

Electronic Supplementary Information

Aldehyde/Ketone-Catalyzed Highly Selective Synthesis of 9-Monoalkylated Fluorenes by Dehydrative C-Alkylation with Primary and Secondary Alcohols

Jianhui Chen,^{†a} Yang Li,^{†a} Shuangyan Li,^a Jianping Liu,^{*a} Fei Zheng,^a Zhengping Zhang,^a and
Qing Xu^{*a,b}

^a College of Chemistry and Materials Engineering, Wenzhou University, Wenzhou, Zhejiang 325035,
P. R. China

^b School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou, Jiangsu 225002, P.
R. China

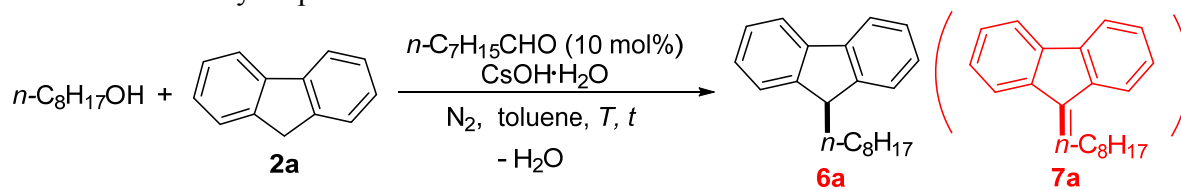
[†] These two authors contributed equally to this work.

E-mail: 518liujianping@163.com; qing-xu@wzu.edu.cn

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Table S1. Condition Optimization for Aliphatic Aldehyde-Catalyzed 9-C-Monoalkylation of Fluorene with Primary Aliphatic Alcohols.^a



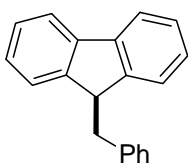
run	base (mol%)	T, t	6a ^o ^b	6a/7a ^c
1	CsOH·H ₂ O (20)	130 °C, 24 h	52	-
2	CsOH·H ₂ O (20)	150 °C, 24 h	92	-
3	CsOH·H ₂ O (50)	130 °C, 24 h	90	-
4	CsOH·H ₂ O (50)	150 °C, 24 h	99	> 99/1
5	CsOH·H₂O (75)	130 °C, 24 h	99 (97)	>99/1
6	KOH (75)	130 °C, 24 h	47	87/13

^aThe mixture of **2a** (3 mmol), 1-octanol (4 mmol, 1.33 equiv.), octaldehyde (10 mol%), toluene (0.5 mL), and CsOH·H₂O was sealed under N₂ in a 20 mL Schlenk tube, heated for 24 h, and monitored by GC-MS and/or TLC. ^bGC yields (isolated yields in parenthesis) based on **2a**. ^cRatios obtained by GC-MS analysis.

Experimental

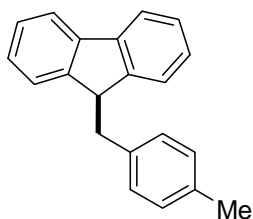
General. Except liquid aldehydes, which were purified by re-distillation of the commercial sample and stored under N₂ in a Schlenk flask (without any contaminants as confirmed by GC-MS analysis), all other chemicals and bases are purchased and directly used without further purification. Unless otherwise noted, the reactions were all carried out in sealed Schlenk tubes under nitrogen and monitored by GC-MS or TLC. Products were purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as the eluent. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance instrument (300/500 MHz for ¹H and 125.4/75 MHz for ¹³C NMR spectroscopy). Unless otherwise noted, CDCl₃ was used as the solvent. Chemical shift values for ¹H and ¹³C were referred to internal Me₄Si (0 ppm). GC-MS and MS were measured on Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 Plus and GCMS-QP2010 Ultra spectrometers (EI). GC-MS and MS were measured on Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 Plus and GCMS-QP2010 Ultra spectrometers (EI). The parameters for GC-MS are as follows: Sample size: 1 μL, split ratio:15.2; Program Column Oven Temperature: 60 °C (stay 1 min), 40 °C/min to 200 °C (stay 1 min), 35 °C/min to 280 °C, stay till the end; Other parameters: carrier gas: He, sample temperature: 250 °C, pressure: 100.0 kPa, total flow: 32 mL/min, column flow: 1.61 mL/min, linear velocity: 46.3 cm/sec; Column: rxi-lms 30 m * 0.25 mm * 0.25 μm; MS parameter: ion source temperature: 200 °C, interface temperature: 250 °C, solvent cut: 3 min. HRMS analysis was measured on a Bruker micrOTOF-Q II instrument (ESI) at Wenzhou University or a Waters GCT Premier instrument (EI-TOF) at Zhejiang University.

Typical Procedure for (Hetero)Aryl Aldehyde-Catalyzed 9-C-Alkylation of Fluorenes with (Hetero)Aryl Methanols. The mixture of benzyl alcohol **1a** (0.433 g, 4.0 mmol, 1.33 equiv.), fluorene **2a** (0.499 g, 3.0 mmol), CsOH·H₂O (0.101 g, 0.6 mmol, 20 mol%), benzaldehyde (31 μL, 0.3 mmol, 10 mol%), and toluene (0.5 mL) in a 20 mL schlenk tube was sealed under nitrogen, heated at 130 °C for 12 h, and monitored by GC-MS and/or TLC. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum. The residue was then purified through column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (60-90 °C) (v/v 1/50) as the eluent, giving **3a** in 95% isolated yield (0.730 g).

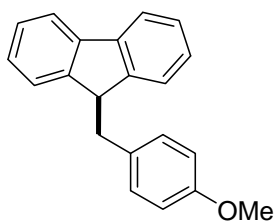


9-Benzyl-9H-fluorene (3a). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.14 (m, 11 H), 4.22 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.8,

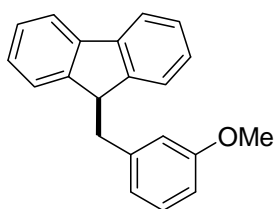
140.8, 139.8, 129.5, 128.3, 127.1, 126.6, 126.3, 124.8, 119.8, 48.7, 40.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 91 (11), 164 (8), 165 (100), 166 (15), 256 (34), 257 (8). This compound was known: Fleckenstein, C. A.; Plenio, H. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2007**, *13*, 2701.



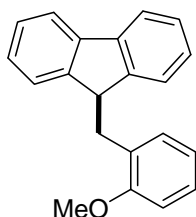
9-(4-Methylbenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3b). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.14-7.10 (m, 4H), 4.21 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.06 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.9, 140.8, 136.7, 135.8, 129.4, 129.0, 127.0, 126.6, 124.8, 119.8, 48.8, 39.6, 21.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 105 (100), 106 (10), 164 (7), 165 (63), 166 (9), 270 (35), 271 (8). This compound was known: Sieglitz, A.; Jassoy, H. *Ber. dtsch. Chem. Ges. A/B.* **1921**, *54*, 2133.



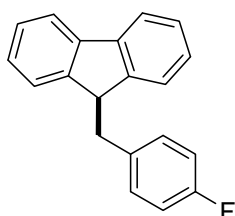
9-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3c). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.72 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.17 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.04 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.1, 146.9, 140.8, 131.8, 130.4, 127.0, 126.6, 124.8, 119.8, 113.6, 55.2, 48.9, 39.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 77 (5), 78 (3), 121 (100), 122 (9), 165 (10), 286 (7), 287 (2). This compound was known: Rabinovitz, M.; Salemnik, G.; Bergmann, E. D. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1967**, *8*, 3271



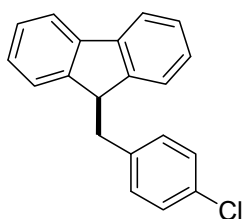
9-(3-Methoxybenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3d). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.71 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 5H), 6.82-6.74 (m, 3H), 4.21 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.07 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.5, 146.7, 141.3, 140.8, 129.2, 127.1, 126.6, 124.8, 121.9, 119.8, 114.9, 112.0, 55.1, 48.5, 40.0. MS (EI): m/z (%) 121 (17), 164 (6), 165 (100), 166 (14), 286 (24), 287 (6). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2 + \text{H}]^+$: 287.1430; found: 287.1448.



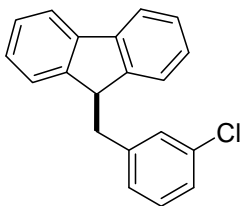
9-(2-Methoxybenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3e). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.73 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 4H), 7.04 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.93-6.88 (m, 2H), 4.35 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.05 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.0, 147.7, 140.7, 131.5, 128.6, 127.8, 126.8, 126.5, 125.0, 120.1, 119.6, 110.3, 55.2, 46.7, 35.5. MS (EI): m/z (%) 65 (6), 91 (37), 93 (9), 121 (100), 122 (8), 165 (24), 286 (18), 287 (4). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{O} + \text{H}]^+$: 287.1430; found: 287.1445.



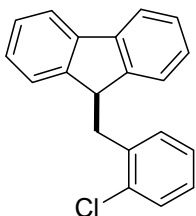
9-(4-Fluorobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3f). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.71 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.95-6.92 (m, 2H), 4.17 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.09 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 243.5$ Hz), 146.5, 140.9, 135.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.0$ Hz), 130.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.0$ Hz), 127.2, 126.7, 124.7, 119.8, 114.9 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 20.9$ Hz), 48.7, 39.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 109 (12), 139 (4), 163 (6), 164 (8), 165 (100), 166 (15), 273 (24), 274 (5). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{F} + \text{Na}]^+$: 298.1050; found: 298.1045.



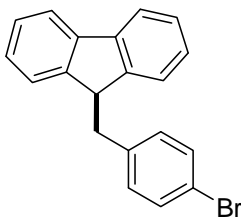
9-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3g). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.72 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.19 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.19 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.10 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.3, 140.9, 138.0, 132.1, 130.8, 128.3, 127.2, 126.7, 124.7, 119.9, 48.5, 39.2. MS (EI): m/z (%) 125 (8), 164 (7), 165 (100), 166 (15), 290 (16), 292 (6). This compound was known: Sieglitz, A.; Jassoy, H. *Ber. dtsh. Chem. Ges. A/B.* **1921**, 54, 2133.



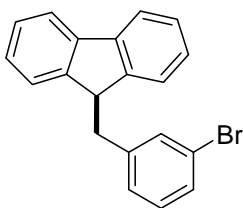
9-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3h). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.72 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 5H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.19 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.07 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.3, 141.7, 140.8, 134.0, 129.5, 129.4, 127.7, 127.3, 126.7, 126.6, 124.7, 119.9, 48.3, 39.7. MS (EI): m/z (%) 81 (29), 164 (9), 165 (100), 166 (14), 246 (21), 165 (100), 166 (14), 290 (14), 291 (5). This compound was known: Sieglitz, A.; Jassoy, H. *Ber. deutsch. Chem. Ges. A/B.* **1921**, 54, 2133.



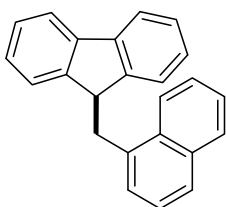
9-(2-Chlorobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3i). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.72 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.09 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.35 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.13 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.8, 140.7, 137.7, 134.6, 132.2, 129.7, 128.1, 127.1, 126.7, 126.5, 124.9, 119.8, 46.4, 38.5. MS (EI): m/z (%) 73 (5), 83 (16), 85 (11), 164 (6), 165 (100), 166 (14), 290 (17), 292 (5). This compound was known: Sieglitz, A.; Jassoy, H. *Ber. deutsch. Chem. Ges. A/B.* **1921**, 54, 2133.



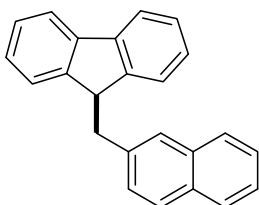
9-(4-Bromobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3j). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.71 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.18 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.08 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.3, 140.8, 138.5, 131.23, 131.21, 127.2, 126.7, 124.7, 120.1, 119.9, 48.4, 39.3. MS (EI): m/z (%) 90 (4), 139 (3), 165 (100), 166 (14), 334 (7), 336 (7). This compound was known: Rabinovitz, M.; Salemnik, G.; Bergmann, E. *D. Tetrahedron Lett.* **1967**, 8, 3271



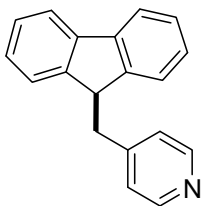
9-(3-Bromobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3k). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.73 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.24 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.18-7.09 (m, 4H), 4.20 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.07 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.3, 142.0, 140.8, 132.5, 129.7, 129.5, 128.2, 127.3, 126.7, 124.7, 122.3, 119.9, 48.4, 39.7. MS (EI): m/z (%) 90 (6), 139 (4), 165 (100), 166 (15), 334 (6), 336 (7). This compound was known: Sieglitz, A.; Jassoy, H. *Ber. dtsh. Chem. Ges. A/B.* **1921**, 54, 2133.



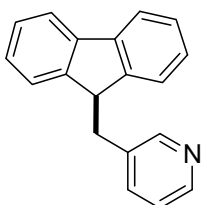
9-(Naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)-9H-fluorene (3l). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.30 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.28 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.08 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.41 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.48 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.0, 140.7, 136.0, 134.1, 132.0, 129.1, 128.2, 127.5, 127.1, 126.6, 126.0, 125.7, 125.3, 125.1, 123.7, 119.8, 47.6, 38.0. MS (EI): m/z (%) 115 (18), 141 (100), 142 (12), 165 (33), 306 (14), 307 (4). This compound was known: Sieglitz, A.; Jassoy, H. *Ber. dtsh. Chem. Ges. A/B.* **1921**, 54, 2133.



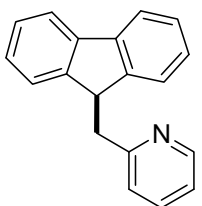
9-(Naphthalen-2-ylmethyl)-9H-fluorene (3m). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.85-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.75-7.73 (m, 3H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.15 (m, 4H), 4.34 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.26 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.8, 140.8, 137.4, 133.5, 132.3, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.66, 127.64, 127.1, 126.7, 125.9, 125.4, 124.8, 119.8, 48.5, 40.3. MS (EI): m/z (%) 115 (17), 141 (100), 142 (12), 165 (41), 306 (24), 307 (6). This compound was known: Sieglitz, A.; Jassoy, H. *Ber. dtsh. Chem. Ges. A/B.* **1921**, 54, 2133.



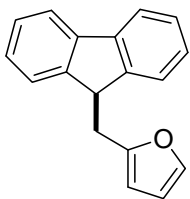
4-(9H-Fluoren-9-yl)methylpyridine (3n). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.44 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 4H), 7.03 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.26 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.16 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.5, 148.3, 145.8, 140.9, 127.4, 126.8, 124.8, 124.5, 120.0, 47.5, 39.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 115 (3), 139 (4), 164 (10), 165 (100), 166 (15), 257 (21), 258 (4). This compound was known: Kolyadina, N. M.; Soldatenkov, A. T.; Ryashentseva, M. A.; Prostakov, N. S. *Izv. Akad. Nauk Gruz. SSR, Ser. Khim.* **1996**, *1*, 180.



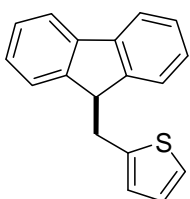
3-(9H-Fluoren-9-yl)methylpyridine (3o). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.37 (d, $J = 40.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.10-7.08 (m, 1H), 4.22 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.18 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 150.7, 147.7, 145.8, 140.9, 136.7, 134.4, 127.3, 126.8, 124.6, 122.9, 119.9, 48.1, 36.7. MS (EI): m/z (%) 65 (4), 139 (5), 163 (8), 164 (10), 165 (100), 166 (14), 257 (20). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{N} + \text{H}]^+$: 258.1277; found: 258.1303.



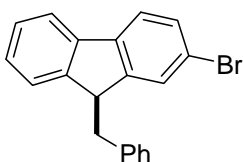
2-(9H-Fluoren-9-yl)methylpyridine (3p). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.64 (dd, $J = 1.0$ Hz, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.05 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.62 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.18 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.7, 149.3, 146.9, 140.6, 136.0, 126.9, 126.6, 124.5, 124.1, 121.5, 119.7, 47.0, 42.3. MS (EI): m/z (%) 69 (20), 79 (20), 165 (100), 207 (19), 218 (17), 256 (76), 257 (73). This compound was known: Pan, Y.; Rong, W. Jian, Z.; Cui, D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *45*, 1248.



2-(9H-Fluoren-9-yl)methylfuran (3q). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.70 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.29 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.92 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.28 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.05 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.7, 146.4, 141.0, 140.8, 127.2, 126.8, 124.5, 119.8, 110.3, 107.0, 46.2, 32.2. MS (EI): m/z (%) 81 (30), 163 (7), 164 (9), 165 (100), 166 (14), 246 (20). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{O} + \text{Na}]^+$: 269.0937; found: 269.0952.



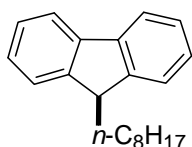
2-(9H-Fluoren-9-yl)methylthiophene (3r). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.69 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.85-6.83 (m, 1H), 6.67 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.19 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.35 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.1, 142.0, 141.0, 127.3, 126.8, 126.5, 125.9, 124.6, 123.7, 119.8, 48.9, 33.9. MS (EI): m/z (%) 97 (92), 98 (6), 163 (10), 164 (11), 165 (100), 166 (14), 262 (26). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{S} + \text{H}]^+$: 263.0889; found: 263.0901.



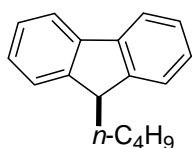
9-Benzyl-2-Bromo-9H-fluorene (3s). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.69 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, $J = 1.5$ Hz, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.19 (m, 8H), 7.14 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.20 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.13-3.05 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 148.8, 146.5, 139.84, 139.82, 139.2, 130.2, 129.5, 128.4, 128.2, 127.3, 127.1, 126.6, 124.9, 121.1, 120.4, 119.9, 48.7, 39.9. MS (EI): m/z (%) 91 (99), 163 (66), 164 (76), 243 (100), 245 (98), 246 (14), 255 (67), 256 (16), 334 (39), 336 (41). This compound was known: Rabinovitz, M.; Salemnik, G.; Bergmann, E. D. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1967**, 8, 3271

Typical Procedure for Aliphatic Aldehyde-Catalyzed 9-C-Alkylation of Fluorenes with Aliphatic Alcohols. The mixture of fluorene **2a** (0.499 g, 3.0 mmol), octan-1-ol (0.521 g, 4.0 mmol,

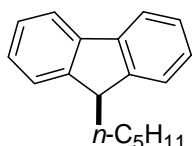
1.33 equiv.), CsOH·H₂O (0.378 g, 2.25 mmol, 75 mol%), octaldehyde (47 μL, 0.3 mmol, 10 mol%), and toluene (0.5 mL) in a 20 mL schlenk tube was sealed under nitrogen, heated at 130 °C for 24 h, and monitored by GC-MS and/or TLC. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was concentrated under vacuum. The residue was then purified through column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (60-90 °C) (v/v 1/50) as the eluent, giving **6a** in 97% isolated yield (0.810 g).



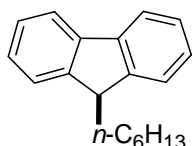
9-Octyl-9H-fluorene (6a). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.01-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.25-1.20 (m, 12H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.6, 141.1, 126.8, 126.7, 124.3, 119.7, 47.5, 33.1, 31.8, 30.0, 29.4, 29.3, 25.7, 22.6, 14.1. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 57 (5), 165 (100), 166 (33), 178 (17), 179 (20), 180 (12), 278 (67), 279 (16). This compound was known: Cho, S. Y.; Grimsdale, A. C.; Jones, D. J.; Watkins, S. E.; Holmes, A. B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *129*, 11910.



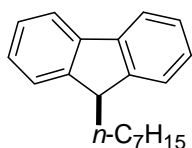
9-Butyl-9H-fluorene (6b). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.00-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.22 (m, 2H), 1.18-1.12 (m, 2H), 0.81 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.6, 141.1, 126.8, 126.7, 124.3, 119.7, 47.4, 32.8, 27.8, 23.0, 13.9. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 115 (3), 164 (8), 165 (100), 166 (21), 178 (10), 179 (13), 180 (7), 222 (30). This compound was known: Sun, Y.; Yang, N.; Liu, J.; Cao, J.; Gong, H. *Polymer.* **2010**, *51*, 5712.



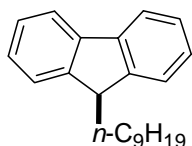
9-Pentyl-9H-fluorene (6c). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.00-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.24-1.20 (m, 6H), 0.82 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.6, 141.1, 126.8, 126.7, 124.3, 119.7, 47.5, 33.1, 32.1, 25.4, 22.4, 14.0. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 165 (100), 166 (27), 178 (12), 179 (17), 180 (9), 236 (45), 237 (9). This compound was known: Albert, G. J.; Marcel, M.; Henri, M. *Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr.* **1965**, *6*, 1740.



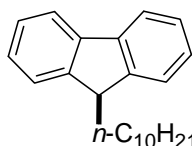
9-Hexyl-9H-fluorene (6d). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 3.96 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.01-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.25-1.18 (m, 8H), 0.83 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.6, 141.1, 126.8, 126.7, 124.3, 119.7, 47.5, 33.1, 31.6, 29.6, 25.7, 22.6, 14.0. MS (EI): m/z (%) 165 (100), 166 (30), 178 (14), 179 (17), 250 (42), 251 (8). This compound was known: Albert, G. J.; Marcel, M.; Henri, M. *Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr.* **1965**, 6, 1740.



9-Heptyl-9H-fluorene (6e). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 3.96 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.00-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.26-1.19 (m, 10H), 0.84 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.6, 141.1, 126.8, 126.7, 124.3, 119.7, 47.5, 33.1, 31.8, 29.9, 29.1, 25.7, 22.6, 14.0. MS (EI): m/z (%) 57 (7), 165 (100), 166 (30), 178 (15), 179 (17), 264 (47), 265 (10). This compound was known: Bachman, G. B.; Polansky, S. *J. Org. Chem.* **1951**, 16, 1690.

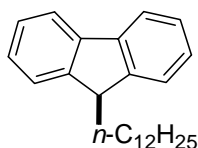


9-Nonyl-9H-fluorene (6f). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 3.96 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.00-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.28-1.20 (m, 14H), 0.86 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.6, 141.1, 126.8, 126.7, 124.3, 119.7, 47.5, 33.1, 31.8, 29.9, 29.6, 29.4, 29.3, 25.7, 22.6, 14.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 165 (100), 166 (34), 178 (17), 179 (20), 292 (69), 293 (17). This compound was known: Soloducho, J.; Idzik, K.; Cabaj, J.; Doskocz, J.; Lapkowski, M.; Plewa, S. *ARKIVOC (Gainesville, FL, U. S.)* **2007**, 6, 75.

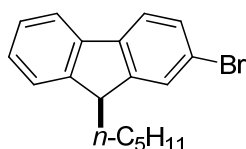


9-Decyl-9H-fluorene (6g). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 3.96 (t, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.00-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.26-1.20 (m, 16H), 0.89-0.85 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.6, 141.1, 126.8, 126.7,

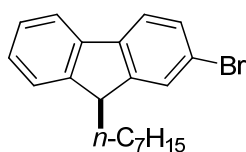
124.3, 119.7, 47.5, 33.1, 31.9, 29.9, 29.60, 29.56, 29.4, 29.3, 25.7, 22.7, 14.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 57 (7), 165 (100), 166 (31), 178 (18), 179 (19), 306 (66), 307 (17). HRMS Calcd for $[C_{23}H_{30} + H]^+$: 307.2420; found: 307.2341.



9-Dodecyl-9H-fluorene (6h). 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.73 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 3.95 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.99-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.19 (m, 20H), 0.87 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 147.6, 141.1, 126.8, 126.7, 124.3, 119.7, 47.5, 33.1, 31.9, 30.0, 29.64, 29.62, 29.4, 29.3, 25.7, 22.7, 14.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 57 (12), 165 (100), 166 (33), 178 (20), 179 (21), 180 (12), 334 (60), 335 (12). This compound was known: McCluskey, G. E.; Watkins, S. E.; Holmes, A. B.; Ober, C. K.; Lee, J.-K.; Wong, W. W. *H. Polym. Chem.* **2013**, *4*, 5291.



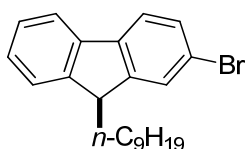
2-Bromo-9-Pentyl-9H-fluorene (6i). 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.71 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.31 (m, 2H), 3.95 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.03-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.25-1.16 (m, 6H), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 149.7, 147.3, 140.2, 140.1, 130.0, 127.6, 127.2, 127.1, 124.4, 121.1, 120.6, 119.8, 47.5, 32.8, 32.1, 25.2, 22.4, 14.0. MS (EI): m/z (%) 316 (43), 314 (44), 245 (38), 243 (40), 235 (16), 179 (100), 178 (24), 165 (74), 164 (35), 163 (28), 57 (2). HRMS Calcd for $[C_{18}H_{19}Br]^+$: 314.0670; found: 314.0677.



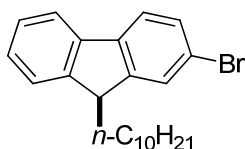
2-Bromo-9-Heptyl-9H-fluorene (6j). 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.70 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 2H), 3.95 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.02-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.26-1.12 (m, 10H), 0.85 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 149.8, 147.3, 140.2, 140.1, 130.0, 127.6, 127.2, 127.1, 124.4, 121.1, 120.7, 119.9, 47.6, 32.9, 31.8, 29.9, 29.1, 25.6, 22.6, 14.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 344 (8), 342 (8), 306 (7), 304 (20), 245 (9), 243 (9), 179 (20), 166 (20), 165 (100), 164 (15), 163 (11), 139 (18), 103 (7), 57 (9). HRMS Calcd for $[C_{20}H_{23}Br]^+$: 342.0983; found: 342.0989.



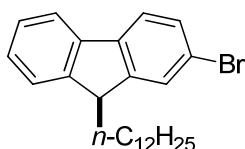
2-Bromo-9-Octyl-9H-fluorene (6k). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.70 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 2H), 3.95 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.02-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.28-1.12 (m, 12H), 0.86 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.8, 147.3, 140.2, 140.1, 130.0, 127.6, 127.1, 124.4, 121.1, 120.7, 119.8, 47.6, 32.9, 31.8, 29.9, 29.3, 29.2, 25.6, 22.6, 14.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 358 (62), 356 (66), 277 (11), 245 (42), 243 (44), 179 (80), 178 (29), 166 (16), 165 (100), 164 (30), 163 (21), 71 (7), 57(71). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{Br}]^+$: 356.1140; found: 356.1136.



2-Bromo-9-Nonyl-9H-fluorene (6l). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.71 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.31 (m, 2H), 3.95 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.03-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.27-1.15 (m, 14H), 0.86 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.7, 147.3, 140.13, 140.10, 130.0, 127.6, 127.2, 127.0, 124.4, 121.1, 120.6, 119.8, 47.5, 32.9, 29.9, 29.6, 29.4, 29.3, 25.6, 22.7, 14.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 372 (53), 370 (53), 291 (9), 245 (40), 243 (39), 179 (69), 178 (28), 166 (16), 165 (100), 164 (28), 163 (18), 71 (35), 57 (44). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{27}\text{Br}]^+$: 370.1296; found: 356.1292.



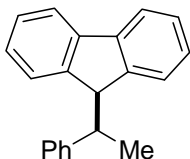
2-Bromo-9-Decyl-9H-fluorene (6m). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.71 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 2H), 3.95 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.03-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.12 (m, 16H), 0.87 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.8, 147.3, 140.14, 140.11, 130.0, 127.6, 127.2, 127.0, 124.4, 121.1, 120.6, 119.8, 47.5, 31.9, 29.9, 29.60, 29.57, 29.4, 29.3, 25.6, 22.7, 14.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 386 (54), 384 (57), 305 (8), 245 (38), 243 (39), 179 (67), 178 (28), 166 (16), 165 (100), 164 (25), 163 (16), 85 (22), 71 (31), 57 (36). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{Br}]^+$: 384.1453; found: 384.1453.



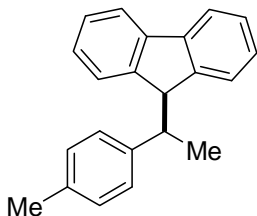
2-Bromo-9-Dodecyl-9H-fluorene (6n). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.71 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.31 (m, 2H), 3.95 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.03-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.12 (m, 20H), 0.87 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.8, 147.3, 140.13, 140.10, 130.0, 127.6, 127.2, 127.0, 124.4, 121.1, 120.6, 119.8, 47.5, 31.9, 29.9, 29.64, 29.63, 29.60, 29.38, 29.35, 22.7, 14.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 415 (16), 414 (61), 413 (17), 412 (62), 333 (6), 245 (39), 243 (37), 179 (58), 178 (25), 166 (16), 165 (100), 164 (21), 163 (12), 85 (21), 71 (28), 57 (44). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{33}\text{Br}]^+$: 412.1766; found: 412.1768.

Typical Procedure for Ketone-Catalyzed 9-C-Alkylation of Fluorenes with Secondary Alcohols.

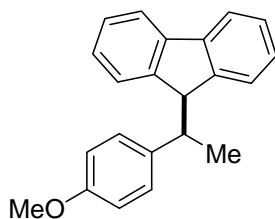
The mixture of fluorene **2a** (0.166 g, 1.0 mmol), 1-phenylethanol **8a** (0.147 g, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), $\text{CsOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.168 g, 1.0 mmol, 100 mol%), acetophenone (12 μL , 0.1 mmol, 10 mol%), and toluene (1.0 mL) in a 20 mL schlenk tube was sealed under nitrogen, heated at 160 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h, and monitored by GC-MS and/or TLC. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum. The residue was then purified through column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (60-90 $^\circ\text{C}$) (v/v 1/50) as the eluent, giving **9a** in 88% isolated yield (0.238 g).



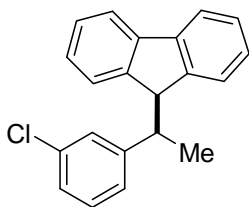
9-(1-Phenylethyl)-9H-fluorene (9a). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.82-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.32 (m, 8H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.79-3.71 (m, 1H), 1.02 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.5, 144.56, 144.55, 141.8, 141.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.04, 126.99, 126.8, 126.3, 126.2, 125.6, 124.3, 119.65, 119.58, 54.2, 41.9, 13.9. This compound was known: Murphy, W. S.; Hauser, C. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1965**, *31*, 85.



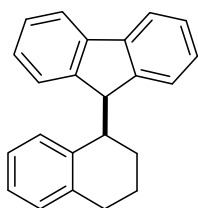
9-(1-(p-Tolyl)ethyl)-9H-fluorene (9b). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.91-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.66 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.06 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.46 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.87-3.78 (m, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 1.10 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.6, 144.6, 141.7, 141.5, 141.3, 135.6, 128.8, 127.9, 127.0, 126.9, 126.7, 126.1, 125.6, 124.2, 119.6, 119.5, 54.2, 41.4, 21.0, 13.9. HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20} + \text{Na}]^+$: 307.1457; found: 307.1445.



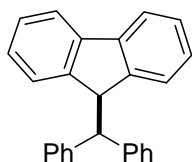
9-(1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)ethyl)-9H-fluorene (9c). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.80-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.28 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.96-6.92 (m, 3H), 4.32 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.74-3.66 (m, 1H), 0.99 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.0, 146.5, 144.7, 141.7, 141.3, 136.6, 128.9, 127.0, 126.9, 126.7, 126.2, 125.6, 124.3, 119.63, 119.55, 113.5, 55.2, 54.3, 41.1, 14.2. HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{O} + \text{H}]^+$: 301.1587; found: 301.1597.



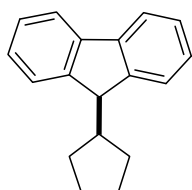
9-(1-(3-Chlorophenyl)ethyl)-9H-fluorene (9d). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.70 (dd, $J = 7.5$ Hz, $J = 11.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 2H), 4.25 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.66-3.60 (m, 1H), 0.93 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.7, 146.0, 144.2, 141.8, 141.4, 134.0, 129.3, 128.3, 127.3, 127.2, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 125.4, 124.3, 119.8, 119.7, 53.9, 41.9, 14.1. MS (EI): m/z (%) 306 (4), 304 (18), 166 (9), 165 (100), 164 (7), 141 (7), 139 (26), 103 (10). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{Cl}]^+$: 304.1019; found: 304.1015.



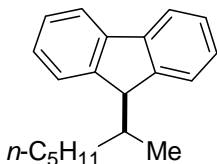
9-(1,2,3,4-Tetrahydronaphthalen-1-yl)-9H-fluorene (9e). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.01-7.93 (m, 3H), 7.80 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.47 (m, 5H), 7.38 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 1H), 6.66 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.88 (d, $J = 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.13-4.07 (m, 1H), 2.87-2.65 (m, 2H), 1.65-1.54 (m, 3H), 1.06-0.93 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.4, 145.2, 141.8, 141.4, 139.1, 138.6, 129.2, 128.2, 126.91, 126.87, 126.85, 126.5, 126.0, 125.8, 125.2, 123.6, 119.7, 119.4, 52.4, 40.5, 30.2, 23.2, 21.8. HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20} + \text{H}]^+$: 297.1638; found: 297.1647.



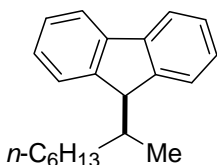
9-Benzhydryl-9H-fluorene (9f). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.69 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 10H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.98 (m, 2H), 6.60 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.83 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.17 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.6, 143.1, 141.2, 128.9, 128.4, 127.1, 126.6, 126.3, 125.7, 119.5, 55.8, 51.7. This compound was known: Murphy, W. S.; Hauser, C. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1966**, *31*, 85.



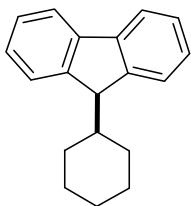
9-Cyclopentyl-9H-fluorene (9g). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.75 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 4.03 (d, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.44-2.35 (m, 1H), 1.80-1.74 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.57 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.44 (m, 2H), 1.41-1.33 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.1, 141.3, 126.8, 126.5, 125.1, 119.6, 51.2, 44.4, 30.0, 25.2. Praefcke, K. and Weichsel, C. *Liebigs Annalen der Chemie.* **1980**, *10*, 1604.



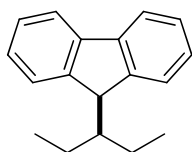
9-(Heptan-2-yl)-9H-fluorene (9g). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.82-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.31 (m, 4H), 4.05 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.48-2.39 (m, 1H), 1.51-1.33 (m, 8H), 0.95 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 3H), 0.67 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.1, 145.8, 141.9, 141.5, 126.8, 126.73, 126.71, 126.5, 125.1, 124.4, 119.6, 119.5, 52.5, 37.2, 34.5, 32.0, 27.6, 22.7, 15.7, 14.1. HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24} + \text{Na}]^+$: 287.1770; found: 287.1809.



9-(Octan-2-yl)-9H-fluorene (9i). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.82-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.31 (m, 4H), 4.05 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.49-2.37 (m, 1H), 1.48-1.33 (m, 10H), 0.95 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 0.67 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.1, 145.8, 141.9, 141.5, 126.8, 126.72, 126.71, 126.5, 125.1, 124.4, 119.6, 119.5, 52.5, 37.2, 34.5, 31.9, 29.4, 27.9, 22.7, 15.7, 14.1. HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26} + \text{Na}]^+$: 301.1927; found: 301.1994.

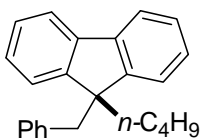


9-Cyclohexyl-9H-fluorene (9j). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.91 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.44 (m, 4H), 4.09-4.04 (m, 1H), 2.39-2.32 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.79 (m, 3H), 1.66 (d, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.48-1.22 (m, 5H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.4, 141.6, 126.7, 126.6, 124.8, 119.5, 53.5, 43.1, 29.6, 26.9, 26.4. This compound was known: Patsidis, K.; Alt, H. G. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1995**, 501, 31.



9-(Pentan-3-yl)-9H-fluorene (9k). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.12 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.06-2.00 (m, 1H), 1.32-1.14 (m, 4H), 0.89 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.9, 141.7, 126.7, 126.6, 124.7, 119.6, 49.4, 46.2, 24.1, 12.7. MS (EI): m/z (%) 237 (6), 236 (29), 207 (3), 193 (5), 178 (5), 167 (11), 166 (85), 165 (100), 164 (10), 163 (10), 139 (5), 115 (3), 82 (6), 71 (4). HRMS Calcd for $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}]^+$: 236.1565; found: 236.1570.

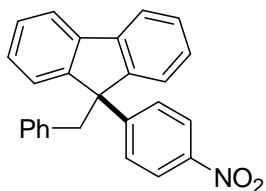
Procedure for Base-Mediated 9-C-Butylation of 9-Benzyl-9H-fluorene with Butyl Bromide. The mixture of 9-benzyl-9H-fluorene **3a** (0.256 g, 1.0 mmol), 1-bromobutane (0.550 g, 4.0 mmol, 4.0 equiv.), TBAI (0.074 g, 0.2 mmol, 20 mol%), NaOH (0.5 g) and water (0.50 mL) in a 20 mL schlenk tube was sealed under N_2 , heated at 80 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h, and then monitored by GC-MS and/or TLC. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was successively washed with dil. HCl, water and brine, and then extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was concentrated under vacuum, which as then purified through column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (60-90 $^\circ\text{C}$) (v/v 1/50), giving gave **12** in 85% isolated yield (0.265g).



9-Benzyl-9-Butylfluorene (12). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 6H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 3H), 6.85 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.33 (s, 2H), 2.35-2.30 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.23 (m, 2H), 0.87-0.73 (m, 5H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.4, 140.9, 137.3, 130.3, 127.0, 126.8, 126.6,

125.8, 123.6, 119.6, 55.8, 46.8, 38.6, 25.9, 23.0, 13.8. MS (EI): m/z (%) 149.4, 140.9, 137.3, 130.3, 127.0, 126.8, 126.6, 125.8, 123.6, 119.6, 55.8, 46.8, 38.6, 25.9, 23.0, 13.8. HRMS Calcd for $[C_{24}H_{24} + H]^+$: 313.1951; found: 313.1958.

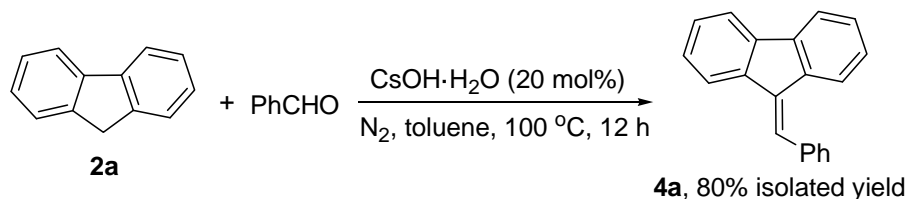
Procedure for 9-C-Arylation of 9-Benzyl-9H-fluorene with *p*-Chloronitrobenzene. The mixture of 9-benzyl-9H-fluorene **3a** (0.256 g, 1.0 mmol), *p*-chloronitrobenzene (0.246 g, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), CsOH·H₂O (0.252 g, 1.5 mmol, 150 mol%), and acetonitrile (1.0 mL) in a 20 mL Schlenk tube was sealed under nitrogen, heated at 80 °C for 12 h, and then monitored by GC-MS and/or TLC. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was successively washed with dil. HCl, water and brine, and then extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was concentrated under vacuum and then purified through column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (60-90 °C) (v/v 1/50) as the eluent, giving **13** in 75% isolated yield (0.283 g).



9-Benzyl-9-(4-Nitrophenyl) fluorene (13). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 6H), 6.90-6.87 (m, 1H), 6.80-6.77 (m, 2H), 6.42 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125.4 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.6, 149.4, 146.6, 140.9, 135.5, 129.9, 127.83, 127.80, 127.4, 126.9, 126.0, 124.8, 123.6, 120.1, 59.9, 43.5. HRMS Calcd for $[C_{26}H_{19}NO_2 + H]^+$: 378.1489; found: 378.1482.

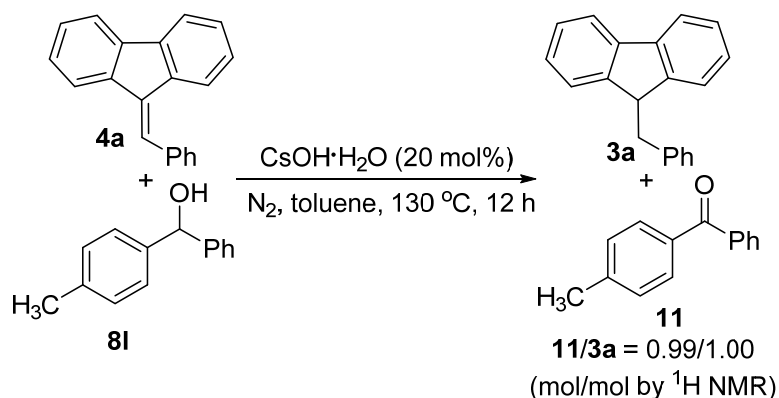
Mechanistic Studies

1. The Initial Condensation Step

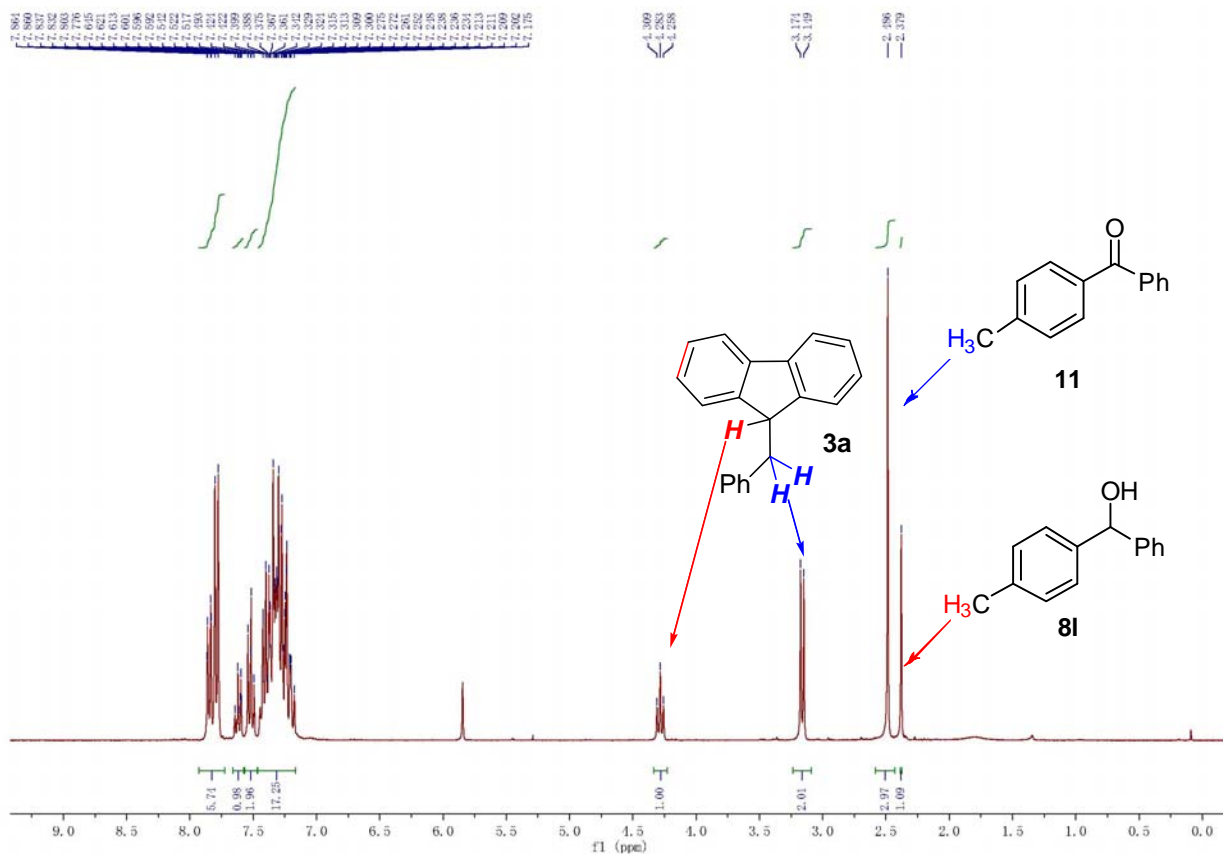


The mixture of **2a** (0.499 g, 3 mmol), PhCHO (0.425 g, 4 mmol, 1.33 equiv.), and CsOH·H₂O (0.101 g, 0.6 mmol, 20 mol%) in toluene (1 mL) was sealed under N₂ in a 20 mL Schlenk tube, heated at 100 °C for 12 h, and then monitored by TLC/GC-MS. The mixture was then concentrated under vacuum and purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent, giving **4a** in 80% isolated yield.

2. The Transfer Hydrogenation Step



The mixture of **4a** (0.763 g, 3 mmol), **8l** (0.793 g, 4 mmol, 1.33 equiv.), CsOH·H₂O (0.101 g, 20 mol%), and toluene (0.5 mL) was sealed under N₂ in a 20 mL Schlenk tube, heated at 130 °C for 12 h, and then monitored by ¹H NMR. ¹H NMR spectra of the reaction mixture (see next page) showed that conversion of **4a** to **3a** is complete. The molar ratio of ketone **11** and product **3a** is ca. 0.99/1.00. That is to say, with the generation of the target product **3a**, an equivalent amount of the byproduct ketone **11** could also be produced. This clearly means that, in the reaction mechanism, the added carbonyl catalyst can be regenerated quantitatively during the transfer hydrogenation step, which will then be recycled to participate in next reaction cycle as the intermediate/catalyst.

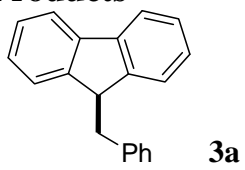


Product **3a**: $(1.00 + 2.01/2)/2 = 1.0025$

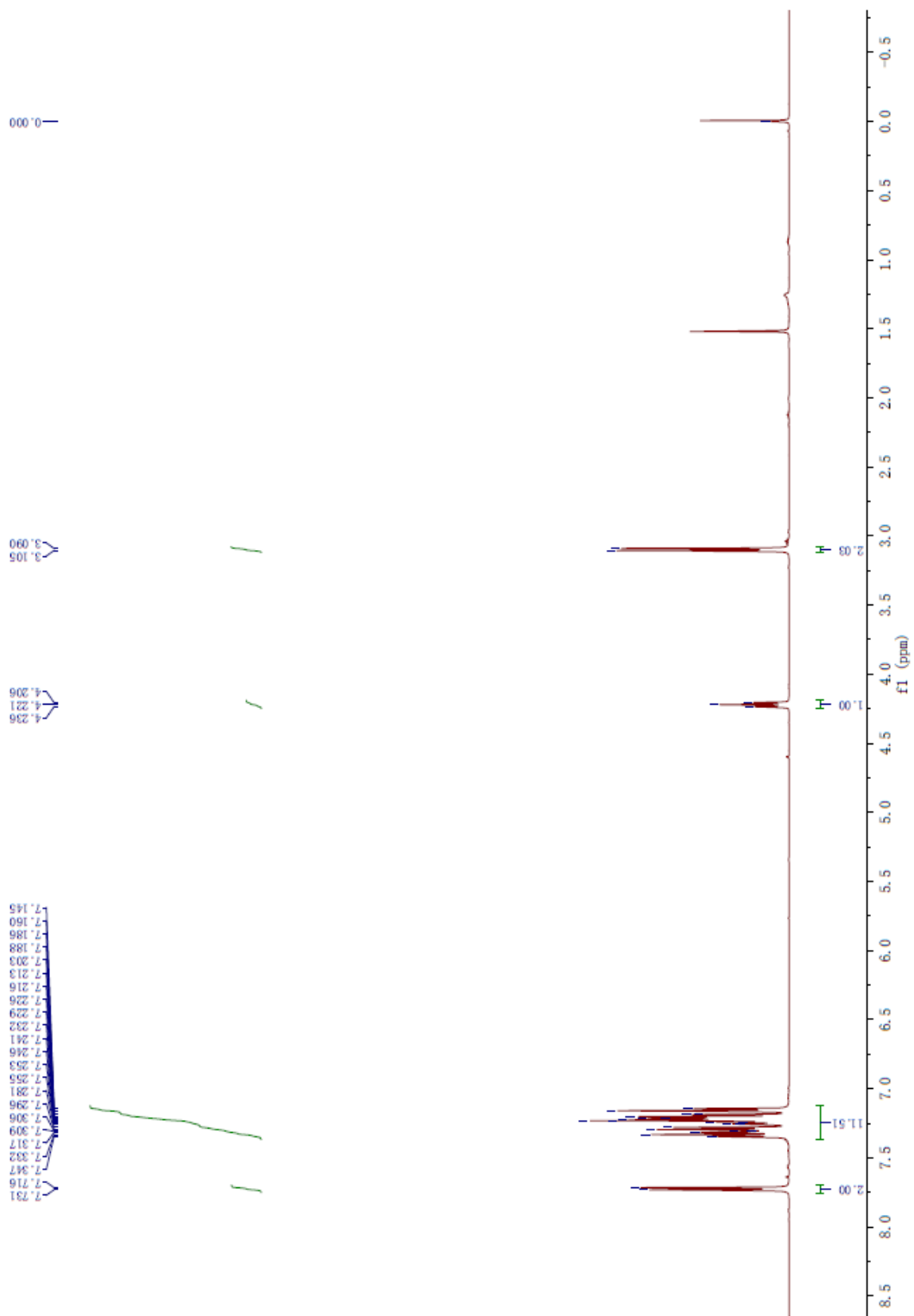
Byproduct ketone **11**: $2.97/3 = 0.99$

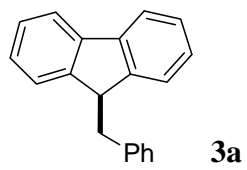
Mol(ketone **11**)/ Mol(product **3a**): $0.99/1.0025 = 0.99/1.00$

^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra of the Products

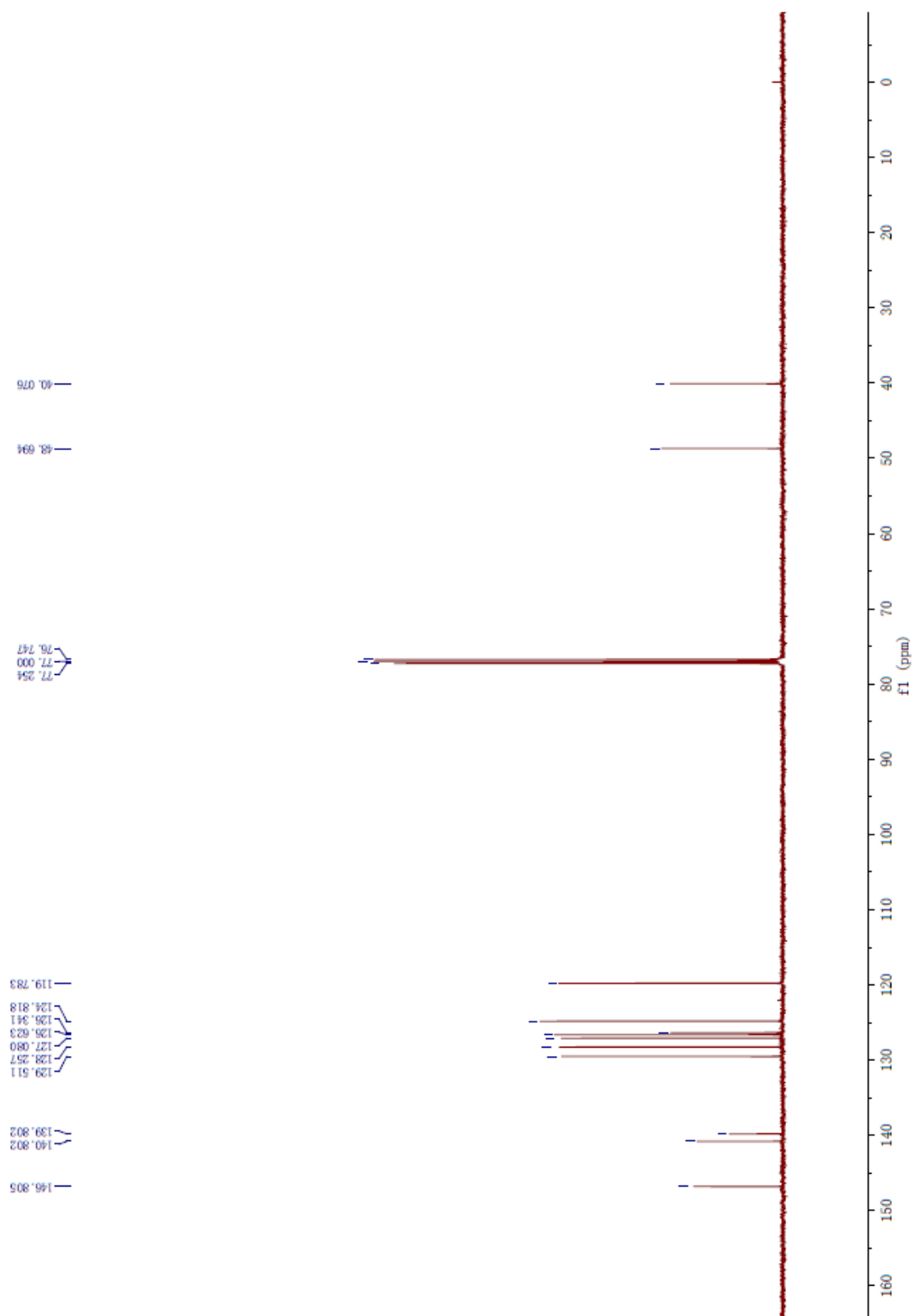


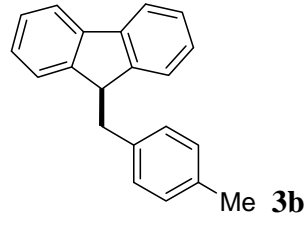
^1H NMR



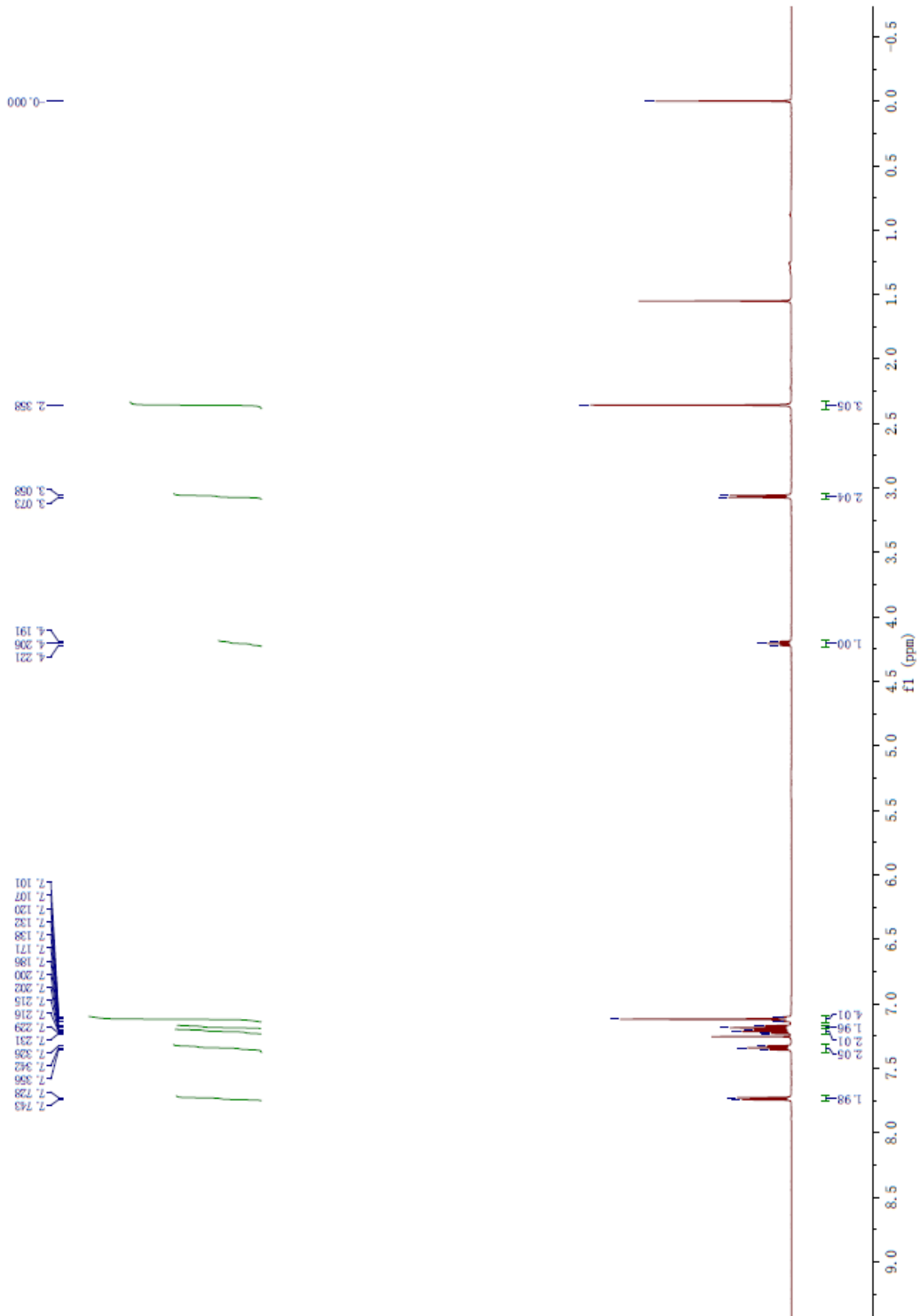


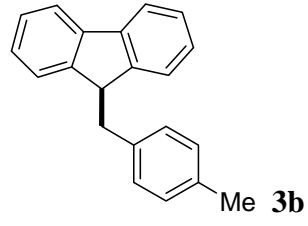
^{13}C NMR



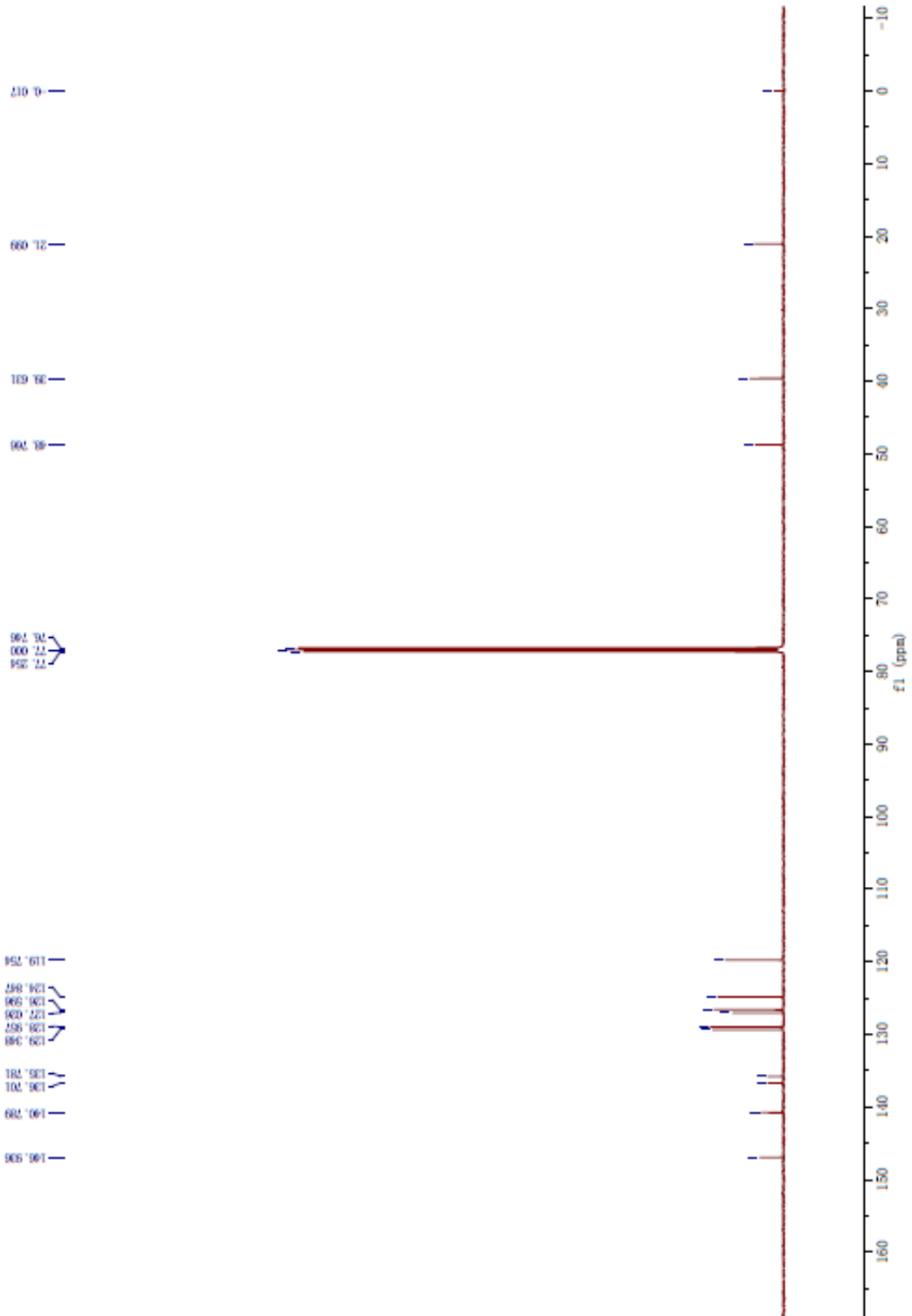


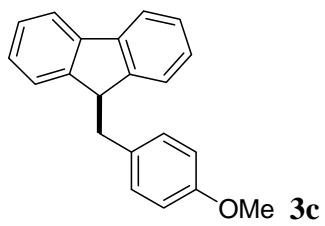
$^1\text{H NMR}$



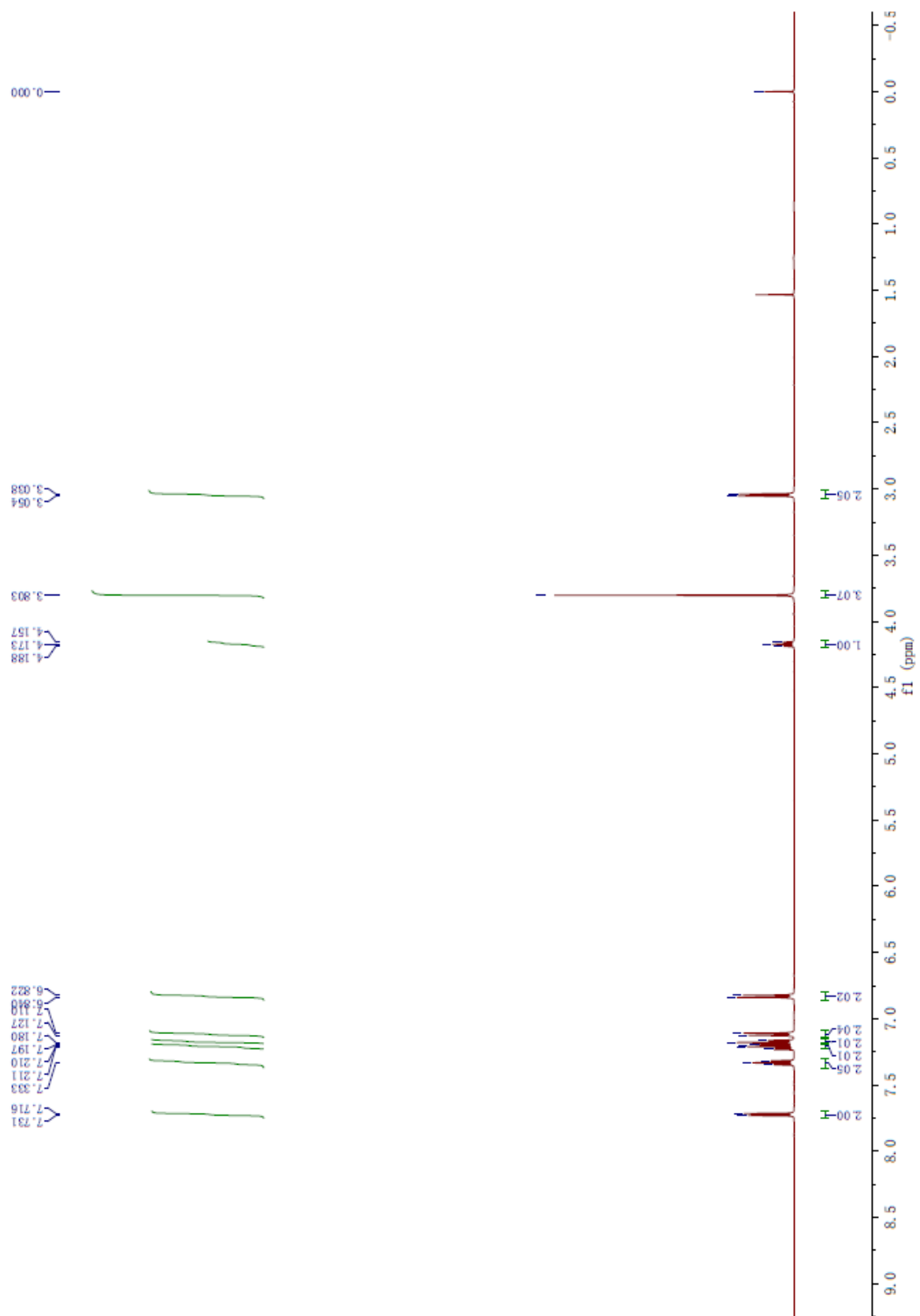


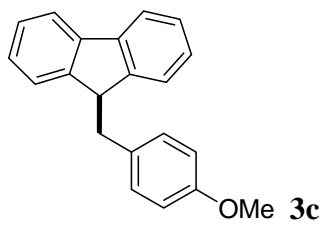
^{13}C NMR



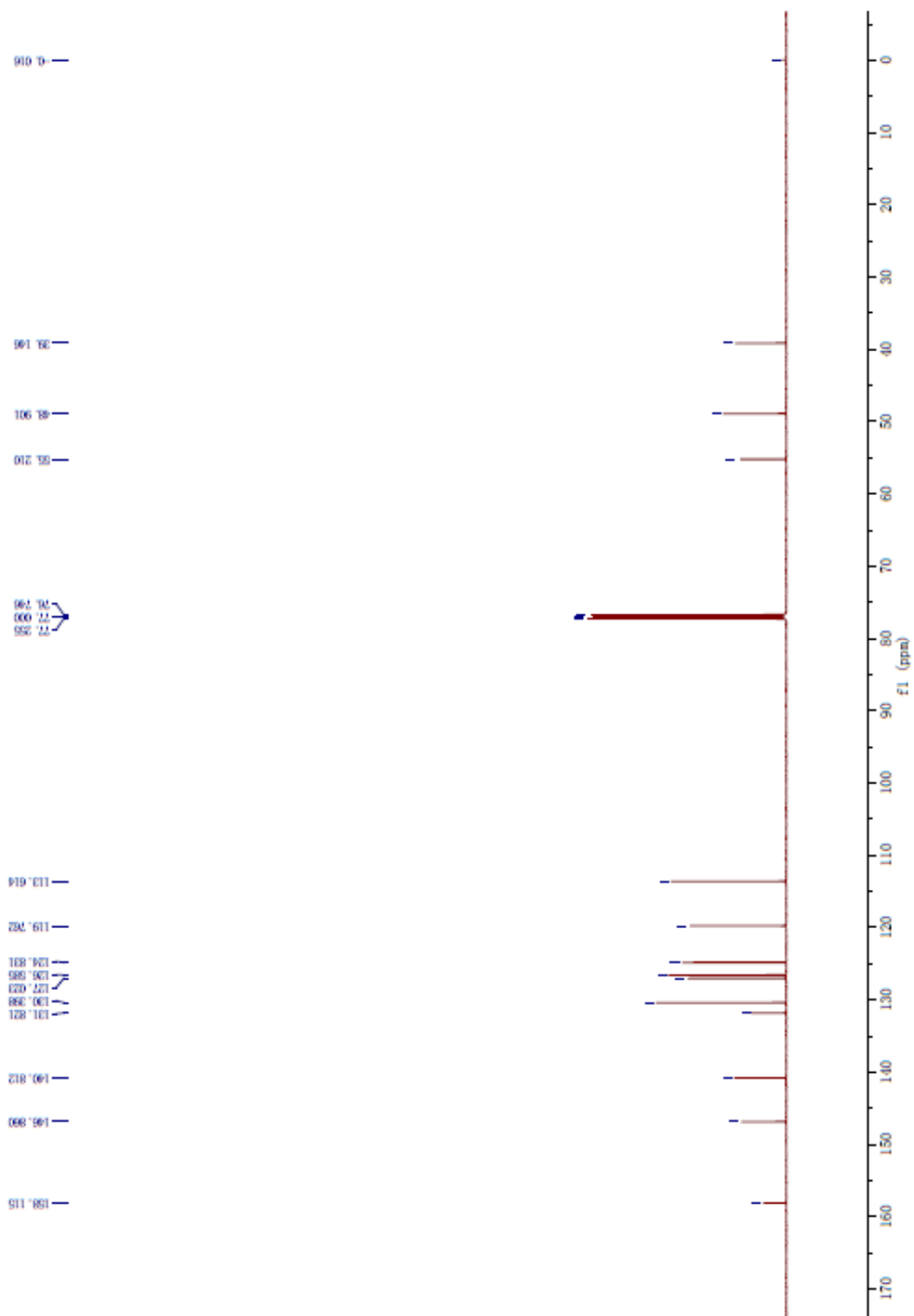


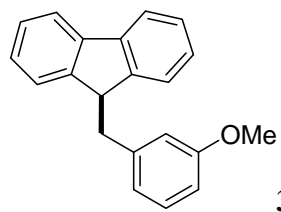
^1H NMR



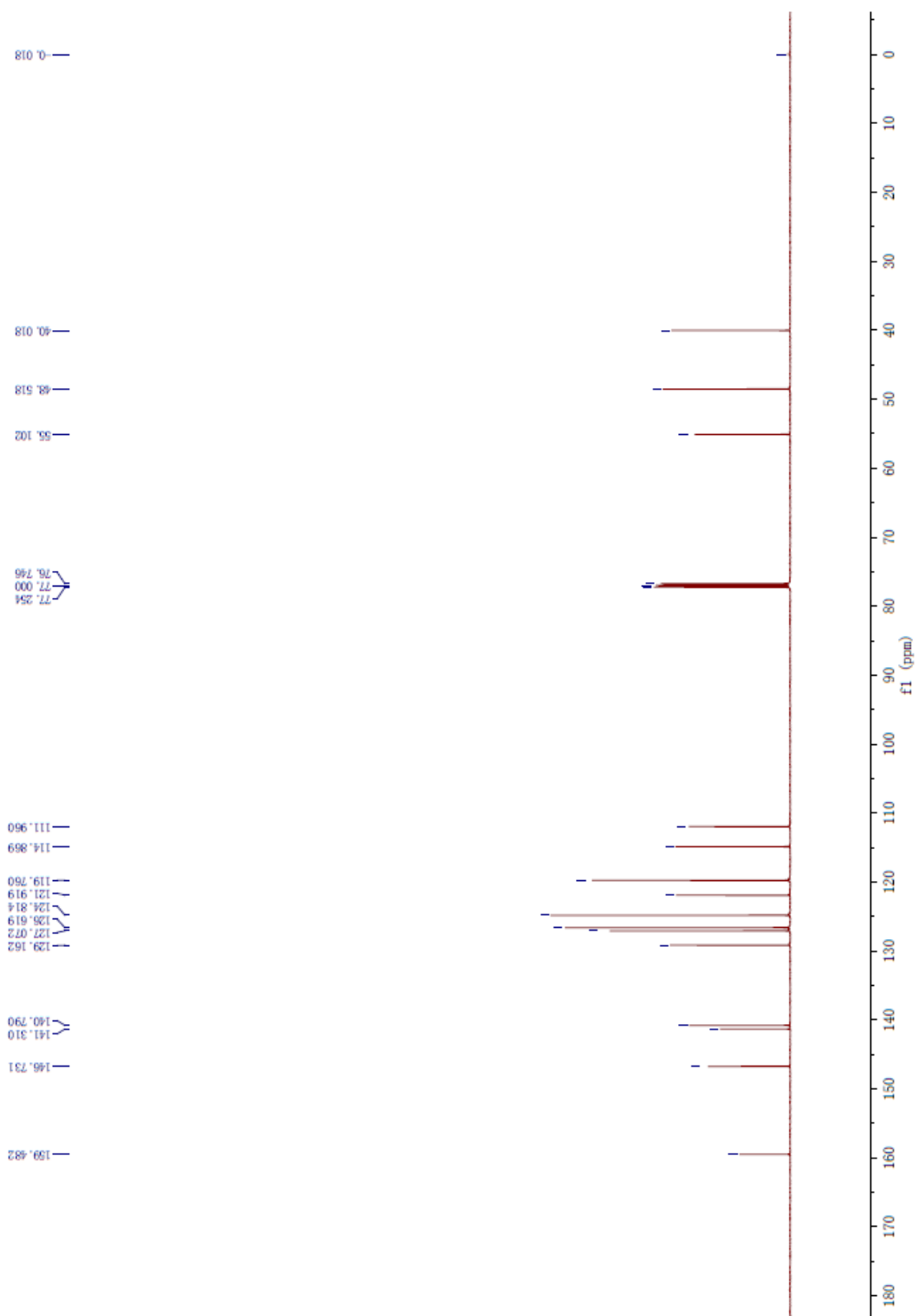


^{13}C NMR

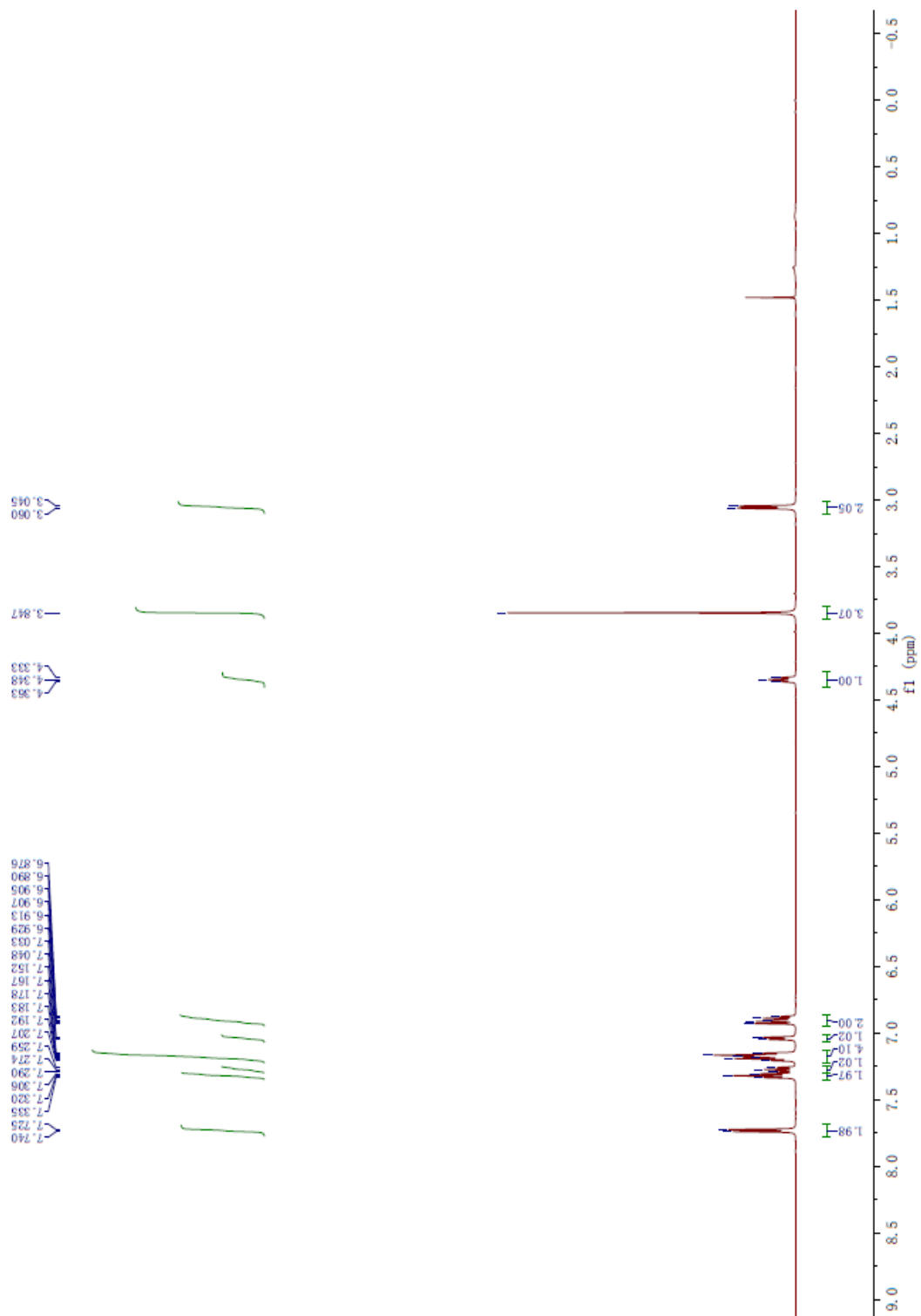
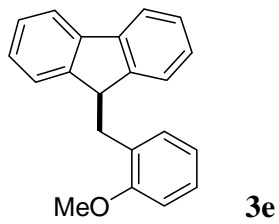


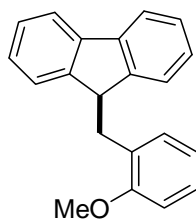


^{13}C NMR



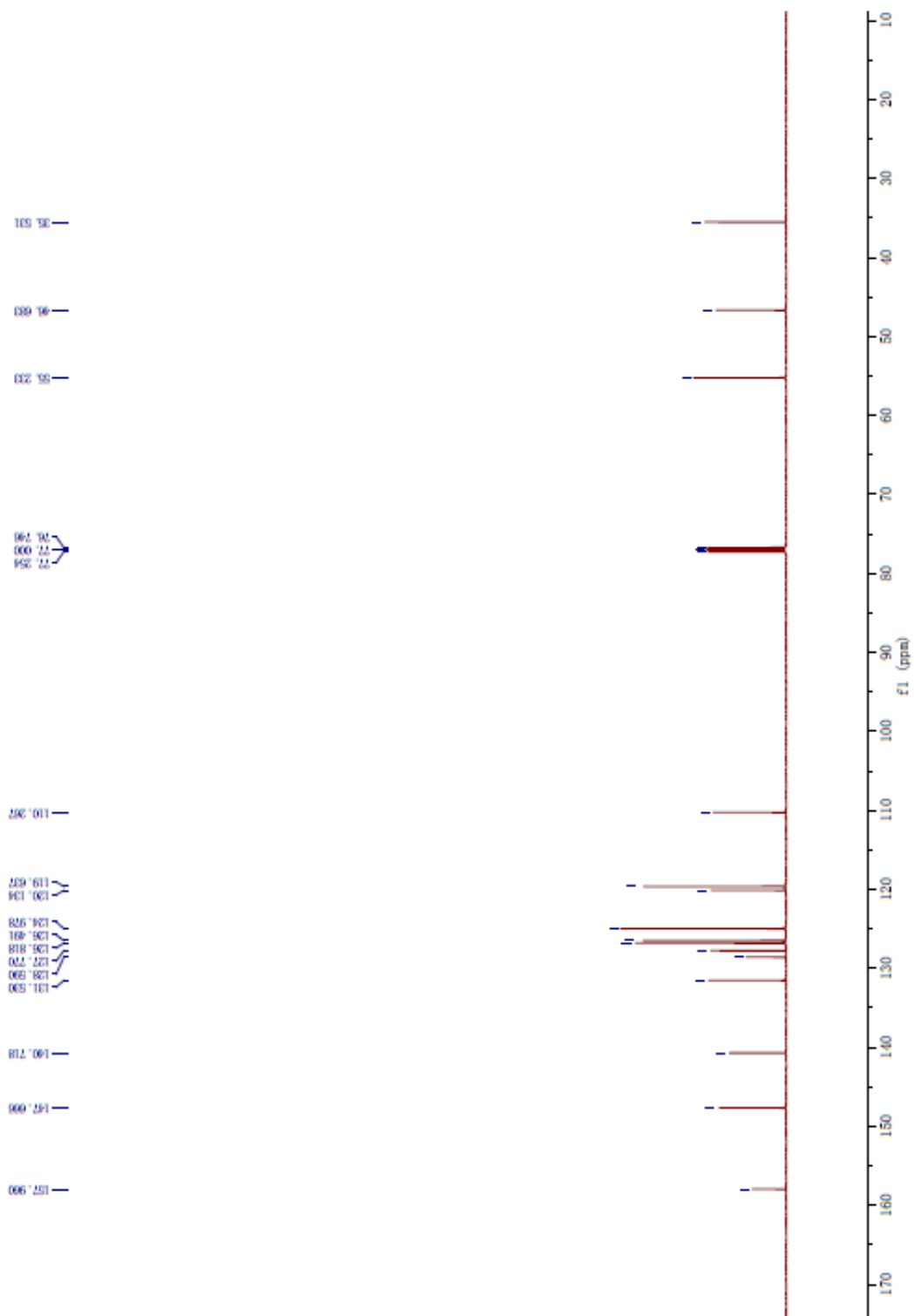
¹H NMR

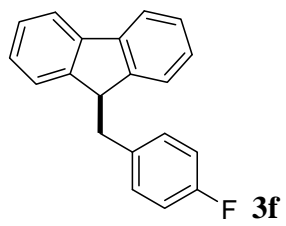




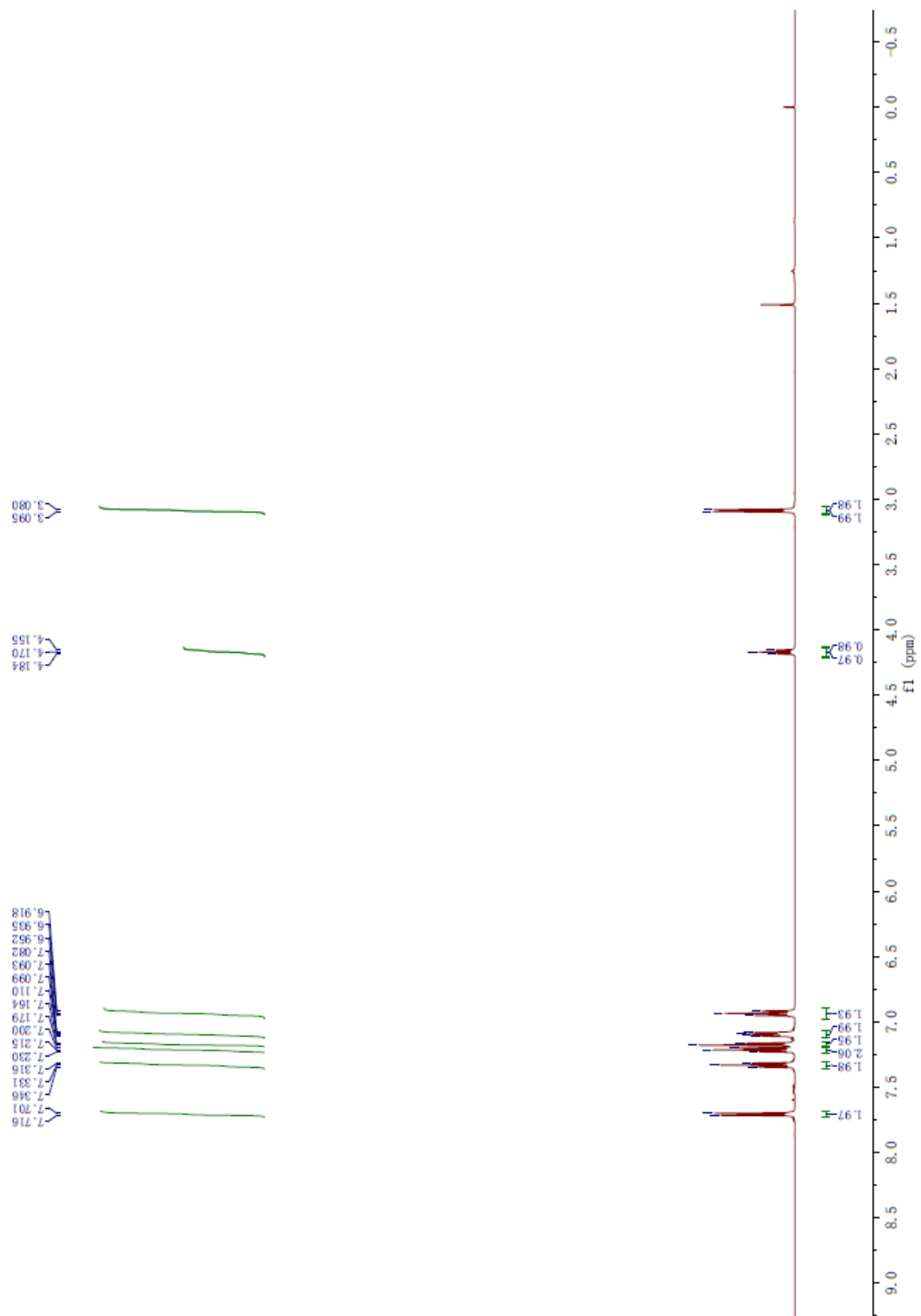
3e

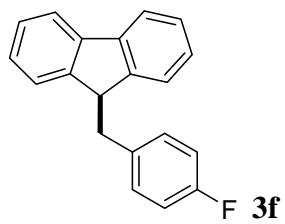
^{13}C NMR



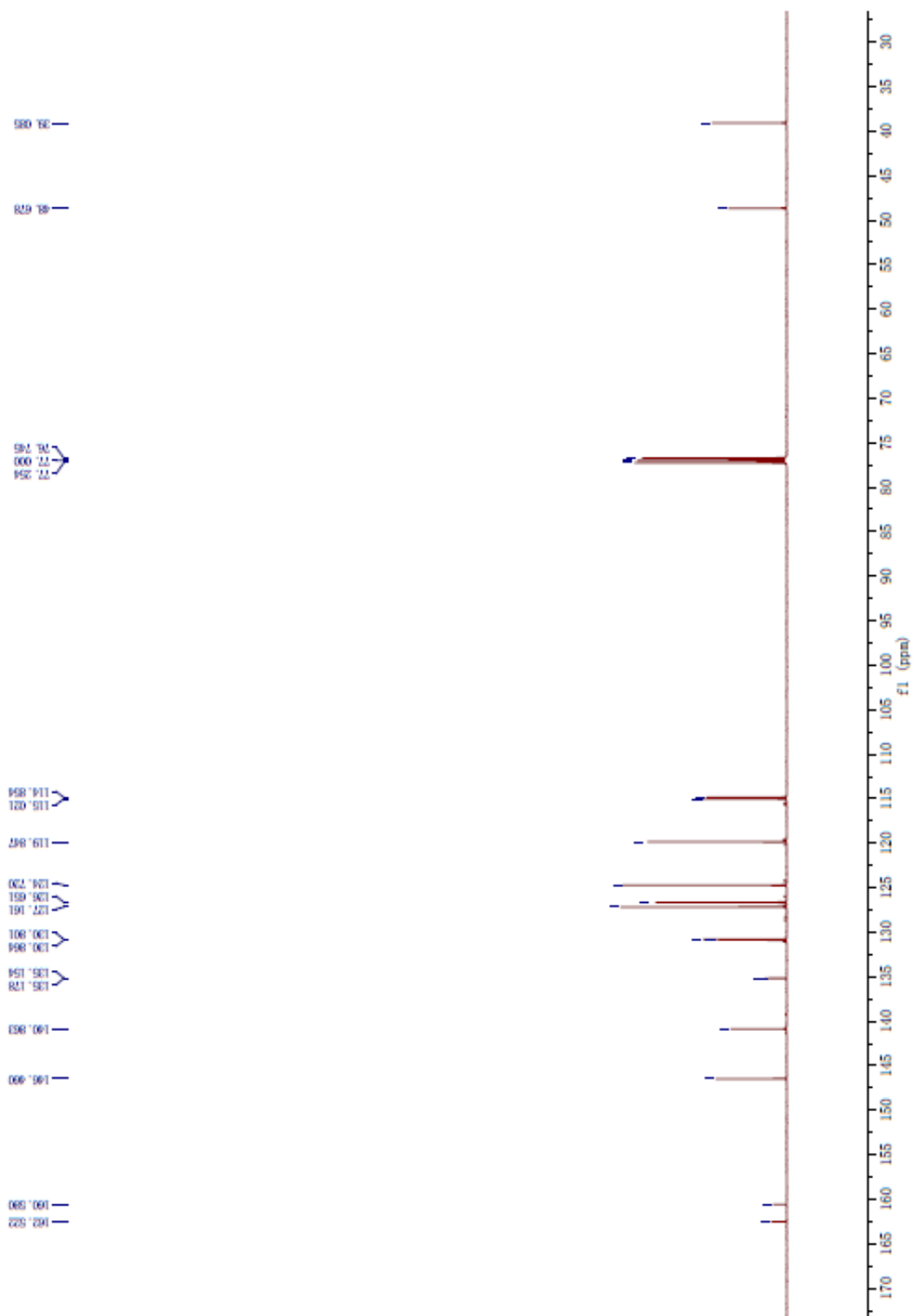


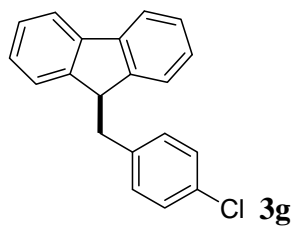
$^1\text{H NMR}$



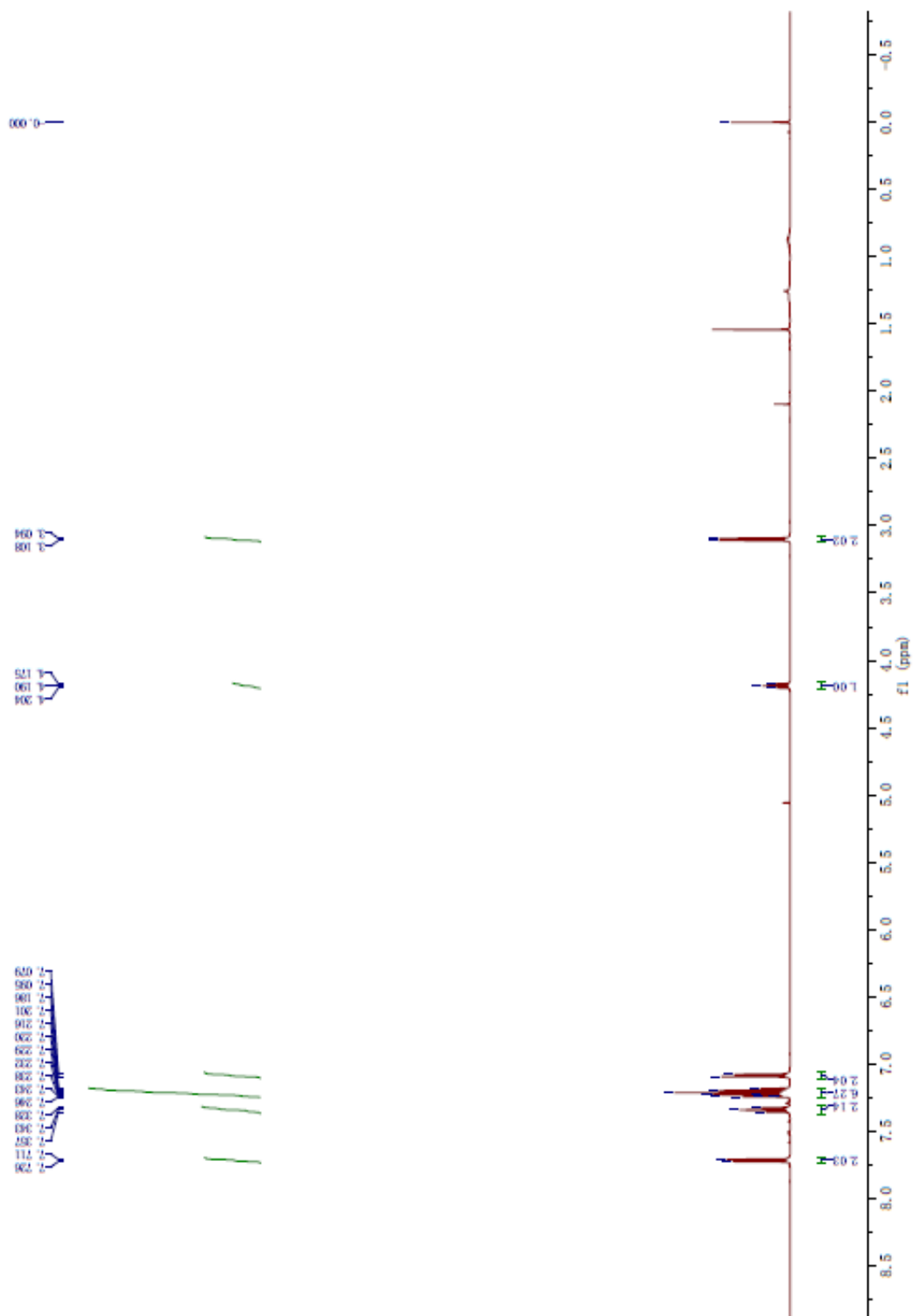


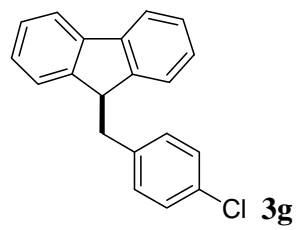
¹³C NMR



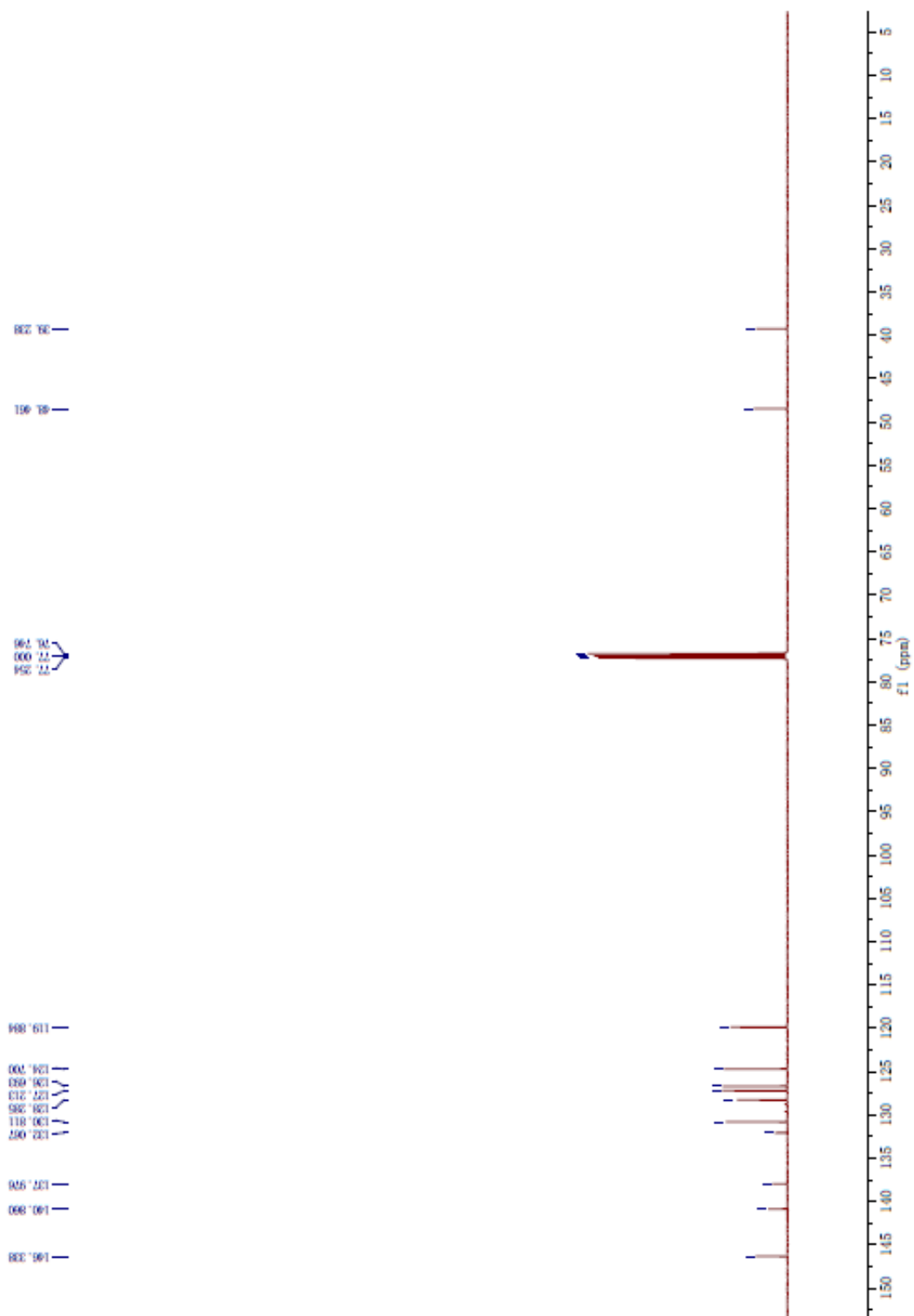


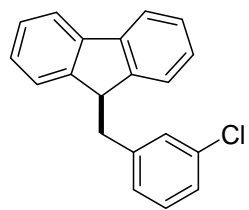
$^1\text{H NMR}$





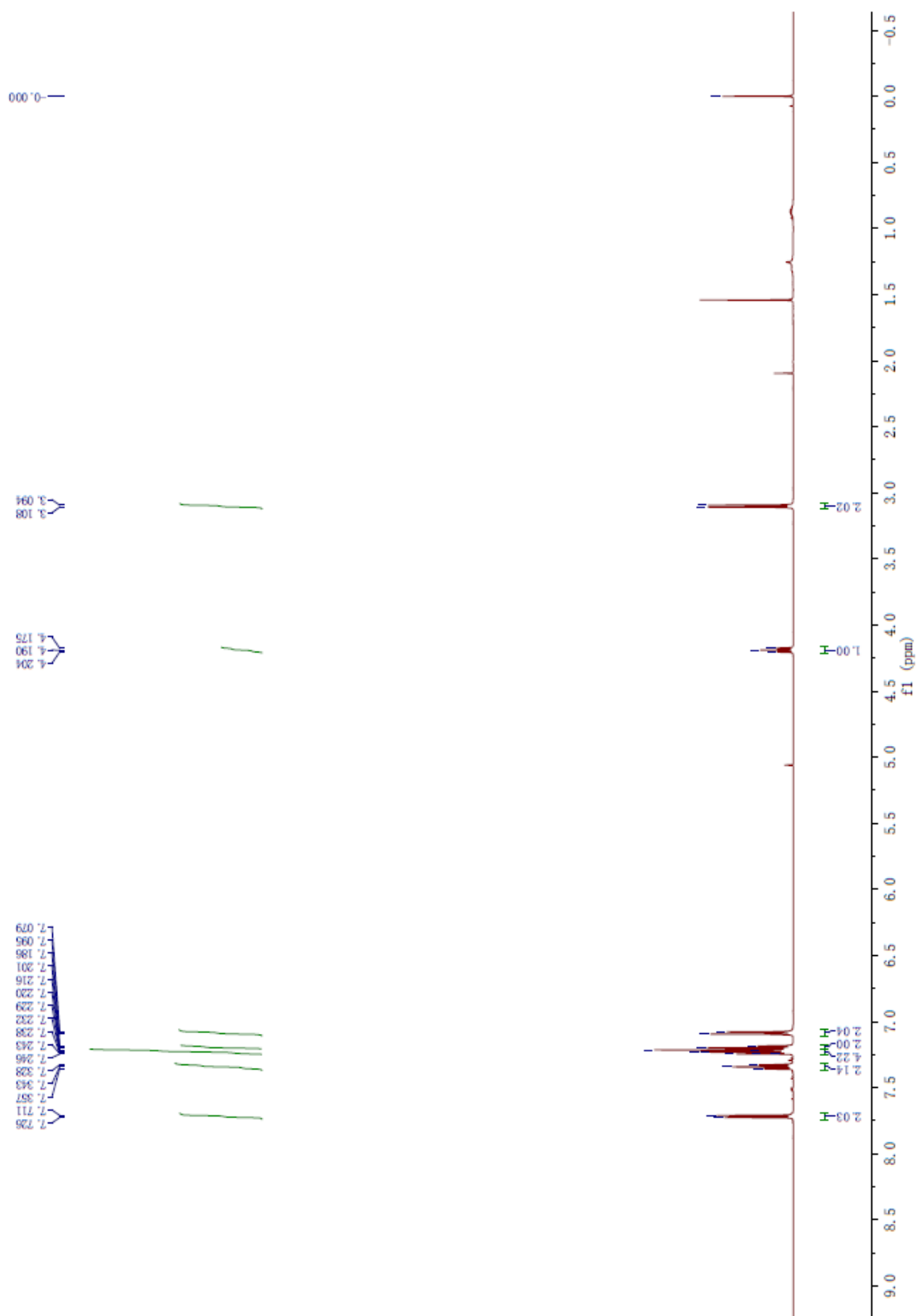
^{13}C NMR

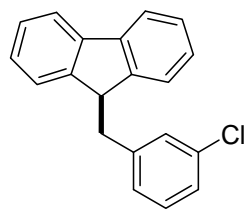




3h

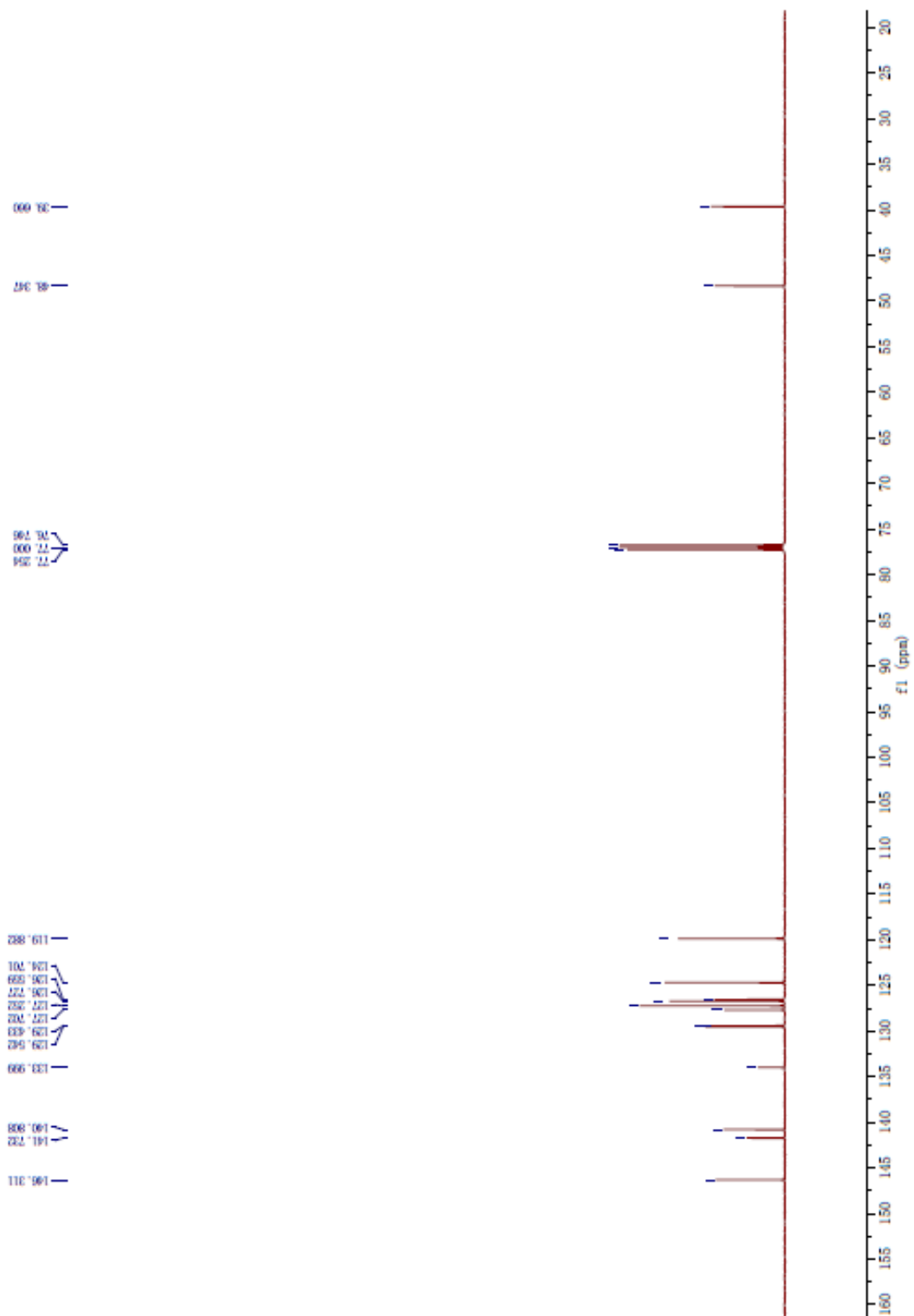
$^1\text{H NMR}$

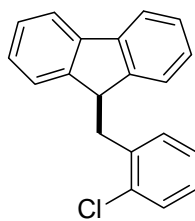




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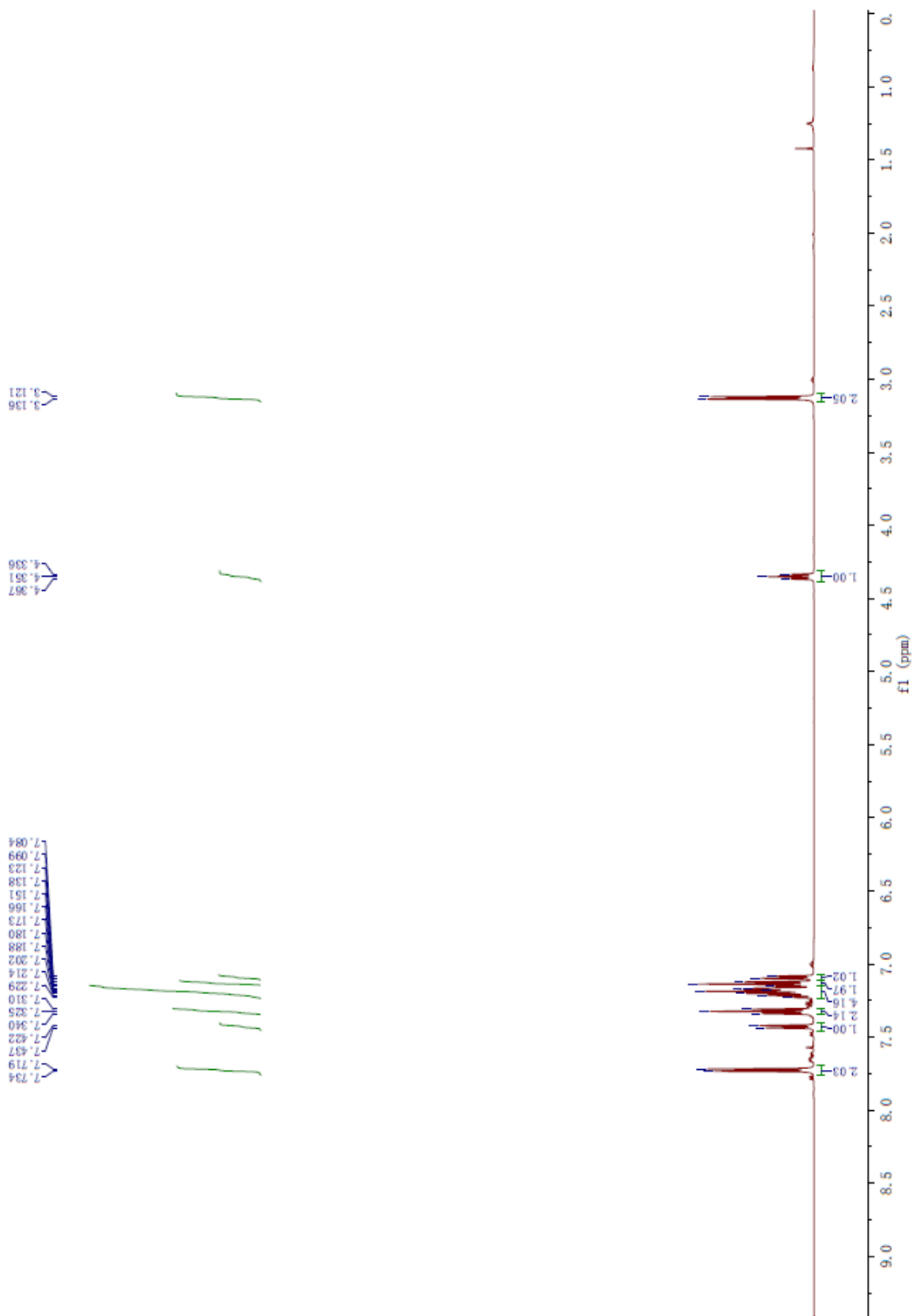
^{13}C NMR

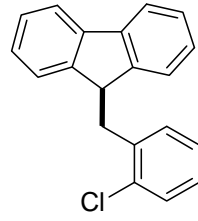




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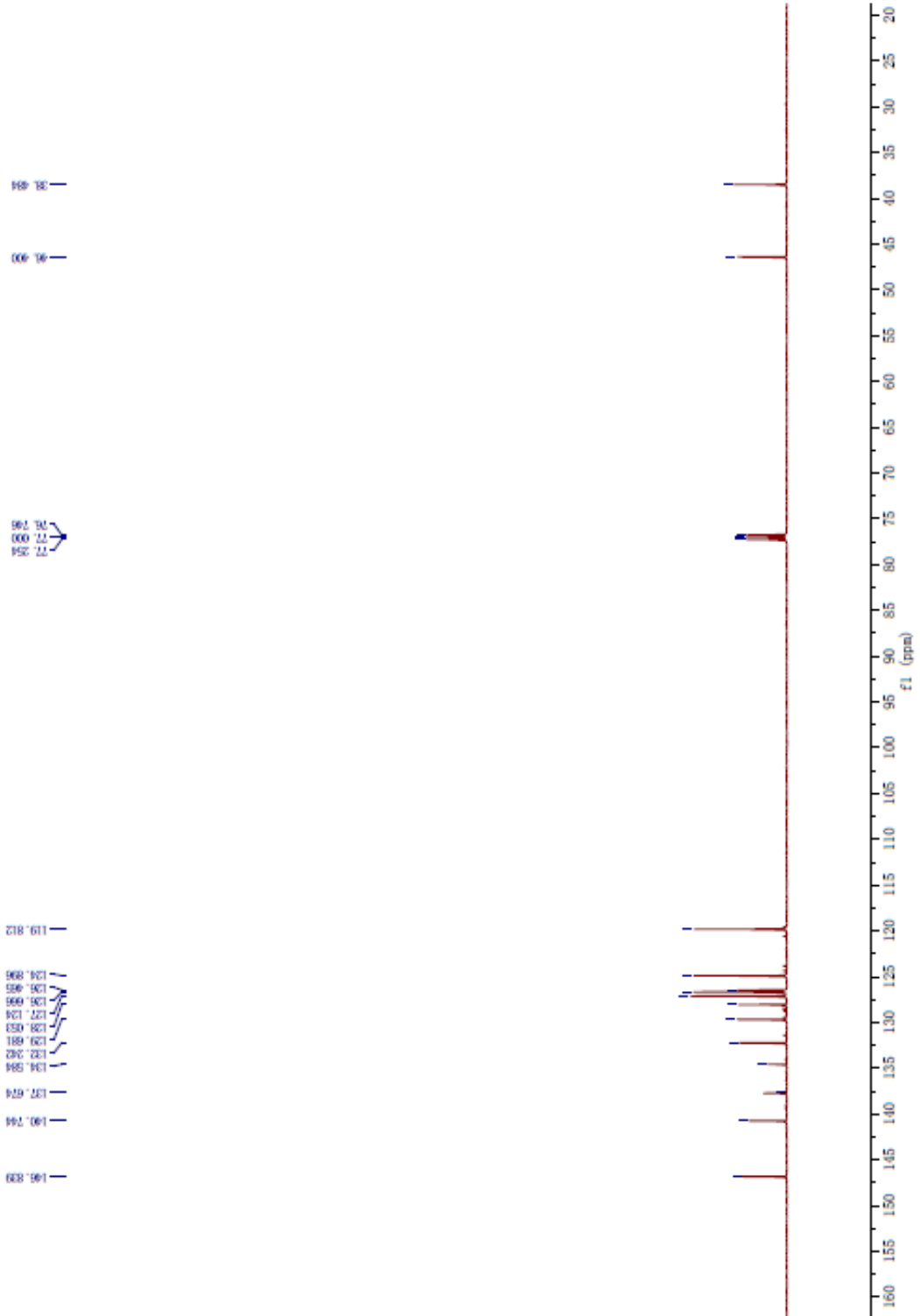
$^1\text{H NMR}$

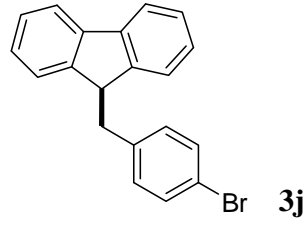




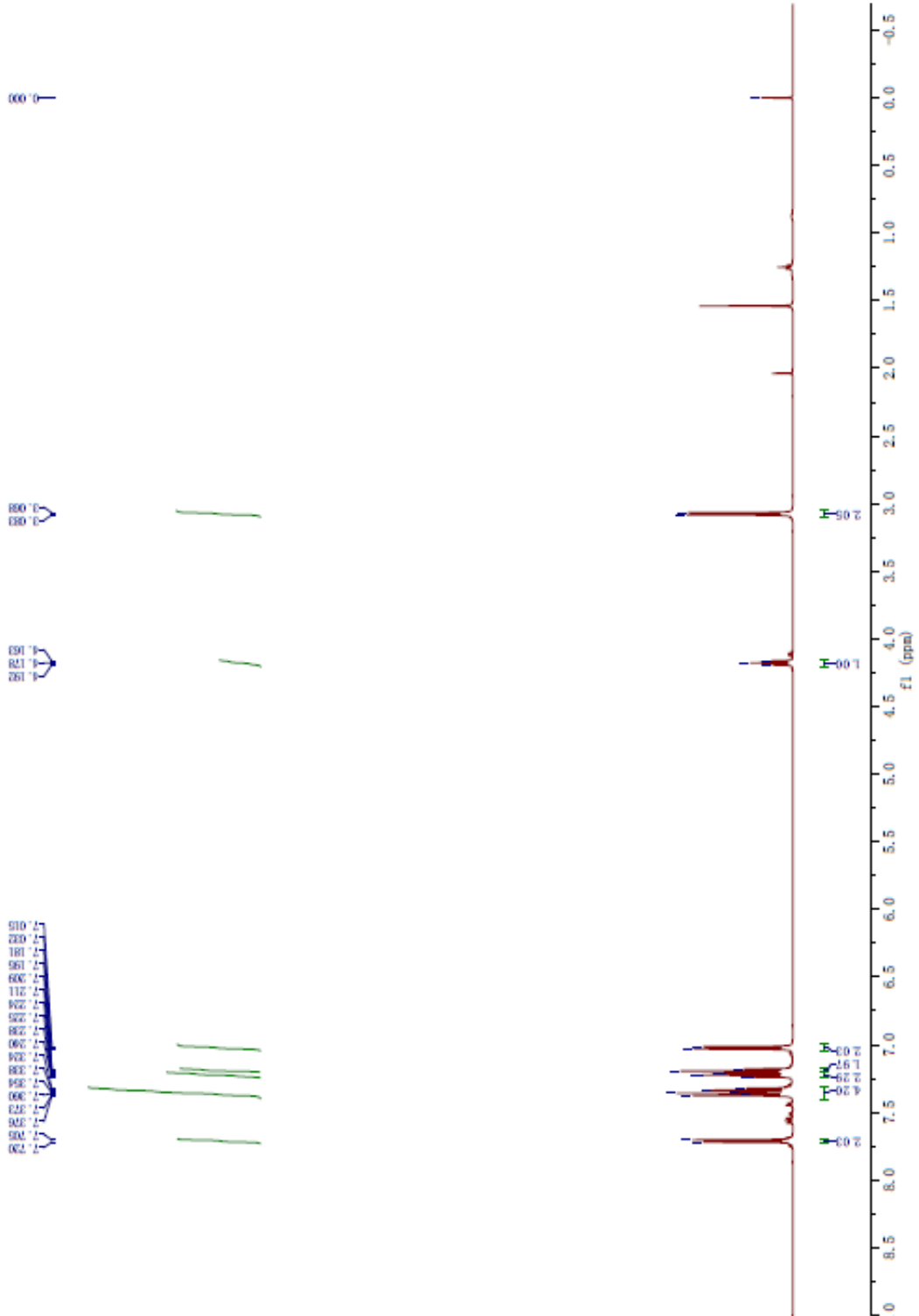
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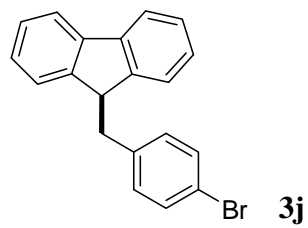
¹³C NMR



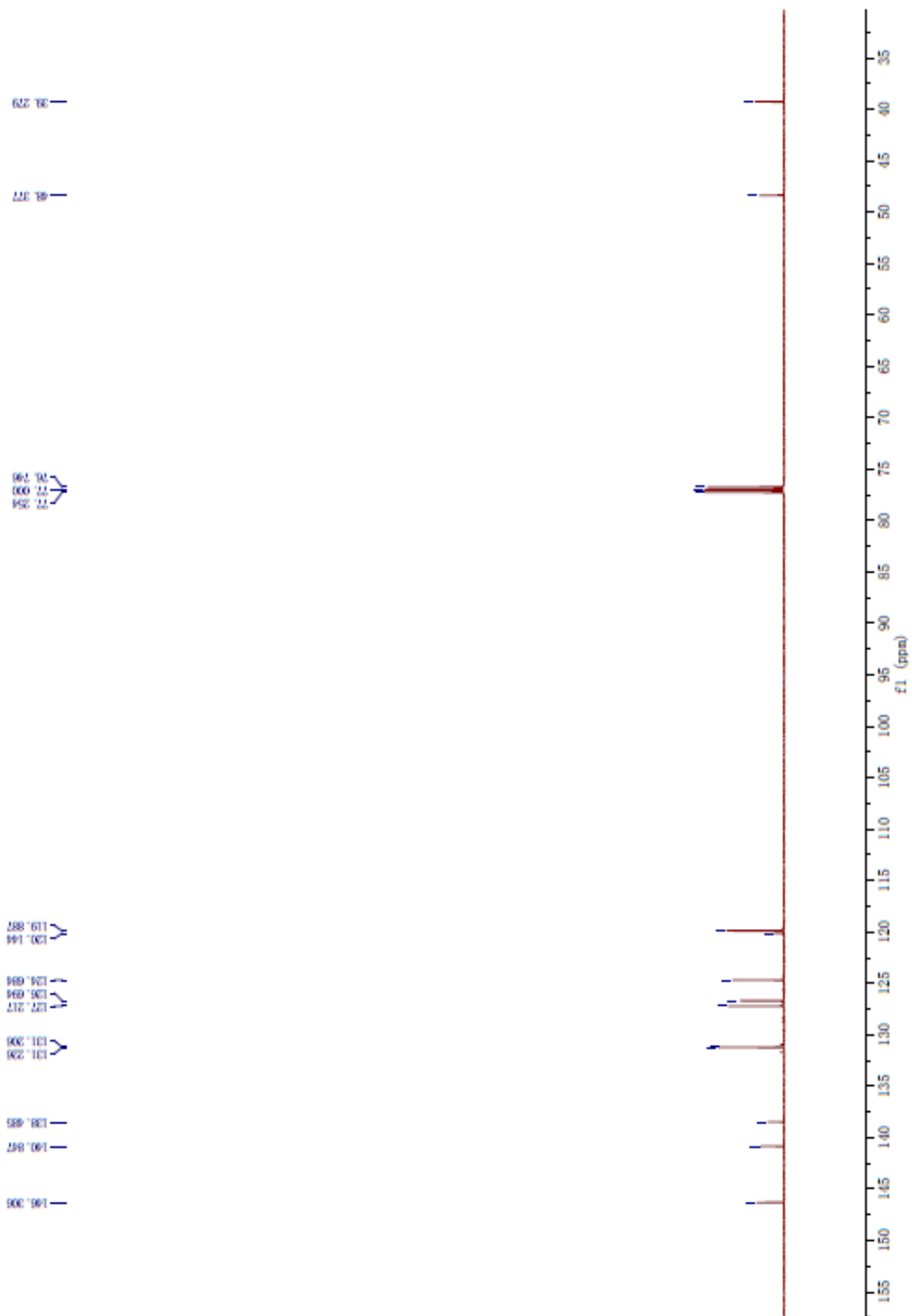


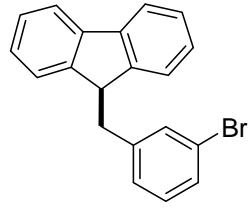
$^1\text{H NMR}$





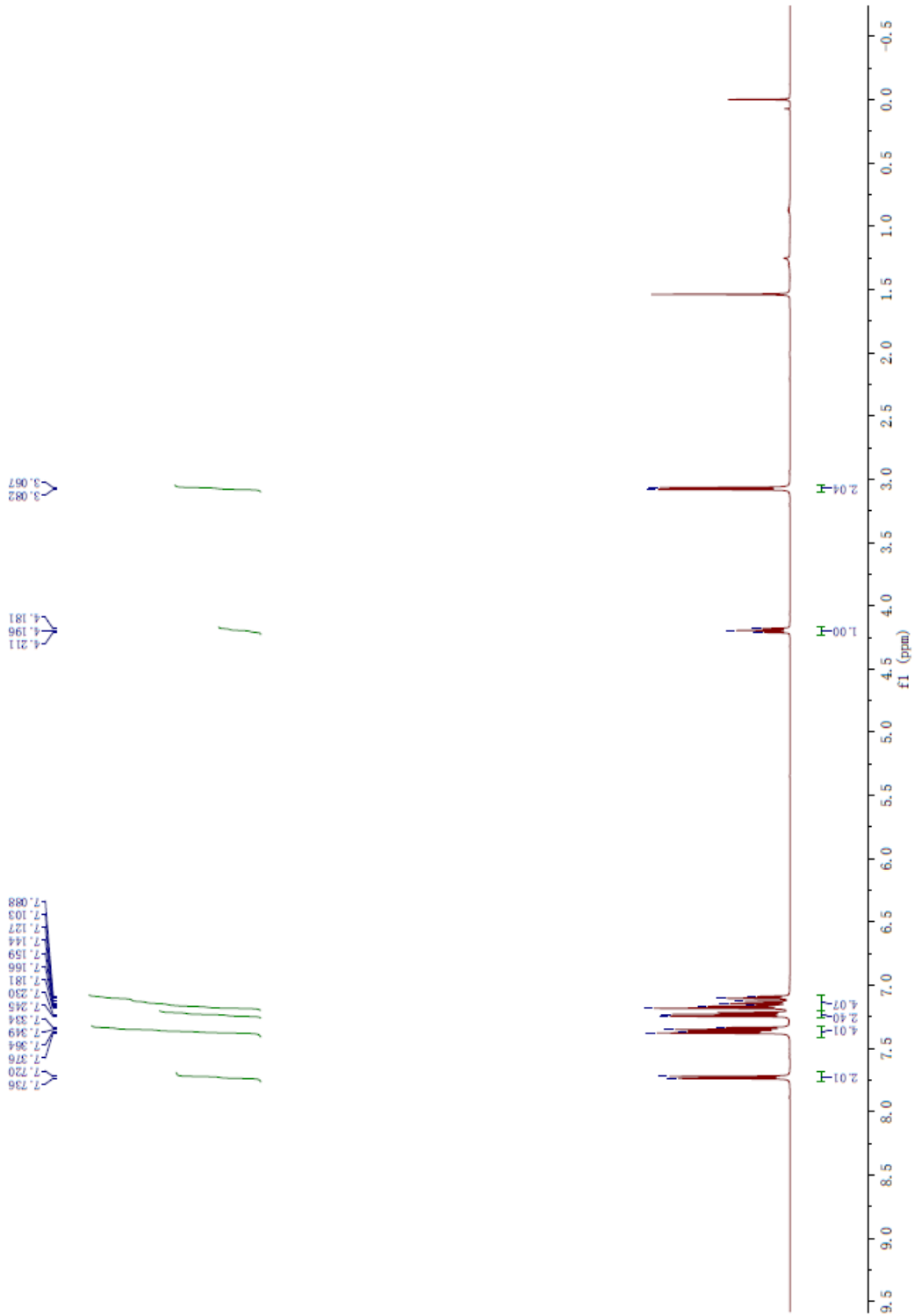
^{13}C NMR

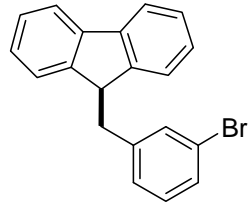




3k

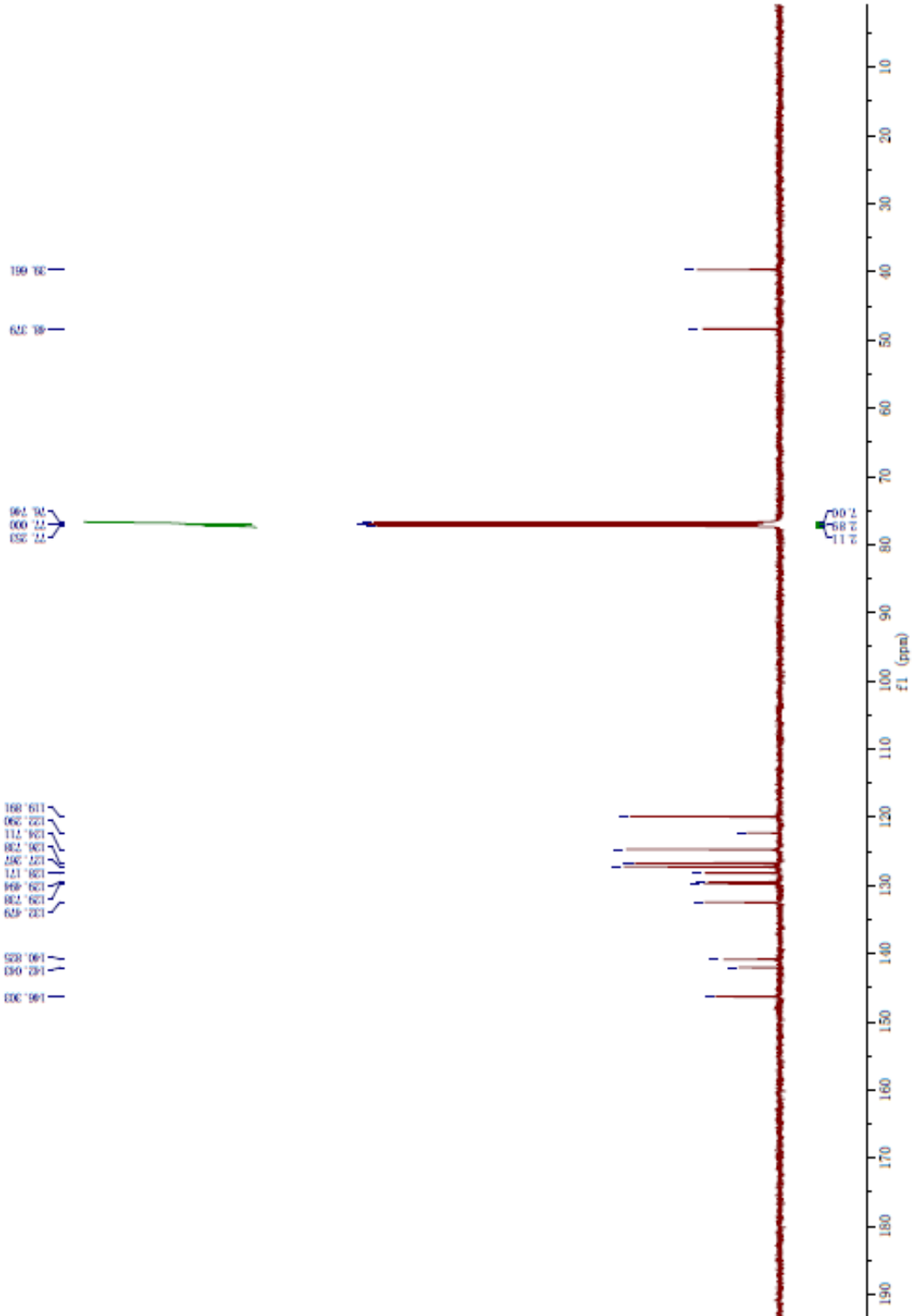
$^1\text{H NMR}$

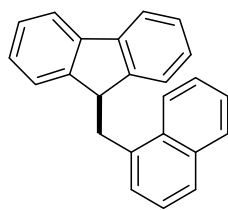




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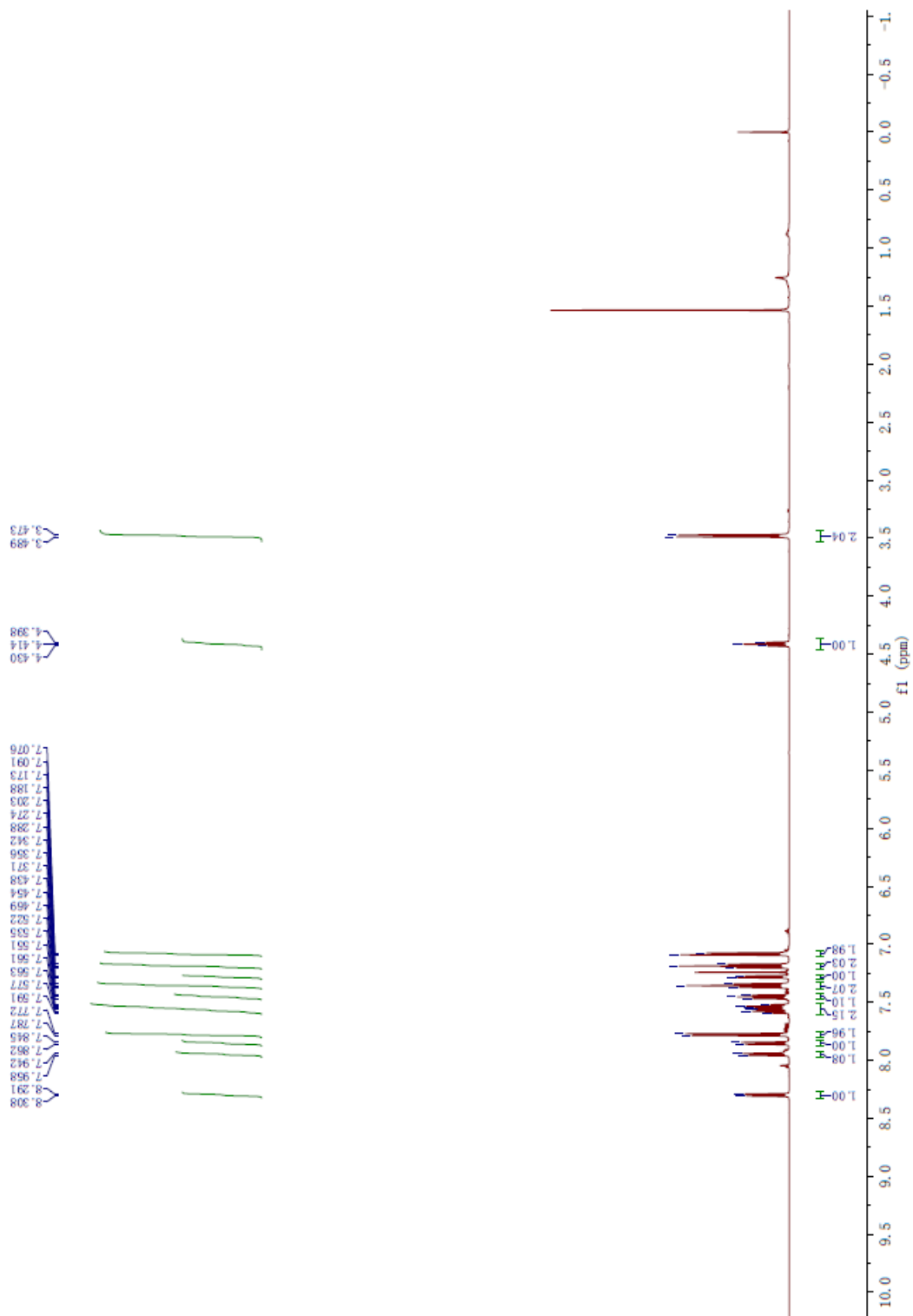
^{13}C NMR

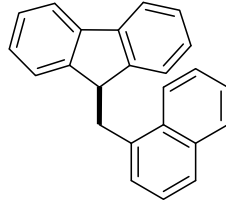




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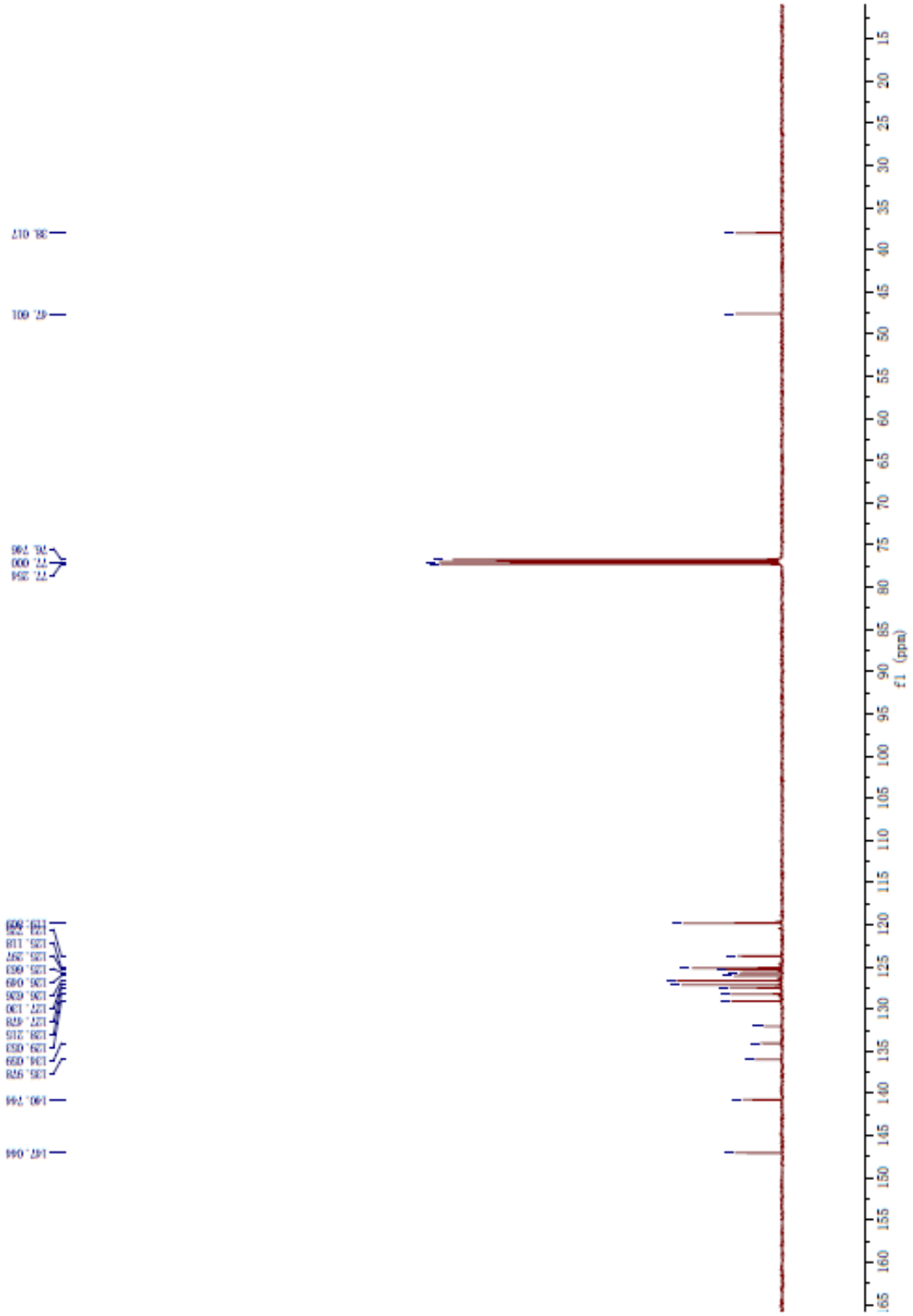
$^1\text{H NMR}$

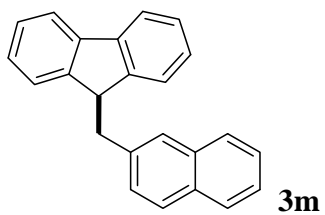




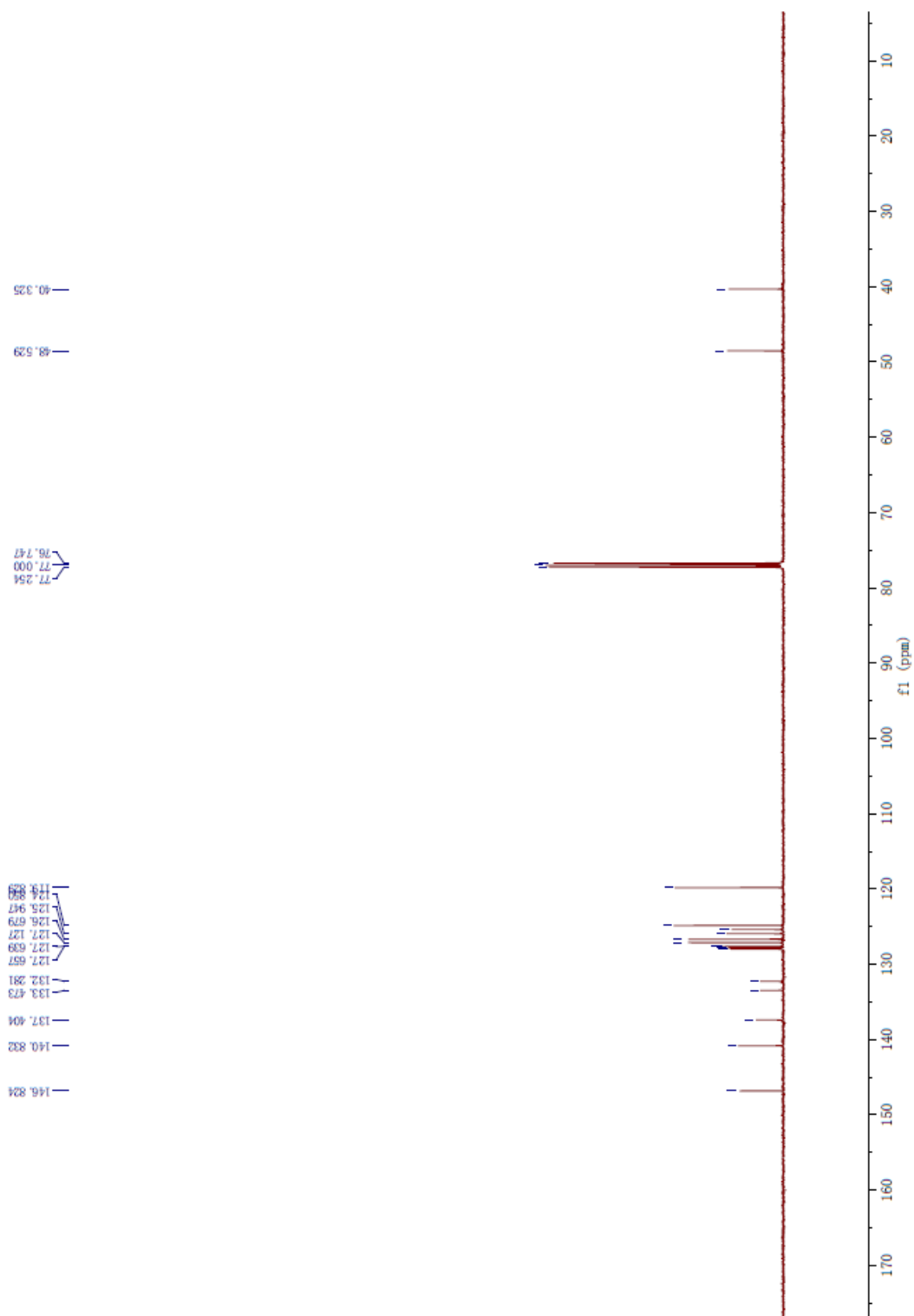
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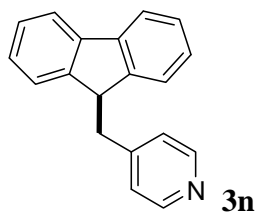
^{13}C NMR



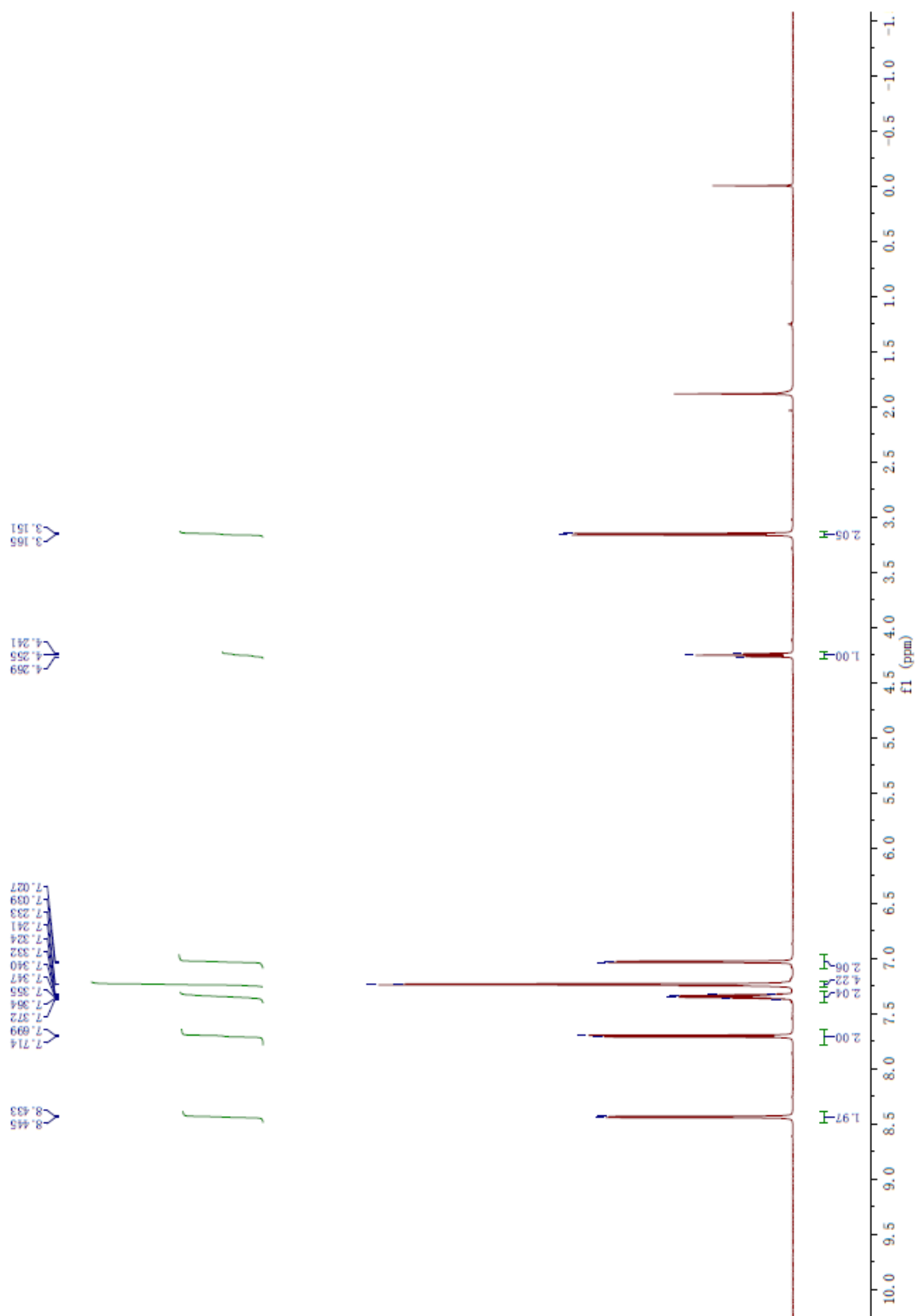


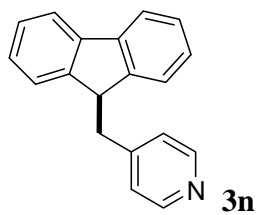
^{13}C NMR



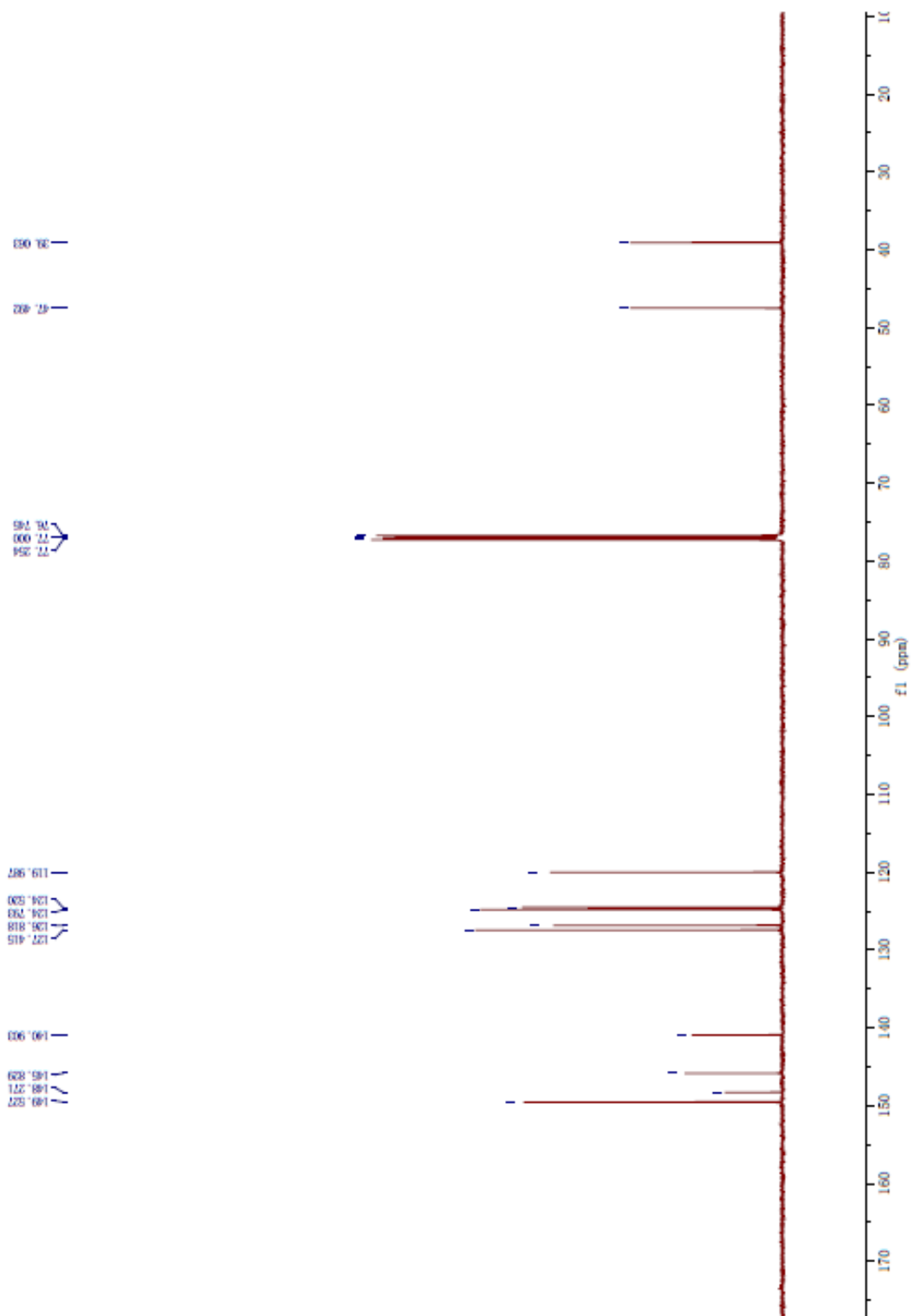


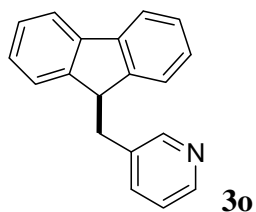
$^1\text{H NMR}$



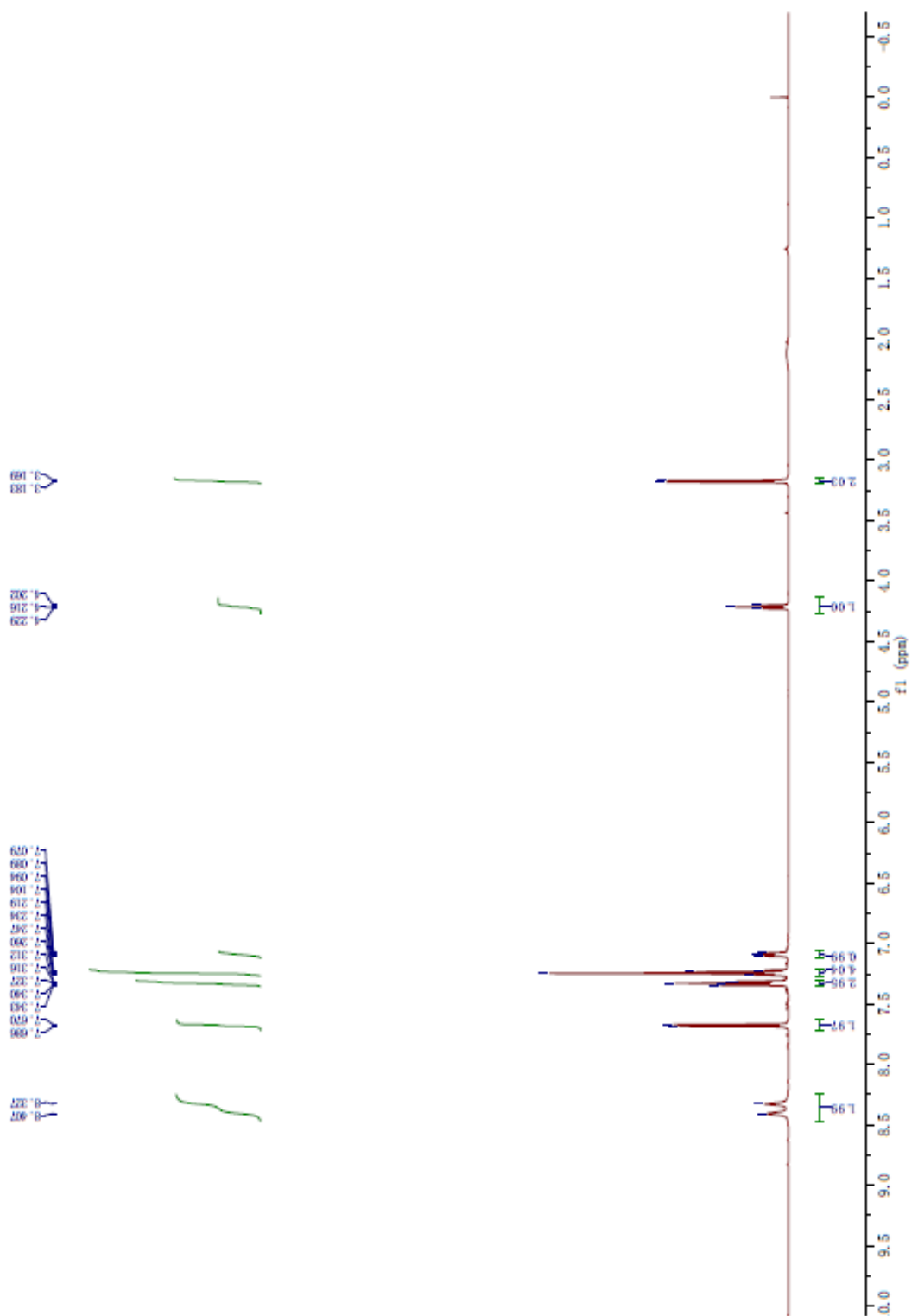


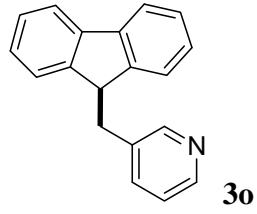
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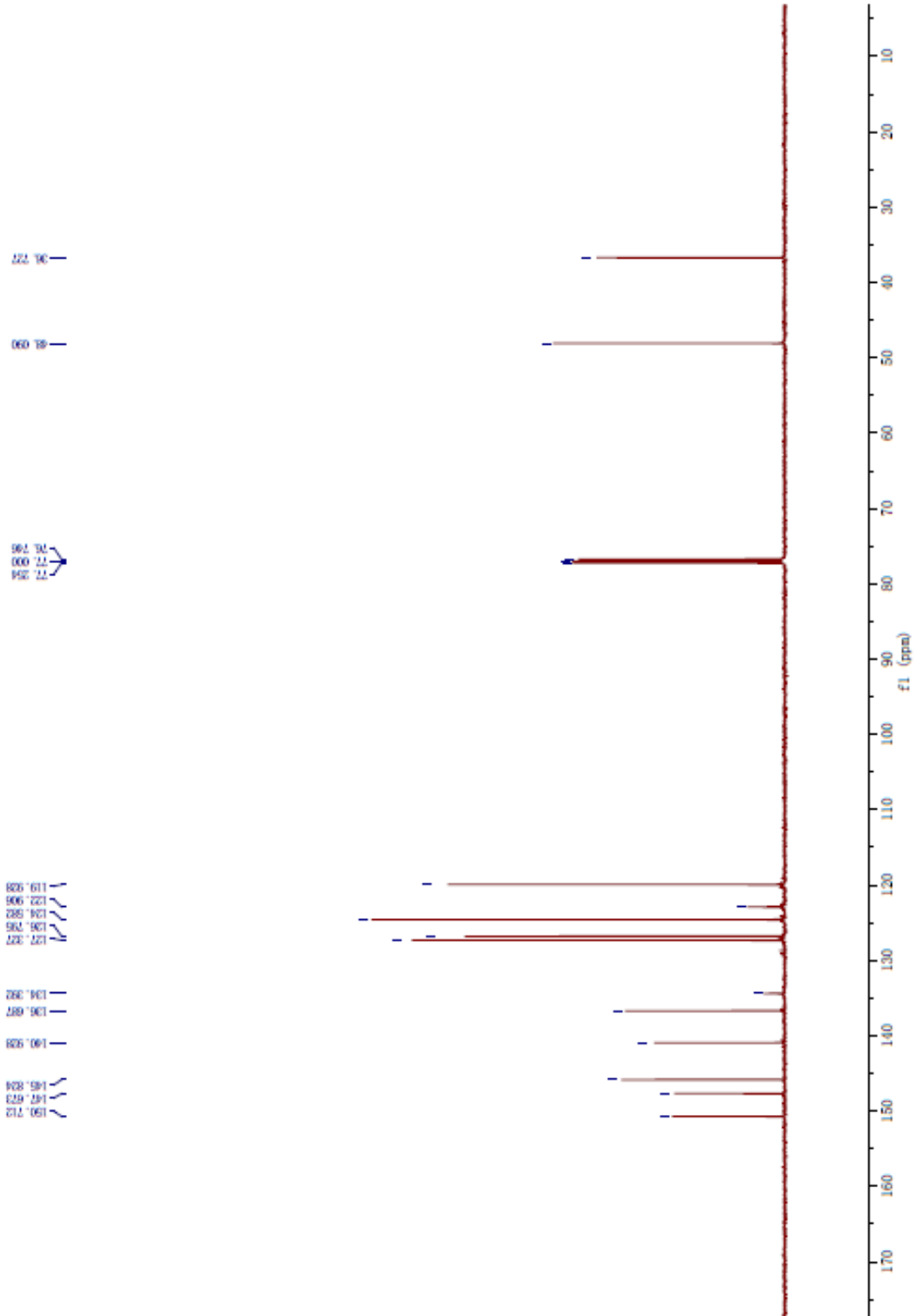


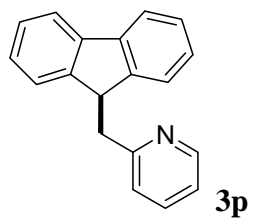
^1H NMR



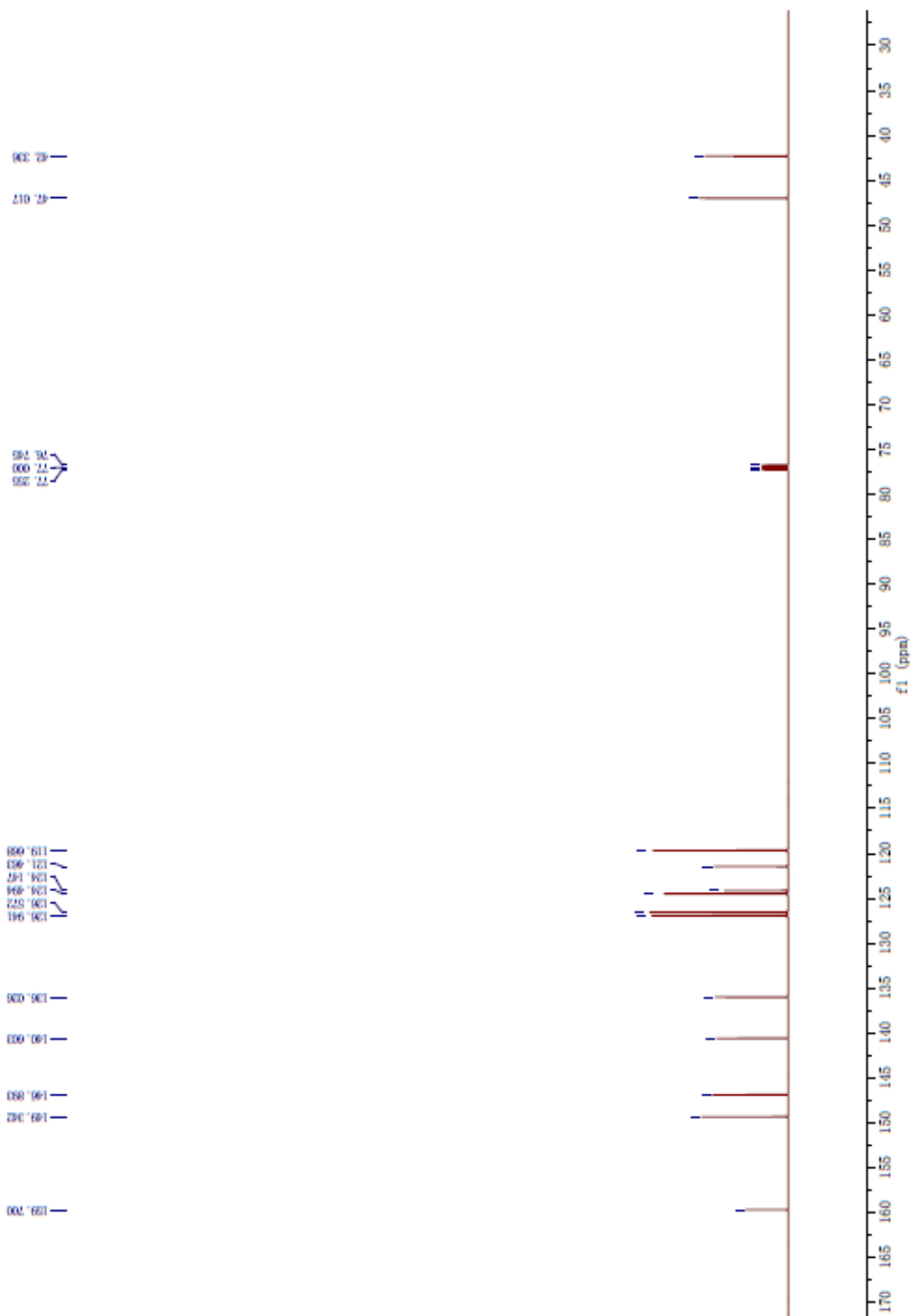


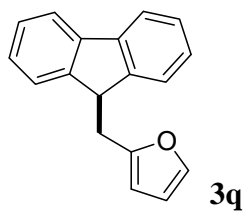
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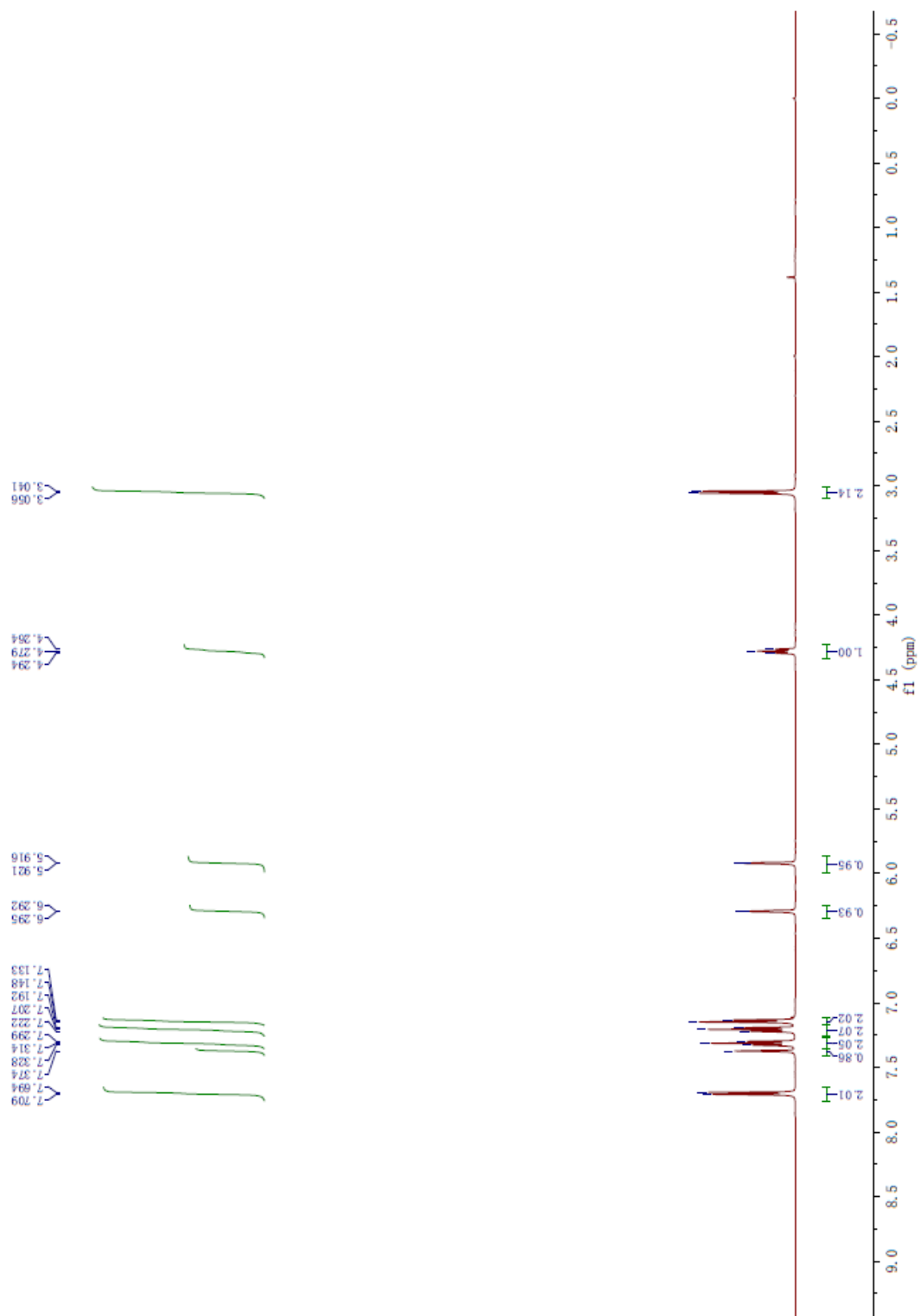


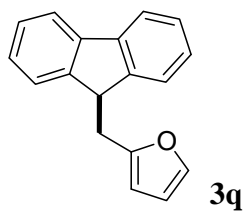
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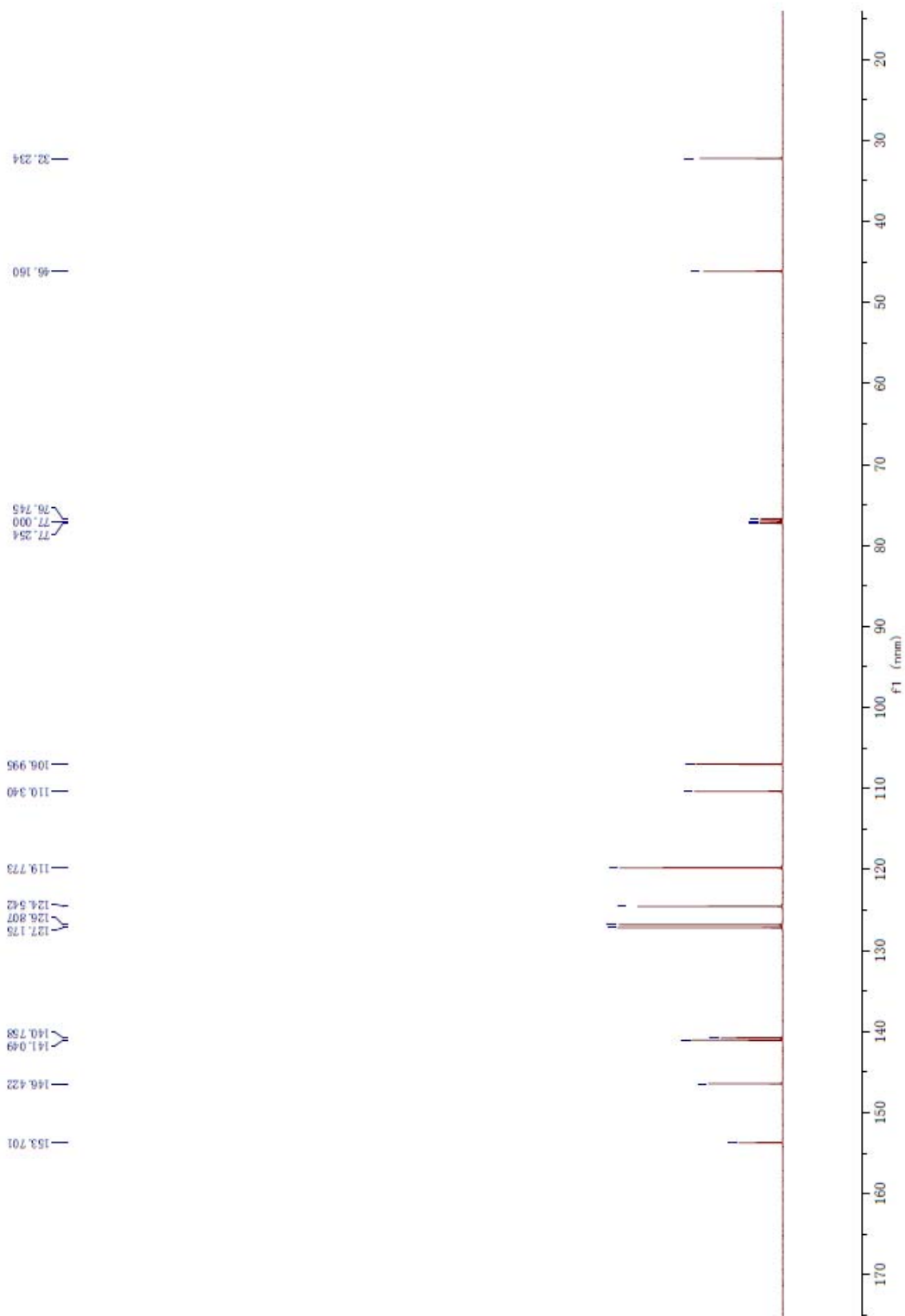


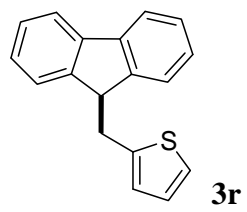
^1H NMR



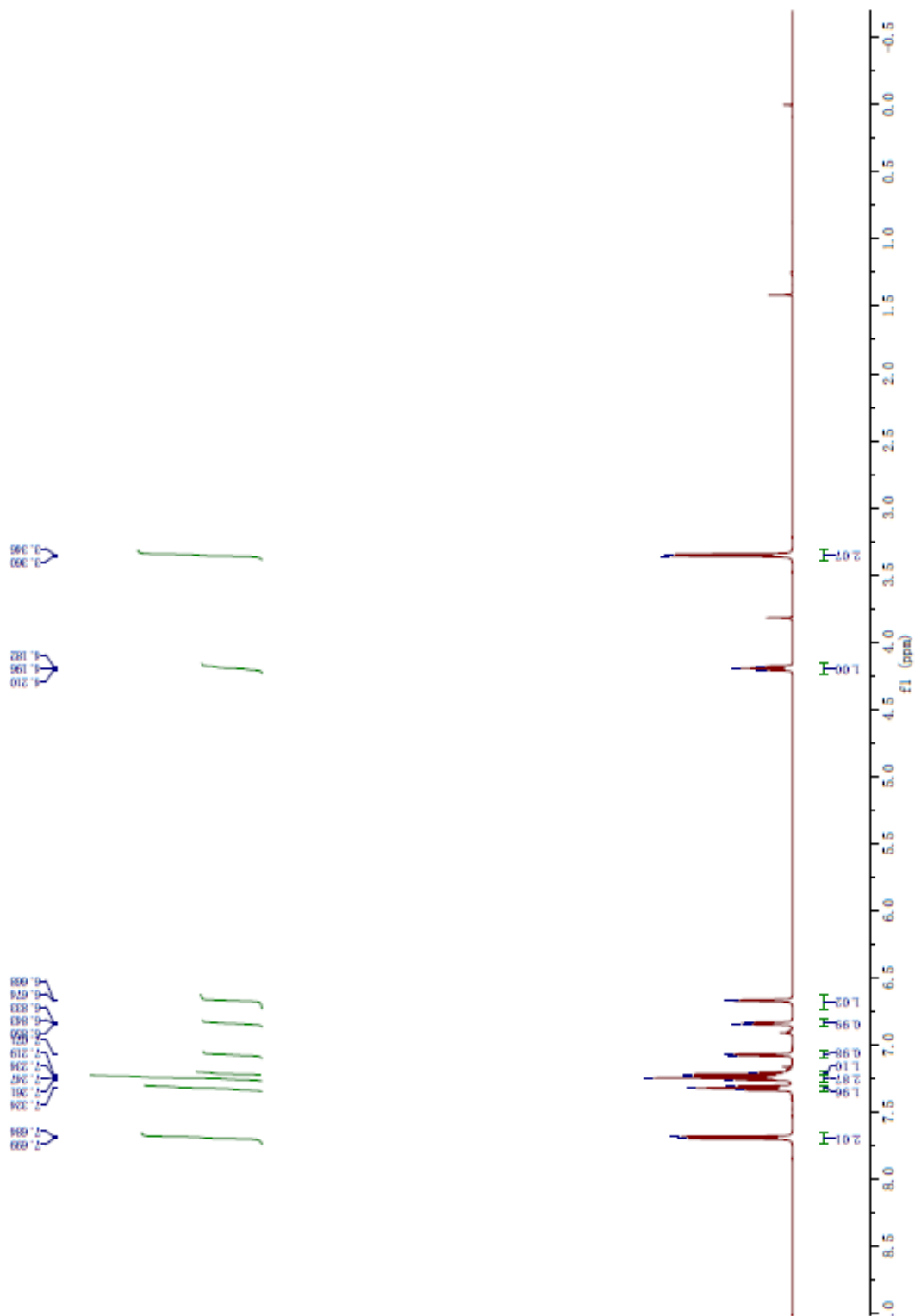


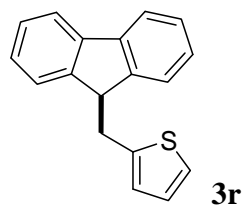
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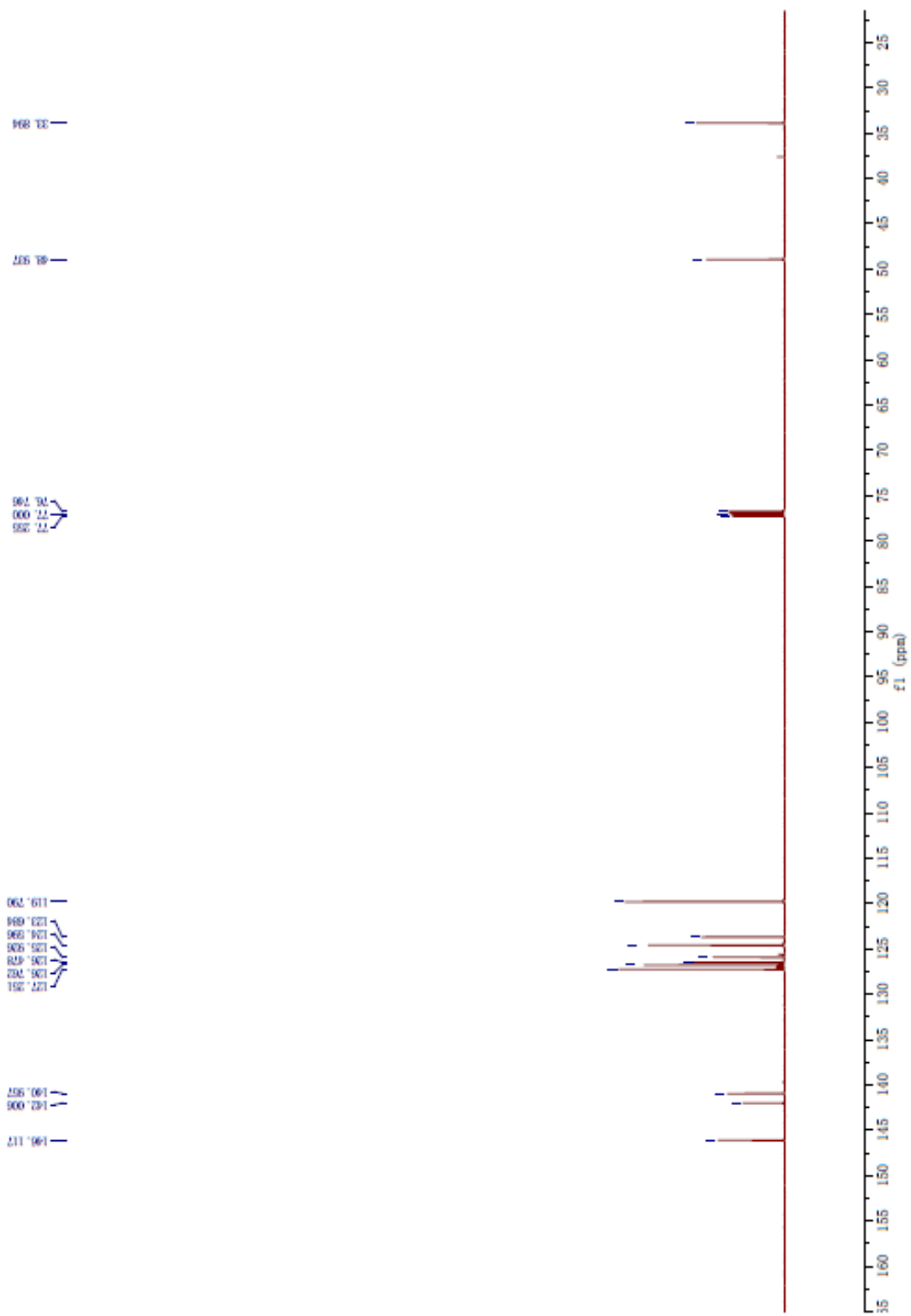


$^1\text{H NMR}$

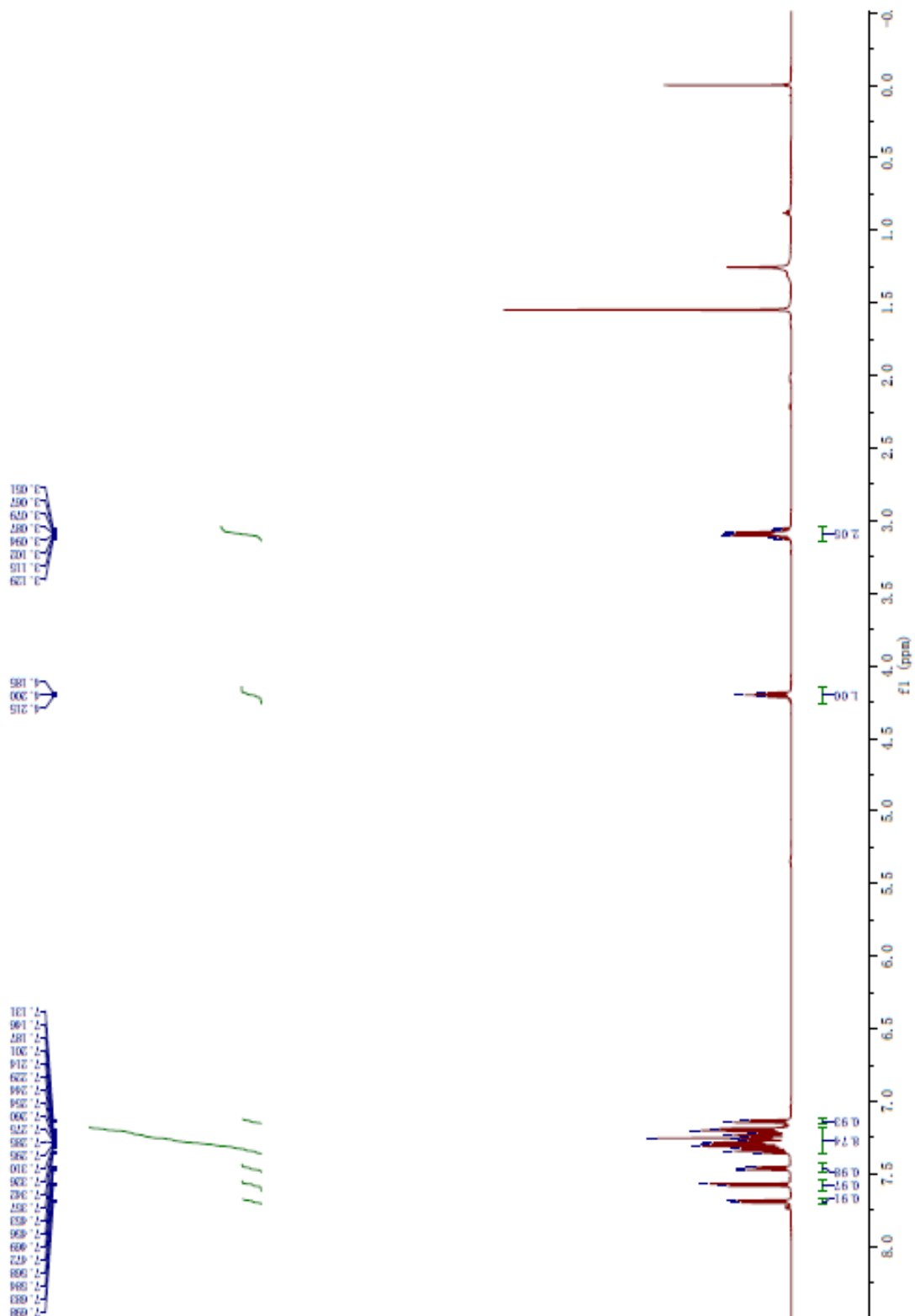
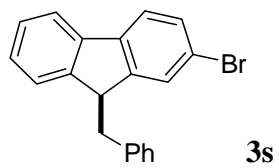


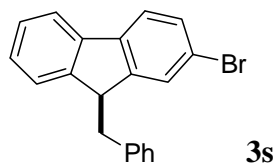


^{13}C NMR

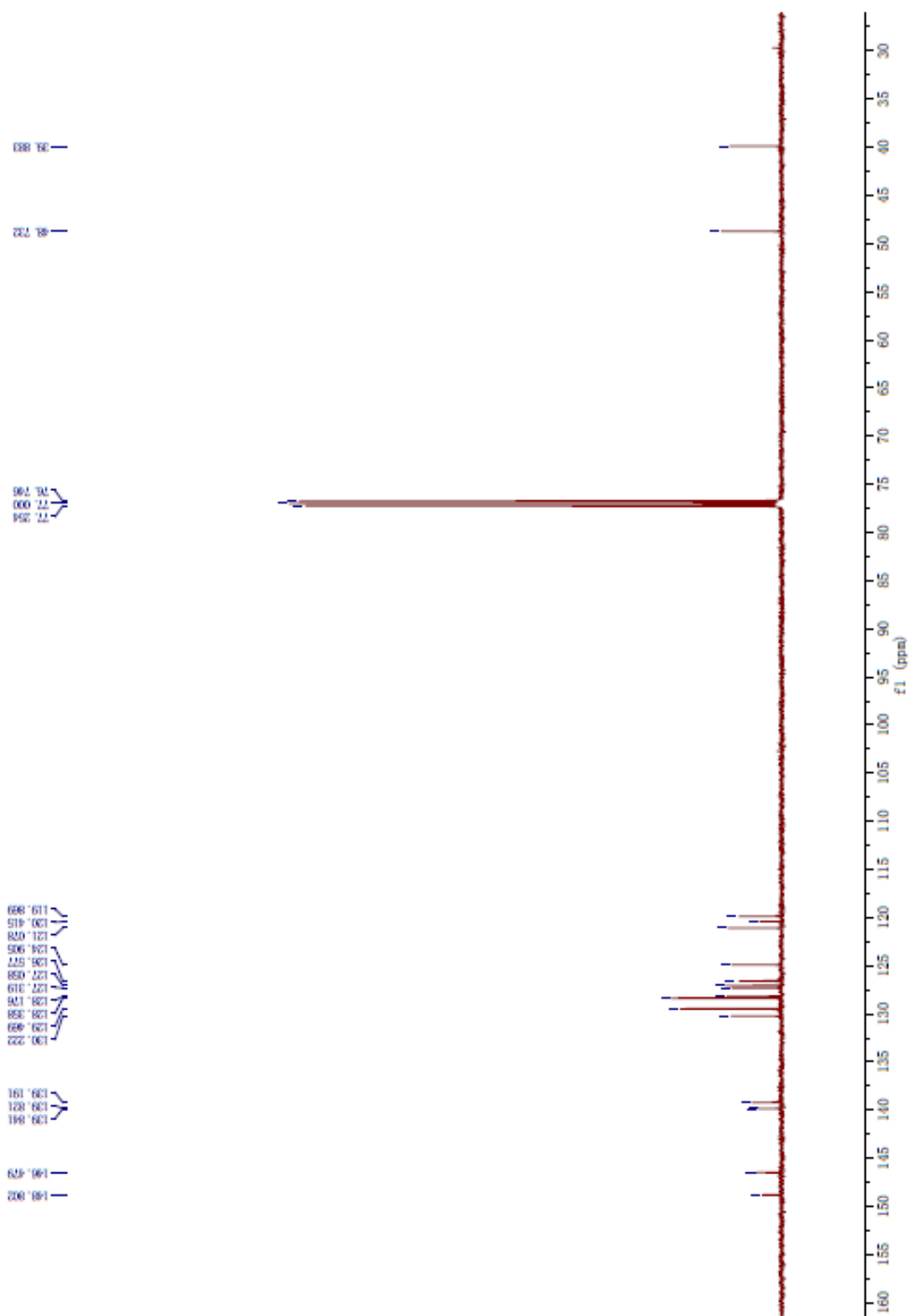


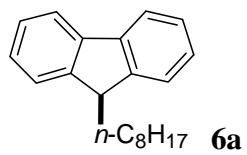
$^1\text{H NMR}$



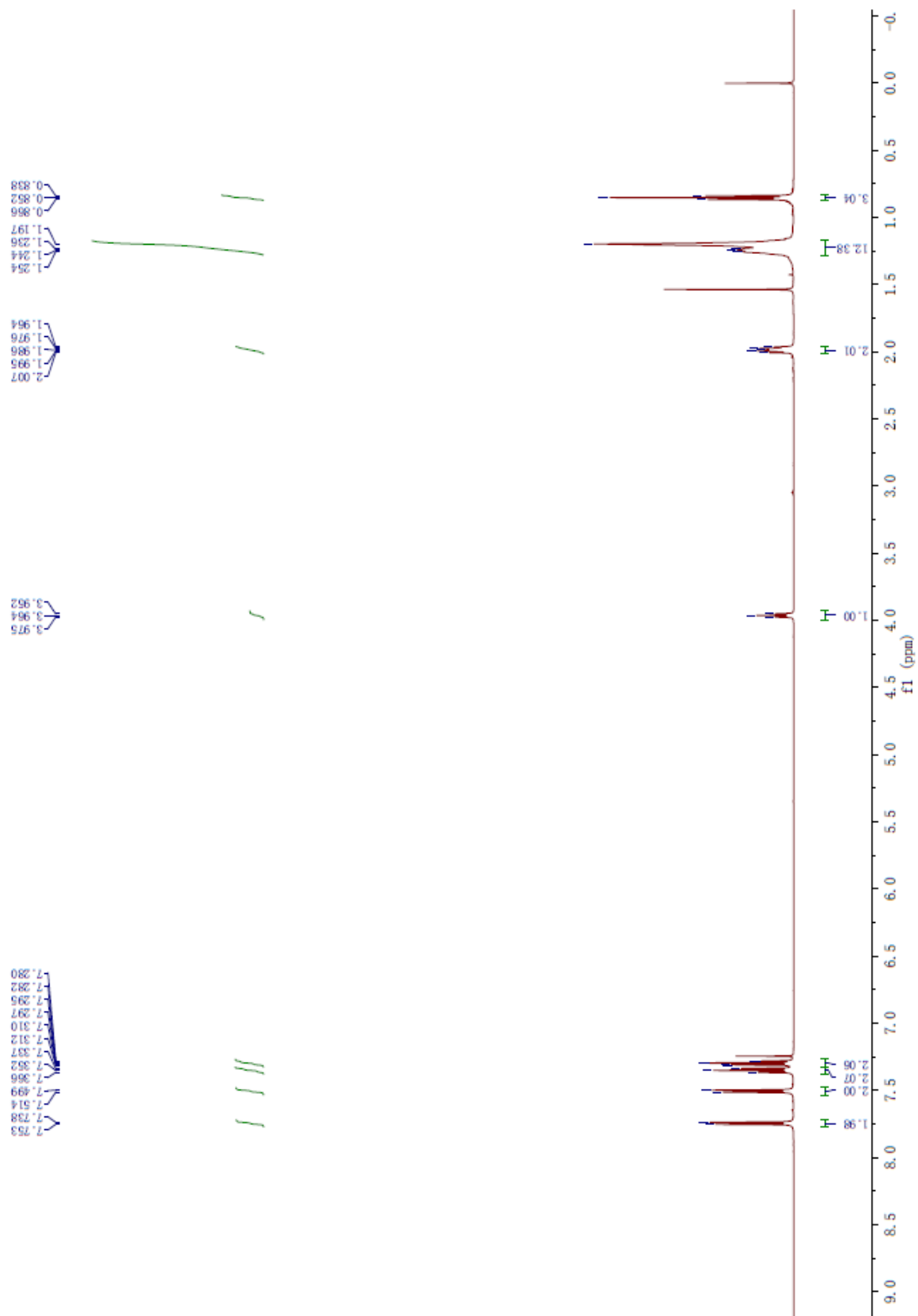


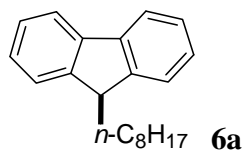
^{13}C NMR



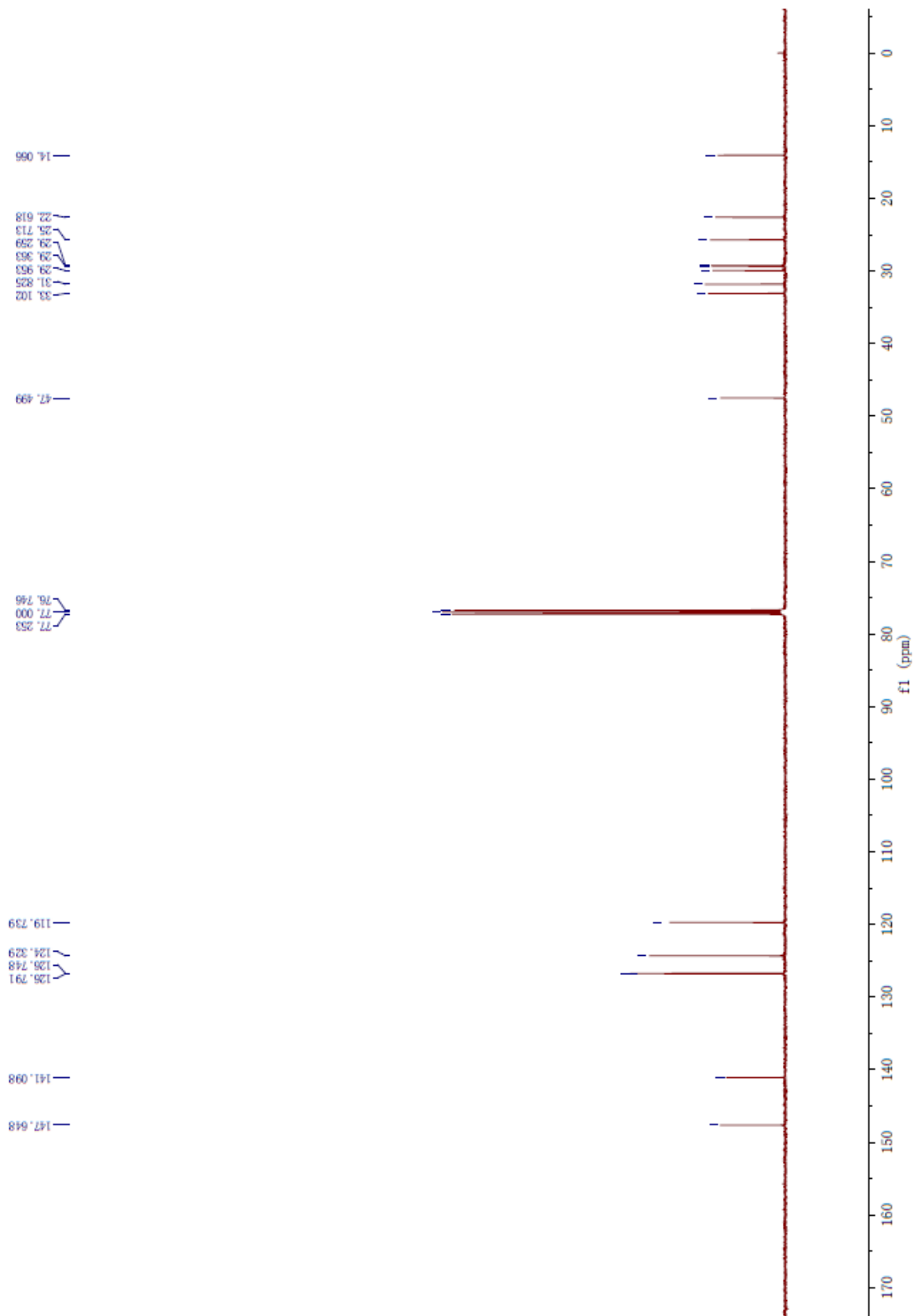


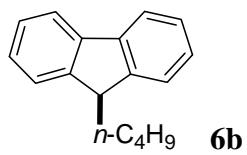
$^1\text{H NMR}$



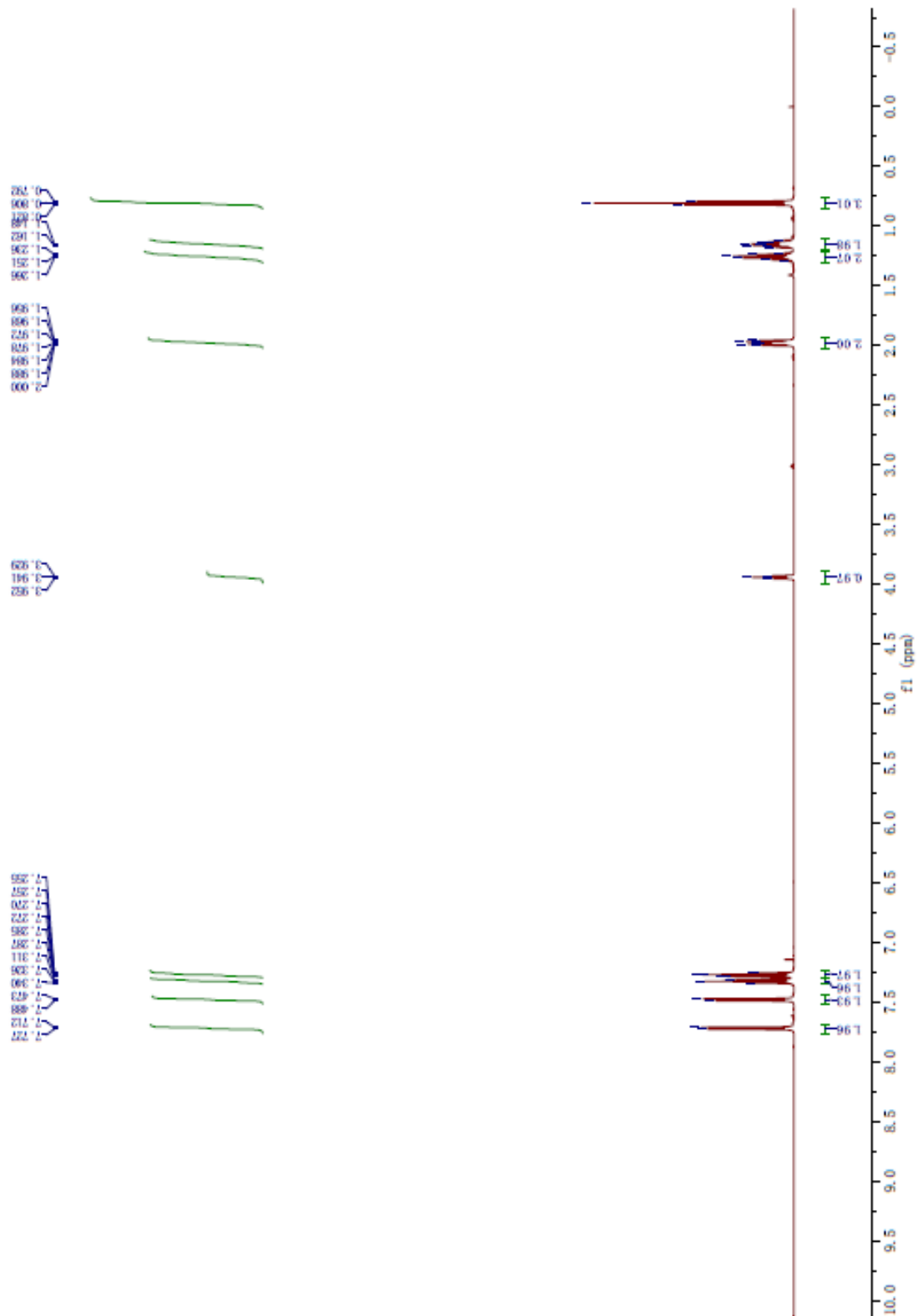


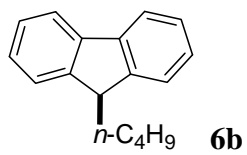
¹³C NMR



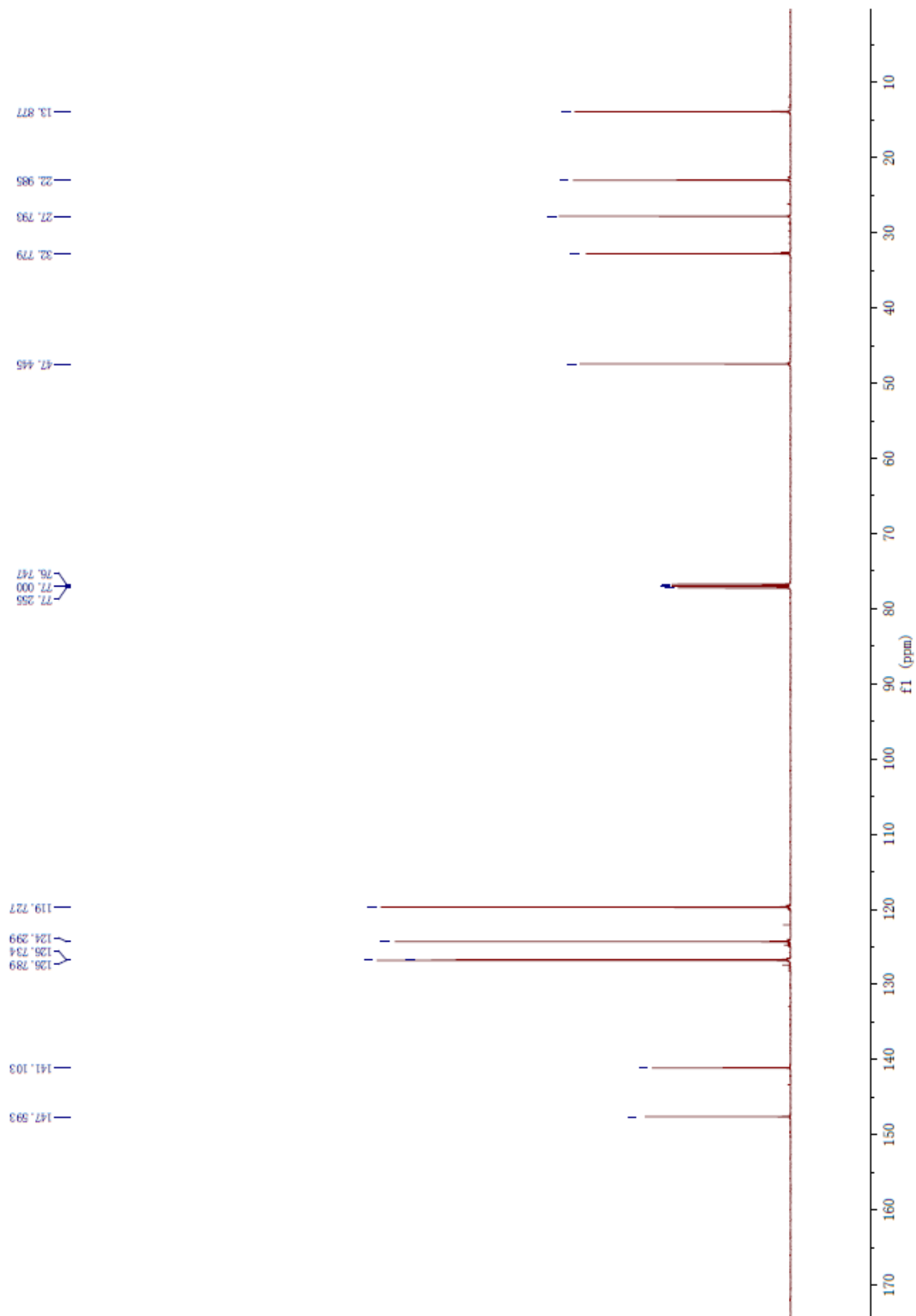


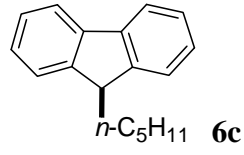
$^1\text{H NMR}$



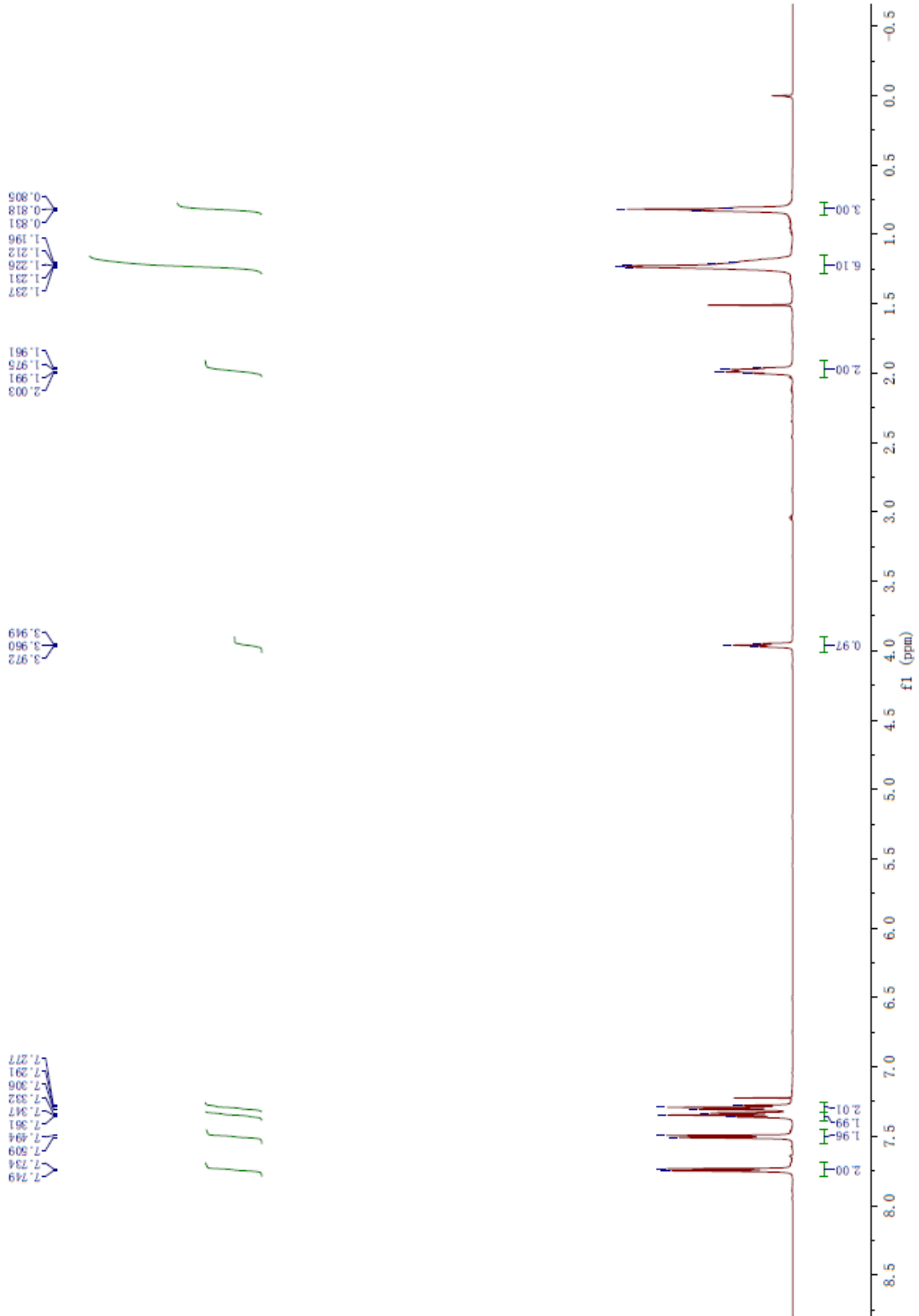


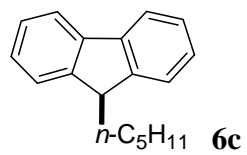
^{13}C NMR



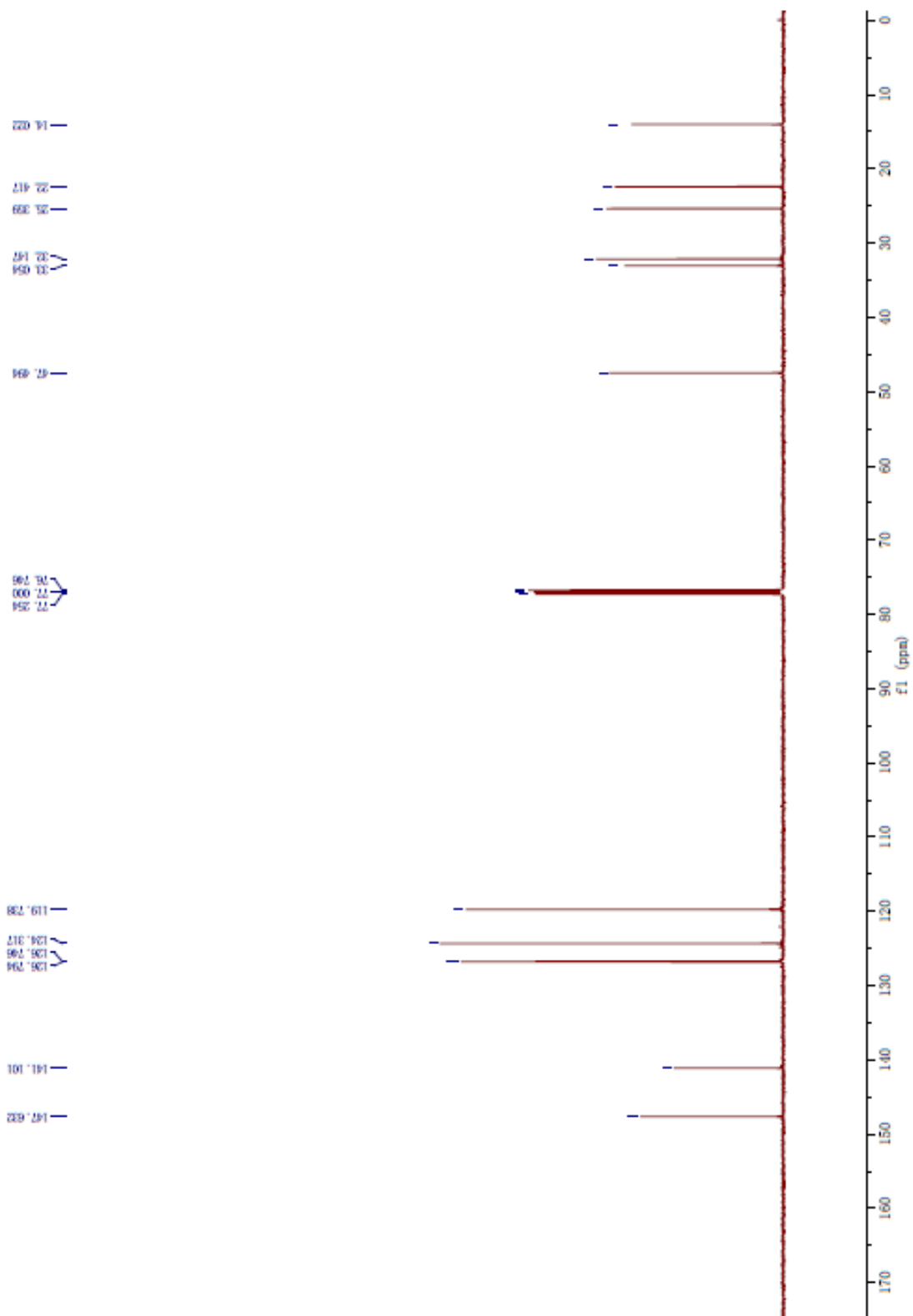


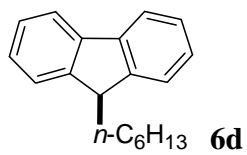
$^1\text{H NMR}$



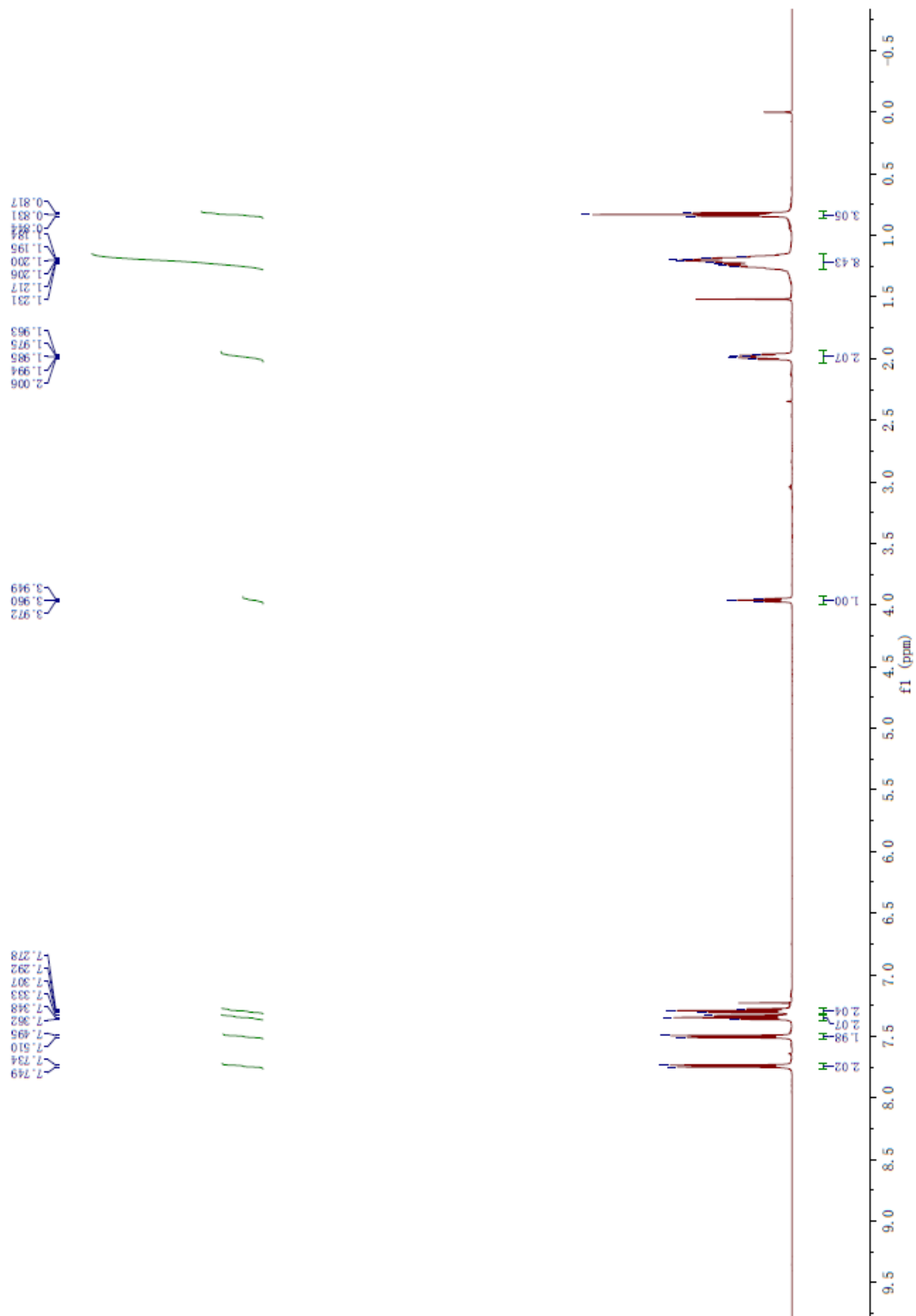


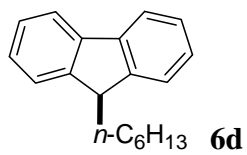
¹³C NMR



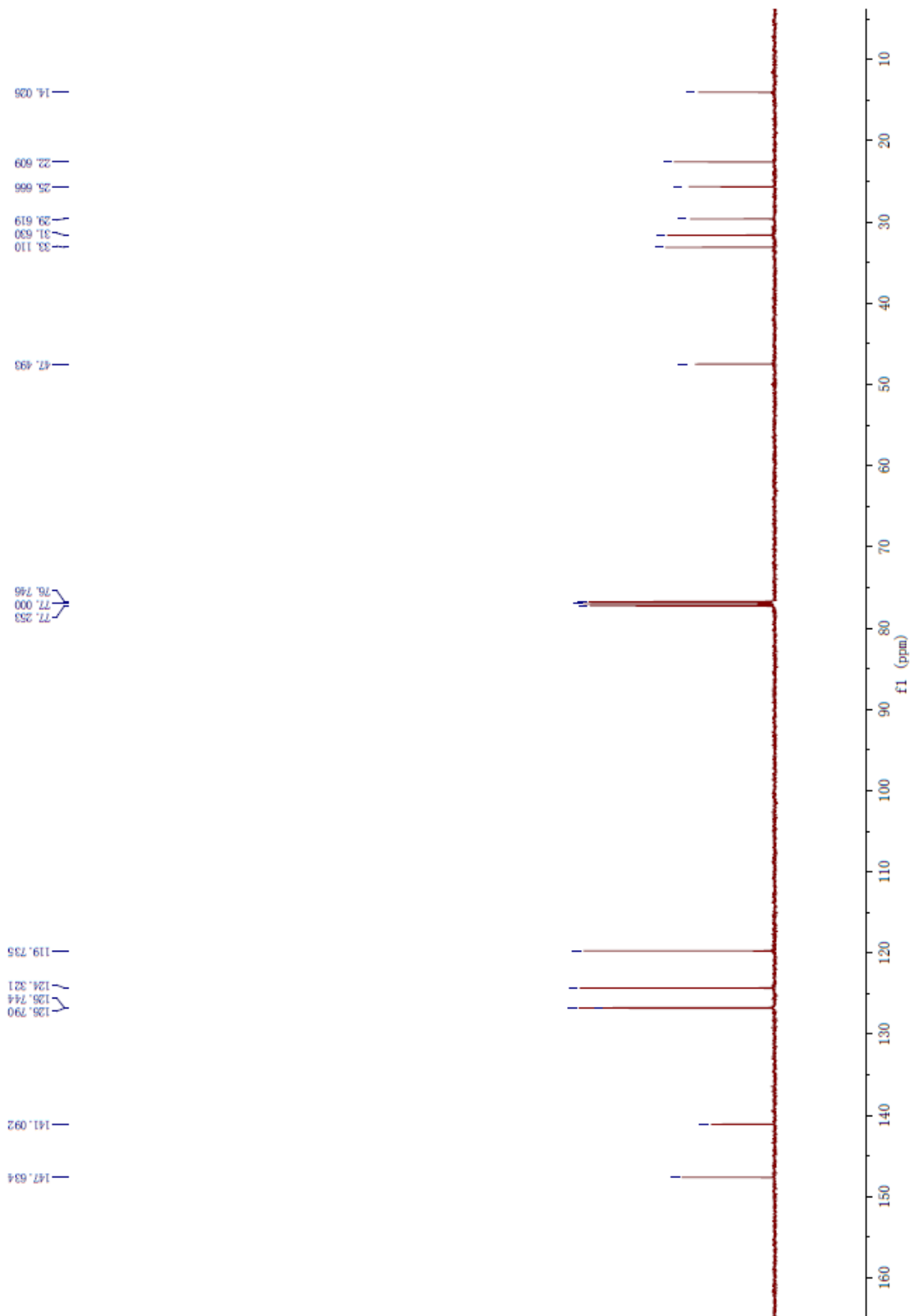


$^1\text{H NMR}$

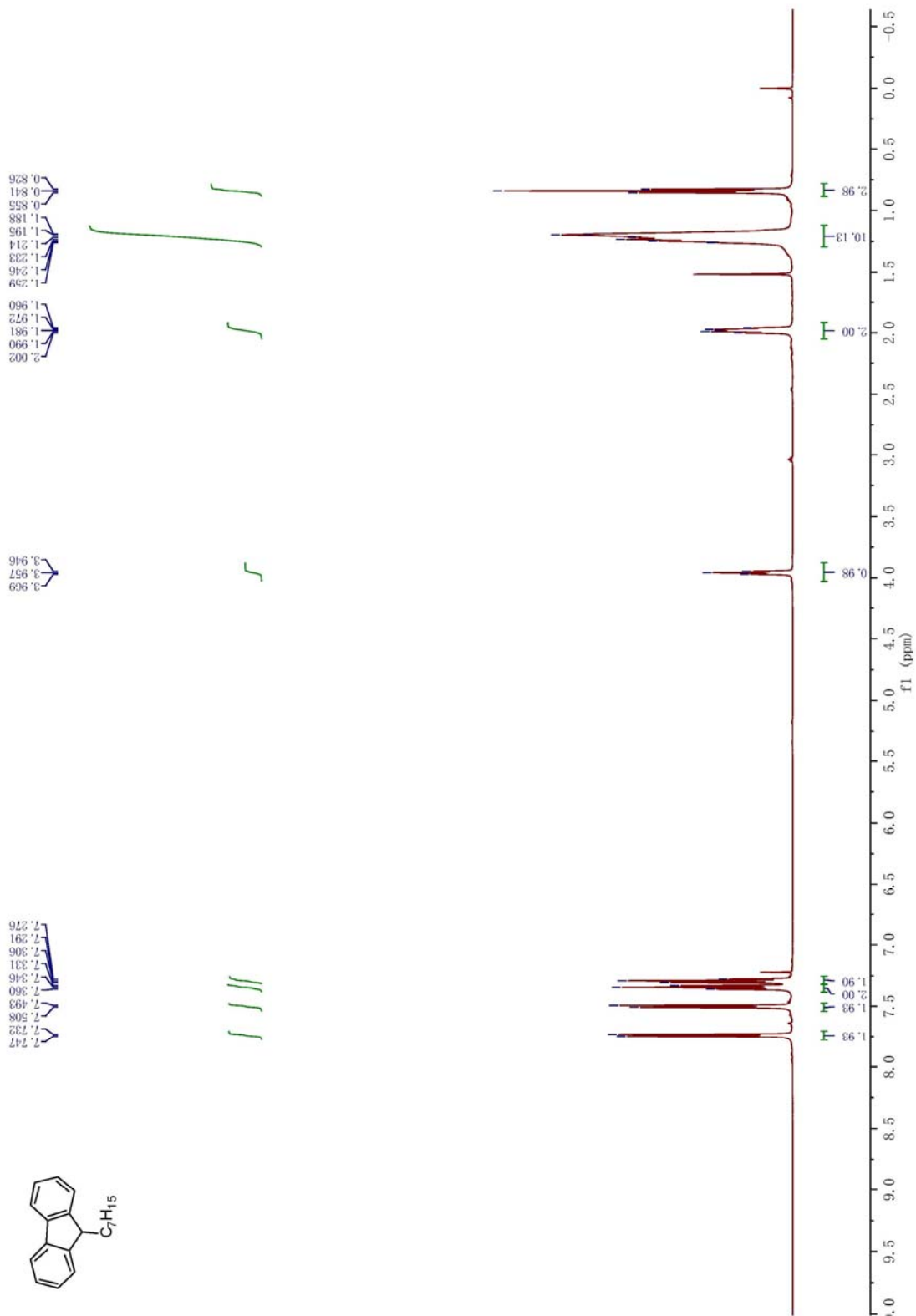
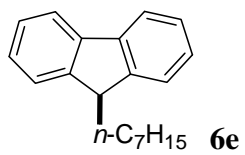


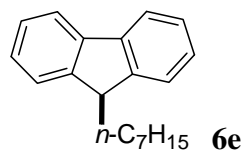


¹³C NMR

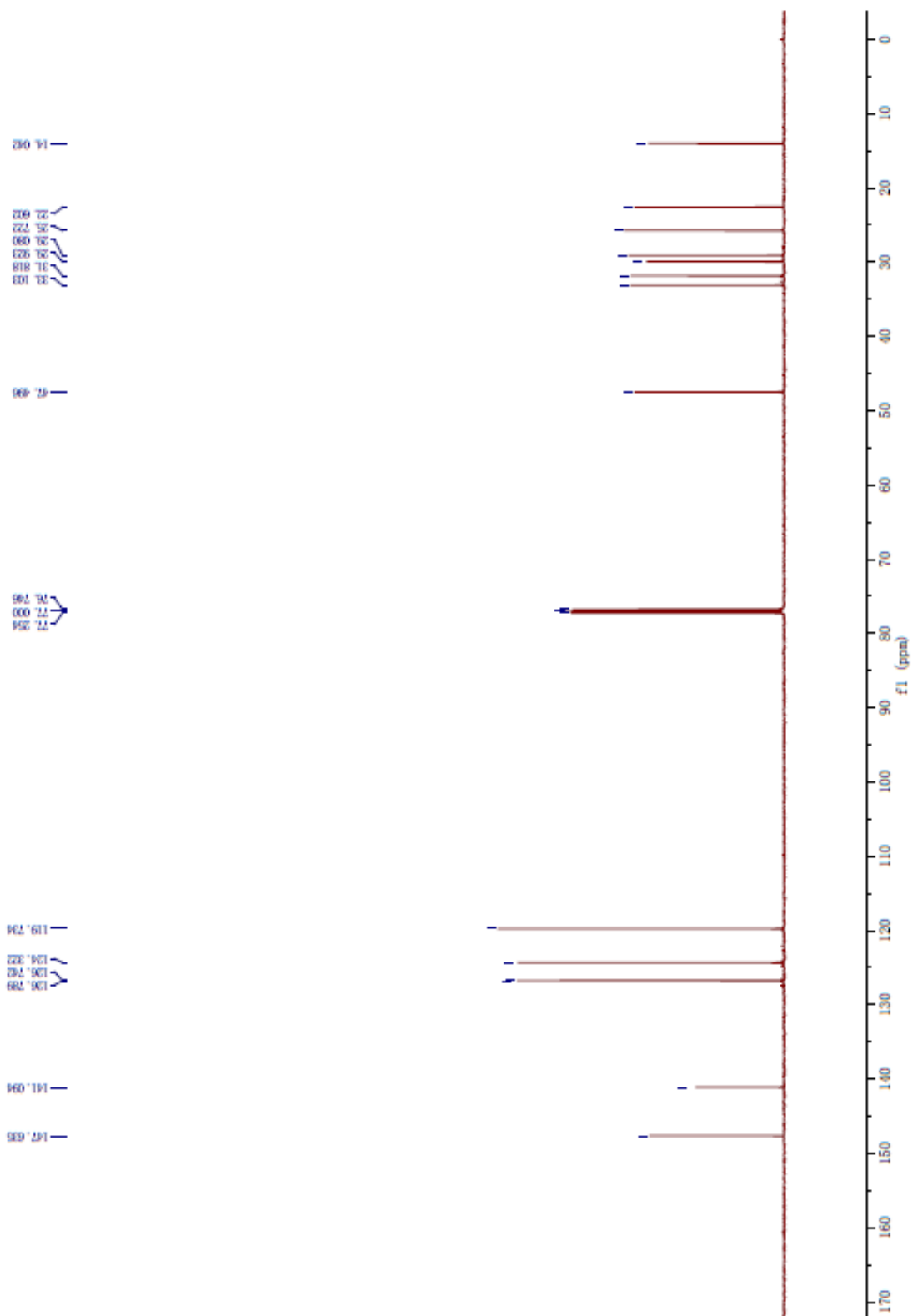


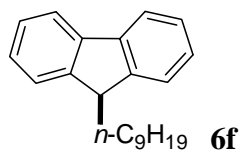
$^1\text{H NMR}$



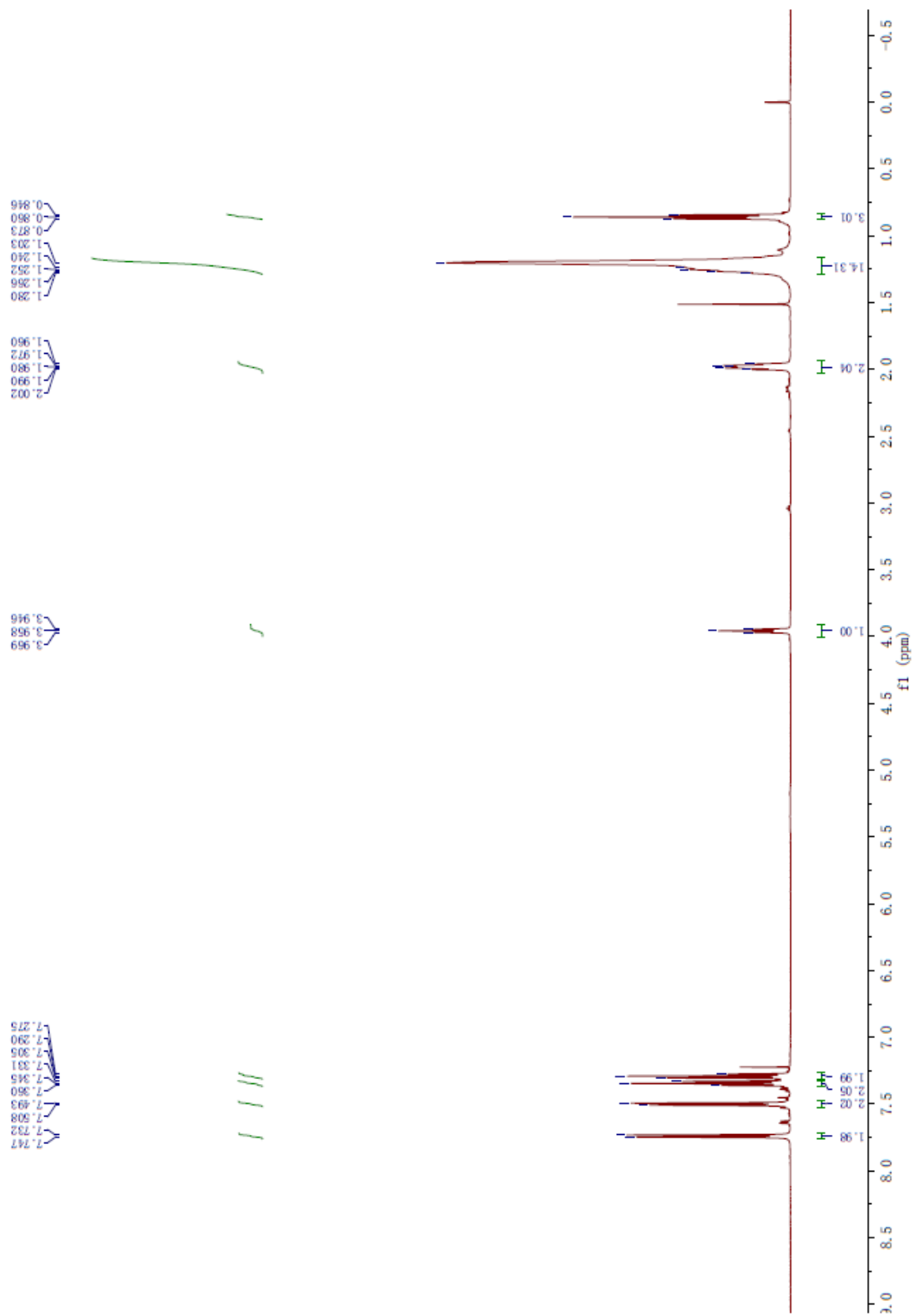


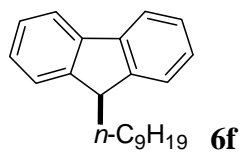
¹³C NMR



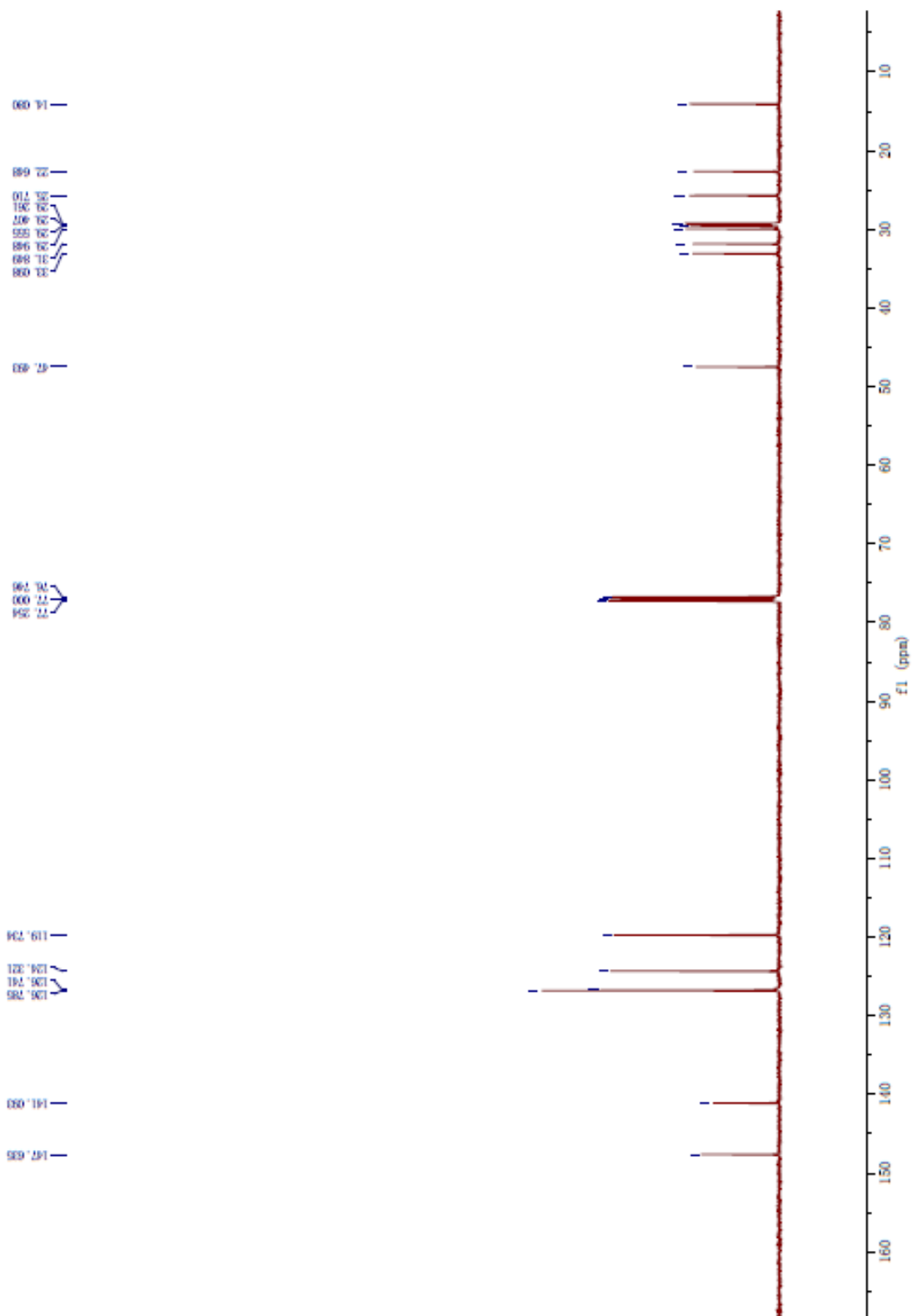


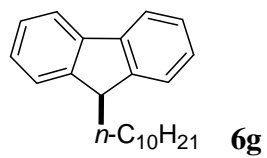
$^1\text{H NMR}$



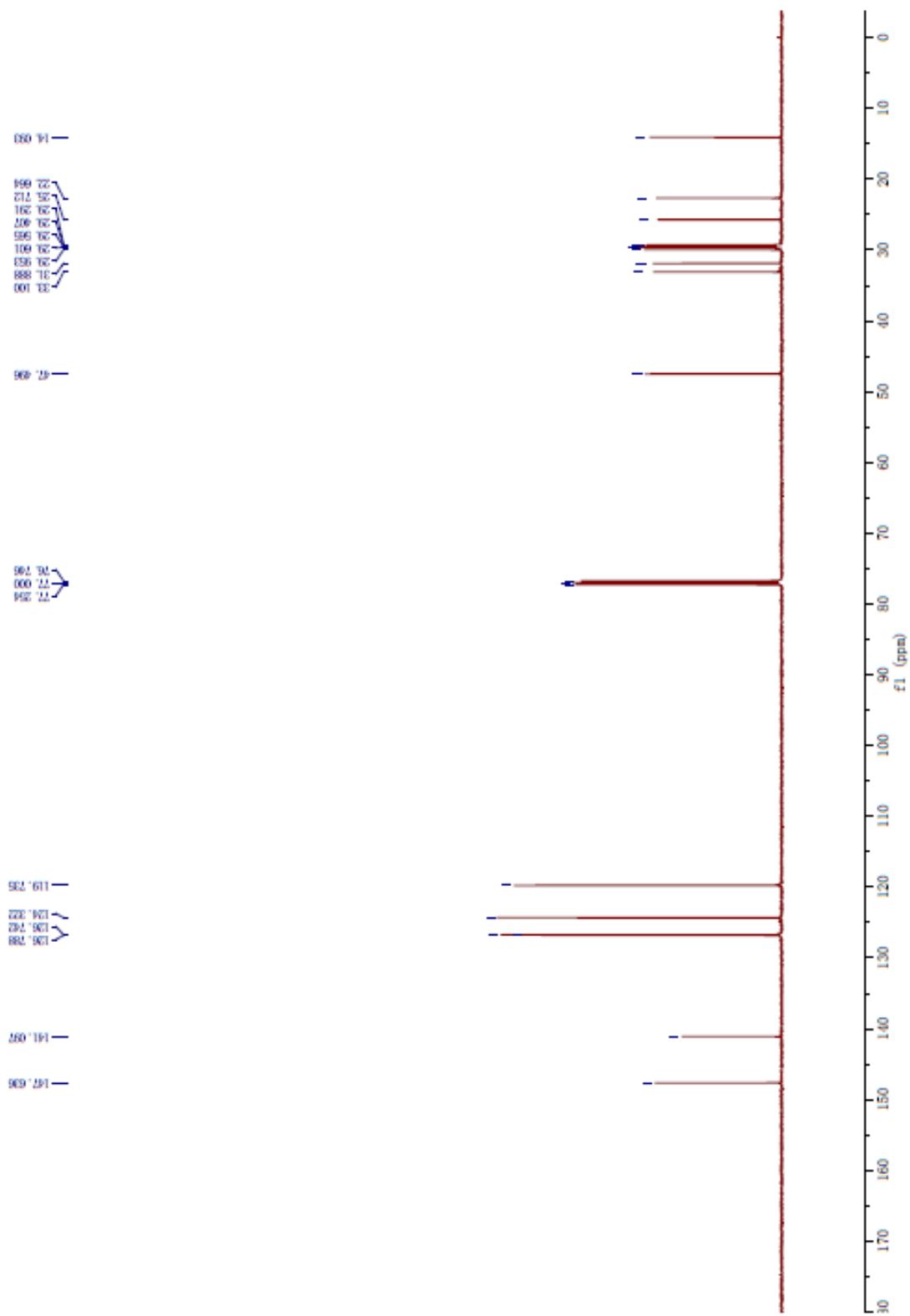


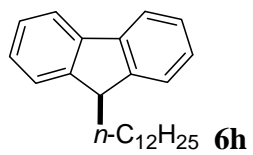
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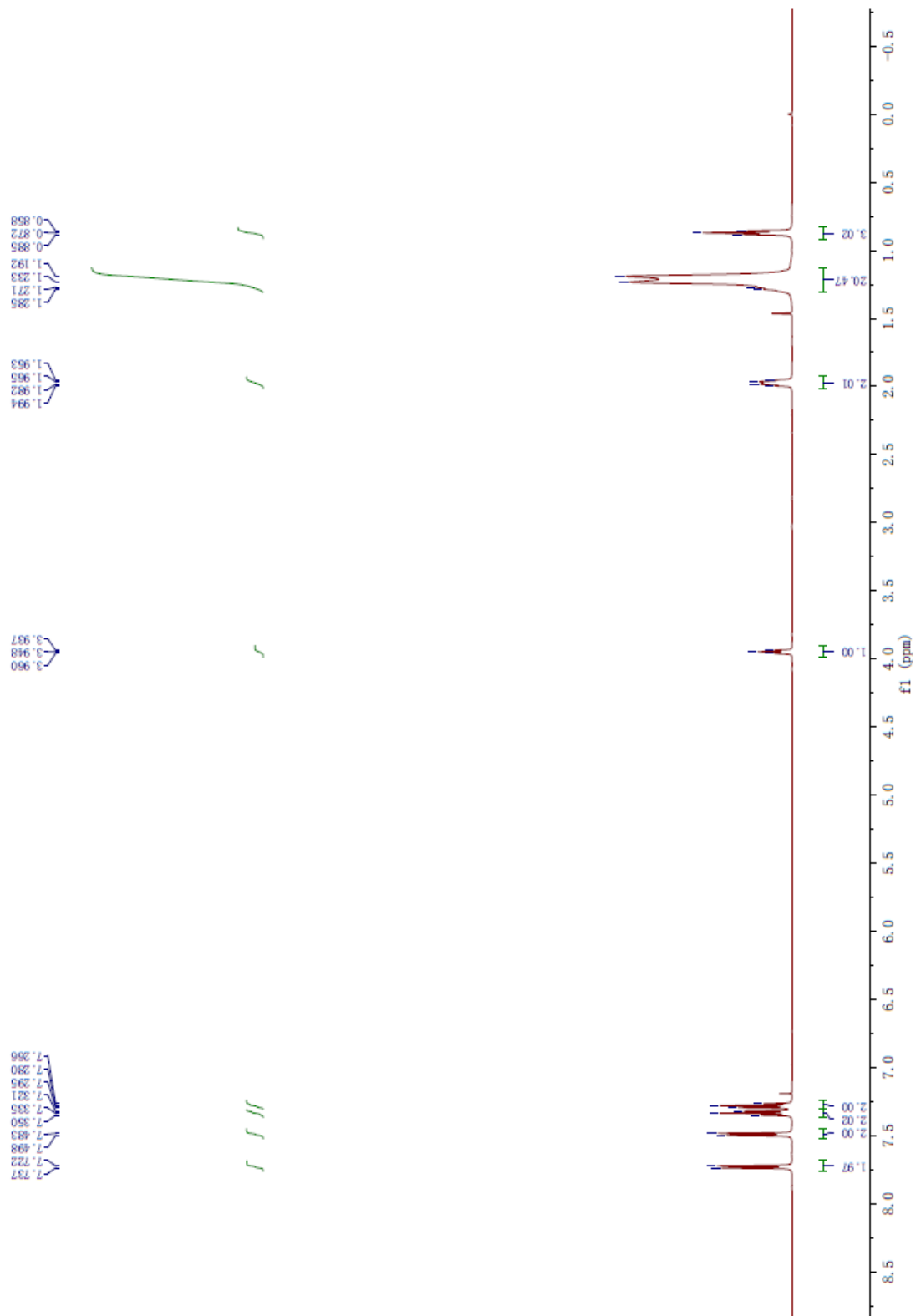


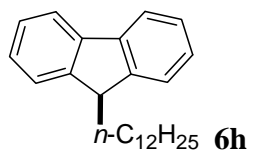
^{13}C NMR



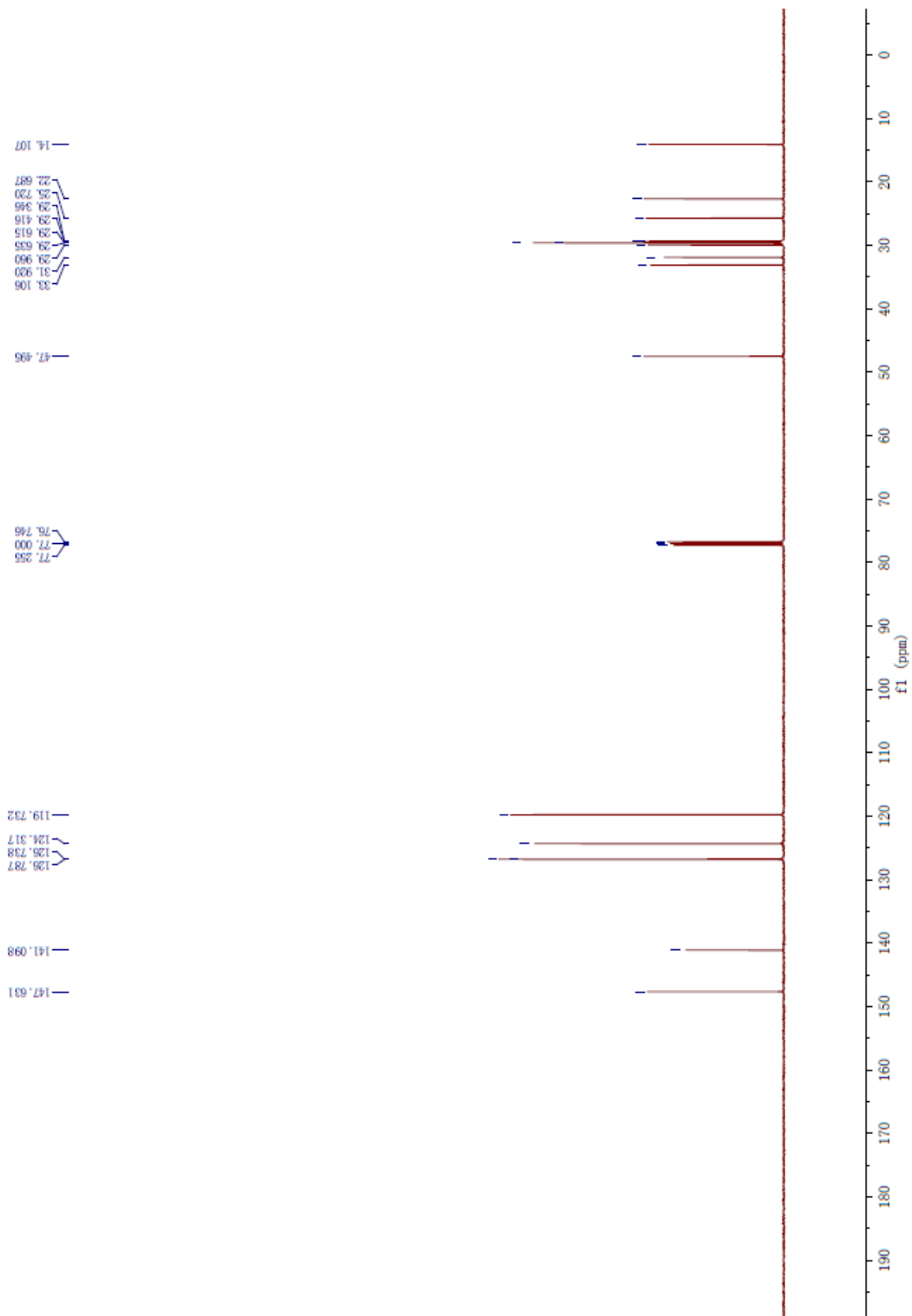


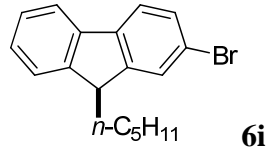
$^1\text{H NMR}$



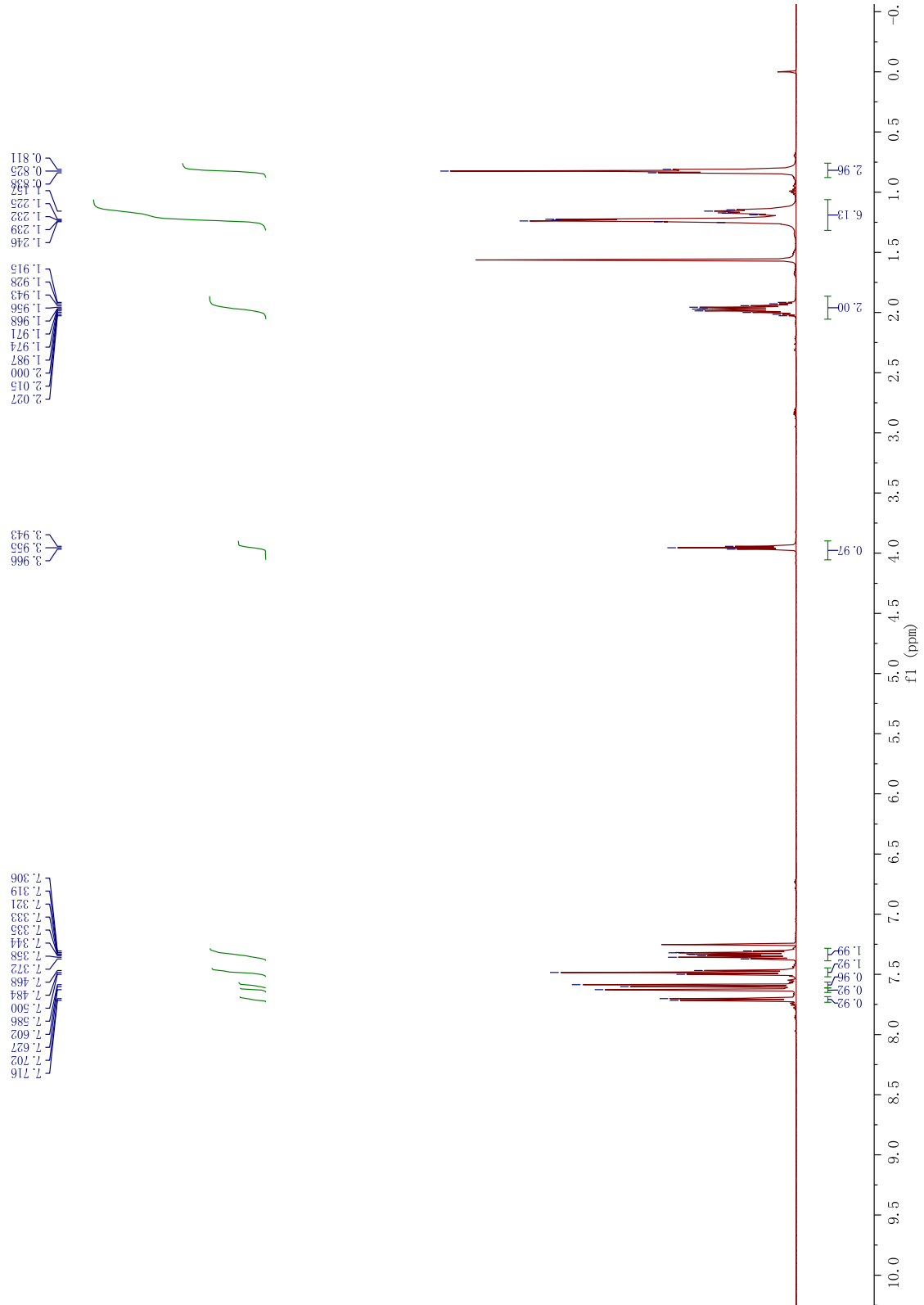


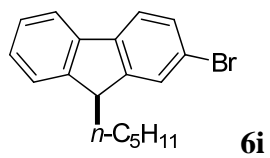
¹³C NMR



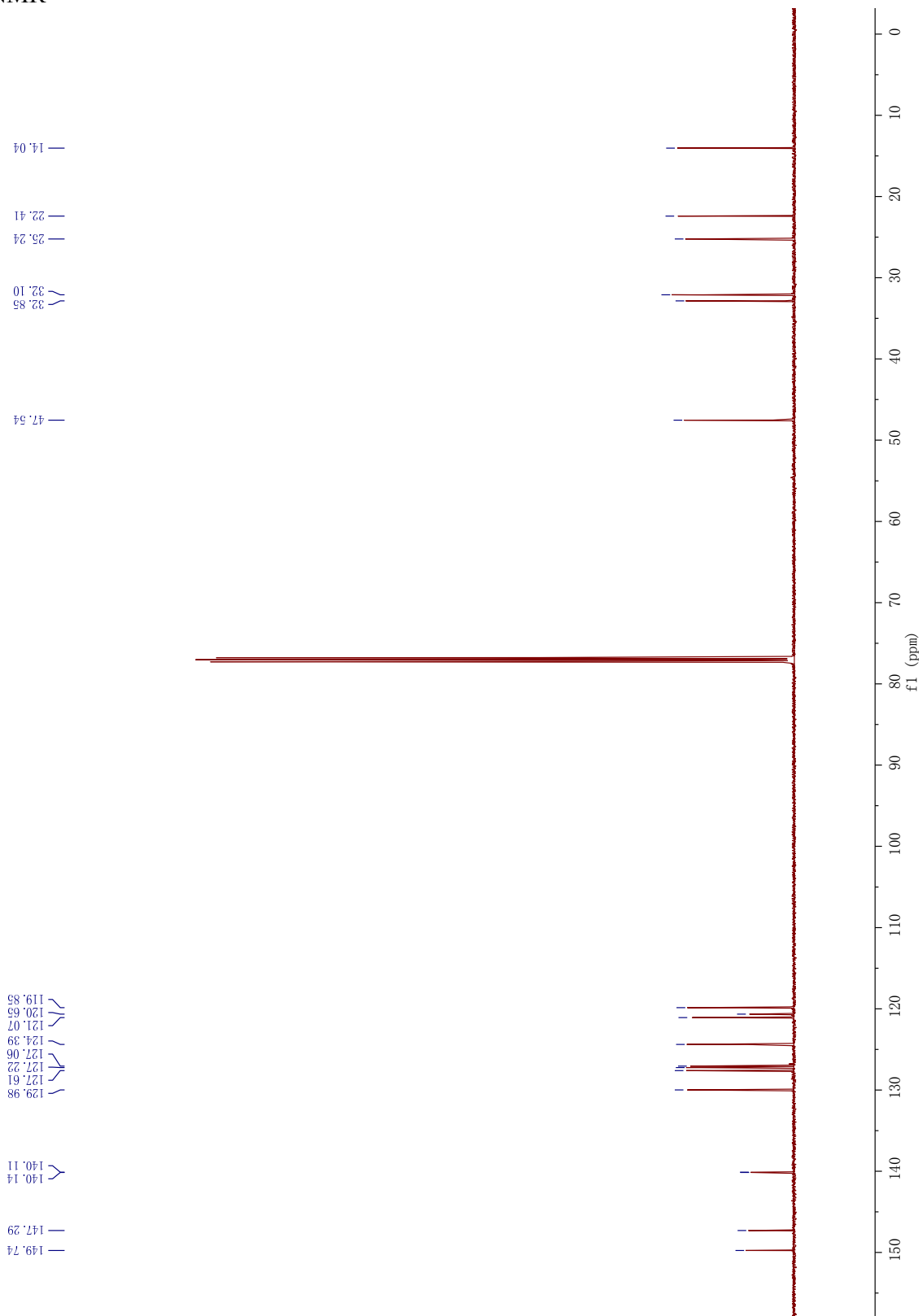


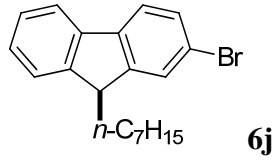
¹H NMR



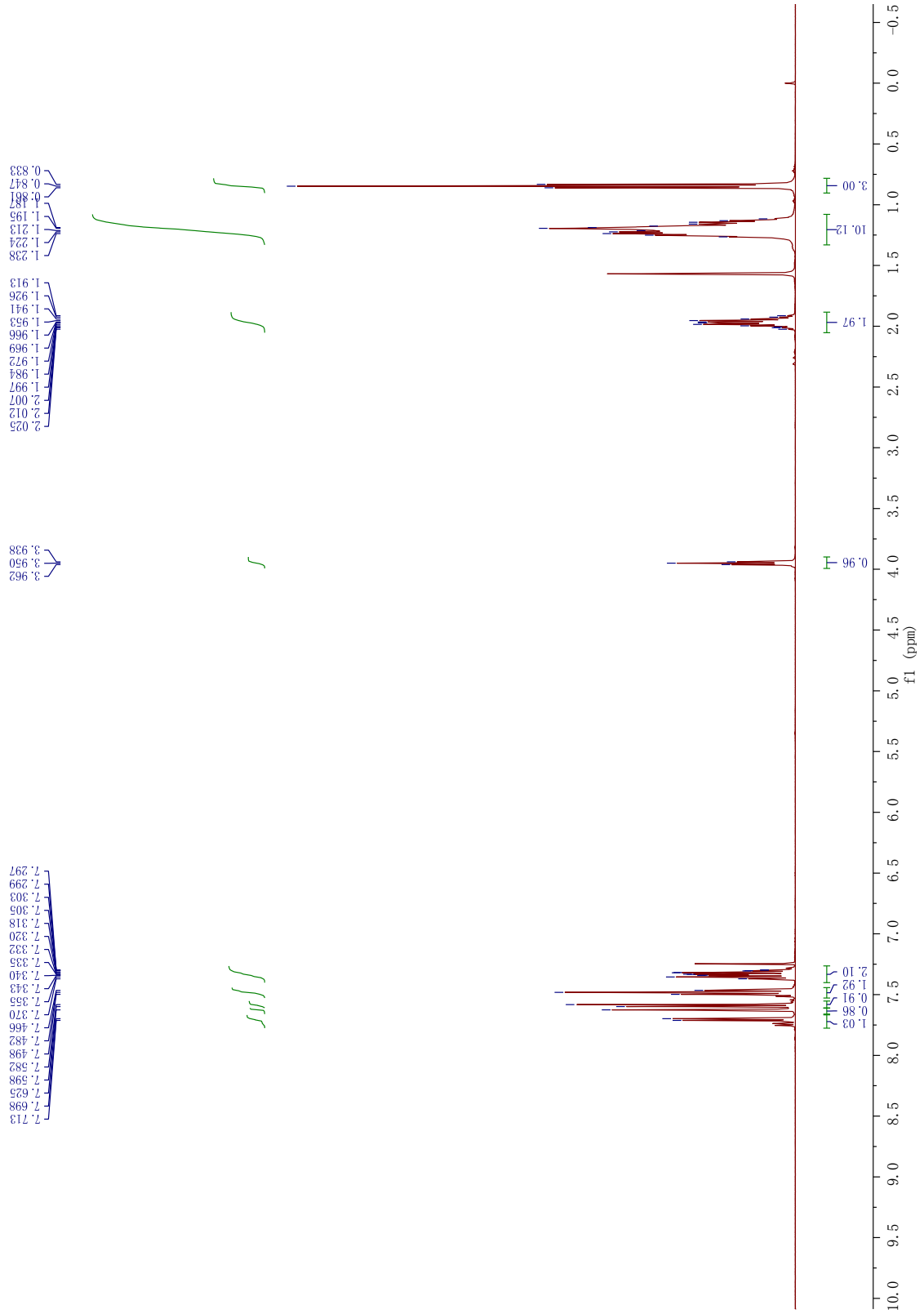


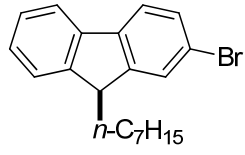
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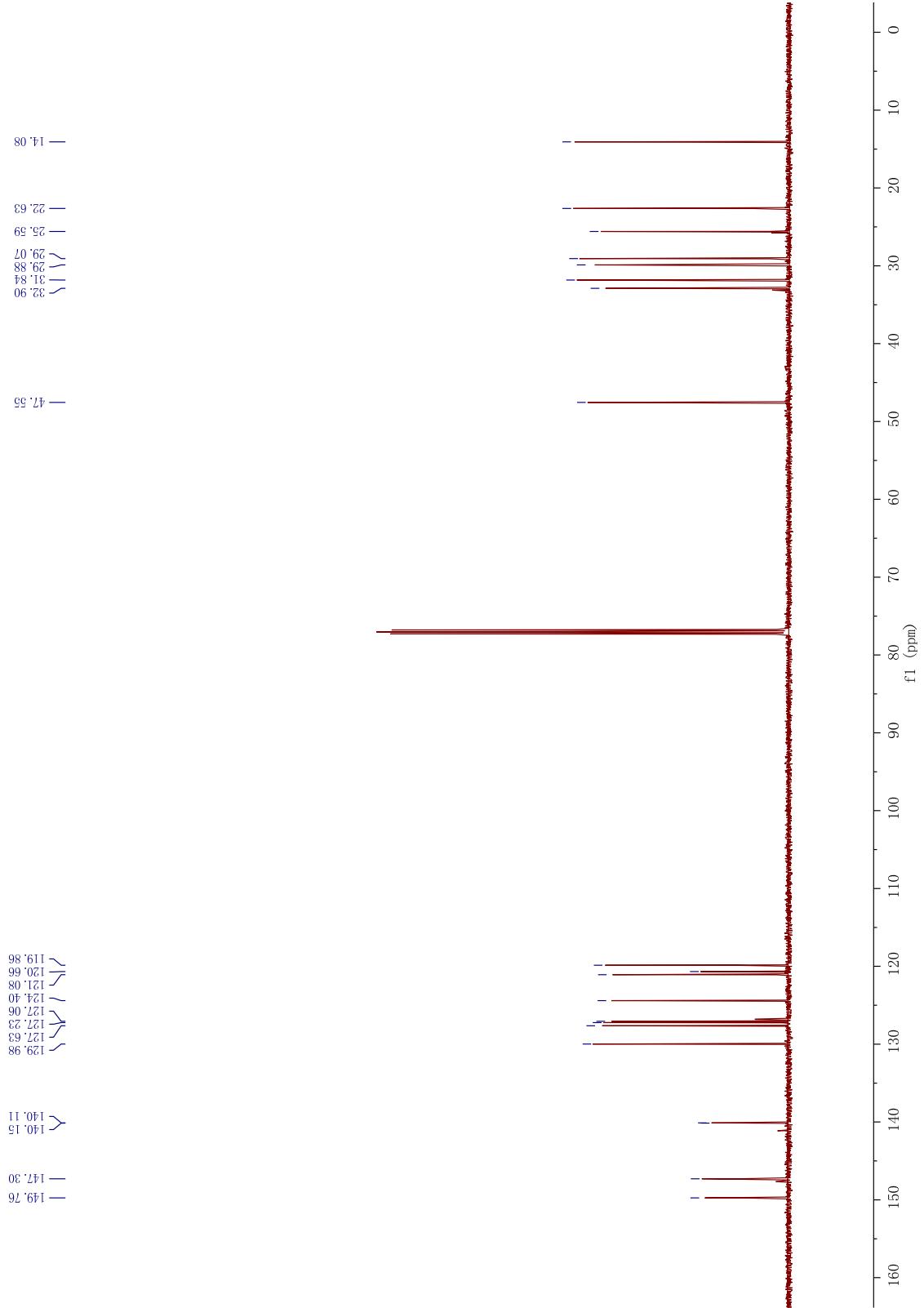


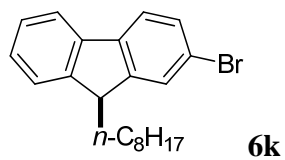
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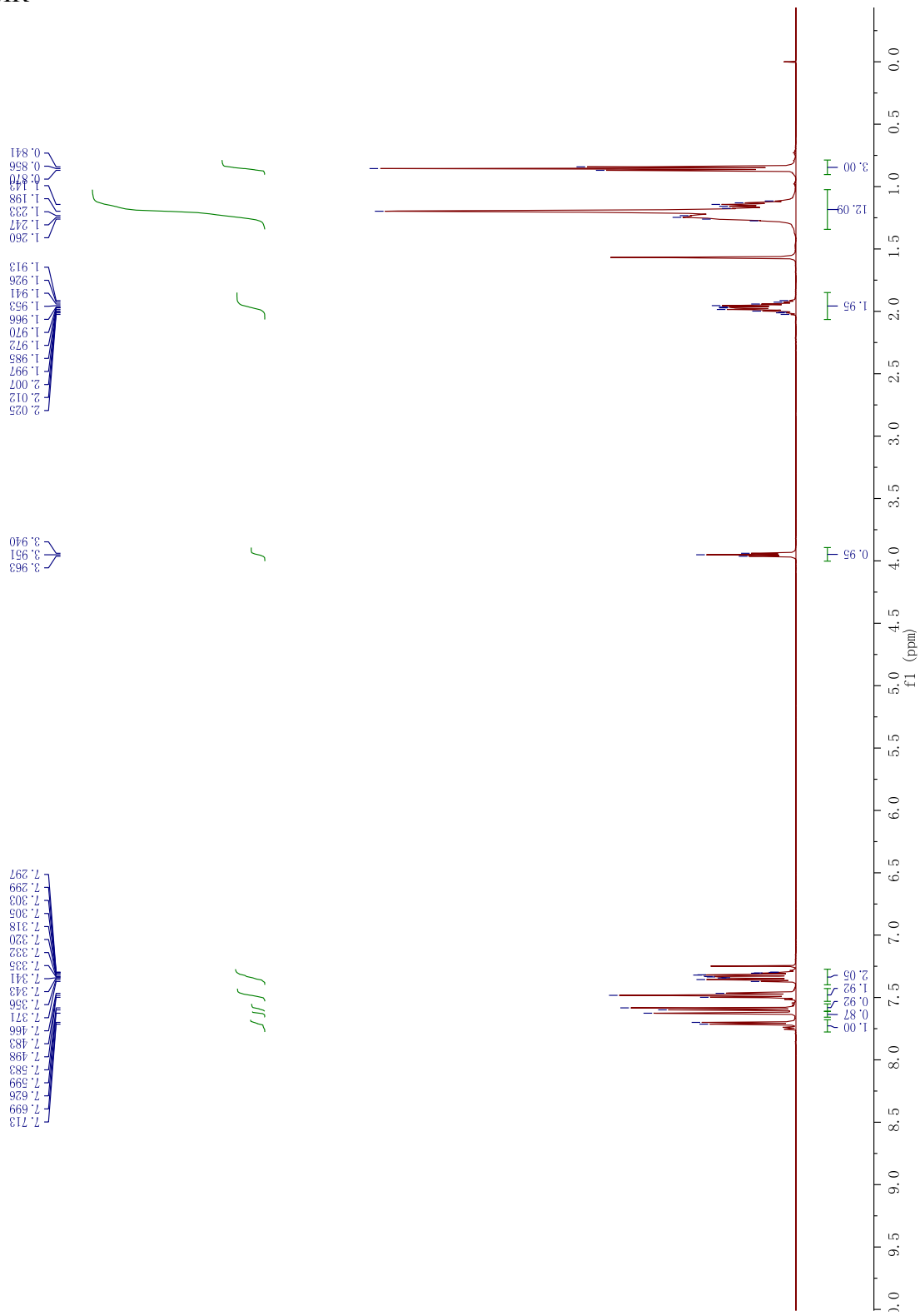


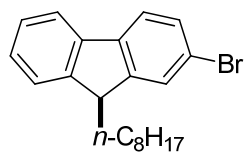
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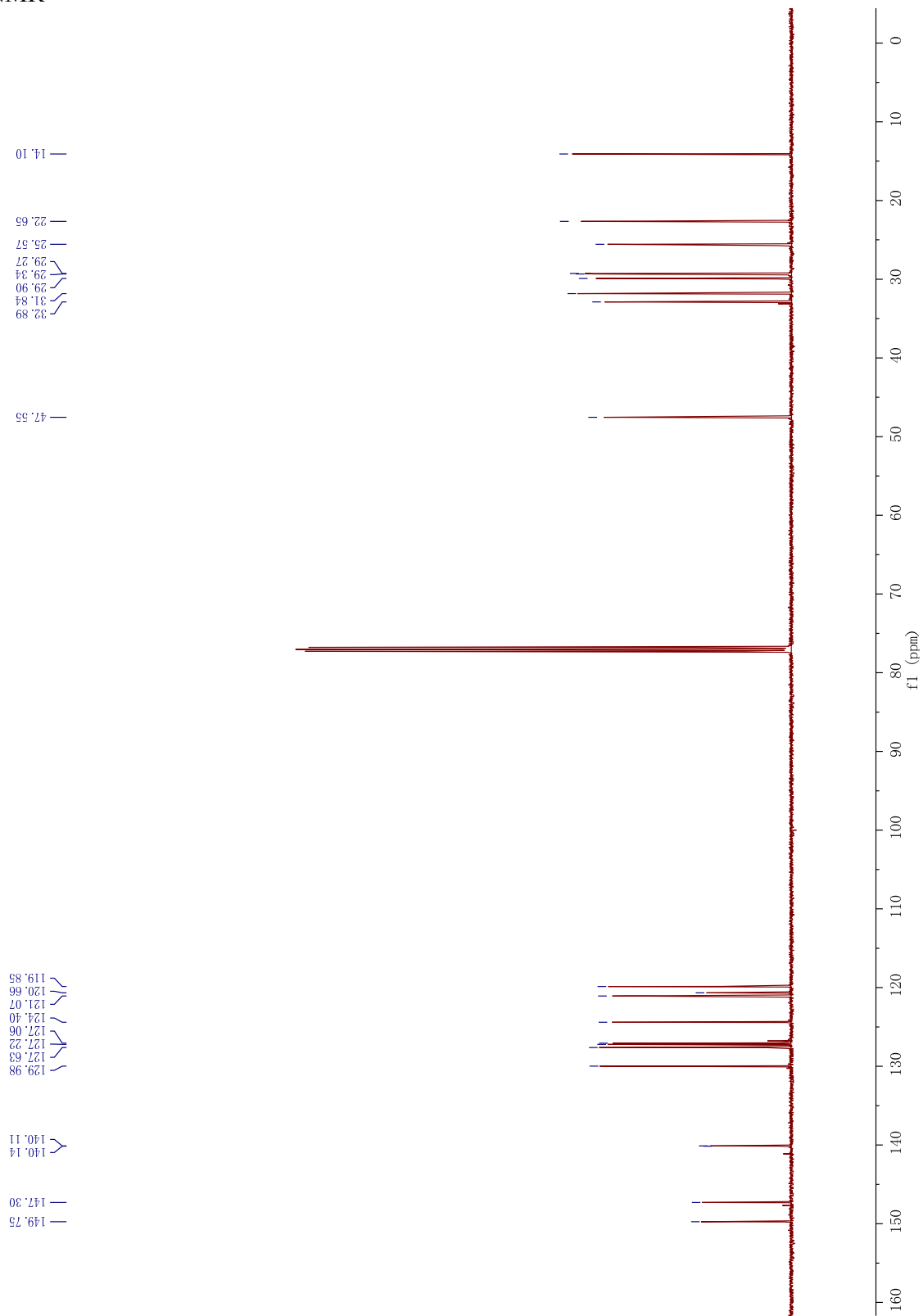
¹H NMR

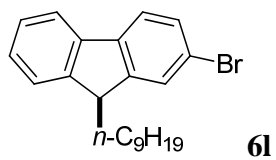




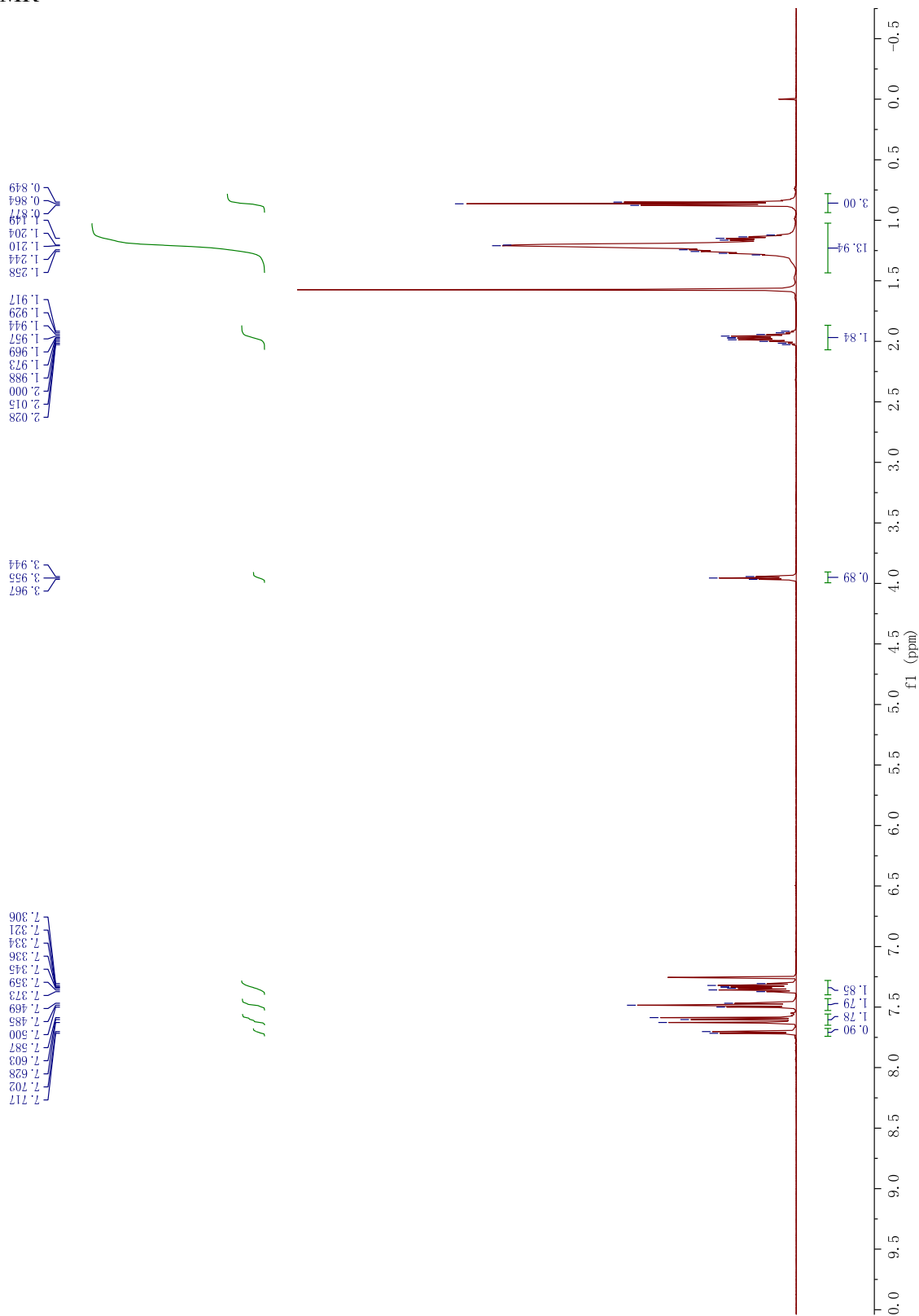
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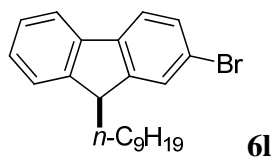
^{13}C NMR



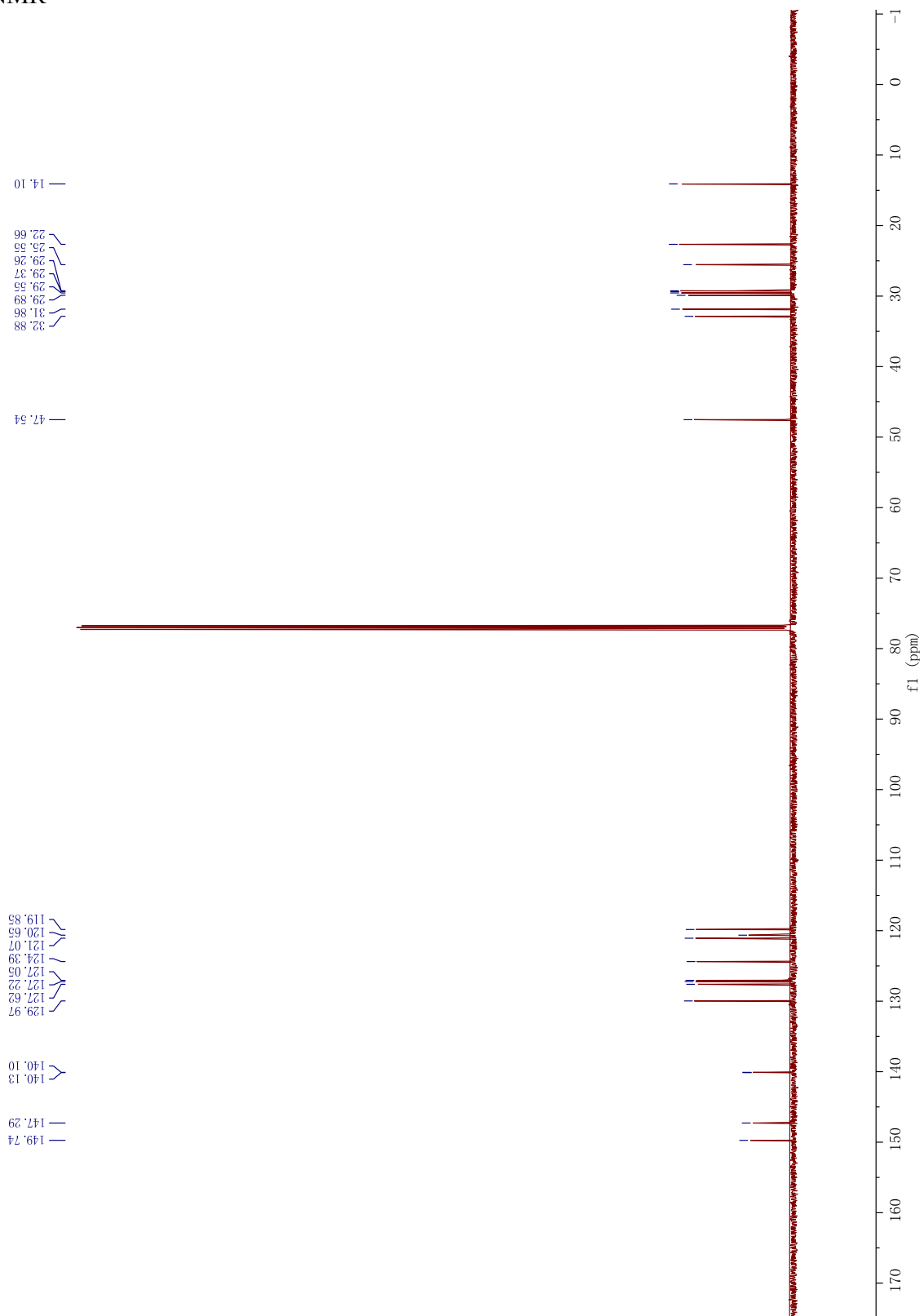


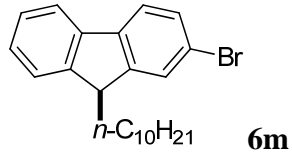
$^1\text{H NMR}$



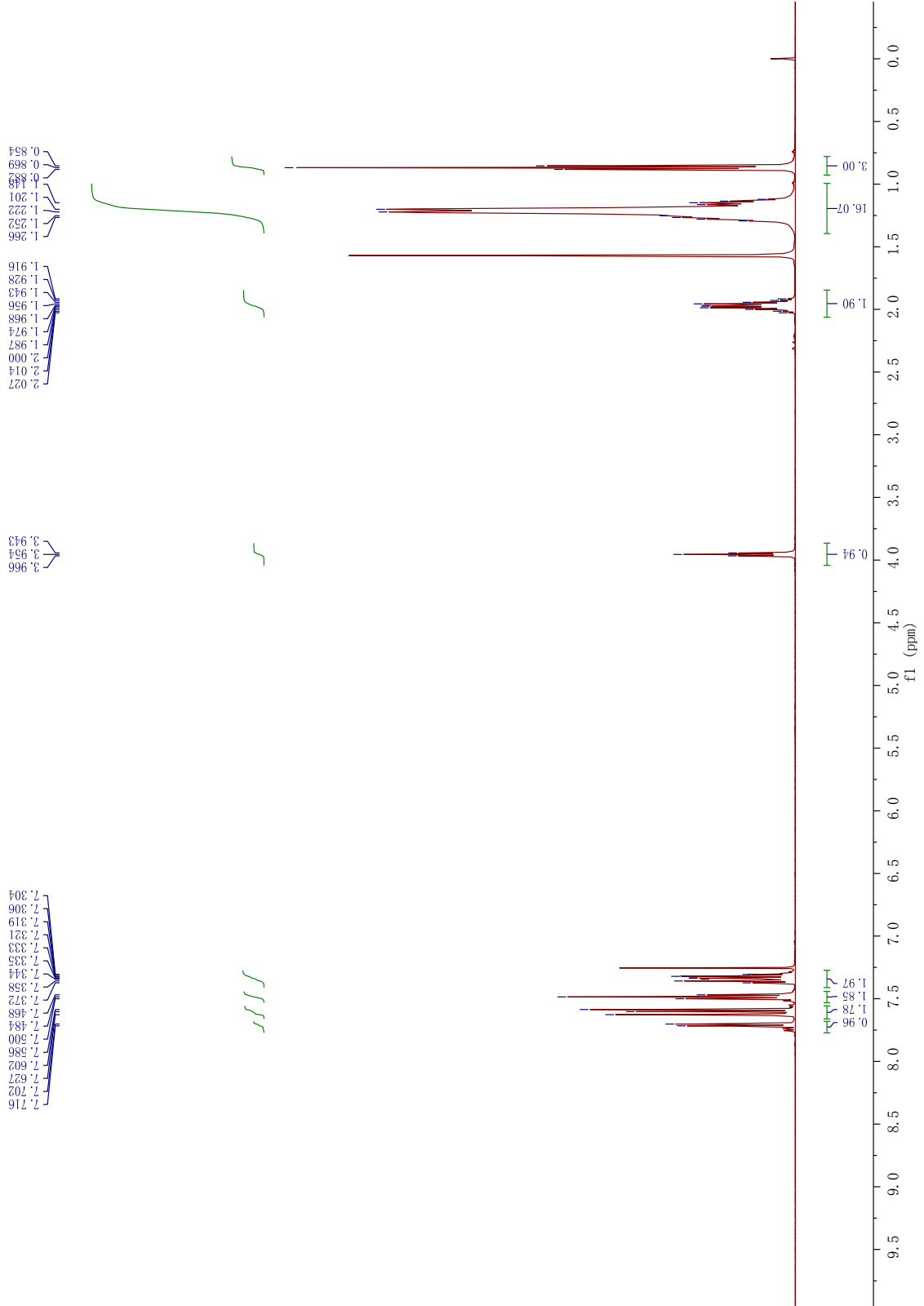


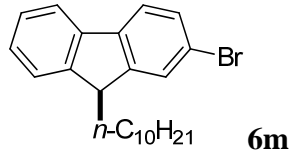
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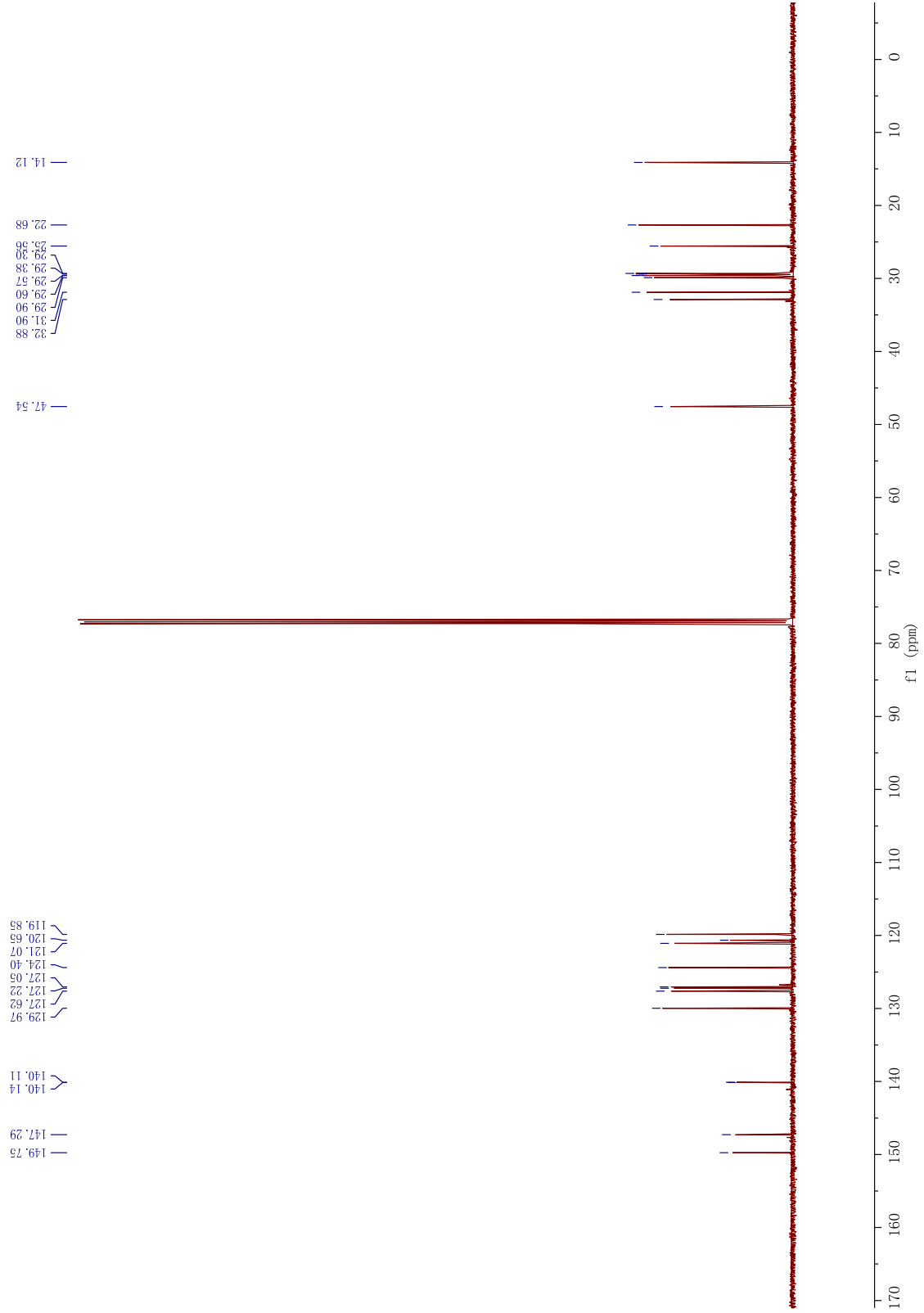


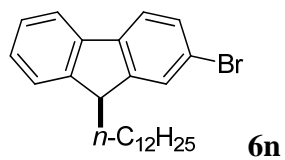
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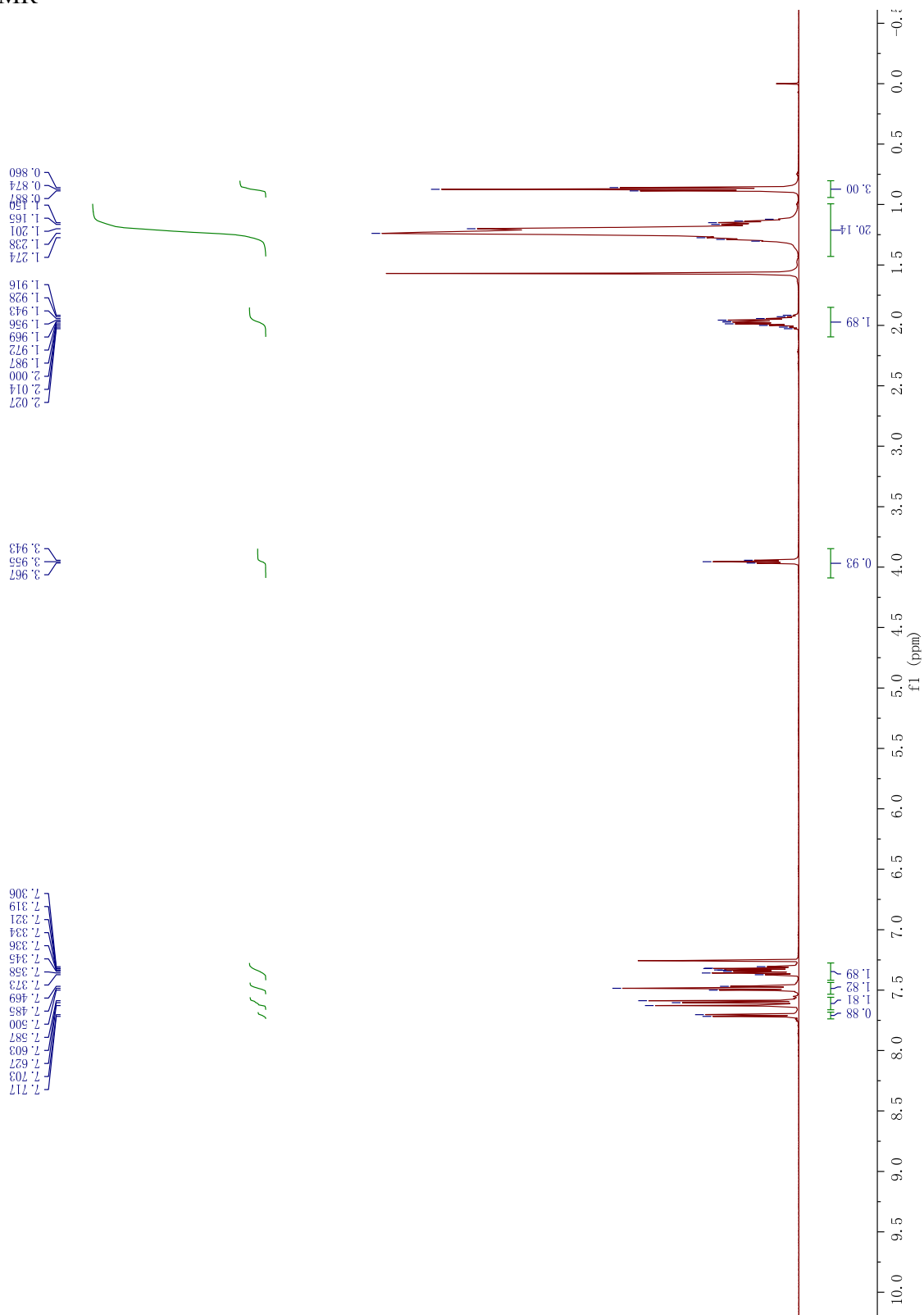


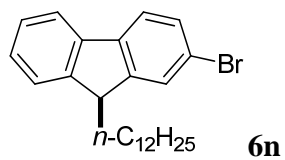
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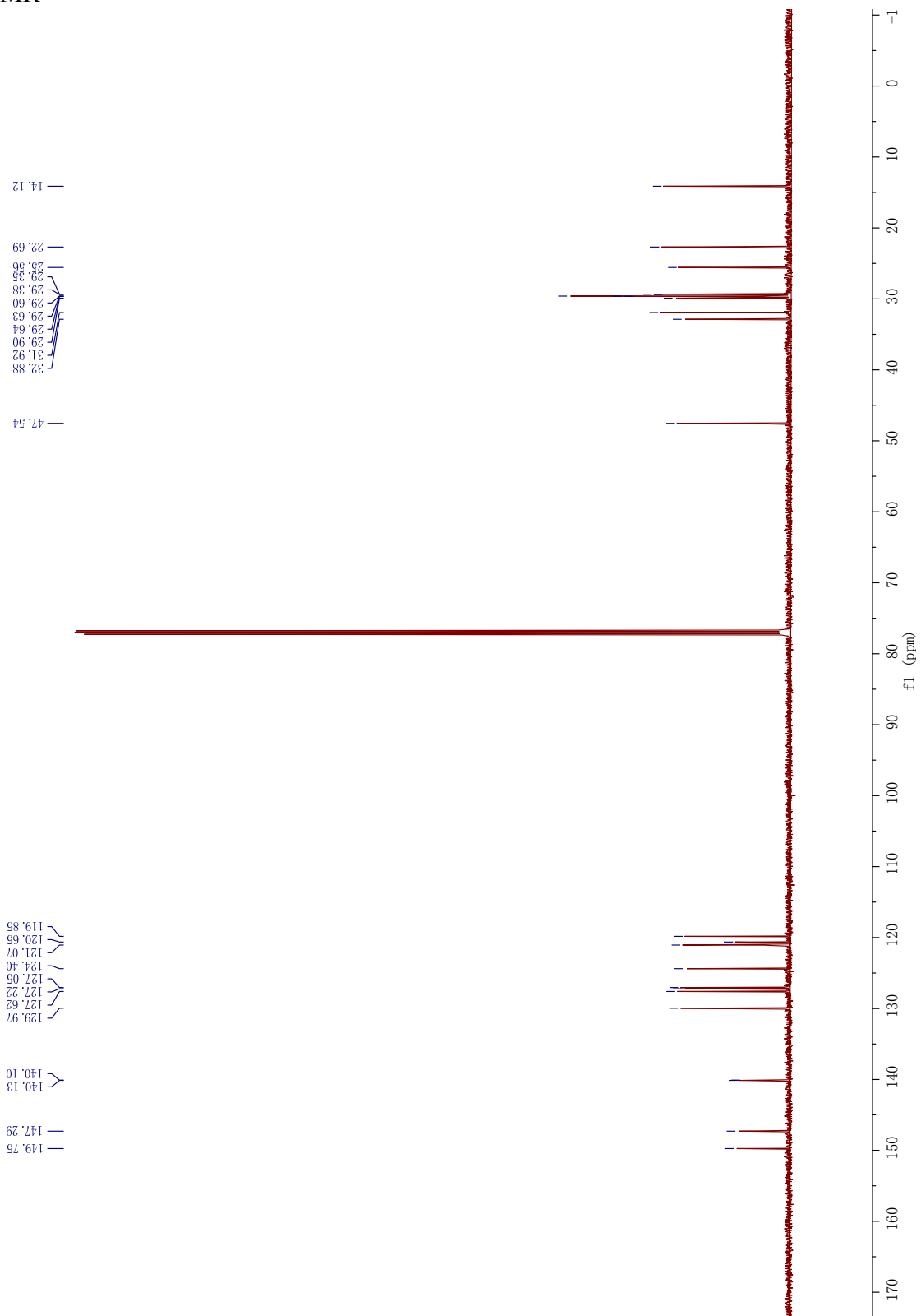


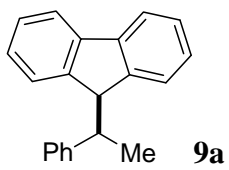
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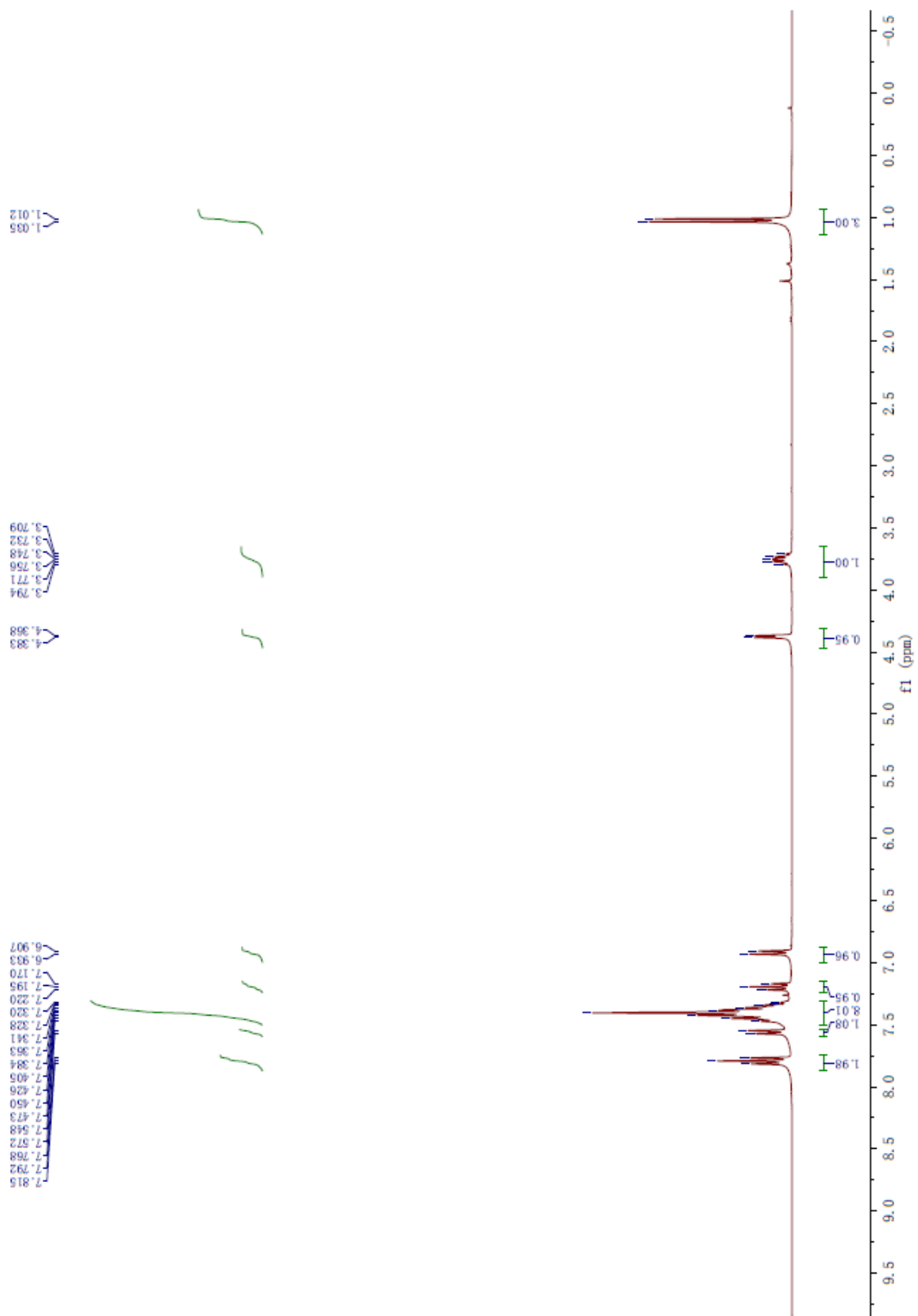


^{13}C NMR

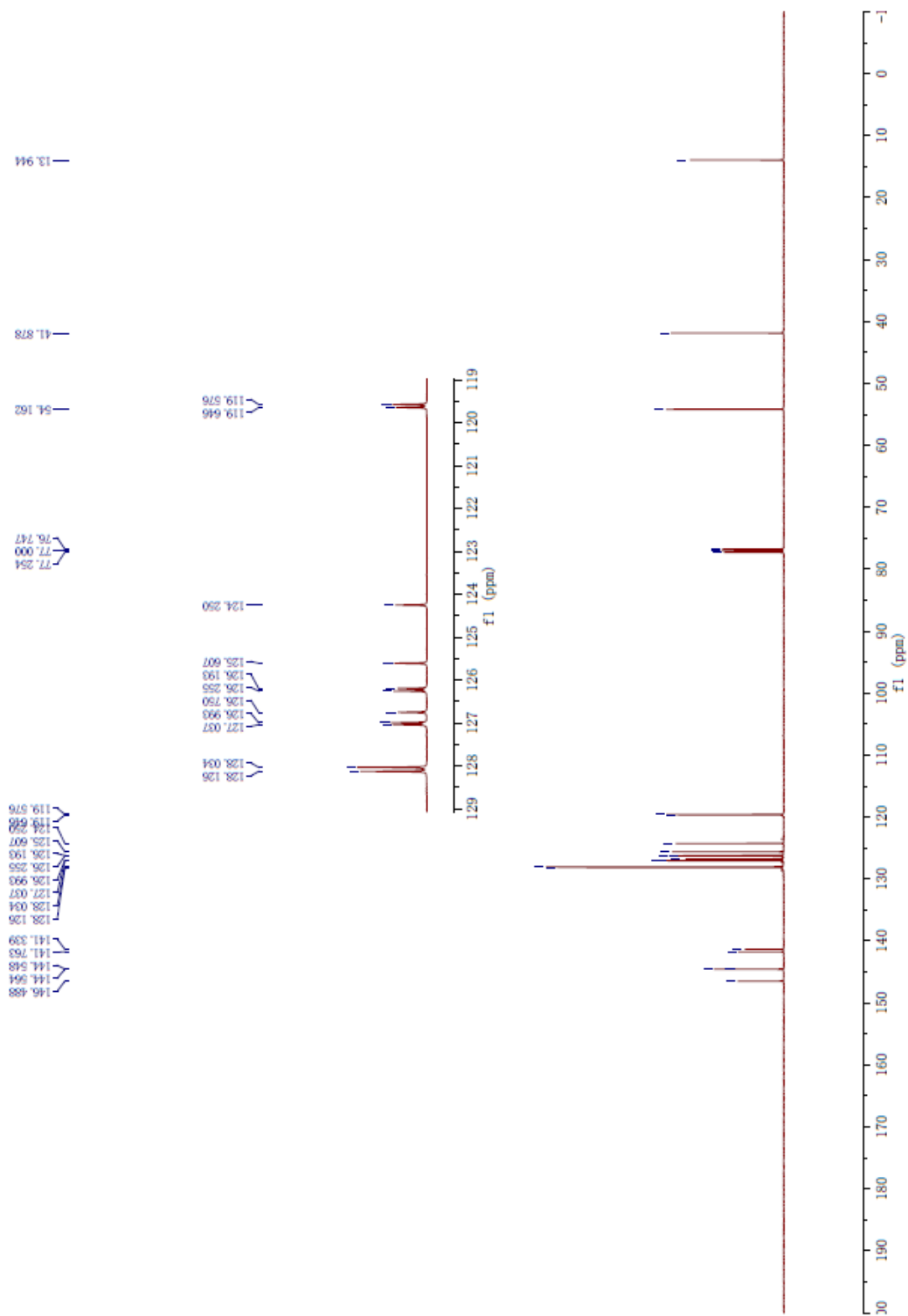
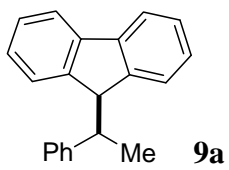


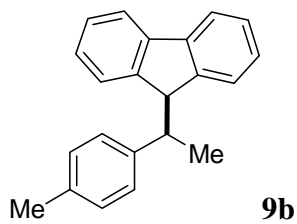


$^1\text{H NMR}$

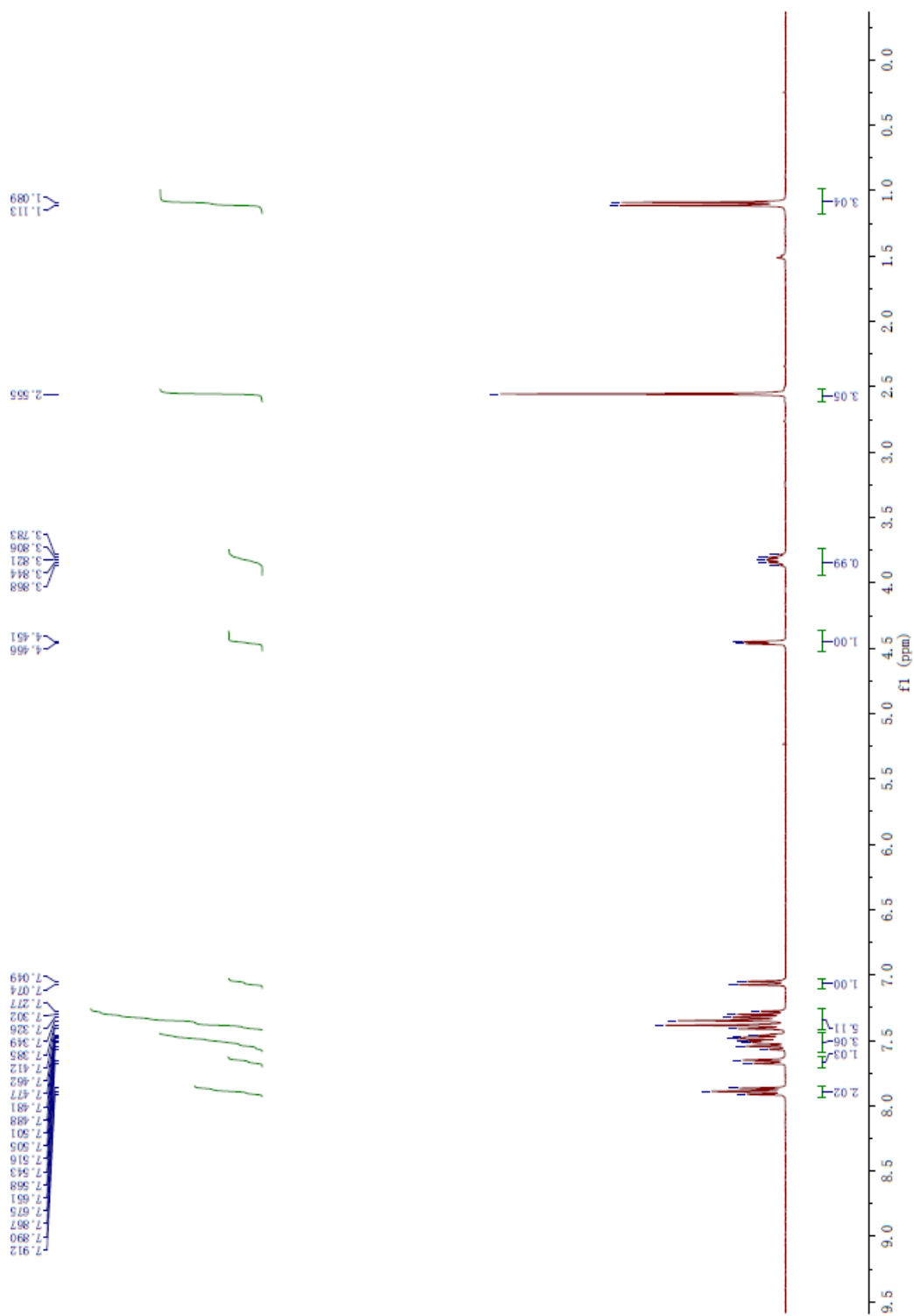


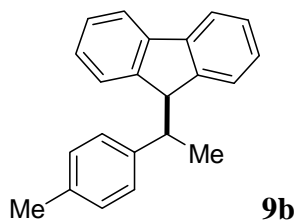
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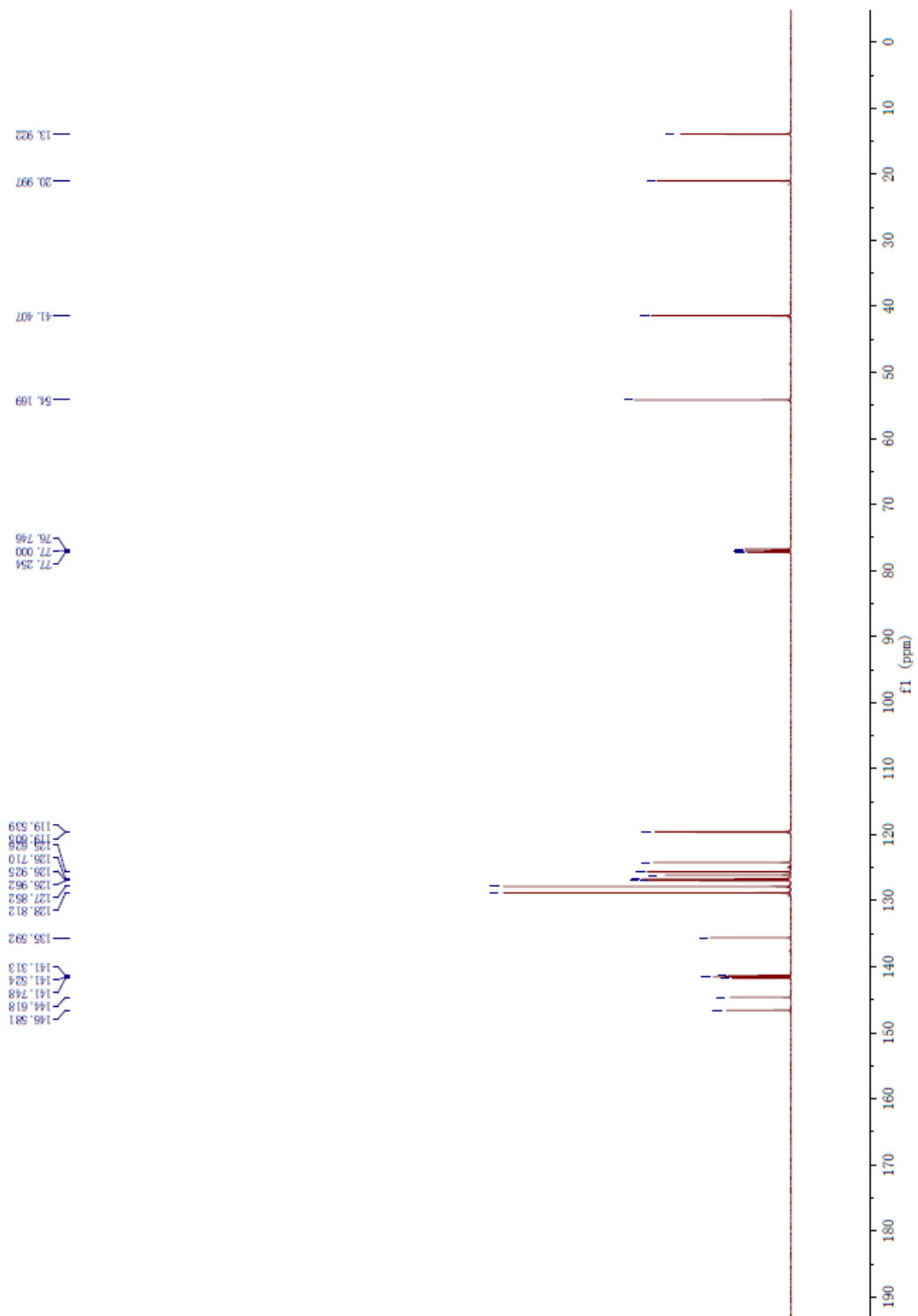


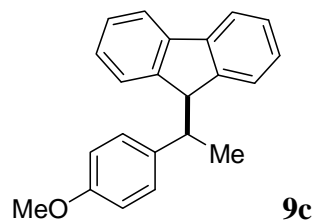
$^1\text{H NMR}$



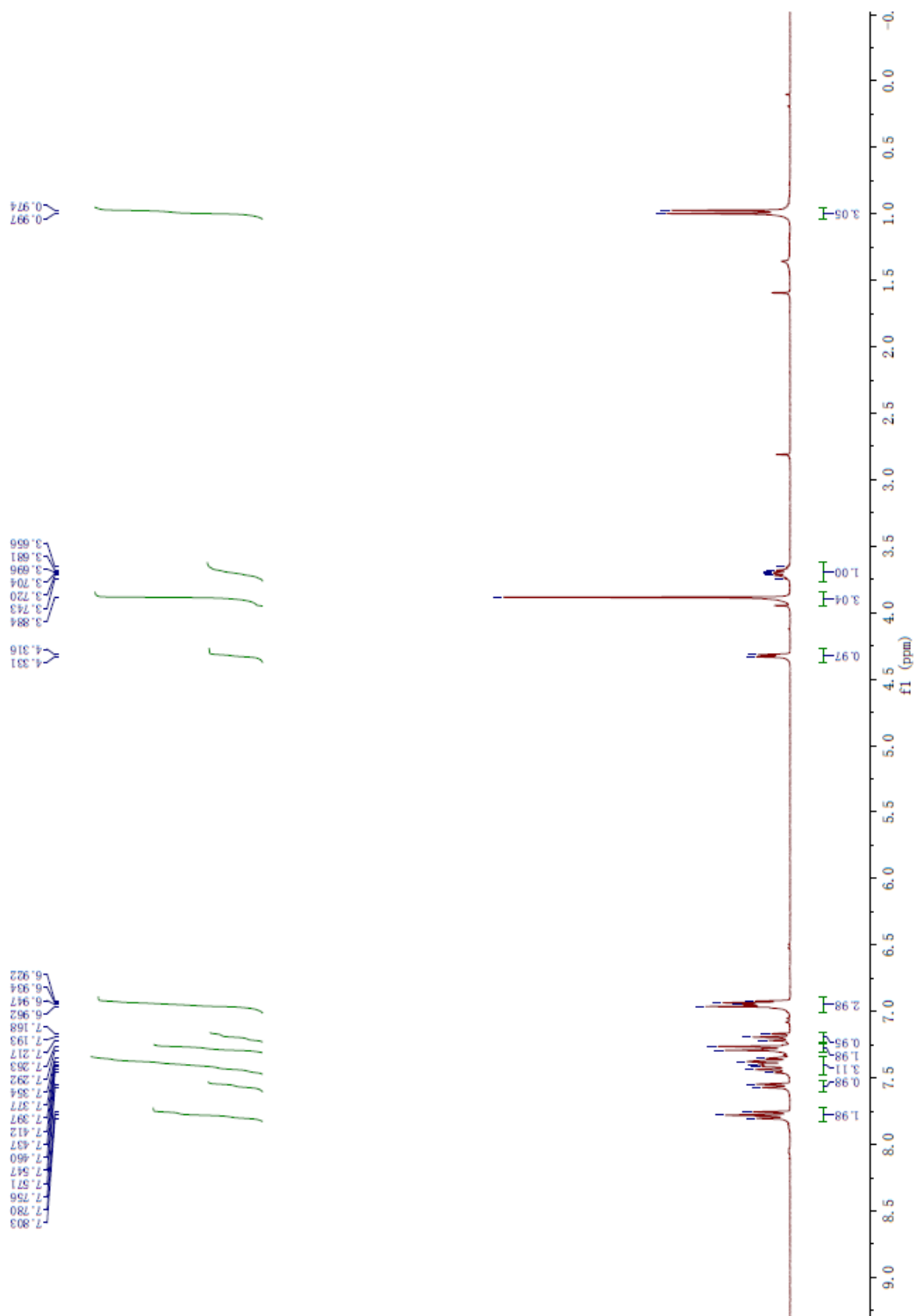


¹³C NMR

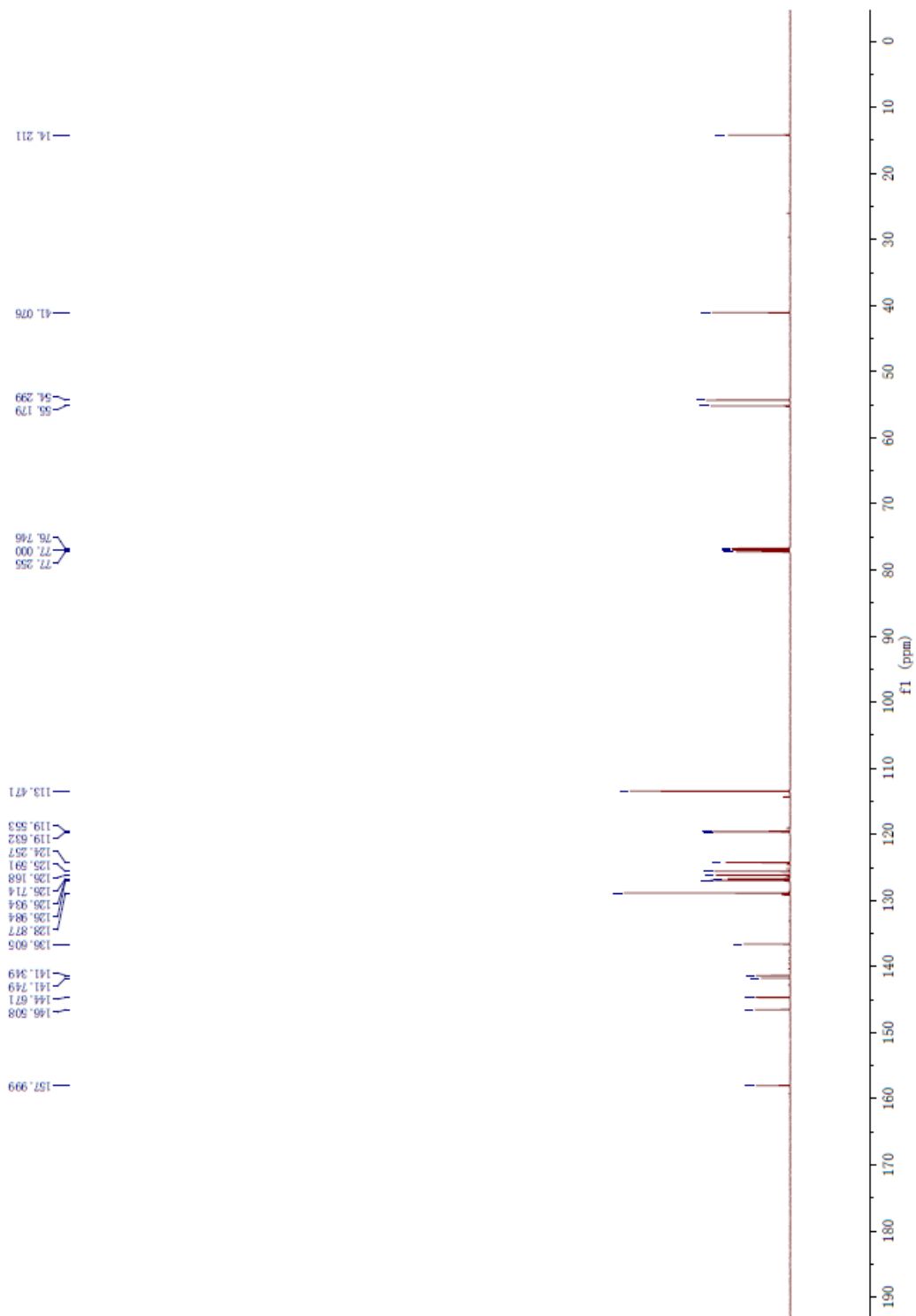
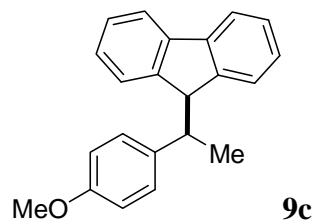


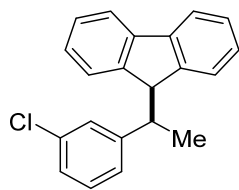


$^1\text{H NMR}$



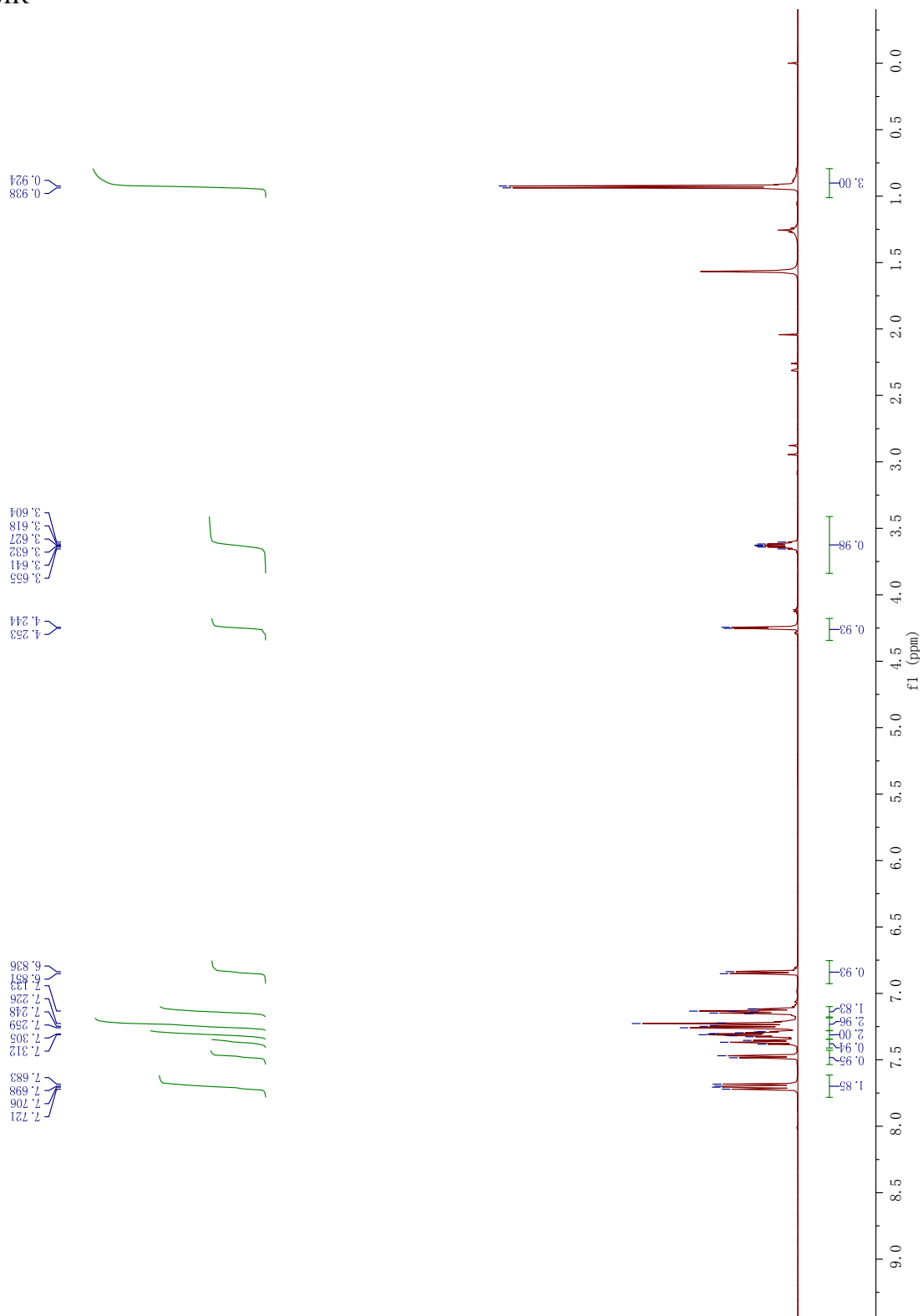
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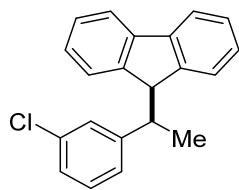




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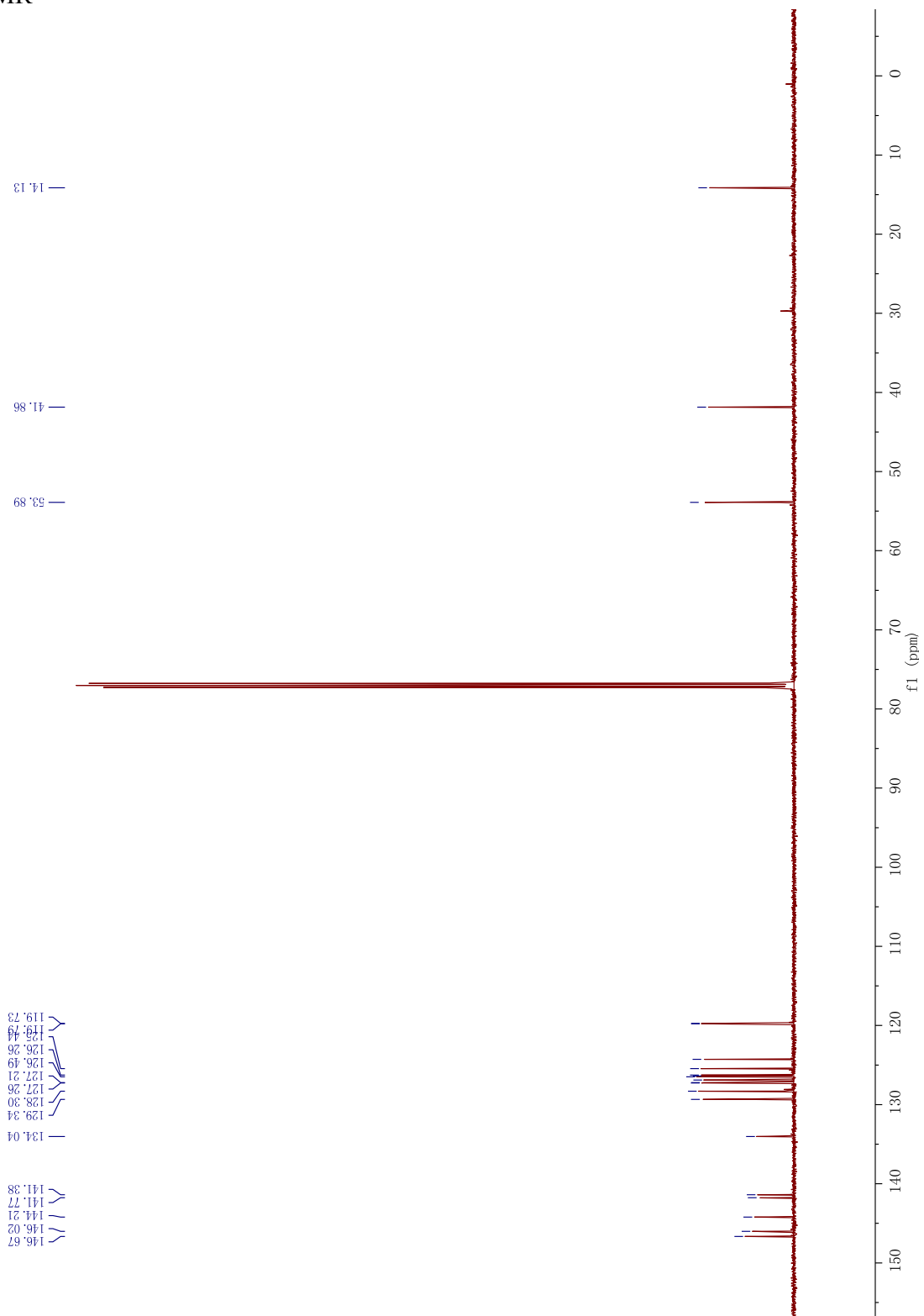
$^1\text{H NMR}$

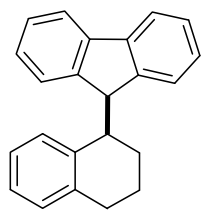




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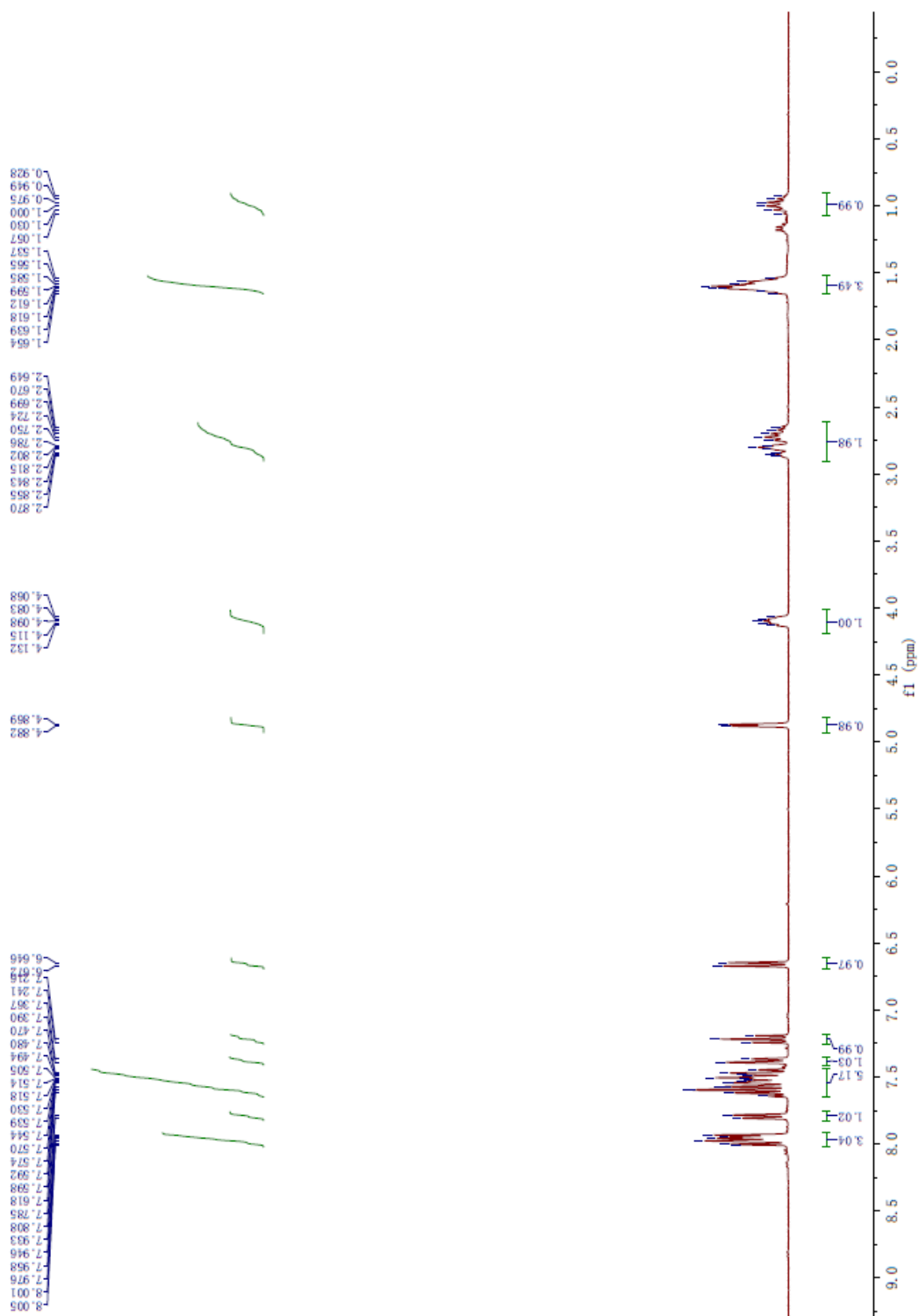
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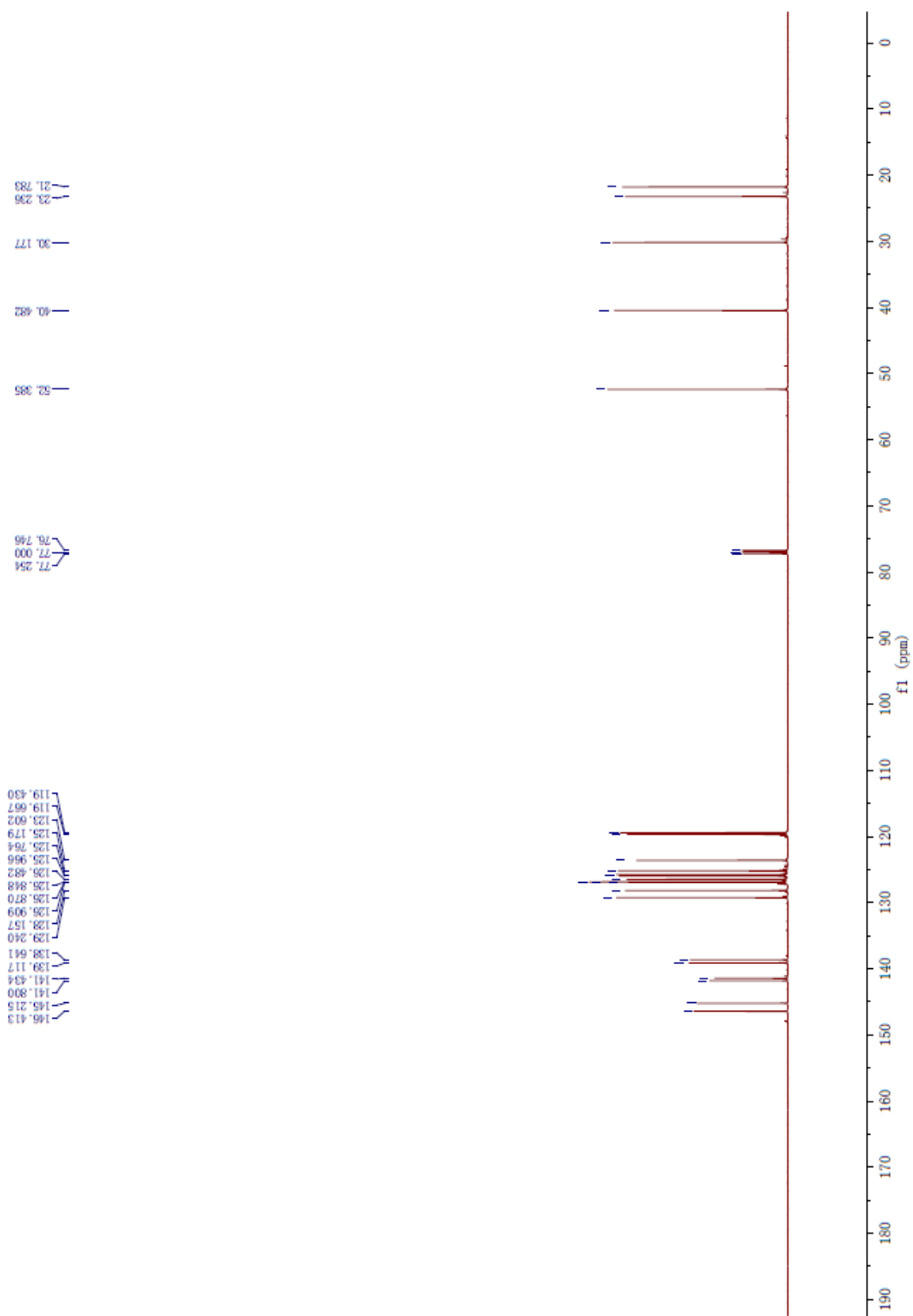
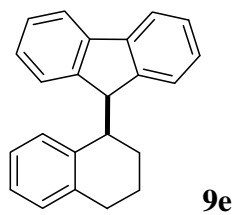


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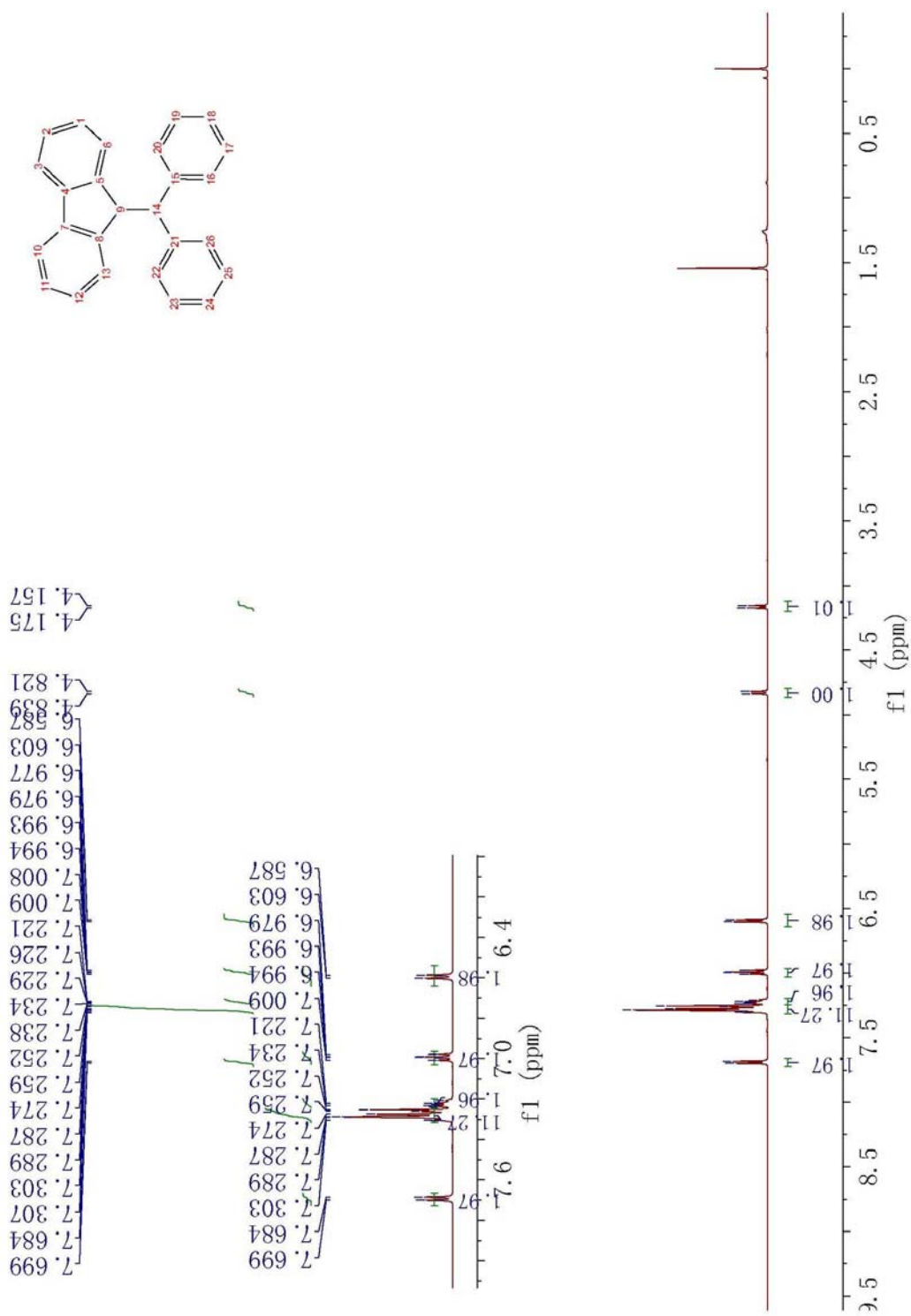
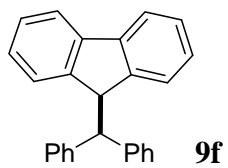
$^1\text{H NMR}$



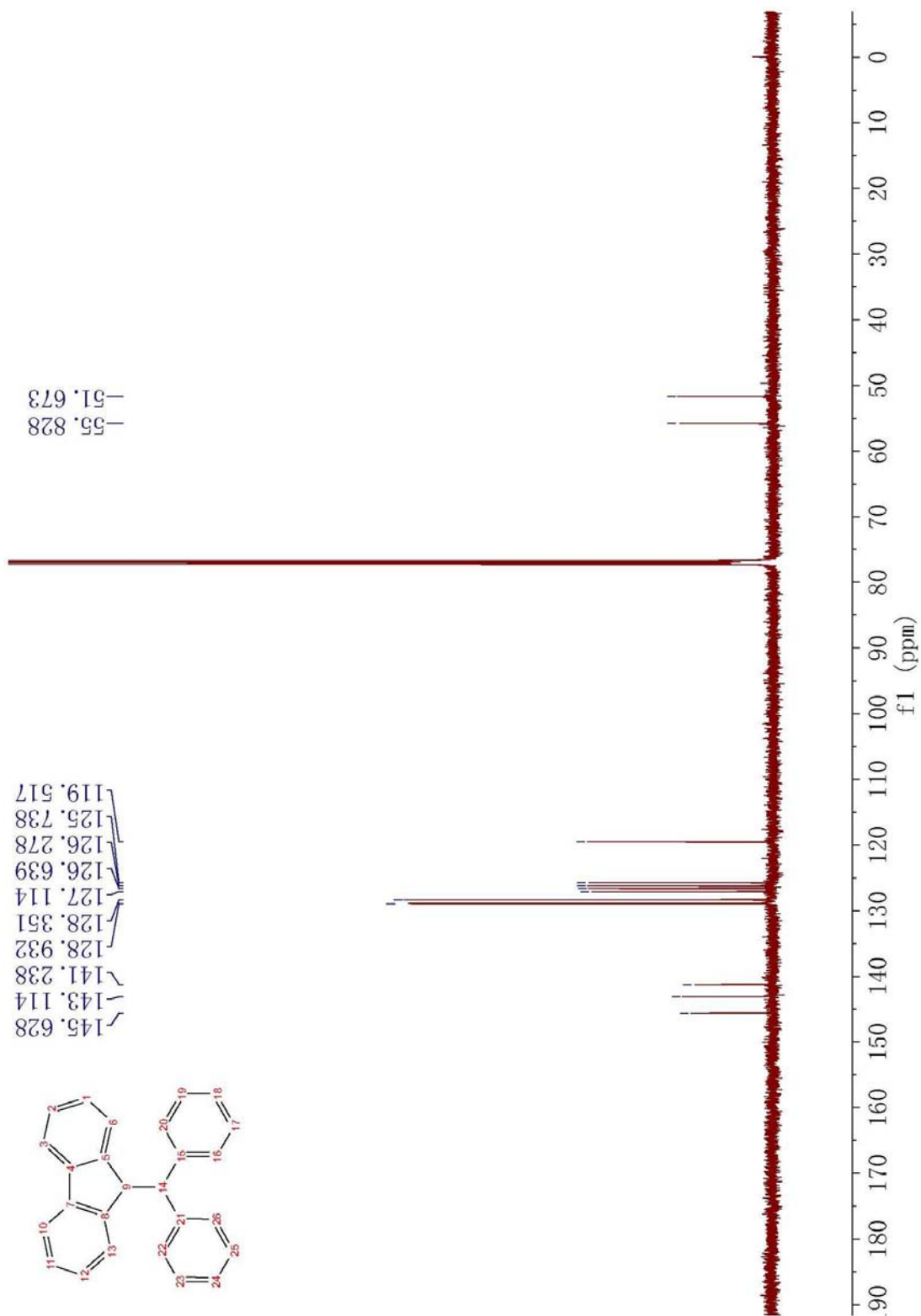
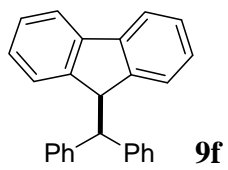
¹³C NMR

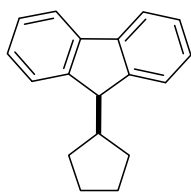


^1H NMR



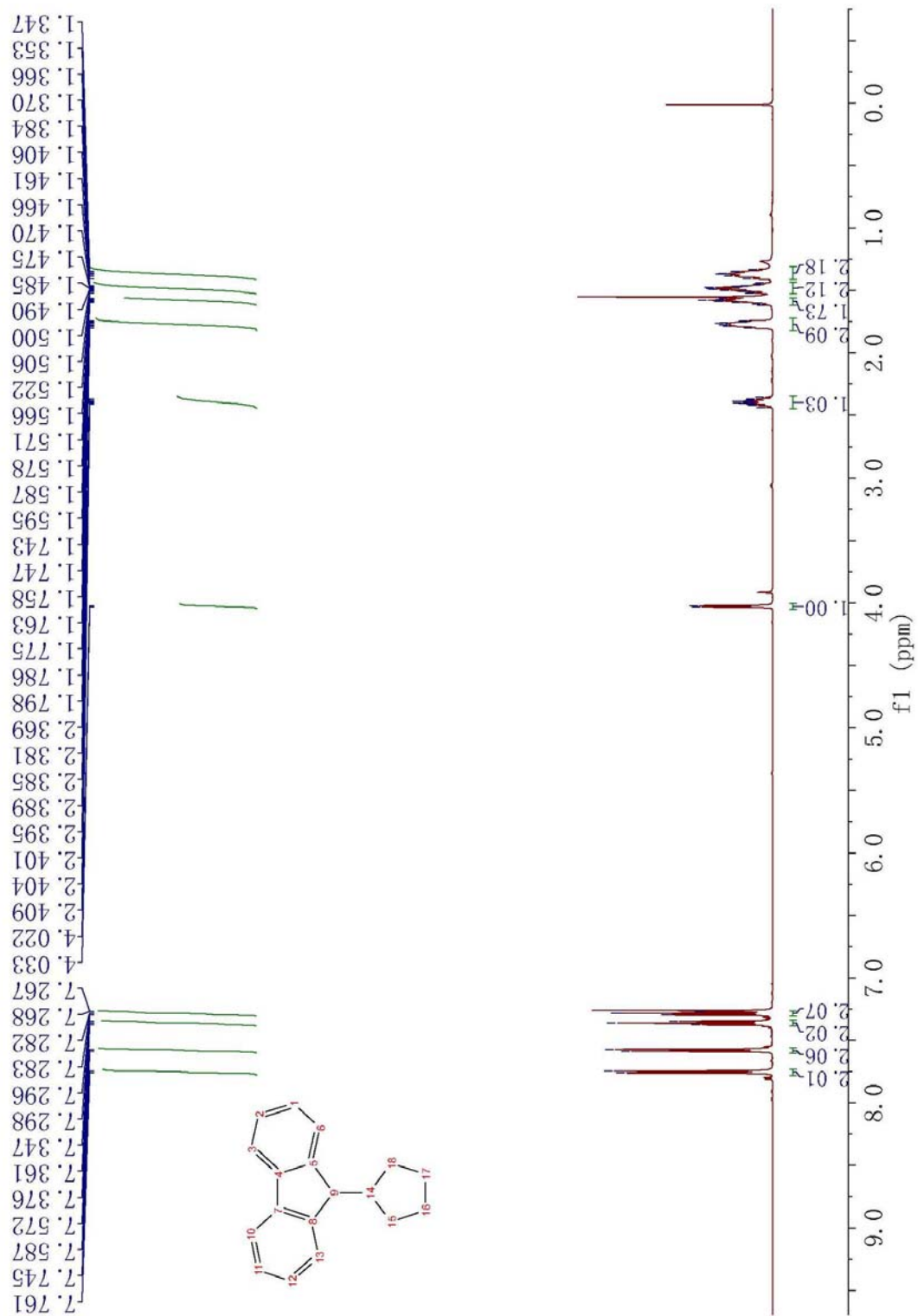
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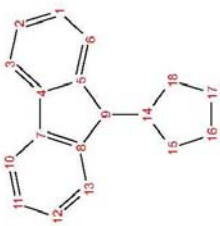
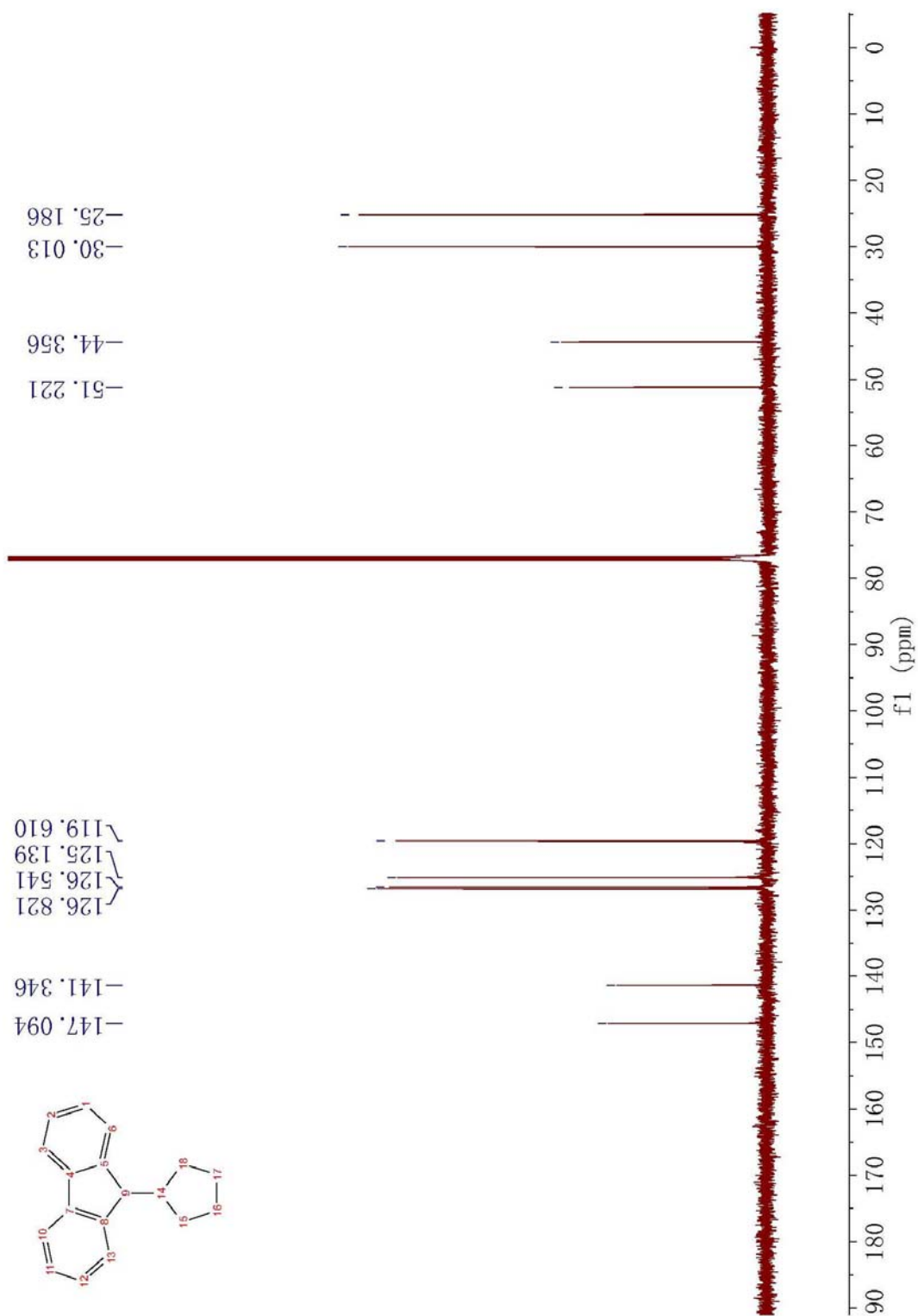
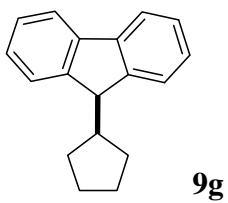


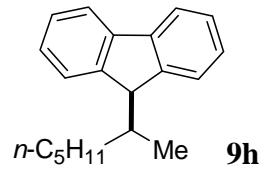
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$^1\text{H NMR}$

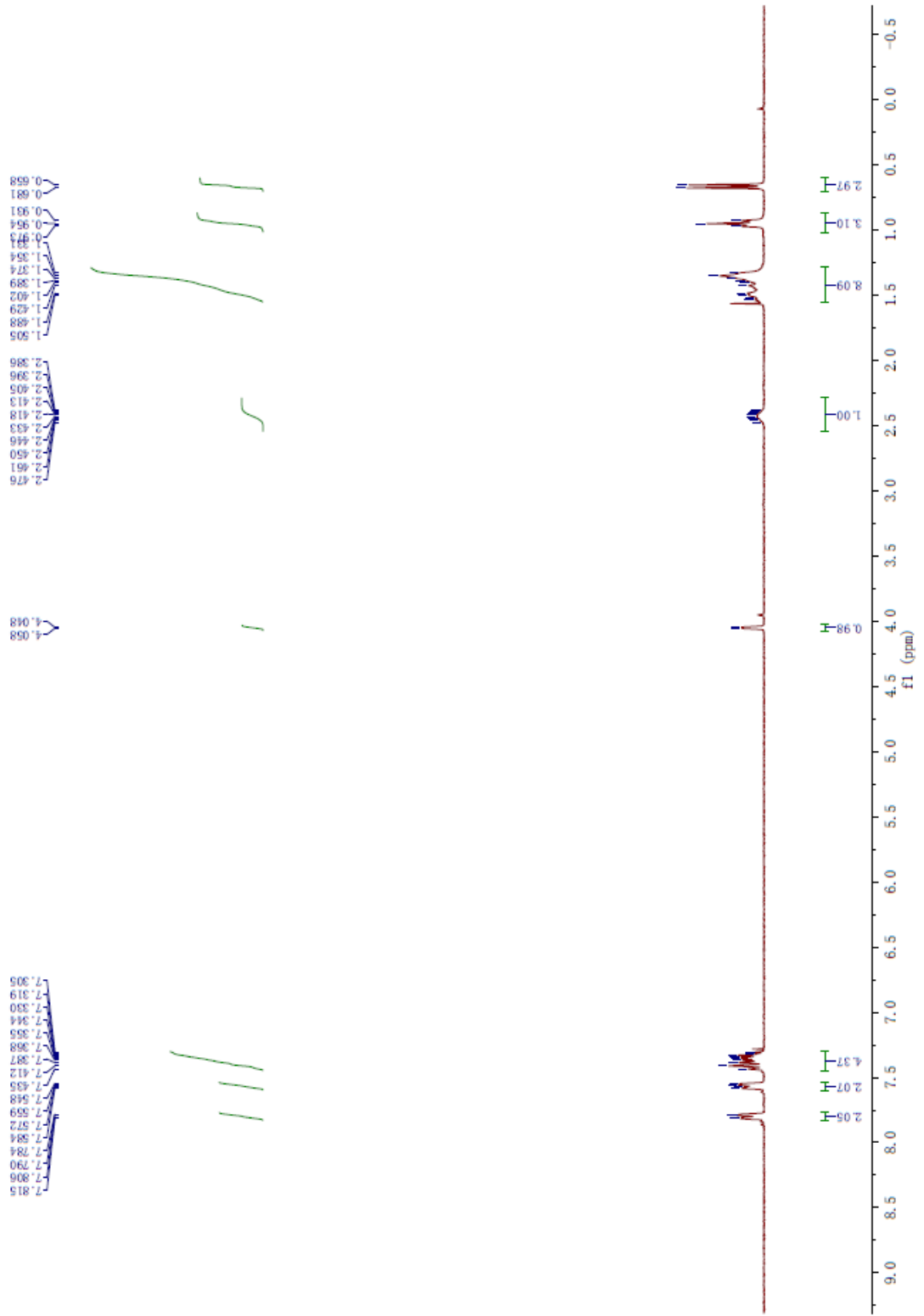


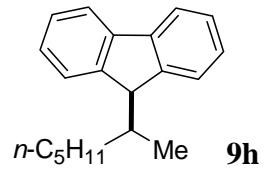
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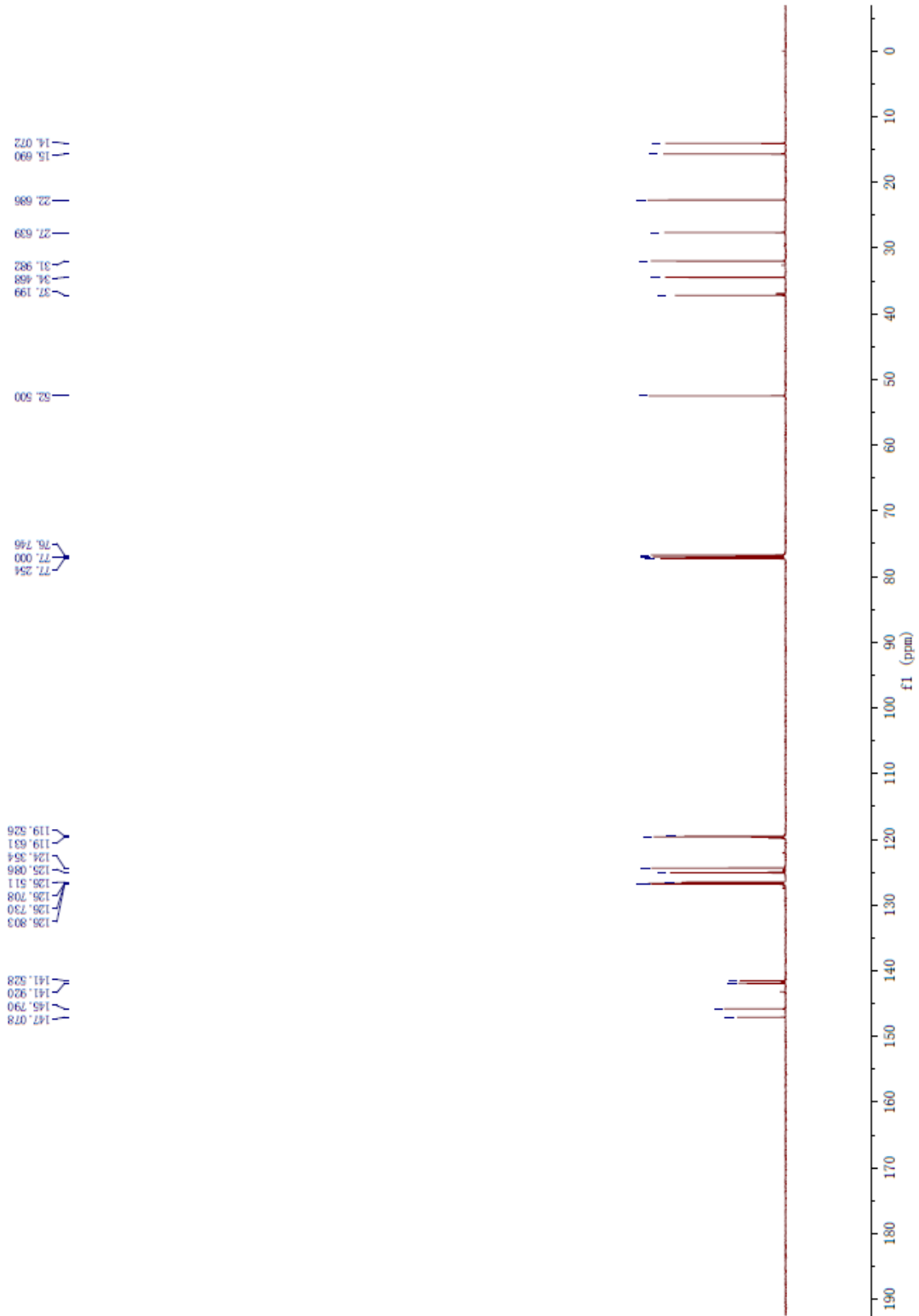


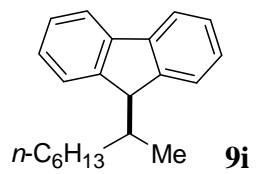
$^1\text{H NMR}$



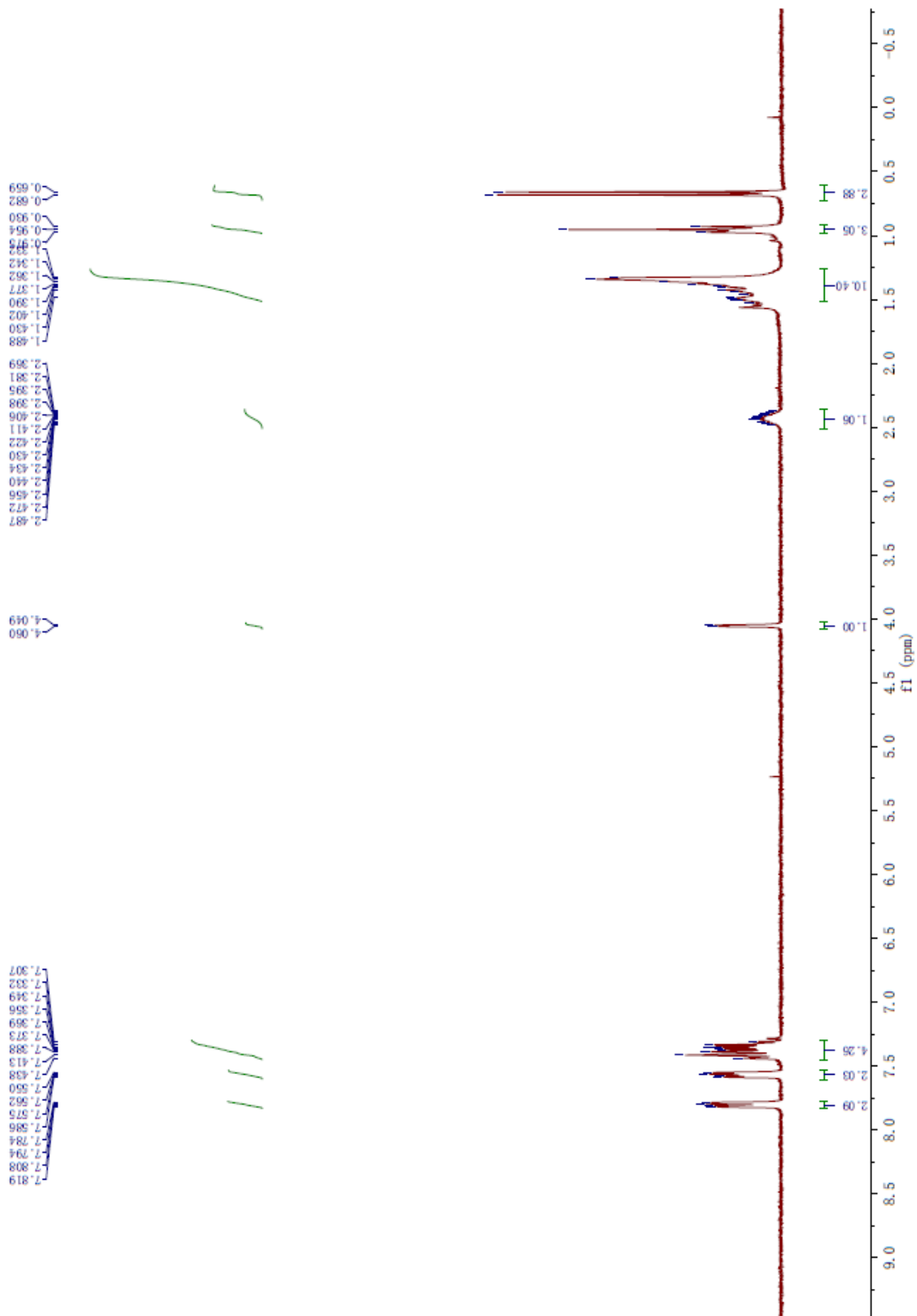


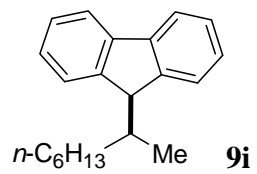
¹³C NMR



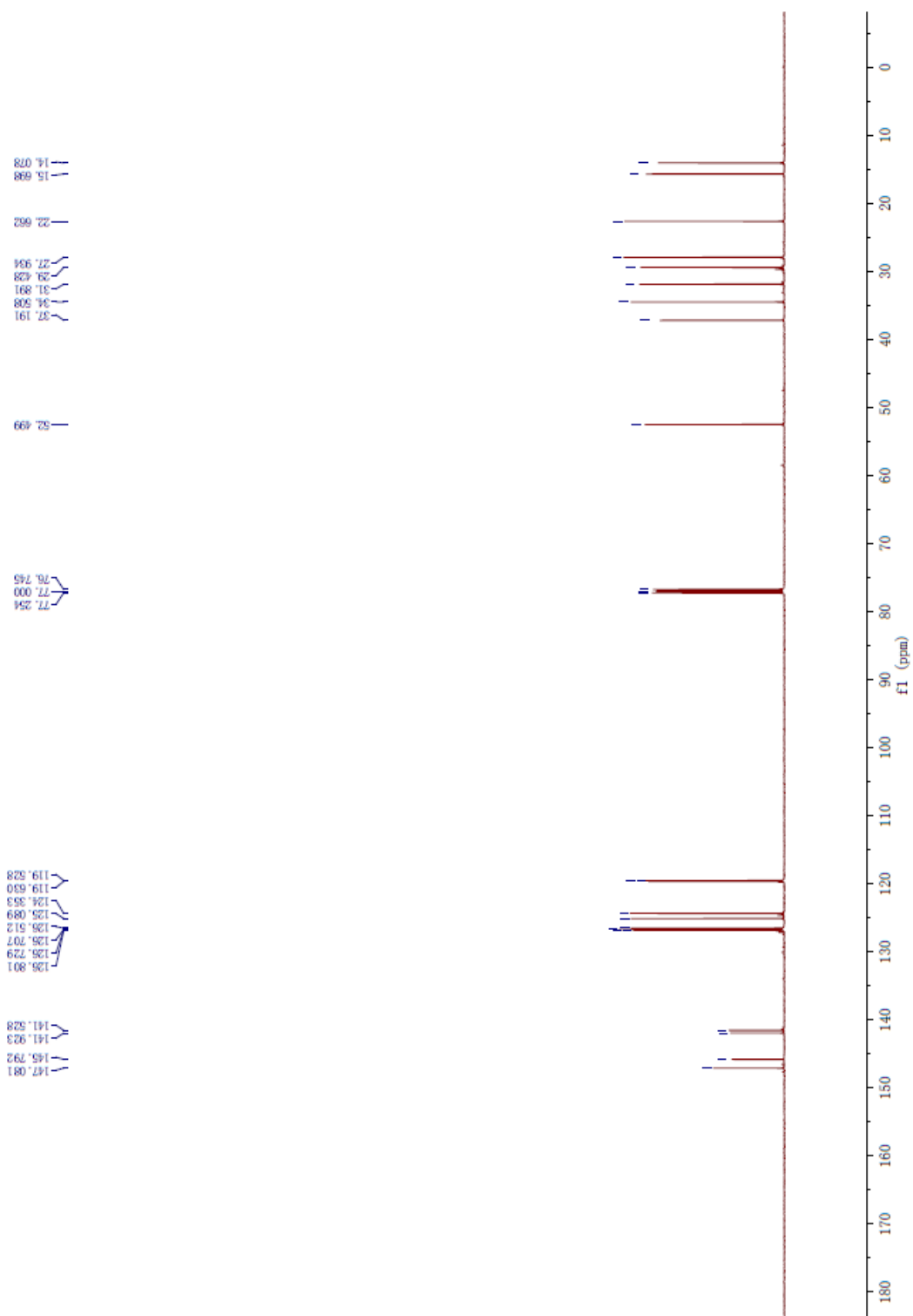


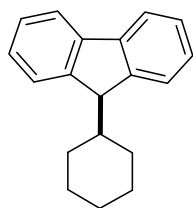
$^1\text{H NMR}$





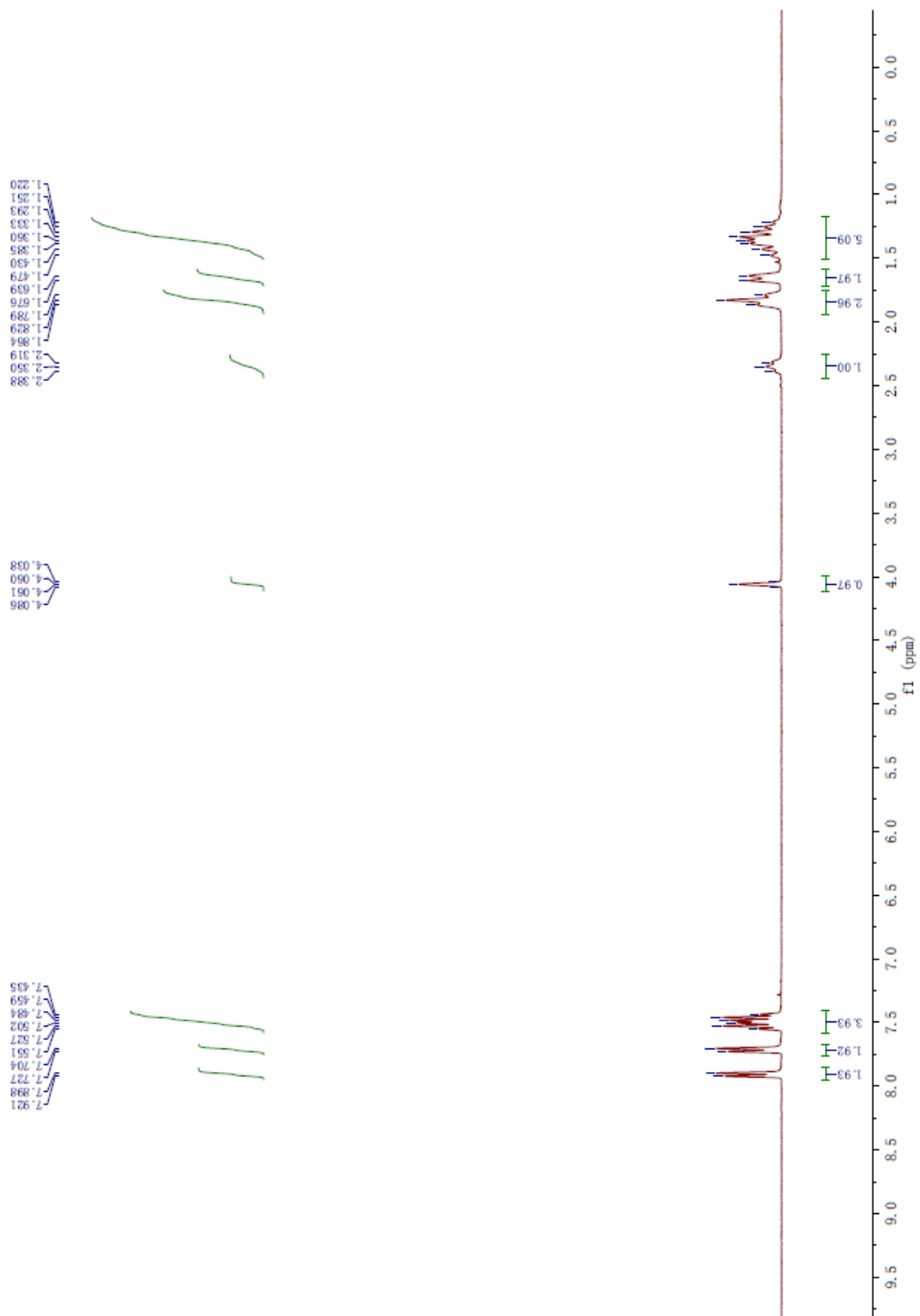
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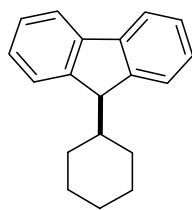




9j

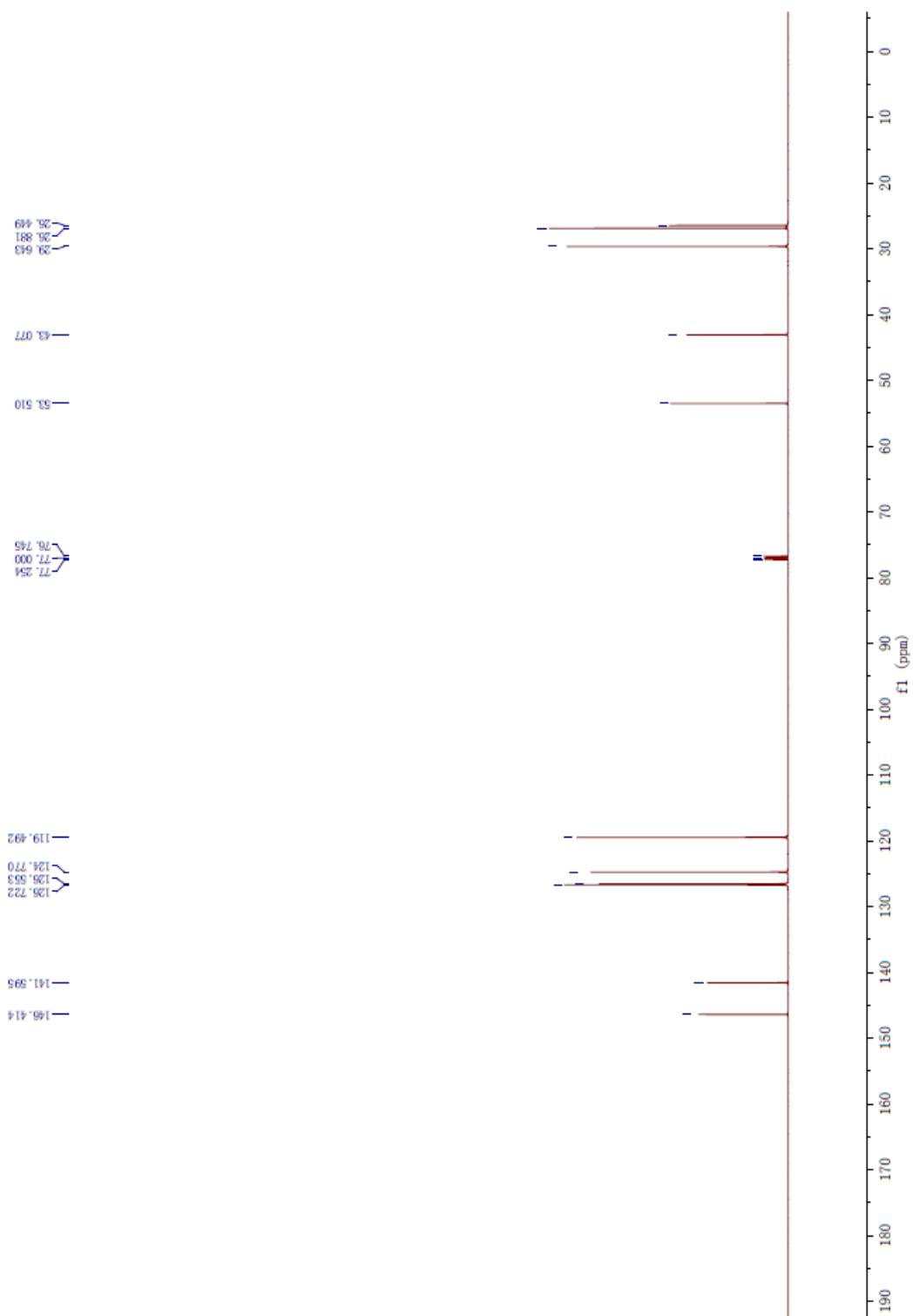
^1H NMR

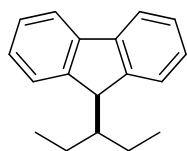




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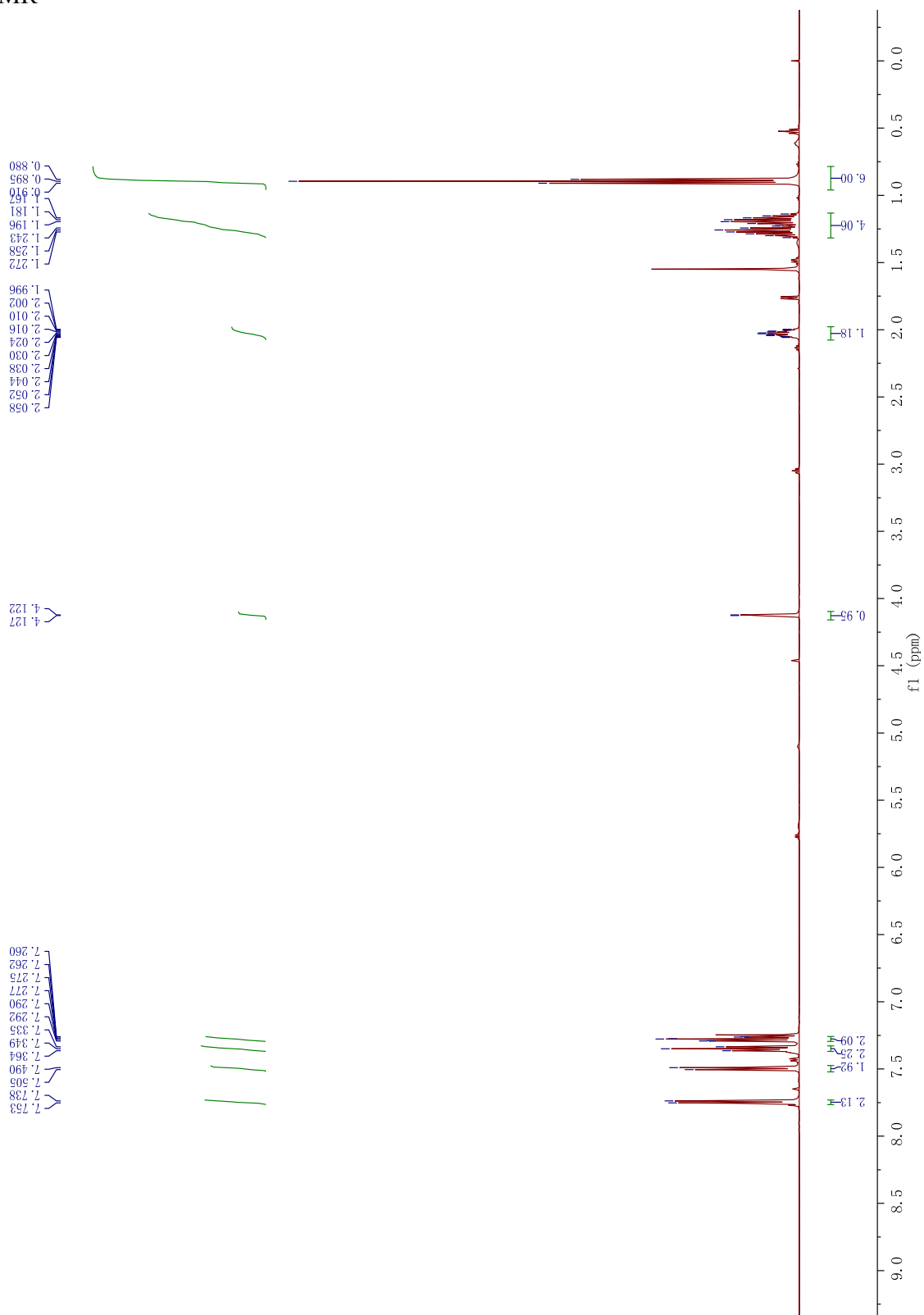
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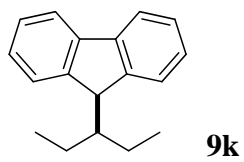




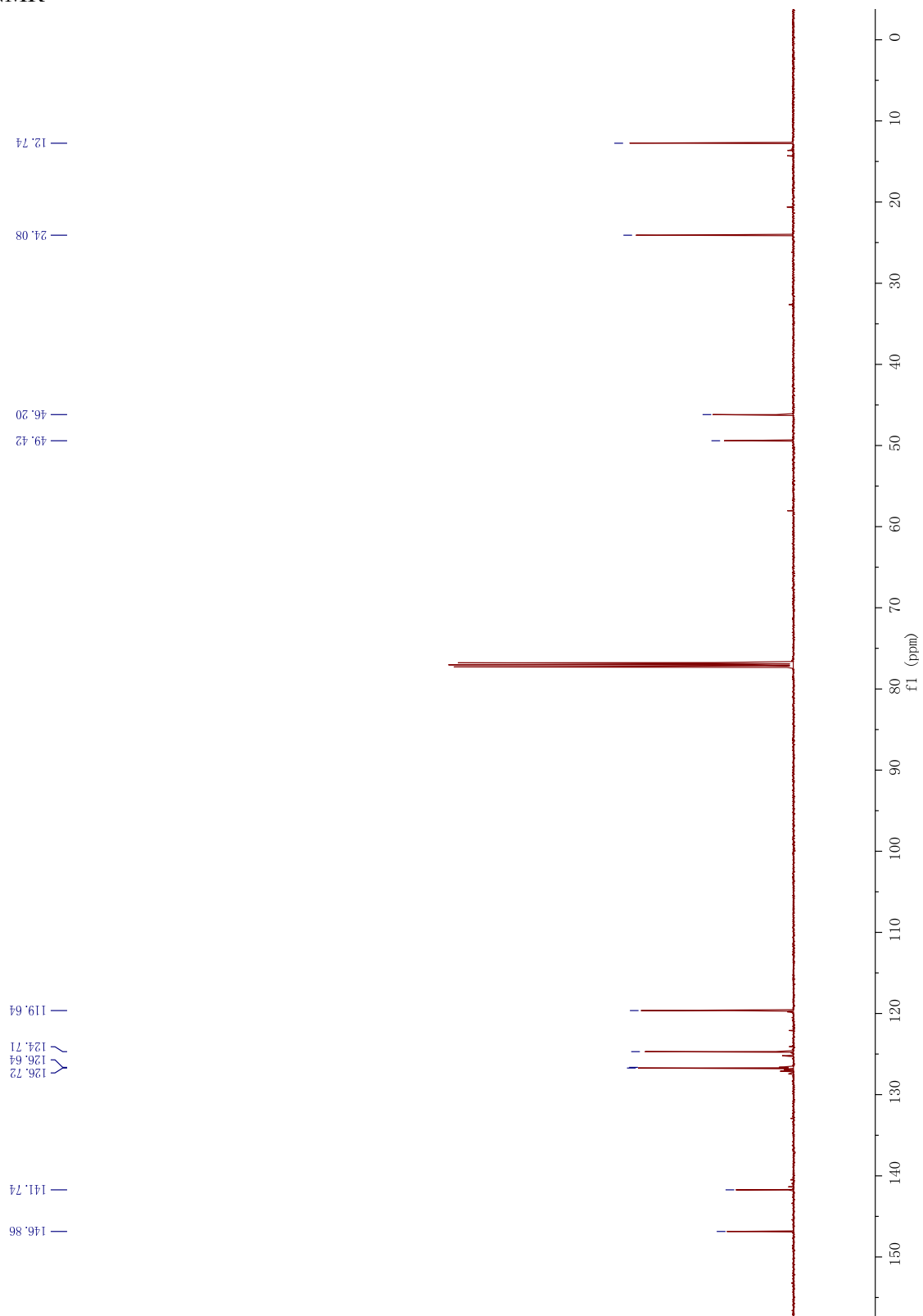
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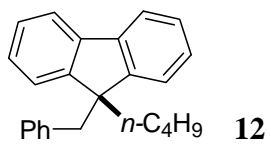
¹H NMR



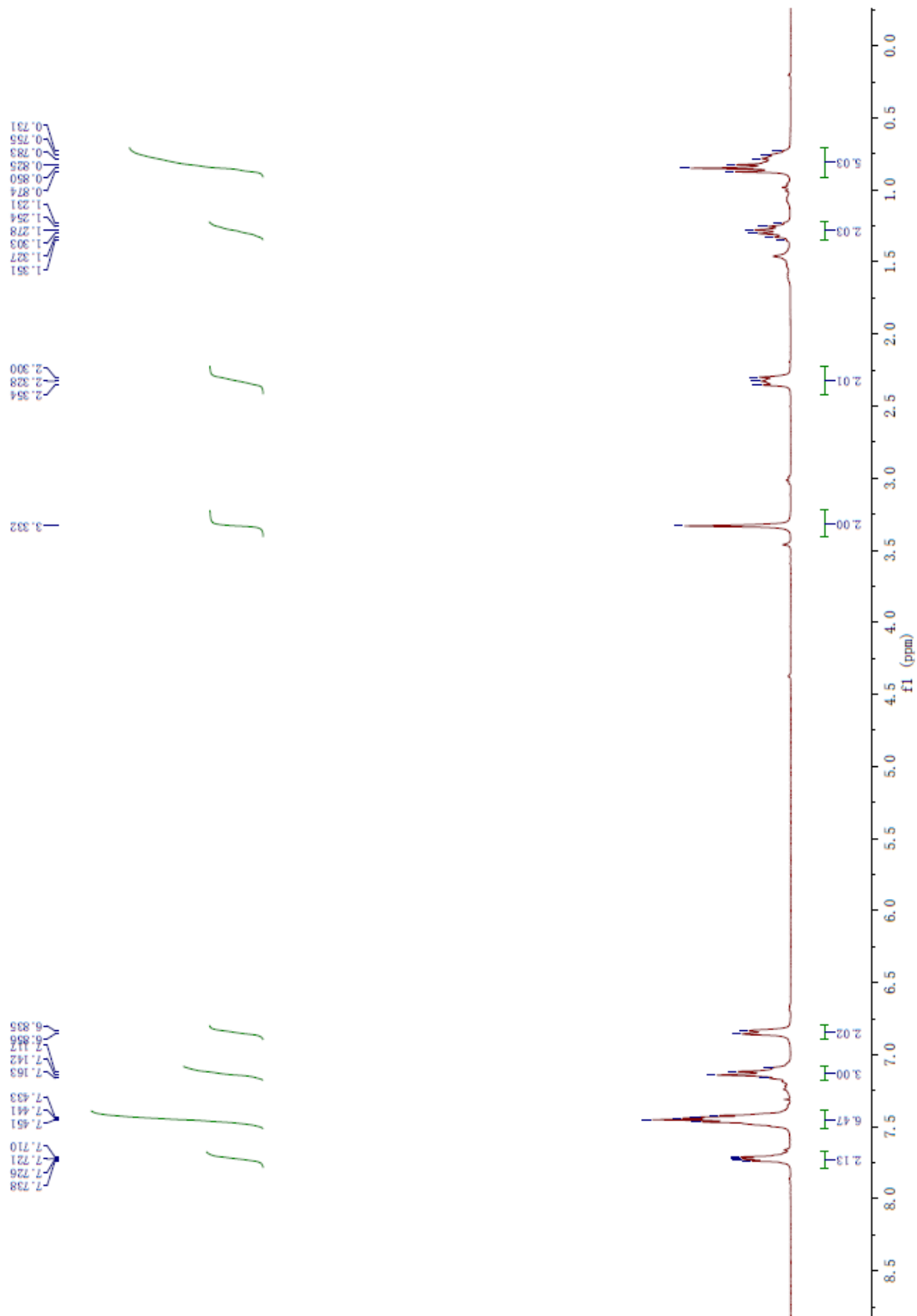


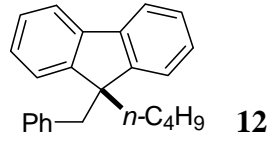
¹³C NMR



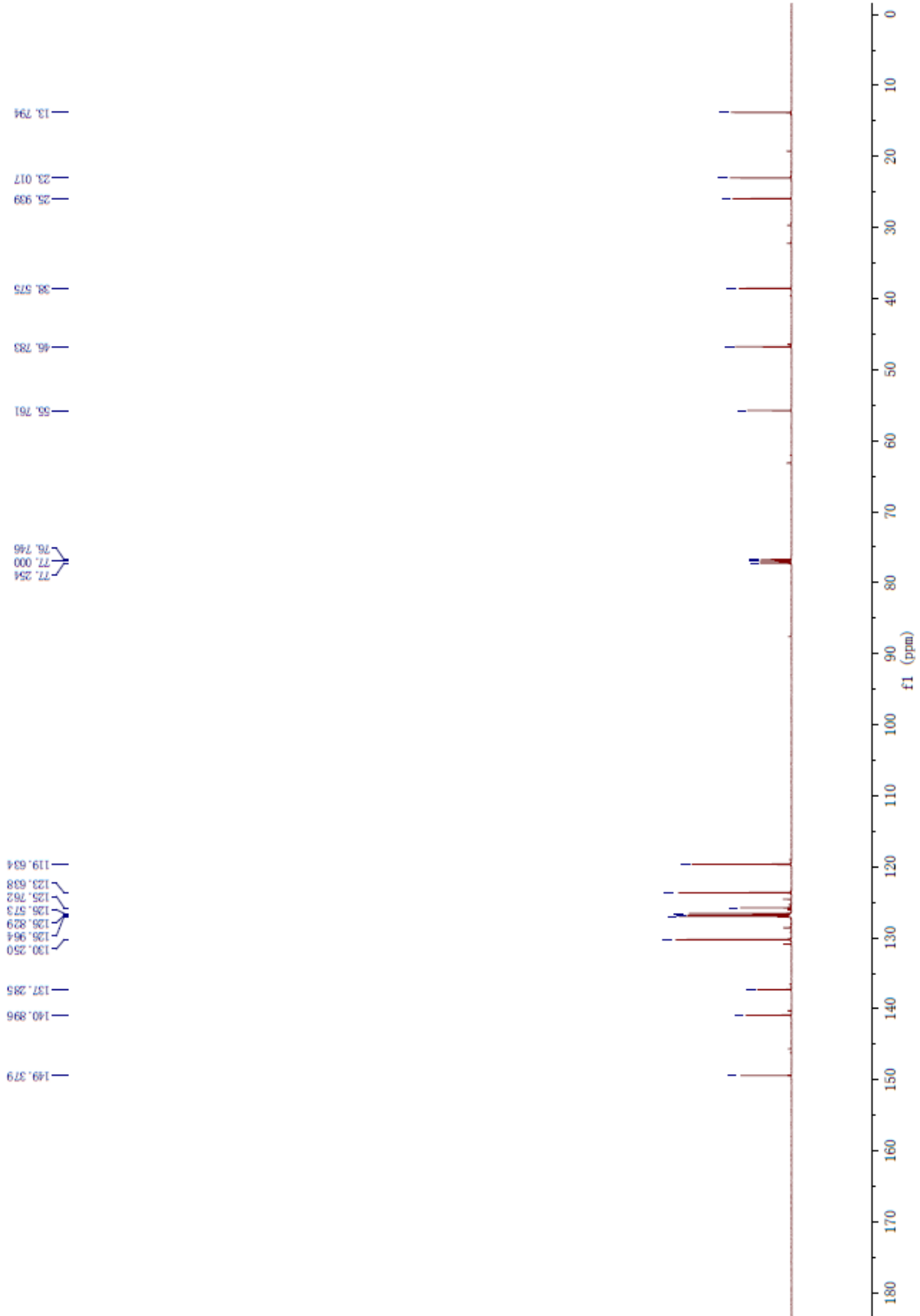


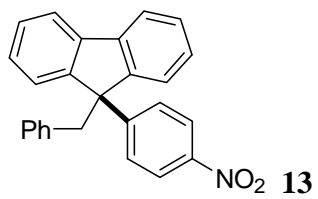
$^1\text{H NMR}$



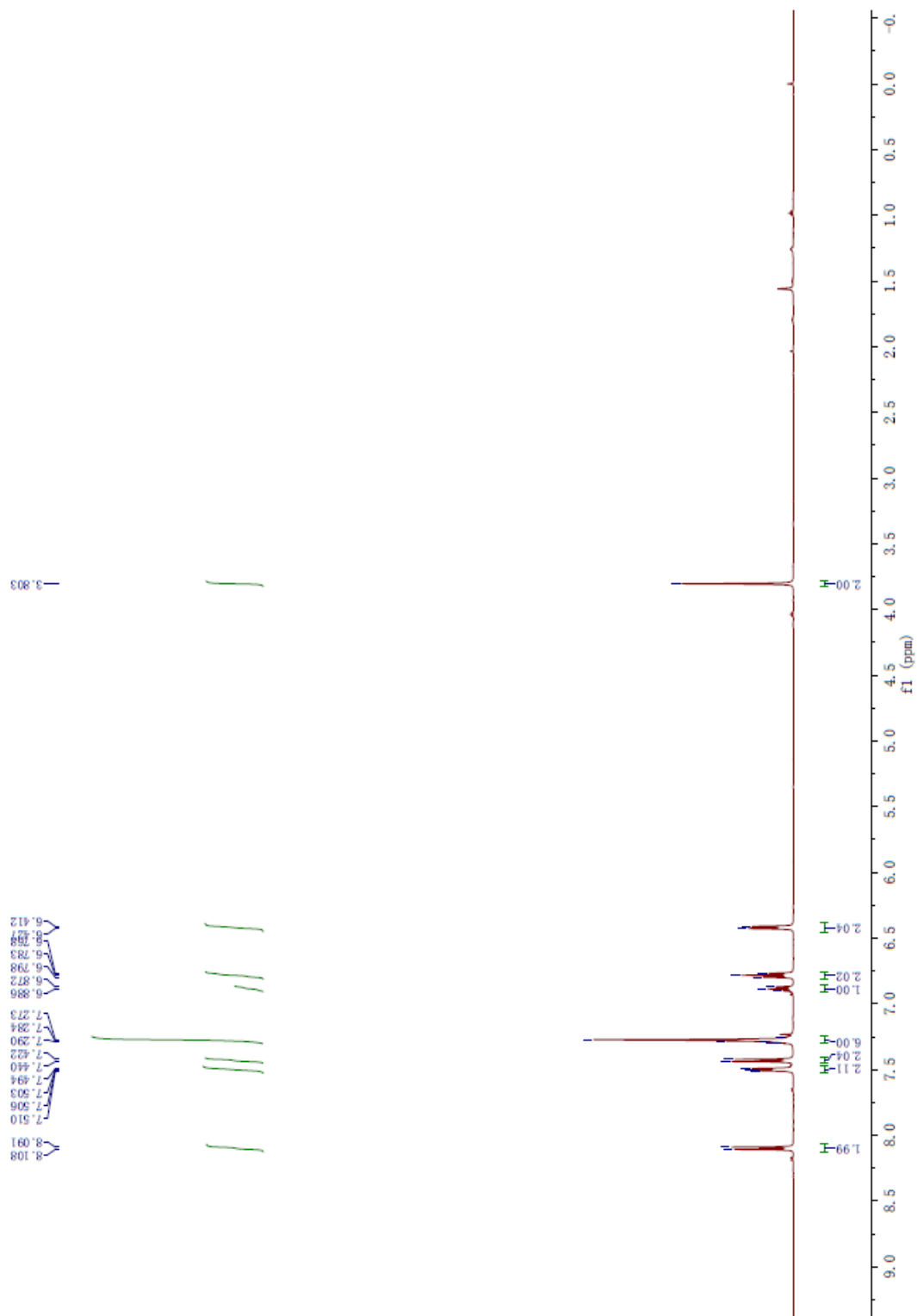


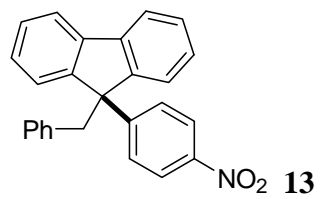
¹³C NMR





¹H NMR





^{13}C NMR

