

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

Emission behaviors of novel V- and X-shaped fluorophores in response to pH and force stimuli

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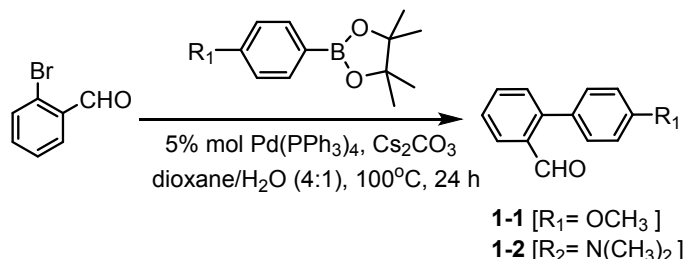
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Materials and measurements

All the reagents were analytically pure and some chemicals were further purified by recrystallization or distillation. Melting points were determined by an OptiMelt automated melting point system. The ^1H NMR (400 MHz) and ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were obtained on a Bruker Avance II DMX 400 spectrometer with CDCl_3 or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ as the solvent. The absorption spectra were measured on a Shimadzu UV 2501(PC)S UV-Vis spectrometer, and the fluorescence spectra were acquired on a Perkin-Elmer LS55 spectrophotometer. The quantum yields were measured with quinine sulfate in 0.1 M sulfuric acid solution ($\Phi_f=0.55$) as the reference and the solid-state quantum yields were gained by an integral sphere. The mass spectrum was recorded on a HP 1110 mass spectrometer. The crystallographic data were determined on a Bruker Gemini Ultra diffractometer with a CCD counter. The powder X-ray diffraction patterns were recorded on DX2700 with $\text{Cu}-K_\alpha$ radiation operating at 40 kV and 40 mA by a $0.3^\circ/\text{min}$ scanning rate. TOF-MS was measured on a Waters Xevo G₂-S mass spectrometer. Dynamic light scattering is carried out on a Beckman Coulter particle analyzer with 50 μM aggregate in MeCN/ H_2O mixture (5 : 95, v/v) at 25 $^\circ\text{C}$. 2, 5-dibromoterephthalaldehyde was prepared according to the reported method [1].

Synthesis of intermediates (1-1) or (1-2)



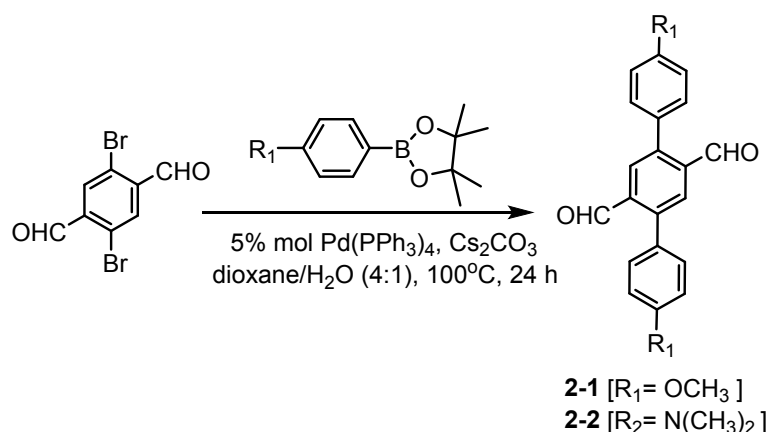
At room temperature and N_2 flux, the solution of *N,N*-dimethyl-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)aniline (12 mmol, 2.95 g) or 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (12 mmol, 2.80 g) in dioxane/ H_2O (4:1, v/v, 20 mL) was injected into the mixture of 2-bromobenzaldehyde (10 mmol, 1.83 g), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.5 mmol, 0.577 g) and CsCO₃ (15 mmol, 2.89 g) in dioxane/ H_2O (4:1, v/v, 30 mL). The resulted mixture was heated at 100 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h and then cooled to room temperature. After filtration, the filtrate was diluted with water and extracted by CH_2Cl_2 (2 $\times$ 15 mL).

The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the removal of solvent, the residue was purified on a silica gel column chromatography.

4'-(methyloxy)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbaldehyde (1-1): 94% yield; m.p. 52.8-54.2°C; ¹H NMR(400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.87(s, 3H), 6.70(d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30(d, *J*=8.4 Hz), 7.42-7.47(m, 2H), 7.61(t, *J*=7.6 Hz), 9.99(s, 1H); ¹³C NMR(100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.40, 113.96, 127.38, 127.62, 130.04, 130.79, 131.31, 133.52, 133.79, 145.44, 159.73, 192.69; EI-MS (70eV) *m/z* (%) 212(M⁺, 100), 197(45), 181(57), 169(88), 152(36), 141(100), 128(16), 115(93), 89(16), 63(15).

4'-(dimethylamino)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbaldehyde (1-2): 88% yield; m.p. 77.4-79.3°C; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.93(s, 6H), 6.71(d, *J*=7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.17(d, *J*=8.0Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.37(m, 2H), 7.50(t, *J*=7.6Hz, 1H), 7.79(d, *J*=8.0Hz, 1H), 9.94(s, 1H); ¹³C NMR(100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 40.58, 112.05, 126.63, 127.54, 130.63, 131.10, 133.42, 133.61, 146.30, 150.26, 193.54; EI-MS (70eV) *m/z* (%) 225(M⁺, 100), 196(45), 182(29), 167(12), 152(49), 141(13), 128(17), 115(17), 69(23), 51 (25), 42(47).

Synthesis of intermediates (2-1) or (2-2)

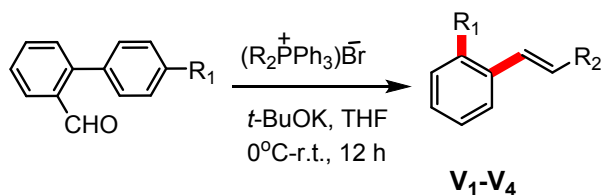


At room temperature and N₂ flux, the solution of *N, N*-dimethyl-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)aniline (24 mmol, 5.90 g) or 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (24 mmol, 5.60 g) in dioxane/H₂O (4:1, v/v, 30 mL) was injected into the mixture of 2,5-dibromoterephthalaldehyde (10 mmol, 2.98g), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.5 mmol, 0.577 g) and CsCO₃(30 mmol, 5.78 g) in dioxane/H₂O (4:1, v/v, 30 mL). The resulted mixture was heated at 100°C for 24 h and then cooled to room temperature. After filtration, the filtrate was diluted with water and extracted by CH₂Cl₂ (3×15 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the removal of solvent, the residue was purified on a silica gel column chromatography.

4,4''-dimethoxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-2',5'-dicarbaldehyde (2-1): 83% yield; m.p. 189.2-191.0 °C; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.89(s, 6H), 7.04(d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.36(d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 4H), 8.06(s, 2H), 10.08(s, 2H); ¹³C NMR(100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.44, 114.14, 128.73, 130.14, 131.31, 136.36, 143.79, 160.08, 192.31; EI-MS (70eV) *m/z* (%) 346(M⁺, 100), 232(18), 202(30), 139(20).

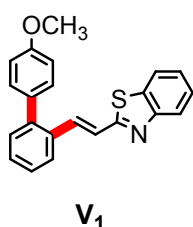
4,4''-bis(dimethylamino)-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-2',5'-dicarbaldehyde (2-2): 80% yield; m.p. 238.4-240.1 °C; ¹H NMR(400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.04(s, 12H), 6.82(d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.31(d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 4H), 8.06(s, 2H), 10.10(s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 40.36, 112.18, 124.05, 129.92, 131.10, 136.40, 143.67, 150.49, 192.86; EI-MS (70eV) *m/z* (%) 372(M⁺, 100), 315(30), 120(16), 69(14), 42(18).

Synthesis of V-shaped compounds (V₁-V₄)



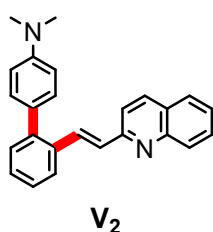
At 0°C and N₂ flux, *t*-BuOK (10 mmol) was added into the corresponding triphenyl phosphonium bromide (10 mmol) in dried THF (20 mL), the mixture was stirred for 30 min. The solution of compound **1-1** or **1-2** (8 mmol) in dried THF (10 mL) was injected into the above mixture. The resulted mixture was kept at the same temperature for 1 h and stirred at room temperature for 12 h. After poured into water, the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2×15 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the removal of solvent, the residue was purified on a silica gel column chromatography.

(E)-2-(2-(4'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)vinyl)benzo[d]thiazole (V₁): 89% yield; m.p. 101.3-102.9 °C;



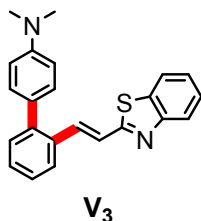
¹H NMR(400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.88(s, 3H), 7.00(d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.46(m, 8H), 7.52(d, *J*=16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.78(d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.97(d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.36, 113.77, 121.43, 122.92, 125.34, 126.26, 126.41, 127.47, 129.28, 130.46, 131.11, 132.46, 133.51, 134.27, 137.63, 141.83, 153.79, 159.19, 167.62; EI-MS (70eV) *m/z* (%) 343(M⁺, 63), 312(42), 298(16), 236(31), 208(100), 195(17), 165(46), 109(7), 69(8).

(E)-N,N-dimethyl-2'-(2-(quinolin-2-yl)vinyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-amine (V₂): 84% yield; m.p. 139.8-



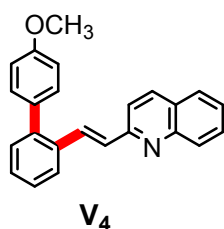
141.2 °C; ¹H NMR(400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.02(3, 6H), 6.81(d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.48(m, 7H), 7.57(d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.70(m, 2H), 7.74(d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.87(m, 1H), 8.04(t, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 39.57, 111.08, 117.42, 125.04, 125.43, 125.81, 126.14, 126.40, 127.44, 127.51, 128.04, 128.62, 129.25, 129.81, 133.43, 133.57, 135.18, 141.01, 147.07, 148.68, 155.72; EI-MS (70eV) *m/z* (%) 350(M⁺, 100), 335(15), 306(16), 221(39), 208(14), 178(14), 165(12), 143(11), 130(37), 102(8), 77(6).

(E)-2'-(2-(benzo[d]thiazol-2-yl)vinyl)-N,N-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-amine (V₃): 73% yield; m.p.



114.9-116.3°C; ¹H NMR(400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.03(s, 6H), 6.83(d, *J*=8.8Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.47(m, 8H), 7.62(d, *J*=16Hz, 1H), 7.78(m, 2H), 7.98(d, *J*=8.0Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 40.51, 112.13, 121.38, 121.70, 122.57, 122.86, 123.61, 125.19, 126.15, 126.45, 126.85, 129.16, 130.34, 130.83, 133.34, 134.30, 138.21, 142.32, 153.88, 167.89; EI-MS (70eV) *m/z* (%) 356(M⁺, 57), 310(11), 236(22), 221(100), 178(24), 108(12), 69(21), 42(12).

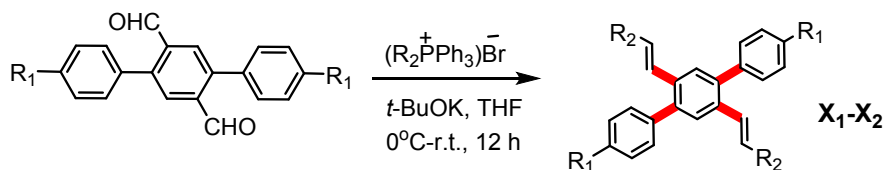
(E)-2-(2-(4'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)vinyl)quinoline (V₄): 76% yield, yellowish oil; ¹H NMR



(400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.87(s, 3H), 6.99(d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.42(m, 6H), 7.46(t, *J*=8 Hz, 1H), 7.51(d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61(d, *J*=16.4Hz, 1H), 7.73(d, *J*=8 Hz, 1H), 7.88(m, 1H), 8.03(m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.36, 113.67, 118.50, 126.19, 126.40, 127.23, 127.42, 127.48, 128.50, 129.12, 129.73, 130.02, 130.38, 131.14, 133.06, 133.96, 134.59, 136.31, 141.51,

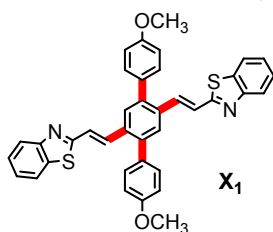
148.12, 156.52, 159.00; EI-MS (70eV) m/z (%) 337(M^+ , 100), 322(34), 306(83), 292(22), 230(12), 165(19), 129(54).

Synthesis of X-shaped compounds (X_1 - X_2)



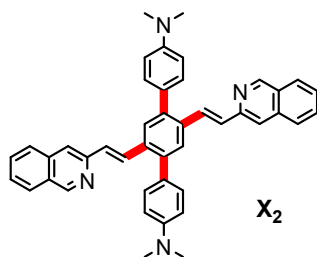
At 0°C and N_2 flux, t -BuOK (22 mmol) was added into the corresponding triphenyl phosphonium bromide (22 mmol) in dried THF (30 mL), the mixture was stirred for 30 min. The solution of compound **2-1** or **2-2** (10 mmol) in dried THF (10 mL) was injected into the above mixture. The resulted mixture was kept at the same temperature for 1 h and stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The formed precipitate was collected and washed with ethanol for 2-3 times. The solid was pure enough for spectral analysis.

2,2'-((1*E*,1'*E*)-(4,4''-dimethoxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-2',5'-diyl)bis(ethene-2,1-diyl))bis(benzo[d]-thiazole) (X_1): 63% yield; m.p. 326.7-328.3 °C; 1H NMR(400MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 3.93(s, 6H), 7.06(d, J =8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.34-7.49(m, 10H), 7.58(d, J =16.0 Hz, 2H), 7.81(m, 4H), 7.98(d, J =8.0 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 55.67, 114.31, 121.66, 123.22, 123.87, 125.62, 126.59, 128.66, 131.38, 131.92, 134.54, 134.68, 137.01, 141.09, 154.24, 159.70, 167.38; TOF-MS m/z (%) 623.31(M^+ , 100).



2',5'-bis((*E*)-2-(isoquinolin-3-yl)vinyl)-N4,N4,N4'',N4''-tetramethyl-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-4,4''-

diamine (X_2): 54% yield; m.p. 342.1-343.7°C; 1H NMR(400MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 3.06(s, 12H), 6.87(d, J =8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.42-7.51(m, 8H), 7.61(d, J =8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.68(t, J =8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.74-7.78(m, 4H), 7.92(s, 2H), 8.04(dd, J_1 =8.4 Hz, J_2 =3.2 Hz, 4H); TOF-MS m/z (%) 609.16(M^+ , 100).



X-ray structure analysis

A single crystal of the title compound grown in EtOH-MeCN mixture (7:3, v/v) was selected for the X-ray analysis. The diffraction data were collected on a Bruker CCD area-detector diffractometer equipped with a graphite-monochromated MoK α radiation (λ =0.71073 Å). The unit cell parameters were determined from a least-squares refinement of the setting angles. The structure was solved by direct methods and refined on F^2 by the full-matrix least-squares methods with SHELXS-97. The refinement was carried out by full-matrix least squares method on the positional and anisotropic temperature parameters of the non-hydrogen atoms using SHELXL-97. All H atoms were placed in the idealized positions and constrained to ride on their parent atoms. Compound **V₂**: $C_{25}H_{22}N_2$, M_w = 350.45, triclinic, a = 8.1532(5) Å, b = 10.2921(7) Å, c = 12.9838(11) Å, α = 66.763(7)°, β = 88.564(6)°, γ = 73.285(6)°, D_{calcd} = 1.220 g cm $^{-3}$, Z = 2, $F(000)$ = 372, μ = 0.547 mm $^{-1}$, 3767 reflections were corrected, 3648 unique, R_1 = 0.0456, wR_2 = 0.1268. Compound **V₃**: $C_{23}H_{20}N_2S$, M_w = 356.47, monoclinic, a = 12.5537(8)

$\text{\AA}$, $b = 6.3103(4) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 23.6534(17) \text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = 90^\circ$, $\beta = 99.738(6)^\circ$, $\gamma = 90^\circ$, $D_{\text{calcd}} = 1.282 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $Z = 4$, $F(000) = 752$, $\mu = 0.184 \text{ mm}^{-1}$, 3389 reflections were corrected, 3377 unique, $R_1 = 0.0437$, $wR_2 = 0.1125$. Crystallographic data for compound **V**₂ (CCDC 1521255) and **V**₃ (CCDC 1480706) were deposited at CCDC center and can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

Computational method

The gas-phase geometries of the concerned compounds were optimized without any symmetry restrictions in singlet ground state using the density functional theory (DFT) method at the B3LYP level. The 6-31G (d, p) basis set was selected for all the elements. The vibration frequency calculations were performed to ensure that the optimized geometries represented the global minima on the ground-state potential energy surface. All the calculations were carried out with the Gaussian 09 program package in aid of the GaussView visualization program [2].

References:

- [1] X. Yang, D. Liu and Q. Miao, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2014, **53**, 6786-6790.
- [2] M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, M. Caricato, X. Li, H. P. Hratchian, A. F. Izmaylov, J. Bloino, G. Zheng, J. L. Sonnenberg, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, J. A. Montgomery, Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, N. Rega, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, J. E. Knox, J. B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R. E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A. J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, V. G. Zakrzewski, G. A. Voth, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, S. Dapprich, A. D. Daniels, O. Farkas, J. B. Foresman, J. V. Ortiz, J. Cioslowski and D. J. Fox, Gaussian 09, Revision A.02, Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, 2009.

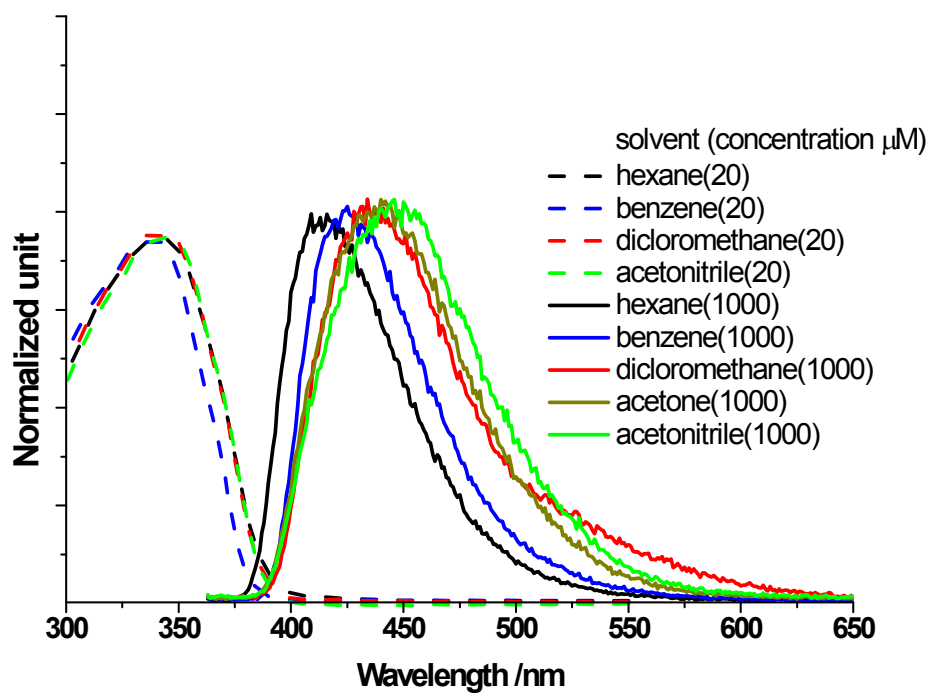


Fig. S1 Absorption (dash line) and emission spectra [solid line, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 350$ nm, slit width (ex, em) / nm : 5, 10] of $\mathbf{V}_1$ in different solvents

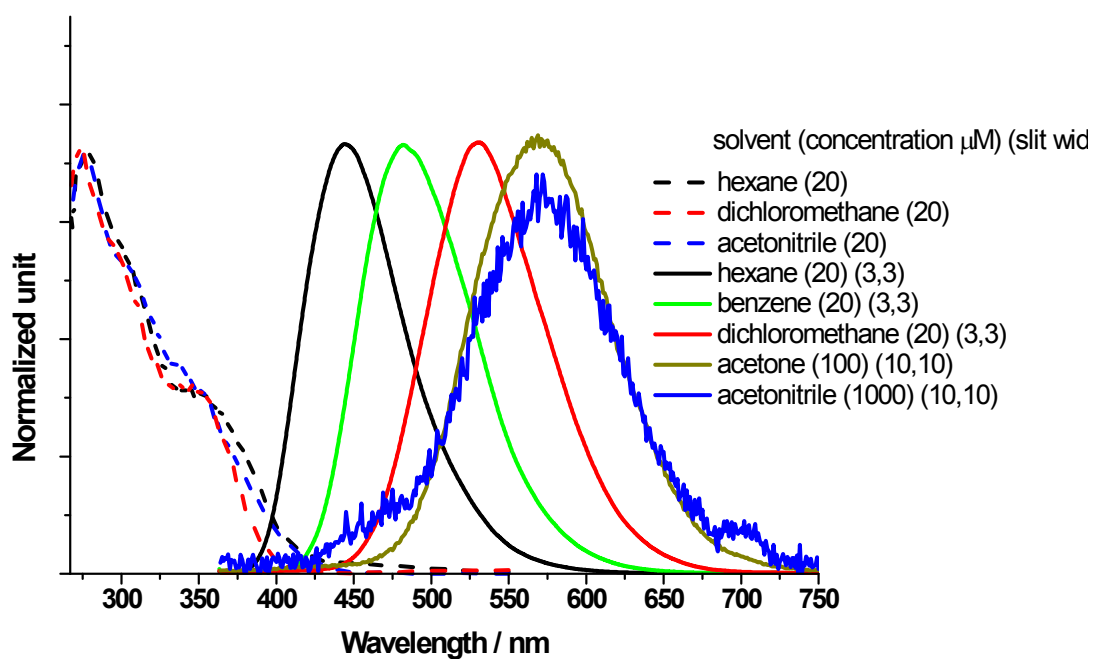


Fig. S2 Absorption (dash line) and emission spectra (solid line, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 350$ nm) of $\mathbf{V}_2$ in different solvents

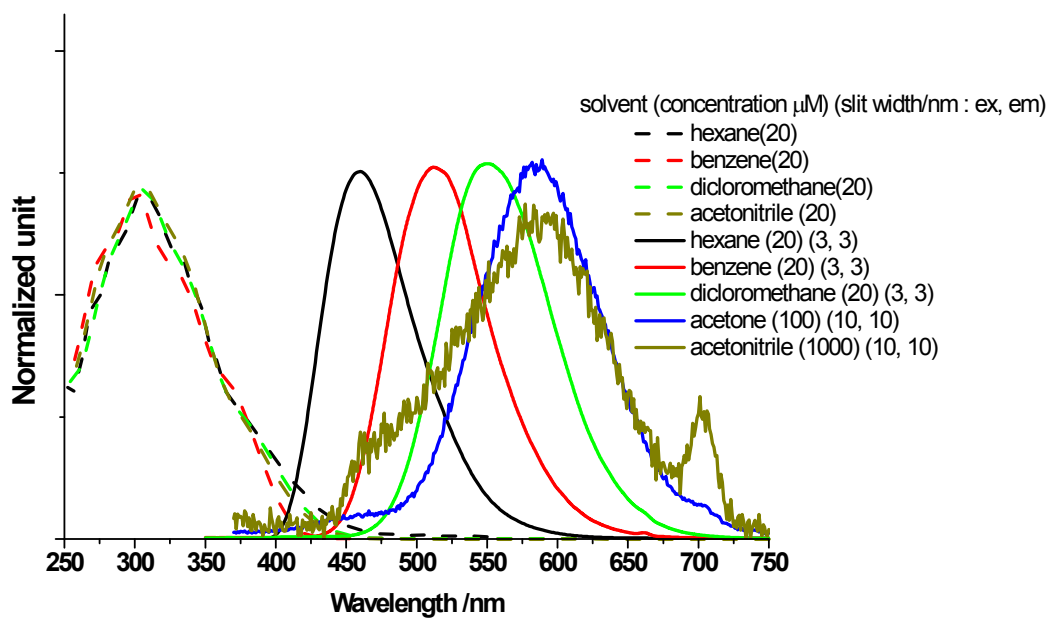


Fig. S3 Absorption (dash line) and emission spectra (solid line, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 350 \text{ nm}$) of V_3 in different solvents

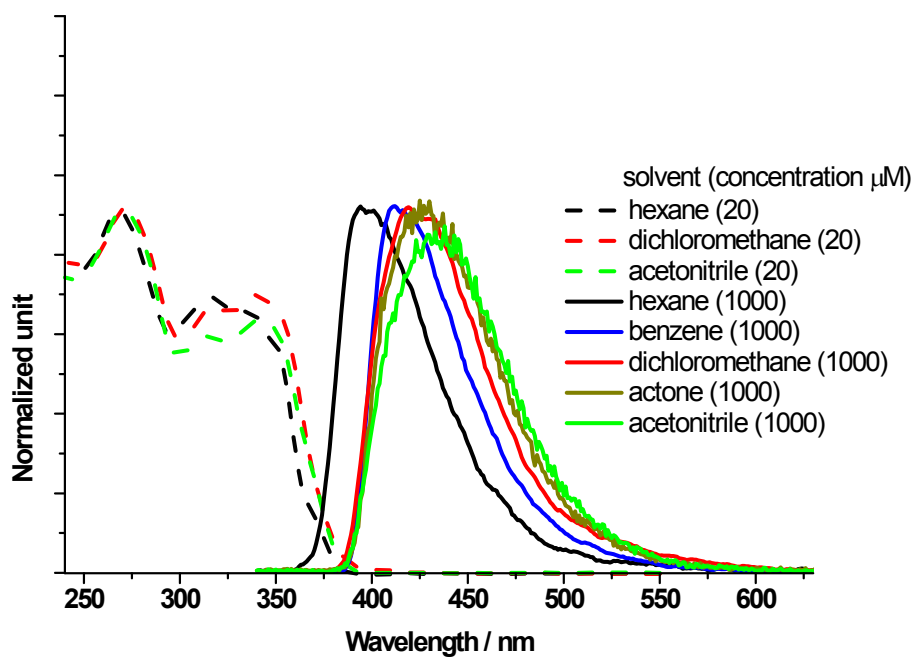


Fig. S4 Absorption (dash line) and emission spectra [solid line, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 350 \text{ nm}$, slid width (ex, em) / nm : 5, 10] of V_4 in different solvents

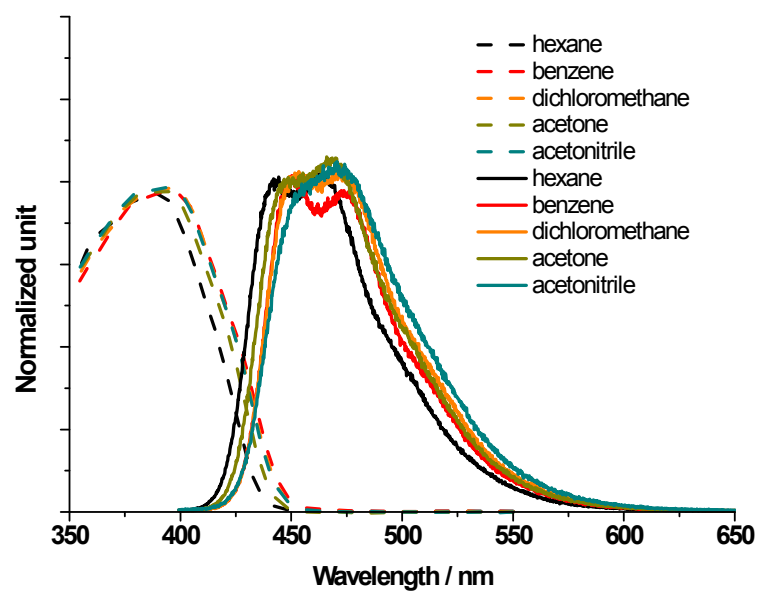


Fig. S5 Absorption (dash line, 10 μ M) and emission spectra [solid line, 10 μ M, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 350$ nm, slit width (ex, em) / nm : 5, 10] of X_1 in different solvents

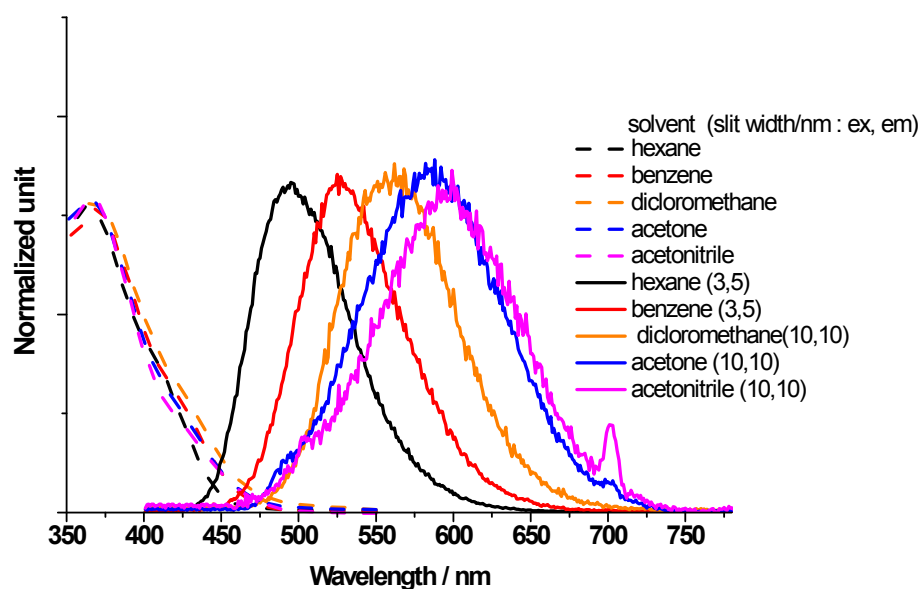


Fig. S6 Absorption (dash line, 10 μ M) and emission spectra (solid line, 10 μ M, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 350$ nm)

of X_2 in different solvents

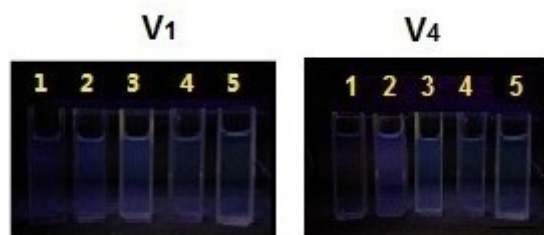


Fig. S7 Photos of V_1 and V_4 (50 μ M) in different solvents under 365 nm UV light (1: *n*-hexane; 2: benzene; 3: CH_2Cl_2 ; 4: acetone; 5: MeCN);

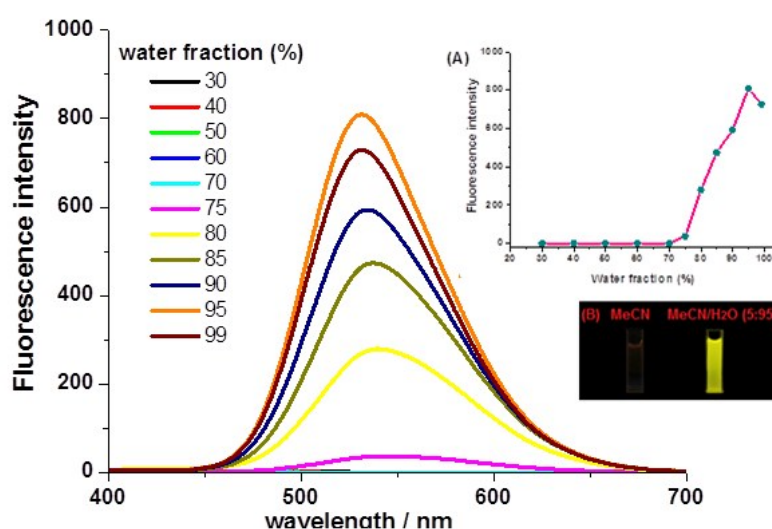


Fig. S8 Emission spectra of V_3 (50 μ M) in MeCN with varied water fraction [inserted: (A) the fluorescence intensity of V_3 in MeCN with varied water fraction; (B) photos of V_3 in MeCN and MeCN/H₂O (v/v, 5:95) mixture]

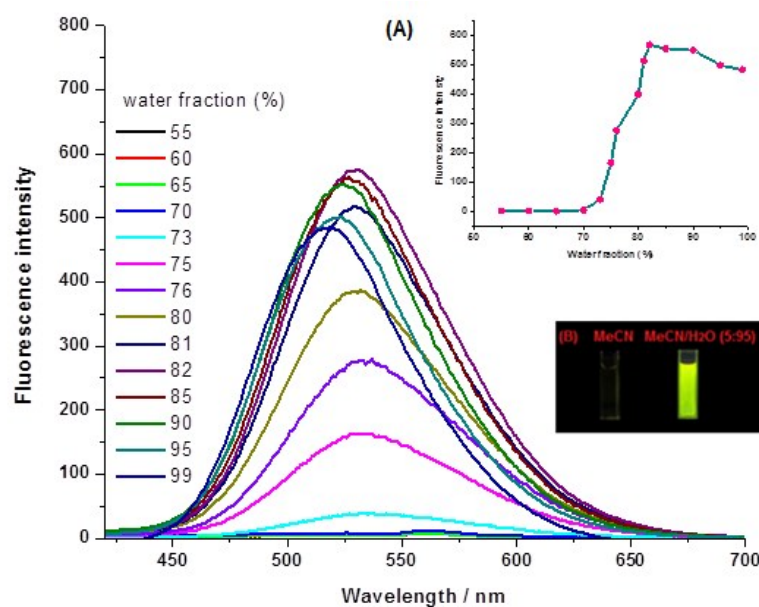


Fig. S9 Emission spectra of V_2 (50 μM) in MeCN with varied water fraction [inserted: (A) the fluorescence intensity of V_2 in MeCN with varied water fraction; (B) photos of V_2 in MeCN and MeCN/ H_2O (v/v, 5:95) mixture]

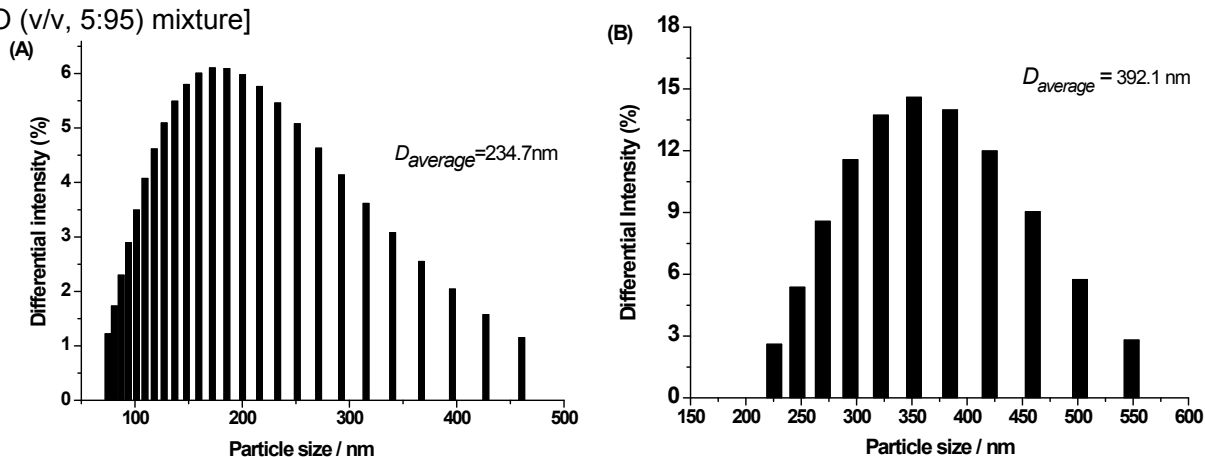


Fig. S10 Dynamic light scattering of V_2 (A) and V_3 (B) (50 μM) in MeCN/ H_2O (5:95) mixture

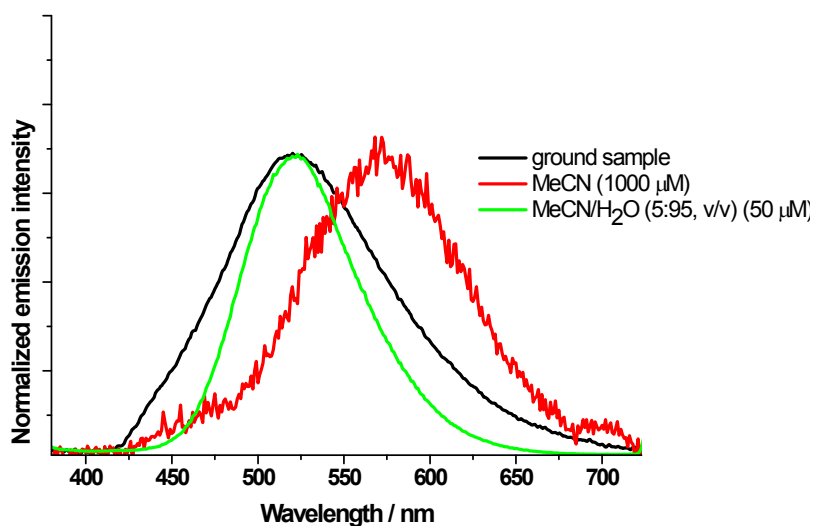


Fig. S11 Emission spectra ($\lambda_{ex} = 350 \text{ nm}$) of V_2 in MeCN solution, MeCN/ H_2O (5:95) mixture and ground state

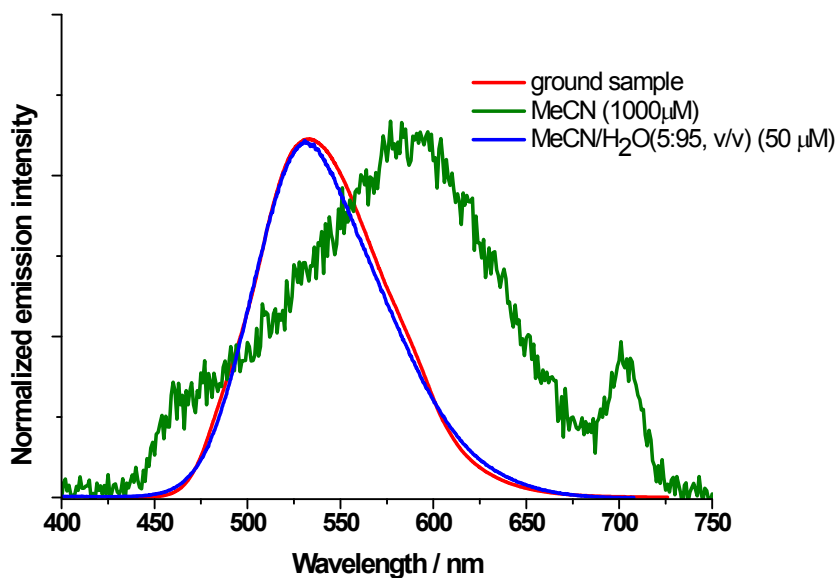


Fig. S12 Emission spectra ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 350 \text{ nm}$) of V_3 in MeCN solution, MeCN/ H_2O (5:95) mixture and ground state

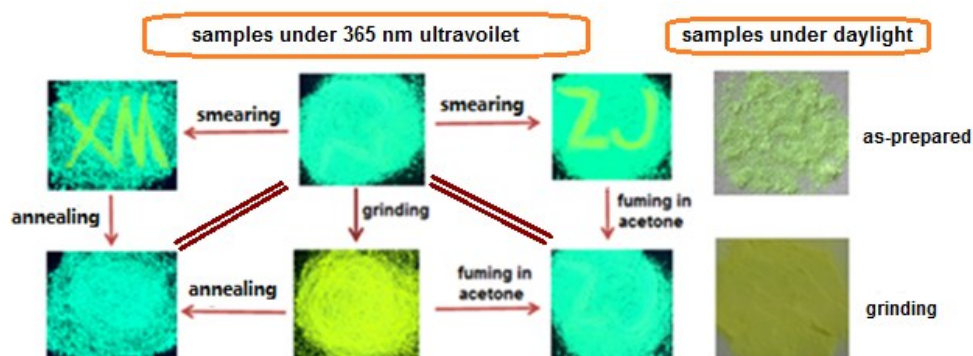


Fig. S13 Photos of compound V_3 in solid state under daylight and 365 nm ultraviolet (smearing with a thin glass rod; annealing at 80°C for 2 min; fuming in acetone vapour for 2 min)

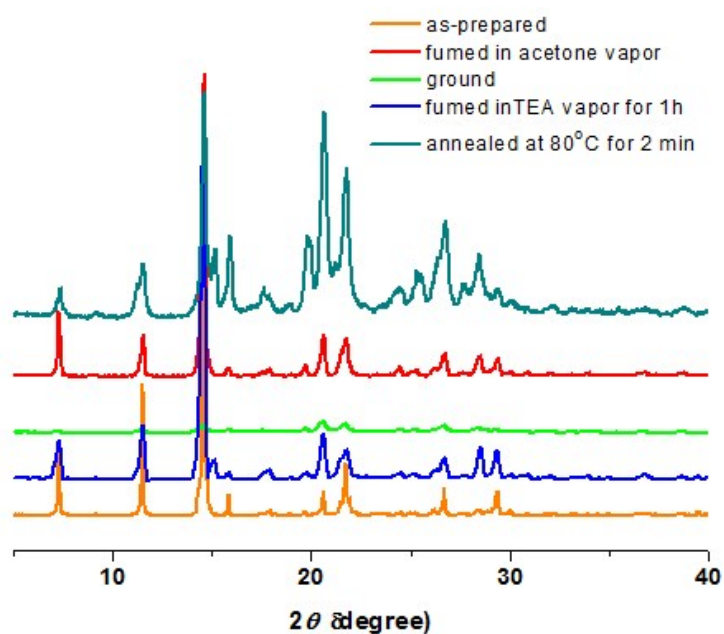


Fig. S14 PXRD patterns of compound V_3 under different phases

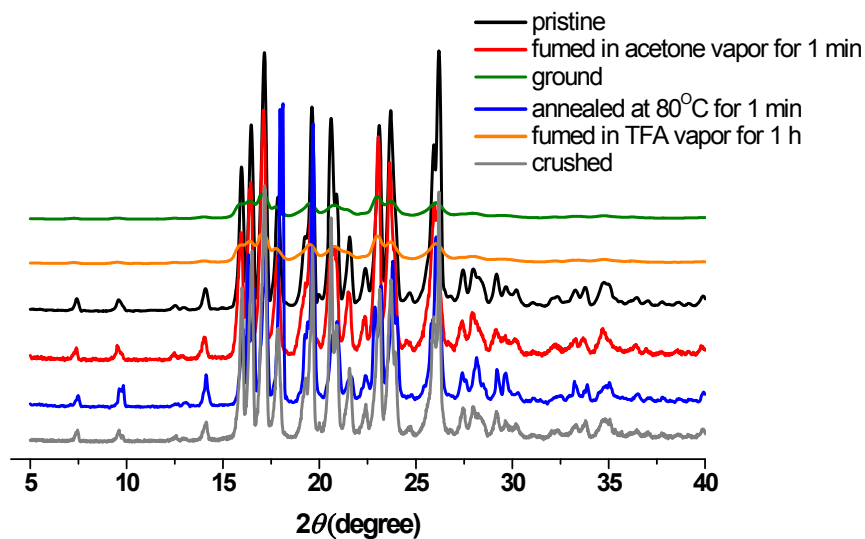


Fig. S15 PXRD patterns of compound V_2 under different phases

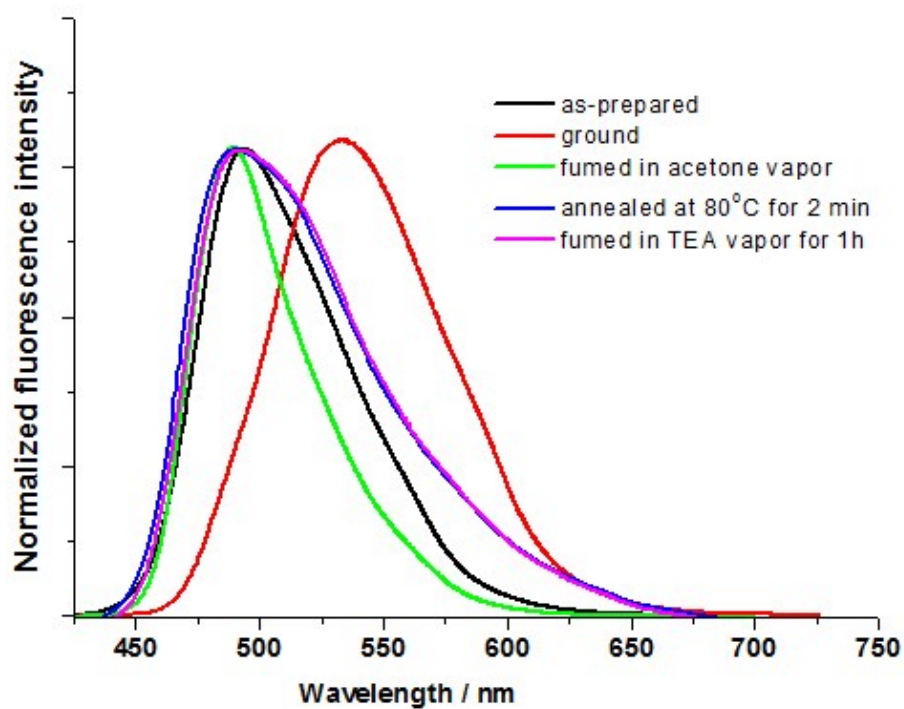


Fig. S16 Emission spectra of compound V_3 under different solid phases

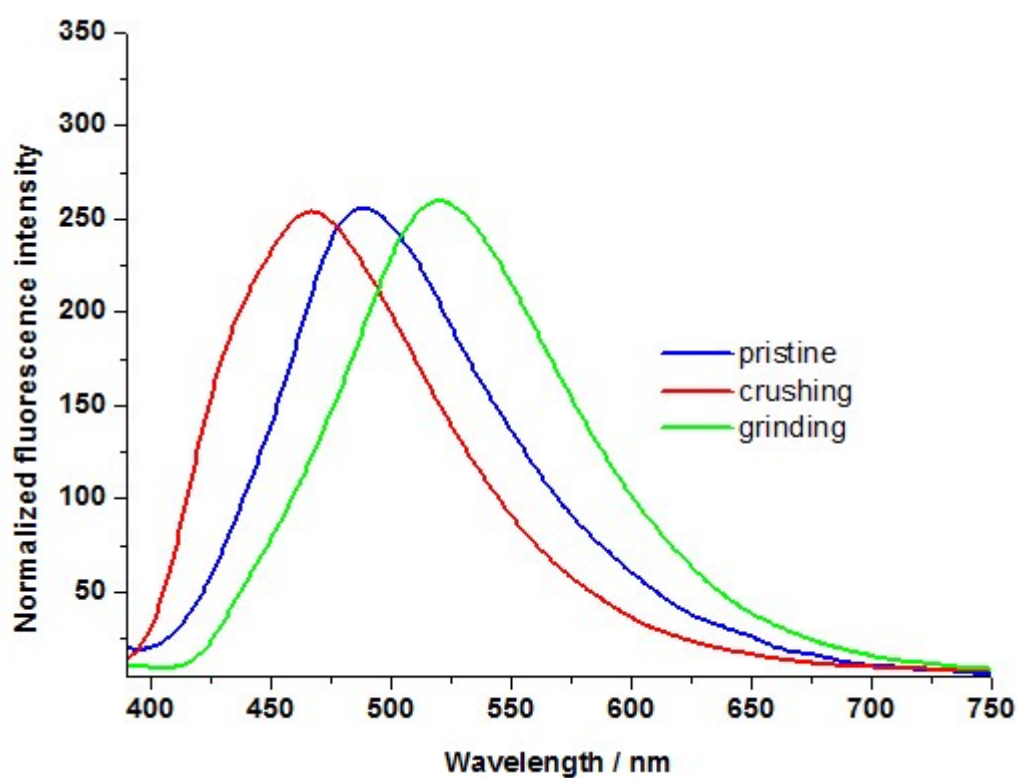


Fig. S17 Emission spectra of compound **V₂** under different solid phases

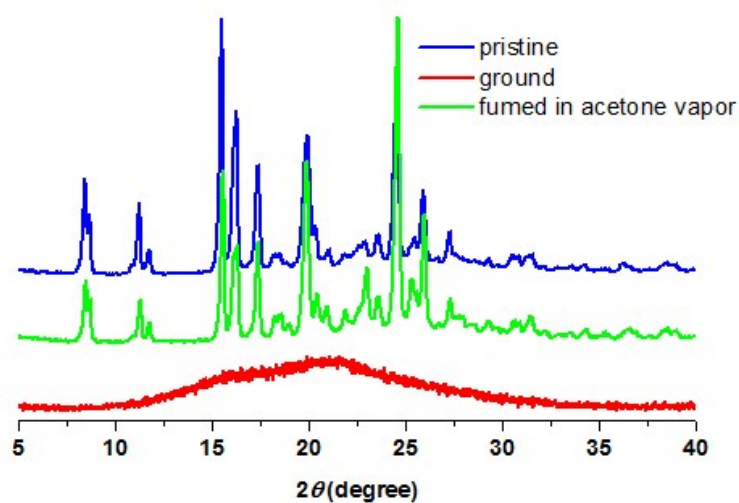


Fig. S18 PXRD patterns of compound **V₁** under different phases

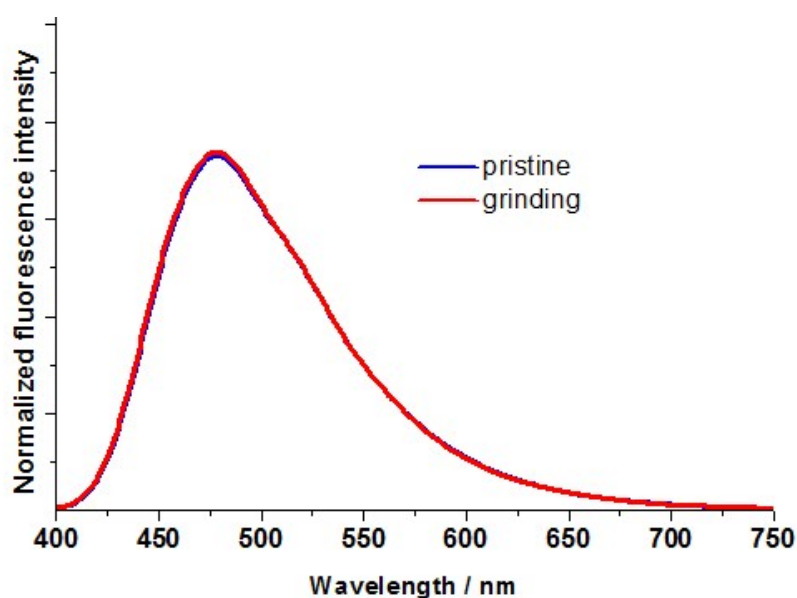


Fig. S19 Emission spectra of compound **V₁** under different solid phases

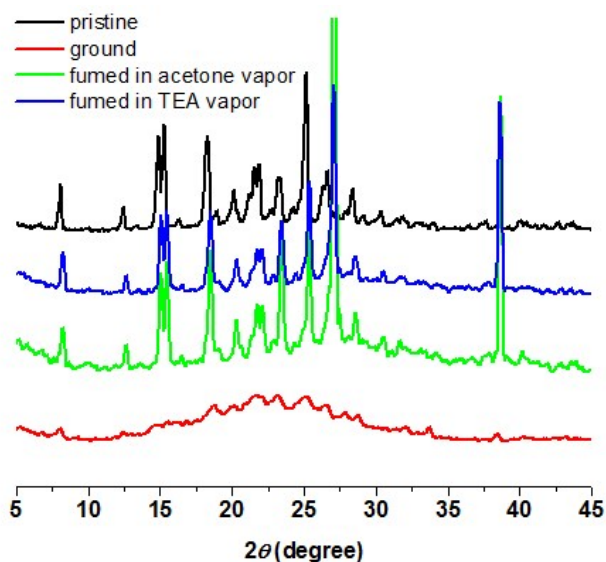


Fig. S20 PXRD patterns of compound **X₁** under different phases

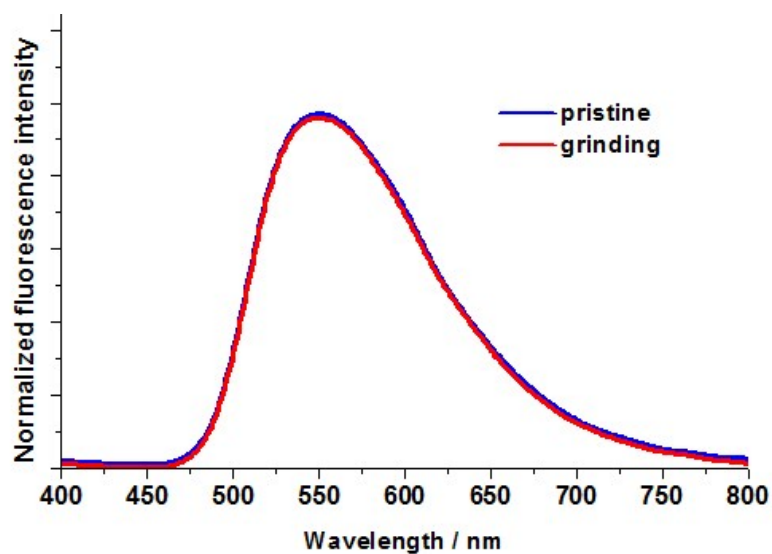


Fig. S21 Emission spectra of compound **X₁** under different solid phases

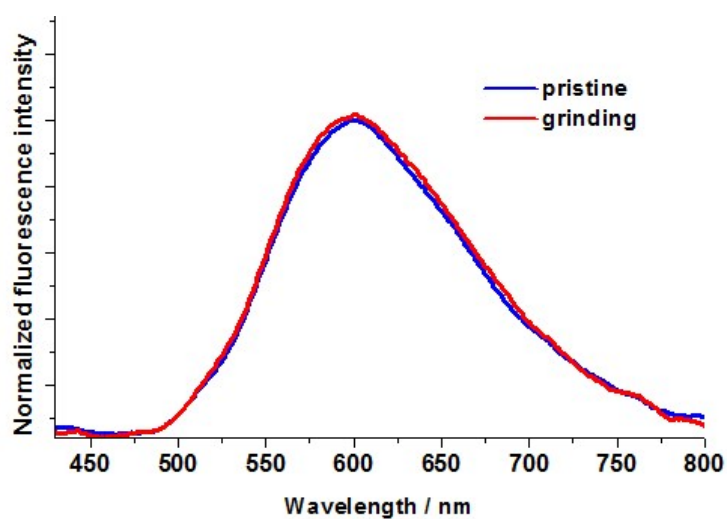


Fig. S22 Emission spectra of compound **X₂** under different solid phases

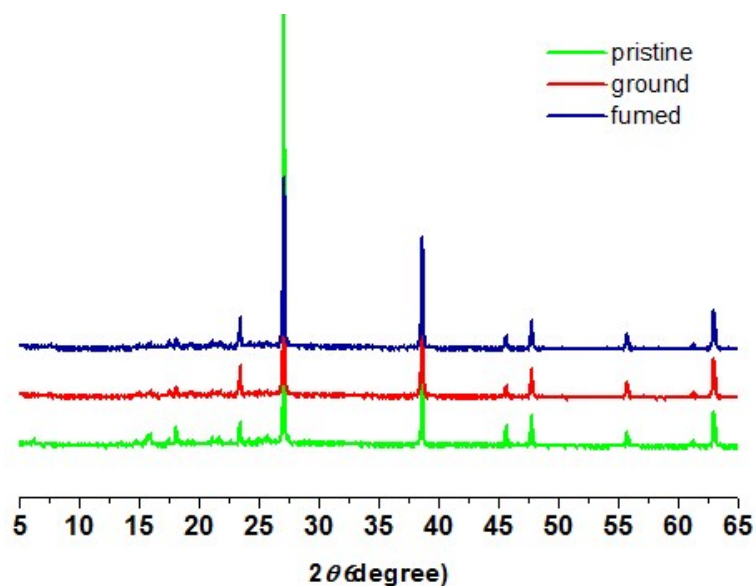


Fig. S23 PXRD patterns of compound **X**₂ under different phases

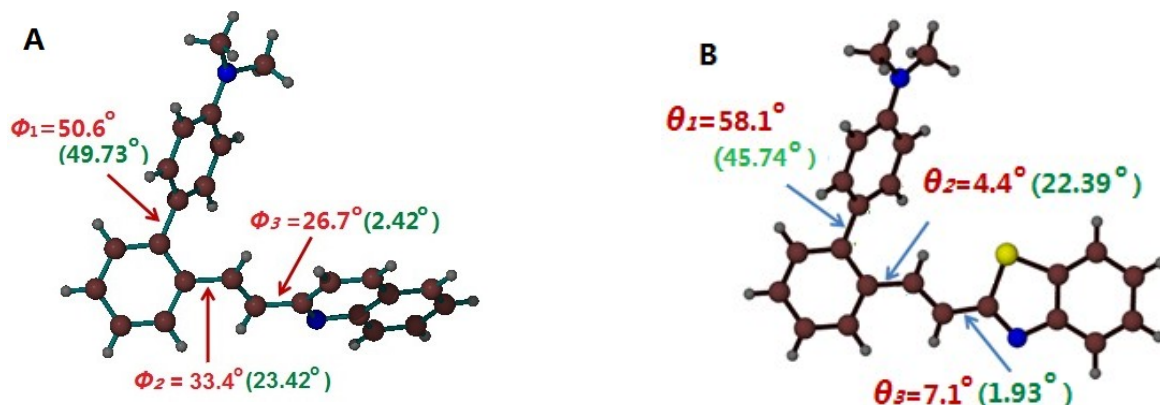
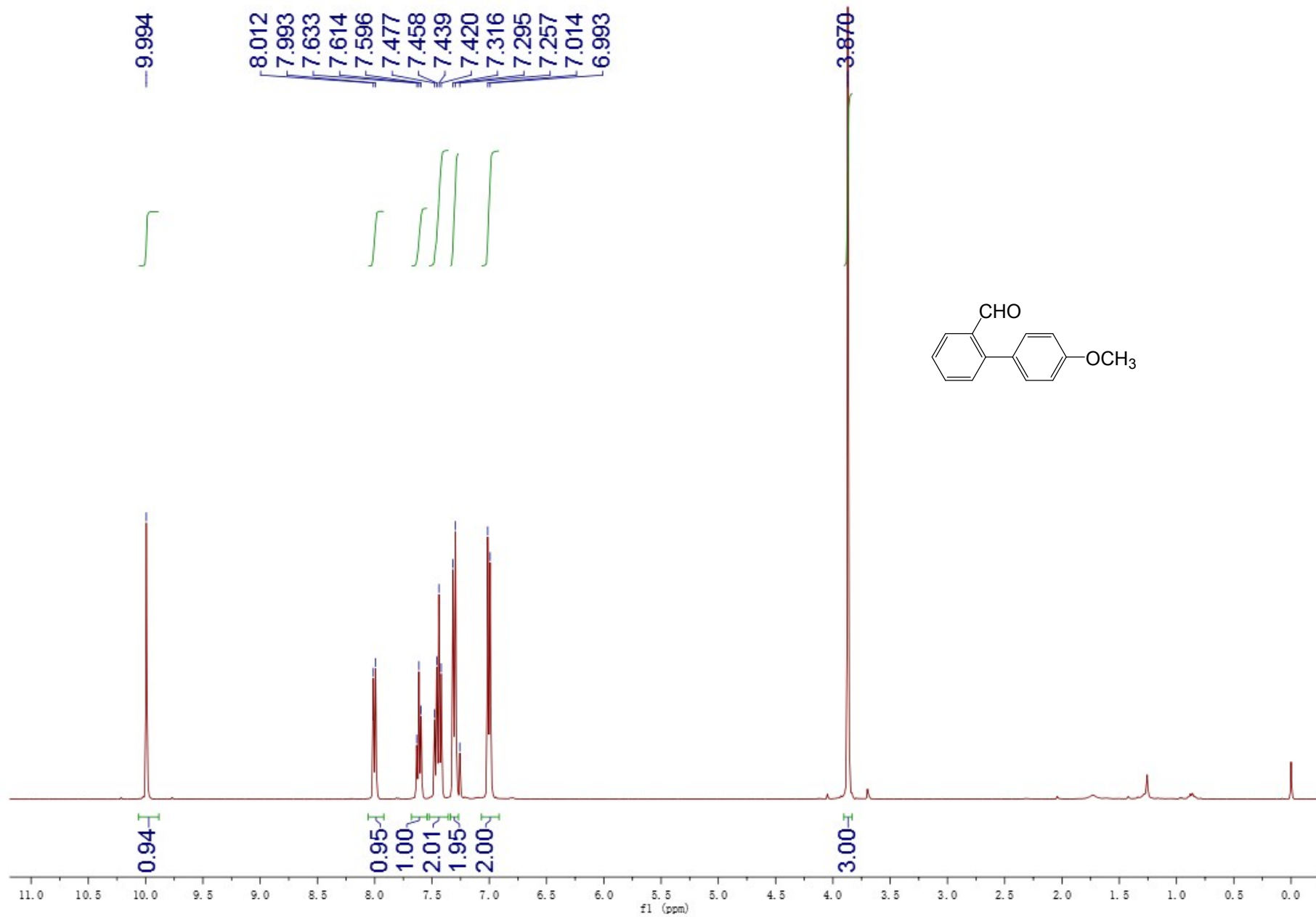
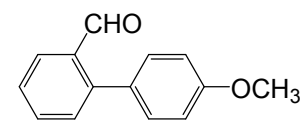
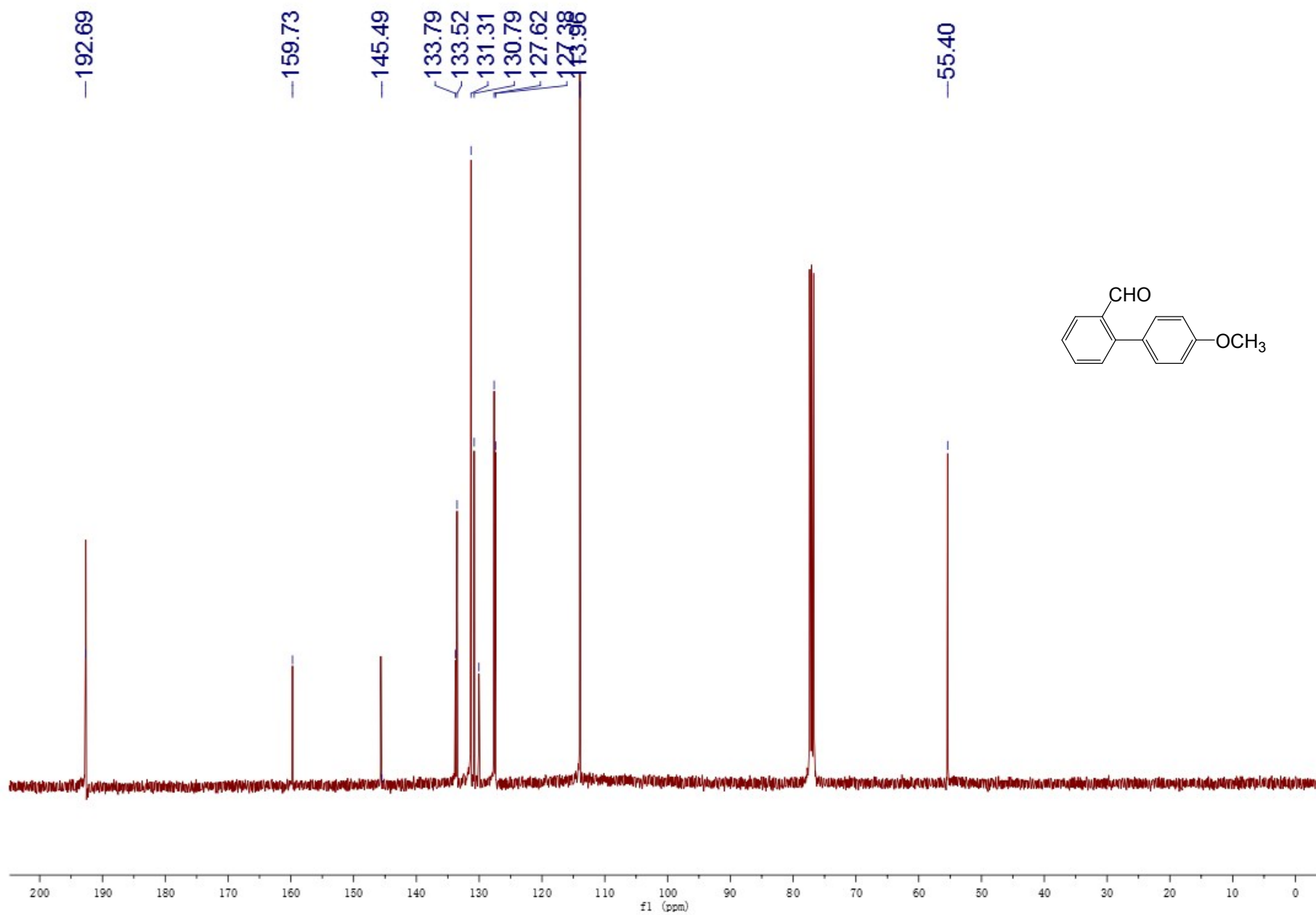


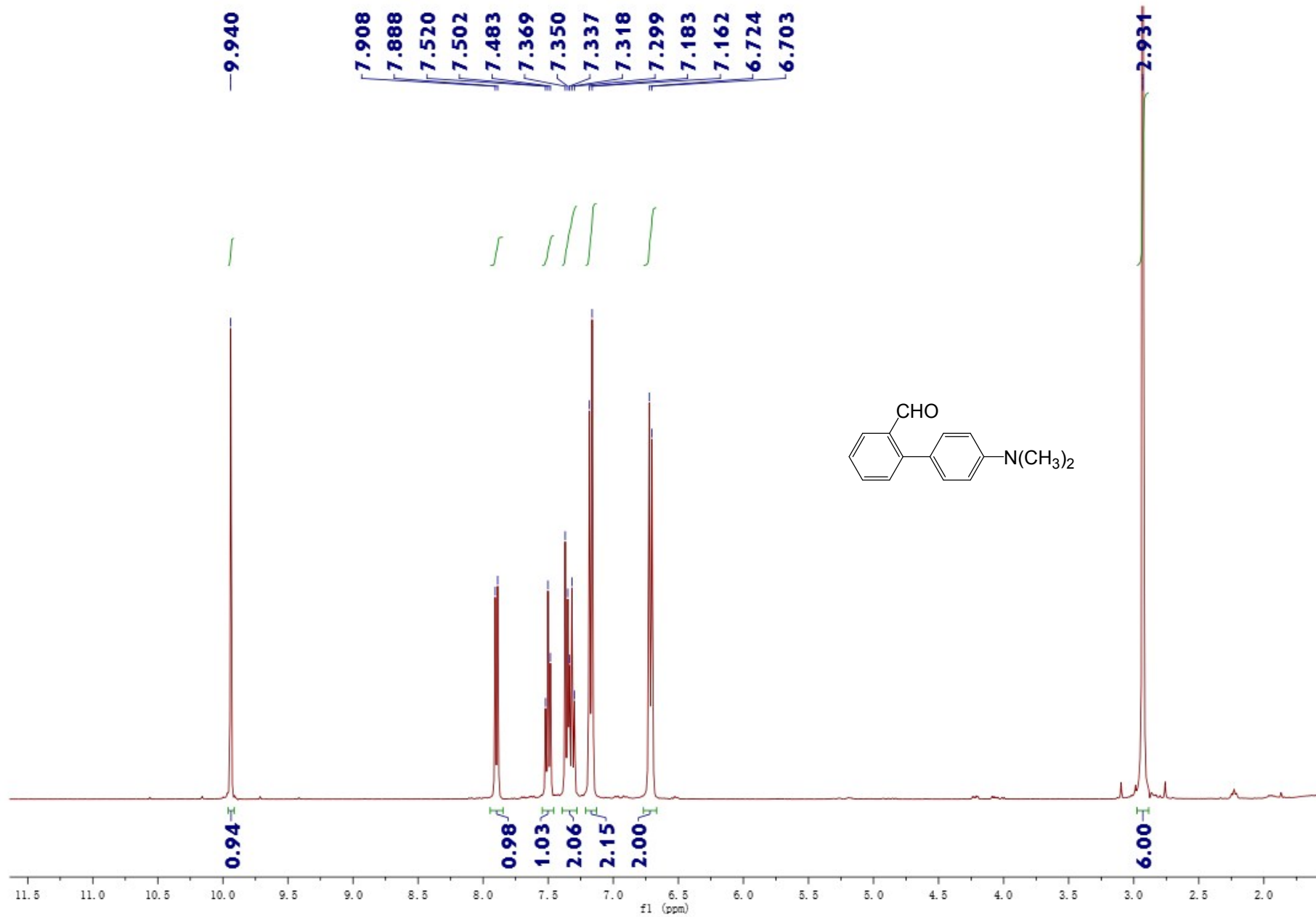
Fig. S24 Geometries of **V**₂ (A) and **V**₃ (B) in crystalline phase by X-ray crystallography (red) and in gas phase by Gaussian 09w calculations based on B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) basis (green)

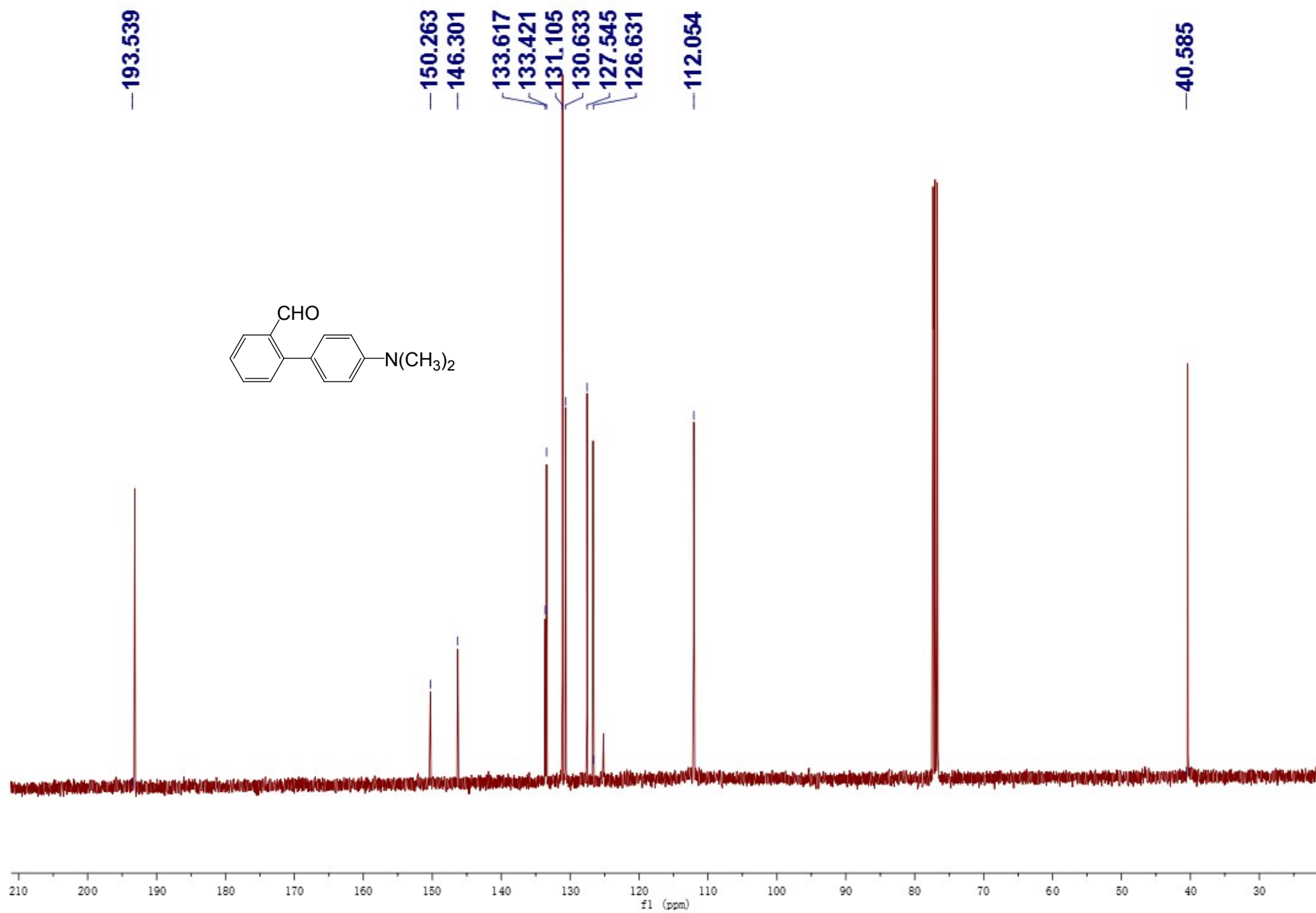
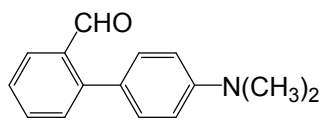
Table S1 Emission wavelengths of **V**₁-**V**₄ and **X**₁-**X**₂ in different solvents

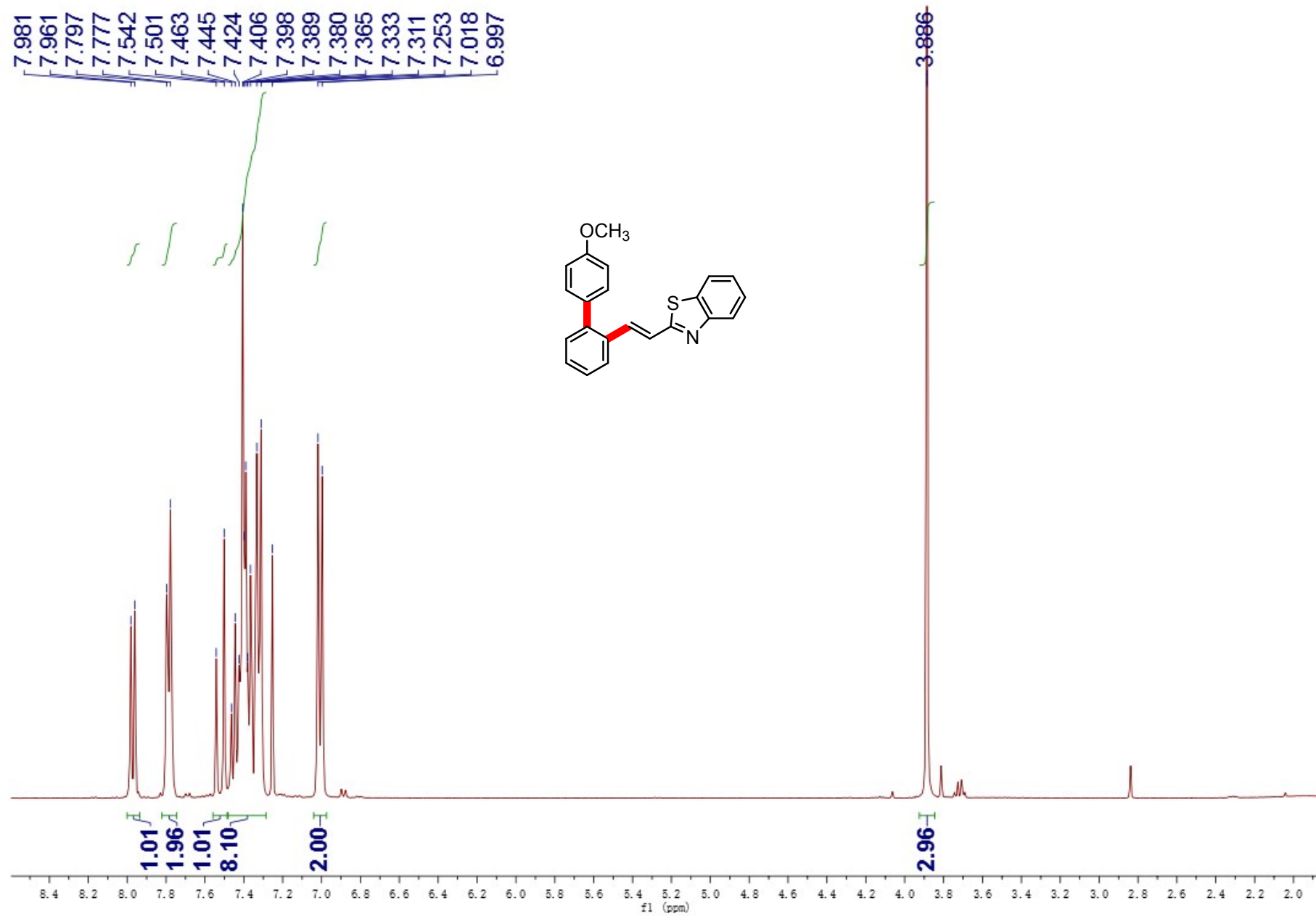
Compound	<i>n</i> -hexane	benzene	dichloromethane	acetone	ethanol
V ₁	410	425	434	439	446
V ₂	444	483	529	569	570
V ₃	460	513	550	568	588
V ₄	395	410	427	432	439
X ₁	442, 464	450, 473	452, 474	446, 468	455, 477
X ₂	511	525	560	585	597

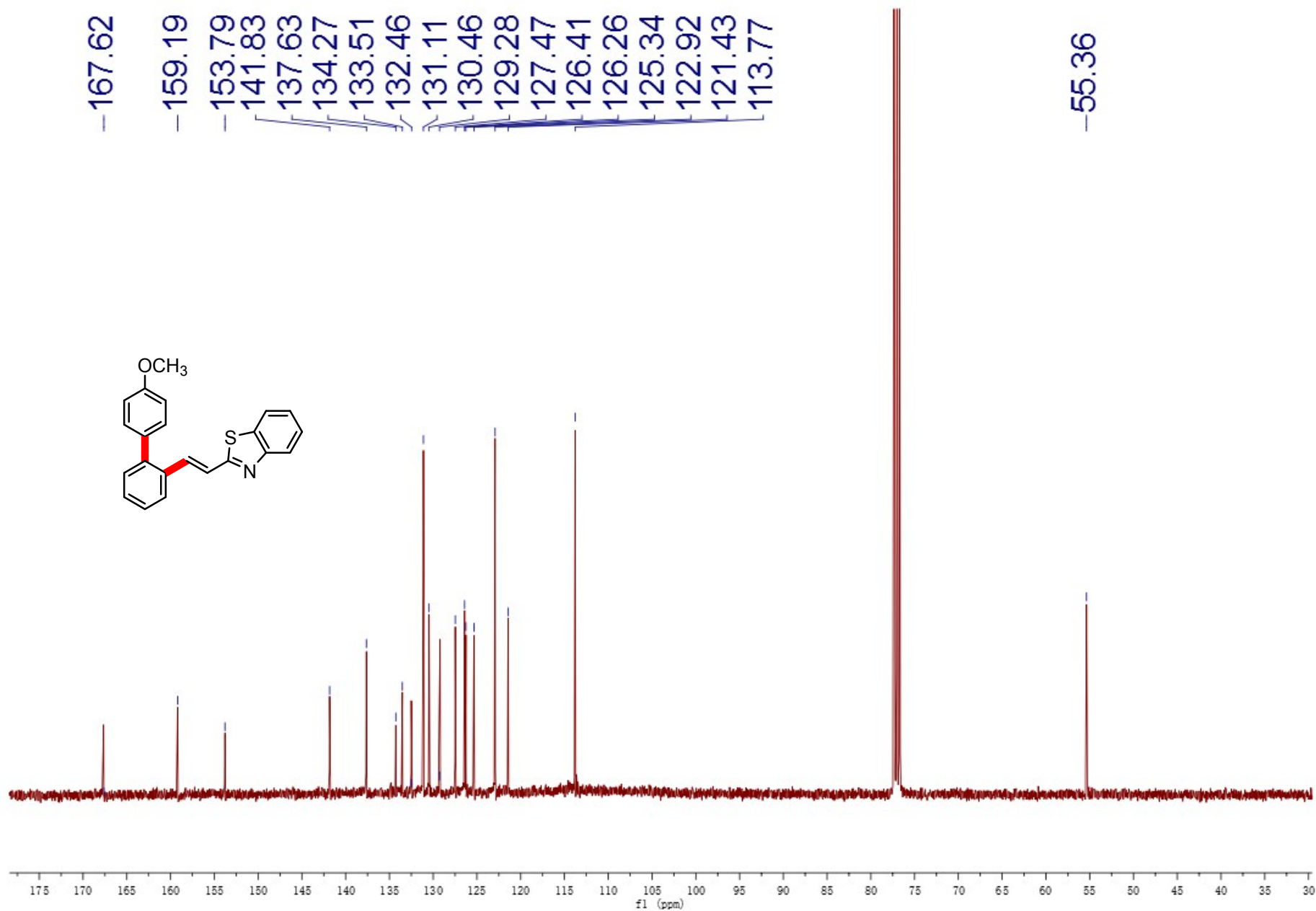
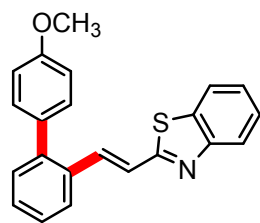


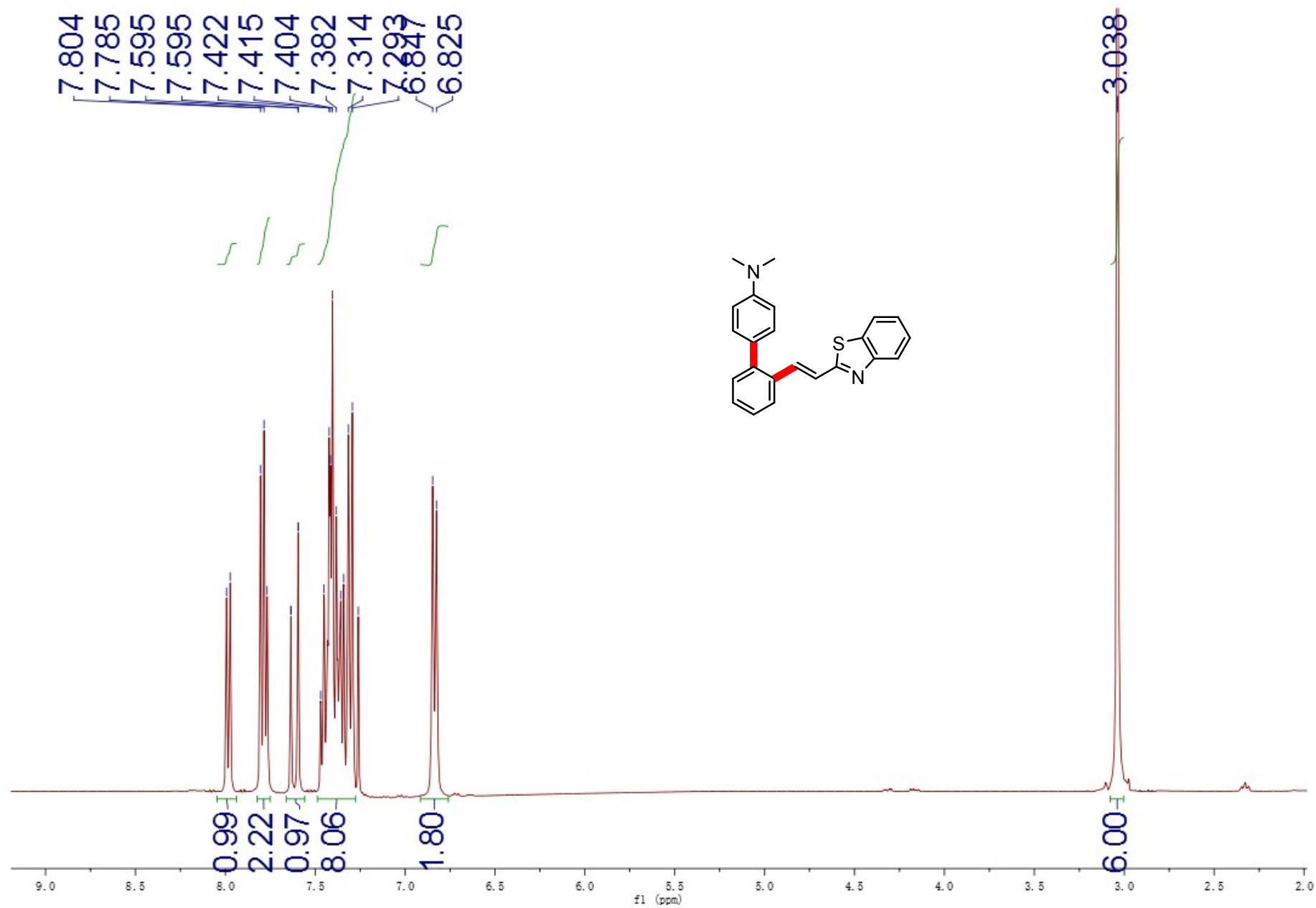


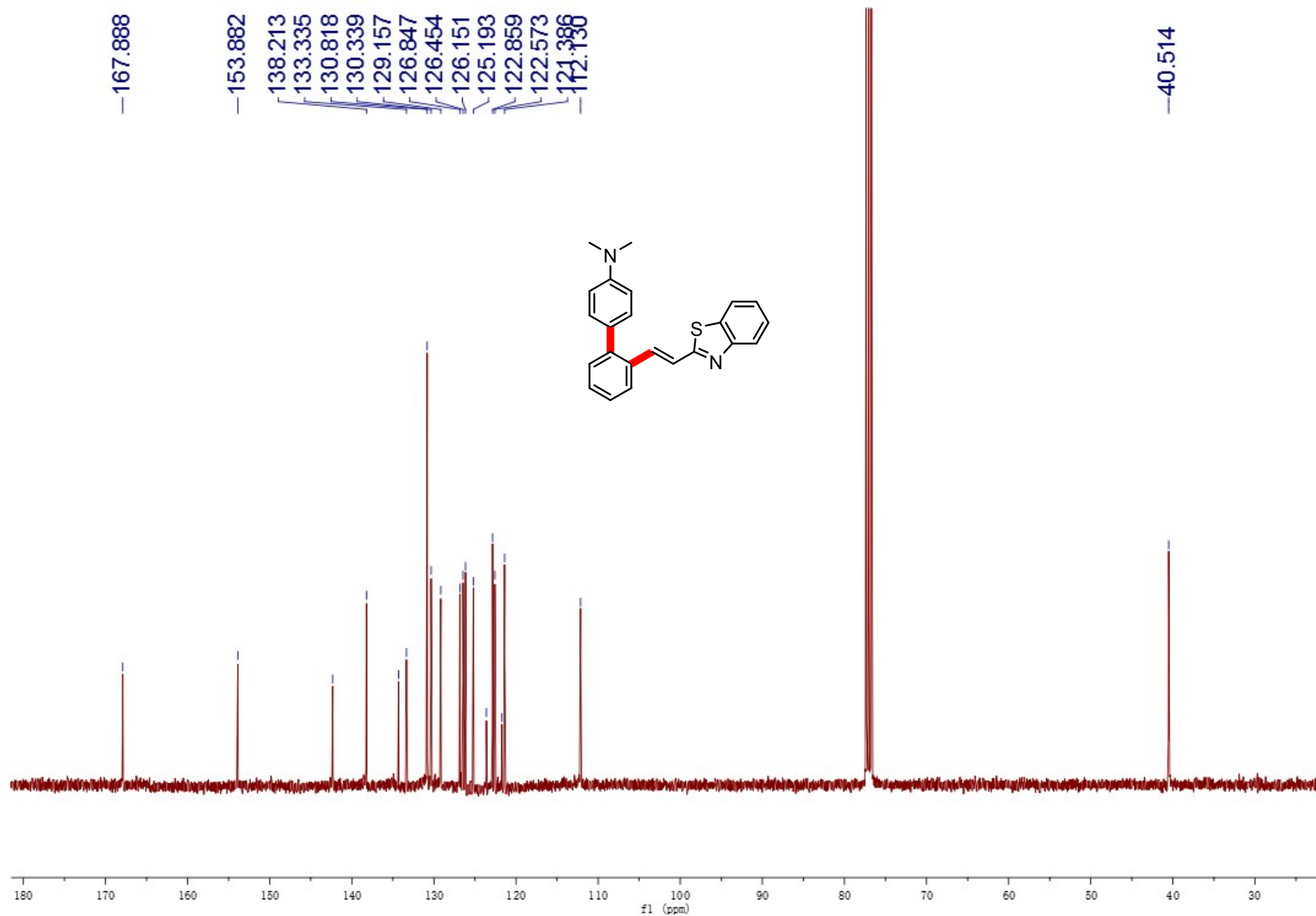




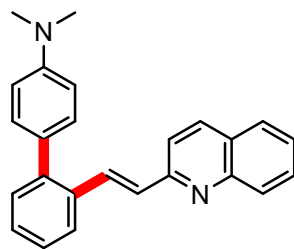








8.062
8.040
8.018
7.879
7.867
7.750
7.730
7.704
7.676
7.662
7.585
7.563
7.483
7.465
7.445
7.433
7.391
7.371
7.355
7.334
7.314
7.245
6.826
6.806



3.018

5.98

2.02

1.04

3.06

1.06

7.08

2.00

9.0

8.5

f1 (ppm)

7.0

6.5

6.0

5.5

5.0

4.5

4.0

3.5

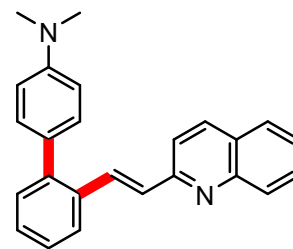
3.0

2.5

2.0

155.717
148.683
147.069
141.012
135.177
133.570
133.428
129.812
129.250
128.616
128.042
127.513
127.437
126.398
126.144
125.810
125.431
125.044
117.424
111.083

—39.569



170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20
f1 (ppm)

