

Electronic Supplementary Information

Rhodium(III)–Catalyzed C–H Activation at the C4-Position of Indole: Switchable Hydroarylation and Oxidative Heck-Type Reaction of Maleimides

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General Experimental

NMR spectra were recorded on a 400MHz spectrometer in CDCl₃, DMSO-d₆, Tetramethylsilane (TMS; δ = 0.00 ppm) served as an internal standard for ¹H NMR. The corresponding residual non-deuterated solvent signal (CDCl₃; δ = 77.00 ppm) was used as internal standard for ¹³C NMR. IR spectra were measured using a FT-IR spectrometer. Mass spectra were obtained with a Q-TOF Mass Spectrometer (ESI-HRMS). Flash column chromatography was carried out by packing glass columns with commercial silica gel 100 - 200 mesh (commercial suppliers) and thin-layer chromatography was carried out using silica gel GF-254. All catalysts, reagents and reactants were procured from commercial suppliers. Dichloroethane solvent was distilled over calcium hydride and stored over molecular sieves and used for all procedures. Other solvents, used for work up and chromatographic procedures were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without any further purification.

Experimental

Typical experimental procedure for Michael addition reaction:

To a pre-dried 8 mL screw cap vial was added Indole derivative (0.2 mmol, 1equiv), [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (6 mg, 5 mol %), AgSbF₆ (14 mg, 20 mol %), maleimide derivative (2 equiv, 0.4mmol), AcOH (36 mg, 3equiv) and AgOAc (100 mg, 3 equiv.) To this mixture DCE (2 mL) was added. The vial was tightly capped and placed in a pre-heated (120 °C) metal block. After 12 h or indole derivative consumed (as shown by TLC) the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, and diluted with diethyl ether and passed through a short silica gel (100-200 mesh size) bed, and repeatedly washed with diethyl ether (60 mL x 3 times). The combined organic layers were concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified on a silica gel column using DCM/hexane mixture.

Typical experimental procedure for Heck type reaction:

To a pre-dried 8 mL screw cap vial was added Indole derivative (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (9 mg, 7.5 mol %), AgSbF₆ (21 mg, 30 mol %), maleimide derivative (2 equiv, 0.4mmol) and Ag₂CO₃ (110 mg, 2 equiv) To this mixture DCE (2 mL) was added. The vial was tightly capped and placed in a pre-heated (120 °C) metal block. After 3 h or indole derivative consumed (as shown by TLC) the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, and diluted with DCM and passed through a short silica gel (100-200 mesh size) bed, and repeatedly washed with DCM (60 mL x 3 times). The combined organic layers were

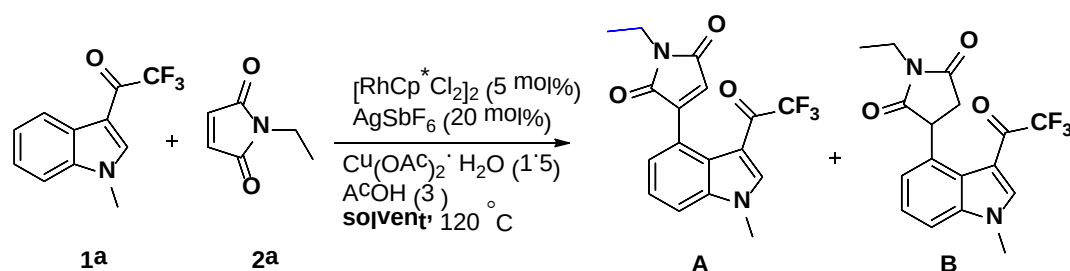
concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified on a silica gel column using DCM/hexane mixture.

Optimization Reactions

All reactions were carried out on a 0.2mmol scale. Yields are based on ^1H NMR using trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard

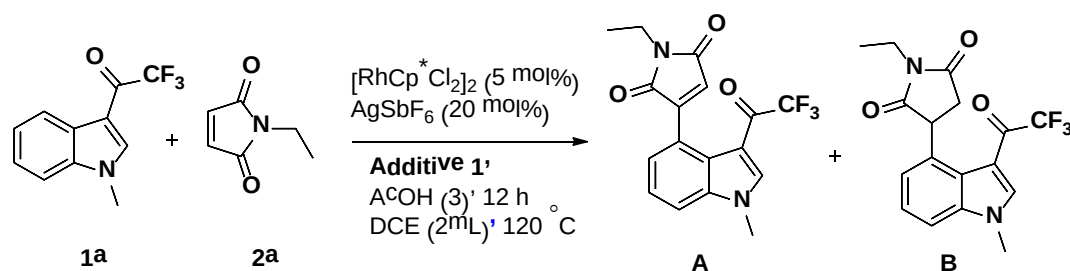
Optimization for 1,4-addition product:

Table S1: Screening: Solvent

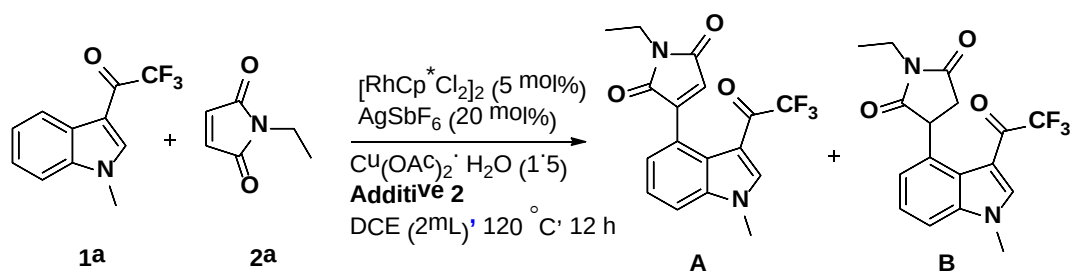


Entry	Solvent (2 mL)	NMR Yield (%)		
		A	B	1a
1	THF	4	30	56
2	CH_3CN	nd	nd	intact
3	TFE	25	45	00
4	DCE	6	60	18

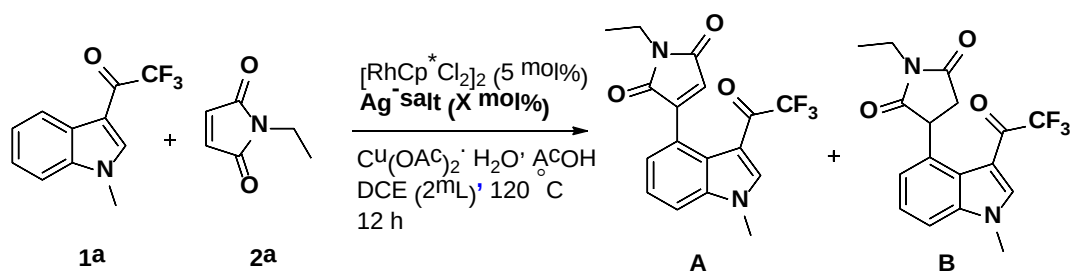
Table S2: Screening: Additive 1



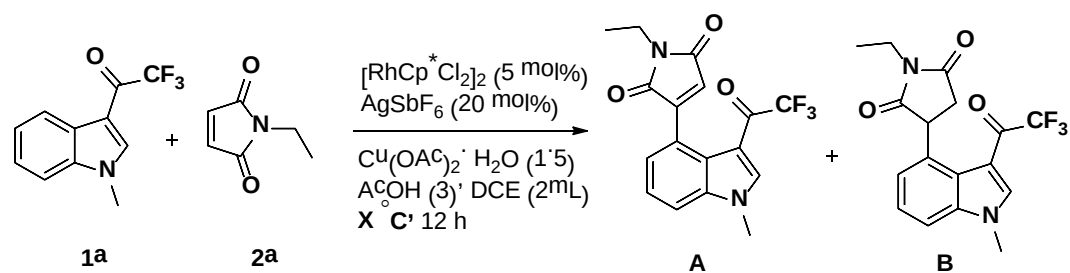
Entry	Additive 1 (equiv)	NMR Yield (%)		
		A	B	1a
1	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1.5)	6	60	18
2	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (2)	6	60	10
3	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.5)	8	55	23
4	NaOAc (3)	nd	nd	intact
5	KOAc (3)	nd	nd	intact
6	AgOAc (3)	7	70	00
7	AgOAc (1.5)	6	65	03
8	$\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$	nd	nd	intact

Table S3: Screening: Additive 2

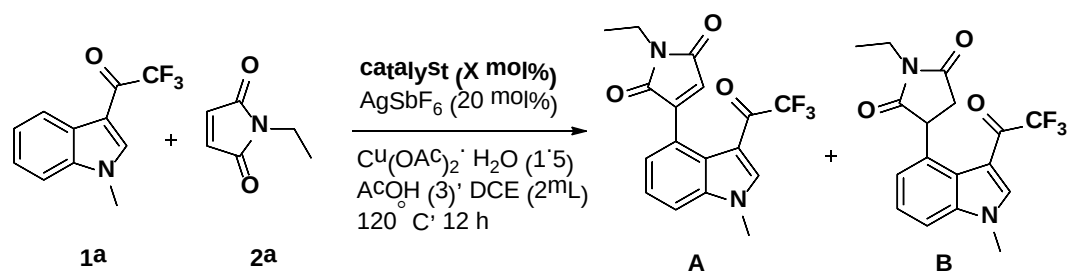
Entry	Rh (mol%)	Silver salt (mol%)	Additive 1 (1.5 equiv)	Additive 2 (equiv)	NMR Yield (%)		
					A	B	1a
1	5	20	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	CCl_3COOH (3.5)	nd	nd	nd
2	5	20	AgOAc (3)	AdCOOH (3)	18	46	15
3	5	20	AgOAc (3)	Pivalic Acid(3)	25	50	10
4	5	20	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	None	25	40	00
5	5	20	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	AcOH (3)	6	60	18
6	5	20	AgOAc (3)	AcOH (3)	7	70	00
7	5	20	AgOAc (1.5)	AcOH (3)	6	65	00
8	5	20	$\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$. (1.5)	AcOH (3)	nd	nd	intact
9	5	20	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	Triflic Acid(3)	7	18	72
10	5	20	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	TFAA (3)	nd	nd	intact
11	5	20	none	AcOH (5)	nd	nd	nd
12	7.5	30	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	AcOH (3)	4	35	50
13	5	20	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	AcOH (10)	nd	20	56
14	5	20	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	AcOH (1)	13	50	6

Table S4: Screening: Silver salt

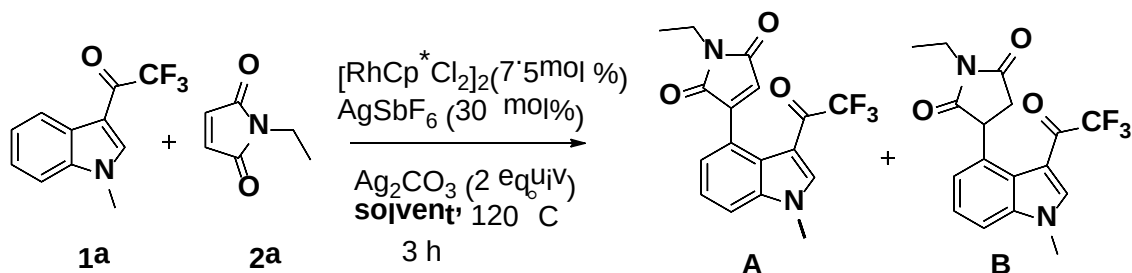
Entry	Rh (mol%)	Silver salt (mol%)	Additive 1 $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (equiv)	Additive 2 (AcOH) (equiv)	NMR Yield (%)		
					A	B	1a
1	5	AgSbF_6 (20)	1	3	3	43	45
2	7.5	AgSbF_6 (30)	1	5	nd	40	36
3	5	AgBF_4 (20)	1.5	3	3	18	72
4	5	AgPF_6 (20)	1.5	3	nd	nd	intact
5	5	AgNTf_2 (20)	1.5	3	10	62	15

Table S5: Screening: Temp

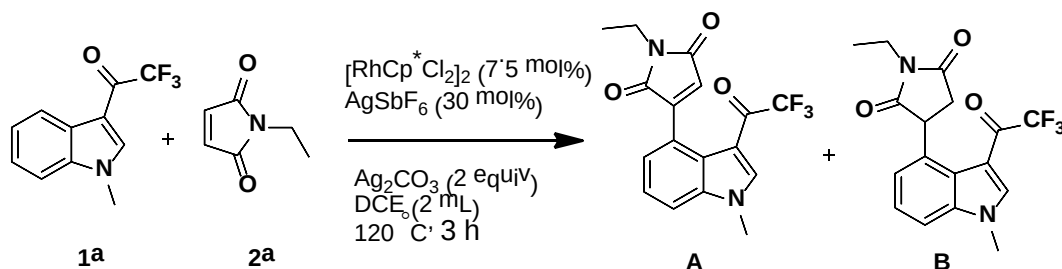
Entry	Temp (°C)	NMR Yield (%)		
		A	B	1a
1	120	6	60	18
2	140	15	53	9
3	100	3	25	60

Table S6: Screening: catalyst

Entry	Catalyst (5 mol%)	NMR Yield (%)		
		A	B	1a
1	RuCl ₂ (p-cymene)	nd	nd	intact
2	(CoCp [*] (CO)I ₂)	nd	nd	intact

Optimization Table for the Oxidative Heck-Type Product:**Table S7:** Solvent Screening

Entry	Solvent (2 mL)	NMR Yield (%) (A+B+1a)		
		A	B	1a
1	THF	nd	nd	intact
2	CH ₃ CN	nd	nd	intact
3	Toluene	nd	nd	intact
4	DCE	75	4	nd

Table S8: Screening the amount of maleimide

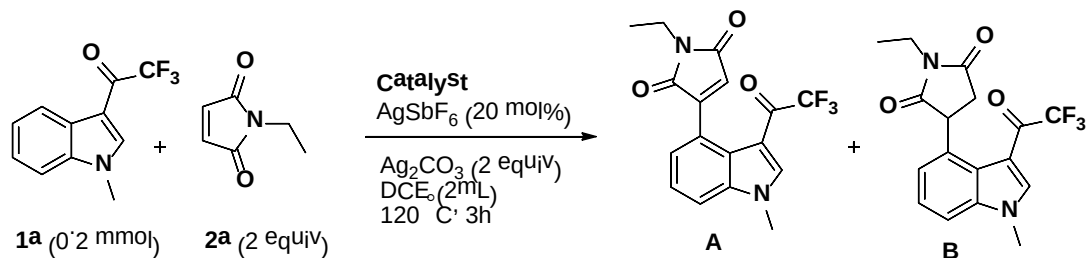
Entry	Maleimide 2a (equiv)	NMR Yield (%)		
		A	B	1a
1	2	75	4	nd
2	3	52	nd	5
3	1	48	nd	nd

Table S9: Screening: Temp

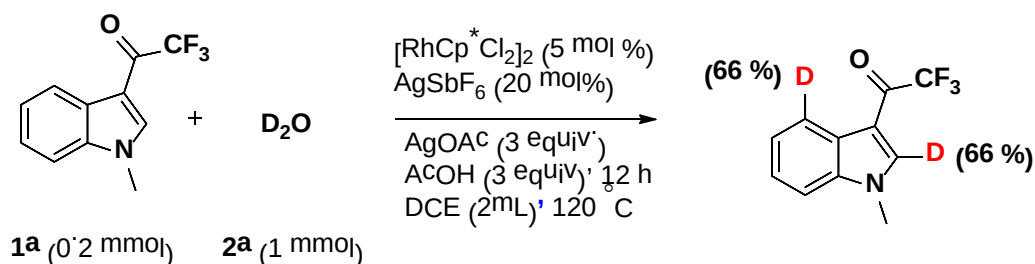
Entry	Temp (°C)	NMR Yield (%) (A+B+1a)		
		A	B	1a
1	100	48	nd	32
2	120	75	4	nd
3	140	64	4	11

Table S10: Screening: additives

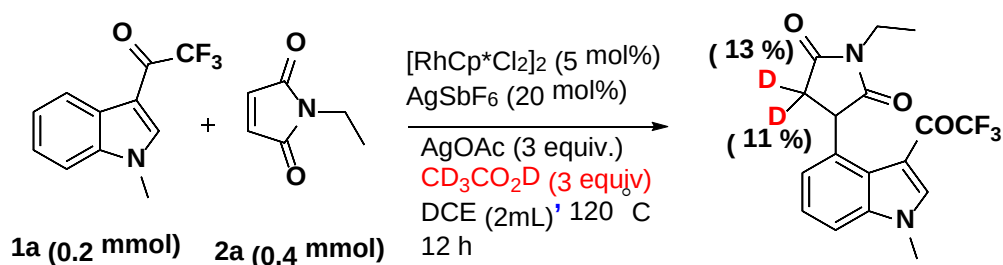
Entry	(RhCp*Cl ₂) ₂ mol %	Silver Salt (mol %)	Base (equiv)	NMR Yield (%)		
				A	B	1a
1	5	AgSbF ₆ (20)	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (2.5)	70	5	18
2	5	AgSbF ₆ (20)	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (3)	70	nd	17
3	10	AgSbF ₆ (40)	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (2)	60	nd	nd
4	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (3)	56	nd	nd
5	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (2)	75	4	nd
6	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (2.5)	70	5	nd
7	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	Li ₂ CO ₃ (2)	18	nd	77
8	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	nd	nd	intact
9	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	Na ₂ CO ₃ (2)	11	nd	80
10	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2)	nd	nd	intact
11	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	DBU (2)	nd	nd	intact
12	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	NEt ₃ (2)	nd	nd	intact
13	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	AgNO ₃ (2)	nd	nd	intact
14	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	AgOAc (2)	20	nd	18
15	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	Ag ₂ O (2)	34	nd	11
16	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	KOAc (2)	nd	nd	nd
17	7.5	AgSbF ₆ (30)	NaOAc (2)	nd	nd	nd
18	7.5	AgBF ₄	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (2)	48	nd	7
19	7.5	AgNTf ₂	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (2)	30	nd	35

Table S11: Screening catalysts

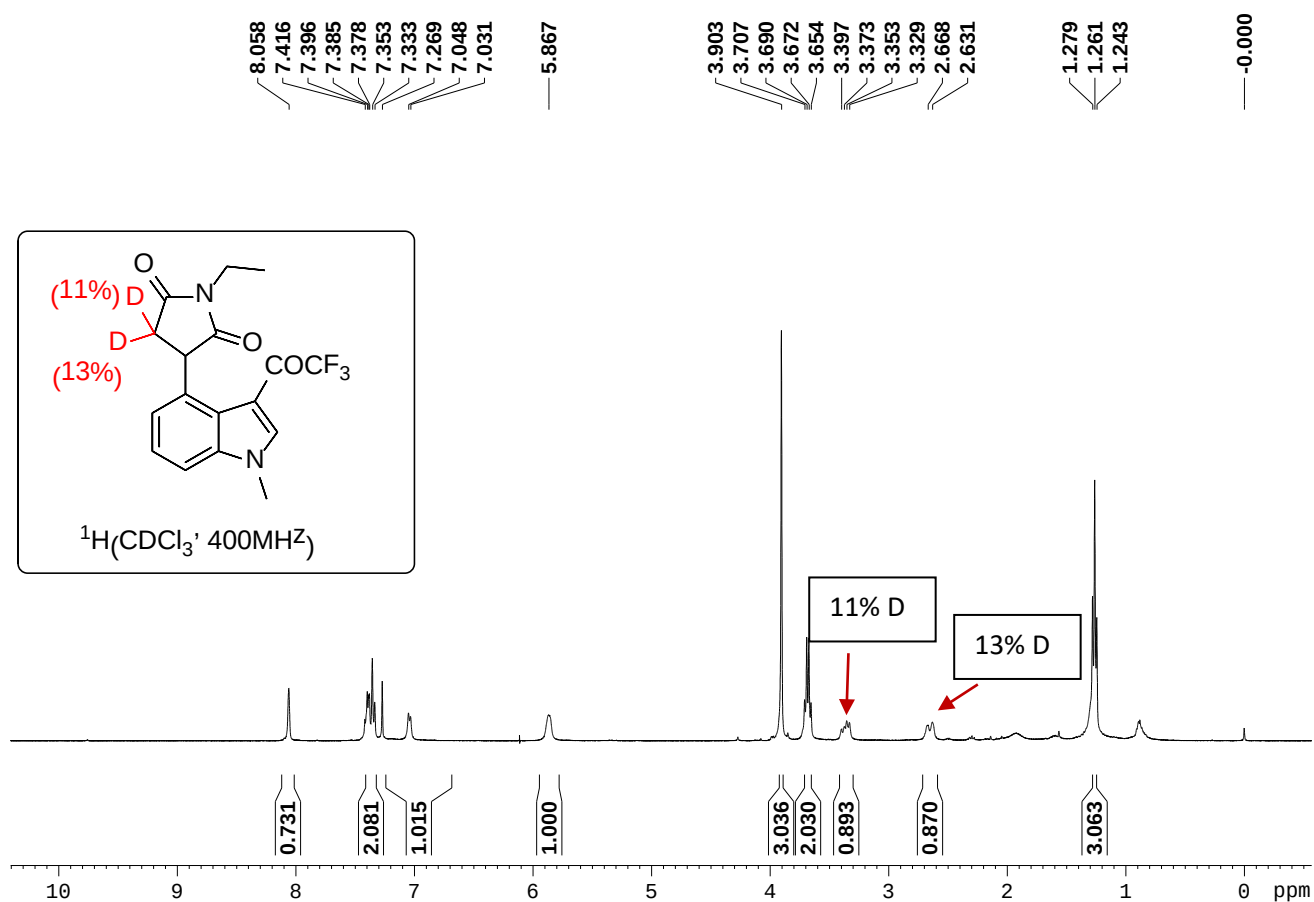
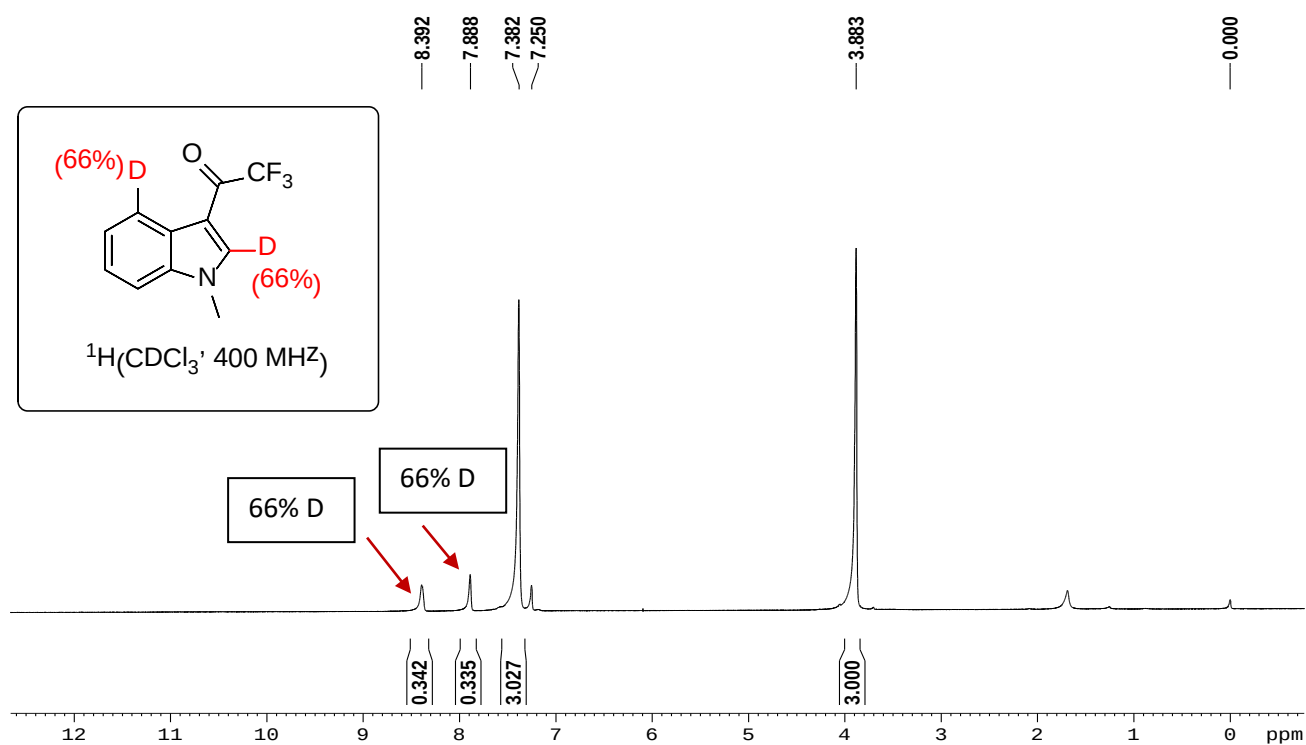
Entry	Catalyst (5 mol%)	NMR Yield (%)		
		A	B	1a
1	$\text{RuCl}_2(\text{p-cymene})$	nd	nd	88
2	$(\text{IrCp}^*\text{Cl}_2)_2$	nd	nd	intact
3	$(\text{CoCp}^*(\text{CO})\text{I}_2)$	nd	nd	intact

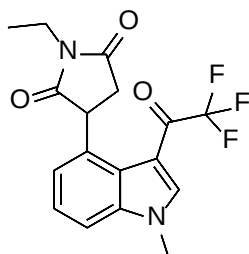
Mechanistic studies (H/D exchange reaction):

To a pre-dried 8 mL screw cap vial was added Indole derivative (0.2 mmol, 1equiv), $[RhCp^*Cl_2]_2$ (6 mg, 5 mol %), $AgSbF_6$ (14 mg, 20 mol %), D_2O (10 equiv, 1 mmol), $AcOH$ (36 mg, 3equiv) and $AgOAc$ (100 mg, 3 equiv.) To this mixture DCE (2 mL) was added. The vial was tightly capped and placed in a pre-heated ($120^\circ C$) metal block. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, and diluted with diethyl ether and passed through a short silica gel (100-200 mesh size) bed, and repeatedly washed with diethyl ether (60 mL x 3 times). The combined organic layers were concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified on a silica gel column using DCM /hexane mixture.

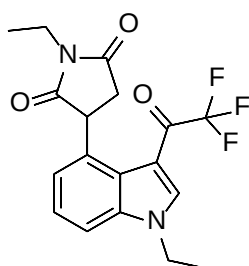
Deuterium incorporation reaction

To a pre-dried 8 mL screw cap vial was added Indole derivative (0.2 mmol, 1equiv), $[RhCp^*Cl_2]_2$ (6 mg, 5 mol %), $AgSbF_6$ (14 mg, 20 mol %), maleimide derivative (2 equiv, 0.4 mmol), CD_3COOD (38.4 mg, 3equiv) and $AgOAc$ (100 mg, 3 equiv.) To this mixture DCE (2 mL) was added. The vial was tightly capped and placed in a pre-heated ($120^\circ C$) metal block. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, and diluted with diethyl ether and passed through a short silica gel (100-200 mesh size) bed, and repeatedly washed with diethyl ether (60 mL x 3 times). The combined organic layers were concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified on a silica gel column using DCM /hexane mixture.



Characterization data for all isolated products:**1. 1-Ethyl-3-(1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3aa)**

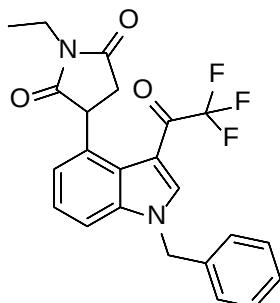
Yield - 47 mg (67%), as a light yellow solid; **mp** – 129 – 131 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.3; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (s., 1 H), 7.43 - 7.34 (m, 2 H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.86 (br. s., 1 H), 3.92 (s, 3 H), 3.68 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2 H), 3.37 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.65 (d, *J* = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.8, 176.4, 174.3, (q, *J* = 33 Hz) 141.2, 138.6, 133.7, 125.8, 125.5, 122.1, 117.5, (q, *J* = 290 Hz) 109.8, 44.7, 39.3, 34.3, 33.9, 13.1; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -69.737 ; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₇H₁₅F₃N₂O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 375.0932, found (M+Na)⁺: 375.0928; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1701, 1674.

2. 1-Ethyl-3-(1-ethyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ba)

Yield - 50 mg (68%), as a light brown solid; **mp** – 142 – 144 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.3; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (s., 1 H), 7.41 - 7.27 (m, 2 H), 7.03 (br. s., 1 H), 5.87 (br. s., 1 H), 4.28 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 3.68 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.37 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 18.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.68 - 2.64 (m, 1 H), 1.57 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.8, 176.4, 174.2 (q, *J* = 33.9 Hz), 139.7, 137.7, 133.8, 126.0, 125.3, 122.1, 117.5, (q, *J* = 290 Hz) 109.98, 109.92, 44.7, 42.5, 39.3, 33.8, 14.7, 13.1; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -69.657 ;

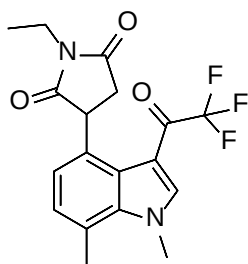
HRMS (ESI-TOF) (m/z)—Calculated for $C_{18}H_{17}F_3N_2O_3$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 389.1089, found ($M+Na$)⁺: 389.1088; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1700, 1673.

3. **3-(1-Benzyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-ethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ca)**



Yield - 63 mg (74%), as a brown solid; **mp** – 154 – 156 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.3; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.13 (s, 1 H), 7.39 - 7.26 (m, 5 H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.01 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.86 (br. s., 1 H), 5.41 (s, 2 H), 3.68 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.38 (dd, J = 9.5, 18.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.66 (dd, J = 3.9, 18.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 178.8, 176.4, 174.5 (q, J = 33.9 Hz), 140.6, 138.1, 134.1, 133.8, 129.2, 128.7, 126.9, 126.1, 125.6, 122.3, 117.4, (q, J = 290 Hz) 110.5, 110.3, 51.5, 44.7, 39.4, 33.9, 13.1; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ - 69.782 ; **HRMS (ESI-TOF) (m/z)**—Calculated for $C_{23}H_{19}F_3N_2O_3$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 451.1245, found ($M+Na$)⁺: 451.1248; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1698, 1675.

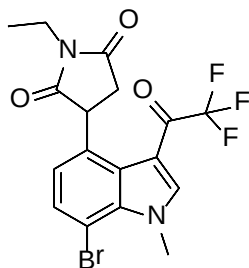
4. **3-(1,7-Dimethyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-ethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3da)**



Yield - 55 mg (75%), as a yellow solid; **mp** – 168 – 170 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.3; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.94 (s, 1 H), 7.07 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.76 (dd, J = 4.8, 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 4.14 (s, 3 H), 3.66 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.34 (dd, J = 9.6, 18.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.74 (s, 3 H), 2.61 (dd, J = 4.3, 18.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 179.0, 176.5, 174.2 (d, J = 33.7 Hz), 143.05, (d, J = 5 Hz), 137.3, 131.6, 128.5, 127.0, 122.2, 121.9, 117.6 (q, J = 291 Hz), 109.3, 44.4, 39.3, 38.9, 33.9, 19.6, 13.1; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -69.537

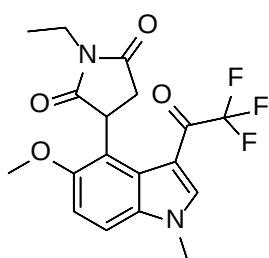
; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (m/z)—Calculated for $C_{18}H_{17}F_3N_2O_3$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 389.1089, found ($M+Na$)⁺: 389.1085; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1699, 1674.

5. **3-(7-Bromo-1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-ethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ea)**



Yield - 47 mg (55%), as a brown solid; **mp** – 154 – 156 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.3; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.02 (s, 1 H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.85 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.71 (br, s, 1 H), 4.30 (s, 3 H), 3.66 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2 H), 3.36 (dd, J = 9.3, 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.62 (dd, J = 3.9, 18.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 178.3, 176.0, 174.2(q, J = 34 Hz), 143.92(d, J = 4.8 Hz), 135.2, 133.1, 130.7, 128.8, 123.1, 117.3(q, J = 290 Hz), 109.3, 104.3, 44.3, 39.4, 38.9, 34.0, 13.1; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -69.837 ; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (m/z)—Calculated for $C_{17}H_{14}BrF_3N_2O_3$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 453.0038, found ($M+Na$)⁺: 453.0040; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1700, 1682.

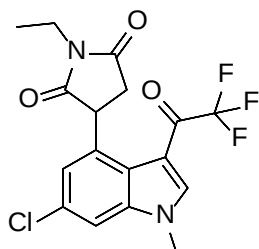
6. **1-Ethyl-3-(5-methoxy-1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3fa)**



Yield - 42 mg (54%), as a white solid; **mp** – 234 – 236 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.1; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.00 (s, 1 H), 7.32 - 7.27 (m, 1 H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.76 (dd, J = 5.7, 9.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 3.66 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.27 (dd, J = 9.6, 17.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.76 (dd, J = 5.6, 17.9 Hz, 1 H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 179.8, 176.9, 174.0(q, J = 34 Hz), 154.6, 142.02(q, J = 5.3 Hz), 133.5, 128.0, 120.2, 117.6(q, J = 290 Hz), 110.4, 110.0, 109.3, 56.1, 41.9, 37.1, 34.2, 33.5, 13.1; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -69.556 ;

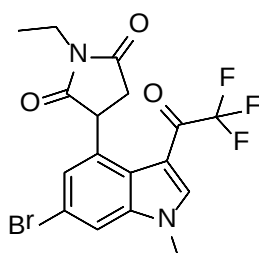
HRMS (ESI-TOF) (m/z)—Calculated for $C_{18}H_{17}F_3N_2O_4$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 405.1038, found ($M+Na$)⁺: 405.1040; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1701, 1666.

7. **3-(6-Chloro-1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-ethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ga)**



Yield - 43 mg (55%), as a yellow solid; **mp** – 128 – 130 °C ;**R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.4; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.06 (br. s., 1 H), 7.33 (s, 1 H), 6.99 (s., 1 H), 5.83 (br. s., 1 H), 3.88 (s, 3 H), 3.69 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 3.34 (dd, J = 9.6, 18.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.62 (d, J = 17.9 Hz, 1 H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 178.0, 175.8, 174.28 (q, J = 34 Hz), 141.8, 139.0, 134.8, 131.2, 124.3, 122.6, 117.3 (q, J = 290 Hz), 110.0, 109.8, 44.4, 38.9, 34.3, 34.0, 13.1; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -69.967 ; **HRMS (ESI-TOF) (m/z)**—Calculated for $C_{17}H_{14}ClF_3N_2O_3$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 409.0543, found ($M+Na$)⁺: 409.0543; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1696, 1681.

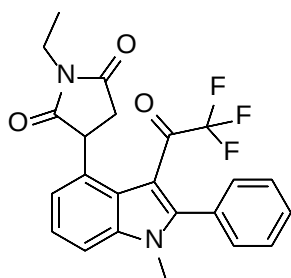
8. **3-(6-Bromo-1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-ethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ha)**



Yield - 55 mg (63%), as a light brown solid; **mp** – 144 – 146 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.2; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.04 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.50 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.12 (s, 1 H), 5.82 (dd, J = 5.1, 9.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.89 (s, 3 H), 3.69 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.34 (dd, J = 9.6, 18.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.63 (dd, J = 4.5, 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 178.0, 175.8, 174.3 (q, J = 35 Hz), 141.6, 139.3, 135.1, 125.2, 124.7, 117.3 (q, J = 290 Hz), 109.9, 44.4, 38.9, 34.3,

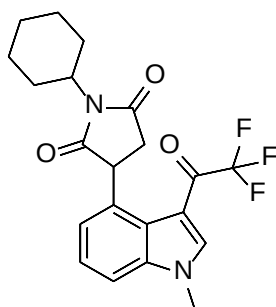
34.0, 13.1; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.971; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (m/z)—Calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrF}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 453.0038, found ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 453.0038; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1694, 1680.

9. **1-Ethyl-3-(1-methyl-2-phenyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ia)**



Yield - 51 mg (59%), as a black solid; **mp** – 203 – 205 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.3; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 - 7.51 (m, 3 H), 7.41 - 7.39 (m, 4 H), 7.07 (dd, J = 2.5, 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 4.99 (dd, J = 4.5, 9.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.67 - 3.61 (m, 2 H), 3.60 (s, 3 H), 3.26 (dd, J = 9.5, 18.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.79 (dd, J = 4.7, 18.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 182.1(q, J = 36 Hz), 178.2, 176.3, 147.5, 138.0, 131.3, 130.7, 130.2, 129.4, 128.4, 125.0, 124.4, 121.0, 115.9(q, J = 290 Hz), 110.6, 110.1, 42.7, 36.9, 33.9, 31.3, 13.0; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -71.019; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (m/z)—Calculated for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 451.1245, found ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 451.1247; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1702, 1664.

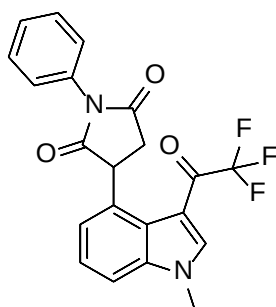
10. **1-Cyclohexyl-3-(1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ab)**



Yield - 65 mg (80%), as a light yellow solid; **mp** – 167 – 169 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.4; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.06 (s., 1 H), 7.42 - 7.33 (m, 2 H), 7.03 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.80 - 5.77 (m, 1 H), 4.12 - 4.05 (m, 1 H), 3.92 (s, 3 H), 3.32

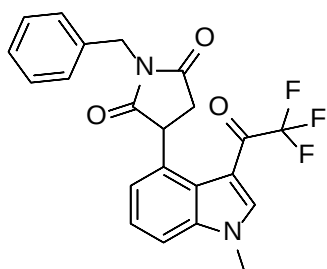
(dd, $J = 9.7, 18.1$ Hz, 1 H), 2.60 (dd, $J = 3.7, 18.1$ Hz, 1 H), 2.31 - 2.21 (m, 2 H), 1.68 (br. s., 4 H), 1.39 - 1.28 (m, 4 H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 179.0, 176.6, 174.2(q, $J = 34$ Hz), 141.2, 138.6, 134.1, 125.7, 125.4, 121.9, 117.5(q, $J = 290$ Hz), 109.79, 109.76, 51.8, 44.3, 39.1, 34.2, 28.7, 25.8, 25.0; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.739; HRMS (ESI-TOF) (m/z)—Calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 429.1402, found ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 429.1406; IR (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1699, 1675.

11. 3-(1-Methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ac)



Yield - 50 mg (62%), as a light yellow solid; **mp** - 146 – 148 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.2; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.05 (s., 1 H), 7.51 - 7.47 (m, 2 H), 7.43 - 7.33 (m, 5 H), 7.20 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 6.12 - 6.08 (m, 1 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 3.55 (dd, $J = 9.9, 18.7$ Hz, 1 H), 2.85 (dd, $J = 4.5, 17.9$ Hz, 1 H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 177.9, 175.4, 174.3(q, $J = 34$ Hz), 141.3, 138.6, 133.4, 132.1, 129.1, 128.5, 126.6, 125.8, 125.4, 122.2, 117.5(q, $J = 290$ Hz), 110.0, 109.7, 44.8, 39.3, 34.2; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.677; HRMS (ESI-TOF) (m/z)—Calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 423.0932, found ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 423.0930; IR (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1710, 1668.

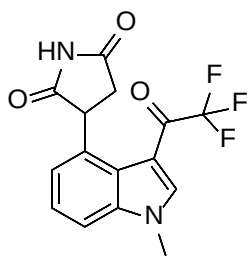
12. 1-Benzyl-3-(1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ad)



Yield - 62 mg (75%), as a light yellow solid; **mp** - 80 – 82 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.3; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.04 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (d, J

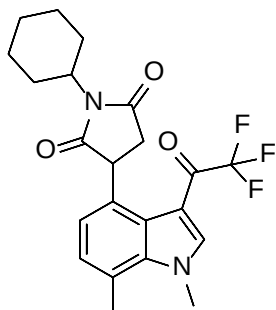
= 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.36 - 7.30 (m, 5 H), 6.94 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.88 (br, s, 1 H), 4.77 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 2 H), 3.88 (s, 3 H), 3.38 (dd, J = 9.6, 18.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.67 (dd, J = 4.5, 18.7 Hz, 1 H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 178.6, 176.1, 174.2 (q, J = 34 Hz), 141.2, 138.6, 135.9, 133.5, 128.68, 128.64, 127.8, 125.7, 125.4, 122.2, 117.5 (q, J = 290 Hz), 109.8, 109.7, 44.7, 42.5, 39.3, 34.2; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.718; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (m/z)—Calculated for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClF}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 437.1089, found ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 437.1087; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1706, 1672.

13. **3-(1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3ae)**



Yield - 44 mg (65%), as a yellow solid; **mp**- 202–206 °C; **R_f**- (25% EtOAc/Hexane) 0.1; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 11.36 (s, 1H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.14 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.71 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.28 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.19 (dd, J = 8.67 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, J = 5.34 Hz, 1H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 179.9, 177.6, 172.7 (t, J = 33.6 Hz), 143.1, 138.6, 132.9, 125.0, 122.2, 117.4 (q, J = 291 Hz), 110.8, 108.3, 45.3, 33.9. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -66.808; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (m/z)—Calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 325.0800, found ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 325.0799; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1710, 1670.

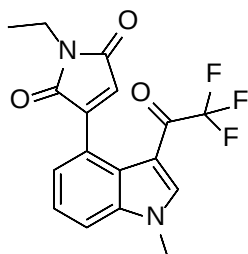
14. **1-Cyclohexyl-3-(1,7-dimethyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3db)**



Yield - 55 mg (65%), as a light brown solid; **mp** - 173 – 175 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.3; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.93 (s, 1 H), 7.07 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.85 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.67 (dd, J = 4.4, 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.16 (s, 3 H), 4.11 - 4.03

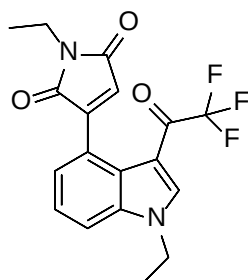
(m, 1 H), 3.29 (dd, $J = 9.6, 18.4$ Hz, 1 H), 2.75 (s, 3 H), 2.56 (dd, $J = 4.2, 18.3$ Hz, 1 H), 2.23 (q, $J = 12.5$ Hz, 2 H), 1.67 (d, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 4 H), 1.41 - 1.17 (m, 4 H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 179.2, 176.8, 174.1 (q, $J = 34$ Hz), 142.95, 142.91, 137.3, 132.0, 128.4, 126.9, 122.0, 121.6, 117.5 (d, $J = 290$ Hz), 109.3, 51.8, 44.0, 39.2, 38.8, 28.7, 25.8, 25.0, 19.5; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.541; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (m/z)—Calculated for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_3(\text{M}+\text{Na})^+$: 443.1558, found ($\text{M}+\text{Na})^+$: 443.1560; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1660, 1693.

15. 1-Ethyl-3-(1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione(4aa)



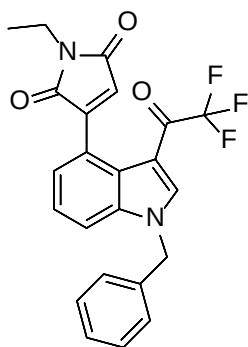
Yield - 53 mg (75%), as a yellow solid; **mp** – 156 – 158 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.4; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.00 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.50 (dd, $J = 1.0, 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.28 - 7.26 (q, 1 H), 6.47 (s, 1 H), 3.93 (s, 3 H), 3.64 (q, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2 H), 1.25 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.0 (q, $J = 35$ Hz), 171.0, 170.7, 149.0, 139.87 (q, $J = 5.0$ Hz), 138.1, 125.7, 124.59, 124.53, 124.1, 123.8, 117.1 (q, $J = 290$ Hz), 112.1, 110.2, 34.2, 32.9, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -71.385; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (m/z)—Calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_3(\text{M}+\text{Na})^+$: 373.0776, found ($\text{M}+\text{Na})^+$: 373.0778; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1705, 1675;

16. 1-Ethyl-3-(1-ethyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione(4ba)



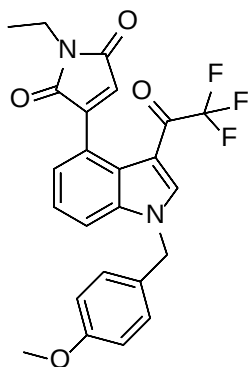
Yield - 50 mg (68%), as a yellow solid; **mp** – 164 – 166 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.4; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (s, 1 H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.45 (s, 1 H), 4.32 - 4.26 (q, 2 H), 3.66 - 3.61 (m, 2 H), 1.61 - 1.57 (m, 3 H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.0 (q, *J* = 34 Hz), 171.0, 170.0, 149.1, 138.22 (q, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 137.2, 125.6, 124.7, 124.4, 124.2, 123.8, 117.1 (q, *J* = 290 Hz), 112.2, 110.2, 42.5, 32.9, 14.8, 13.5; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -71.311; **HRMS (ESI-TOF) (*m/z*)**– Calculated for C₁₈H₁₅F₃N₂O₃(M+Na)⁺: 387.0932, found (M+Na)⁺: 387.0933; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1707, 1676.

17. **3-(1-Benzyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-ethyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione(4ca)**



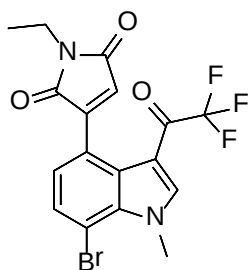
Yield - 50 mg (68%), as a yellow solid; **mp** – 122 – 124 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.4; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05 (s, 1 H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.38 - 7.34 (q, 4 H), 7.24 (br. s., 1 H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.46 (s, 1 H), 5.42 (s, 2 H), 3.64 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.2 (q, *J* = 34 Hz), 171.0, 170.7, 149.0, 139.22 (q, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 137.6, 134.1, 129.2, 128.6, 126.9, 125.8, 124.7, 124.6, 124.2, 123.9, 117.1 (q, *J* = 290 Hz), 112.8, 110.6, 51.5, 32.9, 13.5; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -71.424; **HRMS (ESI-TOF) (*m/z*)**– Calculated for C₂₃H₁₇F₃N₂O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 449.1089, found (M+Na)⁺: 449.1089; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1705, 1680.

1-Ethyl-3-(1-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (4da)



Yield - 65 mg (72%), as a yellow solid; **mp** – 130 – 132 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.3; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (s, 1 H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.26 Hz 1 H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2 H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.55 Hz, 2 H), 6.45 (s, 1 H), 5.32 (s, 2 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 3.63 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.2(q, *J* = 35 Hz), 171.0, 170.7, 159.9, 149.0, 138.96(q, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 137.6, 128.7, 125.9, 125.7, 124.8, 124.5, 124.2, 123.9, 117.0(q, *J* = 290 Hz), 114.6, 112.8, 110.5, 55.3, 51.1, 32.9, 13.5; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -71.492; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₂₄H₁₉F₃N₂O₄ (M+Na)⁺: 479.1195, found (M+Na)⁺: 479.1194; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1702, 1671;

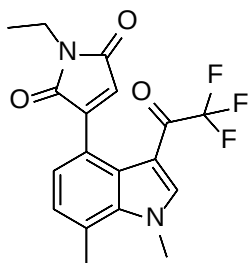
18. 3-(7-Bromo-1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-ethyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (4ea)



Yield - 64 mg (75%), as a bright yellow solid; **mp** – 211 – 213 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.4; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (s, 1 H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.46 (s, 1 H), 4.30 (s, 3 H), 3.62 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.1(q, *J* = 35 Hz), 170.8, 170.4, 148.3, 142.42(q, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 134.8, 129.8, 127.3, 126.6, 123.7, 123.5, 116.9(q, *J* = 290 Hz), 109.7, 107.1, 39.1, 32.9, 13.5; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -

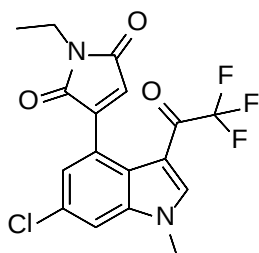
71.570; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (m/z)—Calculated for $C_{17}H_{12}BrF_3N_2O_3$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 450.9881, found ($M+Na$)⁺: 450.9878; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1707, 1678.

19. **3-(1,7-Dimethyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-ethyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (4fa)**



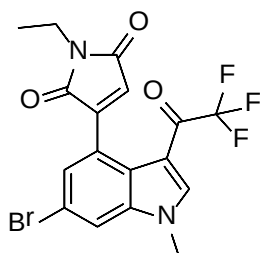
Yield - 48 mg (65%), as a yellow solid; **mp** – 206 – 208 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.5; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.88 (s, 1 H), 7.12 (s, 2 H), 6.41 (s, 1 H), 4.18 (s, 3 H), 3.62 (q, J = 6.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.81 (s, 3 H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 173.7 (q, J = 30 Hz), 171.2, 170.7, 149.3, 141.42 (q, J = 5.2 Hz), 136.9, 127.4, 126.0, 125.5, 124.6, 122.9, 122.1, 117.1 (t, J = 290 Hz), 109.7, 38.6, 32.8, 19.7, 13.5; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -71.288; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (m/z)—Calculated for $C_{18}H_{15}F_3N_2O_3$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 387.0932, found ($M+Na$)⁺: 387.0935; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1709, 1668.

20. **3-(6-Chloro-1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-ethyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (4ga)**



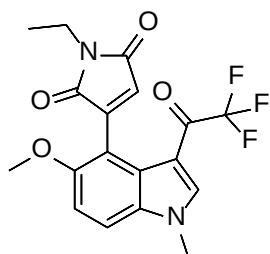
Yield - 43 mg (55%), as a light brown solid; **mp** – 187 – 189 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.5; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.99 (s, 1 H), 7.48 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.27 - 7.25 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.49 (s, 1 H), 3.90 (s, 3 H), 3.64 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 174.0 (d, J = 34 Hz), 170.5, 170.3, 147.7, 140.26 (q, J = 5.2 Hz), 138.7, 130.5, 125.8, 125.2, 124.7, 123.1, 117.0 (d, J = 290 Hz), 112.0, 110.4, 34.3, 33.0, 13.5; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -71.577; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (m/z)—Calculated for $C_{17}H_{12}ClF_3N_2O_3$ ($M+Na$)⁺: 407.0386, found ($M+Na$)⁺: 407.0388; **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 1705, 1665.

21. 3-(6-bromo-1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-ethyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (4ha)



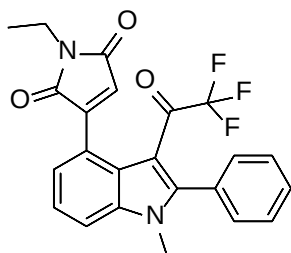
Yield - 47 mg (55%), as a yellow solid; **mp**: 186 – 188 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.3; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (s, 1 H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.48 (s, 1 H), 3.90 (s, 3 H), 3.64 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.0 (q, *J* = 34 Hz), 170.5, 170.3, 147.6, 140.14 (q, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 138.8, 128.3, 125.4, 124.6, 123.5, 117.7, 116.9 (q, *J* = 290 Hz), 115.0, 110.3, 34.2, 33.0, 13.5; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -71.584; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₇H₁₂BrF₃N₂O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 450.9881, found (M+Na)⁺: 449.1087; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1704, 1679.

22. 1-Ethyl-3-(5-methoxy-1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (4ia)



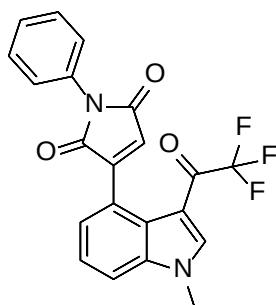
Yield - 38 mg (50%), as a brown solid; **mp** – 156 – 158 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.2; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (s, 1 H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.52 (s, 1 H), 3.87 (s, 3 H), 3.84 (s, 3 H), 3.64 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 1.26 (s, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.4 (t, *J* = 34 Hz), 171.6, 171.2, 154.9, 142.9, 140.28 (q, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 133.0, 127.4, 126.4, 118.6 (t, *J* = 290 Hz), 112.4, 111.2, 110.0, 109.8, 56.9, 34.1, 32.8, 13.5; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -71.133; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₈H₁₅F₃N₂O₄ (M+Na)⁺: 403.0882, found (M+Na)⁺: 403.0883; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1702, 1673.

23. 1-Ethyl-3-(1-methyl-2-phenyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (4ja)



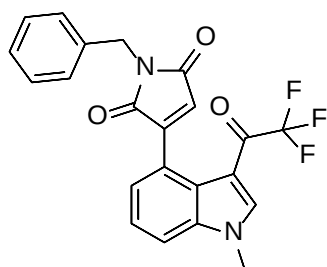
Yield - 43 mg (51%), as a yellow solid; **mp** – 218 – 220 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.5; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 - 7.50 (m, 4 H), 7.44 - 7.37 (m, 3 H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.52 (s, 1 H), 3.60 - 3.55 (m, 2 H), 3.55 (s, 3 H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.2(q, *J* = 34 Hz), 170.9, 170.5, 148.5, 147.5, 137.6, 130.6, 130.1, 129.3, 128.2, 125.6, 124.6, 123.9, 123.6, 118.6(q, *J* = 290 Hz), 112.4, 111.3, 111.1, 32.8, 31.2, 13.5; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -71.809; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₂₄H₁₉F₃N₂O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 449.1089, found (M+Na)⁺: 449.1087; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1704, 1669.

24. 3-(1-Methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (4ab)



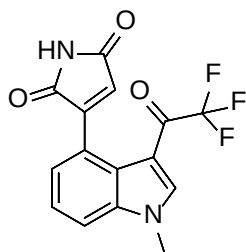
Yield - 50 mg (63%), as a bright yellow solid; **mp** – 177 – 179 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.3; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (s, 1 H), 7.50 - 7.42 (m, 6 H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.62 (s, 1 H), 3.88 (s, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.0(t, *J* = 34 Hz), 169.9, 169.7, 140.15(q, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 140.0, 138.1, 132.0, 128.9, 127.6, 126.5, 125.8, 124.66, 124.62, 124.0, 123.9, 117.2(q, *J* = 290 Hz), 112.4, 110.1, 34.2; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -71.153; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₂₁H₁₃F₃N₂O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 421.0776, found (M+Na)⁺: 421.0778; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1713, 1671.

25. 1-Benzyl-3-(1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (4ac)



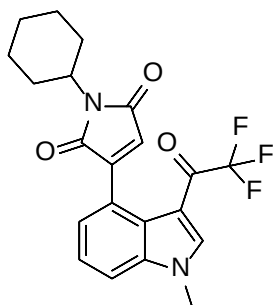
Yield - 49 mg (60%), as a yellow solid; **mp** – 195 – 197 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.4; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (s, 1 H), 7.50 - 7.40 (m, 4 H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.27 - 7.25 (m, 2 H), 6.49 (s, 1 H), 4.75 (s, 2 H), 3.90 (s, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9 (q, *J* = 30 Hz), 170.8, 170.5, 149.2, 139.88 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 138.1, 136.4, 128.4, 128.2, 127.4, 125.9, 124.6, 124.5, 124.0, 123.7, 117.1 (q, *J* = 290 Hz), 112.2, 110.1, 41.6, 34.2; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -71.295; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₂₂H₁₅F₃N₂O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 435.0932, found (M+Na)⁺: 435.0931; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1708, 1673.

26. 3-(1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (4ad)



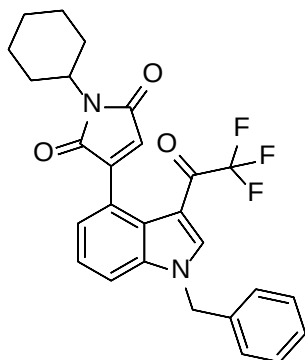
Yield - 50 mg (76%), as a yellow solid; **mp** – (semi solid at RT); **R_f**- (25% EtOAc/Hexane) 0.2; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.86 (br. s., 1 H), 8.62 (s., 1 H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.68 (s, 1 H), 3.99 (s, 3 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.8 - 172.8 (m), 150.5, 142.89 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 138.9, 126.7, 125.6, 125.2, 124.4, 124.0, 117.8 (q, *J* = 166 Hz), 114.1, 109.4, 34.7; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ -66.664; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₁₅H₉F₃N₂O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 345.0463, found (M+Na)⁺: 345.0465; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 3419, 1719, 1647.

27. 1-Cyclohexyl-3-(1-methyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione(4ae)



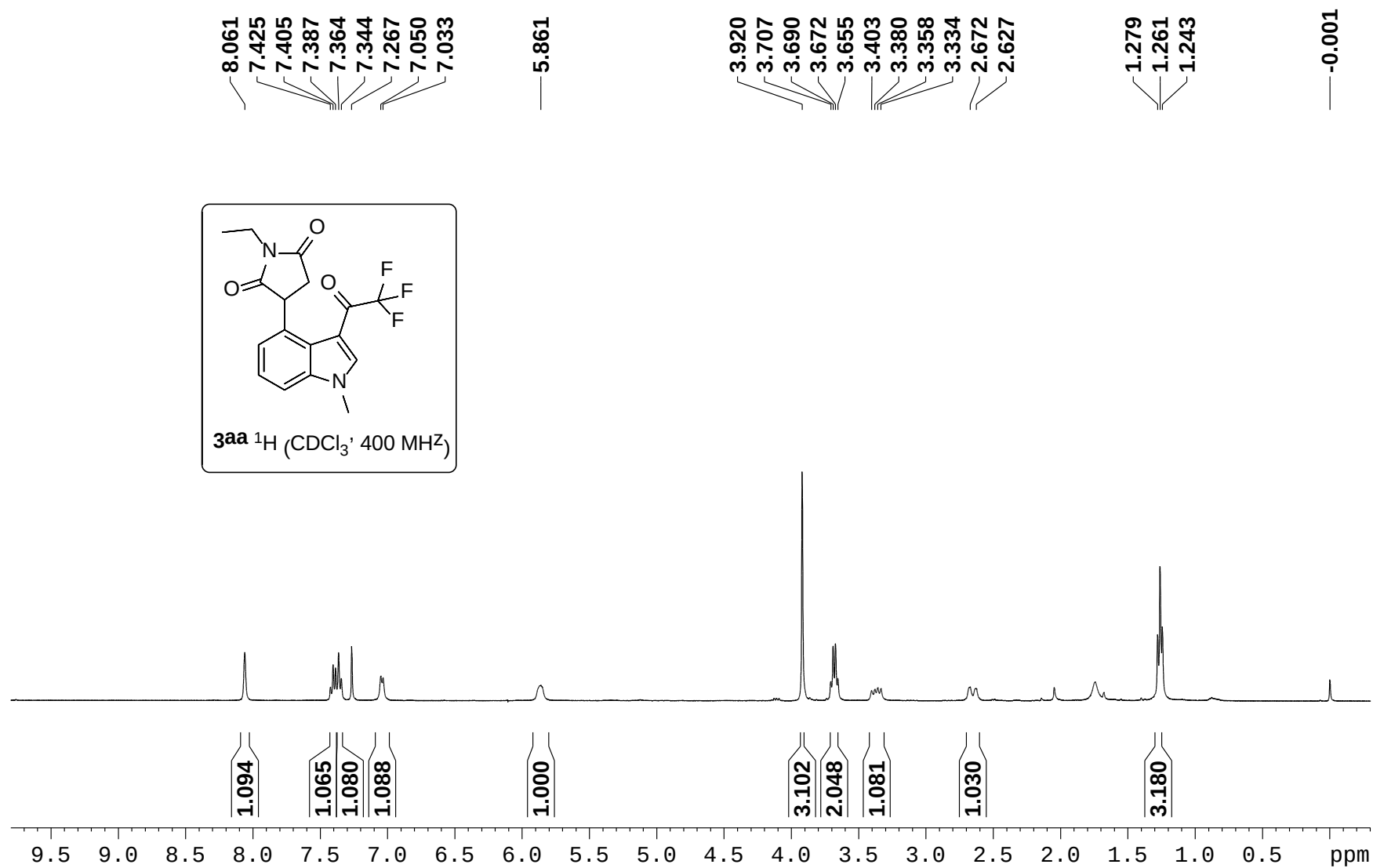
Yield - 60 mg (74%), as a yellow solid; **mp** – 201 – 203 °C; **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.5; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (s, 1 H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.27 - 7.25 (m, 1 H), 6.41 (s, 1 H), 4.01 - 3.93 (m, 1 H), 3.91 (s, 3 H), 2.15 - 2.03 (m, 2 H), 1.87 - 1.78 (m, 4 H), 1.38 - 1.22 (m, 4 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9(q, *J* = 34 Hz), 171.3, 170.8, 148.5, 139.71(d, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 138.0, 125.6, 124.56, 124.51, 124.2, 123.6, 117.1(q, *J* = 290 Hz), 112.0, 110.2, 50.8, 34.1, 29.7, 26.0, 25.1; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -71.411; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₂₁H₁₉F₃N₂O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 427.1245, found (M+Na)⁺: 427.1241; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1702, 1676.

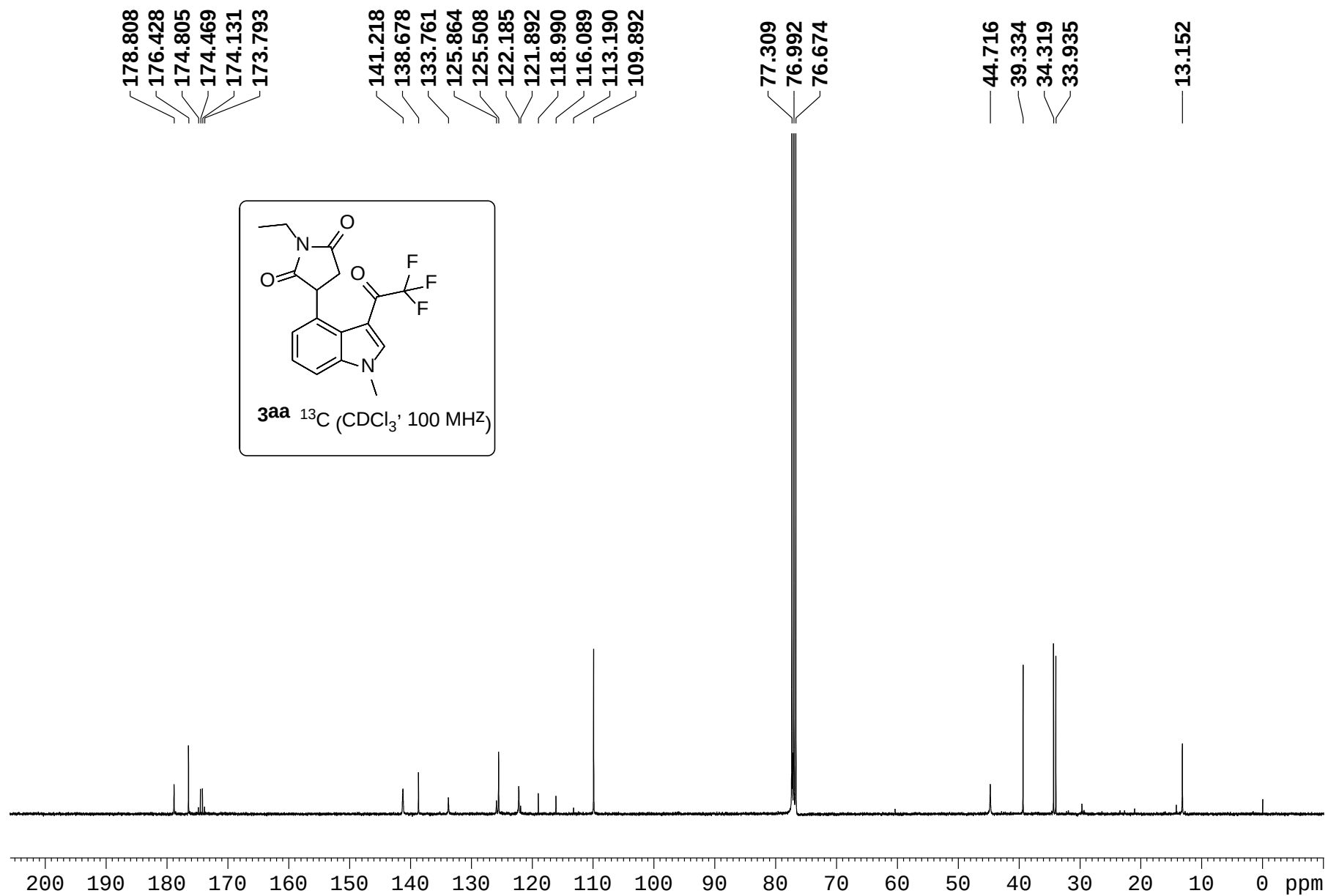
28. 3-(1-Benzyl-3-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-1H-indol-4-yl)-1-cyclohexyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (4ce)

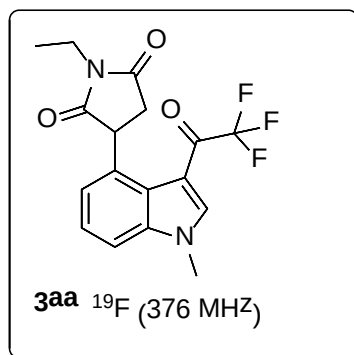


Yield - 55 mg (64 %), as a yellow solid; **mp** – 243 - 245 °C. **R_f**- (70% DCM/Hexane) 0.4; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (s, 1 H), 7.42 - 7.32 (m, 5 H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.41 (s, 1 H), 5.39 (s, 2 H), 3.98 (q, 1 H), 2.09 (q, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 2 H), 1.81 (br. s., 4 H), 1.37 - 1.19 (m, 4 H); **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.2(q, *J* = 30 Hz), 171.2, 170.8, 148.5, 139.11(d, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 137.5, 134.2, 129.2, 128.6, 126.9, 125.7, 124.8, 124.5, 124.3, 123.7, 117.0(q, *J* = 290 Hz),

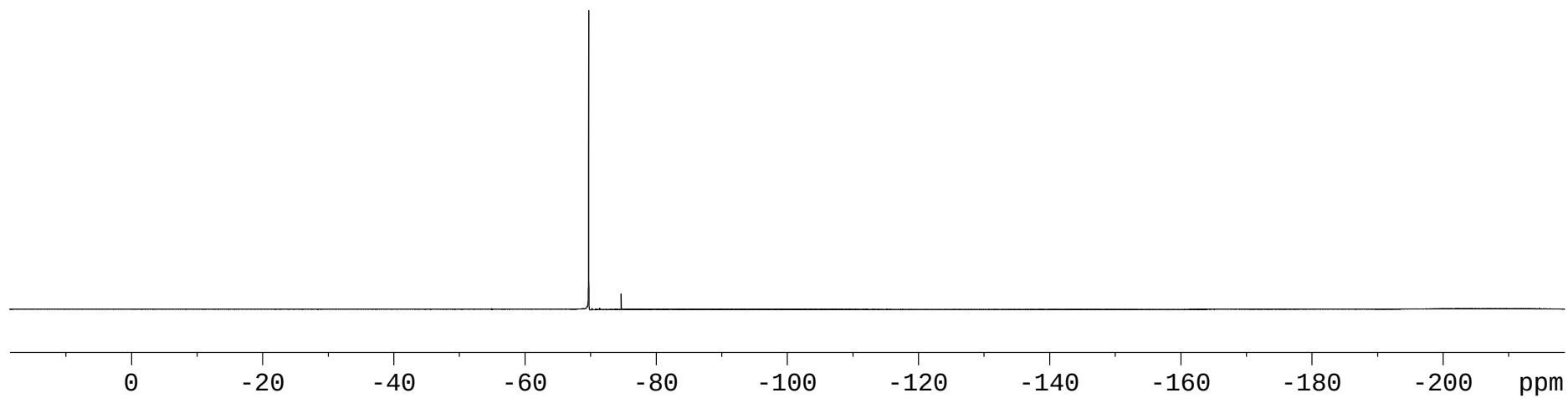
110.6, 51.4, 50.8, 29.7, 26.0, 25.1; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -71.461; **HRMS (ESI-TOF)** (*m/z*)—Calculated for C₂₇H₂₃F₃N₂O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 503.1558, found (M+Na)⁺: 503.1555; **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 1700, 1676.

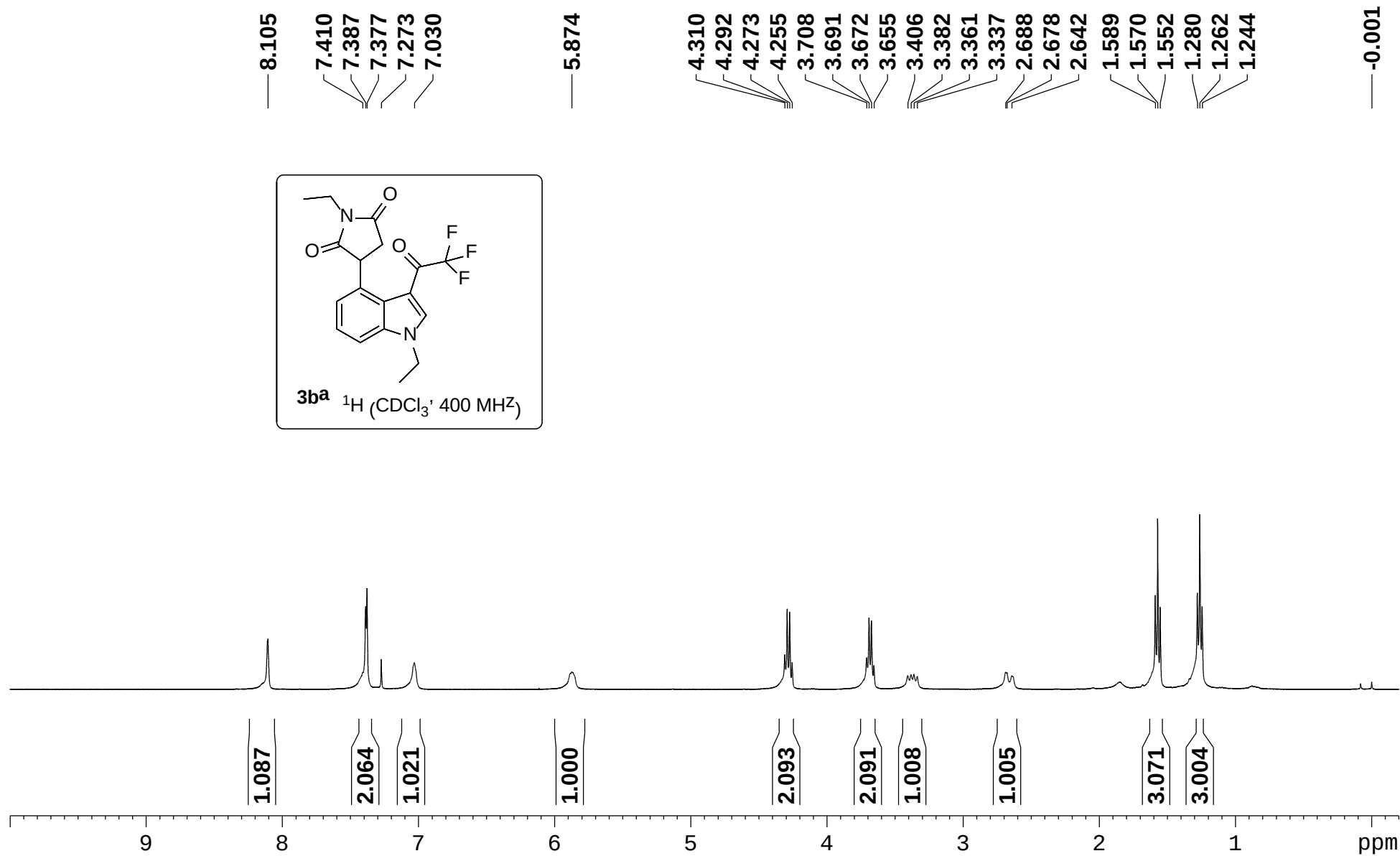
Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR

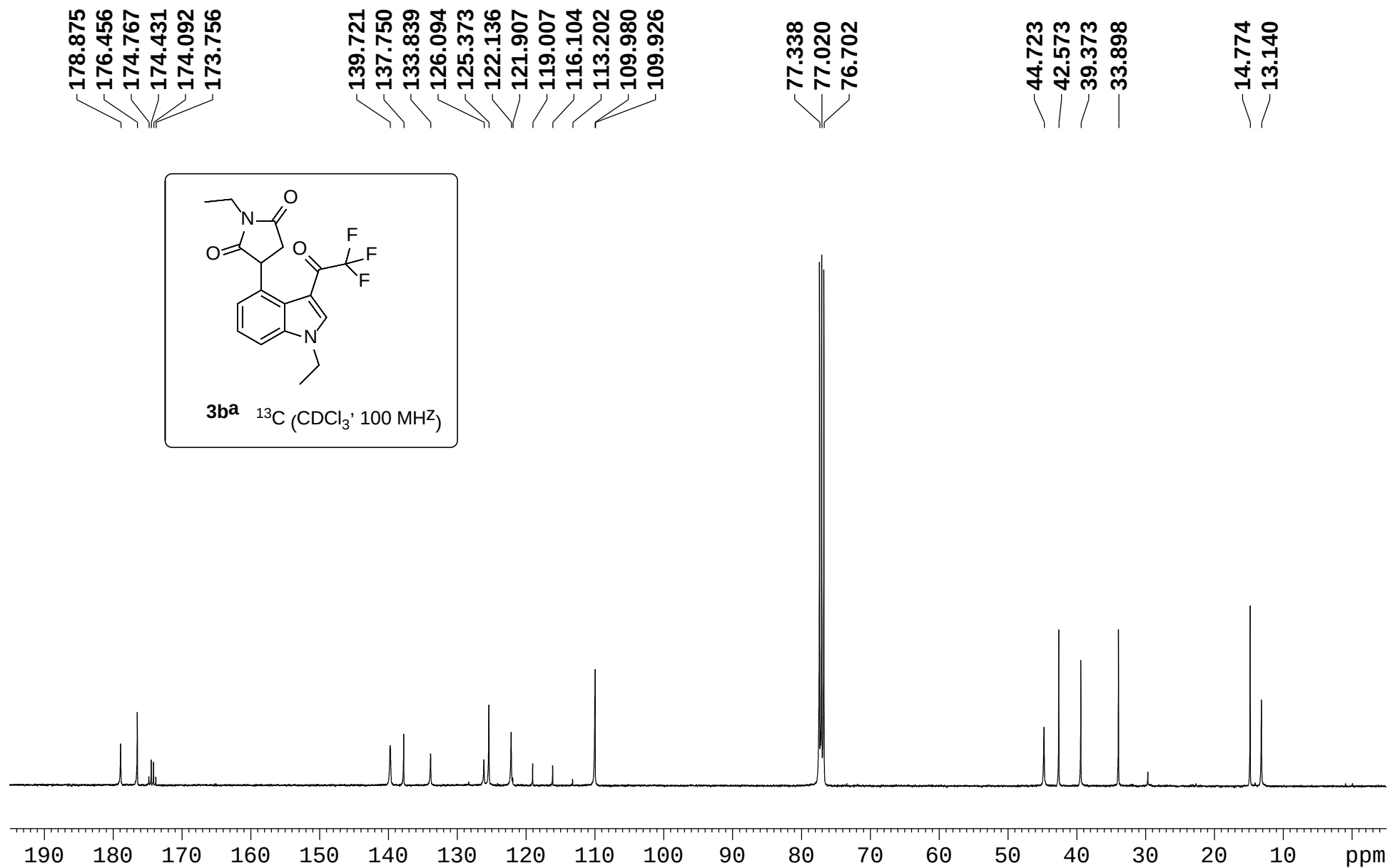


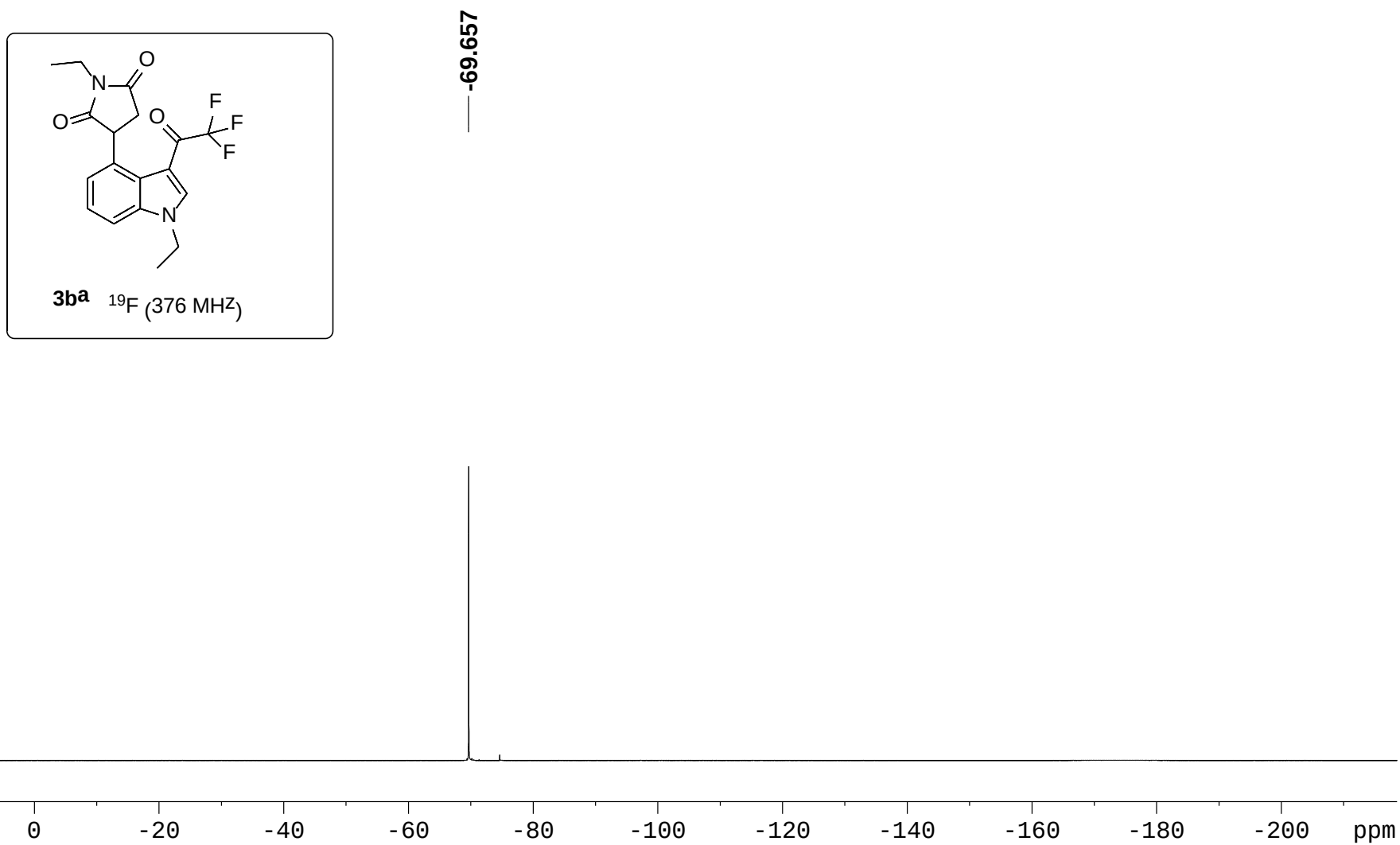


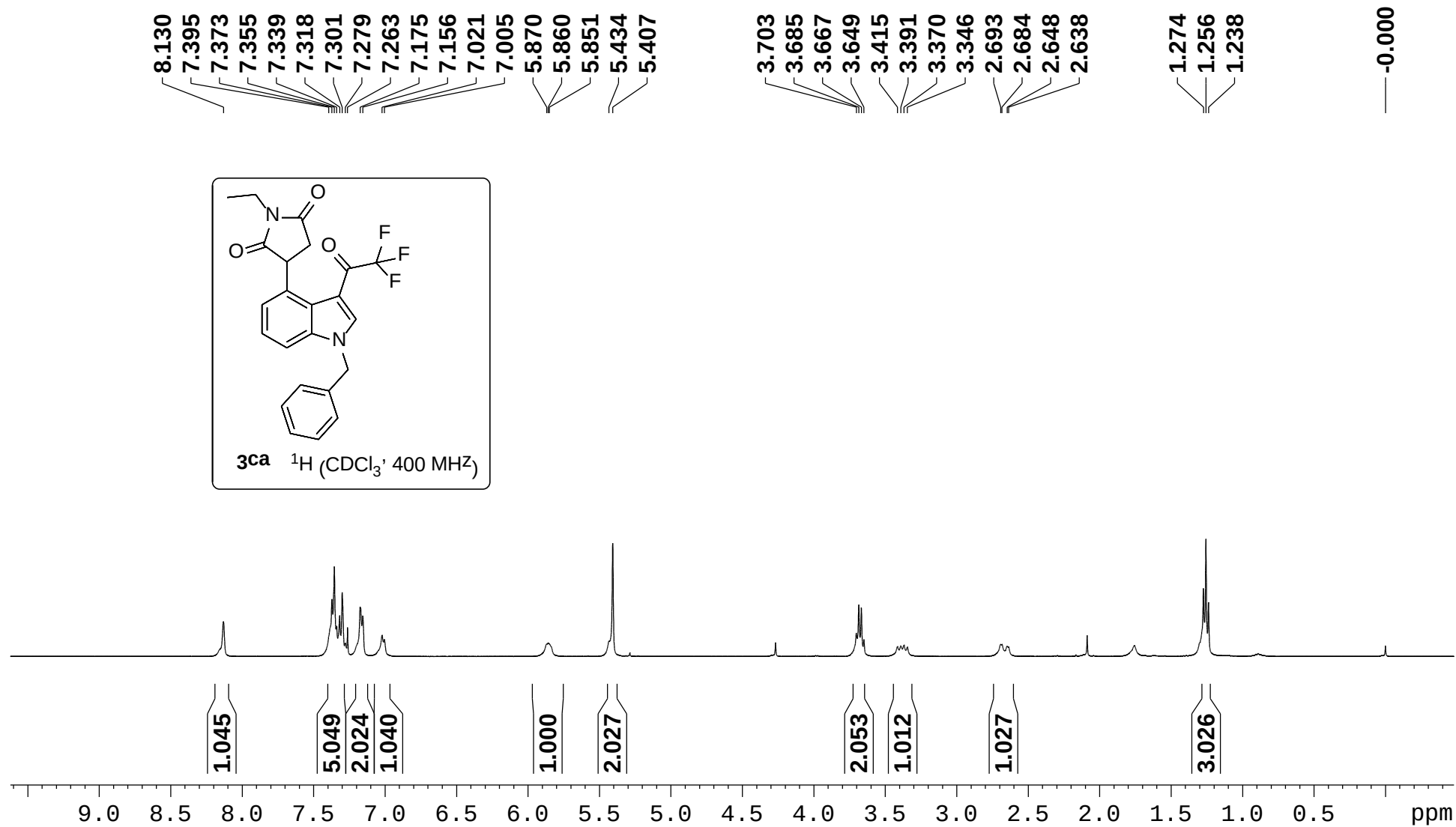
— -69.737

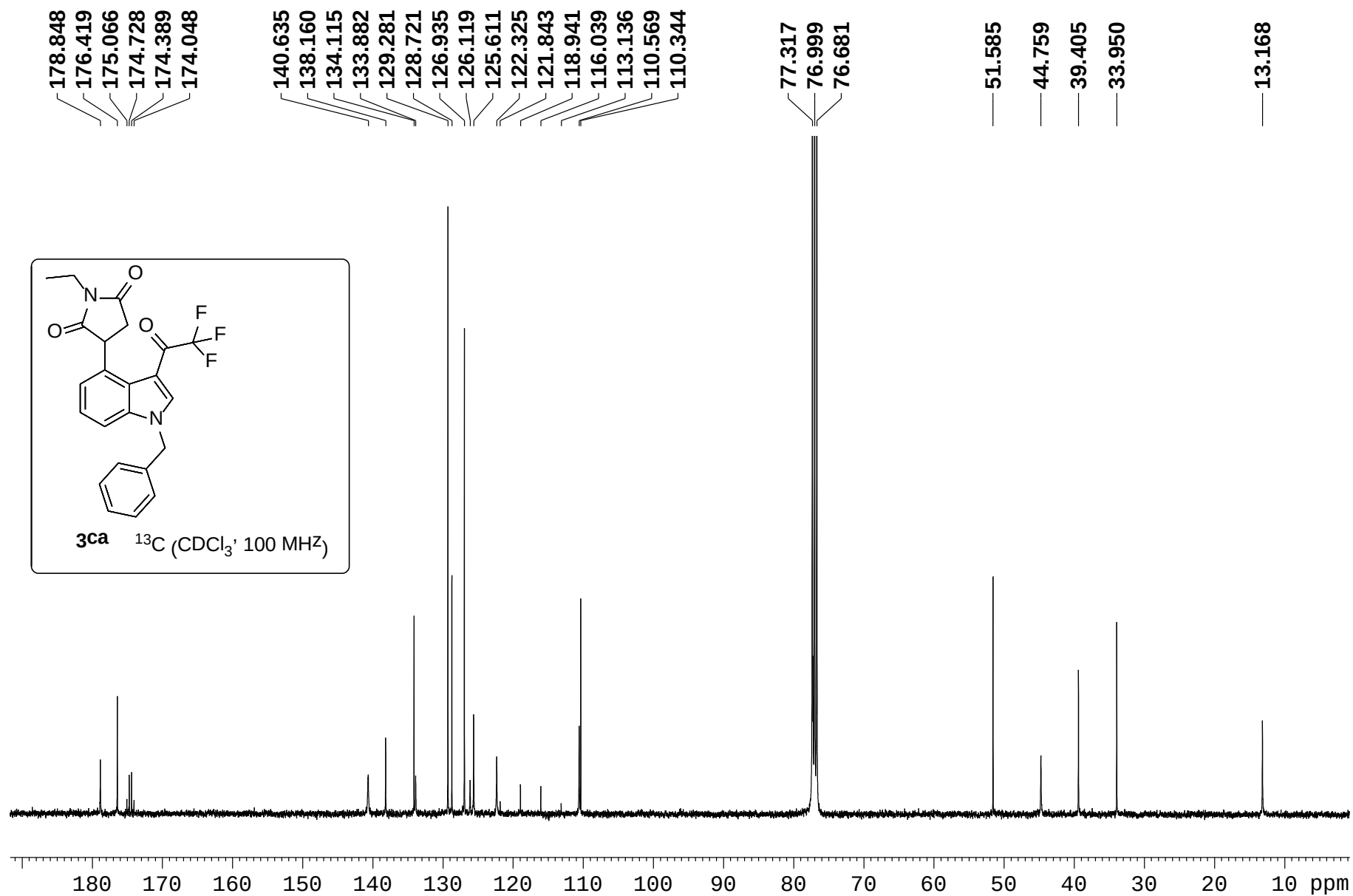


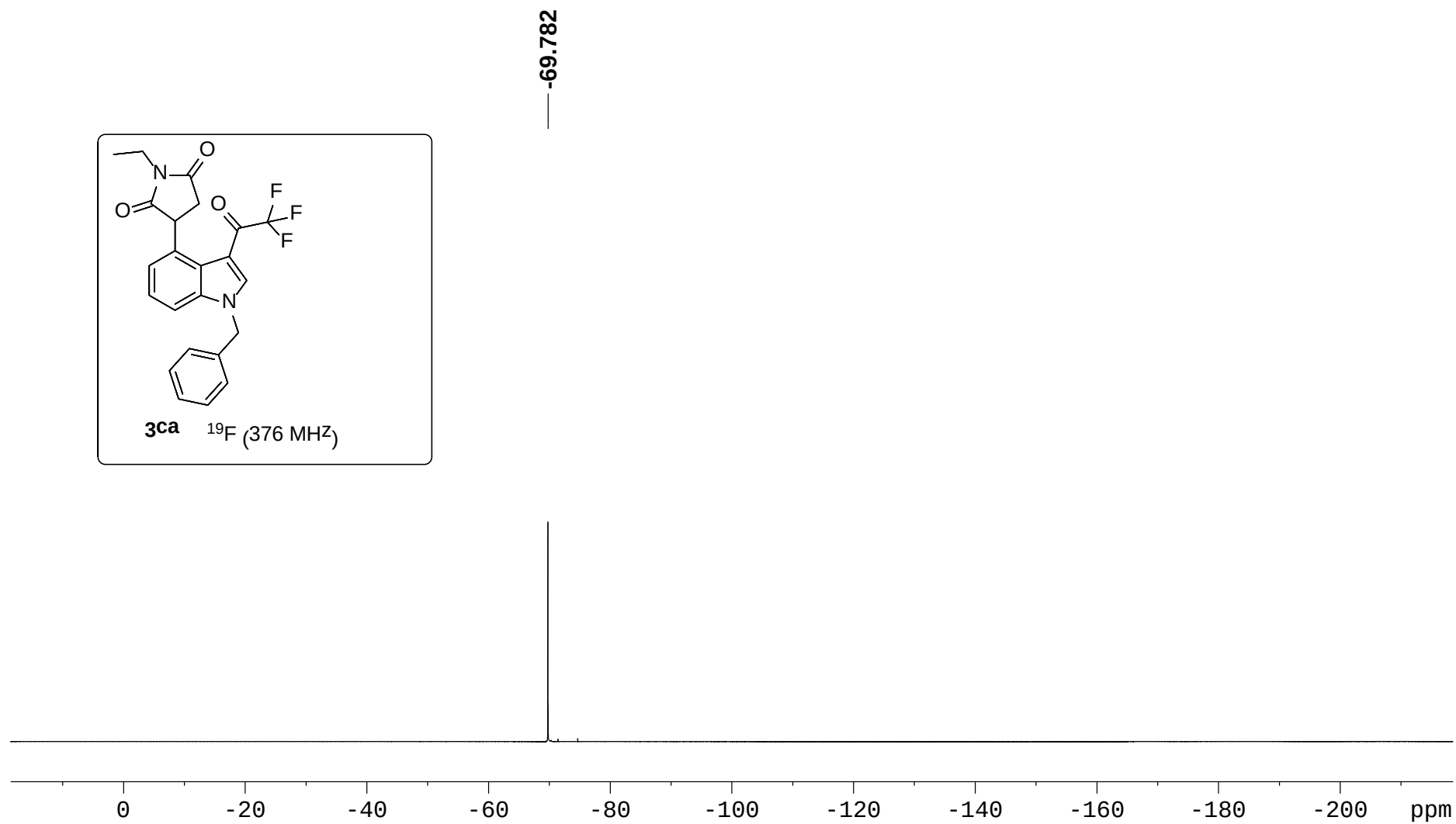


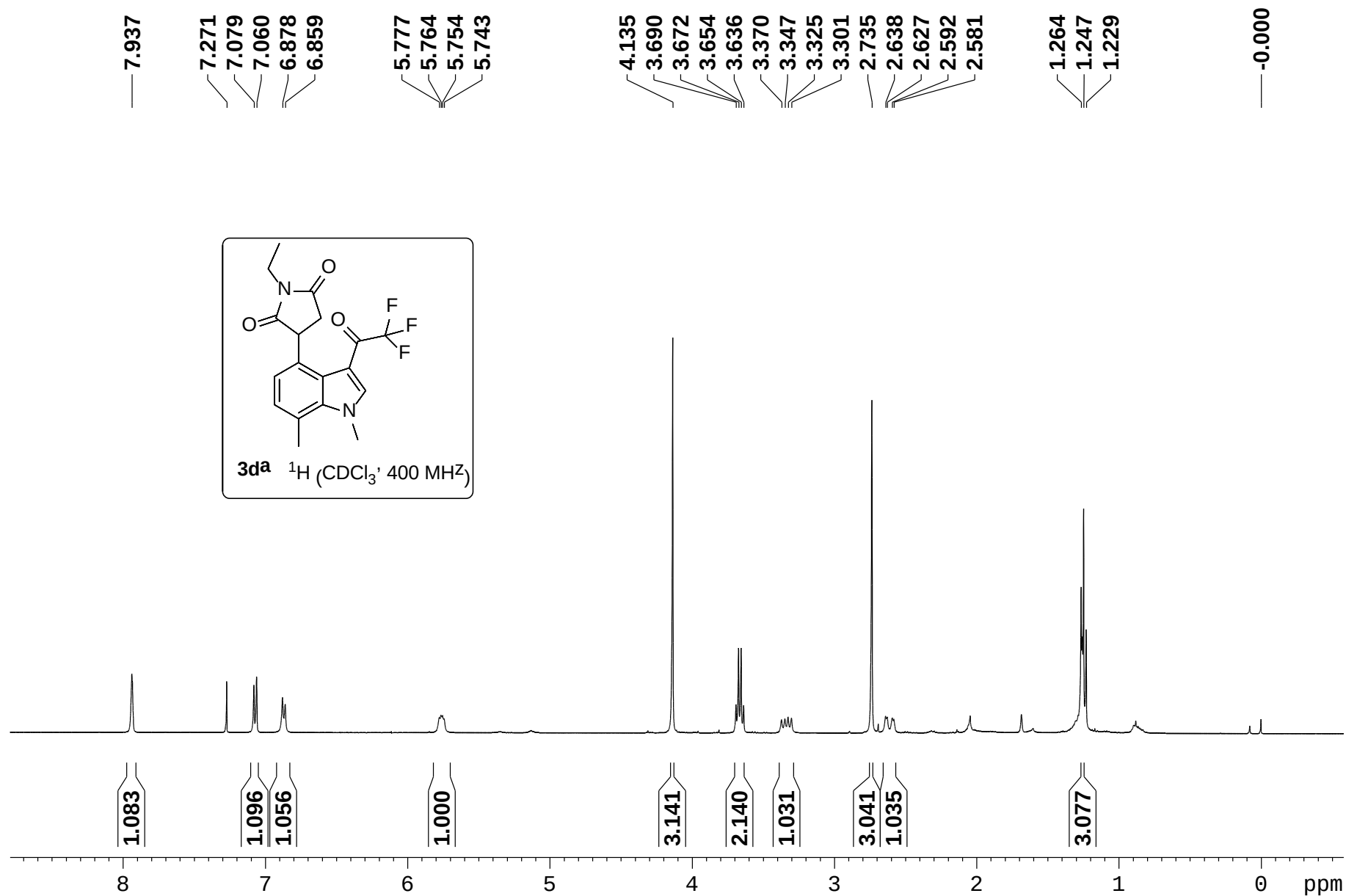












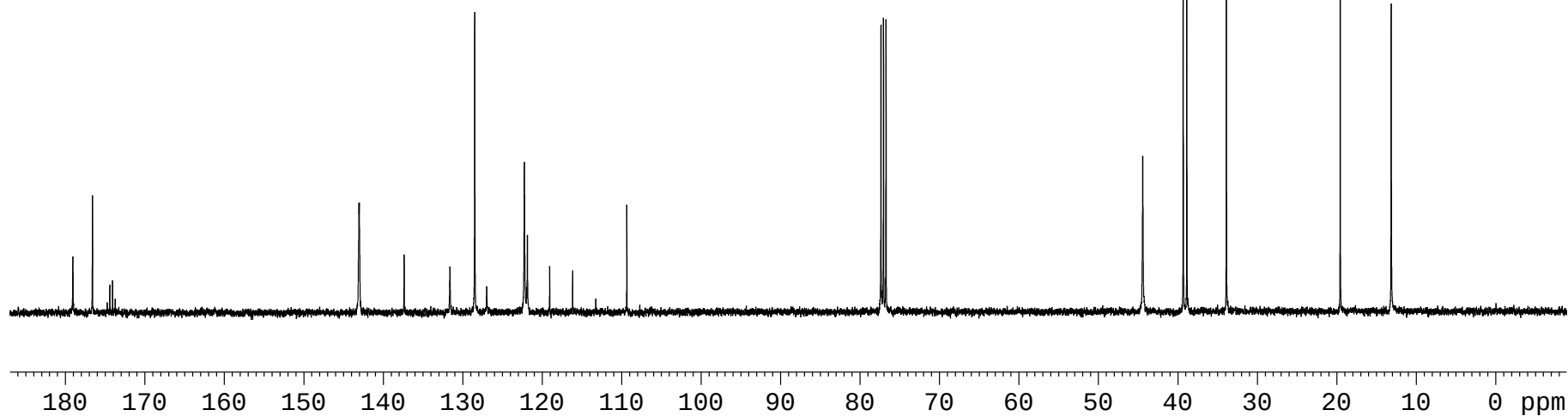
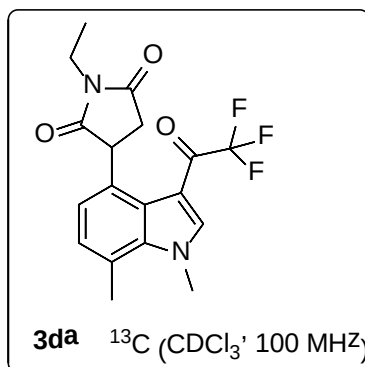
179.037
176.578
174.722
174.389
174.051
173.716

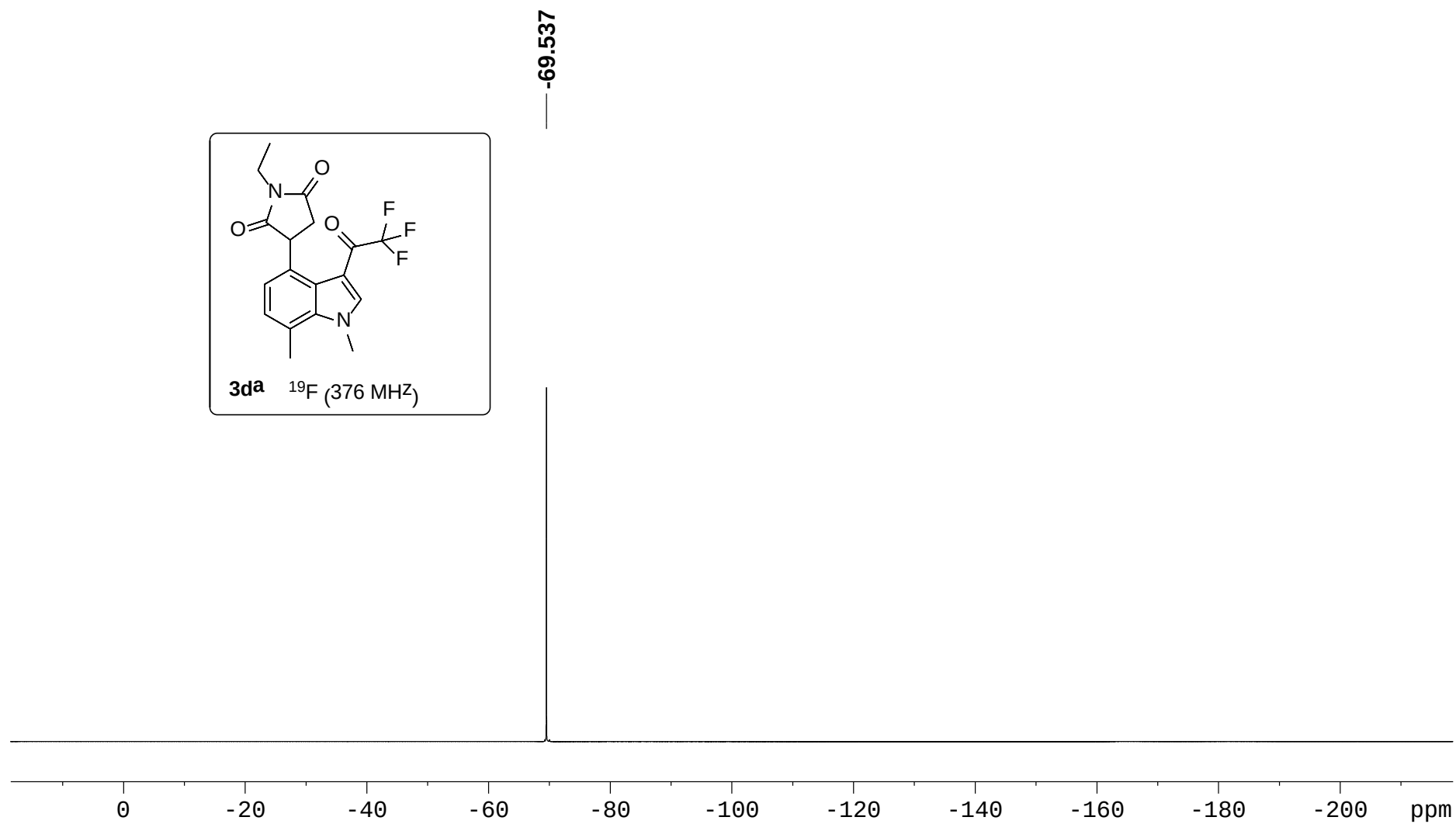
143.081
143.035
137.390
131.635
128.509
127.000
122.261
121.986
121.880
119.083
116.179
113.275
109.370

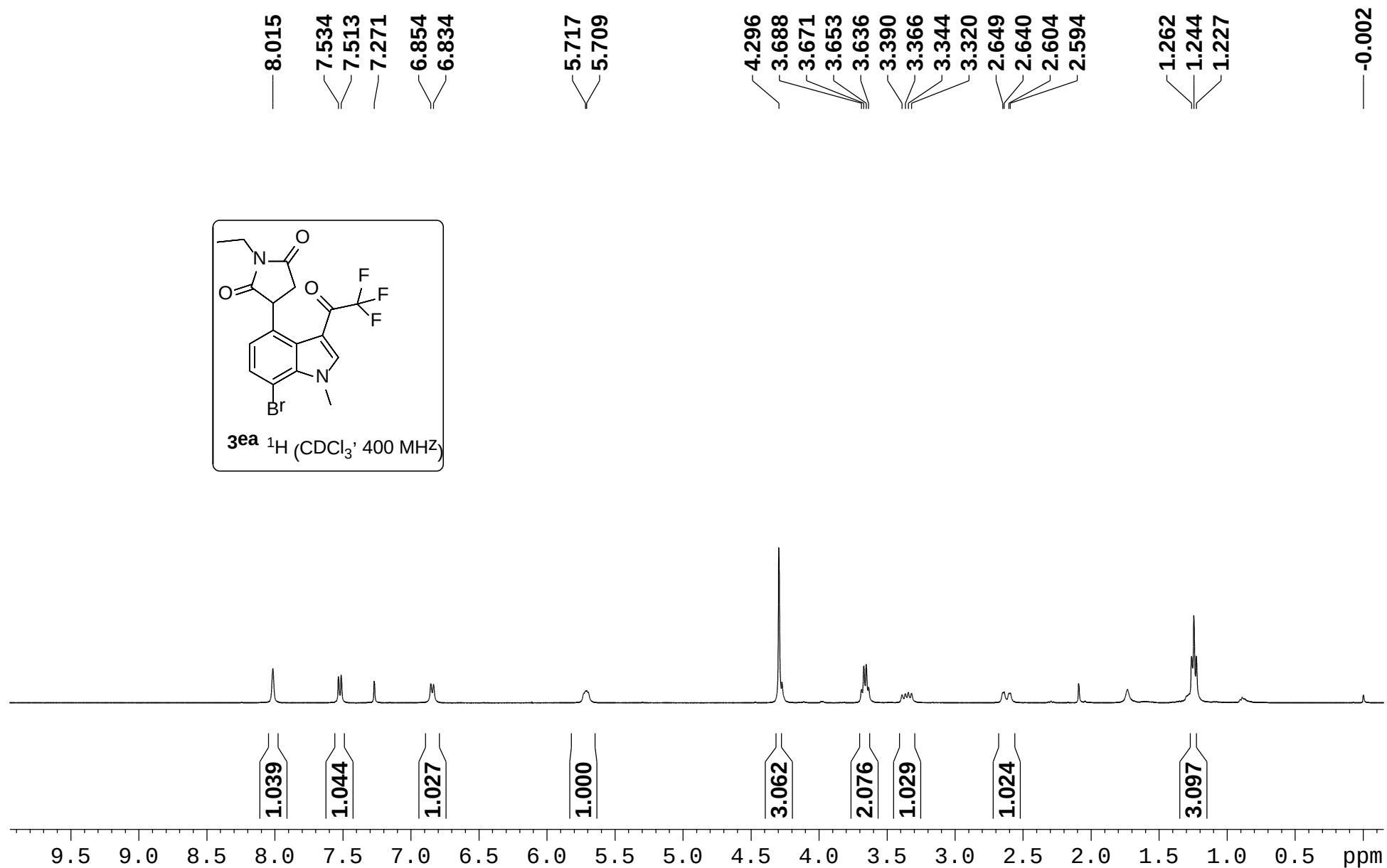
77.394
77.076
76.759

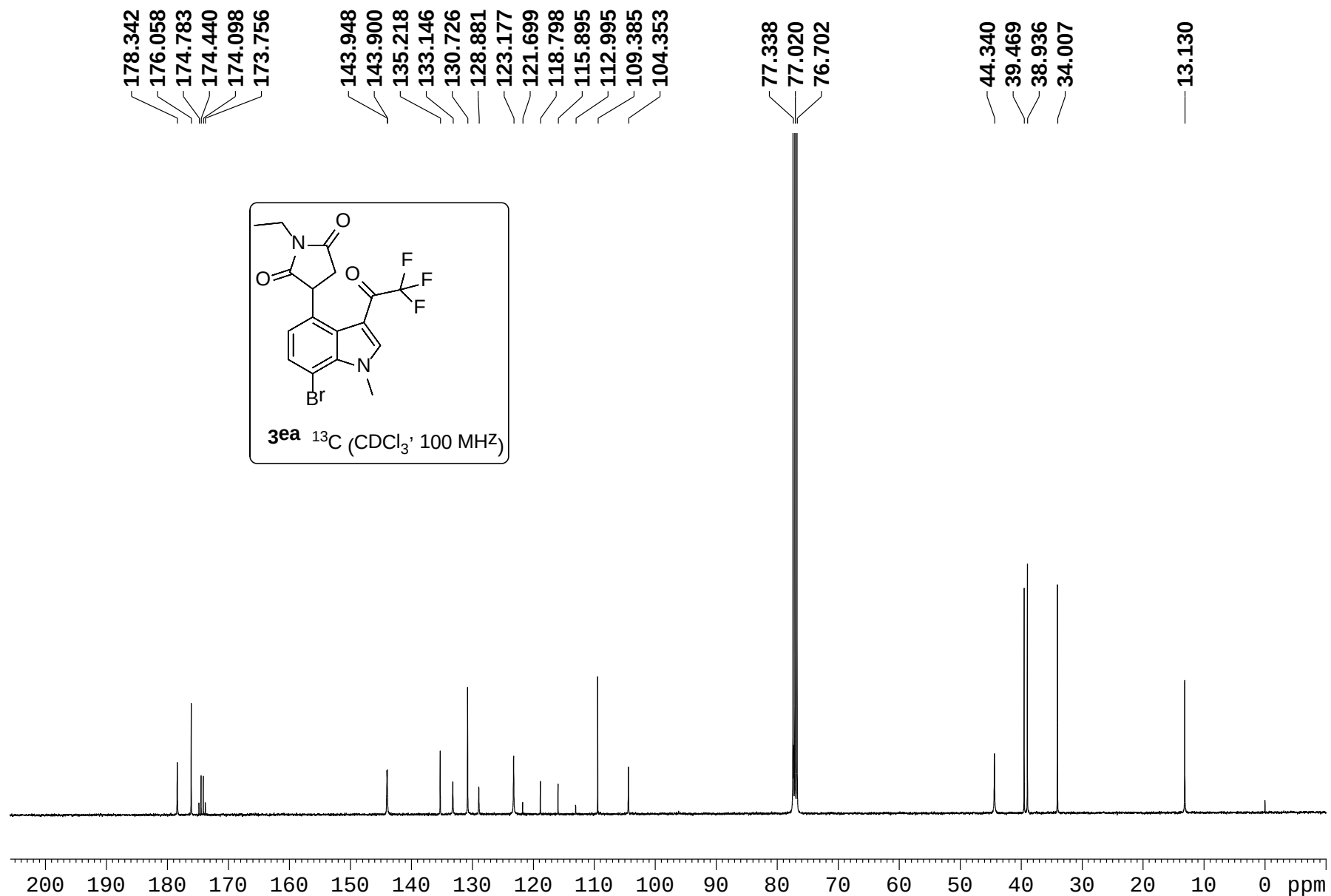
44.456
39.363
38.908
33.931

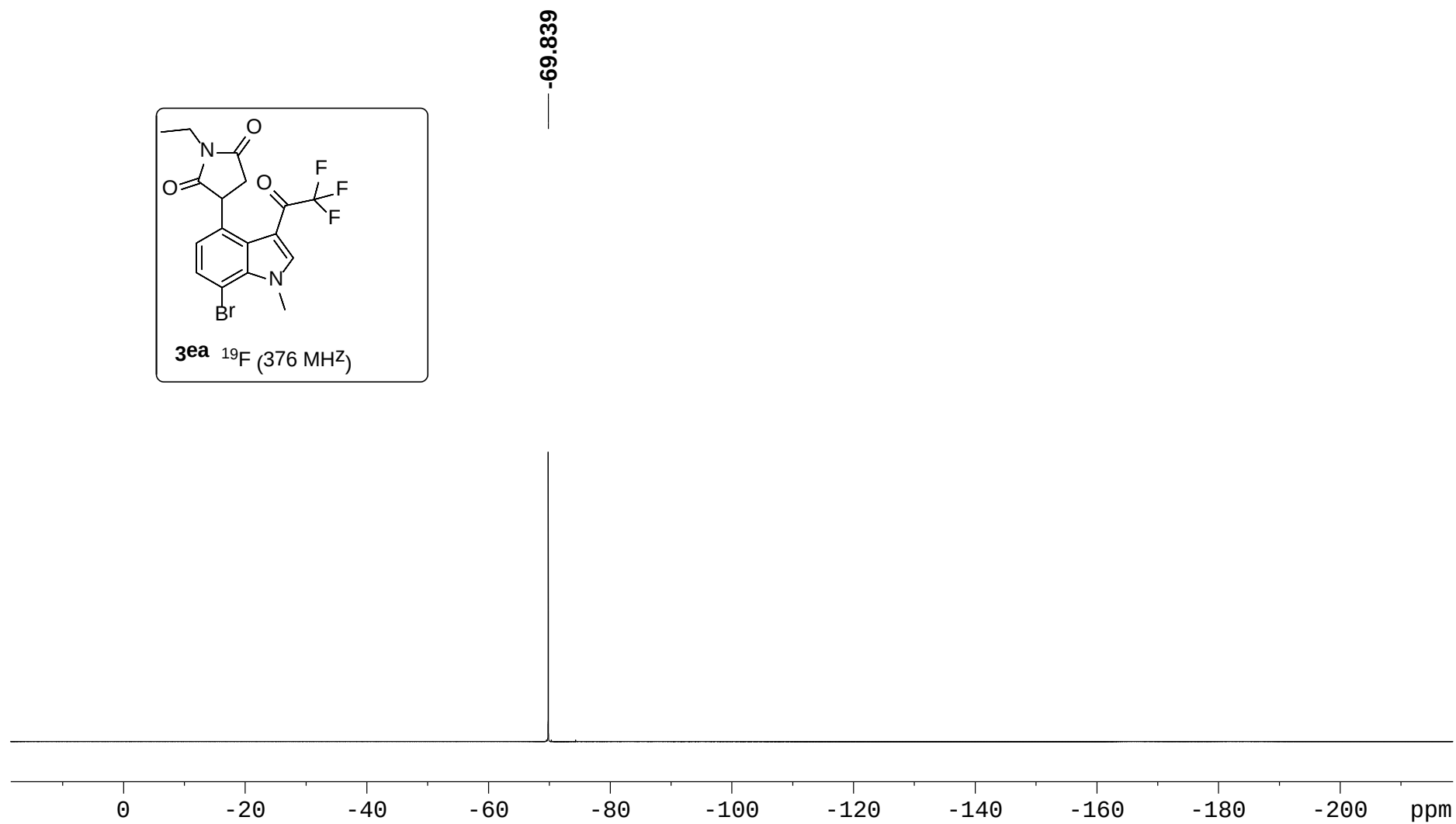
19.608
13.195

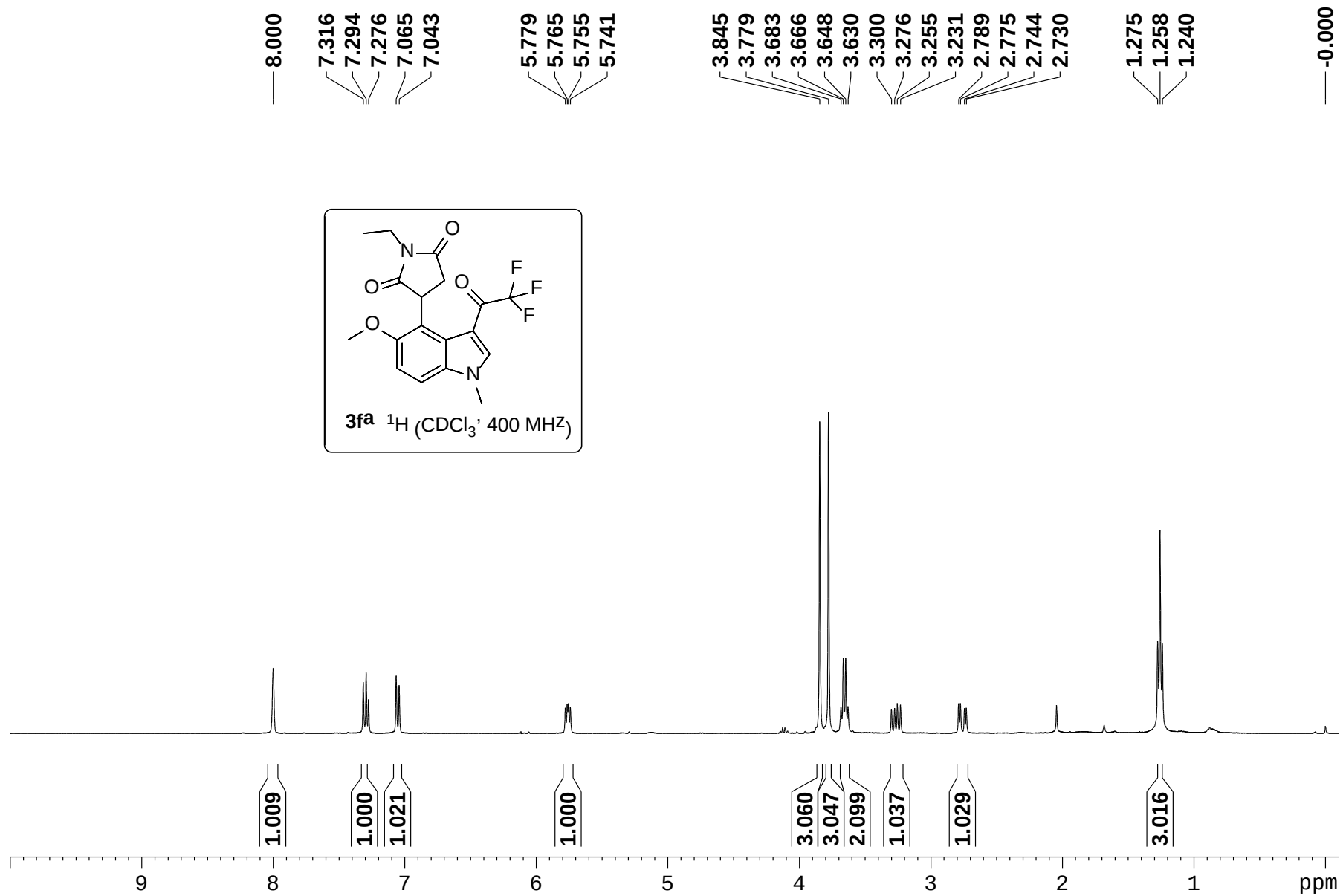


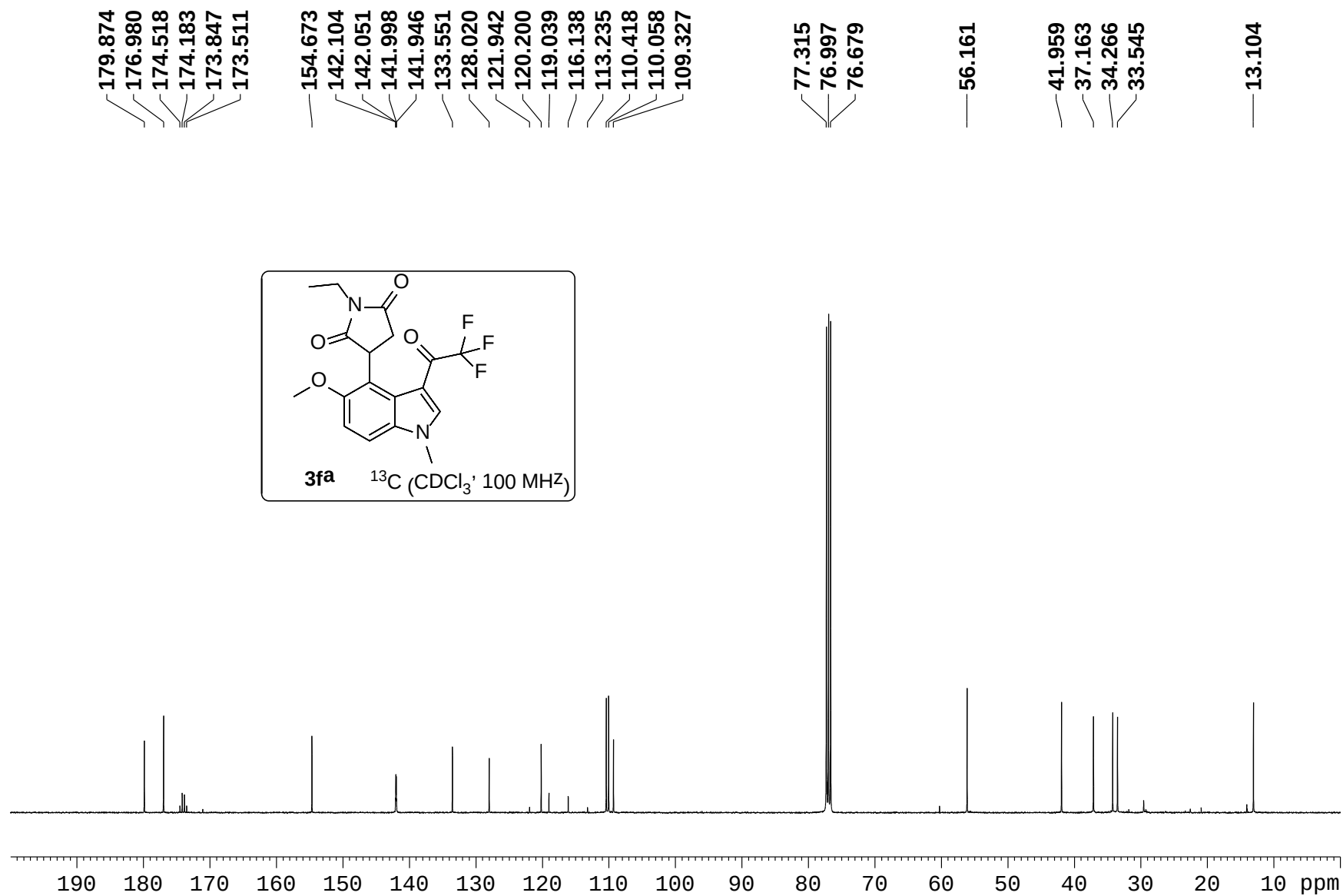


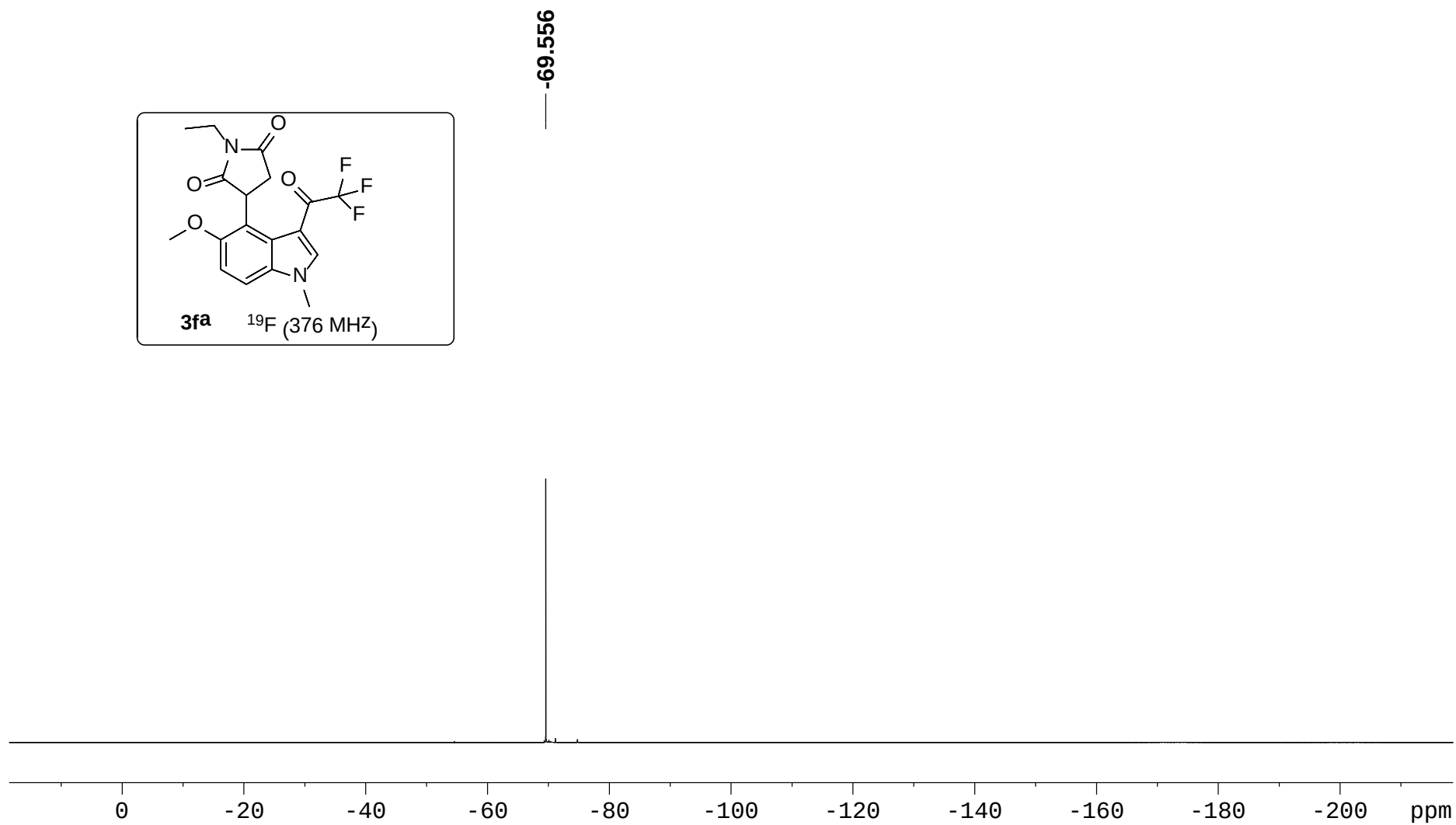


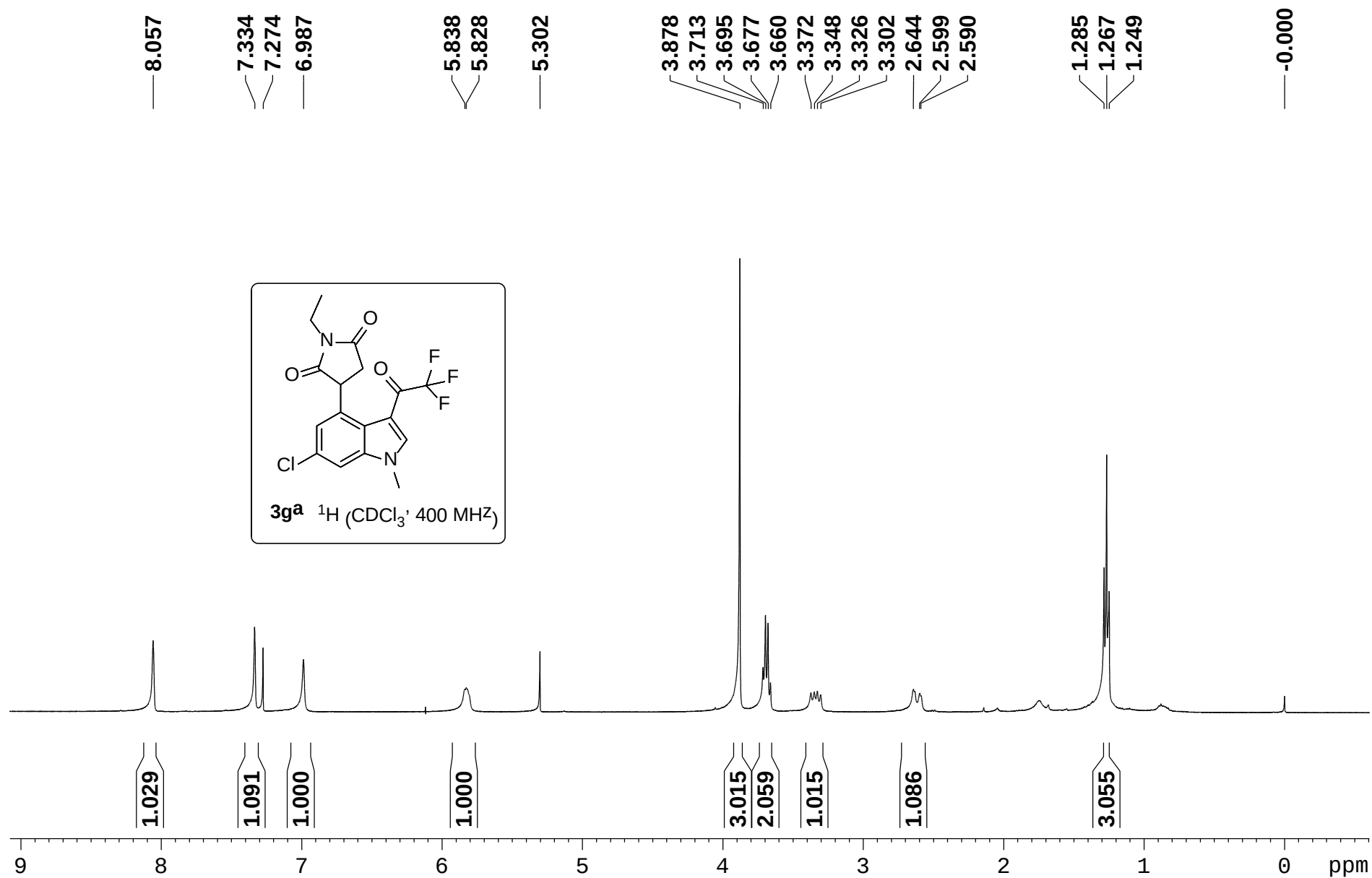


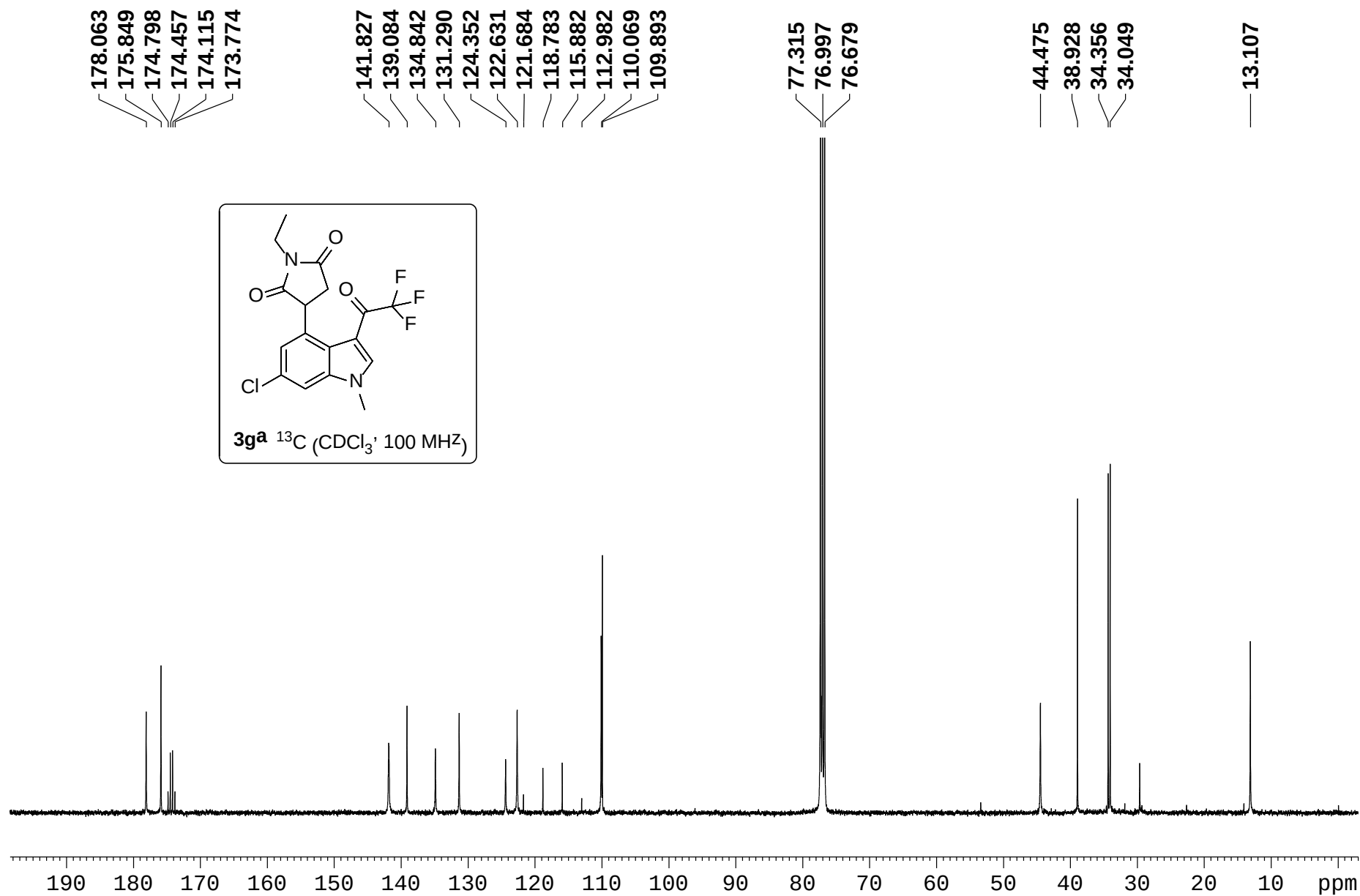


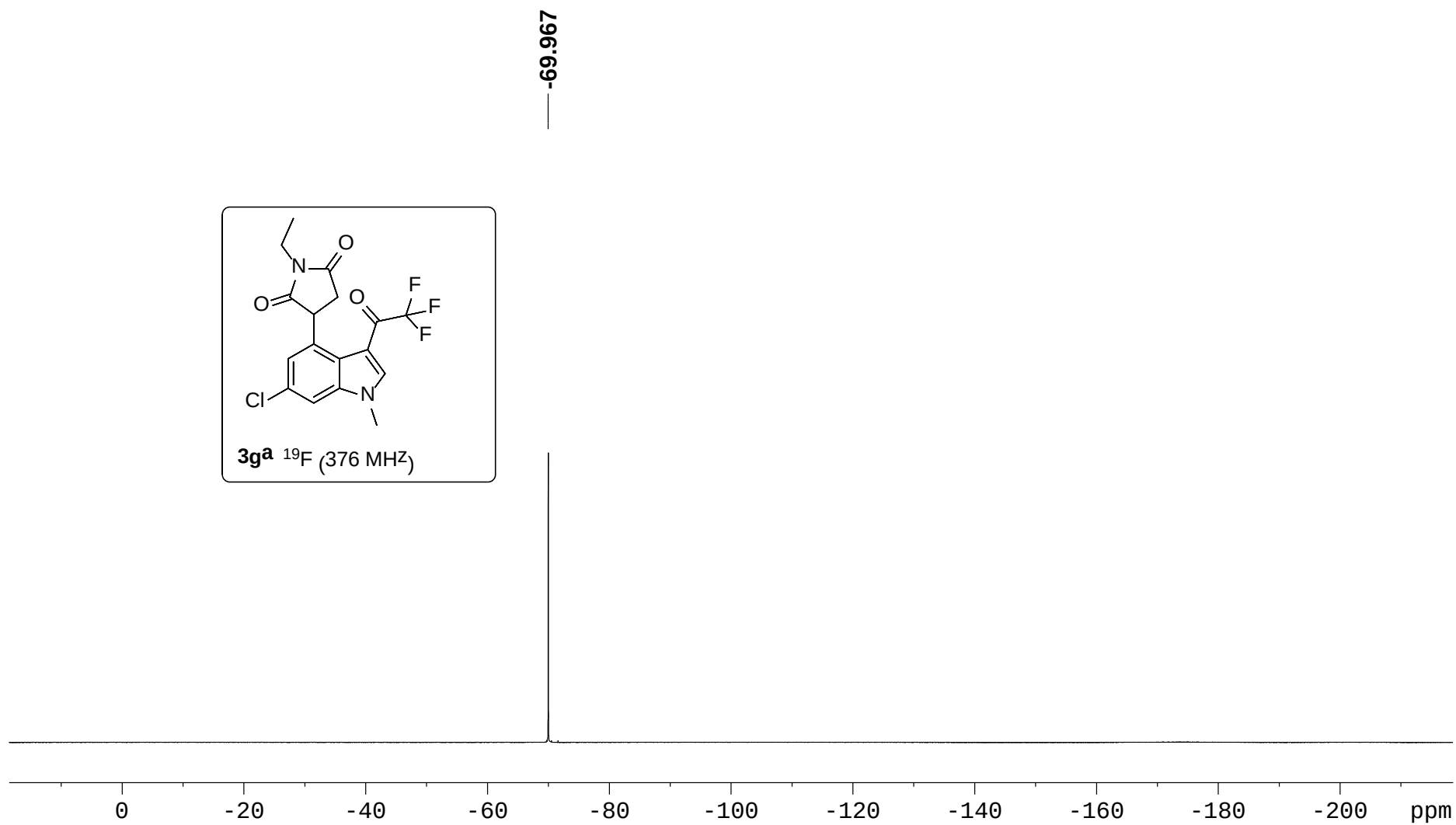


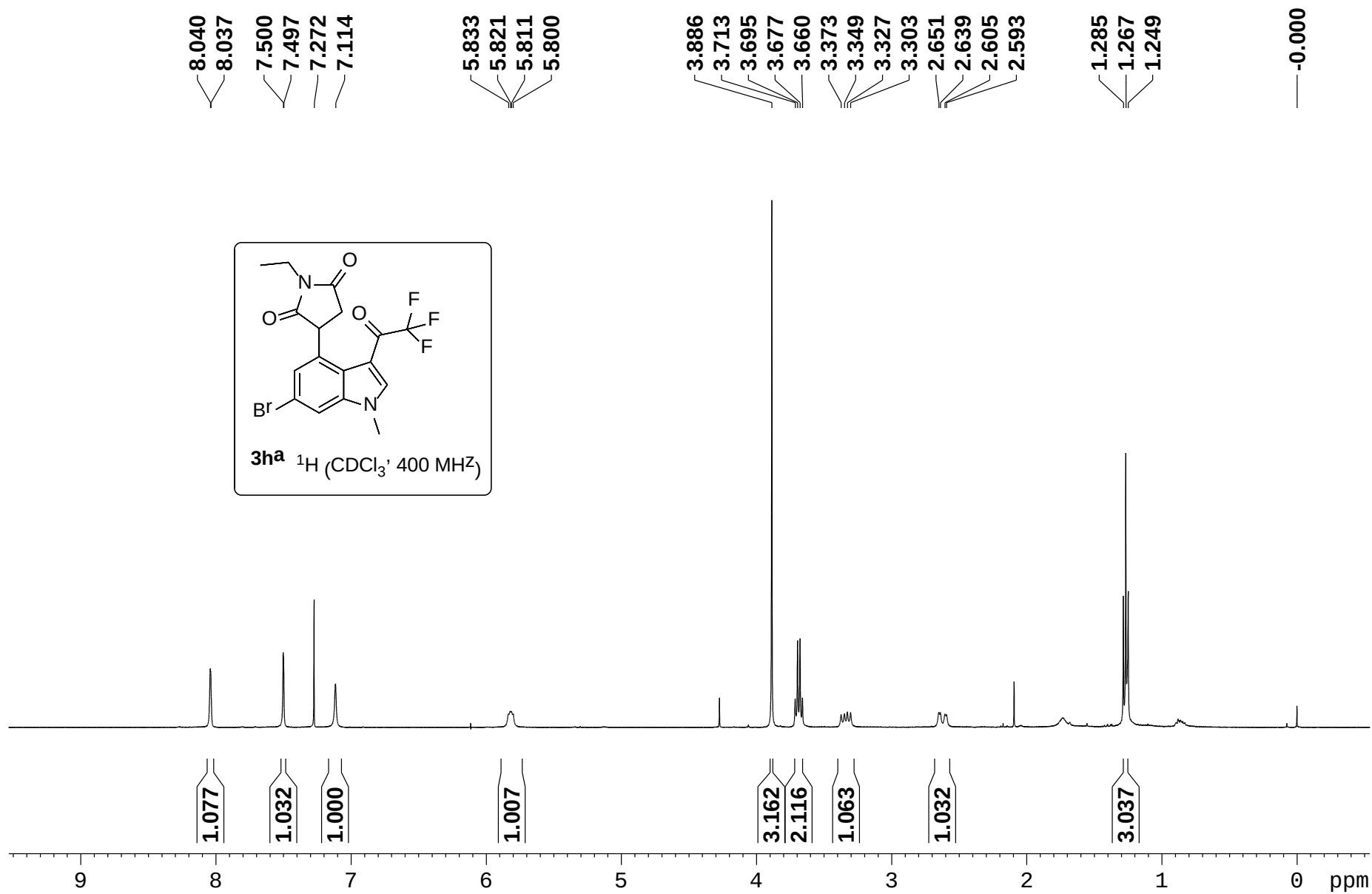


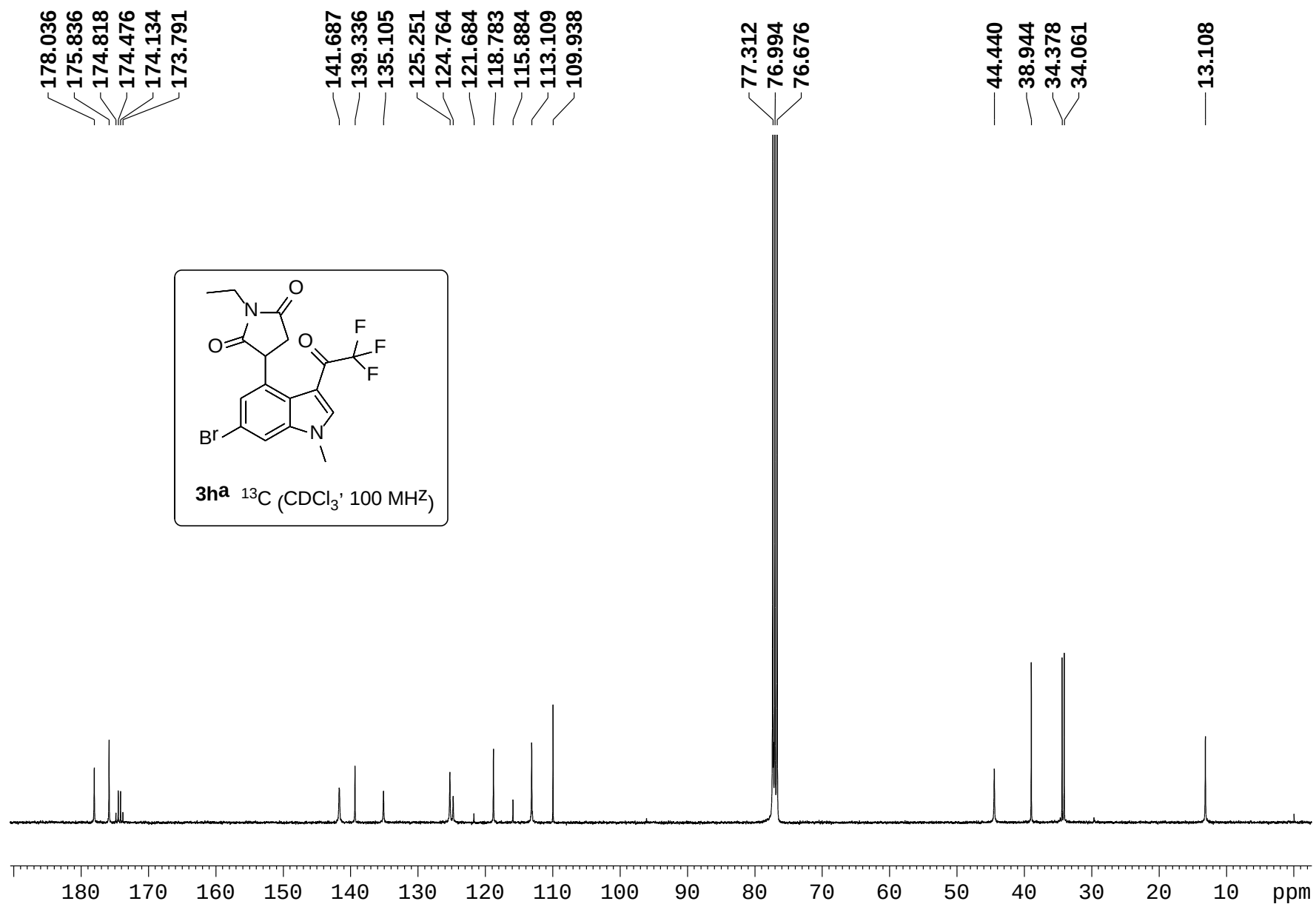


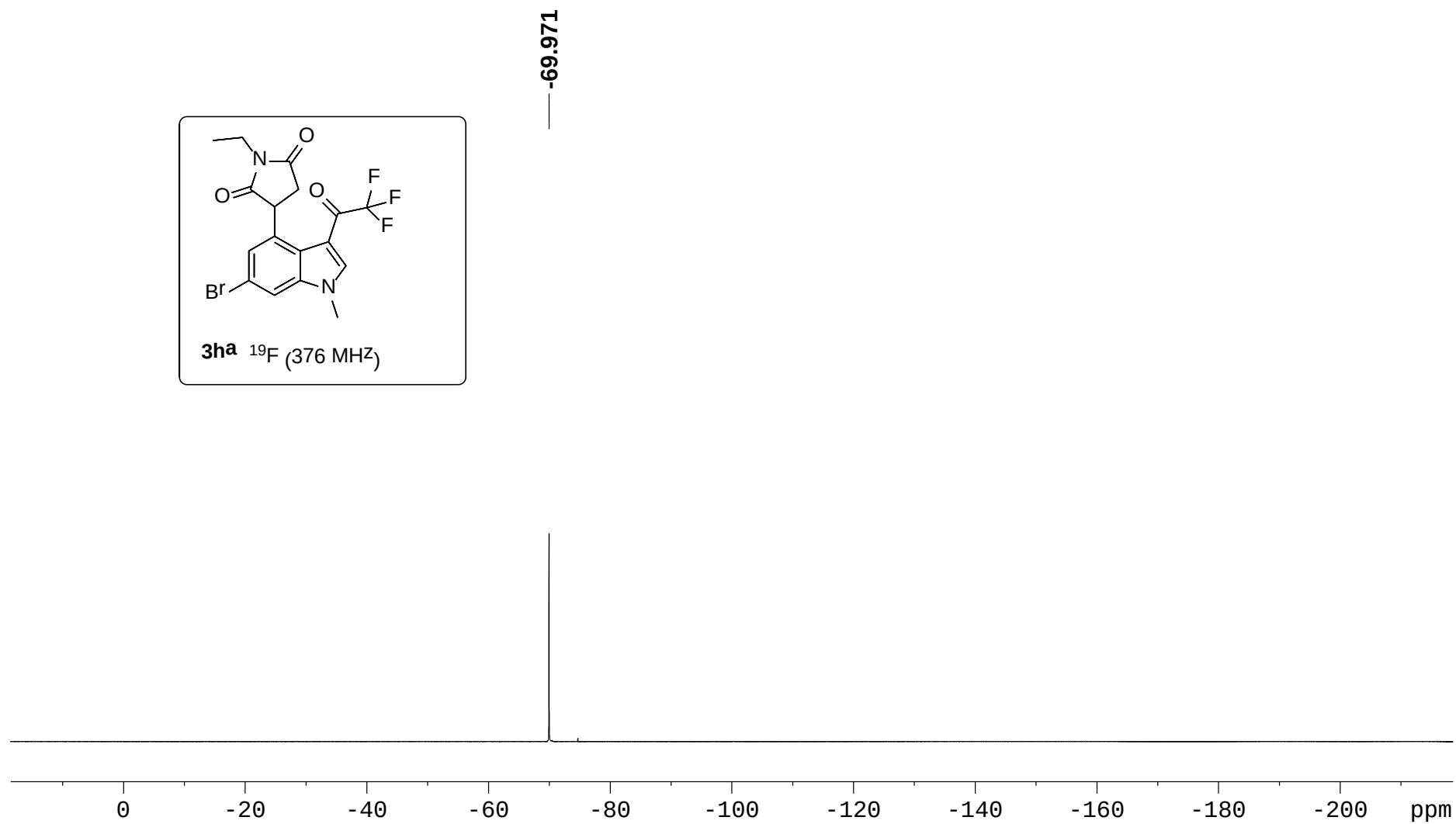


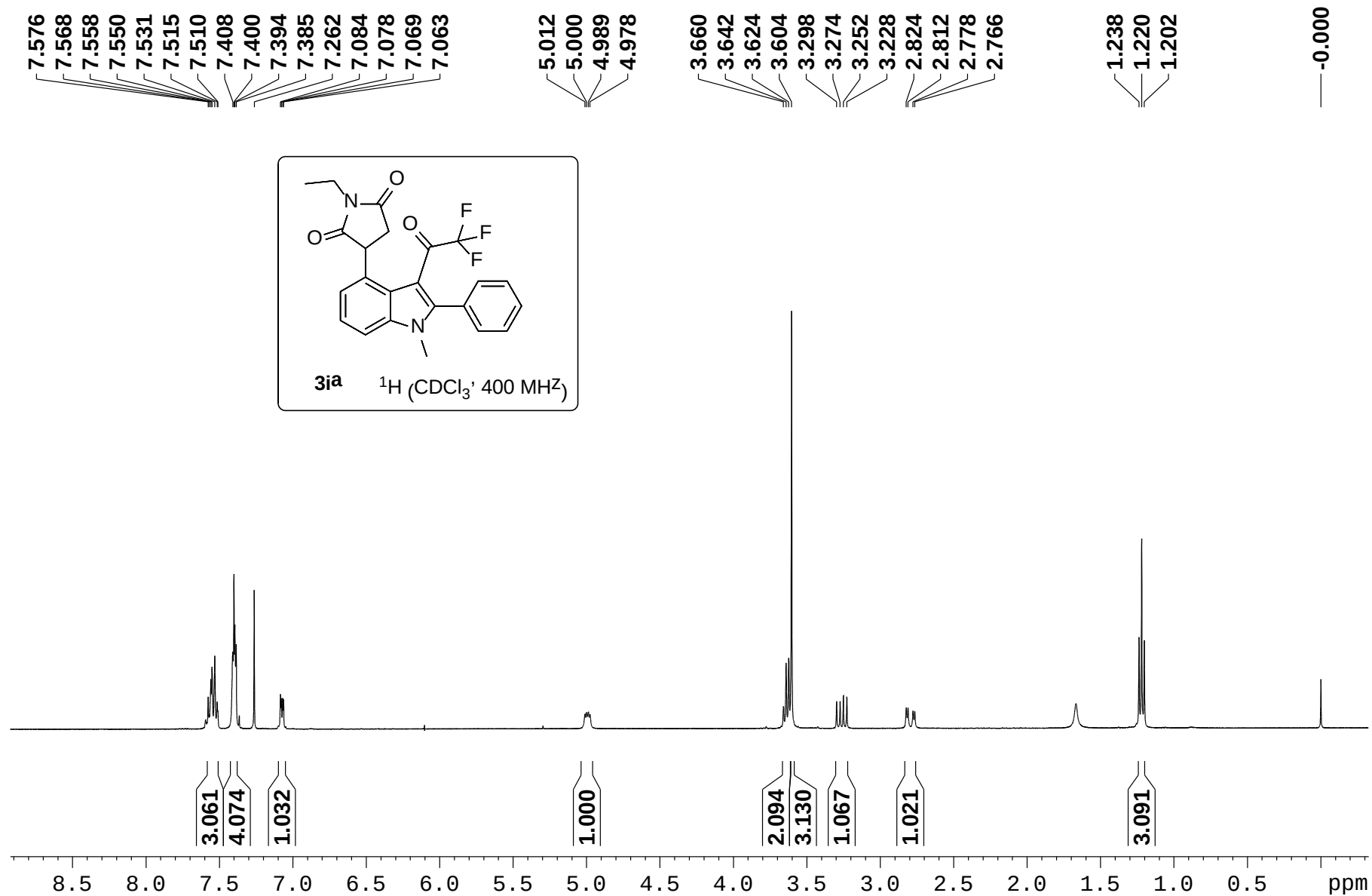


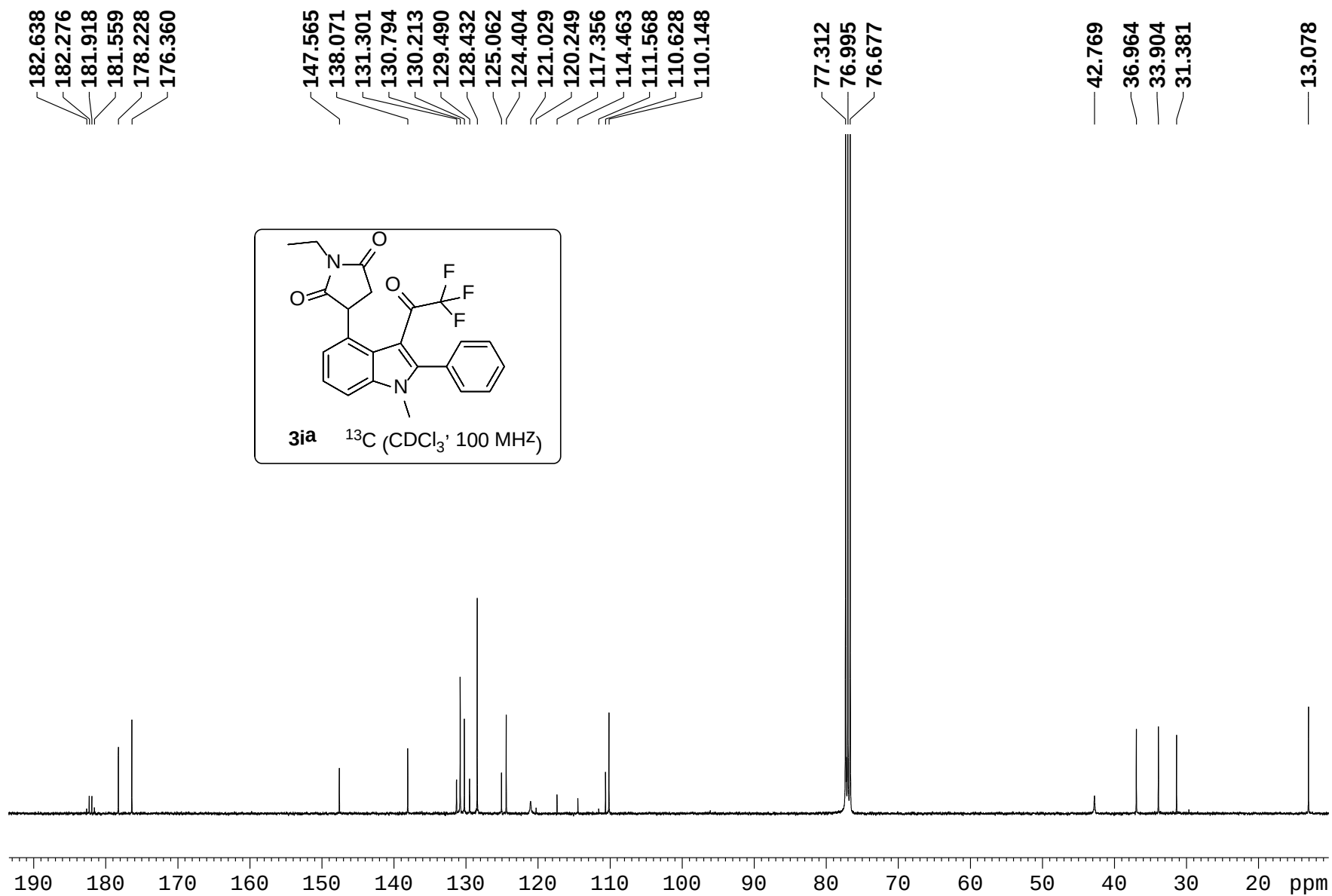


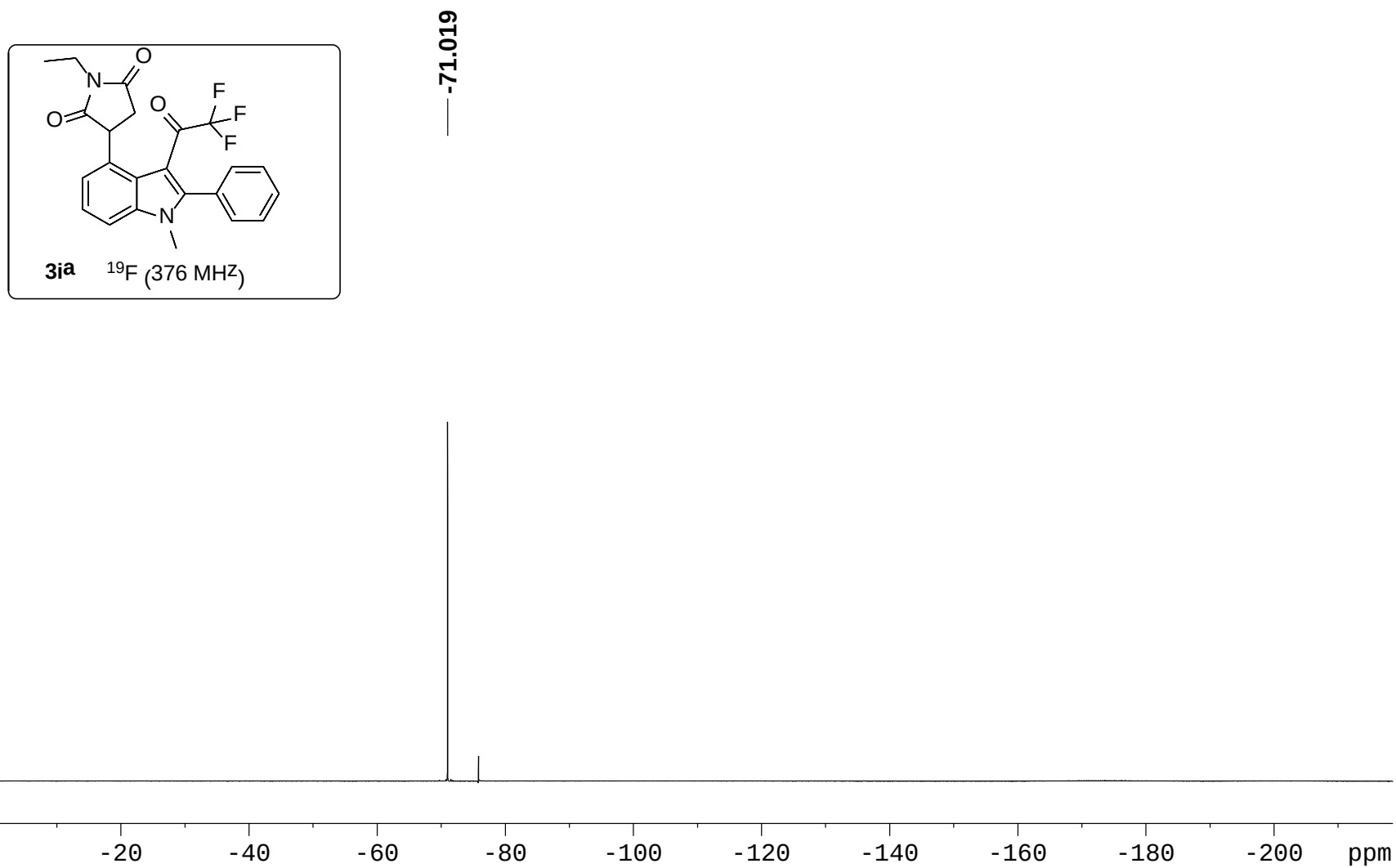


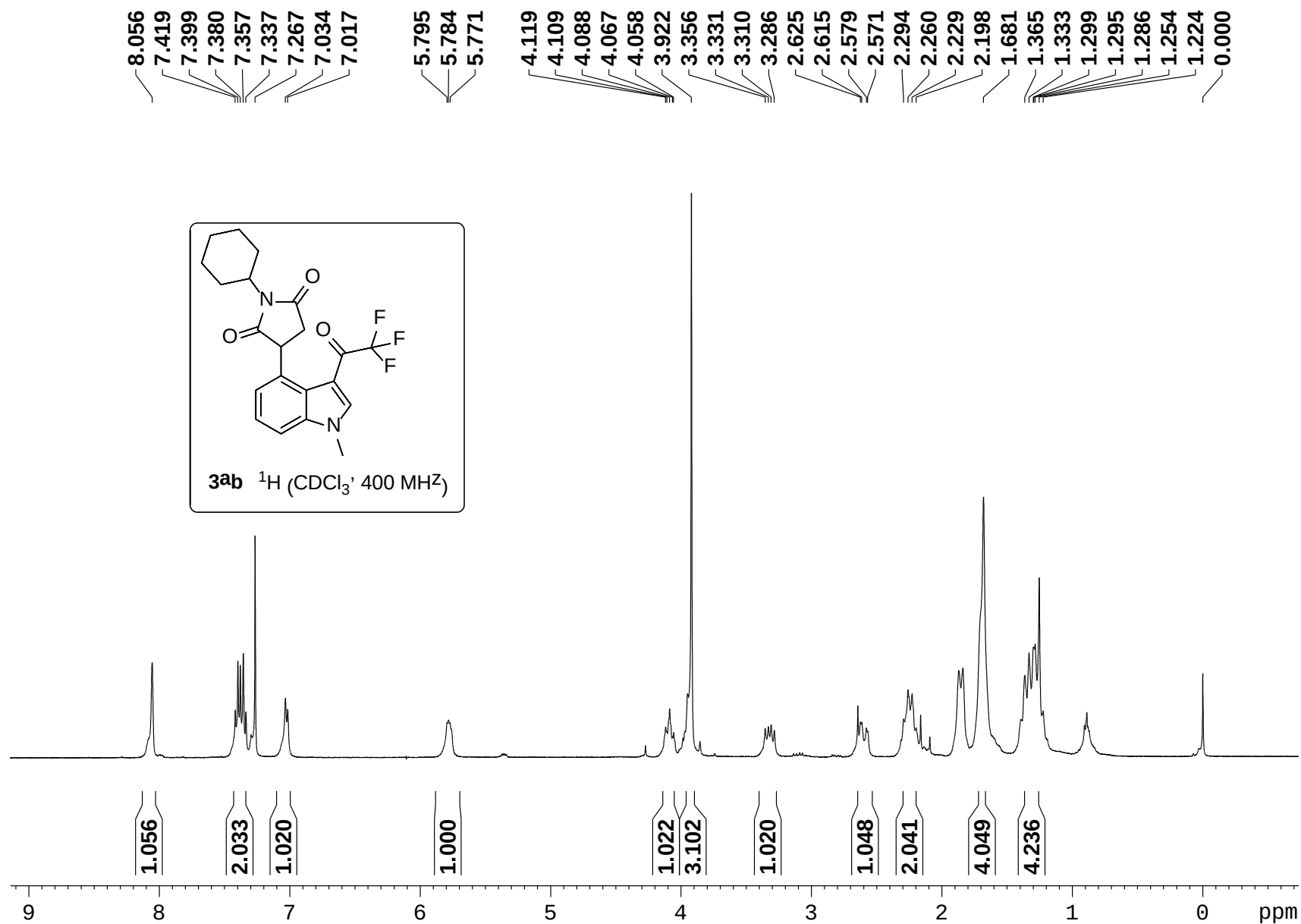


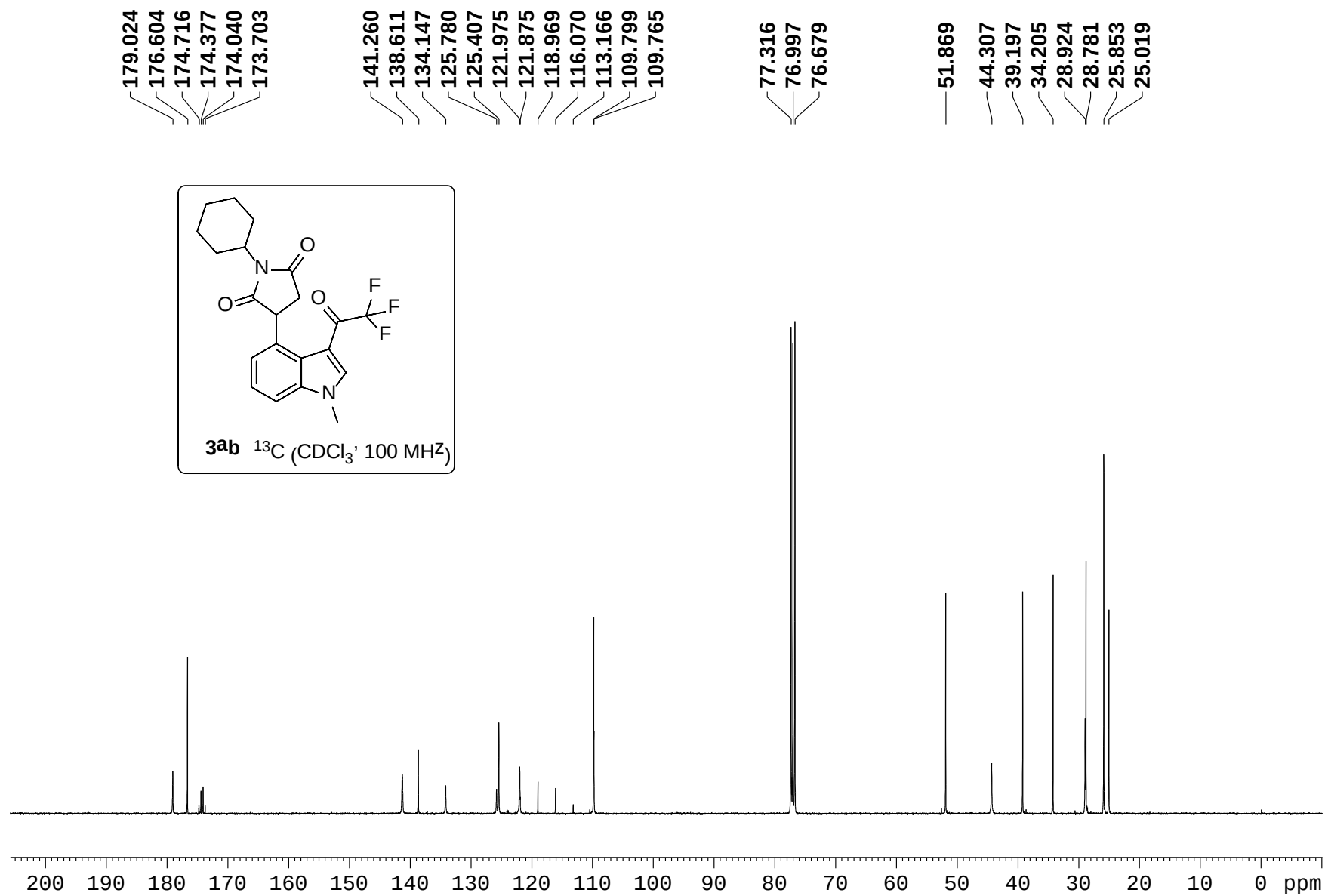


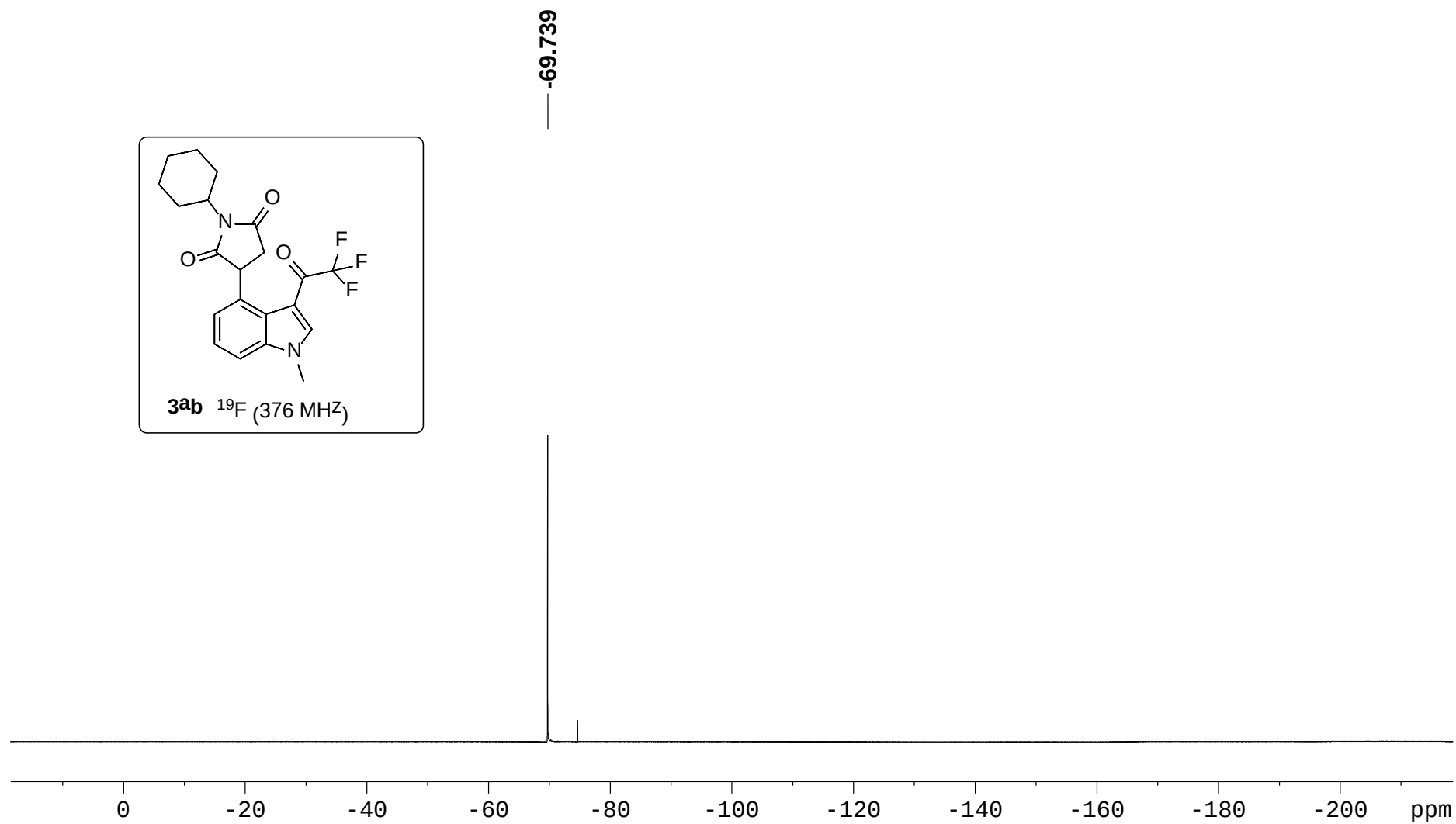


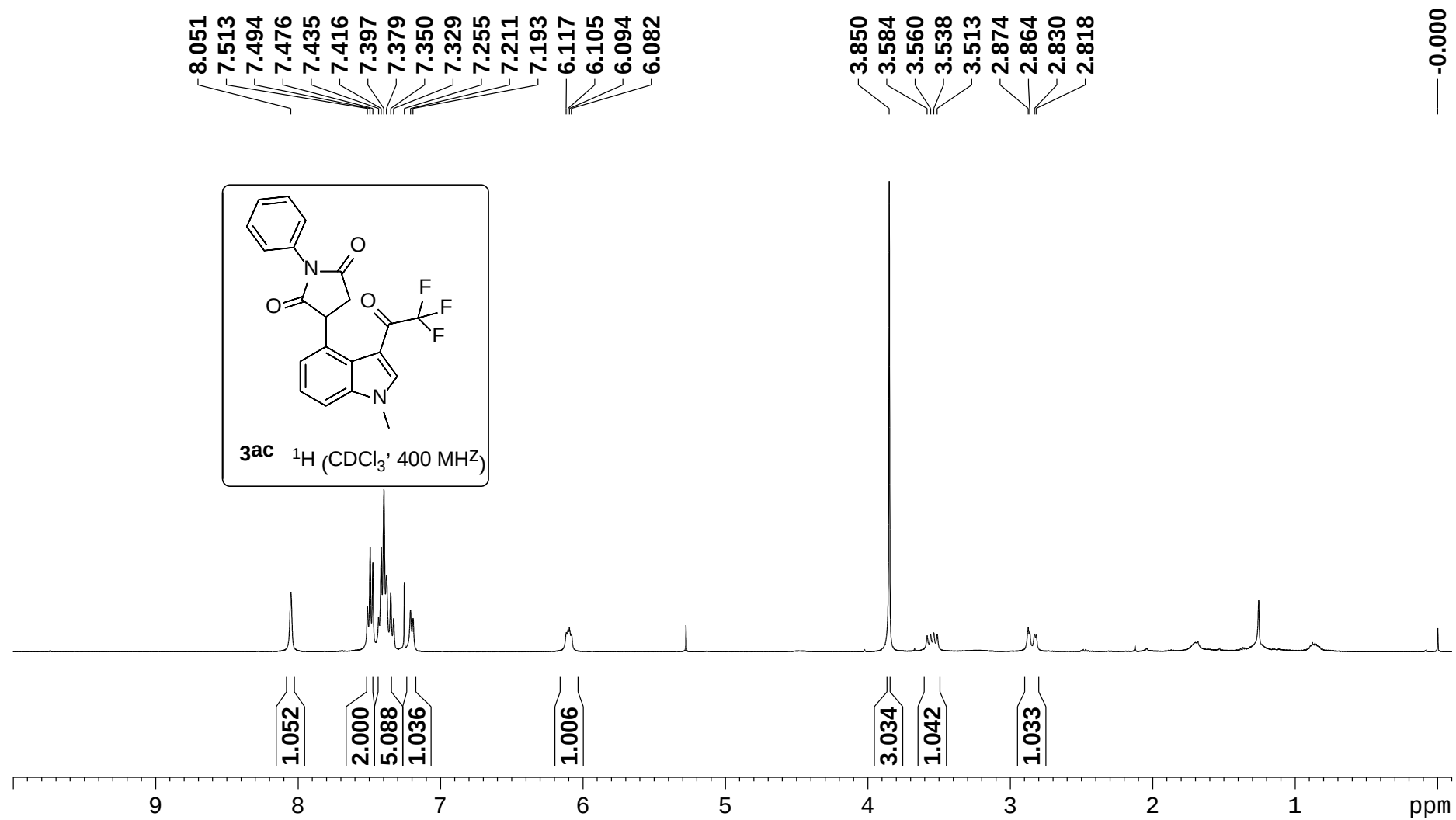


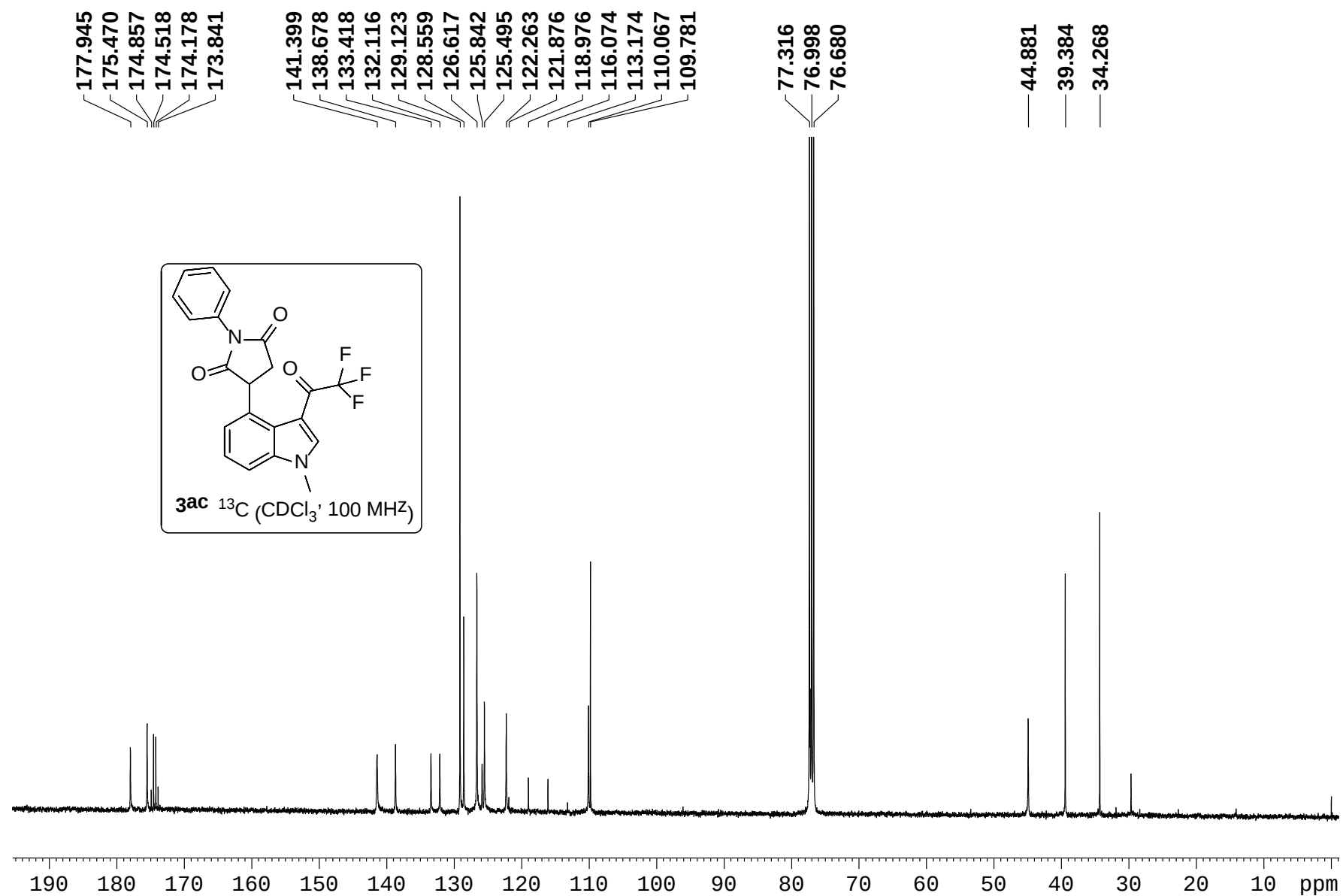


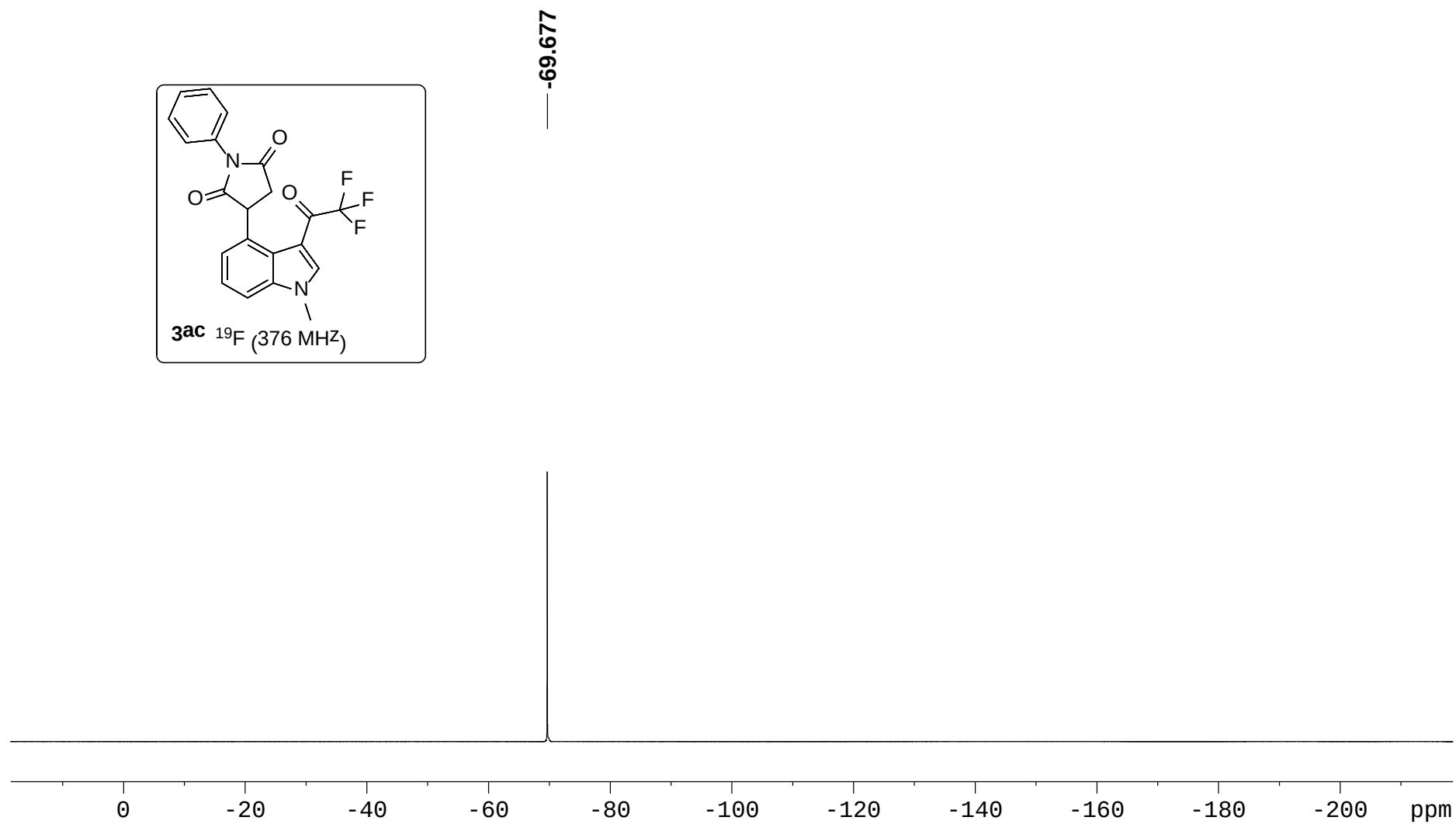


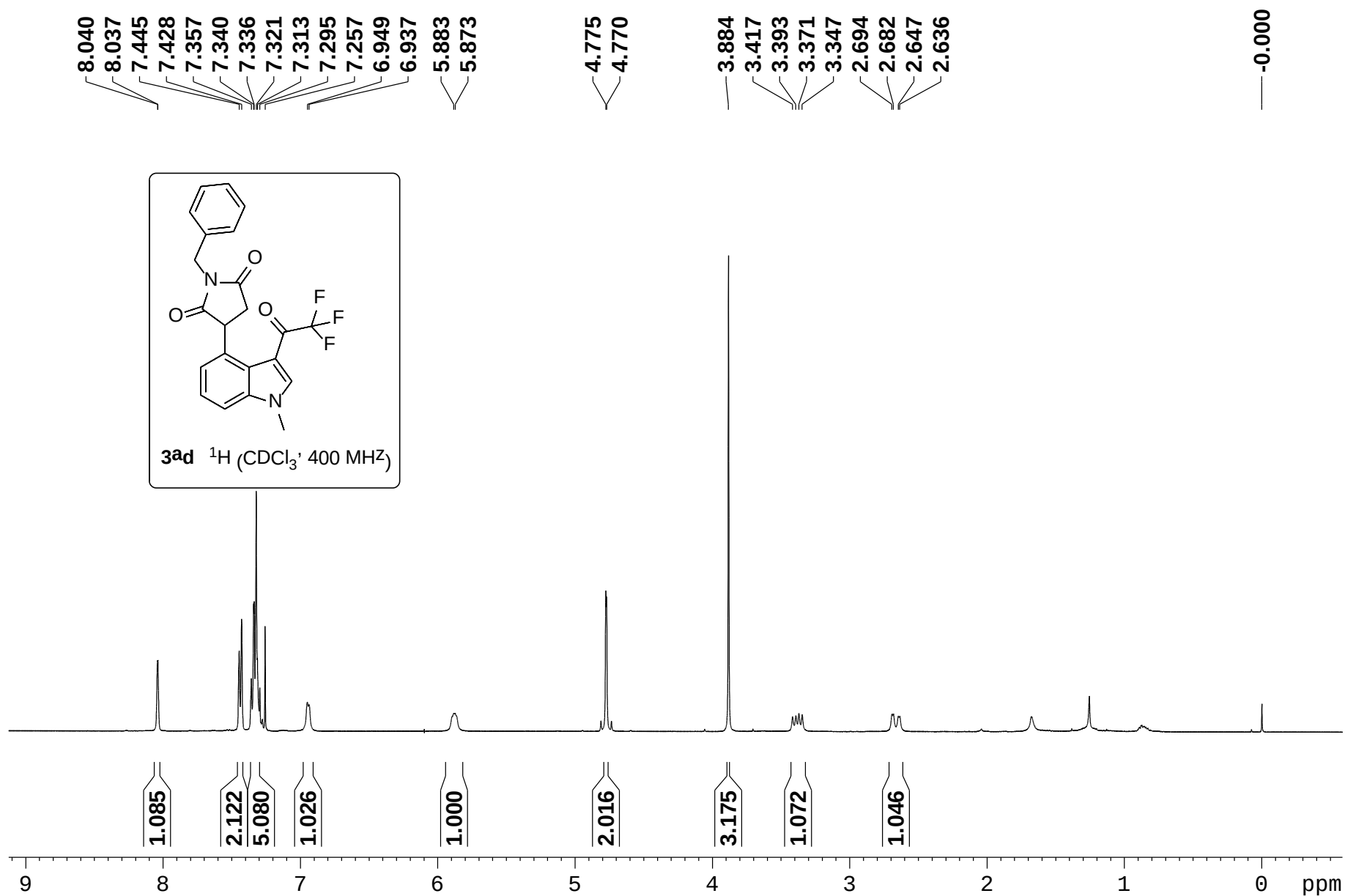


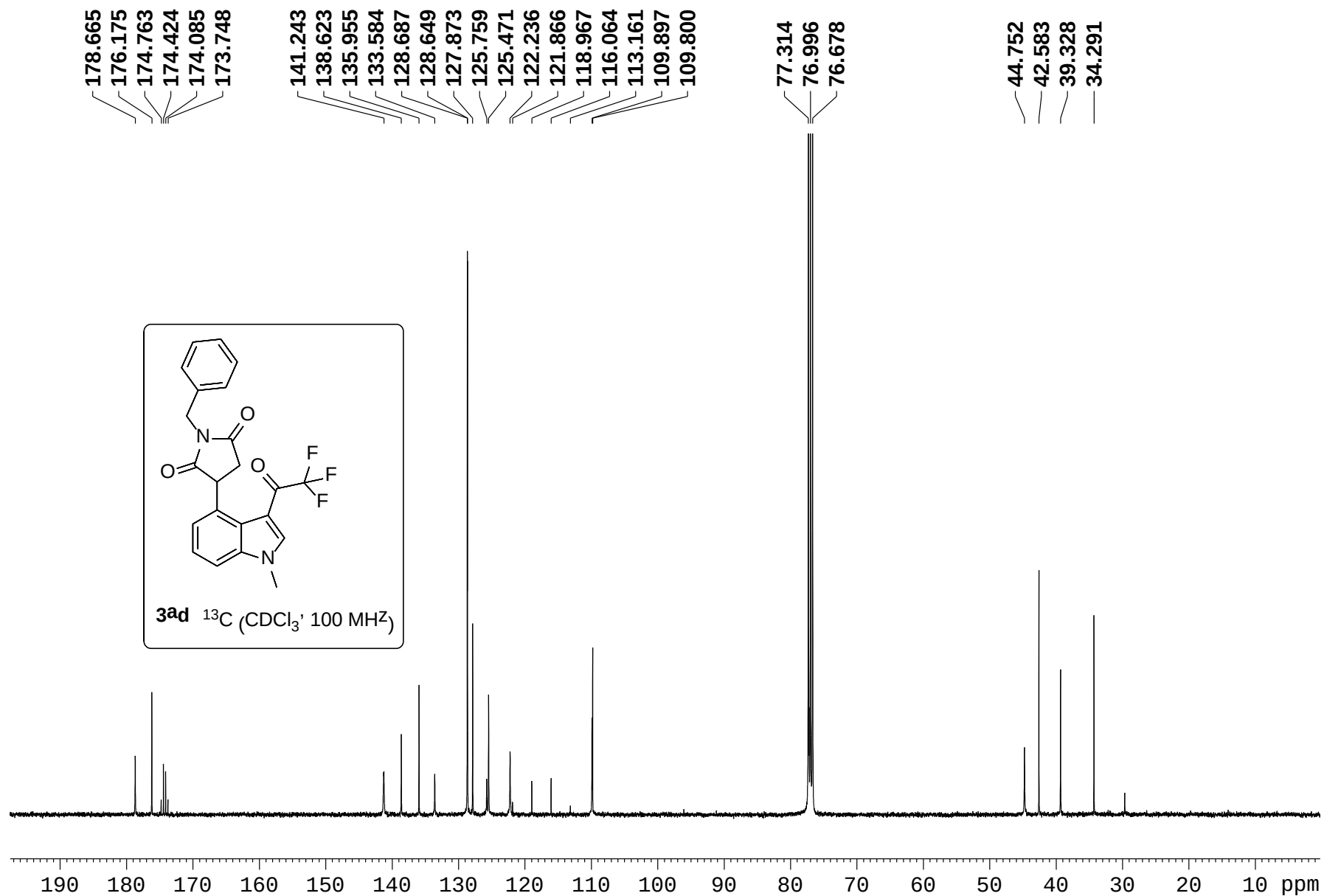


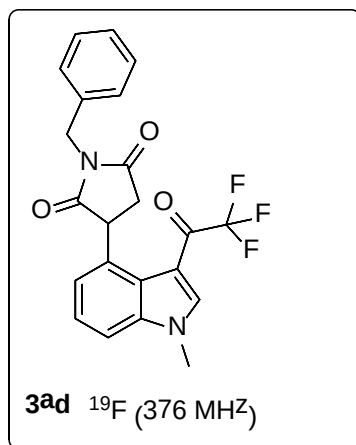




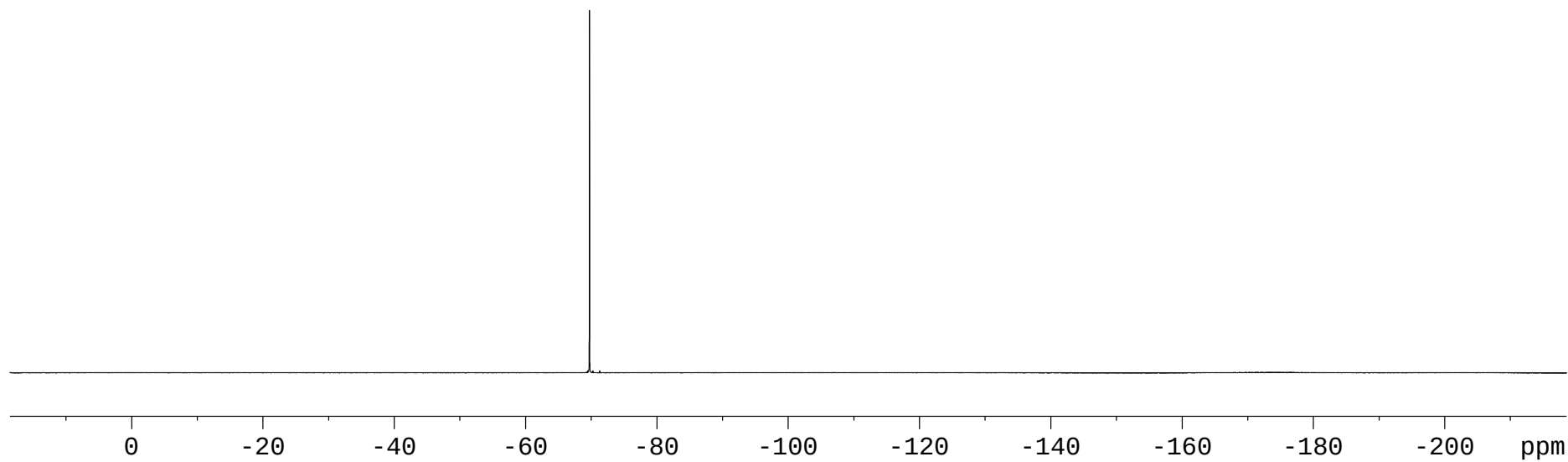


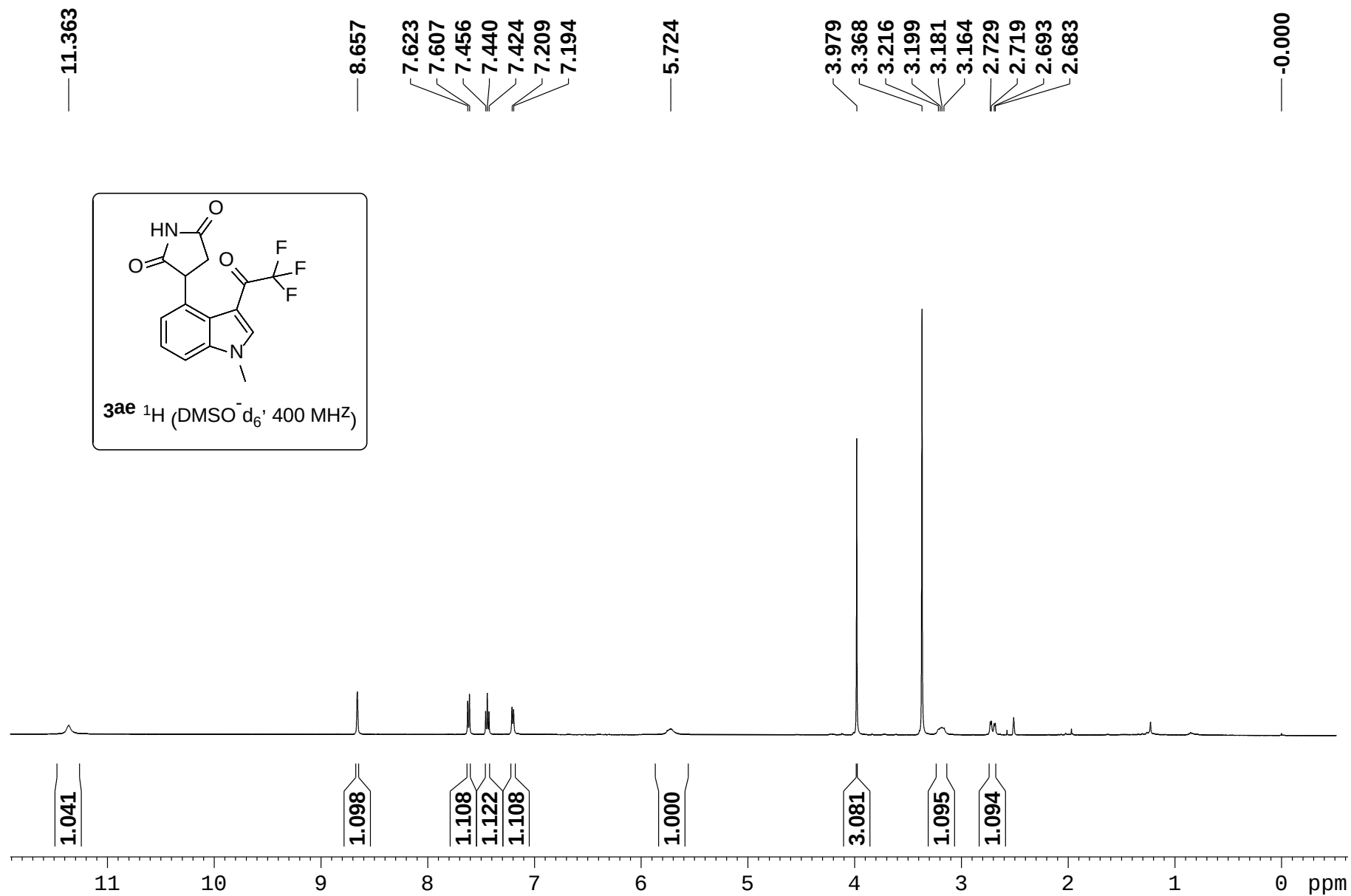


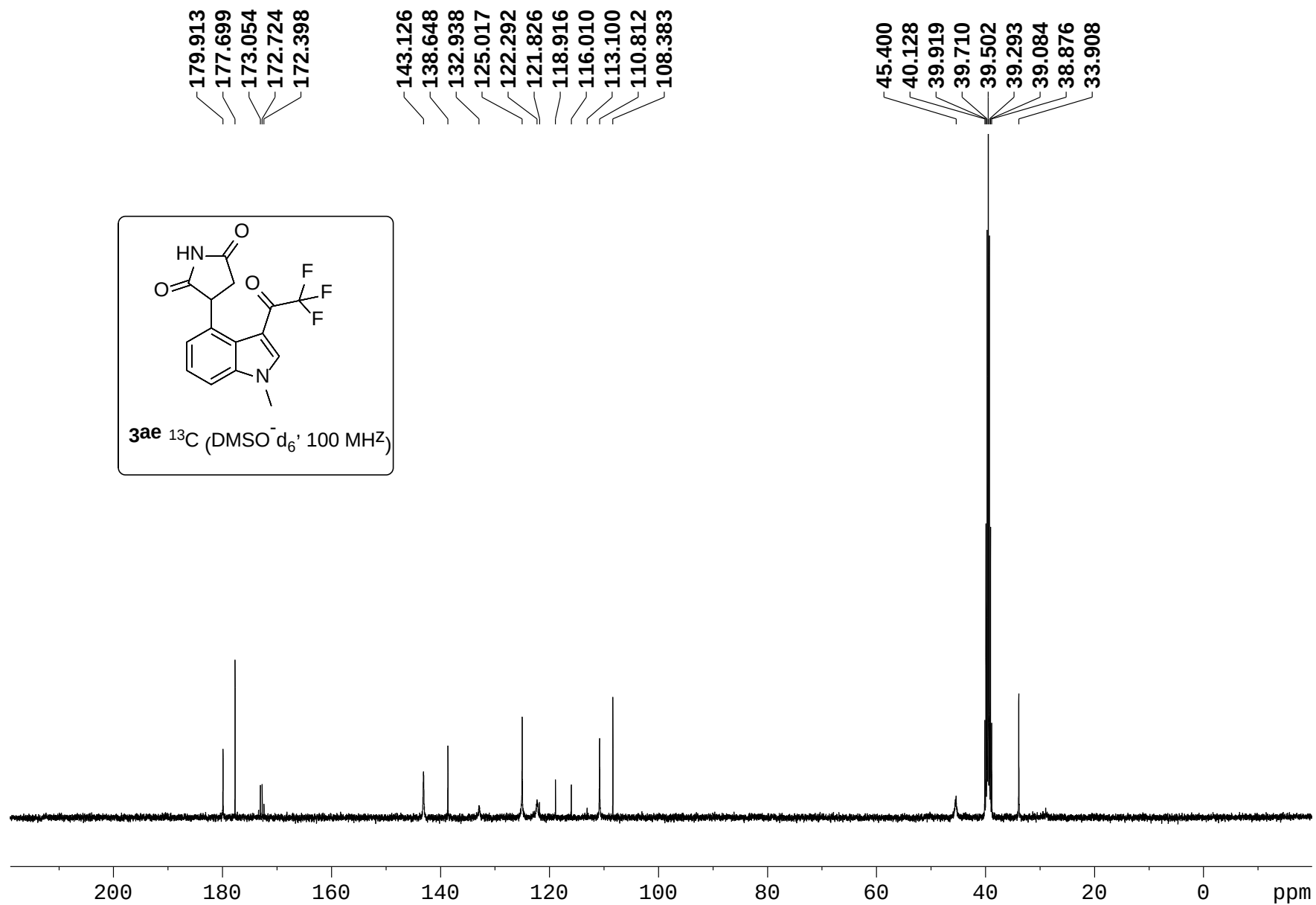


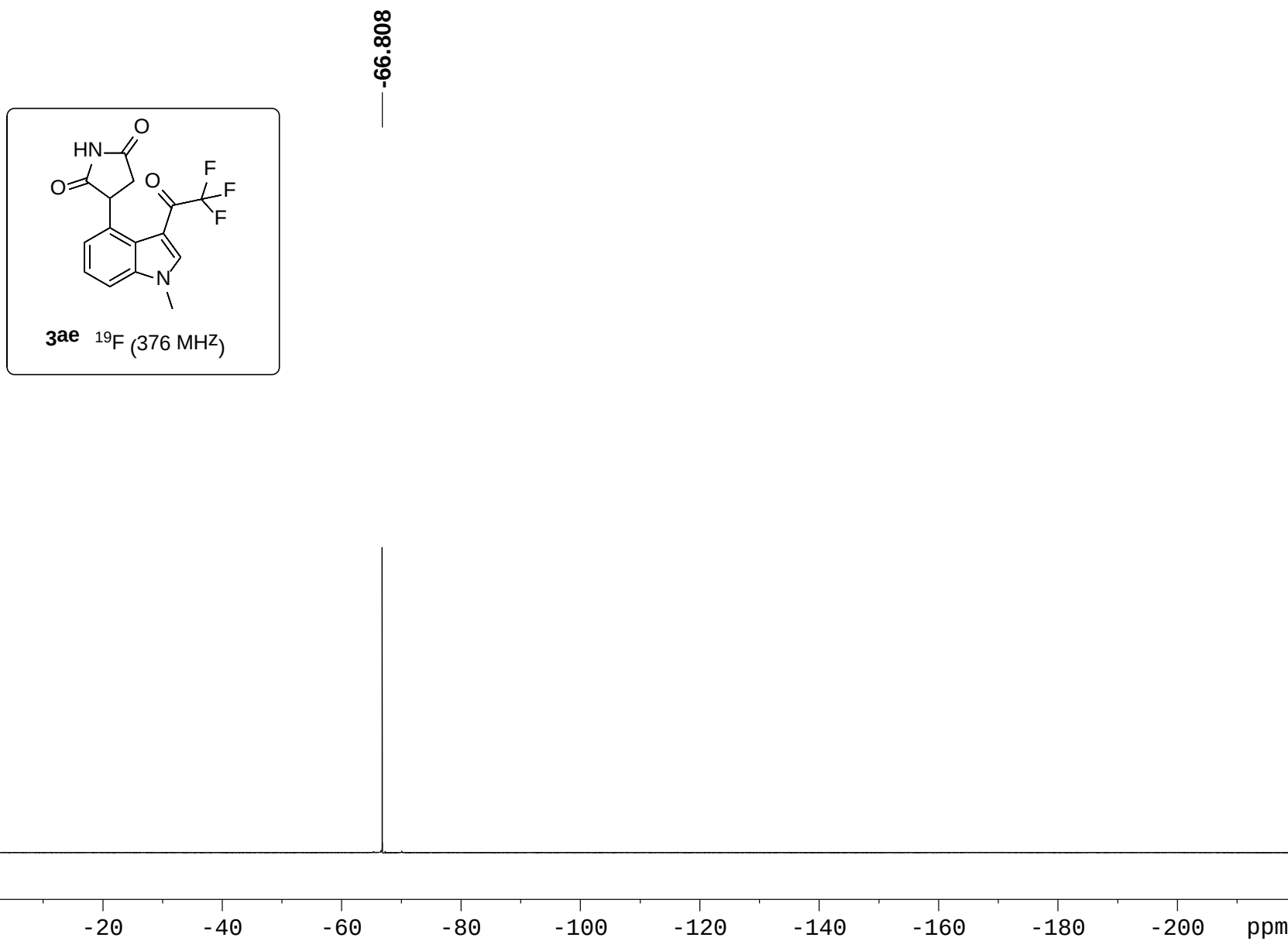


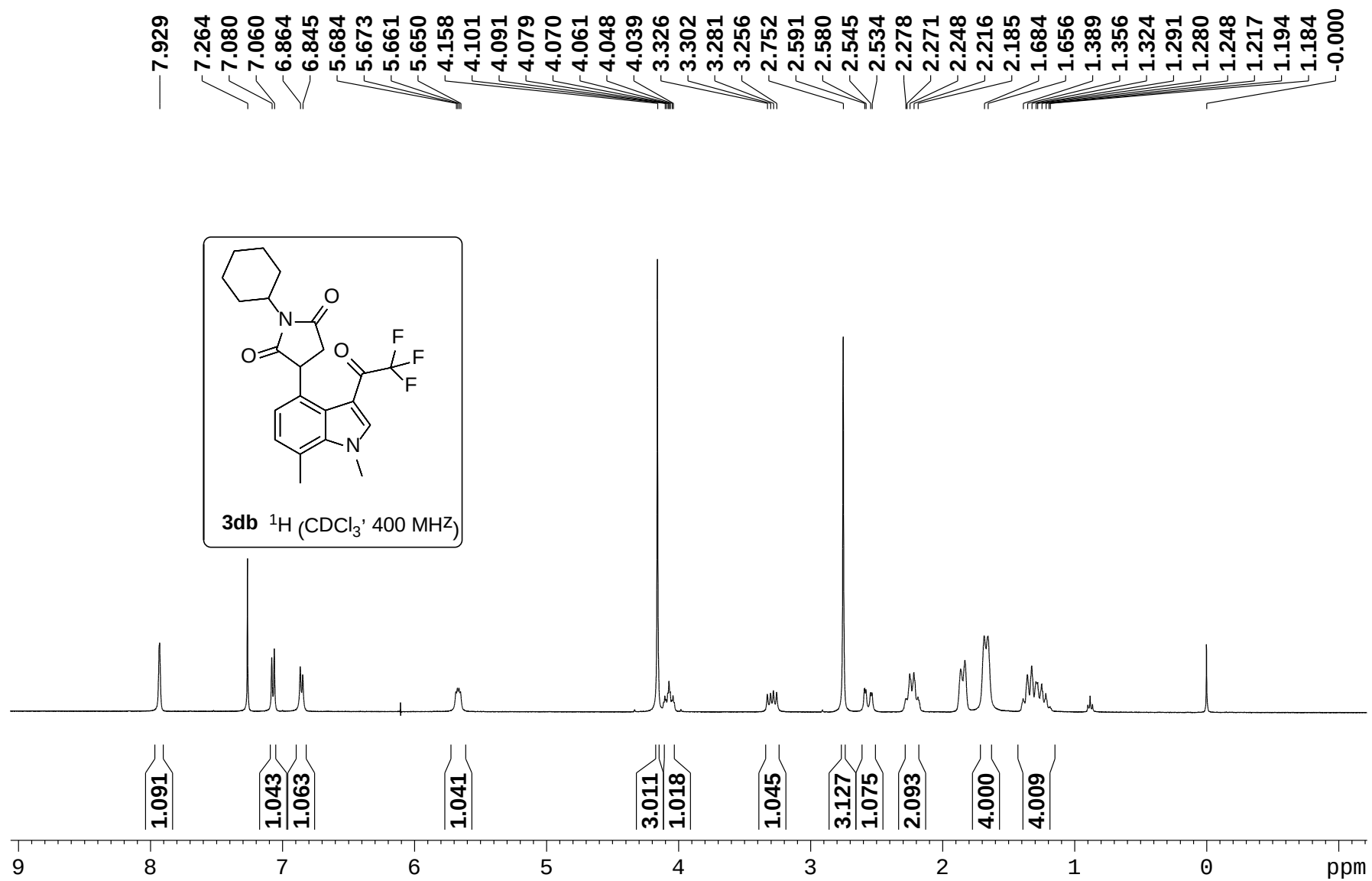
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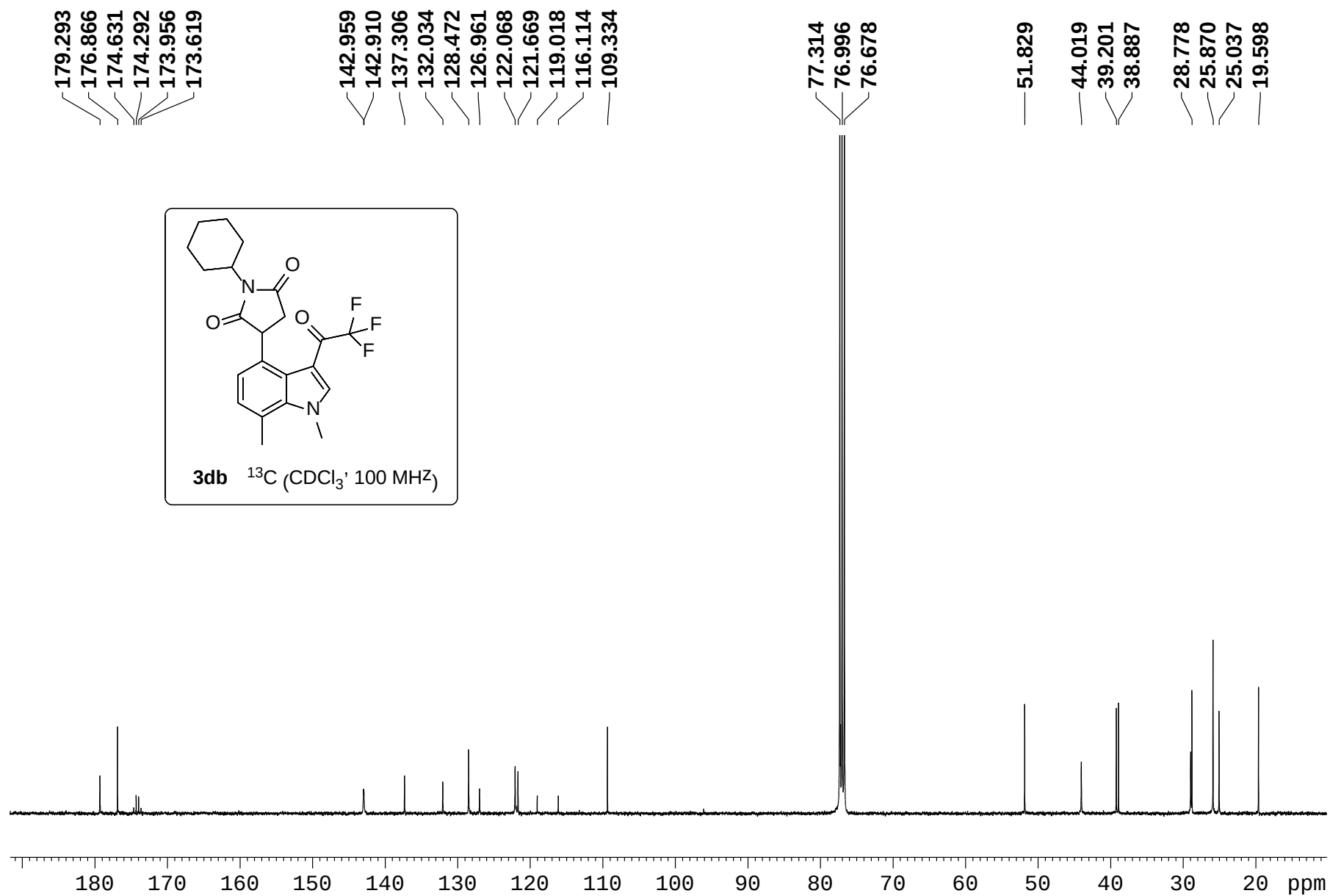


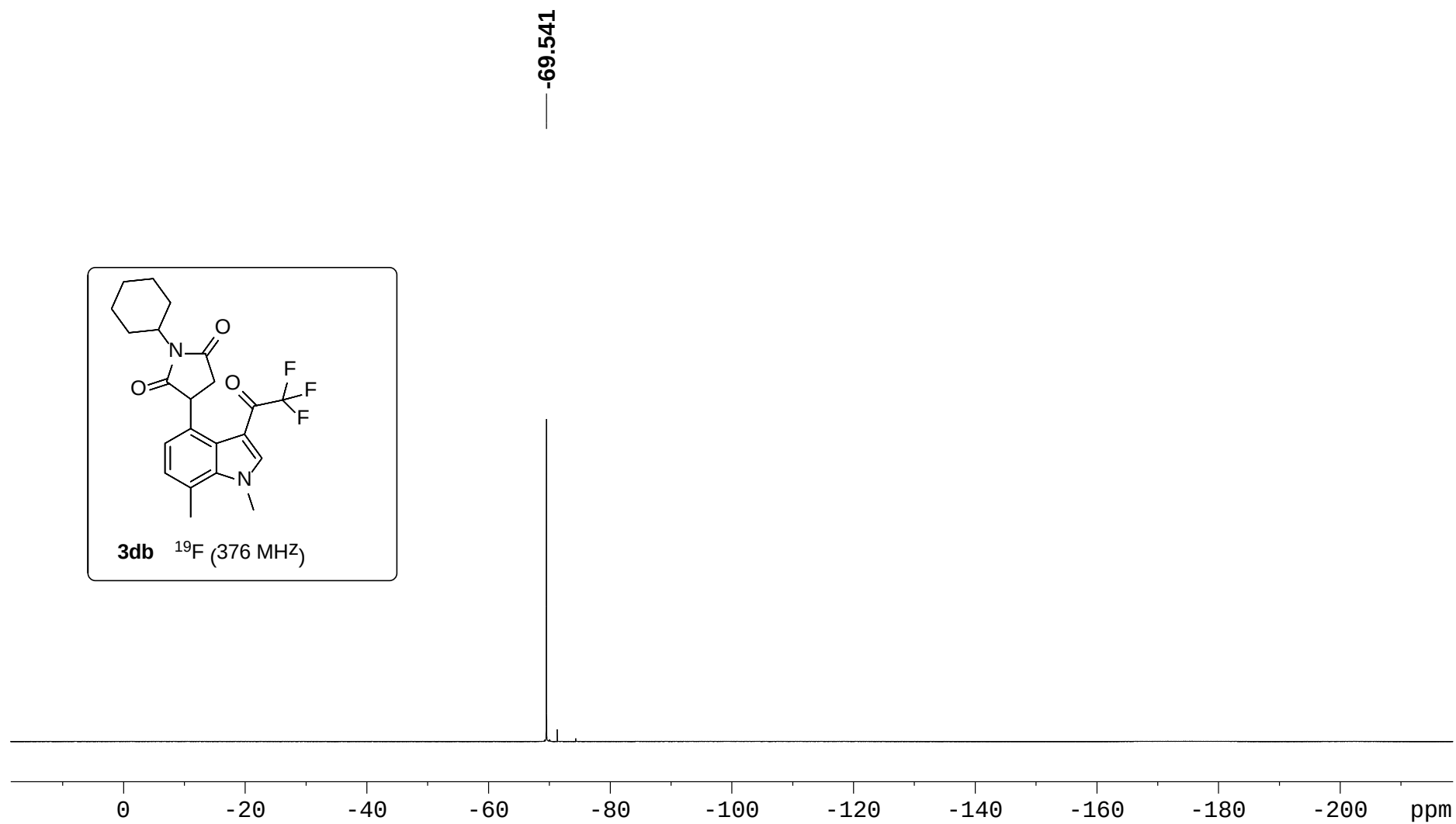


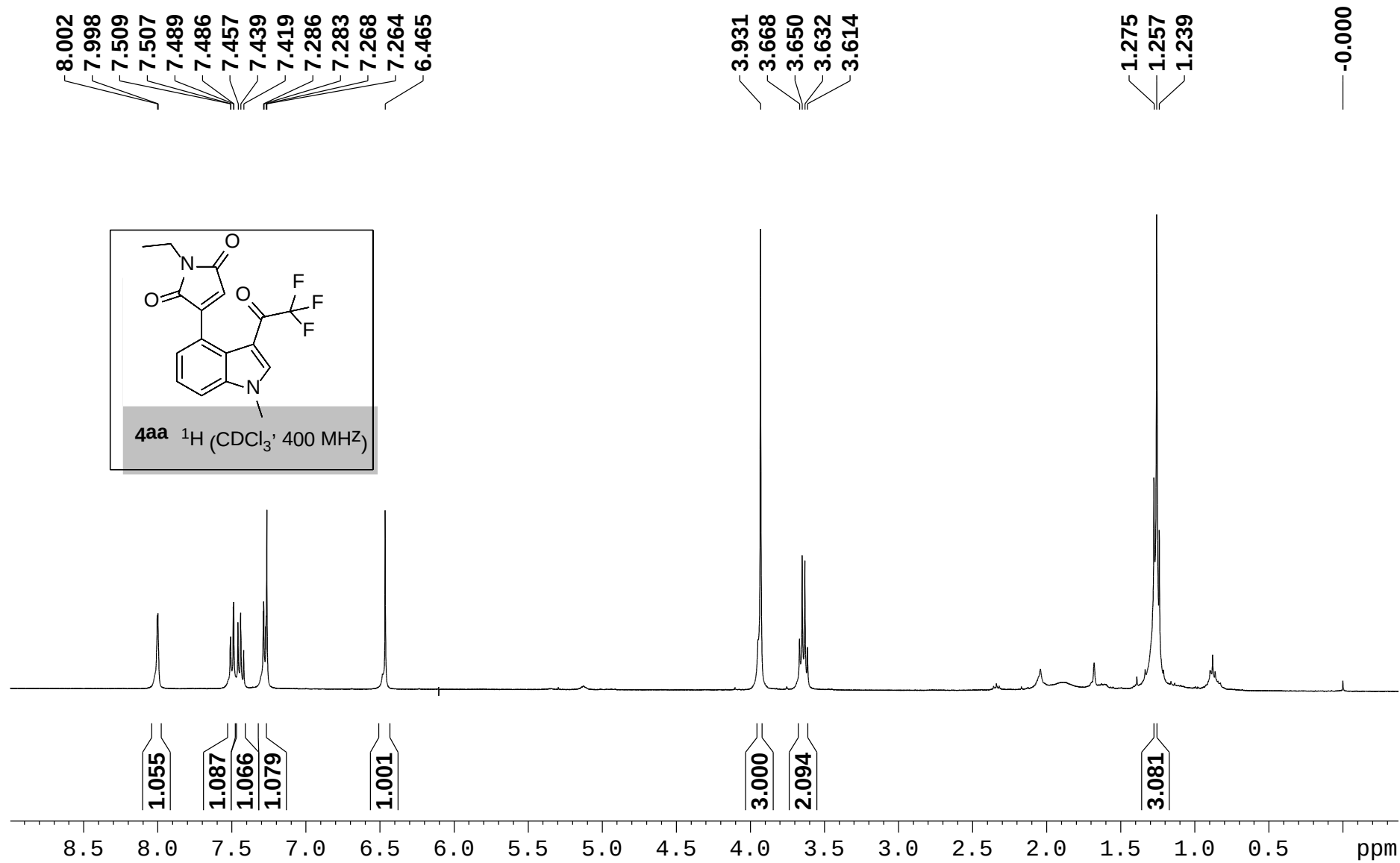


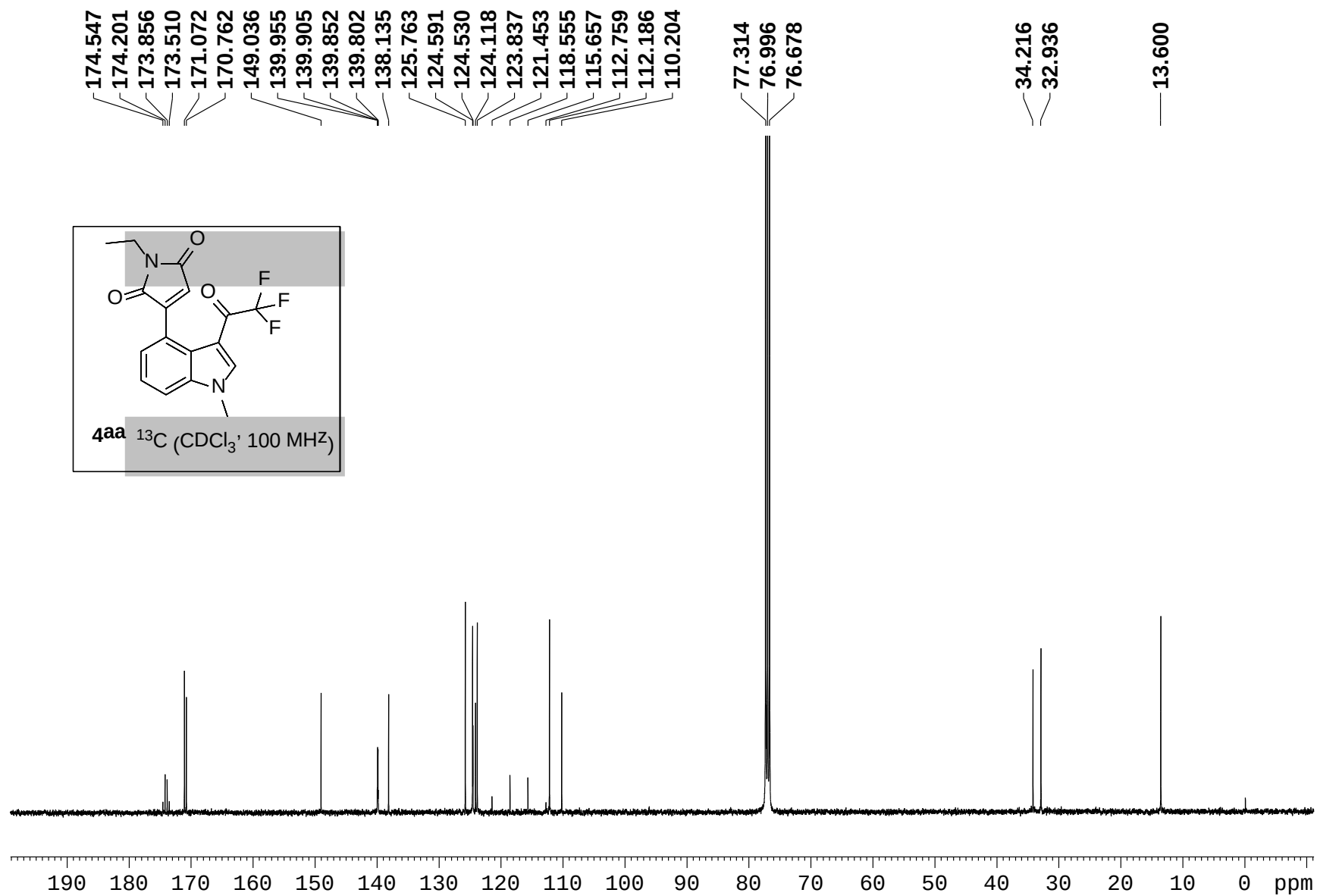


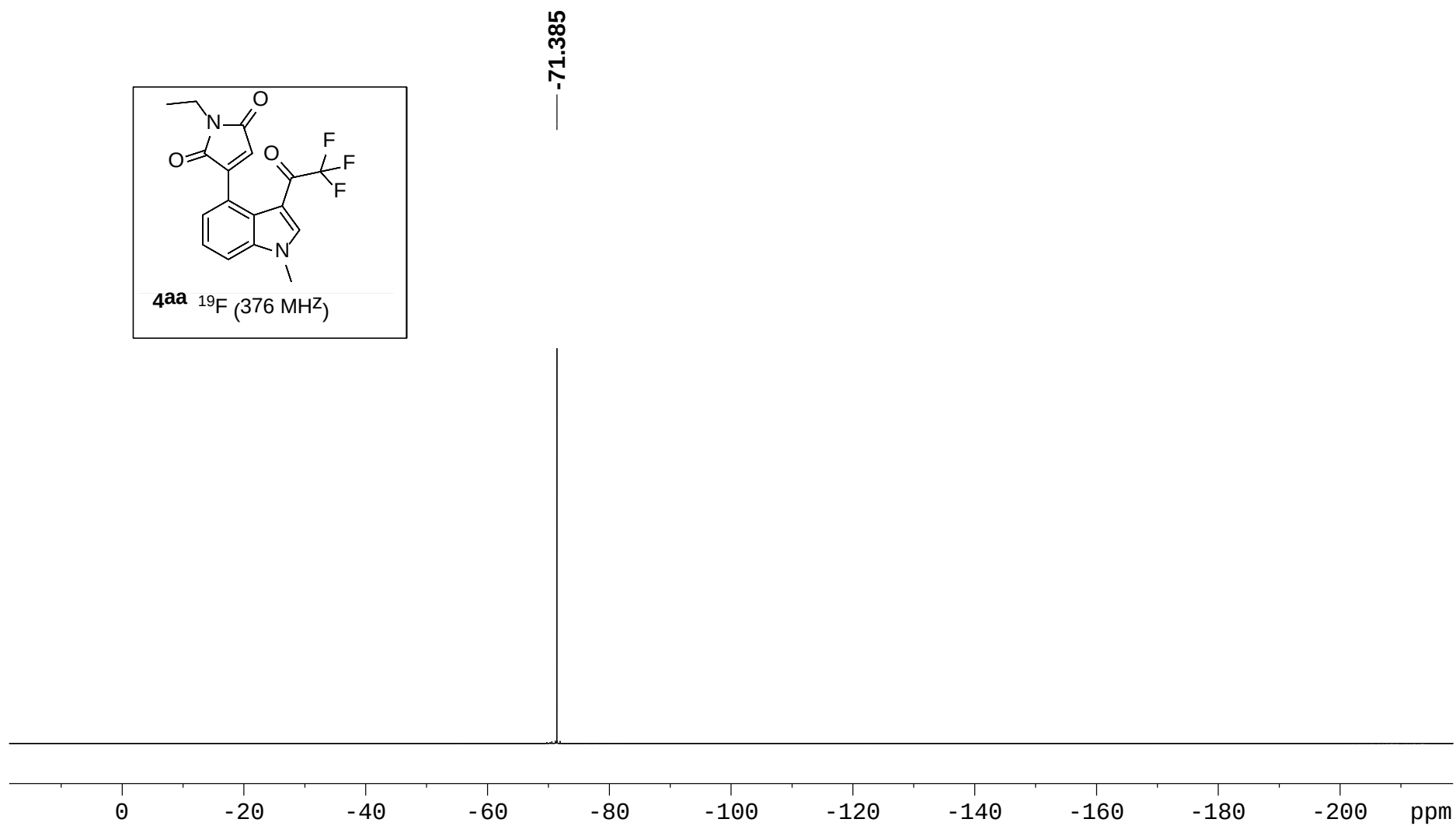


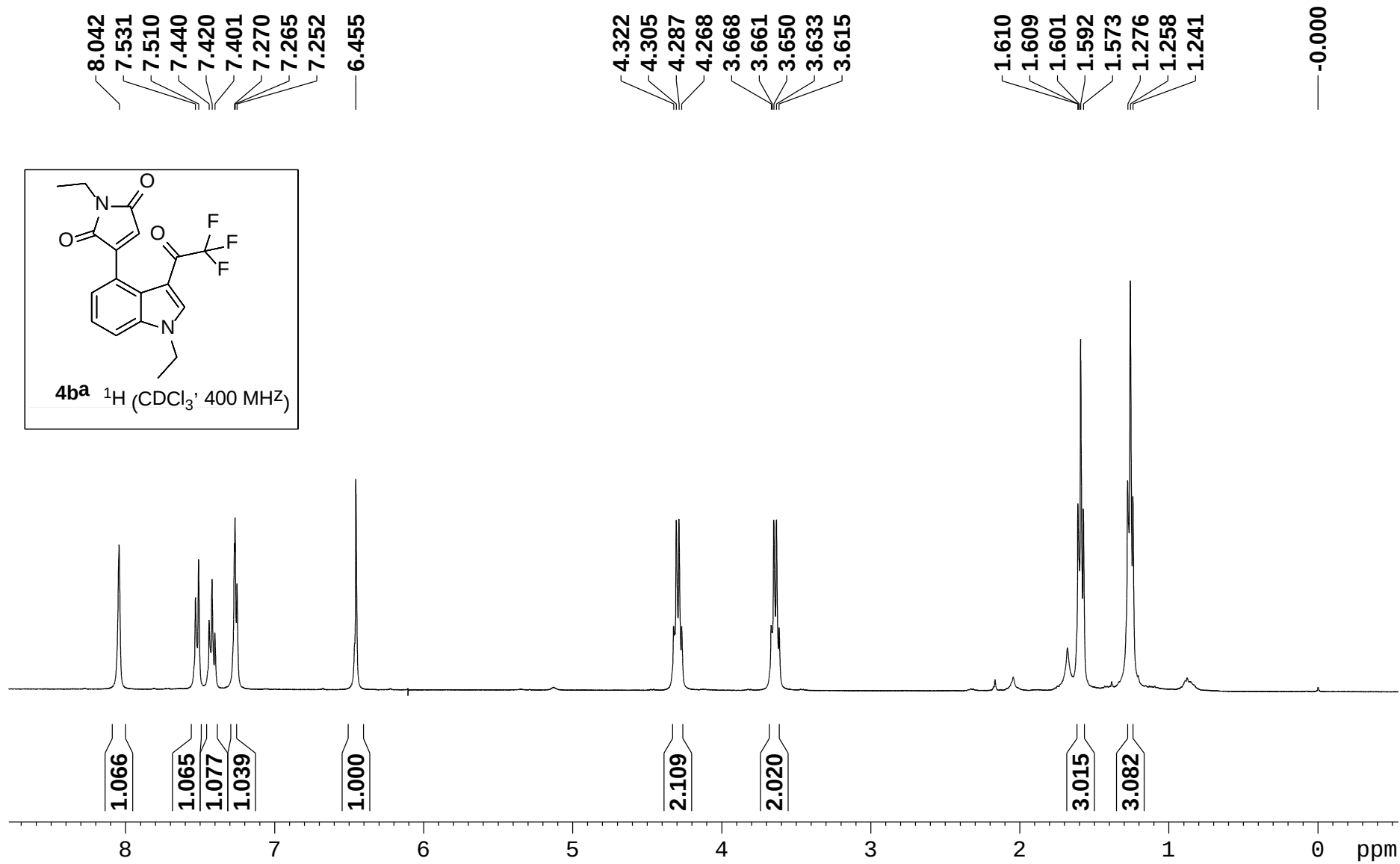


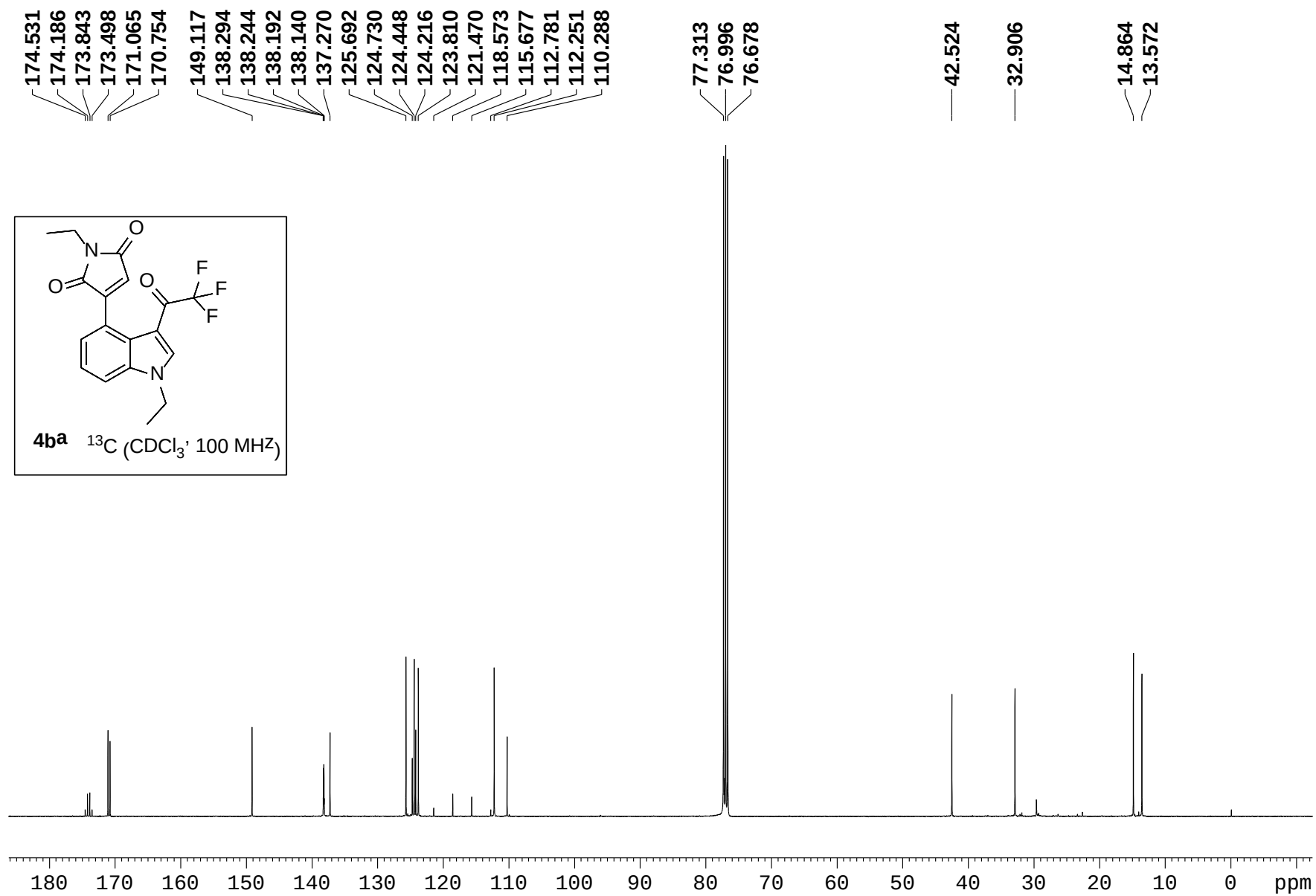


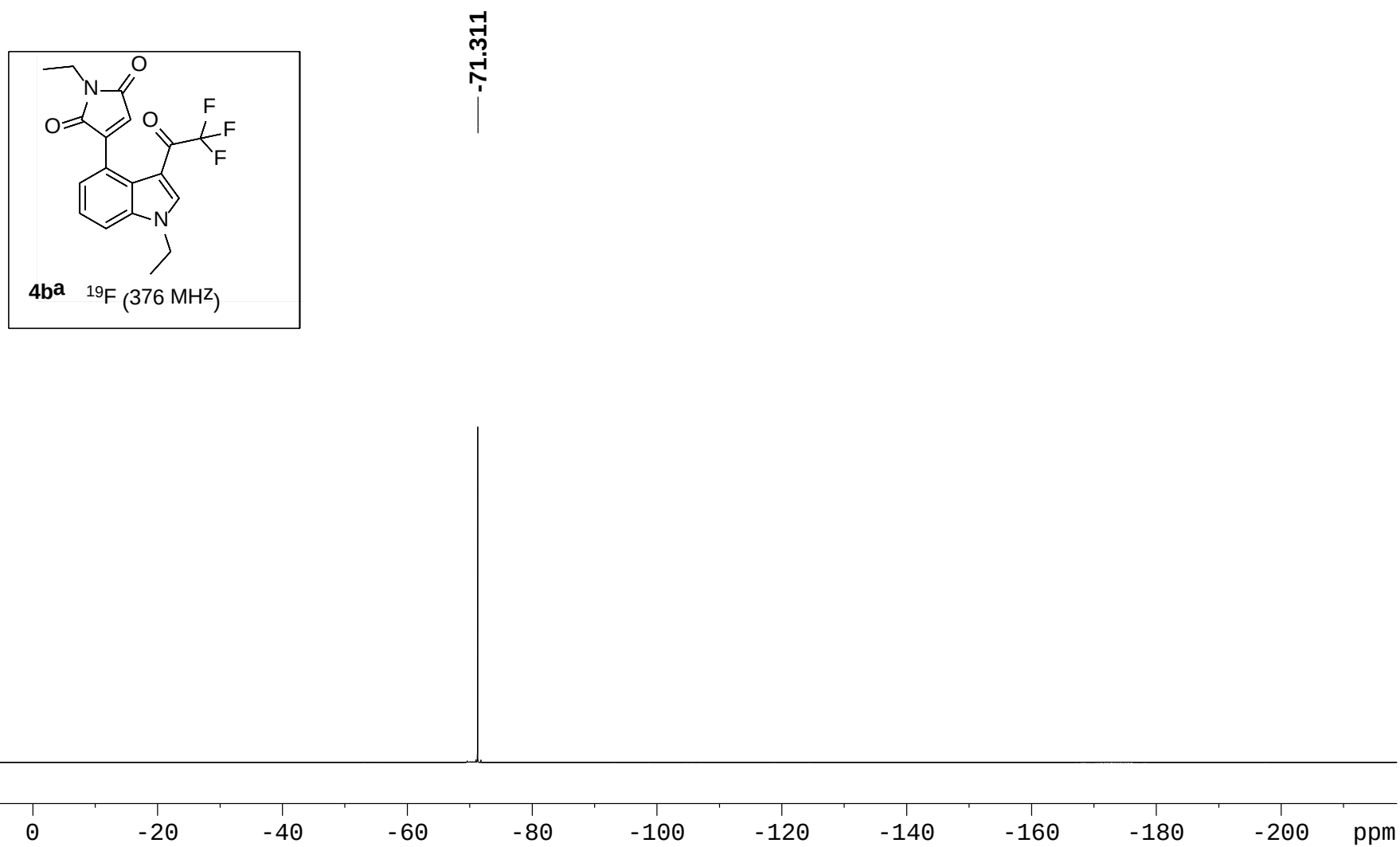


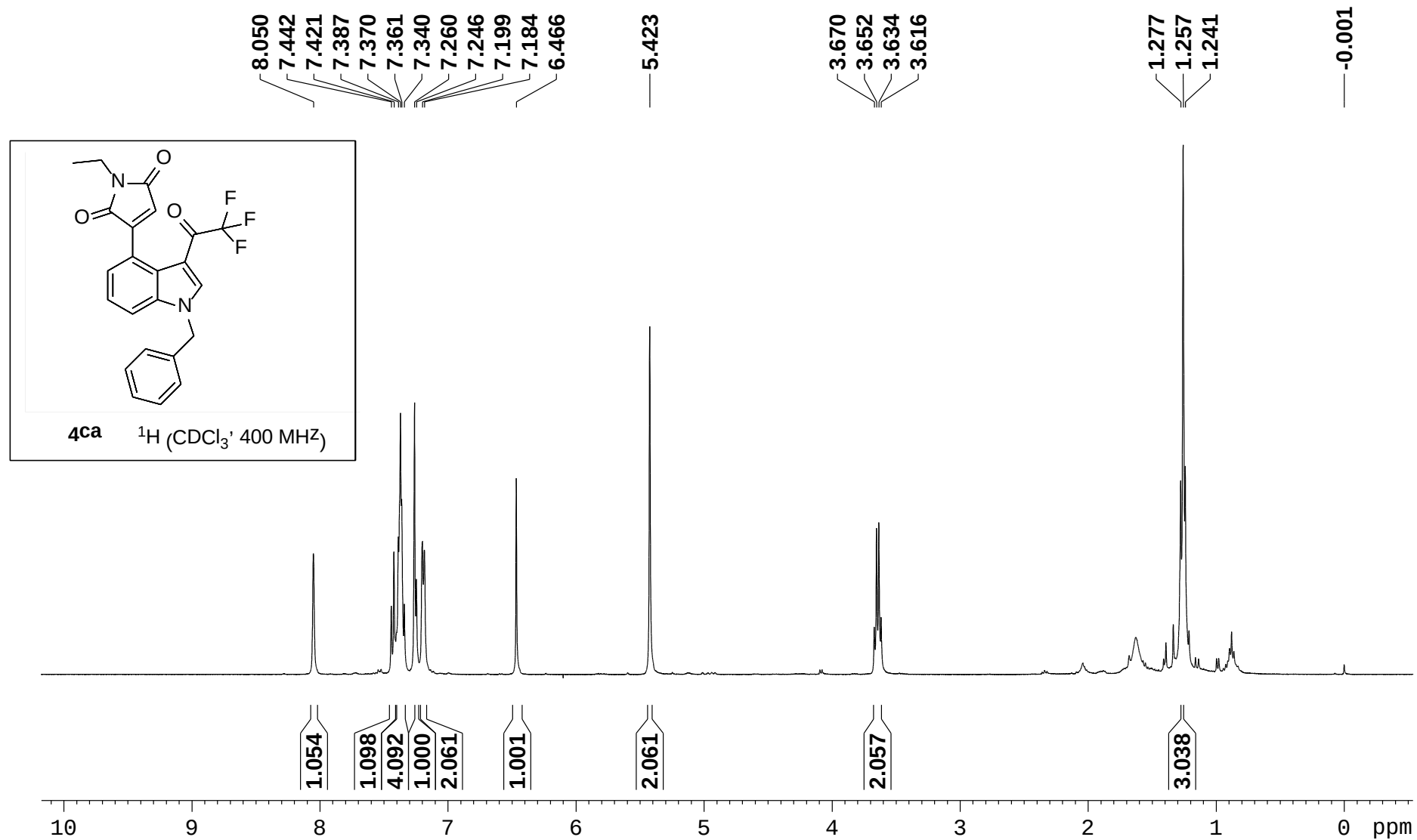


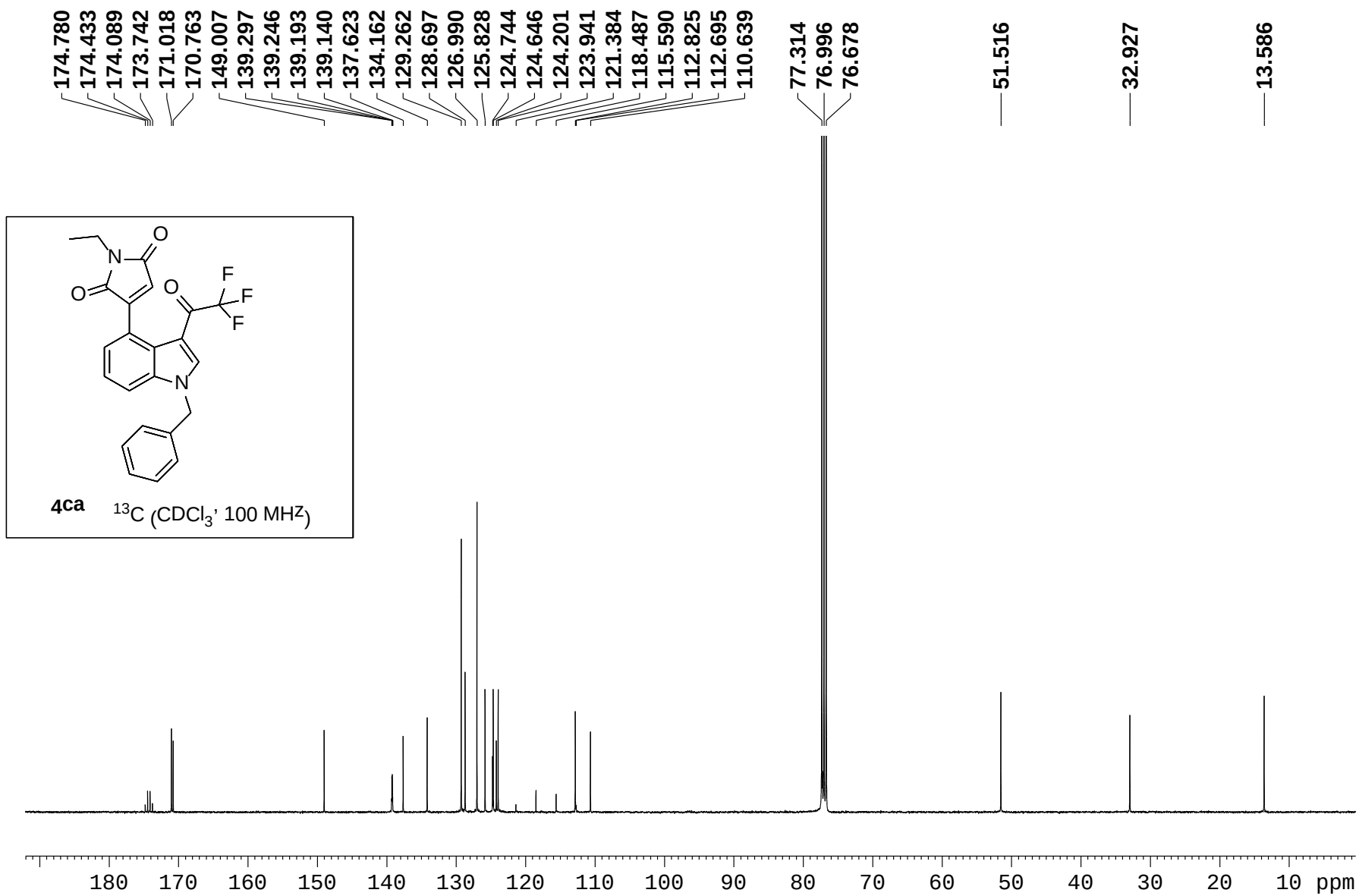


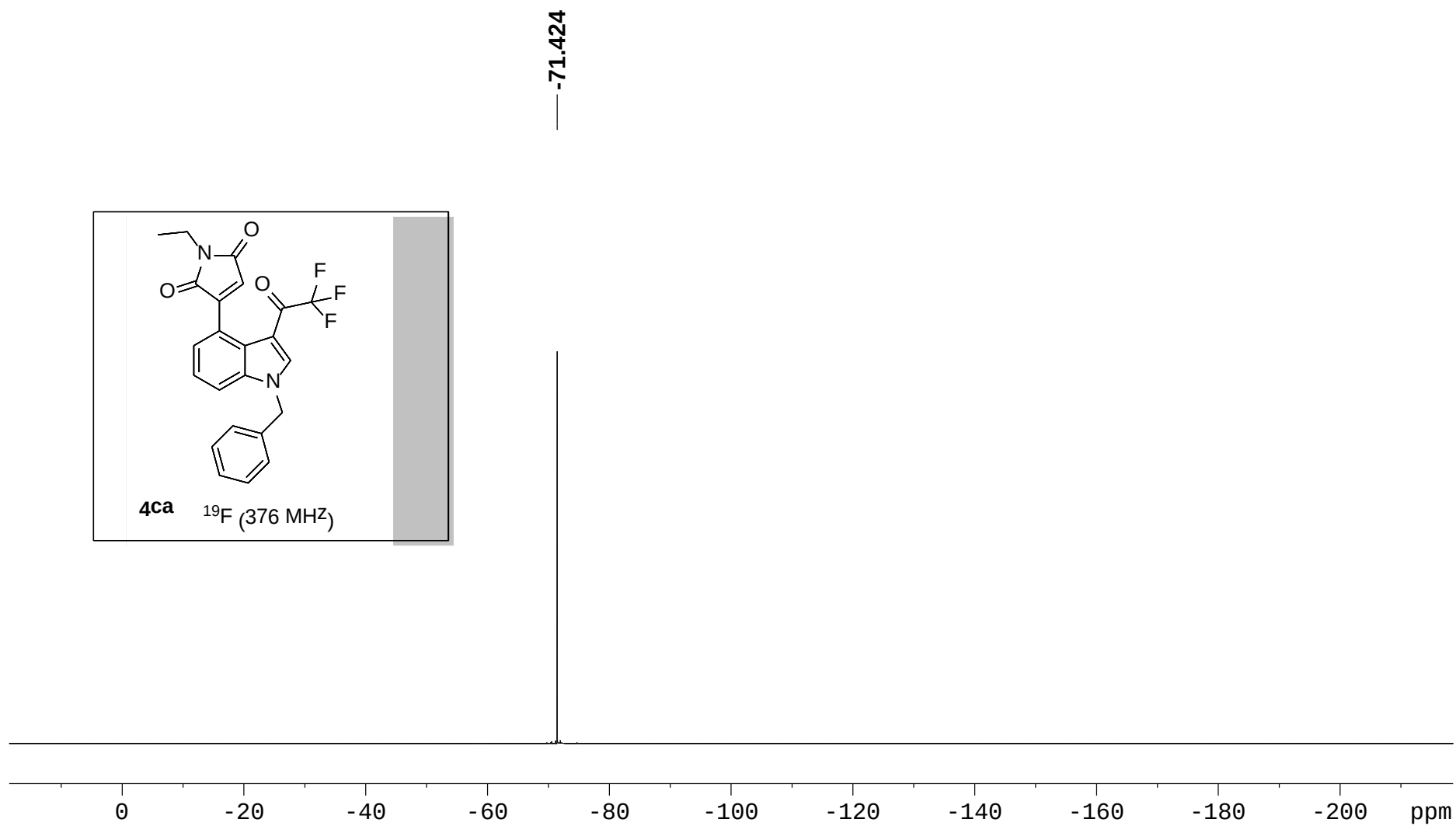


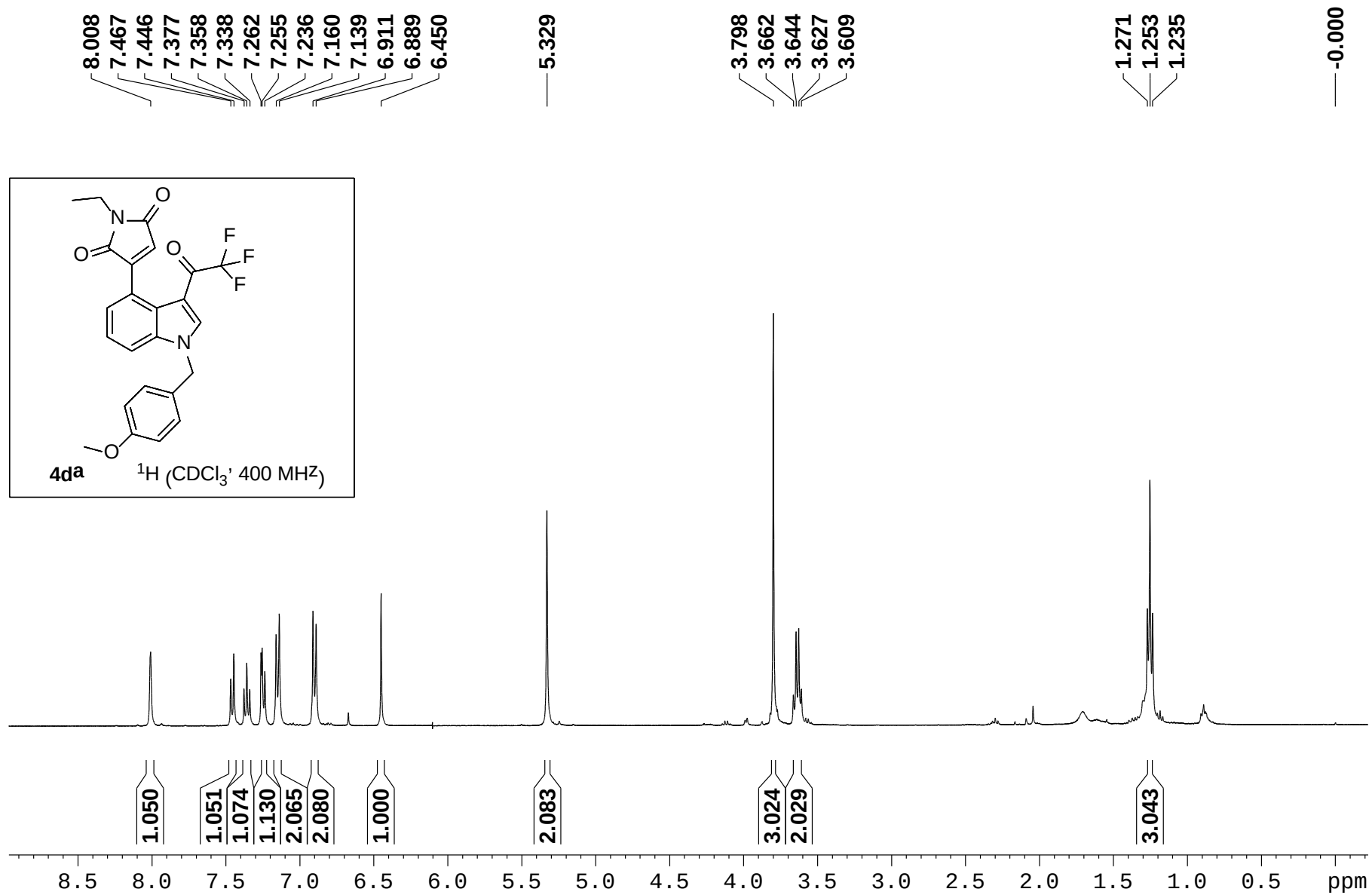


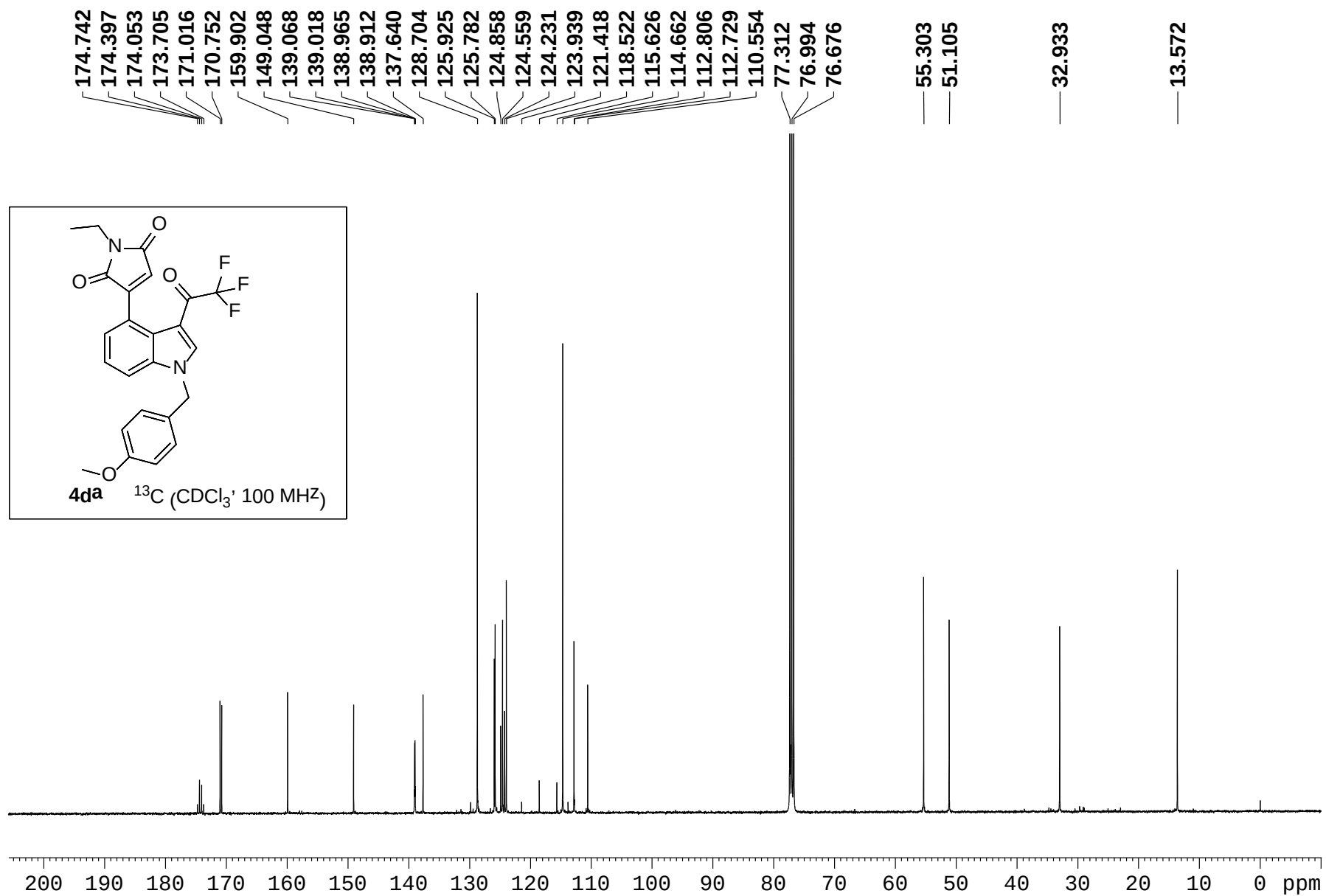


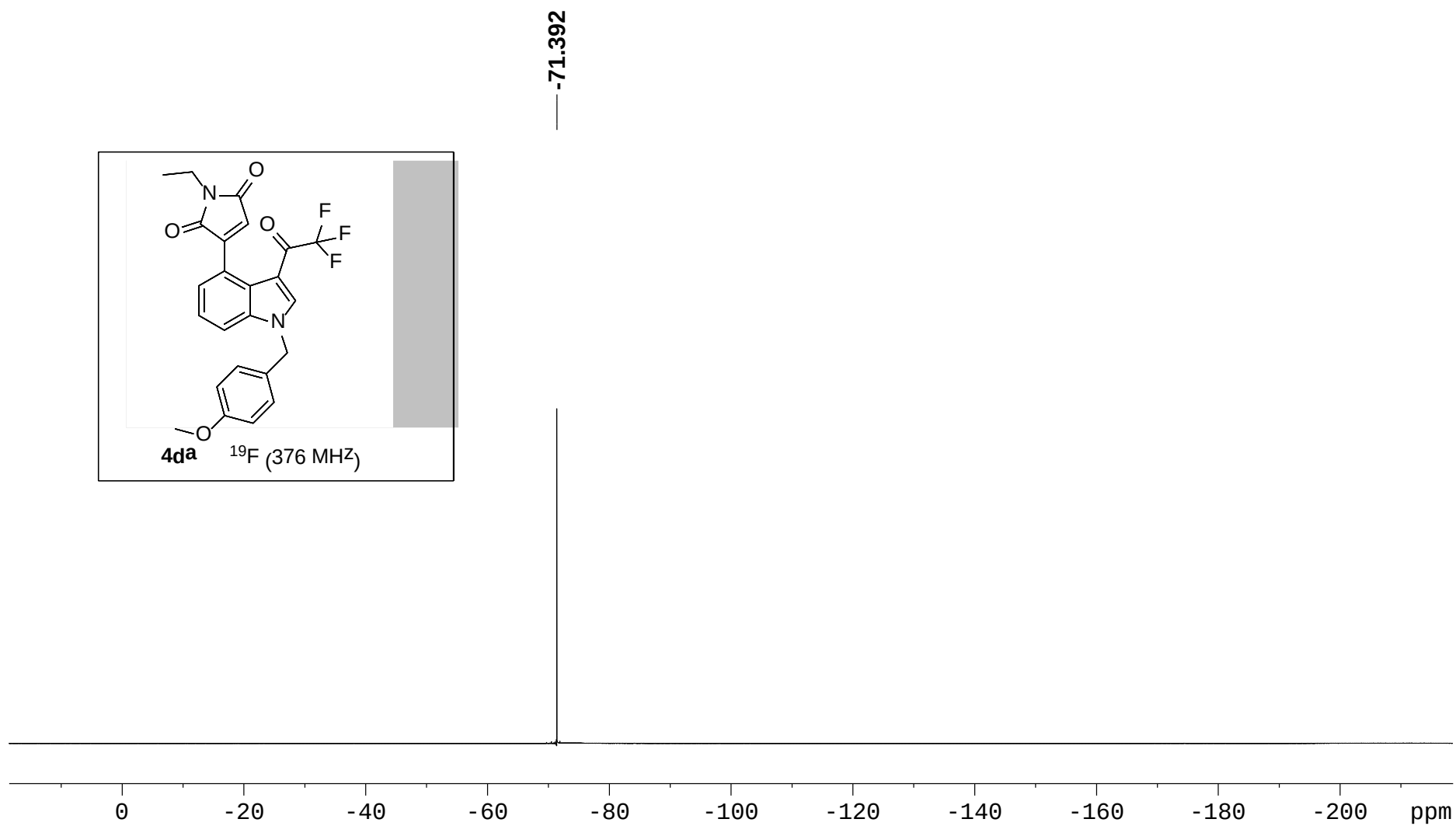


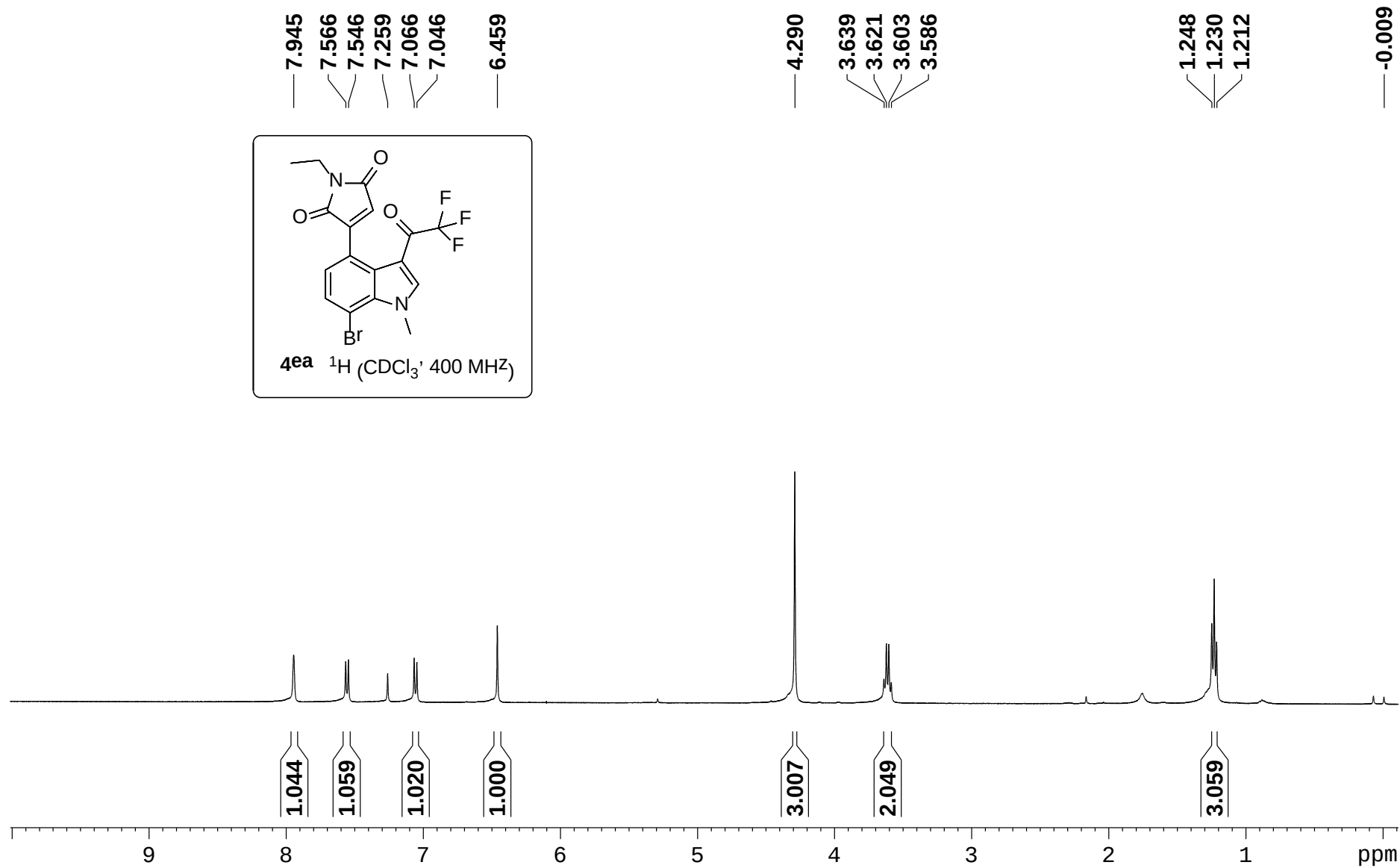


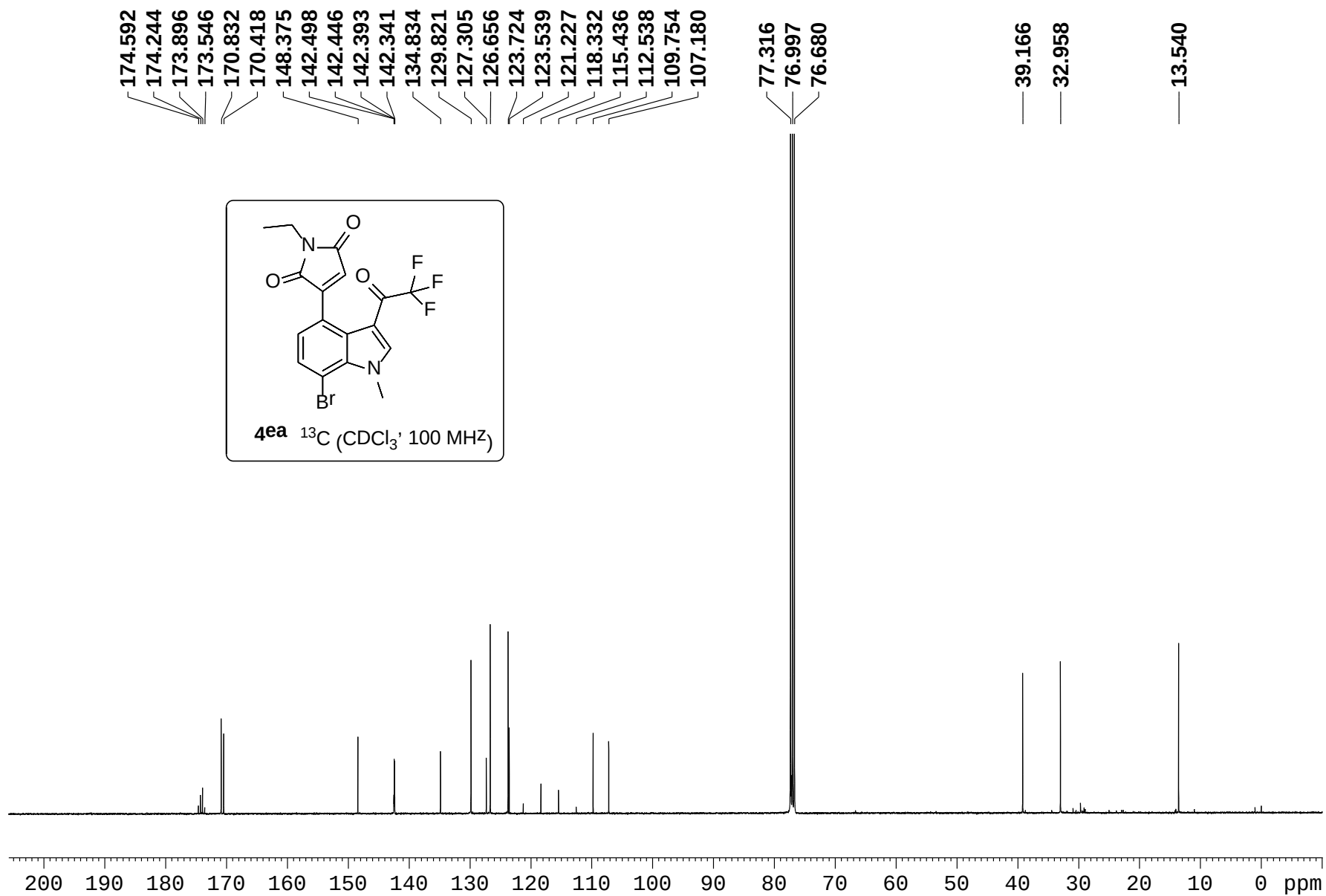


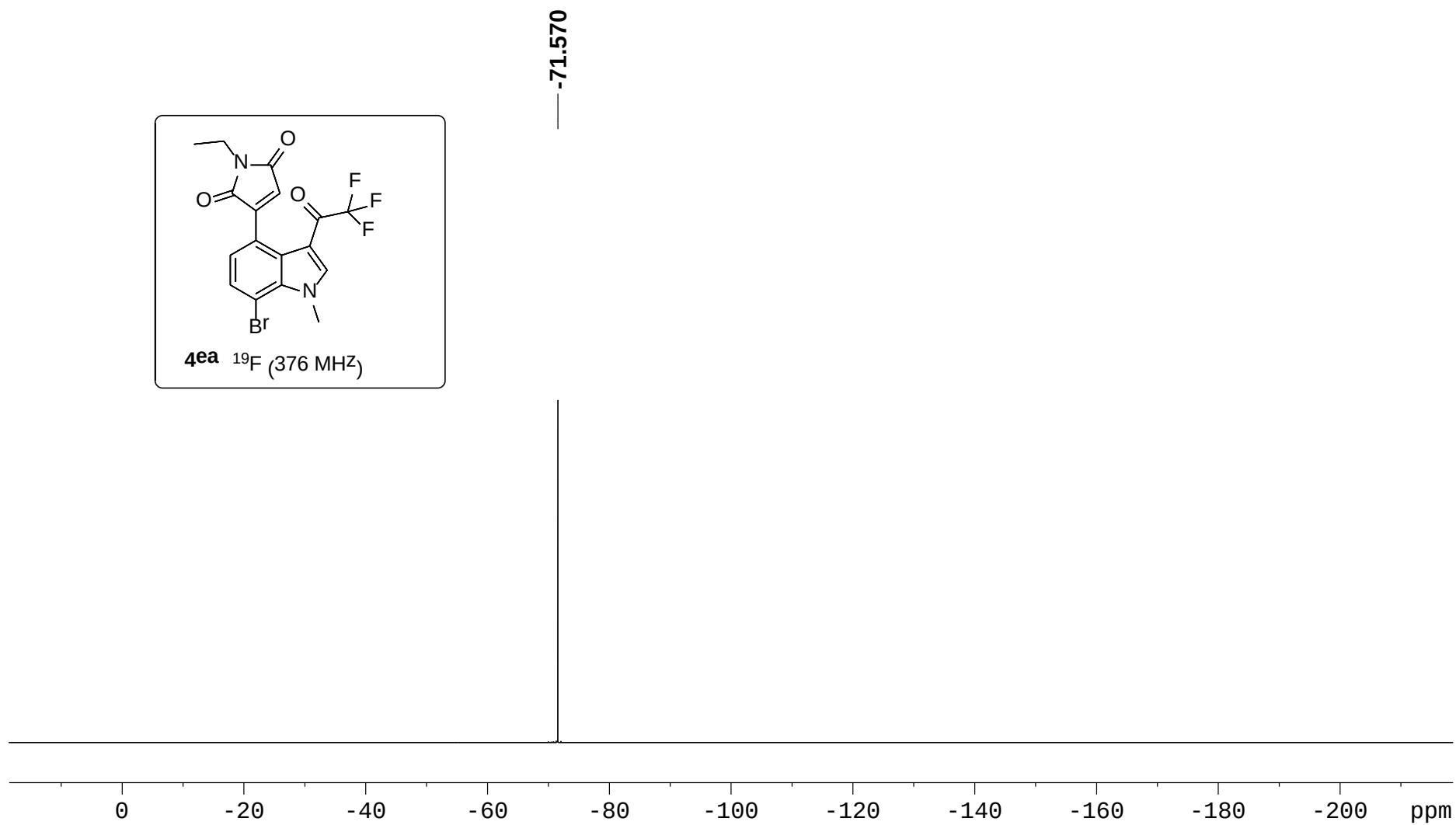


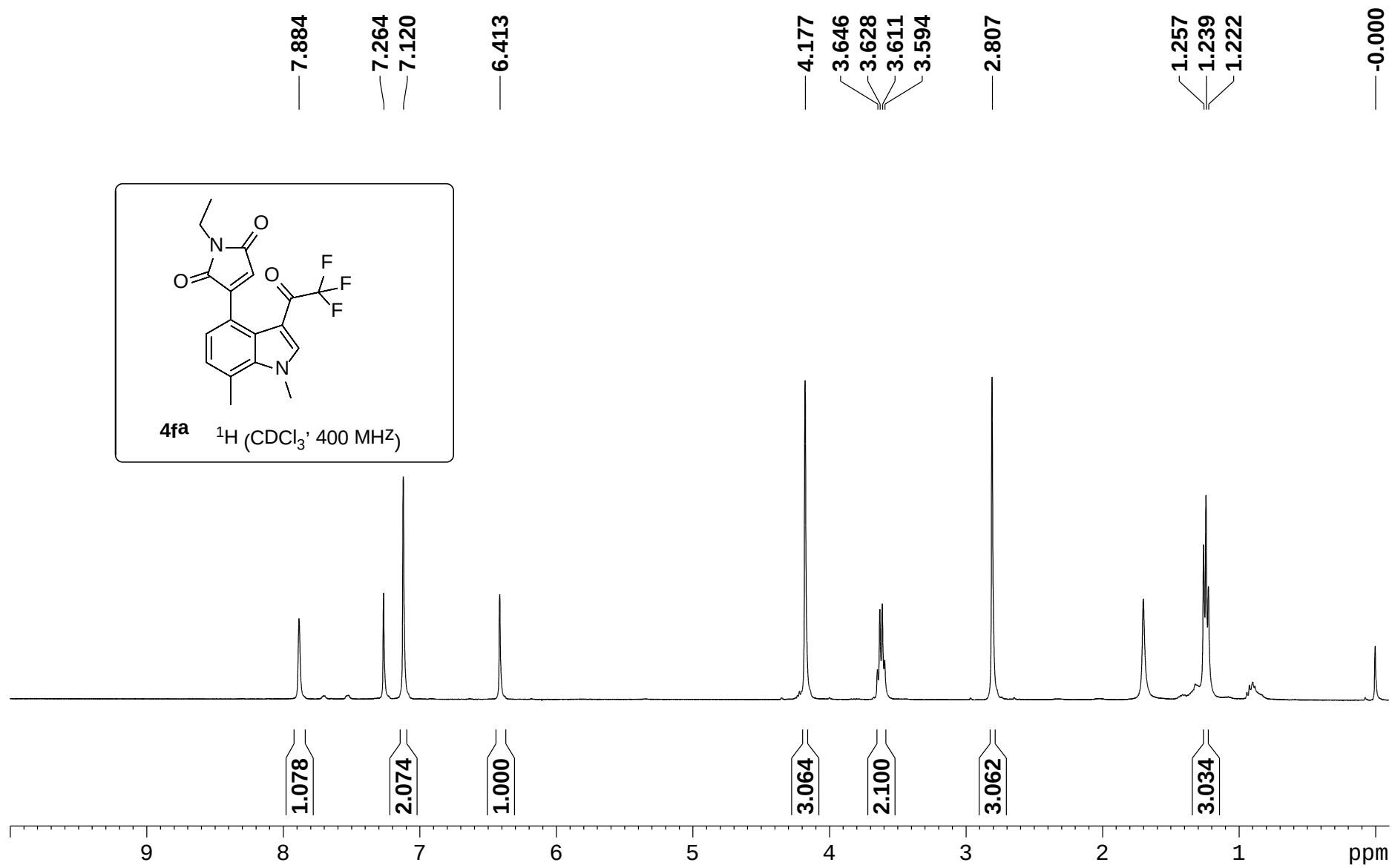


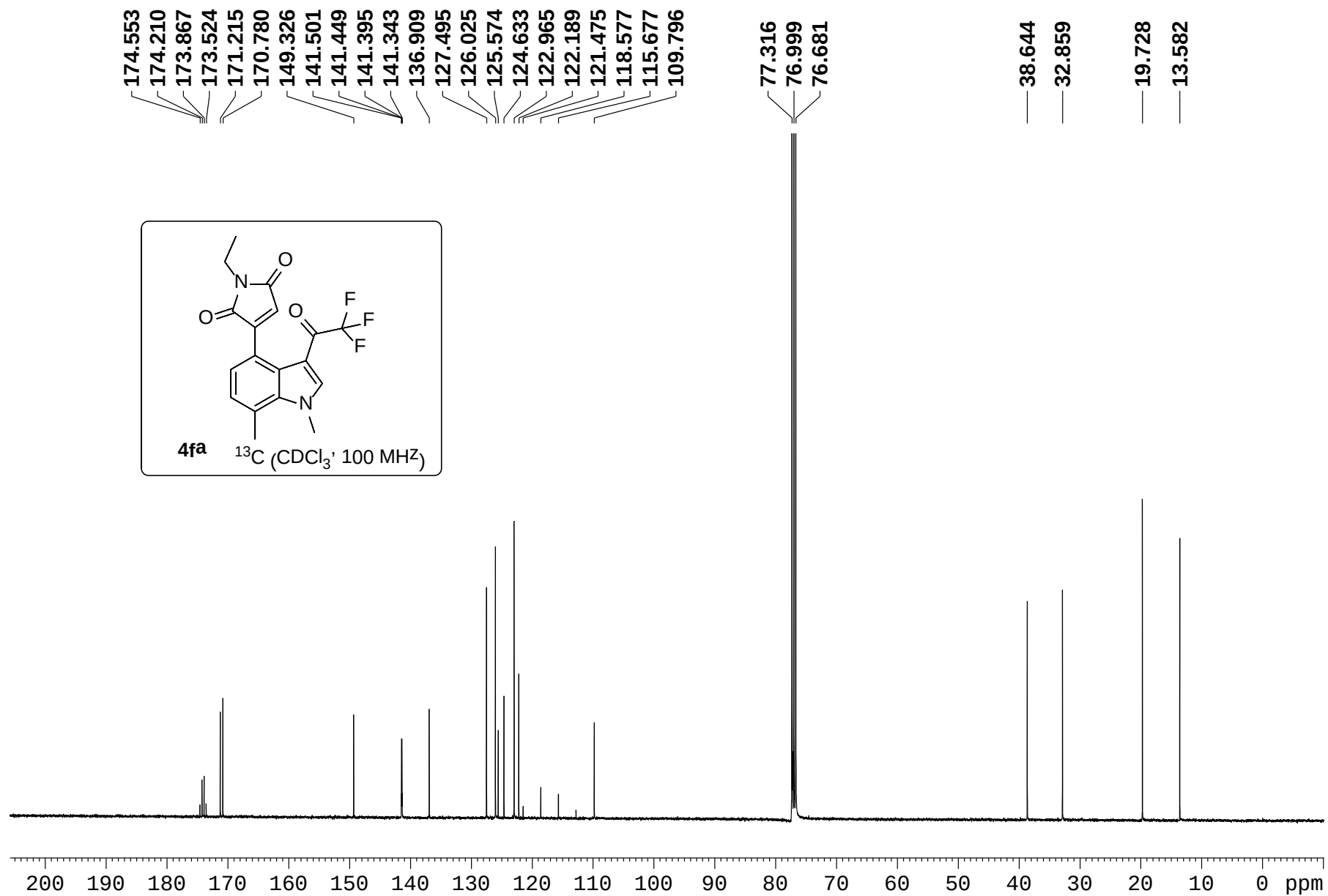


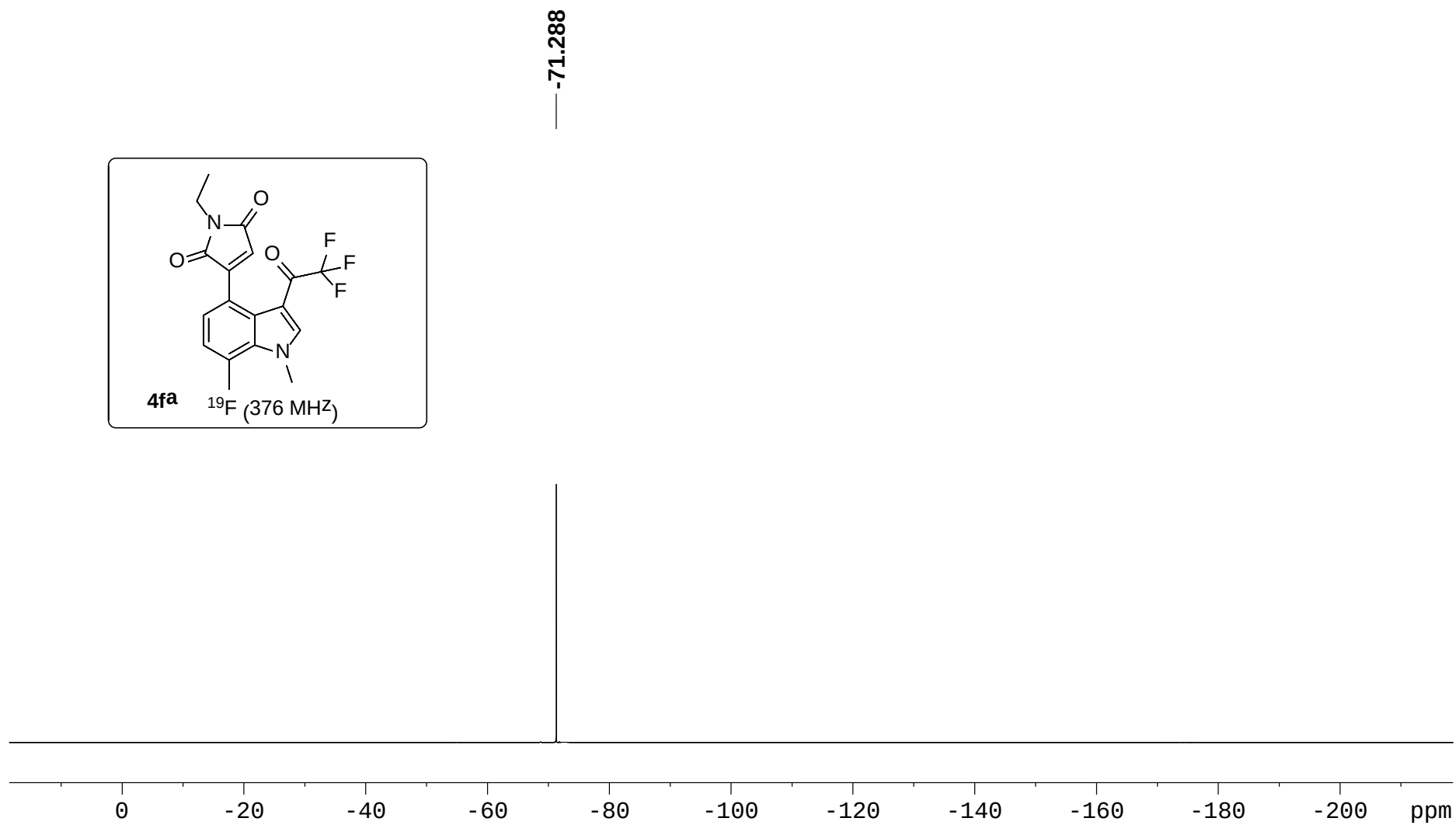


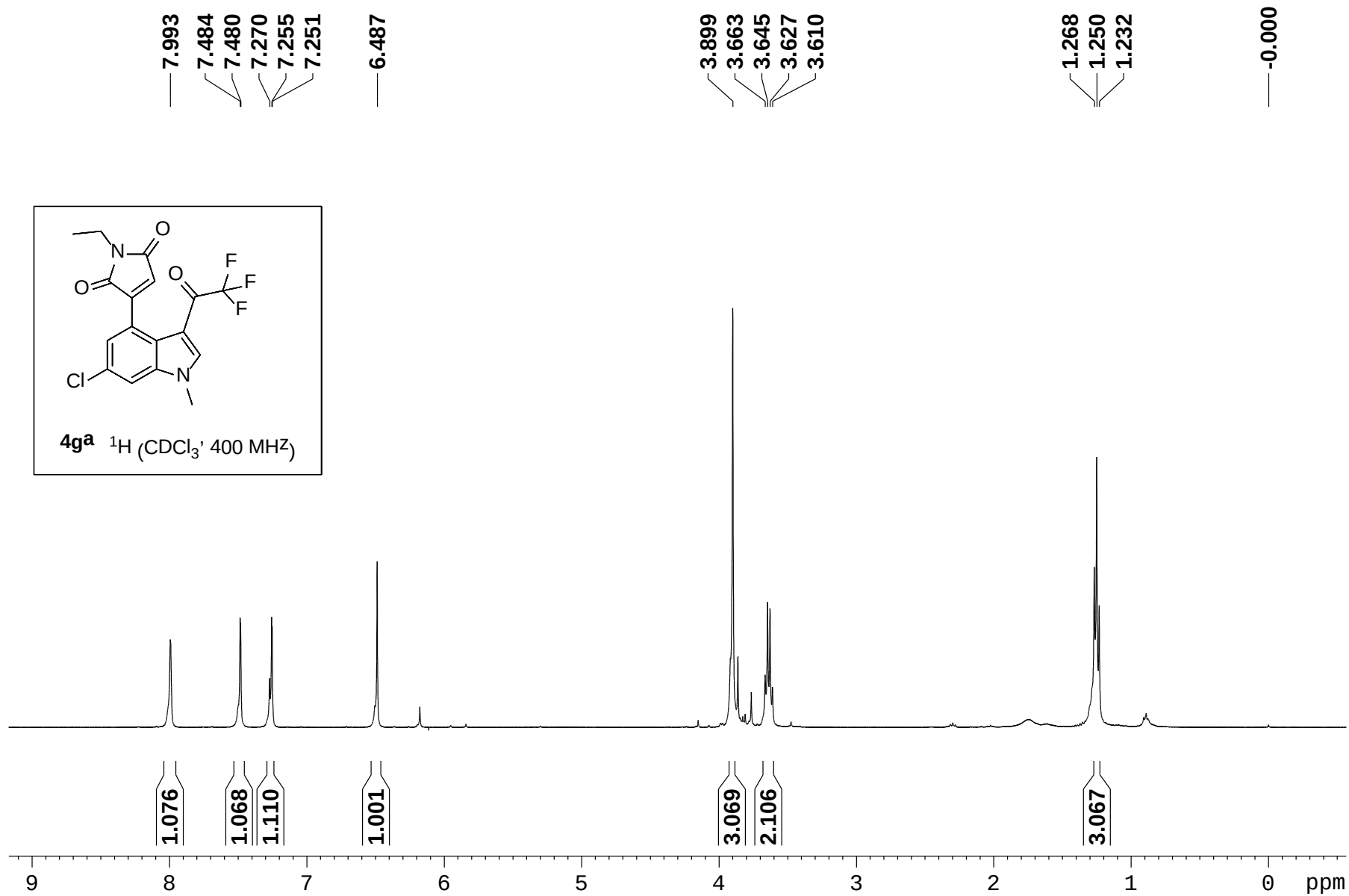


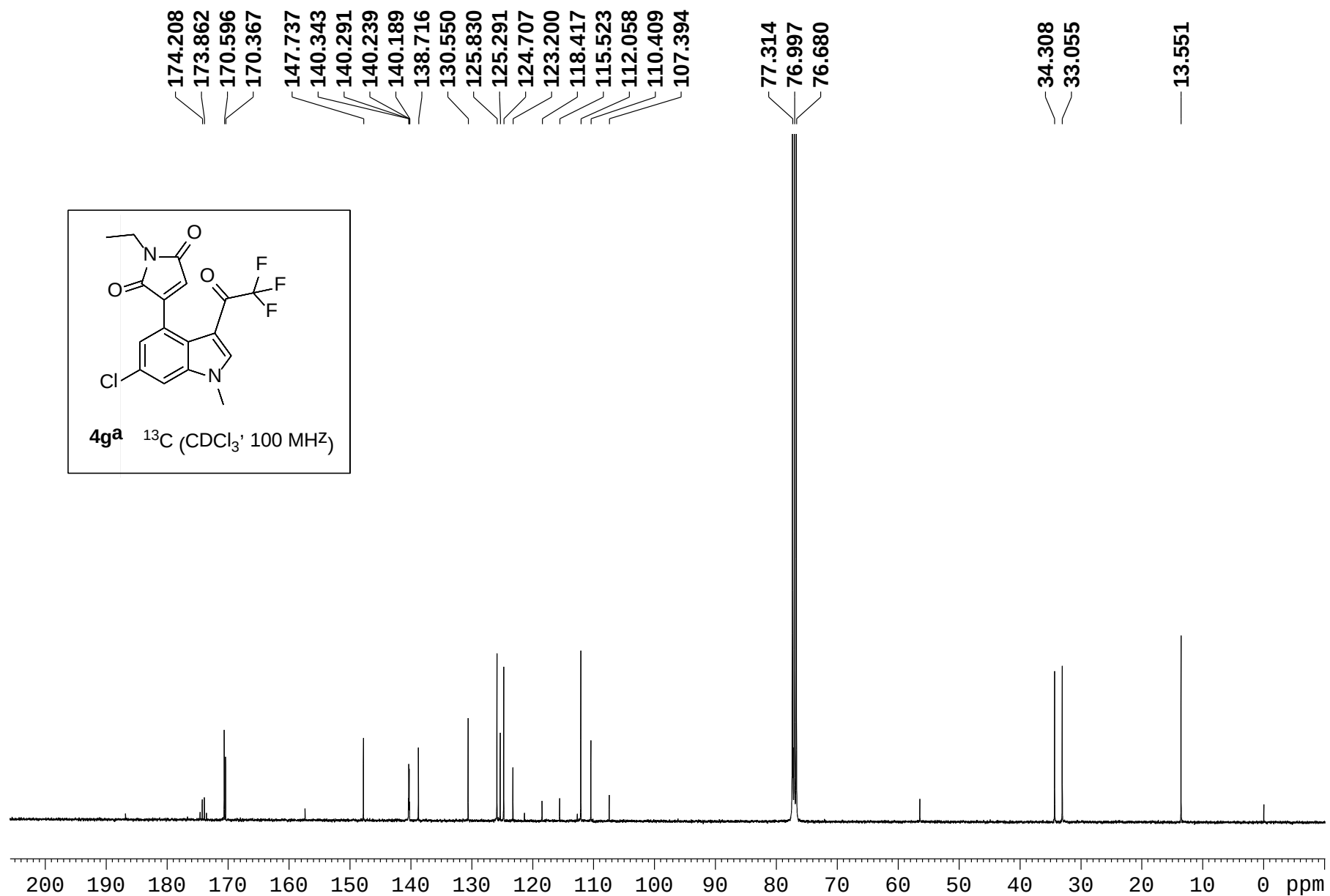


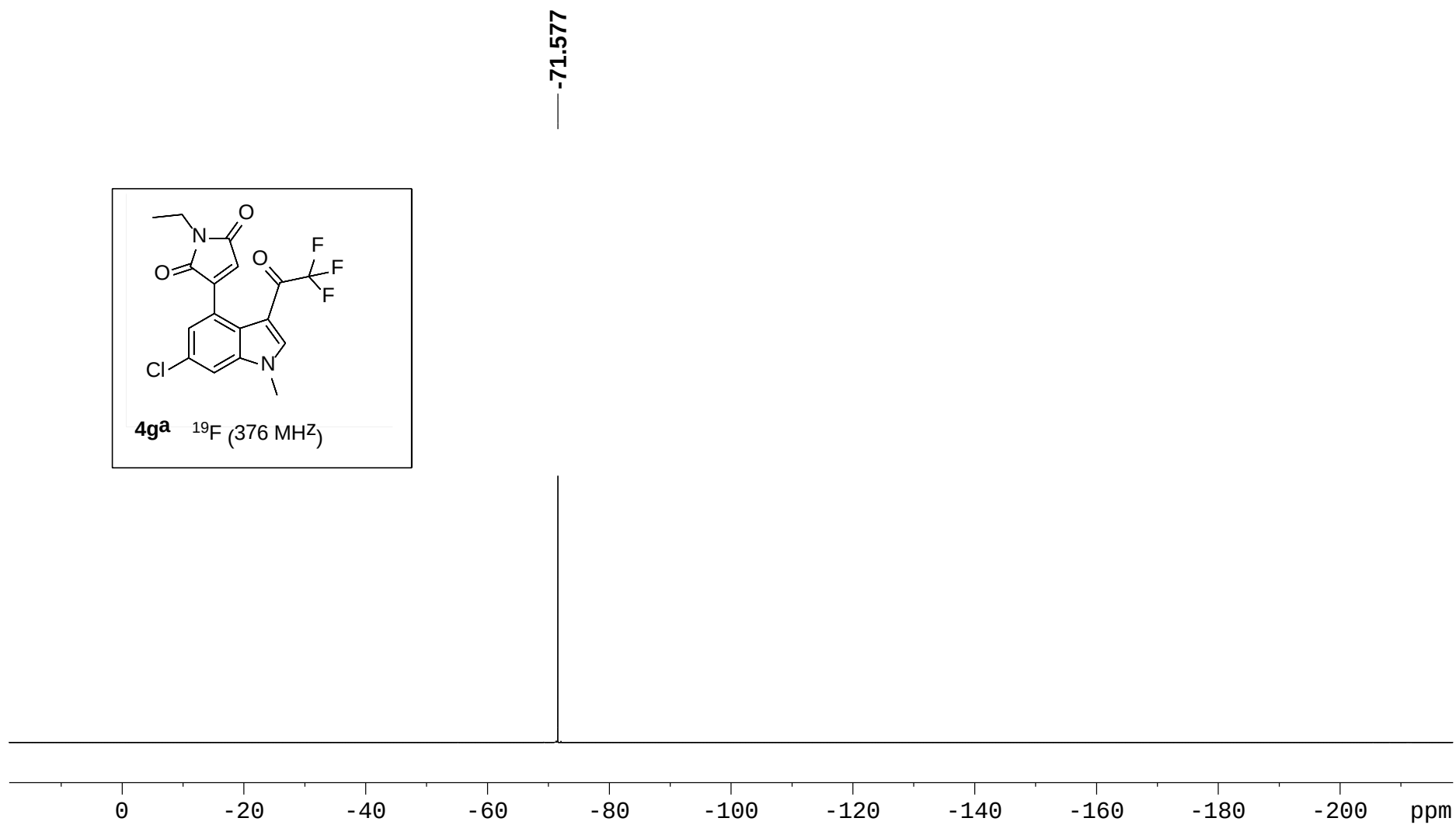


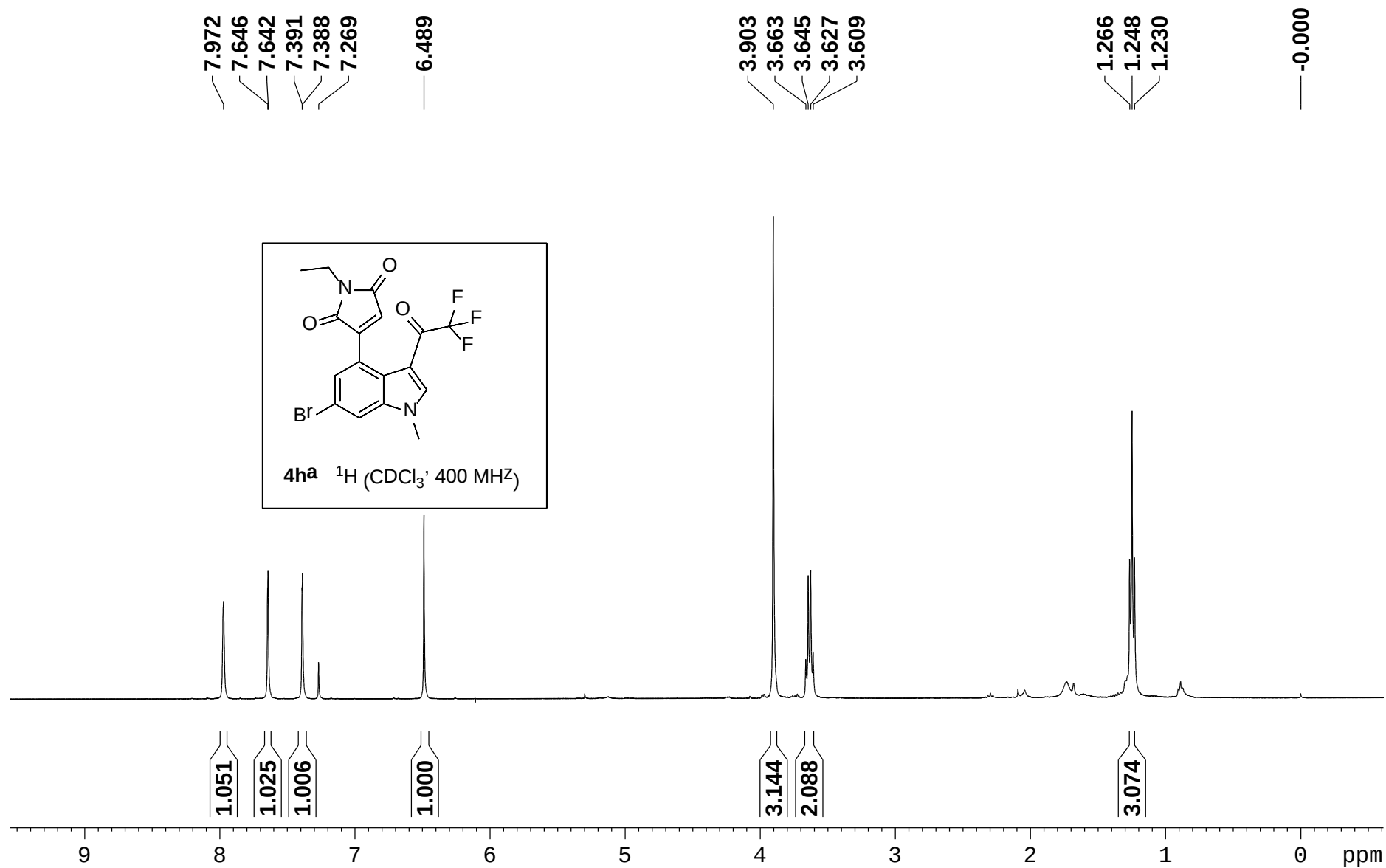


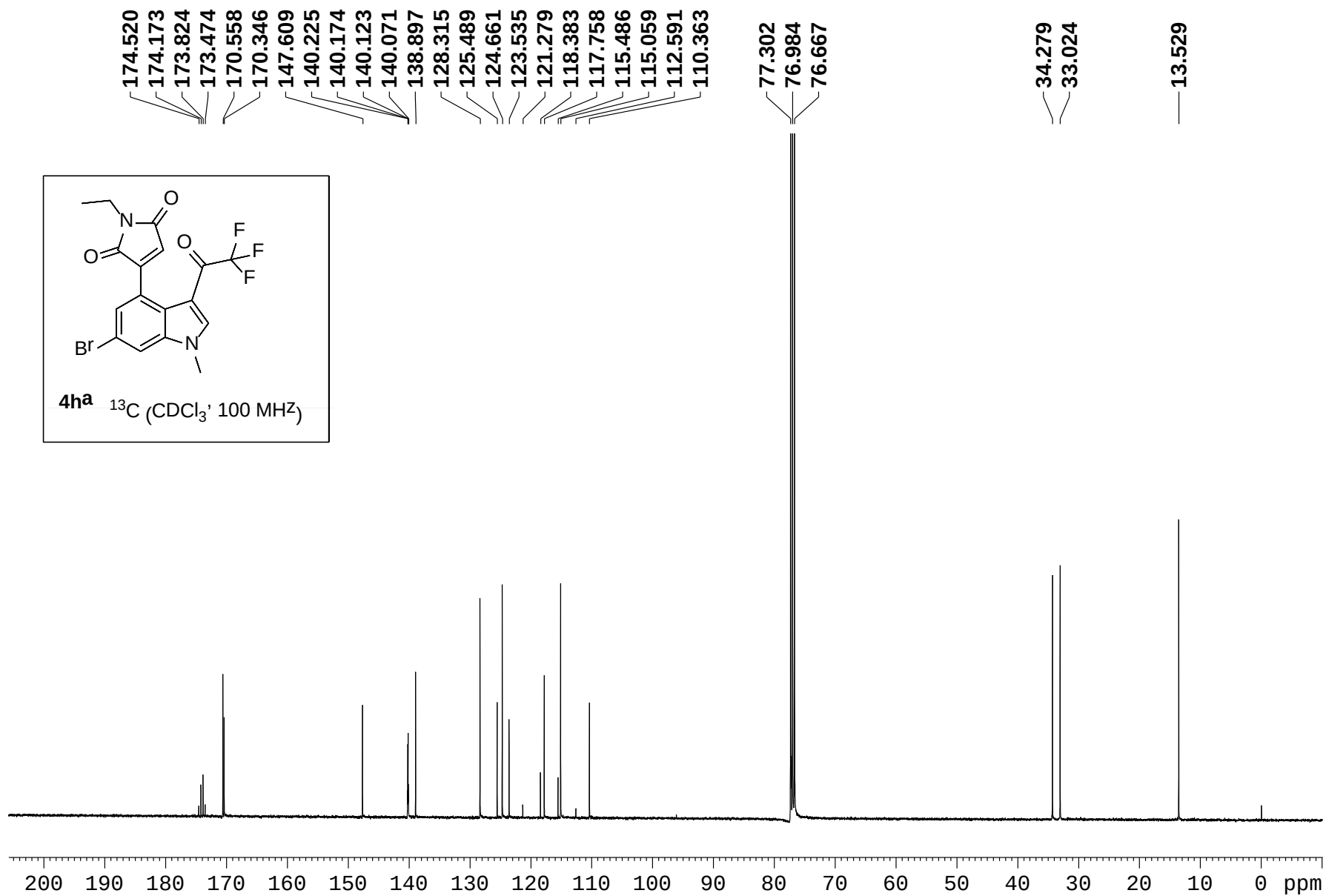


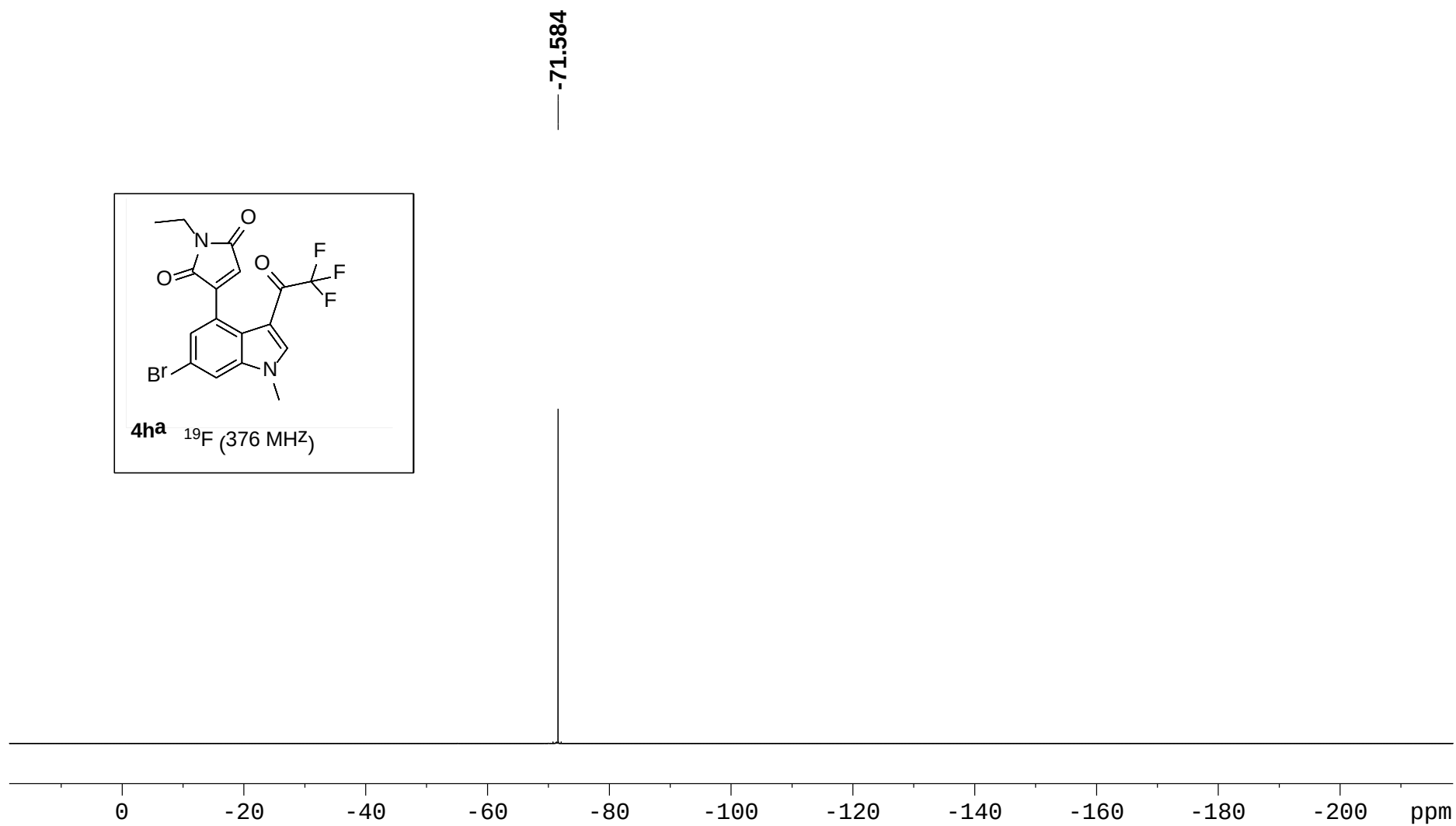


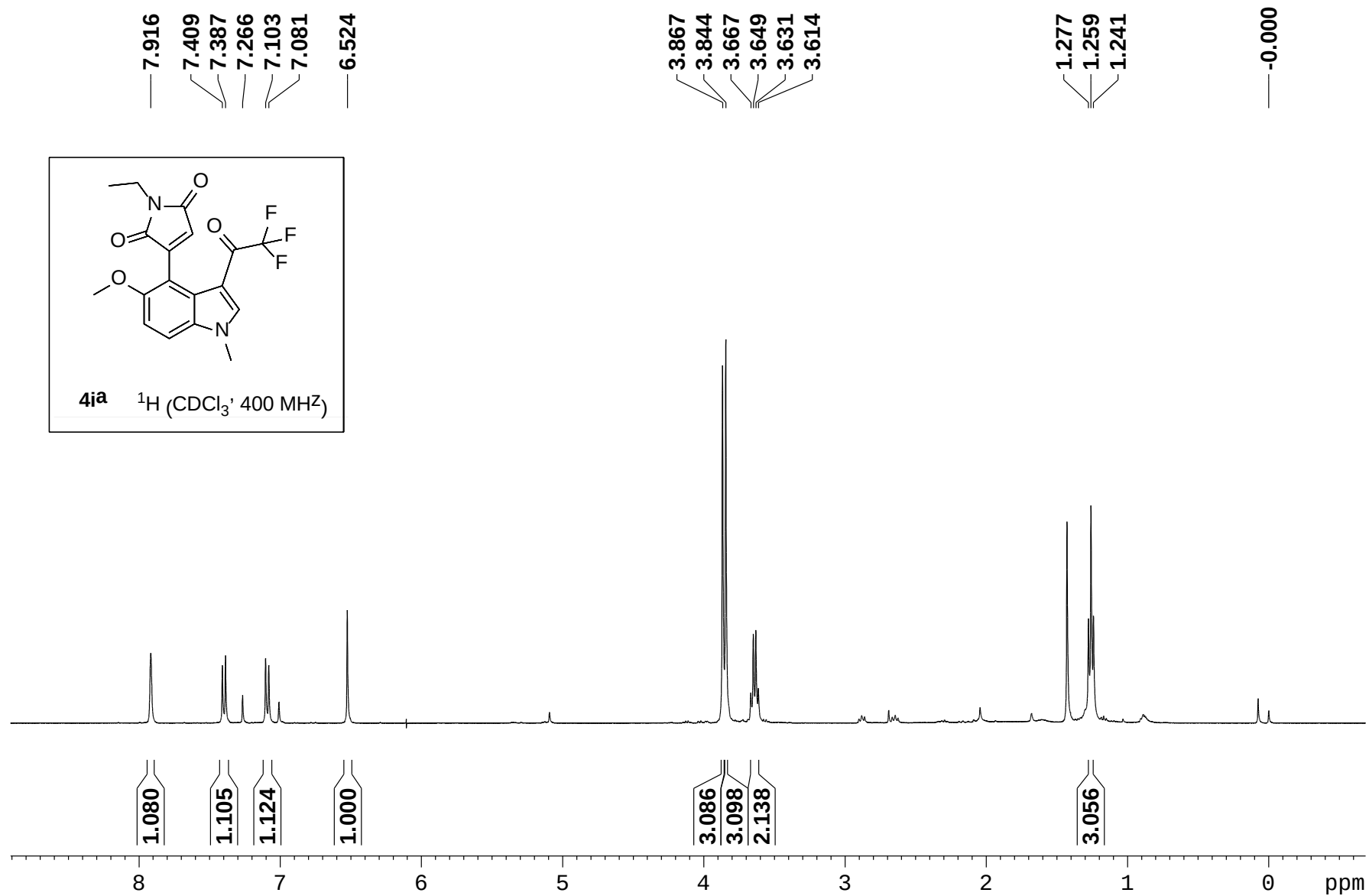


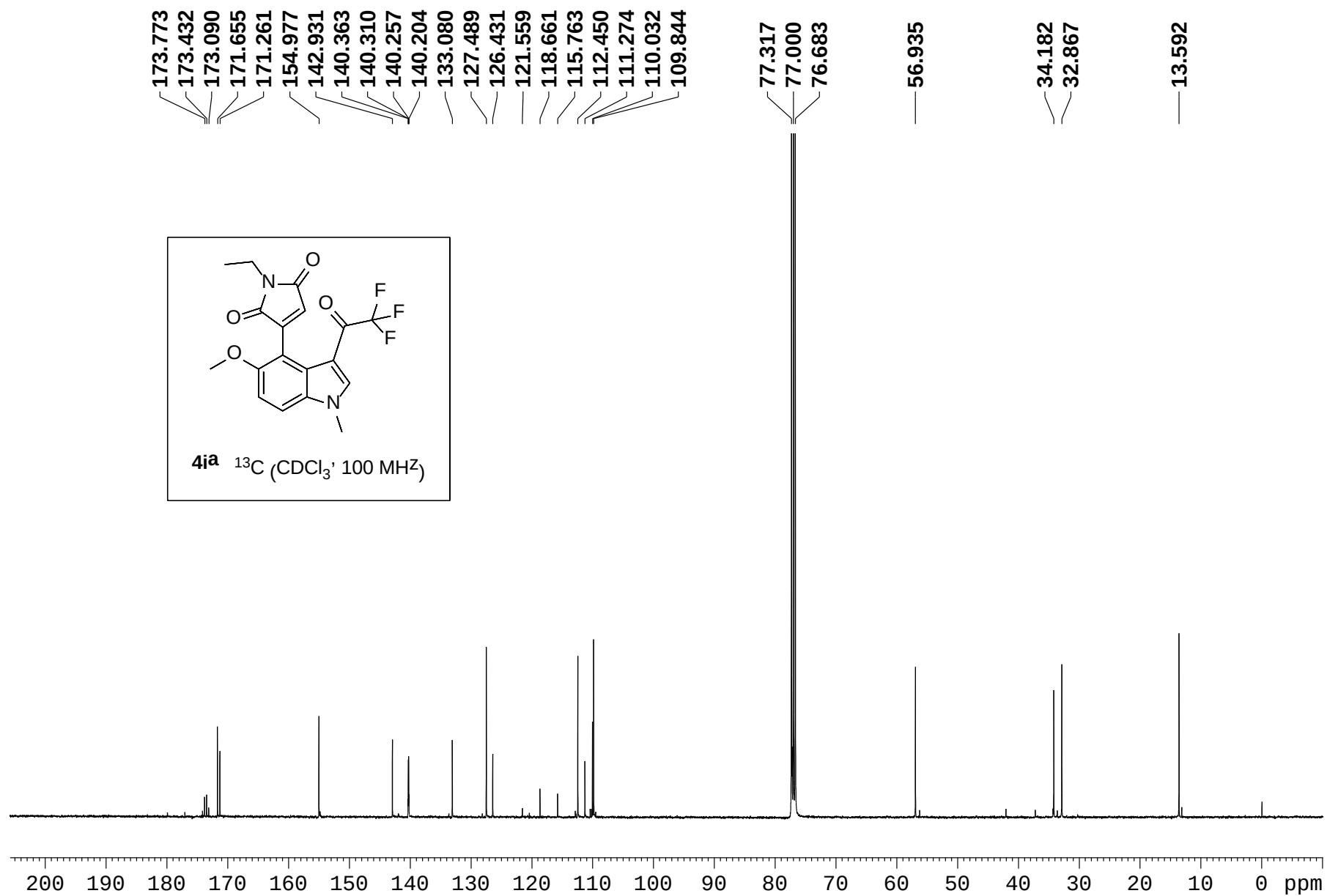


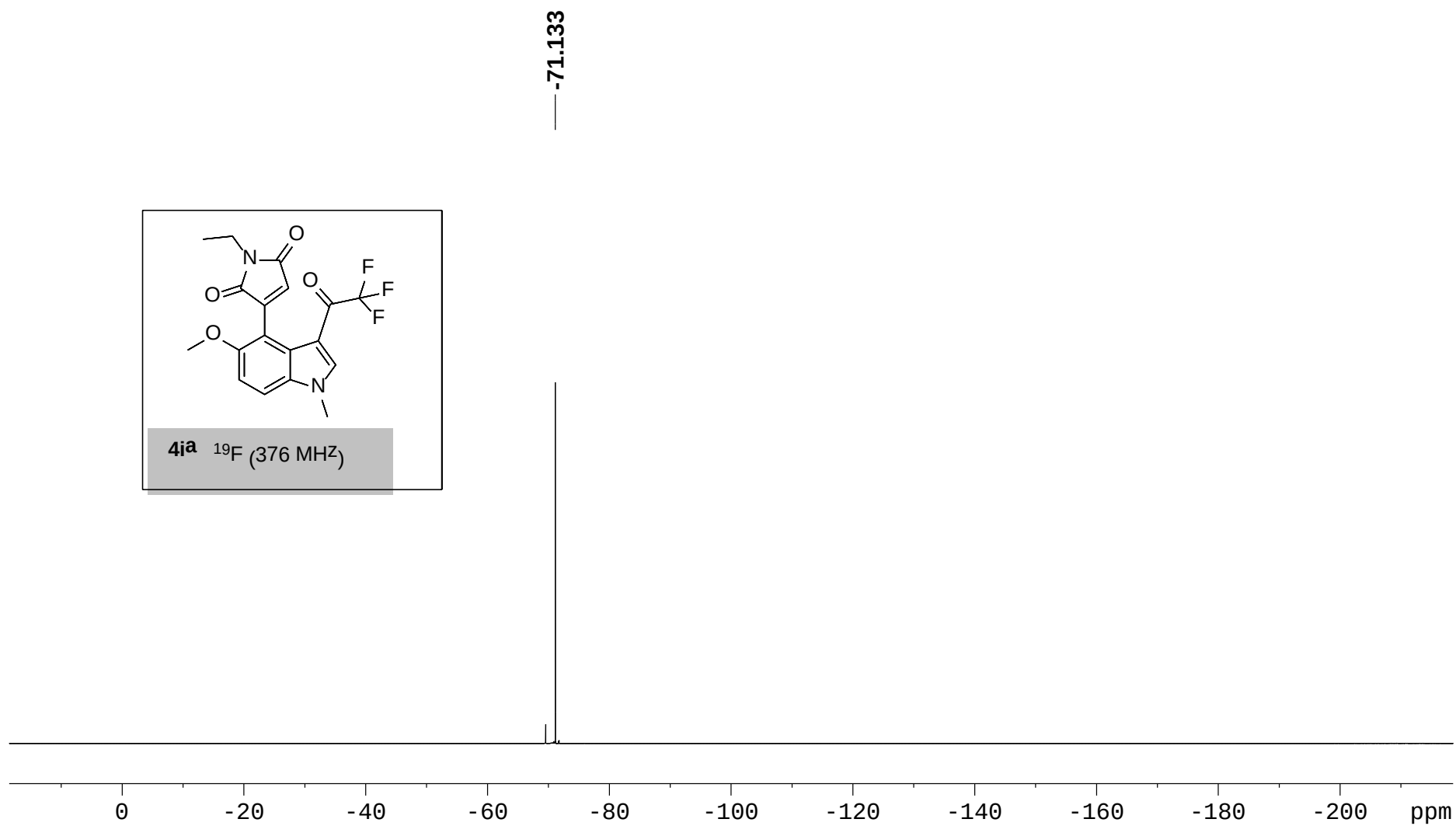


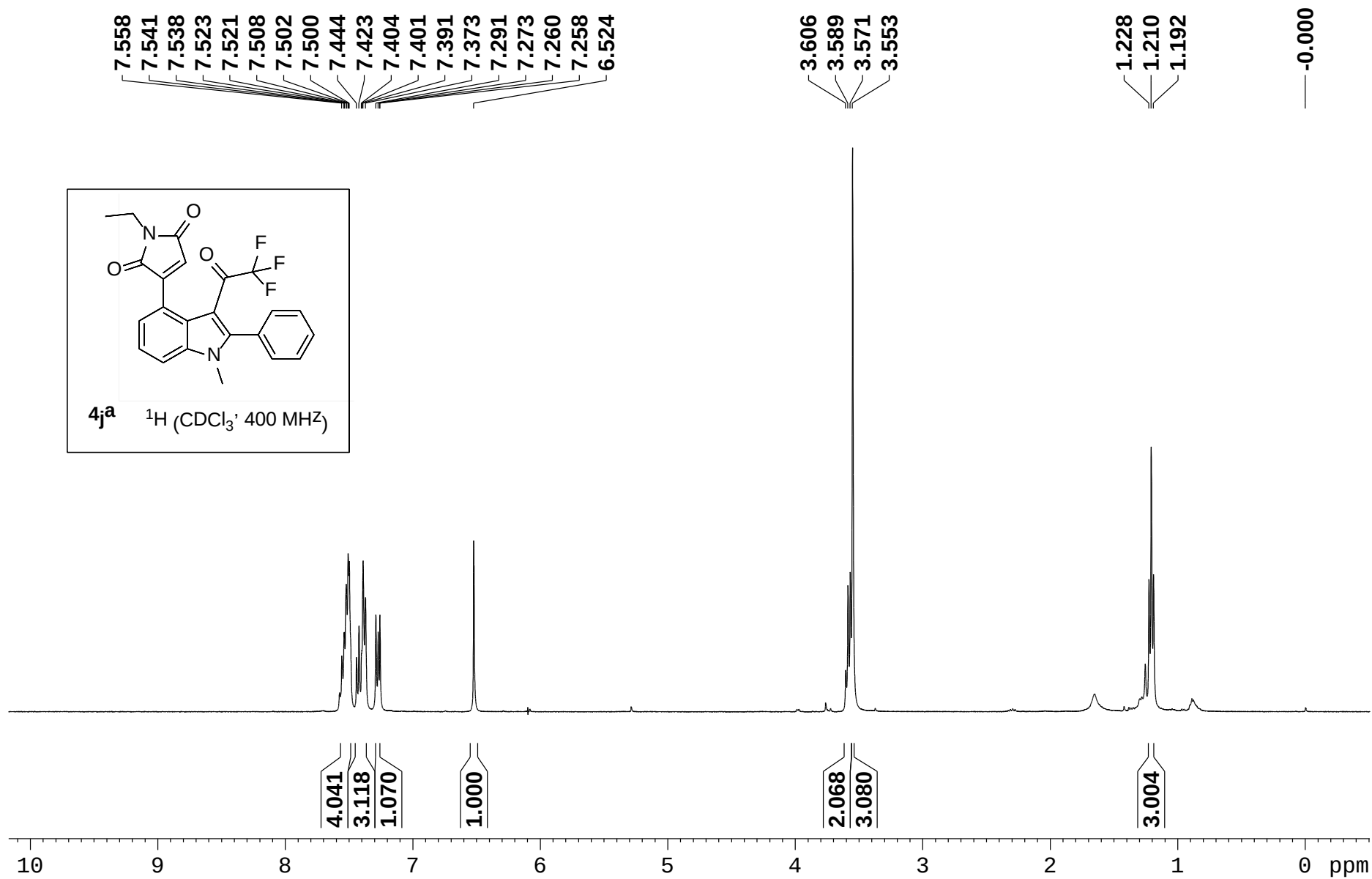


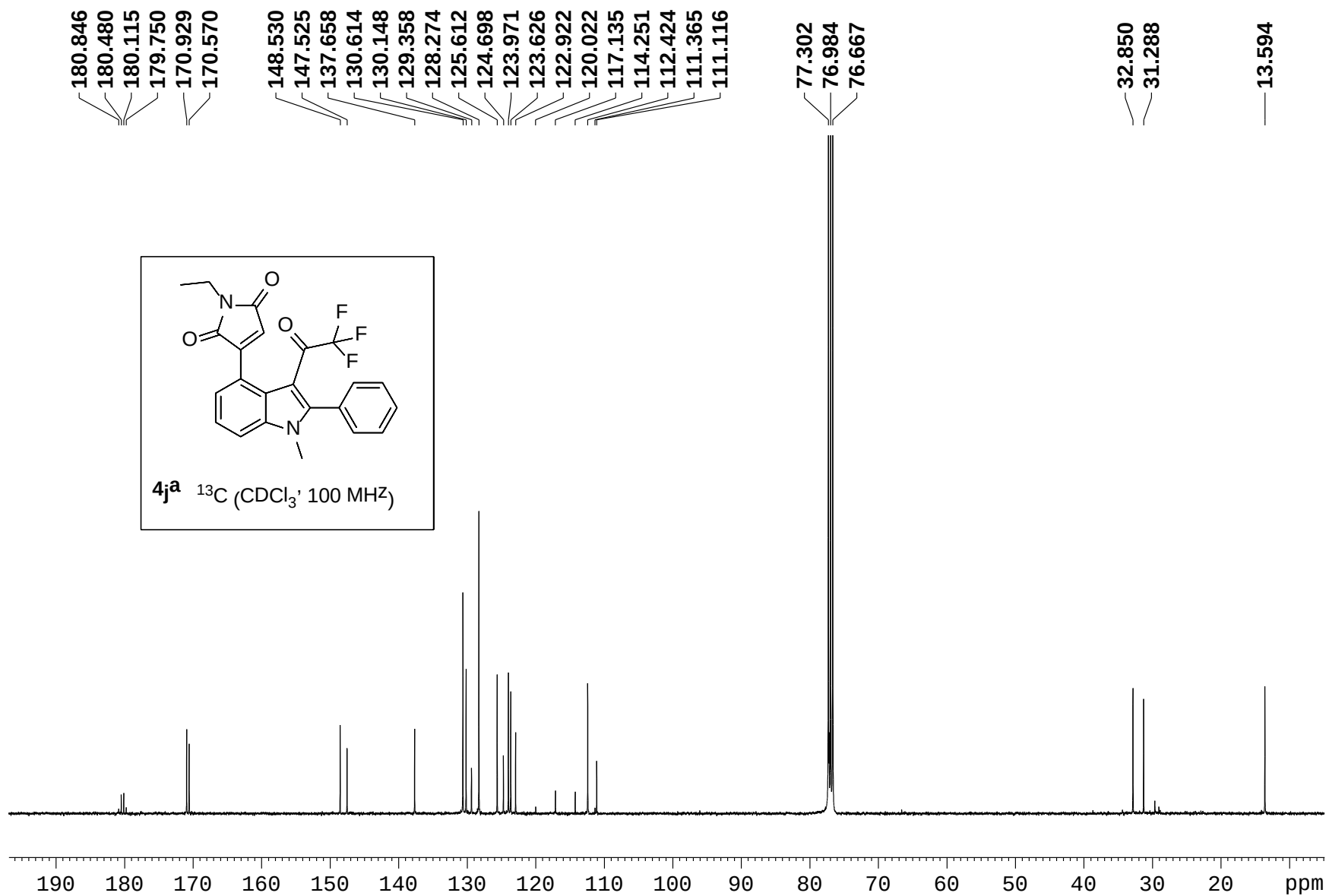


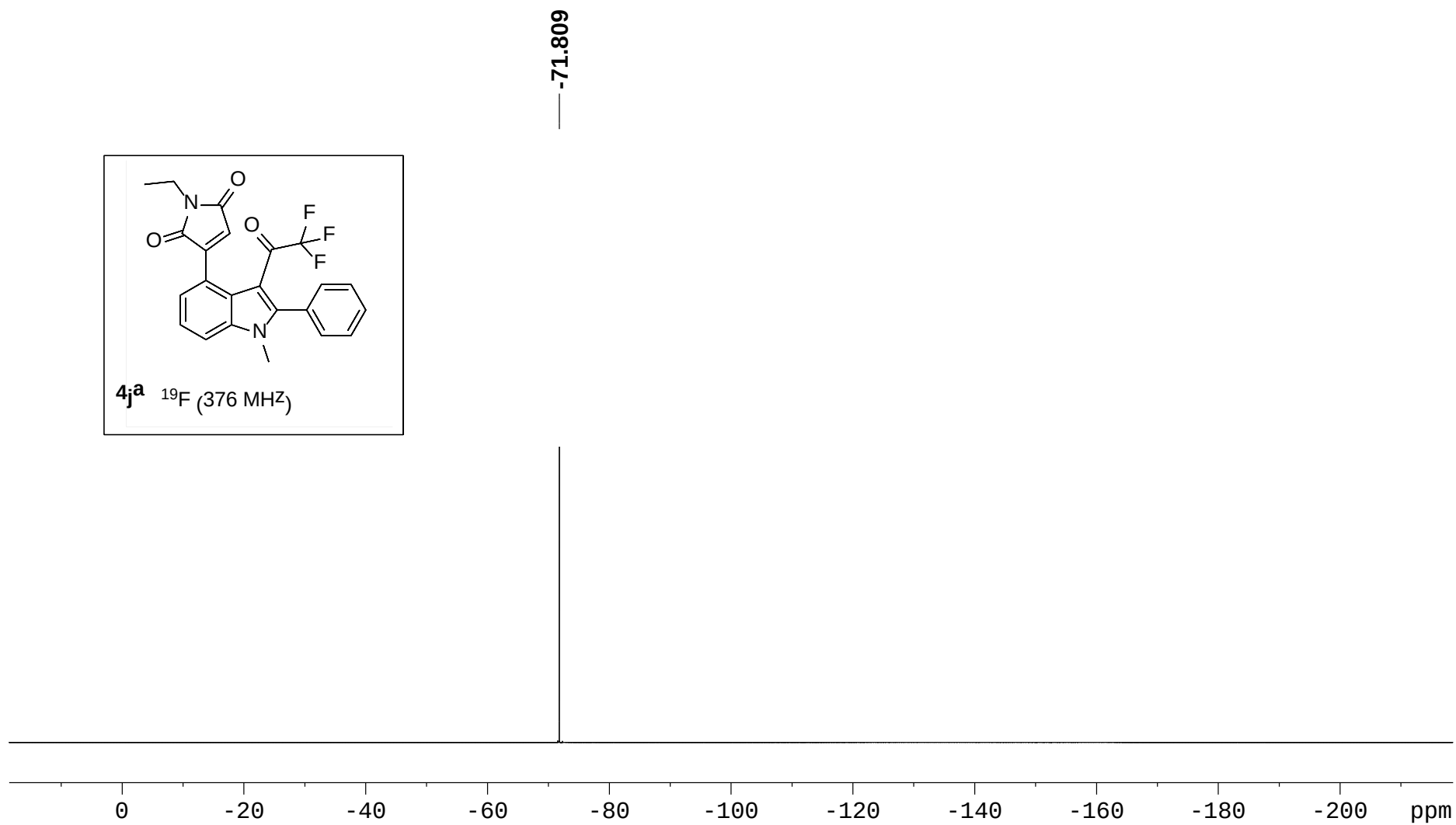


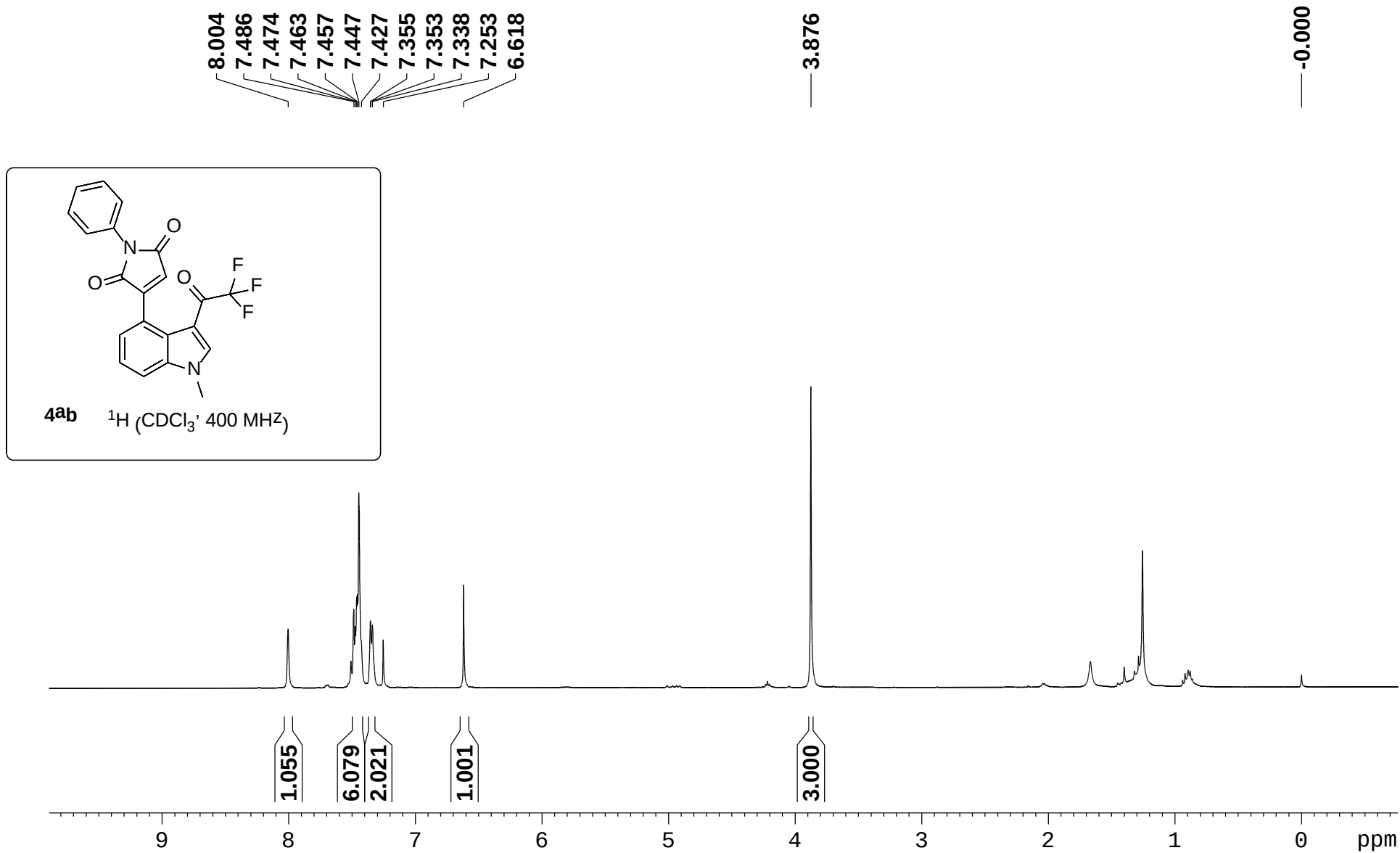


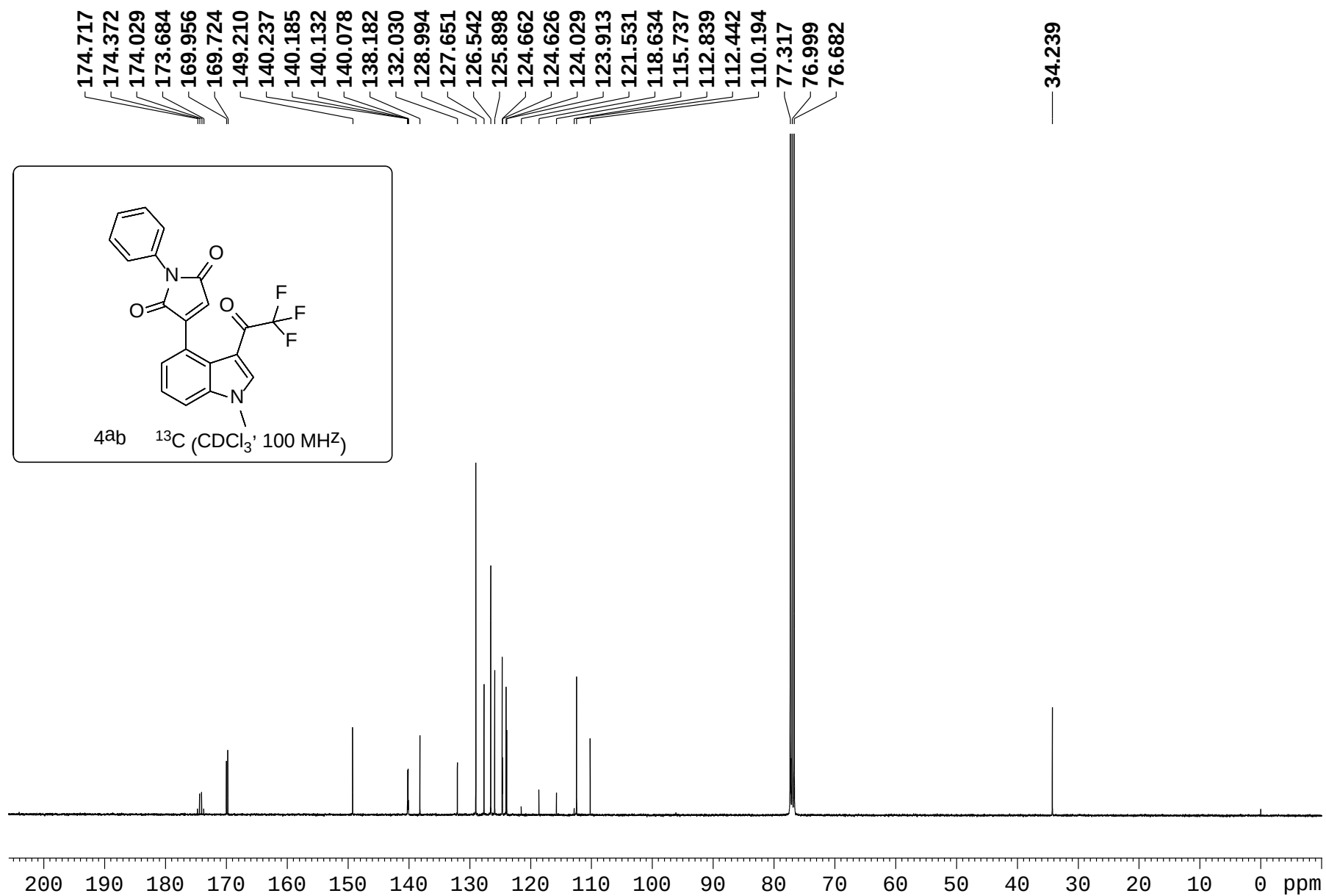


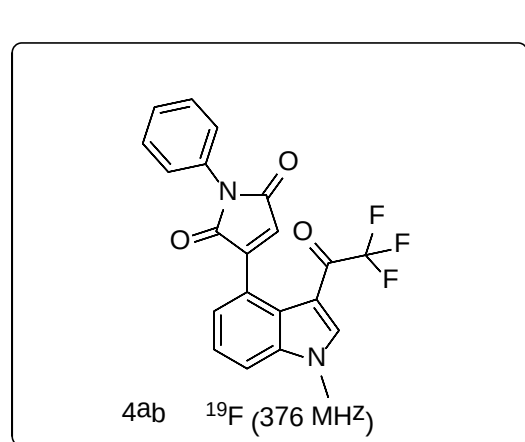




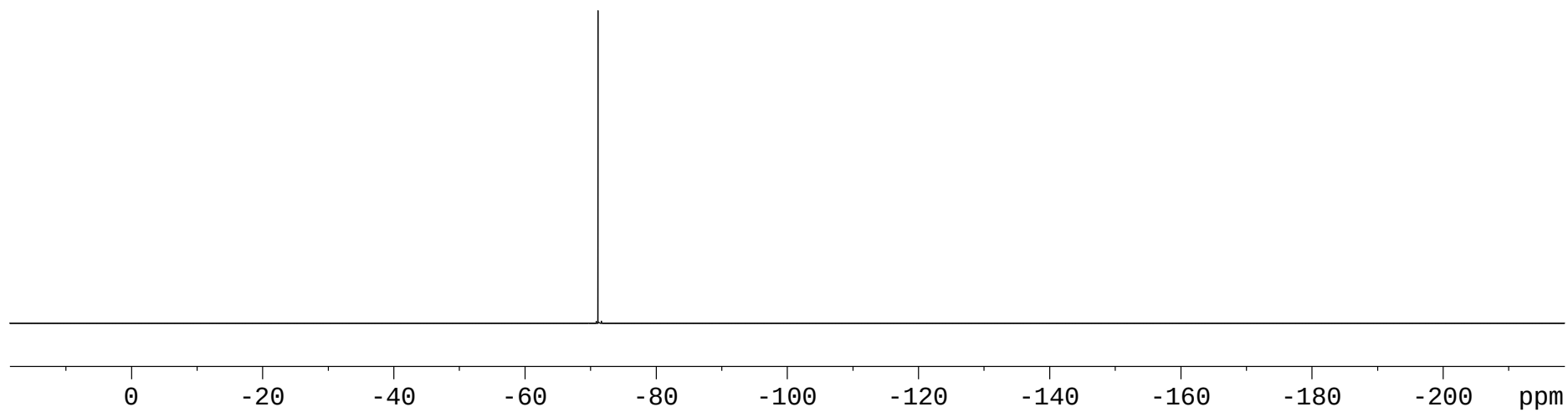


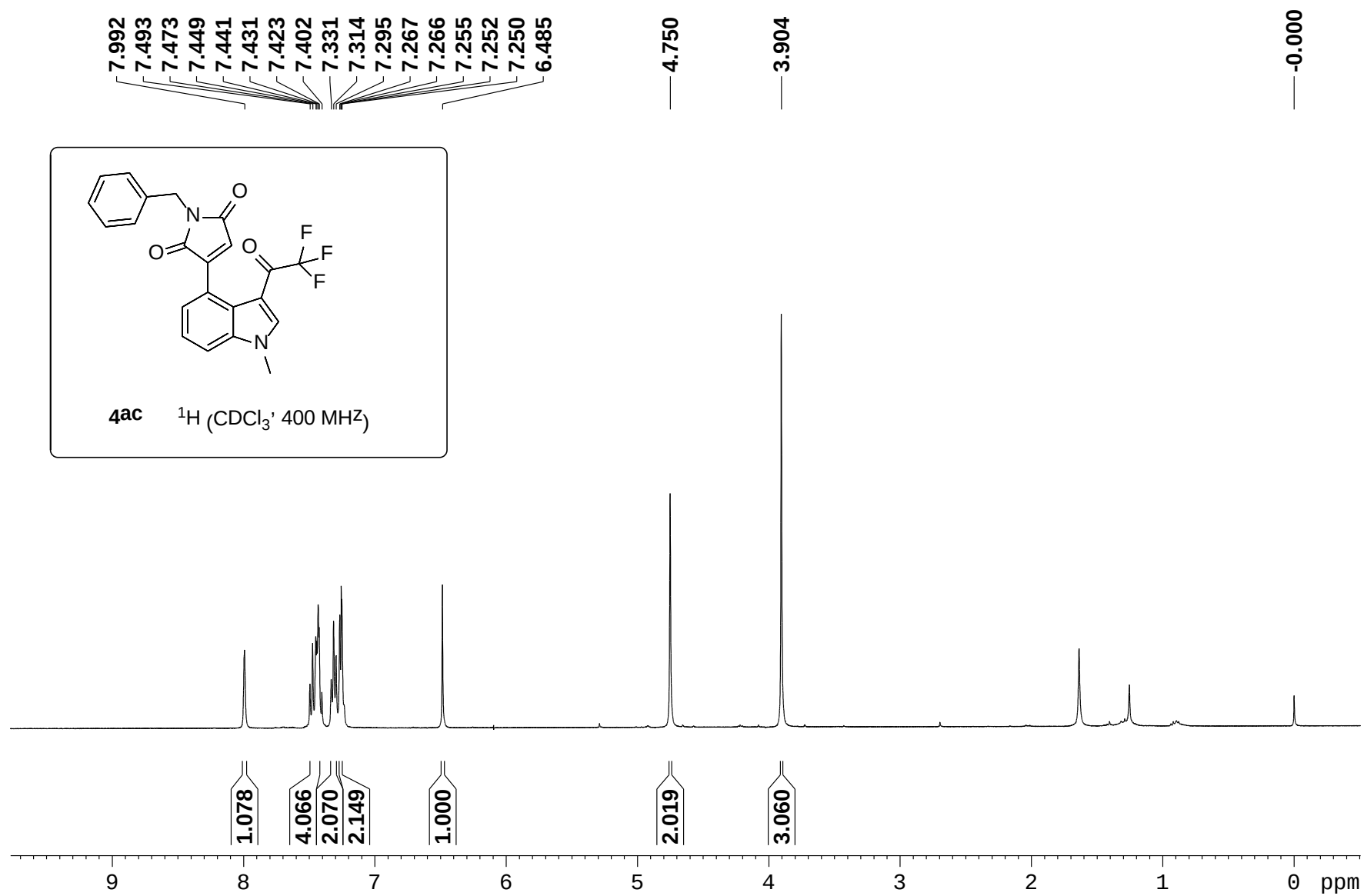


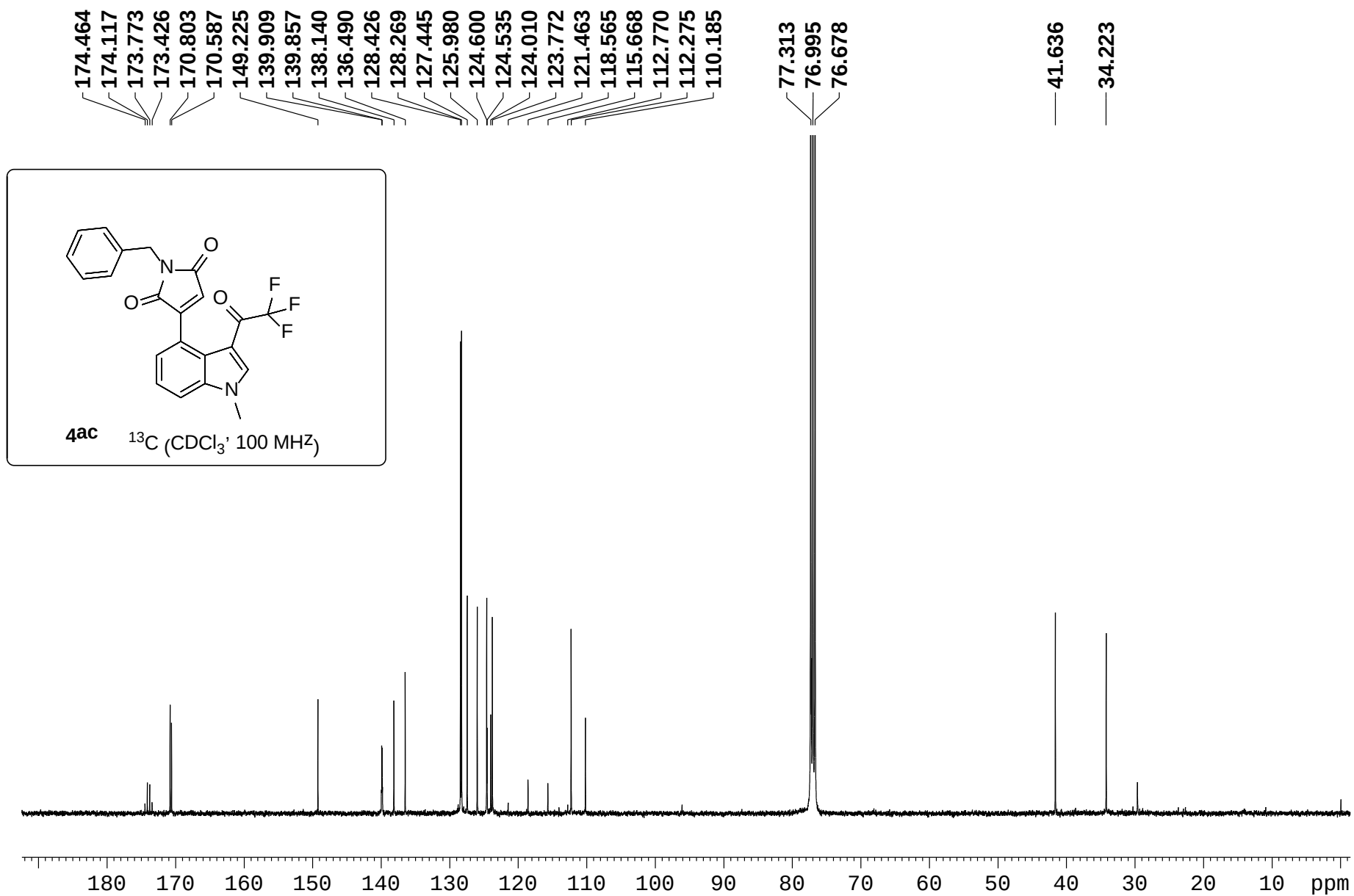


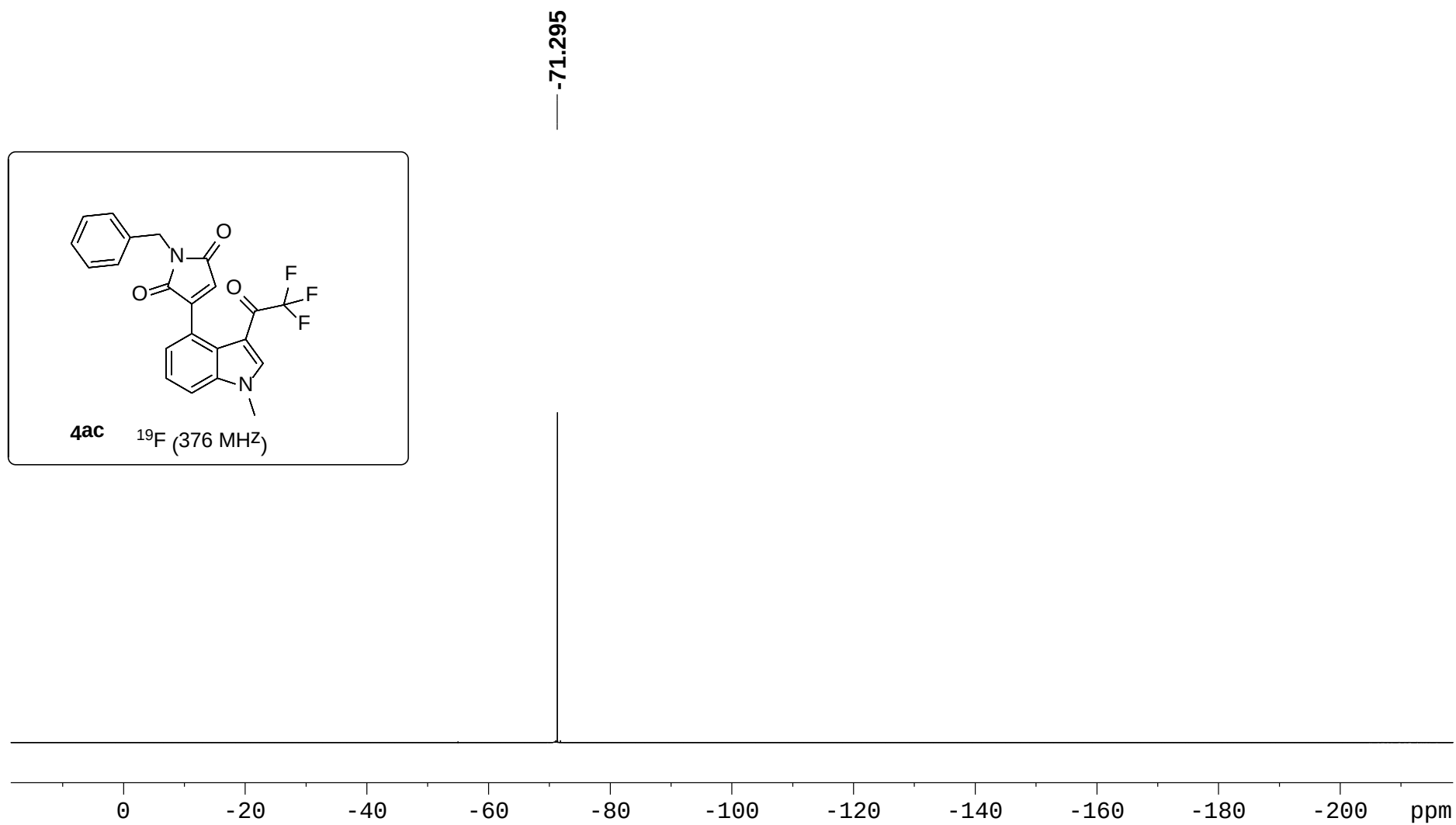


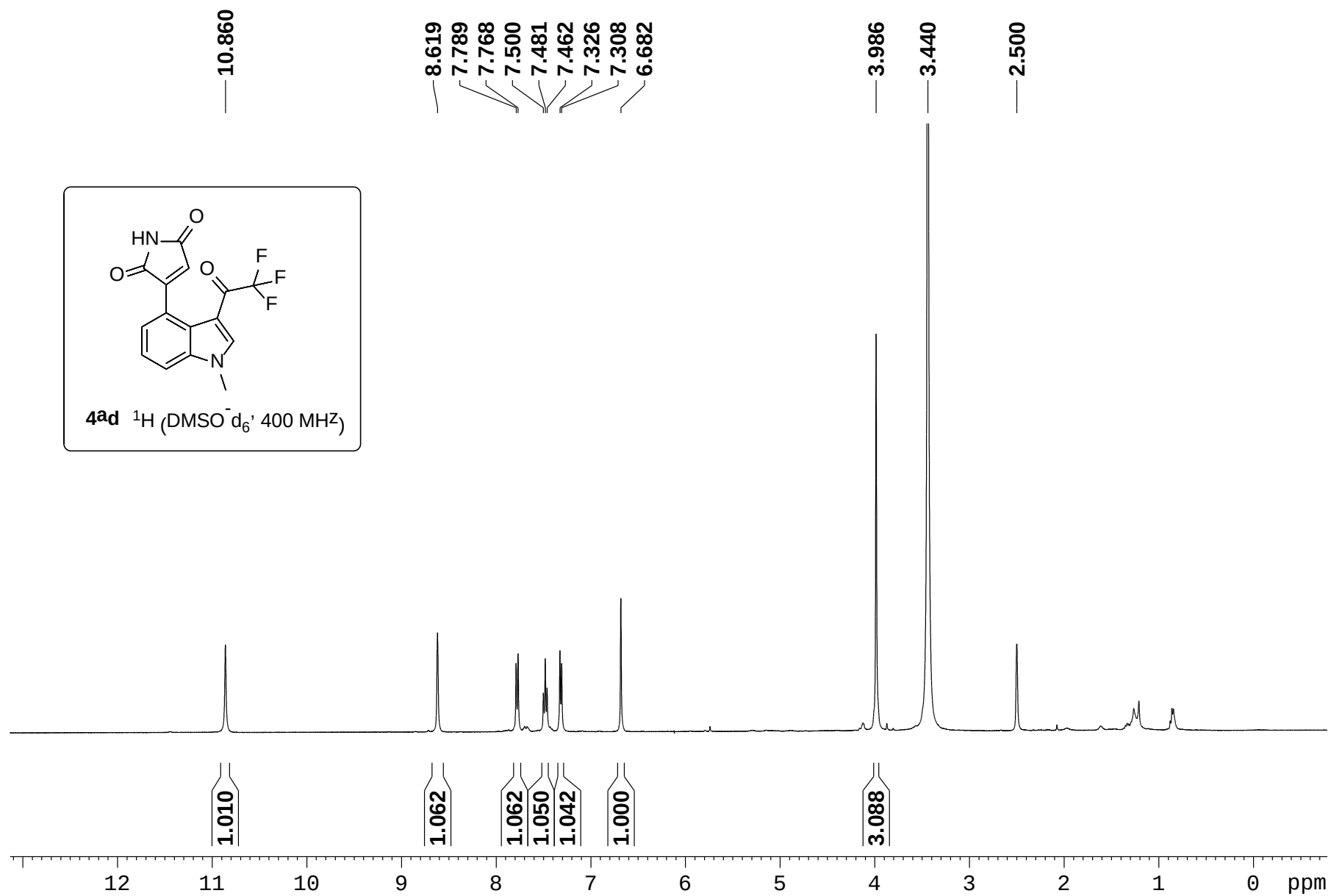
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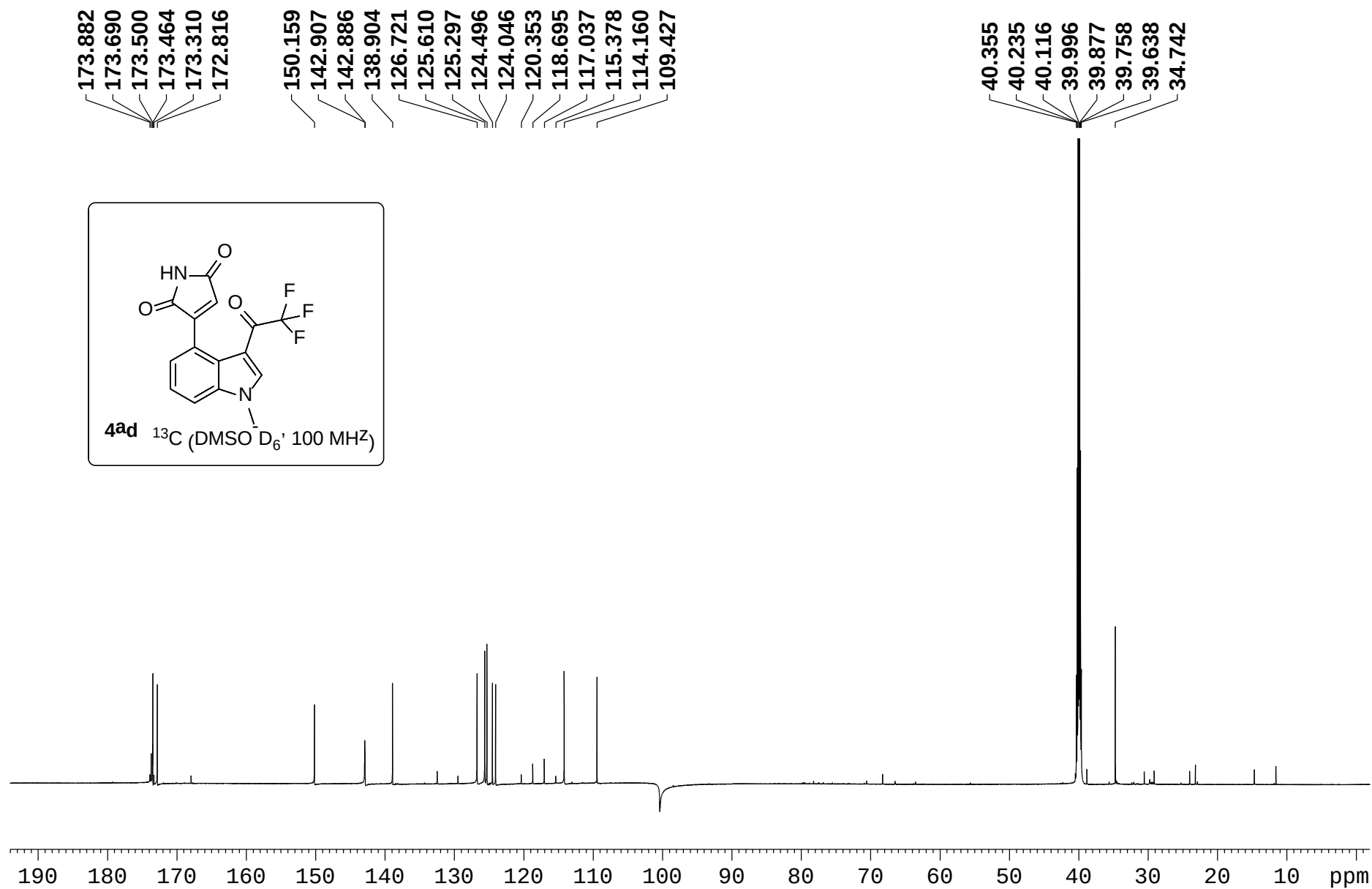


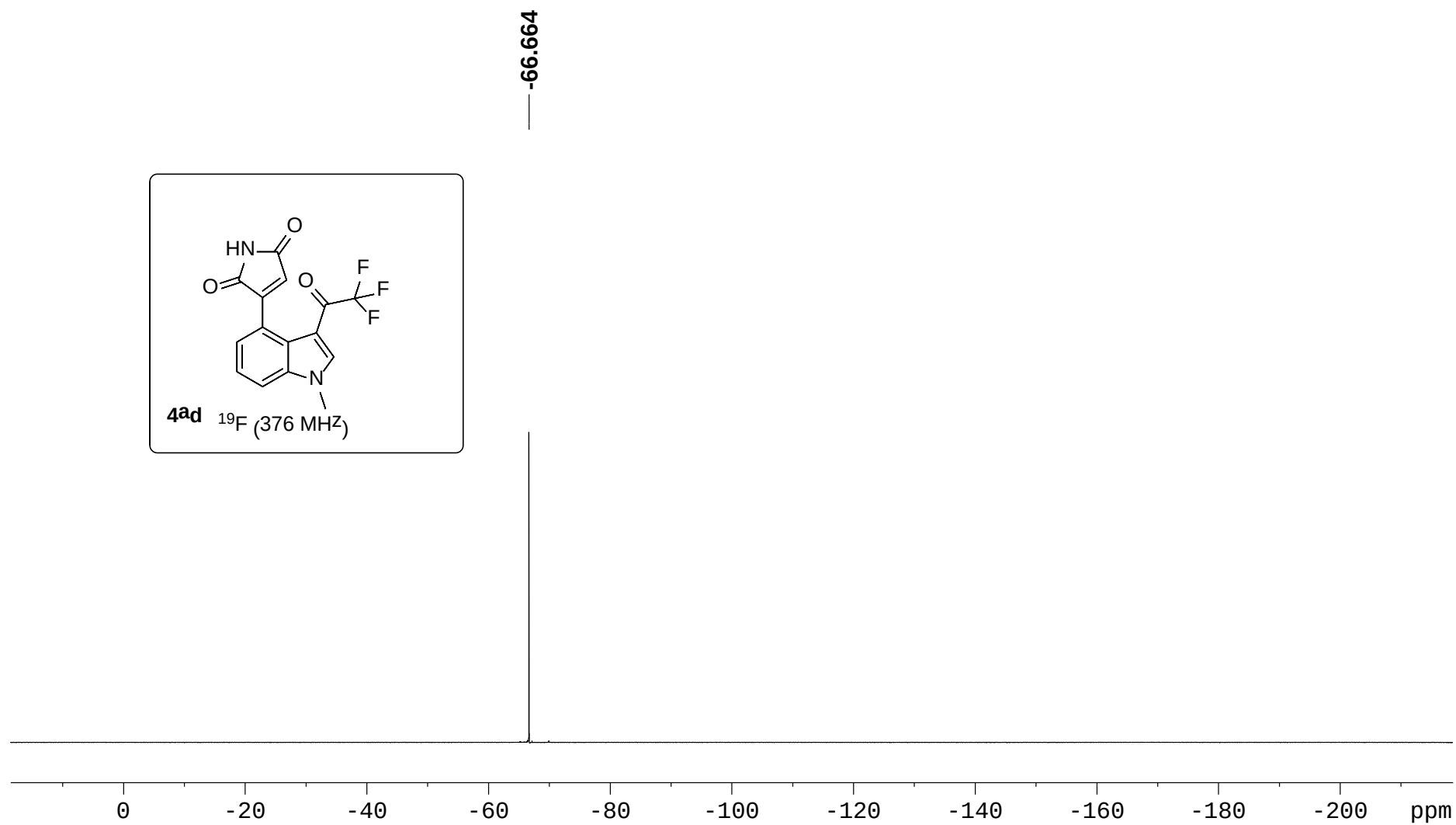


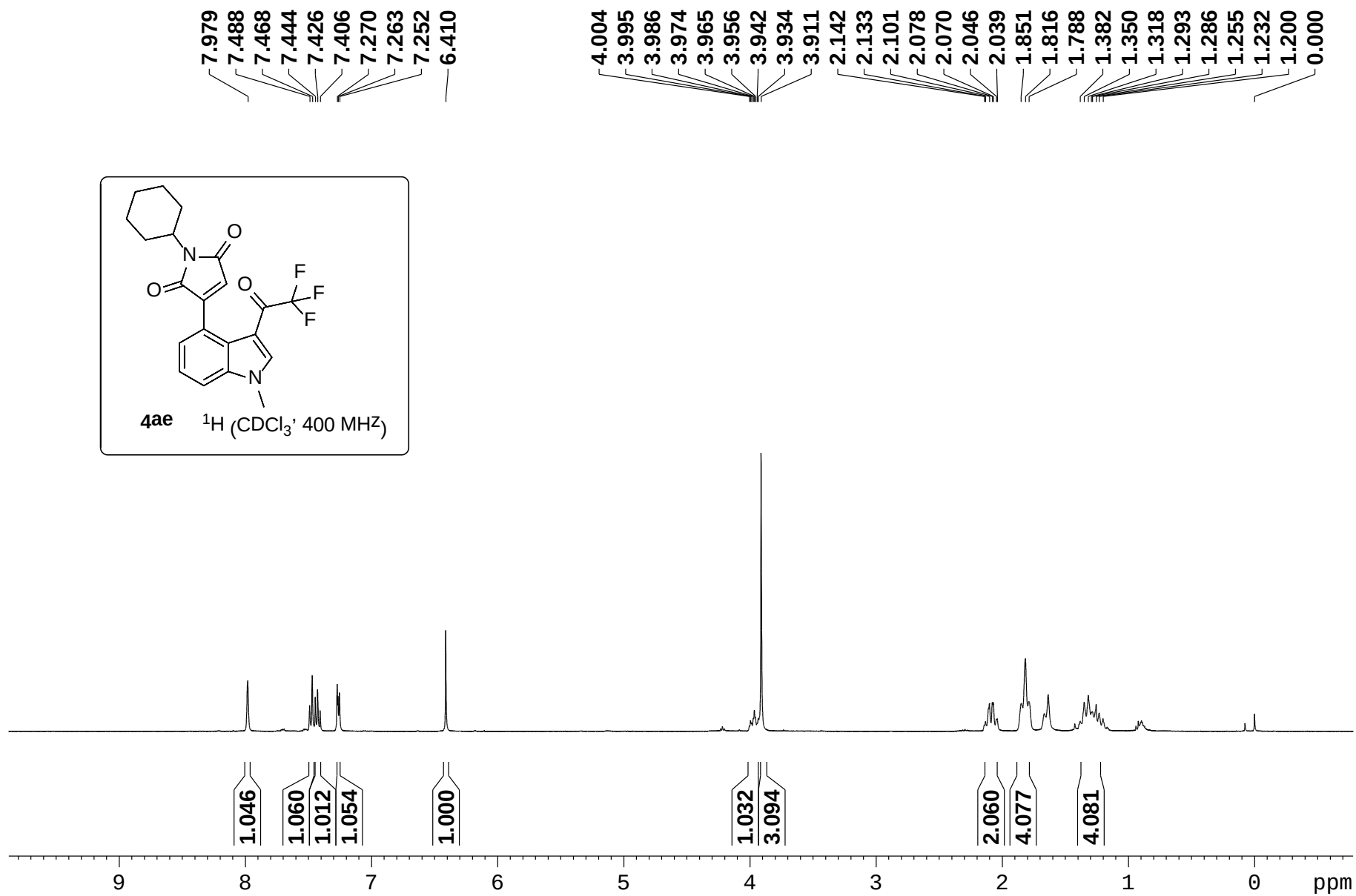


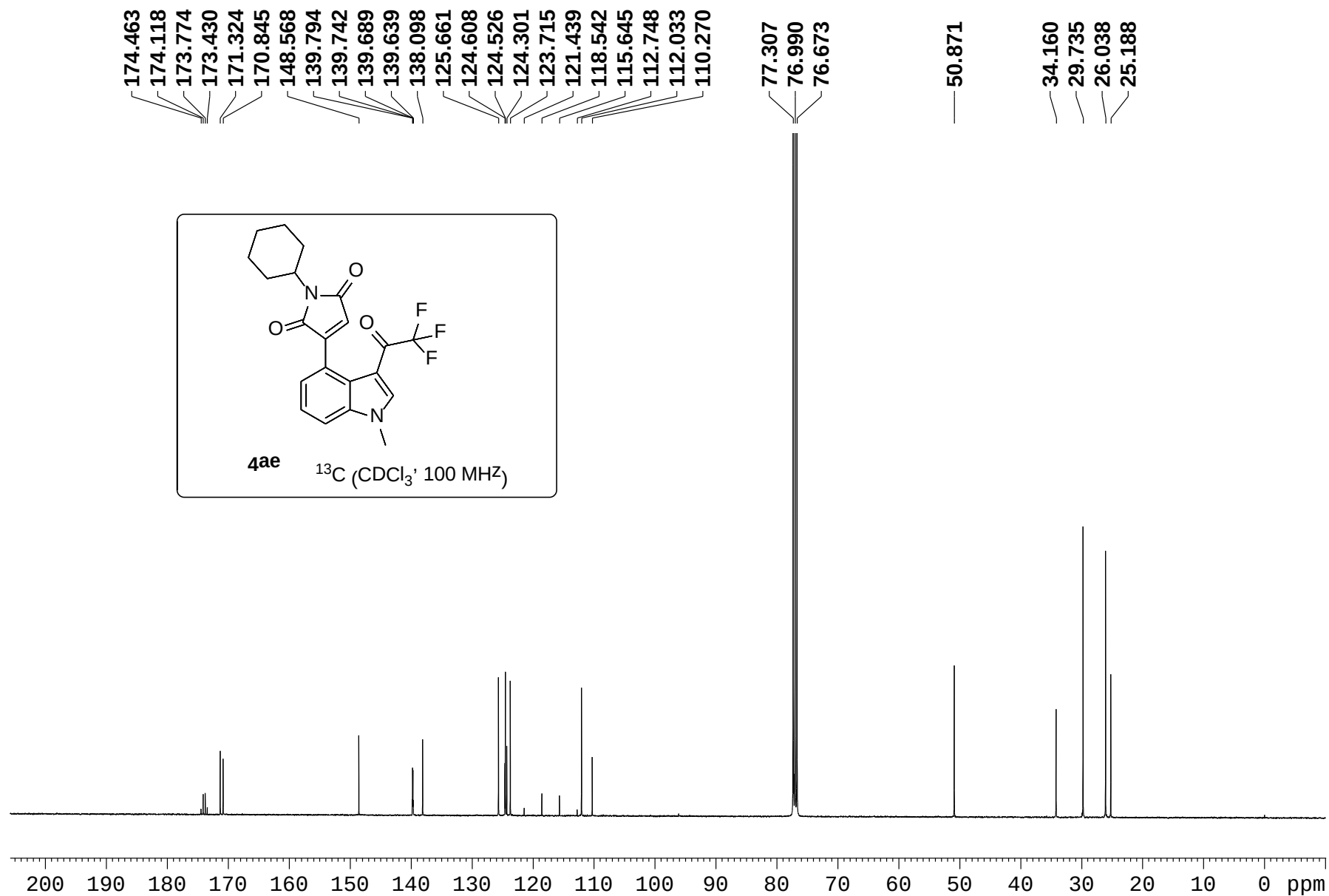


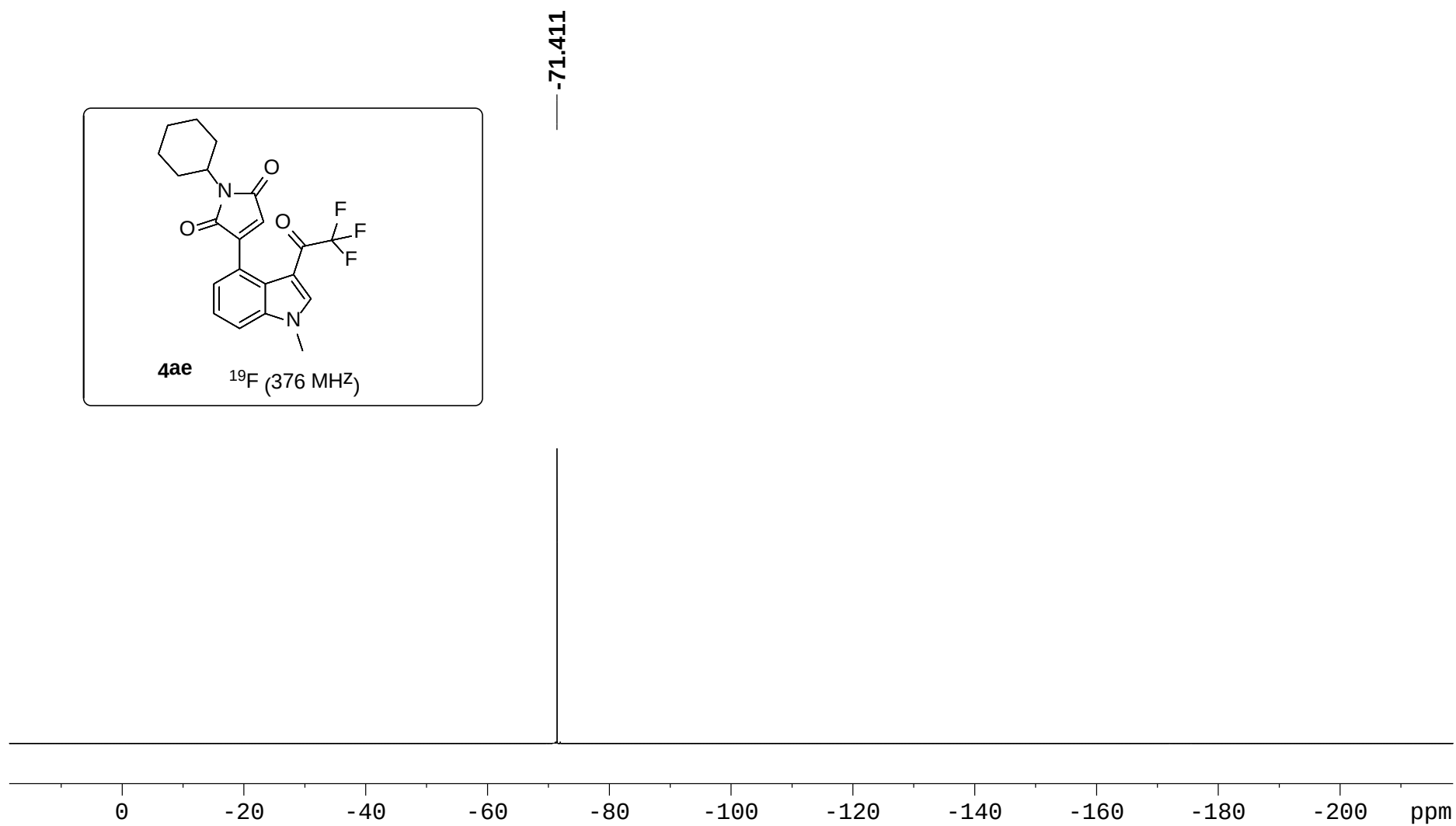


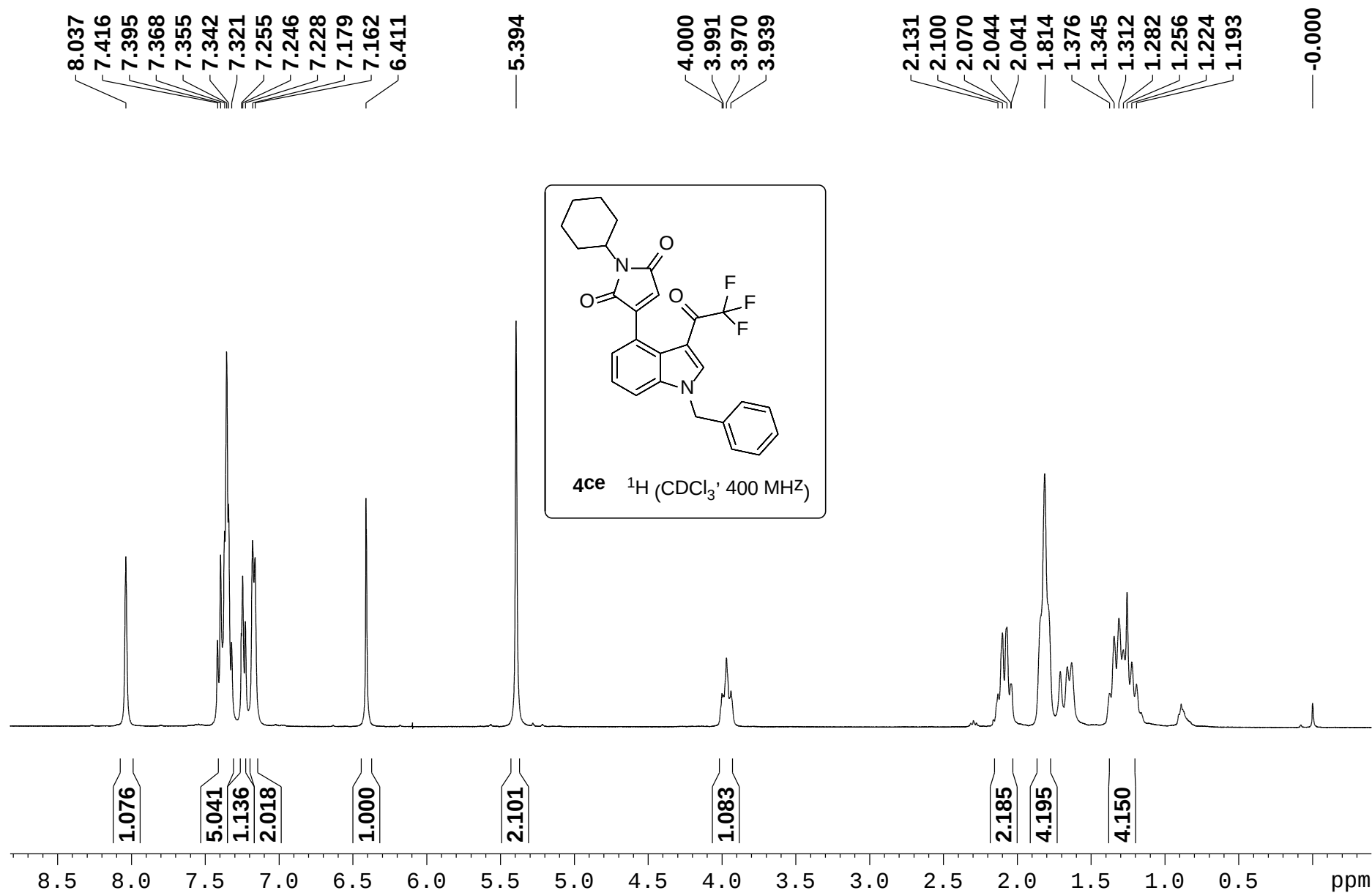


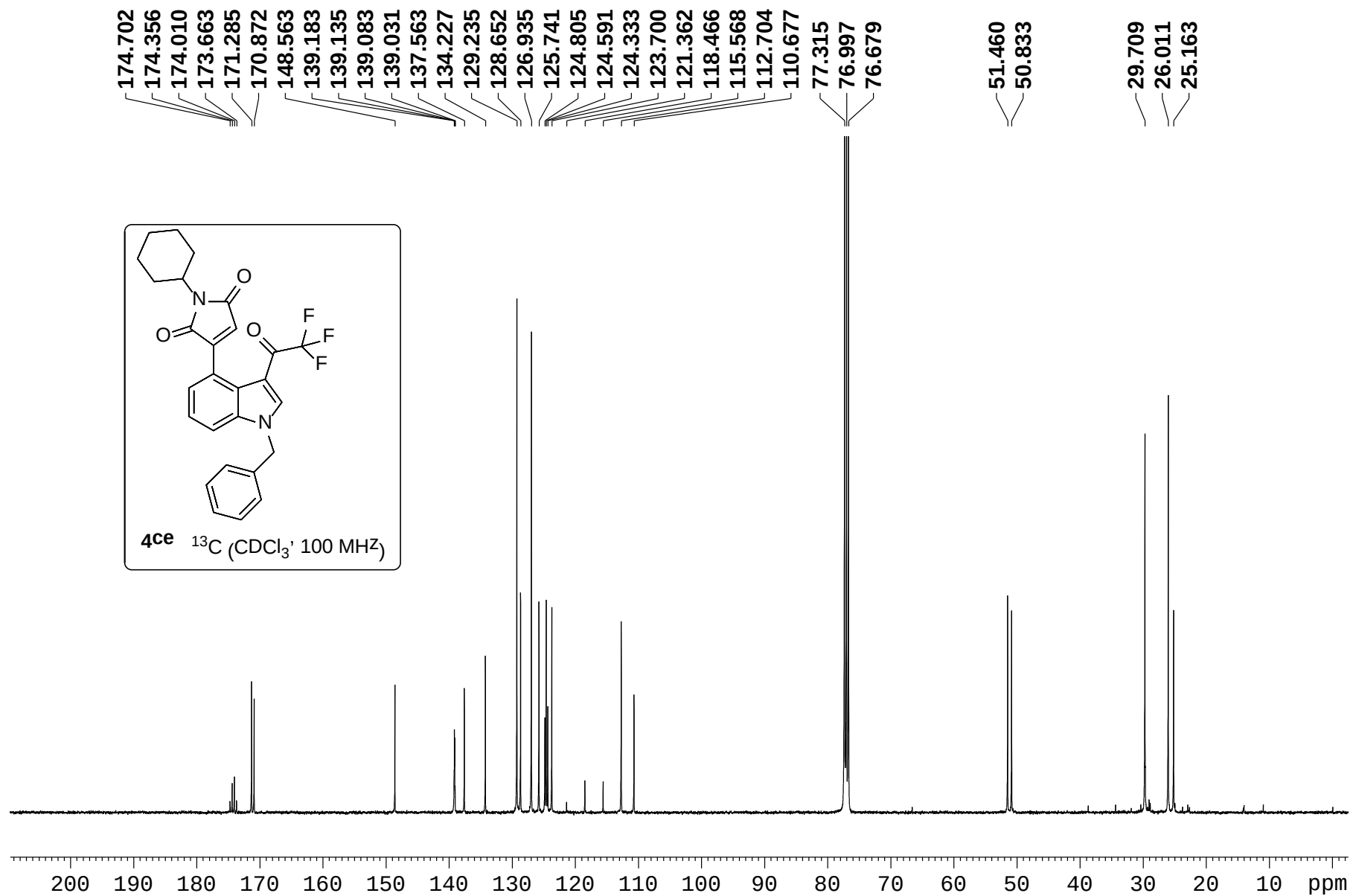


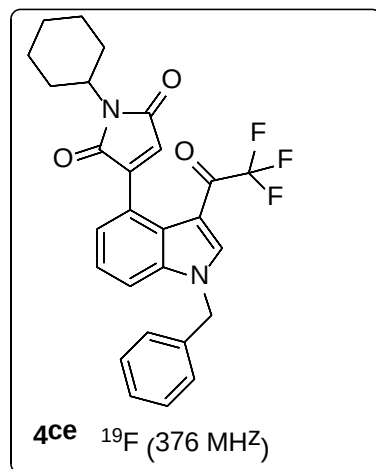












— -71.461

