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p Supporting Information

**Copper-Catalyzed Oxidative Cross-coupling of  $\alpha$ -Aminocarbonyl Compounds with Aliphatic Primary Amines and Other Amines toward 2-Oxo-E acetamidines**

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## 1. General Information.

Chemicals were either purchased or purified by standard techniques. All reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere unless otherwise noted. Column chromatography separations were performed on silica gel (200–300 mesh).  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Inova-400 spectrometer (400MHz for  $^1\text{H}$ , 100 MHz for  $^{13}\text{C}$ ). NMR chemical shifts were measured relative to the signals of residual  $\text{CHCl}_3$  ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.26 ppm and  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.16 ppm) or  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.50 ppm) and  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  39.520 ppm). LRMS was performed on a GC-MS instrument and HRMS was measured on an electrospray ionization (EI) apparatus using time-of-flight (TOF) mass spectrometry. Melting points are uncorrected.

## 2. Preparation of $\alpha$ -Amino Carbonyl Compounds<sup>[1-2]</sup>

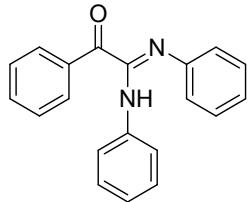
The synthesis of  $\alpha$ -amino carbonyl compounds is carried out in two steps. The first step, synthesis of  $\alpha$ -bromoacetophenone: to a solution of the acetophenone (15.0 mmol, 1 equiv) in 8 mL of acetonitrile were added NBS (2.72 g, 15.3 mmol, 1.02 equiv) and p-toluenesulfonic acid (2.85 g, 15.0 mmol, 1 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 50 °C. After that time, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. A water solution of saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (30 mL) was then added, and the solution was extracted with dichloromethane ( $3 \times 30$  mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvent was evaporated, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 25:1, V/V) to afford the desired product in 82% yield as a white solid. After that, the next step is that a solution of  $\alpha$ -bromoacetophenone (5 mmol) with aniline (5 mmol) and  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (5 mmol) in EtOH (20mL) was stirred at room temperature for 12 h and the crude products could be obtained as yellow precipitates, which was recrystallized by EtOH and the yellow solid **1a** was isolated in 81% yield.

## 3. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Product **3aa**

To a flame-dried Round-bottomed flask with a magnetic stirring bar were charged **1a** (63.3 mg, 0.3 mmol), aniline **2a** (55.8 mg, 0.6 mmol),  $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (6 mg, 0.03 mmol), TBHP (38.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) in DCE (2 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C until complete consumption of the starting material as detected by TLC or GC-MS analysis. After the reaction was finished, the reaction mixture was washed with brine. The aqueous phase was re-extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated in vacuum, and the resulting residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8:1, V/V) to afford the desired product **3aa** in 91% yield (82 mg) as a yellow solid.

#### 4. All Products

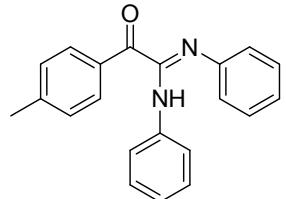
**2-oxo-N,N',2-triphenylacetimidamide (3aa).** Yellow solid, mp 111-112 °C. Yield 82 mg (91%)



at 0.3 mmol scale. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.79 (s, 1H), 7.82 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 6.78 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 192.1, 152.1, 148.4, 140.1, 134.7, 133.7, 129.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 122.7,

122.4, 121.8, 119.5. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 300.1246; found 300.1257.

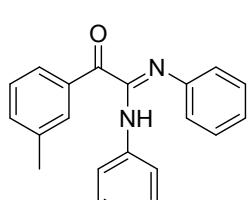
**2-oxo-N,N'-diphenyl-2-(p-tolyl)acetimidamide (3ba).** Yellow solid, mp 107-108 °C. Yield 88



mg (93%) at 0.3 mmol scale. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.76 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 19.4, 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.04 (s, 3H), 6.79 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 191.5, 152.2, 148.5, 145.5, 140.2, 131.3, 129.7, 129.5, 128.7, 128.5, 122.7,

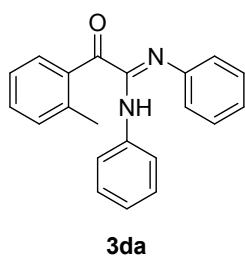
122.4, 121.8, 119.5, 21.4. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 314.1411; found 314.1422.

**2-oxo-N,N'-diphenyl-2-(m-tolyl)acetimidamide (3ca).** Yellow oil. Yield 69 mg (73%) at 0.3



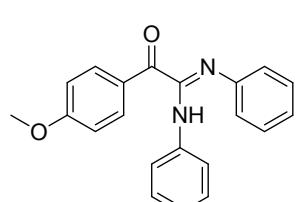
mmol scale. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.77 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 7.3 Hz, 3H), 7.05 (s, 3H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 192.1, 152.1, 148.5, 140.2, 138.6, 135.4, 133.7, 129.4, 129.1, 128.8, 128.6, 126.9, 122.6 (d, *J* = 25.5 Hz), 122.5 – 122.1 (m), 121.9, 119.5, 20.8. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 314.1411; found 314.1421.

**2-oxo-N,N'-diphenyl-2-(o-tolyl)acetimidamide (3da).** Yellow oil. Yield 58 mg (62%) at 0.3



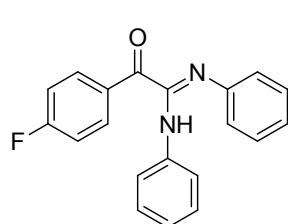
mmol scale.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  9.80 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd,  $J$  = 16.8, 7.8 Hz, 3H), 6.77 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  194.3, 153.1, 148.4, 140.3, 139.5, 133.3 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 131.9, 128.8, 128.4, 126.2, 122.7, 122.4, 121.7, 119.5, 20.7. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  314.1411; found 314.1421.

**2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxo-N,N'-diphenylacetimidamide (3ea).** Yellow oil. Yield 84 mg (85%)

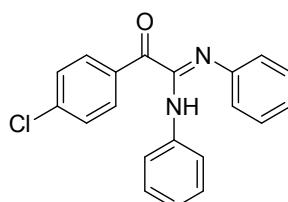


at 0.3 mmol scale.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  9.73 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (dd,  $J$  = 15.6, 8.0 Hz, 5H), 6.80 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  190.2, 164.2, 152.4, 148.6, 140.3, 131.9, 128.7, 128.5, 126.7, 122.6, 122.4, 121.8, 119.5, 114.5, 55.8. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  330.1356; found 330.1364.

**2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxo-N,N'-diphenylacetimidamide (3fa).** Yellow solid, mp 145–146 °C.



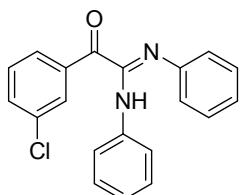
Yield 72 mg (75%) at 0.3 mmol scale.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  9.81 (s, 1H), 7.86 (dd,  $J$  = 17.6, 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.32 (dd,  $J$  = 19.8, 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.05 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 6.80 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  190.6, 151.9, 148.4, 140.1, 132.5 (d,  $J$  = 9.7 Hz), 130.7, 128.8, 128.6, 122.9, 122.6, 121.9, 119.6, 116.6, 116.4. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{FN}_2\text{O}$  318.1176; found 318.1163.



S4  
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxo-N,N'-diphenylacetimidamide (3ga).

Yellow solid, 139-140 °C. Yield 79 mg (79%) at 0.3 mmol scale.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  9.81 (s, 1H), 7.86 (dd,  $J$  = 18.2, 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.32 (dd,  $J$  = 19.6, 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.05 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 6.80 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  152.3, 148.8, 140.5, 132.9 (d,  $J$  = 10.2 Hz), 131.0, 129.2, 128.9, 123.2, 122.9, 122.2, 119.9, 116.9, 116.7. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$  334.0864; found 334.0875.

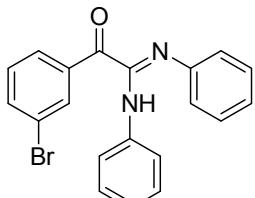
**2-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-oxo-N,N'-diphenylacetimidamide (3ha).** Yellow solid, mp 101-102 °C.



Yield 84 mg (84%) at 0.3 mmol scale.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  9.86 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 6.81 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  191.1, 151.4, 148.2, 134.0,

135.5, 134.4, 133.9, 131.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 123.0, 122.7, 121.9, 119.6. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$  334.0864; found 334.0876.

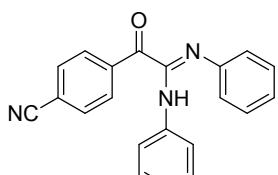
**2-(3-bromophenyl)-2-oxo-N,N'-diphenylacetimidamide (3ia).** Yellow solid, mp 118-119 °C.



Yield 87 mg (77%) at 0.3 mmol scale.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  9.85 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 5H), 7.46 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (s, 3H), 6.81 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  191.0, 151.4, 148.2, 134.0, 137.3, 135.6, 131.6, 131.1, 128.8, 128.7, 122.9, 122.7, 122.3, 121.8, 119.6. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}$  378.0359; found 378.0366.

S5

**2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-oxo-N,N'-diphenylacetimidamide (3ja).**

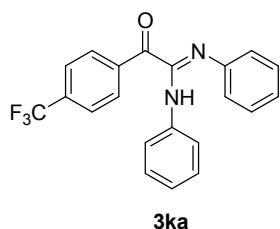


Yellow oil. Yield 61 mg (63%) at 0.3 mmol scale.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,

**3ja**

DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.89 (s, 1H), 7.93 (q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.12 – 6.99 (m, 3H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 191.6, 151.3, 148.0, 139.9, 136.8, 133.2, 129.7, 128.8, 128.7, 123.0, 122.8, 121.9, 119.6, 117.9, 116.2. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O 325.1221; found 325.1212.

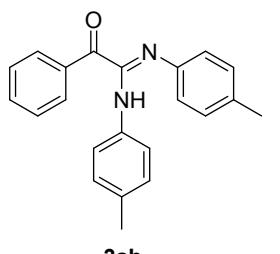
**2-oxo-N,N'-diphenyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetimidamide (3ka).** Yellow oil. Yield 79



mg (72%) at 0.3 mmol scale. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.88 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.91 – 7.77 (m, 4H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.12 – 6.99 (m, 3H), 6.79 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 191.6, 151.5, 148.1, 134.0, 136.8, 133.4, 130.1, 128.75 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz), 126.2, 122.88 (d, *J* = 25.5

Hz), 122.2, 121.9, 119.6. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 368.1129; found 368.1141.

**2-oxo-2-phenyl-N,N'-di-p-tolylacetimidamide (3ab).** Yellow solid, mp 140–141 °C. Yield 81 mg

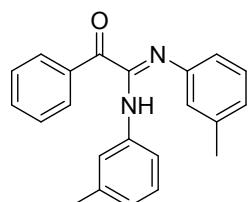


(82%) at 0.3 mmol scale. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.62 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 192.4, 152.0, 145.9, 137.7, 134.7, 133.7, 131.5,

131.0, 129.3, 129.21 – 128.91 (m), 121.7, 119.5, 20.5, 20.3. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 328.1563; found 328.1579.

S6

**2-oxo-2-phenyl-N,N'-di-m-tolylacetimidamide (3ac).** Yellow oil. Yield 79 mg (80%) at 0.3



mmol scale. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.68 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 6.97 – 6.79 (m, 2H), 6.66 – 6.41 (m, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H),

2.09 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  192.1, 151.9, 148.4, 140.1, 137.9, 137.6, 128.6, 128.3, 123.4, 123.2, 122.7, 119.9, 118.9, 116.8, 21.4, 20.9. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M] $^+$  calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 328.1563; found 328.1577.

**N,N'-bis(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxo-2-phenylacetimidamide (3ad).** Yellow oil. Yield 81 mg (75%)

**3ad** at 0.3 mmol scale.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  9.78 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  192.0, 159.6, 159.4, 152.1, 149.7, 141.2, 134.7, 133.8, 129.6, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 114.4, 112.0, 108.5, 107.9, 107.5, 105.7, 55.1, 54.9. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M] $^+$  calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 360.1466; found 360.1479.

**N,N'-bis(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxo-2-phenylacetimidamide (3ae).** Yellow oil. Yield 72 mg (67%)

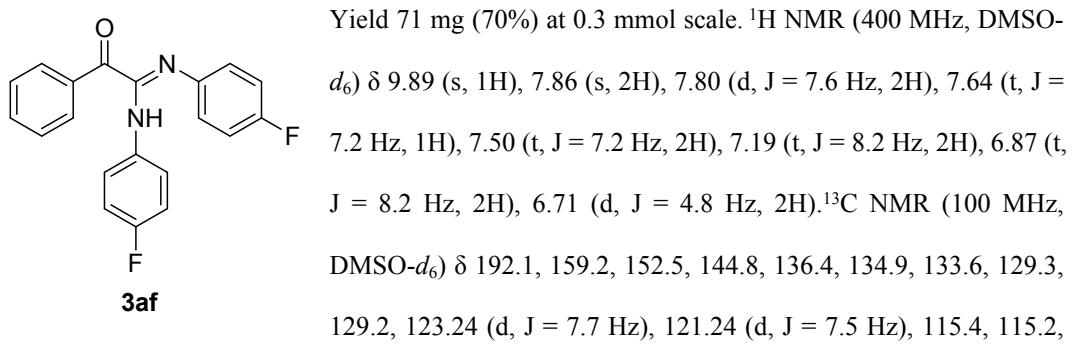
**3ae** at 0.3 mmol scale.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.92 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.11 – 6.85 (m, 4H), 6.79 – 6.49 (m, 4H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  191.4, 152.6, 134.4 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 129.5, 128.9, 124.3 – 123.7 (m), 122.7 (d, J = 14.7 Hz), 122.4 (d, J = 5.8 Hz), 120.6, 111.5, 55.4. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M] $^+$  calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 360.1467; found 360.1478.

**N,N'-bis(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-2-oxo-2-phenylacetimidamide (3af).** Yellow solid, mp 118–119

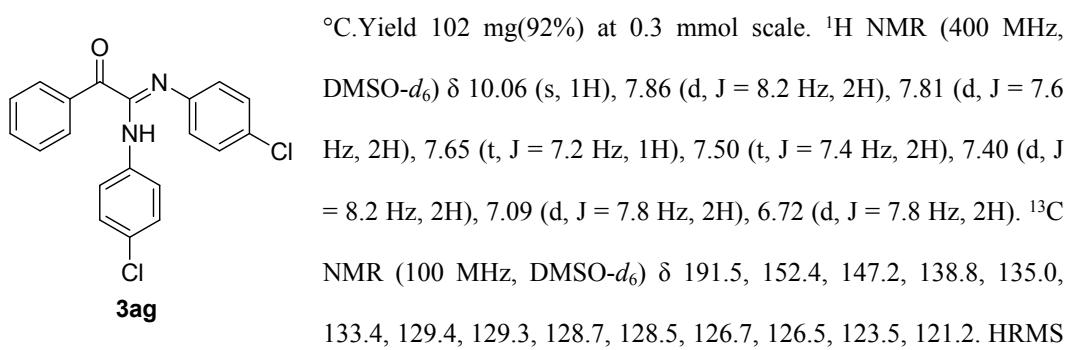
**3ae**  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Yield 105 mg (85%) at 0.3 mmol scale.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  9.65 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, J =

7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.27 (s, 9H), 1.13 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  192.4, 151.8, 145.8, 144.9, 144.4, 137.6, 134.5, 134.0, 129.3, 129.1, 125.3, 125.1, 34.0, 33.8, 31.3, 31.2. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  412.2502; found 412.2519.

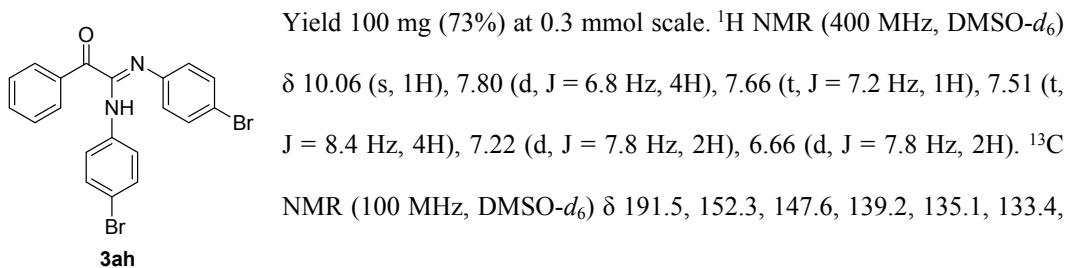
**N,N'-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxo-2-phenylacetimidamide (3ag).** Yellow solid, mp 115-116 °C.



**N,N'-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxo-2-phenylacetimidamide (3ah).** Yellow solid, mp 129-130

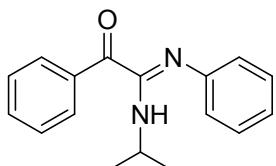


**N,N'-bis(4-bromophenyl)-2-oxo-2-phenylacetimidamide (3ai).** Yellow solid, mp 126-127 °C.



131.6, 131.4, 129.4, 129.3, 124.0, 121.6, 114.8, 114.5. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 455.9462; found 455.9475.

**N-isopropyl-2-oxo-N',2-diphenylacetimidamide (3ak).** Yellow solid, mp 144-145 °C. Yield 49

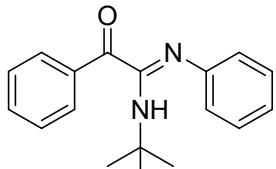


**3aj**

mg (62%) at 0.3 mmol scale. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.73 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 6.97 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.16 (s, 1H), 1.22 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 193.6, 154.2, 149.6, 134.4, 134.0, 129.2, 129.0, 128.4, 122.3, 121.7,

42.0, 22.1. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 266.1407; found 266.1416.

**N-(tert-butyl)-2-oxo-N',2-diphenylacetimidamide (3al).** Yellow solid, mp 131-132 °C. Yield 47



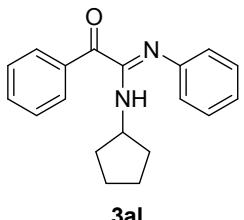
**3ak**

mg (56%) at 0.3 mmol scale. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.72 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.48 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 192.6, 153.7, 149.6, 134.2, 134.1, 129.1, 128.8, 128.2, 122.1, 121.4, 51.8,

28.3. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 280.1563; found 280.1581.

S9

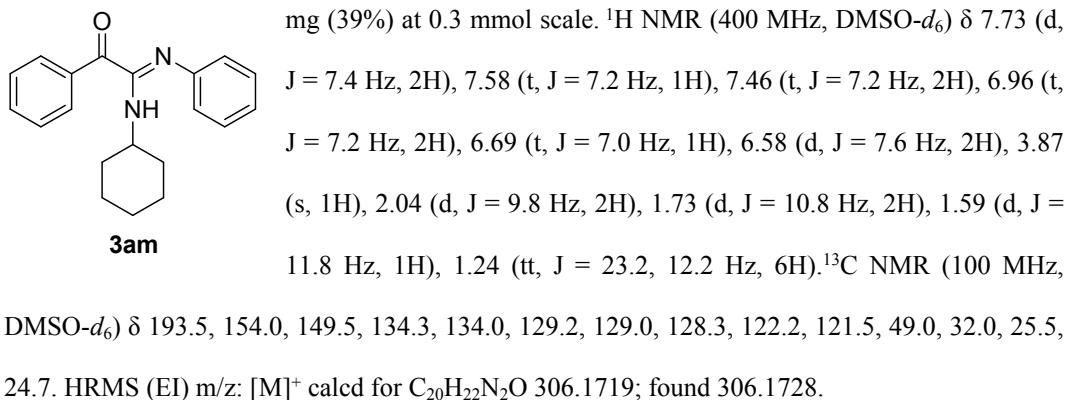
**N-cyclopentyl-2-oxo-N',2-diphenylacetimidamide (3am).** Yellow solid, mp 115-116 °C. Yield



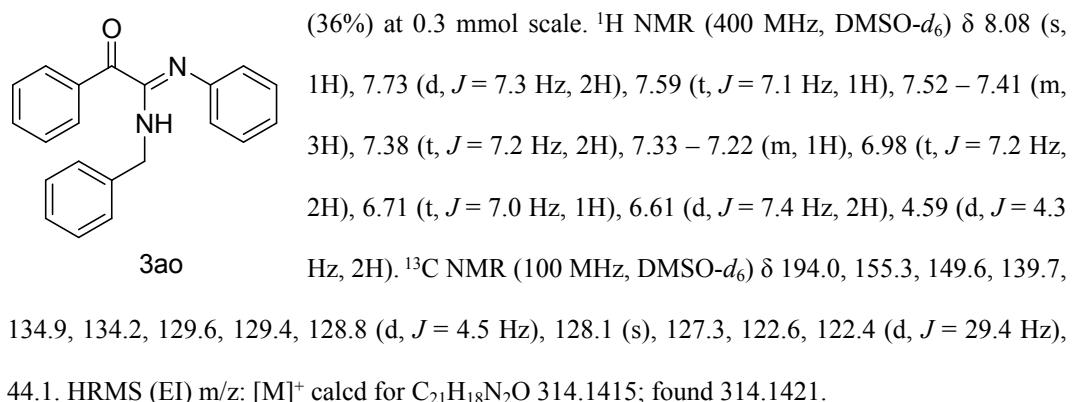
42 mg (48%) at 0.3 mmol scale. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.72 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (s, 1H), 1.97 (s, 2H), 1.62 (d, J = 44.2 Hz, 7H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-

$d_6$ )  $\delta$  193.6, 154.5, 149.6, 134.3, 134.0, 129.1, 129.0, 128.3, 122.2, 121.6, 51.9, 32.1, 23.6. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 292.1589; found 292.1573.

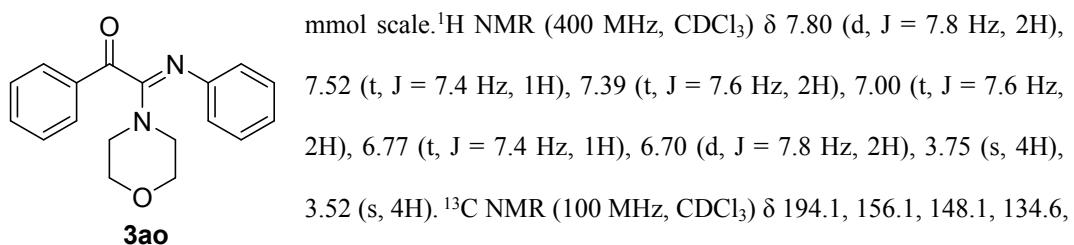
**N-cyclohexyl-2-oxo-N',2-diphenylacetimidamide (3an).** Yellow solid, mp 104-105 °C. Yield 36



**N-benzyl-2-oxo-N',2-diphenylacetimidamide (3ao).** Yellow solid, mp 111-112 °C. Yield 34 mg



**2-morpholino-1-phenyl-2-(phenylimino)ethanone (3aq).** Yellow oil. Yield 52 mg (57%) at 0.3

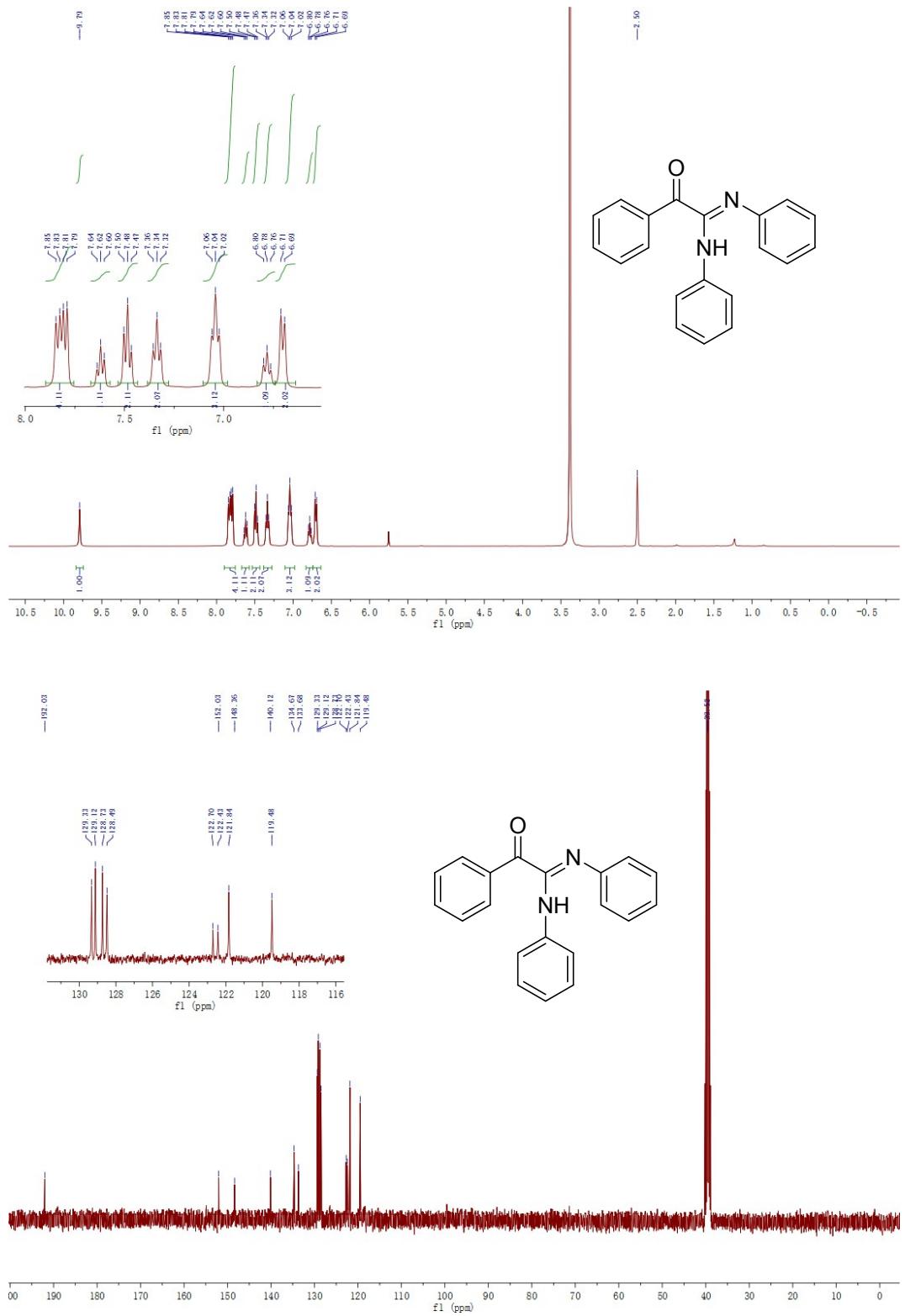


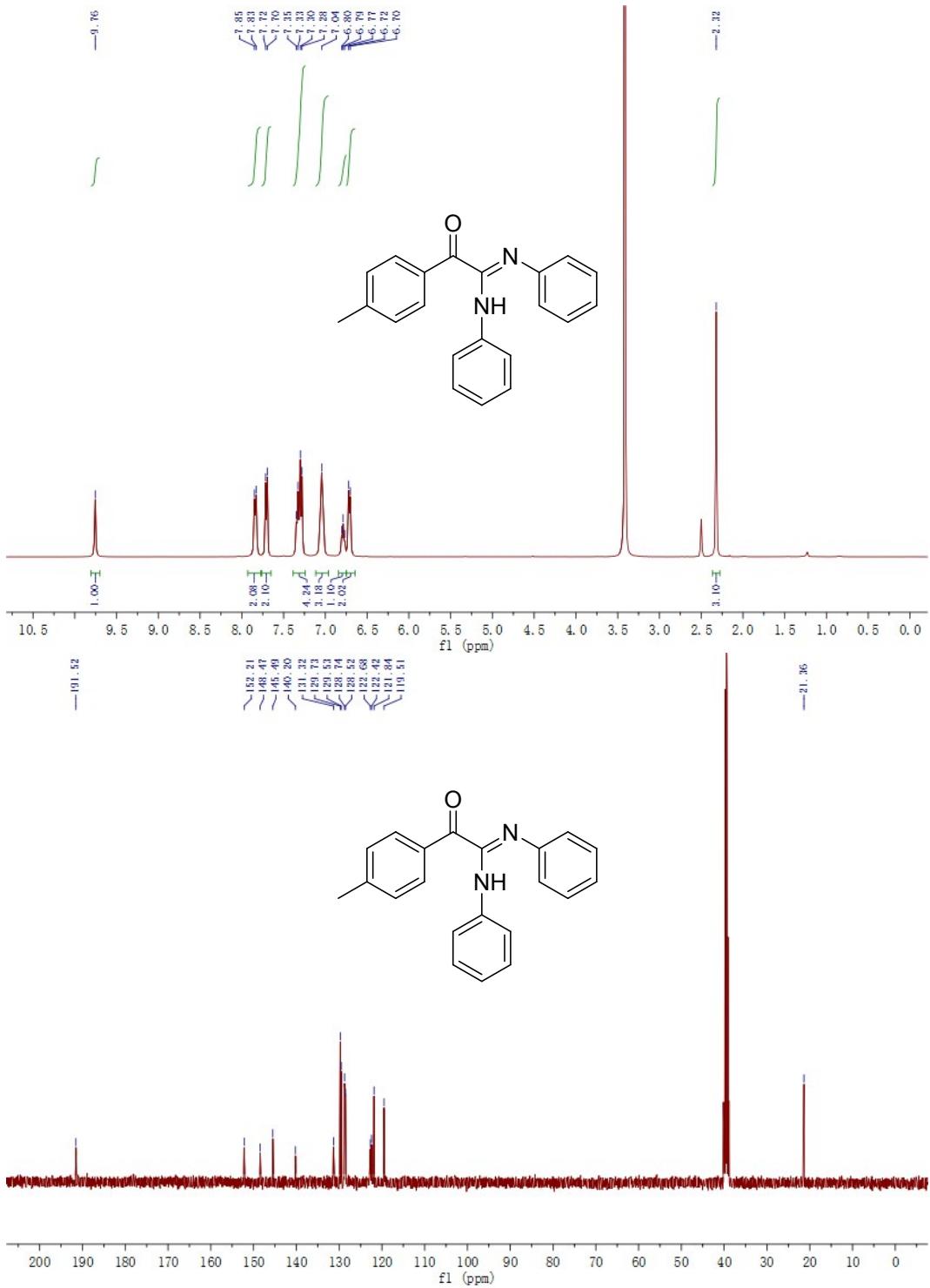
134.5, 129.2, 128.9, 128.4, 122.6, 122.2, 66.6, 45.3. HRMS (EI) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 294.1381; found 294.1364.

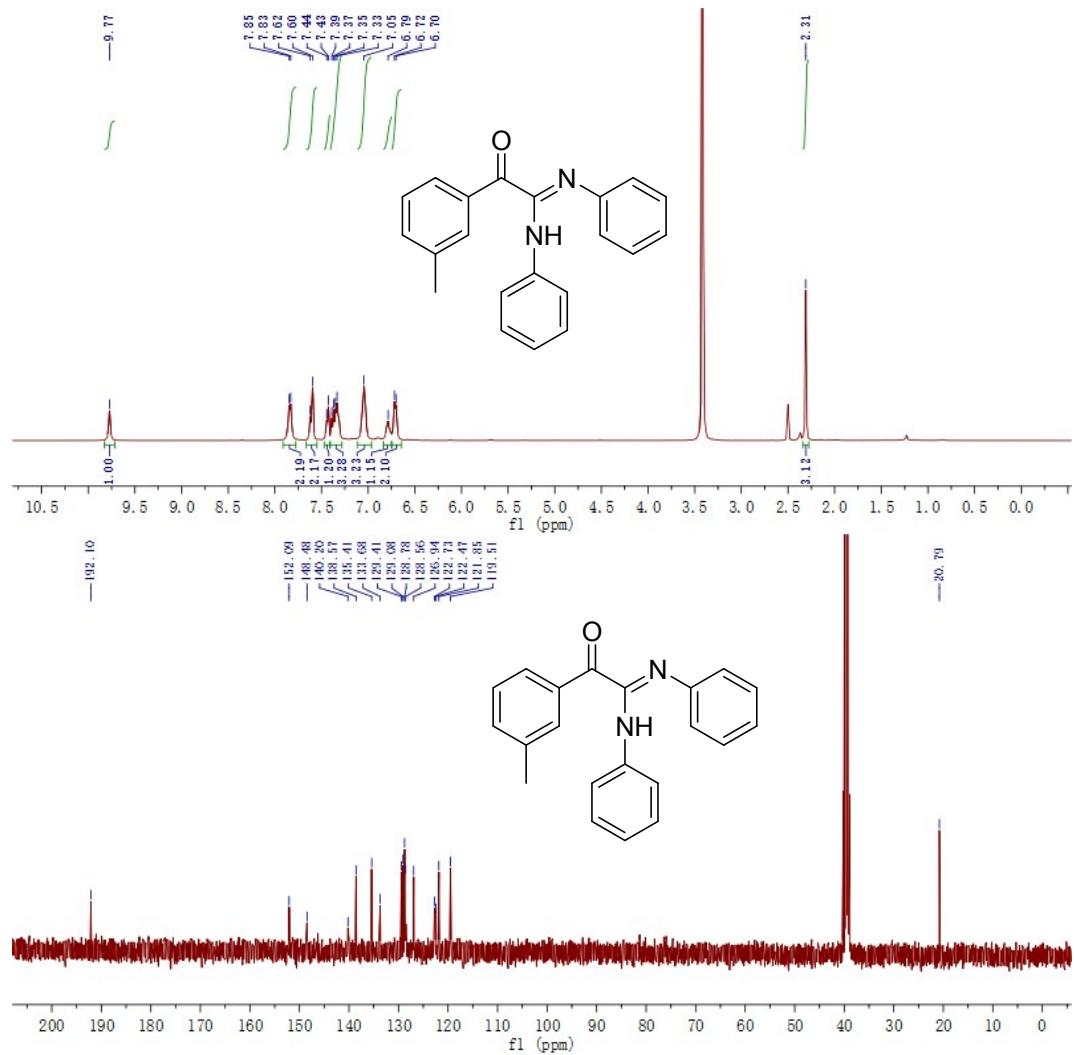
## 5. Reference

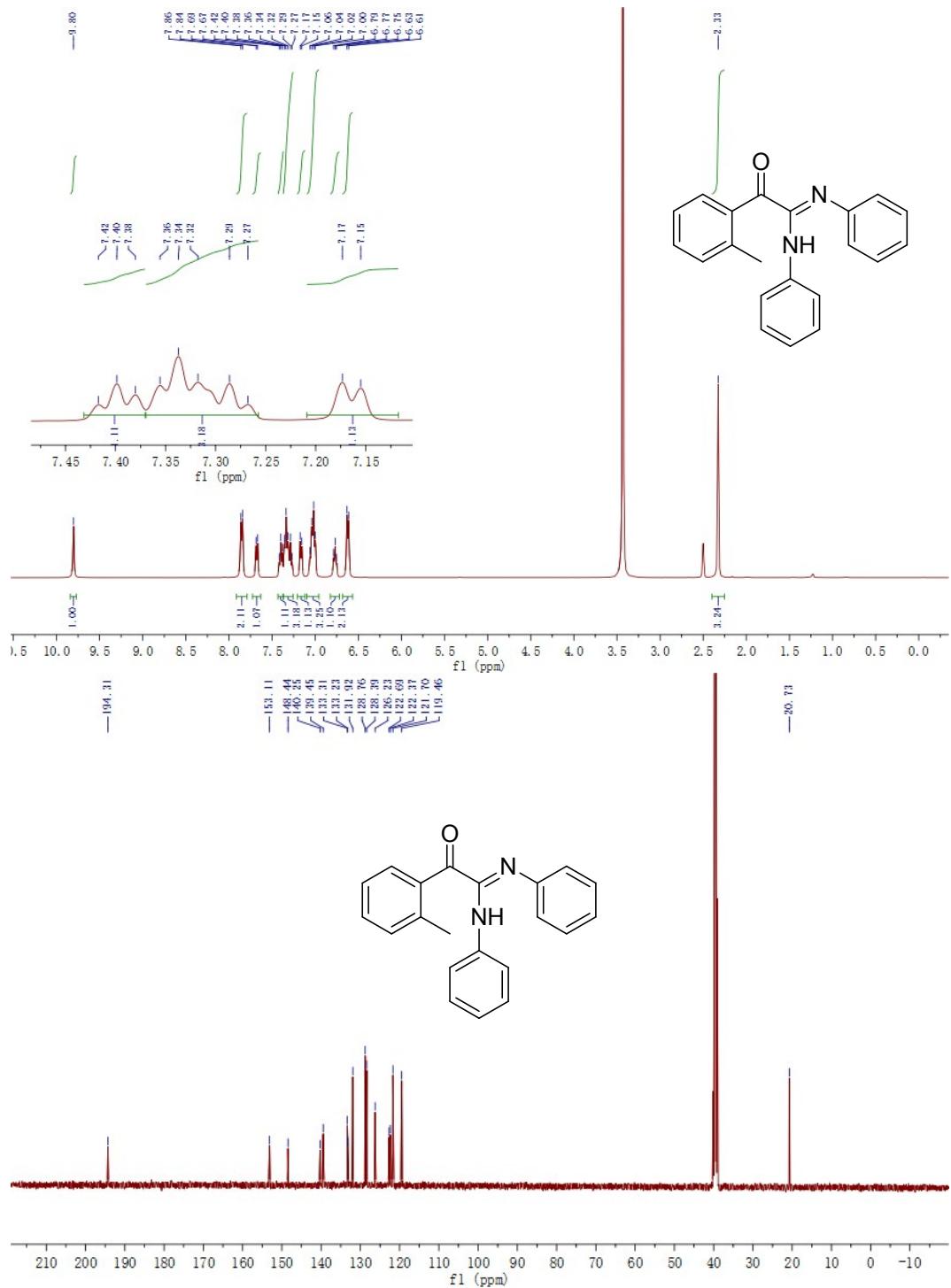
- [1] Borzecka, W.; Lavandera, I.; Gotor, V. *J. Org. Chem.* **2013**, *78*, 7312.
- [2] Pal, M.; Swamy, N. K.; Hameed, P. S.; Padakanti, S.; Yeleswarapu, K. R. *Tetrahedron* **2004**, *60*, 3987.

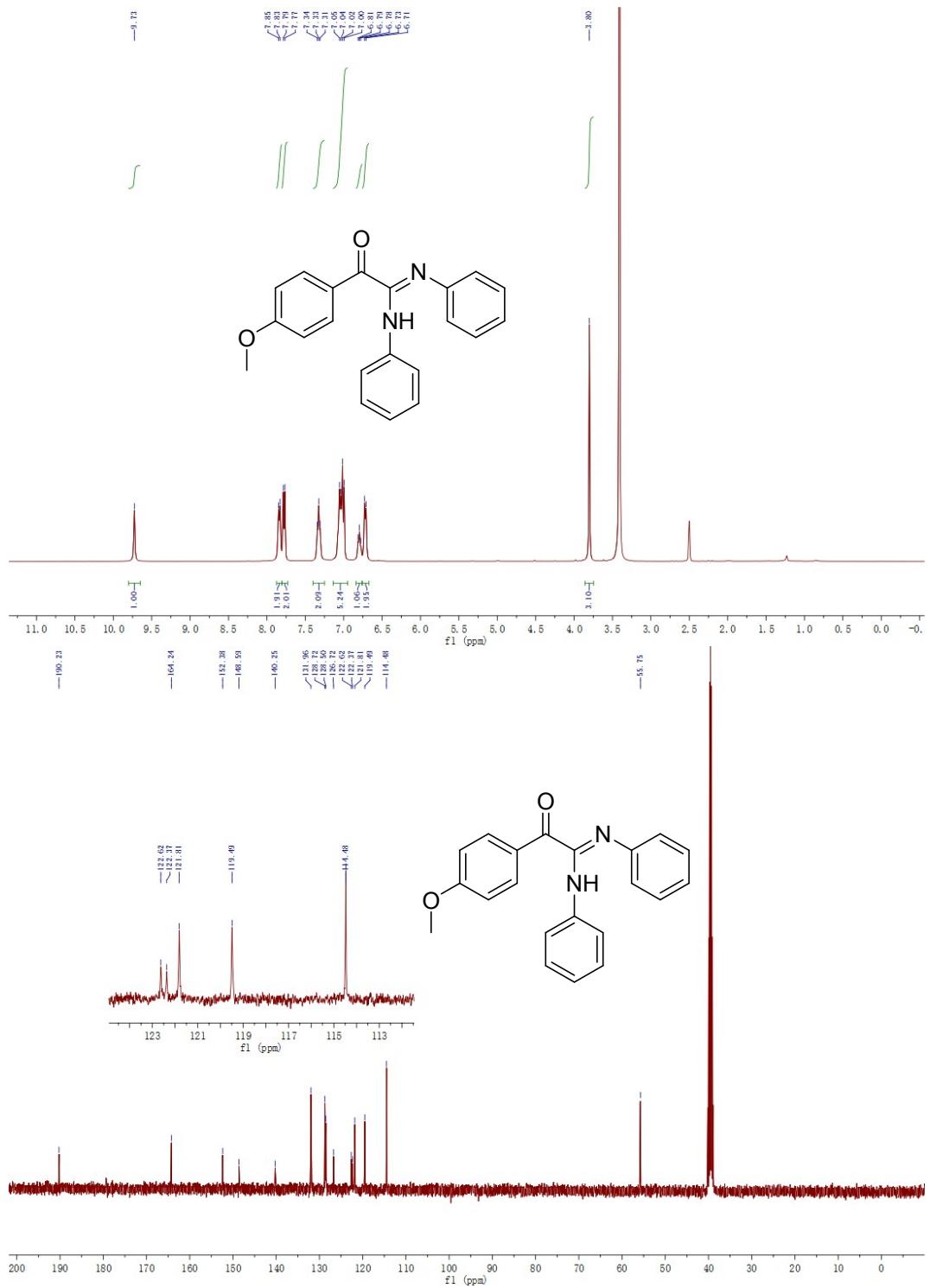
## 6. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra

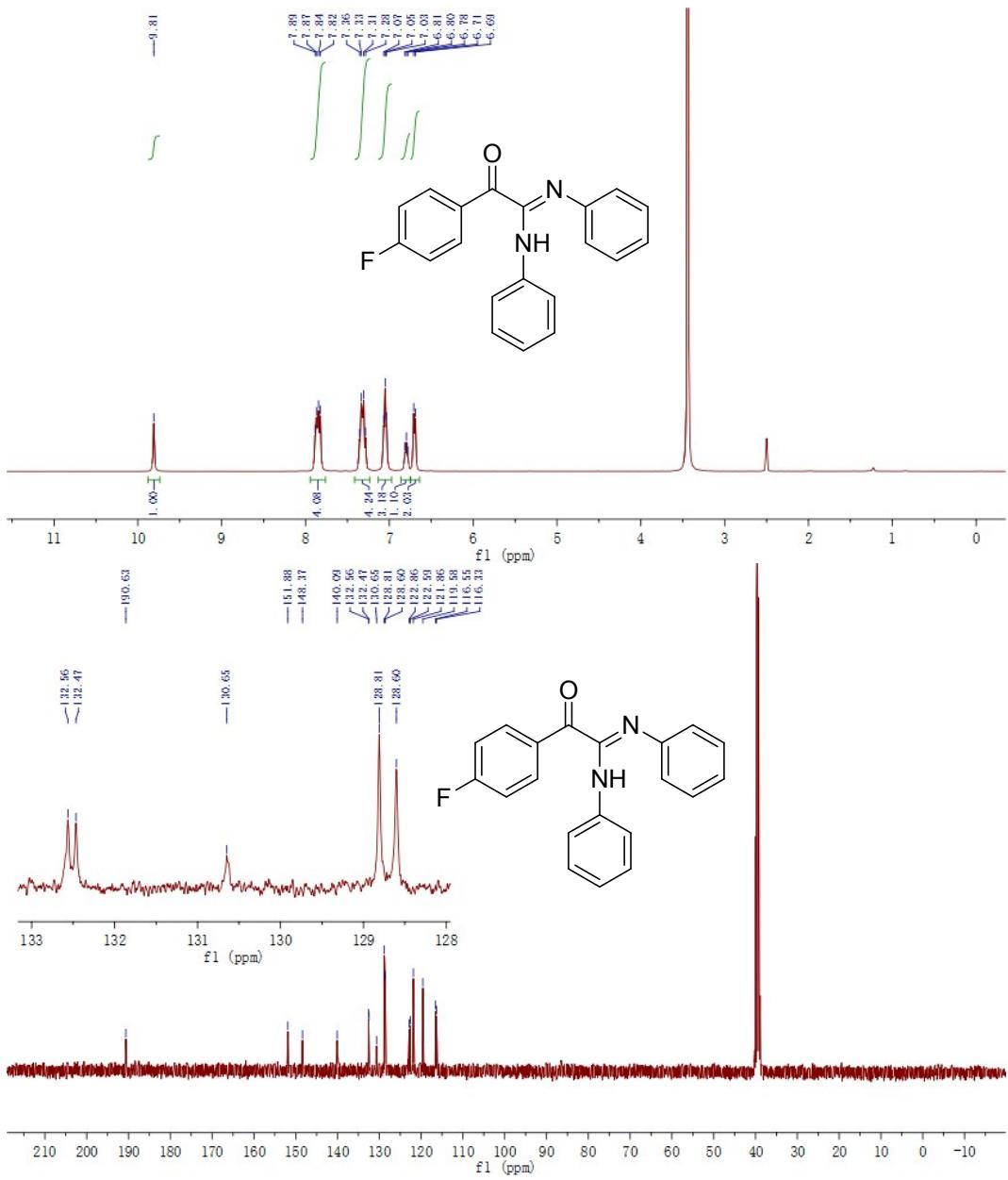


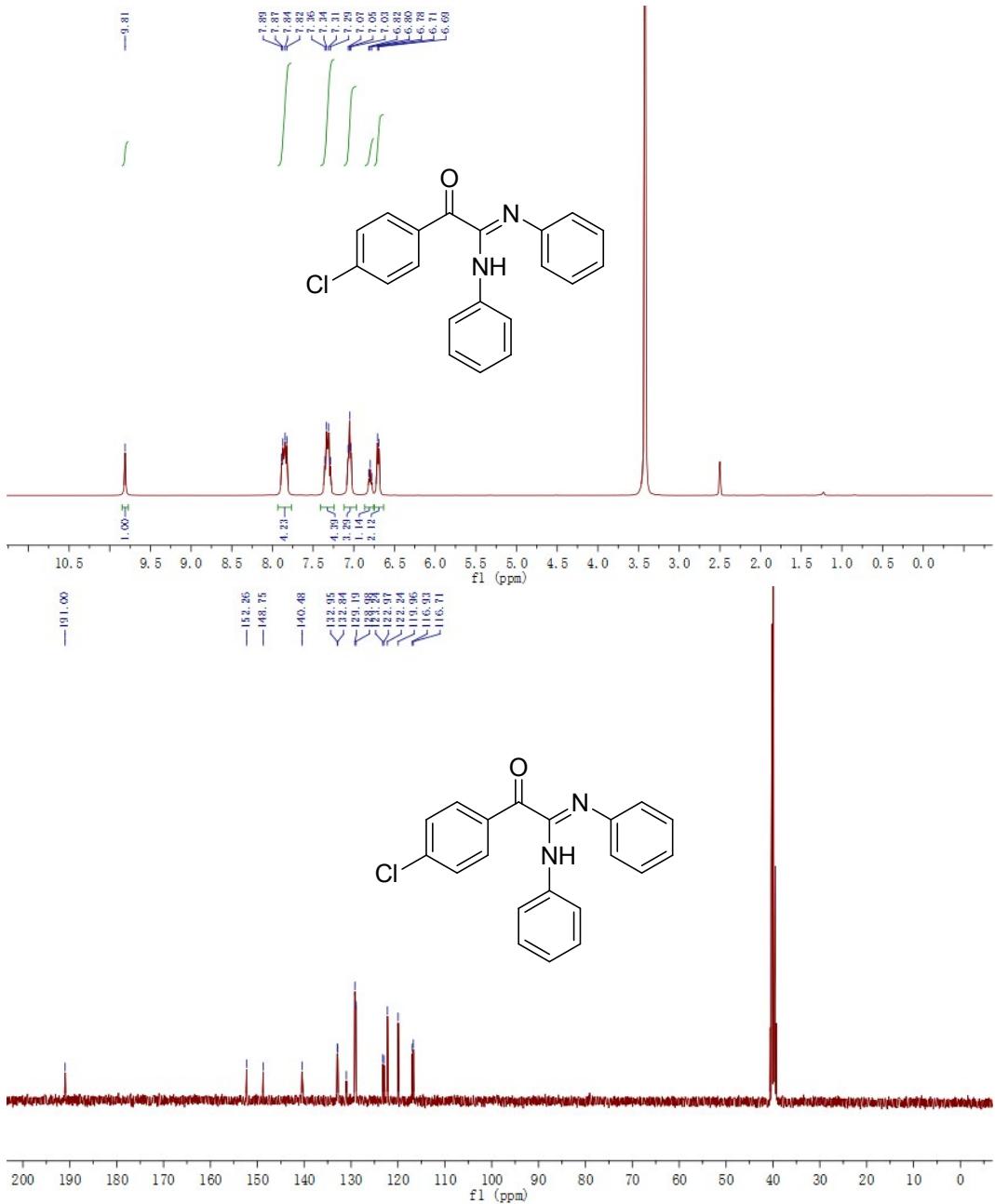


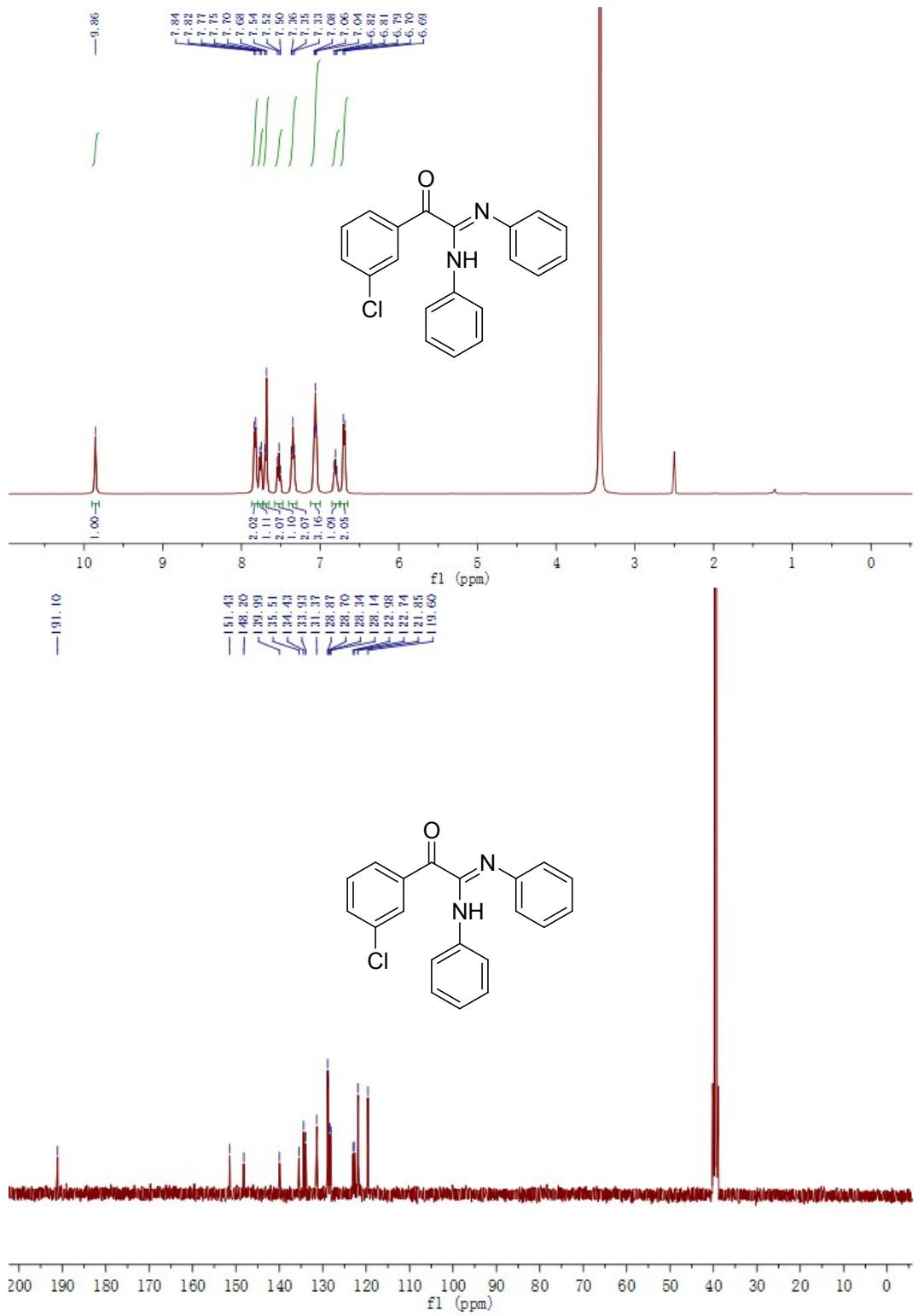


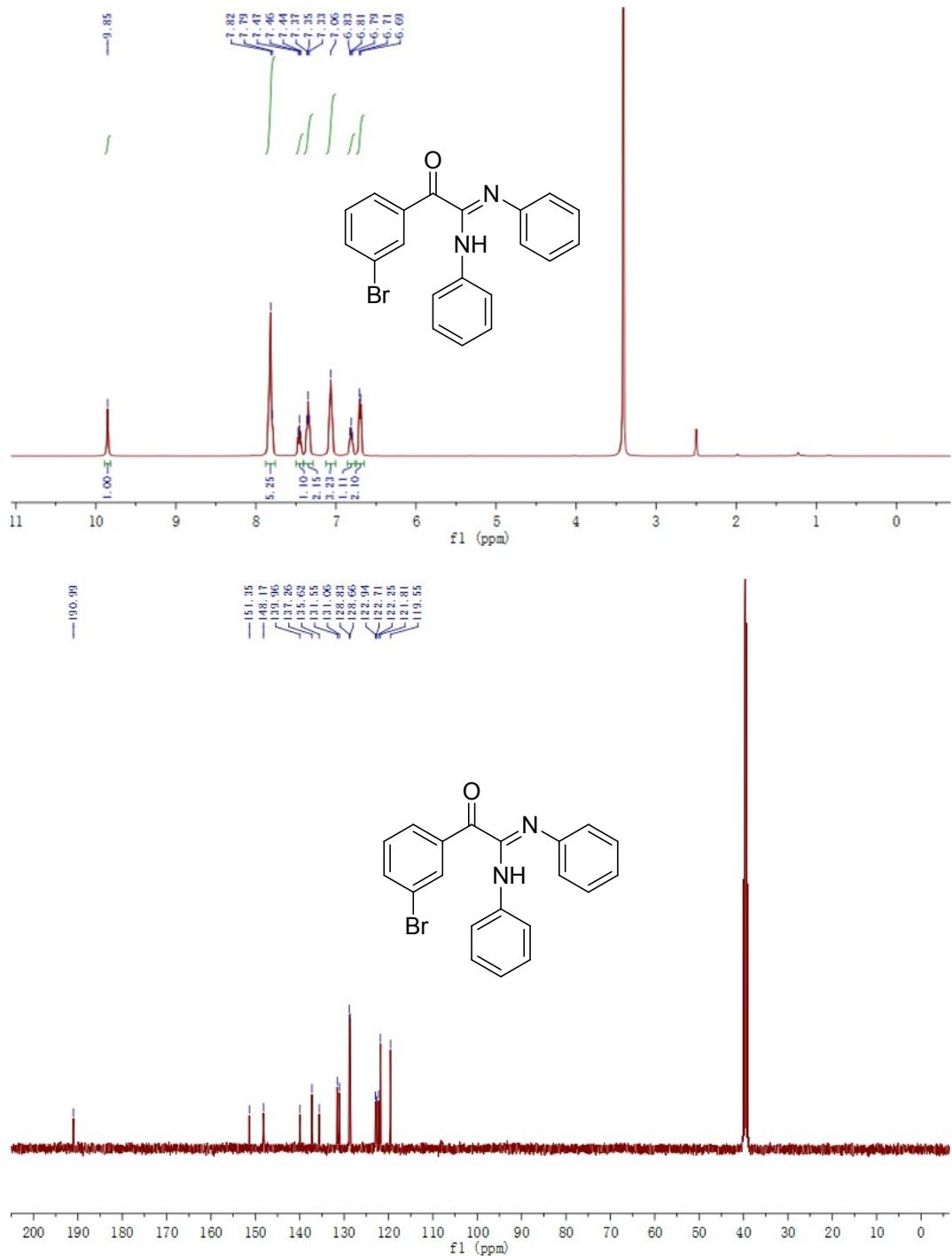


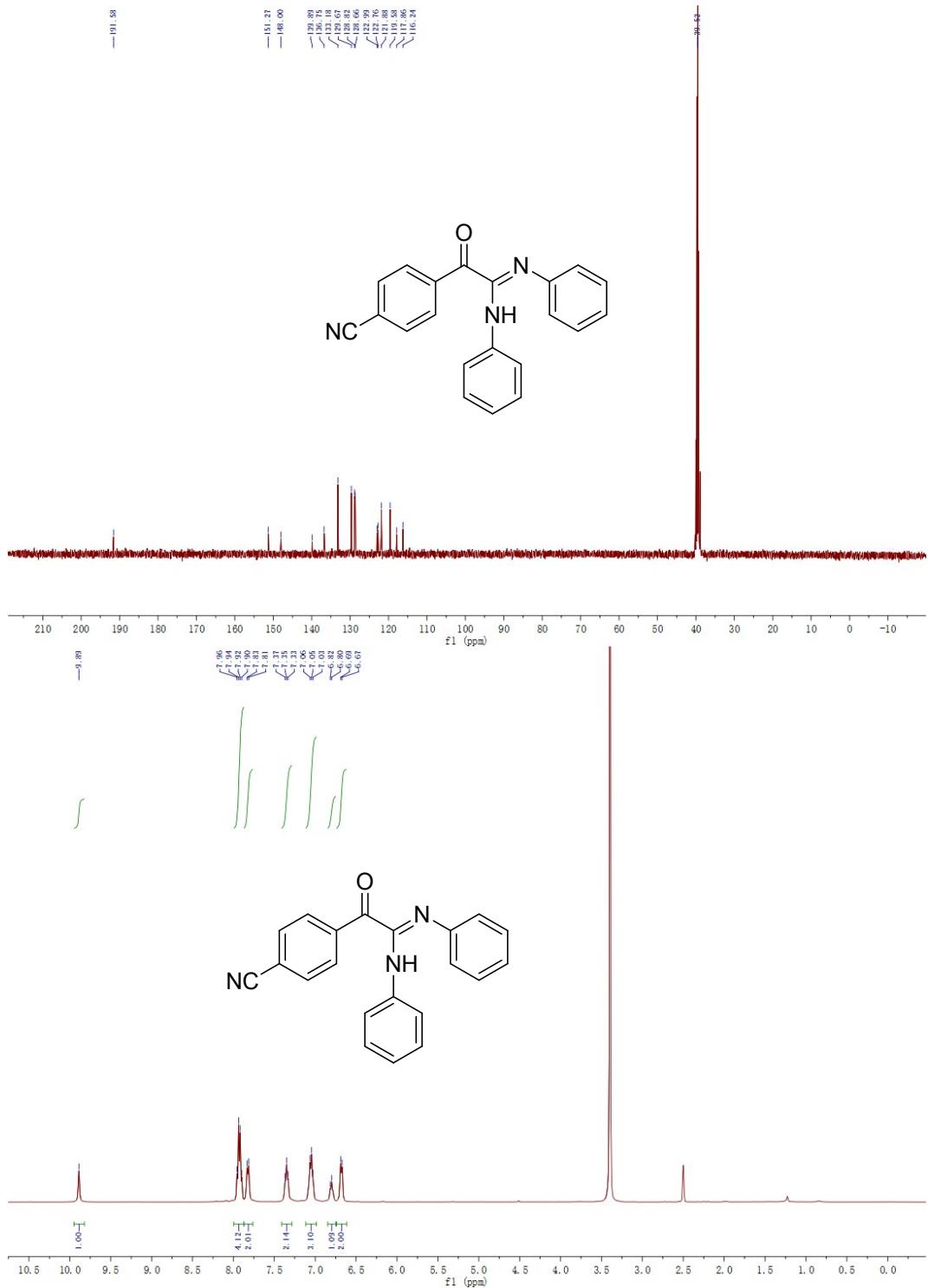


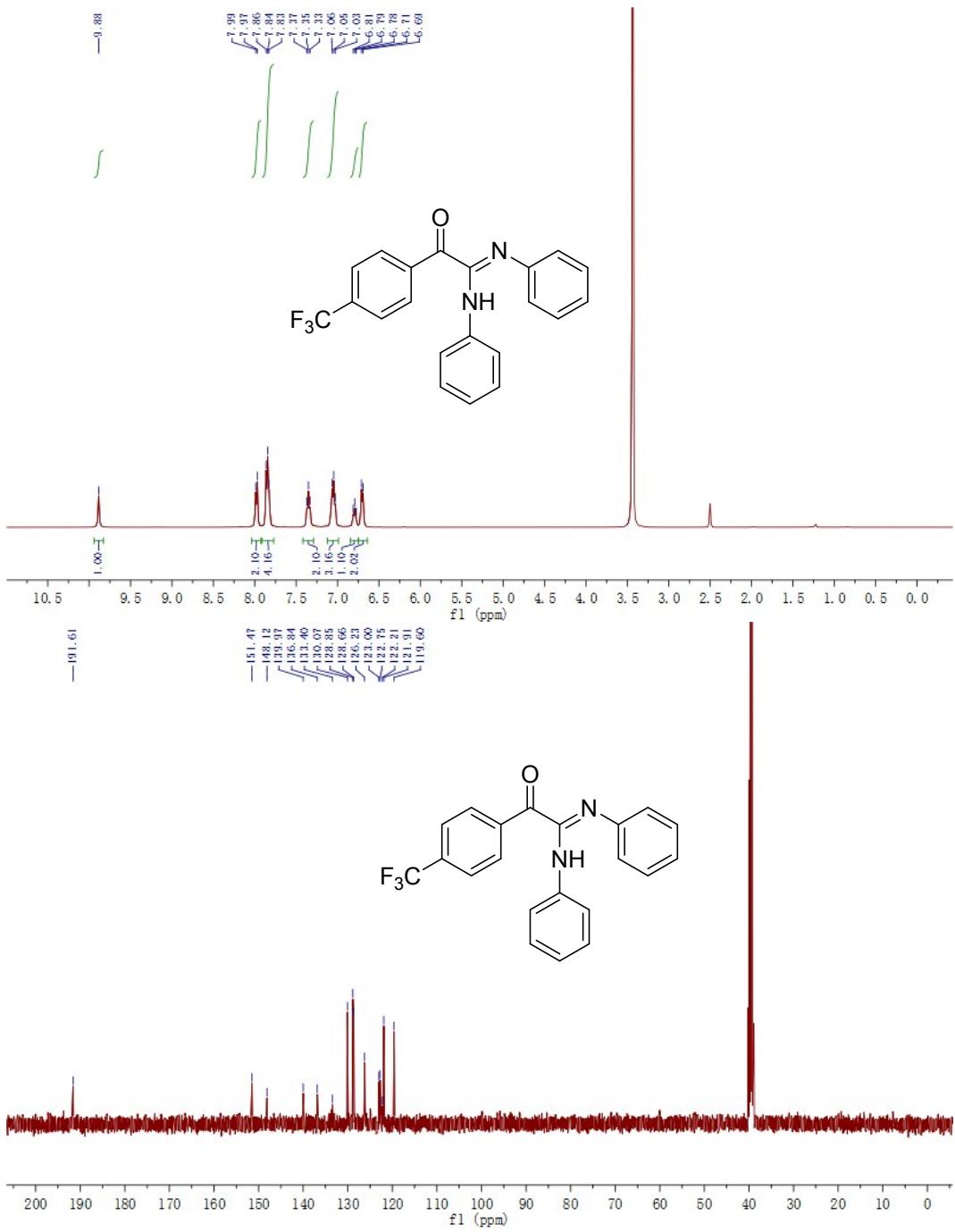


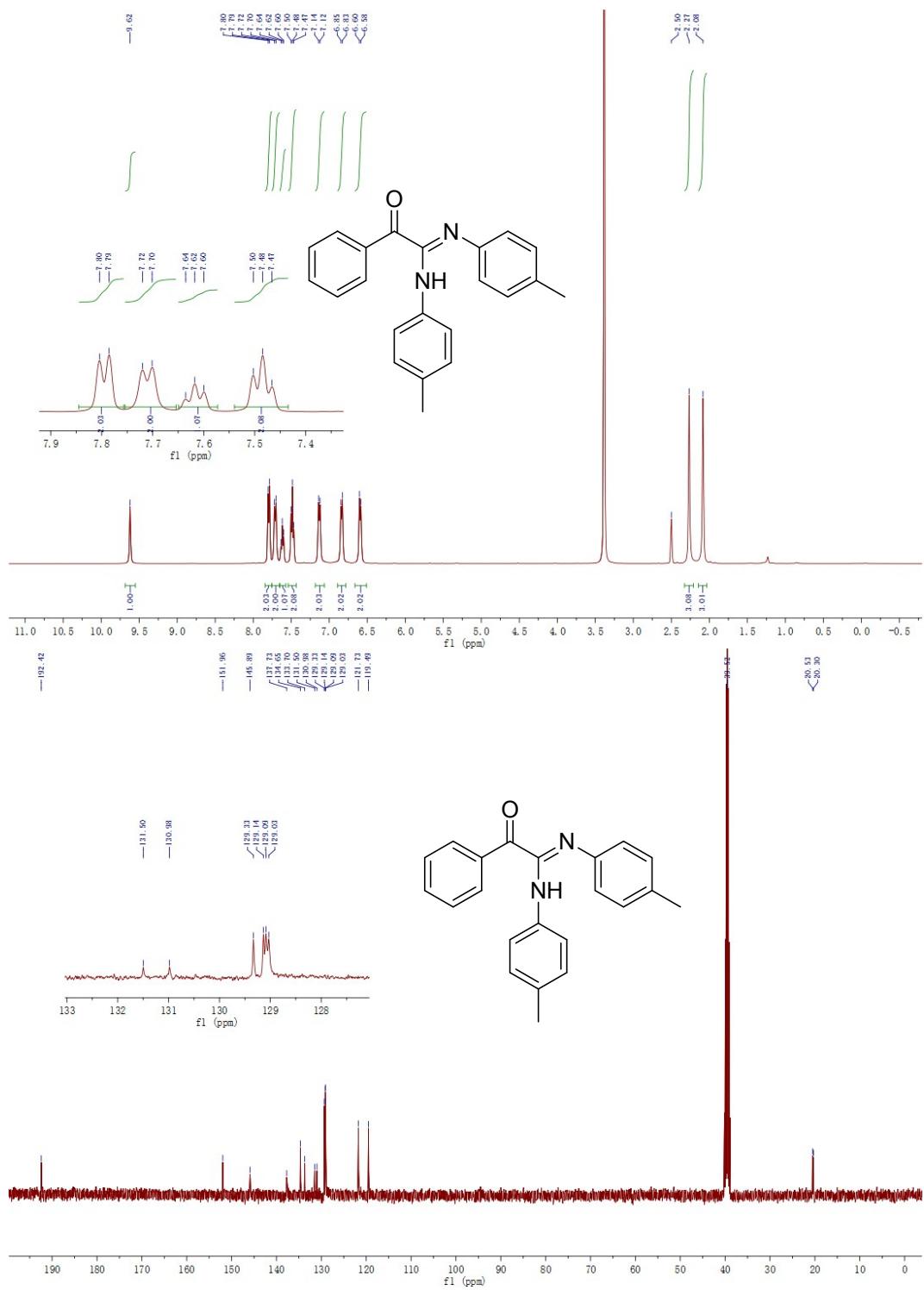


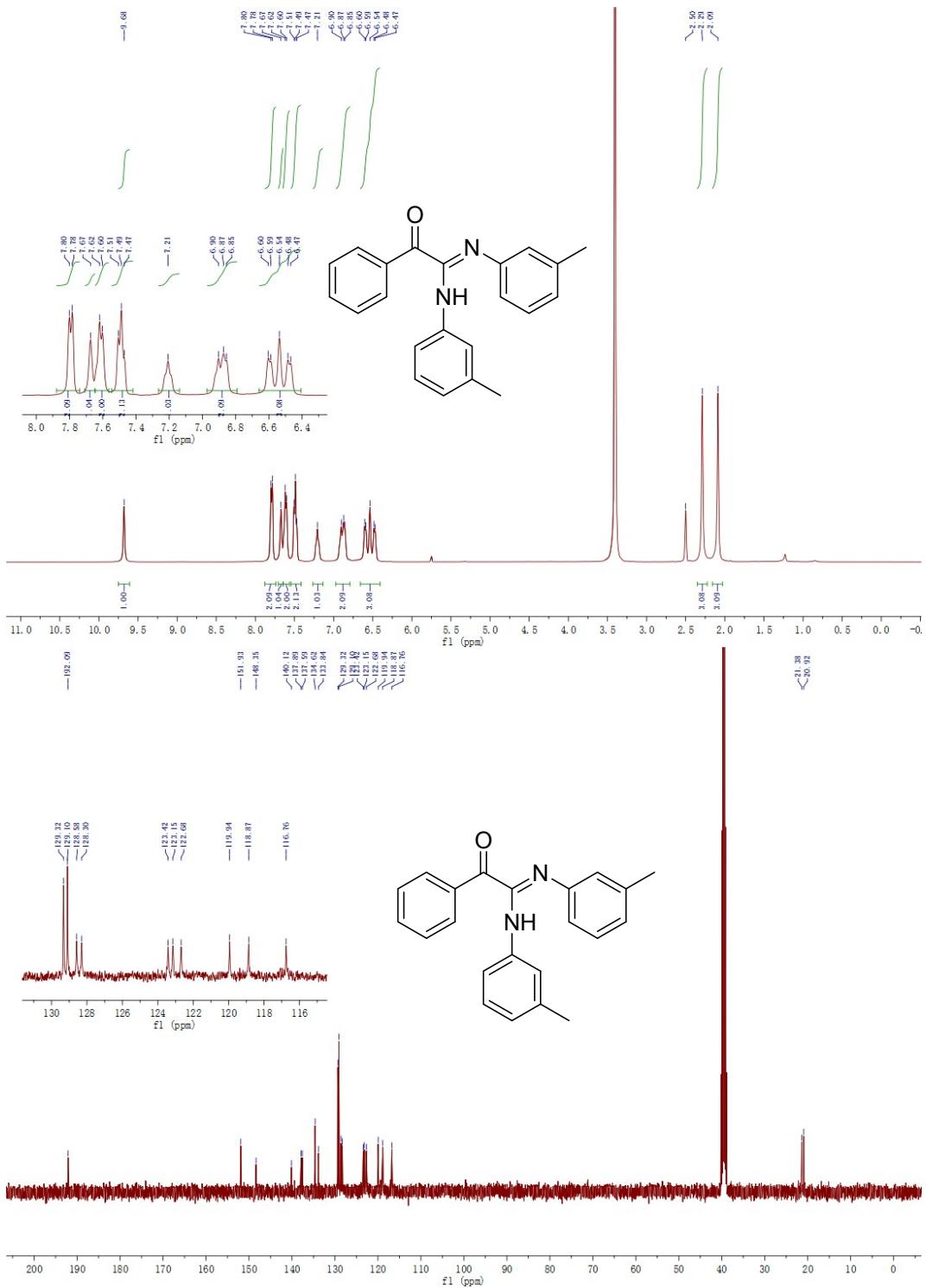


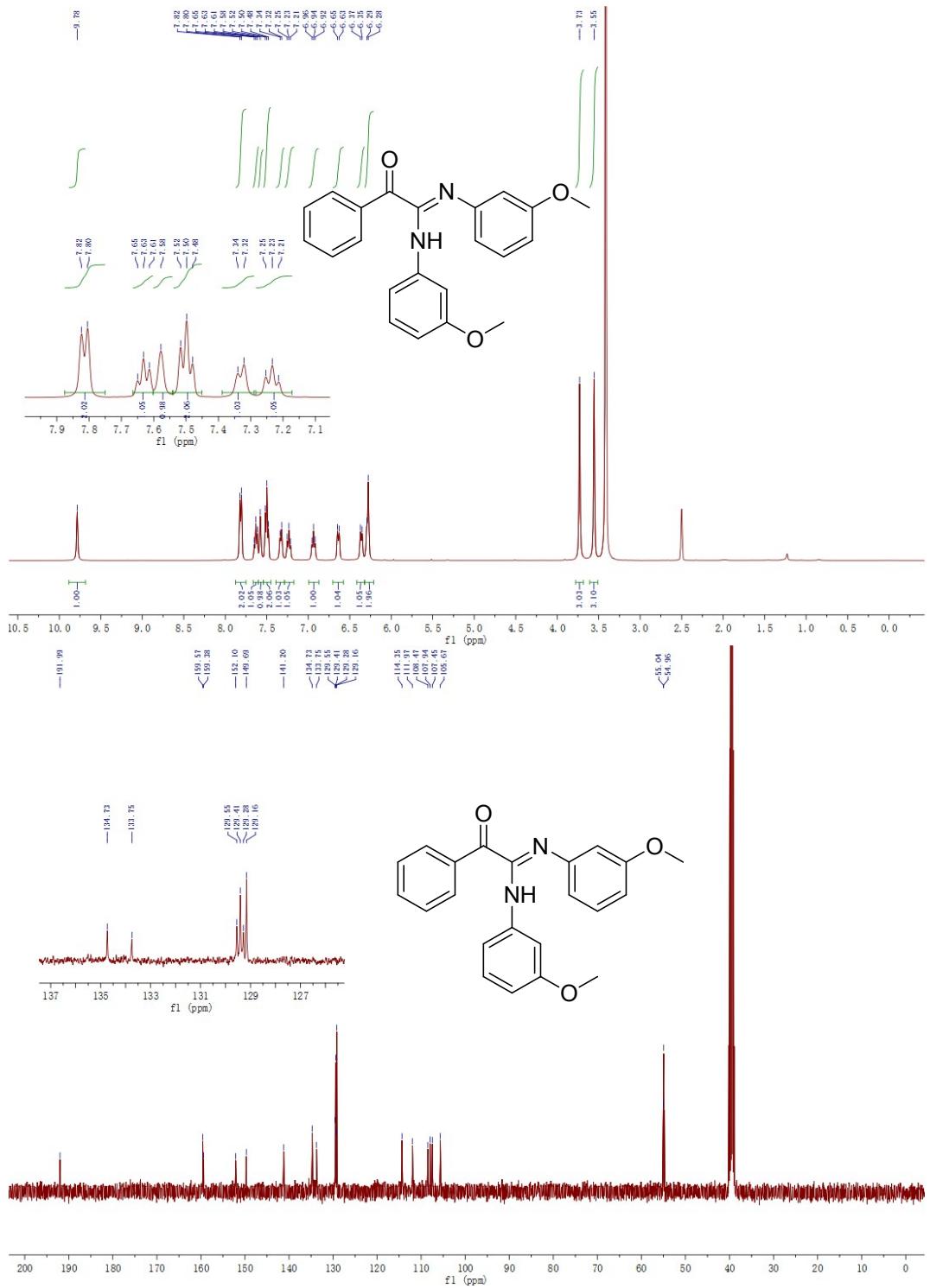


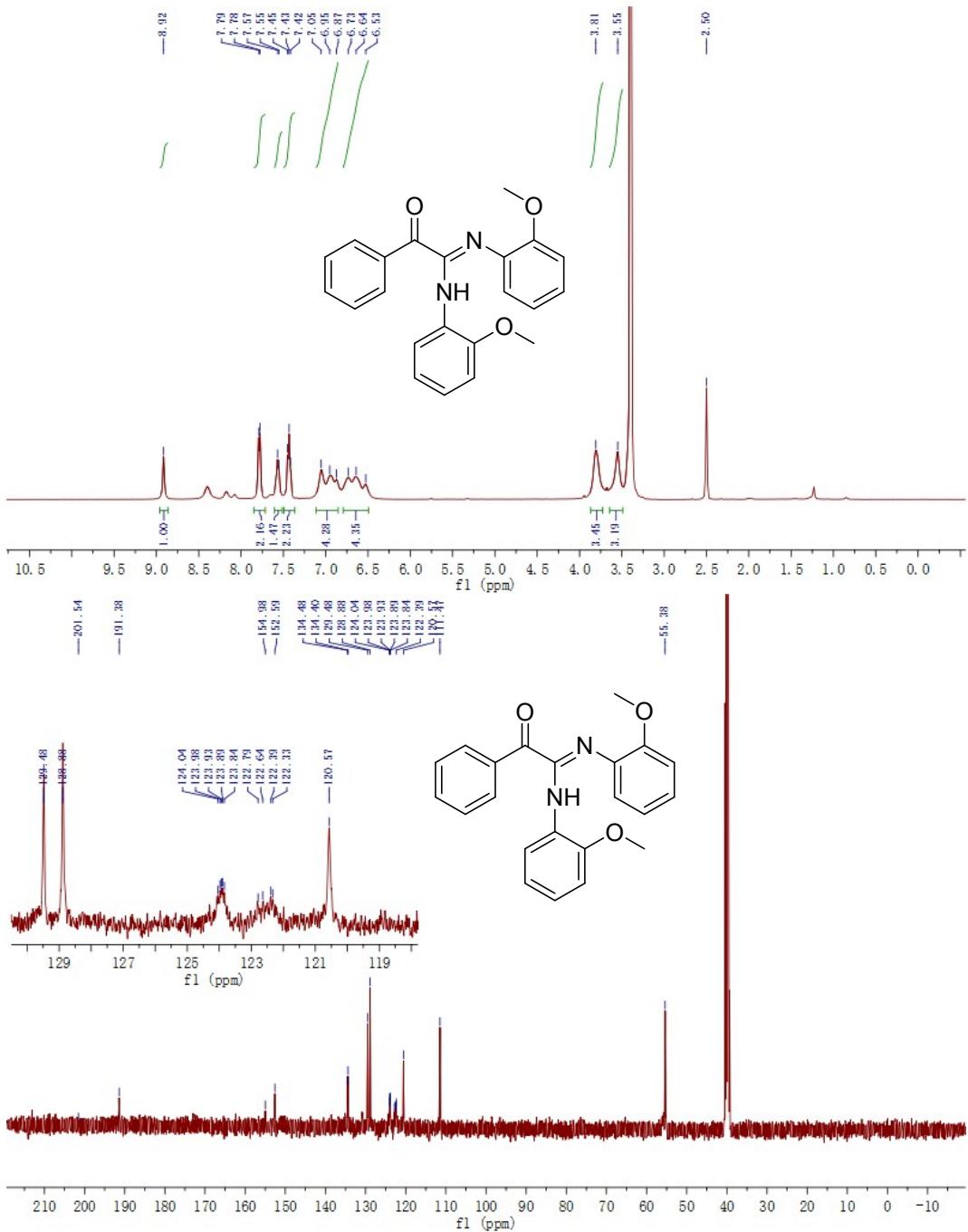


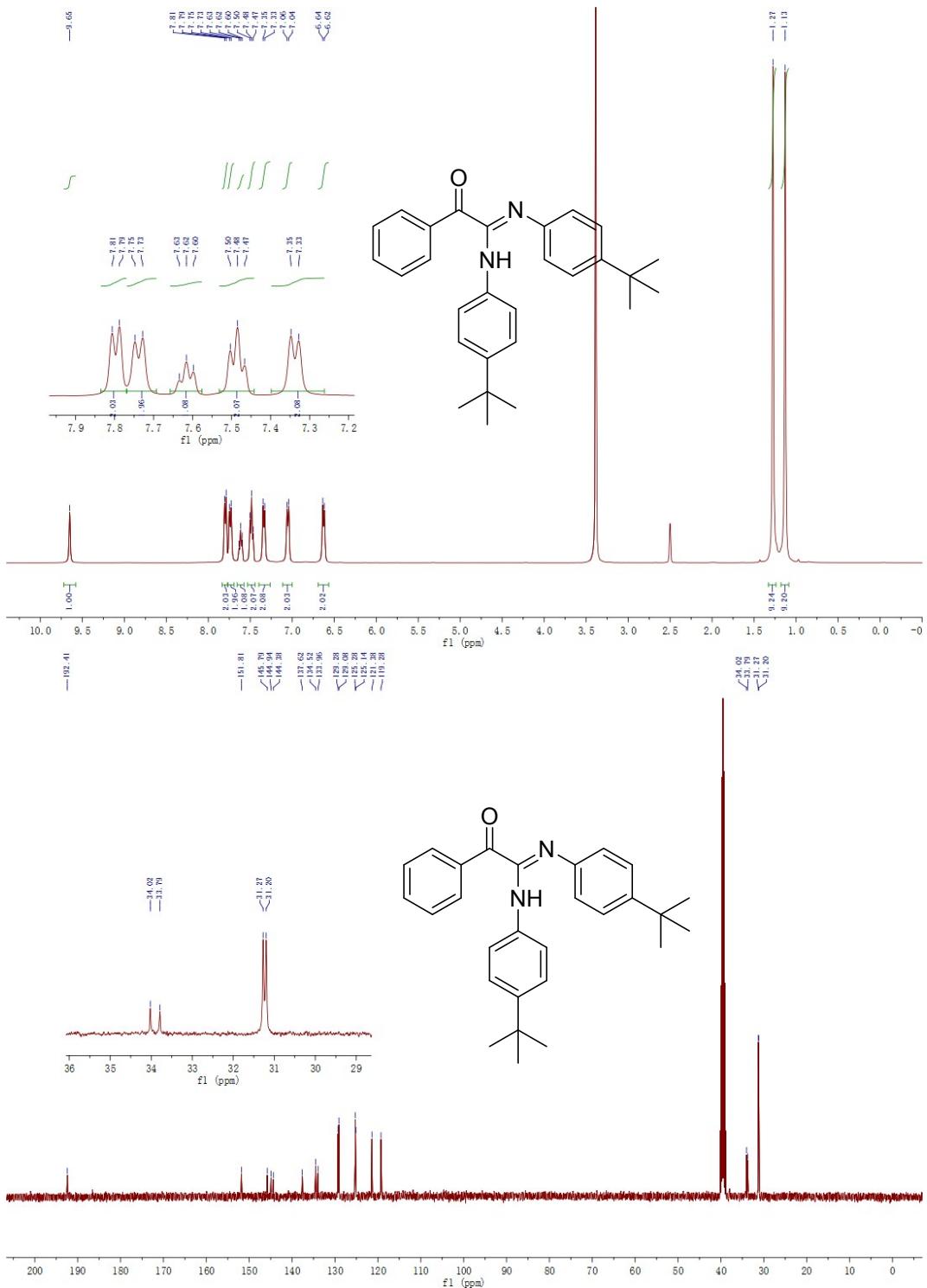


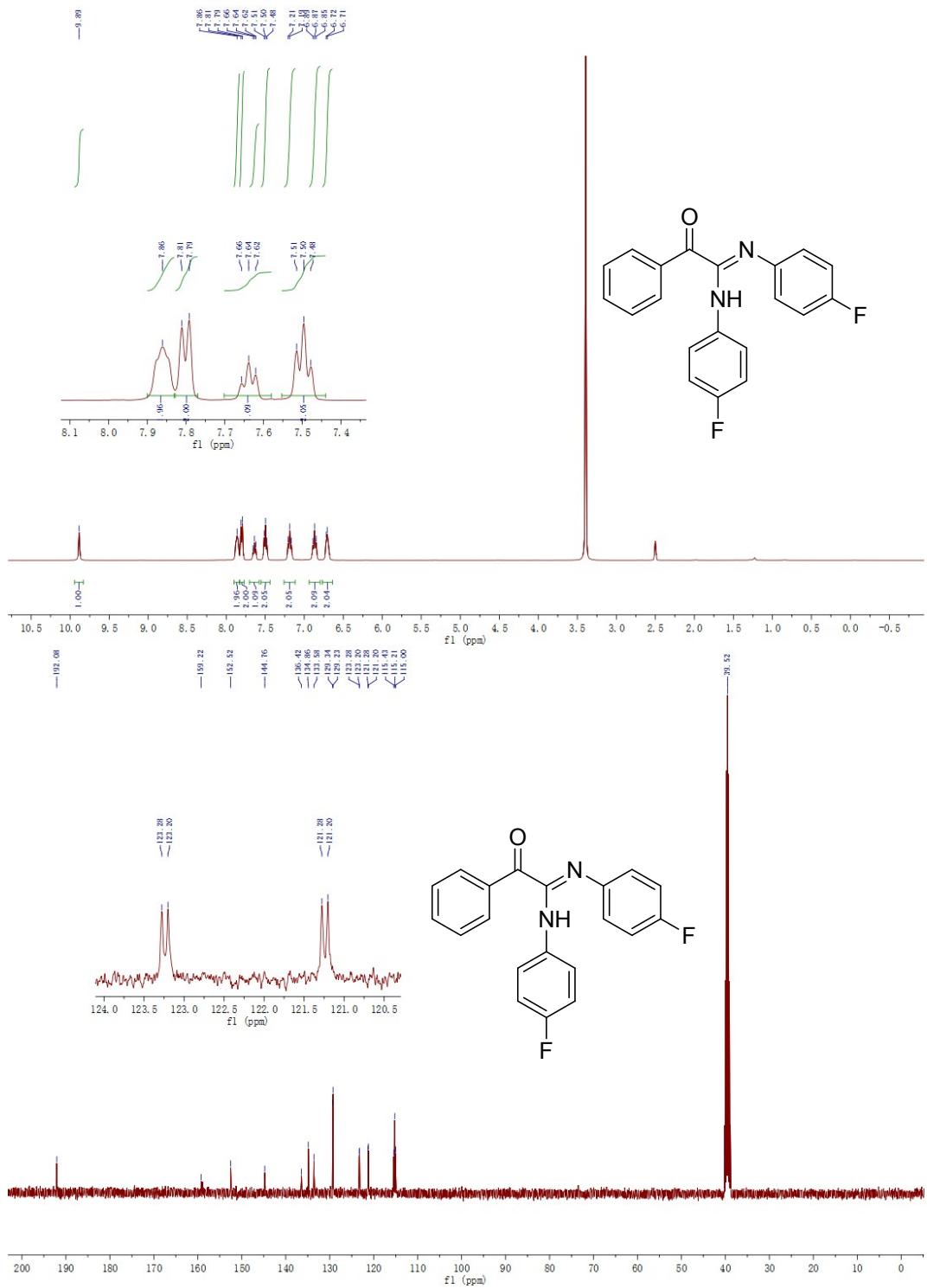


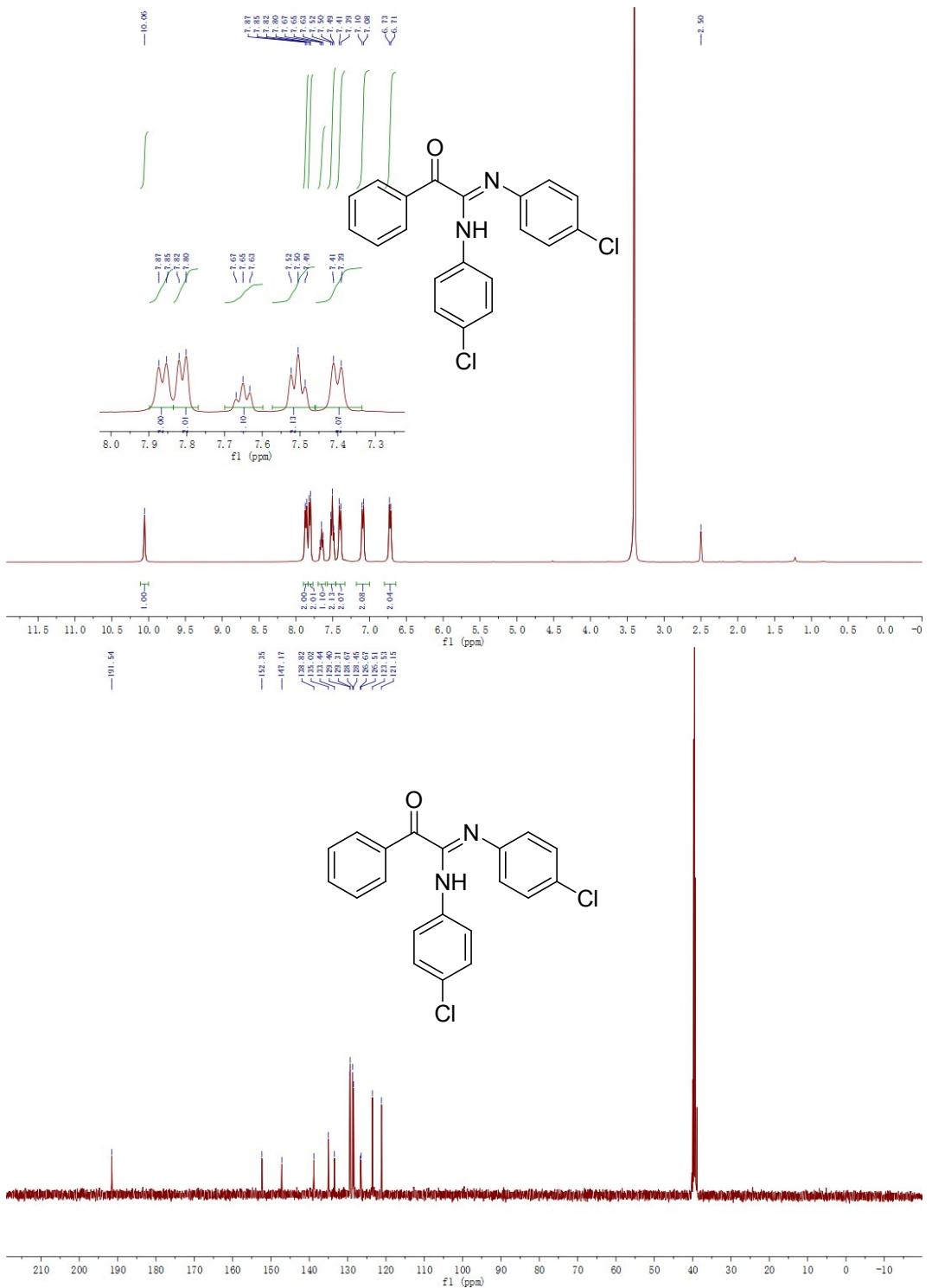


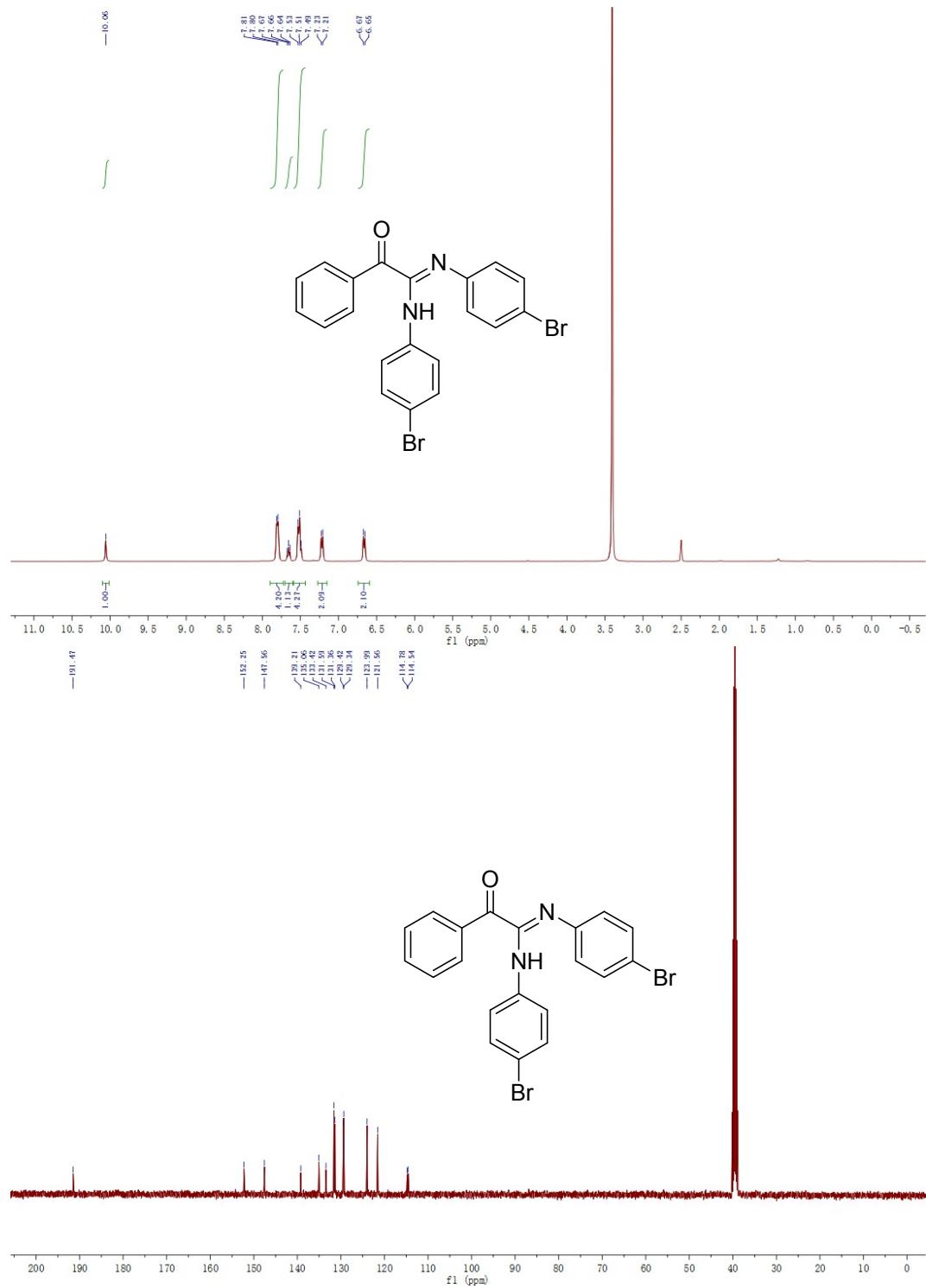


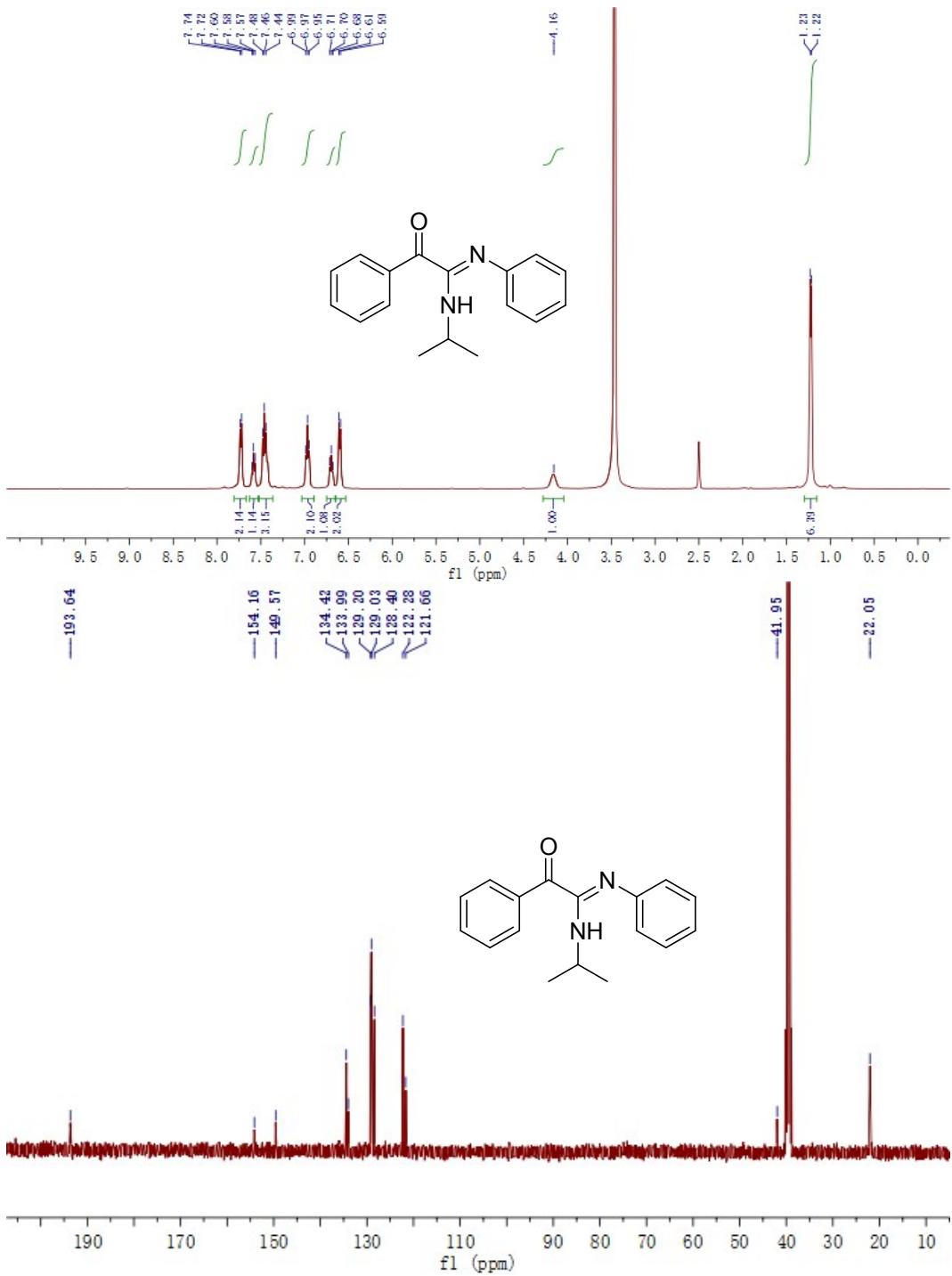


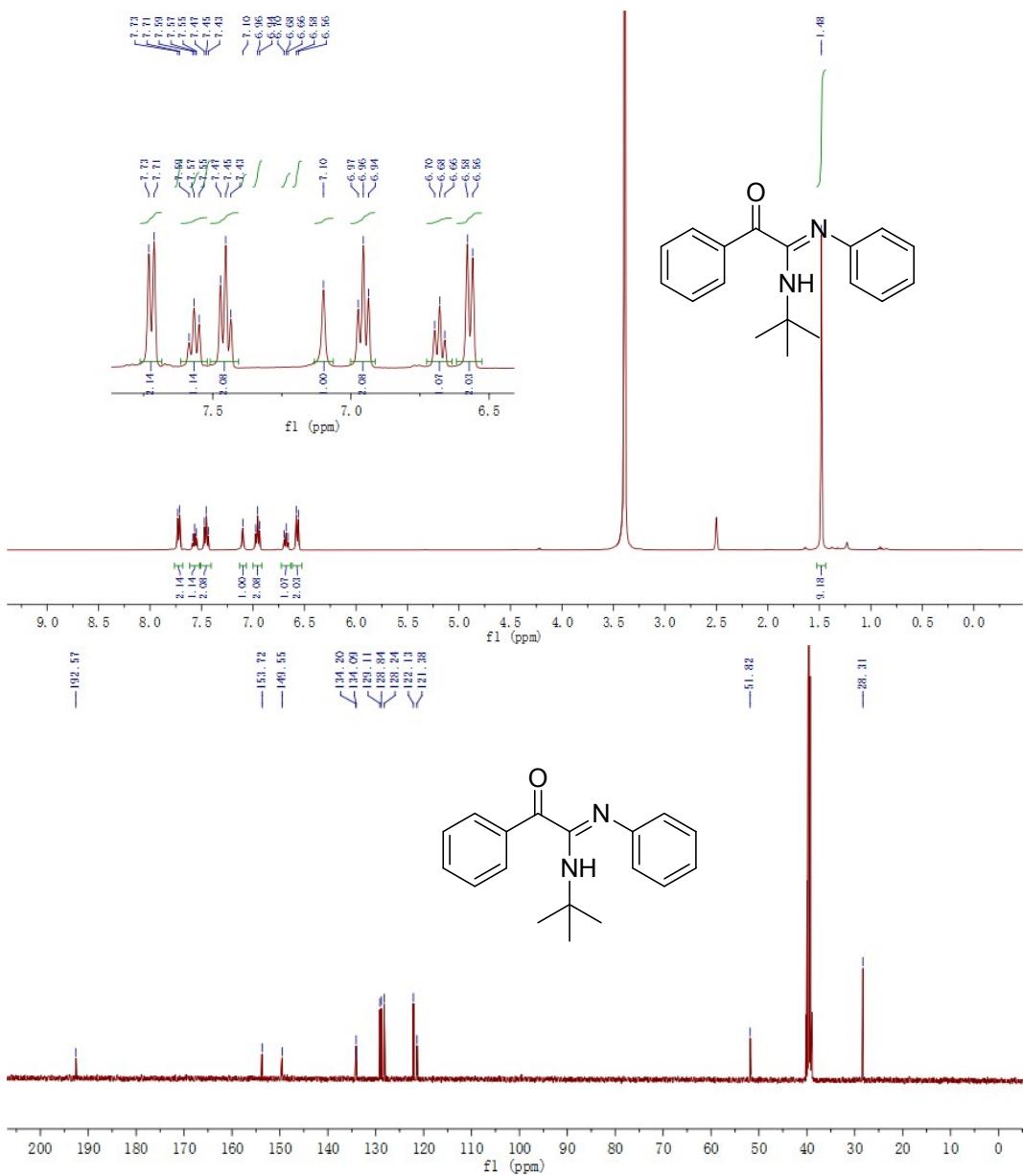


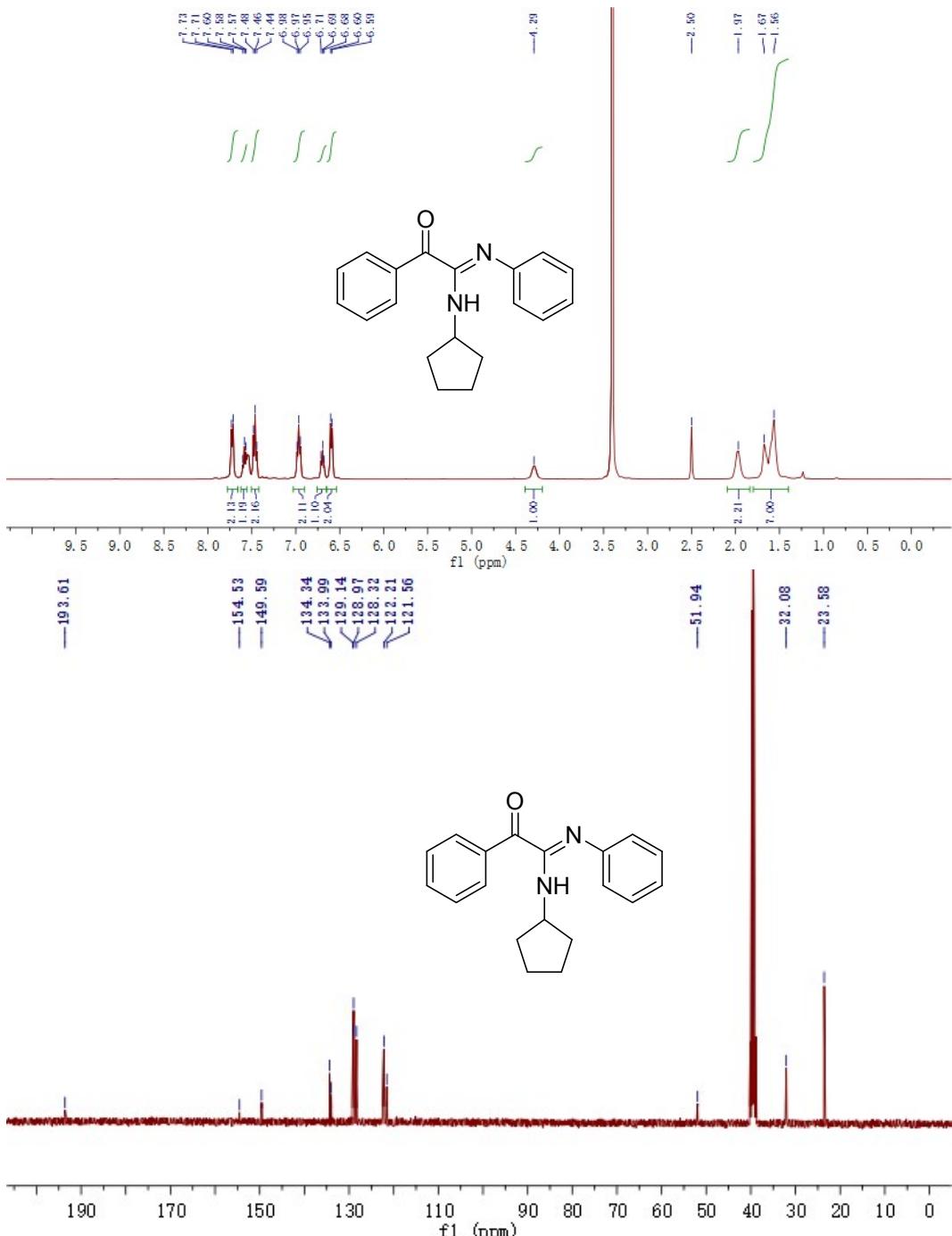


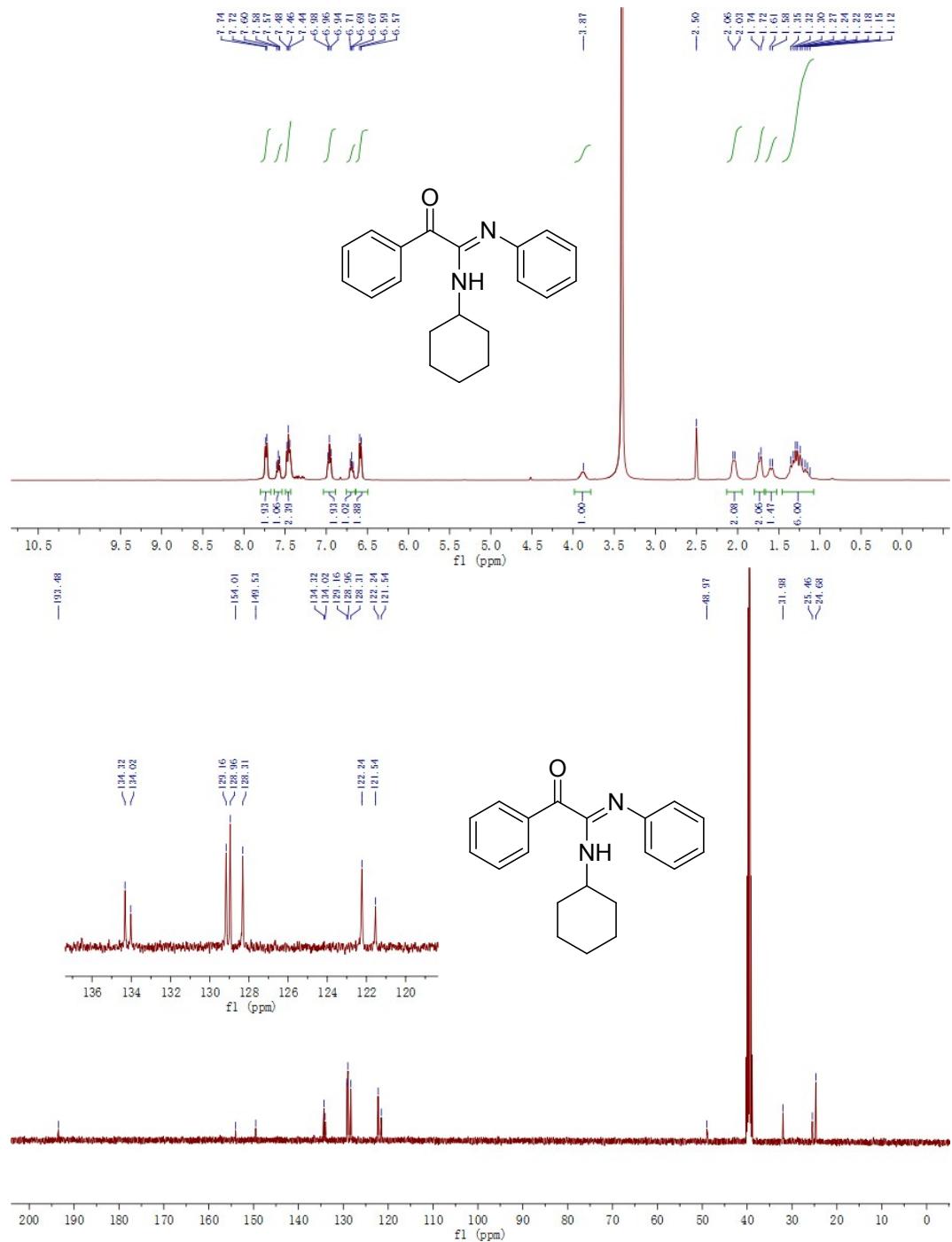


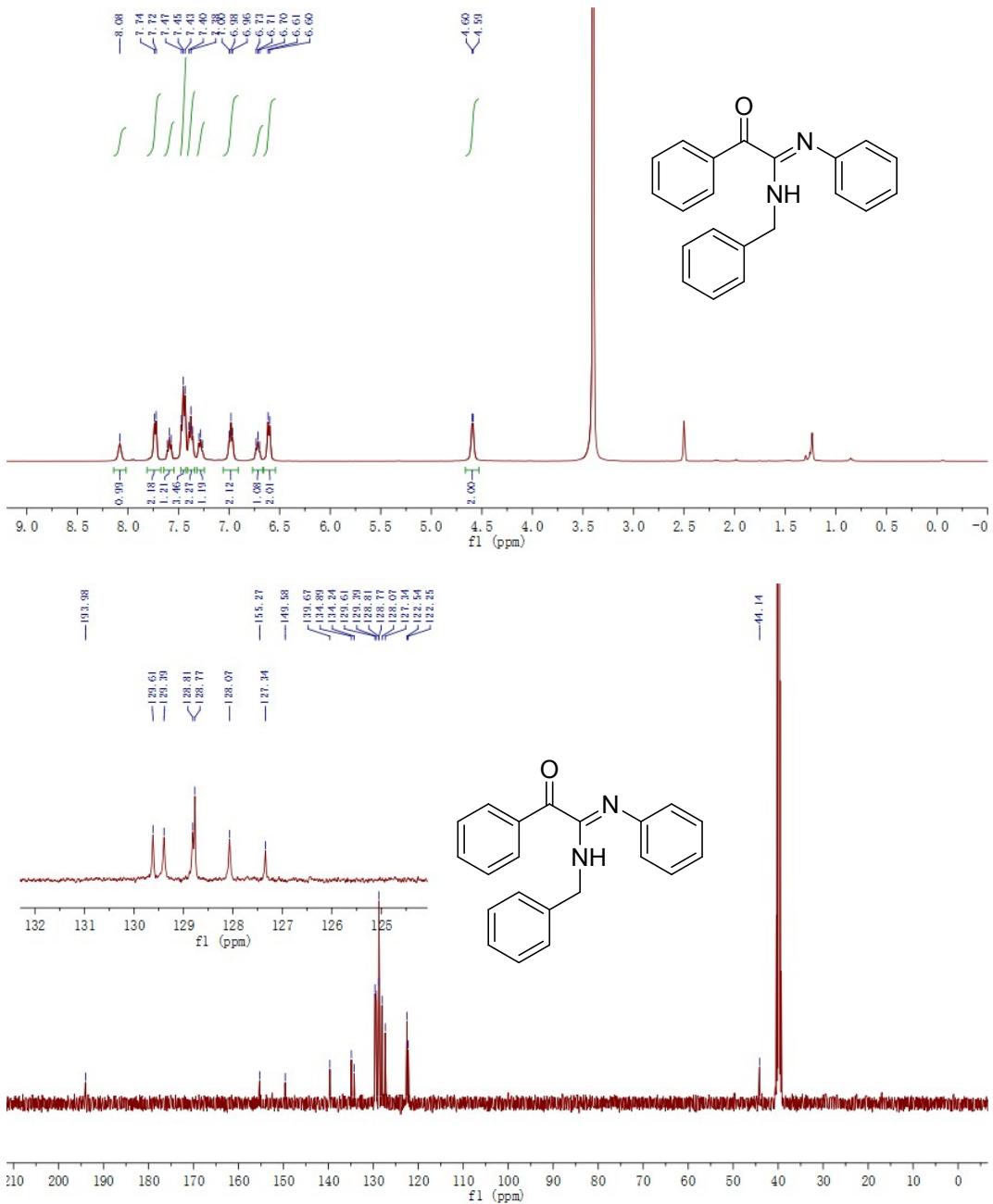


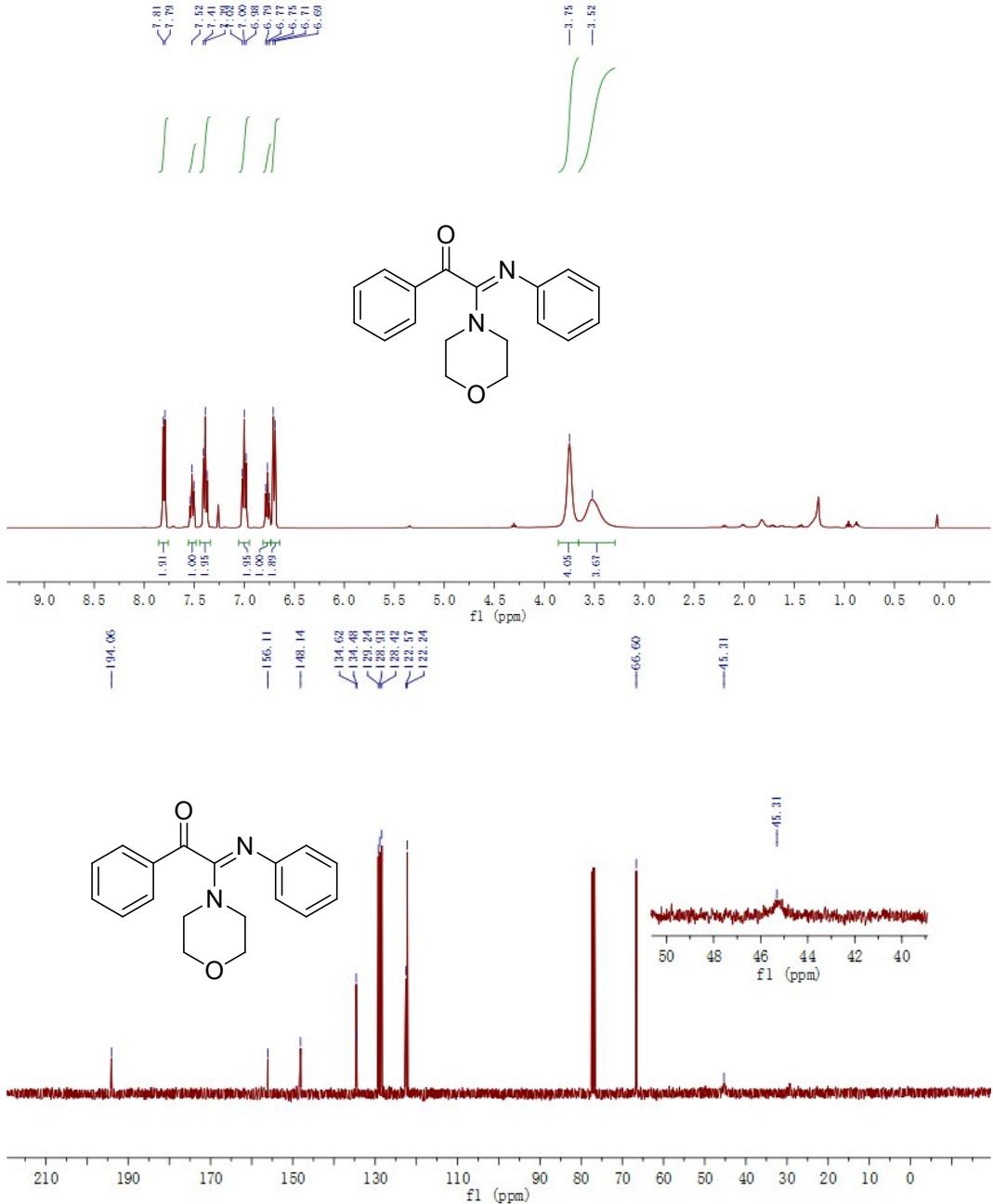


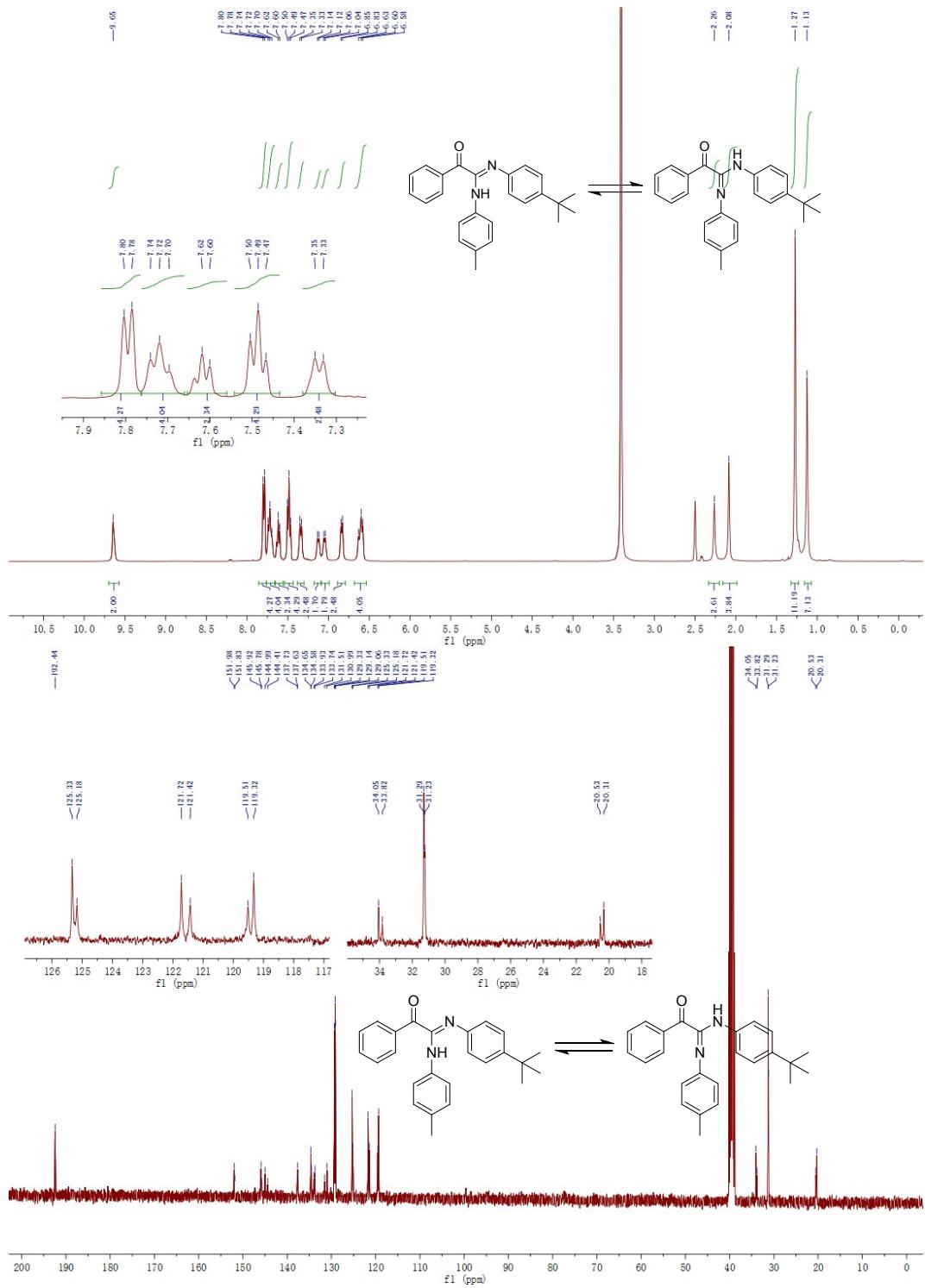








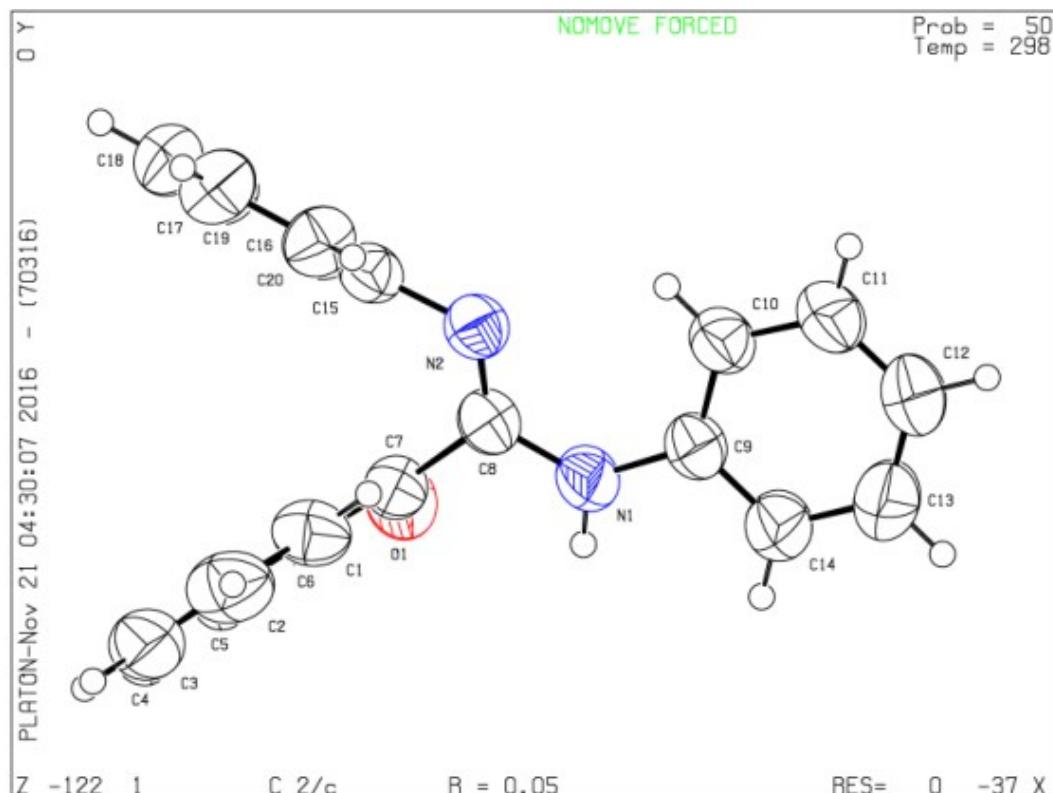




## 6. crystal structure data

A single crystal for X-ray analysis of **3aa** was obtained by recrystallisation from EtOAc/petroleumether.

CCDC-1555783 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).



Compound **3aa**: Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level.