

Electronic Supporting Information for

**A Deciduous Directing Group Approach for the Addition of Aryl
and Vinyl nucleophiles to Maleimides**

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General Experimental

NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz spectrometer in CDCl₃, Tetramethylsilane (TMS; δ = 0.00 ppm) served as an internal standard for ¹H NMR. The corresponding residual nondeuterated solvent signal (CDCl₃; δ = 77.00 ppm) was used as internal standard for ¹³C{¹H} NMR. IR spectra were measured using a FT-IR spectrometer. Mass spectra were obtained with a Q-TOF Mass Spectrometer (ESI-HRMS). Flash column chromatography was carried out by packing glass columns with commercial silica gel 230-400 mesh (commercial suppliers) and thin-layer chromatography was carried out using silica gel GF-254. All catalysts, reagents, starting materials and coupling partners were procured from commercial suppliers. Dichloroethane solvent was distilled over calcium hydride and stored over molecular sieves and used for all procedures. Other solvents, used for work up and chromatographic procedures were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without any further purification.

Note: Derivatives of *N*-ethyl succinimides are very mildly fluorescent on the TLC plate under a UV lamp. Hence sufficient care must be taken when column purification is performed.

Experimental Procedures

General Experimental Procedure for synthesis of 3-aryl succinimides: (3aa – 3ia)

A pre-dried 8-mL screw cap with a stirring bar was charged with 0.02 mmol (10 mol %, 7 mg) of RhCp*(OAc)₂ complex, 0.2 mmol of aromatic carboxylic acid derivative and 0.4 mmol of *N*-alkyl/phenyl maleimide. To this, 30 mg of AcOH was added via a syringe, followed by 1 mL of dry 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE). The vial was capped tightly under a stream of argon gas, and placed into a pre-heated metal block set to 100 °C. The reaction mixture was left to stir for 4-8 h, until TLC indicated consumption of starting materials, and filtered through a short plug of silica to obtain the crude mixture. The compound was purified by column chromatography using 20% EA/hexane mixture to obtain a yellowish syrupy liquid as the product.

General Experimental Procedure for synthesis of 3-heteroaryl succinimides: (3ja – 3la)

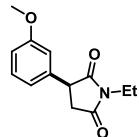
A pre-dried 8-mL screw cap with a stirring bar was charged with 0.02 mmol (10 mol %, 7 mg) of RhCp*(OAc)₂ complex, 0.2 mmol of *N*-alkyl/phenyl maleimide and 0.4 mmol of heteroaromatic carboxylic acid derivative. To this 1 mL of dry 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE) was added. The vial was capped tightly under a stream of argon gas, and placed into a pre-heated metal block set to 100 °C. The reaction mixture was left to stir for 4-8 h, until TLC indicated consumption of starting materials, and filtered through a short plug of silica to obtain the crude mixture. The compound was purified by column chromatography using 10 - 20% EA/hexane mixture to obtain a yellowish syrupy liquid as the product.

General Experimental Procedure for synthesis of 3-alkenyl succinimides: (3ma – 3pa)

A pre-dried 8-mL screw cap with a stirring bar was charged with 0.02 mmol (10 mol %, 7 mg) of RhCp*(OAc)₂ complex, 0.2 mmol of acrylic/atropic acid derivative and 0.4 mmol of *N*-alkyl/phenyl maleimide. To this, 30 mg of AcOH was added via a syringe, followed by 1 mL of dry 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE). The vial was capped tightly under a stream of argon gas, and placed into a pre-heated metal block set to 120 °C. The reaction mixture was left to stir for 4-8 h, until TLC indicated consumption of starting materials, and filtered through a short plug of silica to obtain the crude mixture. The compound was purified by column chromatography using 5-12 % EA/hexane mixture to obtain a yellowish syrupy liquid as the product.

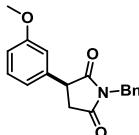
Characterization data for all isolated products:

1. **1-ethyl-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3aa)**



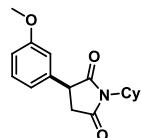
Yield - 37 mg (81%), as a thick yellow liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.4; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1596; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.24 (t, *J*= 7.17 Hz, 3 H) 2.82 (dd, *J*= 18.62, 4.58 Hz, 1 H) 3.20 (dd, *J*= 18.31, 9.46 Hz, 1 H) 3.66 (q, *J*= 7.12 Hz, 2 H) 3.82 (s, 3 H) 3.99 (dd, *J*= 9.77, 4.58 Hz, 1 H) 6.73 - 6.83 (m, 2 H) 6.84 - 6.90 (m, 1 H) 7.26 - 7.32 (m, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.0, 34.0, 37.2, 45.8, 55.2, 113.0, 113.5, 119.4, 130.2, 138.8, 160.1, 176.0, 177.4; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₁₃H₁₅NO₃ (M+Na): 256.0950, found (M+Na): 256.0949.

2. **1-benzyl-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ab)**



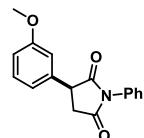
Yield - 44 mg (75%), as a thick yellow liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1703, 1594; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 2.83 (dd, *J*= 18.62, 4.58 Hz, 1 H) 3.21 (dd, *J*= 18.31, 9.46 Hz, 1 H) 3.77 (s, 3 H) 4.01 (dd, *J*= 9.46, 4.58 Hz, 1 H) 4.67 - 4.83 (m, 2 H) 6.7 (s, 1H) 6.76 (d, *J*= 7.63 Hz, 1 H) 6.86 (dd, *J*= 8.32, 2.52, 1 H) 7.24 - 7.39 (m, 4 H) 7.41 - 7.48 (m, 2 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 37.2, 42.7, 45.9, 55.2, 113.1, 113.4, 119.5, 128.0, 128.7, 128.8, 130.2, 135.8, 138.7, 160.1, 175.7, 177.2; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₁₈H₁₇NO₃ (M+Na): 318.1106, found (M+Na): 318.1107.

3. 1-cyclohexyl-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ac)



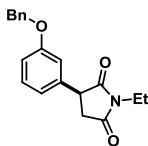
Yield - 42 mg (74%), as a thick yellow liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.4; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1700, 1597; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.14 - 1.41 (m, 3 H) 1.49 - 1.77 (m, 3 H) 1.85 (d, J= 13.14 Hz, 2 H) 2.12 - 2.28 (m, 2 H) 2.76 (dd, J= 18.44, 4.55 Hz, 1 H) 3.15 (dd, J= 18.44, 9.60 Hz, 1 H) 3.82 (s, 3 H) 3.92 (dd, J= 9.60, 4.55 Hz, 1 H) 3.99 - 4.10 (m, 1 H) 6.74 (s, 1 H) 6.78 (d, J= 7.83 Hz, 1 H) 6.85 (dd, J= 8.21, 2.40 Hz, 1 H) 7.27 - 7.31 (m, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 37.2, 42.7, 45.9, 55.2, 113.1, 113.4, 119.5, 128.0, 128.7, 128.8, 130.2, 135.8, 138.7, 160.1, 175.7, 177.2; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₁₇H₂₁NO₃ (M+Na): 310.1419, found (M+Na): 310.1419.

4. 3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ad)



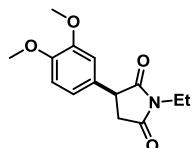
Yield - 38 mg (68%), as a yellow syrupy liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.4; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1712, 1597; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 3.02 (dd, J= 18.46, 4.73 Hz, 1 H) 3.39 (dd, J= 18.62, 9.77 Hz, 1 H) 3.85 (s, 3 H) 4.18 (dd, J= 9.77, 4.88 Hz, 1 H) 6.86 - 6.96 (m, 3 H) 7.31 - 7.40 (m, 3 H) 7.40 - 7.47 (m, 1 H) 7.47 - 7.58 (m, 2 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 37.2, 45.9, 55.3, 113.2, 113.7, 119.4, 126.5, 128.7, 129.2, 130.3, 131.9, 138.6, 160.2, 175.1, 176.5; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₁₇H₁₅NO₃ (M+Na): 304.0950, found (M+Na): 304.0954.

5. 3-(3-(benzyloxy)phenyl)-1-ethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ba)



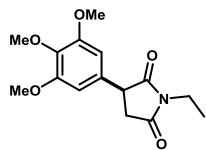
Yield - 38 mg (75%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1700, 1590; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.25 (t, *J*= 7.17 Hz, 3 H) 2.81 (dd, *J*= 18.31, 4.58 Hz, 1 H) 3.20 (dd, *J*= 18.62, 9.46 Hz, 1 H) 3.66 (q, *J*= 7.32 Hz, 2 H) 3.99 (dd, *J*= 9.46, 4.58 Hz, 1 H) 5.09 (s, 2 H) 6.80 - 6.90 (m, 2 H) 6.95 (dd, *J*= 8.24, 1.83 Hz, 1 H) 7.28 - 7.40 (m, 2 H) 7.40 - 7.50 (m, 4 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.1, 34.1, 37.2, 45.8, 70.1, 113.9, 114.4, 119.8, 127.5, 128.1, 128.6, 130.3, 136.7, 138.9, 159.3, 175.9, 177.3; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₉H₁₉NO₃ (M+Na): 332.1263, found (M+Na): 332.1261.

6. 3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-ethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ca)



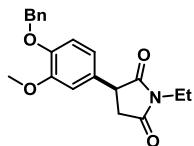
Yield - 29 mg (69%), as a yellow thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.3; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1599; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.24 (t, *J*= 7.20 Hz, 3 H), 2.82 (dd, *J*= 18.44, 4.55 Hz, 1 H), 3.20 (dd, *J*= 18.69, 9.60 Hz, 1 H), 3.66 (q, *J*= 7.24 Hz, 2 H), 3.89 (s, 3 H), 3.90 (s, 3 H), 3.94 - 3.99 (m, 1 H), 6.74 - 6.77 (m, 1 H), 6.87 (d, *J*= 8.08 Hz, 1 H), 7.28 (s, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.1, 34.1, 37.2, 45.4, 55.9, 56.0, 76.7, 77.0, 77.2, 77.3, 110.6, 111.6, 119.2, 129.6, 148.8, 149.4, 176.1, 177.7; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₄H₁₇NO₄ (M+Na): 286.1055, found (M+Na): 286.1056.

7. 1-ethyl-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3da)



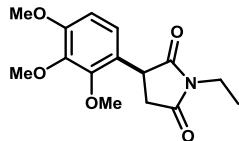
Yield - 36 mg (69%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.3; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1597; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.23 (t, *J*= 7.20 Hz, 3 H) 2.80 (dd, *J*= 18.69, 4.55 Hz, 1 H) 3.18 (dd, *J*= 18.44, 9.35 Hz, 1 H) 3.64 (q, *J*= 7.07 Hz, 2 H) 3.79 (s, 6 H) 3.93 (dd, *J*= 9.47, 4.42 Hz, 1 H) 6.35 (s, 2 H) 6.41 (s, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.1, 34.1, 37.2, 46.0, 55.4, 99.5, 105.6, 116.1, 139.5, 161.3, 176.1, 177.3; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₄H₁₇NO₄ (M+H): 264.1236, found (M+H): 264.1220

8. 3-(4-(benzyloxy)-3-methoxyphenyl)-1-ethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ea)



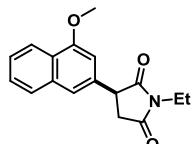
Yield - 40 mg (60%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1594; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.20 (t, *J*= 7.20 Hz, 3 H) 2.71 (dd, *J*= 18.44, 4.55 Hz, 1 H) 3.14 (dd, *J*= 18.32, 9.47 Hz, 1 H) 3.62 (q, *J*= 7.24 Hz, 2 H) 3.85 - 3.94 (m, 4 H) 5.15 (s, 2 H) 6.74 (s, 1 H) 6.78 (d, *J*= 8.59 Hz, 1 H) 6.89 (d, *J*= 8.34 Hz, 1 H) 7.29 - 7.47 (m, 5 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.1, 34.0, 37.2, 45.3, 56.1, 71.3, 112.2, 113.4, 120.1, 127.4, 128.0, 128.6, 129.5, 136.8, 148.6, 149.5, 176.1, 177.7; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₂₀H₂₁NO₄ (M+Na): 362.1368, found (M+Na): 362.1369.

9. 1-ethyl-3-(2,3,4-trimethoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3fa)



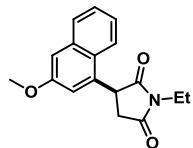
Yield - 39 mg (60%), as a yellowish thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.4; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1600; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.24 - 1.28 (m, 3 H) 2.69 9 (dd, *J*= 18.57, 4.53 Hz, 1 H) 3.08 (dd, *J*= 18.19, 9.60 Hz, 1 H) 3.67 (q, *J*= 7.16 Hz, 2 H) 3.84 (s, 3 H) 3.85 (s, 3 H) 3.87 (s, 3 H) 6.62 (d, *J*= 8.34 Hz, 1 H) 6.85 (d, *J*= 8.34 Hz, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.1, 33.9, 37.3, 43.5, 56.0, 60.4, 60.7, 106.8, 123.5, 124.6, 142.1, 151.2, 154.1, 176.5, 178.8; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₅H₁₉NO₅ (M+Na): 316.1161, found (M+Na): 316.1164.

10. 1-ethyl-3-(4-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ga)



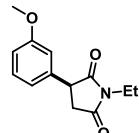
Yield - 29 mg (60%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1584; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.27 (t, *J*= 7.20 Hz, 3 H) 2.96 (dd, *J*= 18.44, 4.55 Hz, 1 H) 3.27 (dd, *J*= 18.44, 9.60 Hz, 1 H) 3.70 (q, *J*= 7.16 Hz, 2 H) 4.02 (s, 3 H) 4.15 (dd, *J*= 9.60, 4.55 Hz, 1 H) 6.61 (s, 1 H) 7.28 (s, 1 H) 7.43 - 7.57 (m, 2 H) 7.76 (d, *J*= 8.24 Hz, 1 H) 8.25 (d, *J*= 8.24 Hz, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.1, 34.1, 37.0, 46.3, 55.6, 102.8, 118.6, 122.0, 125.1, 125.7, 127.2, 127.4, 134.3, 134.7, 156.4, 176.2, 177.5; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₇H₁₇NO₃ (M+Na): 306.1106, found (M+Na): 306.1104

11. 1-ethyl-3-(3-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ha)



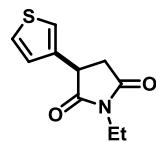
Yield - 34 mg (60%), as a yellowish thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1702, 1603; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.31 (t, *J*= 7.20 Hz, 3 H) 2.79 (dd, *J*= 18.44, 4.80 Hz, 1 H) 3.39 (s, 1 H) 3.74 (q, *J*= 7.07 Hz, 2 H) 3.93 (s, 3 H) 4.69 (dd, *J*= 9.60, 4.80 Hz, 1 H) 6.97 (s, 1 H) 7.13 (s, 1 H) 7.37 - 7.54 (m, 2 H) 7.73 (d, *J*= 8.34 Hz, 1 H) 7.81 (d, *J*= 8.34 Hz, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.2, 34.2, 37.6, 42.8, 55.3, 106.1, 122.7, 124.4, 126.7, 126.8, 128.1, 135.6, 135.7, 156.9, 175.7, 177.6; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₇H₁₇NO₃ (M+Na): 306.1106, found (M+Na): 306.1107.

12. 1-ethyl-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ia = 3aa)



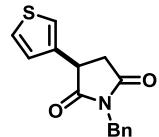
Yield - 23 mg (50%), as a yellowish thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.4; same data as **3aa**

13. 1-ethyl-3-(thiophen-3-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ja)



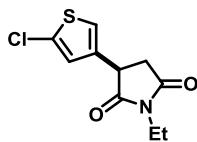
Yield - 28 mg (68%), as a yellowish liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1698, 1587; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.20 Hz, 3 H), 2.84 (dd, *J* = 18.32, 4.93 Hz, 1 H), 3.19 (dd, *J* = 18.32, 9.47 Hz, 1 H), 3.62 (q, *J* = 7.33 Hz, 2 H), 4.12 (dd, *J* = 9.60, 4.80 Hz, 1 H), 7.04 (dd, *J* = 5.05, 1.01 Hz, 1 H), 7.22 (br. s, 1 H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 5.05, 3.03 Hz, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.0, 34.0, 36.4, 41.2, 122.1, 126.3, 127.1, 136.6, 175.7, 177.0; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₁₀H₁₁NO₂S (M+Na): 232.0408, found (M+Na): 232.0408

14. 1-benzyl-3-(thiophen-3-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3jb)



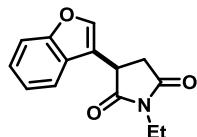
Yield - 37 mg (60%), as a yellowish thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1703, 1525; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 2.86 (dd, *J* = 18.32, 4.93 Hz, 1 H), 3.20 (dd, *J* = 18.32, 9.47 Hz, 1 H), 4.14 (dd, *J* = 9.47, 4.93 Hz, 1 H), 4.66 - 4.79 (m, 2 H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 5.05 Hz, 1 H), 7.19 (br. s, 1 H), 7.29 - 7.37 (m, 4 H), 7.38 - 7.44 (m, 2 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 36.4, 41.2, 42.7, 122.2, 126.3, 127.1, 128.1, 128.7, 128.8, 135.7, 136.4, 175.5, 176.8; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₁₅H₁₃NO₂S (M+H): 272.0745, found (M+H): 272.0725

15. 3-(5-chlorothiophen-3-yl)-1-ethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ka)



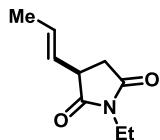
Yield - 26 mg (55%), as a yellowish thick liquid; **R_f** - (20% EtOAc/hexane) 0.4; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1700, 1590; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.20 Hz, 3 H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 18.44, 5.05 Hz, 1 H), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 18.32, 9.47 Hz, 1 H), 3.63 (q, *J* = 7.07 Hz, 2 H), 4.02 (dd, *J* = 9.47, 4.93 Hz, 1 H), 6.90 (s, 1 H), 7.00 (s, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.0, 34.1, 35.8, 41.4, 120.7, 125.4, 131.7, 135.9, 175.3, 176.3; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₀H₁₀ClNO₂S (M+Na): 266.0018, found (M+Na): 266.0017

16. 3-(benzofuran-3-yl)-1-ethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3la)



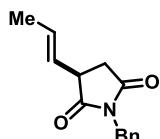
Yield - 25 mg (51%), as a yellowish thick liquid; **R_f** - (20% EtOAc/hexane) 0.4; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1591; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.20 Hz, 3 H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 18.32, 5.18 Hz, 1 H), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 18.19, 9.60 Hz, 1 H), 3.70 (q, *J* = 7.07 Hz, 2 H), 4.24 (dd, *J* = 9.60, 5.05 Hz, 1 H), 7.24 - 7.31 (m, 1 H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.33 Hz, 1 H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 7.83 Hz, 1 H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.34 Hz, 1 H), 7.66 (s, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.1, 34.2, 35.3, 36.7, 112.1, 116.2, 119.4, 123.1, 125.1, 125.9, 142.2, 155.7, 175.5, 176.5; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₄H₁₃NO₃ (M+H): 244.0974, found (M+H): 244.0954

17. E-1-ethyl-3-(prop-1-en-1-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ma)



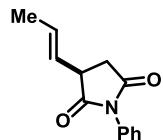
Yield - 20 mg (57%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1699, 1596; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.20 Hz, 3 H), 1.75 (d, *J* = 6.57 Hz, 3 H), 2.55 (dd, *J* = 18.19, 4.80 Hz, 1 H), 2.93 (dd, *J* = 18.19, 9.35 Hz, 1 H), 3.38 - 3.47 (m, 1 H), 3.54 - 3.60 (m, 2 H), 5.47 (dd, *J* = 15.28, 7.20 Hz, 1 H), 5.67 - 5.79 (m, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.0, 18.0, 33.9, 34.9, 43.2, 125.6, 130.2, 176.1, 178.1; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₉H₁₃NO₂ (M+H): 168.1025, found (M+H): 168.1006

18. E-1-benzyl-3-(prop-1-en-1-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3mb)



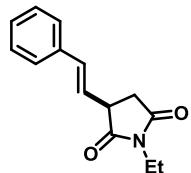
Yield - 30 mg (65%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1706, 1584; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.74 (d, *J* = 6.57 Hz, 3 H), 2.57 (dd, *J* = 18.32, 4.93 Hz, 1 H), 2.94 (dd, *J* = 18.32, 9.22 Hz, 1 H), 3.40 - 3.50 (m, 1 H), 4.67 (d, *J* = 1.77 Hz, 2 H), 5.40 - 5.51 (m, 1 H), 5.66 - 5.79 (m, 1 H), 7.27 - 7.35 (m, 3 H), 7.36 - 7.43 (m, 2 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 18.0, 34.9, 42.5, 43.2, 125.4, 128.0, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 130.4, 135.8, 175.8, 177.9; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₁₄H₁₅NO₂ (M+Na): 252.1000, found (M+Na): 252.1000.

19. E-1-phenyl-3-(prop-1-en-1-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3md)



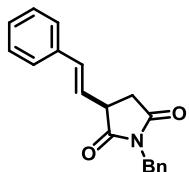
Yield - 26 mg (61%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1713, 1596; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.79 (d, *J* = 6.32 Hz, 2 H), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 18.32, 5.18 Hz, 1 H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 18.44, 9.35 Hz, 1 H), 3.56 - 3.68 (m, 1 H), 5.59 (ddd, *J* = 15.28, 6.95, 1.26 Hz, 1 H), 5.74 - 5.85 (m, 1 H), 7.30 - 7.45 (m, 3 H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.08 Hz, 2 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 12.6, 18.0, 23.4, 32.0, 35.0, 43.3, 125.4, 126.4, 126.5, 128.5, 128.6, 129.1, 129.2, 130.5, 131.9, 141.5, 175.2, 177.2; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₁₃H₁₃NO₂ (M+Na): 238.0844, found (M+Na): 238.0846.

20. E-1-ethyl-3-styrylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3na)



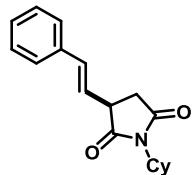
Yield - 27 mg (59%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1593; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.17 Hz, 3 H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 18.31, 4.88 Hz, 1 H), 3.05 (dd, *J* = 18.31, 9.16 Hz, 1 H), 3.58 - 3.71 (m, 3 H), 6.23 (dd, *J* = 15.87, 7.02 Hz, 1 H), 7.27 - 7.44 (m, 5 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.0, 34.0, 34.7, 43.2, 123.9, 126.4, 128.1, 128.6, 133.8, 136.0, 175.7, 177.4; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₁₄H₁₅NO₂ (M+H): 230.1181, found (M+H): 230.1166

21. E-1-benzyl-3-styrylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3nb)



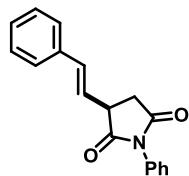
Yield - 35 mg (60%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1704, 1582; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 2.73 (dd, *J* = 18.32, 5.18 Hz, 1 H), 3.06 (dd, *J* = 18.19, 9.35 Hz, 1 H), 3.61 - 3.74 (m, 1 H), 4.65 - 4.76 (m, 2 H), 6.21 (dd, *J* = 15.92, 6.82 Hz, 1 H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 15.92 Hz, 1 H), 7.27 - 7.46 (m, 10 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 34.8, 42.7, 43.3, 123.8, 126.5, 128.1, 128.1, 128.7, 128.7, 128.9, 134.0, 135.7, 136.0, 175.6, 177.3; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₁₉H₁₇NO₂ (M+Na): 314.1157, found (M+Na): 314.1159.

22. E-1-cyclohexyl-3-styrylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3nc)



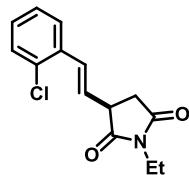
Yield - 38 mg (67%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1591; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.20 - 1.40 (m, 3 H), 1.60 - 1.70 (m, 3 H), 1.85 (d, *J* = 12.88 Hz, 2 H), 2.10 - 2.24 (m, 2 H), 2.67 (dd, *J* = 18.06, 5.18 Hz, 1 H), 2.99 (dd, *J* = 18.19, 9.35 Hz, 1 H), 3.55 - 3.64 (m, 1 H), 4.02 (tt, *J* = 12.28, 3.76 Hz, 1 H), 6.22 (dd, *J* = 15.92, 6.82 Hz, 1 H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 15.92 Hz, 1 H), 7.26 - 7.30 (m, 1 H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.45 Hz, 2 H), 7.37 - 7.42 (m, 2 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.0, 25.8, 28.8, 28.9, 34.6, 43.0, 52.0, 124.3, 126.5, 128.1, 128.6, 133.6, 136.1, 176.0, 177.7; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)–Calculated for C₁₈H₂₁NO₂ (M+H): 284.1651, found (M+H): 284.1634

23. E-1-phenyl-3-styrylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3nd)



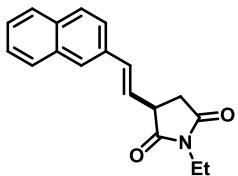
Yield - 30 mg (60%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1713, 1597; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 2.94 (dd, *J* = 18.32, 5.18 Hz, 1 H), 3.24 (dd, *J* = 18.44, 9.35 Hz, 1 H), 3.80 - 3.93 (m, 1 H), 6.35 (dd, *J* = 15.92, 6.82 Hz, 1 H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 15.92 Hz, 1 H), 7.30 - 7.58 (m, 10 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 34.9, 43.4, 123.7, 126.5, 126.5, 128.2, 128.7, 128.7, 129.2, 131.9, 134.1, 136.0, 174.9, 176.5; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₈H₁₅NO₂ (M+Na): 300.1000, found (M+Na): 300.1000

24. E-3-(2-chlorostyryl)-1-ethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3oa)

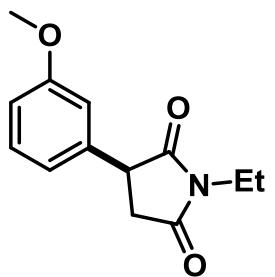


Yield - 40 mg (76%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1591; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.20 Hz, 3 H), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 18.19, 5.05 Hz, 1 H), 3.08 (dd, *J* = 18.19, 9.09 Hz, 1 H), 3.62 (q, *J* = 7.07 Hz, 2 H), 3.69 - 3.76 (m, 1 H), 6.24 (dd, *J* = 15.92, 7.07 Hz, 1 H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 15.92 Hz, 1 H), 7.18 - 7.27 (m, 2 H), 7.33 - 7.40 (m, 1 H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 7.07, 2.27 Hz, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.1, 34.1, 34.6, 43.4, 126.7, 126.9, 126.9, 129.1, 129.8, 130.0, 133.1, 134.2, 175.6, 177.2; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₄H₁₄ClNO₂ (M+Na): 286.0611, found (M+Na): 286.0612

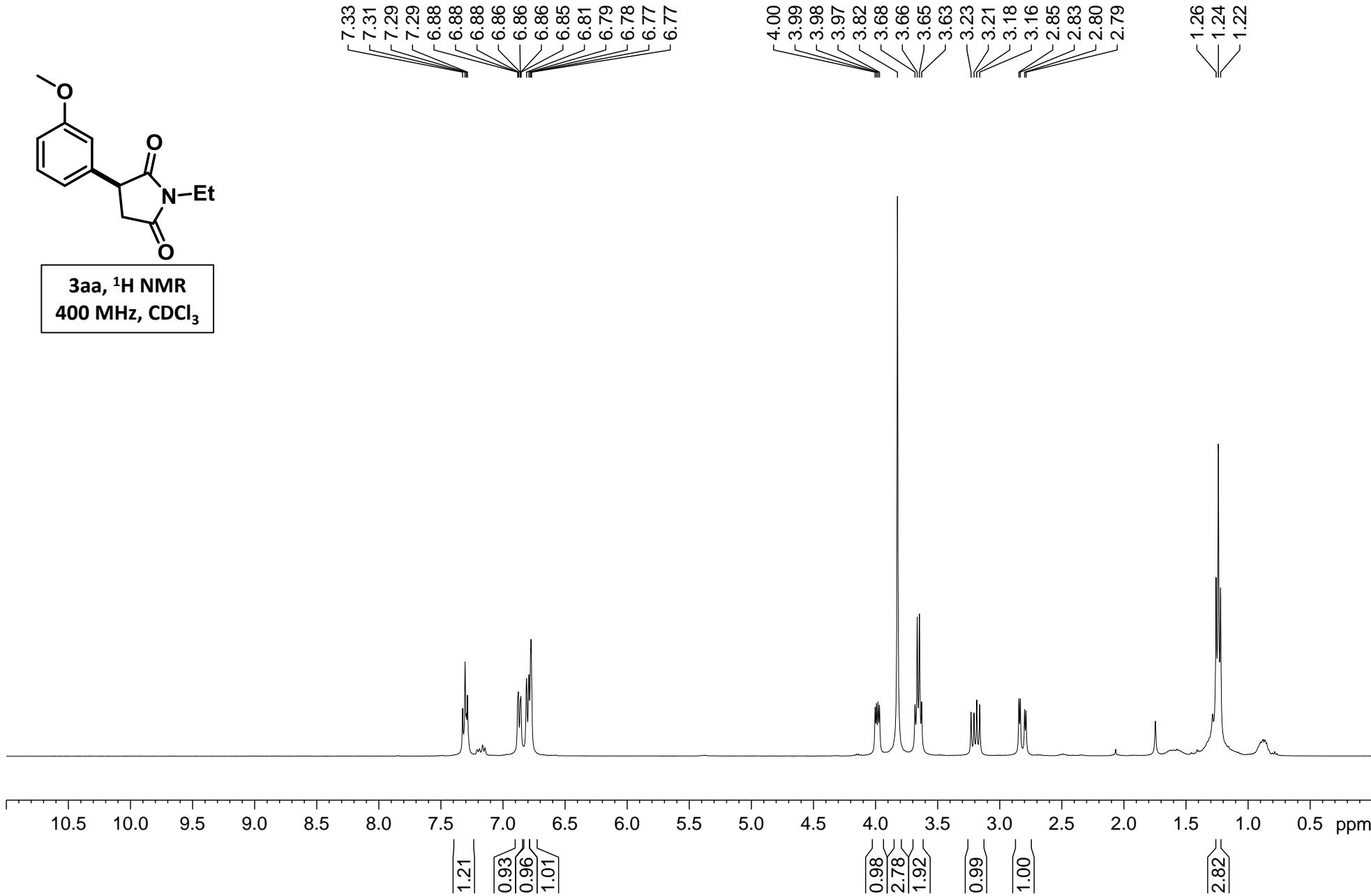
25. E-1-ethyl-3-(2-(naphthalen-2-yl)vinyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3pa)

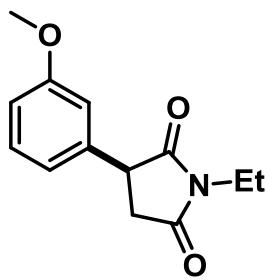


Yield - 39 mg, (70%), as a colorless thick liquid; **R_f** - (30% EtOAc/hexane) 0.5; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1587; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.20 Hz, 3 H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 18.19, 5.05 Hz, 1 H), 3.12 (dd, *J* = 18.19, 9.09 Hz, 1 H), 3.65 (q, *J* = 7.33 Hz, 2 H), 3.75 - 3.83 (m, 1 H), 6.23 (dd, *J* = 15.54, 6.95 Hz, 1 H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 15.66 Hz, 1 H), 7.44 - 7.49 (m, 1 H), 7.51 - 7.57 (m, 2 H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.07 Hz, 1 H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.08 Hz, 1 H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.33 Hz, 1 H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.83 Hz, 1 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 13.1, 34.1, 34.9, 43.6, 123.6, 124.1, 125.6, 125.9, 126.3, 127.2, 128.5, 128.6, 131.0, 131.3, 133.6, 133.8, 175.8, 177.4; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₈H₁₇NO₂ (M+Na): 302.1157, found (M+Na): 302.1159

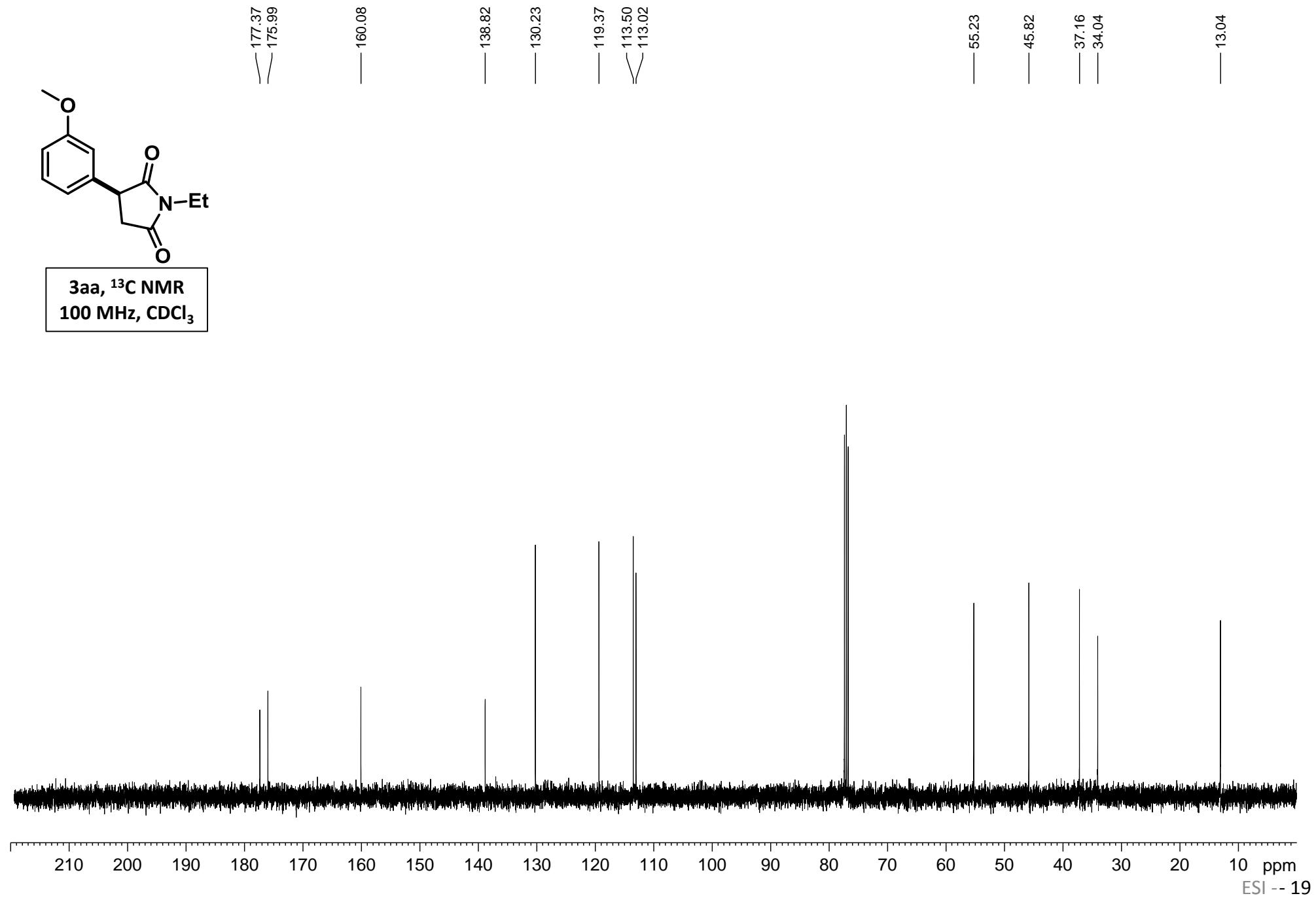


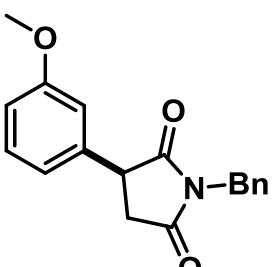
3aa, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3



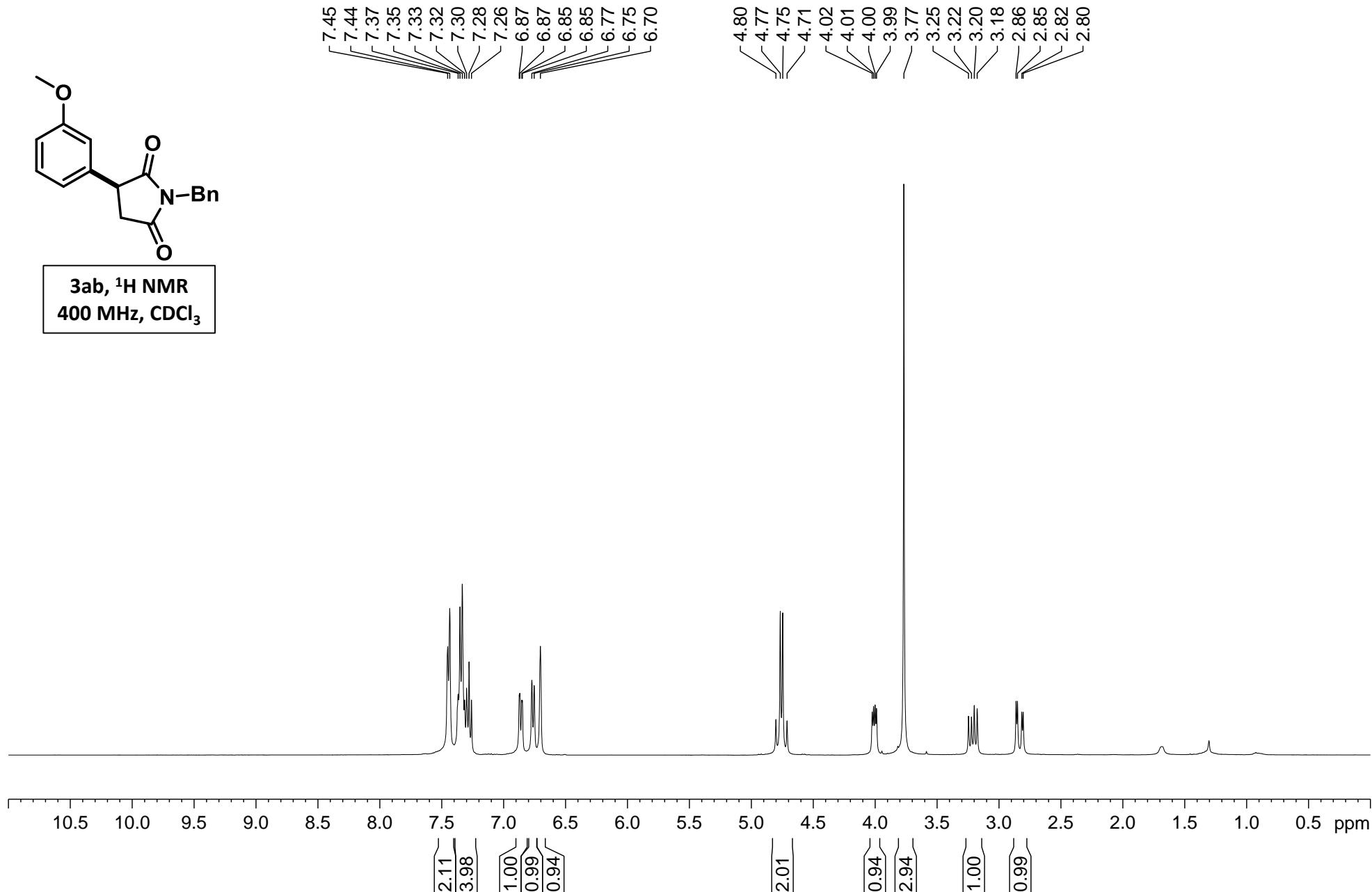


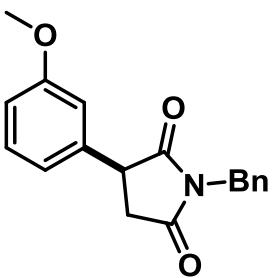
3aa, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3



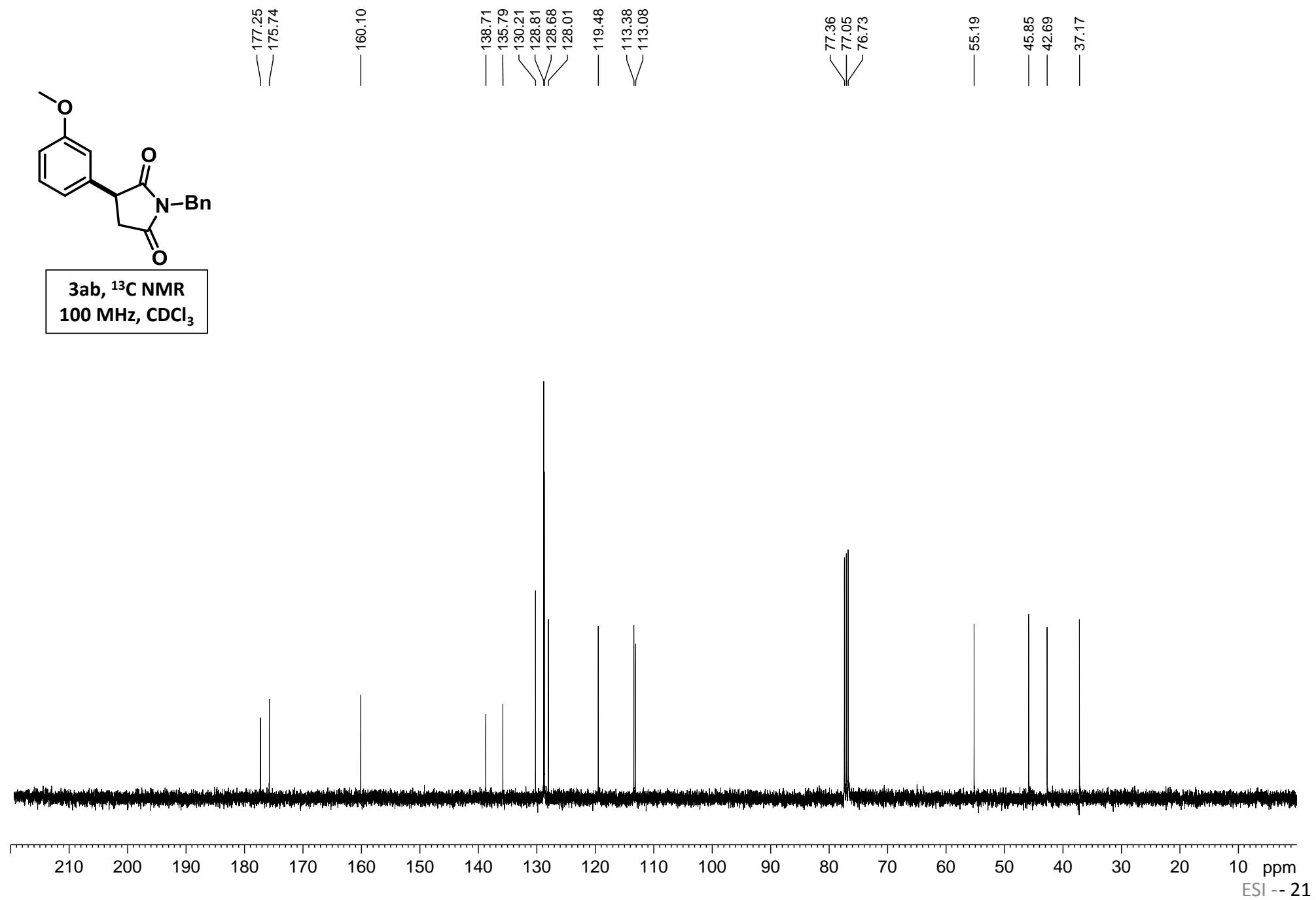


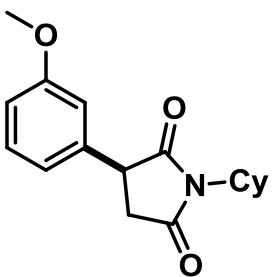
3ab, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3



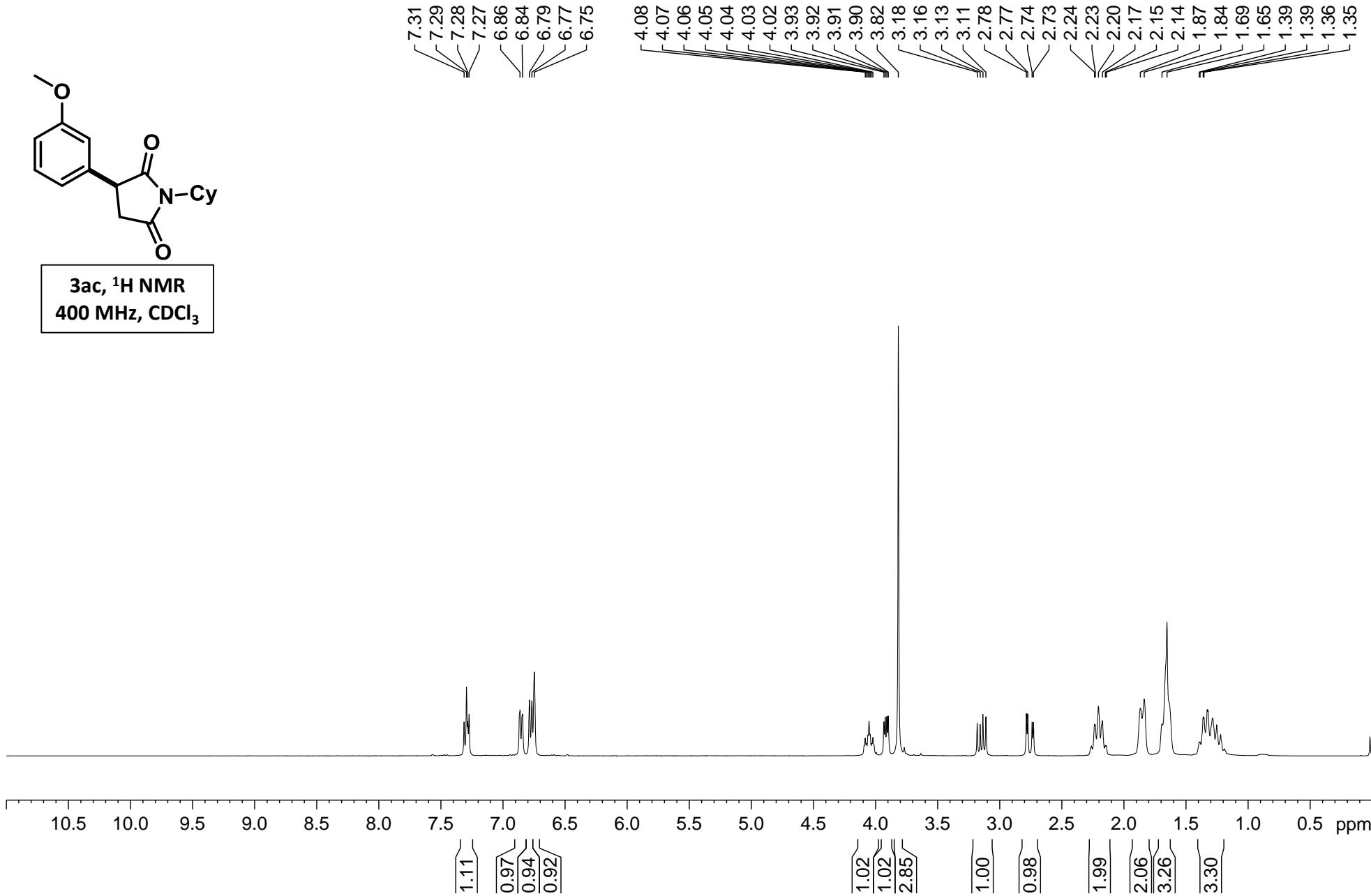


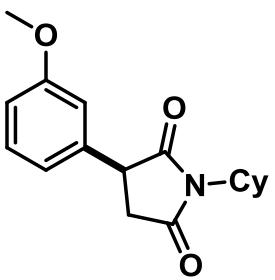
3ab, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3



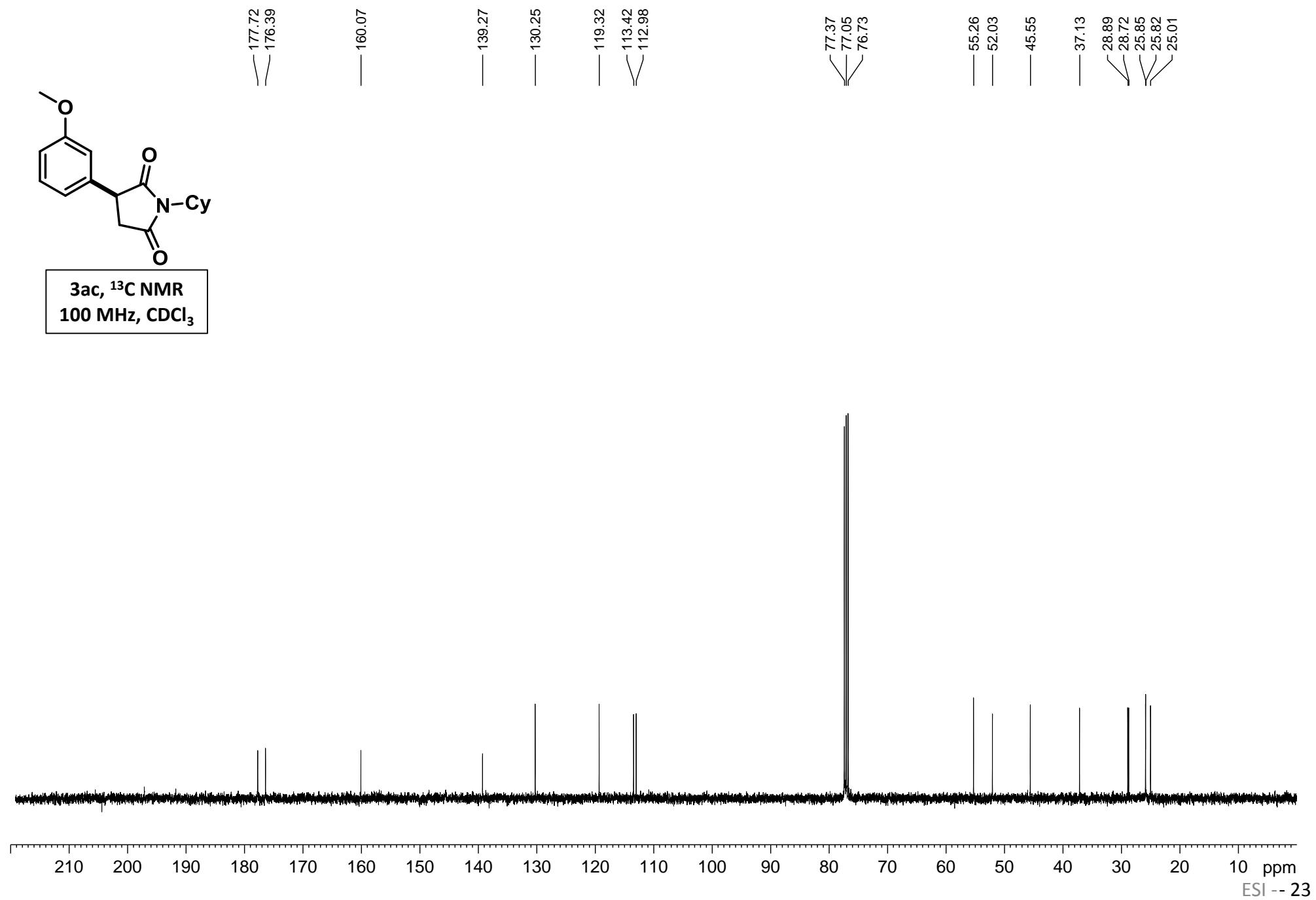


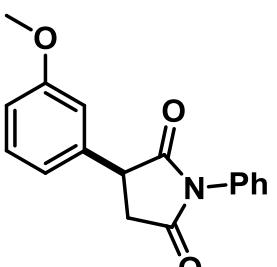
3ac, ¹H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl₃



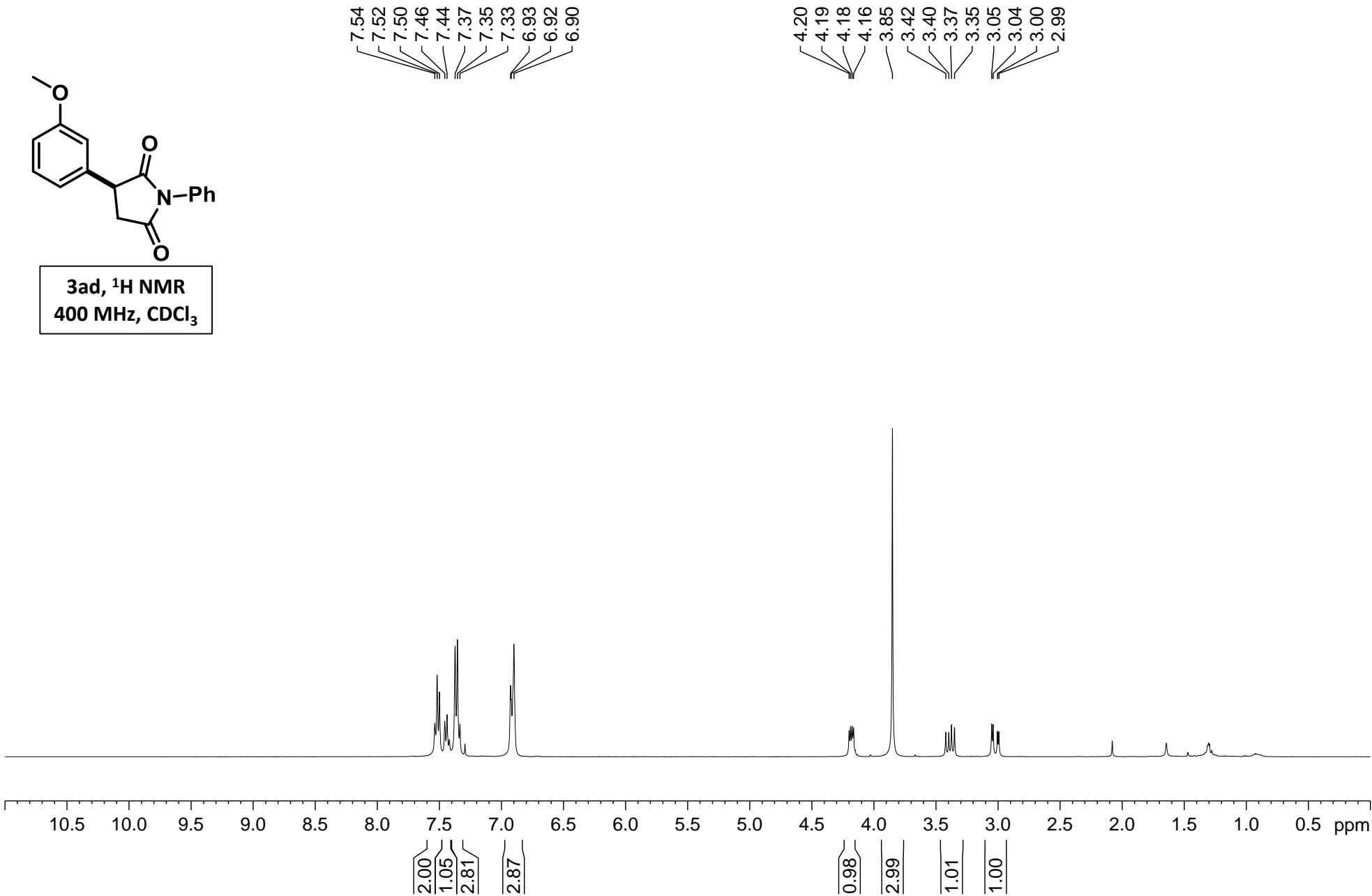


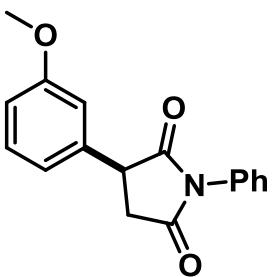
3ac, ¹³C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl₃



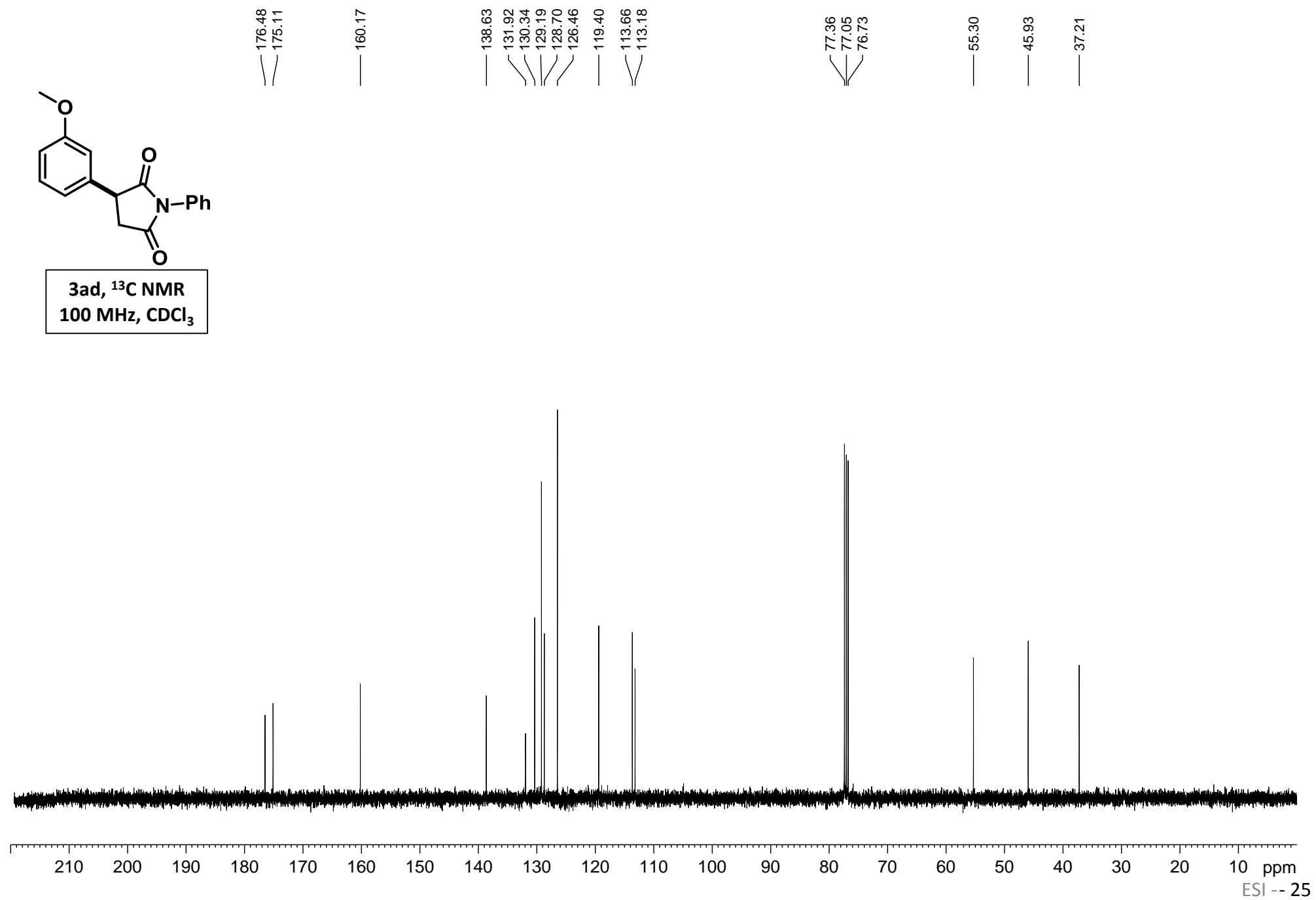


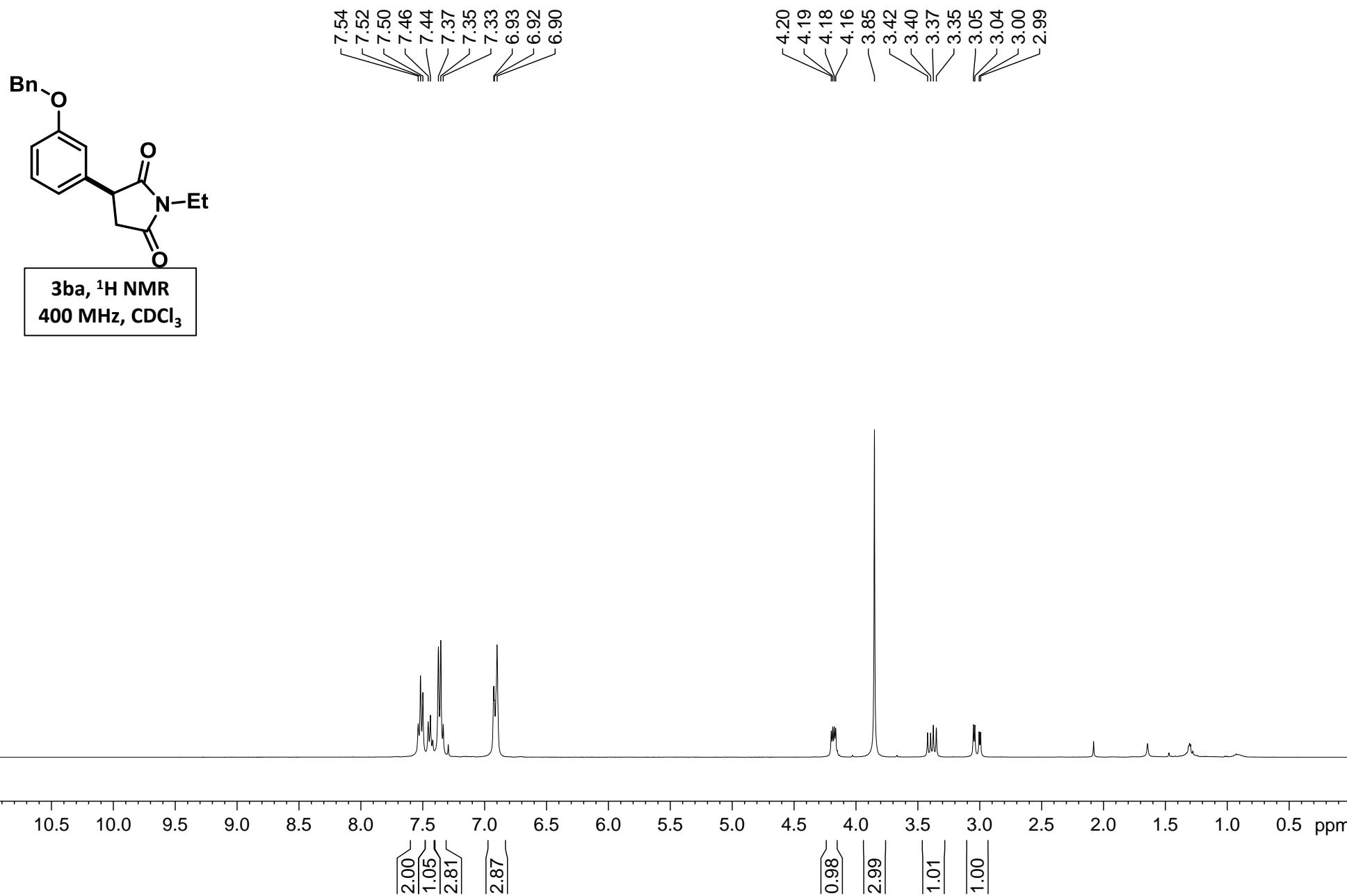
3ad, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3

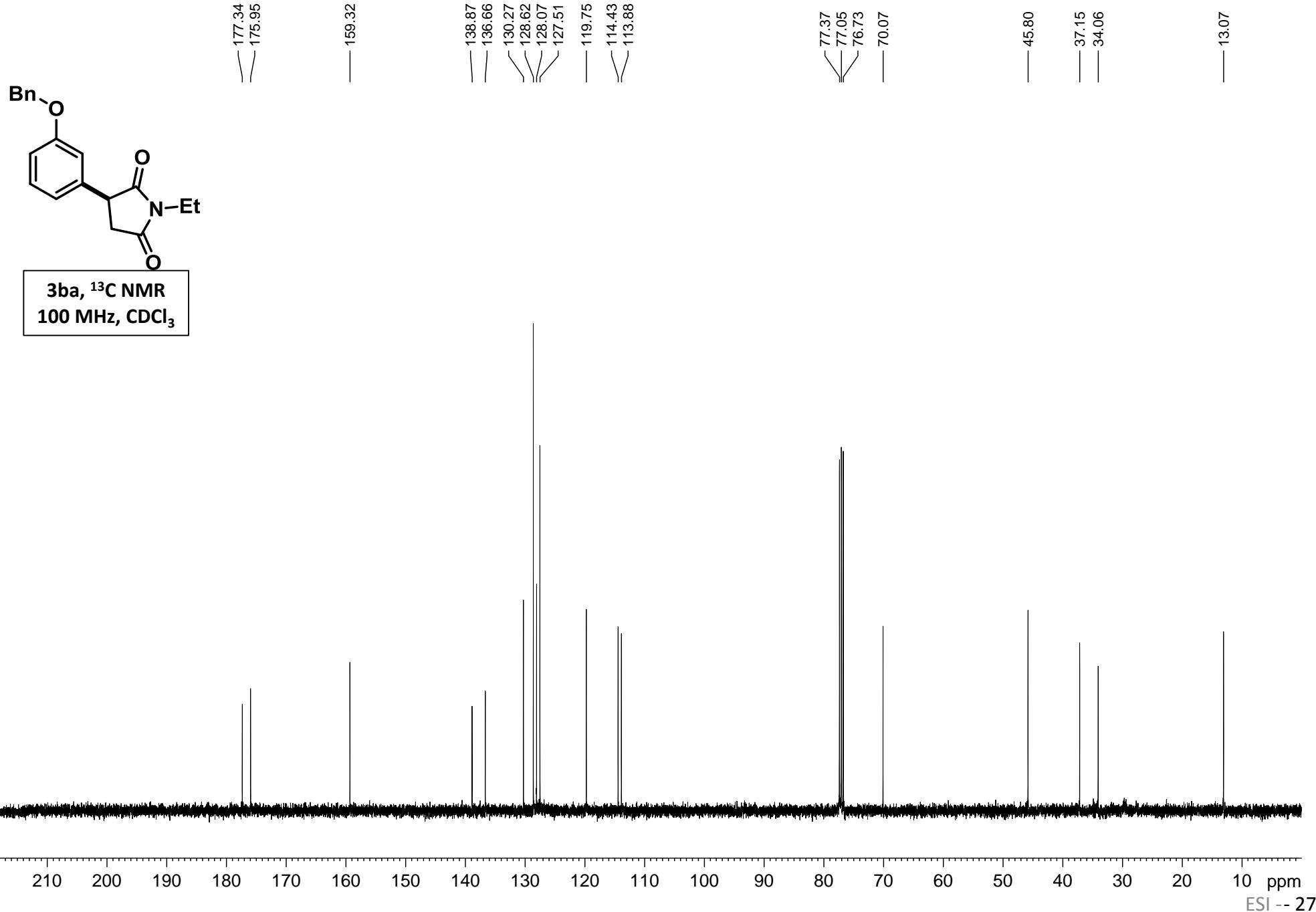


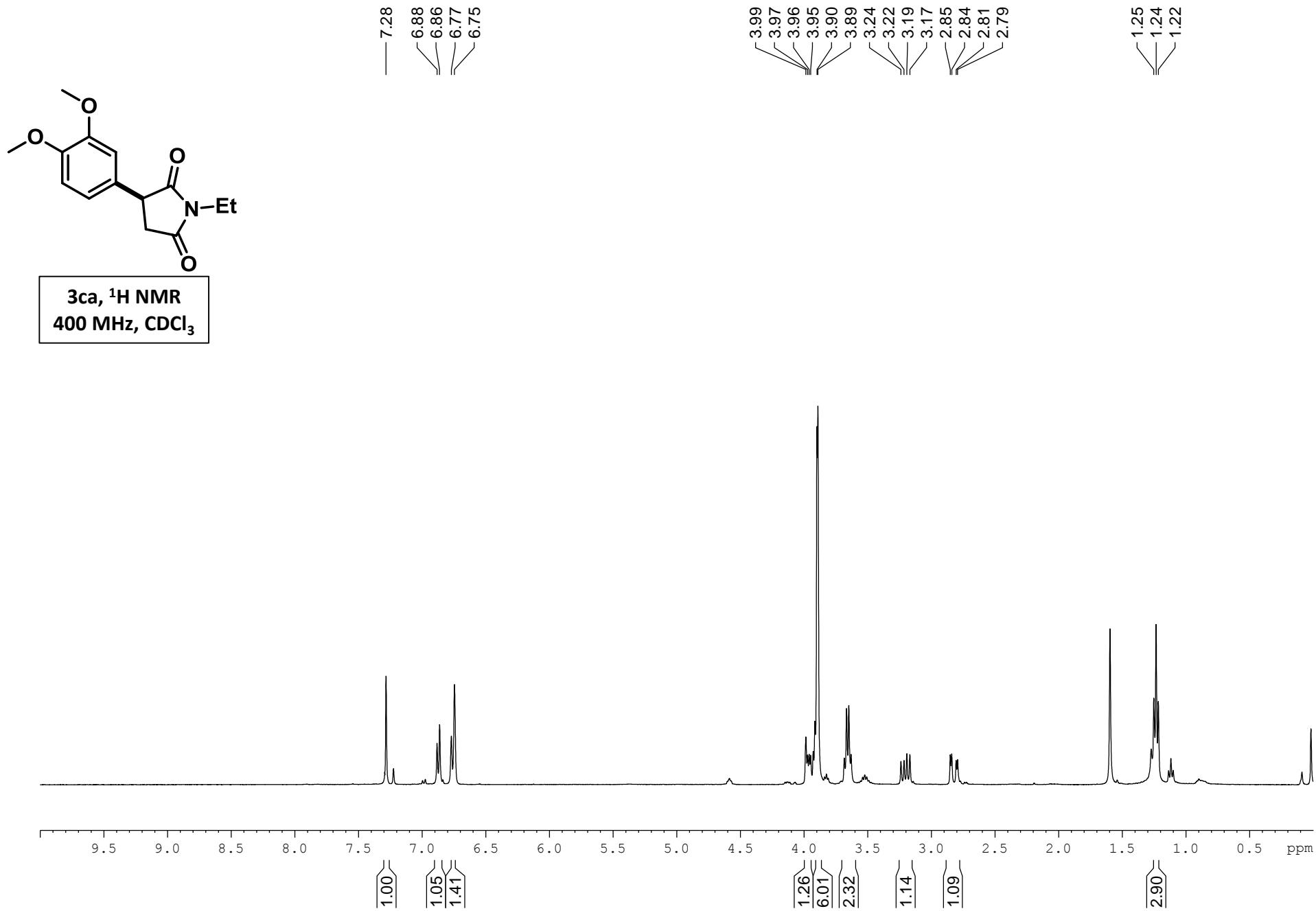


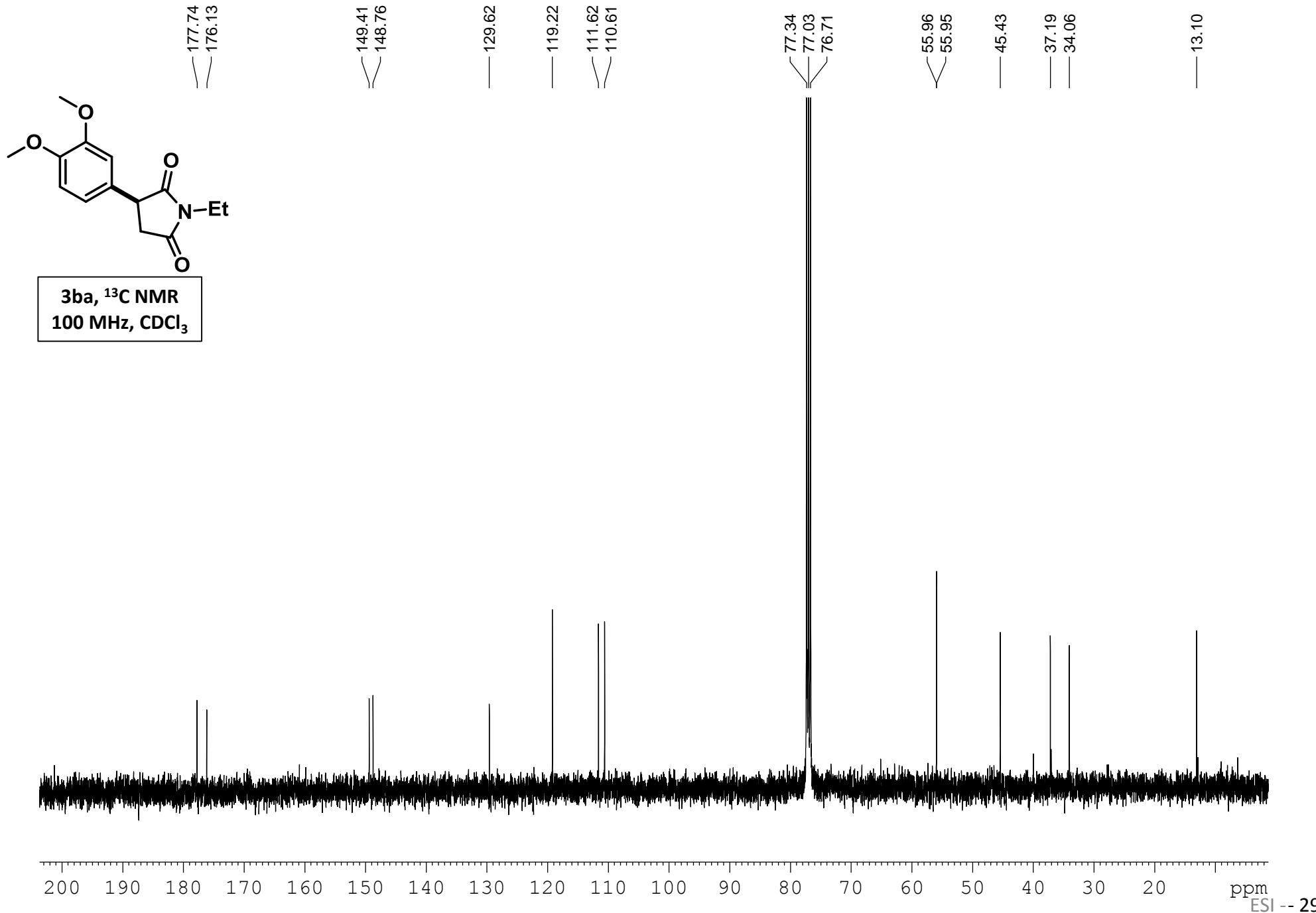
3ad, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3

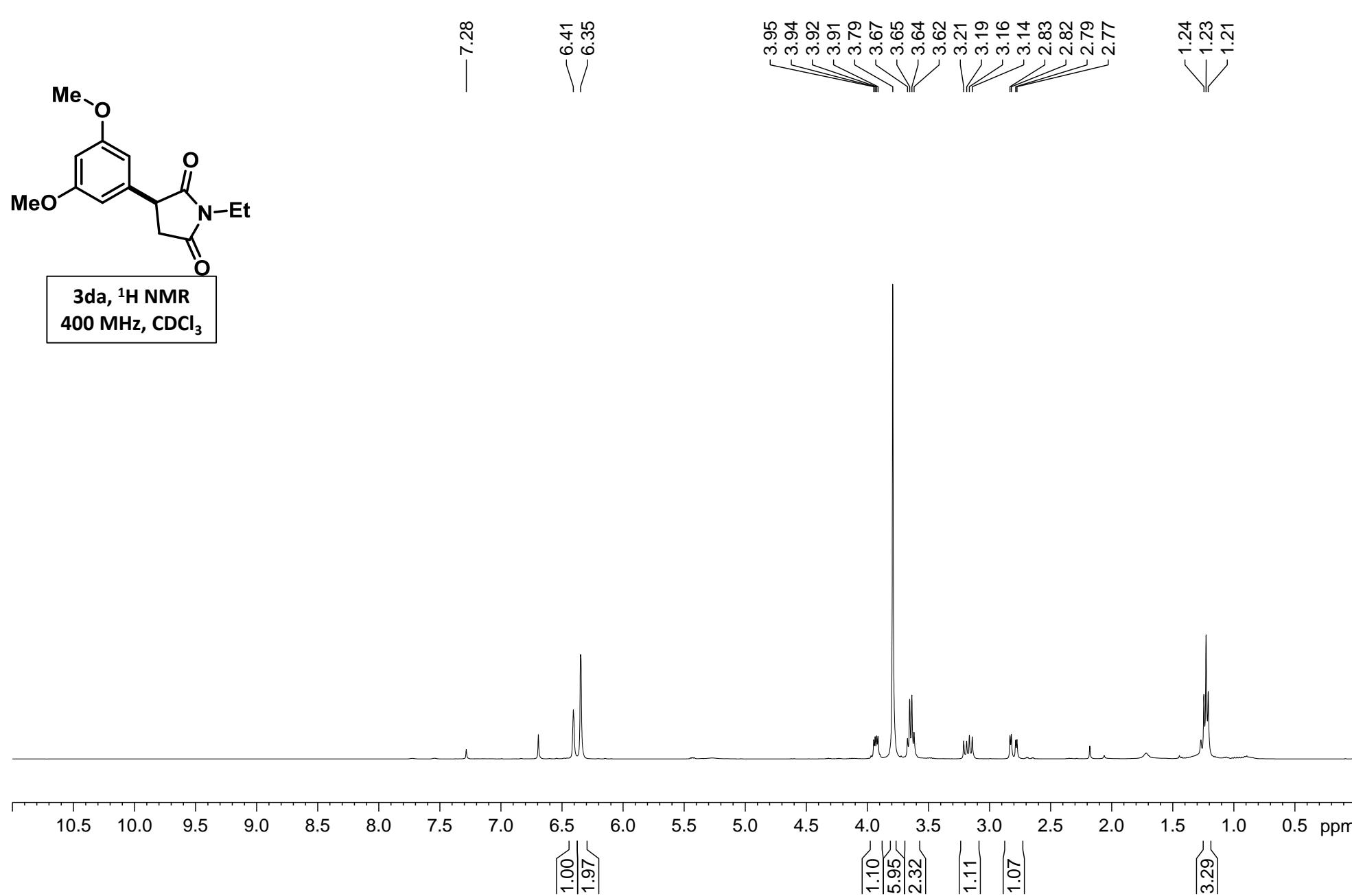


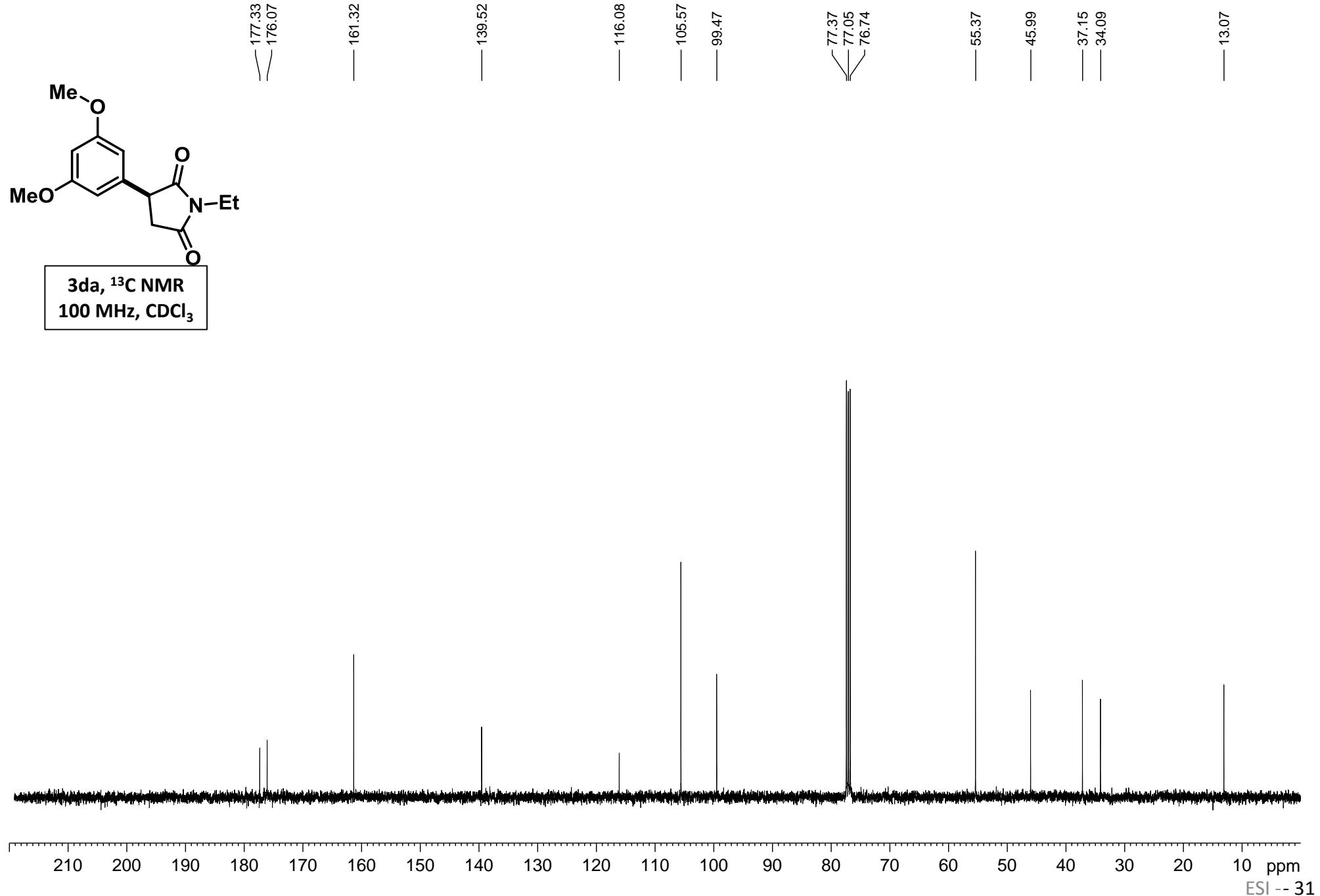


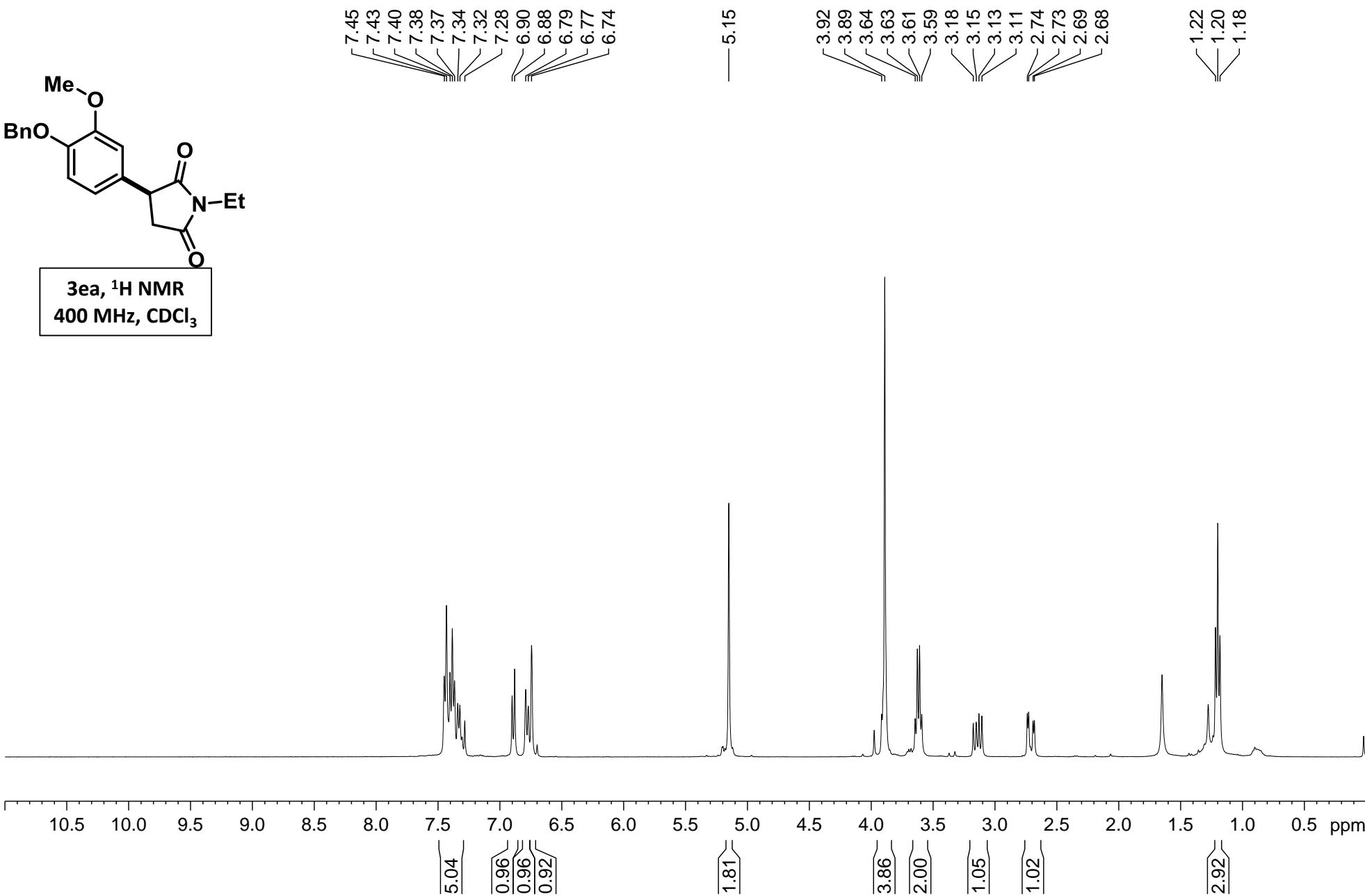
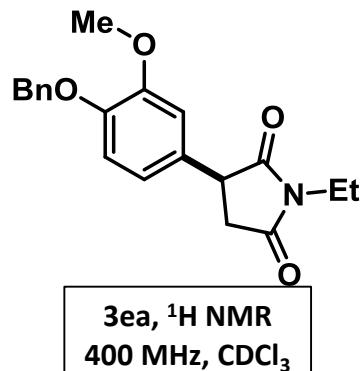


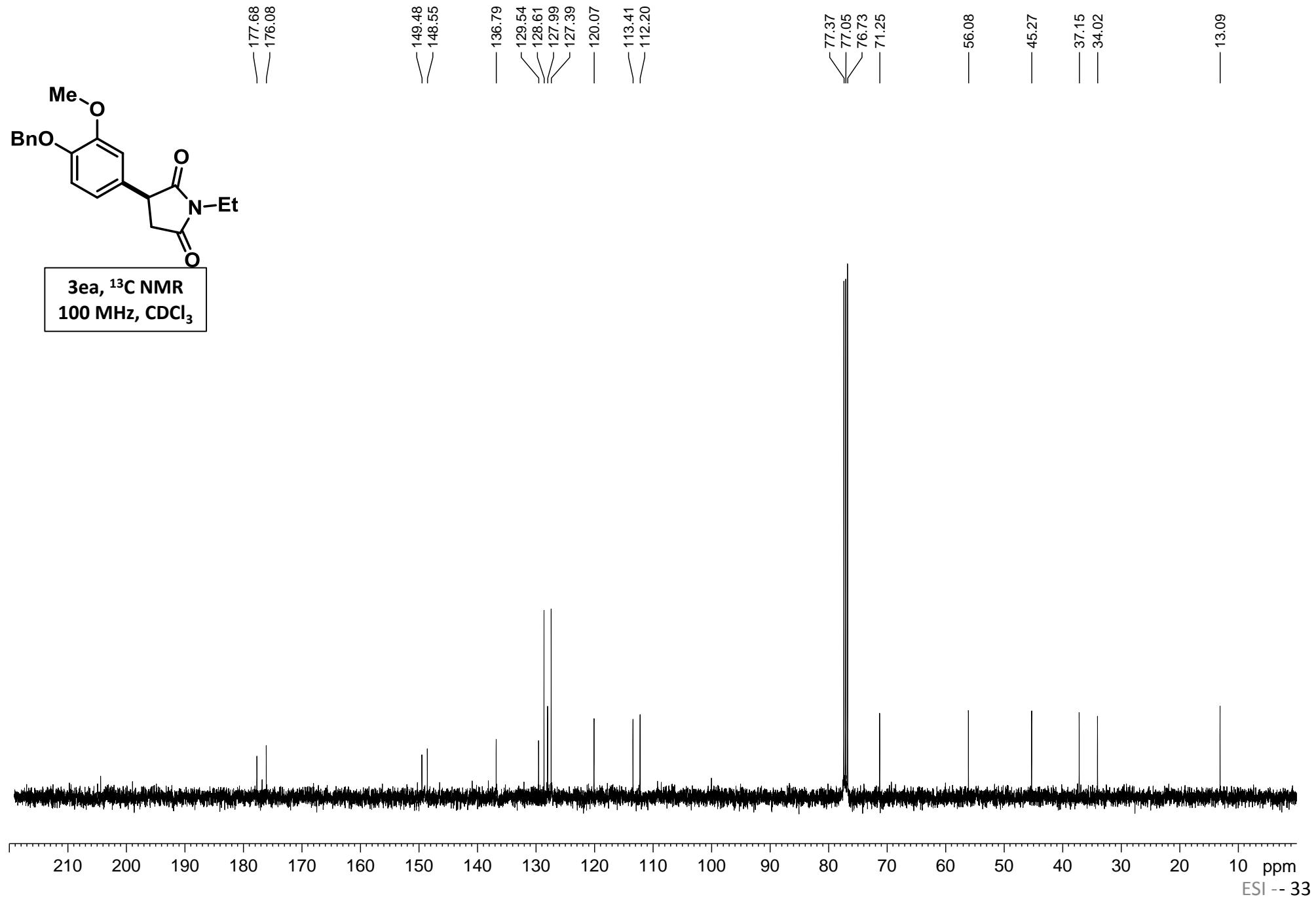


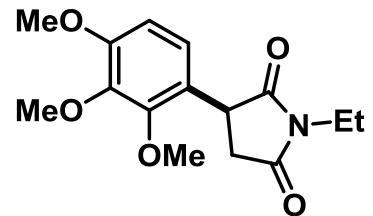




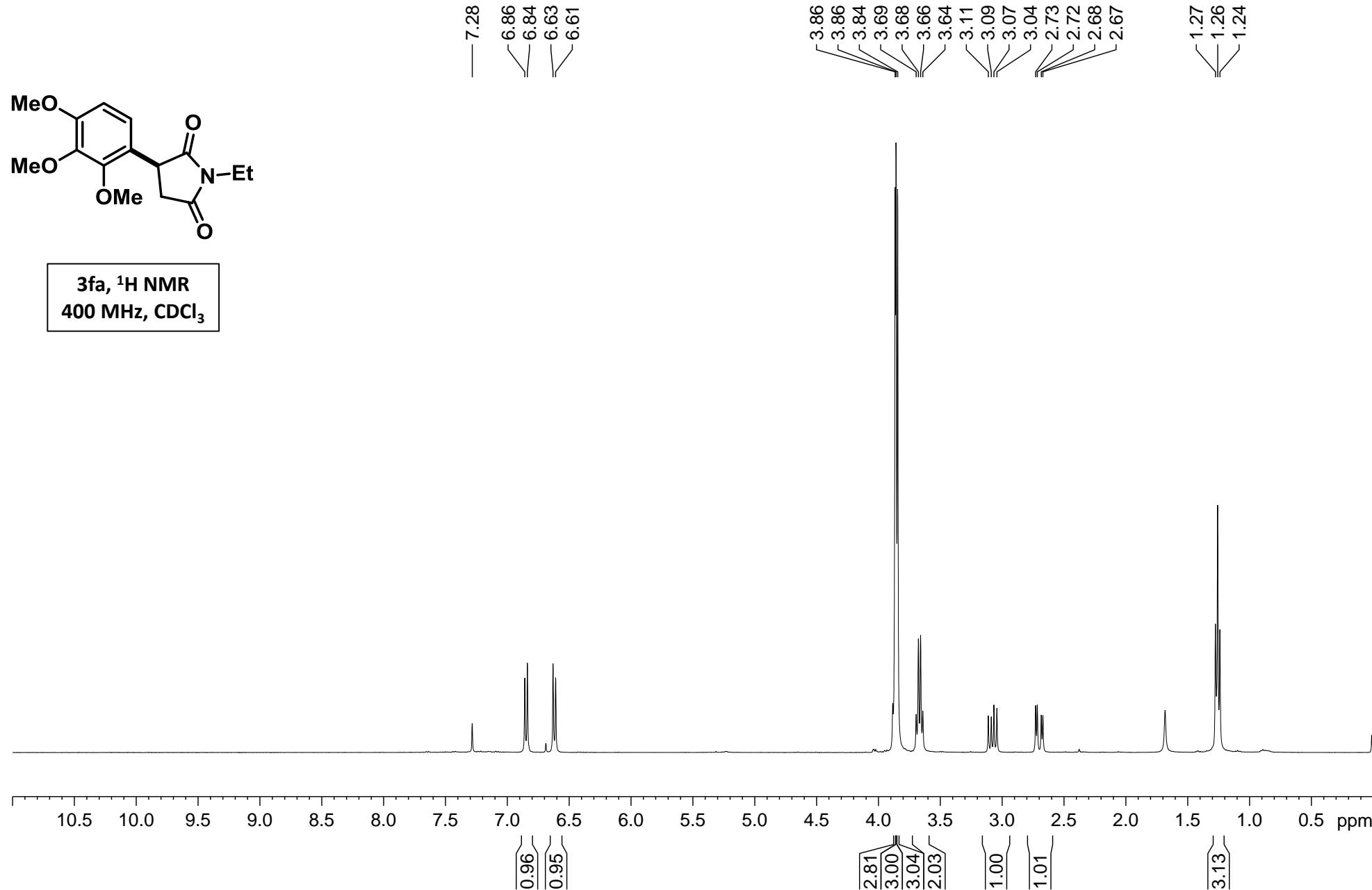


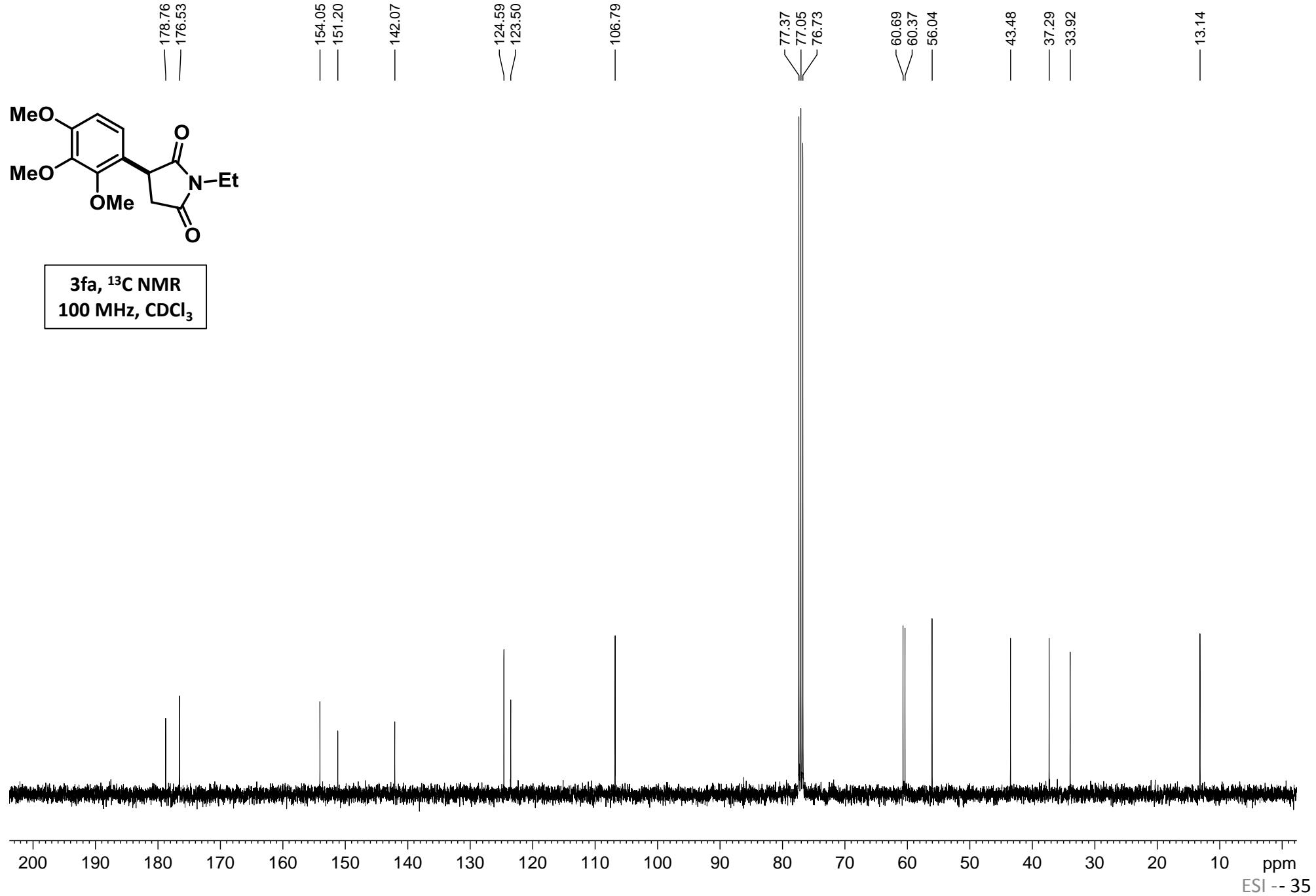


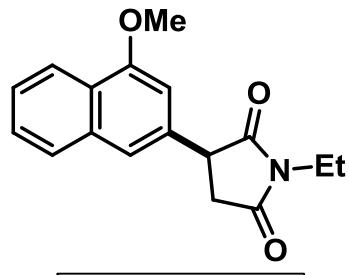




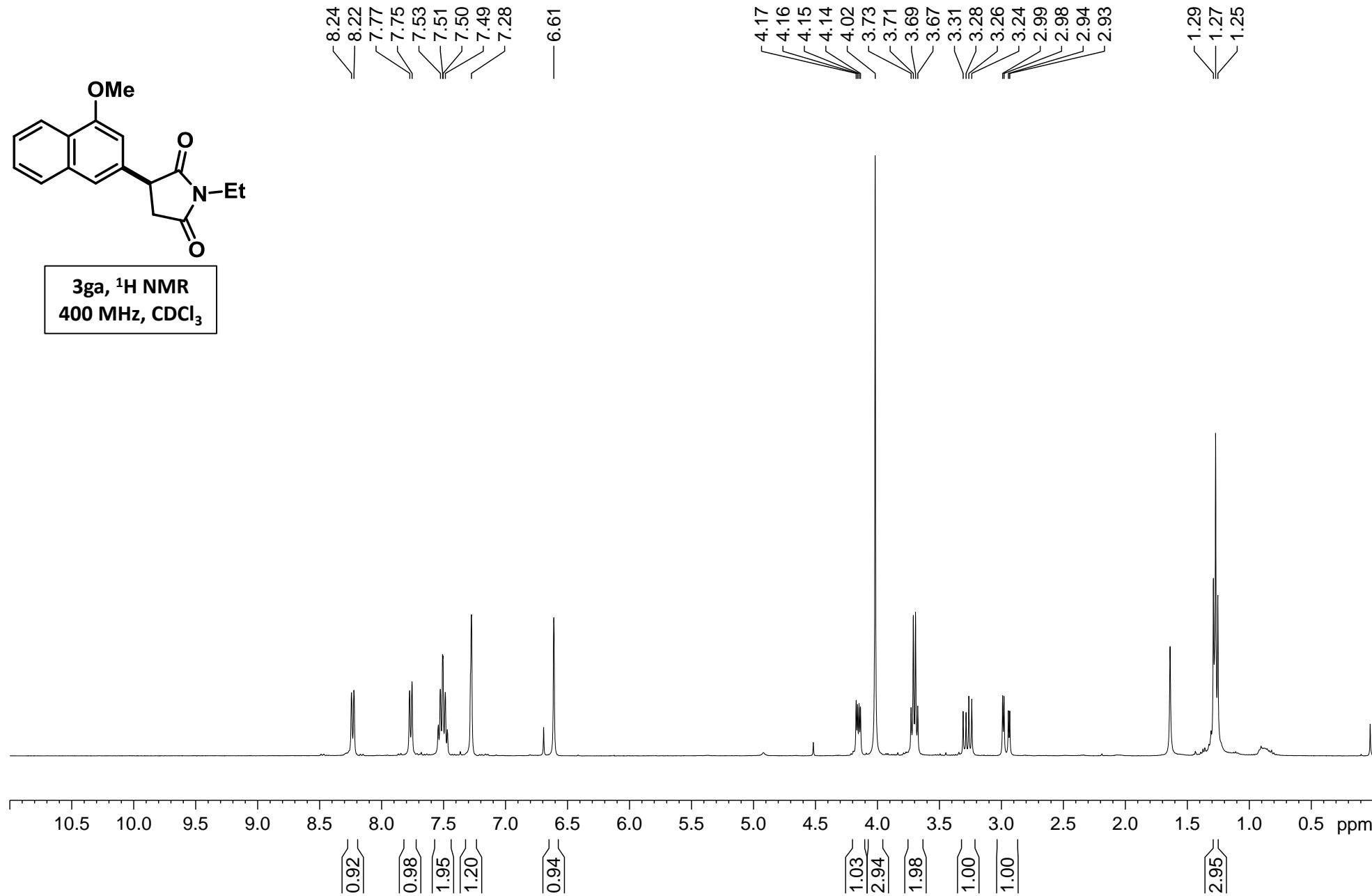
**3fa, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3**

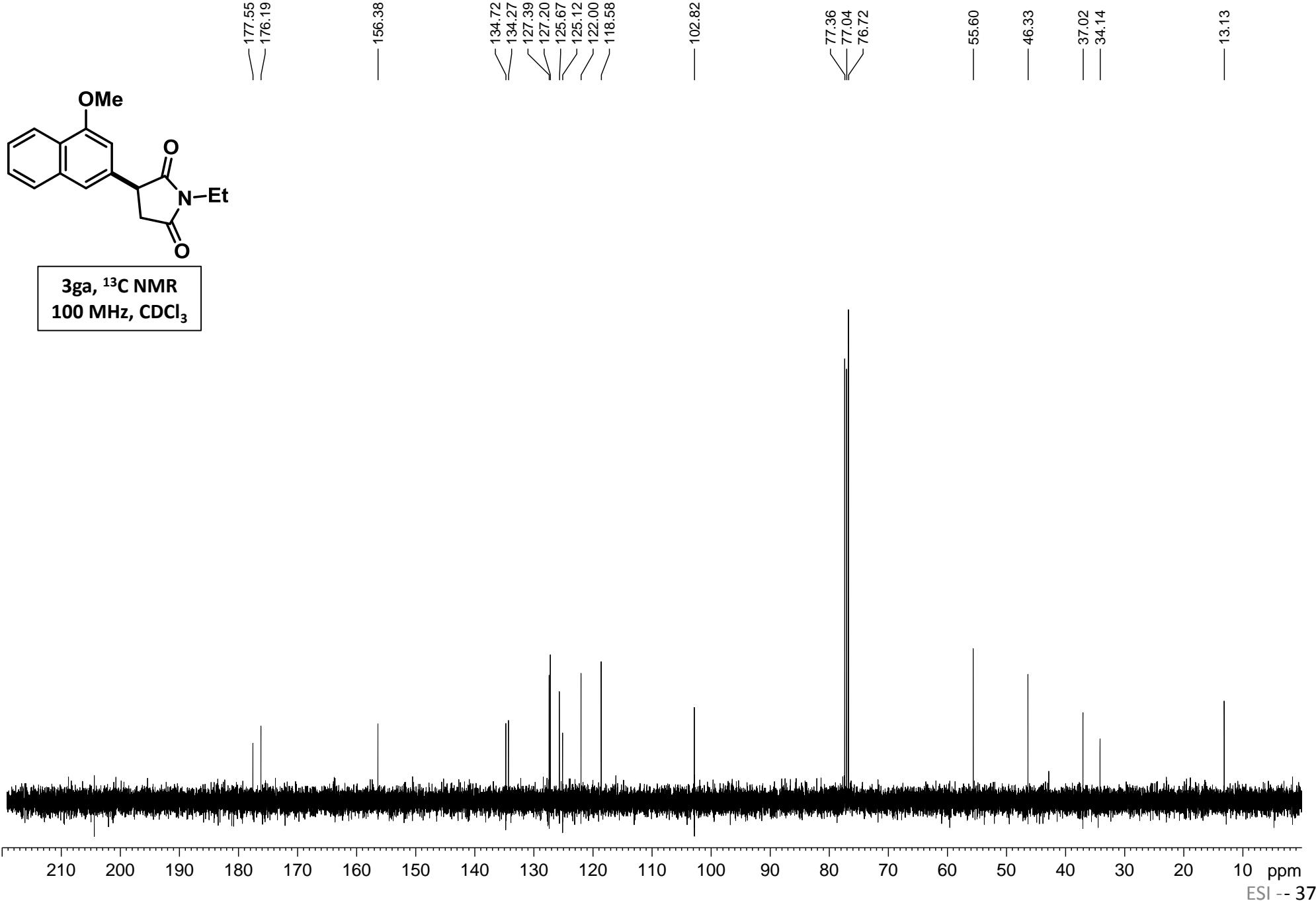


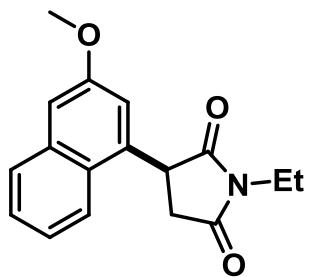




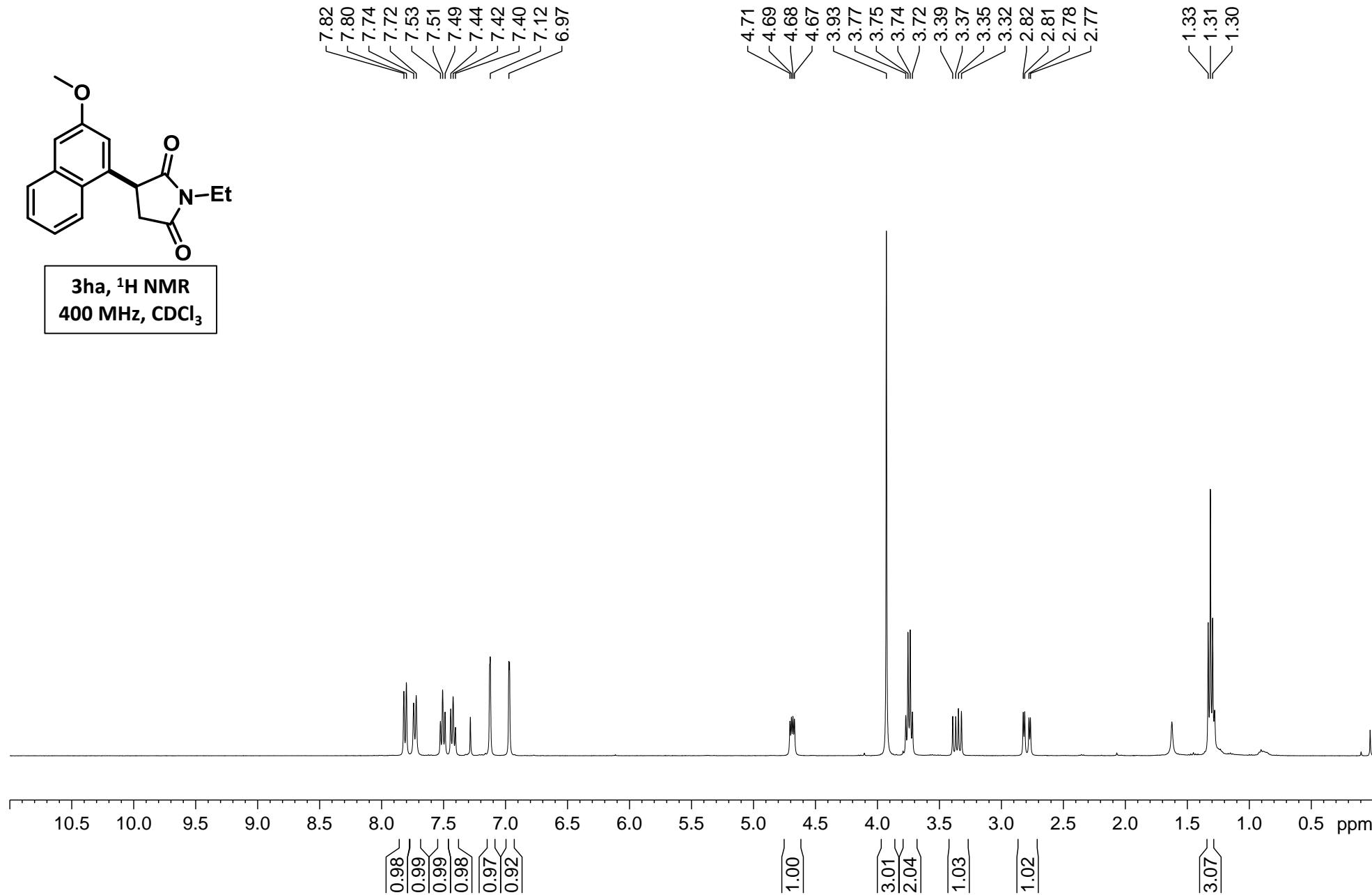
3ga, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3

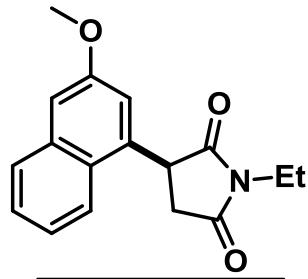




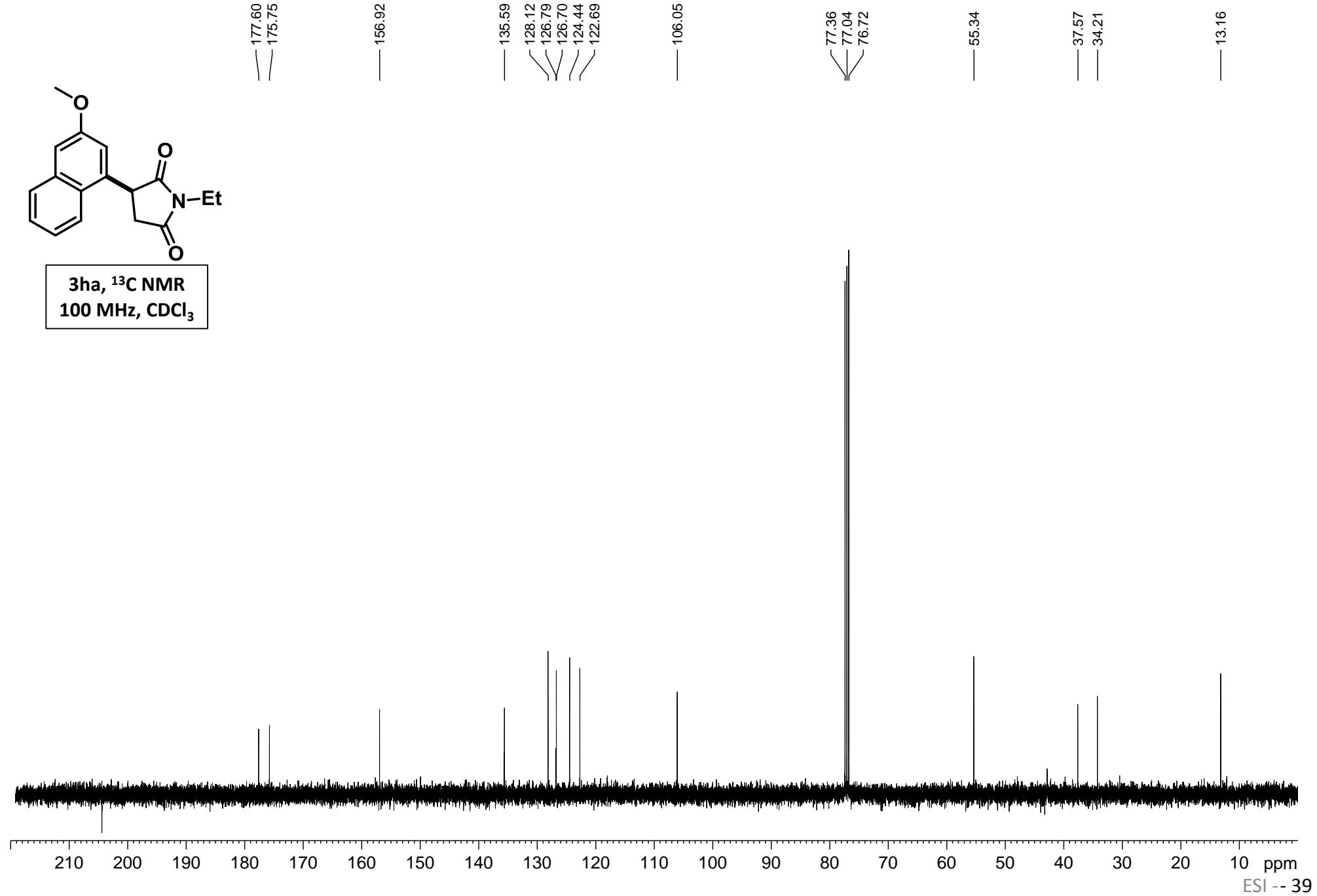


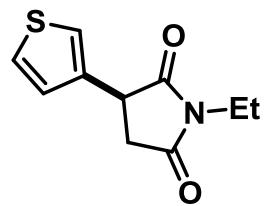
3ha, ¹H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl₃



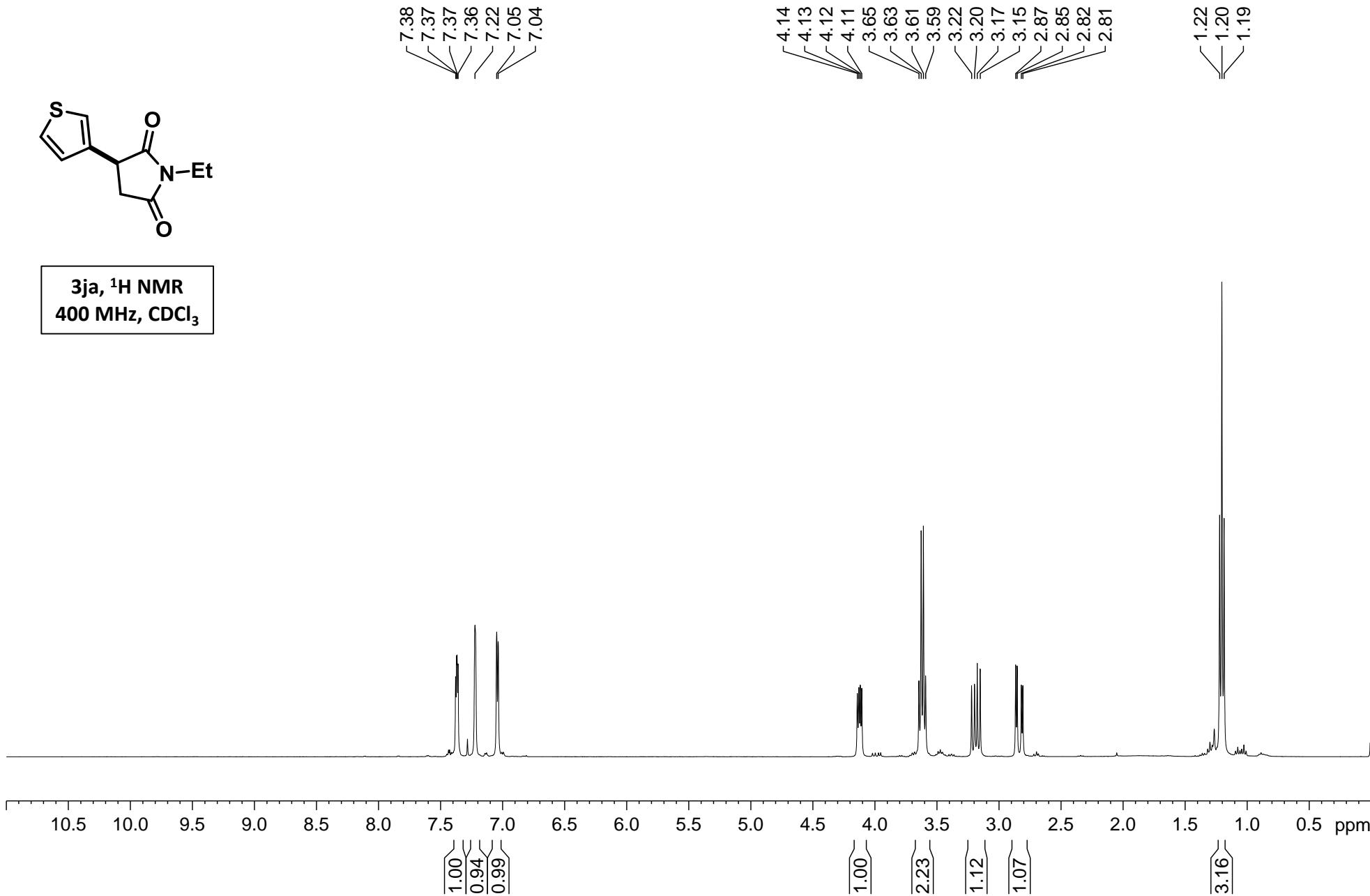


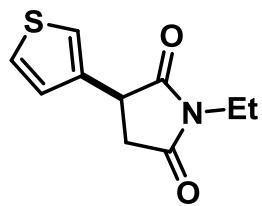
3ha, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3



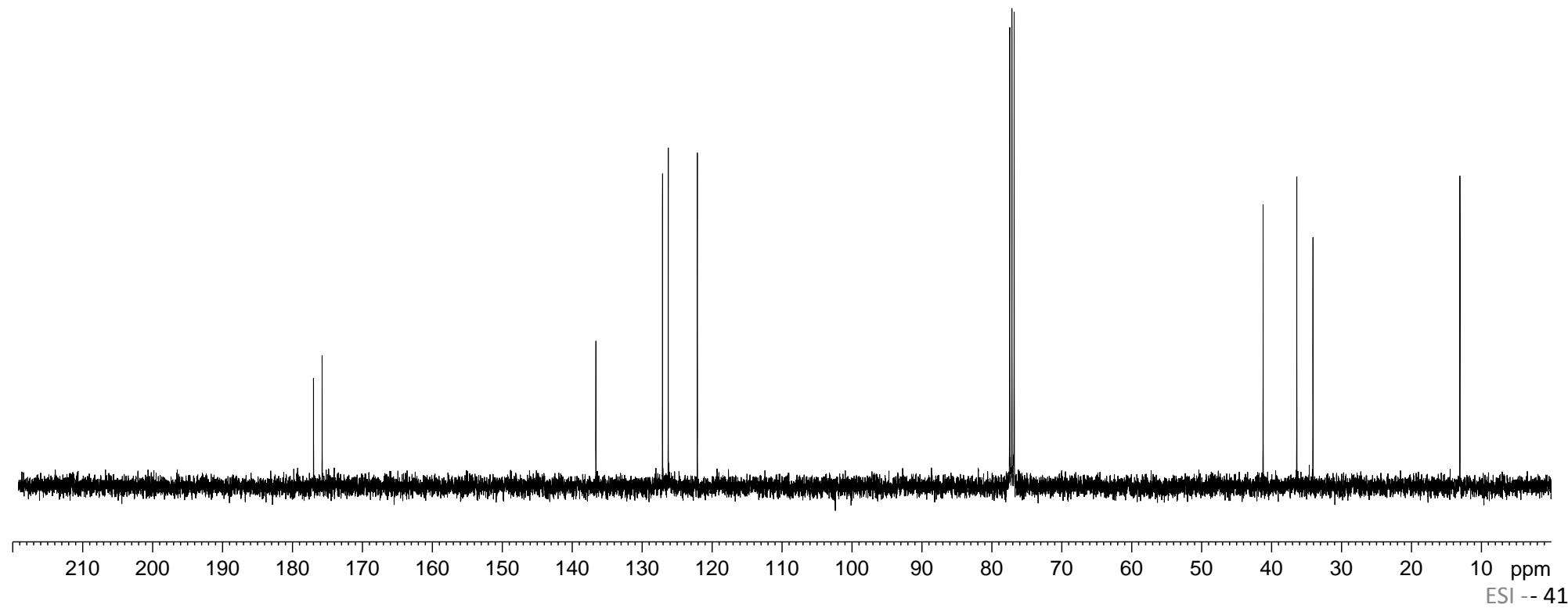


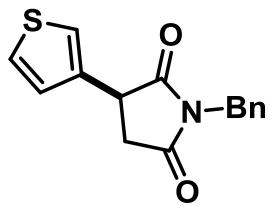
3ja, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3



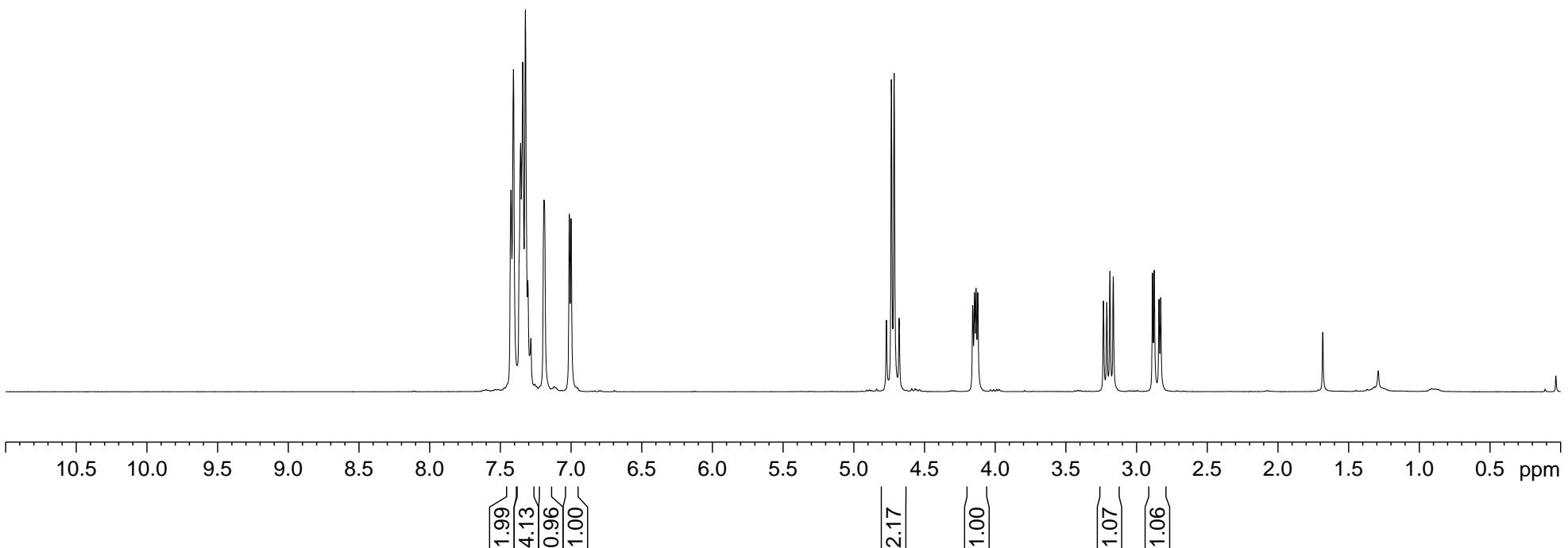


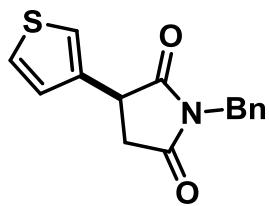
3ja, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3



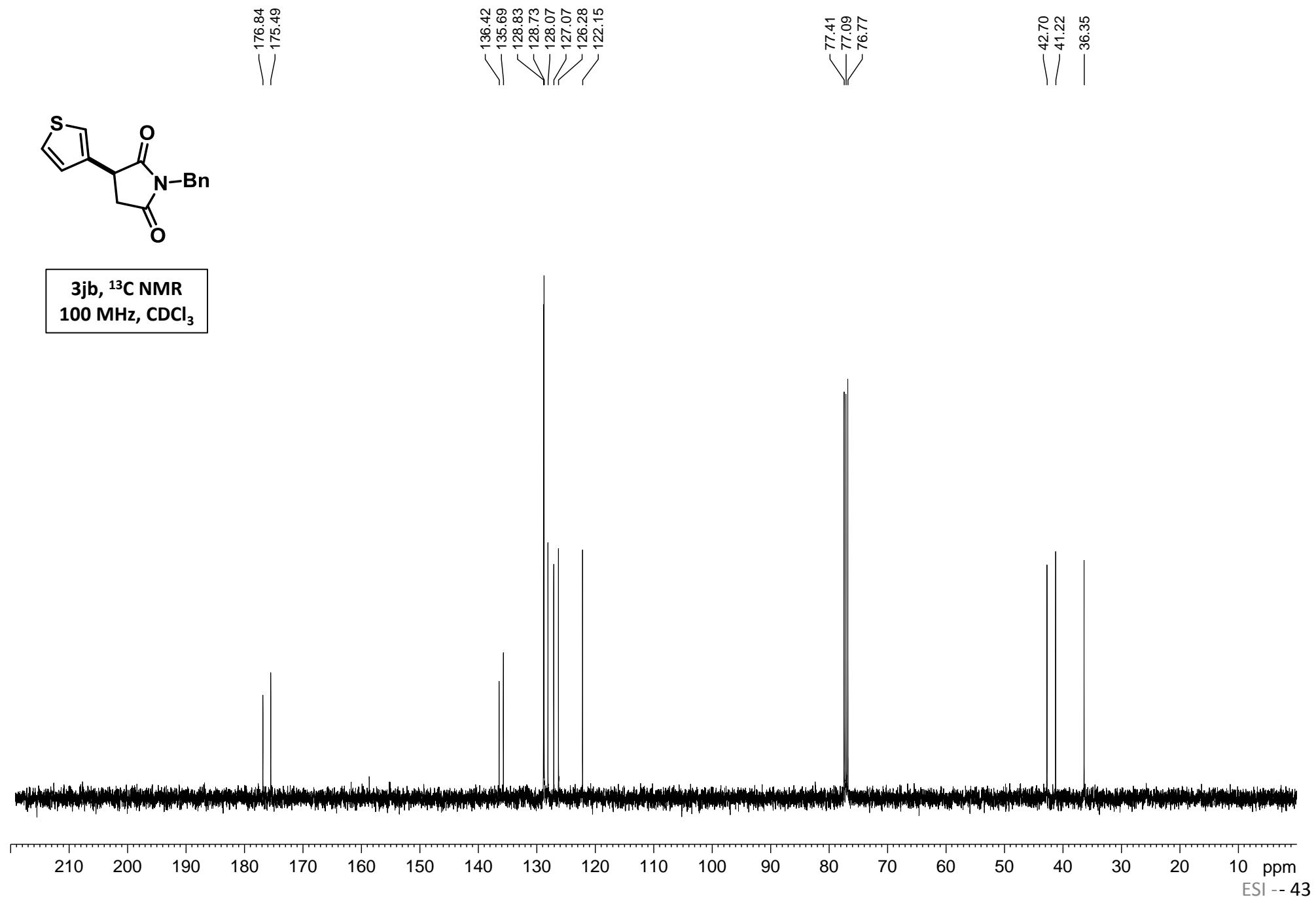


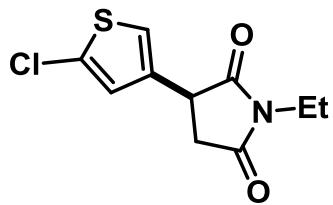
3jb, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3



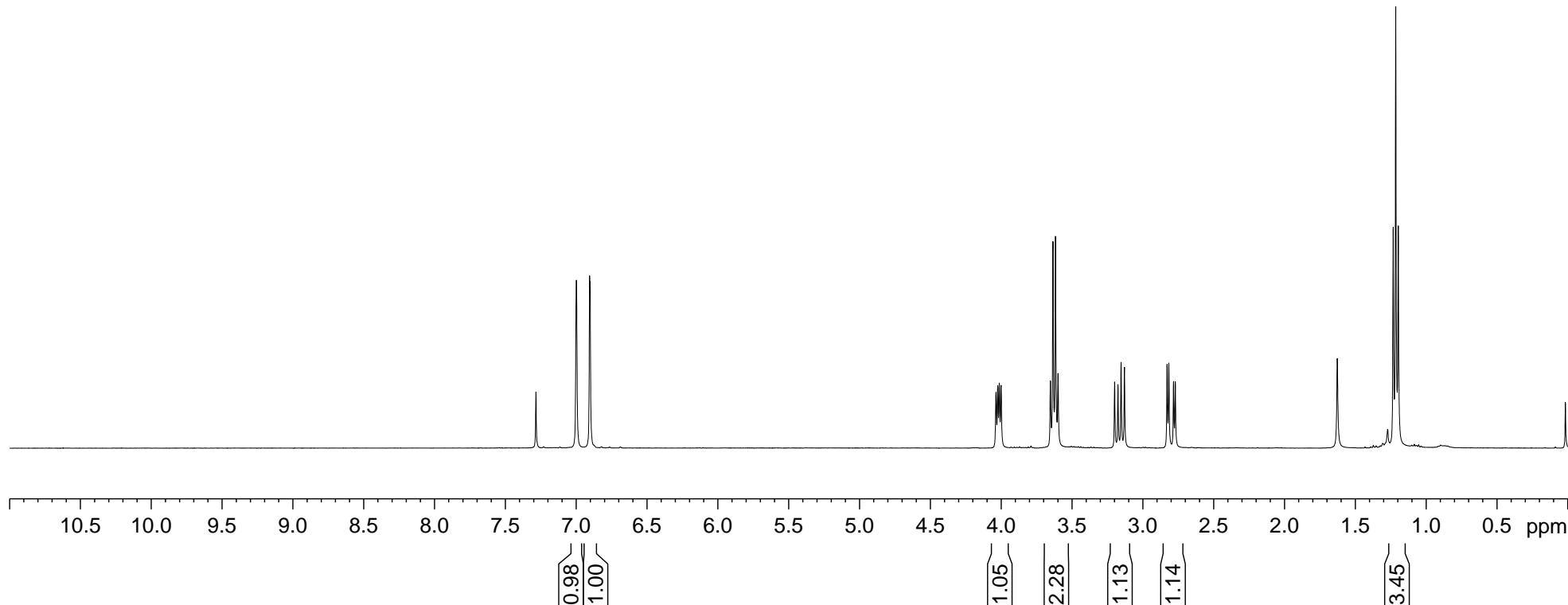


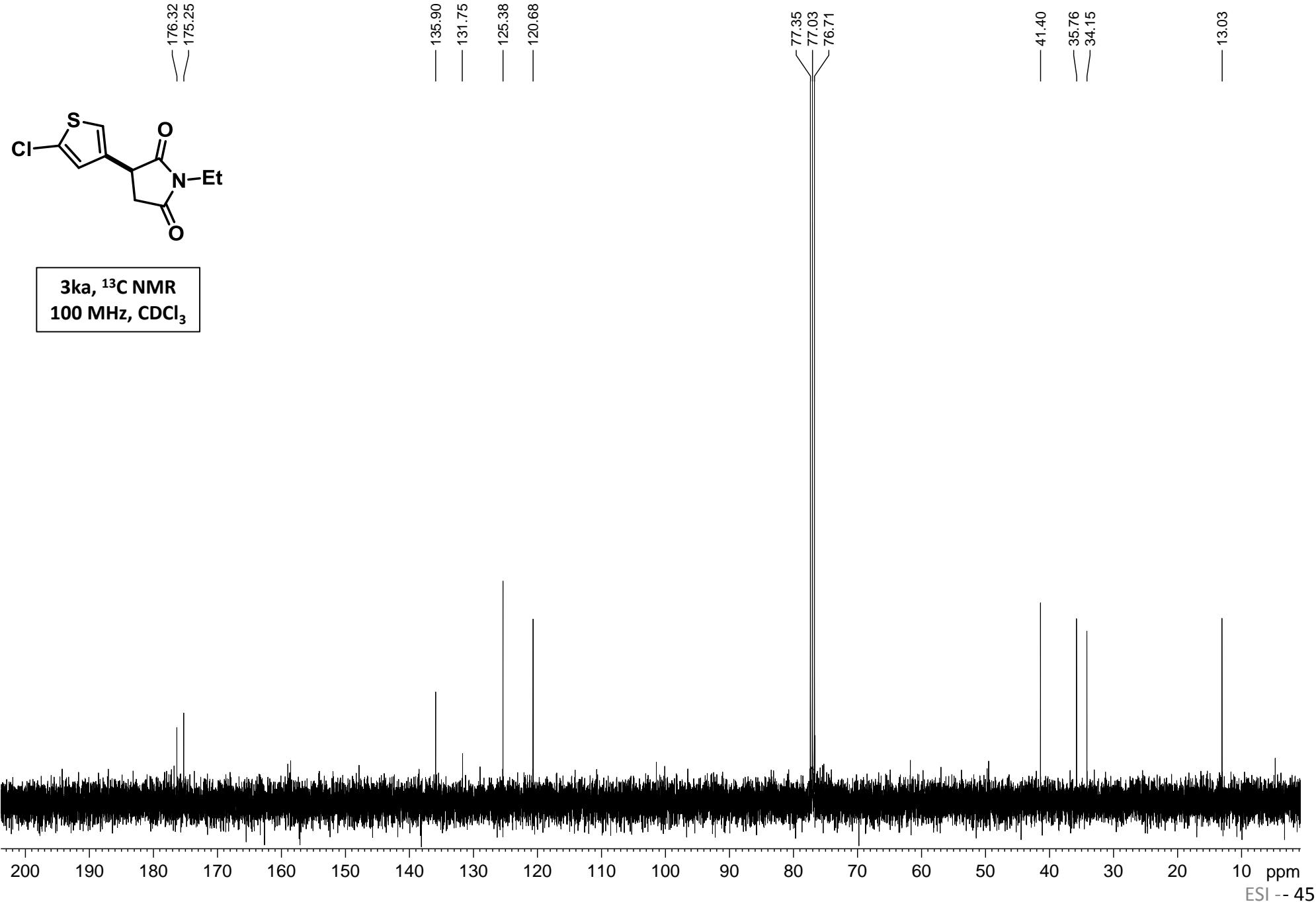
3jb, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3

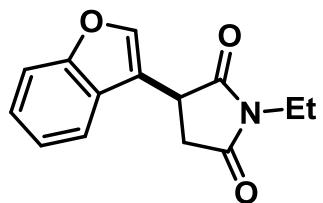




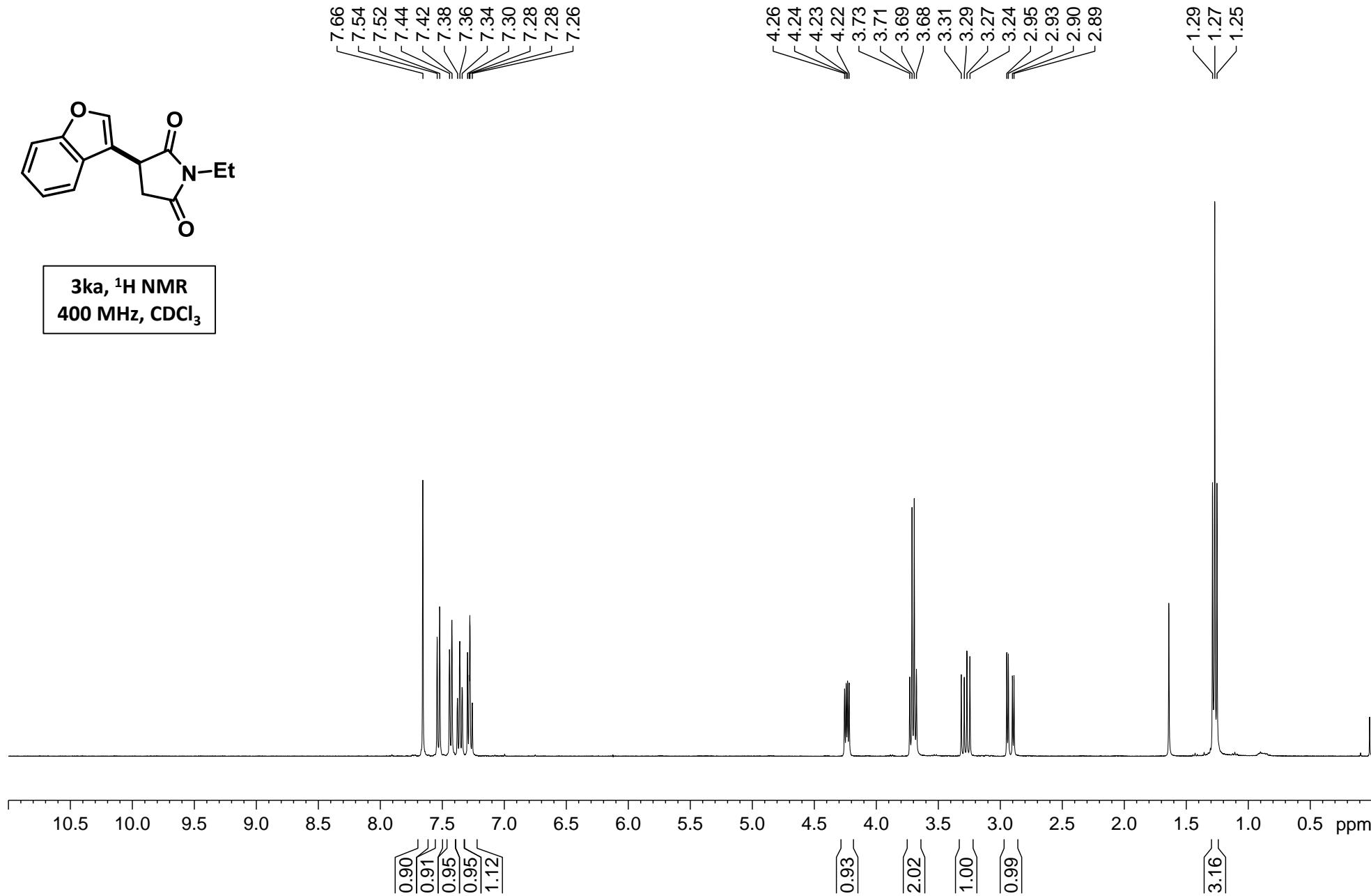
3ka, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3

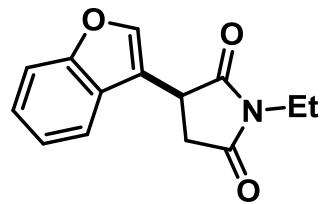




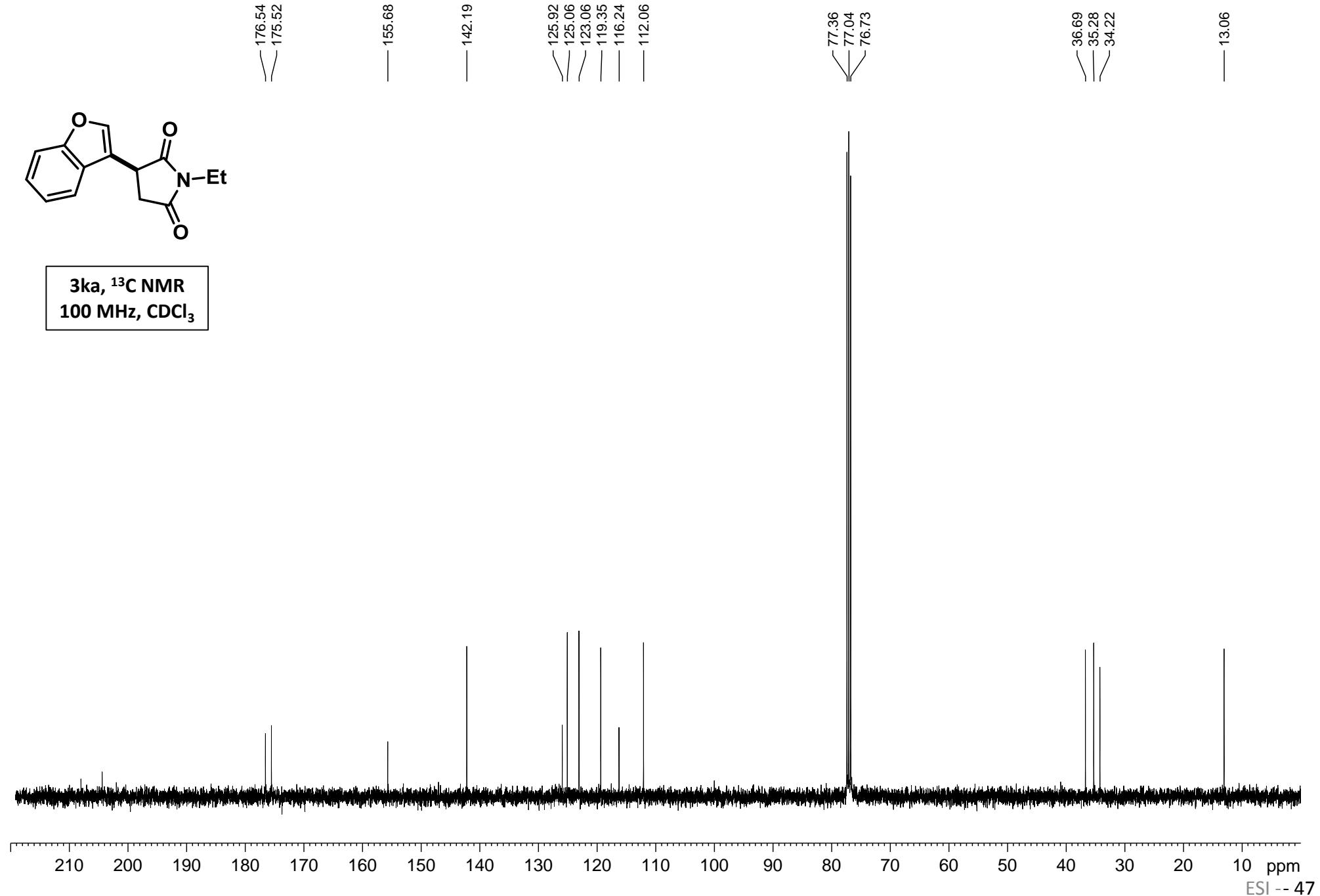


3ka, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3

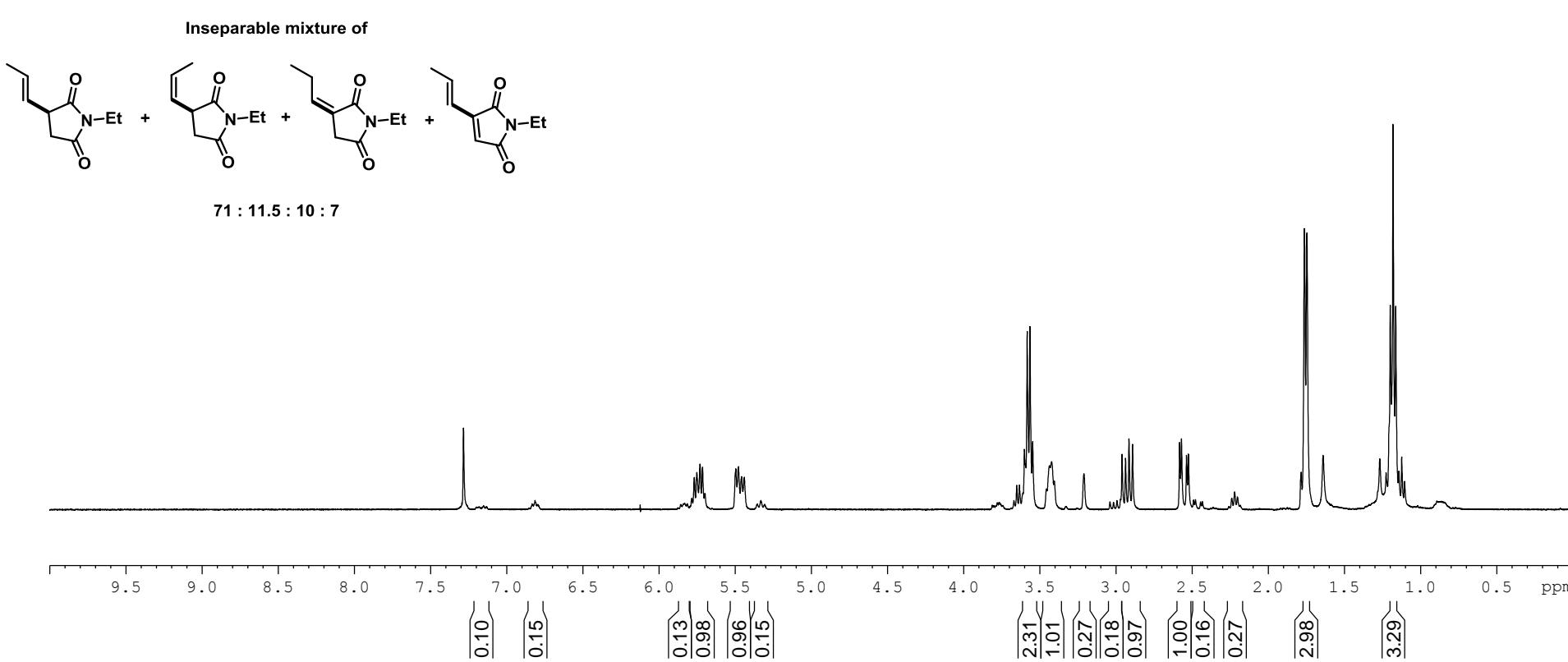


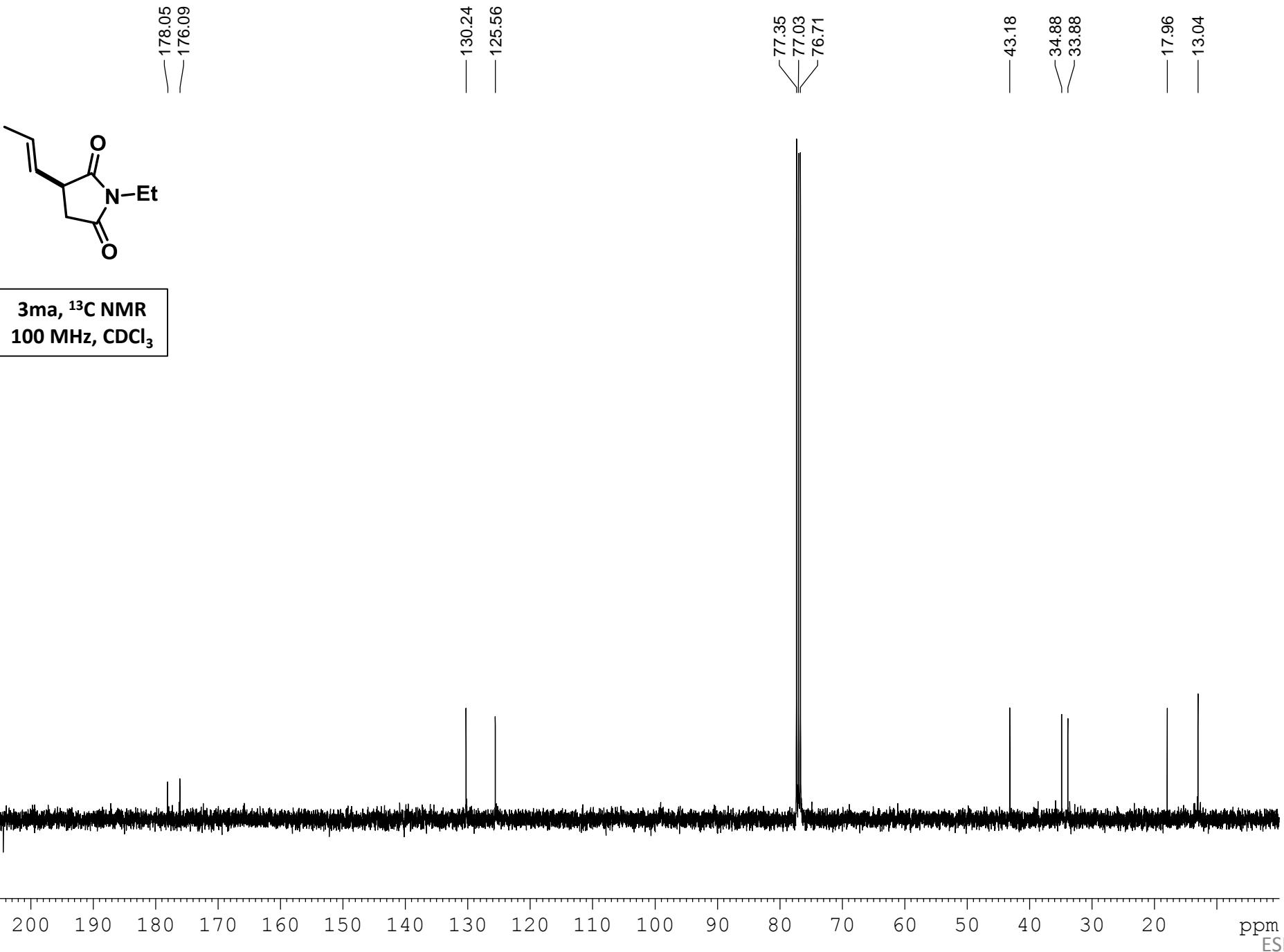


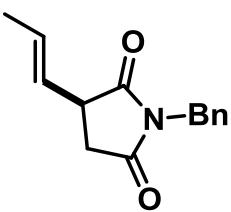
3ka, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3



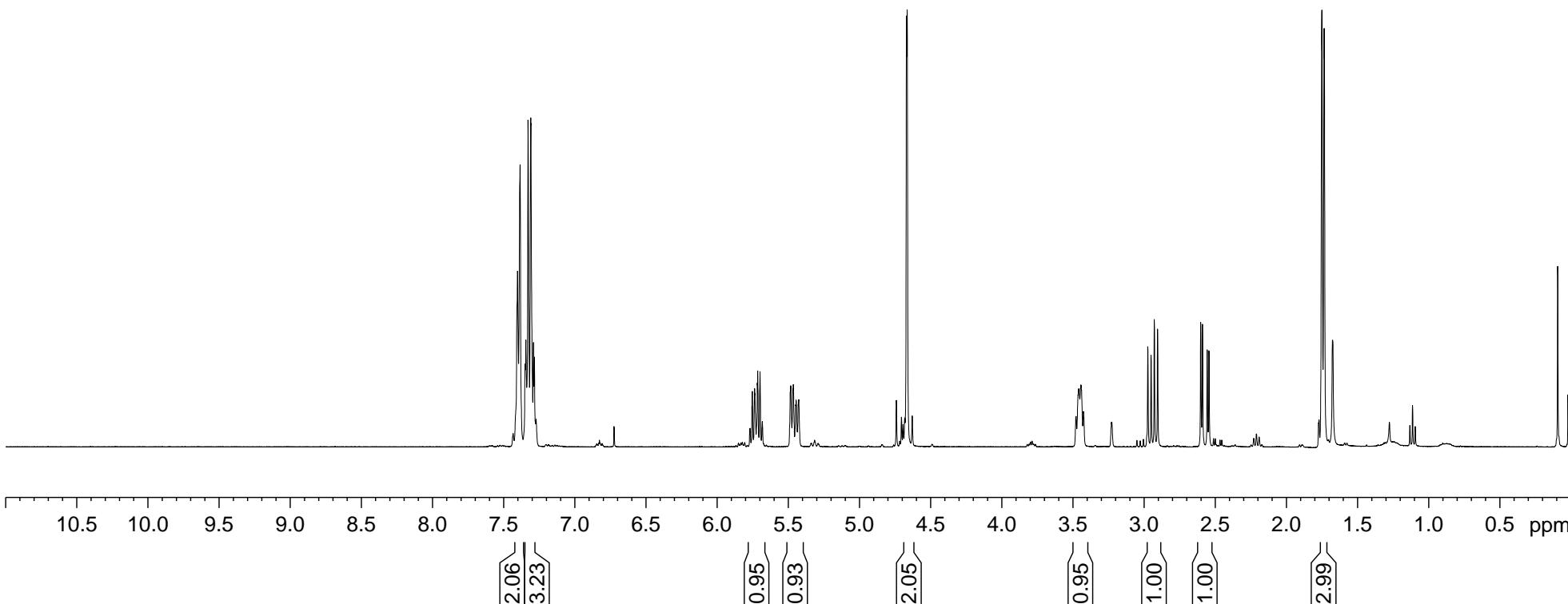
3ma, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3

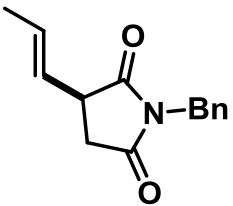




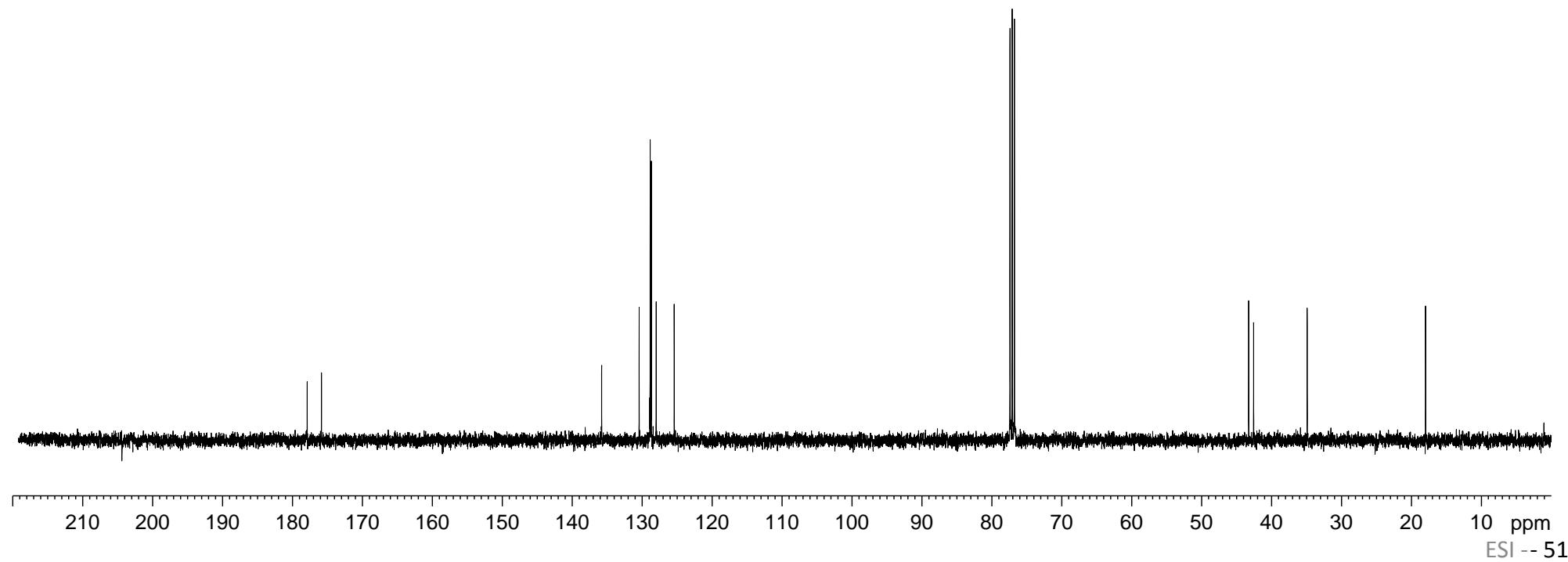


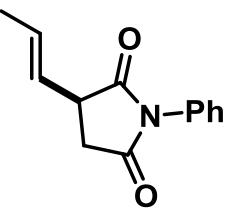
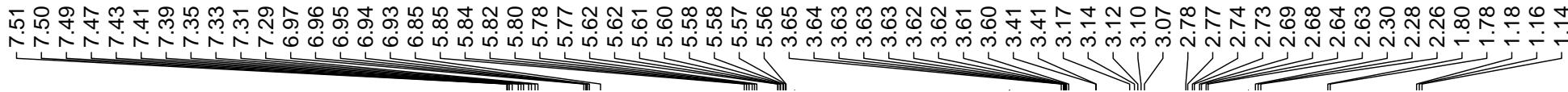
3mb, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3



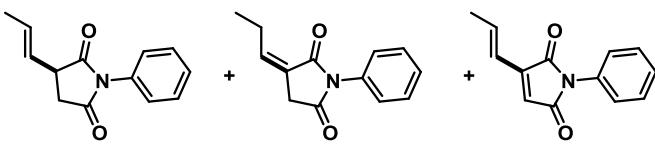


3mb, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3



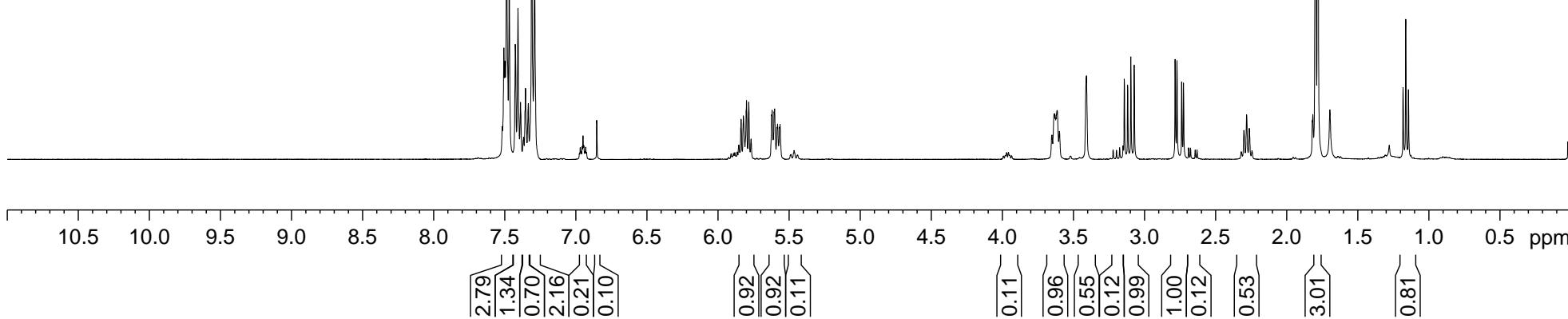


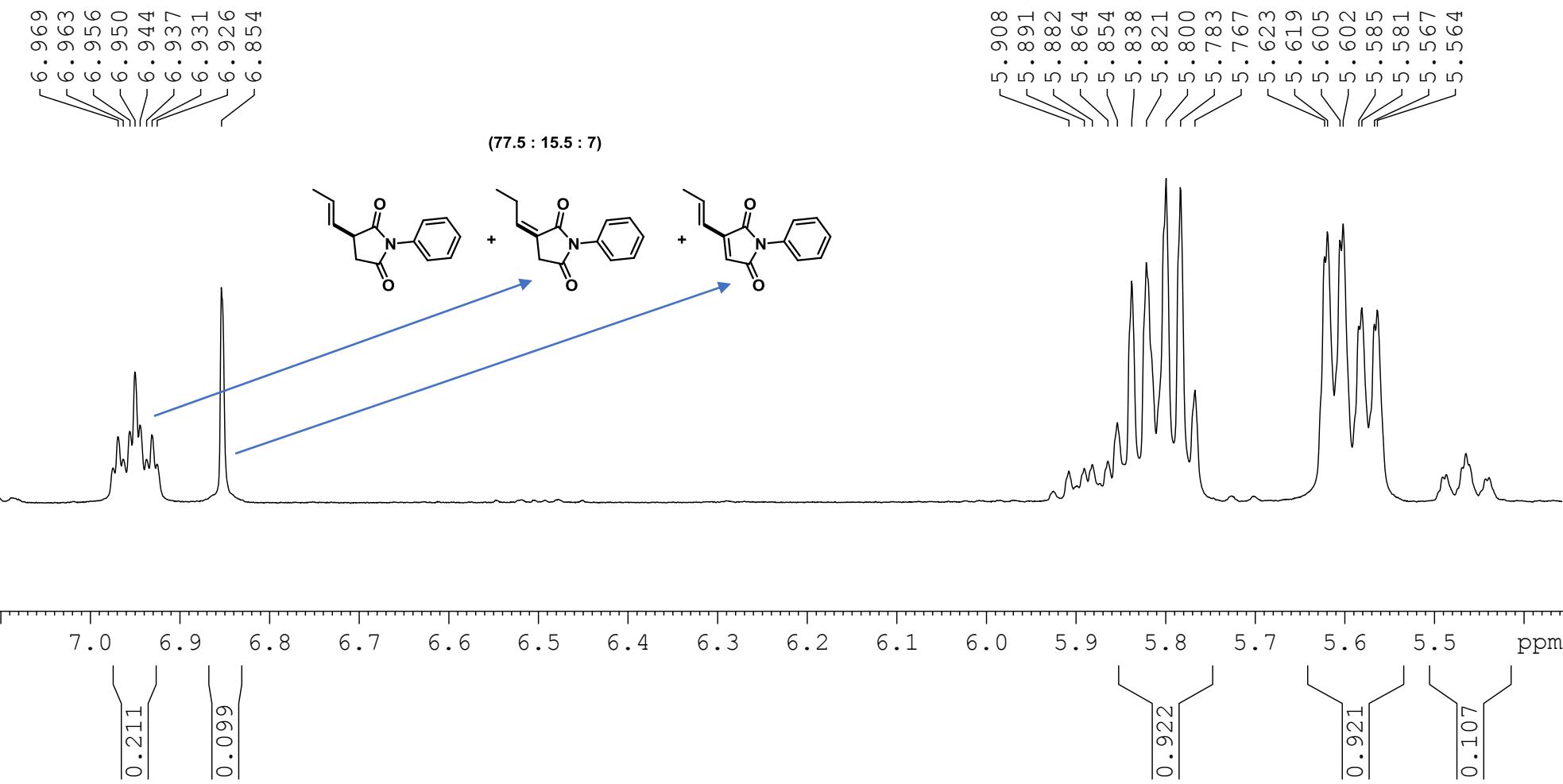
3md, ¹H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl₃

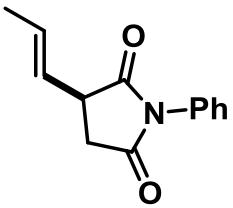


(77.5 : 15.5 : 7)

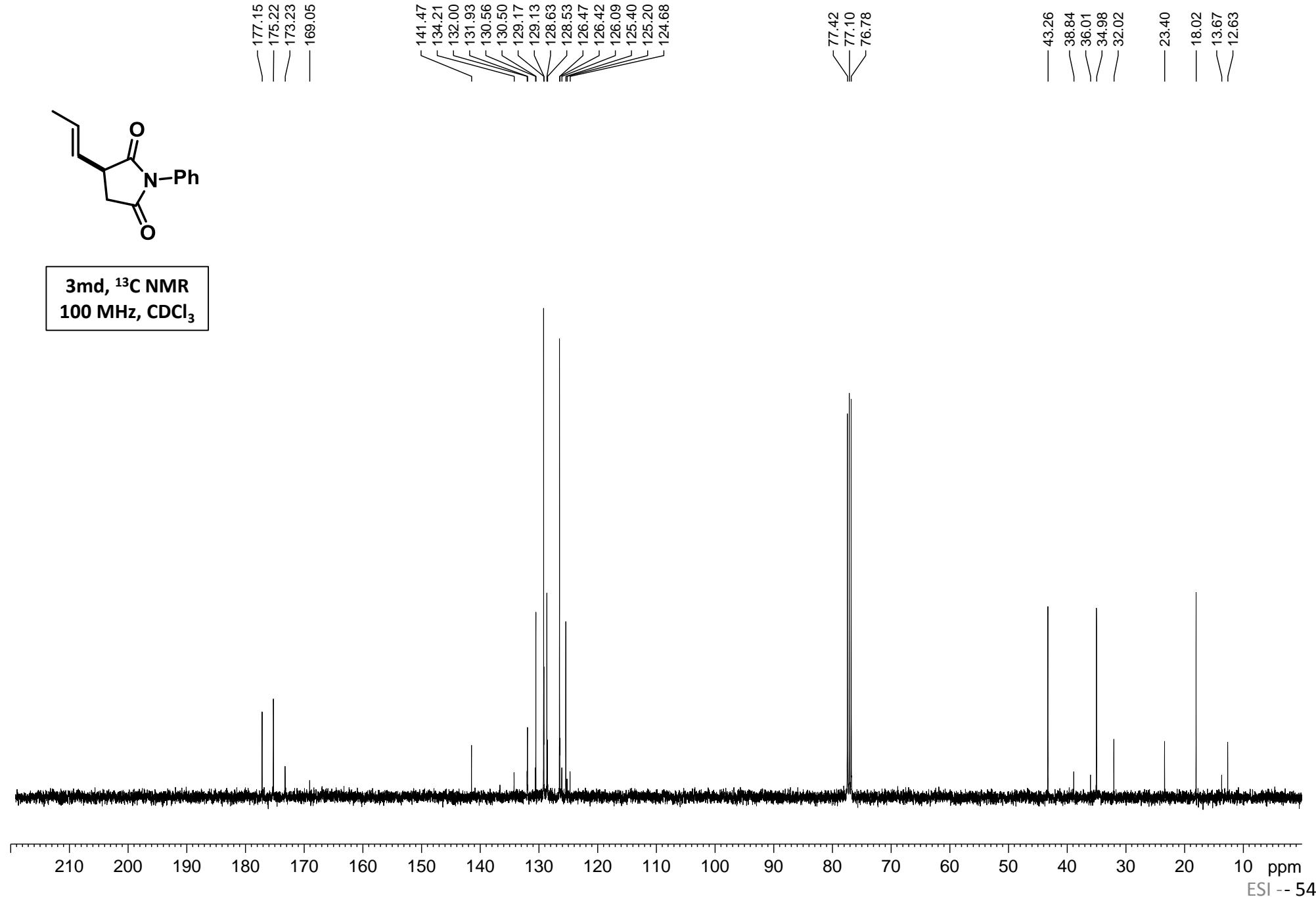
See next spectrum
For ratio calculation

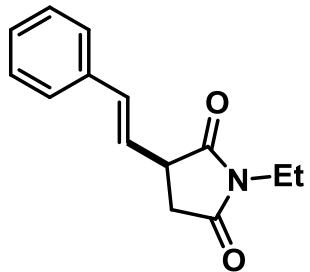




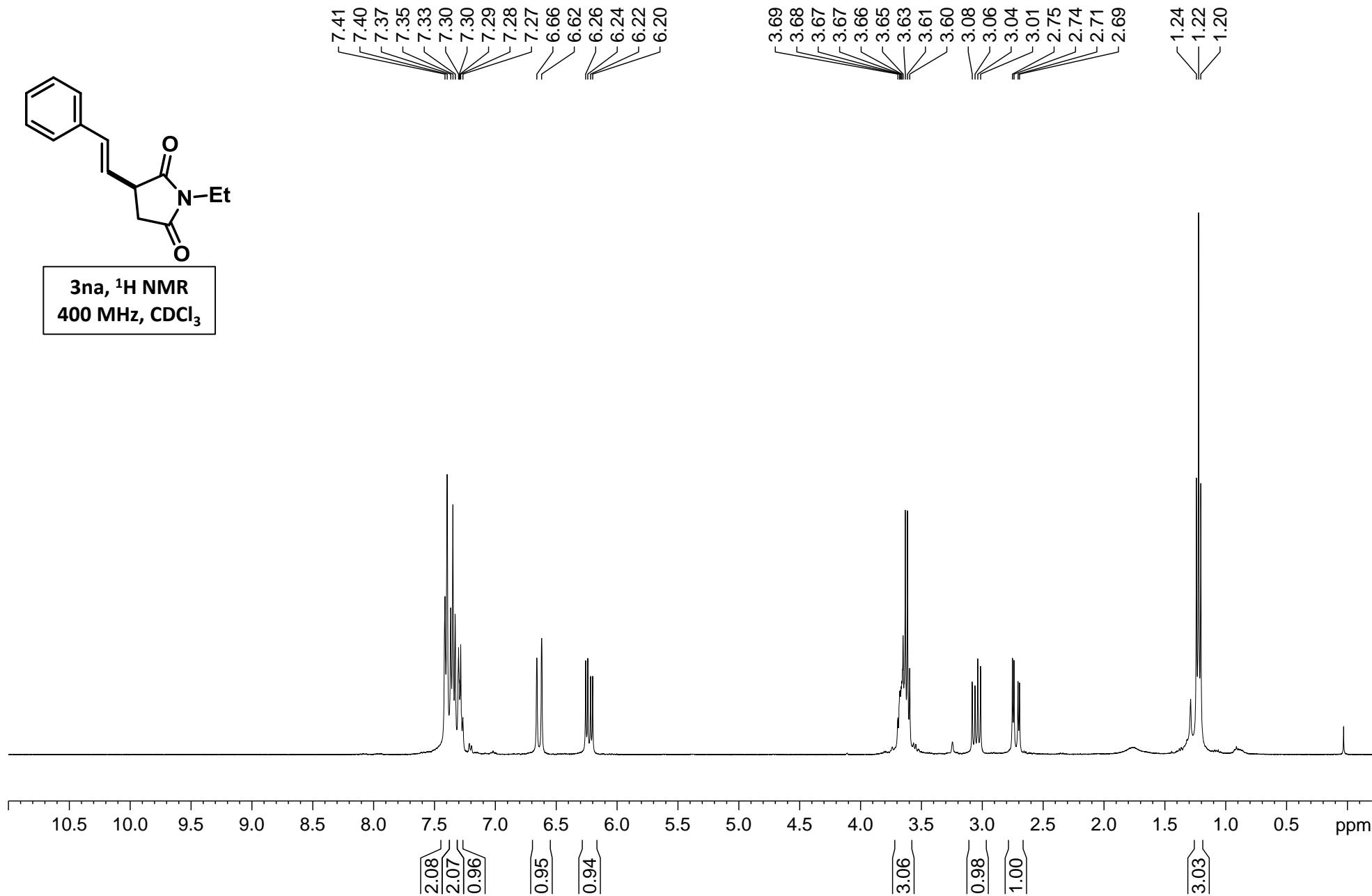


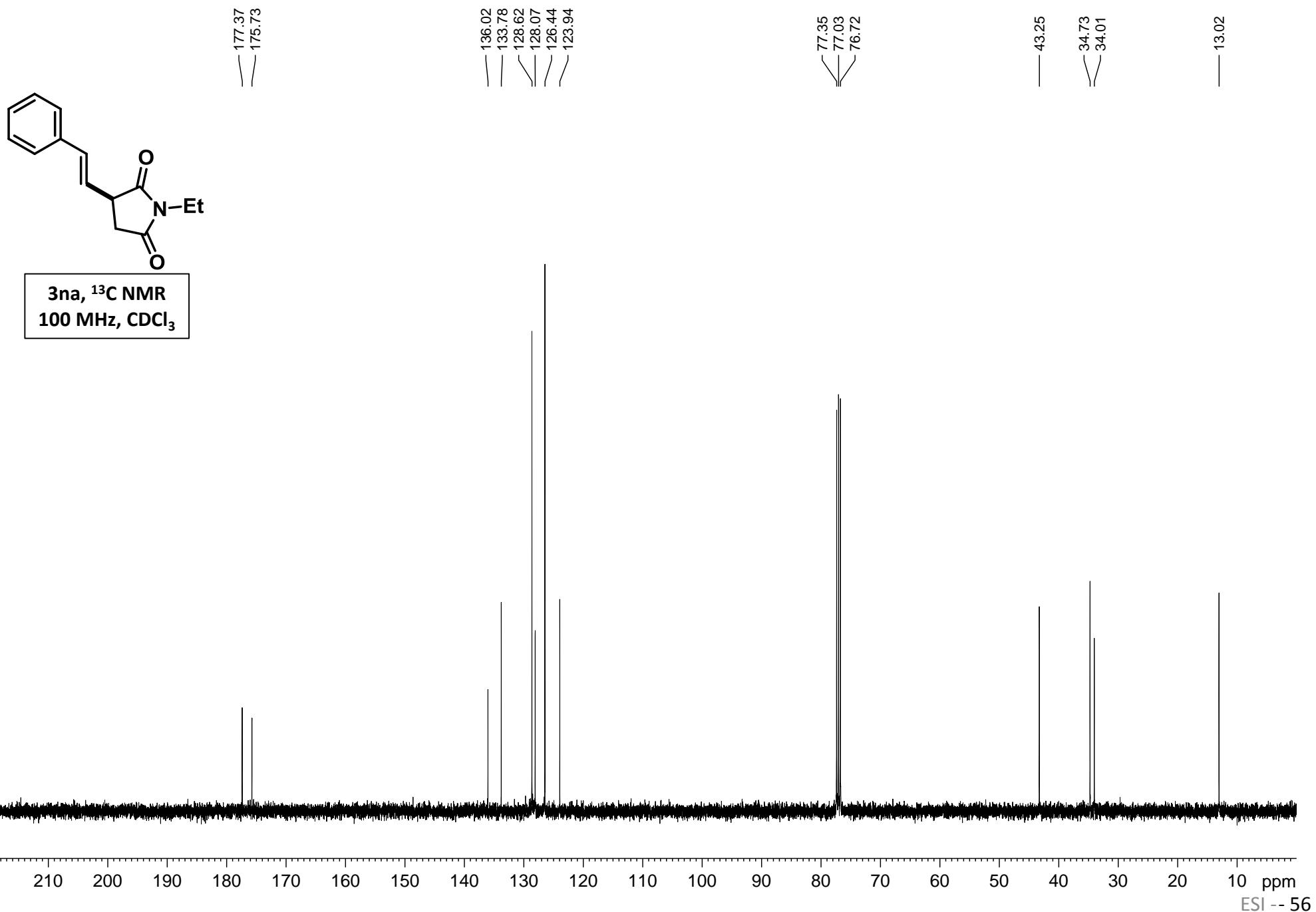
3md, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3

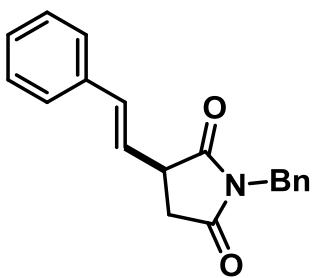




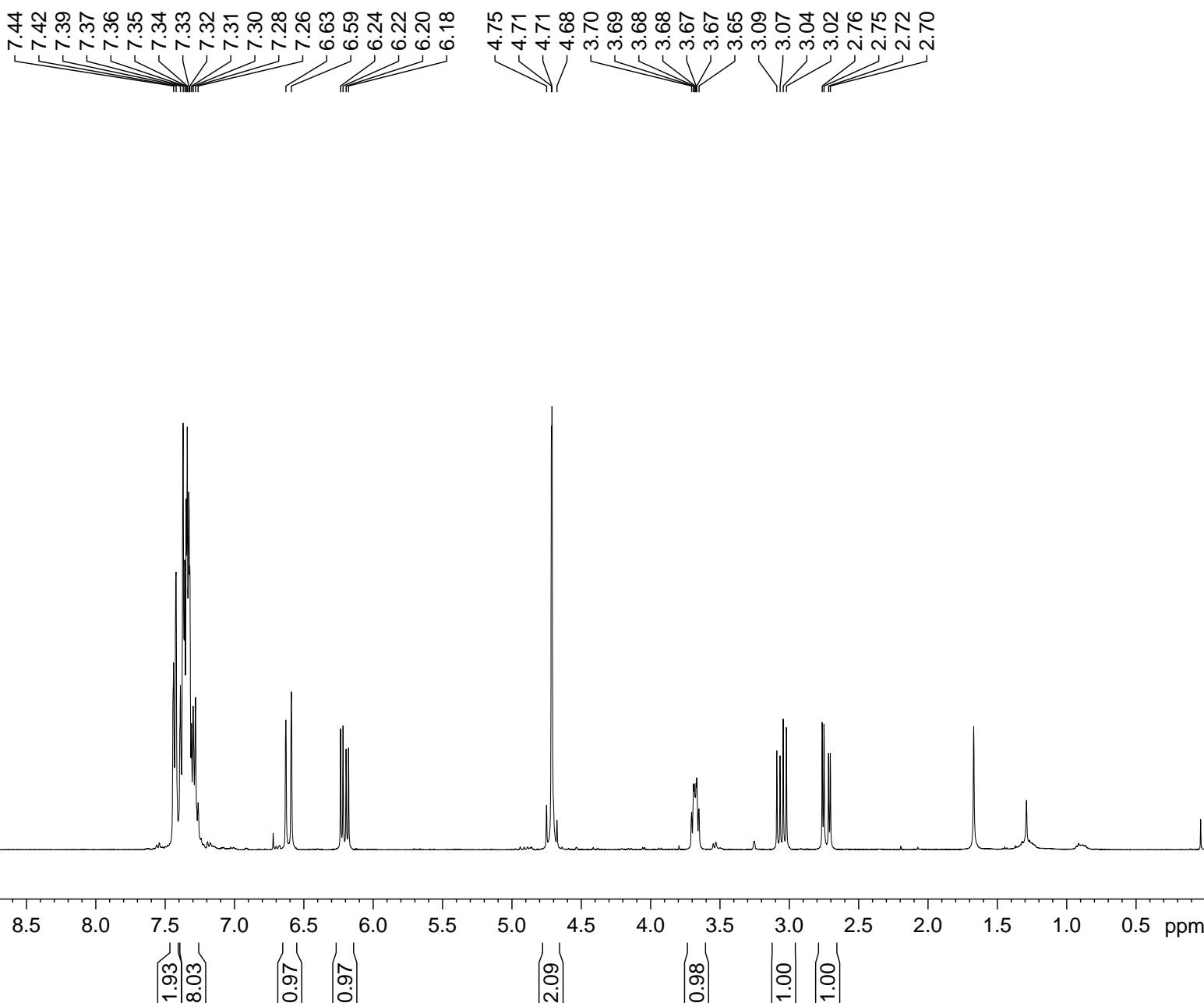
3na, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3

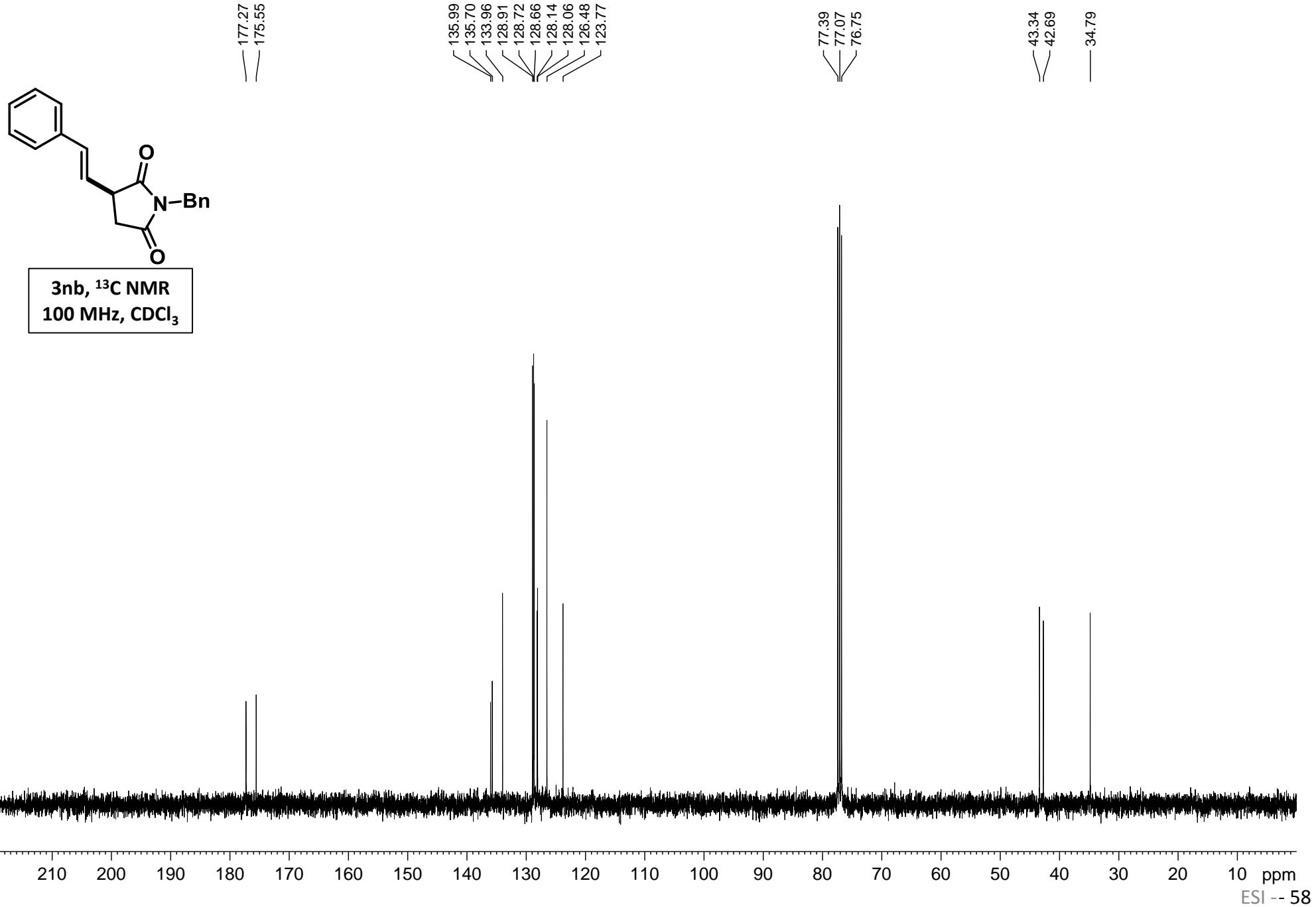


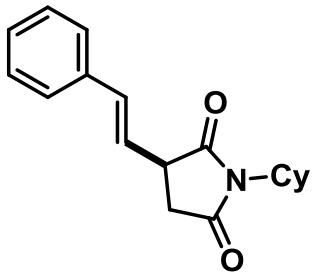




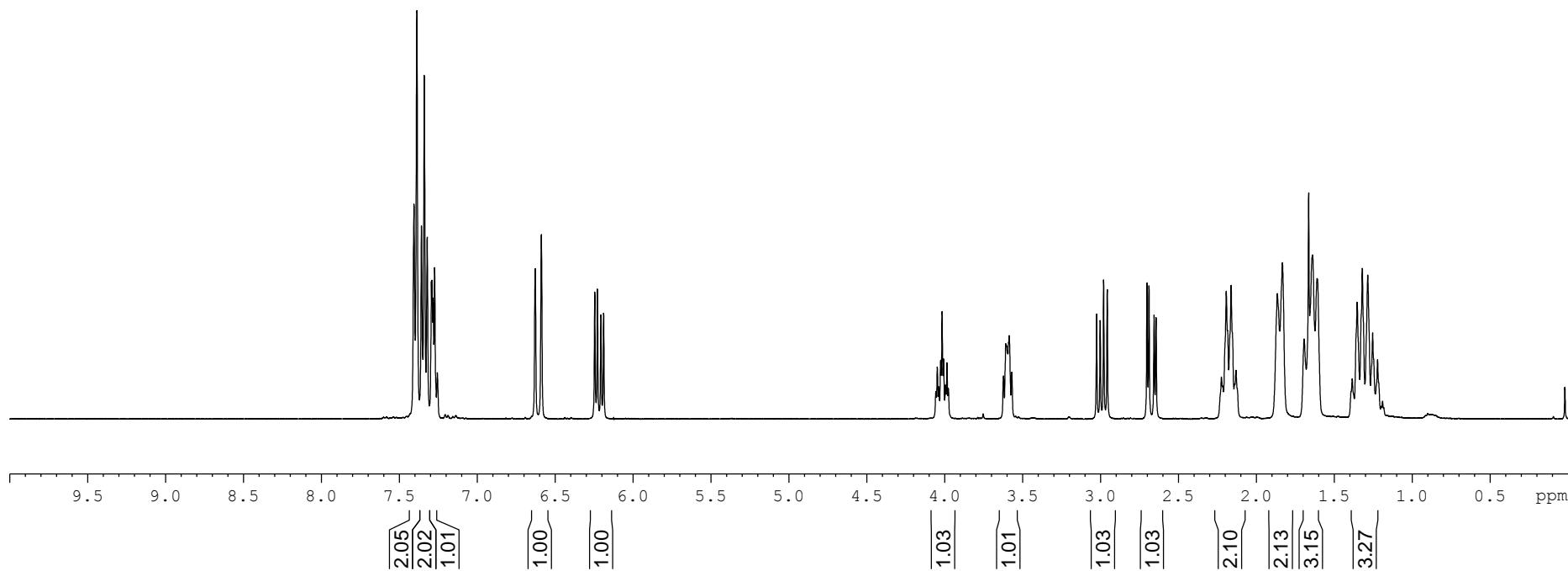
3nb, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3

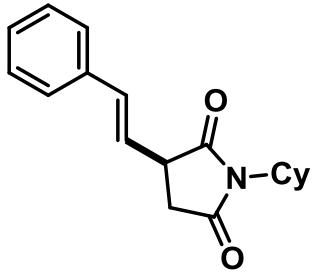




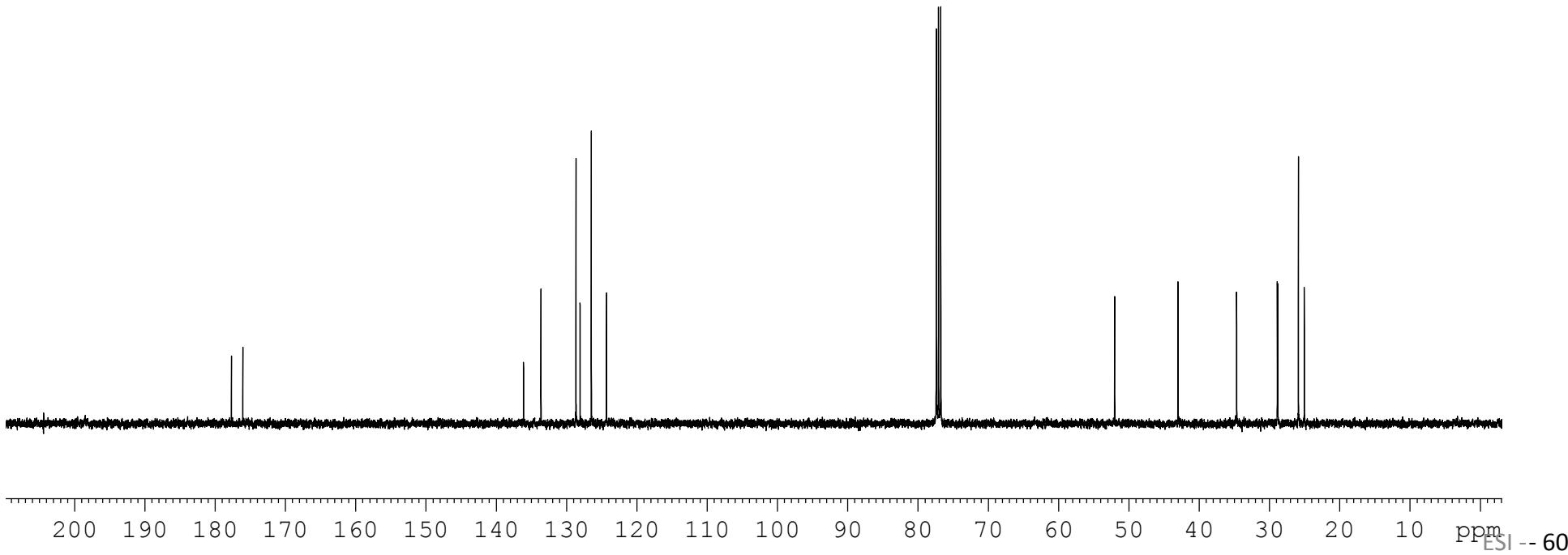


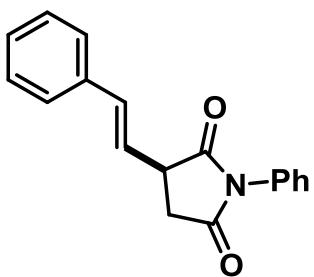
3nc, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3



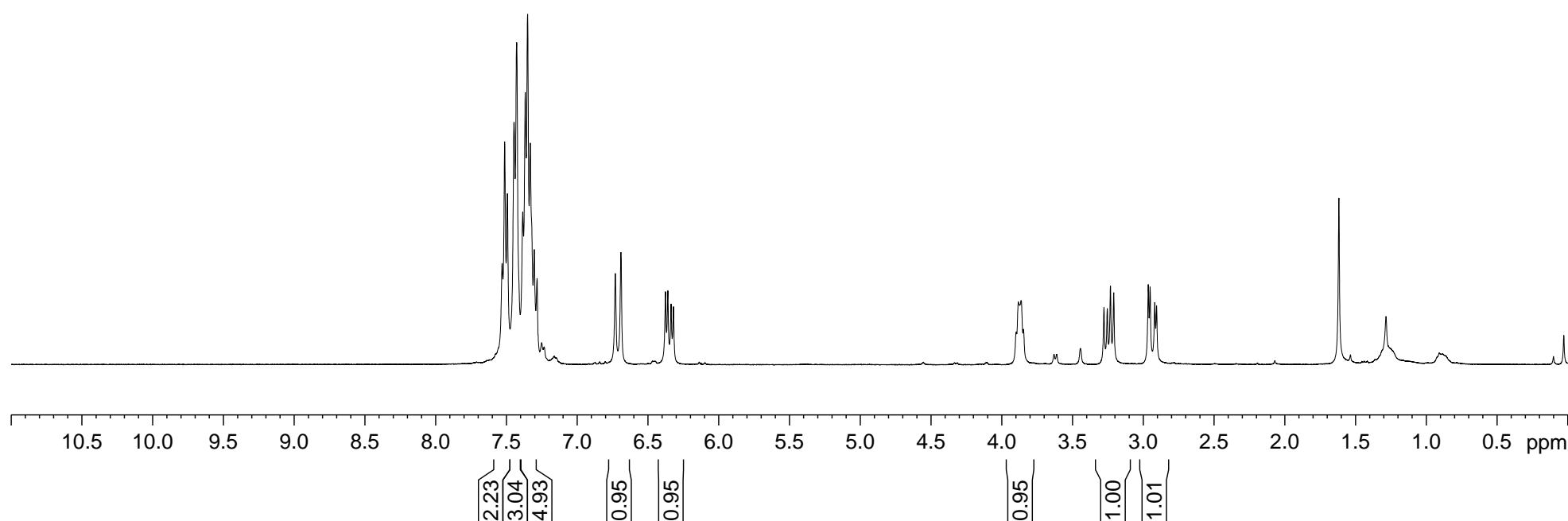


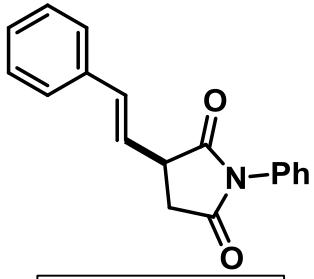
**3nc, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3**





3nd, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3





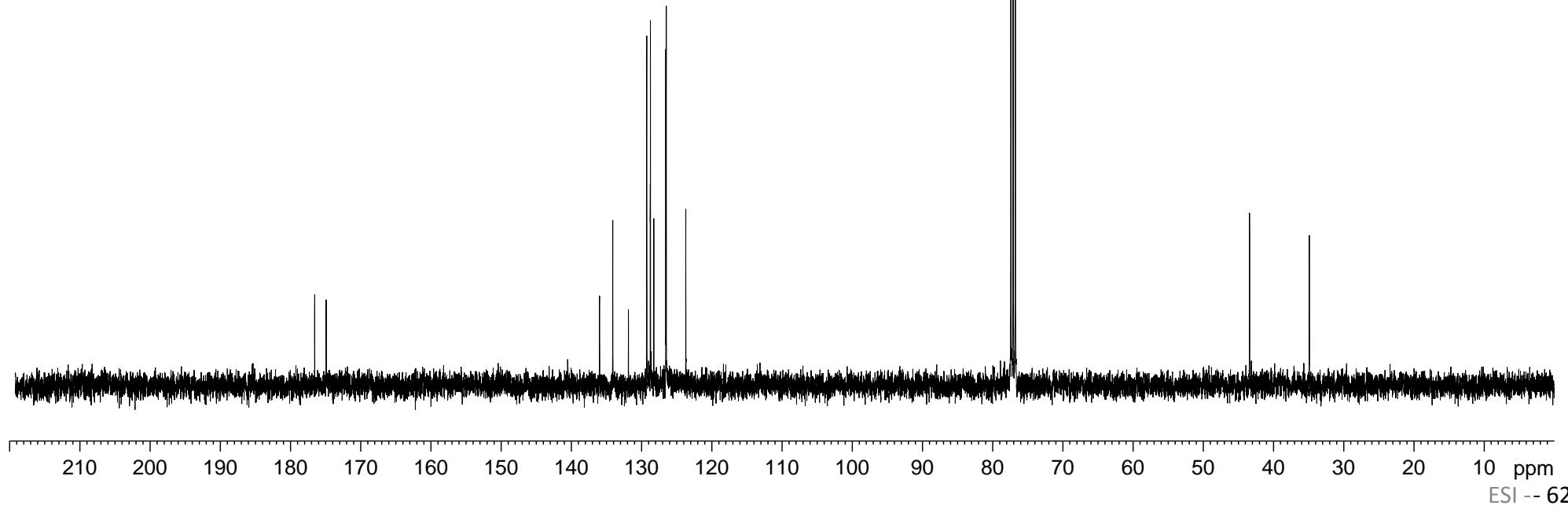
3nd, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3

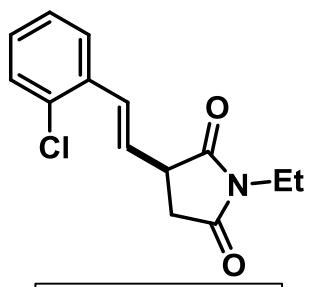
— 176.54
— 174.90

135.96
134.08
131.85
129.24
128.74
128.71
128.23
126.53
126.46
123.68

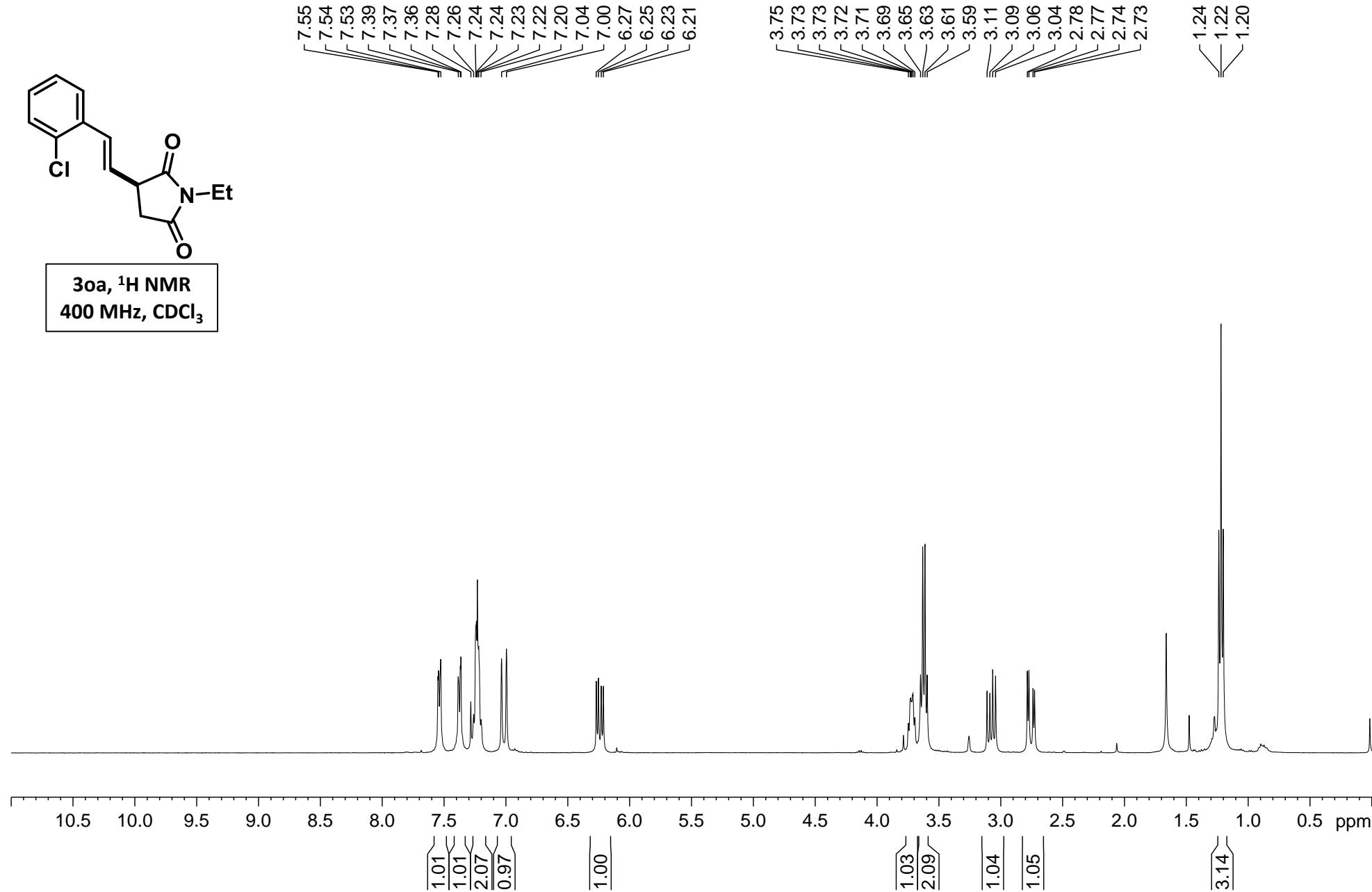
77.37
77.05
76.74

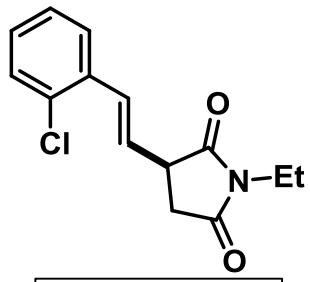
— 43.37
— 34.87





**3oa, ^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3**





3oa, ^{13}C NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3

