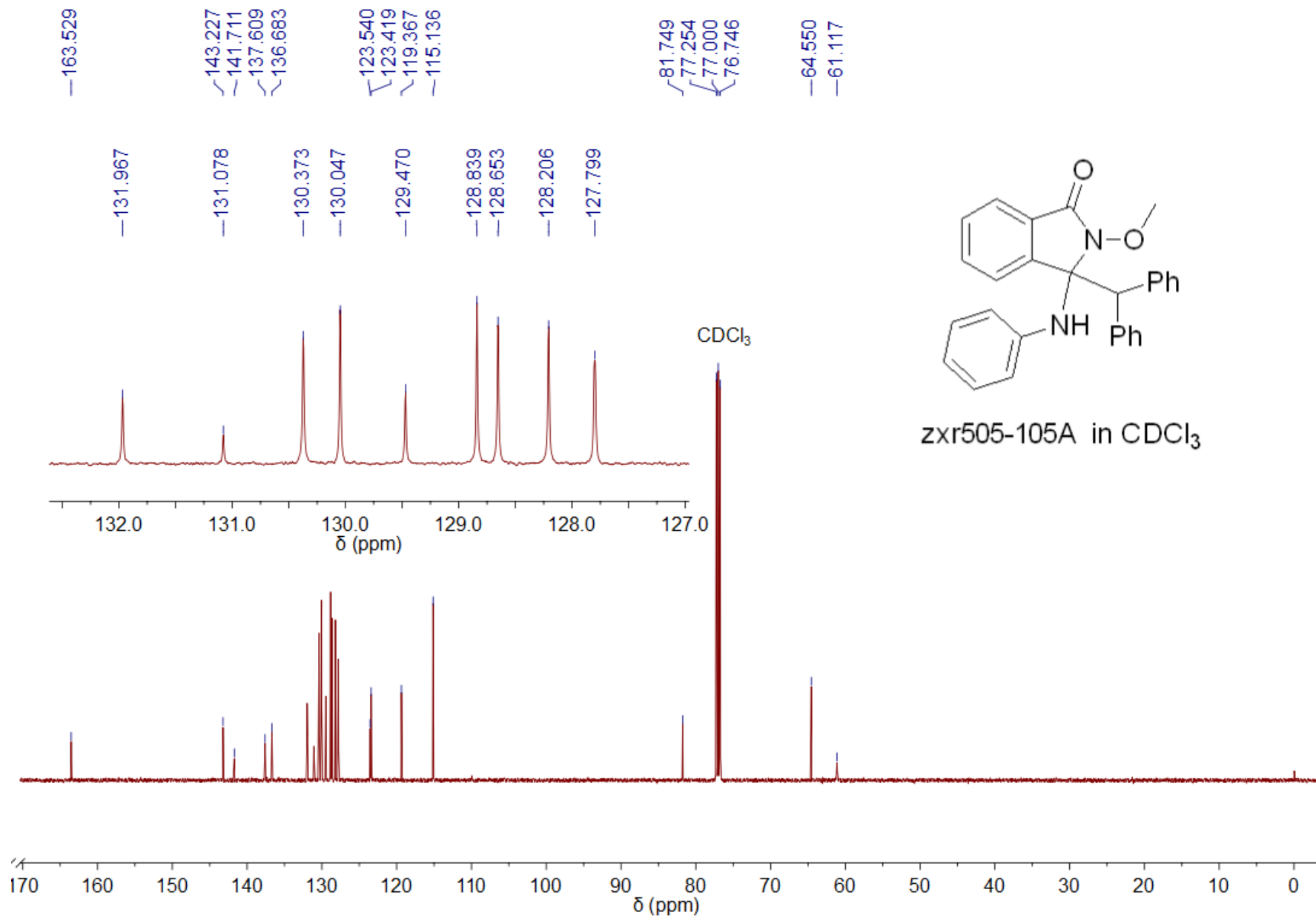
3i - ^1H NMR



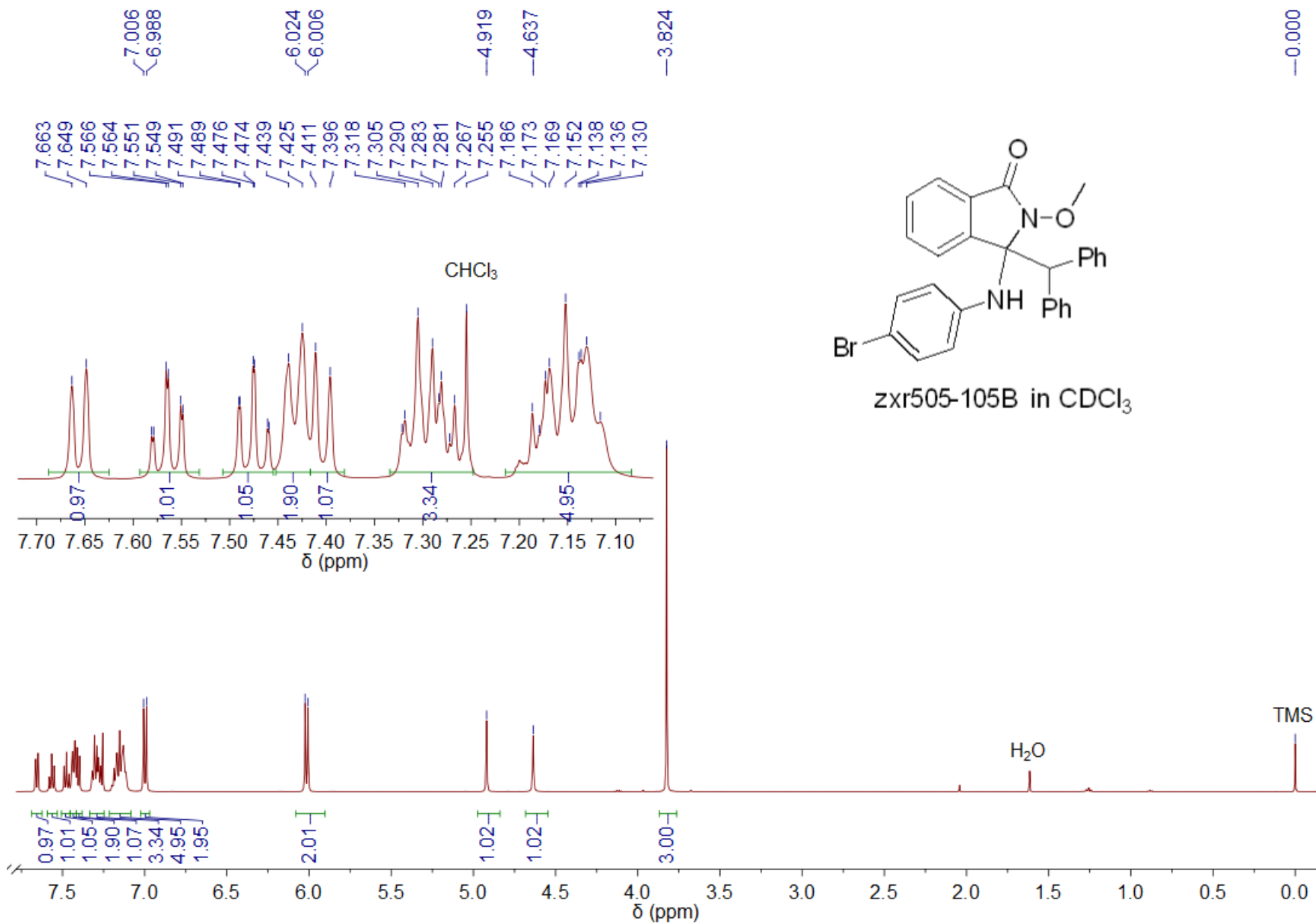
3i - ¹³C NMR



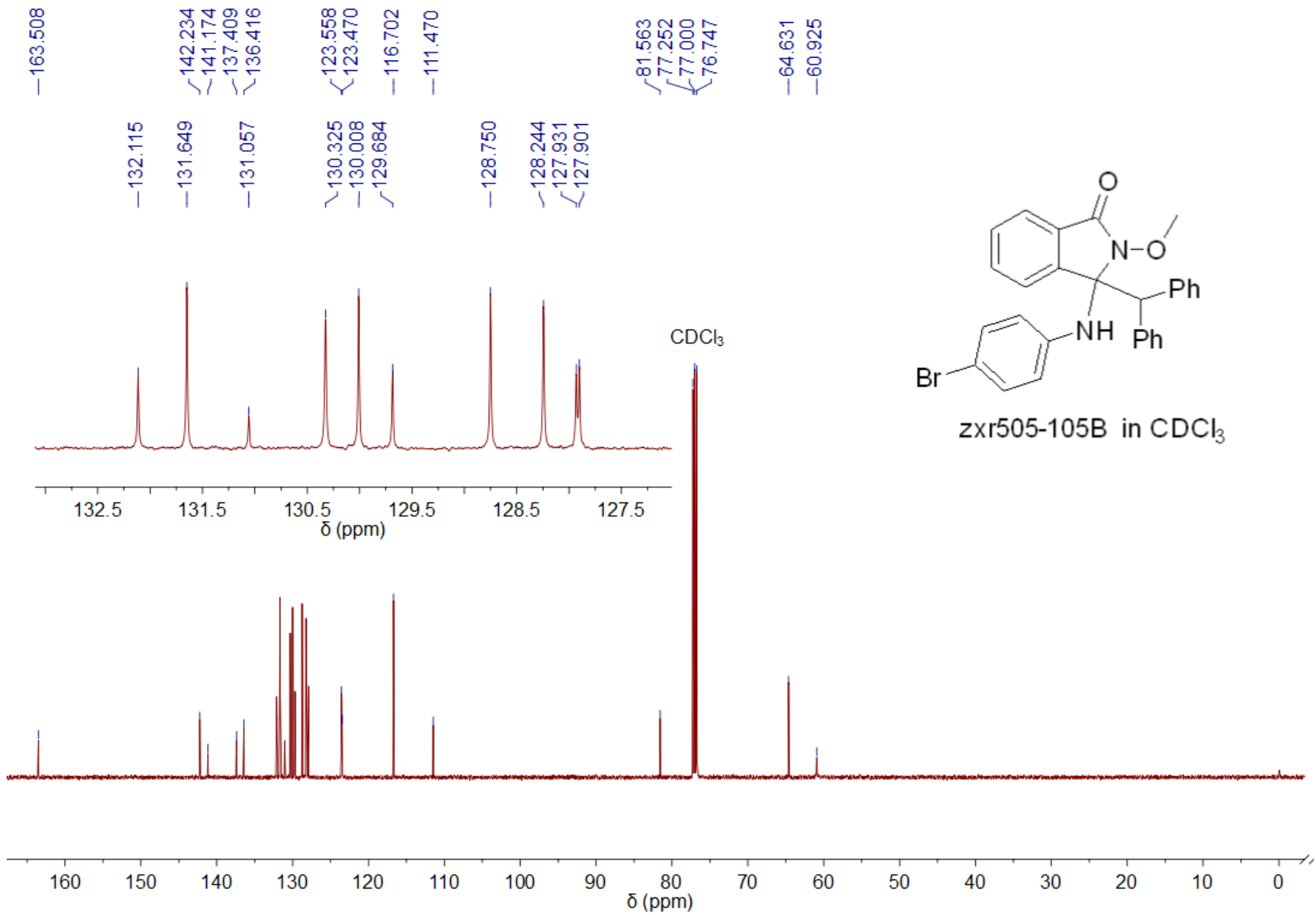
3j - ¹H NMR



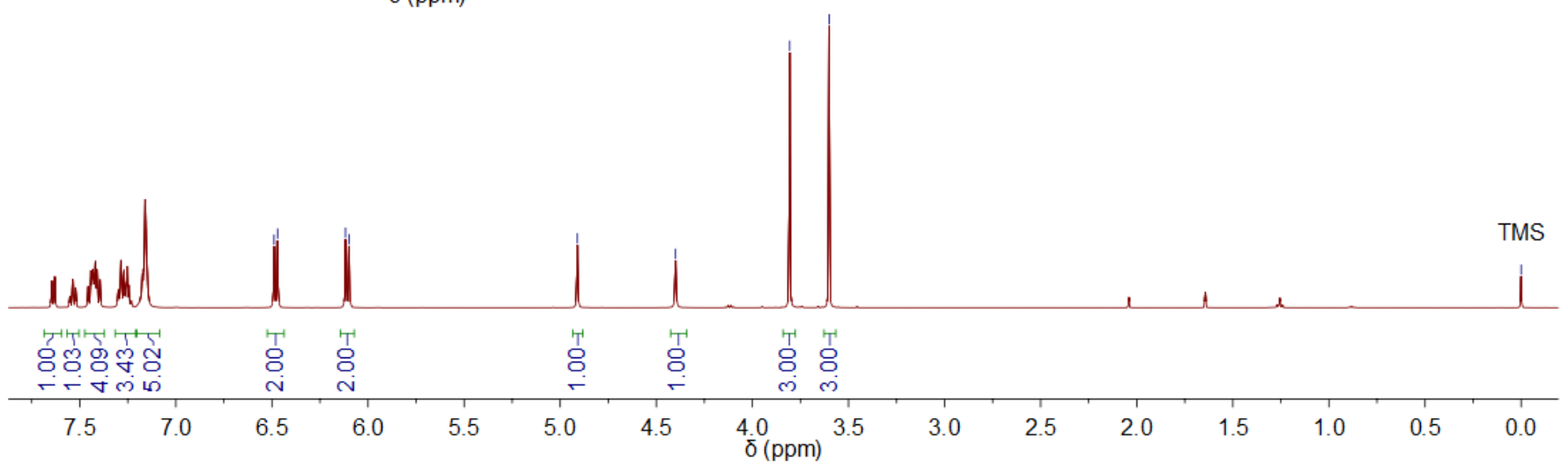
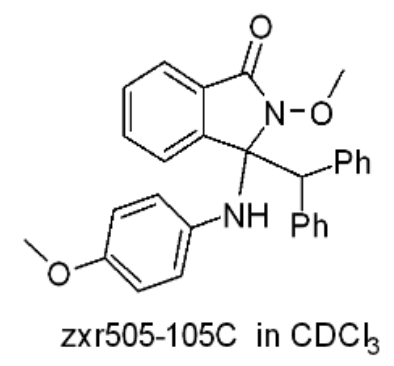
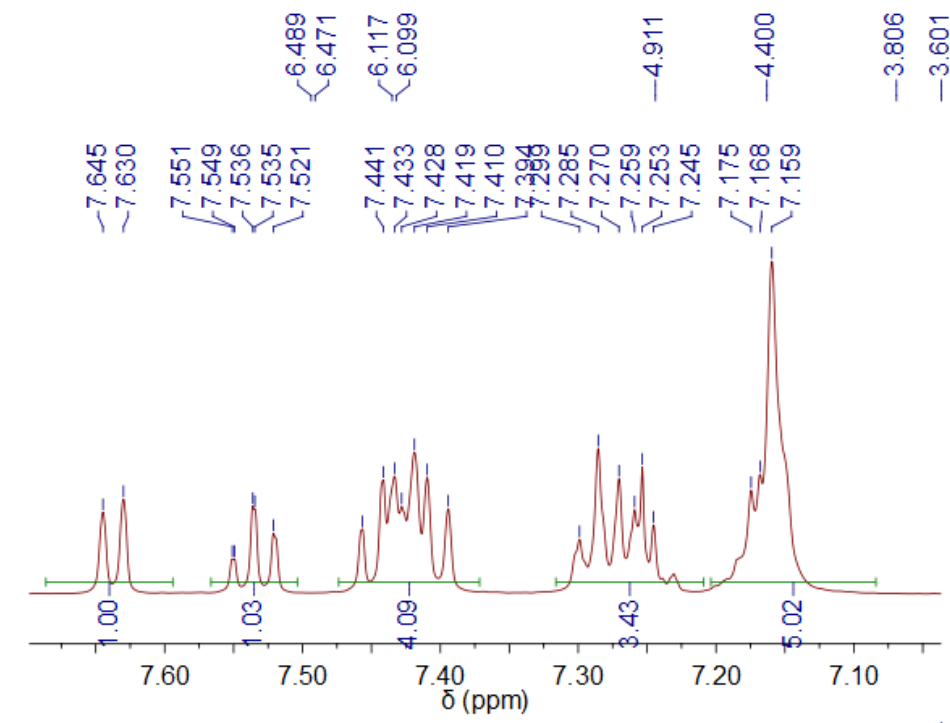
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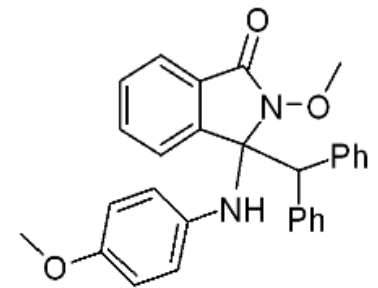
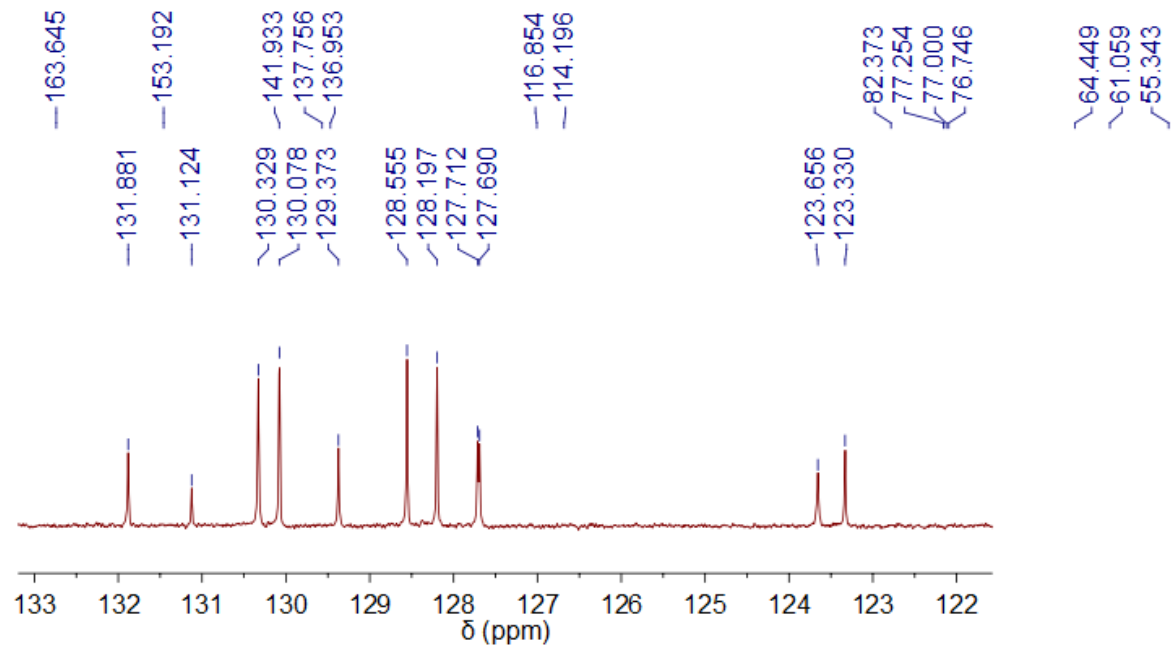
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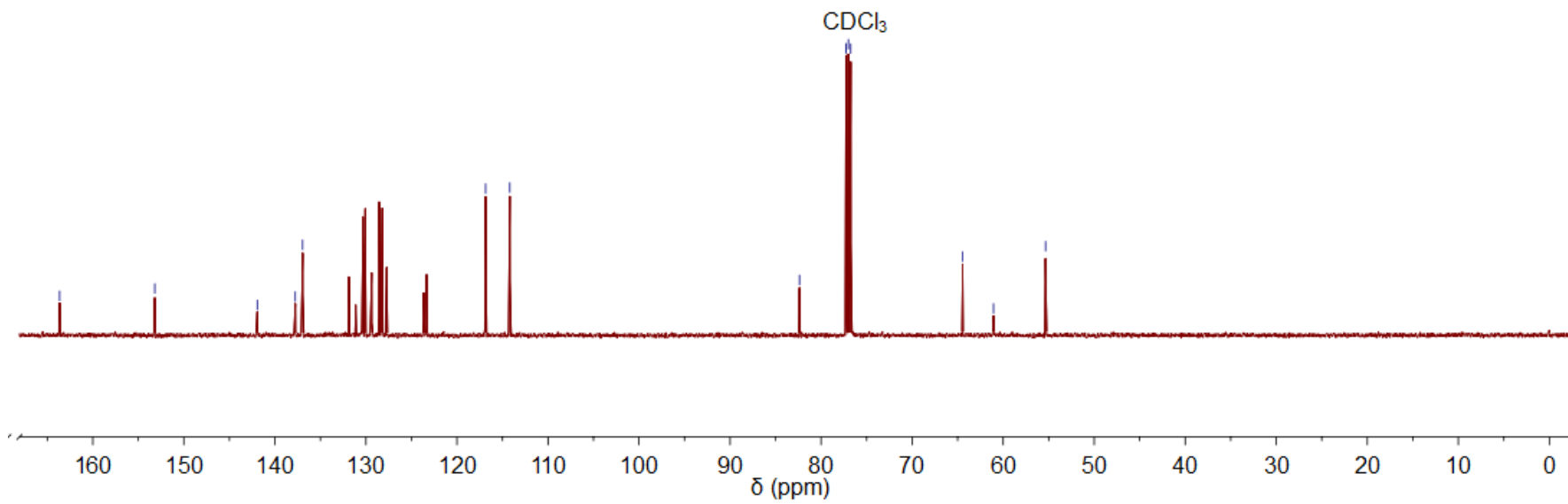
3k – ¹³C NMR



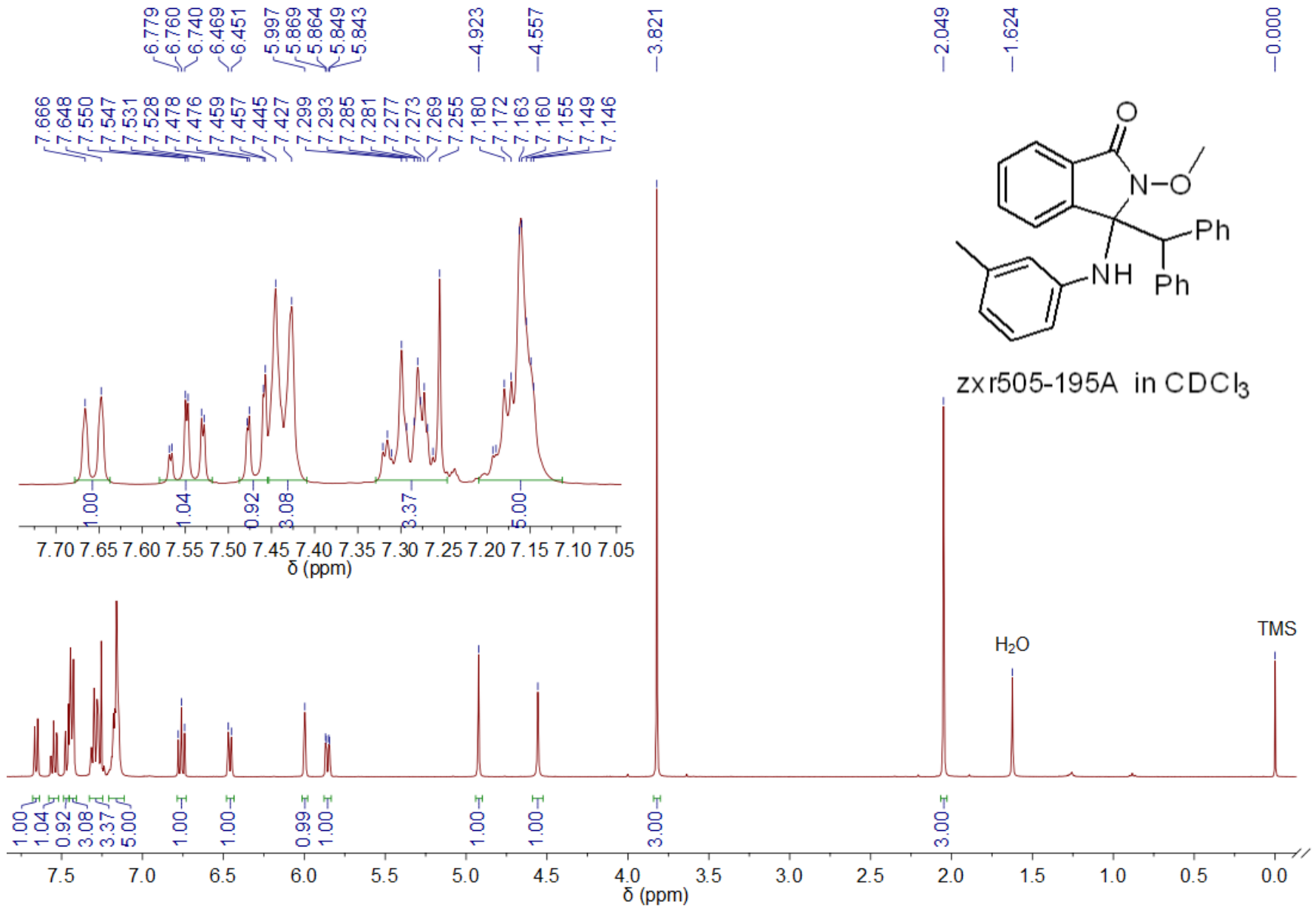
3I - ¹H NMR



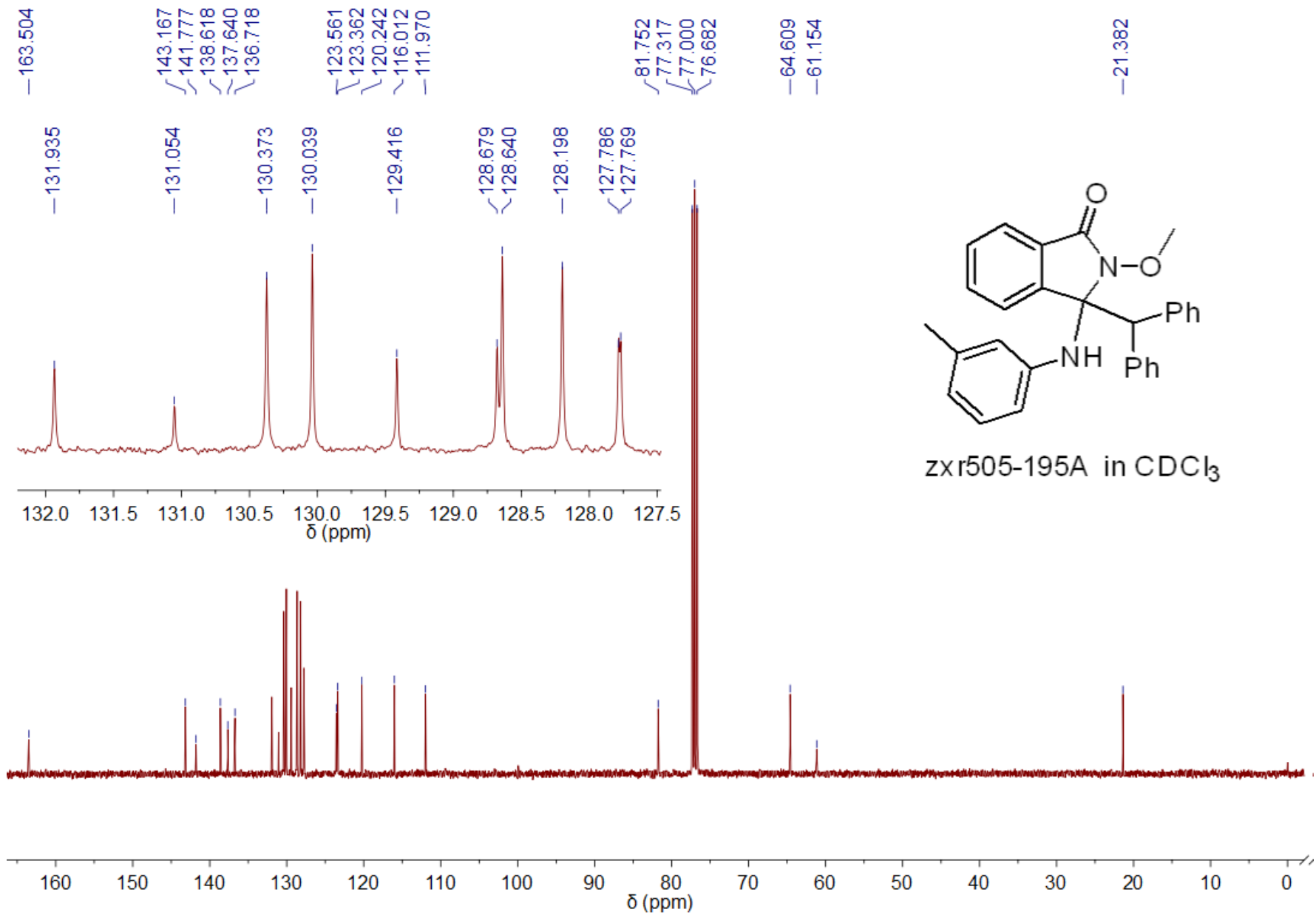
zxr505-105C in CDCl₃



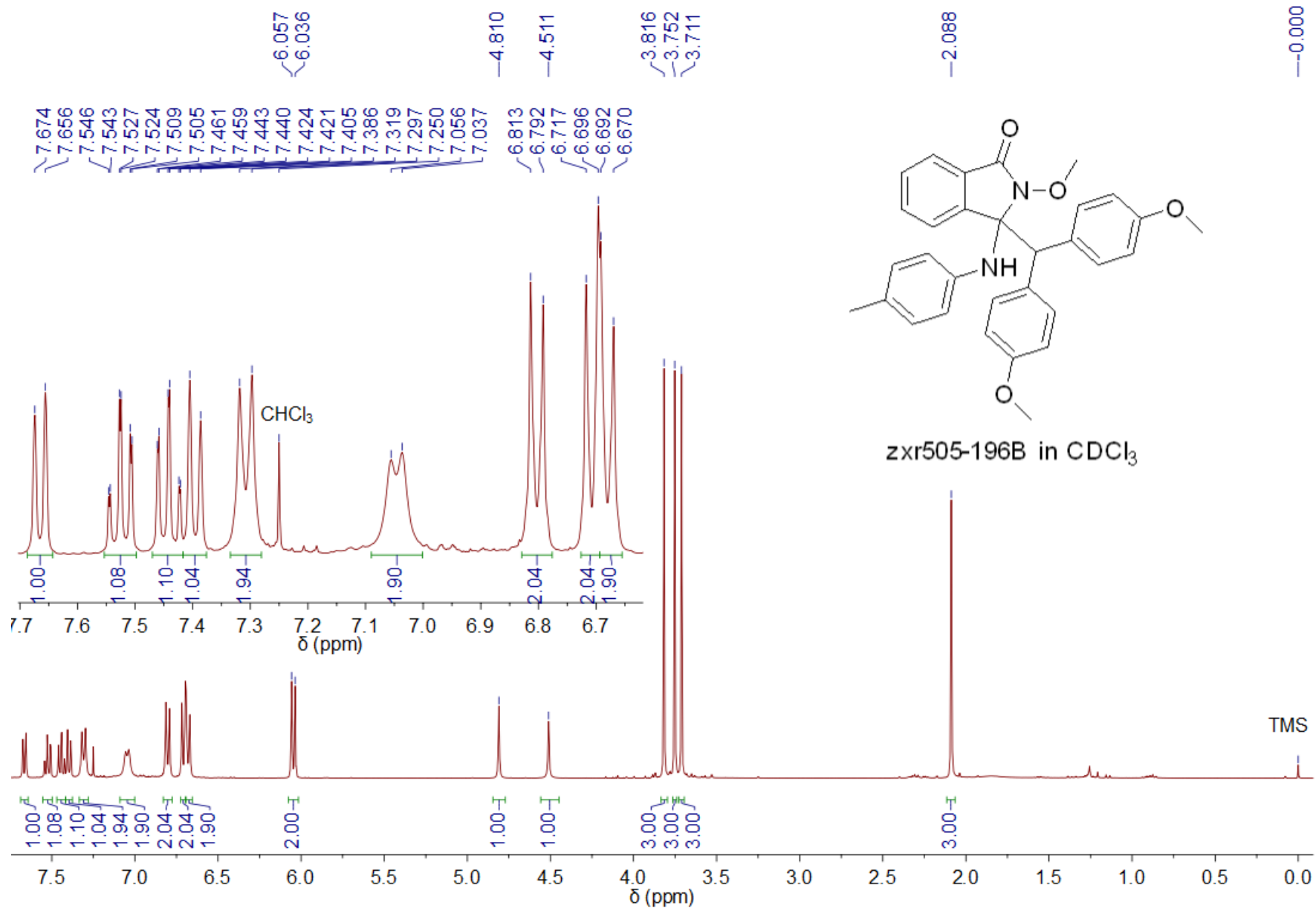
3I - ¹³C NMR



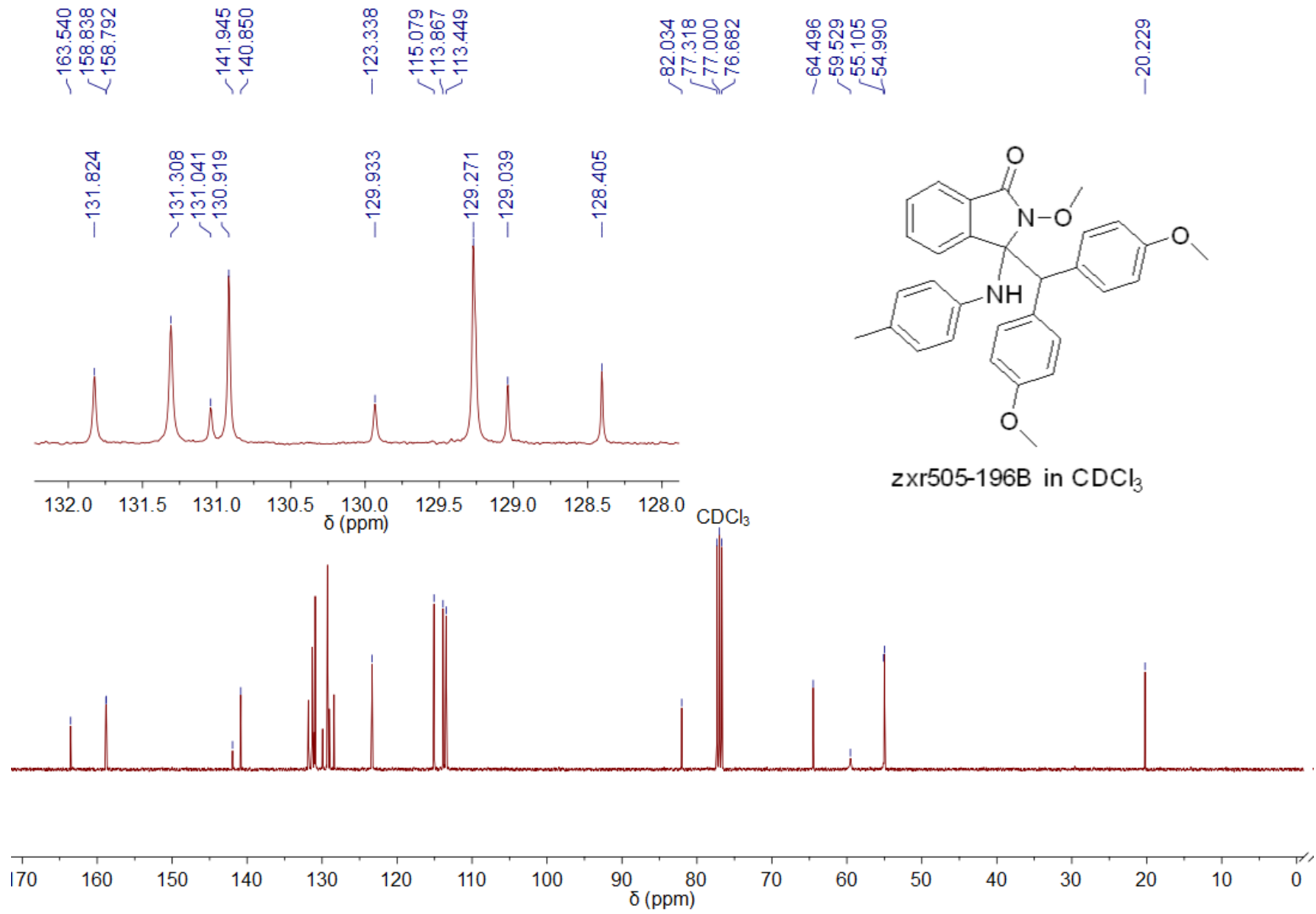
3m - ¹H NMR



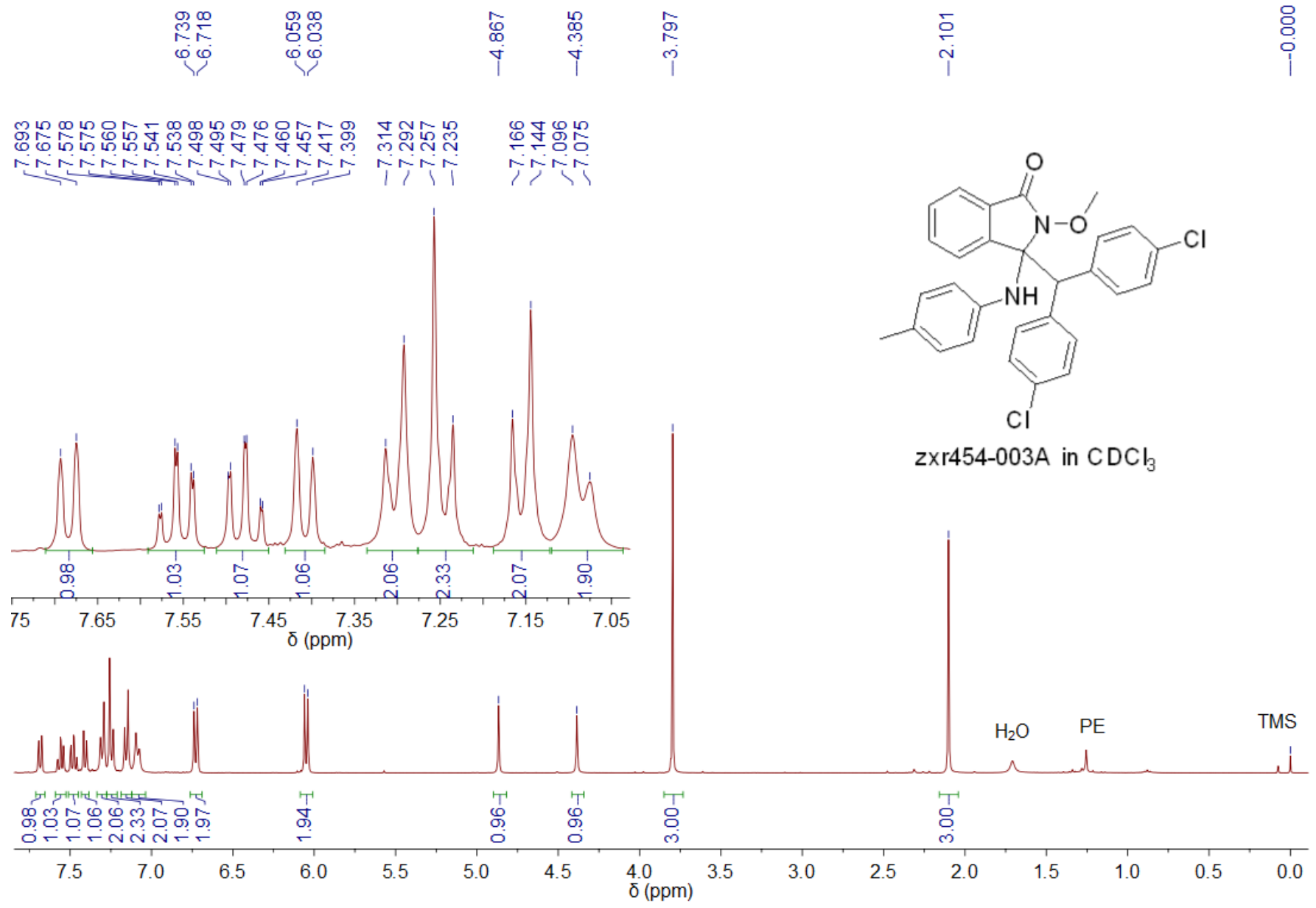
3m - ^{13}C NMR



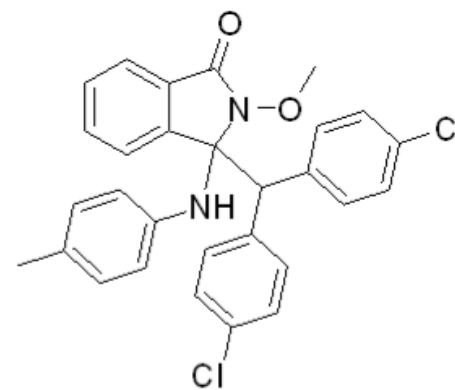
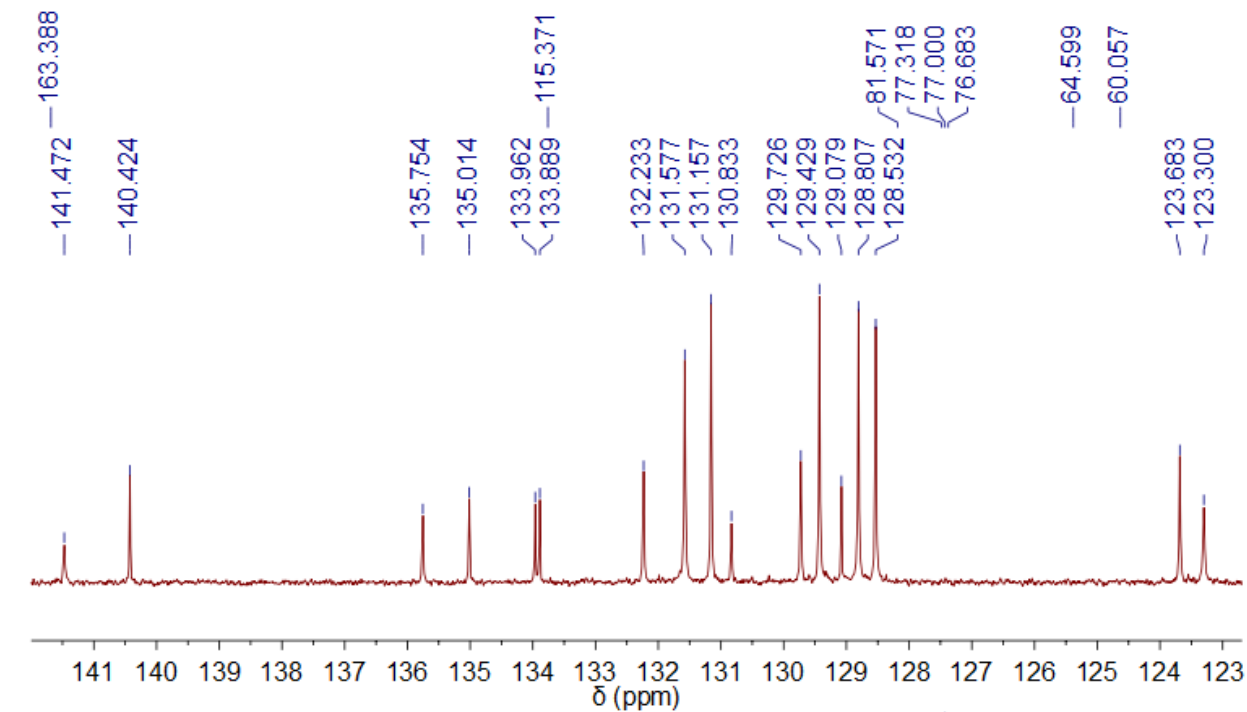
3n - ¹H NMR



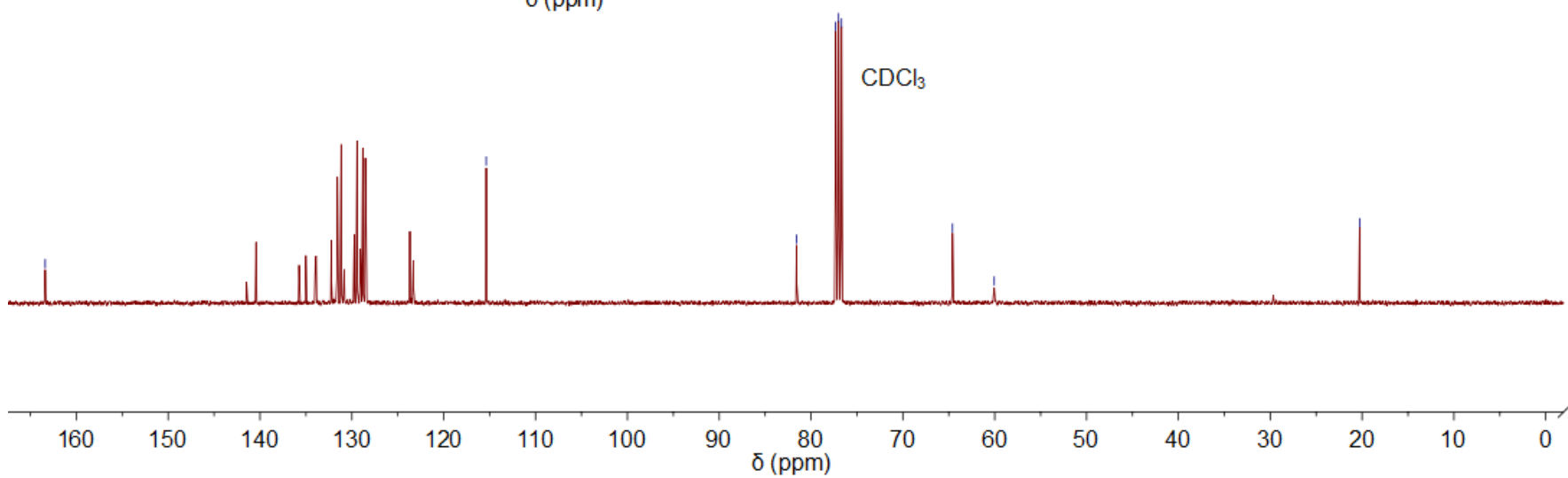
3n – ¹³C NMR



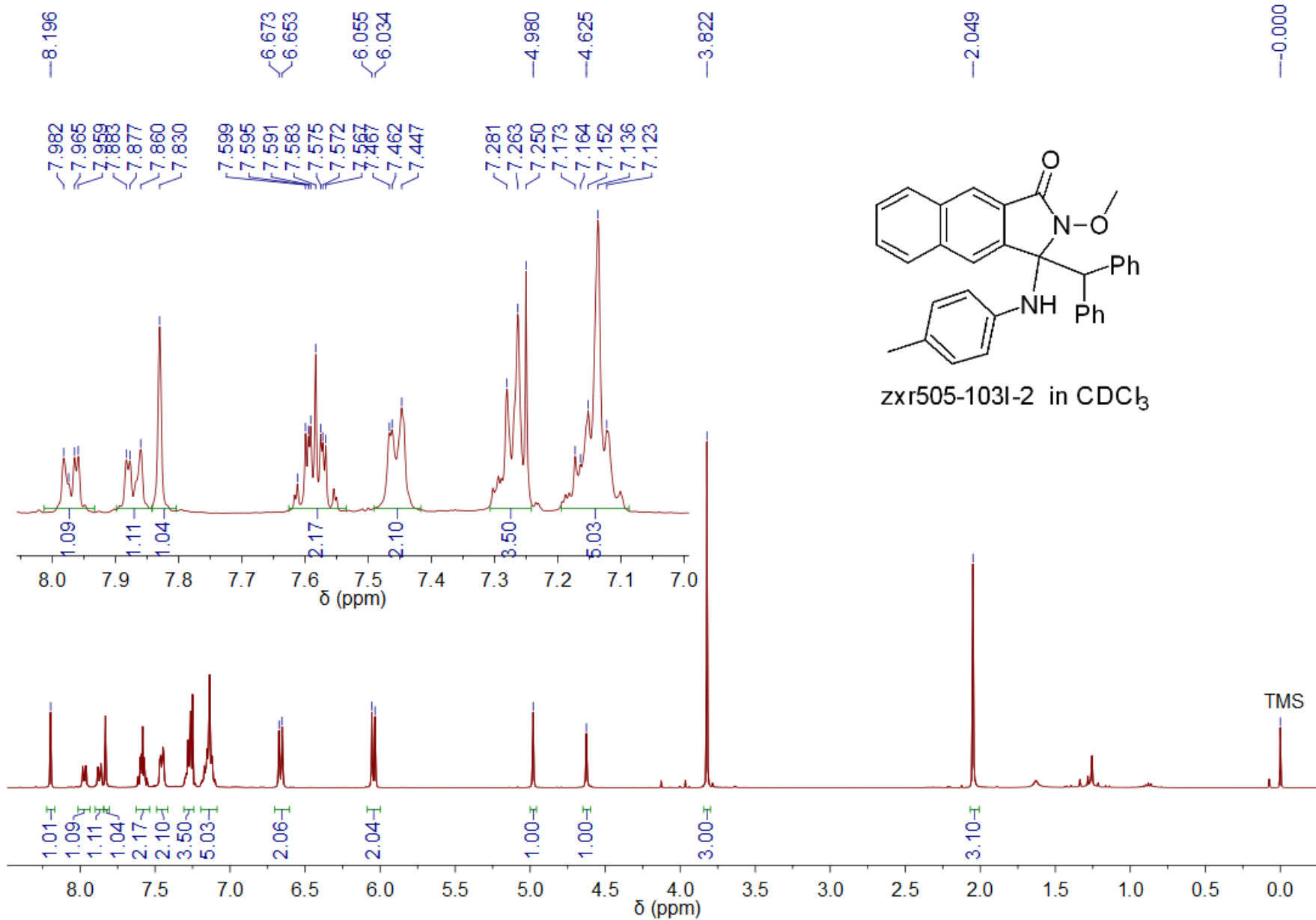
3o - $^1\text{H NMR}$



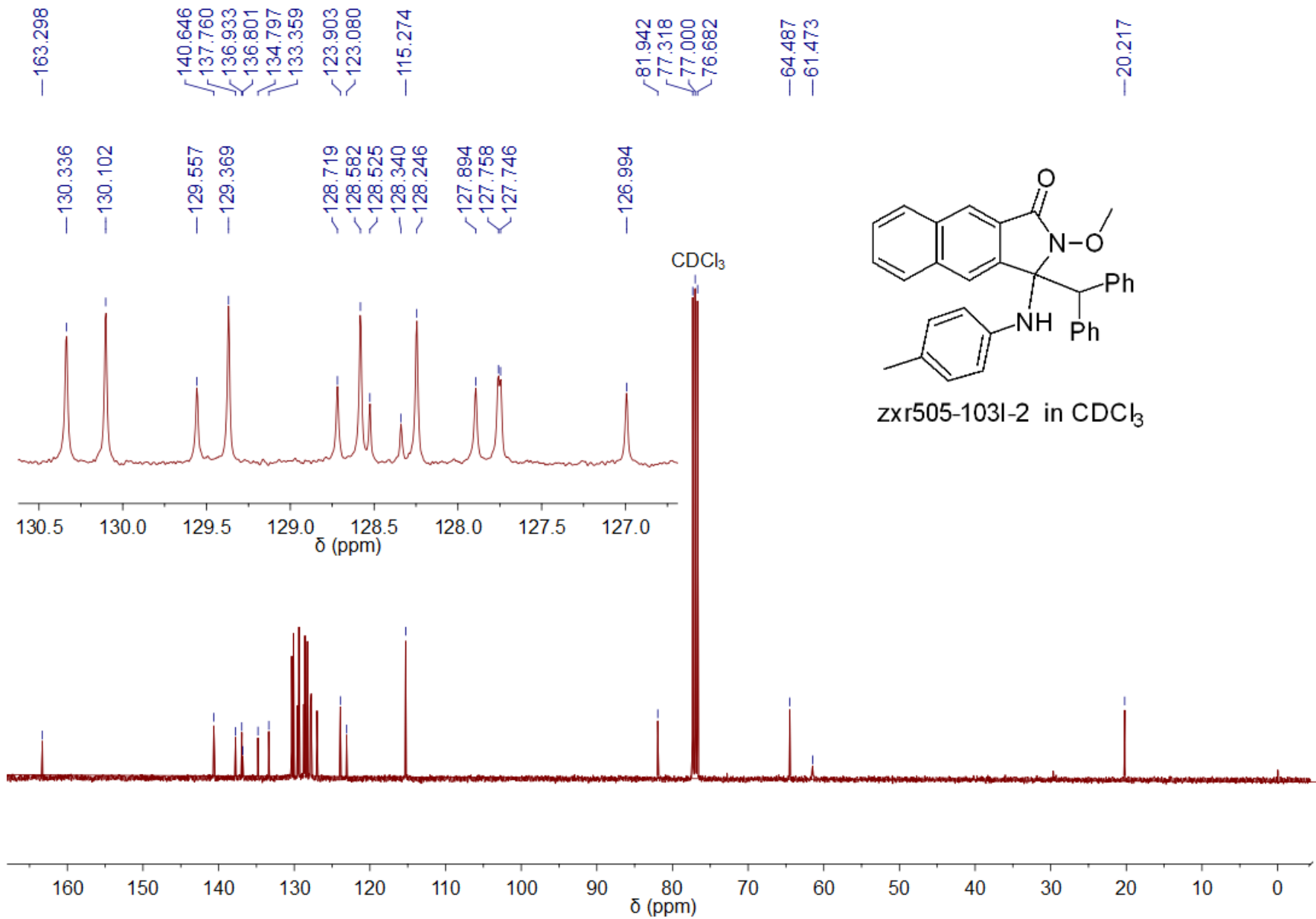
zxr454-003A in CDCl₃



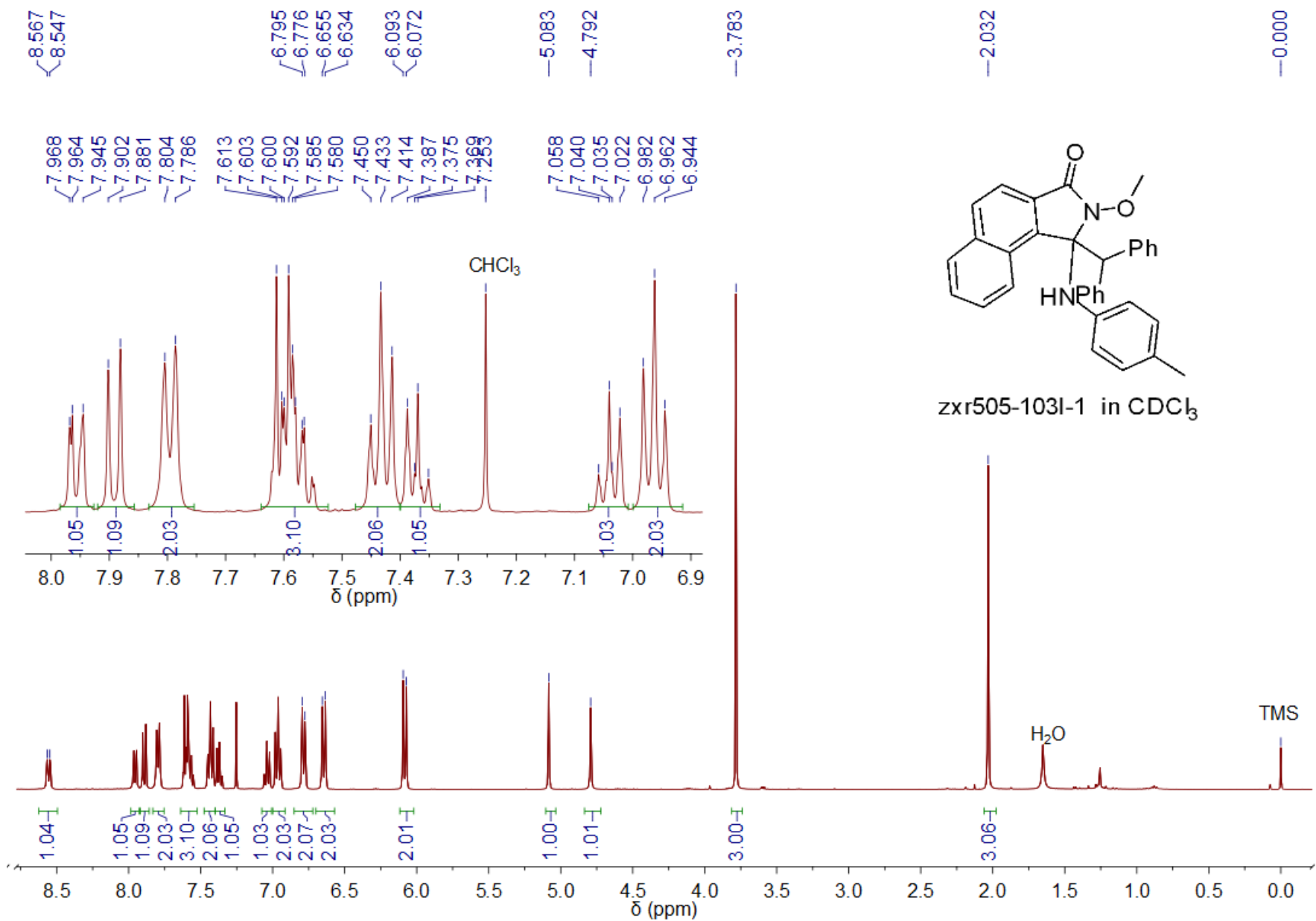
3o - ¹³C NMR



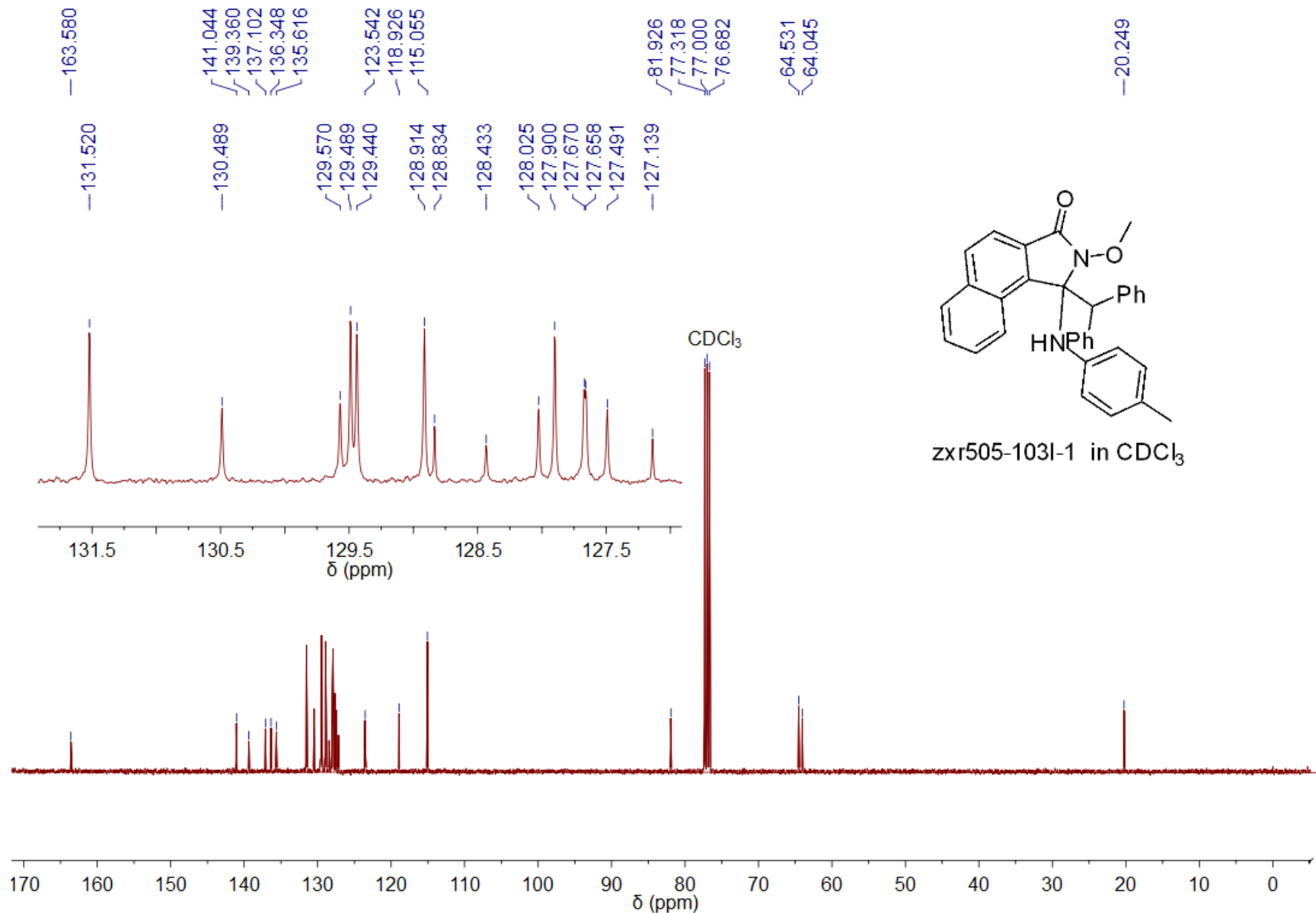
3pa - ^1H NMR



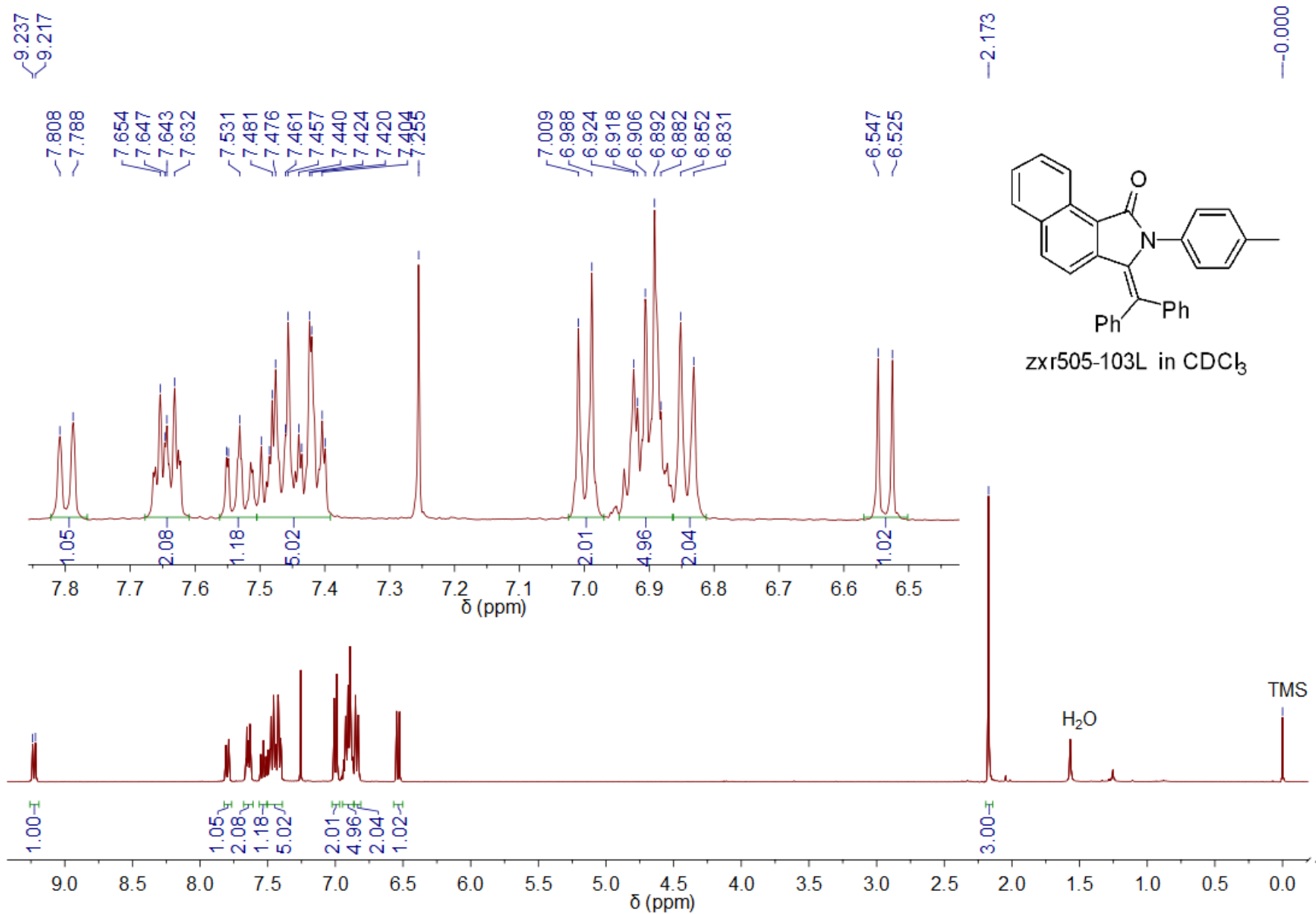
3pa – ^{13}C NMR

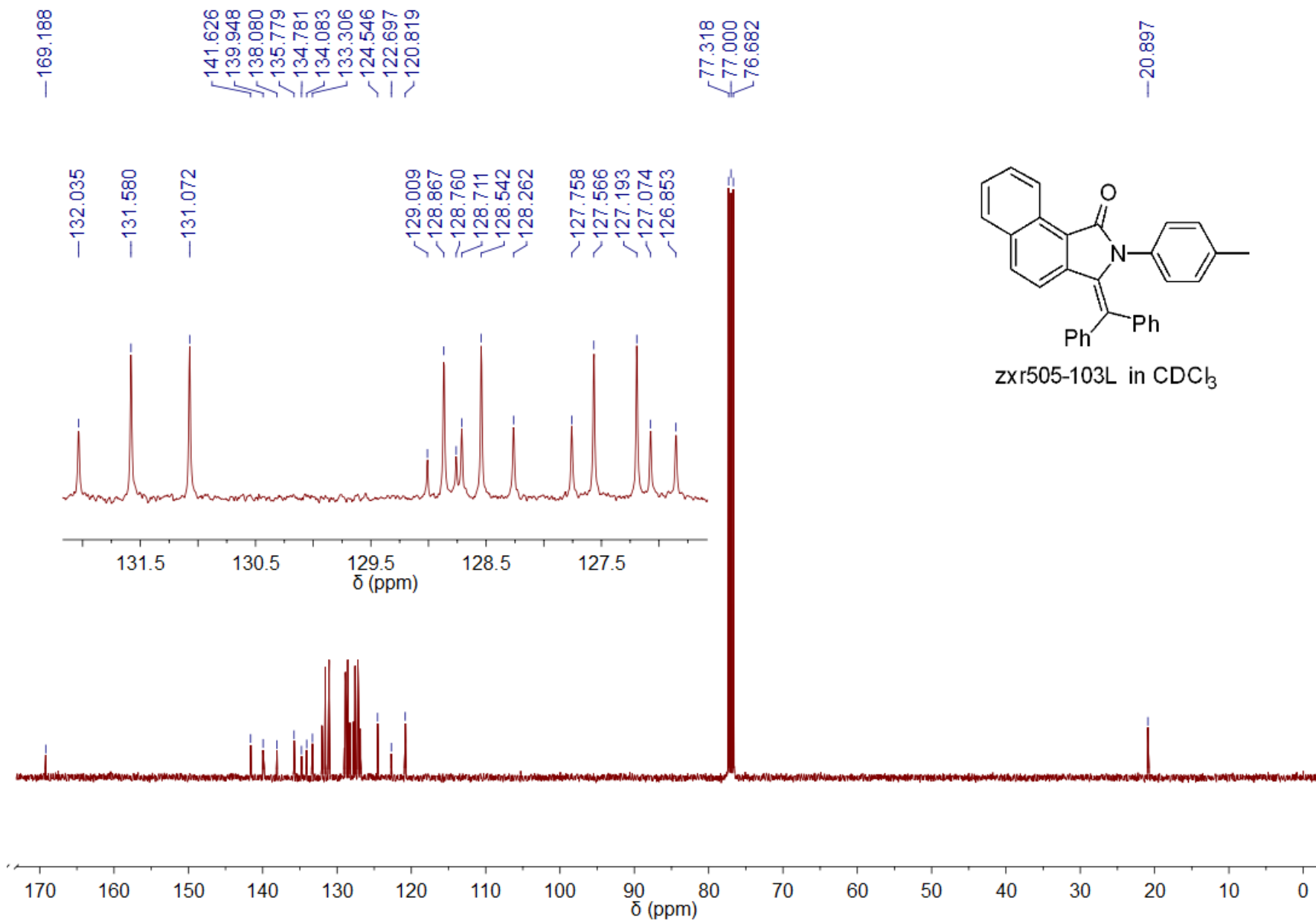


3pb - ^1H NMR

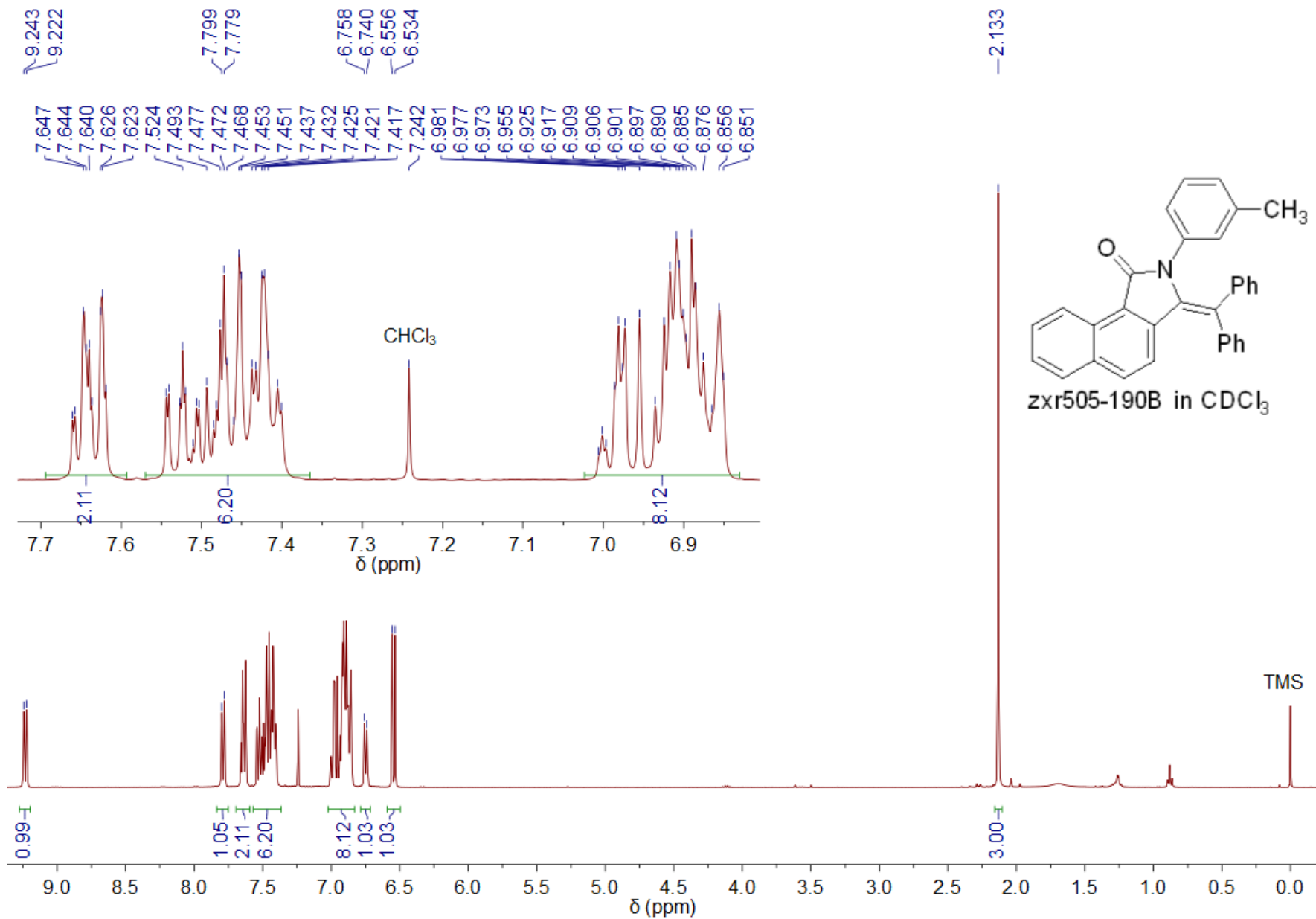


3pb – ¹³C NMR

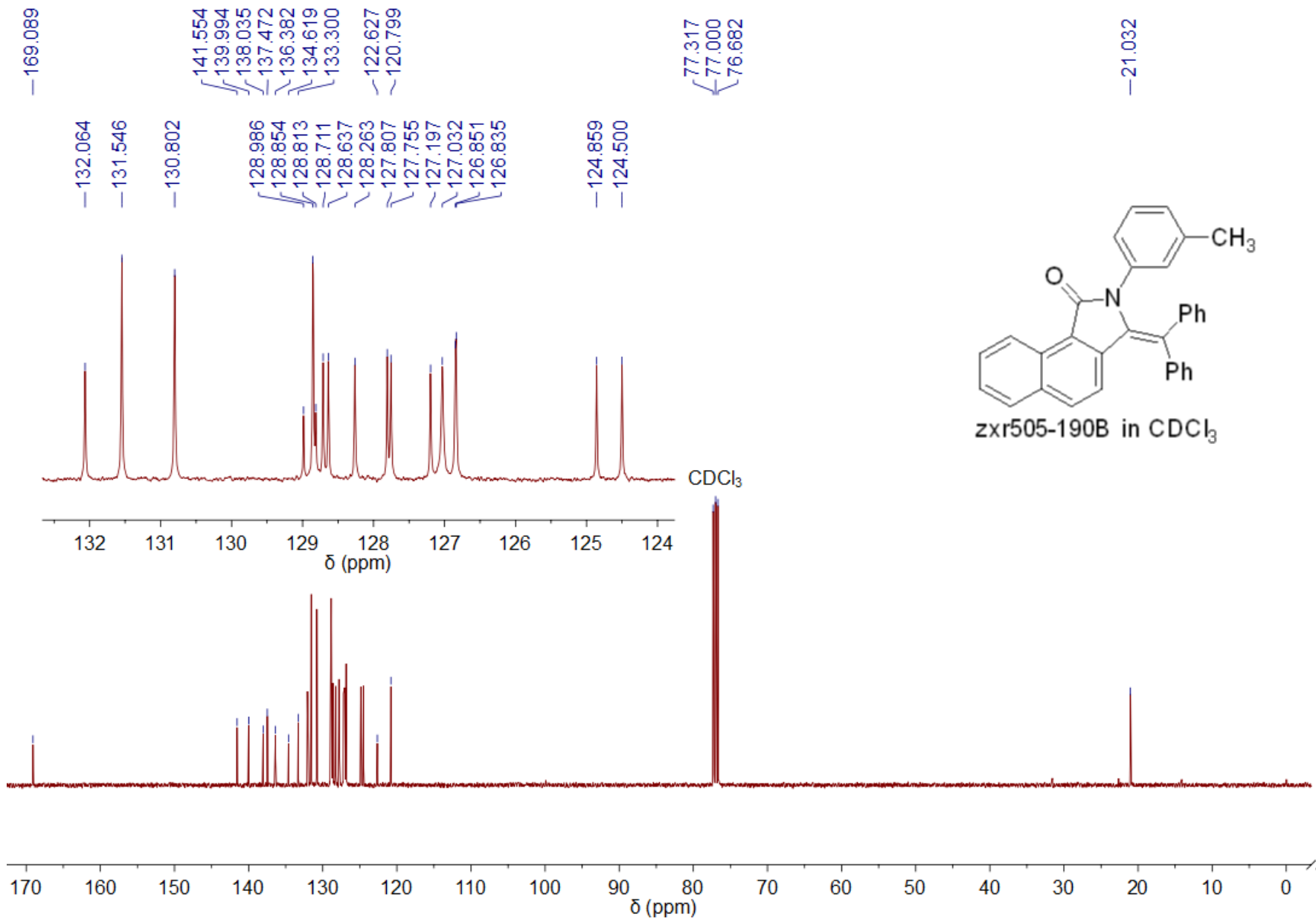




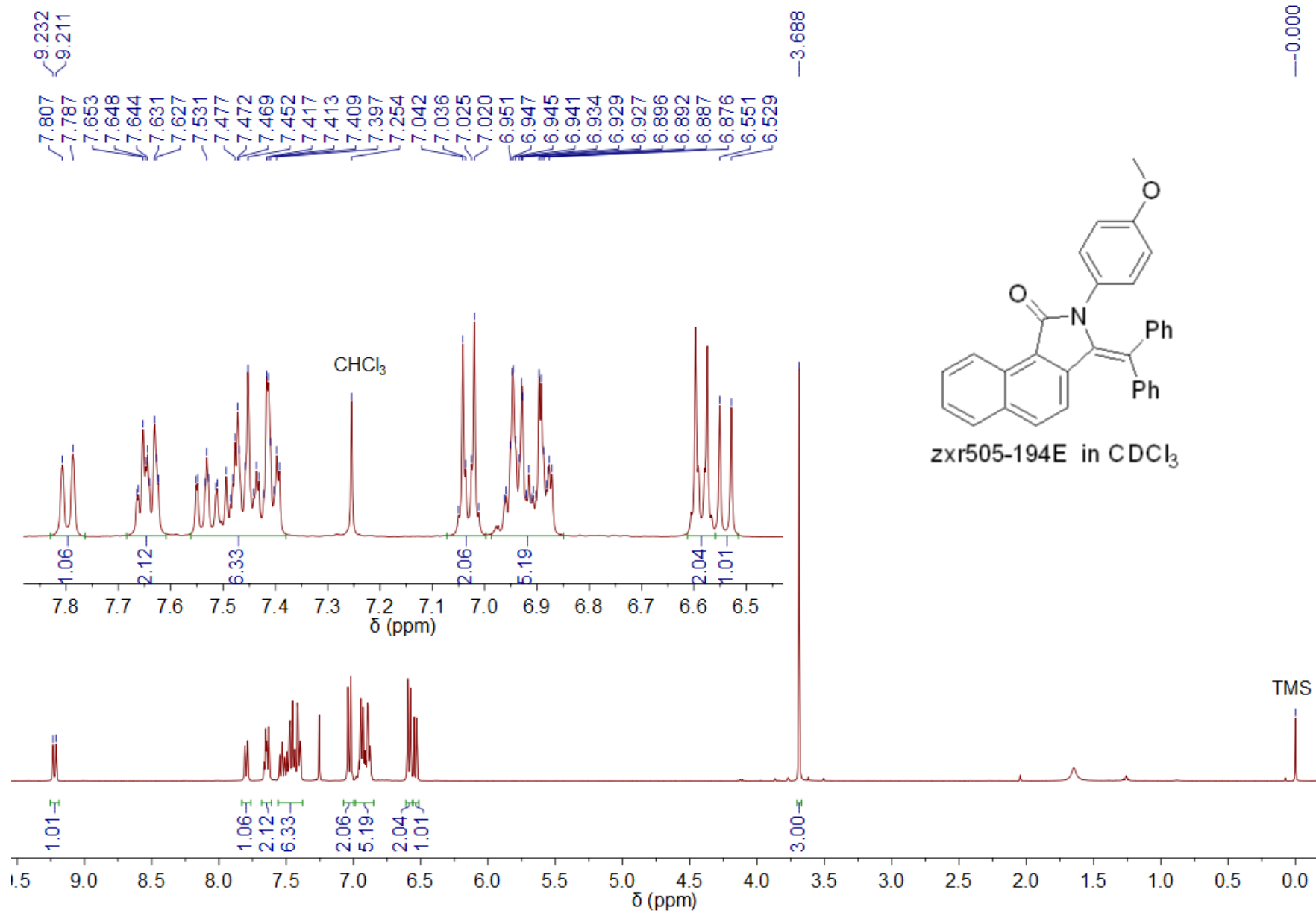
4a – ^{13}C NMR



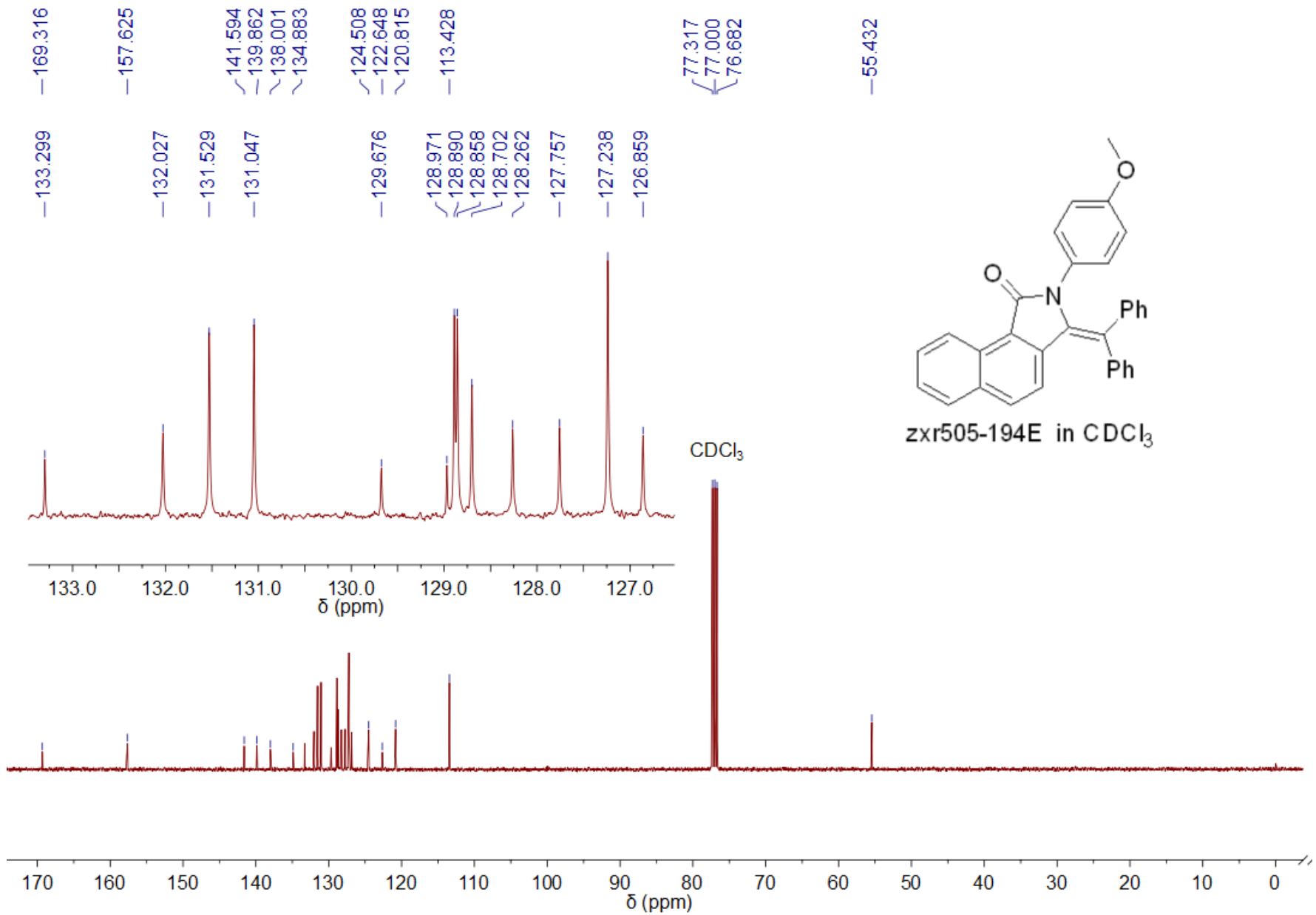
4b - ¹H NMR



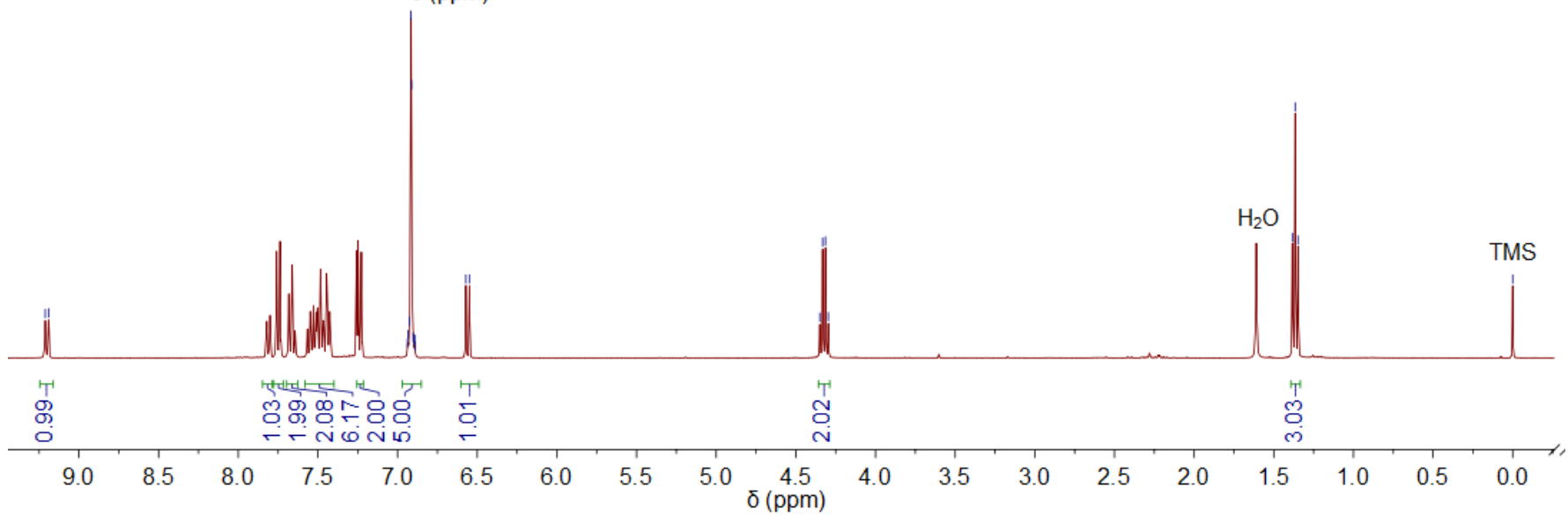
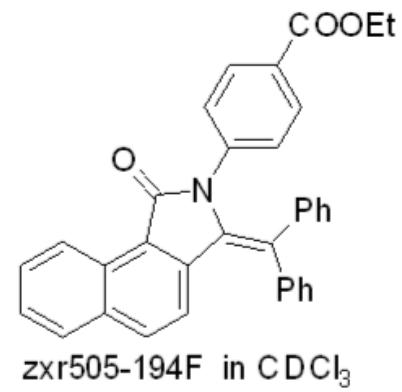
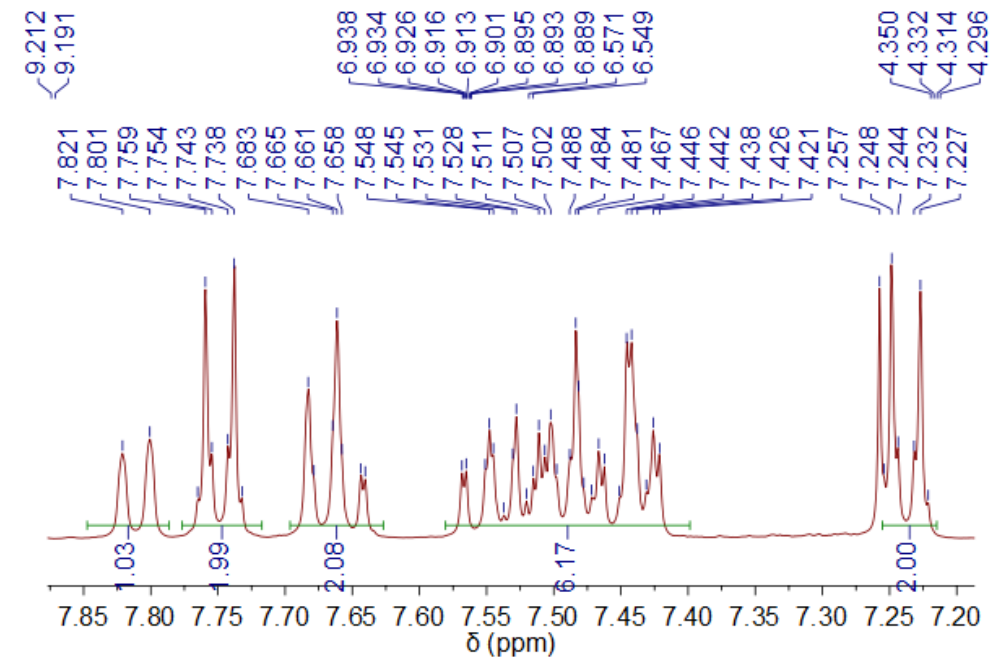
4b – ^{13}C NMR



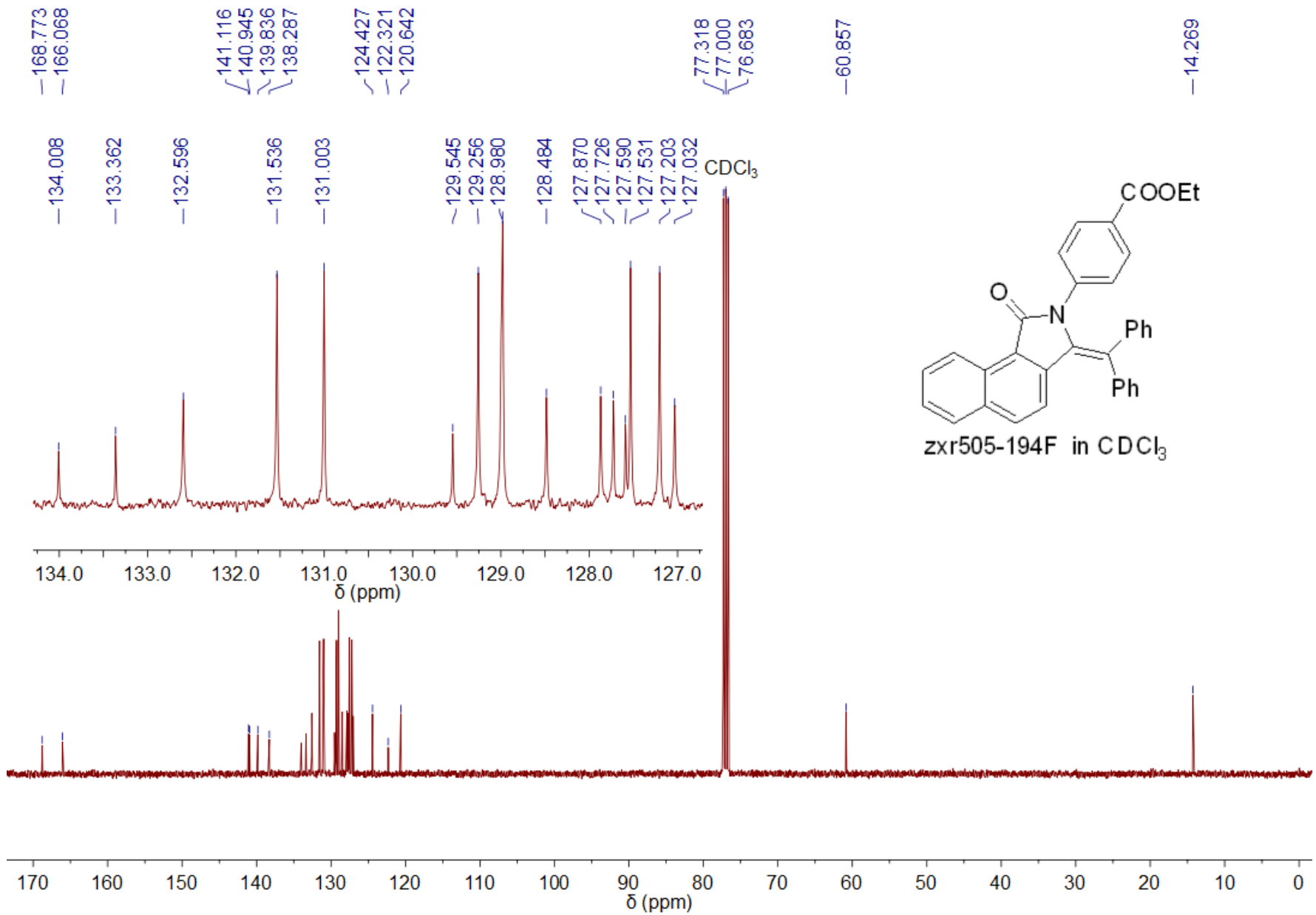
4c - ¹H NMR



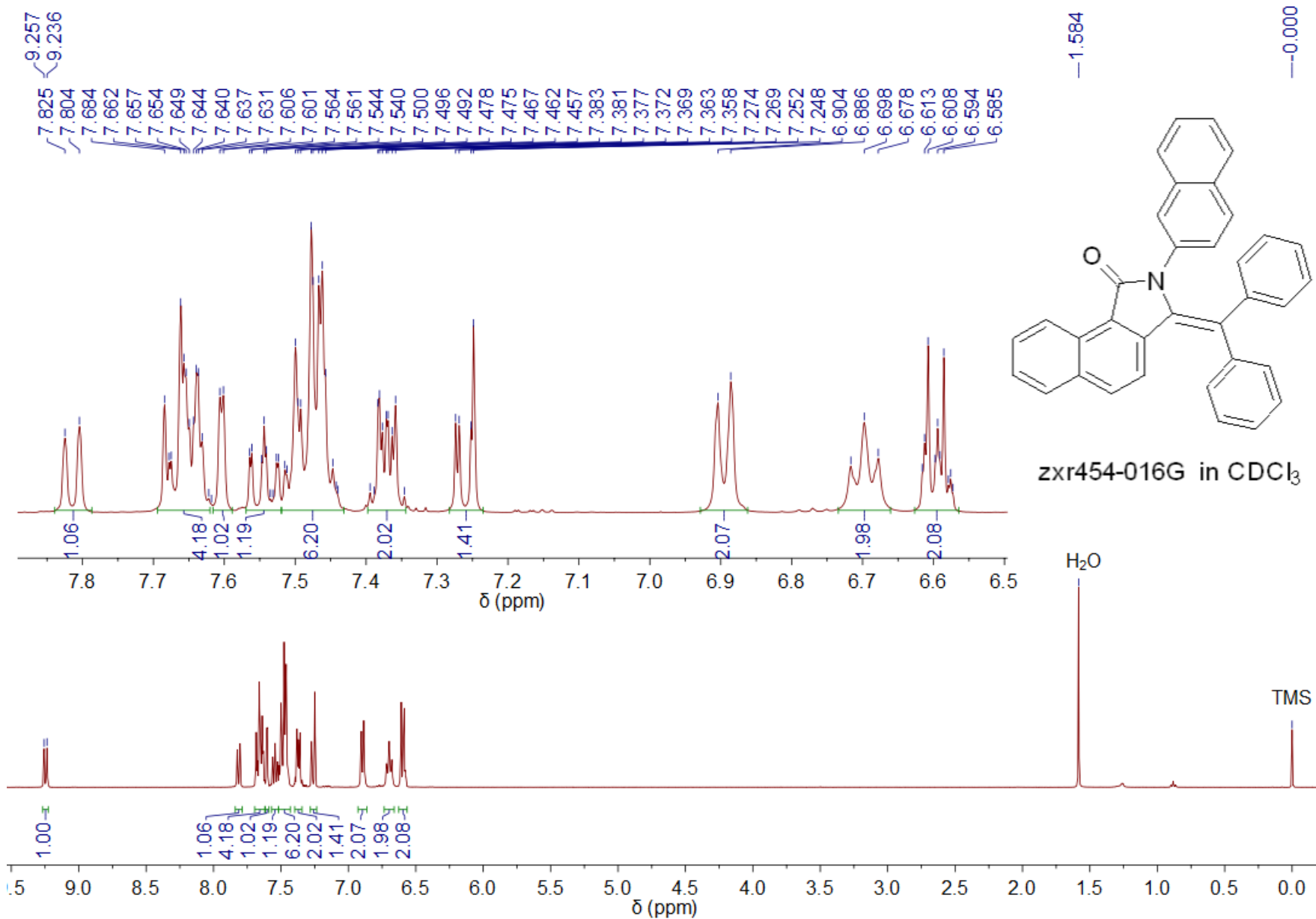
4c – ¹³C NMR



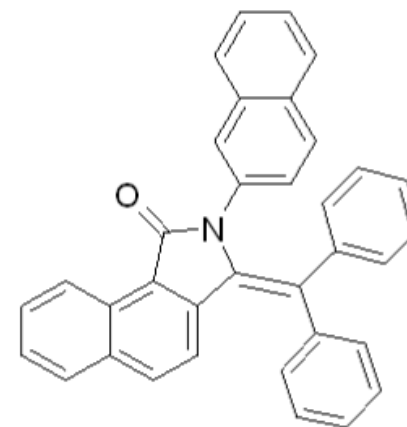
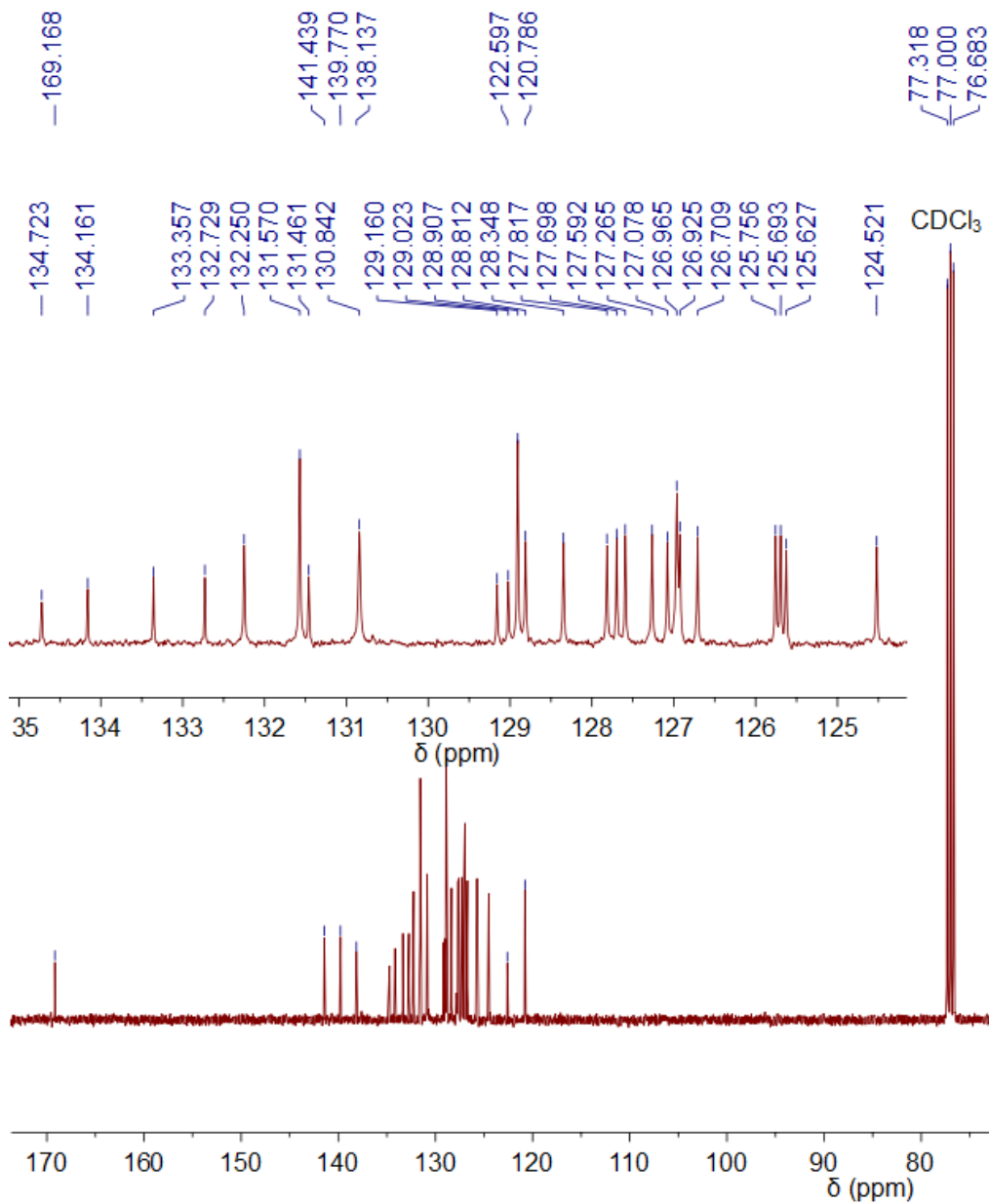
4d - ¹H NMR



4d – ¹³C NMR

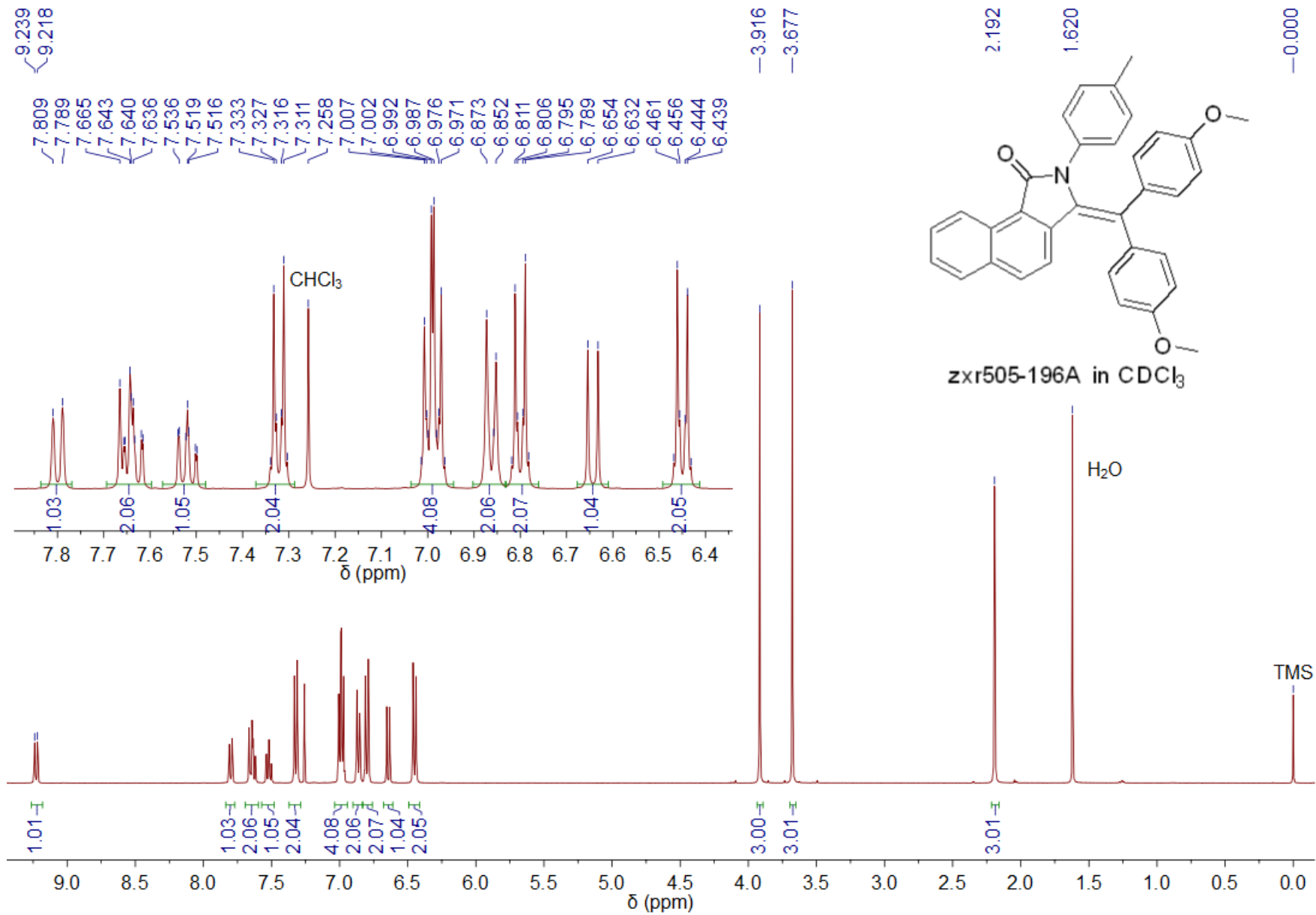


4e - ^1H NMR

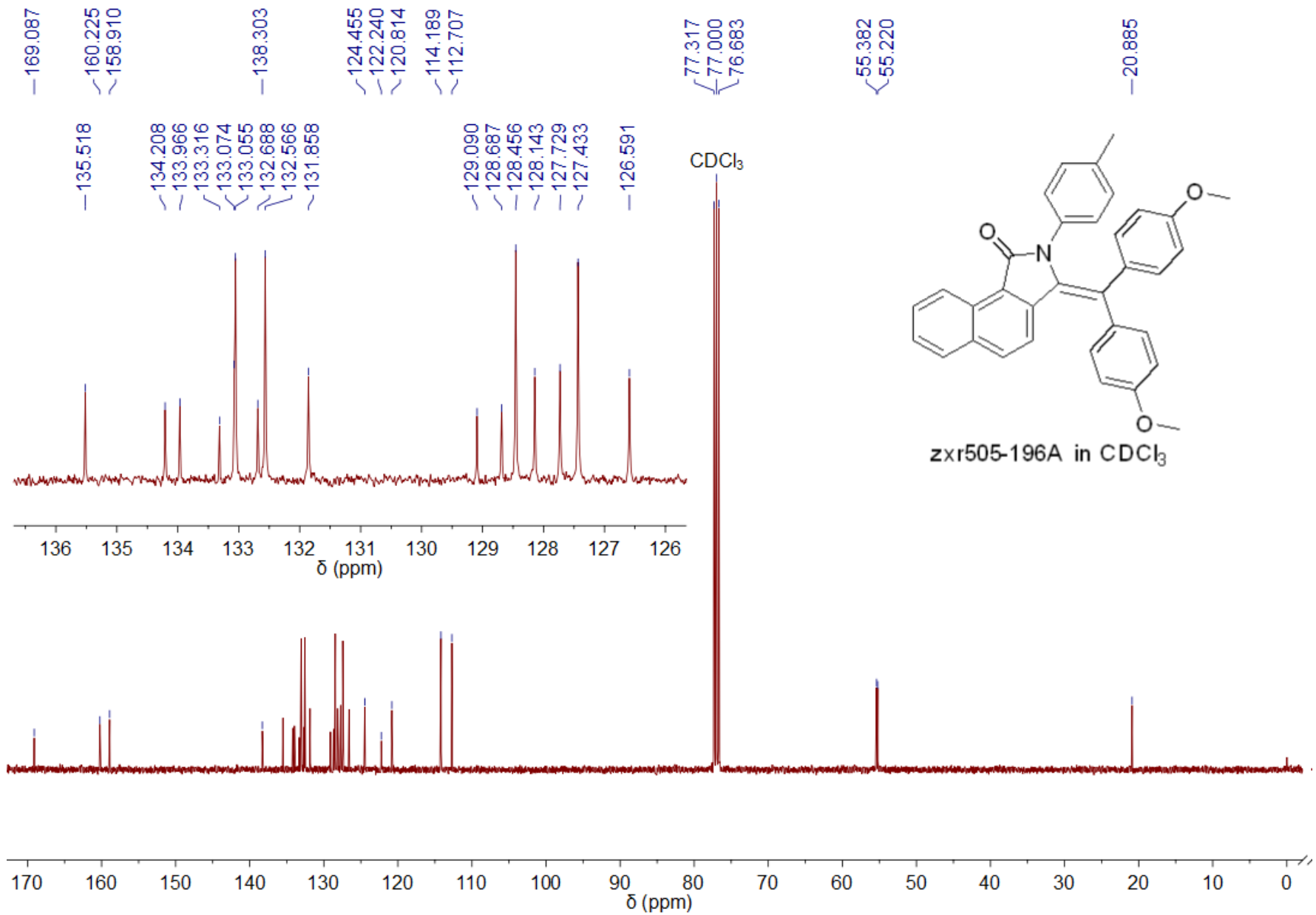


zxr454-016G in CDCl₃

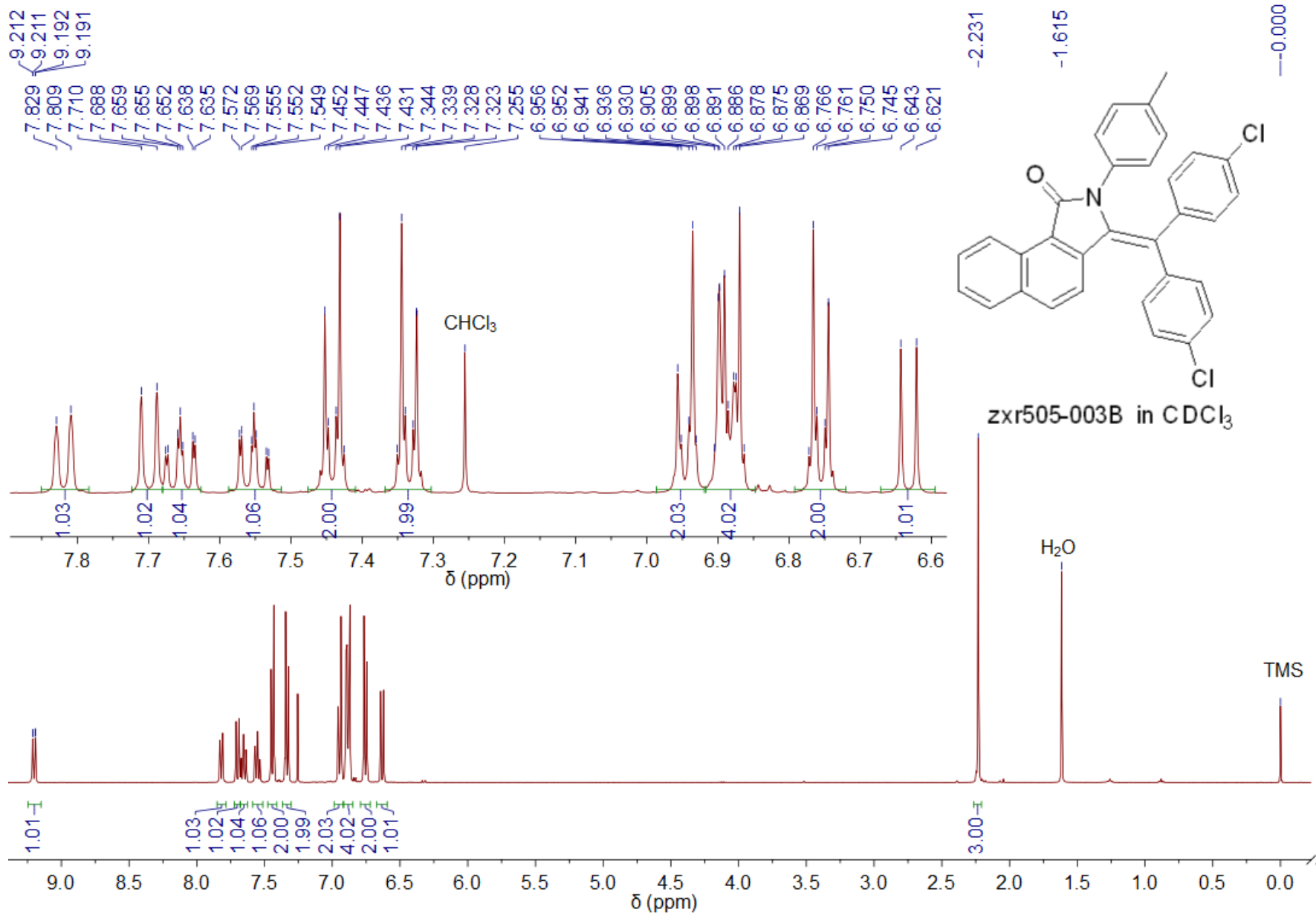
4e - ¹³C NMR



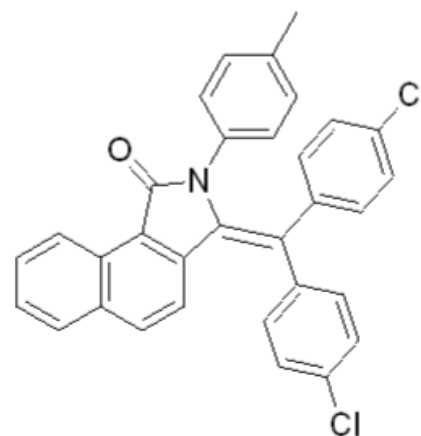
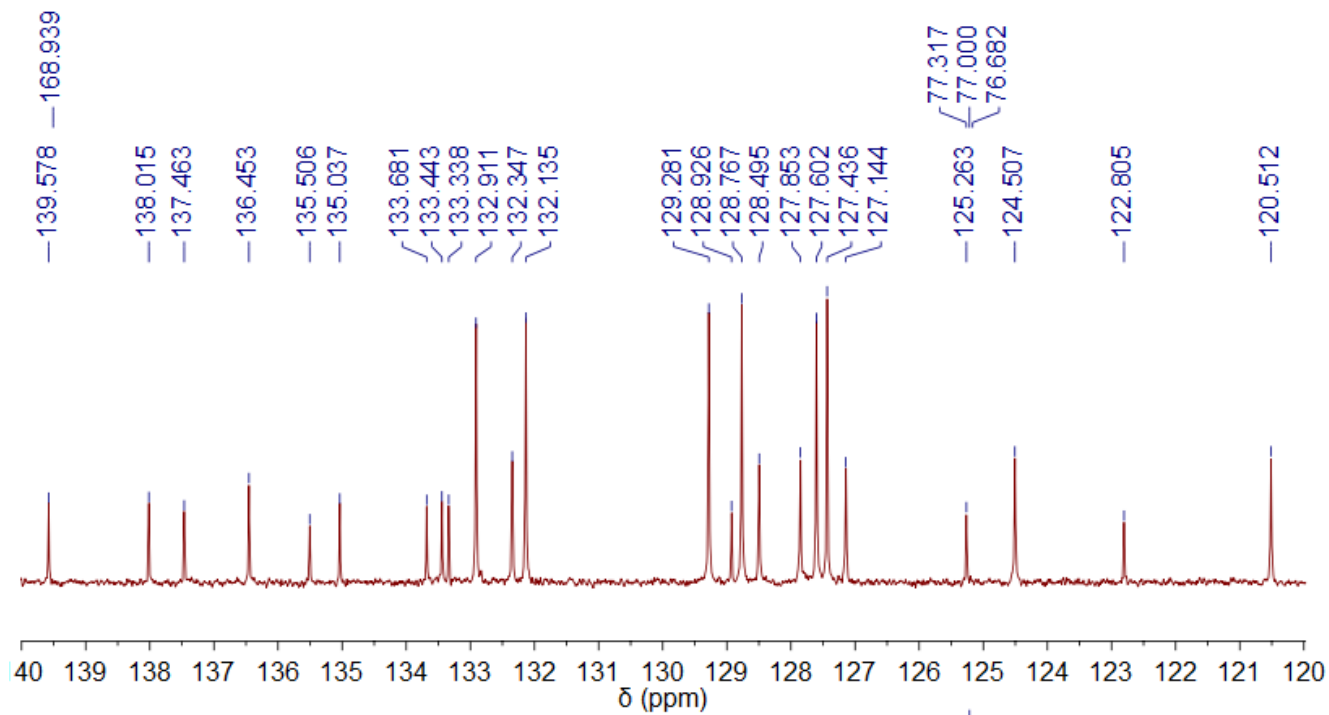
4f - ^1H NMR



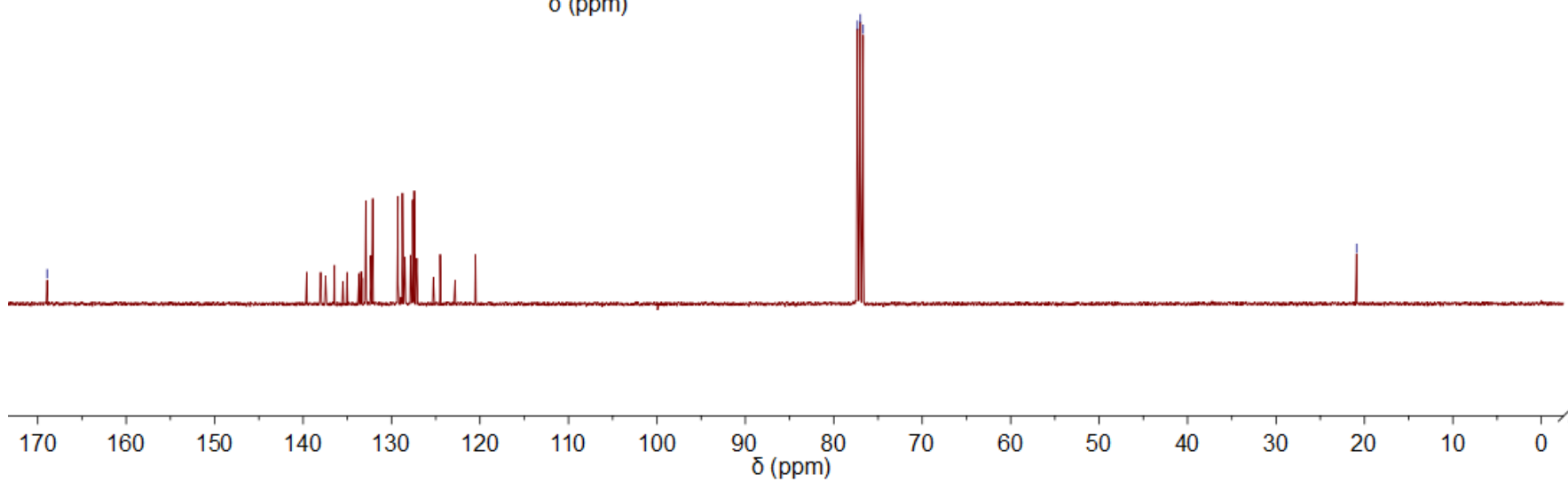
4f – ^{13}C NMR



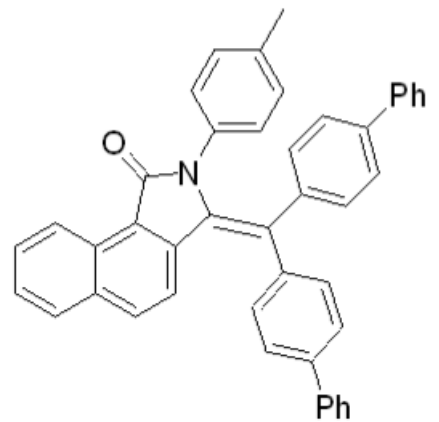
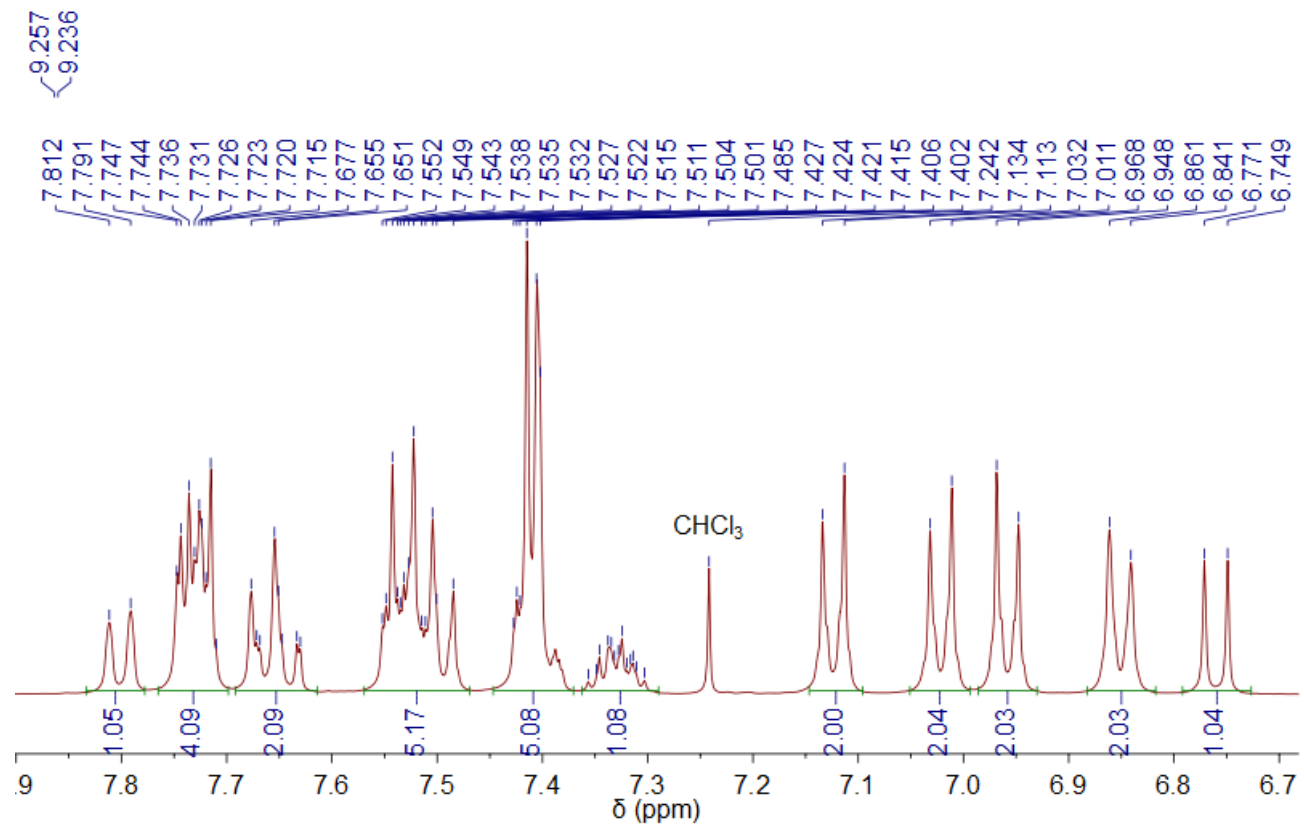
4g - ¹H NMR



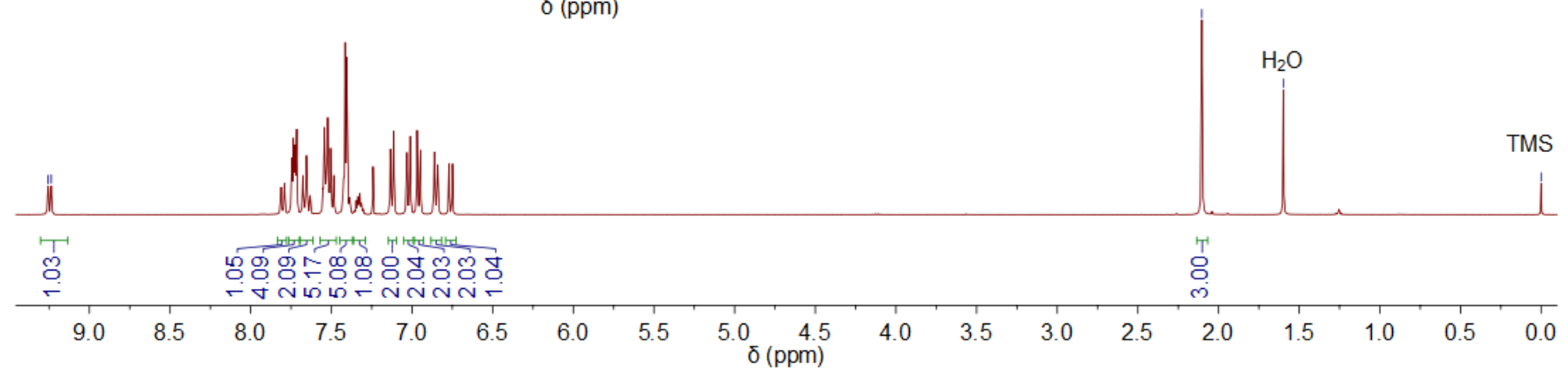
zxr505-003B in CDCl_3



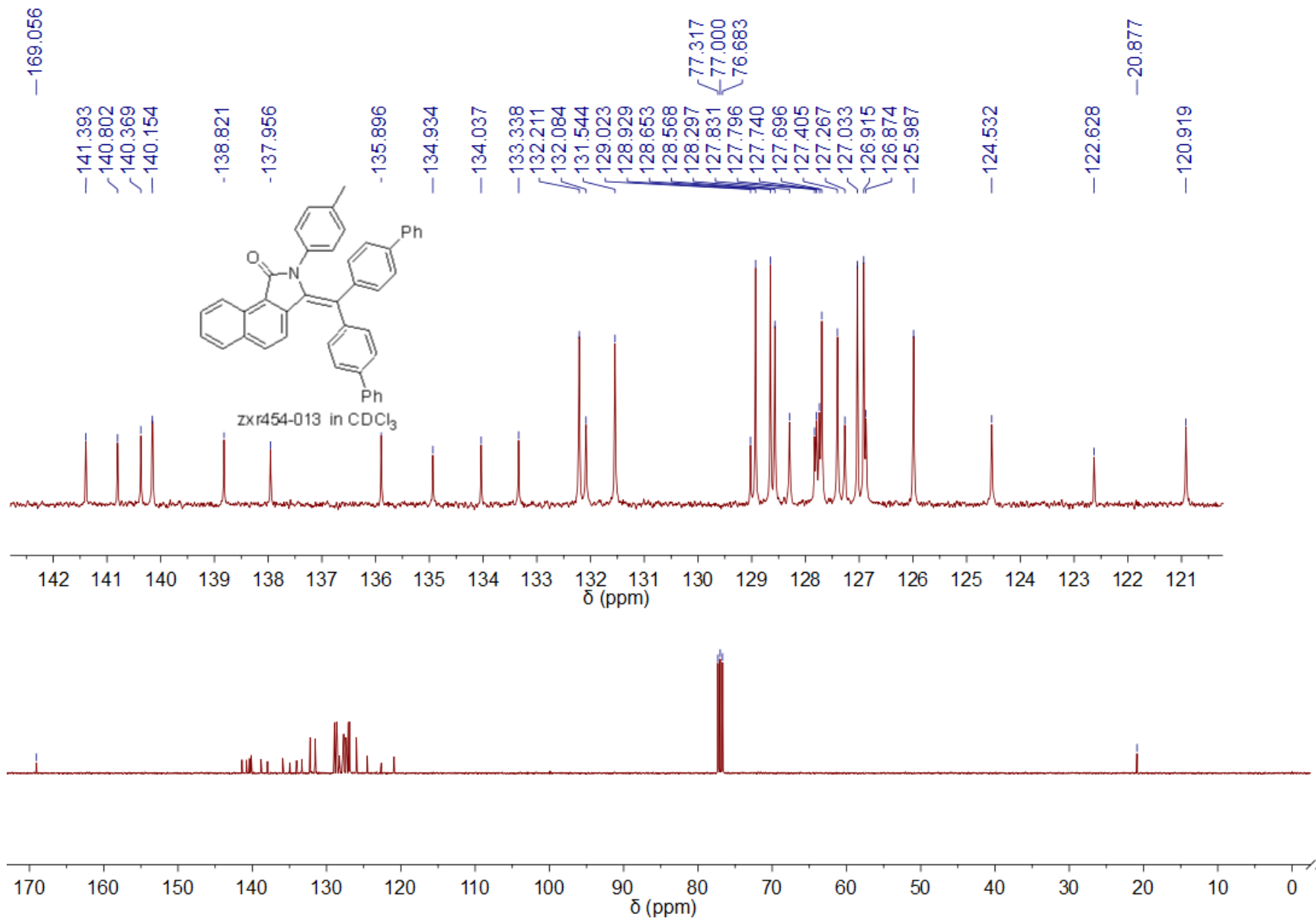
4g - ^{13}C NMR



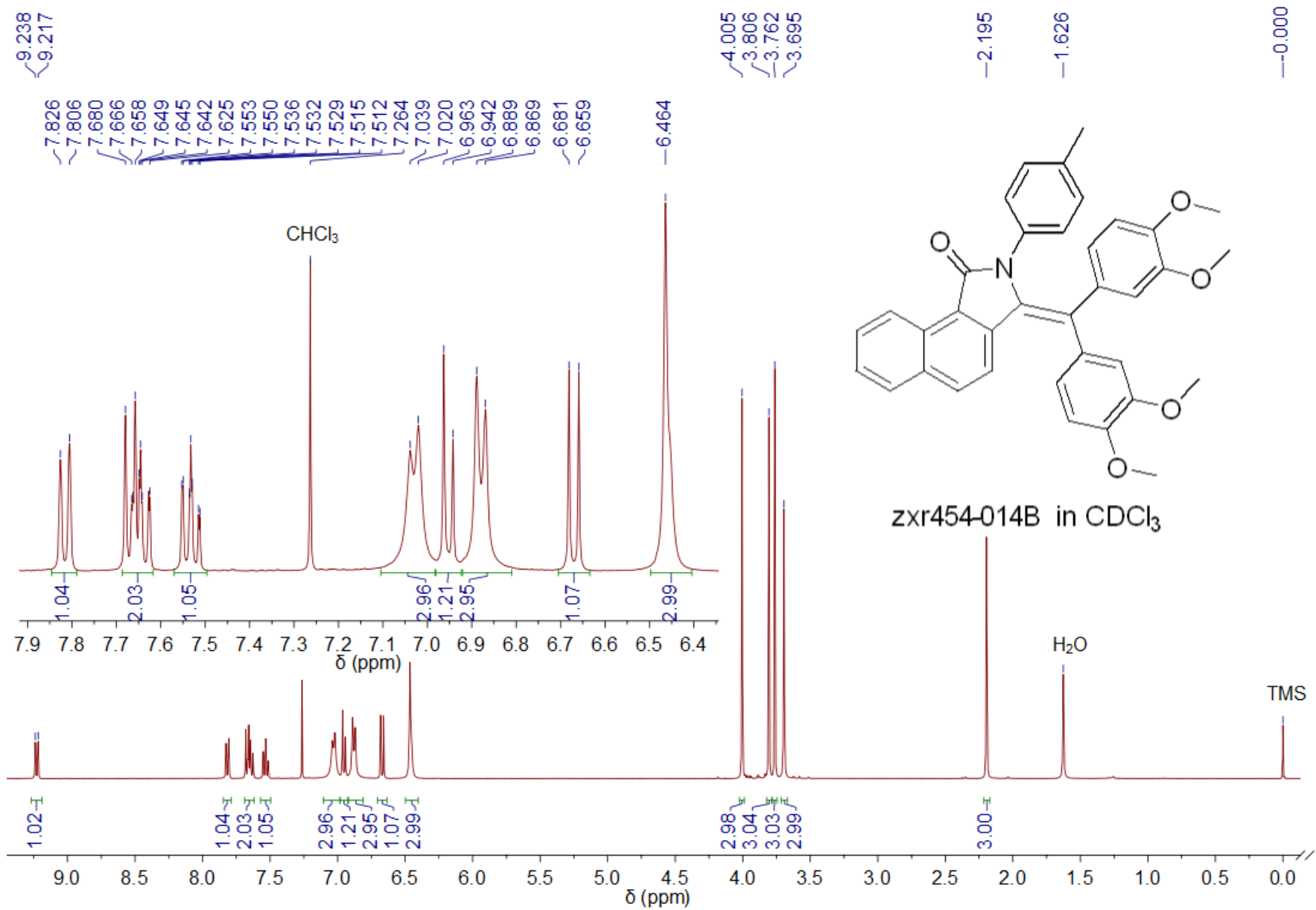
zxr454-013 in CDCl₃



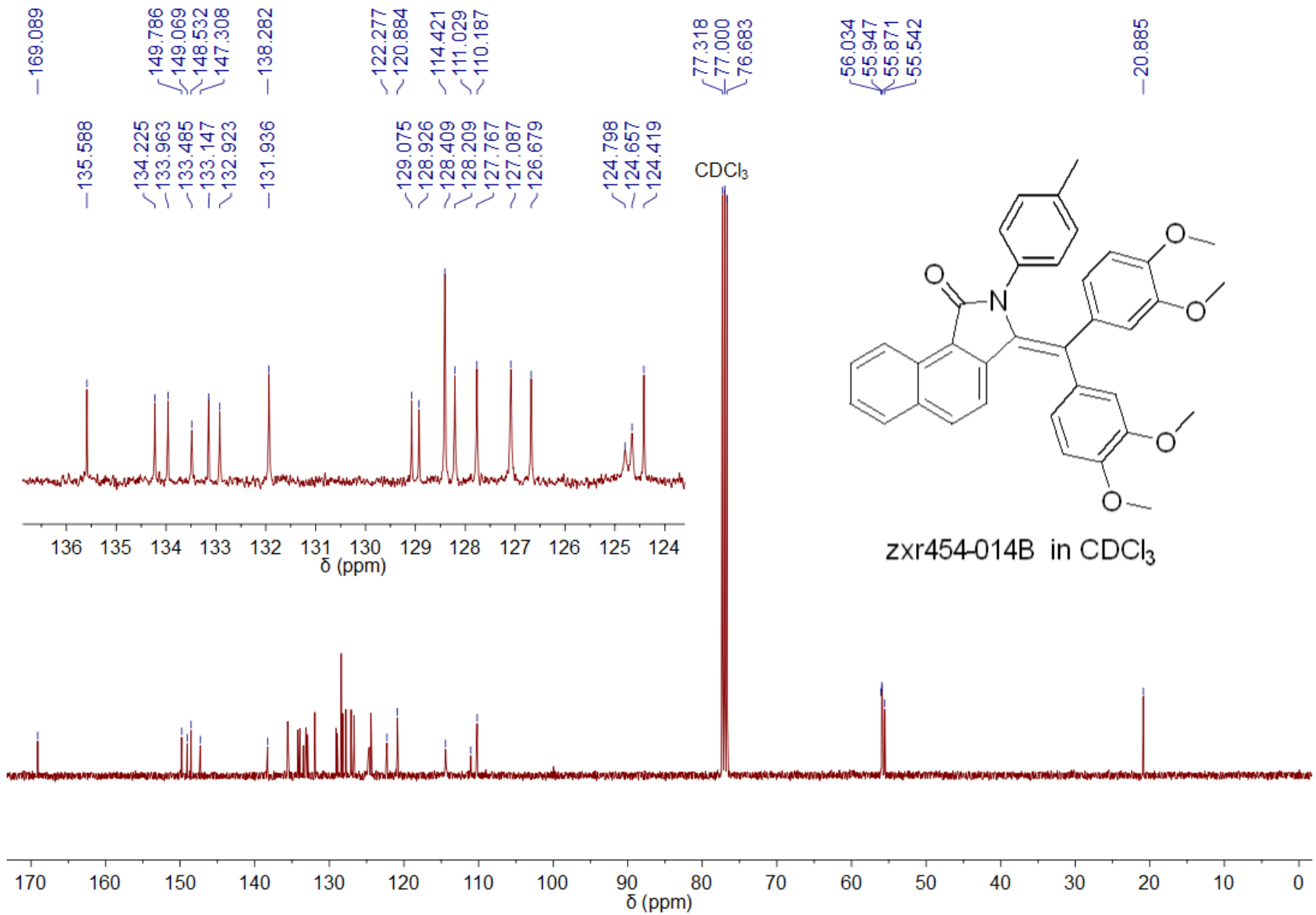
4h - ¹H NMR



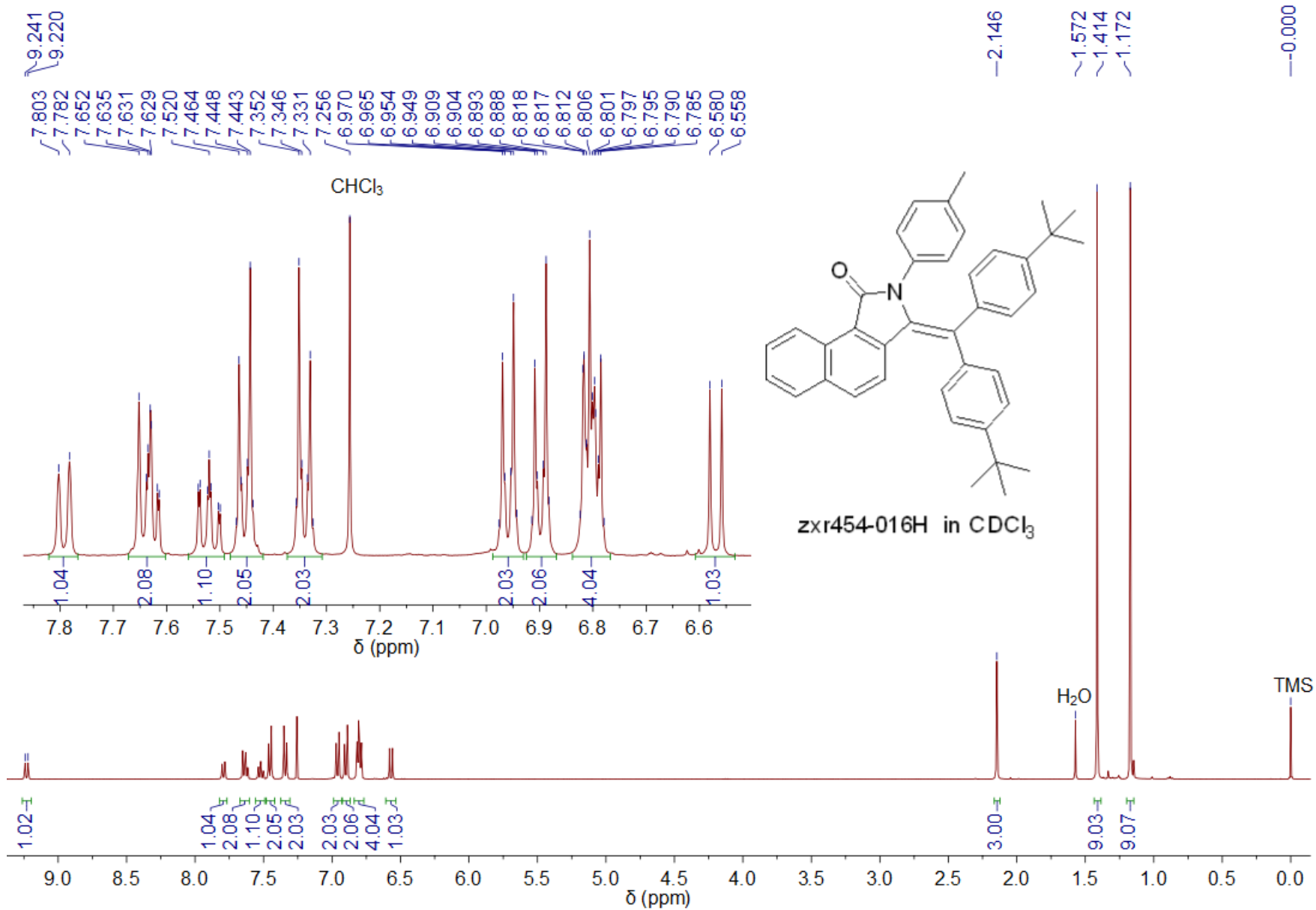
4h – ¹³C NMR

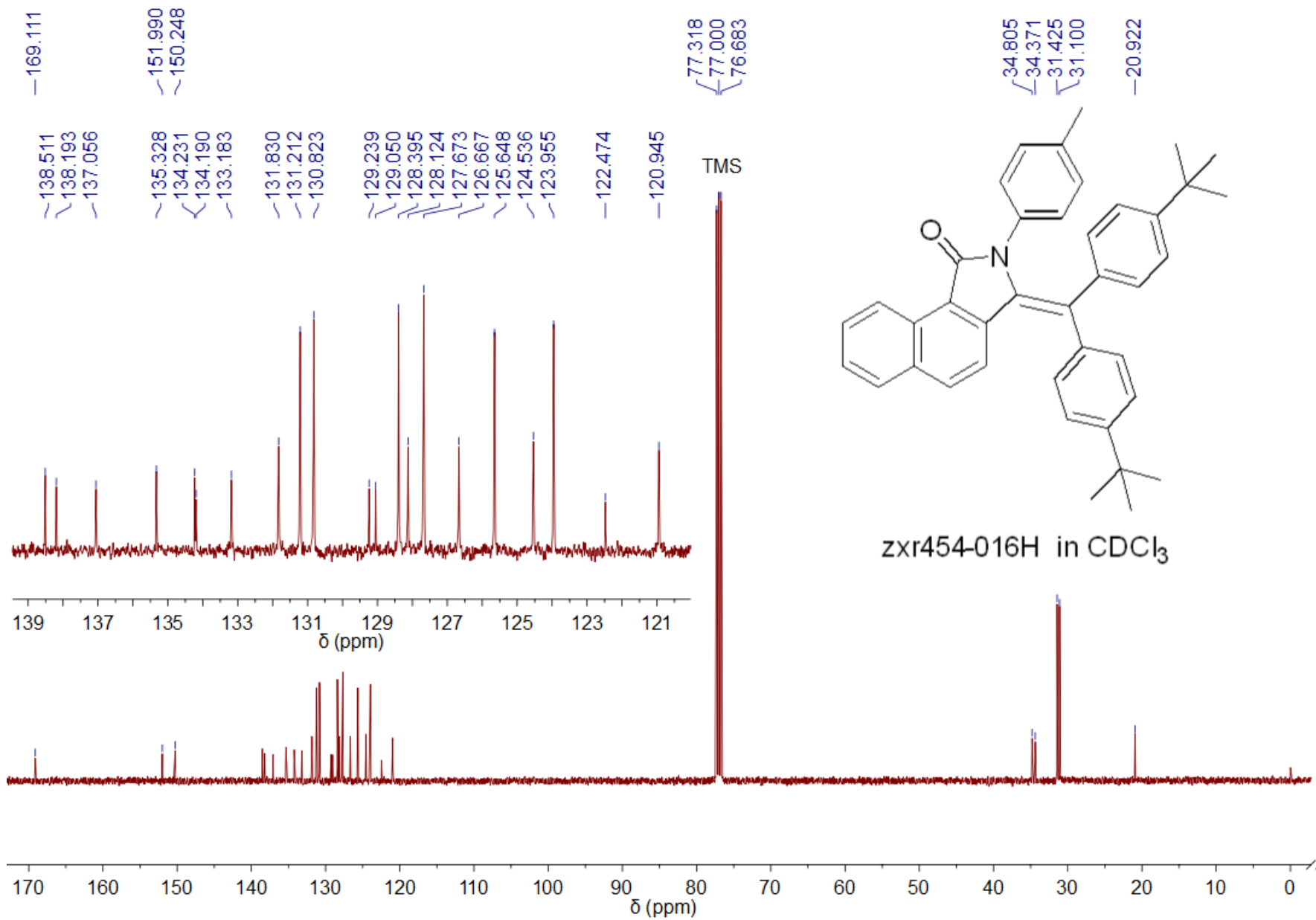


4i - ¹H NMR

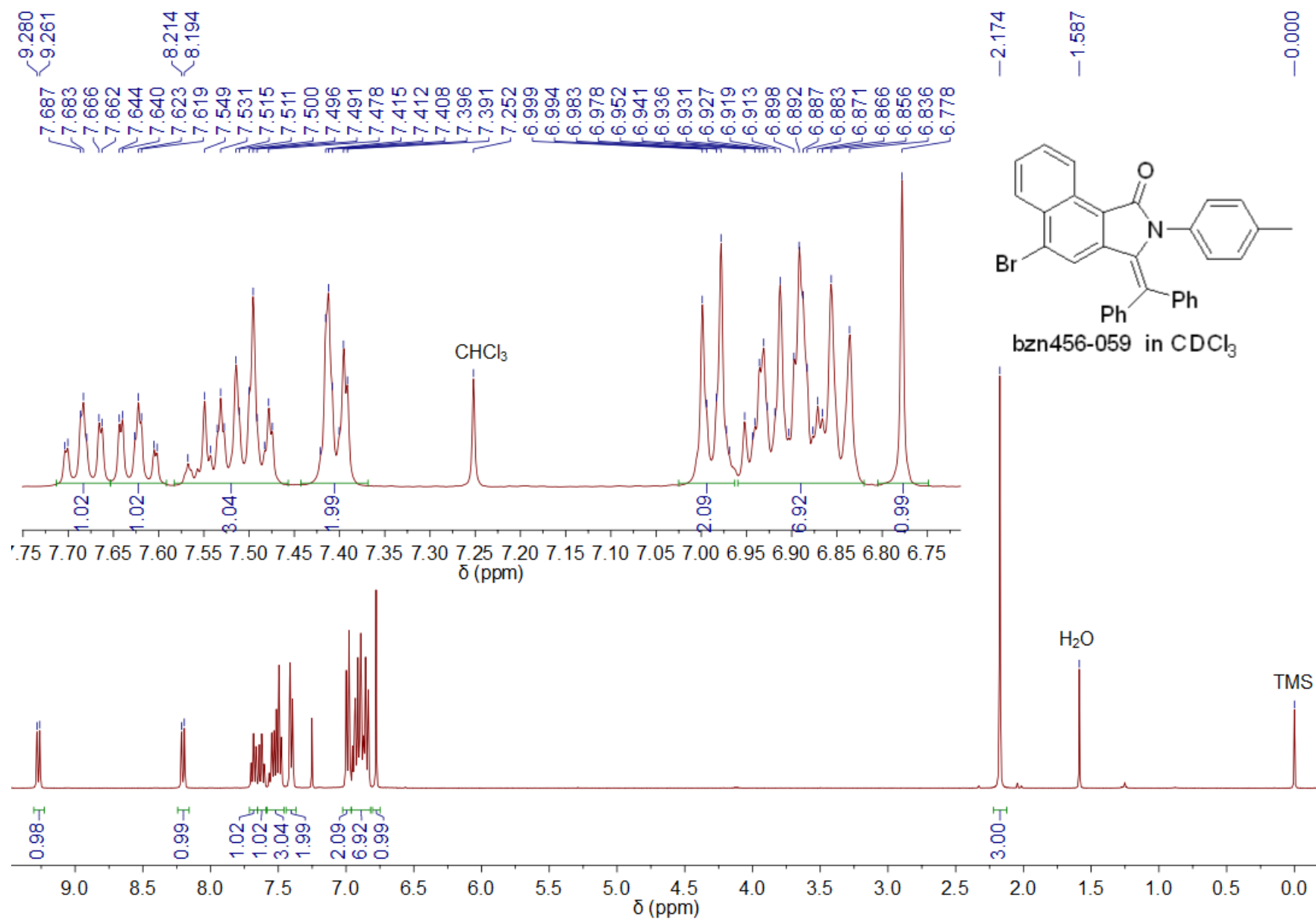


4i - ¹³C NMR

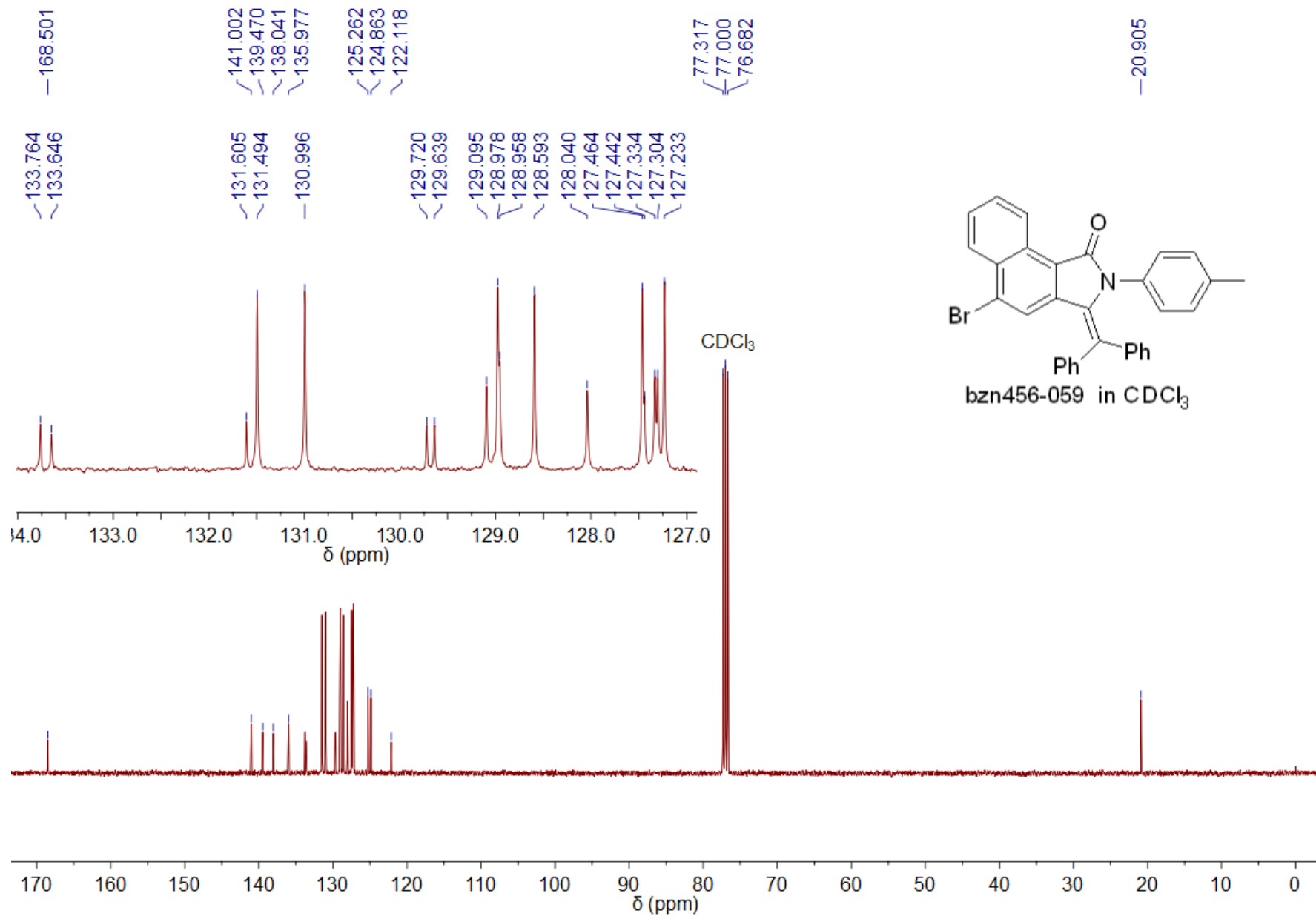




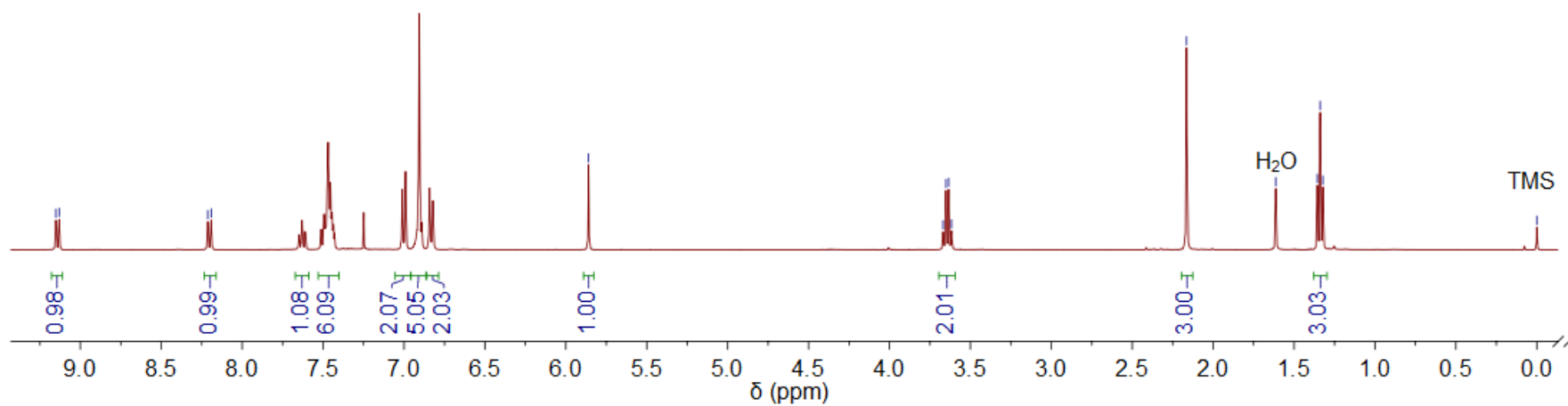
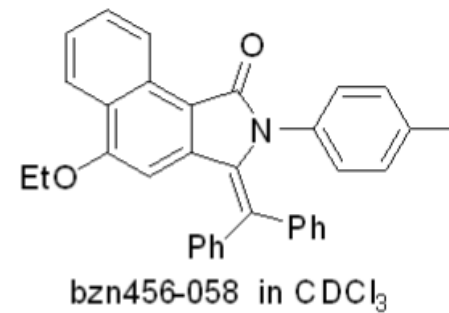
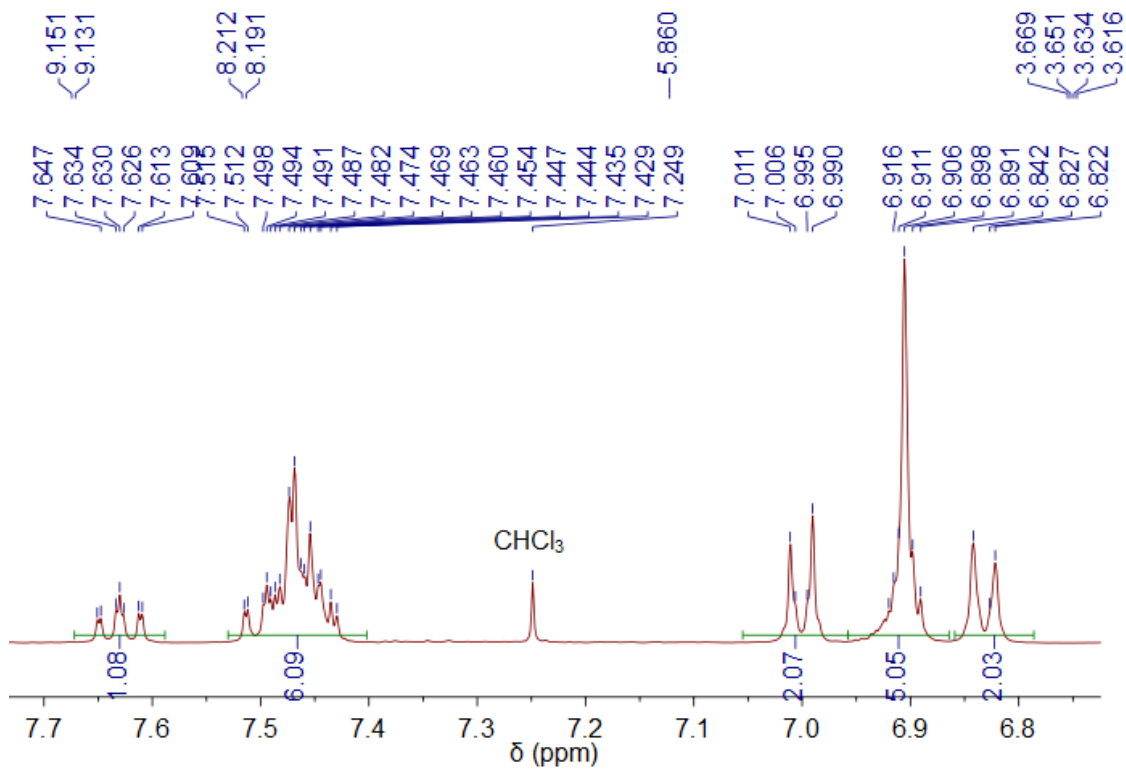
4j – ¹³C NMR



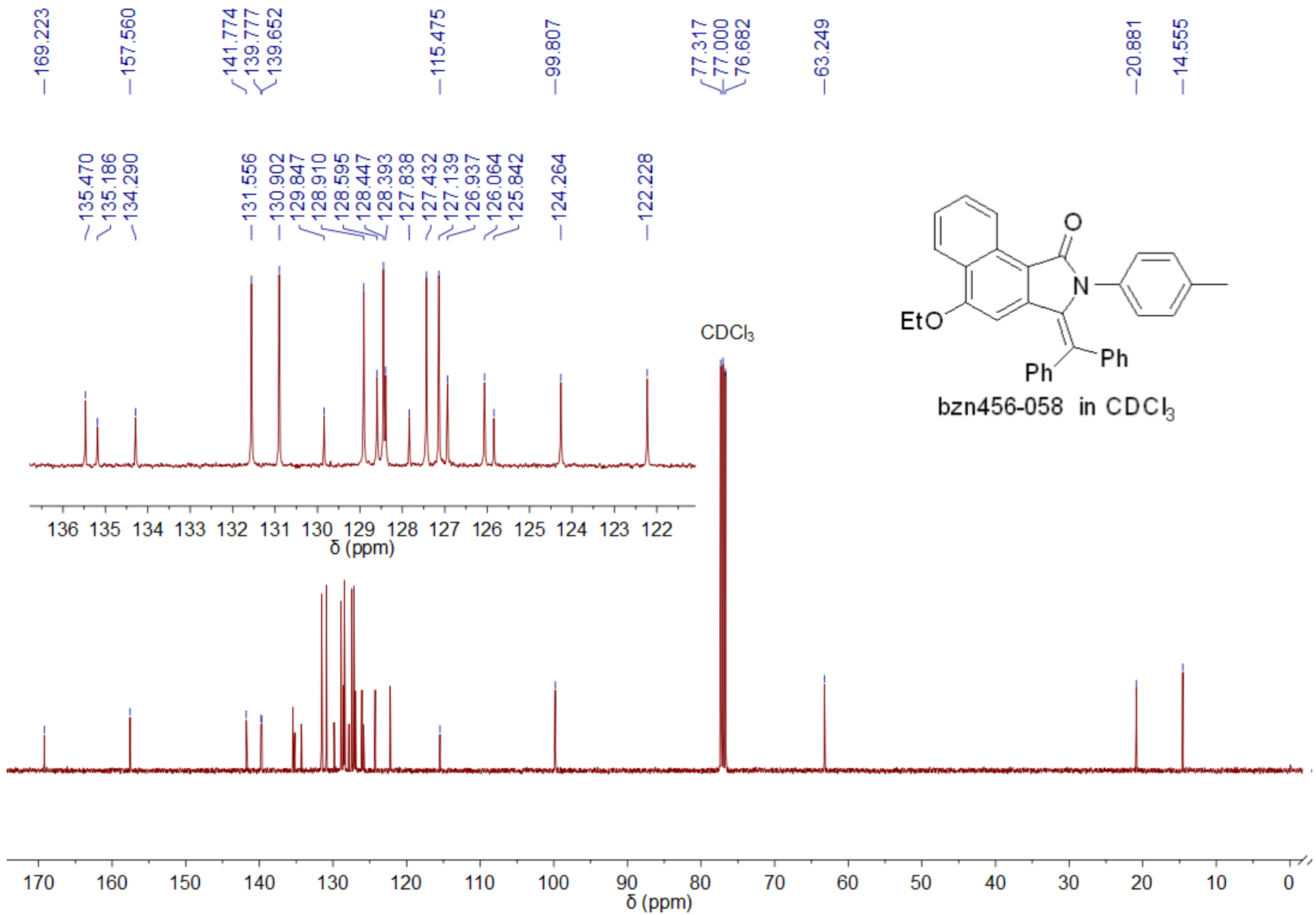
4k - ¹H NMR



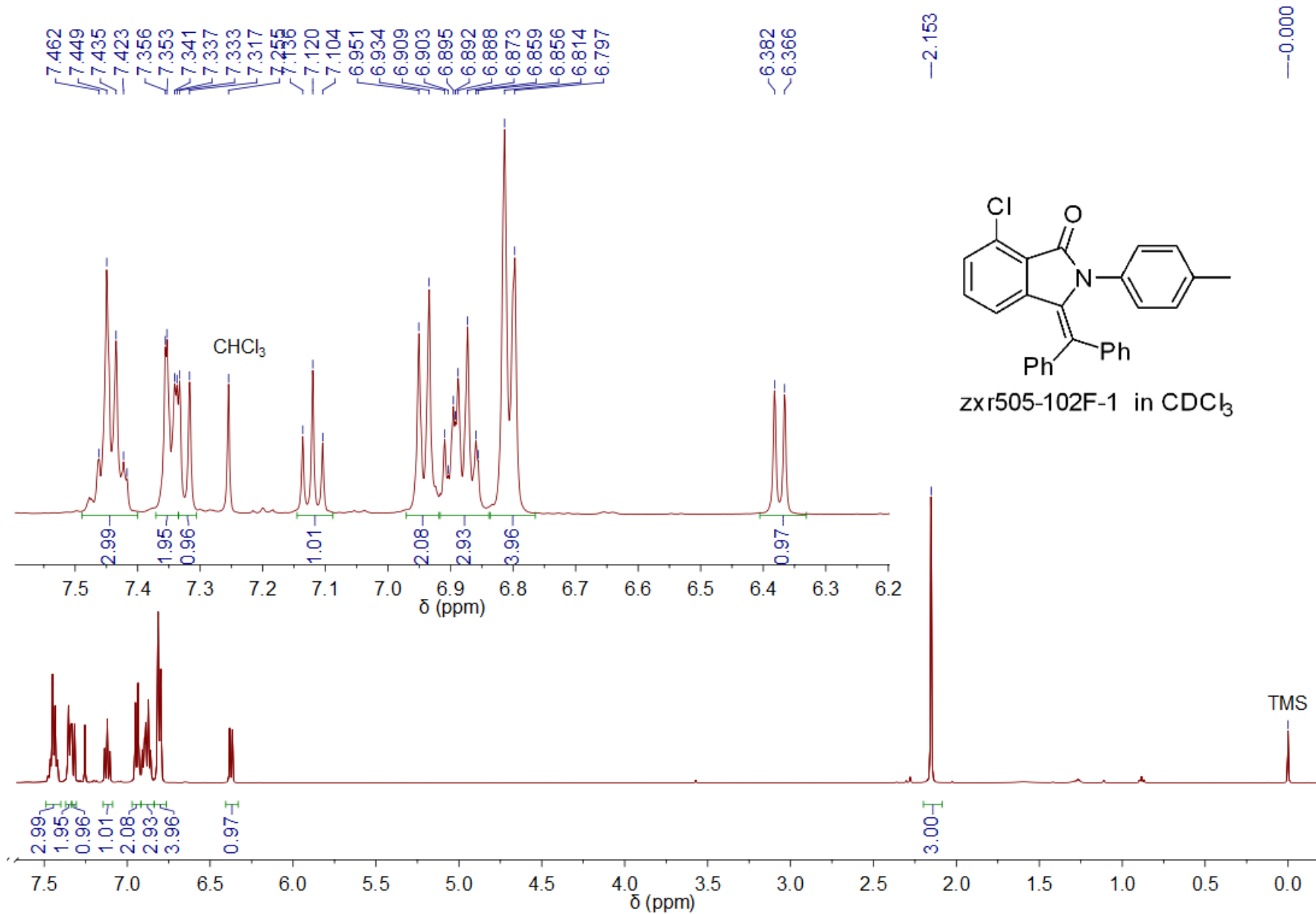
4k – ¹³C NMR



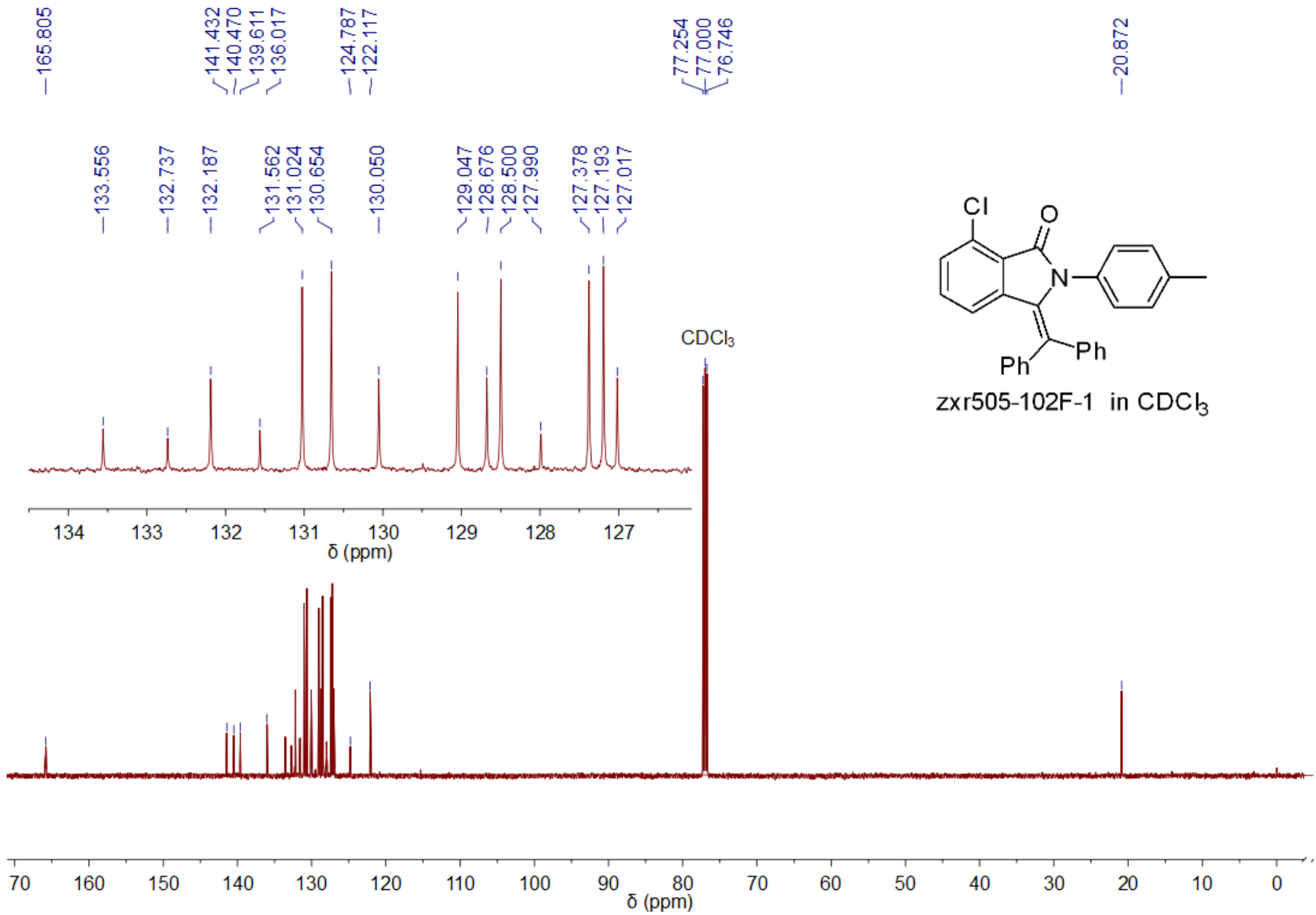
4I - ¹H NMR



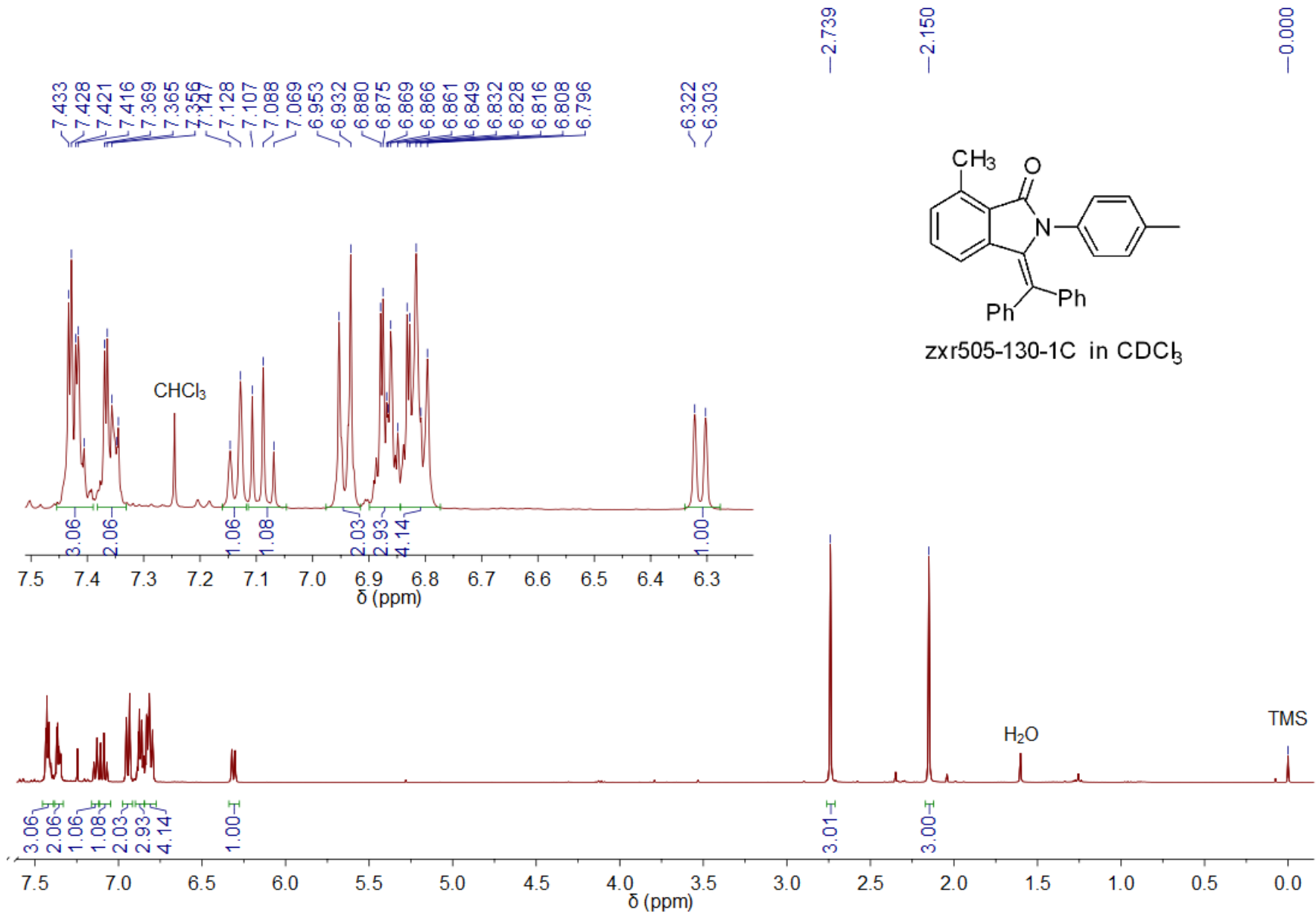
4I – ¹³C NMR



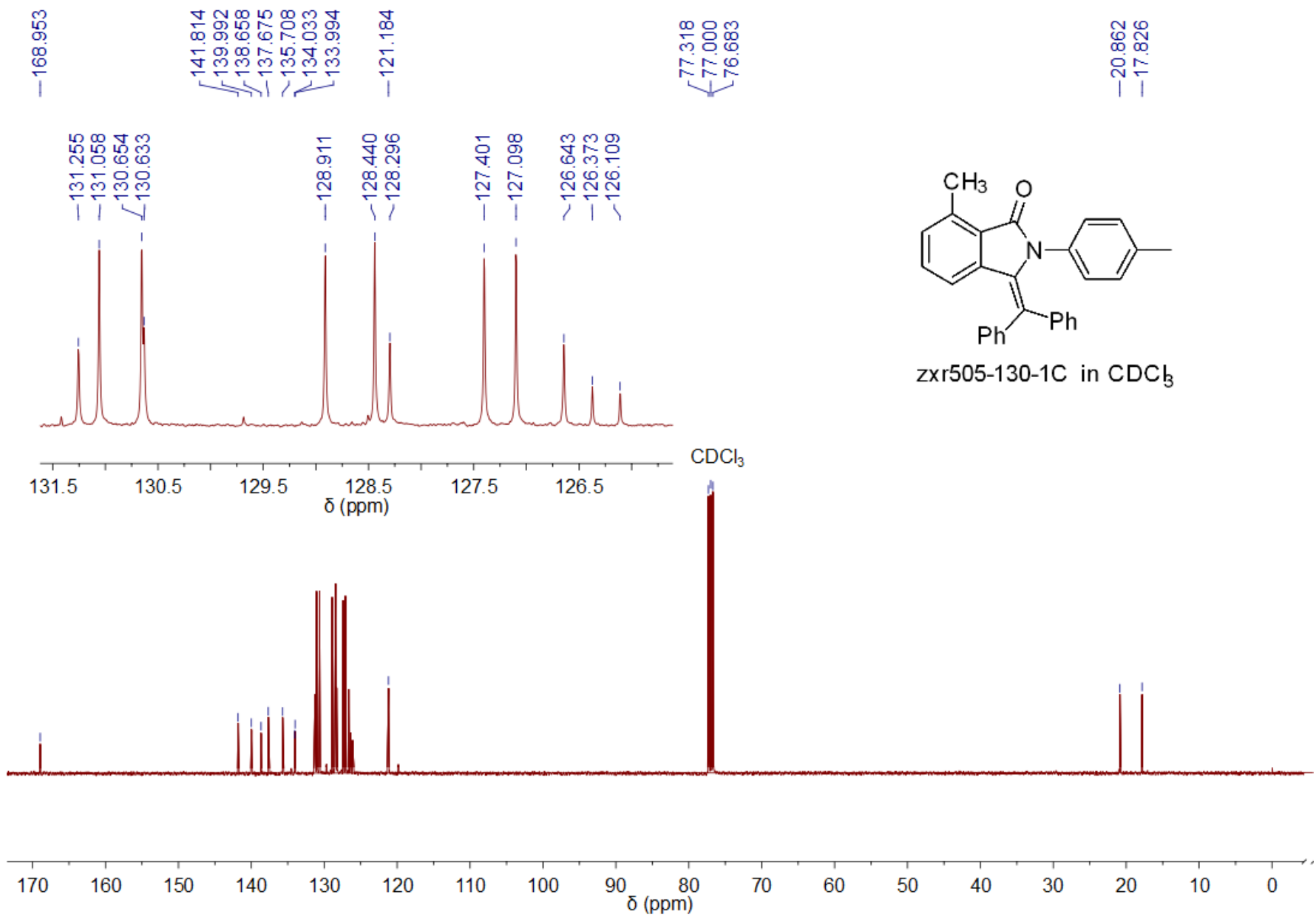
4m - $^1\text{H NMR}$



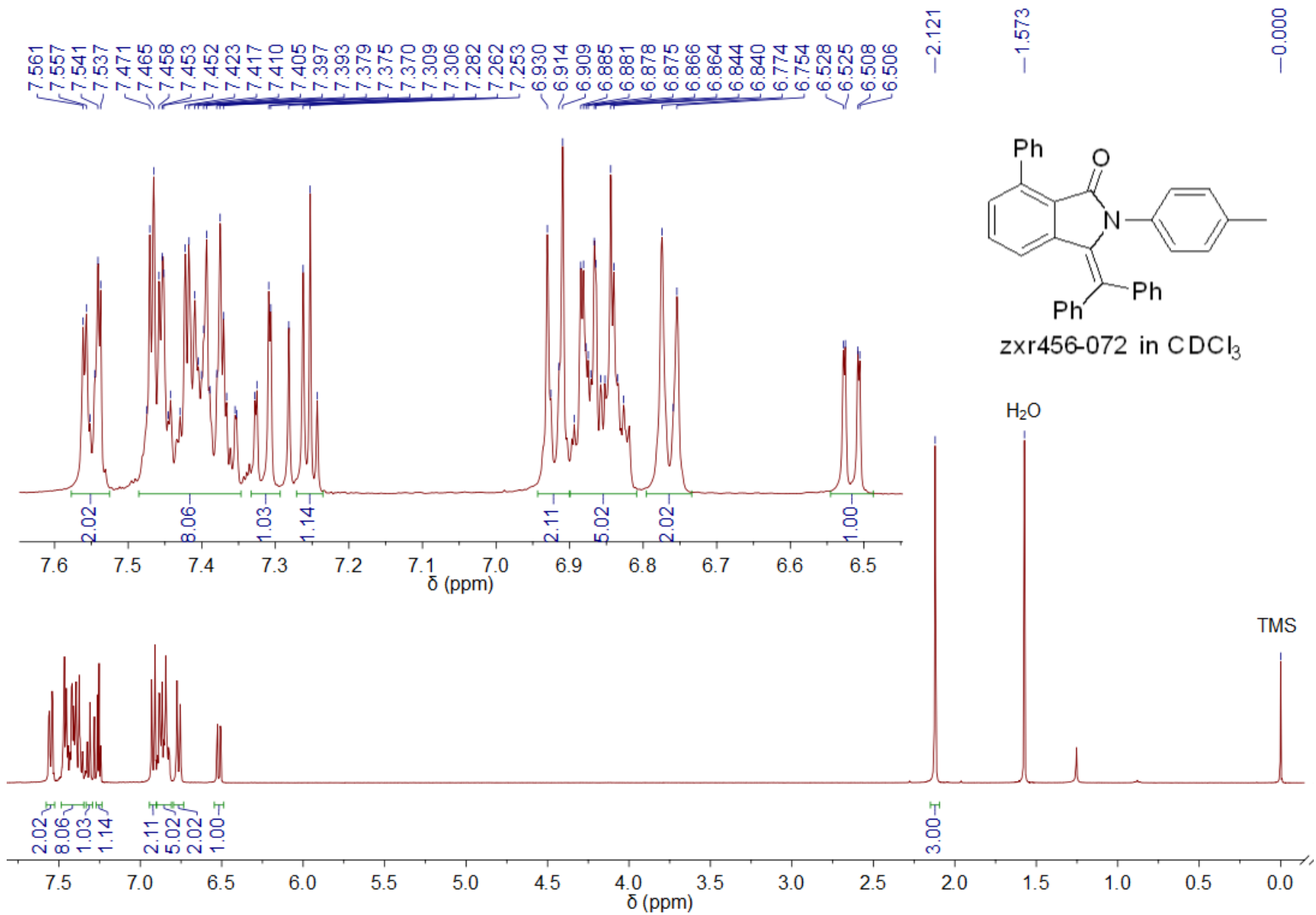
4m - ^{13}C NMR



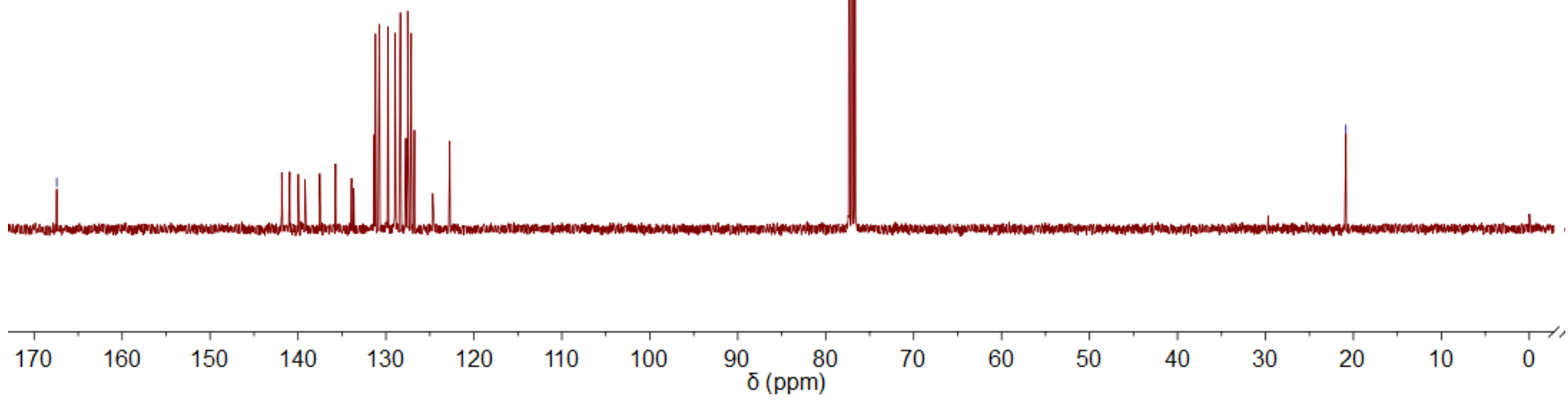
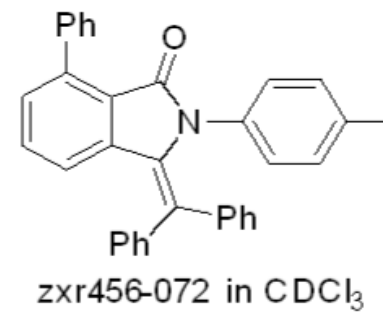
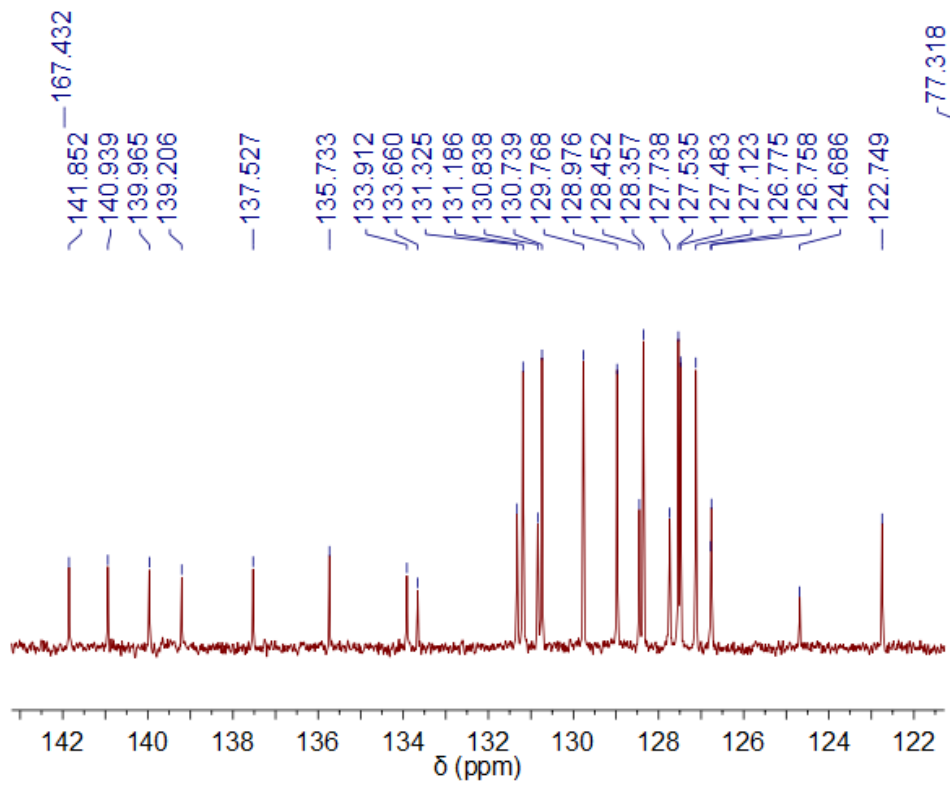
4n - $^1\text{H NMR}$



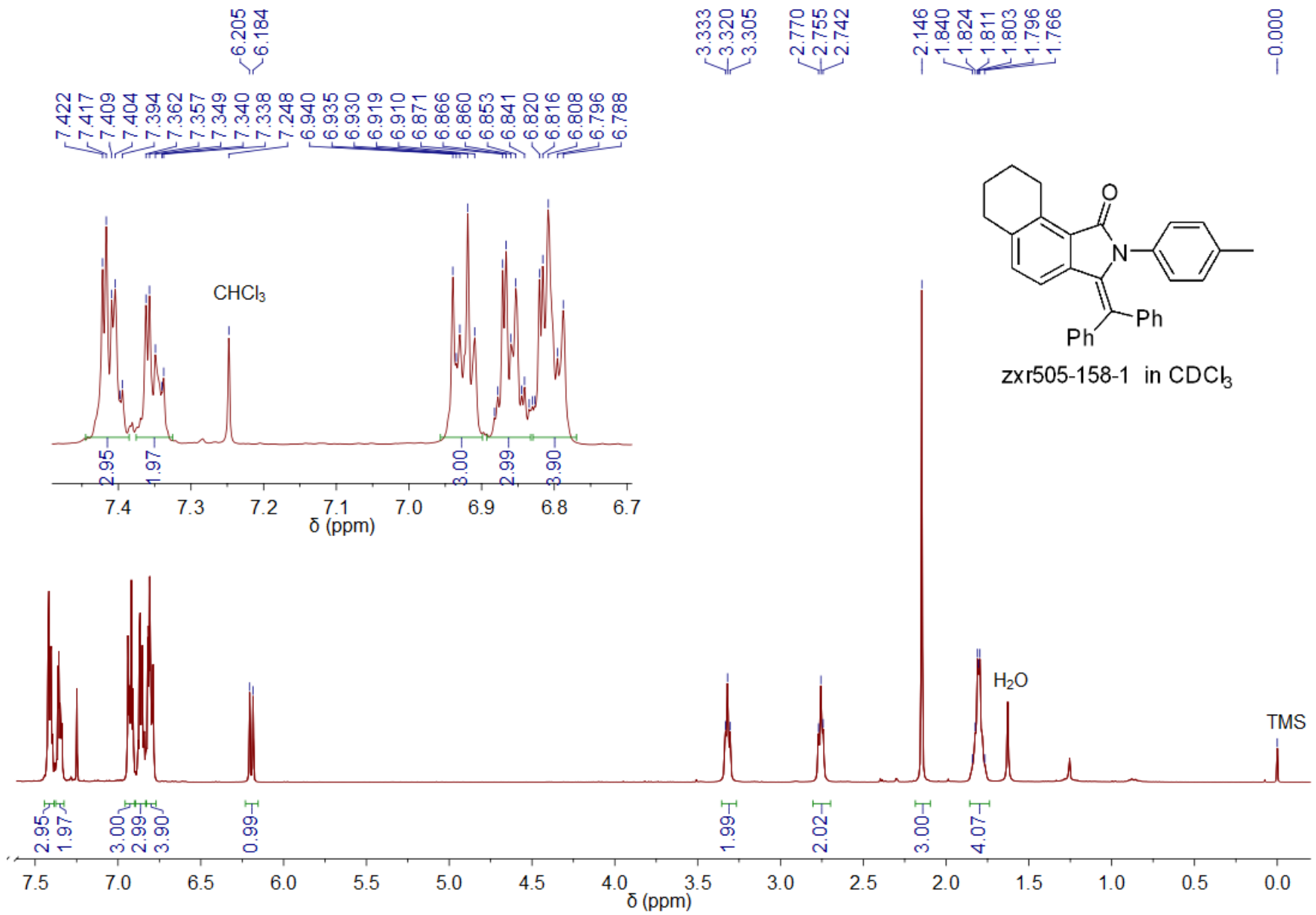
4n – ¹³C NMR



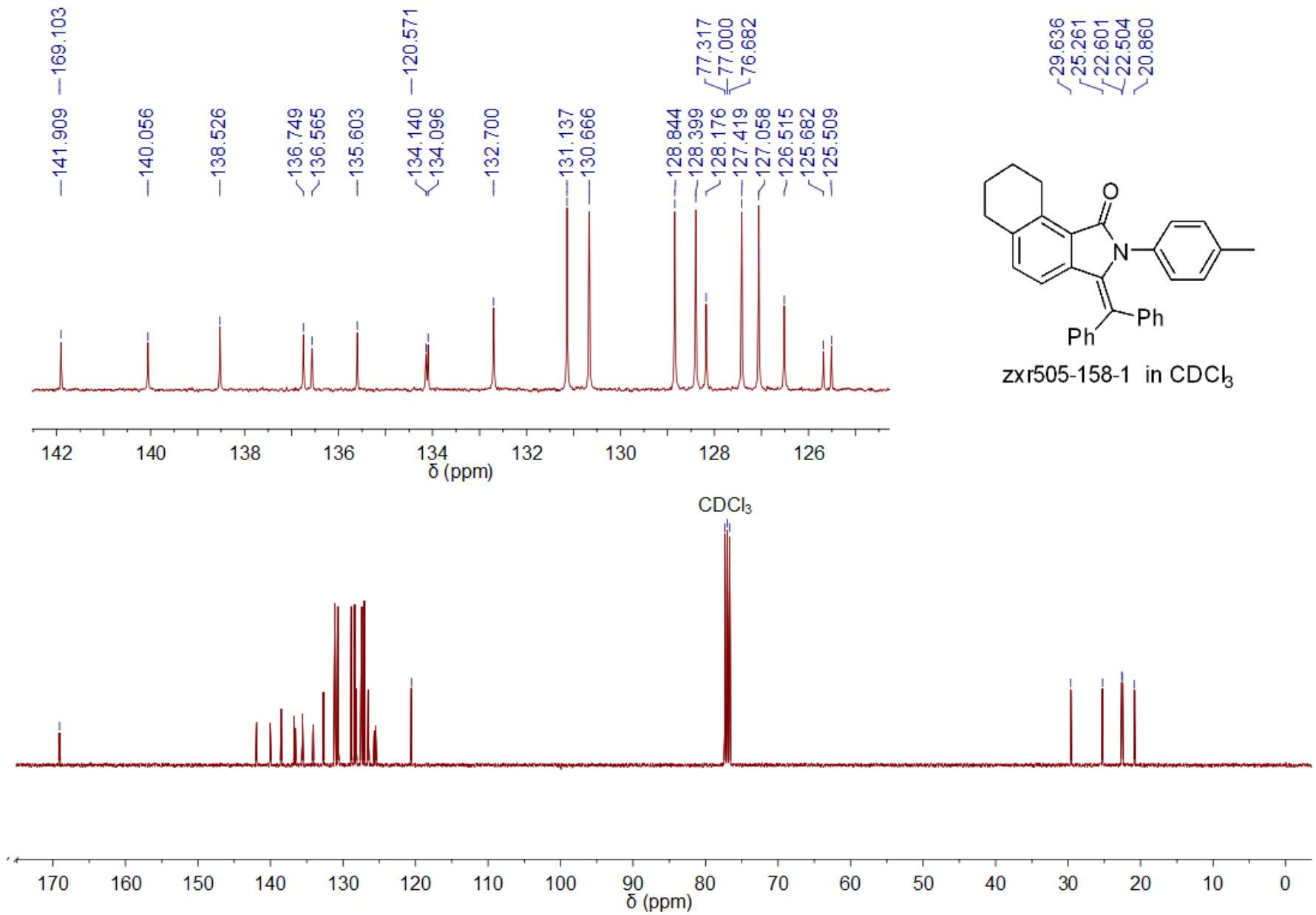
4o - $^1\text{H NMR}$



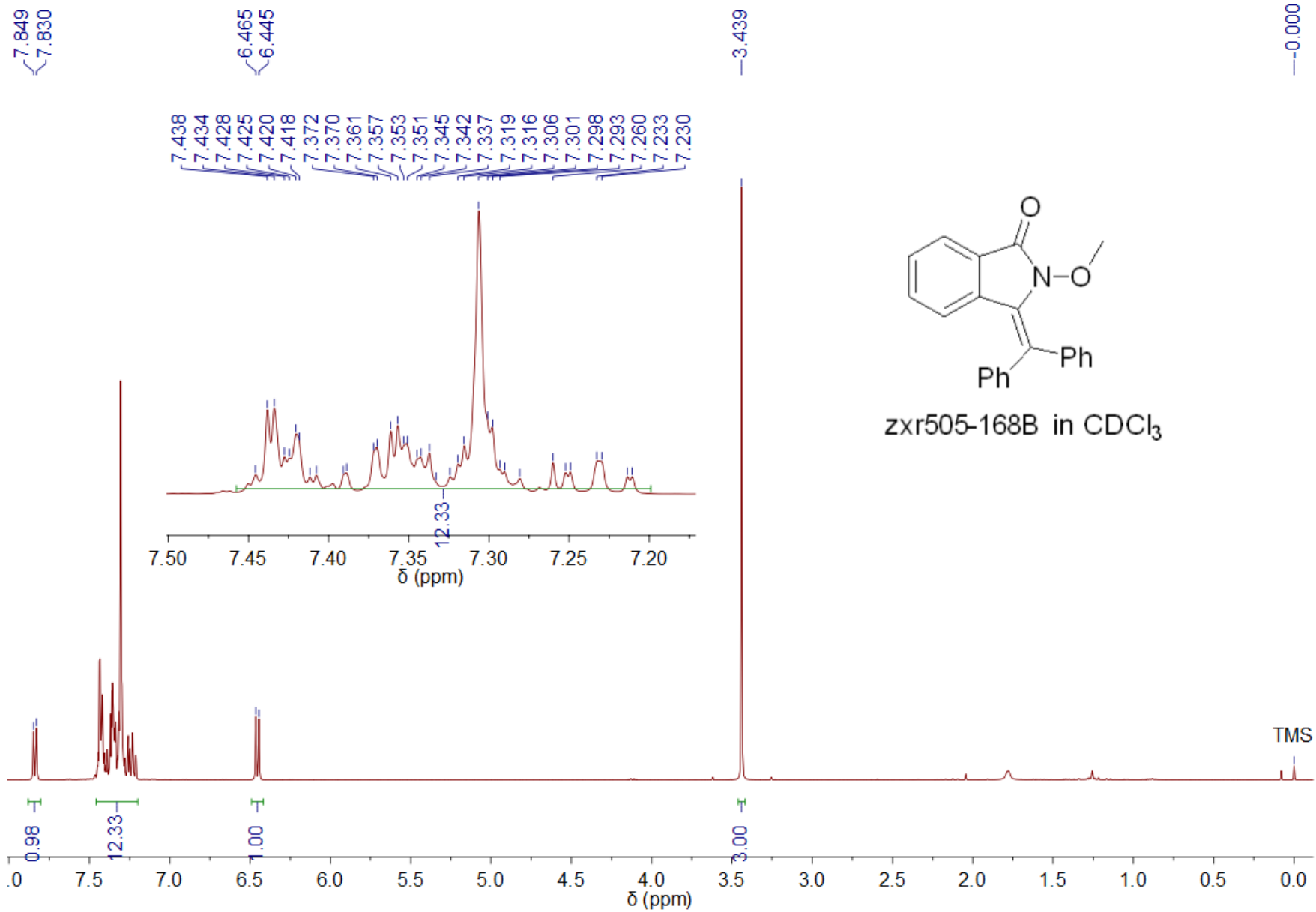
4o - ¹³C NMR



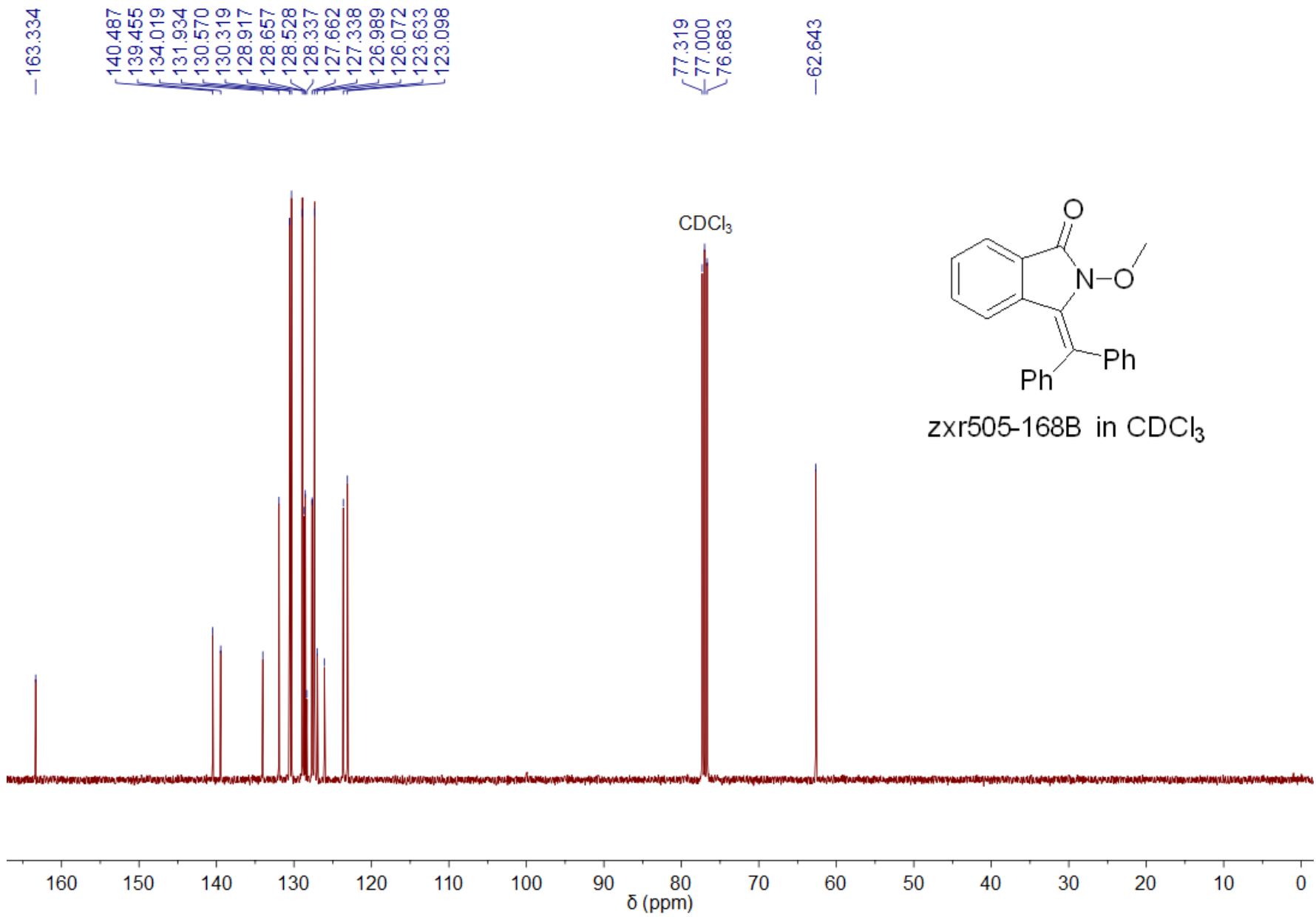
4p - ¹H NMR



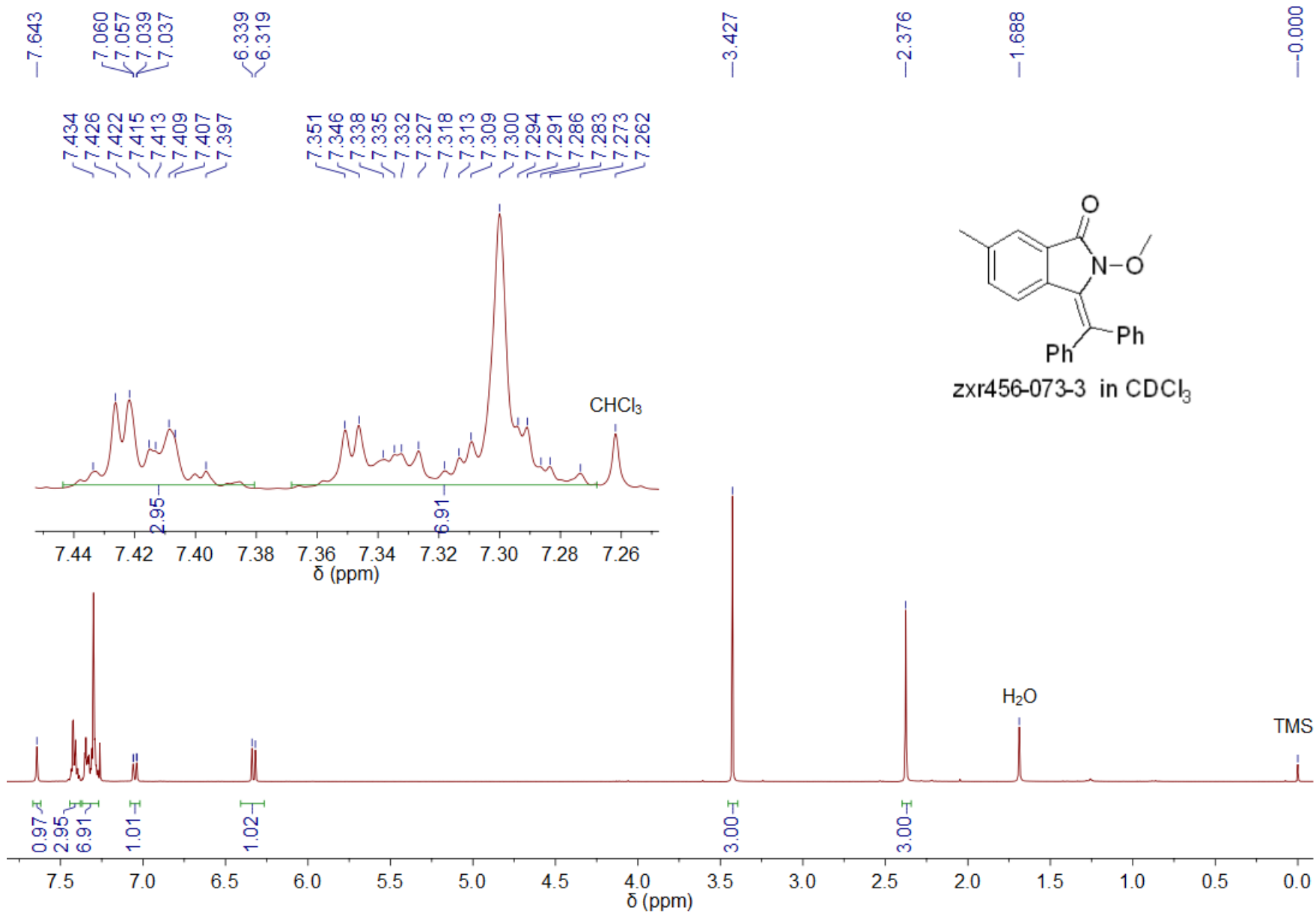
4p – ¹³C NMR



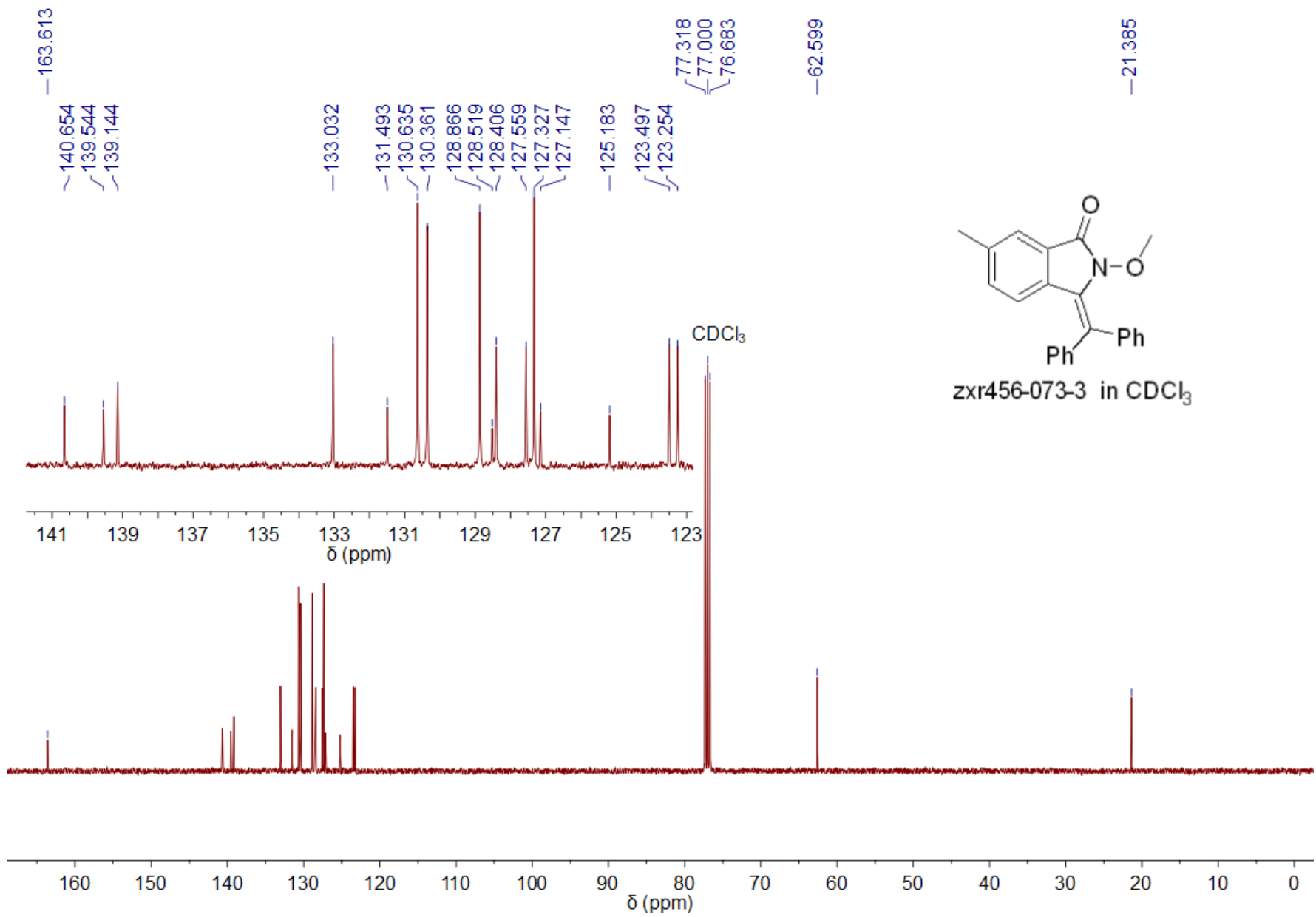
5a - ¹H NMR



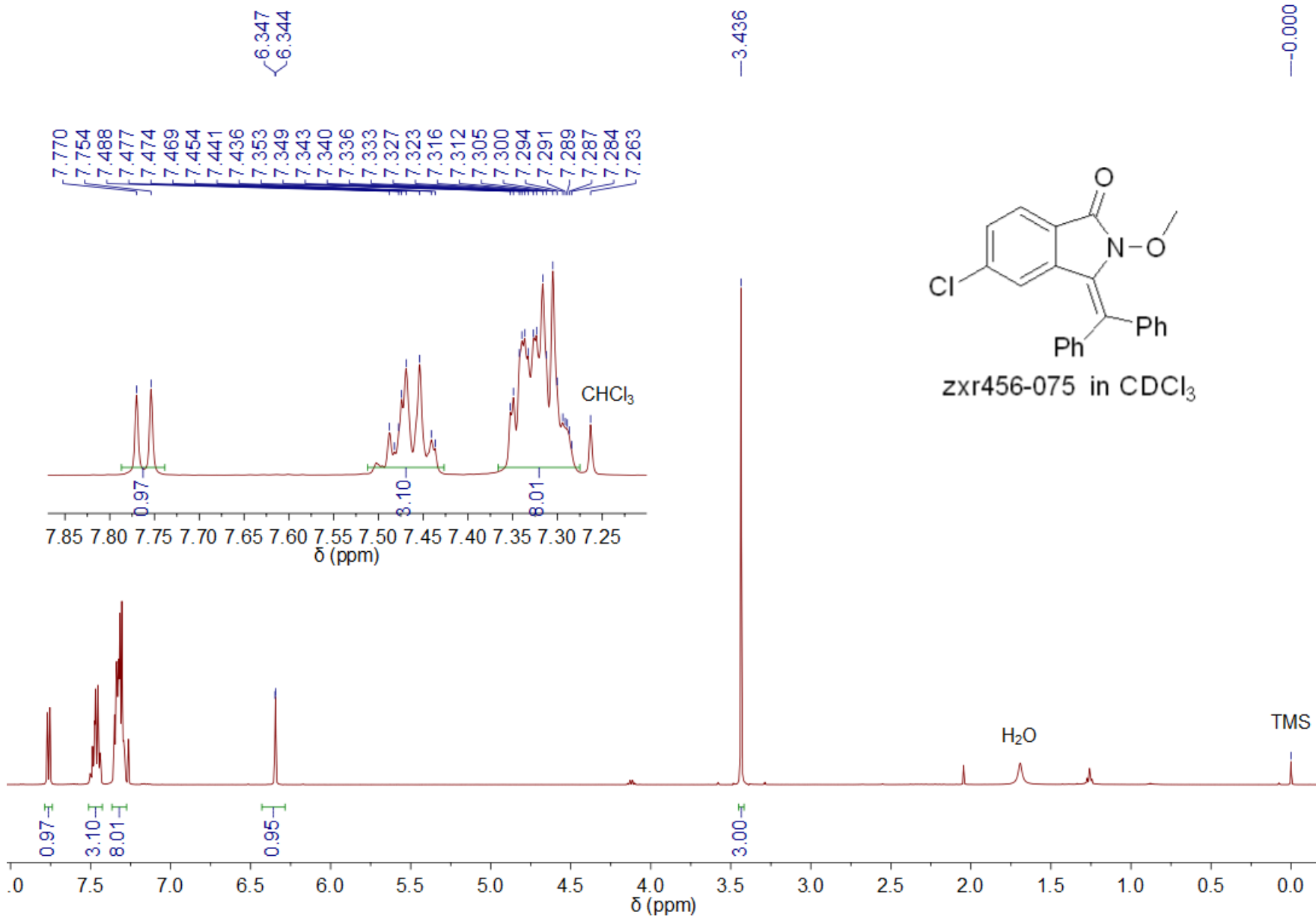
5a – ¹³C NMR

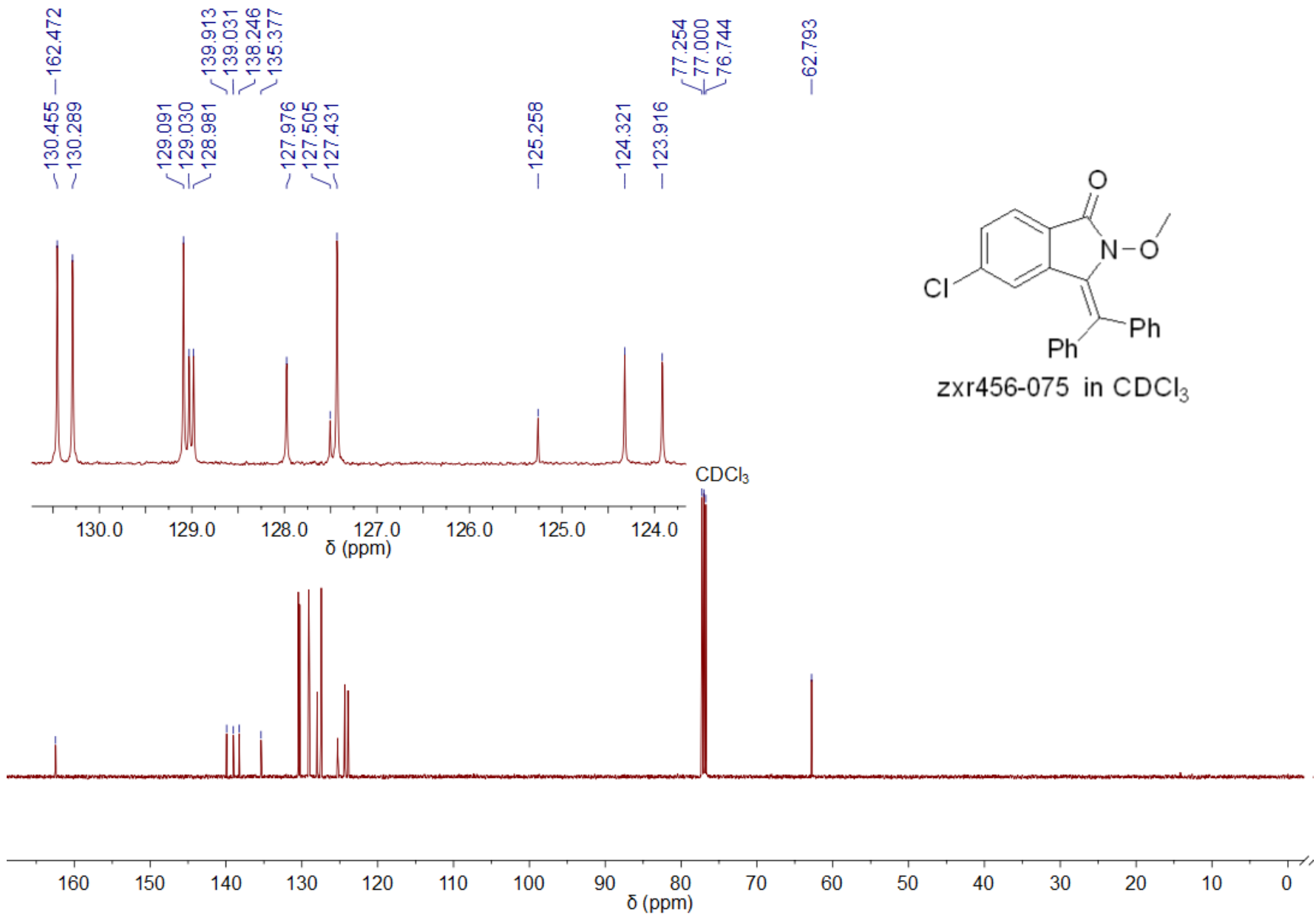


5b - ¹H NMR

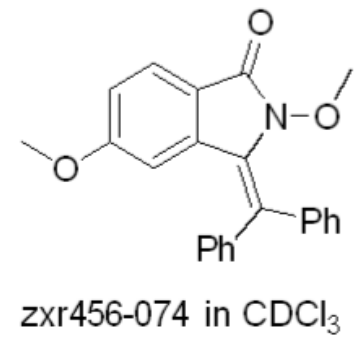
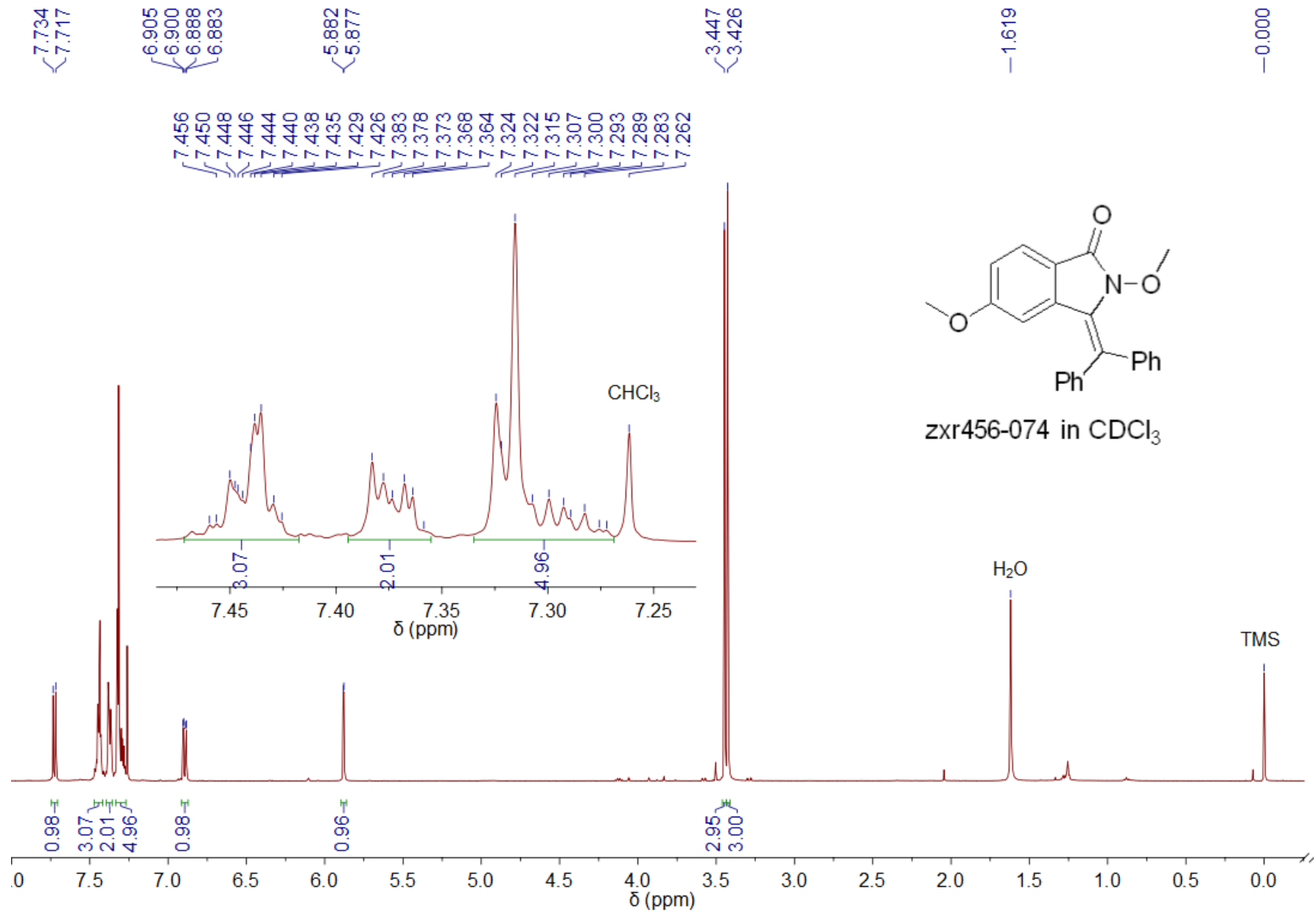


5b - ¹³C NMR

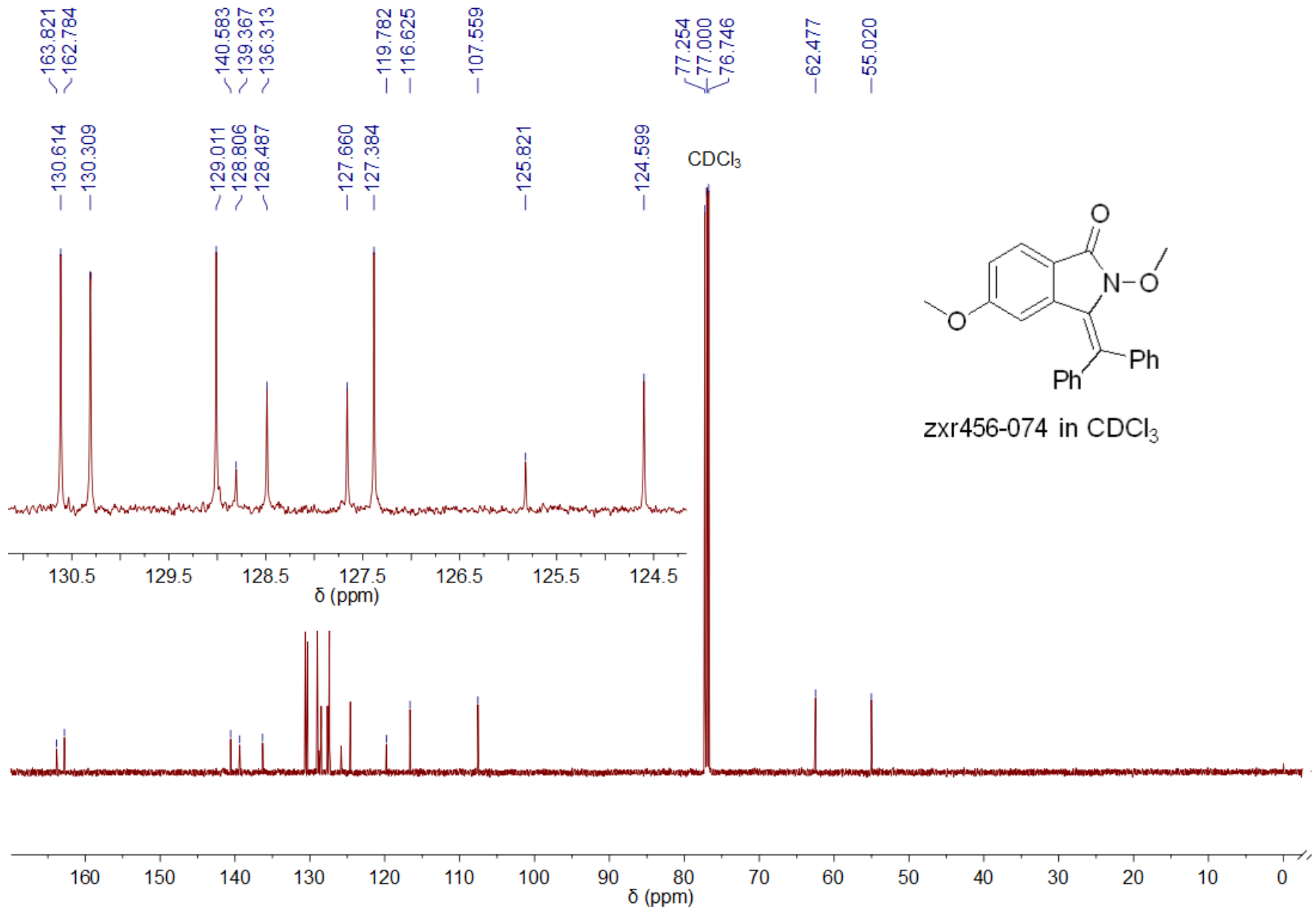




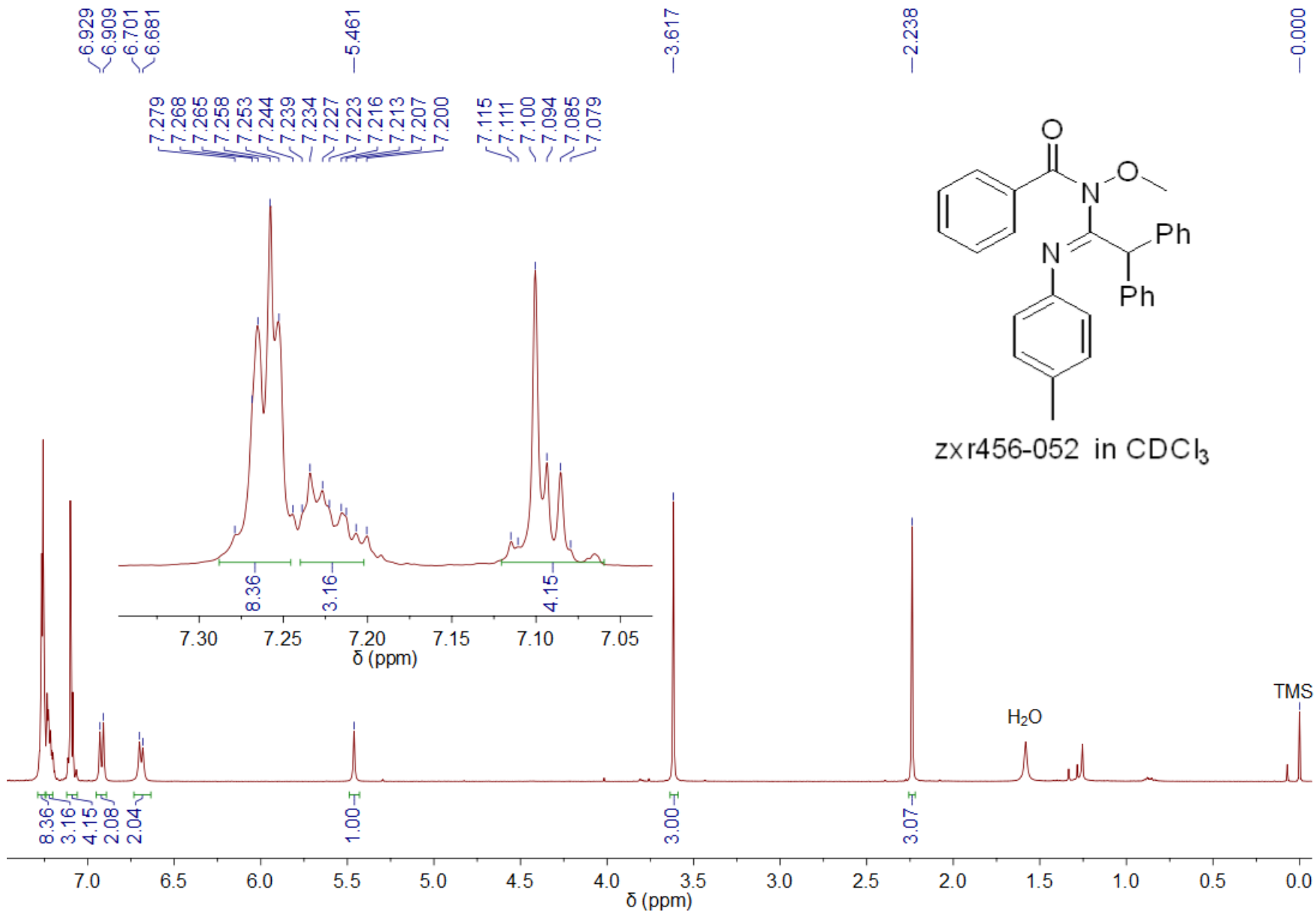
5c - ¹³C NMR



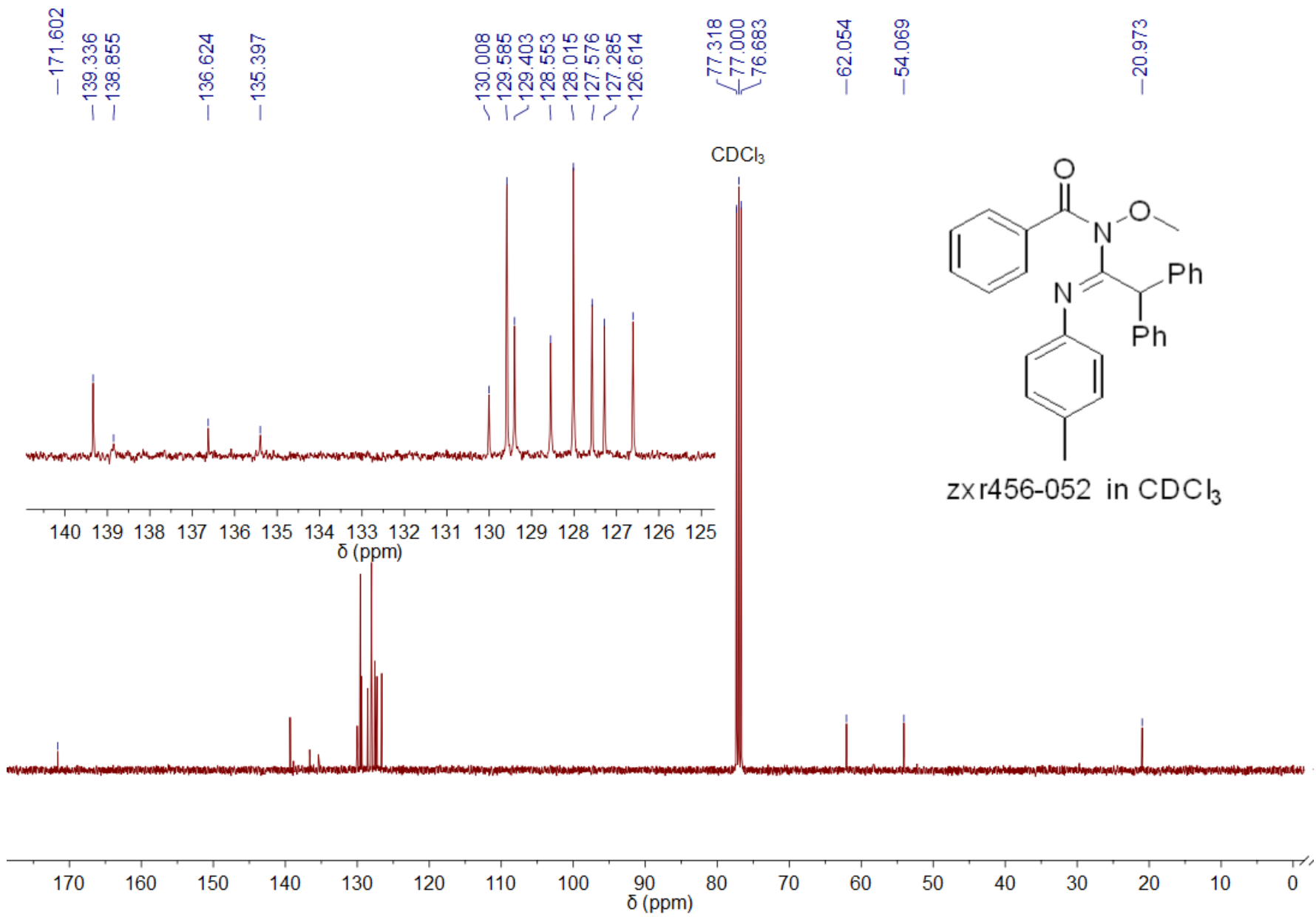
5d - ¹H NMR



5d – ¹³C NMR



6 - $^1\text{H NMR}$



6 - ^{13}C NMR