

Supporting Information

Expedient Synthesis of Eumelanin-Inspired 5,6-Dihydroxyindole- 2-Carboxylate Ethyl Ester Derivatives

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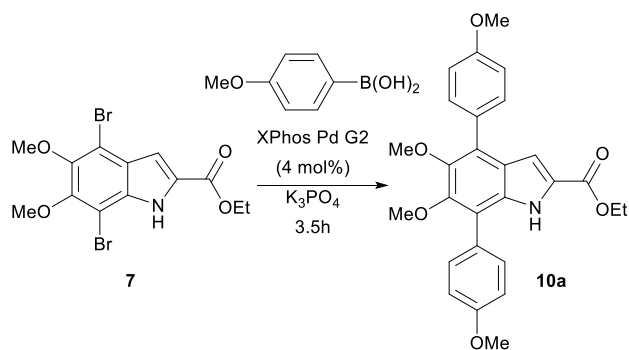
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General Information

DMICE was purchased from Alfa Aesar, BroadPharm, and Oxchem. All reagents, except for *DMICE* and *N*-bromosuccinimide, were used as received from the commercial vendor. *DMICE* was dissolved in a mixture of dichloromethane/THF and filtered through a short silica plug with EtOAc prior to use. *N*-bromosuccinimide was recrystallized from benzene. Solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich in anhydrous form and used as received. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (80-200 mesh, JT Baker). The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian 400 MHz instrument using either CDCl_3 or d_6 -acetone (Cambridge Isotopes Laboratories), correcting the chemical shifts (reported in ppm) to the corresponding residual deuterated solvent peak. The following abbreviations were used to identify the multiplicities in the NMR spectra: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), b (broad), and apt (apparent). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained using an Agilent Q-TOF HPLC-MS (University of Michigan) or Kratos MS25 double focusing mass spectrometer (Case Western Reserve University).

Tables

Table S1 Optimization of Suzuki coupling for **7**



Entry	Conditions	Conversion ^b	Yield ^c
1	dioxane/ H_2O (11:1), 75 °C	100%	82%
2	dioxane/ H_2O (11:1), 50 °C	72%	71%
3	THF/ H_2O (1:1), 50 °C	100%	97%
4 ^d	THF/ H_2O (1:1), 50 °C	100%	89%

^aReaction conditions: **7** (0.04 mmol), 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid (0.096 mmol), XPhos Pd G2 (0.0016 mmol), K_3PO_4 (0.12 mmol), solvent (0.083 M), 3.5 h. ^bDetermined from crude $^1\text{H-NMR}$. ^cIsolated yield. ^d4-methoxyphenylboronic acid (0.084 mmol).

Table S2 ¹H-NMR indole N-H chemical shift

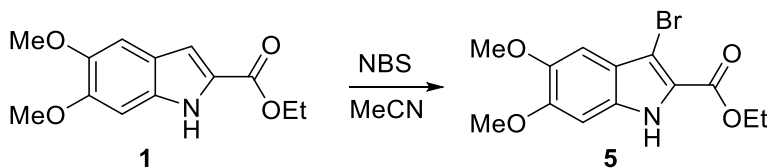
Substituent	3-Substituents		4,7-Substituents	
	Compound #	Chemical Shift	Compound #	Chemical Shift
4-Phenyl-NMe ₂	9b	8.74	10b	8.71
4-Phenyl-OMe	9a	8.80	10a	8.64
4-Phenyl-Me	9c	8.81	10c	8.65
4-Phenyl-F	9d	8.83	--	--
Phenyl	--	--	10d	8.67
4-Phenyl-CF ₃	9e	9.01	10e	8.64
4-Phenyl-CN	9f	9.05	10f	8.67
4-Phenyl-NO ₂	9g	10.94*	10g	8.73
3,4-OMe	9h	8.79	10h	8.70
1-naphthyl	9i	9.09	--	--
3-thiophene	9j	8.82	10i	8.81
3-furan	9k	8.97	10j	8.84
2-benzofuran	9l	8.98	10k	10.34
4-indole	9m	8.98	--	--
6-indole	9n	8.84	10l	8.72

Spectra recorded in CDCl₃ except where noted. Chemical shift is in ppm.

*In acetone-d₆

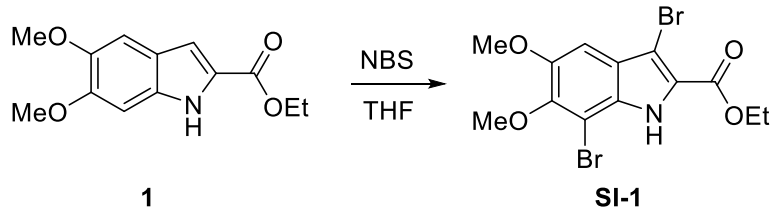
Experimental Procedures

Synthesis of **5**¹



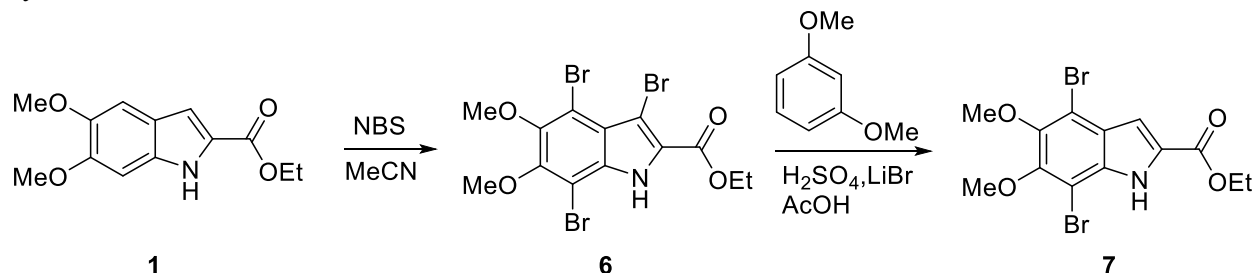
To a 50-mL round bottom flask added ethyl 5,6-dimethoxyindole-2-carboxylate **1** (1 equiv, 0.50 mmol) and partially dissolved in MeCN (2 mL). A solution of NBS (1.05 equiv, 0.525 mmol) in MeCN (7 mL) was added dropwise to the reaction flask over 5 min and allowed to stir at room temperature for an additional 30 min. The reaction was diluted with H₂O and filtered at 0 °C to produce **6**: 87% yield (off-white solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.83 (s, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 4.43 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.1, 151.2, 147.1, 130.5, 122.7, 121.4, 101.1, 98.1, 93.9, 61.2, 56.3, 56.2, 14.5.

Synthesis of SI-1



To a scintillation vial covered in tin foil added ethyl 5,6-dimethoxyindole-2-carboxylate **1** (1 equiv, 0.50 mmol) and NBS (4.0 equiv, 2.0 mmol). The starting materials were dissolved in THF (10 mL) and stirred at 65 °C for 2 h, then concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was dissolved in dichloromethane, washed with H₂O, dried with MgSO₄, concentrated and purified via column chromatography (silica, 8:1 hex/EtOAc) to produce **SI-1**: 69% yield (white solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.90 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 4.46 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.06 – 3.80 (m, 6H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 150.6, 147.8, 129.4, 124.7, 123.9, 101.4, 100.3, 98.4, 61.7, 61.4, 56.6, 14.5. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₃H₁₄NO₄Br₂ ([M+H]⁺): 405.9284; found: 405.9282; calculated ([M+2+H]⁺): 407.9269; found: 407.9265; calculated ([M+4+H]⁺): 409.9249; found: 409.9244.

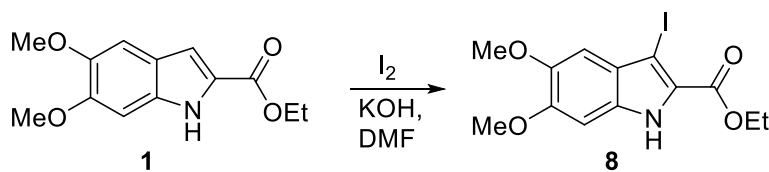
Synthesis of 7



To a 20mL-scintillation vial covered in tin foil added ethyl 5,6-dimethoxyindole-2-carboxylate **1** (1 equiv, 0.80 mmol), N-bromosuccinimide (4 equiv, 3.20 mmol) and dissolved in acetonitrile (8 mL). The reaction was stirred at 65 °C for 24 h, concentrated *in vacuo* and filtered through a silica plug (3:1 to 2:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to yield **6**. The material was used in the following reaction without further purification. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.04 (s, 1H), 4.47 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.3, 150.9, 147.9, 131.9, 126.3, 120.6, 110.4, 99.1, 98.7, 62.0, 61.7, 61.3, 14.5.

Adapted from Tani *et al.*² In a round-bottom flask **6** was dissolved in AcOH (0.07 M). To the reaction mixture LiBr (2.1 equiv, 0.6288 mmol), *m*-dimethoxybenzene (2.1 equiv, 0.6288 mmol) H₂SO₄ (2.1 equiv, 0.6288 mmol) was added and stirred at 65 °C for 1h. After cooling to room temperature, the product was precipitated out of solution with the addition of ice and filtered. The crude material was then purified via column chromatography (silica, hexanes: EtOAc: 8:1) to produce **7**: 66% yield, two steps (white solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.96 (s, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 4.43 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.3, 150.3, 147.1, 132.5, 128.7, 124.9, 110.0, 109.5, 99.0, 61.7, 61.6, 61.5, 14.5. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₃H₁₄NO₄Br₂ ([M+H]⁺): 405.9284; found: 405.9279; calculated ([M+2+H]⁺): 407.9269; found: 407.9259; calculated ([M+4+H]⁺): 409.9249; found: 409.9236.

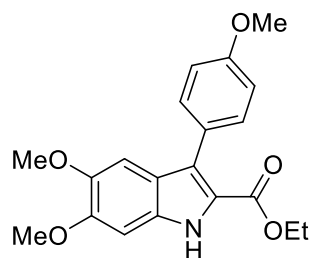
Synthesis of **8**



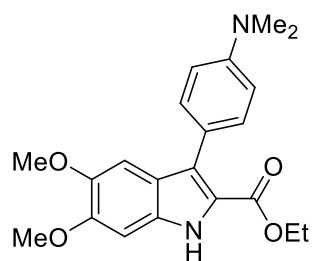
Adapted from Buchgraber *et al.*³ To a 20mL-scintillation vial added ethyl 5,6-dimethoxyindole-2-carboxylate **1** (1 equiv, 0.80 mmol) and dissolved in DMF (0.8 mL). KOH (powdered, 5.03 eq, 4.024 mmol) was added to the reaction vial and stirred at 0°C for 10 min. Over 5-10 minutes, 5 portions of I_2 (1.05 equiv, 0.84 mmol) were added to the reaction vial and continued stirring at 0°C for an additional 30 min, then at r.t. for 45 min. The reaction was quenched by addition of sat NH_4Cl (8 mL) and sat $Na_2S_2O_3$ (8 mL). The precipitated solid was filtered, then re-dissolved in a mixture of ethyl acetate/dichloromethane, dried with $MgSO_4$ and concentrated to produce **8**: 84% yield (off-white solid). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 9.10 (s, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 4.43 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 1.45 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.9, 151.2, 147.2, 131.0, 125.7, 125.0, 103.3, 93.7, 65.9, 61.3, 56.4, 56.3, 14.5. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $C_{13}H_{15}NO_4I$ ($[M+H]^+$): 376.0040, found: 376.0038.

General Procedure for Suzuki Coupling of **8**

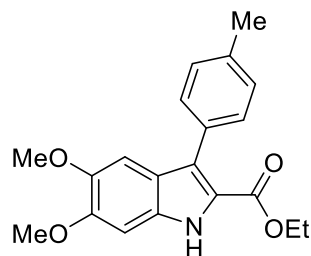
To a 1-dram reaction vial with a septum-cap added XPhosPd G2 (4 mol%, 0.0024 mmol), **8** (1 equiv, 0.06 mmol) and corresponding boronic acid (1.25 equiv, 0.075 mmol), evacuated with vacuum and purged with N_2 . To the reaction vial added 1,4-dioxane (0.66 mL) and 0.5 M K_3PO_4 (3 equiv, 0.18 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at 75 °C for 20 h and quenched with the addition of H_2O . The crude mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 4 mL), dried with $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The pure product was isolated via column chromatography (silica, hexanes: EtOAc: 3:2 to 2:1).



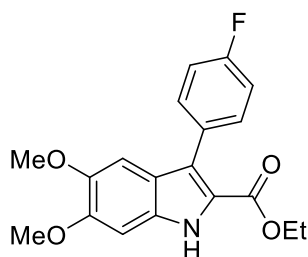
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (**9a**): 97% yield (white solid). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.80 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 4.27 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.26 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.0, 158.9, 150.5, 146.4, 131.7, 130.9, 126.2, 124.3, 121.3, 121.0, 113.5, 101.7, 93.7, 60.6, 56.3, 56.2, 55.4, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $C_{20}H_{21}NO_5$ ($[M]^+$): 355.1420; found: 355.1426.



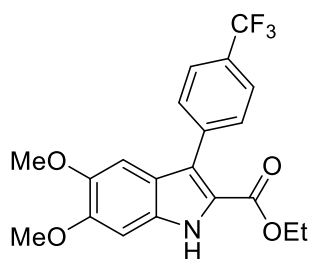
ethyl 3-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (**9b**): 83% yield (off-white solid). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.74 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.89 – 6.80 (m, 3H), 4.29 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.03 (s, 6H), 1.28 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.1, 150.4, 149.7, 146.2, 131.4, 131.1, 125.0, 121.0, 121.0, 112.1, 102.1, 93.6, 60.5, 56.3, 56.2, 40.8, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $C_{21}H_{25}N_2O_4$ ($[M+H]^+$): 369.1809, found: 369.1819.



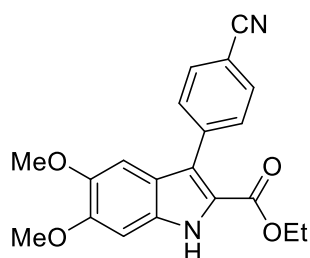
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-3-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (**9c**): 96% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.81 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 4.27 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.25 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.9, 150.5, 146.4, 136.9, 130.9, 130.9, 130.5, 128.7, 124.6, 121.4, 121.0, 101.8, 93.7, 60.6, 56.3, 56.2, 21.5, 14.3. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 340.1543, found: 340.1543.



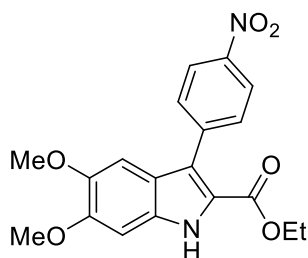
ethyl 3-(4-fluorophenyl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (**9d**): 90% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.83 (s, 1H), 7.57 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.15 (appt t, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 4.27 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.23 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.2 (d, $J = 244.4$ Hz), 161.8, 150.6, 146.6, 132.2 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 130.9, 129.9 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz), 123.4, 121.6, 120.9, 114.9 (d, $J = 21.6$ Hz), 101.4, 93.7, 60.8, 56.3, 56.2, 14.3. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_4\text{F}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 344.1293, found: 344.1294.



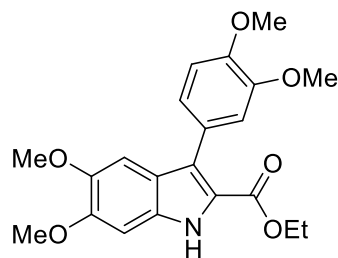
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (**9e**): 90% (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.01 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.28 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.22 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.7, 150.8, 146.9, 138.0, 130.9, 130.9 (2C), 129.2 ($^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 32$ Hz), 124.9 ($^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 4$ Hz), 124.5 ($^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 272$ Hz), 122.8, 121.7, 120.7, 101.1, 93.8, 60.9, 56.3, 56.2, 14.24. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_4\text{F}_3$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 394.1261, found: 394.1265.



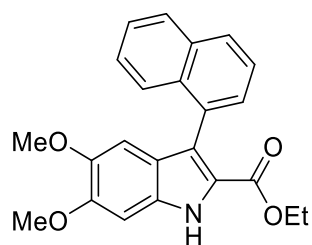
ethyl 3-(4-cyanophenyl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (**9f**): 96% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.05 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 4.28 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.24 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.4, 150.8, 147.1, 139.3, 131.8, 131.4, 130.9, 122.2, 121.7, 120.4, 119.3, 110.8, 100.8, 93.8, 61.0, 56.4, 56.3, 14.3. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 351.1339, found: 351.1342.



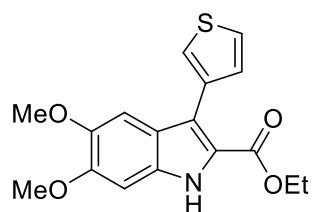
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-3-(4-nitrophenyl)-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (**9g**): 90% yield (yellow solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, $\text{Acetone-}d_6$) δ 10.94 (s, 1H), 8.32 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.25 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 1.22 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, $\text{Acetone-}d_6$) δ 161.8, 152.0, 148.4, 147.6, 142.9, 132.7, 132.6, 123.8, 123.0, 121.8, 121.0, 101.9, 95.5, 61.2, 56.5, 56.2, 14.6. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 371.1238; found: 371.1237.



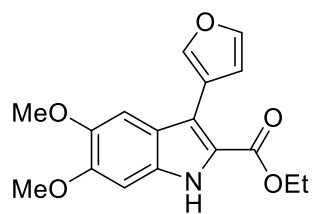
ethyl 3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (9h): 95% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.79 (s, 1H), 7.16 – 7.09 (m, 2H), 7.01 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 4.28 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 6H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.9, 150.6, 148.4, 148.4, 146.5, 130.9, 126.5, 124.4, 123.0, 121.4, 121.1, 114.1, 110.9, 101.8, 93.7, 60.7, 56.3, 56.3, 56.1, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_6$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 386.1598, found: 386.1601.



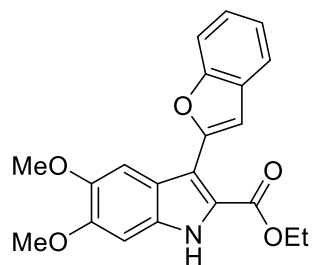
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (9i): 87% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.09 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.47 (ddd, $J = 8.1$, 6.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (ddd, $J = 8.3$, 6.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 4.04 – 3.95 (m, 5H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 0.73 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.1, 150.6, 146.5, 133.7, 133.1, 132.3, 131.0, 128.4, 128.2, 127.8, 126.6, 125.8, 125.7, 125.3, 123.3, 122.1, 122.1, 101.9, 93.8, 60.4, 56.3, 56.3, 13.6. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 376.1543; found: 376.1545.



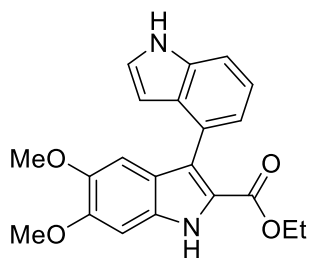
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-3-(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (9j): 94% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.82 (s, 1H), 7.54 – 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 4.31 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.2, 150.9, 146.9, 134.1, 131.3, 130.5, 124.6, 124.4, 121.9, 121.3, 119.4, 102.2, 94.0, 61.1, 56.7, 56.5, 14.7. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 332.0951, found: 332.0948.



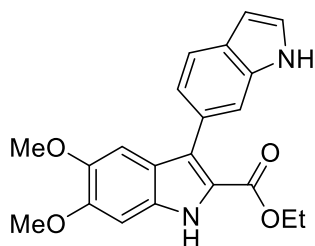
ethyl 3-(furan-3-yl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (9k): 83% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.97 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.34 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 4.43 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 1.41 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.7, 150.6, 146.5, 142.3, 141.6, 131.0, 121.6, 120.7, 117.7, 114.9, 112.7, 101.8, 93.7, 60.8, 56.4, 56.2, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_5$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 316.1178, found: 316.1179.



ethyl 3-(benzofuran-2-yl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (9l): 96% yield (off-white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.98 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 4.43 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 1.41 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.1, 154.6, 151.3, 150.8, 146.8, 130.9, 129.3, 124.1, 122.9, 121.9, 121.2, 120.0, 113.2, 111.0, 106.9, 103.7, 93.4, 61.2, 56.4, 56.2, 14.6. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_5$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 366.1336, found: 366.1336.



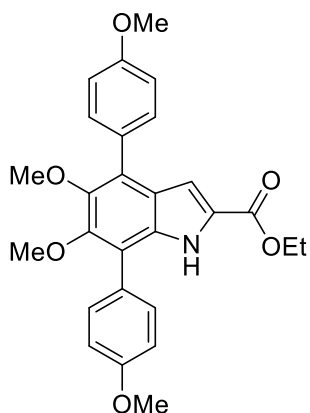
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-1H,1'H-[3,4'-biindole]-2-carboxylate (9m): 91% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.98 (s, 1H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.17 (appt t, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.36 – 6.26 (m, 1H), 4.21 – 4.09 (m, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 1.01 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.9, 150.6, 148.4, 148.3, 146.5, 130.9, 126.5, 124.3, 122.9, 121.3, 121.1, 114.1, 110.9, 101.7, 93.7, 60.7, 56.3, 56.2, 56.1, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 365.1496, found: 365.1492.



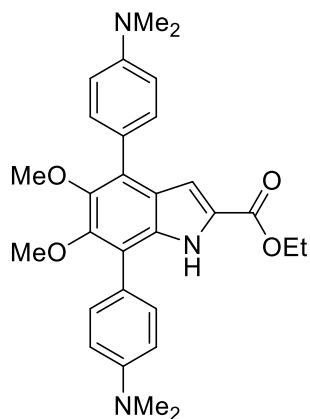
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-1H,1'H-[3,6'-biindole]-2-carboxylate (9n): 87% yield (off-white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.84 (s, 1H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.32 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.63 – 6.60 (m, 1H), 4.25 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.21 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.0, 150.5, 146.4, 135.9, 130.9, 127.6, 127.2, 125.7, 124.7, 123.1, 121.4, 120.0, 113.0, 102.7, 102.1, 93.6, 60.6, 56.4, 56.2, 14.4. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 365.1496, found: 365.1492.

General Procedure for the Di-Suzuki Coupling of 7

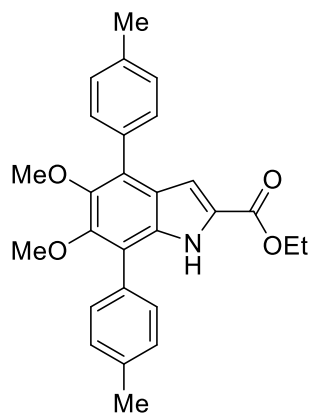
To a 1-dram reaction vial with a septum-cap added XPhosPd G2 (4 mol%, 0.0024 mmol), **7** (1 equiv, 0.04 mmol) and corresponding boronic acid (2.4 equiv, 0.096 mmol), evacuated with vacuum and purged with N_2 . To the reaction vial added THF (0.17 M) and 0.5 M K_3PO_4 (0.17 M). The reaction mixture was heated at 50 °C for 3.5 h and quenched with the addition of H_2O . The crude mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 4 mL), dried with MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The pure product was isolated via column chromatography (silica, hexanes: EtOAc: 2:1 to 9:1).



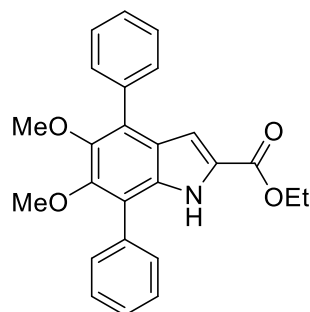
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-4,7-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (10a): 95% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.64 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 4.33 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.9, 159.4, 159.0, 150.0, 146.2, 133.0, 131.3, 130.9, 128.4, 127.8, 127.4, 126.1, 123.6, 118.4, 114.7, 113.9, 109.1, 61.6, 61.4, 61.1, 55.53, 55.45, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_6$ ($[\text{M}]^+$): 461.1838; found: 461.1826.



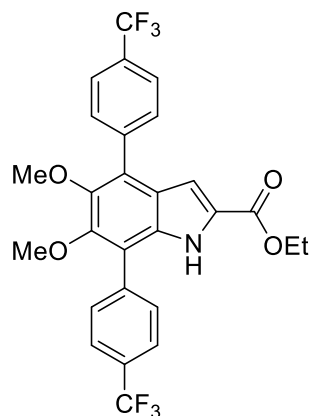
ethyl 4,7-bis(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (**10b**): 95% yield (yellow solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.71 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.88 (dd, $J = 8.5, 6.3$ Hz, 4H), 4.32 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.05 (s, 6H), 3.04 (s, 6H), 1.34 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.0, 150.1, 150.0, 149.8, 146.1, 133.3, 130.9, 130.4, 127.4, 127.4, 124.1, 123.5, 121.7, 118.3, 112.9, 112.3, 109.5, 61.5, 61.3, 60.9, 40.7, 40.7, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{34}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 488.2544, found: 488.2539.



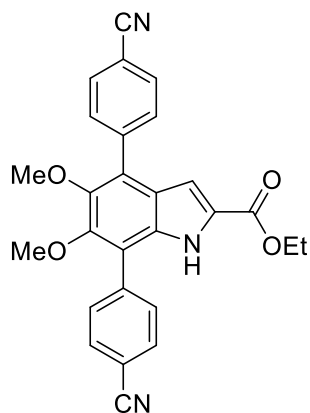
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-4,7-di-p-tolyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (**10c**): 84% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.65 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.32 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.9, 149.9, 146.2, 137.8, 137.2, 133.1, 132.9, 131.0, 130.0, 129.9, 129.6, 129.1, 127.9, 127.8, 123.5, 118.8, 109.1, 61.6, 61.4, 61.0, 21.5, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 430.2013, found: 430.2010.



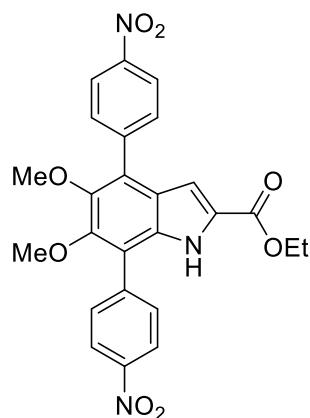
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-4,7-diphenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (**10d**): 95% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.67 (s, 1H), 7.66 – 7.40 (m, 10H), 7.09 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.33 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.9, 149.9, 146.2, 136.1, 134.0, 132.8, 130.2, 129.8, 129.2, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.5, 123.6, 119.1, 109.0, 61.7, 61.5, 61.1, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 402.1700, found: 402.1699.



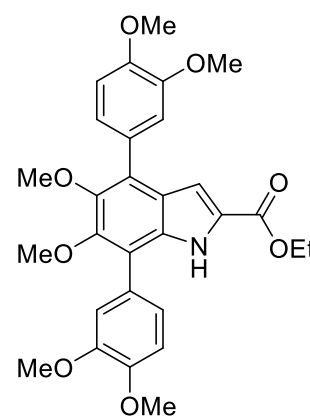
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-4,7-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (**10e**): 92% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.64 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.75 (dd, $J = 16.8, 7.6$ Hz, 7H), 7.05 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.34 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 1.36 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.6, 149.9, 146.3, 139.6, 137.6, 132.3, 130.5 (2C), 130.4 ($^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 32$ Hz), 130.2 (2C), 129.7 ($^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 32$ Hz), 128.6, 127.4, 126.2 ($^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 4$ Hz), 125.4 ($^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 4$ Hz), 124.4 ($^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 272$ Hz), 124.2 ($^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 272$ Hz), 123.5, 118.4, 108.5, 61.8, 61.6, 61.4, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_4\text{F}_6$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 538.1448, found: 538.1444.



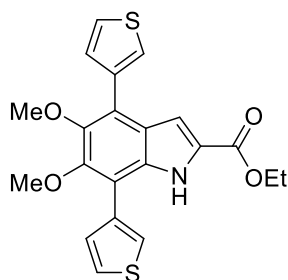
ethyl 4,7-bis(4-cyanophenyl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (10f): 76% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.67 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.78 – 7.69 (m, 4H), 7.03 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.35 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 1.36 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.5, 149.8, 146.3, 140.7, 138.7, 133.0, 132.9, 132.3, 132.0, 131.0, 130.6, 128.9, 128.1, 127.3, 123.3, 119.0, 118.7, 118.3, 112.2, 111.5, 108.2, 61.8, 61.6, 61.5, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 452.1605, found: 452.1598.



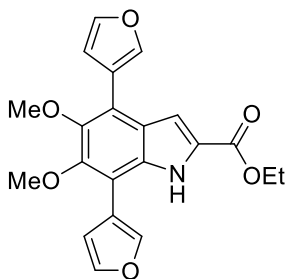
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-4,7-bis(4-nitrophenyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (10g): 90% yield (yellow solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.73 (s, 1H), 8.43 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 8.39 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.35 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 1.36 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.5, 149.9, 147.7, 147.4, 146.4, 142.7, 140.6, 132.0, 131.1, 130.8, 129.1, 127.1, 124.6, 123.7, 123.3, 118.2, 108.2, 61.8, 61.6, 61.5, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_8$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 492.1401, found: 492.1394.



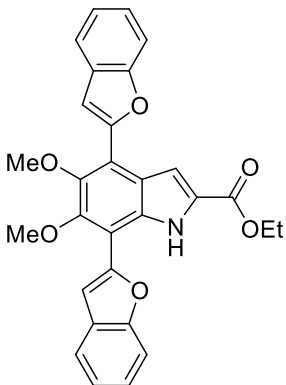
ethyl 4,7-bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (10h): 95% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.70 (s, 1H), 7.21 – 7.10 (m, 5H), 7.08 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 4.33 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.8, 149.9, 149.5, 148.9, 148.8, 148.5, 146.1, 132.9, 128.7, 127.8, 127.6, 126.4, 123.6, 122.5, 121.8, 118.5, 113.5, 113.1, 111.8, 111.1, 109.0, 61.6, 61.4, 61.1, 56.3, 56.1, 56.0, 14.51. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_8$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 522.2122, found: 522.2122.



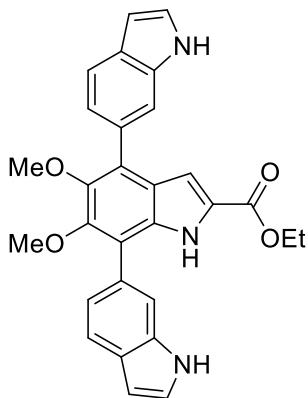
ethyl 5,6-dimethoxy-4,7-di(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (10i): 99% yield (off-white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.81 (s, 1H), 7.65 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, $J = 5.0, 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.36 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.8, 150.2, 146.4, 135.9, 133.8, 132.8, 129.5, 128.8, 127.9, 126.4, 124.9, 124.5, 124.1, 123.3, 122.9, 114.0, 109.2, 61.5, 61.3, 61.2, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4\text{S}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 414.0828, found: 414.0827.



ethyl 4,7-di(furan-3-yl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (**10j**): 81% yield (off-white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.84 (s, 1H), 7.96 – 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.88 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.95 – 6.90 (m, 1H), 6.85 – 6.77 (m, 1H), 4.39 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.8, 150.3, 146.5, 143.8, 142.9, 141.9, 141.1, 132.7, 127.9, 122.8, 119.9, 119.0, 117.9, 111.8, 111.2, 109.9, 109.2, 61.3, 61.2, 61.0, 14.6. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_6$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 382.1285, found: 382.1282.



ethyl 4,7-di(benzofuran-2-yl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (**10k**): 91% yield (light green solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.34 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.63 (m, 4H), 7.61 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 4.50 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 1.50 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.0, 154.6, 153.7, 151.5, 151.0, 150.0, 147.3, 129.3, 129.0, 127.6, 124.9, 124.2, 123.6, 123.6, 123.5, 122.9, 121.6, 121.2, 112.4, 110.99, 110.97, 108.7, 107.5, 107.1, 105.3, 61.4, 60.3, 56.4, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_6$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 482.1598, found: 482.1595.

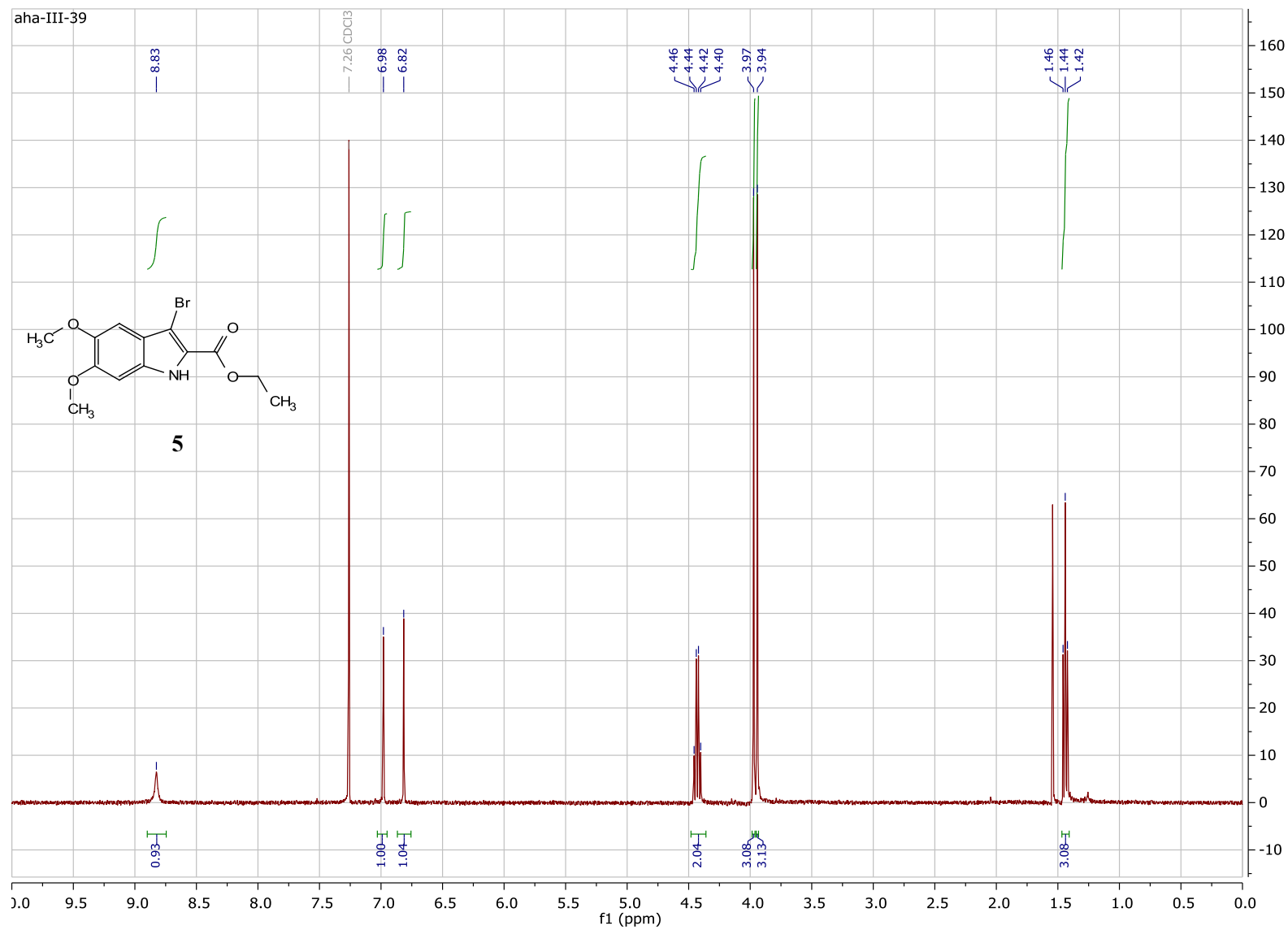


ethyl 5',6'-dimethoxy-1H,1'H,1''H-[6,4':7',6''-terindole]-2'-carboxylate (**10l**): 78% yield (white solid). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.72 (s, 1H), 8.38 (s, 3H), 8.35 (s, 2H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.43 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.16 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.70 – 6.60 (m, 2H), 4.29 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.0, 150.0, 146.2, 133.3, 130.0, 128.6, 127.7, 127.6, 127.3, 125.3, 124.9, 123.9, 122.6, 121.7, 121.4, 120.4, 119.6, 112.7, 112.4, 109.5, 102.8, 102.7, 61.7, 61.5, 61.0, 14.5. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 480.1918, found: 480.1916.

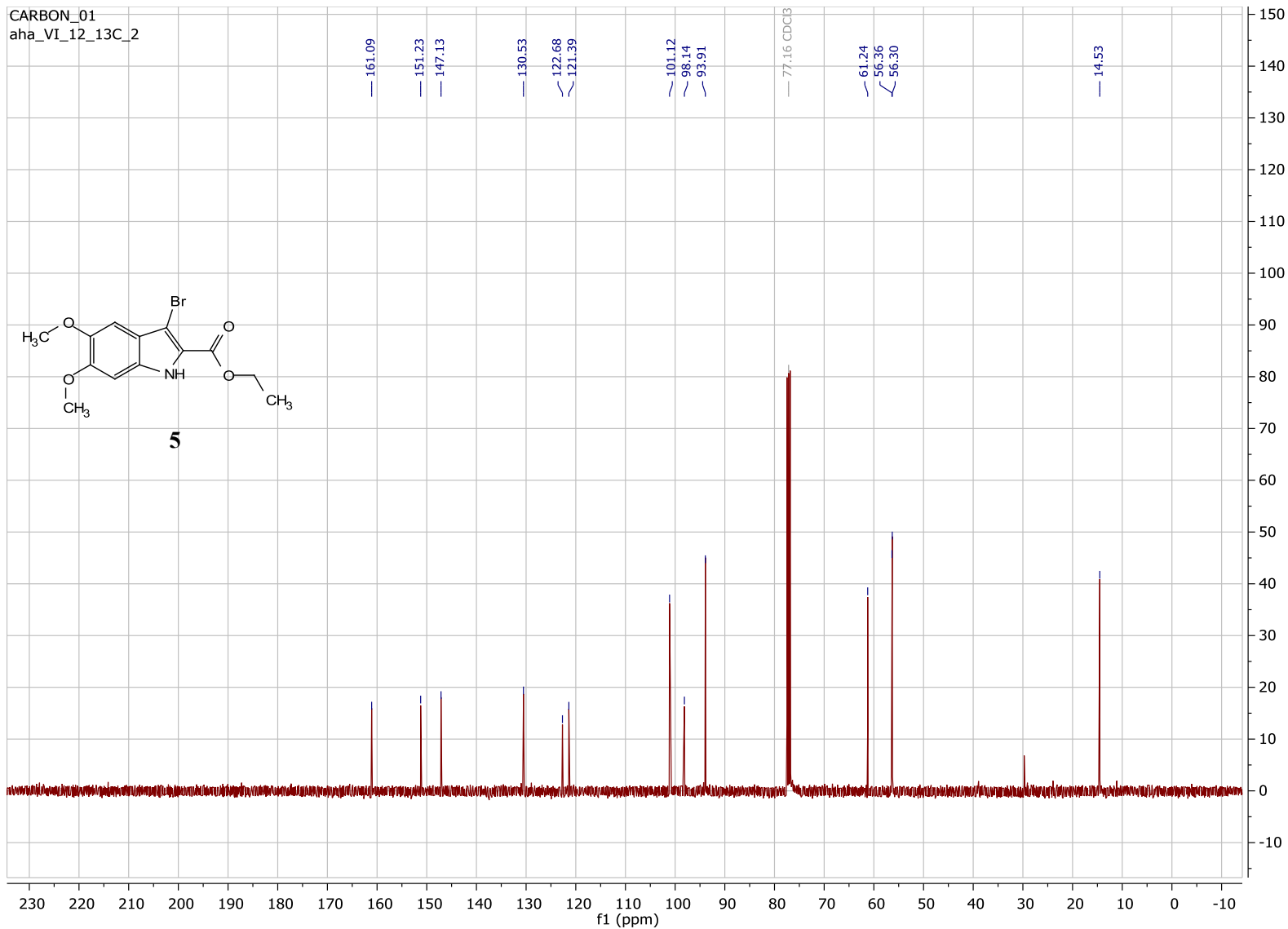
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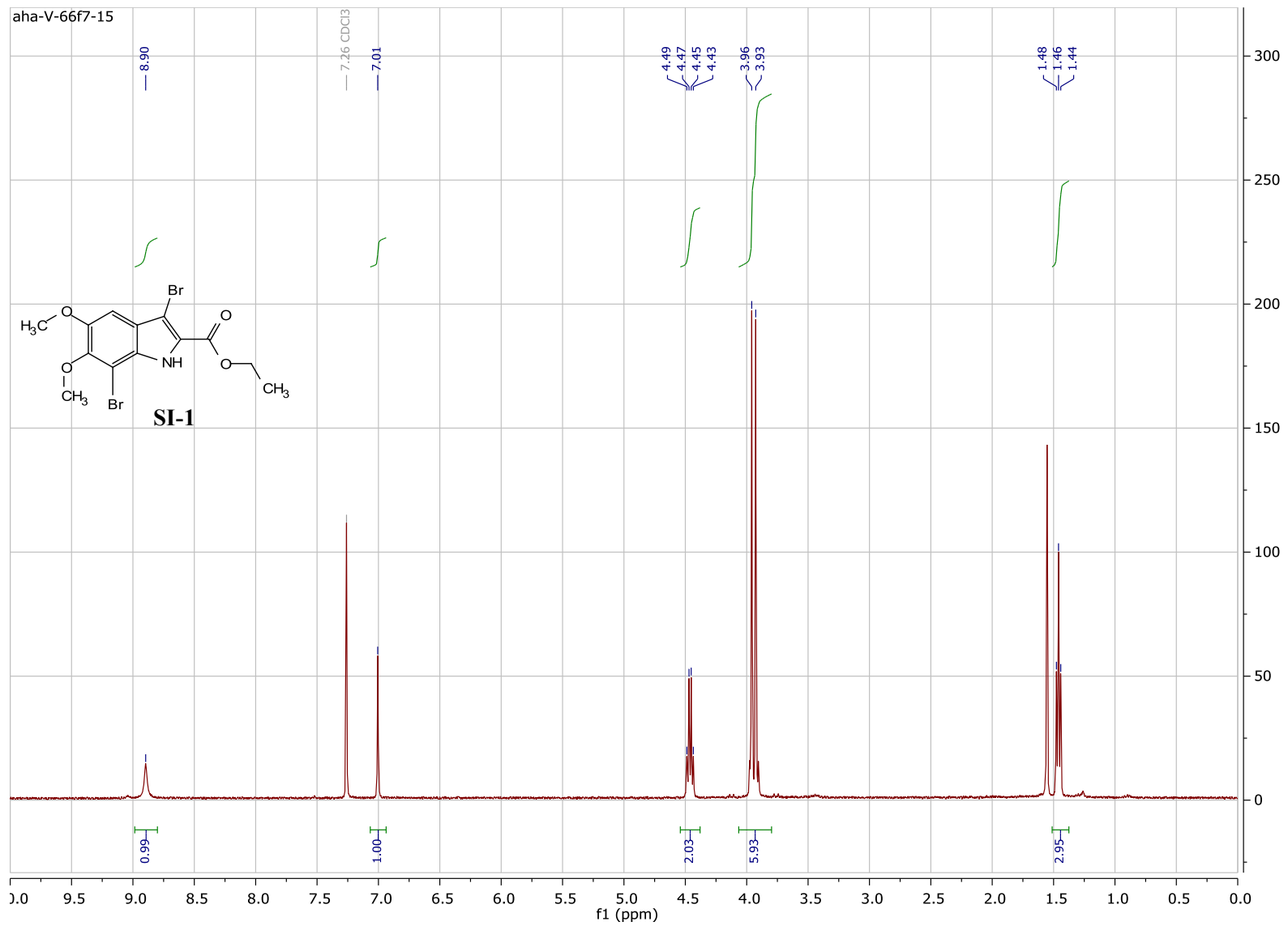
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3. P. Buchgraber, M. M. Domostoj, B. Scheiper, C. Wirtz, R. Mynott, J. Rust, A. Furstner, *Tetrahedron* 2009, **65**, 6519-6534.

NMR Spectra

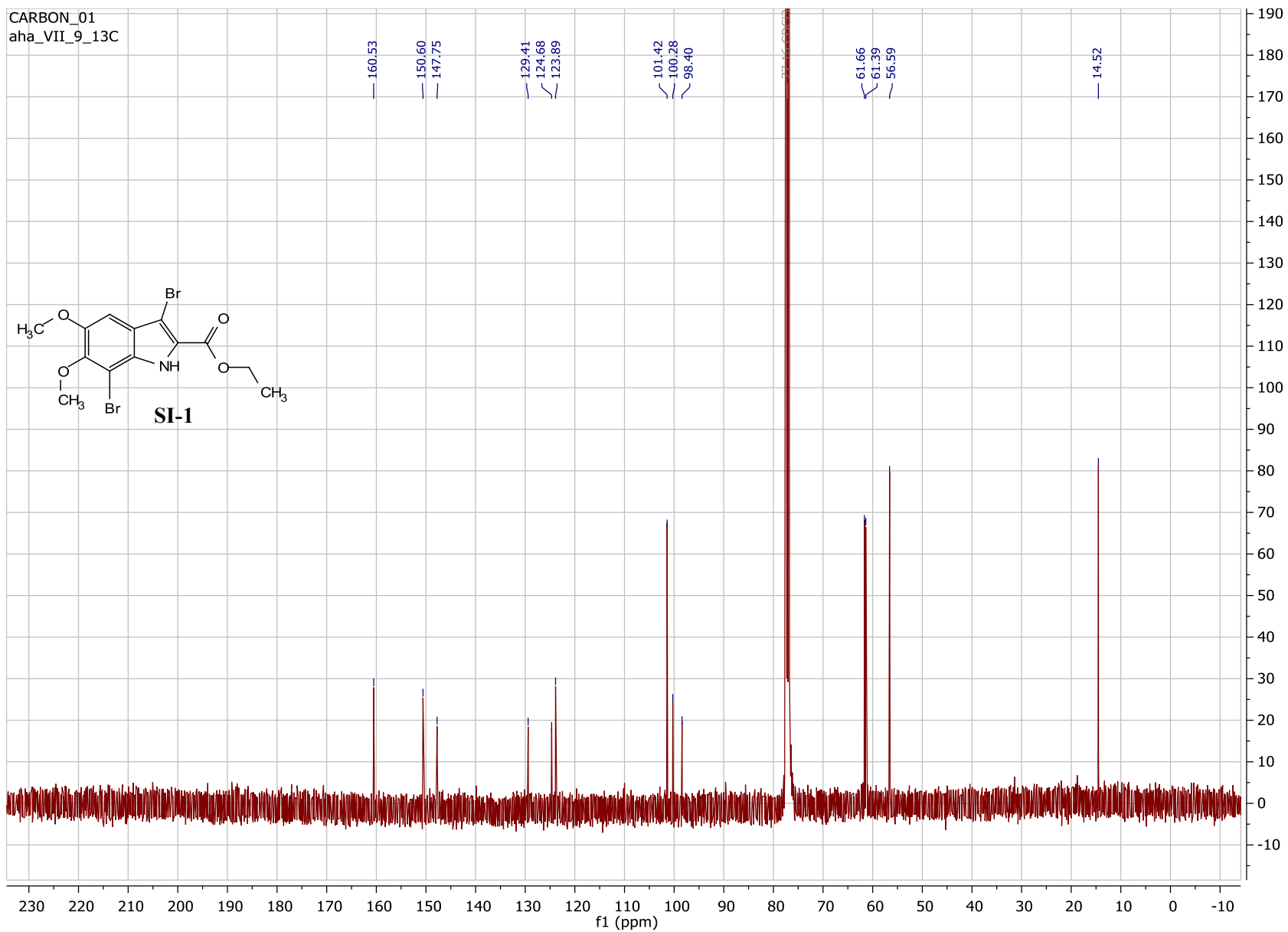
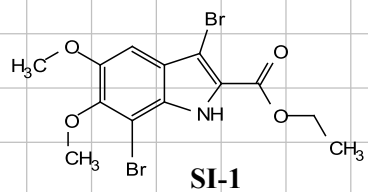


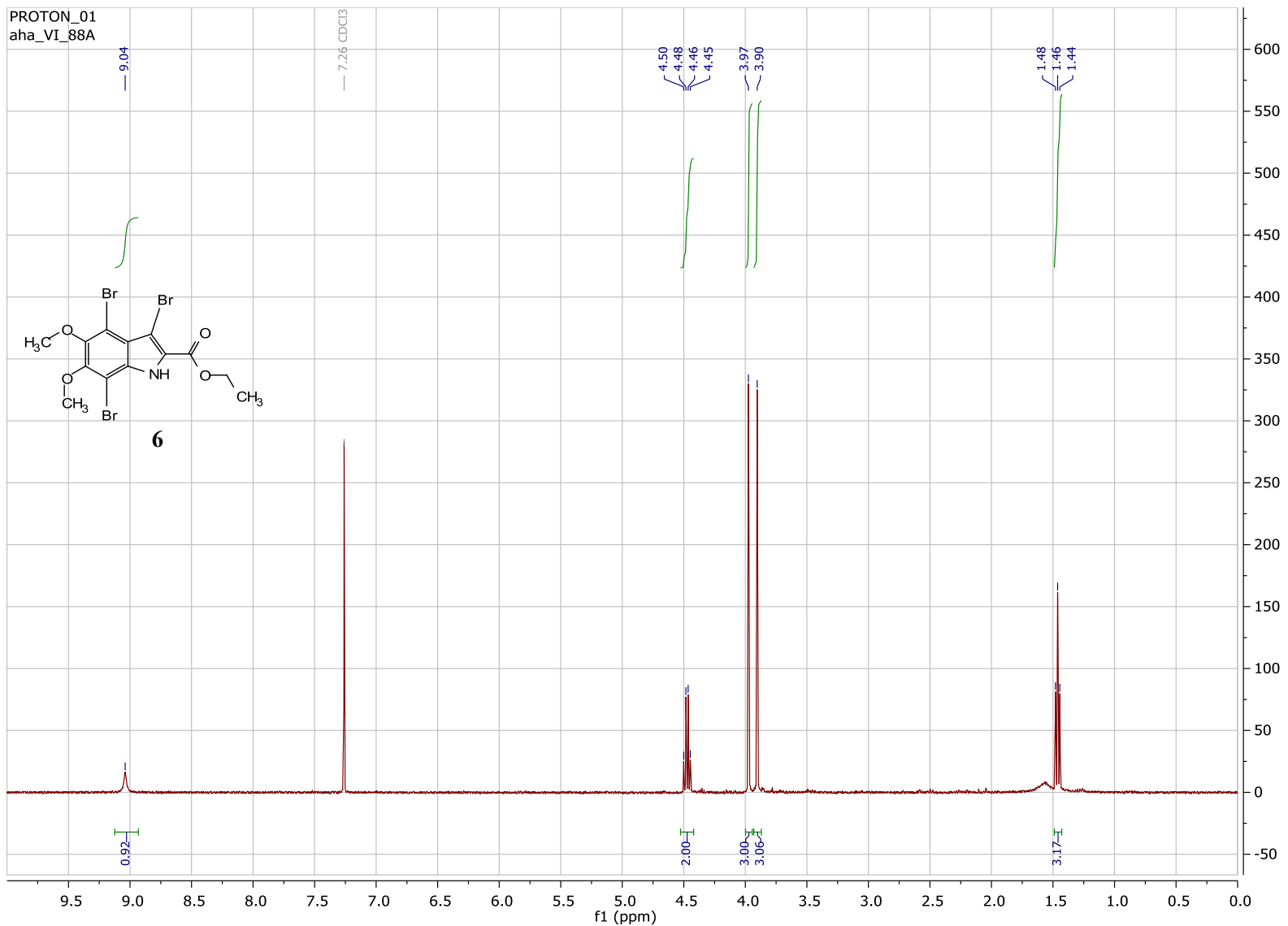
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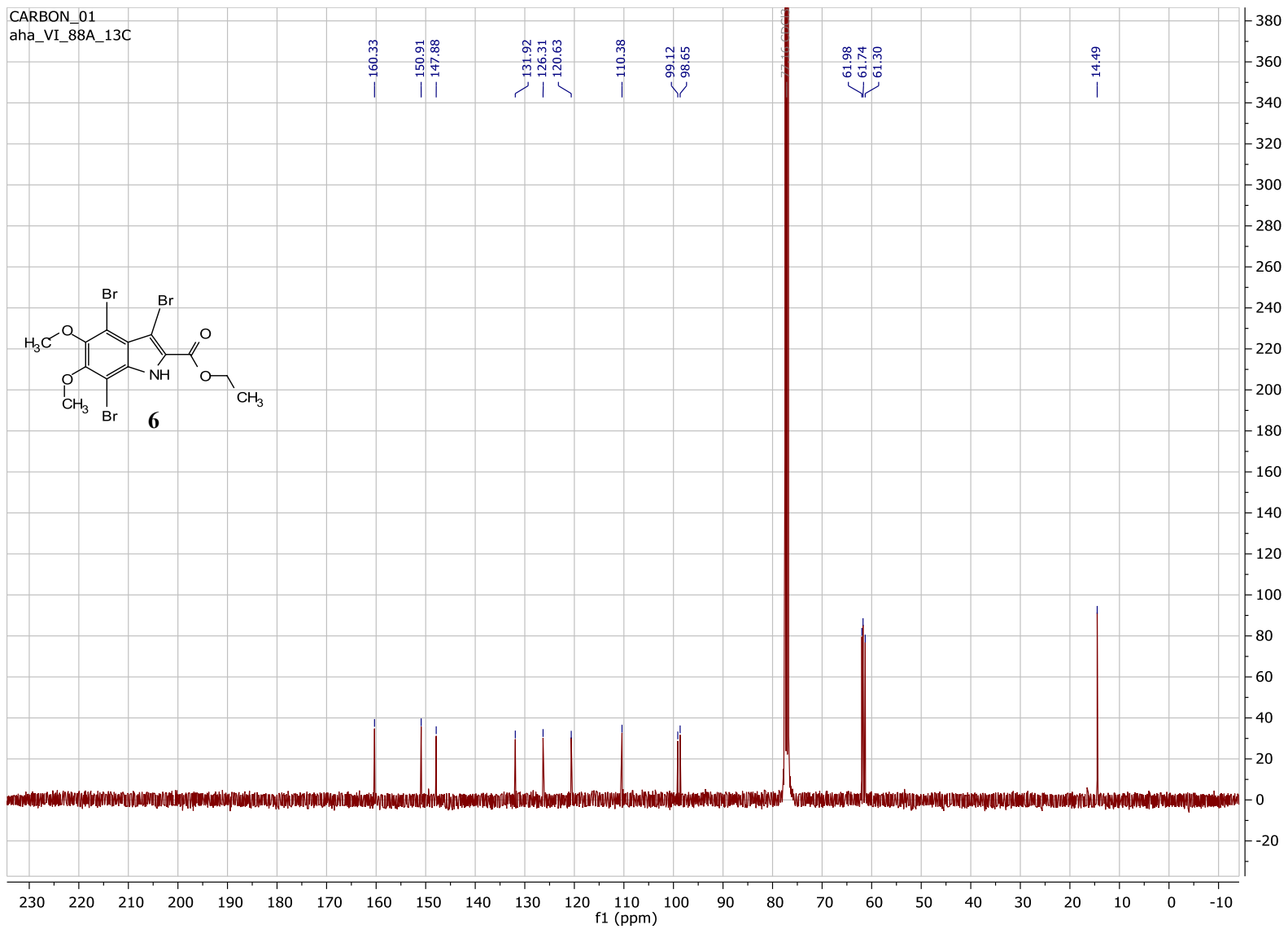


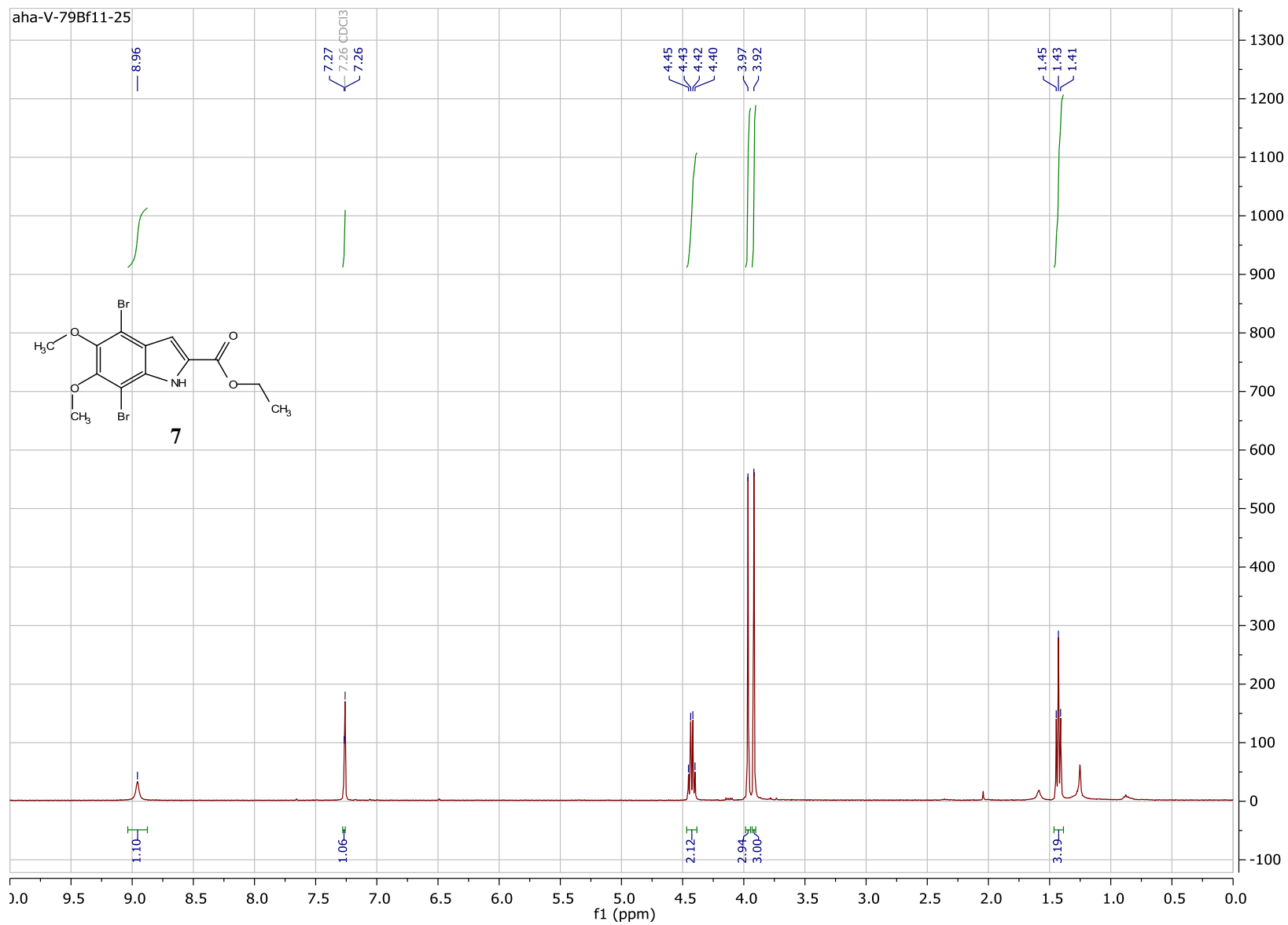
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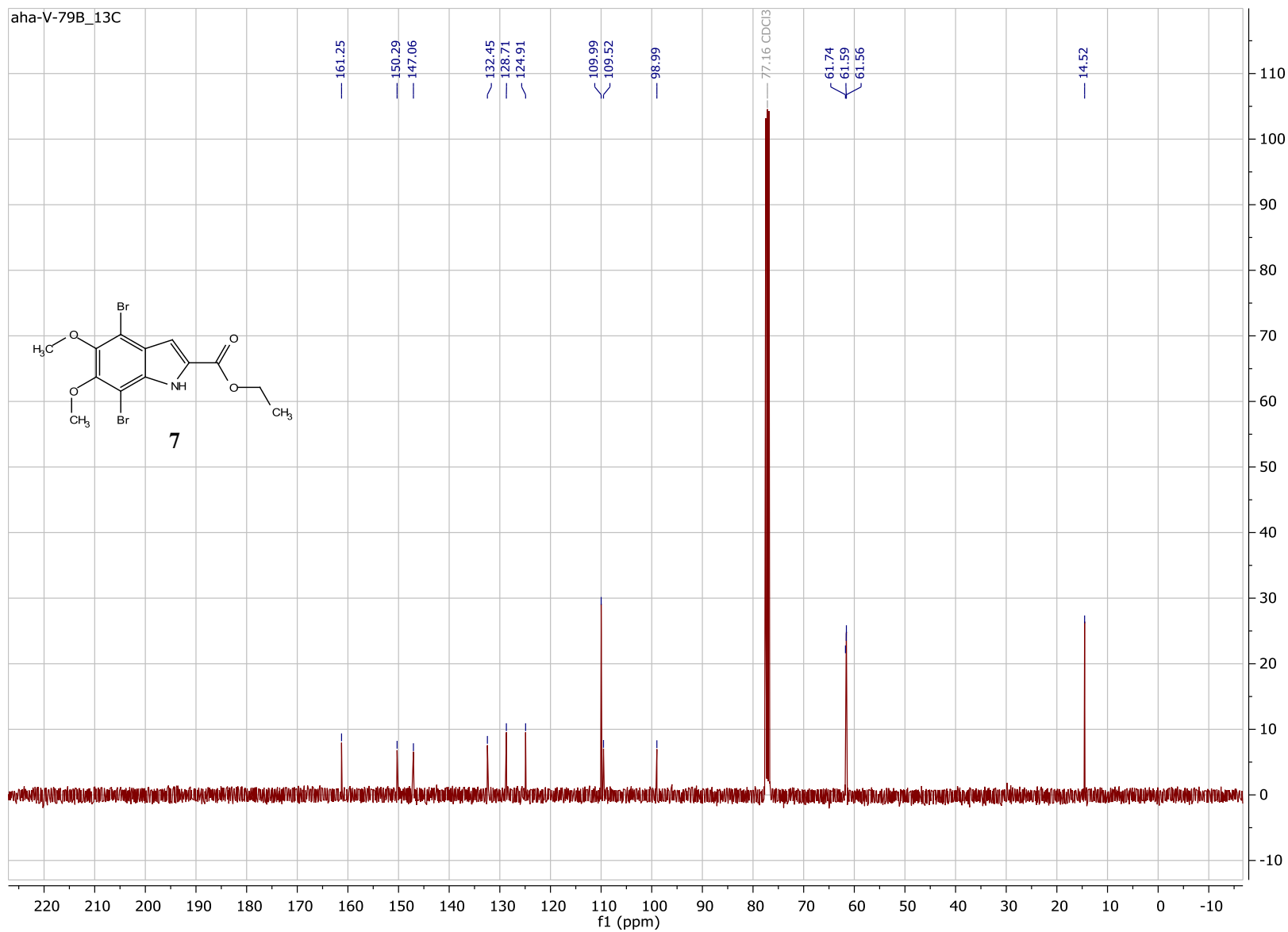


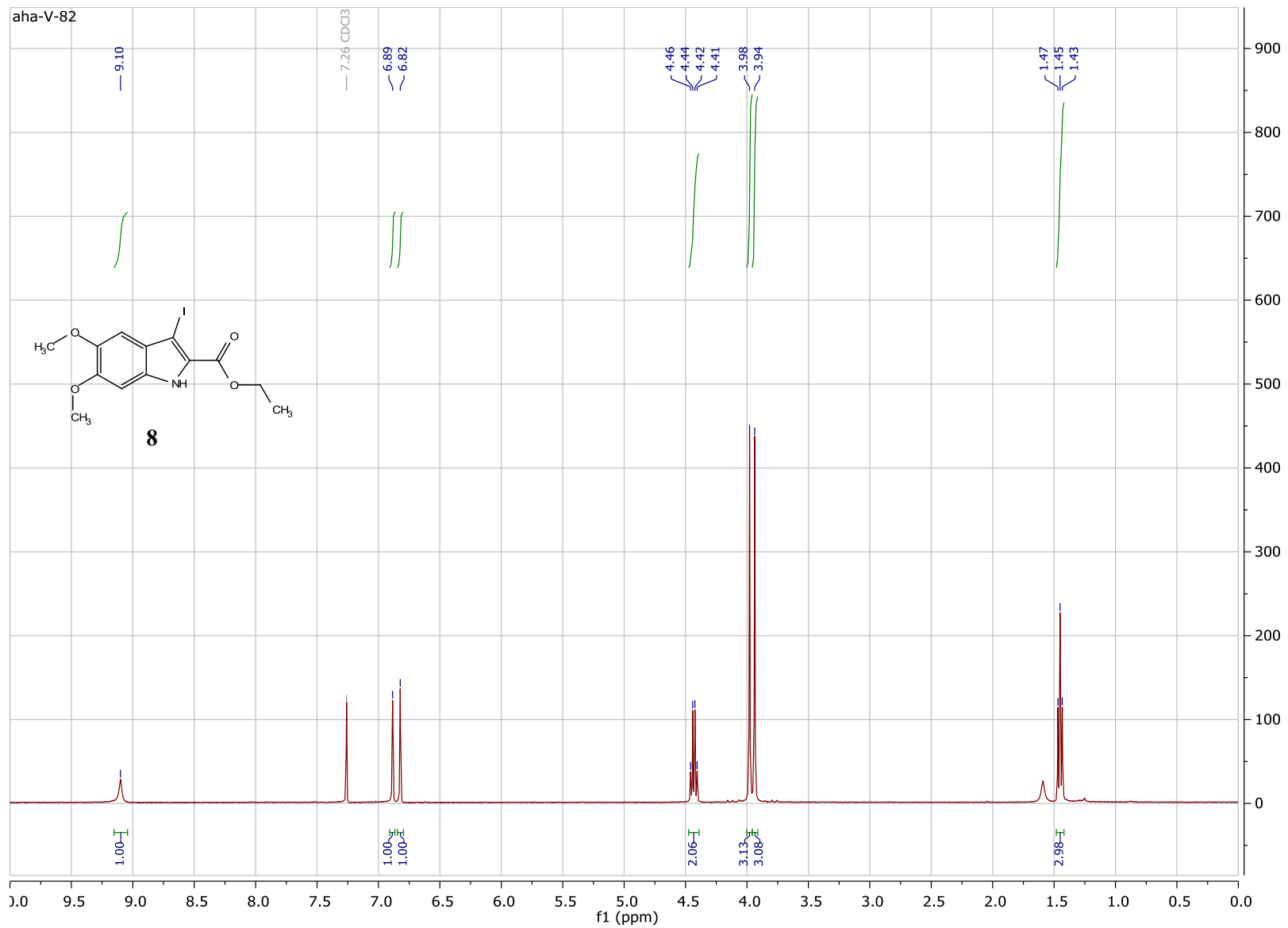


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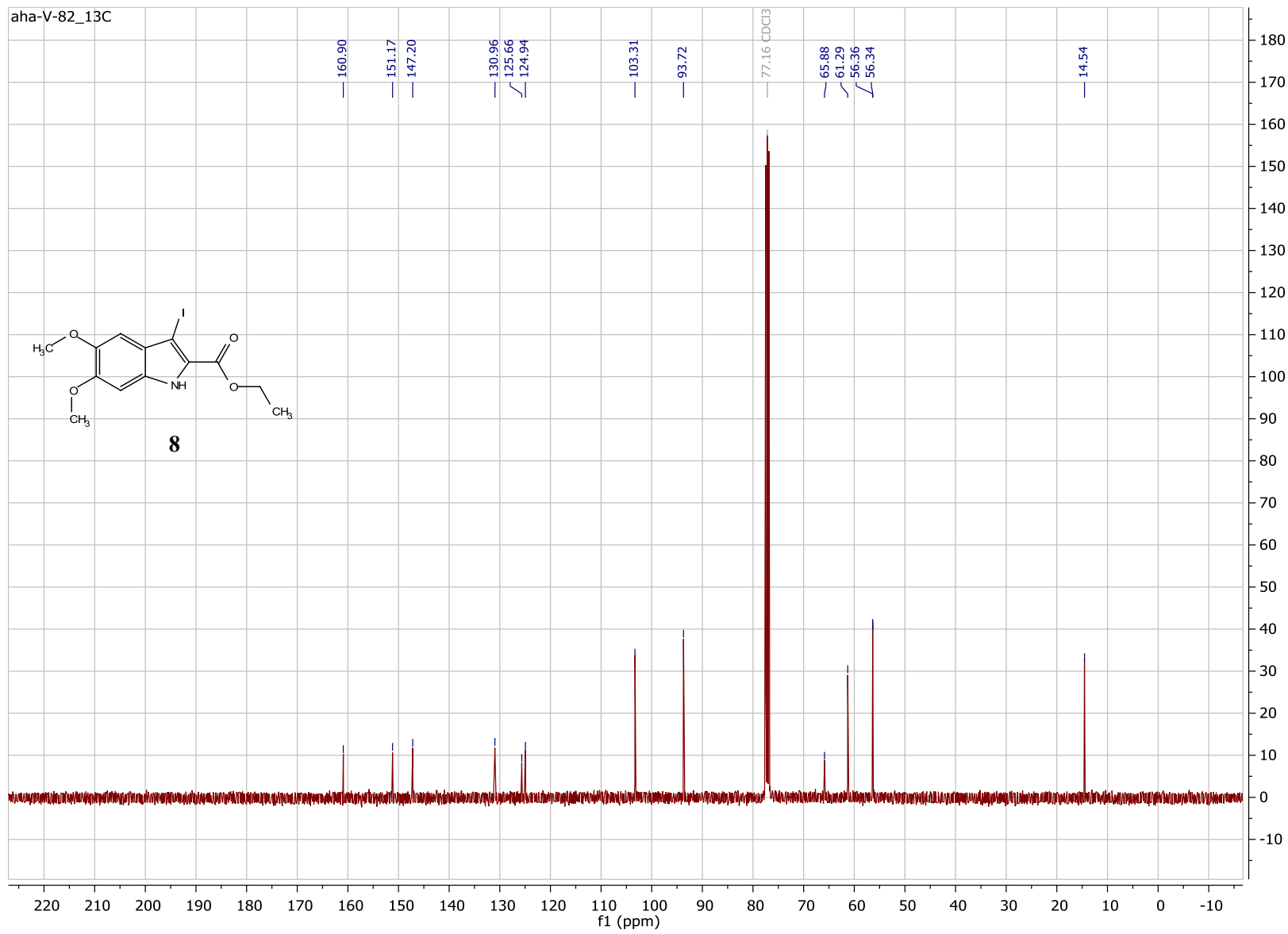


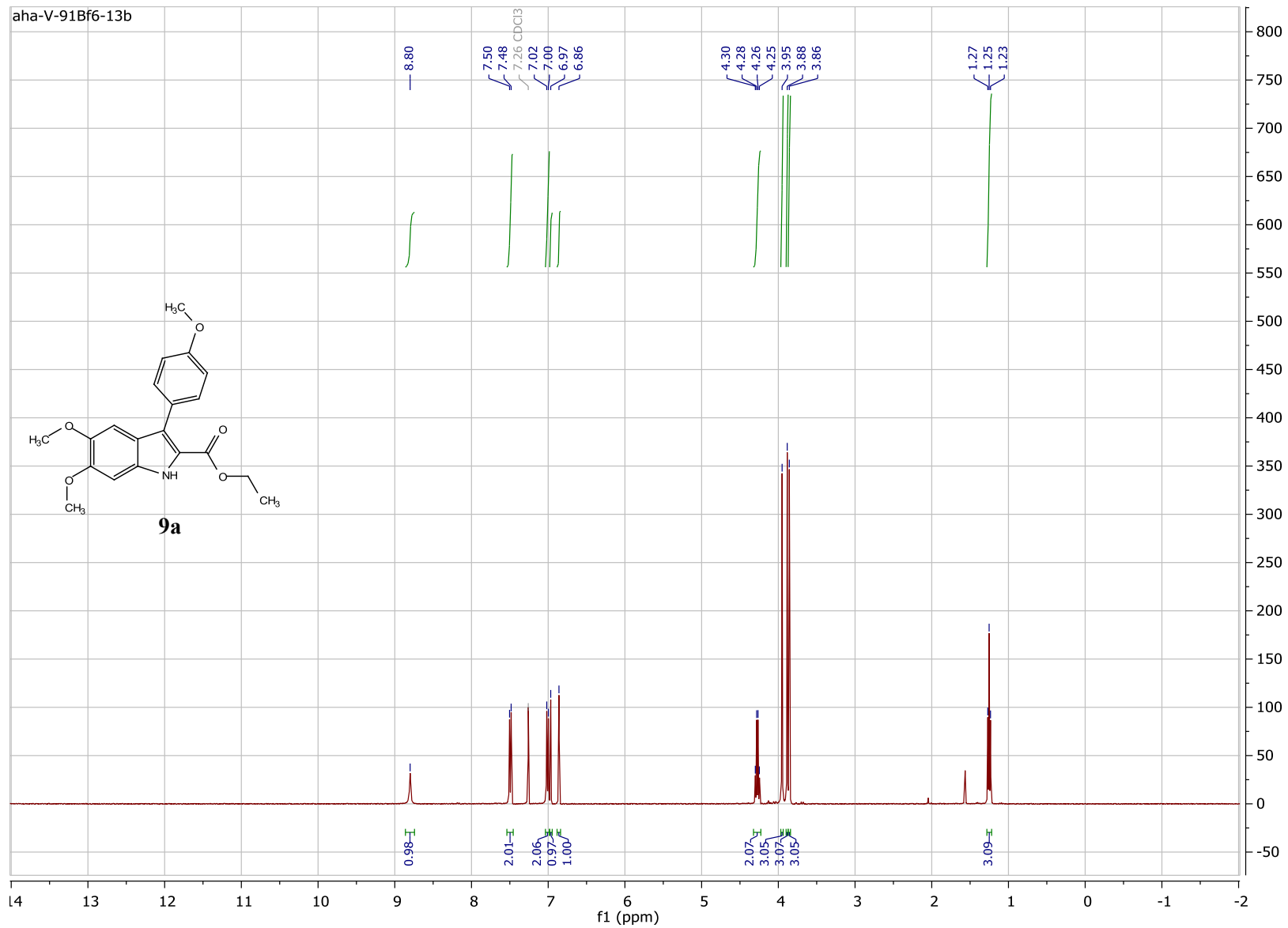


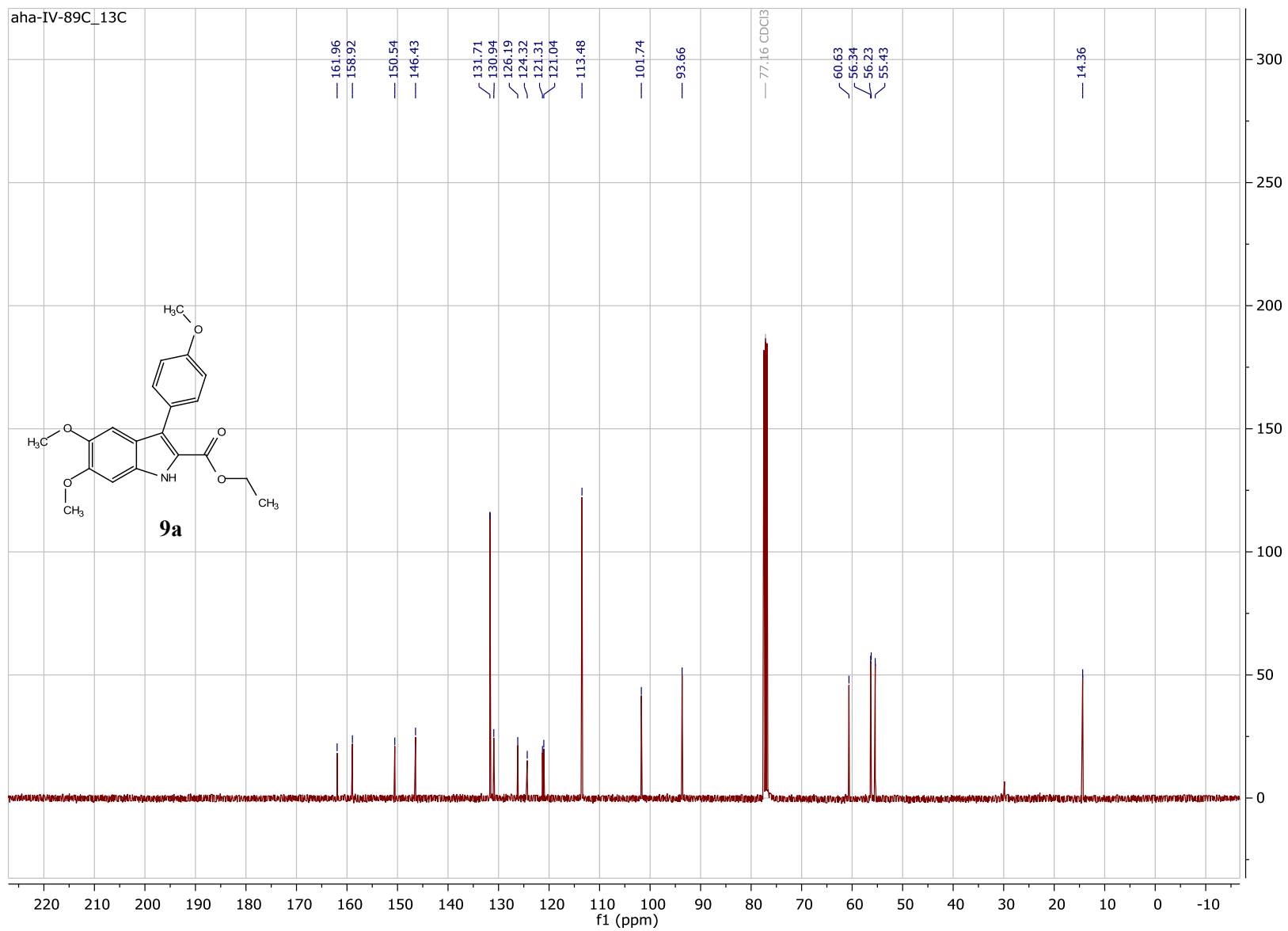


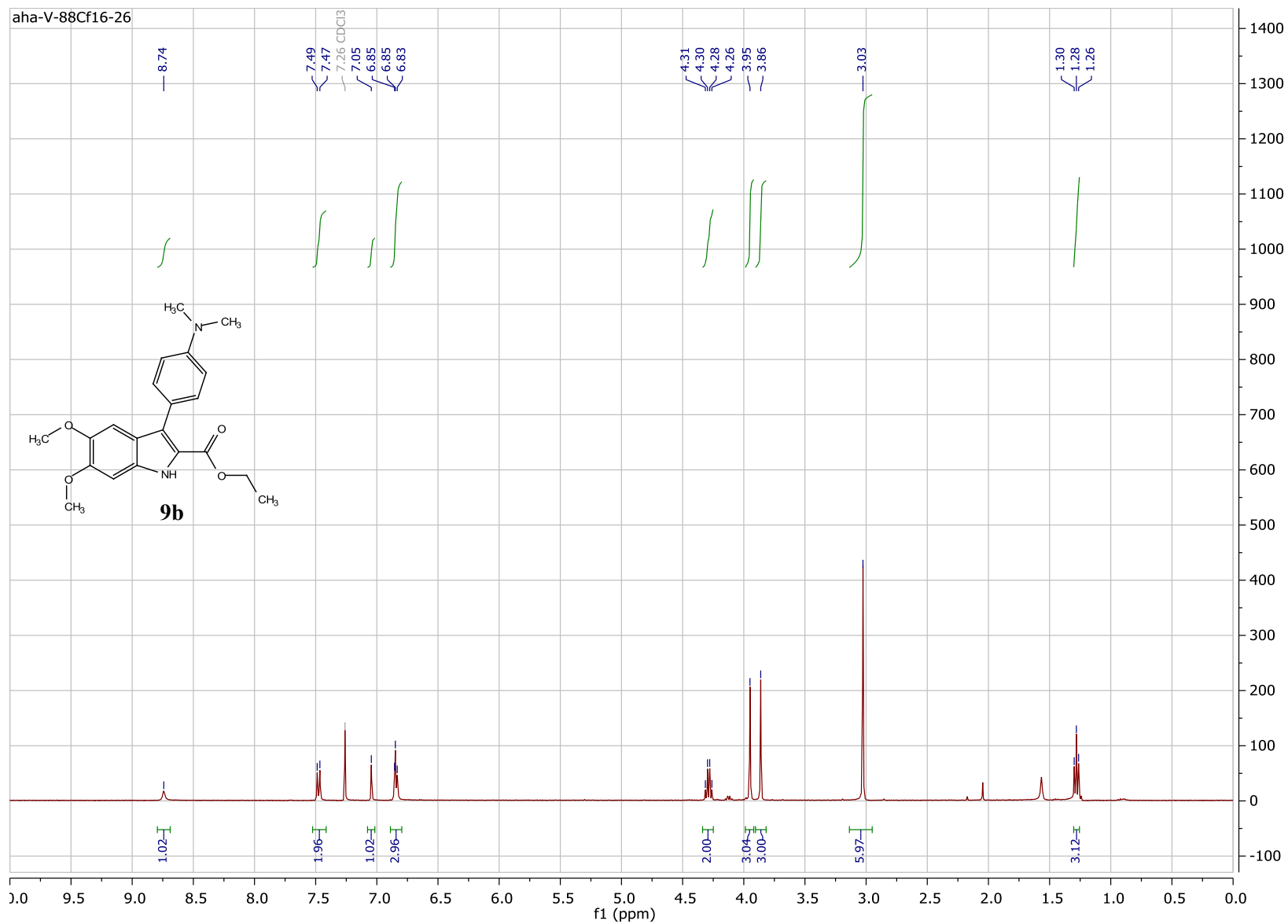


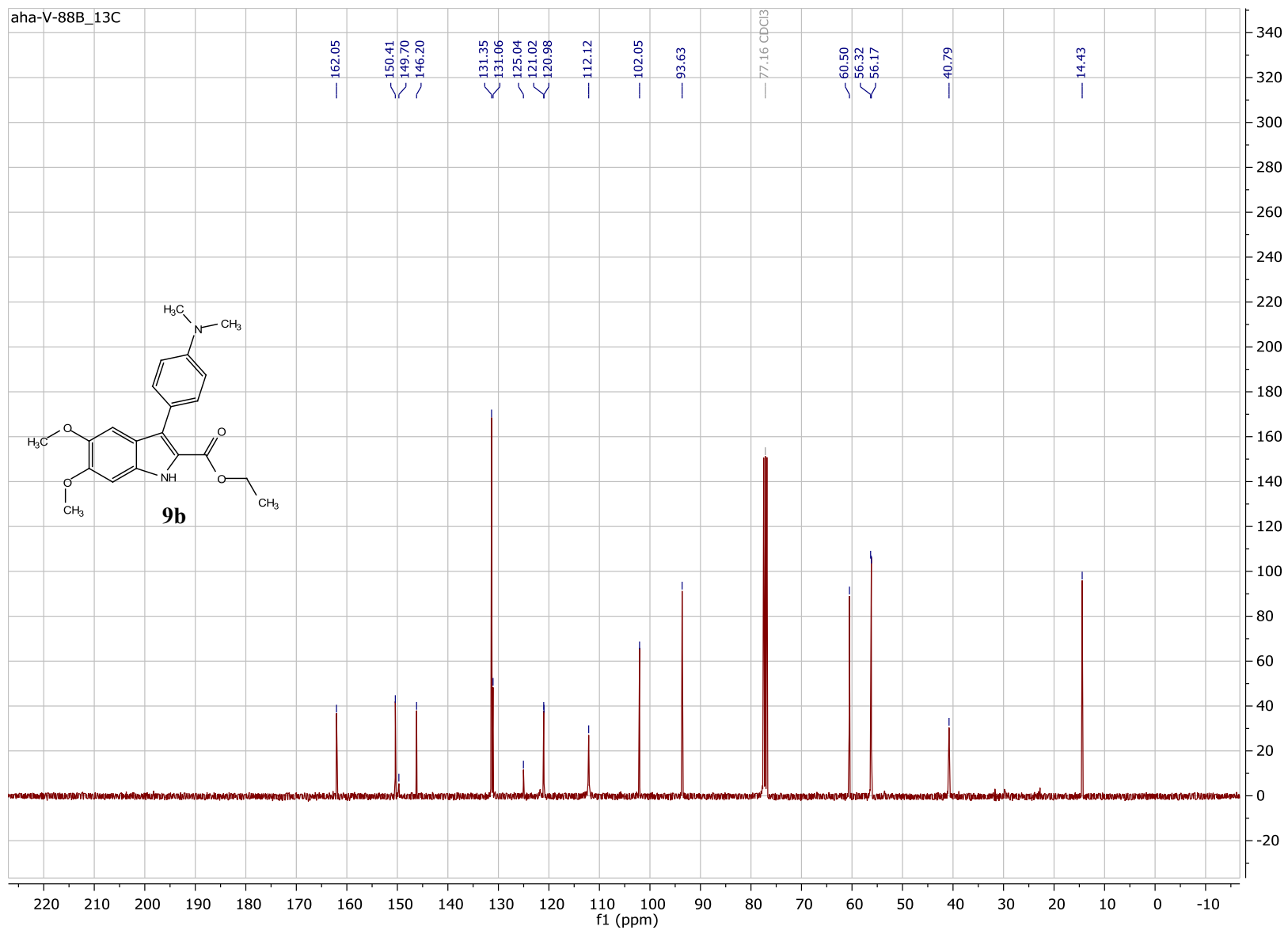
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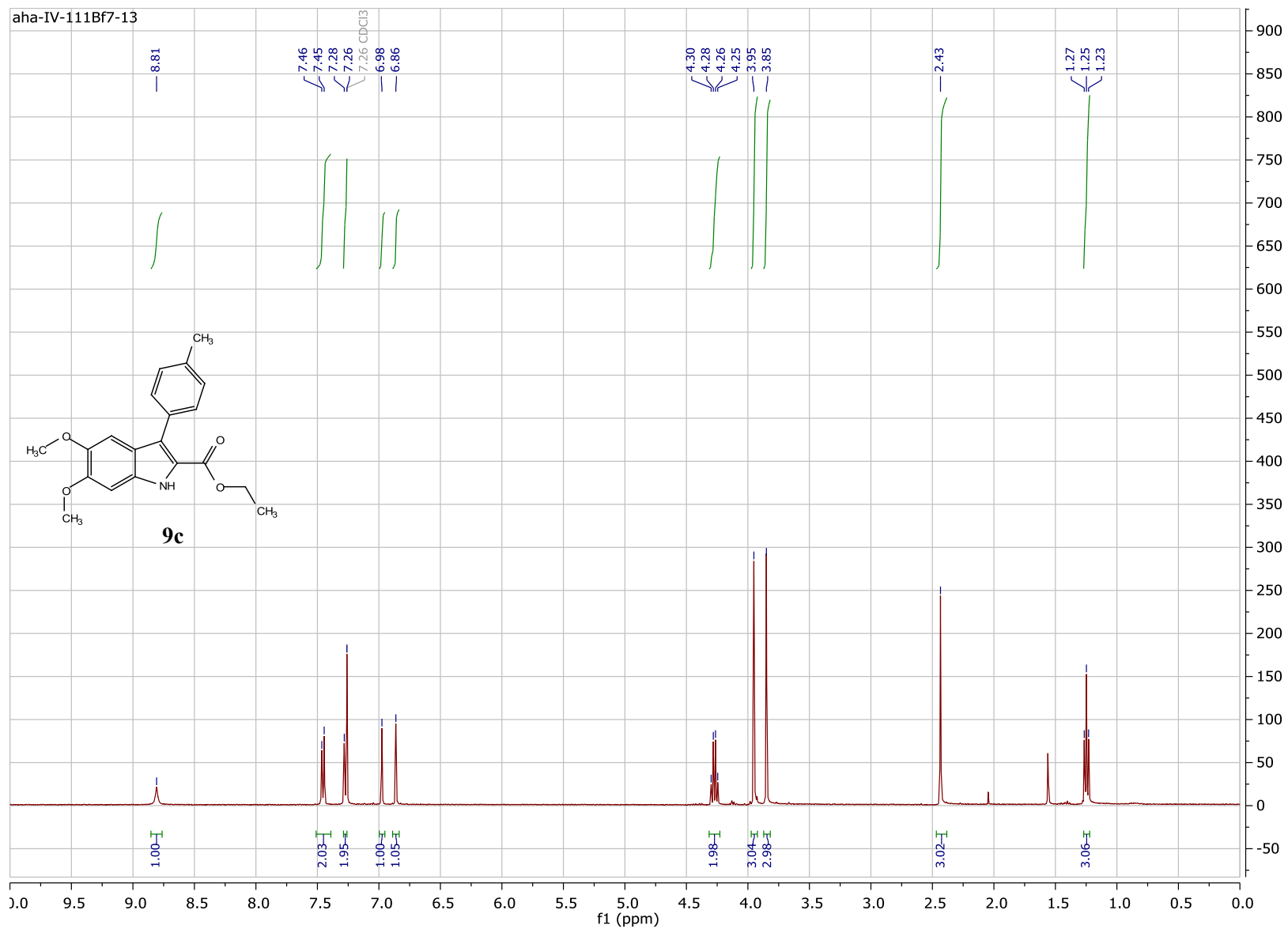


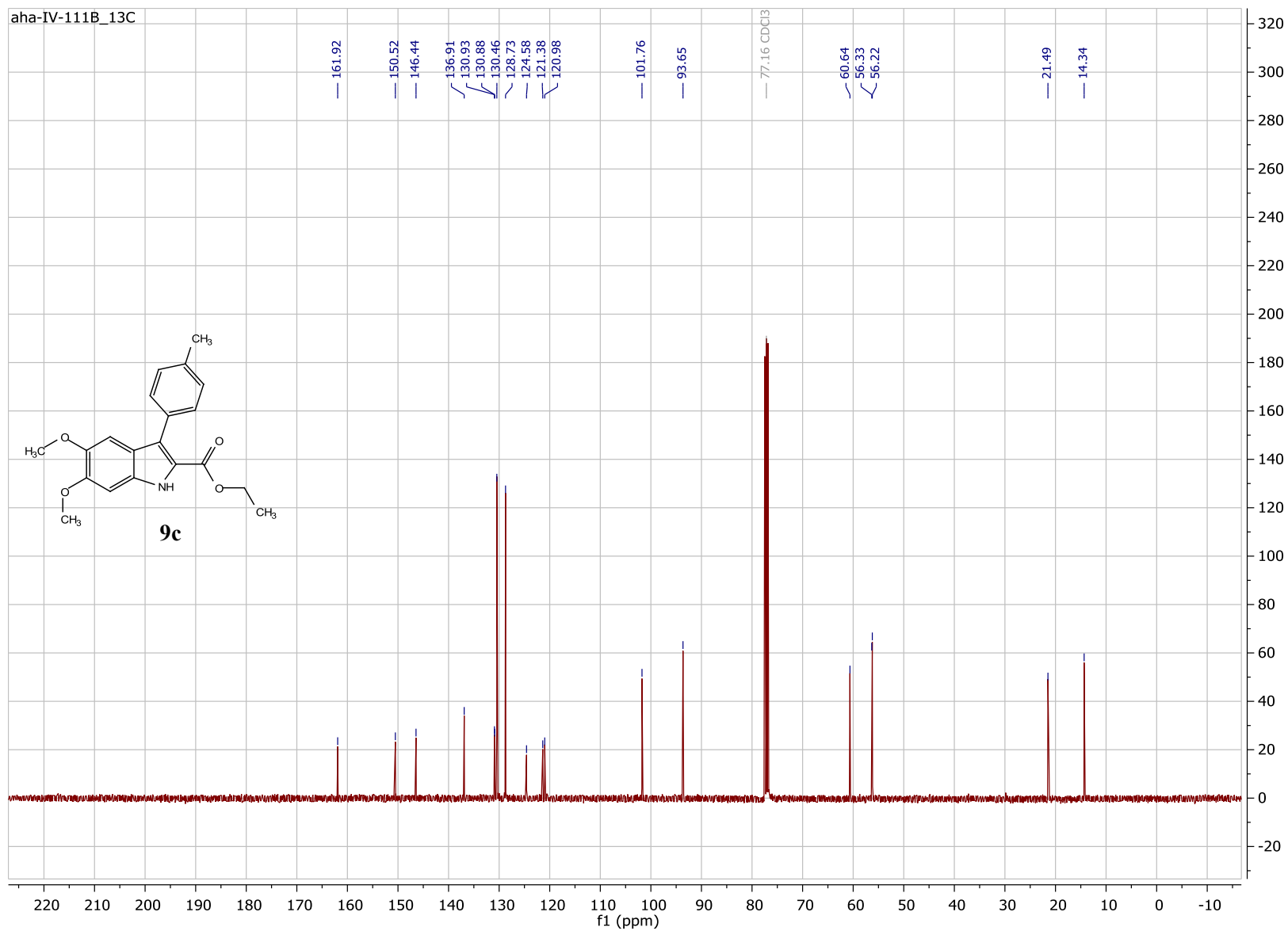


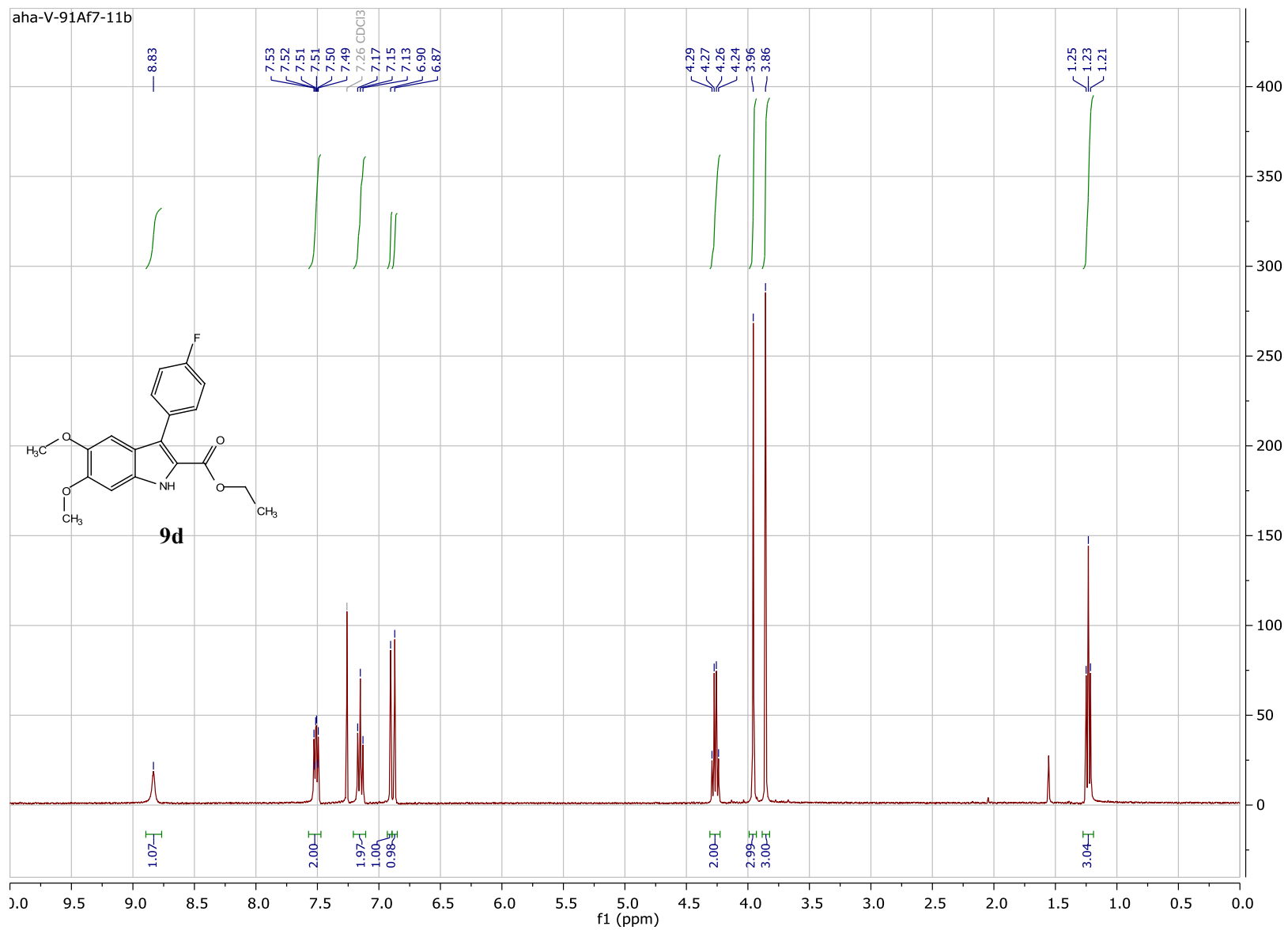


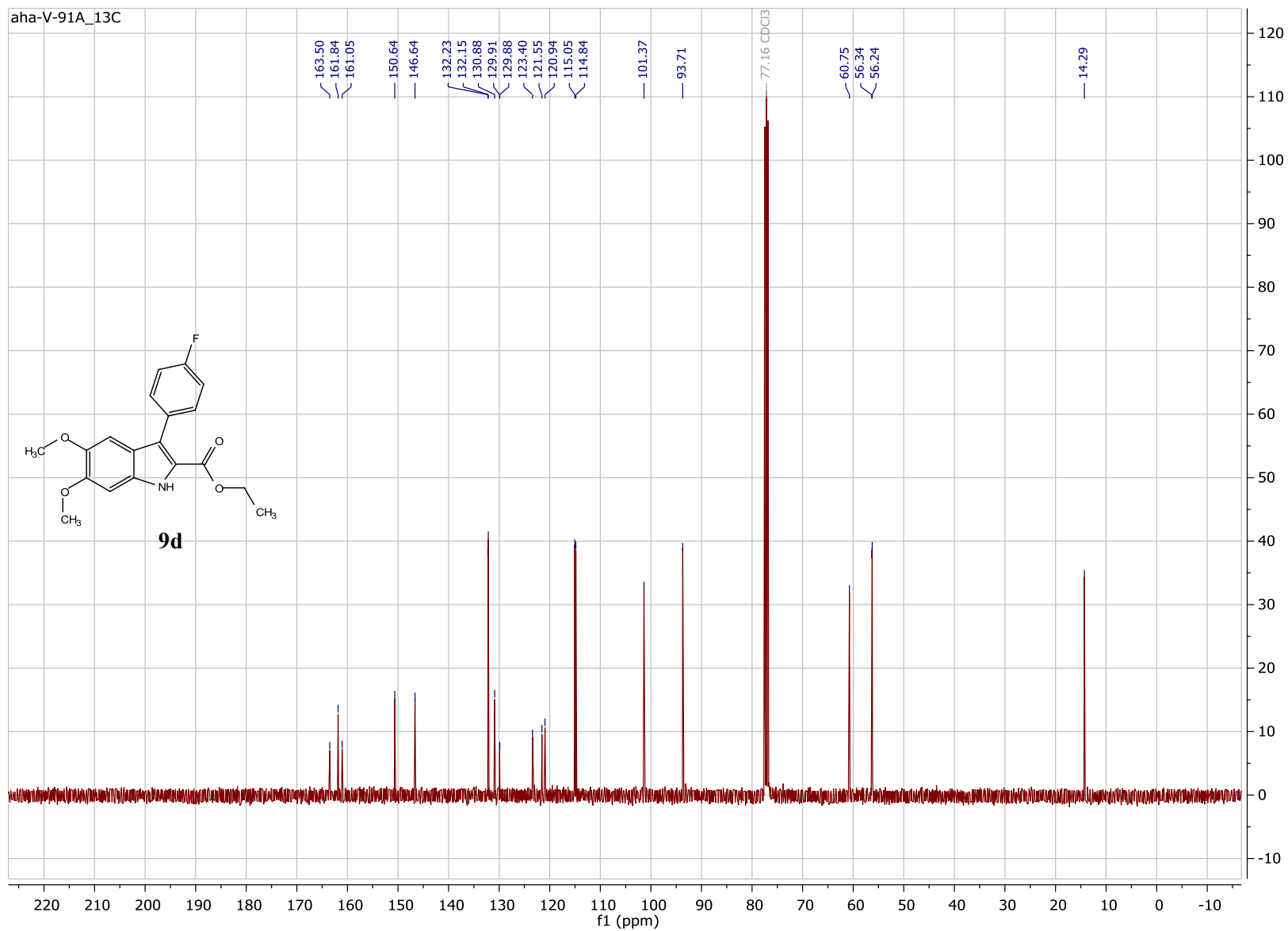


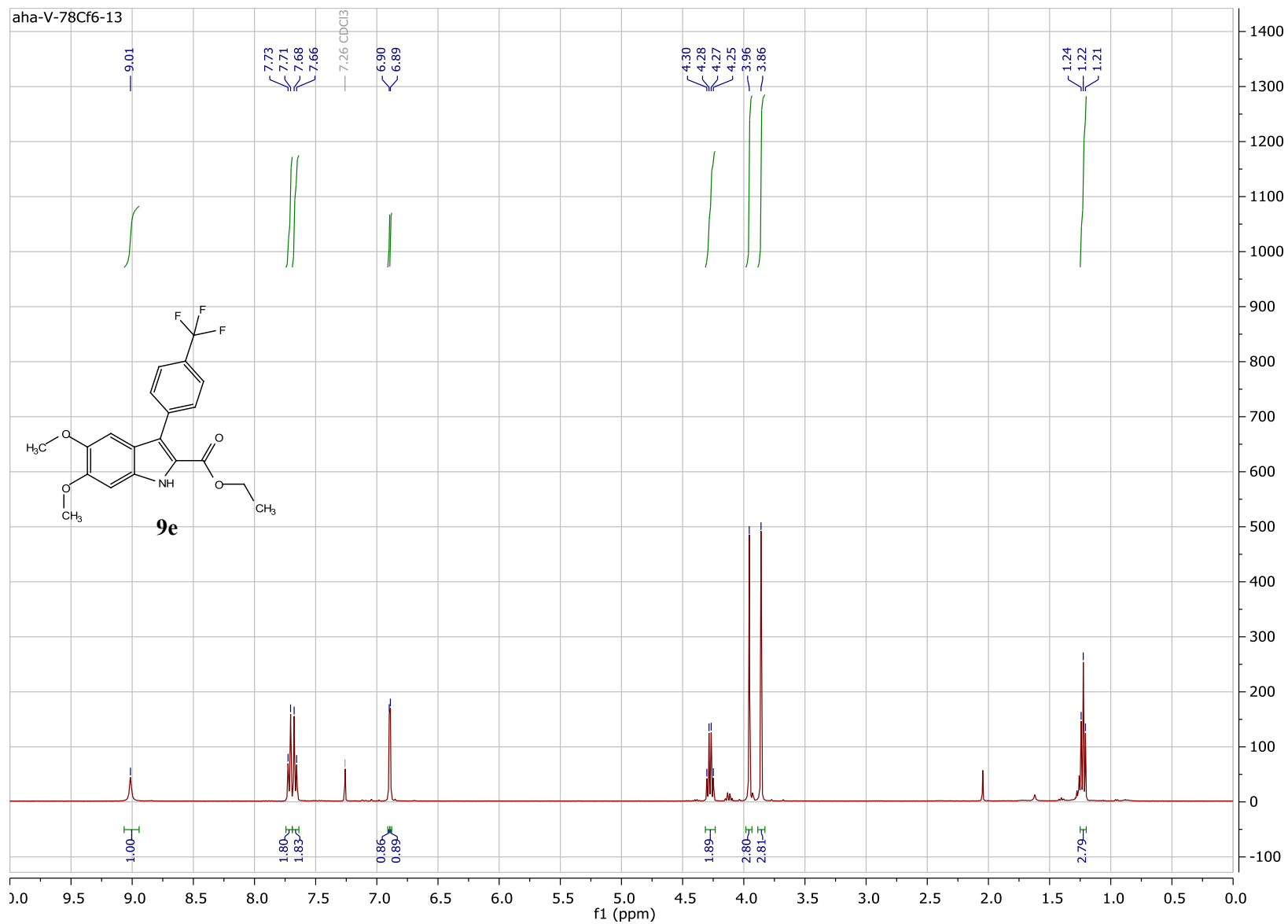


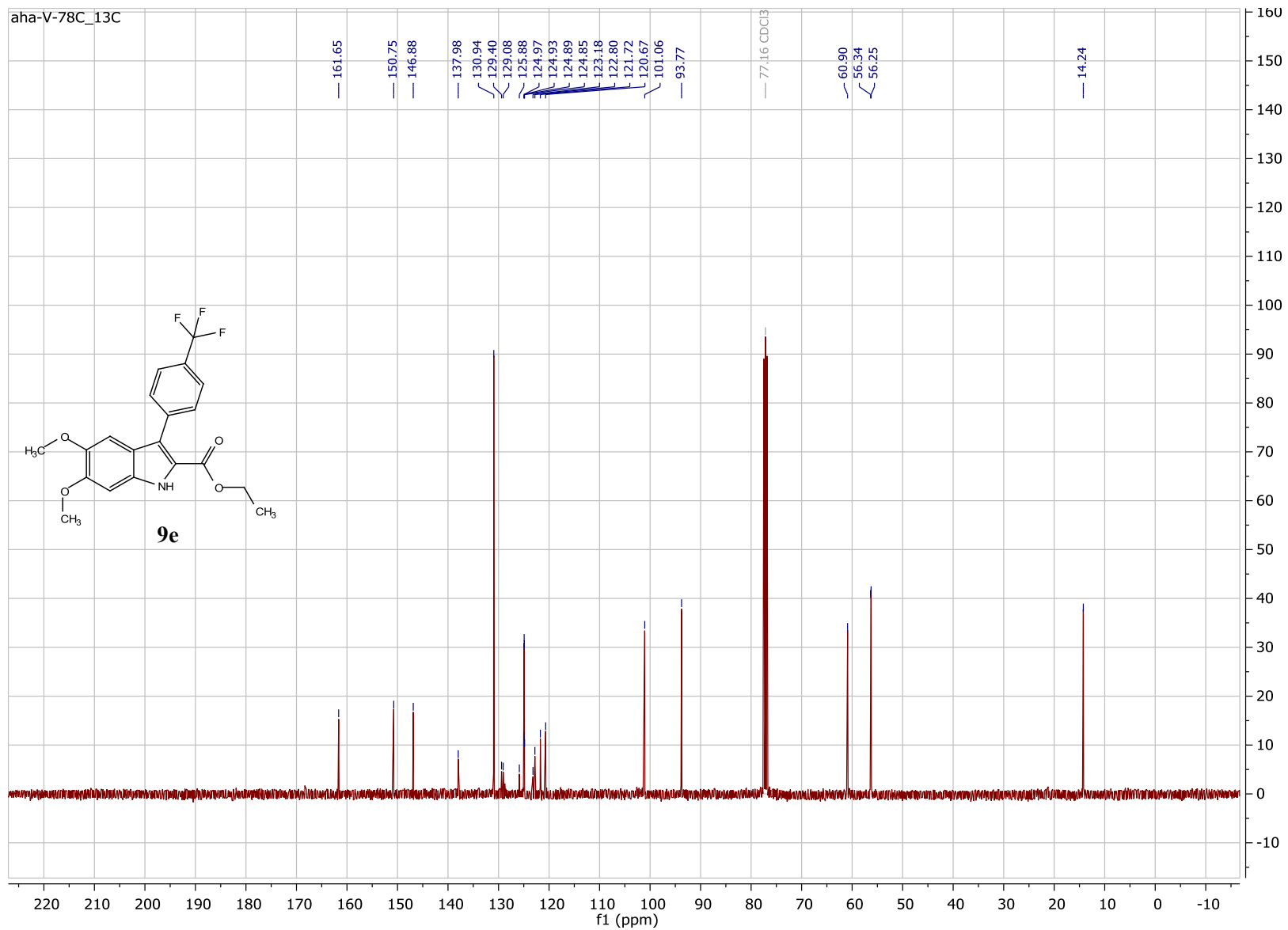


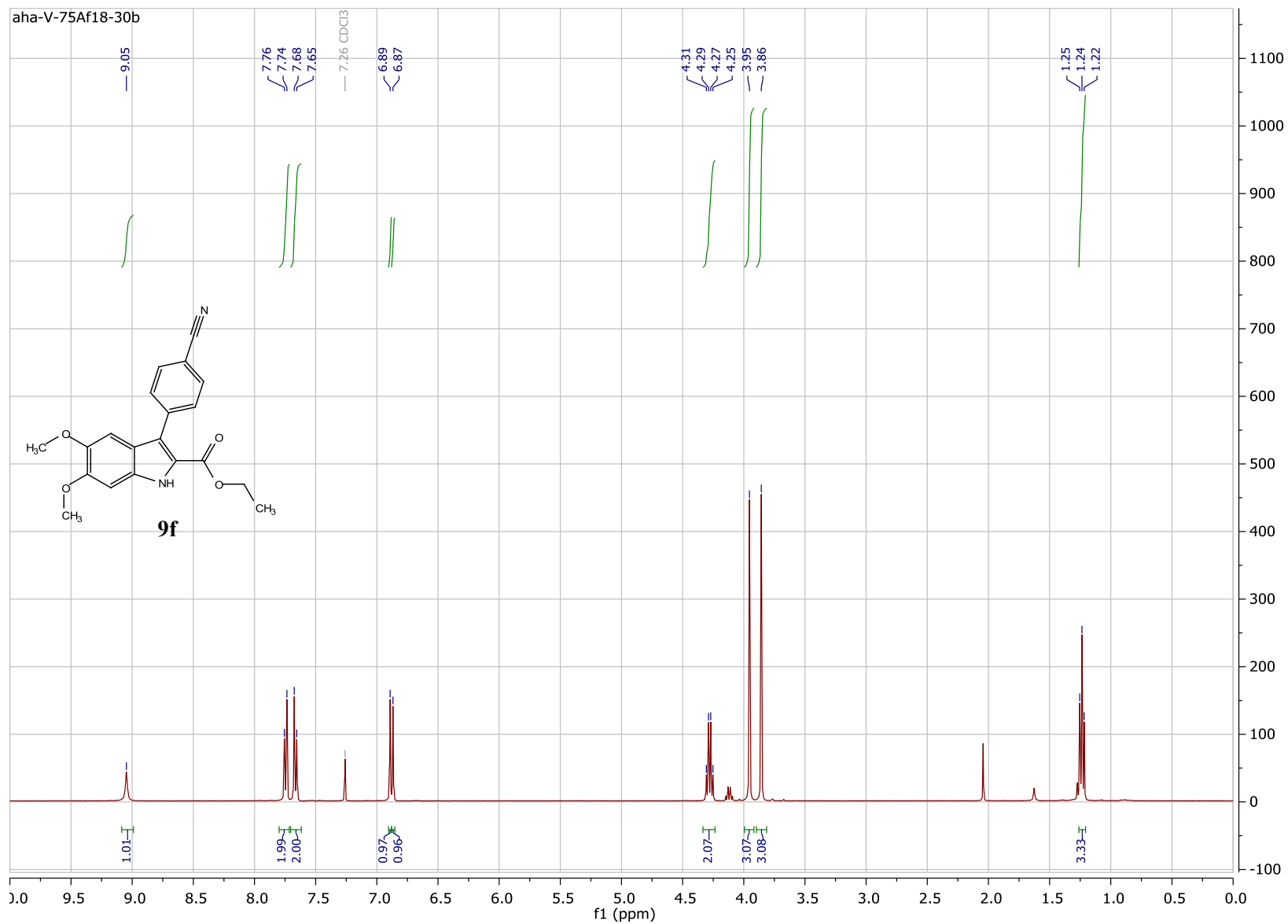


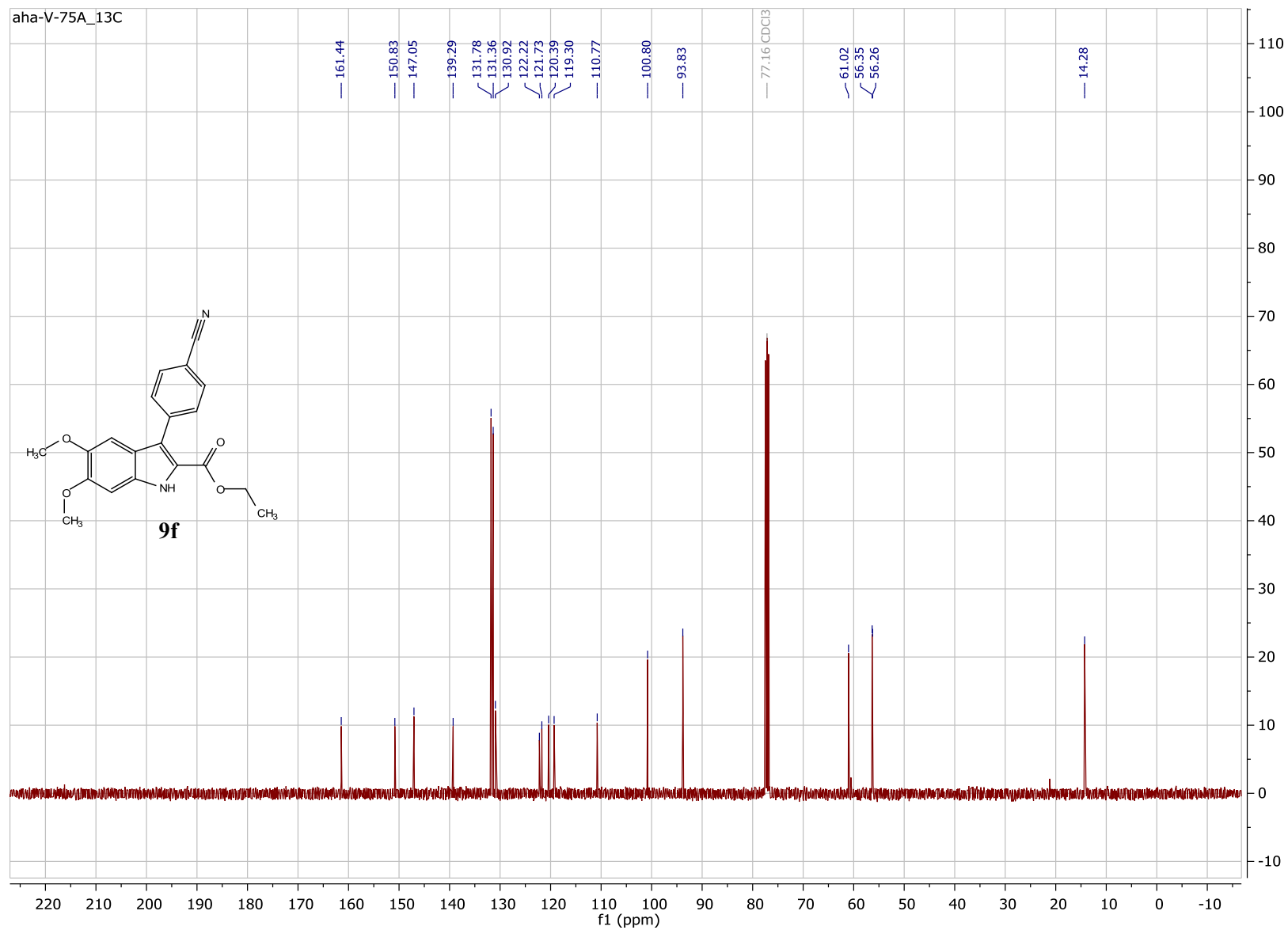


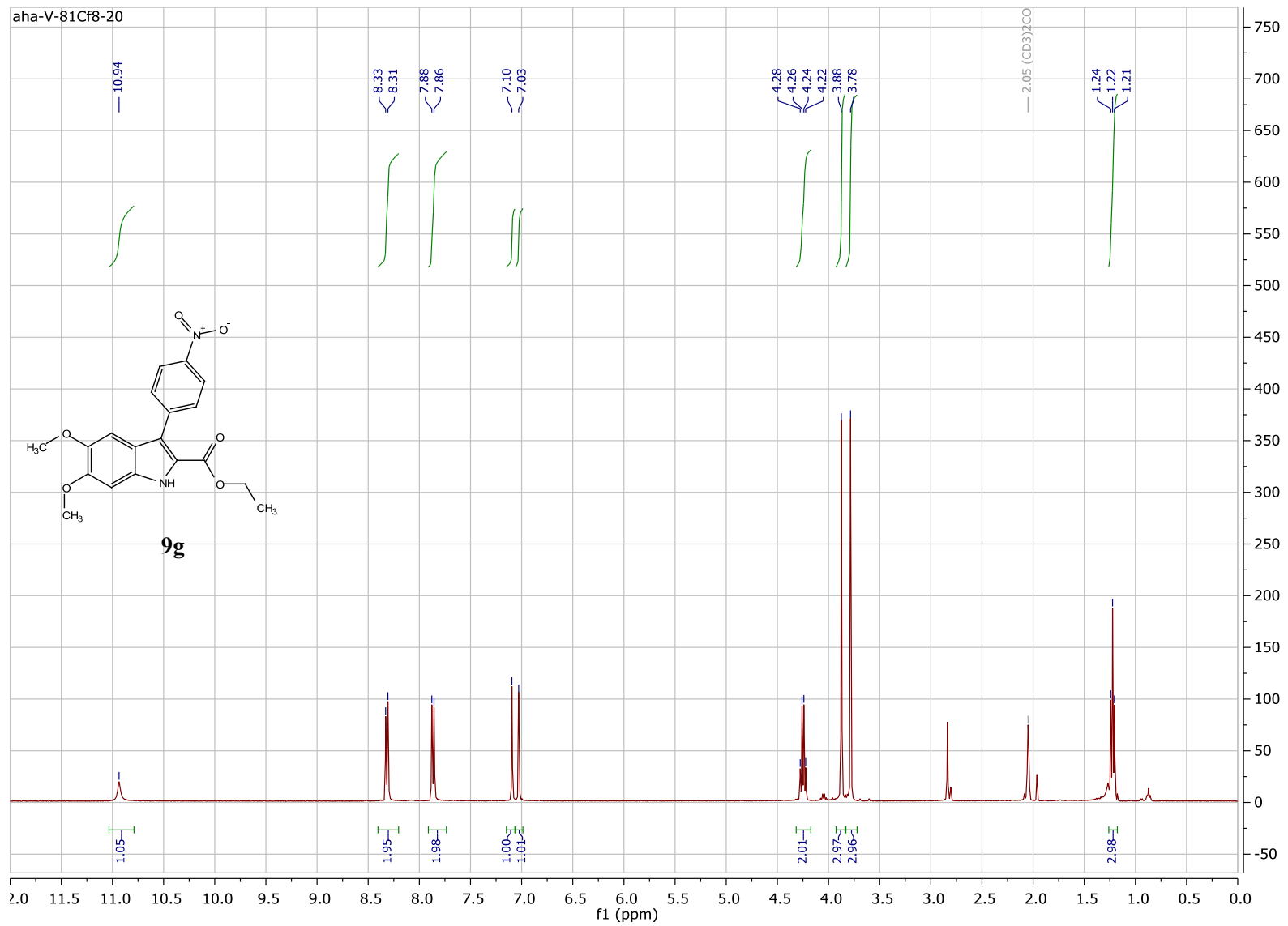


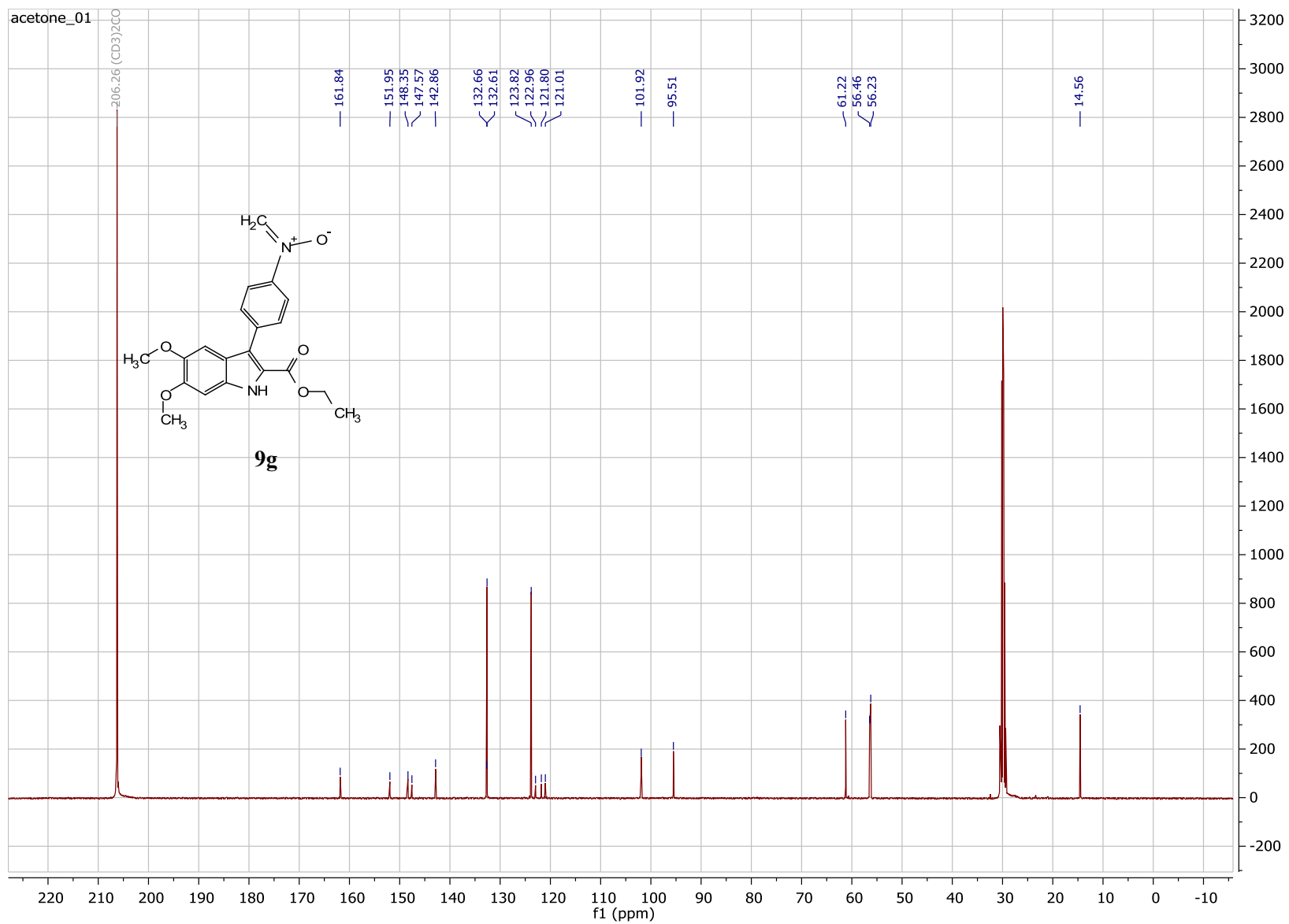


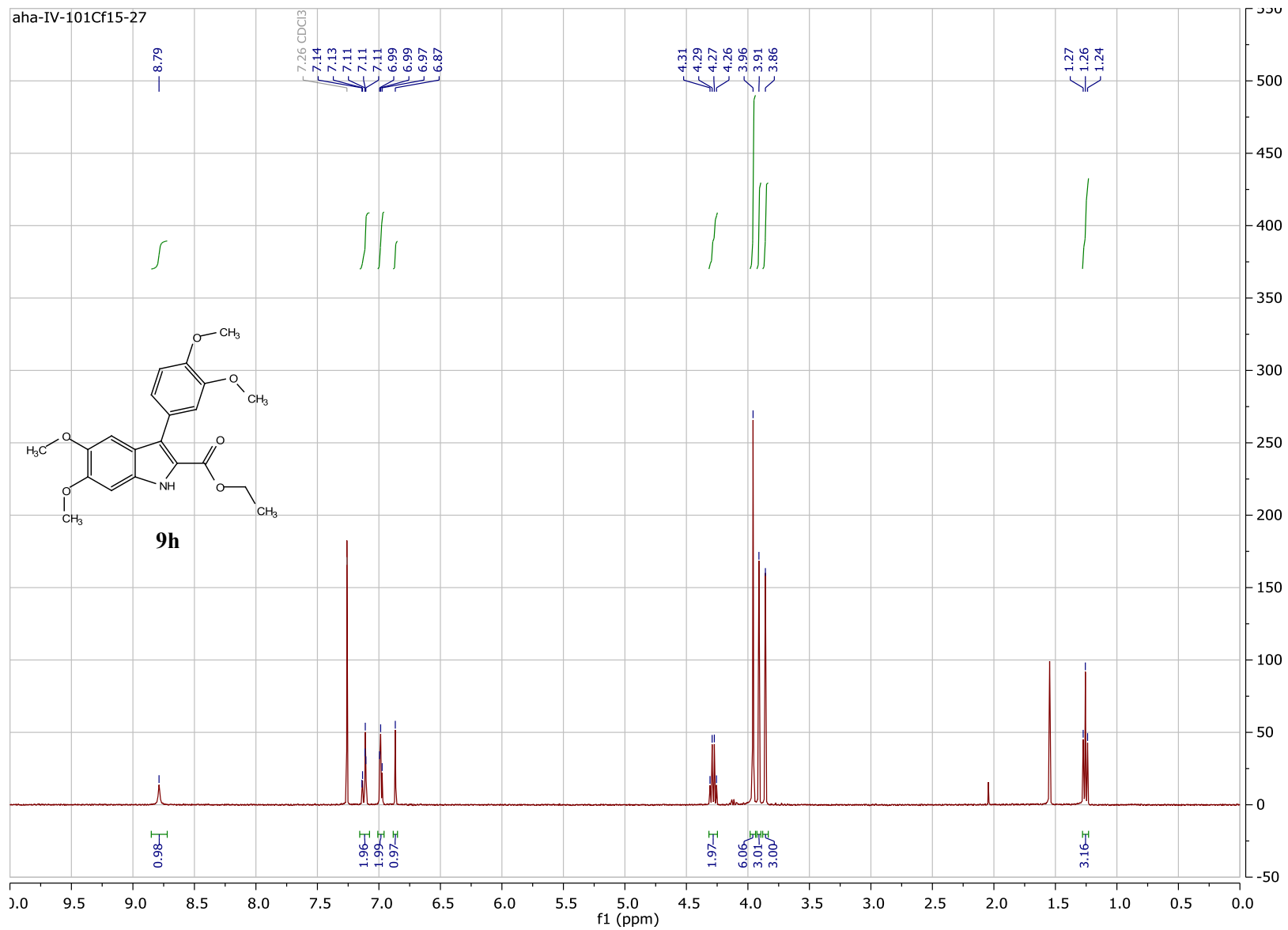


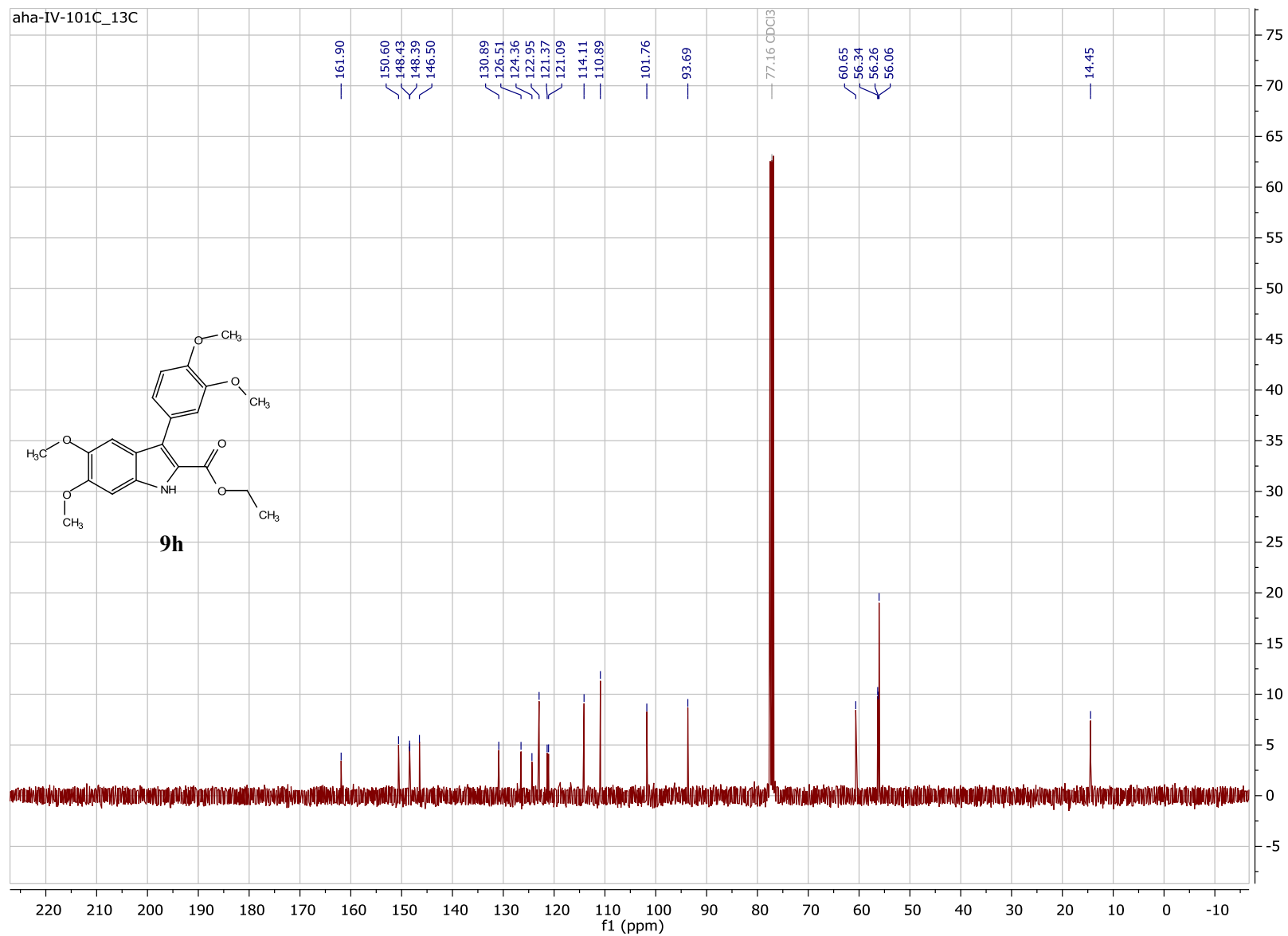


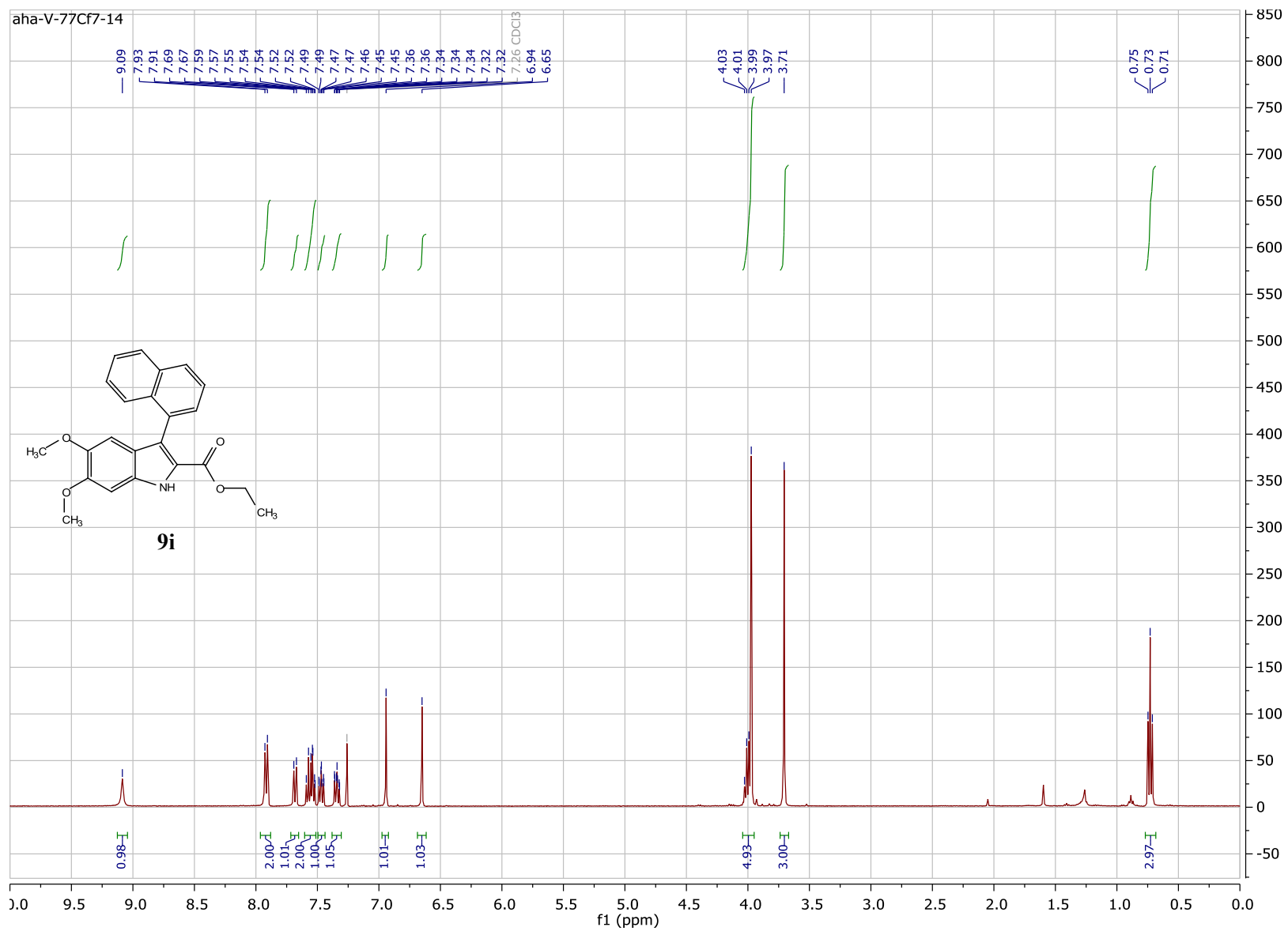


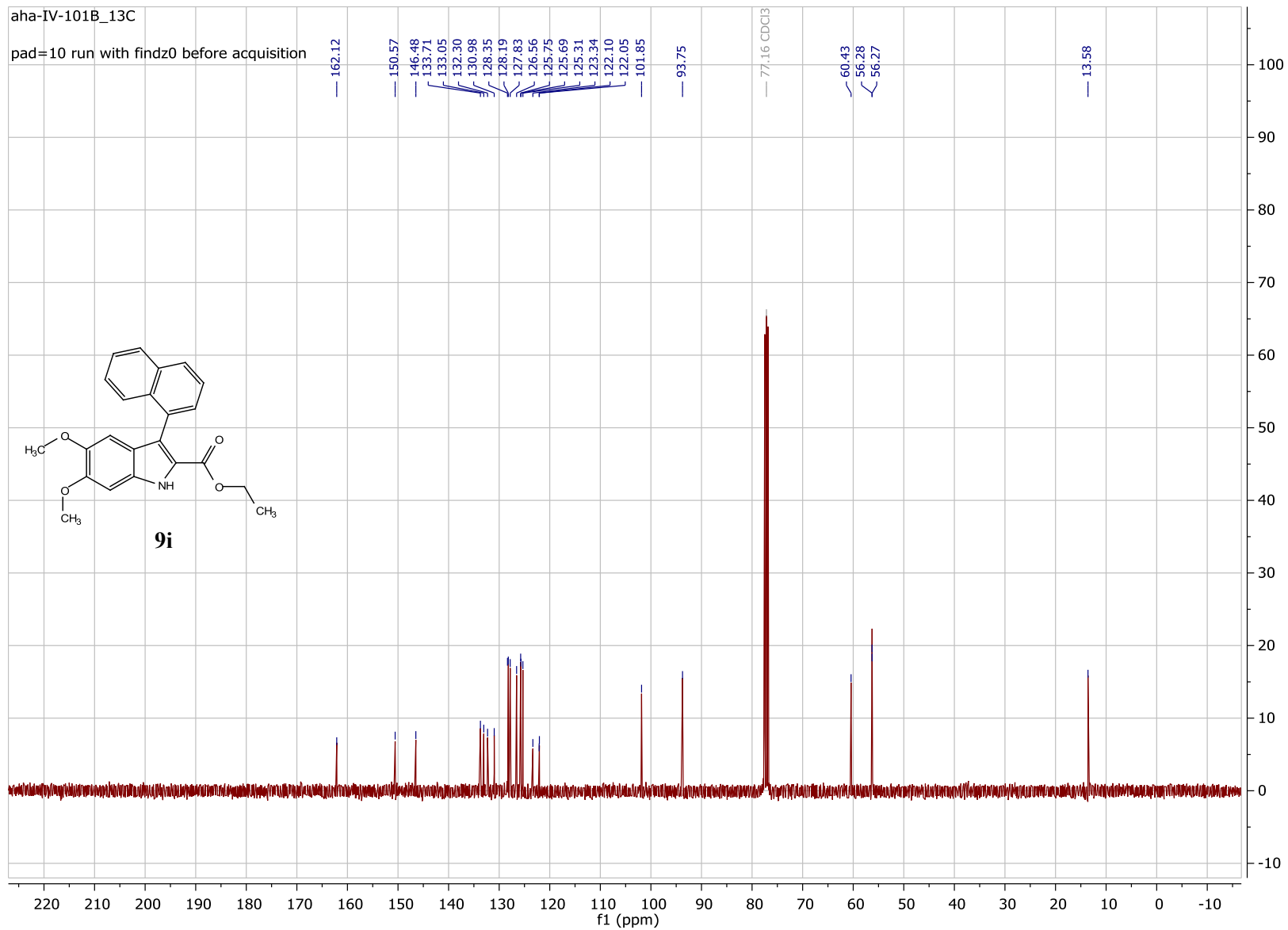


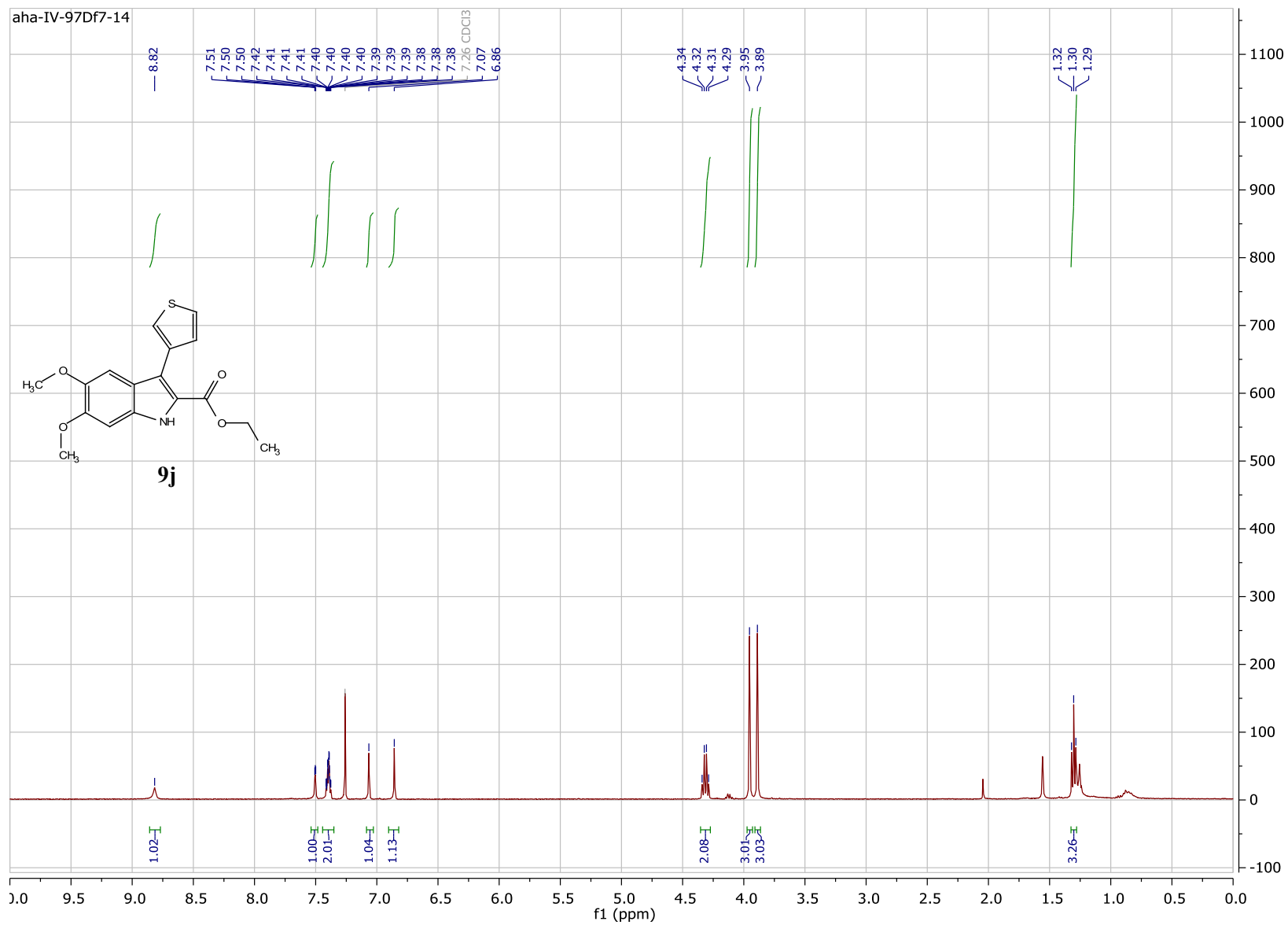




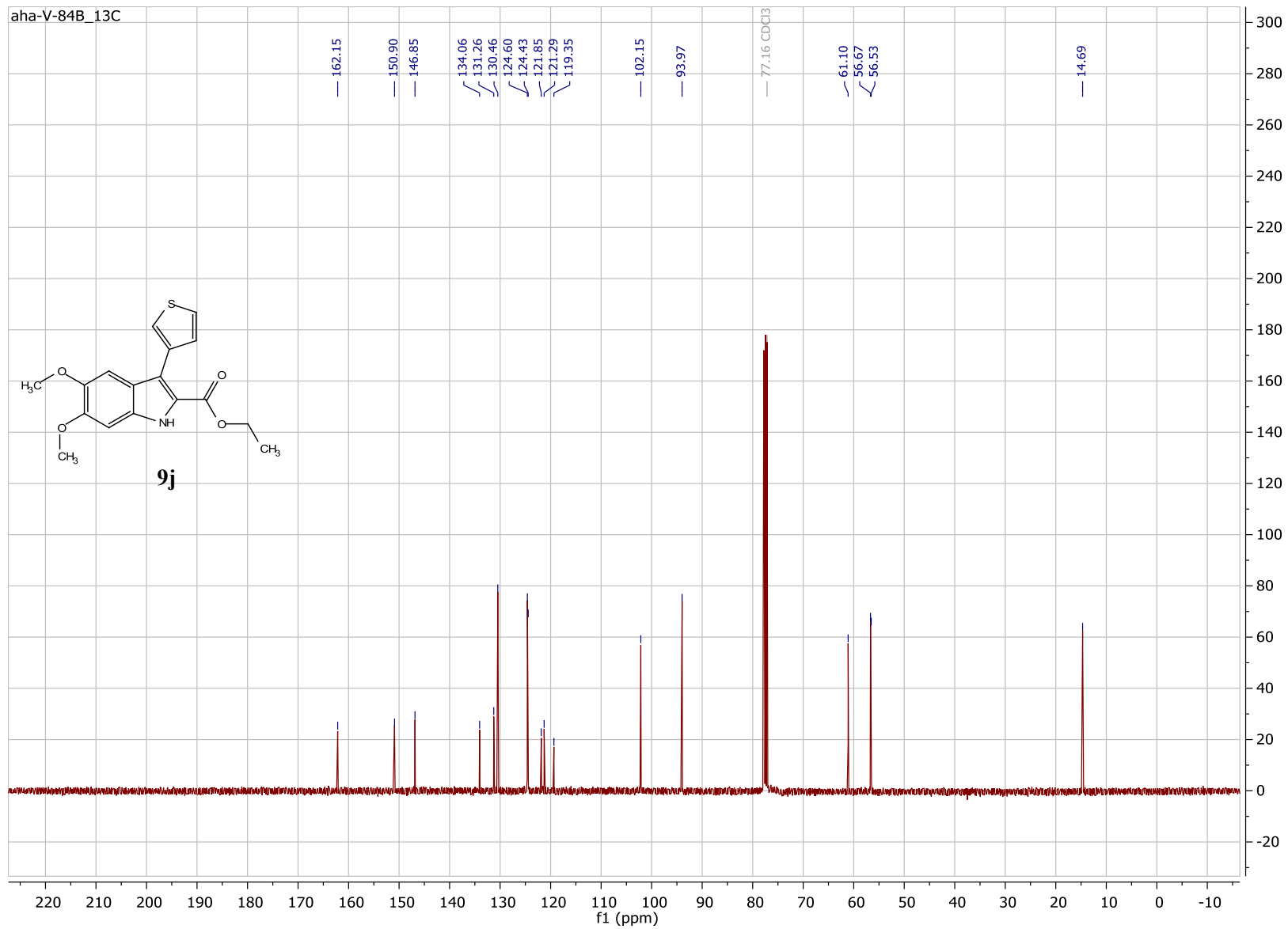


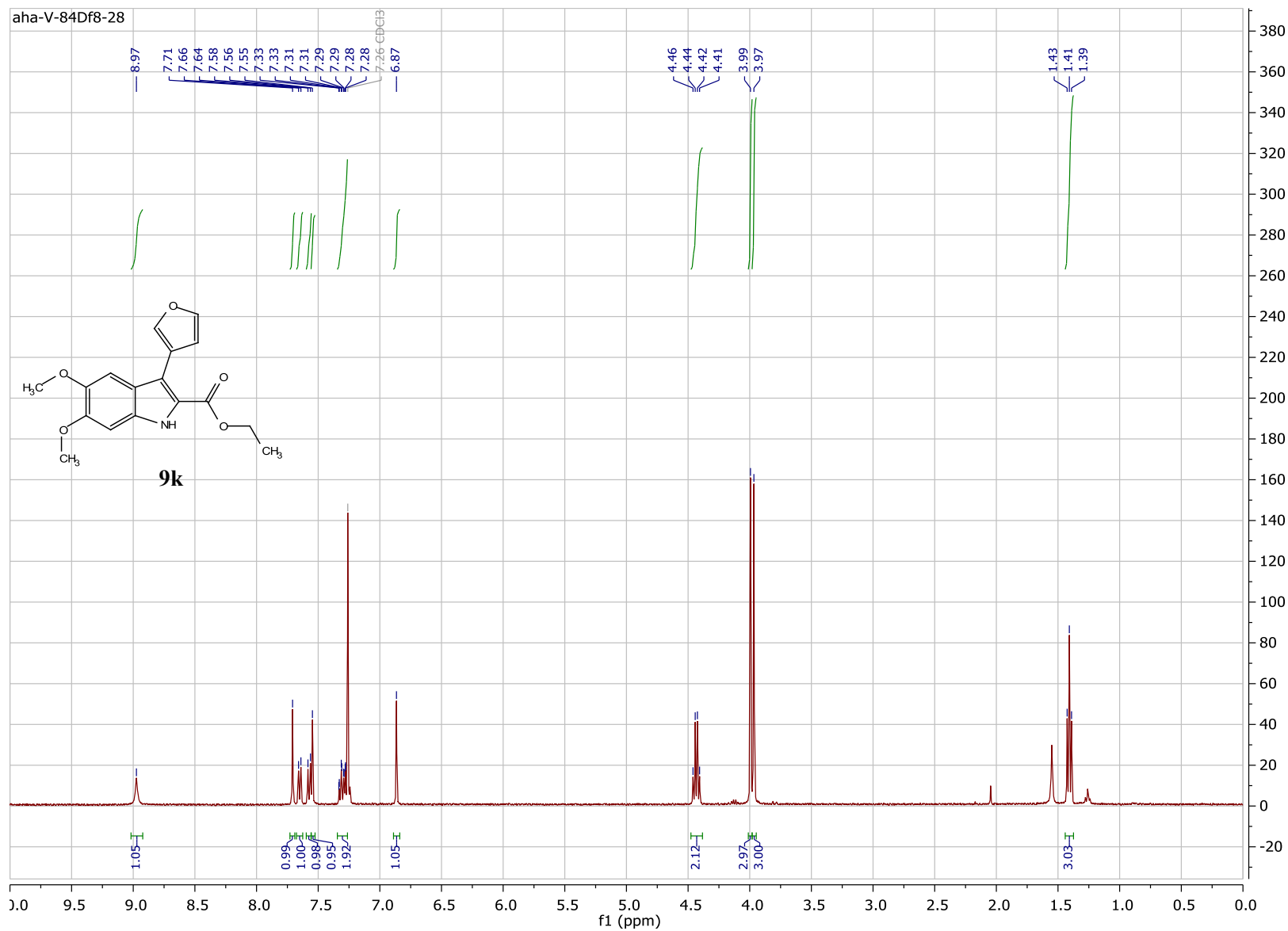


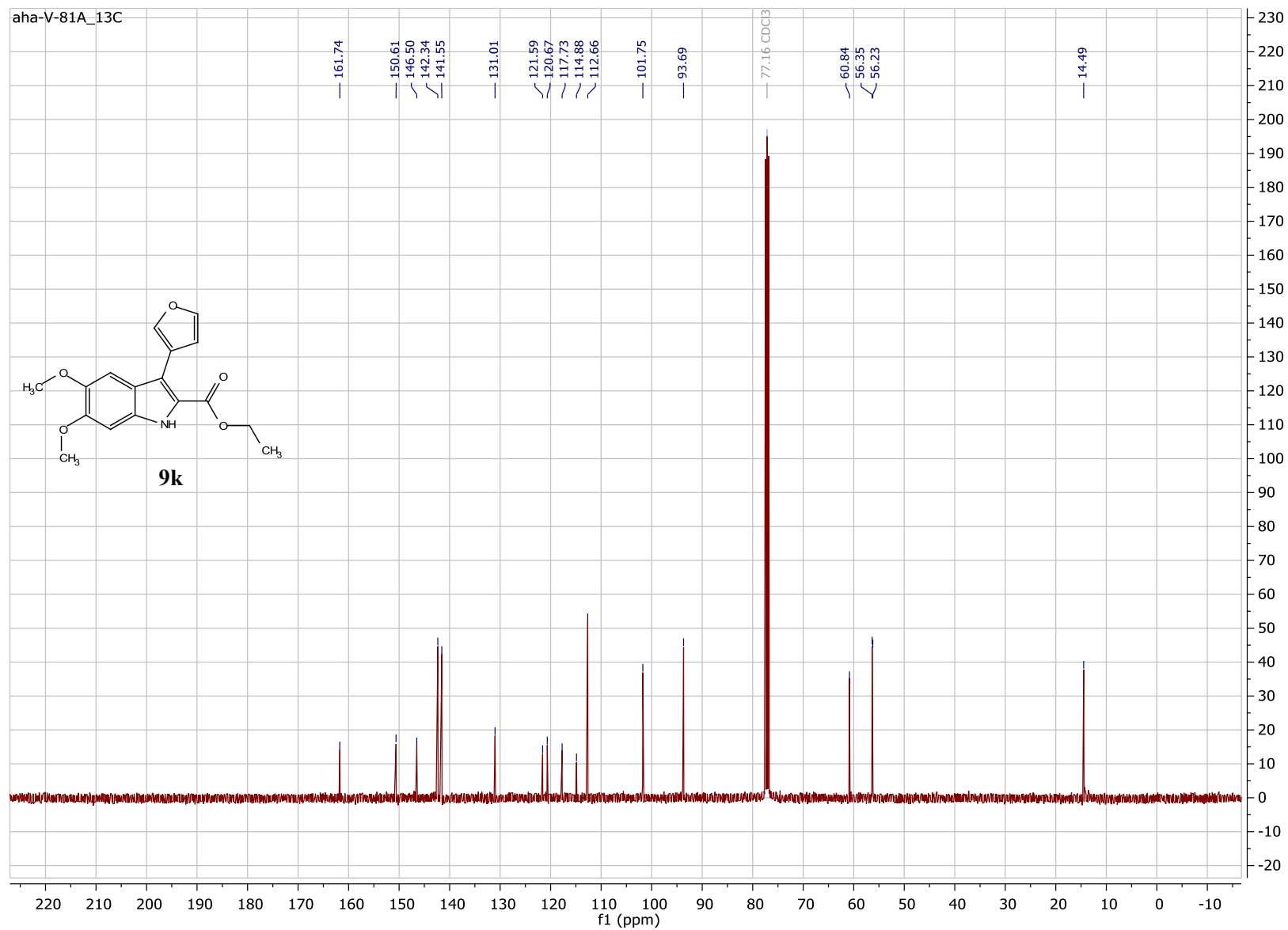




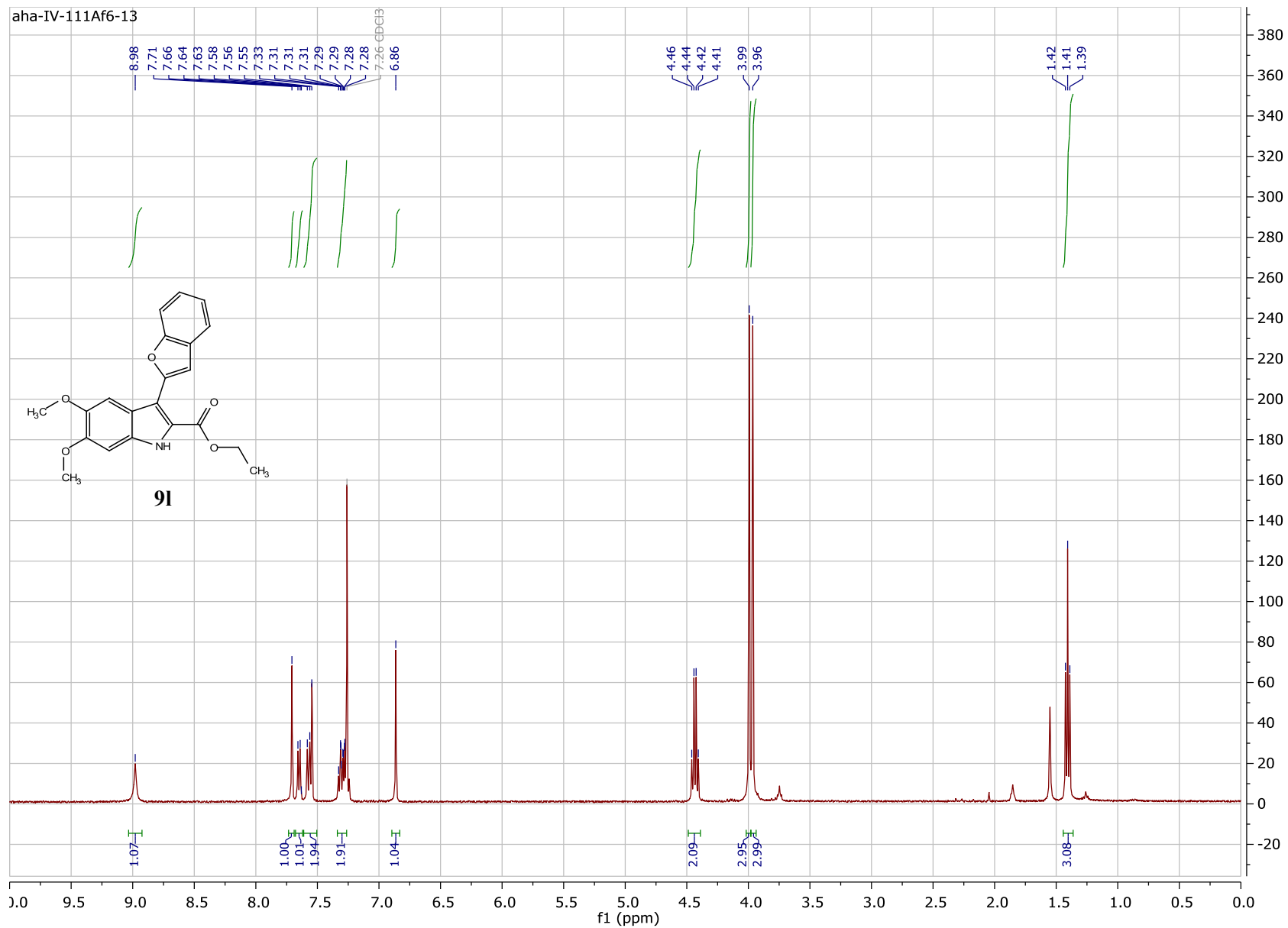
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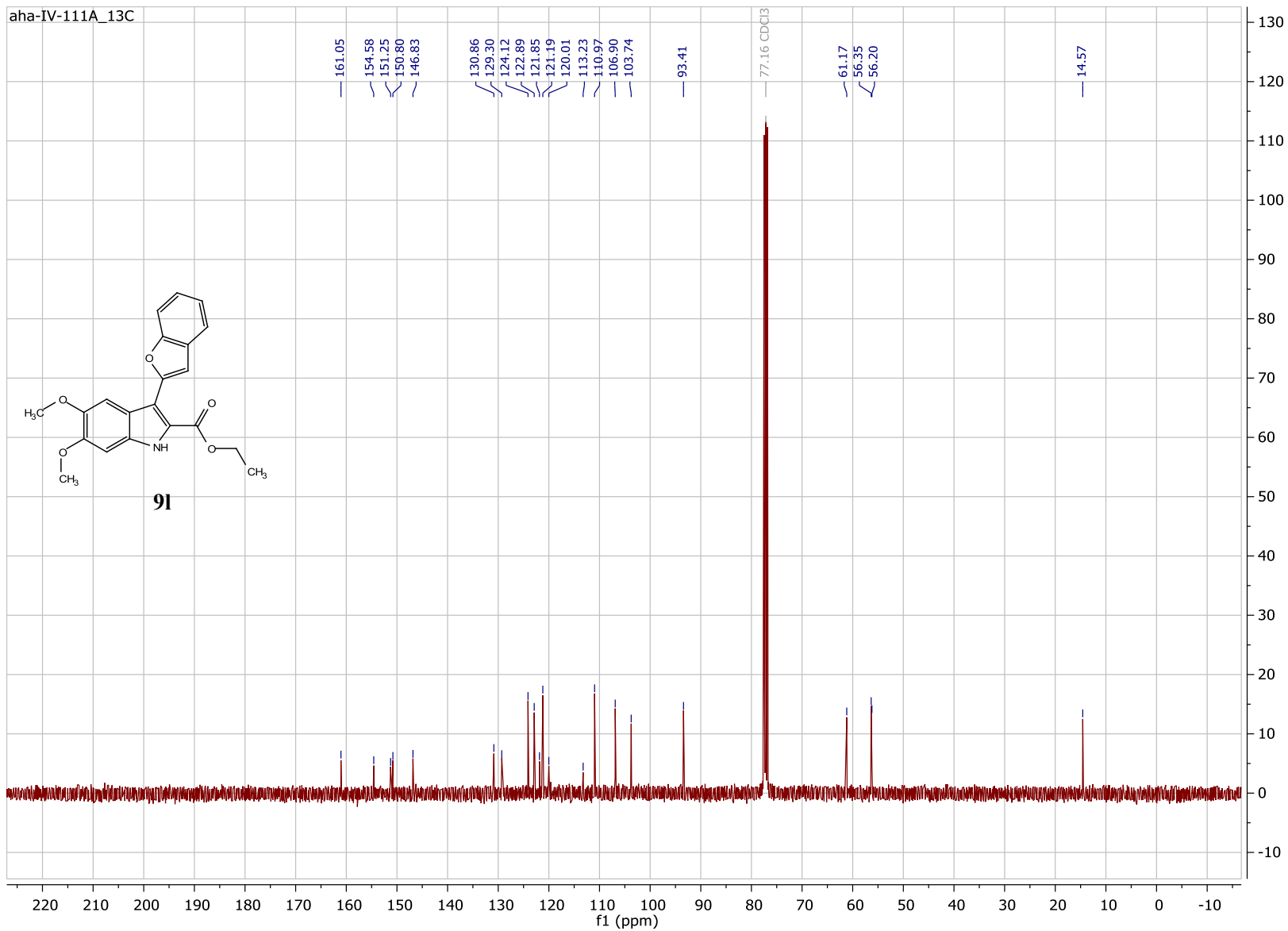


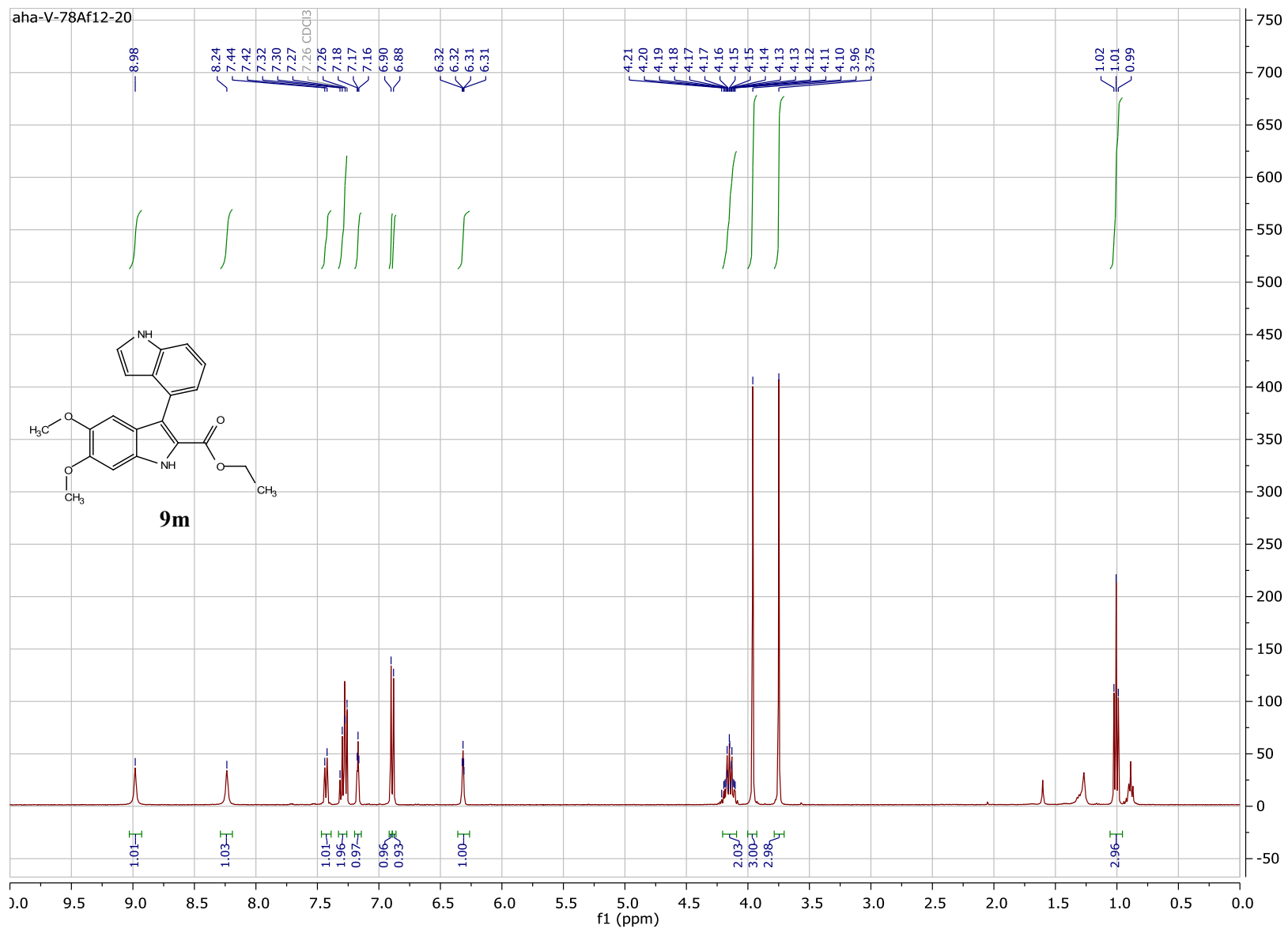


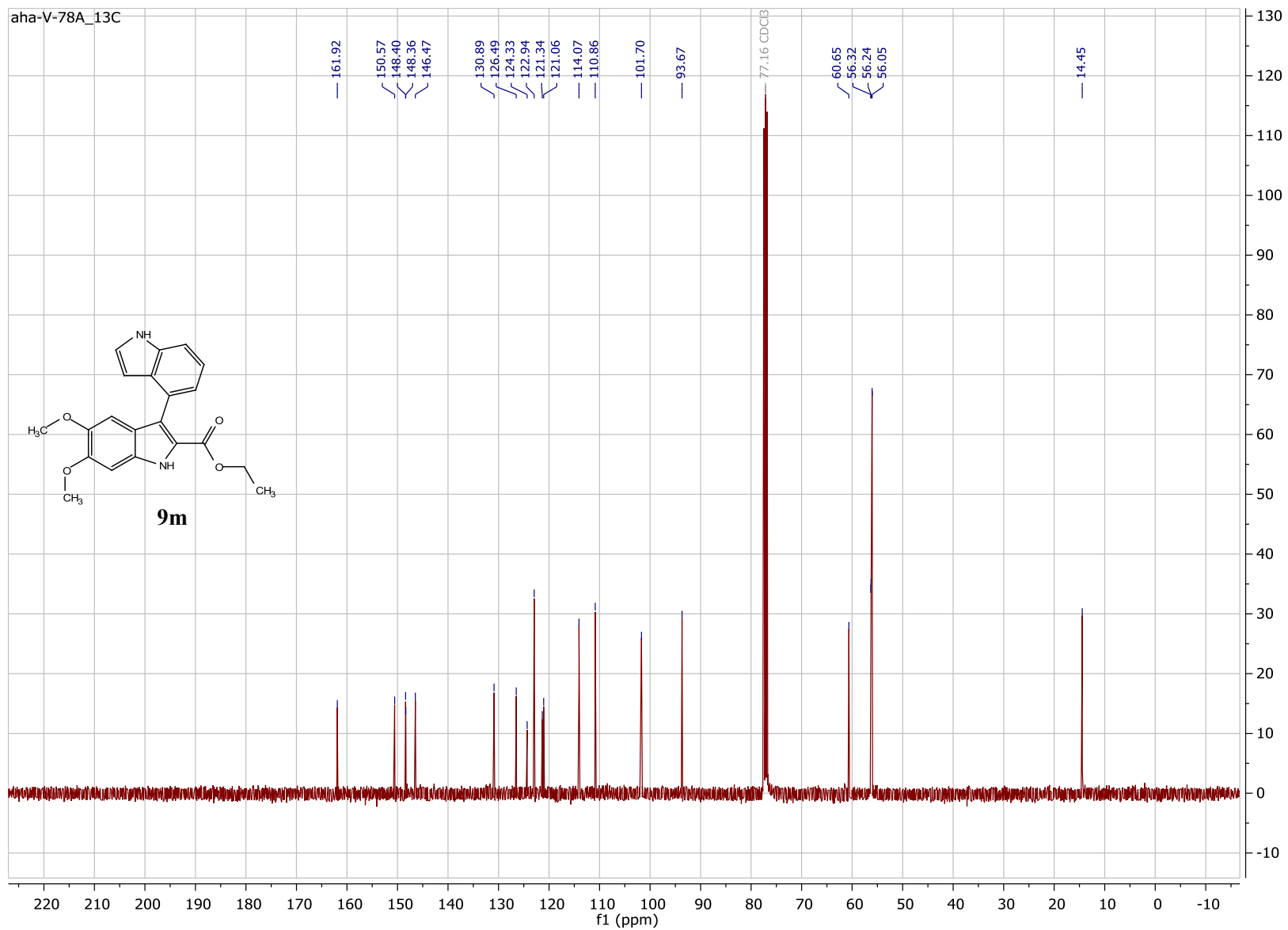


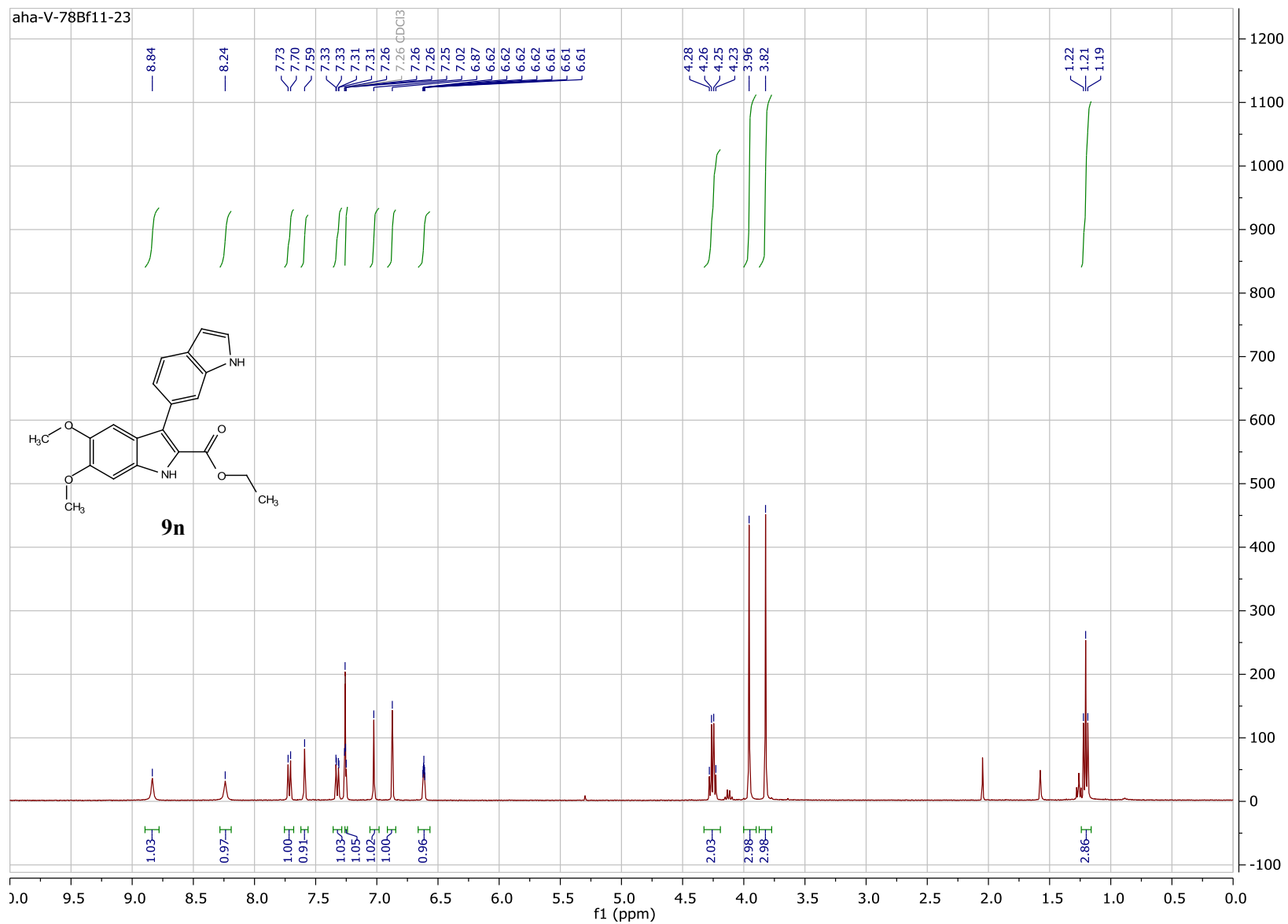
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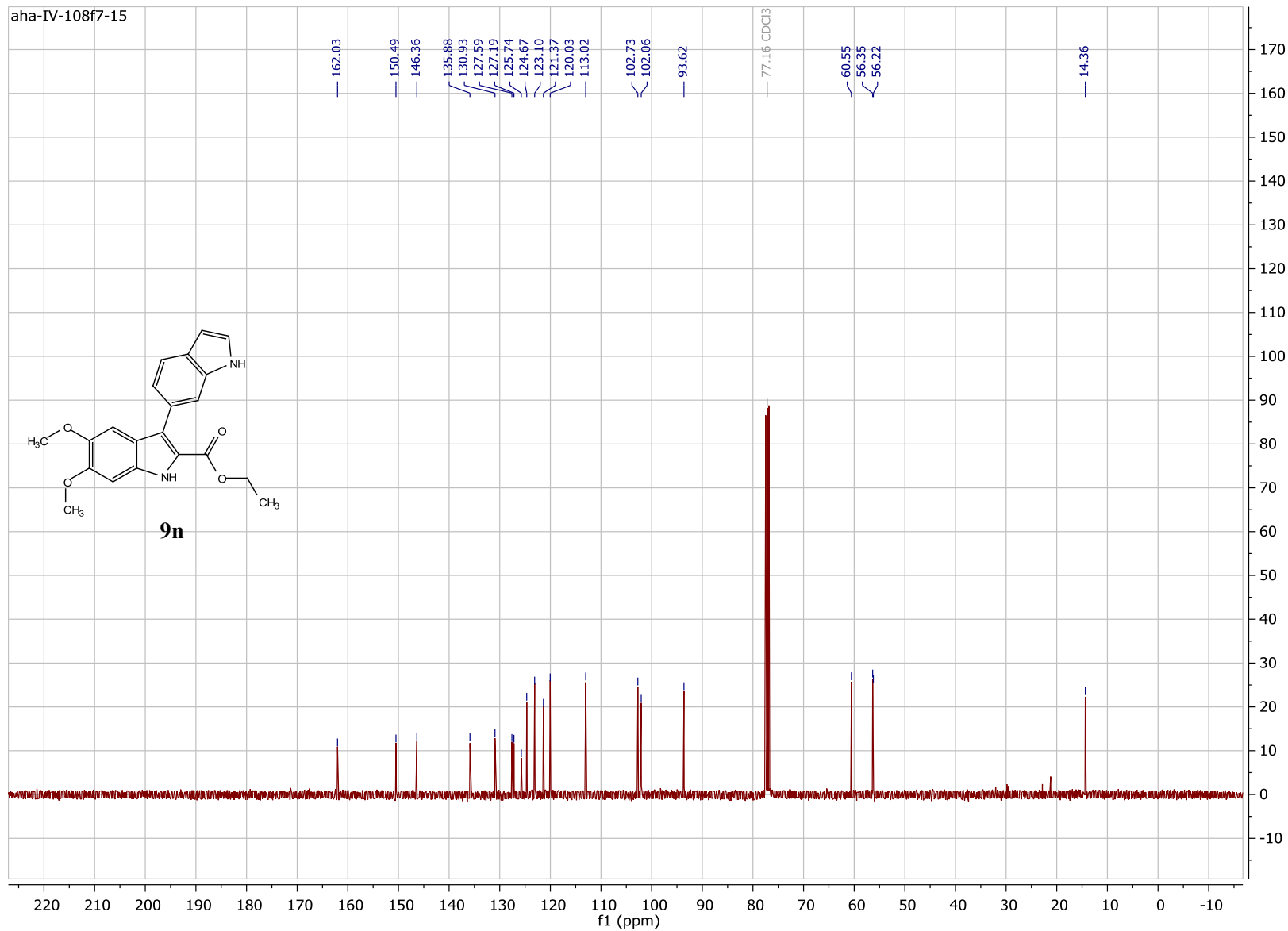


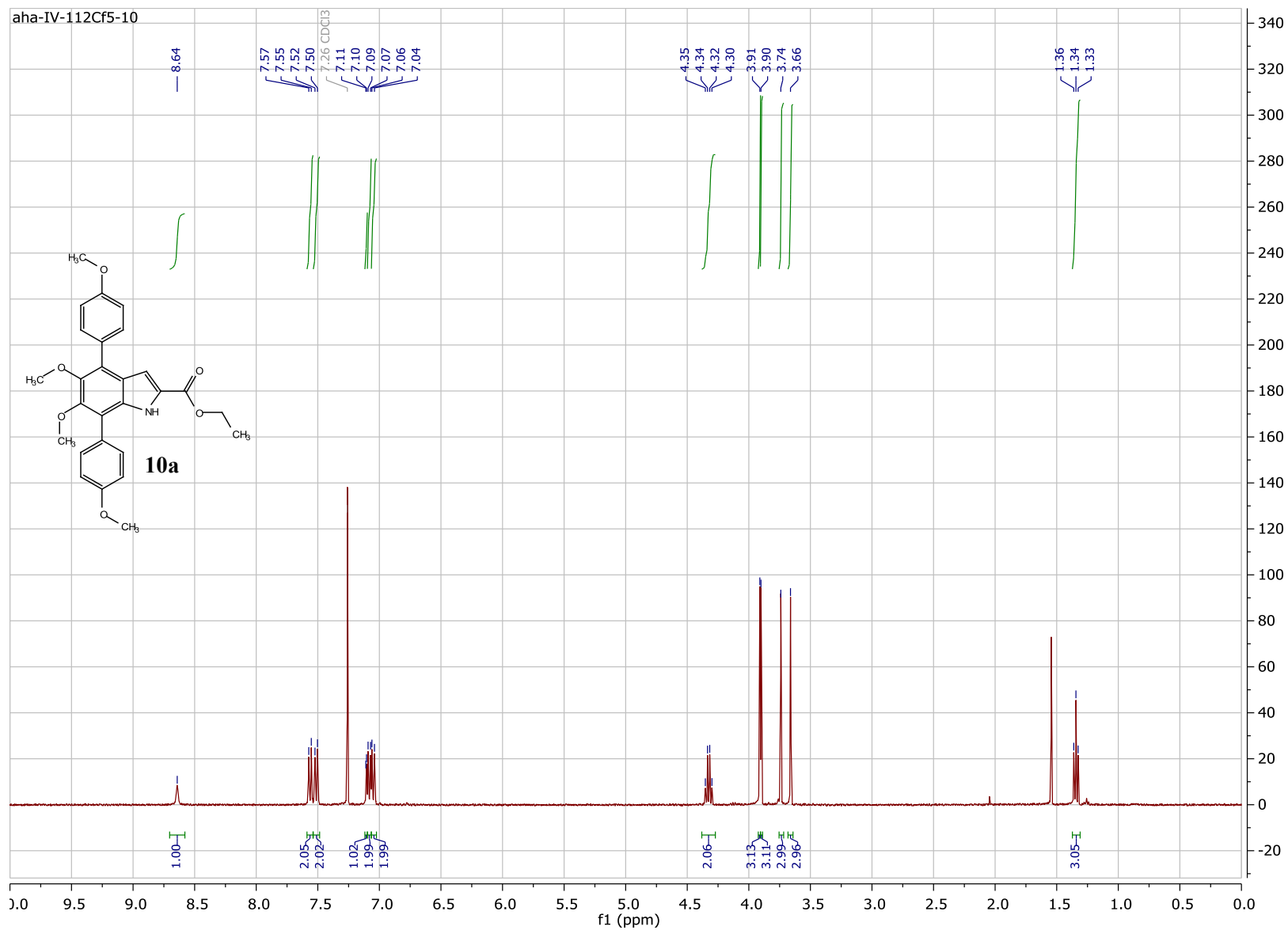


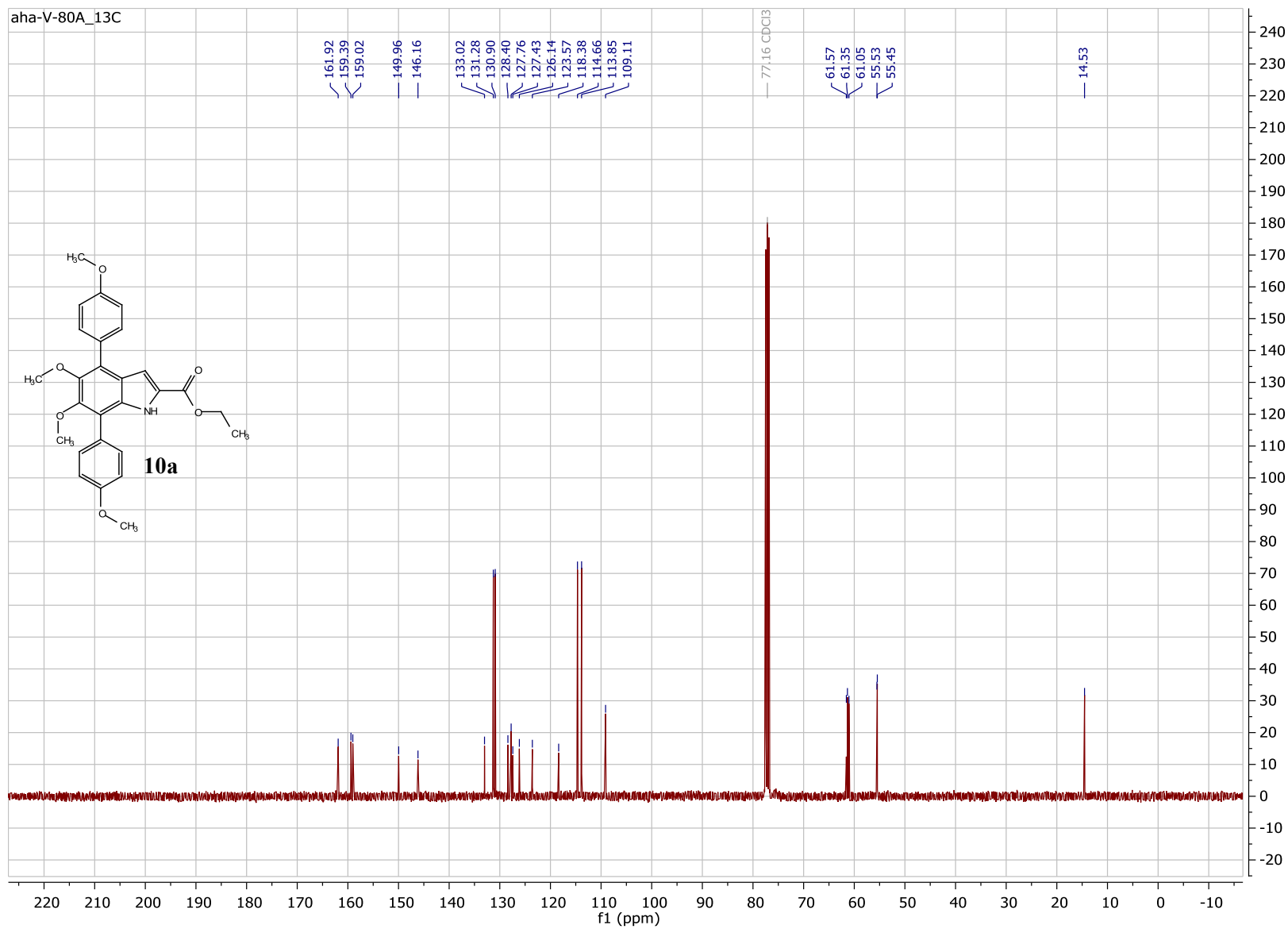


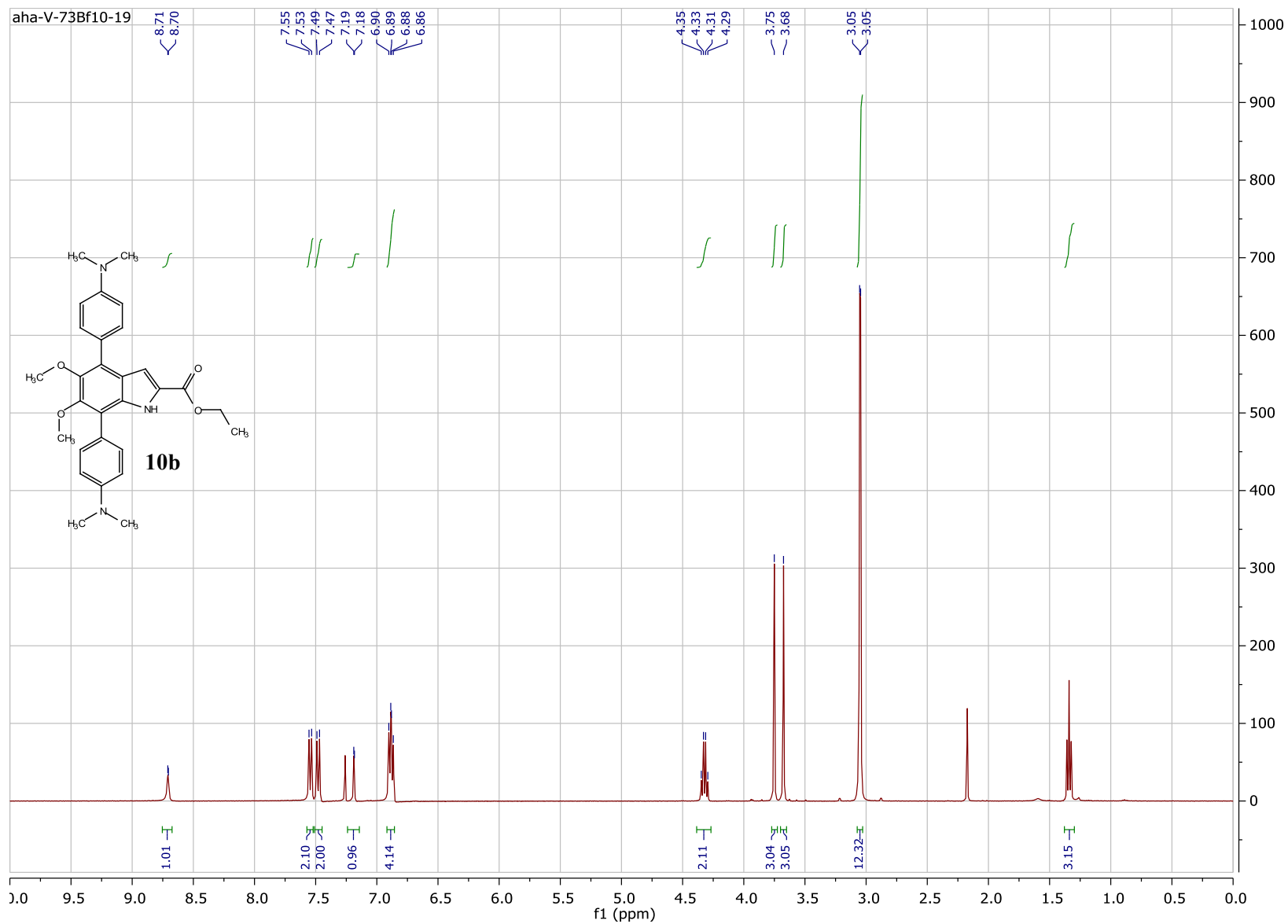


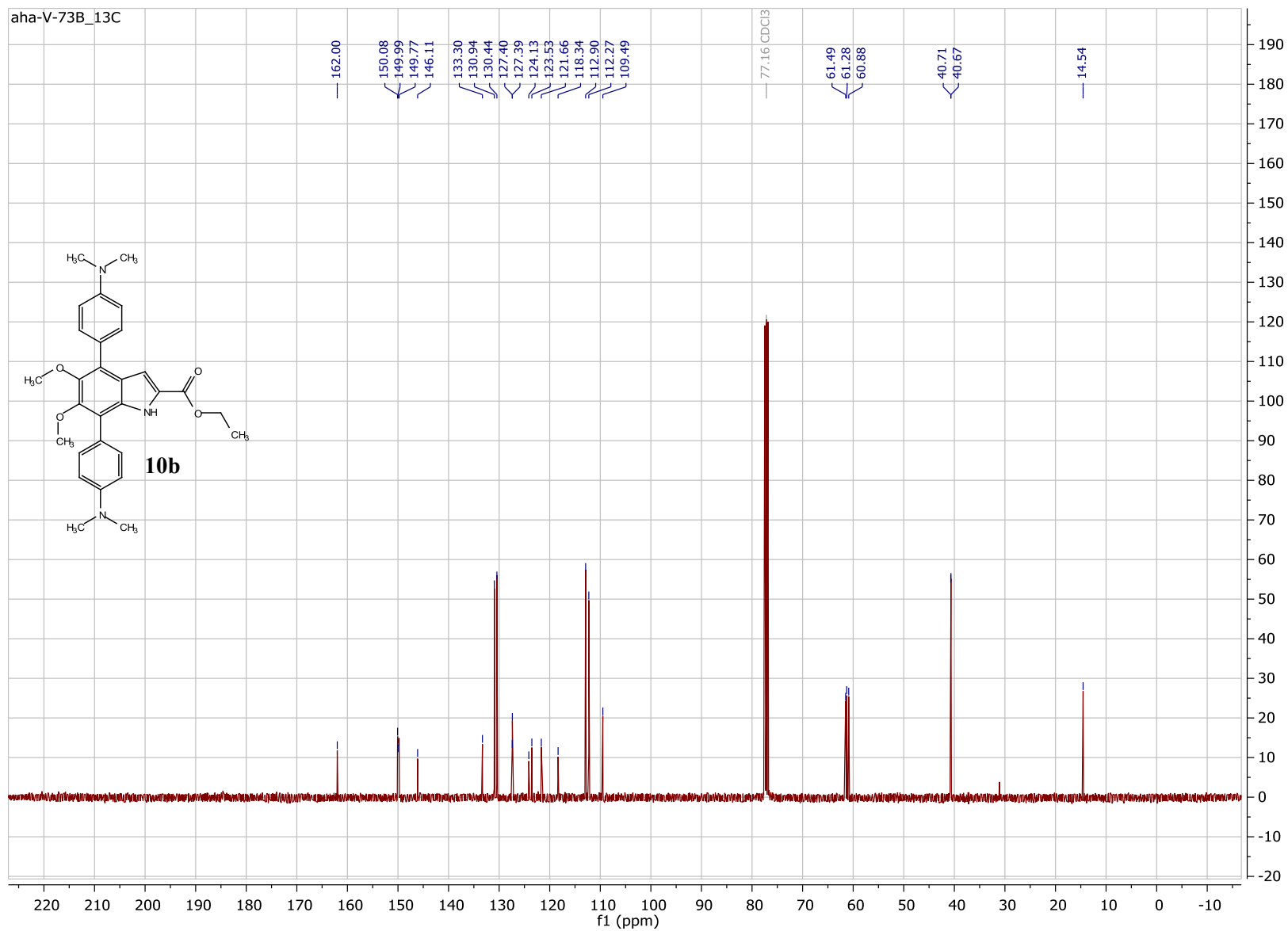
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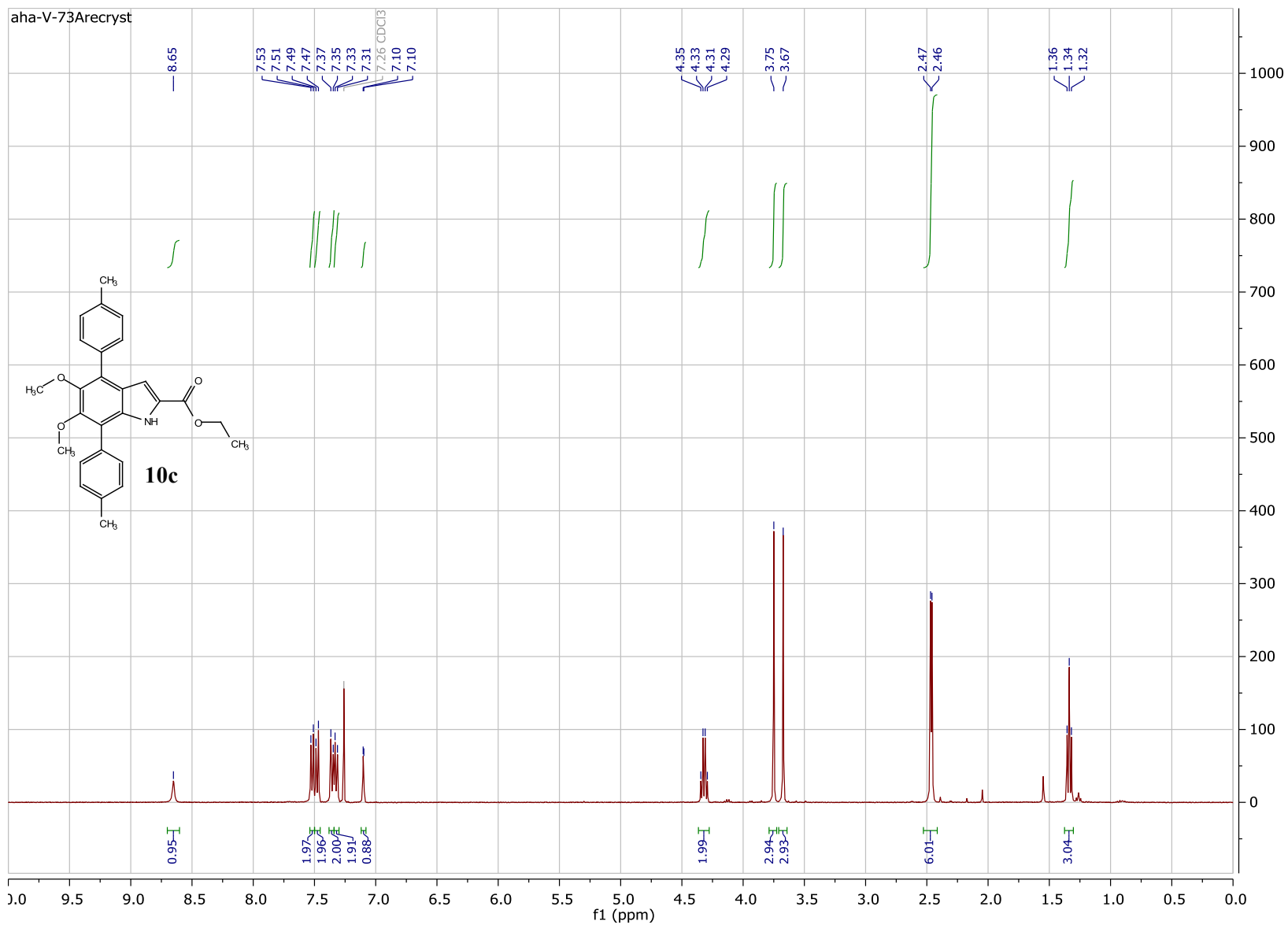


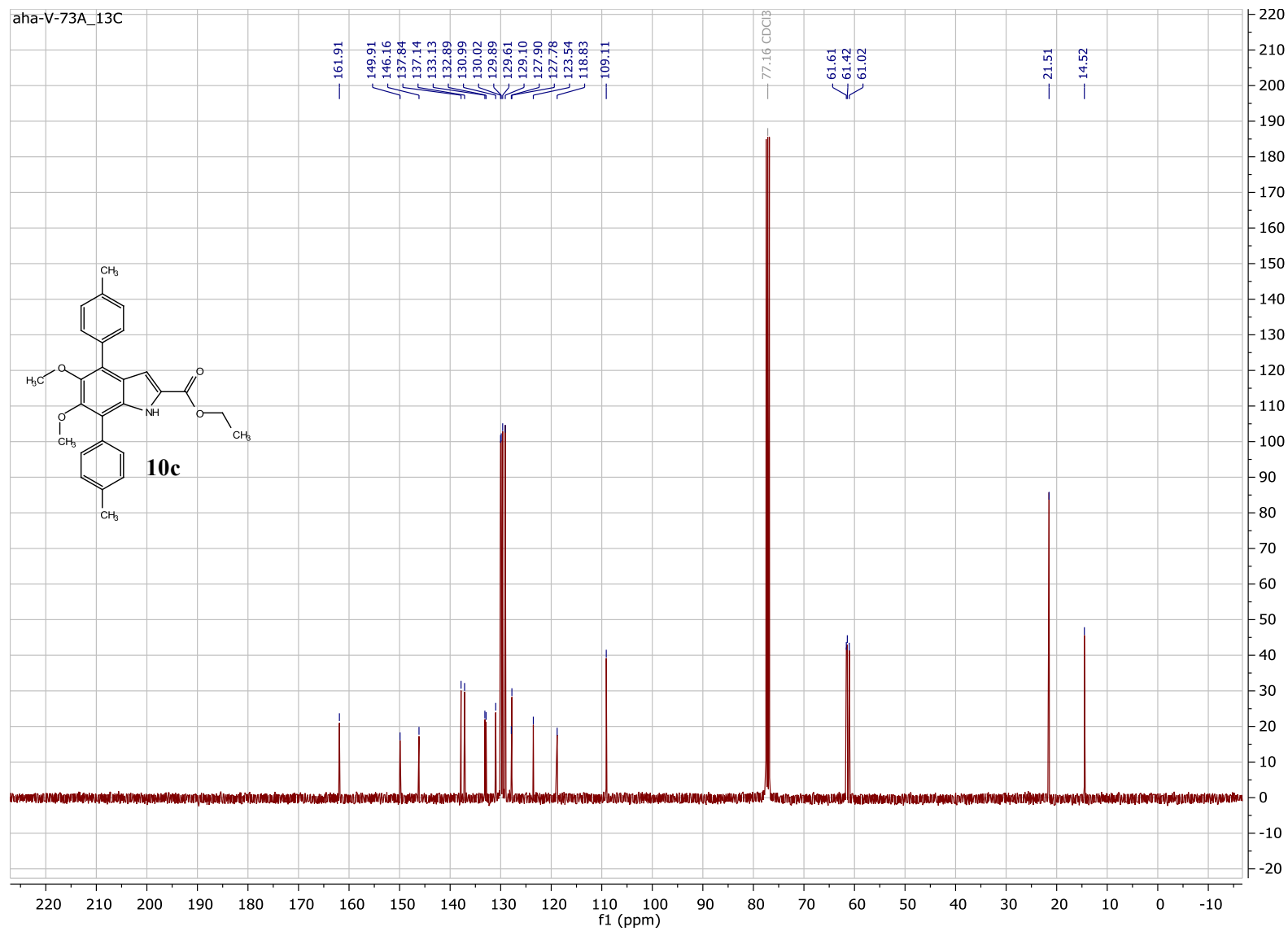


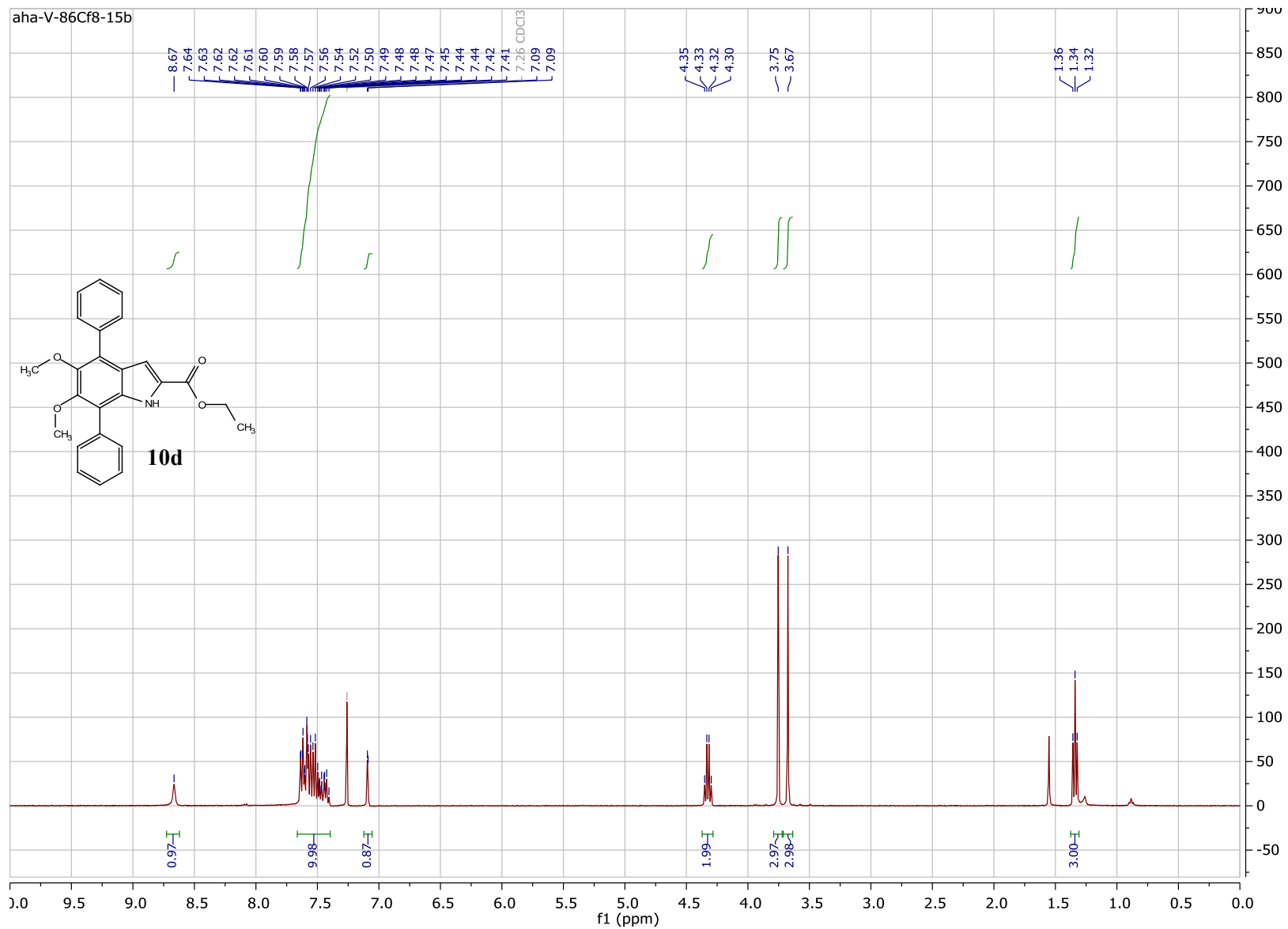




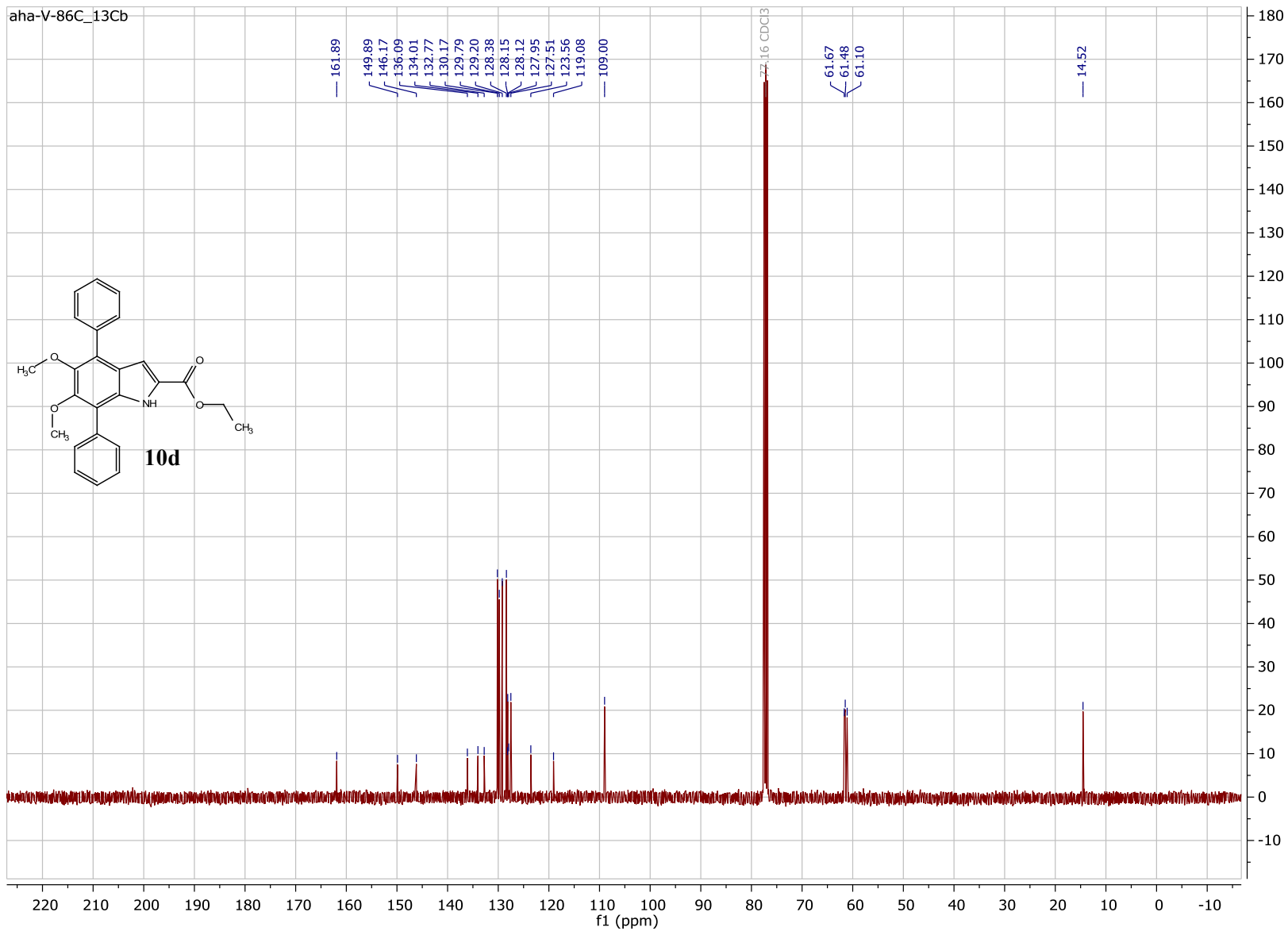


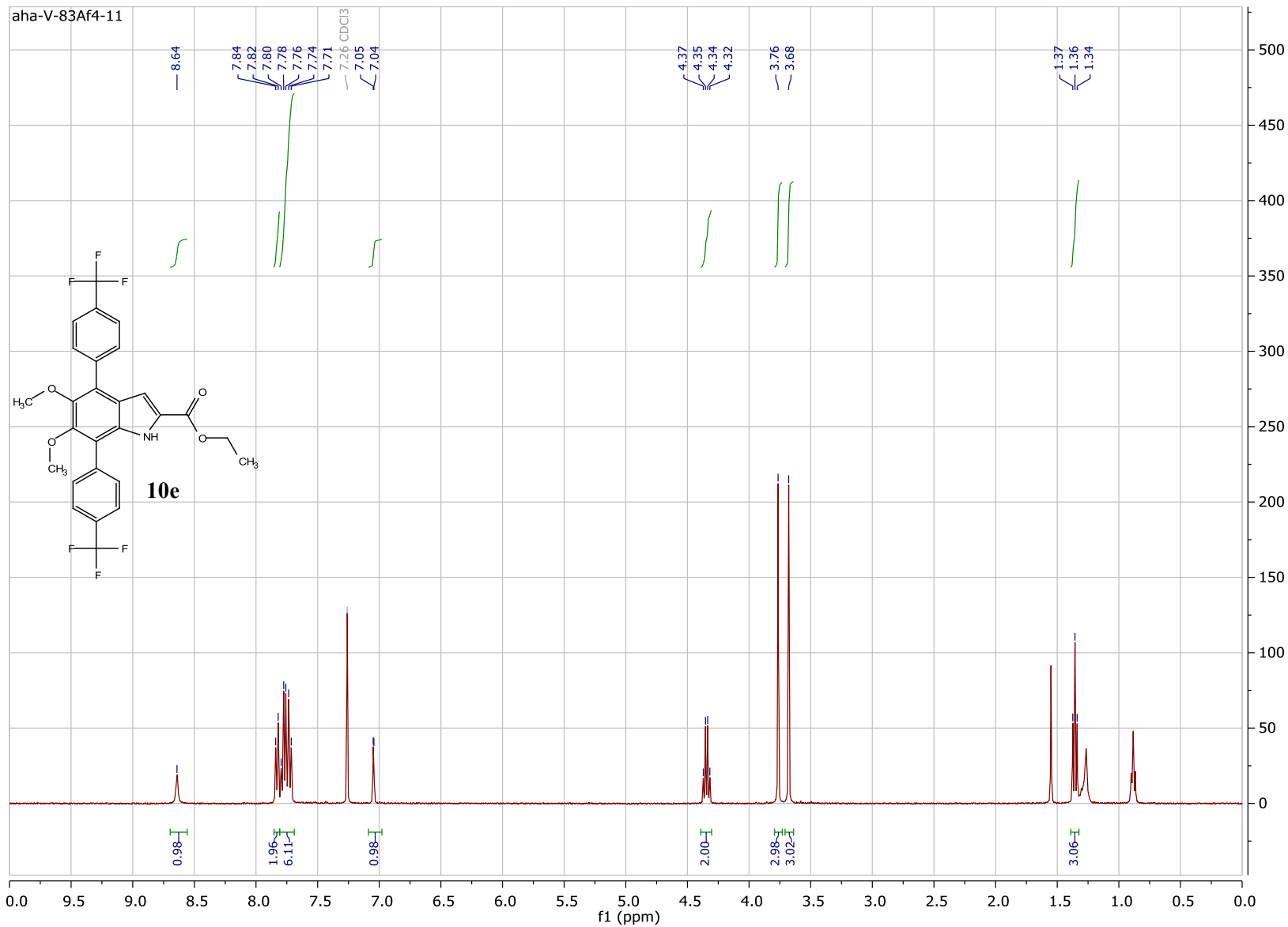


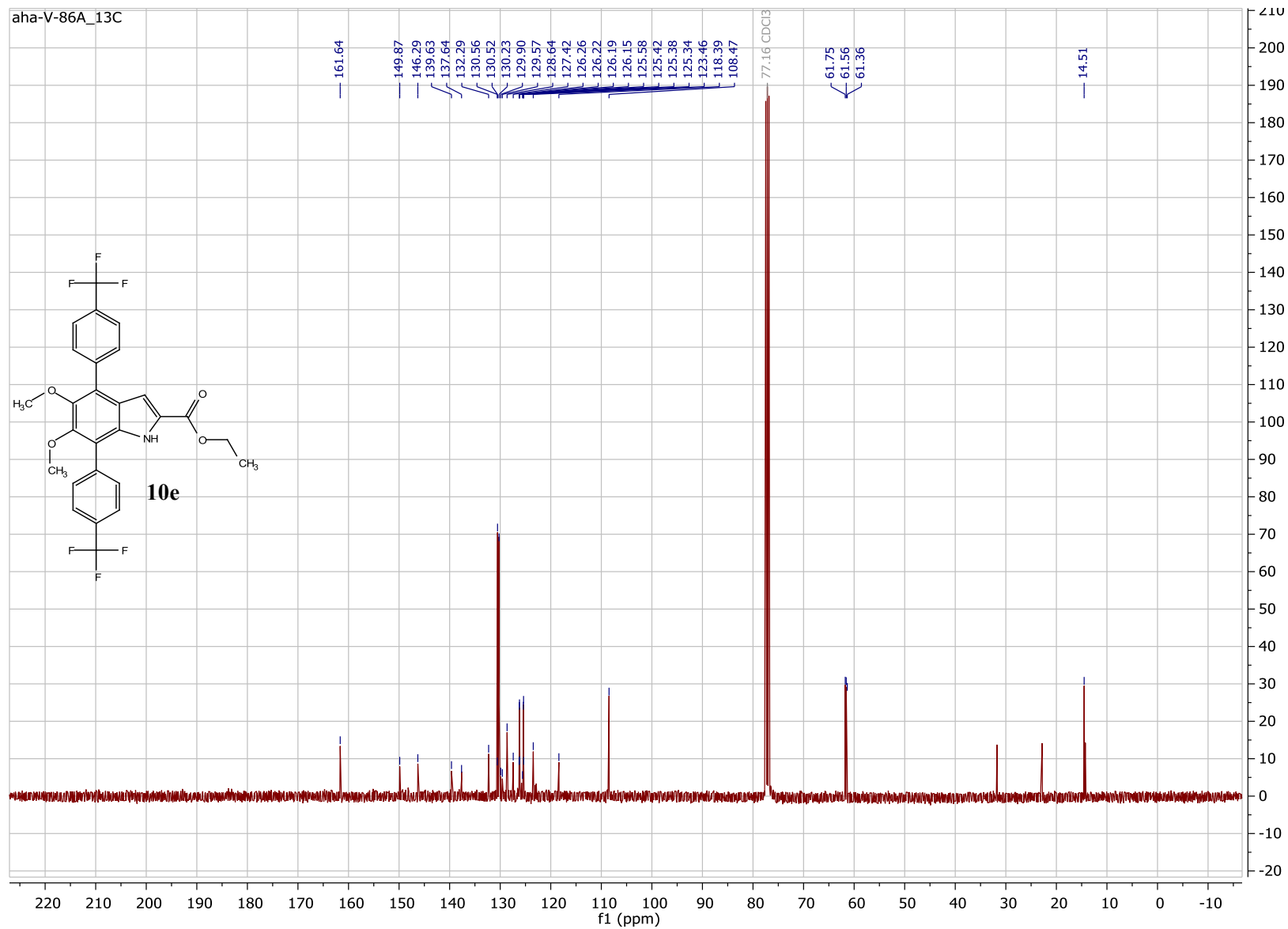


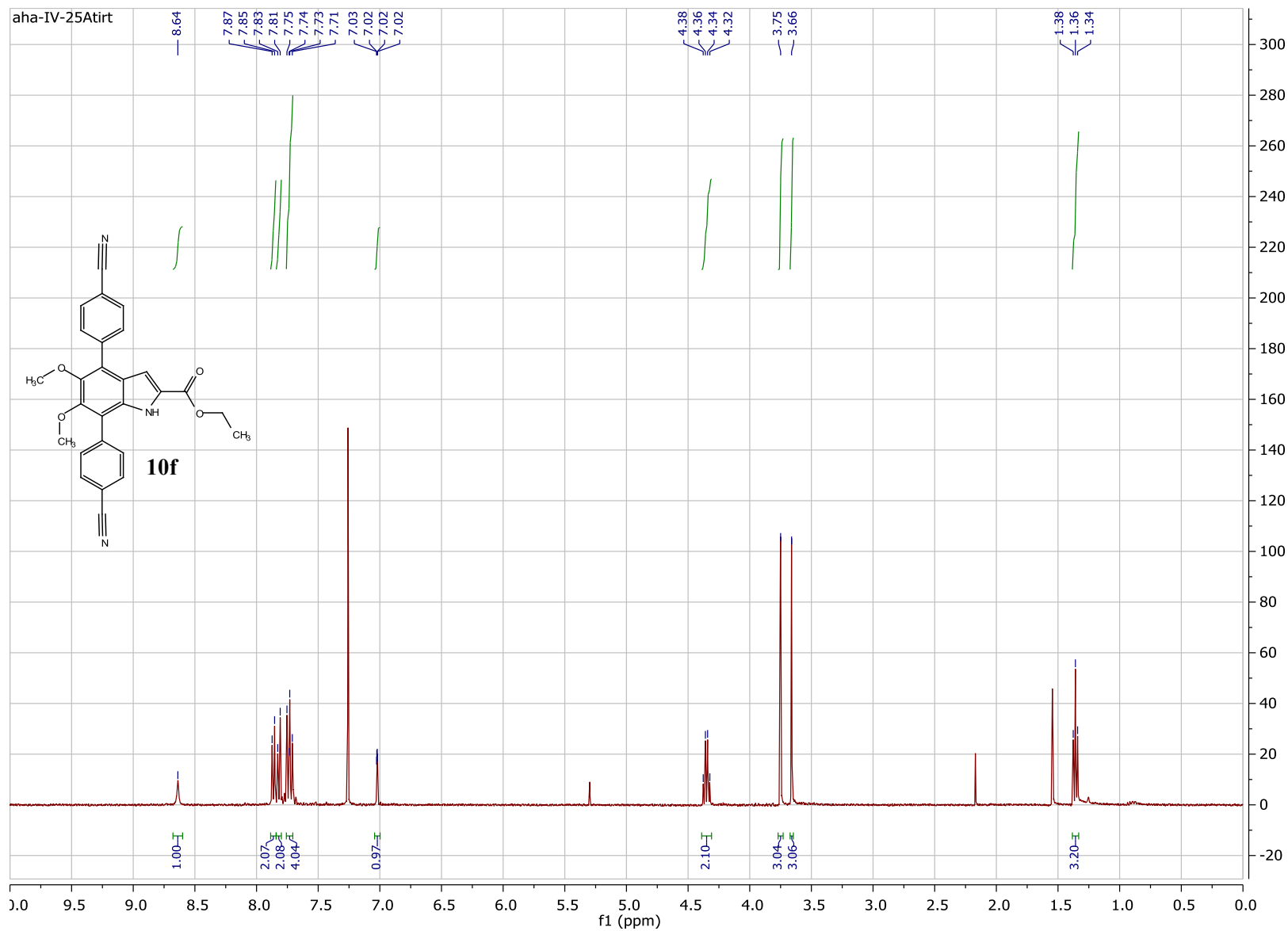


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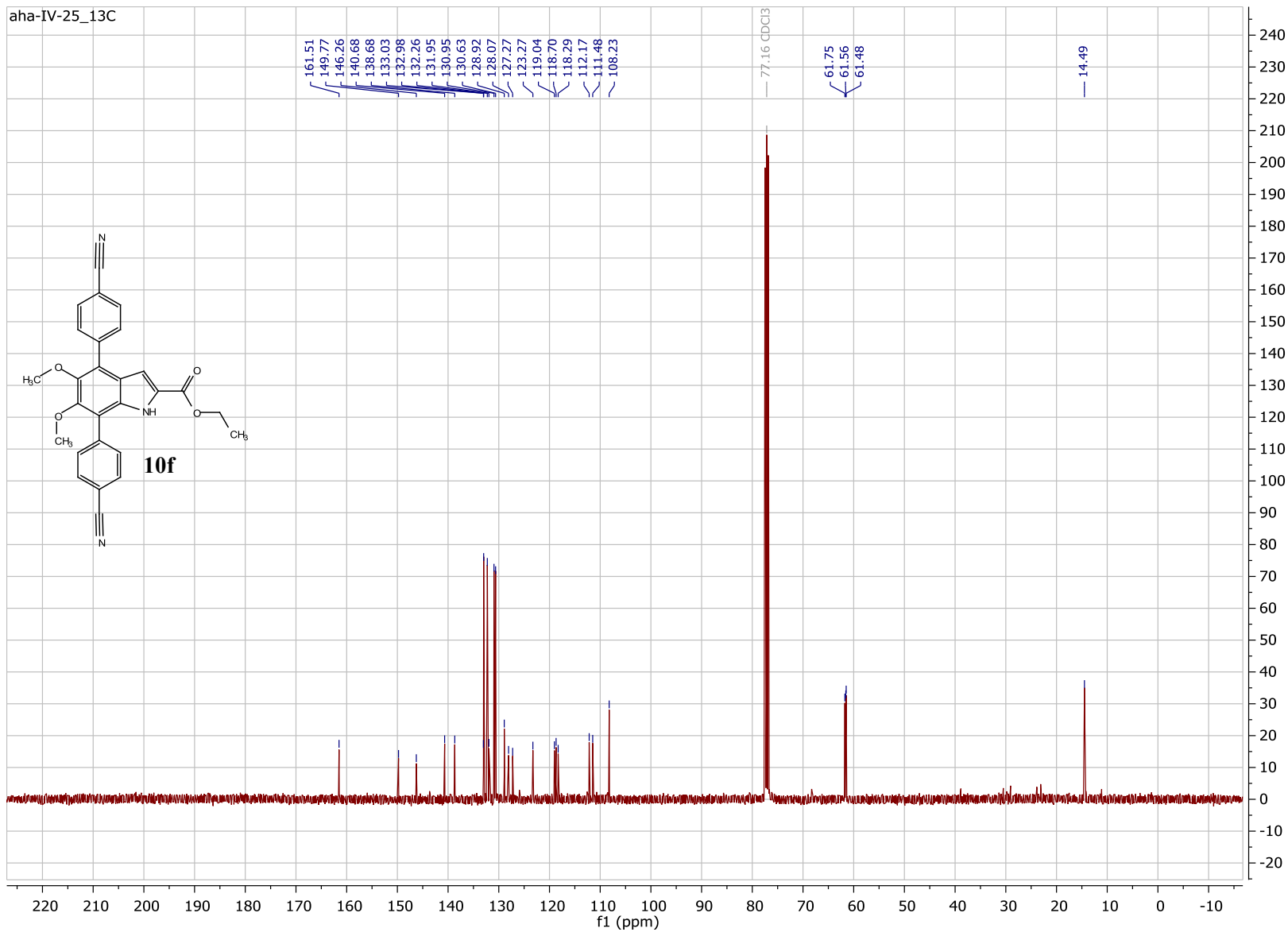


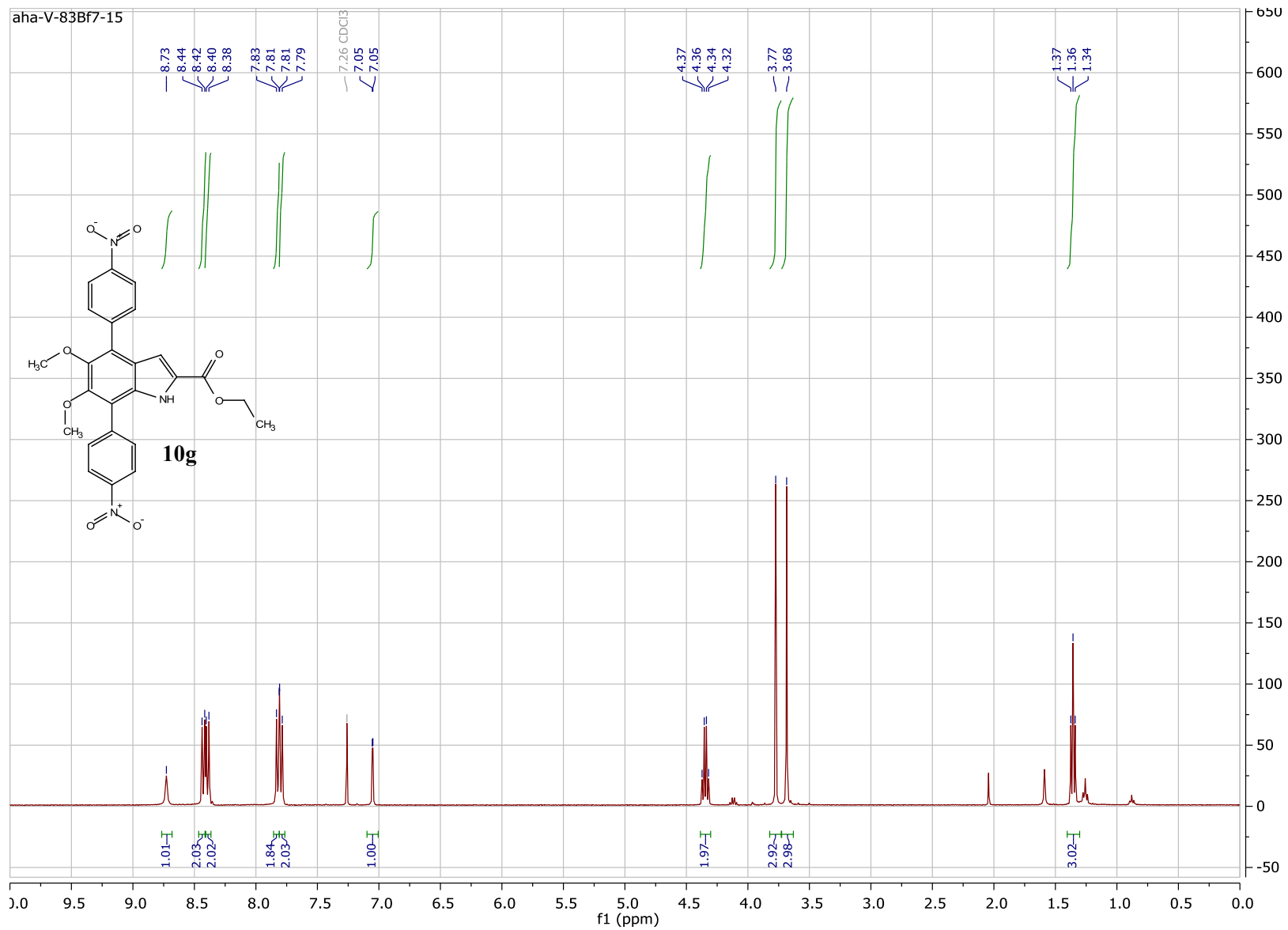




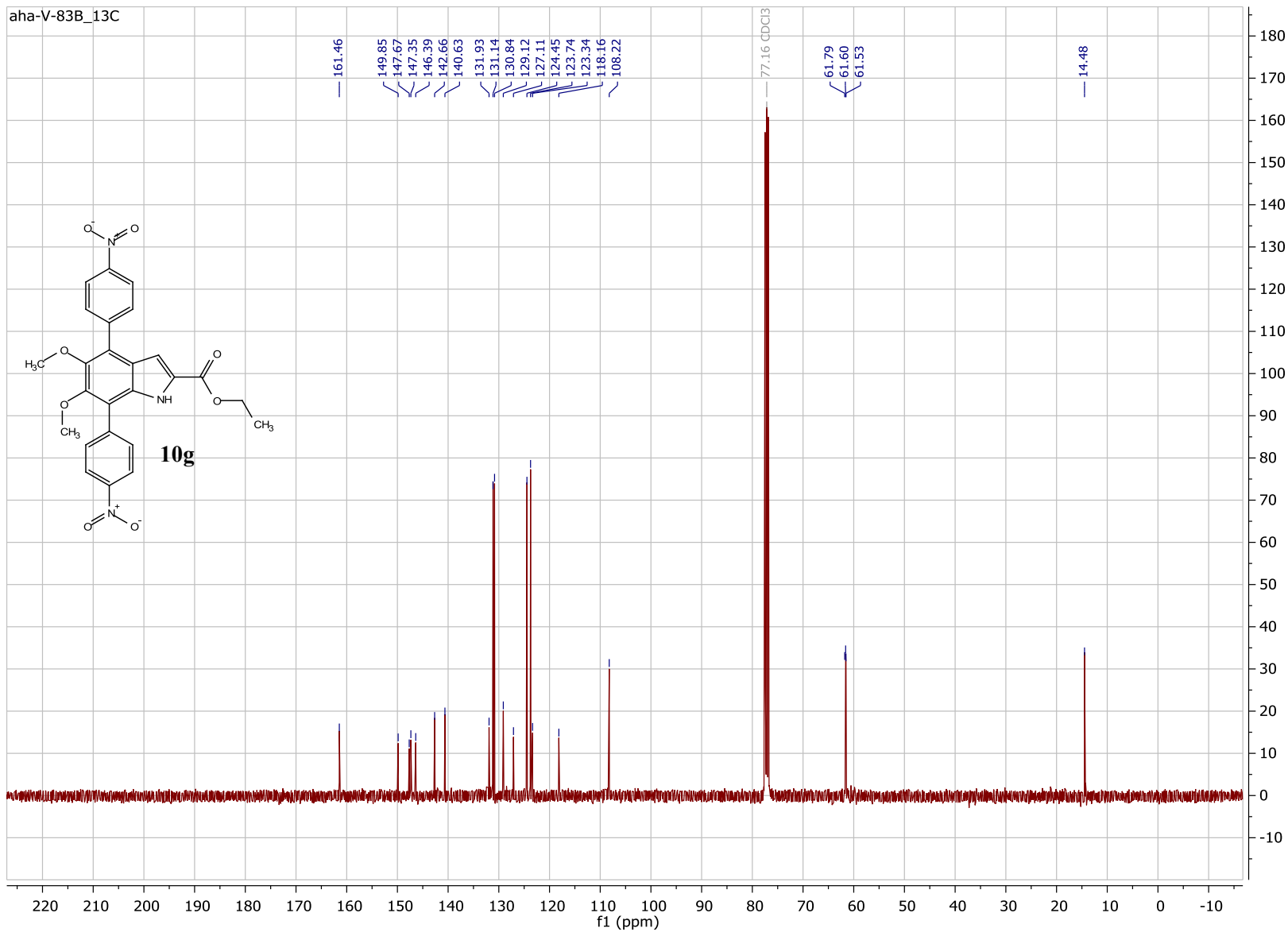


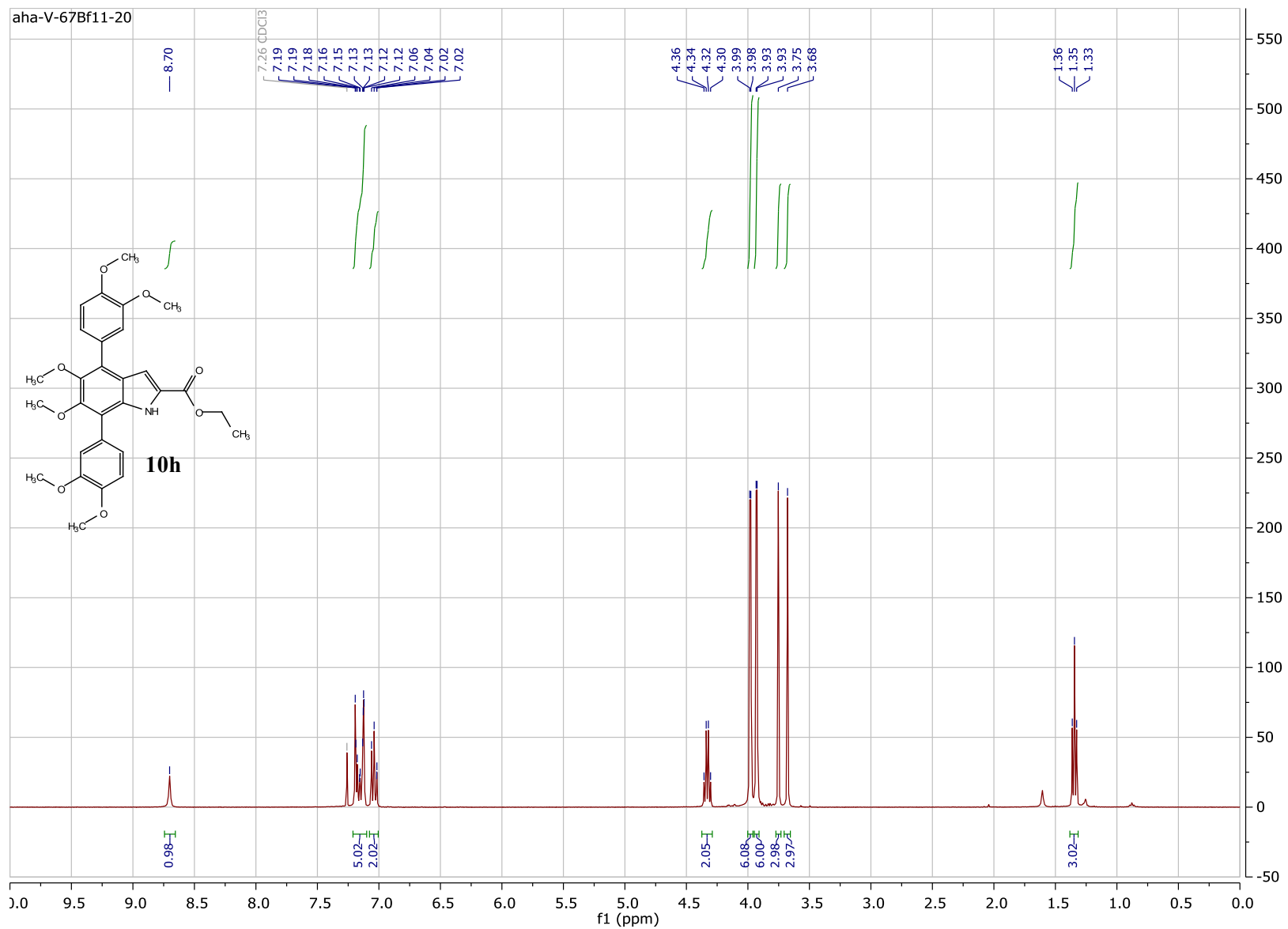
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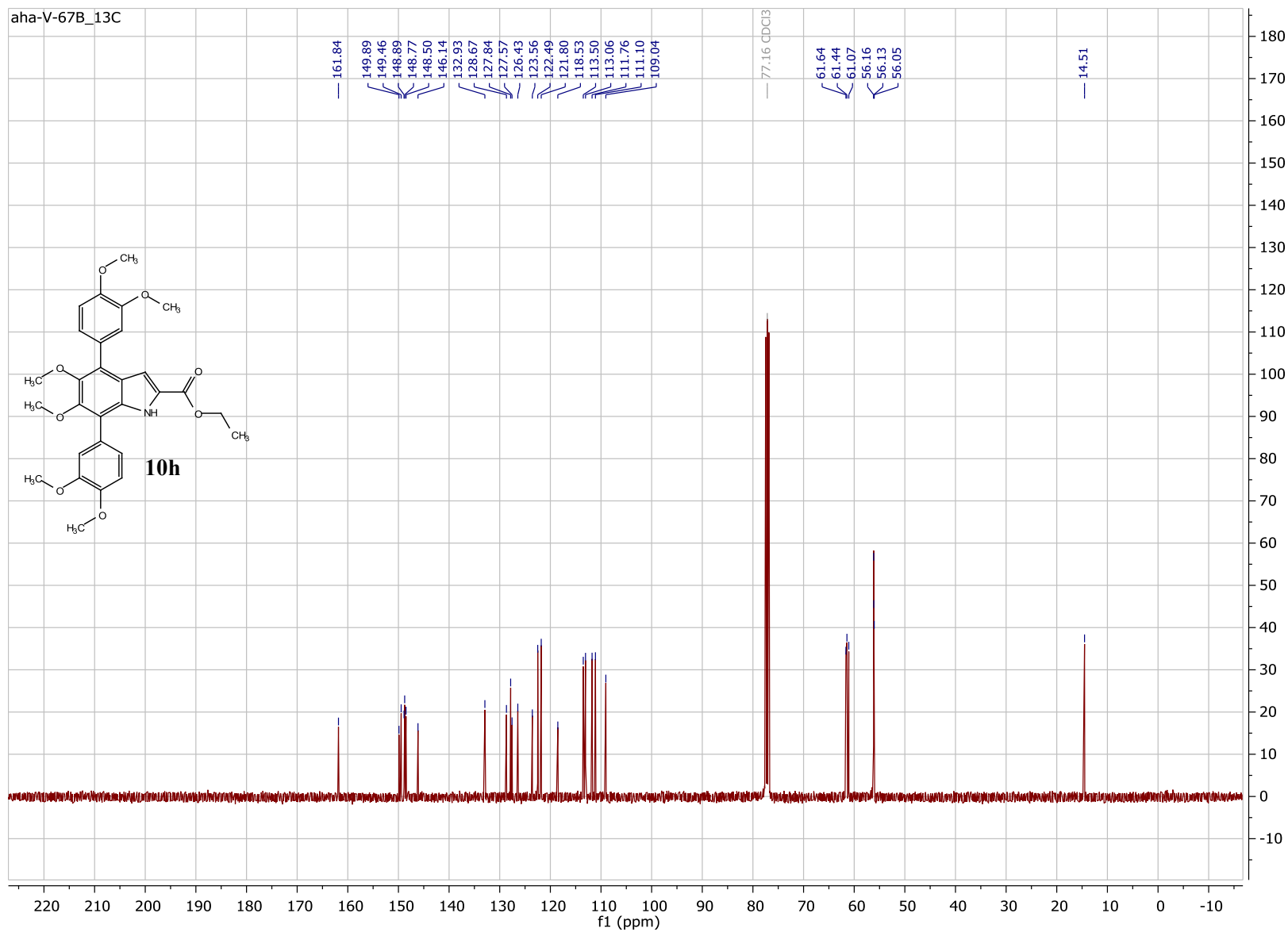


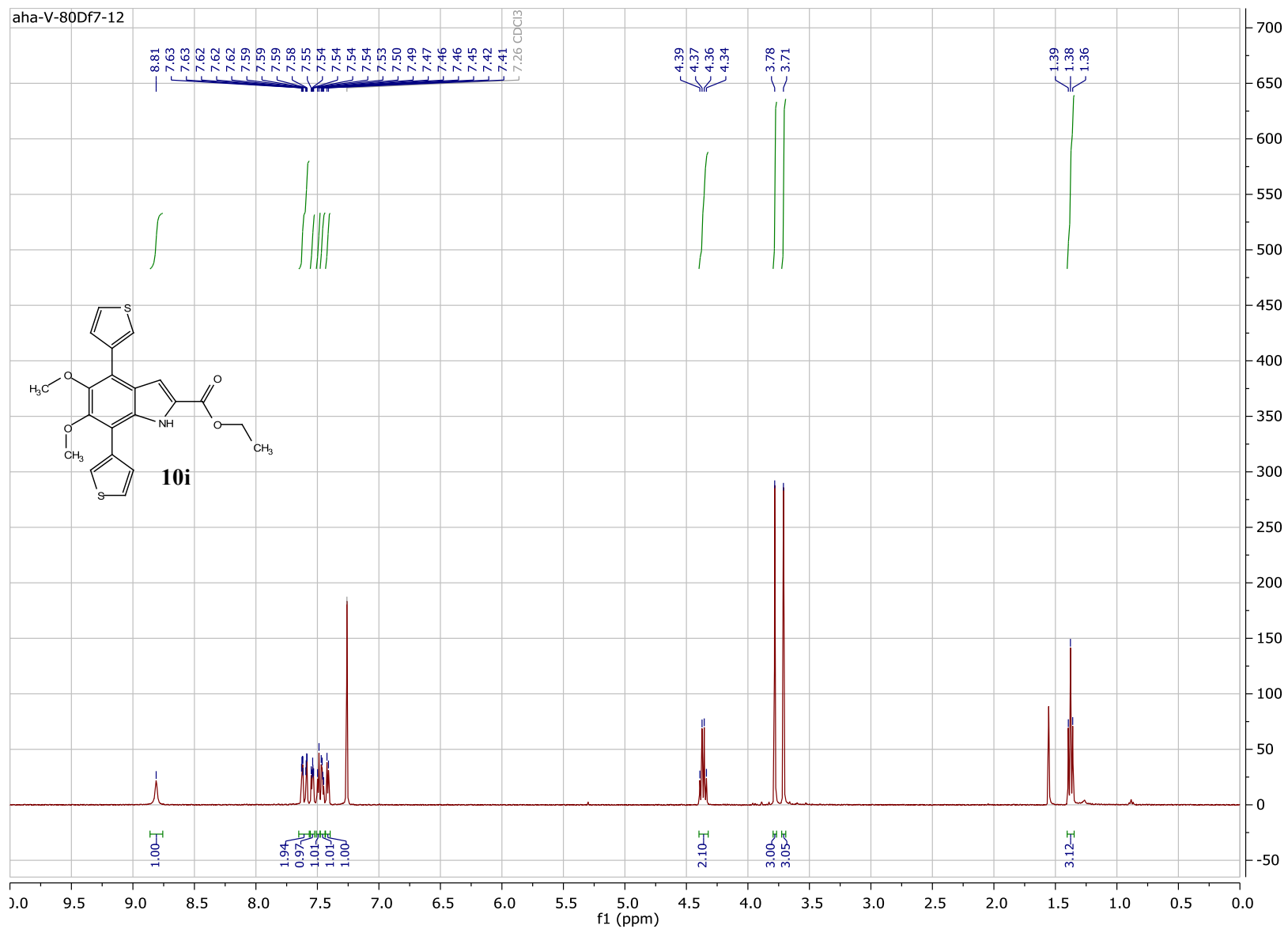


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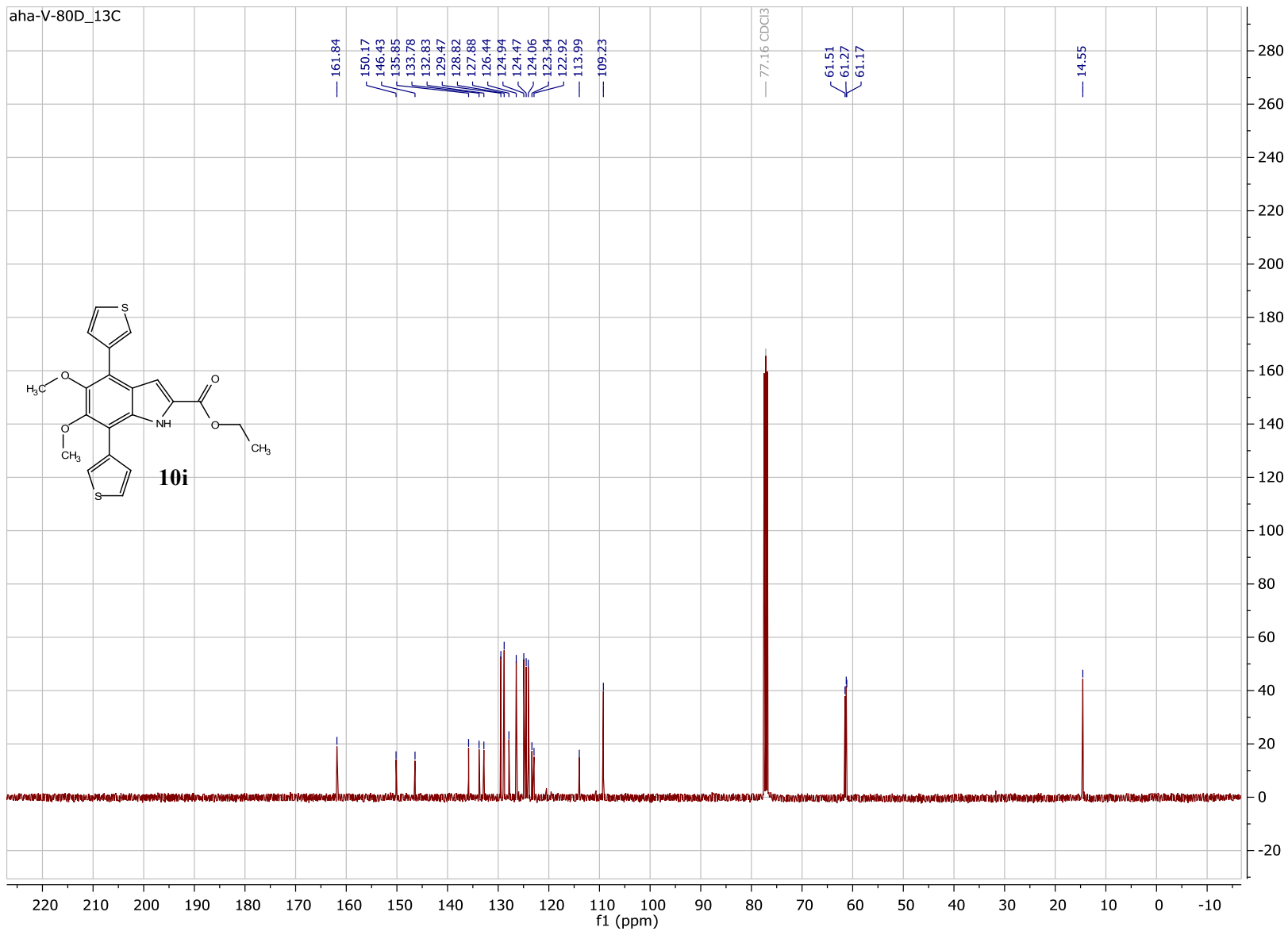


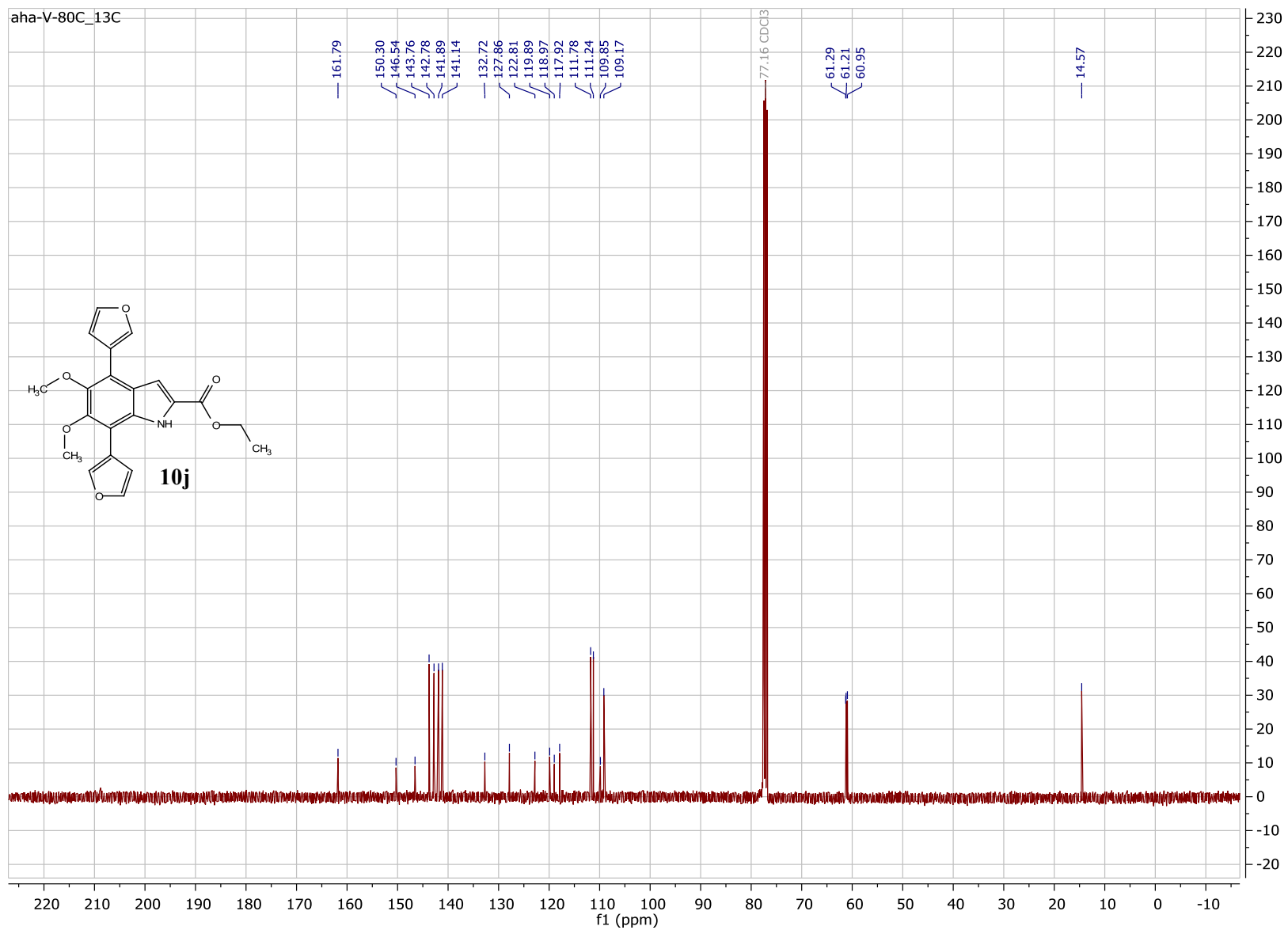


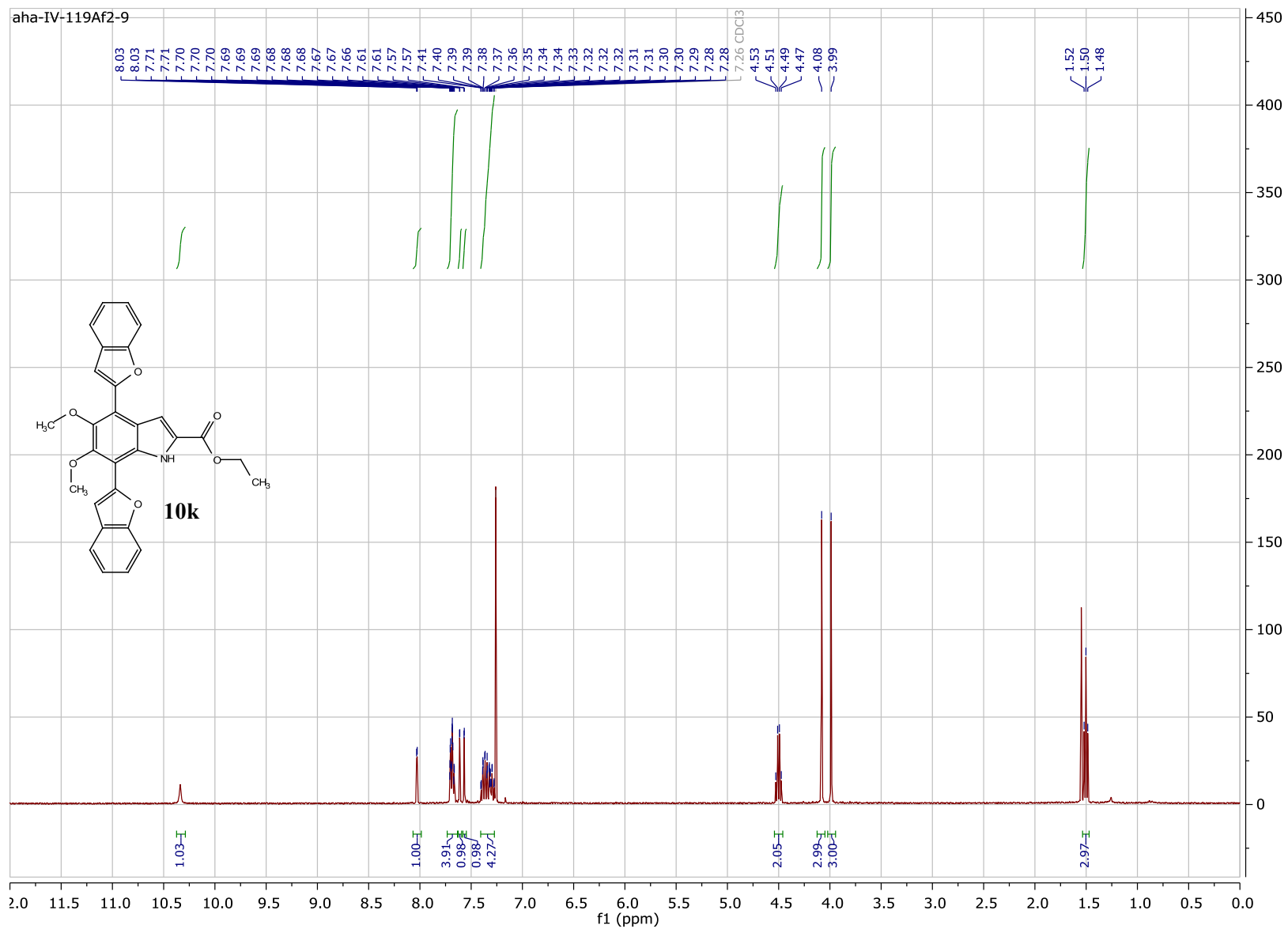




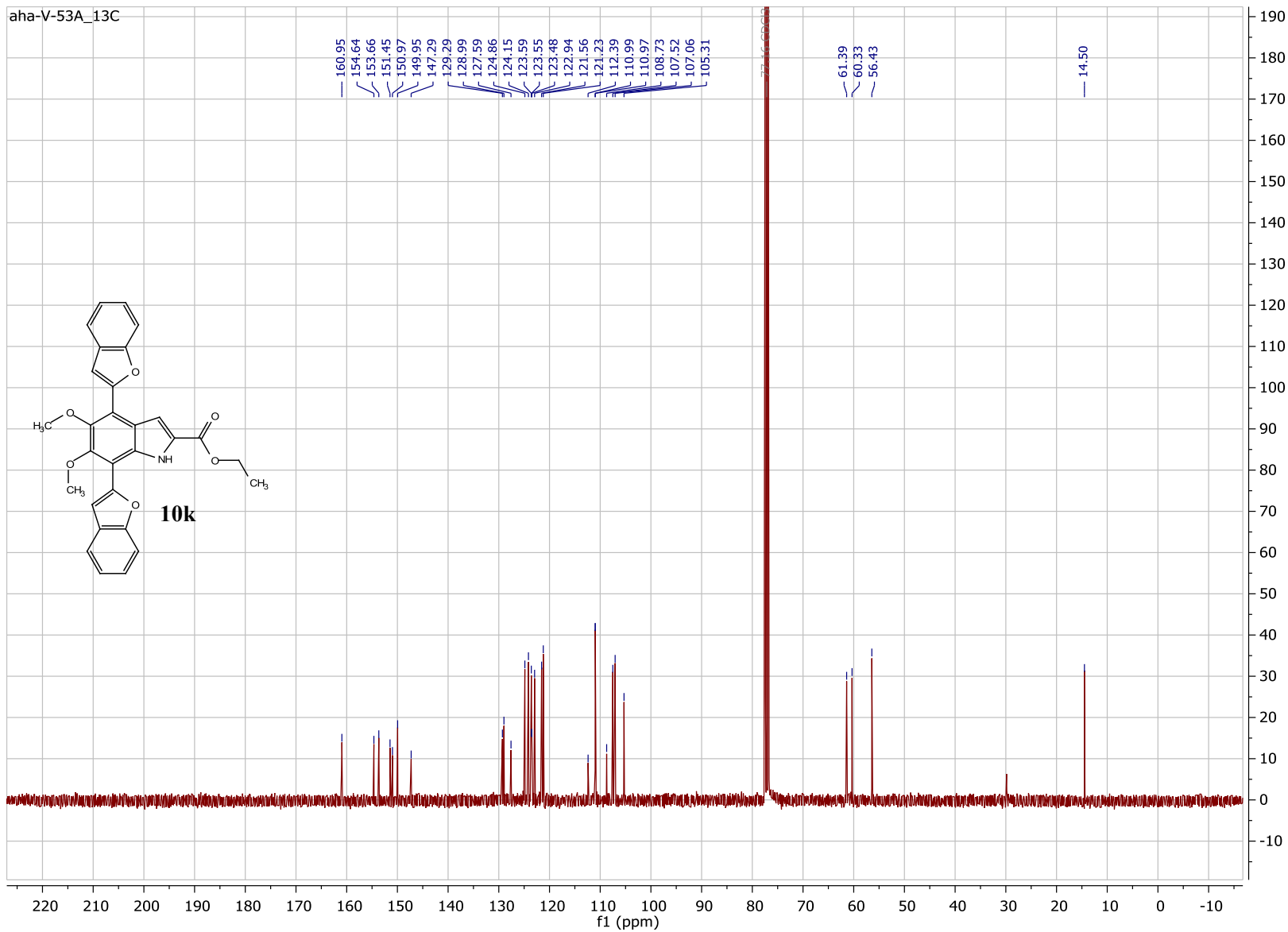
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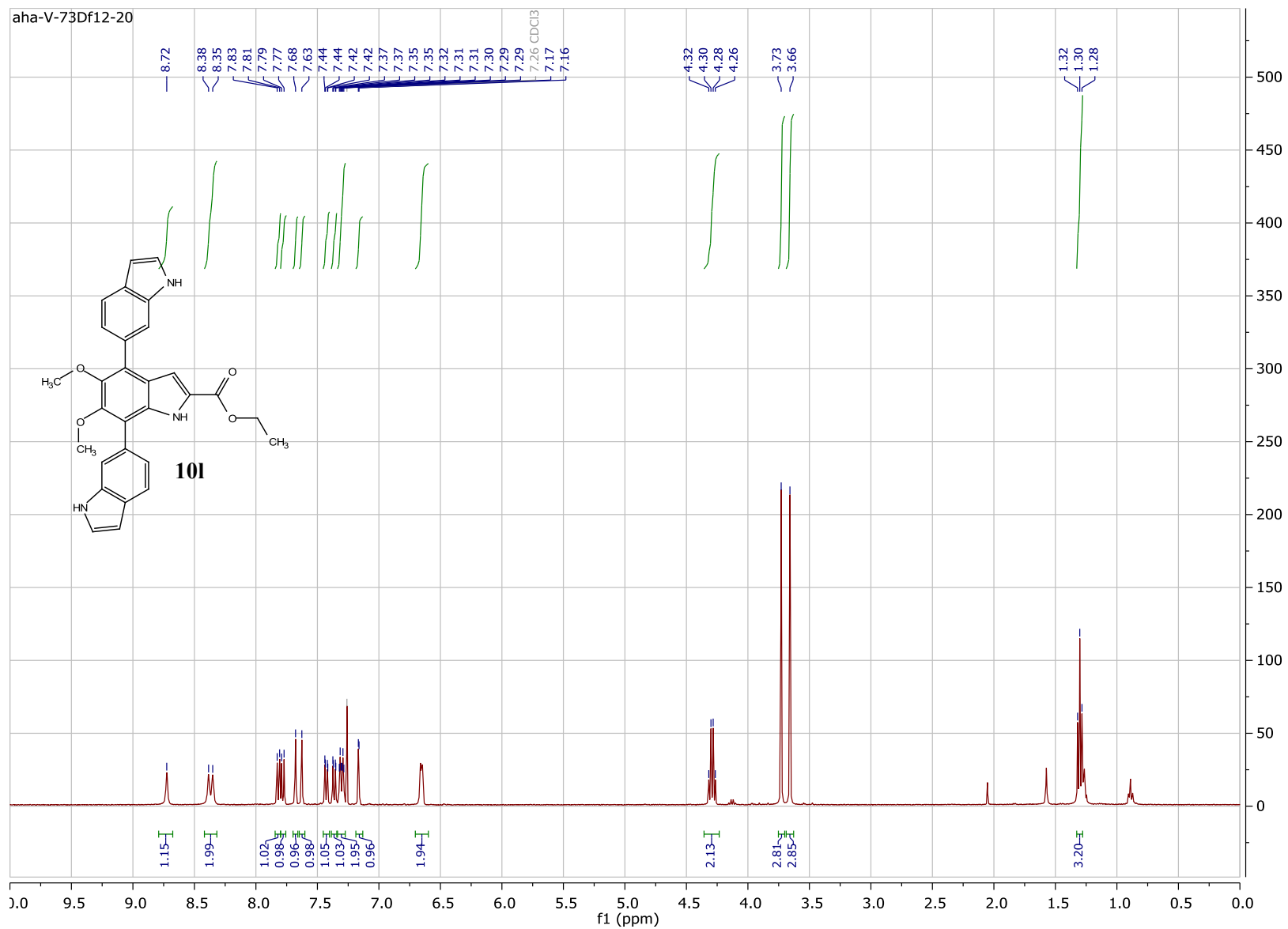




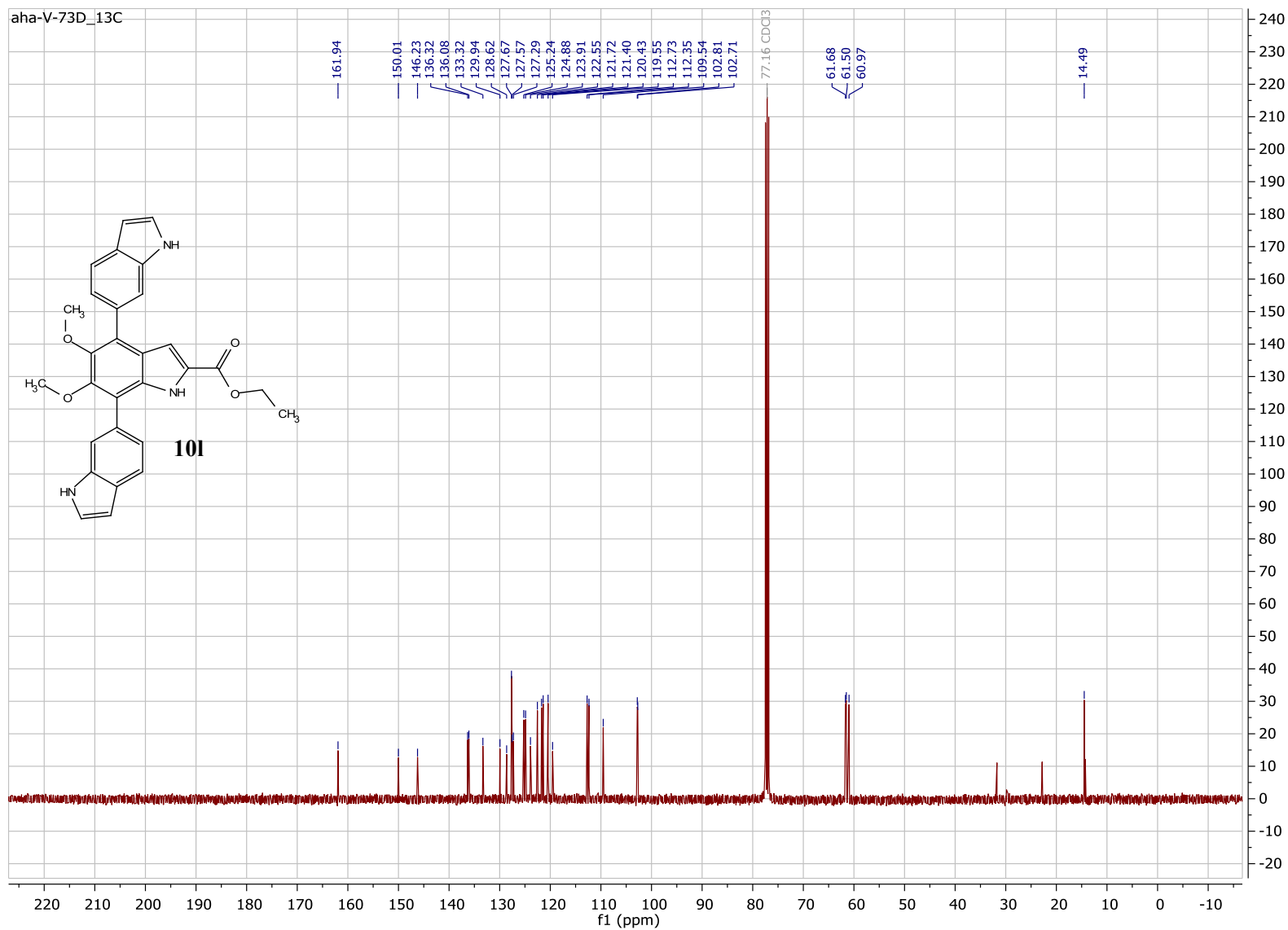


aha-V-53A_13C





aha-V-73D_13C



High Resolution Mass Spectra

