

Silver-Catalyzed Cyclization of Nitrones with 2-Azetine: A Radical

Approach to 2,3-Disubstituted Quinolines

Hao Yan, Xincheng Li, Chunxiang Wang* and Boshun Wan*

*Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences,
457 Zhongshan Road, Dalian 116023, China and University of Chinese Academy of
Sciences, Beijing 100049, China*

*E-mail: cxwang@dicp.ac.cn; bswan@dicp.ac.cn

Supporting Information

Table of Contents

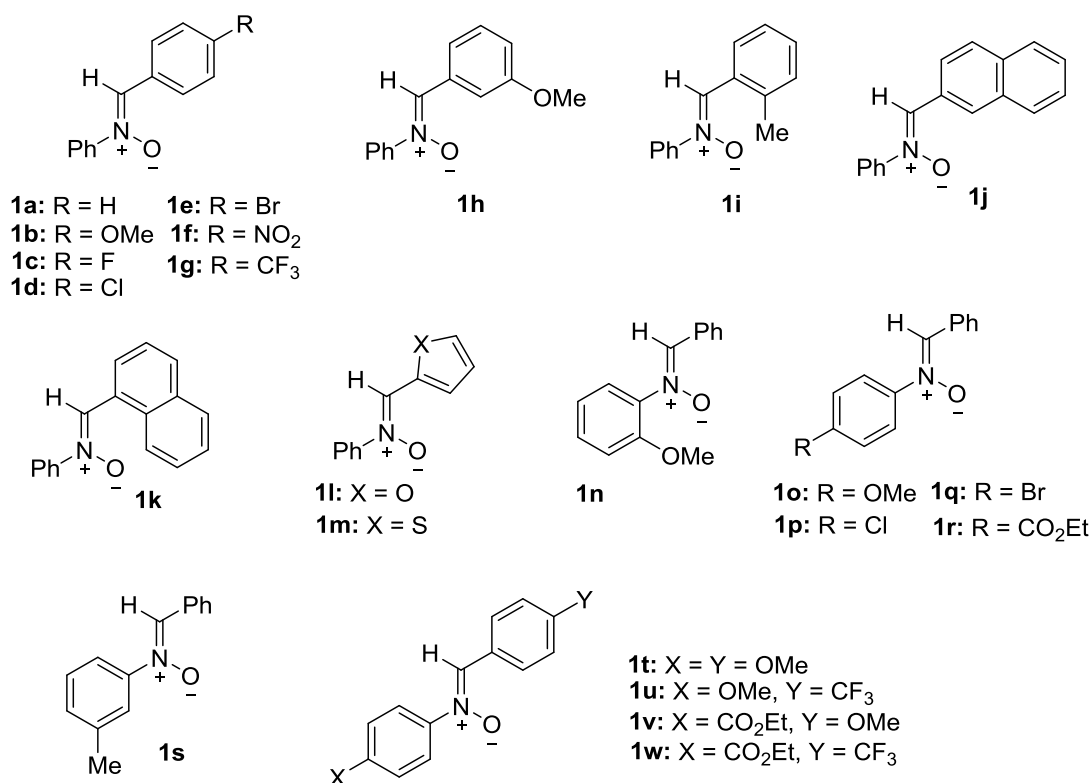
1. Substrate Preparation	S2–S3
2. Screening Reaction Conditions	S4
3. Characterization of Products	S5–S11
4. Control Experiments	S12–S15
5. EPR spectra of Ag-catalyzed transformations	S16
6. Crystal Structure of Products	S17–S19
7. References	S20
8. Copies of NMR Spectra	S21–S71

1. Substrate Preparation

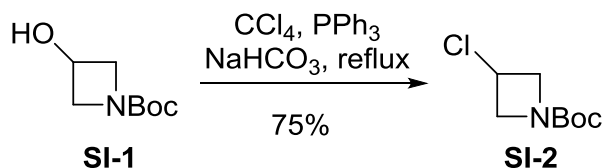
Nitrones¹ (listed below) and *N*-*boc*-2-azetine² were synthesized according to the reported procedures.

1.1 General procedure for the preparation of nitrones

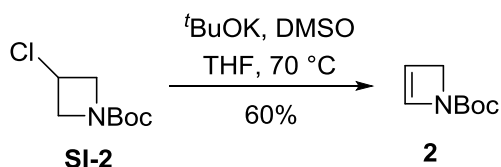
Nitroarene (1.0 equiv), aldehyde (1.1 equiv) and NH_4Cl (1.2 equiv) were dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of EtOH and water (2 mL/mmol of starting material) and cooled to 0 °C (ice bath). Then zinc powder (2.0 equiv) was added to the resulting mixture, and the reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was filtered and washed with CH_2Cl_2 . The filtrate was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (4 $\times$ 50 mL) and the combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , concentrated under reduced pressure to give crude nitrones. Pure nitrones were obtained by recrystallization from ethyl acetate (cal. 65% yield).



1.2 General procedure for the preparation of *N*-Boc-2-azetine



To a solution of azetidinol **SI-1** (8.00 g, 46.2 mmol) in CCl₄ (50 mL) was added Ph₃P (13.3 g, 50.8 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and NaHCO₃ (30 mg). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux. After 17 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to rt, concentrated to dryness under reduced pressure, suspended in pet ether (50 mL) and filtered. The solid was resuspended in pet ether (50 mL) and filtered. The combined pet ether washings were concentrated to dryness under reduced pressure. Purification (Si-gel, pet ether/ ethyl acetate 1:0→4:1) gave chloride **SI-2** as a colorless oil (6.6 g, 75%).



To a solution of *t*-BuOK (440 mg, 3.92 mmol) in DMSO (5 mL) was added dropwise *N*-Boc-3-chloroazetidine **SI-2** (500 mg, 2.61 mmol) in THF (5 mL). The reaction mixture was then heated to 70°C for 17 h, then cooled to rt. Water (10 mL) was added and the reaction mixture extracted with *n*-Pentane (2 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were concentrated to dryness under reduced pressure. Purification (Si-gel, pet ether/ ethyl acetate 1:0→10:1) gave azetine **2** as a colorless liquid (364 mg, 60%).

2. Screening Reaction Conditions

Table S1 summarizes in-depth condition tuning for the reaction of nitron **1a** with *N*-Boc-2-azetene **2**.

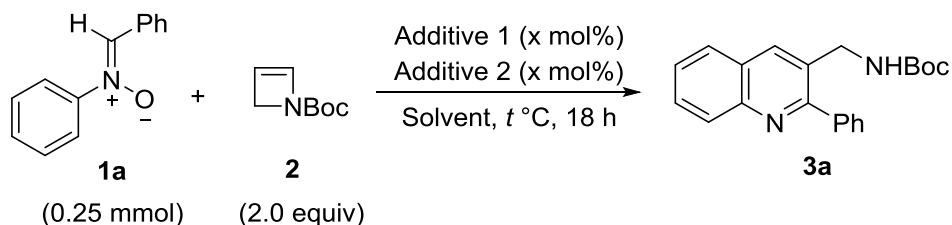
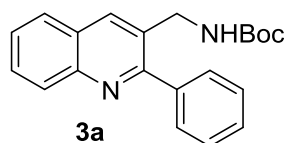


Table S1. Screening reaction conditions.^[a]

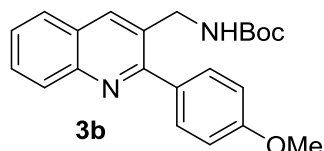
Entry	Additive 1/x mol%	Additive 2/x mol%	Solvent	<i>t</i> [°C]	Yield of 3a ^[b]
1	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂ /2.5	AgSbF ₆ /10	DCE	80	trace
2	[Cp*CoI ₂] ₂ /2.5	AgSbF ₆ /10	DCE	80	trace
3	[Rh(COD)BF ₄] ₂ /2.5	BINAP/5	DCE	80	NR
4	[Cp*RuCl ₂] ₂ /2.5	AgSbF ₆ /10	DCE	80	trace
5	AgSbF ₆ /10	--	DCE	80	36
6	AgOAc/10	--	DCE	80	NR
7	AgBF ₄ /10	--	DCE	80	46
8	AgOTf/10	--	DCE	80	58
9	Ag ₂ CO ₃	--	DCE	80	NR
10	AgOTf/10	PPh ₃ /20	DCE	80	NR
11	AgOTf/10	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ /100	DCE	80	50
12	AgOTf/5	--	DCE	80	23
13	AgOTf/100	--	DCE	80	30
14	AgOTf/10	--	DCE	40	74
15	AgOTf/10	--	DCE	25	48
16	AgOTf/10	--	THF	40	71
17	AgOTf/10	--	toluene	40	85; 81^[c]
18	AgOTf/10	--	DCM	40	58
19	AgOTf/10	--	DMF	40	NR
20 ^[d]	AgOTf/10	--	toluene	100	70 ^[d]

^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2** (0.5 mmol), 2.0 mL of solvent reacted for 18 h unless otherwise stated. ^bYield of **3a** was determined by HPLC analysis using naphthalene as an internal standard. ^cIsolated yield. ^[d]**1a** (0.5 mmol), **2** (0.25 mmol).

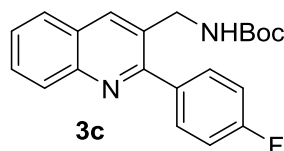
3. Characterization of Products



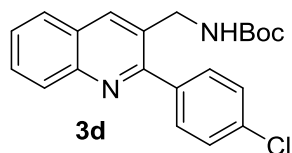
3a, 81% yield, white solid, mp 112–114 °C, R_f = 0.5 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.19 (s, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.52 (m, 3H), 7.51–7.43 (m, 3H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.44 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.9, 147.1, 140.1, 135.3, 130.5, 129.6, 129.4, 128.72, 128.7, 128.6, 127.5, 127.4, 126.8, 79.9, 42.5, 28.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 335.1754, found 335.1762.



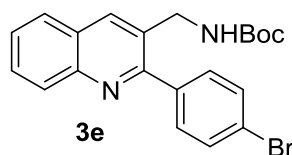
3b, 80% yield, white solid, mp 104–106 °C, R_f = 0.4 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ 8.28 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 4.48 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ 160.8, 159.6, 156.8, 147.9, 135.3, 133.6, 132.3, 131.3, 129.92, 129.90, 128.2, 128.1, 127.1, 114.3, 79.1, 55.6, 42.9, 28.6; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 365.1860, found 365.1862.



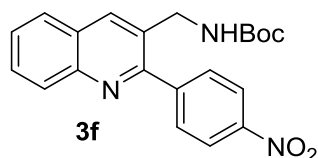
3c, 74% yield, white solid, mp 115–118 °C, R_f = 0.4 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.20 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.14 (m, 1H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 4.43 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.9 (d, J = 247.3 Hz), 158.1, 155.9, 147.1, 142.2, 135.6, 130.3 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 129.9, 129.4, 127.6, 127.5, 127.1, 124.6 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 116.1 (d, J = 22.6 Hz), 80.1, 42.4, 28.5; ^{19}F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -112.4; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 353.1660, found 353.1662.



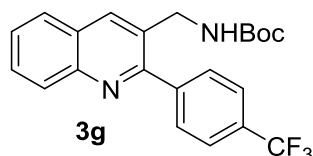
3d, 73% yield, white solid, mp 120–123 °C, R_f = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.12 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (q, J = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 4.36 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.3, 155.9, 147.1, 138.5, 135.6, 134.9, 130.3, 129.9, 129.4, 128.9, 127.5, 127.49, 127.1, 80.1, 42.5, 28.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 369.1364, found 369.1383.



3e, 78% yield, yellow solid, mp 120–123 °C, R_f = 0.35 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.15 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.34 (m, 2H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 4.38 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.1, 155.8, 146.9, 138.8, 135.5, 131.7, 130.5, 130.2, 129.8, 129.2, 127.5, 127.4, 126.9, 123.0, 79.9, 42.3, 28.4, 28.3; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 413.0859, found 413.0882.

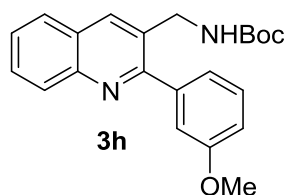


3f, 70% yield, white solid, mp 131–133 °C R_f = 0.2 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.35 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.25 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91–7.86 (m, 1H), 7.80–7.73 (m, 3H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 4.44 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.1, 155.7, 147.9, 136.0, 130.3, 130.1, 129.5, 127.7, 127.6, 123.9, 80.3, 42.4, 28.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 380.1605, found 380.1609.

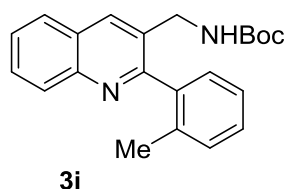


3g, 71% yield, white solid, mp 125–128 °C R_f = 0.4 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.23 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78–7.72 (m, 3H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 4.44 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.5, 158.0, 155.9, 147.2, 137.5, 135.5, 133.3, 129.8, 129.5, 128.6 (q, J = 270 Hz),

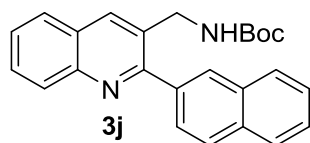
128.0 (q, $J = 32$ Hz), 126.9, 126.7, 126.6, 126.5, 125.0 (q, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 79.9, 42.6, 28.5; ^{19}F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.6; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 403.1628, found 403.1648.



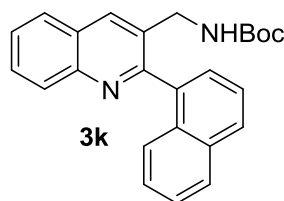
3h, 81% yield, white solid, mp 115–118 °C, $R_f = 0.4$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.19 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.13–7.03 (m, 2H), 6.99 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 4.44 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.9, 147.1, 141.4, 135.5, 130.5, 129.8, 129.7, 129.4, 127.5, 126.8, 121.0, 114.7, 114.1, 79.9, 55.5, 42.5, 28.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 365.1860, found 365.1881.



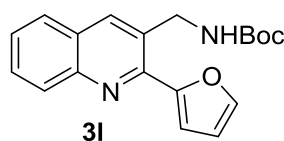
3i, 75% yield, colourless oil, ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.20 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.24 (m, 4H), 4.89–4.77 (m, 1H), 4.20 (s, 2H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.9, 139.4, 135.7, 135.0, 130.9, 130.7, 129.5, 129.3, 128.6, 128.2, 127.6, 127.5, 126.8, 126.2, 79.8, 42.20, 28.5, 19.7; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 349.1911, found 349.1915.



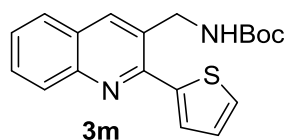
3j, 65% yield, colourless oil, $R_f = 0.4$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.23 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.91–7.83 (m, 3H), 7.74–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.52 (m, 3H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 4.50 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.41 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.5, 155.9, 147.2, 137.5, 135.5, 133.3, 130.7, 129.7, 129.7, 128.55, 128.51, 128.2, 127.9, 127.6, 127.5, 126.9, 126.7, 126.6, 126.5, 80.0, 42.6, 28.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 385.1911, found 385.1921.



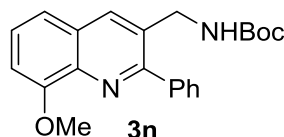
3k, 68% yield, colourless oil, R_f = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd, J = 11.1, 8.2 Hz, 3H), 7.74 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (td, J = 8.1, 7.6, 5.8 Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.32 (m, 2H), 4.62 (s, 1H), 4.17 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.0, 155.8, 147.2, 137.4, 135.2, 133.9, 131.9, 131.7, 129.7, 129.5, 129.0, 128.6, 127.7, 127.0, 126.8, 126.4, 126.3, 125.6, 125.3, 79.8, 42.2, 28.4; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 385.1911, found 385.1928.



3l, 71% yield, white solid, mp 98–100 °C, R_f = 0.5 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 7.38–7.20 (m, 6H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.0, 154.3, 147.9, 147.2, 143.9, 137.3, 129.9, 129.2, 129.0, 127.6, 127.2, 126.8, 112.5, 112.3, 79.9, 43.1, 28.6; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 325.1547, found 325.1560.

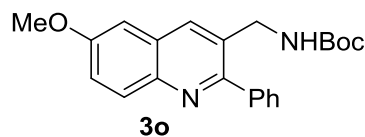


3m, 70% yield, white solid, mp 98–100 °C, R_f = 0.5 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.18 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 6.63–6.61 (m, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 4.73 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.0, 147.9, 147.2, 143.9, 137.3, 129.9, 129.8, 129.0, 127.6, 126.8, 112.5, 112.3, 79.9, 43.1, 28.6; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 341.1318, found 341.1496.

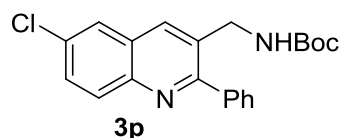


3n, 82% yield, colourless oil, R_f = 0.4 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51–7.31 (m, 5H), 7.04 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.45 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.4, 156.0, 155.6, 140.3, 139.1, 135.3, 129.2, 128.6,

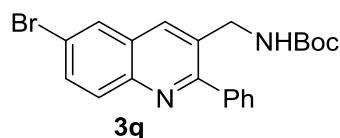
126.9, 119.4, 107.9, 79.9, 56.2, 42.6, 28.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₂₂H₂₅N₂O₃ [M + H]⁺ 365.1860, found 365.1874.



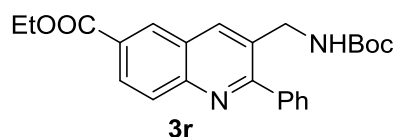
3o, 83% yield, colourless oil, R_f = 0.4 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.42 (m, 5H), 7.35 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.42 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.9, 156.9, 143.1, 140.0, 134.2, 130.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 122.3, 104.8, 79.8, 55.6, 42.4, 28.4; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₂₂H₂₅N₂O₃ [M + H]⁺ 365.1860, found 365.1872.



3p, 72% yield, white solid, mp 100–102, R_f = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.45 (m, 5H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 4.44 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.8, 155.9, 145.5, 139.7, 134.3, 132.5, 131.7, 131.1, 130.6, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.1, 126.2, 80.1, 42.5, 28.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₂₁H₂₂ClN₂O₂ [M + H]⁺ 369.1364, found 369.1373.

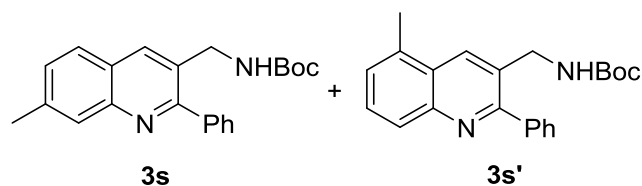


3q, 71% yield, white solid, mp 111–114, R_f = 0.4 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55–7.45 (m, 5H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 4.44 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.9, 156.0, 145.7, 139.7, 134.2, 133.1, 131.7, 131.2, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 120.7, 80.1, 42.5, 28.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₂₁H₂₂BrN₂O₂ [M + H]⁺ 413.0859, found 413.0858.

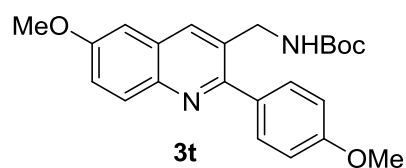


3r, 55% yield, white solid, mp 106–108, R_f = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.63 (s, 1H), 8.30 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.48 (m, 5H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 4.47 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.34–1.23 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.3, 161.6, 155.9, 148.9, 139.7,

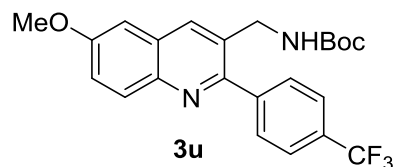
136.3, 130.6, 130.2, 129.6, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.0, 126.6, 80.4, 61.5, 42.4, 28.5, 14.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $C_{24}H_{27}N_2O_4$ $[M + H]^+$ 407.1965, found 407.1971.



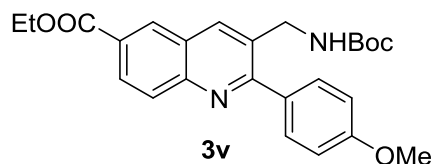
3s and **3s'**, 66% yield, **3s**:**3s'** = 2:1, white solid, mp 100–102 °C, R_f = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.35 (s, 0.69H), 8.15 (s, 0.33H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 0.71H), 7.92 (s, 0.32H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 0.34H), 7.60–7.45 (m, 5.66H), 7.38 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 1.03H), 4.84 (s, 0.96H), 4.45 (dd, J = 15.3, 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (s, 2H), 2.56 (s, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.5, 159.0, 156.0, 147.4, 140.3, 140.2, 140.0, 135.2, 134.3, 132.0, 129.9, 129.4, 129.1, 128.79, 128.75, 128.71, 128.68, 128.61, 128.56, 128.4, 127.7, 127.2, 126.8, 79.89, 42.7, 28.5, 22.1, 18.8; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $C_{22}H_{25}N_2O_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 349.1911, found 349.1925.



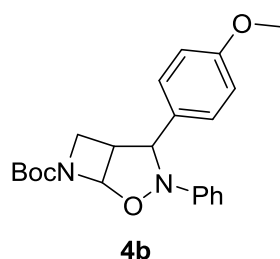
3t, 80% yield, colorless oil, R_f = 0.4 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.32 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.01–6.93 (m, 2H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 4.42 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.8, 157.9, 156.7, 143.2, 134.2, 132.6, 130.7, 130.2, 128.2, 122.3, 114.1, 104.9, 79.8, 55.6, 55.5, 42.6, 28.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $C_{23}H_{27}N_2O_4$ $[M + H]^+$ 395.1965, found 395.1986.



3u, 70% yield, colorless oil, R_f = 0.25 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 4.42 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.4, 155.9, 155.4, 143.8, 143.3, 134.6, 130.9 (q, J = 270 Hz), 130.4, 129.4, 128.7, 125.7, 125.62 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 122.9, 104.9, 80.1, 55.7, 42.4, 28.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $C_{23}H_{24}F_3N_2O_3$ $[M + H]^+$ 433.1734, found 433.1756.

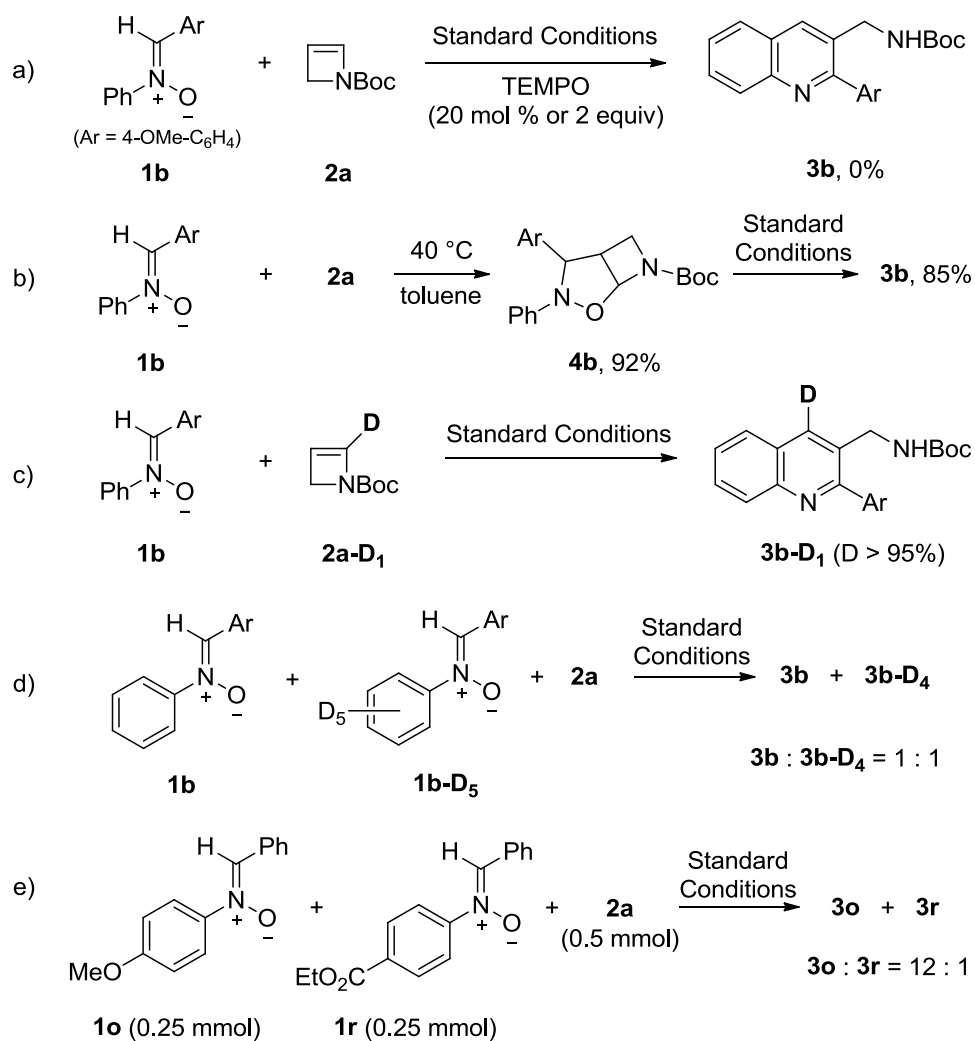


3v, 62% yield, white solid, mp 160–163 °C, R_f = 0.2 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.59 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 4.47 (dq, J = 14.3, 7.1, 6.5 Hz, 4H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.46 (t, J = 4.7 Hz, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.2, 160.2, 148.8, 136.2, 131.9, 131.5, 130.4, 130.1, 129.4, 128.9, 128.24, 126.3, 114.1, 79.9, 61.3, 55.4, 42.4, 28.4, 14.4; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 437.2071, found 437.2074.



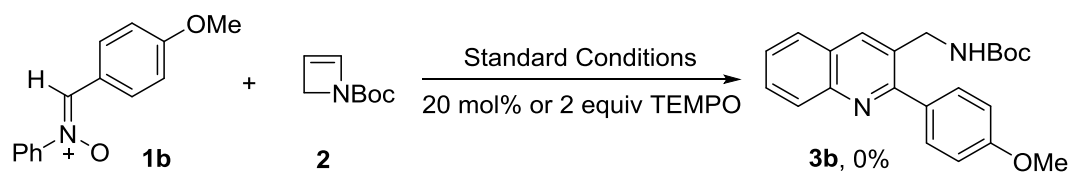
4b, 92% yield, white solid, mp 80–83 °C, R_f = 0.6 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.16–7.12 (m, 2H), 7.08 (dd, J = 8.7, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.78–6.70 (m, 3H), 5.93 (d, J = 25.9 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 3.74 (dd, J = 8.2, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.47–3.42 (m, 1H), 3.34 (s, 1H), 1.44 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.9, 153.7, 150.3, 132.2, 128.5, 127.9, 121.1, 114.0, 92.9, 80.4, 69.3, 55.3, 49.3, 28.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 383.1965, found 383.1977.

4. Control Experiments



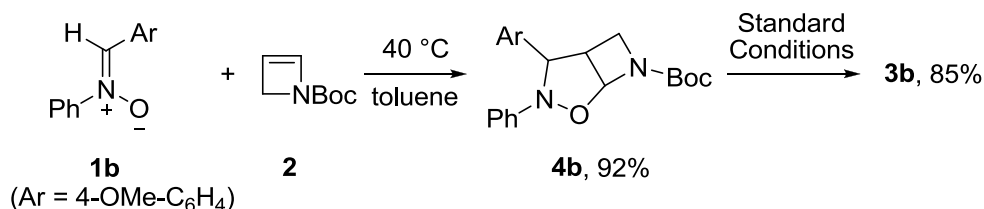
Scheme S1. Summary of control experiments

Scheme S1-1. The effect of radical inhibitor



This reaction was performed following the “General Procedure”, only except that 20 mol% or 2.0 equiv TEMPO was added. The desired product **3b** was not observed, suggesting that a radical-mediated pathway might be involved.

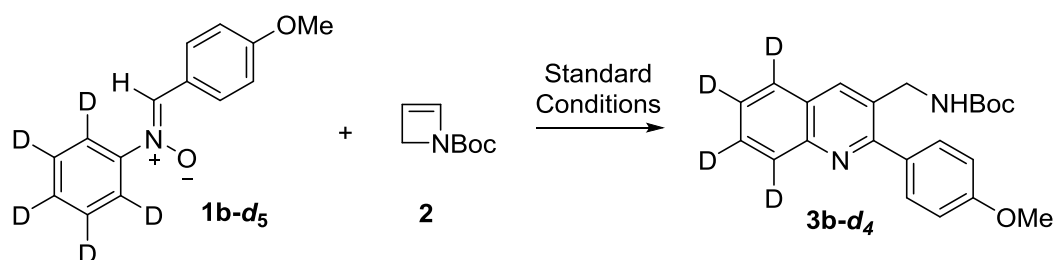
Scheme S1-2. Isolation of intermediate **4b** and its further transformation to **3b**



Nitron **1b** (0.25 mmol) and 2.0 mL of solvent toluene was weighted and placed in a dried Schlenk tube, followed by the *N*-Boc-2-azetene **2** (0.5 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 10 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using PE/EA to afford the intermediate **4b**. The product was isolated in 92% yield.

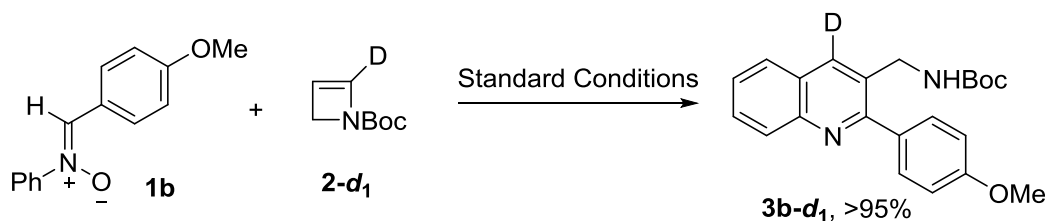
AgOTf (0.025 mmol, 6.4 mg, 10 mol%), intermediate **4b** (0.25 mmol) and 2.0 mL of solvent toluene were weighted in the glove box and placed in a dried Schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 18 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using PE/EA to afford the desired product **3b** in 85% yield.

Scheme S1-3. Reaction of **1b-d₅** with **2**



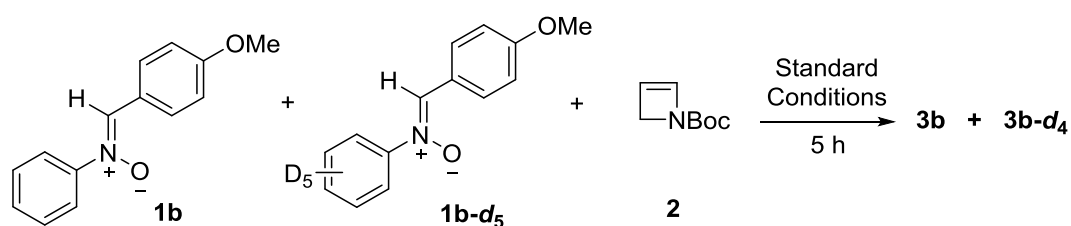
This reaction was performed following the “General Procedure”, only except that **1b-d₅** was used as nitronium.

Scheme S1-4. Reaction of **1b** with **2-d₁**

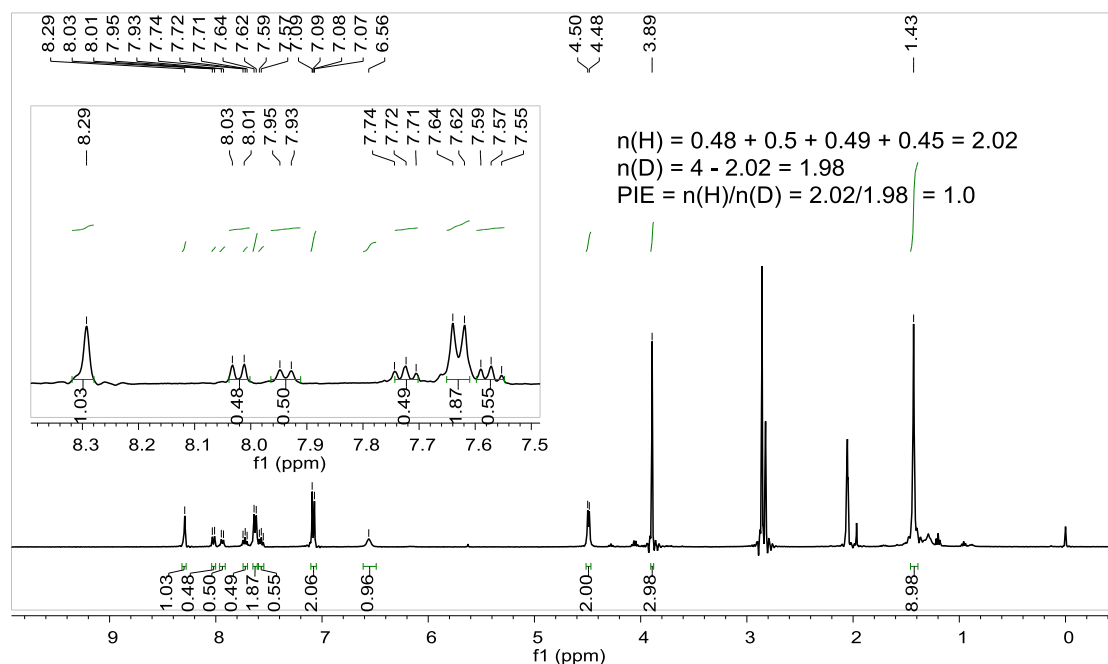


This reaction was performed following the “General Procedure”, only except that **2-d₁** was used. Compared with the ¹H NMR spectra of **3b**, the deuterium atom was completely transferred into the product (>95% deuterium incorporation).

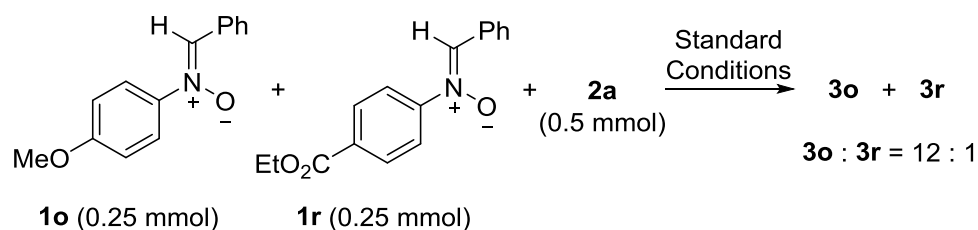
Scheme S1-5. Intermolecular competitive reactions



AgOTf (0.025 mmol, 6.4 mg, 10 mol%), nitronium **1b** (0.25 mmol), nitronium **1b-d₅** were weighted in the glove box and placed in a dried Schlenk tube. Then 2.0 mL of solvent toluene was added, followed by the *N*-Boc-2-azetene **2** (0.5 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 5 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated and the crude product was directly purified by silica gel column chromatography to give the mixture of **3b** and **3b-d₄**. A PIE value of 1.0 was obtained on the basis of ¹H NMR analysis.

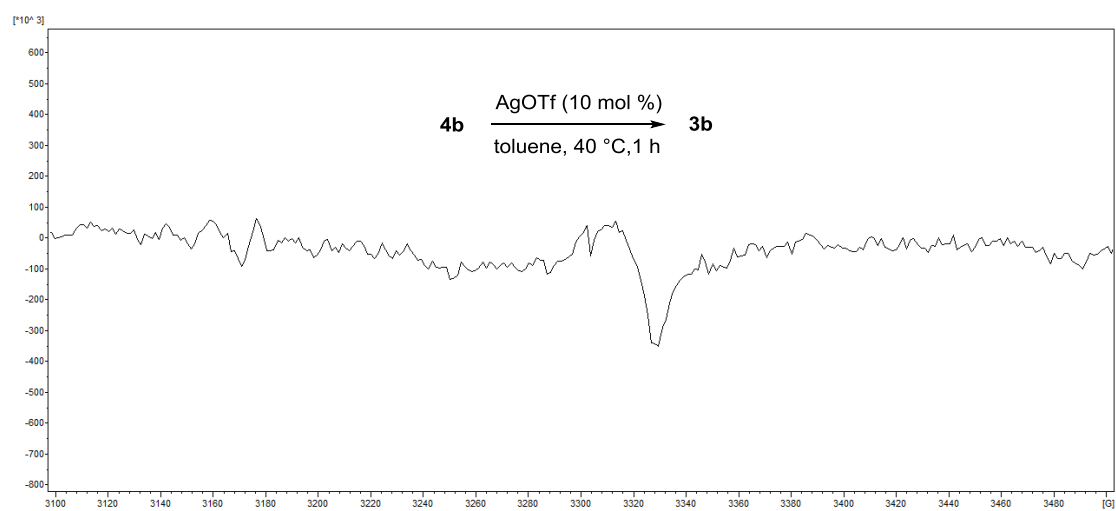
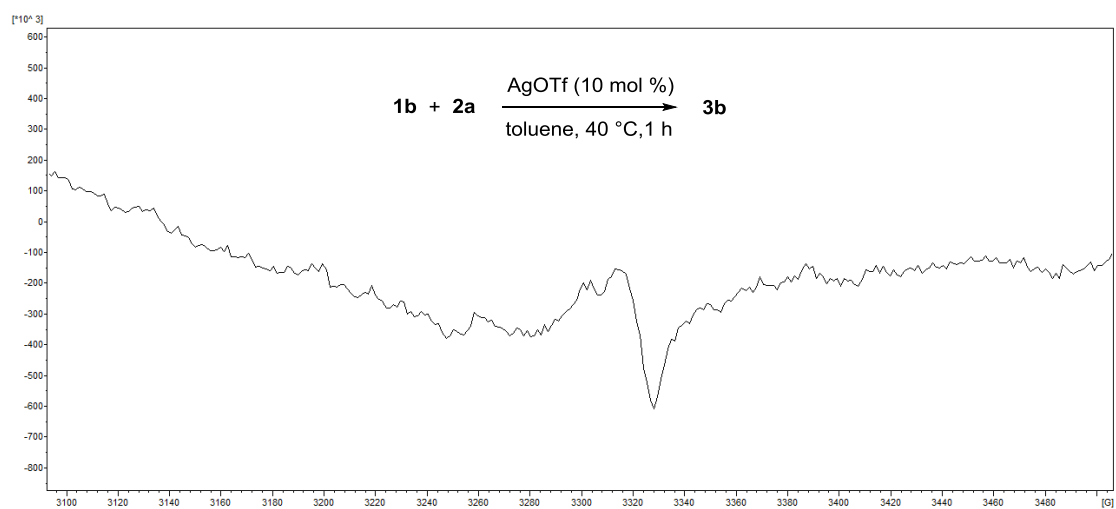


Scheme S1-5. Competition reaction between **1o** and **1r**

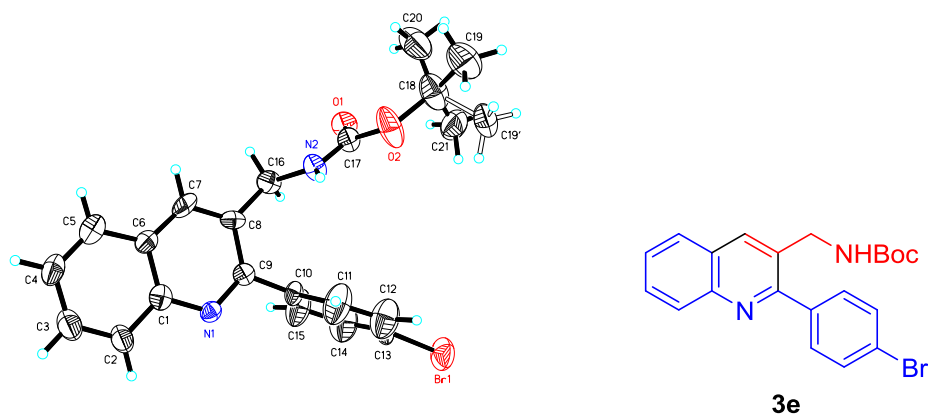


AgOTf (0.025 mmol, 6.4 mg, 10 mol%), nitrone **1o** (0.25 mmol), nitrone **1r** were weighted in the glove box and placed in a dried Schlenk tube. Then 2.0 mL of solvent toluene was added, followed by the *N*-Boc-2-azetine **2** (0.5 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 18 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated and the crude product was directly purified by silica gel column chromatography to give the product **3o** and **3r** respectively. The isolated yield ratio of **3o**:**3r** was 12:1.

5. EPR spectra of Ag-catalyzed transformations



6. Crystal Structure of Products

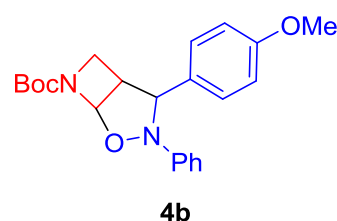
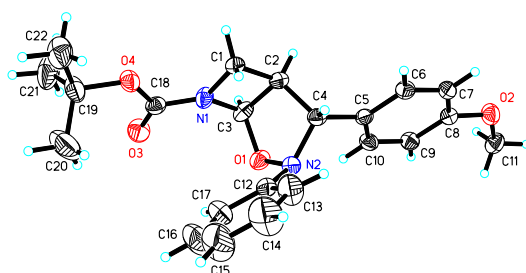


ORTEP drawing of **3e** (CCDC1526502) with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for cd16158m_a.

Identification code	cd16158m_a	
Empirical formula	C ₂₁ H ₂₁ Br N ₂ O ₂	
Formula weight	413.31	
Temperature	273(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Triclinic	
Space group	P -1	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 5.095(8) Å	$\alpha = 73.395(18)^\circ$
	b = 12.261(19) Å	$\beta = 81.56(2)^\circ$
	c = 17.00(3) Å	$\gamma = 78.69(2)^\circ$
Volume	993(3) Å ³	
Z	2	
Density (calculated)	1.382 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	2.085 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	424	
Crystal size	0.160 x 0.080 x 0.040 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	1.757 to 24.998°.	
Index ranges	-6 ≤ h ≤ 5, -13 ≤ k ≤ 14, -20 ≤ l ≤ 19	
Reflections collected	4250	
Independent reflections	3288 [R(int) = 0.1751]	
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	91.6 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.7456 and 0.3425	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	

Data / restraints / parameters	3288 / 78 / 249
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	0.963
Final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	$R1 = 0.0911$, $wR2 = 0.2098$
R indices (all data)	$R1 = 0.2545$, $wR2 = 0.2887$
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.494 and $-0.436 \text{ e.}\text{\AA}^{-3}$



ORTEP drawing of **3e** (CCDC1526503) with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability

Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for cd16586.

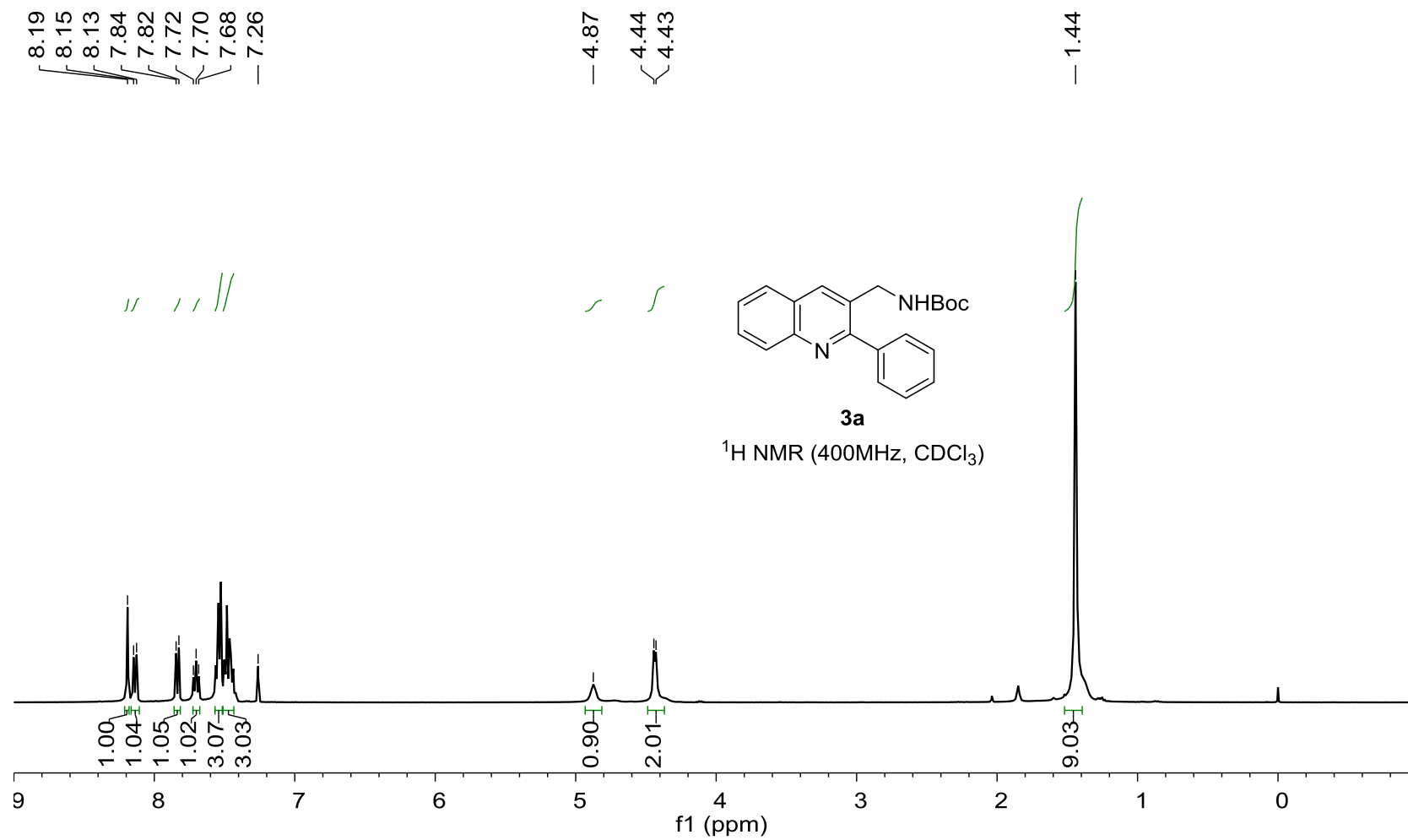
Identification code	cd16586
Empirical formula	C ₂₂ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₄
Formula weight	382.45
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	P -1
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 6.1408(17) \text{ Å}$ $\alpha = 87.399(7)^\circ$ $b = 10.540(3) \text{ Å}$ $\beta = 81.181(6)^\circ$ $c = 16.567(5) \text{ Å}$ $\gamma = 79.922(6)^\circ$
Volume	$1043.1(5) \text{ Å}^3$
Z	2
Density (calculated)	1.218 Mg/m^3
Absorption coefficient	0.084 mm^{-1}
F(000)	408
Crystal size	$0.200 \times 0.140 \times 0.080 \text{ mm}^3$
Theta range for data collection	1.963 to 24.994° .
Index ranges	$-7 \leq h \leq 7$, $-12 \leq k \leq 9$, $-19 \leq l \leq 19$
Reflections collected	5786
Independent reflections	3671 [$R(\text{int}) = 0.0343$]
Completeness to $\theta = 25.242^\circ$	97.1 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.7456 and 0.5750
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2

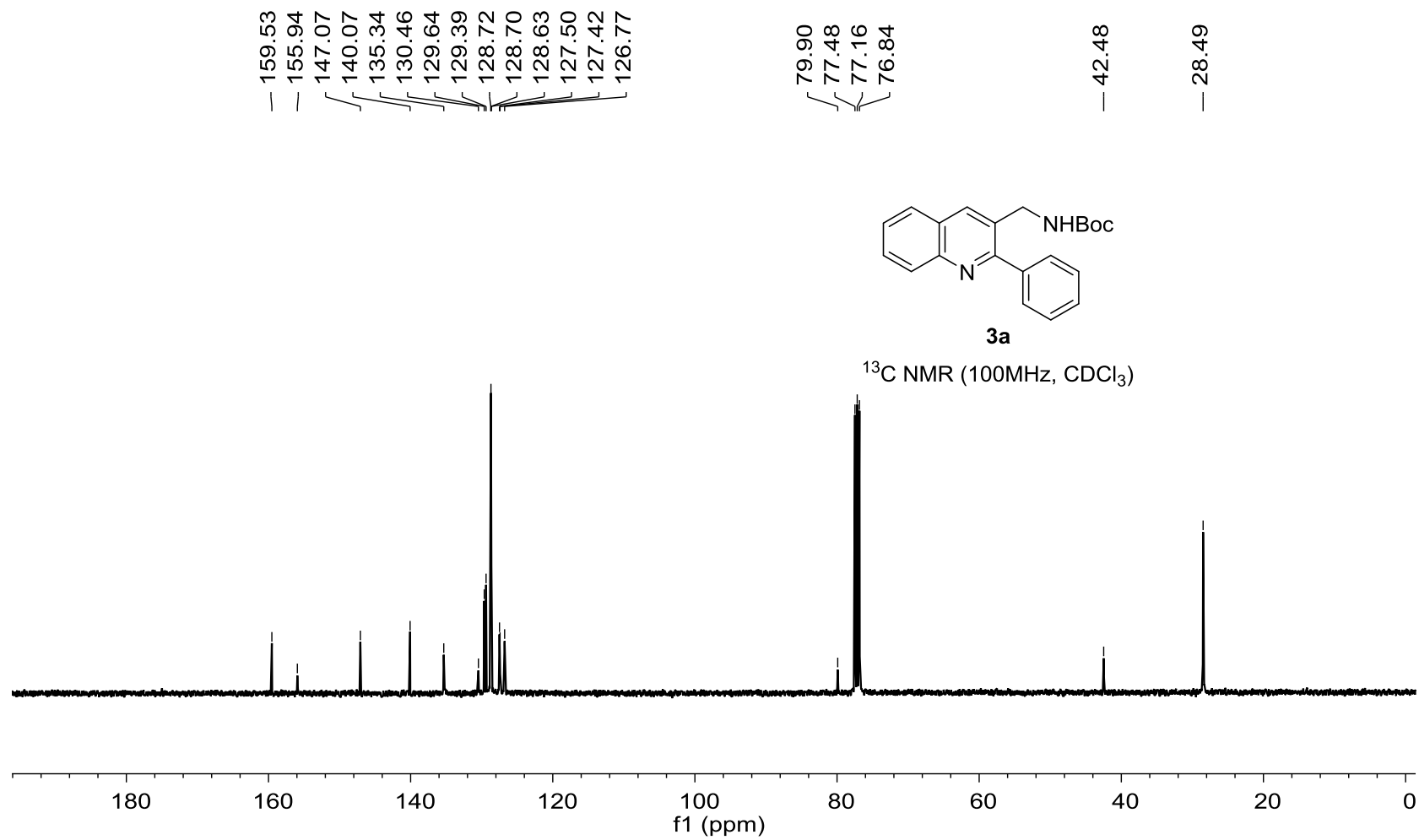
Data / restraints / parameters	3671 / 12 / 257
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.081
Final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.0721$, $wR_2 = 0.1651$
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.1062$, $wR_2 = 0.1818$
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.199 and -0.223 e. $\text{\AA}^{-3}$

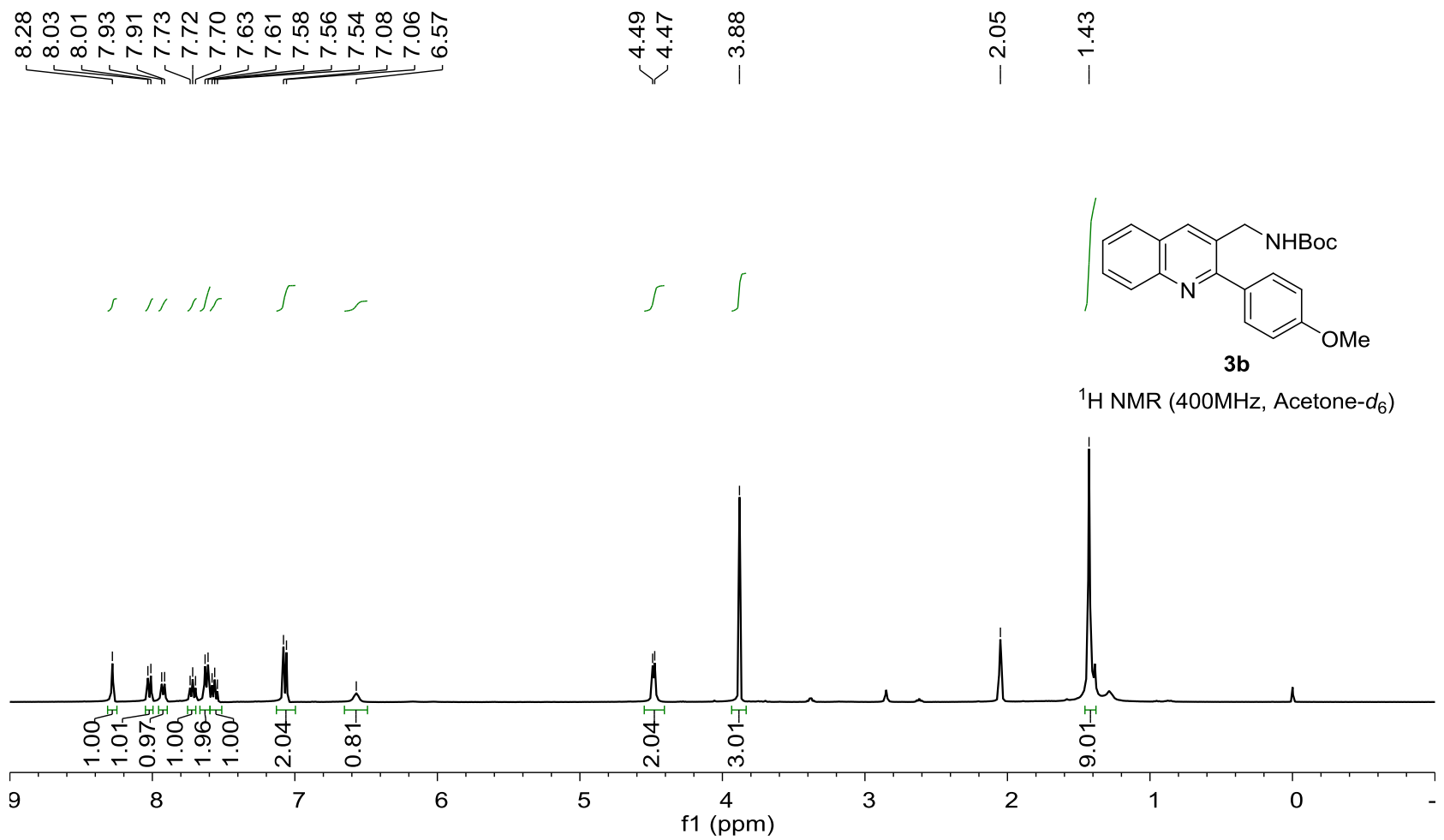
7. References

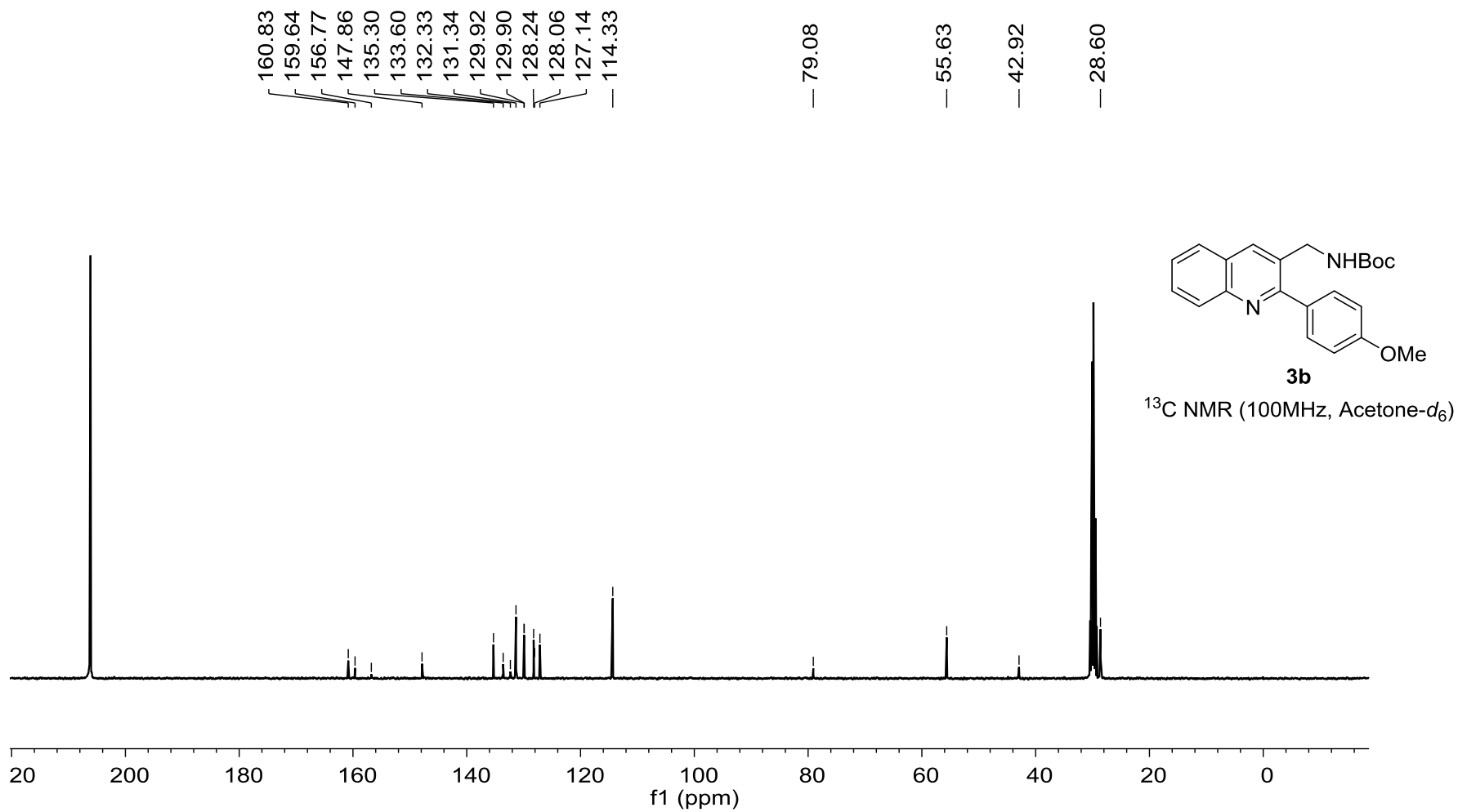
1. N. Duguet, A. M. Z. Slawin and A. D. Smith, *Org. Lett.* 2009, **11**, 3858.
2. D. M. Hodgson, C. I. Pearson and M. Kazmi, *Org. Lett.* 2014, **16**, 856.

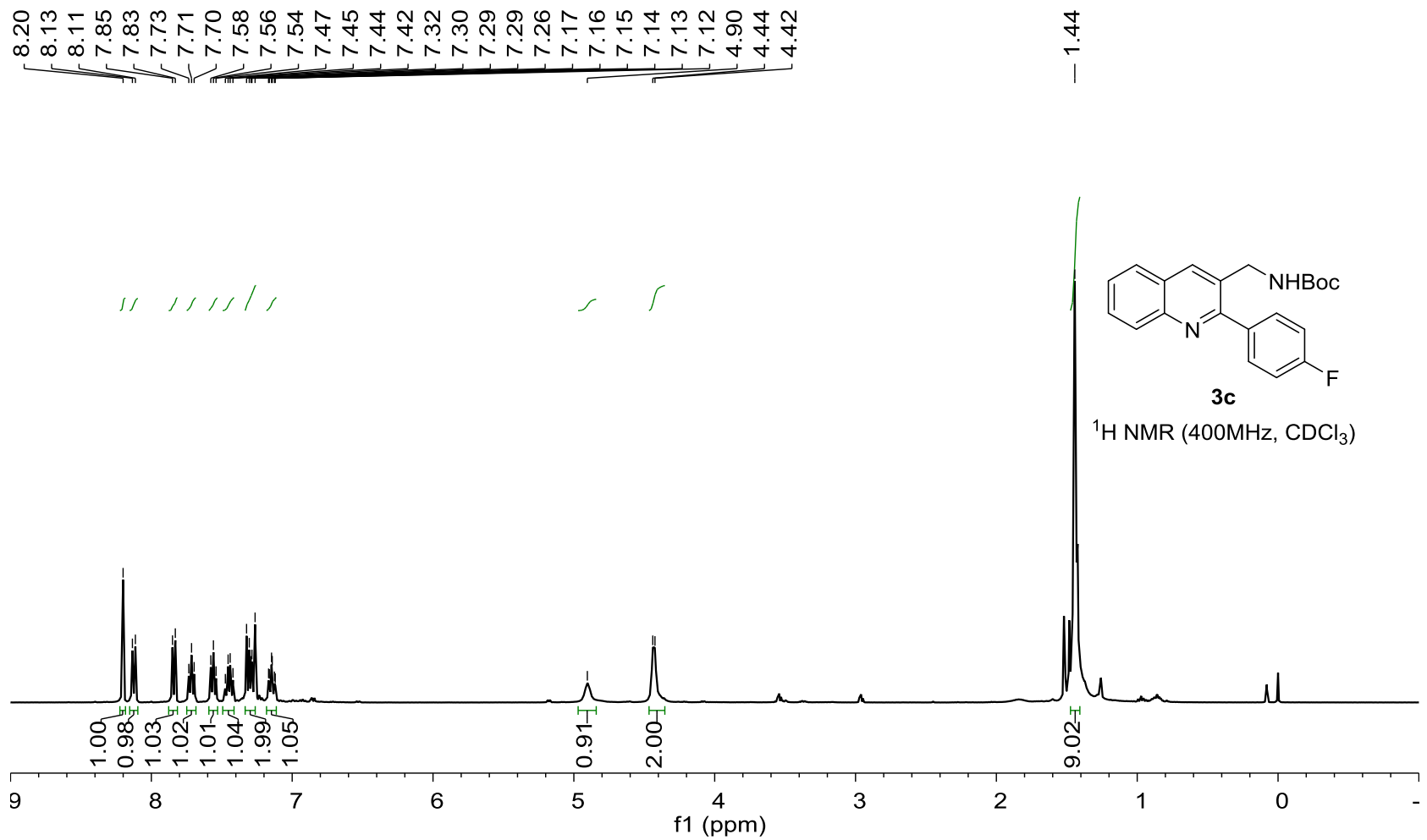
8. Copies of NMR Spectra

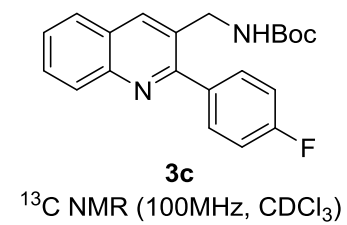
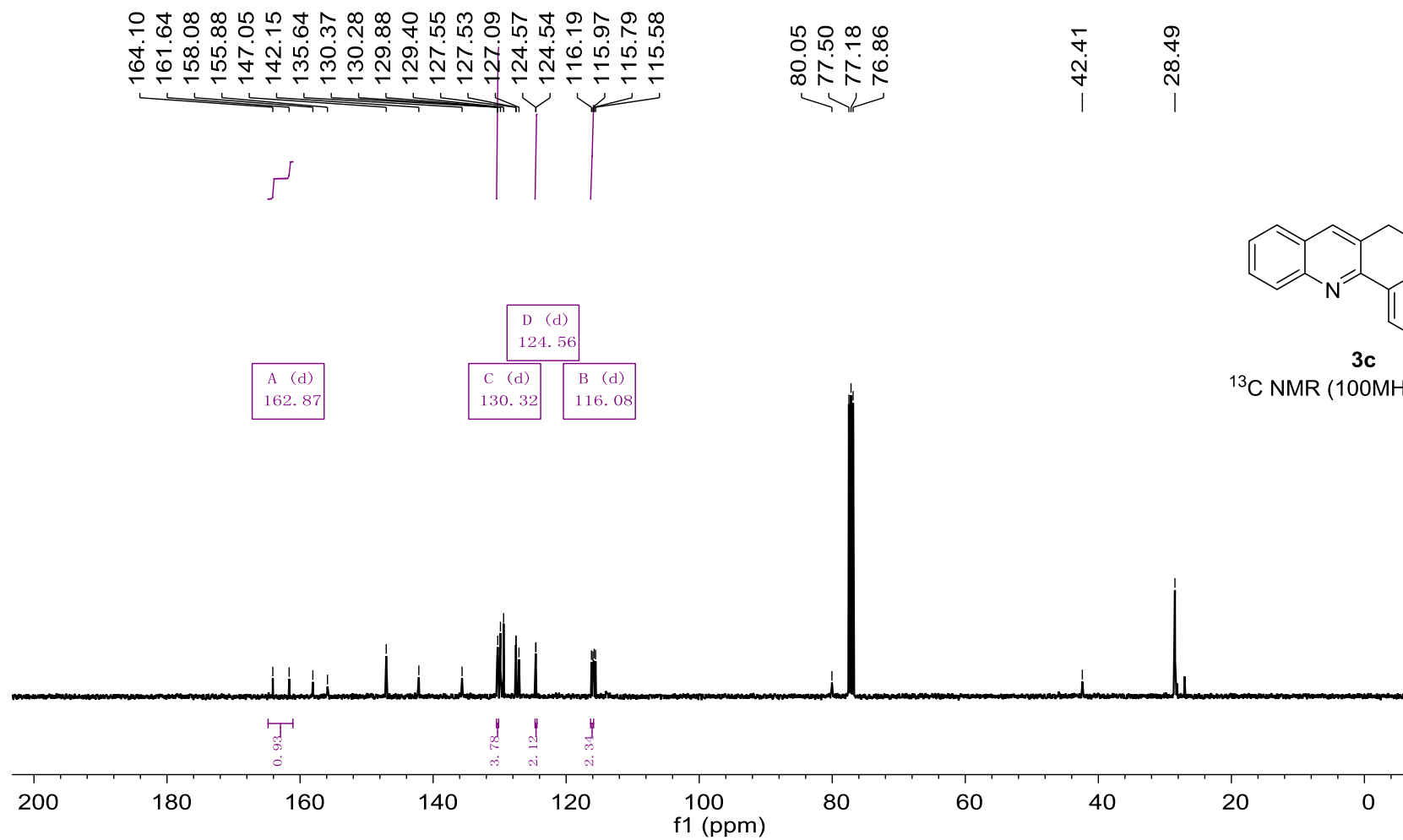


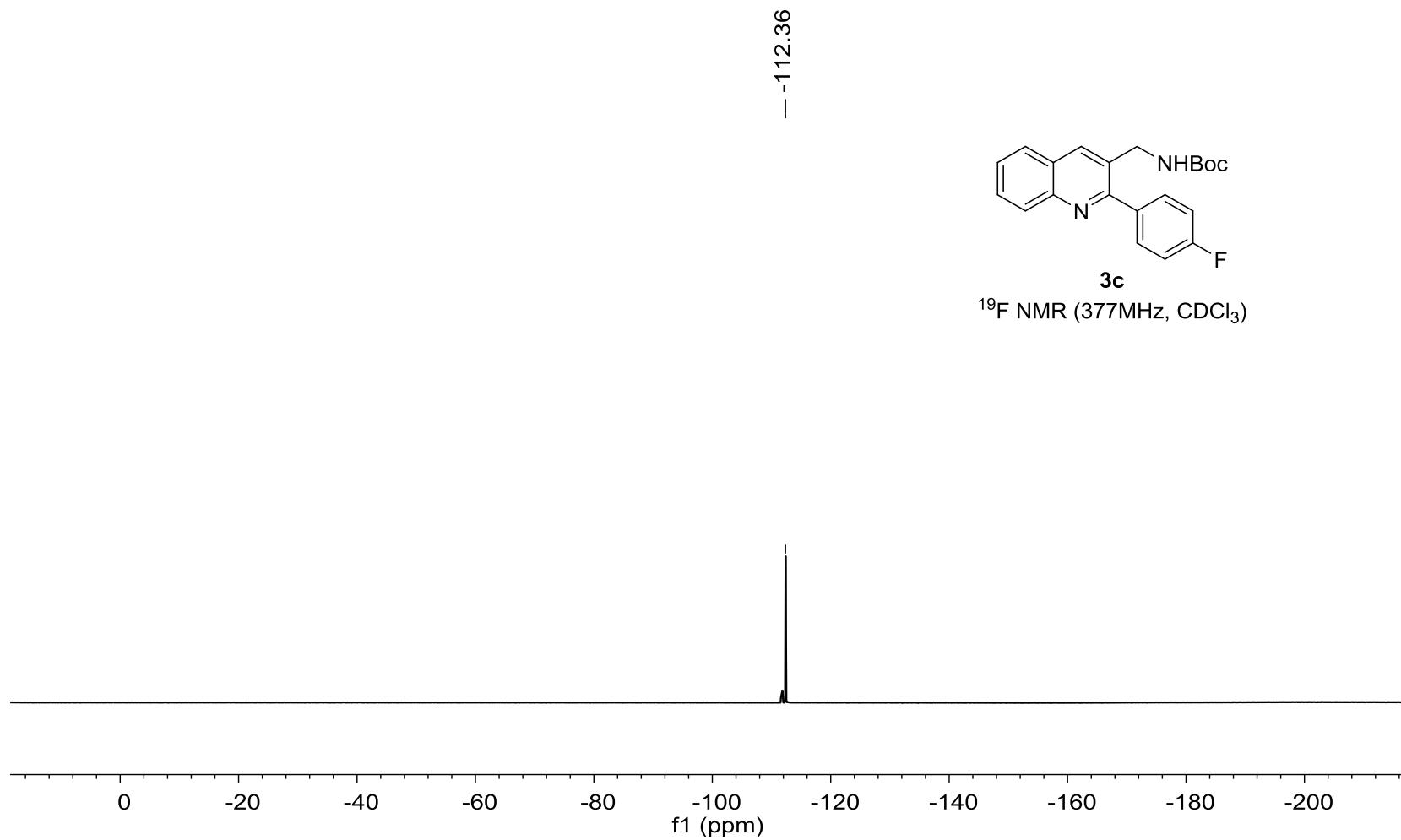


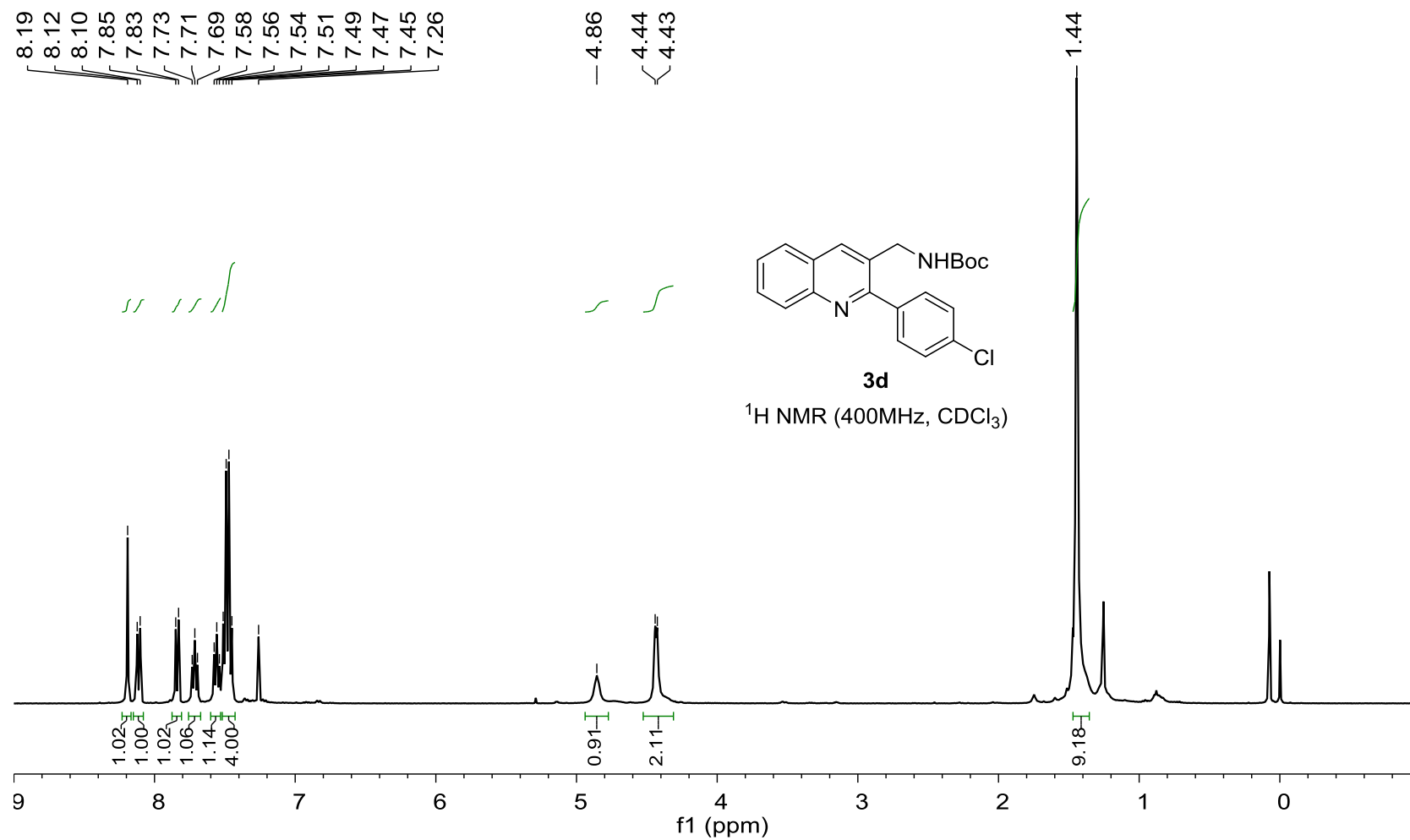


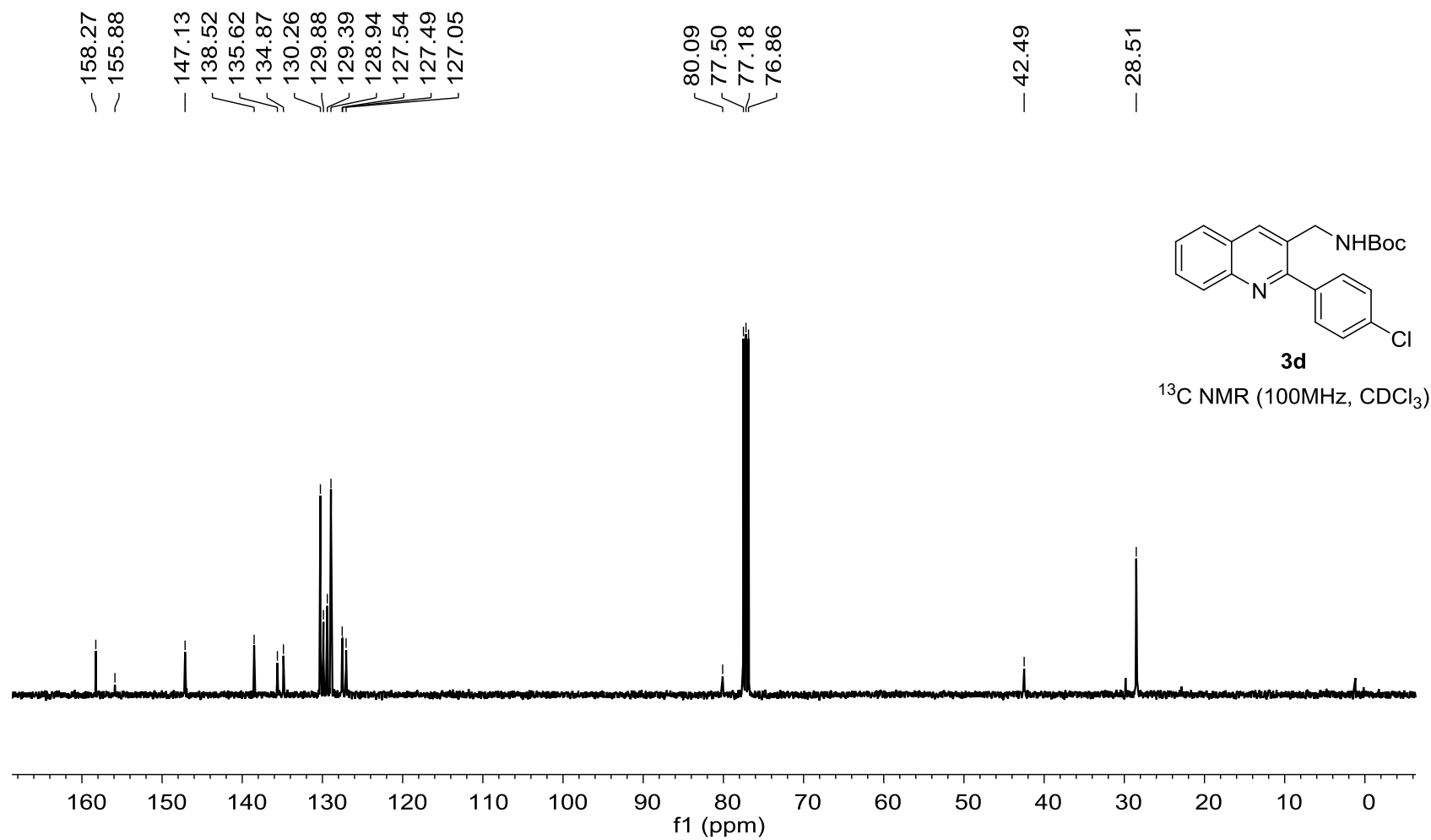


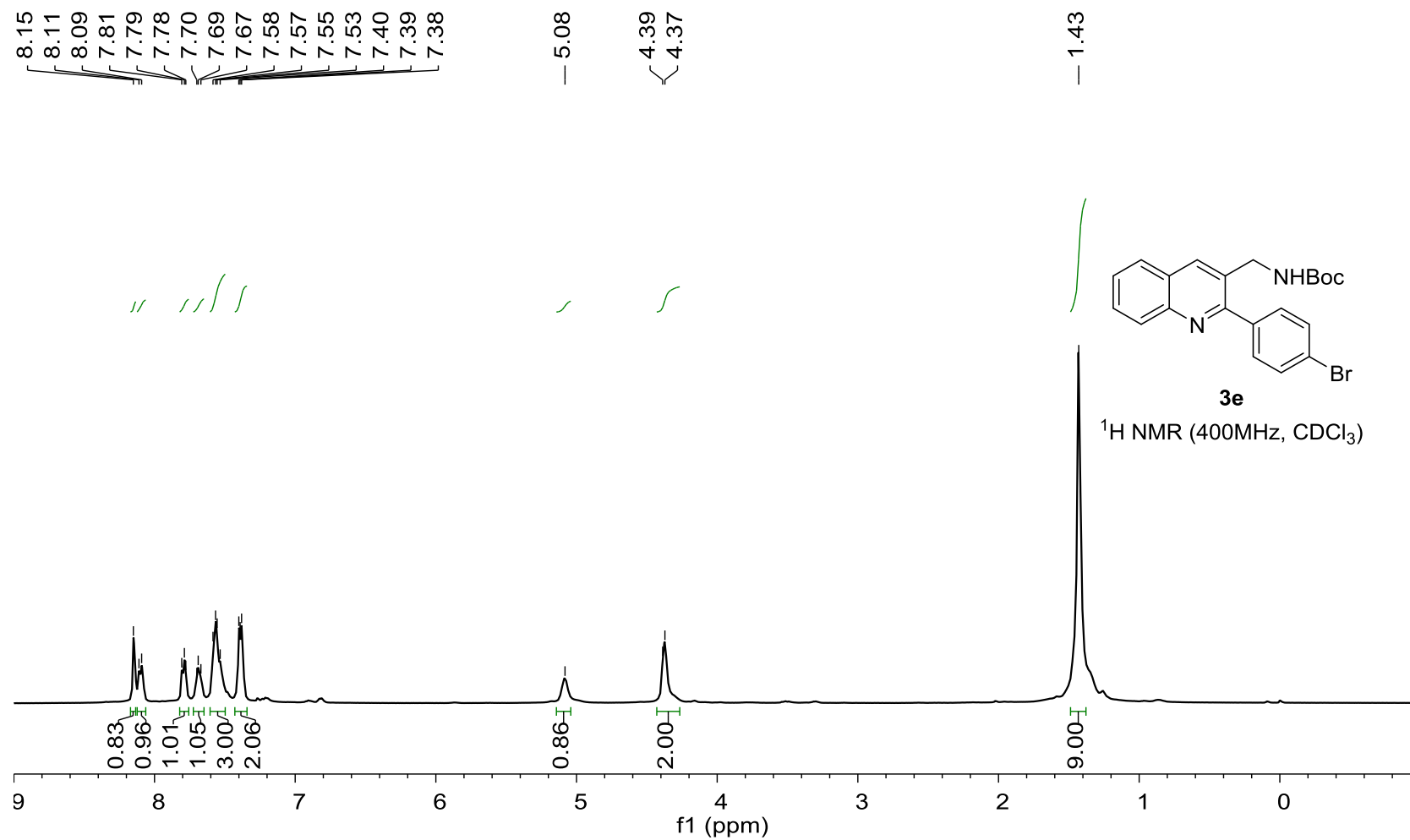


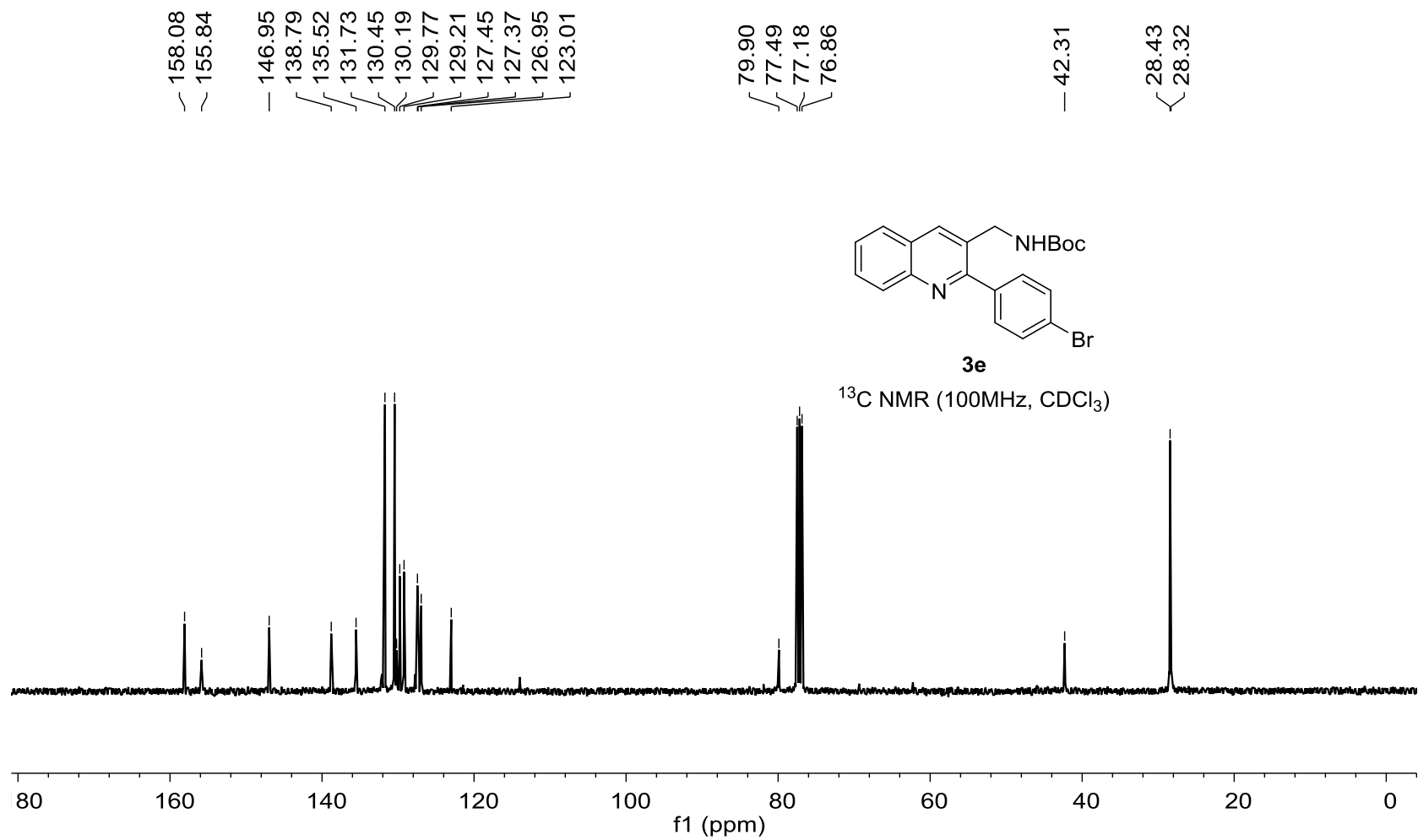


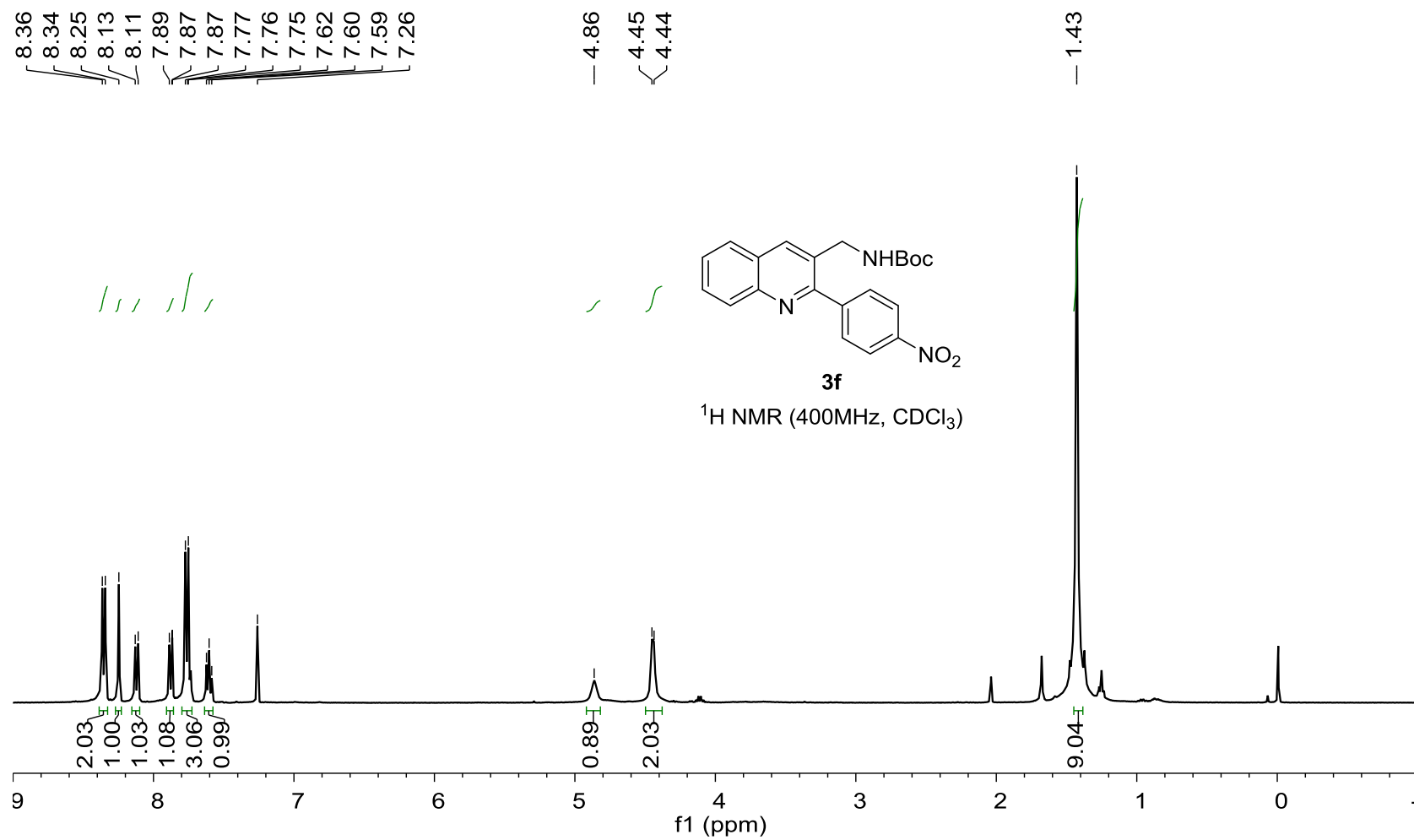


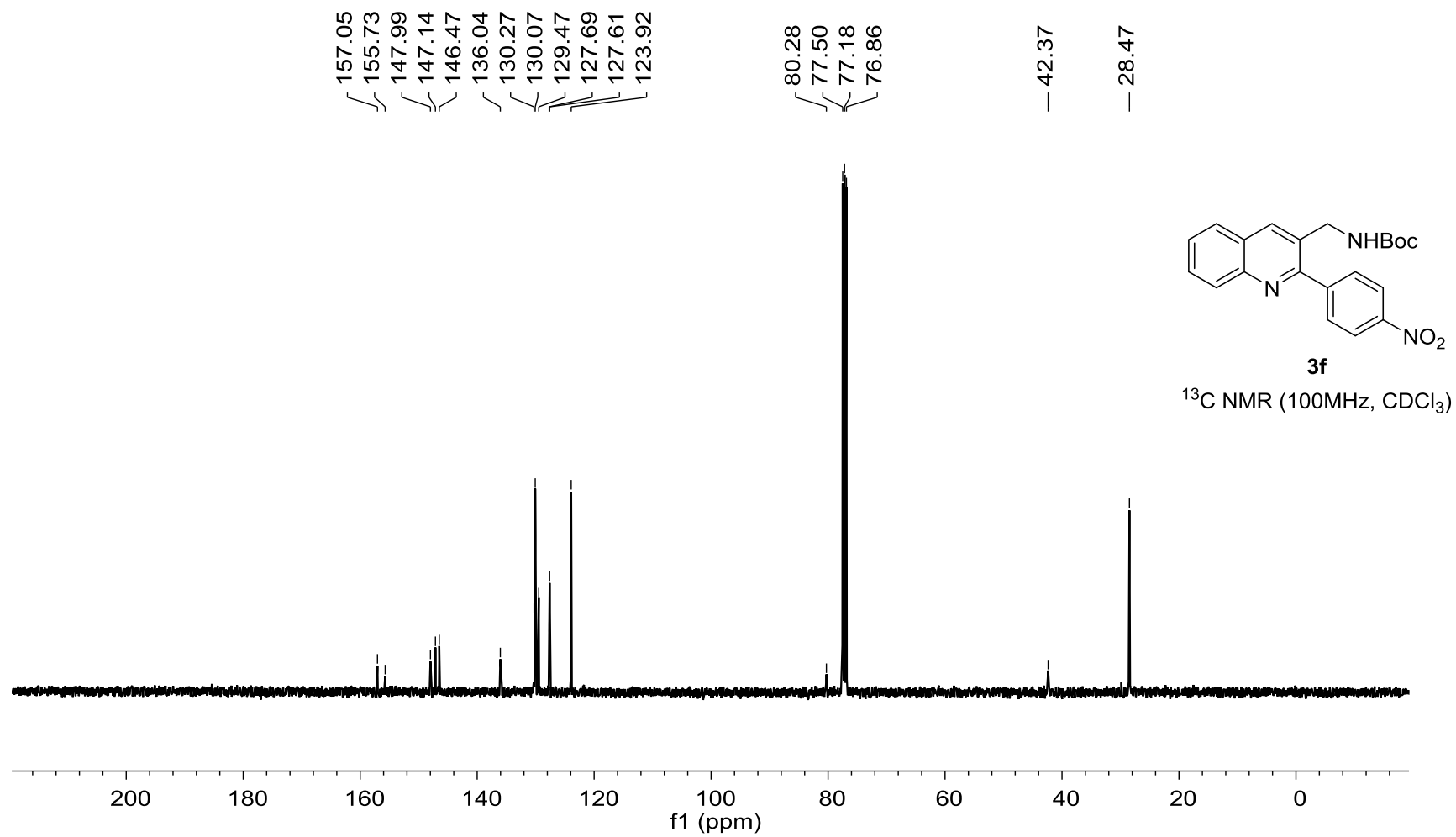


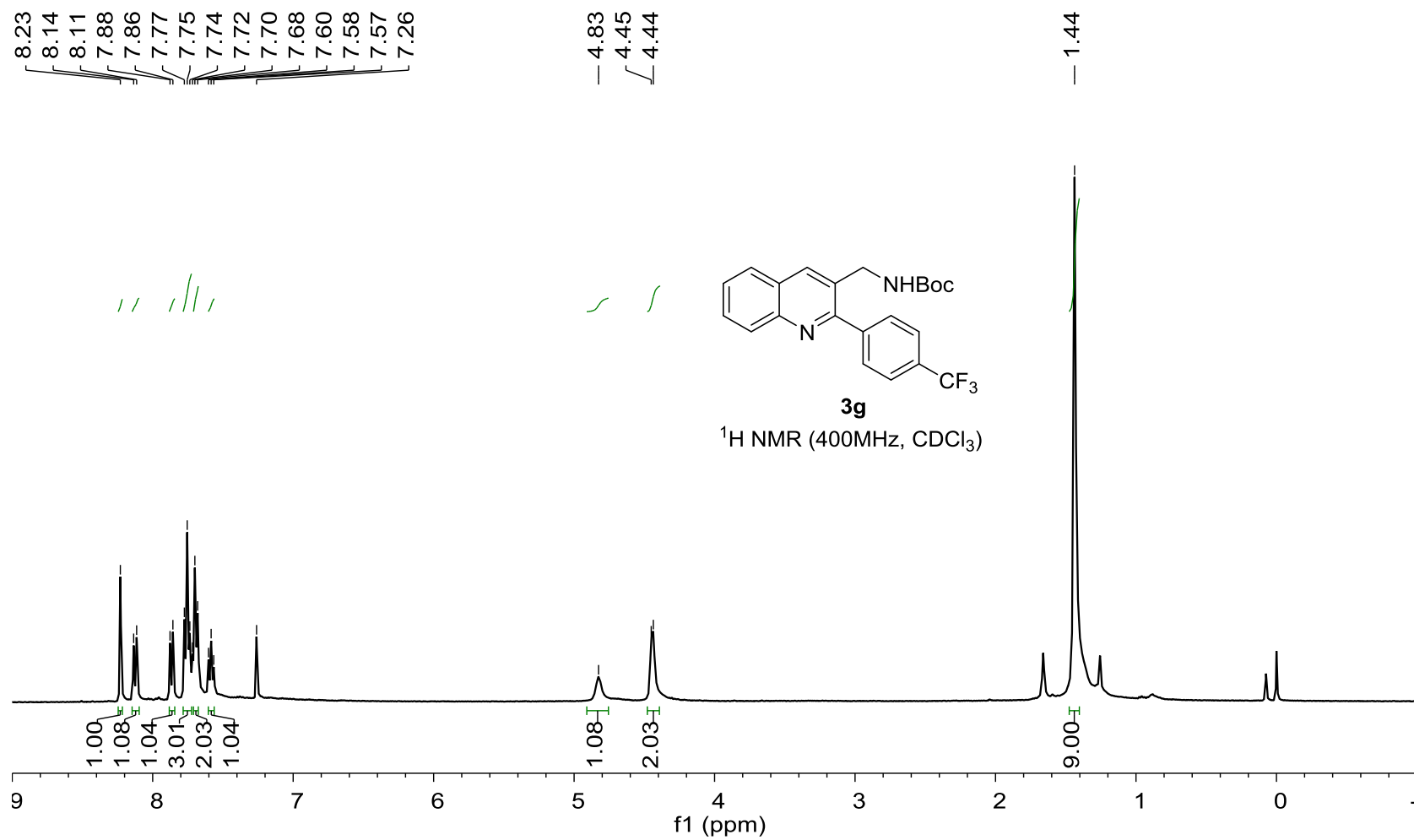


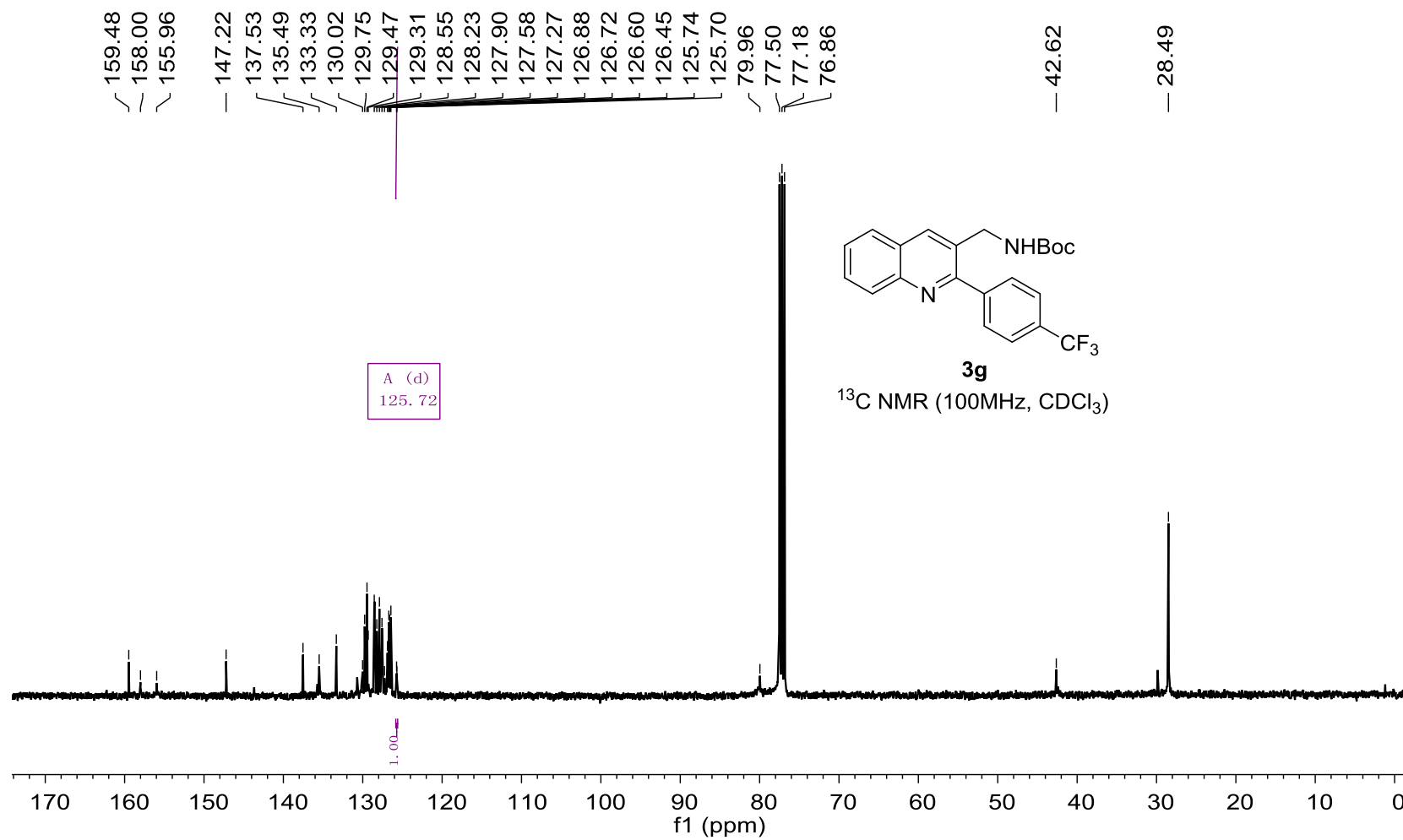


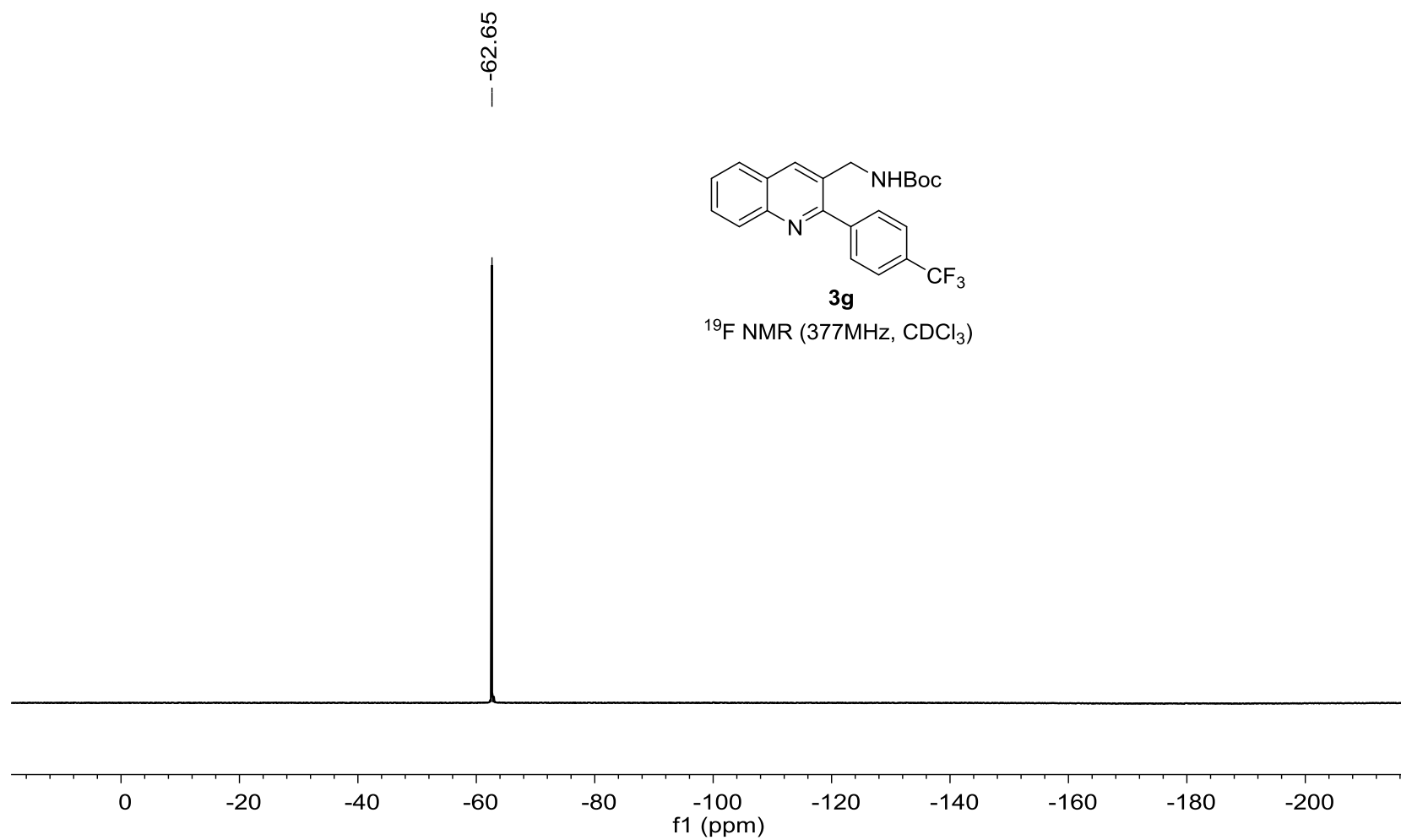


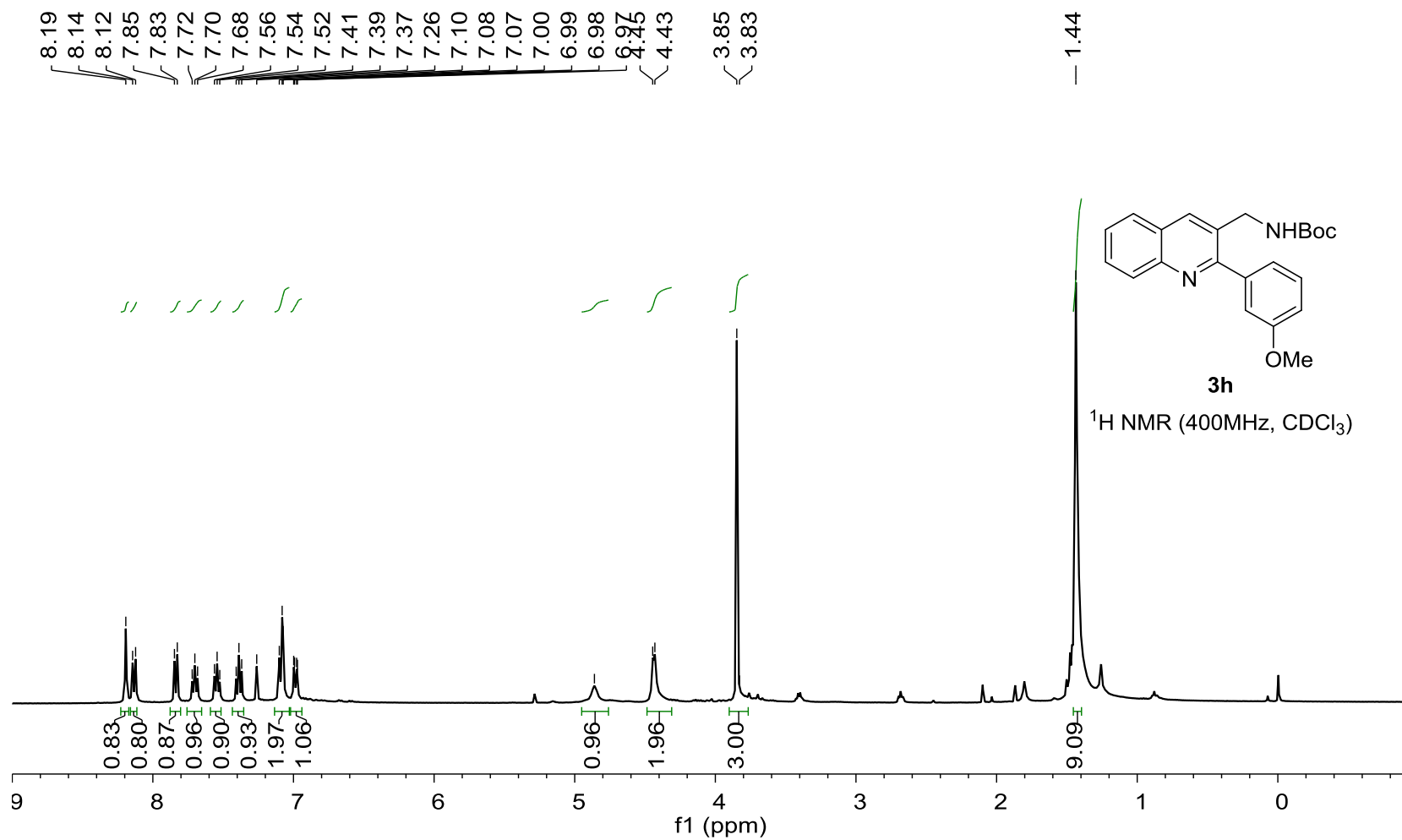


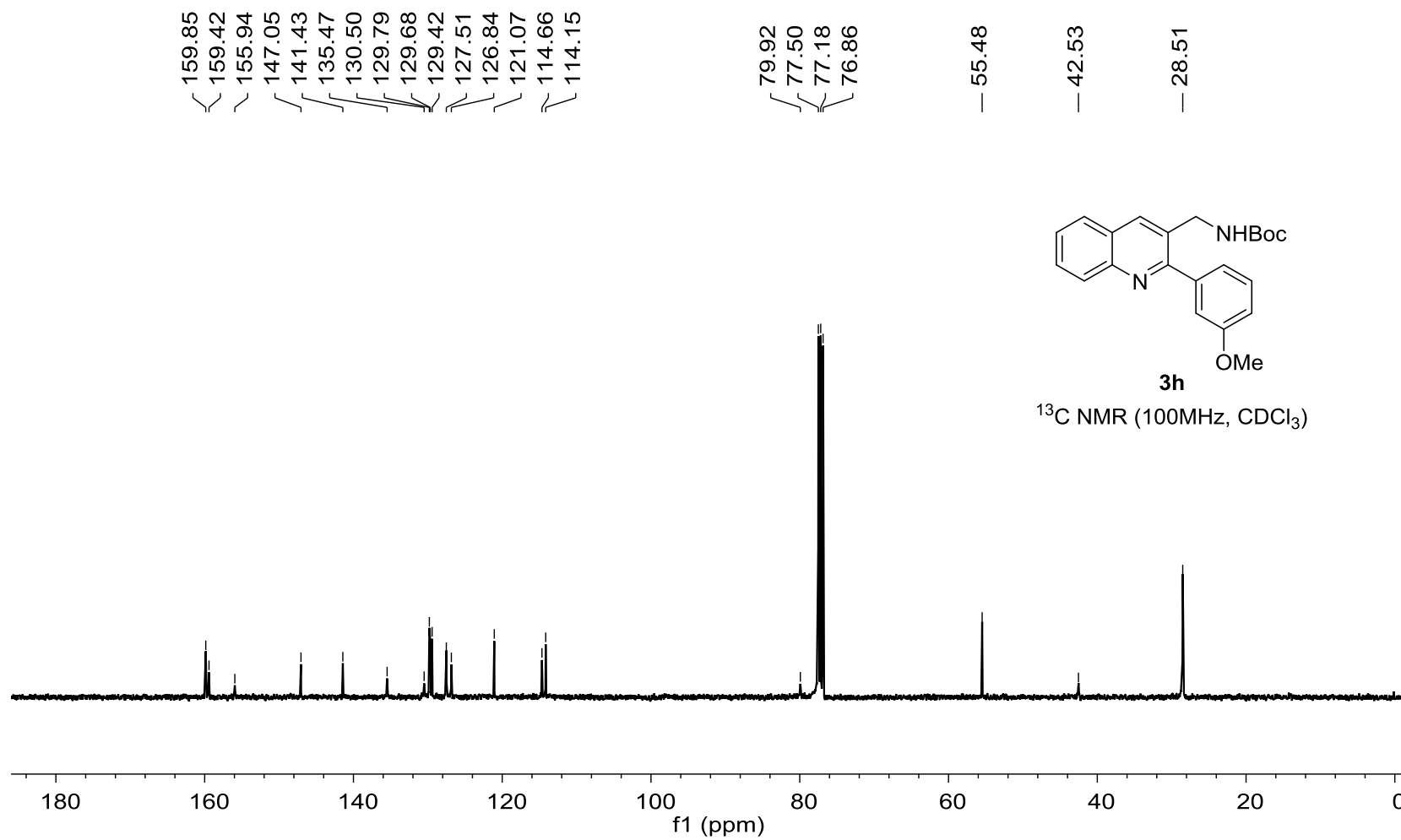


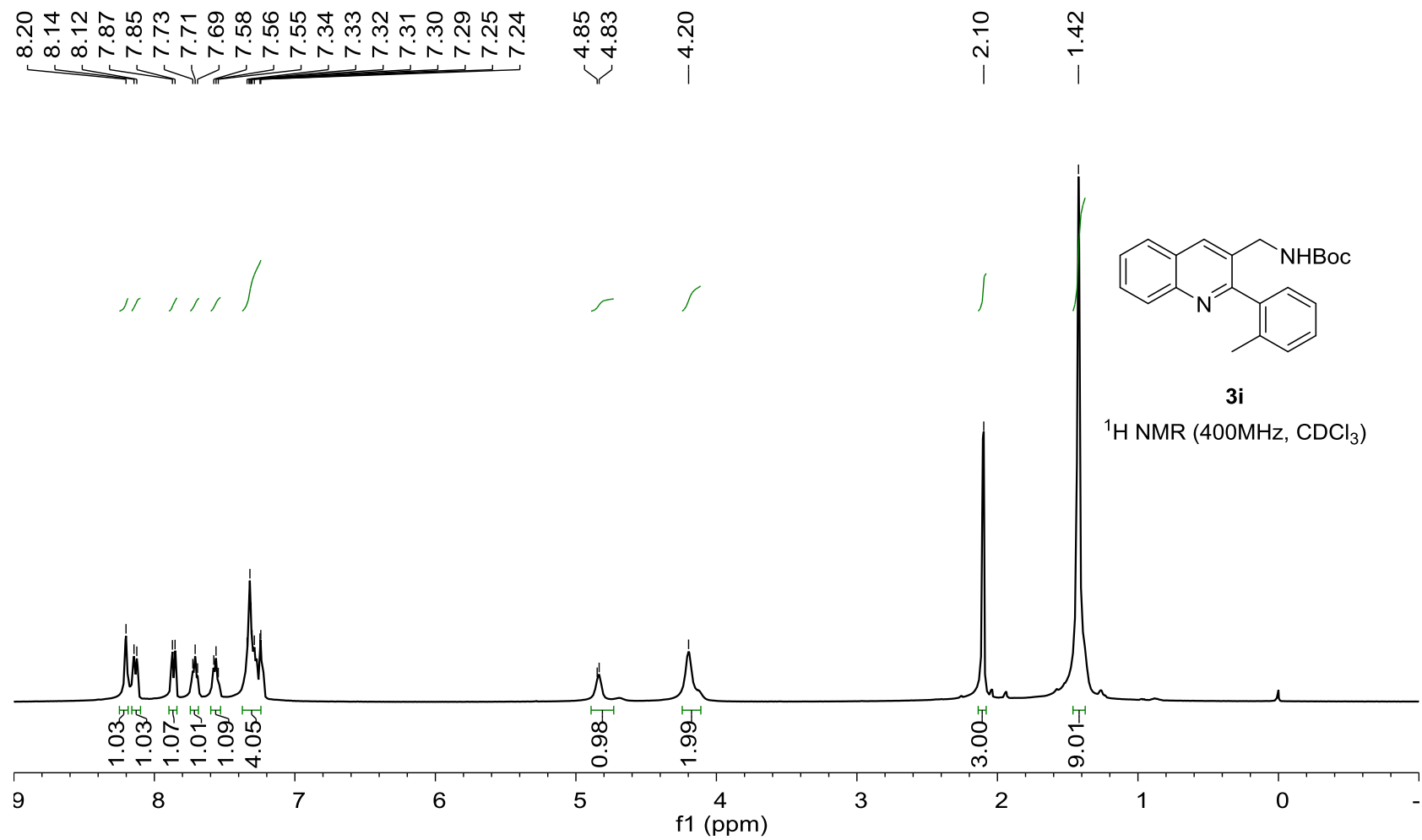


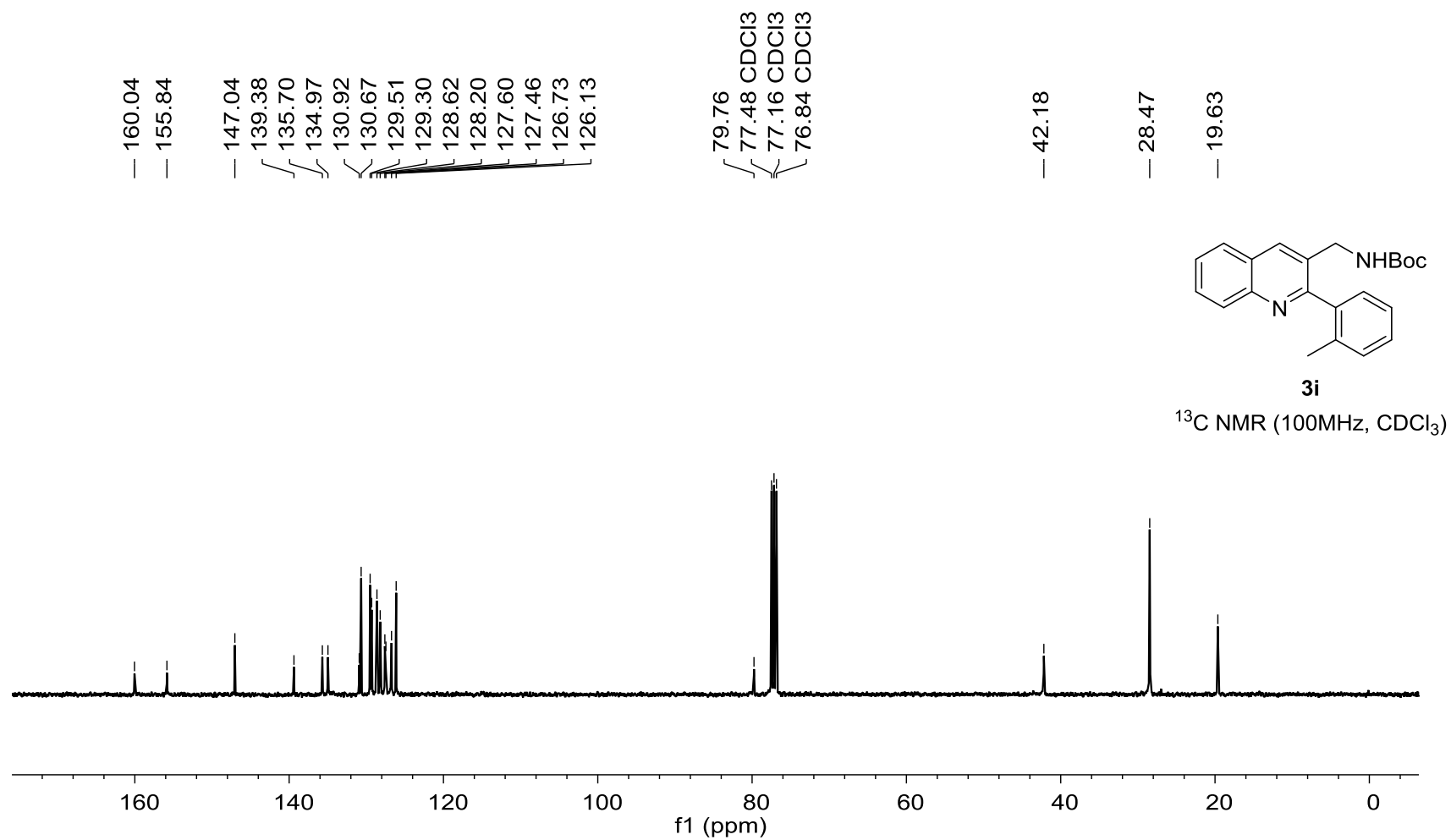


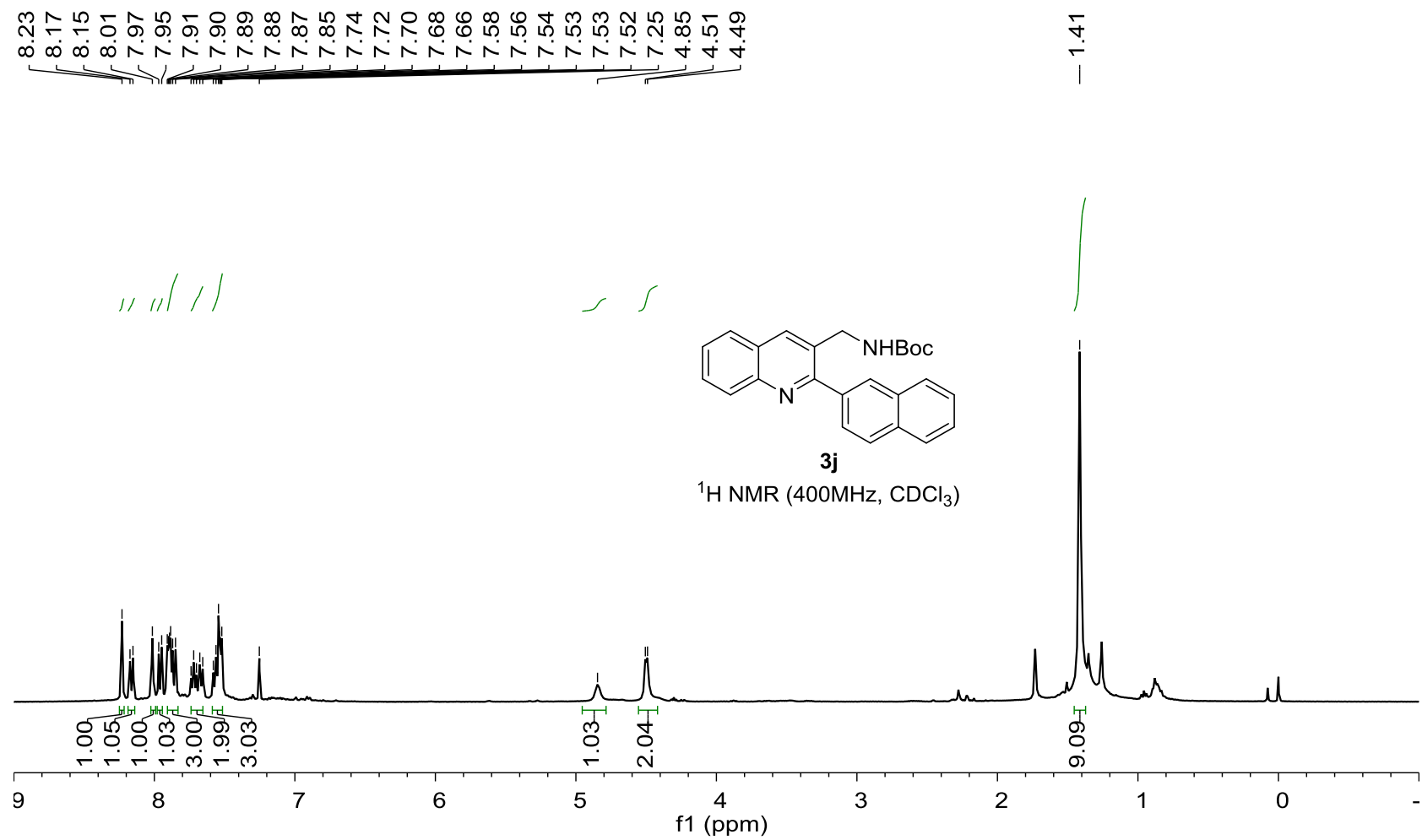


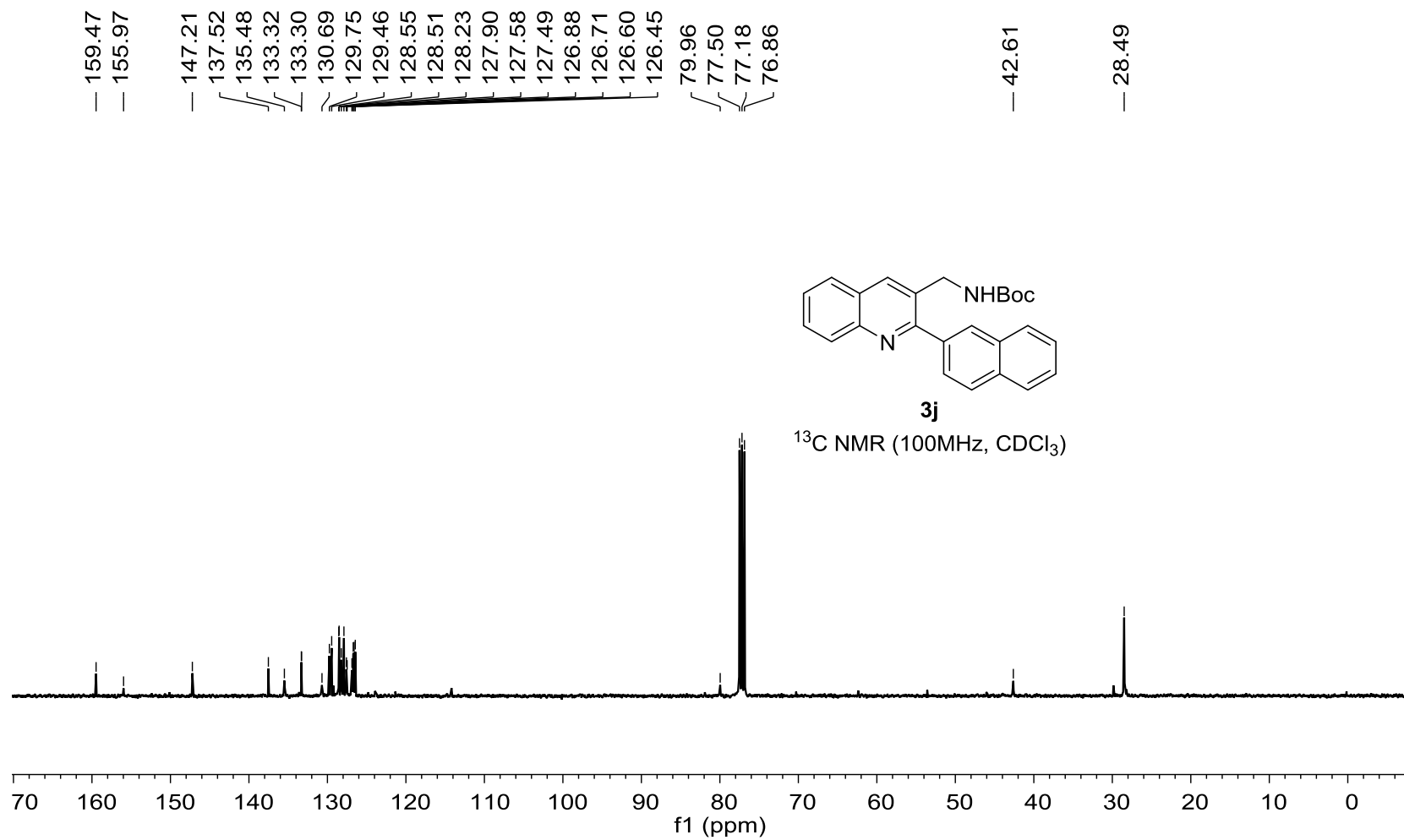


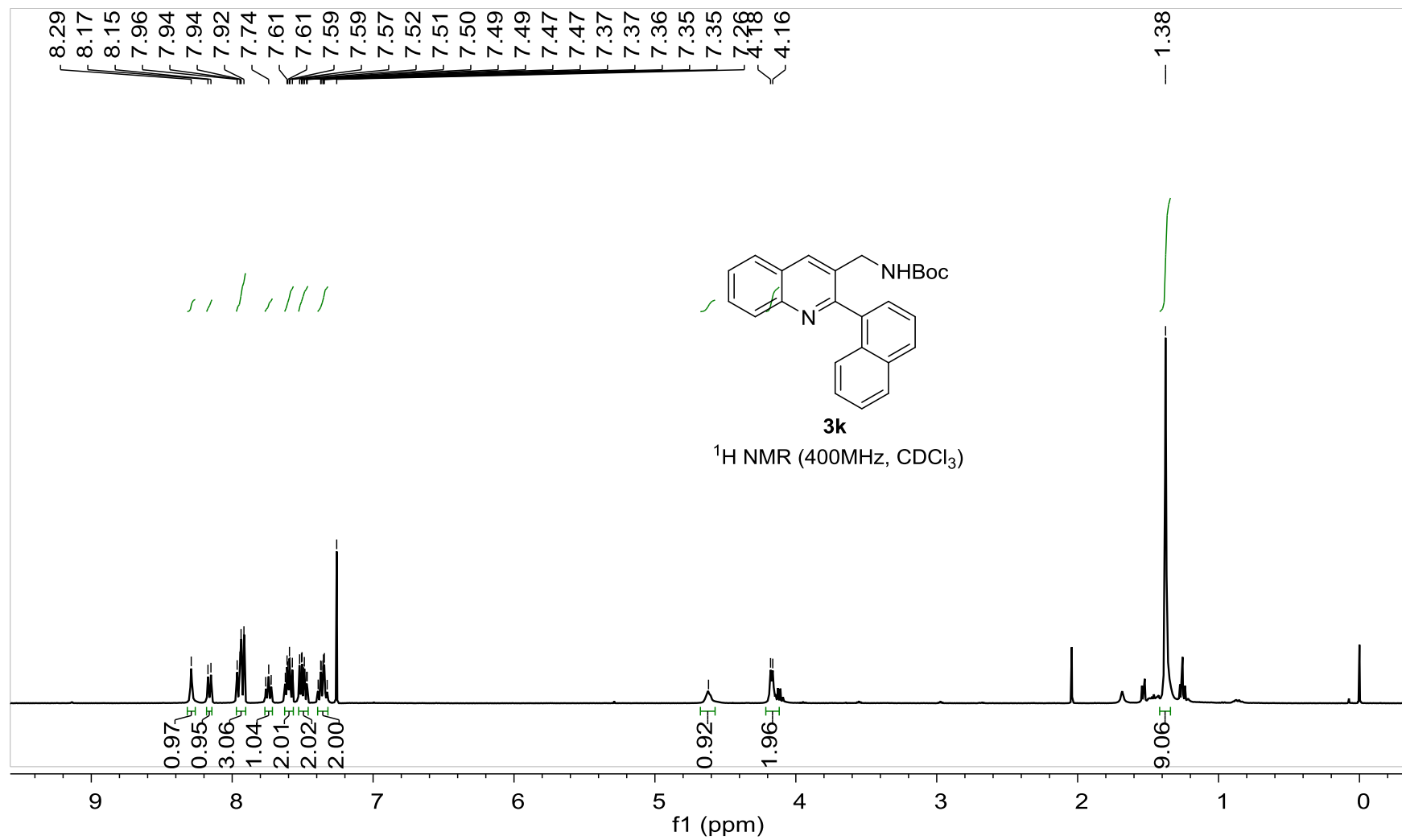


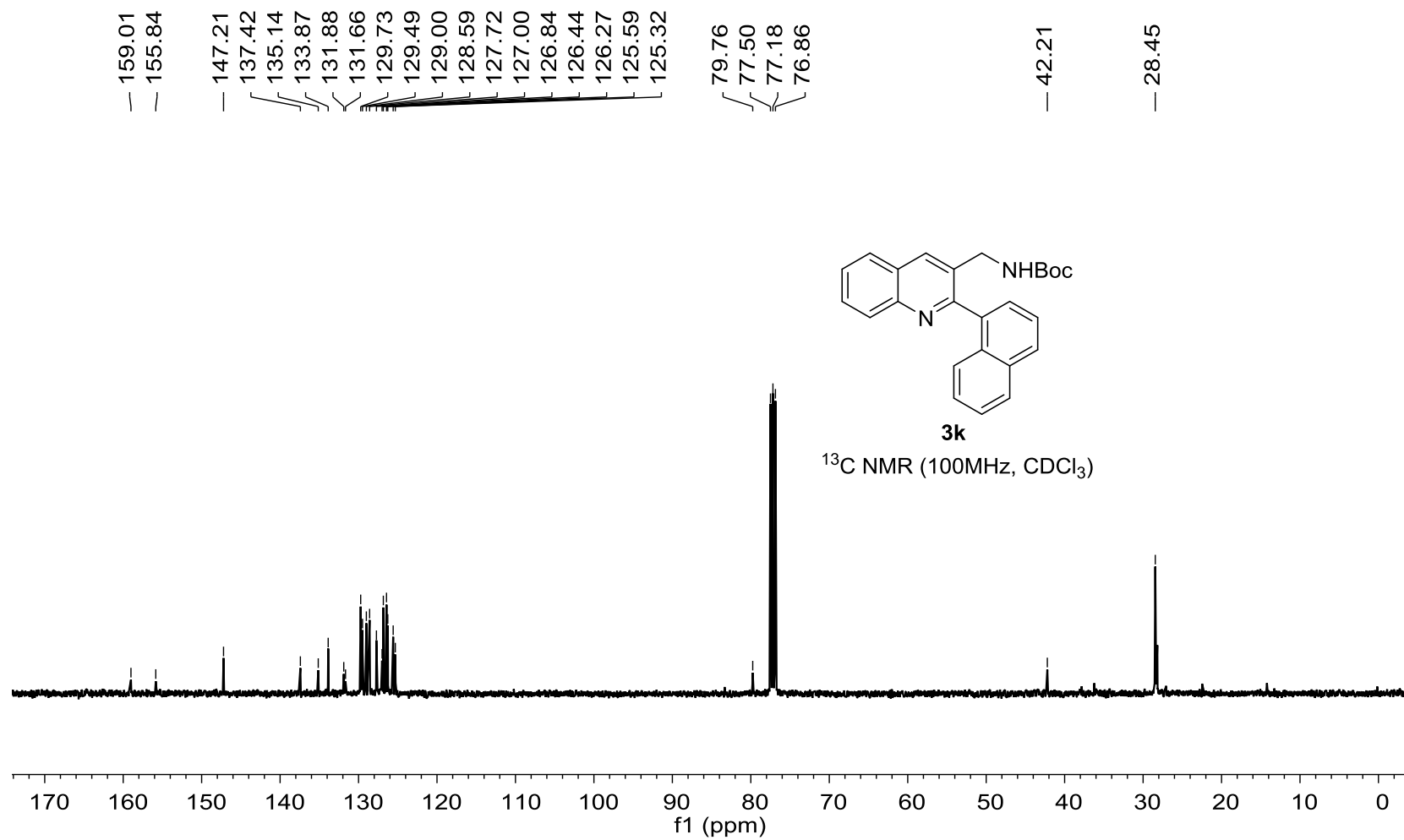


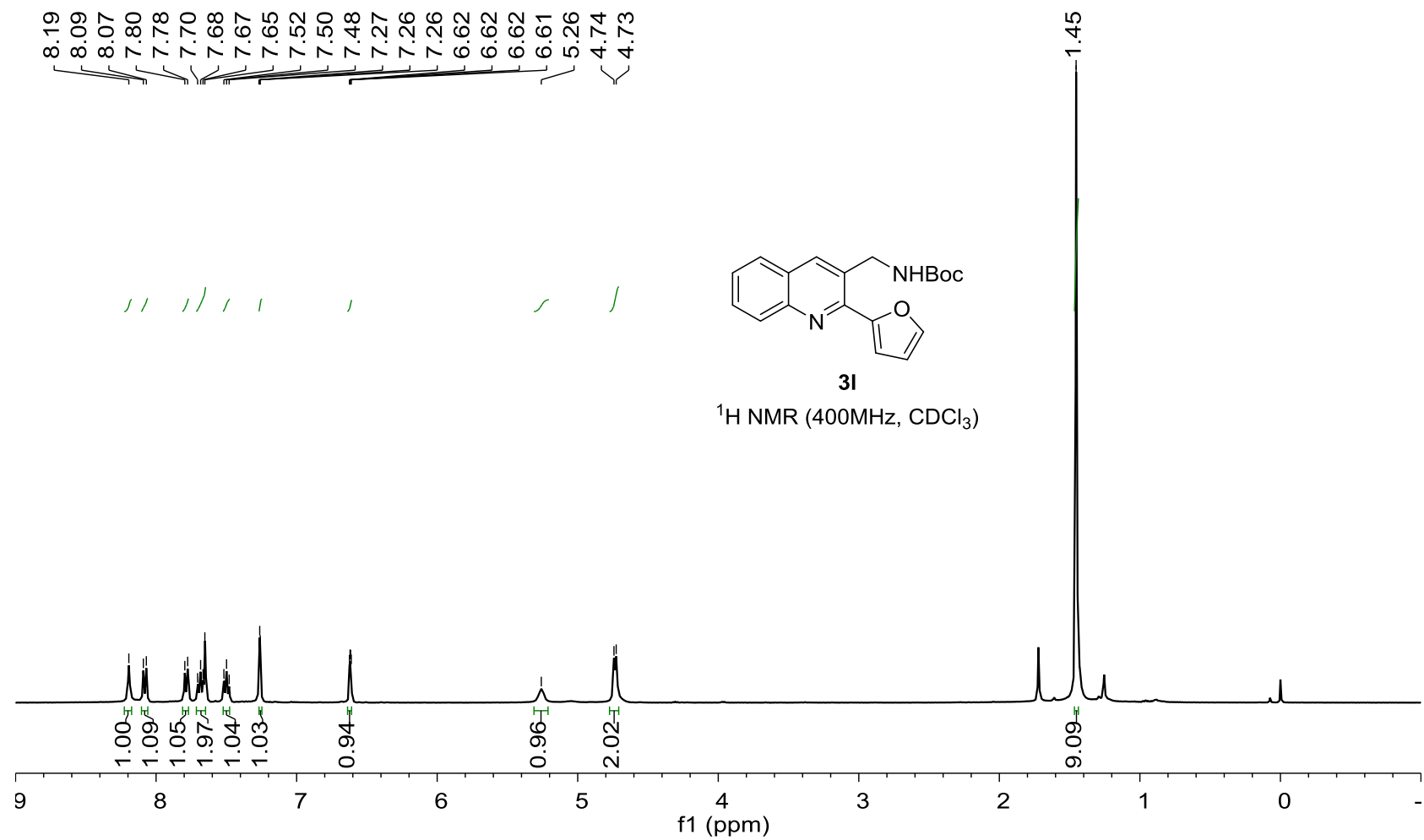


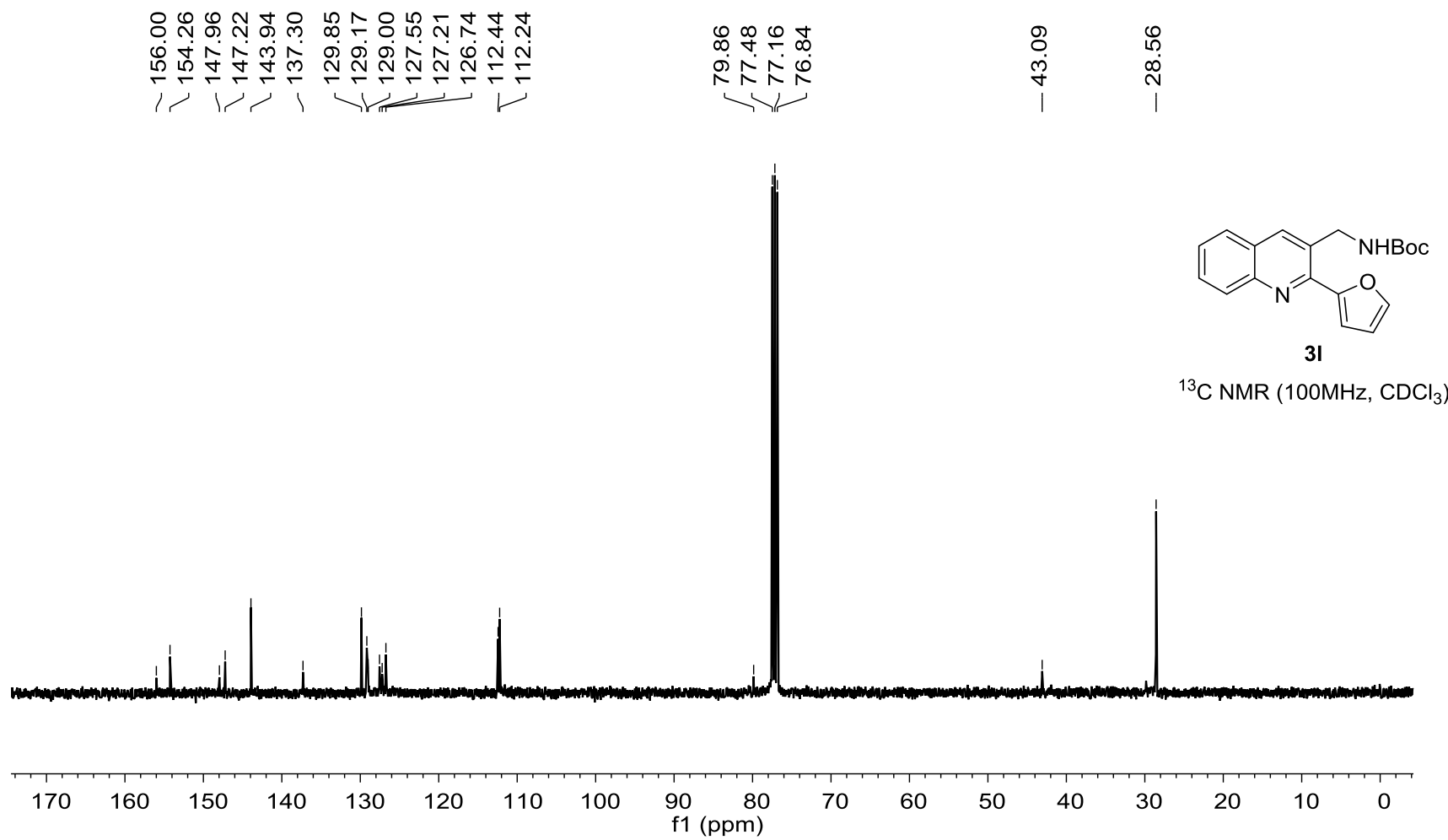


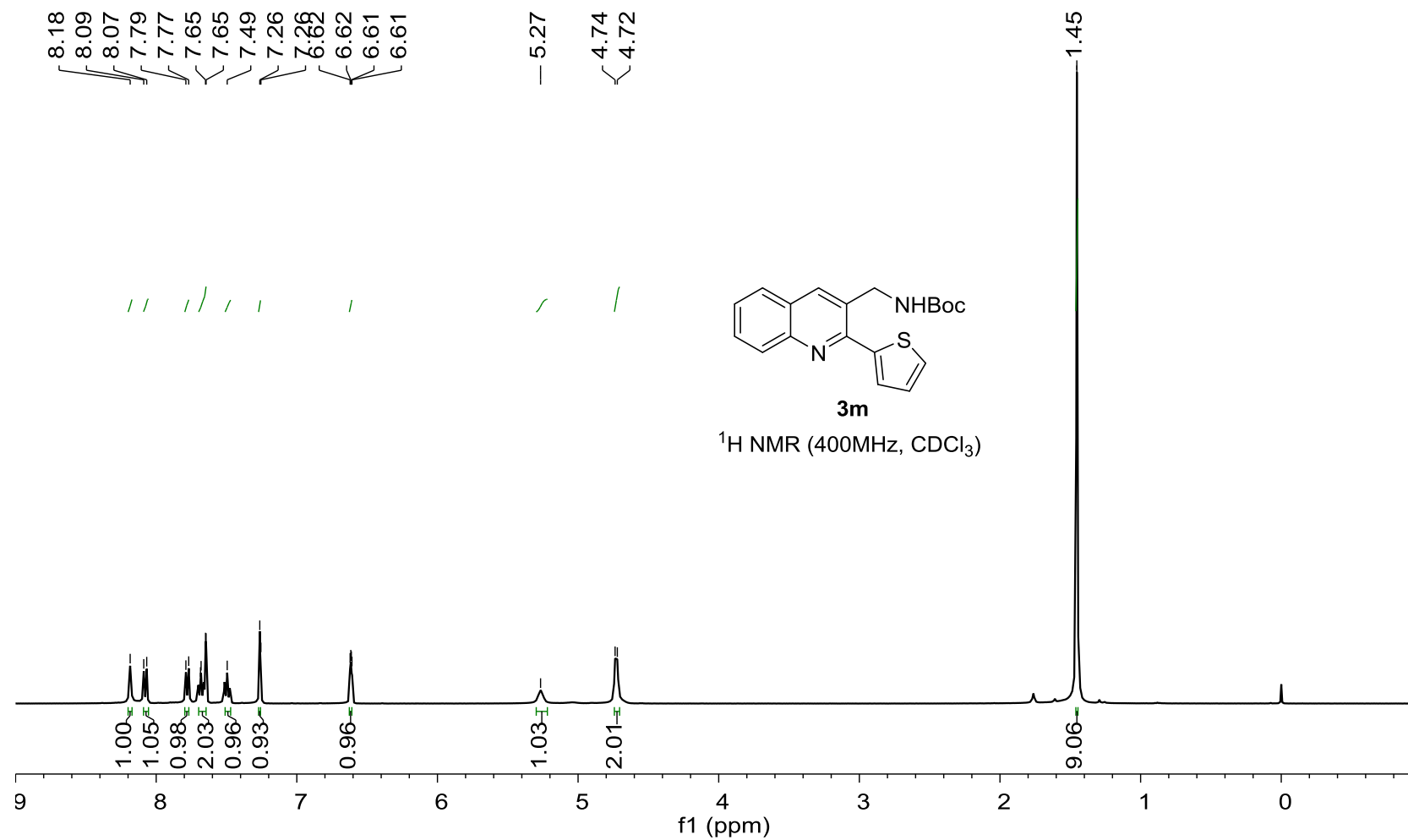


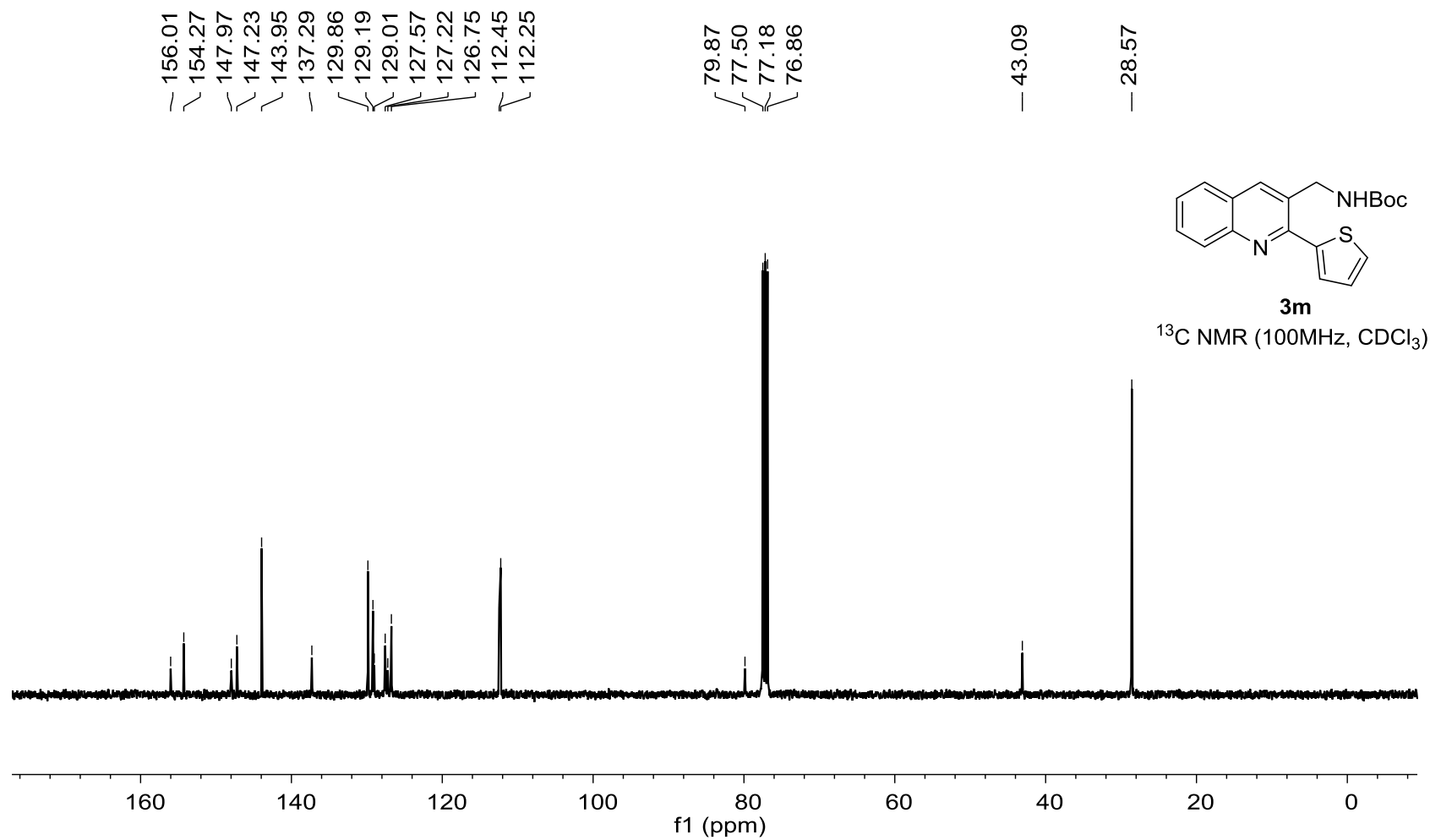


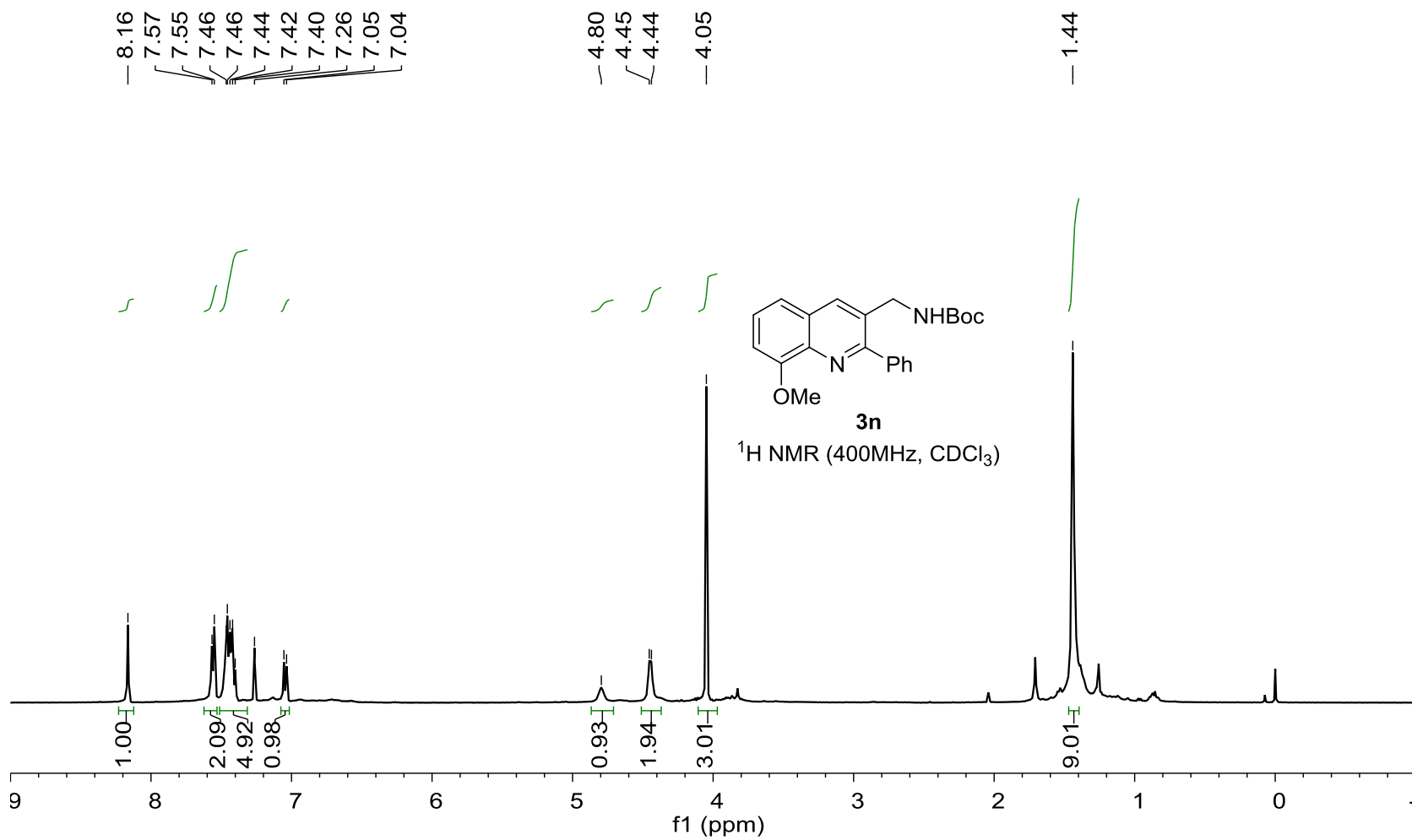


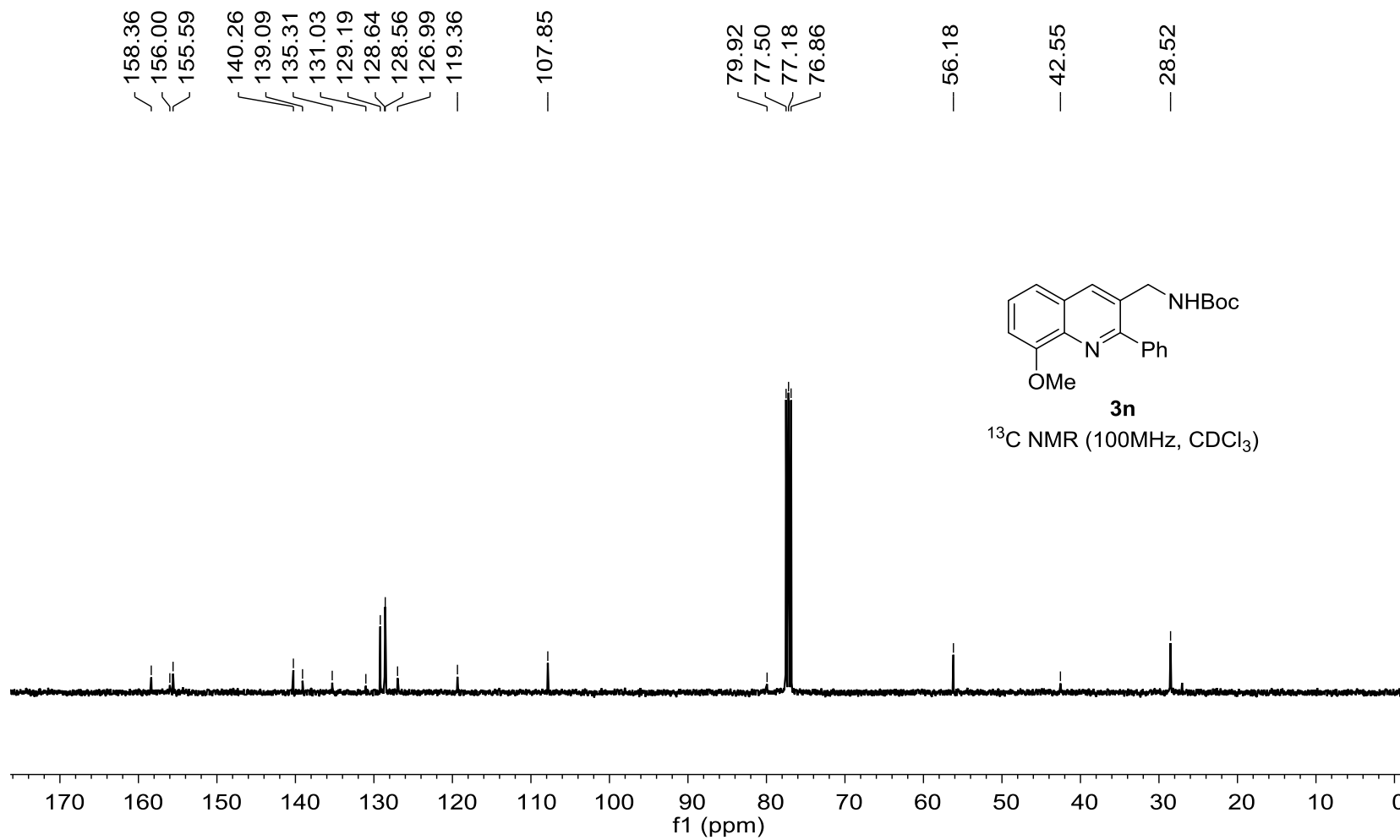


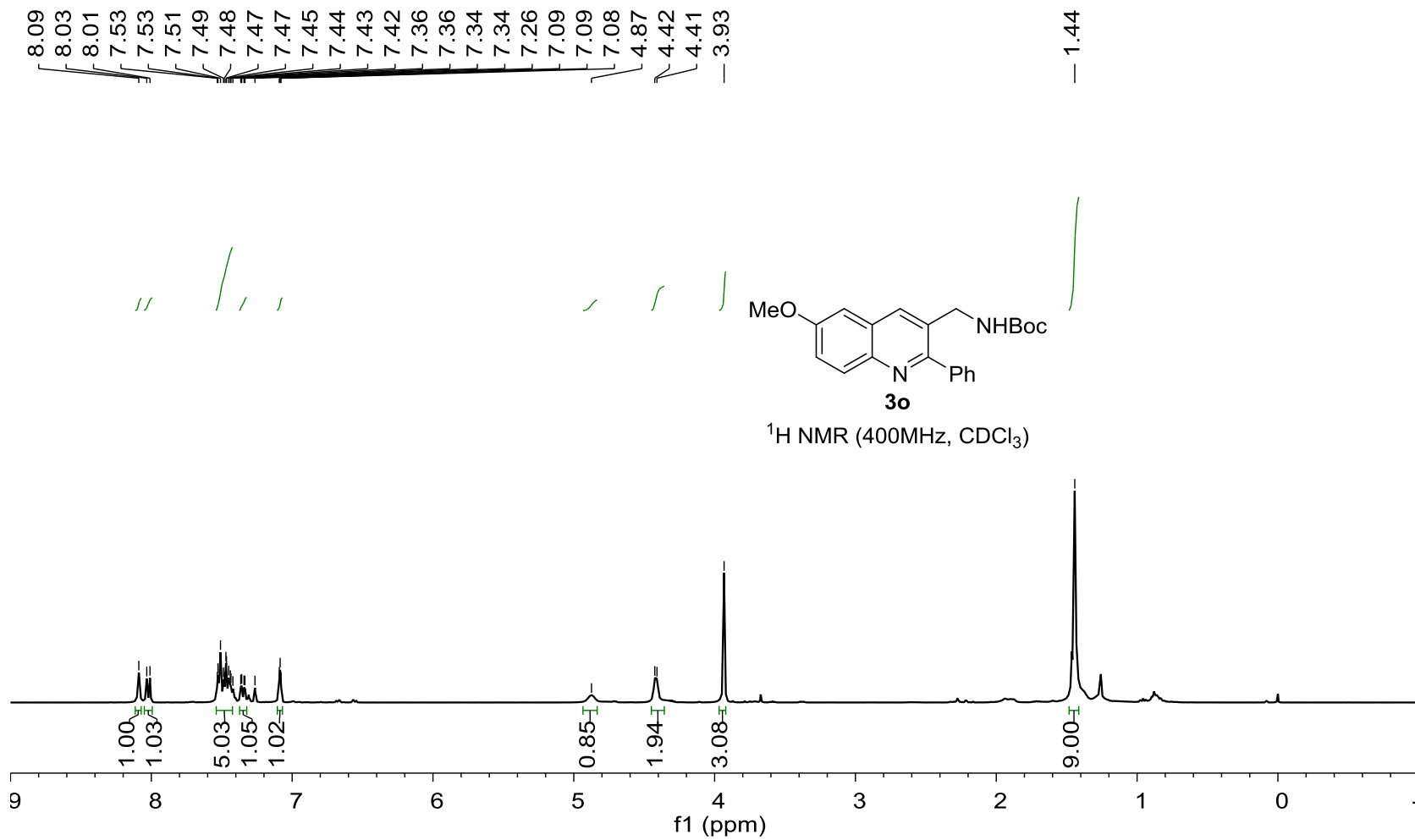


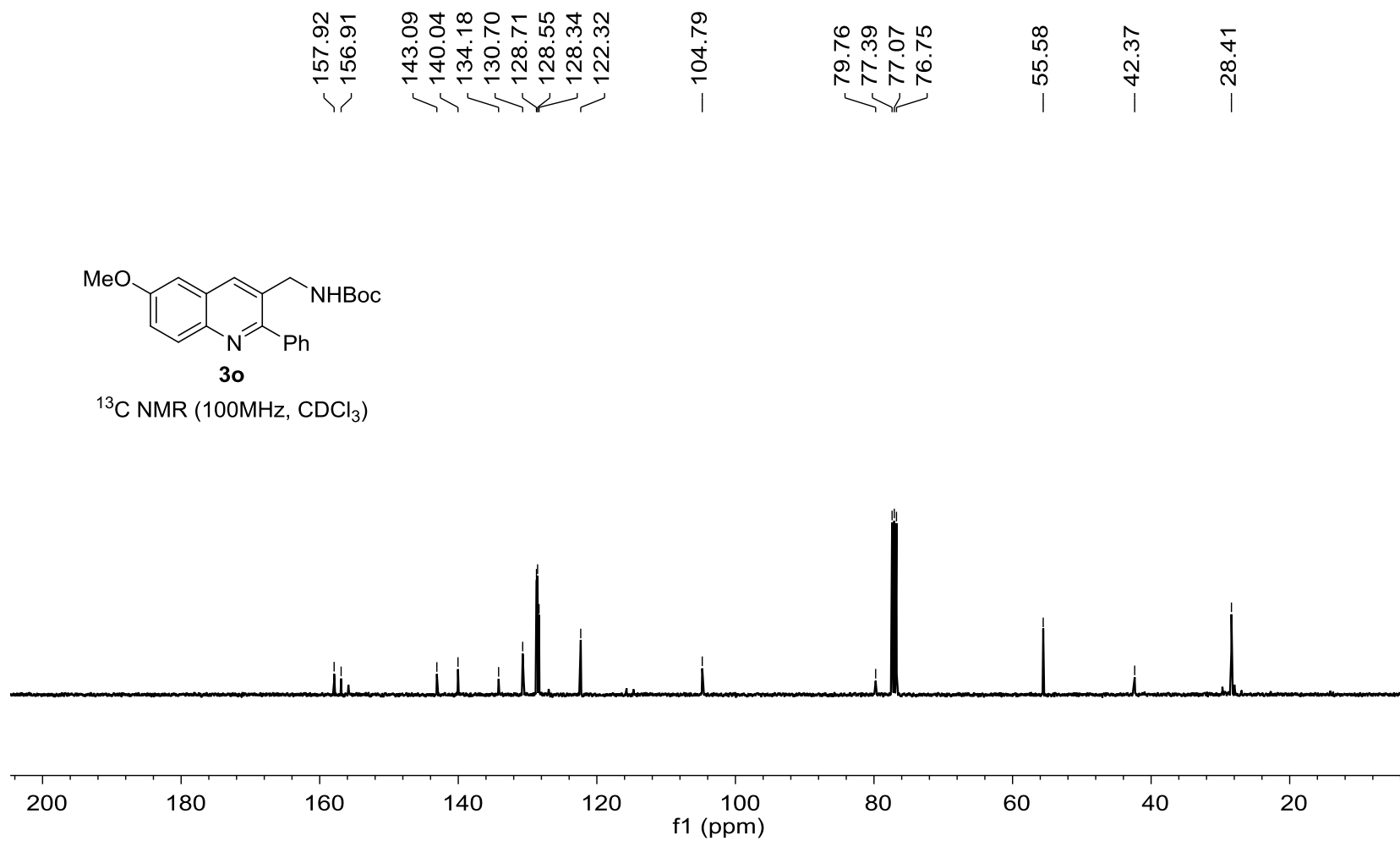


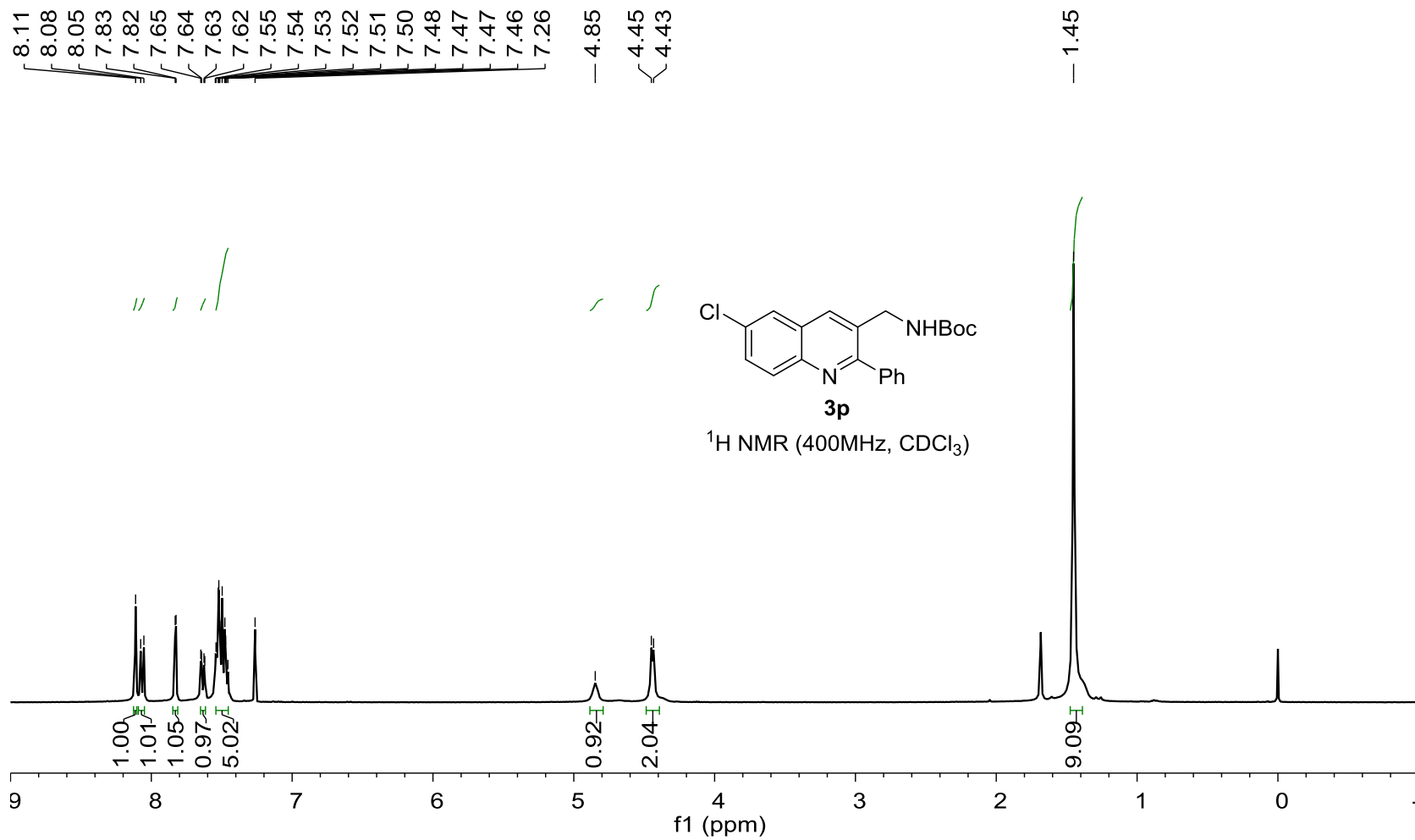


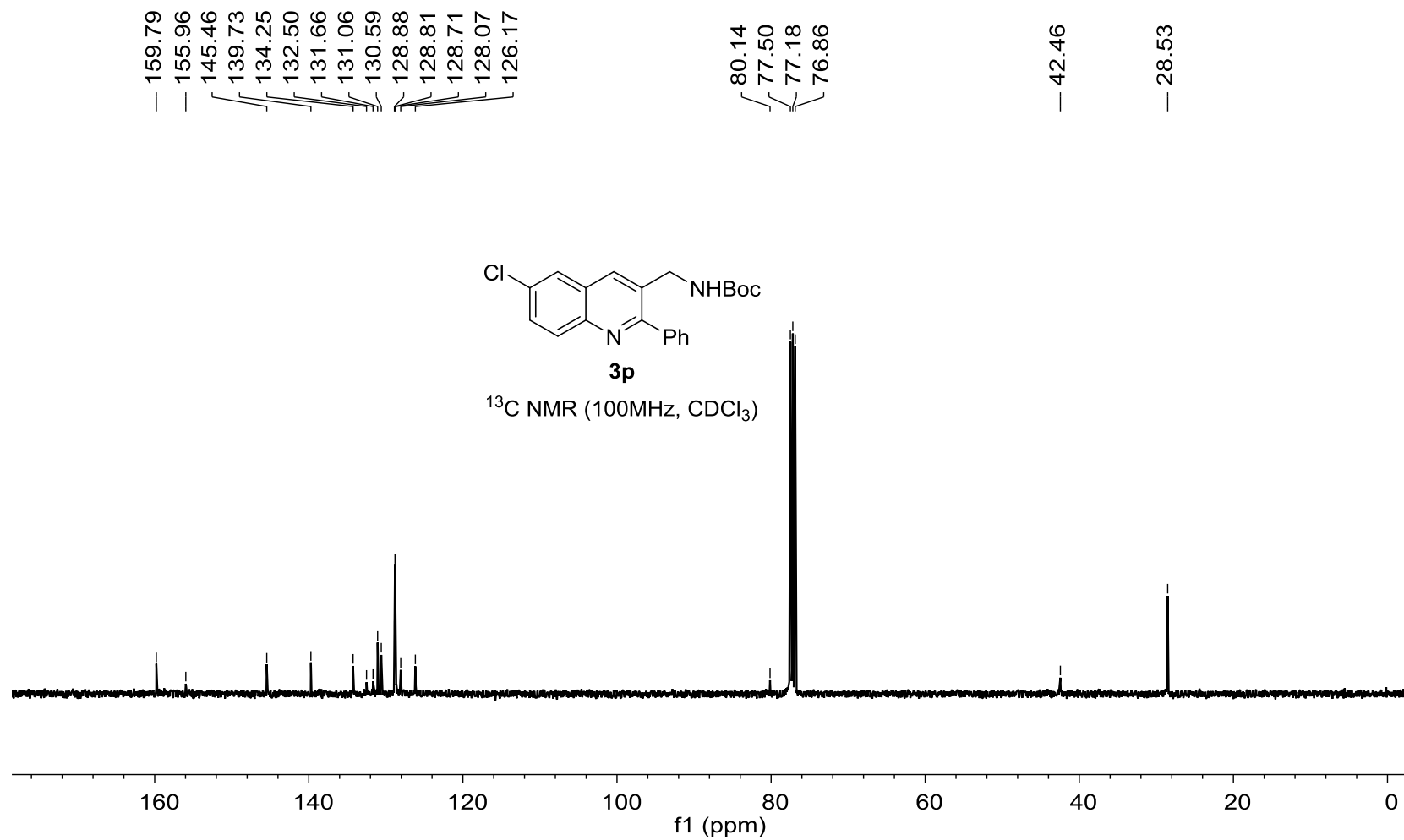


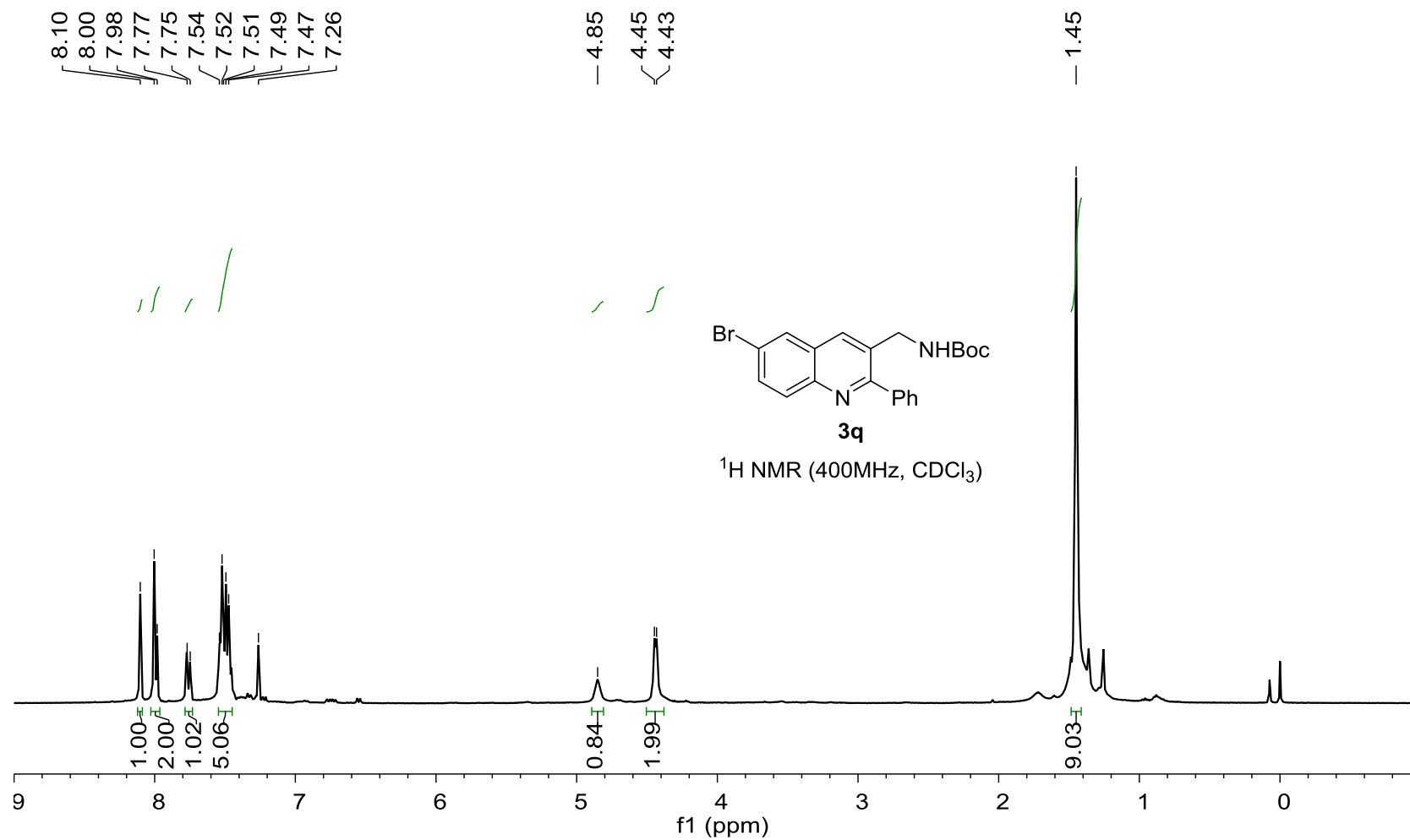


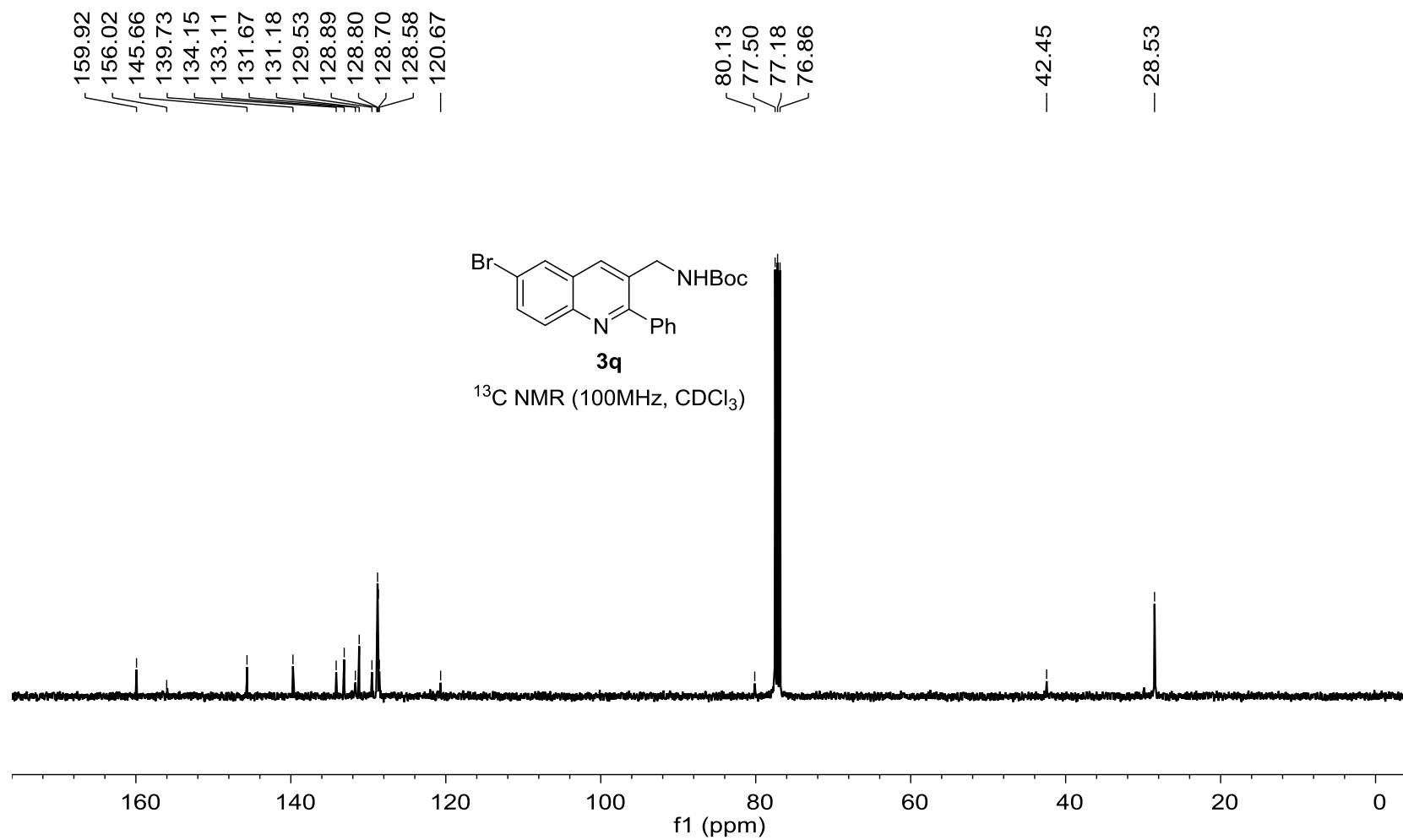


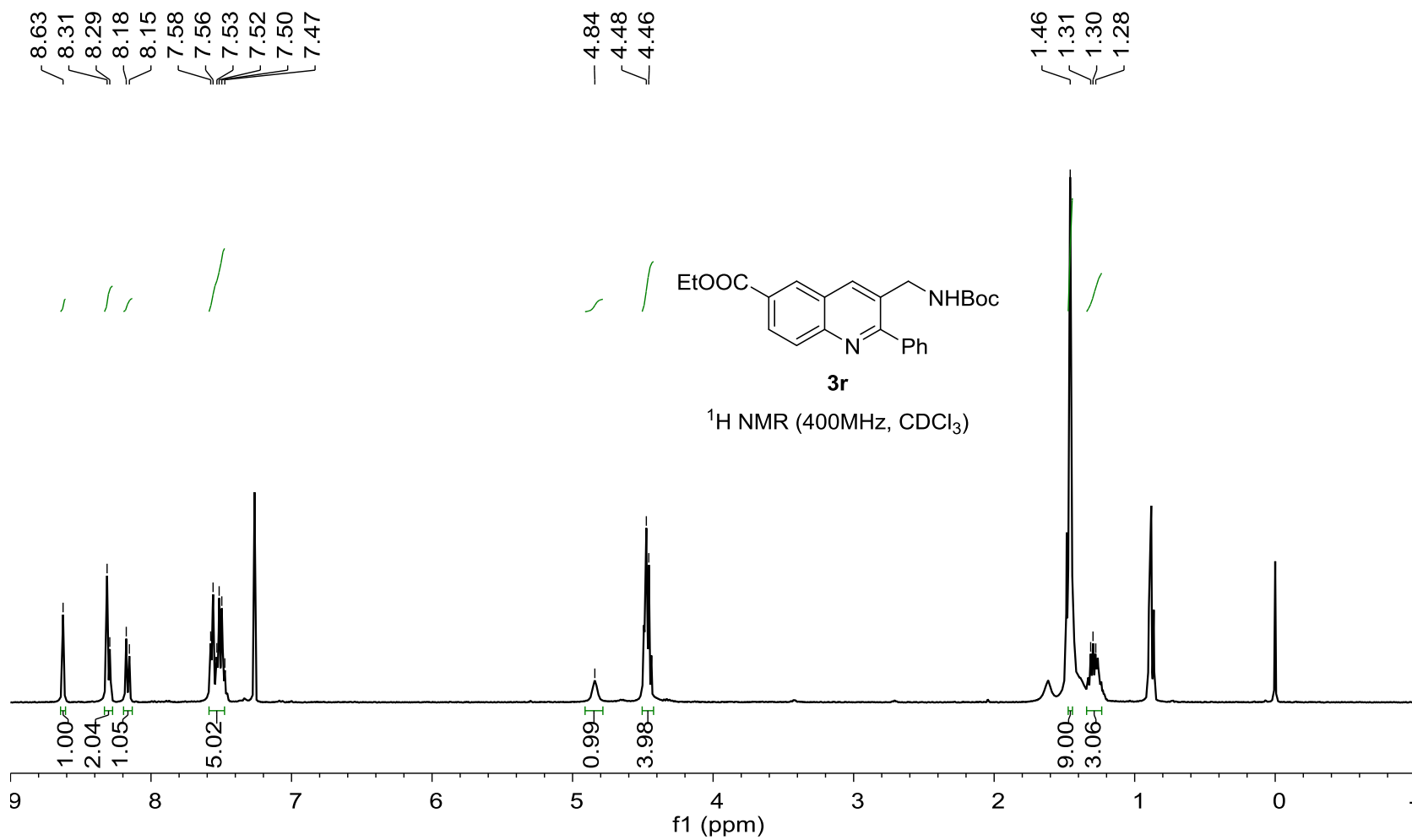


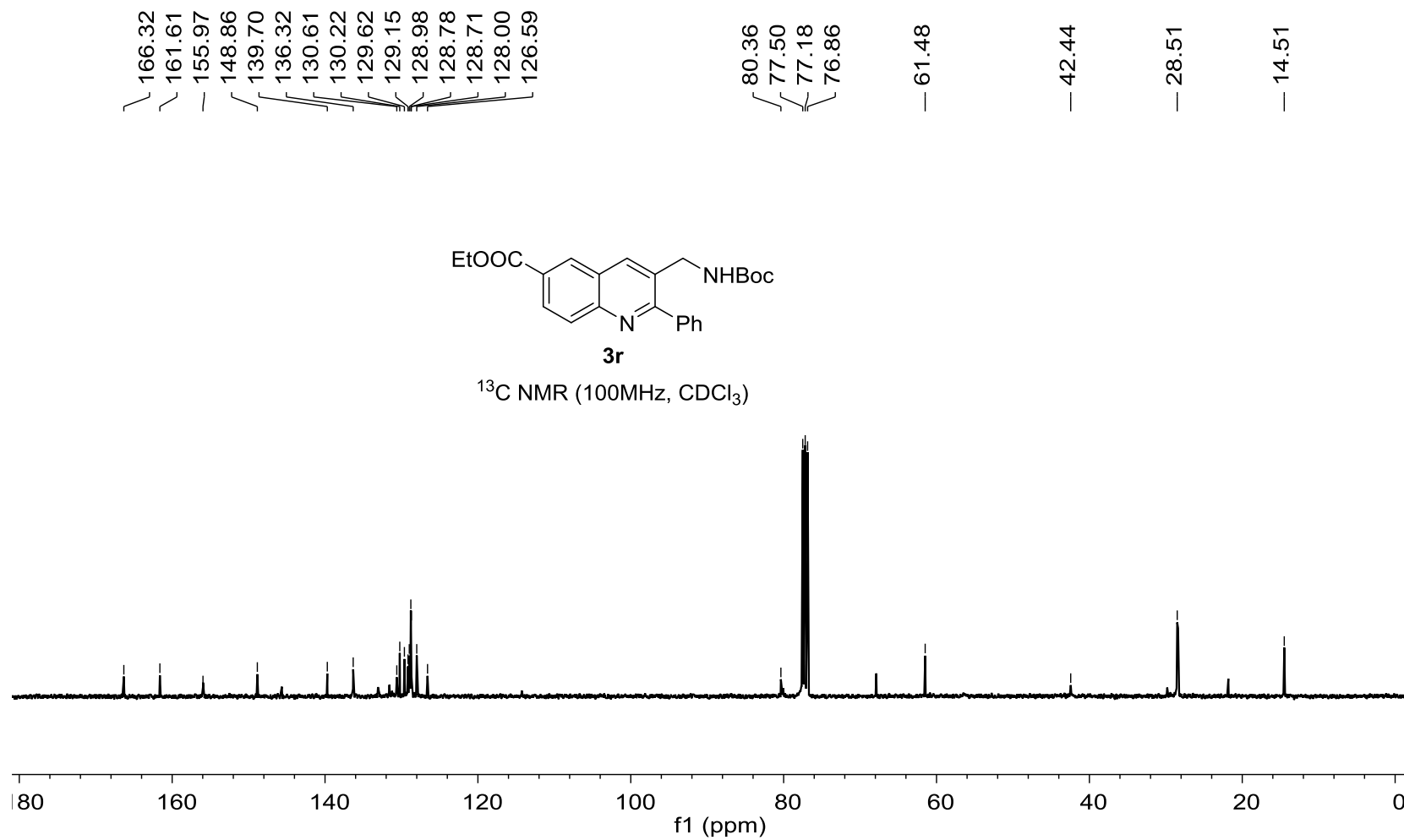


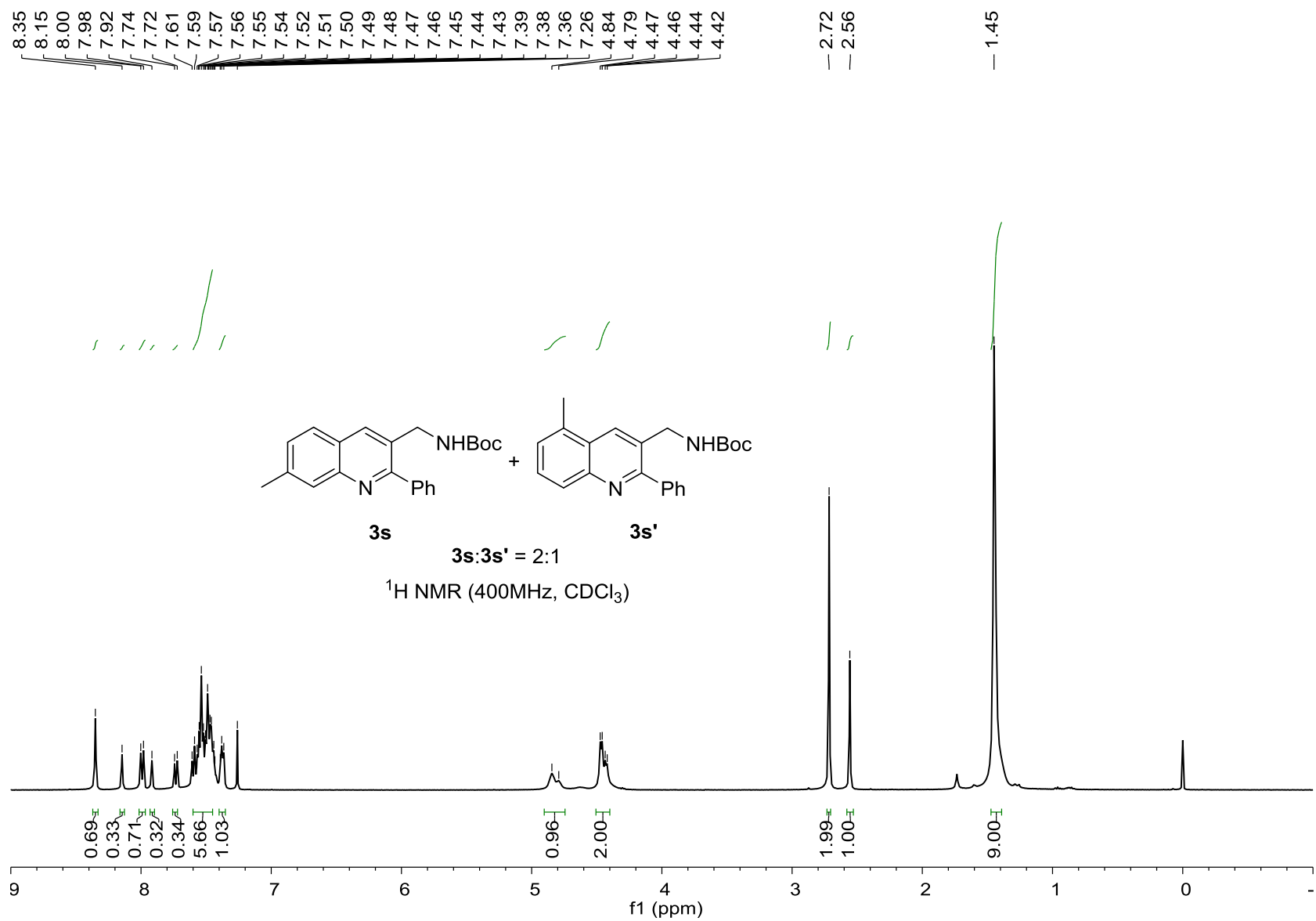




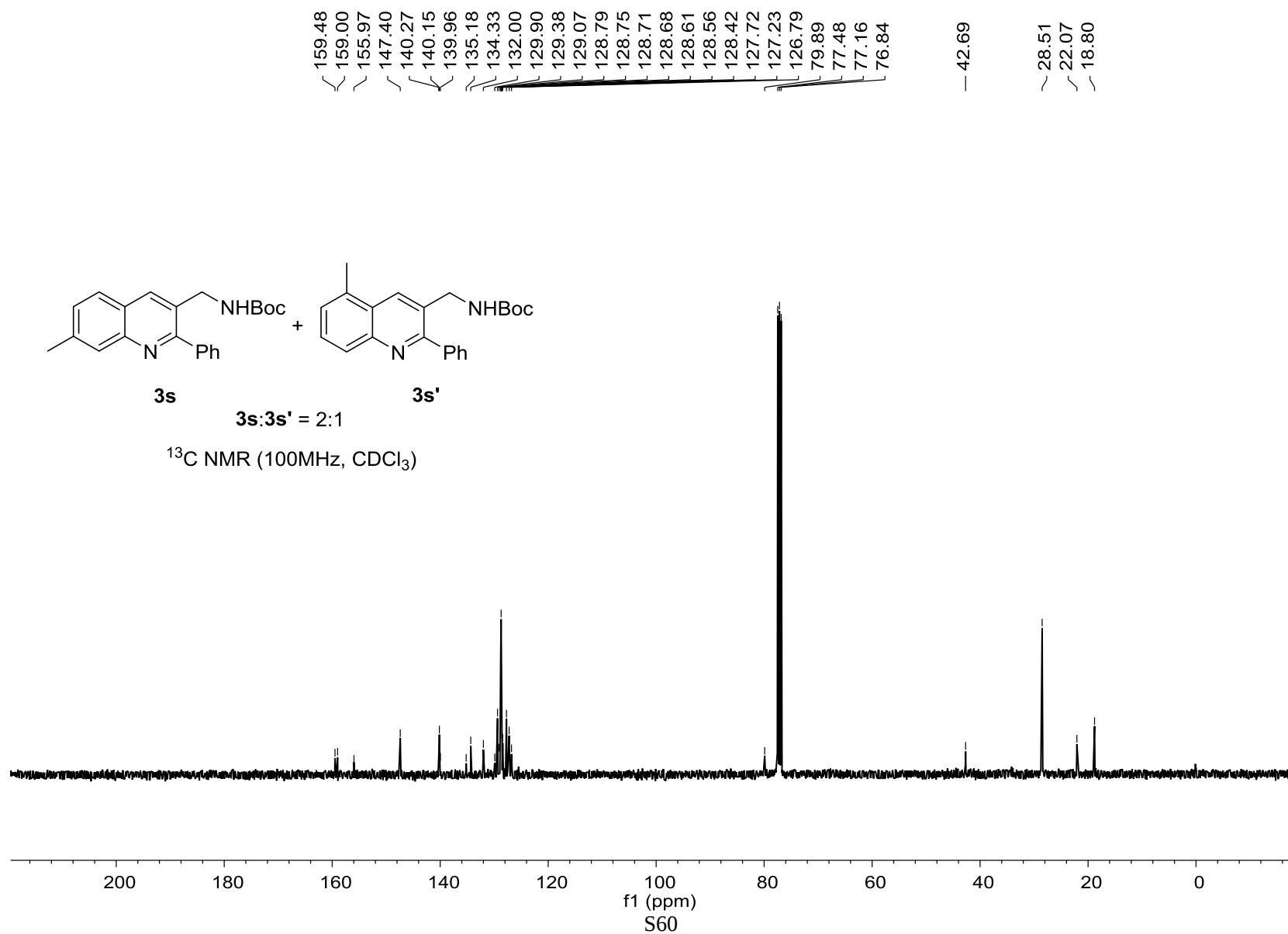


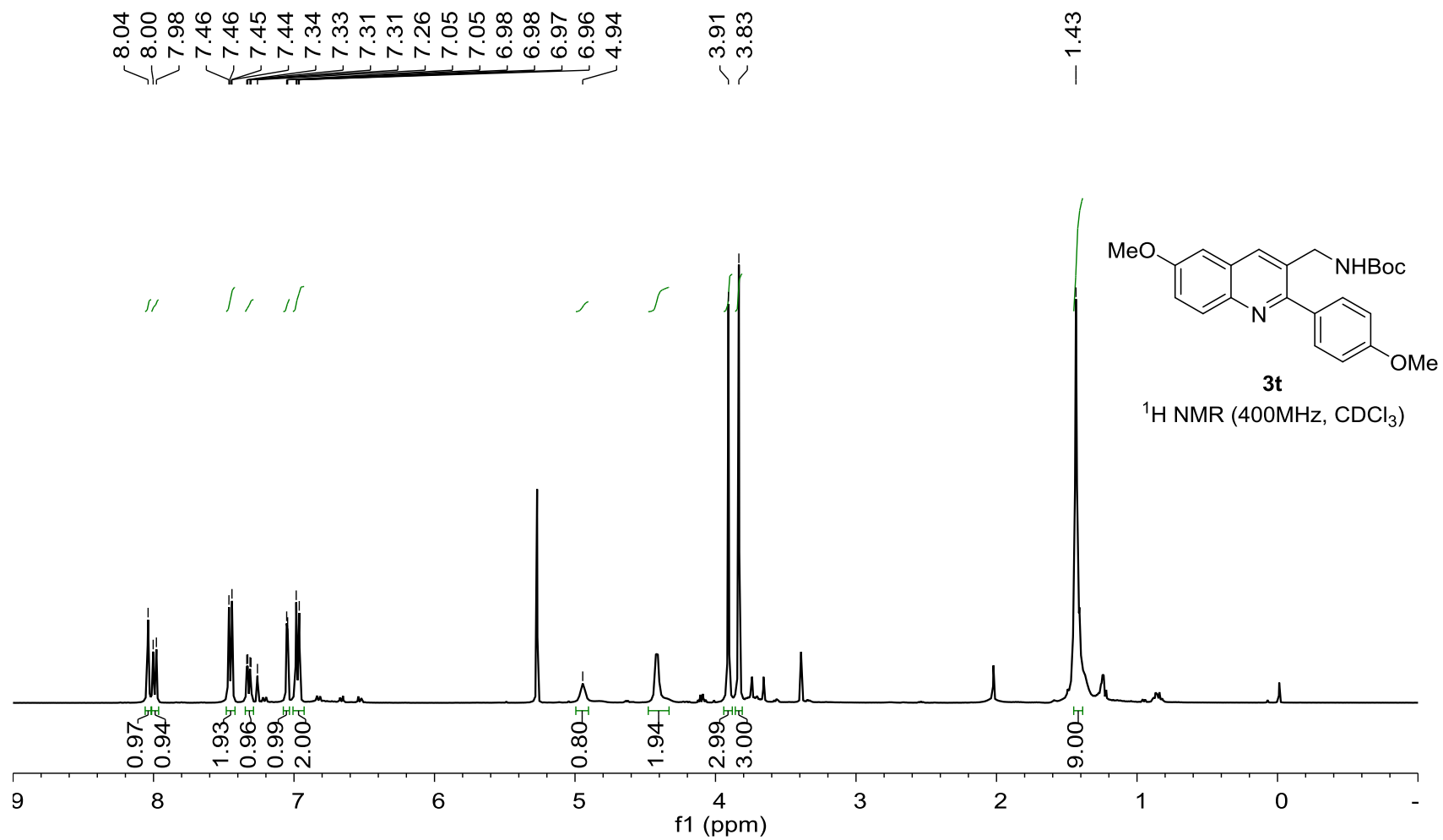


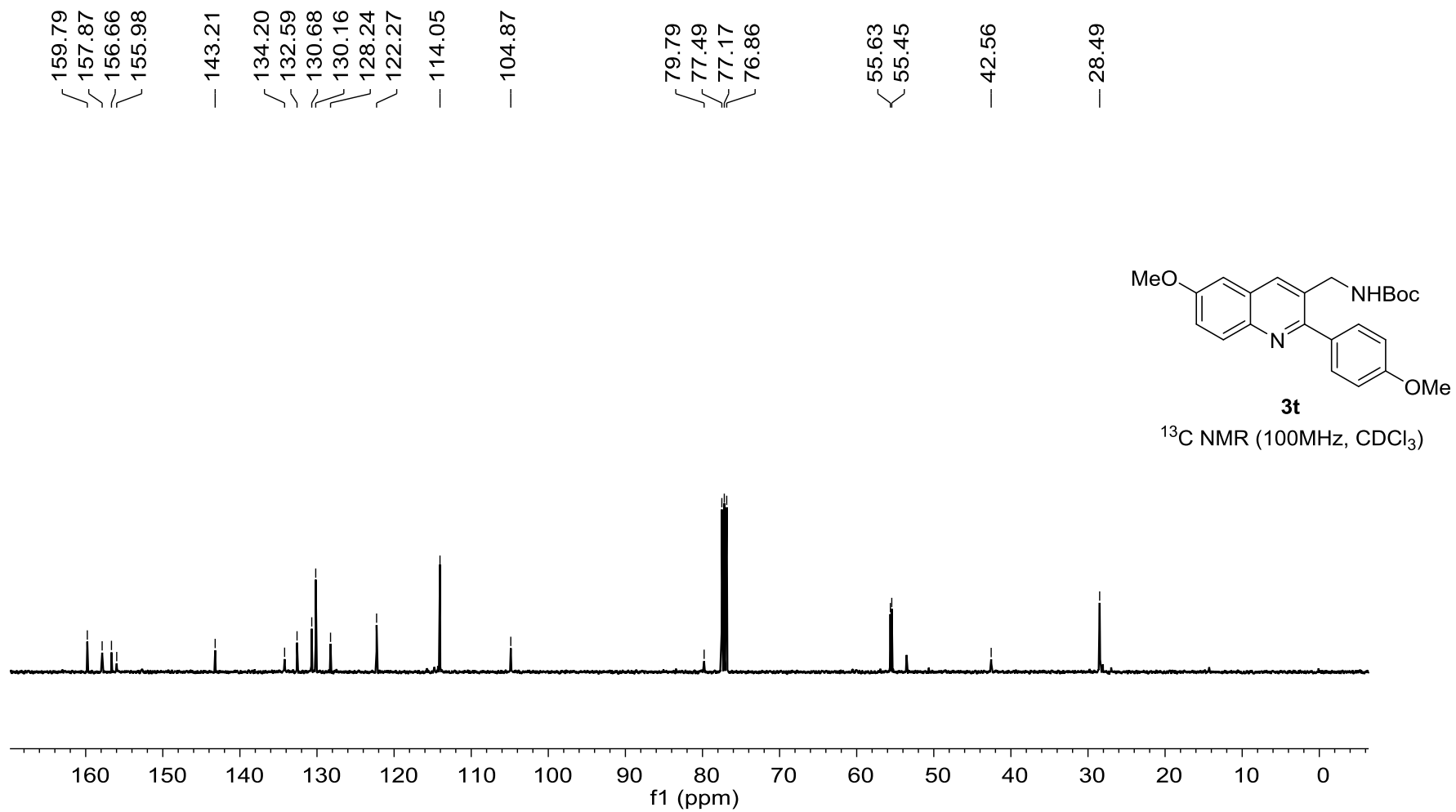


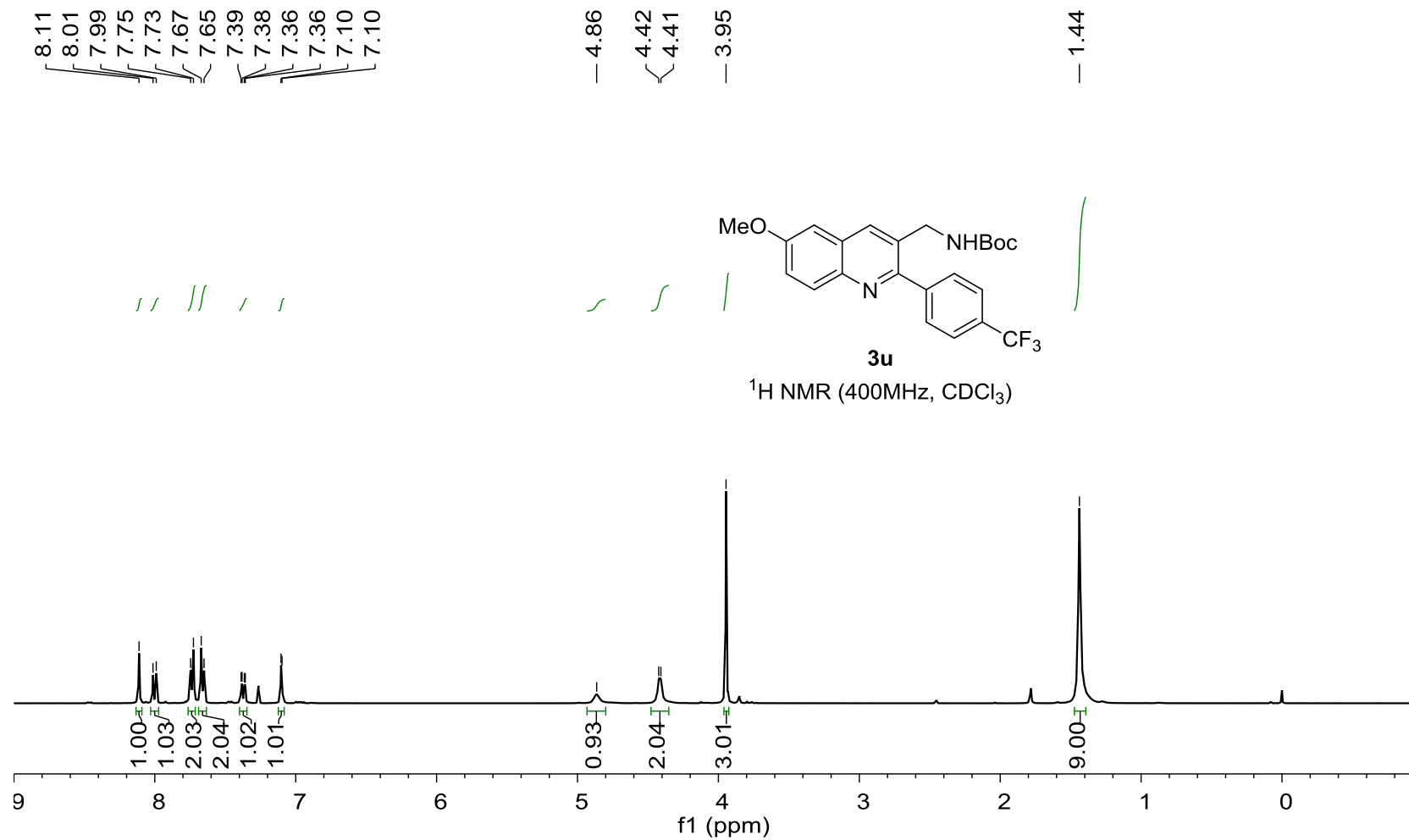


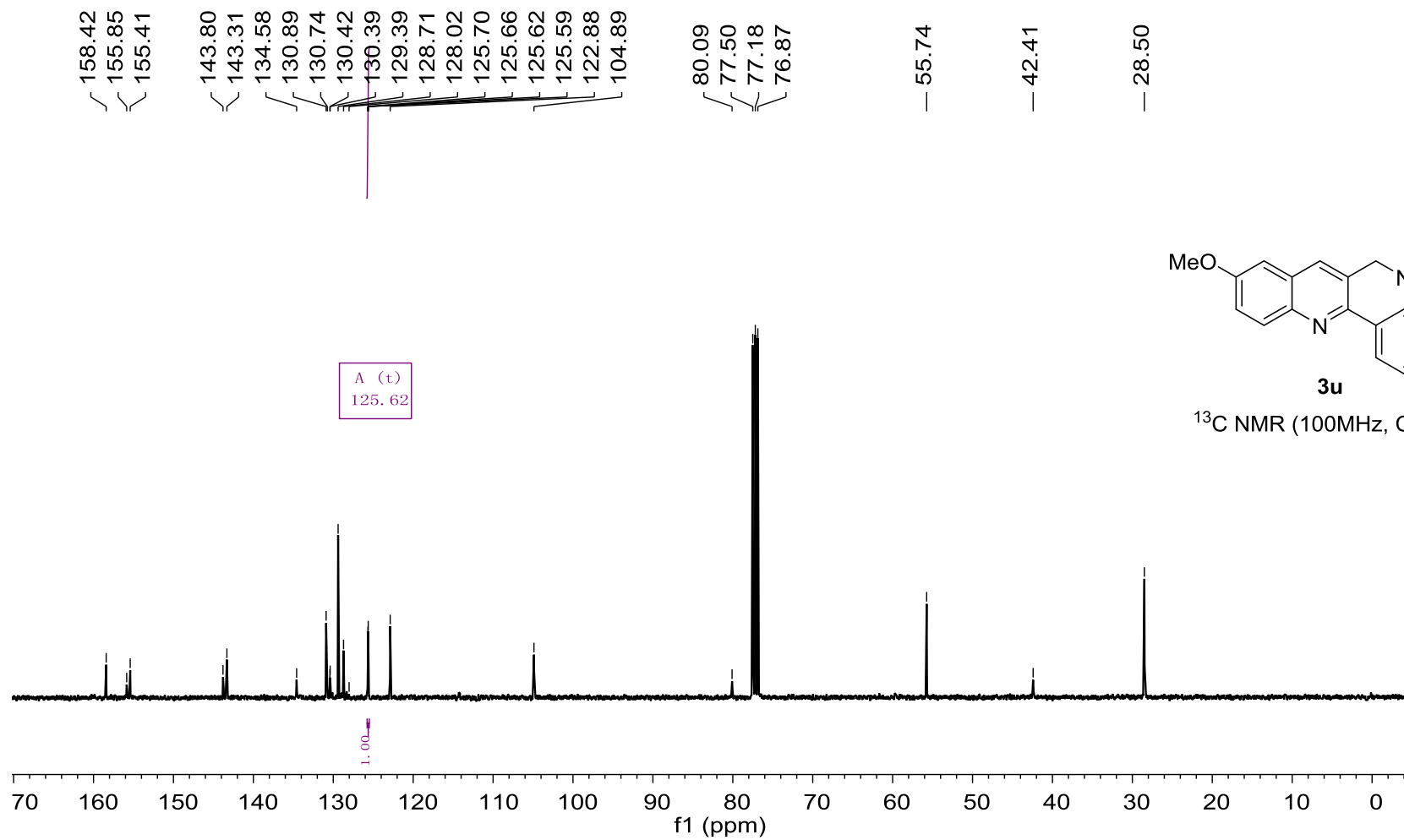
S59

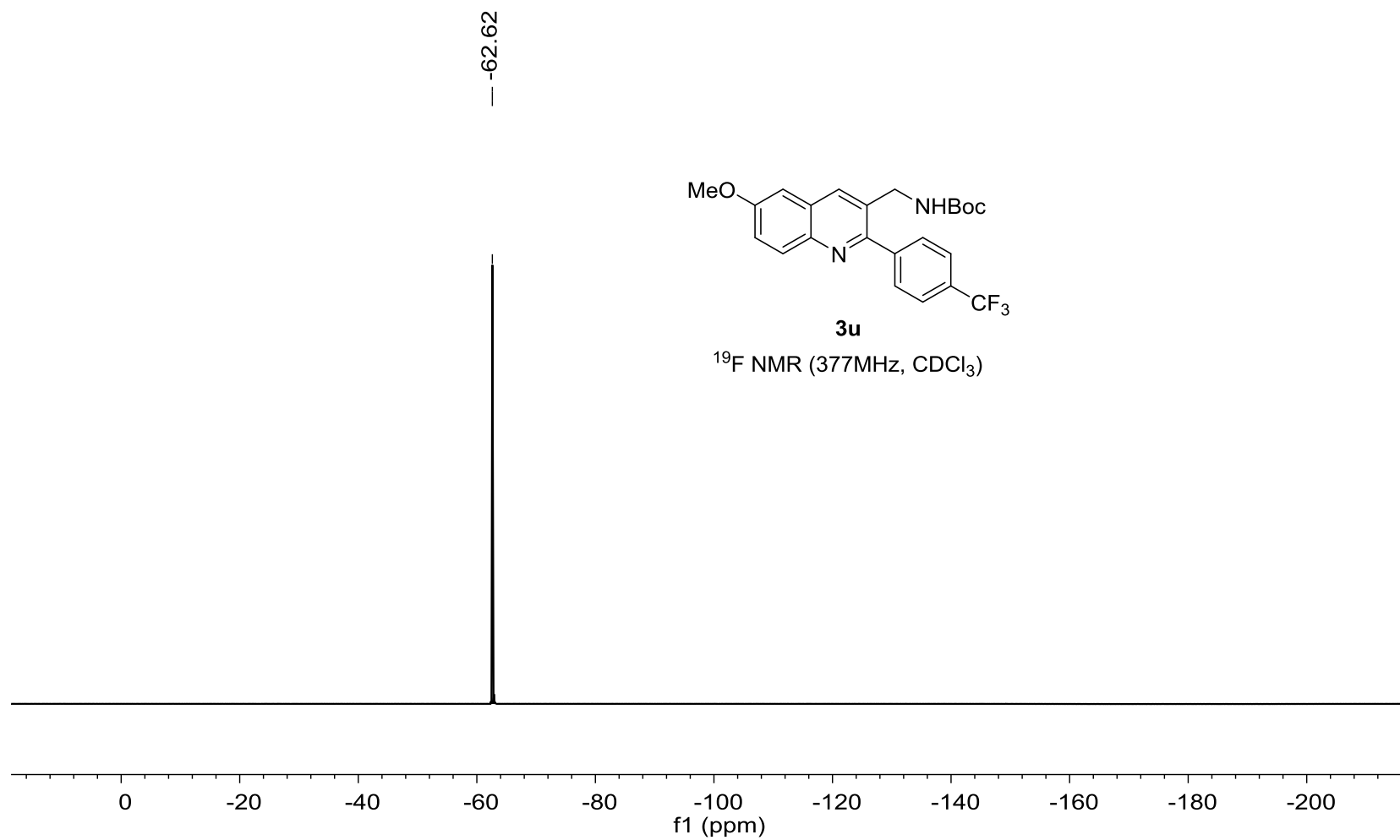


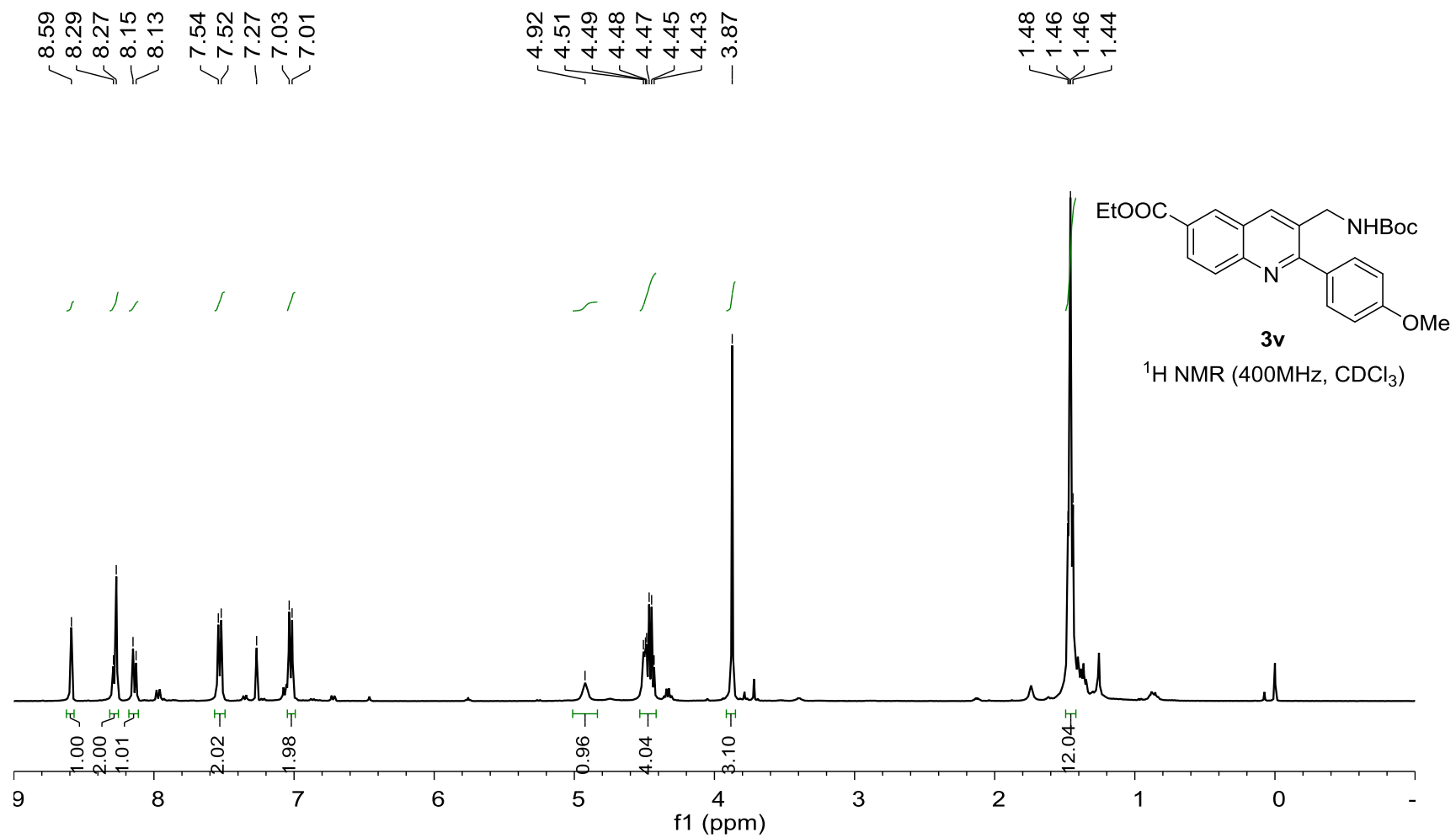


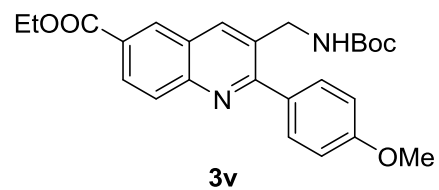












^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3)

