

Supporting Information for:

Binuclear β -Diketiminato Complexes of Copper(I)

*Andreas Phanopoulos,^a Alice H. M. Leung,^a Shuhui Yow,^a David Palomas,^a Andrew J. P. White,^a
Klaus Hellgardt,^b Andrew Horton,^c and Mark R. Crimmin^{*a}*

^a*Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London, South Kensington, London, SW7 2AZ, U.K.*

^b*Department of Chemical Engineering, Imperial College London, South Kensington, London, SW7 2AZ, U.K*

^c*PTI/DX Emerging Technologies, Shell Global Solutions International B.V, P.O. Box 38000, 1030 BN
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

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1. Experimental Procedures

For general experimental procedures see the manuscript.

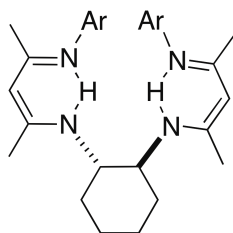
1.1 Preparation of starting materials

Synthesis of [CuO^tBu]₄: A slurry of anhydrous CuCl (2.0g, 20.2 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was cooled to -78 °C while a solution of KO^tBu (2.26 g, 20.2 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was degassed for 5 min. The KO^tBu solution was added to the CuCl dropwise and the mixture allowed to stir for 30 min at -78 °C then at 25 °C for 1 h. The solvent was removed and the crude sublimed under reduced pressure (130 °C at 1 x 10⁻¹ mbar) to give [CuO^tBu]₄ as a pale yellow solid (1.8 g, 13.2 mmol, 66 %).

Synthesis of [CuMes]: To a suspension of Mg turnings (1.47 g, mmol) in THF (30 mL) was added mesityl bromide (7.5 mL, 49.0 mmol). An exothermic reaction was observed; the reaction mixture was stirred for 4h at 25 °C. The reaction mixture was transferred via filter cannula into a suspension of CuCl (5.5 g, 55.6 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at -20 °C. The reaction mixture was warmed to 25 °C and stirred overnight. 1,4-Dioxane was added and the reaction mixture stirred for 30 min. The mixture was filtered via a glass fibre, and the solids extracted with a further 20 mL of THF. The solvent was removed to give the crude product as a yellow powder. The crude product could be further purified by dissolving in toluene (50 mL), filtering and crystallization at -35 °C to give yellow crystals of CuMes (3.37 g, 18.5 mmol, 38%). 2.5:1 ratio of isomers. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298K, C₆D₆) δ 1.89 (s, 3H, *p*-Me minor), 2.01 (s, 3H, *p*-Me major), 2.92 (s, 6H, *o*-Me minor), 2.92 (s, 6H, *o*-Me major), 6.58 (s, 2H, ArH minor), 6.67 (s, 2H, ArH major).

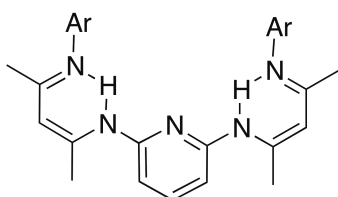
*Synthesis of 2-(2,6-di-iso-propylphenyl)imido-2-penten-4-one.*¹ To a solution of acetylacetone (20 mL, 196 mmol) and 2,6-di-iso-propylaniline (37 mL, 196 mmol) in toluene (230 mL) was added a catalytic amount of *p*-toluene sulphonic acid (3.7 g, 19.45 mmol, 10 mol%). The mixture was heated to a reflux (125 °C) for 7 days using the Dean-Stark apparatus. Solvent was removed *in vacuo* and red-brown residue obtained. Purification by vacuum distillation yielded 2-(2,6-di-iso-propylphenyl)imido-2-penten-4-one as an off-white solid (21.50 g, 82.89 mmol, 42.3%), [lit.^[3] 56.5%]. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298K): δ 12.08 (s, 1H, -NH), 7.30 (m, 1H, *p*-H of phenyl, ³*J*_{H-H} = 8 Hz), 7.20 (d, 2H, *m*-H of phenyl, ³*J*_{H-H} = 4 Hz), 5.23 (s, 1H, CH₃C(O)CH=), 3.05 (septet, 2H, -CH(CH₃)₂), 2.14 (s, 3H, CH₃C(O)-), 1.66 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 1.24 (d, 6H, -CH(CH₃)₂, ³*J*_{H-H} = 8 Hz), 1.17 (d, 6H, -CH(CH₃)₂, ³*J*_{H-H} = 8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298K) δ 195.9, 163.3, 146.3, 133.5, 128.3, 123.6, 95.6, 29.1, 28.5, 24.6, 22.7, 19.2. [lit.¹ ¹H (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, 298K): 12.1 (s, 1H, -NH), 7.2-7.3 (3H, -C₆H₃(*i*Pr)₂), 5.2 (s, 1H, CH₃C(O)CH=), 3.0 (2H, 2 -CH(CH₃)₂), 2.1 (s, 3H, CH₃C(O)-), 1.6 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 1.1-1.2 (d, 12H, 2 -CH(CH₃)₂); ¹³C (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298K): 195.8, 163.3, 146.2, 133.5, 128.2, 123.5, 95.5, 29.0, 28.4, 24.5, 22.6, 19.1].

¹ X. He, Y. Yao, X. Luo, J. Zhang, Y. Liu, L. Zhang, and Q. Wu, *Organometallics*, 2003, **22**, 4952-4957



Ar = 2,6-di-iso-propylphenyl

Synthesis of 1•H₂. To a colorless solution of 2-(2,6-di-iso-propylphenyl)imido-2-penten-4-one (10.0 g, 38.55 mmol) in DCM (50 mL) at 25 °C was added a solution of [Et₃O][BF₄] (9.1 g, 42.60 mmol) in DCM (10 mL). The reaction mixture produced a colorless suspension that gradually dissolved over 20 minutes. The mixture was stirred for 6 h at this temperature and Et₃N (6 mL, 5.79 mmol) added, the mixture turned dark pink. The homogeneous reaction mixture was separated into two equal volumes. To a suspension of 1,2-trans-diaminocyclohexane (1.13 mL, 9.65 mmol) in Et₃N (4 mL) was added one volume of the reaction mixture (the remainder was used in the synthesis of the analogue **2•H₂**). The reaction mixture was stirred for 14 days at 25 °C. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the crude recrystallized from hot n-hexane with cooling to 5 °C. The product was isolated as an off-white solid (1.73 g, 2.6 mmol, 15%). A further crop of product was isolated by trituration of the residue in acetone (440 mg, mmol, 4 %). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K) δ 0.85-0.95 (m, 2H), 1.21-1.27 (series of d, 24H), 1.21-1.27 (m, 2H), 1.32-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.65 (s, 6H), 1.80-1.90 (m, 2H), 1.91 (s, 6H), 3.05-3.15 (m, 2H), 3.12 (hept, 4H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 4.65 (s, 2H), 7.11-7.22 (m, 6H), 11.25 (broad s, 2H, NH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K) δ 19.1, 22.5, 22.7, 23.0, 23.6, 241., 24.3, 28.0, 28.2, 32.3, 57.2, 93.7, 122.9, 123.0, 123.2, 138.0, 146.9, 154.7, 166.7; Infrared (ATR cell, cm⁻¹) 2955, 2922, 1621, 1553; Mass Spec. (EI, +ve) 596 ([M]⁺, 5%), 418, 403, 202; High-resolution mass spec. calc. for C₄₀H₆₀N₄ 596.4818 found 596.4793.

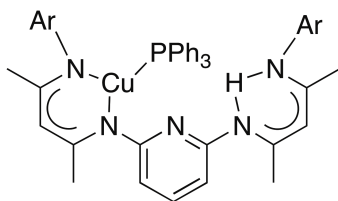


Ar = 2,6-di-iso-propylphenyl

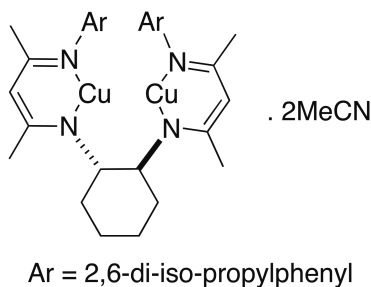
*Synthesis of 2•H₂.*² To a colorless solution of 2-(2,6-di-iso-propylphenyl)imido-2-penten-4-one (10.0 g, 38.55 mmol) in DCM (50 mL) at 25 °C was added a solution of [Et₃O]BF₄ (9.1 g, 42.60 mmol) in DCM (10 mL). The reaction mixture produced a colorless suspension that gradually dissolved over 20 minutes. The mixture was stirred for 6 h at this temperature and Et₃N (6 mL, 5.79 mmol) added, the mixture turned dark pink. The homogeneous reaction mixture was separated into two equal volumes. To a suspension of 2,6-diaminopyridine (1.05 g, 9.65 mmol) in Et₃N (4 mL) was added one volume of the reaction mixture (the remainder was used in the synthesis of the analogue **1•H₂**). After 24 h at 25 °C analysis of an aliquot by NMR showed only the mono-condensation product. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux (40 °C) for 14 days. At which point the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was dissolved in hot absolute ethanol (50 mL) and allowed to cool to room temperature the product was isolated as a yellow solid (2.1 g, 18%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K) δ 1.30 (d, 12H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.31 (d, 12H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.71 (s, 6H), 3.17 (s, 6H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 6.25 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.95 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.25-7.30 (m, 6H), 13.92 (broad s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K) δ 21.4, 22.4, 23.8, 28.4, 99.6, 106.1, 123.1, 123.9, 138.0, 139.0, 145.4, 151.3, 154.0, 168.4.

² D. F. Piesik, S. Range, and S. Harder, *Organometallics*, 2008, **27**, 6178–6187.

1.3 In situ generation of copper(I) complexes



In situ generation of **[2•H•Cu(L¹)]**: In a glovebox, to a solution of the ligand (40 mg, 0.07 mmol, 1 equiv.) in C₆D₆ (0.5 mL) was added CuMes (28 mg, 0.15 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) and PPh₃ (45 mg, 0.17 mmol, 2.5 equiv.). The reaction mixture was transferred to a Youngs NMR tube and the reaction monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. After 1 day at 25 °C selective formation of the monocopper product **[2•H•Cu(L¹)]** was observed by spectroscopy. *In situ* data: ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 400 MHz, 298 K) δ 1.02 (d, 6H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.26 (d, 6H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.27 (d, 6H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.34 (d, 6H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 3.17 (hept, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 3.62 (hept, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 4.95 (s, 1H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 6.07 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.16 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.53 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.10-7.50 (m, 21H, partially obscured by unreacted PPh₃). ³¹P (C₆D₆, 202 MHz, 298K): +3.82.



In situ generation of **[1•Cu₂(NCMe)₂]** from **[CuO^tBu]**: The ligand (41 mg, 0.069 mmol) was dissolved in a 10:1 mixture of C₆D₆ to MeCN. CuO^tBu was added as a solid (3 equiv.) and the mixture turned dark brown. The mixture was transferred to a J. Youngs NMR tube and the reaction monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. After 30 minutes at room temperature a further 1 equiv. of CuO^tBu was added, followed by 30 min then another addition of 1 equiv. of [CuO^tBu]. NMR analysis after the additional of the final aliquot showed mainly the desired product **[1•Cu₂(NCMe)₂]**. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆ + MeCN, 400 MHz, 298 K) δ 1.20-1.37 (series of d, 24H, partially obscured by ^tBu), 1.45-1.55 (m, 2H), 1.78 (s, 6H), 1.80-1.88 (m, 2H), 2.88 (s, 3H, unknown possibly MeCN), 2.00-2.15 (m, 4H), 2.44 (s, 6H), 3.43 (hept, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 3.52 (hept, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 4.01-4.11 (m, 2H), 4.64 (s, 2H), 7.05-7.20 (m, 6H).

In situ generation of [2•Cu₂(L⁴)₂] (L⁴=quinoline): [2•Cu₂]₂ (5.8 mg, 0.00404 mmol) and quinoline (5.88 μL, 0.0510 mmol, 12 equiv.) were dissolved in C₆D₆ (0.6 mL), showing quantitative conversion to [2•Cu₂(L⁴)₂] by ¹H NMR. Attempts to isolate crystals or an analytically pure powder were unsuccessful. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 400 MHz) δ: 0.95 (br d, ³J_{HH} = 6.3 Hz, 12H, CH₃^{iPr}), 1.25 (d, ³J_{HH} = 6.9 Hz, 12H, CH₃^{iPr}), 1.96 (s, CH₃^{NacNac}), 2.09 (s, CH₃^{NacNac}), 3.62 (br hept, ³J_{HH} = 6.7 Hz, 4H, CH^{iPr}), 5.08 (s, CH^{NacNac}), 6.39 (d, ³J_{HH} = 7.7 Hz, 2H, CH^{m-py}), 6.72 (m, 2H, CH^{quin}), 7.12 (m, 2H, CH^{quin}), 7.31 (m, 4H, CH^{quin}), 7.46 (br d, ³J_{HH} = 6.9 Hz, 2H, CH^{quin}), 8.31 (br d, ³J_{HH} = 8.4 Hz, 2H, CH^{quin}), 8.70 (br s, 2H, CH^{quin}). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, 101 MHz) δ: 23.7–23.9 (br s x 3, CH₃^{NacNac/iPr}), 24.1 (s, CH₃^{NacNac}), 28.1 (s, CH^{iPr}), 95.5 (CH^{NacNac}), 112.0 (s, CH^{m-py}), 121.2 (s, CH^{quin}), 123.5 (s, CH), 123.6 (s, CH), 123.8 (s, CH), 124.9 (s, CH^{quin}), 126.6 (s, CH), 127.8 (s, CH), 128.4 (s, CH), 129.4 (s, CH^{quin}), 135.4 (s, CH^{quin}), 130.4 (s, CH^{quin}), 140.5 (s, C), 147.2 (s, C), 147.8 (s, C), 148.7 (s, C), 148.9 (s, C), 150.8 (s, CH^{quin}), 157.8 (s, C), 161.9 (s, C), 163.5 (s, C), 164.1 (s, C), 164.1 (s, C), 165.2 (s, C).

In situ generation of [2•Cu₂(L⁵)₂] (L⁵=hex-1-ene): [2•Cu₂]₂ (17.0 mg, 0.0119 mmol) and hex-1-ene (17.86 μL, 0.143 mmol, 12 equiv.) were dissolved in C₆D₆ (0.6 mL), showing quantitative conversion to [2•Cu₂(L⁵)₂] by ¹H NMR. Attempts to isolate crystals or an analytically pure powder were unsuccessful. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 500 MHz) δ: 0.71–0.75 (m, 6H, CH₃^{hexene}), 0.99–1.31 (m, 36H, CH₂^{hexene} and CH₃^{Dipp}), 1.80 (s, 3H, CH₃^{NacNac}), 1.81 (s, 3H, CH₃^{NacNac}), 2.07 (s, 3H, CH₃^{NacNac}), 2.09 (s, 3H, CH₃^{NacNac}), 3.10 (dd, ²J_{HH} = 15.4 Hz, ³J_{HH} = 5.6 Hz, CH₂^{hexene}, 2H), 3.20–3.26 (m, 2H, CH^{Dipp}), 3.30 (*pseudo t*, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 9.0 Hz, CH₂^{hexene}), 4.18–4.28 (m, 2H, CH^{hexene}), 5.01 (s, 1H, CH^{NacNac}), 5.02 (s, 1H, CH^{NacNac}), 6.44 (d, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 3.1 Hz, *m*-CH^{pyridine}), 6.45 (d, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 3.1 Hz, *m*-CH^{pyridine}), 7.09–7.15 (m, 7H, *p*-CH^{pyridine} and CH^{Dipp}). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, 126 MHz) δ: 14.1 (s, CH₃^{hexene}), 22.3 (s, CH₂^{hexene}), 23.5 (s, CH₃^{NacNac/Dipp}), 23.9 (s, CH₃^{NacNac/Dipp}), 24.0 (s, CH₃^{NacNac/Dipp}), 24.2 (s, CH₃^{NacNac/Dipp}), 24.4 (s, CH₃^{NacNac/Dipp}), 24.6 (s, CH₃^{NacNac/Dipp}), 28.1 (s, CH^{iPr}), 28.2 (s, CH^{iPr}), 32.9 (s, CH₂^{hexene}), 32.9 (s, CH₂^{hexene}), 33.3 (s, CH₂^{hexene}), 33.4 (s, CH₂^{hexene}), 75.7 (s, CH₂^{hexene-terminal}), 75.8 (s, CH₂^{hexene-terminal}), 96.0 (s, CH^{NacNac}), 96.1 (s, CH^{NacNac}), 97.1 (s, CH^{hexene}), 97.3 (s, CH^{hexene}), 113.6 (s, *m*-CH^{pyridine}), 113.7 (s, *m*-CH^{pyridine}), 123.7 (s, CH^{Dipp}), 124.6 (s, CH^{iPr}), 128.4 (s, CH^{Dipp}), 137.8 (s, *p*-CH^{pyridine}).

In situ generation of **[2•Cu₂(L⁷)₂]** (**L⁷** = **cyclohexene**): **[2•Cu₂]₂** (7.1 mg, 0.00495 mmol) and cyclohexene (15 µL, 0.148 mmol, 30 equiv.) were dissolved in C₆D₆ (0.6 mL), showing quantitative conversion to **[2•Cu₂(L⁷)₂]** by ¹H NMR. Attempts to isolate crystals or an analytically pure powder were unsuccessful as a result the resonances of cyclohexene ligand could not all be resolved in the multinuclear NMR data. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 400 MHz) δ: 1.16 (d, ³J_{HH} = 6.7 Hz, 12H, CH₃^{iPr}), 1.16 (d, ³J_{HH} = 6.7 Hz, 12H, CH₃^{iPr}), 1.85 (s, 6H, CH₃^{NacNac}), 2.05 (s, 6H, CH₃^{NacNac}), 3.30 (hept, ³J_{HH} = 6.7 Hz, 4H, CH^{iPr}), 4.48 (br s, 4H, CH^{Cy_h}), 5.02 (s, 2H, CH^{NacNac}), 6.41 (d, ³J_{HH} = 7.7 Hz, 2H, CH^{m-py}), 7.05 (t, ³J_{HH} = 7.7 Hz, 1H, CH^{p-py}), 7.09–7.14 (m, 6H, CH^{m-/p-Dipp}). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, 101 MHz) δ: 23.1 (s, CH₂^{Cy_h}), 23.9 (s, CH₃^{iPr}), 24.0 (s, CH₃^{NacNac}), 24.2 (s, CH₃^{NacNac}), 24.4 (s, CH₂^{Cy_h}), 24.7 (s, CH₃^{iPr}), 28.1 (s, CH^{iPr}), 91.8 (s, CH^{Cy_h}), 95.3 (s, CH^{NacNac}), 113.8 (s, CH^{m-py}), 124.5 (s, CH^{m-Dipp}), 128.4 (s, CH^{p-Dipp}), 138.0 (s, CH^{p-py}), 140.9 (s, C^{Dipp}), 148.1 (s, C^{o-py}), 162.1 (s, C^{NacNac}), 164.4 (s, C^{Dipp}), 164.7 (s, C^{NacNac}).

2. Xray Crystallography Data

Table S1. Crystal Data, Data Collection and Refinement Parameters for the structures of **1·H₂**, **3·H₂**, **[1·Cu₂(L¹)₂]**, **[2·Cu₂(L¹)₂]·Et₂O**, **[2·Cu₂(L¹)₂]·thf**, **[3·Cu₂(L¹)₂]**, **[2·Cu₂(L²)]**, **[2·Cu₂(L³)₂]**, **[2·Cu₂(L⁶)₂]** and **[2·Cu₂(L⁸)₂]**.

data	1·H₂	3·H₂	[1·Cu₂(L¹)₂]	[2·Cu₂(L¹)₂]·Et₂O
formula	C ₄₀ H ₆₀ N ₄	C ₄₆ H ₅₈ N ₄ O	C ₇₆ H ₈₈ Cu ₂ N ₄ P ₂	C ₇₅ H ₈₁ Cu ₂ N ₅ P ₂
solvent	0.75(C ₆ H ₁₄)	—	3(C ₄ H ₈ O)	C ₄ H ₁₀ O
formula weight	661.54	682.96	1462.83	1315.58
colour, habit	colourless	colourless	colourless	colourless
temperature / K	173	173	173	173
crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic
space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i> (no. 14)	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>n</i> (no. 14)	<i>P</i> -1 (no. 2)	<i>P</i> -1 (no. 2)
<i>a</i> / Å	31.4335(10)	14.2470(12)	11.5523(3)	12.5893(3)
<i>b</i> / Å	16.2490(5)	9.3174(9)	16.7641(4)	17.0144(5)
<i>c</i> / Å	17.1849(5)	31.077(3)	20.9664(5)	18.6054(5)
α / deg	90	90	88.7166(19)	67.890(3)
β / deg	104.828(3)	92.632(8)	78.054(2)	78.6668(19)
γ / deg	90	90	85.895(2)	75.182(2)
<i>V</i> / Å ³	8485.1(5)	4121.0(7)	3962.18(17)	3547.01(17)
<i>Z</i>	8 [b]	4	2	2
<i>D_c</i> / g cm ⁻³	1.036	1.101	1.226	1.232
radiation used	Mo-K α	Cu-K α	Mo-K α	Cu-K α
μ / mm ⁻¹	0.060	0.502	0.628	1.524
2 θ max / deg	58	148	59	145
no. of unique reflns				
measured (<i>R</i> _{int})	18571 (0.0296)	7937 (0.0561)	18426 (0.0224)	13737 (0.0268)
obs, $ F_o > 4\sigma(F_o)$	11478	4713	14649	11660
no. of variables	946	486	985	840
<i>R</i> ₁ (obs), <i>wR</i> ₂ (all) [a]	0.0658, 0.1620	0.0860, 0.3064	0.0420, 0.1139	0.0362, 0.1019

[a] $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$; $wR_2 = \{\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2]\}^{1/2}$; $w^{-1} = \sigma^2(F_o^2) + (aP)^2 + bP$. [b] There are two crystallographically independent molecules.

Table S1. part 2

data	[2·Cu₂(L¹)₂]·thf	[3·Cu₂(L¹)₂]	[2·Cu₂(L²)]
formula	C ₇₅ H ₈₁ Cu ₂ N ₅ P ₂	C ₈₂ H ₈₆ Cu ₂ N ₄ OP ₂	C ₆₅ H ₇₅ Cu ₂ N ₅ P ₂
solvent	C ₄ H ₈ O	1.5(C ₄ H ₁₀ O)	0.5(C ₆ H ₁₄)
formula weight	1313.57	1443.74	1158.40
colour, habit	colourless tablets	pale yellow	yellow blocks
temperature / K	173	173	173
crystal system	triclinic	triclinic	monoclinic
space group	<i>P</i> -1 (no. 2)	<i>P</i> -1 (no. 2)	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>n</i> (no. 14)
<i>a</i> / Å	12.7327(3)	12.6567(3)	14.7652(2)
<i>b</i> / Å	16.8122(5)	13.8730(4)	17.8395(4)
<i>c</i> / Å	18.6974(7)	24.4443(6)	23.9383(4)
α / deg	67.156(3)	90.544(2)	90
β / deg	76.696(3)	104.629(2)	98.5171(17)
γ / deg	74.461(3)	105.500(2)	90
<i>V</i> / Å³	3517.7(2)	3988.23(18)	6235.9(2)
<i>Z</i>	2	2	4
<i>D_c</i> / g cm⁻³	1.240	1.202	1.234
radiation used	Mo-K α	Mo-K α	Mo-K α
μ / mm⁻¹	0.698	0.623	0.777
2θ max / deg	57	57	59
no. of unique reflns			
measured (<i>R</i>_{int})	14427 (0.0217)	15979 (0.0294)	14929 (0.0291)
obs, $F_o > 4\sigma(F_o)$	11131	11875	11853
no. of variables	840	961	739
<i>R</i>₁(obs), <i>wR</i>₂(all) [a]	0.0383, 0.0963	0.0473, 0.1213	0.0363, 0.0905

Table S1. part 3

data	[2·Cu₂(L³)₂]	[2·Cu₂(L⁶)₂]	[2·Cu₂(L⁸)₂]
formula	C ₄₉ H ₆₁ Cu ₂ N ₇	C ₄₉ H ₆₇ Cu ₂ N ₅	C ₅₃ H ₇₁ Cu ₂ N ₅
solvent	—	C ₄ H ₁₀ O	—
formula weight	875.12	927.27	905.22
colour, habit	orange blocks	pale yellow	pale yellow
temperature / K	173	173	173
crystal system	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic
space group	C2 (no. 5)	<i>P</i> -1 (no. 2)	<i>P</i> -1 (no. 2)
<i>a</i> / Å	18.3602(8)	13.1519(6)	13.4277(8)
<i>b</i> / Å	12.4769(5)	13.7723(6)	13.8080(7)
<i>c</i> / Å	10.1119(4)	14.9883(6)	14.3150(8)
α / deg	90	69.349(4)	99.766(4)
β / deg	103.858(5)	89.209(3)	110.966(6)
γ / deg	90	84.603(4)	92.373(4)
<i>V</i> / Å³	2248.98(17)	2528.63(19)	2427.4(2)
<i>Z</i>	2	2	2
<i>D_c</i> / g cm⁻³	1.292	1.218	1.238
radiation used	Mo-K α	Mo-K α	Mo-K α
μ / mm⁻¹	0.987	0.882	0.916
2θ max / deg	56	56	56
no. of unique reflns			
measured (<i>R</i>_{int})	3247 (0.0288)	9960 (0.0237)	14438 (0.034)
obs, $F_o > 4\sigma(F_o)$	2882	7905	8427
no. of variables	270	580	570
<i>R</i>₁(obs), <i>wR</i>₂(all) [a]	0.0406, 0.0946	0.0387, 0.0951	0.0382, 0.0724

Table 1 provides a summary of the crystallographic data for the structures of **1·H₂**, **3·H₂**, **[1·Cu₂(L¹)₂]**, **[2·Cu₂(L¹)₂]·Et₂O**, **[2·Cu₂(L¹)₂]·thf**, **[3·Cu₂(L¹)₂]**, **[2·Cu₂(L²)]**, **[2·Cu₂(L³)₂]**, **[2·Cu₂(L⁶)₂]** and **[2·Cu₂(L⁸)₂]**. Data were collected using Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur PX Ultra (**[2·Cu₂(L¹)₂]·Et₂O**), Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur 3 (**1·H₂**, **[1·Cu₂(L¹)₂]**, **[2·Cu₂(L¹)₂]·thf**, and **[2·Cu₂(L²)]**) Agilent Xcalibur PX Ultra A (**3·H₂**) and Agilent Xcalibur 3 E (**3·Cu₂(L¹)₂]**, **[2·Cu₂(L³)₂]**, **[2·Cu₂(L⁶)₂]** and **[2·Cu₂(L⁸)₂]**) diffractometers, and the structures were refined using the SHELXTL and SHELX-2013 program systems.³ The structure of **[2·Cu₂(L³)₂]** was refined as a 2-component inversion twin [Flack parameter $x = +0.21(2)$]. CCDC 1511417 to 1511426.

³ SHELXTL, Bruker AXS, Madison, WI; (b) SHELX-2013, G.M. Sheldrick, *Acta Cryst.*, 2015, **C71**, 3-8.

The X-ray crystal structure of **1·H₂**

The structure of **1·H₂** was found to contain two independent molecules (**1·H₂**-A and **1·H₂**-B), and two hexane solvent sites (one in a general position and one across a centre of symmetry). Both hexane molecules were found to be disordered. For the C41-based molecule two orientations were identified of *ca.* 62 and 38% occupancy, whilst for the C51-based molecule (which sits across a centre of symmetry) two unique orientations of *ca.* 29 and 21% occupancy were identified (with the action of the inversion centre generating two further orientations of the same occupancies). The geometries of all four unique orientations were optimised, the thermal parameters of adjacent atoms were restrained to be similar, and only the non-hydrogen atoms of the major occupancy orientation of the C41-based molecule were refined anisotropically (those of the minor occupancy orientations were refined isotropically).

The four N–H hydrogen atoms on N3A, N12A, N3B and N12B were all located from ΔF maps and refined freely subject to an N–H distance constraint of 0.90 Å

The X-ray crystal structure of **3·H₂**

The C42-based isopropyl group in the structure of **3·H₂** was found to be disordered. Two orientations were identified of *ca.* 81 and 19% occupancy, their geometries were optimised, the thermal parameters of adjacent atoms were restrained to be similar, and only the non-hydrogen atoms of the major occupancy orientation were refined anisotropically (those of the minor occupancy orientation were refined isotropically).

The N13 and N19 N–H hydrogen atoms were located from ΔF maps and refined freely subject to an N–H distance constraint of 0.90 Å

The X-ray crystal structure of **[1·Cu₂(L¹)₂]**

The C23 and C26-based isopropyl groups in the structure of **[1·Cu₂(L¹)₂]** were found to be disordered, and in each case two orientations were identified, of *ca.* 88:12 and 83:17% occupancy respectively. The geometries of all four orientations were optimised, the thermal parameters of adjacent atoms were restrained to be similar, and only the non-hydrogen atoms of the major occupancy orientations were refined anisotropically (those of the minor occupancy orientations were refined isotropically).

All three of the included thf solvent molecules were found to be disordered, and in each case two orientations were identified, of *ca.* 87:13, 66:34 and 64:37% occupancy for the O80-, O90- and O100- based molecules respectively. The geometries of all six orientations were optimised, the thermal parameters of adjacent atoms were restrained to be similar, and only the non-hydrogen atoms of the major occupancy orientations were refined anisotropically (those of the minor occupancy orientations were refined isotropically).

The X-ray crystal structure of $[2\cdot\text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^1)_2]\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$

The C35-based isopropyl group in the structure of $[2\cdot\text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^1)_2]\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ was found to be disordered. Two orientations were identified of *ca.* 82 and 18% occupancy, their geometries were optimised, the thermal parameters of adjacent atoms were restrained to be similar, and only the non-hydrogen atoms of the major occupancy orientation were refined anisotropically (those of the minor occupancy orientation were refined isotropically).

The O80-based included diethyl ether solvent molecule was found to be disordered. Two orientations were identified of *ca.* 68 and 32% occupancy, their geometries were optimised, the thermal parameters of adjacent atoms were restrained to be similar, and only the non-hydrogen atoms of the major occupancy orientation were refined anisotropically (those of the minor occupancy orientation were refined isotropically).

The X-ray crystal structure of $[2\cdot\text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^1)_2]\cdot\text{thf}$

The C35-based isopropyl group in the structure of $[2\cdot\text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^1)_2]\cdot\text{thf}$ was found to be disordered. Two orientations were identified of *ca.* 86 and 14% occupancy, their geometries were optimised, the thermal parameters of adjacent atoms were restrained to be similar, and only the non-hydrogen atoms of the major occupancy orientation were refined anisotropically (those of the minor occupancy orientation were refined isotropically).

The O80-based included thf solvent molecule was found to be disordered. Two orientations were identified of *ca.* 73 and 27% occupancy, their geometries were optimised, the thermal parameters of adjacent atoms were restrained to be similar, and only the non-hydrogen atoms of the major occupancy orientation were refined anisotropically (those of the minor occupancy orientation were refined isotropically).

The X-ray crystal structure of [3·Cu₂(L¹)₂]

Both the O90- and O100-based included diethyl ether solvent molecules in the structure of [3·Cu₂(L¹)₂] were found to be disordered. For the O90-based molecule three orientations were identified of *ca.* 66, 20 and 14% occupancy, whilst for the O100-based molecule (which sits across a centre of symmetry) two unique orientations of *ca.* 34 and 16% occupancy were identified (with the action of the inversion centre generating two further orientations of the same occupancies). The geometries of all five unique orientations were optimised, the thermal parameters of adjacent atoms were restrained to be similar, and only the non-hydrogen atoms of the major occupancy orientation of the O90-based molecule were refined anisotropically (those of the minor occupancy orientations were refined isotropically).

The X-ray crystal structure of [2·Cu₂(L²)]

The C26-based isopropyl group in the structure of [2·Cu₂(L²)] was found to be disordered. Two orientations were identified of *ca.* 70 and 30% occupancy, their geometries were optimised, the thermal parameters of adjacent atoms were restrained to be similar, and only the non-hydrogen atoms of the major occupancy orientation were refined anisotropically (those of the minor occupancy orientation were refined isotropically).

The C71-based included *n*-hexane solvent molecule was found to be disordered across a centre of symmetry, and two unique orientations of *ca.* 28 and 22% occupancy were identified (with the action of the inversion centre generating two further orientations of the same occupancies). The geometries of both orientations were optimised, the thermal parameters of adjacent atoms were restrained to be similar, and all of the atoms were refined isotropically.

The X-ray crystal structure of [2·Cu₂(L³)₂]

The structure of [2·Cu₂(L³)₂] was refined as a 2-component inversion twin [Flack parameter $x = +0.21(2)$]. The molecule was found to have crystallographic *C*₂ symmetry about an axis that passes through N7 and C8.

The X-ray crystal structure of [2·Cu₂(L⁶)₂]

The hydrogen atoms on C41, C42, C51 and C52 in the structure of [2·Cu₂(L⁶)₂] were located from ΔF maps and refined freely subject to a C–H distance constraint of 1.00 Å.

The X-ray crystal structure of $[2 \cdot \text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^8)_2]$

The crystal of $[2 \cdot \text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^8)_2]$ that was studied was found to be a two component twin in a *ca.* 73:27 ratio, with the two lattices related by the approximate twin law $[-0.21 \ 0.82 \ -0.40 \ 0.79 \ -0.18 \ -0.40 \ -0.79 \ -0.82 \ -0.60]$. The hydrogen atoms on C41, C42, C51 and C52 were located from ΔF maps and refined freely subject to a C–H distance constraint of 1.00 Å.

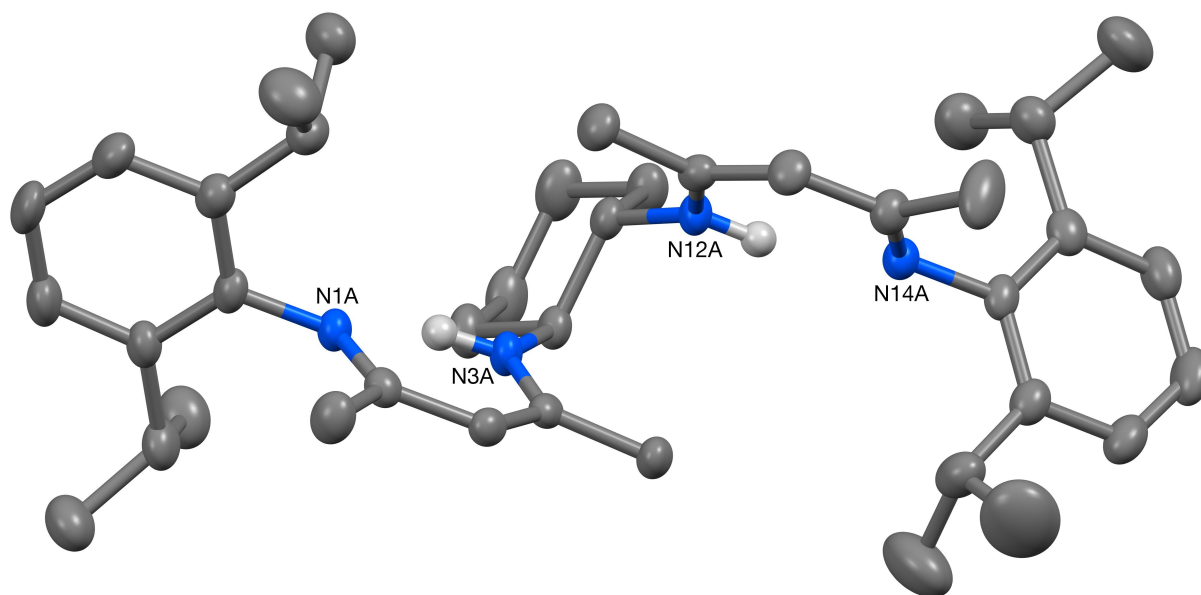


Fig. S1 The structure of one, $1 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{-A}$, of the two independent molecules present in the crystal of $1 \cdot \text{H}_2$ (50% probability ellipsoids).

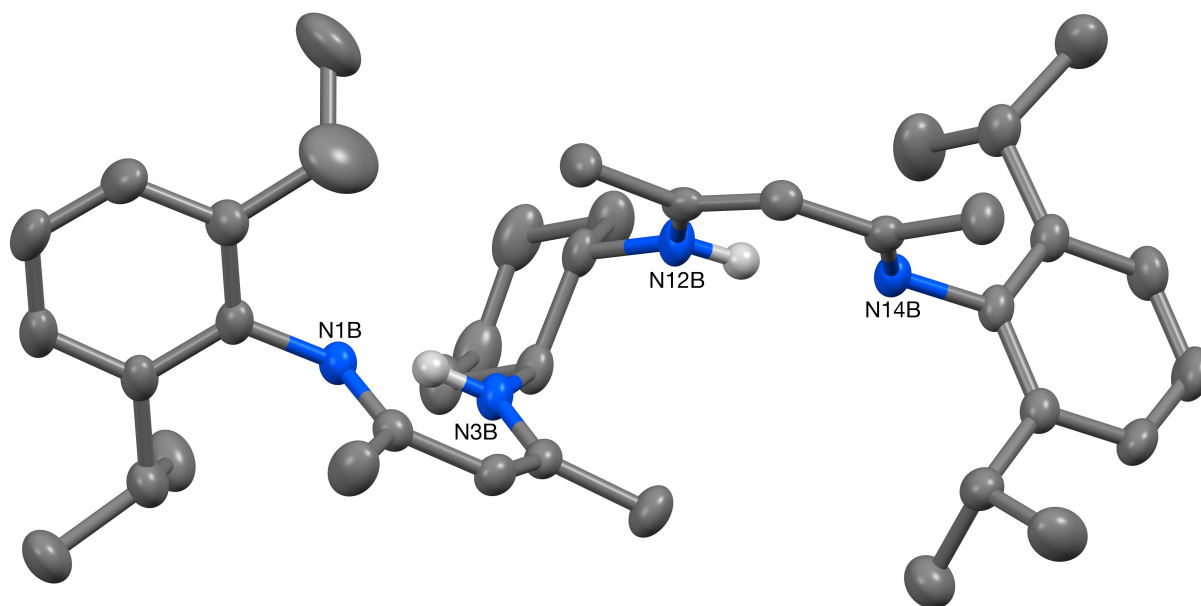


Fig. S2 The structure of one, $1 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{-B}$, of the two independent molecules present in the crystal of $1 \cdot \text{H}_2$ (50% probability ellipsoids).

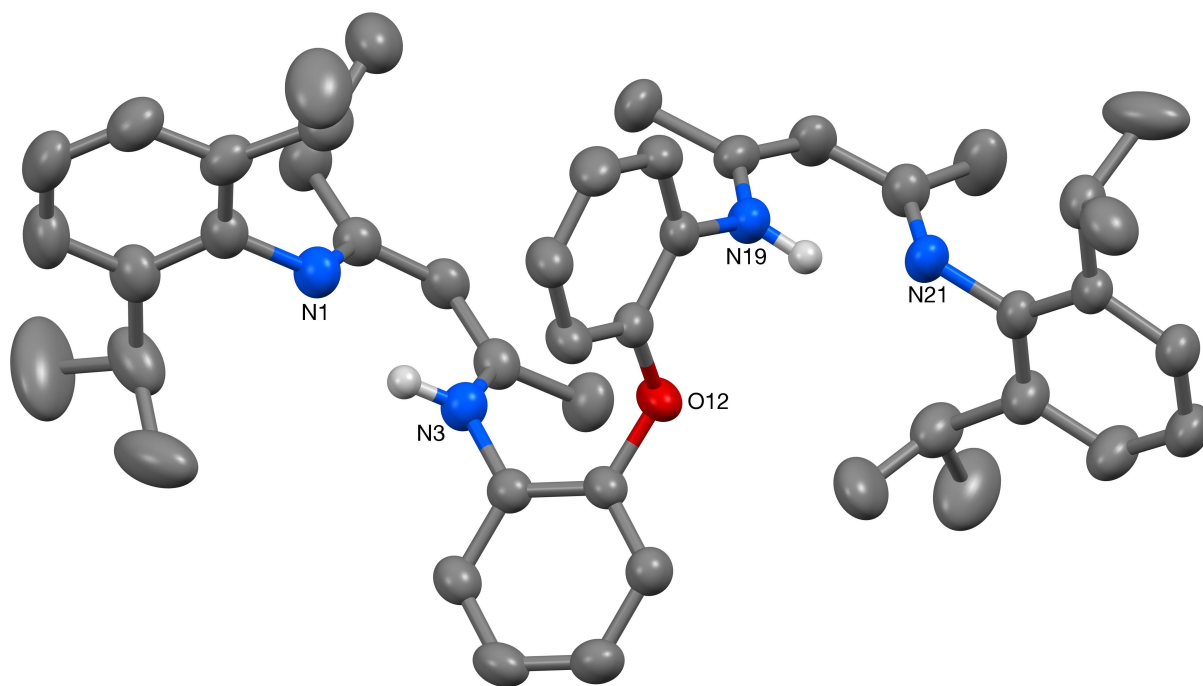


Fig. S3 The crystal structure of $3 \cdot \text{H}_2$ (50% probability ellipsoids).

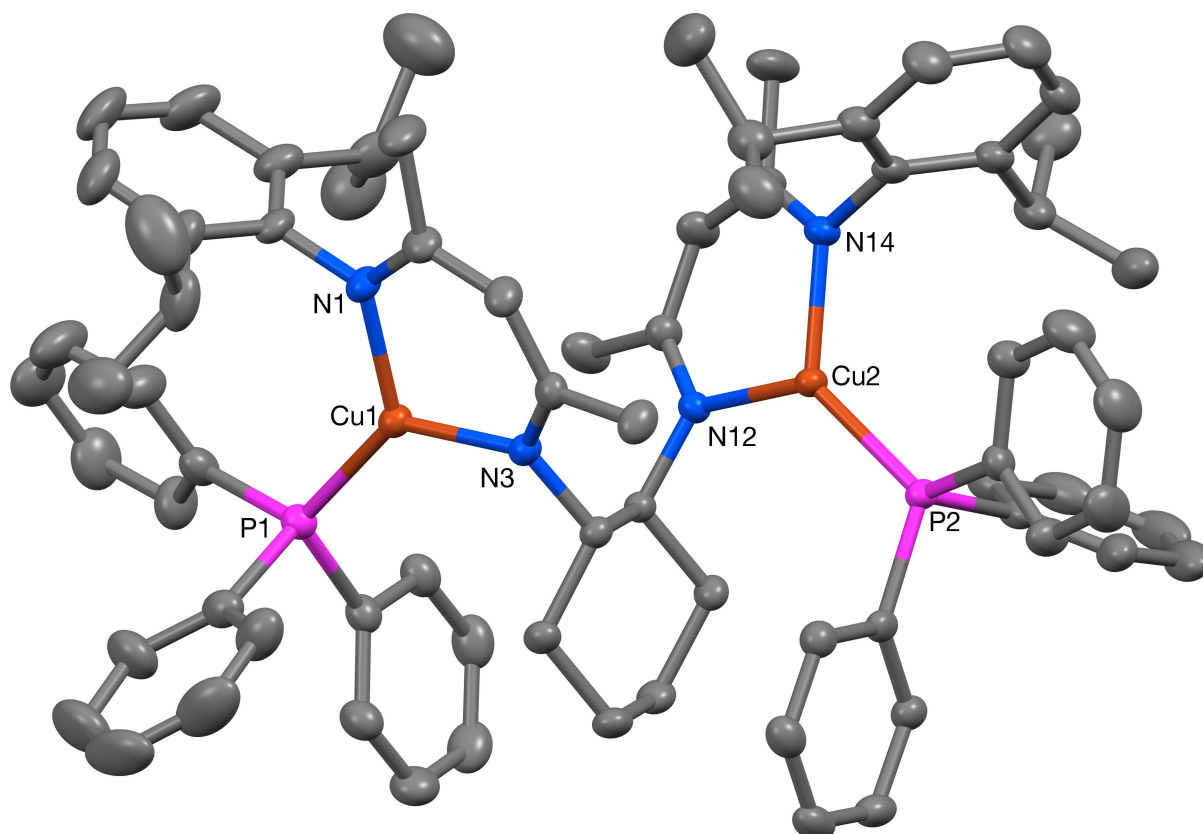


Fig. S4 The crystal structure of $[1 \cdot \text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^1)_2]$ (50% probability ellipsoids).

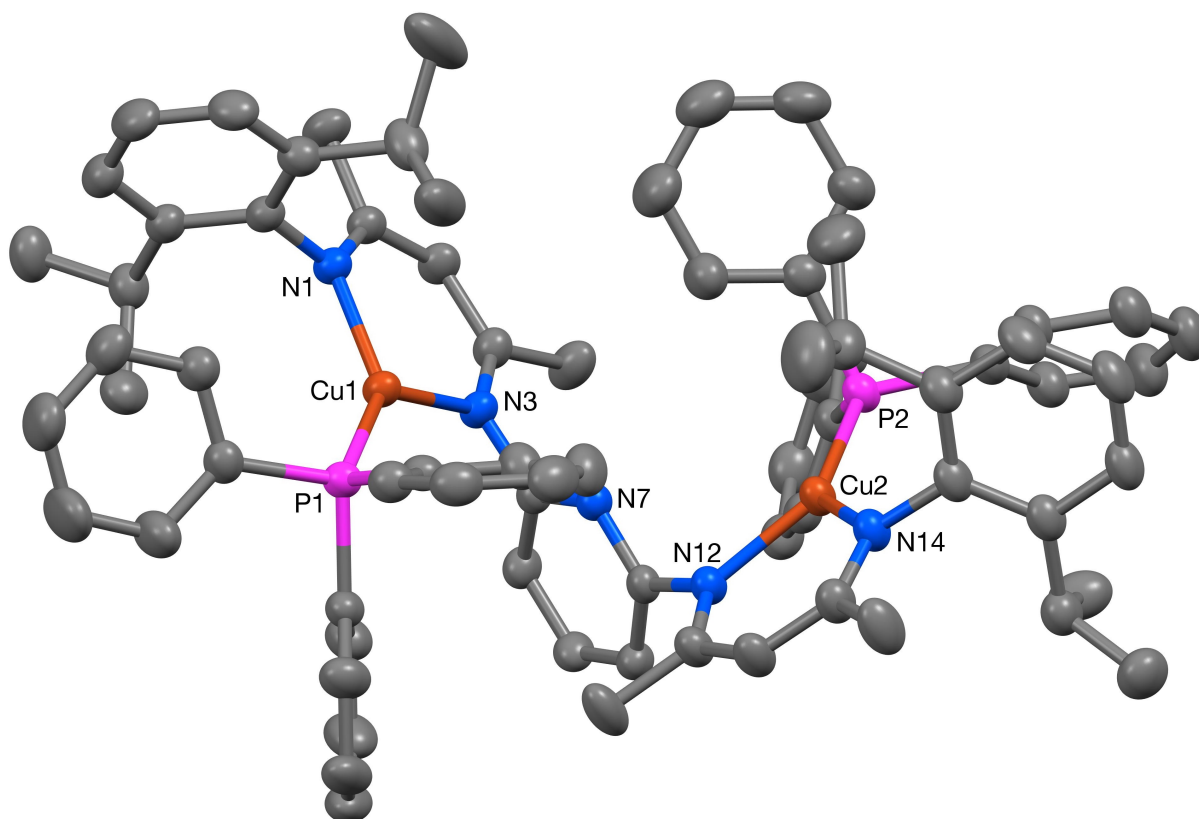


Fig. S5 The crystal structure of $[2 \cdot \text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^1)_2] \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (50% probability ellipsoids).

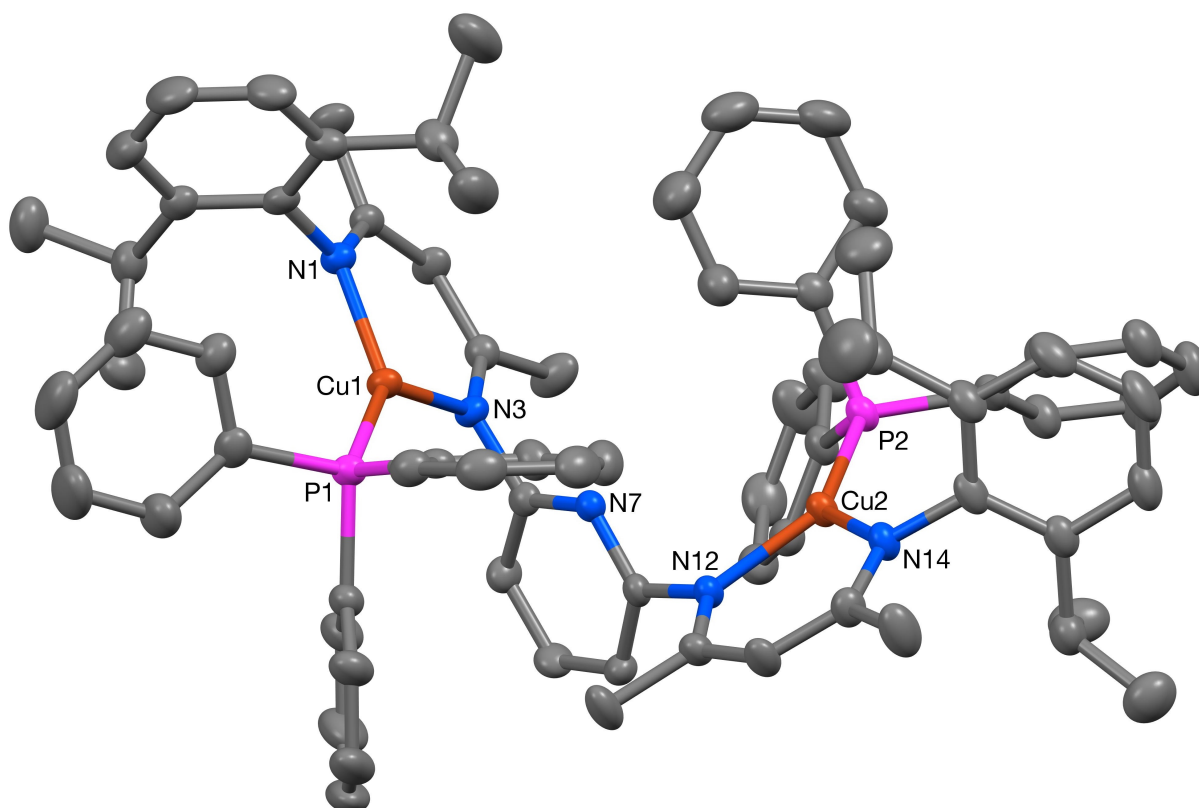


Fig. S6 The crystal structure of $[2 \cdot \text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^1)_2] \cdot \text{thf}$ (50% probability ellipsoids).

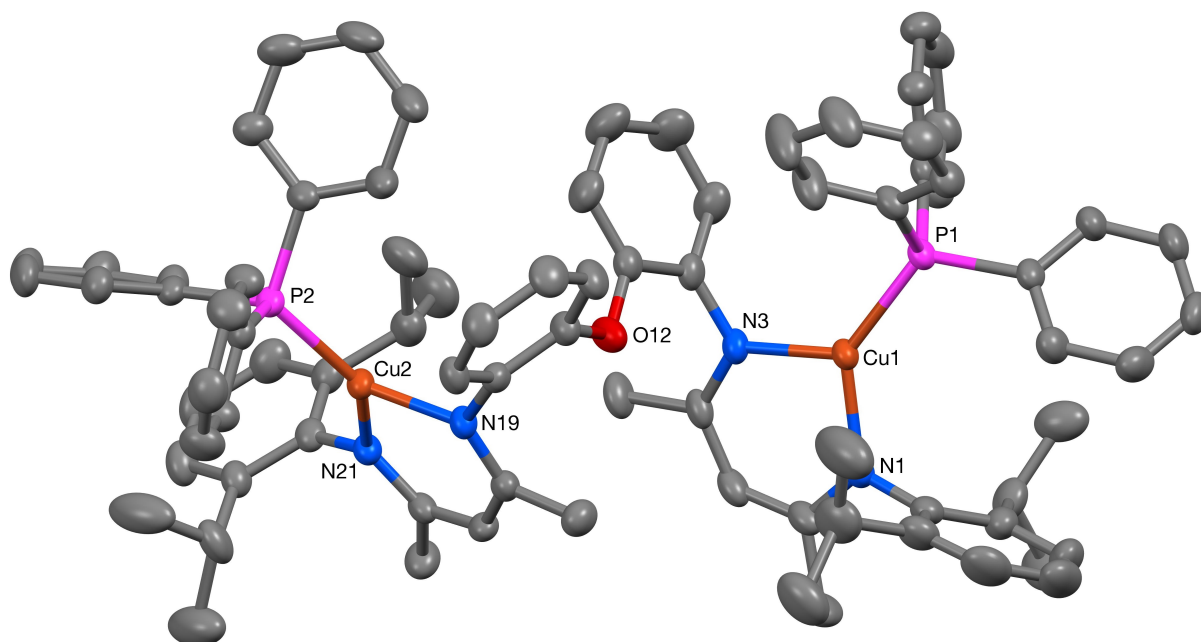


Fig. S7 The crystal structure of $[3 \cdot \text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^1)_2]$ (50% probability ellipsoids).

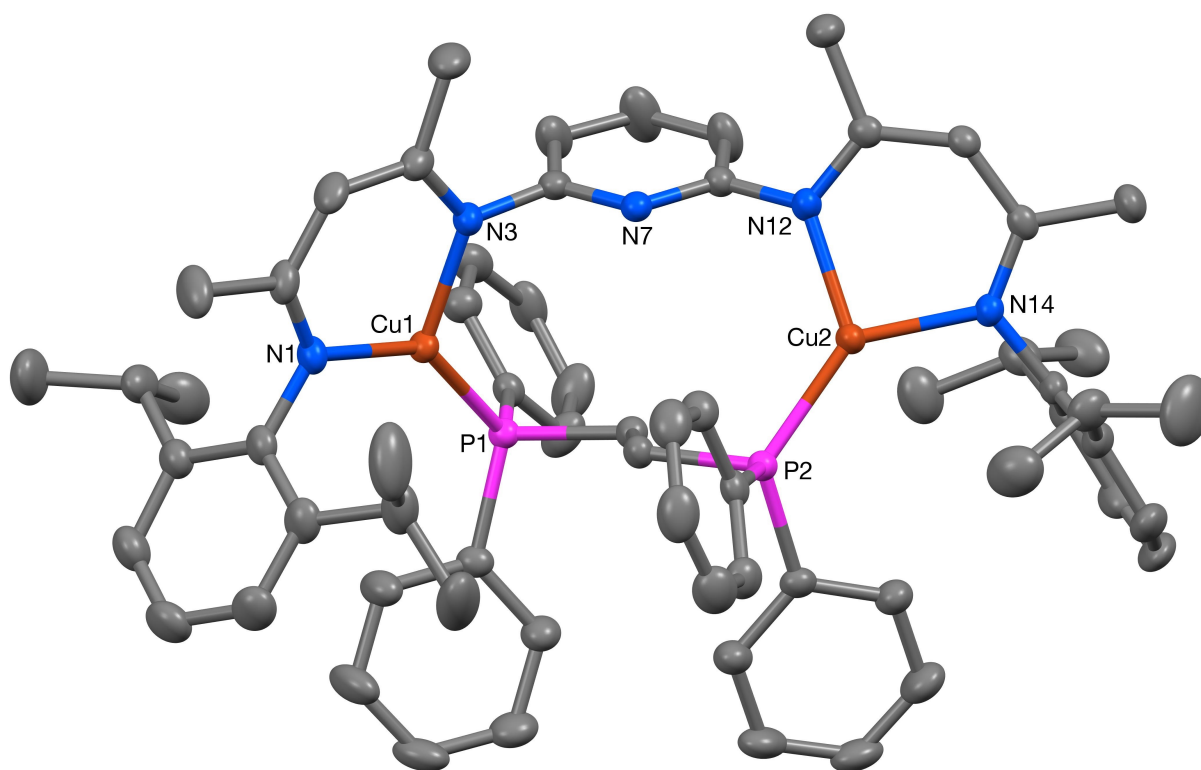


Fig. S8 The crystal structure of $[2 \cdot \text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^2)]$ (50% probability ellipsoids).

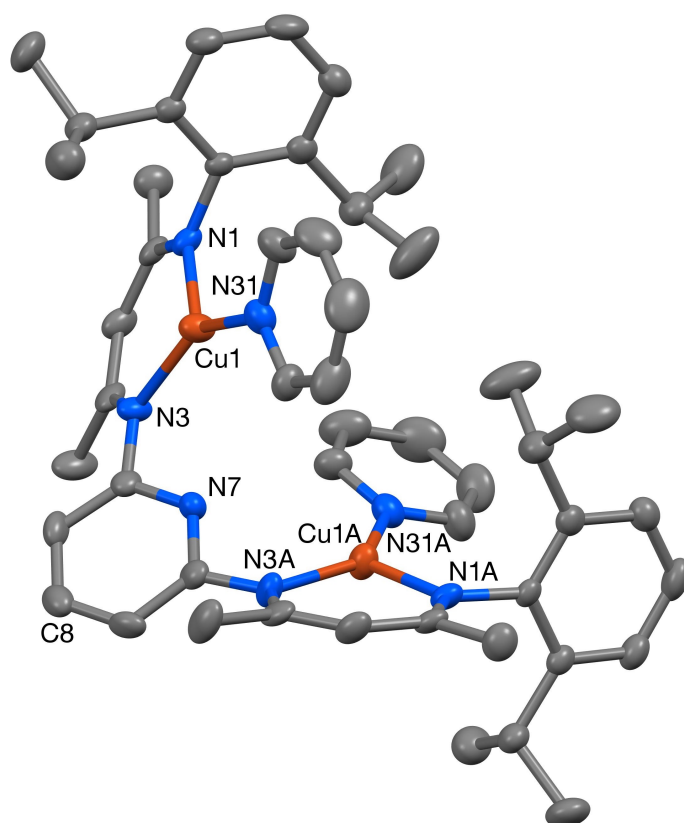


Fig. S9 The crystal structure of the C_2 -symmetric complex $[2 \cdot \text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^3)_2]$ (50% probability ellipsoids).

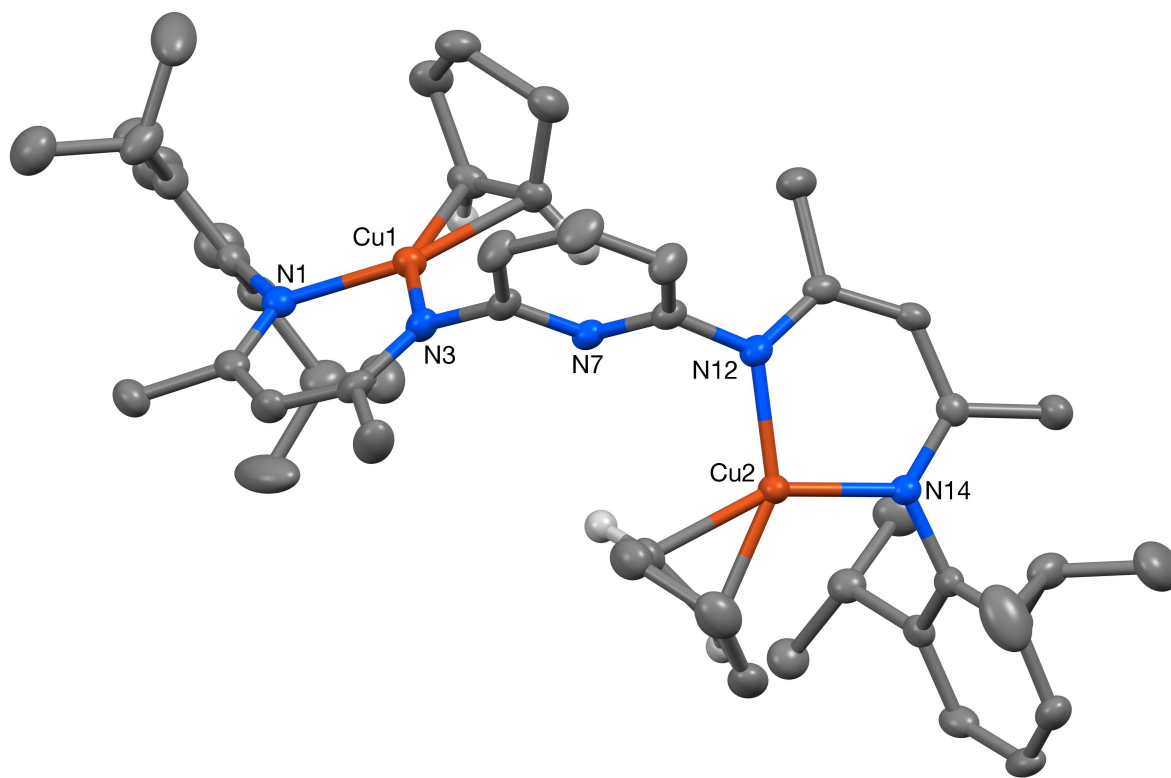


Fig. S10 The crystal structure of $[2 \cdot \text{Cu}_2(\text{L}^6)_2]$ (50% probability ellipsoids).

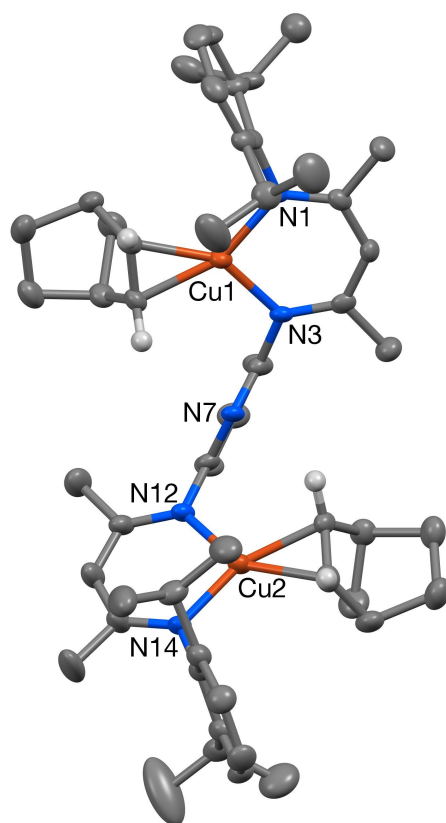
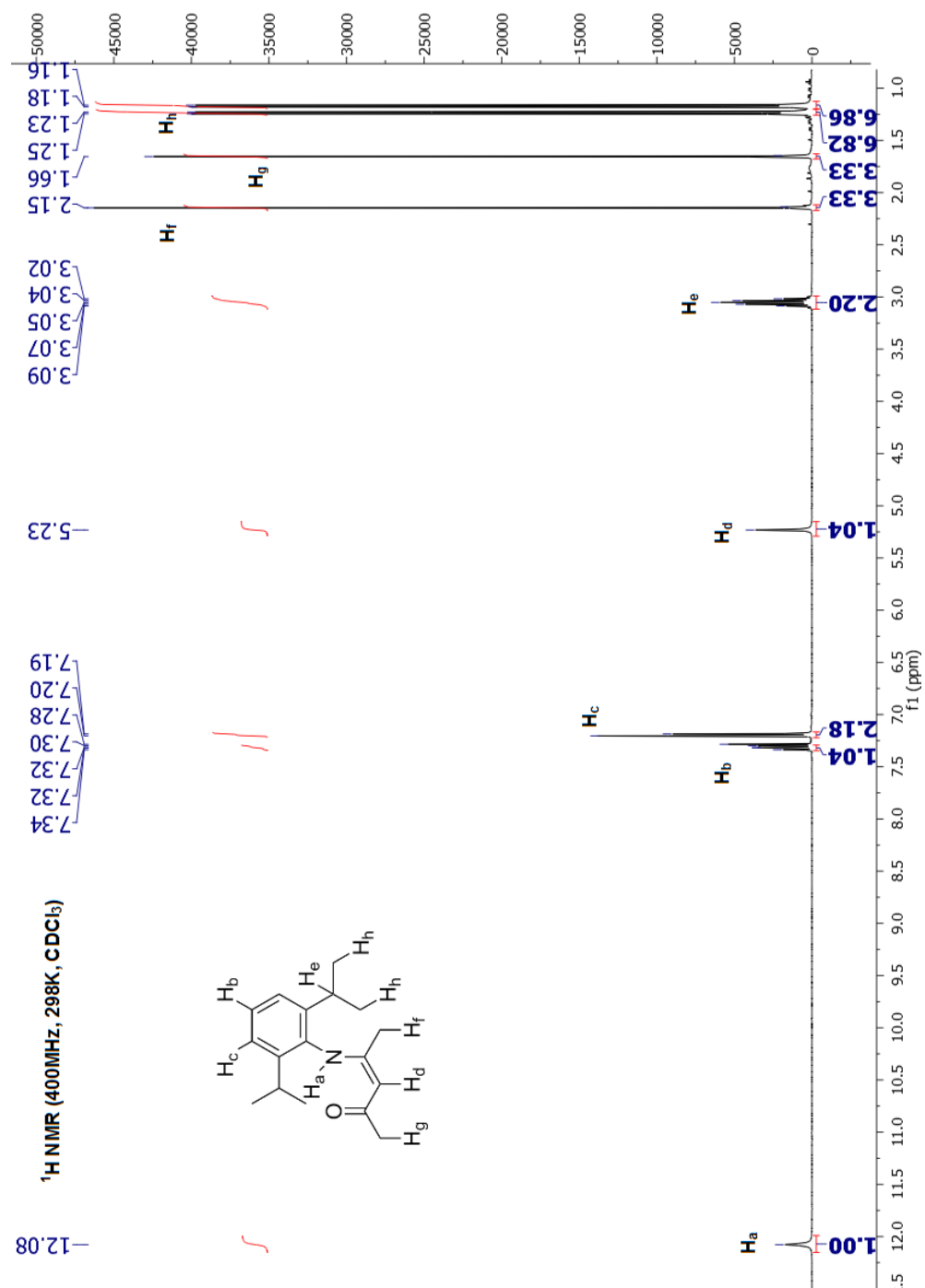
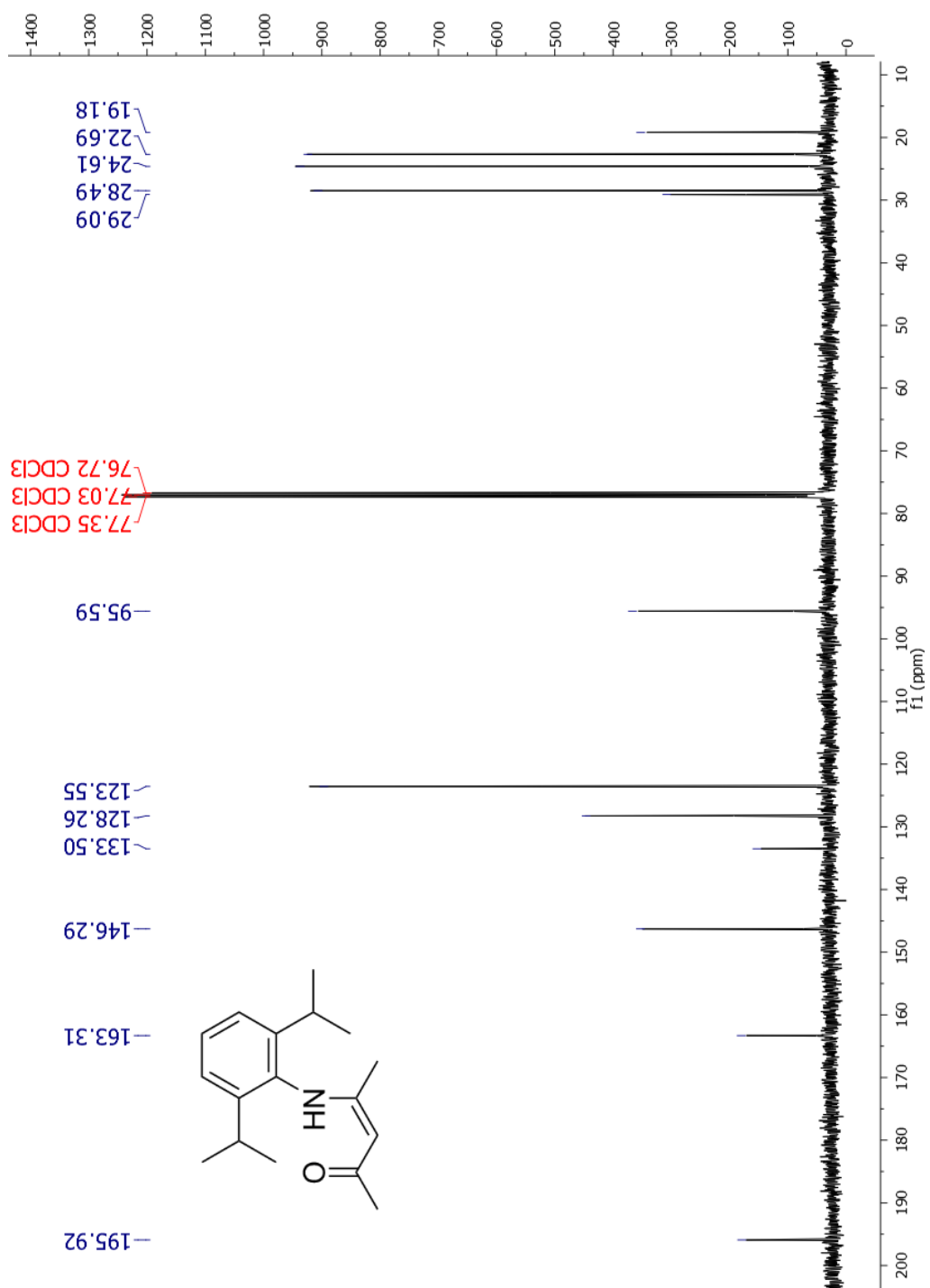
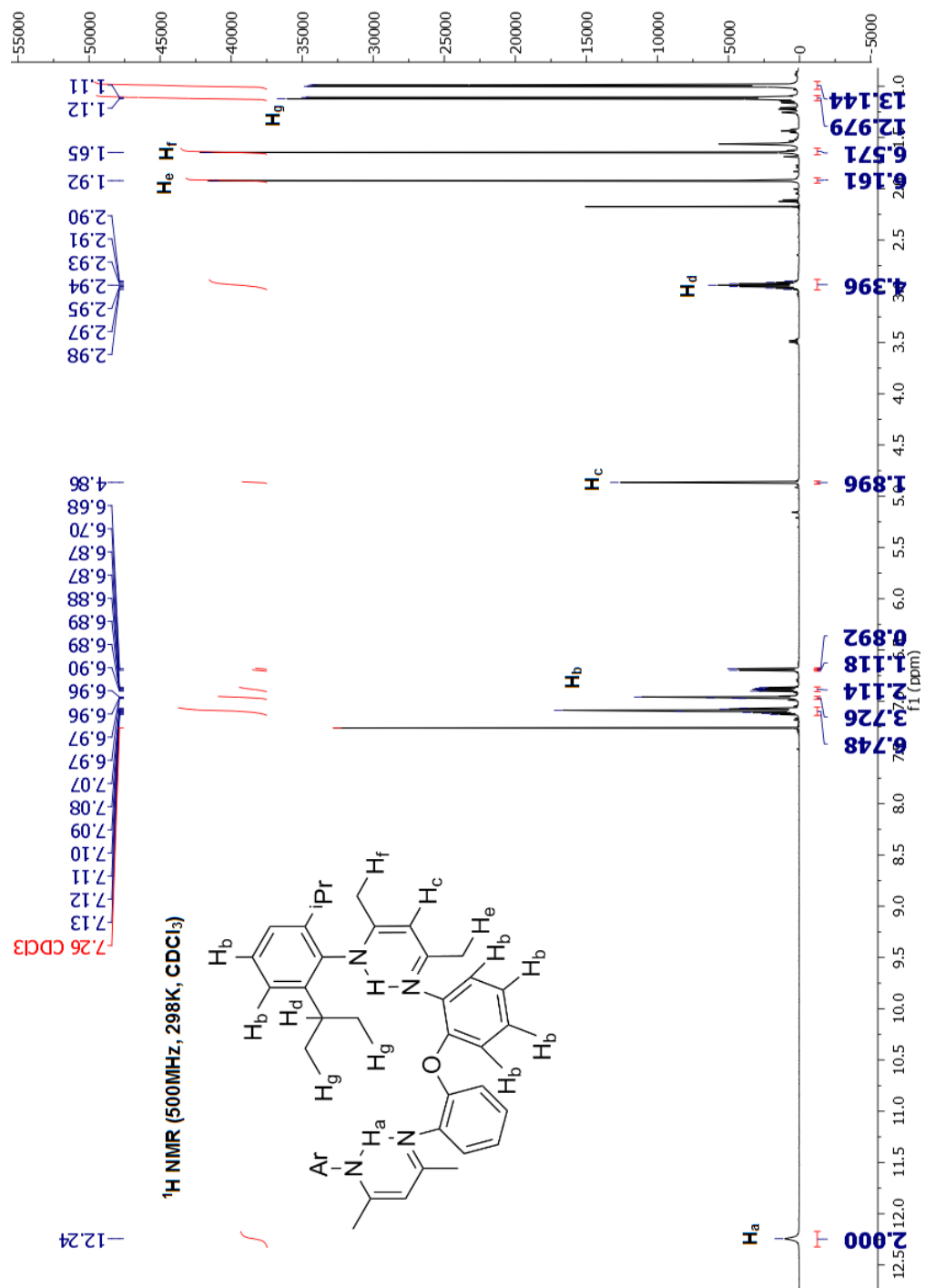


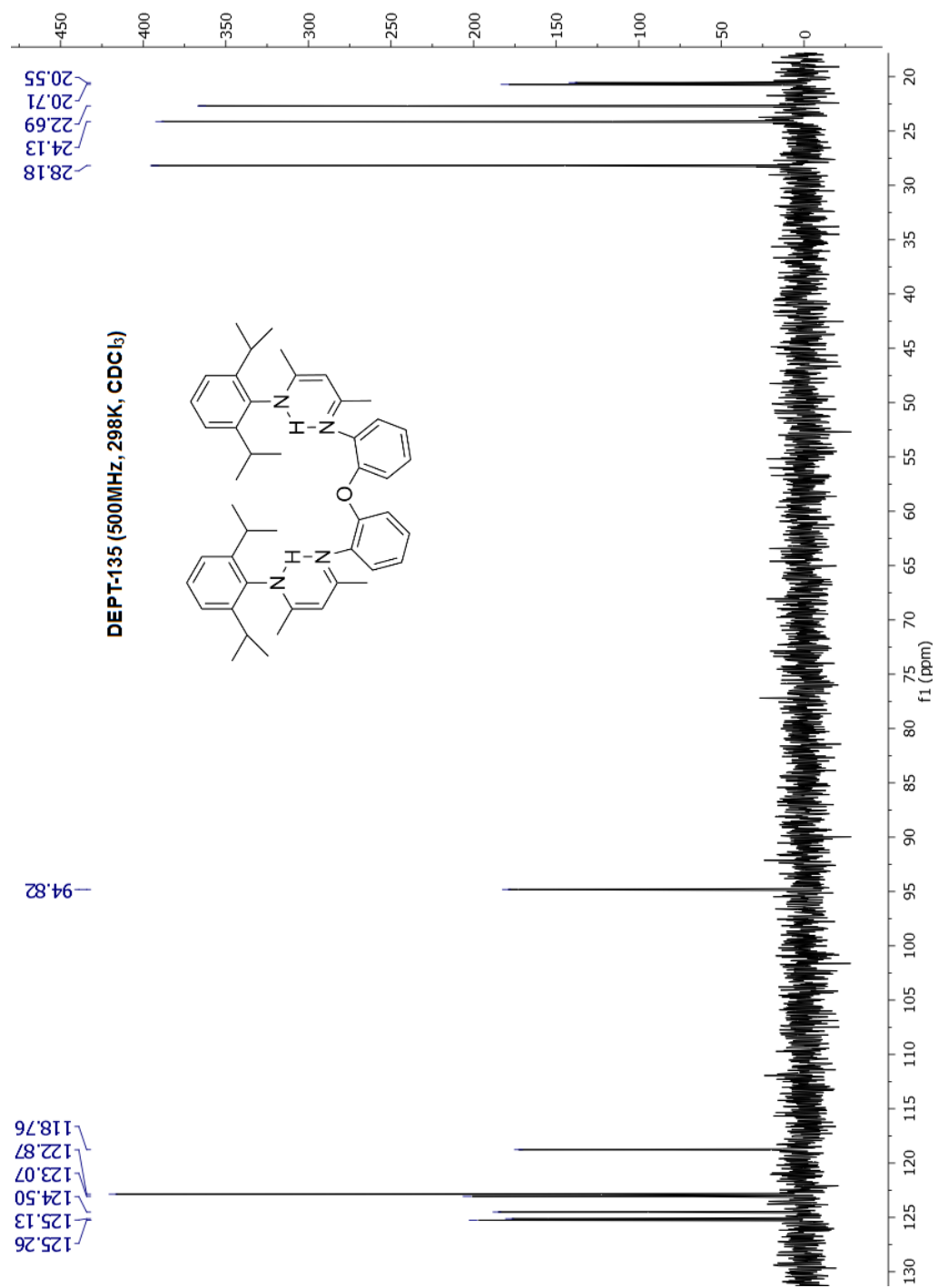
Fig. S11 The crystal structure of [2·Cu₂(L⁸)₂] (50% probability ellipsoids).

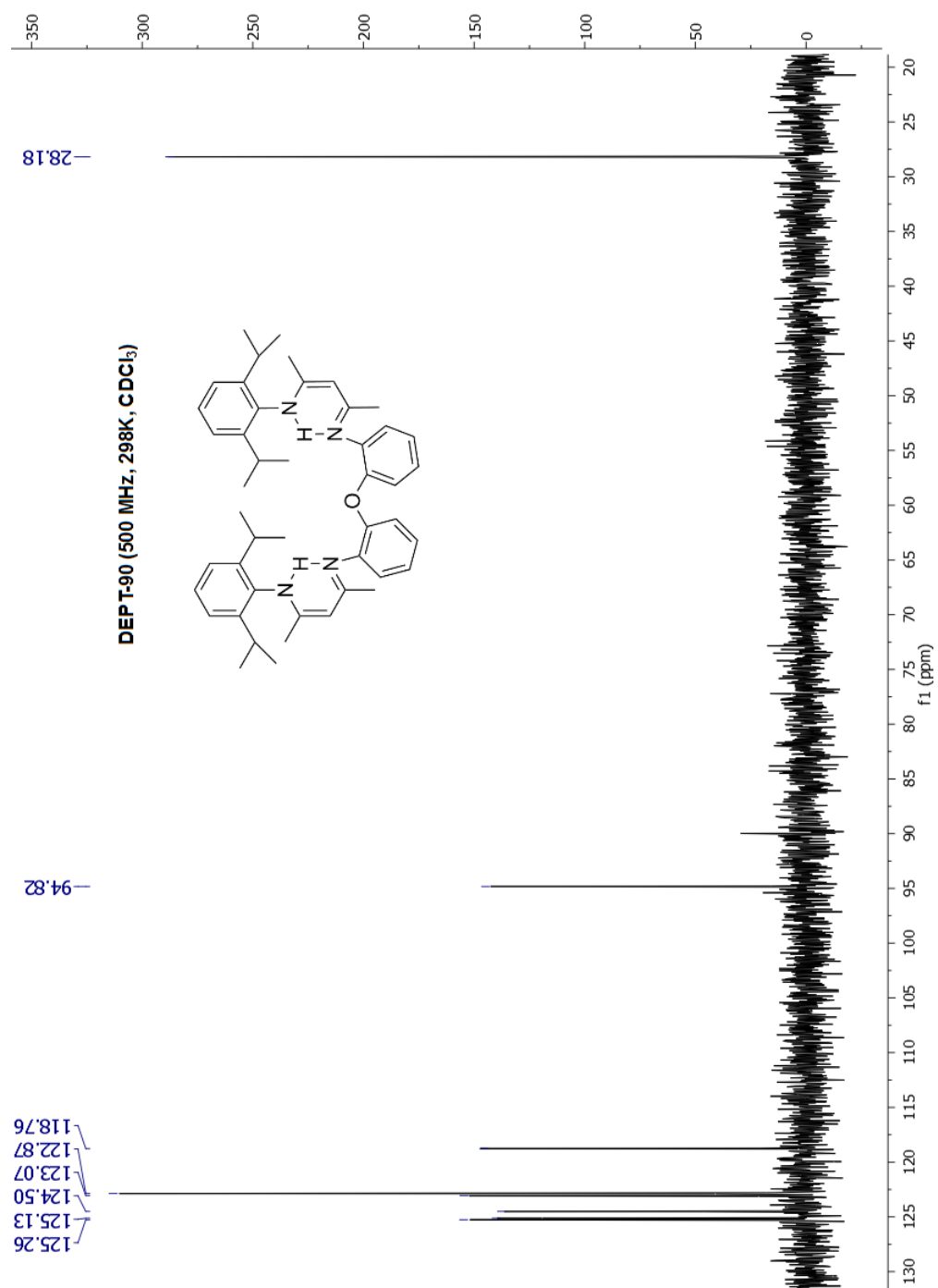
3. Multinuclear NMR data

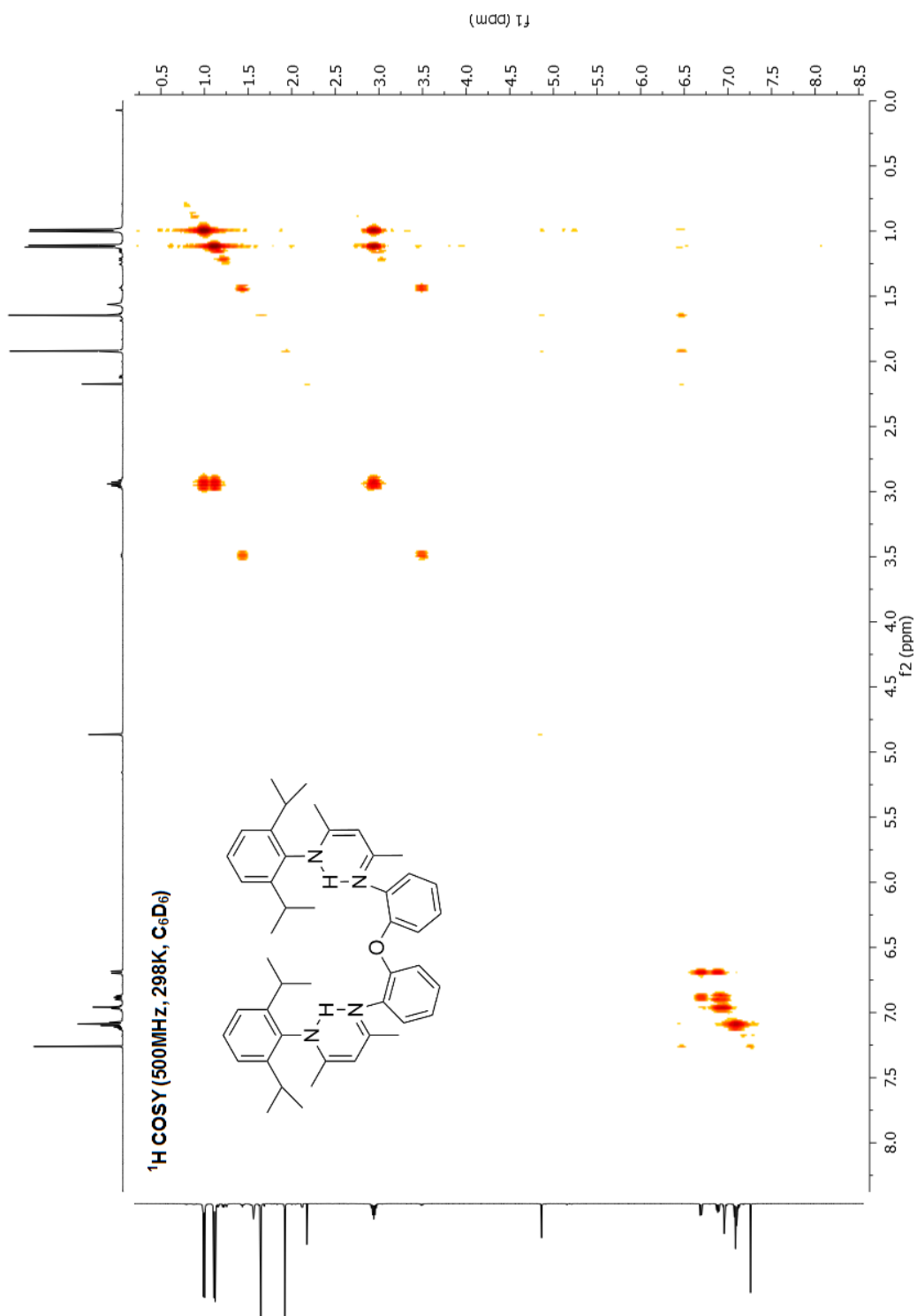


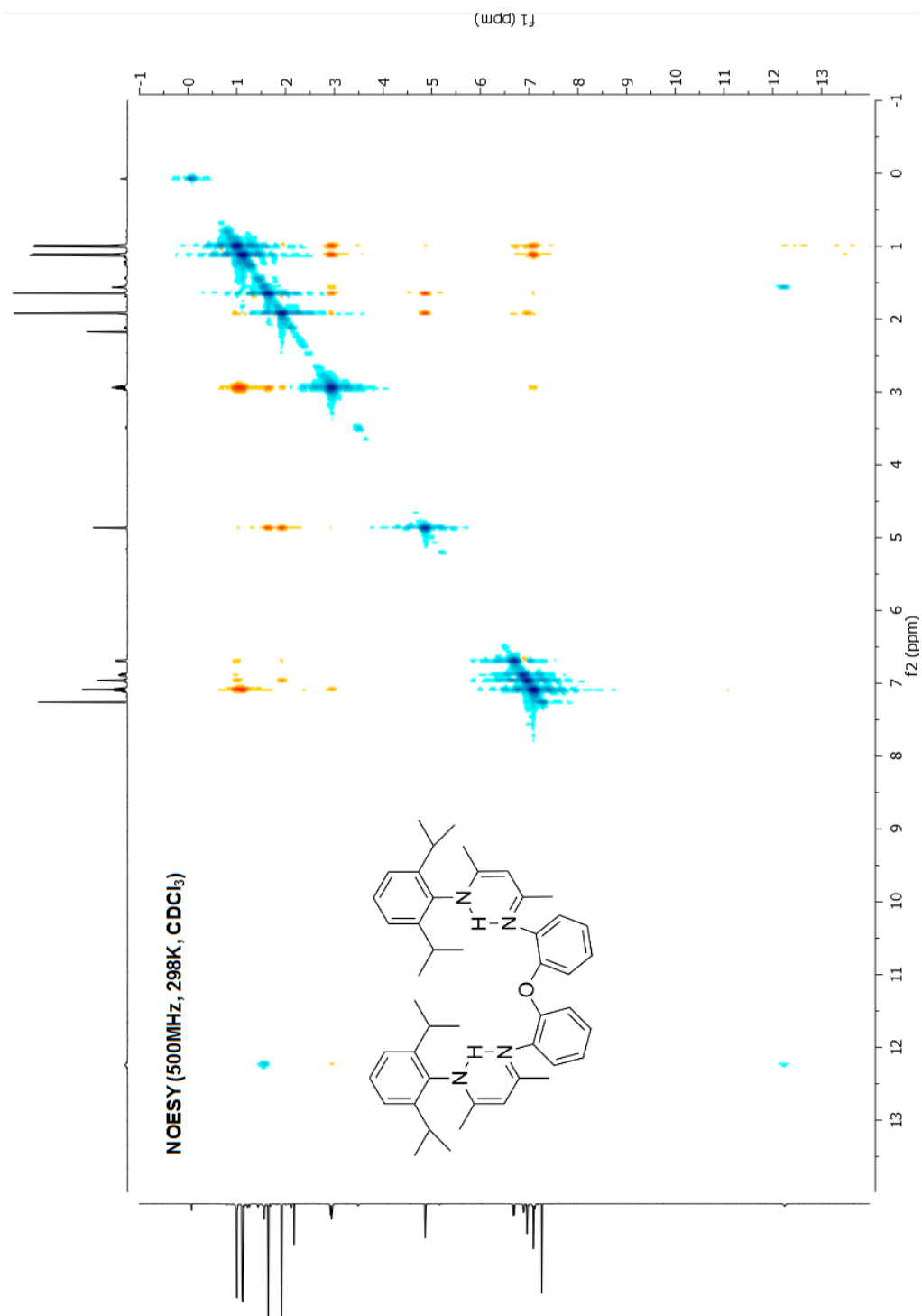


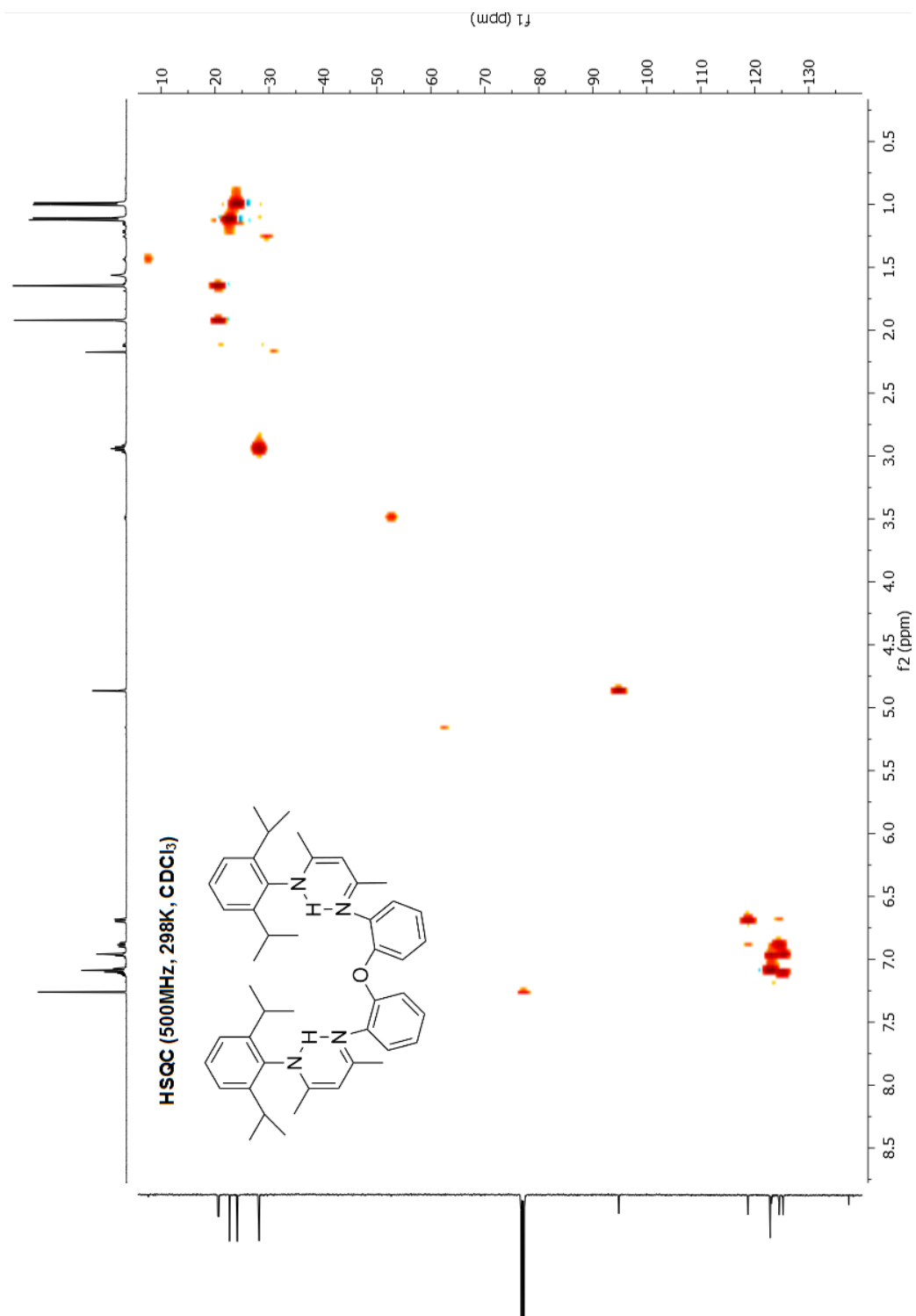


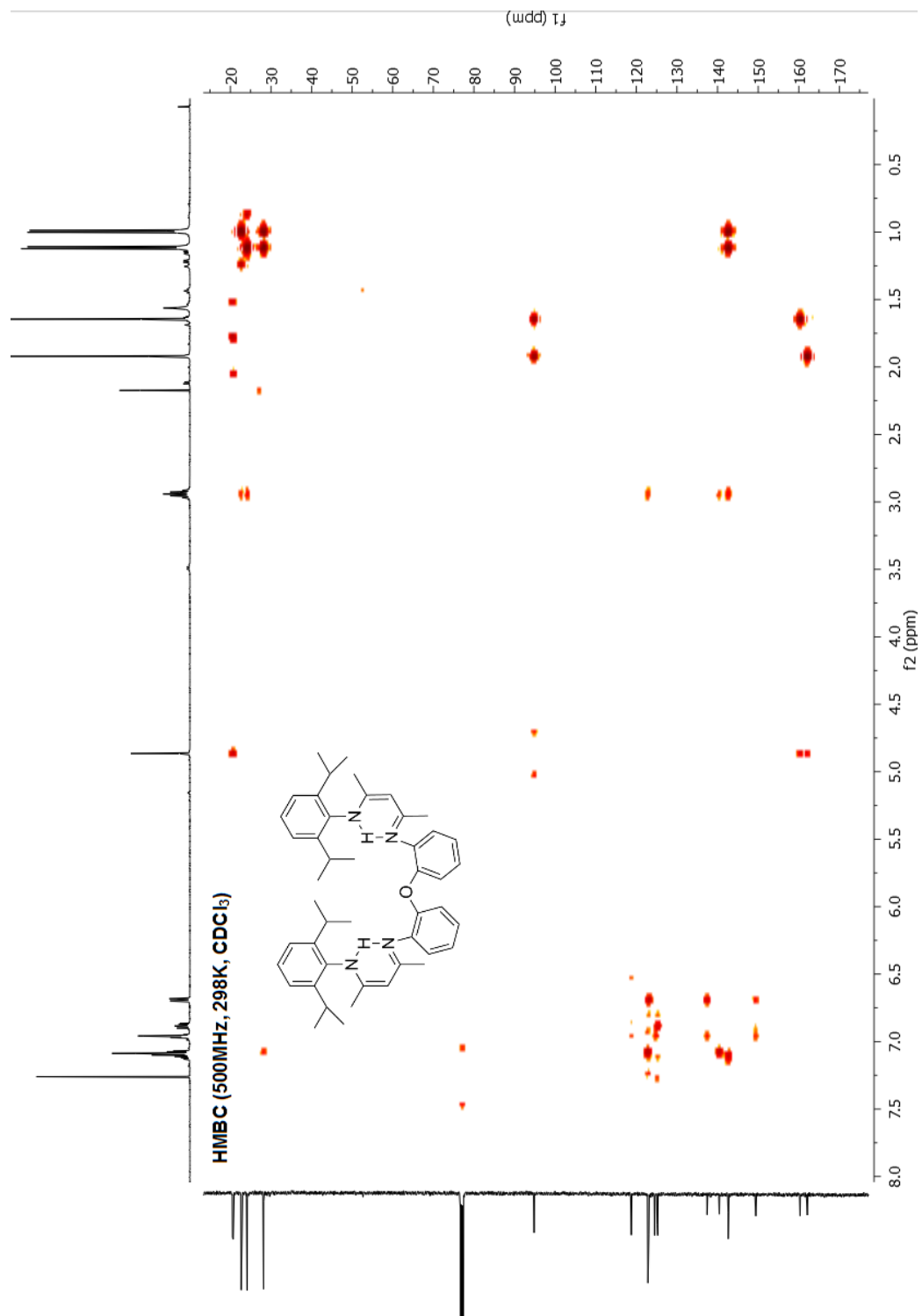




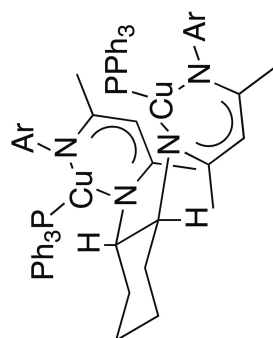




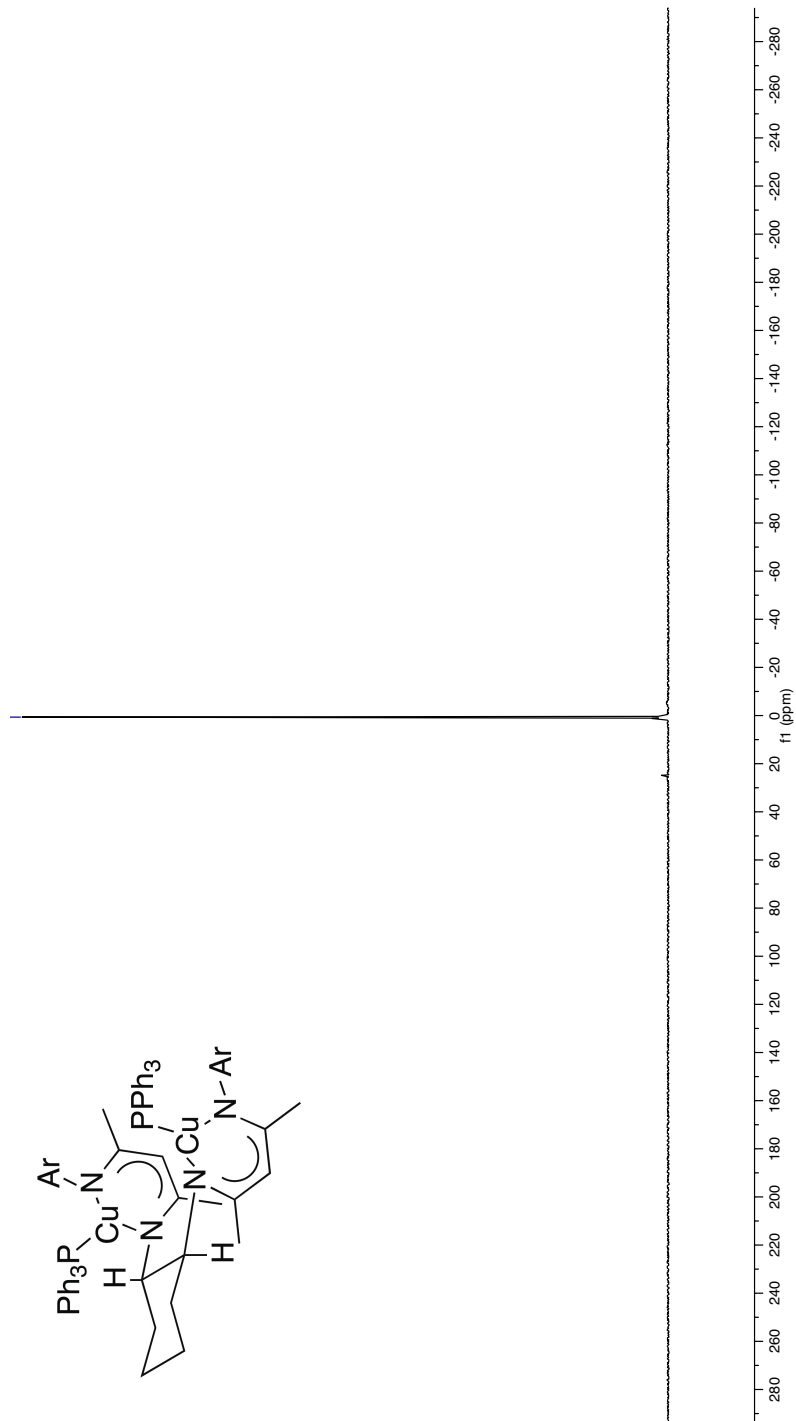


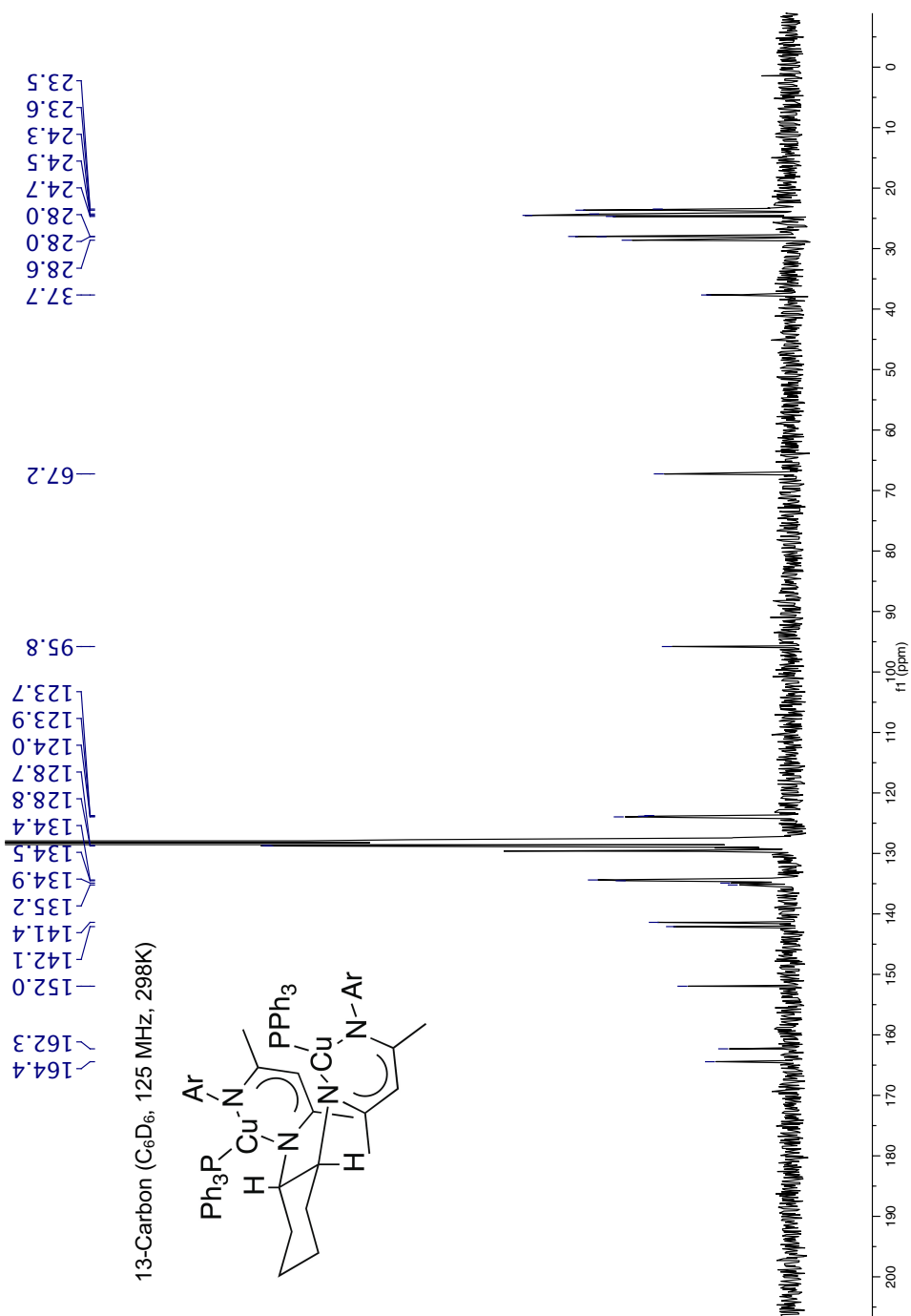


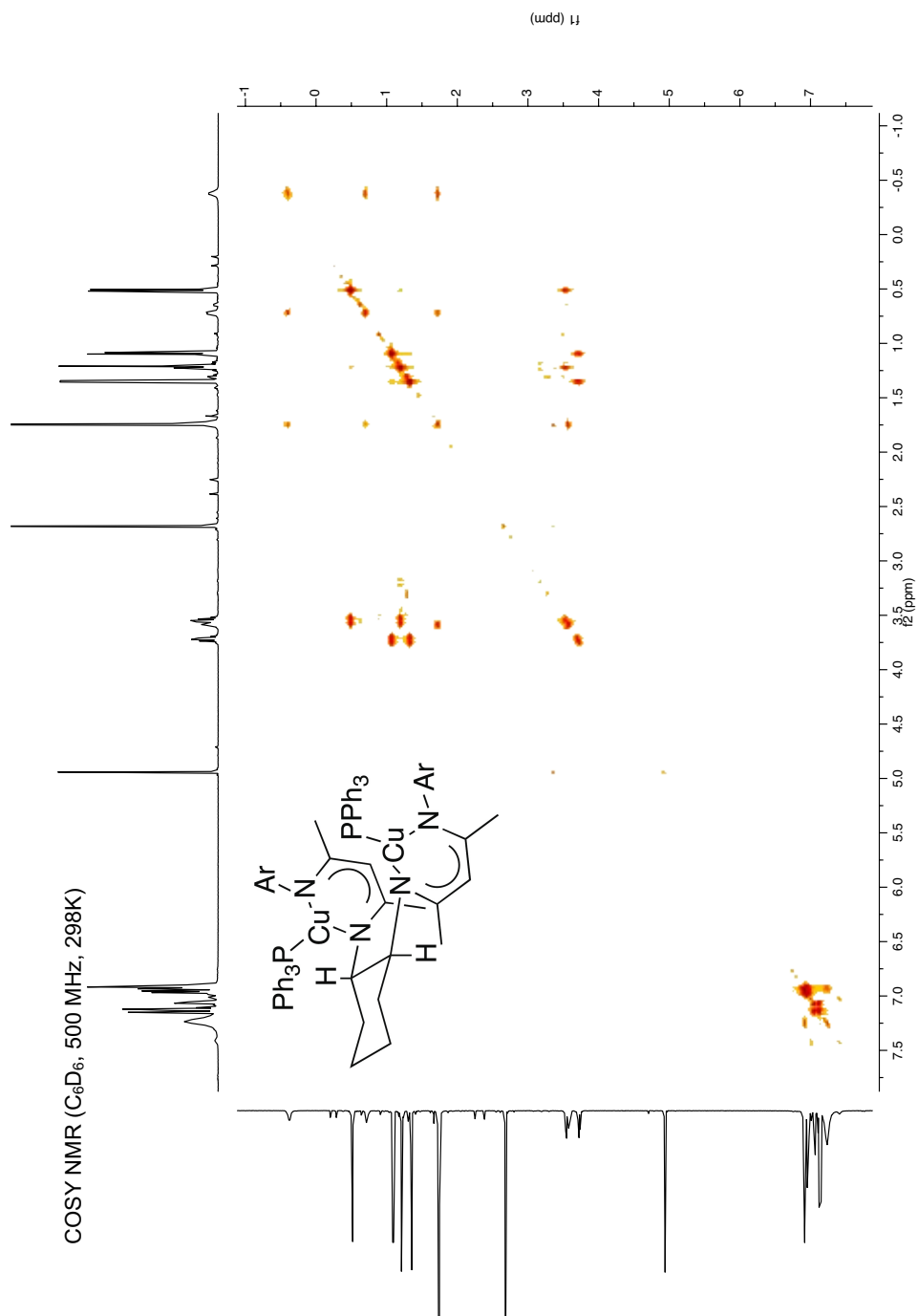
^{31}P NMR (C_6D_6 , 202 MHz, 298K)

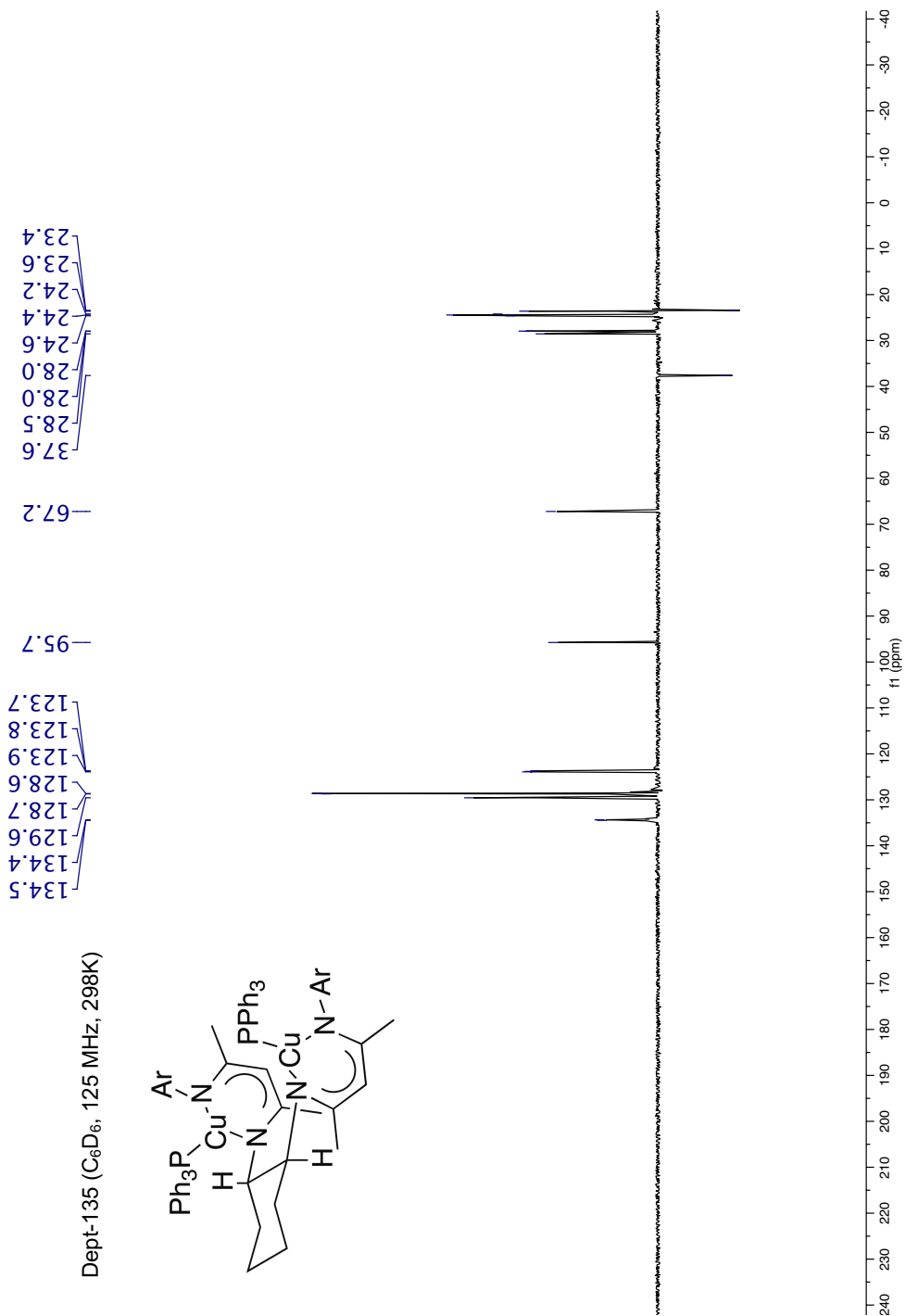


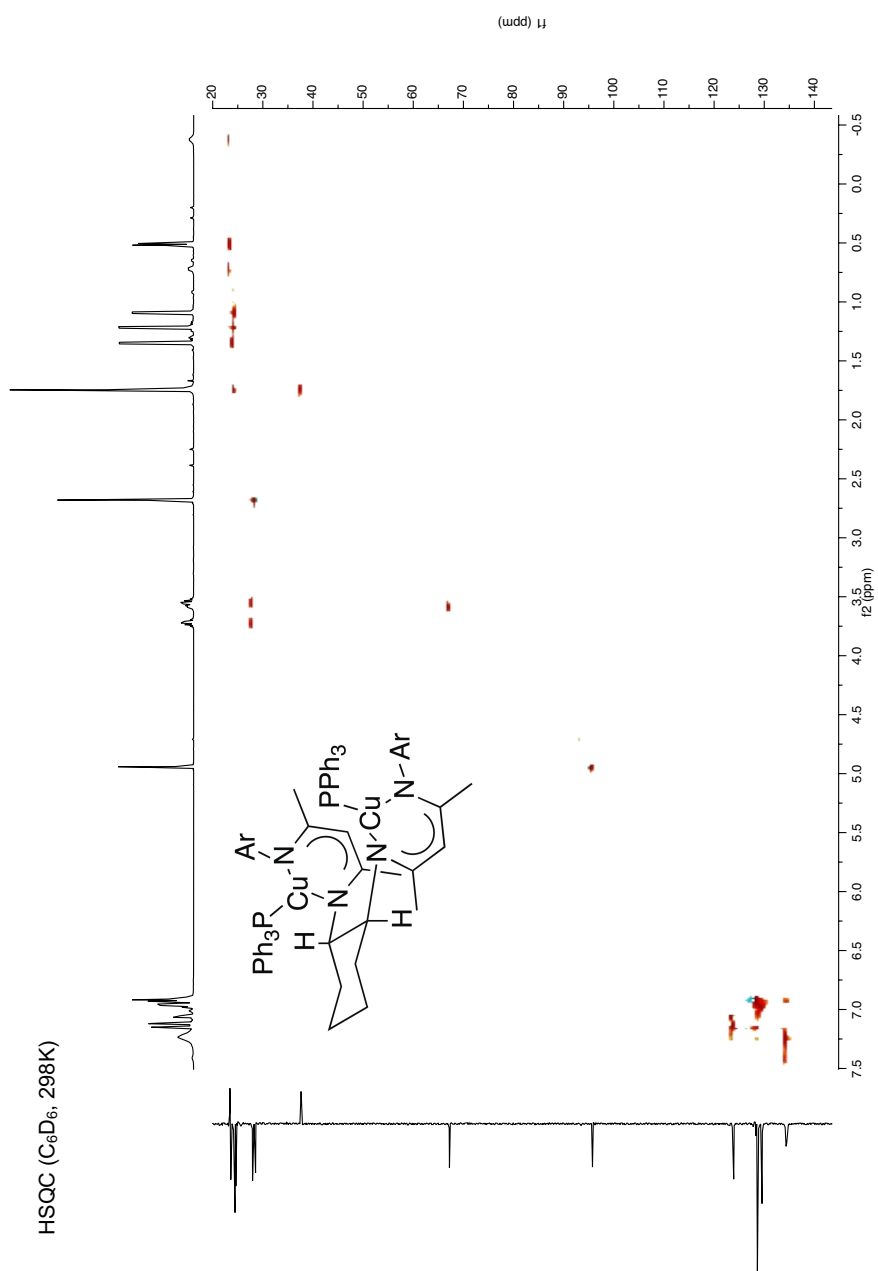
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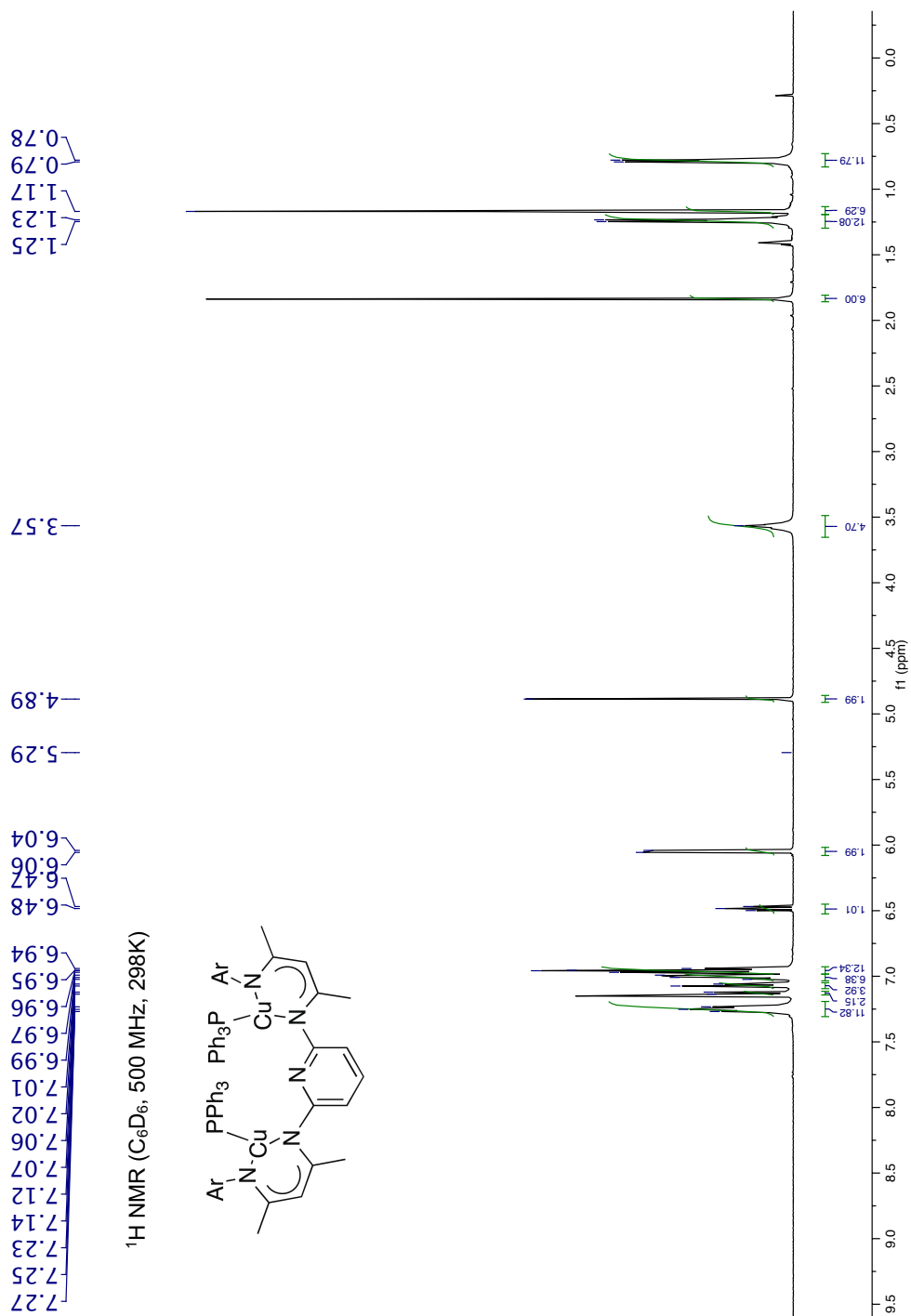




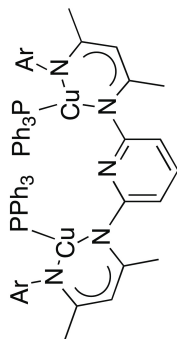




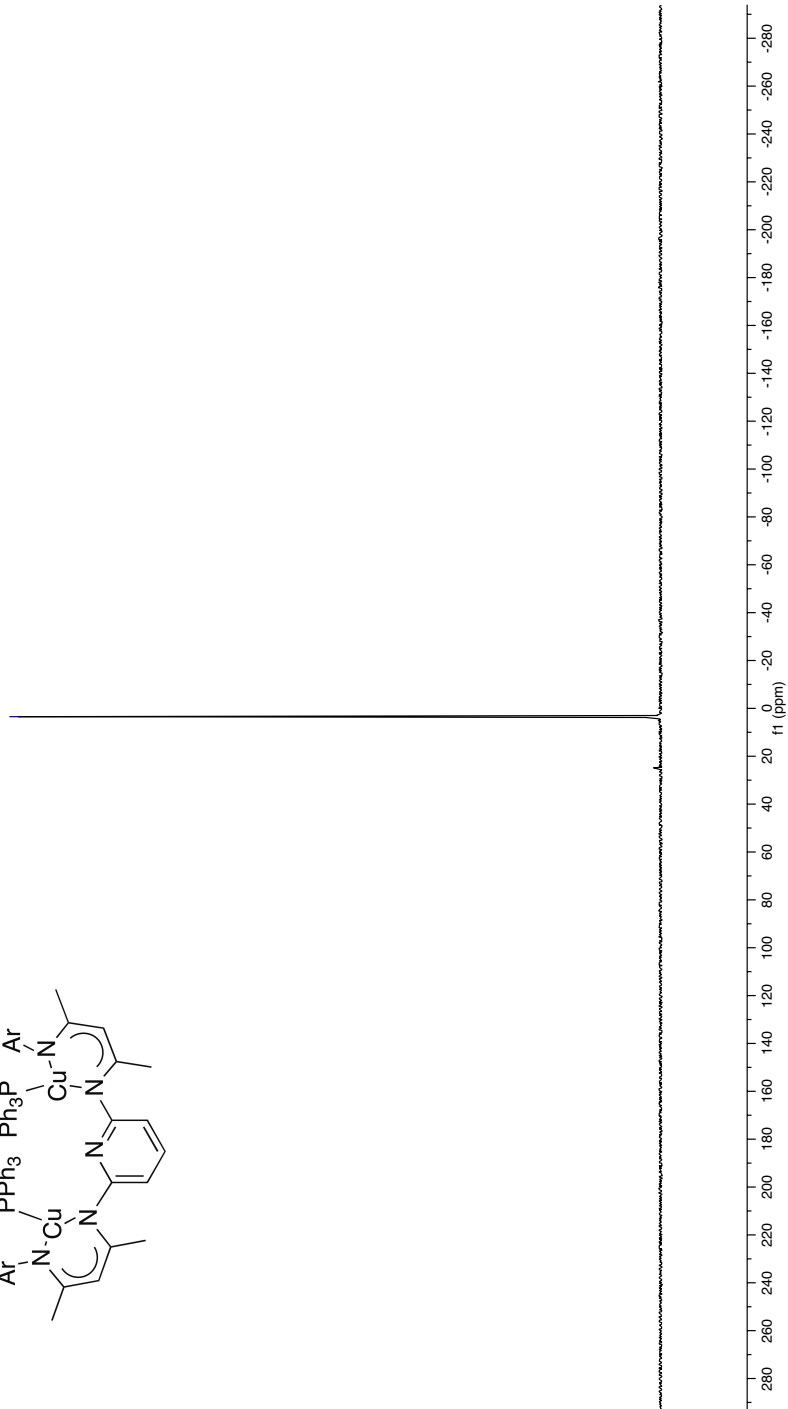




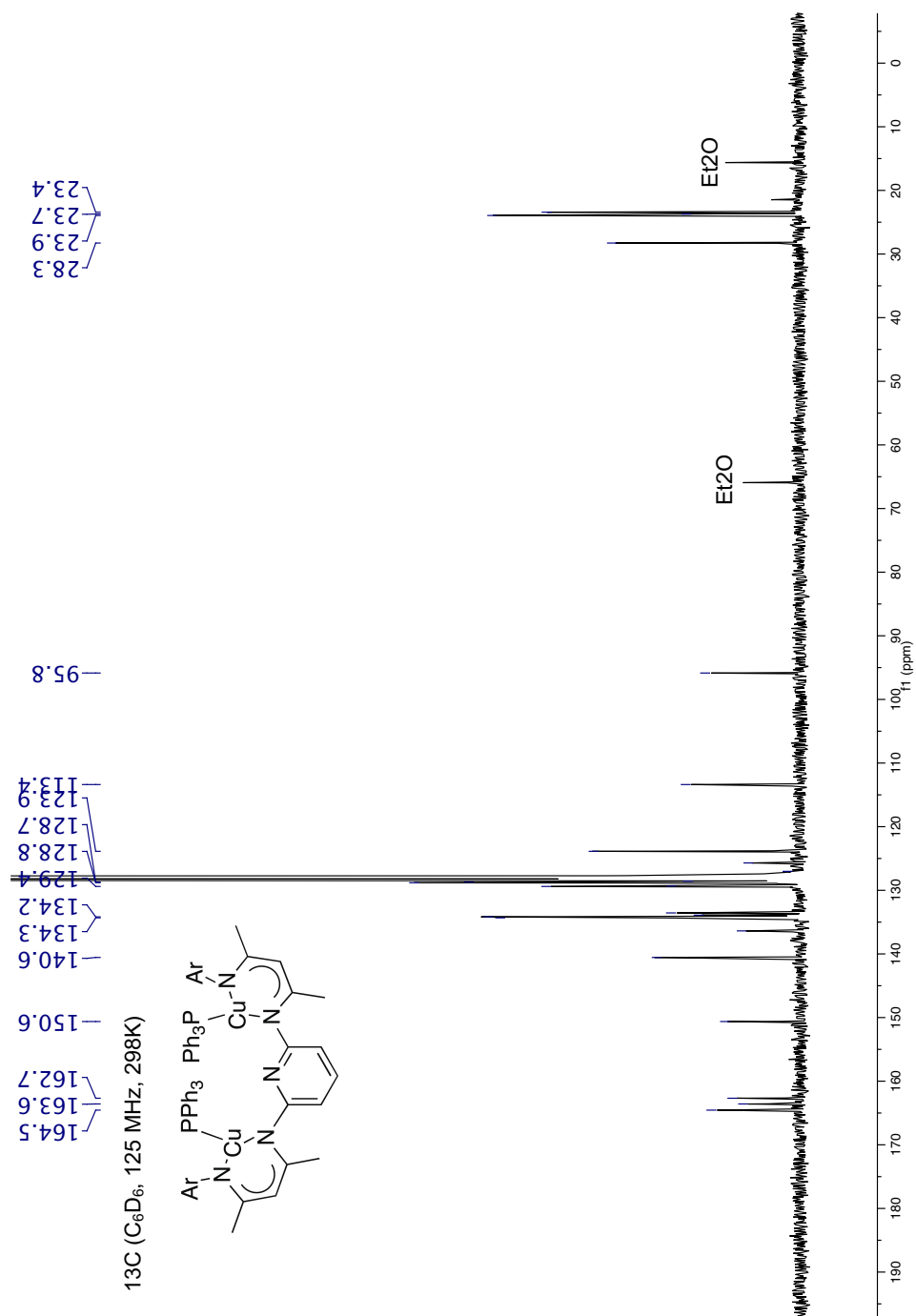
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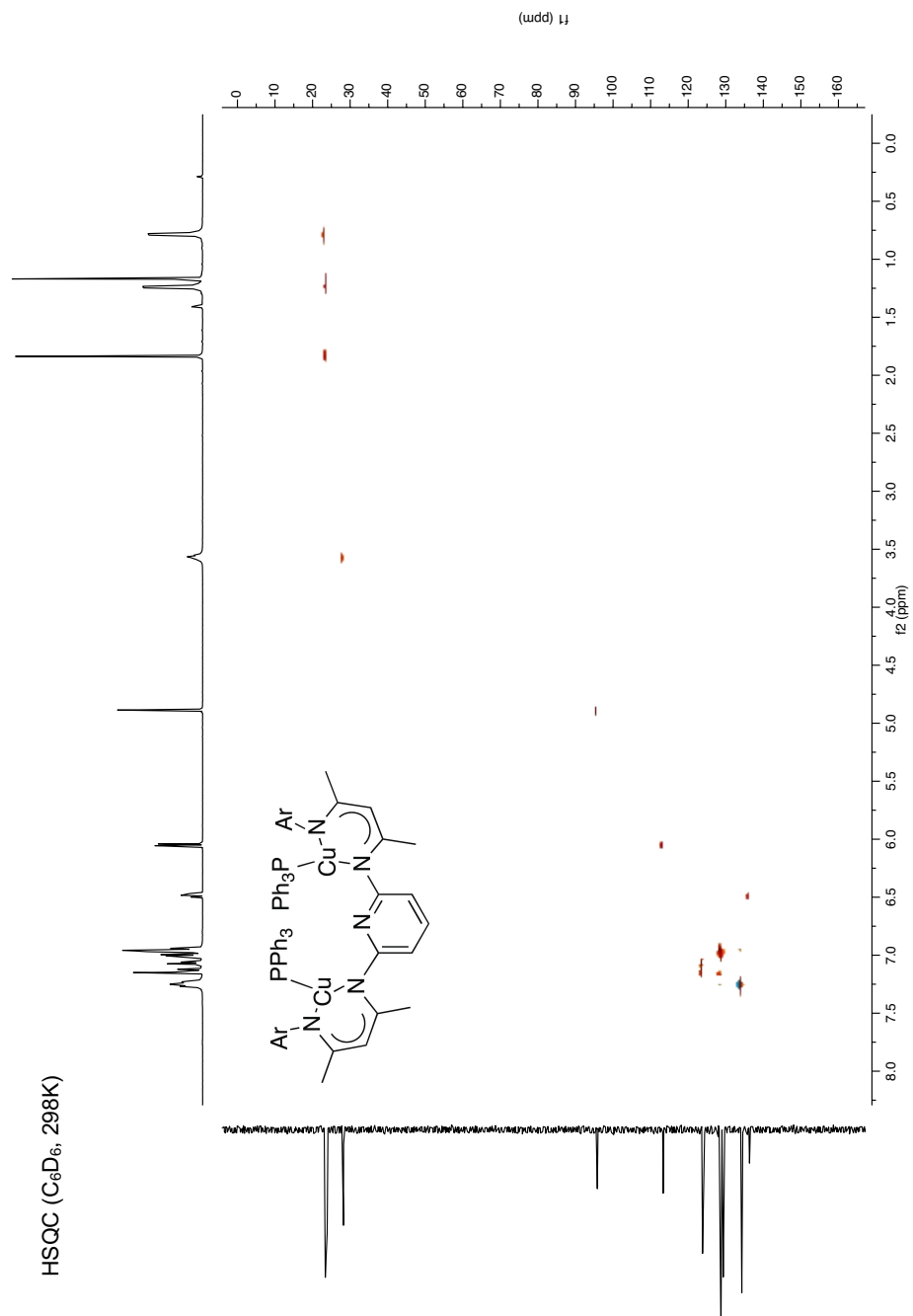
—3.47

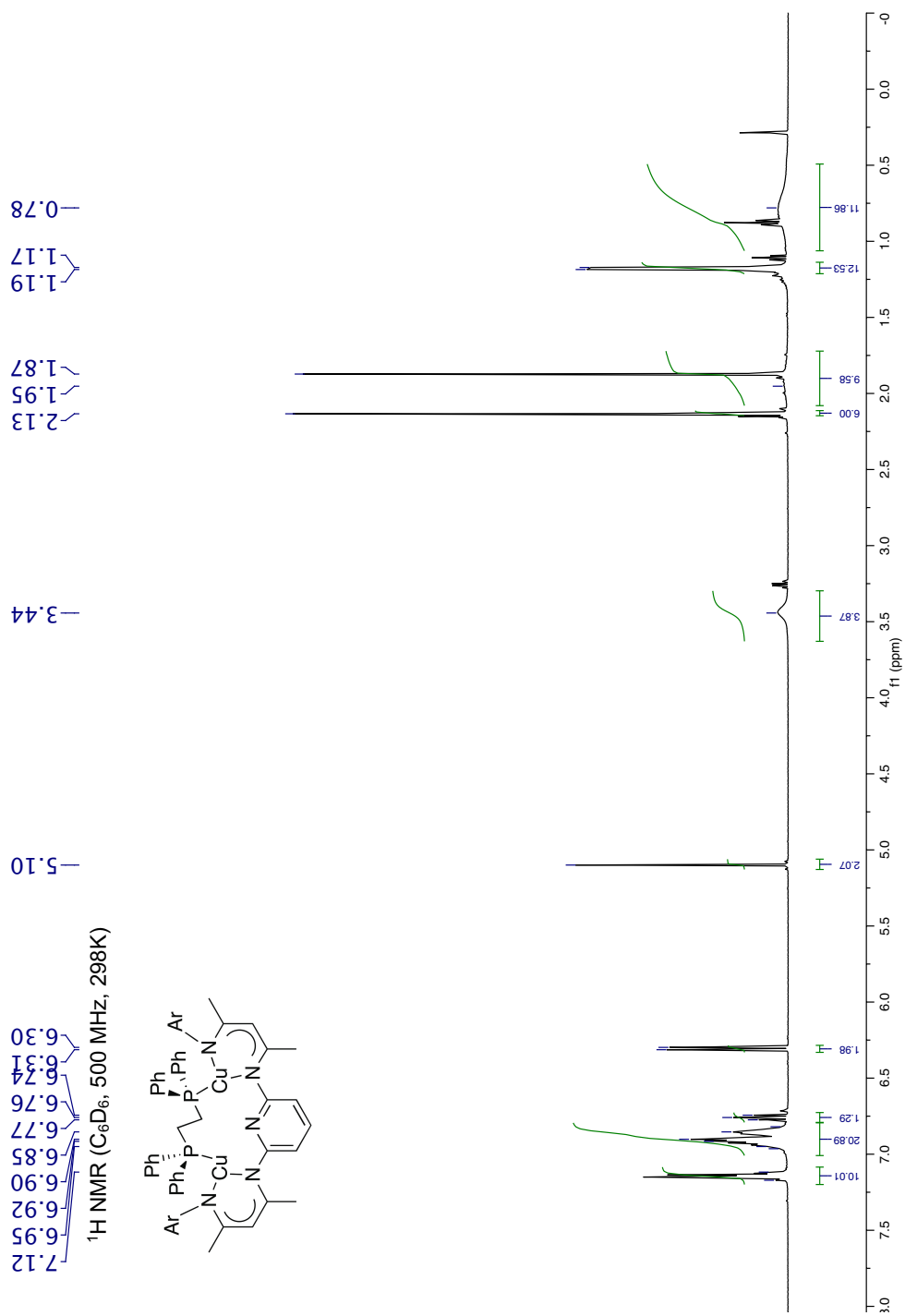


[illegible]



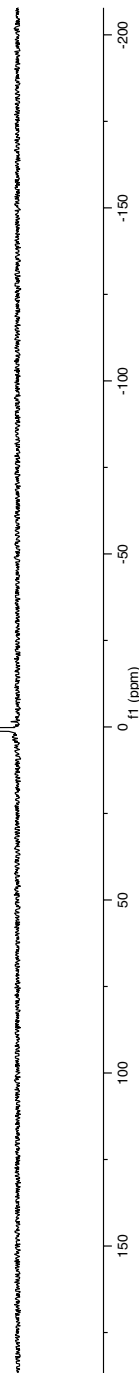
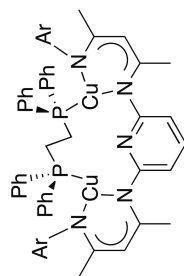
HSQC (C₆D₆, 298K)

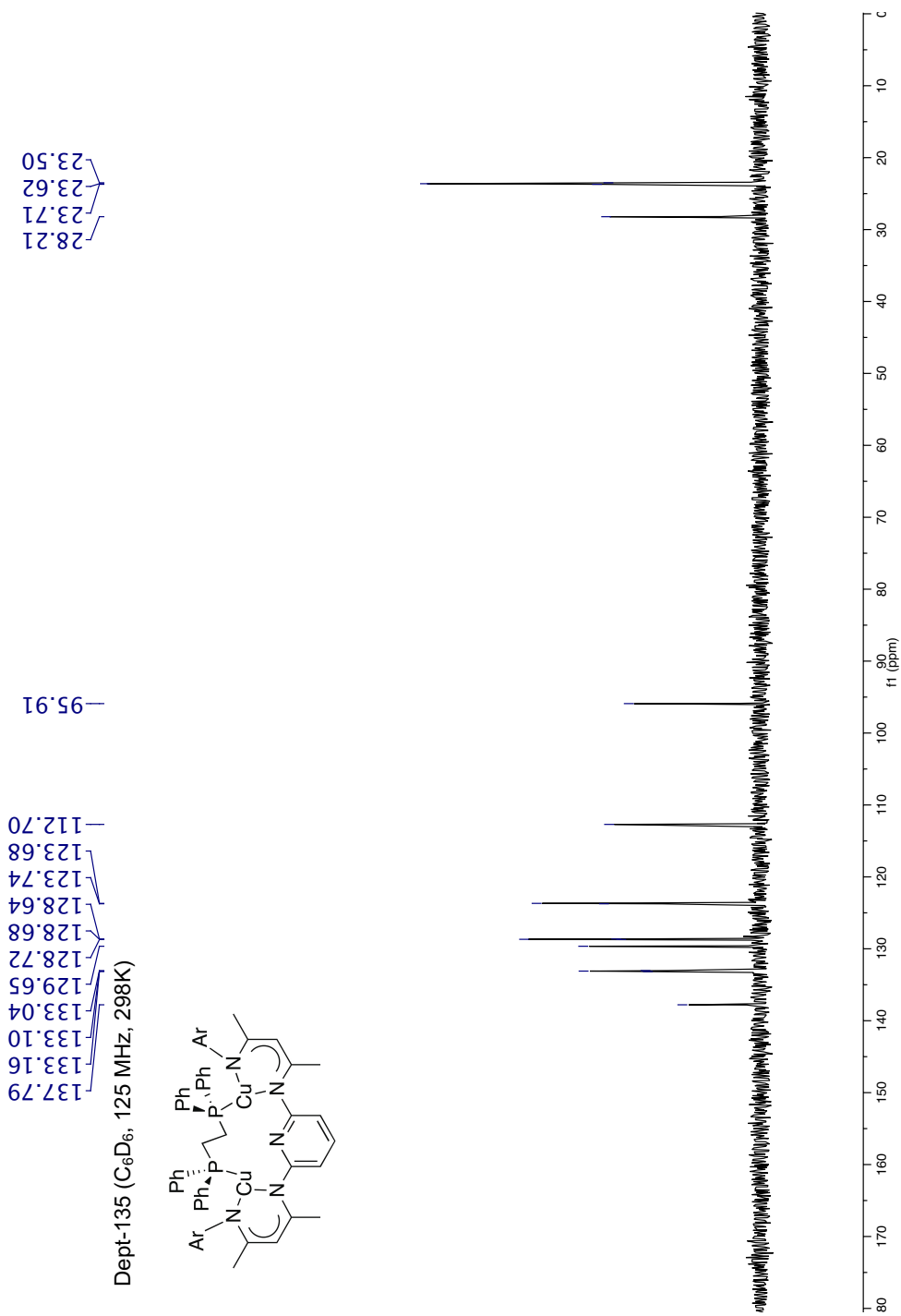


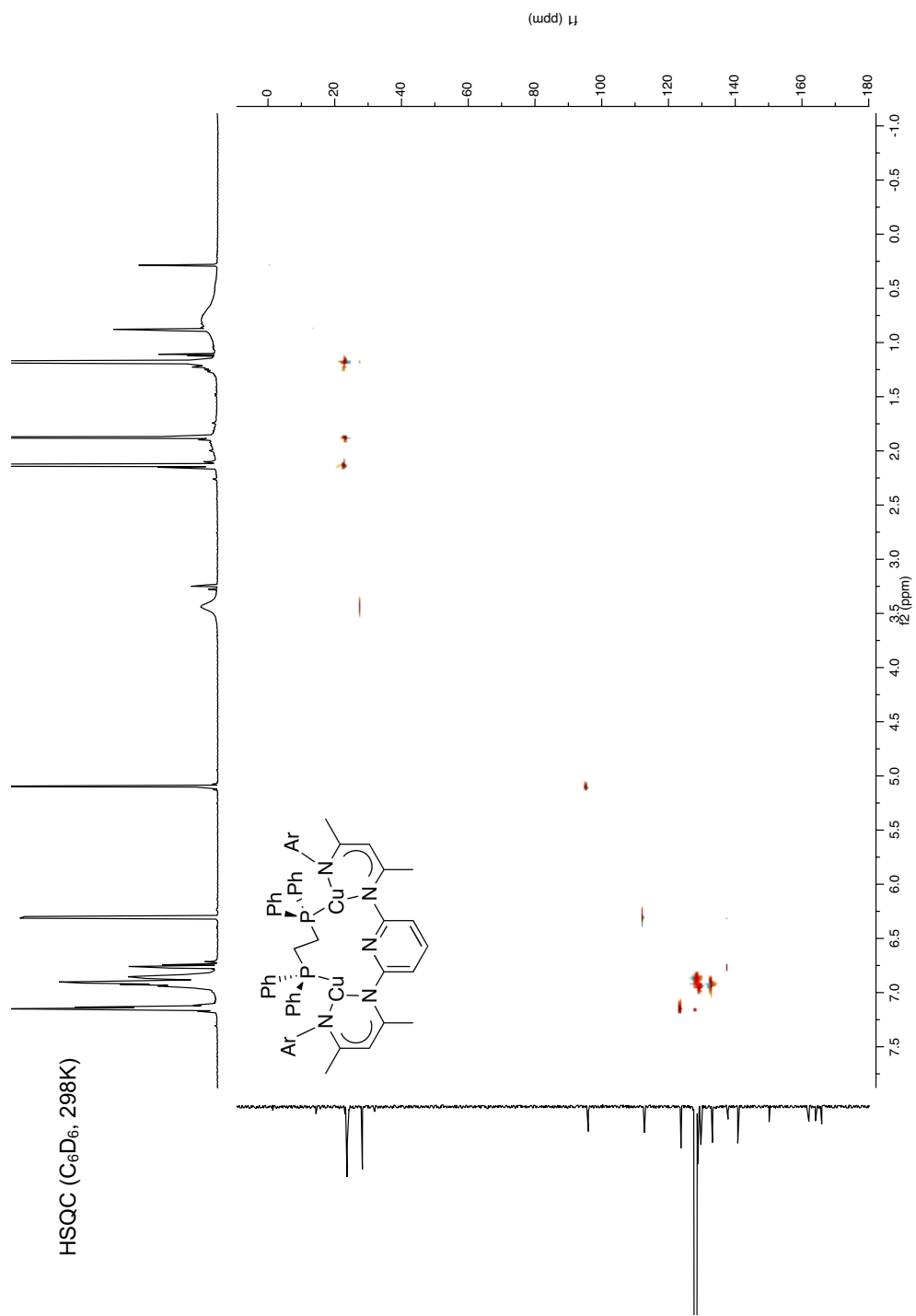


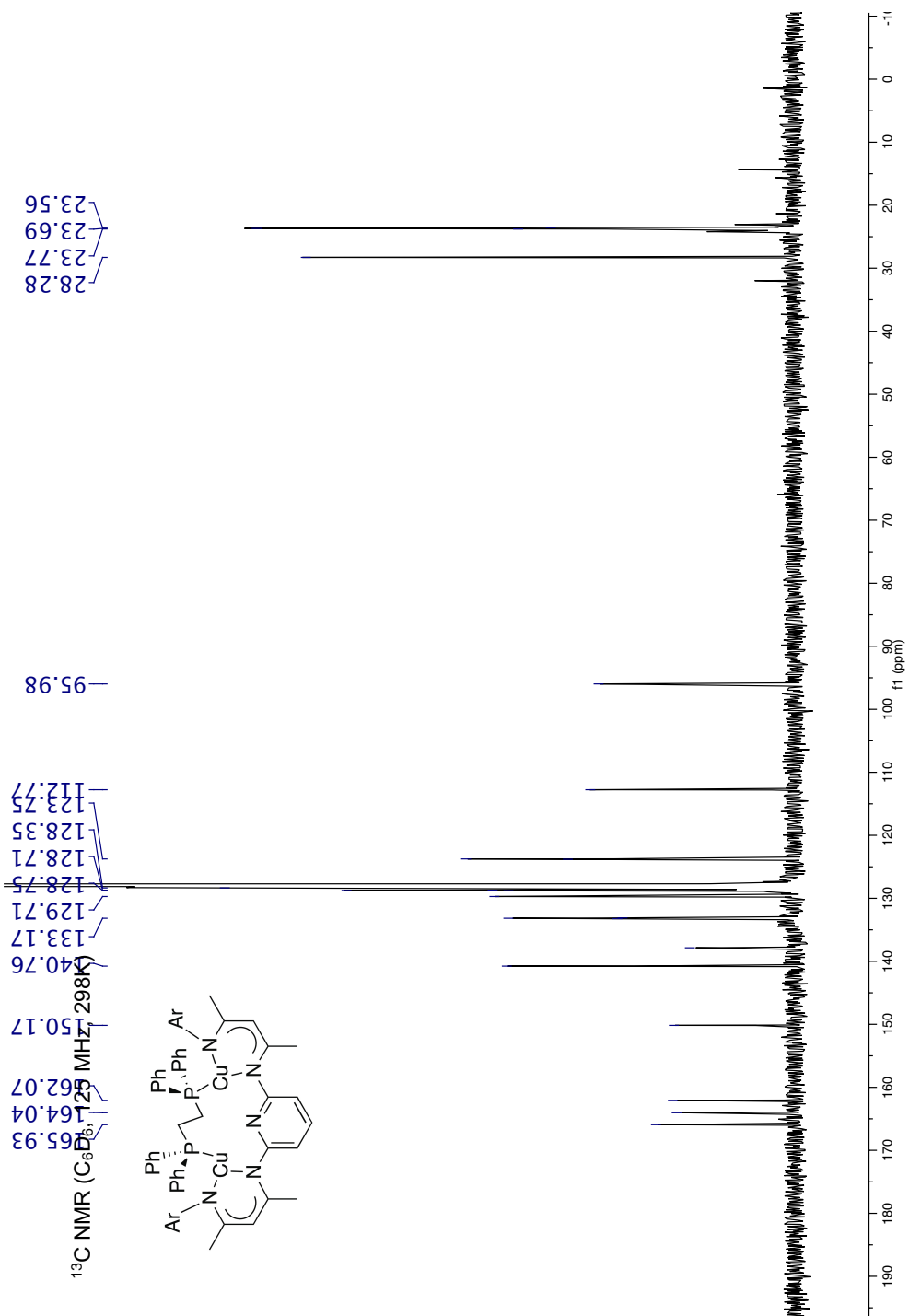
59.0

³¹P NMR (C₆D₆, 202 MHz, 298K)

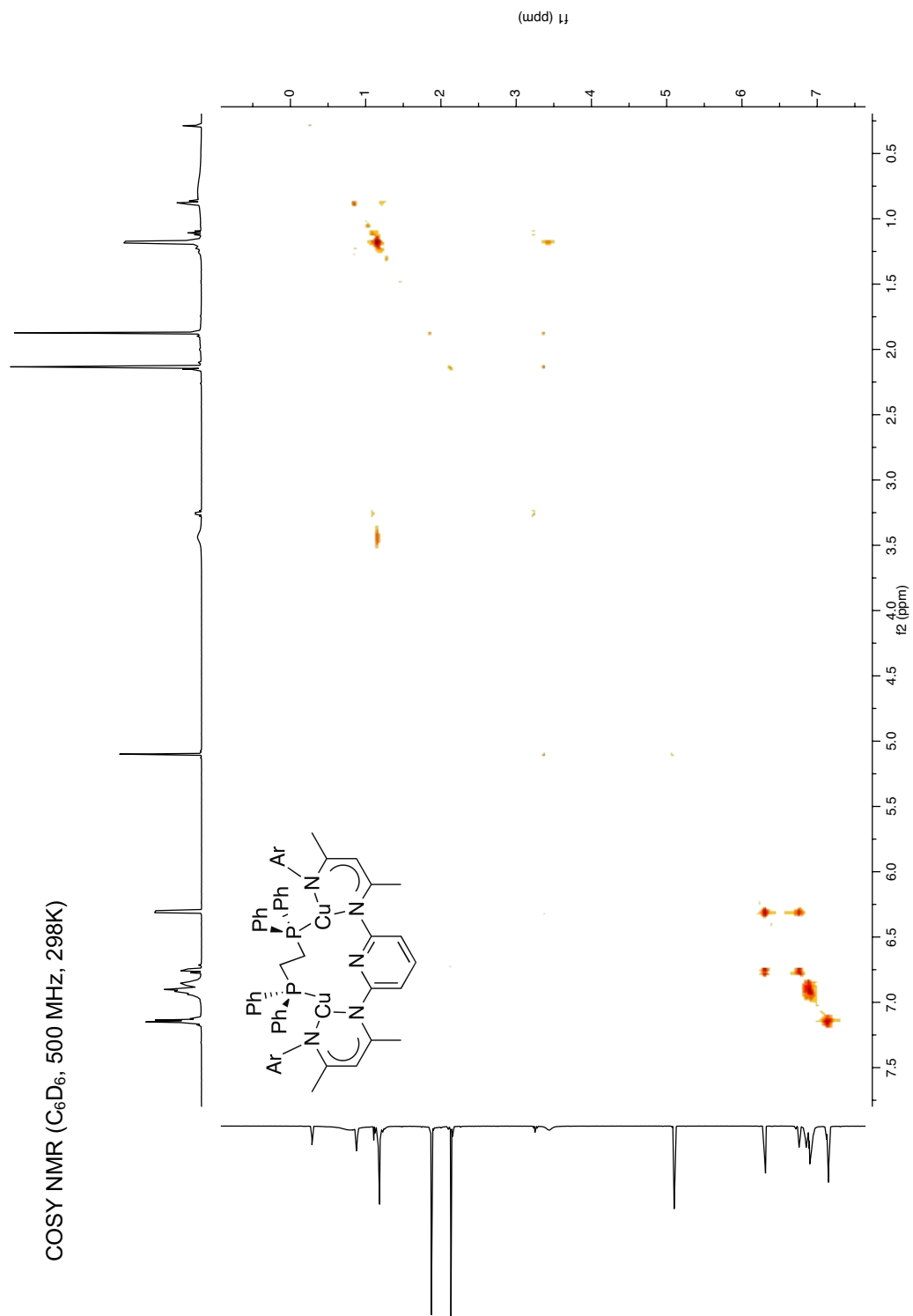




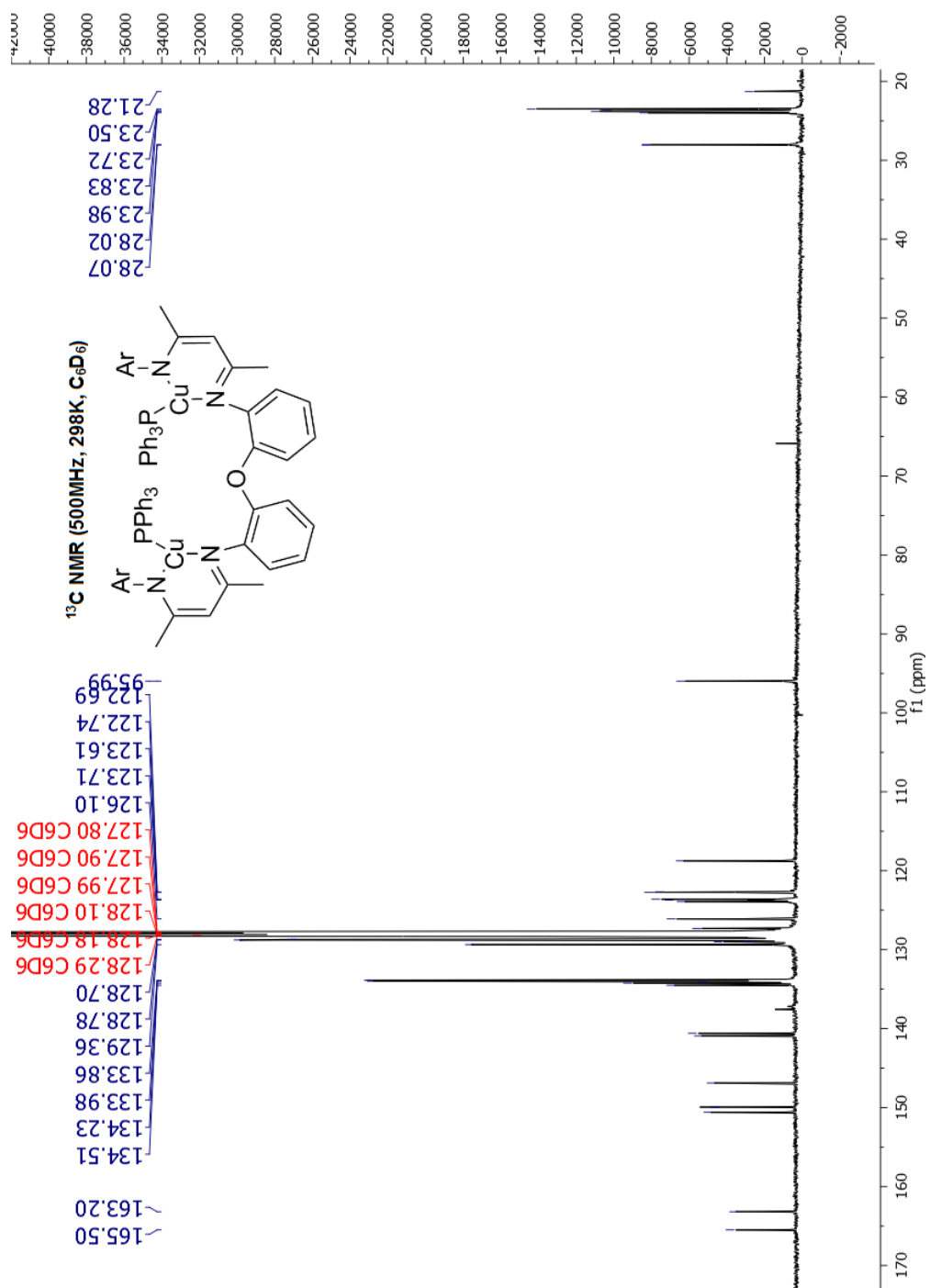


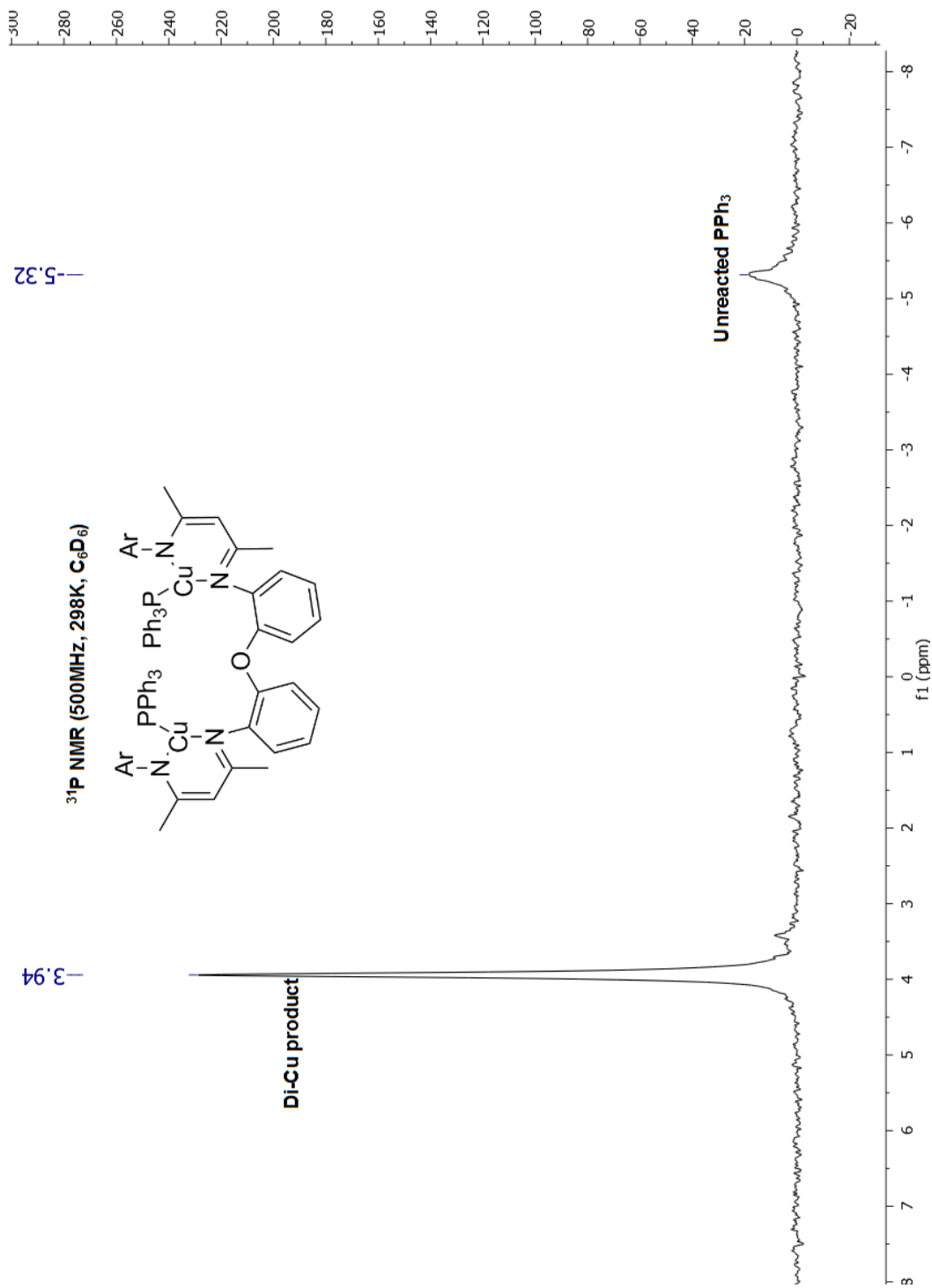


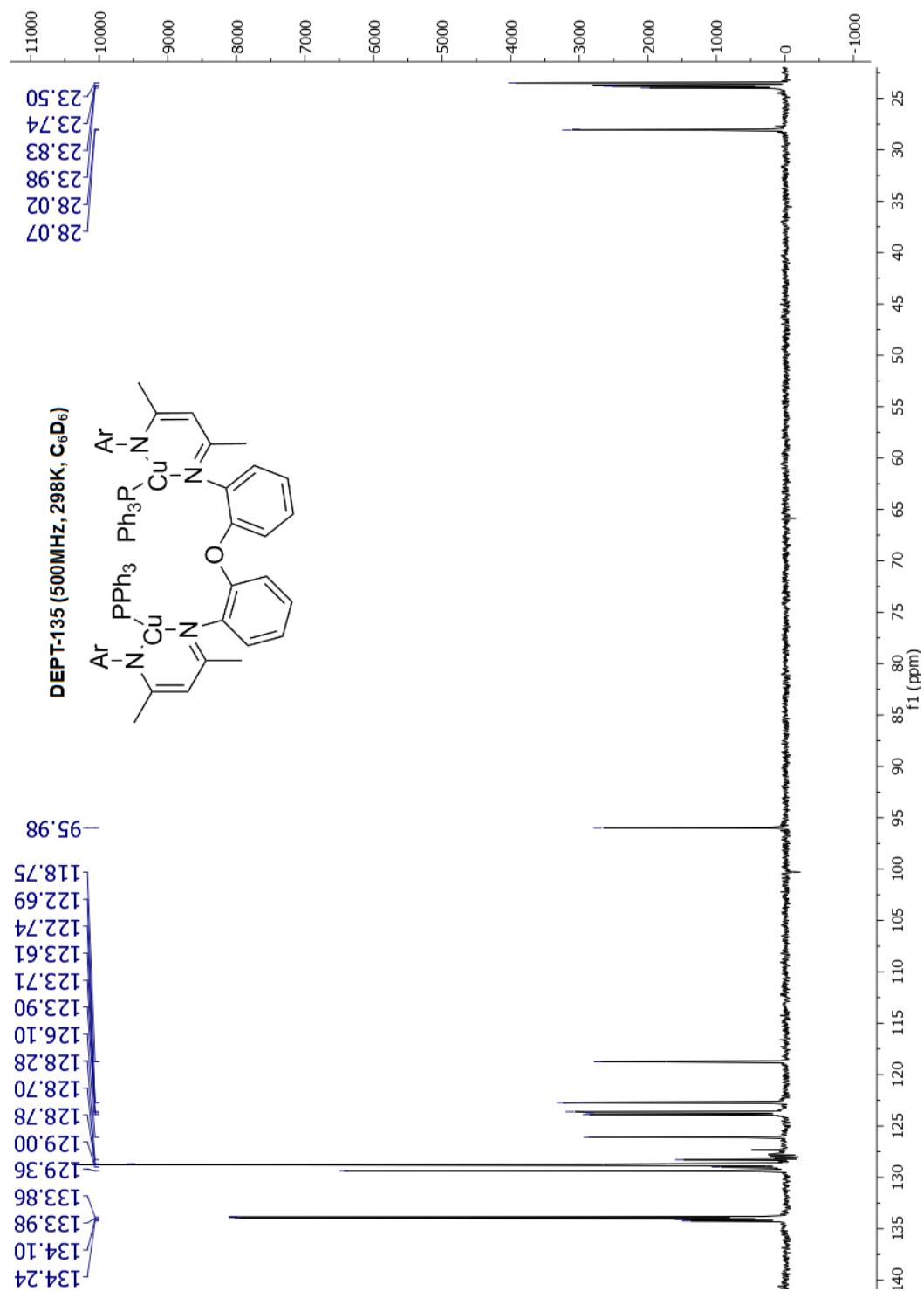
COSY NMR (C₆D₆, 500 MHz, 298K)

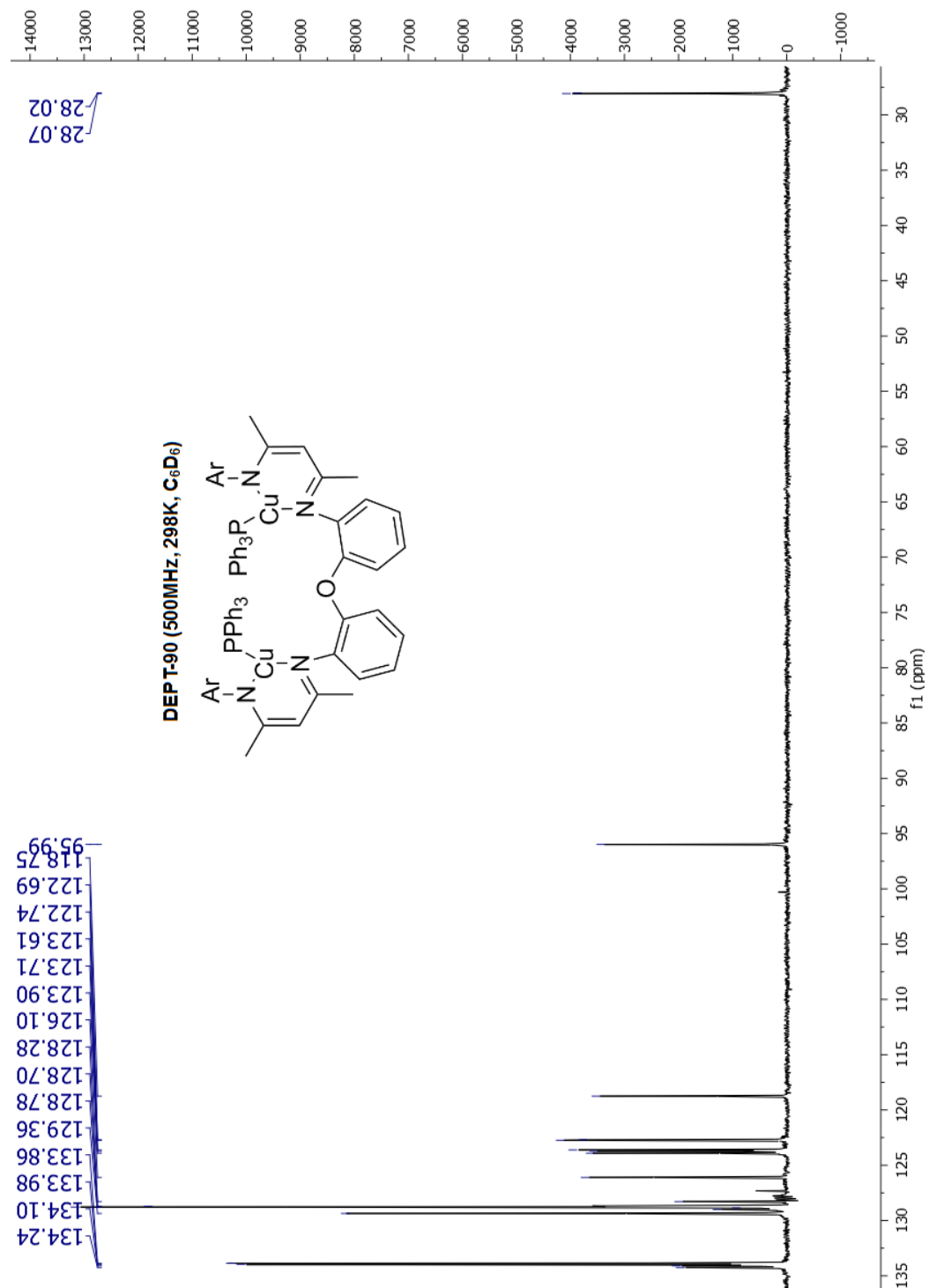


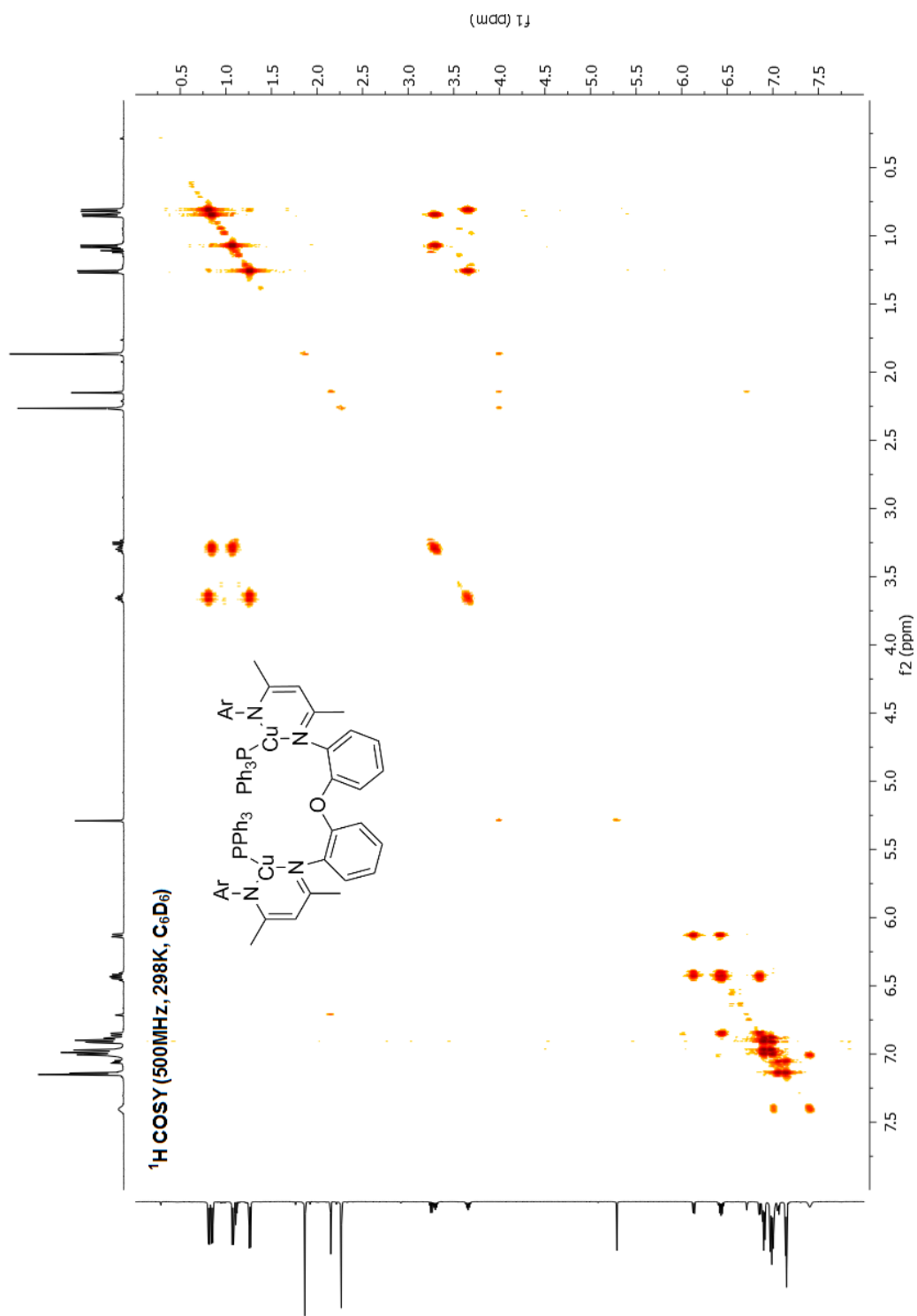


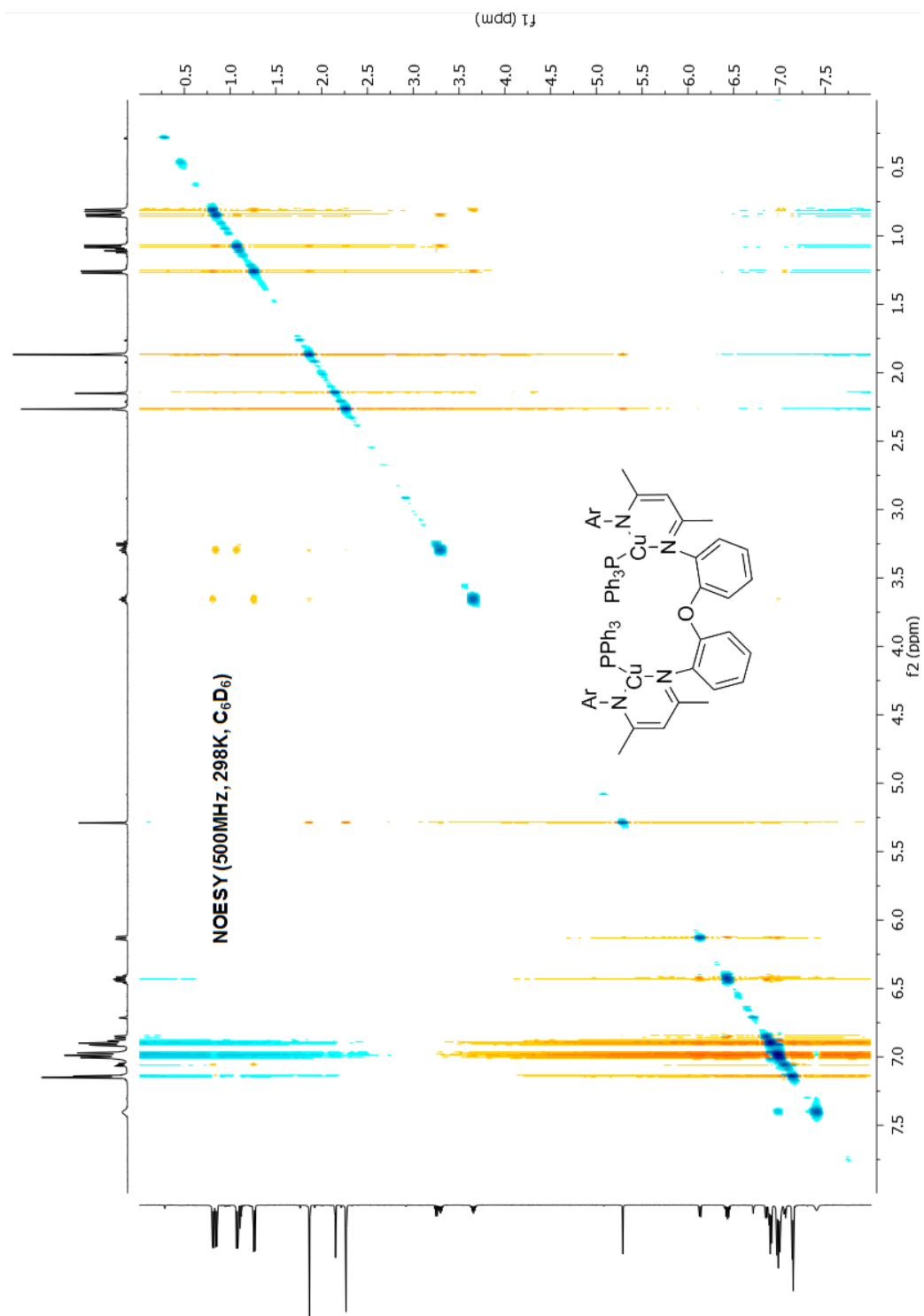


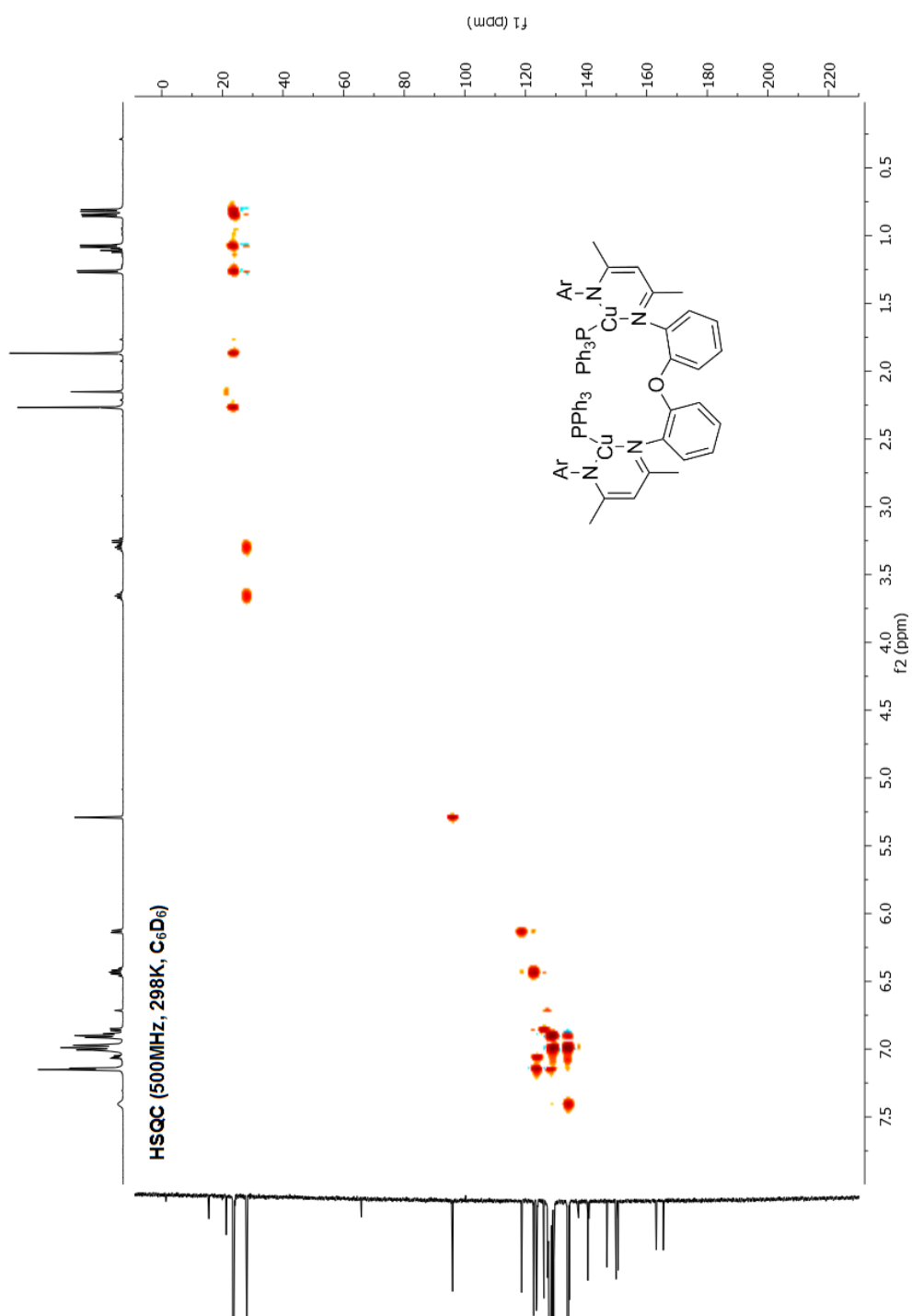


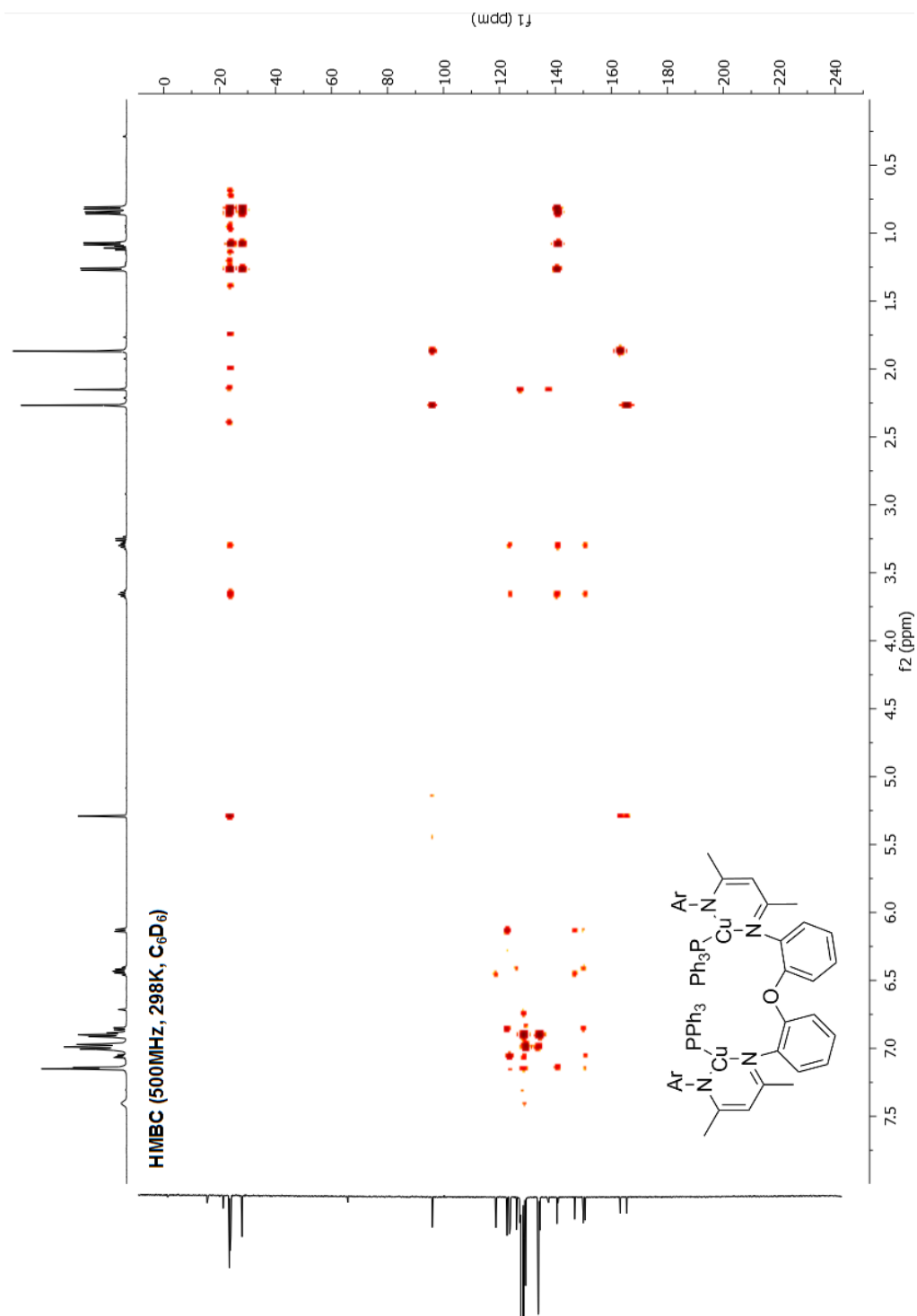




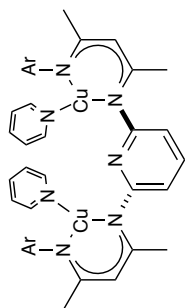




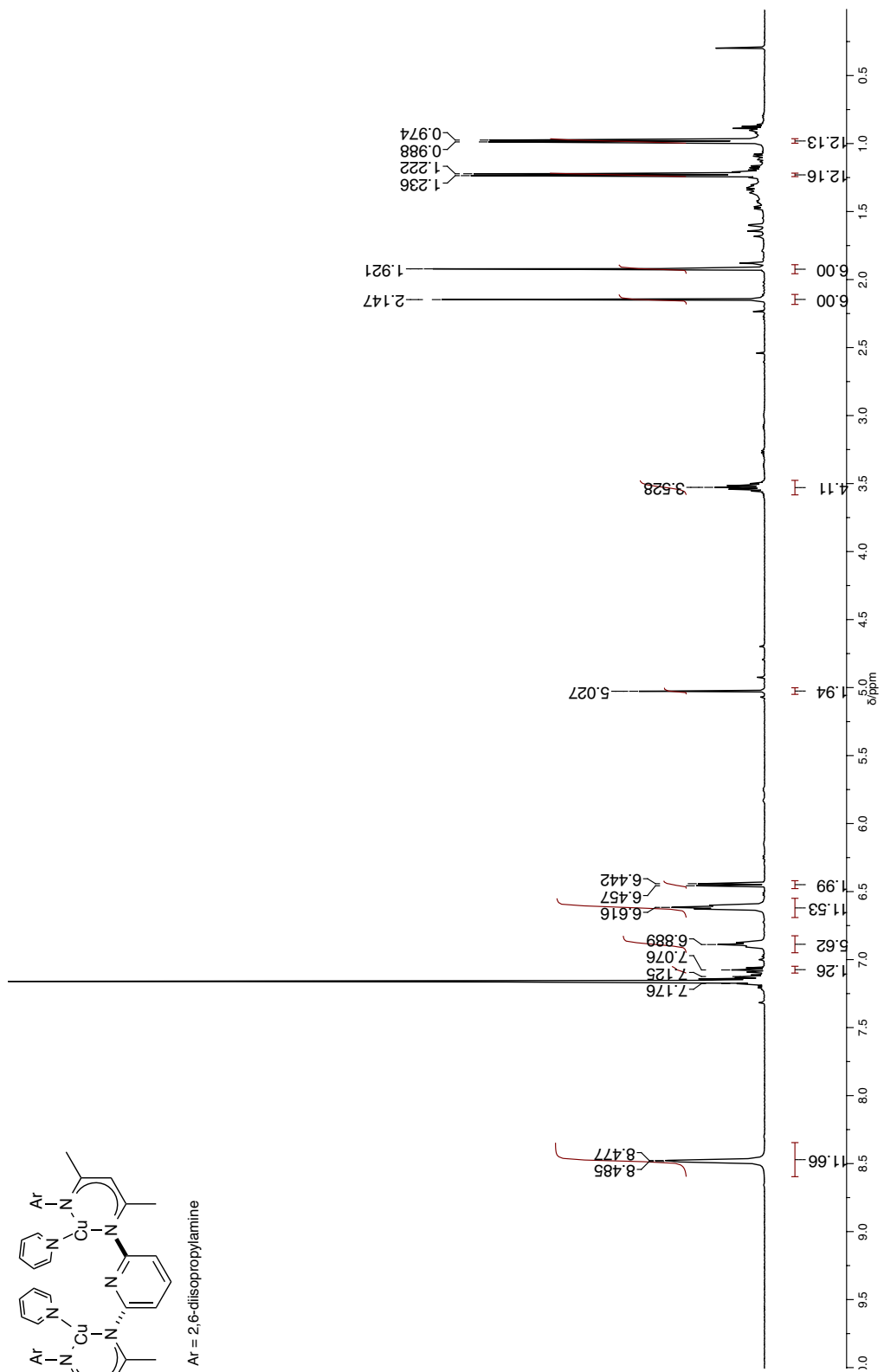




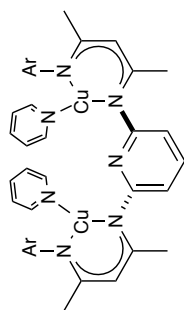
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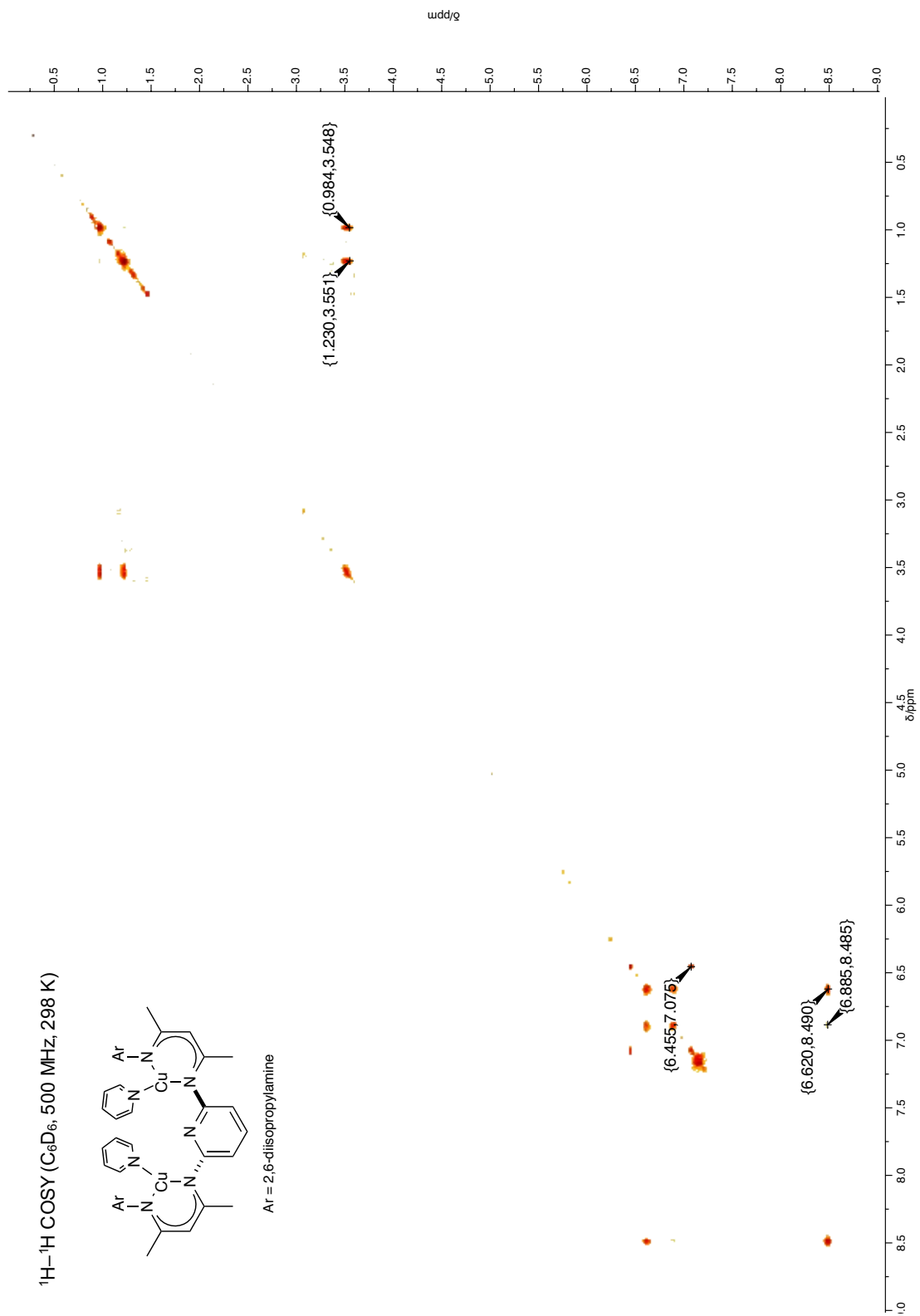
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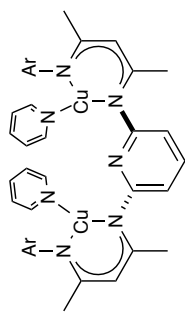
^1H - ^1H COSY (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz, 298 K)



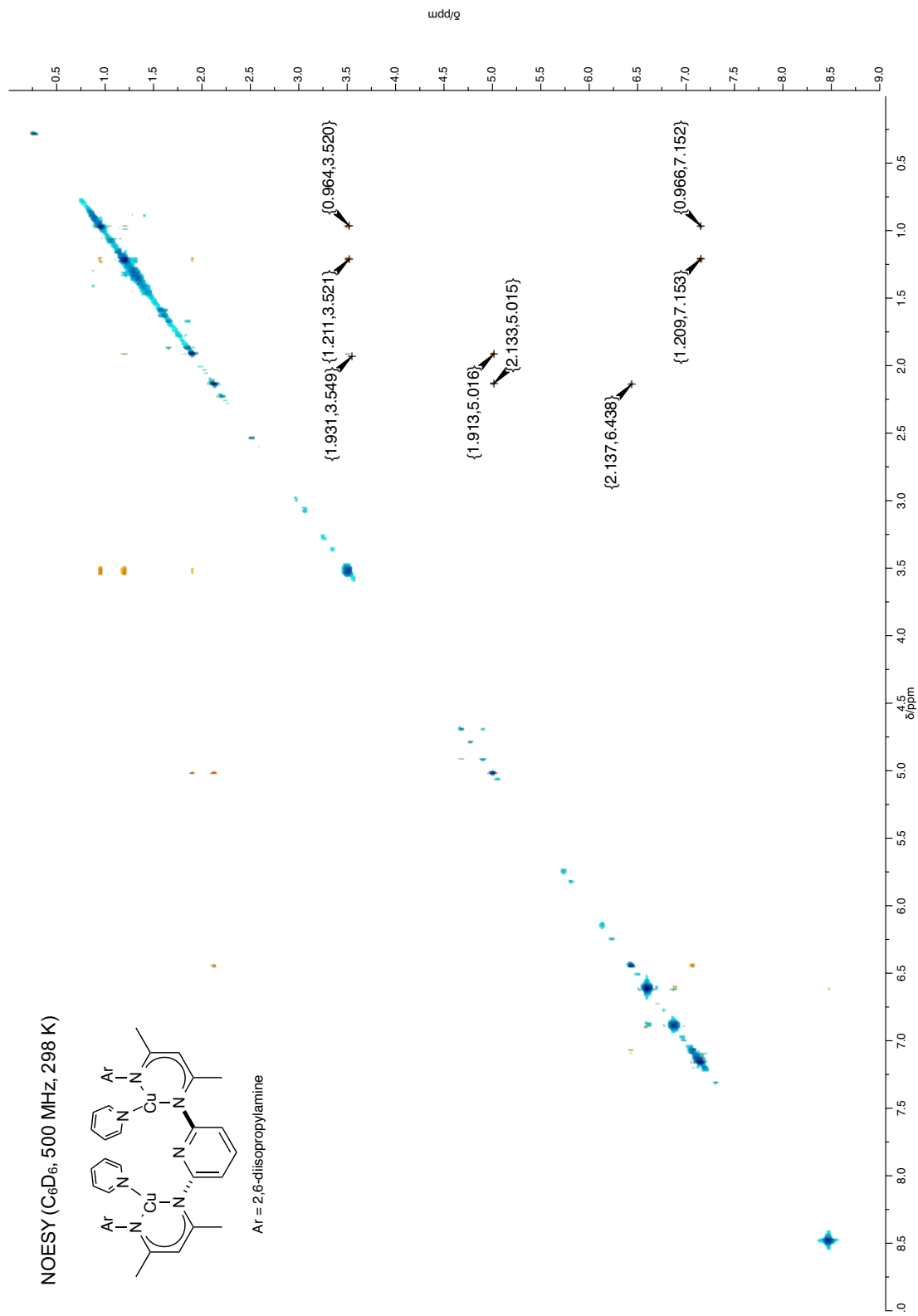
Ar = 2,6-diisopropylamine

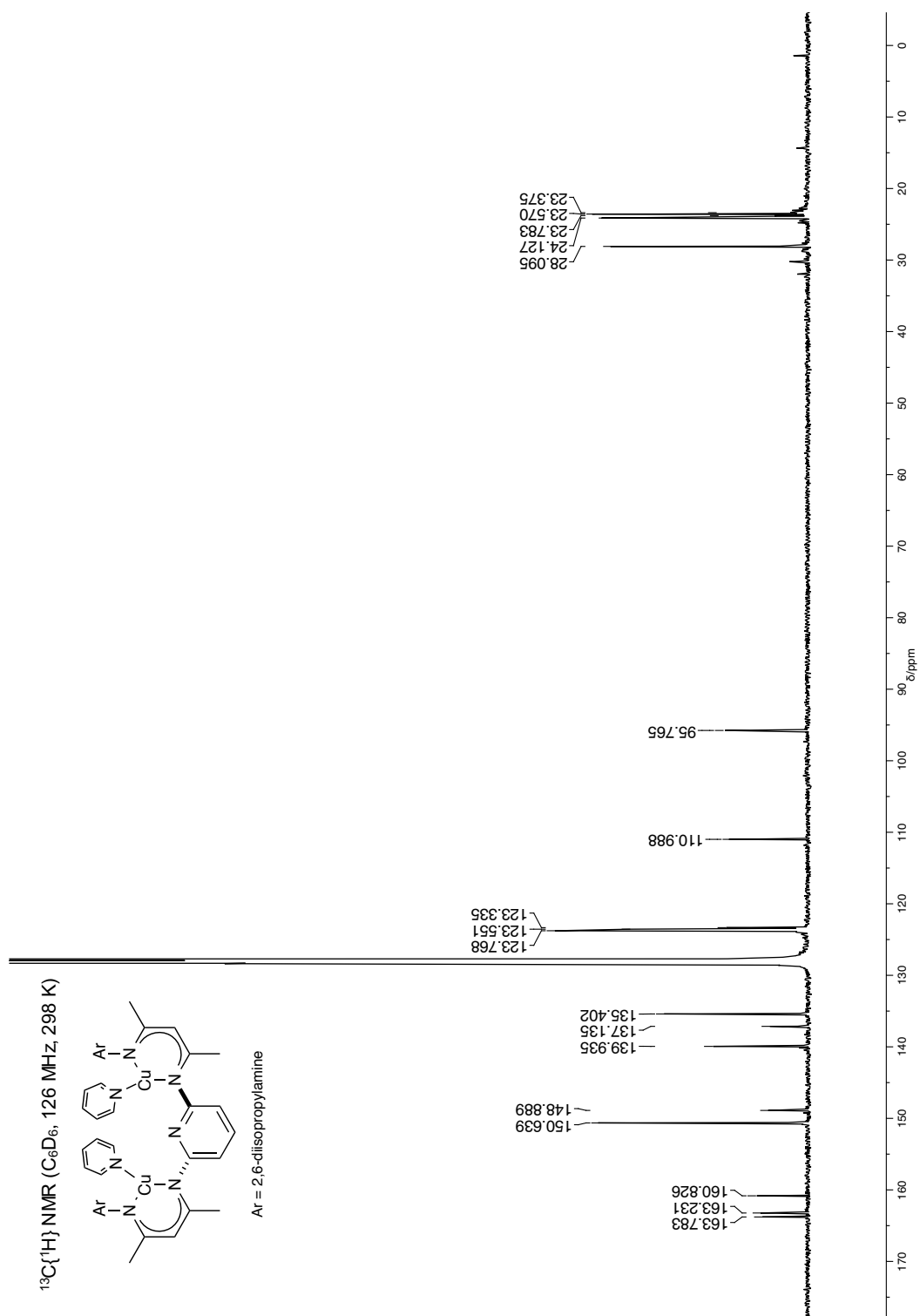


NOESY (C₆D₆, 500 MHz, 298 K)

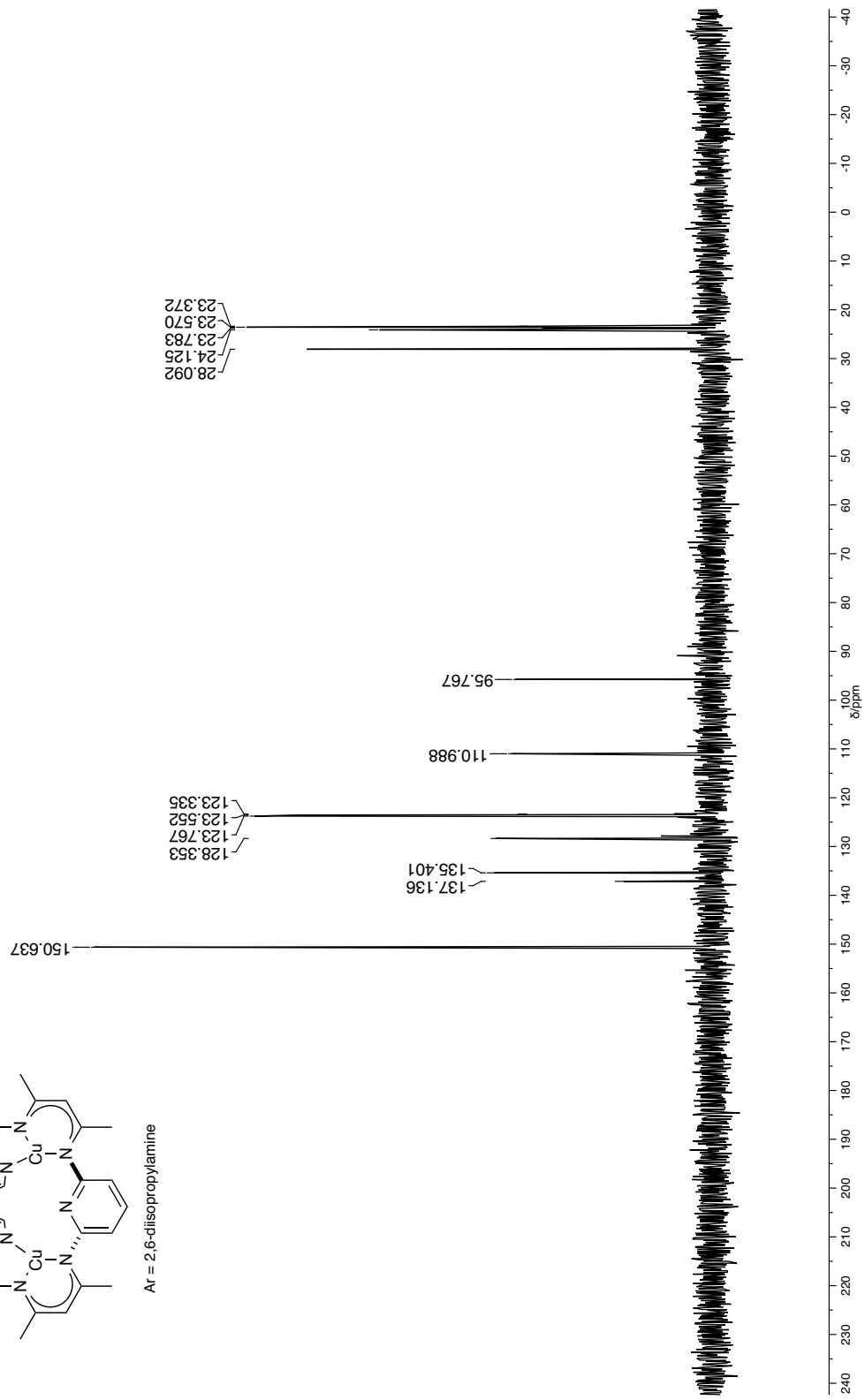
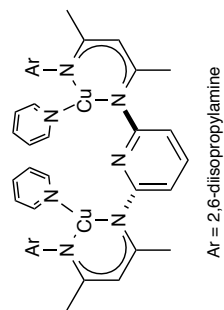


Ar = 2,6-diisopropylamine

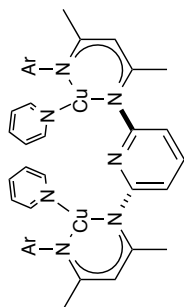




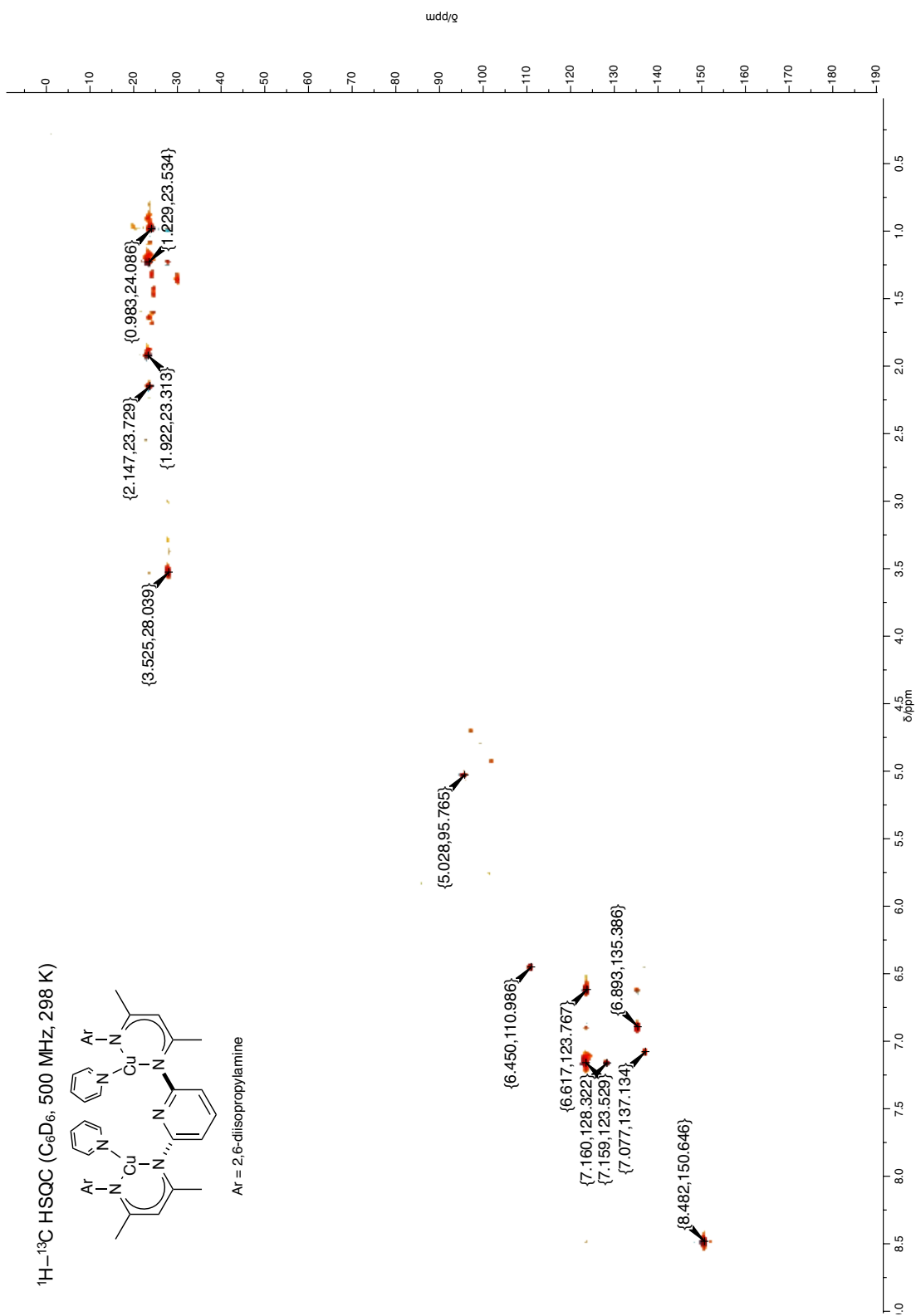
DEPT-135 (C_6D_6 , 126 MHz, 298 K)



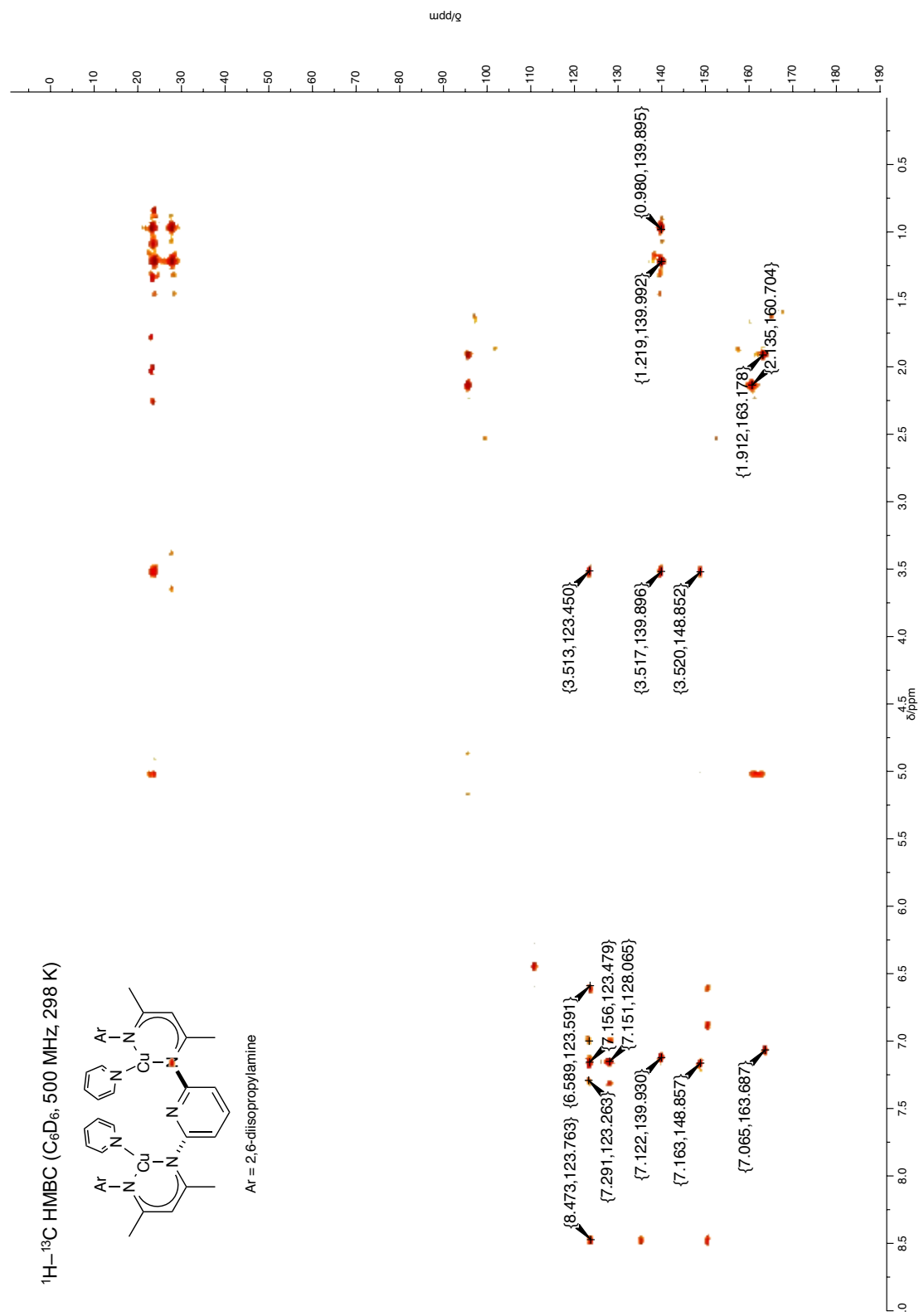
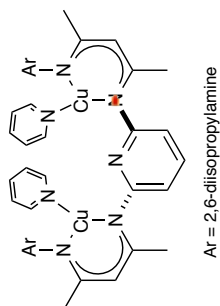
^1H - ^{13}C HSQC (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz, 298 K)

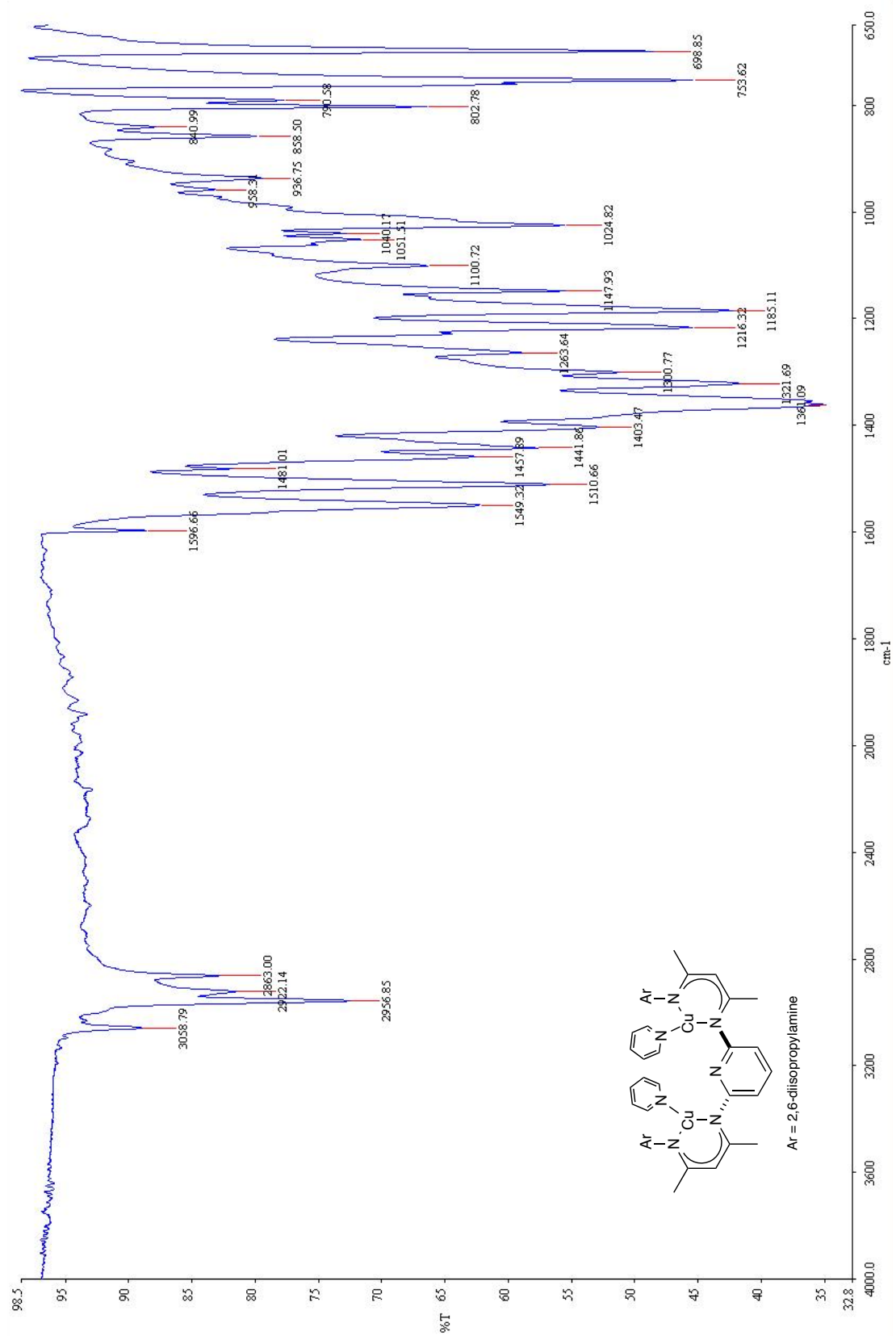


Ar = 2,6-diisopropylamine

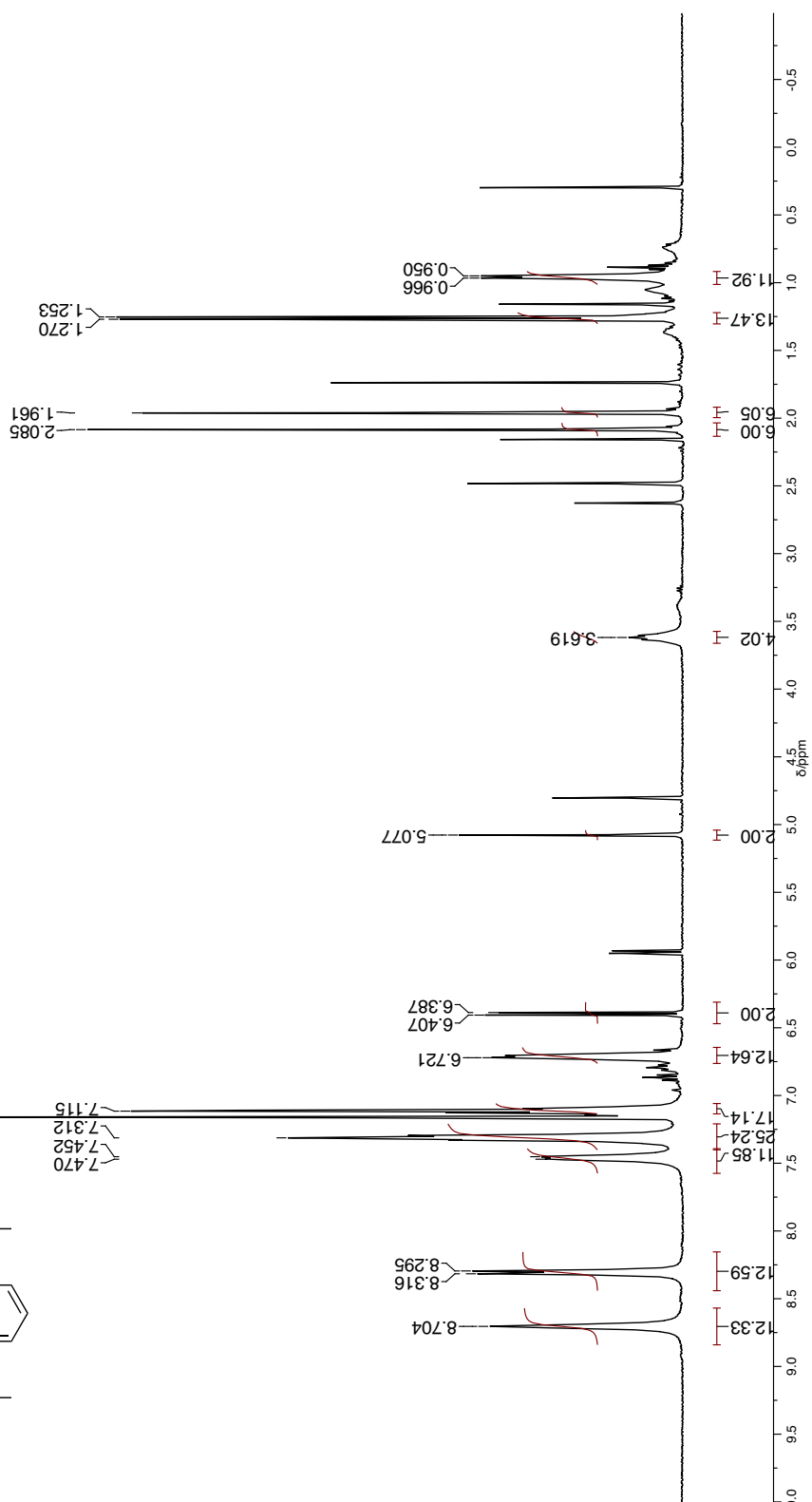
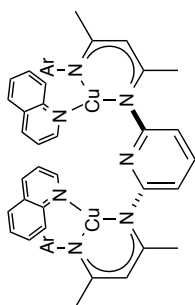


^1H - ^{13}C HMBC (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz, 298 K)

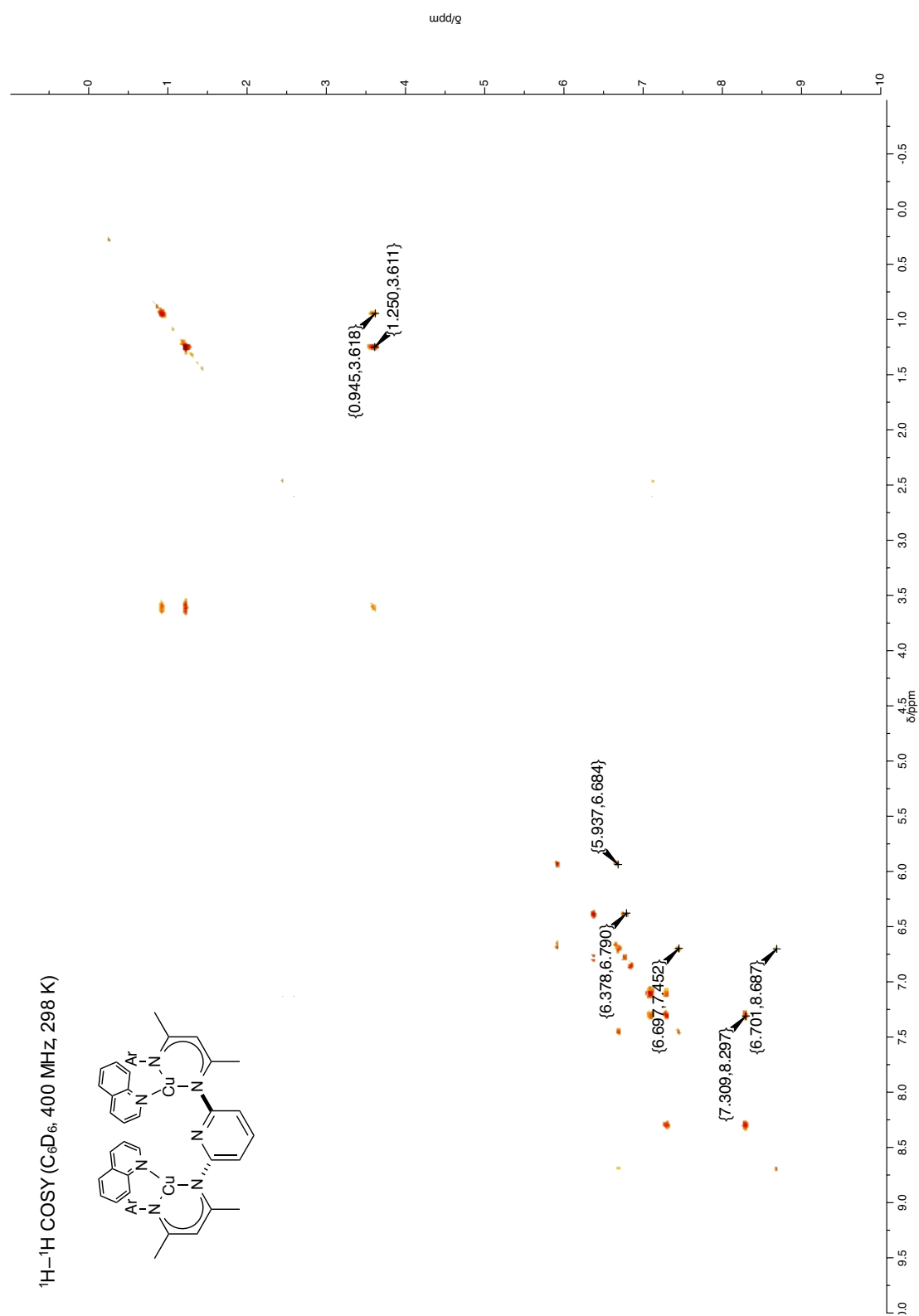
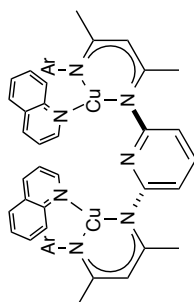


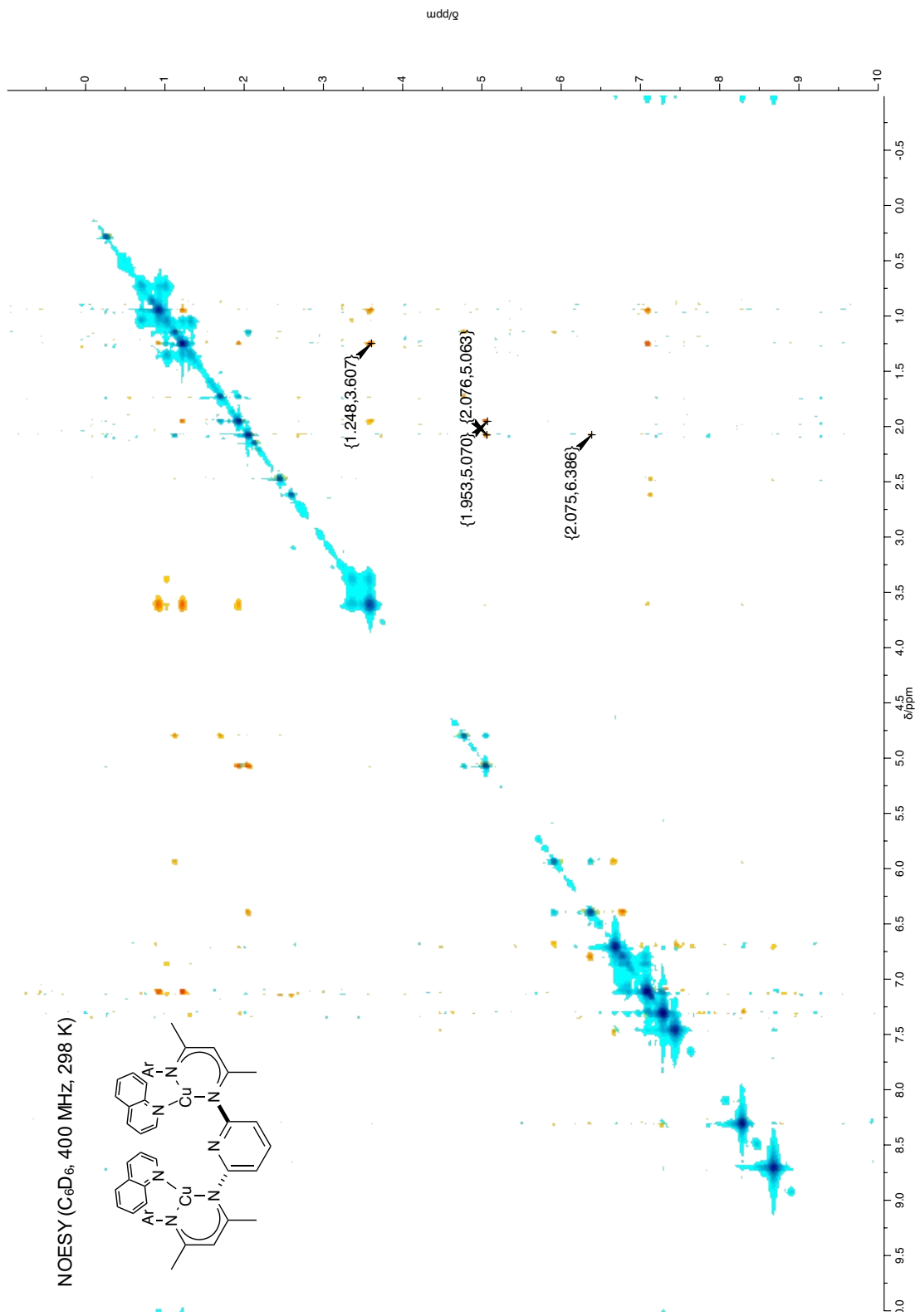


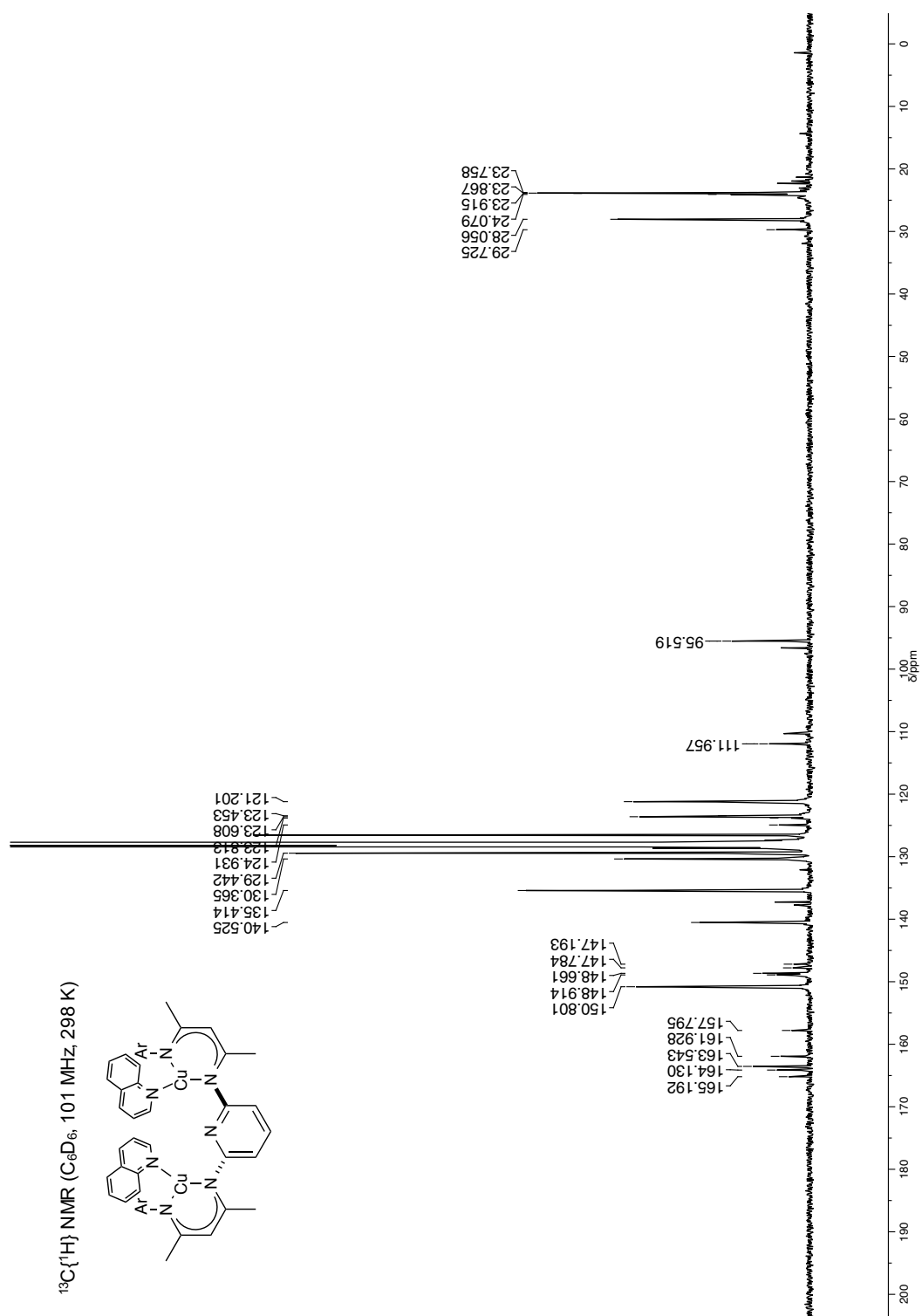
^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 400 MHz, 298 K)



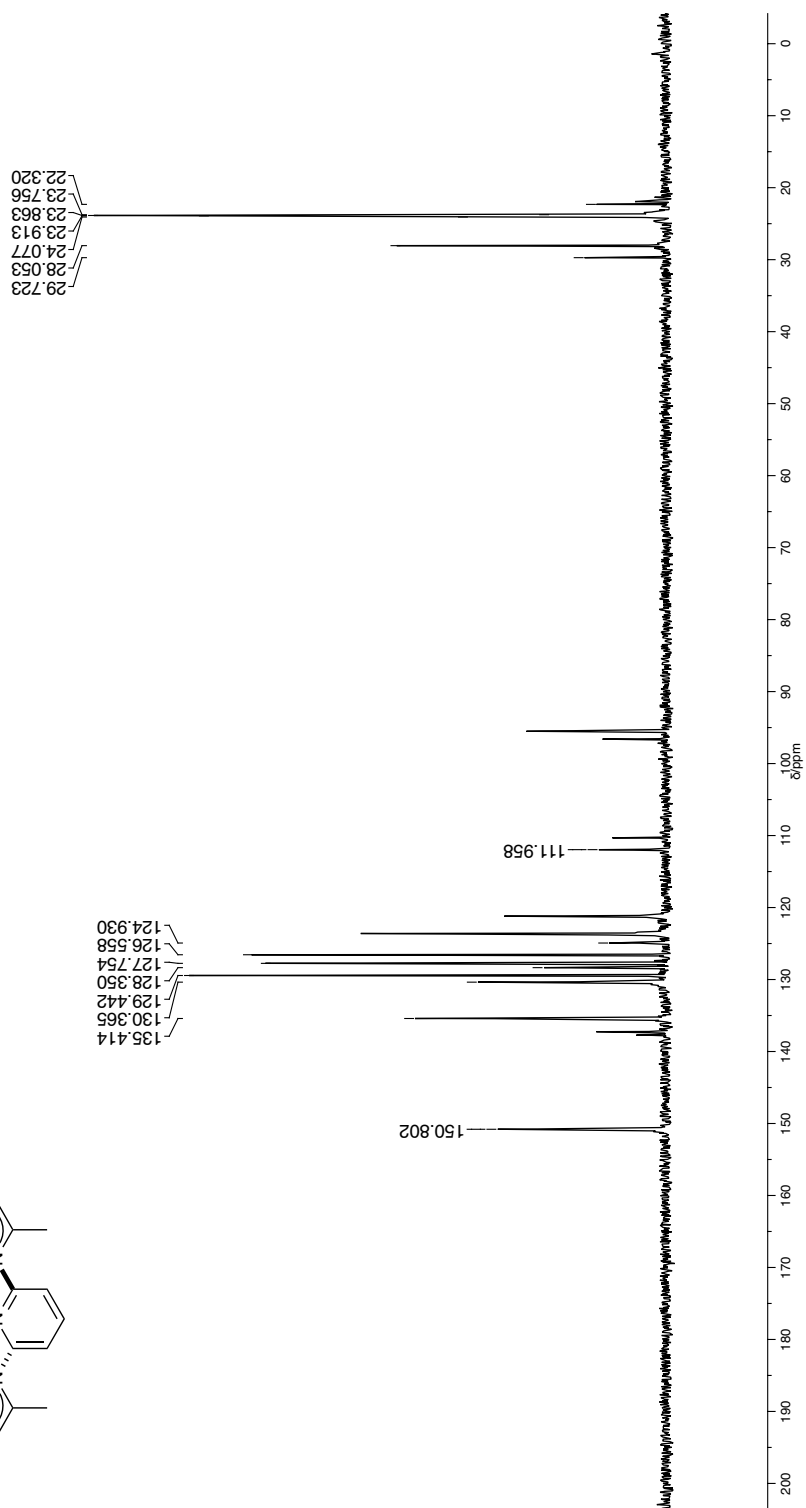
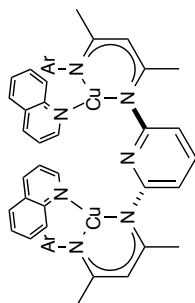
^1H - ^1H COSY (C_6D_6 , 400 MHz, 298 K)

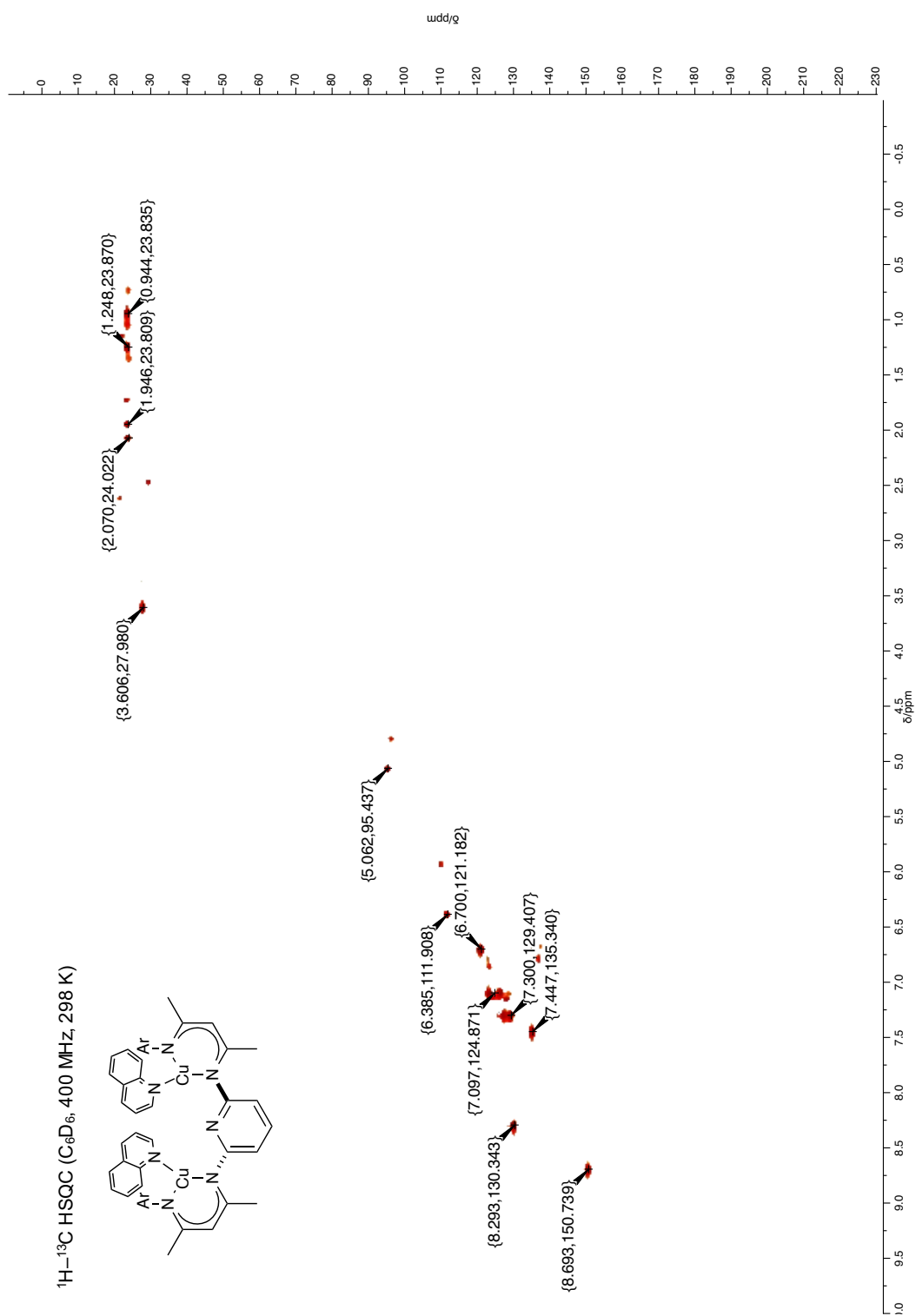




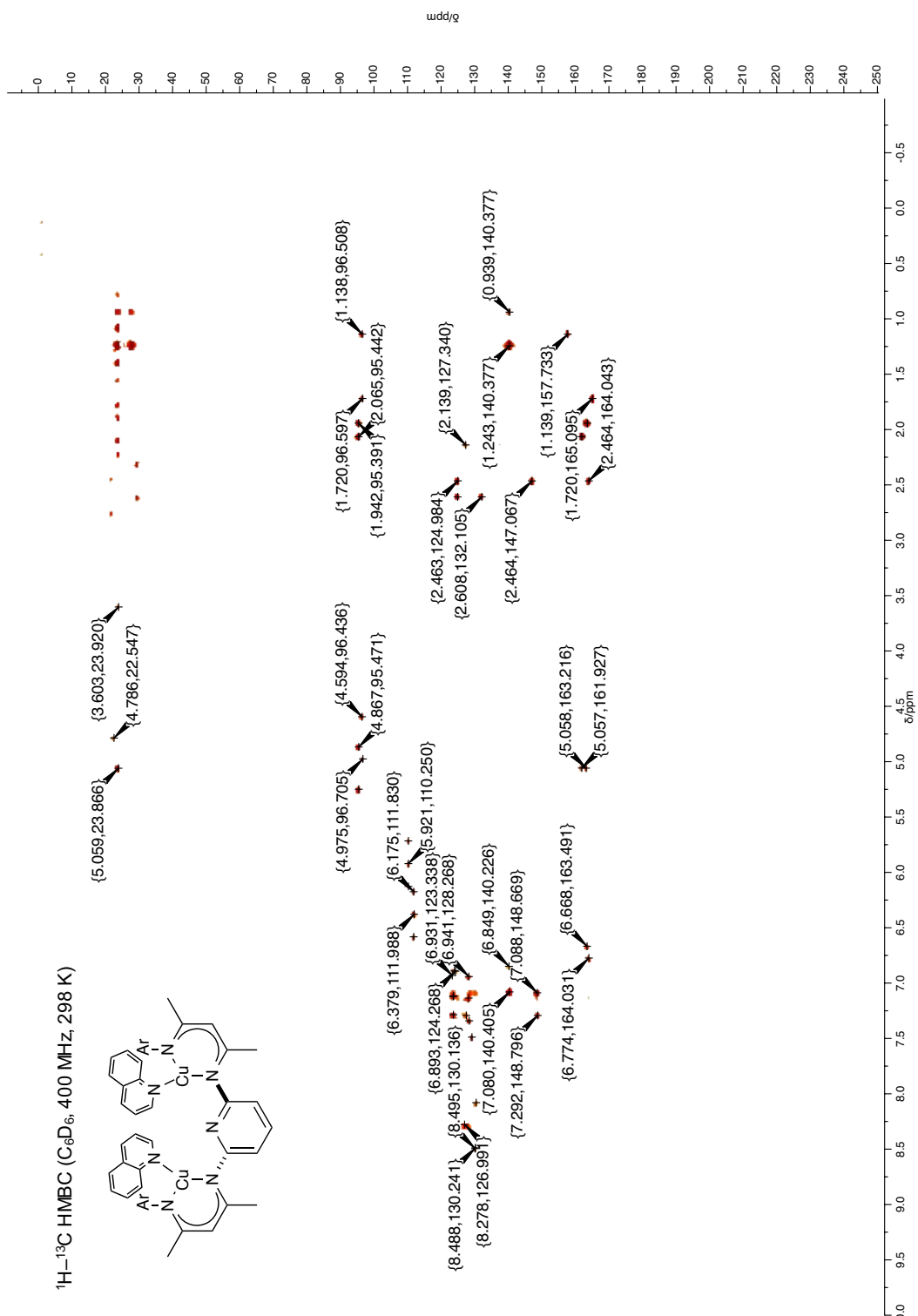
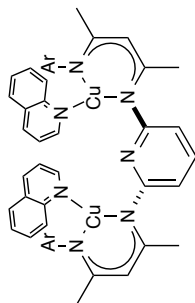


DEPT-135 (C₆D₆, 101 MHz 298 K)

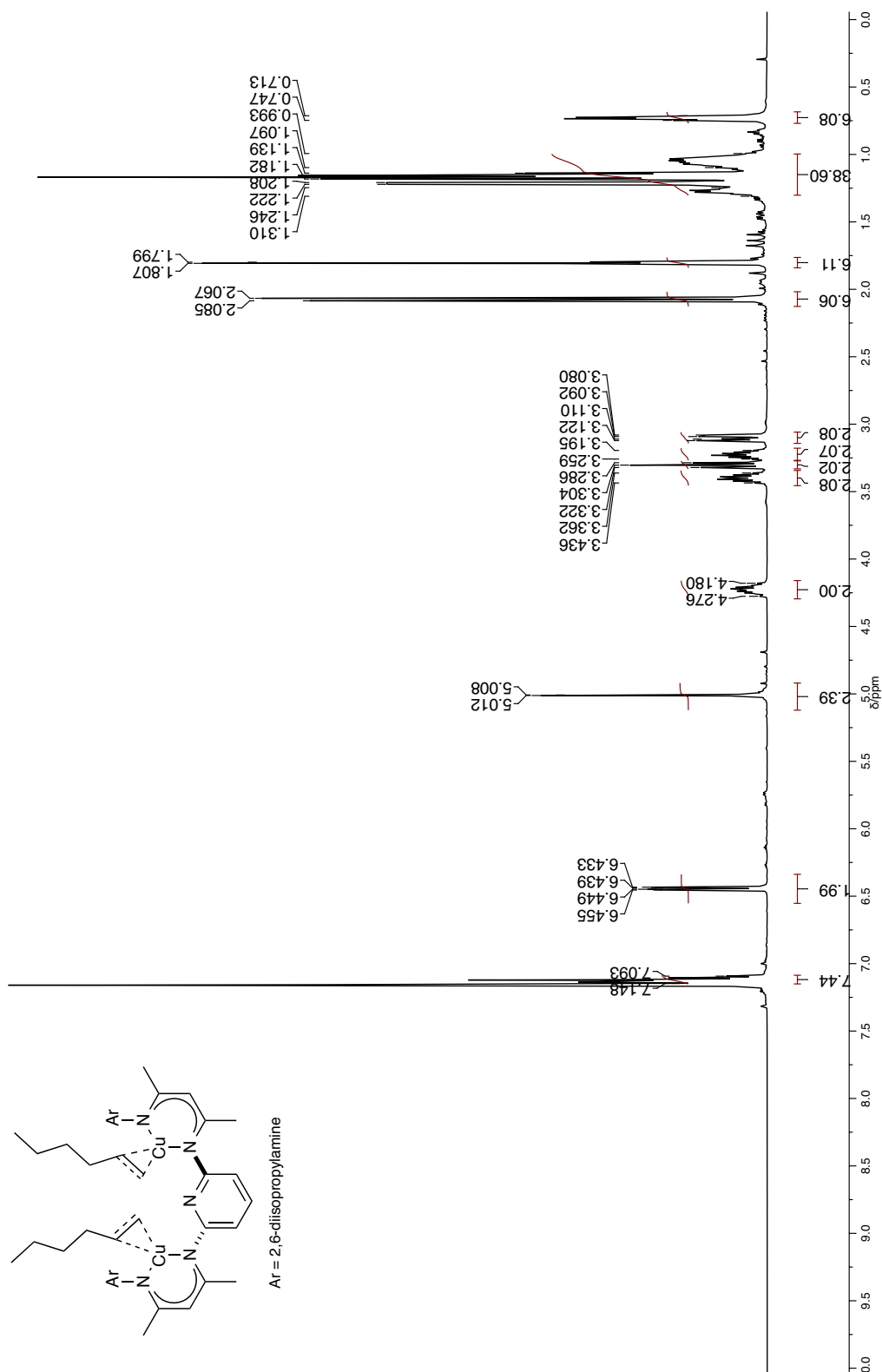
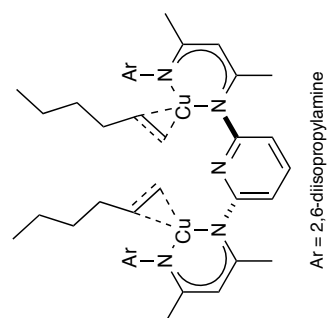


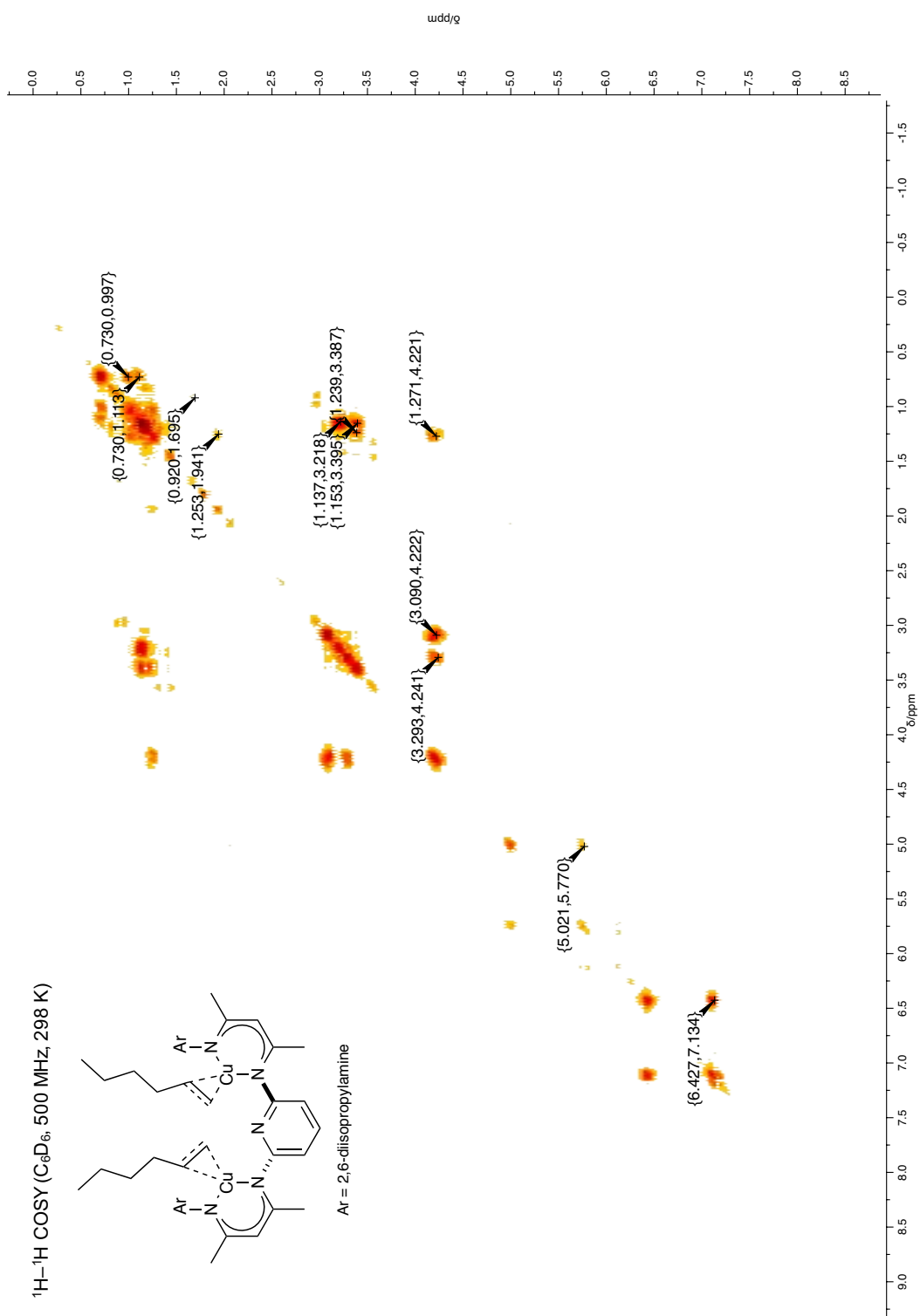


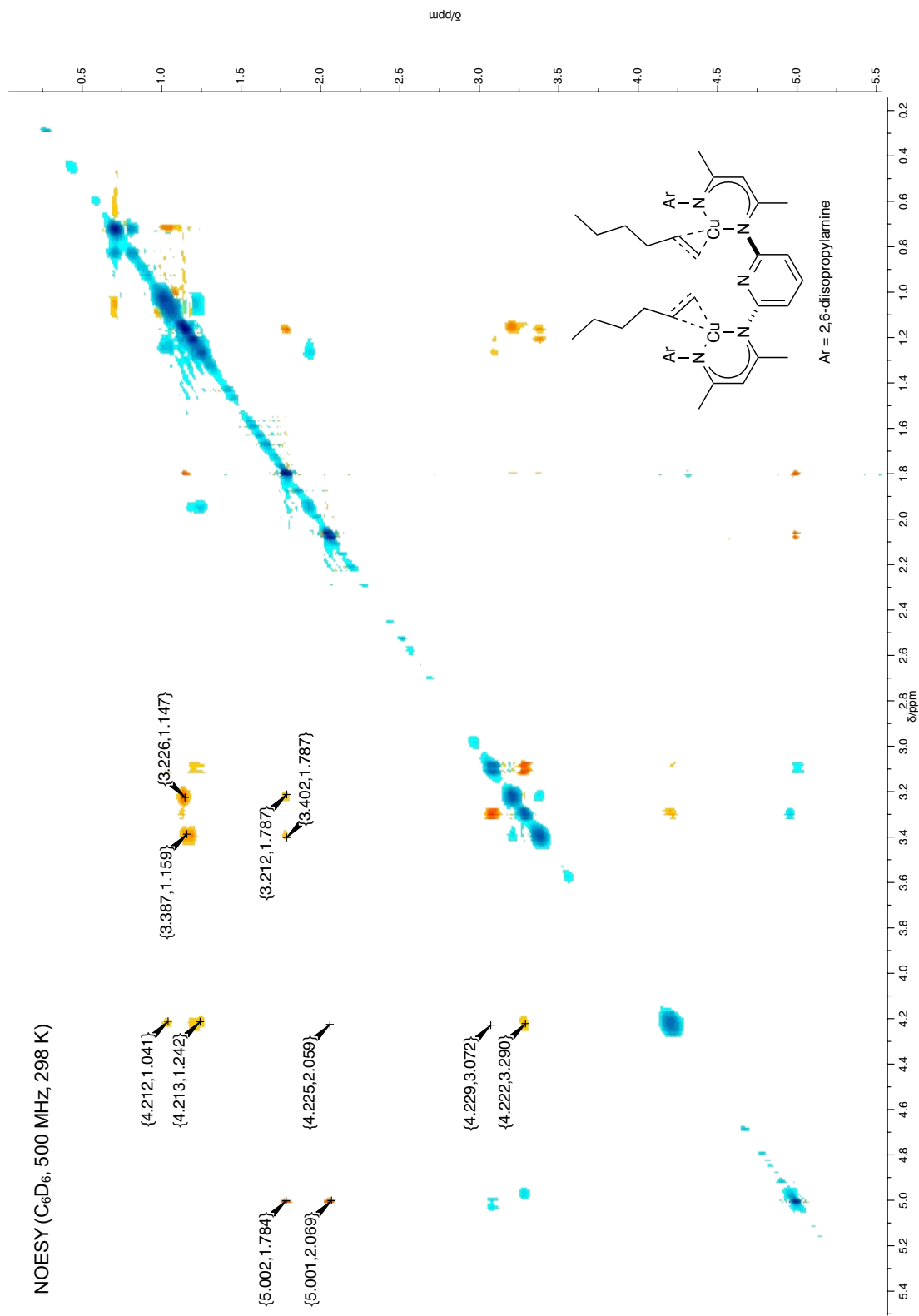
^1H - ^{13}C HMBC (C_6D_6 , 400 MHz, 298 K)



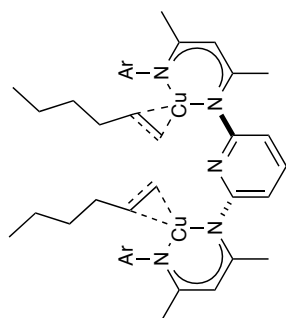
^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz, 298 K)



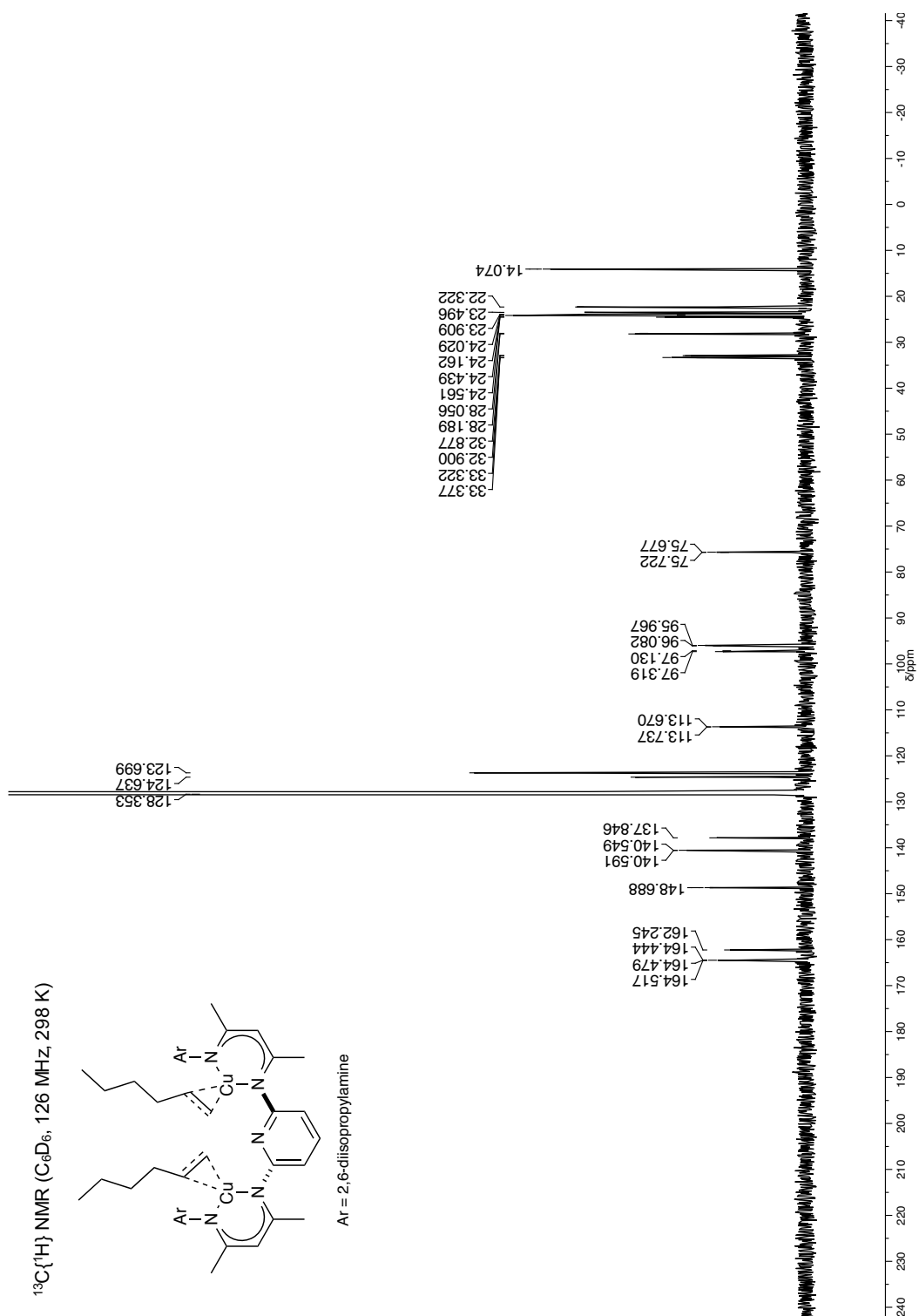


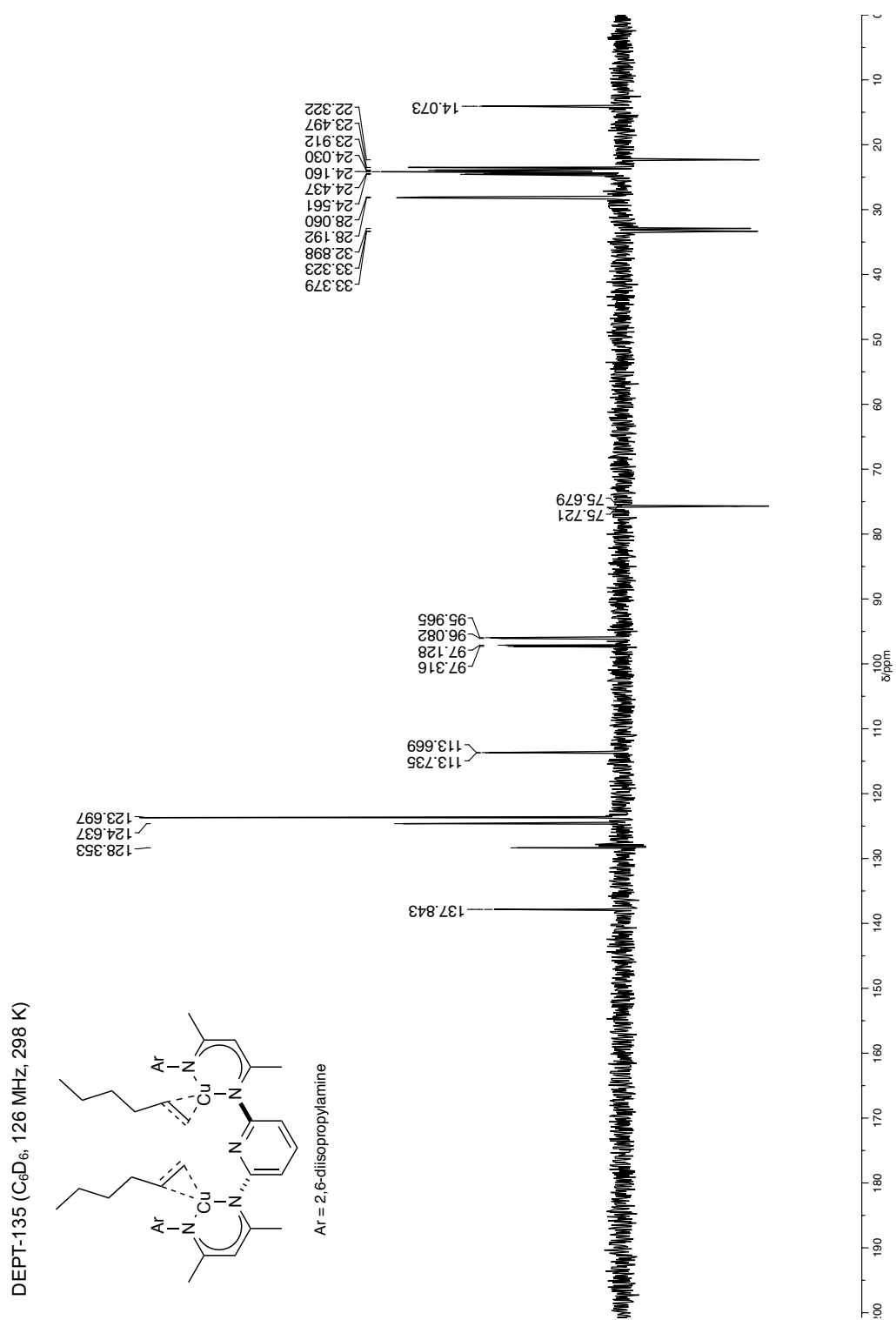


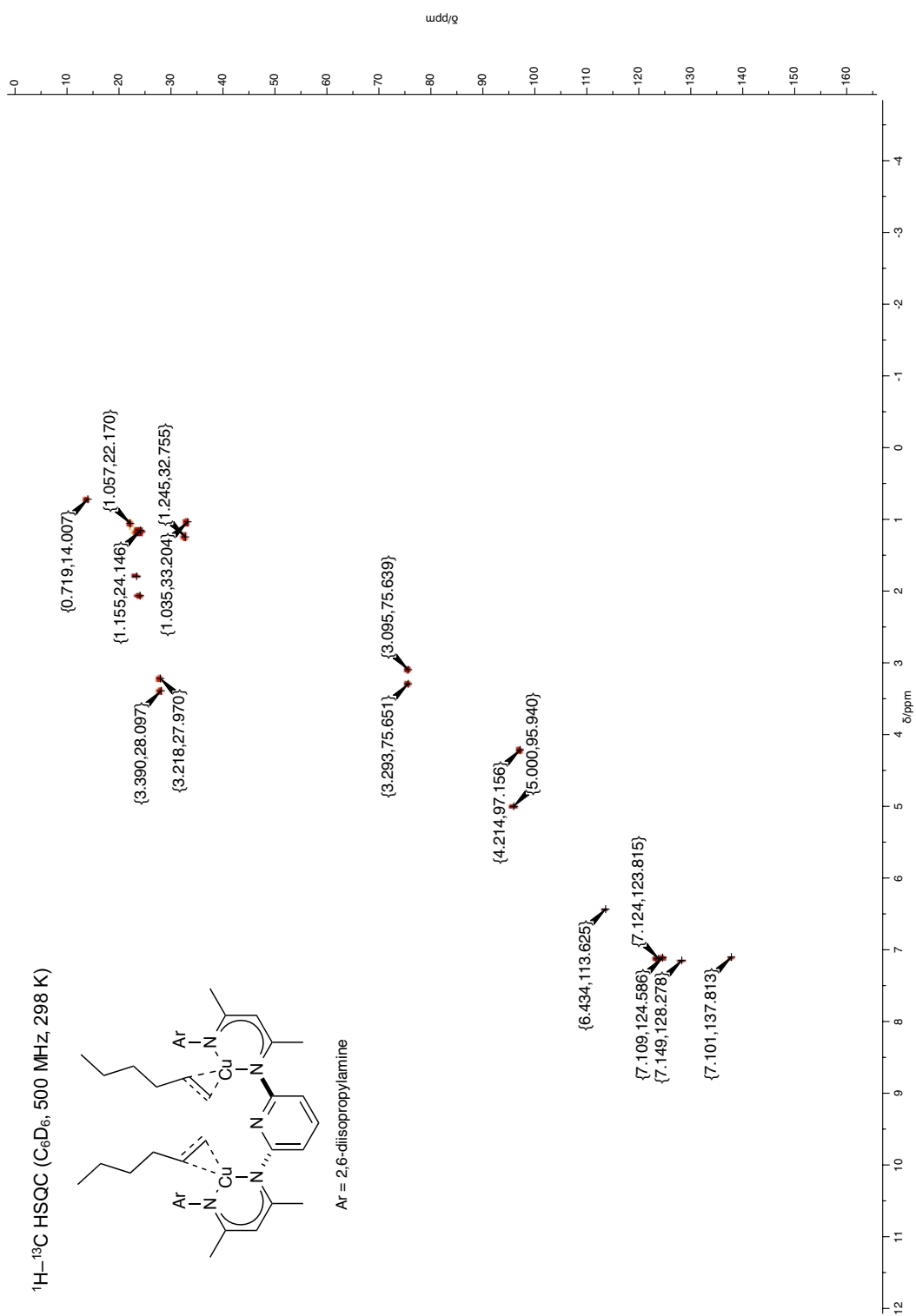
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (C_6D_6 , 126 MHz, 298 K)

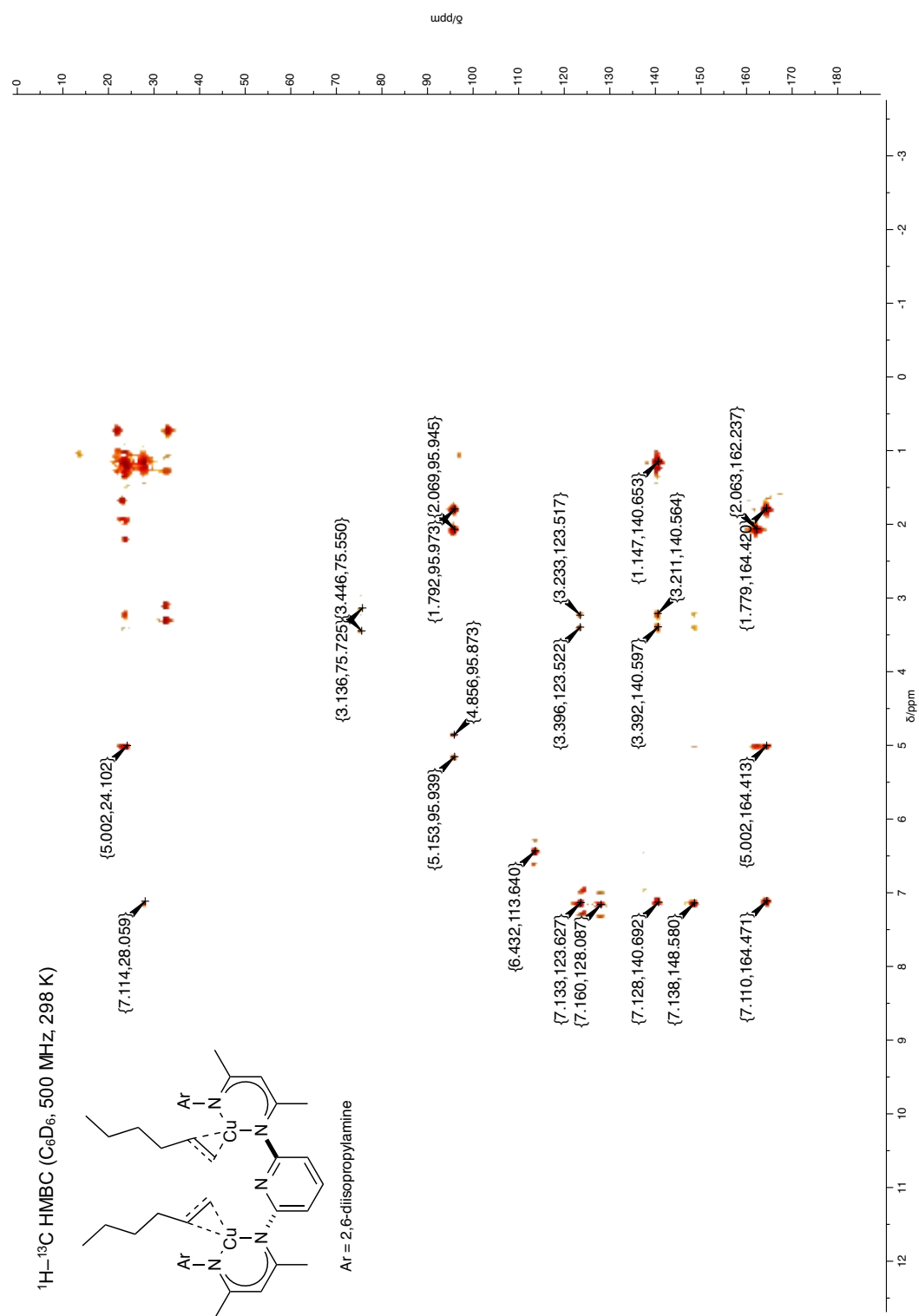


Ar = 2,6-diisopropylamine

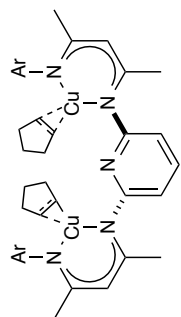




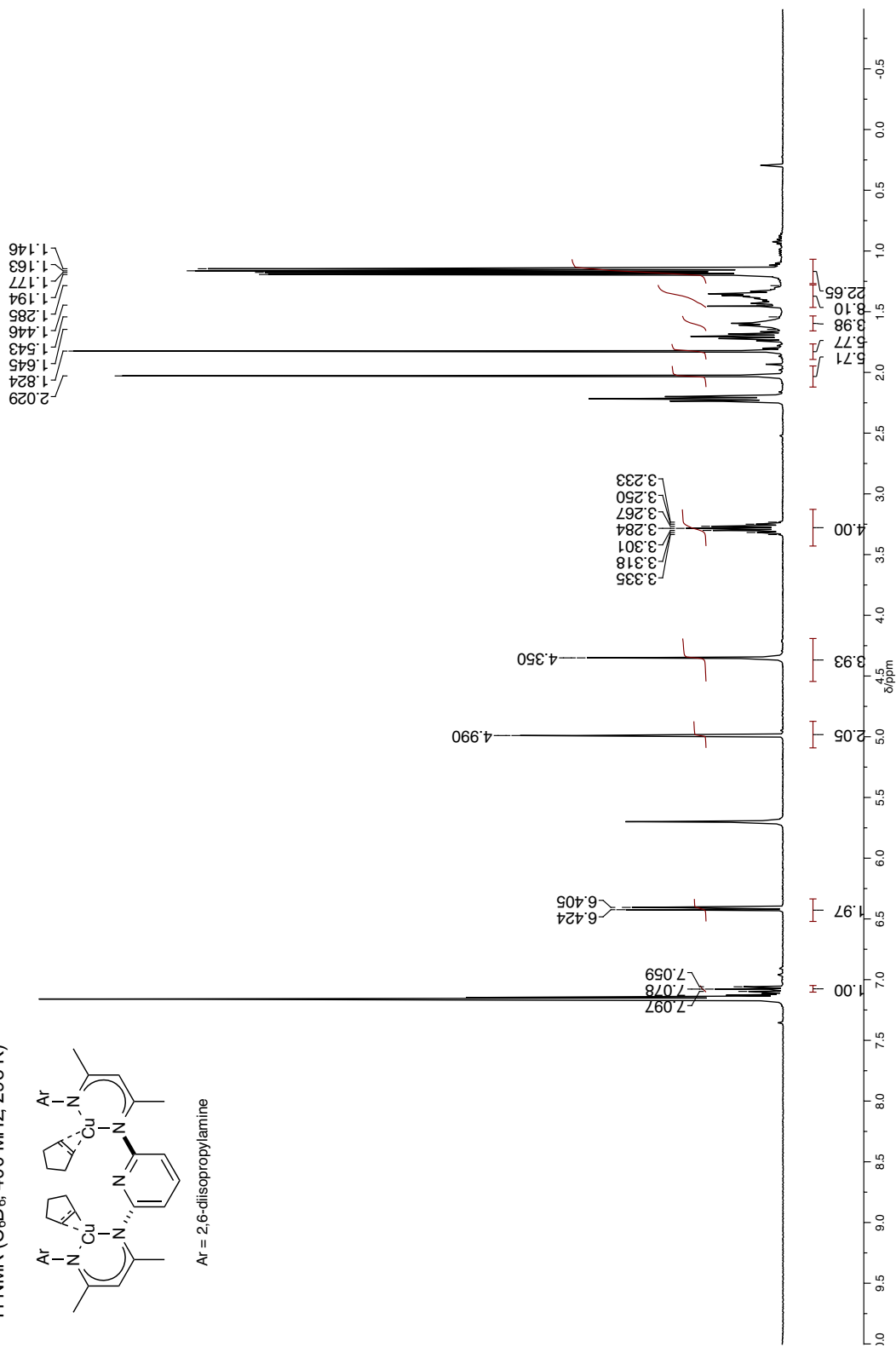




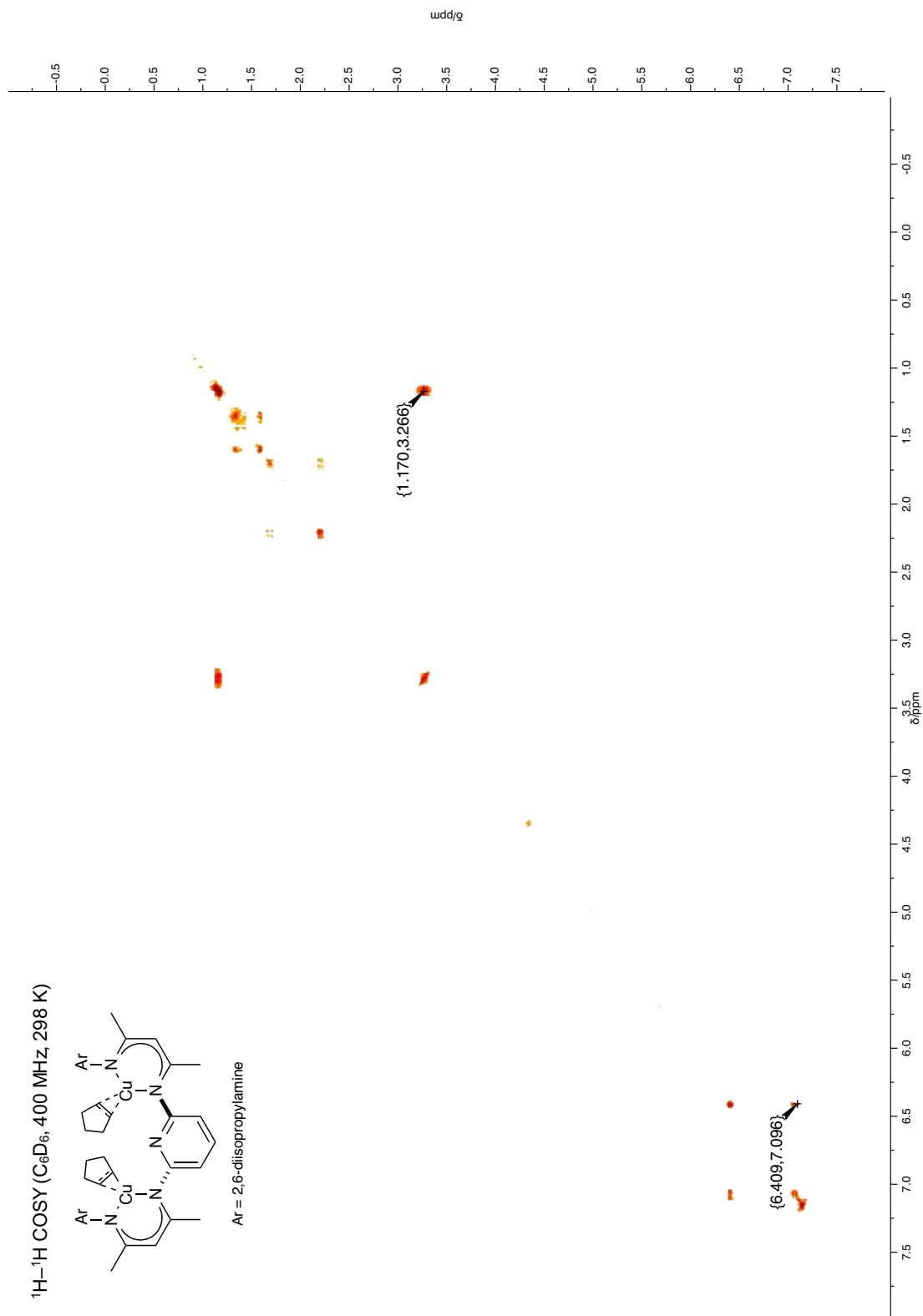
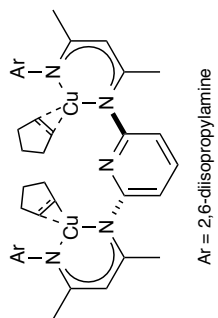
^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 400 MHz, 298 K)



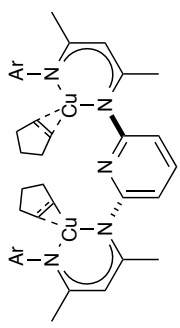
Ar = 2,6-diisopropylamine



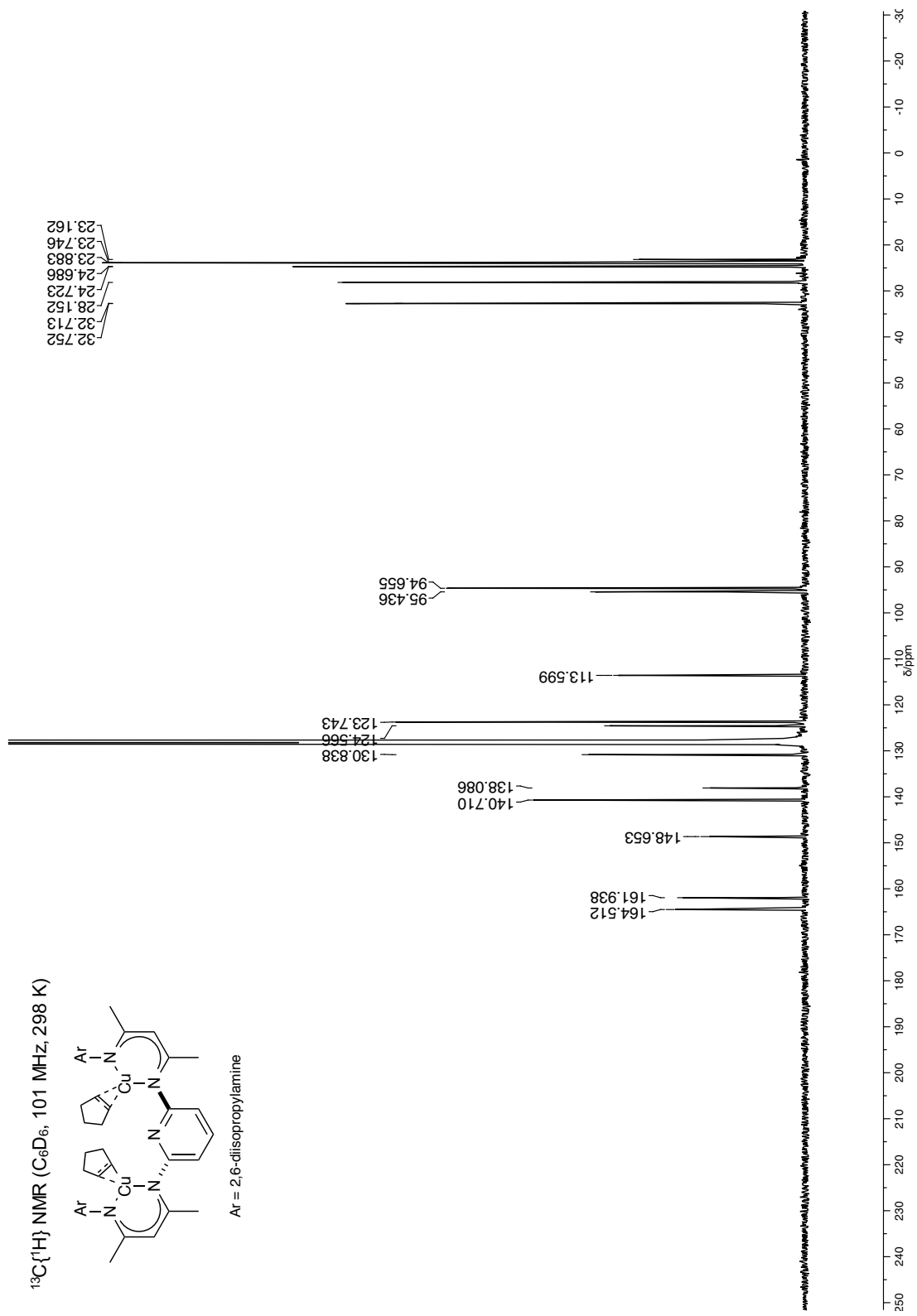
^1H - ^1H COSY (C_6D_6 , 400 MHz, 298 K)



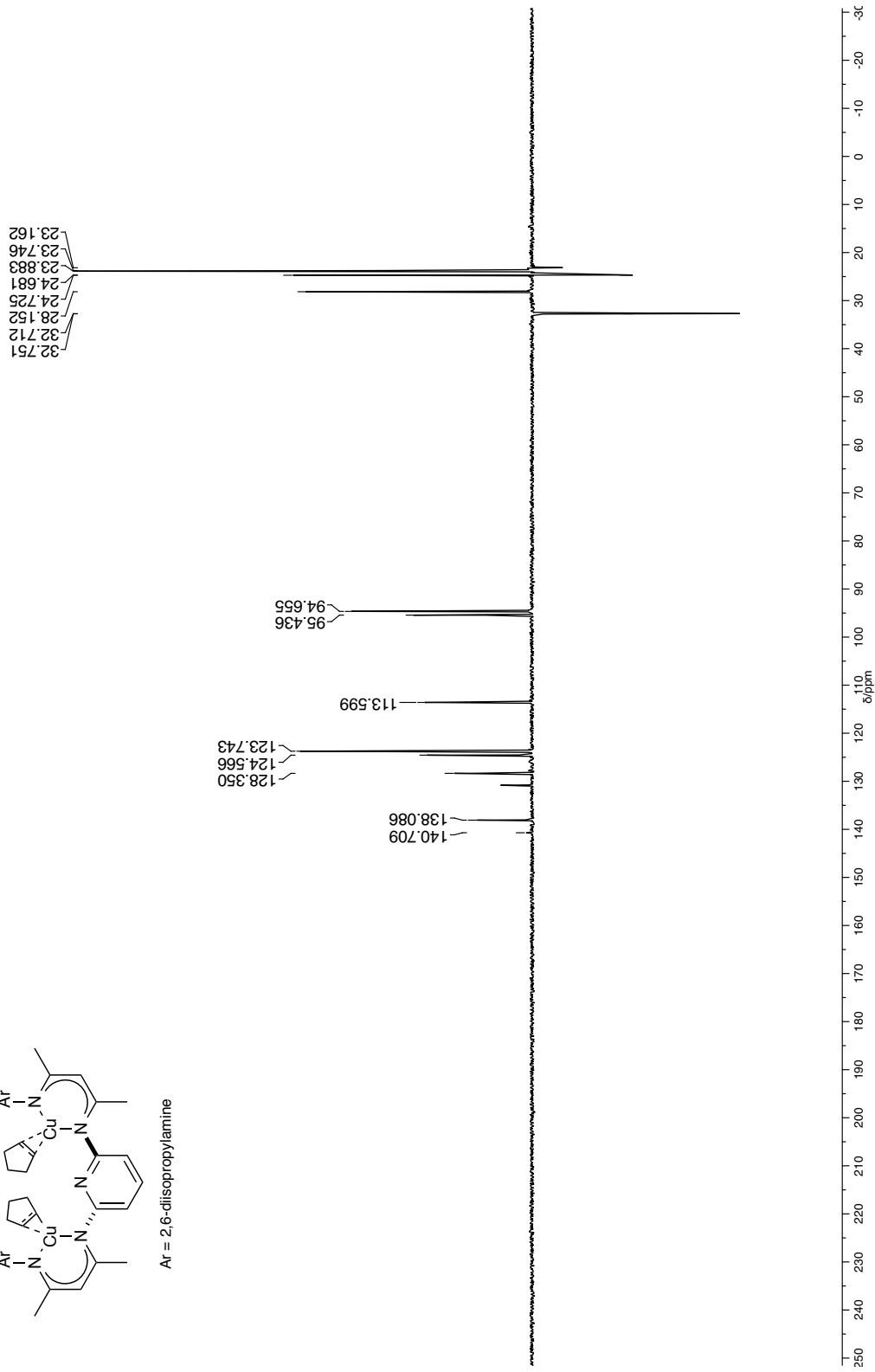
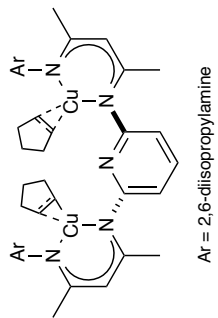
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (C_6D_6 , 101 MHz, 298 K)



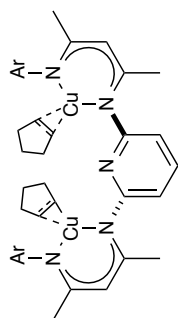
Ar = 2,6-diisopropylamine



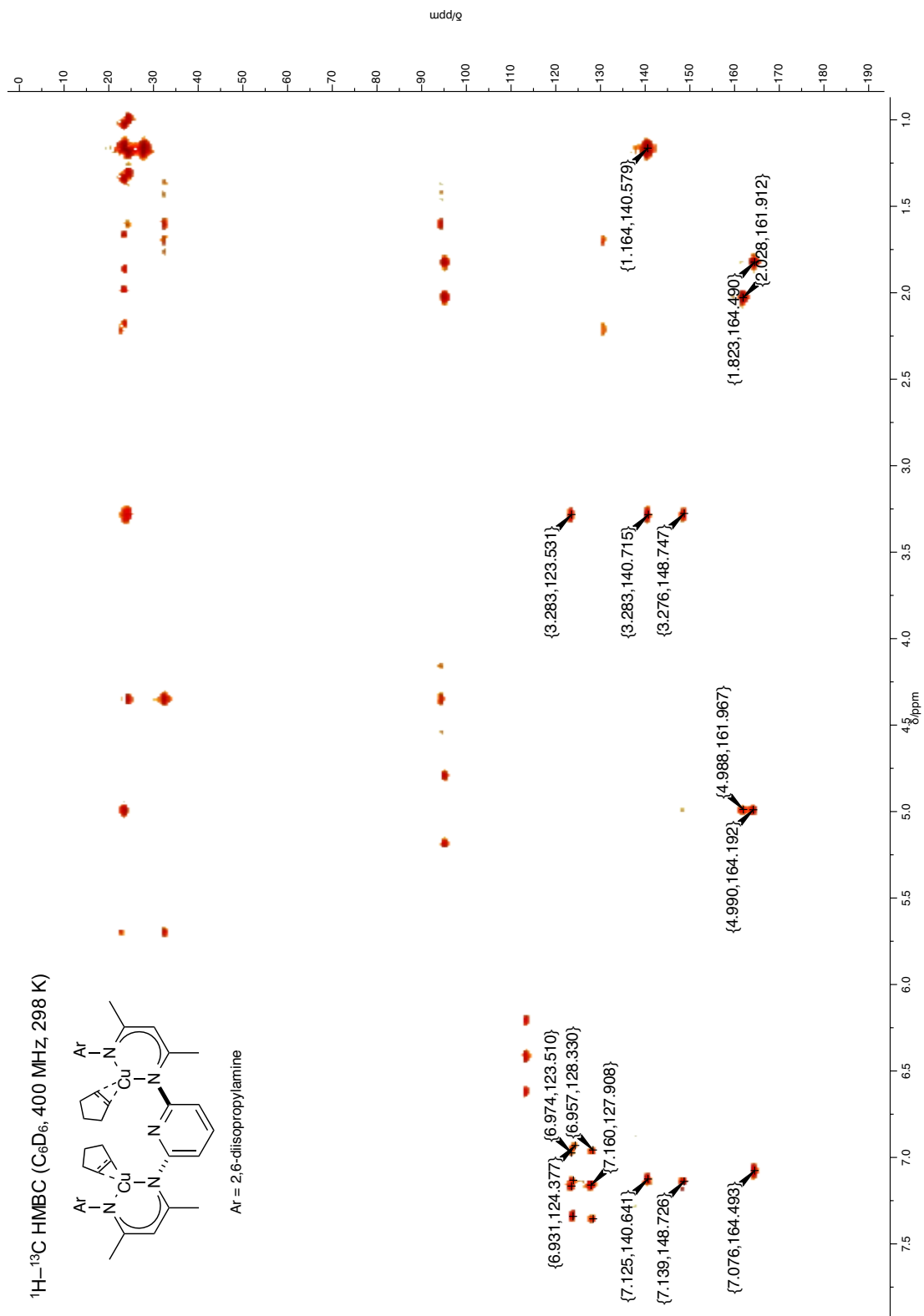
DEPT-135 (C₆D₆, 101 MHz, 298 K)



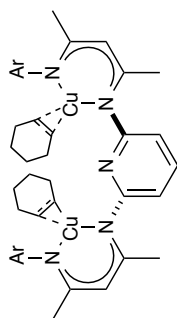
^1H - ^{13}C HMBC (C_6D_6 , 400 MHz, 298 K)



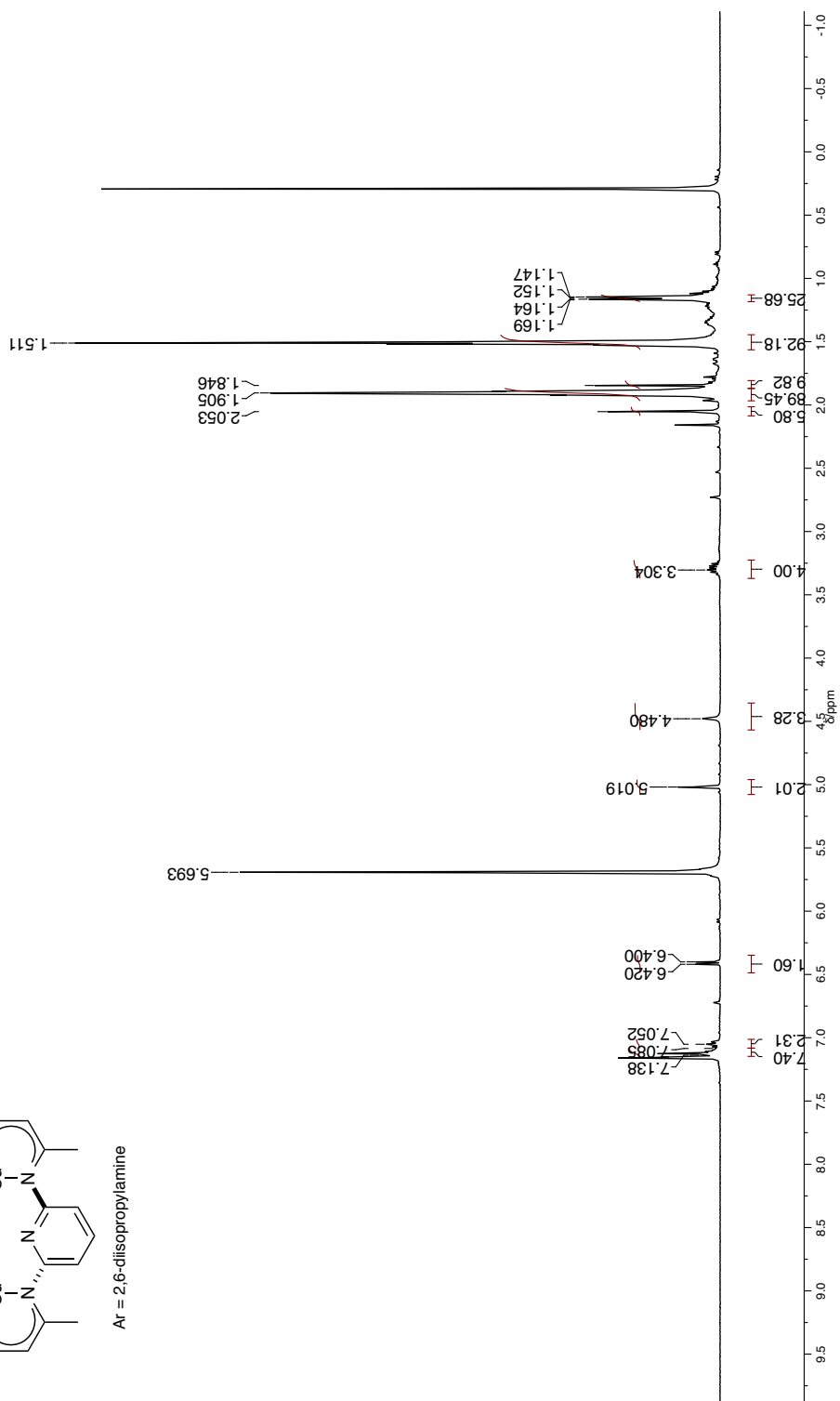
Ar = 2,6-diisopropylamine

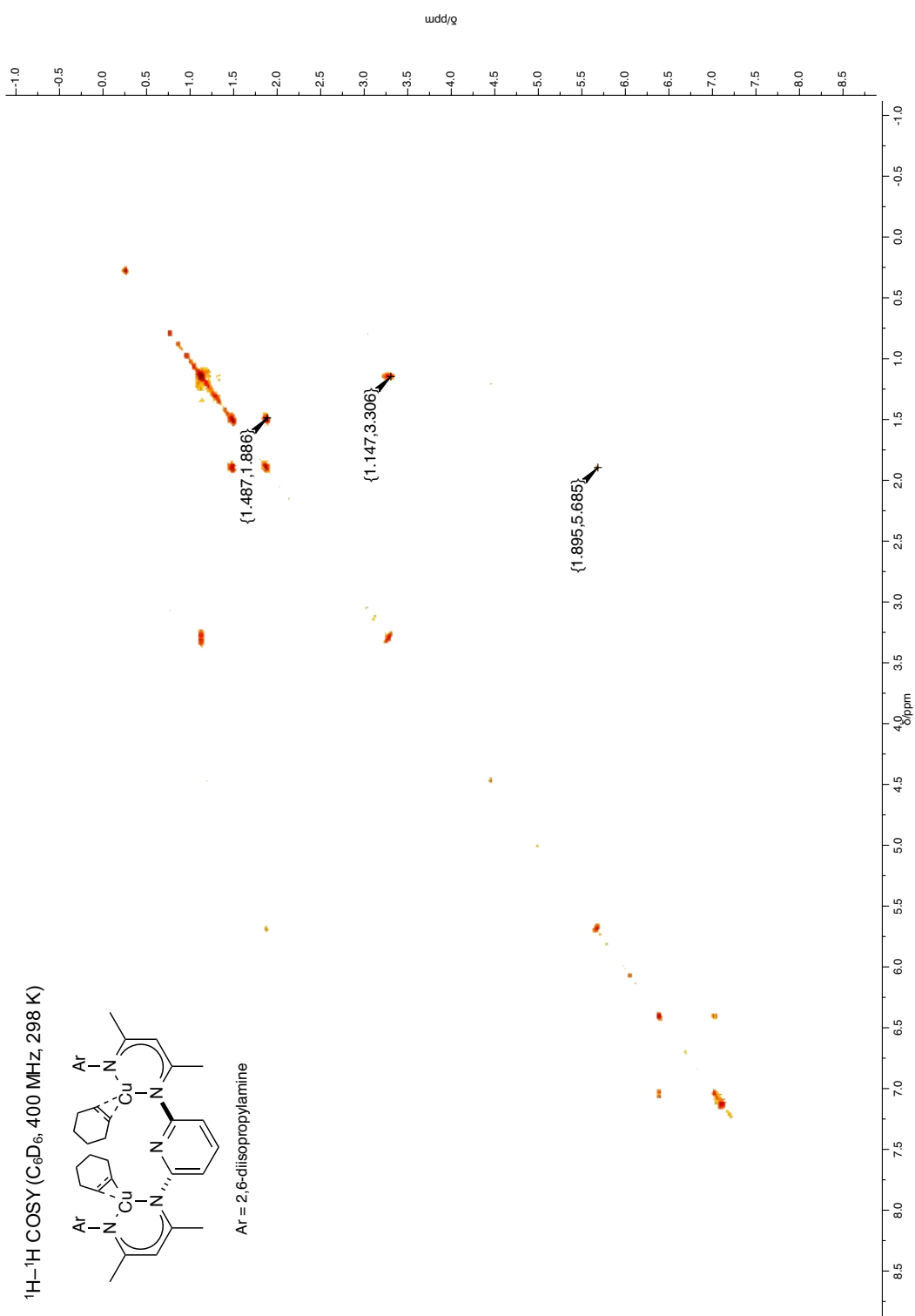


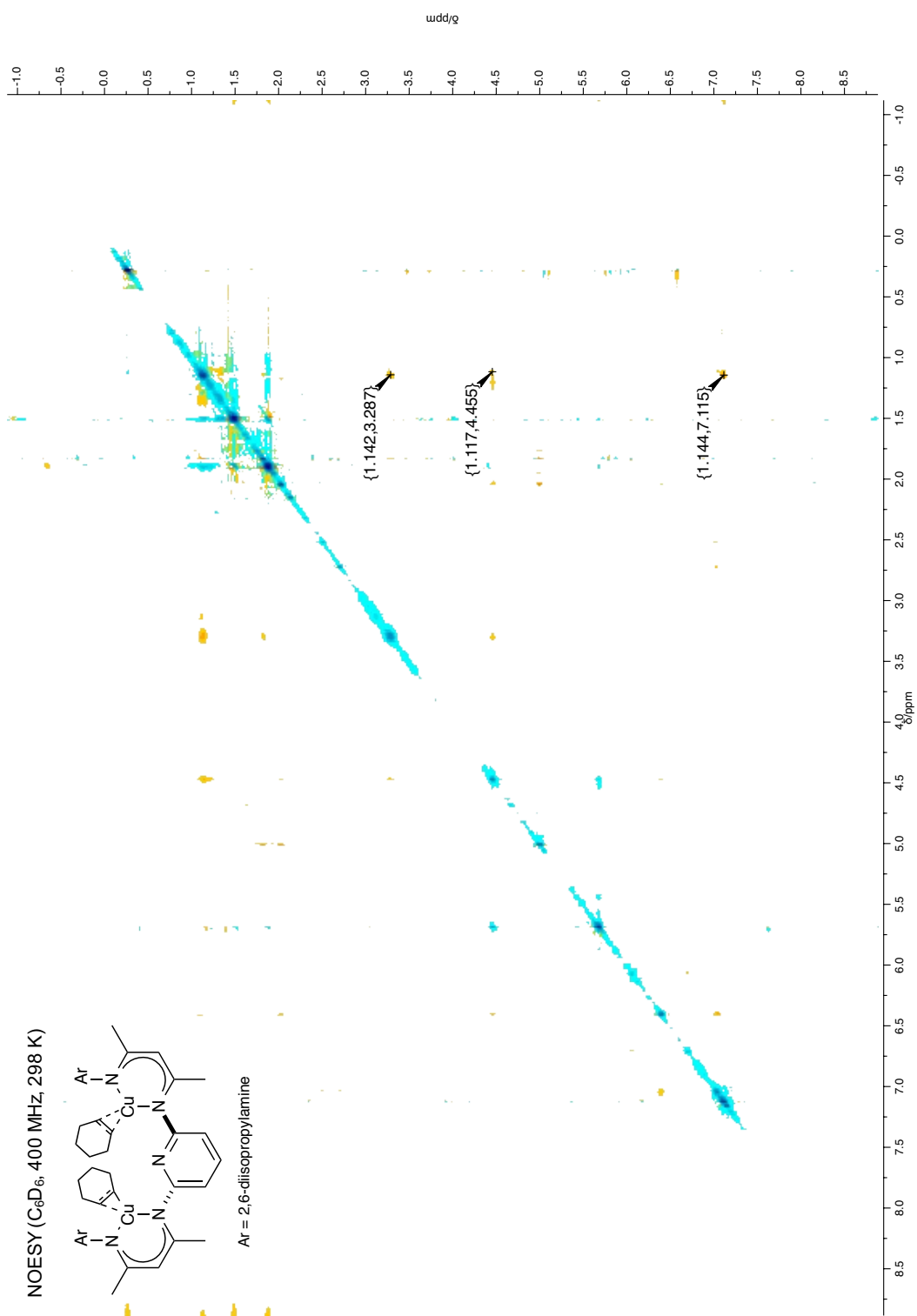
¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 400 MHz, 298 K)



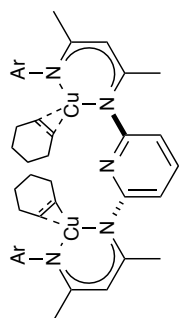
Ar = 2,6-diisopropylamine



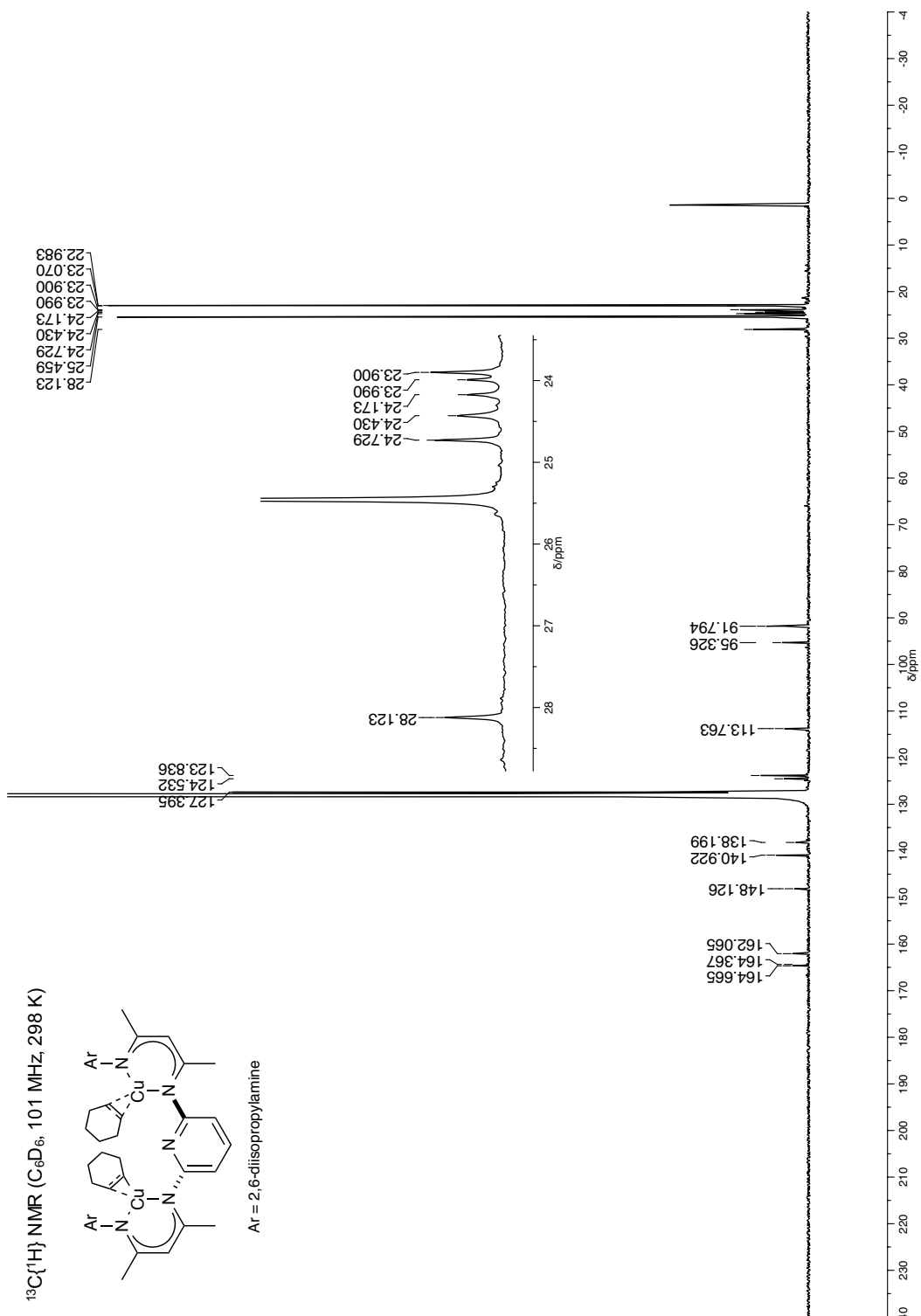




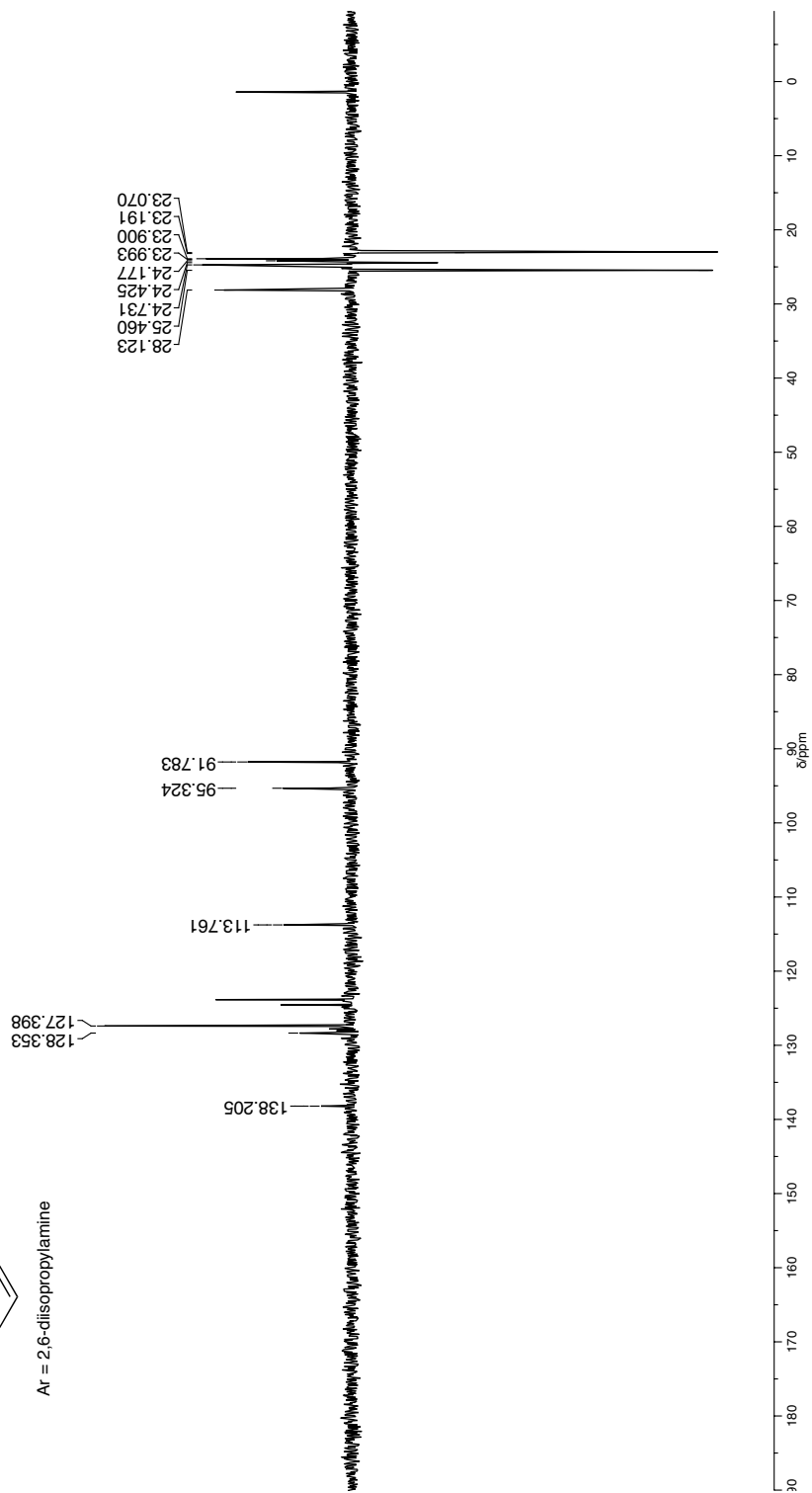
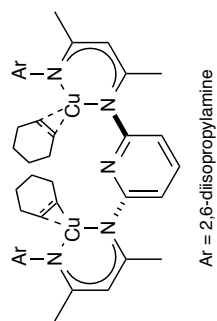
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (C_6D_6 , 101 MHz, 298 K)



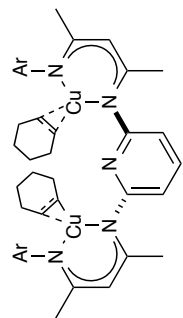
Ar = 2,6-diisopropylamine



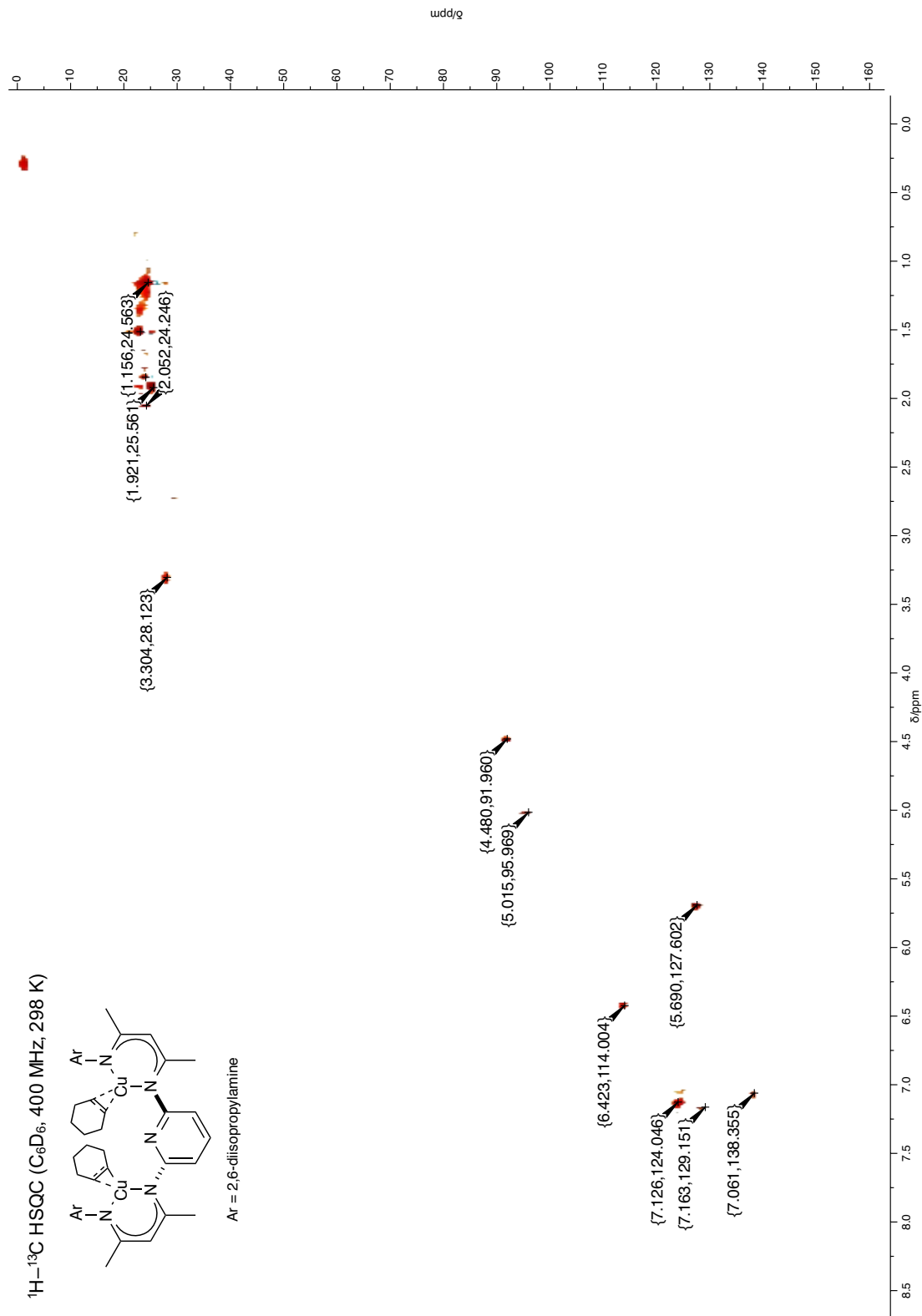
DEPT-135 (C₆D₆, 101 MHz, 298 K)

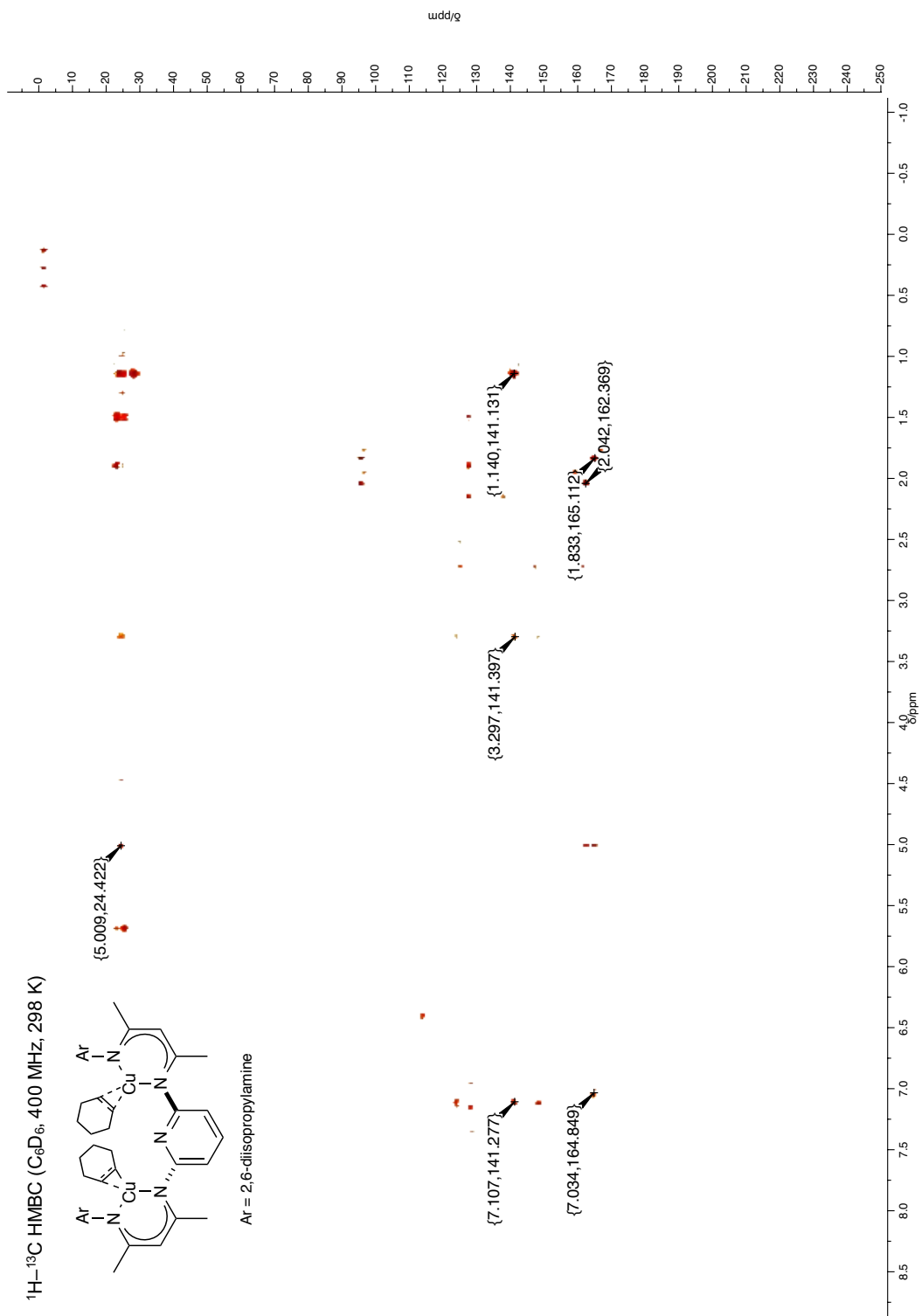


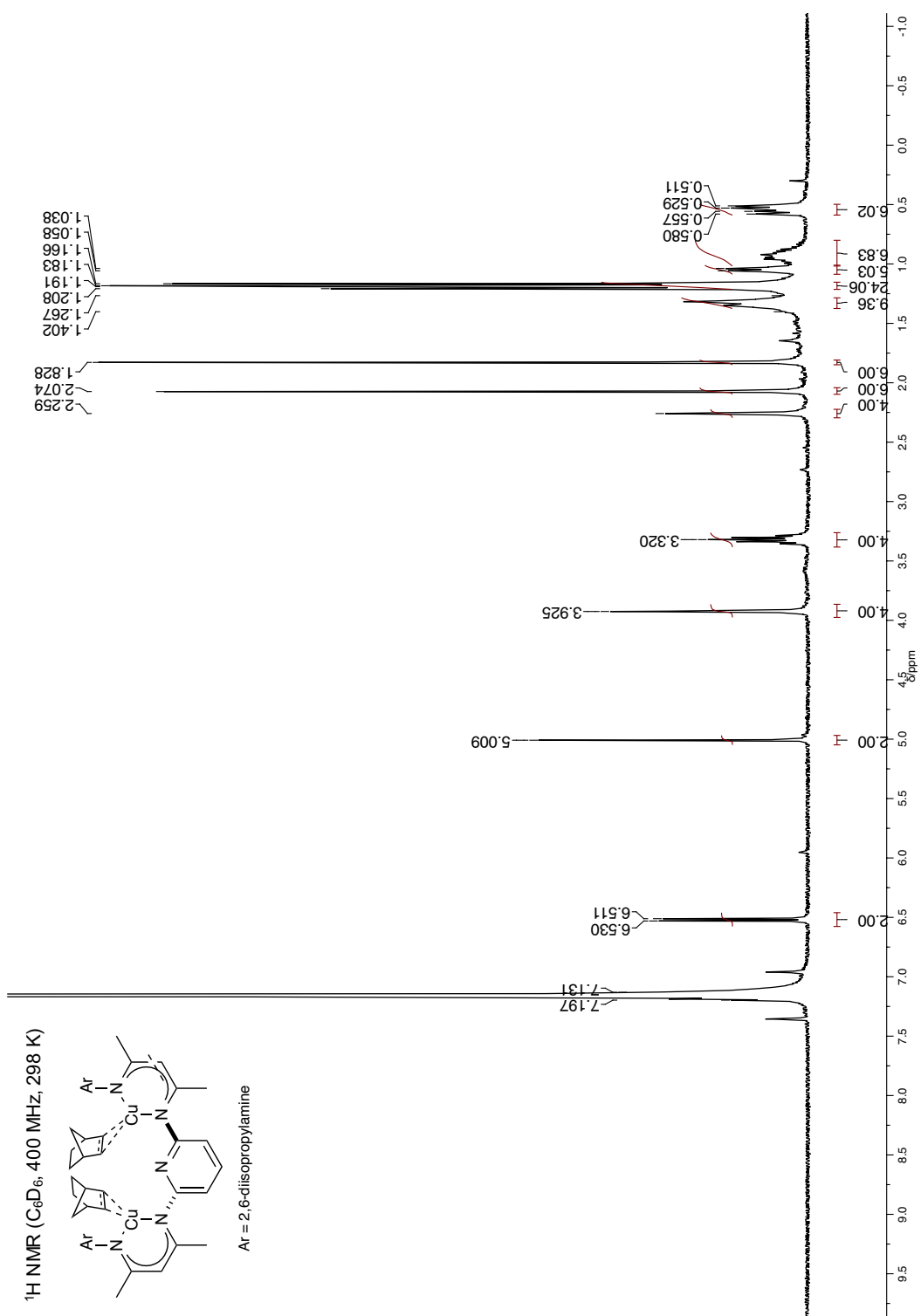
^1H - ^{13}C HSQC (C_6D_6 , 400 MHz, 298 K)



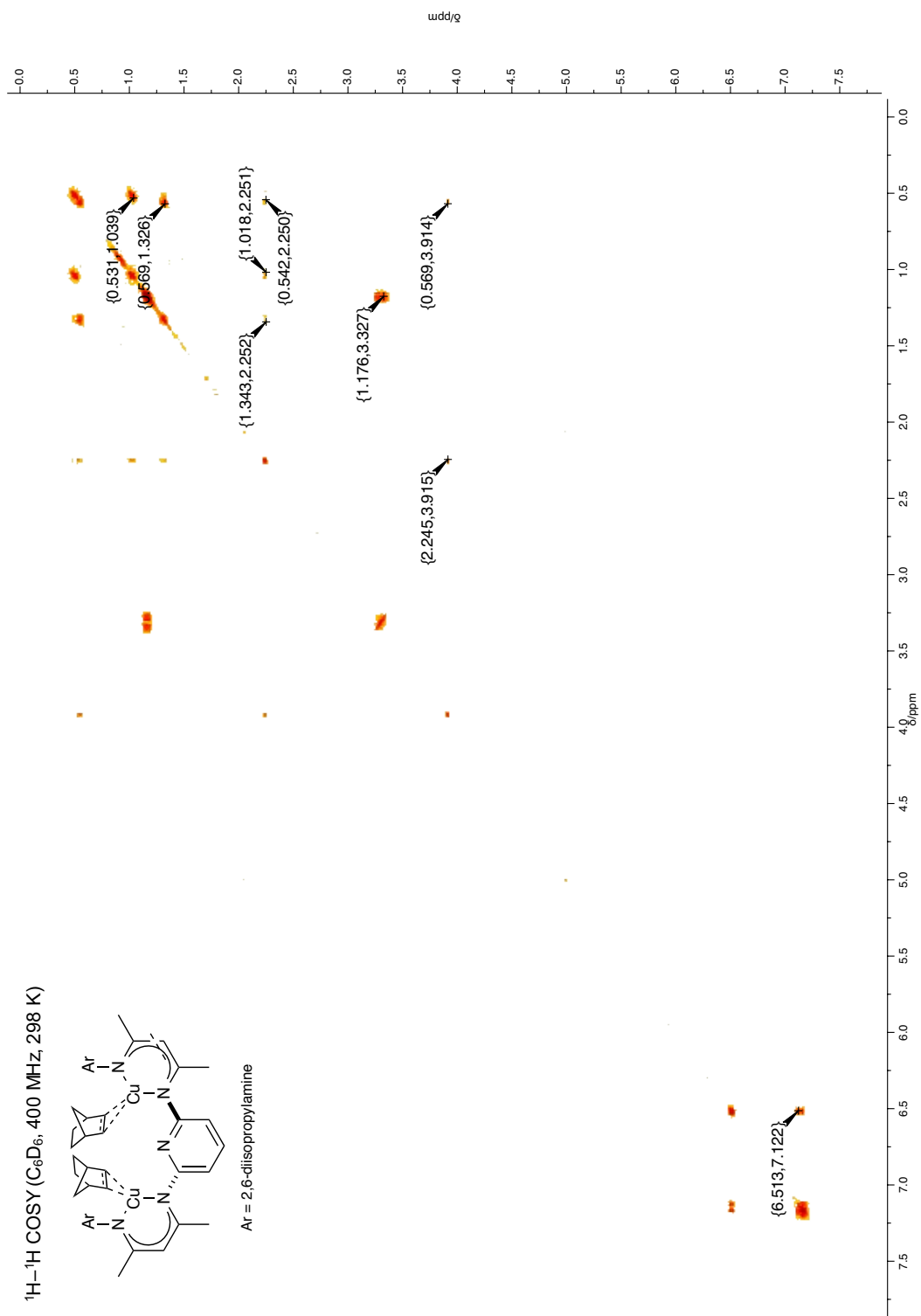
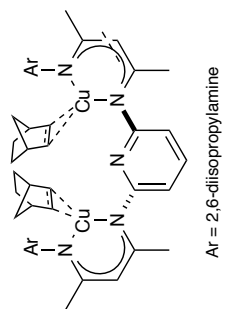
Ar = 2,6-disopropylamine



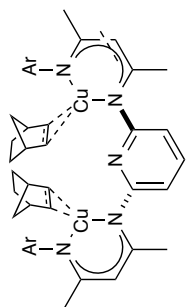




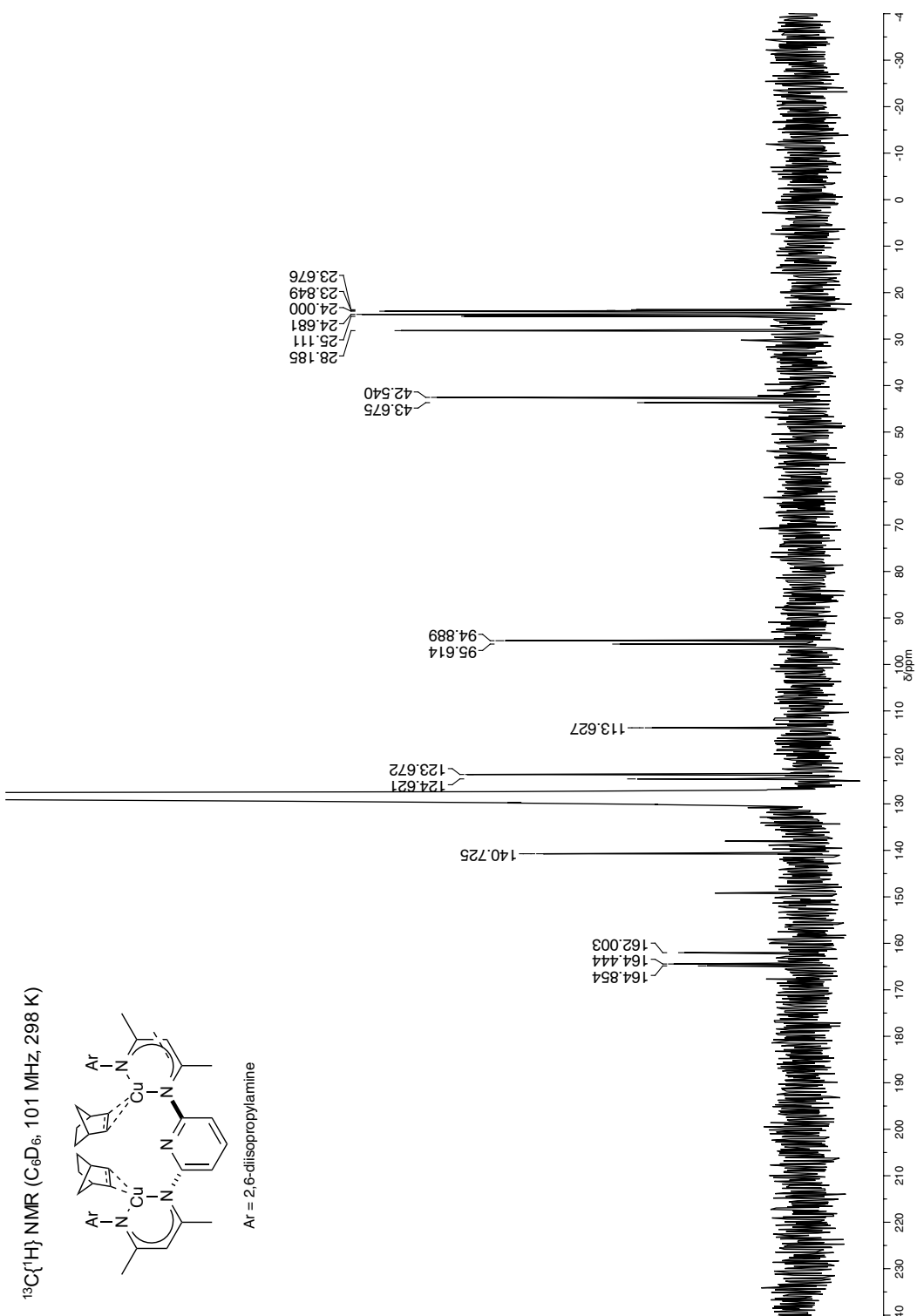
^1H - ^1H COSY (C_6D_6 , 400 MHz, 298 K)



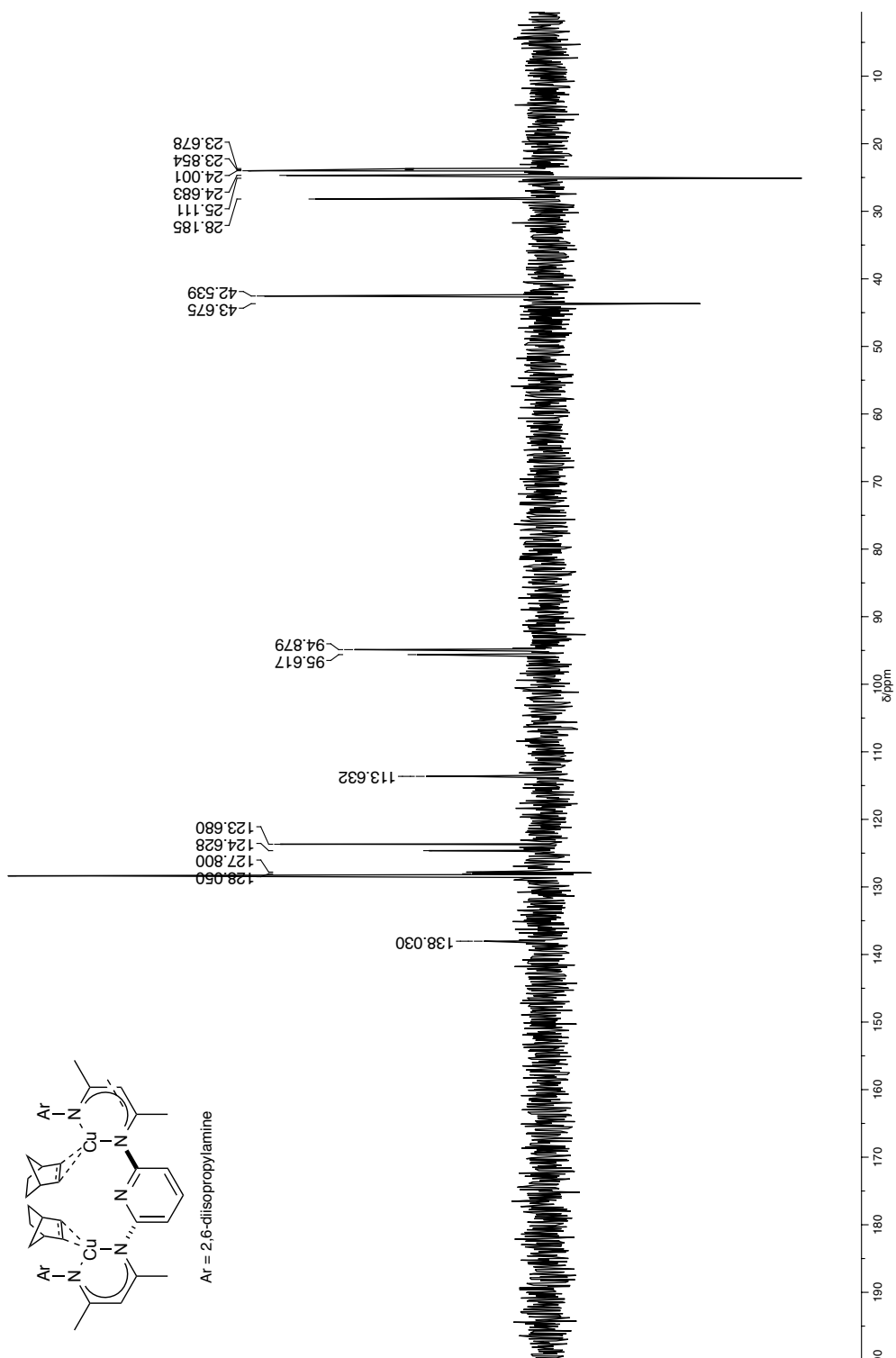
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (C_6D_6 , 101 MHz, 298 K)

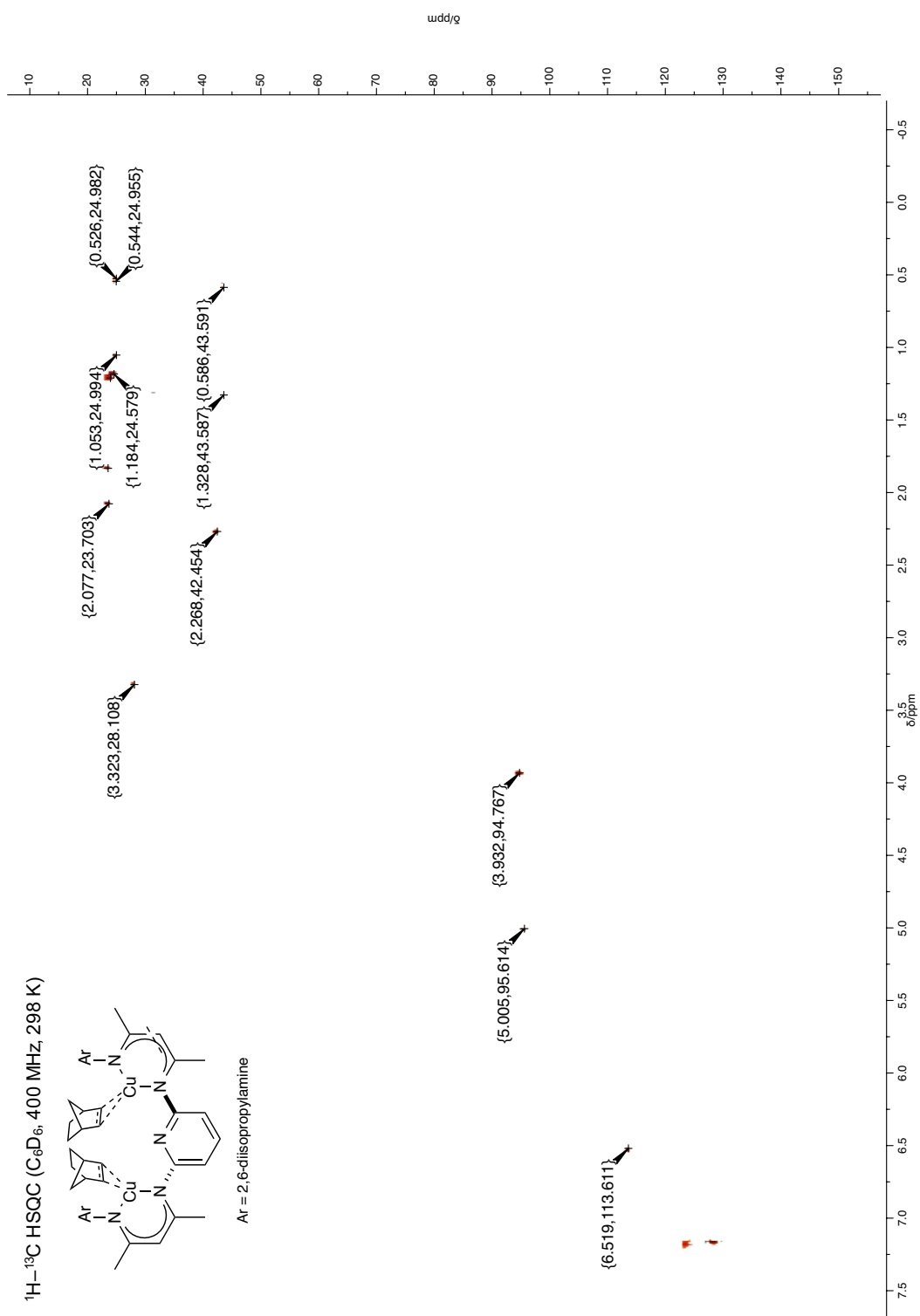


Ar = 2,6-diisopropylamine

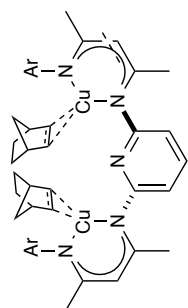


DEPT-135 (C₆D₆, 101 MHz, 298 K)





^1H - ^{13}C HMBC (C_6D_6 , 400 MHz, 298 K)



Ar = 2,6-diisopropylamine

udd/q

{6.952, 128.945}
{7.344, 128.721}

{1.172, 140.975}

{2.060, 161.999}
{1.824, 164.812}

3.5 ppm