

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Palladium-Catalyzed C(sp²)-H Aminoimidoylation of Isocyano-Containing Arenes: Synthesis of Amino Substituted N-Heterocycles

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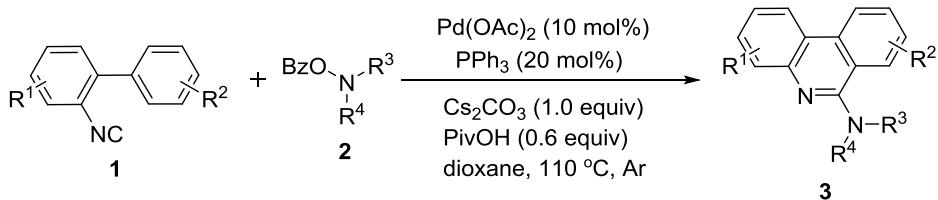
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I. General Information

¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (125 MHz) were registered on 400 M and 500 M spectrometers. Chemical shifts were reported in units (ppm) by assigning TMS resonance in the ¹H spectrum as 0.00 ppm, CDCl₃ resonance in the ¹³C spectrum as 77.0 ppm. All coupling constants (*J* values) were reported in Hertz (Hz). NMR analysis was carried out at 298 K unless noted otherwise. IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 spectrometer using a diamond comb. Melting points were performed on an X-6 spectrometer. HRMS was obtained on an ESI-LC-MS/MS spectrometer. Isocyanides and *N*-benzoyloxyamines were prepared according to the following literatures:

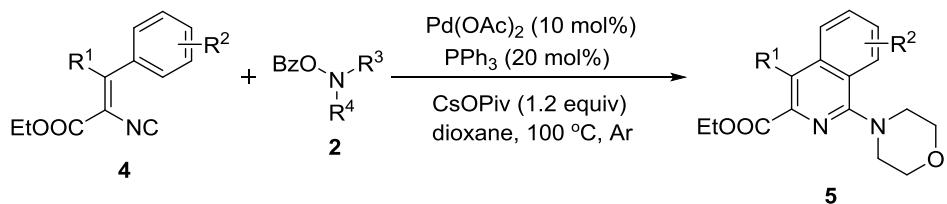
- (1) M. Tobisu, K. Koh, T. Furukawa, N. Chatani, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* 2012, **51**, 11363.
- (2) H. Wang, Y. Yu, X. Hong, B. Xu, *Chem. Commun.* 2014, **50**, 13485.
- (3) A. M. Berman, J. S. Johnson, *J. Org. Chem.* 2006, **71**, 219.

II. General Procedure



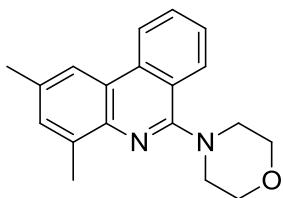
General procedure A: An oven-dried 25 mL Schlenk tube charged with Pd(OAc)₂ (0.01 mmol, 2.24 mg), PPh₃ (0.02 mmol, 5.24 mg), Cs₂CO₃ (0.10 mmol, 32.6 mg) and **2** (0.15 mmol) was refilled with Ar for 3 times. Then a solution of pivalic acid (0.06 mmol, 7.0 μ L) in 0.5 mL of dioxane was added by syringe and the tube was placed in a 110 °C oil-bath. A solution of **1** (0.1 mmol) in 1.0 mL of dioxane was added dropwise within 1 h by a syringe pump to the reaction mixture. After reacting for another 1-2 h, the reaction was completed. The crude reaction mixture was extracted with EA (20 mL \times 3) and washed with brine (20 mL). The organic phase was concentrated in *vacuo* and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography to afford the corresponding amino-substituted

phenanthridines **3**.



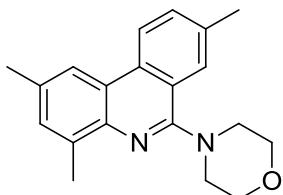
General procedure B: An oven-dried 25 mL Schlenk tube charged with Pd(OAc)₂ (0.01 mmol, 2.24 mg), PPh₃ (0.02 mmol, 5.24 mg), CsOPiv (0.12 mmol, 28.08 mg) and **2** (0.15 mmol) was refilled with Ar for 3 times. Then 0.5 mL of dioxane was added by syringe and the tube was placed in a 100 °C oil-bath. A solution of **4** (0.10 mmol) in 1.0 mL of dioxane was added dropwise within 1 h by a syringe pump to the reaction mixture. After reacting for another 1-2 h, the reaction was completed. The crude reaction mixture was extracted with EA (20 mL × 3) and washed with brine (20 mL). The organic phase was concentrated in *vacuo* and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography to afford the corresponding amino-substituted isoquinolines **5**.

III. Characterization Data



4-(2,4-dimethylphenanthridin-6-yl)morpholine (**3a**)

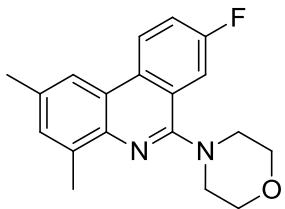
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3,5-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (20.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 30) furnished the product **3a** as a white solid (23 mg, 0.078 mmol, 78% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.74 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.51 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 4H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.9, 140.4, 136.3, 135.3, 134.0, 131.2, 129.8, 126.4, 126.2, 123.1, 122.3, 121.0, 119.4, 67.2, 51.9, 21.9, 18.2; IR (KBr): 3069, 2967, 2913, 2893, 2857, 1607, 1574, 1522, 1447, 1278, 772 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₁₉H₂₀N₂O (M+H⁺) 293.1648; found 293.1645; mp: 118-120 °C.



4-(2,4,8-trimethylphenanthridin-6-yl)morpholine (**3b**)

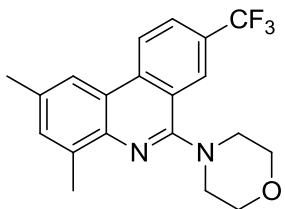
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3,4',5-trimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (22.1 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3b** as a light yellow solid (16 mg, 0.052 mmol, 52% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.44 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 4.02 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.50 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 4H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.7, 140.0, 136.3, 136.2, 133.9, 133.1, 131.5, 130.8, 125.6, 123.1, 122.4, 121.1, 119.2, 67.2, 51.9, 22.0, 21.9, 18.2; IR (KBr): 3010, 2954, 2919, 2890, 2867, 1605, 1573, 1528, 1451, 1282, 789 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₂₀H₂₂N₂O (M+H⁺) 307.1805; found

307.1805; mp: 88-90 °C.



4-(8-fluoro-2,4-dimethylphenanthridin-6-yl)morpholine (3c)

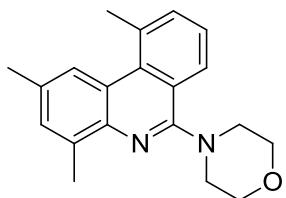
Prepared from 4'-fluoro-2-isocyano-3,5-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 8) furnished the product **3c** as a light yellow solid (21 mg, 0.068 mmol, 68% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.55-8.51 (m, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.81-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.46 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 4H), 2.72 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.2 (d, *J* = 246.8 Hz), 157.3 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 140.0, 136.6, 134.6, 131.8 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 131.1, 125.7 (d, *J* = 8.23 Hz), 122.5 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 121.9, 119.2, 119.0 (d, *J* = 23.8 Hz), 110.9 (d, *J* = 21.8 Hz), 67.1, 51.8, 21.9, 18.2; IR (KBr): 3071, 2981, 2916, 2895, 2859, 1617, 1576, 1529, 1450, 1282, 752 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₁₉H₁₉FN₂O (M+H⁺) 311.1554; found 311.1554; mp: 127-129 °C.



4-(2,4-dimethyl-8-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridin-6-yl)morpholine (3d)

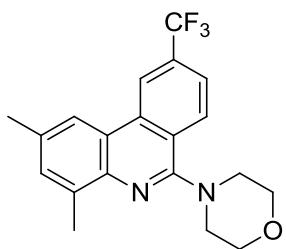
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3,5-dimethyl-4'-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (27.5 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3d** as a white solid (26 mg, 0.072 mmol, 72% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.63 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 4.02 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.49 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 4H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.55 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.7, 141.2, 137.5, 136.7, 134.7, 132.4, 128.4 (q, *J* = 32.7 Hz), 125.7 (q, *J* = 3.53 Hz),

125.4 (q, $J = 272.3$ Hz), 124.2, 123.8 (q, $J = 4.2$ Hz), 121.4, 120.4, 119.7, 66.9, 51.9, 21.9, 18.1; IR (KBr): 3015, 2973, 2920, 2867, 2848, 1625, 1577, 1456, 1435, 1274, 797 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₂₀H₁₉F₃N₂O (M+H⁺) 361.1522; found 361.1521; mp: 127-129 °C.



4-(2,4,10-trimethylphenanthridin-6-yl)morpholine (**3e**)

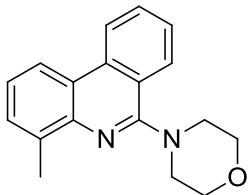
Prepared from 2-isocyano-2',3,5-trimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (22.1 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3e** as a white solid (24 mg, 0.076 mmol, 76% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.35 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 4.01 (t, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 4H), 3.46 (t, $J = 4.6$ Hz, 4H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 2.55 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.6, 141.3, 136.2, 135.9, 134.8, 134.2, 132.9, 130.5, 126.0, 124.8, 124.3, 123.8, 122.4, 67.2, 51.9, 27.1, 22.3, 18.8; IR (KBr): 3018, 2952, 2918, 2884, 2850, 1614, 1583, 1528, 1448, 1279, 750 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₂₀H₂₂N₂O (M+H⁺) 307.1805; found 307.1804; mp: 125-127 °C.



4-(2,4-dimethyl-9-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridin-6-yl)morpholine (**3f**)

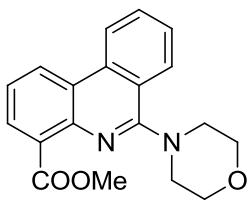
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3,5-dimethyl-3'-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (27.5 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3f** as a light yellow solid (16 mg, 0.045 mmol, 45 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.80 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 4.02 (t, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 4H),

3.49 (t, $J = 4.7$ Hz, 4H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.2, 140.7, 136.5, 134.9, 134.7, 132.0, 131.5 (q, $J = 32.3$ Hz), 127.2, 125.2 (q, $J = 273.0$ Hz), 122.5, 122.2 (q, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 121.6, 120.5 (q, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 119.3, 66.9, 51.7, 21.8, 17.9; IR (KBr): 3050, 2960, 2916, 2893, 2857, 1727, 1585, 1517, 1453, 1278, 798 cm^{-1} ; HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O} (\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ 361.1522; found 361.1526; mp: 168-170 °C.



4-(4-methylphenanthridin-6-yl)morpholine (**3g**)

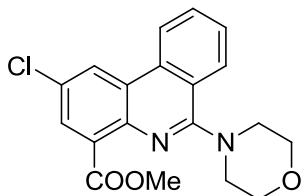
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3-methyl-1, 1'-biphenyl (19.3 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification ($\text{EtOAc} : \text{petroleum ether} = 1 : 16$) furnished the product **3g** as a light yellow solid (16 mg, 0.058 mmol, 58% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.57 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.76 (t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.02 (t, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 4H), 3.54 (t, $J = 4.7$ Hz, 4H), 2.78 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.5, 142.2, 136.6, 135.5, 130.0, 129.5, 126.6, 126.3, 124.5, 123.2, 122.4, 120.9, 119.7, 67.1, 51.8, 18.3; IR (KBr): 3021, 2958, 2917, 2884, 2852, 1610, 1576, 1522, 1458, 1273, 786 cm^{-1} ; HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O} (\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ 279.1492; found 279.1493; mp: 109-110 °C.



Methyl 6-morpholinophenanthridine-4-carboxylate (**3h**)

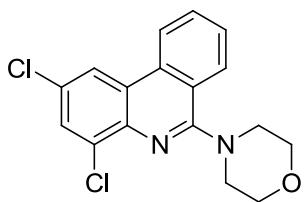
Prepared from methyl 2-isocyano-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-carboxylate (23.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification ($\text{EtOAc} : \text{petroleum ether} = 1 : 4$) furnished the product **3h** as a white solid (21 mg, 0.066 mmol, 66% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.53 (t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, $J = 8.1$

Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.98 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.57 (t, J = 4.7 Hz, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.7, 159.6, 141.3, 134.8, 130.5, 128.8, 127.2, 126.5, 124.7, 123.8, 123.1, 122.9, 120.9, 67.0, 52.4, 51.5; IR (KBr): 3067, 2998, 2954, 2919, 2829, 1610, 1573, 1523, 1453, 1276, 768 cm^{-1} ; HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 323.1390; found 323.1391; mp: 110-112 °C.



Methyl 2-chloro-6-morpholinophenanthridine-4-carboxylate (**3i**)

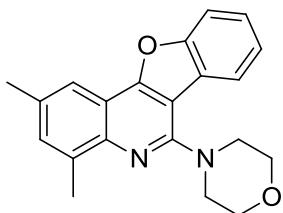
Prepared from methyl 5-chloro-2-isocyano-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-carboxylate (27.2 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3i** as a white solid (24 mg, 0.067 mmol, 67% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.45-8.43 (m, 2H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 3.96 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.57 (t, J = 4.7 Hz, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 168.2, 159.7, 139.9, 133.9, 132.4, 130.8, 129.4, 129.0, 127.9, 126.6, 124.2, 123.1, 121.0, 66.9, 52.6, 51.5; IR (KBr): 3076, 2970, 2948, 2890, 2846, 1613, 1583, 1524, 1448, 1260, 758 cm^{-1} ; HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 357.1000; found 357.1002; mp: 131-133 °C.



4-(2,4-dichlorophenanthridin-6-yl)morpholine (**3j**)

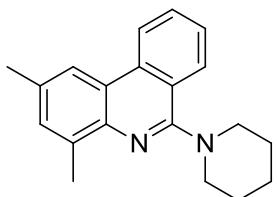
Prepared from 3,5-dichloro-2-isocyano-1,1'-biphenyl (24.8 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3j** as a light yellow solid (22 mg, 0.066 mmol, 66% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.45 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 2.2 Hz,

1H), 8.17 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.62 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.9, 138.9, 134.2, 133.8, 130.9, 129.6, 129.3, 127.9, 126.7, 124.7, 123.4, 121.3, 120.5, 66.9, 51.7; IR (KBr): 3082, 2970, 2916, 2863, 2848, 1611, 1583, 1517, 1444, 1272, 703 cm^{-1} ; HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O} (\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ 333.0556; found 333.0557; mp: 204-206 °C.



2,4-dimethyl-6-morpholinobenzofuro[3,2-c]quinolone (**3k**)

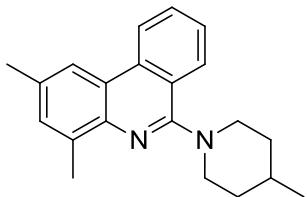
Prepared from 2-(2-isocyano-3,5-dimethylphenyl)benzofuran (24.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3k** as a light yellow solid (21 mg, 0.061 mmol, 61% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 4.05 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.64 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.7, 155.8, 154.9, 143.7, 136.0, 133.9, 132.1, 126.2, 123.9, 123.0, 122.2, 117.7, 114.9, 111.9, 108.5, 67.1, 49.9, 21.7, 18.4; IR (KBr): 3030, 2950, 2913, 2857, 2819, 1634, 1594, 1507, 1435, 1275, 752 cm^{-1} ; HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2 (\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ 333.1598; found 333.1596; mp: 107-109 °C.



2,4-dimethyl-6-(piperidin-1-yl)phenanthridine (**3l**)

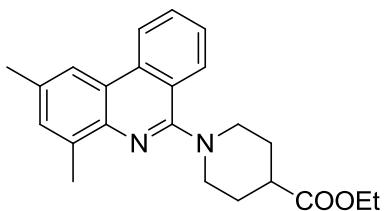
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3,5-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (20.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and piperidin-1-yl benzoate (30.8 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 60) furnished the product **3l** as a light yellow solid (24 mg, 0.081 mmol, 81%

yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.53 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.72 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 3.46 (t, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 4H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 1.91-1.85 (m, 4H), 1.76-1.71 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.2, 140.7, 136.1, 135.2, 133.4, 131.0, 129.6, 126.7, 126.2, 122.9, 122.1, 121.6, 119.4, 52.7, 26.3, 25.2, 21.9, 18.1; IR (KBr): 3068, 2967, 2928, 2854, 1646, 1610, 1584, 1520, 1464, 1264, 774 cm^{-1} ; HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2(\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ 291.1856; found 291.1852; mp: 97-99 °C.



2,4-dimethyl-6-(4-methylpiperidin-1-yl)phenanthridine (3m)

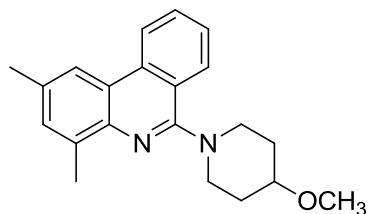
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3, 5-dimethyl-1, 1'-biphenyl (20.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4-methylpiperidin-1-yl benzoate (32.9 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification ($\text{EtOAc} : \text{petroleum ether} = 1 : 60$) furnished the product **3m** as a light yellow solid (21 mg, 0.070 mmol, 70% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.53 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.72 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 3.94 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.01 (t, $J = 12.6$ Hz, 4H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 1.90-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.74-1.52 (m, 3H), 1.09 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.9, 140.7, 136.1, 135.1, 133.4, 131.0, 129.6, 126.7, 126.2, 122.9, 122.1, 121.6, 119.4, 51.9, 34.7, 31.6, 22.3, 21.9, 18.2; IR (KBr): 3069, 2955, 2922, 2861, 2826, 1609, 1574, 1520, 1453, 1281, 773 cm^{-1} ; HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2(\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ 305.2012; found 305.2011; mp: 96-98 °C.



Ethyl 1-(2,4-dimethylphenanthridin-6-yl)piperidine-4-carboxylate (3n)

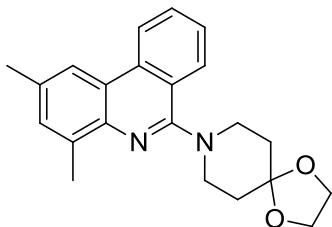
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3, 5-dimethyl-1, 1'-biphenyl (20.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and ethyl 1-(benzoyloxy)piperidine-4-carboxylate (41.6 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5

equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3n** as a light yellow oil (18 mg, 0.050 mmol, 50% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.53 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.95-3.90 (m, 2H), 3.10-3.03 (m, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.63-2.57 (m, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.14-2.08 (m, 4H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 175.4, 158.6, 140.5, 136.2, 135.1, 133.7, 131.1, 129.7, 126.4, 126.3, 122.9, 122.2, 121.4, 119.4, 60.5, 51.1, 41.9, 28.6, 21.9, 18.1, 14.4; IR (KBr): 3071, 2955, 2923, 2854, 2820, 1610, 1576, 1521, 1446, 1289, 776 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₂₃H₂₆N₂O₂ (M+H⁺) 363.2067; found 363.2070.



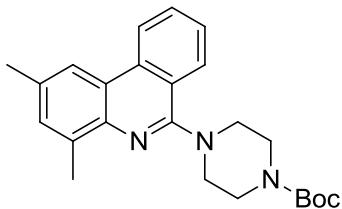
6-(4-methoxypiperidin-1-yl)-2,4-dimethylphenanthridine (**3o**)

Prepared from 2-isocyano-3,5-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (20.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4-methoxypiperidin-1-yl benzoate (35.3 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3o** as a white solid (18 mg, 0.057 mmol, 57% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.53 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 3.86-3.80 (m, 2H), 3.49-3.47 (m, 1H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 3.22-3.15 (m, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.19-2.15 (m, 2H), 1.94-1.84 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.5, 140.5, 136.2, 135.1, 133.6, 131.1, 129.7, 126.5, 126.4, 122.9, 122.2, 121.4, 119.4, 55.8, 49.2, 31.3, 21.9, 18.2; IR (KBr): 3019, 2953, 2924, 2854, 1719, 1599, 1576, 1504, 1455, 1272, 768 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₂O (M+H⁺) 321.1961; found 321.1966; mp: 108-110 °C.



8-(2,4-dimethylphenanthridin-6-yl)-1,4-dioxa-8-azaspiro[4.5]decane (3p**)**

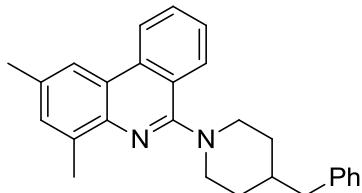
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3,5-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (20.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 1,4-dioxa-8-azaspiro[4.5]decan-8-yl benzoate (39.5 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3p** as a light yellow solid (22 mg, 0.064 mmol, 64% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.54 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.73 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 4.04 (s, 4H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 4H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.03 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 4H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.1, 140.5, 136.2, 135.2, 133.6, 131.1, 129.7, 126.4, 126.3, 122.9, 122.1, 121.3, 119.3, 107.9, 64.5, 49.4, 35.2, 21.9, 18.2; IR (KBr): 3071, 2979, 2918, 2856, 2838, 1611, 1582, 1521, 1454, 1277, 758 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₂₂H₂₄N₂O₂ (M+H⁺) 349.1911; found 349.1910; mp: 125–127 °C.



tert-butyl 4-(2,4-dimethylphenanthridin-6-yl)piperazine-1-carboxylate (3q**)**

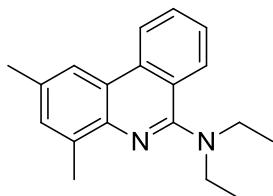
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3,5-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (20.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and tert-butyl 4-(benzoyloxy)piperazine-1-carboxylate (45.9 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3q** as a light yellow solid (27 mg, 0.070 mmol, 70% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.74 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 3.74 (t, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 4H), 3.46 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 1.52 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.9, 155.1, 140.3, 136.3, 135.2, 134.1, 131.2, 129.9, 126.5, 126.2, 123.1, 122.3, 121.1, 119.4, 79.9, 51.2, 43.3, 28.6,

21.9, 18.2; IR (KBr): 3067, 2961, 2925, 2893, 2845, 1608, 1573, 1520, 1452, 1274, 773 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₂₄H₂₉N₃O₂ (M+H⁺) 392.2333; found 392.2332. mp: 139-141 °C.



6-(4-benzylpiperidin-1-yl)-2,4-dimethylphenanthridine (3r**)**

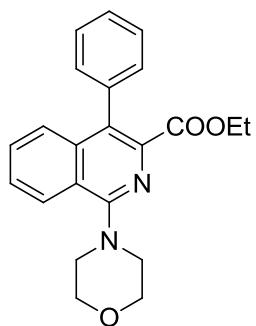
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3,5-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (20.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4-benzylpiperidin-1-yl benzoate (44.3 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 16) furnished the product **3r** as a light yellow solid (26 mg, 0.068 mmol, 68% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.53 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 3H), 3.95 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 2H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.69 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 1.87-1.84 (m, 3H), 1.71-1.60 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.9, 140.9, 140.6, 136.1, 135.1, 133.5, 131.0, 129.6, 129.3, 128.4, 126.6, 126.2, 125.9, 122.9, 122.1, 121.5, 119.4, 51.9, 43.6, 38.8, 32.6, 21.9, 18.1; IR (KBr): 3070, 2981, 2914, 2849, 2822, 1608, 1573, 1520, 1444, 1284, 774 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₂₇H₂₈N₂ (M+H⁺) 381.2325; found 381.2327; mp: 101-103 °C.



***N,N*-diethyl-2,4-dimethylphenanthridin-6-amine (**3s**)**

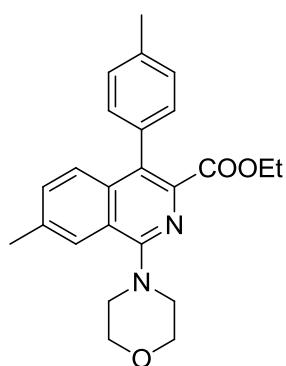
Prepared from 2-isocyano-3,5-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (20.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and *O*-benzoyl-*N,N*-diethylhydroxylamine (28.9 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 60) furnished the product **3s** as a light yellow oil (13 mg, 0.047 mmol, 47% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.54 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J*

= 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.72 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 3.53 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.6, 140.6, 136.0, 135.2, 133.2, 130.9, 129.5, 126.5, 126.1, 122.9, 122.5, 121.8, 119.3, 46.1, 21.9, 18.2, 13.2; IR (KBr): 3072, 2965, 2921, 2852, 1728, 1611, 1574, 1520, 1455, 1288, 773 cm^{-1} ; HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 279.1856; found 279.1852.



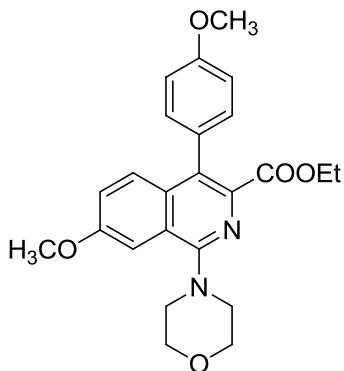
Ethyl 1-morpholino-4-phenylisoquinoline-3-carboxylate (**5a**)

Prepared from ethyl 2-isocyano-3,3-diphenylacrylate (27.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 8) furnished the product **5a** as a light yellow solid (22 mg, 0.061 mmol, 61% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.17-8.14 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 4.07 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 4H), 3.53 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 4H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 167.9, 160.4, 140.7, 137.9, 136.7, 130.4, 130.2, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 127.3, 127.1, 125.5, 121.9, 67.2, 61.1, 51.9, 13.7; IR (KBr): 3010, 2953, 2924, 2854, 1719, 1599, 1576, 1504, 1455, 1272, 768 cm^{-1} ; HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 363.1703; found 363.1700; mp: 189-191 °C.



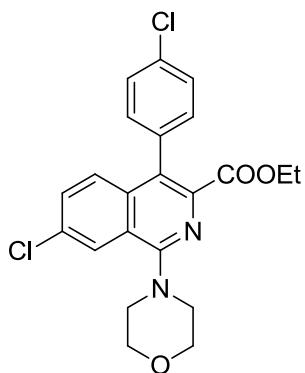
Ethyl 7-methyl-1-morpholino-4-(*p*-tolyl)isoquinoline-3-carboxylate (**5b**)

Prepared from ethyl 2-isocyano-3,3-di-*p*-tolylacrylate (30.5 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 8) furnished the product **5b** as a light yellow solid (21 mg, 0.054 mmol, 54% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.41 (t, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 4H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.1, 159.7, 139.9, 137.4, 137.3, 136.2, 133.8, 132.2, 130.1, 128.9, 128.5, 127.1, 124.4, 122.2, 67.2, 61.1, 51.9, 22.1, 21.4, 13.8; IR (KBr): 3025, 2977, 2921, 2882, 2850, 1646, 1573, 1518, 1441, 1276, 739 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₂₄H₂₆N₂O₃(M+H⁺) 391.2016; found 391.2019; mp: 105-107 °C.



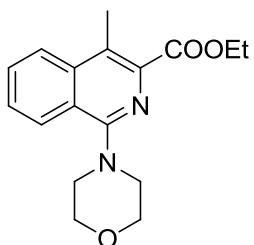
Ethyl 7-methoxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-morpholinoisoquinoline-3-carboxylate (**5c**)

Prepared from ethyl 3,3-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2-isocyanoacrylate (33.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.05 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 8) furnished the product **5c** as a light yellow solid (26 mg, 0.062 mmol, 62% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.53 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.10 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.48 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 4H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.2, 159.4, 159.1, 158.8, 139.0, 133.2, 131.3, 128.9, 128.6, 123.6, 121.9, 113.8, 104.4, 67.2, 61.0, 55.6, 55.5, 51.6, 13.9; IR (KBr): 3030, 2982, 2966, 2920, 2846, 1646, 1582, 1517, 1444, 1272, 835 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₂₄H₂₆N₂O₅(M+H⁺) 423.1914; found 423.1912; mp: 133-135 °C.



Ethyl 7-chloro-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-morpholinoisoquinoline-3-carboxylate (5d**)**

Prepared from ethyl 3,3-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2-isocyanoacrylate (34.6 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 8) furnished the product **5d** as a light yellow solid (16 mg, 0.037 mmol, 37% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.51 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 4H), 1.02 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.3, 159.7, 140.9, 136.2, 134.7, 134.2, 133.7, 131.6, 131.3, 128.7, 128.6, 126.7, 124.7, 122.7, 67.0, 61.4, 51.8, 13.9; IR (KBr): 3020, 2961, 2920, 2851, 1736, 1573, 1562, 1543, 1445, 1267, 782 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₂₂H₂₀Cl₂N₂O₃ (M+H⁺) 431.0924; found 431.0928; mp: 89-91 °C.



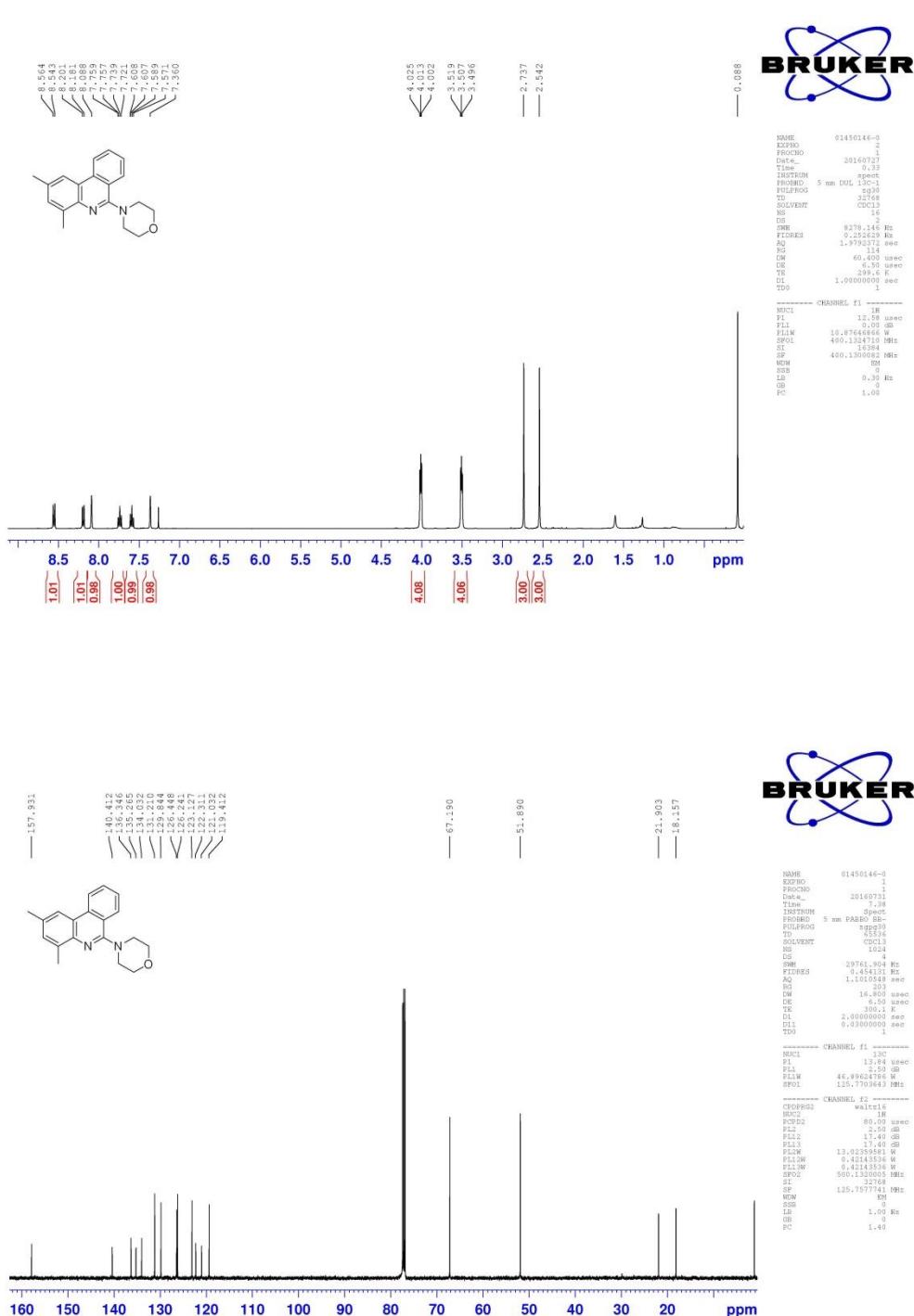
Ethyl 4-methyl-1-morpholinoisoquinoline-3-carboxylate (5e**)**

Prepared from (*Z*)-ethyl 2-isocyano-3-phenylbut-2-enoate (21.5 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and morpholino benzoate (31.05 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) according to the general procedure. Column chromatography purification (EtOAc : petroleum ether = 1 : 8) furnished the product **5e** as a light yellow oil (10 mg, 0.031 mmol, 31% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.42 (t, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 4H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR

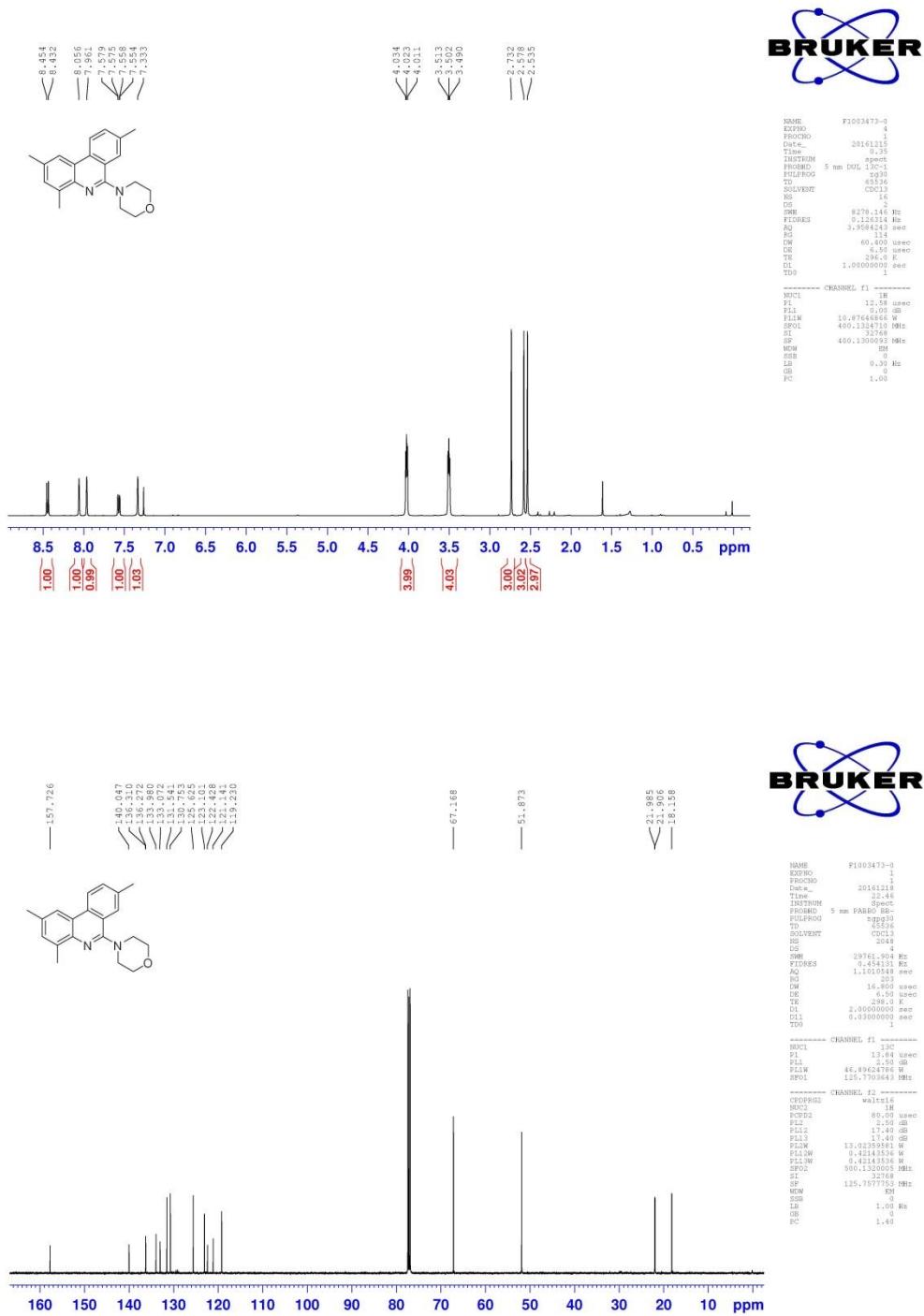
(125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.3, 159.2, 140.3, 138.2, 130.1, 127.2, 125.8, 124.9, 122.9, 122.1, 67.2, 61.4, 51.9, 14.4, 14.0; IR (KBr): 3073, 2959, 2921, 2850, 1721, 1615, 1579, 1504, 1441, 1273, 767 cm⁻¹; HRMS: calcd for C₁₇H₂₀N₂O₃ (M+H⁺) 301.1547; found 301.1549.

IV. Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra

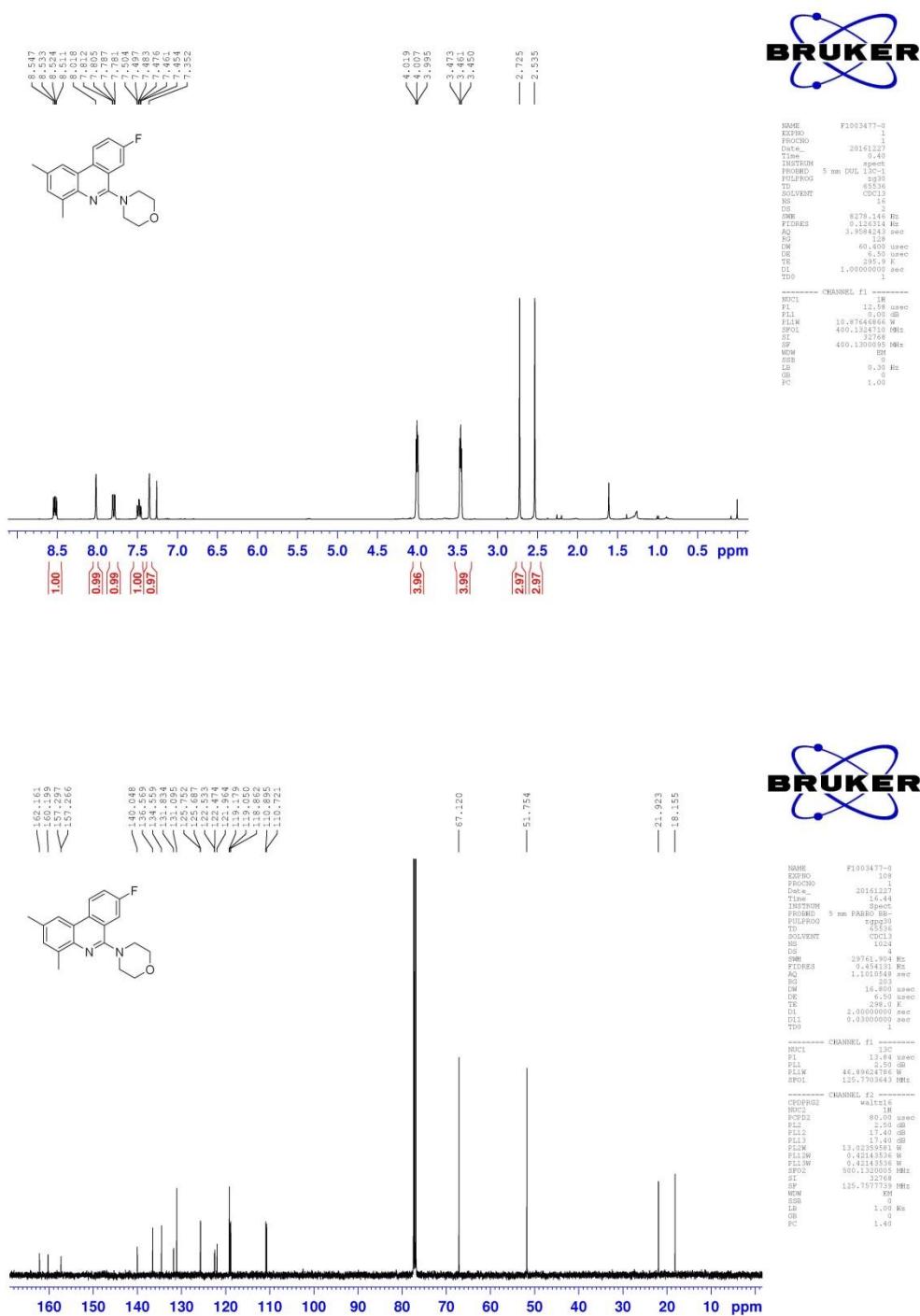
3a



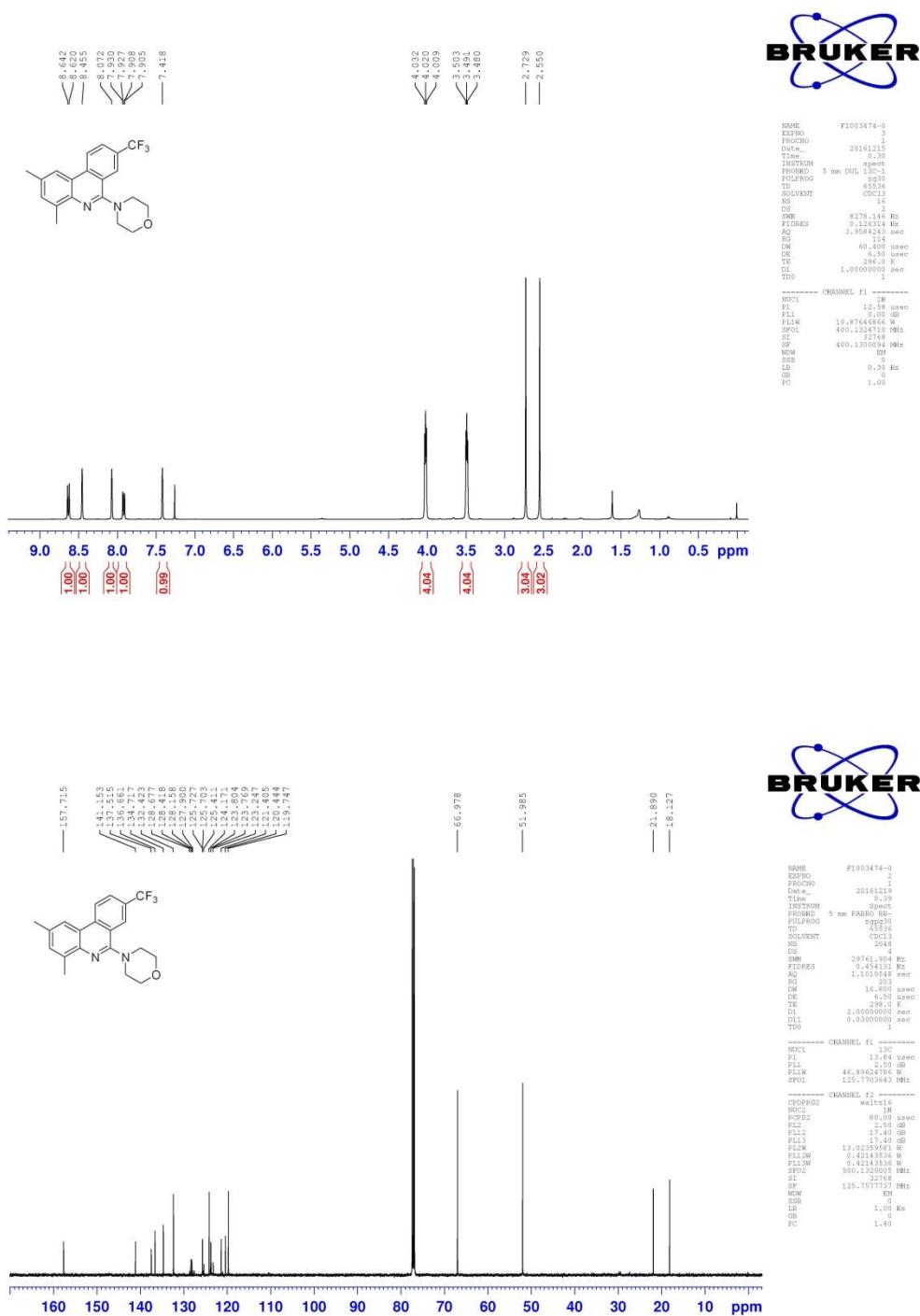
3b



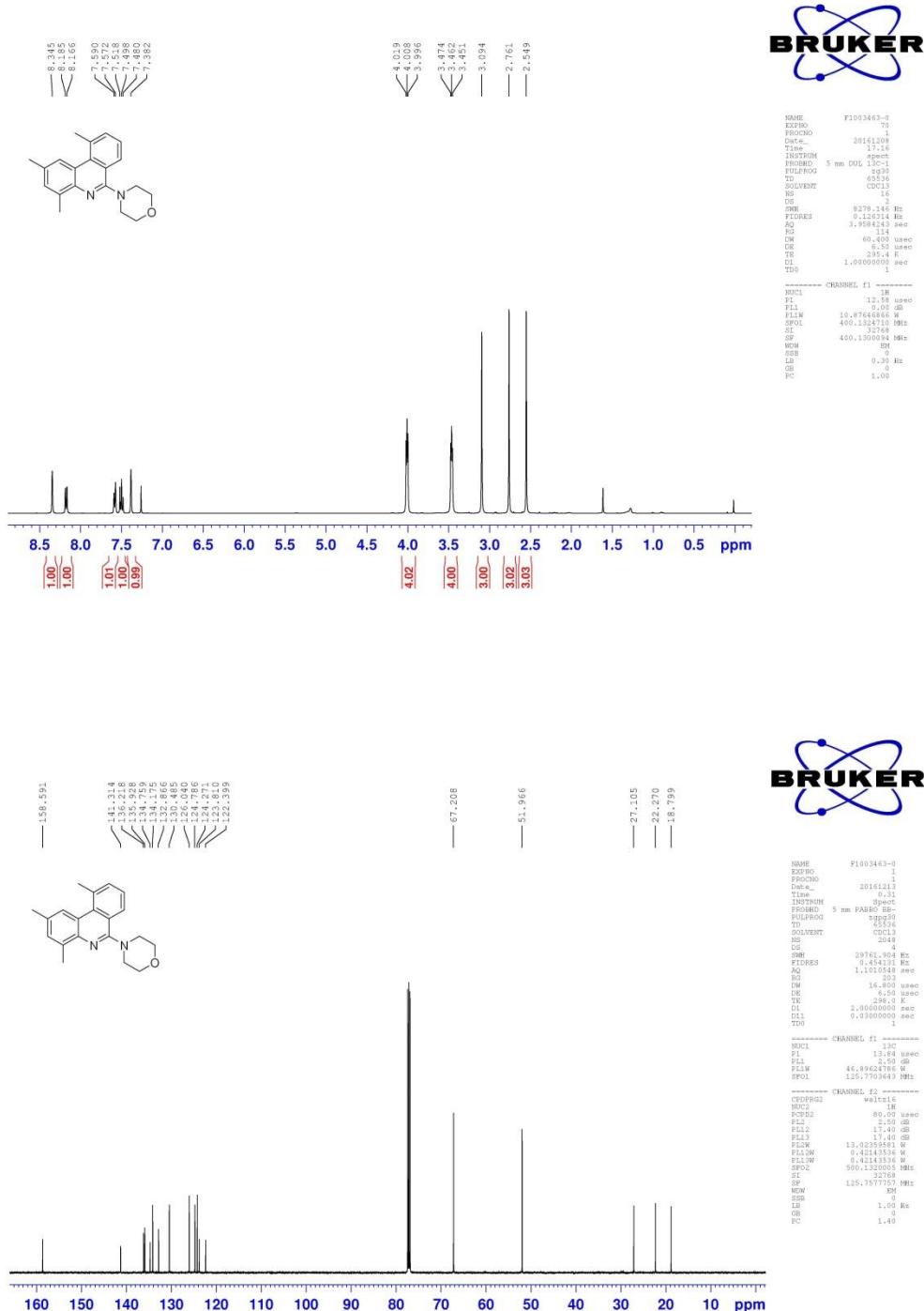
3c



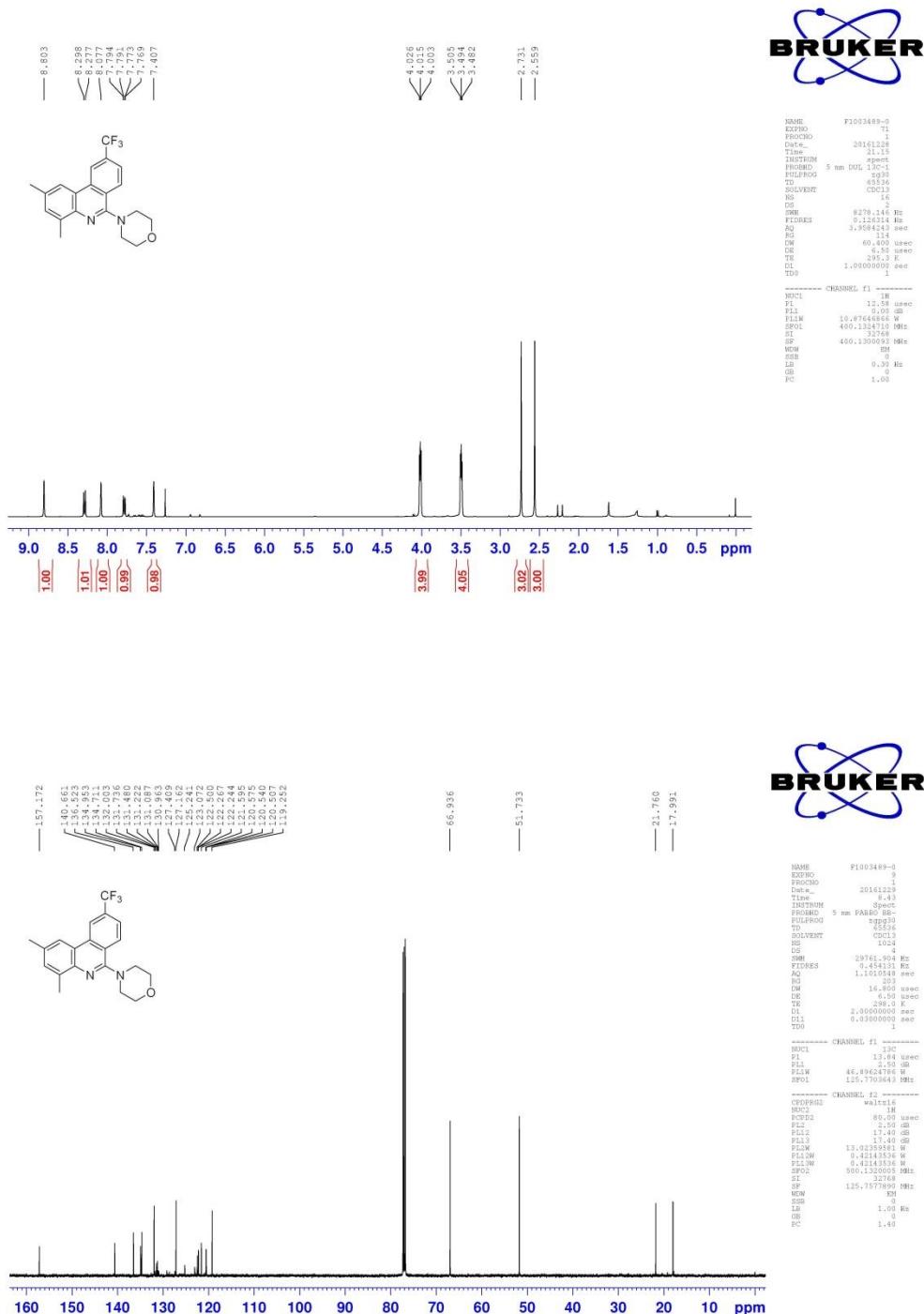
3d



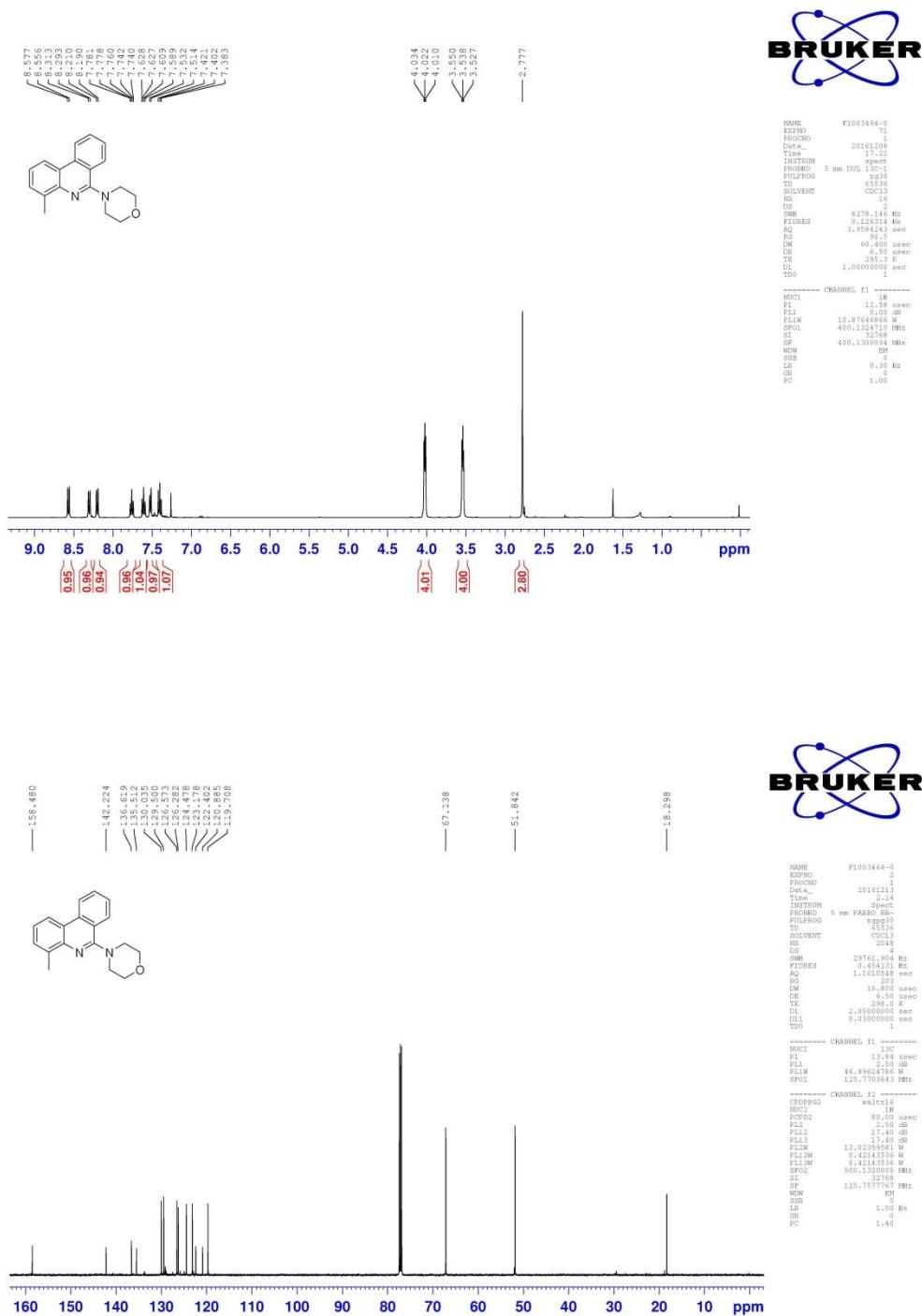
3e



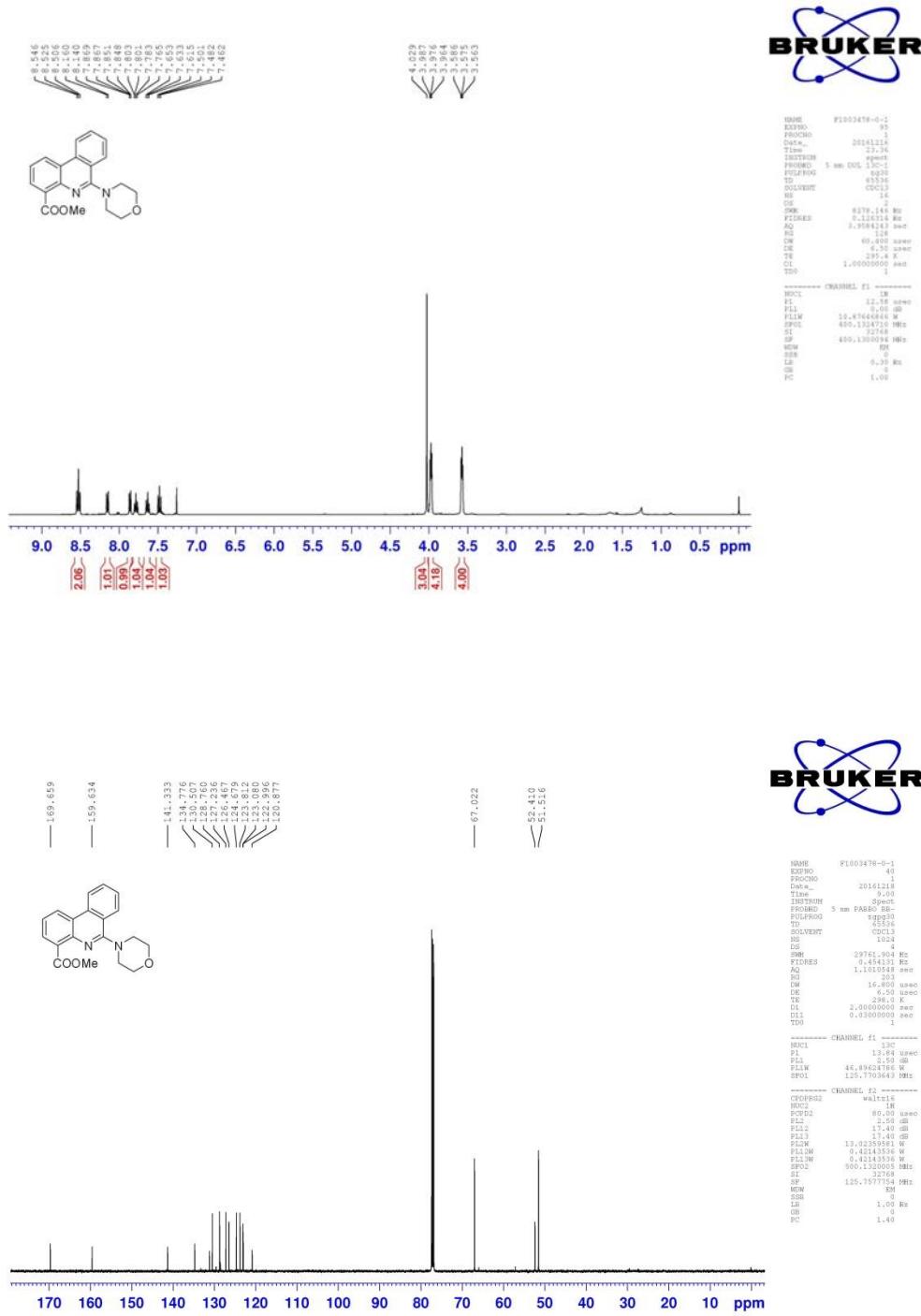
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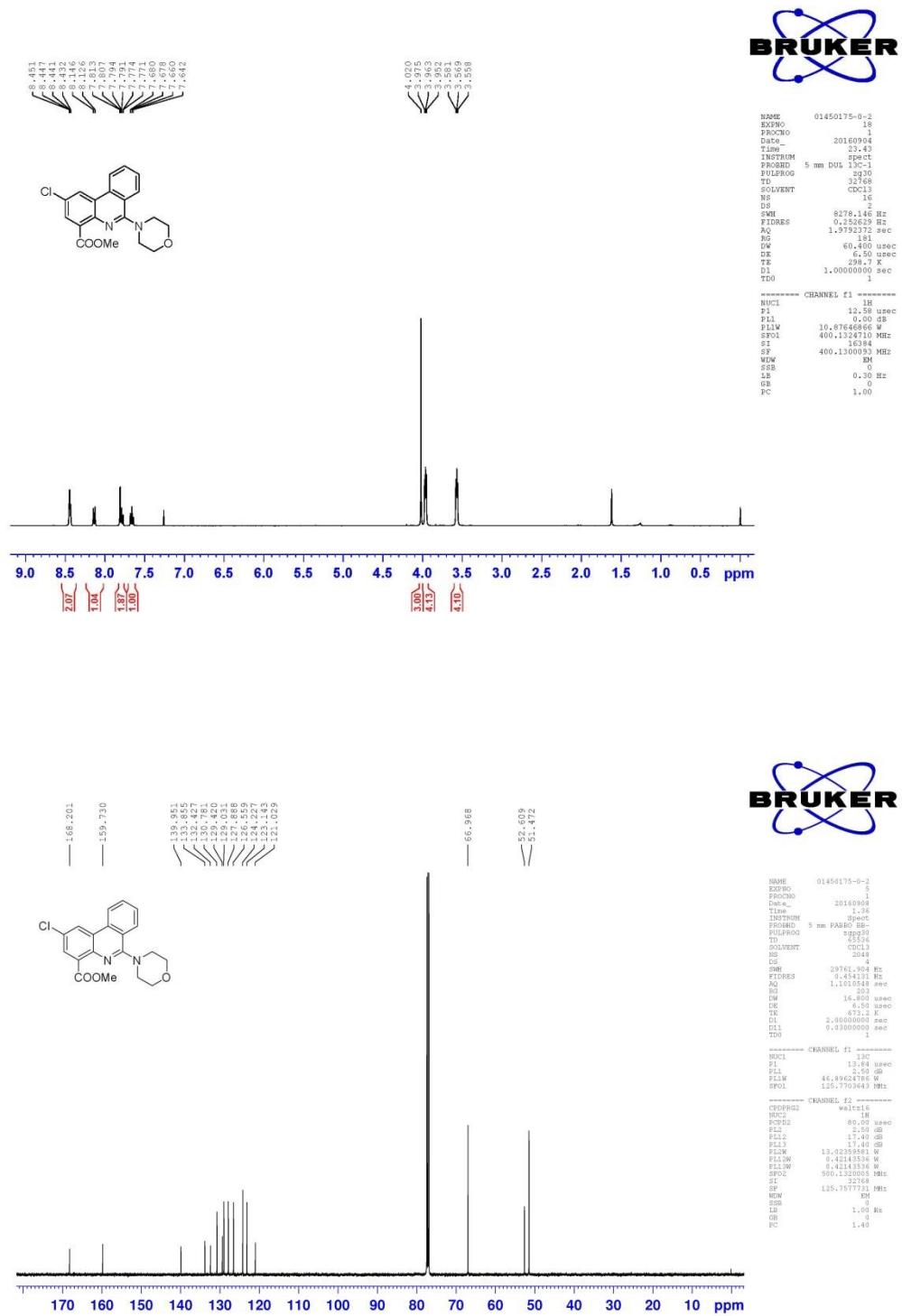
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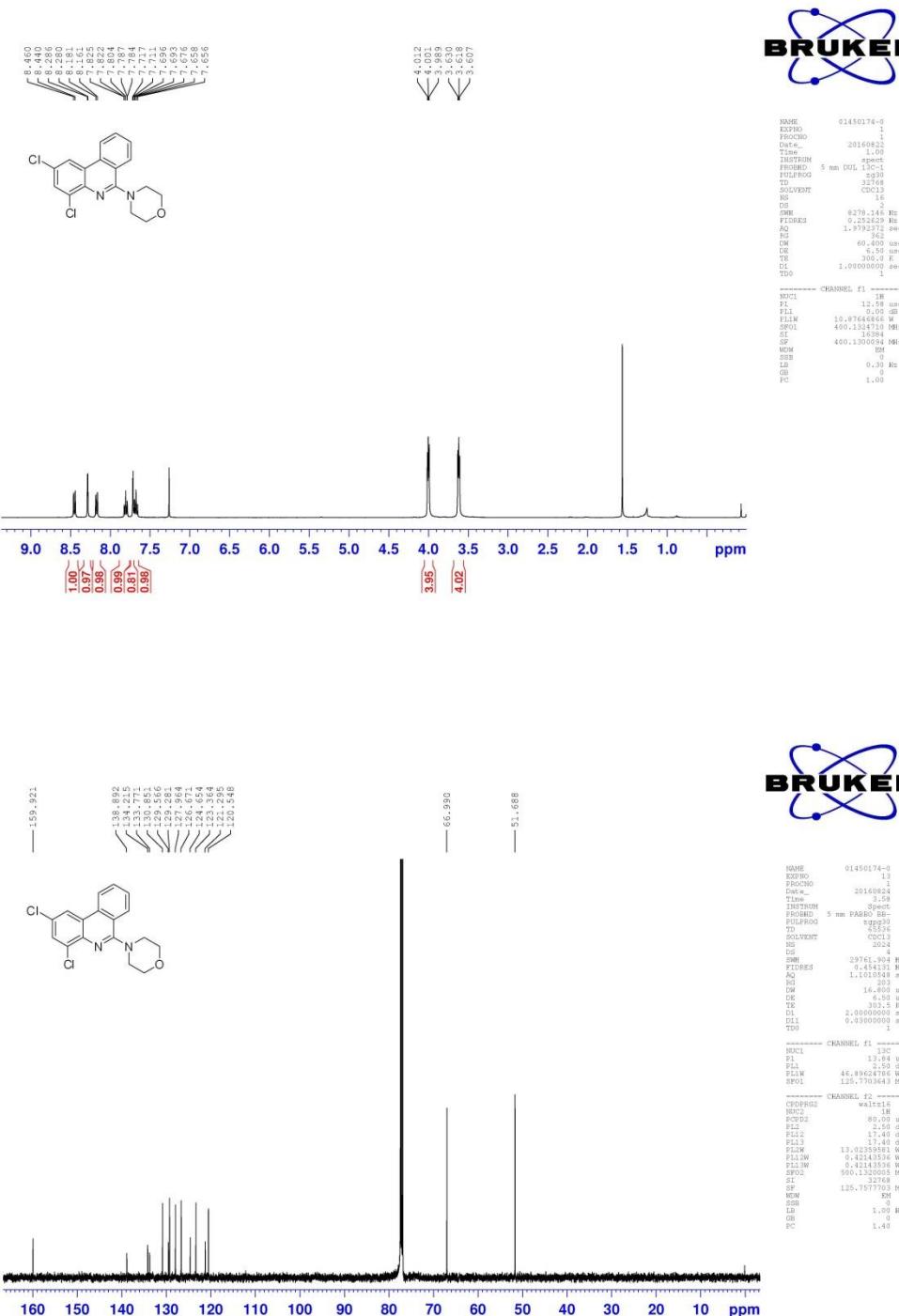
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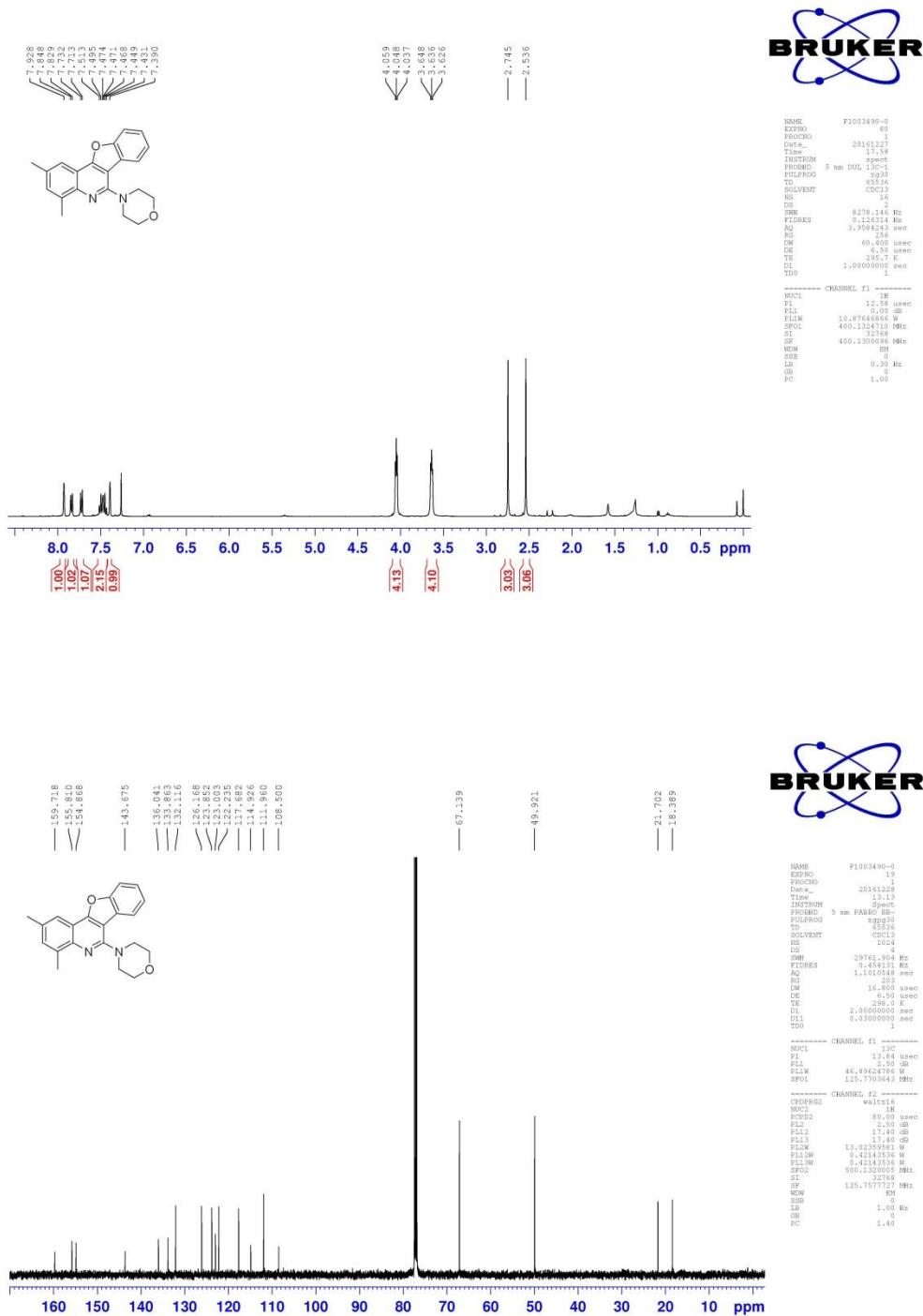
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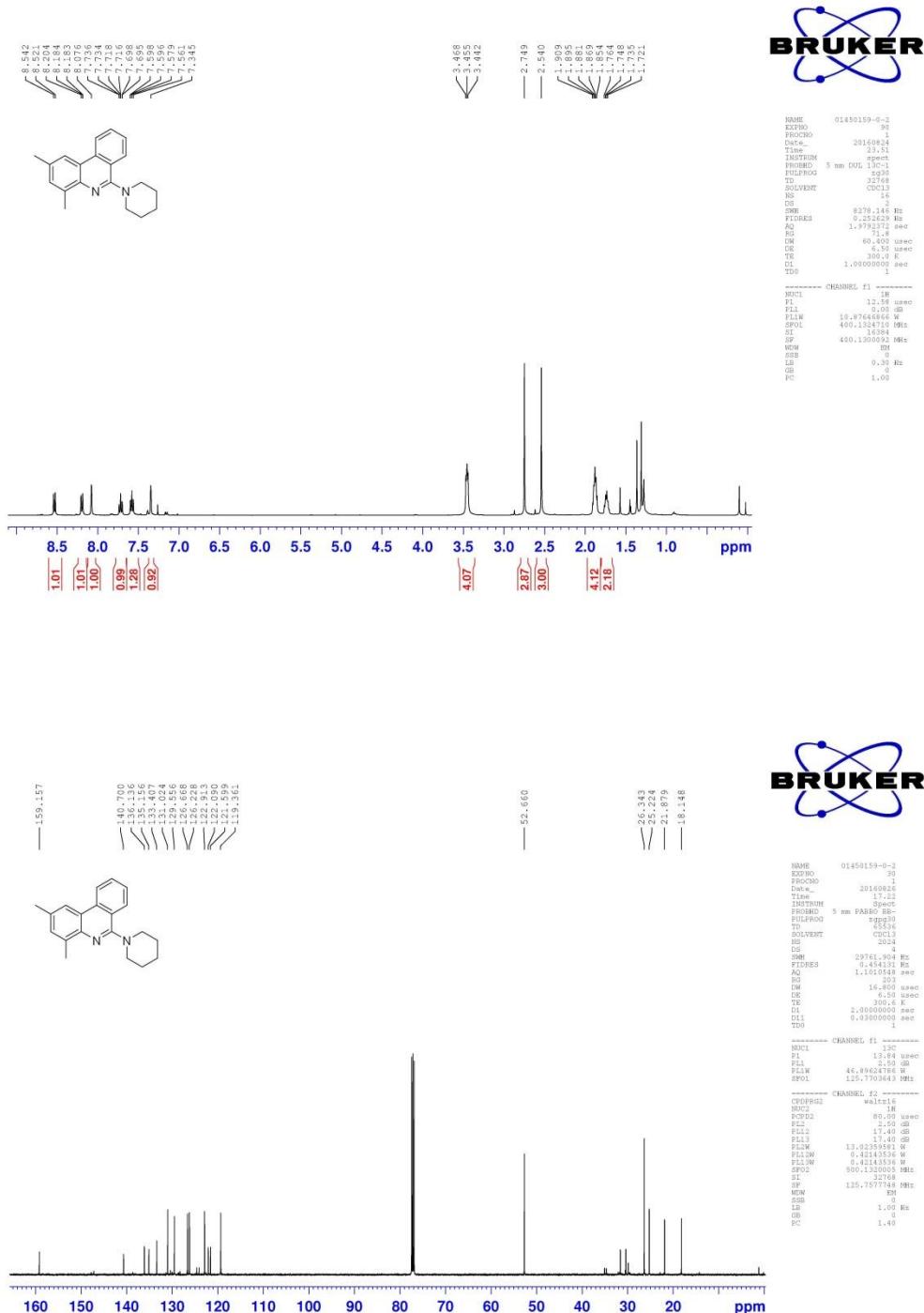


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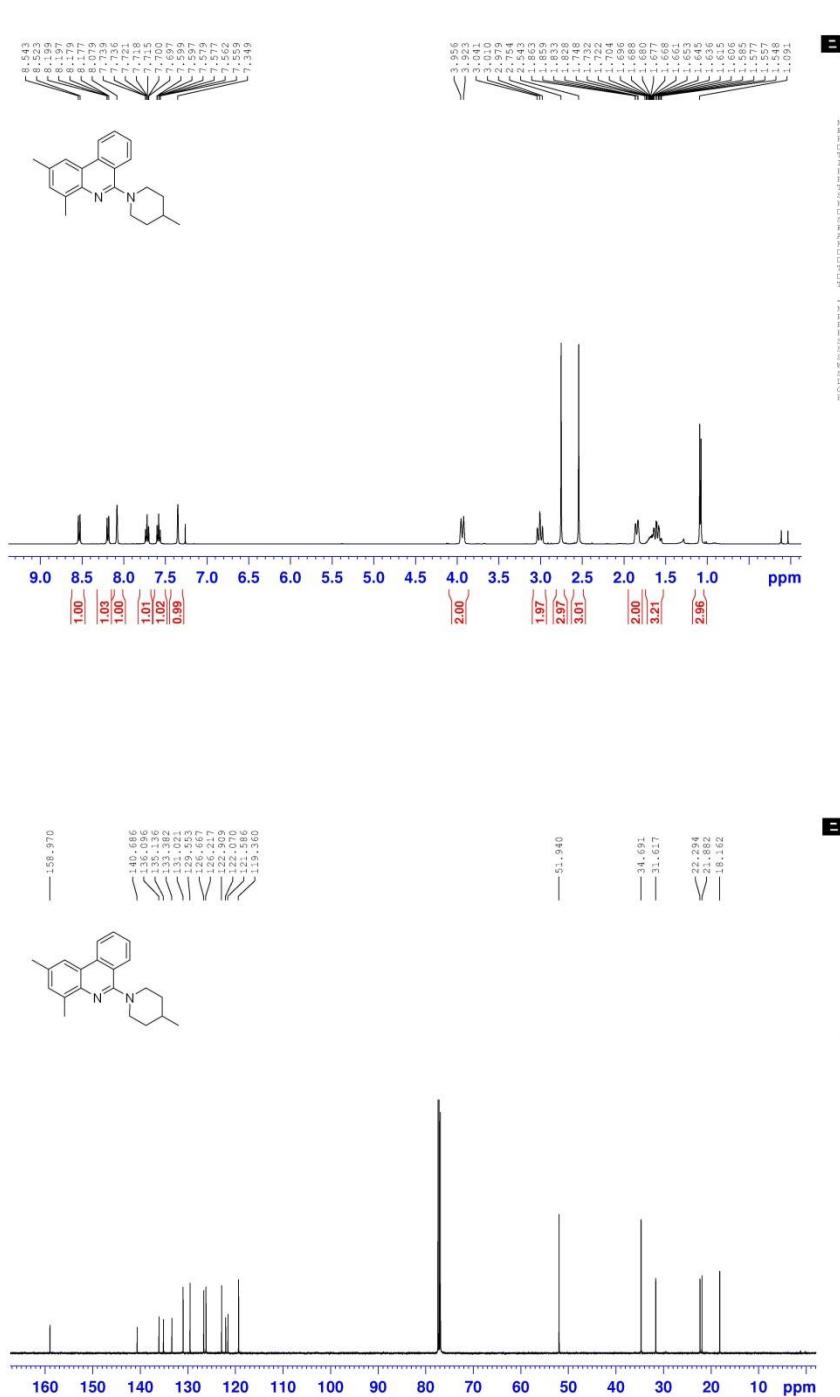


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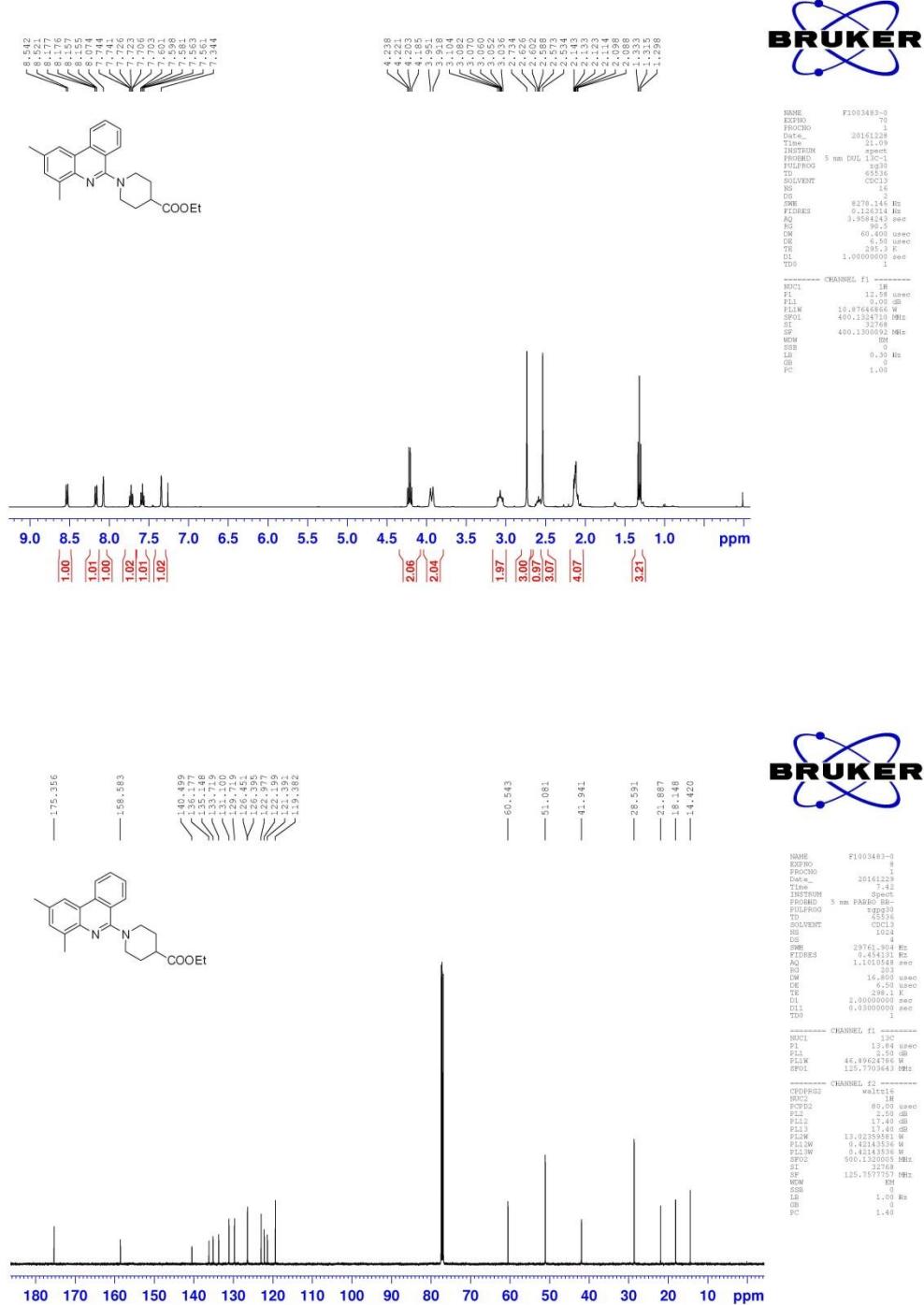


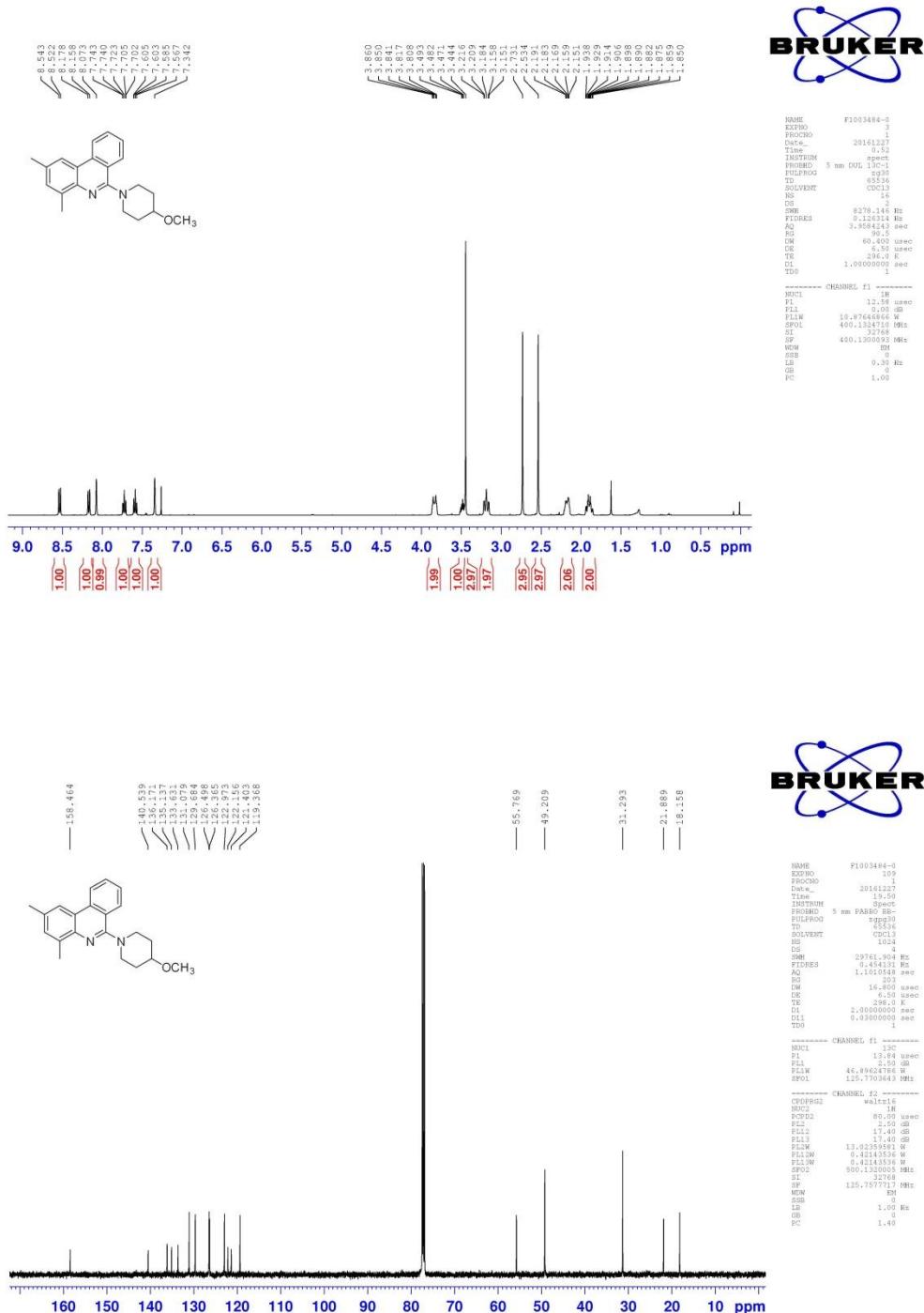


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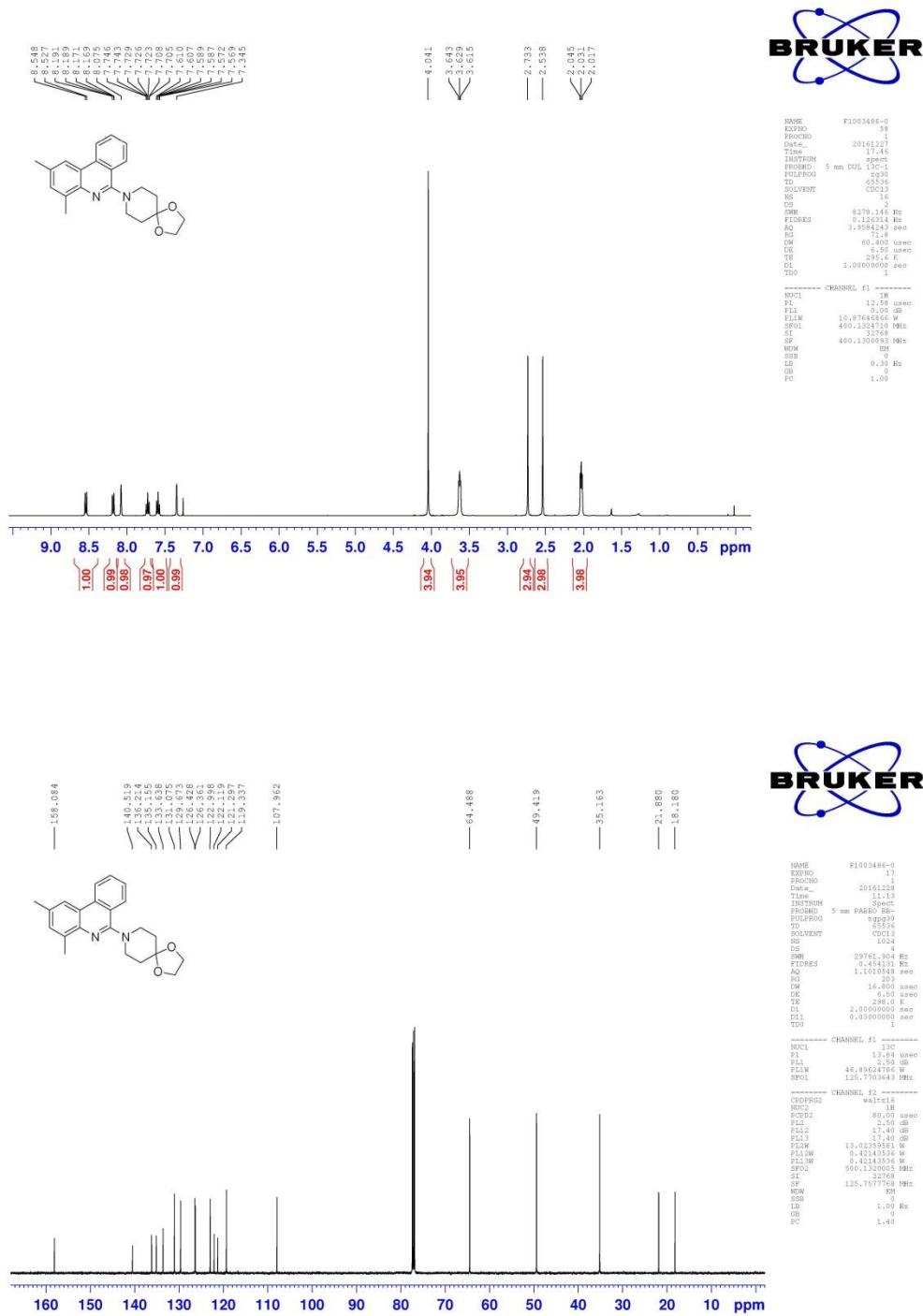


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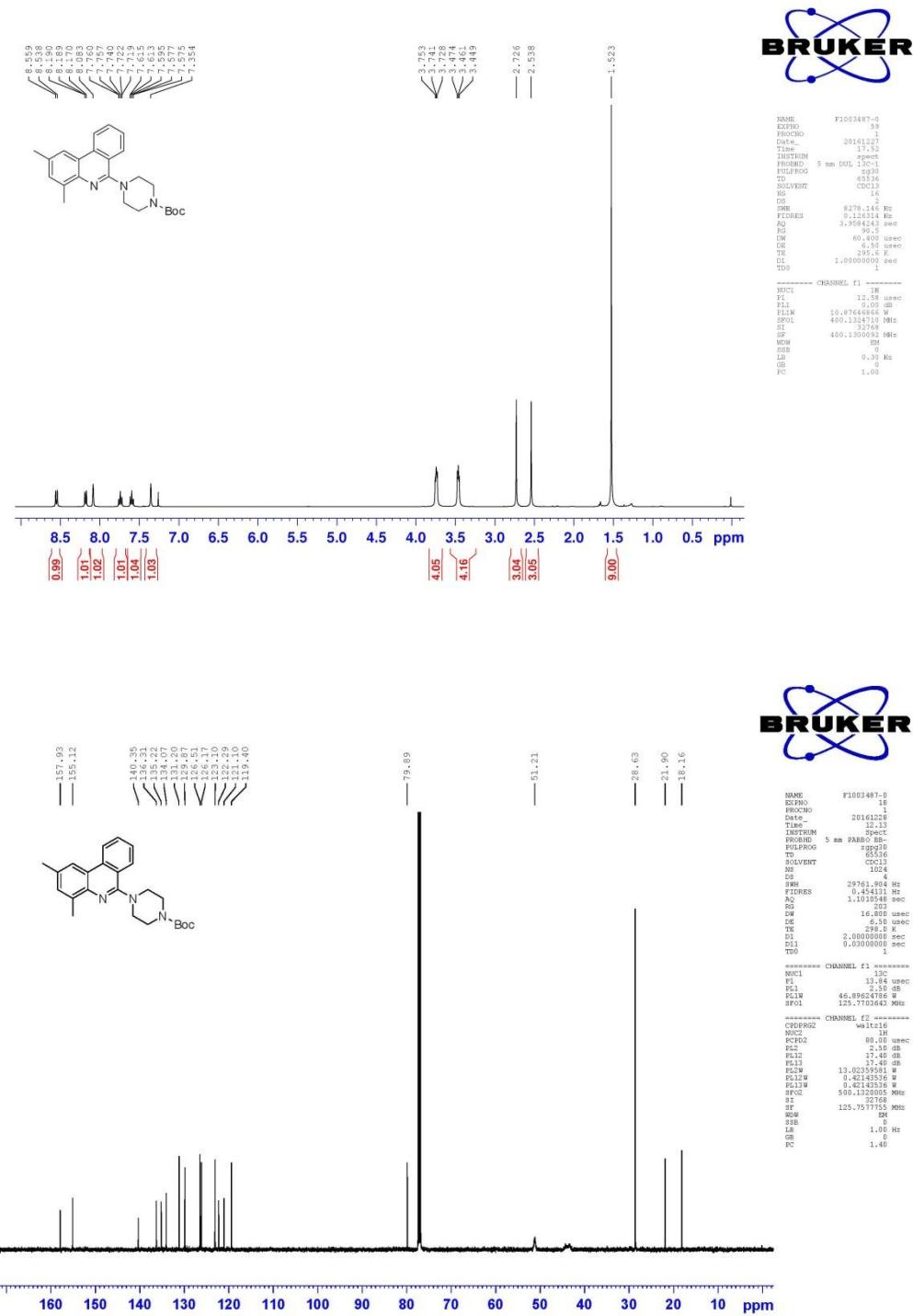




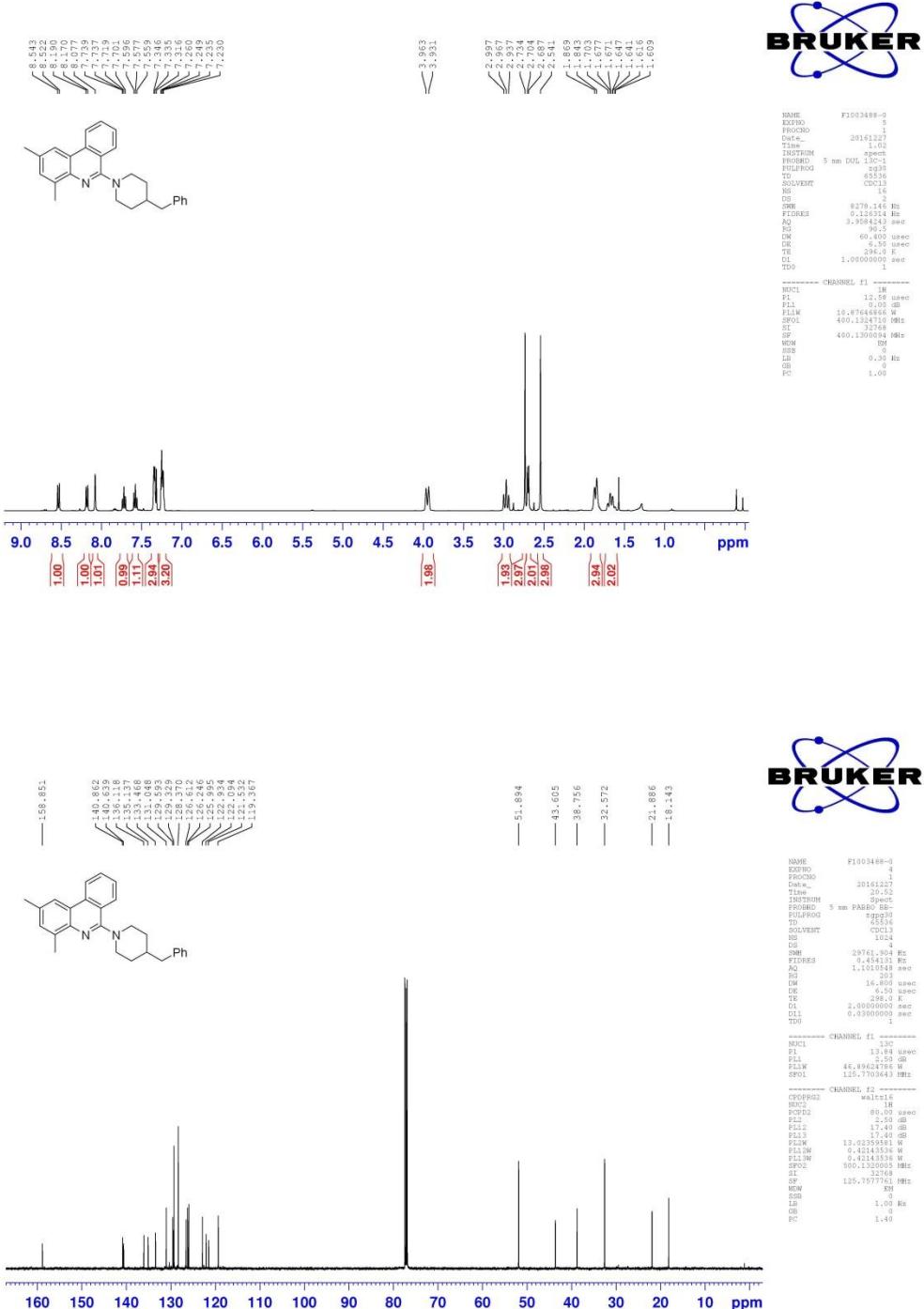
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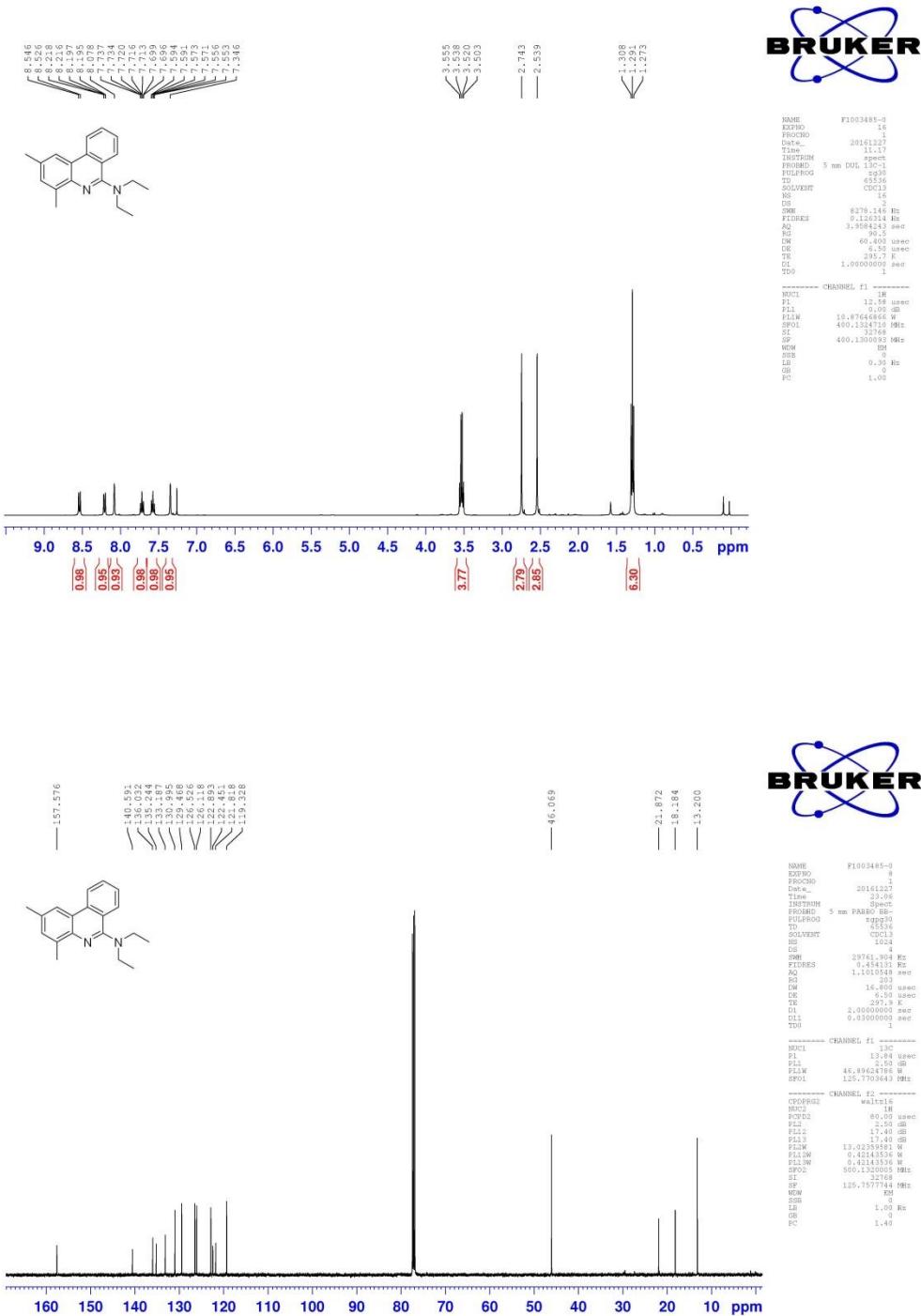


3q

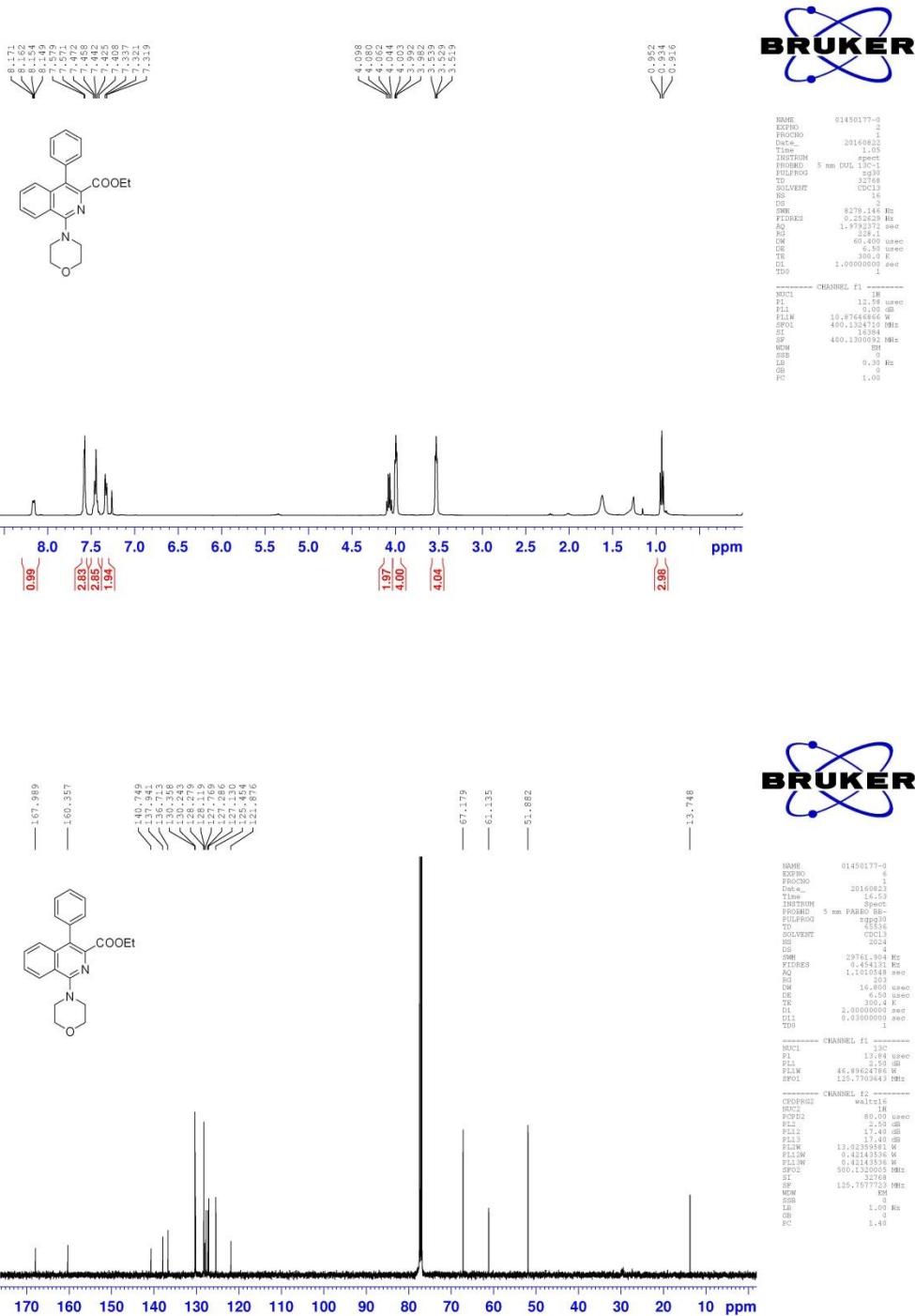


3r

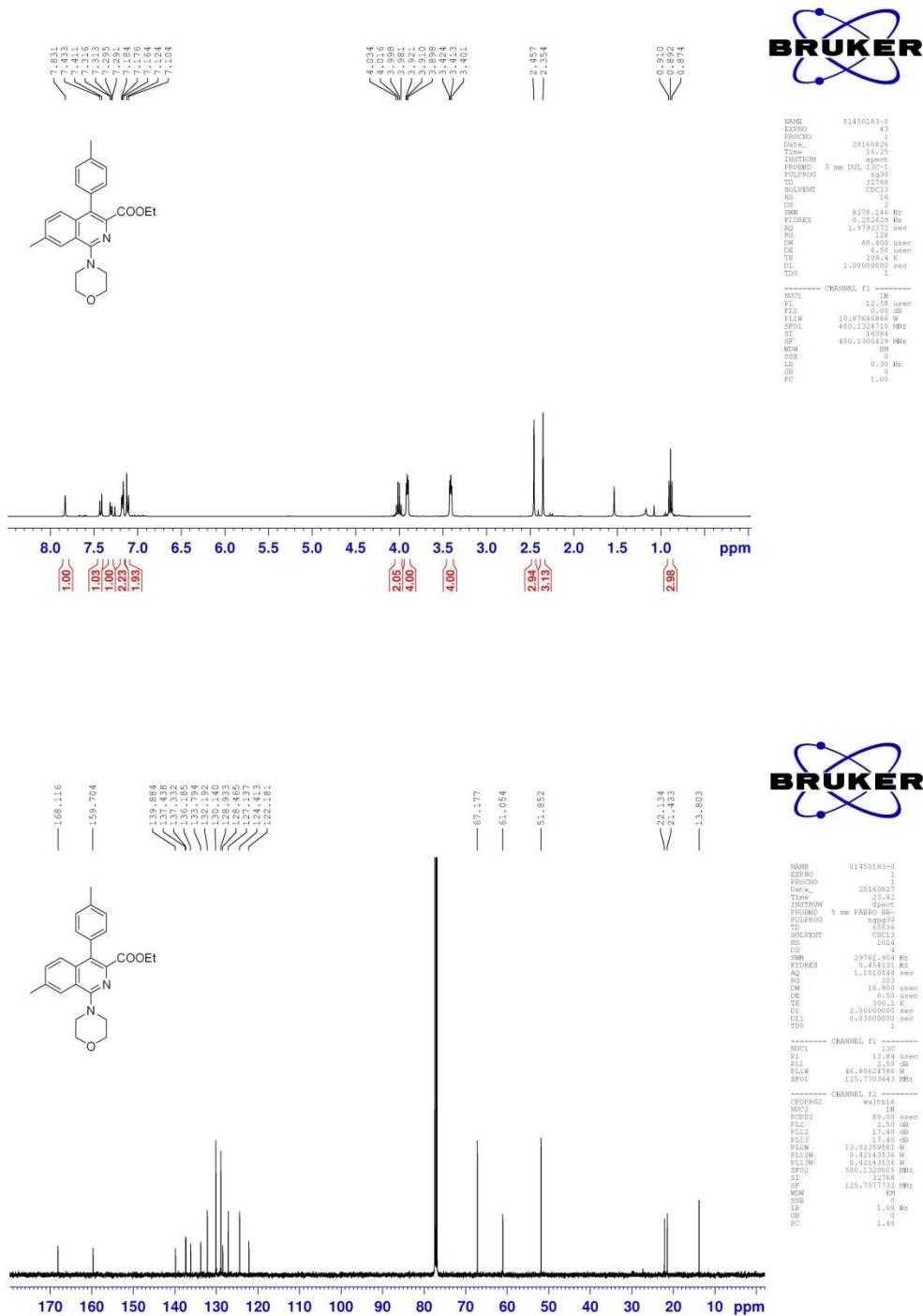


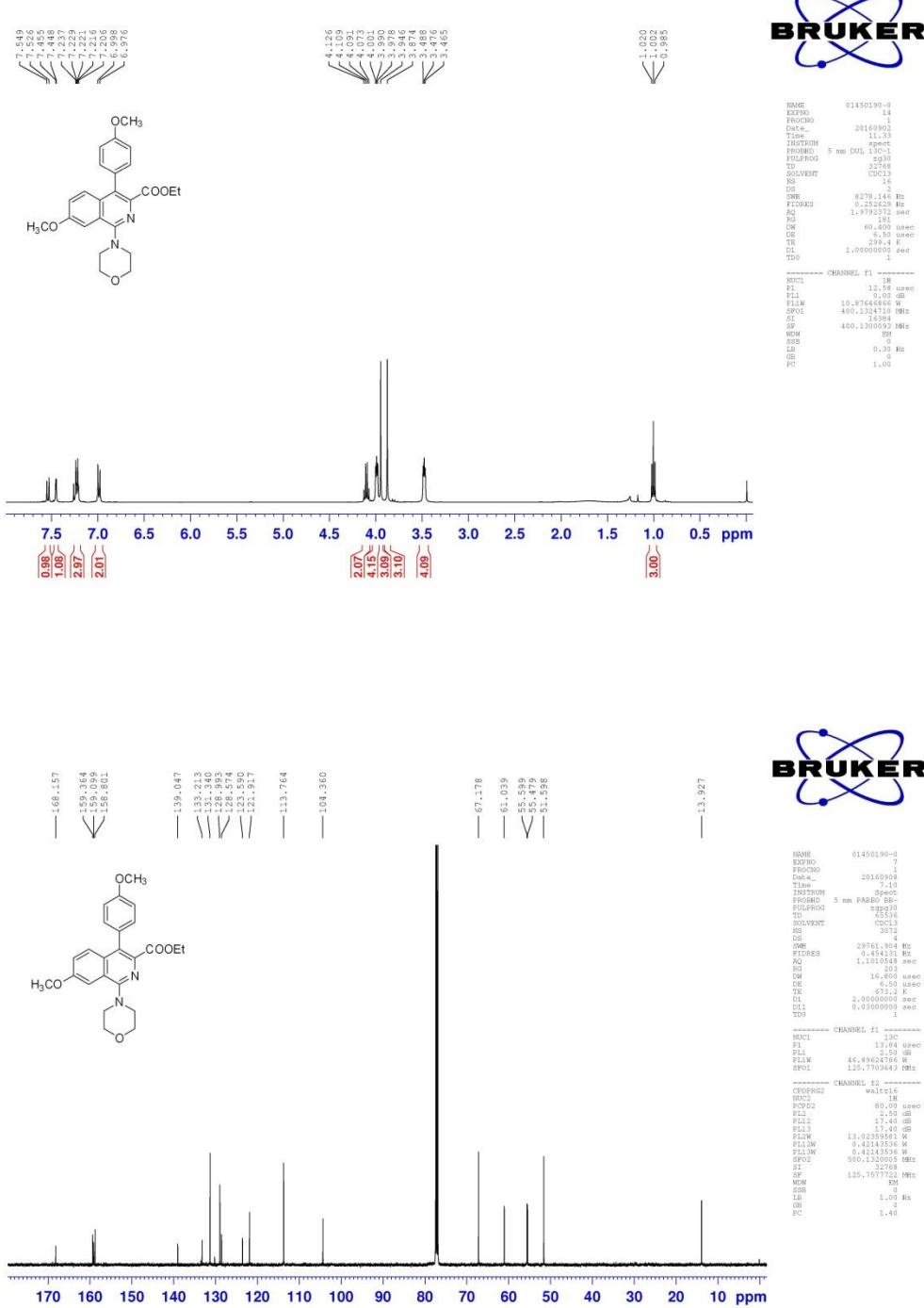


5a

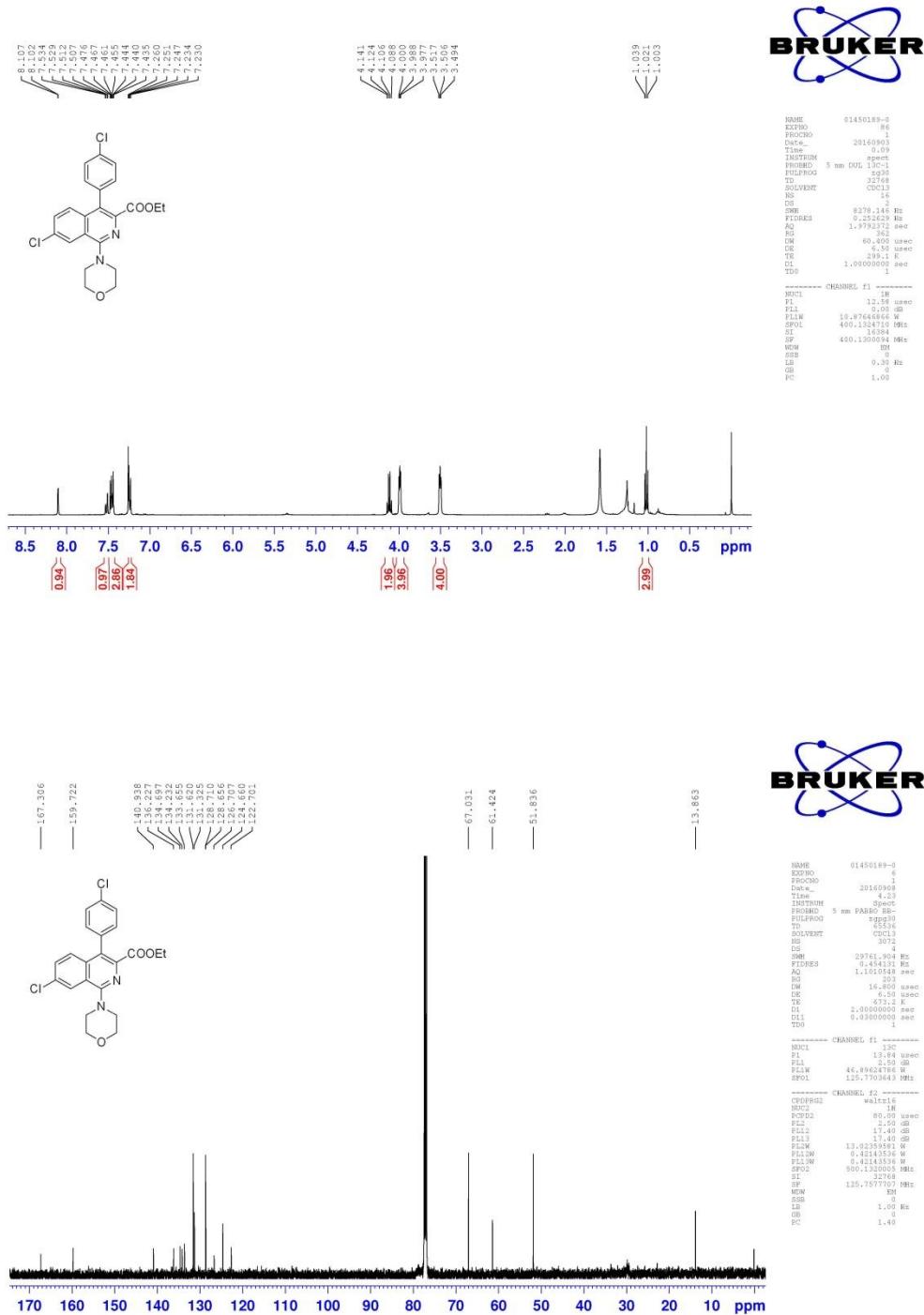


5b

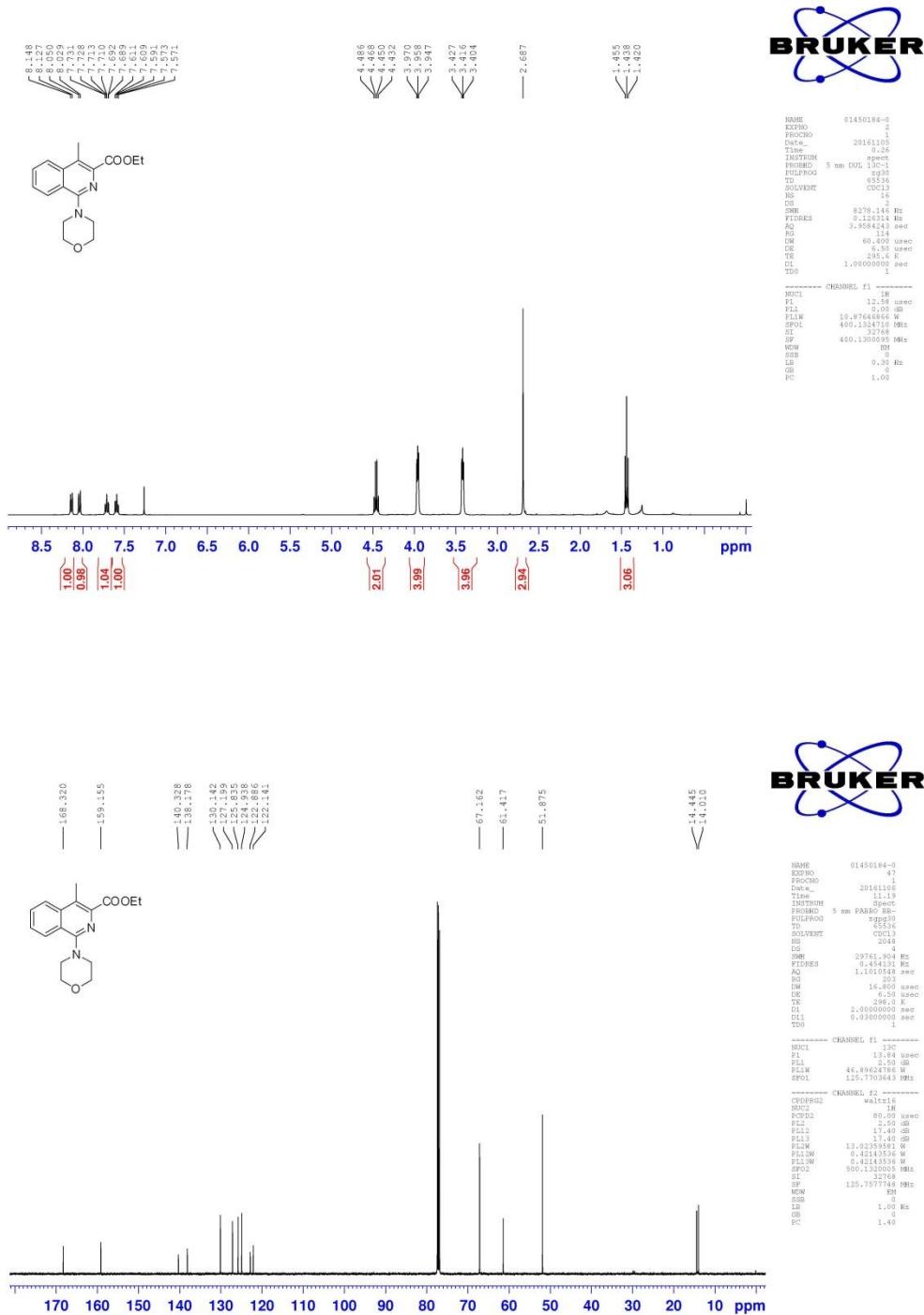


5c

5d



5e



V. Deuteration Studies

To provide preliminary insight into the reaction mechanism, 2,6-diphenyl aryl isocyanide **6** with one of the phenyl rings fully deuterated was used in an intramolecular competition study. An obvious kinetic isotope effect (KIE) $k_H/k_D = 4.9$ was observed (eqn. 1).

