

Efficient synthesis of 2-acylquinolines based on an aza-vinylogous Povarov reaction

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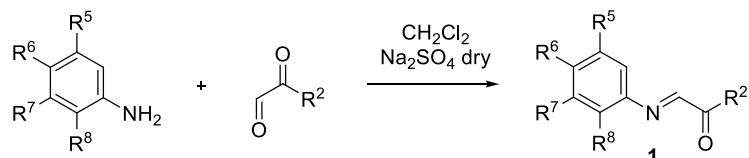
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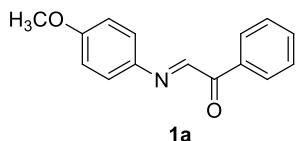
EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

1. Synthesis of imines

1.1 Synthesis of α -ketoimines 1a-h

Cmpd.	R ²	R ⁵	R ⁶	R ⁷	R ⁸
1a	C ₆ H ₅	H	4-OCH ₃	H	H
1b	4-FC ₆ H ₄	H	4-OCH ₃	H	H
1c	4-OCH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	H	4-OCH ₃	H	H
1d	4-FC ₆ H ₄	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H
1e	C ₆ H ₅	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃
1f	OEt	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃
1g	OEt	H	4-OCH ₃	H	H
1h	2-furyl	H	4-OCH ₃	H	H

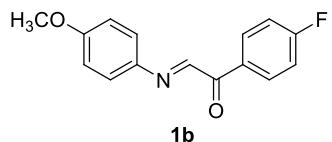
A solution of aniline (1 eq) and aldehyde (1 eq) in CH₂Cl₂ was stirred vigorously in the presence of anhydrous Na₂SO₄ (5 g) for 30 minutes and the filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure affording the desired imines, which were used in the following reactions without further purification. Some commercially available glyoxals (4-methoxyphenyl and 4-fluorophenyl) are available as hydrates containing an unknown amount of water so the amount of aldehyde used in these cases was optimized by gradual addition of the glyoxal reagent until no aniline was detected by ¹H-NMR.

2-(4-Methoxyphenylimino)-1-phenylethanone (1a)¹

¹**H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 6.96 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-5); 7.40 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H, H-2 and H-6); 7.49-7.58 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.62 (m, 1H, H-4'); 8.27-8.31 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'); 8.35 (s, 1H, CH=N). ¹³**C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ : 55.8 (OCH₃); 114.9 (C-3 and C-5); 123.8 (C-2 and C-6); 128.6 (C-2' and C-6'); 130.9 (C-3' and C-5'); 133.7 (C-4'); 135.8 (C-1'); 141.9 (C-1); 154.4 (CH=N); 160.8 (C-4); 191.1 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 1653.7 (C=O), 1595.9 (C=N) cm⁻¹.

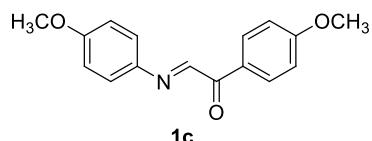
¹ S. A. Kunzi; B. Morandi and E. Carreira, *Org. Lett.*, 2012, **14**, 1900.

1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenylimino)ethanone (1b)¹



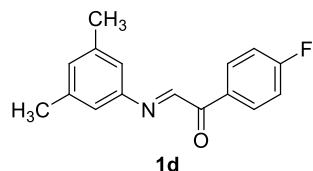
¹**H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 3.86 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 6.97 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-5); 7.17 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.40 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, H-2 and H-6); 8.31 (s, 1H, CH=N); 8.39 (dd, J = 9.0, 5.6 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). ¹³**C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 55.9 (OCH₃); 115.0 (C-3 and C-5); 115.9 (d, J = 23.5 Hz, C-3' and C-5'); 123.9 (C-2 and C-6); 132.1 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, C-1'); 133.8 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, C-2' and C-6'); 141.7 (C-1); 154.4 (CH=N); 161.0 (C-4); 166.4 (d, J = 280.4 Hz, C-4'); 189.6 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν: 1654.9 (C=O), 1599.5 (C=N) cm⁻¹.

1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenylimino)ethanone (1c)¹



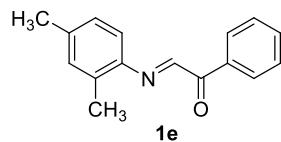
¹**H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 6.96 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-5); 6.98 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.39 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, H-2 and H-6); 8.33 (s, 1H, CH=N); 8.35 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). ¹³**C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 55.8 (OCH₃); 55.8 (OCH₃); 114.0 (C-3' and C-5'); 114.9 (C-3 and C-5); 123.7 (C-2 and C-6); 128.7 (C-1'); 133.4 (C-2' and C-6'); 142.1 (C-1); 155.1 (CH=N); 160.6 (C-4); 164.3 (C-4'); 189.3 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν: 1670.1 (C=O), 1597.7 (C=N) cm⁻¹.

2-(3,5-Dimethylphenylimino)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanone (1d)



¹**H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 2.37 (s, 6H, 2 x CH₃); 6.96 (s, 2H, H-2 and H-6); 7.01 (s, 1H, H-4); 7.18 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 8.26 (s, 1H, CH=N); 8.40 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). ¹³**C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 21.6 (2 x CH₃); 116.0 (d, J = 24.1 Hz, C-3' and C-5'); 119.5 (C-2 and C-6); 130.7 (C-4); 131.8 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, C-1'); 133.8 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, C-2' and C-6'); 139.5 (C-3 and C-5); 149.3 (C-1); 157.0 (CH=N); 166.4 (d, J = 281.5 Hz, C-4'); 189.4 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν: 1654.4 (C=O), 1598.0 (C=N) cm⁻¹.

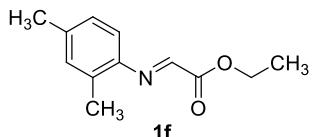
2-(2,4-Dimethylphenylimino)-1-phenylethanone (1e)



¹**H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 2.36 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.40 (s, 3H, CH₃); 6.98-7.11 (m, 3H, H-3, H-5 and H-6); 7.47-7.54 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.61 (m, 1H, H-4'); 8.23 (s, 1H, CH=N); 8.33-8.36 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). ¹³**C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 18.3 (CH₃);

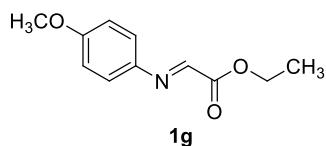
21.2 (CH₃); 116.9 (C-6); 127.7 (C-5); 128.4 (C-2' and C-6'); 130.8 (C-3' and C-5'); 131.7 (C-3); 133.5 (C-4'); 134.3 (C-2); 135.5 (C-4); 138.8 (C-1'); 145.7 (C-1); 155.6 (CH=N); 191.2 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2924.7 (C-H), 1649.3 (C=O), 1580.8 (C=N) cm⁻¹.

Ethyl 2-(2,4-dimethylphenylimino)acetate (1f)



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 1.41 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); 2.33 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.35 (s, 3H, CH₃); 4.41 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, OCH₂CH₃); 6.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H-6); 7.00 (m, 1H, H-5); 7.06 (s, 1H, H-3); 7.81 (s, 1H, CH=N). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ : 14.3 (OCH₂CH₃); 17.9 (CH₃); 21.2 (CH₃); 63.0 (OCH₂CH₃); 117.2 (C-6); 127.4 (C-5); 131.6 (C-3); 133.4 (C-4); 138.3 (C-2); 146.0 (C-1); 150.1 (CH=N); 163.5 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2922.4 (C-H), 1741.8 (C=O), 1624.3 (C=N) cm⁻¹.

Ethyl 2-(4-methoxyphenylimino)acetate (1g)¹



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 1.35 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); 3.77 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 4.35 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, OCH₂CH₃); 6.88 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-5); 7.32 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H-2 and H-6); 7.89 (CH=N). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ : 15.5 (OCH₂CH₃); 55.8 (OCH₃); 62.2 (OCH₂CH₃); 114.8 (C-3 and C-5); 124.0 (C-2 and C-6); 141.6 (C-1); 148.3 (CH=N); 160.9 (C-4); 163.9 (CO₂Et). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2838.4 (C-H), 1740.1 (C=O), 1622.5 (C=N) cm⁻¹.

1-(2-Furyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenylimino)ethanone (1h)

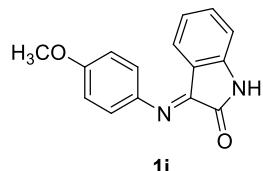


¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 6.65 (dd, J = 3.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H, H-4'); 7.01 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-5); 7.44 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, H-2 and H-6); 7.78 (dd, J = 1.6, 0.7 Hz, 1H, H-5'); 8.00 (dd, J = 3.5, 0.7 Hz, 1H, H-3'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ : 55.5 (OCH₃); 112.5 (C-4'); 114.6 (C-3 and C-5); 123.1 (C-3'); 123.7 (C-2 and C-6); 141.3 (C-1); 147.9 (C-5'); 150.6 (C-2'); 153.0 (CH=N); 160.7 (C-4); 177.6 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2854.3 (C-H), 1642.4 (C=O); 1578.2 (C=N) cm⁻¹.

1.2 Synthesis of α -ketoimines 1i-j

A solution of *p*-anisidine (1 eq) and the corresponding isatin (1 eq) in EtOH and acetic acid (0.2 mL) was refluxed until the starting material disappeared. The reaction mixture was kept at room temperature overnight. The resultant solid was filtrated and washed with cold ethanol affording imines 1i-j.

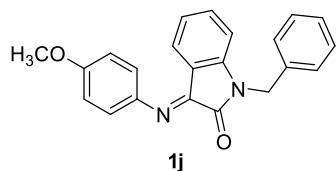
3-(4-Methoxyphenylimino)indolin-2-one (1i)²



1i

Reaction time: 3 h. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 6.82 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H-5); 6.91-7.16 (m, 6H, H-4, H-7, H-2', H-3', H-5' and H-6'); 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H-6); 9.28 (bs, 1H, NH).

1-Benzyl-3-(4-methoxyphenylimino)indolin-2-one (1j)

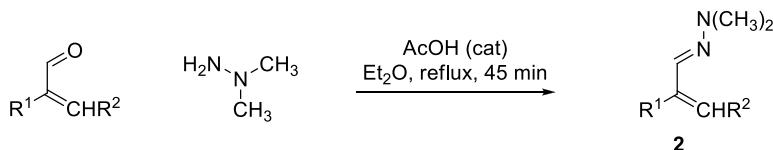


1j

Reaction time: 2 h. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 5.02 (s, 2H, CH₂); 6.69-6.80 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 6.93-7.00 (m, 3H, H-2', H-6' and H-5); 7.04-7.09 (m, 2H, H-2'' and H-6''); 7.19-7.38 (m, 6H, H-4, H-6, H-7, H-3'', H-4'', H-5''). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ : 44.1 (CH₂); 55.6 (OCH₃); 110.4 (C-7); 114.7 (C-3' and C-5'); 116.1 (C-3a); 120.3 (C-2' and C-6'); 122.7 (C-5); 125.8 (C-4); 127.6 (C-2'' and C-6''); 128.0 (C-4''); 129.0 (C-3'' and C-5''); 133.9 (C-6); 135.3 (C-1''); 143.2 (C-1'); 147.1 (C-7a); 153.8 (C-4'); 158.0 (C-3); 163.7 (CO).

² K. M. Khan, U. R. Mughal, S. S. Perveen and M. I. Choudhary, *Lett. Drug Design Discov.* 2008, **5**, 243.

2. Synthesis of α,β -unsaturated *N,N*-dimethylhydrazones 2a-e



Hydrazone	R ¹	R ²	Yield (%)
2a	CH ₃	H	95
2b	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	90
2c	H	H	95
2d	H	CH ₂ CH ₃	95
2e	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	90

To a stirred solution of the corresponding acrolein derivative (1 eq, 60 mmol) in diethyl ether (50 mL) was added *N,N*-dimethylhydrazine (2 eq, 120 mmol) and acetic acid (1 mL) dropwise and the resulting yellow solution was reflux for 45 minutes. After cooling at room temperature, it was washed successively with saturated NaHCO₃ (2 x 50 mL) and water (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvent was evaporated on a water bath keeping the temperature below 60°C, to avoid volatilization of the resulting hydrazone. The crude product thus obtained was used in subsequent reactions with no further purification.

Spectral data of compounds **2** were in agreement with those reported in the literature.^{3,4,5,6}

³ E. Gómez-Bengoa and A. M. Echavarren, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1991, **56**, 3497.

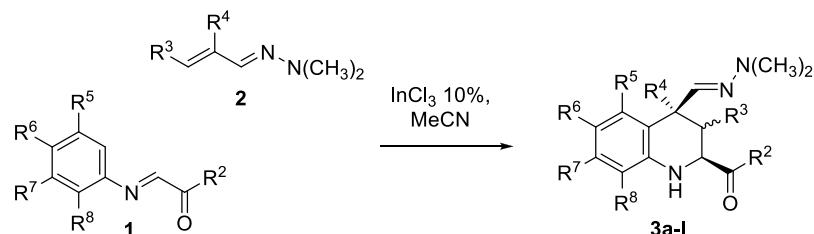
⁴ R. Habernegg, *Chem. Ber.*, 1986, **119**, 2397

⁵ A. Waldner, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 1988, **71**, 486.

⁶ J. M. Pérez, C. Avendaño and J. C. Menéndez, *Tetrahedron*, 1995, **51**, 6573.

3. Synthesis of tetrahydroquinoline derivatives 3a-I

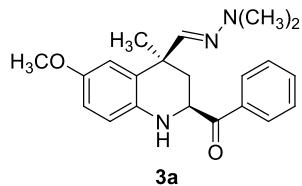
3.1 Synthesis of 2-acyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline derivatives 3a-I



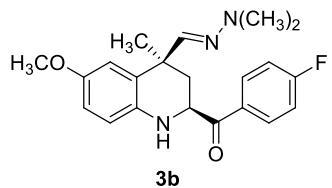
To a stirred solution of imine **1** (1 eq, 1.0 mmol) and InCl_3 (10 mol %) in acetonitrile (20 ml) was added hydrazone **2** (1.2 eq, 1.2 mmol). Stirring was continued for the time period specified in the compound data sheet and after completion of the reaction, as indicated by TLC, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (10 ml), extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (4×10 ml), dried and evaporated. Purification of the resulting crude was achieved through flash chromatography using a Combiflash Teledyne automated chromatograph, eluting with a gradient from neat petroleum ether to 9:1 petroleum ether-ethyl acetate. This purification afforded *cis-trans* mixtures, with the dr values specified in the table below, which were used as such for the subsequent reactions. The major *cis* isomers were isolated and characterized in most cases, and to this end the mixtures were purified by silica gel column chromatography, using the mixture of solvents specified in each case.

Cmpd.	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	R ⁶	R ⁷	R ⁸	Yield 3 (%)	Cis : Trans
3a	C_6H_5	H	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H	72	82 : 18 ^a
3b	4-FC ₆ H ₄	H	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H	75	84 : 16 ^a
3c	4-OCH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	H	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H	70	83 : 17 ^a
3d	C_6H_5	H	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H	63	91 : 09 ^a
3e	C_6H_5	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	95	98 : 02 ^a
3f	4-FC ₆ H ₄	H	CH ₃	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	50	50 : 50 ^a
3g	OEt	H	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H	88	100 : 0 ^a
3h	OEt	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	86	84 : 16 ^a
3i	OEt	H	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H	74	87 : 13 ^a
3j	2-furyl	H	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H	88	100 : 0 ^a
3k	C_6H_5	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H	66	50 : 50 ^b
3l	C_6H_5	H	H	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H	72	100 : 0 ^a
3m	C_6H_5	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H	73	57 : 43 ^b

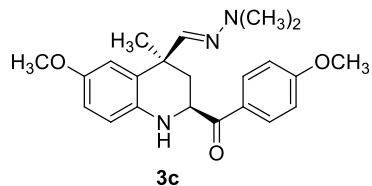
^aCis:trans diastereoselection in 2,4-disubstituted compounds. ^bThe C-2 and C-4 substituents are *cis*, and the group at C-3 can be *cis* or *trans* with regard to them with no selectivity.

(\pm)-(2*S*^{*,4*S*^{*})-2-Benzoyl-4-[(2,2-dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (3a)}

Reaction time: 3 h. Purification of the *cis* isomer: chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (10:1, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 130–131 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.65 (s, 3H, CH_3); 1.73 (t, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.07 (dd, J = 13.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.72 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.60 (br s, 1H, NH); 5.09 (dd, J = 12.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.53 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$); 6.64–6.66 (m, 1H, H-5); 6.70–6.73 (m, 2H, H-7 and H-8); 7.49 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.61 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H, H-4'); 7.92–7.98 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 26.6 (CH_3); 39.2 (C-3); 41.4 (C-4); 43.6 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 54.6 (C-2); 56.1 (OCH_3); 113.8 (C-5); 113.9 (C-7); 117.4 (C-8); 128.5 (C-4a); 128.6 (C-2' and C-6'); 129.2 (C-3' and C-5'); 133.9 (C-4'); 135.0 (C-1'); 136.8 (C-8a); 143.6 ($\text{CH}=\text{N}$); 152.5 (C-6); 199.9 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3370.9 (N-H), 2954.1 (C-H), 1685.3 (C=O), 1597.0 (C=N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ ($M = 351.44$): C, 71.77; H, 7.17; N, 11.96. Found: C, 71.48; H, 7.03; N, 11.80.

(\pm)-(2*S*^{*,4*S*^{*})-4-[(2,2-Dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-2-(4-fluorobenzoyl)-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (3b)}

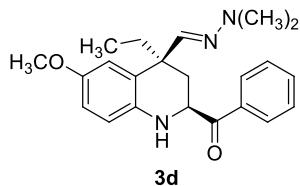
Purification of the *cis* isomer: chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (20:1, v/v). Reaction time: 3 h. Yellow solid, mp: 121–122 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.63 (s, 3H, CH_3); 1.74 (t, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.04 (dd, J = 13.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.72 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 5.04 (dd, J = 12.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.53 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$); 6.64–6.66 (m, 1H, H-5); 6.70–6.72 (m, 2H, H-7 and H-8); 7.17 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.98 (dd, J = 8.8, 5.4 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 26.7 (CH_3); 39.3 (C-3); 41.3 (C-4); 43.6 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 54.6 (C-2); 56.1 (OCH_3); 113.9 (C-5); 114.0 (C-7); 116.4 (d, J = 24.1 Hz, C-3' and C-5'); 117.5 (C-8); 128.6 (C-4a); 131.3 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, C-2' and C-6'); 131.3 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, C-1'); 136.7 (C-8a); 143.1 ($\text{CH}=\text{N}$); 152.6 (C-6); 166.2 (d, J = 280.8 Hz, C-4'); 198.3 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3358.2 (N-H), 2960.2 (C-H), 1686.1 (C=O), 1597.4 (C=N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_2$ ($M = 369.43$): C, 68.27; H, 6.55; N, 11.37. Found: C, 68.53; H, 6.29; N, 10.98.

(\pm)-(2*S*^{*,4*S*^{*})-4-[(2,2-Dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-6-methoxy-2-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (3c)}

Reaction time: 3 h. Purification of the *cis* isomer: chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (20:1, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 127–128 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.64 (s, 3H, CH_3); 1.72 (t, J = 12.7 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.06 (dd, J = 13.0, 2.8

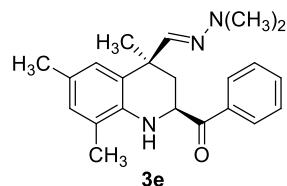
Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.73 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂); 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 3.88 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 4.58 (bs, 1H, NH); 5.04 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.53 (s, 1H, CH=N); 6.63-6.66 (m, 1H, H-5); 6.69-6.73 (m, 2H, H-7 and H-8); 6.96 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.94 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ : 26.5 (CH₃); 39.5 (C-3); 41.4 (C-4); 43.6 (N(CH₃)₂); 54.1 (C-2); 55.9 (OCH₃); 56.1 (OCH₃); 113.9 (C-5); 113.9 (C-7); 114.4 (C-3' and C-5'); 117.5 (C-8); 127.8 (C-1'); 128.6 (C-4a); 131.0 (C-2' and C-6'); 137.0 (C-8a); 143.4 (CH=N); 152.5 (C-6); 164.1 (C-4'); 198.2 (CO). IR (NaCl) ν : 3375.9 (N-H), 2960.7 (C-H), 1676.3 (C=O), 1600.5 (C=N) cm⁻¹. Elemental analysis (%): Calc. for C₂₂H₂₇N₃O₃ (M = 381.47): C, 69.27; H, 7.13; N, 11.02. Found: C, 68.90; H, 6.90; N, 10.77.

(±)-(2S*,4S*)-2-Benzoyl-4-[(2,2-dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-4-ethyl-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (3d)

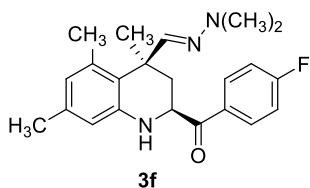


Reaction time: 3 h. Purification of the *cis* isomer: chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (20:1, v/v). Orange oil. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH₂CH₃); 1.71 (t, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.06 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H, CH₂CH₃); 2.23 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 3.3 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.69 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂); 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 5.05 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 3.3 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.51 (s, 1H, CH=N); 6.68 (m, 3H, H-7, H-5 and H-8); 7.45-7.51 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.56-7.59 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.93 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ : 9.3 (CH₂CH₃); 30.8 (CH₂CH₃); 35.2 (C-3); 43.3 (N(CH₃)₂); 43.8 (C-4); 54.1 (C-2); 56.0 (OCH₃); 113.3 (C-5); 114.5 (C-7); 116.8 (C-8); 127.4 (C-4a); 128.3 (C-2' and C-6'); 129.0 (C-3' and C-5'); 133.6 (C-4'); 135.2 (C-1'); 136.9 (C-8a); 141.2 (CH=N); 151.8 (C-6); 200.4 (C=O). IR (NaCl) ν : 3375 (N-H), 2925 (C-H), 1620 (C=N) cm⁻¹. Elemental analysis (%): Calc. for C₂₂H₂₇N₃O₂ (M= 365.47): C, 72.30; H, 7.45; N, 11.50. Found: C, 72.01; H, 7.23; N, 11.25.

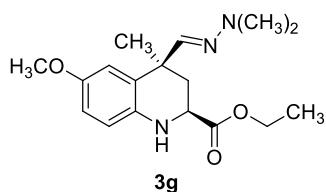
(±)-(2S*,4S*)-2-Benzoyl-4-[(2,2-dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-4,6,8-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (3e)



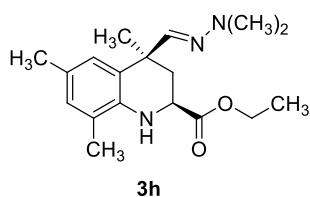
Reaction time: 4 h. Purification of the *cis* isomer: chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (20:1, v/v). White solid, mp: 136-138 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 1.64-1.74 (m, 4H, CH₃ and H-3ax); 2.06 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 2.9 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.21 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.22 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.73 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂); 4.57 (s, 1H, NH); 5.13 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.55 (s, 1H, CH=N); 6.75 (s, 1H, H-7); 6.82 (s, 1H, H-5); 7.47-7.51 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.53-7.61 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.94-7.97 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ : 17.7 (ArCH₃); 20.6 (ArCH₃); 26.3 (CH₃); 39.0 (C-3); 41.1 (C-4); 43.5 (N(CH₃)₂); 54.4 (C-2); 123.4 (C-4a); 126.2 (C-5); 126.4 (C-8); 126.4 (C-6); 128.5 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.0 (C-2' and C-6'); 129.7 (C-7); 133.7 (C-4'); 134.8 (C-1'); 138.2 (C-8a); 143.9 (CH=N); 199.7 (C=O). IR (NaCl) ν : 3346.8 (N-H), 2918.2 (C-H), 1627.5 (C=N) cm⁻¹. Elemental analysis (%): Calc. for C₂₂H₂₇N₃O (M= 349.47): C, 75.61; H, 7.79; N, 12.02. Found: C, 75.31; H, 7.79; N, 11.90.

(\pm)-(2S*,4S*)-4-[(2,2-Dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-2-(4-fluorobenzoyl)-4,5,7-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (3f).

Reaction time: 5 h. Purification of the *cis* isomer: chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (20:1, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 145–147 °C. **$^1\text{H-NMR}$** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.66 (t, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 1.72 (s, 3H, CH_3); 1.91 (dd, J = 12.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.21 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.22 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.71 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 4.99 (dd, J = 12.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.37 (s, 1H, H-8); 6.47 (s, 1H, H-6); 6.62 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$); 7.18 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.99 (dd, J = 8.8, 5.4 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 21.1 (CH_3); 22.2 (CH_3); 23.4 (CH_3); 41.3 (C-4); 42.2 (C-3); 43.5 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 53.9 (C-2); 114.8 (C-8); 116.4 (d, J = 24.0 Hz, C-3' and C-5'); 121.5 (C-4a); 122.9 (C-6); 131.2 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, C-1'); 131.3 (d, J = 10.1 Hz, C-2' and C-6'); 137.6 (C-7); 137.7 (C-5); 143.5 (C-8a); 145.3 ($\text{CH}=\text{N}$); 166.2 (d, J = 280.6 Hz, C-4'); 197.9 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3332.4 (N-H), 2961.6 (C-H), 1686.9 (C=O), 1596.8 (C=N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{FN}_3\text{O}$ (M = 367.46): C, 71.91; H, 7.13; N, 11.44. Found: C, 71.79; H, 6.88; N, 11.05.

(\pm)-(2S*,4S*)-Ethyl 4-[(2,2-dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-2-carboxylate (3g)

Reaction time: 2 h. Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Pale yellow viscous liquid. Spectra data are identical to those found in the literature.⁷ **$^1\text{H-NMR}$** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.34 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); 1.52 (s, 3H, CH_3); 1.98 (t, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.12 (dd, J = 12.9, 3.3 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.80 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 3.74 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.14 (dd, J = 11.6, 3.2 Hz, 1H, H-2); 4.28 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H, OCH_2CH_3); 4.29 (bs, 1H, NH); 6.60–6.73 (m, 4H, H-5, H-7, H-8 and $\text{CH}=\text{N}$).

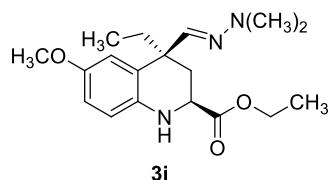
(\pm)-(2S*,4S*)-Ethyl 4-[(2,2-dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-4,6,8-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-2-carboxylate (3h).

Reaction time: 2 h. Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (10:1, v/v). Yellow oil, consisting of a *ca.* 9:1 mixture of the *cis* and *trans* diastereomers. Spectral data correspond to the major *cis* compound. **$^1\text{H-NMR}$** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.34 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); 1.51 (s, 3H, CH_3); 1.93 (t, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.10 (dd, J = 13.2, 4.0 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.18 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.21 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.79 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 4.19 (m, 1H, H-2); 4.24–4.32 (m, 3H, OCH_2CH_3 and NH); 6.64 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$); 6.75 (s, 1H, H-7); 6.79 (s, 1H, H-5). **$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 14.3 (CH_2CH_3); 17.4 (ArCH_3);

⁷ V. Sridharan, P. Ribelles, V. Estévez, M. Villacampa, M. T. Ramos, P. T. Perumal and J. C. Menéndez. *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2012, **18**, 5056.

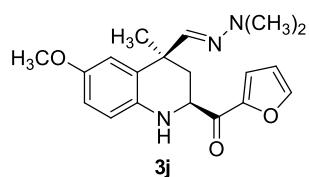
20.5 (ArCH₃); 26.8 (CH₃); 37.3 (C-3); 40.2 (C-4); 43.5 (N(CH₃)₂); 51.1 (C-2); 61.5 (CH₂CH₃); 122.2 (C-4a); 126.1 (C-8); 126.3 (C-6); 126.4 (C-5); 129.6 (C-7); 138.1 (C-8a); 144.3 (CH=N); 173.6 (C=O). IR (NaCl) ν : 3405 (N-H), 2930 (C-H), 1730 (C=O) cm⁻¹. Elemental analysis (%): Calc. for C₁₈H₂₇N₃O₂ (M= 317.43): C, 68.11; H, 8.57; N, 13.24. Found: C, 67.98; H, 8.32; N, 12.99.

(\pm)-(2*S*^{*},4*S*^{*})-Ethyl-4-[(2,2-dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-4-ethyl-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-2-carboxylate (3i)



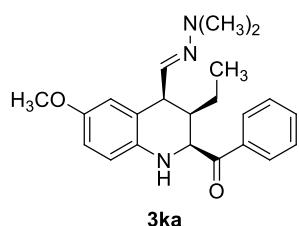
Reaction time: 2 h. Purification of the *cis* isomer: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (10:1, v/v). Orange oil. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H, 2 x CH₃); 1.81-2.0 (m, 3H, CH₂CH₃ and H-3ax); 2.29 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 3.6 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.75 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂); 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 4.08 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 3.6 Hz, 1H, H-2); 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H, OCH₂CH₃); 6.55-6.68 (m, 4H, H-5, H-7, H-8 and CH=N). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ : 8.8 (CH₂CH₃); 14.3 (OCH₂CH₃); 33.4 (C-3 and CH₂CH₃); 43.1 (C-4); 43.4 (N(CH₃)₂); 51.0 (OCH₃); 55.9 (C-2); 61.5 (CH₂CH₃); 113.2 (C-5); 114.3 (C-7); 115.9 (C-8); 127.3 (C-4a); 136.6 (C-8a); 141.8 (CH=N); 151.8 (C-6); 173.8 (C=O). IR (NaCl) ν : 3395.4 (N-H), 2927.3 (C-H), 1743.8 (C=O), 1117.3 (C-O) cm⁻¹. This compound was contaminated with *ca.* 13% of the corresponding quinoline 4i and could not be purified further.

(\pm)-(2*S*^{*},4*S*^{*})-4-[(2,2-Dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-2-(2-furylcarbonyl)-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (3j)



Reaction time: 3 h. Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 113-114 °C. Spectra data are identical to those found in the literature.⁷ ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 1.64 (s, 3H, CH₃); 1.86 (t, *J* = 12.3, 1H, H-3ax); 2.22 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 3.0 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.77 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂); 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 4.87 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 2.9 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.58-6.62 (m, 2H, H-4' and CH=N); 6.66-6.73 (m, 3H, H-5, H-7 and H-8); 7.34 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 0.5 Hz, 1H, H-3'); 7.65 (dd, *J* = 1.6, 0.7 Hz, 1H, H-5').

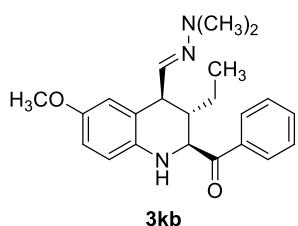
(\pm)-(2*S*^{*},3*R*^{*},4*S*^{*})-2-Benzoyl-4-[(2,2-dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-3-ethyl-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (3ka)



Reaction time: 1.30 h. Purification of the (2*S*^{*},3*R*^{*},4*S*^{*}) isomer (**3ka**) was achieved by flash chromatography eluting with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (97:3, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 79-81 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 0.67 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH₂CH₃); 0.97-1.05 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₃); 2.80-2.87 (m, 7H, N(CH₃)₂ and H-3); 3.61 (bs, 1H, H-4); 3.77 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 4.69 (br s,

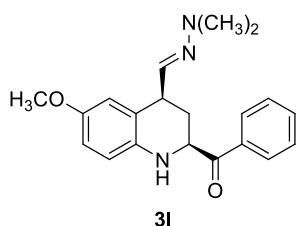
1H, NH); 5.17 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.72-6.73 (m, 3H, H-5, H-7 and H-8); 6.85 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH=N); 7.49 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.58-7.61 (m, 1H, H-4'); 8.20 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 11.9 (CH₃); 19.9 (CH₂); 37.8 (C-3); 43.4 (N(CH₃)₂); 44.2 (C-4); 55.9 (OCH₃); 57.6 (C-2); 114.1 (C-5*); 115.5 (C-7*); 116.6 (C-8*); 121.0 (C-4a); 128.7 (C-3' and C-5'); 128.8 (C-2' and C-6'); 133.5 (C-4'); 135.0 (C-1'); 136.9 (C-8a); 140.3 (CH=N); 152.1 (C-6); 200.1 (C=O). IR (NaCl) ν : 3375.5 (N-H), 2914.7 (C-H), 1677.2 (C=O), 1502.2 (C=N) cm⁻¹. **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for C₂₂H₂₇N₃O₂ (M = 365.47): C, 72.30; H, 7.45; N, 11.50. Found: C, 72.42; H, 7.29; N, 11.29.

(\pm)-(2*S*^{*},3*S*^{*},4*S*^{*})-2-Benzoyl-4-[(2,2-dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-3-ethyl-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (3kb)



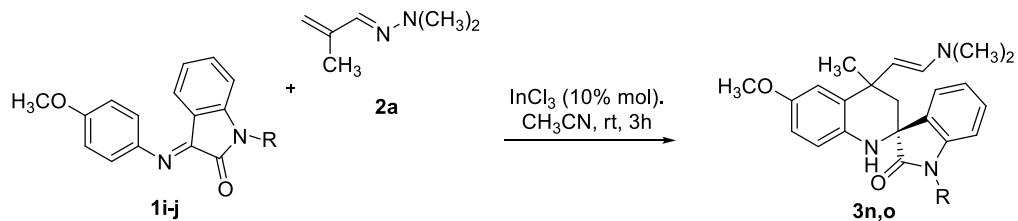
Purification of the (2*S*^{*},3*S*^{*},4*S*^{*}) isomer (**3kb**) was achieved by flash chromatography, eluting with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (97:3, v/v), afforded a yellow solid that was judged to be sufficiently pure for NOE studies. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.09 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH₂CH₃); 1.55-1.70 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₃); 2.49 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂); 2.57-2.61 (m, 1H, H-3); 3.43 (dd, J = 6.1, 3.8 Hz, 1H, H-4); 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 4.74 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.26 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.59 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H, H-5); 6.68-6.70 (m, 2H, H-7 and CH=N); 7.45-7.46 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.49-7.57 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.90-7.94 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 12.2 (CH₃); 26.9 (CH₂); 42.1 (C-3); 43.2 (N(CH₃)₂); 45.3 (C-4); 56.1 (OCH₃); 59.1 (C-2); 114.3 (C-5*); 115.3 (C-7*); 116.2 (C-8*); 121.4 (C-4a); 128.6 (C-3' and C-5'); 128.9 (C-2' and C-6'); 133.4 (C-4'); 135.6 (C-1'); 137.1 (C-8a); 140.2 (CH=N); 152.4 (C-6); 202.0 (C=O). IR (NaCl) ν : 3375.2 (N-H), 2929.1 (C-H), 1682.8 (C=O), 1501.4 (C=N) cm⁻¹.

(\pm)-(2*S*^{*},4*S*^{*})-2-Benzoyl-4-[(2,2-dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (3l)



Reaction time: 1 h. Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Red solid, mp: 95-97 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.64 (q, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.39 (ddd, J = 12.7, 5.5, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.77 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂); 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 3.96 (m, 1H, H-4); 4.61 (bs, 1H, NH); 5.0 (dd, J = 12.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.42 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.66 (m, 1H, H-5); 6.72-6.73 (m, 2H, H-7 and CH=N); 7.43-7.55 (m, 2H; H-3' and H-5'); 7.61 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.93-7.96 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 33.0 (C-3); 41.9 (C-4); 43.3 (N(CH₃)₂); 56.0 (OCH₃); 57.0 (C-2); 114.0 (C-5); 114.1 (C-7); 117.1 (C-8); 123.1 (C-4a); 128.5 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.0 (C-2' and C-6'); 133.7 (C-4'); 134.7 (C-1'); 137.4 (C-8a); 139.1 (CH=N); 152.3 (C-6); 199.3 (C=O). IR (NaCl) ν : 3300.5 (N-H), 2949.1 (C-H), 1683.1 (C=O), 1503.0 (C=N) cm⁻¹. **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for C₂₀H₂₃N₃O₂ (M = 337.42): C, 71.19; H, 6.87; N, 12.45. Found: C, 70.86; H, 6.57; N, 12.25.

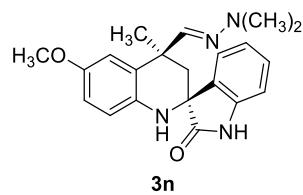
3.2 Synthesis of spiro[indoline-3,2'-quinoline] derivatives 3n and 3o



The reaction conditions are the same described in section 3.1 above.

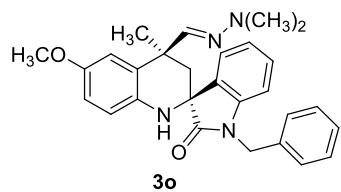
Cmpd.	R	Yield (%)	dr
3o	H	51	1:0
3n	Bn	44	1:0

(±)-(2'S*,4'S*) 4'-[(-(2,2-Dimethylhydrazone)-methyl]-6'-methoxy-4'-methyl-3',4'-dihydro-1'H-spiro[indoline-3,2'-quinolin]-2-one (3n)



Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Orange solid, mp: 168-170 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 1.58 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.25 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H, H-3'); 2.60 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂); 2.61 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H, H-3'); 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 3.91 (bs, 1H, NH); 6.57 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H, H-8'); 6.68 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7'); 6.71 (s, 1H, H-5'); 6.84-6.89 (m, 3H, H-4, H-5 and CH=N*); 7.07 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H, H-7*); 7.16 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H-6*). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 29.3 (CH₃); 39.6 (C-4'); 43.2 (N(CH₃)₂); 43.6 (C-3'); 55.8 (OCH₃); 60.9 (C-2'); 110.2 (C-5'*); 113.1 (C-7'*); 113.9 (C-8'*); 116.7 (C-7*); 122.4 (C-4*); 125.6 (C-6*); 129.0 (C-5 and C-4a'); 133.3 (C-8a'*); 136.4 (C-7a*); 139.9 (C-3a*); 143.7 (CH=N); 153.2 (C-6'); 181.1 (C=O). IR (NaCl) ν: 3177.1 (N-H), 2920.9 (C-H), 1713.5 (C=O) cm⁻¹. Elemental analysis (%): Calc. for C₂₁H₂₄N₄O₂ (M = 364.44): C, 69.21; H, 6.64; N, 15.37. Found: C, 68.89; H, 6.39; N, 15.01.

(±)-(2'S*,4'S*)-1-Benzyl-4'-(2,2-dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-6'-methoxy-4'-methyl-3',4'-dihydro-1'H-spiro[indoline-3,2'-quinolin]-2-one (3o)



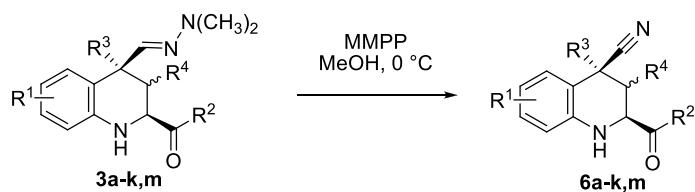
Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Orange solid, mp: 173-174 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 1.60 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.30 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H, CH₂Ph); 2.59 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂); 2.64 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H, CH₂Ph);

Supporting Information

3.79 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 3.87 (br s, 1H, NH); 4.70 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H, H-3'); 5.09 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H, H-3'); 6.58 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H, H-8'); 6.67-6.74 (m, 3H, H-4, H-5 and H-6); 6.85-6.89 (m, 2H, H-5' and H-7'); 7.07-7.12 (m, 2H, H-7 and H-4''); 7.30-7.33 (m, 5H, H-2'', H-3'', H-5'', H-6'' and CH=N). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 29.3 (CH₃); 39.6 (C-4'); 43.2 (N(CH₃)₂); 43.9 (C-3'); 55.9 (OCH₃); 60.7 (CH₂Ph); 77.4 (C-2'); 109.3 (C-5''); 113.1 (C-7''); 114.0 (C-8''); 116.8 (C-7*); 122.4 (C-4*); 125.2 (C-6*); 127.4 (C-2'' and C-6''); 127.8 (C-5); 128.9 (C-4''); 129.0 (C-3'' and C-5''); 132.9 (C-4a'); 136.0 (C-8a''); 136.5 (C-7a*); 141.9 (C-3a); 143.7 (CH=N); 145.2 (C-1''); 153.2 (C-6'); 178.8 (C=O). IR (NaCl) ν: 3332.1 (N-H), 2927.0 (C-H), 1709.6 (C=O) cm⁻¹.

Elemental analysis (%): Calc. for C₂₈H₃₀N₄O₂ (M = 454.56): C, 73.98; H, 6.65; N, 12.33. Found: C, 73.58; H, 6.38; N, 12.09.

4. Synthesis of 2-acyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile derivatives **6a-k and m**

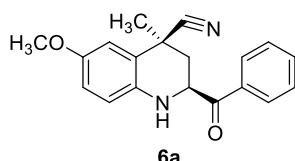


To a solution of the suitable hydrazone **3** (0.5 mmol, 1 eq, as a *cis-trans* mixture) in methanol (10 mL) was added dropwise a suspension of MMPP·6H₂O (0.62 mmol, 1.25 eq) in methanol (5 mL), and the mixture was stirred until consumption of the starting material. The mixture was then diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 X 20 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (20 mL) and brine (20 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated and the crude residue was regarded to be sufficiently pure to be used for the next step without further purification. The major *cis* compounds were purified by flash chromatography on silica gel, eluting with a mixture of petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v), and their characterization data follow. Compound **6d** could not be isolated, as it spontaneously aromatized to quinoline **4d**. Flash chromatography on alumina of derivatives **6k** and **6l**, eluting with a mixture of petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:5:0.5, v/v), afforded directly the aromatic derivatives **7a** and **7b**.

Cmpd.	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	R ⁶	R ⁷	R ⁸	Yield 6 (%)
6a	C ₆ H ₅	H	CH ₃	H	OCH ₃	H	H	72
6b	4-FC ₆ H ₄	H	CH ₃	H	OCH ₃	H	H	70 ^a
6c	4-OCH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	H	CH ₃	H	OCH ₃	H	H	89
6d	C ₆ H ₅	H	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	OCH ₃	H	H	NR
6e	C ₆ H ₅	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	98
6f	4-FC ₆ H ₄	H	CH ₃	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	93
6g	OEt	H	CH ₃	H	OCH ₃	H	H	60
6h	OEt	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	83
6i	OEt	H	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	OCH ₃	H	H	63 ^b
6j	2-furyl	H	CH ₃	H	OCH ₃	H	H	78
6k	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	H	OCH ₃	H	H	NR
6l	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	H	OCH ₃	H	H	NR
6m	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	H	OCH ₃	H	H	69

^aTogether with 14% of compound **4b**. ^bTogether with 32% of compound **4i**.

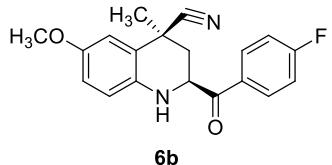
(±)-(2'S*,4'S*)-2-Benzoyl-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (**6a**)



Reaction time: 2 h. Yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 1.87 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.07 (t, J = 12.7 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.50 (dd, J = 13.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 4.97 (dd, J = 12.5, 3.2 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.72 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.80 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-7); 6.97 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.48-7.59 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.62-7.72 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.87-7.96 (m,

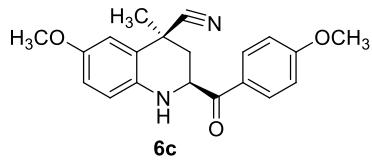
2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 28.6 (CH_3); 35.6 (C-4); 36.7(C-3); 52.9 (OCH_3); 56.0 (C-2); 112.2 (C-7); 116.5 (C-5); 117.8 (C-8); 120.6 (CN); 123.7 (C-4a); 128.3 (C-2' and C-6'); 129.3 (C-3' and C-5'); 134.1 (C-4'); 134.4 (C-1'); 135.2 (C-8a); 152.7 (C-6); 198.0 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3373.4 (C-N), 2926.2 (C-H), 2235.0 (CN), 1691.6 (C=O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ ($M = 306.36$): C, 74.49; H, 5.92; N, 9.14. Found: C, 74.23; H, 5.75; N, 8.98.

(\pm)-(2'S*,4'S*)-2-(4-Fluorobenzoyl)-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (6b)



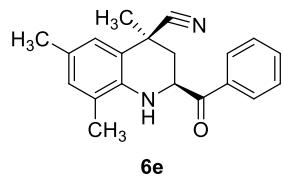
Reaction time: 2 h. Yellow solid, mp: 119-120 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.86 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.10 (t, $J = 12.5$ Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.46 (dd, $J = 13.0, 3.2$ Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.58 (s, 1H, NH); 4.92 (m, 1H, H-2); 6.71 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.80 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.7$ Hz, 1H, H-7); 6.96 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.22 (t, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.92-7.99 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 28.7 (CH_3); 35.5 (C-4); 36.8 (C-3); 52.9 (C-2); 56.0 (OCH_3); 112.2 (C-7); 116.4 (d, $J = 12.7$ Hz, C-3' and C-5'); 116.8 (C-5); 117.9 (C-8); 120.5 (CN); 123.7 (C-4a); 130.7 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz, C-1'); 131.1 (d, $J = 9.4$ Hz, C-2' and C-6'); 135.1 (C-8a); 152.8 (C-6); 166.5 (d, $J = 257$ Hz, C-4'); 196.4 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3345.2 (N-H), 2923.1 (C-H), 2232.1 (CN), 1684.4 (C=O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_2$ ($M = 324.35$): C, 70.36; H, 5.28; N, 8.64. Found: C, 70.12; H, 5.03; N, 8.45.

(\pm)-(2'S*,4'S*)-2-(4-Methoxybenzoyl)-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (6c)



Reaction time: 2 h. Yellow oil. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.87 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.07 (t, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.49 (dd, $J = 13.0, 3.0$ Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.61 (bs, 1H, NH); 4.91 (d, $J = 10.7$ Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.71 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.79 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.6$ Hz, 1H, H-7); 6.96-7.02 (m, 3H, H-5, H-3' and H-5'); 7.92 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 28.7 (CH_3); 35.6 (C-4); 37.0 (C-3); 52.4 (C-2); 55.8 (OCH_3); 56.0 (OCH_3); 112.2 (C-7*); 114.5 (C-3' and C-5'); 116.5 (C-5*); 118.0 (C-8*); 120.6 (CN*); 123.8 (C-4a*); 127.1 (C-1'); 130.8 (C-2' and C-6'); 135.4 (C-8a); 152.7 (C-6); 164.4 (C-4'); 196.2 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3362.8 (N-H), 2924.9 (C-H), 2234.4 (CN), 1680.4 (C=O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ($M = 336.38$): C, 71.41; H, 5.99; N, 8.33. Found: C, 71.23; H, 5.78; N, 8.17.

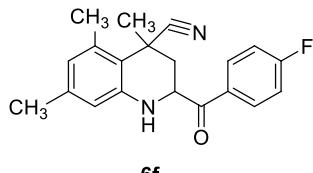
(\pm)-(2'S*,4'S*)-2-Benzoyl-4,6,8-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (6e)



Reaction time: 0.5 h. Orange solid, mp: 113-115 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.87 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.04 (t, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.21 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.26 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.51 (dd, $J = 12.9, 3.2$ Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 4.61 (s, 1H, NH); 5.01 (d, $J = 12.6$ Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.90 (s, 1H, H-7); 7.13 (s, 1H, H-5); 7.51-7.58 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.67 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.91-7.94 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-

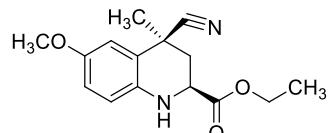
6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 17.5 (ArCH₃); 20.5 (ArCH₃); 28.7 (CH₃); 35.6 (C-4); 36.7 (C-3); 52.9 (C-2); 119.2 (CN*); 123.8 (C-4a*); 124.1 (C-8); 125.6 (C-6); 127.3 (C-5); 128.3 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.3 (C-2' and C-6'); 131.3 (C-7); 134.2 (C-4'); 134.4 (C-1'); 136.9 (C-8a); 198.0 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3386.3 (N-H), 2921.7 (C-H), 2234.8 (CN), 1680.4 (C=O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ (M = 304.39): C, 78.92; H, 6.62; N, 9.20. Found: C, 78.67; H, 6.45; N, 9.01.

(±)-2-(4-Fluorobenzoyl)-4,5,7-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (**6f**)



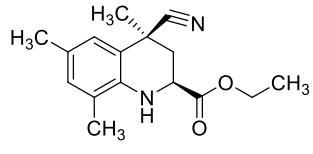
Reaction time: 1 h. Orange oil, as a 1:1 mixture of the *cis* and *trans* isomers. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.76 (s, 3H, CH₃); 1.88 (s, 3H, CH₃); 1.98 (t, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.21-2.22 (m, 7H, ArCH₃, ArCH₃ and H-3ax); 2.52-2.56 (m, 7H, ArCH₃, ArCH₃ and H-3eq); 2.73 (dd, J = 13.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 4.87 (dd, J = 12.6, 2.6 Hz, 1H, H-2); 5.03 (dd, J = 11.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.42-6.45 (m, 4H, H-6 and H-8); 7.19-7.25 (m, 4H, H-2' and H-6'); 7.97 (dd, J = 8.9; 5.3 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 8.07 (dd, J = 8.9, 5.3 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 20.9, 21.0, 21.0, 22.1, 26.4 and 26.5 (6 x CH₃); 33.5 and 33.8 (C-4 x 2); 40.0 and 44.0 (C-3 x 2); 52.2 and 54.9 (C-2 x 2); 114.2 and 115.8 (C-4a x 2); 115.0 and 115.3 (C-8 x 2); 116.4 and 116.8 (C-6 x 2); 123.1 and 123.8 ((C-2'and C-6' X 2) and CN); 124.0 (CN); 130.5 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, C-1'); 130.6 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, C-1'); 131.1 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, C-3' and C-5'); 131.3 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, C-3' and C-5'); 137.0 and 138.1 (C-7 x 2); 138.9 and 139.0 (C-5 x 2); 142.0 and 143.7 (C-8a x 2); 166.2 (d, J = 255.5 Hz, C-4'); 166.3 (d, J = 255.3 Hz, C-4'); 195.7 and 196.0 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3361.5 (N-H), 2923.4 (C-H), 2237.1 (CN), 1689.3 (C=O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{FN}_2\text{O}$ (M = 322.38): C, 74.51; H, 5.94; N, 8.69. Found: C, 74.23; H, 5.75; N, 8.44.

(±)-(2'S*,4'S*)-Ethyl 4-cyano-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-2-carboxylate (**6g**)



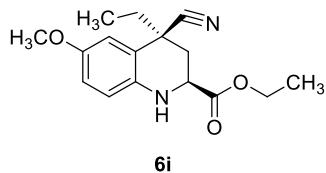
Reaction time: 1 h. Orange oil. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.32 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); 1.73 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.34 (t, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.48 (dd, J = 13.1, 3.8 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 4.02 (dd, J = 10.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H, H-2); 4.29 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, OCH₂CH₃); 6.60 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.74 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7); 6.91 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-5). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 14.3 (OCH₂CH₃); 29.0 (CH₃); 34.5 (C-4); 35.6 (C-3); 50.1 (C-2); 56.0 (OCH₃); 62.1 (OCH₂CH₃); 112.4 (C-7*); 116.3 (C-5*); 116.9 (C-8*); 120.3 (CN); 123.9 (C-4a); 135.2 (C-8a); 152.6 (C-6); 171.8 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3341.3 (N-H), 2922.7 (C-H), 2231.5 (CN), 1738.9 (C=O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ (M = 274.32): C, 65.68; H, 6.61; N, 10.21. Found: C, 65.36; H, 6.43; N, 10.02.

(±)-(2'S*,4'S*)-Ethyl 4-cyano-4,6,8-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-2-carboxylate (**6h**)



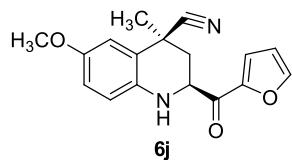
Reaction time: 2 h. Yellow oil. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.34 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); 1.72 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.15 (s, 3H, ArCH_3); 2.24 (s, 3H, ArCH_3); 2.31 (t, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.50 (dd, $J = 13.3, 3.6$ Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 4.08 (ddd, $J = 11.5, 3.7, 1.6$ Hz, 1H, H-2); 4.33 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H, OCH_2CH_3 and NH); 6.86 (s, 1H, H-7); 7.08 (s, 1H, H-5). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 14.3 (OCH_2CH_3); 17.3 (CH_3); 20.5 (CH_3); 29.0 (CH_3); 34.7 (C-4); 35.4 (C-3); 50.0 (C-2); 62.2 (OCH_2CH_3); 119.0 (CN); 122.7 (C-4a); 124.2 (C-8); 125.7 (C-5); 127.2 (C-6); 131.3 (C-7); 136.9 (C-8a); 172.0 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3348.9 (N-H), 2921.4 (C-H), 2241.9 (CN), 1733.2 (C=O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ ($M = 272.34$): C, 70.56; H, 7.40; N, 10.29. Found: C, 70.43; H, 7.18; N, 10.12.

(\pm)-(2'S*,4'S*)-Ethyl 4-cyano-4-ethyl-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-2-carboxylate (6i).



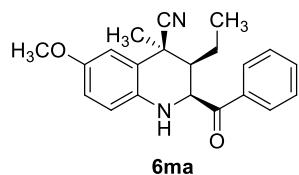
Reaction time: 1 h. Orange oil. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.17 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H, CH_2CH_3); 1.32 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); 1.93 (m, 2H, CH_2CH_3); 2.19 (t, $J = 12.5$ Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 2.60 (dd, $J = 13.2, 3.9$ Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.01 (dd, $J = 11.8, 3.9$ Hz, 1H, H-2); 4.27 (qd, $J = 7.1, 1.3$ Hz, 2H, OCH_2CH_3); 6.59 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.75 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.8$ Hz, 1H, H-7); 6.89 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H, H-5). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 9.3 (CH_2CH_3); 14.3 (OCH_2CH_3); 32.3 (CH_2CH_3); 32.9 (C-3); 40.2 (C-4); 49.9 (C-2); 56.0 (OCH_3); 62.1 (OCH_2CH_3); 112.9 (C-7*); 116.2 (C-5*); 116.6 (C-8); 119.5 (CN); 122.6 (C-4a); 135.2 (C-8a); 152.3 (C-6); 172.1 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3350 (N-H), 2910 (C-H), 1739 (C=O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ($M = 288.34$): 66.65; H, 6.99; N, 9.72. Found: C, 66.42; H, 6.78; N, 9.59.

(\pm)-(2'S*,4'S*)-2-(2-Furylcarbonyl)-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (6j)



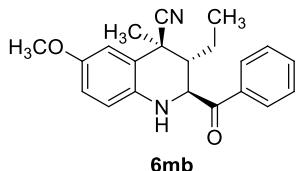
Reaction time: 0.4 h. Yellow solid, mp: 101-102 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.87 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.15 (t, $J = 12.5$, 1H, H-3ax); 2.71 (dd, $J = 12.7, 3.2$ Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 3.81 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.57 (bs, 1H, NH); 4.76 (dd, $J = 12.3, 3.0$ Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.66 (dd, $J = 3.6, 1.7$ Hz, 1H, H-4'); 6.72 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.81 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.7$ Hz, 1H, H-7); 6.99 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.41 (dd, $J = 3.6, 0.6$ Hz, 1H, H-3'); 7.69 (dd, $J = 1.7, 0.6$ Hz, 1H, H-5'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 28.4 (CH_3); 35.3 (C-4); 35.7 (C-3); 53.3 (C-2); 55.8 (OCH_3); 111.9 (C-4'); 112.8 (C-7); 116.2 (C-5); 117.5 (C-8); 118.9 (C-3'); 120.4 (CN); 123.7 (C-4a); 134.9 (C-8a); 146.8 (C-5'); 150.8 (C-2'); 152.5 (C-6); 186.5 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3370.3 (N-H), 2932.8 (C-H), 2232.4 (C≡N), 1676.1 (C=O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ($M = 296.32$): C, 68.91; H, 5.44; N, 9.45. Found: C, 68.65; H, 5.45; N, 9.39.

(\pm)-(2'S*,3'R*,4'S*)-2-Benzoyl-3-ethyl-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (6ma)



Reaction time: 4 h. Yellow oil. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 0.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H, CH_2CH_3); 0.81-0.89 (m, 2H, CH_2CH_3); 1.92 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.24-2.29 (m, 1H, H-3); 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.84 (bs, 1H, NH); 5.07-5.10 (m, 1H, H-2); 6.70 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.79 (dd, $J = 8.8$, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.00 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.51-7.57 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.63-7.66 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.89-7.90 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 14.1 (CH_2CH_3); 20.9 (CH_2CH_3); 30.7 (CH_3); 42.8 (C-4); 44.4 (C-3); 55.8 (C-2); 56.0 (OCH_3); 112.8 (C-7*); 116.2 (C-5*); 116.9 (C-8*); 119.2 (CN); 123.4 (C-4a); 128.1 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.3 (C-2' and C-6'); 134.1 (C-4'); 135.0 (C-1'); 152.4 (C-8a); 198.4 (C=O). **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ ($M = 334.41$): C, 75.42; H, 6.63; N, 8.38. Found: C, 75.03; H, 6.38; N, 8.02

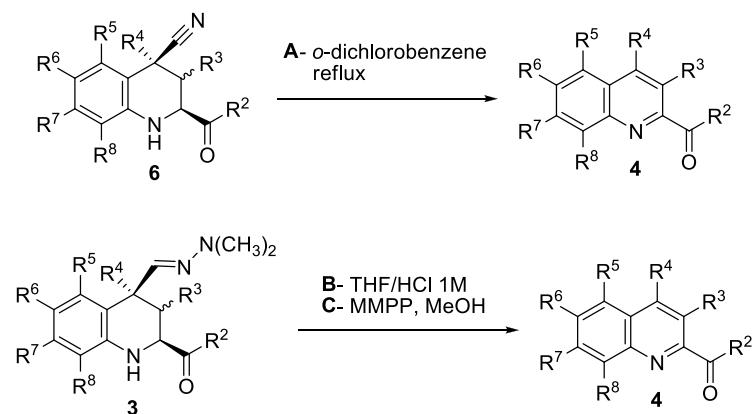
(\pm)-(2'S*,3'S*,4'S*)-2-Benzoyl-3-ethyl-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (6mb)



Reaction time: 4 h. Yellow oil. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 0.91 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H, CH_2CH_3); 1.07-1.14 (m, 2H, CH_2CH_3); 1.66 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.56 (td, $J = 8.6$, 3.9 Hz, 1H, H-3); 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.64 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.54 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.74 (dd, $J = 8.7$, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.01 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.52 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.64 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H, H-4'); 8.02-8.05 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 13.4 (CH_2CH_3); 22.5 (CH_3); 22.9 (CH_2CH_3); 40.0 (C-4); 43.6 (C-3); 56.0 (OCH_3); 58.3 (C-2); 112.0 (C-7*); 115.9 (C-5*); 117.0 (C-8*); 123.0 (CN); 123.4 (C-4a); 129.1 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.2 (C-2' and C-6'); 134.0 (C-4'); 134.6 (C-1''); 135.6 (C-8a*); 153.1 (C-6); 198.5 (C=O). **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ ($M = 334.41$): C, 75.42; H, 6.63; N, 8.38. Found: C, 75.11; H, 6.41; N, 8.11.

5. Synthesis of 2-acylquinolines

5.1 Synthesis of 2-acylquinolines 4a-j and 4m



Cmpd.	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	R ⁶	R ⁷	R ⁸
4a	C ₆ H ₅	H	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H
4b	4-FC ₆ H ₄	H	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H
4c	4-OCH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	H	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H
4d	C ₆ H ₅	H	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H
4e	C ₆ H ₅	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃
4f	4-FC ₆ H ₄	H	CH ₃	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H
4g	OEt	H	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H
4h	OEt	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃
4i	OEt	H	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H
4j	2-furyl	H	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H
4m	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	H	6-OCH ₃	H	H

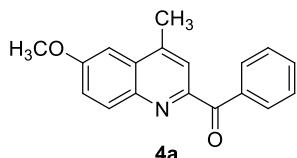
A. Synthesis of 2-acylquinolines 4 from nitriles 6. A solution of the suitable compound **6** (0.4 mmol) in *o*-dichlorobenzene (5 mL) was refluxed for 24 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and then it was concentrated under reduced pressure. The oily residue was purified by flash column chromatography, eluting with mixtures of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate, to give compounds **4**.

B. Direct synthesis of 2-acylquinolines 4 from Povarov products 3 in acidic conditions. To a solution of the suitable starting hydrazone **3** (1 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added dropwise 1M HCl (5 mL) with stirring, and the resulting solution was vigorously stirred at room temperature for the times specified in Table 2. Then, the reaction mixture was quenched with 3M aqueous NH₄OH, and the basic solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL). The aqueous layer was then extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 10 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with water (1 x 20 mL) and brine (1 x 20 mL), and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. Removal of the solvent and flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with a mixture of petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v) gave quinolines **4a-d** and **4g**.

C. Direct synthesis of 2-acylquinolines 4 from Povarov products 3 in oxidative conditions. To a solution of the suitable compound **3** (0.5 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) was added magnesium monoperoxyphthalate hexahydrate, MMPP (247 mg, 0.5 mmol). The solution was refluxed for 1 h, an additional amount of MMPP (247 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added and the reflux

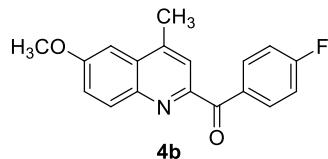
was maintained until completion of the reaction, as judged by TLC. Water (10 mL) was added to the cooled reaction mixture, and the resulting suspension was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 x 15 mL). The combined extracts were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and evaporated. The residue was purified with flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with a mixture of petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v).

2-Benzoyl-6-methoxy-4-methylquinoline (4a)



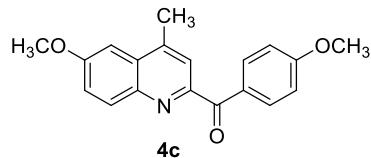
Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 117-119 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 2.75 (s, 3H, CH_3); 4.00 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 7.24 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.42 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.50 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.61 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H, H-4'); 7.96 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.11 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H, H-8); 8.22 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 19.3 (CH_3); 55.8 (OCH_3); 101.8 (C-5); 121.9 (C-3); 122.5 (C-7); 128.2 (C-3' and C-5'); 130.4 (C-4a); 131.6 (C-2' and C-6'); 132.8 (C-8); 133.0 (C-4'); 136.6 (C-1'); 142.5 (C-4); 144.0 (C-8a); 152.0 (C-2); 159.4 (C-6); 194.1 (C=O). IR (NaCl) ν : 2924.3 (C-H), 1657.9 (C=O), 1619.8 cm^{-1} . Elemental analysis (%): Calc. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2$ (M = 277.32): C, 77.96; H, 5.45; N, 5.05. Found: C, 77.69; H, 5.41; N, 4.95.

4-Fluorobenzoyl-6-methoxy-4-methylquinoline (4b)



Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Pale yellow solid, mp: 143-144 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 2.75 (s, 3H, CH_3); 4.00 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 7.14-7.21 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.24 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.42 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.97 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.08 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H, H-8); 8.29-8.35 (m, 2H, H2' and H-6'). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 19.3 (CH_3); 55.8 (OCH_3); 101.8 (C-5); 115.3 (d, J = 21.7 Hz, C-3' and C-5'); 121.9 (C-3*); 122.6 (C-7*); 130.5 (C-4a); 132.8 (C-8); 132.9 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, C-1'); 134.3 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, C-2' and C-6'); 142.5 (C-4*); 144.1 (C-8a*); 151.9 (C-2); 159.5 (C-6); 165.8 (d, J = 254.8 Hz, C-4'); 192.4 (C=O). IR (NaCl) ν : 2921.4 (C-H), 1657.1 (C=O), 1620.8 (C=N) cm^{-1} . Elemental analysis (%): Calc. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{FNO}_2$ (M = 295.31): C, 73.21; H, 4.78; N, 4.74. Found: C, 73.13; H, 5.00; N, 4.49.

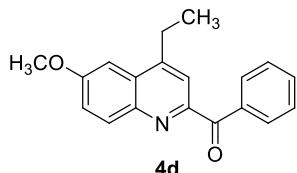
6-Methoxy-4-methoxybenzoyl-4-methylquinoline (4c)



Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). White solid, mp: 142-144 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 2.75 (s, 3H, CH_3); 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.00 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 6.99 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.24 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.42 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.91 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.11 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H, H-8); 8.28 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 19.3 (CH_3); 55.6 (OCH_3); 55.8 (OCH_3); 101.8 (C-5); 113.6 (C-3' and C-5'); 122.0 (C-3*); 122.4 (C-7*); 129.4 (C-4a*); 130.3 (C-1*); 132.7 (C-8); 134.0 (C-2' and C-6'); 142.5 (C-4*); 143.9 (C-8a*); 152.8 (C-2);

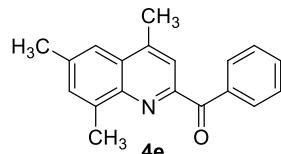
159.2 (C-6); 163.7 (C-4'); 192.6 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2922.1 (C-H), 1646.5 (C=O), 1620.4 (C=N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3$ ($M = 307.34$): C, 74.25; H, 5.58; N, 4.56. Found: C, 74.08; H, 5.84; N, 4.31.

2-Benzoyl-4-ethyl-6-methoxyquinoline (4d)



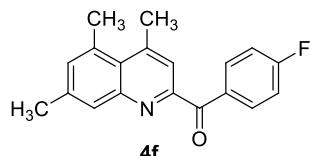
Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 116-118 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.47 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H, CH_2CH_3); 3.15 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H, CH_2CH_3); 3.99 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 7.30 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.41 (dd, $J = 9.2, 2.8$ Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.44-7.53 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.61 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.98 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.11 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H, H-8); 8.20-8.24 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 13.6 (CH_3); 25.5 (CH_2); 55.8 (OCH_3); 101.5 (C-5); 119.8 (C-3*); 122.2 (C-7*); 128.2 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.6 (C-4a); 131.6 (C-2' and C-6'); 132.9 (C-8); 133.0 (C-4'); 136.7 (C-1'); 142.9 (C-8a); 149.3 (C-4); 152.3 (C-2); 159.4 (C-6); 194.3 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2868.5 (C-H), 1647.8 (C=O), 1619.7 (C=N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2$ ($M = 291.34$): C, 78.33; H, 5.88; N, 4.81. Found: C, 78.01; H, 6.04; N, 4.59.

2-Benzoyl-4,6,8-trimethylquinoline (4e)

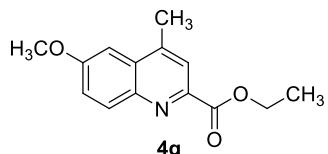


Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Orange solid, mp: 119-120 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 2.55 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.73 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.75 (s, 3H, CH_3); 7.47-7.53 (m, 3H, H-5, H-3' and H-5'); 7.62 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.66 (s, 1H, H-7); 8.00 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.33-8.37 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 18.4 (CH_3); 19.4 (CH_3); 22.3 (CH_3); 120.7 (C-3*); 121.2 (C-5*); 127.9 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.2 (C-4a); 131.9 (C-2' and C-6'); 132.2 (C-4'*); 132.7 (C-7*); 136.9 (C-1*); 138.3 (C-6*); 139.1 (C-8*); 144.4 (C-4); 144.8 (C-8a); 151.9 (C-2); 194.0 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2920.5 (C-H), 1657.5 (C=O), 1619.8 (C=N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$ ($M = 275.34$): C, 82.88; H, 6.22; N, 5.09. Found: C, 82.56; H, 6.28; N, 5.00.

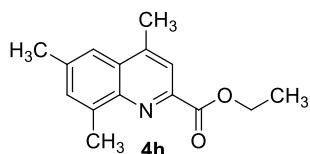
4-Fluorobenzoyl-4,5,7-trimethylquinoline (4f)



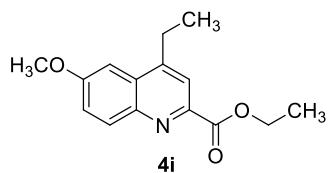
Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Orange solid, mp: 128-131 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 2.49 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.92 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.99 (s, 3H, CH_3); 7.17 (t, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.26 (s, 1H, H-3); 7.79 (s, 1H, H-8); 7.82 (s, 1H, H-6); 8.29-8.35 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 21.3 (CH_3); 25.5 (2 x CH_3); 115.3 (d, $J = 21.7$ Hz, C-3' and C-5'); 122.8 (C-3); 127.5 (C-4a); 129.1 (C-8); 132.7 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz, C-1'); 133.9 (C-6); 134.3 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, C-2' and C-6'); 135.3 (C-5*); 139.3 (C-7*); 146.9 (C-4); 149.0 (C-8a); 153.4 (C-2); 165.9 (d, $J = 255.2$ Hz, C-4'); 192.4 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2925.0 (C-H), 1660.4 (C=O), 1623.8 (C=N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNO}$ ($M = 293.33$): C, 77.80; H, 5.50; N, 4.77. Found: C, 77.96; H, 5.33; N, 4.59.

Ethyl 6-methoxy-4-methylquinoline-2-carboxylate (4g)

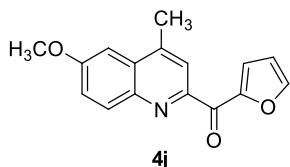
Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 131-133 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.48 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); 2.72 (s, 3H, CH_3); 3.98 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.53 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, OCH_2CH_3); 7.19 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.42 (dd, J = 9.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7); 8.02 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.21 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H, H-8). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 14.5 (OCH_2CH_3); 19.2 (CH_3); 55.8 (OCH_3); 62.2 (OCH_2CH_3); 101.6 (C-5); 122.2 (C-3*); 122.7 (C-7*); 130.8 (C-4a); 133.1 (C-8); 143.5 (C-8a*); 144.0 (C-4*); 145.5 (C-2); 159.4 (C-6); 166.0 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2920.6 (C-H), 1731.8 (C=O), 1107.6 (C-O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_3$ ($M = 245.27$): C, 68.56; H, 6.16; N, 5.71. Found: C, 68.24; H, 5.98; N, 5.62.

Ethyl 4,6,8-trimethylquinoline-2-carboxylate (4h)

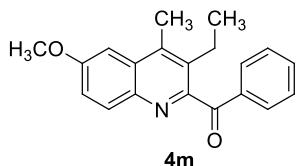
Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 125-127 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.48 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); 2.53 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.71 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.85 (s, 3H, CH_3); 4.50 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, OCH_2CH_3); 7.45 (s, 1H, H-5); 7.61 (s, 1H, H-7); 7.96 (s, 1H, H-3). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 14.5 (OCH_2CH_3); 18.2 (CH_3); 19.3 (CH_3); 22.2 (CH_3); 61.9 (OCH_2CH_3); 120.6 (C-3*); 121.6 (C-5*); 129.5 (C-4a); 132.4 (C-7); 138.2 (C-6*); 139.0 (C-8*); 144.8 (C-4); 145.3 (C-8a); 145.8 (C-2); 166.2 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2929.7 (C-H), 1704.5 (C=O), 1118.0 (C-O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2$ ($M = 243.30$): C, 74.05; H, 7.04; N, 5.76. Found: C, 73.72; H 6.83; N, 6.06.

Ethyl 4-ethyl-6-methoxyquinoline-2-carboxylate (4i)

Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Orange oil. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.43 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH_2CH_3); 1.48 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); 3.12 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, CH_2CH_3); 3.98 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.54 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, OCH_2CH_3); 7.25 (m, 1H, H-5); 7.41 (dd, J = 9.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7); 8.03 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.21 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H, H-8). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 13.6 (OCH_2CH_3); 14.5 (CH_2CH_3); 25.4 (CH_2CH_3); 55.7 (OCH_3); 62.2 (OCH_2CH_3); 101.3 (C-5); 120.1 (C-3); 122.4 (C-7); 130.0 (C-4a); 133.2 (C-8); 143.8 (C-8a); 145.7 (C-4); 149.5 (C-2); 159.4 (C-6); 166.1 (C=O). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2927.4 (C-H), 1715.7 (C=O), 1111.1 (C-O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3$ ($M = 259.30$): C, 69.48; H, 6.61; N, 5.40. Found: C, 69.23; H, 6.42; N, 5.21.

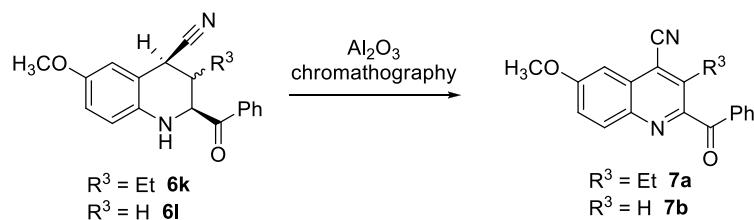
2-Furylcarbonyl-6-methoxy-4-methylquinoline (4j)

Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 150-152 °C. **$^1\text{H-NMR}$** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 2.75 (s, 3H, CH_3); 4.01 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 6.67 (dd, $J = 3.5, 1.7$ Hz, 1H, H-4'); 7.23 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.45 (dd, $J = 9.2, 2.7$ Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.79 (dd, $J = 1.6, 0.7$ Hz, 1H, H-5'); 8.09 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.13 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H, H-8); 8.29 (dd, $J = 3.5, 0.7$ Hz, 1H, H-3'). **$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 19.0 (CH_3); 55.6 (OCH_3); 101.6 (C-5); 112.4 (C-4'); 120.8 (C-3); 122.3 (C-7); 124.4 (C-3'); 130.6 (C-4a); 132.5 (C-8); 142.7 (C-4); 143.6 (C-8a); 147.5 (C-5'); 150.8 (C-2); 151.2 (C-2'); 159.3 (C-6); 179.6 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2939.4 (C-H), 1620.4 (C=N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_3$ (M = 267.28): C, 71.90; H, 4.90; N, 5.24. Found: C, 71.76; H, 4.87; N, 5.14.

2-Benzoyl-3-ethyl-6-methoxy-4-methylquinoline (4m)

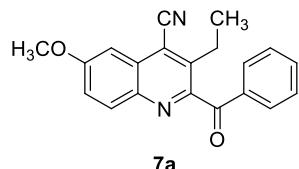
Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). White solid, mp: 125-128 °C. **$^1\text{H-NMR}$** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.19 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H, CH_2CH_3); 2.69 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.82 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H, CH_2CH_3); 3.99 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 7.25 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.34 (dd, $J = 9.2, 2.7$ Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.44 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.58 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.90 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'); 7.96 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H, H-8). **$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 14.2 (CH_3); 15.3 (CH_3); 23.0 (CH_2); 55.7 (OCH_3); 101.9 (C-5); 121.3 (C-7); 128.6 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.6 (C-4a); 130.8 (C-2' and C-6'); 131.8 (C-8); 132.8 (C-3); 133.8 (C-4'); 136.5 (C-1'*); 141.1 (C-4* and C-8a*); 154.8 (C-2); 158.6 (C-6); 196.3 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2921.9 (C-H), 1674.0 (C=O); 1616.6 (C=N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2$ (M = 305.37): C, 78.66; H, 6.27; N, 4.59. Found: C, 78.32; H, 6.01; N, 4.27.

5.2 Synthesis of 2-acylquinoline-4-carbonitriles **7a,b**



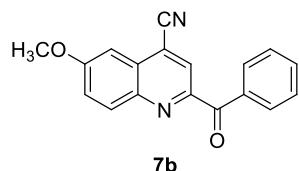
The crude nitriles **6k,l** obtained by the general method described above, were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL), to which alumina (100 mg) was added. The solvent was evaporated and the resulting solid was loaded onto a cartridge that was attached to the flash chromatography system. Chromatography on alumina furnished quinolines **7a** and **7b**, respectively.

2-Benzoyl-3-ethyl-6-methoxyquinolin-4-carbonitrile (**7a**)



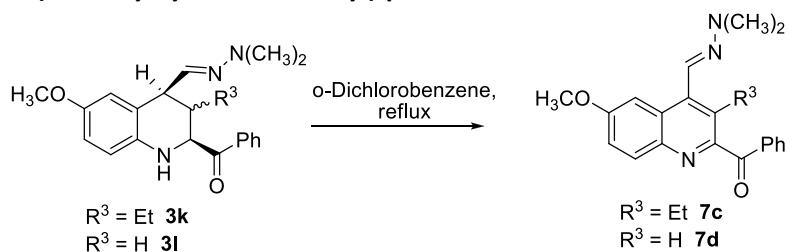
Reaction time: 4 h. Purification: flash chromatography on alumina with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). White solid, mp: 138–141 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 1.34 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH₂CH₃); 3.10 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH₂CH₃); 4.03 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 7.37–7.53 (m, 4H, H-3', H-5', H-5 and H-7); 7.63 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.91 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'); 8.02 (d, J = 9.1, H-8). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 15.9 (CH₃); 25.2 (CH₂); 56.2 (OCH₃); 102.1 (C-5); 115.1 (C-4); 117.6 (CN); 124.2 (C-7); 128.5 (C-4a); 128.7 (C-3' and C-5'); 130.9 (C-2' and C-6'); 132.1 (C-8*); 134.2 (C-4'); 135.9 (C-3*); 140.8 (C-1**); 141.3 (C-8a*); 153.2 (C-2); 161.1 (C-6); 193.8 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν: 2927.5 (C-H), 2225.1 (CN), 1664.8 (C=O) cm⁻¹. **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₂ (M = 316.35): C, 75.93; H, 5.10; N, 8.86. Found: C, 75.65; H, 5.31; N, 8.52.

2-Benzoyl-6-methoxyquinolin-4-carbonitrile (**7b**)



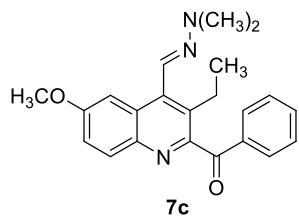
Reaction time: 2 h. Purification: flash chromatography on alumina with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 140–142 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 4.06 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 7.45 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.50–7.57 (m, 3H, H-3', H-5' and H-7); 7.64 (m, 1H, H-4'); 8.17 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H, H-8); 8.20–8.27 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'); 8.48 (s, 1H, H-3). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 56.3 (OCH₃); 102.3 (C-5); 115.8 (C-4); 118.0 (CN); 125.3 (C-7*); 125.6 (C-3*); 128.4 (C-3' and C-5'); 128.6 (C-4a); 131.5 (C-2' and C-6'); 133.2 (C-8*); 133.5 (C-4**); 135.7 (C-1'); 142.9 (C-8a); 151.3 (C-2); 161.8 (C-6); 191.8 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν: 2920.4 (C-H), 2229.9 (CN), 1664.4 (C=O) cm⁻¹. **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for C₁₈H₁₂N₂O₂ (M = 288.30): C, 74.99; H, 4.20; N, 9.72. Found: C, 74.77; H, 4.32; N, 9.64.

5.3 Synthesis of 2-acyl-4-(dimethylhydrazonomethyl)quinolines 7c,d



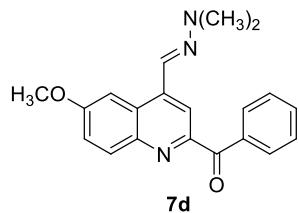
A solution of the suitable hydrazones **3k** or **3l** in *o*-dichlorobenzene (5 mL) was refluxed until no starting material was detected by TLC. The reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The oily residue was purified by flash column chromatography, eluting with a 9:1 (v/v) mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate, to give compounds **7c,d**.

2-Benzoyl-4-[(2,2-dimethylhydrazono)methyl]-3-ethyl-6-methoxyquinoline (**7c**)



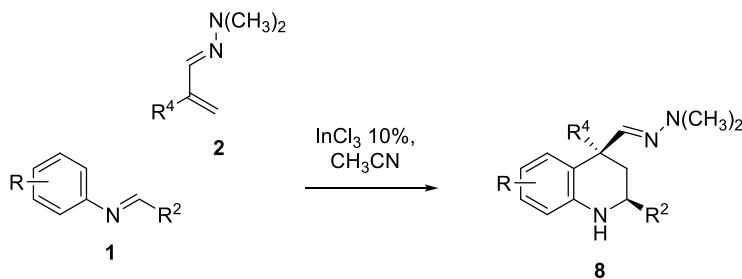
Reaction time: 6 h. Yellow solid, mp: 109-111 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.23 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH_2CH_3); 2.87 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH_2CH_3); 3.17 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 3.95 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 7.32 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.43 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.56 (m, 1H, H-4'); 7.64 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$); 7.88-7.95 (m, 3H, H-2', H-6' and H-8); 8.28 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-5). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 15.5 (CH_3); 22.7 (CH_2); 42.7 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 55.5 (OCH_3); 104.5 (C-5); 121.5 (C-7); 127.1 (C-4a); 127.4 ($\text{CH}=\text{N}$); 128.6 (C-3' and C-5'); 130.8 (C-2' and C-5'); 131.4 (C-8); 131.9 (C-3*); 133.8 (C-4*); 136.5 (C-4*); 137.4 (C-1*); 142.4 (C-8a); 154.9 (C-2); 158.9 (C-6); 196.2 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2920.9 (C-H), 1669.6 (C=O); 1616.3 (C=N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ ($M = 361.44$): C, 73.11; H, 6.41; N, 11.63. Found: C, 73.27; H, 6.61; N, 11.34.

2-Benzoyl-4-[(2,2-dimethylhydrazono)methyl]-6-methoxyquinoline (**7d**)



Reaction time: 3 h. Yellow oil. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 3.19 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 3.99 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 7.40 (dd, J = 9.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.50 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.58-7.61 (m, 2H, H-4' and $\text{CH}=\text{N}$); 8.08 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H, H-8); 8.20-8.24 (m, 3H, H-2', H-6' and H-3); 8.27 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-5). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 42.7 ($\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); 55.6 (OCH_3); 103.5 (C-5); 118.8 (C-3); 122.1 (C-7); 127.0 (C-4a); 127.5 ($\text{CH}=\text{N}$); 128.2 (C-3' and C-5'); 131.6 (C-2' and C-6'); 132.6 (C-8); 132.9 (C-4*); 136.7 (C-4*); 139.9 (C-1*); 144.0 (C-8a); 152.3 (C-2); 159.6 (C-6); 194.4 (CO). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2922.8 (C-H), 1653.9 (C=O); 1616.3 (C=N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ ($M = 333.38$): C, 72.05; H, 5.74; N, 12.60. Found: C, 72.10; H, 5.86; N, 12.83.

6. Synthesis of 2-aryl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline derivatives 8

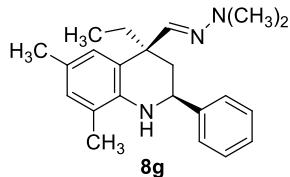


Cmpd.	R	R ²	R ⁴	Yield (%)
8a^a	6-OCH ₃	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₃	90
8b^a	6-OCH ₃	4-ClC ₆ H ₄	CH ₃	87
8c^a	6-OCH ₃	4-OCH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	CH ₃	80
8d^a	6-OCH ₃	4-CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	CH ₃	93
8e^a	6,8-(CH ₃) ₂	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₃	80
8f^a	6-CH ₃	4-OCH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	CH ₃	72
8g	6,8-(CH ₃) ₂	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₂ CH ₃	61
8h^a	5,7-(OCH ₃) ₂	4-CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	CH ₃	72

a: Povarov products known in literature.^{7,8}

The reaction conditions were the same described in section 3.1. above

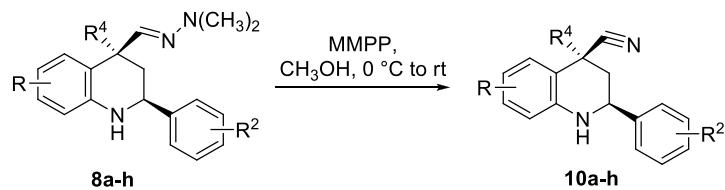
(±)-(2*S*^{*},4*S*^{*})-4-[(2,2-Dimethylhydrazone)methyl]-4-ethyl-6,8-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (8g)



Reaction time: 3 h. Purification: flash chromatography with petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v). Yellow solid, mp: 121-123 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH₂CH₃); 1.99-2.11 (m, 7H, CH₃, H-3eq, H-3ax and CH₂); 2.23 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.75 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂); 3.84 (bs, 1H, NH); 4.57 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.63 (s, 1H, H-7); 6.80 (s, 2H, H-5 and CH=N); 7.32-7.51 (m, 5H, H-2', H-3', H-4', H-5' and H-6'). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 8.8 (CH₂CH₃); 17.7 (ArCH₃); 20.7 (ArCH₃); 32.2 (CH₂CH₃); 40.2 (C-3); 43.6 (N(CH₃)₂); 43.7 (C-4); 53.0 (C-2); 121.4 (C-4a); 125.4 (C-8); 125.8 (C-6); 126.8 (C-2' and C-6'); 127.0 (C-5); 127.7 (C-4'); 128.8 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.5 (C-7); 139.7 (C-8a); 143.6 (CH=N); 145.2 (C-1'). IR (NaCl) ν: 3401.2 (N-H), 2958.6 (C-H), 1604.1 (C=C), 1251.2 (C-N) cm⁻¹. Elemental analysis (%): Calc. for C₂₂H₂₉N₃ (M = 335.49): C, 78.76; H, 8.71; N, 12.53. Found: C, 78.35; H, 8.68; N, 12.56.

⁸ V. Sridharan, P. T. Perumal, C. Avendaño and J. C. Menéndez, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2007, **5**, 1351.

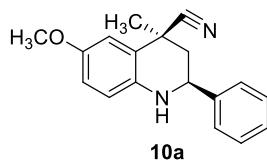
7. Isolation of 2-aryl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile derivatives 10a-h



For the synthesis of nitriles **10a-h** the synthetic conditions described in the Section 4 were applied.

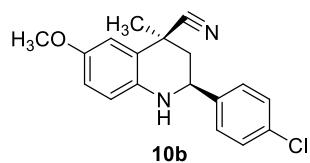
Cmpd.	R	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	Yield (%)
10a	6-OCH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	70
10b	6-OCH ₃	4-Cl	CH ₃	H	97
10c	6-OCH ₃	4-OCH ₃	CH ₃	H	93
10d	6-OCH ₃	4-CH ₃	CH ₃	H	86
10e	6,8-CH ₃	H	CH ₃	H	84
10f	6-CH ₃	4-OCH ₃	CH ₃	H	98
10g	6,8-CH ₃	H	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	77
10h	5,7-OCH ₃	4-CH ₃	CH ₃	H	62

(±)-(2*S*^{*},4*S*^{*})-6-Methoxy-4-methyl-2-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (10a)



Reaction time: 0.4 h. Yellow solid, mp: 115–117 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 1.82 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.22 (dd, *J* = 13.1, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.45 (t, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 3.95 (bs, 1H, NH); 4.40 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.54 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.75 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7); 6.97 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.34–7.44 (m, 5H, H-2', H-3', H-4', H-5' and H-6'). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 30.7 (CH₃); 35.4 (C-4); 42.1 (C-3); 52.2 (C-2); 56.0 (OCH₃); 112.9 (C-7); 116.2 (C-5*); 116.4 (C-8*); 120.6 (CN); 124.6 (C-4a); 126.9 (C-2' and C-6'); 128.4 (C-4'); 129.0 (C-3' and C-5'); 137.2 (C-8a); 142.2 (C-1'); 152.5 (C-6). IR (Nujol) ν: 3380 (N-H), 2665 (C-H), 1715 (CN) cm⁻¹.

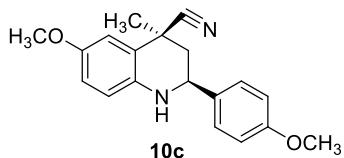
(±)-(2*S*^{*},4*S*^{*})-2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (10b)



Reaction time: 1 h. Yellow solid, mp: 158–159 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 1.81 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.18 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.39 (t, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 4.38 (dd, *J* = 11.7, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.75 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7); 6.96 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.36 (s, 4H, H-2', H-3', H-5' and H-6'). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 30.7 (CH₃); 35.4 (C-4); 42.1 (C-3); 51.6 (C-2); 56.0 (OCH₃); 112.9 (C-7); 116.2 (C-5*); 116.5 (C-8*); 120.6 (CN); 124.4

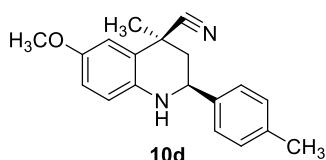
(C-4a); 128.3 (C-2' and C-6'); 129.1 (C-3' and C-5'); 134.0 (C-4'); 136.9 (C-8a); 140.8 (C-1'); 152.6 (C-6). **IR** (Nujol) ν : 3260 (N-H), 2660 (C-H), 2000 (CN) cm^{-1} .

(\pm)-(2S*,4S*)-6-Methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (10c)



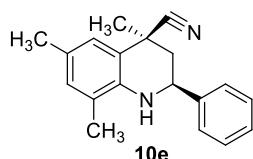
Reaction time: 1 h. Yellow solid, mp: 144–145 °C. **1H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.81 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.18 (dd, J = 13.1, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.43 (t, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 3.90 (bs, 1H, NH); 4.34 (dd, J = 11.8, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.52 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.74 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7); 6.93 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'); 6.96 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.34 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'). **13C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 30.7 (CH_3); 35.5 (C-4); 42.1 (C-3); 51.6 (C-2); 55.5 (OCH_3); 56.1 (OCH_3); 112.9 (C-7); 114.3 (C-2' and C-6'); 116.2 (C-5*); 116.3 (C-8*); 120.6 (CN); 124.7 (C-4a); 128.0 (C-3' and C-5'); 134.3 (C-4'); 137.3 (C-8a); 152.4 (C-1'); 159.6 (C-6). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3368.2 (N-H), 2927.4 (C-H), 2232.5 (CN) cm^{-1} .

(\pm)-(2S*,4S*)-6-Methoxy-2-(4-methylphenyl)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (10d)



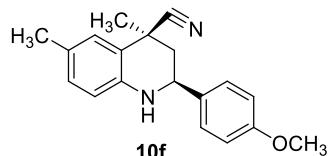
Reaction time: 1 h. Yellow solid, mp: 147–149 °C. **1H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.82 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.19 (dd, J = 13.1, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.38 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.44 (t, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 3.94 (bs, 1H, NH); 4.37 (dd, J = 11.8, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.53 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.75 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7); 6.98 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.20 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'); 7.31 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'). **13C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 21.2 (CH_3); 30.6 (ArCH_3); 35.4 (C-4); 42.0 (C-3); 51.8 (C-2); 56.0 (OCH_3); 112.9 (C-7); 116.1 (C-5*); 116.3 (C-8*); 120.5 (CN); 124.6 (C-4a); 126.7 (C-2' and C-6'); 129.6 (C-3' and C-5'); 137.2 (C-4'); 138.1 (C-8a); 139.2 (C-1'); 152.3 (C-6). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3393.7 (N-H), 2918.2 (C-H), 2229.6 (CN) cm^{-1} .

(\pm)-(2S*,4S*)-4,6,8-Trimethyl-2-(4-methylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (10e)



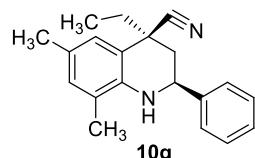
Reaction time: 2 h. Yellow solid, mp: 142–143 °C. **1H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.83 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.10 (s, 3H, Ar-CH_3); 2.23 (m, 1H, H-3eq); 2.29 (s, 3H, ArCH_3); 2.46 (t, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 3.90 (s, 1H, NH); 4.47 (dd, J = 11.9, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.89 (s, 1H, H-7); 7.16 (s, 1H, H-5); 7.38–51 (m, 5H, H-2', H-3', H-4', H-5' and H-6'). **13C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 17.4 (CH_3); 20.5 (CH_3); 30.6 (CH_3); 35.4 (C-4); 42.0 (C-3); 52.2 (C-2); 119.3 (CN); 122.2 (C-4a); 124.9 (C-8); 126.3 (C-4'); 126.9 (C-2', C-6' and C-6); 128.5 (C-5); 129.1 (C-3' and C-5'); 131.1 (C-7); 138.7 (C-8a); 142.6 (C-1'). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3391.5 (N-H), 2960.0 (C-H), 2232.8 (CN) cm^{-1} .

(\pm)-(2*S*^{*,4*S*^{*})-2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (10f)}



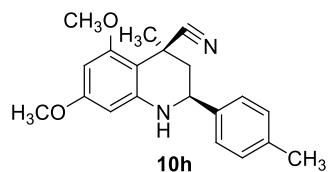
Reaction time: 2 h. Yellow solid, mp: 136-137 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.79 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.18 (dd, J = 13.1, 2.9 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.28 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.42 (t, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H, H-3ax); 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.01 (bs, 1H, NH); 4.37 (dd, J = 11.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.48 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, H-8); 6.91-6.94 (m, 3H, H-7, H-3' and H-5'); 7.23 (s, 1H, H-5); 7.32-7.36 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 20.5 (CH_3); 30.6 (ArCH_3); 35.2 (C-4); 42.1 (C-3); 51.4 (C-2); 55.5 (OCH_3); 114.3 (C-3' and C-5'); 115.1 (C-8); 119.7 (CN); 124.8 (C-4a); 127.6 (C-6); 128.0 (C-2' and C-6'); 128.5 (C-7); 129.9 (C-5); 134.2 (C-1'); 140.7 (C-8a); 159.6 (C-4'). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3368.8 (N-H), 2926.6 (C-H), 2232.8 (CN) cm^{-1} .

(\pm)-(2*S*^{*,4*S*^{*})-4,6,8-Trimethyl-2-(4-methylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (10g)}



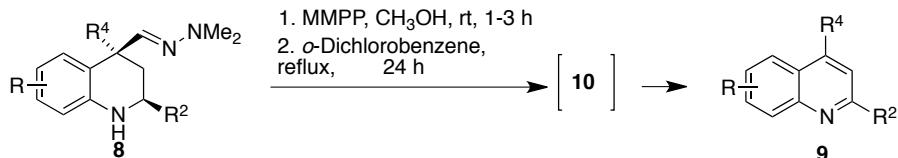
Reaction time: 2 h. Yellow solid, mp: 145-147 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.23 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH_2CH_3); 2.06 (dd, J = 7.4, 2.9 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.11 (s, 3H, ArCH_3); 2.26-2.43 (m, 6H, ArCH_3 , H-3ax and CH_2CH_3); 3.89 (bs, 1H, NH); 4.49 (dd, J = 11.4, 3.9 Hz, 1H, H-2); 6.90 (s, 1H, H-5); 7.13 (s, 1H, H-7); 7.38-7.51 (m, 5H, H2', H-3', H-4', H-5' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 9.2 (CH_2CH_3); 17.5 (ArCH_3); 20.5 (ArCH_3); 34.2 (CH_2CH_3); 38.4 (C-3); 40.8 (C-4); 52.0 (C-2); 118.5 (CN); 121.8 (C-4a); 123.5 (C-8); 126.3 (C-6); 126.6 (C-4'); 126.8 (C-2' and C-6'); 128.4 (C-5); 129.1 (C-3' and C-5'); 131.1 (C-7); 138.3 (C-8a); 143.0 (C-1'). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3360 (N-H), 2930 (C-H), 2250 (CN) cm^{-1} .

(\pm)-(2*S*^{*,4*S*^{*})-5,7-Dimethoxy-4-methyl-2-(4-methylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4-carbonitrile (10h)}



Reaction time: 2 h. Yellow solid, mp: 147-150 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.76 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.19 (dd, J = 13.1, 2.3 Hz, 1H, H-3eq); 2.37-2.49 (m, 4H, H-3ax and ArCH_3); 3.74 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 4.13 (bs, 1H, NH); 4.26 (dd, J = 11.8, 2.1 Hz, 1H, H-2); 5.75 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H, H-8); 5.96 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H, H-6); 7.20 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'); 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 21.3 (CH_3); 27.6 (ArCH_3); 31.7 (C-4); 44.5 (C-3); 51.8 (C-2); 55.3 (OCH_3); 55.7 (OCH_3); 90.0 (C-6*); 90.2 (C-8*); 101.3 (C-4a); 124.9 (CN); 126.8 (C-2' and C-6'); 129.7 (C-3' and C-5'); 138.2 (C-4*); 138.9 (C-1*); 145.6 (C-8a); 159.5 (C-7*); 161.0 (C-5*). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3368.8 (N-H), 2931.1 (C-H), 12231.9 (CN) cm^{-1} .

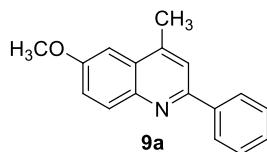
8. Synthesis of 2-arylquinolines 9a-h



The synthetic conditions described in the Section 4 were applied to hydrazones **8** and the crude nitriles **10** thus obtained were treated as described in Section 5.1.A. Compounds **9** were purified by flash chromatography, eluting with a mixture of petroleum ether:ethyl acetate (9:1, v/v).

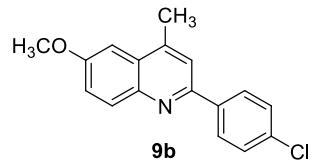
Cmpd.	R	R ²	R ⁴	Yield (%)
9a	6-OCH ₃	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₃	92
9b	6-OCH ₃	4-ClC ₆ H ₄	CH ₃	86
9c	6-OCH ₃	4-OCH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	CH ₃	87
9d	6-OCH ₃	4-CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	CH ₃	86
9e	6,8-CH ₃	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₃	95
9f	6-CH ₃	4-OCH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	CH ₃	92
9g	6,8-CH ₃	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₂ CH ₃	89
9h	5,7-OCH ₃	4-CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	CH ₃	95

6-Methoxy-4-methyl-2-phenylquinoline (**9a**)^{9,10}



Reaction time: 24 h. White solid, mp: 128-129 °C. Spectral data were identical to those found in the literature ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 2.72 (s, 3H, CH₃); 3.96 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 7.19 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.38 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.43-7.54 (m, 3H, H-3', H-5' and H-4'); 7.68 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.10-8.13 (m, 3H, H-8, H-2' and H-6').

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-6-methoxy-4-methylquinoline (**9b**)



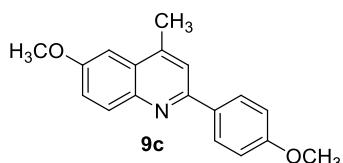
Reaction time: 24 h. White solid, mp: 119-122 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ: 2.72 (s, 3H, CH₃); 3.97 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 7.20 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.38 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.45-7.49 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.65 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.04-8.09 (m, 3H, H-8, H-2' and H-6'). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ: 19.4 (CH₃); 55.7 (OCH₃); 102.0 (C-5); 119.7 (C-3); 121.8 (C-7); 128.3 (C-4a);

⁹ J. W. Cornforth, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1948, 93.

¹⁰ F. Xiao, W. Chen, Y. Liao and G.-J. Deng, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2012, **10**, 8593.

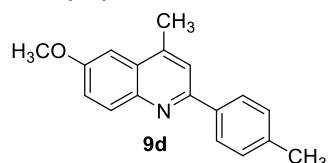
128.6 (C-2' and C-6'); 129.0 (C-3' and C-5'); 131.9 (C-8); 135.1 (C-4'); 138.4 (C-1'); 143.6 (C-8a); 144.2 (C-4); 153.5 (C-2); 157.8 (C-6). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2918.0 (C-H), 1624.6 (C=N), 717.2 (C-Cl) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $C_{17}H_{14}ClNO$ ($M=283.75$): C, 71.96; H, 4.97; N, 4.94. Found: C, 72.08; H, 5.27; N, 5.00.

6-Methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylquinoline (9c)¹¹



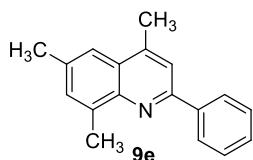
Reaction time: 24 h. White solid, mp: 109-111 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 2.70 (s, 3H, CH₃); 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 3.95 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 7.01-7.04 (m, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.17 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.36 (dd, $J = 9.2, 2.8$ Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.63 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.05-8.10 (m, 3H, H-8, H-2' and H-6').

6-Methoxy-4-methyl-2-(4-methylphenyl)quinoline (9d)



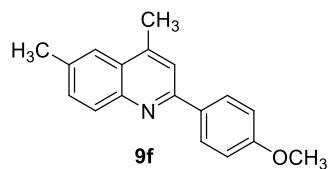
Reaction time: 24 h. White solid, mp: 124-127 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 2.43 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.71 (s, 3H, CH₃); 3.96 (s, 3H, OCH₃); 7.19 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H, H-5); 7.27-7.41 (m, 3H, H-7, H-3' and H-5'); 7.67 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.01-8.08 (m, 3H, H-8, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ : 19.4 (CH₃); 21.5 (CH₃); 55.7 (OCH₃); 102.0 (C-5); 120.0 (C-3*); 121.5 (C-7*); 127.2 (C-2' and C-6'); 128.1 (C-4a); 129.6 (C-3' and C-5'); 131.8 (C-8); 135.4 (C-4'*); 137.2 (C-1'*); 143.2 (C-8a*); 144.2 (C-4*); 154.9 (C-2); 157.5 (C-6). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3058.7 (C-H), 1603.8 (C=C), 1030.2 (C-N) cm^{-1} . **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3058.7 (C-H), 1603.8 (C=C), 1030.2 (C-N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $C_{18}H_{17}NO$ ($M = 263.33$): C, 82.10; H, 6.51; N, 5.32. Found: 81.90; H, 6.32; N, 5.12.

4,6,8-Trimethyl-2-phenylquinoline (9e)

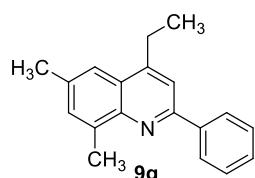


Reaction time: 24 h. Yellow solid, mp: 121-123 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ : 2.54 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.73 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.90 (s, 3H, CH₃); 7.43 (s, 1H, H-5); 7.45-7.57 (m, 3H, H-3', H-4' and H-5'); 7.60 (s, 1H, H-7); 7.71 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.24-8.28 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ : 18.4 (CH₃); 19.5 (CH₃); 22.0 (CH₃); 119.1 (C-3); 120.6 (C-5); 127.2 (C-4a); 127.4 (C-2' and C-6'); 128.8 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.0 (C-4'); 131.8 (C-7); 135.4 (C-6); 137.8 (C-8); 140.2 (C-1'); 144.1 (C-4*); 145.7 (C-8a*); 154.3 (C-2). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 3058.7 (C-H), 1603.8 (C=C), 1030.2 (C-N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $C_{18}H_{17}N$ ($M = 247.33$): C, 87.41; H, 6.93; N, 5.66. Found: C, 87.45; H, 6.82; N, 5.94.

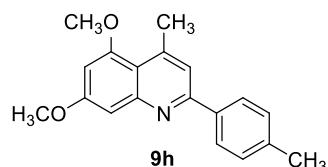
¹¹ R.E. Swenson, T.J. Sowin and H. Q. Zhang, *J. Org. Chem.* 2002, **67**, 9182.

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4,6-dimethylquinoline (9f)¹¹

Reaction time: 24 h. Yellow solid, mp: 127-129 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 2.57 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.74 (s, 3H, CH_3); 3.88 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 7.04 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.55 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-7); 7.65 (s, 1H, H-5); 7.74 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.10-8.14 (m, 3H, H-8, H-2' and H-6').

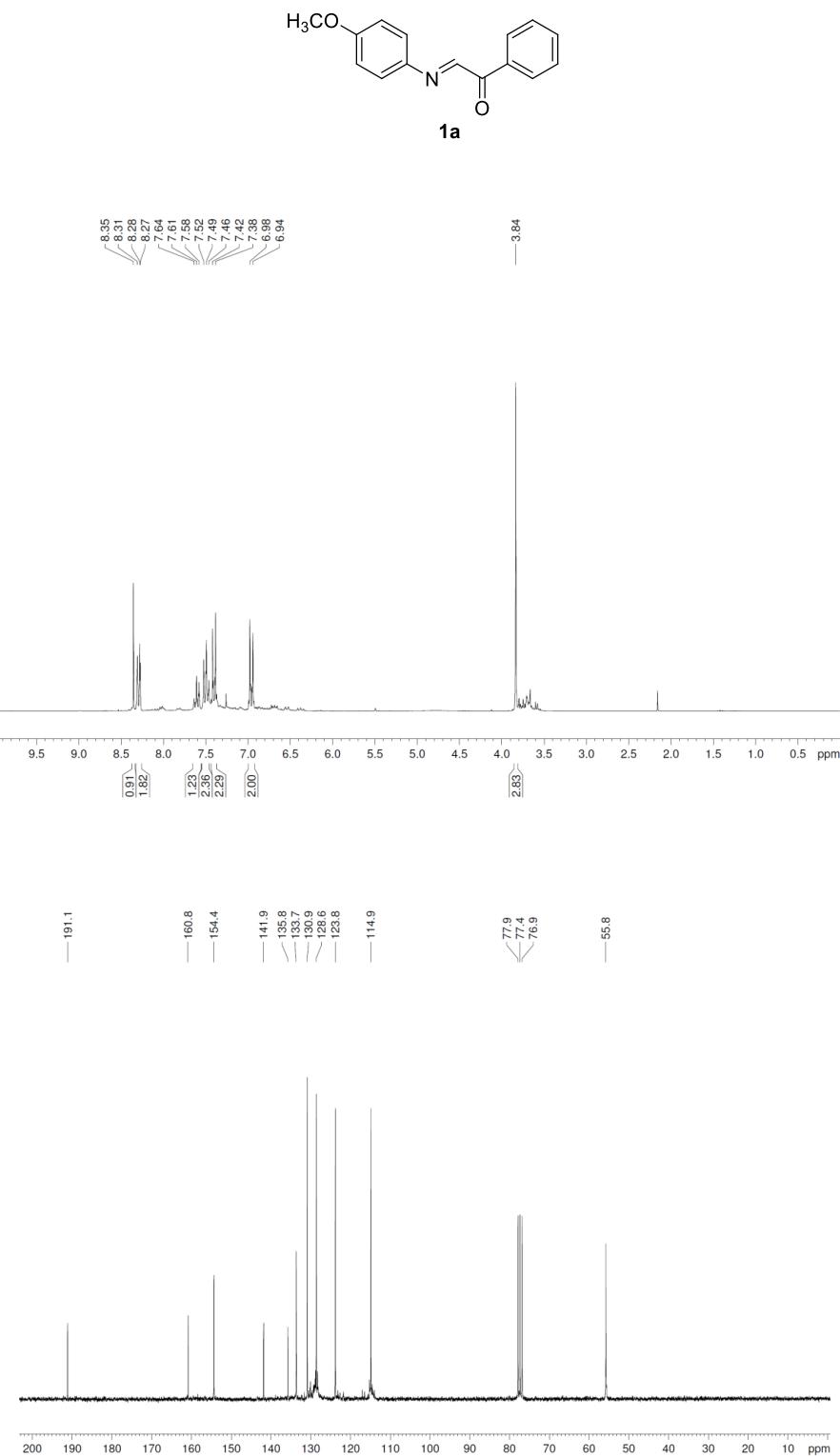
4-Ethyl-6,8-dimethyl-2-phenylquinoline (9g)

Reaction time: 24 h. White solid, mp: 116-118 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 1.44 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH_2CH_3); 2.53 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.87 (s, 3H, CH_3); 3.14 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H, CH_2CH_3); 7.41 (s, 1H, H-5); 7.44-7.56 (m, 3H, H-3', H-4' and H-5'); 7.65 (s, 1H, H-7); 7.73 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.23-8.27 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 14.5 (CH_3); 18.5 (CH_3); 22.1 (CH_3); 25.8 (CH_2CH_3); 117.2 (C-3); 120.2 (C-5); 126.4 (C-4a); 127.5 (C-2' and C-6'); 128.8 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.0 (C-4'); 131.7 (C-7); 135.4 (C-6); 138.0 (C-8); 140.4 (C-1'); 146.0 (C-4); 149.8 (C-8a); 154.5 (C-2). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2917.4 (C-H), 1596.8 (C-C), 1029.1 (C-N) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}$ (M = 261.36): C, 87.31; H, 7.33; N, 5.36. Found: C, 87.06; H, 7.35; N, 5.51.

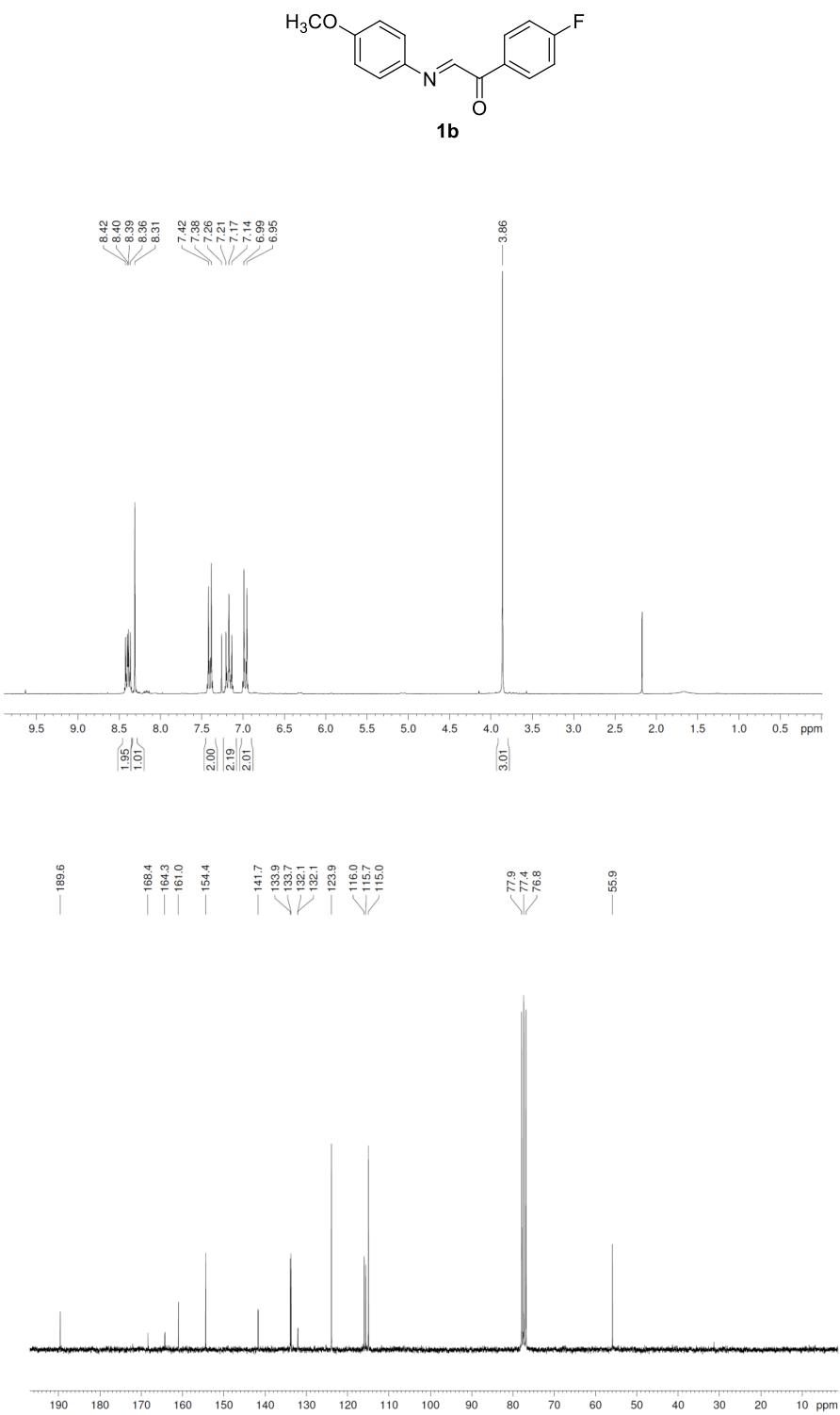
5,7-Dimethoxy-4-methyl-2-(4-methylphenyl)quinoline (9h)

Reaction time, 48 h. Yellow solid, mp: 130-133 °C. **¹H-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 250 MHz) δ : 2.42 (s, 3H, CH_3); 2.87 (s, 3H, CH_3); 3.92 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 3.95 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 6.47 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-6); 7.11 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-8); 7.30 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H, H-3' and H-5'); 7.41 (s, 1H, H-3); 8.01 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, H-2' and H-6'). **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl_3 , 63 MHz) δ : 21.5 (CH_3); 24.7 (CH_3); 55.6 (OCH_3); 55.7 (OCH_3); 98.3 (C-6*); 101.1 (C-8*); 115.6 (C-4a); 119.1 (C-3); 127.4 (C-3' and C-5'); 129.6 (C-2' and C-6'); 136.9 (C-4'); 139.2 (C-1'); 146.3 (C-4); 151.9 (C-8a); 157.3 (C-5*); 158.7 (C-7*); 160.6 (C-2). **IR** (NaCl) ν : 2928.3 (C-H), 1620.1 (C-C), 1135.4 (C-O) cm^{-1} . **Elemental analysis (%)**: Calc. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2$ (M = 293.36): C, 77.79; H, 6.53; N, 4.77. Found: C, 77.78; H, 6.71; N, 4.87.

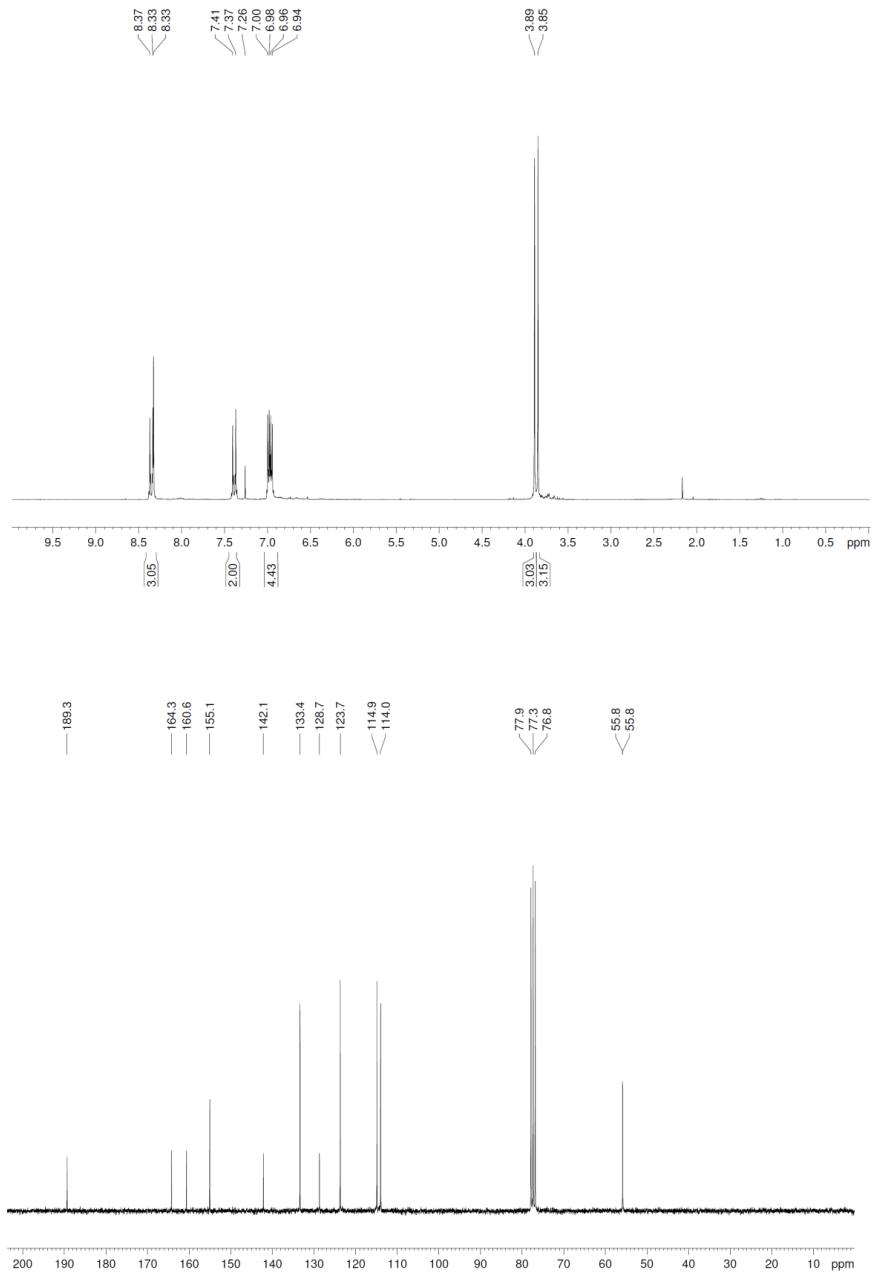
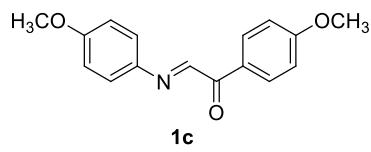
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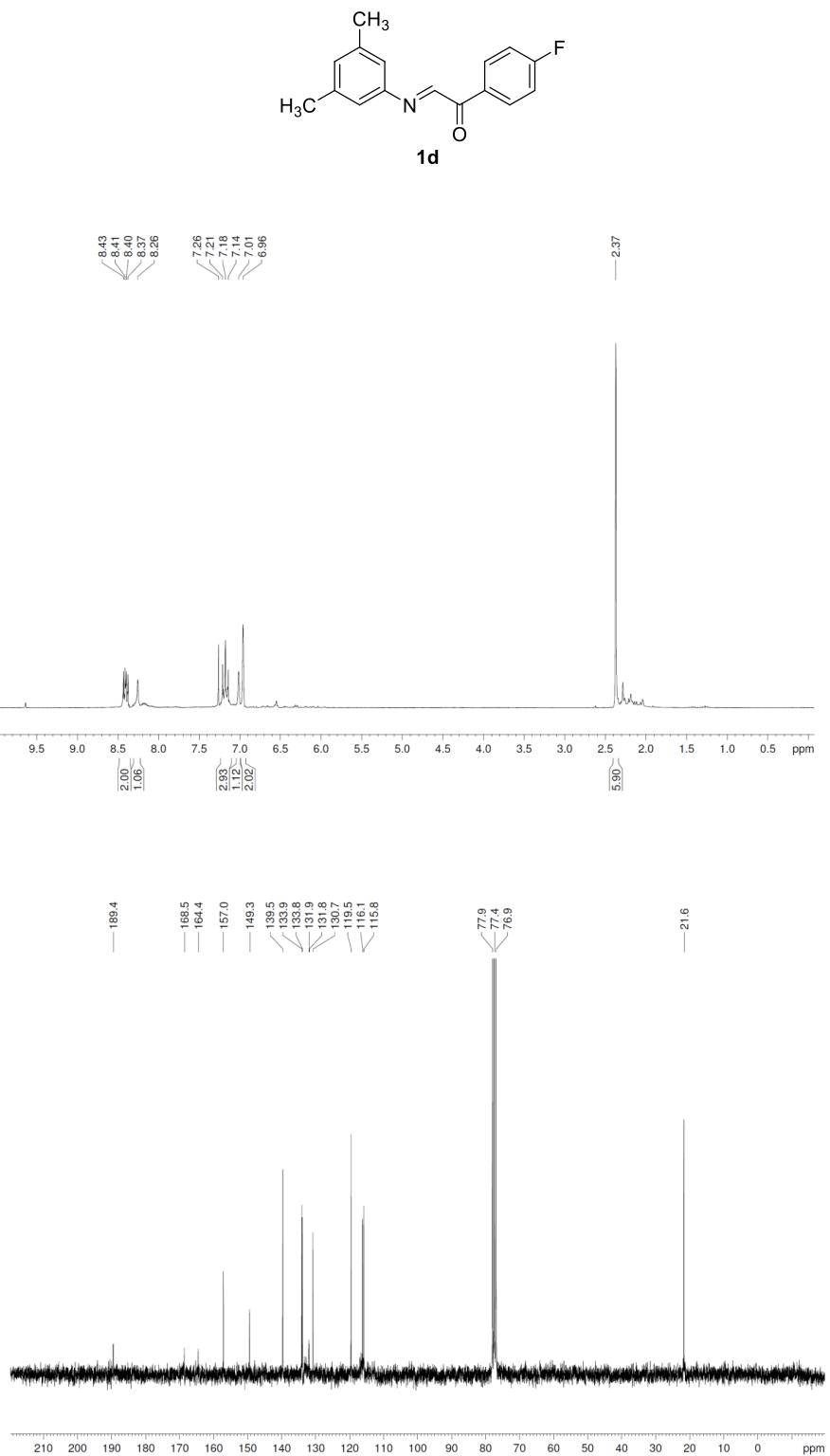
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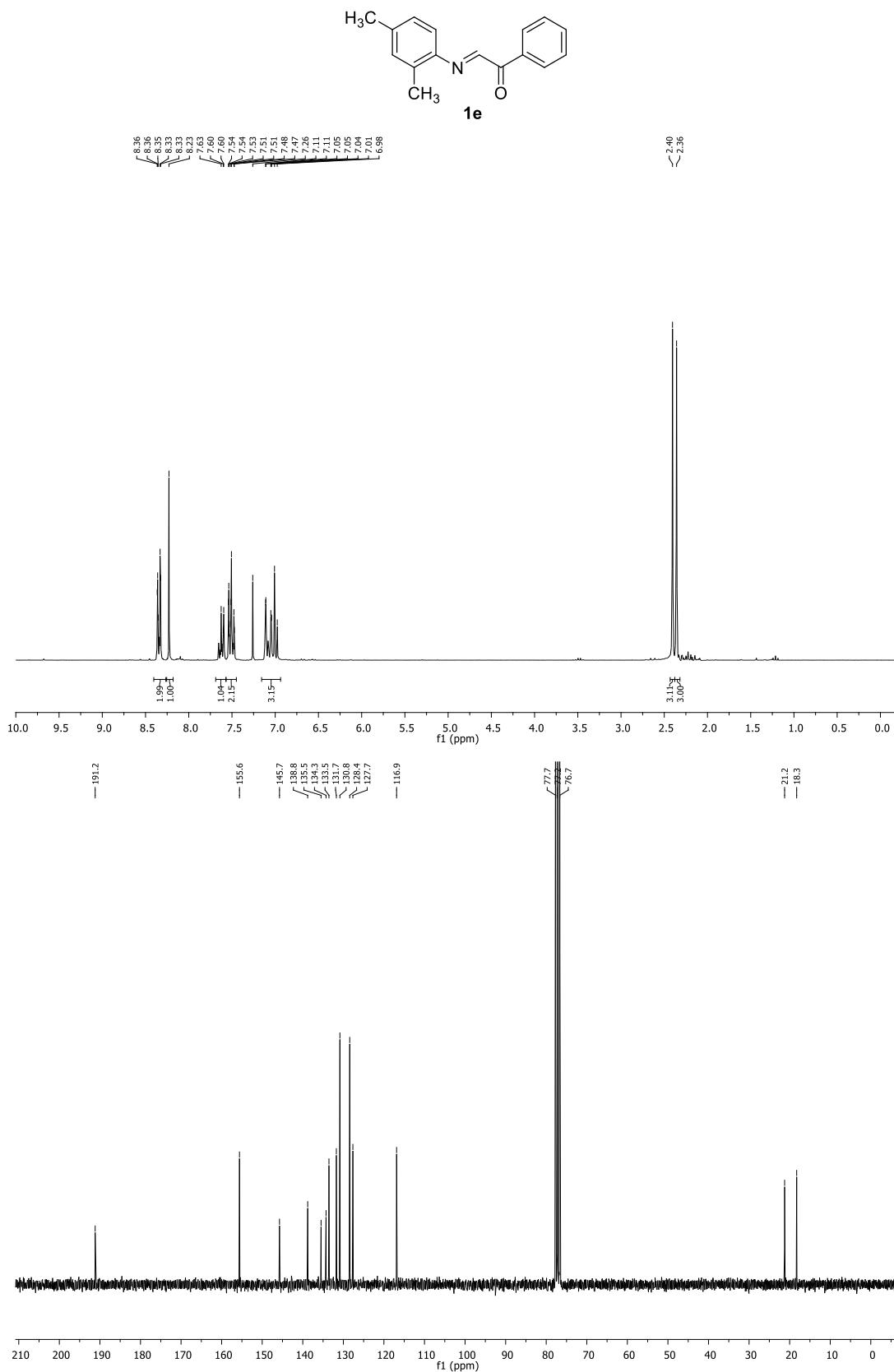
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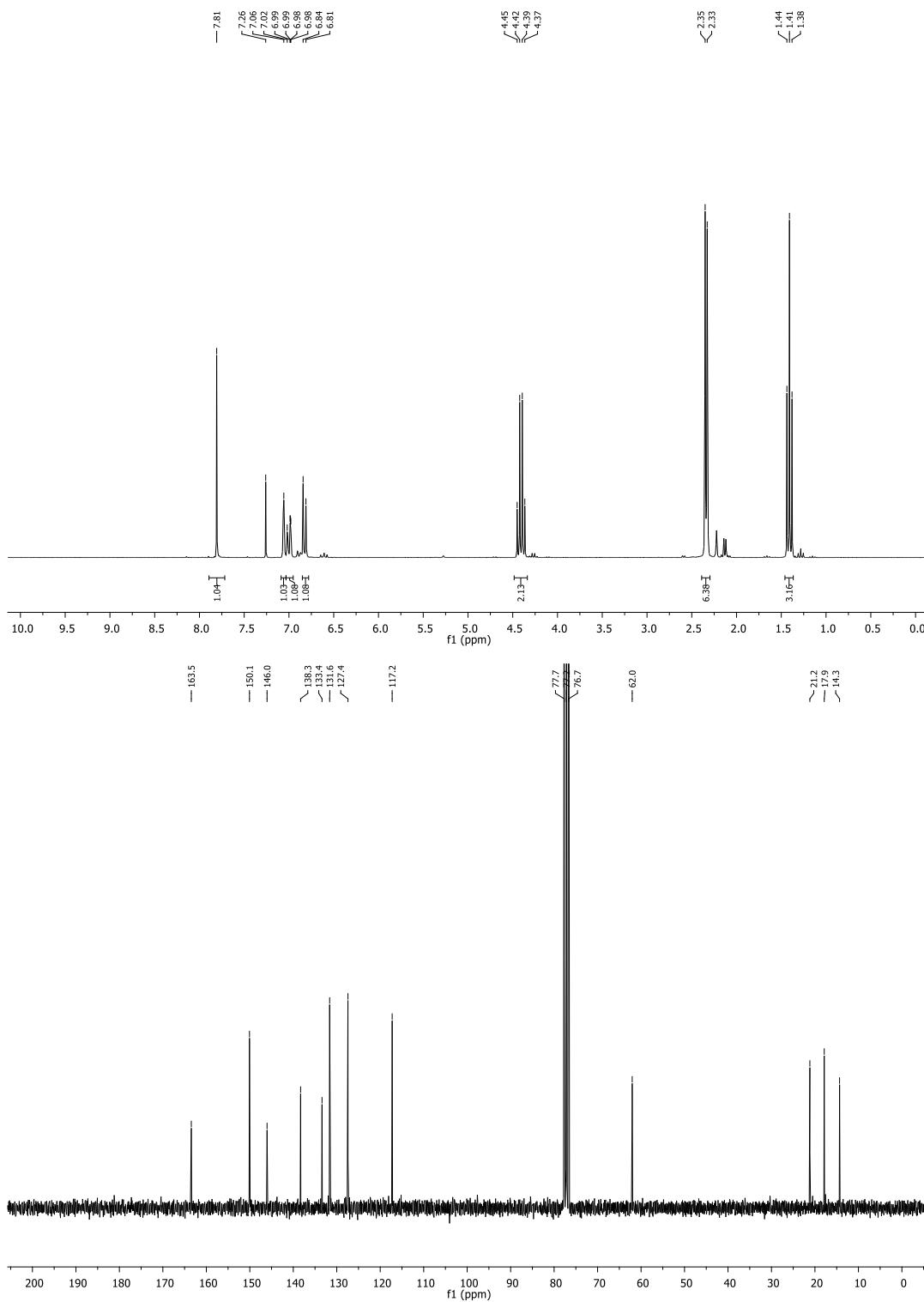
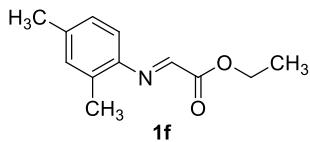
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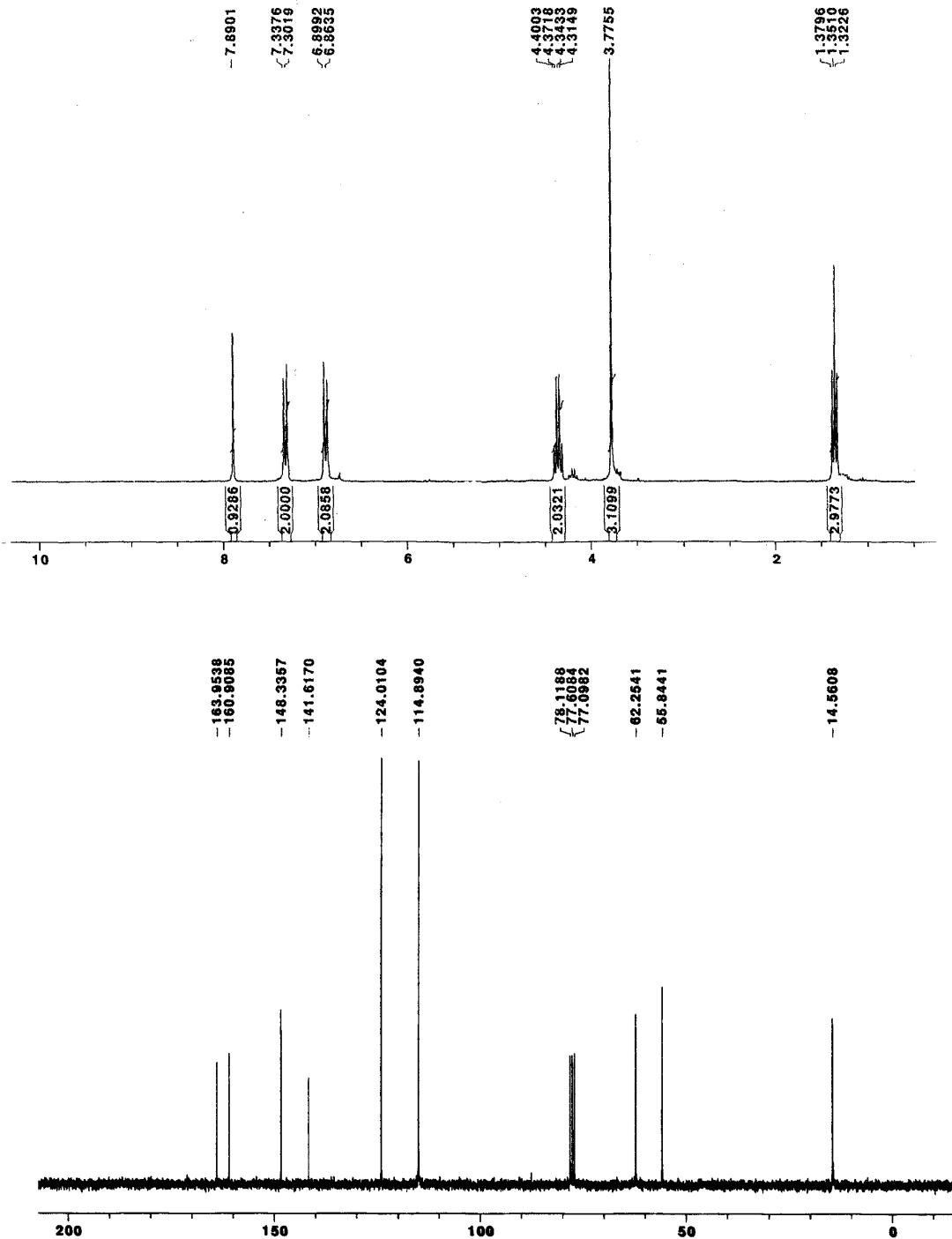
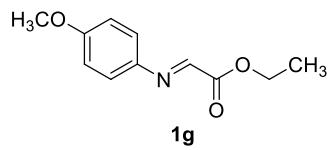
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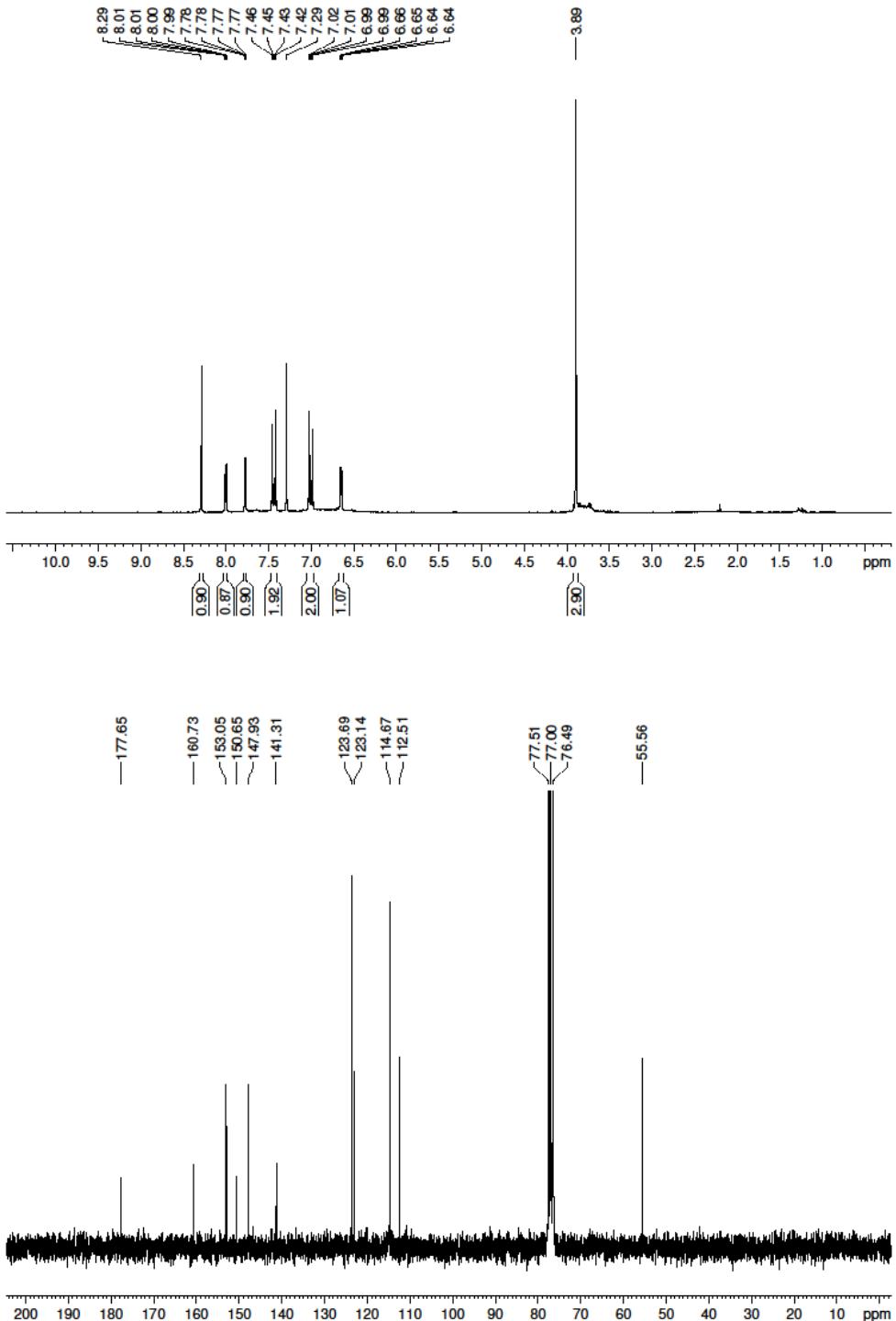
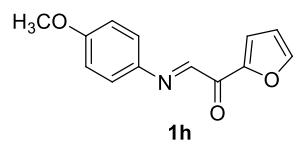
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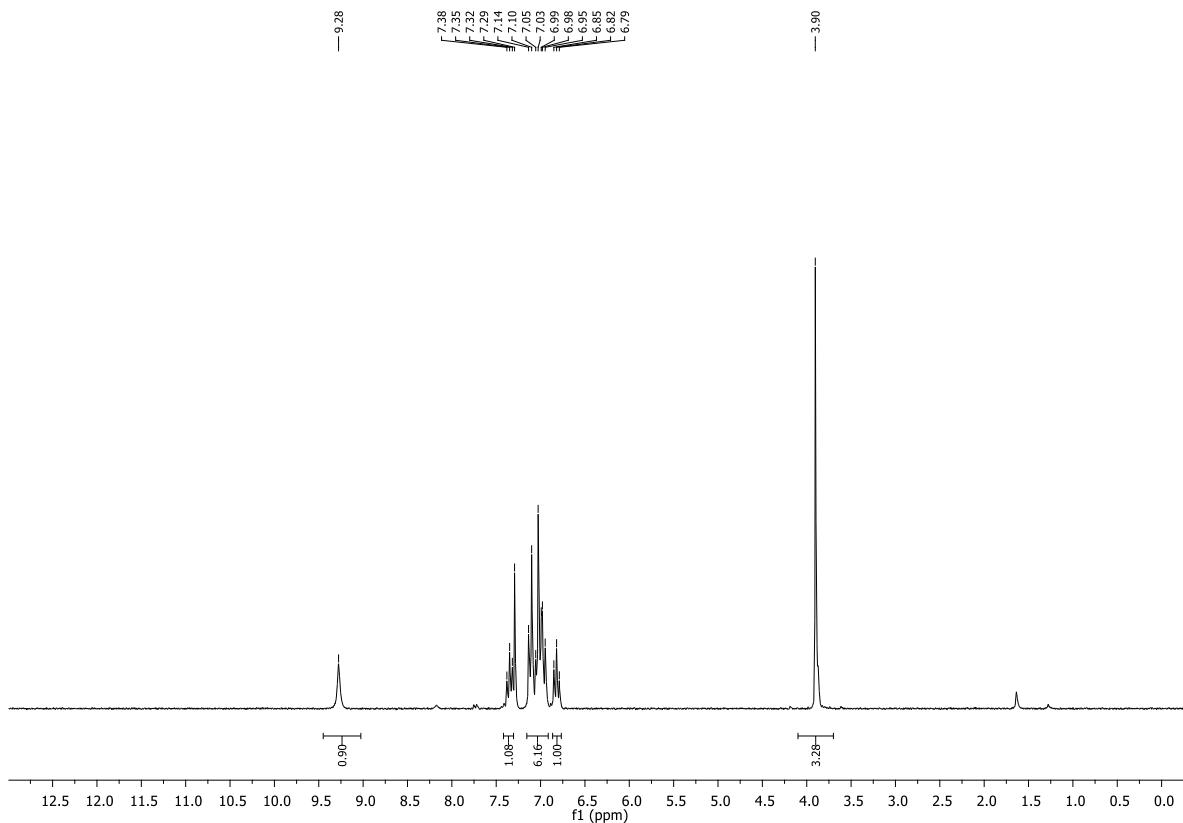
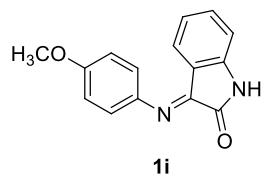
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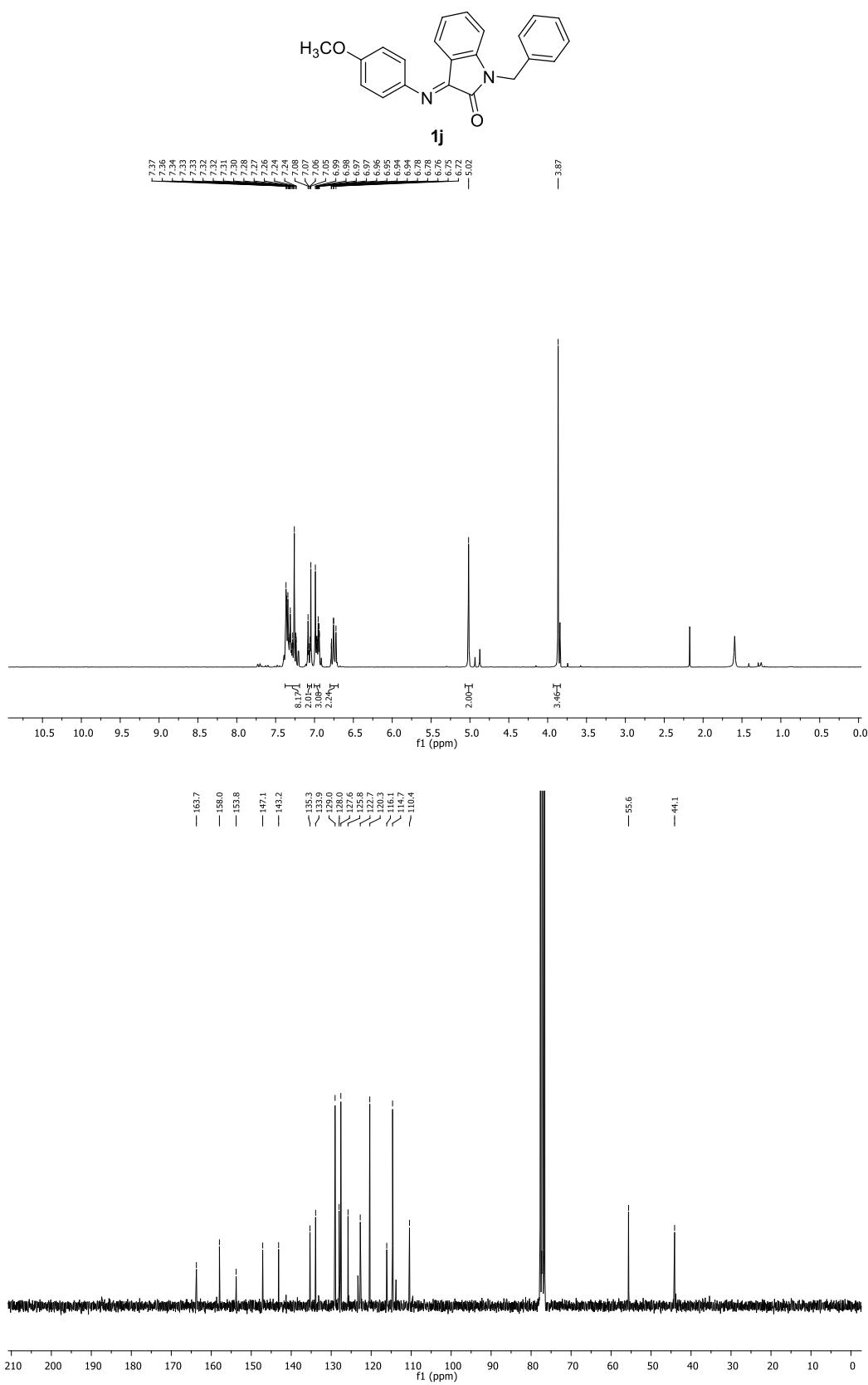
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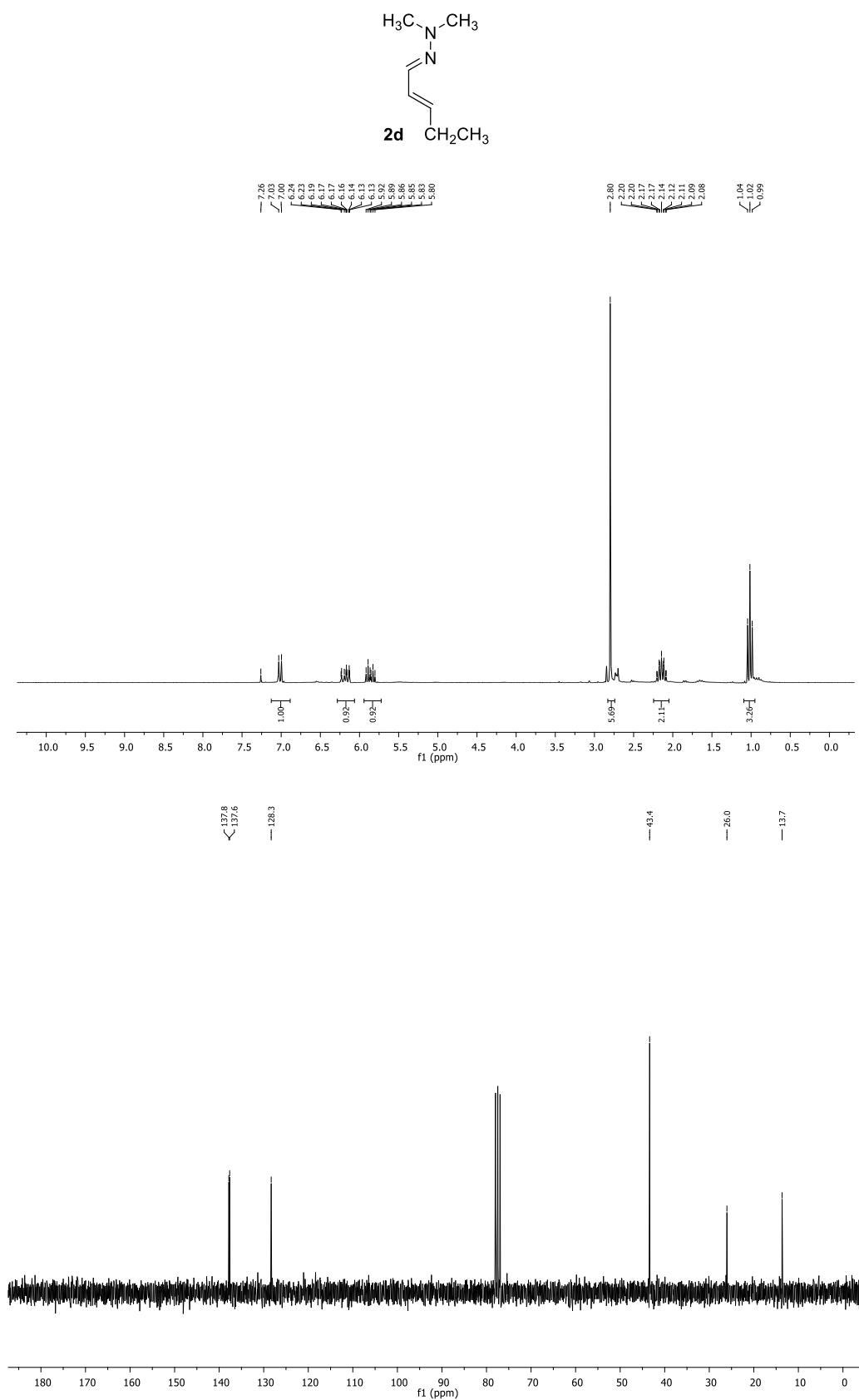
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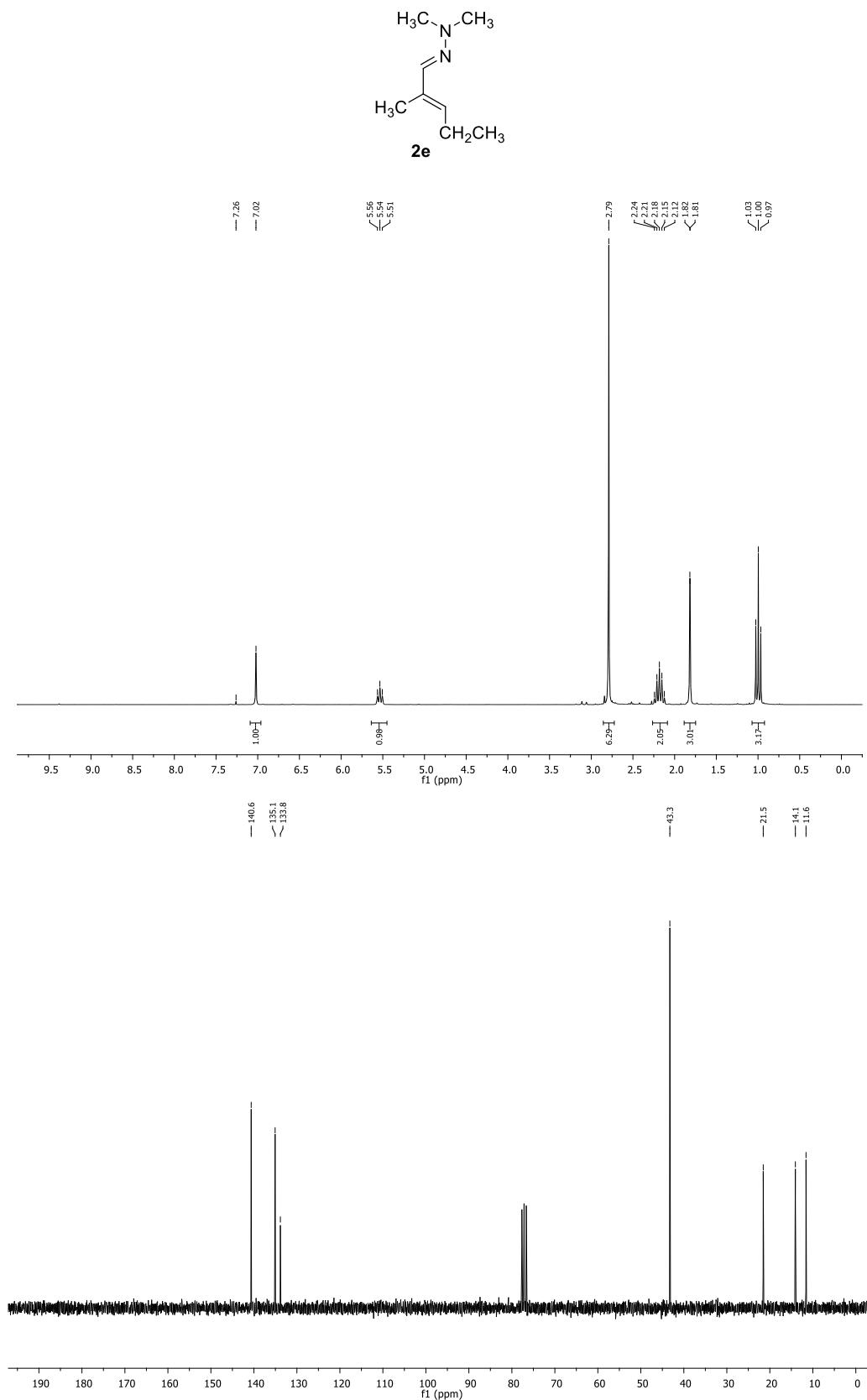
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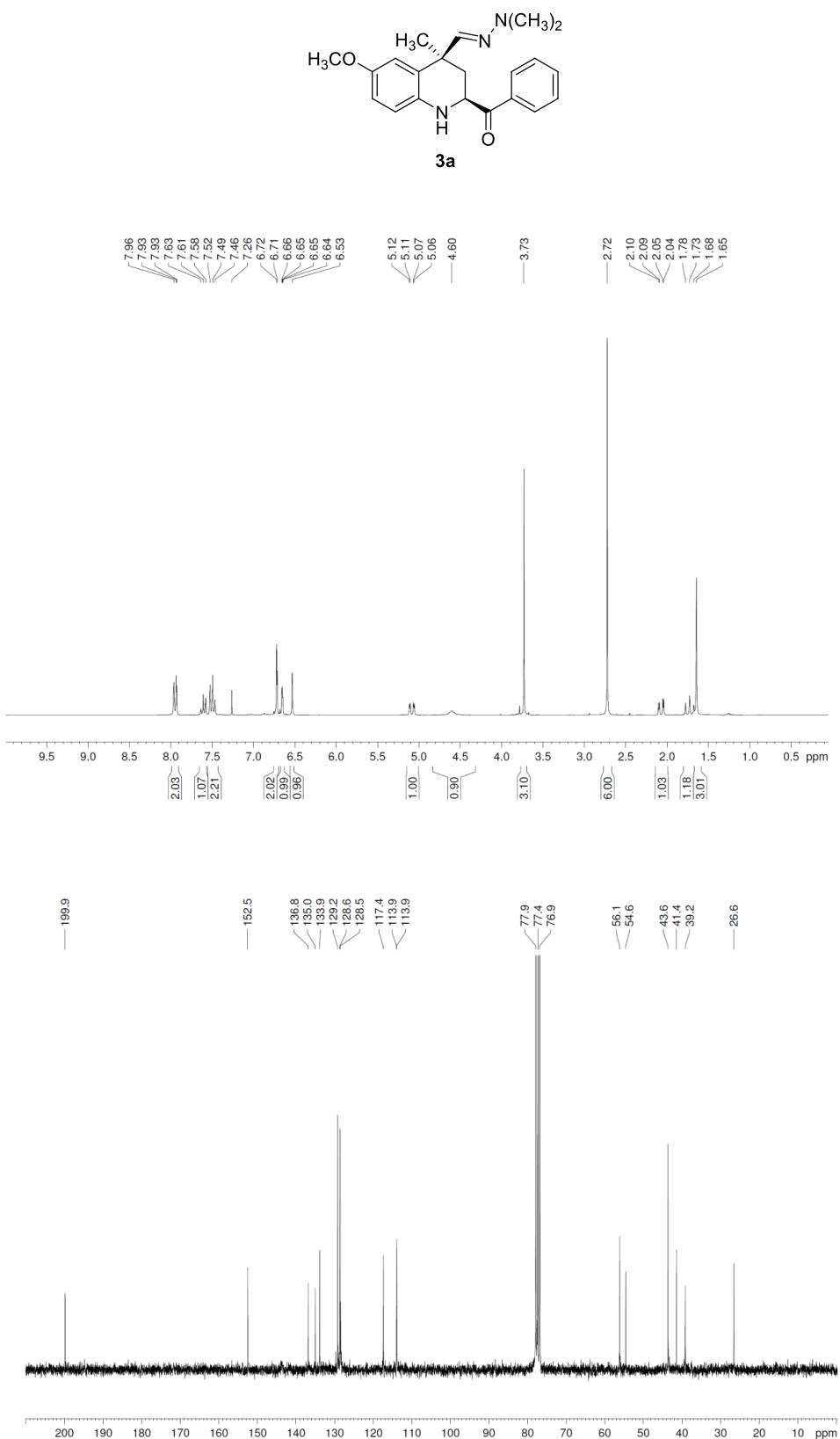
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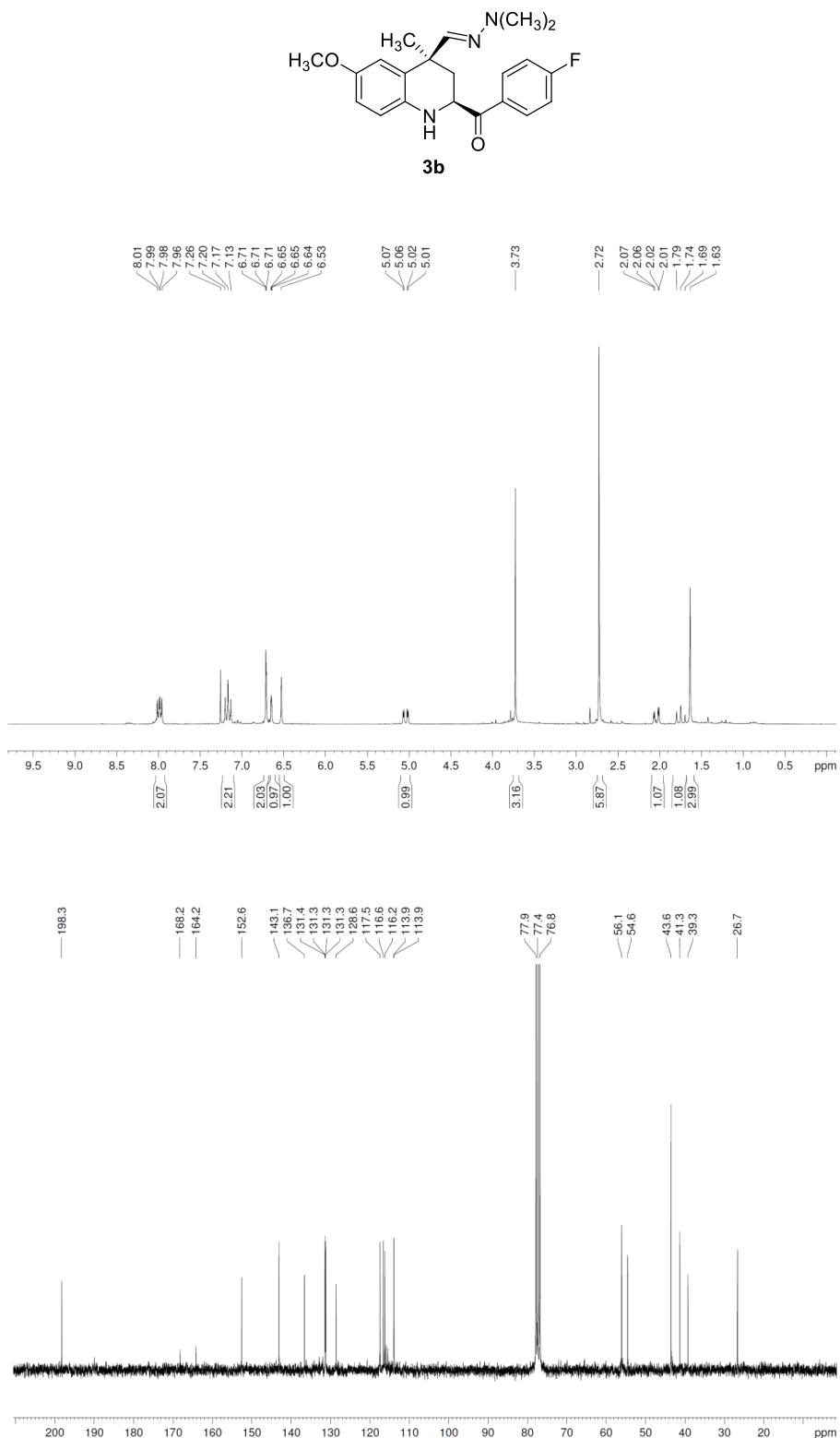
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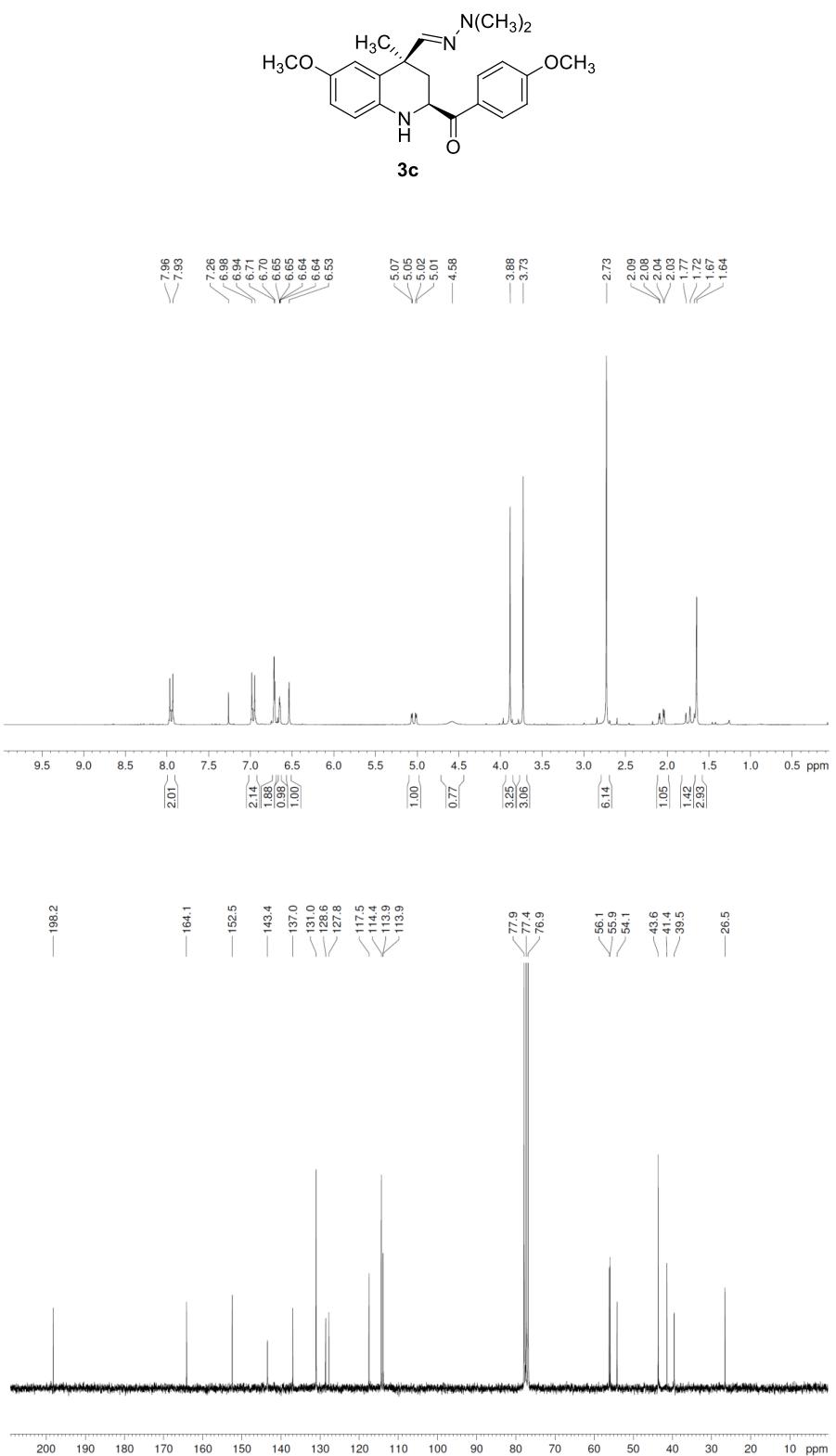
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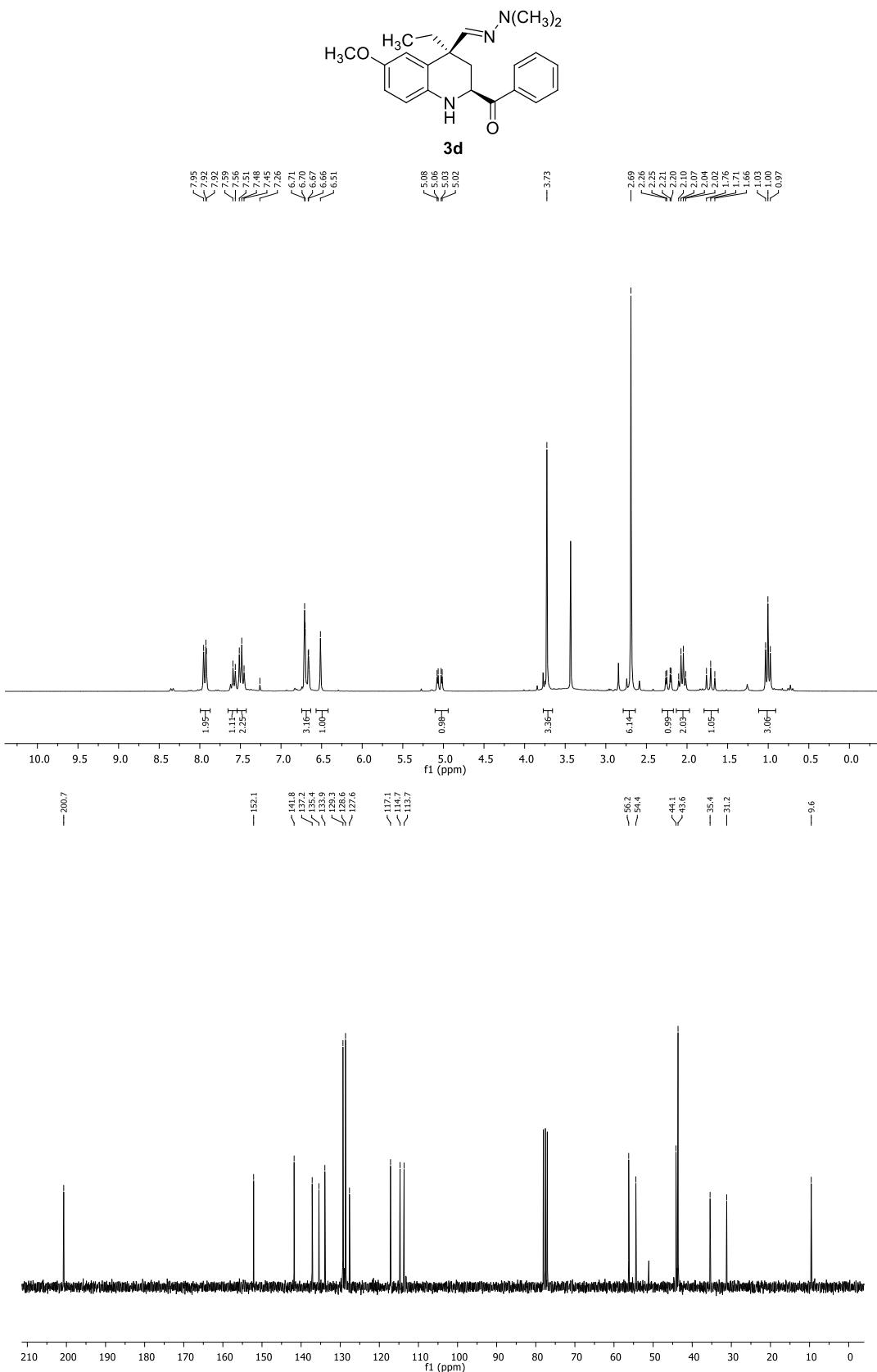
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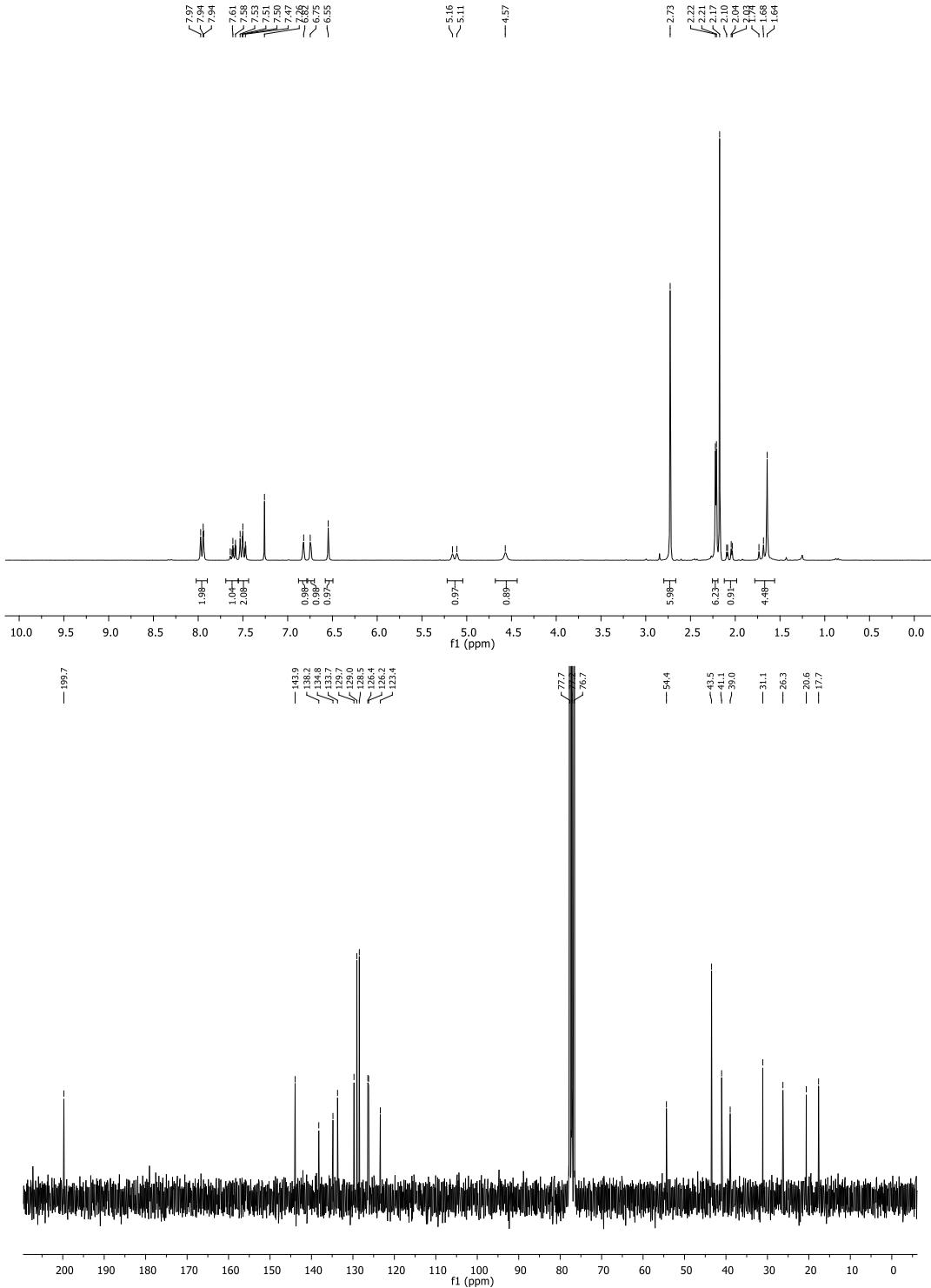
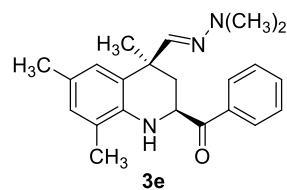
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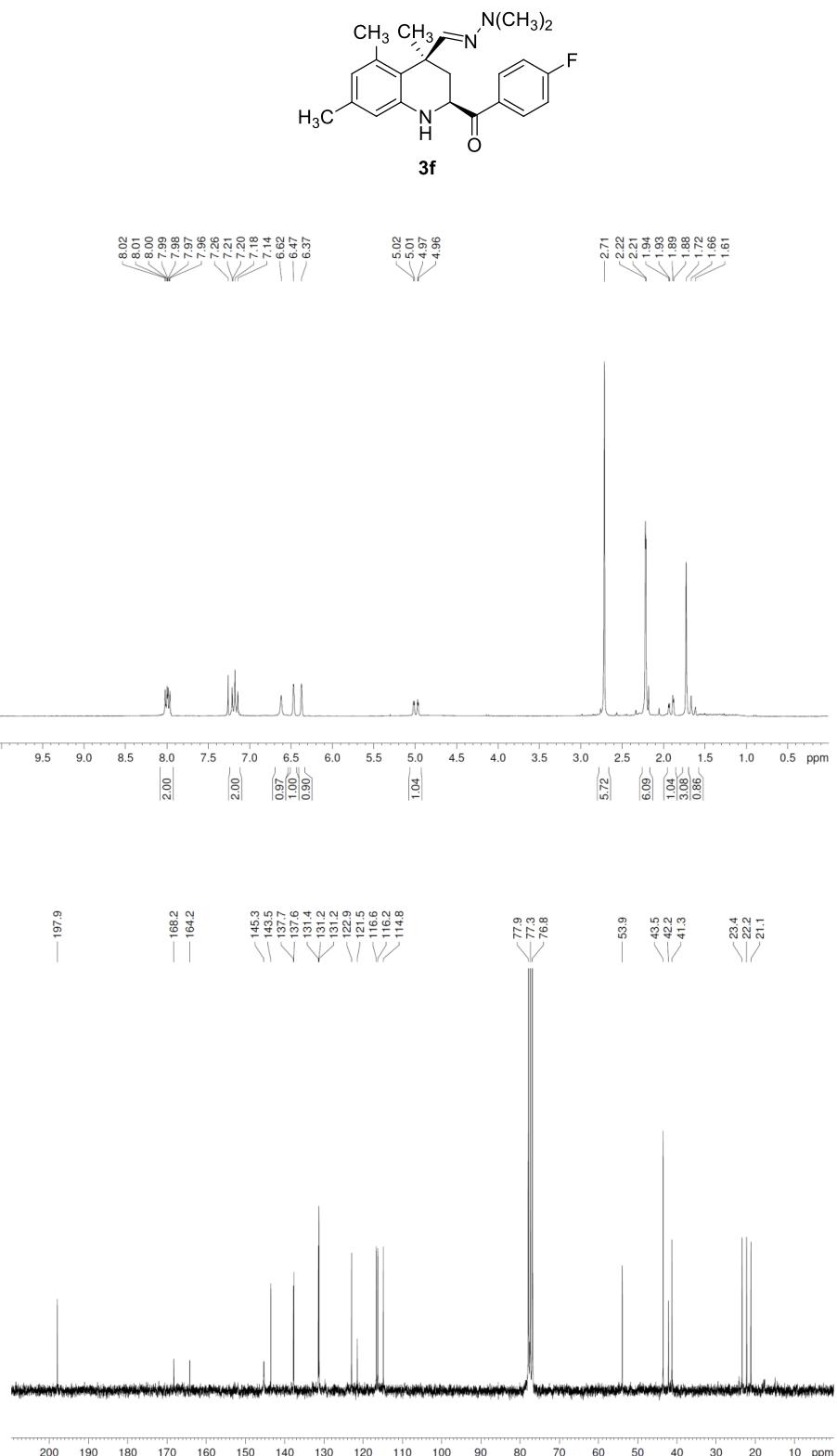
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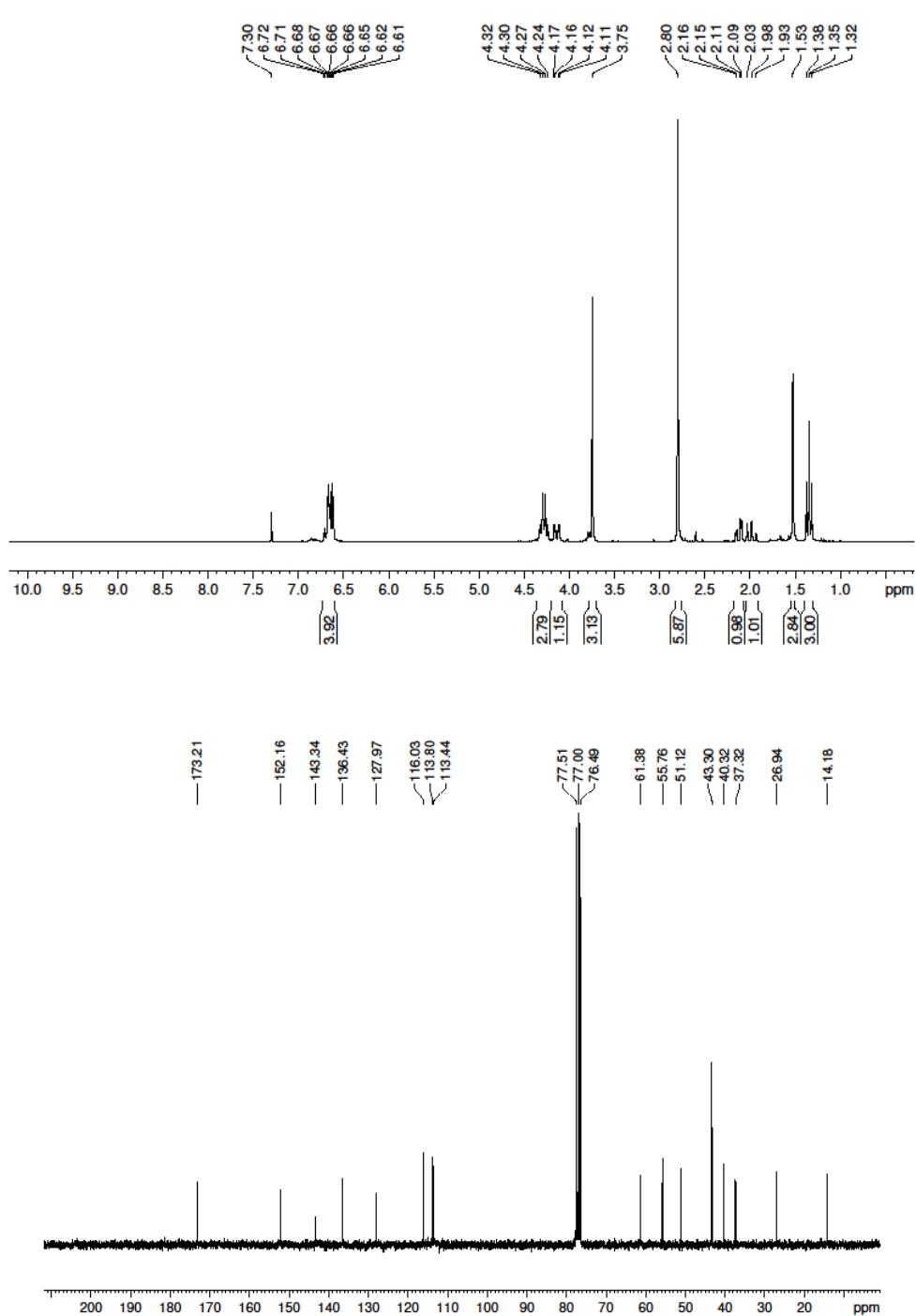
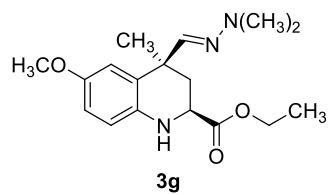
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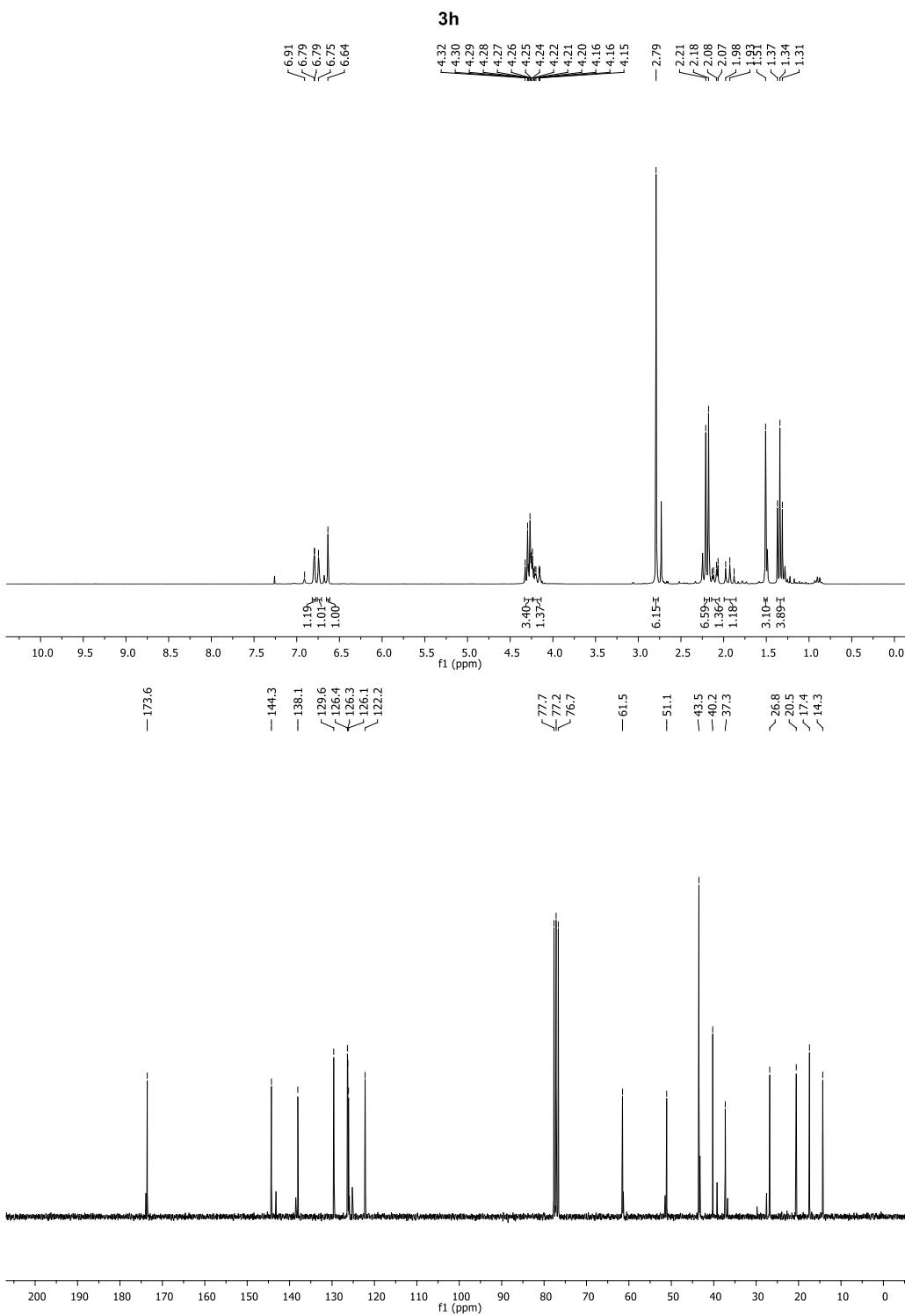
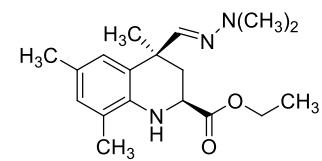
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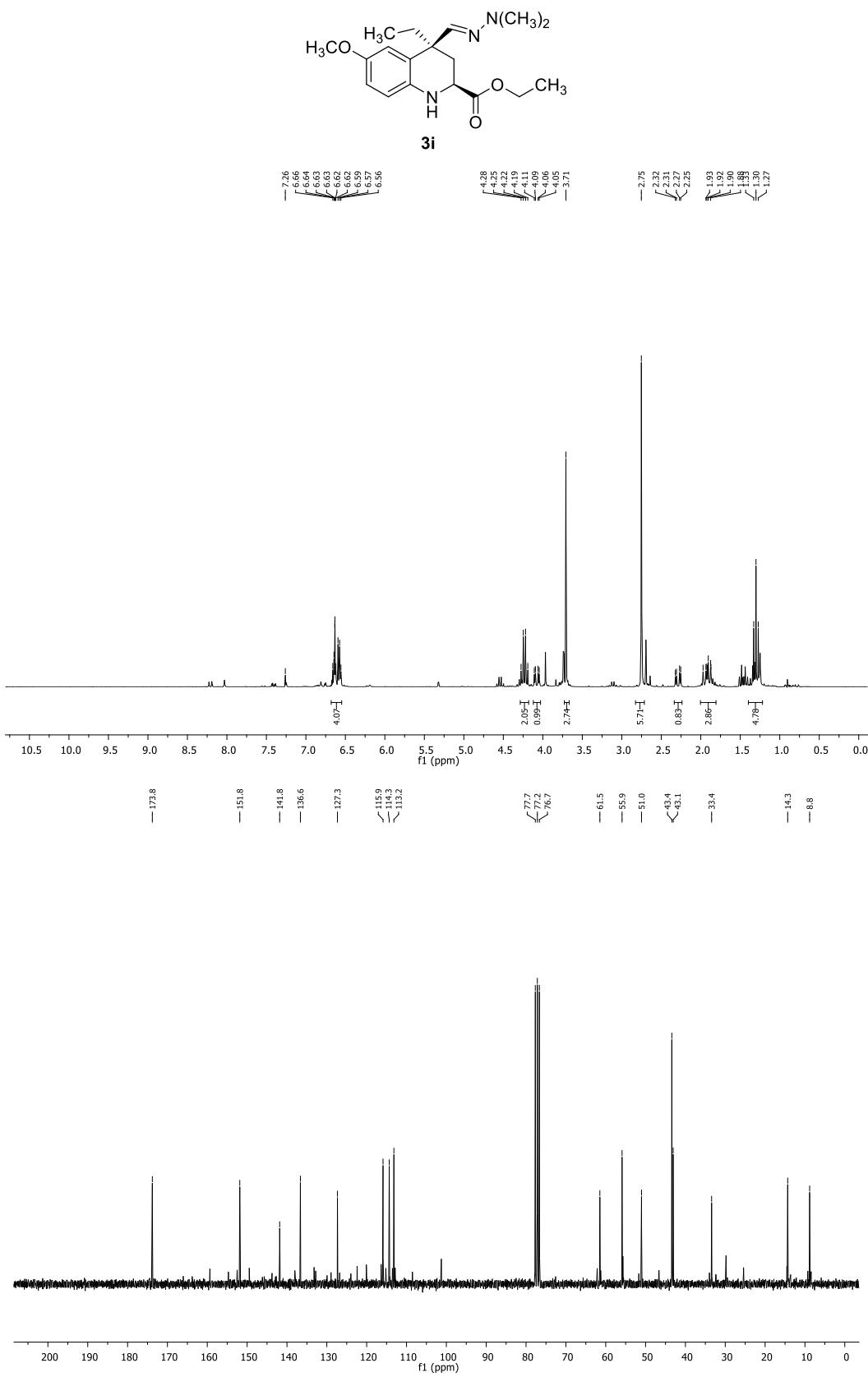
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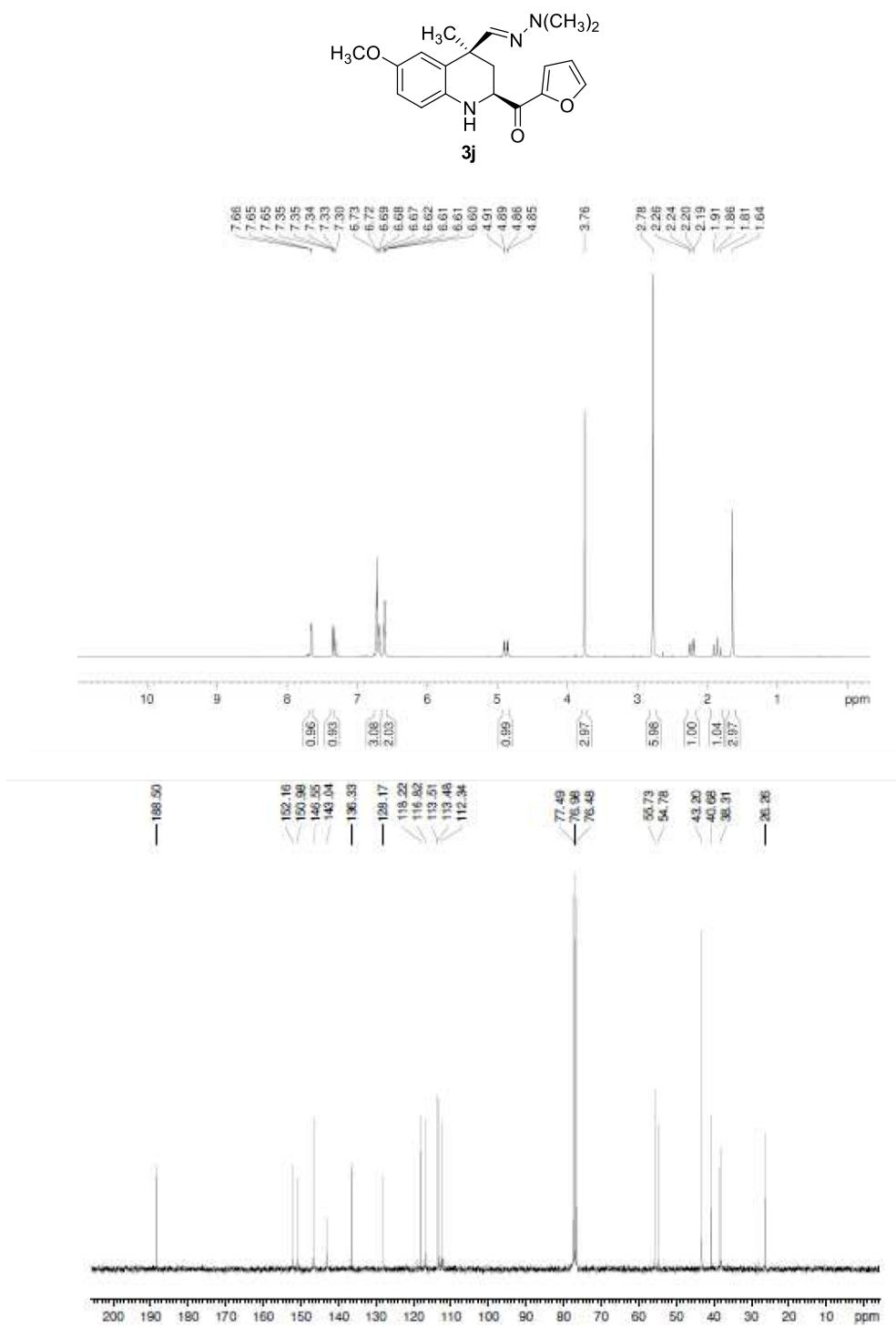
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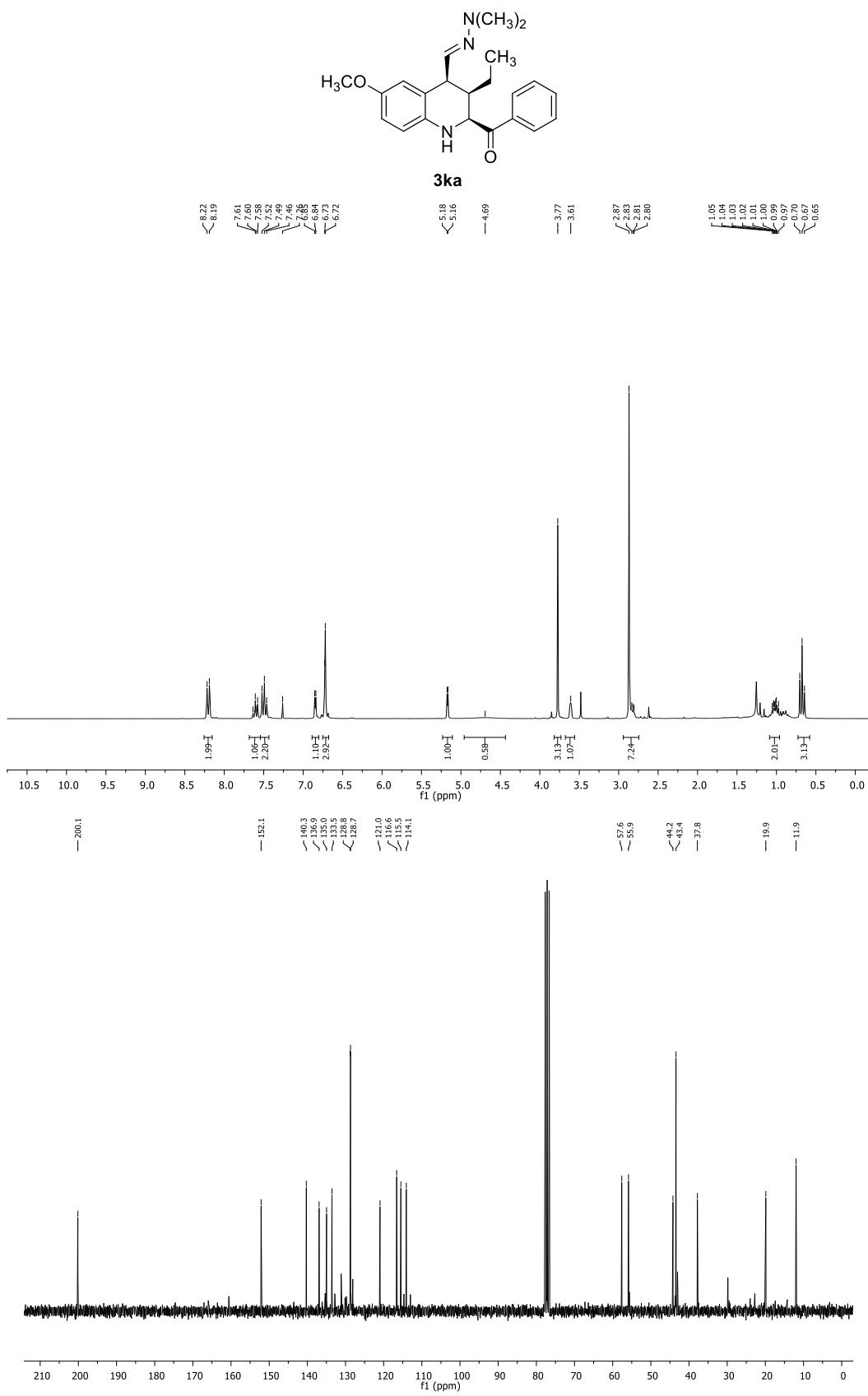
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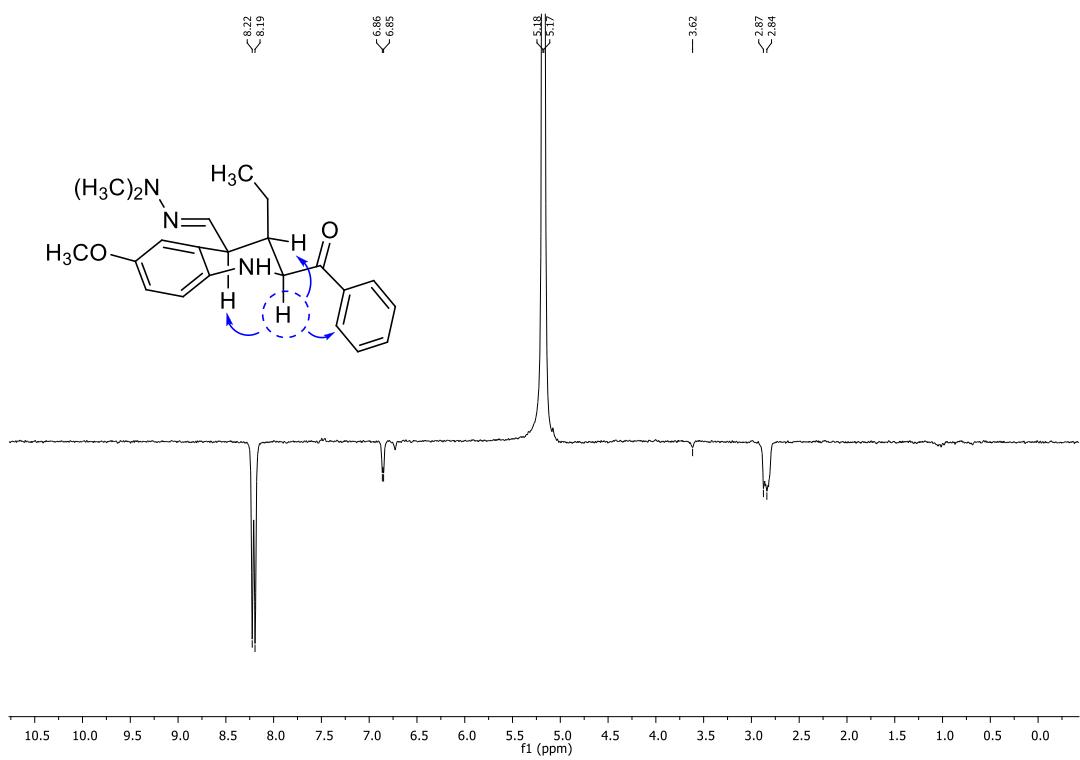


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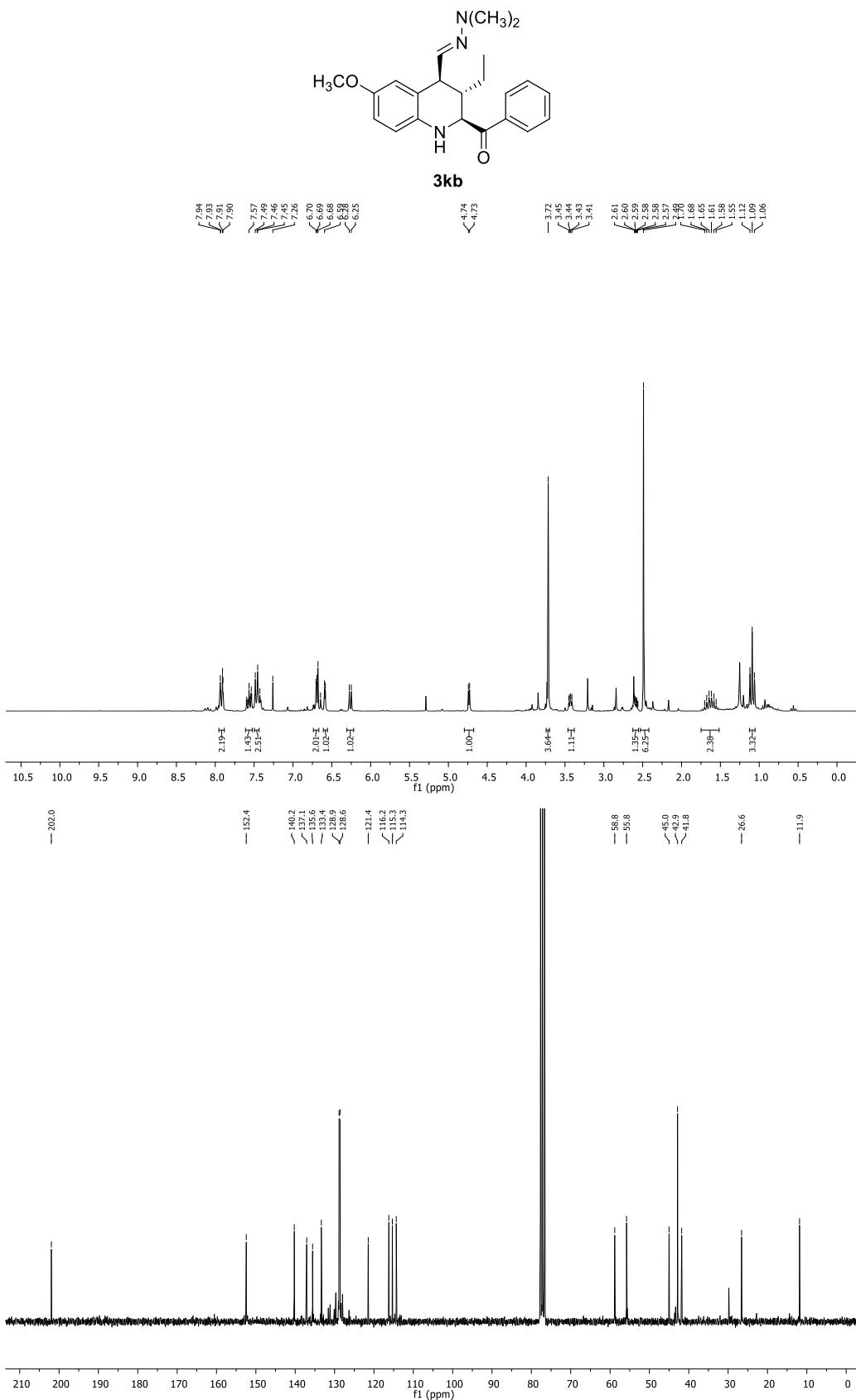


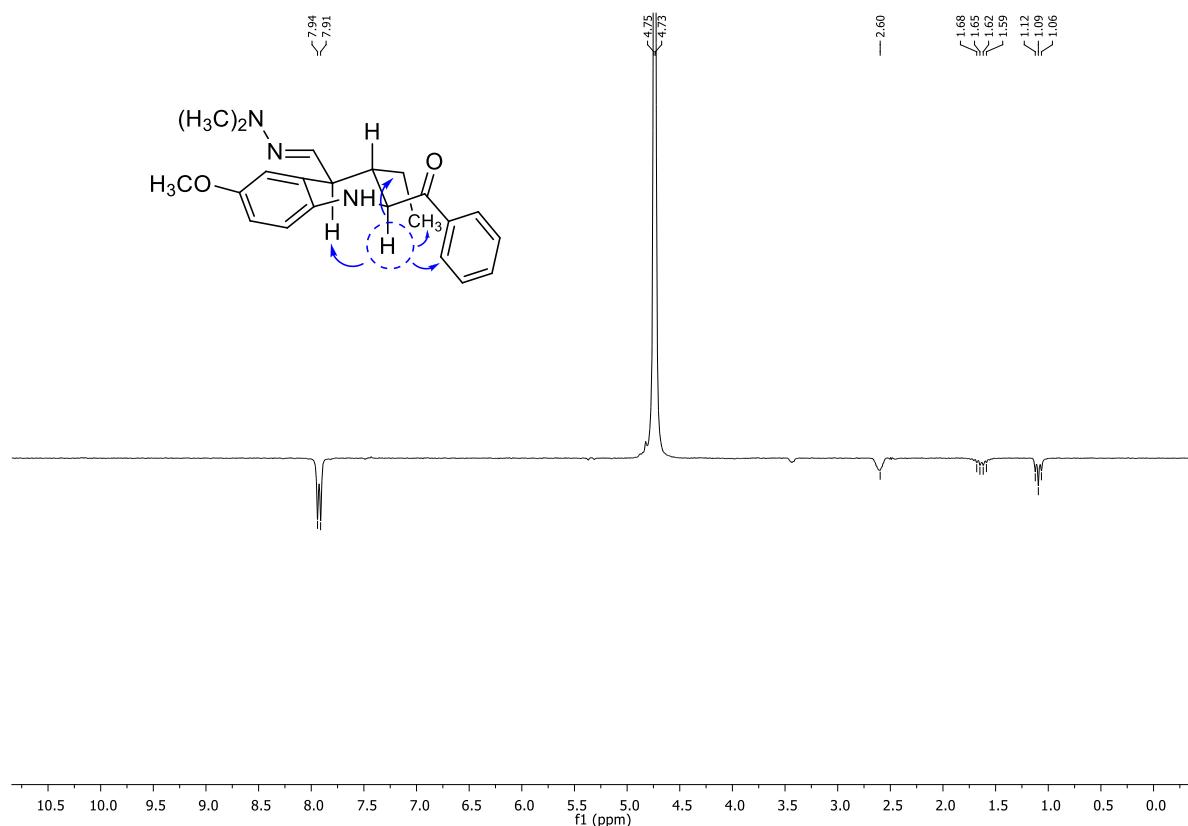
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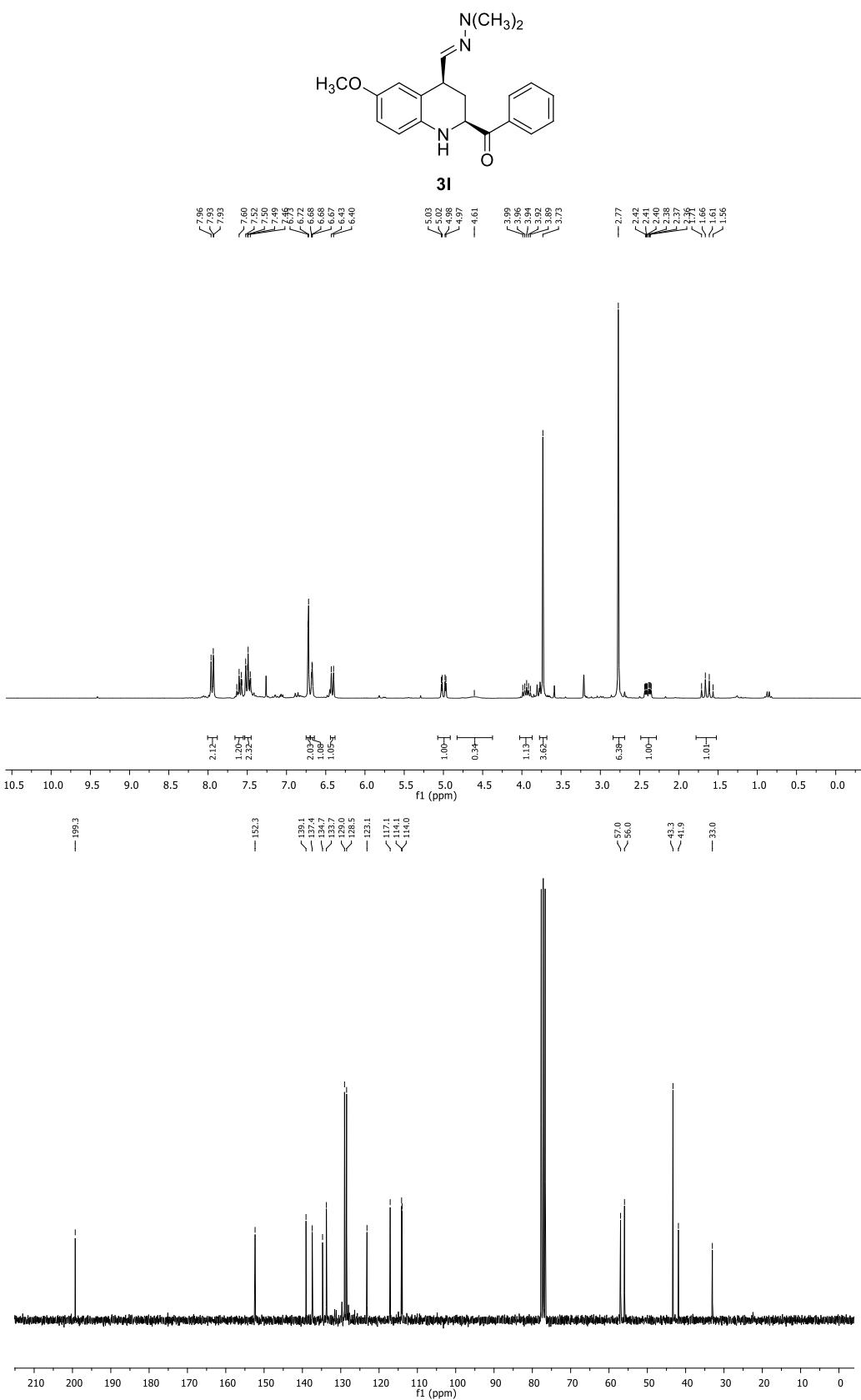


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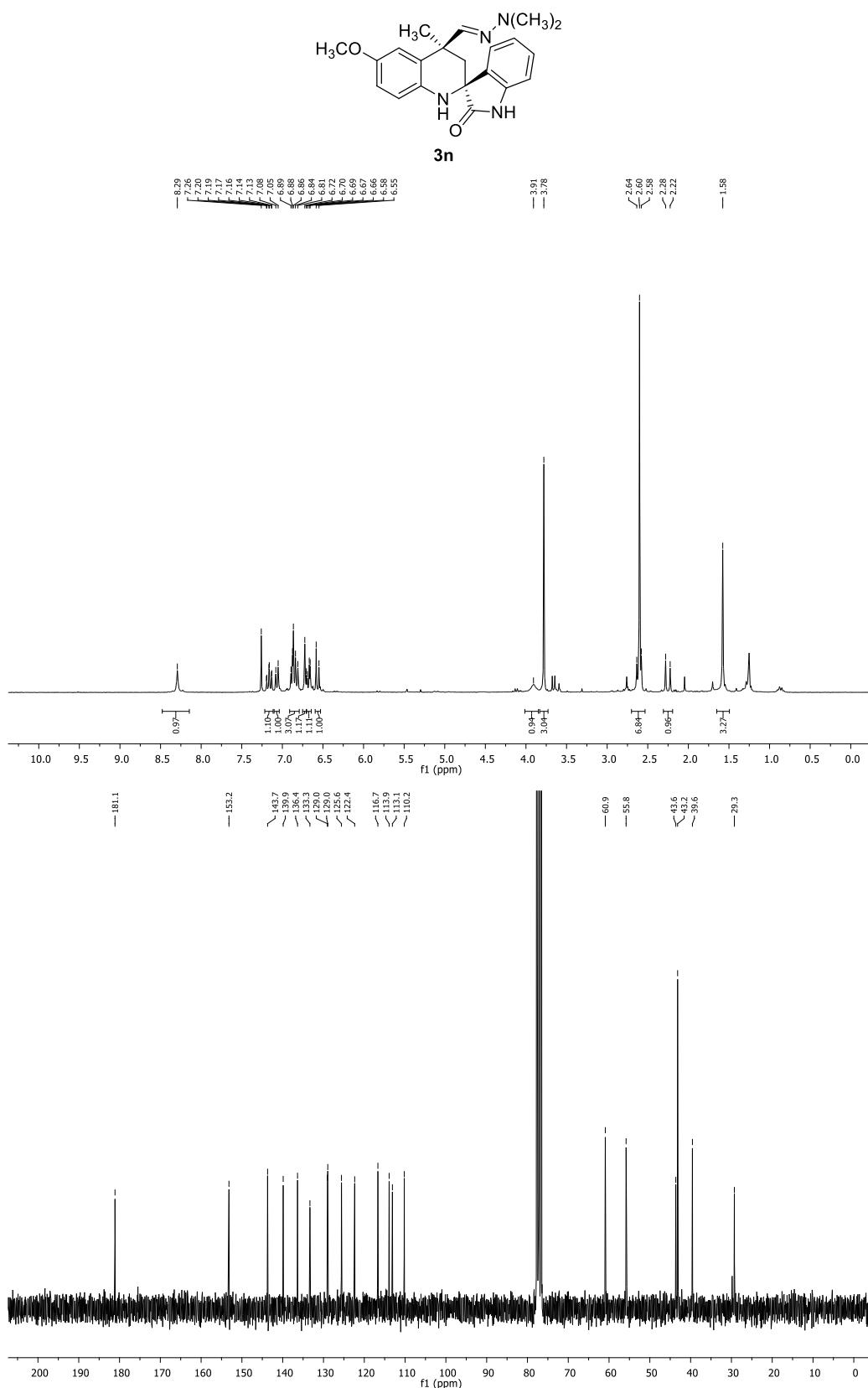


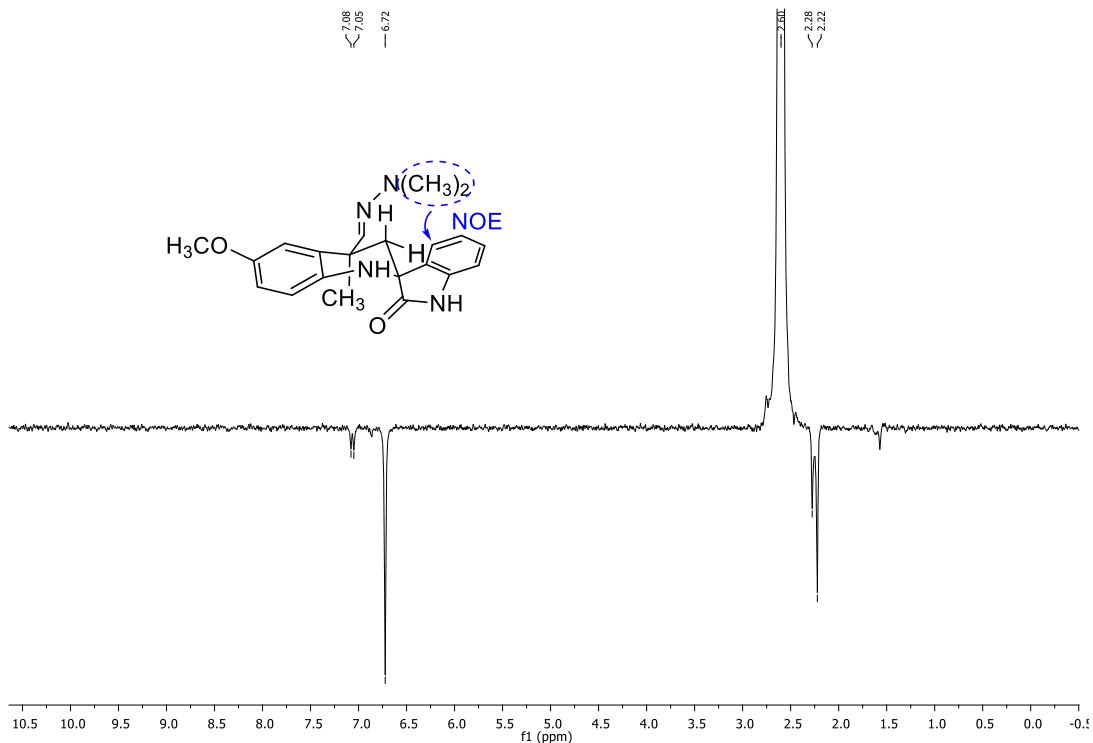


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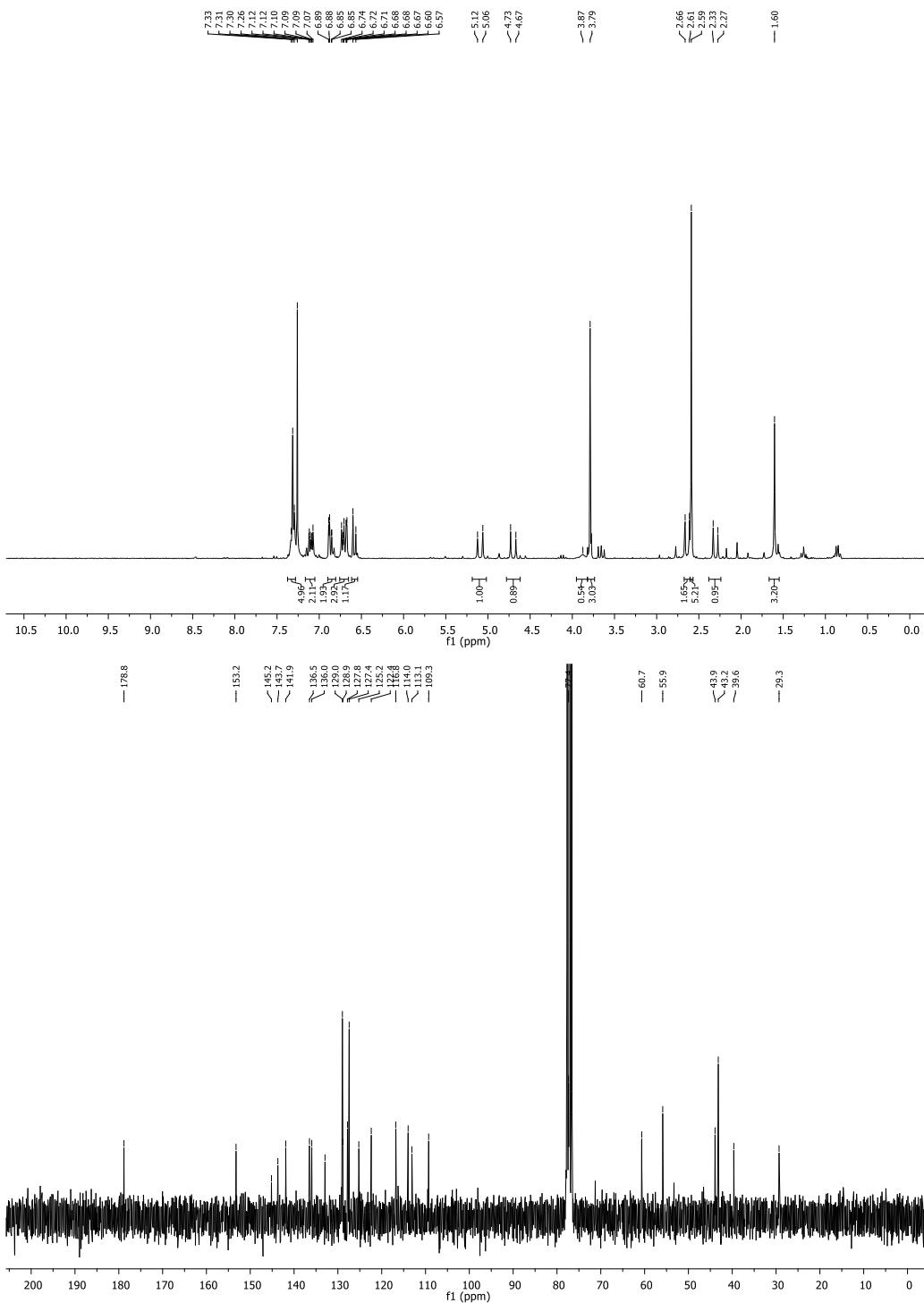
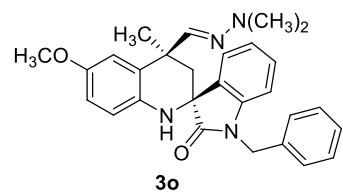


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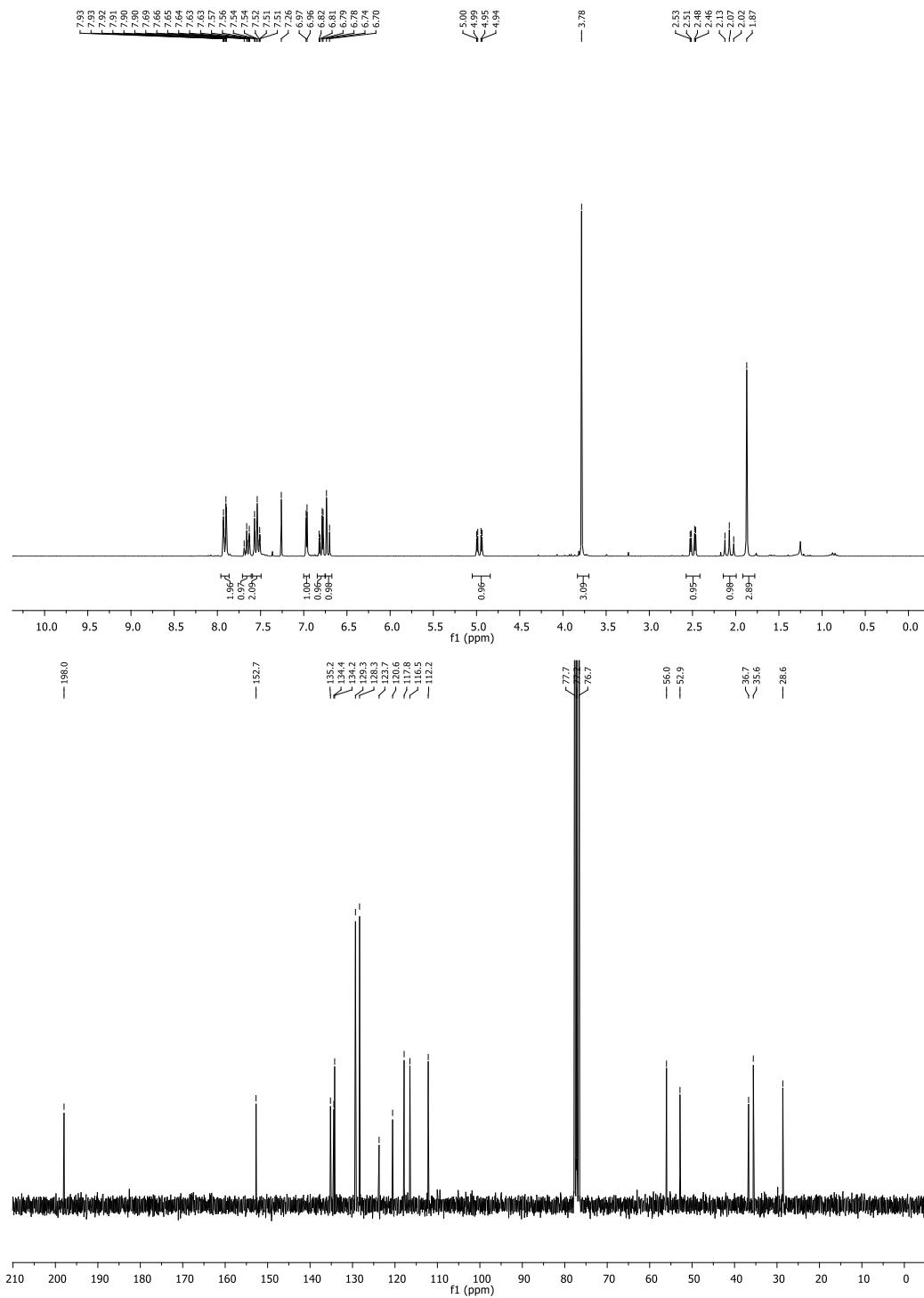
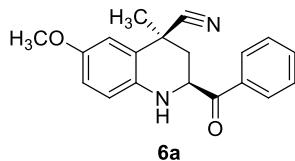




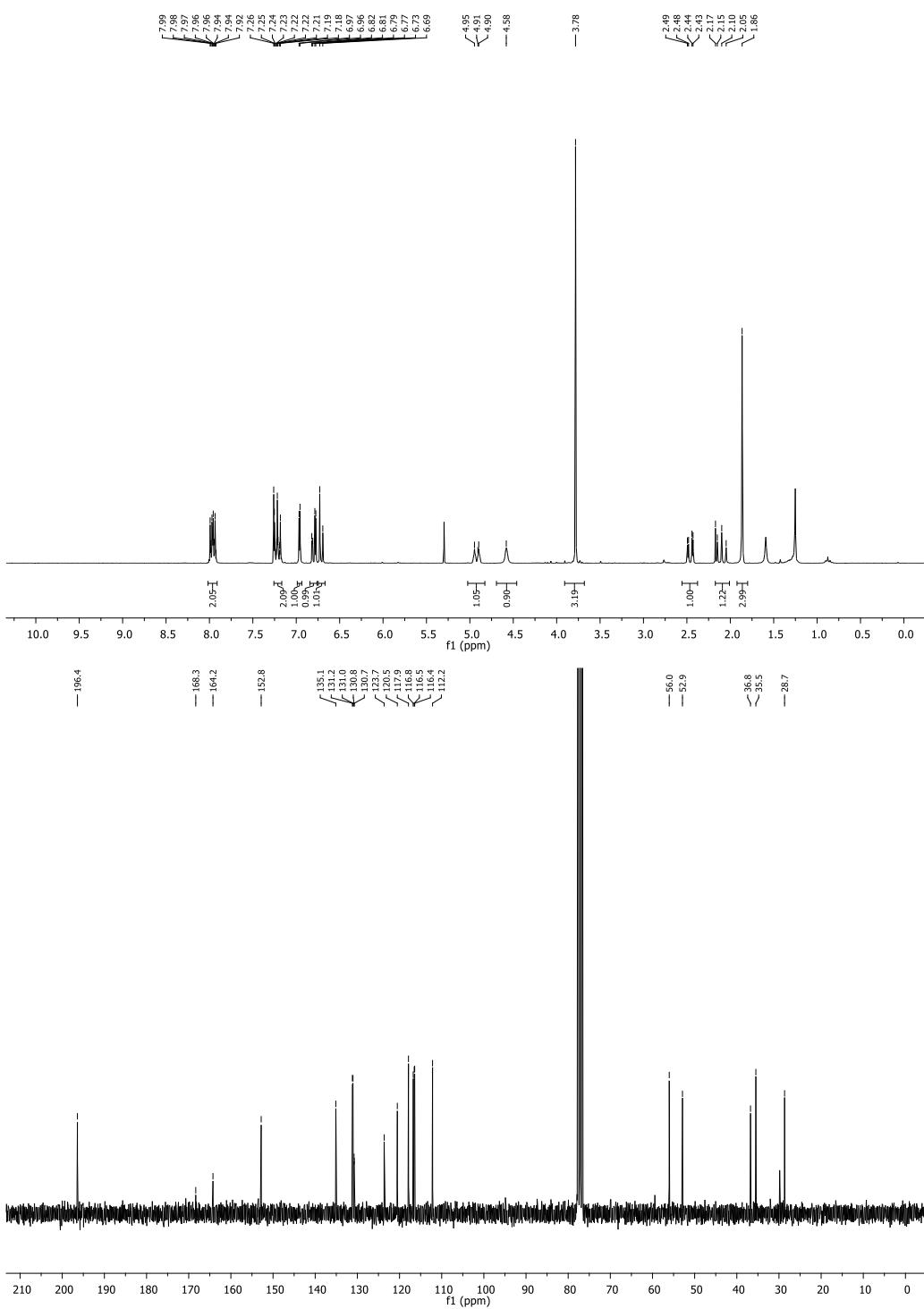
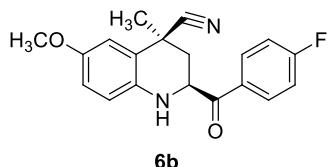
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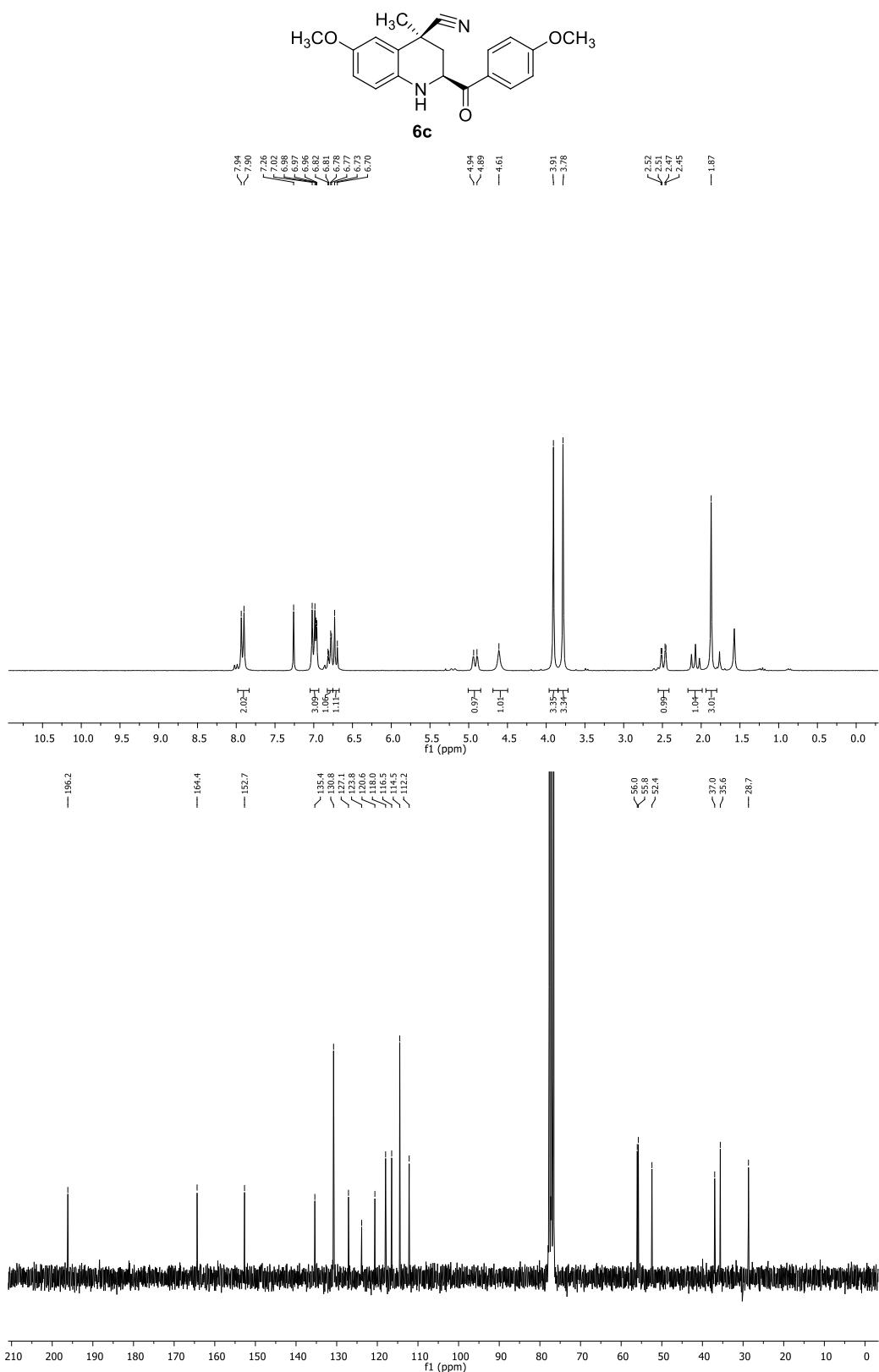
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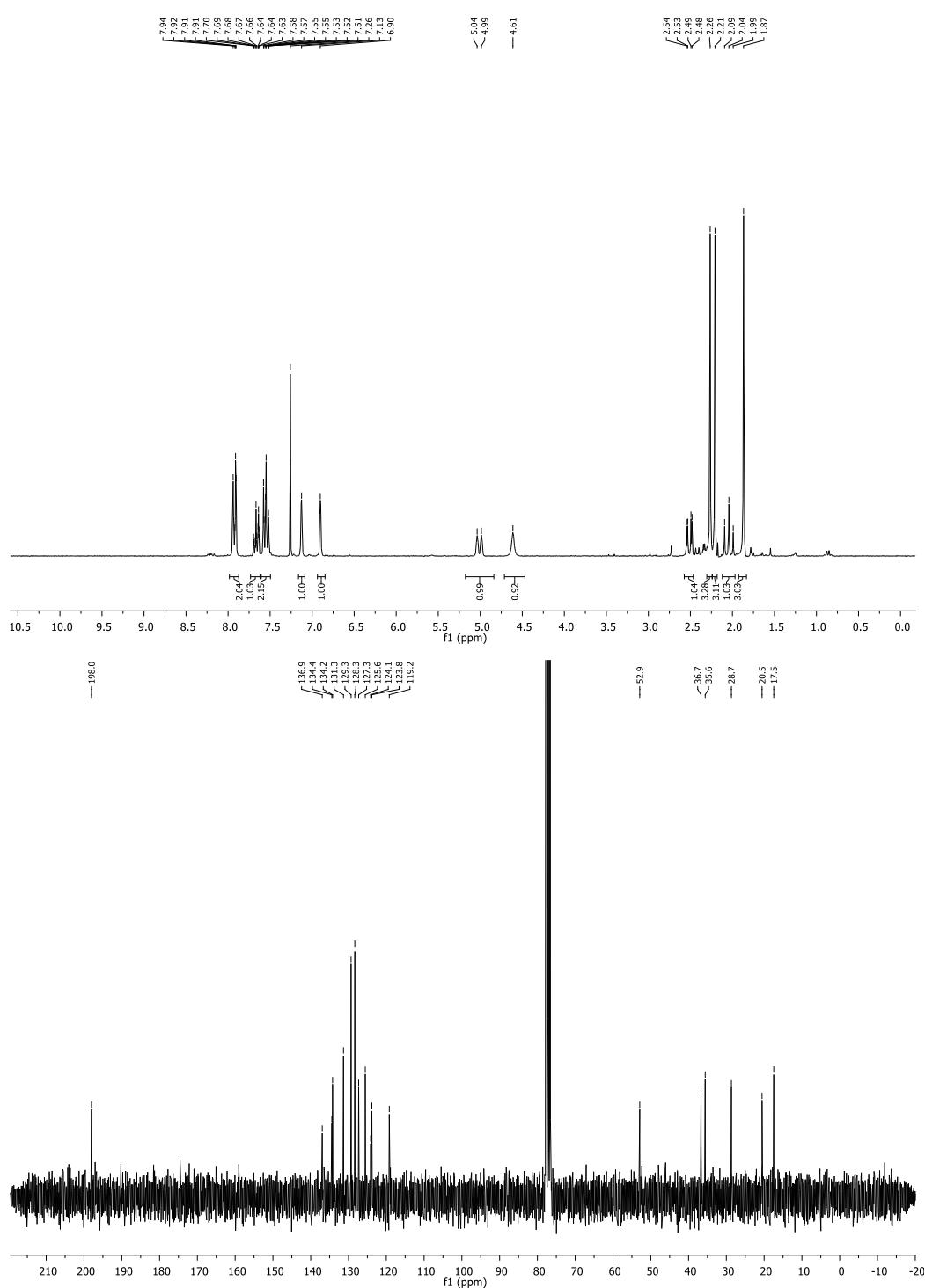
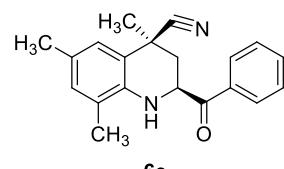
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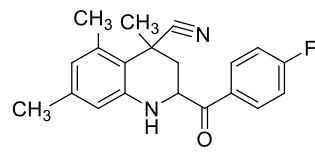
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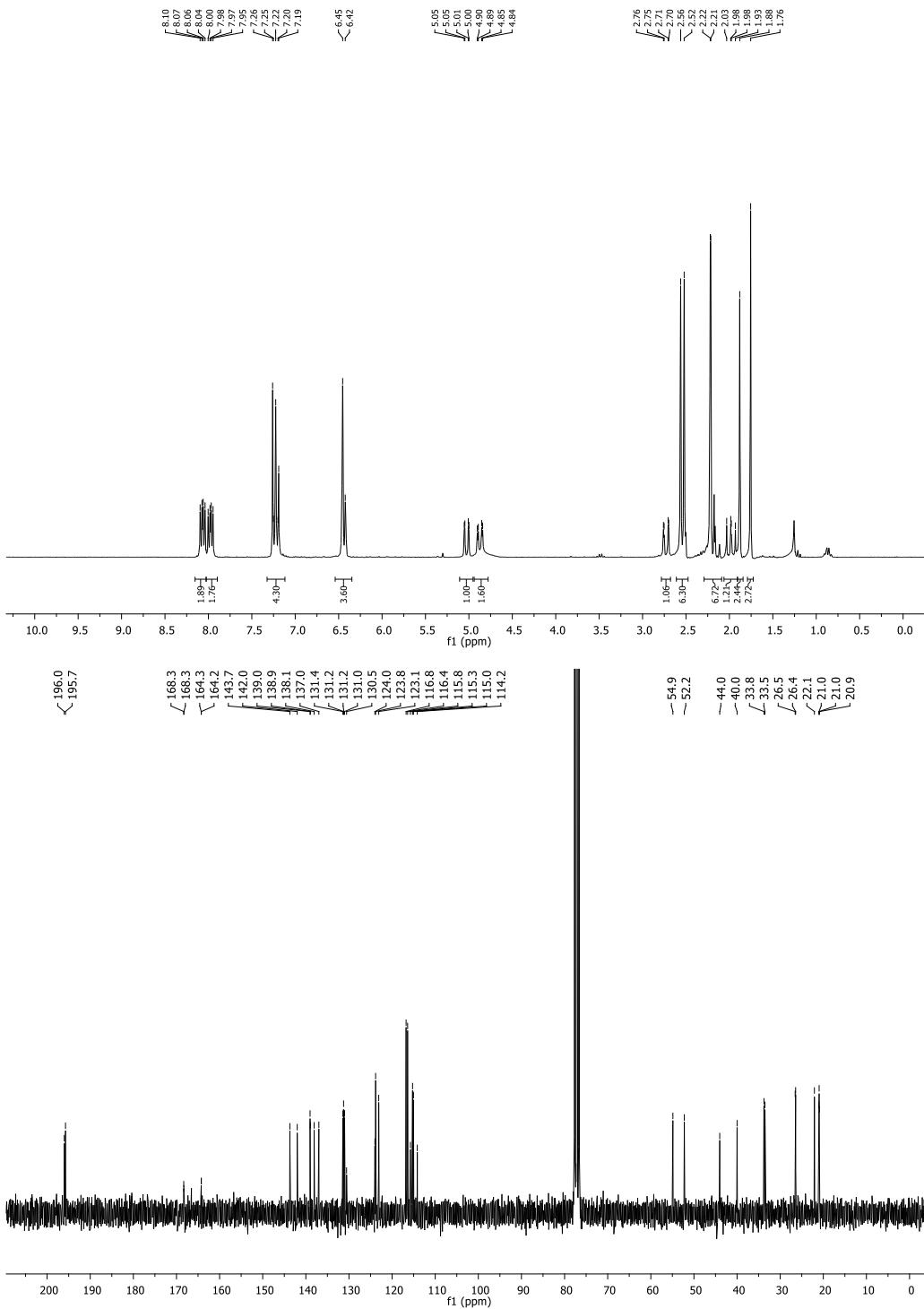
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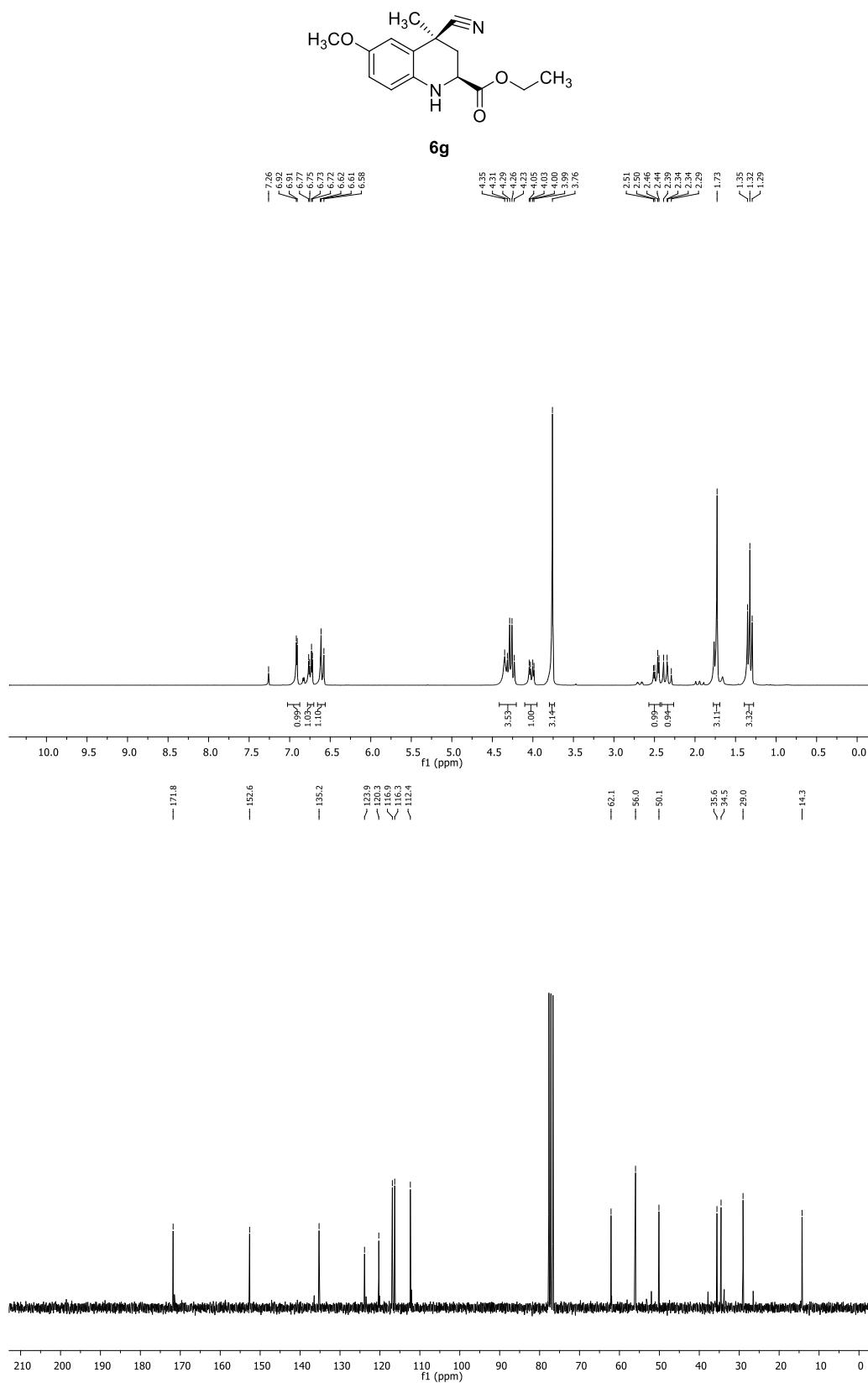
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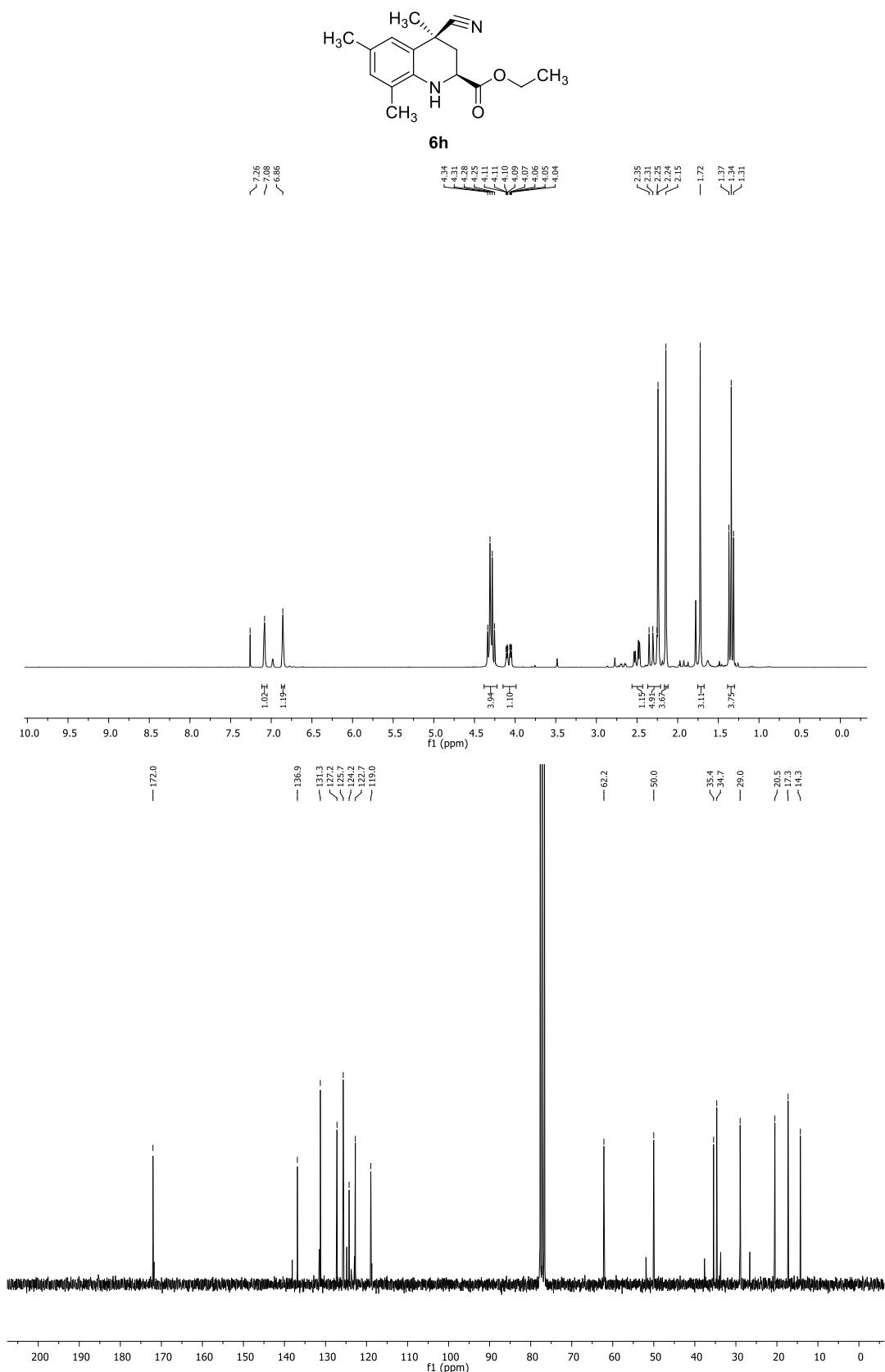
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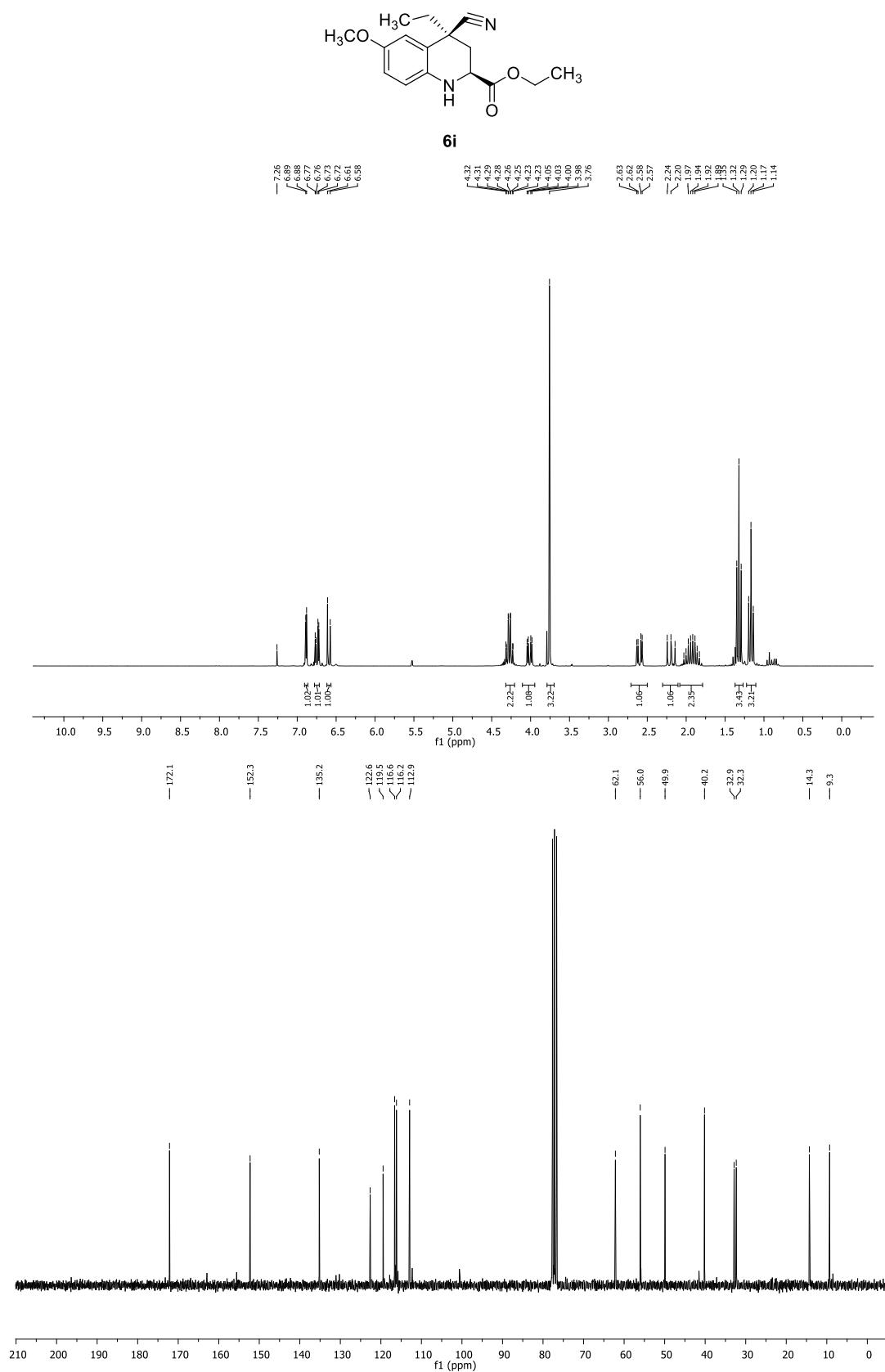
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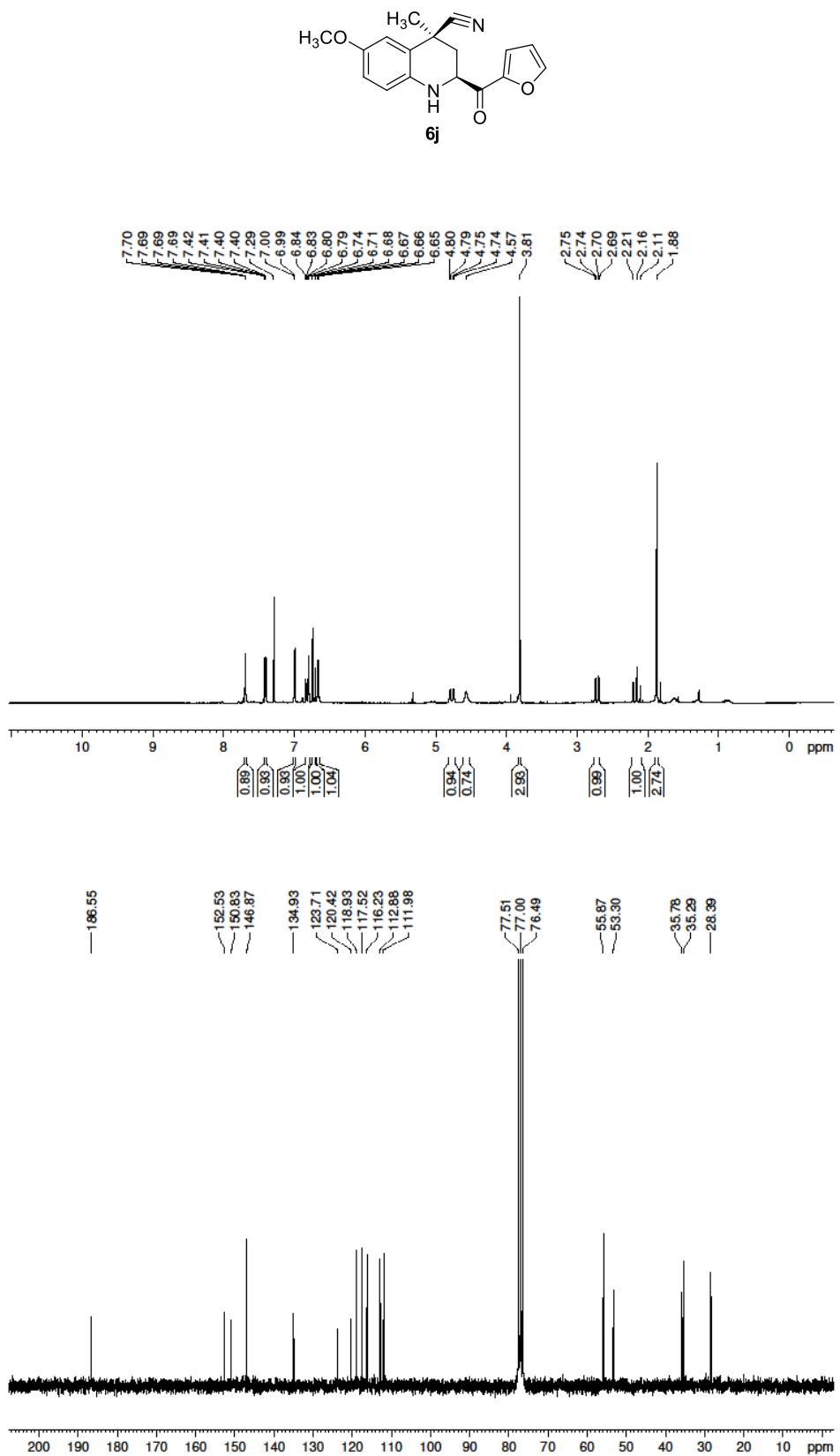
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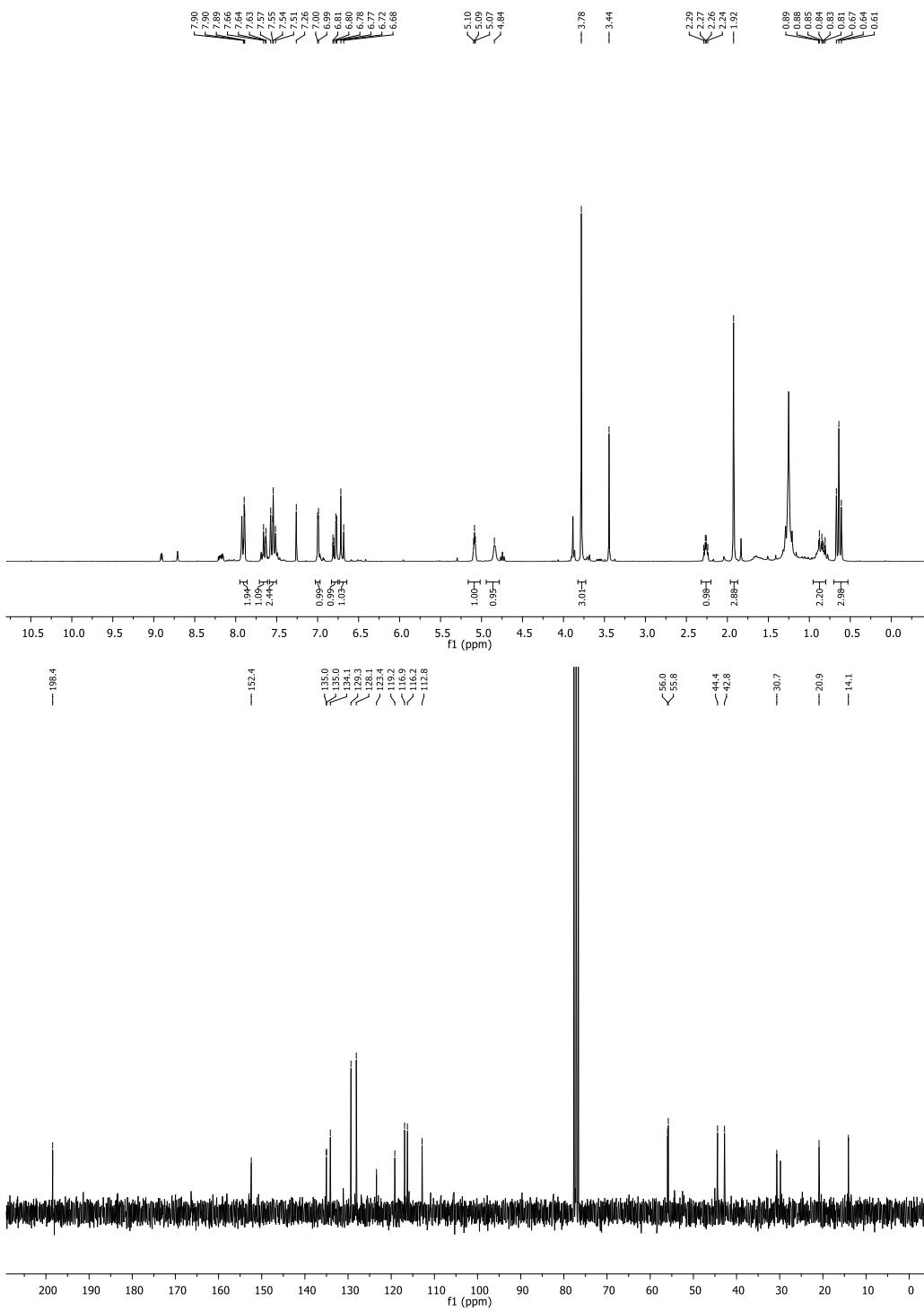
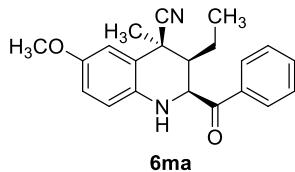
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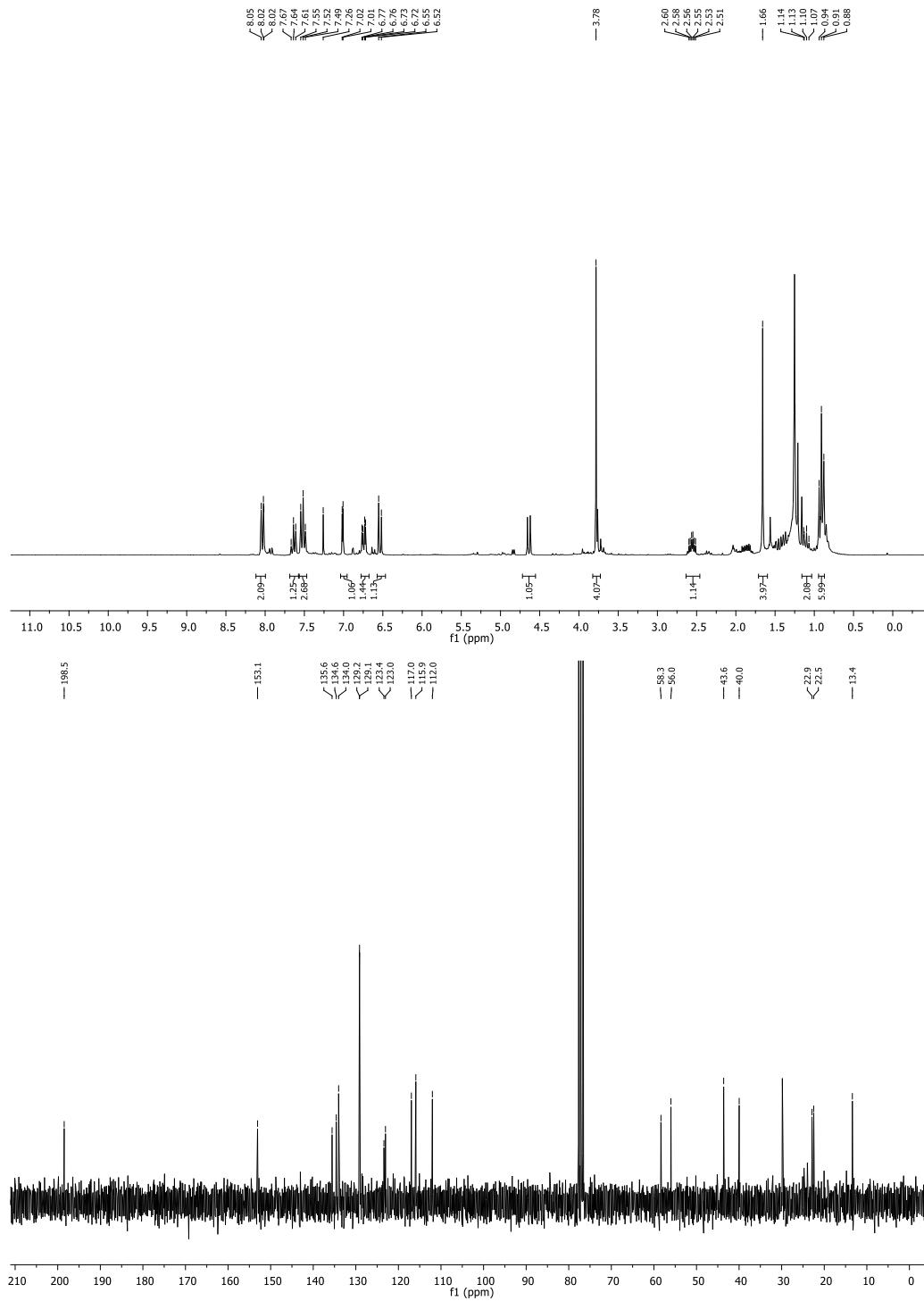
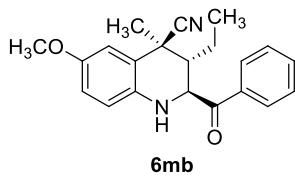
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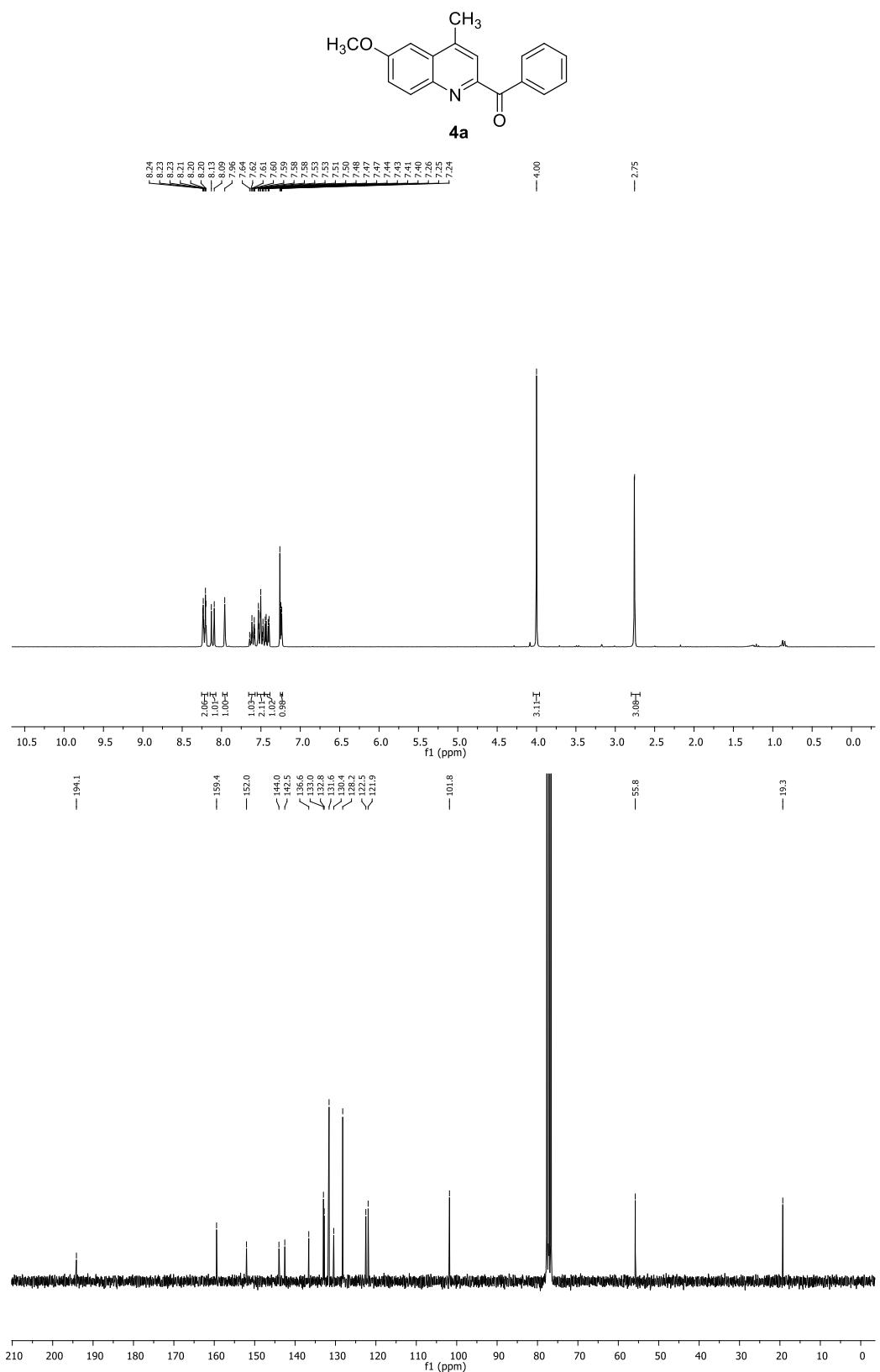
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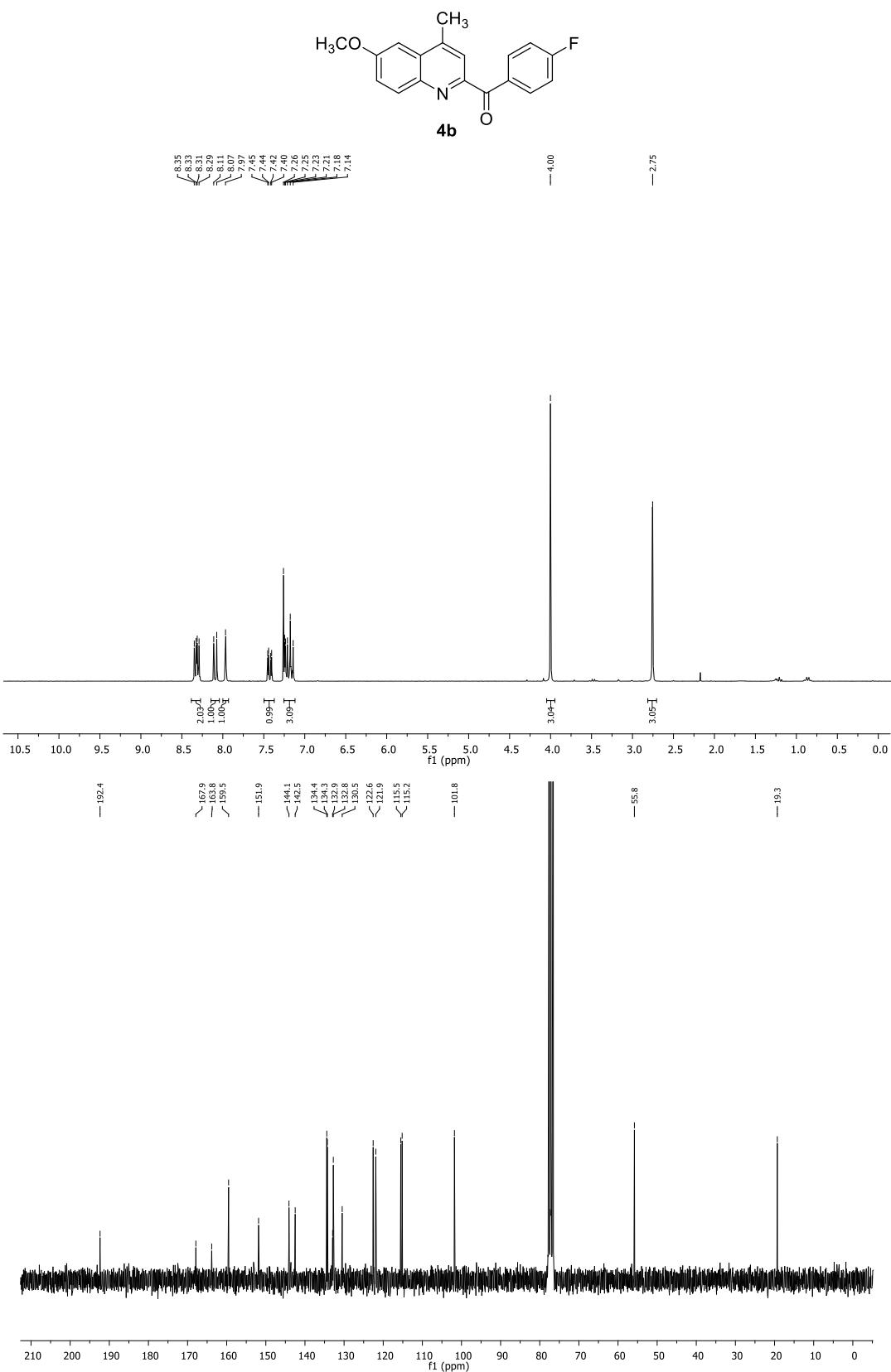
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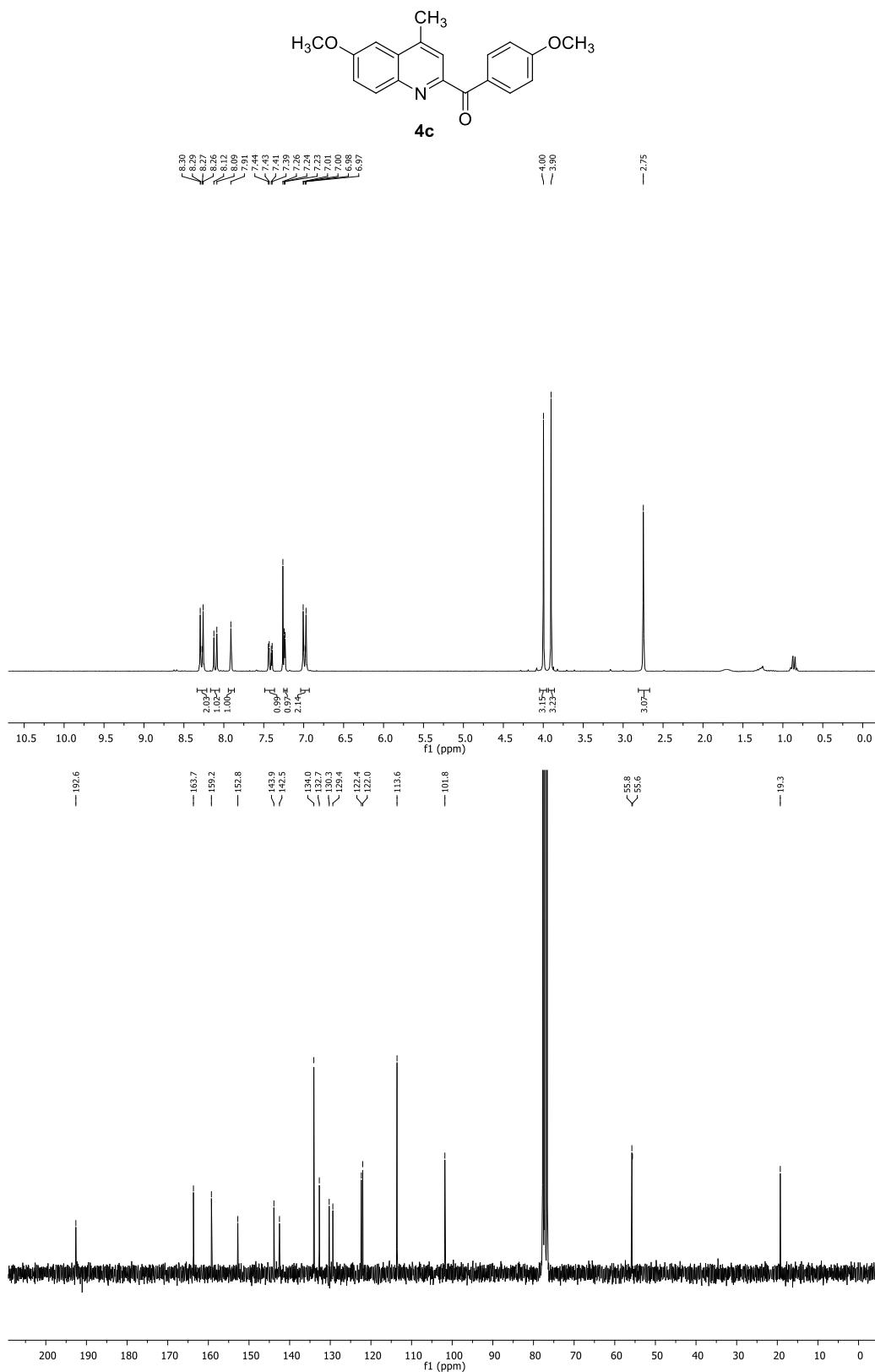
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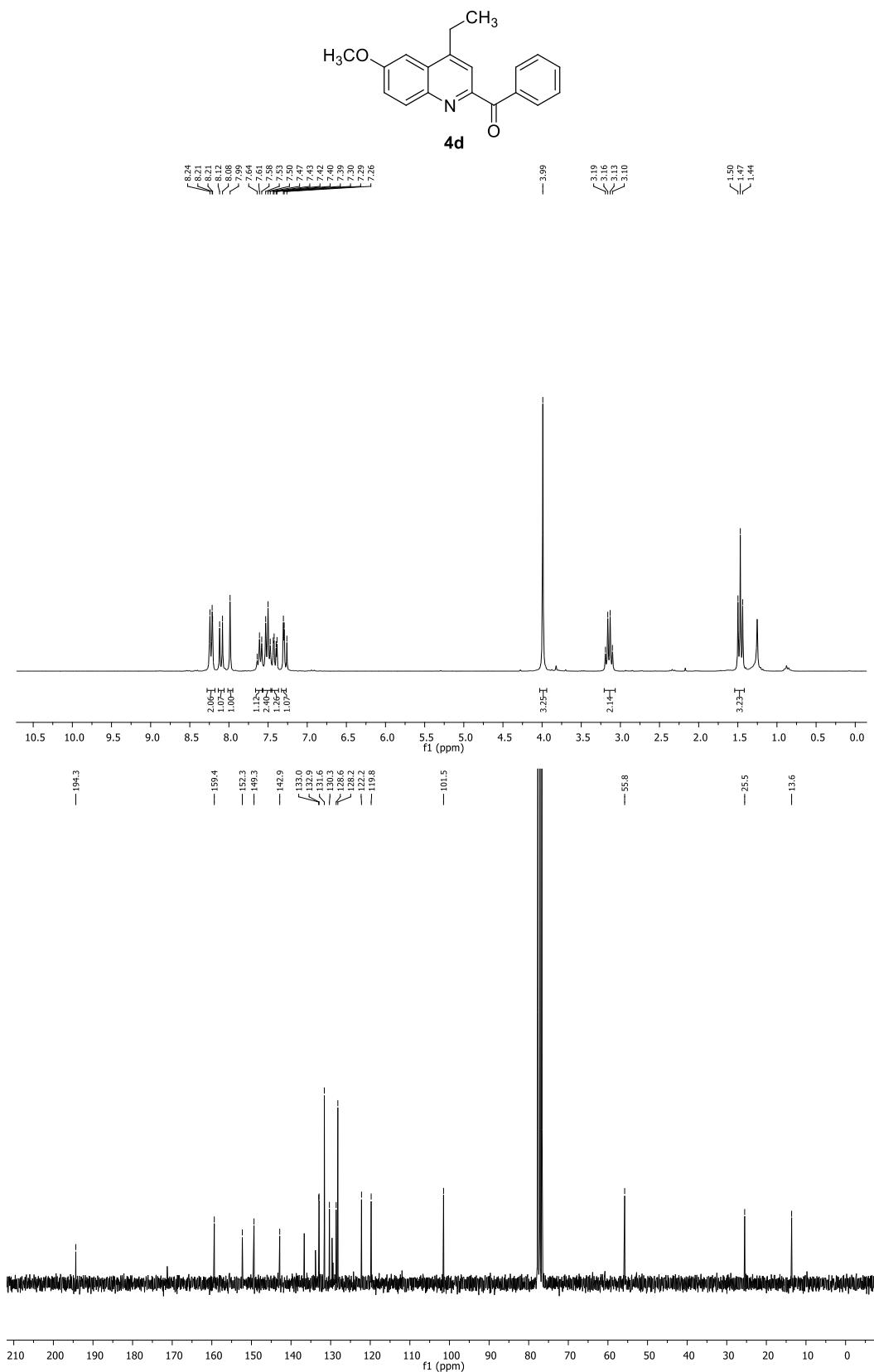
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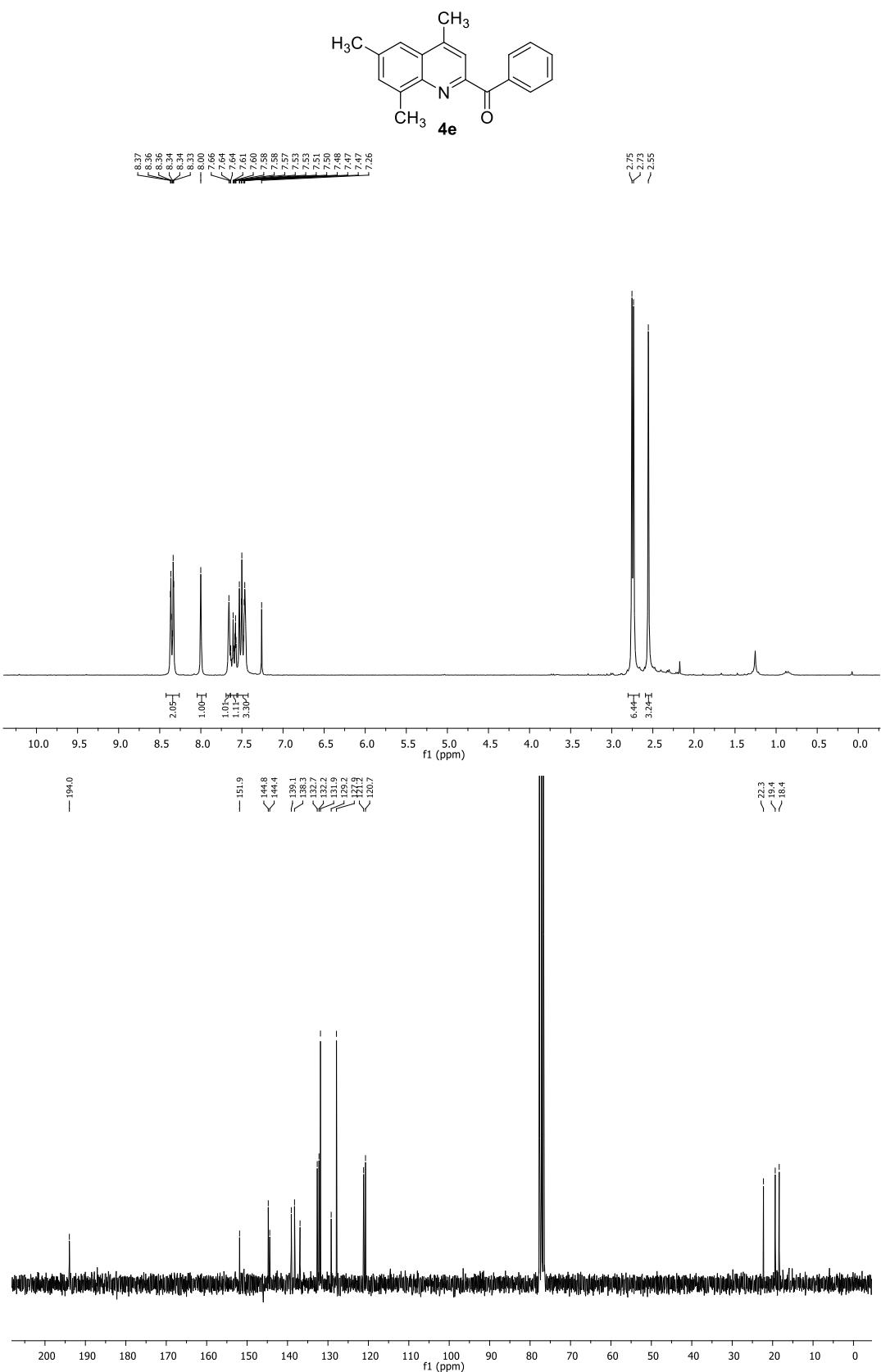
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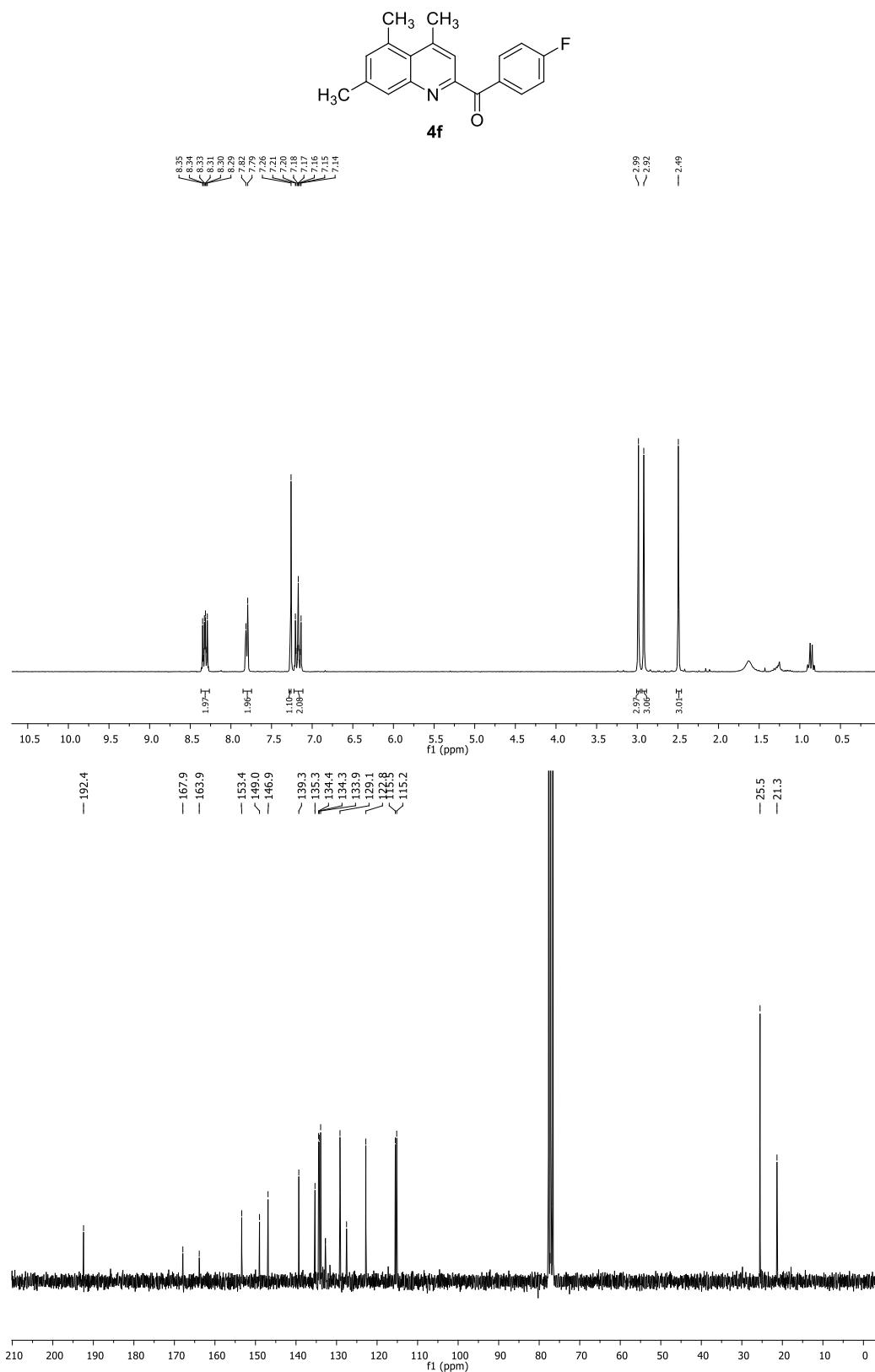
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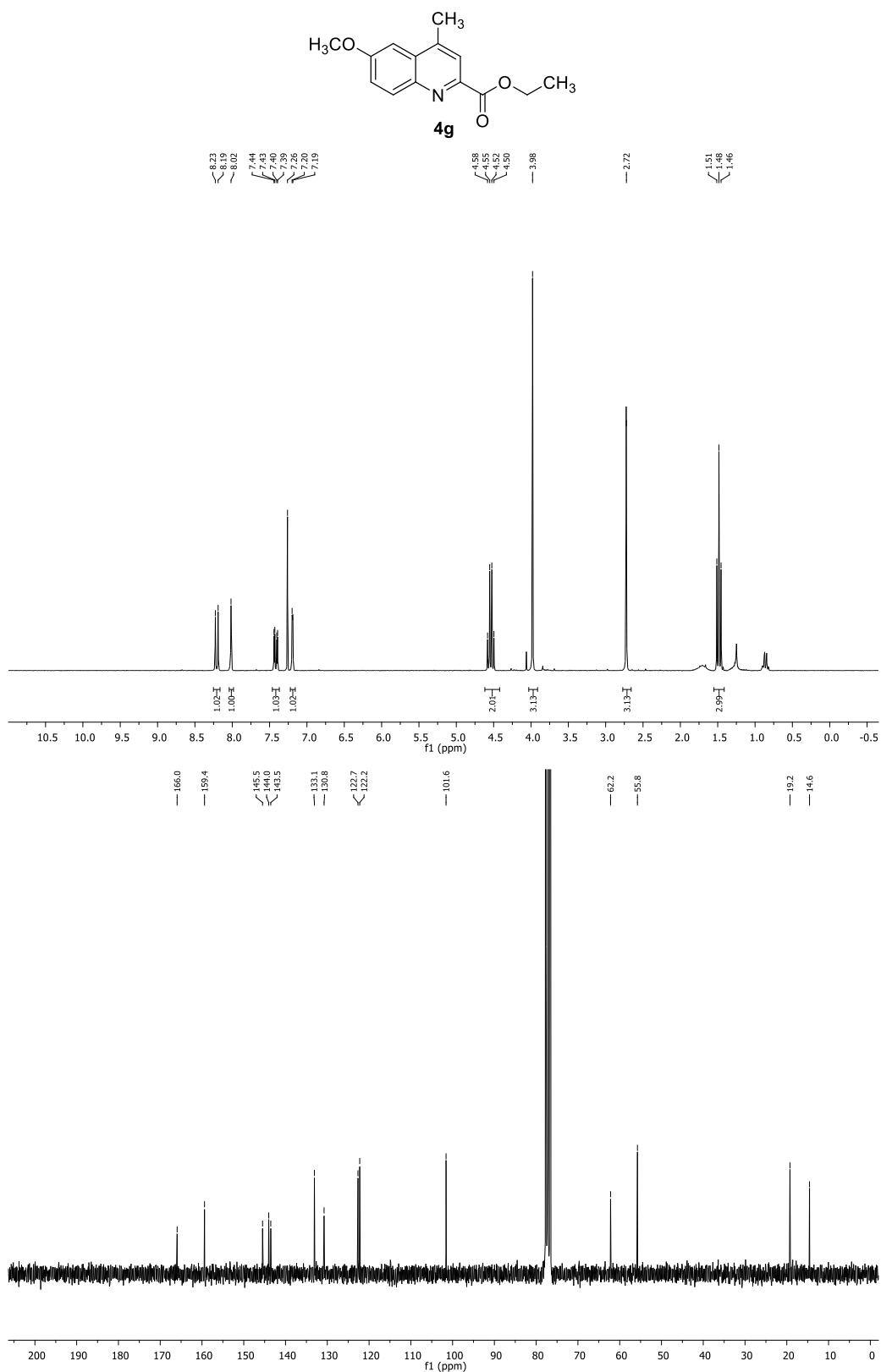
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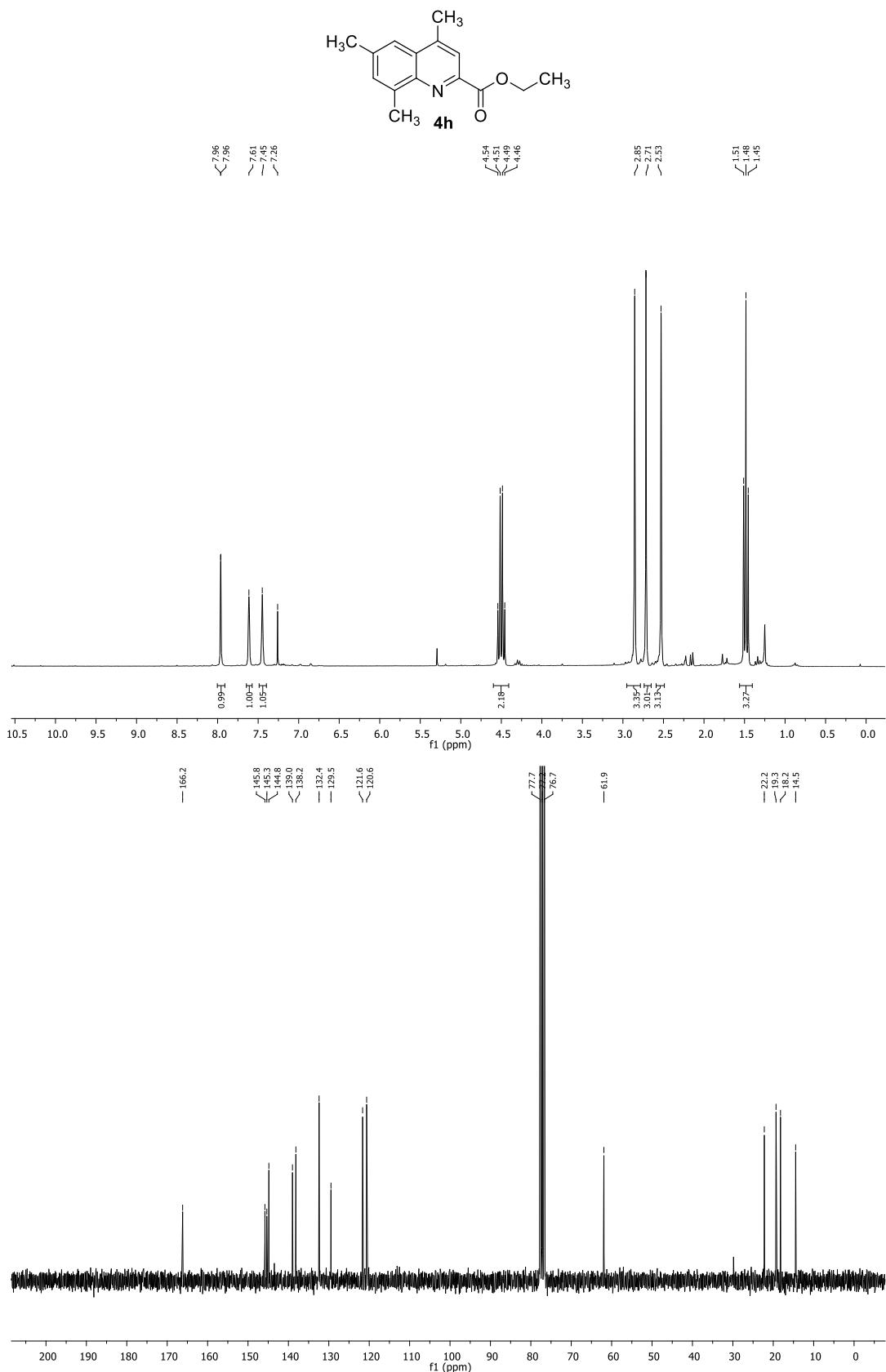
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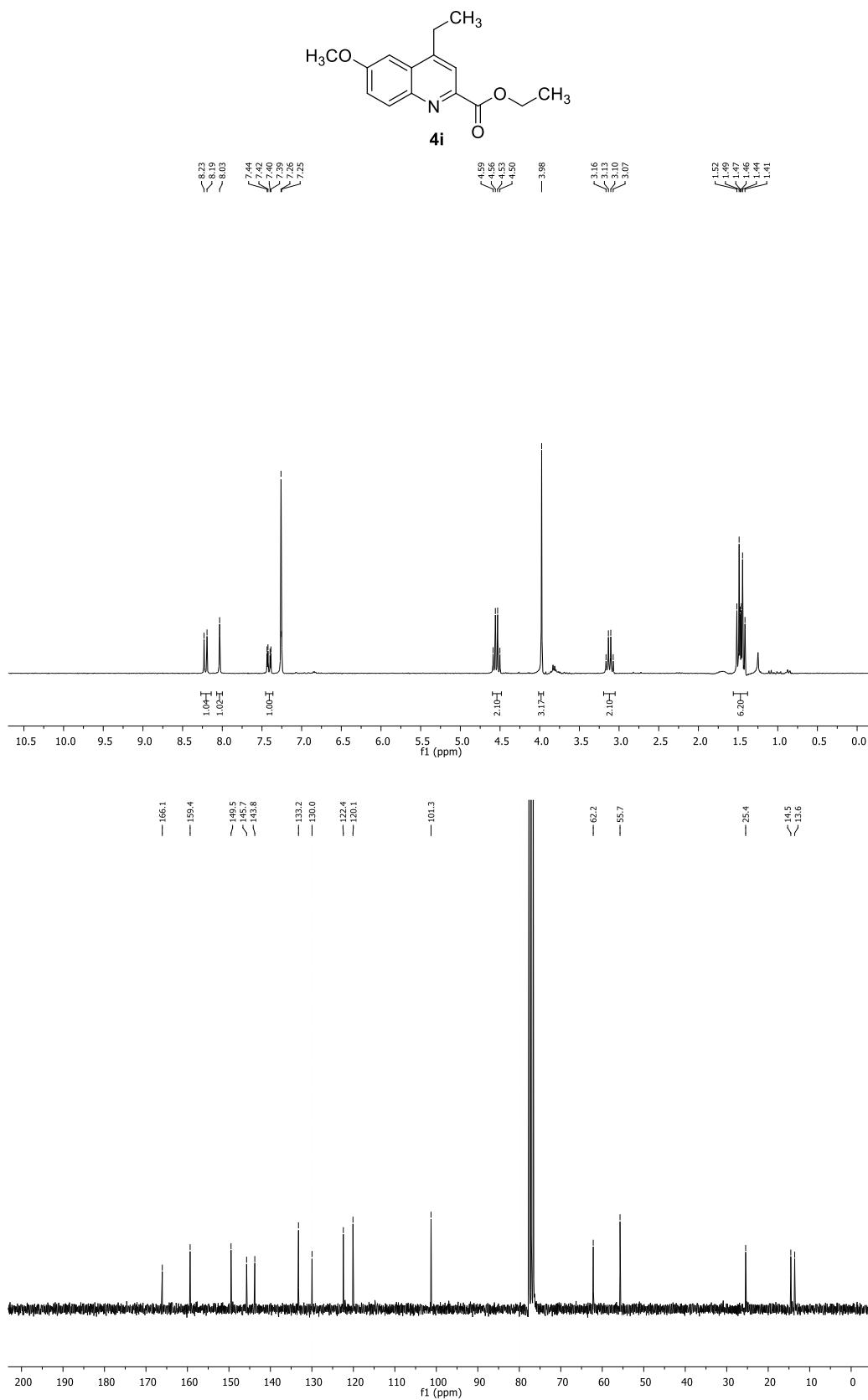
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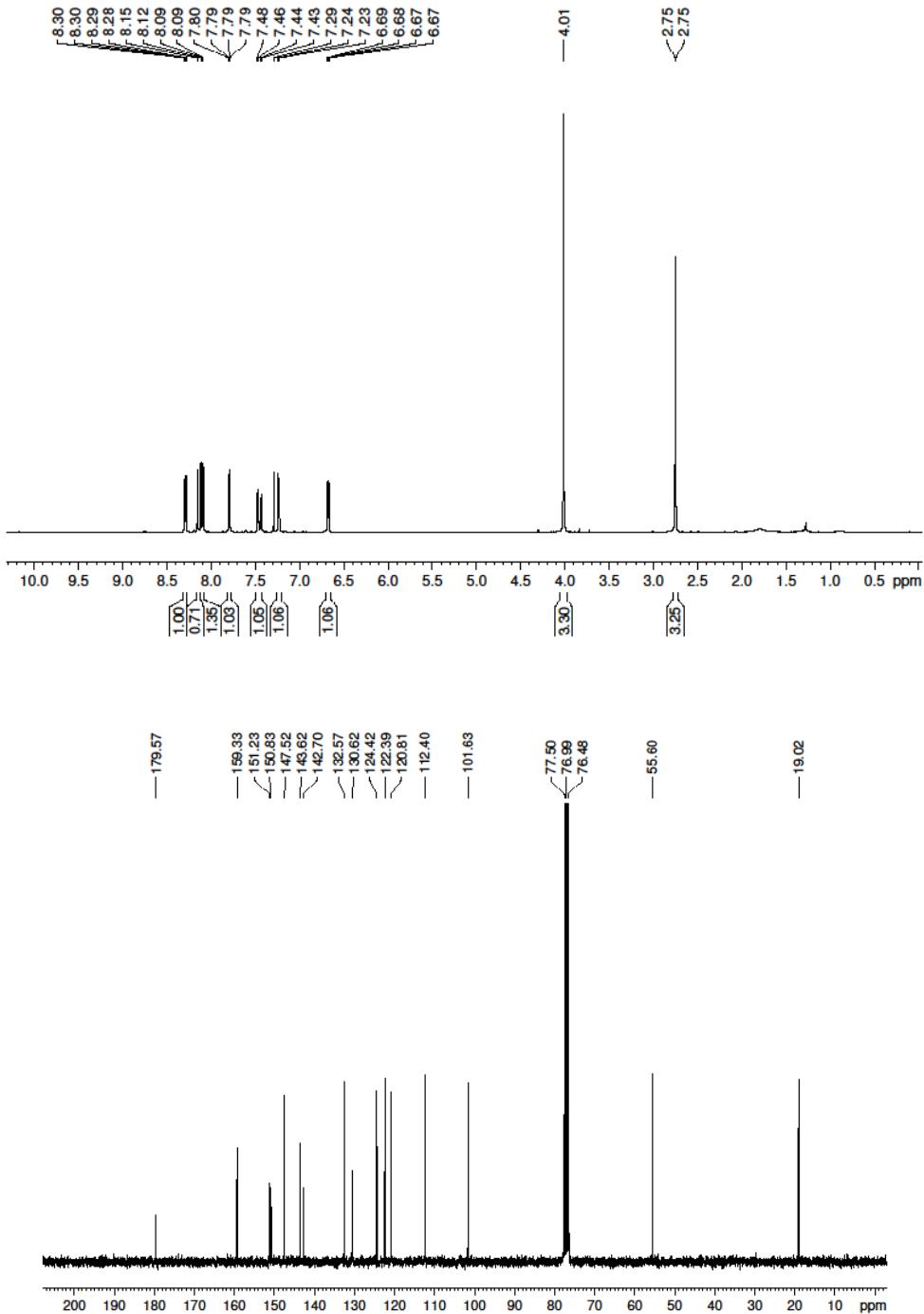
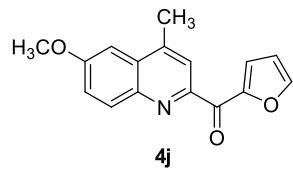
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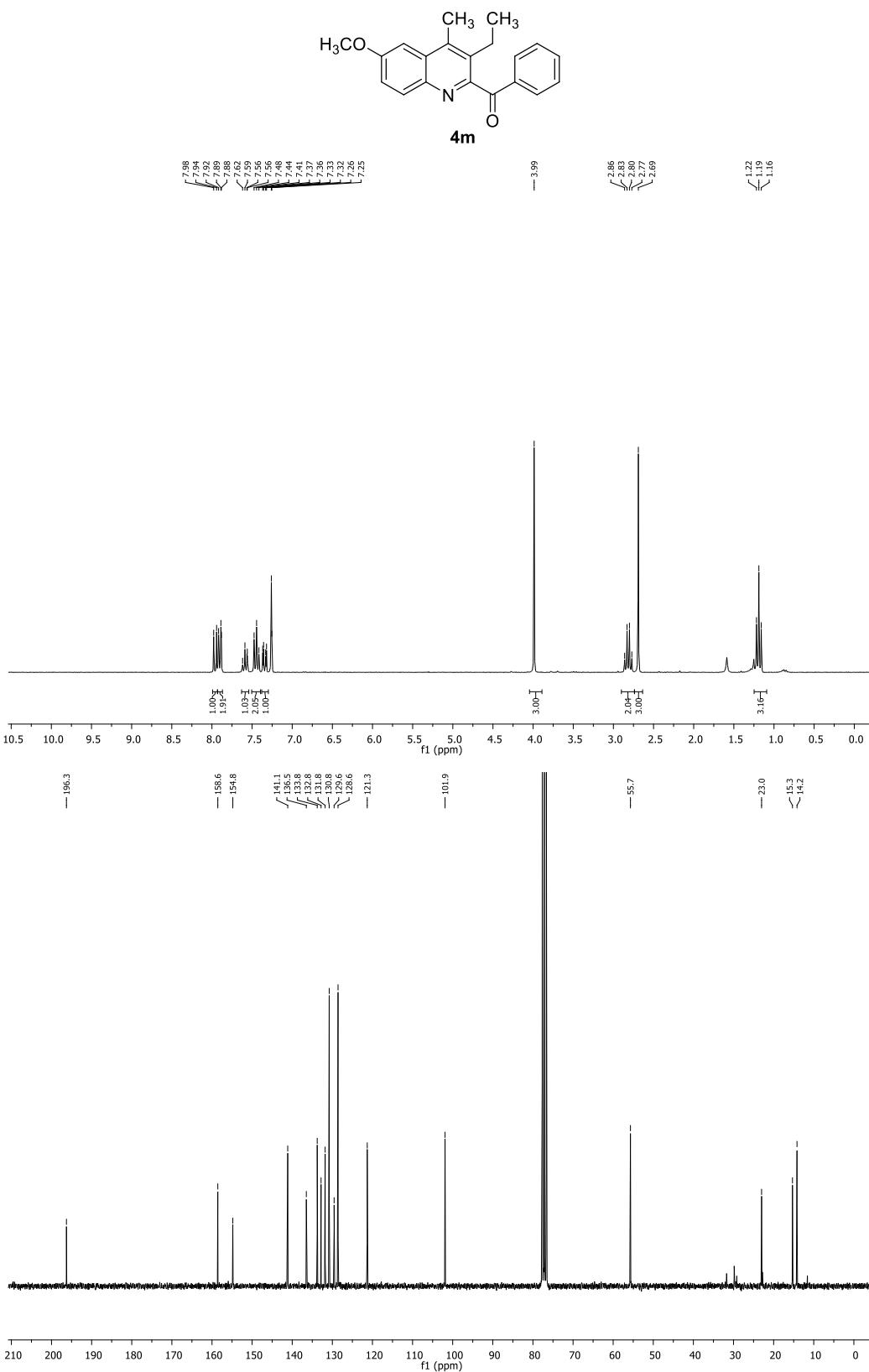
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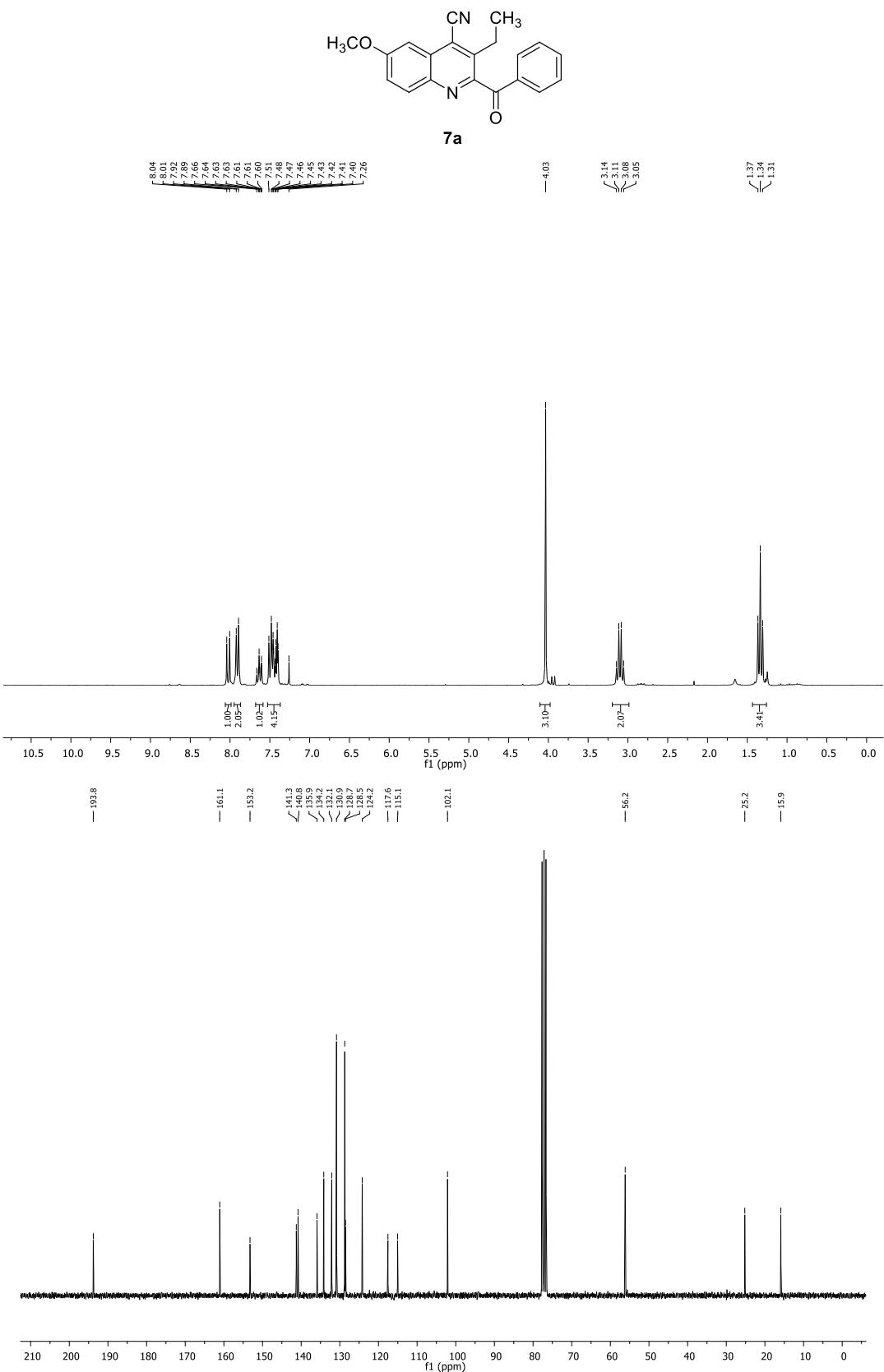
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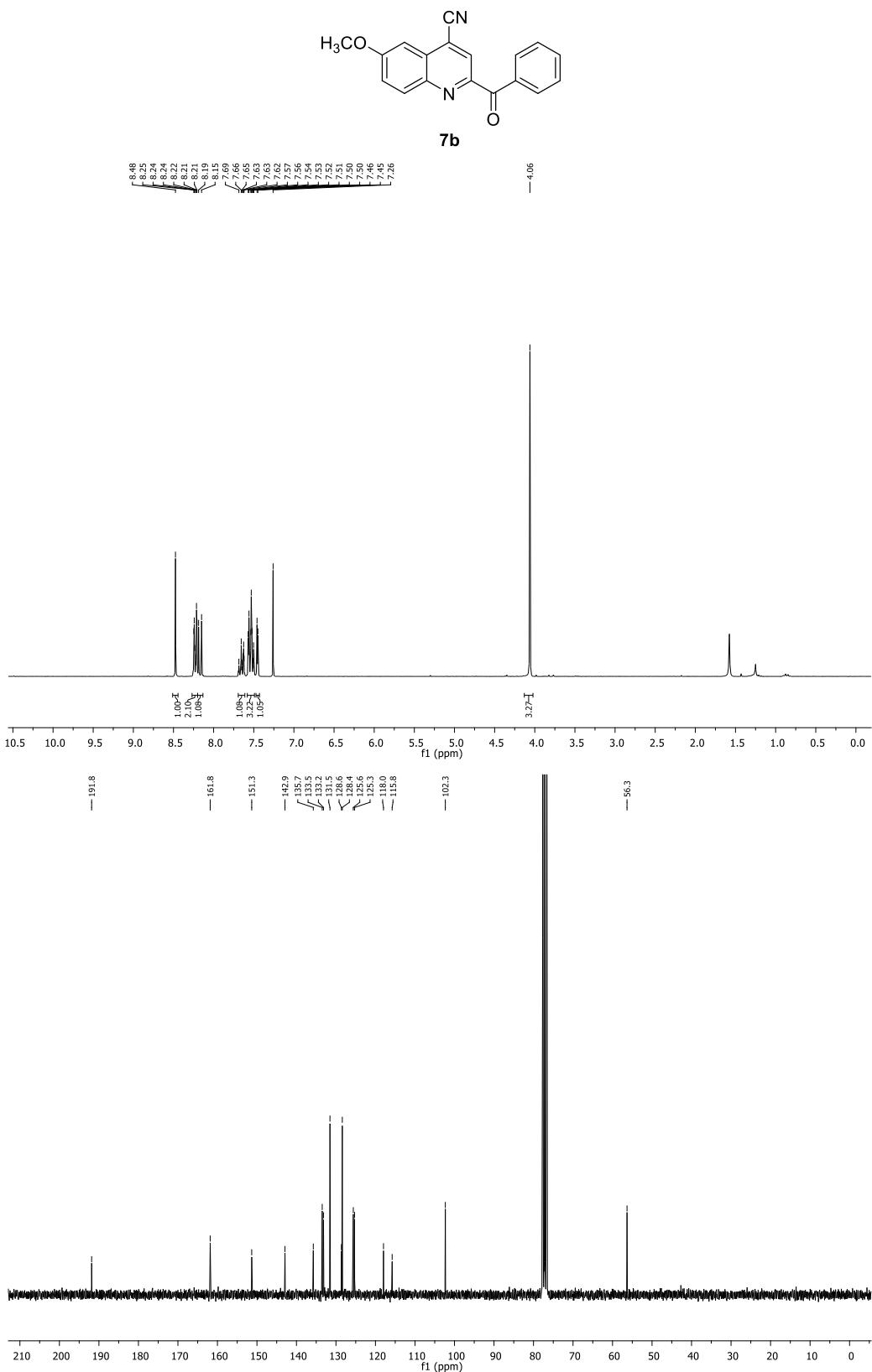
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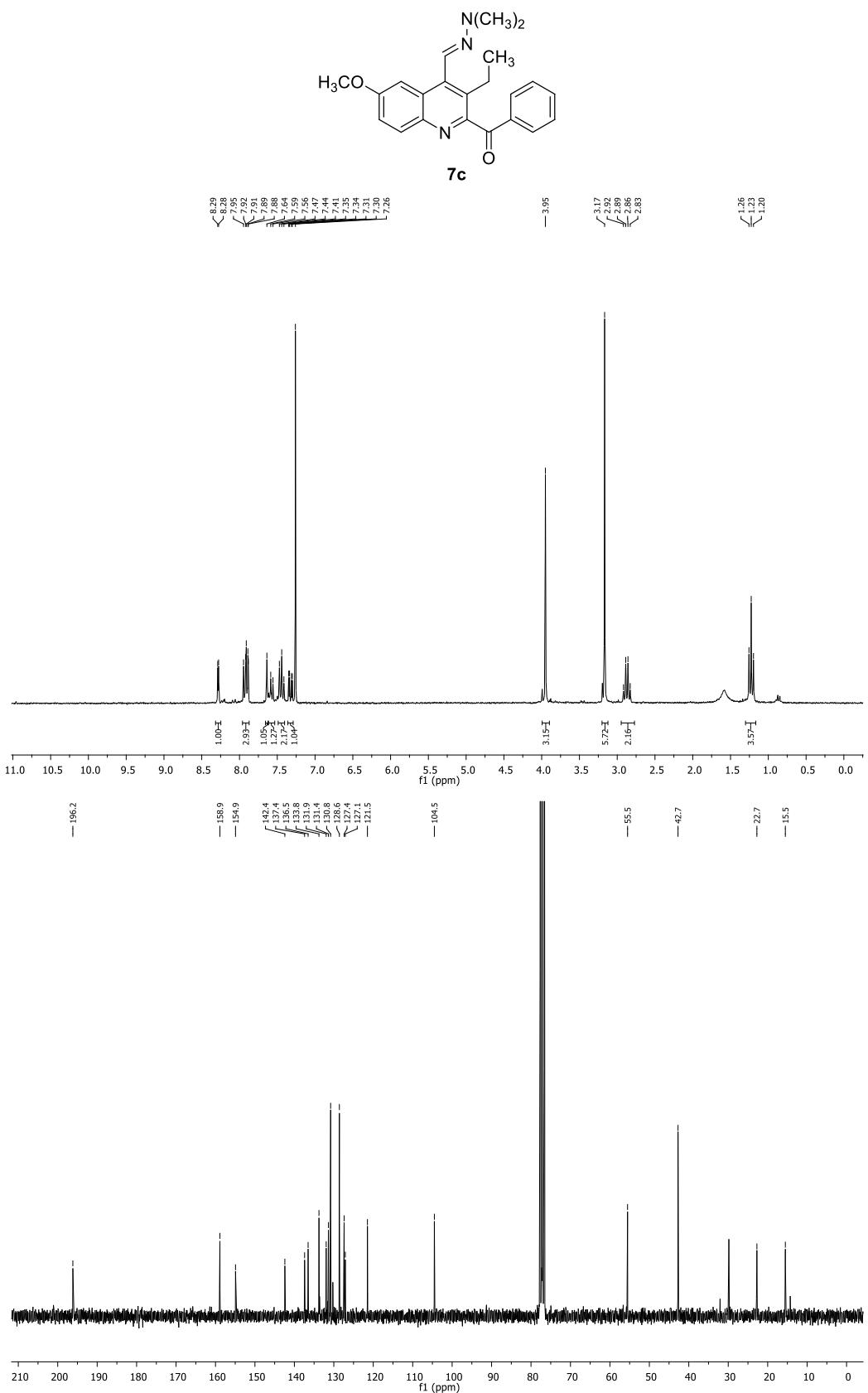
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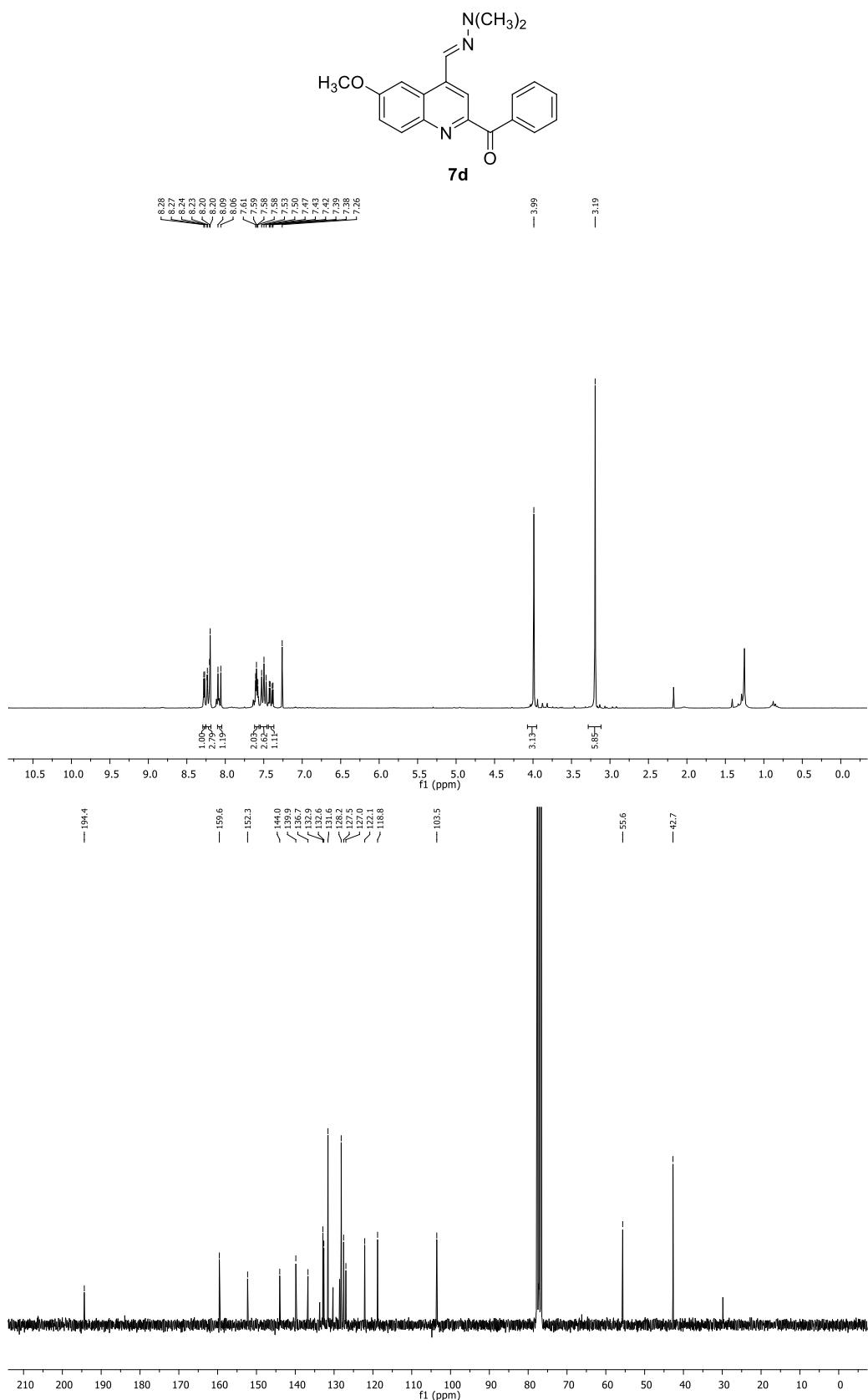
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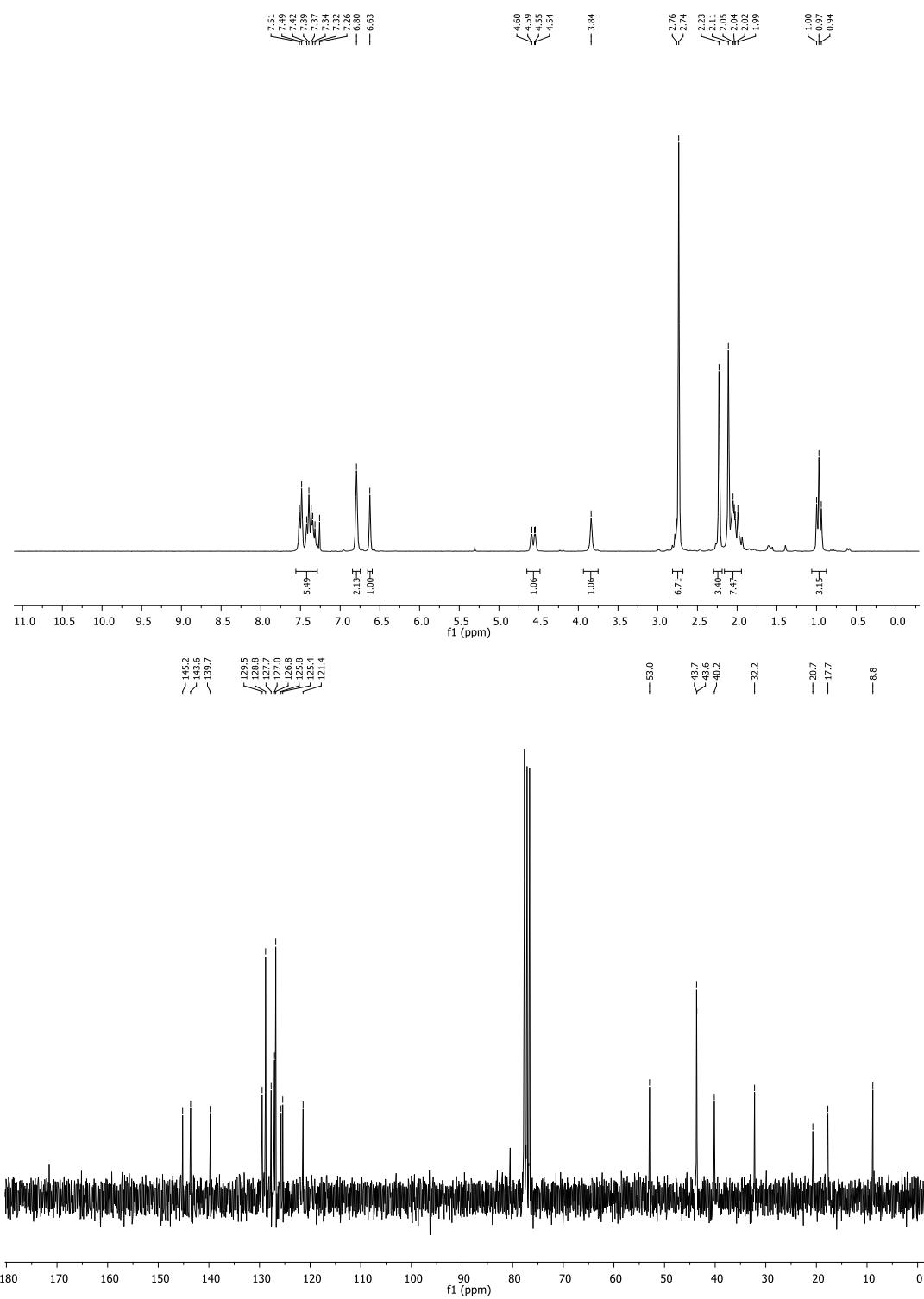
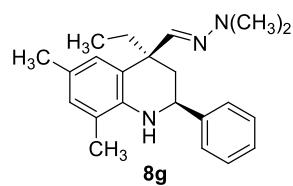
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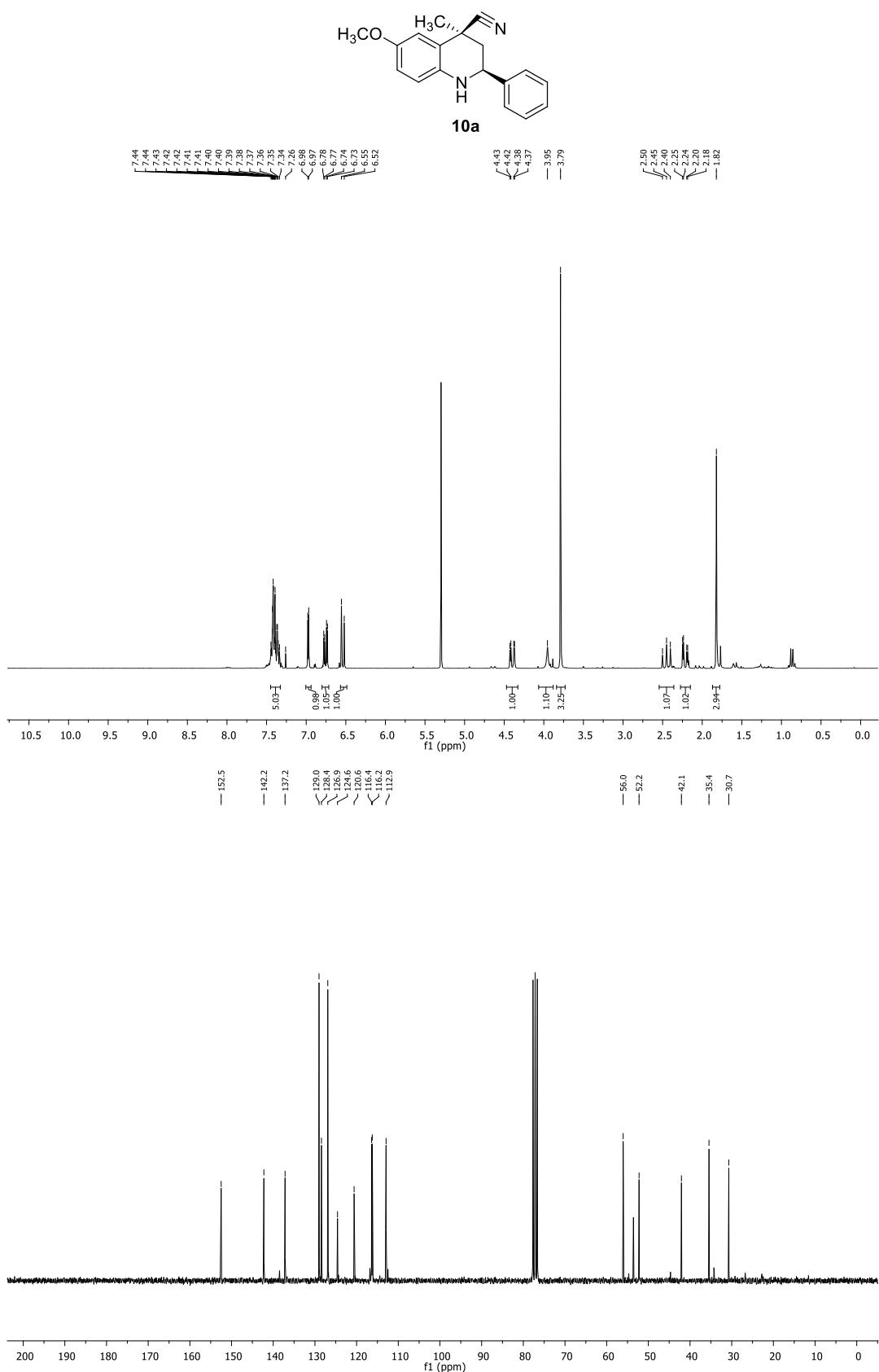
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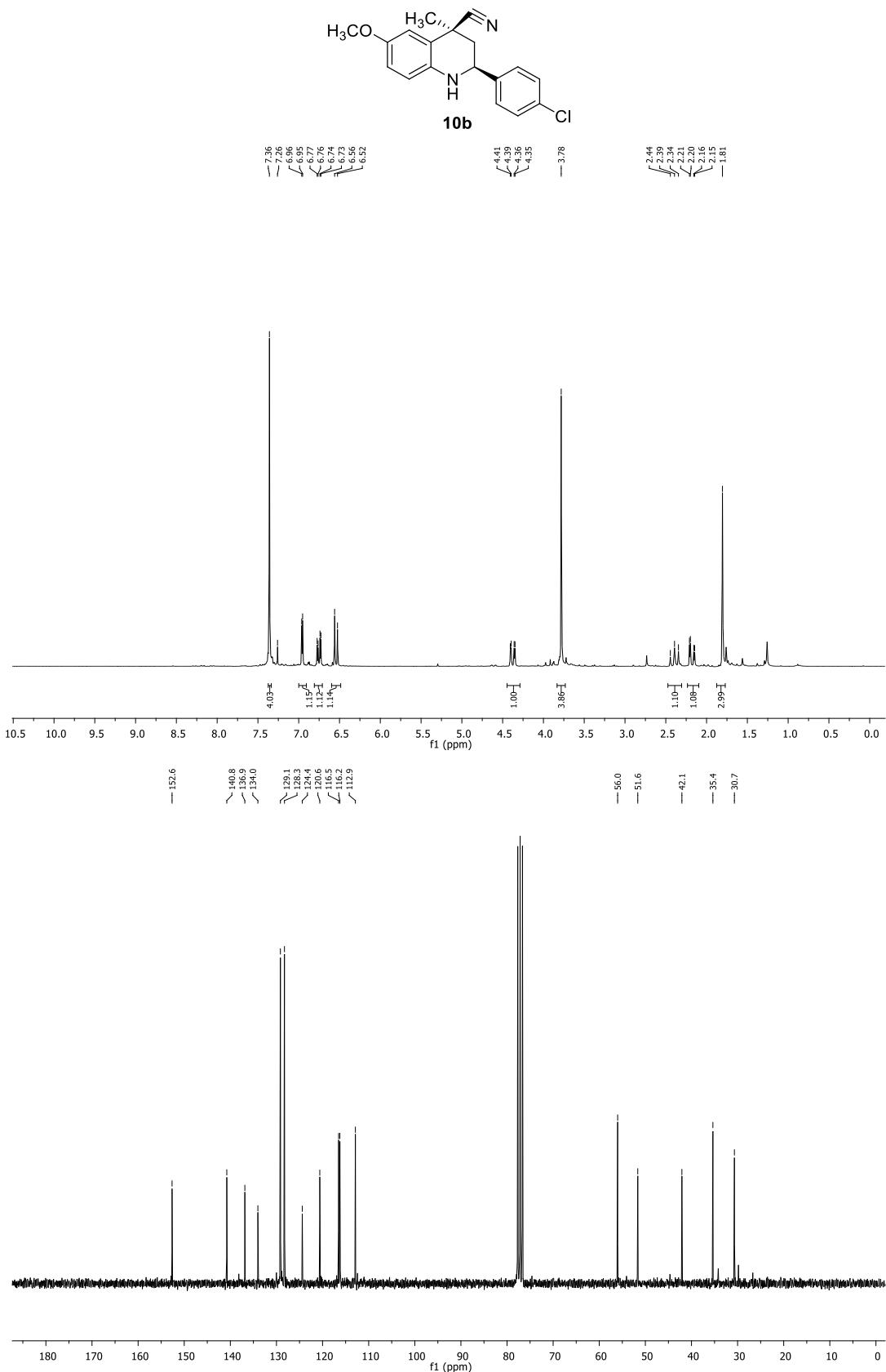
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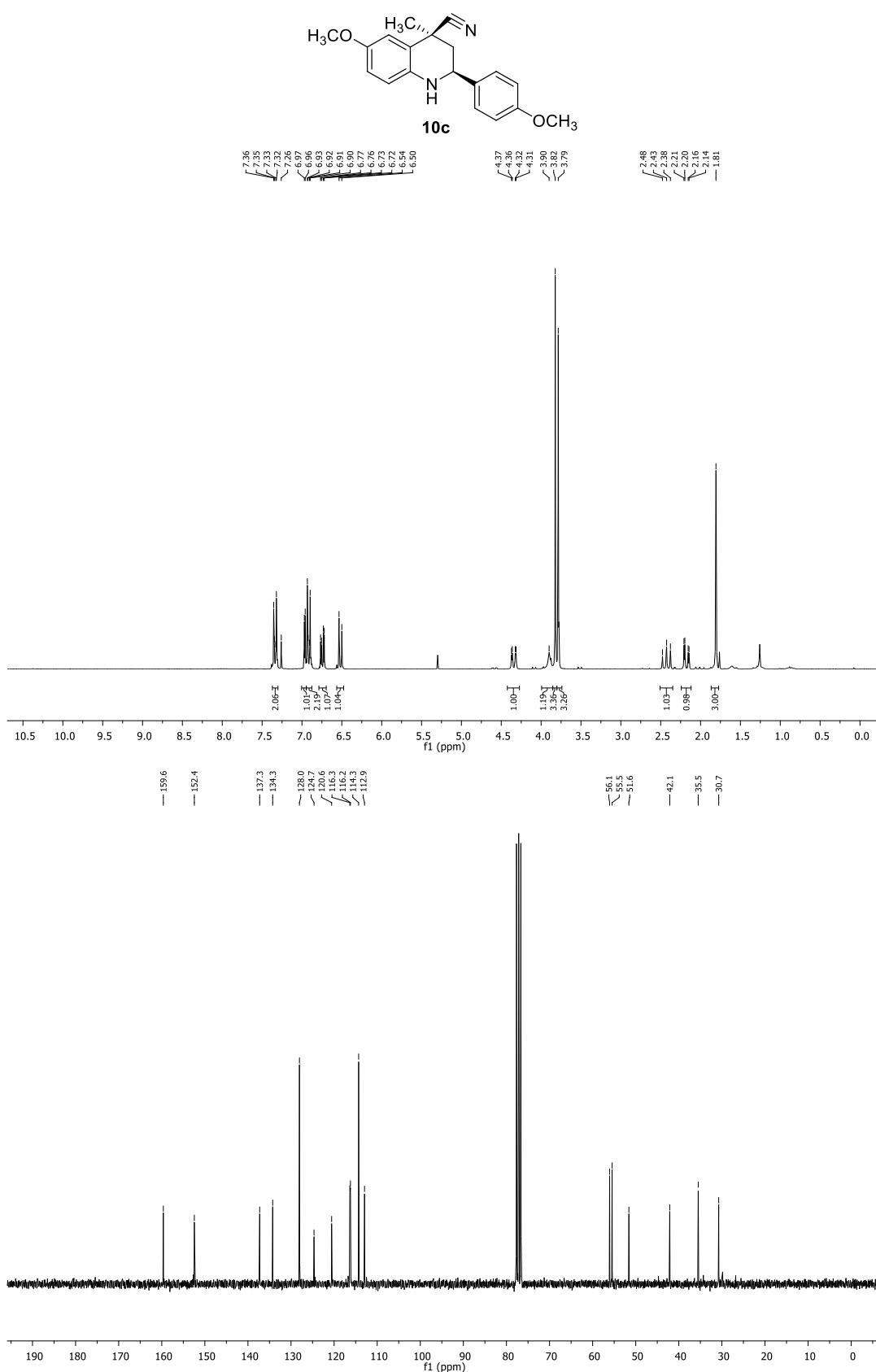
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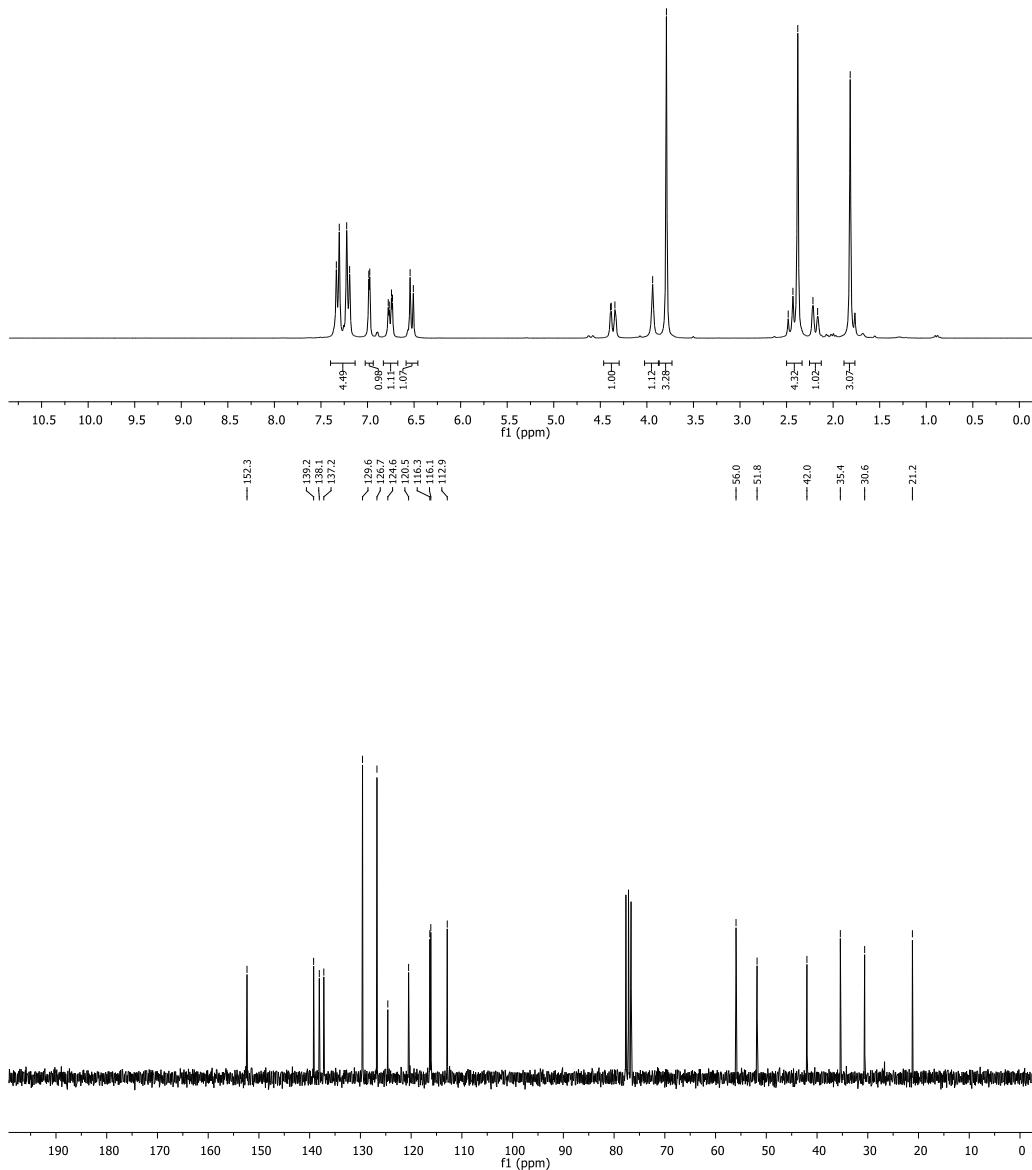
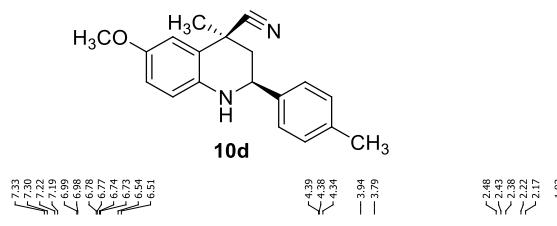
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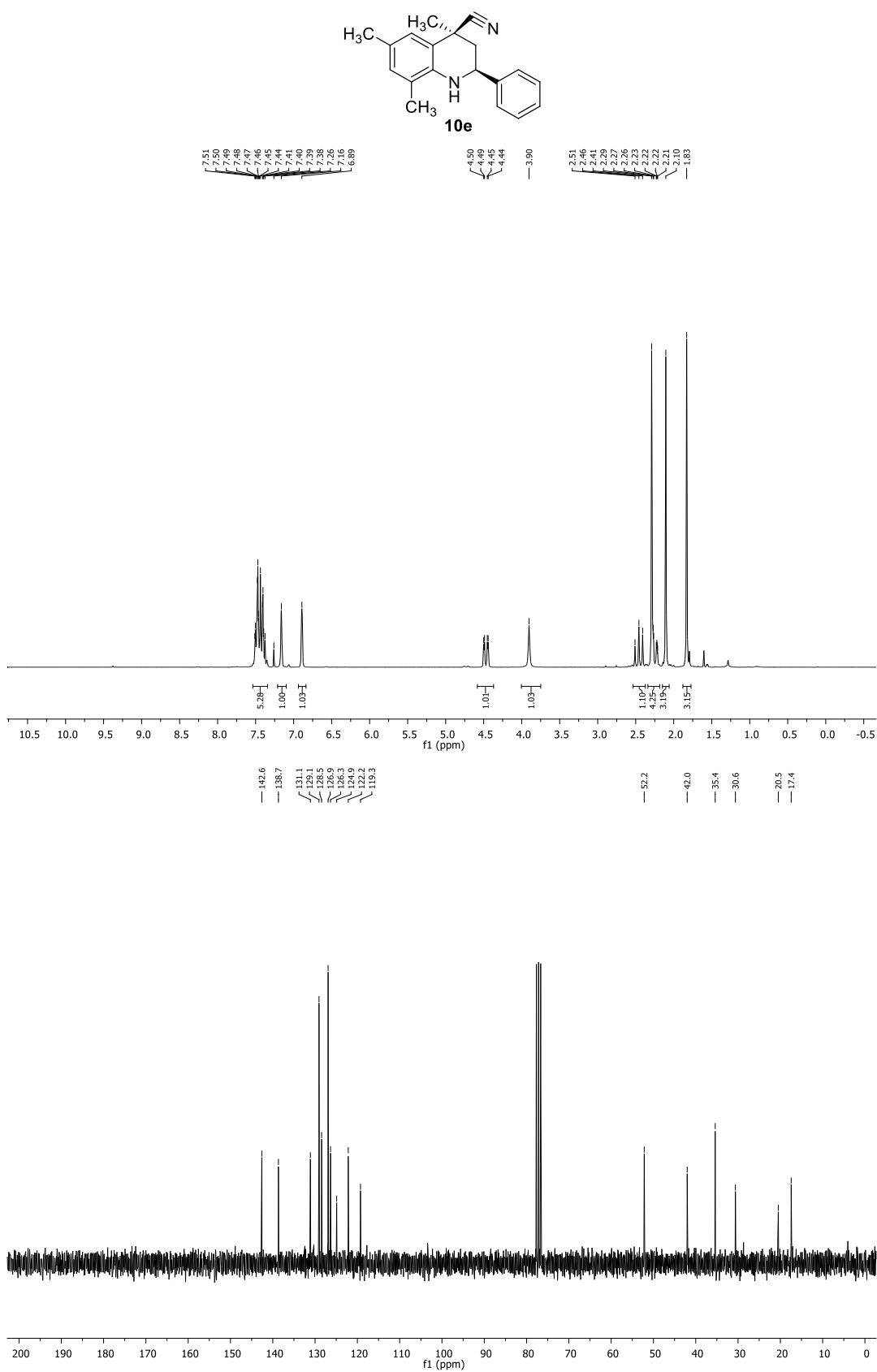
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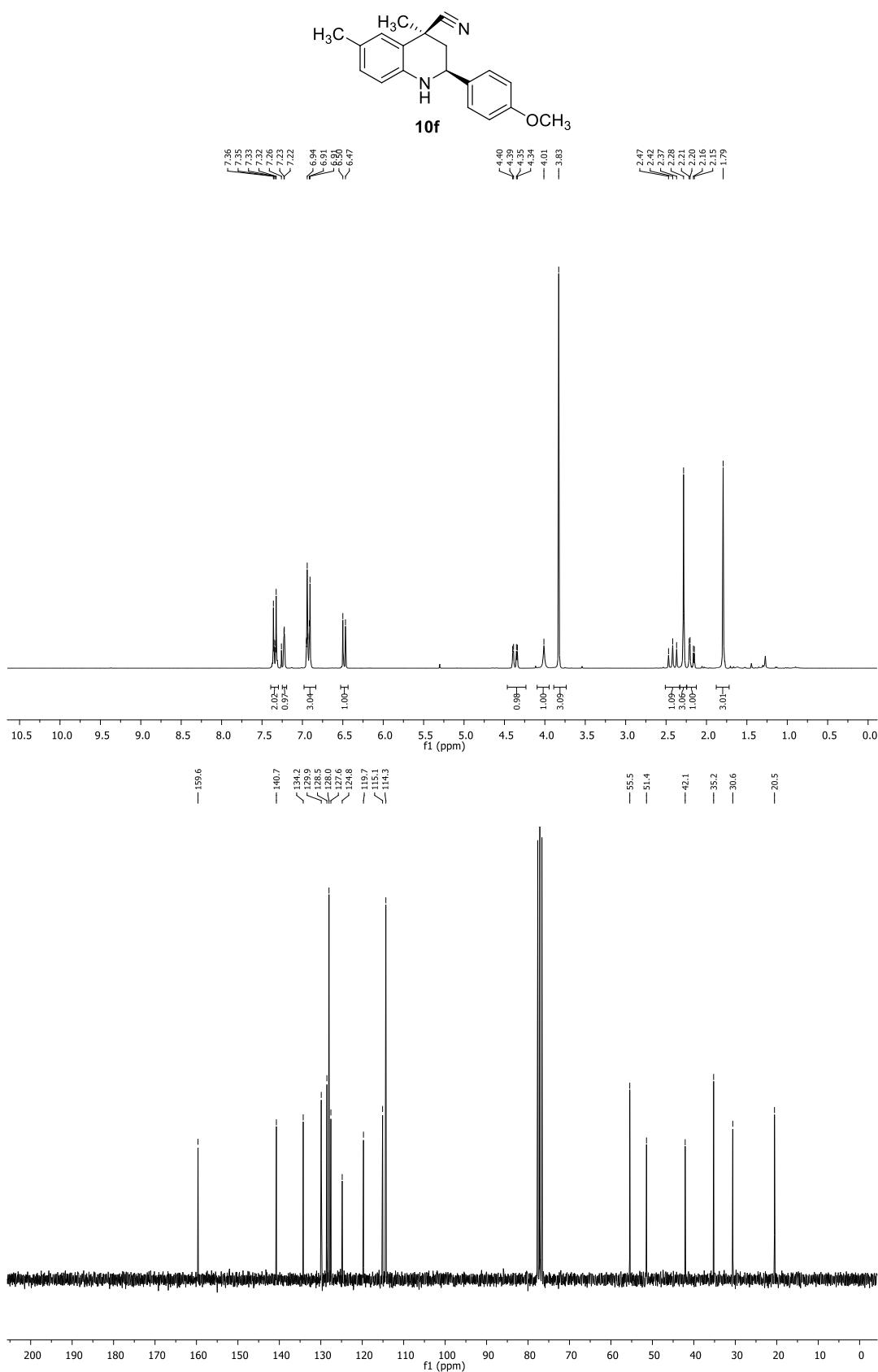
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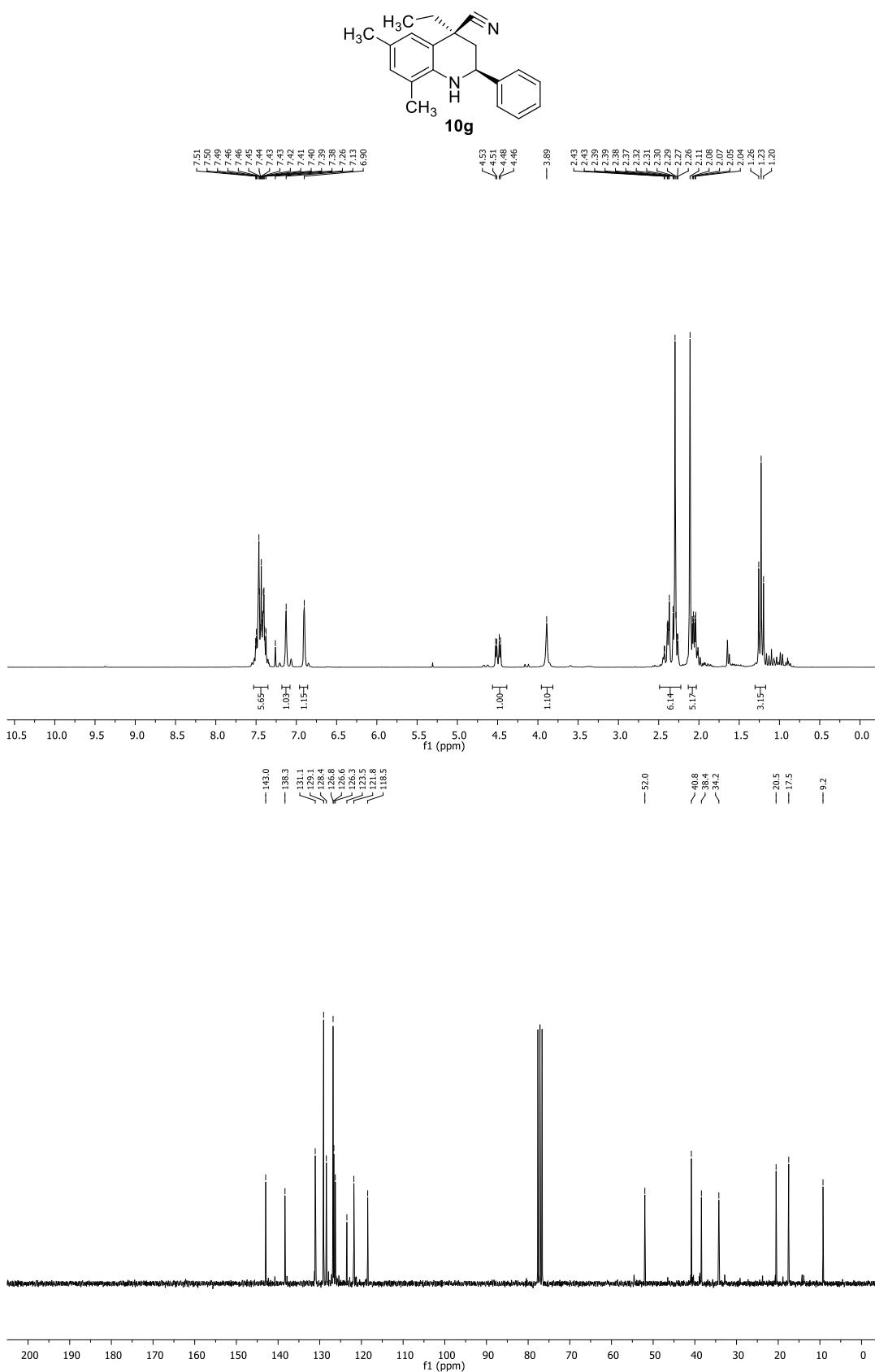
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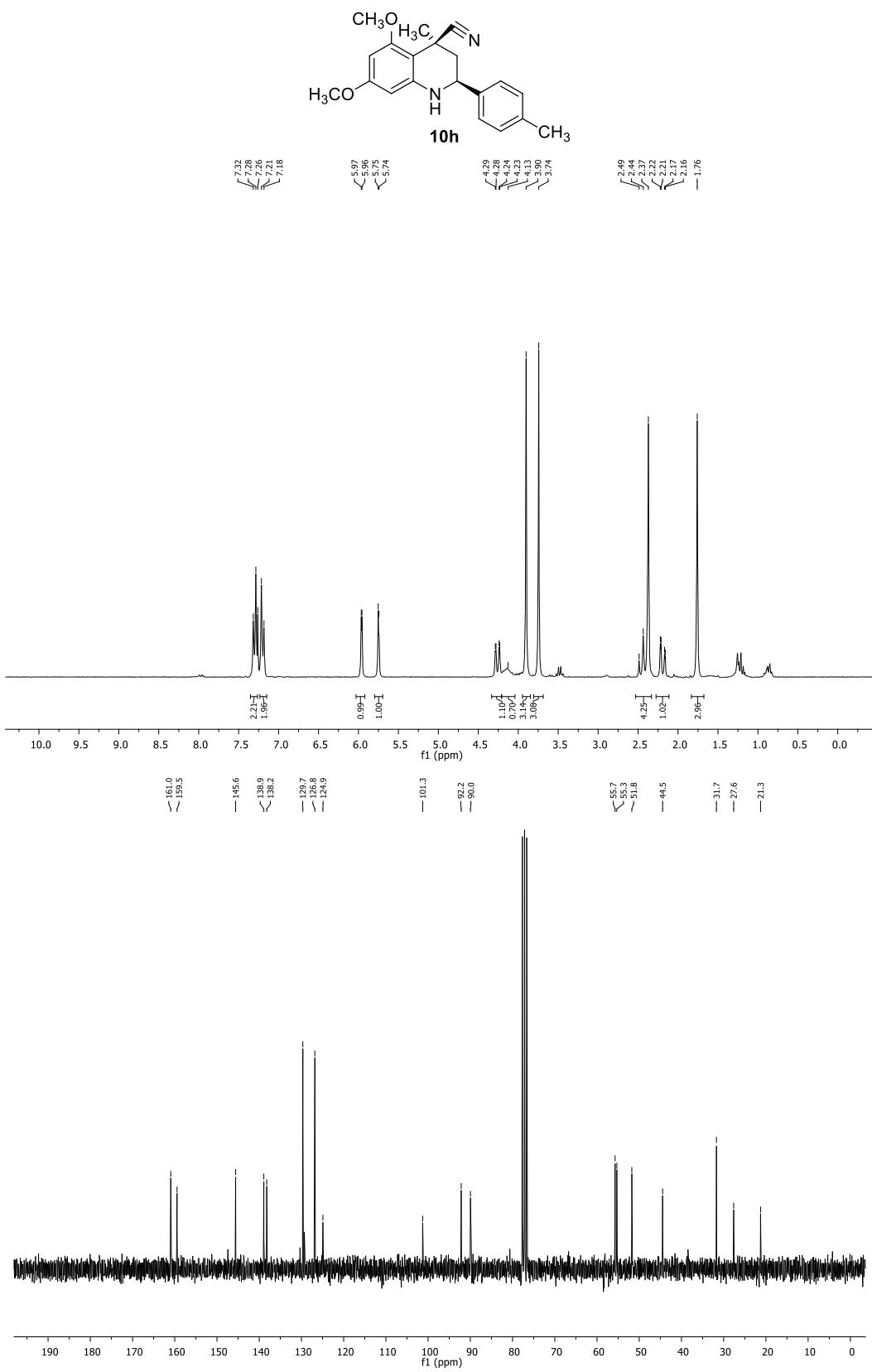
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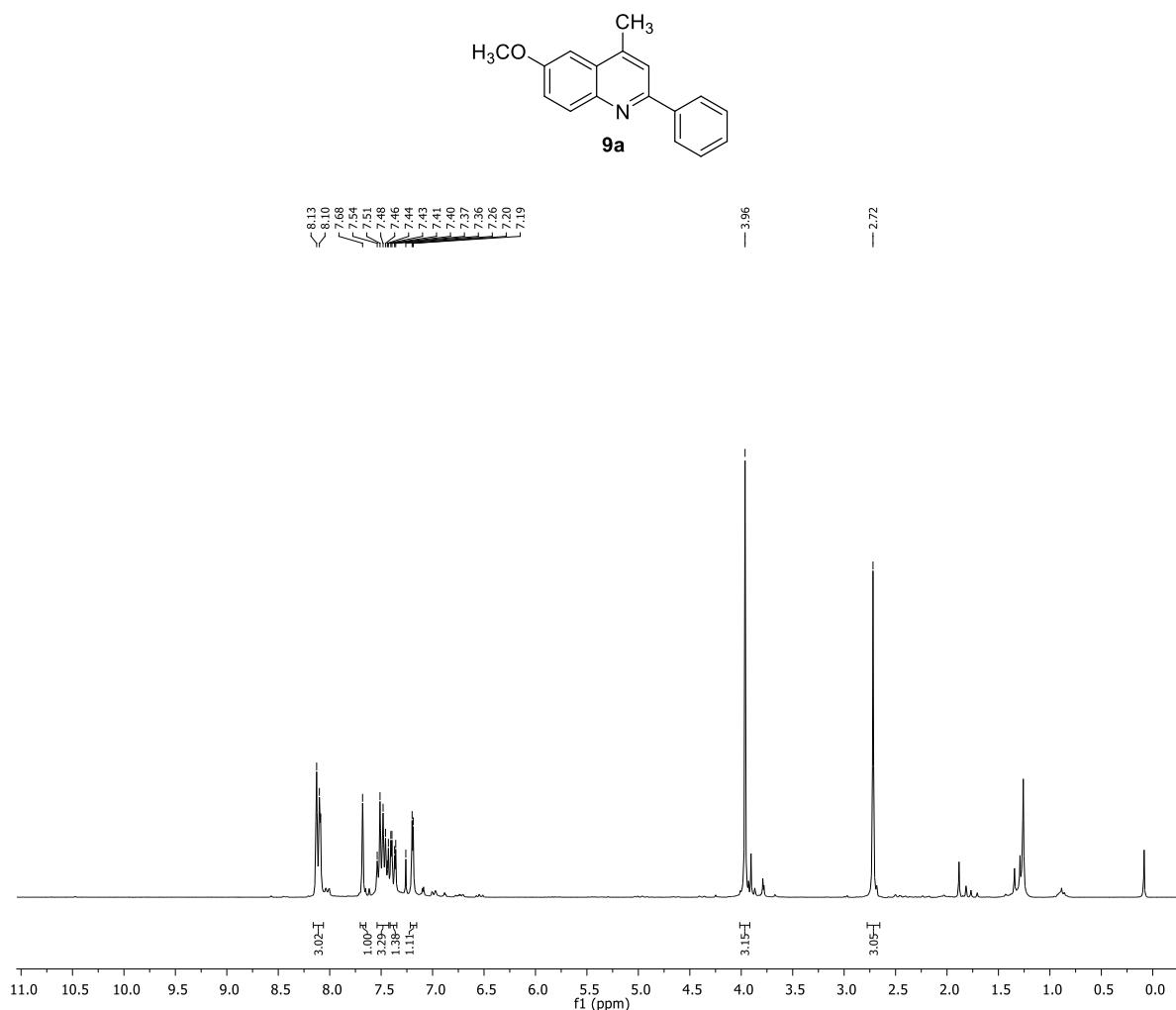
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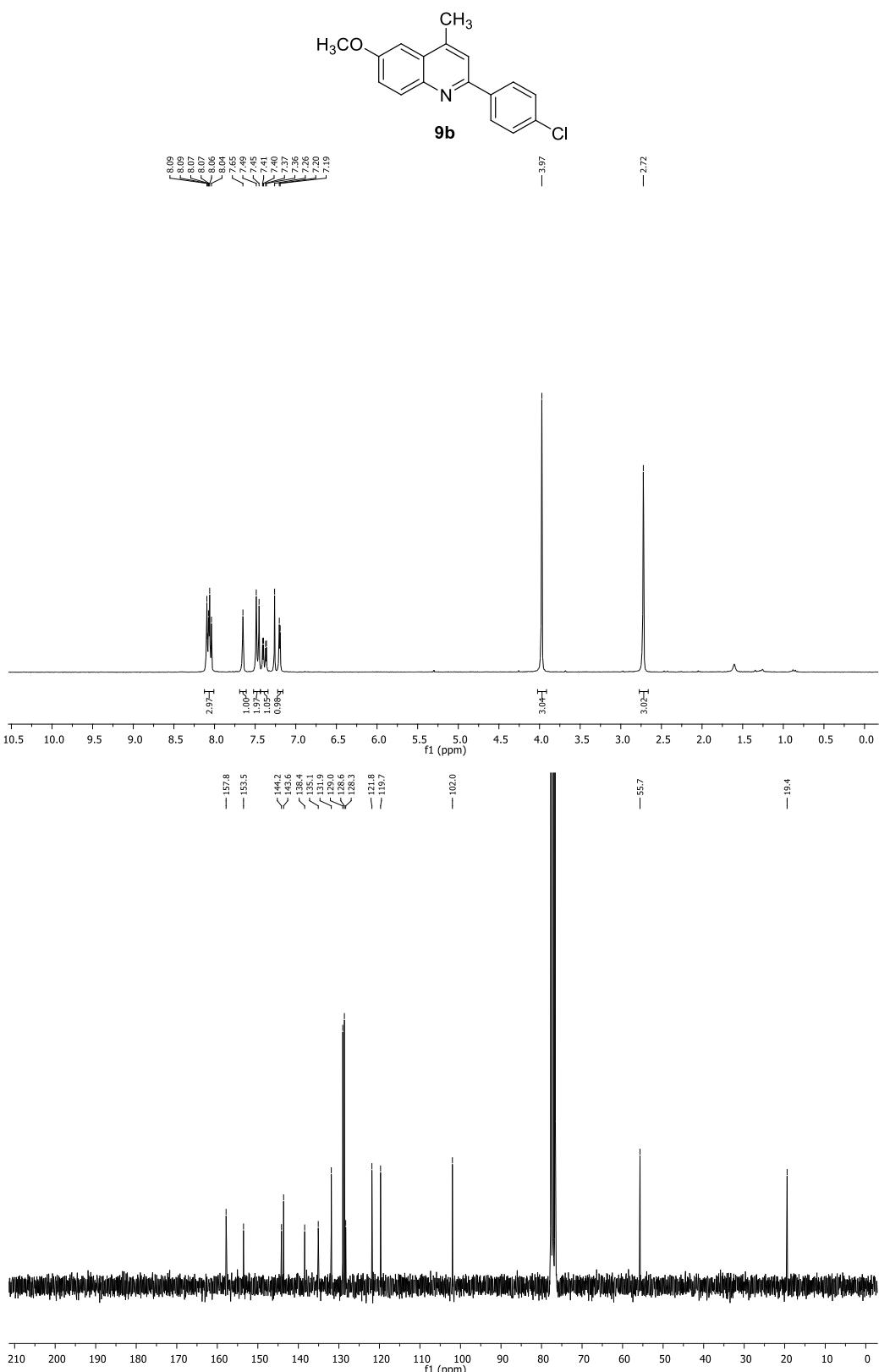
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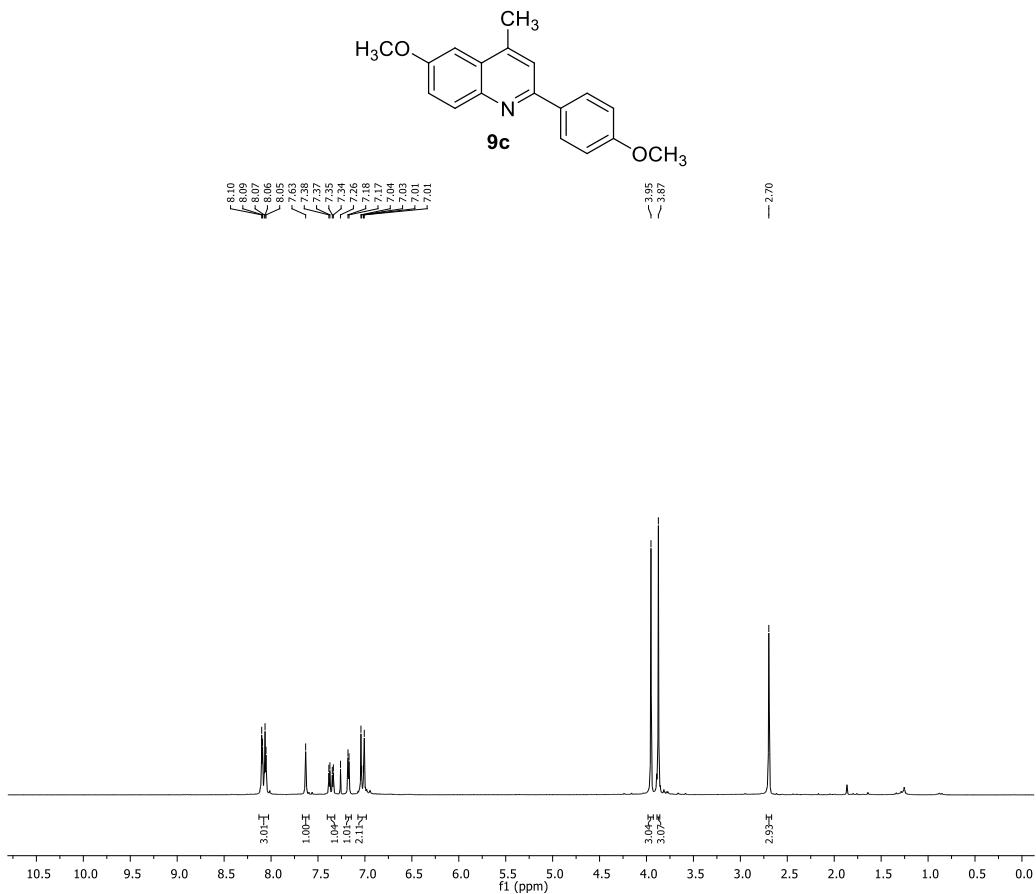
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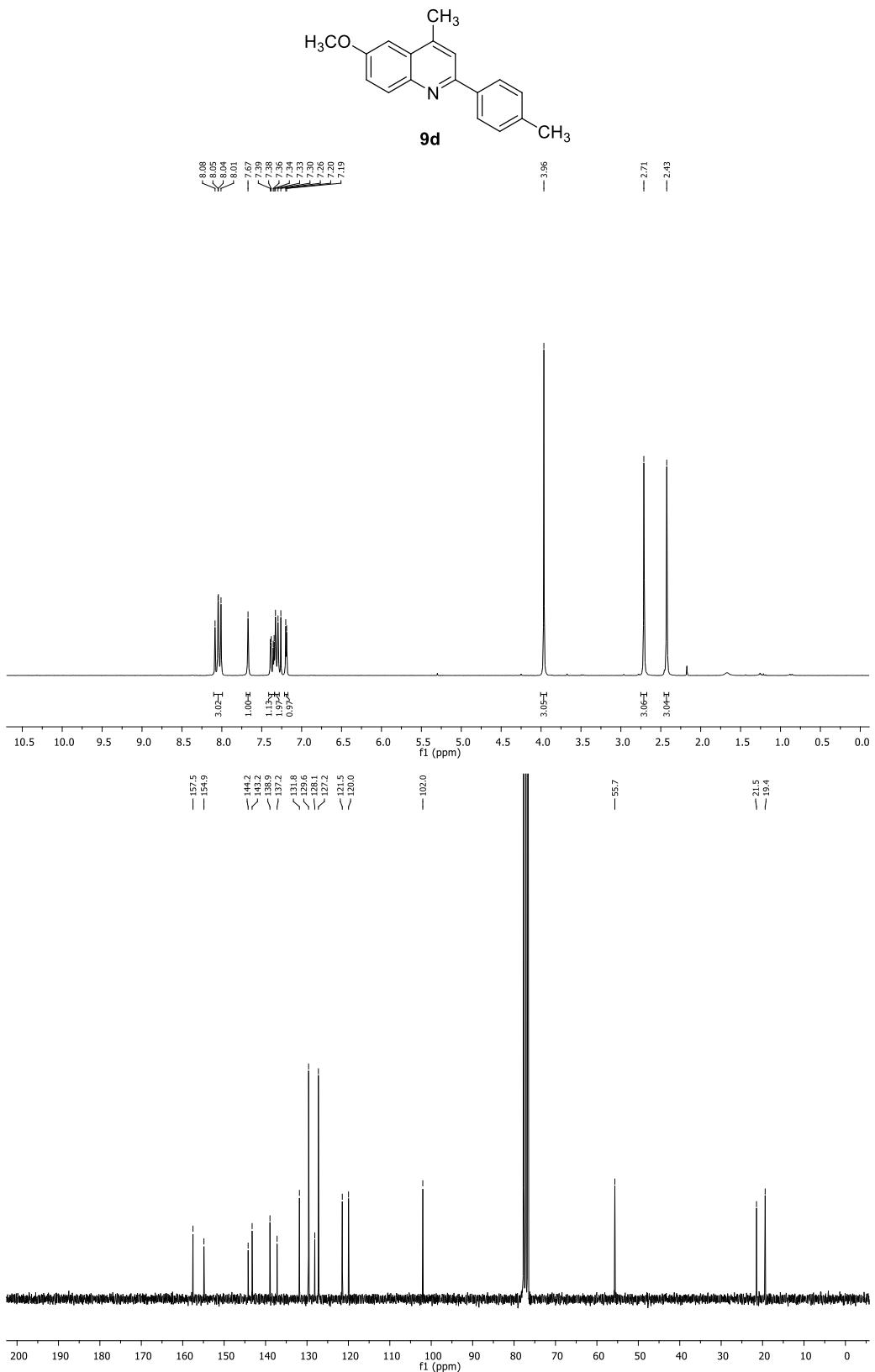
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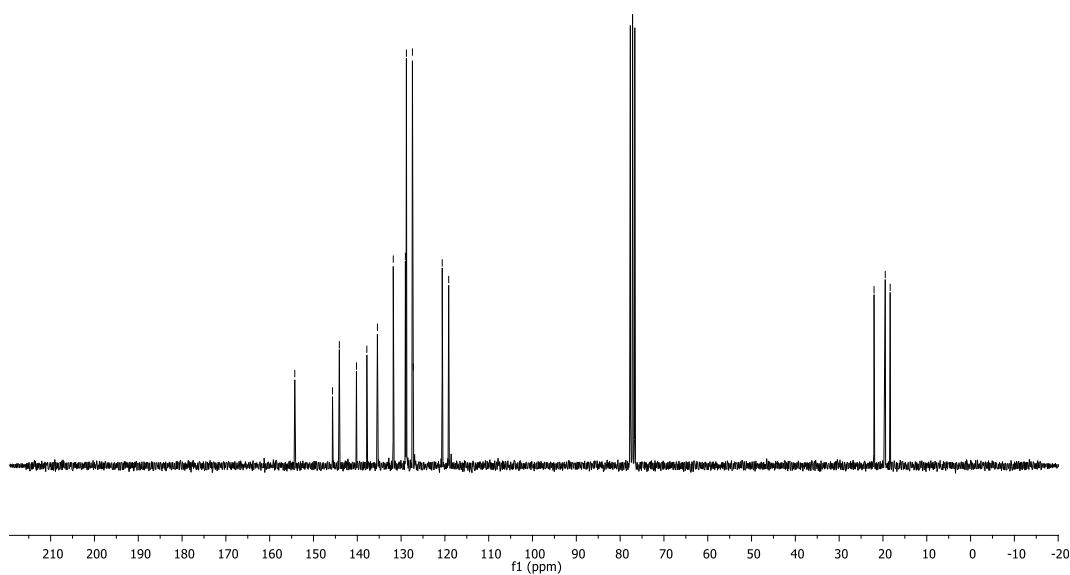
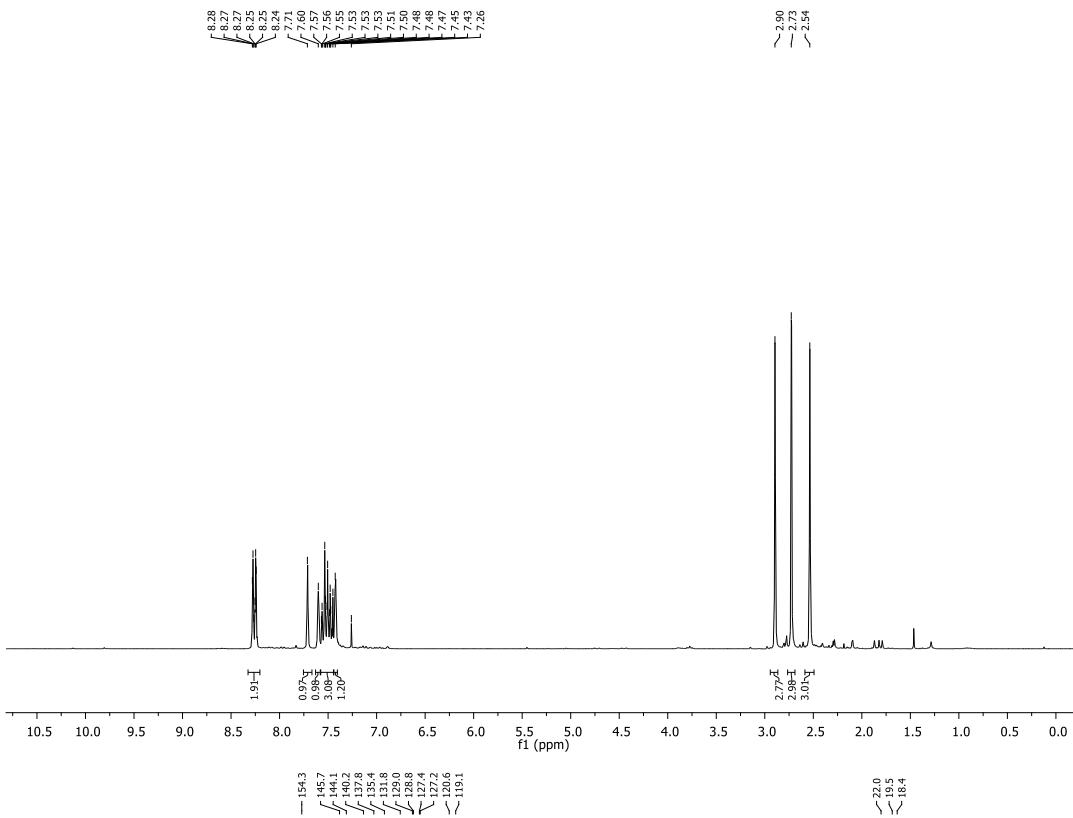
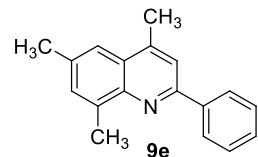
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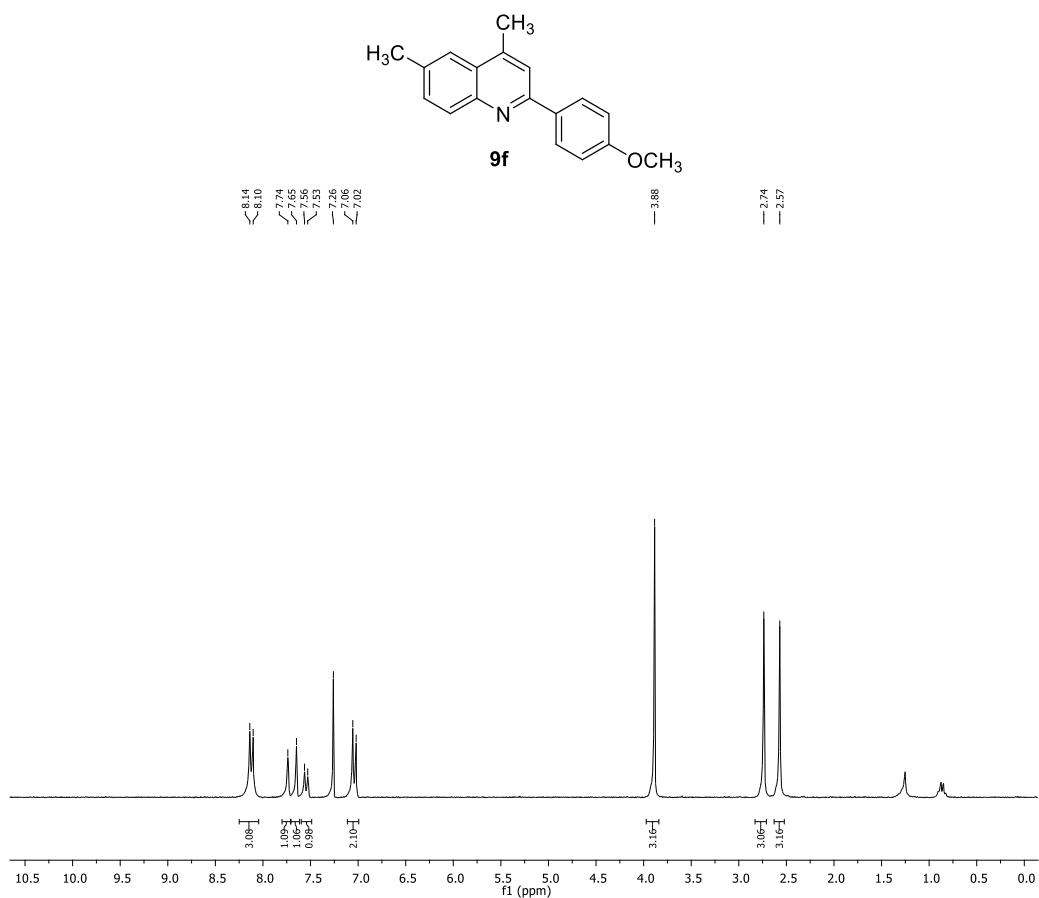
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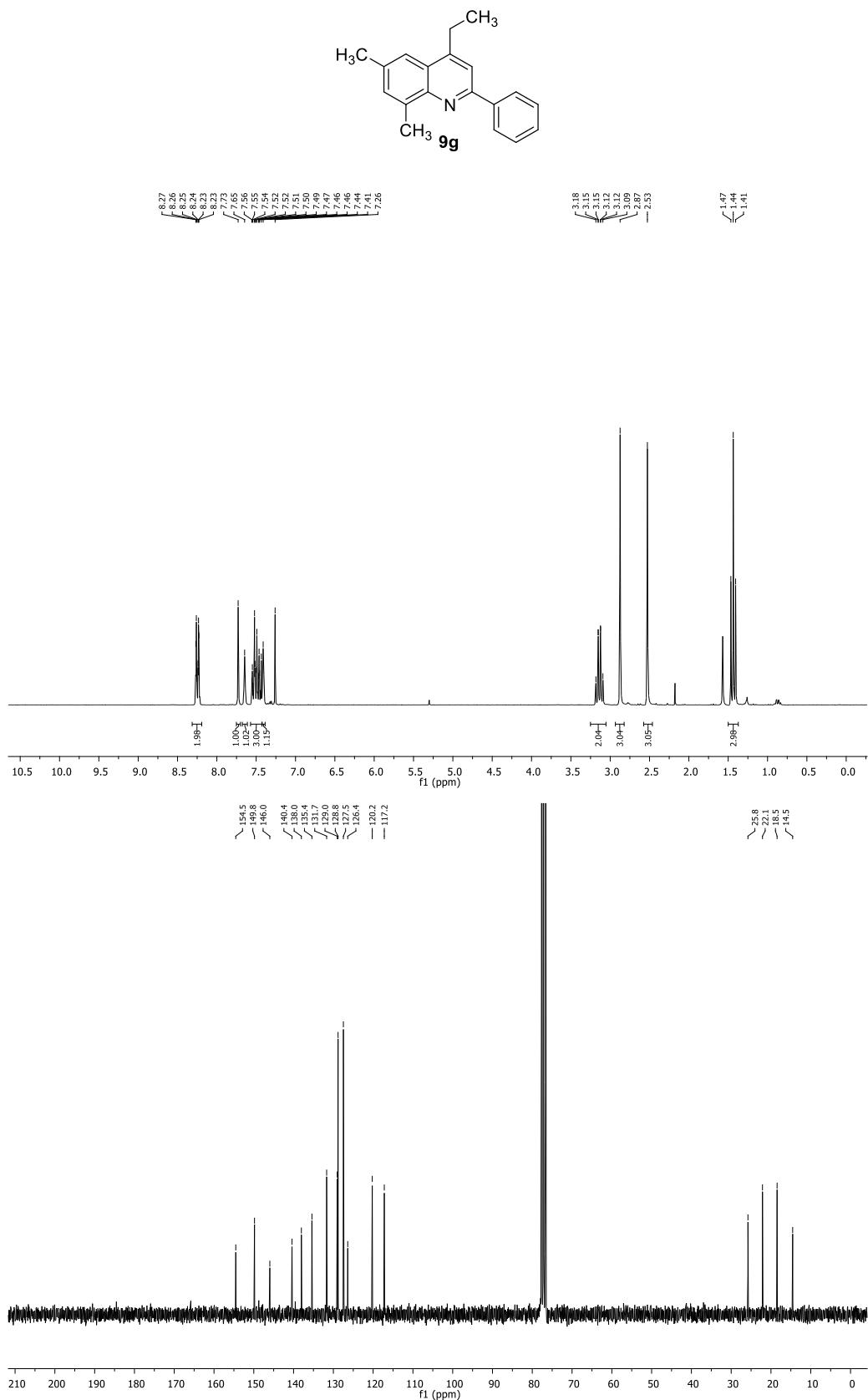
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