

Supporting Information

Metal Free Biomimetic Deaminative Direct C-C Coupling of Unprotected Primary Amines with Active Methylene Compounds

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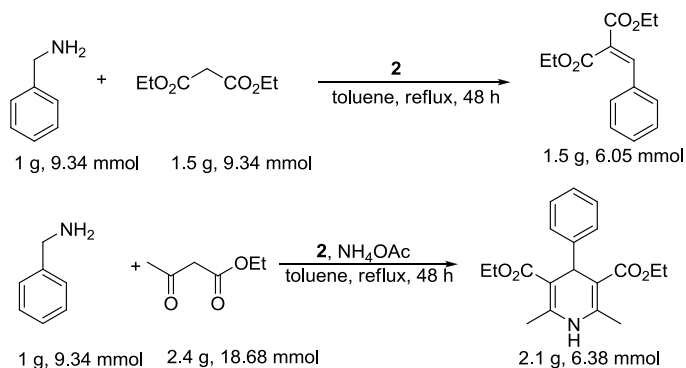
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Experimental:

General: All reactions involving air- or moisture-sensitive reagents or intermediates were carried out in oven-dried glassware under an argon atmosphere. Dichloromethane (CH_2Cl_2) was freshly distilled from phosphorus (V) oxide (P_2O_5). Commercial grade xylene, benzene and toluene were distilled over CaH_2 before use. All other solvents and reagents were purified according to standard procedures or were used as received from Aldrich, Acros, Merck and Spectrochem. ^1H , ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy: *Varian Mercury plus 400 MHz*, *Bruker 600 MHz* (at 298 K), *Bruker 400 MHz* (at 298 K). Chemical shifts, δ (in ppm), are reported relative to TMS δ (^1H) 0.0 ppm, δ (^{13}C) 0.0 ppm) which was used as the inner reference. Otherwise the solvents residual proton resonance and carbon resonance (CDCl_3 , δ (^1H) 7.26 ppm, δ (^{13}C) 77.2 ppm; DMSO-d_6 , (^1H) 2.50 ppm, δ (^{13}C) 39.6 ppm) were used for calibration. Column chromatography: Merck or Spectrochem silica gel 60-120 under gravity. MS (ESI-HRMS): Mass spectra were recorded on an Agilent Accurate-Mass Q-TOF LC/MS 6520, and peaks are given in m/z (% of basis peak).

Scheme s1: Gram scale synthesis



The major byproduct of the reaction, 9-Fluorenone, which was isolated easily, can be recycled after its conversion to 9-Fluorenone imine.

Table s1: Optimization of the reaction conditions for the synthesis of dihydropyridines.^a

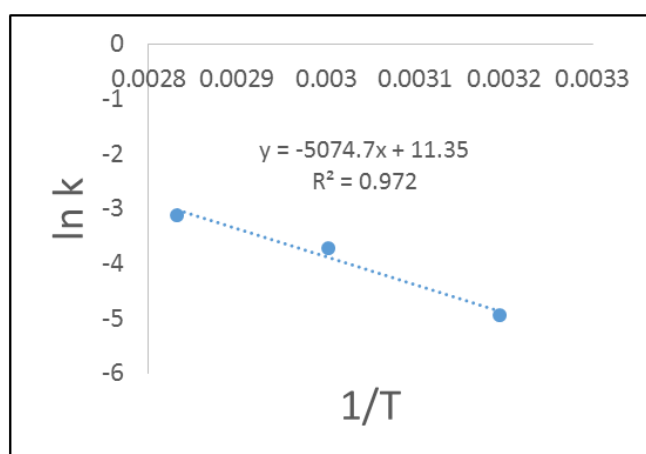
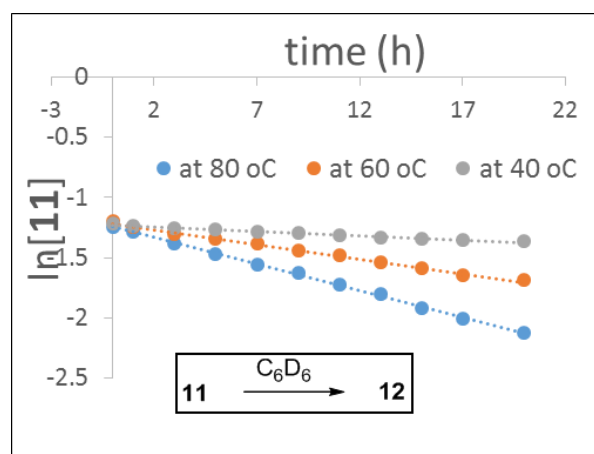
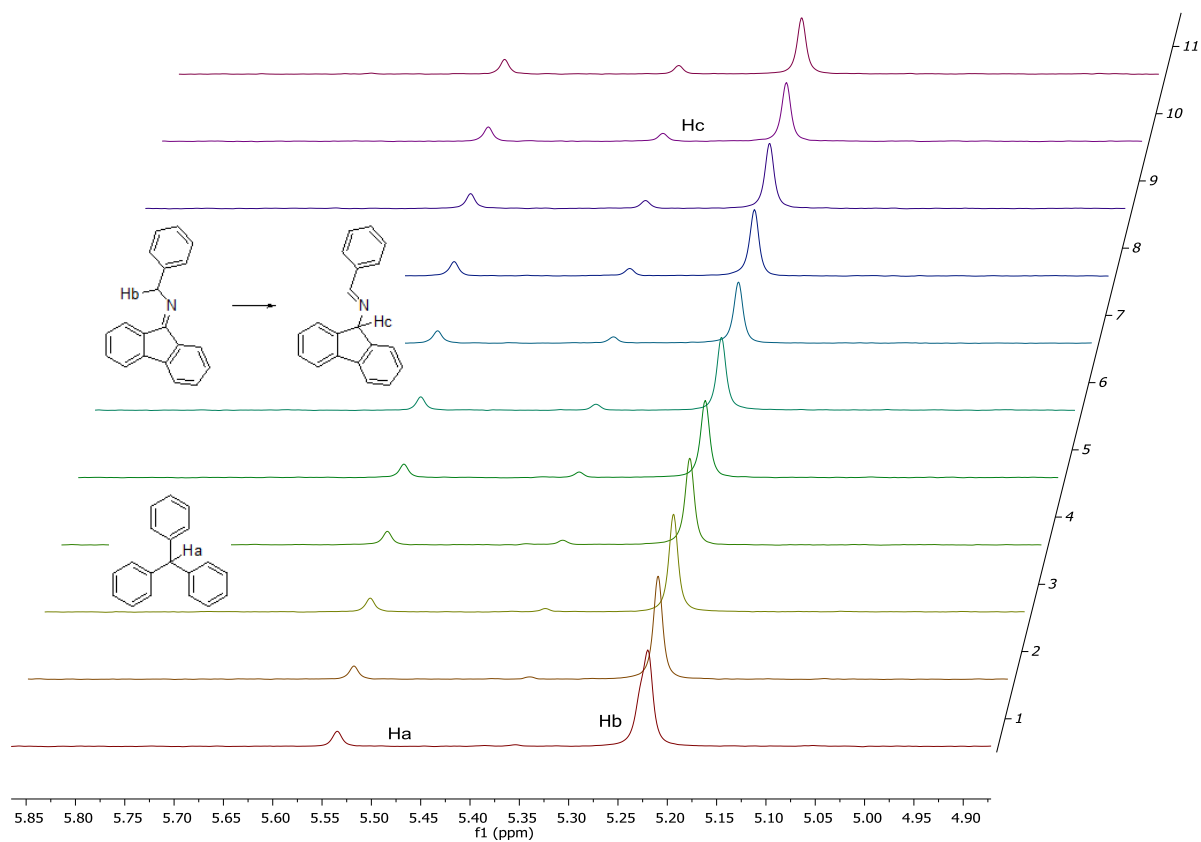
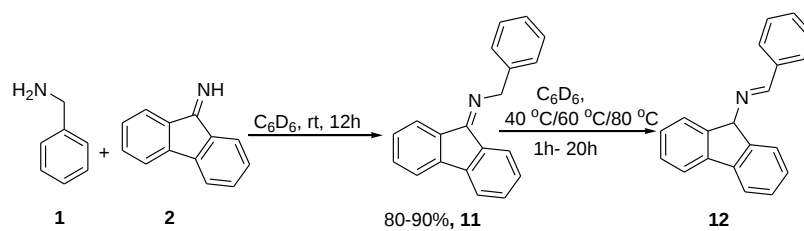
entry	conditions	yield ^b
1	toluene, rt, 12 h	0
2	toluene, reflux, 12 h	10
3	toluene, reflux, 24 h	12
4	toluene, reflux, 48 h	13
5	toluene, close tube, 48 h	45
6	neat, close tube, 48 h	51
7	neat, close tube, 60 h	50
8	toluene, reflux, 48 h, NH ₄ OAc (1 eq)	63
9	toluene, reflux, 48 h, NH₄OAc (2 eq)	68
10	toluene, reflux, 48 h, NH ₄ OAc (3 eq)	67
11	toluene, reflux, 60 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	69

12	toluene, reflux, 36 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	53
13	toluene, reflux, 24 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	45
14	toluene, reflux, 12 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	35
15	xylene, reflux, 48 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	68
16	xylene, reflux, 24 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	48
17	DCE, reflux, 48 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	40
18	MeOH, reflux, 48 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	25
19	DMF, reflux, 48 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	50
20	benzene, reflux, 48 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	48
21	DCM, reflux, 48 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	12
22	neat, 130 °C, 48 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	67
23	neat, 130 °C, 48 h, NH ₄ OAc (1 eq)	64
24	neat, MW, 120 °C, 45 min, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	60
25	toluene, MW, 120 °C, 45 min, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	58
26	THF, reflux, 48 h, NH ₄ OAc (2 eq)	35

^a1eq (0.56 mmol) benzyl amine, 1eq 9-fluorenone imine (0.56 mmol), and 2 eq ethylacetoacetate (1.12 mmol) were reacted in 2 mL solvent. ^bIsolated yield.

Kinetic experiments:

In a NMR tube, benzylamine (30 mg, 0.28 mmol) was added to a solution of 9-fluorenone imine **2** (50 mg, 0.28 mmol) and triphenylmethane (13.8 mg, 0.056 mmol) in benzene-d₆ (0.75 mL) and the solution was kept 12 h in room temperature. The yield of the imine **11** was calculated to be 80-90% from the ¹H NMR experiment. Then the mixture was heated and the time dependent concentrations of **11** was calculated using ¹H-NMR experiments.



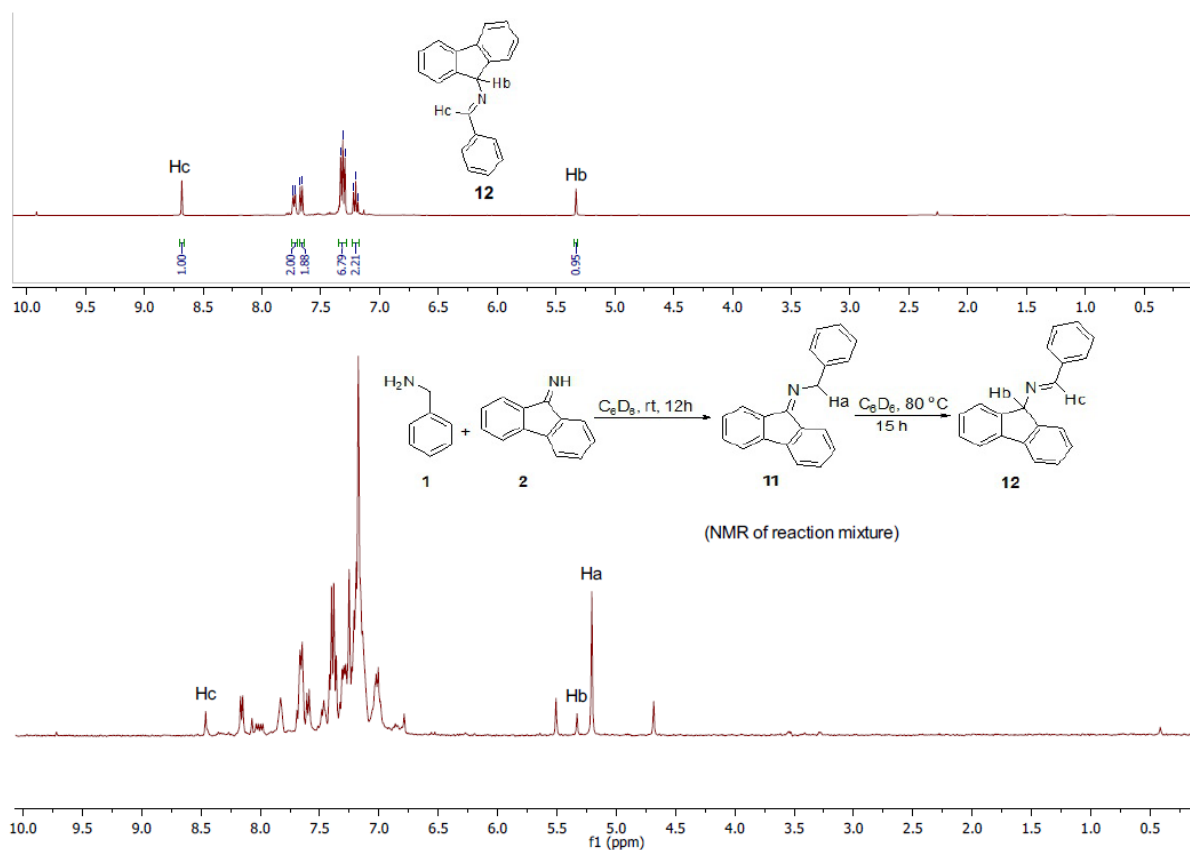
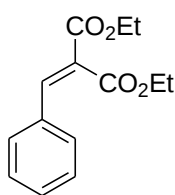


Figure S1: Identification of **12**.

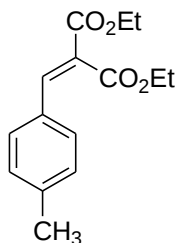
General procedure for the synthesis of olefin (GP I): Amine (0.56 mmol) was added to a solution of 9-fluorenone imine (0.56 mmol) in toluene (2 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Active methylene compound (0.56 mmol) was then added to the mixture and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 48 h under argon atmosphere (placing argon balloon). After disappearance of starting materials (indicated by TLC) solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was subjected to column chromatography (silica) to afford analytically pure products.

Diethyl 2-benzylidenemalonate (3a)^(1b): According to GP I, benzylamine (60 mg, 0.56 mmol),



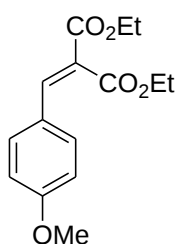
9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3a** as a colorless oil (97 mg, 70%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.46 - 7.3 (m, 2H), 7.39 - 7.34 (m, 3H), 4.35 - 4.27 (m, 4H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.9, 164.3, 142.3, 133.1, 130.7, 129.6, 129.0, 126.5, 61.9, 61.8, 14.3, 14.1 ppm.

Diethyl 2-(4-methylbenzylidene)malonate (3b)^(1b): According to GP I, 4-methylbenzylamine



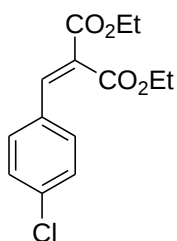
(68 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3b** as a colorless oil (99 mg, 67%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.37 - 4.27 (m, 4H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.34 - 1.29 (m, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 167.2, 164.5, 142.4, 141.4, 130.3, 129.8, 129.8, 125.4, 61.9, 61.6, 21.7, 14.4, 14.1 ppm.

Diethyl 2-(4-methoxybenzylidene)malonate (3c)^(1b): According to GP I, 4-methoxybenzylamine



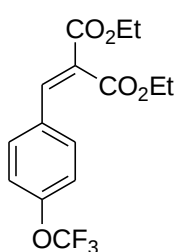
(77 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3c** as a colorless oil (0.10 g, 64%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.36 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.34 - 1.31 (m, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 167.4, 164.6, 161.7, 141.9, 131.7, 125.5, 123.7, 114.4, 61.8, 61.6, 55.5, 14.3, 14.1 ppm.

Diethyl 2-(4-chlorobenzylidene)malonate (3d)^(1b): According to GP I, 4-chlorobenzylamine (79



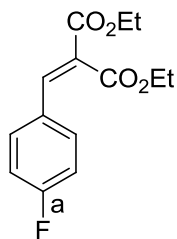
mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3d** as a colorless oil (0.11 g, 69%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.40 - 7.34 (m, , 4H), 4.36 - 4.28 (m, 4H), 1.35 - 1.28 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.6, 164.1, 140.9, 136.8, 131.6, 130.8, 129.3, 127.1, 62.1, 62.0, 14.3, 14.1 ppm.

Diethyl 2-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzylidene)malonate (3e): According to GP I, 4-



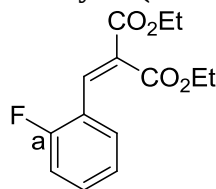
trifluoromethoxybenzylamine (0.11 g, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3e** as a colorless oil (0.13 g, 68%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.36 - 4.29 (m, 4H), 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.5, 164.1, 150.7 (4 peaks, CF₃), 140.5, 131.7, 131.2, 127.4, 121.1, 62.1, 62.1, 14.3, 14.1 ppm. HRMS: Exact mass calculated for C₁₅H₁₅F₃O₅ ([M+H]⁺): 333.0944, Found: 333.0961.

Diethyl 2-(4-fluorobenzylidene)malonate (3f)^(1b): According to GP I, 4-Fluorobenzylamine (70



mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.03 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3f** as a colorless oil (0.10 g, 68%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.47 - 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.06 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.35 - 4.28 (m, 4H), 1.34 - 1.28 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.8, 164.9 (a), 164.2, 163.2 (a), 141.0, 131.8, 131.6, 129.6, 129.3, 129.3, 129.0, 126.3, 126.3, 116.3, 116.2, 62.0, 61.9, 14.3, 14.1 ppm.

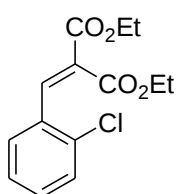
Diethyl 2-(2-fluorobenzylidene)malonate (3g)^(1c): According to GP I, 2-fluorobenzylamine (70



mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3g** as a colorless oil (89 mg, 60%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H),

7.39 - 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.13 - 7.06 (m, 2H), 4.33 - 4.26 (m, 4H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.1, 163.8, 162.1 (a), 159.6 (a), 134.8, 134.6, 132.4, 132.3, 129.4, 129.4, 128.2, 128.2, 124.3, 124.3, 121.4, 121.2, 116.0, 115.8, 61.8, 61.7, 14.1, 13.9 ppm.

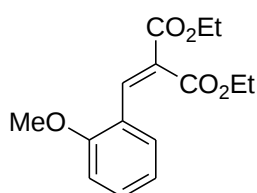
Diethyl 2-(2-chlorobenzylidene)malonate (3h)^(1c): According to GP I, 2-chlorobenzylamine (79



mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3h** as a colorless oil (0.10 g, 65%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.03 (s, 1H),

7.44 - 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.33 - 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.1, 163.9, 139.5, 134.9, 132.2, 131.4, 130.1, 129.5, 129.0, 127.0, 62.1, 61.9, 14.3, 14.0 ppm.

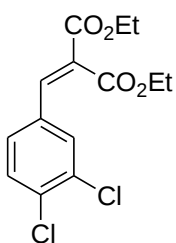
Diethyl 2-(2-methoxybenzylidene)malonate (3i)^(1f): According to GP I, 2-methoxybenzylamine



(77 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3i** as a colorless oil (0.11 g, 70%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.07 (s,

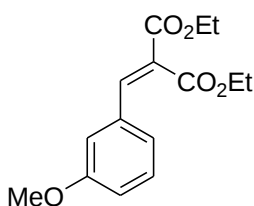
1H), 7.38 - 7.33 (m, 2H), 6.90 - 6.87 (m, 2H), 4.30 - 4.24 (m, 4H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.9, 164.5, 158.1, 138.4, 132.1, 129.3, 126.3, 122.4, 120.6, 110.9, 61.6, 61.5, 55.6, 14.3, 14.0 ppm.

Diethyl 2-(3,4-dichlorobenzylidene)malonate (3j)^(1d): According to GP I, 3,4-



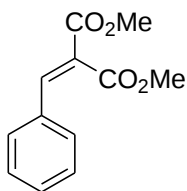
dichlorobenzylamine (98 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3j** as a colorless oil (0.12 g, 65%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.38 - 4.29 (m, 4H), 1.33 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.2, 163.8, 139.4, 134.9, 133.4, 133.1, 131.2, 131.0, 128.6, 128.3, 62.2, 62.2, 14.3, 14.2 ppm.

Diethyl 2-(3-methoxybenzylidene)malonate (3k)^(1f): According to GP I, 3-methoxybenzylamine



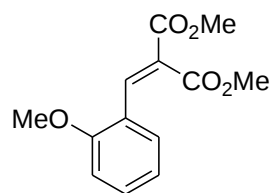
(77 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3k** as a colorless oil (0.1 g, 64%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.32 - 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.08 - 7.06 (m, 1H), 7.02 - 7.01 (m, 1H), 6.97-6.96 (m, 1H), 4.38 - 4.31 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.36 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.9, 164.3, 159.9, 142.2, 134.4, 130.0, 126.8, 122.2, 116.7, 114.5, 61.9, 61.9, 55.5, 14.4, 14.1 ppm.

Dimethyl 2-benzylidenemalonate (3l)^(1e): According to GP I, benzylamine (60 mg, 0.36 mmol),



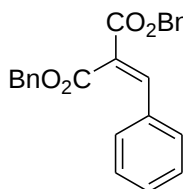
9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and dimethylmalonate (64 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:15) of crude product gave **3l** as a colorless oil (77 mg, 62%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.43 - 7.37 (m, 5H), 3.84 (s, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.4, 164.7, 143.2, 132.9, 130.9, 129.6, 129.1, 125.6, 53.0, 52.9 ppm.

Dimethyl 2-(2-methoxybenzylidene)malonate (3m)^(1g): According to GP I, 2-



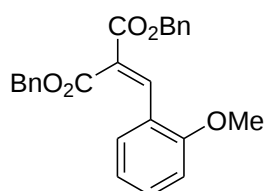
methoxybenzylamine (77, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and dimethylmalonate (64 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:15) of crude product gave **3m** as a colorless oil (88 mg, 63%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.38 - 7.32 (m, 2H), 6.93 - 6.89 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.4, 164.9, 158.2, 139.3, 132.4, 129.2, 125.4, 122.3, 120.7, 111.1, 55.7, 52.7, 52.6 ppm.

Dibenzyl 2-benzylidenemalonate (3n)^(1c): According to GP I, benzylamine (60 mg, 0.56 mmol),



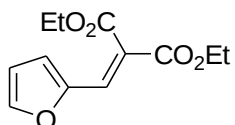
9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and dibenzylmalonate (0.14 mL, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:10) of crude product gave **3n** as a colorless oil (0.13 g, 64%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.39 - 7.28 (m, 15H), 5.313 (s, 2H), 5.309 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.5, 164.1, 143.4, 135.7, 135.0, 132.8, 130.8, 129.7, 129.0, 128.97, 128.78, 128.73, 128.65, 128.48, 128.22, 125.8, 67.8, 67.4 ppm.

Dibenzyl 2-(2-methoxybenzylidene)malonate (3o): According to GP I, 2-methoxybenzylamine



(77 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and dibenzylmalonate (0.14 mL, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:10) of crude product gave **3o** as a colorless oil (0.16 g, 72%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.37 - 7.23 (m, 12H), 6.89 - 6.75 (m, 2H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 5.24 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.6, 164.3, 158.2, 139.7, 135.8, 135.2, 132.3, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 125.6, 122.2, 120.7, 111.0, 67.5, 67.2, 55.6 ppm. HRMS: Exact mass calculated for C₂₅H₂₂O₂ ([M+H]⁺): 403.1540, Found: 403.1555.

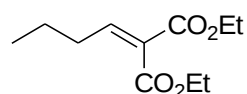
Diethyl 2-((furan-2-yl)methylene)malonate (3p)^(1a): According to GP I, furfurylamine (54 mg,



0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μ L, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3p** as a colorless oil (80 mg,

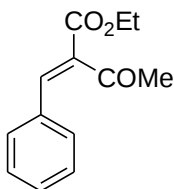
60%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.46 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 6.71 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.44 - 6.43 (m, 1H), 4.34 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.3, 164.2, 149.03, 146.2, 127.5, 122.0, 118.0, 112.7, 61.7, 61.6, 14.2, 14.1 ppm.

Diethyl 2-butylidenemalonate (3q): According to GP I, butylamine (40 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and diethylmalonate (85 μL , 0.56 mmol) were reacted for



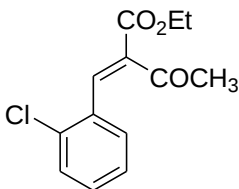
48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave **3q** as a colourless oil (61 mg, 51%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 6.99 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.31 - 4.28 (m, 2H), 4.25 - 4.21 (m, 2H), 2.29 - 2.25 (m, 2H), 1.55 - 1.48 (m, 2H), 1.34 - 1.31 (m, 3H), 1.30 - 1.28 (m, 3H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 165.7, 164.0, 149.3, 128.8, 61.3, 61.2, 31.7, 21.7, 14.2, 14.1, 13.8 ppm.

(E/Z)-ethyl 2-benzylidene-3-oxobutanoate (3r)^(4j): According to GP I, benzylamine (60 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol)) and Ethyl acetoacetate (71 μL , 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica



gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave a mixture of E/Z (1.3:1) isomer of **3r** as a colorless oil (76 mg, 62%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.46 - 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.41 - 7.37 (m, 8H), 4.35 - 4.28 (m, 4H), 2.43 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.33 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 203.8, 194.9, 168.0, 164.6, 141.5, 140.7, 134.8, 134.2, 133.1, 133.06, 130.9, 130.6, 129.9, 129.7, 129.1, 129.1, 62.0, 61.8, 31.5, 26.8, 14.4, 14.1 ppm.

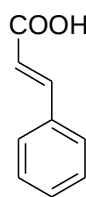
(E/Z)-ethyl 2-(2-chlorobenzylidene)-3-oxobutanoate (3s): According to GP I, 2-Chlorobenzylamine (79 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and Ethyl acetoacetate (71 μL , 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column



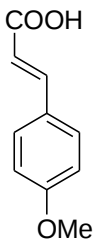
chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:20) of crude product gave a mixture of E/Z (1.5:1) isomer of **3s** as a colorless oil (91 mg, 64%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.36 - 7.32 (m, 4H), 7.25

- 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.17 - 7.11 (m, 2H), 4.25 - 4.19 (m, 2H), 4.16 - 4.11 (m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 2H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.24 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 1.07 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 202.0, 194.6, 166.8, 164.1, 138.3, 137.5, 136.8, 136.5, 134.7, 134.4, 132.1, 131.9, 131.4, 131.2, 130.2, 129.9, 129.9, 129.3, 127.1, 127.0, 61.8, 6.7, 31.3, 26.8, 14.2, 13.9$ ppm.

Cinnamic acid (3t)^(3h): According to GP I: Benzylamine (60 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine 2 (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and malonic acid (58 mg, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) of crude product gave **3t** as a white solid (58 mg, 70%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.81$ (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 - 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.42 - 7.41 (m, 3H), 6.47 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 172.9, 147.3, 134.2, 131.0, 129.2, 128.6, 117.5$ ppm.

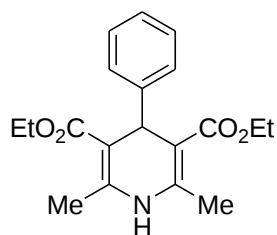


(E)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylic acid (3u)⁽³ⁱ⁾: According to GP I: 4-Methoxybenzylamine (77 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine 2 (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and malonic acid (58 mg, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) of crude product gave **3u** as a white solid (68 mg, 68%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.75$ (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.32 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 172.1, 162.0, 146.9, 130.3, 127.1, 114.8, 114.6, 55.6$ ppm.



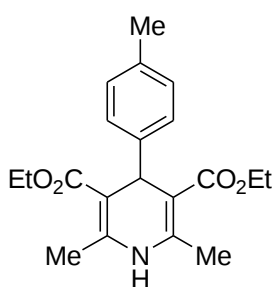
General procedure for the synthesis of dihydropyridine (GP II): Amine (0.56 mmol) was added to a solution of 9-fluorenone imine (0.56 mmol) in toluene (2 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Active methylene compound (1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (1.12 mmol) was then added to the mixture and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 48 h under argon atmosphere (placing argon balloon). After disappearance of starting materials (indicated by TLC) solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was subjected to column chromatography (silica) to afford analytically pure products.

Diethyl-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-phenylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6a)^(2a): According to



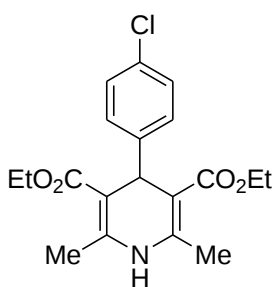
GP II, benzylamine (60 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6a** as a yellow gum (0.13 g, 68%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.29 - 7.26 (m, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 4.14 - 4.02 (m, 4H), 2.30 (s, 6H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.7, 147.8, 144.1, 128.0, 127.8, 126.1, 104.0, 59.7, 39.7, 19.5, 14.3 ppm.

Diethyl-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-p-tolylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6b)^(2c): According to



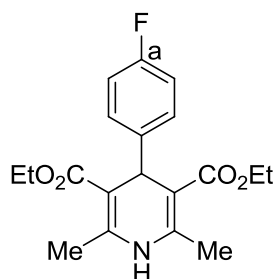
GP II, 4-methylbenzylamine (68 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6b** as a yellow gum (0.13 g, 69%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.17 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 4.11 - 4.05 (m, 4H), 2.31 (s, 6H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.9, 145.1, 144.0, 135.7, 128.7, 128.0, 104.4, 59.9, 39.3, 21.3, 19.8, 14.5 ppm.

Diethyl-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6c)^(2a):



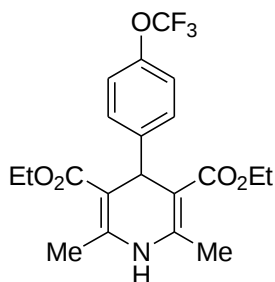
According to GP II, 4-chlorobenzylamine (79 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6c** as a yellow gum (0.13 g, 65%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.22 - 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.17 - 7.15 (m, 2H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.123 - 4.04 (m, 4H), 2.32 (s, 6H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.6, 146.5, 144.2, 131.9, 129.6, 128.1, 104.1, 60.0, 39.5, 19.8, 14.5 ppm.

Diethyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6d)^(2c):



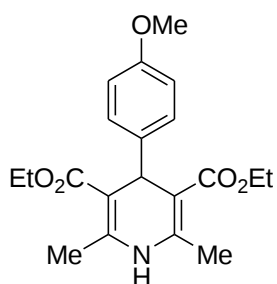
According to GP II, 4-fluorobenzylamine (0.70 g, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6d** as a yellow gum (0.12 g, 64%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.24 - 7.22 (m, 2H), 6.90 - 6.86 (m, 2H), 5.67 (s, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.14 - 4.03 (m, 4H), 2.32 (s, 6H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.7, 162.3 (a), 160.7 (a), 144.0, 143.9, 143.8, 129.7, 129.6, 114.8, 114.6, 104.4, 60.0, 39.2, 19.8, 14.5 ppm.

Diethyl-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)pyridine-3,5dicarboxylate (6e): According to GP II, 4-trifluoromethoxybenzylamine (107 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone



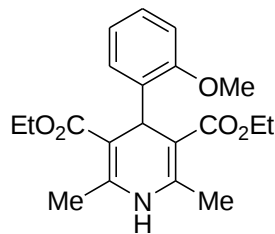
imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6e** as a yellow gum (0.16 g, 68%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.28 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.82 (s, 1H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 4.13 - 4.03 (m, 4H), 2.32 (s, 6H), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.3, 151.6, 144.3, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 124.89 (CF₃), 124.86 (CF₃), 124.82 (CF₃), 124.78 (CF₃), 103.6, 59.9, 19.7, 19.6, 14.3 ppm. HRMS: Exact mass calculated for C₂₀H₂₂F₃NO₅ ([M+H]⁺): 414.1523, Found: 414.1514.

Diethyl-1,4-dihydro-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6f)^(2b):



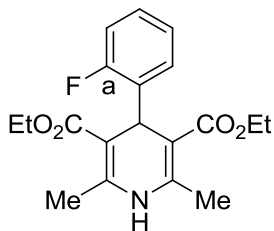
According to GP II, 4-methoxybenzylamine (77 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6f** as a yellow gum (0.14 g, 65%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.97 (br. s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.13 - 4.04 (m, 4H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 6H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.9, 158.0, 143.9, 140.5, 129.1, 113.3, 104.5, 59.9, 55.3, 38.9, 19.7, 14.5 ppm.

Diethyl-1,4-dihydro-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6g)^(2d):



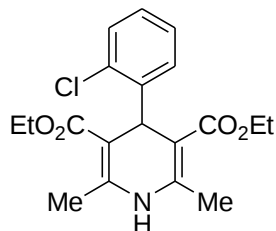
According to GP II, 2-methoxybenzylamine (77 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6g** as a yellow gum (0.14 g, 67%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.21 - 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.11 - 7.07 (m, 1H), 6.82 - 6.77 (m, 2H), 5.74 (br. s, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 4.04 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 6H), 1.18 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 168.3, 157.3, 143.9, 135.5, 130.8, 127.5, 120.2, 110.8, 103.3, 59.7, 55.5, 35.5, 19.7, 14.4 ppm.

Diethyl-4-(2-fluorophenyl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6h)^(2b):



According to GP II, 2-fluorobenzylamine (70 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6h** as a yellow gum (0.12 g, 62%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.31 - 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.10 - 7.07 (m, 1H), 7.00 - 6.97 (m, 1H), 6.91 - 6.88 (m, 1H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 4.09 - 4.00 (m, 4H), 2.30 (s, 6H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.8, 160.8 (a), 159.1 (a), 144.5, 135.2, 135.1, 131.3, 131.3, 127.90, 127.9, 123.8, 123.8, 115.2, 115.0, 103.2, 59.9, 34.3, 19.7, 14.2 ppm.

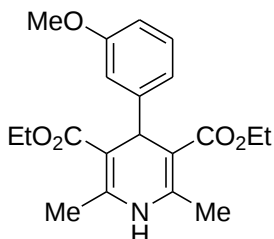
Diethyl-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6i)^(2c):



According to GP II, 2-chlorobenzylamine (79 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6i** as a yellow gum (0.13 g, 65%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.36 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (td, J = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (td, J = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (s, 1H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 4.08-4.04 (m, 4H), 2.24 (s, 6H), 1.18

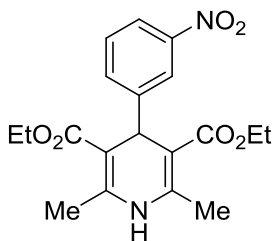
(t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 168.0, 145.8, 144.5, 132.5, 131.7, 129.4, 127.4, 126.8, 103.7, 59.9, 37.6, 19.4, 14.4$ ppm.

Diethyl-1,4-dihydro-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6j)^(2h):



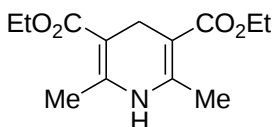
According to GP II, 3-methoxybenzylamine (77 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6j** as a yellow gum (0.14 g, 71%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.11$ (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 - 6.83 (m, 1H), 6.68 - 6.65 (m, 1H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 4.12 - 4.05 (m, 4H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 6H), 1.22 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 167.8, 159.4, 149.5, 144.2, 128.9, 120.7, 114.4, 111.0, 104.2, 60.0, 55.3, 39.7, 19.8, 14.5$ ppm.

Diethyl-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)pyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6k)^(2d):



According to GP II: 3-Nitrobenzylamine (85 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6k** as a yellow gum (0.13 g, 63%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 8.06$ (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 1H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 5.02 (s, 1H), 4.025-3.97 (m, 4H), 2.29 (s, 6H), 1.15 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 167.3, 150.1, 148.3, 144.9, 134.7, 128.8, 123.3, 121.5, 103.6, 60.2, 40.2, 19.9, 14.4$ ppm.

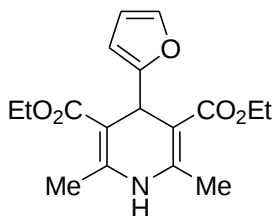
Diethyl 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6l)^(2c): According to GP II,



methylamine hydrochloride (38 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:2) of crude product gave **6l** as a yellow solid (22 mg, 15%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 5.40$ (s, 1H), 4.14 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 3.24 (s,

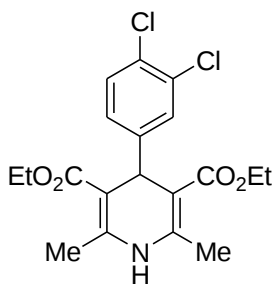
2H), 2.17 (s, 6H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 168.3, 145.2, 99.6, 59.9, 25.0, 19.3, 14.7$ ppm.

Diethyl 4-(furan-2-yl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6m)^(2a):



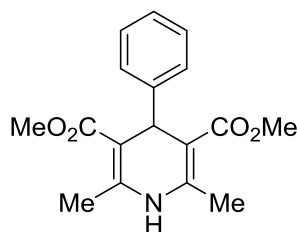
According to GP II, furfurylamine (54 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6m** as a yellow gum (0.12 g, 67%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.20$ (s, 1H), 6.20 - 6.19 (m, 1H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 5.93 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 4.20 - 4.09 (m, 4H), 2.31 (s, 6H), 1.25 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 167.7, 158.8, 145.4, 141.0, 110.2, 104.6, 100.8, 60.0, 33.5, 19.7, 14.5$ ppm.

Diethyl-4-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6n)^(2f):



According to GP II, 3,4-dichlorobenzylamine (98 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6n** as a yellow gum (0.14 g, 63%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.32$ (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 4.14 - 4.03 (m, 4H), 2.32 (s, 6H), 1.23 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 167.4, 148.2, 144.5, 131.8, 130.3, 130.0, 129.9, 127.8, 103.6, 60.2, 39.5, 19.9, 14.5$ ppm.

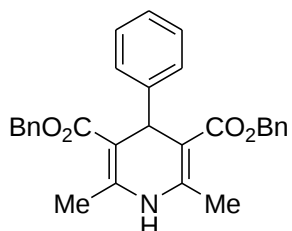
Dimethyl 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-phenylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6o)^(2a):



According to GP II, benzylamine (60 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), methyl acetoacetate (1.2 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6o** as a yellow gum (0.12 g, 70%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.20$ - 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.16 - 7.12 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.04 (m, 1H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 3.57 (s, 6H),

2.27 (s, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 168.2, 147.6, 144.4, 128.2, 127.8, 126.4, 104.1, 51.2, 39.4, 19.9 ppm.

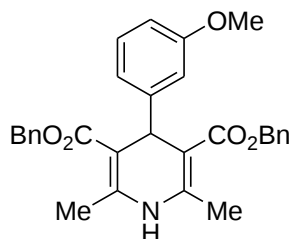
Dibenzyl 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-phenylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6p)^(2g): According to



GP II, benzylamine (60 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), benzyl acetoacetate (1.9 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6p** as a yellow gum (0.18 g, 70%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =

7.29 - 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.20 - 7.19 (m, 6H), 7.17 - 7.11 (m, 4H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 5.11 - 5.04 (m, 5H), 2.33 (s, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 167.5, 147.6, 144.6, 144.6, 136.7, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.9, 126.4, 104.1, 65.8, 39.7, 19.9 ppm.

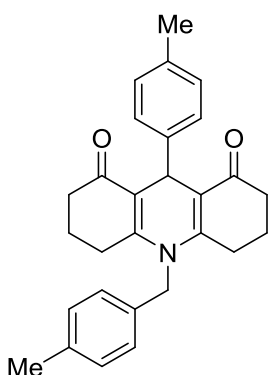
Dibenzyl 1,4-dihydro-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (6q):



According to GP I: According to GP II, 3-methoxybenzylamine (77 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), benzyl acetoacetate (1.9 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **6q** as a yellow gum (0.18 g,

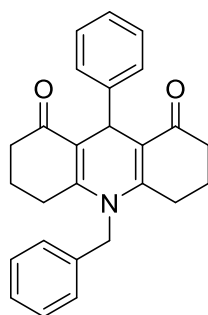
65%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.28 - 7.20 (m, 10H), 7.07 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.76 - 6.75 (m, 1H), 6.68 - 6.65 (m, 1H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 5.12 - 5.04 (m, 5H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 167.5, 159.5, 149.2, 144.8, 136.7, 129.0, 128.5, 128.0, 127.9, 120.7, 114.1, 111.7, 103.9, 65.8, 55.1, 39.7, 19.8 ppm. HRMS: Exact mass calculated for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_5$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 484.2118, Found: 484.2130.

10-(4-Methylbenzyl)-9-(p-tolyl)decahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (6r)^(2e): According to



GP I, 4-methylbenzylamine (0.135 g, 1.12 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and 1,2-cyclohexanedione (0.13 g, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) of crude product gave **6r** as a white solid (0.14 g, 62%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.20 - 7.18 (m, 4H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 2.68 - 2.64 (m, 2H), 2.50 - 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.37 - 2.34 (m, 2H), 2.31 - 2.28 (m, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.98 - 1.94 (m, 2H), 1.91 - 1.87 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 196.12, 152.43, 143.50, 137.84, 135.49, 133.99, 130.09, 128.92, 127.88, 125.41, 116.49, 48.83, 36.68, 31.48, 26.87, 21.64, 21.27, 21.25 ppm.

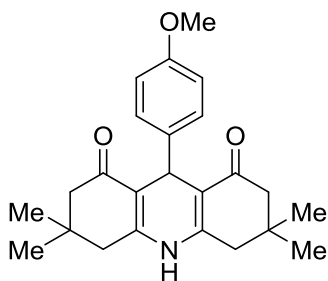
10-Benzyl-decahydro-9-phenylacridine-1,8(5*H*,8*aH*)-dione(6s)^(2e): According to GP I,



benzylamine (0.12 g, 1.12 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and cyclohexanedione (0.13 g, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) of crude product gave **6s** as a white solid (0.13 g, 60%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 - 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.14 - 7.11 (m, 1H), 5.44 (s, 1H), 4.96 (s, 2H), 2.72 - 2.67 (m, 2H), 2.53-2.48 (m, 2H), 2.44 - 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.35 - 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.03 -

1.98 (m, 2H), 1.96 - 1.89 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 196.1, 152.5, 146.3, 137.1, 129.5, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 126.2, 125.5, 116.5, 49.1, 36.7, 31.8, 26.9, 21.7 ppm.

Decahydro-9-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,3,6,6-tetramethylacridine-1,8(5*H*,8*aH*)-dione(6t)^(2e):

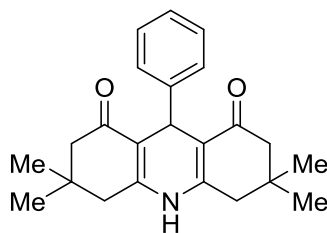


According to GP I, 4-methoxybenzylamine (77 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione (0.16 g, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) of crude product gave **6t** as a white solid (0.115 g, 54%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.85 (s, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 8.4

Hz, 2H), 5.02 (s, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.24 - 2.09 (m, 8H), 1.03 (s, 6H), 0.92 (s, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR

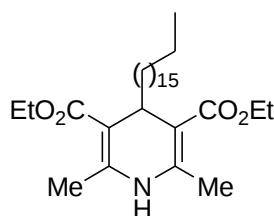
(151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 196.5, 157.7, 150.2, 139.4, 129.0, 113.3, 113.1, 55.1, 51.0, 40.4, 32.9, 32.7, 29.7, 27.1 ppm.

Decahydro-3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-9-phenylacridine-1,8(5*H*,8*aH*)-dione (6u)^(2e): According to



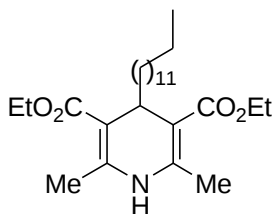
GP I, benzylamine (60 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione (0.16 g, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) of crude product gave **6u** as a white solid (97 mg, 50%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.66 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (s, 1H), 2.28 - 2.11 (m, 8H), 1.05 (s, 6H), 0.94 (s, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 195.5, 147.5, 146.5, 128.3, 128.2, 126.2, 114.1, 50.9, 41.5, 33.8, 32.9, 29.7, 27.4 ppm.

Diethyl-4-heptadecyl-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (7a): According



to GP II, octadecylamine (0.151 g, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:5) of crude product gave **7a** as a yellow gum (0.16 g, 58%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 5.54 (s, 1H), 4.23 - 4.11 (m, 4H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 6H), 1.30 - 1.21 (m, 38H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 168.4, 144.8, 103.6, 59.8, 37.1, 33.1, 32.1, 30.2, 30.0, 29.97, 29.93, 29.88, 29.58, 25.1, 22.9, 19.7, 14.6, 14.4 ppm (Less no carbon observed due to overlapping in aliphatic region). HRMS: Exact mass calculated for C₃₀H₅₃NO₄ ([M+H]⁺): 492.4047, Found: 492.4031.

Diethyl-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-tridecylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (7b): According to GP

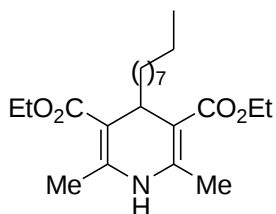


II, tetradecylamine (0.119 g, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:5) of crude product gave **7b** as a yellow gum (0.15 g, 60%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 5.51

(s, 1H), 4.24 - 4.12 (m, 4H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 1.30 - 1.18 (m, 30H), 0.87 (t, *J* =

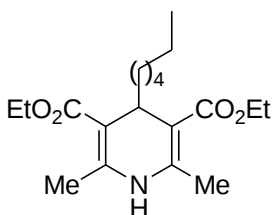
7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 168.4, 144.7, 103.6, 59.8, 37.1, 33.1, 32.1, 30.2, 30.01, 29.96, 29.93, 29.92, 29.88, 29.58, 25.1, 22.9, 19.7, 14.6, 14.4 ppm (Less no carbon observed due to overlapping in aliphatic region). HRMS: Exact mass calculated for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{45}\text{NO}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 436.3421, Found: 436.3434.

Diethyl-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-nonylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (7c)⁽²ⁱ⁾: According to GP



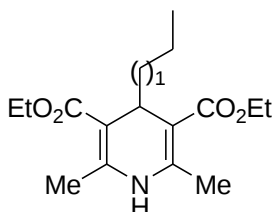
II, decylamine (88 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:5) of crude product gave **7c** as a yellow gum (0.131 g, 63%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 5.60 (s, 1H), 4.23 - 4.18 (m, 2H), 4.16 - 4.11 (m, 2H), 3.91 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 6H), 1.30 - 1.18 (m, 22H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 168.4, 144.8, 103.6, 59.8, 37.1, 33.1, 32.1, 30.2, 30.0, 29.9, 29.6, 25.1, 22.9, 19.7, 14.6, 14.3 ppm.

Diethyl-4-hexyl-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (7d)^(2j): According to GP



II, heptylamine (64 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **7d** as a yellow gum (0.116 g, 56%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 5.51 (s, 1H), 4.24 - 4.11 (m, 4H), 3.91 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 1.30 - 1.19 (m, 16H), 0.85 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 168.4, 144.8, 103.6, 59.8, 37.1, 33.1, 32.2, 29.8, 25.1, 23.0, 19.7, 14.6, 14.4 ppm.

Diethyl-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-propylpyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (7e)^(2k): According to

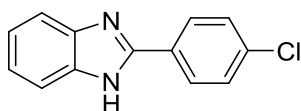


GP II, butylamine (41 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (1.4 mL, 1.12 mmol) and ammonium acetate (86 mg, 1.12 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:4) of crude product gave **7e** as a yellow gum (89 mg, 54%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 5.50 (s, 1H), 4.23 - 4.12 (m,

4H), 3.93 (t, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 1.30 - 1.18 (m, 10H), 0.84 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 168.4, 144.8, 103.6, 59.8, 39.4, 32.9, 19.7, 18.2, 14.6, 14.5$ ppm.

General procedure for the synthesis of benzimidazole (GP III): Amine (0.56 mmol) was added to a solution of 9-fluorenone imine (0.56 mmol) in toluene (2 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. o-Phenylenediamine (1.12 mmol) then added to the mixture and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 48 h under argon atmosphere (placing argon balloon). After disappearance of starting materials (indicated by TLC) solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was subjected to column chromatography (silica) to afford analytically pure products.

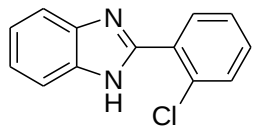
2-(4-methylphenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (9a)^(3a): According to GP III, 4-Chloroenzylamine



(79 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and o-phenylenediamine (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:3) of crude

product gave **9a** as a pale yellow solid (84 mg, 66%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) $\delta = 13.03$ (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.26 - 7.21 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d_6) $\delta = 150.3, 143.9, 135.2, 134.6, 129.1, 128.2, 122.8, 121.9, 119.0, 111.5, 99.6$ ppm.

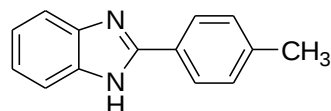
2-(2-chlorophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (9b)^(3a): According to GP III, 2-chloroenzylamine (79



mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and o-phenylenediamine (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:3) of crude product gave **9b** as

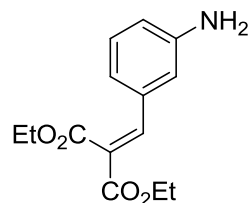
a white solid (80 mg, 63%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-D_6) $\delta = 12.78$ (s, 1H), 7.93 - 7.90 (m, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.67 - 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.64 - 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.28 - 7.25 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-D_6) $\delta = 149.6, 143.6, 135.1, 132.5, 132.1, 131.7, 130.8, 130.3, 127.9, 123.3, 122.2, 119.5, 112.2$ ppm.

2-p-tolyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (9c)^(3a): According to GP III, 4-methylenzylamine (68 mg, 0.56 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.10 g, 0.56 mmol) and o-phenylenediamine (60 mg, 0.56 mmol)



were reacted for 48 h and column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc:hexane, 1:3) of crude product gave **9b** as a white solid (72 mg, 62%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ = 12.88 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ = 150.3, 143.9, 135.2, 134.6, 129.1, 128.2, 122.8, 121.9, 119.0, 111.5, 99.6 ppm.

Diethyl 2-(3-aminobenzylidene) malonate (16): According to GP I, 2-aminobenzylamine (0.10 g, 0.82 mmol), 9-fluorenone imine **2** (0.22 g, 1.23 mmol) and diethylmalonate (0.13 mL, 0.82 mmol) were reacted for 48 h and solvent was

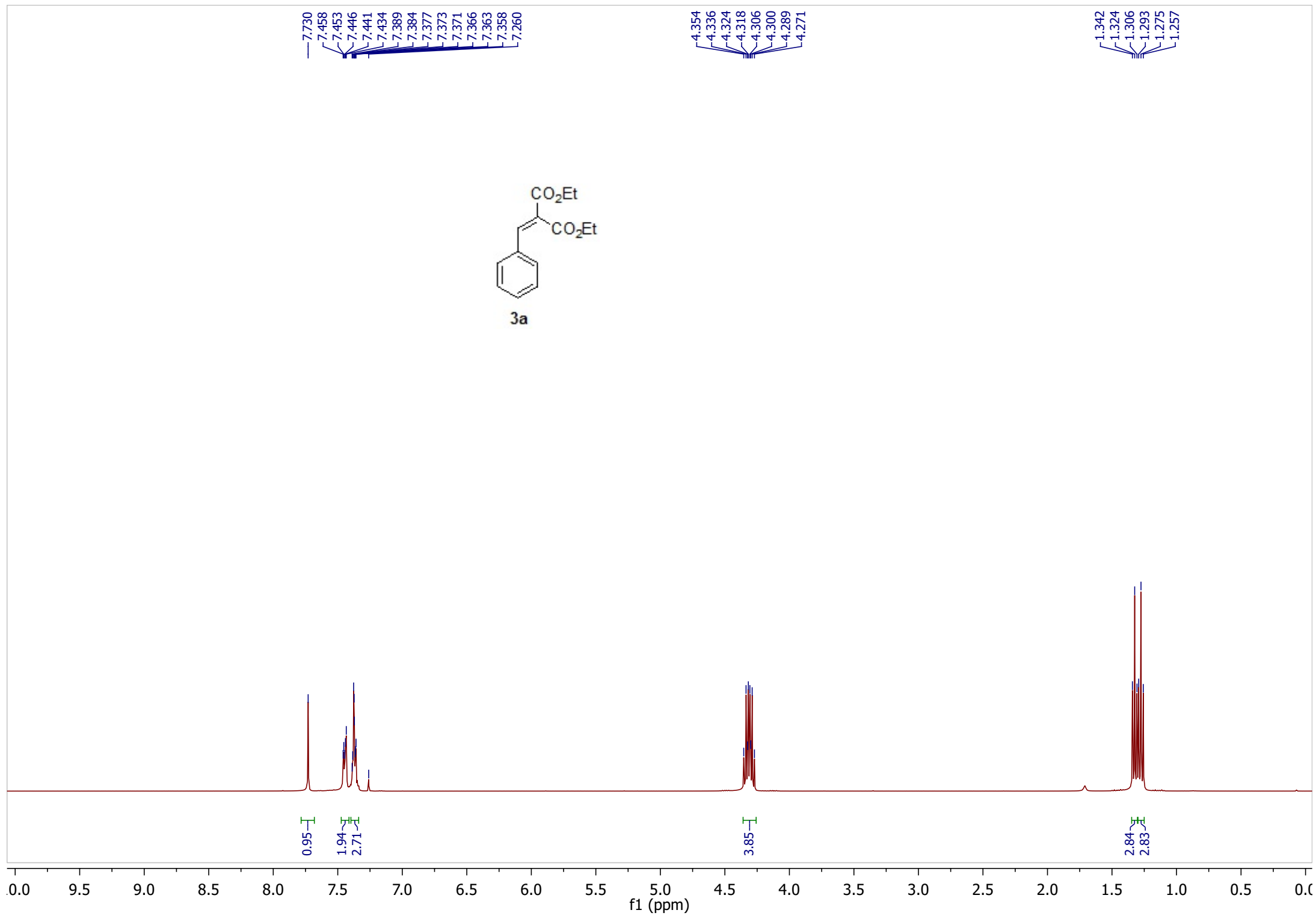


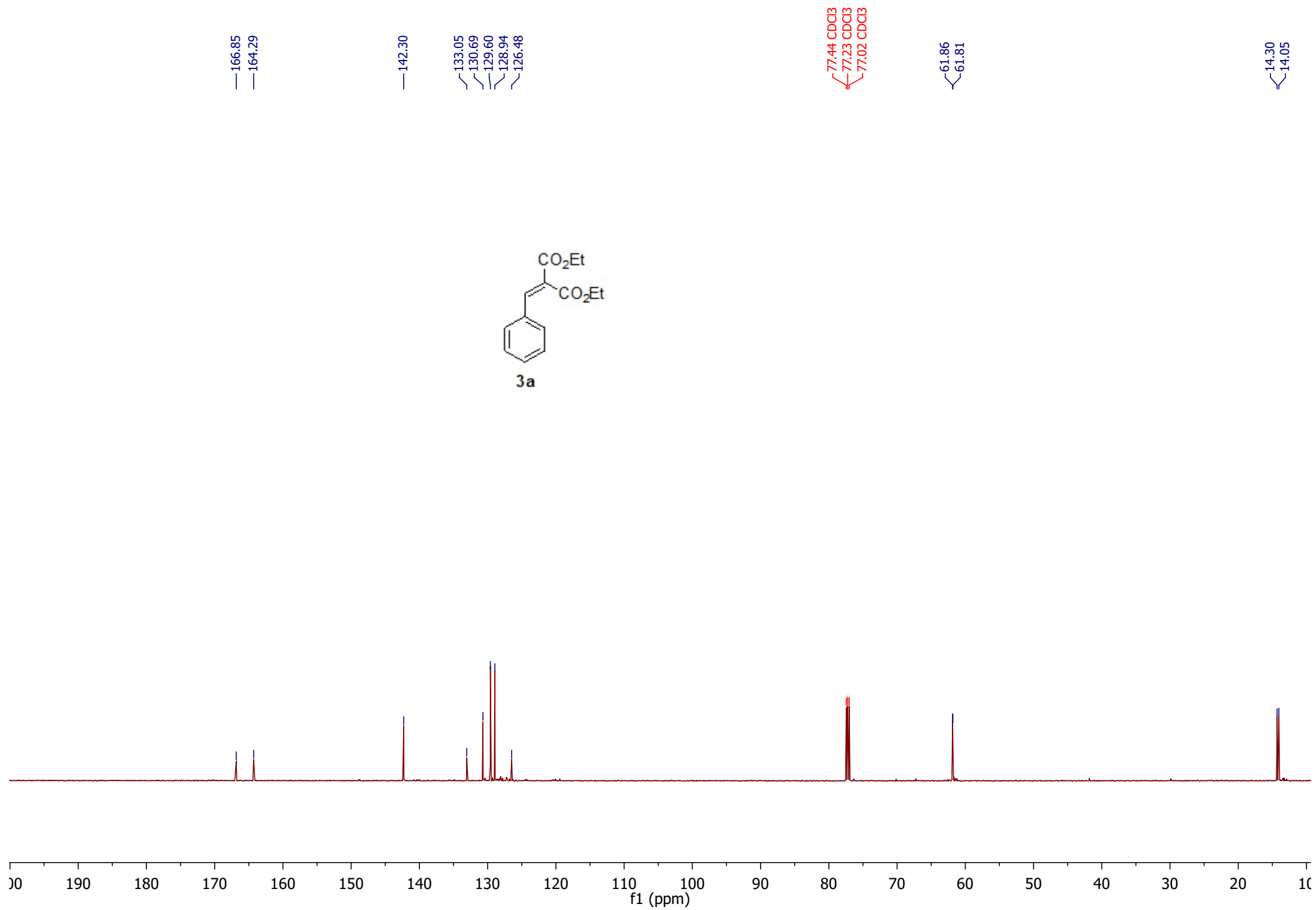
evaporated after cooling down the reaction mixture. Then crude mixture was dissolved in methanol and 1 (N) aq HCl was added to it. After 3 h stirring at rt, solvent was evaporated and reaction mixture was diluted by NaHCO₃ (10 mL) and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 X 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed successively with water (20 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate and the solvents were evaporated to get the crude reaction mixture which was subjected to column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAc: hexane, 1:4) to obtain analytically pure product (**16**) as a pale yellow oil (0.12 g, 54%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.85 – 6.84 (m, 1H), 6.82 – 6.79 (m, 1H), 4.35 – 4.27 (m, 4H), 2.52 (s, 2H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.0, 164.3, 144.6, 142.3, 134.2, 123.0, 126.6, 121.4, 118.6, 116.9, 62.0, 61.9, 14.4, 14.1 ppm.

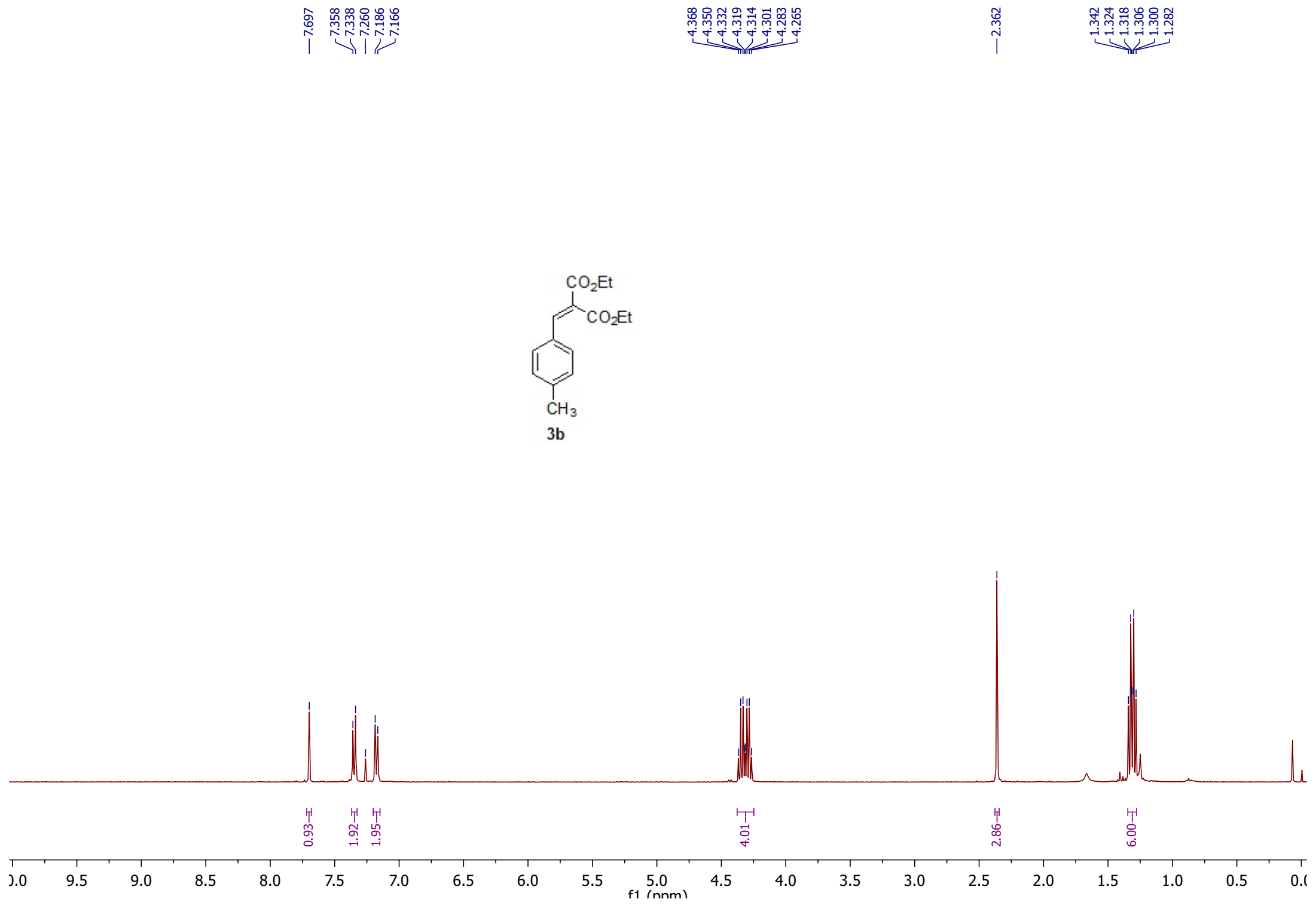
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167.16
164.52

142.36
141.36

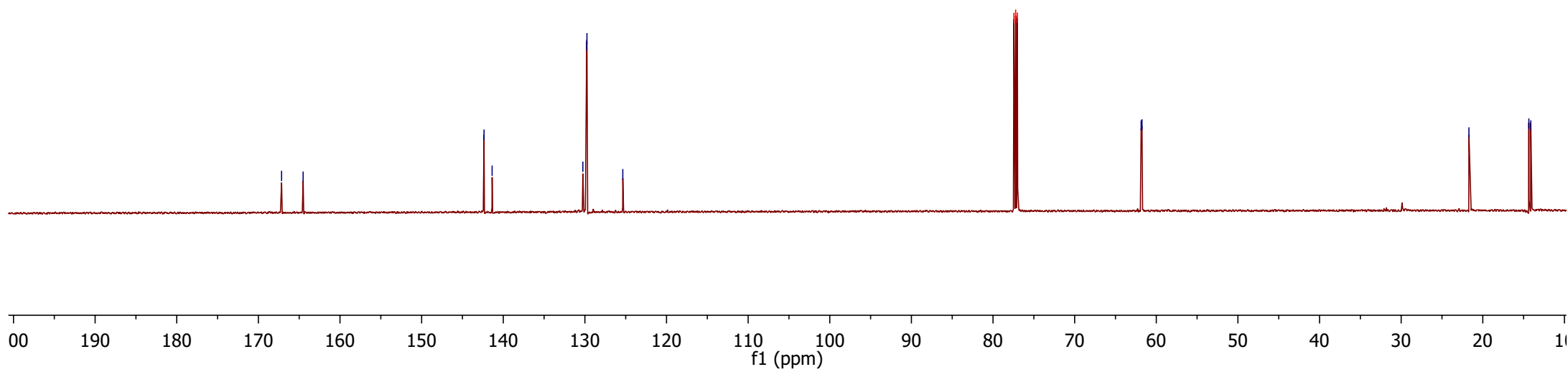
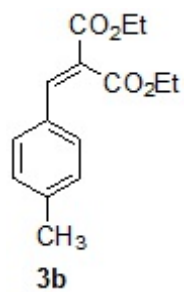
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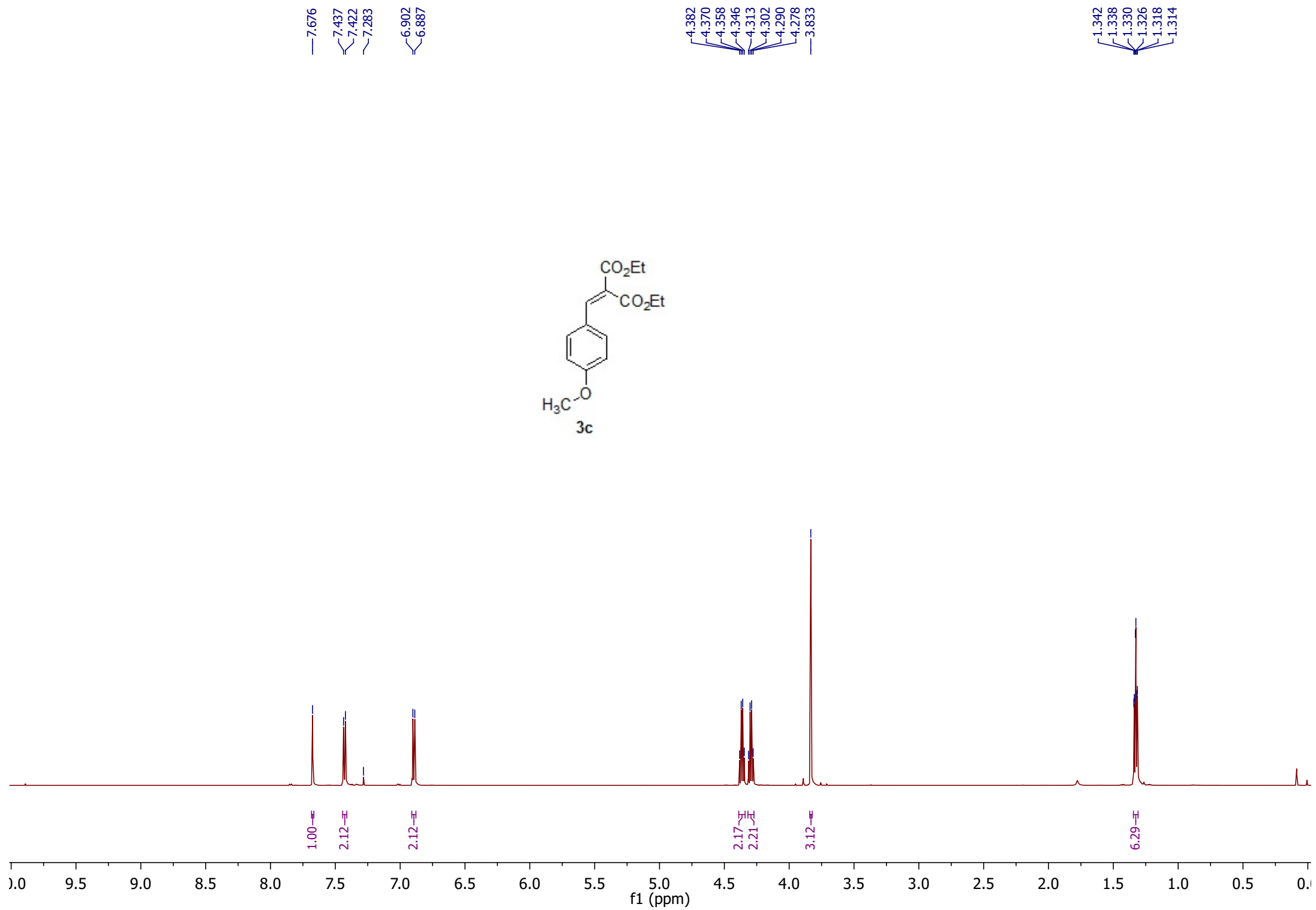
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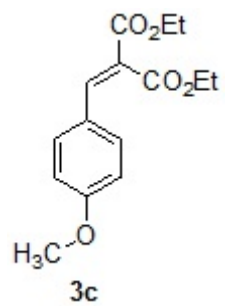
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14.36
14.12







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131.73

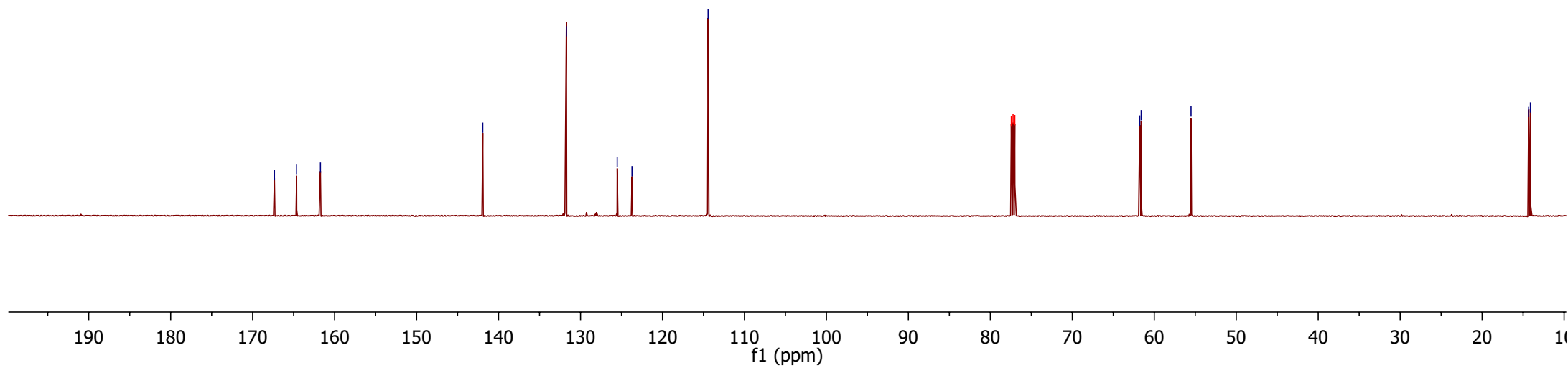
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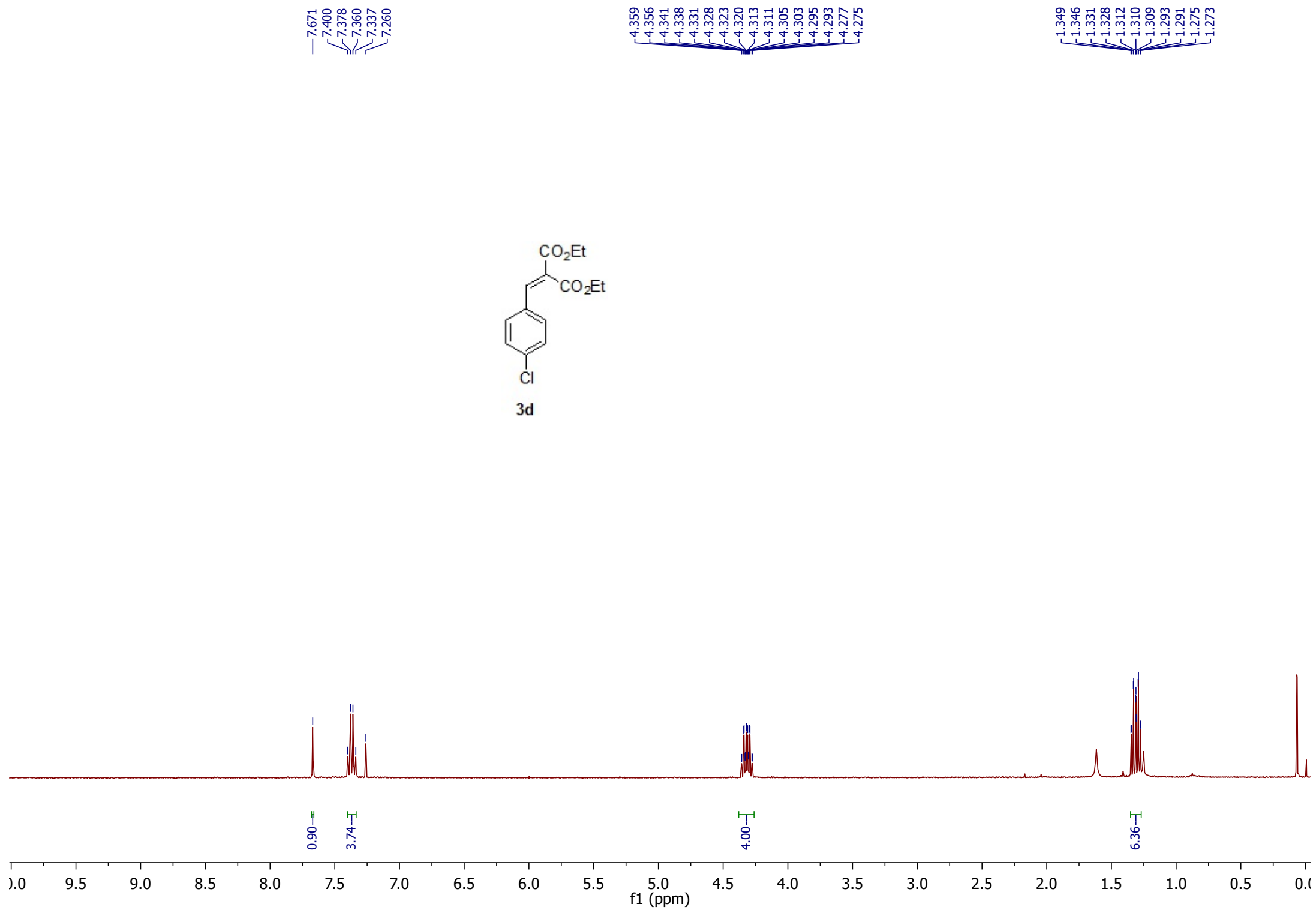
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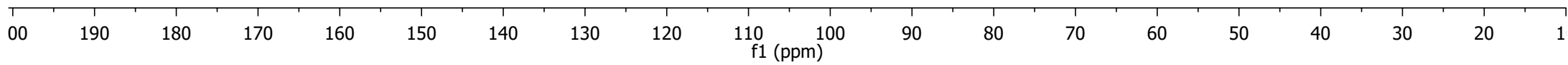
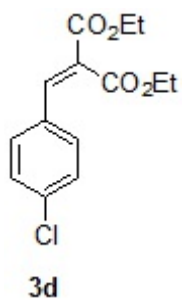
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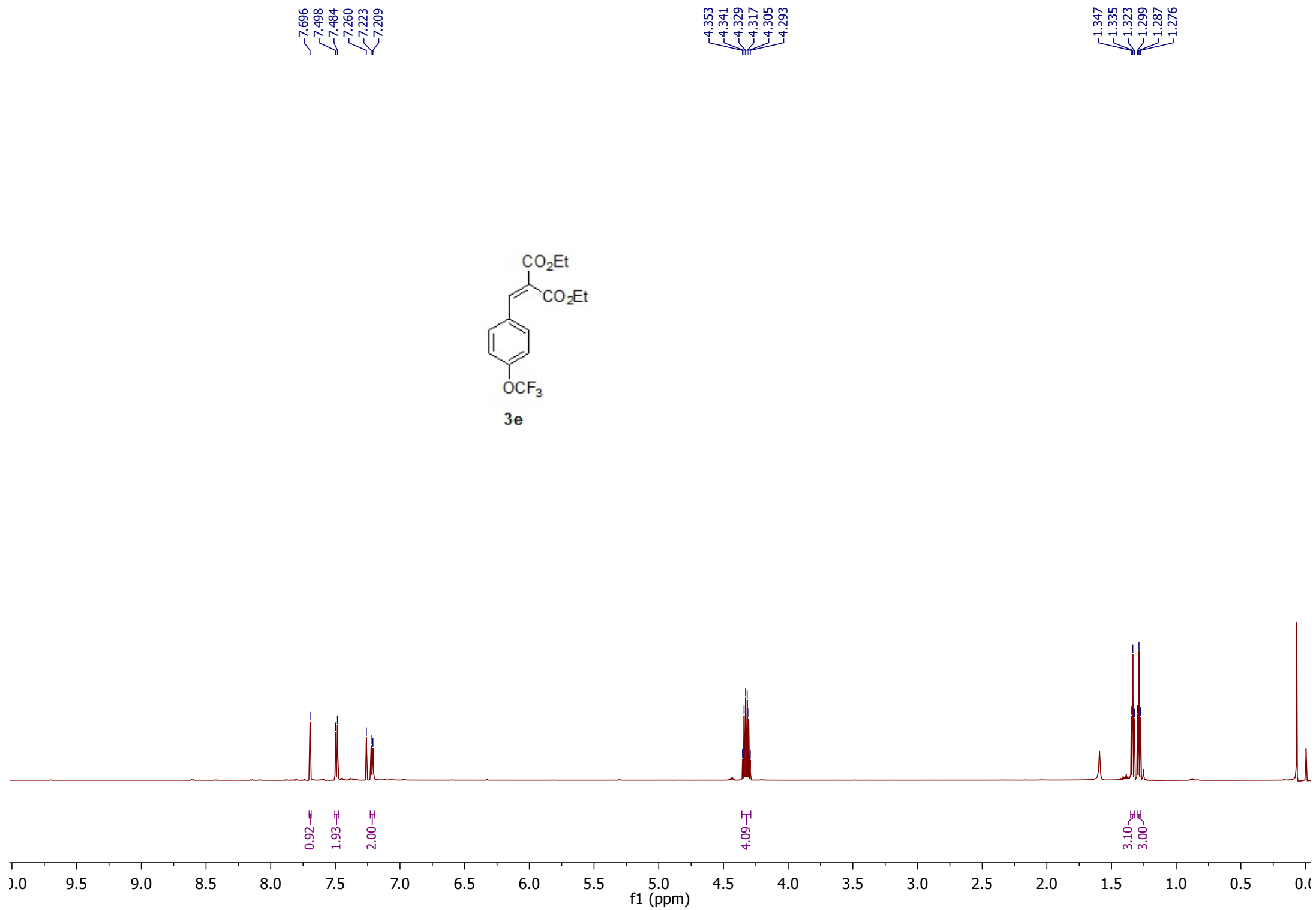
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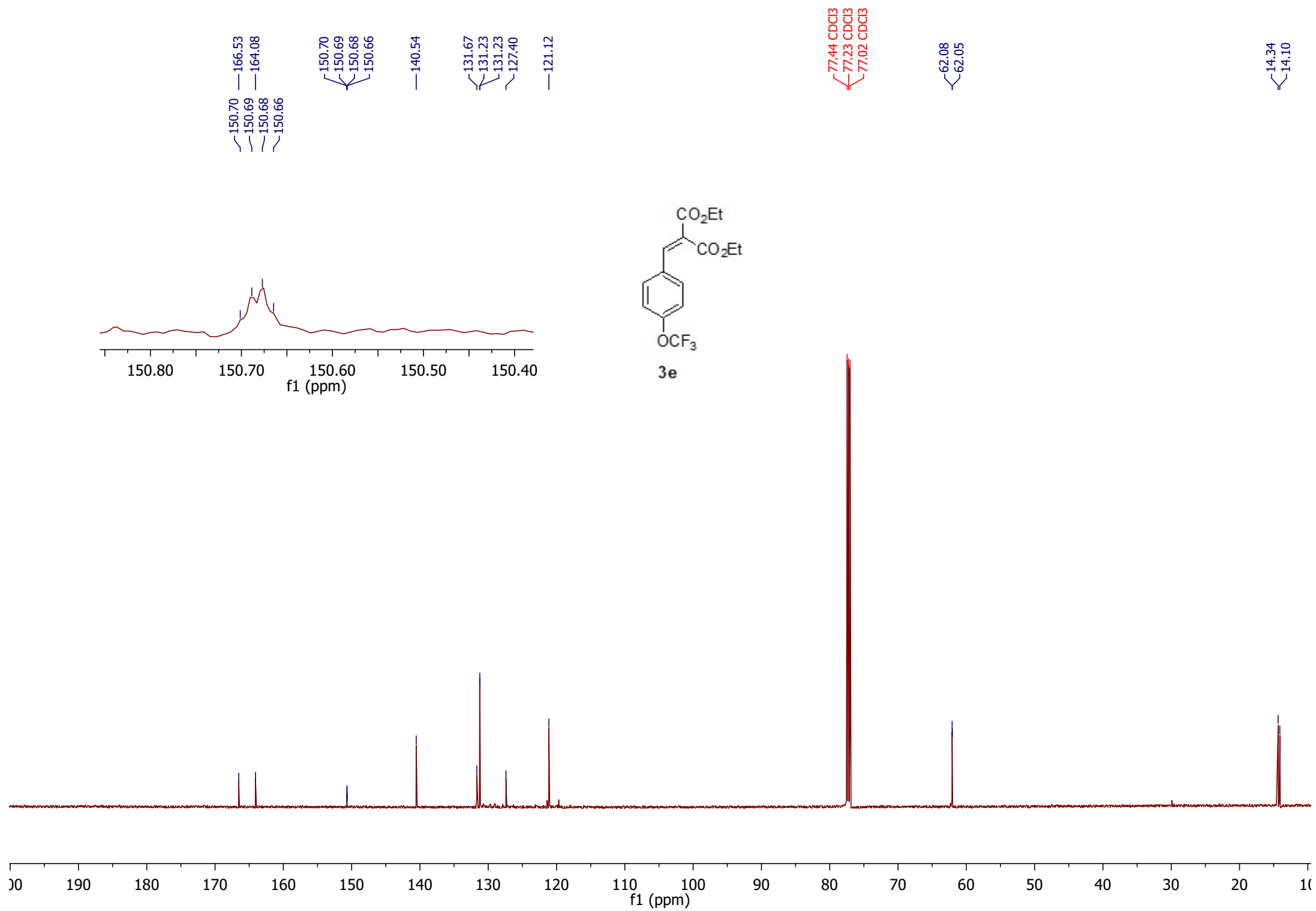
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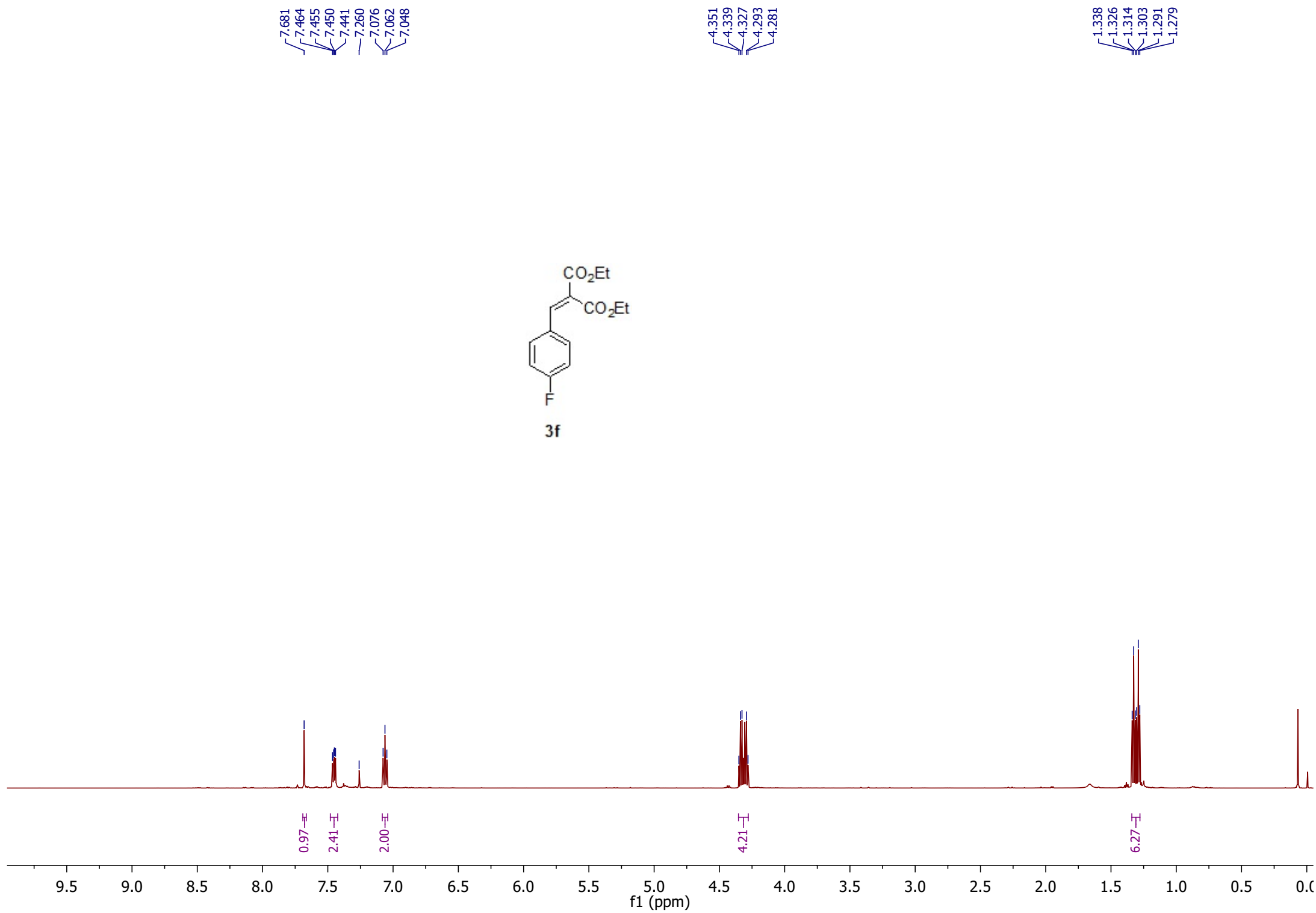
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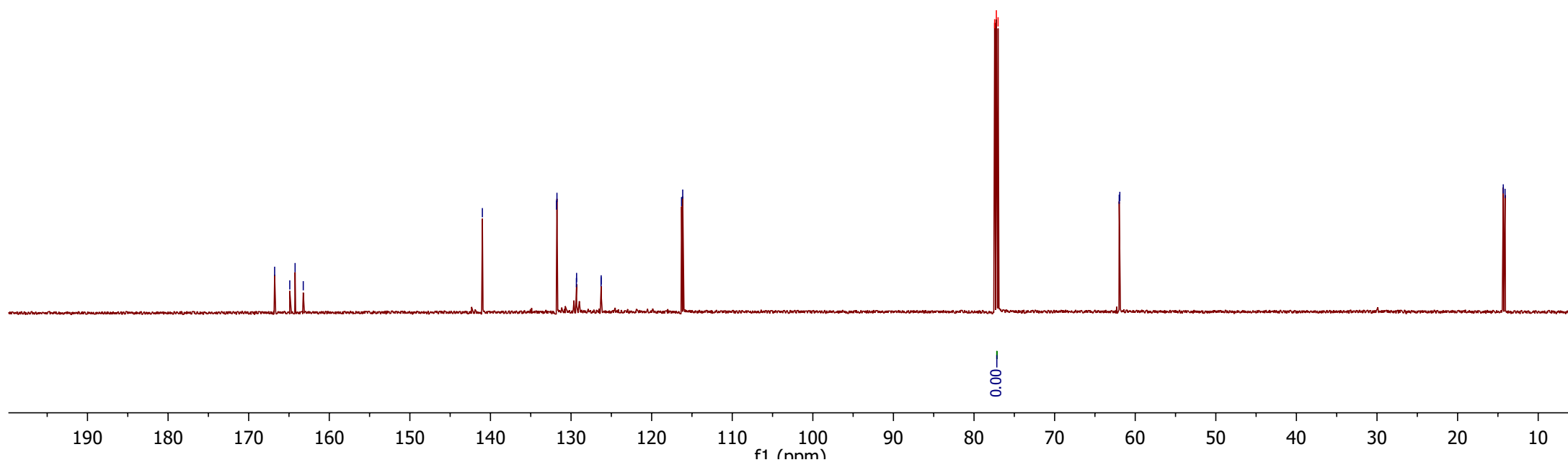
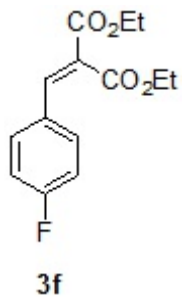
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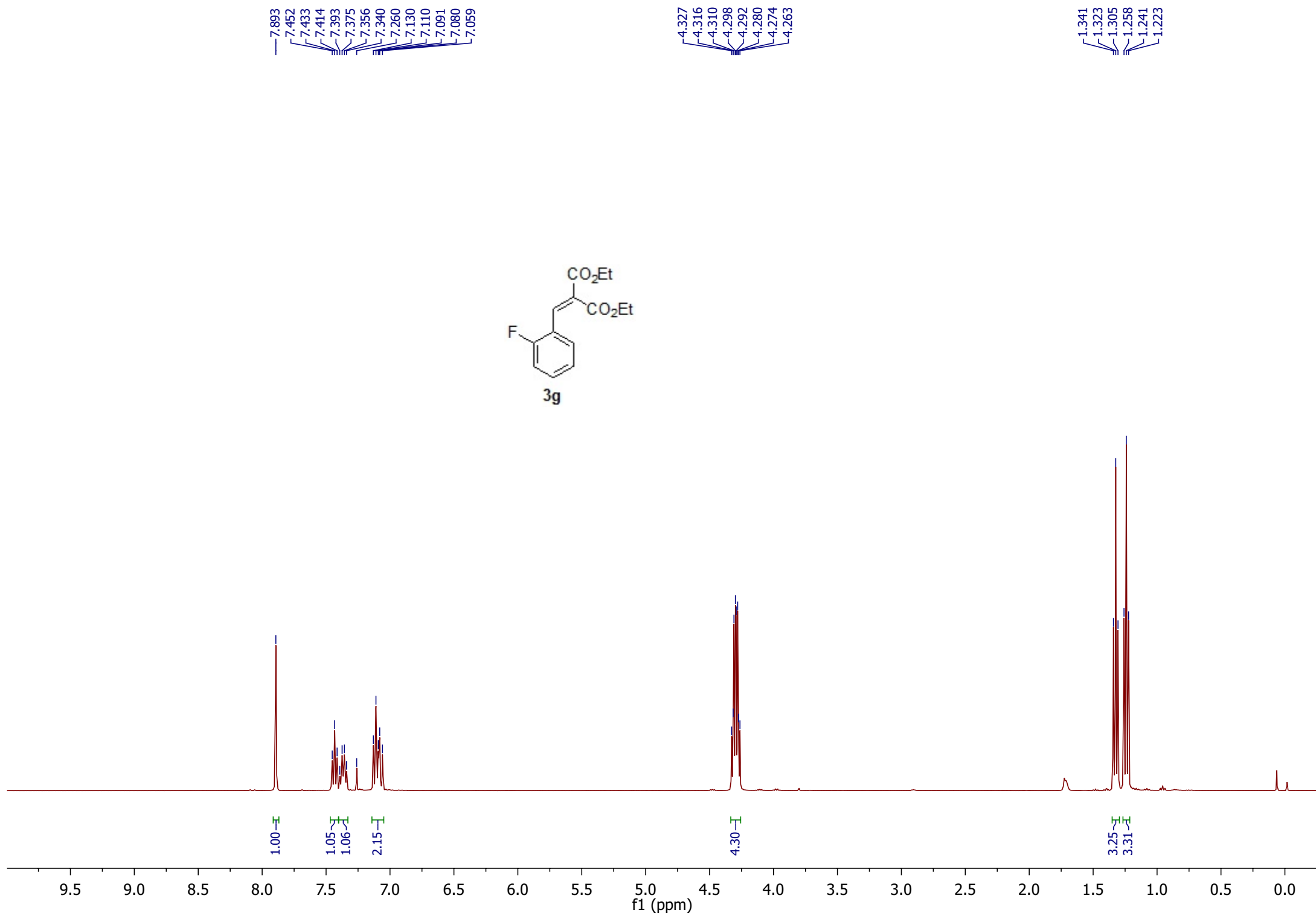
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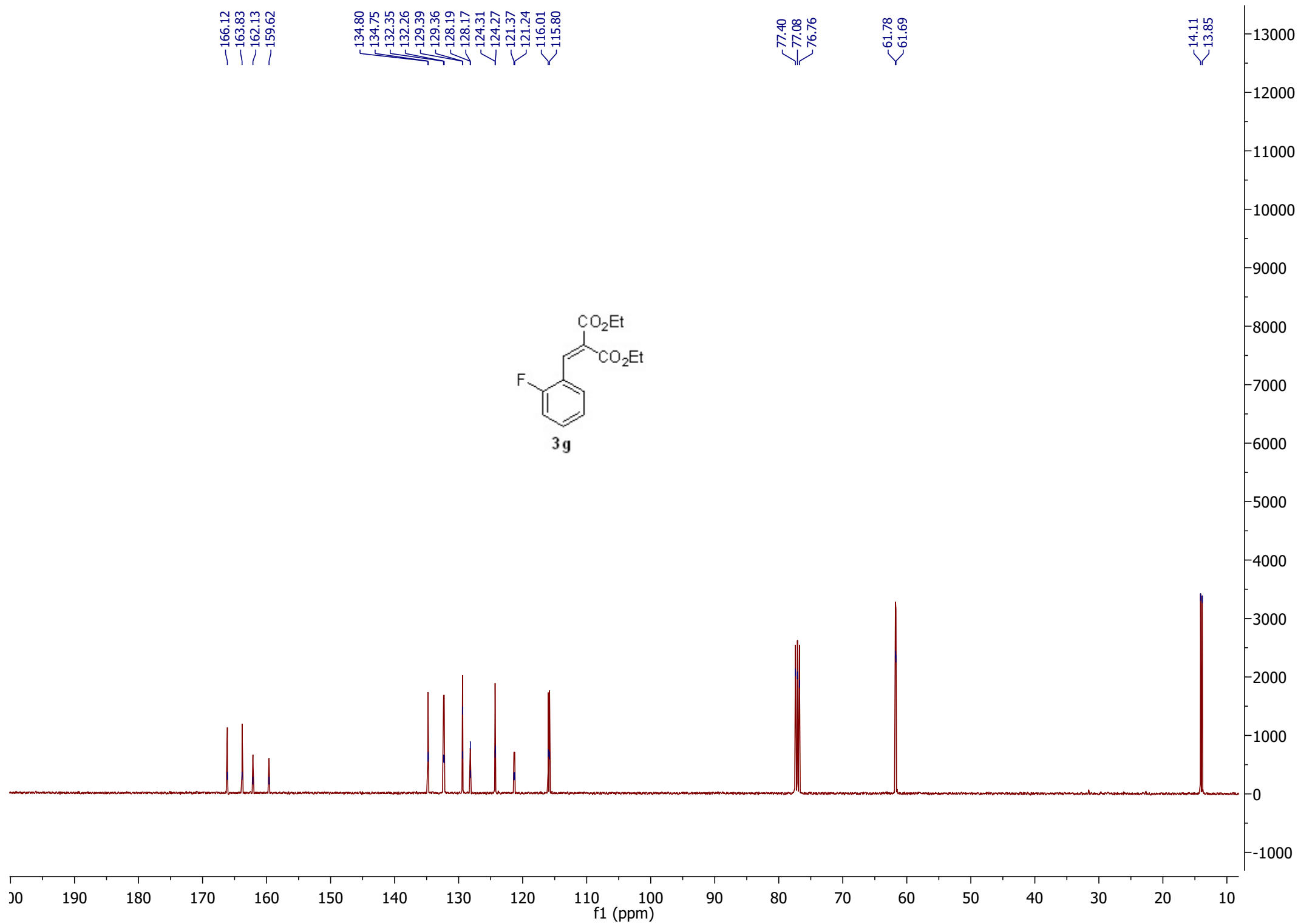
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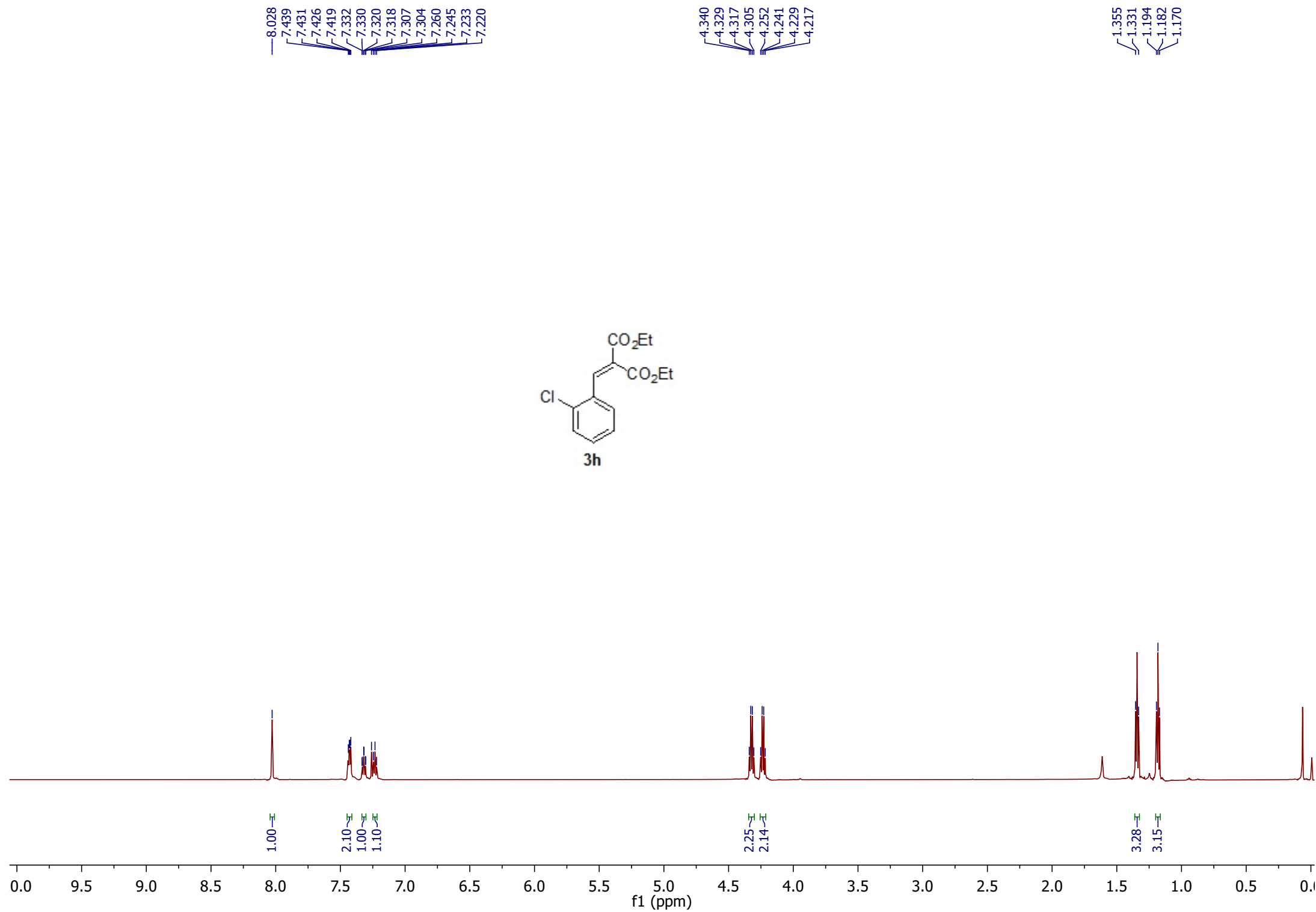
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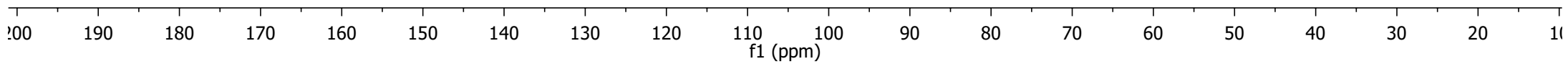
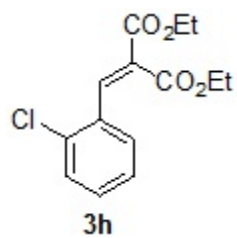
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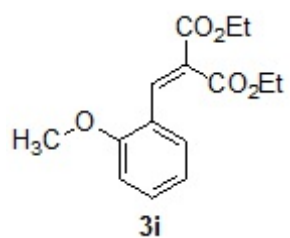
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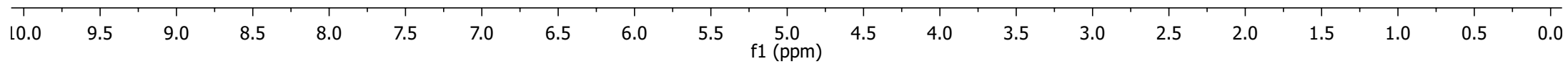
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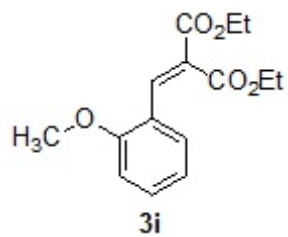
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— 158.13

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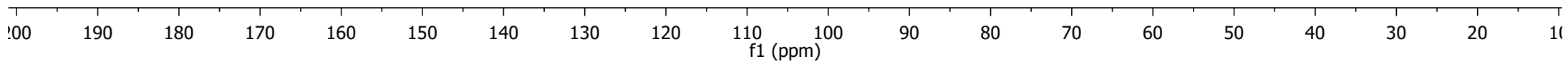
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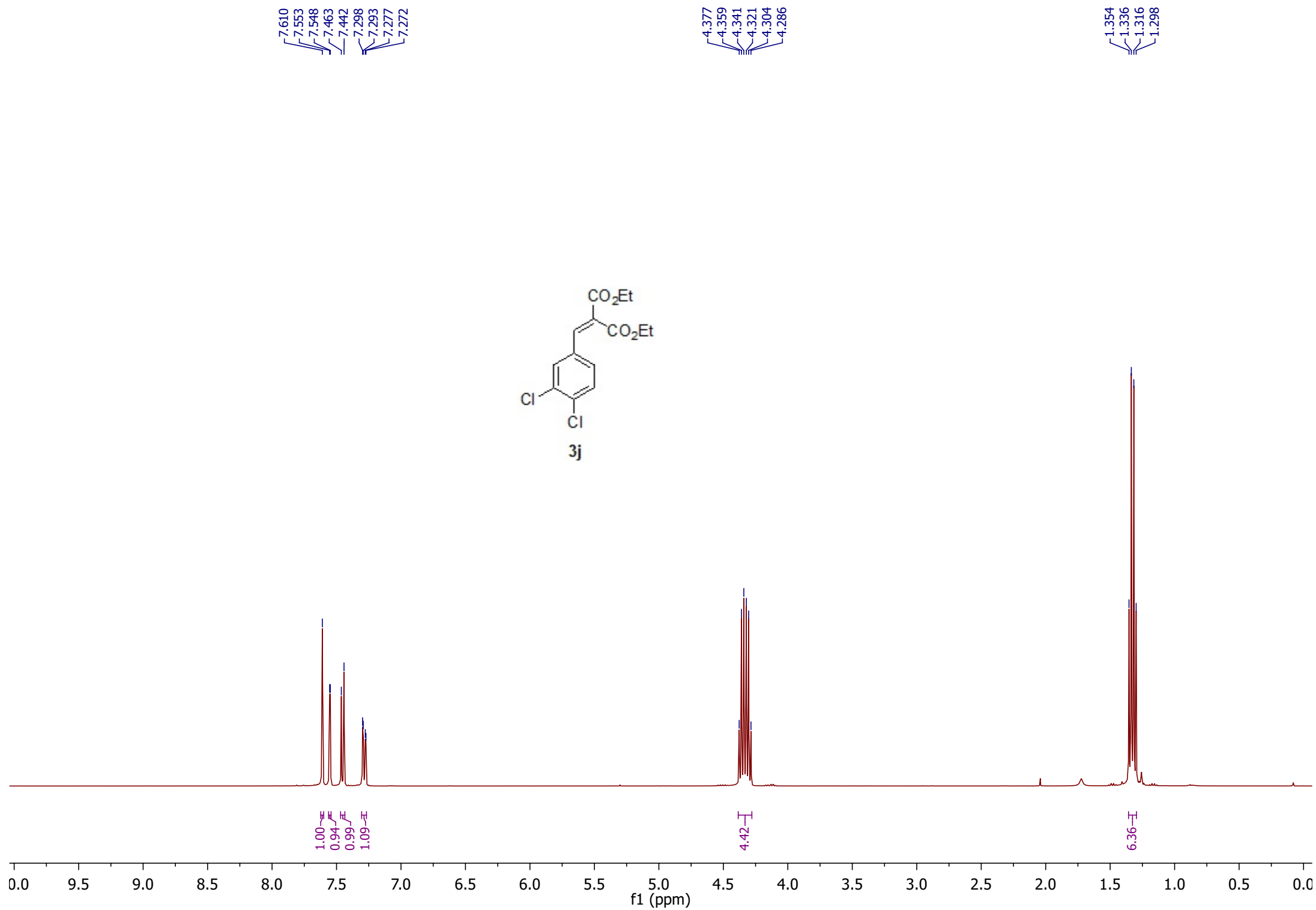
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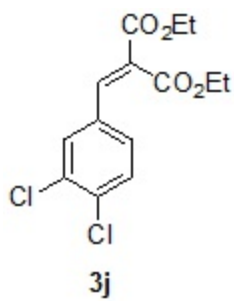
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— 55.60

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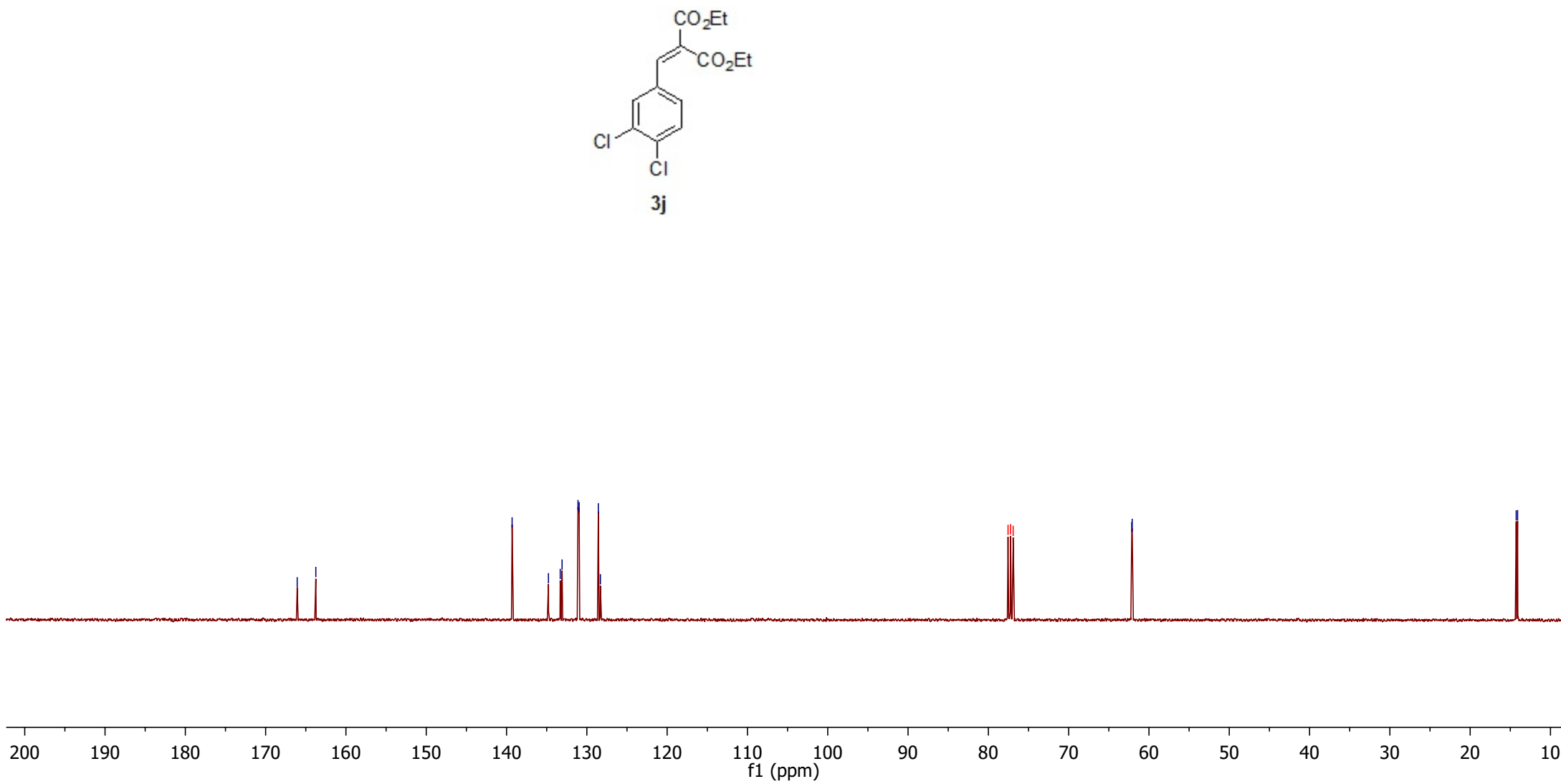
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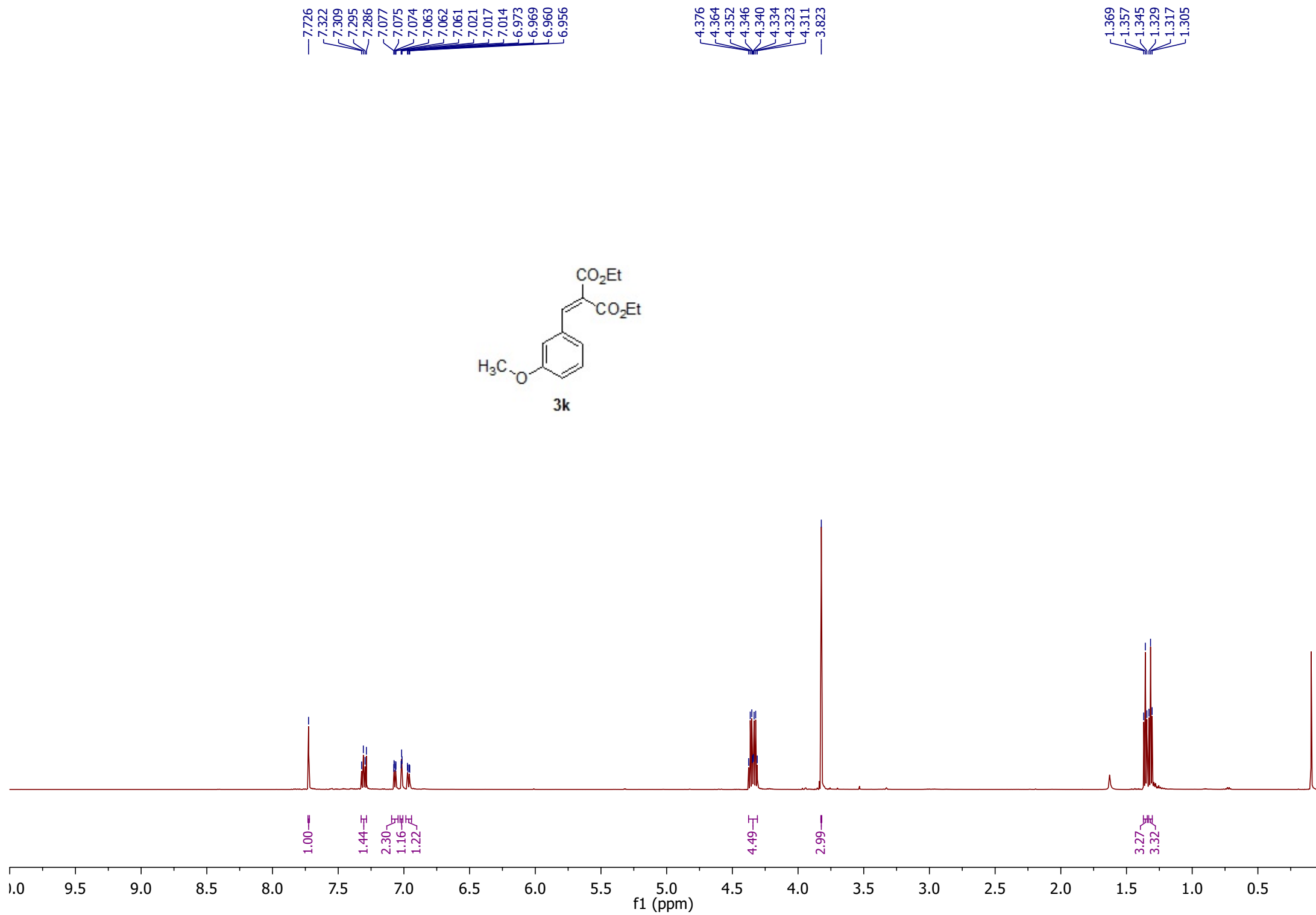
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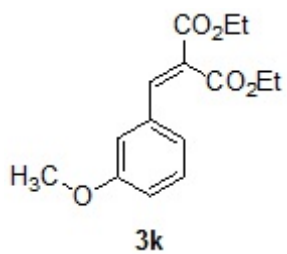
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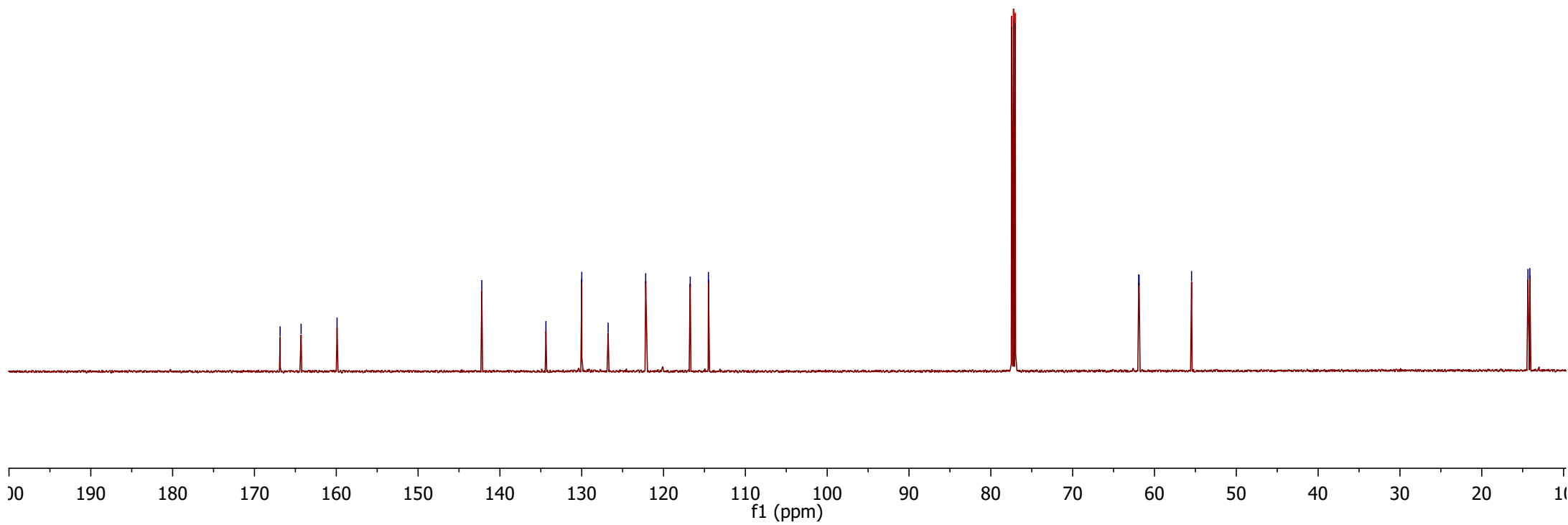
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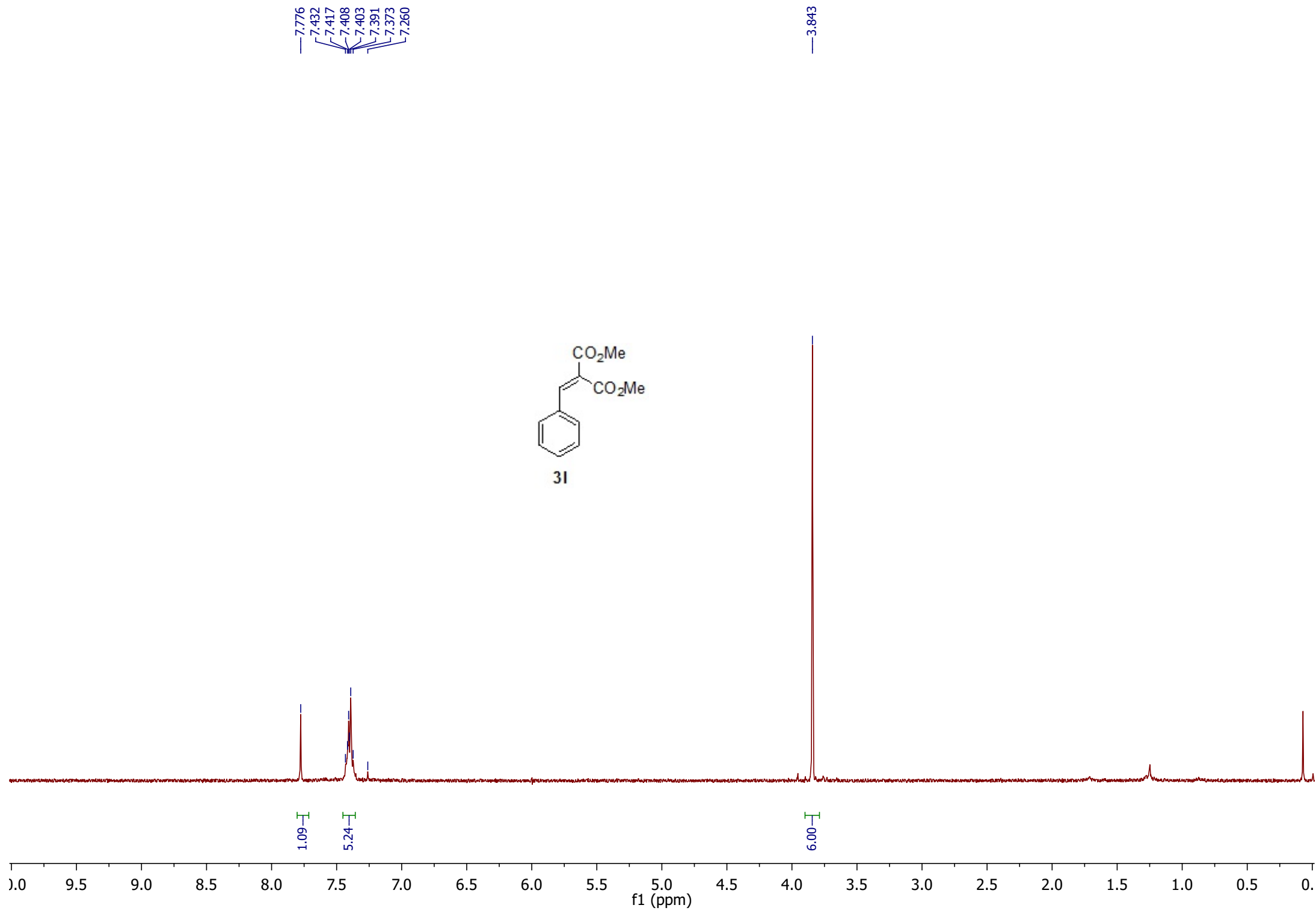
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77.02 CDCl₃

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—55.47

14.36
14.13





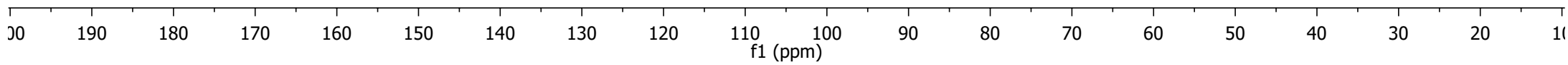
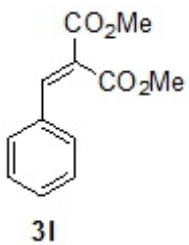
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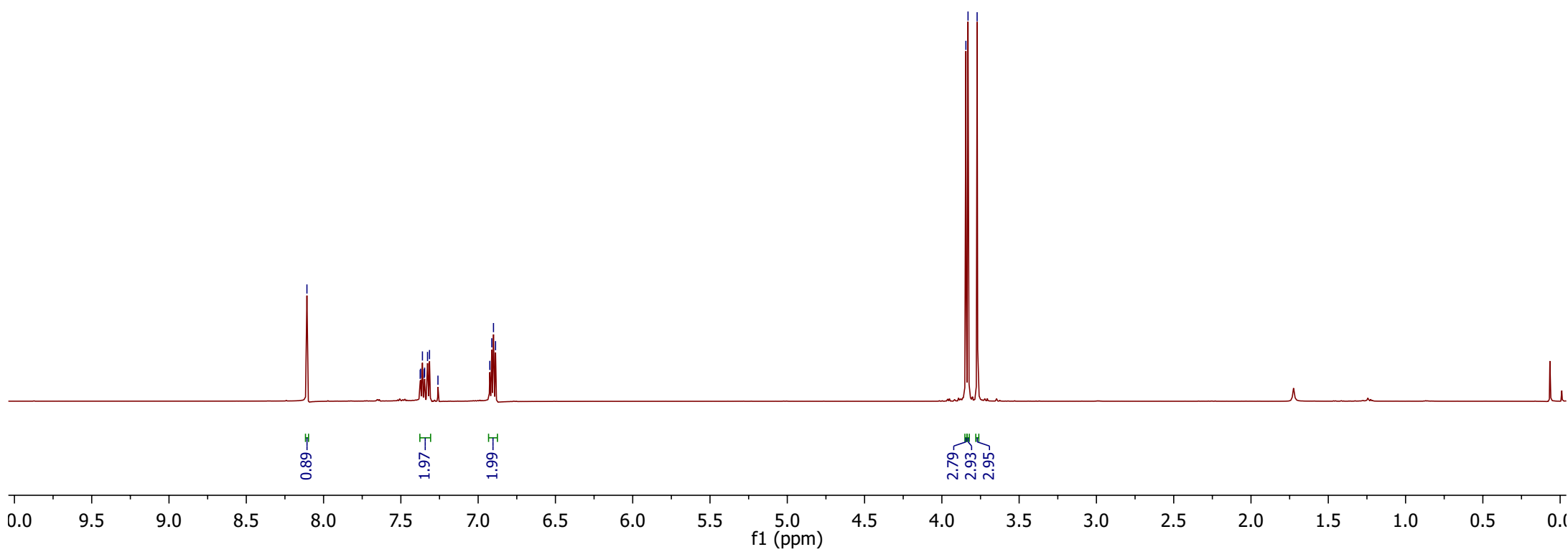
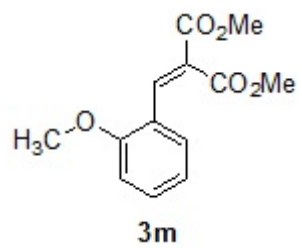
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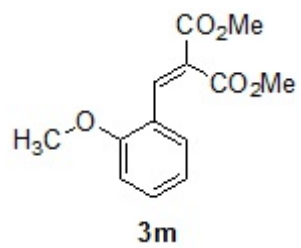
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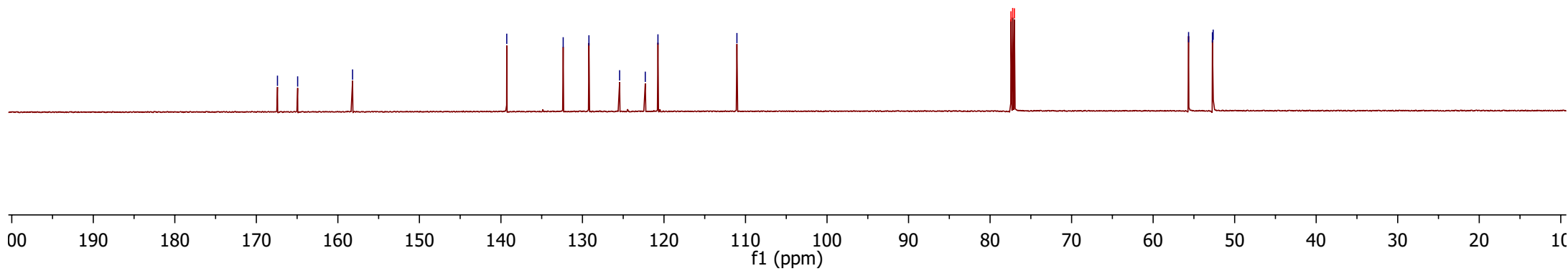
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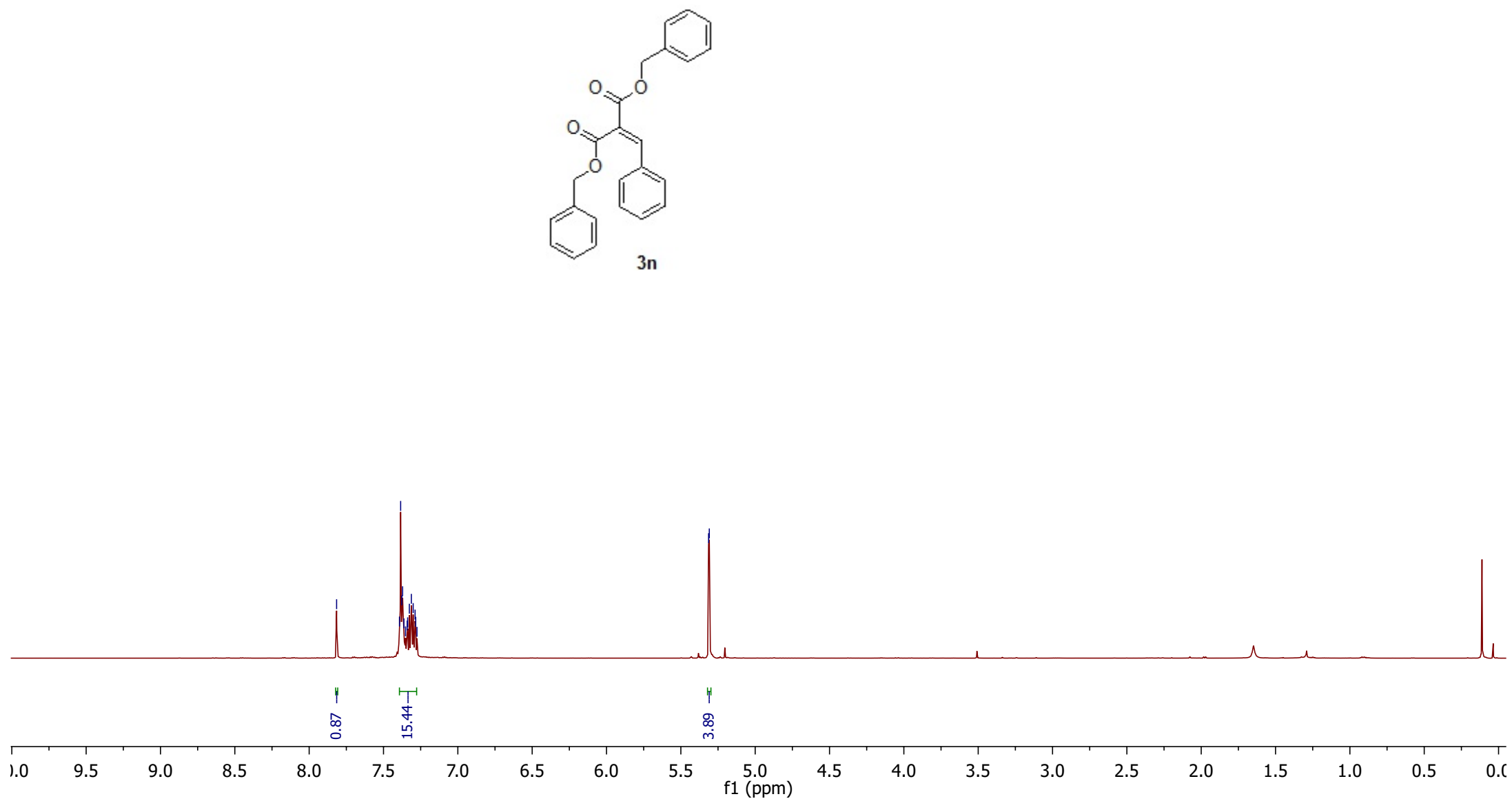
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52.64



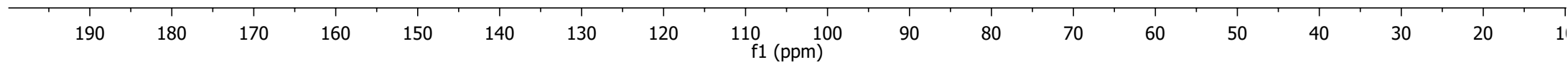
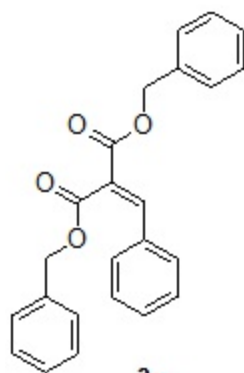


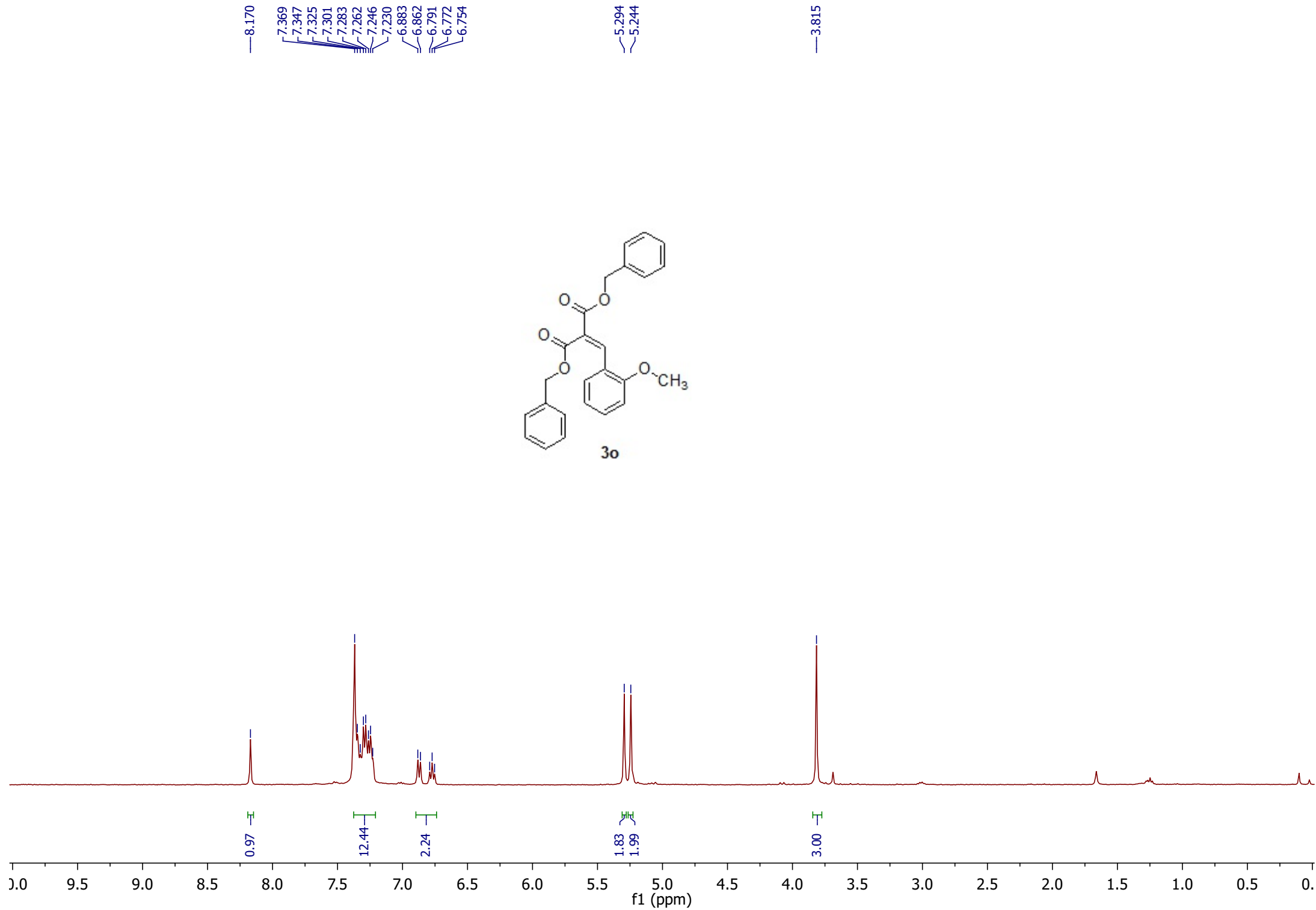
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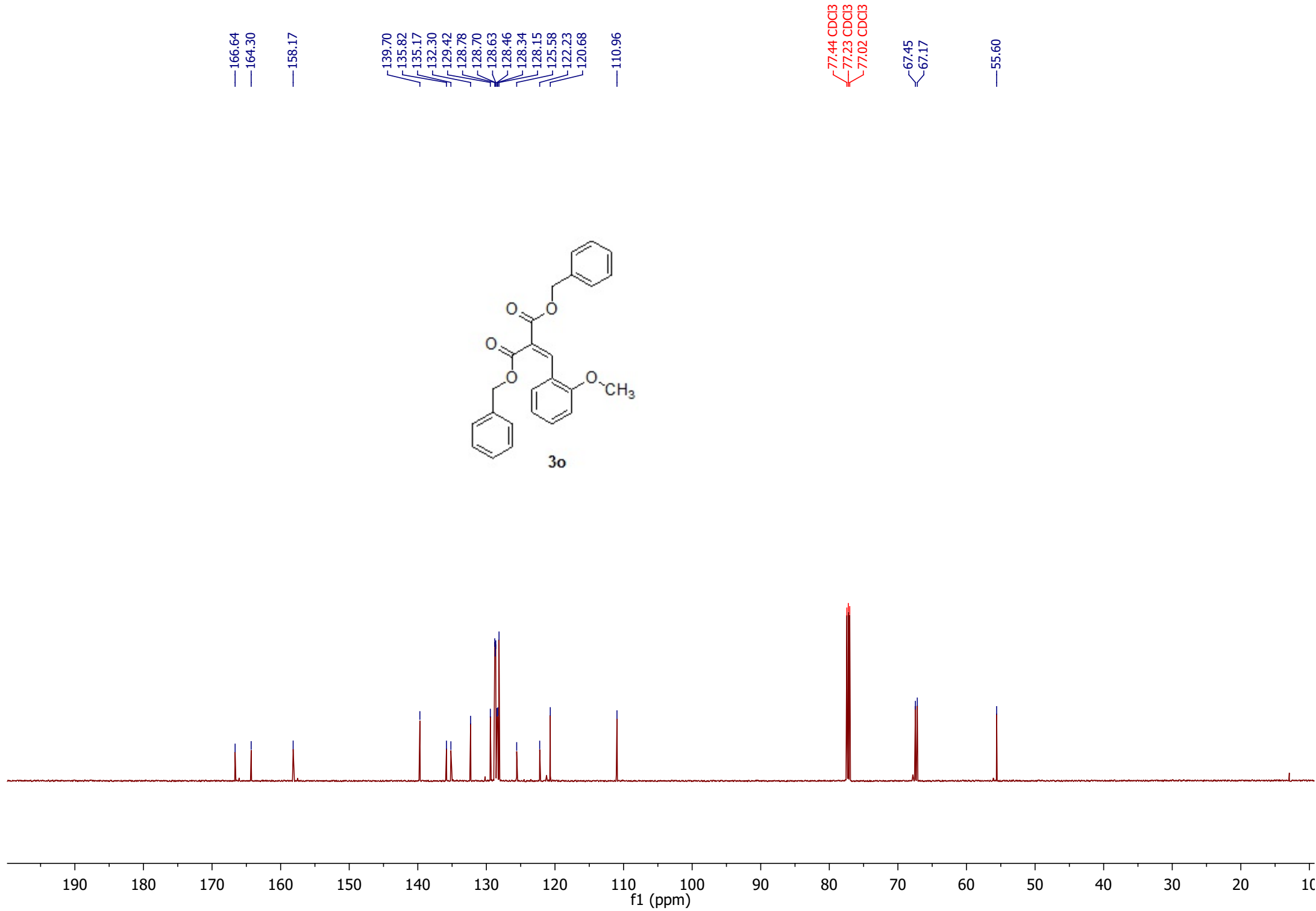
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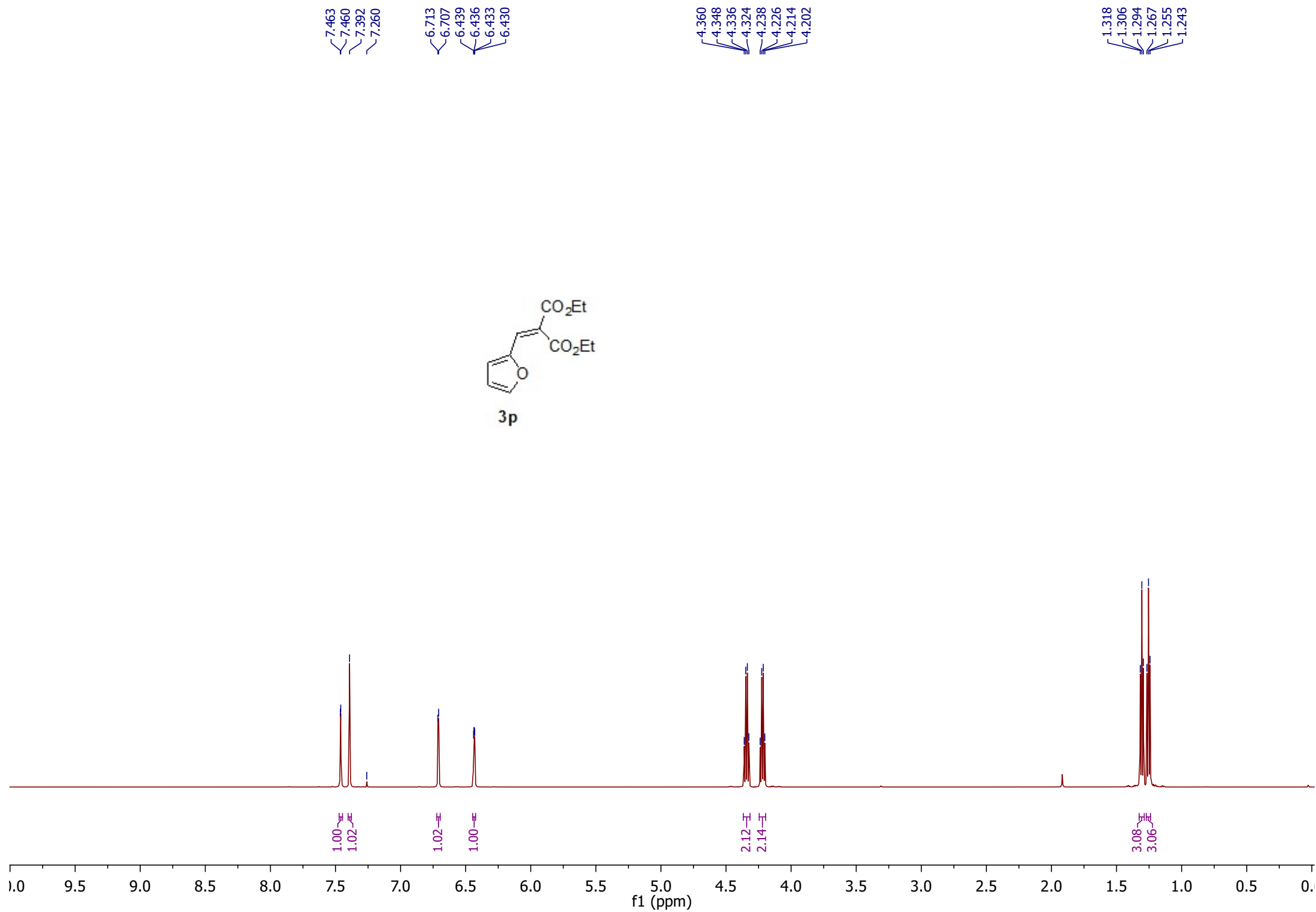
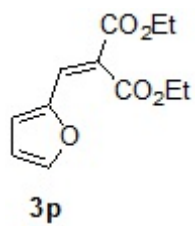
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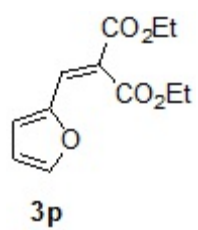
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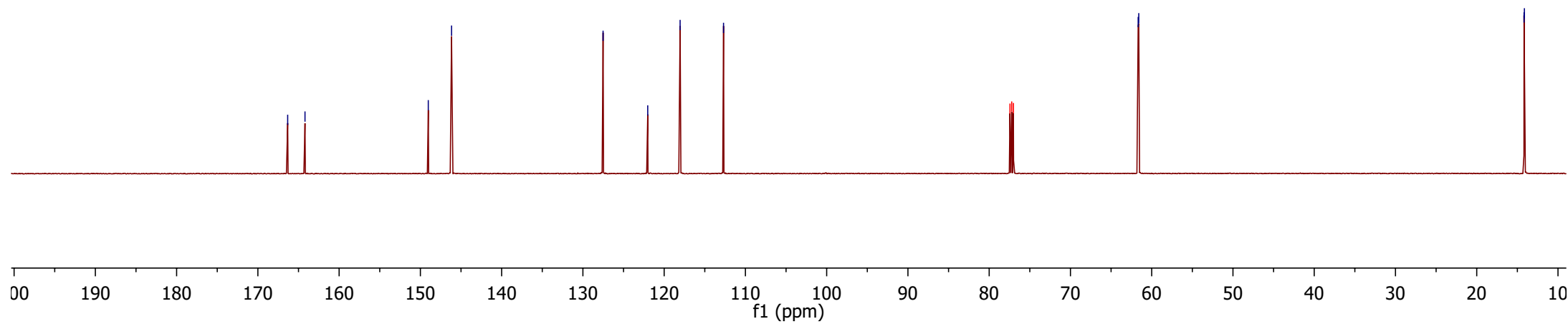
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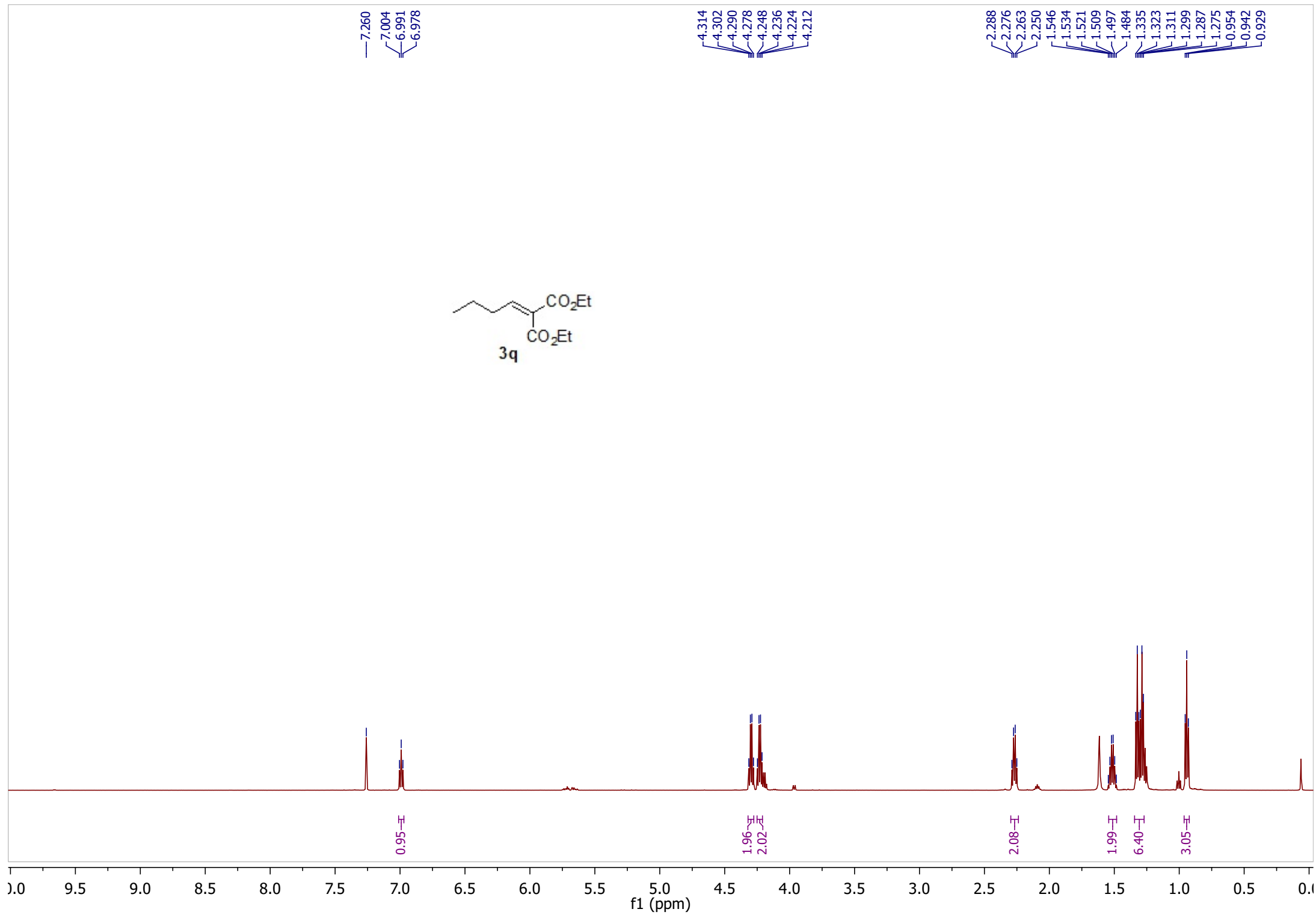
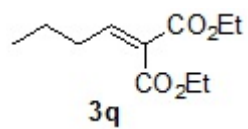
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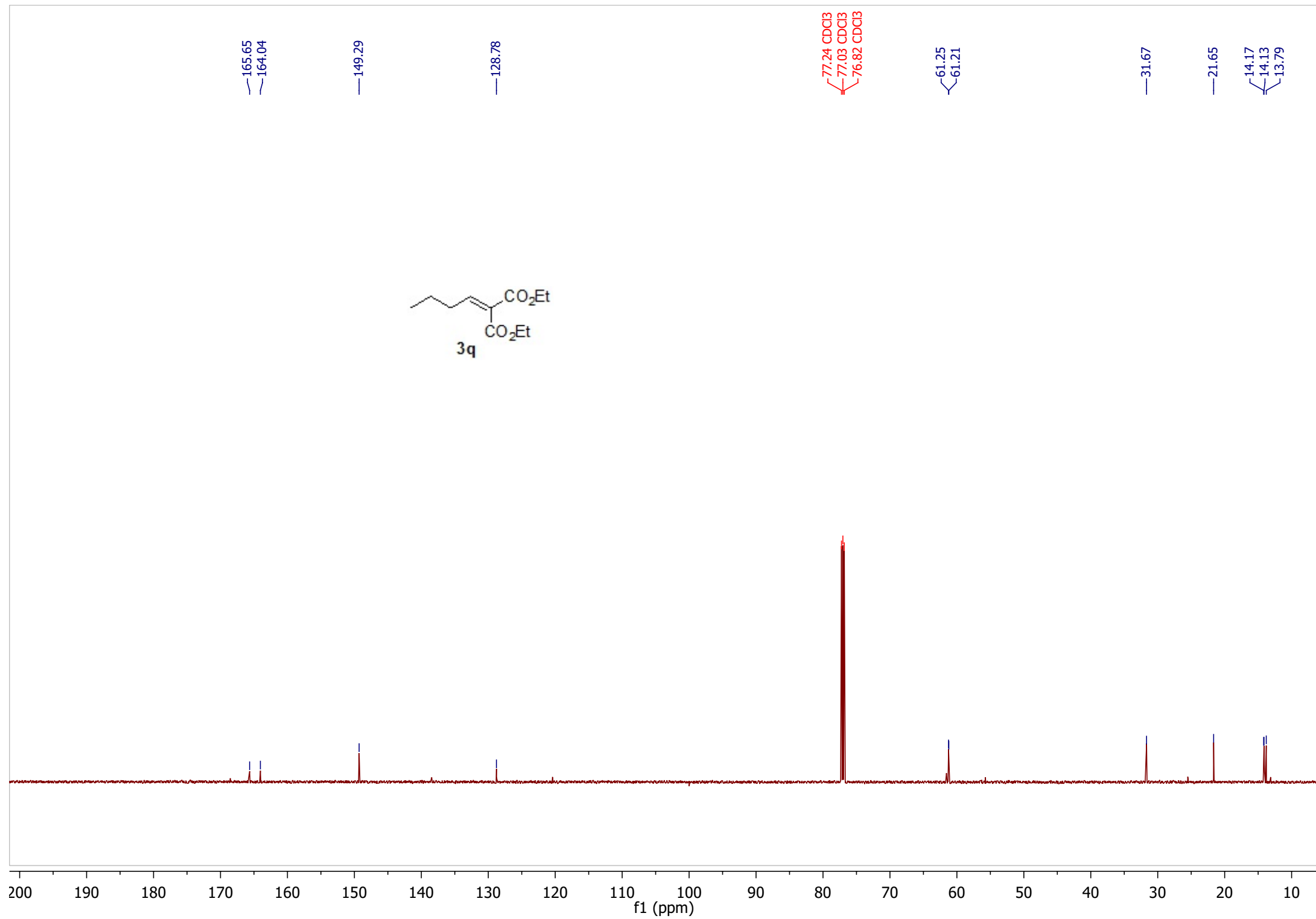
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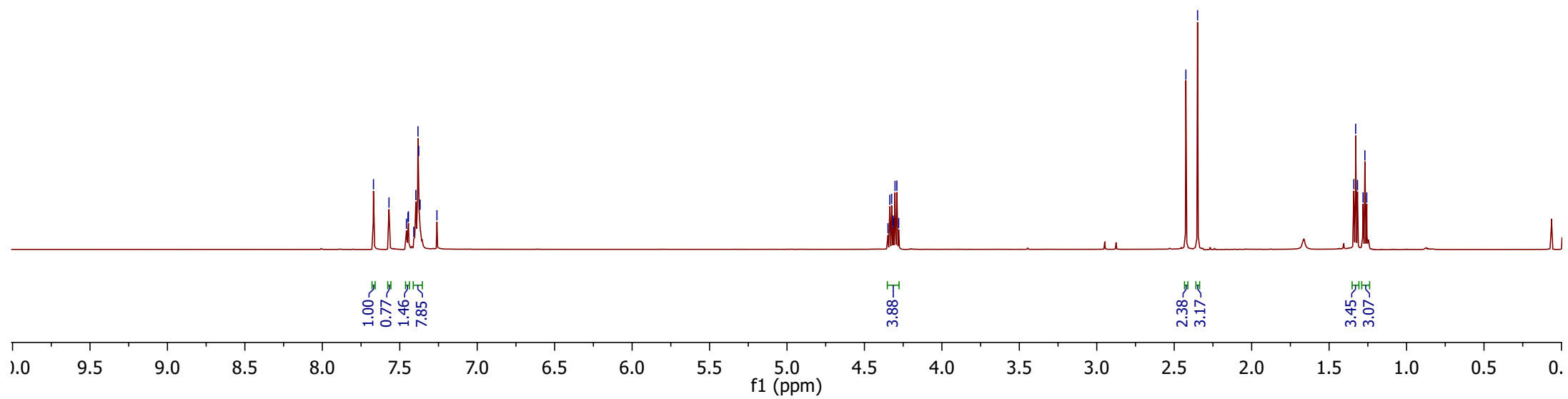
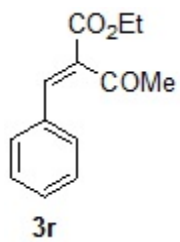


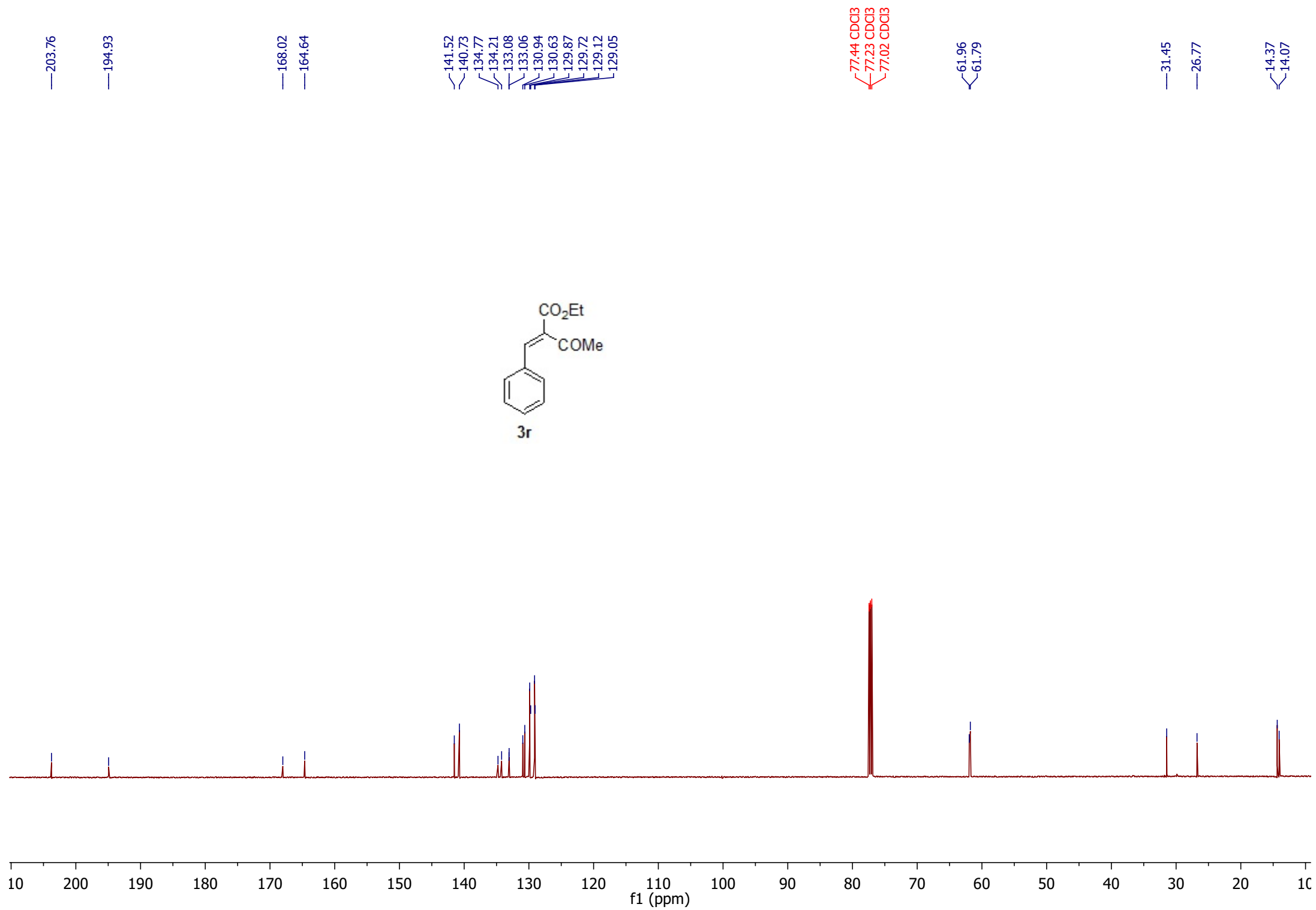
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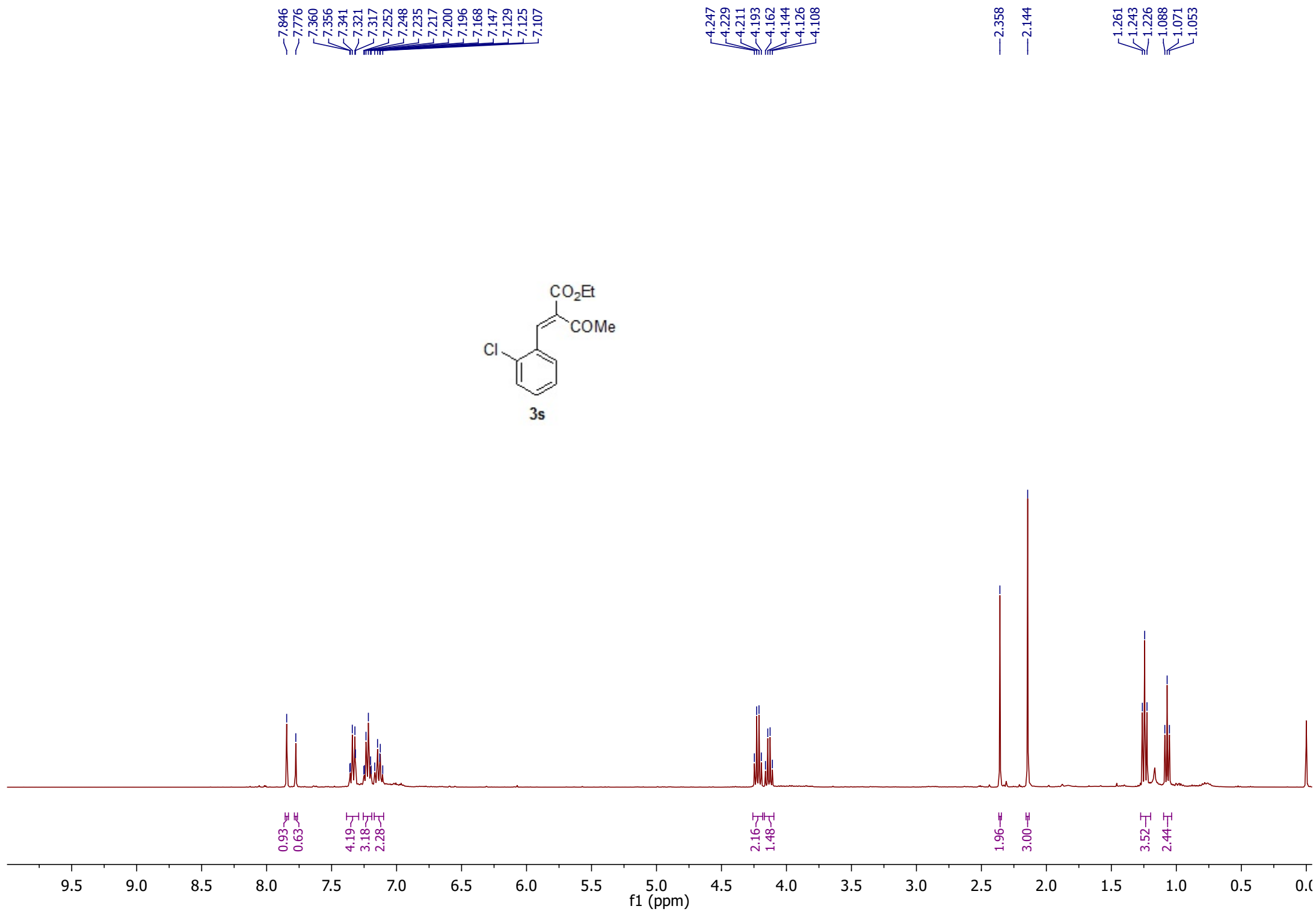
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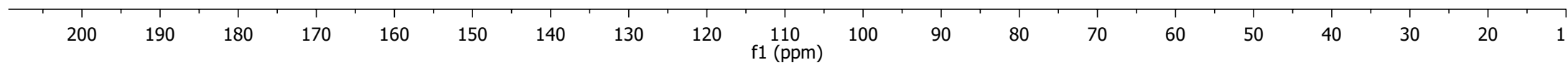
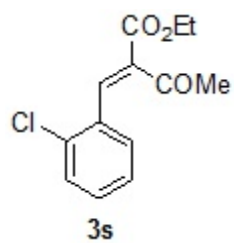
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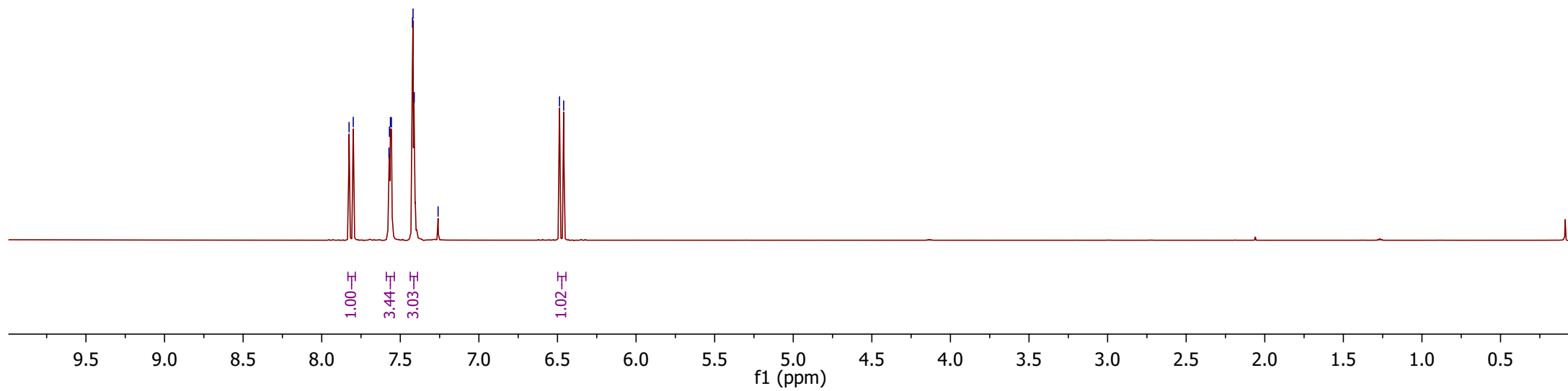
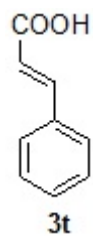
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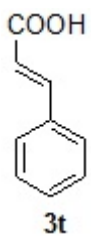
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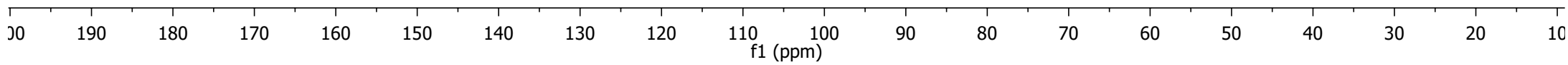
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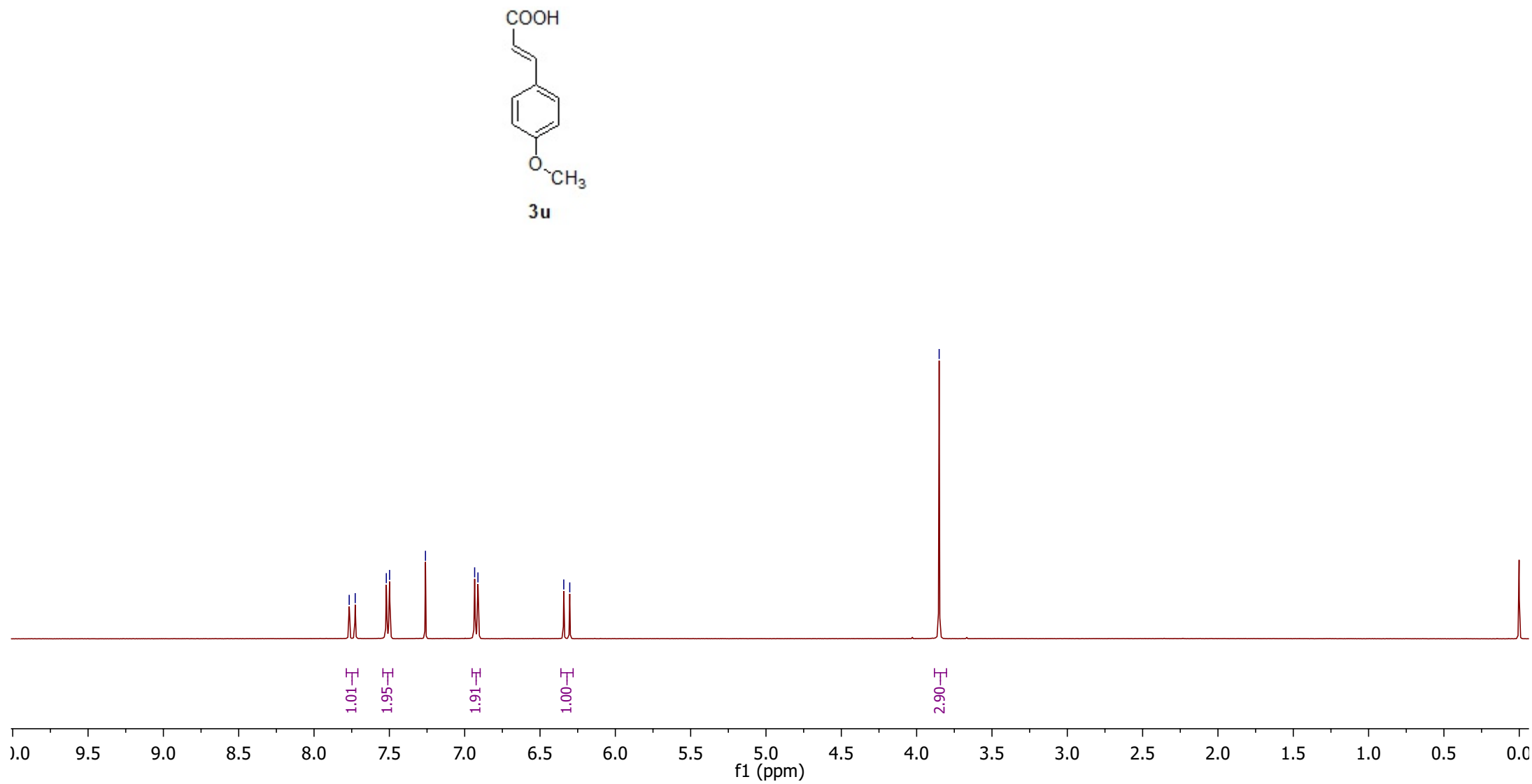
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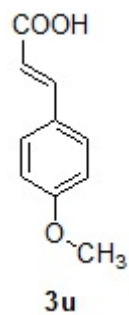
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—117.51

77.44 CDCl₃
77.23 CDCl₃
77.02 CDCl₃







—172.11

—161.98

—146.87

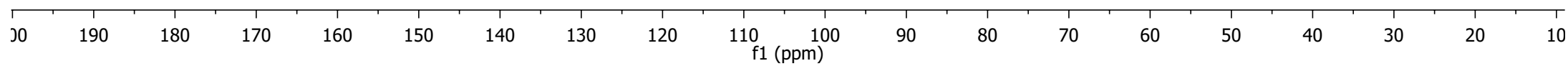
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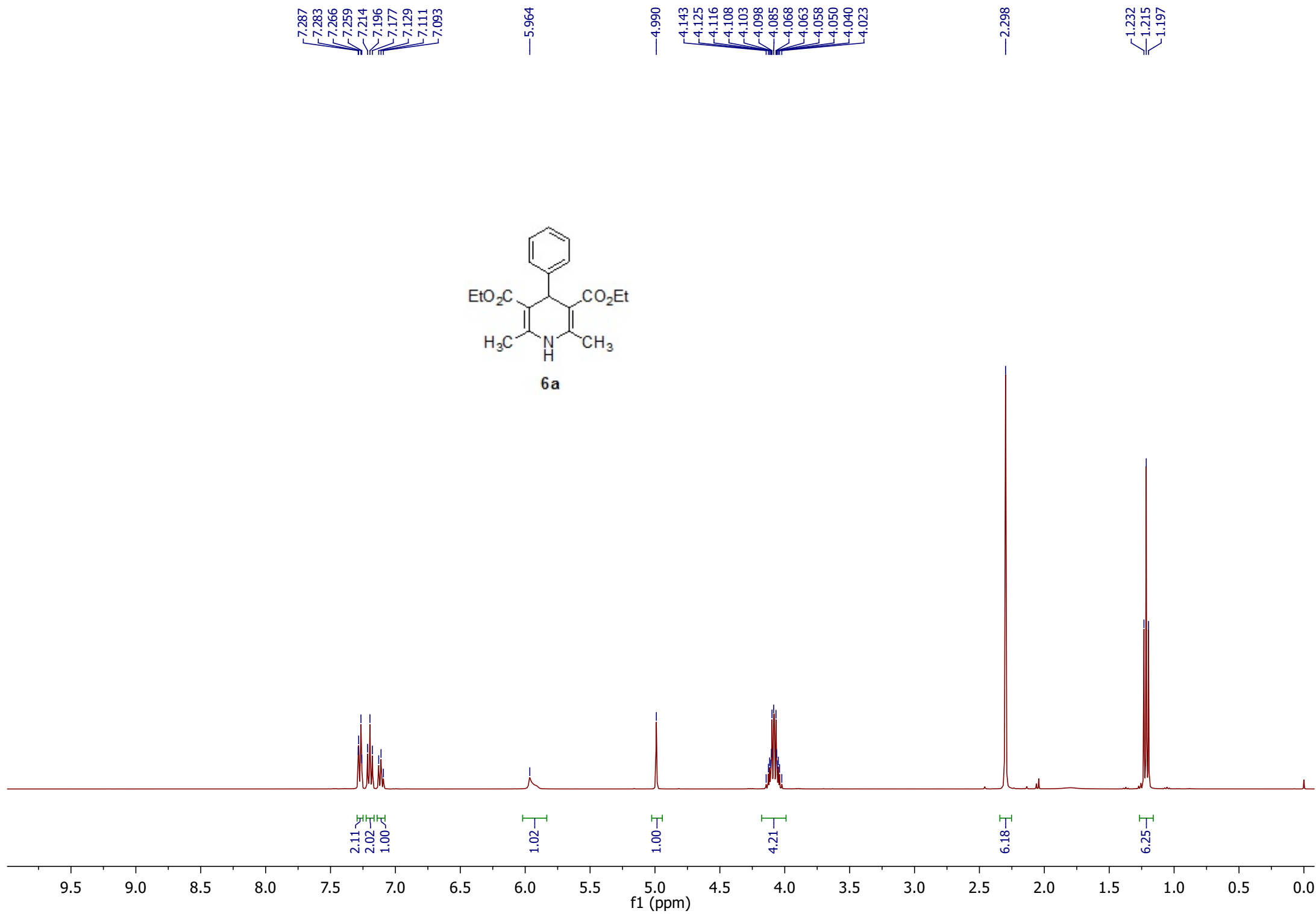
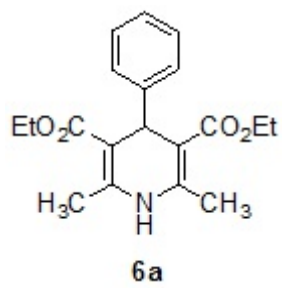
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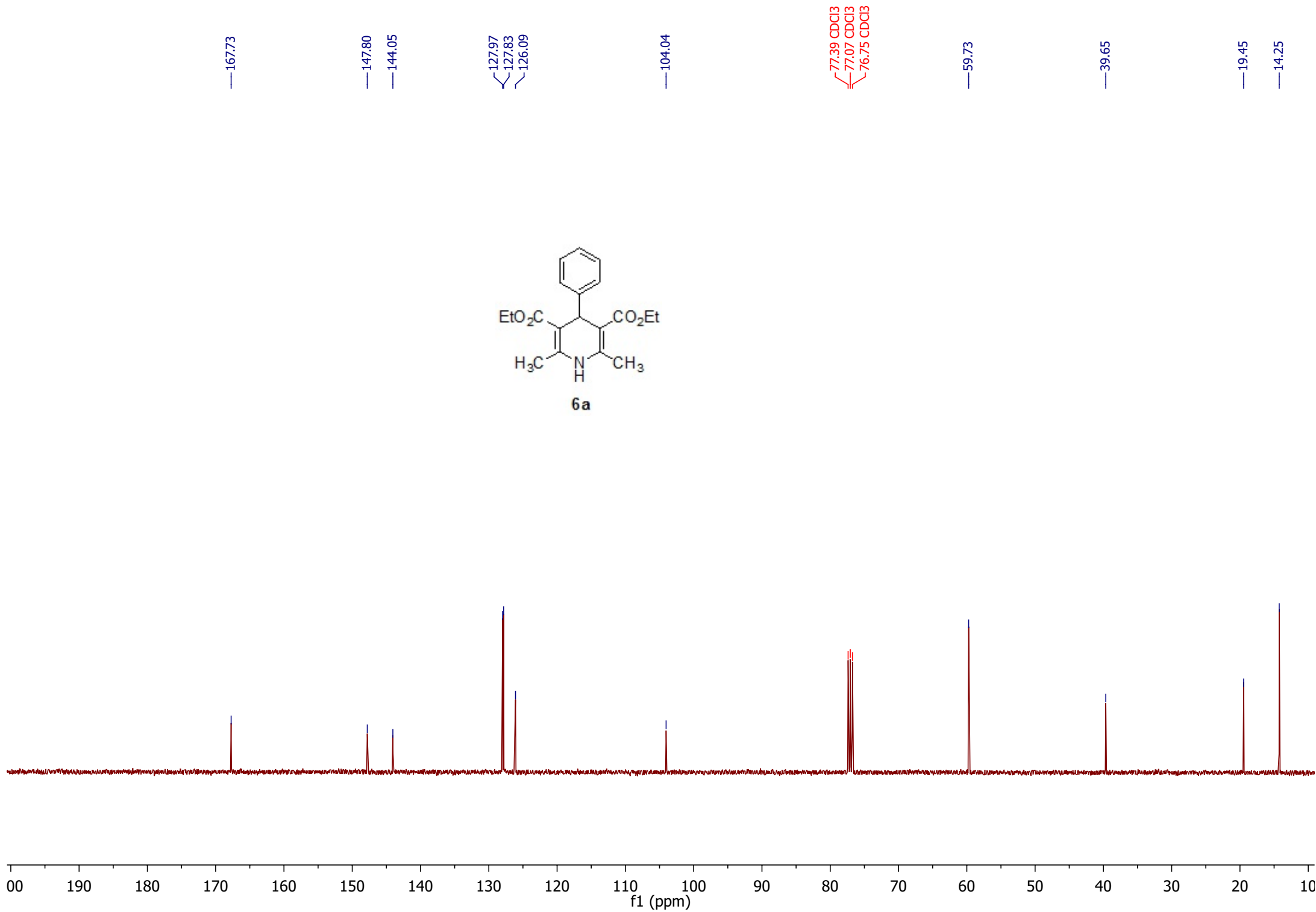
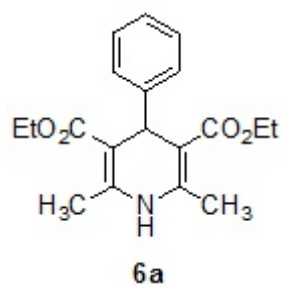
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114.64

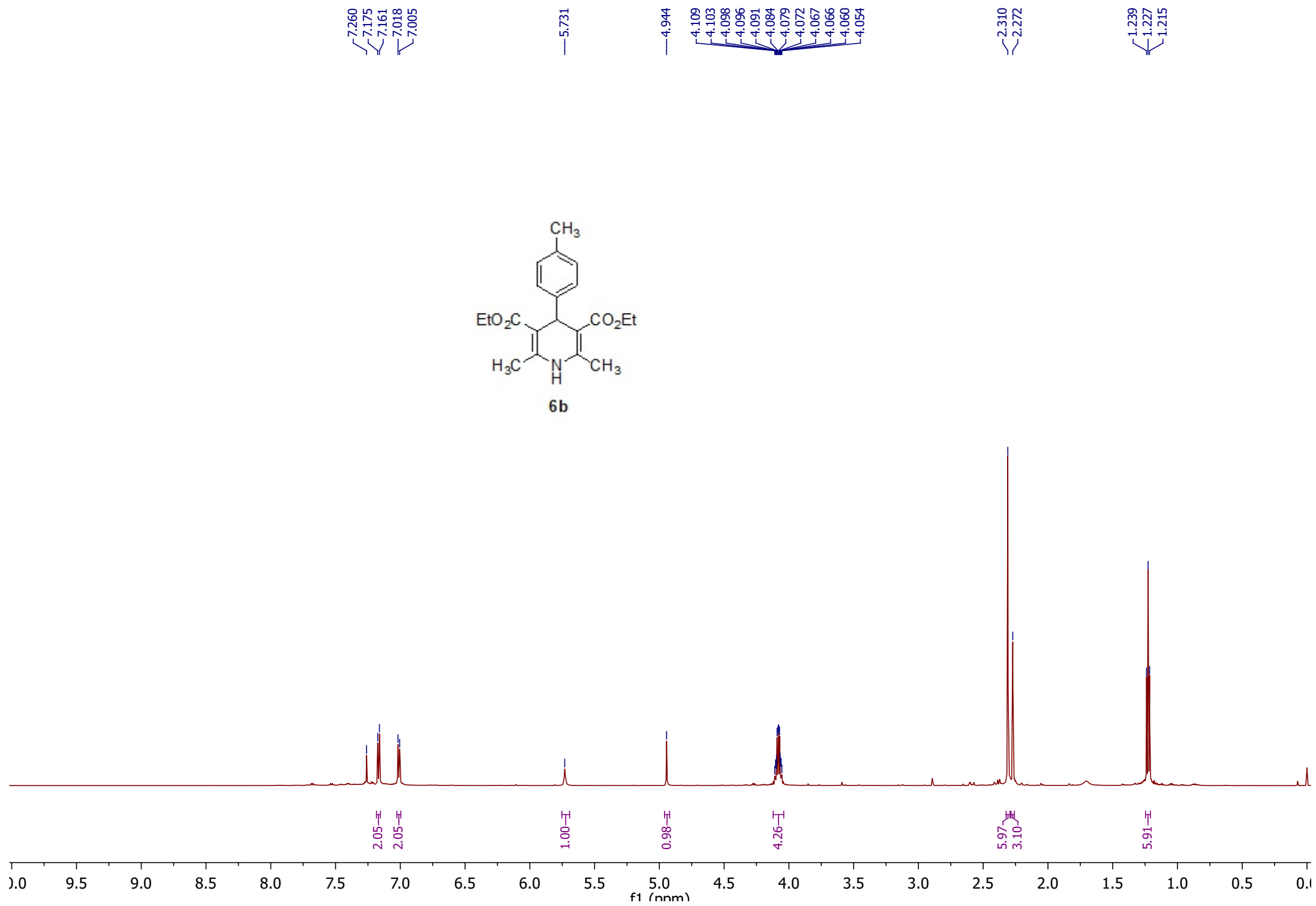
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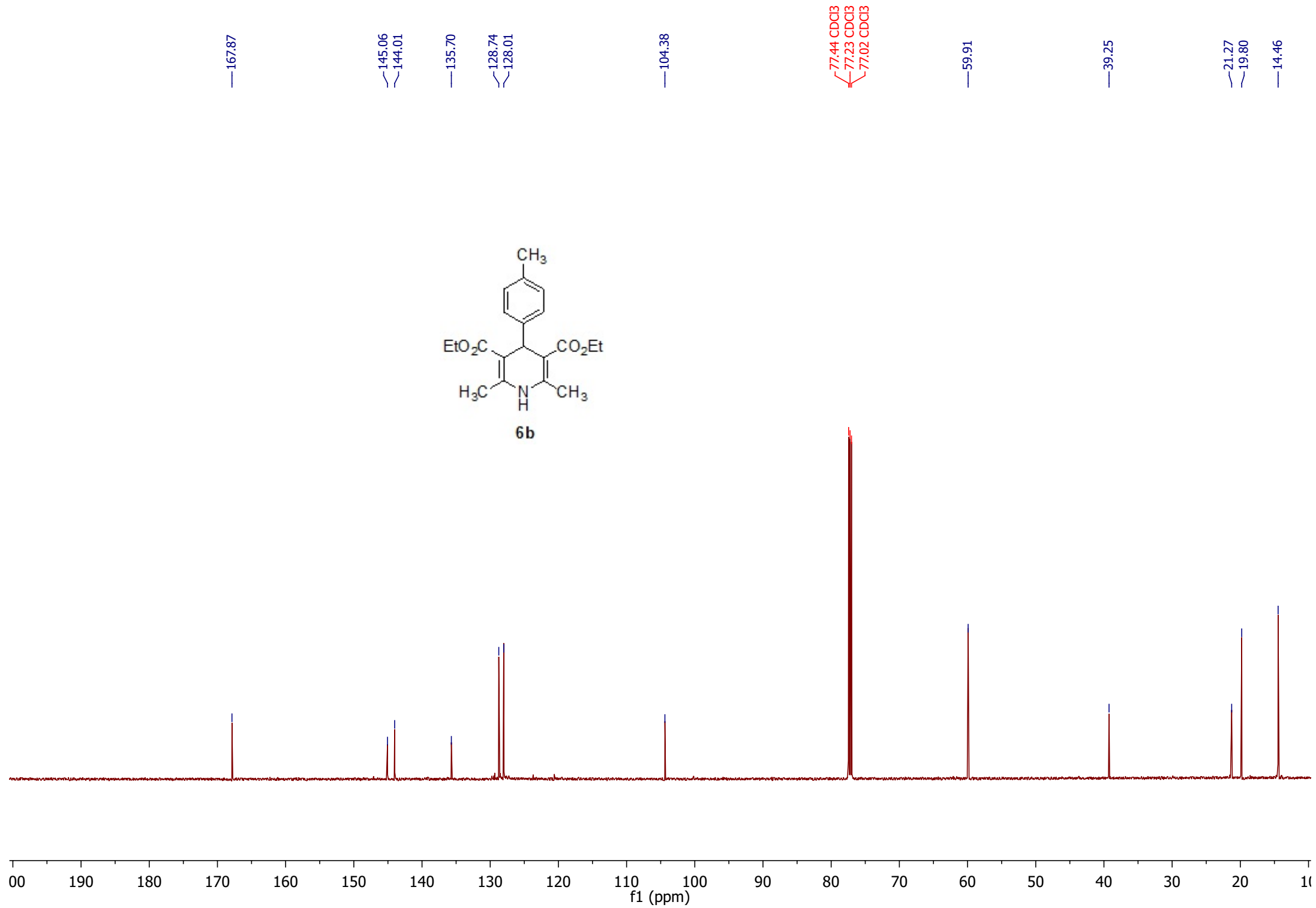
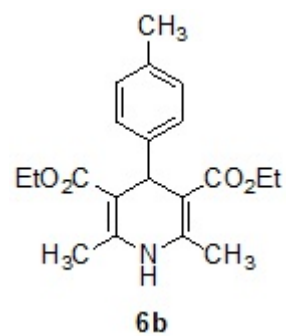
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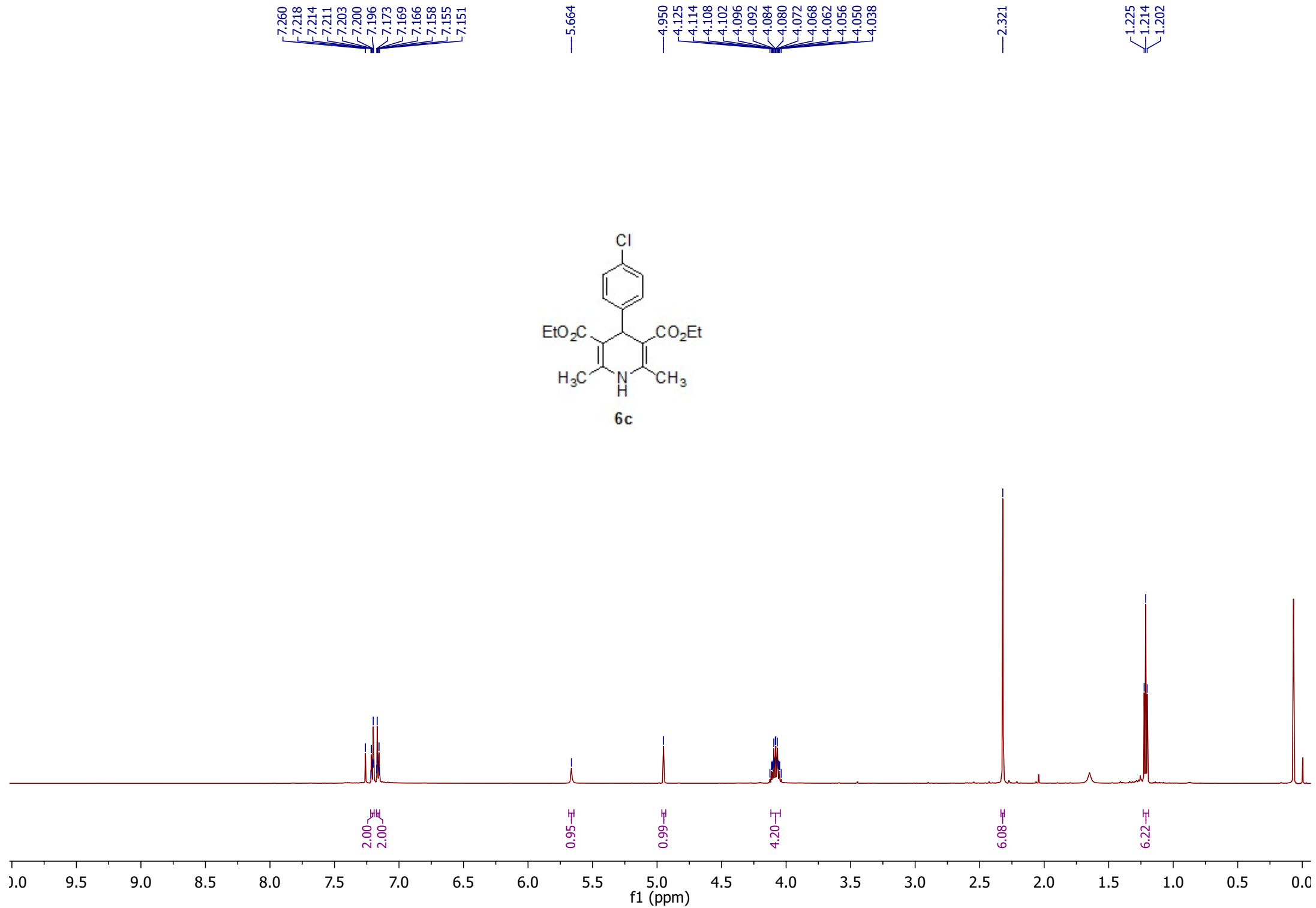


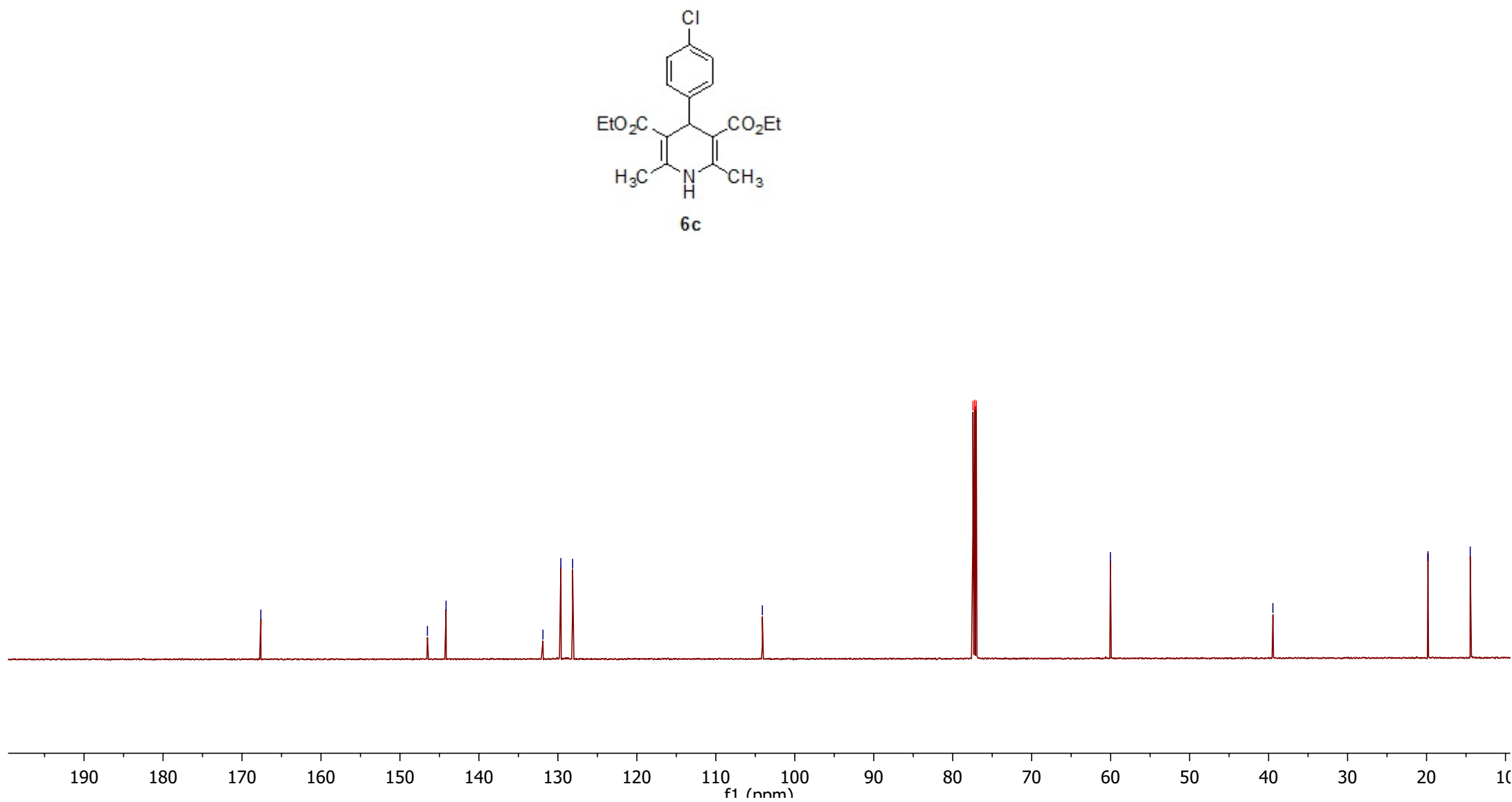


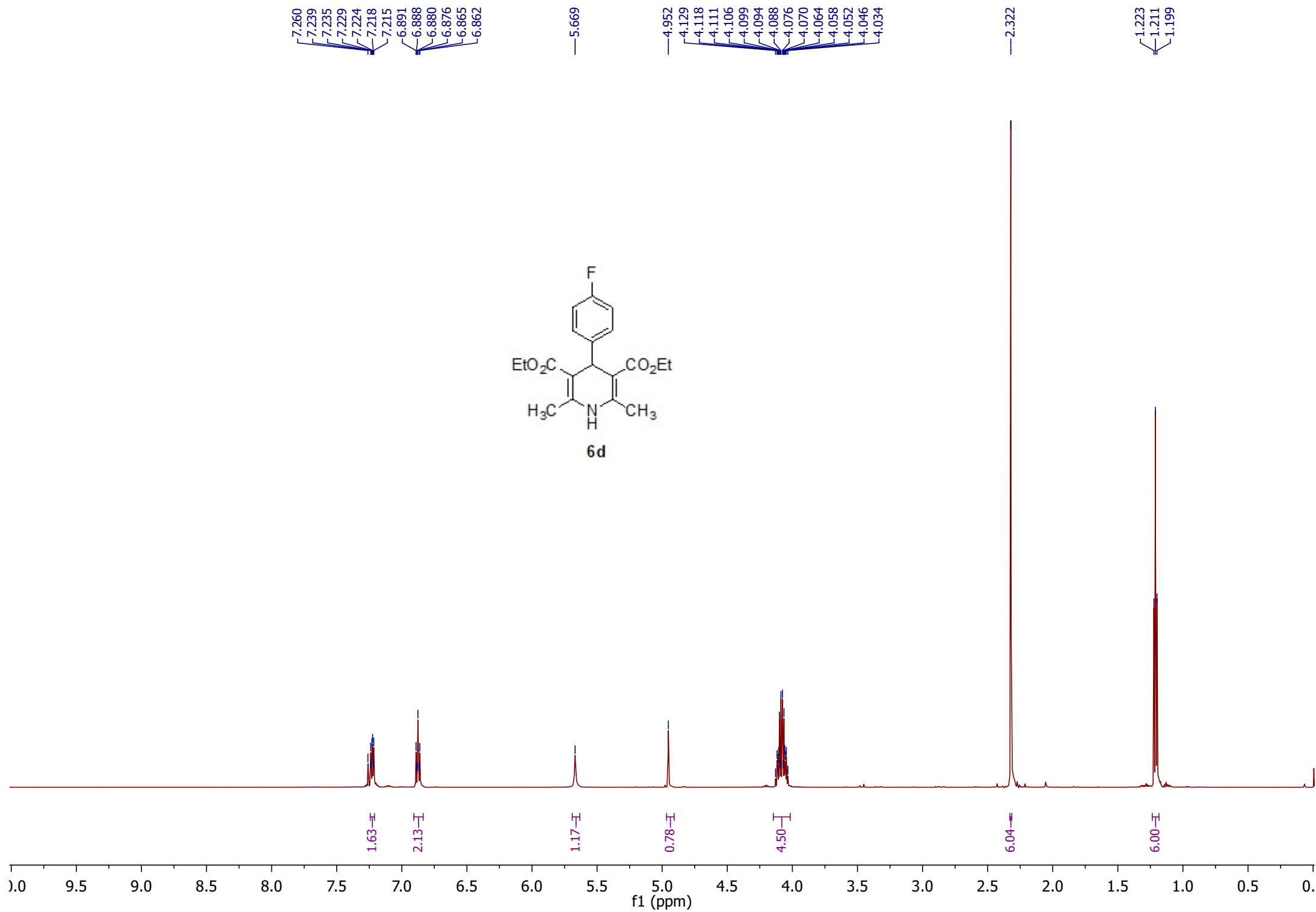


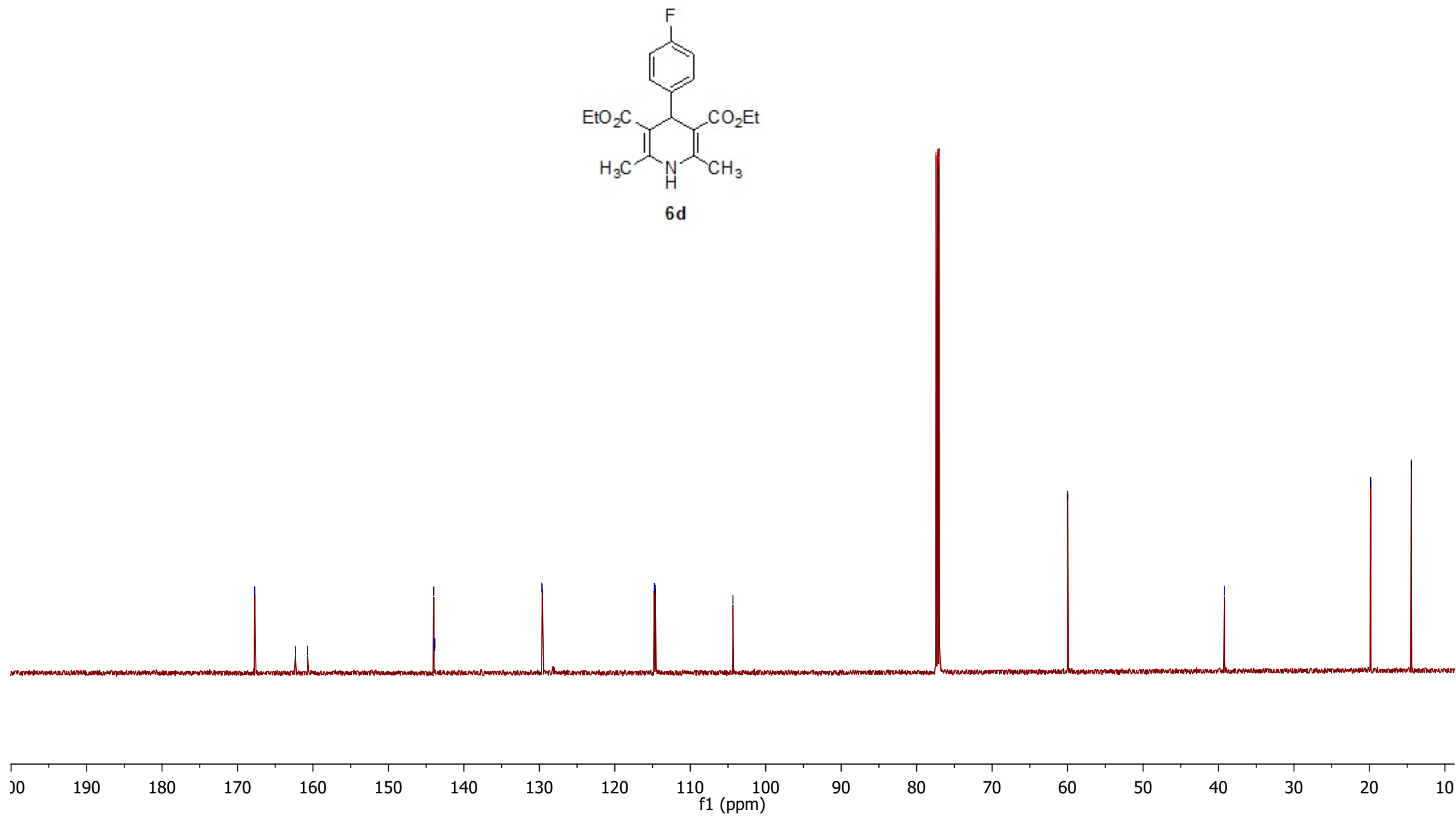


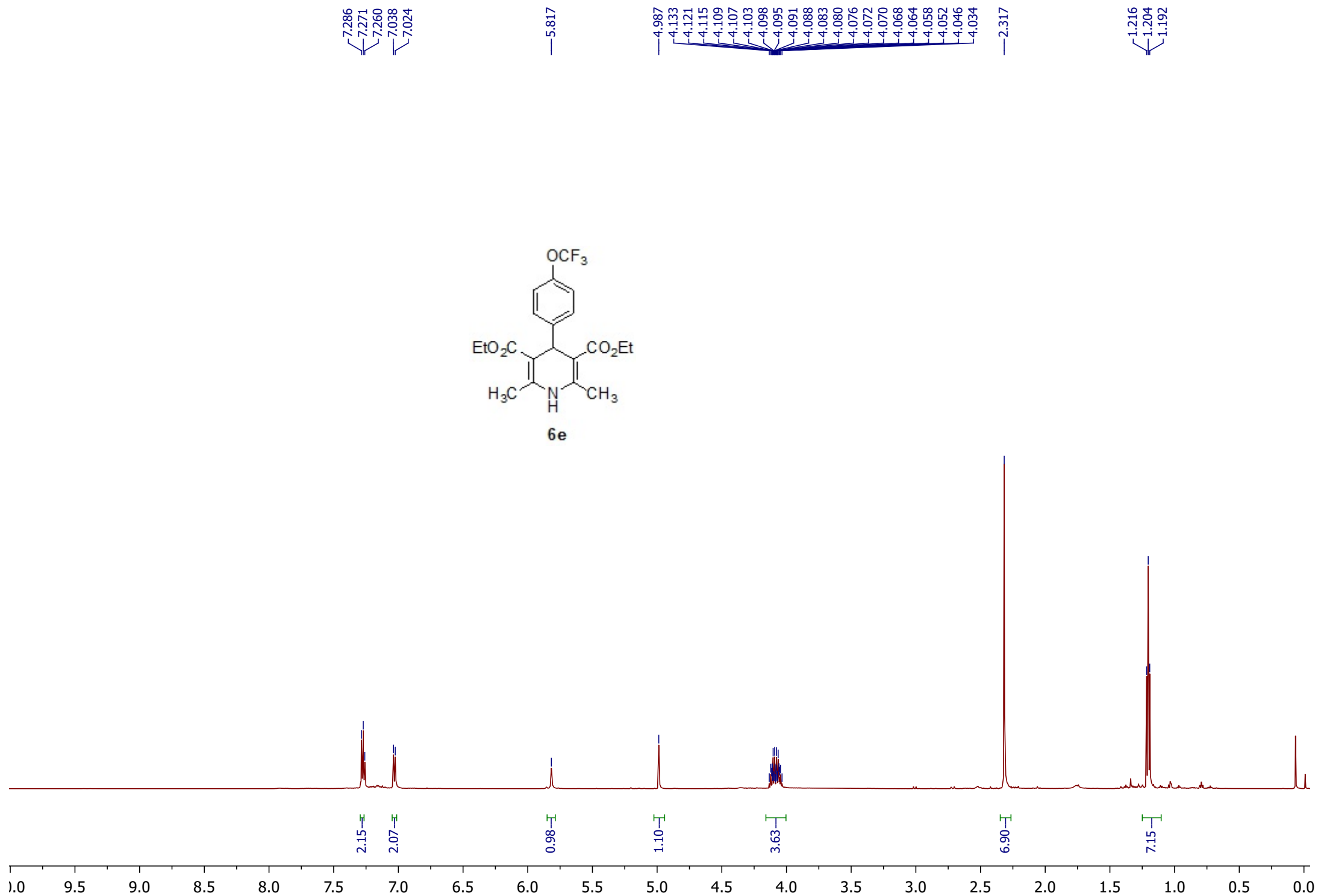




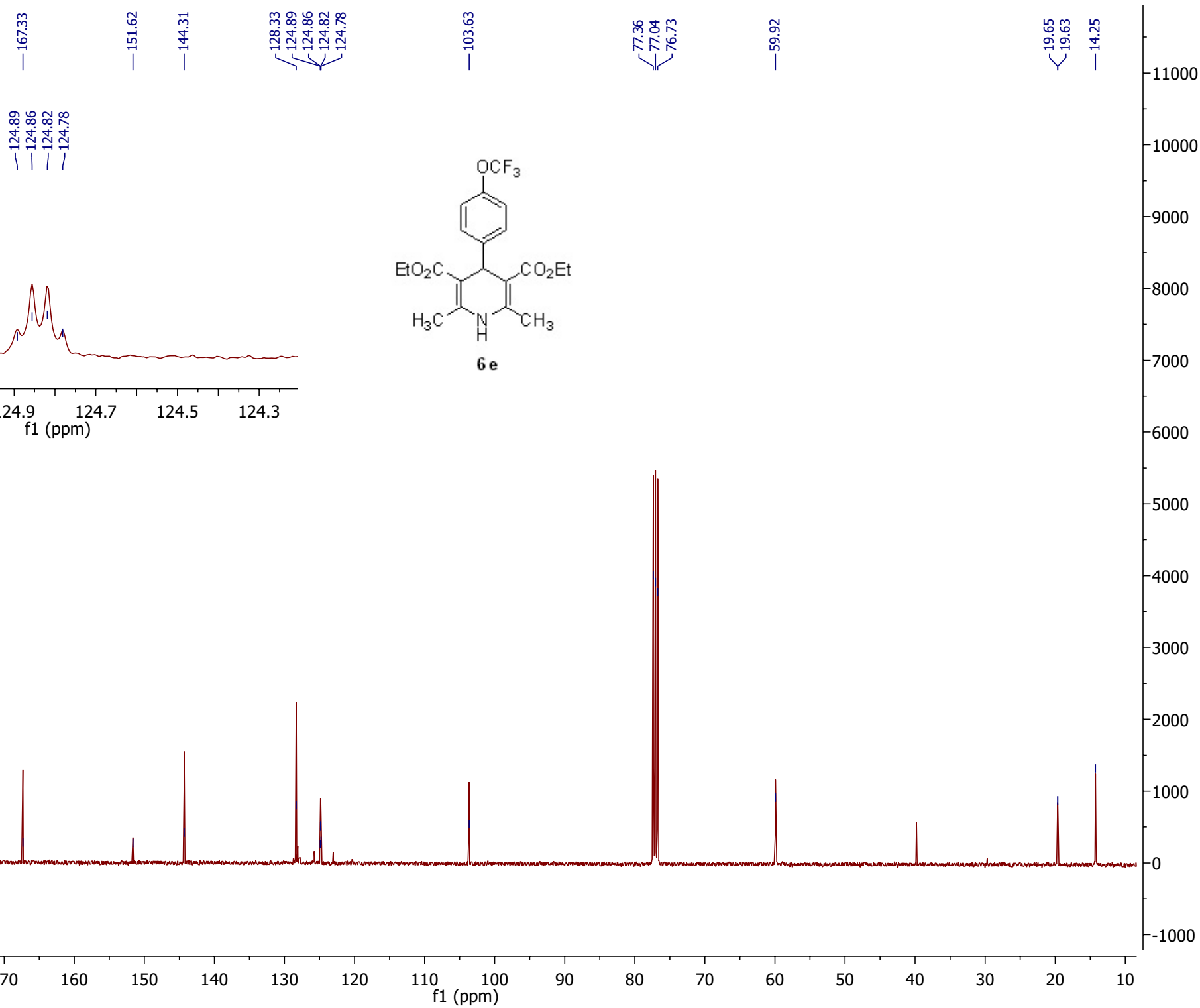


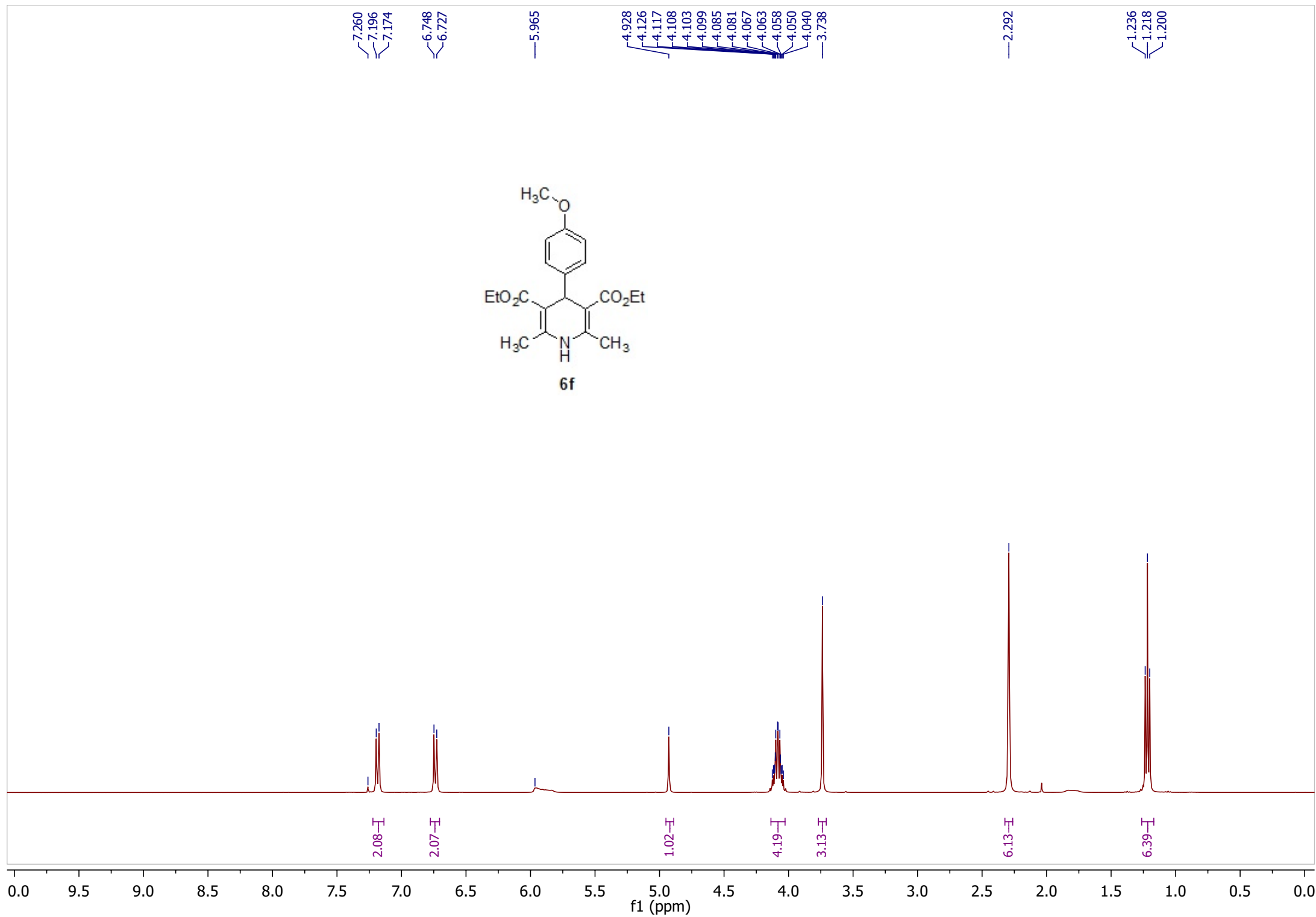


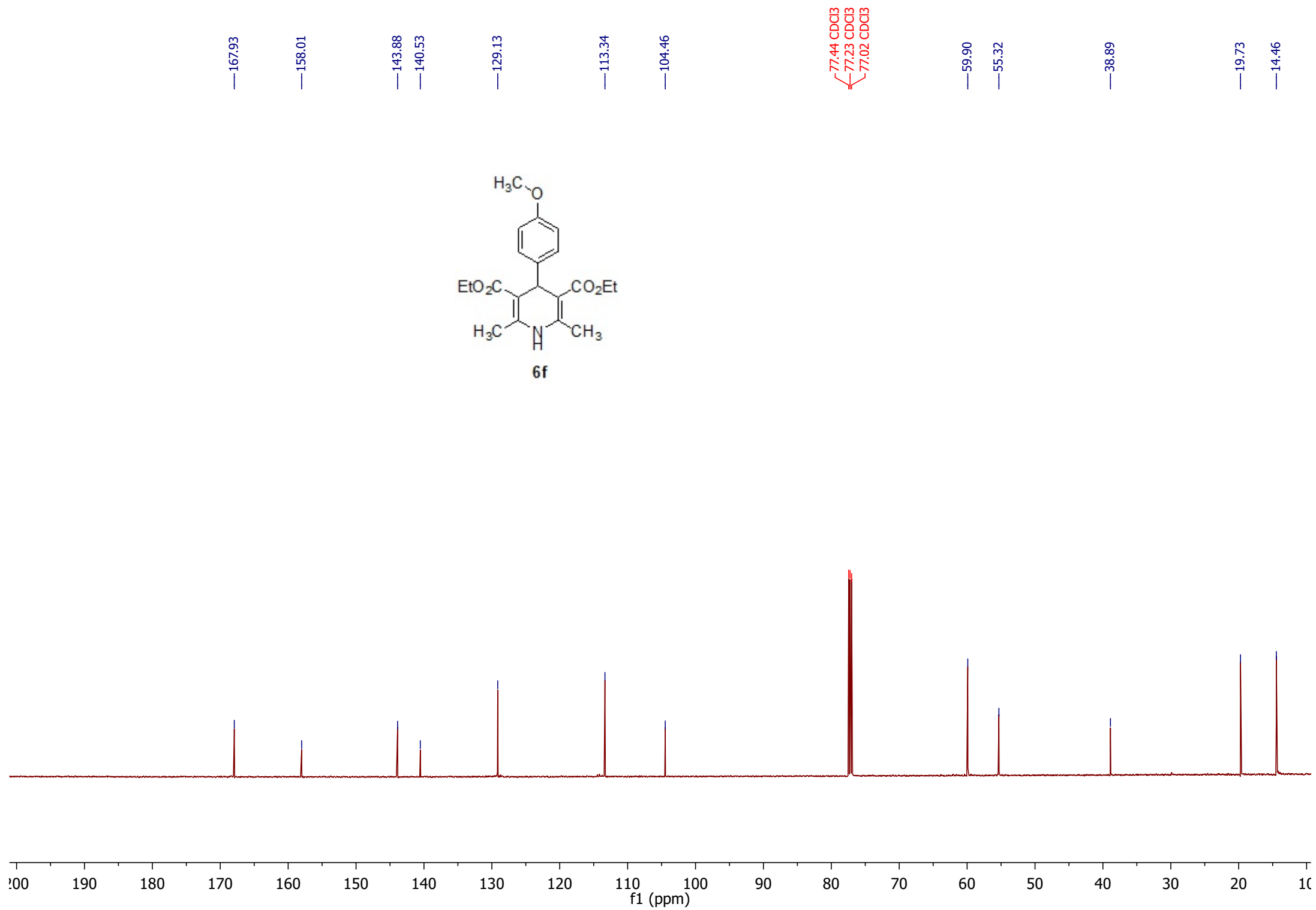




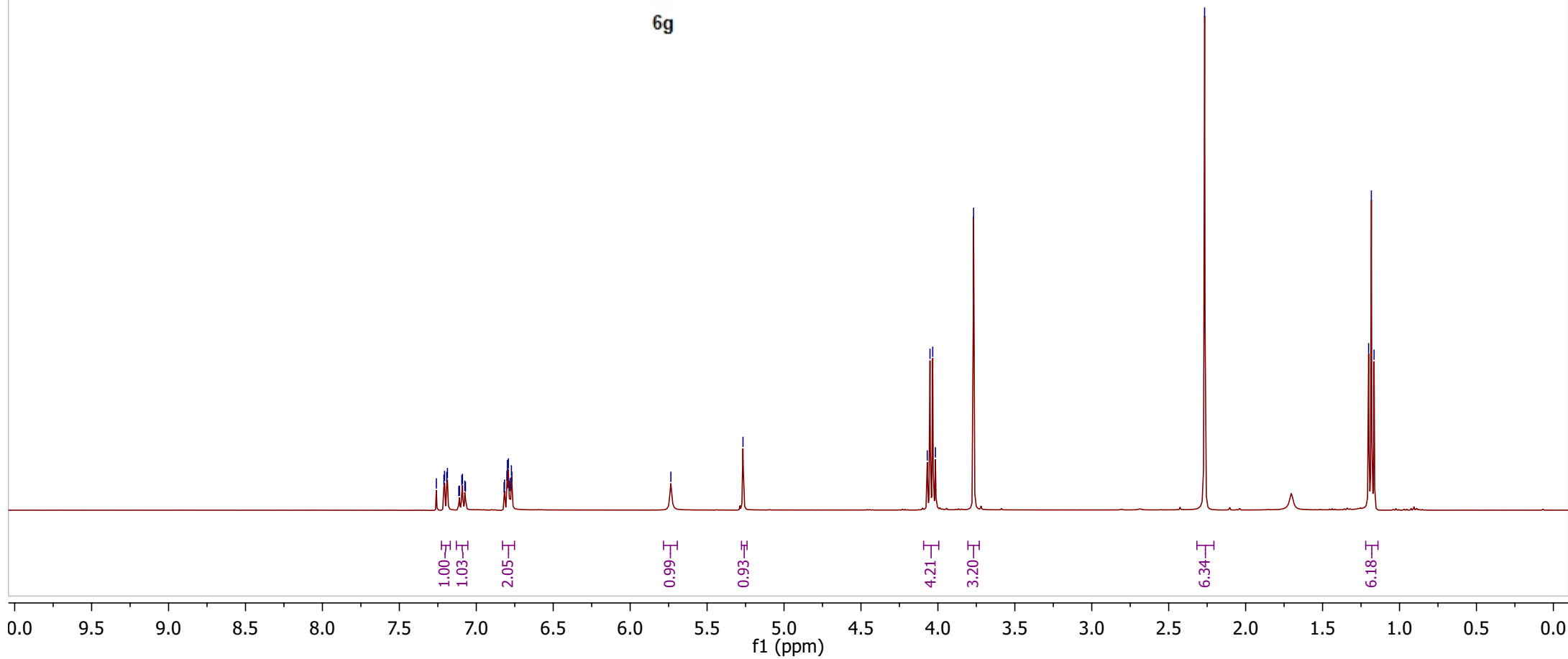
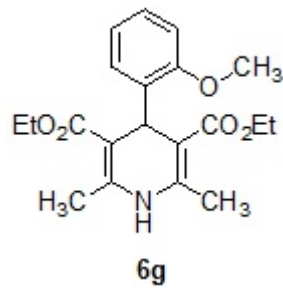
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CKJ-SG-4-109-13C

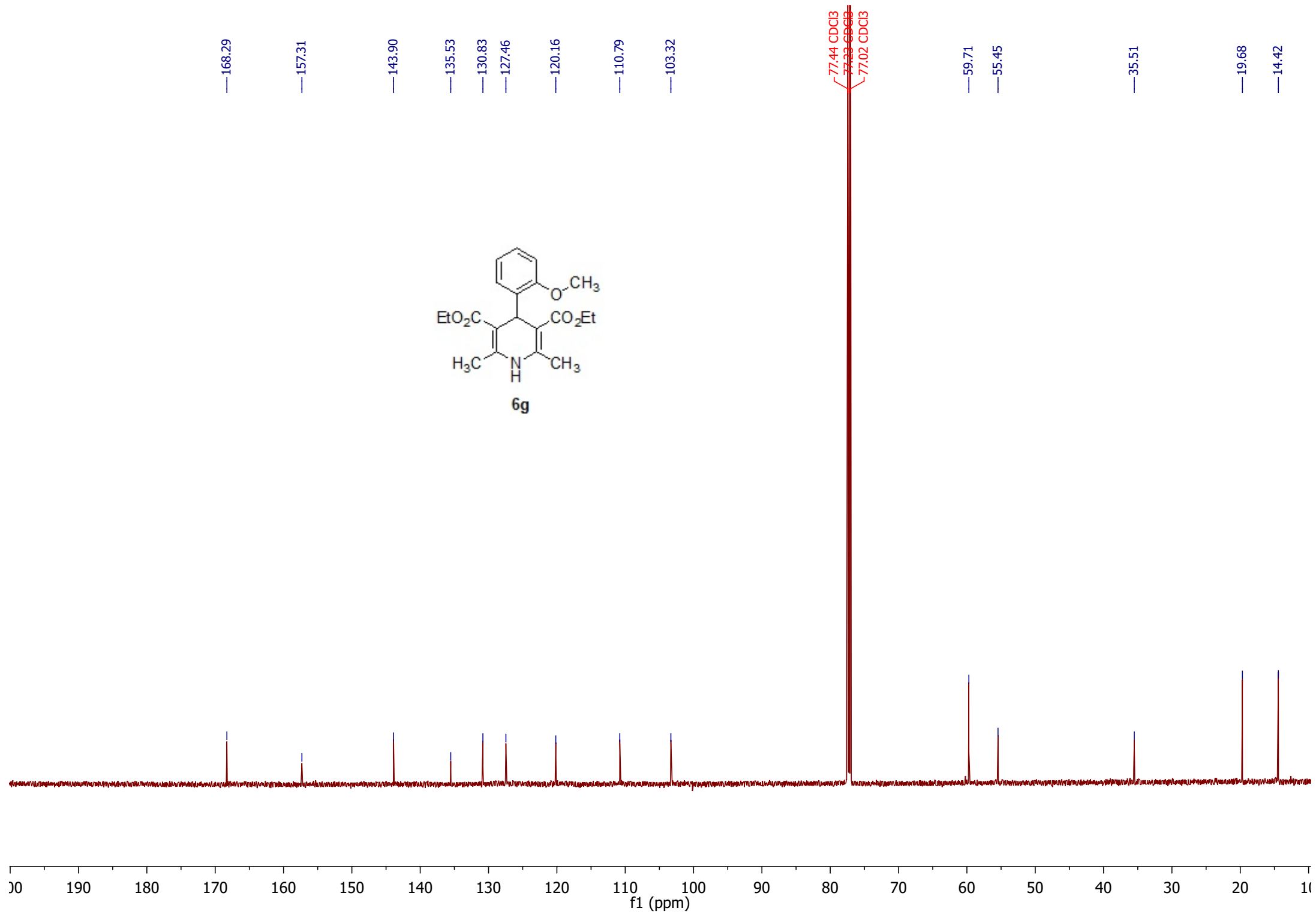
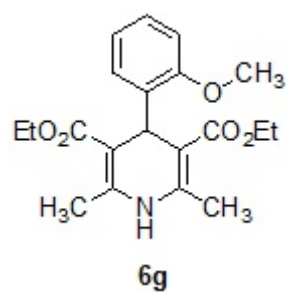


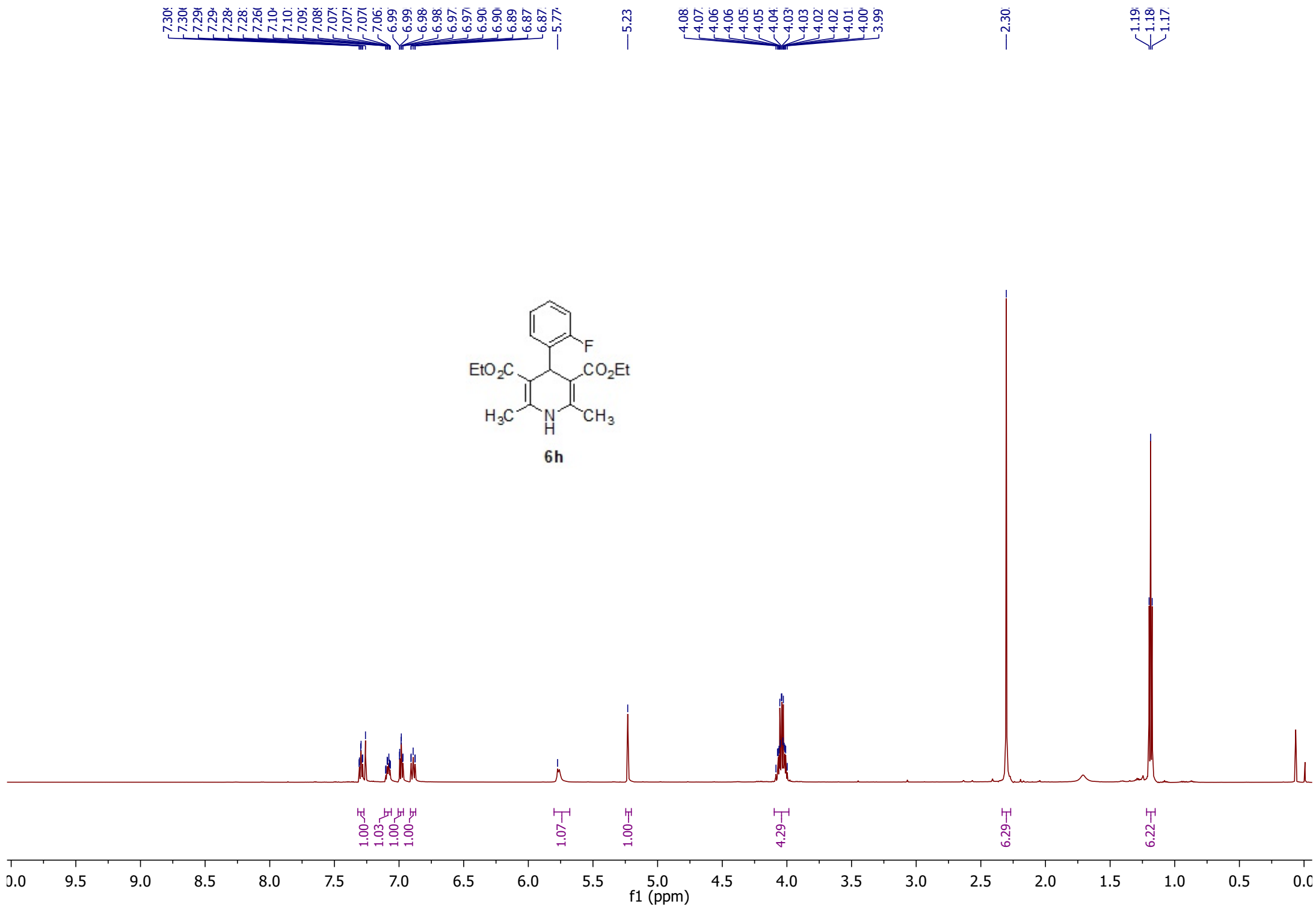


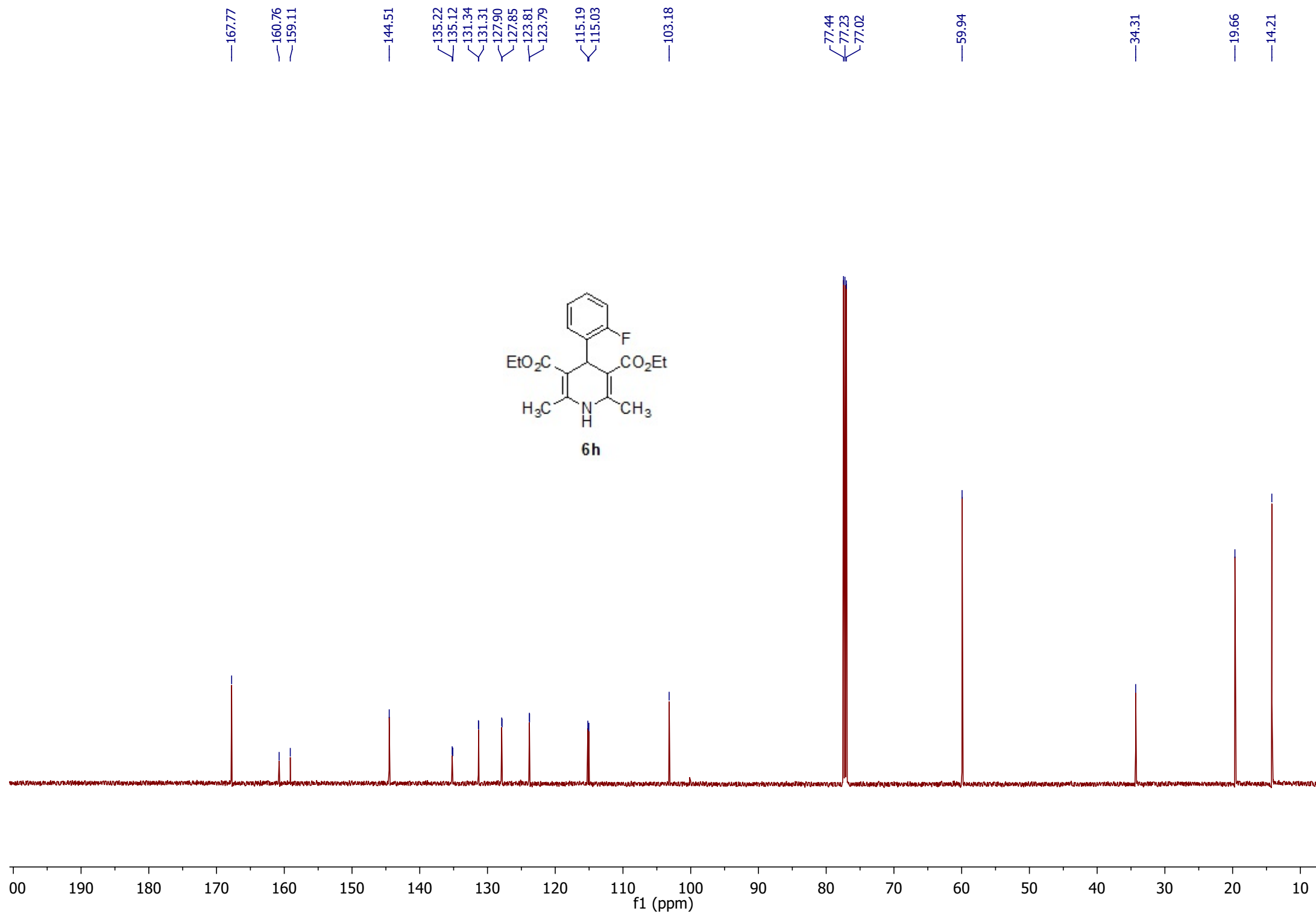


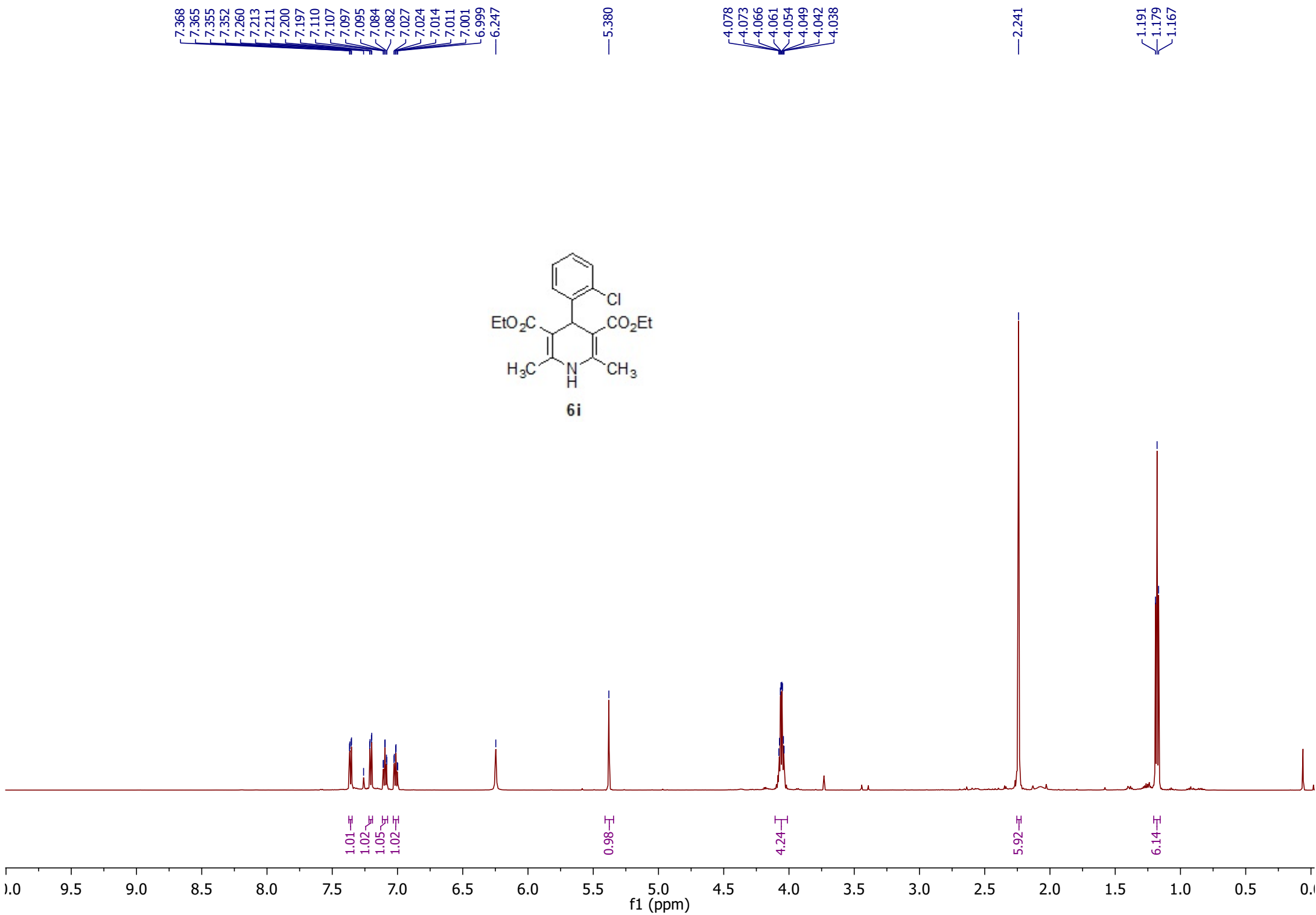
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6.801
6.798
6.791
6.782
6.780
6.772
6.769
— 5.735
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4.034
4.016
— 3.768
— 2.267
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1.183
1.165

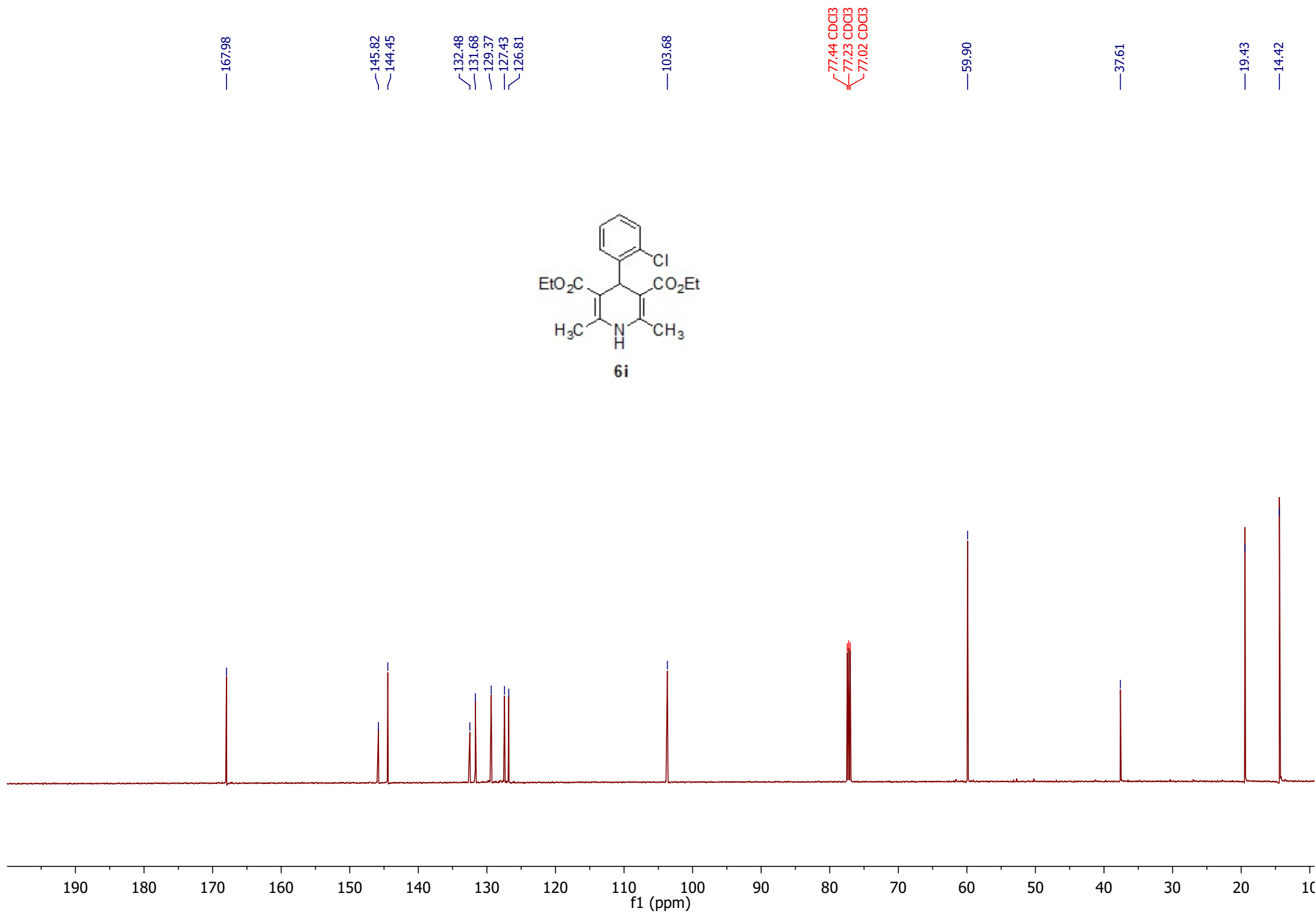


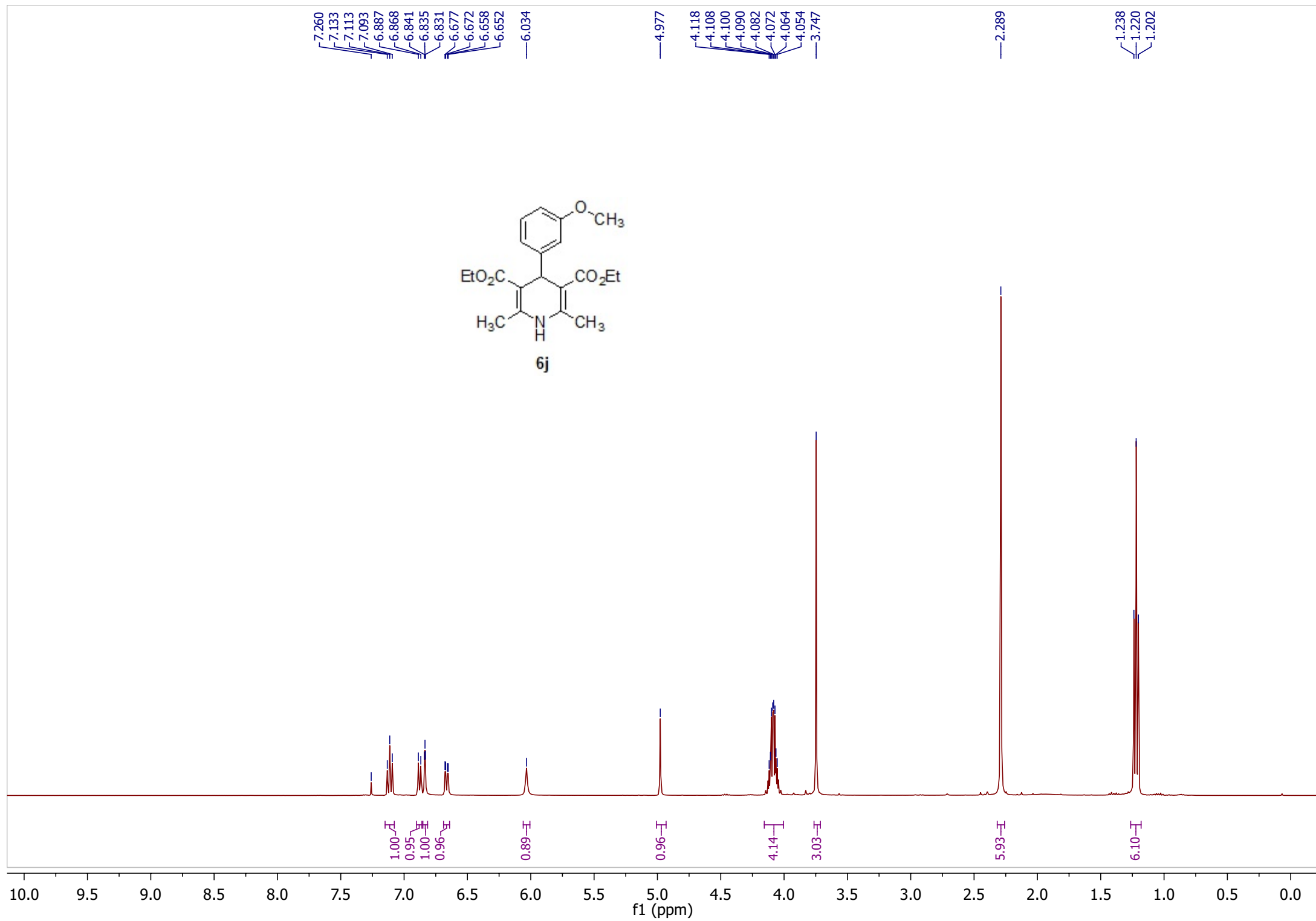


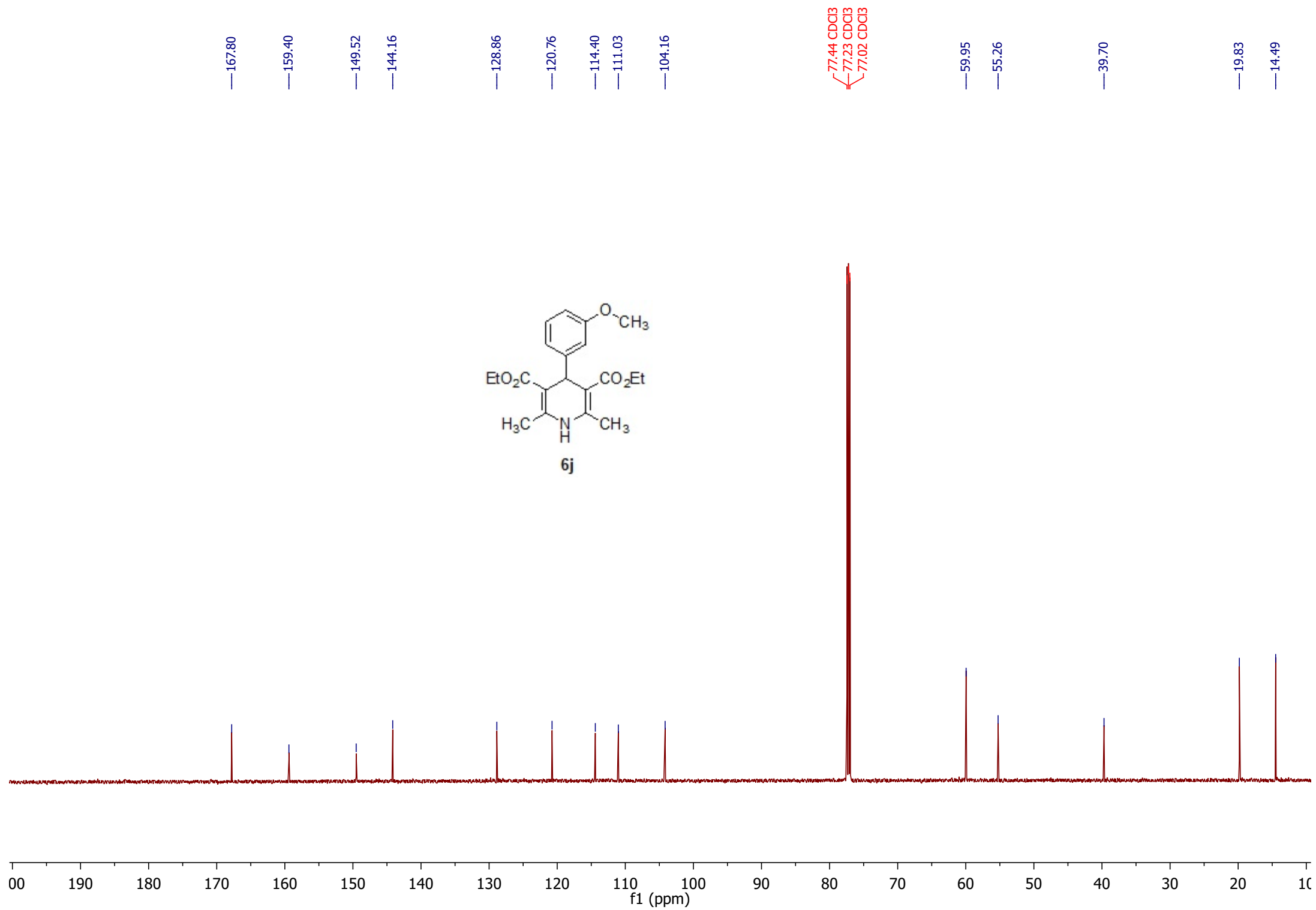


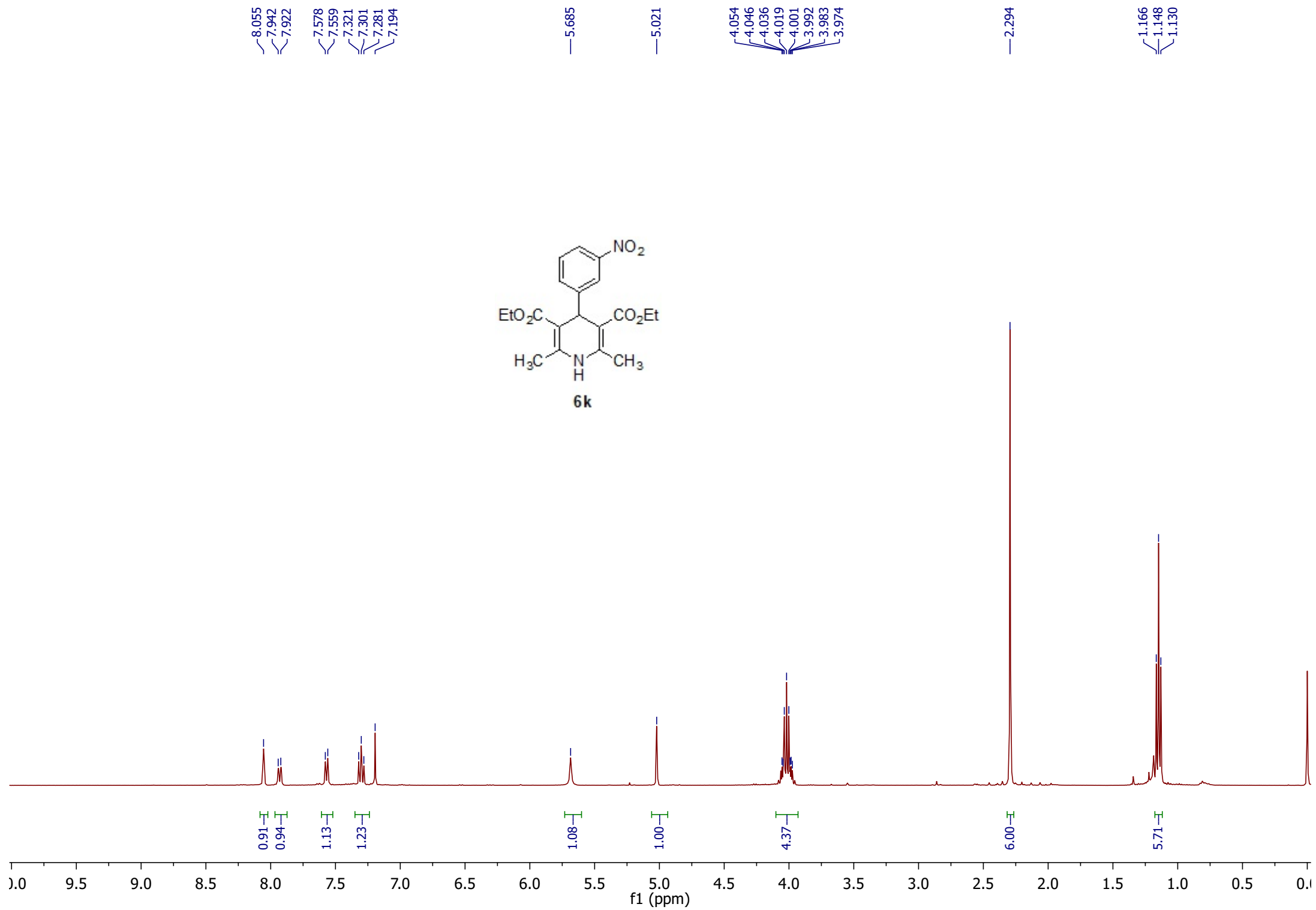


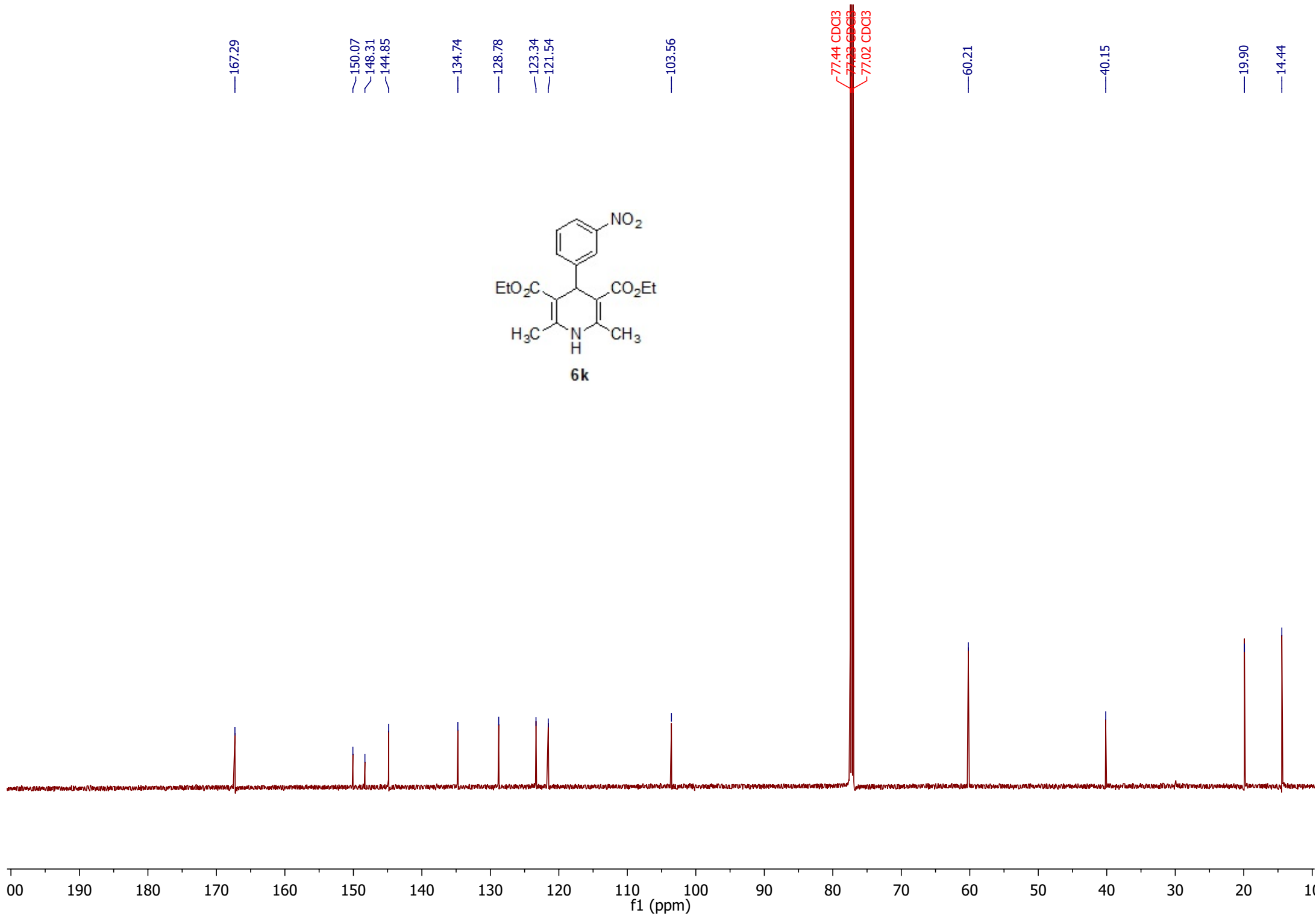


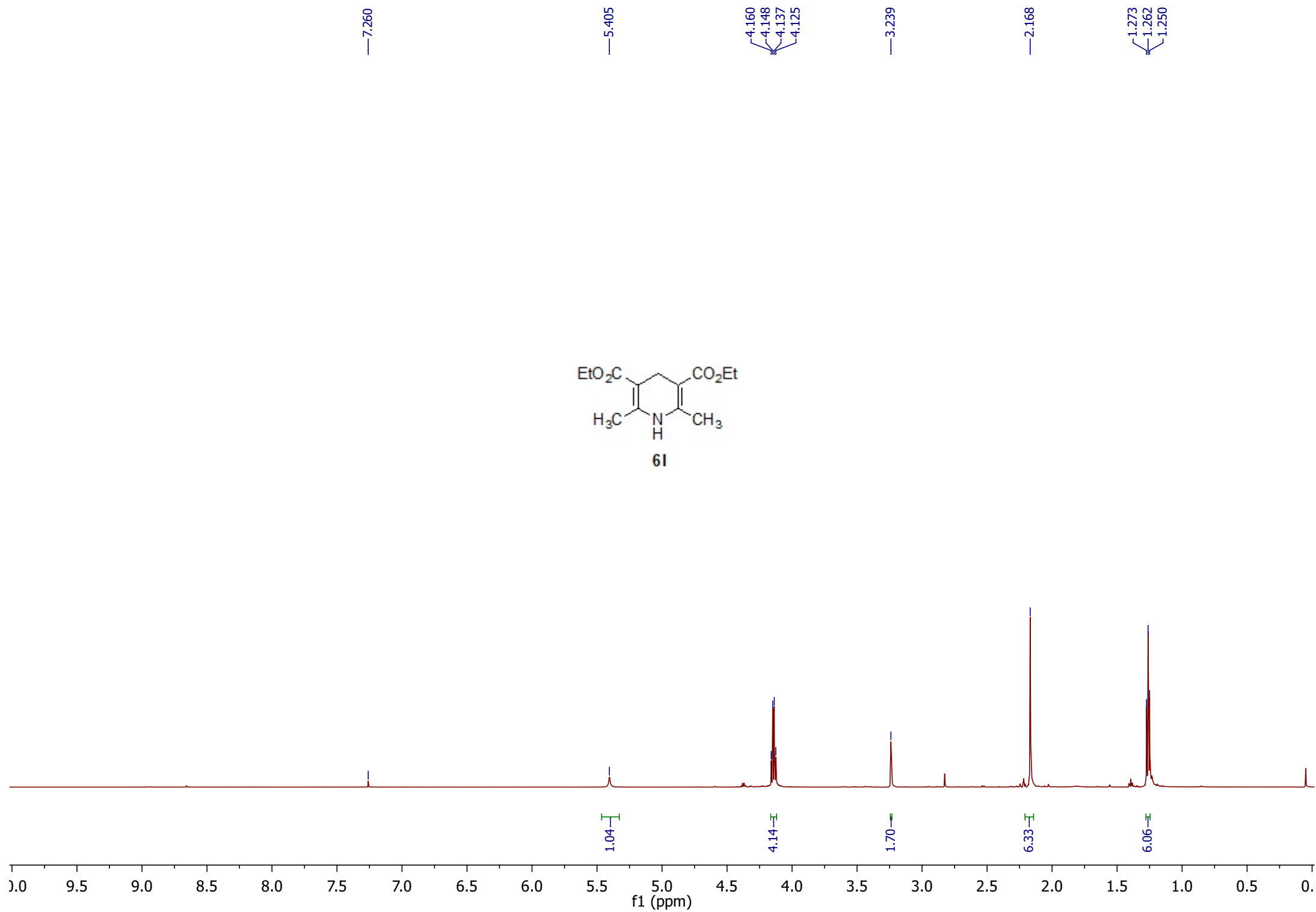


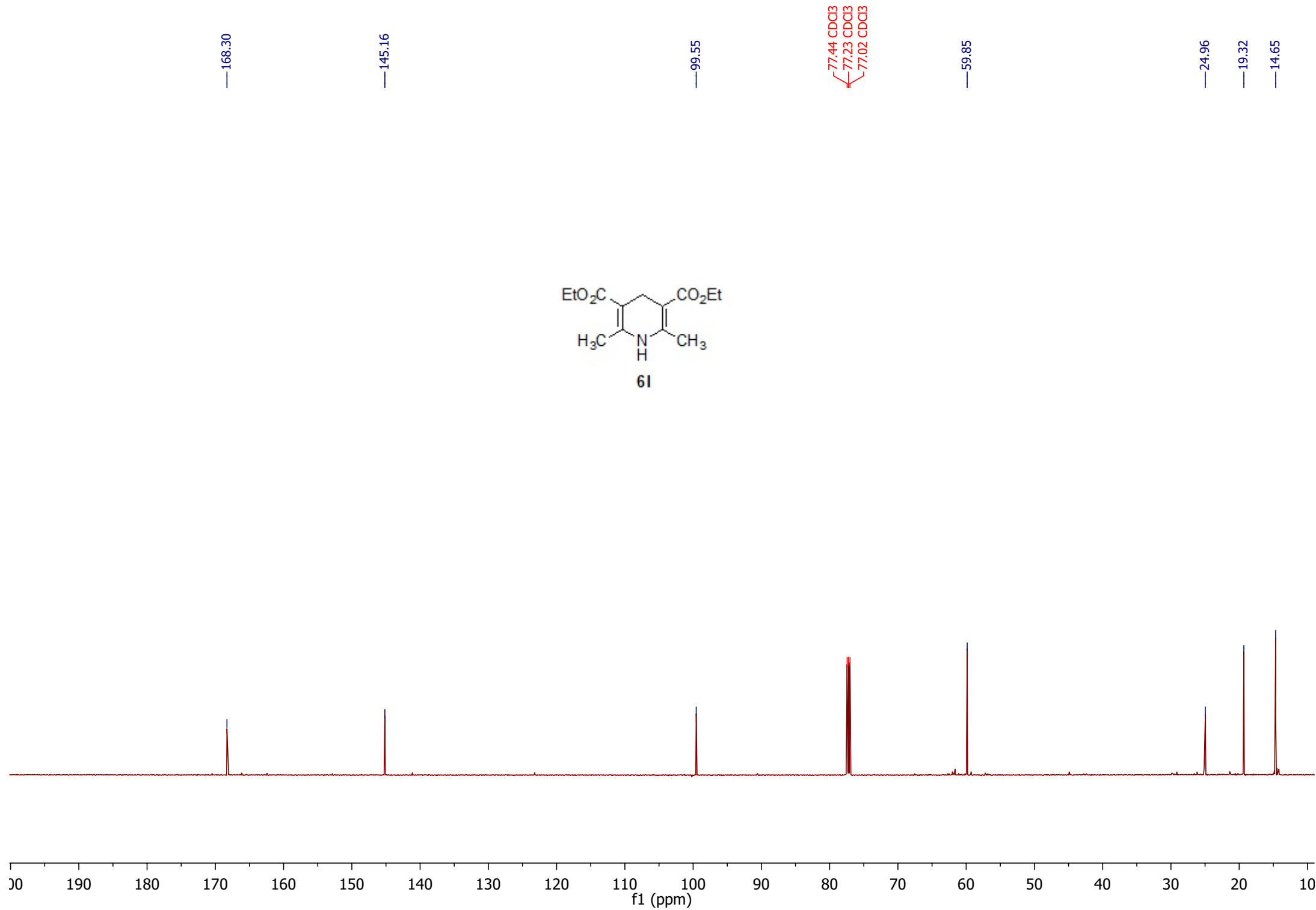
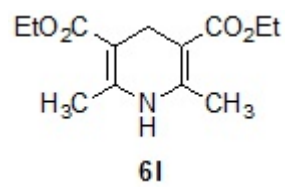


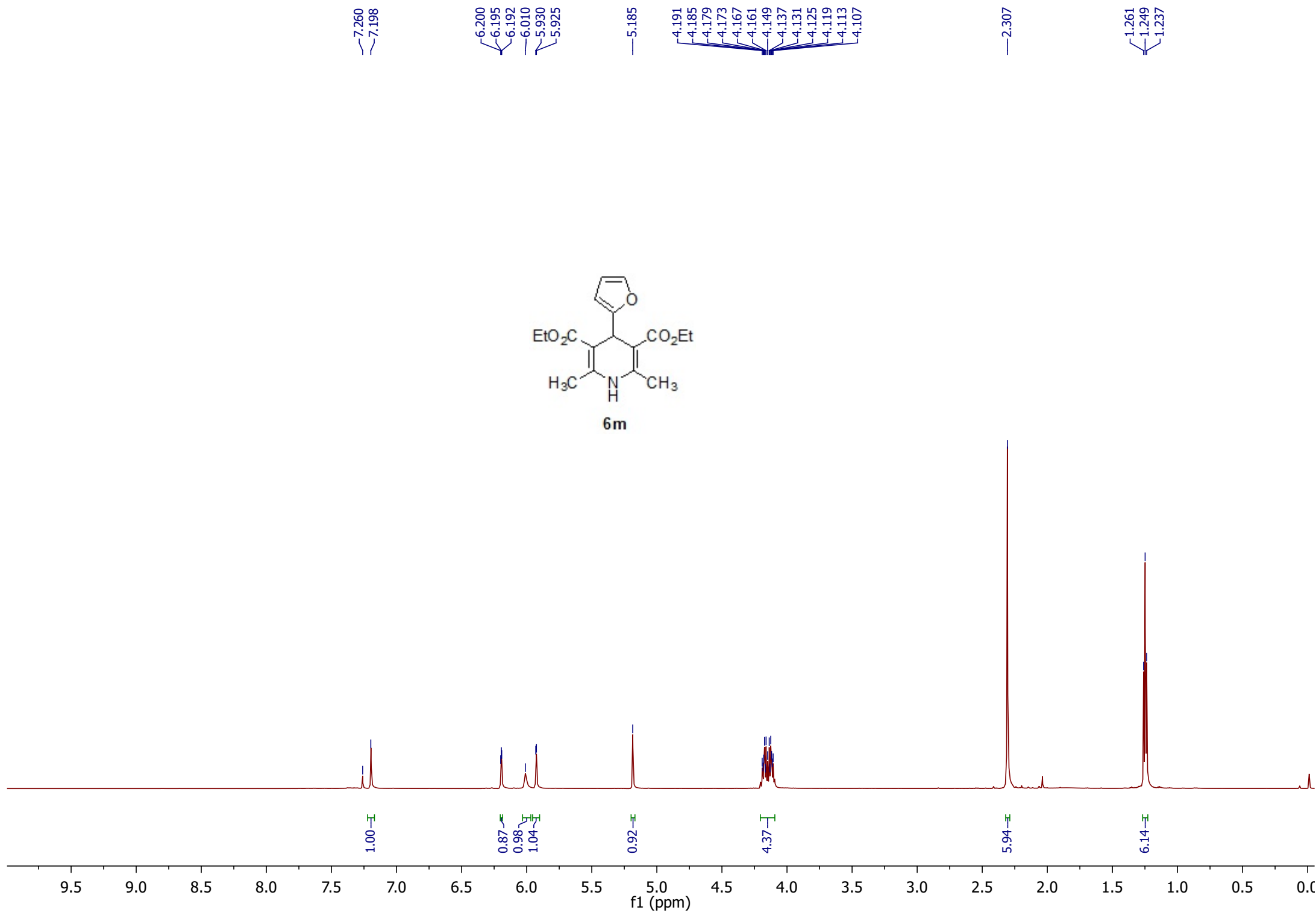


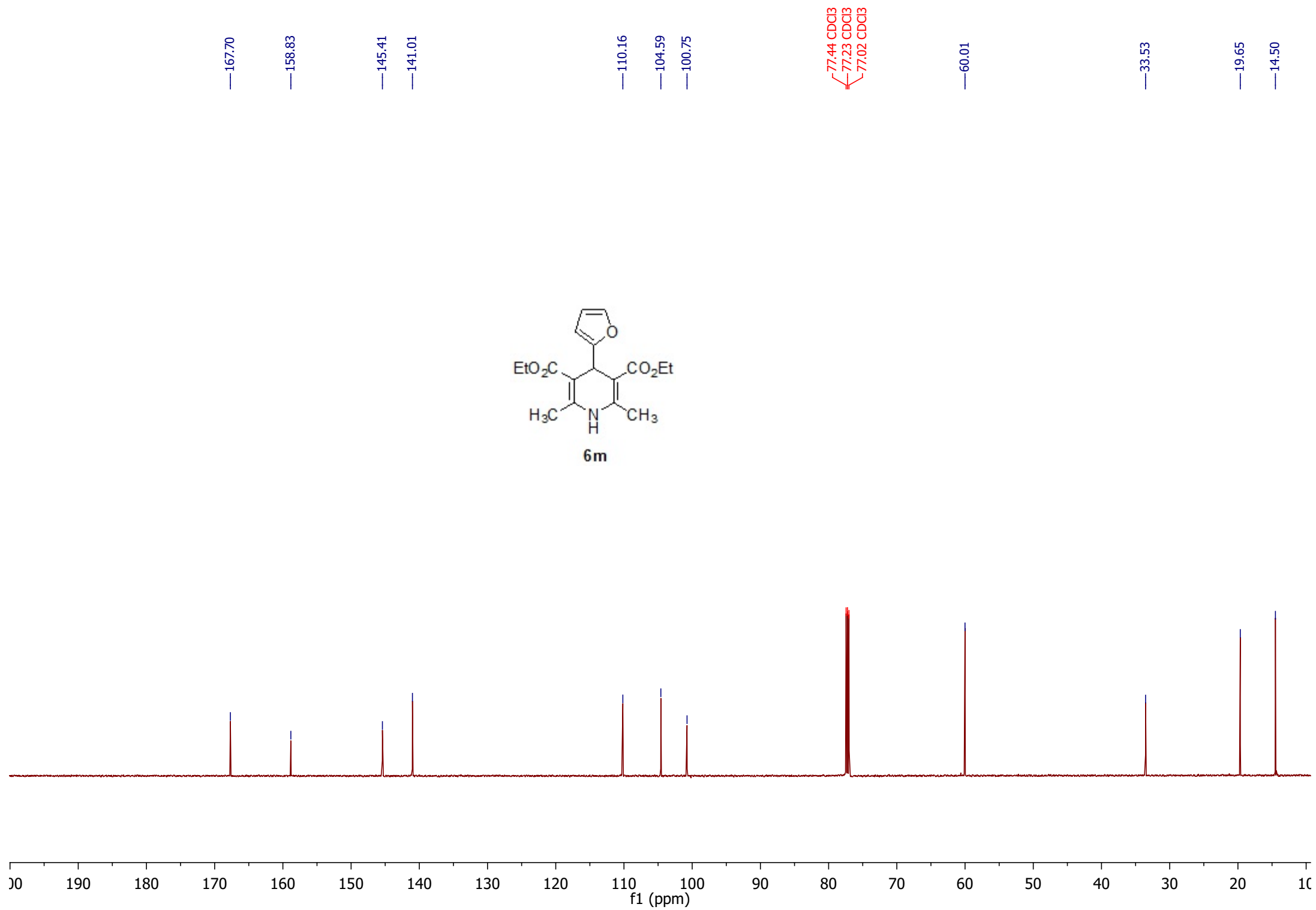
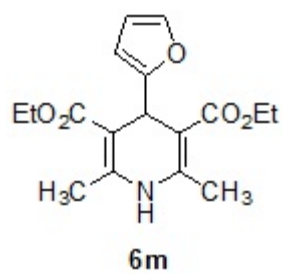


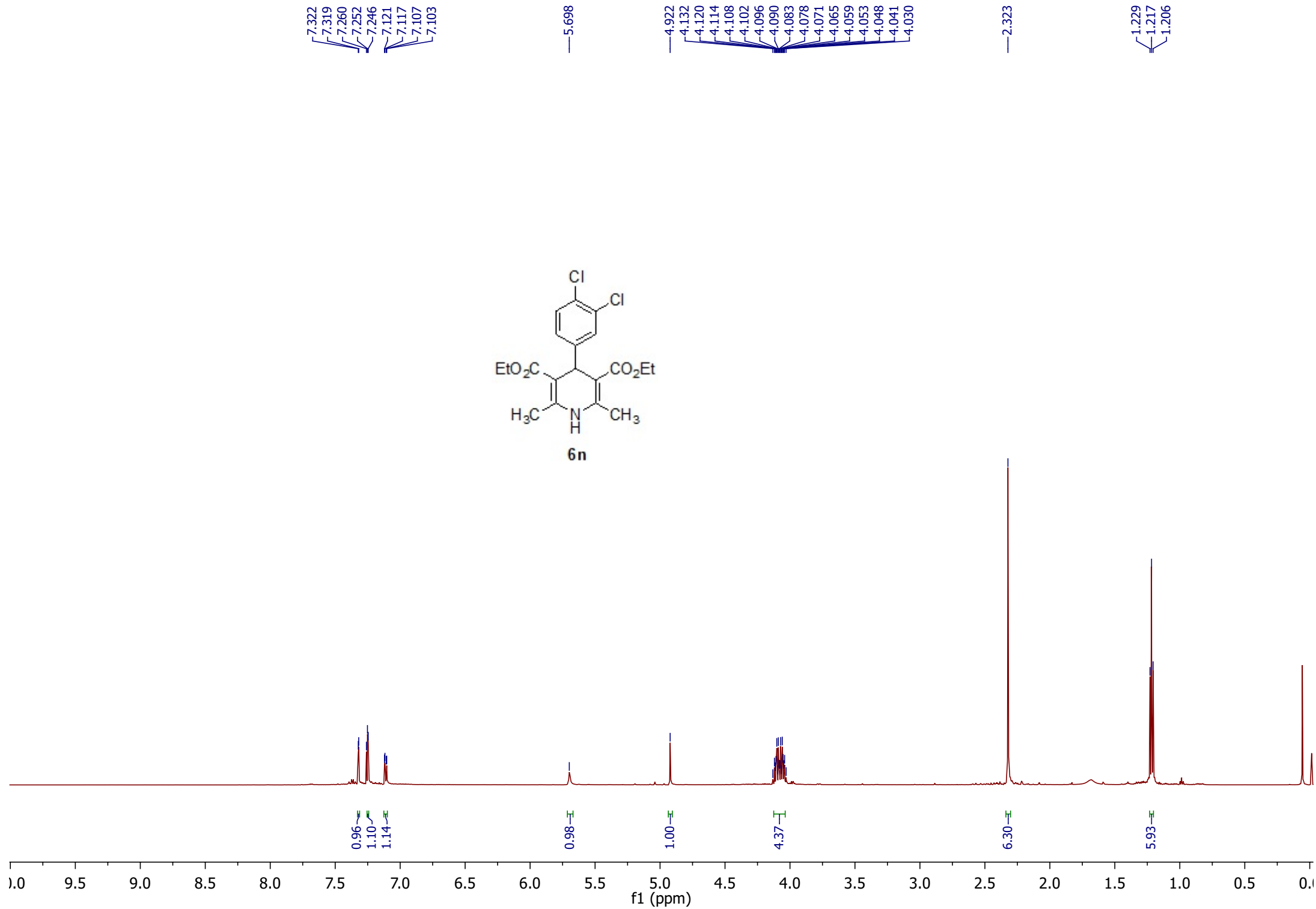


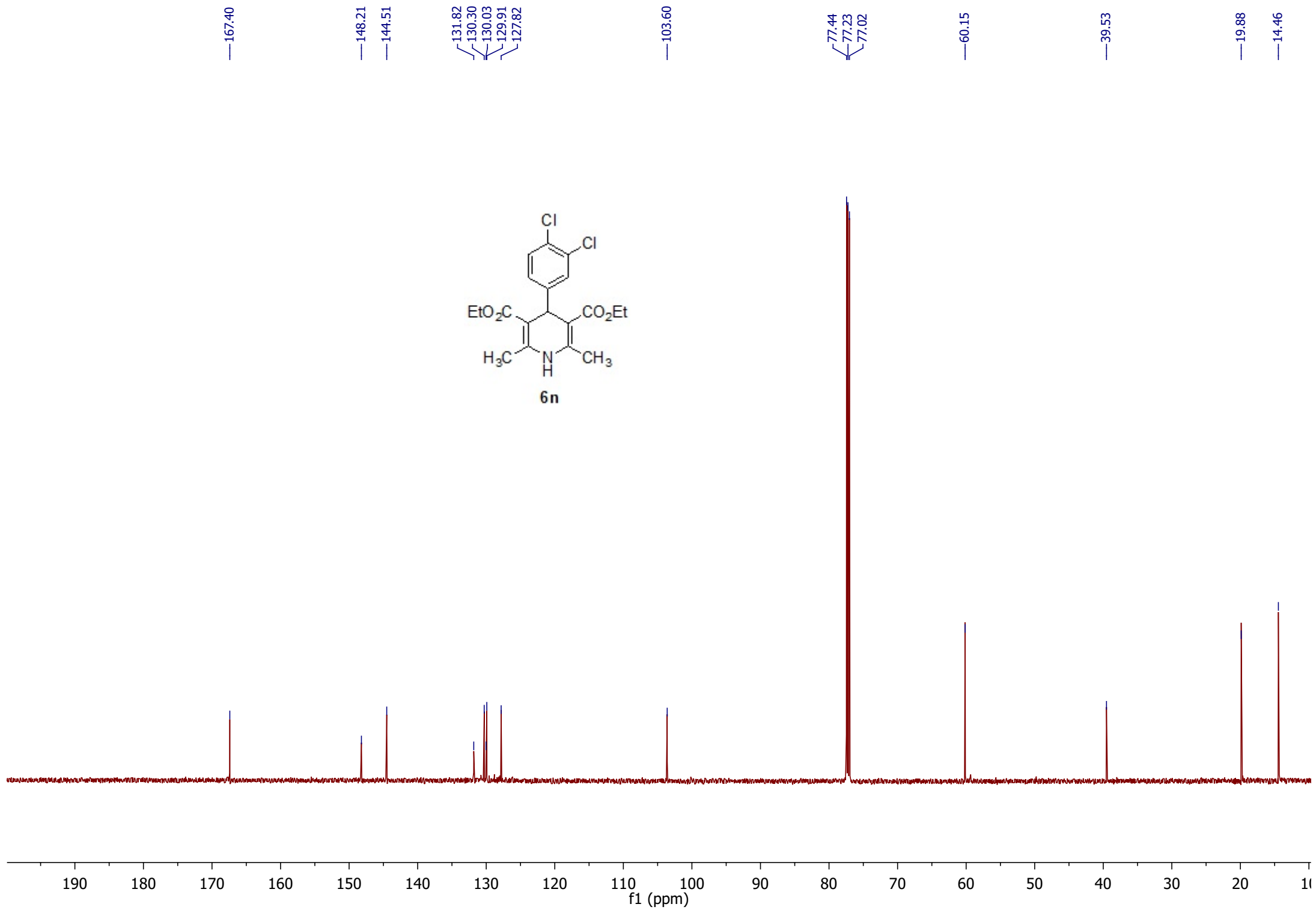












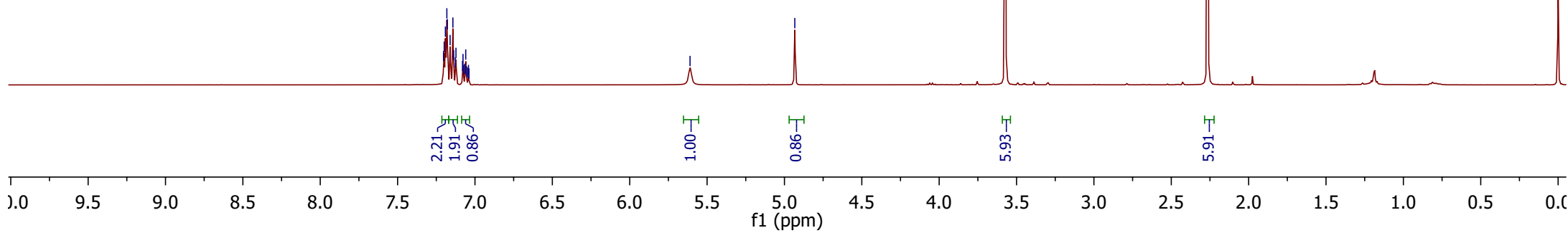
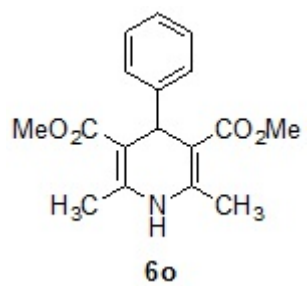
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7.039

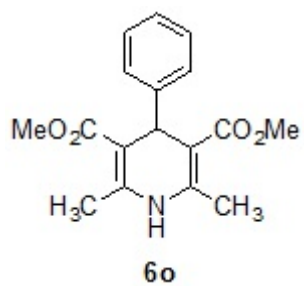
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4.933

3.573

2.266





—168.23

—147.57

—144.41

—128.23

—127.82

—126.41

—104.08

77.44 CDCl₃

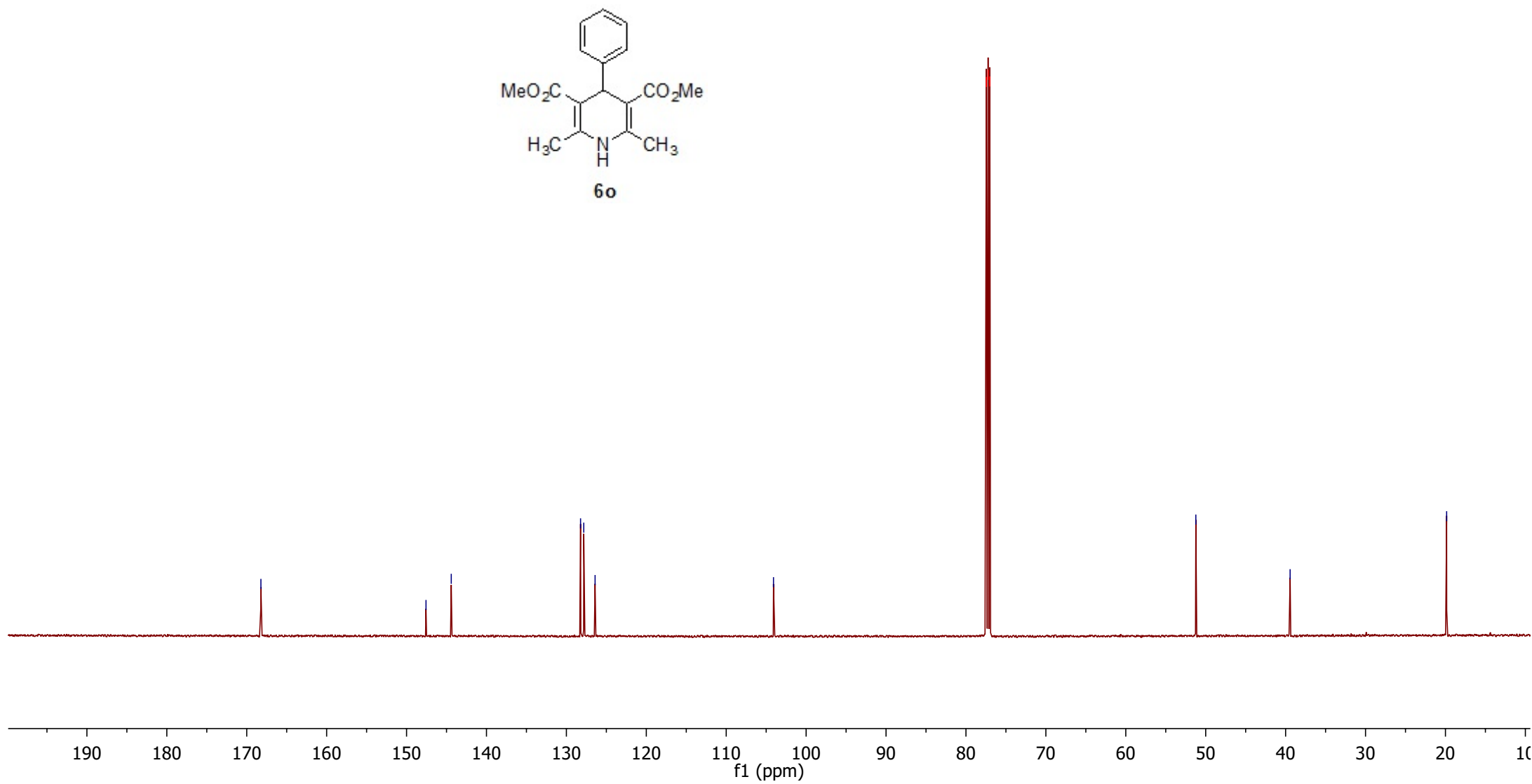
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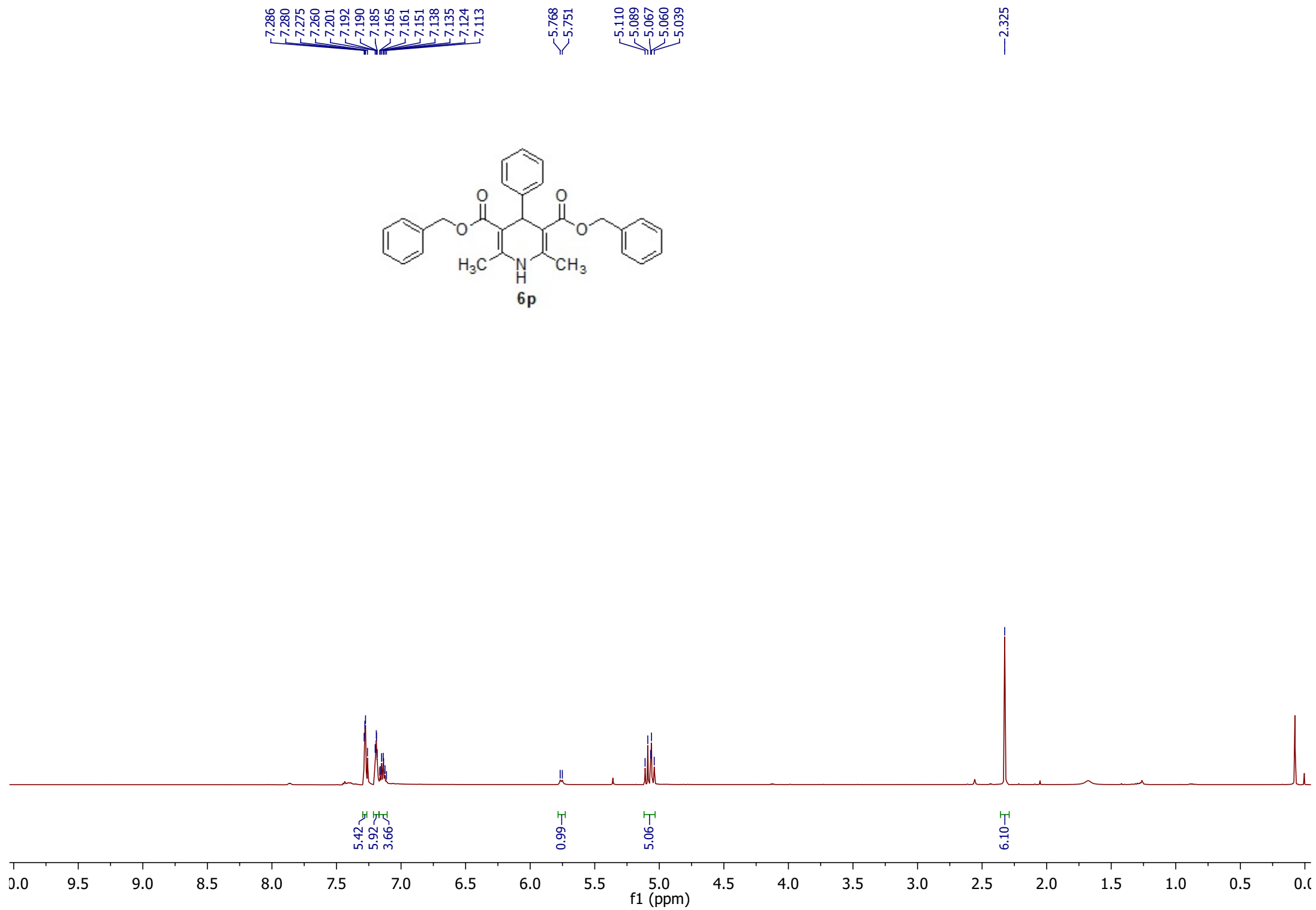
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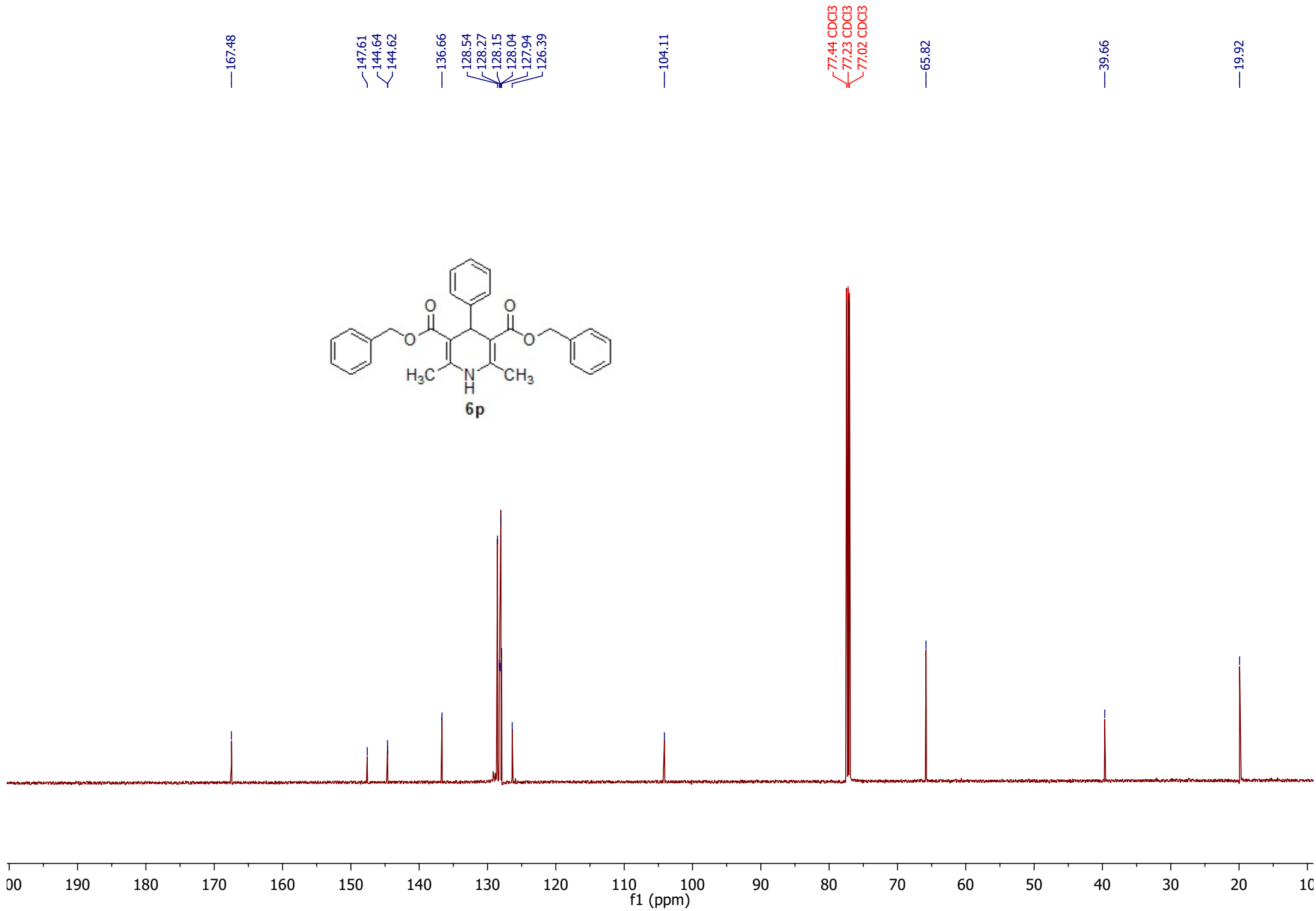
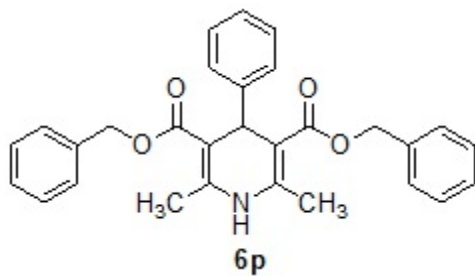
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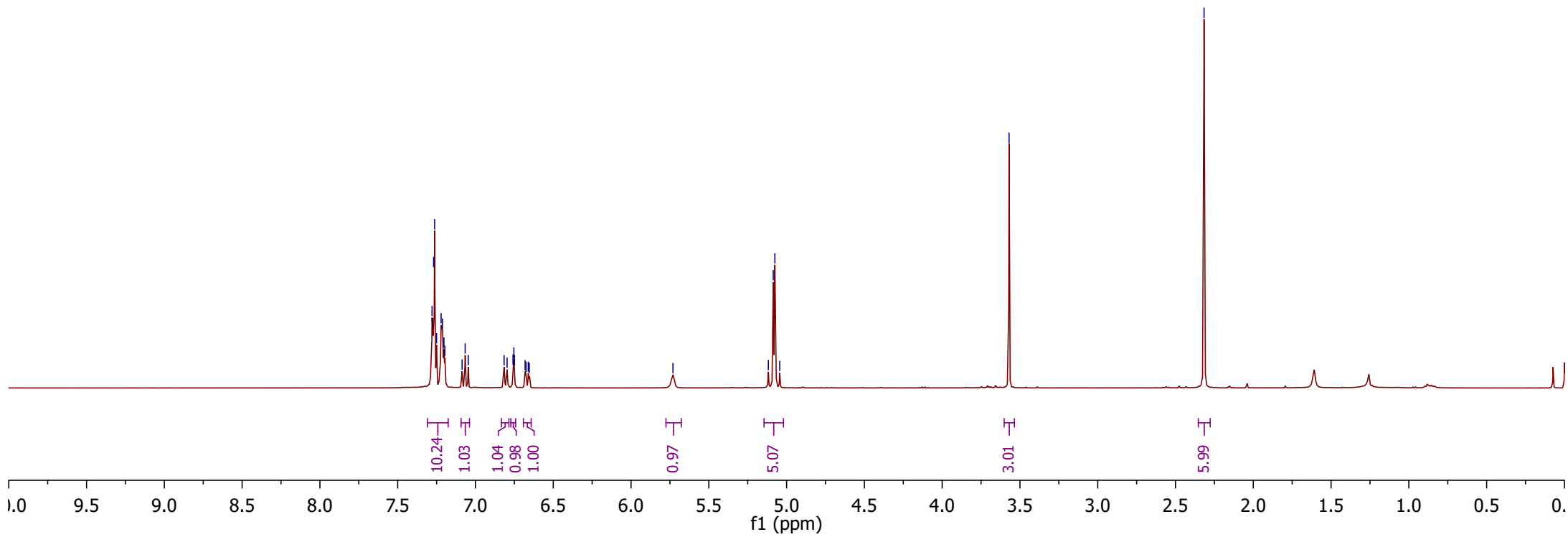
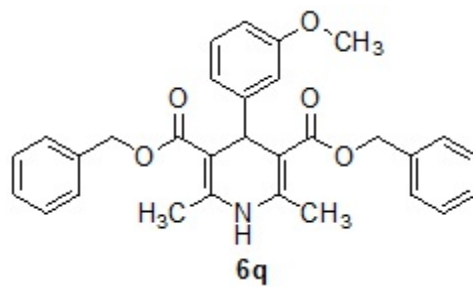
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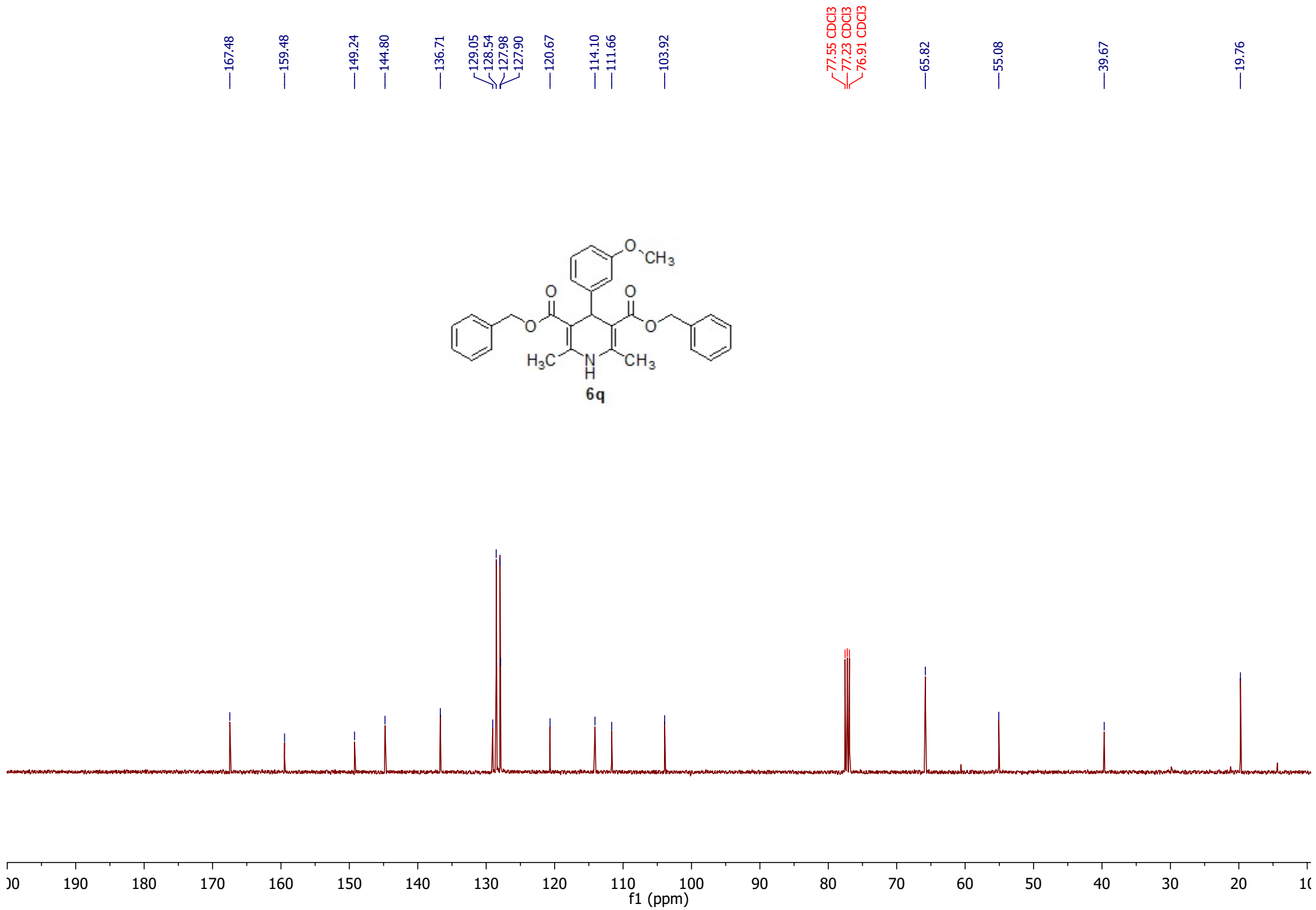
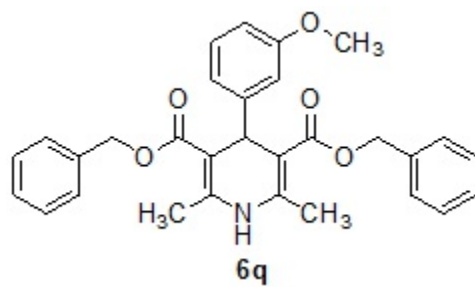


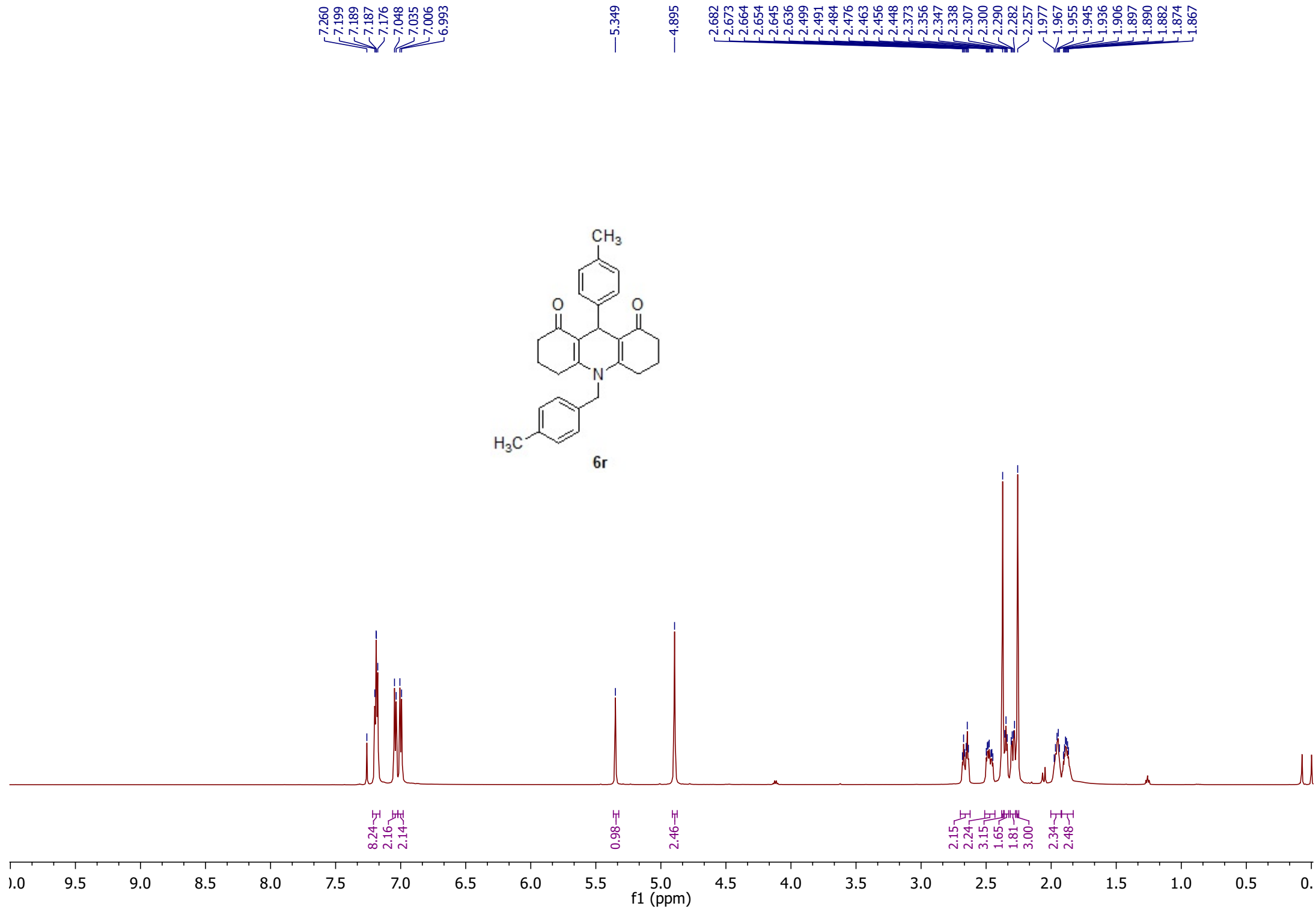


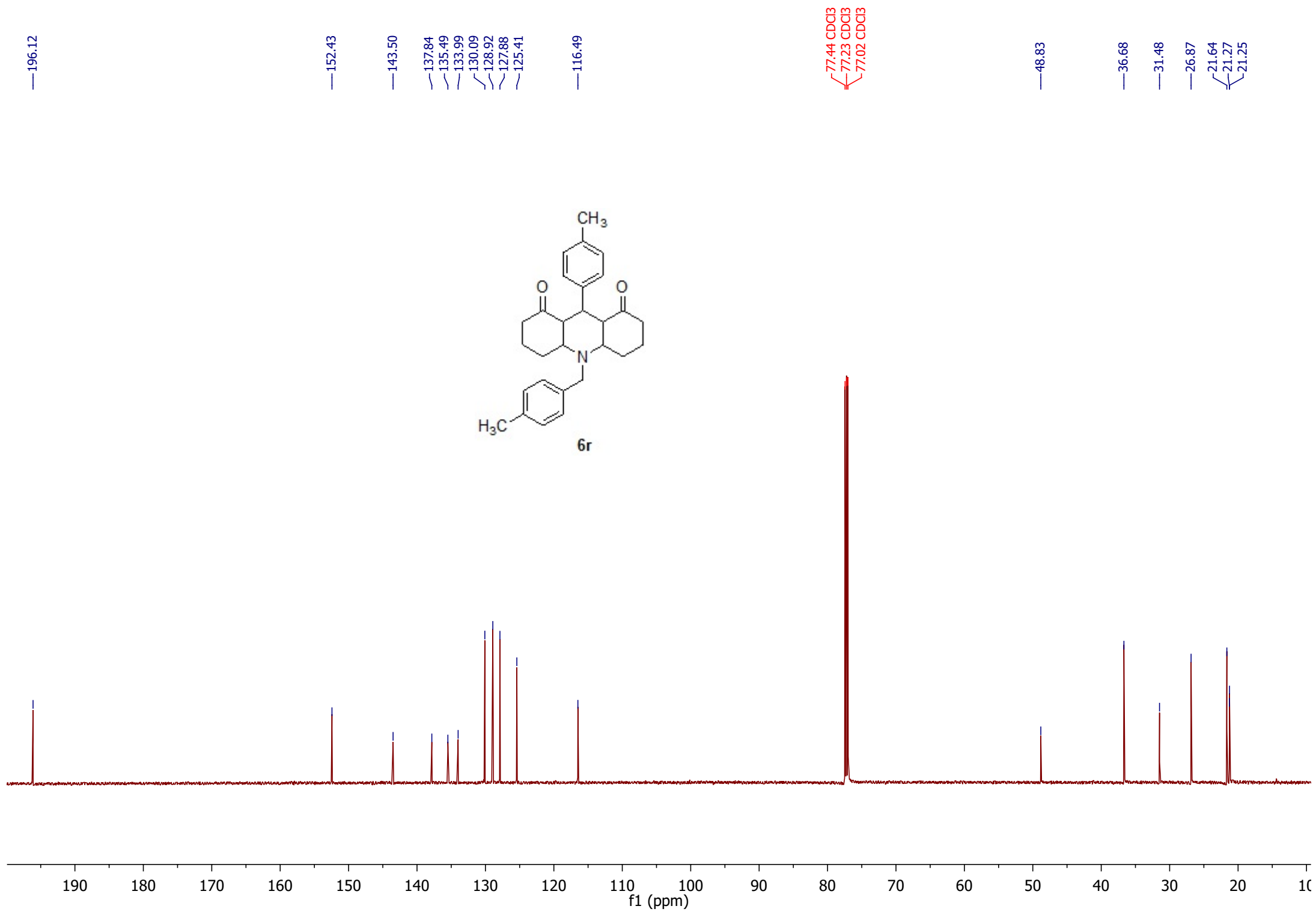


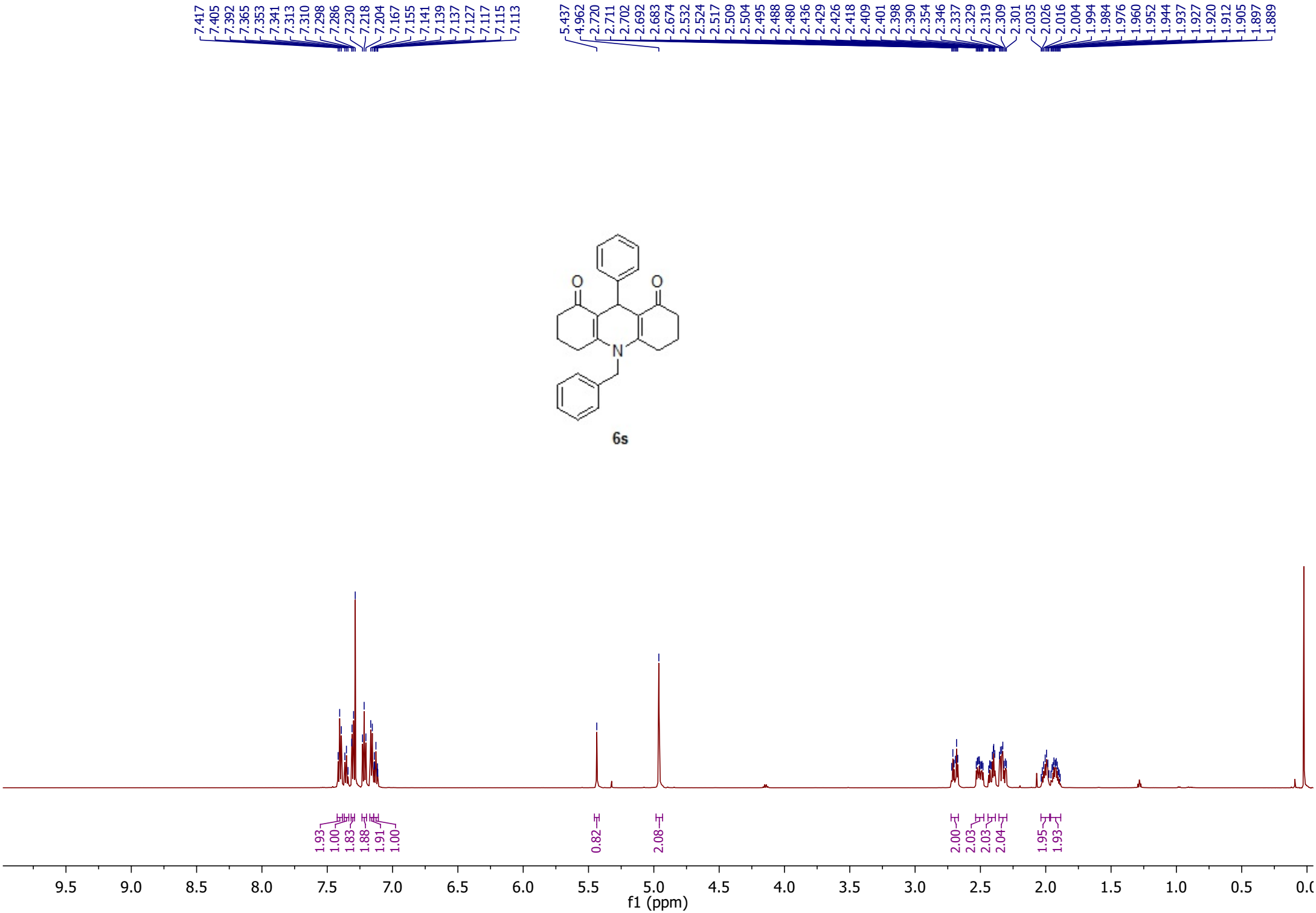
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6.759
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— 3.570
— 2.316

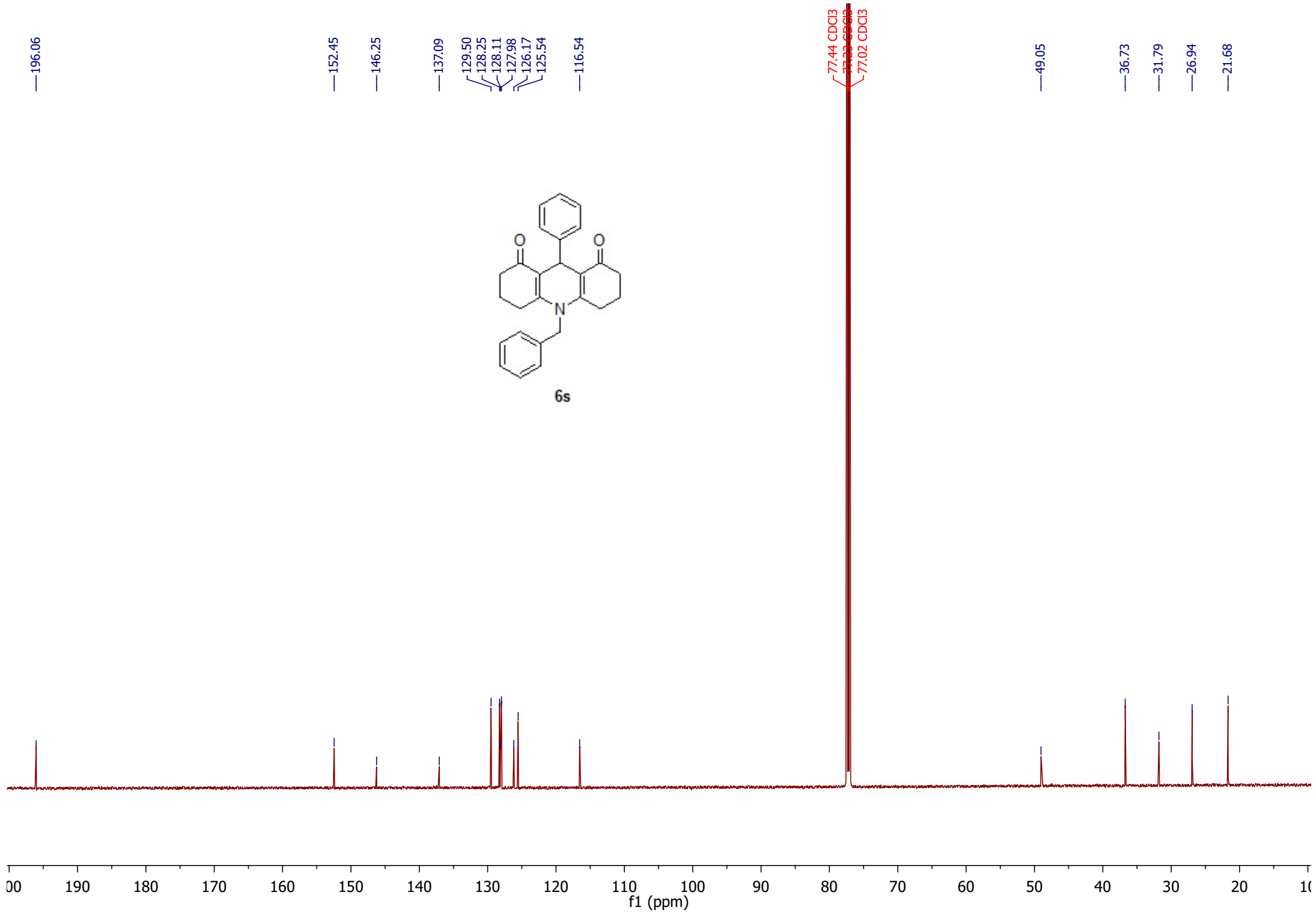


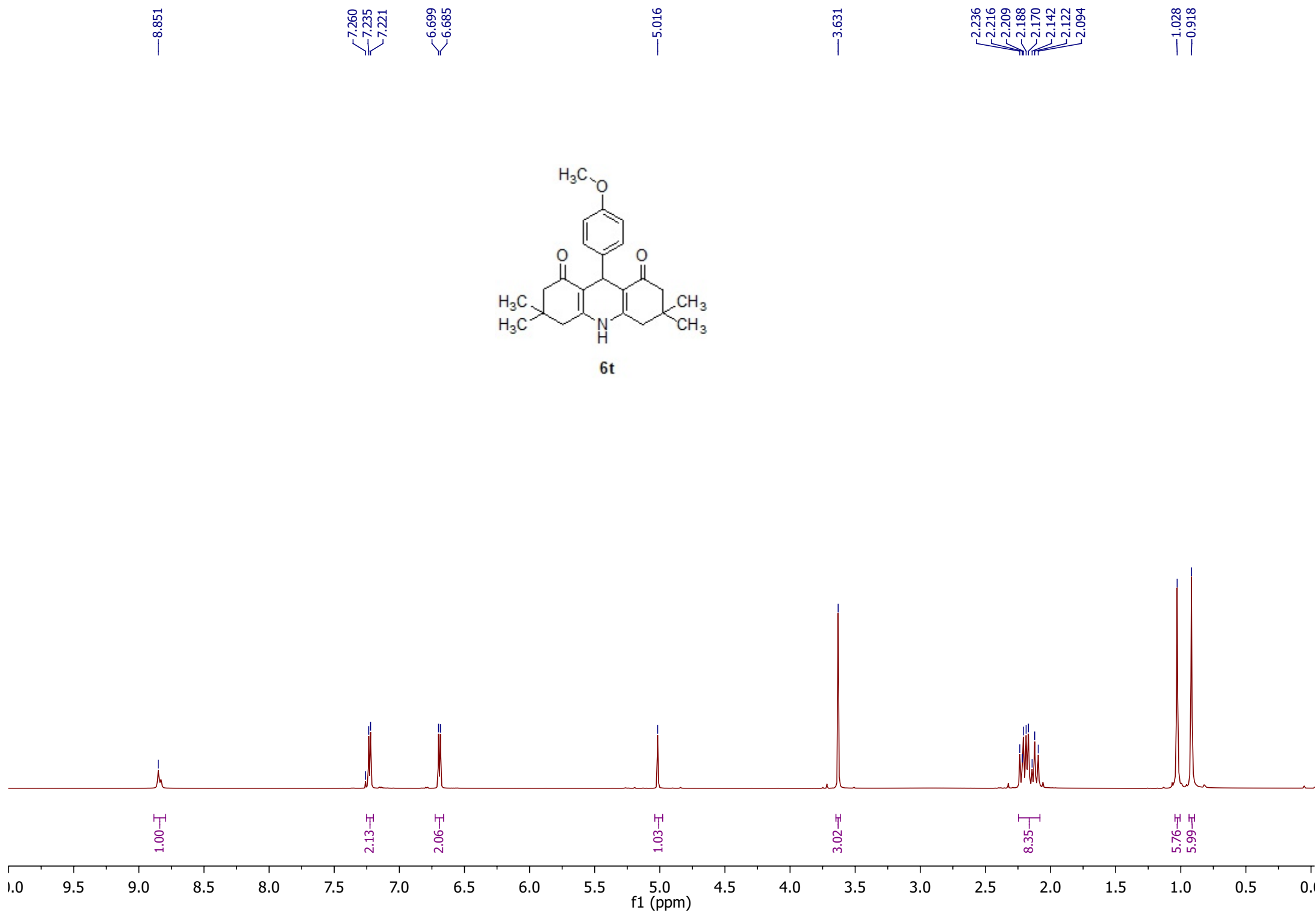


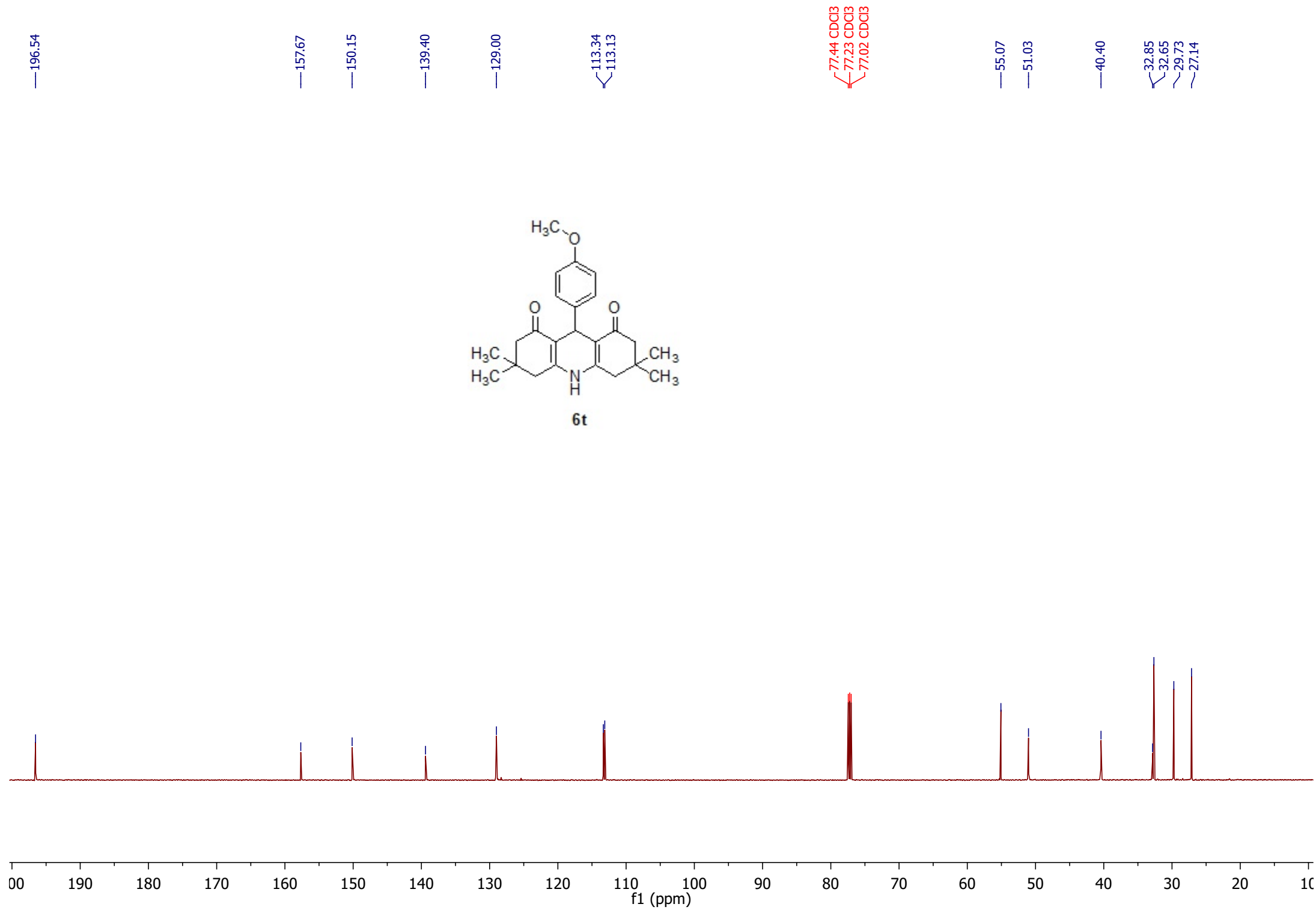


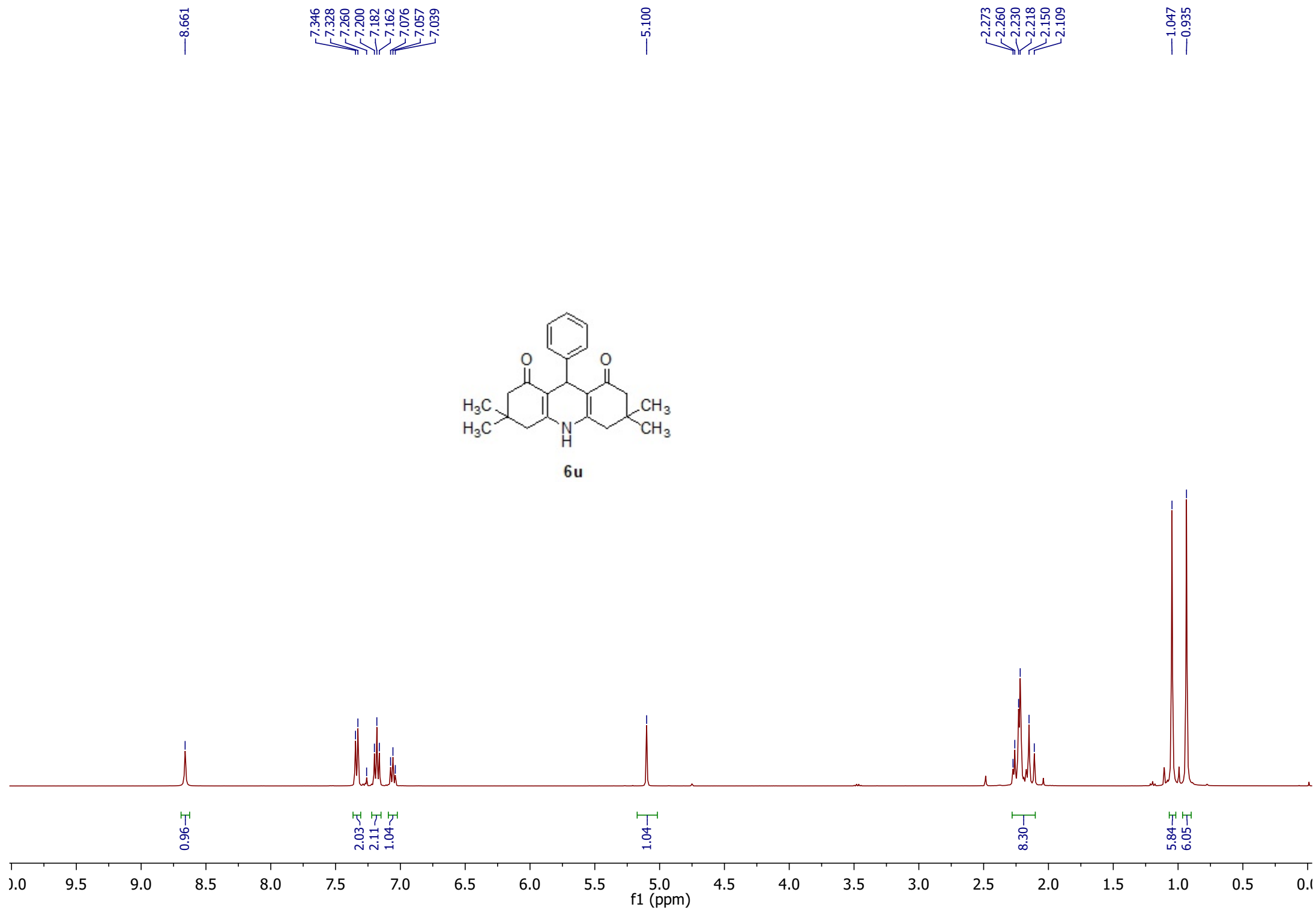


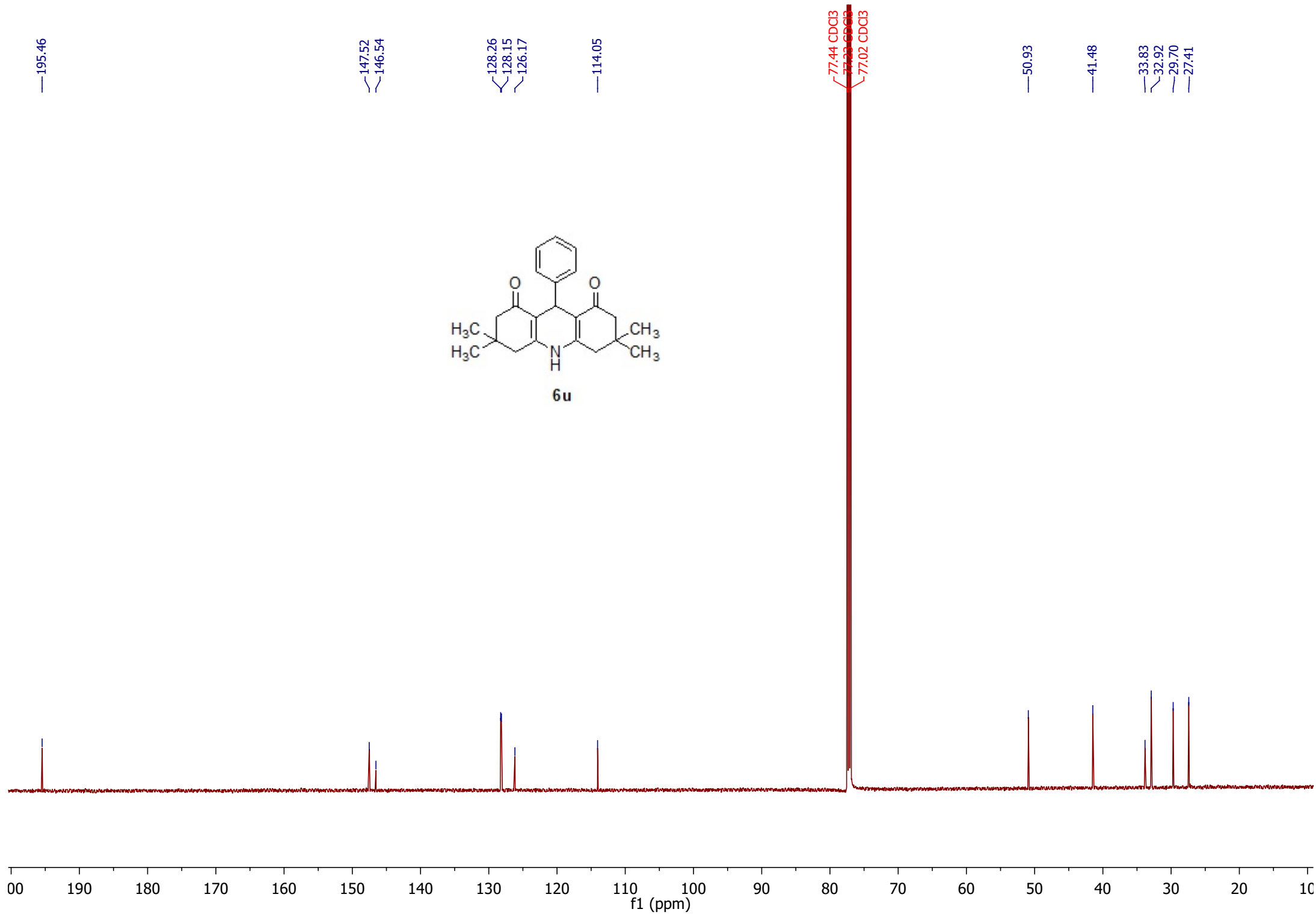
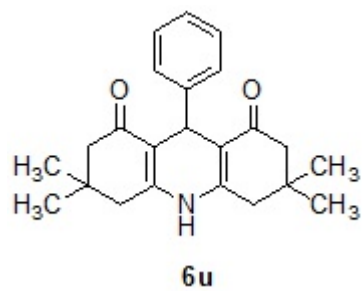


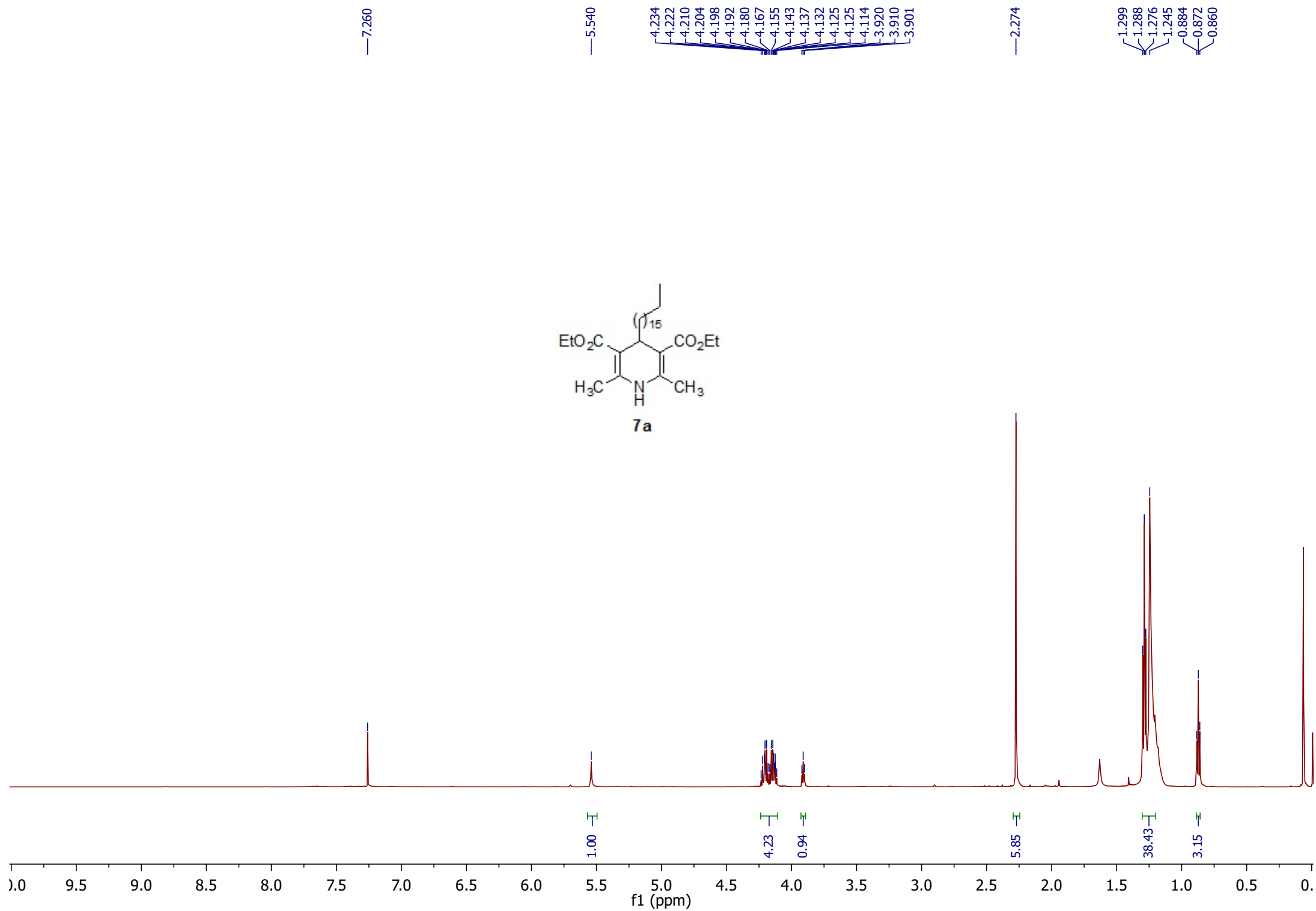


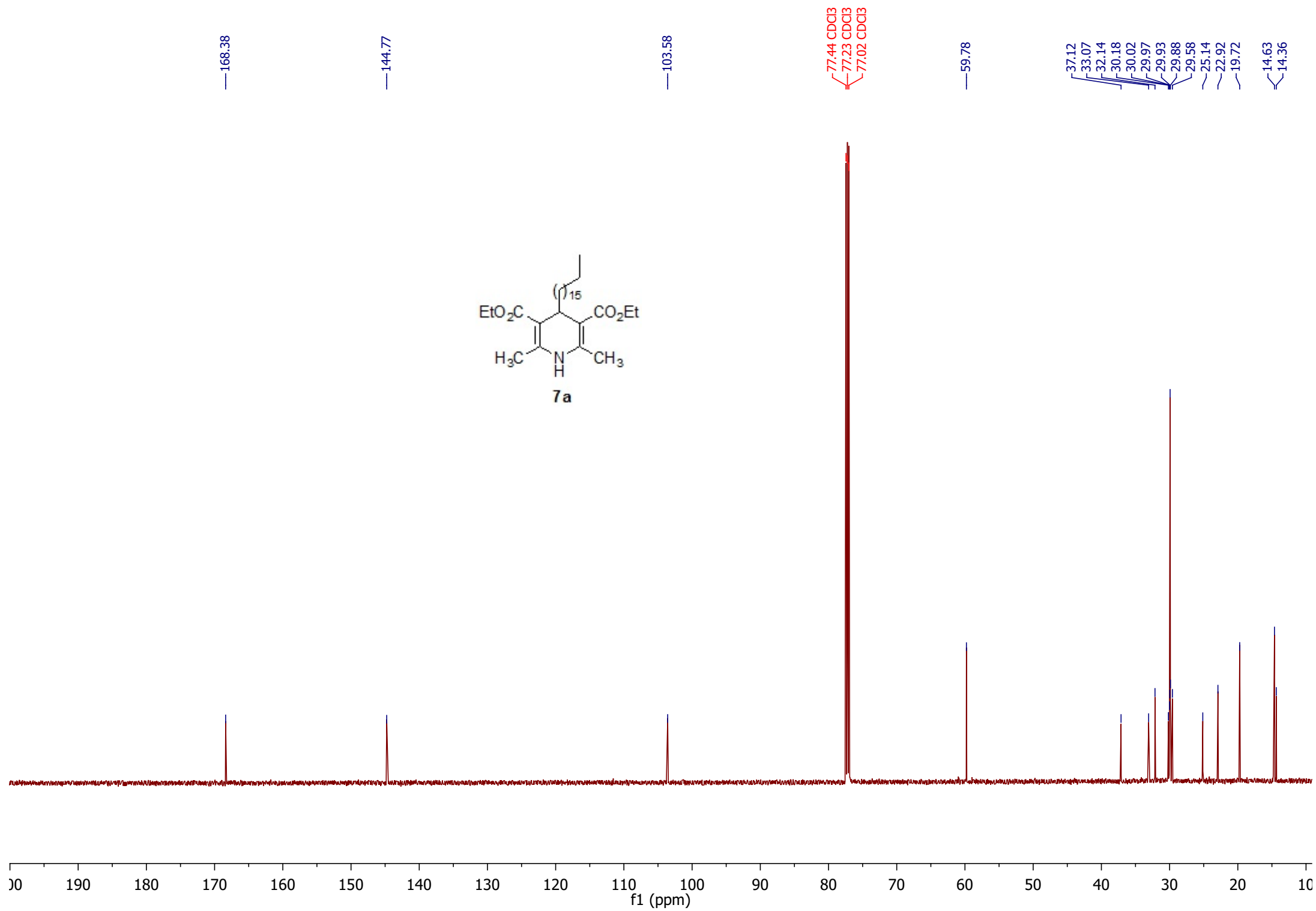
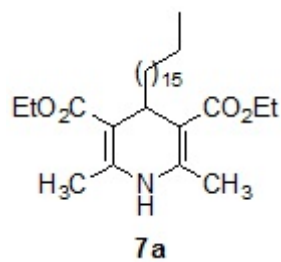


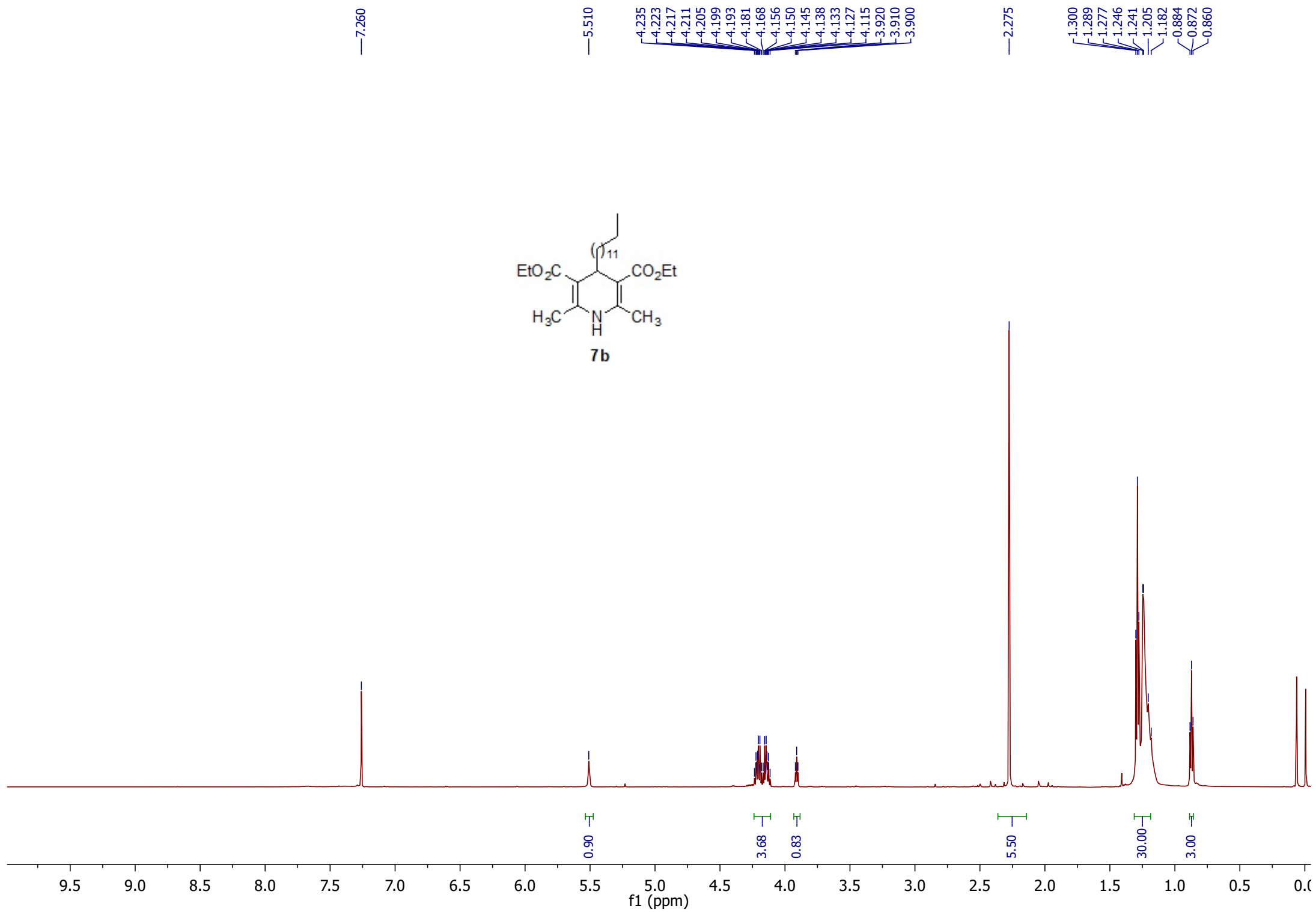


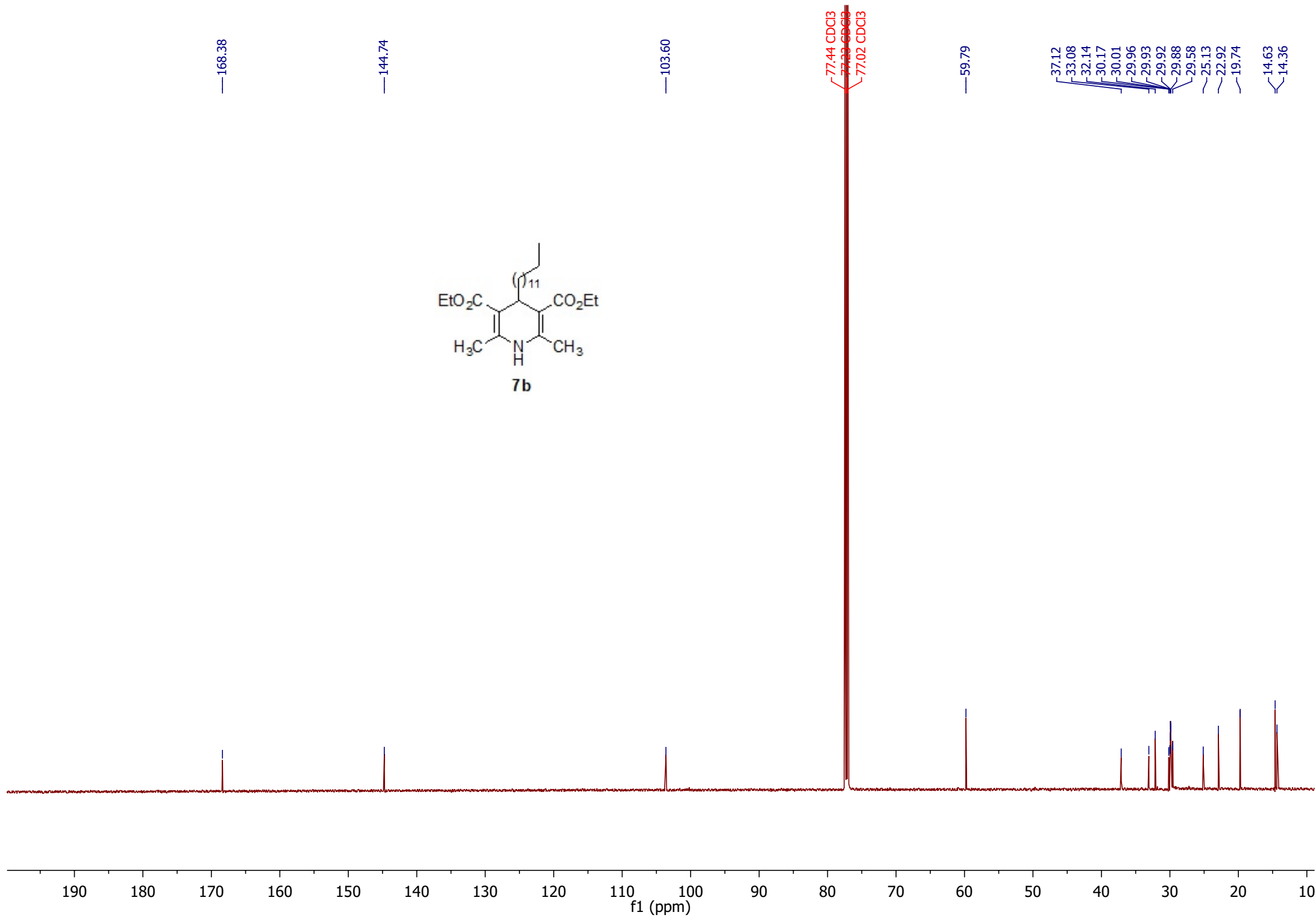
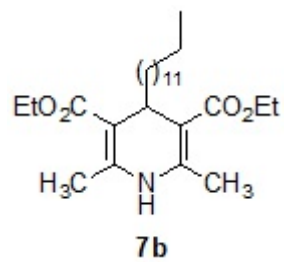


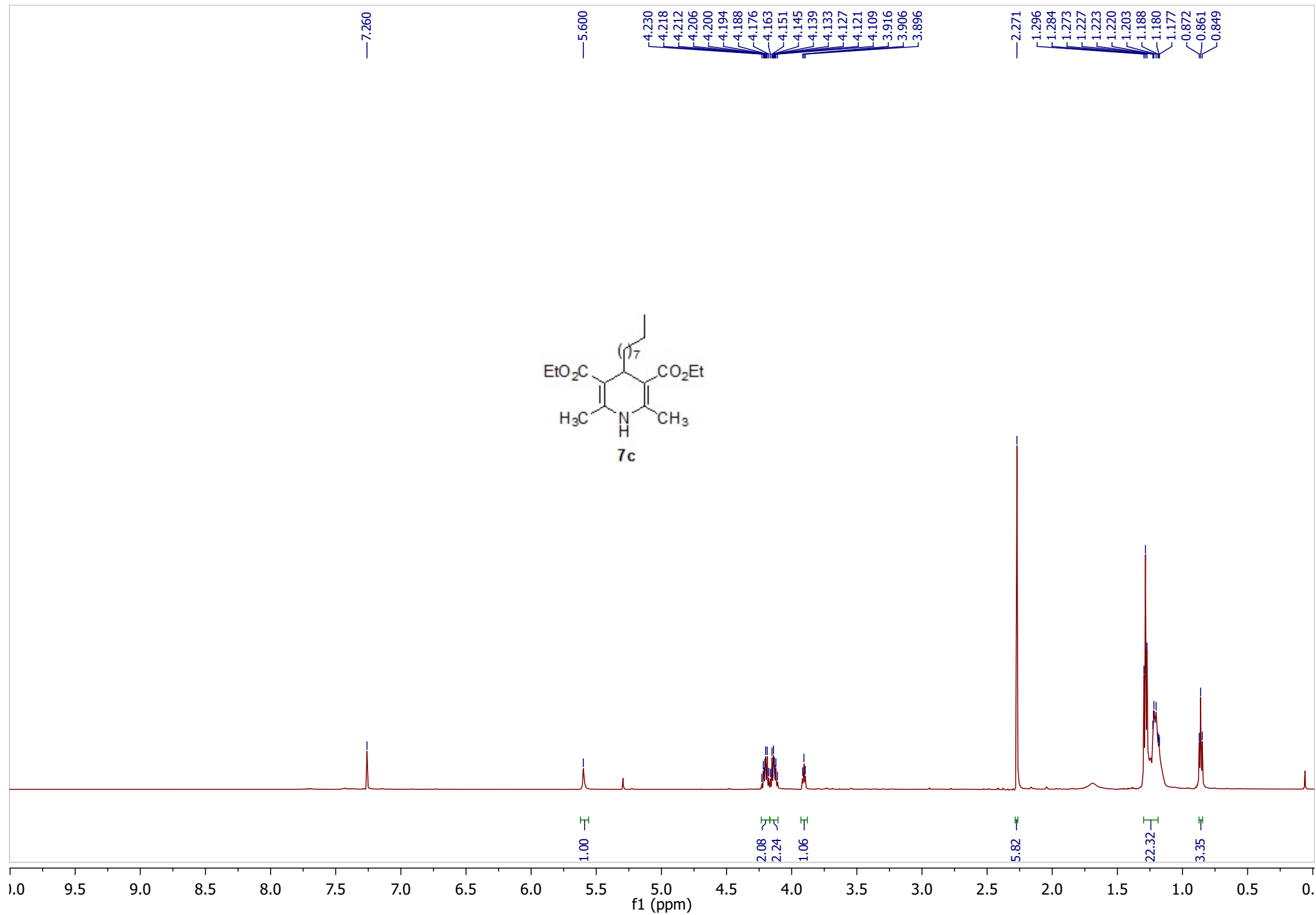


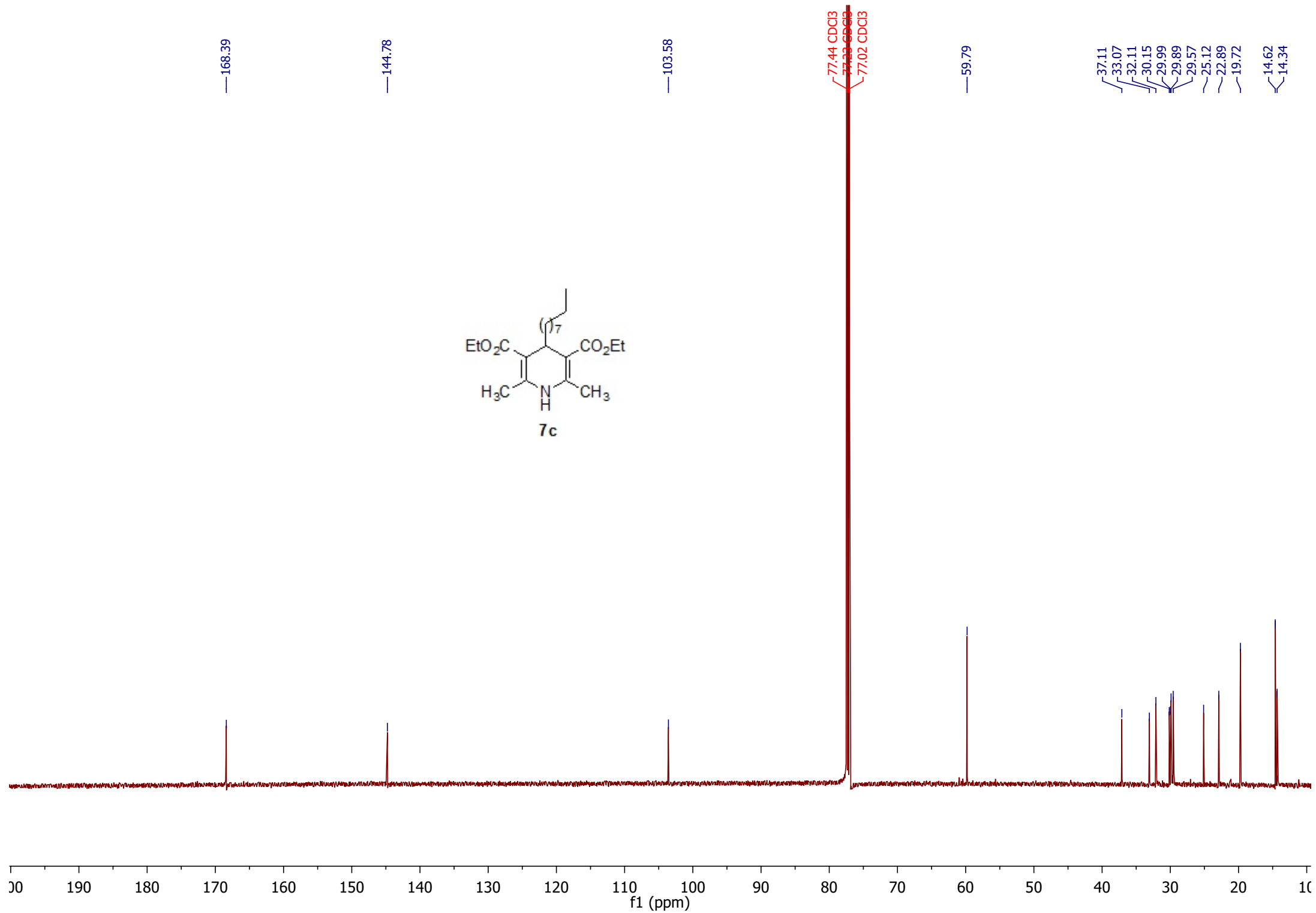
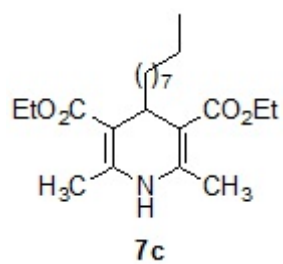


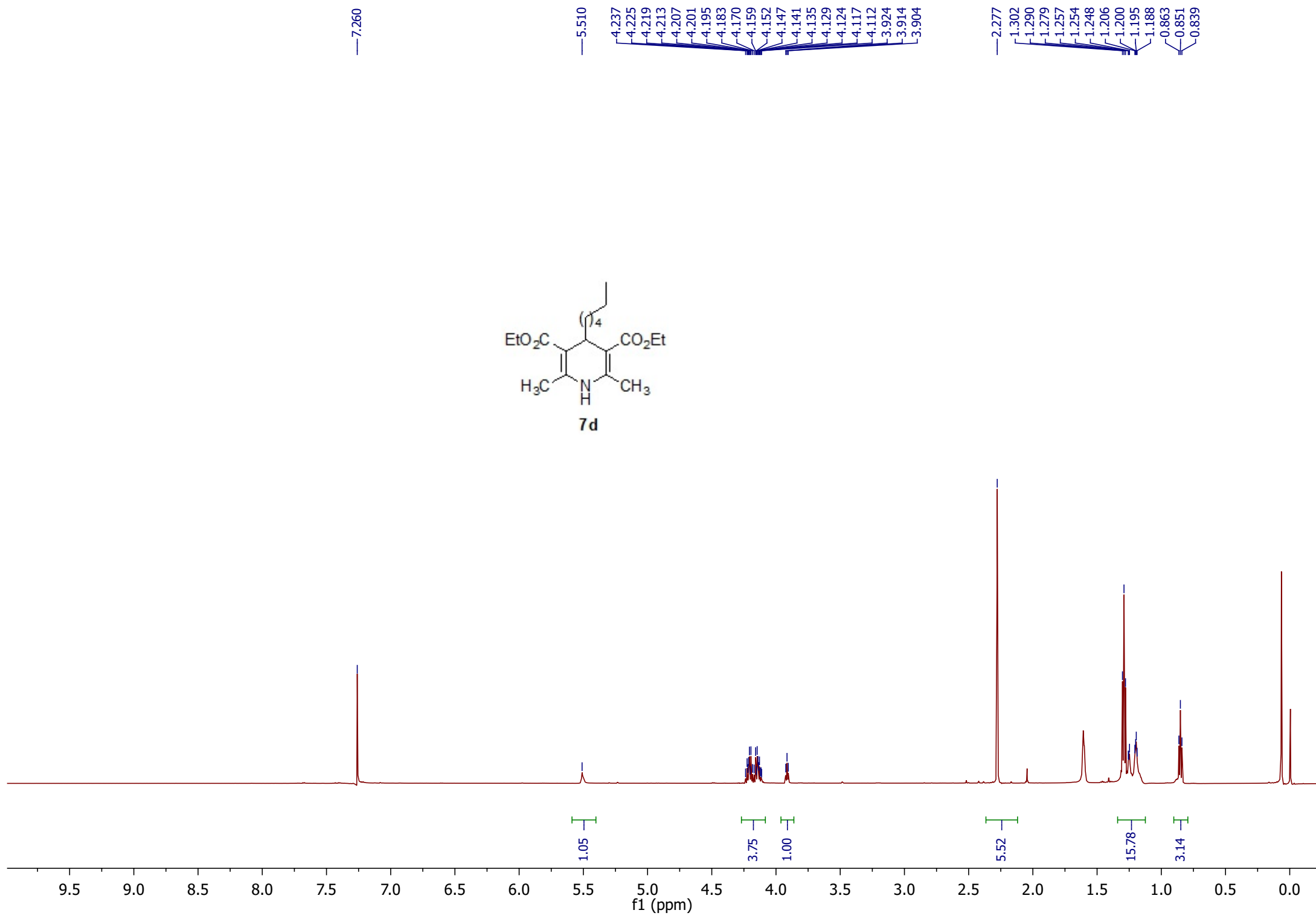


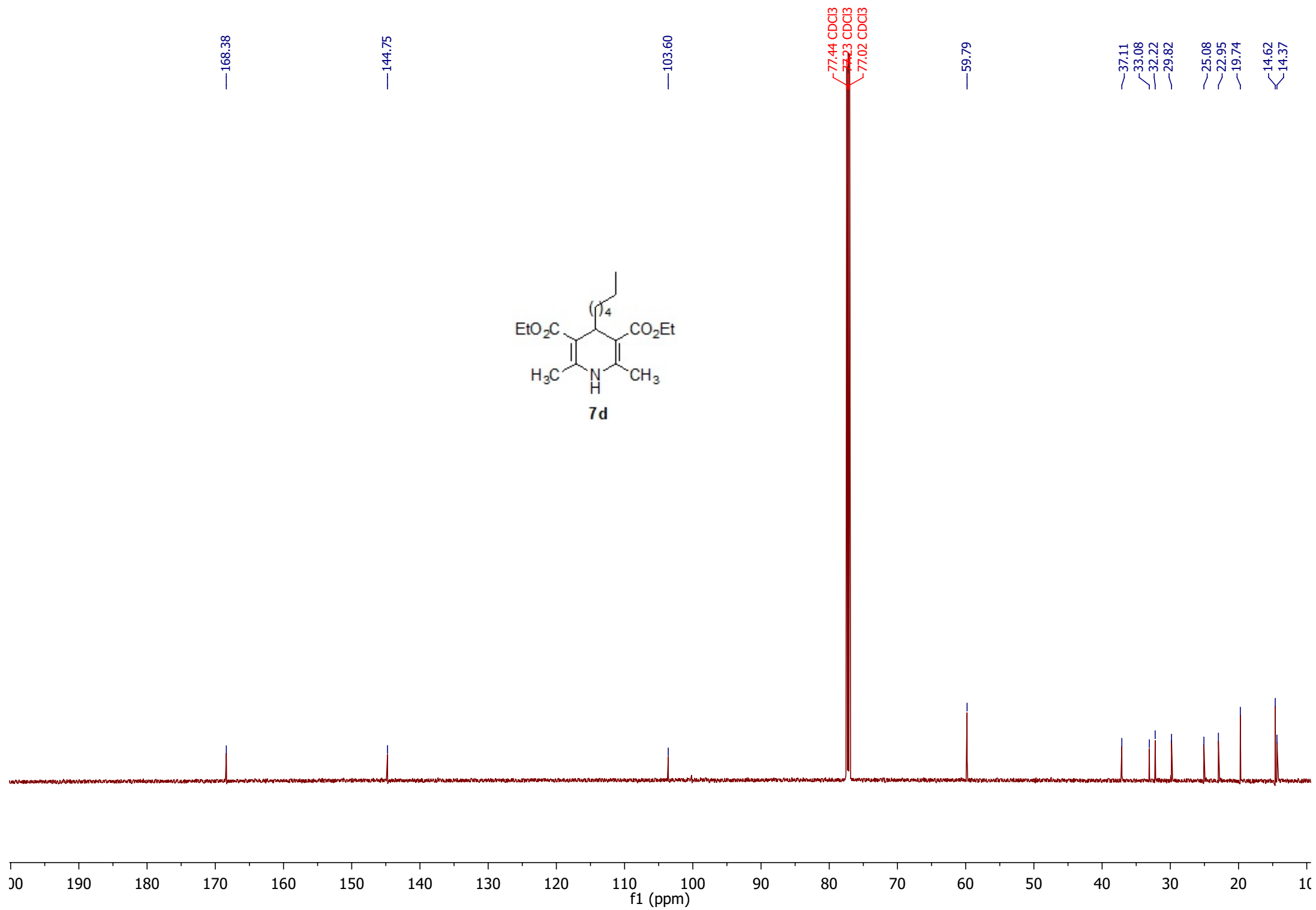
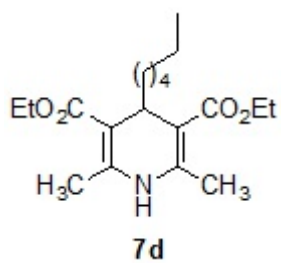


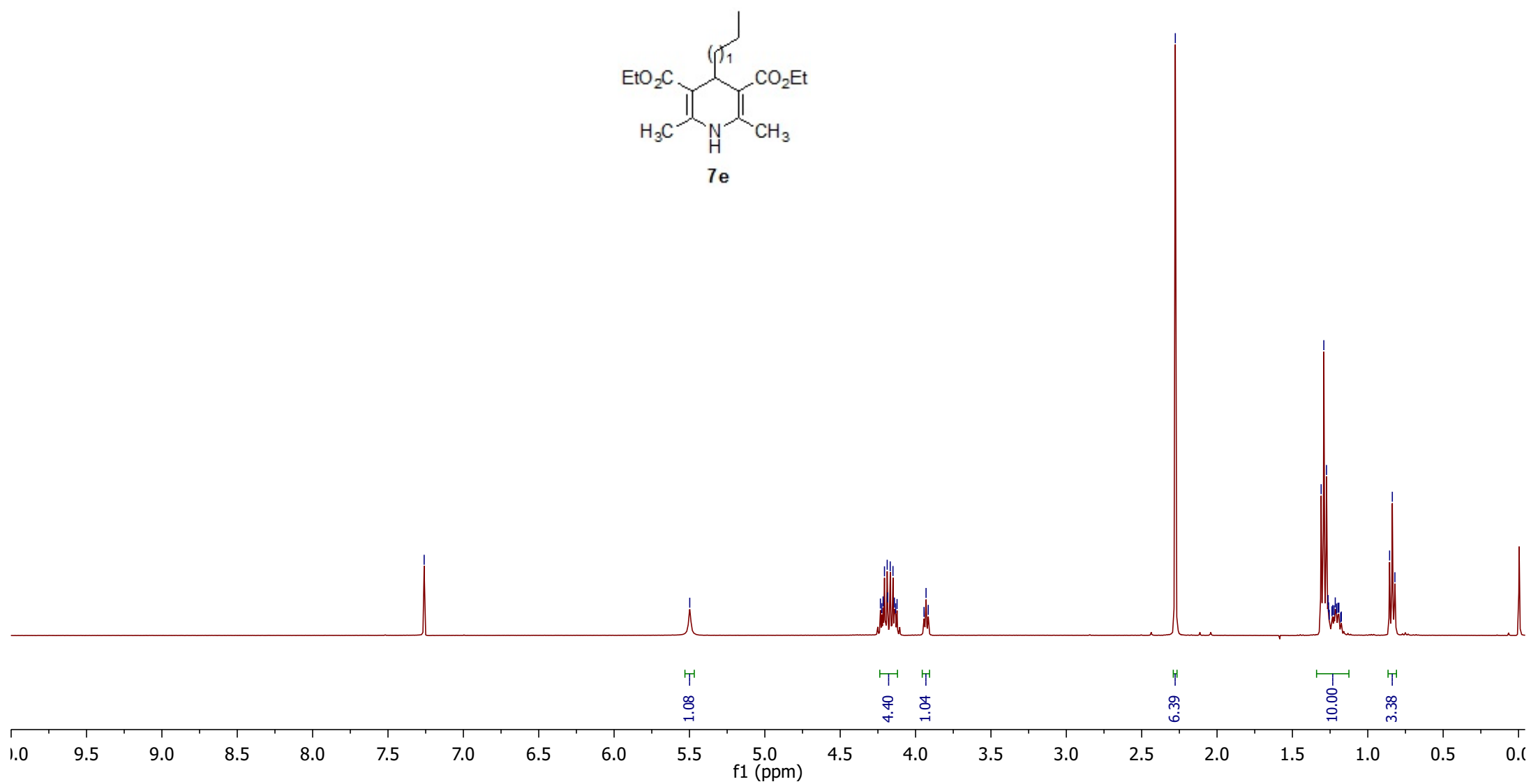


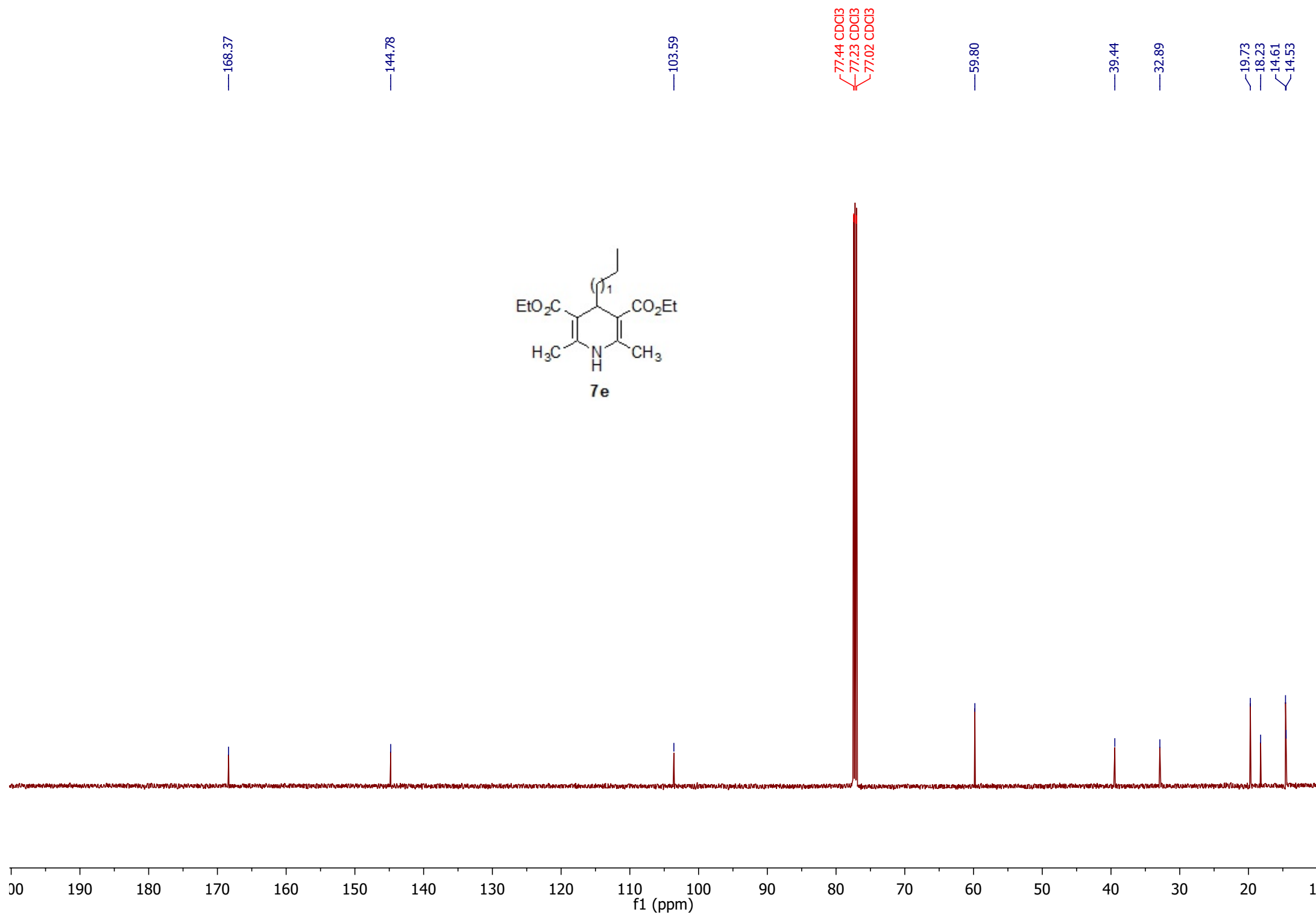
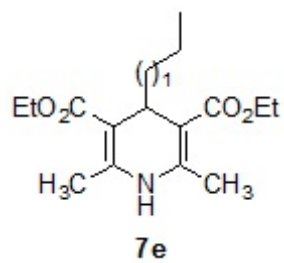


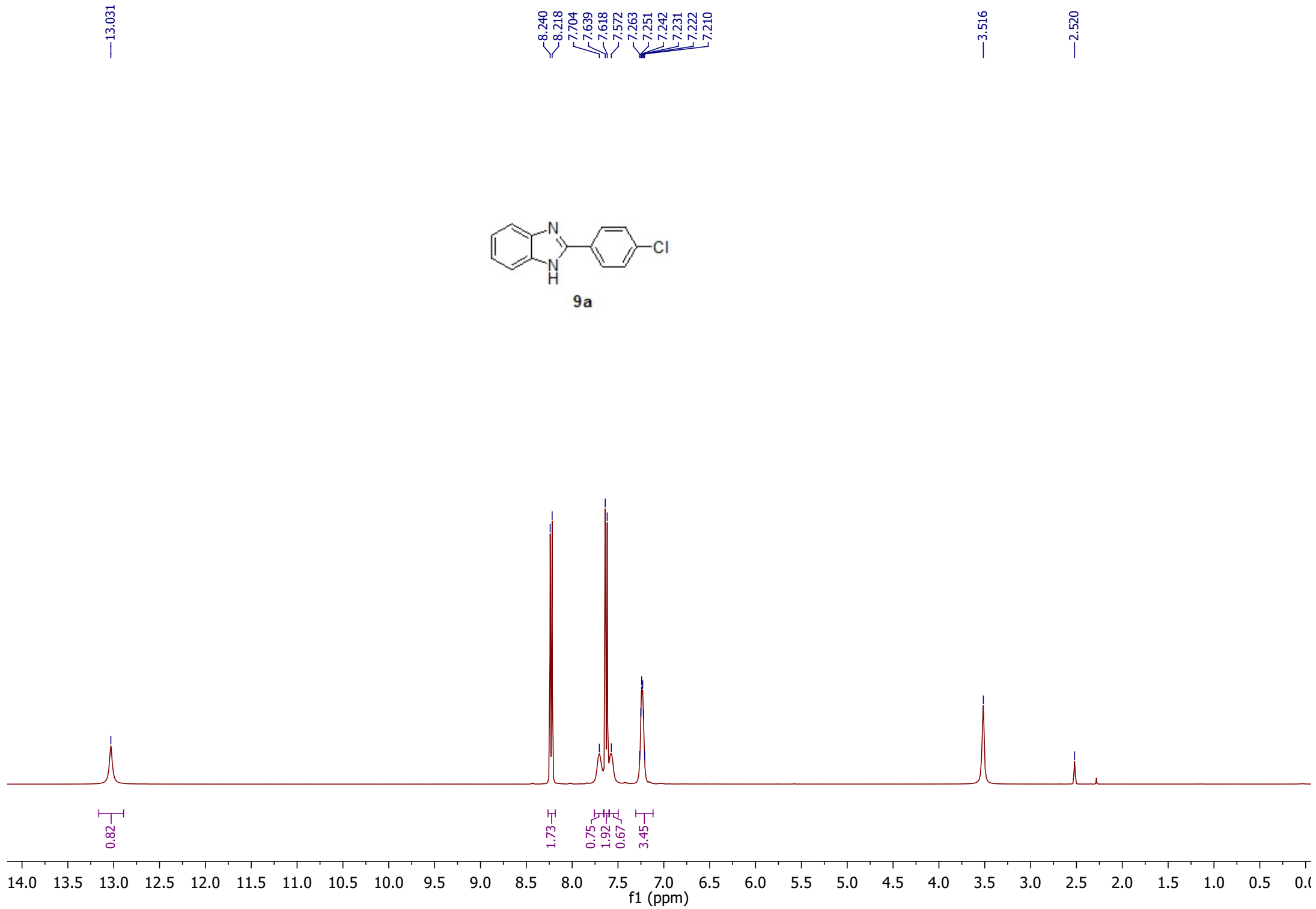


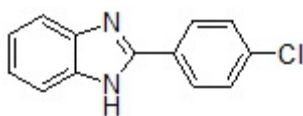




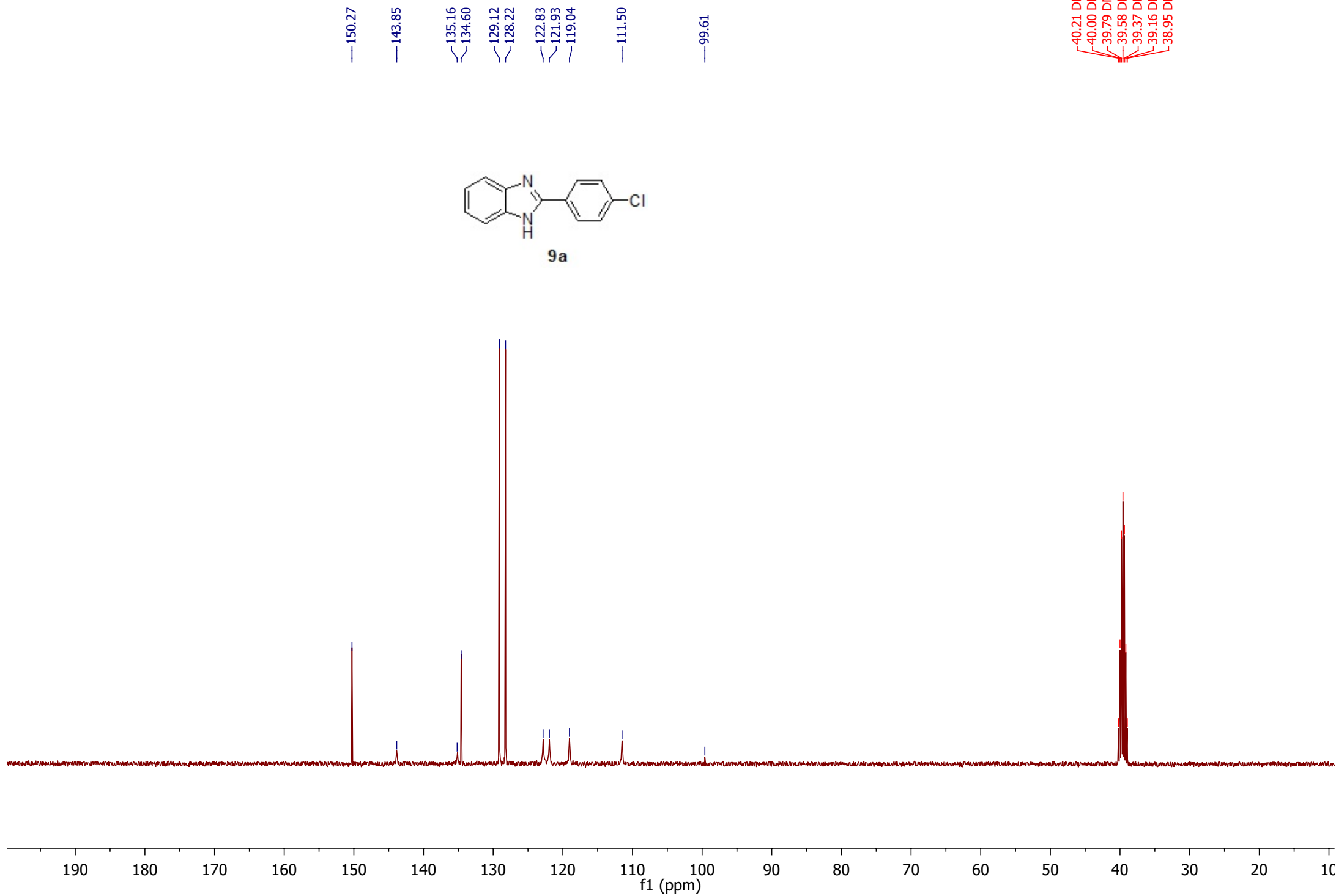


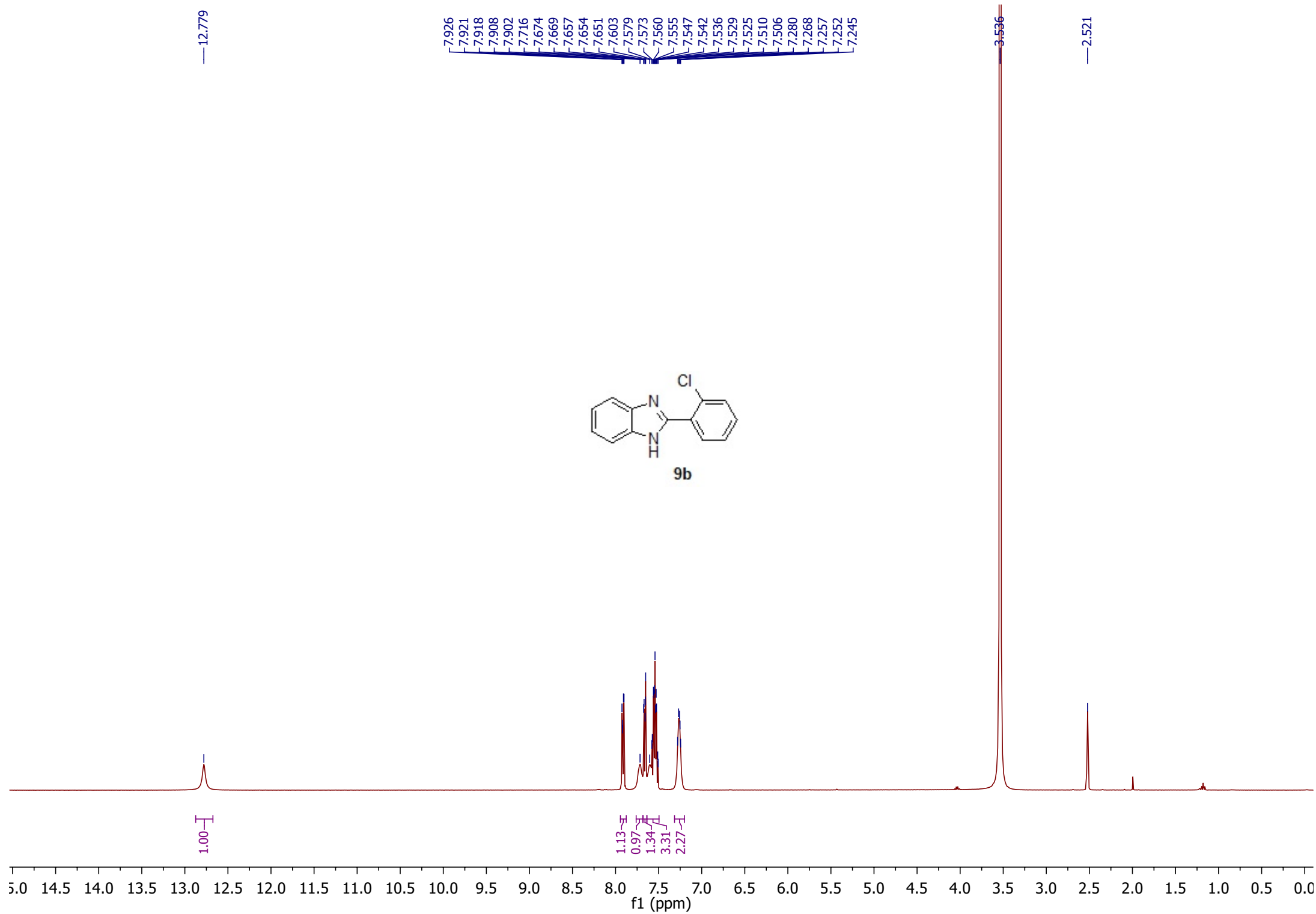


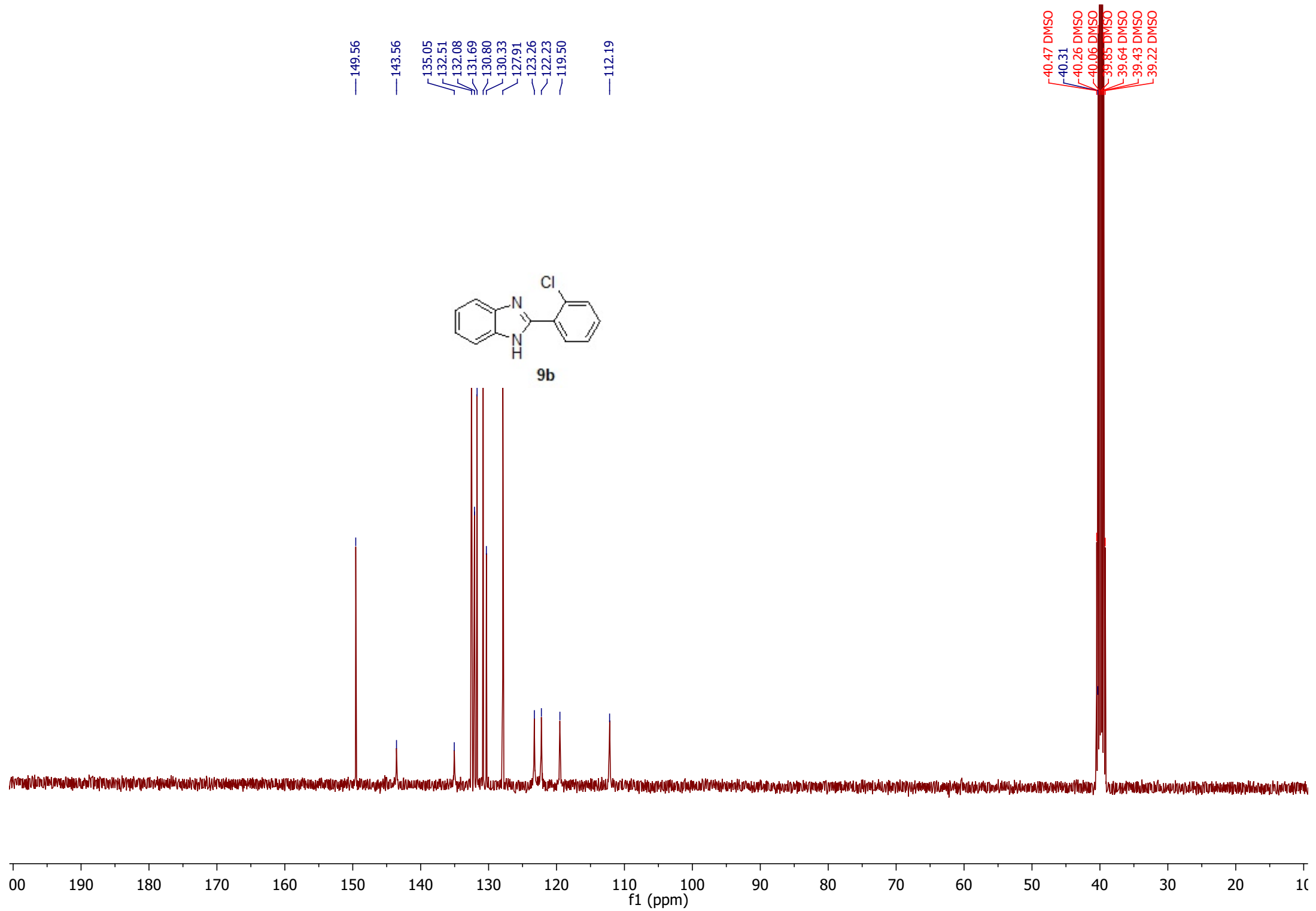


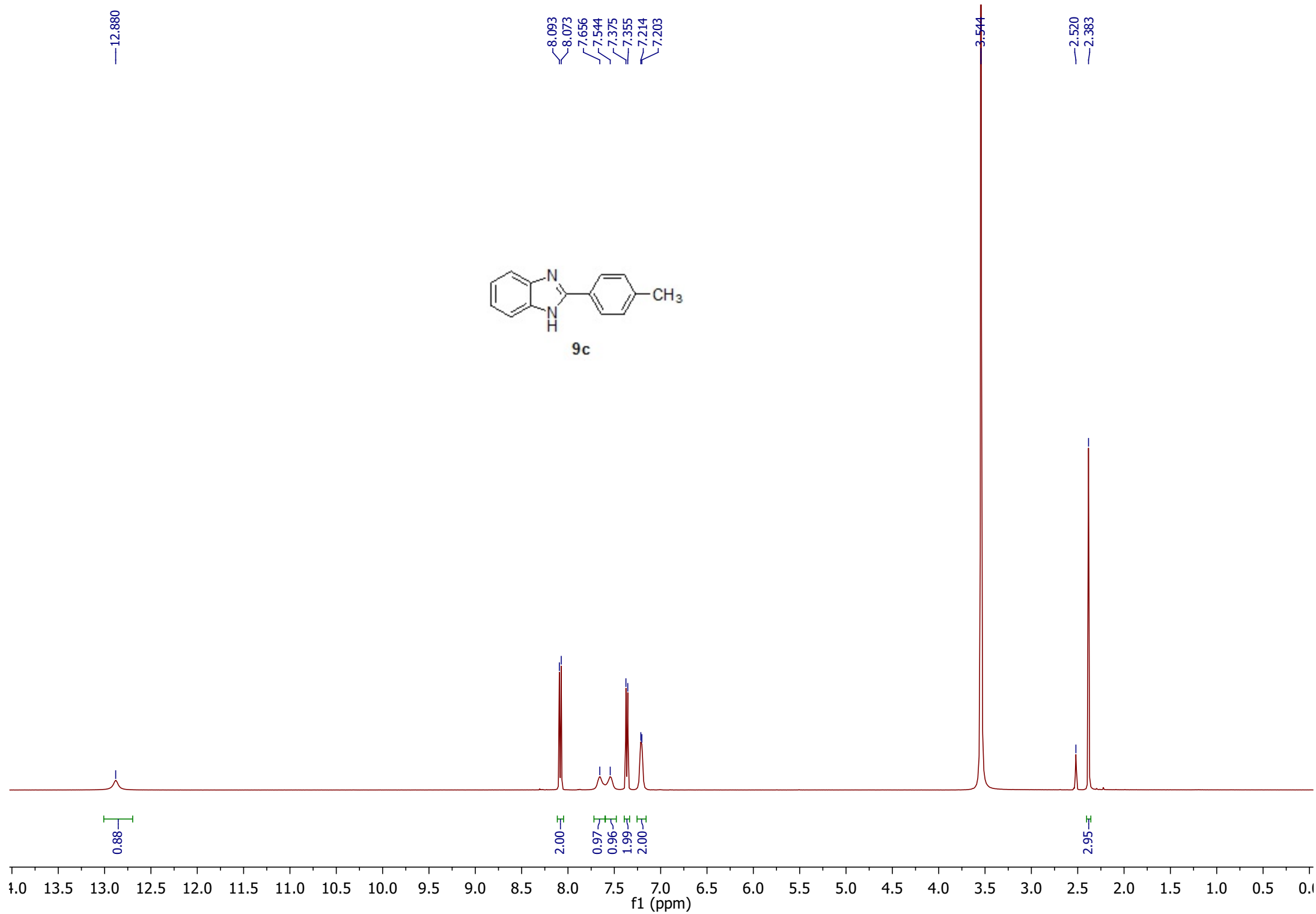


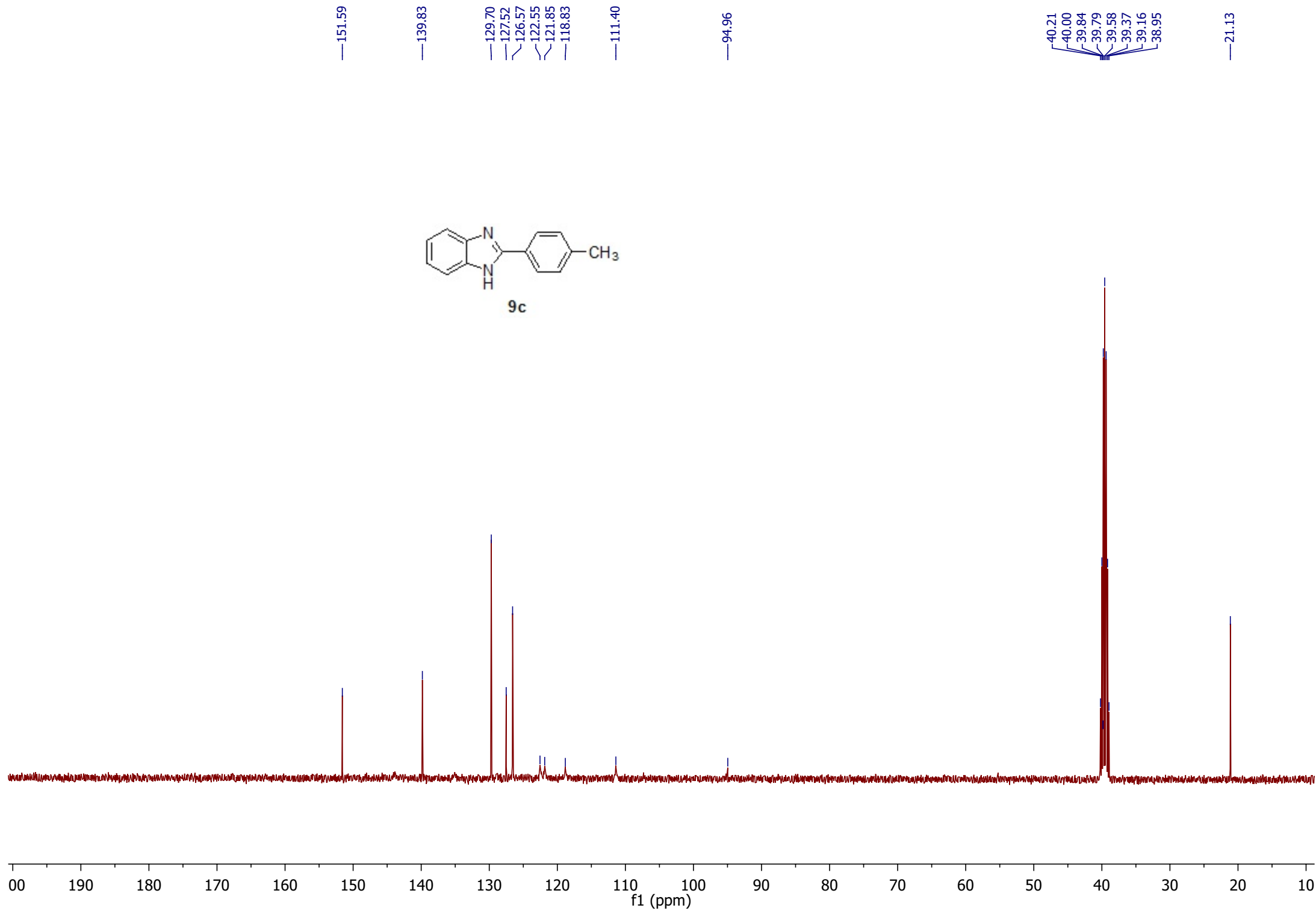
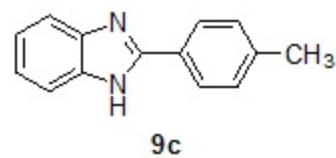
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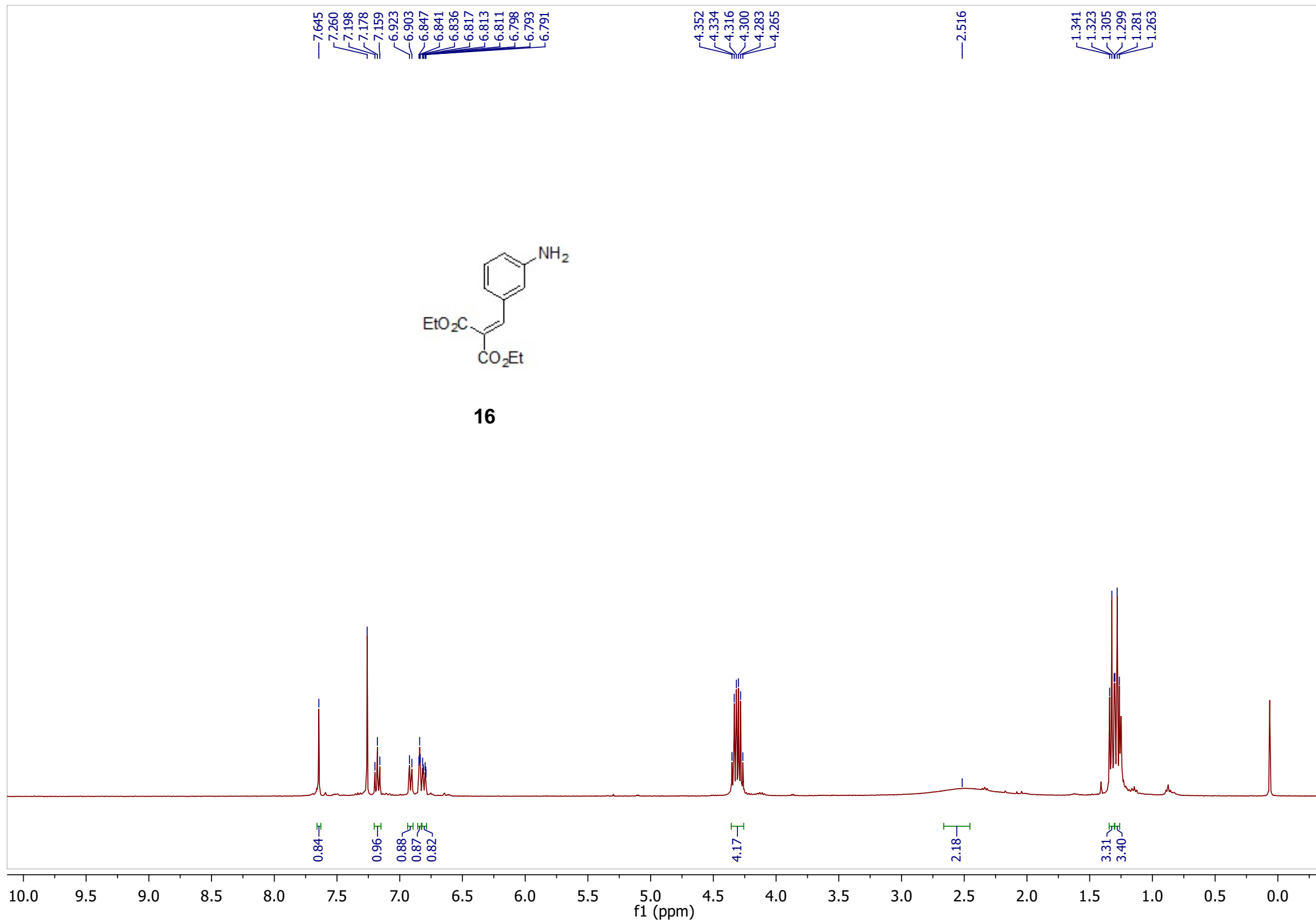


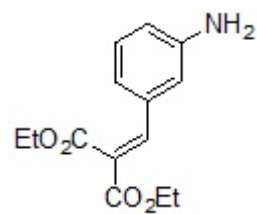












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