



Dalton Transactions

Supporting information

Small molecule activation: SbF₃ auto-ionization supported by transfer and mesoionic NHC rearrangement

B. Alič^{a, b} A. Štefančič^{a, b} and G. Tavčar^{a, b, *}

^a. Jožef Stefan Institute, Jamova cesta 39, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

^b. Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School, Jamova cesta 39, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

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Reaction “[SbF₃(tmen)] + (L^{Dipp}) → [(L^{Dipp})H]⁺[SbF₄]⁻”:

¹H NMR spectrum CD₃CN

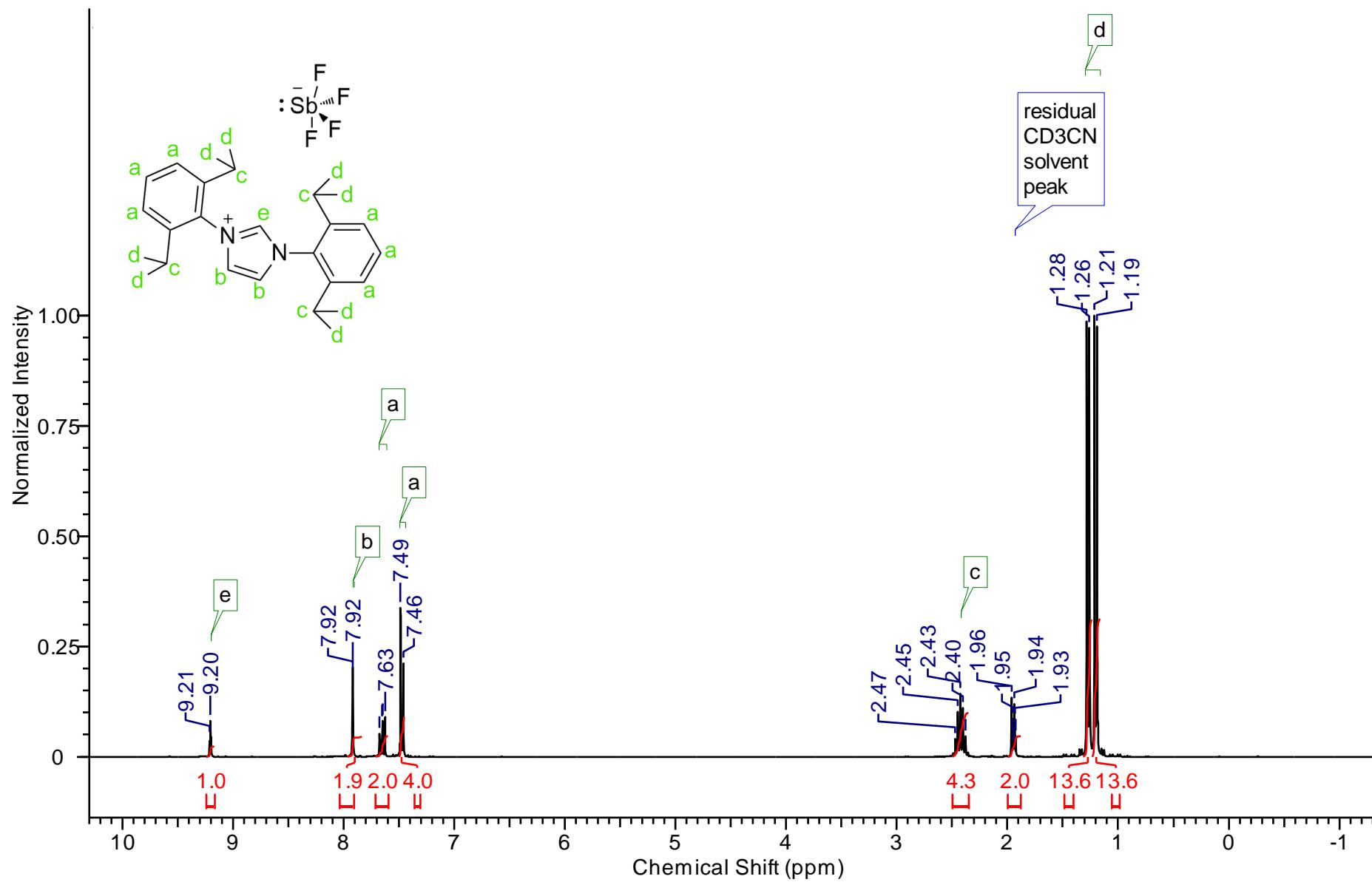
¹⁹F spectrum NMR CD₃CN

¹³C spectrum NMR CD₃CN

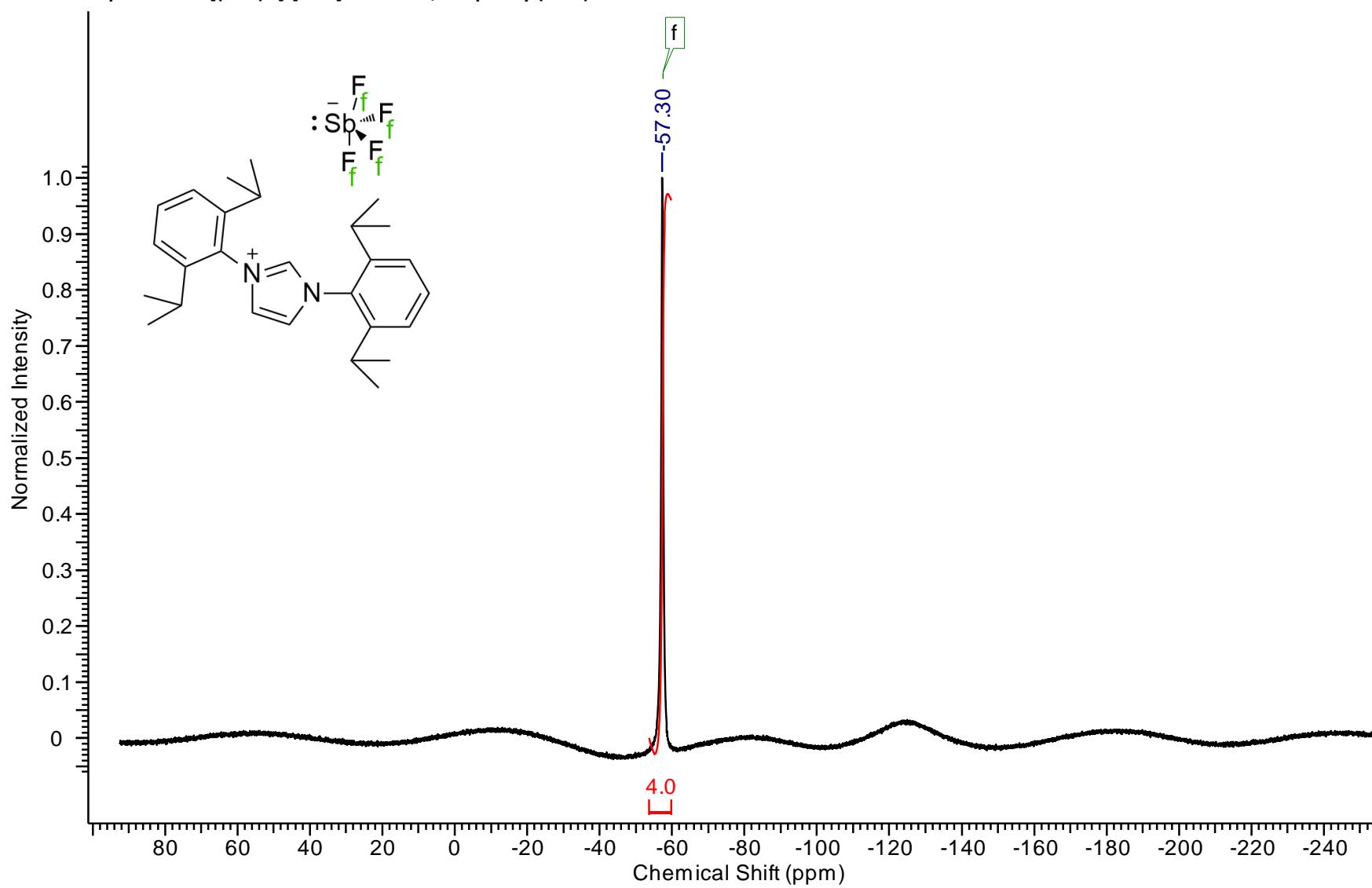
Raman spectrum

Superimposed spectra of reaction (L^{Dipp}) + SbF₃ → [(L^{Dipp})H]⁺[SbF₄]⁻ **(1)** performed in CH₃CN vs. CD₃CN

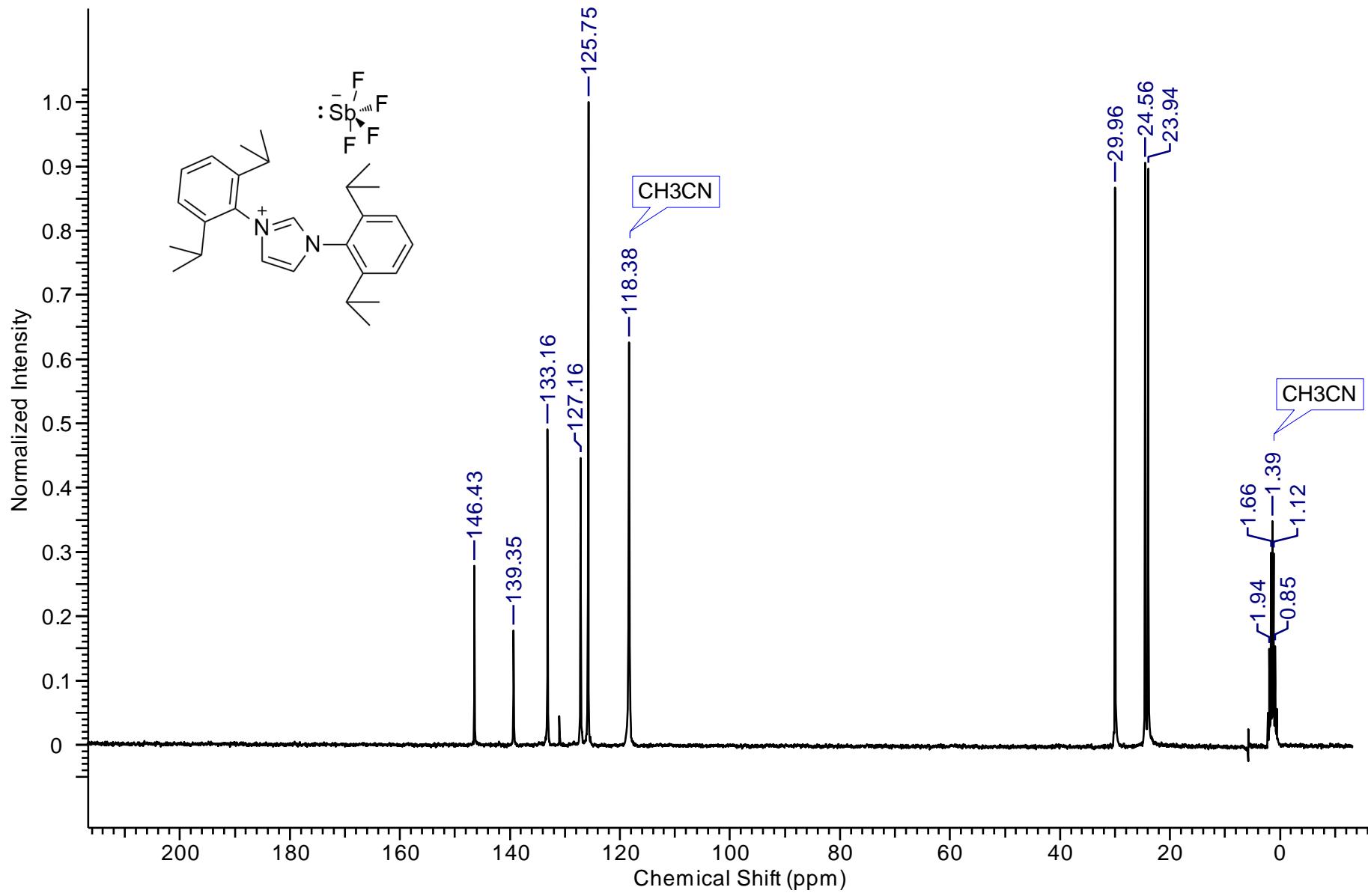
^1H NMR spectrum of $[(\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})\text{H}]^+[\text{SbF}_4]^-$ in CD_3CN , Frequency (MHz) 302.97:



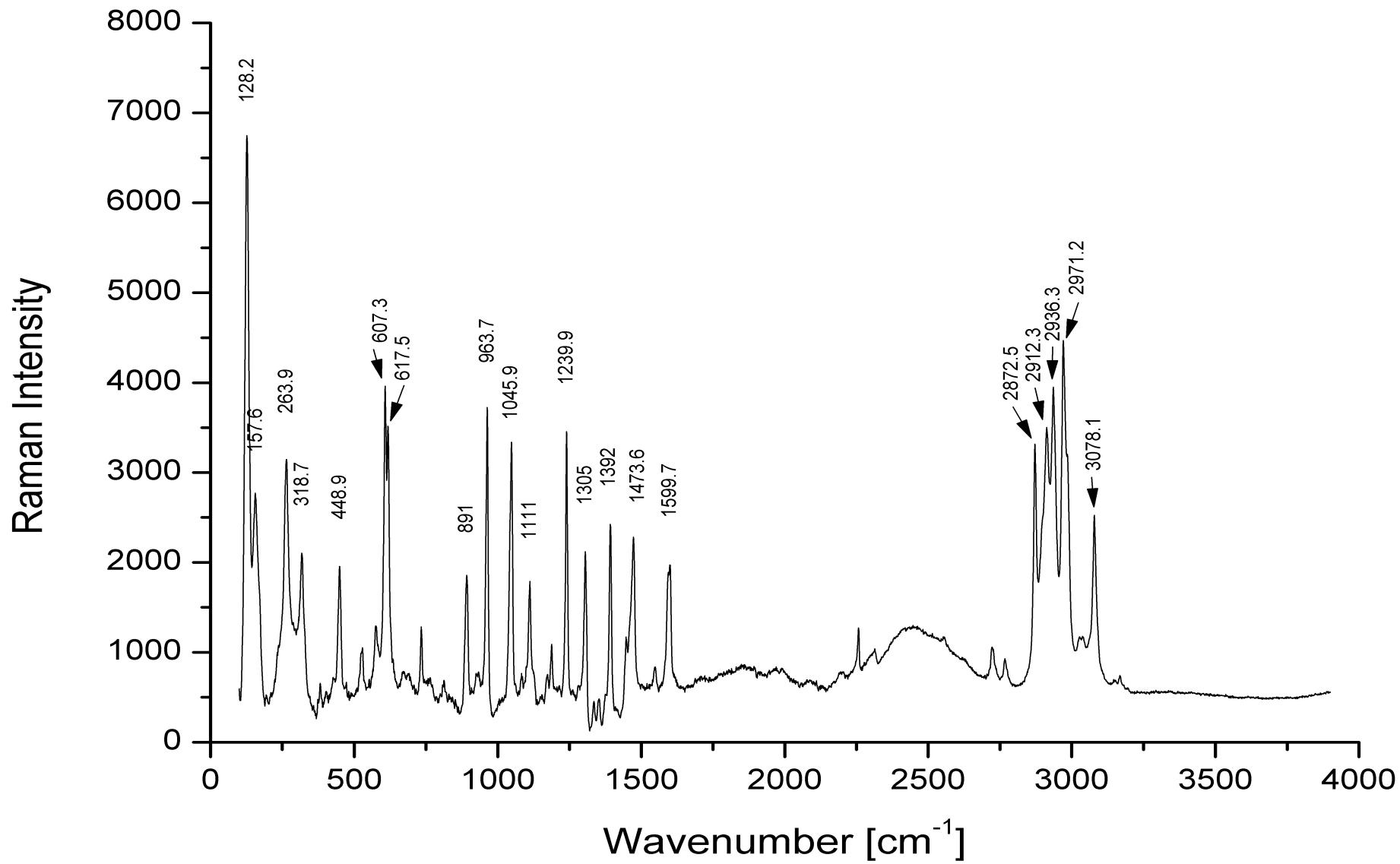
^{19}F NMR spectrum of $[(\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})\text{H}]^+[\text{SbF}_4]^-$ in CD_3CN , Frequency (MHz) 285.05:



^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[(\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})\text{H}]^+[\text{SbF}_4]^-$ in CD_3CN , Frequency (MHz) 76.19:



Raman spectra of $[(L^{Dipp})H]^+[SbF_4]^-$ (1)



Superimposed spectra of reaction $(L^{Dipp}) + SbF_3 \rightarrow [(L^{Dipp})H]^+[SbF_4]^-$ (**1**) performed in CH_3CN vs. CD_3CN

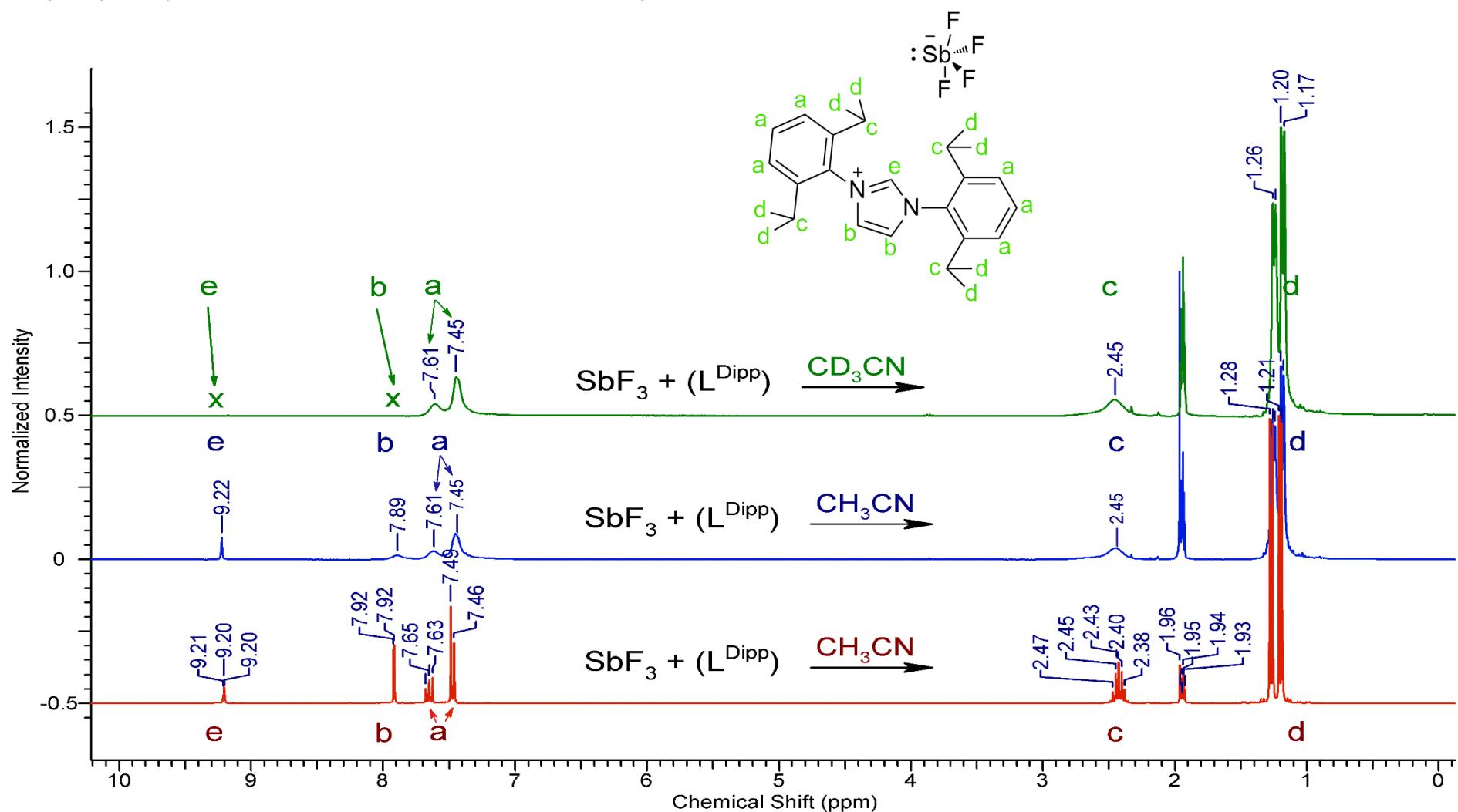


Figure 1: Superimposed spectra of reaction " $SbF_3 + (L^{Dipp})$ " performed in CH_3CN vs. CD_3CN . Reaction in CH_3CN (blue) shows all imidazolium peaks for protons (e) and (b) while reaction in CD_3CN (green) shows no imidazolium peaks, showing: **a**) proton (e) arises from solvent molecule and **b**) all three imidazolium protons (e) and (b) undergo H/D exchange with deuterated solvent. **Red** spectra, for comparison, represents isolated product of $[(L^{Dipp})H]^+[SbF_4]^-$ (**1**)

[SbF₃(tmen)] (2)

Reaction “SbF₃ + 3tmen + → [SbF₃(tmen)]”:

¹H NMR spectrum in THF-d⁸

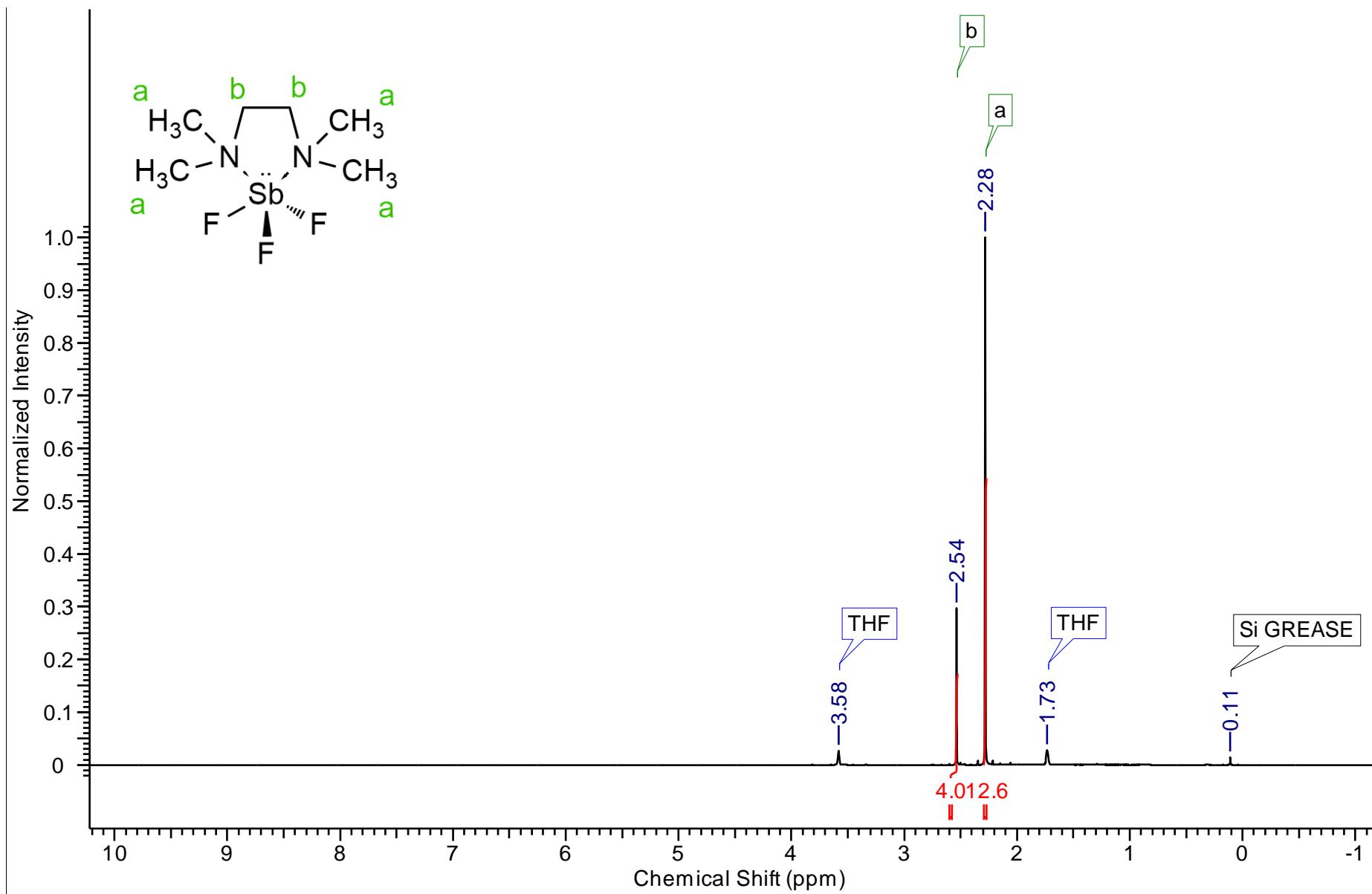
¹⁹F NMR spectrum in THF-d⁸

¹H NMR spectrum in C₆D₆

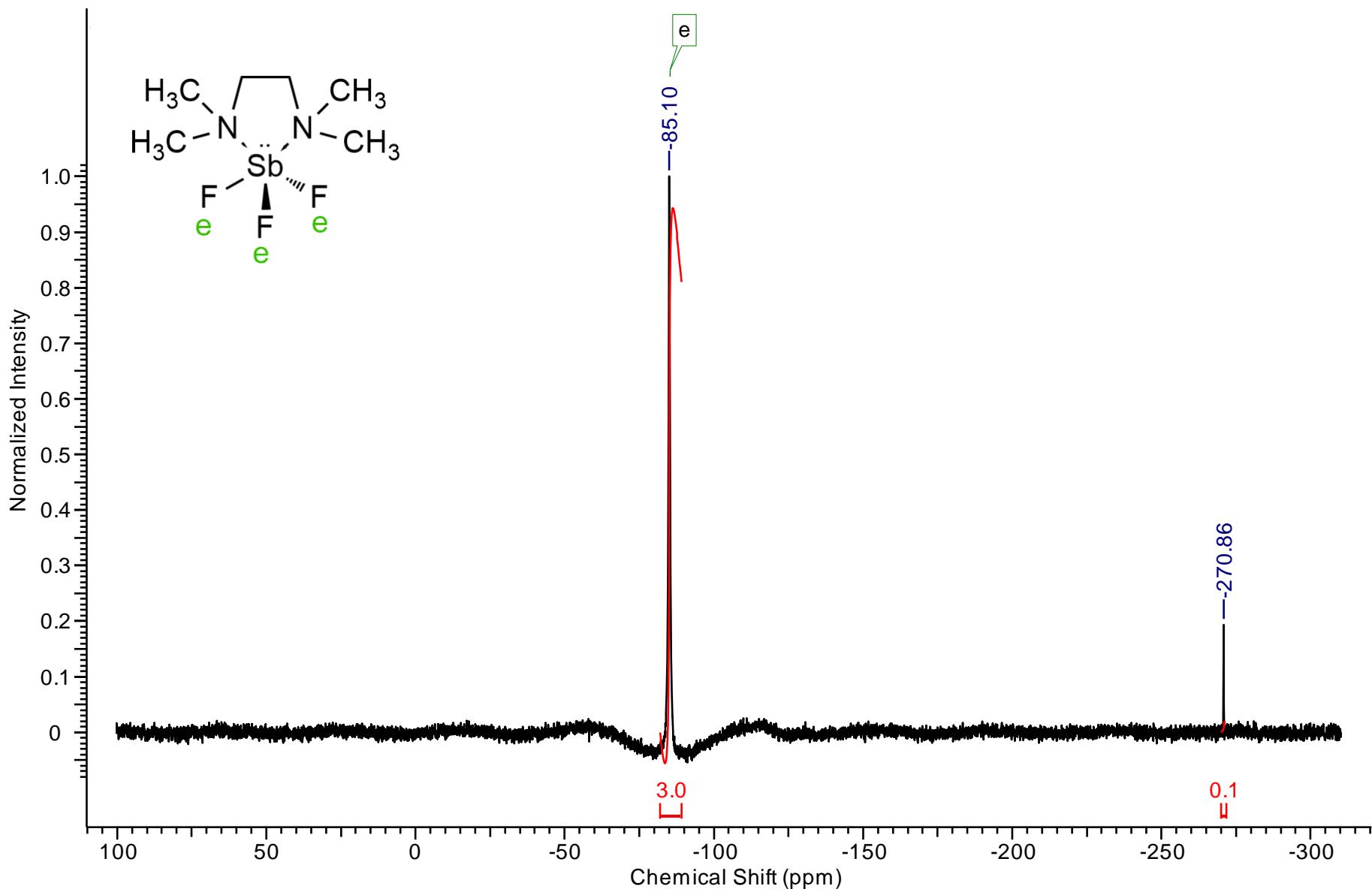
¹⁹F NMR spectrum in C₆D₆

Raman spectrum

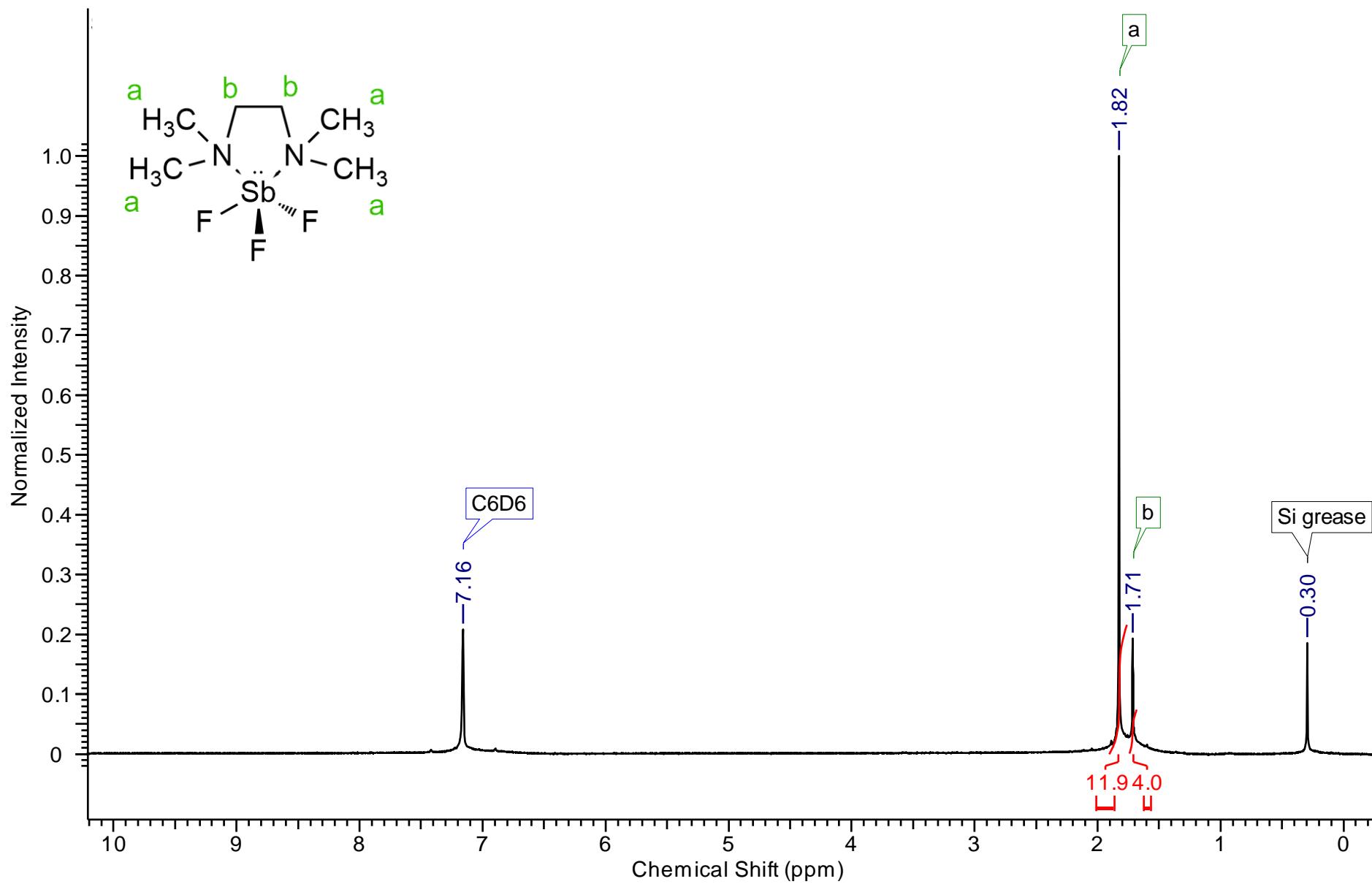
^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{SbF}_3(\text{tmen})]$ complex in THF-d^8 , Frequency (MHz) 302.97:



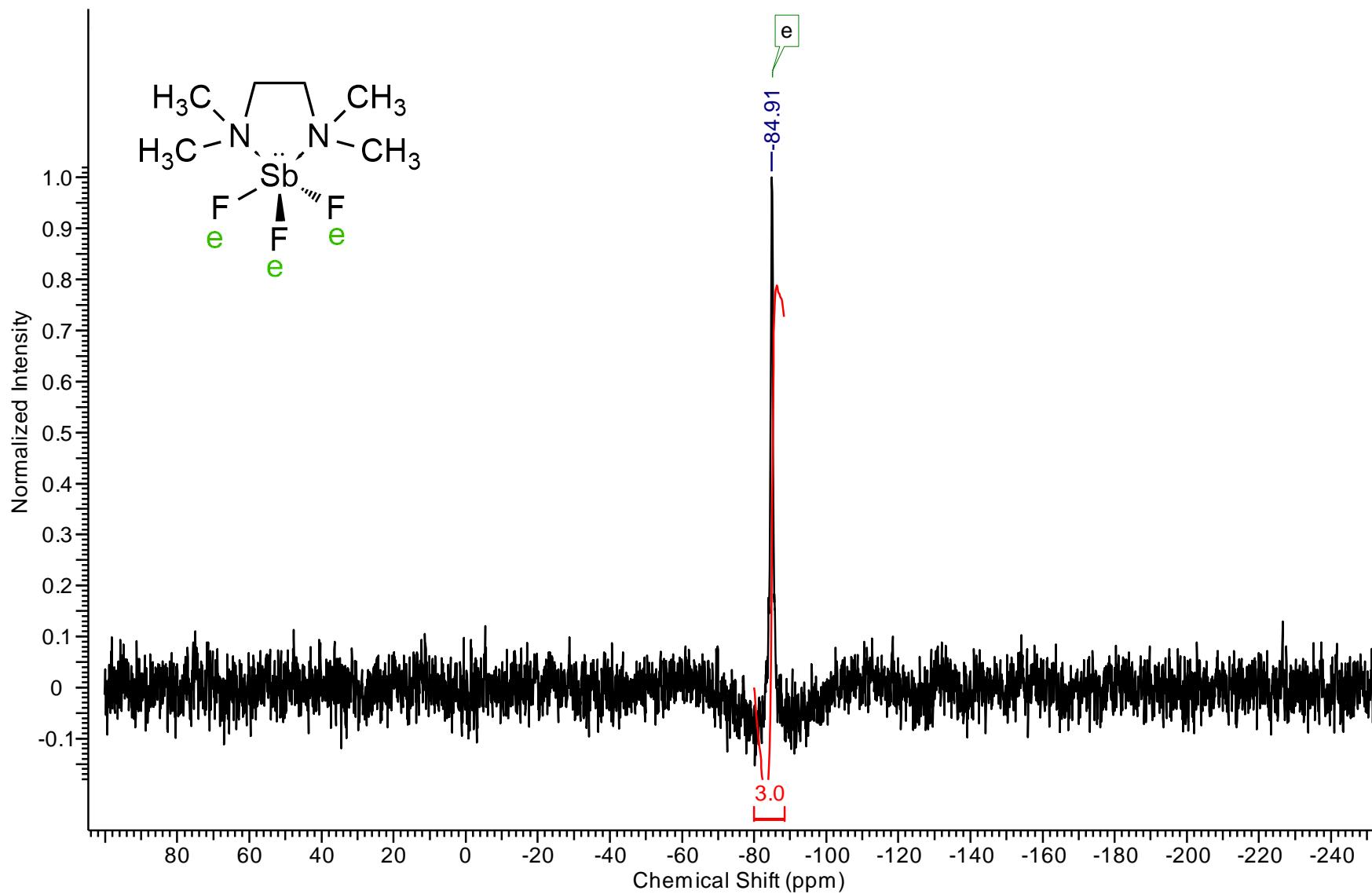
^{19}F NMR spectrum of $[\text{SbF}_3(\text{tmen})]$ complex in THF-d^8 , Frequency (MHz) 285.05:



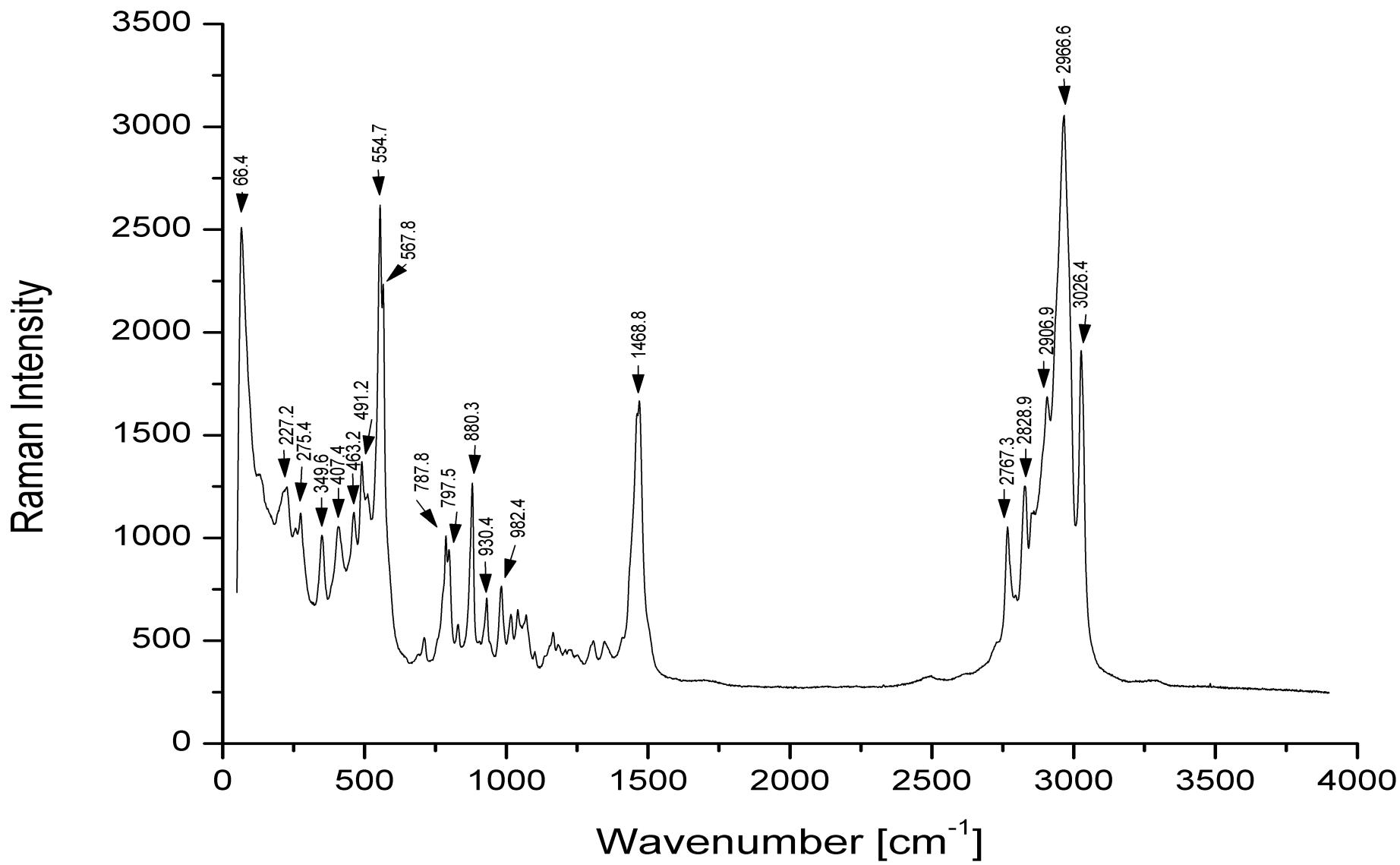
^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{SbF}_3(\text{tmen})]$ complex in C_6D_6 , Frequency (MHz) 302.97:



^{19}F NMR spectrum of $[\text{SbF}_3(\text{tmen})]$ complex in C_6D_6 , Frequency (MHz) 285.05:



Raman spectra of [SbF₃(tmen)] (2)



$[(L^{Dipp})SbF_3]$ (3)

Reaction “[$SbF_3(tmen)$] + (L^{Dipp}) \rightarrow $[(L^{Dipp})SbF_3]$ ”:

1H NMR spectrum in C_6D_6

^{19}F NMR spectrum in C_6D_6

^{13}C NMR spectrum in C_6D_6

Reaction “[$SbF_3(tmen)$] + (L^{Dipp}) + 2tmen \rightarrow $[(L^{Dipp})SbF_3]$ ”:

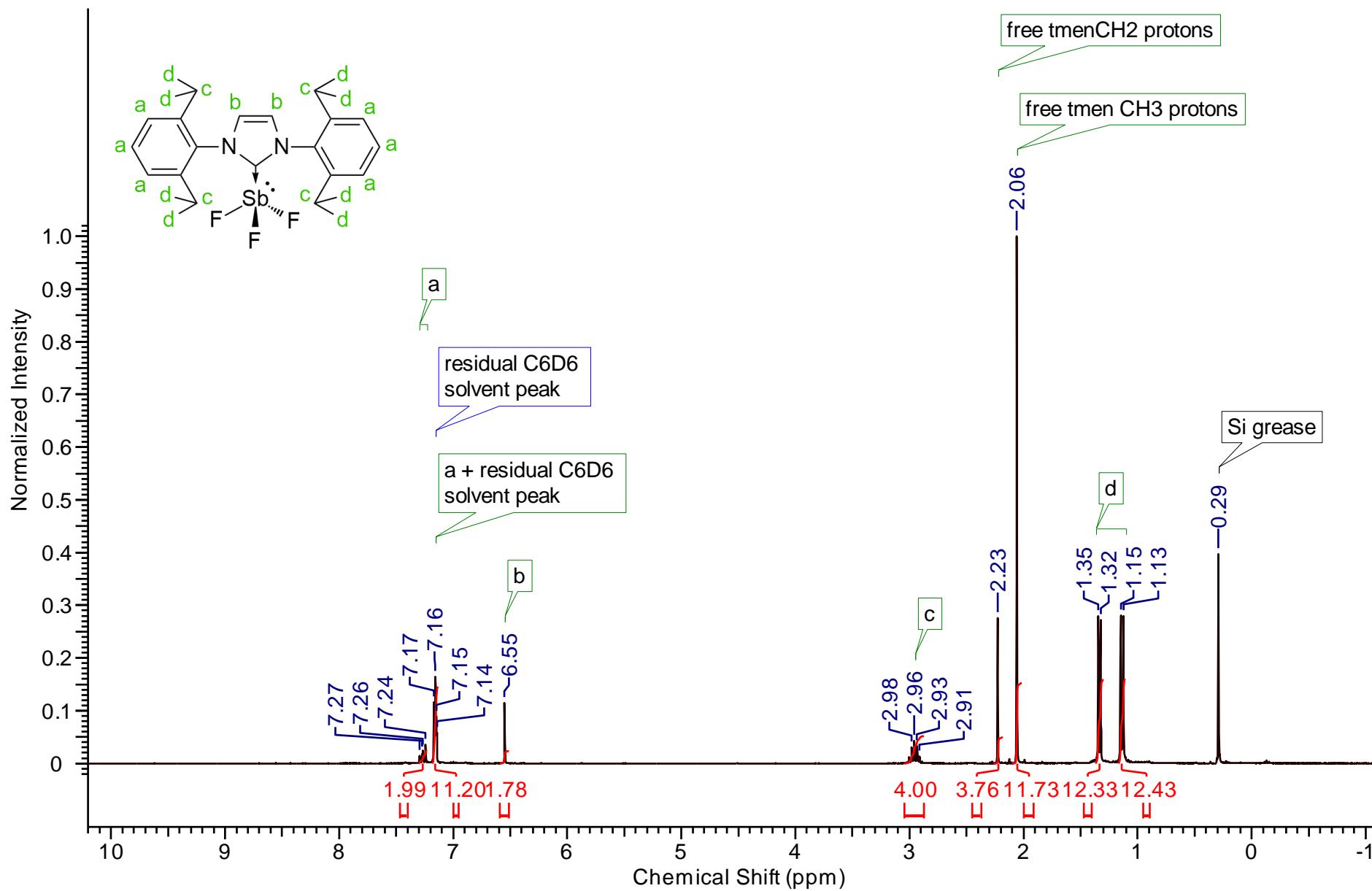
1H NMR spectrum in C_6D_6

Reaction “ $SbF_3 + (L^{Dipp}) + 2dme \rightarrow [(L^{Dipp})SbF_3]$ ”:

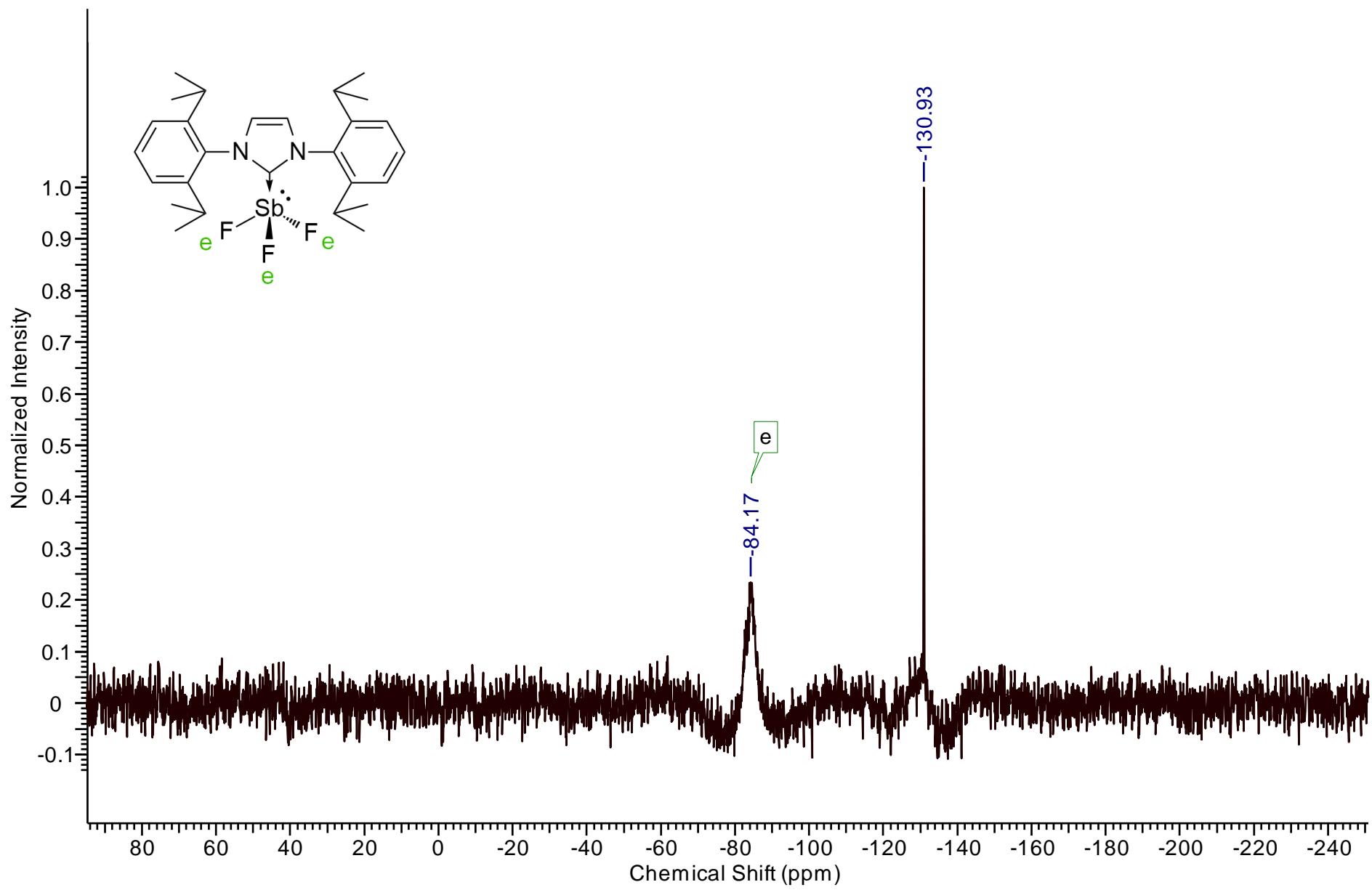
1H NMR spectrum in C_6D_6

^{19}F NMR spectrum in C_6D_6

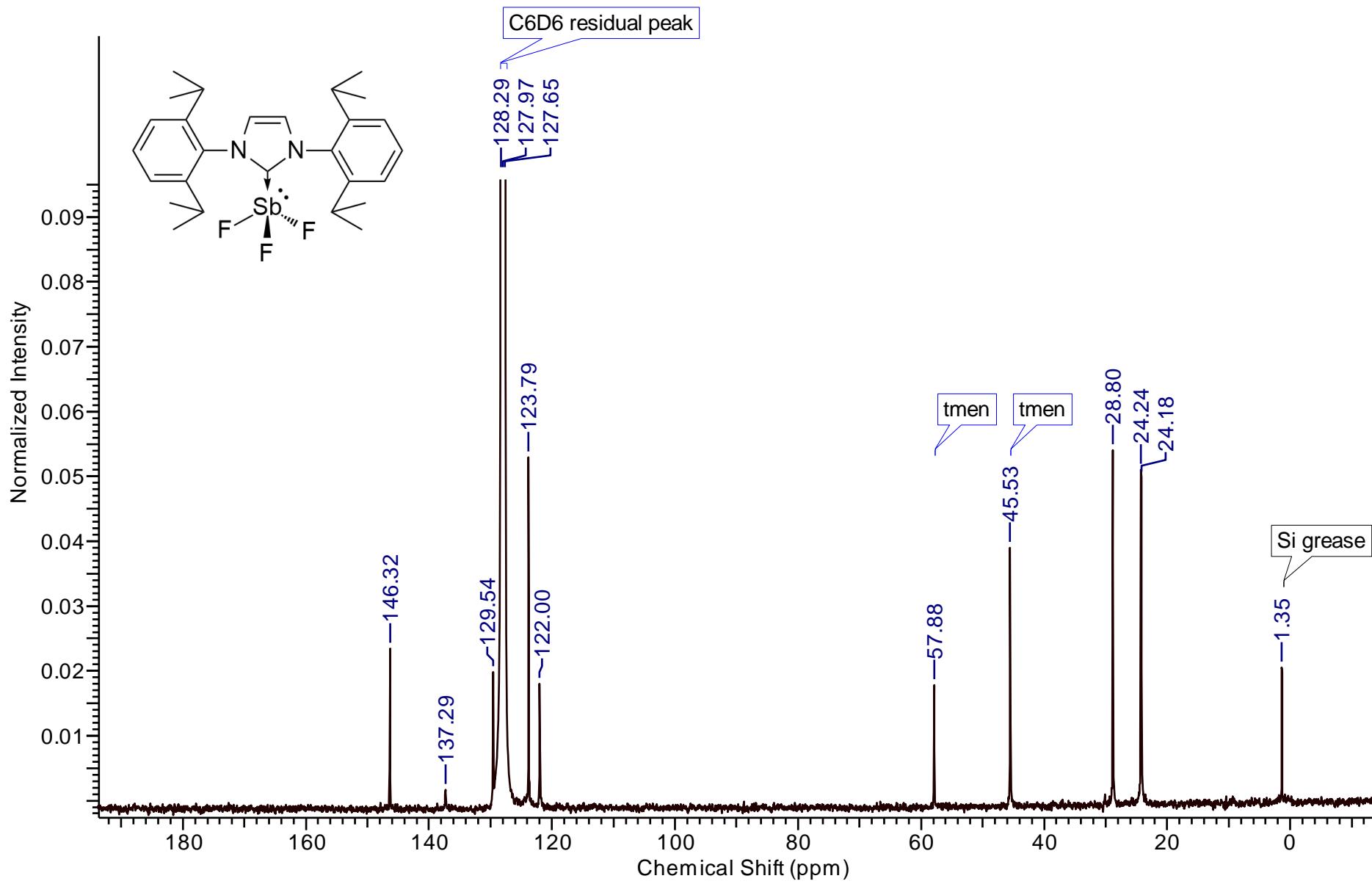
^1H NMR spectrum for reaction “[SbF₃(tmen)] + (L^{Dipp}) → [(L^{Dipp})SbF₃]” in C₆D₆, Frequency (MHz) 302.97:



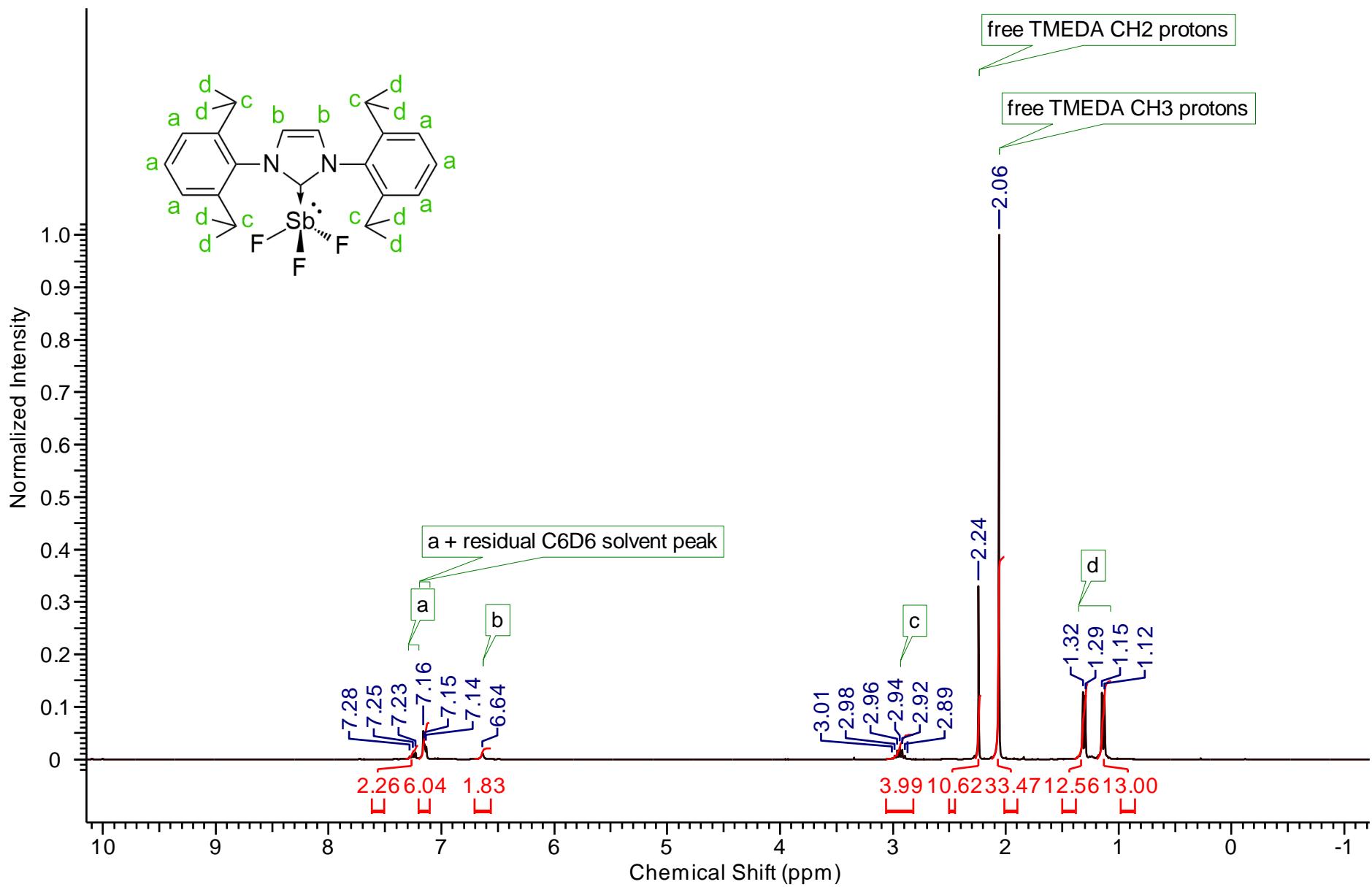
^{19}F NMR spectrum for reaction “[SbF₃(tmen)] + (L^{Dipp}) → [(L^{Dipp})SbF₃]” in C₆D₆, Frequency (MHz) 285.05:



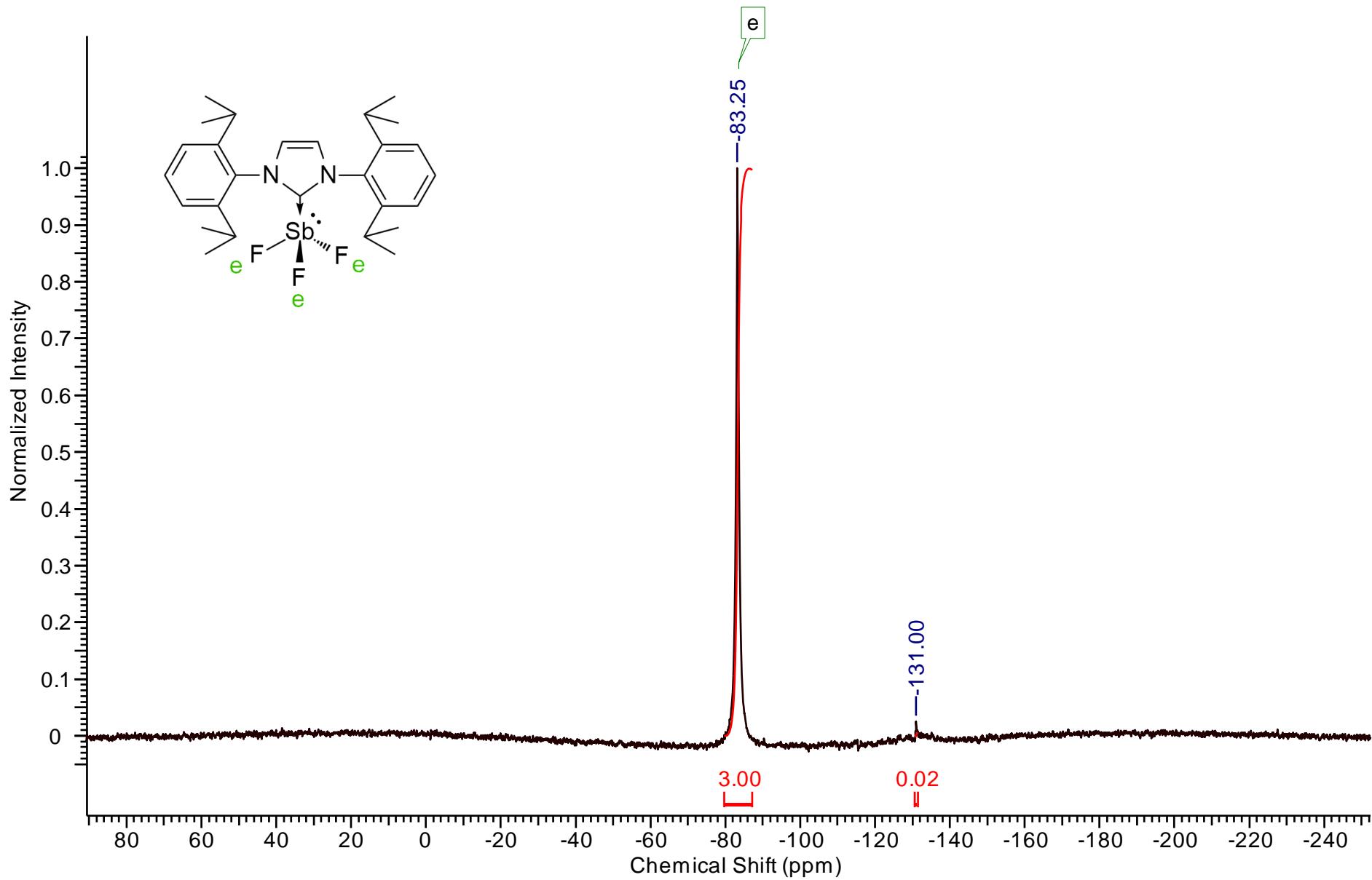
^{13}C NMR spectrum for reaction “[SbF₃(tmen)]+ (L^{Dipp}) → [(L^{Dipp})SbF₃]” in C₆D₆, Frequency (MHz) 76.19:



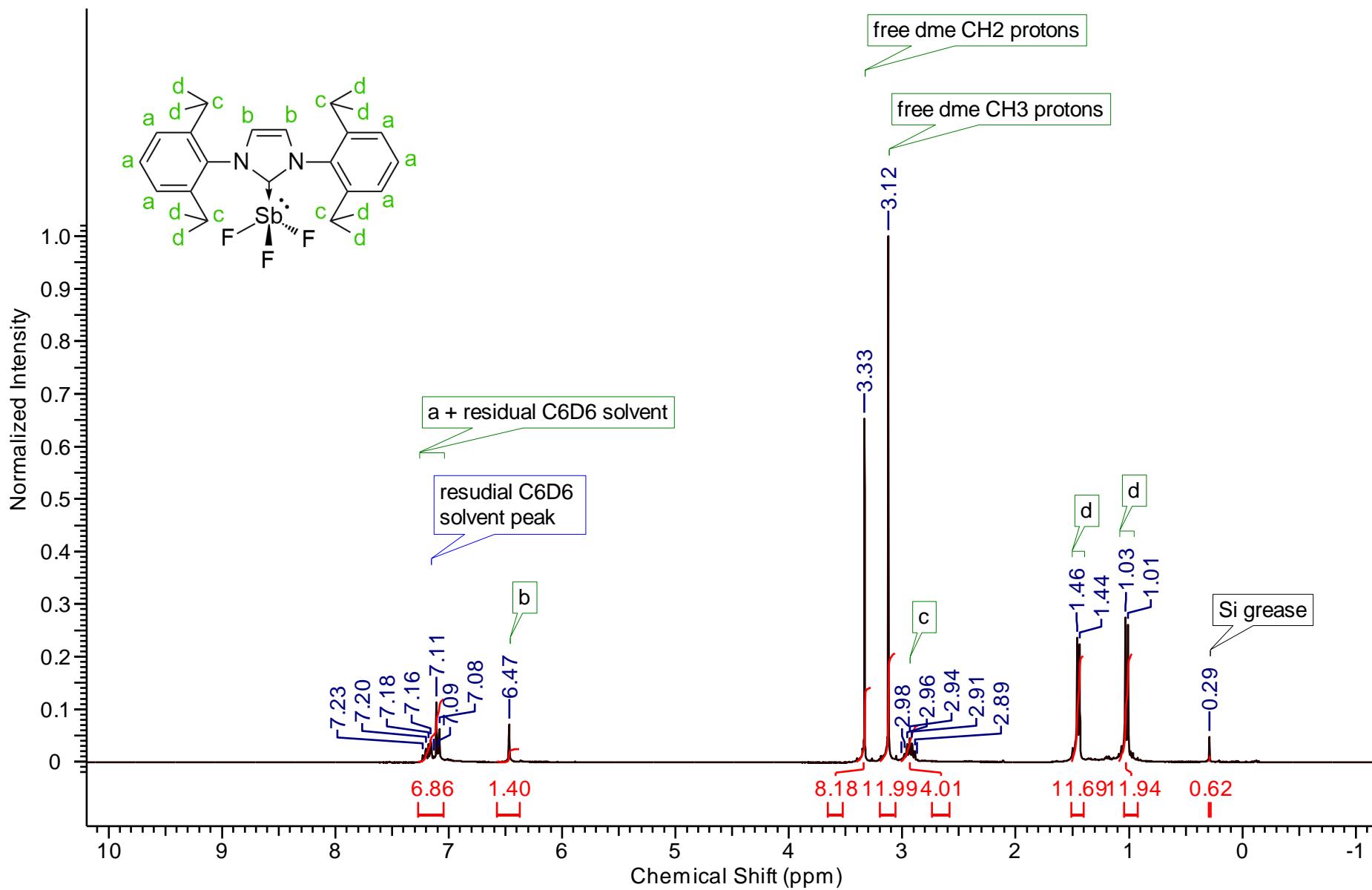
^1H NMR spectrum for reaction “[SbF₃(tmen)] + (L^{Dipp}) + 2tmen \rightarrow [(L^{Dipp})SbF₃]” in C₆D₆, Frequency (MHz) 302.97:



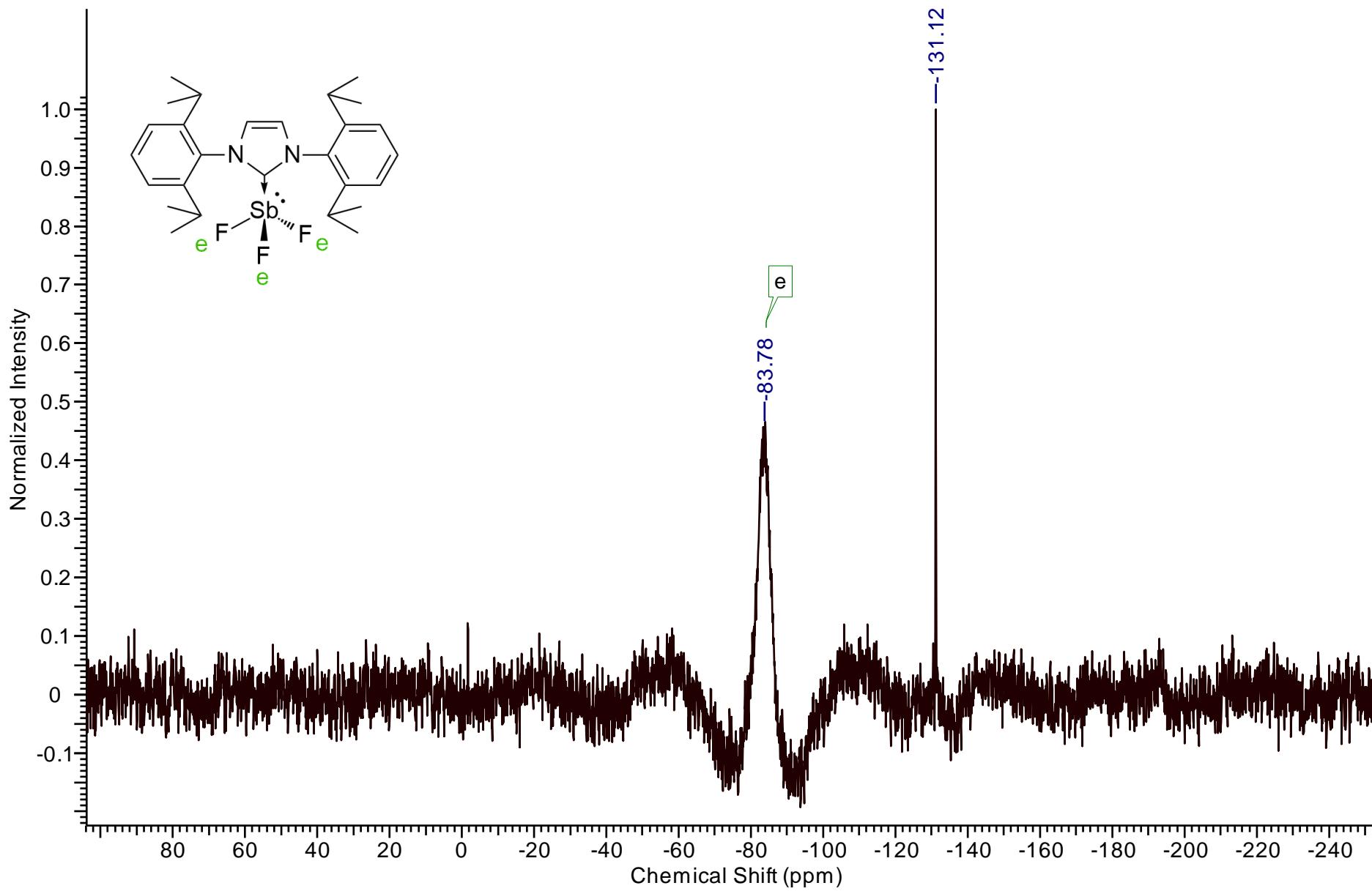
^{19}F NMR spectrum for reaction “[SbF₃(tmen)] + (L^{Dipp}) + 2tmen \rightarrow [(L^{Dipp})SbF₃]” in C₆D₆, Frequency (MHz) 285.05:

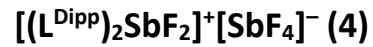


^1H NMR spectrum for reaction “ $\text{SbF}_3 + (\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}}) + 2\text{dme} \rightarrow [(\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})\text{SbF}_3]$ ” in C_6D_6 , Frequency (MHz) 302.97:



^{19}F NMR spectrum for reaction “ $\text{SbF}_3 + (\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}}) + 2\text{dme} \rightarrow [(\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})\text{SbF}_3]$ ” in C_6D_6 , Frequency (MHz) 285.05:





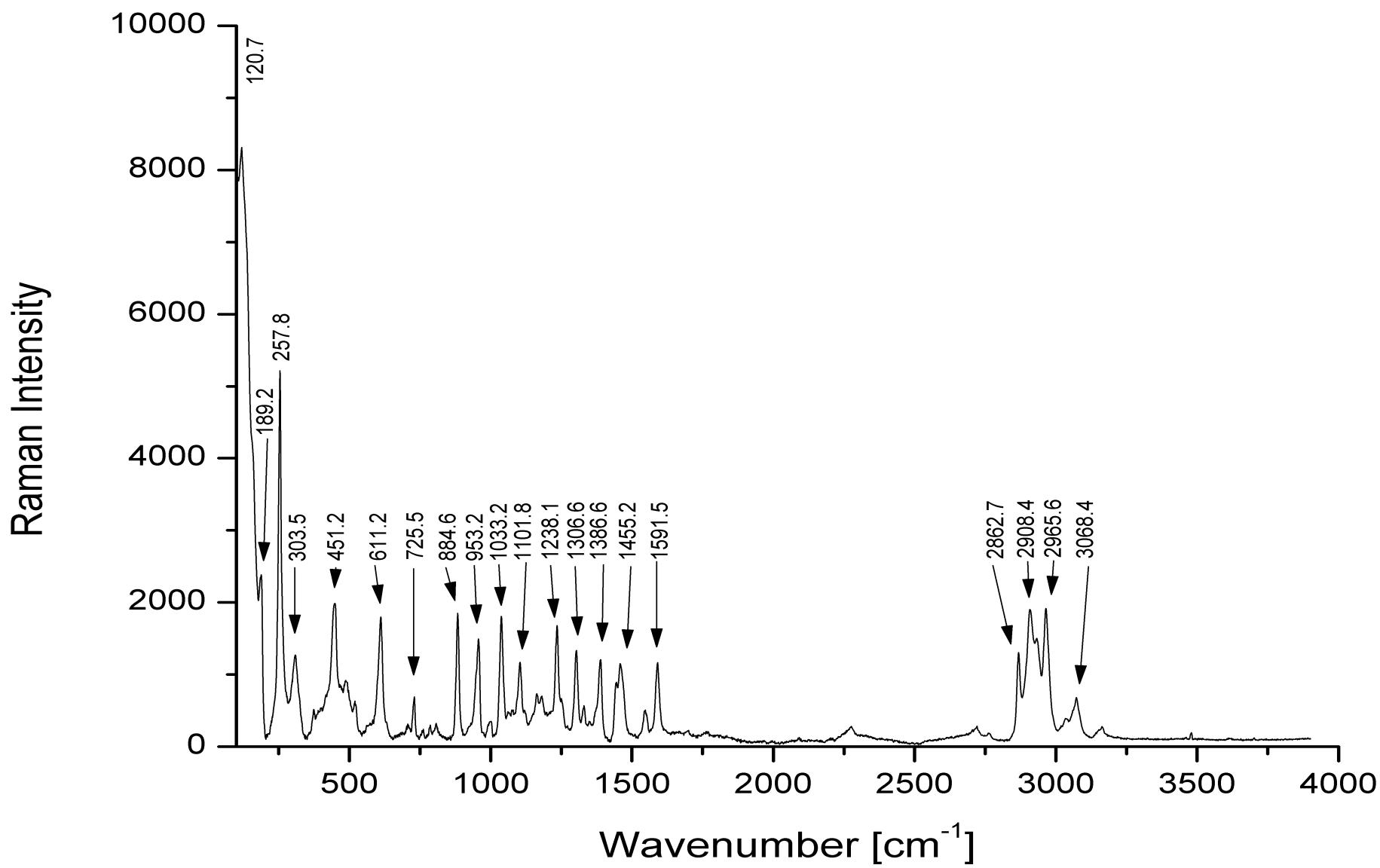
Reaction: “[SbF₃(tmen)] + (L^{Dipp}) → [(\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})_2\text{SbF}_2]^+[\text{SbF}_4]^-”

or

“SbF₃ + 2dme + (L^{Dipp}) → [(\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})_2\text{SbF}_2]^+[\text{SbF}_4]^-”

Raman spectrum

Raman spectra of $[(\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})_2\text{SbF}_2]^+[\text{SbF}_4]^-$ (4)



$[(\text{Cl}_2\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})\text{H}]^+[\text{SbF}_4]^-$ (5)

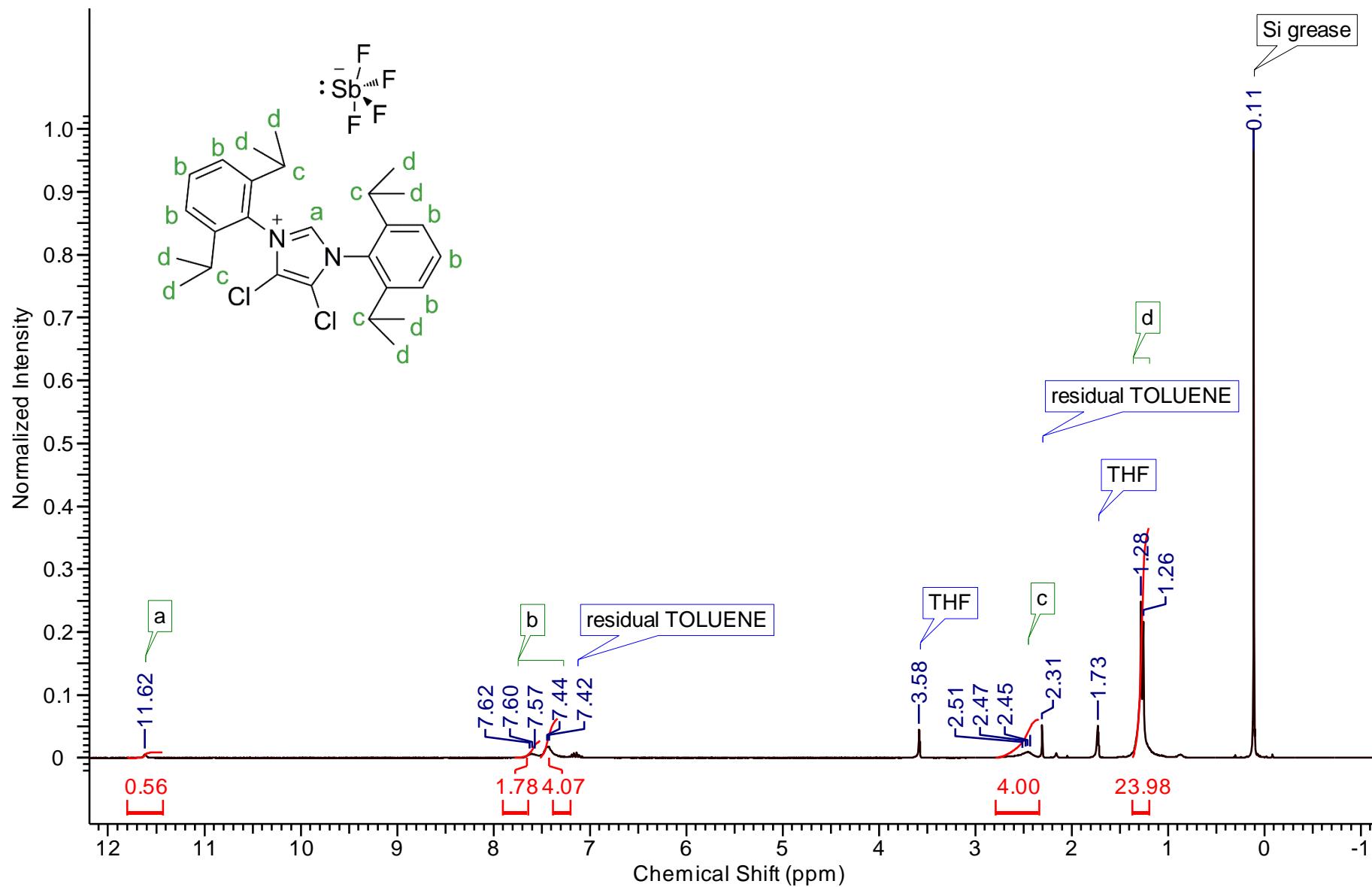
^1H NMR spectrum in THF-d⁸

^{19}F NMR spectrum in THF-d⁸

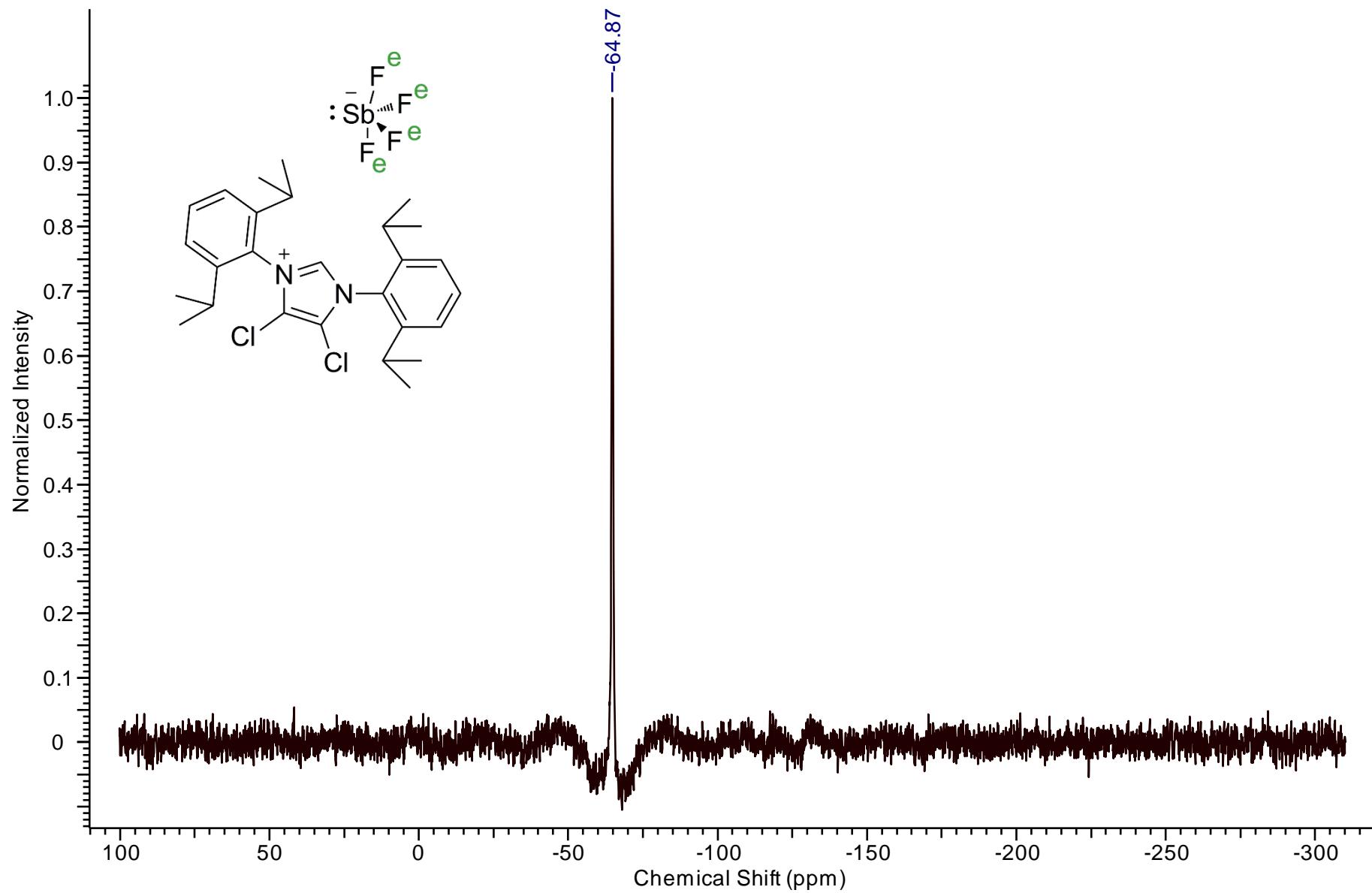
^1H NMR spectrum in C₆D₆ – empty, no other product could be obtained.

Raman spectra

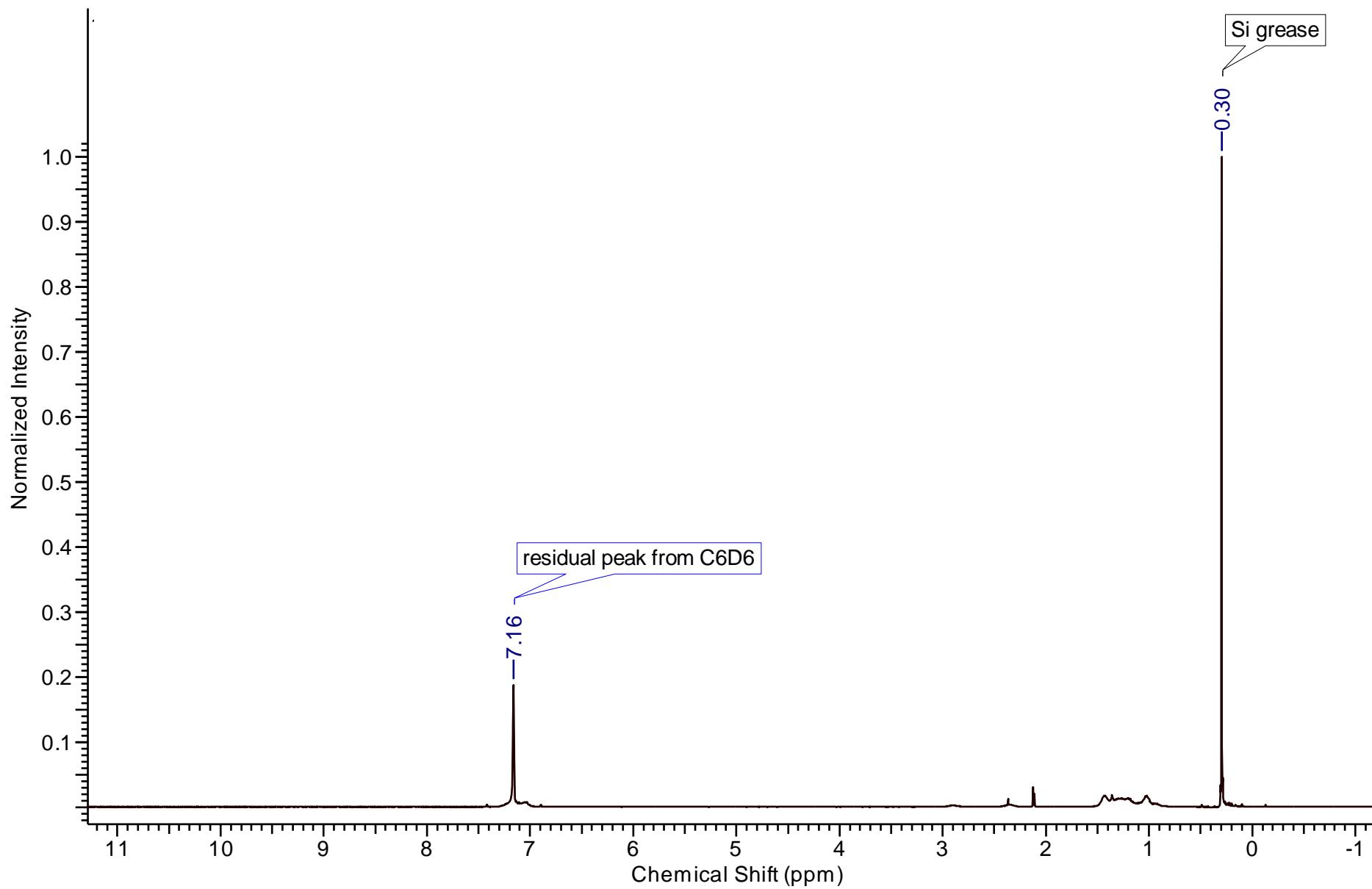
¹H NMR spectrum of $[(\text{Cl}_2\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})\text{H}]^+[\text{SbF}_4]^-$ in THF-d⁸, Frequency (MHz) 302.97:



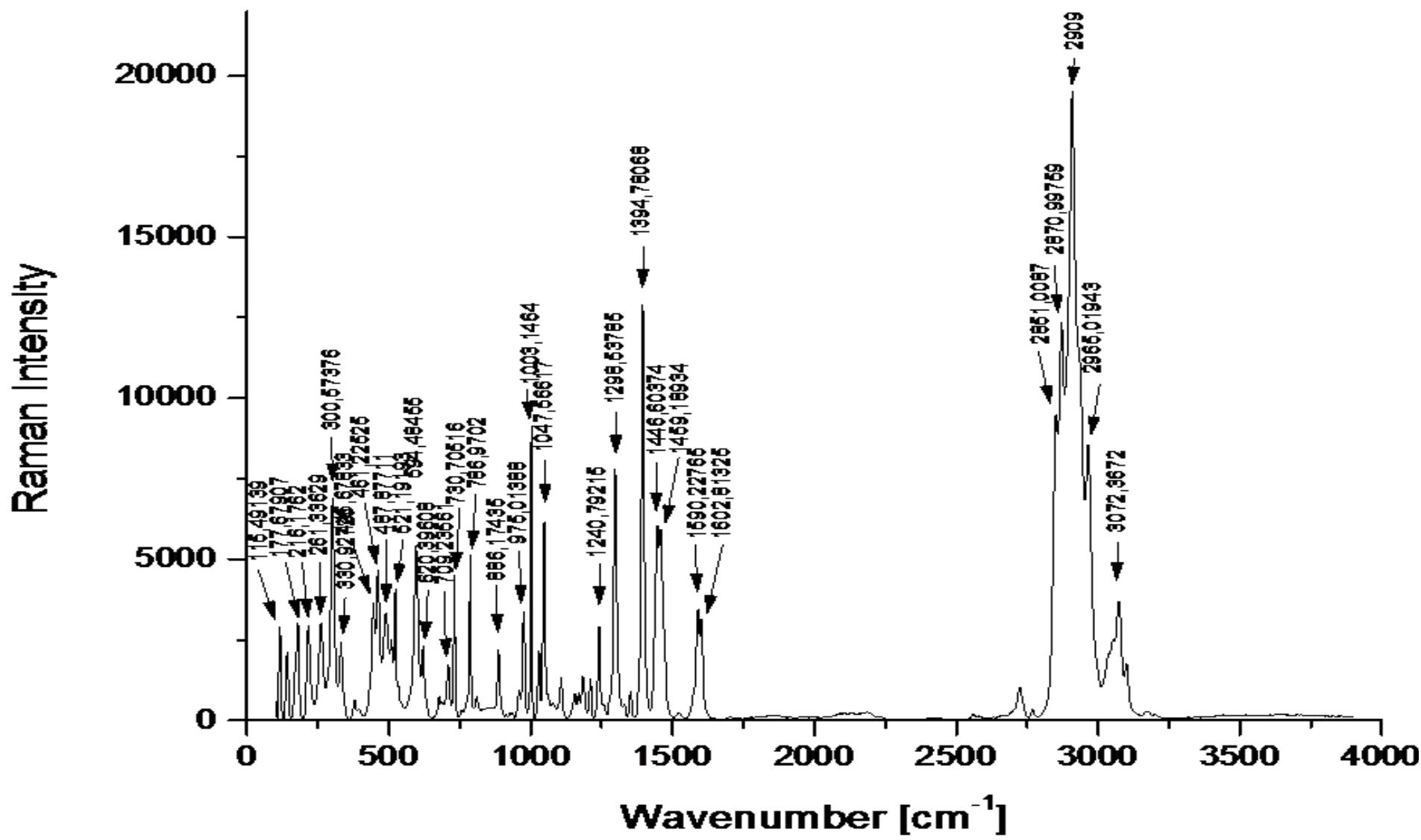
¹⁹F NMR spectrum of $[(\text{Cl}_2\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})\text{H}]^+[\text{SbF}_4]^-$ in THF-d⁸, Frequency (MHz) 285.05:



^1H NMR spectrum of $[(\text{Cl}_2\text{L}^{\text{Dipp}})\text{H}]^+[\text{SbF}_4]^-$ in C_6D_6 , Frequency (MHz) 302.97:

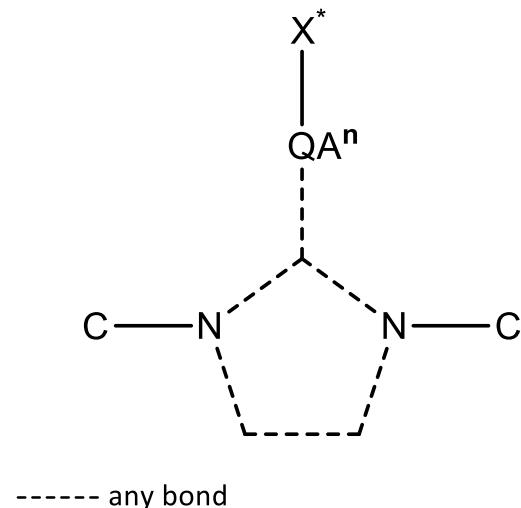


Raman spectra of $[(\text{Cl}_2\text{L}^{\text{Dip}})\text{H}]^+[\text{SbF}_4]^-$ (5)



CSD search details

Cambridge Structural Database¹ was used for search of existing structures. Search was performed in the following way using CCDC ConQuest Version 1.18 (Built RC1).²



----- any bond

— single bond

QA all elements of periodic table except:

C, N, O, S

n number of bonded atoms

X any element of periodic table

* for MF compounds X = F

Table 1: Number of structures with different number of bonded atoms (*n*) for MF compounds

<i>n</i>	number of crystal structures found
2	9
3	1
4	29
5	12
6	44
7	0
SUM	95

1. C. R. Groom, I. J. Bruno, M. P. Lightfoot and S. C. Ward, *Acta Crystallogr. Sec. B*, 2016, **72**, 171.
2. I. J. Bruno, J. C. Cole, P. R. Edgington, M. Kessler, C. F. Macrae, P. McCabe, J. Pearson and R. Taylor, *Acta Crystallogr. Sec. B*, 2002, **58**, 389.