

Supplementary Information

a biomimetic approach towards phorone sesterterpenoids

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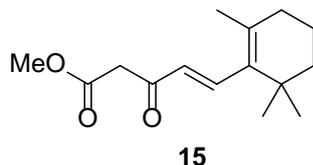
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General Experimental Details

Commercially available reagents were used as received without further purification. All reactions that required anhydrous conditions were conducted in flame-dried apparatus under an atmosphere of argon. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel plates (0.25 mm) precoated with a fluorescent indicator. Visualisation of TLC plates was performed by fluorescence quenching and potassium permanganate-, *p*-anisaldehyde- or vanillin-type staining solutions. Unless specifically stated, flash chromatography procedures were performed using Kieselgel 60 (40–63 μm). ‘Petrol’ refers to the fraction of petroleum ether boiling between 40–60 °C. ‘Brine’ refers to a saturated aqueous solution of sodium chloride. Infrared spectra were recorded directly on a Bruker Tensor 37 FTIR machine fitted with a PIKE MIRacle ATR accessory as either solids or neat oils. Infrared spectra are reported as follows: wavelength (cm^{-1}) and intensity of absorbance (s = strong, m = medium, w = weak, vw = very weak, br = broad). ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were typically recorded on Bruker AV400 machines at 400 and 101 MHz respectively. ^1H NMR spectroscopy chemical shift values in ppm are reported relative to the residual protonated solvent peaks: CHCl_3 [δ_{H} 7.26], C_6H_6 [δ_{H} 7.16], DMSO [δ_{H} 2.50], acetone [δ_{H} 2.05], CH_3OH [δ_{H} 3.31]. ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy chemical shift values in ppm are reported relative to the deuterated solvent peaks. ^1H NMR data are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ), integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, brs = broad singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, qn = quintet and m = multiplet), J coupling constant(s) (Hz), and assignment. ^1H NMR peaks were assigned using chemical shift, J couplings and standard two-dimensional NMR experiments. ^{13}C NMR peaks were assigned using chemical shift, DEPT experiments and standard two-dimensional NMR experiments.

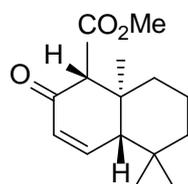
Experimental Details and Characterisation



Methyl-5-(2',6',6'-trimethylcyclohex-1'-enyl)-3-keto-4-pentenoate 15

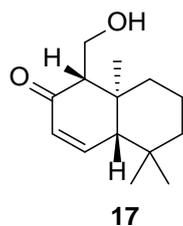
To a strongly stirred suspension of NaH (60% in mineral oil) (18.5 g, 0.46 mol) in dioxane (130 mL) was added dimethyl carbonate (42.0 g, 0.43 mol) at 23 °C. After heating to reflux, a solution of commercially purchased β -ionone (22.0 g, 0.11 mol) in dioxane (30 mL) was added over 4 h (using an automatic syringe pump), before continued stirring for 1.5 h. After this time, the mixture was cooled to 0 °C, neutralised by the *very cautious* addition of 4 M aq. HCl (until pH 7 as judged by indicator paper) and then Et₂O (200 mL) was added. The separated organic layer was repeatedly washed with water, then brine (100 mL), separated, dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* to give the title compound as golden-orange oil (23 g, 79%). Data are consistent with those previously reported in the literature.¹ The ¹H NMR spectrum indicated tautomerisation of enol:ketone 3:7 in CDCl₃, with the alkenyl proton resonating at 4.97 ppm. $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2931w, 2866w, 1743m (C=O), 1715m (C=O), 1655m (C=O), 1590m, 1445w, 1398w, 1362w, 1236s, 1153s, 1020m. Assignments for ketone in mixture: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.36 (1H, d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, =CH), 6.19 (1H, d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, =CH), 3.73 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.62 (2H, s, CH₂), 2.09–2.01 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.76 (3H, s, CH₃), 1.64–1.43 (4H, m, 2 × CH₂), 1.06 (6H, s, 2 × CH₃); *m/z* calculated for [C₁₅H₂₃O₃]⁺ 251.1642 found [M + H]⁺ 251.1638.

Methyl 5,5,8a-trimethyl-2-oxo-1,2,4a,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate **16**



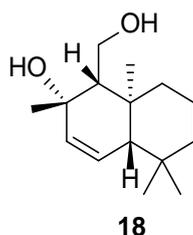
16

A solution of sodium methoxide (freshly prepared from 1.83 g sodium sticks added to anhydrous MeOH) in anhydrous MeOH (50 mL), was added to a solution of ester **15** (13.0 g, 52.9 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (100 mL). The solution was degassed by bubbling through a stream of nitrogen *via* a needle, for approximately 10 min. After this, the solution was irradiated in an immersion well photochemical reactor using a high pressure 400 W mercury lamp under a slow stream of nitrogen with strong stirring for 20 h. After this time NH₄Cl (aq. sat., 100 mL) was added. The organic layer was diluted with Et₂O (200 mL), washed with NH₄Cl (aq. sat., 20 mL), separated, dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. After removal of the solvents *in vacuo*, purification of the residue by flash column chromatography (SiO₂; 10% Et₂O → 50% Et₂O in petrol) gave the title compound as pale yellow needles (1.90 g, 15%). Data are consistent with those previously reported in the literature.² mp 111–115 °C (lit² 111–113 °C); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.99 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.3 and 2.1 Hz, OC–CH=CH), 6.14 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.3 and 3.3 Hz, OC–CH=CH), 3.73 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.26 (1H, s, MeO₂CCH), 2.19 (1H, apparent t, *J* ≈ 2.7 Hz, CH=CH–CH), 1.57–1.09 (6H, m, 3 × CH₂), 1.06 (3H, s, CH₃), 0.89 (3H, s, CH₃), 0.80 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.2 (O=C), 169.2 (O=C), 150.5 (=C), 130.2 (=C), 69.4 (HC–C=O), 56.3 (CH), 51.7 (OCH₃), 43.7 (C_q), 41.1 (CH₂), 37.9 (CH₂), 32.9 (C_q), 32.7 (CH₃), 22.6 (CH₃), 18.3 (CH₂), 14.0 (CH₃).



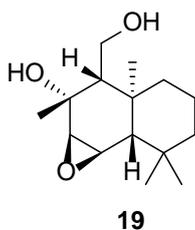
1-(Hydroxymethyl)-5,5,8a-trimethyl-4a,5,6,7,8,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-2(1H)-one 17

To a stirred solution of ester **16** (1.70 g, 6.79 mmol) in Et₂O (50 mL) was cautiously added LiAlH₄ (520 mg, 13.7 mmol) at 0 °C before continued stirring for 2 h. After this time, NH₄Cl (sat. aq., 10 mL) was added cautiously with vigorous stirring. The separated organic layer was washed with water (30 mL), brine (30 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and filtered through a sintered funnel under reduced pressure. The filtrate was reduced *in vacuo* to give the title compound as orange needles which were used directly. To a stirred solution of the diol (1.25 g, 5.57 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) was added MnO₂ (5.80 g, 66.7 mmol), before continued stirring for 24 h or until completion by TLC analysis. After this, the mixture was filtered through a sintered funnel under reduced pressure and the solid residue was rinsed repeatedly with EtOAc. The filtrate was then dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give the title compound as orange wax (870 mg, 67% for two steps) which was used without further purification. Data are consistent with those previously reported in the literature.³ $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3440br (O–H), 2926m, 2869m, 1662s (C=O), 1460w, 1385w, 1385m, 1367m, 1204m, 1033s; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.00 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.2 and 2.1 Hz, =CH), 6.07 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.2 and 3.3 Hz, =CH), 3.92 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.1 and 8.7 Hz, OCH_a), 3.67 (1H, m, OCH_b), 3.25 (1H, s, OH), 2.30 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.7 and 3.2 Hz, HOCH₂CH), 2.23 (1H, apparent t, *J* \approx 2.7 Hz, CH=CHCH), 1.73–1.04 (6H, m, 3 \times CH₂), 1.02 (3H, s, CH₃), 0.91 (3H, s, CH₃), 0.87 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.0 (C=O), 151.5 (=C), 130.0 (=C), 64.0 (HCC=O), 58.6 (OCH₂), 56.3 (HCC=), 43.2 (C_q), 40.9 (CH₂), 37.6 (CH₂), 32.8 (C_q), 32.7 (CH₃), 22.5 (CH₃), 18.4 (CH₂), 14.9 (CH₃); *m/z* calculated for [C₁₄H₂₃O₂]⁺ 223.1693 found [M + H]⁺ 223.1692.



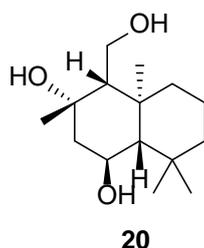
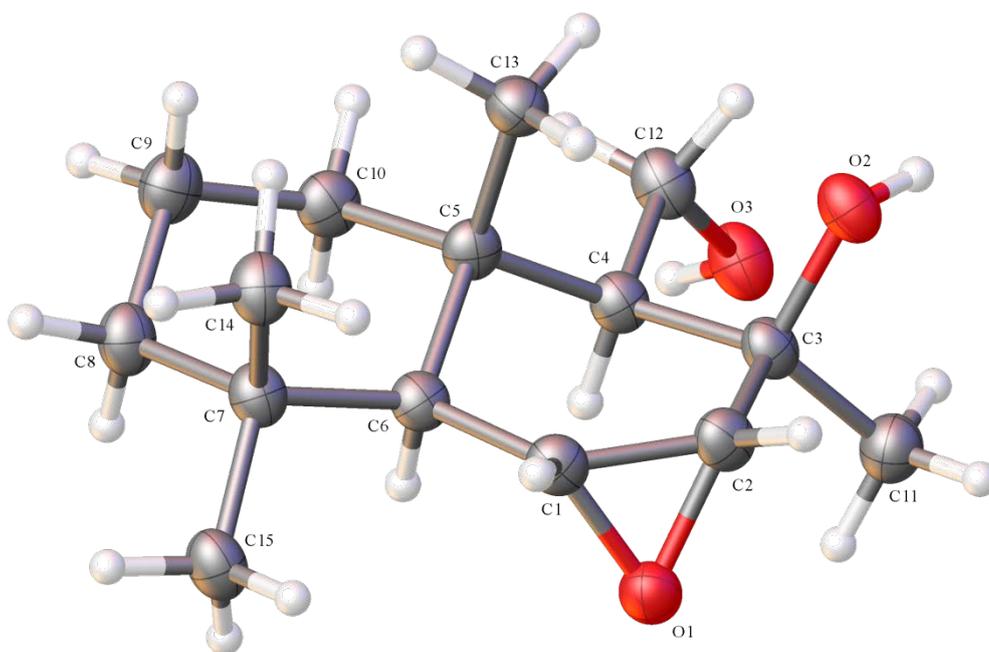
1-(Hydroxymethyl)-2,5,5,8a-tetramethyl-1,2,4a,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalen-2-ol 18

To a stirred solution of 1-(Hydroxymethyl)-5,5,8a-trimethyl-4a,5,6,7,8,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-2(1H)-one **S1** (2.05 g, 9.22 mmol) in Et₂O (20 mL) was cautiously added MeLi (29.0 mL, 1.6 M, 46.4 mmol) at –78 °C. After continued stirring for 6 h at –78 °C the reaction was allowed to warm to 23 °C, before immediate re-cooling to –78 °C and with the addition of NH₄Cl (sat. aq.) (10 mL). After warming to 23 °C the separated organic layer was washed with water (50 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give an orange residue which was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO₂; 20% → 50% EtOAc in petrol) to give the title compound as an off-white solid (663 mg, 31%) identified as a ≈15:1 mixture of diastereomers. Data were consistent with those previously reported in the literature.³ mp 120–122 °C; $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3350br (O–H), 2924s, 2869s, 1453m, 1383m, 1384s, 1131s, 1080s, 1035s; NMR assignments for major diastereomer: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.73 (1H, dd, $J = 10.1, 2.1$ Hz, =CH), 5.64 (1H, dd, $J = 10.1$ and 3.0 Hz, =CH), 4.05 (2H, d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, OCH₂), 2.51 (1H, brs, OH), 1.91–1.82 (1H, m, CH_a), 1.71–1.63 (1H, m, CH_b), 1.59 (1H, apparent t, $J = 2.4$ Hz, CH=CHCH), 1.54–1.41 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.37 (3H, s, OCCH₃), 1.29 (1H, t, $J = 4.4$ Hz, OCH₂CH), 1.19–1.15 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.08 (3H, s, CH₃), 0.91 (3H, s, CH₃), 0.88 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 134.5 (=C), 128.0 (=C), 72.1 (OC_q), 60.3 (OCH₂), 58.6 (OCH₂CH), 54.8 (=CCH), 41.2 (CH₂), 37.6 (CH₂), 36.8 (C_q), 32.9 (CH₃), 32.8 (Me₂C_q), 30.8 (CH₃), 22.0 (CH₃), 18.4 (CH₂), 15.8 (CH₃); m/z calculated [C₁₅H₂₆O₂ –H₂O + NH₄] 238.2165 found [M –H₂O + NH₄] 238.2163.



3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2,3a,7,7-tetramethyldecahydronaphtho[1,2-b]oxiren-2-ol **19**

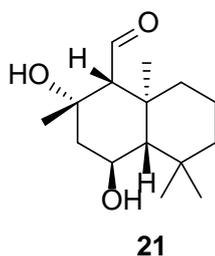
To a stirred solution of diol **18** (775 mg, 3.3 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was added *m*-CPBA (1.12 g, 6.5 mmol) before continued stirring for 25 h. After this time, the reaction mixture was vigorously washed with 1 M aq. sol. NaHCO₃ (2 × 5 mL). The separated organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. Purification of the crude residue by flash column chromatography (SiO₂; 50% EtOAc in petrol) gave the *title compound* as pale yellow crystals (475 mg, 58%). mp 66–75 °C; $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3363br (OH), 2951m, 2925m, 2870m, 1706w, 1458m, 1392m, 1369m, 1262m, 1128m, 1070m, 1025m,; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.08 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.0 and 3.5 Hz, HOCH_a), 4.03 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.0 and 3.6 Hz, HOCH_b), 3.15 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.9 and 2.7 Hz, CHCOCH), 2.98 (1H, d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, OCHC_q), 2.96 (1H, s, OH), 2.36 (1H, s, OH), 1.76–1.63 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.54–1.46 (5H, m, CH₂, CH₃), 1.22 (3H, s, CH₃) 1.18–0.98 (8H, m, CH₂, 2 × CH₃), 0.95 (1H, d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, OCHCH), 0.88 (1H, t, *J* = 3.5 Hz, H₂CCH); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 72.8 (OC_q), 60.3 (OCH₂), 59.6 (OC), 56.3 (OC), 55.0 (CH), 54.8 (CH), 41.5 (CH₂), 37.21 (C_q), 37.18 (CH₂), 33.2 (C_q), 32.8 (CH₃), 27.7 (CH₃), 22.5 (CH₃), 18.4 (CH₂), 18.2 (CH₃); *m/z* calculated for [C₁₅H₂₇O₃ + NH₄]⁺ 272.2220 found [M + NH₄]⁺ 272.2216. **X-Ray Crystallographic Data 19:** These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre *via* www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif CCDC 1043793 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this compound.



4-(Hydroxymethyl)-3,4a,8,8-tetramethyldecahydronaphthalene-1,3-diol **20**

To a stirred solution of epoxide **19** (475 mg, 1.87 mmol) in PhMe (10 mL) was added Red-Al (2.0 mL, 65 wt% in PhMe, 5.6 mmol) at 23 °C. After 10 min the evolution of H₂ had slowed and the solution was heated to reflux with continued stirring over 24 h. After this time the mixture was cooled to rt and NH₄Cl (aq. sat., 2 mL) was added and the mixture was filtered through a 30 mm pad of MgSO₄ with EtOAc (30 mL). The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude residue which was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO₂; 50% EtOAc in petrol → 100% EtOAc) to give the *title compound* as pale yellow needles (475 mg, 99%). mp 190–192 °C; $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3300br (O–H), 3004w, 2959m, 2926m, 2891m, 2872m, 2842m, 1461m, 1373s, 1190m, 1118m, 1047s; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 4.12 (1H, td, *J* = 11.0 and 4.0 Hz, OCH), 4.00 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.8 and 2.6 Hz, OCH_{a1}), 3.90 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.8 and 3.4 Hz, OCH_{b1}),

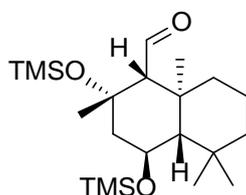
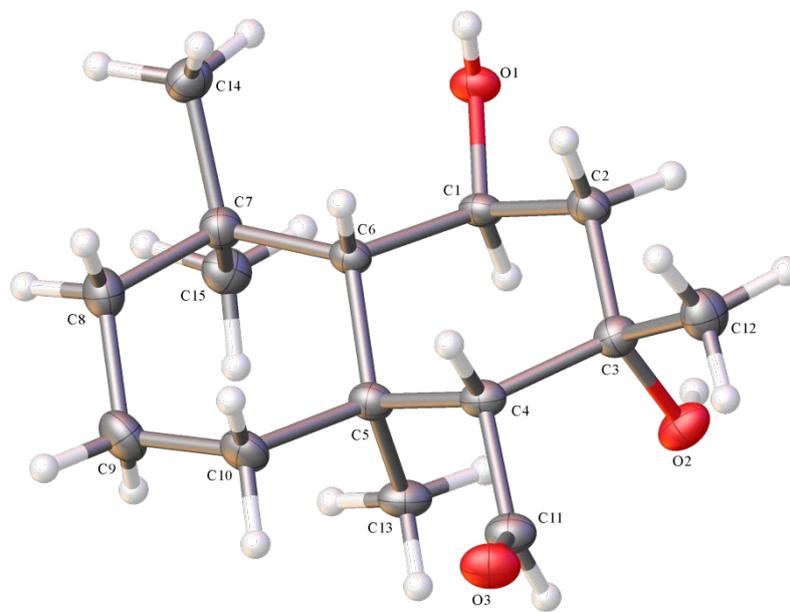
2.04 (1H, dd, $J = 13.2$ and 4.1 Hz, OC_qCHa_2), 1.93–1.87 (1H, m, CH_{a3}), 1.75–1.65 (1H, m, CH_{a4}), 1.58 (1H, dd, $J = 13.2$ and 11.2 Hz, $\text{OC}_q\text{CH}_{b2}$), 1.50–1.38 (2H, m, CH_{b4} , CH_{a5}), 1.36 (3H, s, CH_3), 1.31–1.23 (1H, m, CH_{b5}), 1.21 (3H, s, CH_3), 1.19 (3H, s, CH_3), 1.11 (3H, s, CH_3), 1.06–0.99 (2H, m, CH_{b3} , HOCCH); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 75.2 (OC_q), 68.3 (OCH), 61.7 (OCCH), 60.4 (OCH_2), 59.9 (CH_2), 53.5 (CH_2), 45.1 (CH_2), 41.3 (CH_2), 41.0 (CH), 37.5 (CH_3), 34.7 (CH_3), 31.4 (CH_3), 22.8 (CH_3), 19.3 (CH_2), 18.1 (CH_3); m/z calculated for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2 + \text{NH}_4 - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ 256.2271 found $[\text{M} + \text{NH}_4 - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ 256.2265



2,4-Dihydroxy-2,5,5,8a-tetramethyldecahydronaphthalene-1-carbaldehyde **21**

To a suspension of triol **20** (475 mg, 1.85 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL) was added TEMPO (58 mg, 0.37 mmol) and $\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (715 mg, 2.2 mmol). After stirring for 5 h, NaHCO_3 (sat. aq., 1 mL) was added. The separated organic layer was then dried over MgSO_4 and filtered. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude solid which was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO_2 ; 30% EtOAc in petrol) to give the *title compound* as colourless crystals (339 mg, 72%). mp 144–147 °C; $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3390br (O–H), 2969w, 2923w, 2906w, 2874w, 2846w, 1698s (C=O), 1459m, 1291m, 1175m, 1040s; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ_{H} 10.04 (1H, d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, CHO), 4.20 (1H, td, $J = 10.8$ and 4.1 Hz, OCH), 3.06 (1H, s, OH), 2.18 (1H, d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, CHOCH), 2.09–2.03 (1H, m, CH_{a1}), 1.70–1.56 (2H, m, CH_{a2} , CH_{a3}), 1.47–1.22 (8H, m, CH_{b3} , CH_{b2} , CH_{b1} , CH_2 , CH_3), 1.26 (3H, m, CH_3), 1.20 (3H, s, CH_3), 1.18 (3H, s, CH_3), 1.08–1.04 (4H, s, CH_3 , CH); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 209.5 (C=O), 72.7 (OC_q), 68.6 (O=CCH), 67.6 (HCO), 60.1 (CH), 52.3 (CH_2), 43.5 (CH_2), 41.8 (C_q), 40.9 (CH_2), 37.1 (CH_3), 33.9 (C_q), 31.2 (CH_3), 22.3 (CH_3), 18.2 (CH_3), 18.00 (CH_2); m/z

calculated $[C_{15}H_{24}O_3]^+$ 253.1798 found $[M - H]^+$ 253.1796. **X-Ray Crystallographic Data 21:** These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif. CCDC 1043794 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this compound.

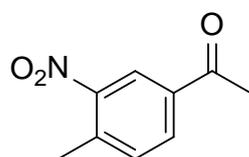


22

2,5,5,8a-Tetramethyl-2,4-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)decahydronaphthalene-1-carbaldehyde 22

To a stirred solution of aldehyde **21** (18 mg, 0.071 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) cooled to $-15\text{ }^\circ C$ was added NEt_3 (200 μL , 1.4 mmol) and TMSOTf ($\approx 30\text{ }\mu L$, 0.17 mmol). After stirring for 30 min 1M aq. $NaHCO_3$ (5 mL) was added before allowing to warm to rt. The organic layer was separated, dried over $MgSO_4$ and filtered. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude residue which was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO_2 ; 5% Et_2O in petrol) to give the *title compound* as pale yellow wax (26 mg, 93%).

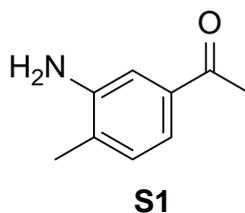
$\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2954m, 2928m, 2848m, 1715m (C=O), 1288s, 1105s, 1047m; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.87 (1H, d, $J = 5.3$ Hz, CHO), 4.32 (1H, td, $J = 10.5$ and 4.0 Hz, TMSOCH), 2.08 (1H, dd, $J = 13.6$ and 4.0 Hz, C_qCH_{a1}), 1.60–1.43 (3H, m, CHOCH, CH_{a2} , C_qCH_{b1}), 1.40–1.31 (6H, m, CH_{b2} , CH_{a3} , CH_{a4} , CH_3), 1.23–1.01 (11H, 3 \times CH_3 , CH_{b4} , CH_{b3}), 0.93 (1H, d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, CH), 0.18 (9H, s, $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 0.16 (9H, s, $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 209.1 (C=O), 75.8 (OC_q), 70.6 (CHOCH), 68.7 (TMSOCH), 60.0 (CH), 53.2 (CH_2), 44.1 (CH_2), 41.3 (CH_2), 39.6 (C_q), 36.9 (CH_3), 33.6 (C_q), 30.6 (CH_3), 22.6 (CH_3), 18.1 (CH_3), 17.9 (CH_2), 2.6 ($\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.2 ($\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); m/z calculated $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{40}\text{O}_3\text{Si}_2]^+$ 397.2589 found $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^+$ 397.2584.



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3-Nitro-4-methylacetophenone 23

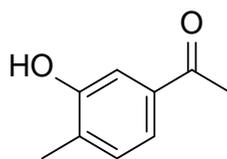
To a stirring solution of conc. HNO_3 (31 mL) and conc. H_2SO_4 (40 mL) cooled to 0 °C was slowly added commercially purchased 4-methylacetophenone (10.0 g, 0.075 mol) over 30 min, using a thermometer to ensure the internal reaction temp maintained <10 °C (*mitigating potentially hazardous di- or tri-nitro tolyl derivatives*). After continued stirring for 10 min, the solution was carefully poured onto crushed ice and allowed to warm to rt. The yellow precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with copious amounts of water and then *n*-hexane (300 mL). The solid was collected and dried under high vacuum to give the *title compound* as a pale yellow amorphous solid (8.1 g, 60 %) which was used without further purification. Data are consistent with those previously reported in the literature.⁴ mp 60–62 °C (lit⁴ 60–61 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.50 (1H, s, ArCH), 8.07 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, ArCH), 7.46 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, ArCH), 2.65 (3H, s, CH_3), 2.64 (3H, s, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.0 (C=O), 149.4 (ArCH), 138.8 (ArCH), 136.1 (ArCH), 133.5 (Ar_q), 132.1 (Ar_q), 124.7 (Ar_q), 26.7 (CH_3), 20.7 (CH_3).



3-Amino-4-methylacetophenone S1

Procedure 1: To a stirring solution of 3-nitro-4-methylacetophenone (3.1 g, 17 mmol) in MeOH (60 mL) was added 5% Pd/C (500 mg) followed by vigorous stirring under a balloon of hydrogen. After 1.5 h the mixture was filtered under vacuum. The filtrate was collected and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give the title compound as off-white crystals (2.40 g, 94%) which were used without further purification. Data are consistent with those previously reported in the literature.⁴ mp 78–79 °C (lit⁴ 80–81 °C); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (1H, d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, ArCH), 7.26 (ArCH), 7.10 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, ArCH), 3.75 (2H, s, NH₂), 2.53 (3H, s, CH₃), 2.20 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.3 (C=O), 145.0 (NC_q), 136.4 (OCC_q), 130.5 (ArCH), 128.1 (MeC_q), 119.1 (ArCH), 114.0 (ArCH), 26.6 (CH₃), 17.6 (ArCH₃).

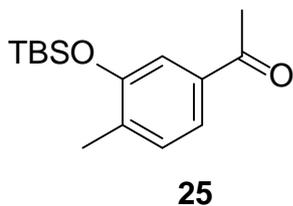
Procedure 2: (for >3 g): To a stirred suspension of 3-nitro-4-methylacetophenone (14.0 g, 78 mmol) in 1.2 M HCl (100 mL) was added SnCl₂·2H₂O (53 g, 0.23 mol). The suspension was heated to 70 °C before continued stirring for 1 h. After cooling to 0 °C, NaHCO₃ (sat. aq.) was added until neutralisation (judged as pH 7 by indicator paper). The copious amounts of solid residues were removed by vacuum filtration and rinsed with EtOAc (3 x 50 mL) to give a biphasic filtrate. The separated organic filtrate was dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give the title compound as orange crystals (7.2 g, 62%) which were used without further purification.⁵ Data were in accord with those reported for procedure 1.



24

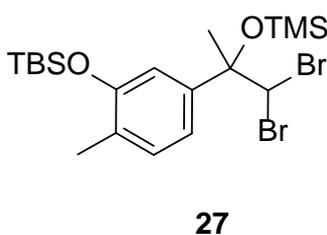
3-Hydroxy-4-methylacetophenone 24

To a stirred suspension of 3-amino-4-methylacetophenone (15.8 g, 0.11 mol) in ice-cold water (200 mL) was slowly added conc. H_2SO_4 (54 mL). After 30 min a blast shield was installed (potentially explosive diazonium intermediate will be formed) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C before NaNO_2 (9.0 g, 0.13 mol) in water (30 mL) was added. After stirring for 10 min the solution was heated to reflux and stirring was continued for 5 h. After this time, the mixture was carefully poured onto ice-cold water (50 mL) which was then allowed to warm to 23 °C over 17 h. After this time, the solid was collected using a sintered funnel under reduced pressure, washing with copious amount of water. Dissolution of the collected solid in EtOAc (40 mL) was followed by washing with water (50 mL), NaHCO_3 (sat. aq., 20 mL), brine (20 mL), drying over MgSO_4 and filtering. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give the title compound as light brown crystals (16.3 g, 99%). The data are consistent with those previously reported in the literature.⁴ mp 108–109 °C (lit⁴ 110–111 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.48 (1H, d, J = 1.6 Hz, ArCH), 7.45 (1H, dd, J = 7.7 and 1.6 Hz, ArCH), 7.20 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz, ArCH), 5.61 (1H, s, OH), 2.57 (3H, s, CH_3), 2.32 (3H, s, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.4 (C=O), 154.4 (Ar_q), 136.6 (Ar_q), 131.2 (ArCH), 130.8 (Ar_q), 121.5 (ArCH), 114.1 (ArCH), 26.7 (CH_3), 16.25 (CH_3).



3-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4-methylacetophenone **25**

To a stirred solution of 3-hydroxy-4-methylacetophenone **24** (16.3 g, 0.11 mol) in CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) was added imidazole (22.2 g, 0.33 mol) and TBSCl (24 g, 0.16 mol). After stirring for 16 h, water (100 mL) was added. The separated organic layer was washed with NH₄Cl (sat. aq., 100 mL), water (5 × 300 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. The volatiles were removed *in vacuo* to give *the title compound* as brown oil (18.3 g, 63%), which was used without further purification. $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2956w, 2930w, 2858w, 1684s (C=O), 1602w, 1573w, 1500m, 1410m, 1356s, 1224s, 1193m, 1136w, 1068w; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8 and 1.6 Hz, ArCH), 7.36 (1H, d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, ArCH), 7.20 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, ArCH), 2.55 (3H, s, CH₃), 2.26 (3H, s, CH₃), 1.03 (9H, s, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.25 (6H, s, Si(CH₃)₂); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.7 (C=O), 154.3 (Ar_q), 136.5 (Ar_q), 135.4 (Ar_q), 131.0 (ArCH), 121.7 (ArCH), 117.7 (ArCH), 26.7 (CH₃), 25.9 (SiC(CH₃)₃), 18.4 (SiC), 17.3 (CH₃), -4.06 (Si(CH₃)₂): *m/z* calculated for [C₁₅H₂₅O₂Si]⁺ 265.1618 found [M + H]⁺ 265.1620.



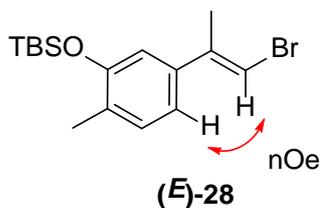
tert-Butyl(5-(1,1-dibromo-2-((trimethylsilyl)oxy)propan-2-yl)-2-methylphenoxy)dimethylsilane **27**

A solution of acetophenone **25** (1.0 g, 3.8 mmol) and dibromomethane (1.4 g, 7.9 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was transferred *via* cannula into an RBF containing a THF (10 mL) solution of freshly prepared lithium diisopropylamide (7.6 mmol) at -78 °C. After stirring for 4 h at -78 °C, NH₄Cl aq. (2 mL) and Et₂O (20 mL) were added. The separated organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent was removed *in*

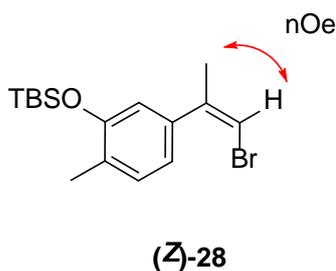
vacuo. The crude residue was then dried under high vacuum over 17 h. The crude residue (1.3 g) was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) before imidazole (1.0 g, 14.9 mmol) and TMSCl (1.5 mL, 11.9 mmol) were added. After stirring for 4 h, water (10 mL) was added. The separated organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude residue which was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO₂; petrol → 10% Et₂O in petrol) to give the *title compound* as brown viscous oil (1.3 g, 66% for two steps). $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2956w, 2930w, 2897w, 2858w, 1609w, 1576w, 1502m, 1463m, 1251m, 1184m, 1065m; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.08 (1H, d, *J* = 8.22 Hz, ArCH), 6.93–6.90 (2H, m, 2 × ArCH), 5.65 (1H, s, Br₂CH), 2.20 (3H, s, CH₃), 1.90 (3H, s, CH₃), 1.03 (9H, s, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.23 (3H, s, SiC(CH₃)), 0.22 (3H, s, SiC(CH₃)), 0.10 (9H, s, Si(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.6 (ArCO), 141.8 (Ar_q), 130.5 (ArCH), 128.9 (Ar_q), 119.24 (ArCH), 117.42 (ArCH), 79.4 (CBr₂), 58.6 (C–OTMS), 26.0 (SiC(CH₃)₃), 23.7 (CH₃), 18.4 (SiC), 16.7 (CH₃), 2.2 (Si(CH₃)₃), –3.89 (Si(CH₃)), –3.96 (Si(CH₃)); *m/z* the expected ions could not be observed.

3-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsiloxy)-4-methylbromostyrene 28

To a solution of *bis*-dibromo **27** (1.3 g, 2.5 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added *n*-BuLi (1.1 mL, 2.8 mmol) at –78 °C. After stirring for 1 h, NH₄Cl (sat. aq., 1 mL) and Et₂O (15 mL) were added before warming to room temp. The organic layer was separated, dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude mixture of *E*:*Z* alkenes in a 1.0:1.3 ratio respectively, as determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. The isomers were separated by flash column chromatography (SiO₂; *n*-hexane) to give (*Z*)-alkene **27** (140 mg, 16%) and (*E*)-alkene **27** (100 mg, 12%) both as colourless oils. The geometry of each alkene isomer was determined by NOESY.

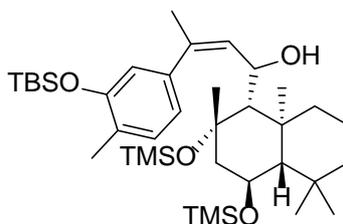


(E)-Alkene 28: $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2956w, 2930w, 2887w, 2858w, 1608w, 1562w, 1510w, 1499w, 1402m, 1252s, 1180w, 1134w, 1001m; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.09 (1H, d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, ArCH), 6.85 (1H, dd, $J = 7.8$ and 1.7 Hz, ArCH), 6.75 (1H, d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, ArCH), 6.40 (1H, q, $J = 1.2$ Hz, =CH), 2.21 (3H, s, ArCH₃), 2.20 (3H, d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, CH₃), 1.04 (9H, s, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.24 (6H, s, Si(CH₃)₂); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.0 (ArCO), 141.4 (=C_q), 139.7 (Ar_q), 131.1 (ArCH), 128.9 (Ar_q), 118.8 (ArCH), 116.4 (ArCH), 104.7 (CBr), 25.9 (SiC(CH₃)₃), 19.8 (CH₃), 18.4 (SiC), 16.7 (CH₃), -4.0 (Si(CH₃)₂); m/z calculated for [C₁₆H₂₆BrSi]⁺ 341.0931 found [M + H]⁺ 341.0929. NOESY showed correlation between the alkenyl proton at 6.40 ppm and the proximal proton resonating at 6.85 ppm on the aromatic ring. There is no correlation observed between the alkenyl proton and the alkenyl methyl group.



(Z)-Alkene 28: $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2955w, 2929w, 2858w, 1607w, 1566m, 1500m, 1250s, 1130m; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.15 (1H, d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, ArCH), 6.84 (1H, dd, $J = 7.7$ and 1.7 Hz, ArCH), 6.82 (1H, d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, ArCH), 6.19 (1H, q, $J = 1.5$ Hz, =CH), 2.24 (3H, s, ArCH₃), 2.11 (3H, d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, CH₃), 1.05 (9H, s, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.27 (6H, s, Si(CH₃)₂); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.6 (ArCO), 141.3 (=C_q), 138.7 (Ar_q),

130.8 (ArCH), 128.6 (Ar_q), 120.2 (ArCH), 118.2 (ArCH), 101.1 (CBr), 25.9 (SiC(CH₃)₃), 25.15 (CH₃), 18.4 (SiC), 16.9 (CH₃), -4.0 (Si(CH₃)₂); *m/z* calculated for [C₁₆H₂₆BrSi]⁺ 341.0931 found [M + H]⁺ 341.0933. NOESY showed a correlation between the alkenyl proton at 6.19 ppm and the alkenyl CH₃ group at 2.11 ppm.



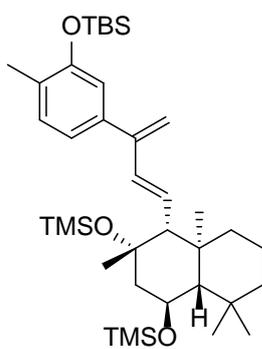
29

(Z)-3-(3-((*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-4-methylphenyl)-1-((2,5,5,8a-tetramethyl-2,4-bis(trimethylsilyl)oxy)decahydronaphthalen-1-yl)but-2-en-1-ol 29

To a stirred solution of (*Z*)-bromoalkene **28** (174 mg, 0.51 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at -78 °C was added *t*-BuLi (0.6 mL, 1.0 mmol) dropwise over 2 min, to give a canary yellow solution. After continued stirring for 25 min a solution of aldehyde **22** (68 mg, 0.17 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added dropwise. After continued stirring for 30 min the reaction was quenched by the addition of NH₄Cl (sat. aq., 0.1 mL), before dilution with Et₂O (5 mL). After warming to 23 °C the separated organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude residue which was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO₂; petrol → 5% Et₂O in petrol) to give the *title compound* as pale yellow oil and as a single diastereomer (60 mg, 53%). The stereochemistry of the secondary alcohol was not determined. The geometry of the alkene was determined by NOESY.

$\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3518br (O-H), 2955m, 2929m, 2859m, 1503m, 1201s, 1081s; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.06 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, ArCH), 6.66 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6 and 1.3 Hz, ArCH), 6.57 (1H, d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, ArCH), 5.88 (1H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, =CH), 4.89–4.85 (1H, apparent broad d, *J* ≈ 8.4 Hz, OHCH), 4.09 (1H, dt, *J* = 9.5 and 4.4 Hz, TMSOCH), 2.62 (1H, s, OH), 2.17 (3H, s, ArCH₃), 2.01 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.0 and 4.4 Hz, CH_{a1}), 1.97 (3H, s,

=CCH₃), 1.89–1.83 (1H, m, CH_{a2}), 1.55–1.26 (7H, m, CH₂, CH₃, CH_{b1}, CH_{a3}), 1.22–1.06 (2H, m, CH_{b3}, CH_{b2}), 1.03 (3H, s, CH₃), 1.02 (9H, s, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.98 (3H, m, CH₃), 0.96 (1H, d, *J* ≈ 1.0 Hz, HOCCH), 0.92 (1H, d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, TMSOCCH), 0.89 (3H, s, CH₃), 0.22 (3H, s, Si(CH₃)₃), 0.20 (3H, s, Si(CH₃)₃), 0.130 (9H, s, Si(CH₃)₃), 0.126 (9H, s, Si(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.0 (ArCO), 140.9 (=C_q), 136.1 (Ar_q), 131.7 (=CH), 130.9 (ArCH), 127.3 (Ar_q), 120.6 (ArCH), 117.9 (ArCH), 79.7 (OC_q), 70.7 (HOCH), 68.8 (TMSOCH), 62.3 (HOCCH), 61.3 (TMSOCCH), 52.6 (CH₂), 43.8 (CH₂), 42.9 (CH₂), 41.3 (C_q), 36.7 (ArCH₃), 33.6 (C_q), 32.0 (CH₃), 26.3 (CH₃), 26.0 (SiC(CH₃)₃), 22.9 (CH₃), 18.9 (SiC), 18.4 (CH₂), 16.7 (CH₃), 2.8 (Si(CH₃)₃), 1.3 (Si(CH₃)₃), -3.85 (Si(CH₃)₃), -3.94 (Si(CH₃)₃); *m/z* calculated for [C₃₇H₆₈O₄Si₃]⁺ 660.4365 found [M]⁺ 660.4420.

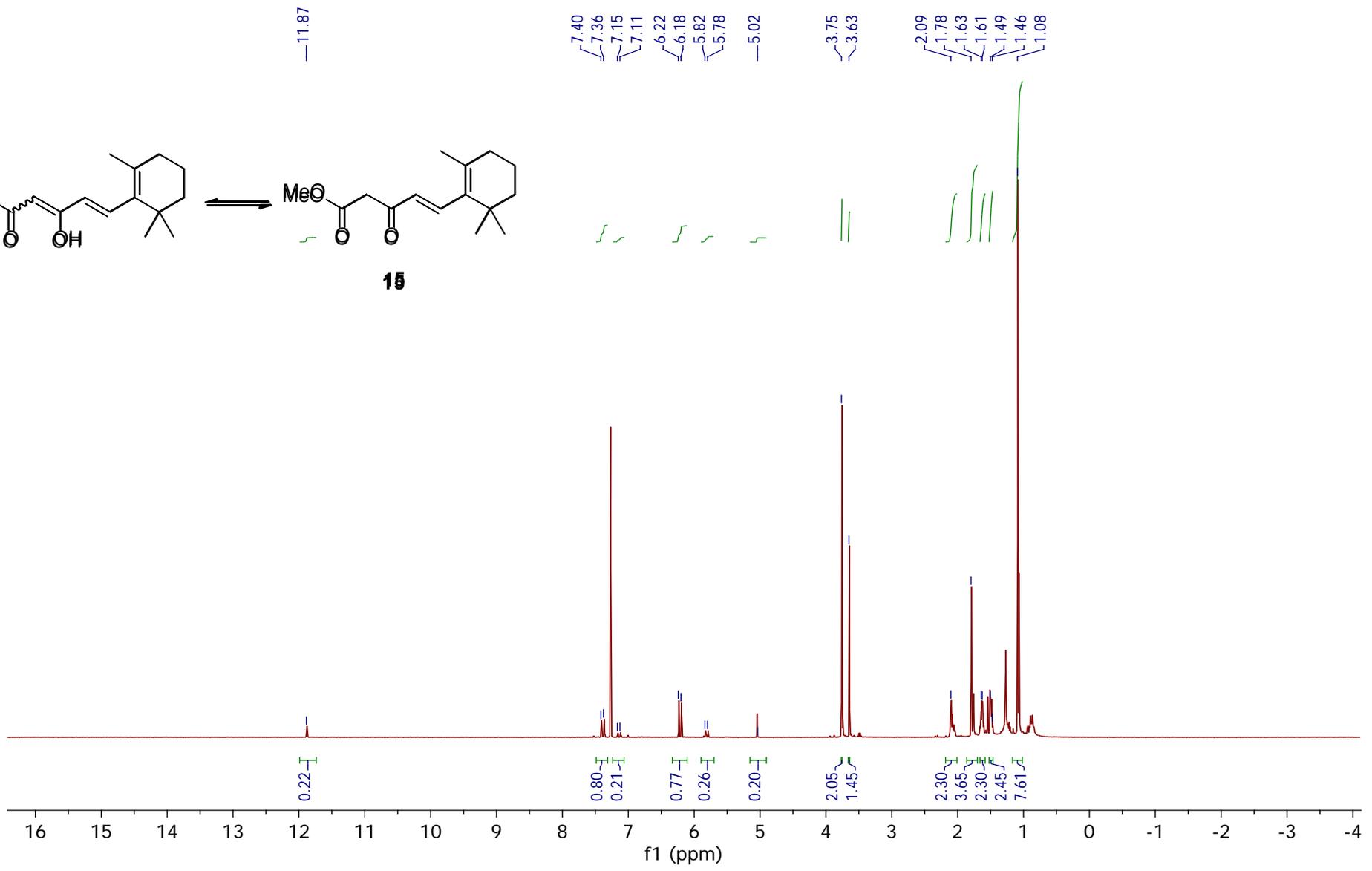
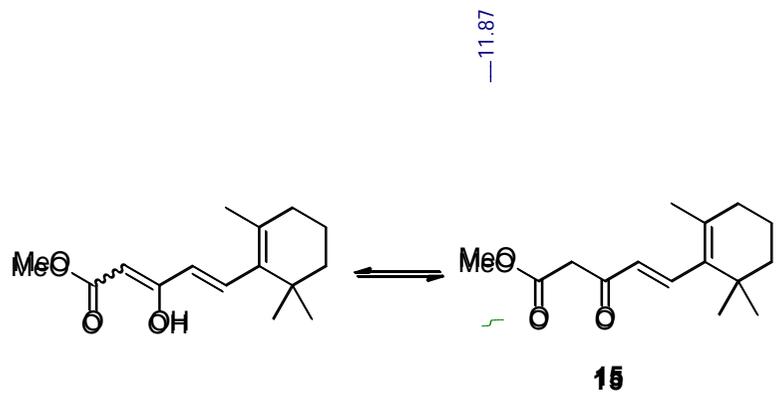


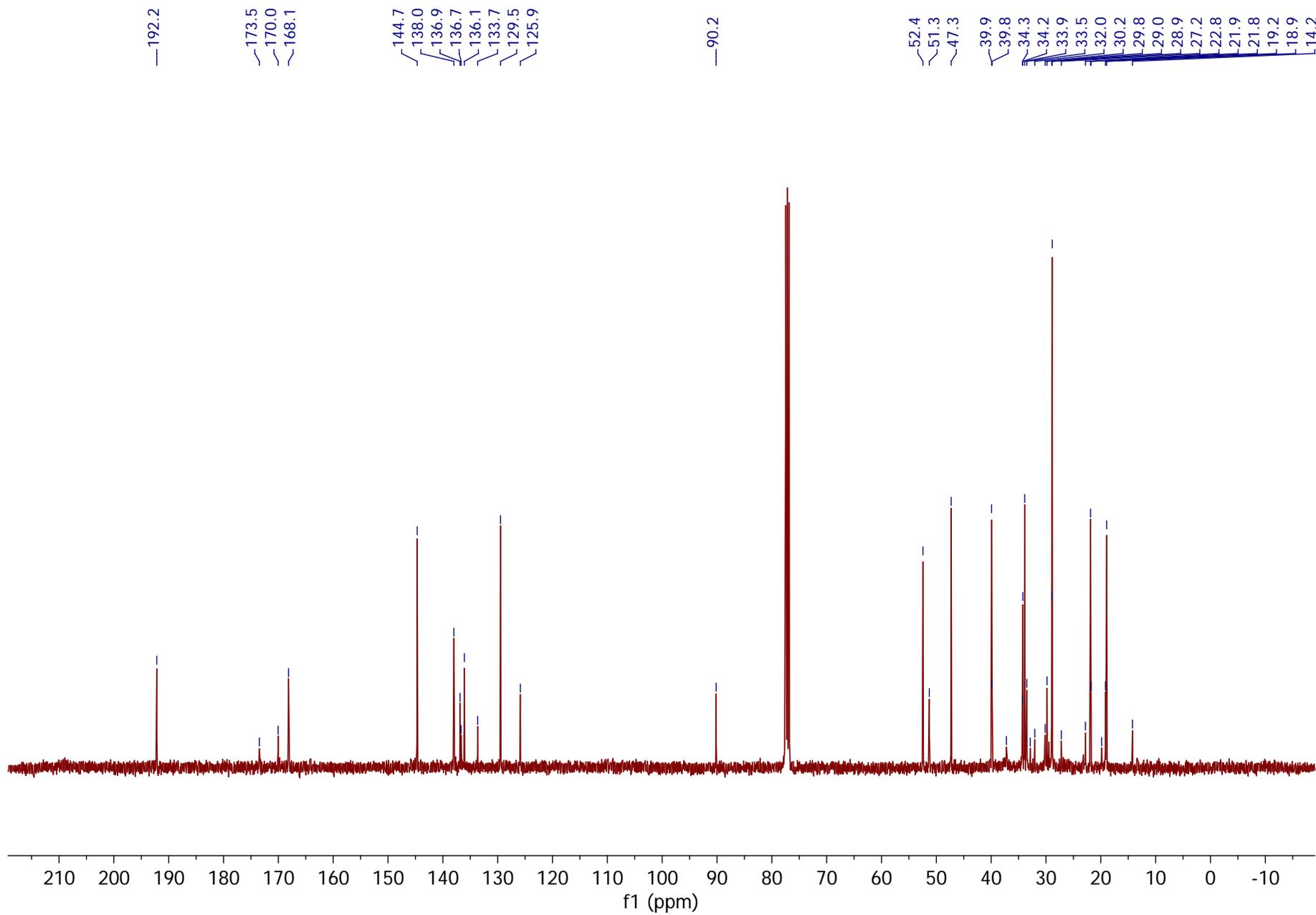
30

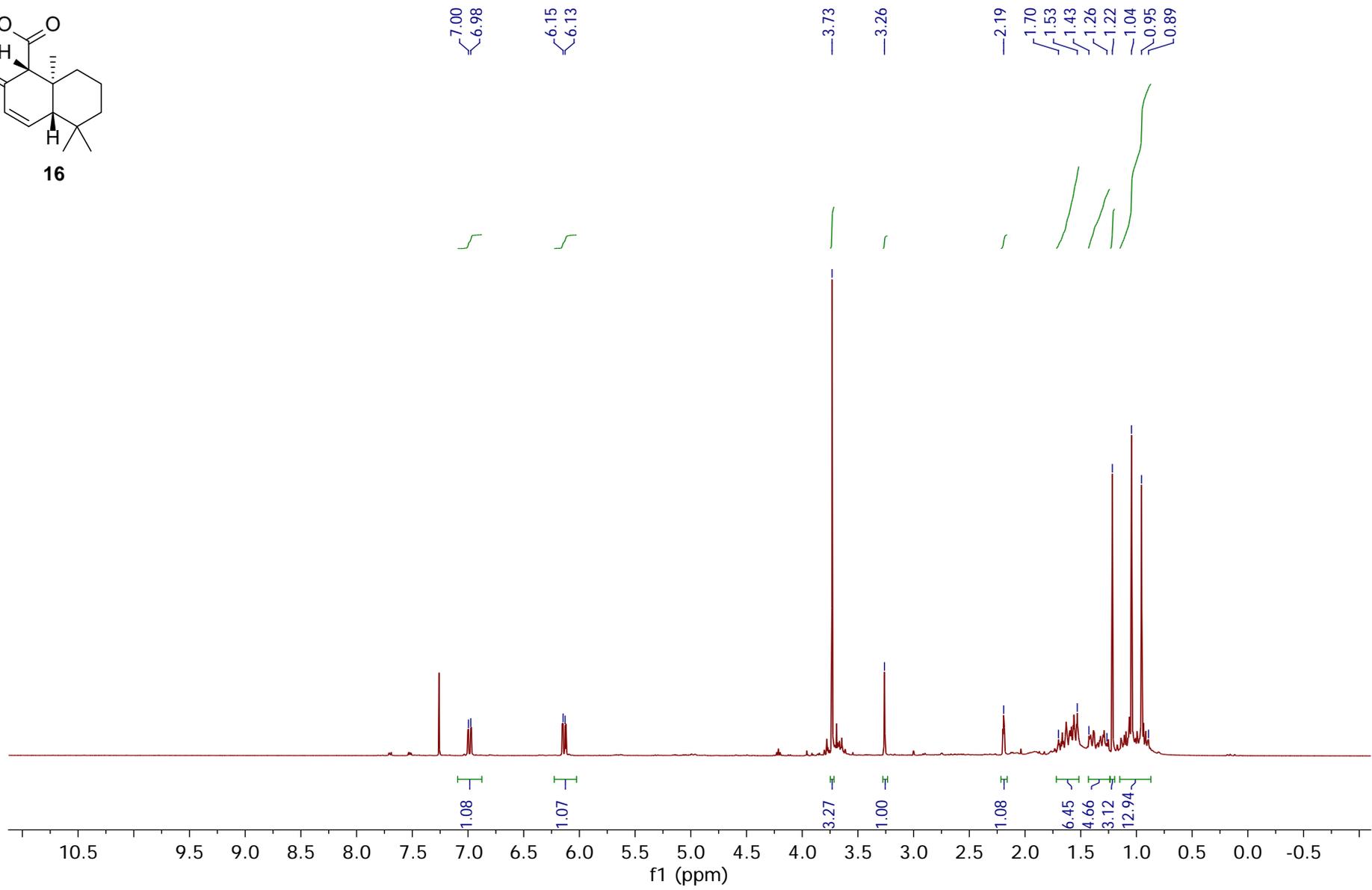
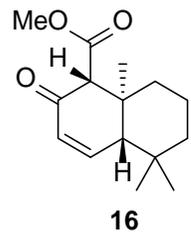
Ansellane diene **30**

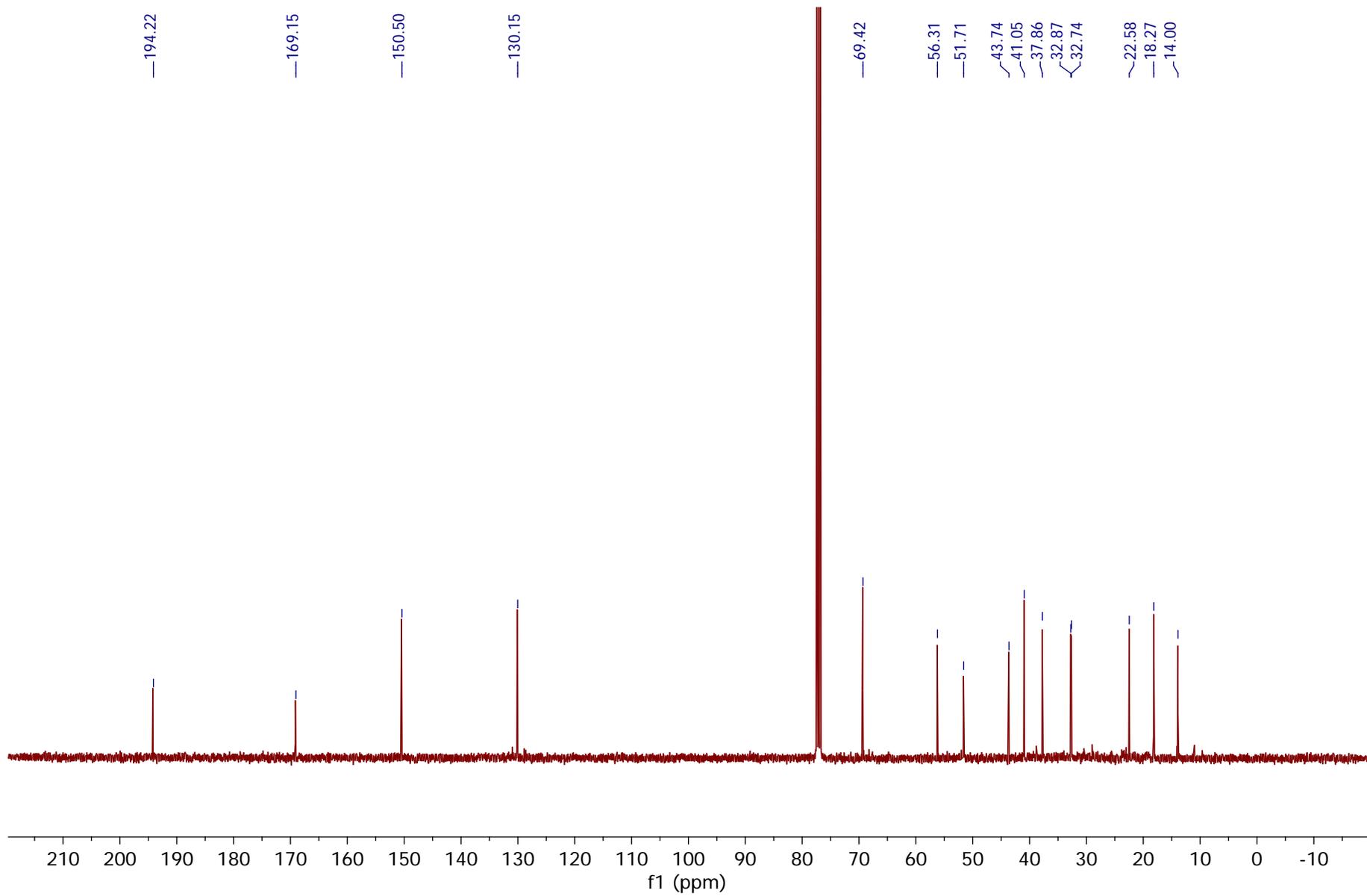
Ansellane alcohol **29** (≈60 mg) was left standing for several days in a fumehood, giving a mixture of degradation products. Purification of the oil by flash column chromatography (SiO₂; petrol) gave *the title compound* as pale yellow oil (≈10 mg). $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2931m, 1860m, 1885m, 1836m, 1774m, 1411m, 1250m; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.07 (1H, d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, ArCH), 6.83 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.7 and 1.6 Hz, ArCH), 6.73 (1H, d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, ArCH), 6.14 (1H, d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, HC=CHC_q), 5.76 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.8 and 10.0 Hz, HC=CHC_q), 5.14 (1H, d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, C_q=CH), 5.04 (1H, d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, C_q=CH), 4.21 (1H, td, *J* = 10.6 and 4.0 Hz, TMSOCH), 2.20 (3H, s, ArCH₃), 2.07–2.01 (1H, m, CH_{a1}), 1.56–1.16 (7H, m, 2 × CH₂, CH_{b1}, CH_{a2}, C_qCH), 1.13 (3H, s, CH₃), 1.11 (3H, s, CH₃), 1.01 (10H, brs, SiC(CH₃)₃, C_qCH), 0.99 (6H, brs, 2 × CH₃), 0.20 (6H, s,

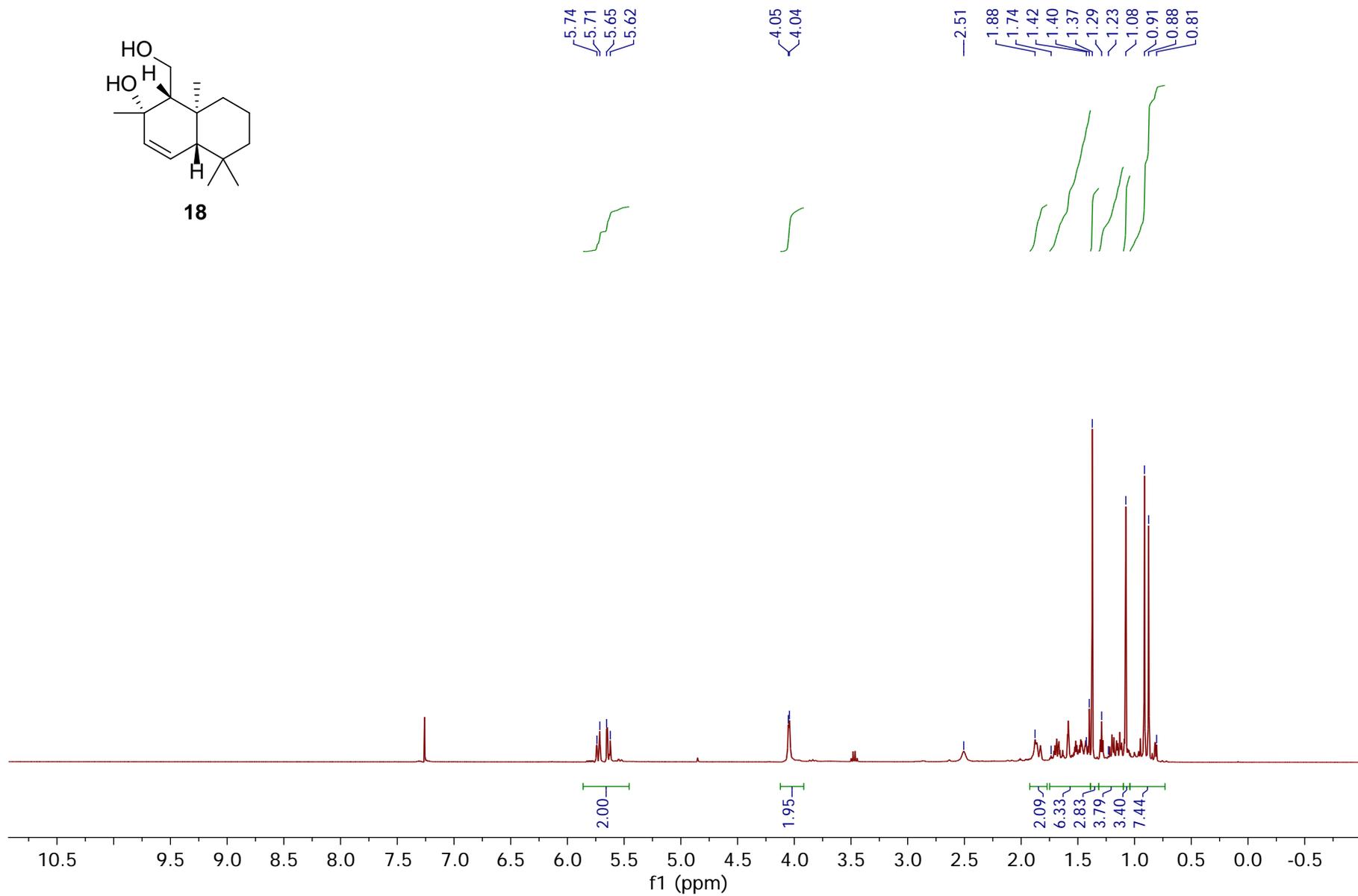
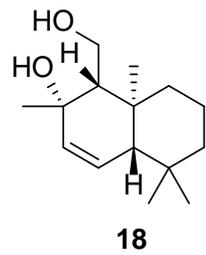
Si(CH₃)₂, 0.16 (9H, s, Si(CH₃)₃), 0.00 (9H, s, Si(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.7 (ArCO), 148.2 (Ar_q), 139.6 (=C_q), 134.9 (C=CHC_q), 132.8 (HC=CHC_q), 130.5 (ArCH), 128.1 (Ar_q), 120.9 (ArCH), 118.4 (ArCH), 113.4 (=CH₂), 76.4 (OC_q), 69.0 (TMSOC), 64.5 (CH), 60.7 (CH), 53.8 (CH₂), 44.6 (CH₂), 41.9 (CH₂), 40.0 (C_q), 36.9 (ArCH₃), 33.8 (C_q), 30.9 (CH₃), 25.9 (Si(CH₃)₃), 22.5 (CH₃), 18.4 (SiC), 18.3 (CH₂), 17.2 (CH₃), 16.8 (CH₃), 2.6 (Si(CH₃)₃), 1.2 (Si(CH₃)₃), -3.99 (Si(CH₃)), -4.01 (Si(CH₃)); *m/z* calculated for [C₃₇H₆₆O₃Si₃]⁺ 642.4320 found [M]⁺ 642.4316

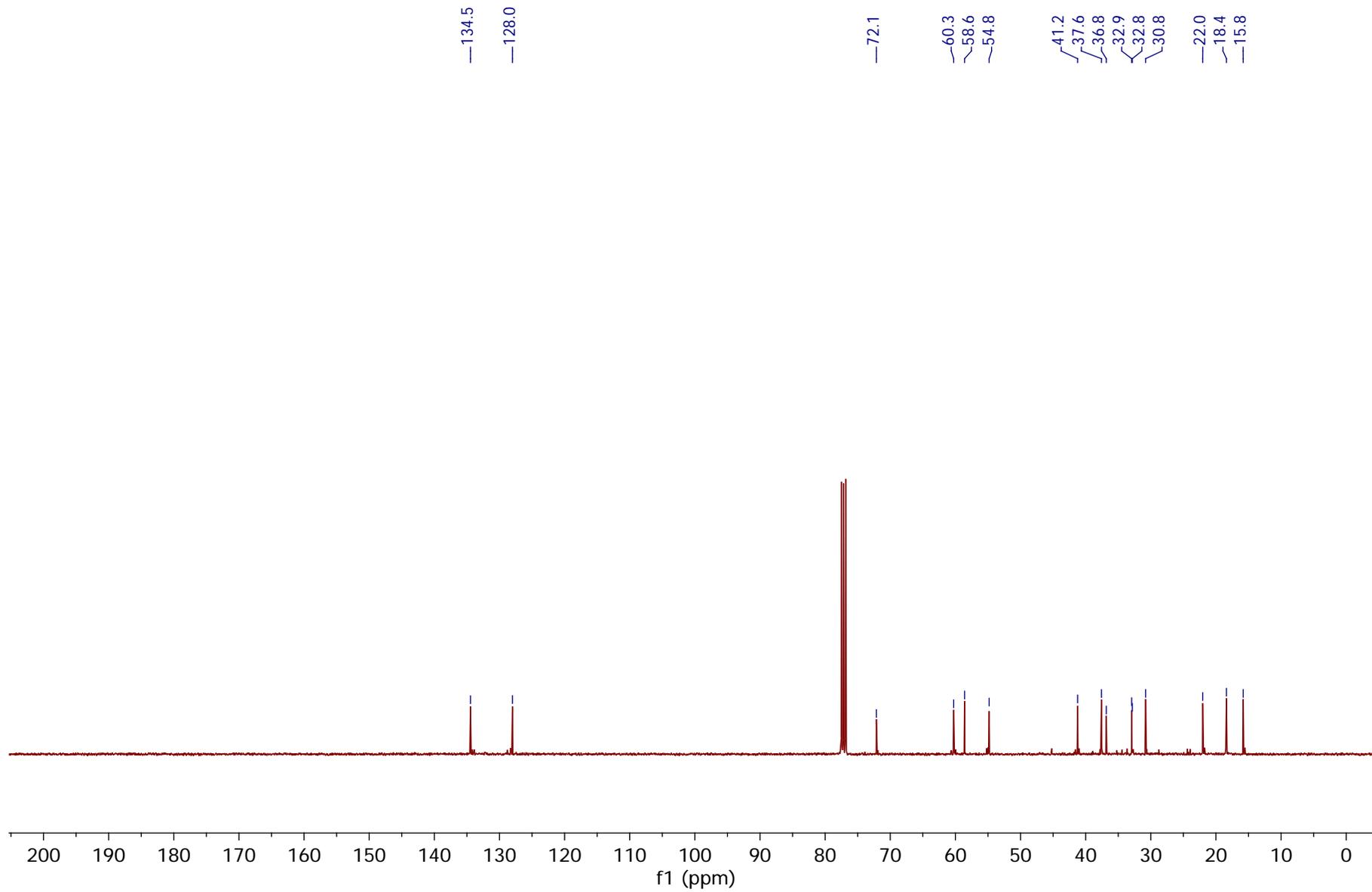


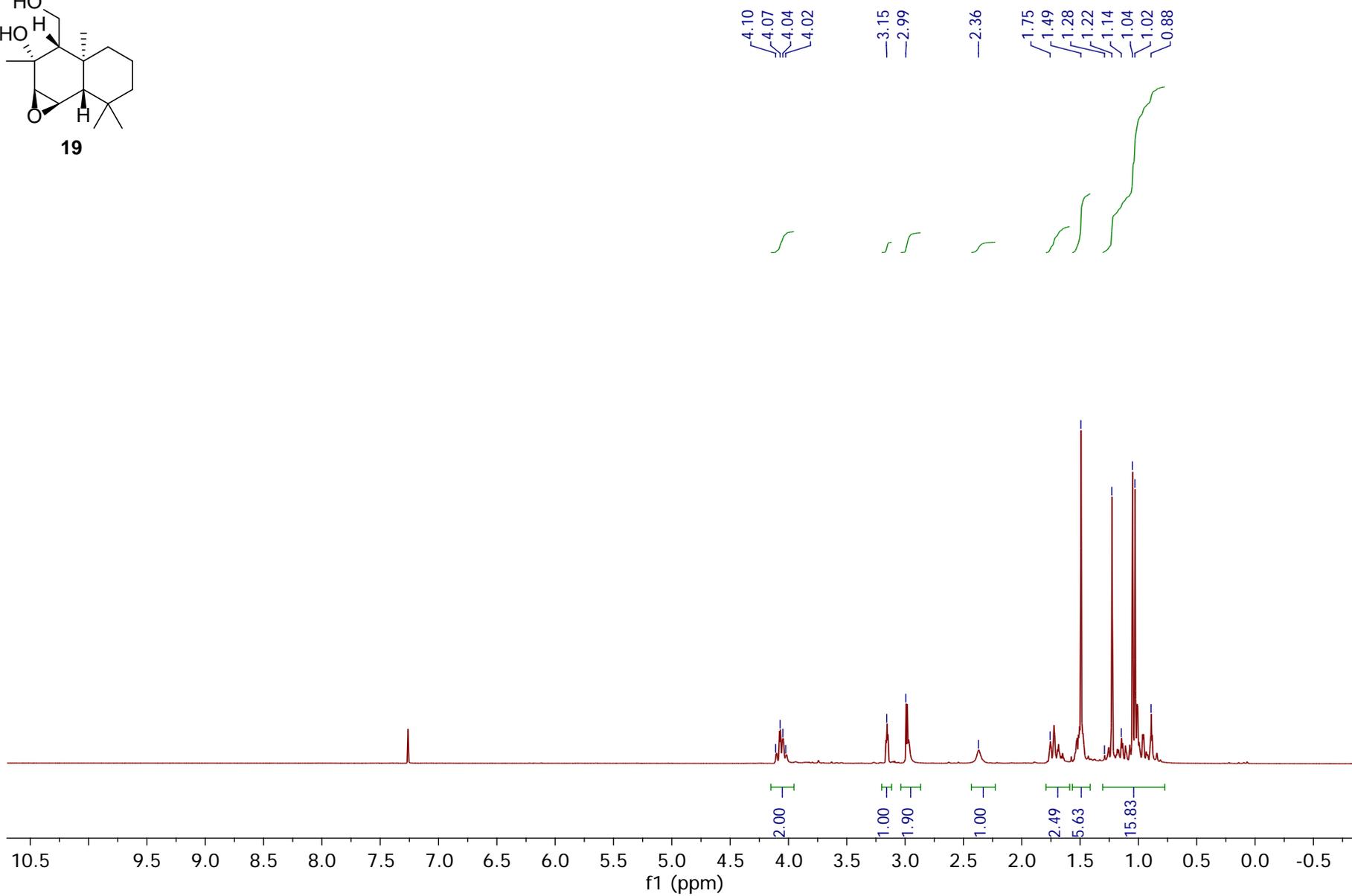
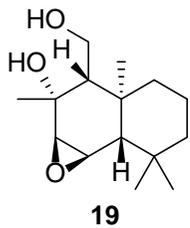


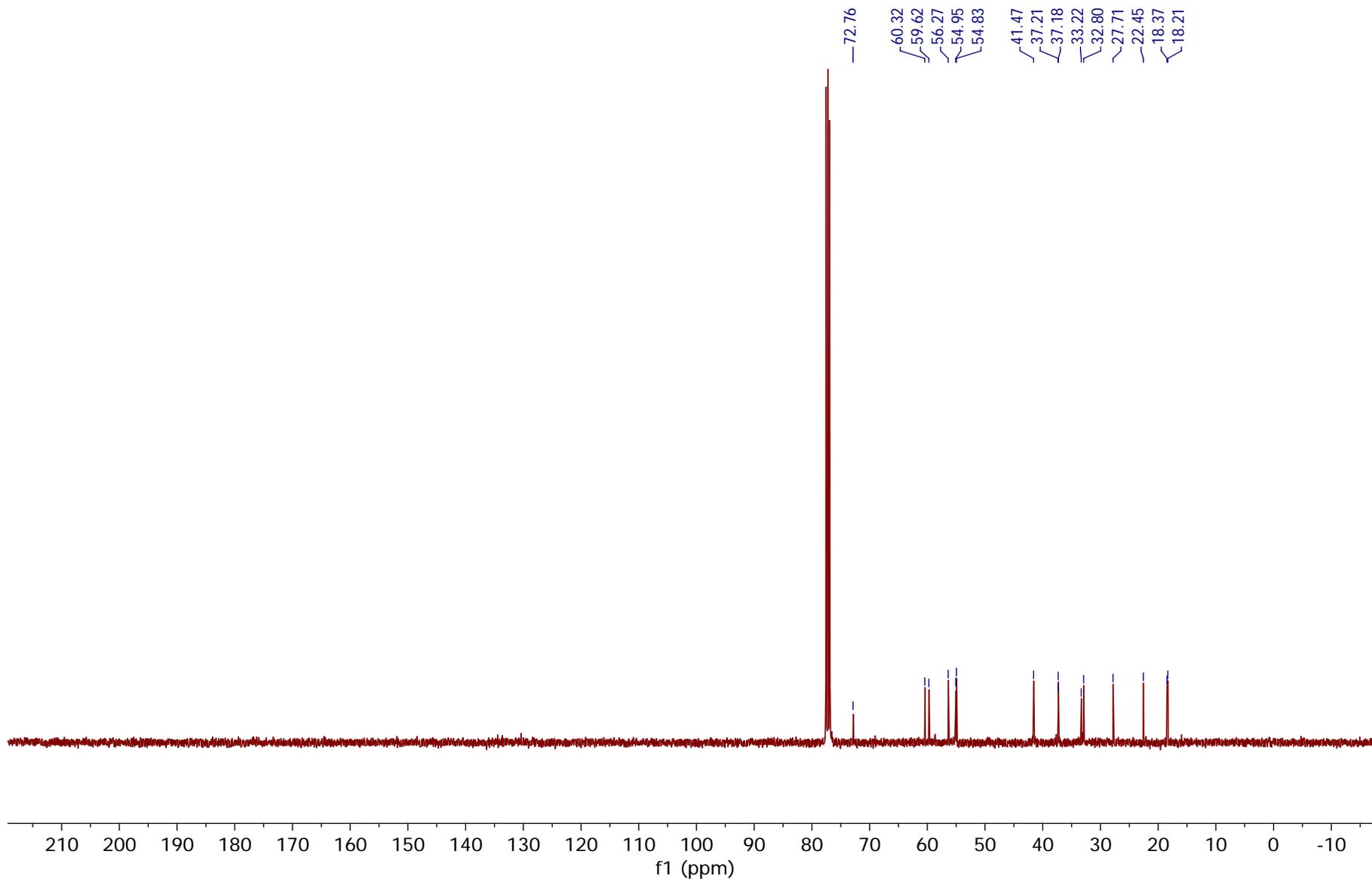


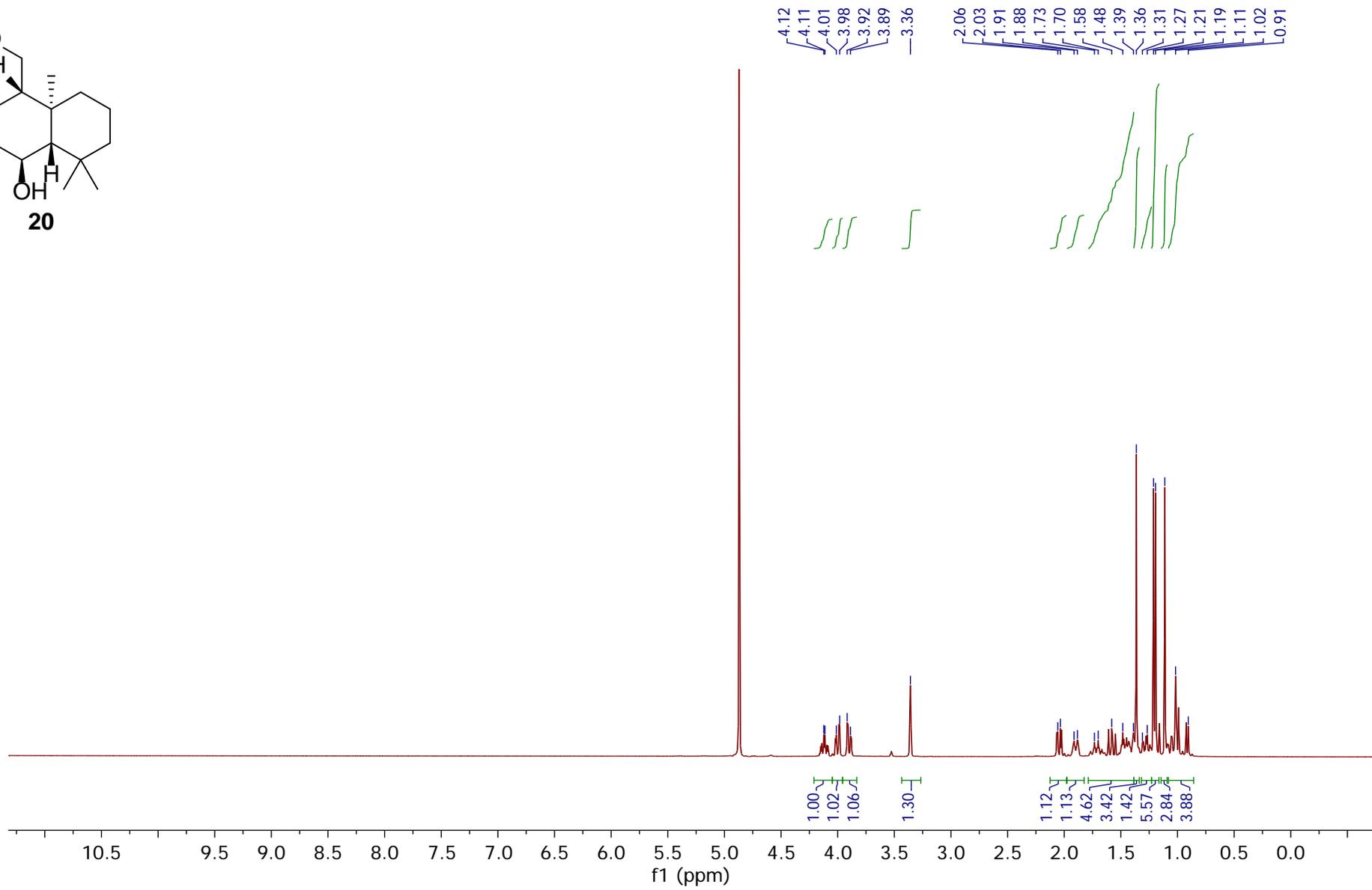
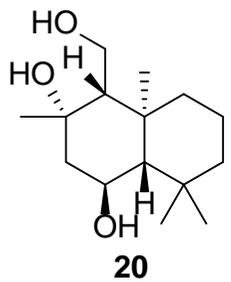


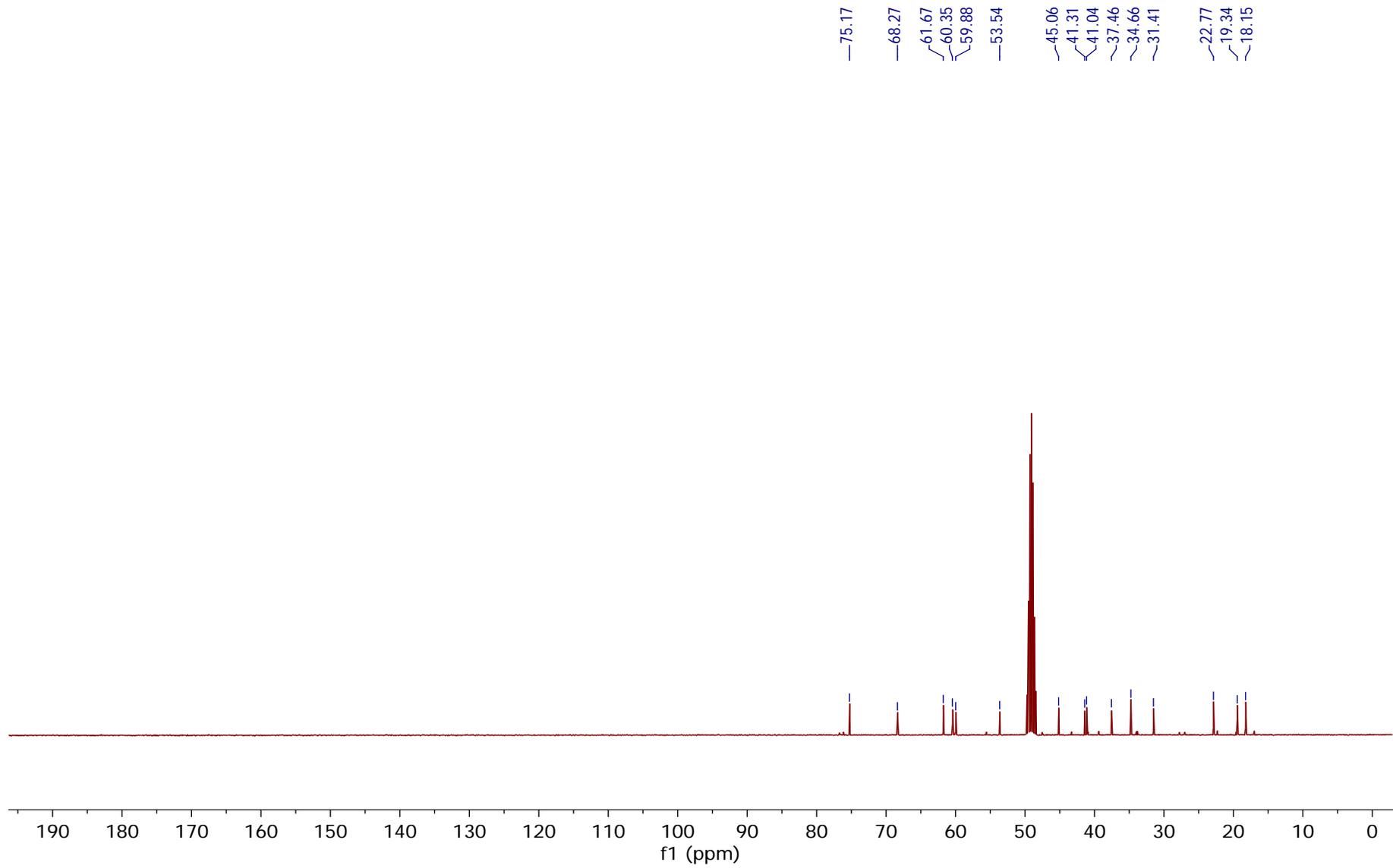


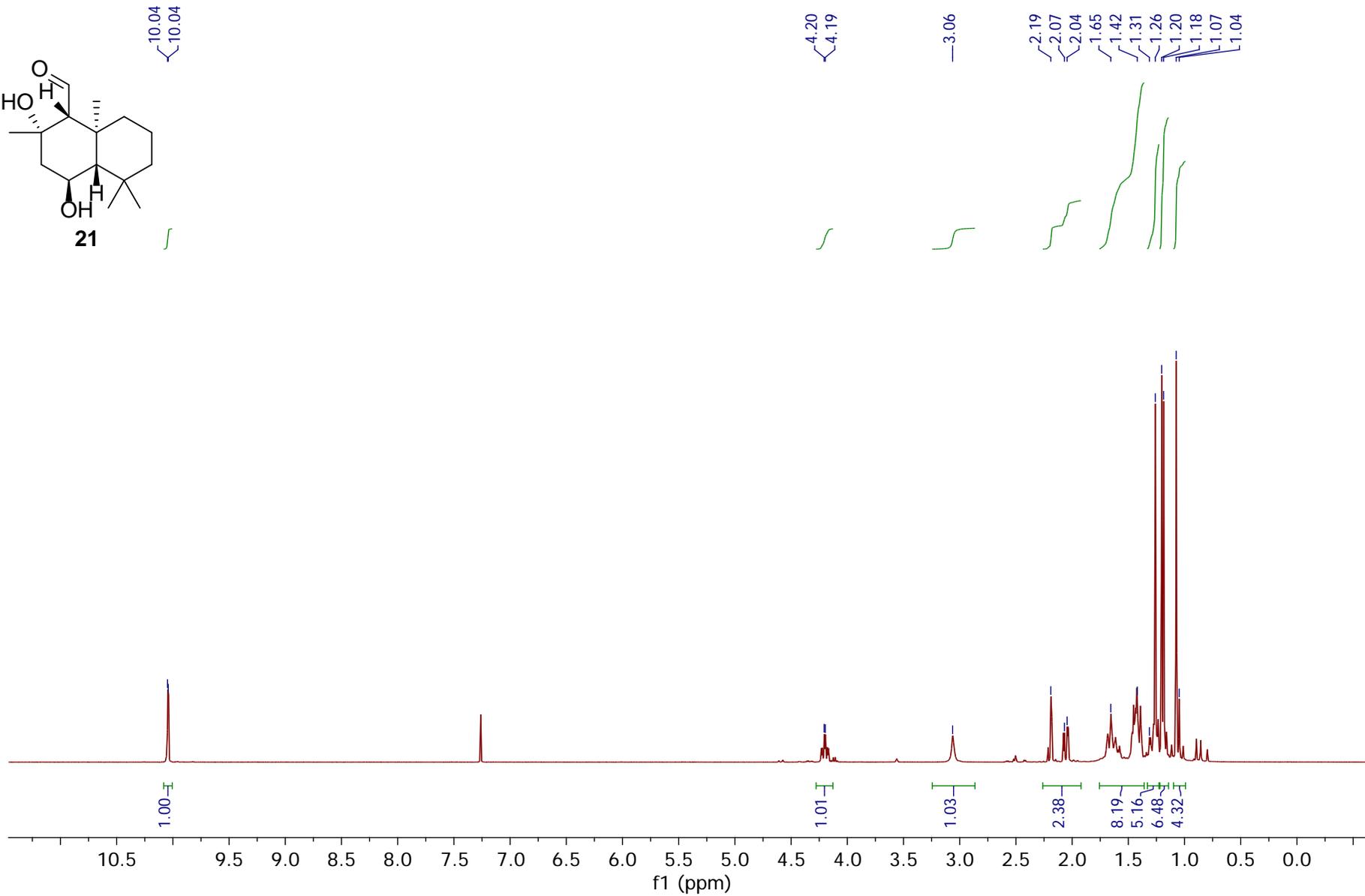
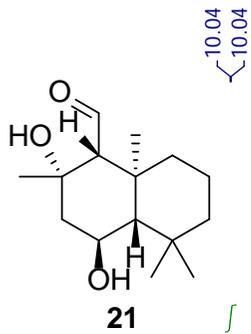


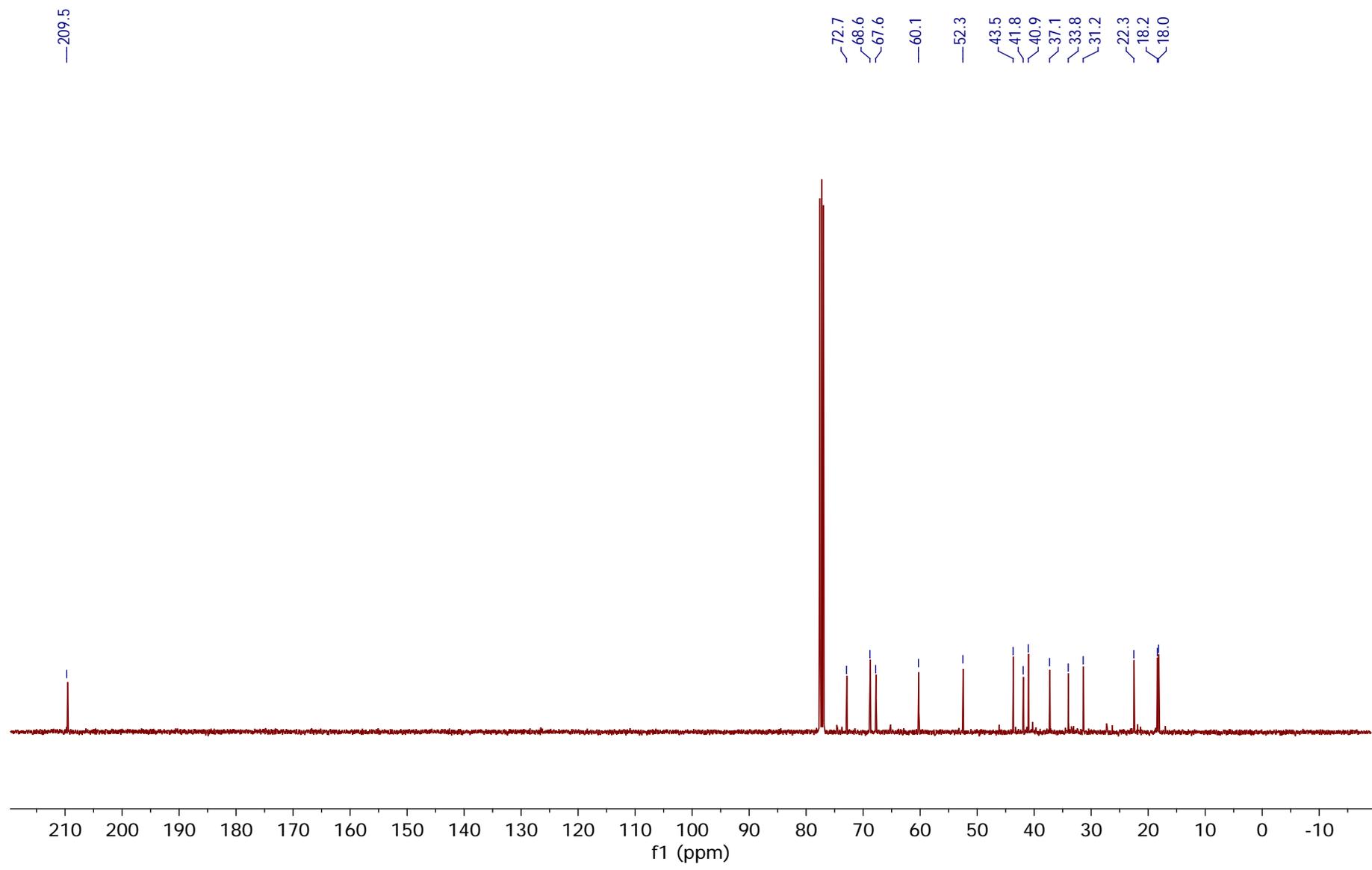




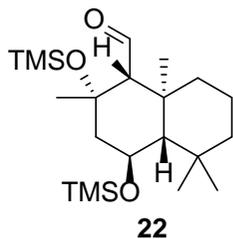








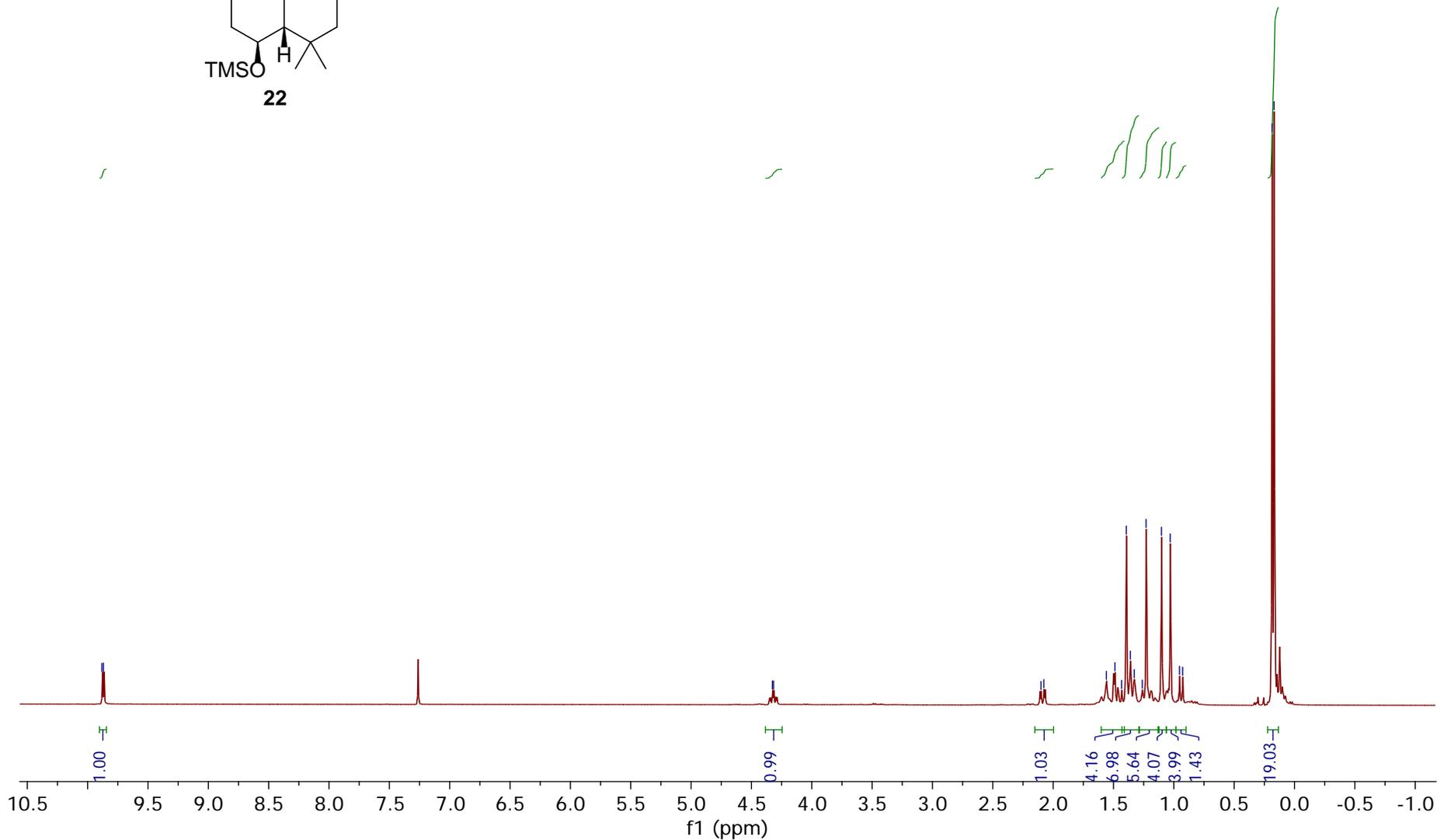
9.88
9.86

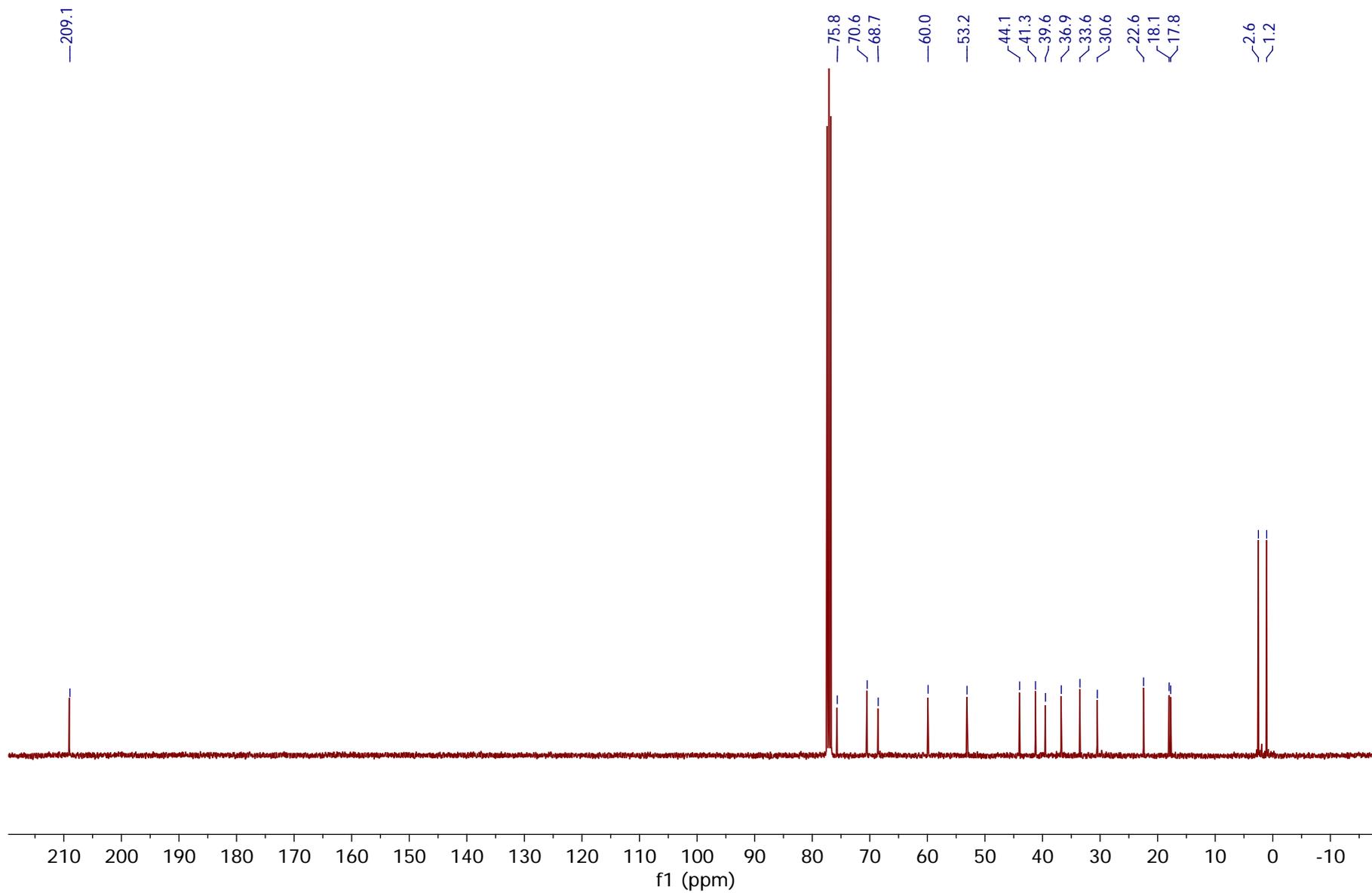


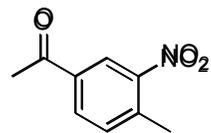
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4.31

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2.07

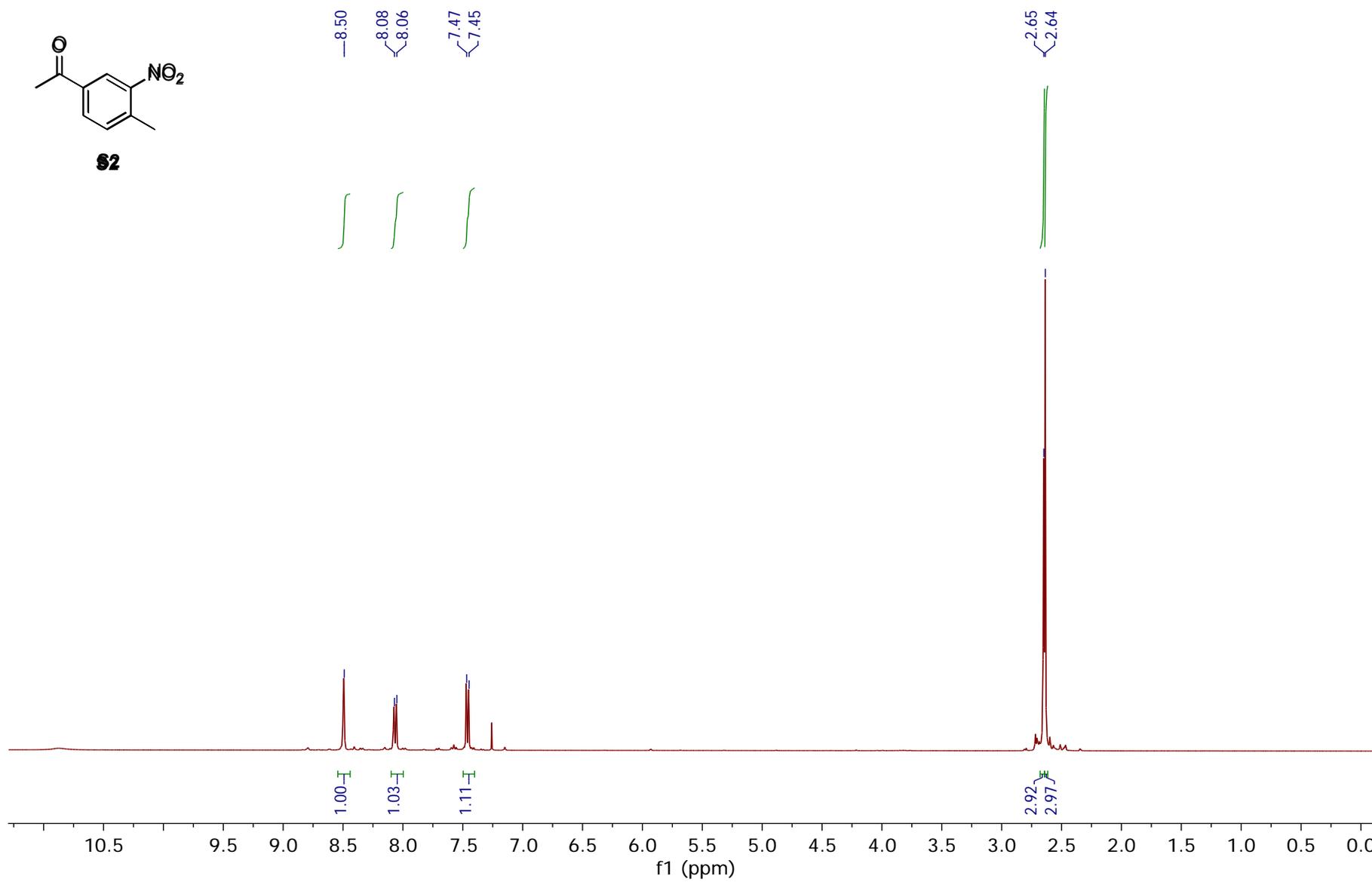
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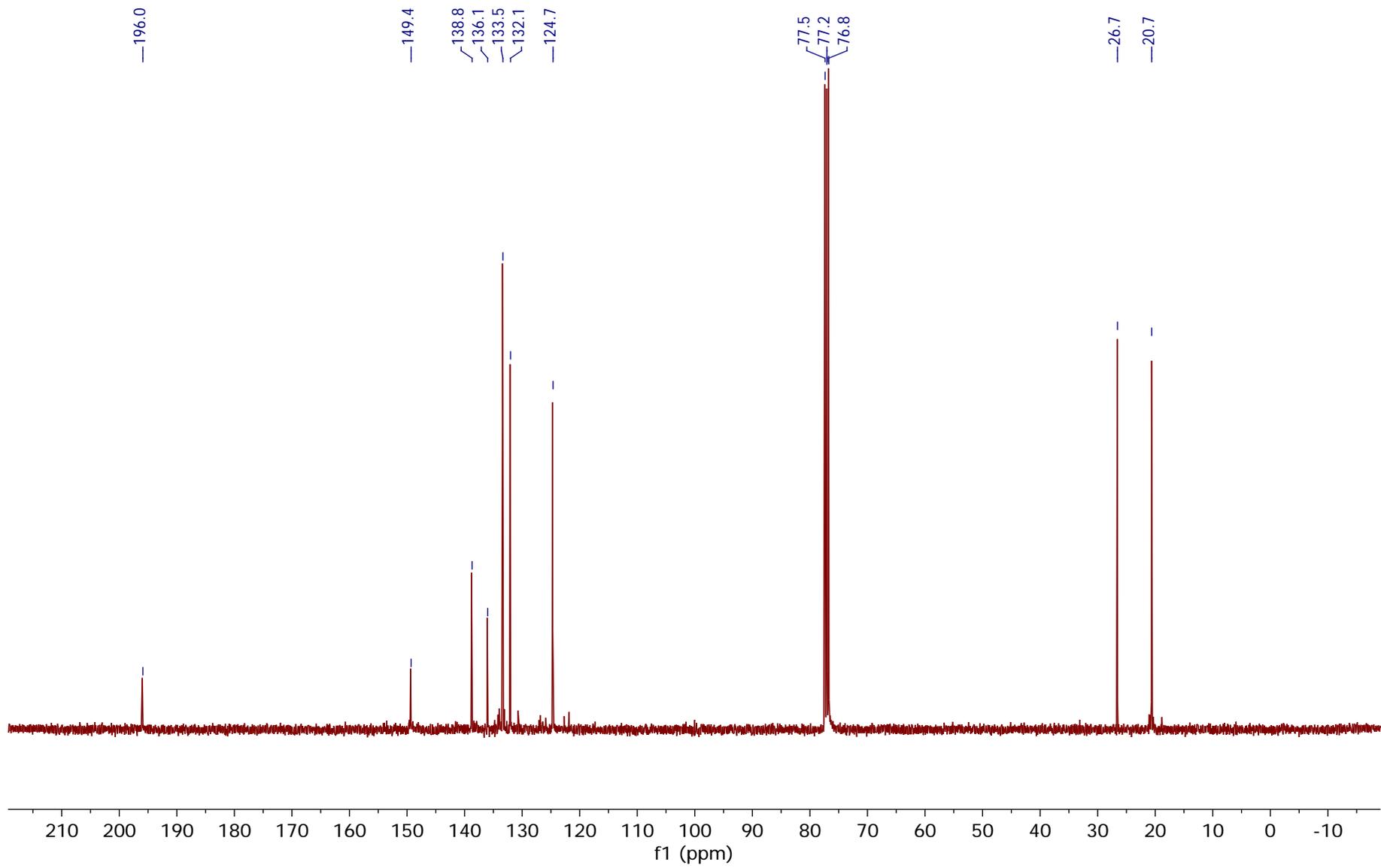


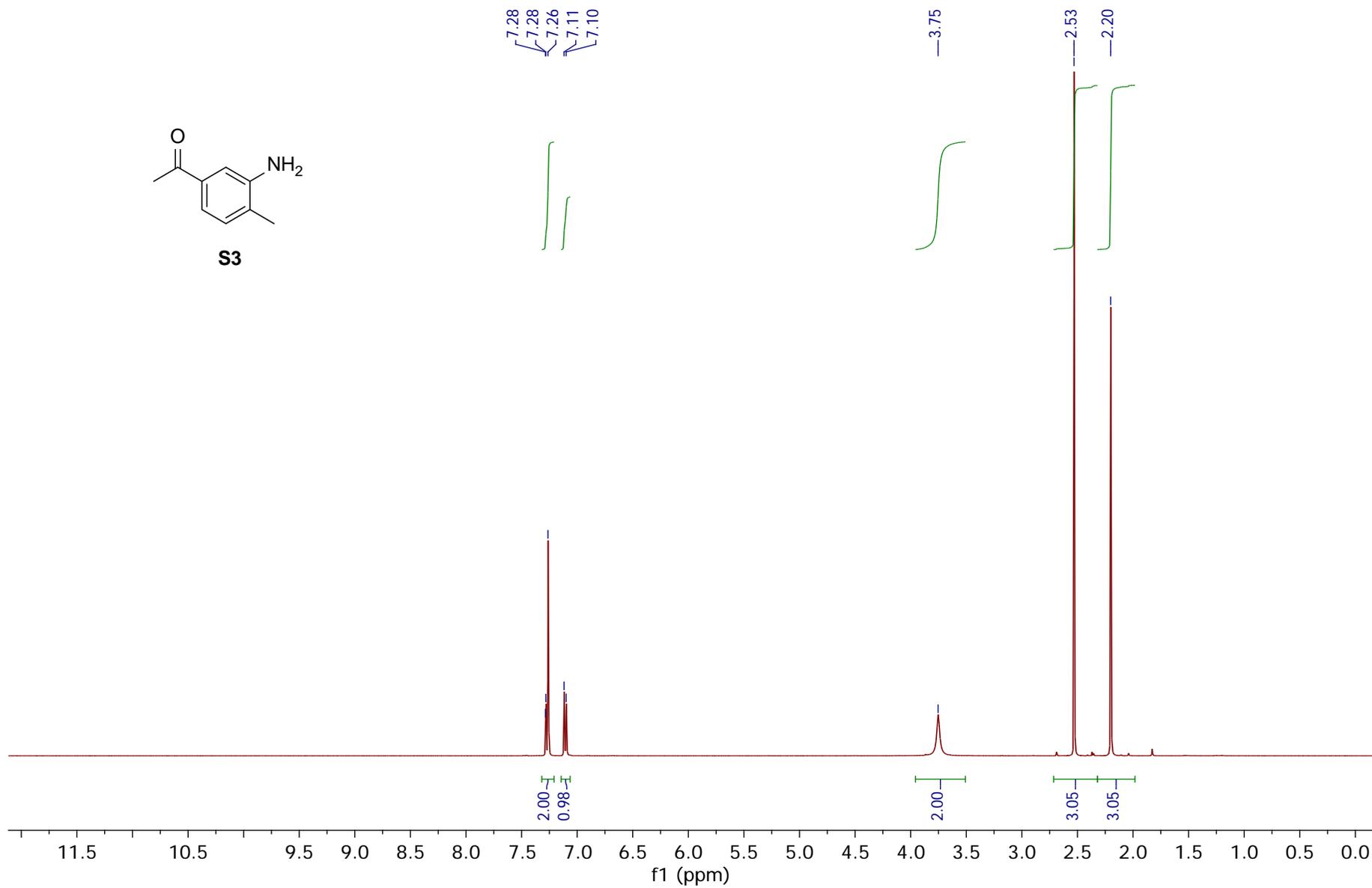
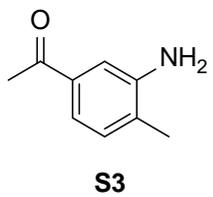


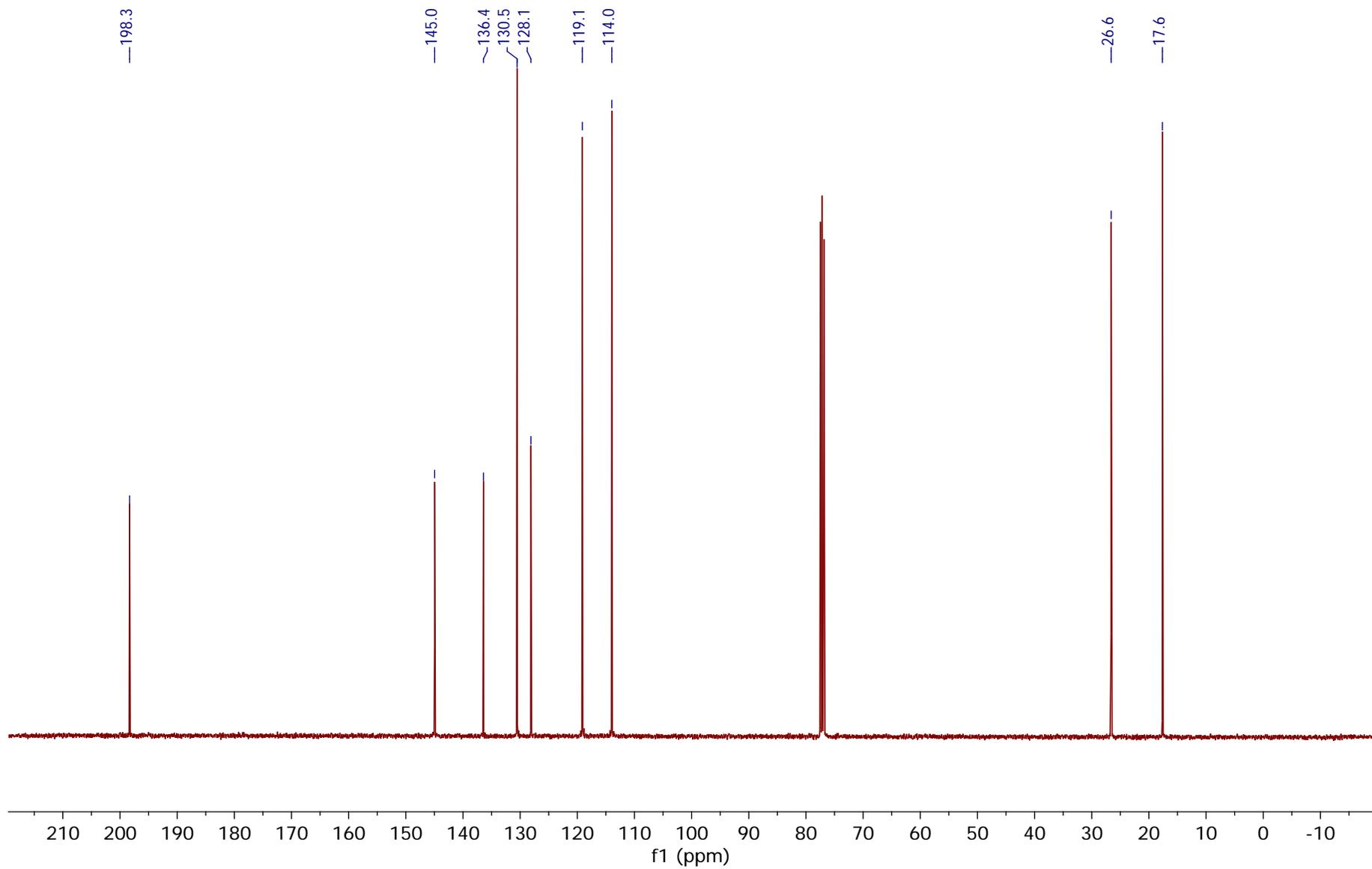


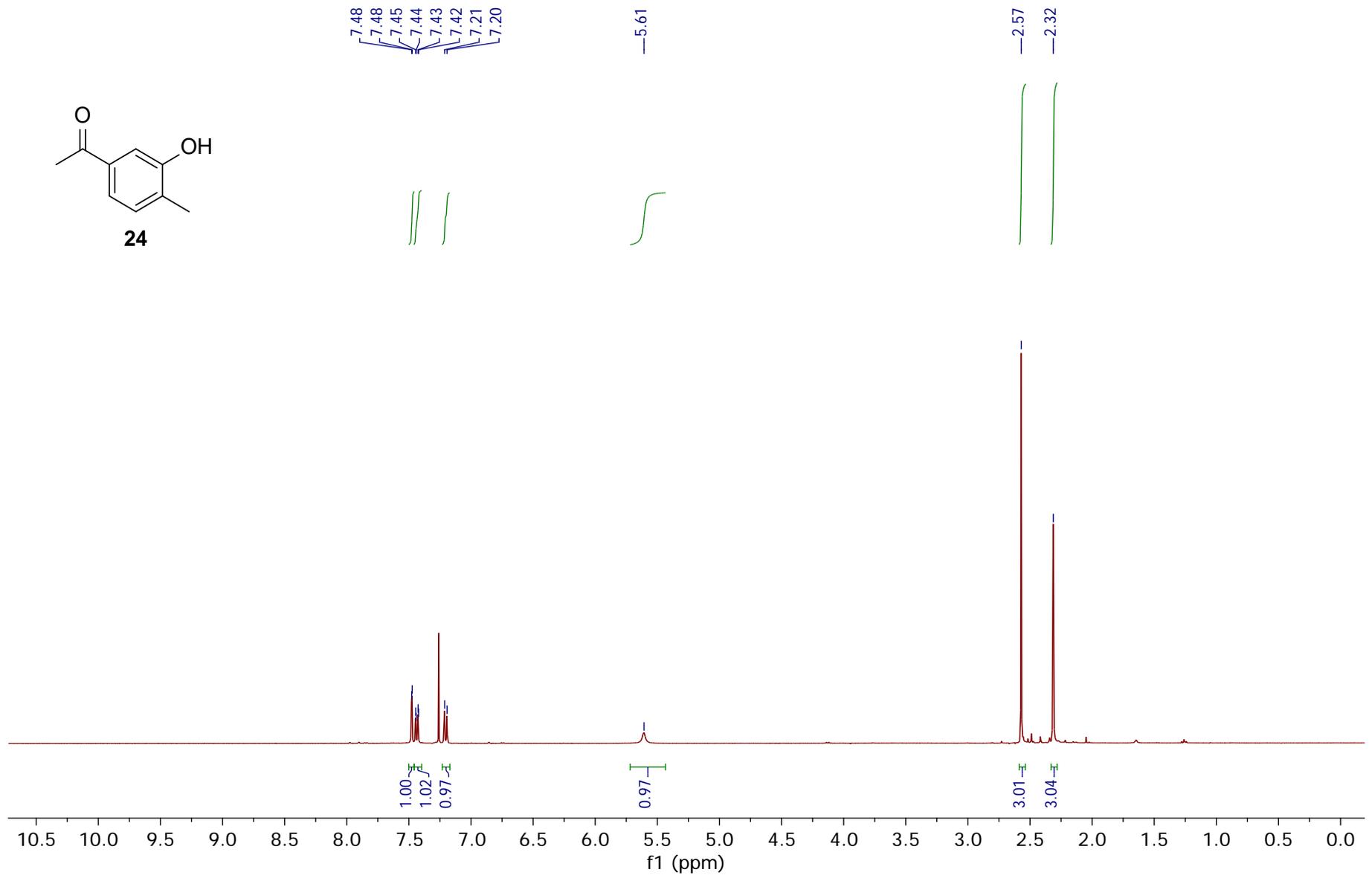
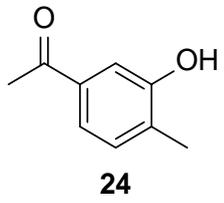
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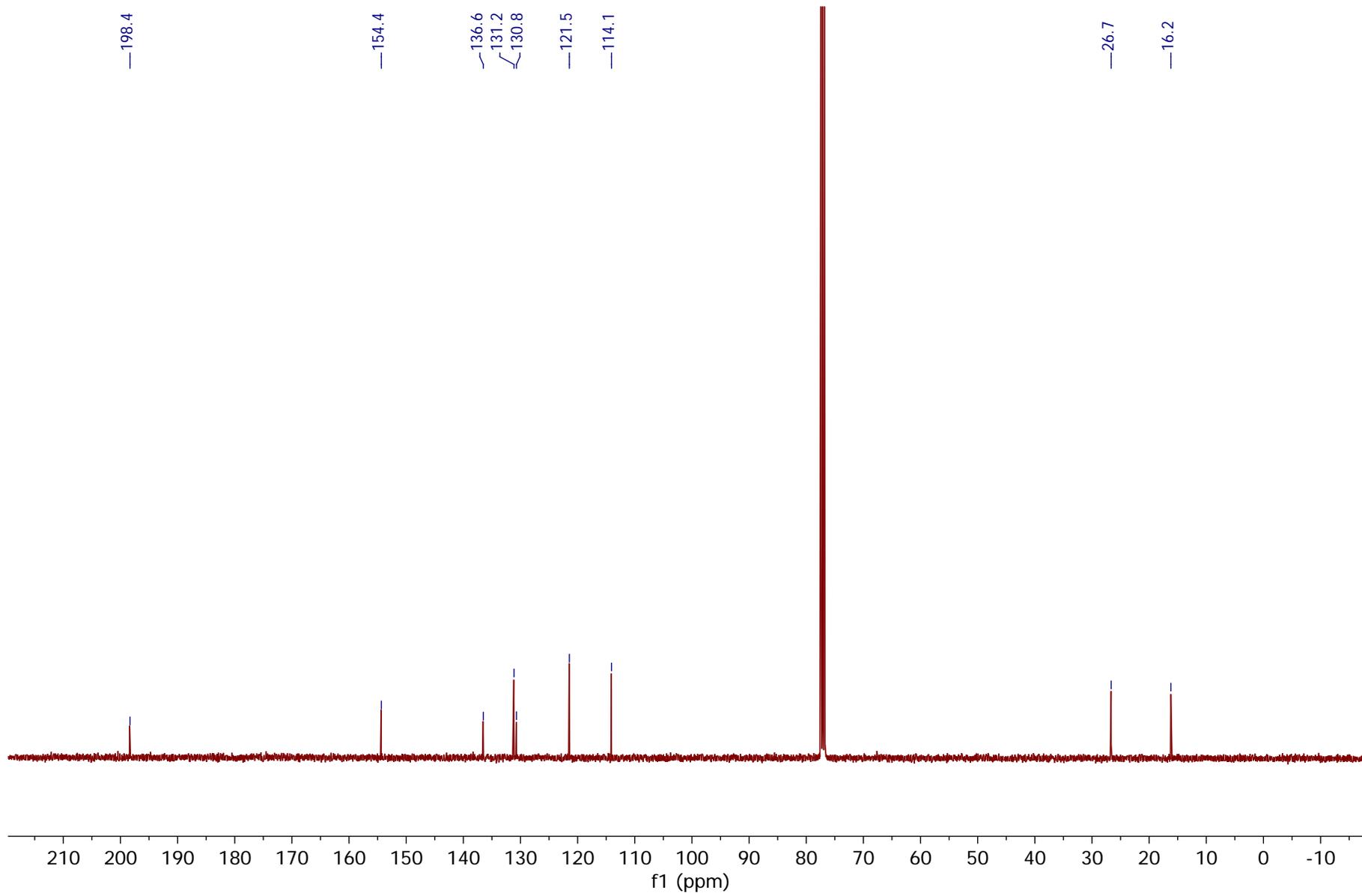


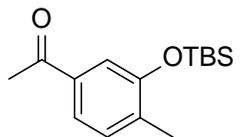




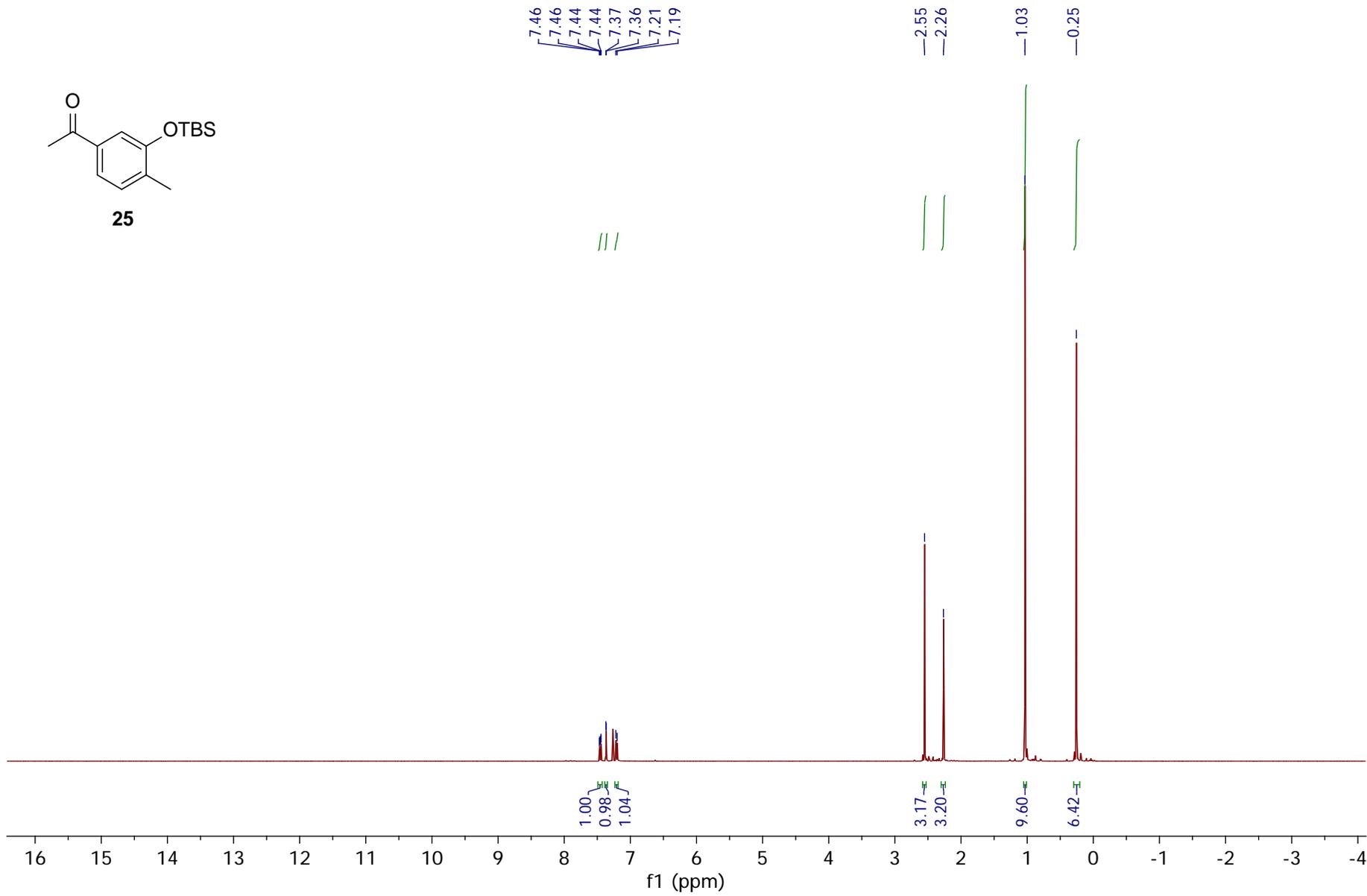


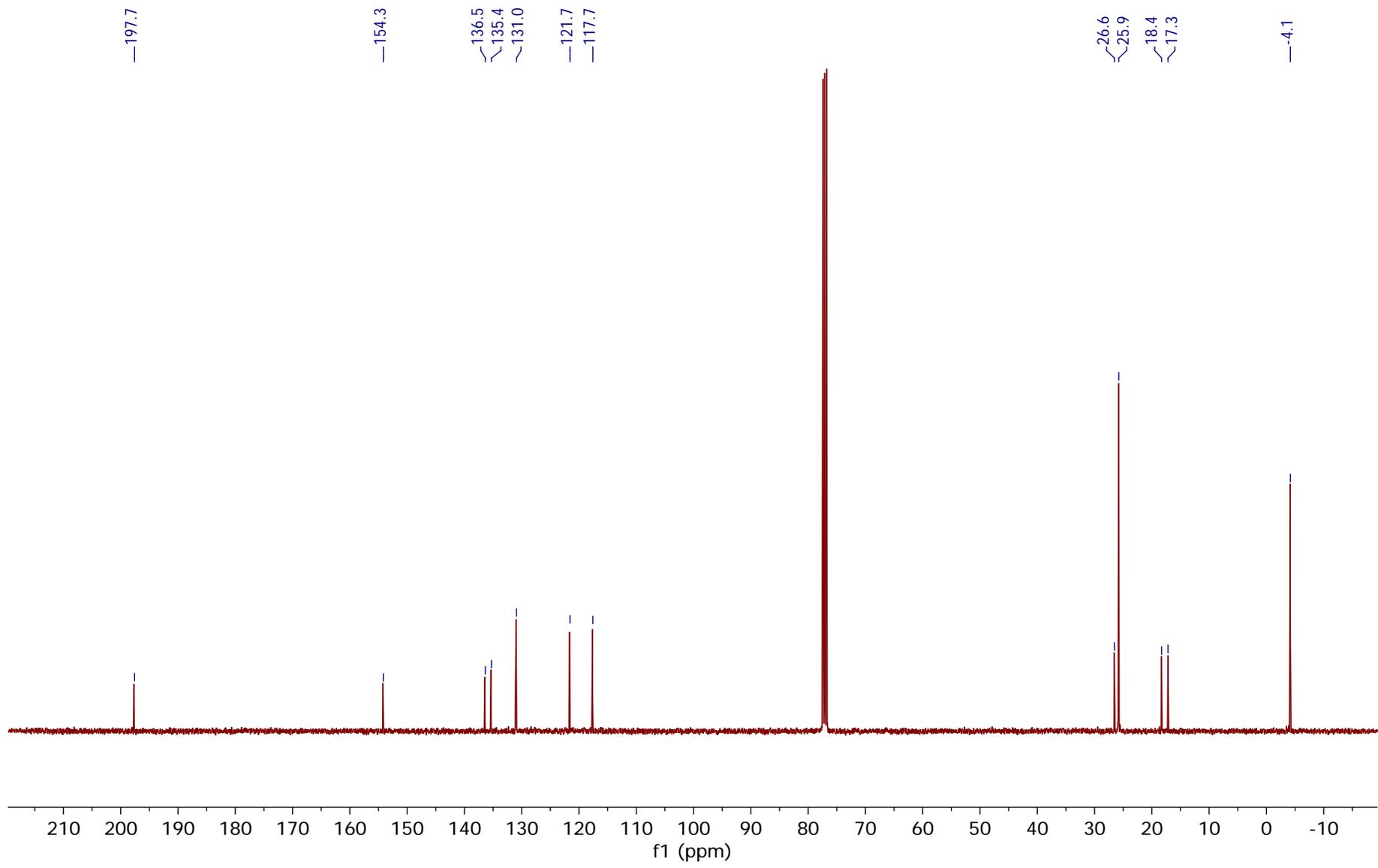


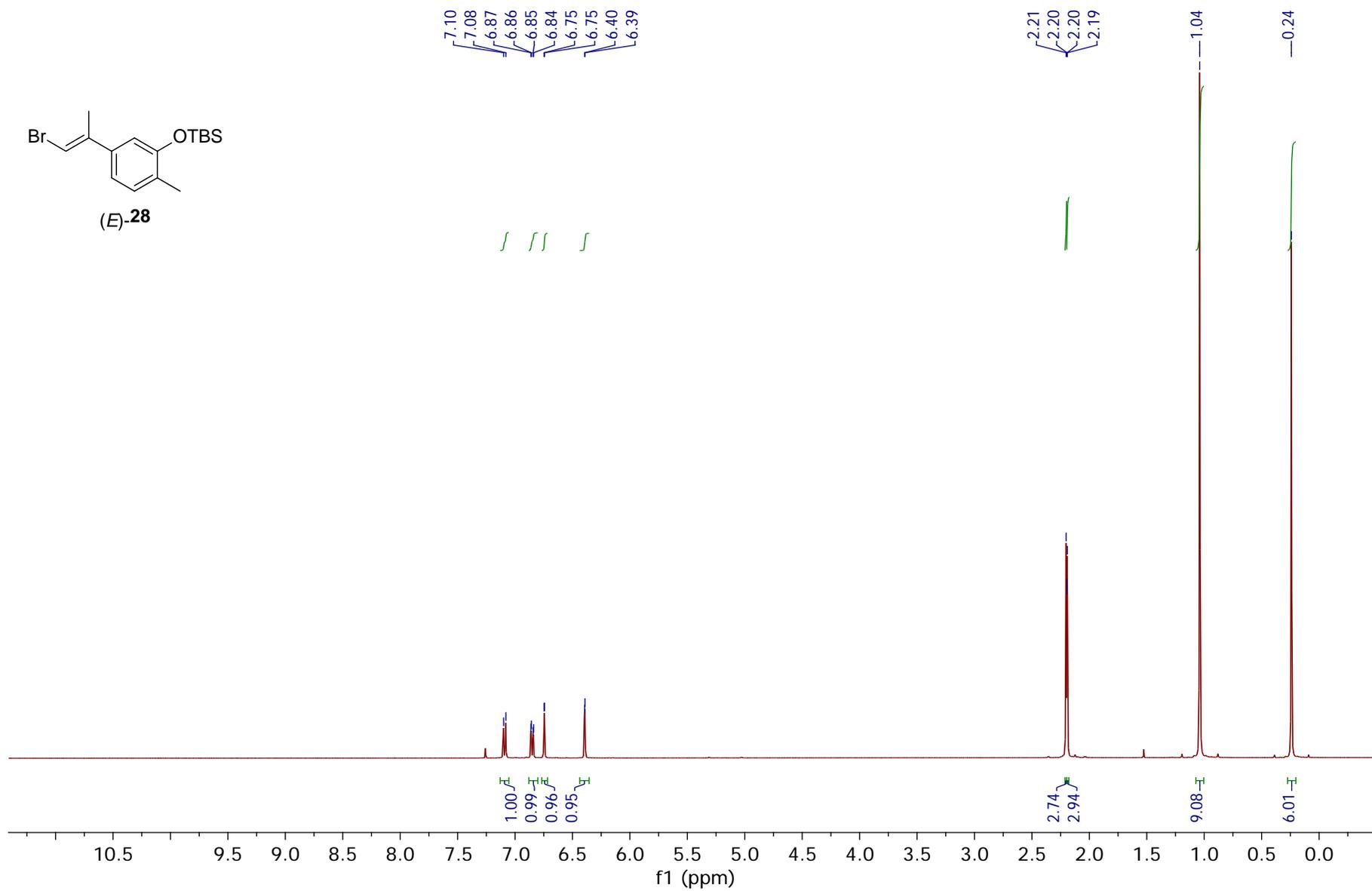
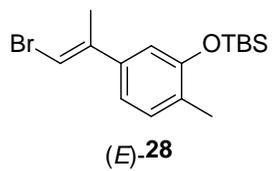


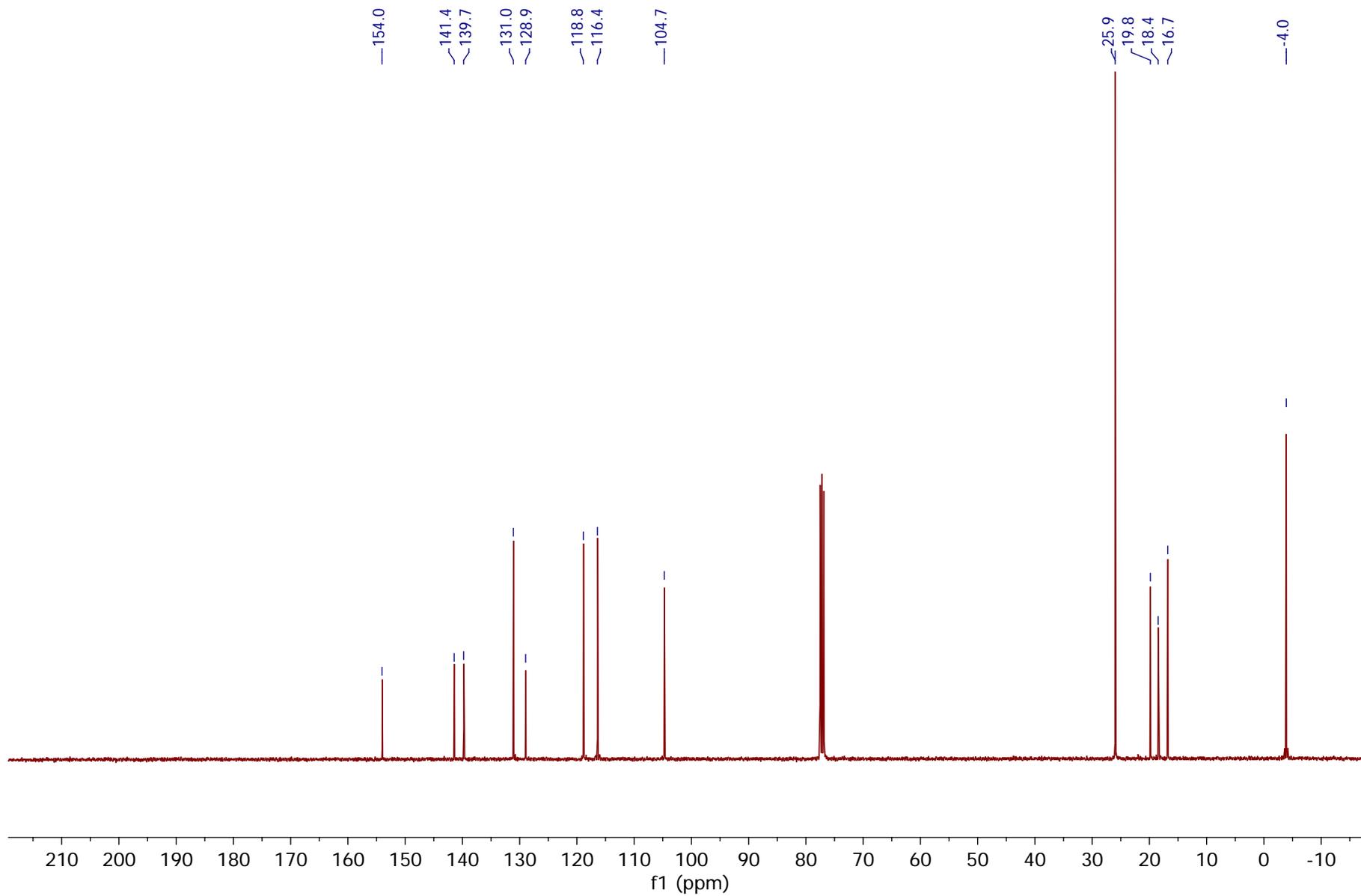


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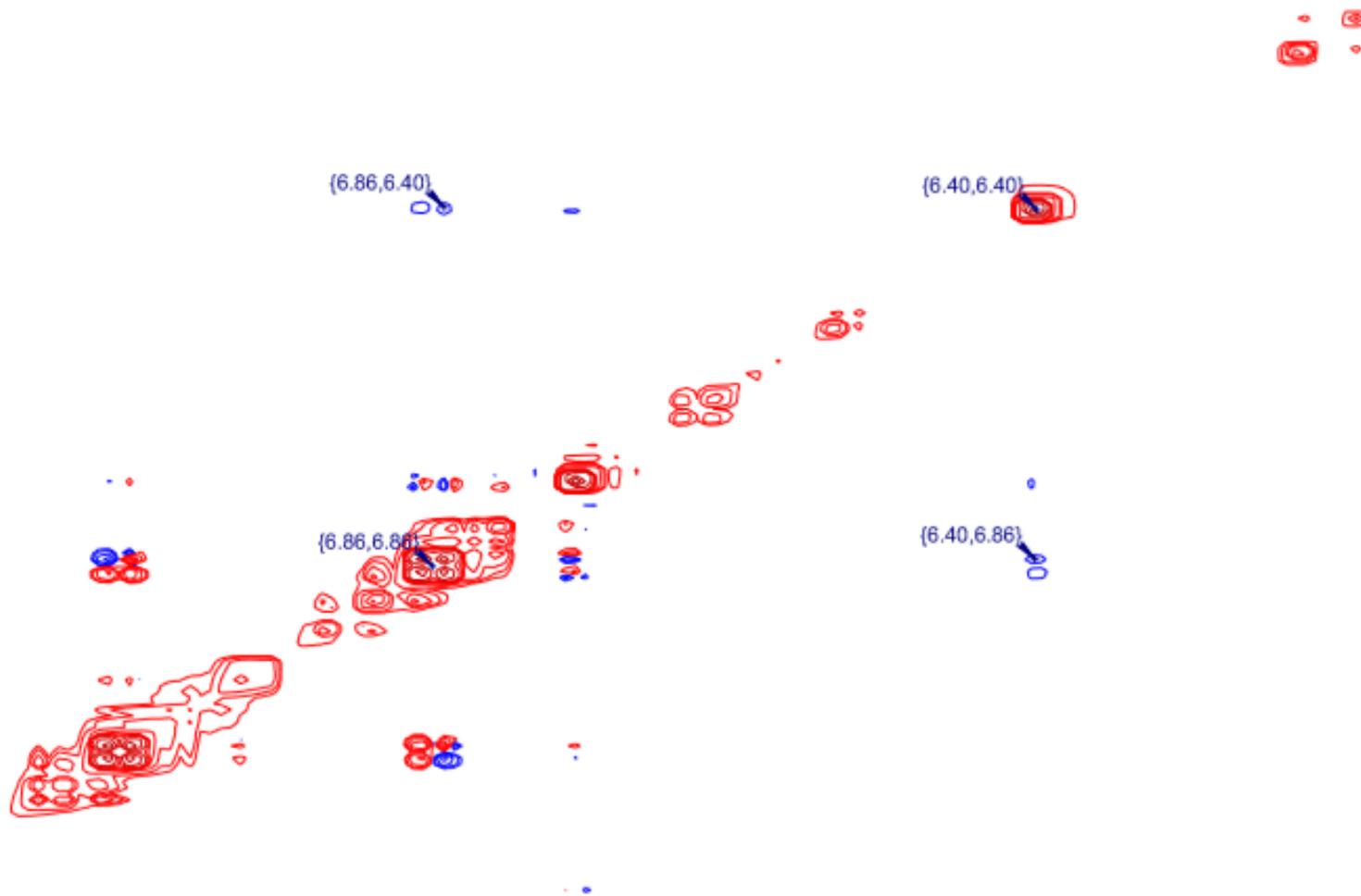
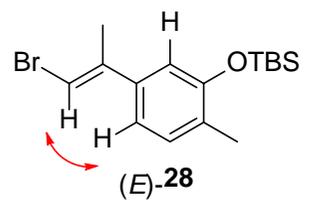


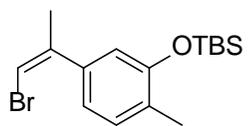




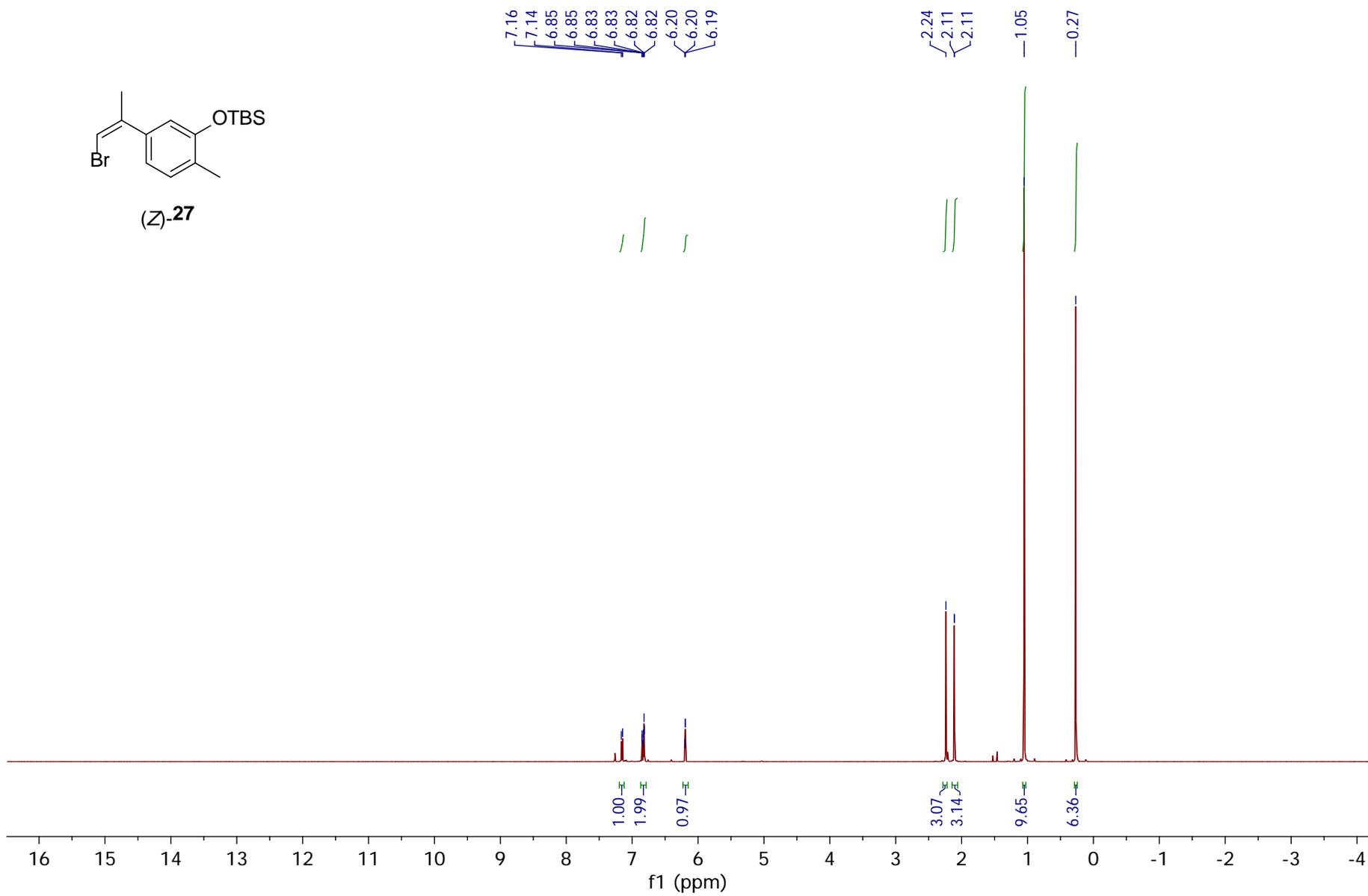


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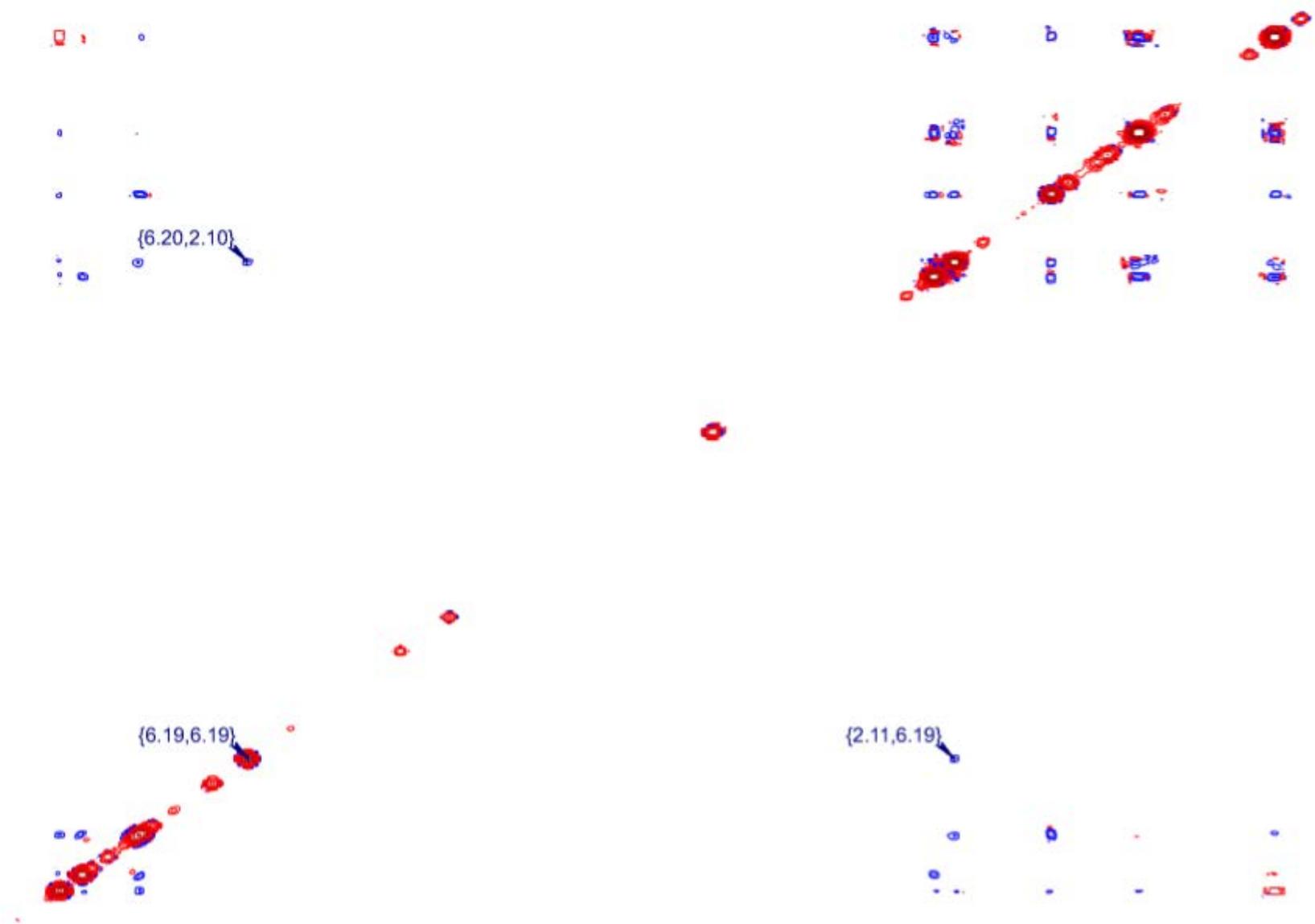
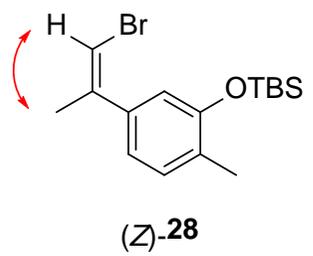


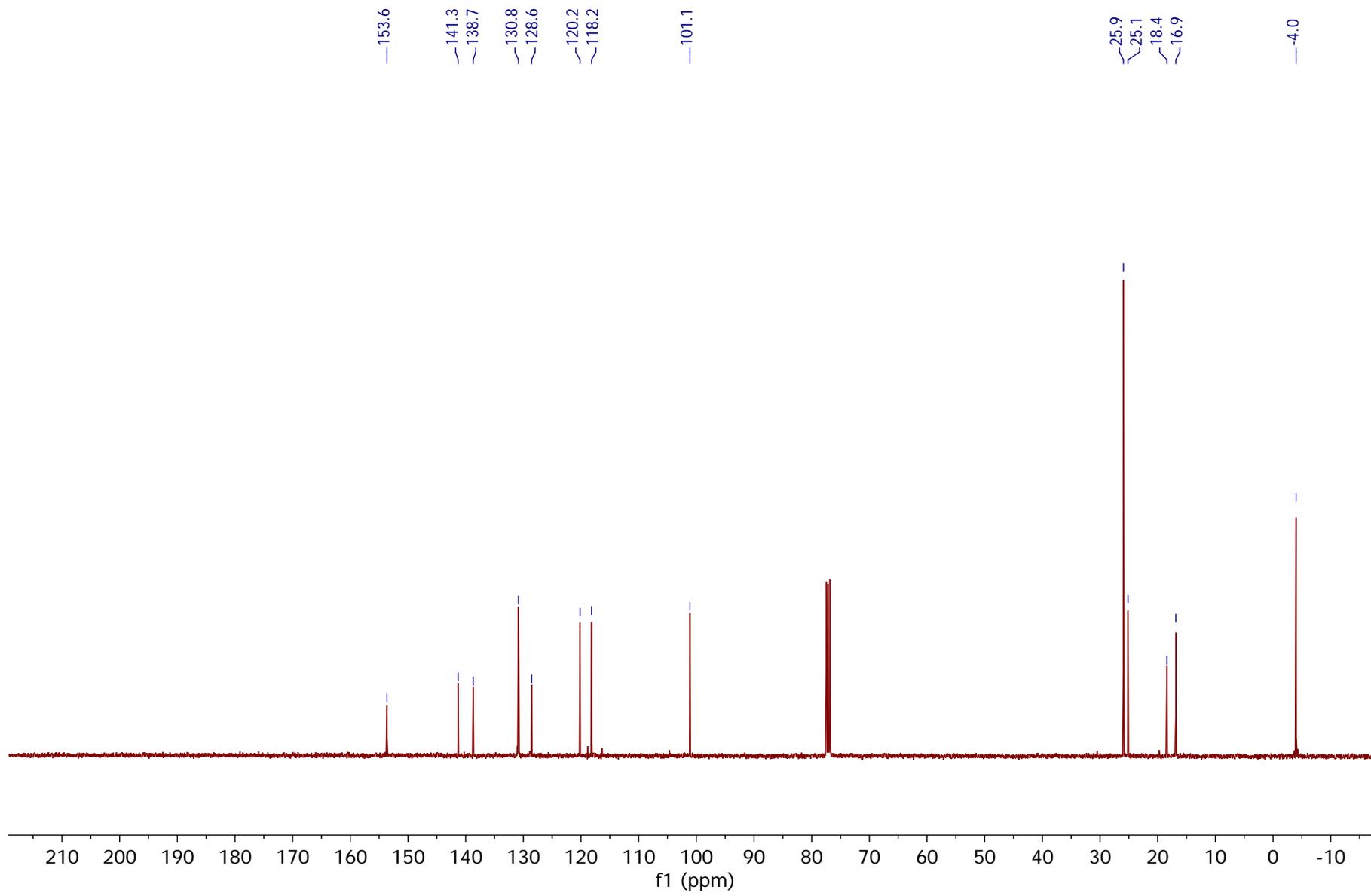


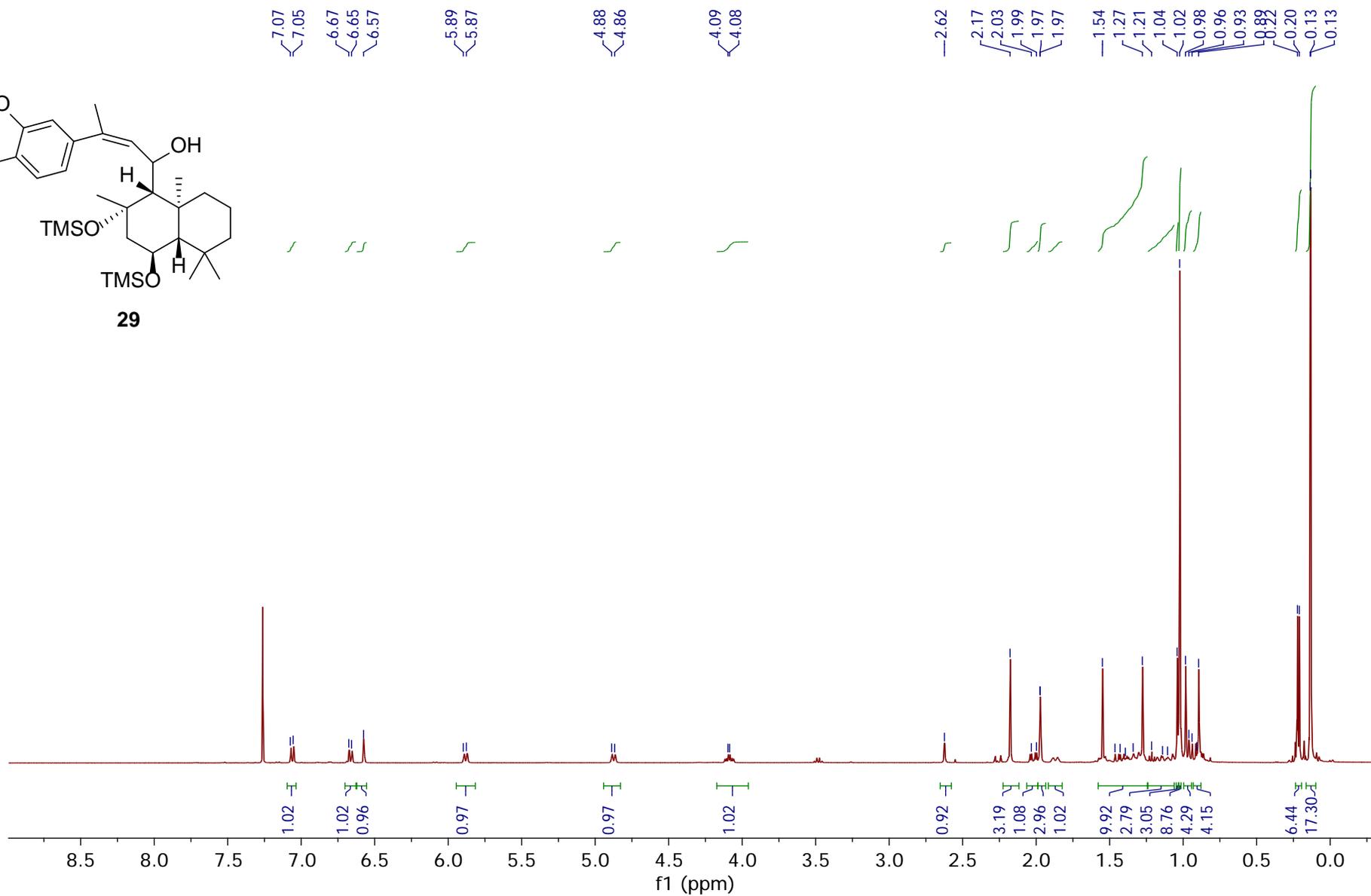
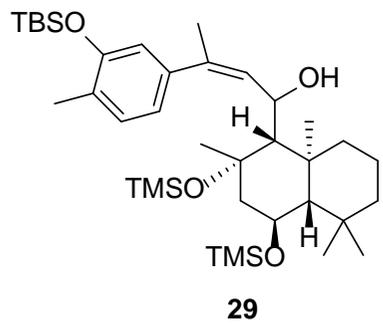
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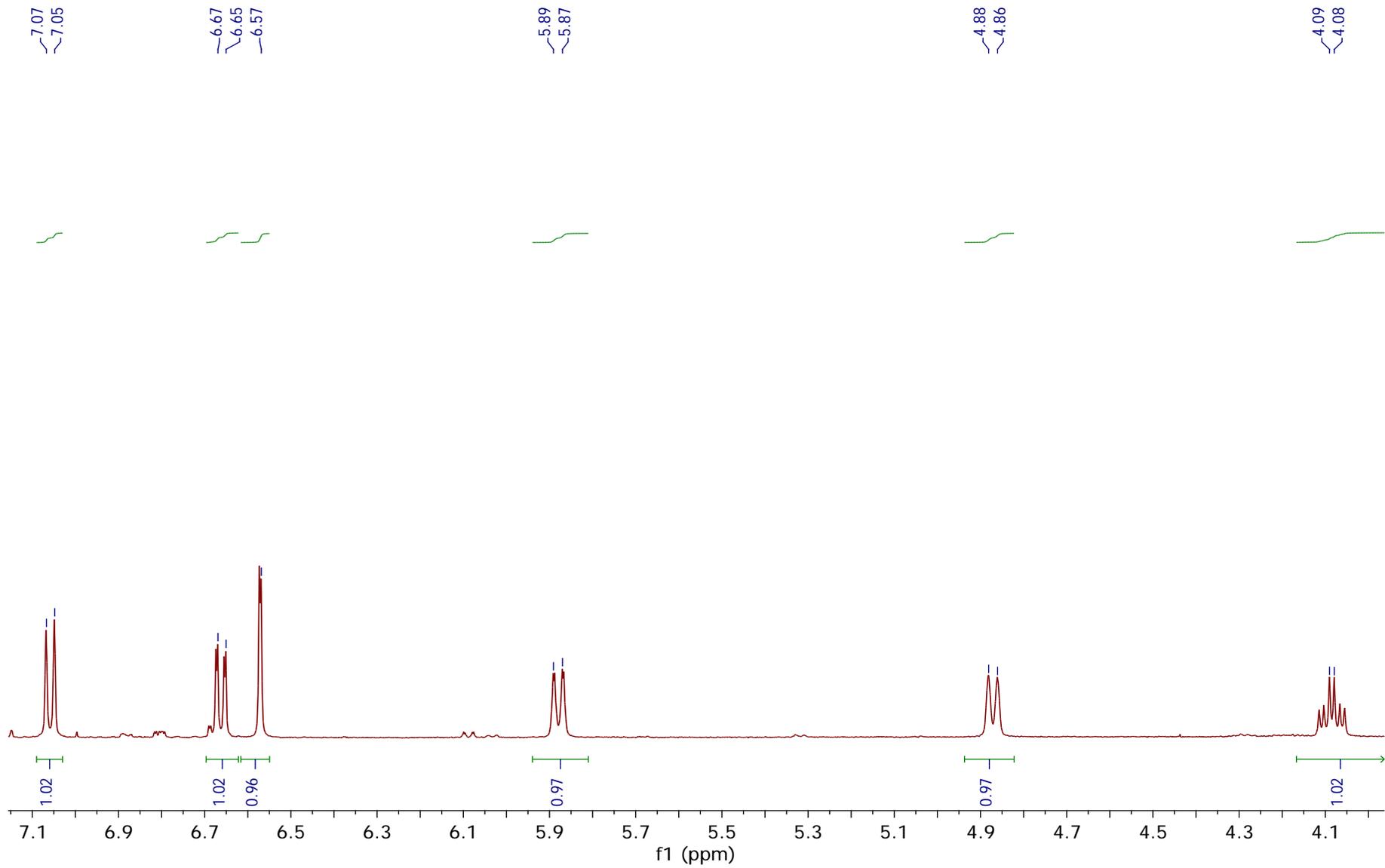


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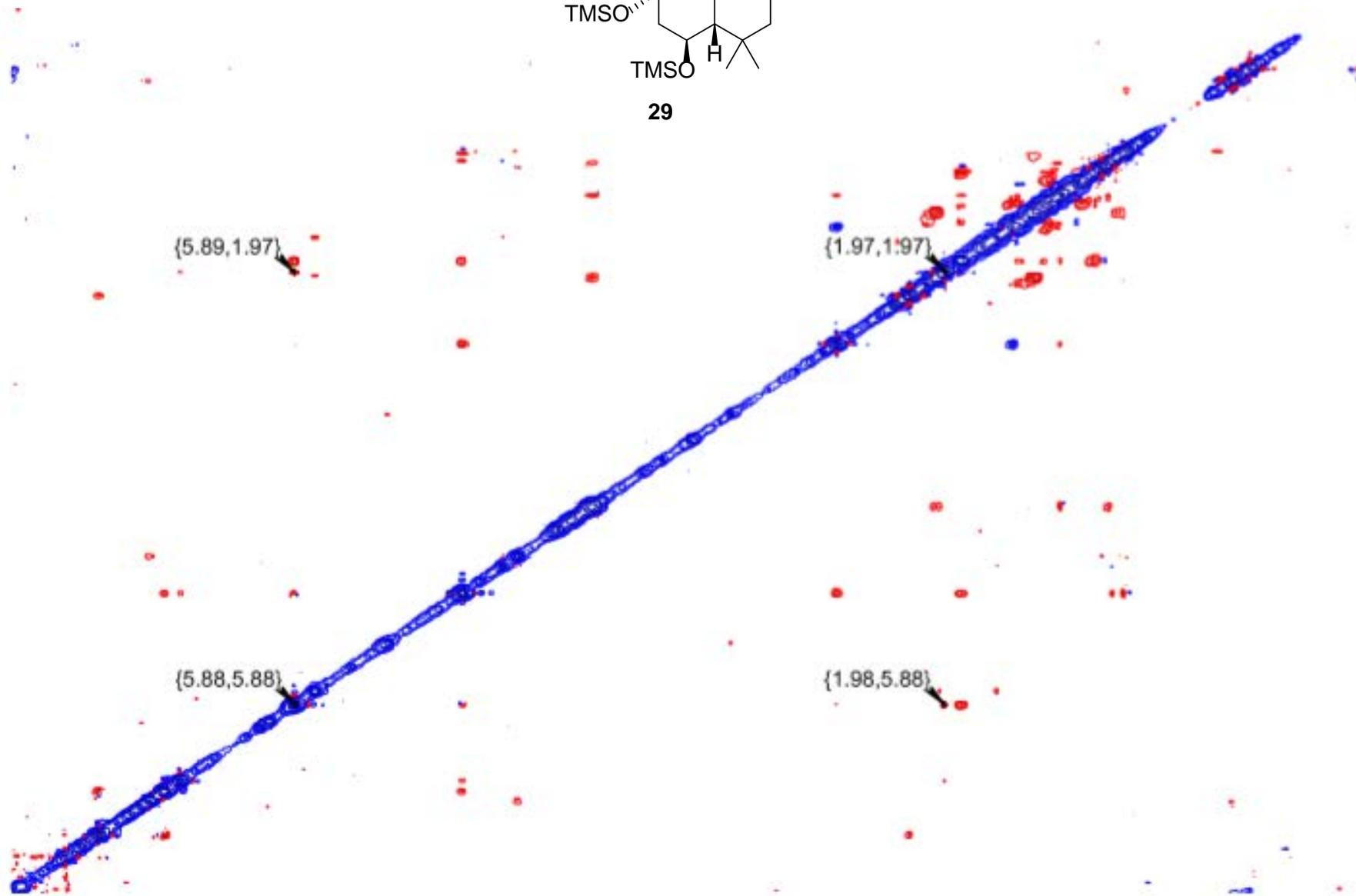
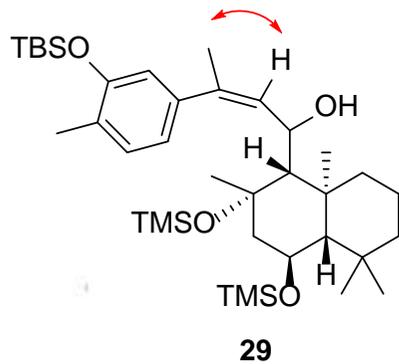


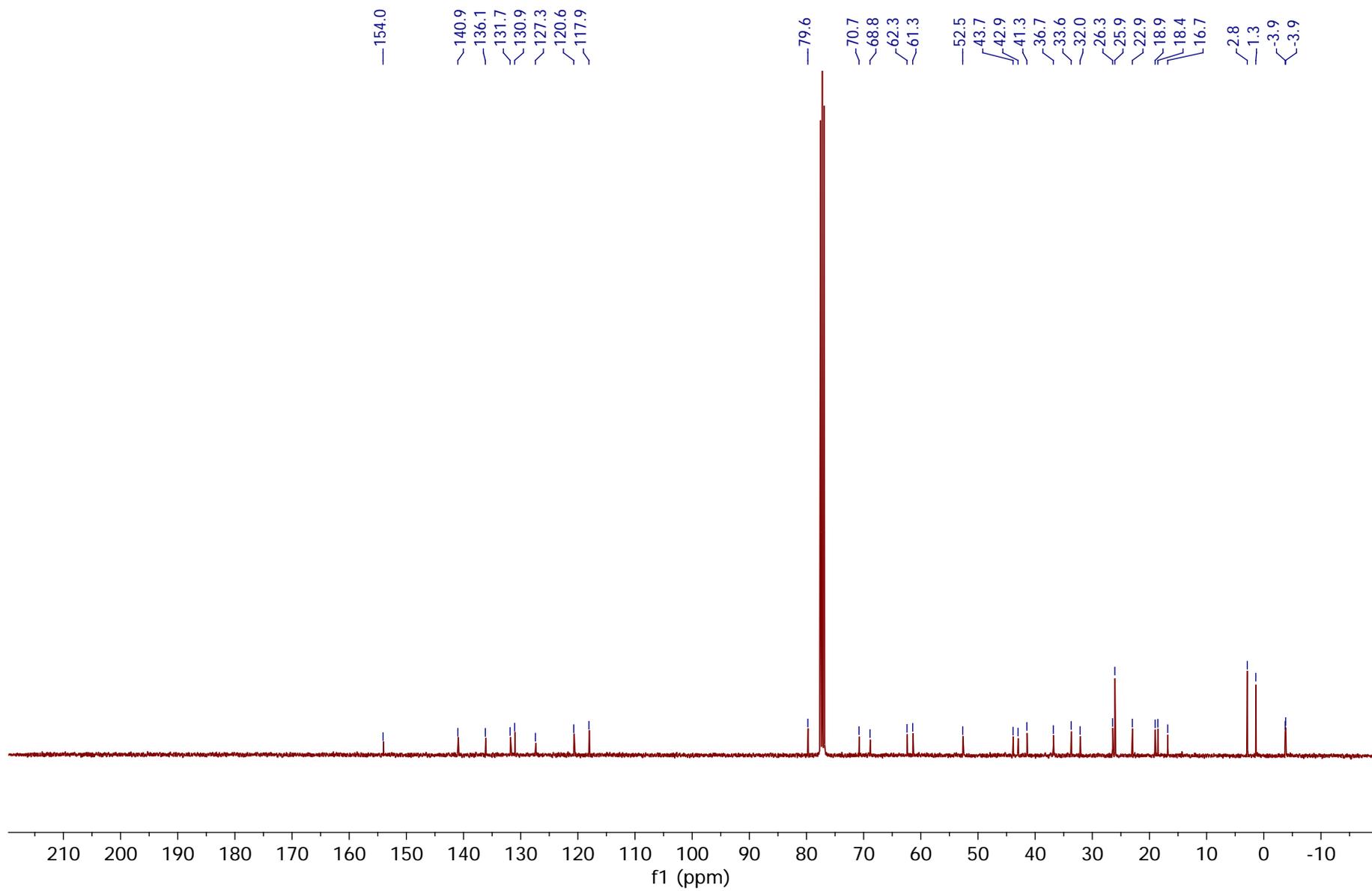


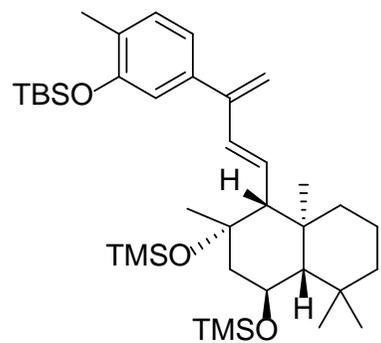




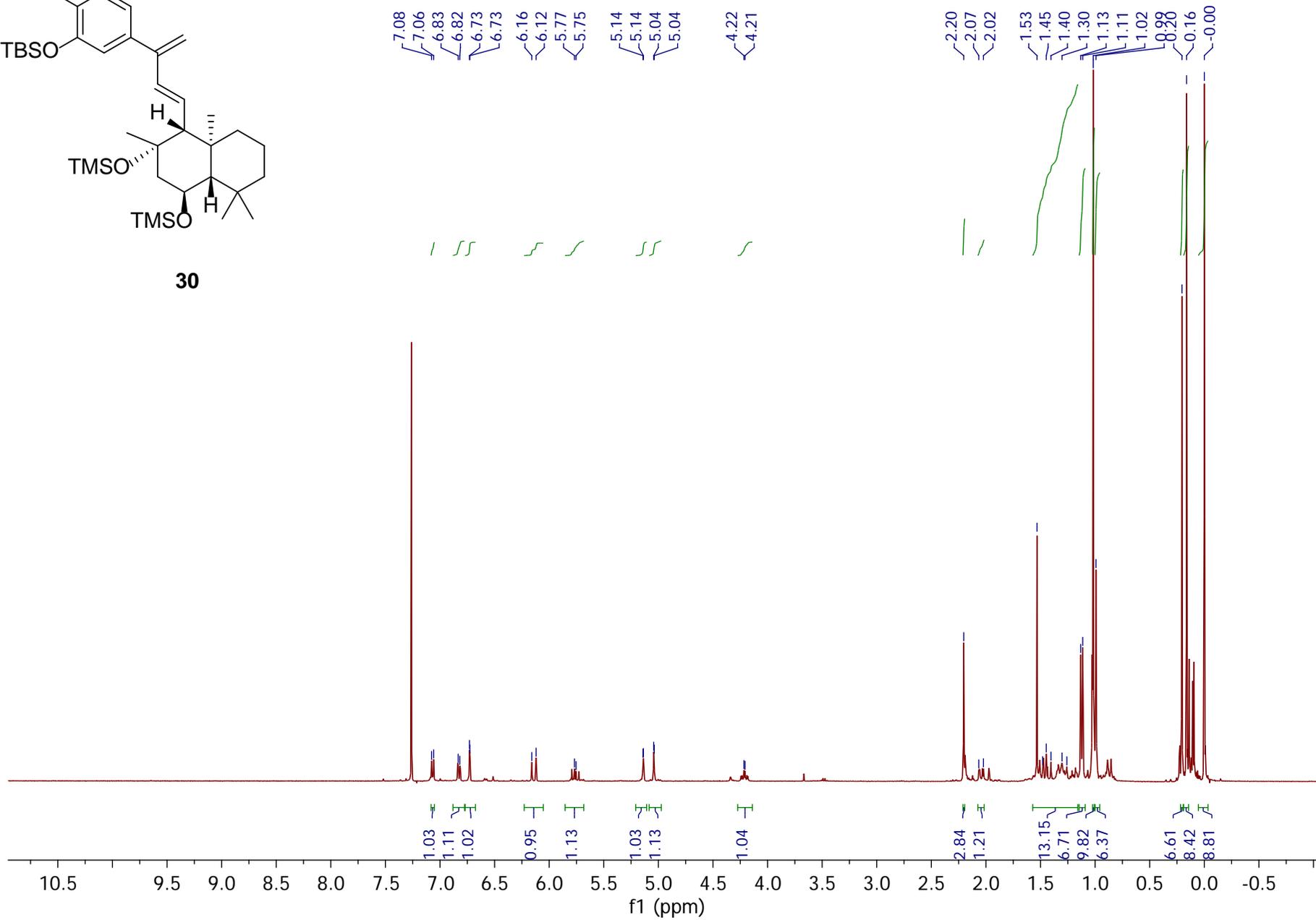
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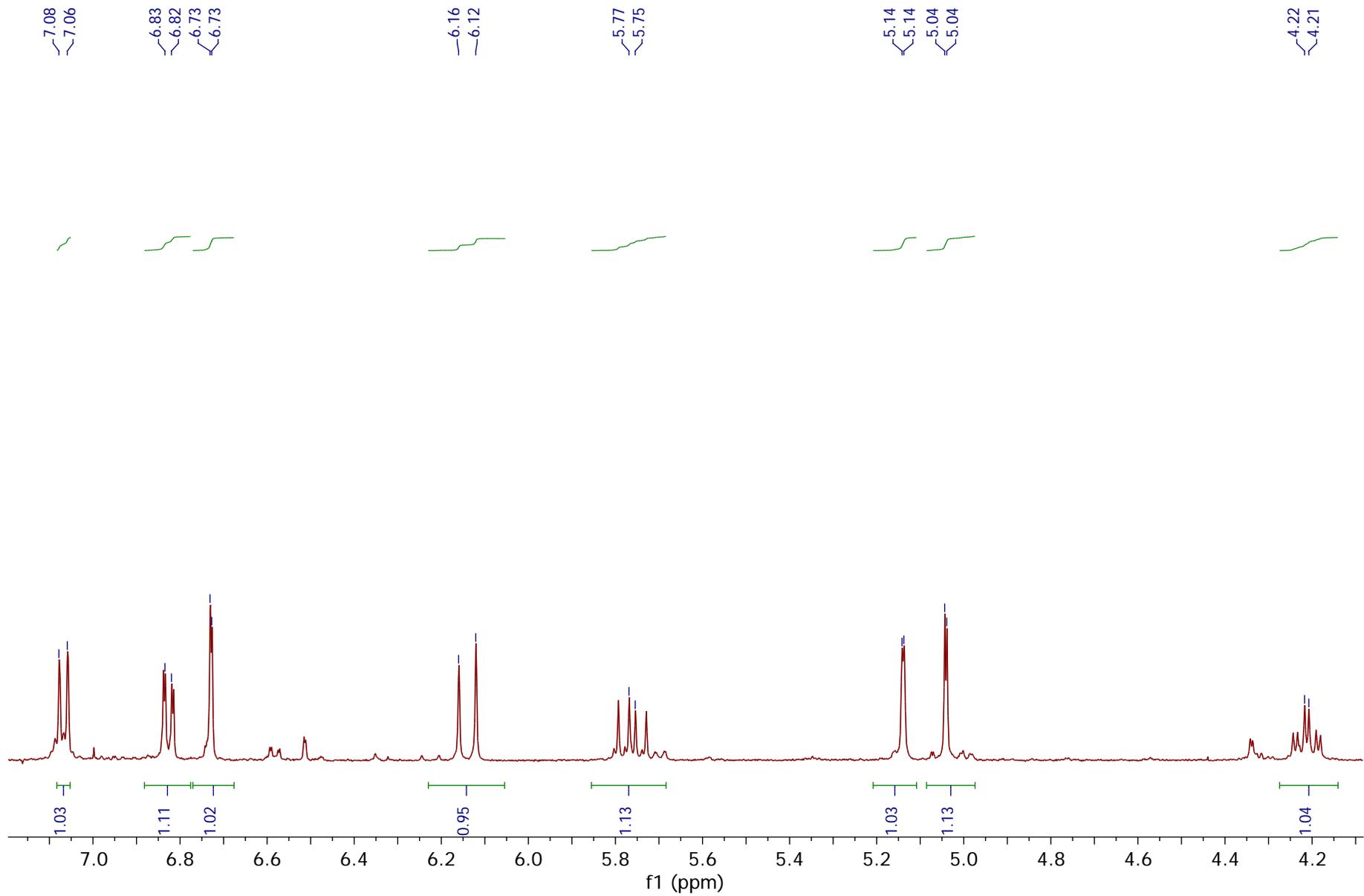


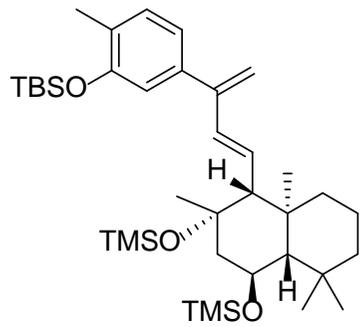




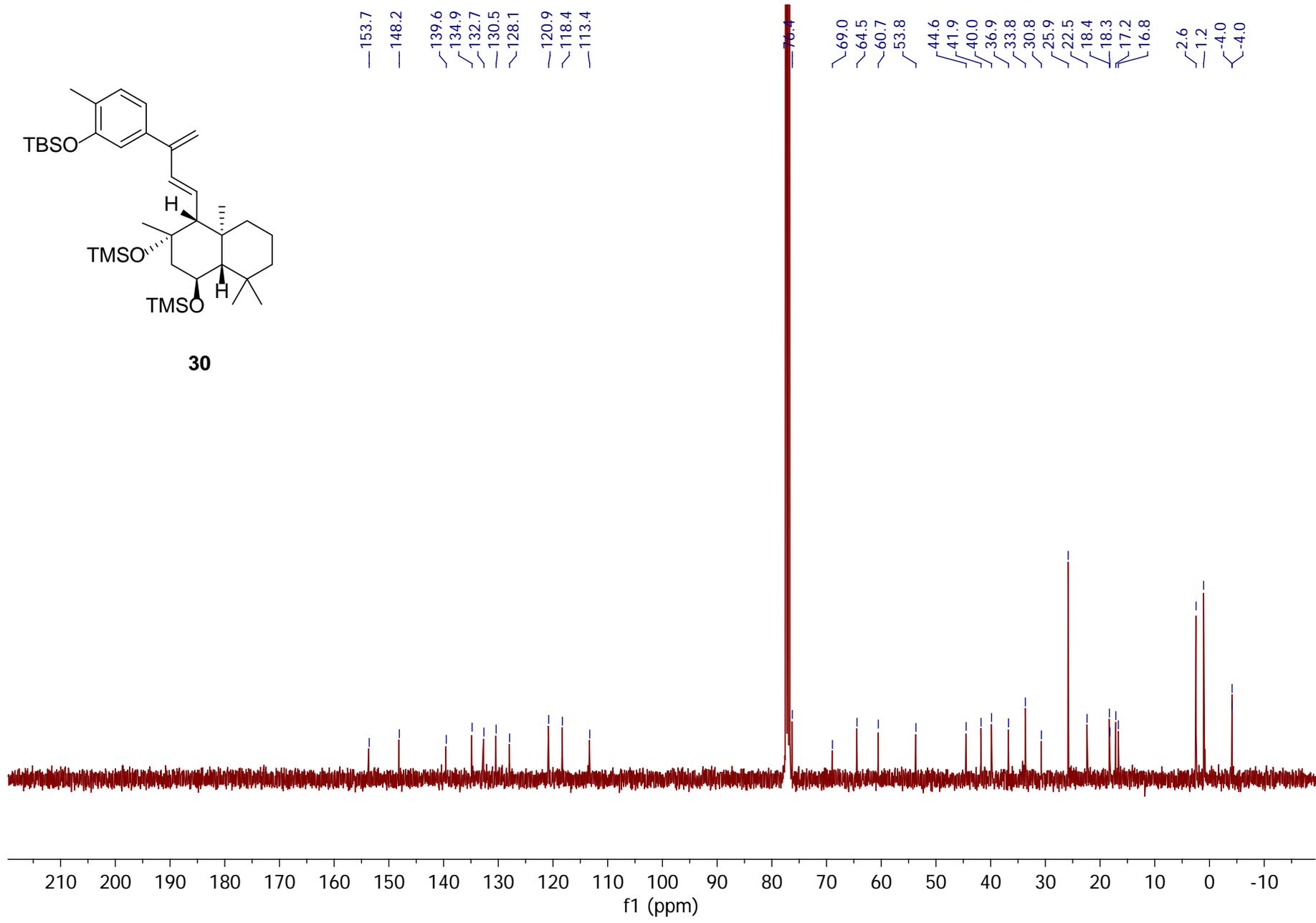
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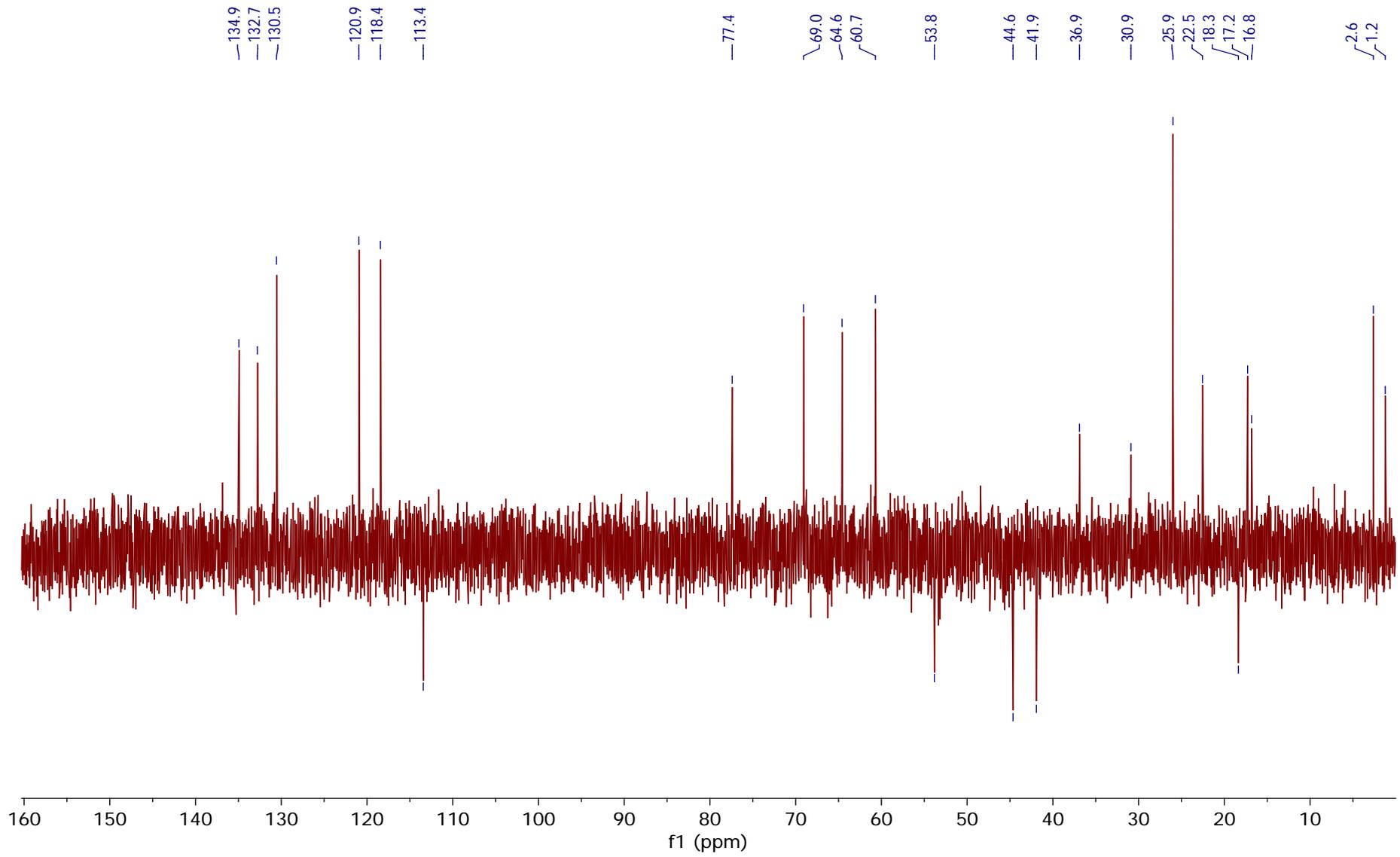






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