

# Analysis of Polyarylene Ether Anion Exchange Membrane Degradation Mechanism for Alkaline Fuel Cell and Water-Splitting Cell Application

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## Contents

Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of synthetic intermediates of **M2** and **M3**.

Figure S2. <sup>19</sup>F-NMR spectra of synthetic intermediates of **M3**.

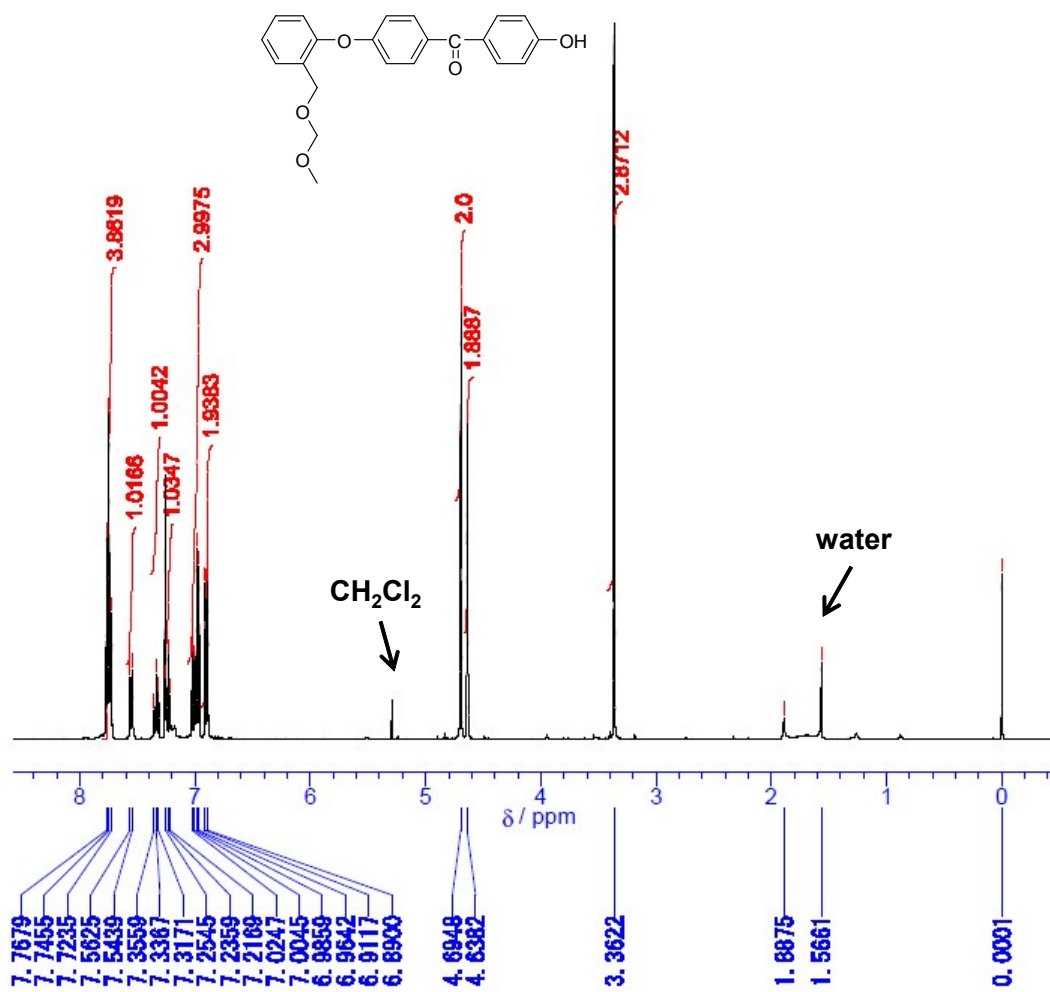
Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of **L1–L4**.

Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of **M3** before and after 30-, 48-, and 168-h degradation in aqueous 8-M NaOH.

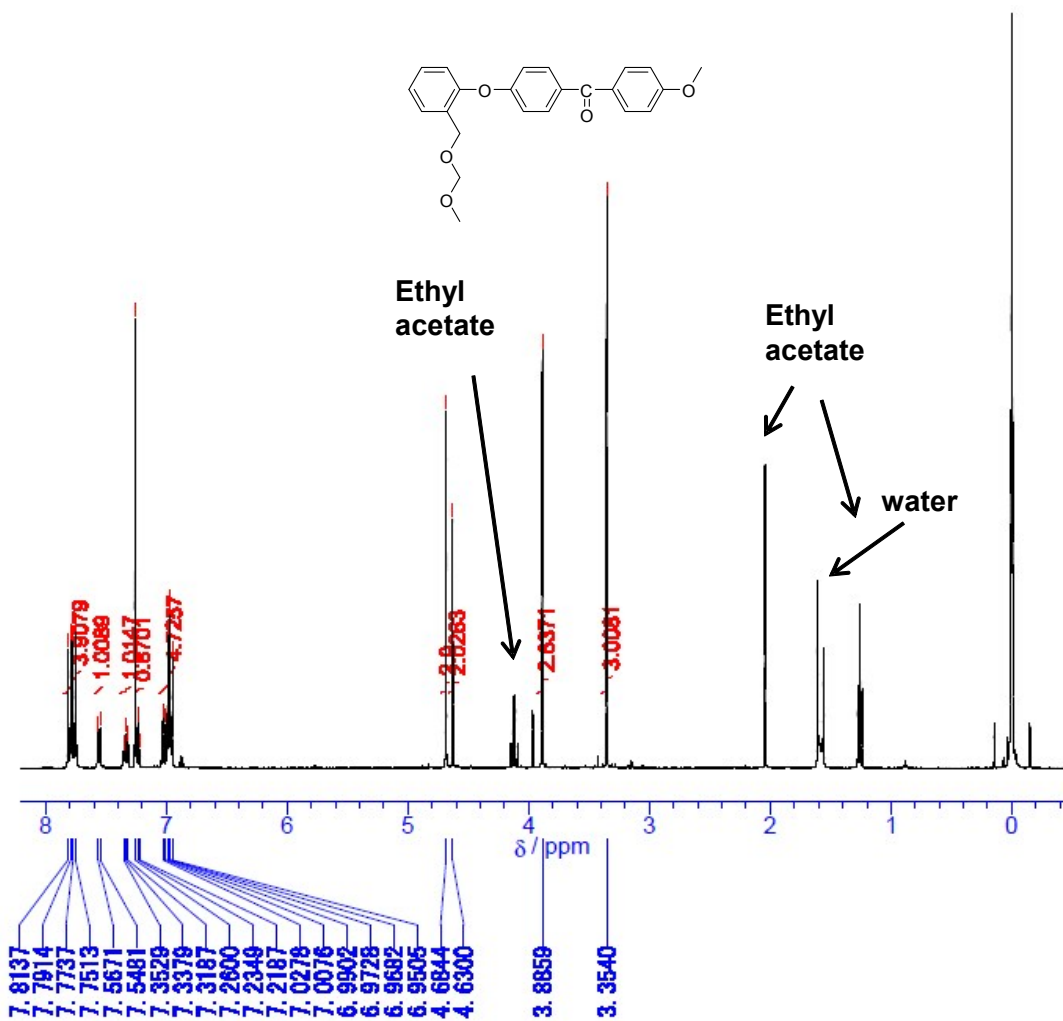
Figure S5. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectral change of **L1–L4** in 2-M CH<sub>3</sub>OD/NaOD (CD<sub>3</sub>OD:D<sub>2</sub>O=4:1).

Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of synthetic intermediates of M2 and M3.

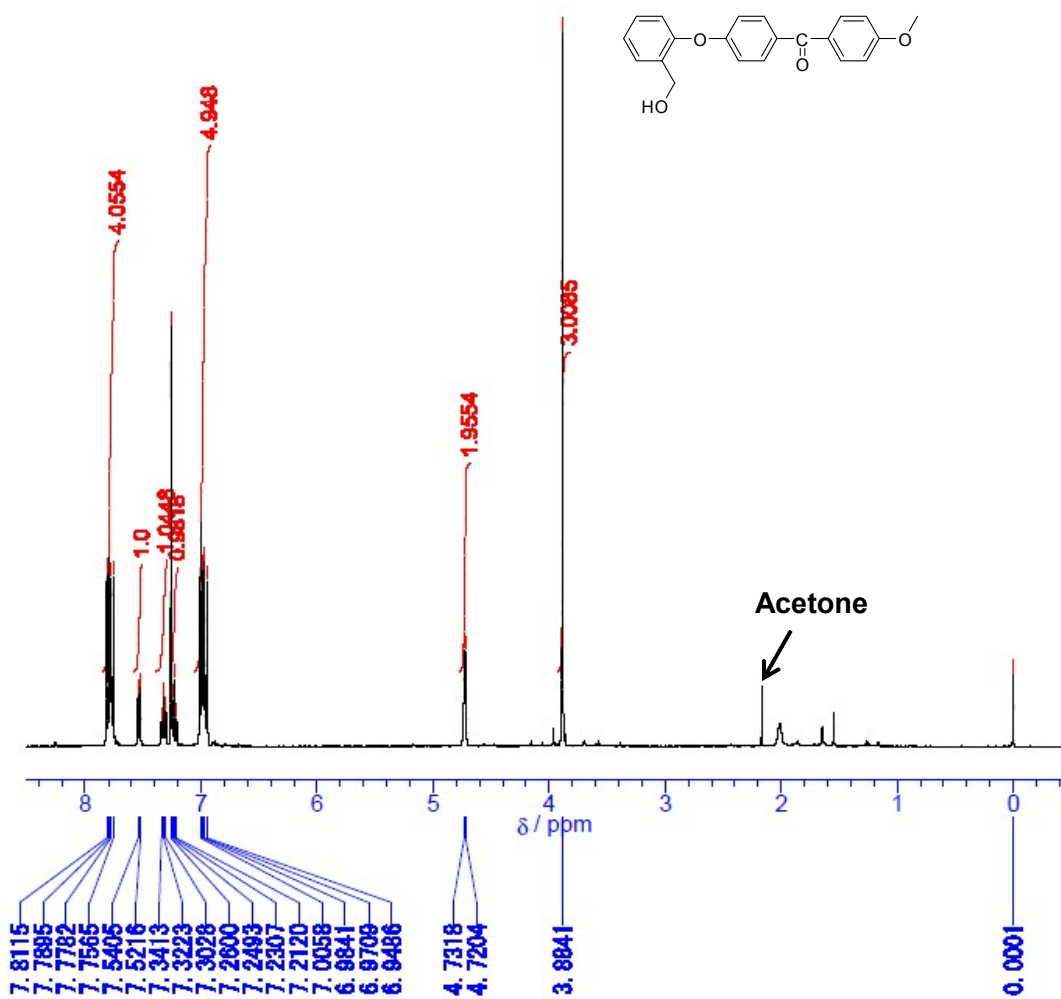
(a) 2



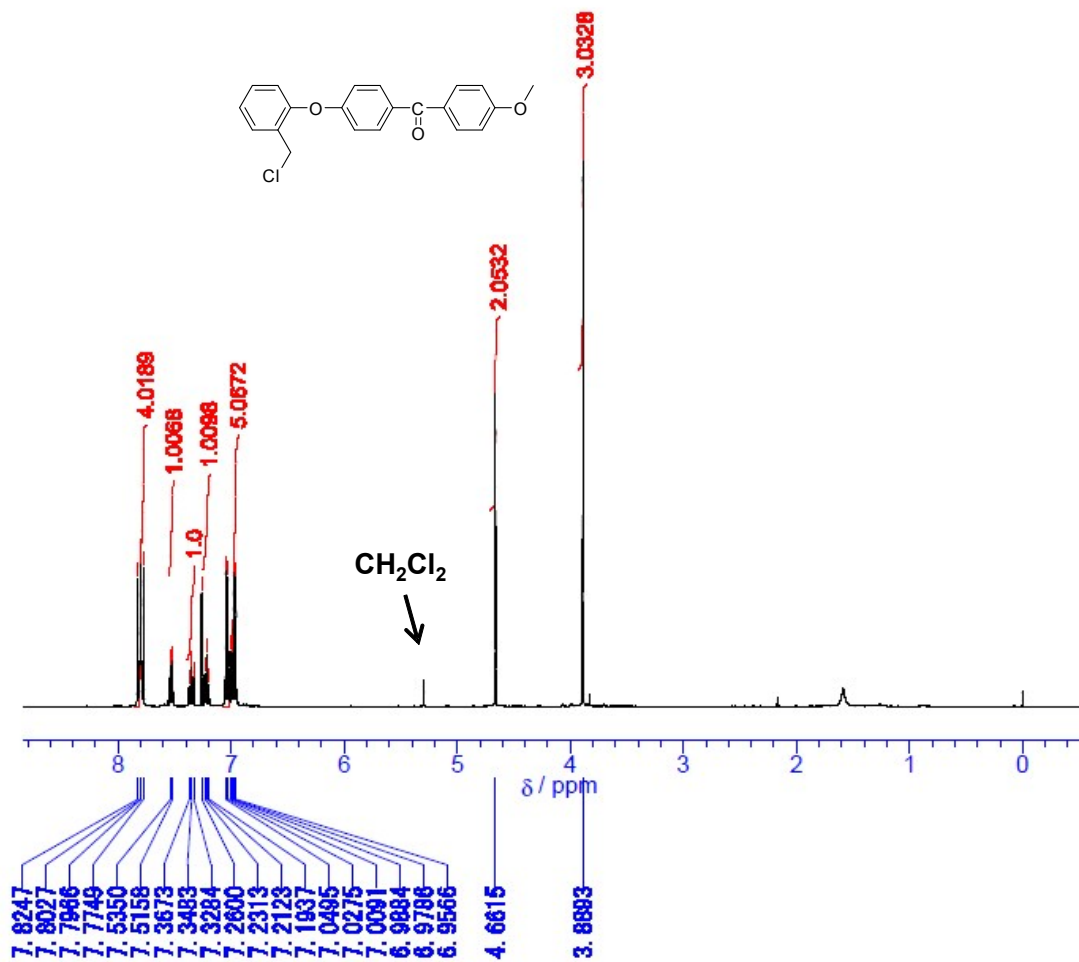
(b) 3



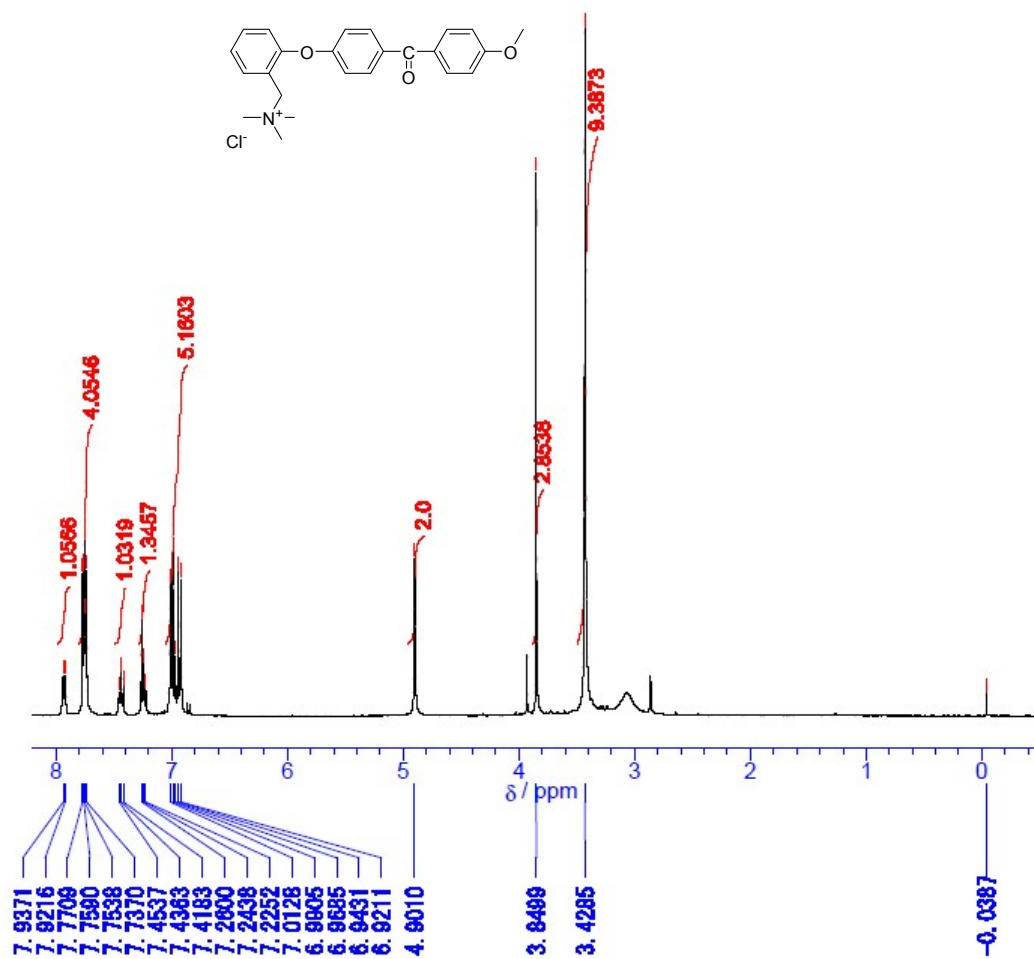
(c) 4



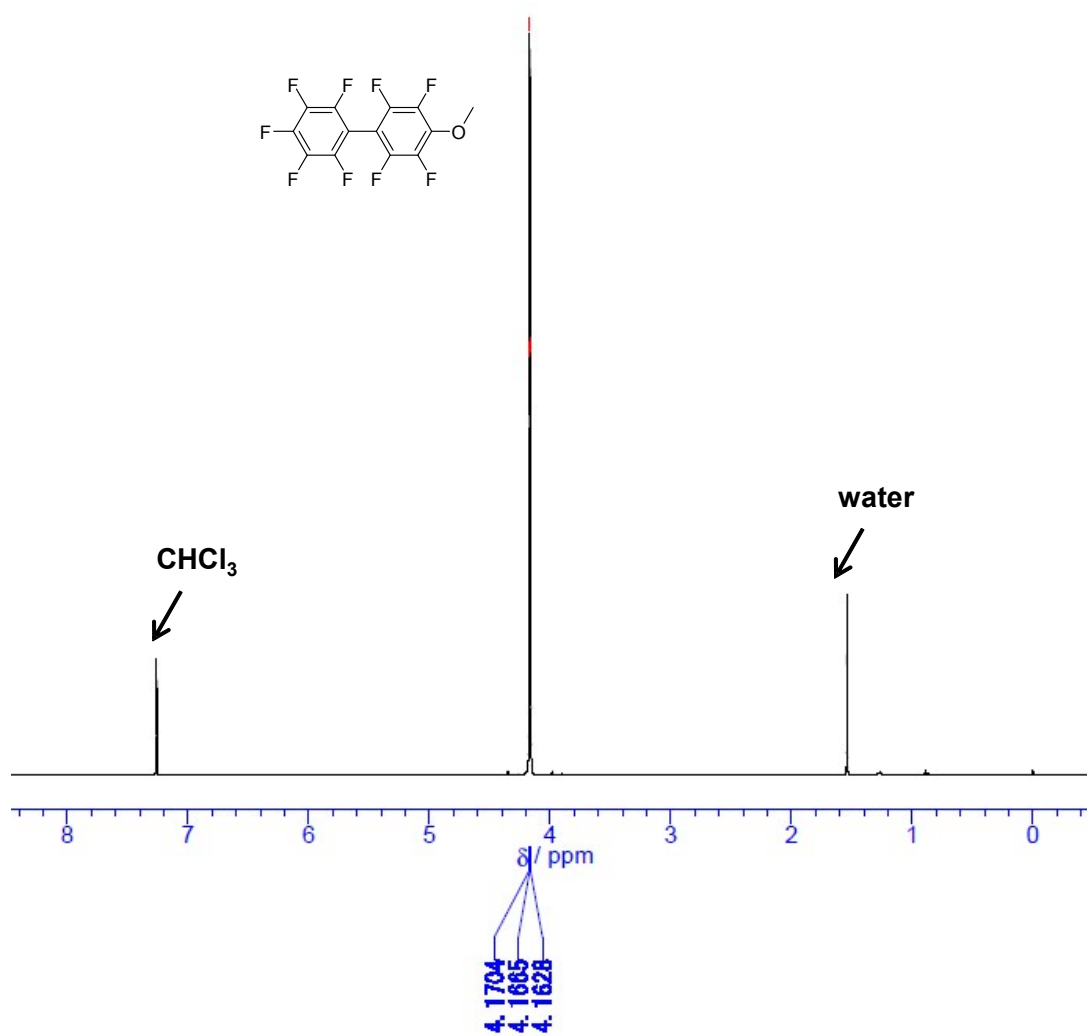
(d) 5



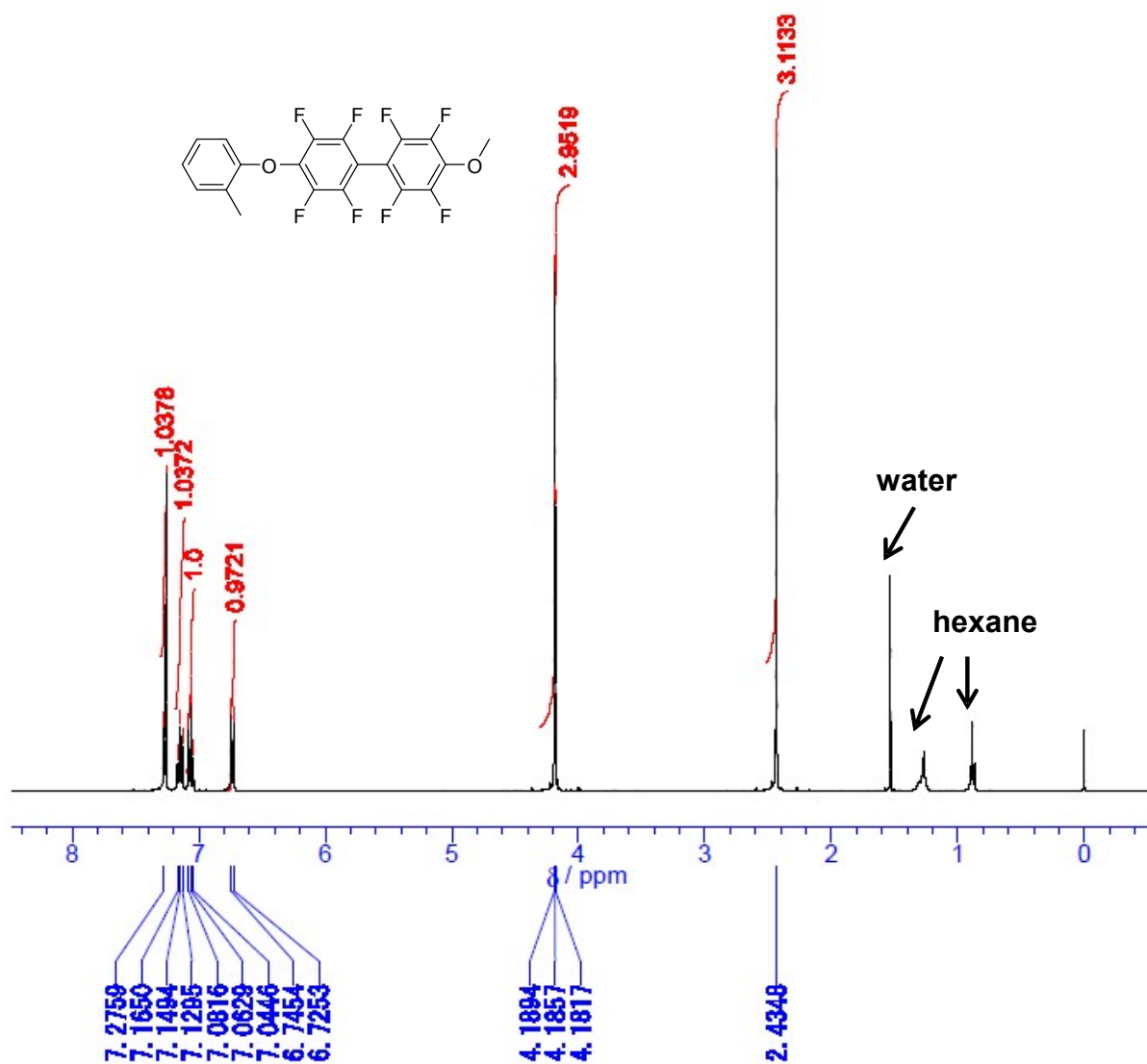
(e) M2



(f) 7

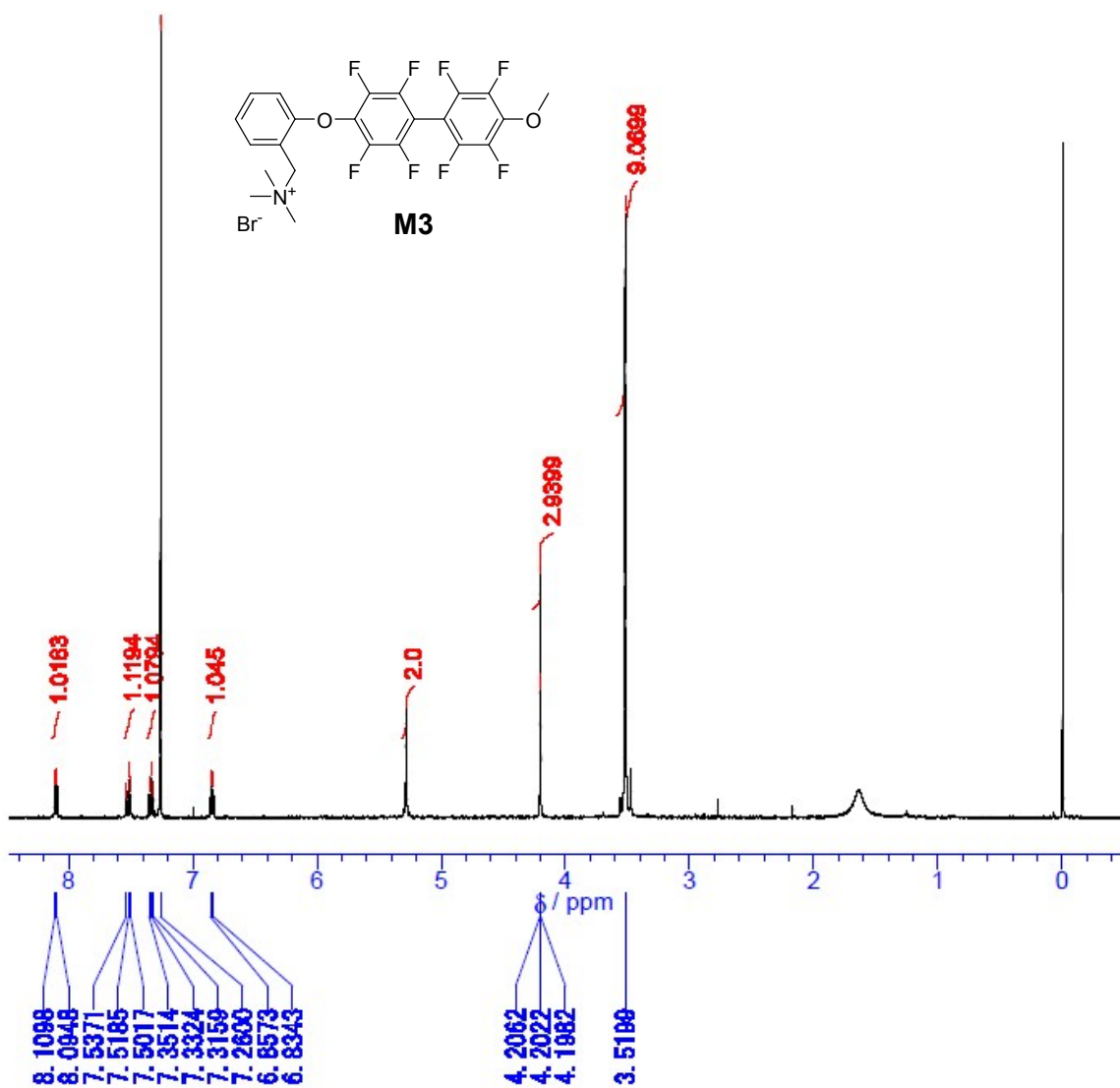


(g) 8



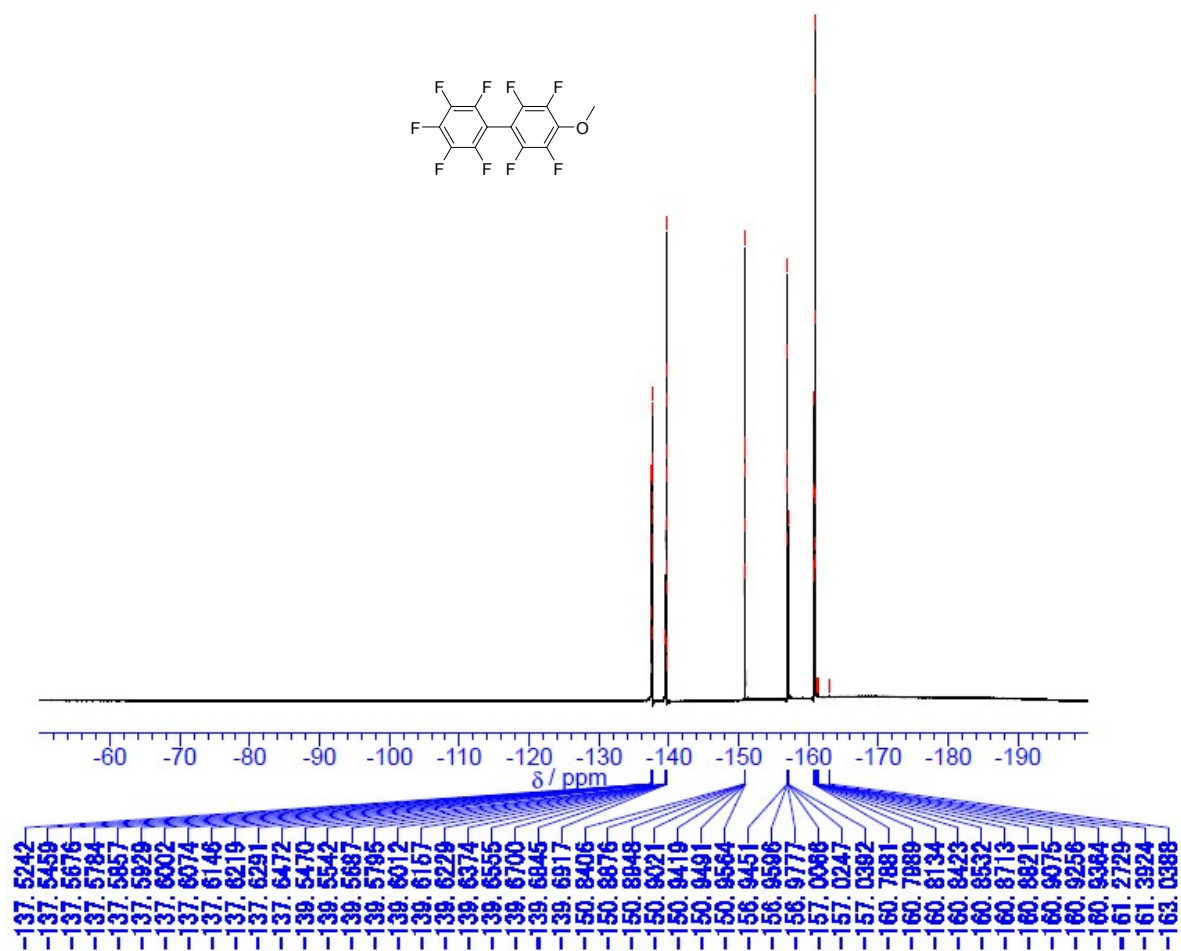


(h) M3

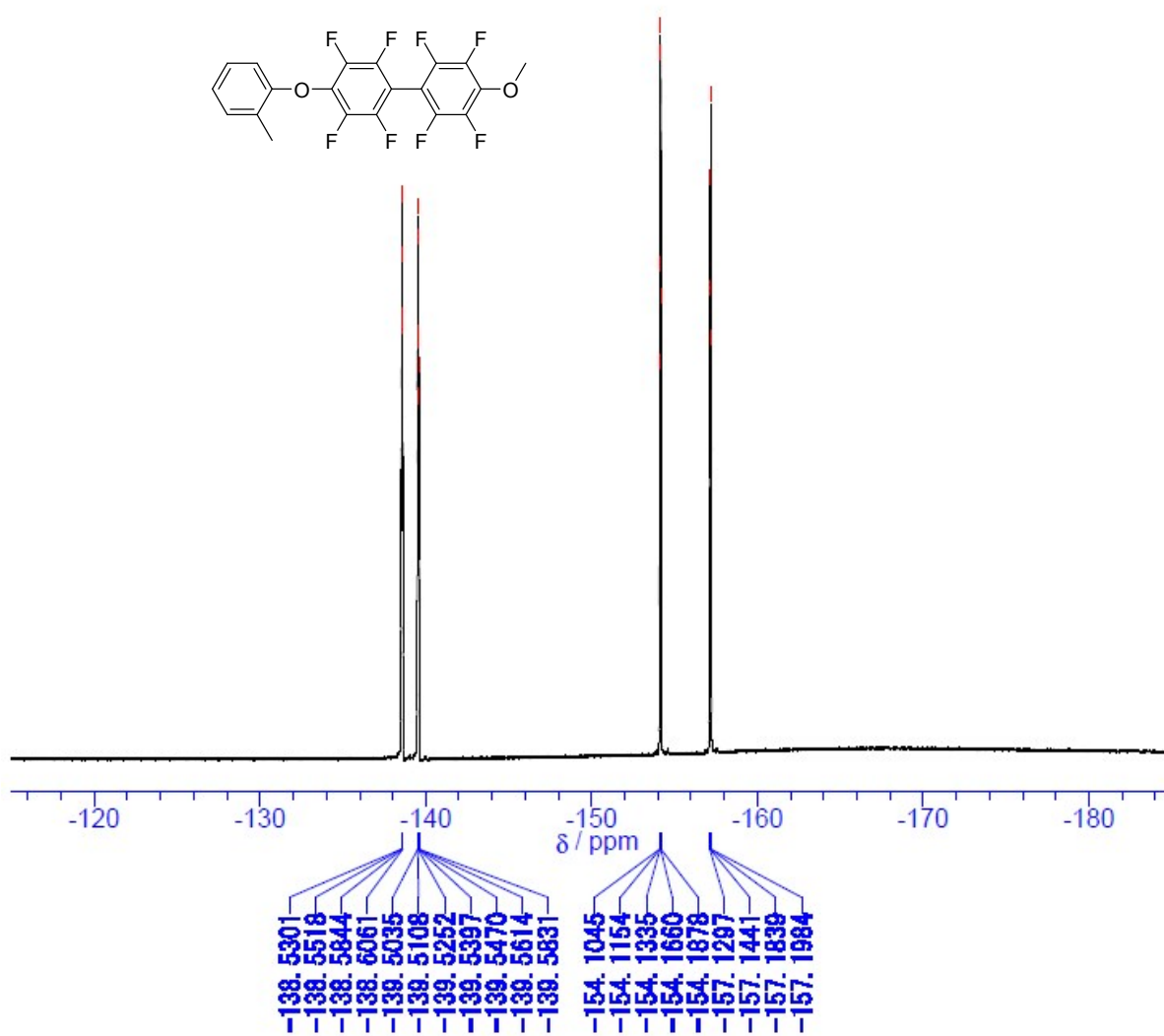


**Figure S2.**  $^{19}\text{F}$ -NMR spectra of synthetic intermediates of **M3**.

(a) 7



(b) 8



(c) M3

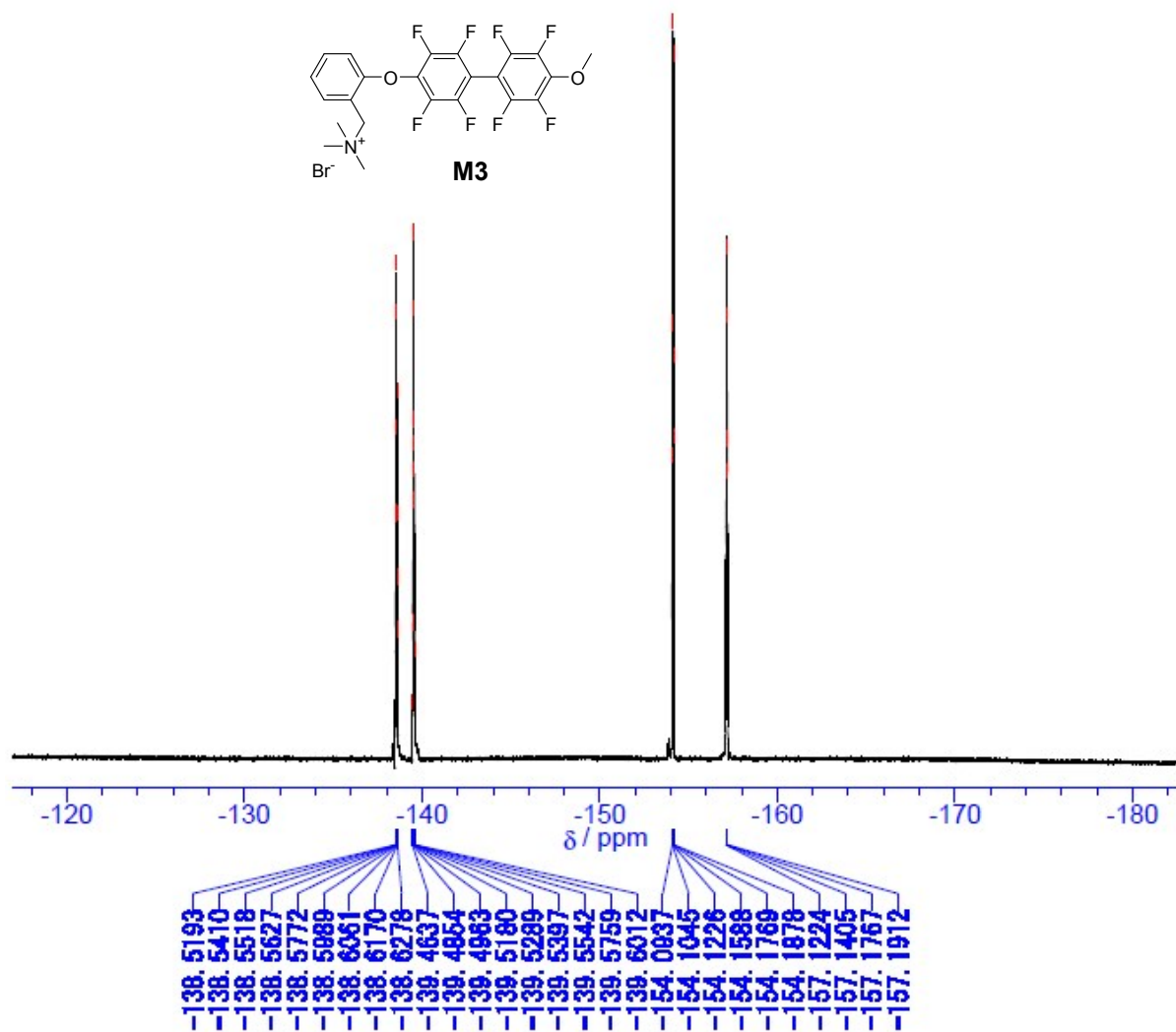
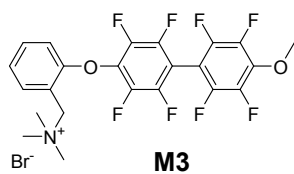
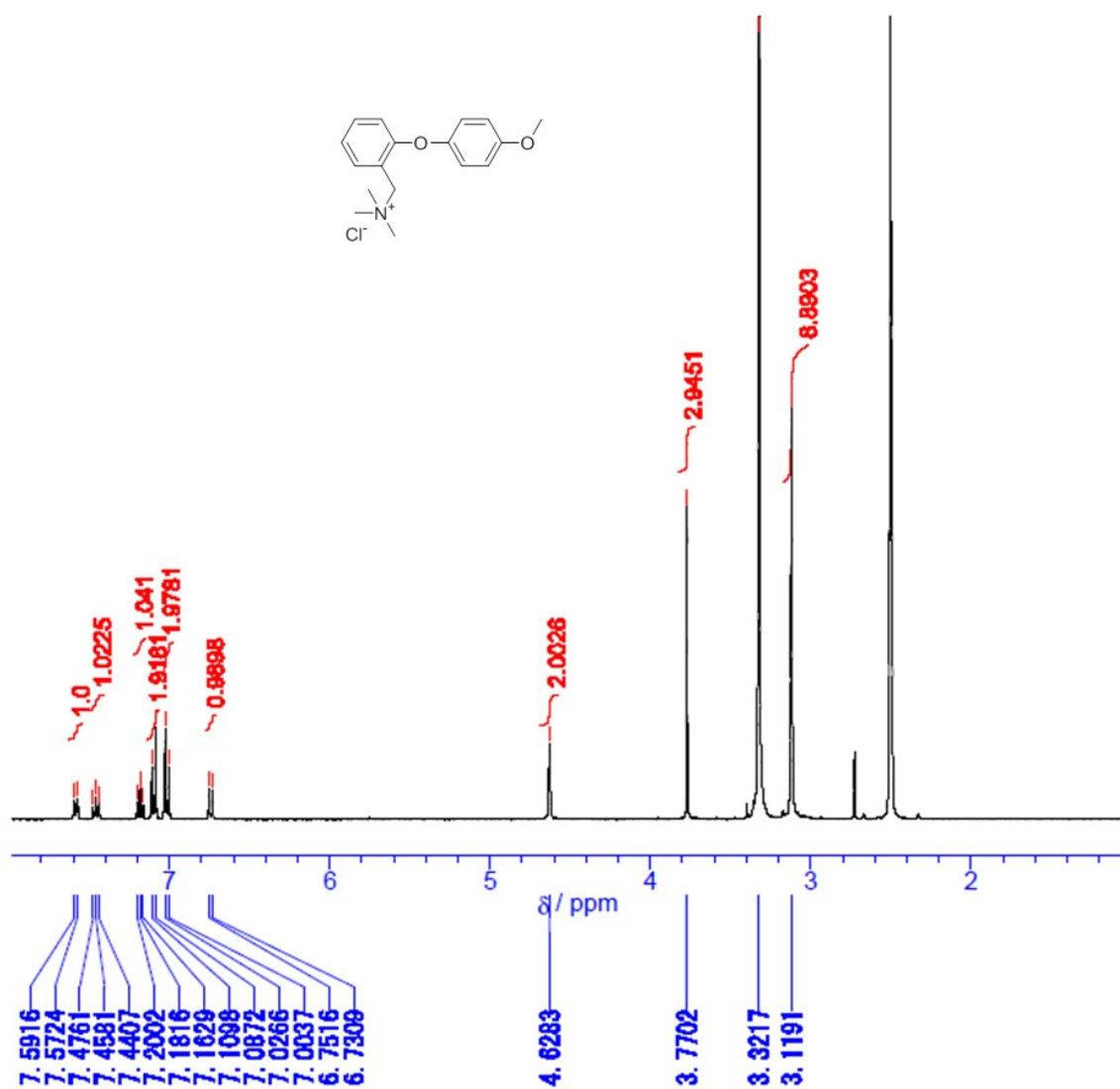
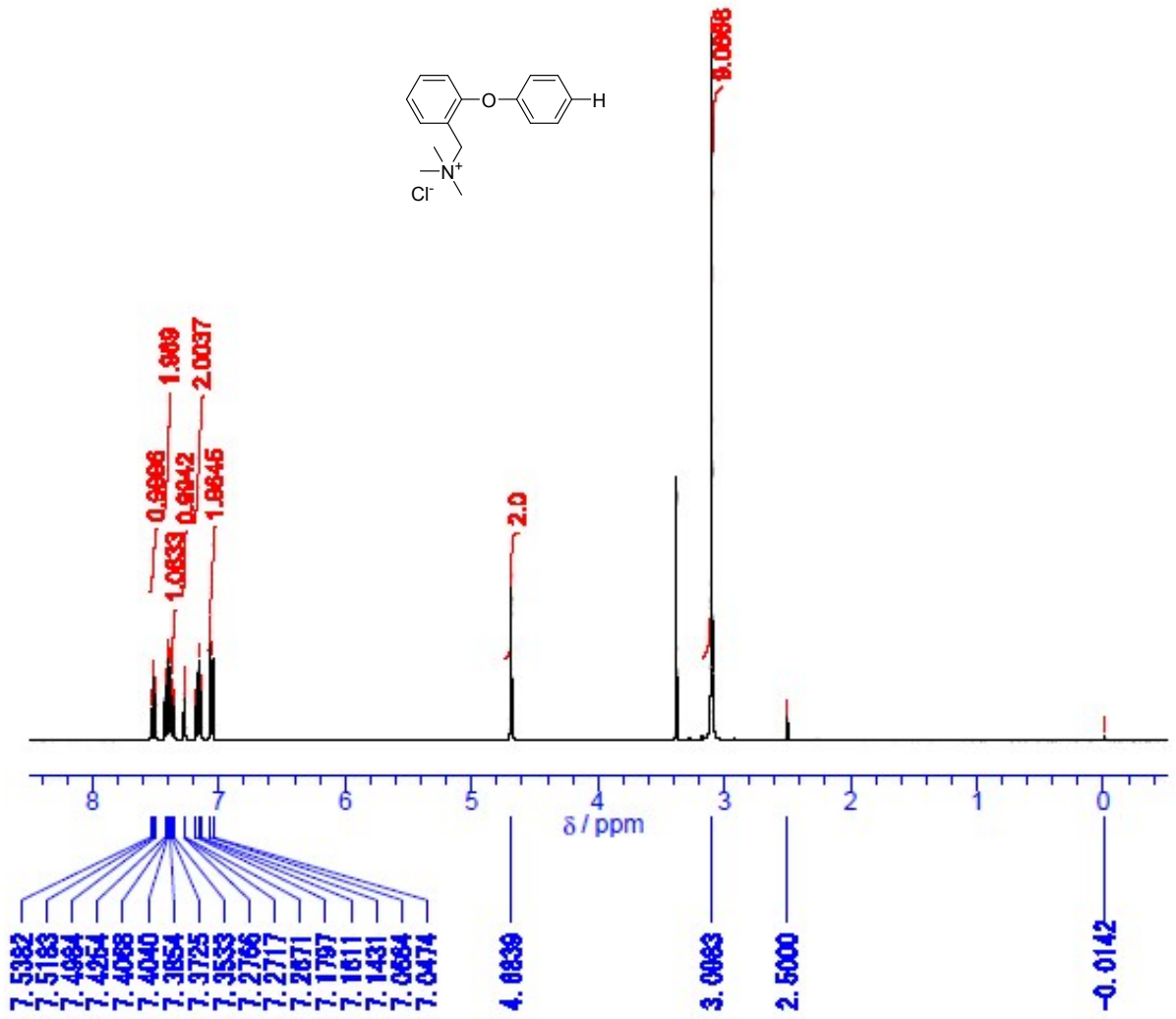
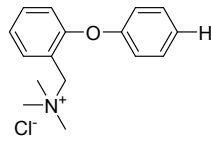


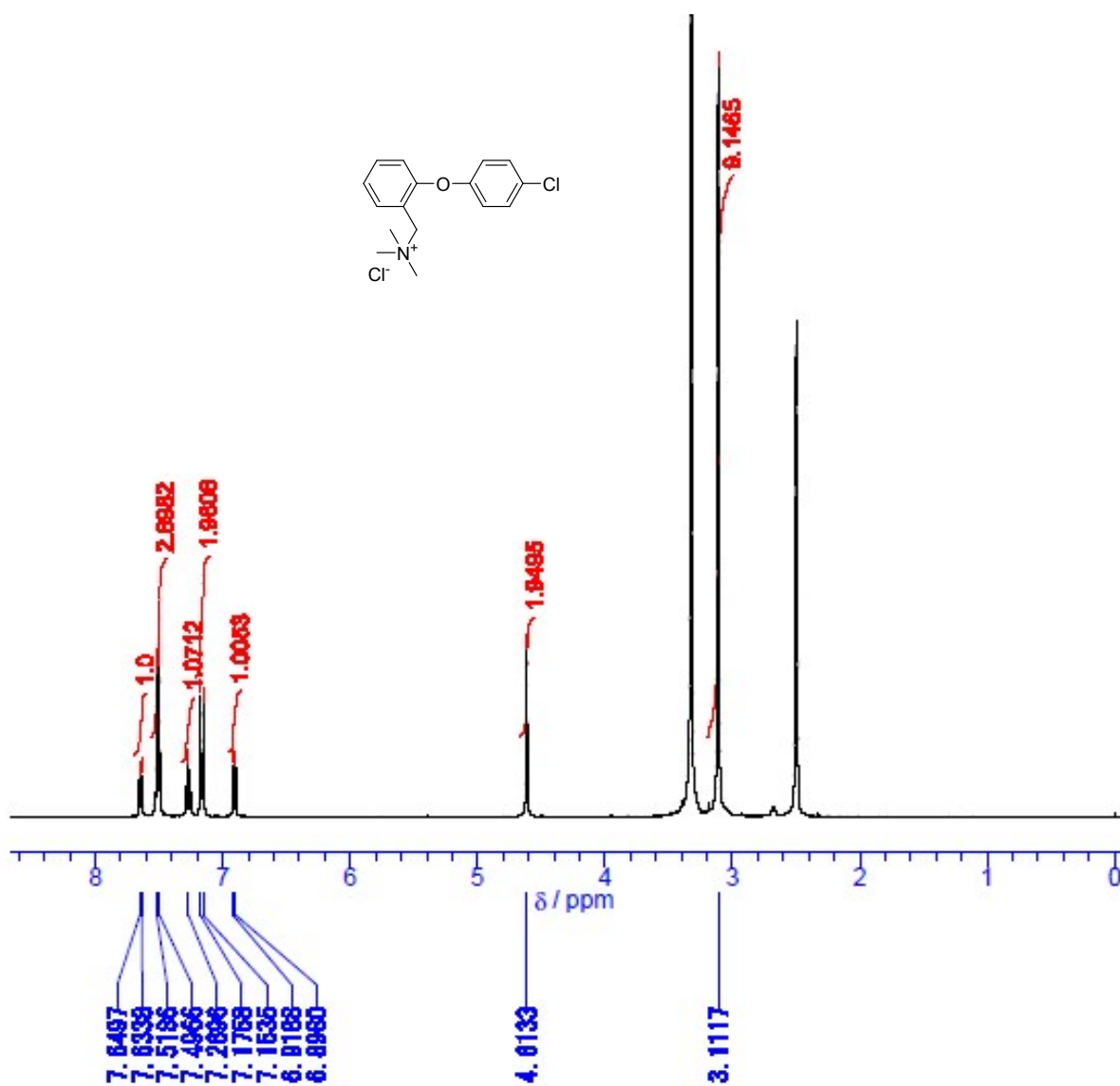
Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of L1–L4 in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



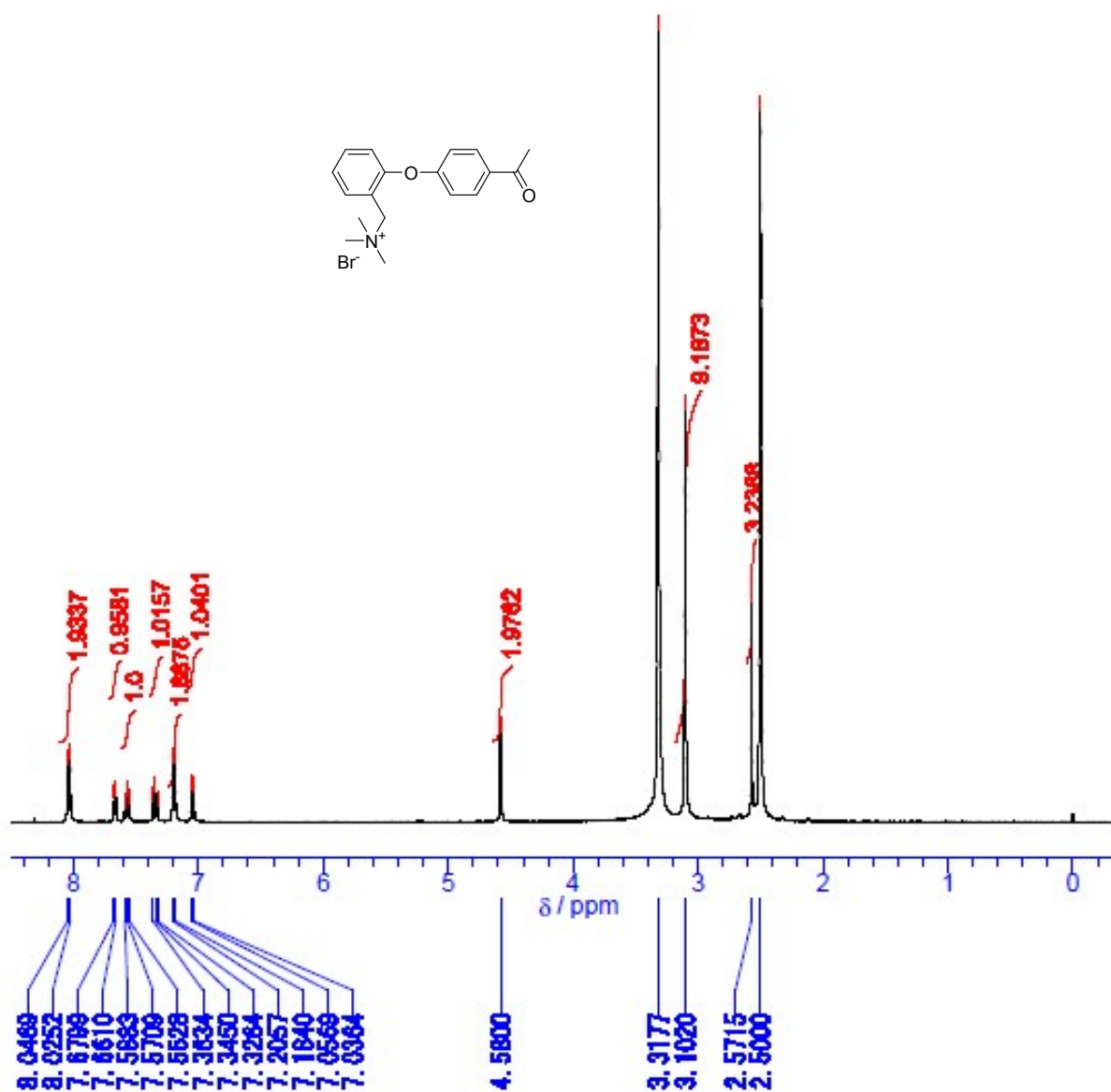
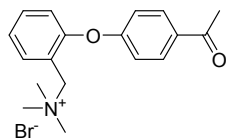
L1: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.58 (d, 1H), δ 7.46 (t, 1H), δ 7.18 (t, 1H), δ 7.09 (d, 2H), δ 7.01 (d, 2H), δ 6.74 (d, 1H), δ 4.63 (s, 2H), δ 3.77 (s, 3H), δ 3.12 (s, 9H).



L2: $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ):  $\delta$  7.52 (t, 1H),  $\delta$  7.50-7.35 (m, 3H),  $\delta$  7.27 (s, 1H),  $\delta$  7.18-7.14



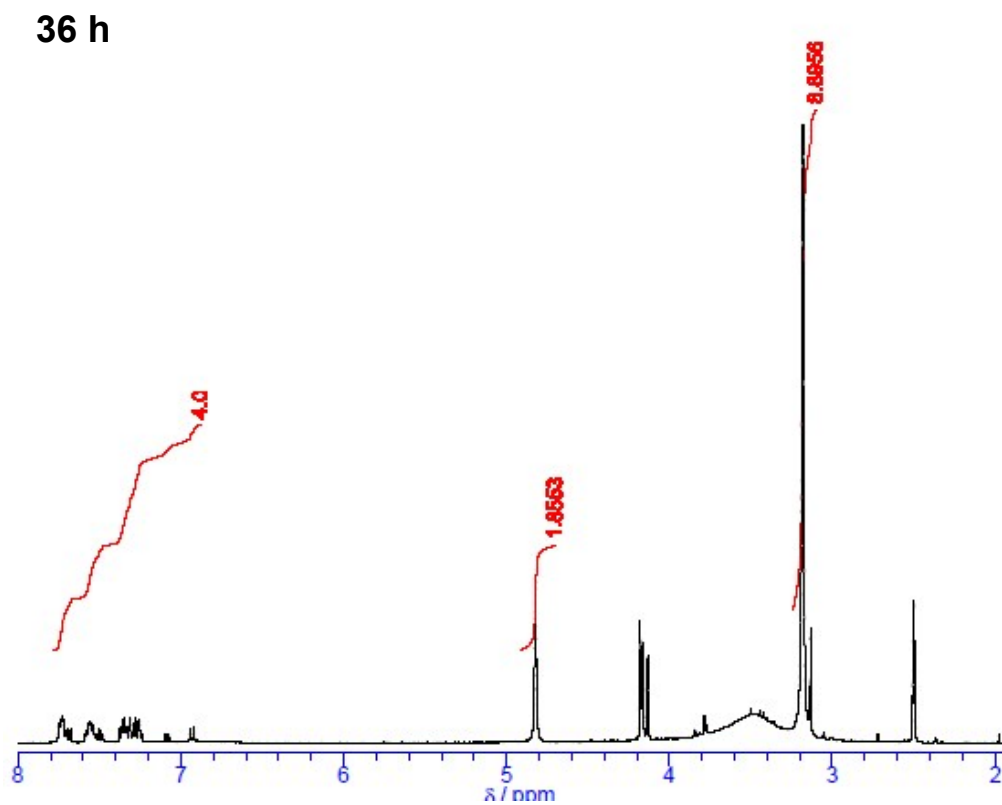
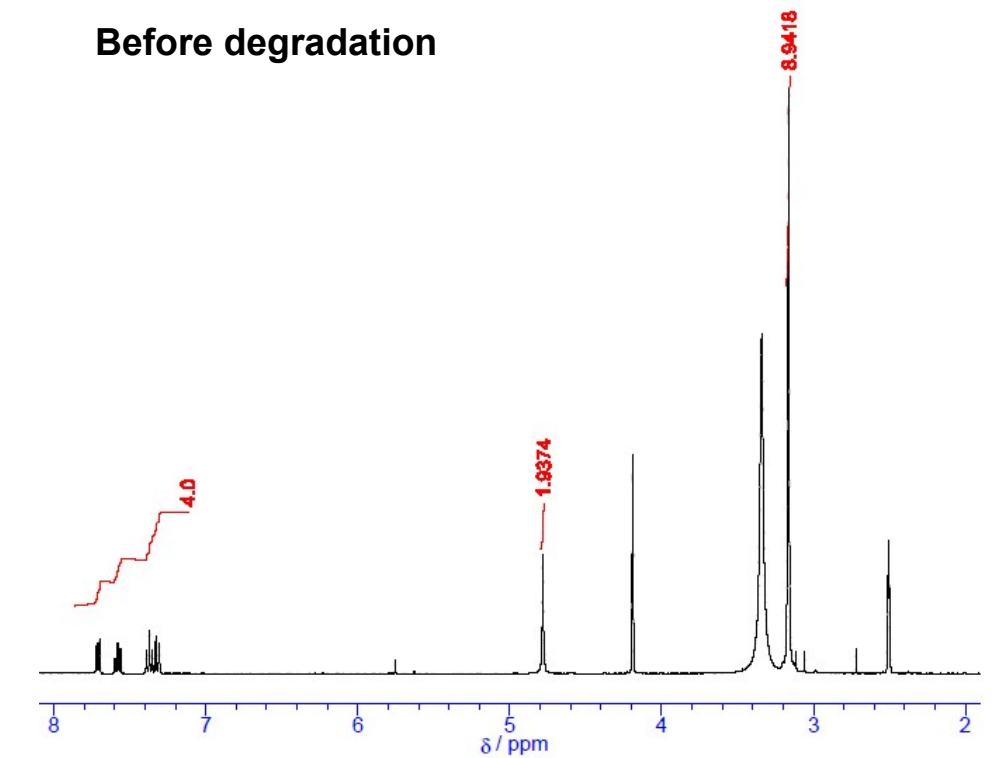
L3: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.64 (d, 1H), δ 7.51 (t, 1H), δ 7.50 (d, 2H), δ 7.27 (t, 1H), δ 7.16 (d, 2H), δ 6.90 (d, 1H), δ 4.61 (s, 2H), δ 3.11 (s, 9H).



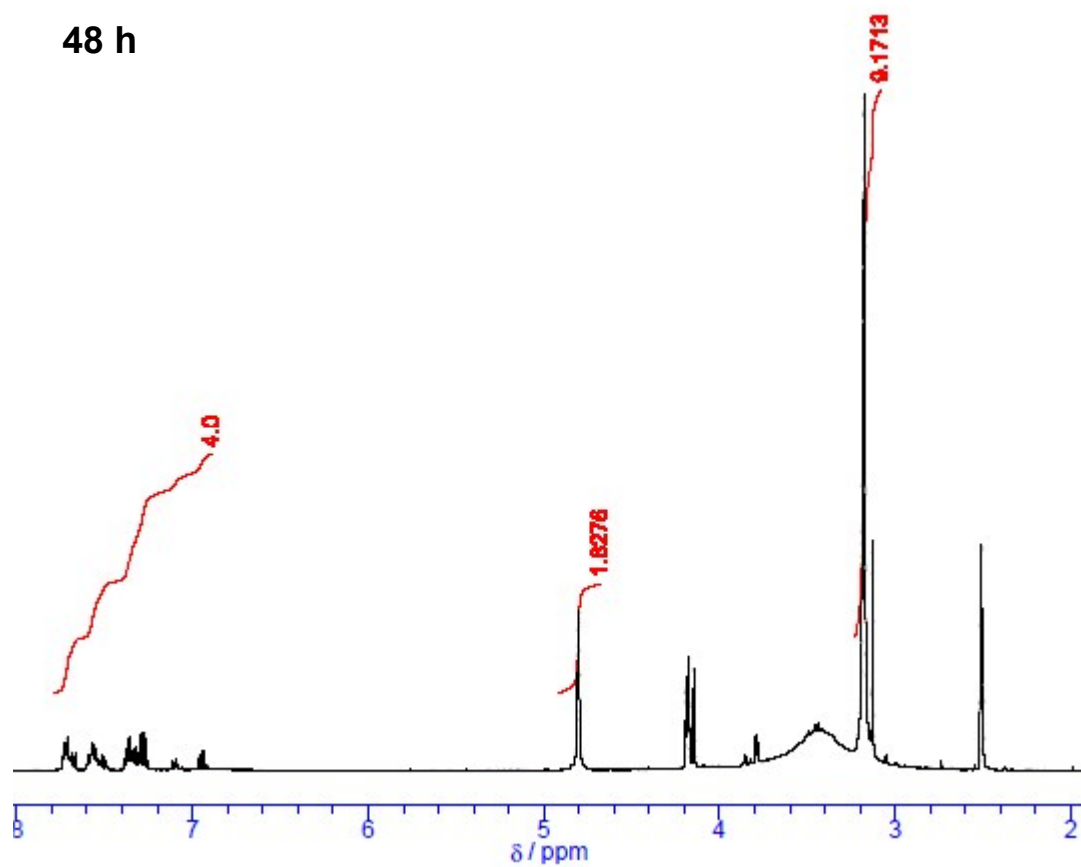
L4:  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ):  $\delta$  8.03 (d, 2H),  $\delta$  7.87 (d, 1H),  $\delta$  7.57 (t, 1H),  $\delta$  7.35 (t, 1H),  $\delta$  7.19 (d, 2H),  $\delta$  7.04 (d, 1H),  $\delta$  4.58 (s, 2H),  $\delta$  3.10 (s, 3H),  $\delta$  2.57 (s, 3H).



**Figure S4.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectral change of **M3** before and after 30-, 48-, and 168-h degradation in aqueous 8-M NaOH. The integration ratio between aromatic protons (6.8–7.8 ppm), benzyl protons (4.81 ppm), and trimethylammonium group (3.16 and 3.14 ppm) does not change significantly.



48 h



168 h

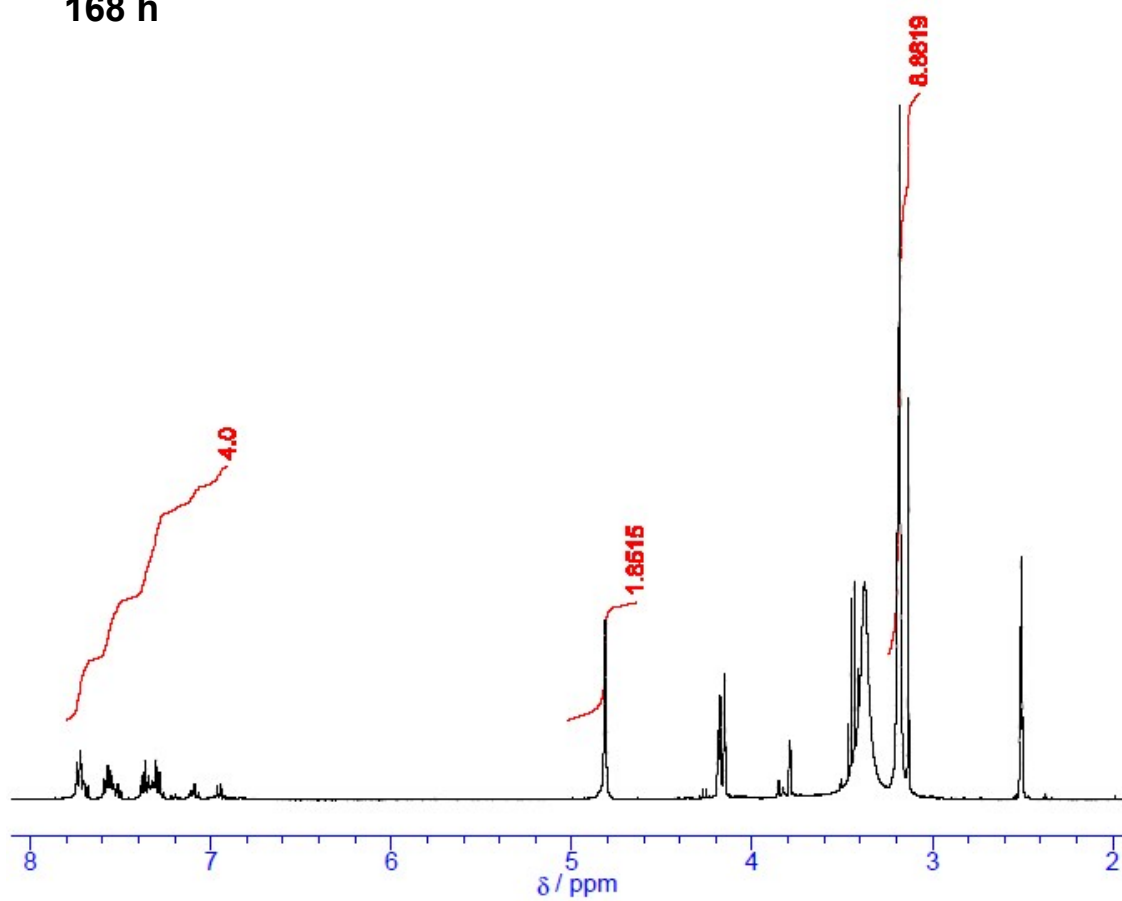


Figure S5.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectral change of (a) **L1** (b) **L2** (c) **L3** and (d) **L4** in 2-M  $\text{CD}_3\text{ONa/NaOD}$  ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD:D}_2\text{O}=4:1$ ). The peak intensity of these NMR spectra was normalized by **DSS** peak at around 0 ppm. Arrows indicate peaks derived from the decomposed product. The degradation rate was estimated by change of the relative peak intensity derived from aromatic protons of **L1-L4** (6.5-8.2 ppm) because other peak intensity derived from benzyl protons (-4.7 ppm) or trimethyl ammonium (3.2 ppm) protons is not reliable due to D/H exchange.

