

Supporting Information

TBHP Promoted Demethylation of α -Amino Carbonyl Compounds: a Concise Approach to Substituted γ -Lactams

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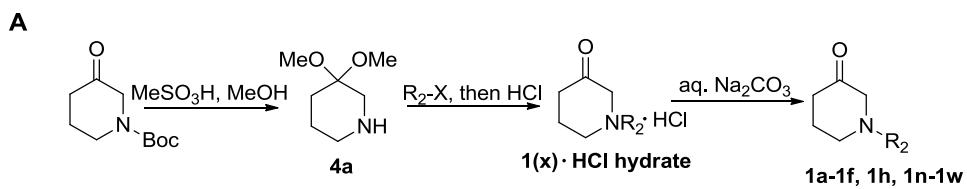
1. General Information:

All reactions were carried out in a dry solvent under dry oxygen or dry air atmosphere unless otherwise noted. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 MHz (400 MHz for ¹H NMR and 100 MHz for ¹³C NMR) spectrometers. Proton chemical shifts are reported relative to a residual solvent peak (CDCl₃ at 7.260 ppm). Carbon chemical shifts are reported relative to a residual solvent peak (CDCl₃ at 77.300 ppm). The following abbreviations were used to designate multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quint = quintet, m = multiplet, br = broad. Fourier transform infrared spectra (FT-IR) were recorded on an Agilent Technologies Cary 630 instrument. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured on a Brucker Daltonics Apex II 47e Specification. Gas chromatography-mass spectra (GC-MS) were detected on a Agilent 7890B system equipped with a Agilent 19091S-433UI column. Substrates were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. Substrates **2a**, **2b** and **2l** are commercially available. Substrates **1a-1f**¹, **1g**², **1h**¹, **1f**⁶, **1j-v**¹, **2c**³, **2d**², **2e**⁴, **2f**⁵, **2g**⁷, **2h**⁶, **2i**⁶, **2j**⁷, **2k**⁸ are prepared according to literature procedures.

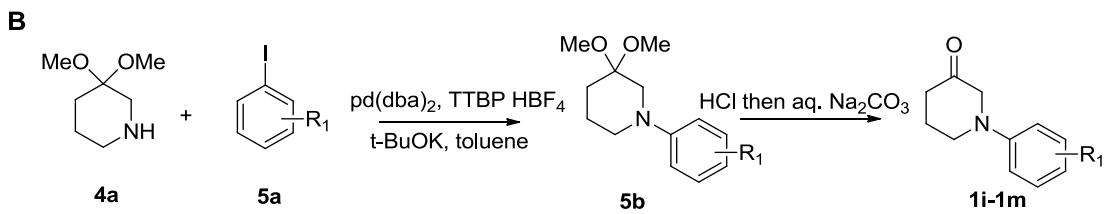
2. Preparation of Substrates:

1a-1f, 1h, 1j-v and **1w** were prepared according to literature procedure¹.

N-substituted piperidinones were prepared from commercially available N-Boc-piperidin-3-one through N-substitution of the common intermediate **4a** and subsequent hydrolysis of the ketal moiety yielding either the ketone **1(x)**. The piperidinones **2(x)** themselves were liberated from their salt prior to use.



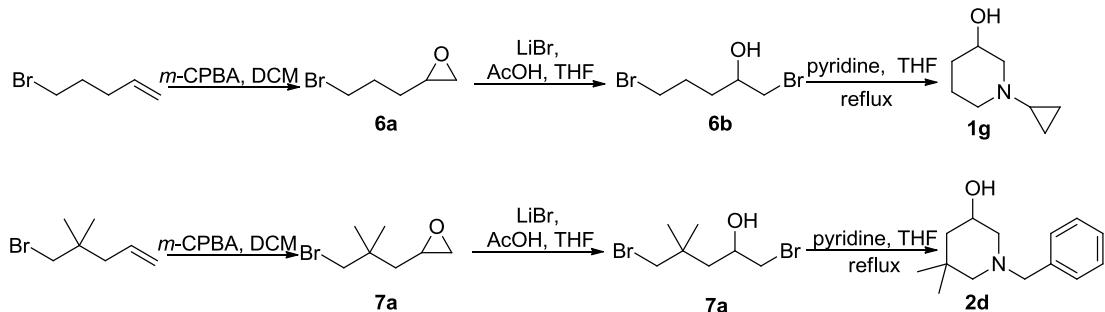
Common intermediate **4a** react with various aryl halide via Buchwald-Hartwig amination to afford **5b**. Then through the same procedures in route A, **1i-1m** were synthesized.



1g and **2d** were prepared according to literature procedure².

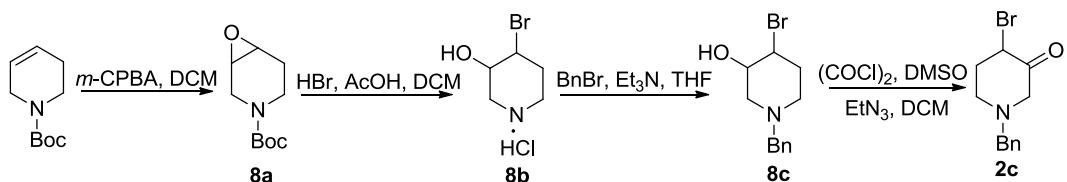
5-bromo-1-pentene was oxidized by 3-chloroperbenzoic acid (*m*-CPBA) to provide compound **6a**. Opening of the epoxide **6a** with BrLi gave **6b** and subsequent reaction with cyclopropanamine in THF provided **1g**.

2d was synthesized by the same procedures with commercial available compound 5-bromo-4, 4-dimethyl-1-pentene and benzylamine.



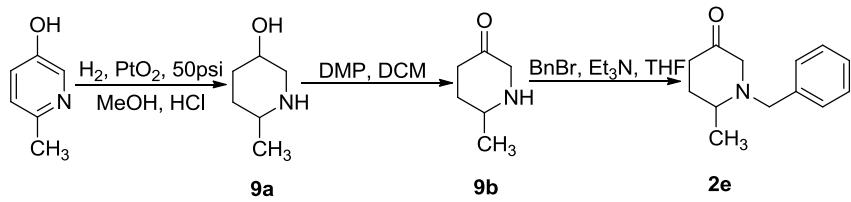
2c was prepared according to literature procedure³.

Boc-protected tetrahydropyridine was oxidized to its epoxide **8a** with *m*-CPBA. Then treatment of **8a** with HBr selectively gave bromide **8b**, which was converted to its benzyl derivative **8c** followed by the Swern oxidation to produce **2c**



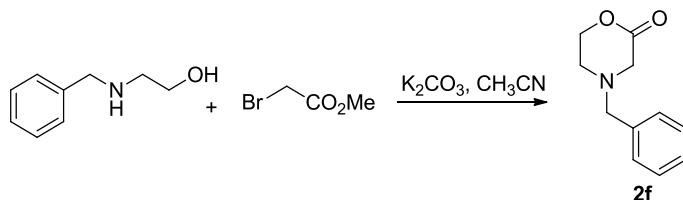
2e was prepared according to literature procedure⁴.

PtO₂ catalyzed hydrogenation of 3-hydroxy-6-methylpyridine to give piperidine **9a**. **9a** was then oxidized by DMP to produce **9b** followed by the conversion to its benzyl derivative **2e**.



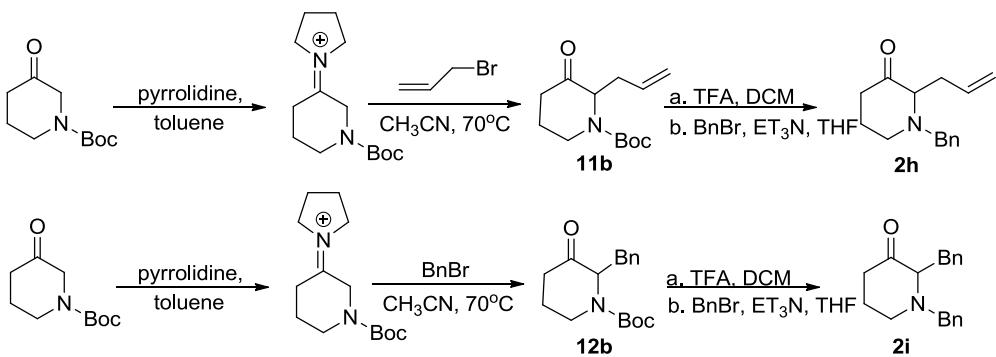
2f was prepared according to literature procedure⁵

The alkylation of N-benzyloethanolamine with methyl bromoacetate in the presence of K_2CO_3 as a base and in CH_3CN at room temperature provided exclusively the lactonization product 4-benzylmorpholin-2-one (**2f**).



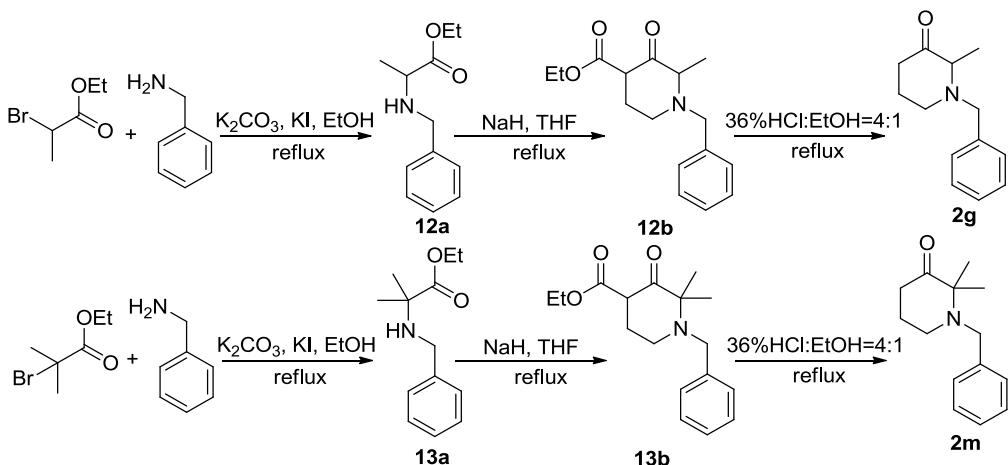
2h and **2i** were prepared according to literature procedure⁶.

Commercial available N-Boc-piperidin-3-one was subjected to an enamine alkylation with allyl bromide or BnBr to provide **11b** or **12b** respectively which was transformed to its benzyl derivant in the presence of Et_3N .



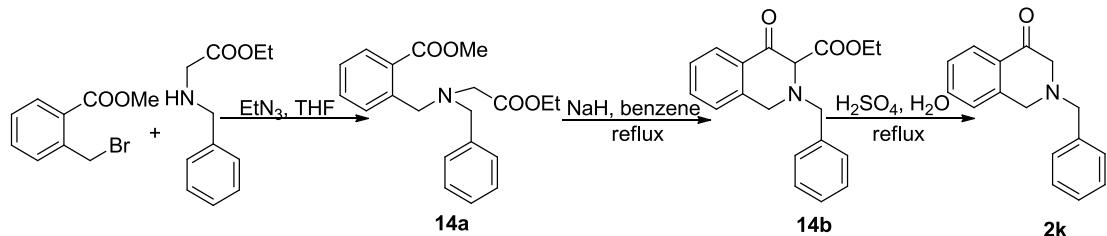
2g and **2j** were prepared according to literature procedure⁷.

Heating benzylamine with Ethyl 2-bromopropionate or ethyl 2-bromoisobutyrate in ethanol in the presence of a catalytic amount of KI gave **12a** and **13a**. Dieckmann condensation of diester **12** with sodium hydride in THF gave keto ester **12b** and **13b** respectively followed by hydrolytic decarboxylation afforded **2g** and **2j**.



2k was prepared according to literature procedure⁸

Methyl 2-bromomethylbenzoate react with either *N*-benzylglycine ethyl ester to afford **14a**. Then Dieckmann cyclization of **14a** was accomplished in refluxing benzene in the presence of sodium hydride. Hydrolysis and decarboxylation of **14b** was carried out in sulfuric acid solution to yield the expected **2k**.



References:

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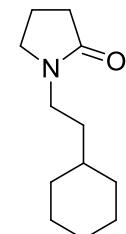
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3. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Substituted γ -Lactams:

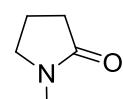
A sealed tube charged with α -amino carbonyl compound (0.1 mmol) was added 2.0 mL of toluene as solvent. Then the mixture was degassed for three times, added TBHP (0.3 mmol, *tert*-Butyl hydroperoxide) and kept stirring under nitrogen at 90 °C for 3h. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with water, extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated. The crude products were purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the corresponding products.

4. Characterization Data of all Products:

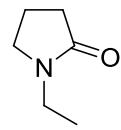
1-(2-cyclohexylethyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1aa) Colorless oil (16.39 mg, 84% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.34 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.30 – 3.23 (m, 2H), 2.36 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.98 (p, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.67 (q, $J = 16.6$, 15.6 Hz, 5H), 1.41 – 1.33 (m, 2H), 1.24 – 1.08 (m, 4H), 0.88 (q, $J = 10.8$, 9.7 Hz, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.95, 47.24, 40.65, 35.67, 34.89, 33.39, 31.41, 26.74, 26.45, 18.14; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 2926, 2855, 1425, 1463, 1496, 1287, 1267, 806; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 196.1696, found 196.1692.



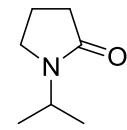
1-cyclopropylpyrrolidin-2-one (1ab): Colorless oil (8.42 mg, 85% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.35 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.81 (s, 3H), 2.33 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.04 – 1.93 (m, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.27, 49.63, 30.89, 29.78, 17.87; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1836, 1855, 1322, 1243, 1176, 1077, 926; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 100.0757, found 100.0754.



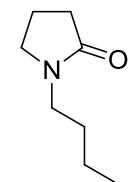
1-ethylpyrrolidin-2-one (1ac): Colorless oil (9.49 mg, 84% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.39 – 3.27 (m, 4H), 2.35 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.06 – 1.86 (m, 2H), 1.09 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.80, 46.72, 37.32, 31.39, 18.03, 12.73.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 2937, 2972, 1881, 1498, 1459, 1127, 839; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 114.0913, found 114.0917.



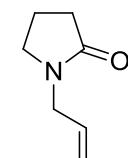
1-isopropylpyrrolidin-2-one (1ad): Colorless oil (10.42 mg, 82% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.36 (m, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.32 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.37 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.98 (p, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.12 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.45, 42.63, 41.96, 31.92, 20.09, 18.28.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 2972, 1677, 1241, 1366, 1459, 1164, 1066, 962; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{14}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 128.1070, found 128.1073.



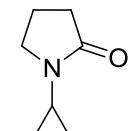
1-butylpyrrolidin-2-one (1ae): Colorless oil (12.70 mg, 90% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.36 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.26 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.37 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.05 – 1.93 (m, 2H), 1.48 (dt, $J = 15.0, 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.37 – 1.23 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.10, 47.36, 42.54, 31.40, 29.66, 20.34, 18.20, 14.05; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1688, 1261, 1322, 1422, 1276, 1126, 751; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 142.1226, found 142.1222.



1-allylpyrrolidin-2-one (1af): Colorless oil (10.76 mg, 86% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.73 – 5.60 (m, 1H), 5.17 – 5.07 (m, 2H), 3.82 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.29 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.34 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.03 – 1.88 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.87, 132.62, 117.87, 46.87, 45.32, 31.11, 17.92; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1688, 1440, 1488, 1464, 1306, 1284, 926; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 126.0913, found 126.0916.

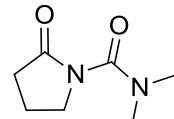


1-cyclopropylpyrrolidin-2-one (1ag): Colorless oil (10.88 mg, 87% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.31 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.69 – 2.61 (m, 1H), 2.39 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.02 – 1.92 (m, 2H), 0.80 – 0.73 (m, 2H), 0.68 (td, $J = 7.6, 4.3$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 176.37, 47.58,

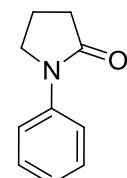


31.91, 25.24, 18.10, 4.93.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 2368, 1686, 1459, 1276, 834, 766,; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for C₇H₁₂NO [M + H] $^+$ 126.0913, found 126.0917.

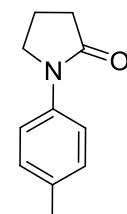
N,N-dimethyl-2-oxopyrrolidine-1-carboxamide (1ah): Colorless oil (8.27 mg, 53% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.69 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.94 (s, 6H), 2.41 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.10 – 1.97 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.50, 154.88, 47.05, 38.72, 36.83, 32.28, 18.63; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 2372, 2342, 1720, 1671, 1489, 1019, 939, 773; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for C₇H₁₃N₂O₂ [M + H] $^+$ 157.0972, found 157.0968.



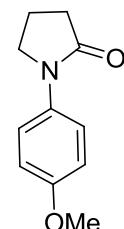
1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (1ai): Colorless oil (10.79 mg, 67% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.17 (p, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.51, 139.68, 129.11, 124.80, 120.26, 49.08, 33.04, 18.33.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1686, 1489, 1339, 1226, 1123, 942, 693; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for C₁₀H₁₂NO [M + H] $^+$ 162.0913, found 162.0910.



1-(p-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1ak): White solid (13.31 mg, 76% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.14 (p, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.34, 137.15, 134.46, 129.61, 120.35, 49.19, 32.93, 21.12, 18.30.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 2361, 2344, 1686, 1517, 1395, 821, 719; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for C₁₁H₁₄NO [M + H] $^+$ 176.1070, found 176.1074.

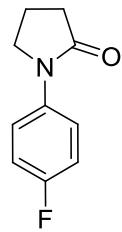


1-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1al): White solid (15.29 mg, 80% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.15 (p, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.22, 156.87, 132.92, 122.15, 114.34, 55.77, 49.50, 32.76, 18.34.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 2372, 2687, 1682, 1517, 1256, 1181, 829; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for C₁₁H₁₄NO₂ [M + H] $^+$

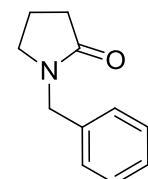


192.1019, found 192.1016.

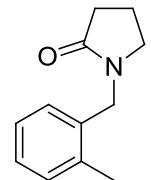
1-(4-fluorophenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1am): White solid (9.67 mg, 54% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.11 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 3.84 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.17 (p, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.40, 159.77 (d, $J = 244.0$ Hz), 135.78 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz), 121.98 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz), 115.77 (d, $J = 22.4$ Hz), 49.29, 32.79, 18.25.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1686, 1511, 1394, 1297, 1228, 1121, 818, 681; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{FNO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 180.0819, found 180.0823.



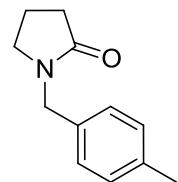
1-benzylpyrrolidin-2-one (1an): Yellow solid (13.13 mg, 75% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.35 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 3.26 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.45 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.99 (p, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.24, 136.85, 128.94, 128.40, 127.82, 77.50, 46.88, 31.22, 18.01.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1686, 1656, 1474, 11276, 1080, 766; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 176.1070, found 176.1074.



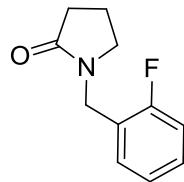
1-(2-methylbenzyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1ao): Yellow solid (13.62 mg, 72% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.17 (m, $J = 15.6, 7.8$ Hz, 4H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 3.20 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.45 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.98 (p, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.69, 136.73, 134.21, 130.57, 128.82, 127.72, 126.07, 46.61, 44.67, 30.97, 19.15, 17.77.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1688, 1556, 1478, 1336, 1261, 1048, 983, 816; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 190.1226, found 190.1223.



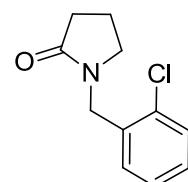
1-(4-methylbenzyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1ap): Yellow solid (15.13 mg, 80% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.13 (s, 4H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 3.24 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.43 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.04 – 1.91 (m, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.14, 137.50, 133.81, 129.60, 128.43, 46.81, 46.58, 31.28, 21.38, 17.99.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1684, 1486, 1459, 1423, 1261, 1023, 883, 736; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 190.1226, found 190.1230.



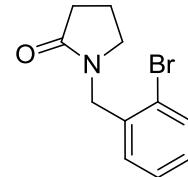
1-(2-fluorobenzyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1aq): Yellow solid (14.10 mg, 73% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.33 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.08 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 3.32 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.09 – 1.94 (m, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.32, 161.31 (d, J = 246.3 Hz), 130.84 (d, J = 4.1 Hz), 129.66 (d, J = 8.1 Hz), 124.71 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 123.75 (d, J = 15.1 Hz), 115.65 (d, J = 21.7 Hz), 47.07, 40.10, 31.06, 18.03.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1686, 1490, 1457, 1422, 1280, 1228, 1030, 758; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{FNO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 194.0976, found 194.0979.



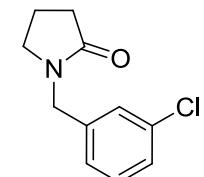
1-(2-chlorobenzyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1ar): Yellow solid (15.89 mg, 76% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37 (dd, J = 6.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 4.61 (s, 2H), 3.32 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.03 (p, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.44, 134.33, 134.02, 130.07, 129.88, 129.17, 127.45, 47.23, 44.18, 31.02, 18.15.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 2365, 2338, 1686, 1422, 1287, 1056, 1126, 751; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 210.0680, found 210.0677.



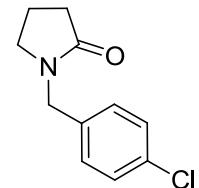
1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1as): Yellow solid (18.22 mg, 72% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.27 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.15 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 3.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.07 – 1.92 (m, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.34, 138.97, 134.85, 130.27, 128.38, 128.08, 126.50, 46.94, 46.39, 31.07, 18.02.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1686, 1599, 1541, 1507, 1474, 1284, 1079, 948; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 254.0175, found 254.0171.



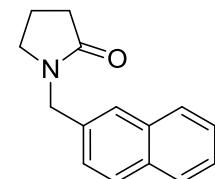
1-(3-chlorobenzyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1at): Yellow solid (14.43 mg, 69% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.27 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.15 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 3.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.11 – 1.84 (m, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.33, 138.98, 134.86, 130.27, 128.39, 128.08, 126.50, 46.93, 46.39, 31.07, 18.03.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1686, 1588, 1459, 1362, 1189, 904, 768; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 210.0680, found 210.0676.



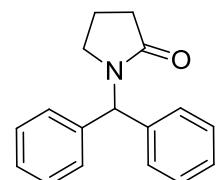
1-(4-chlorobenzyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1au): Yellow solid (15.47 mg, 74% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.30 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 3.25 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.44 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.00 (p, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.29, 135.41, 133.70, 129.77, 129.12, 46.85, 46.23, 31.11, 18.02.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1686, 1492, 1408, 1261, 1094, 853, 751; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 210.0680, found 210.0683.



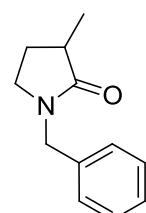
1-(naphthalen-2-ylmethyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (1av): White solid (17.56 mg, 78% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.85 – 7.76 (m, 3H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.51 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.37 (dd, $J = 8.4, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.61 (s, 2H), 3.28 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.48 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.06 – 1.90 (m, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 175.30, 134.40, 133.59, 133.10, 128.86, 127.98, 127.22, 126.56, 126.41, 126.25, 47.07, 46.90, 31.27, 18.03.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 2361, 2342, 1684, 1602, 1541, 1492, 1265, 784; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 226.1226, found 226.1229.



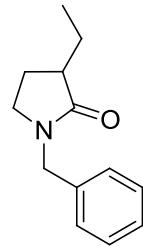
1-benzhydrylpyrrolidin-2-one (1aw): White solid (17.08 mg, 68% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 6H), 7.18 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 4H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 3.20 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.49 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.09 – 1.94 (m, 2H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.06, 138.72, 128.53, 128.51, 127.52, 58.51, 44.30, 31.20, 18.20. IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 21686, 1600, 1494, 1276, 1077, 1030, 893, 751; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 252.1383, found 252.1379.



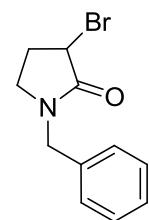
cyclopropylpyrrolidin-2-one (2aa): Yellow solid (16.26 mg, 86% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.36 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 4.54 – 4.36 (m, 2H), 3.24 – 3.09 (m, 2H), 2.51 (h, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.26 – 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.59 (dq, $J = 12.5, 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.23 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 177.59, 136.96, 128.89, 128.32, 127.72, 47.01, 44.88, 36.99, 27.32, 16.67.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1686, 1455, 1297, 1203, 1082, 989; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 190.1226, found 190.1222.



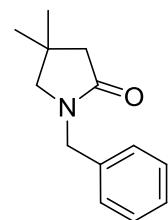
1-benzyl-3-ethylpyrrolidin-2-one (2ab): Yellow solid (17.06 mg, 84% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.34 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 4.45 (q, $J = 14.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.21 – 3.13 (m, 2H), 2.40 (m, $J = 8.7, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.22 – 2.06 (m, 1H), 2.01 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.65 (m, $J = 12.7, 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.53 – 1.33 (m, 1H), 0.97 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 176.90, 137.00, 128.89, 128.35, 127.72, 46.92, 45.12, 43.55, 24.55, 24.38, 11.68.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1686, 1565, 1438, 1288, 1162, 1102, 1050, 972, 864.; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 204.1383, found 204.1386.



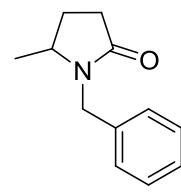
1-benzyl-3-bromopyrrolidin-2-one (2ac): Yellow oil (15.69 mg, 62% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.43 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 4.59 – 4.40 (m, 3H), 3.42 (dt, $J = 9.9, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.20 (m, $J = 10.1, 8.0, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.56 (m, $J = 15.1, 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.34 – 2.25 (m, 1H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.93, 135.84, 129.04, 128.29, 128.08, 47.34, 44.80, 44.52, 30.38.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 2383, 2344, 1701, 1494, 1425, 1282, 1161, 950.; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 254.0175, found 254.0173.



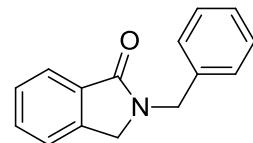
1-benzyl-4,4-dimethylpyrrolidin-2-one (2ad): Yellow solid (16.45 mg, 81% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.36 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 2.96 (s, 2H), 2.27 (s, 2H), 1.09 (s, 6H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.40, 136.78, 128.87, 128.38, 127.75, 59.95, 46.70, 46.52, 32.82, 28.02.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1686, 1560, 1469, 1257, 1197, 1072, 903, 802.; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 204.1383, found 204.1379.



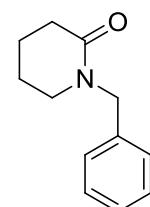
1-benzyl-5-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (2ae): Yellow solid (14.75 mg, 78% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.34 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 4.97 (d, $J = 15.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.98 (d, $J = 15.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.58 – 3.33 (m, 1H), 2.56 – 2.34 (m, 2H), 2.21 – 2.10 (m, 1H), 1.66 – 1.54 (m, 1H), 1.16 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 3H).; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.25, 137.07, 128.88, 128.24, 127.67, 53.04, 44.12, 30.59, 26.91, 19.87.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1686, 1490, 1313, 1127, 803, 745.; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 190.1226, found 190.1221.



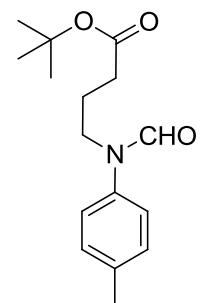
2-benzylisoindolin-1-one (2ak): White solid (9.82 mg, 44% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.90 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.28 (m, 6H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 4.27 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.75, 141.50, 137.32, 132.92, 131.62, 129.07, 128.44, 128.32, 127.95, 124.18, 123.02, 49.70, 46.67.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1638, 1545, 1490, 1469, 1265, 914, 839; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 224.1070, found 224.1073.



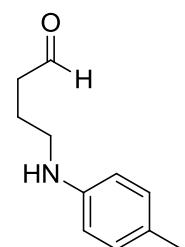
1-benzylpiperidin-2-one (2al): Colorless oil (16.45 mg, 87% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.35 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 3.19 (t, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.47 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.84 – 1.74 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.10, 137.58, 128.81, 128.31, 127.54, 50.34, 47.50, 32.68, 23.45, 21.66.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1638, 1449, 1418, 1282, 1261, 1071, 993, 764, 711; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 190.1226, found 190.1222.

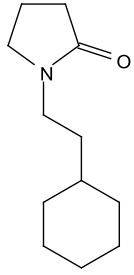


tert-butyl 4-(N-p-tolylformamido)butanoate (1bk): Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.33 (s, 1H), 7.20 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.86 – 3.75 (m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.23 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.86 – 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.41 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.41, 162.70, 138.52, 137.19, 130.54, 124.52, 80.70, 44.63, 32.90, 28.33, 23.36, 21.18.; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1756, 1738, 1378, 1346, 1253, 893, 764; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNaO}_3 [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 300.1570, found 300.1564.

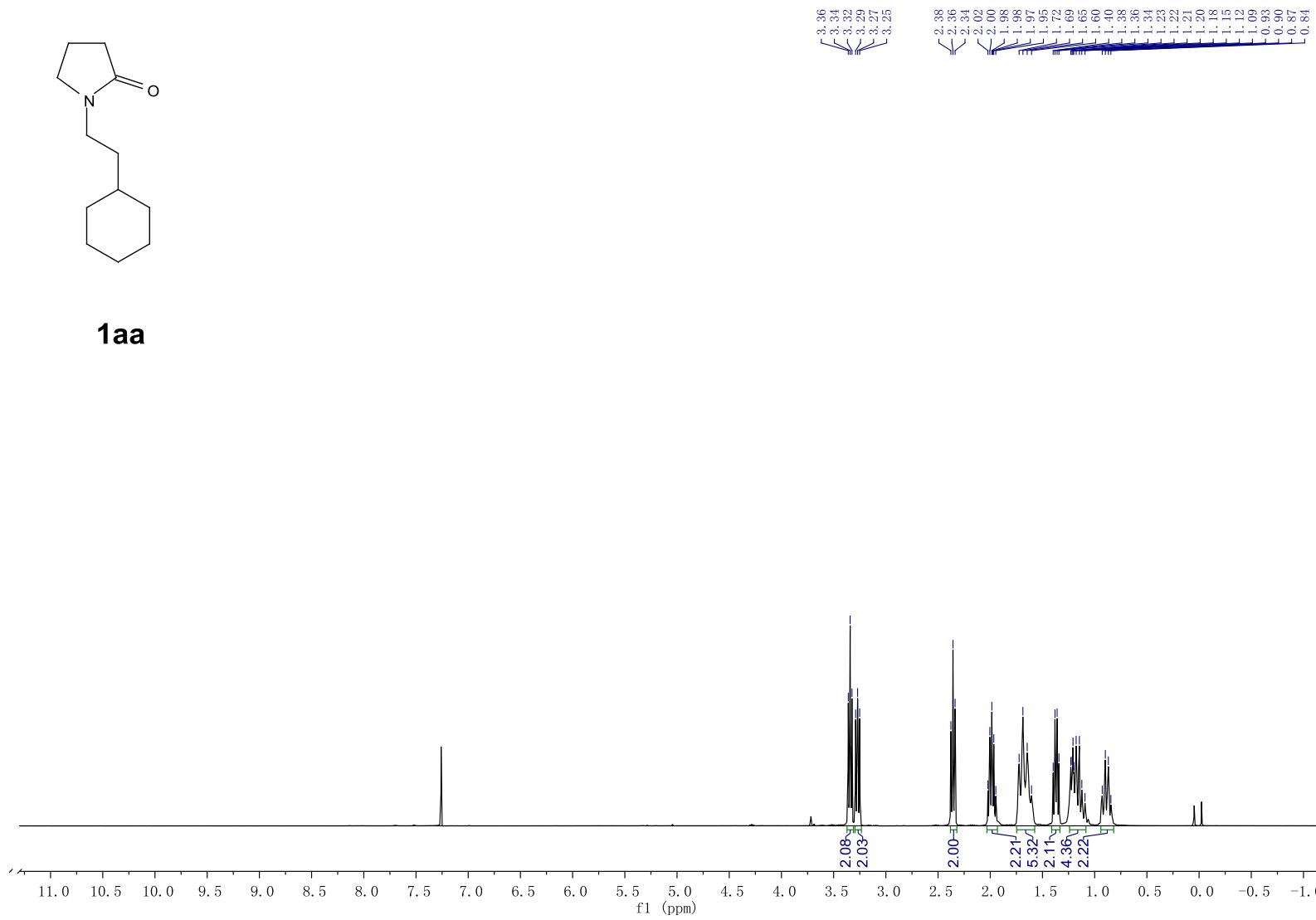


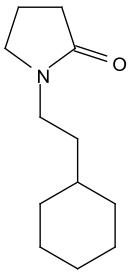
4-(p-tolylamino)butanal (1ck): Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.33 (s, 1H), 7.20 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.78 – 3.71 (m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.54 (h, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 0.88 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.72, 138.72, 137.09, 130.44, 124.70, 46.90, 21.19, 21.11, 11.48; IR (KBr ν/cm^{-1}) 1724, 1658, 1267, 1076, 853, 806; HRMS (ESI $^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{NNaO} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 200.1046, found 200.1056.



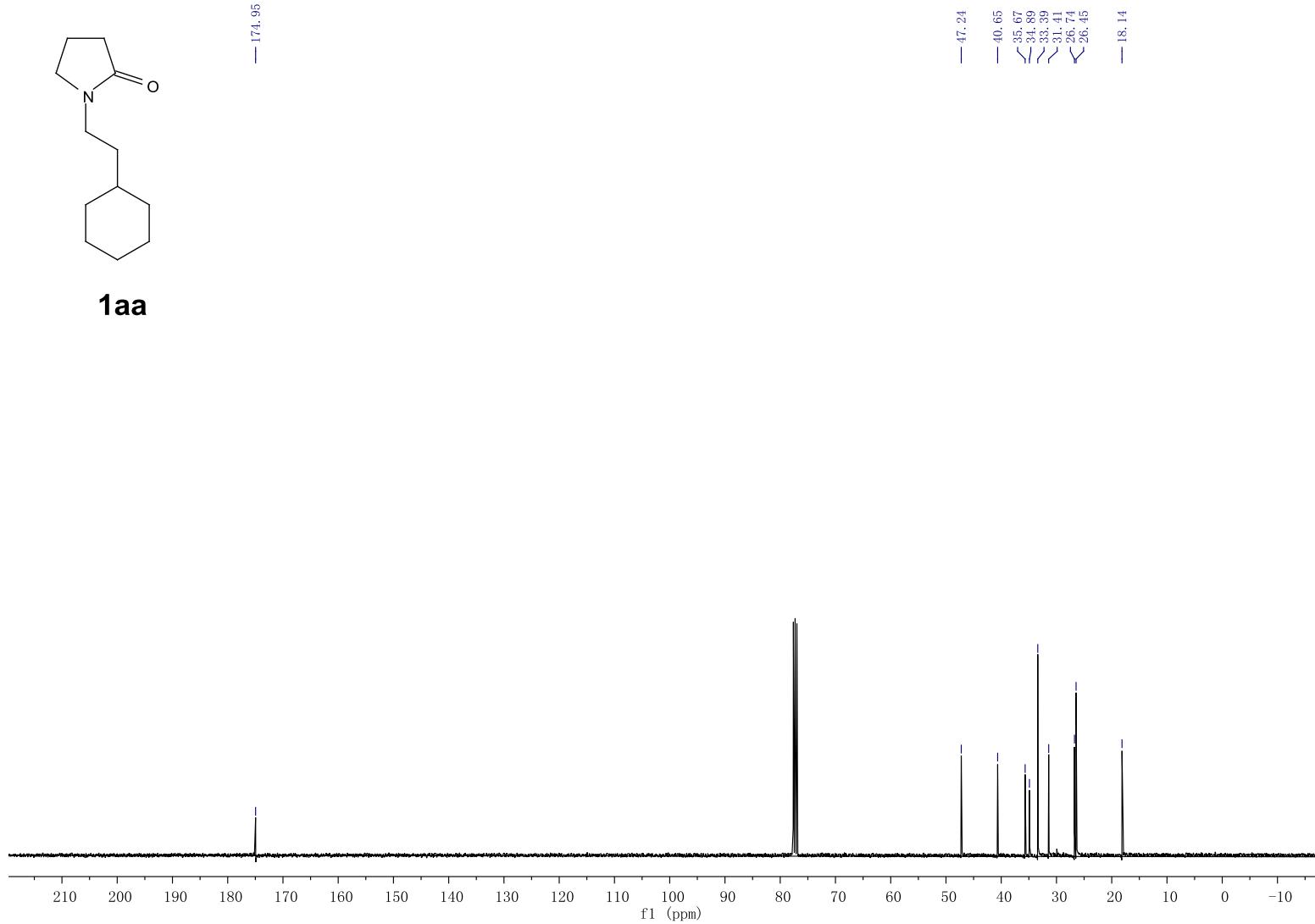


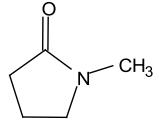
1aa



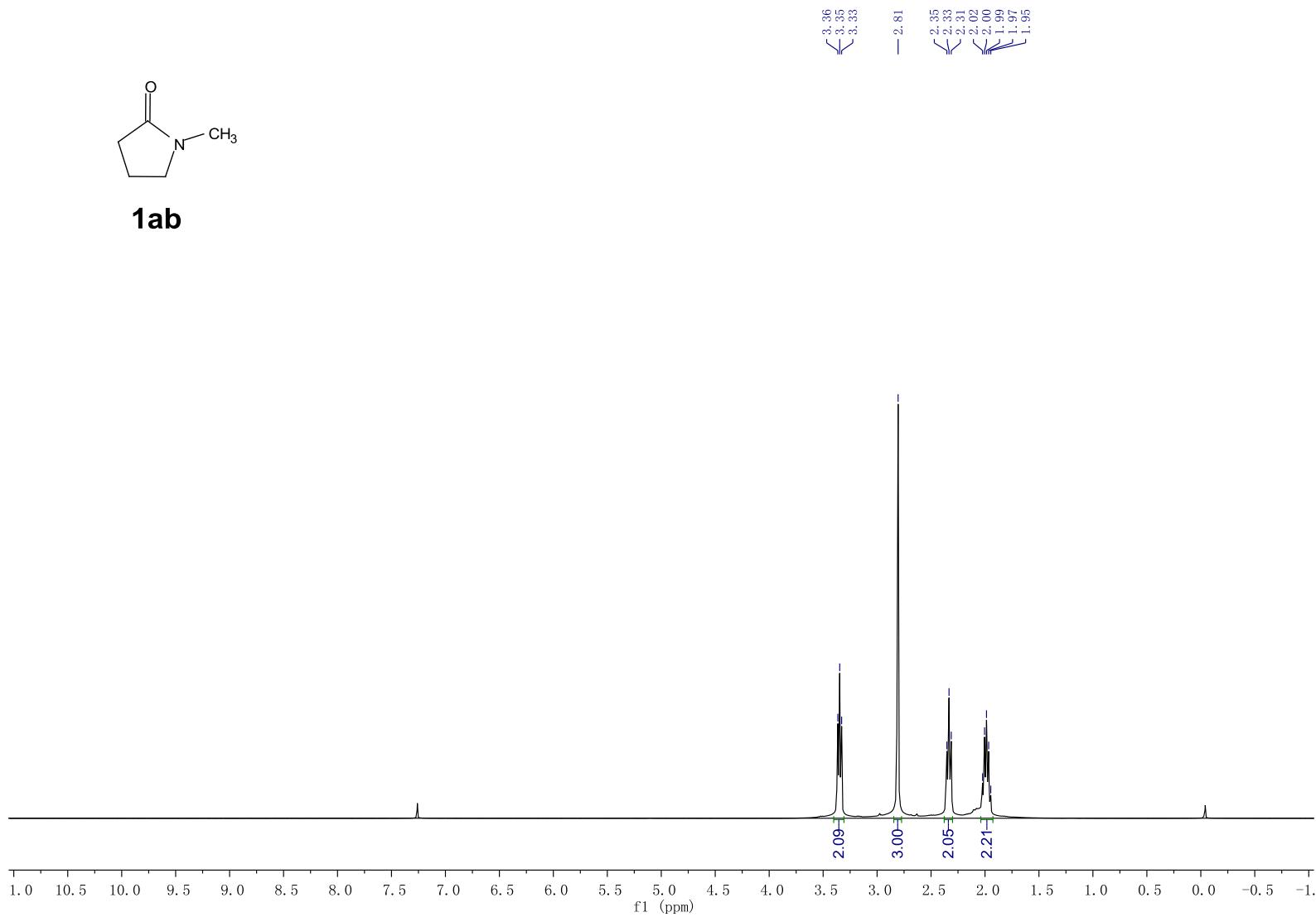


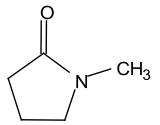
1aa





1ab





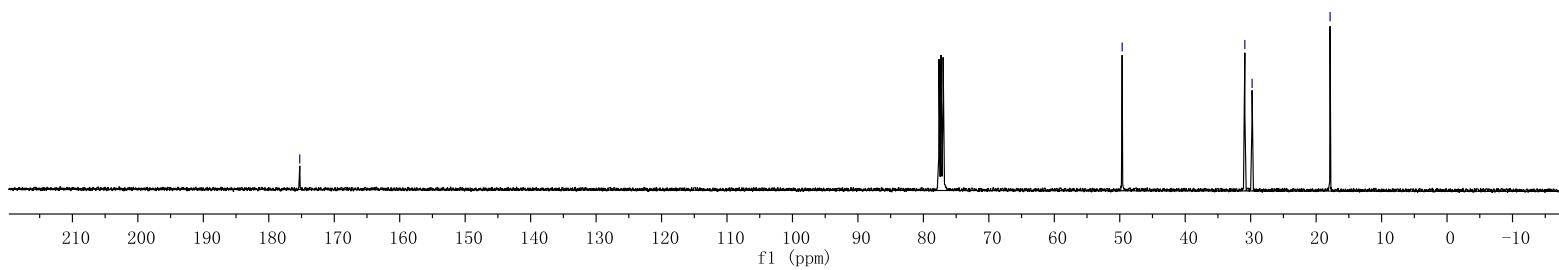
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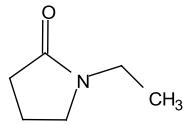
— 175.27

— 49.63

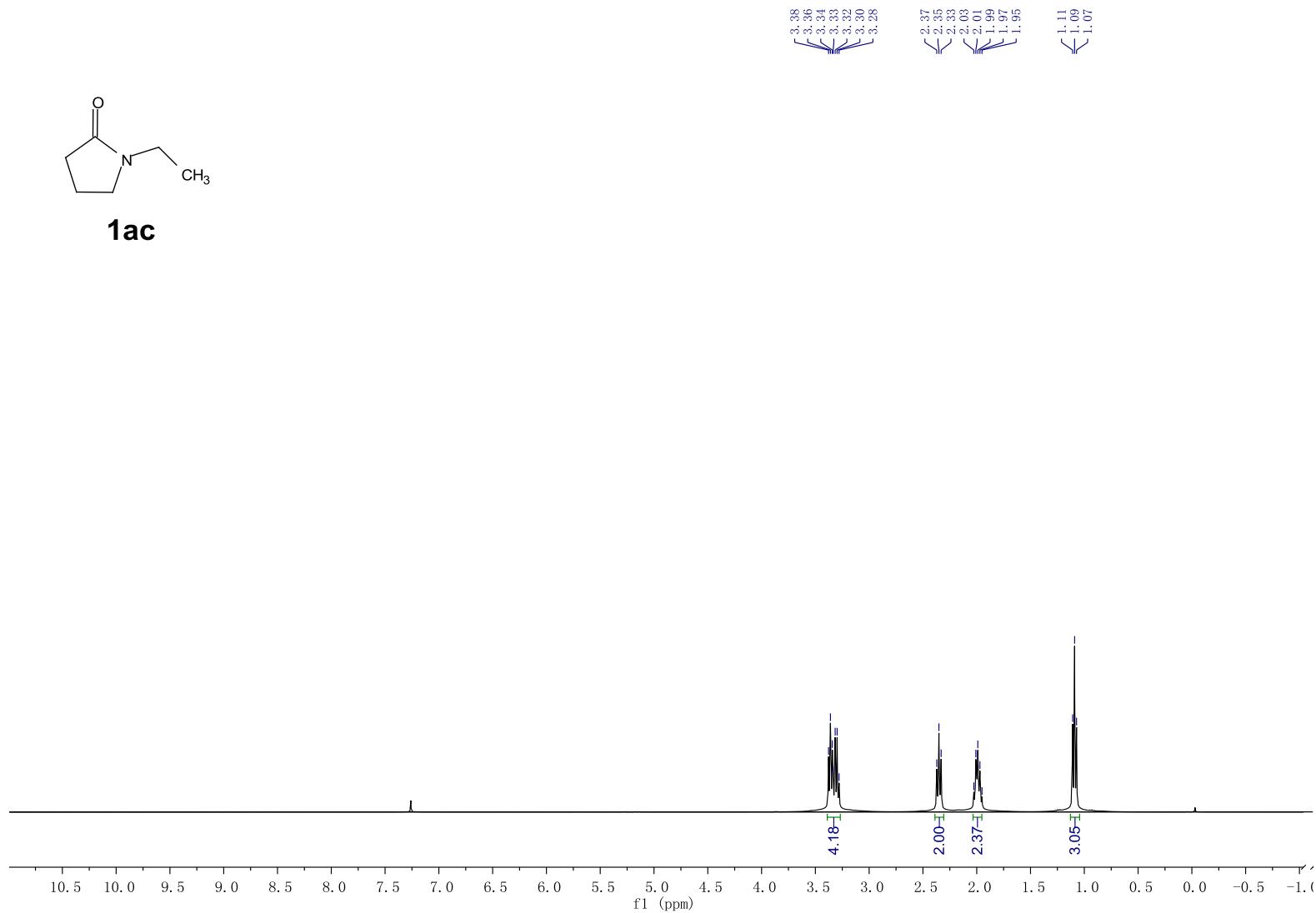
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— 29.78

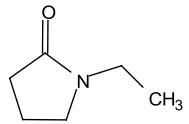
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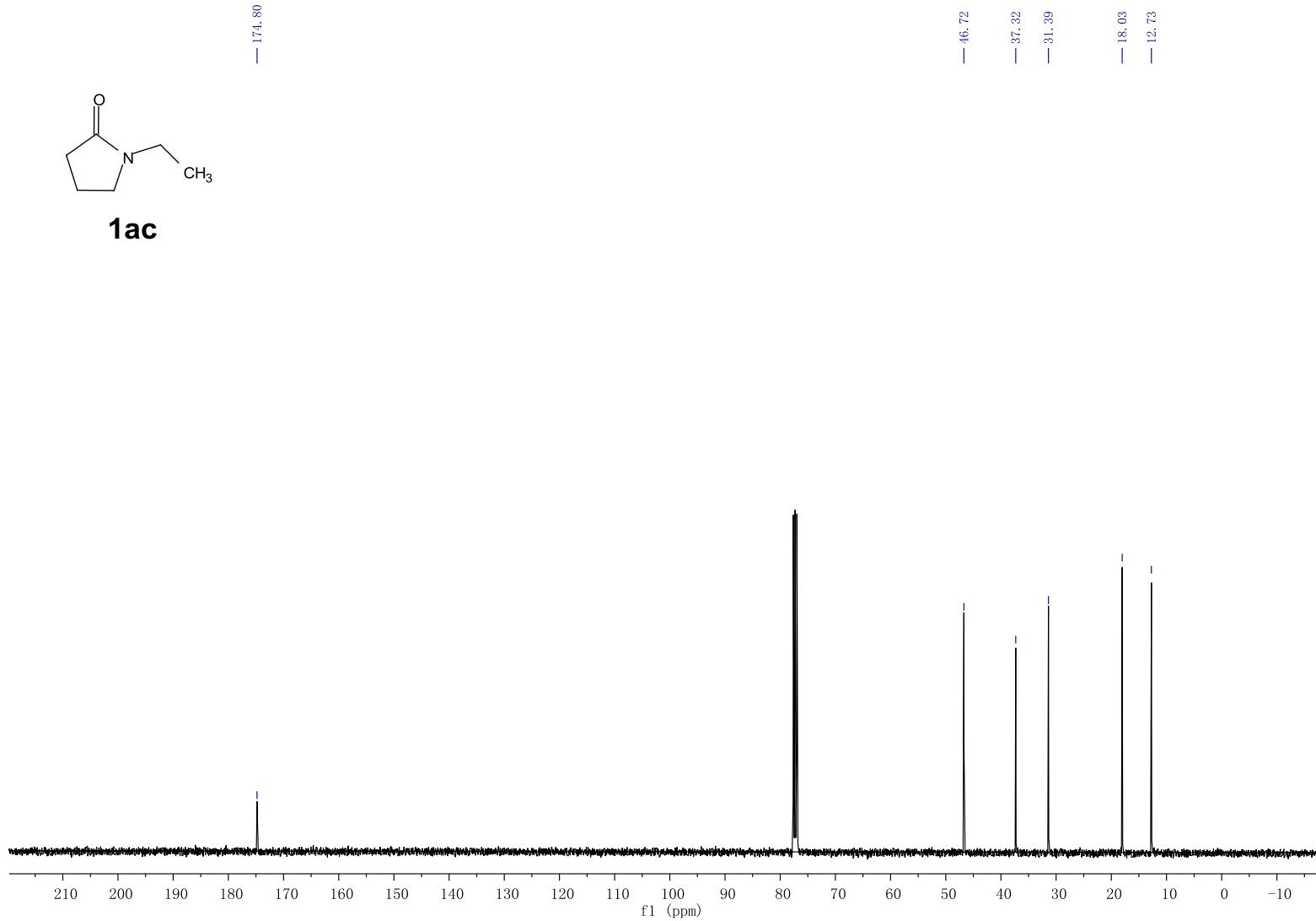


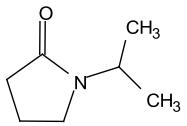
1ac



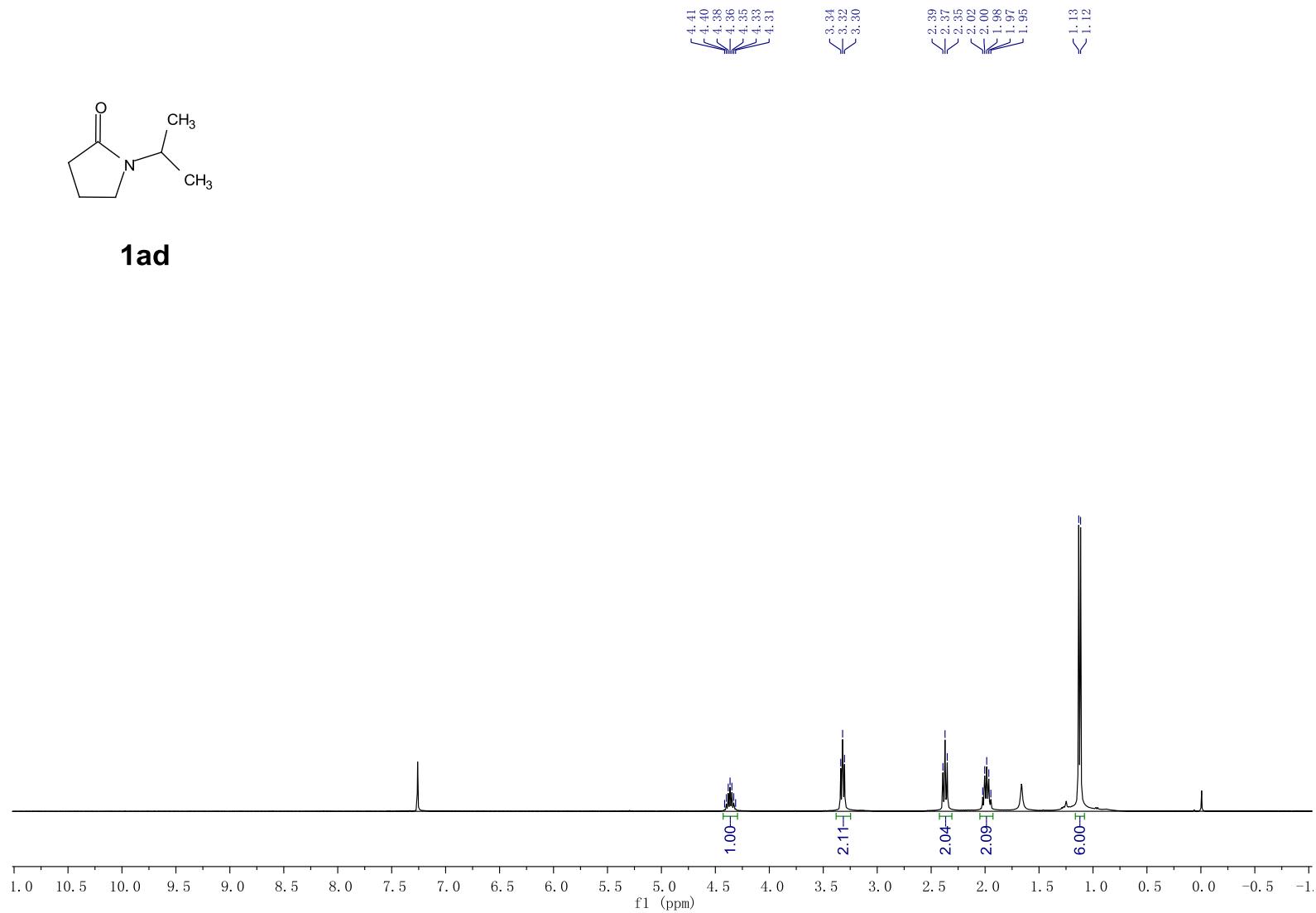


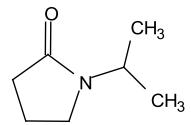
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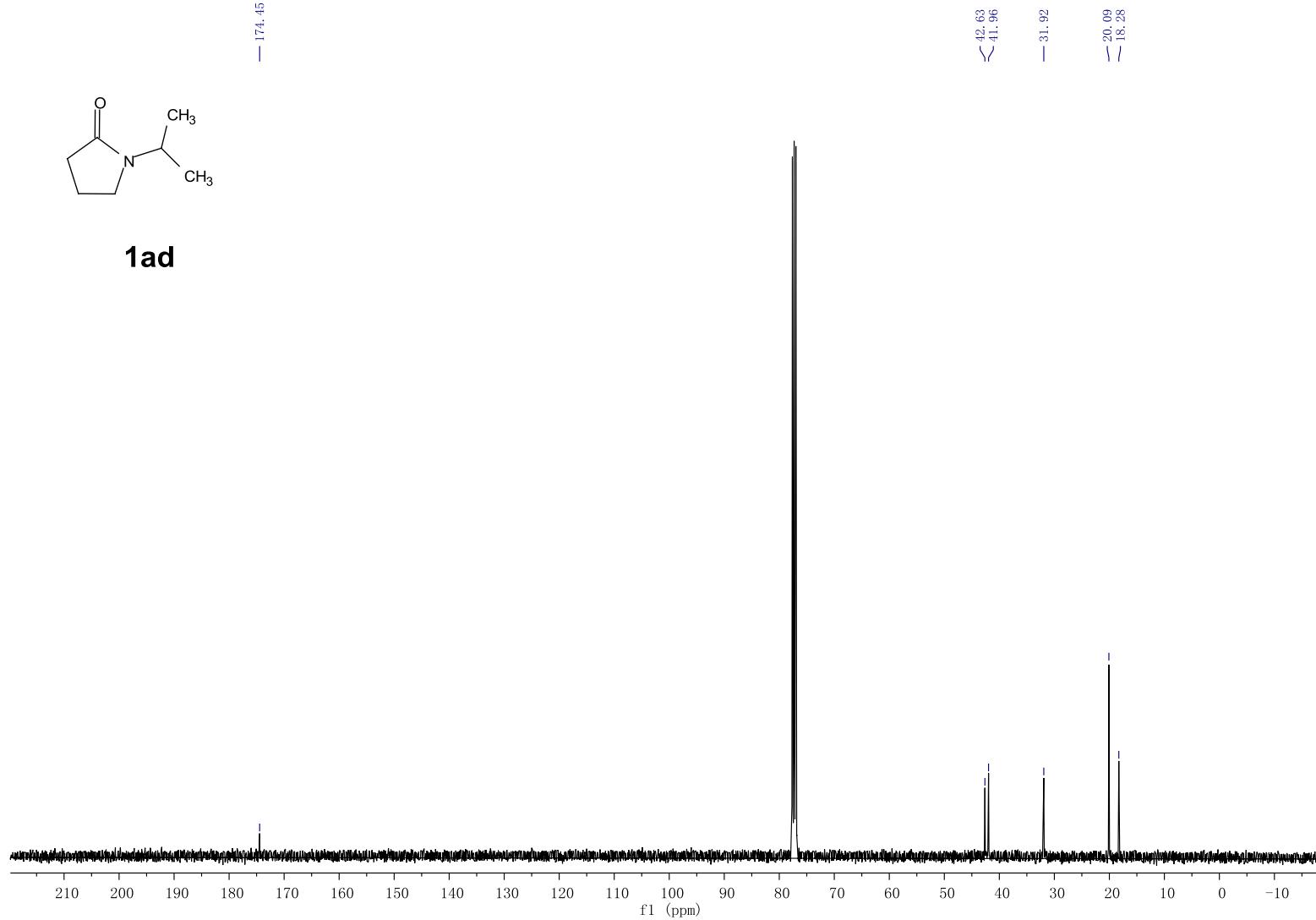
1ad

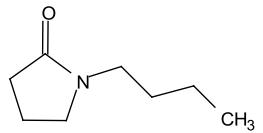




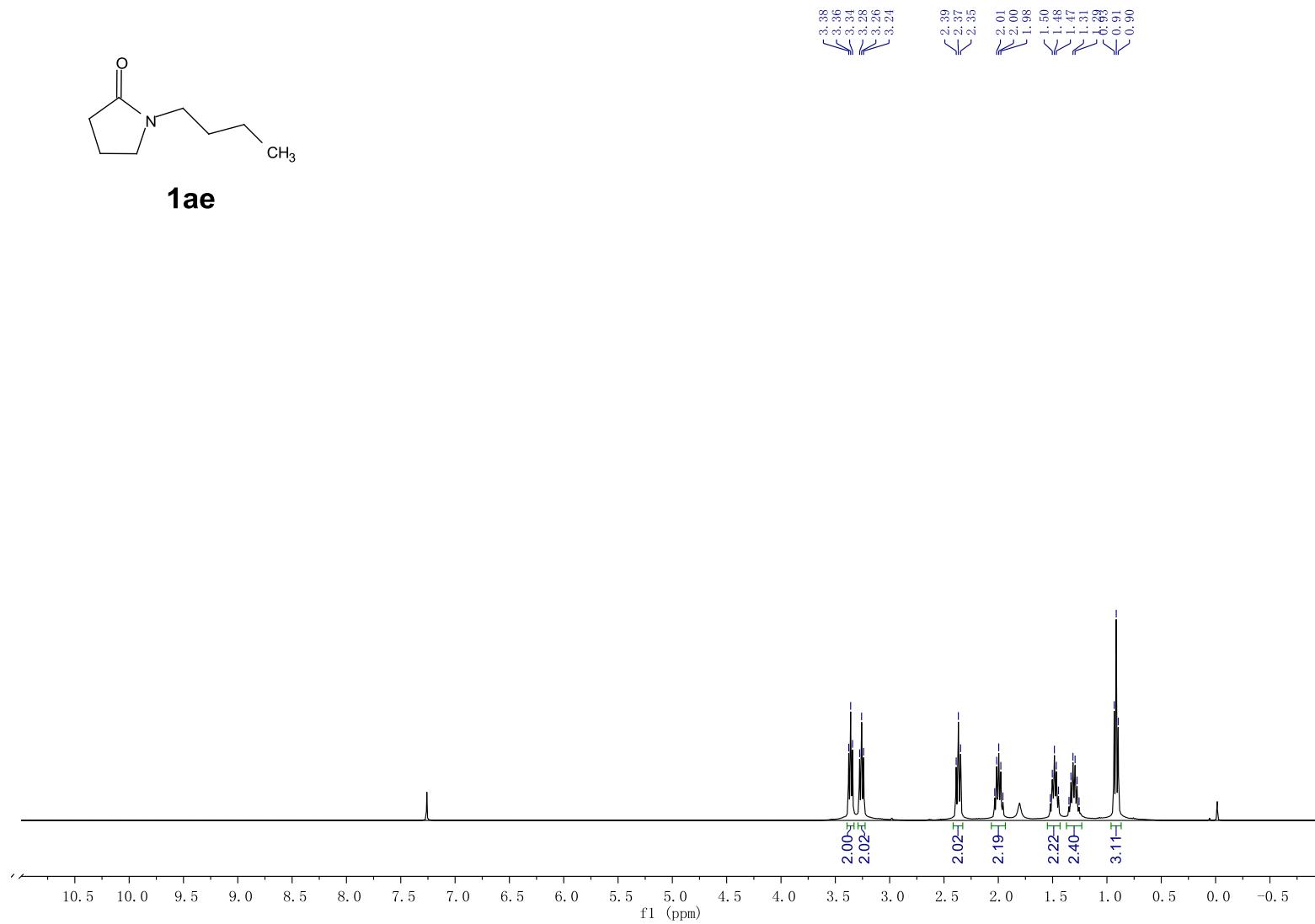
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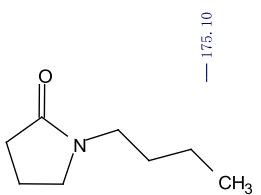
1ad



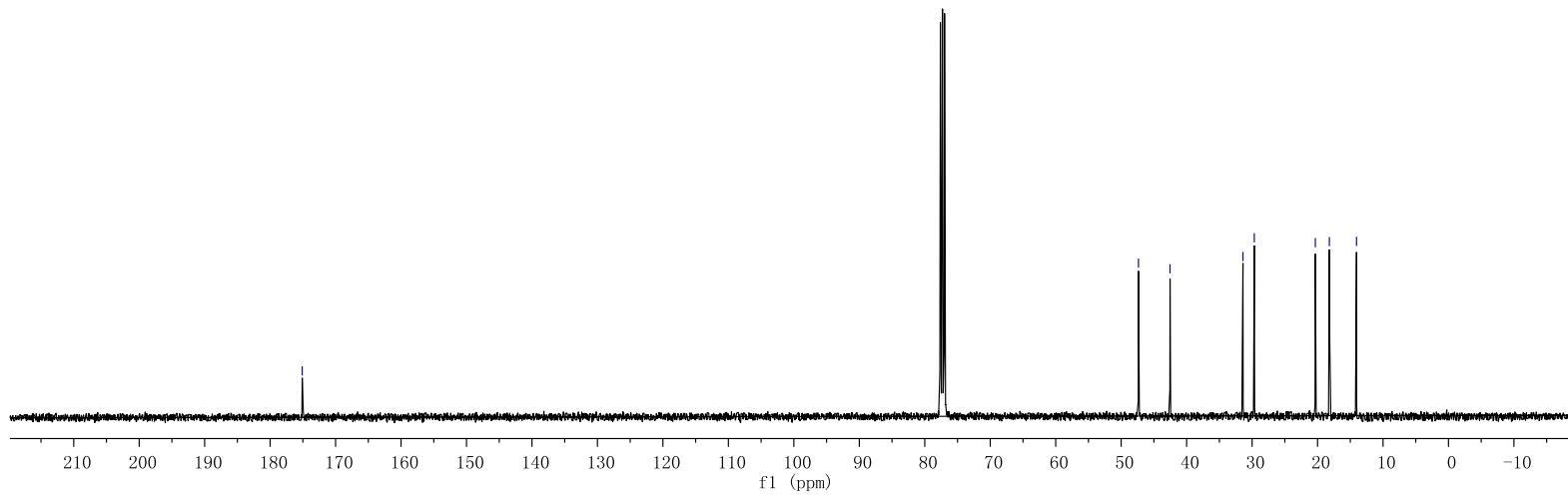


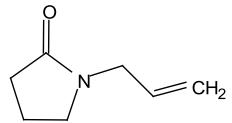
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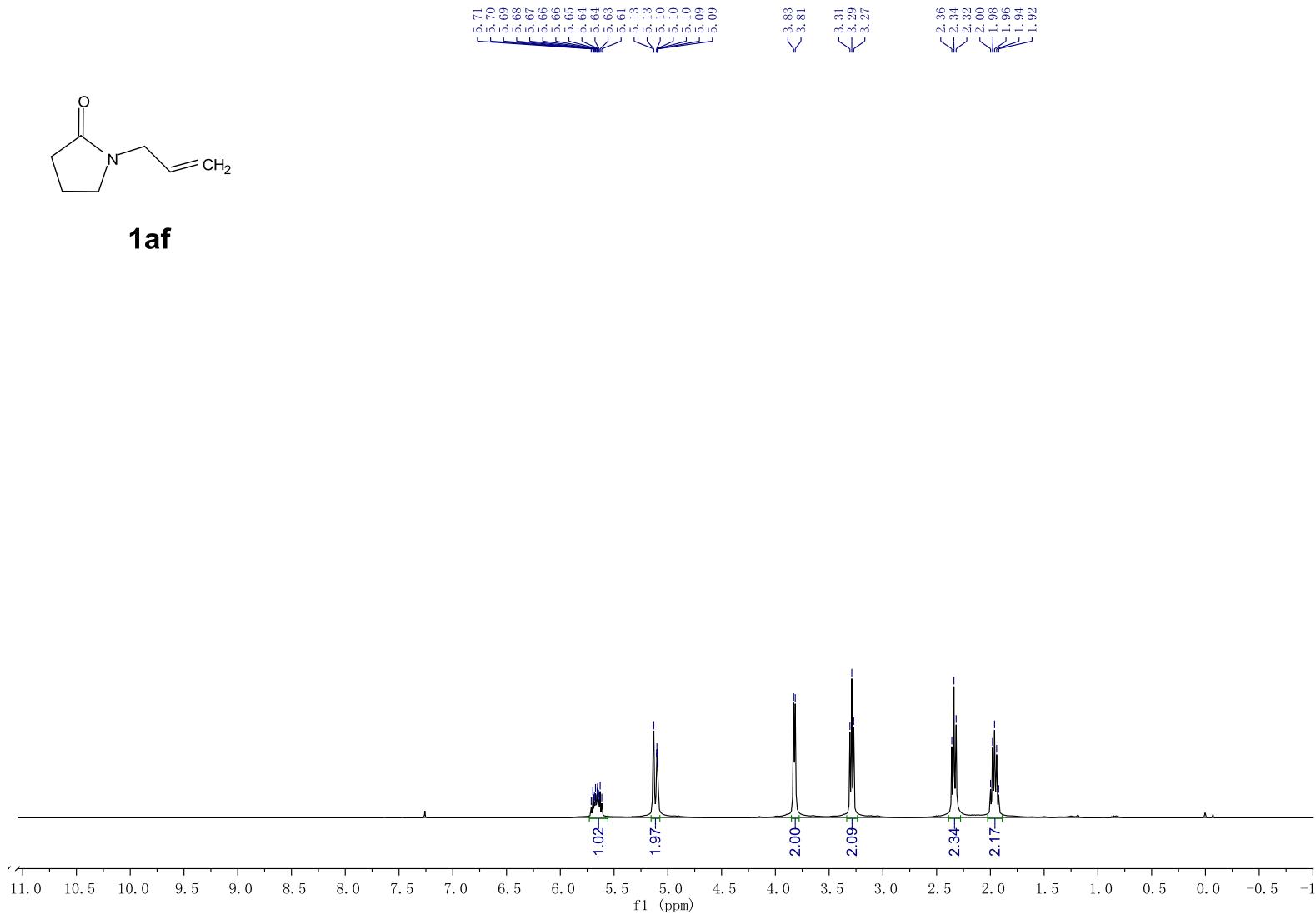


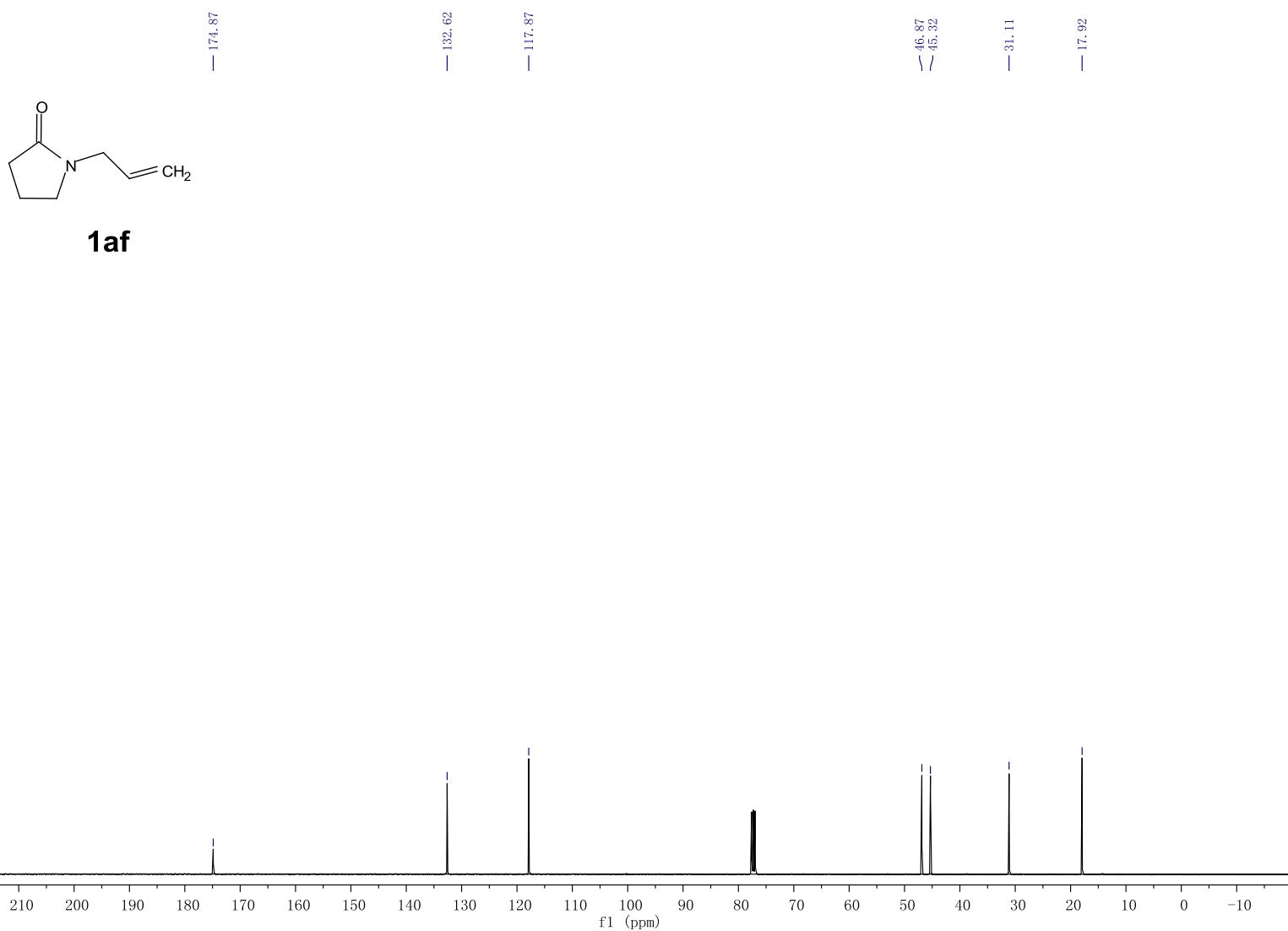
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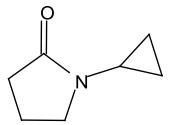




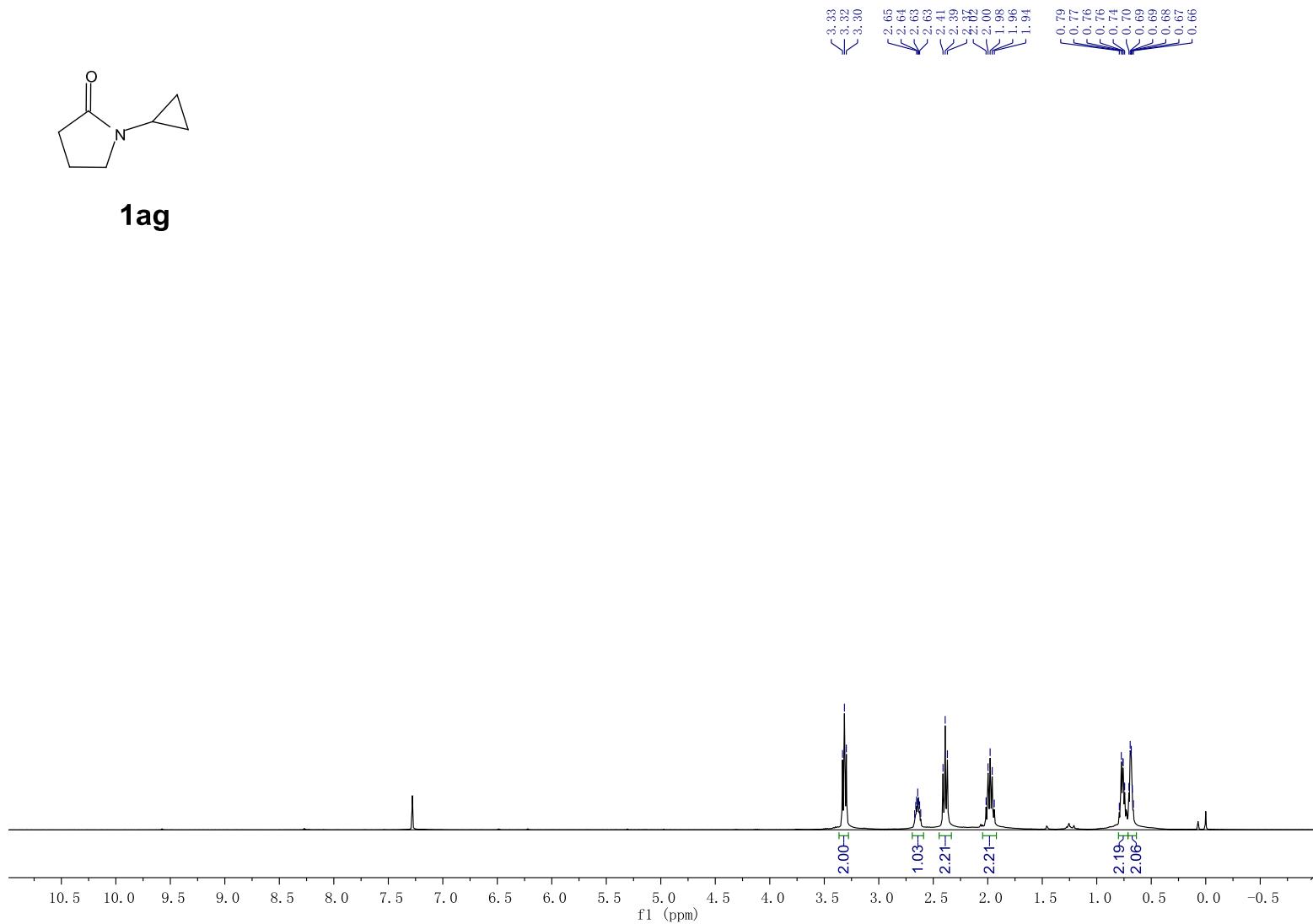
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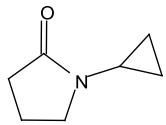






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1ag

— 176.62

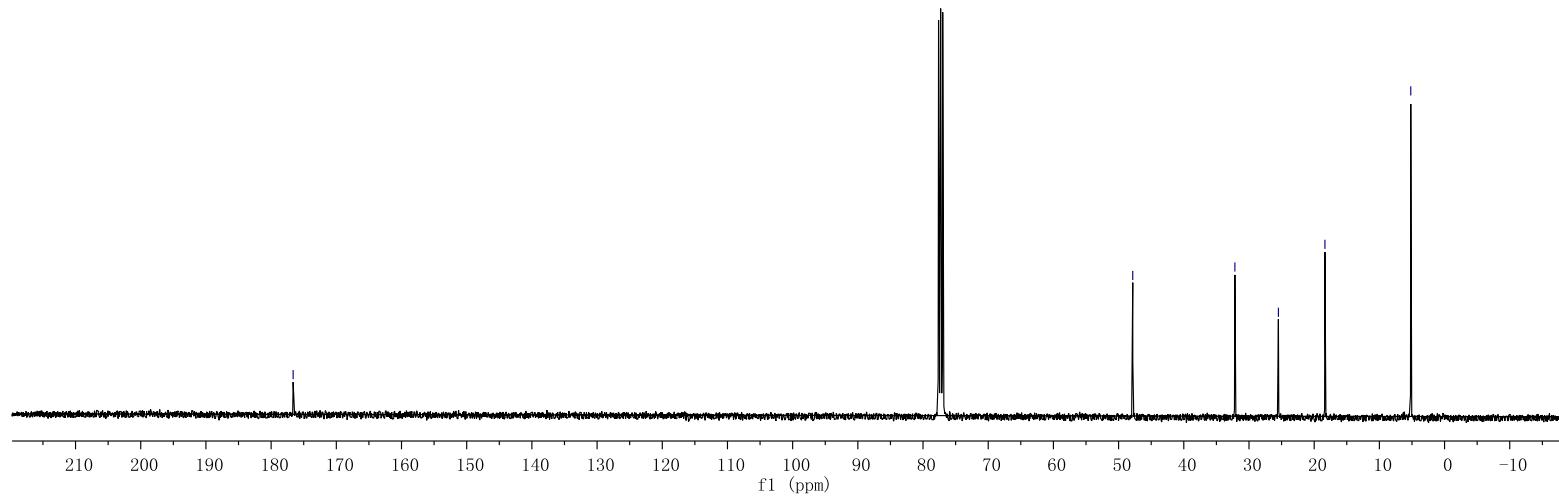
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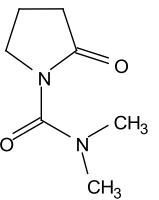
— 32.16

— 25.49

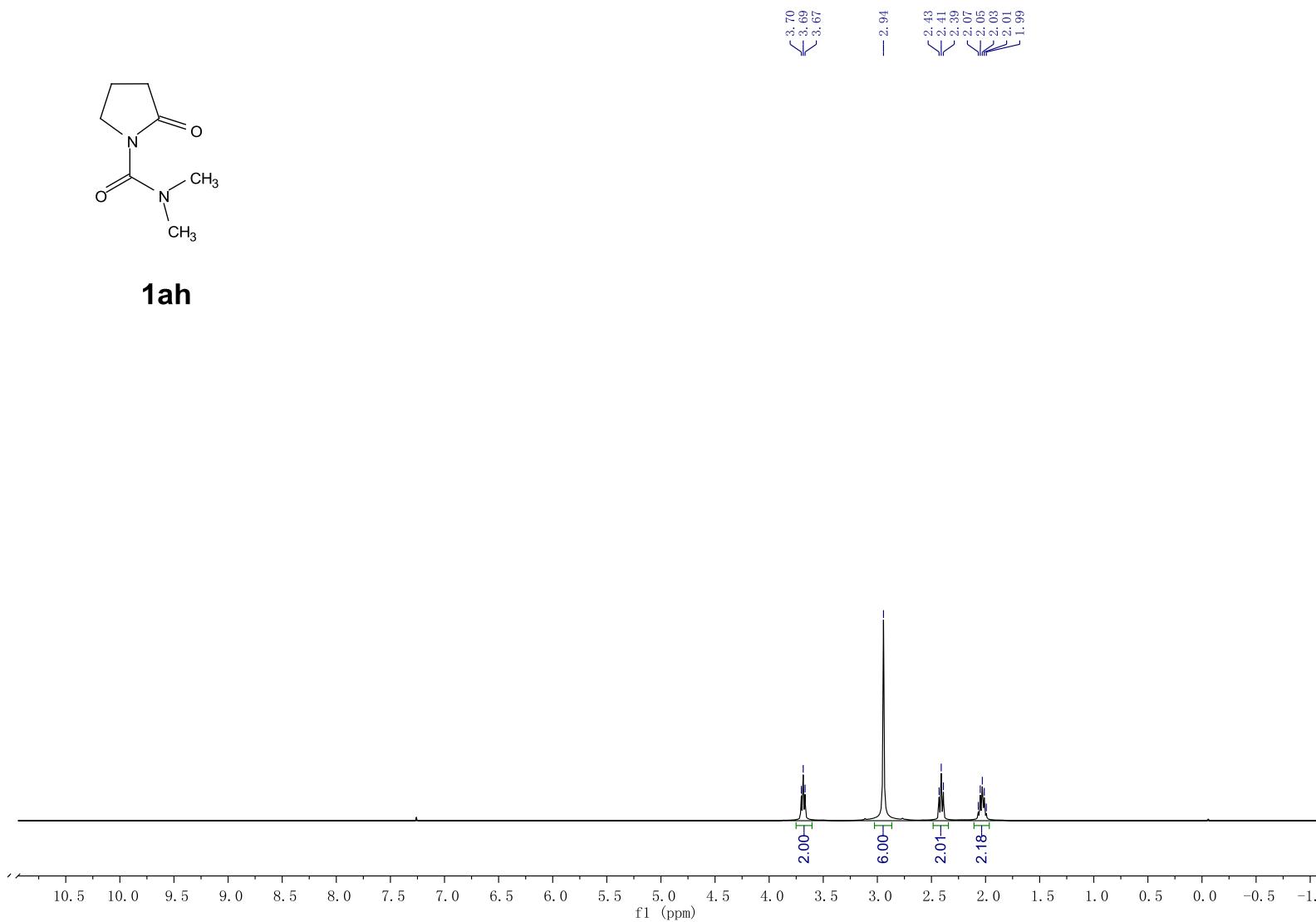
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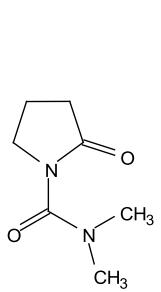
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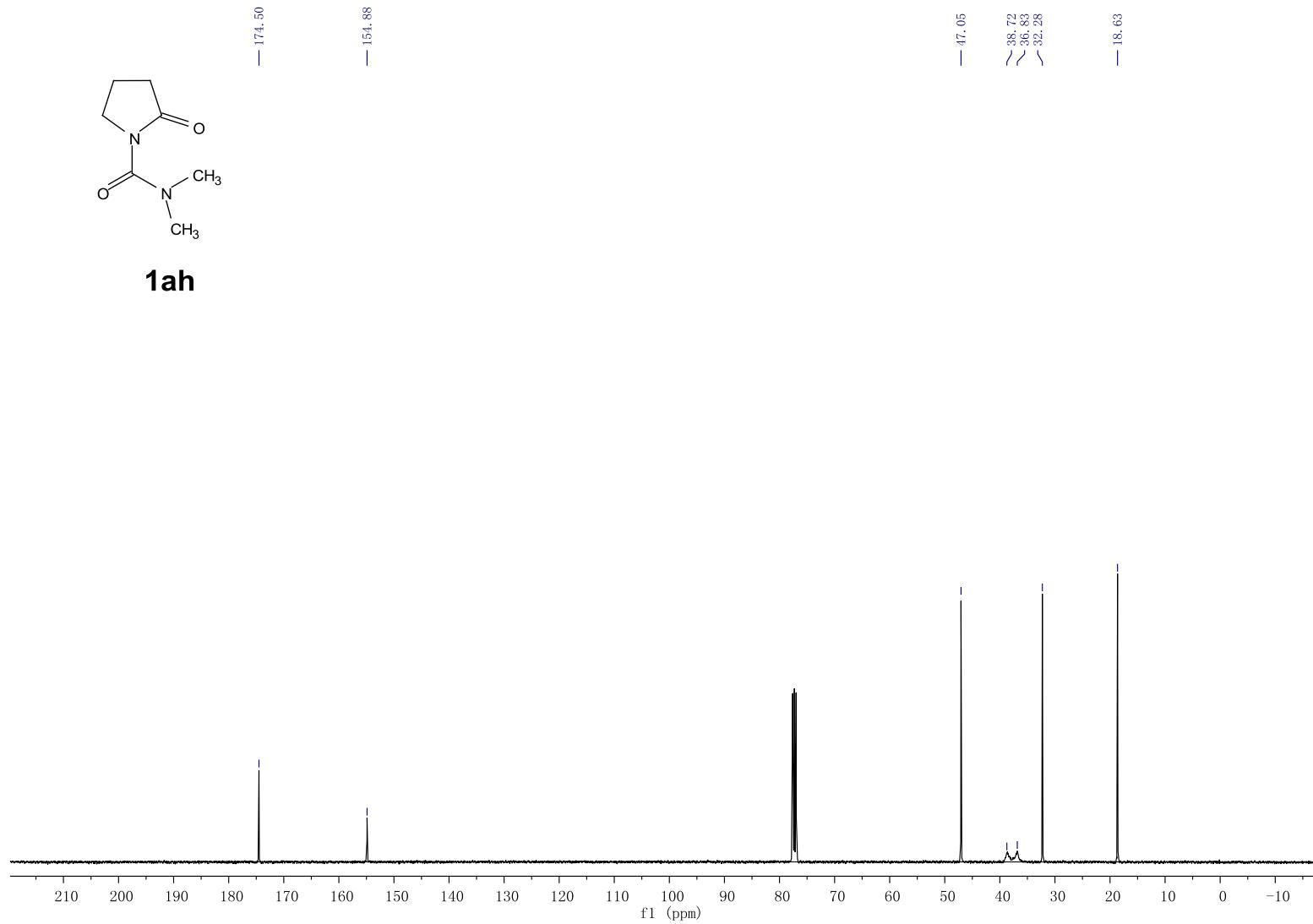


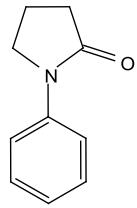
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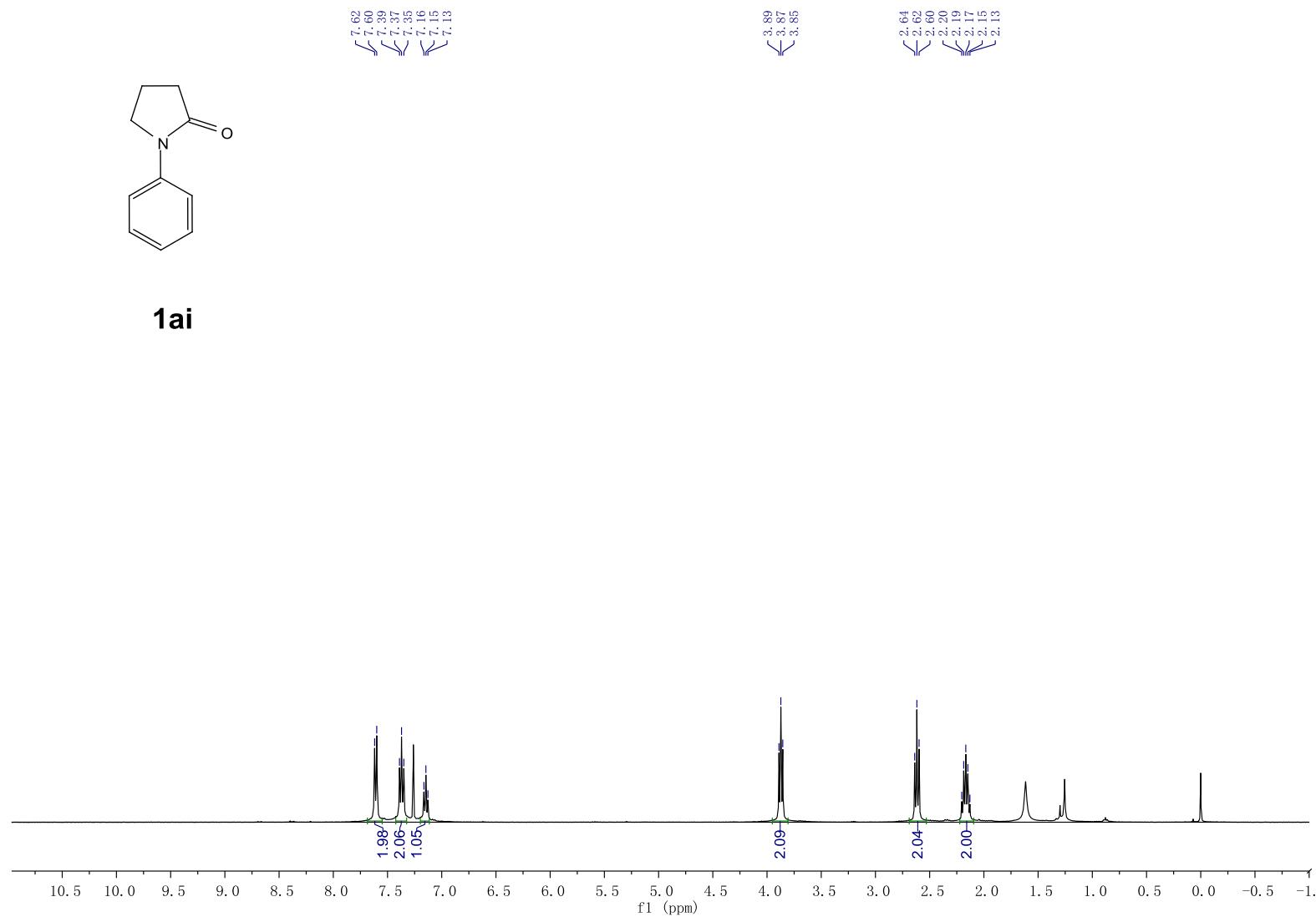


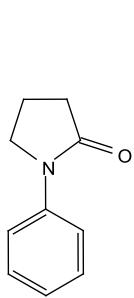
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1ai





— 174.51

— 139.68

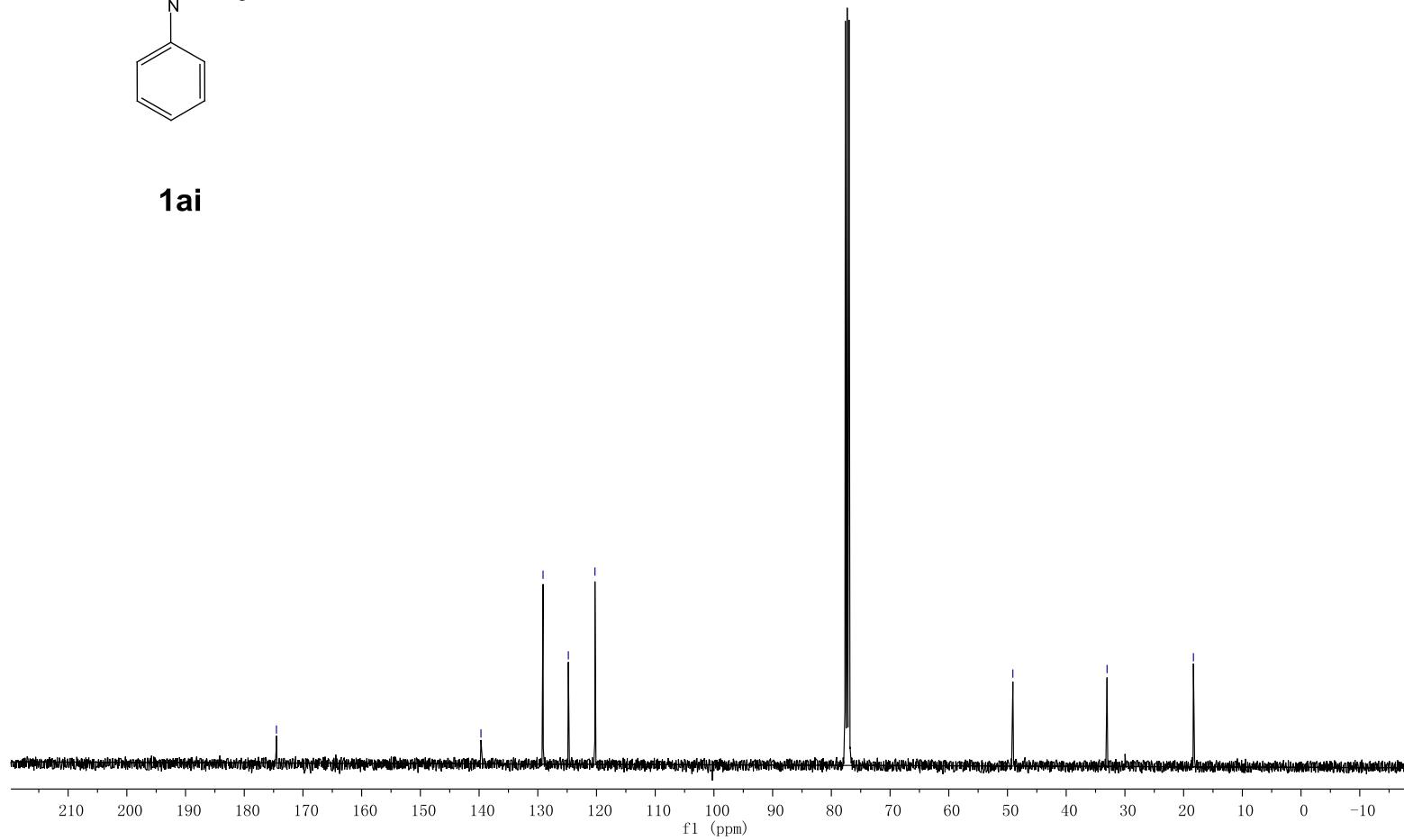
— 129.11
— 124.80
— 120.26

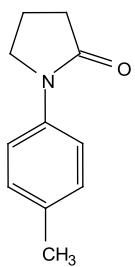
— 49.08

— 33.04

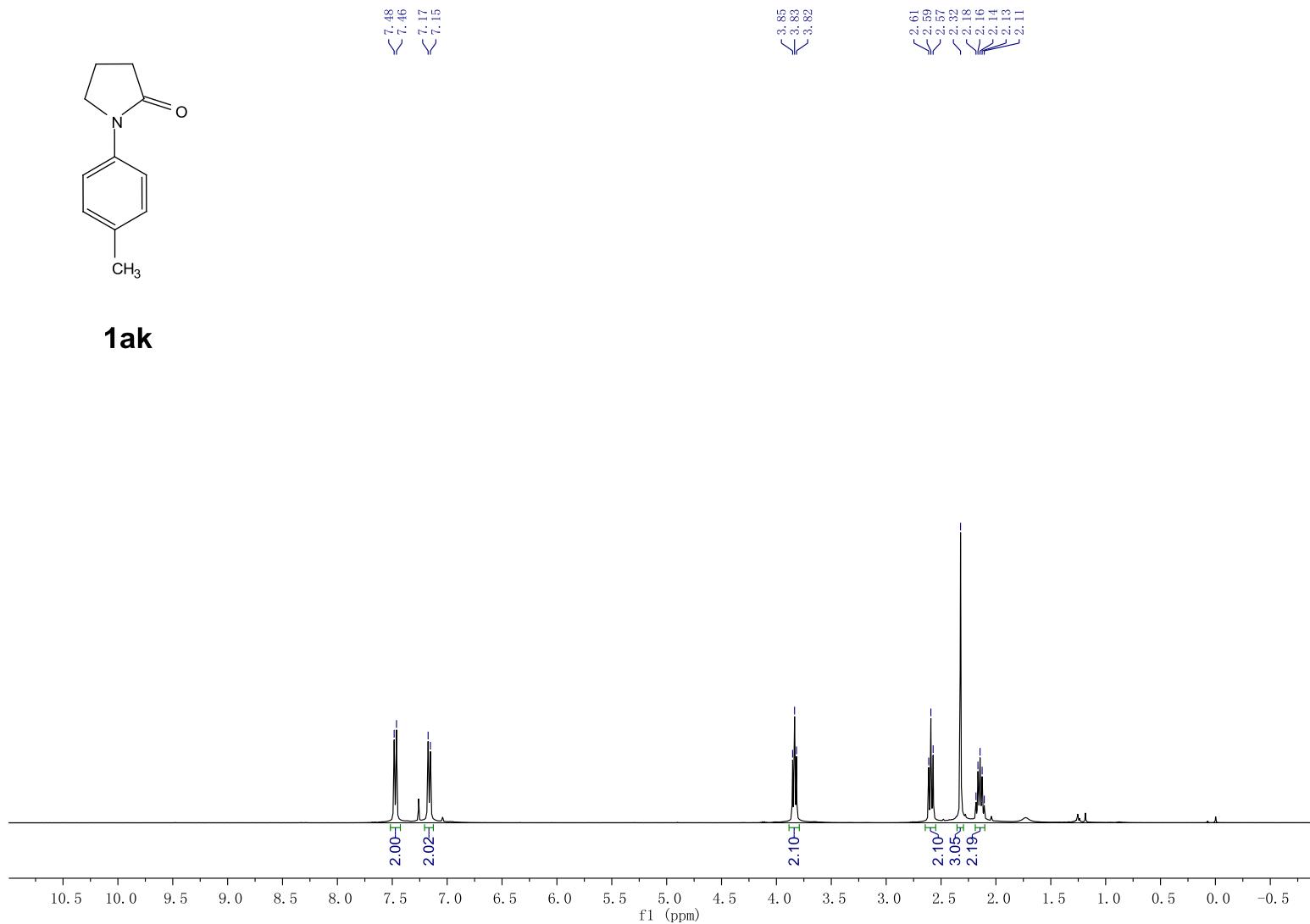
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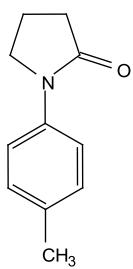
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1ak





— 174.34

— 137.15

— 134.46

— 129.61

— 120.35

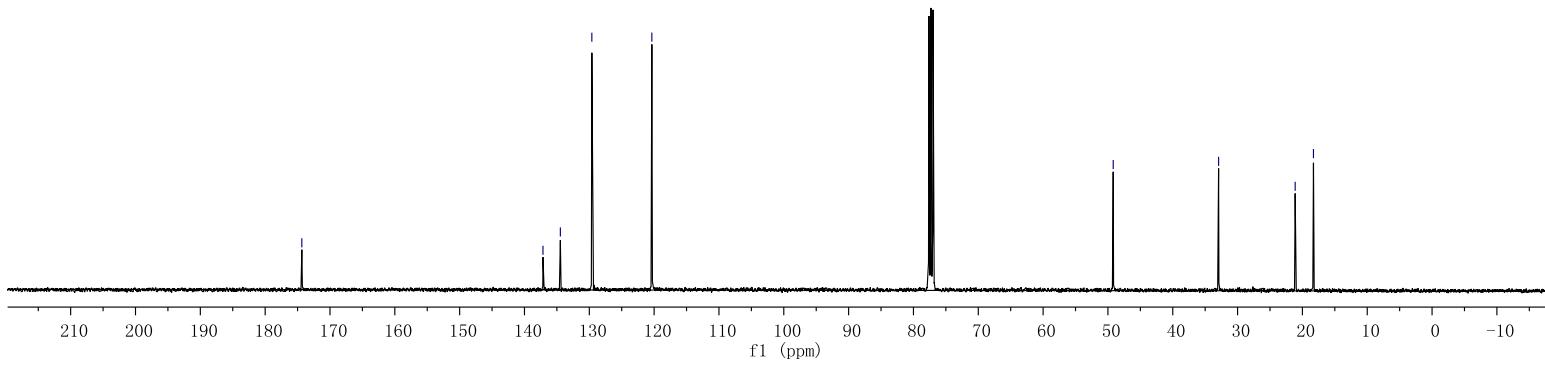
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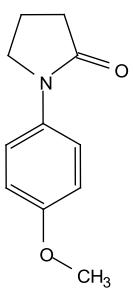
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— 21.12

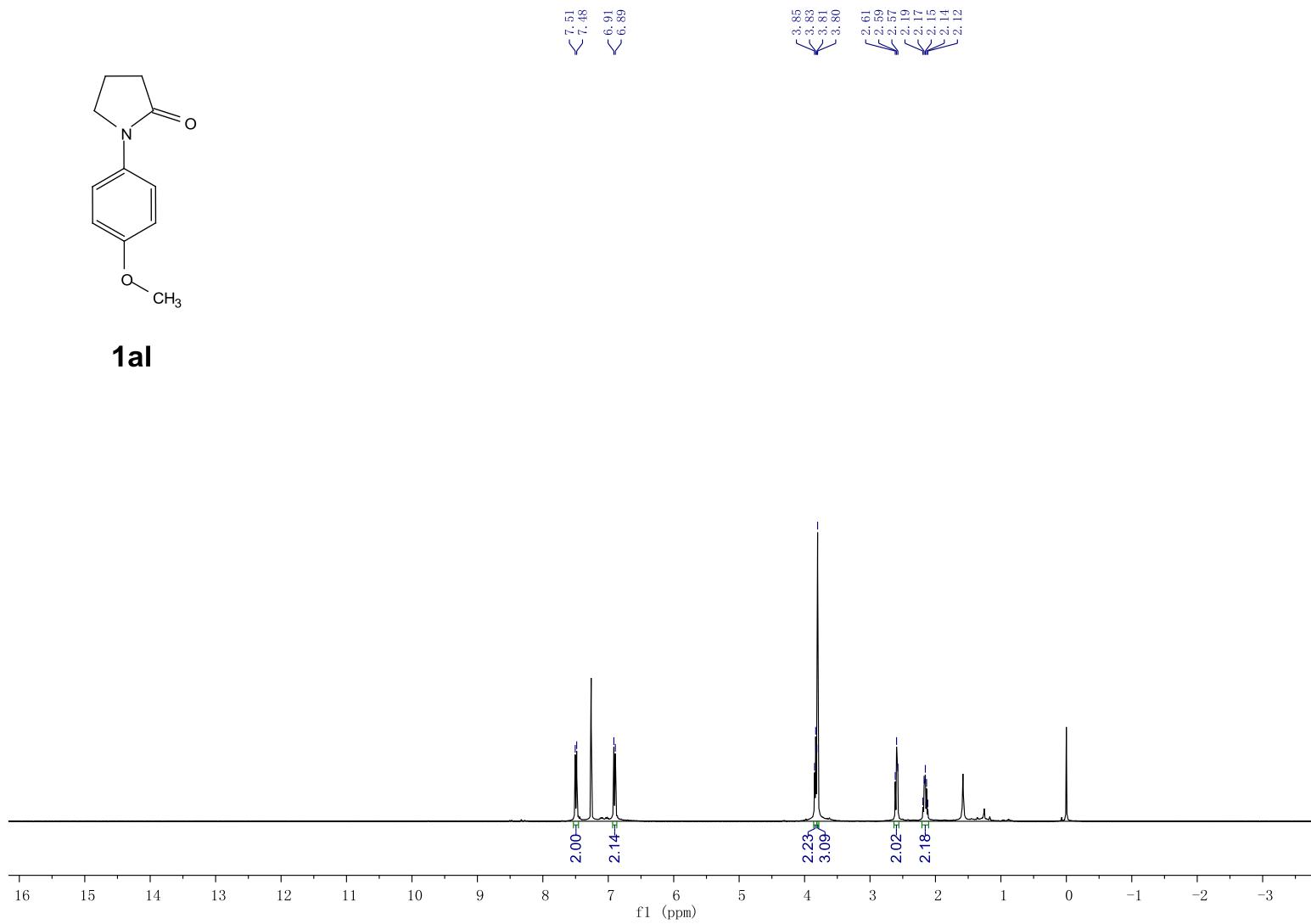
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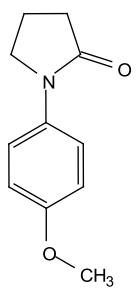
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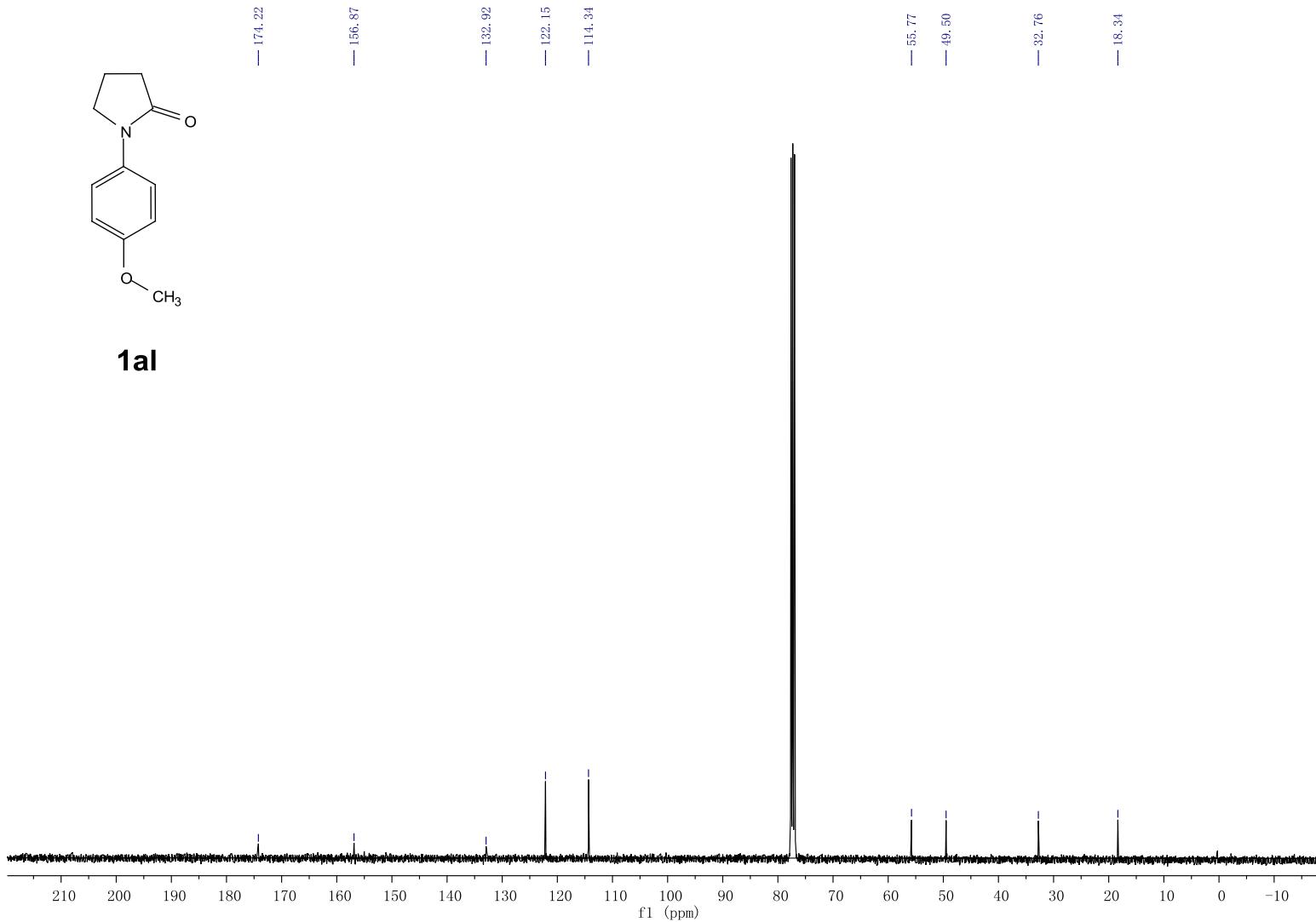


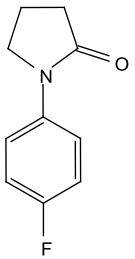
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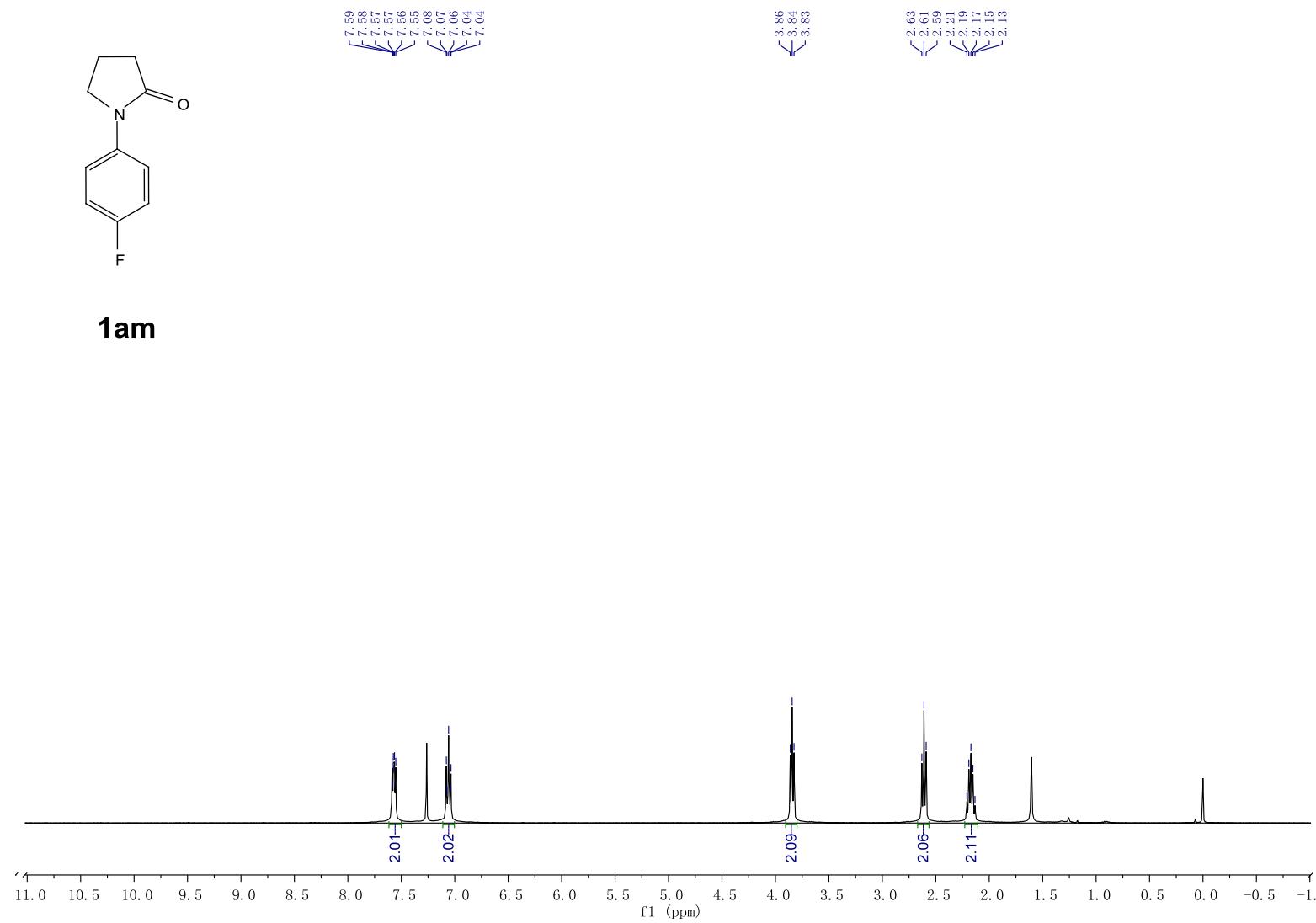


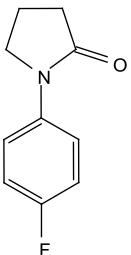
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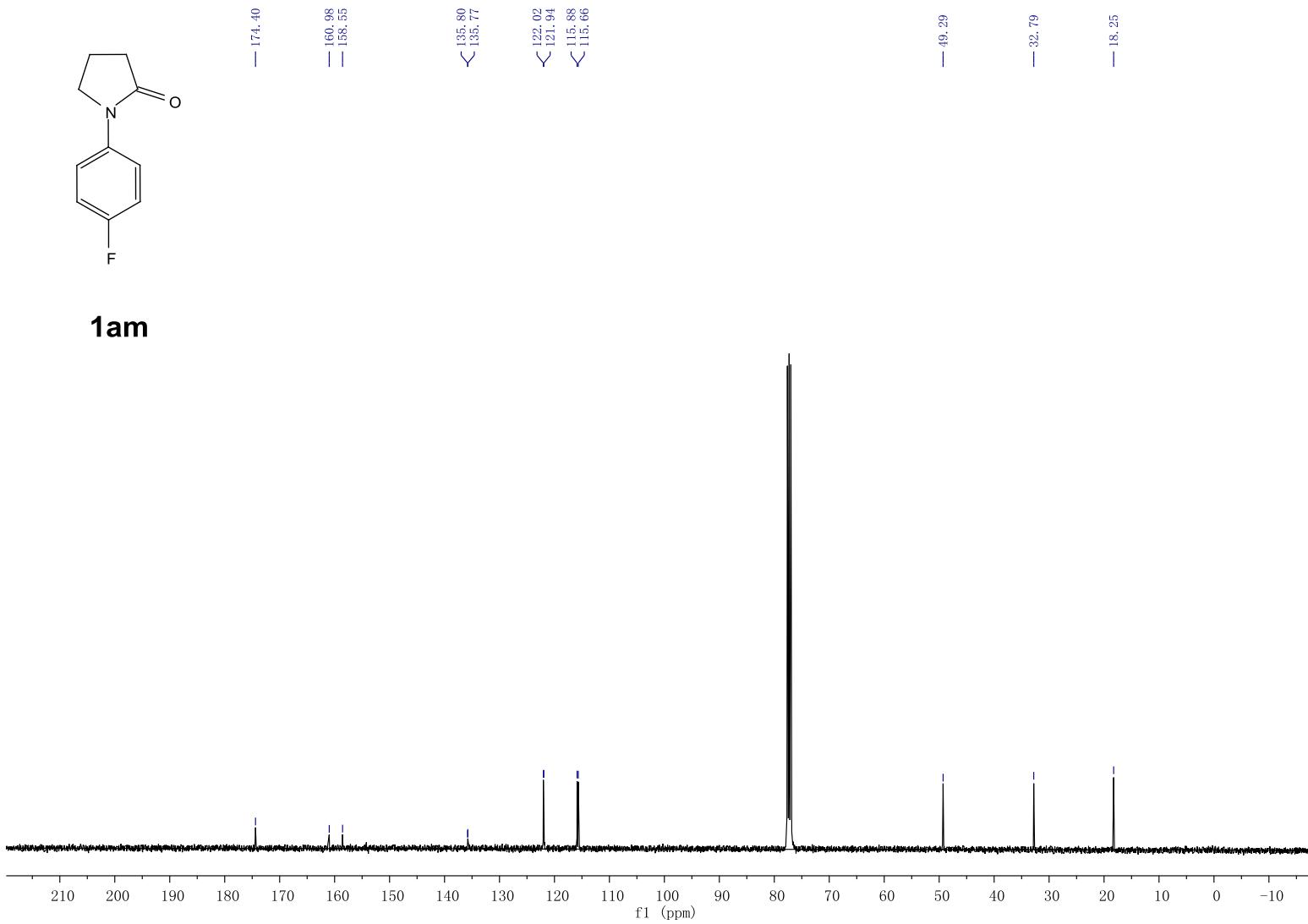


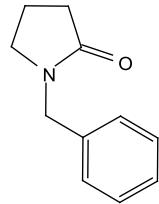
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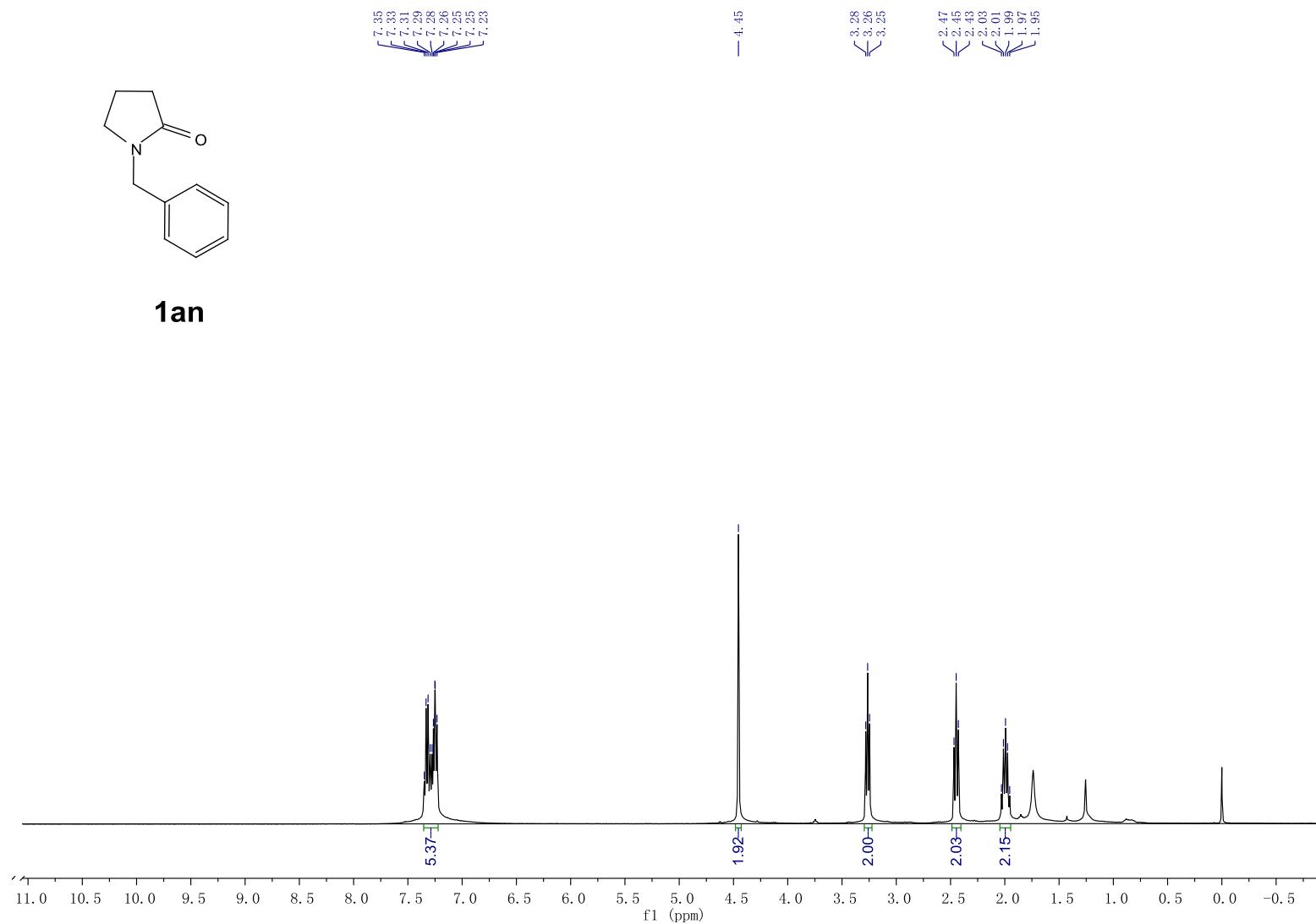


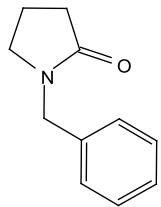
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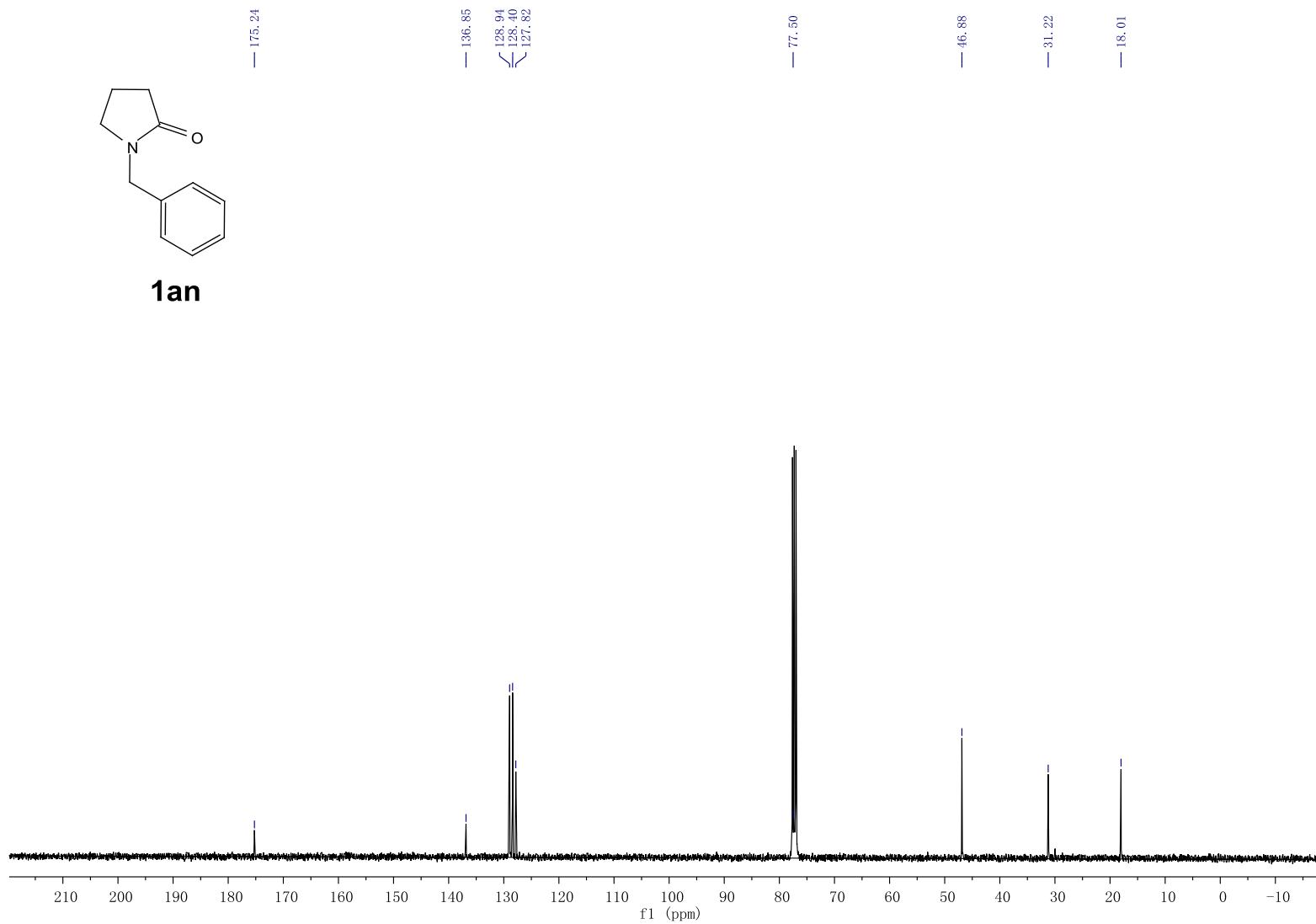


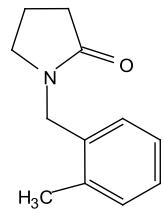
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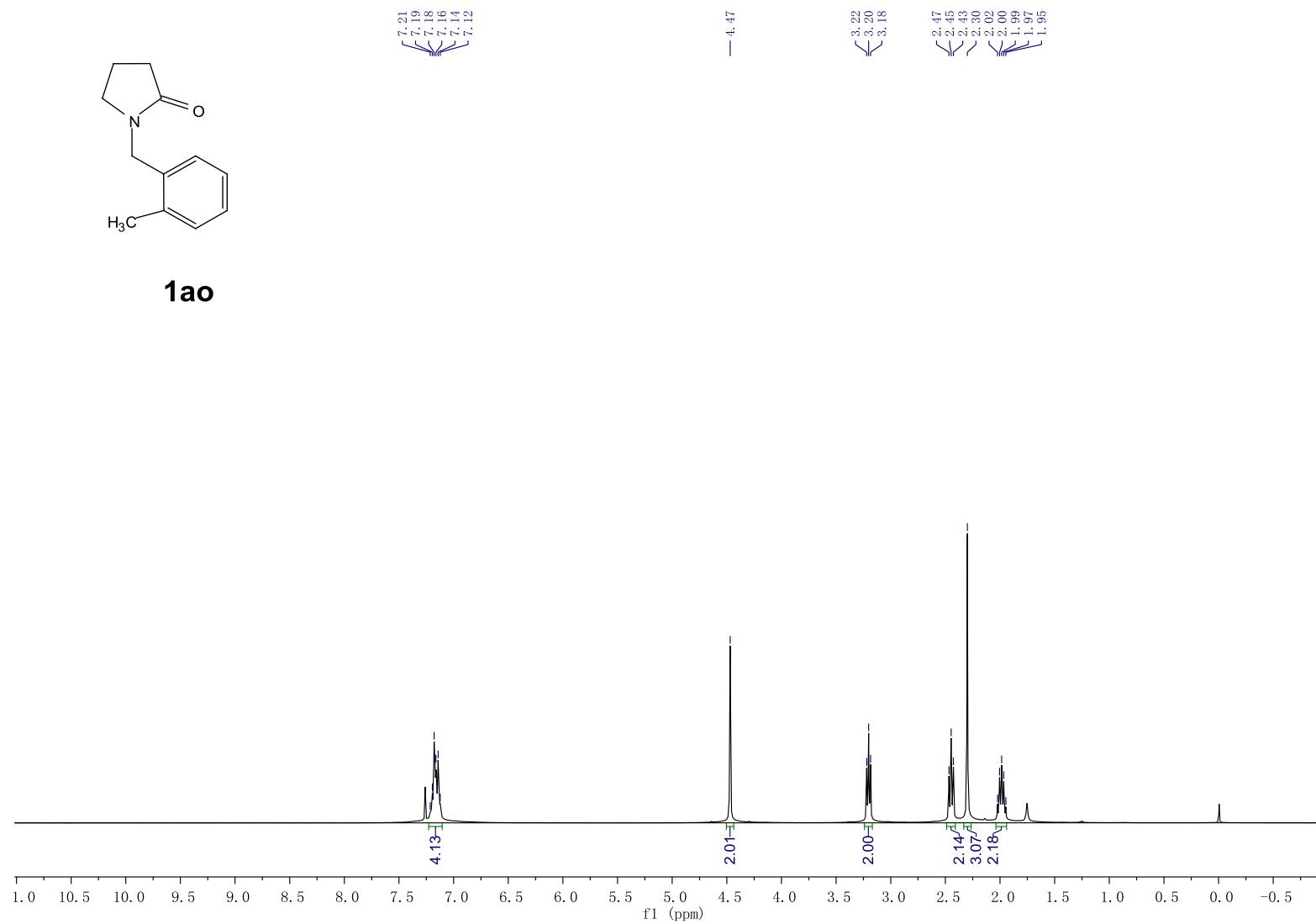


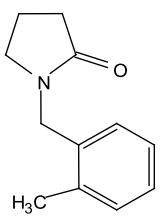
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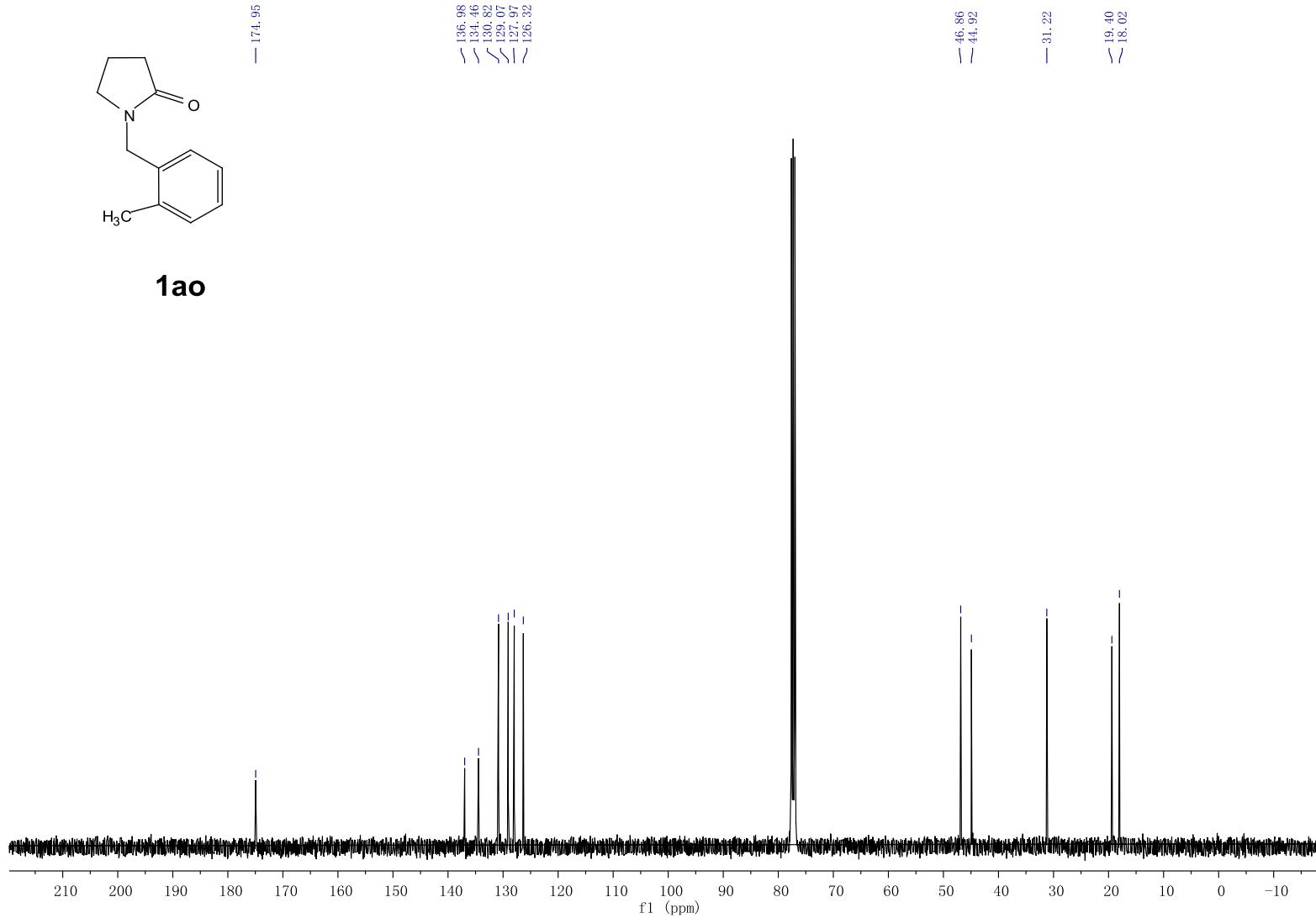
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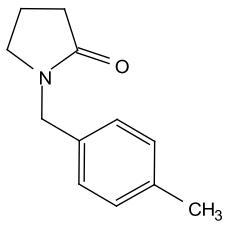




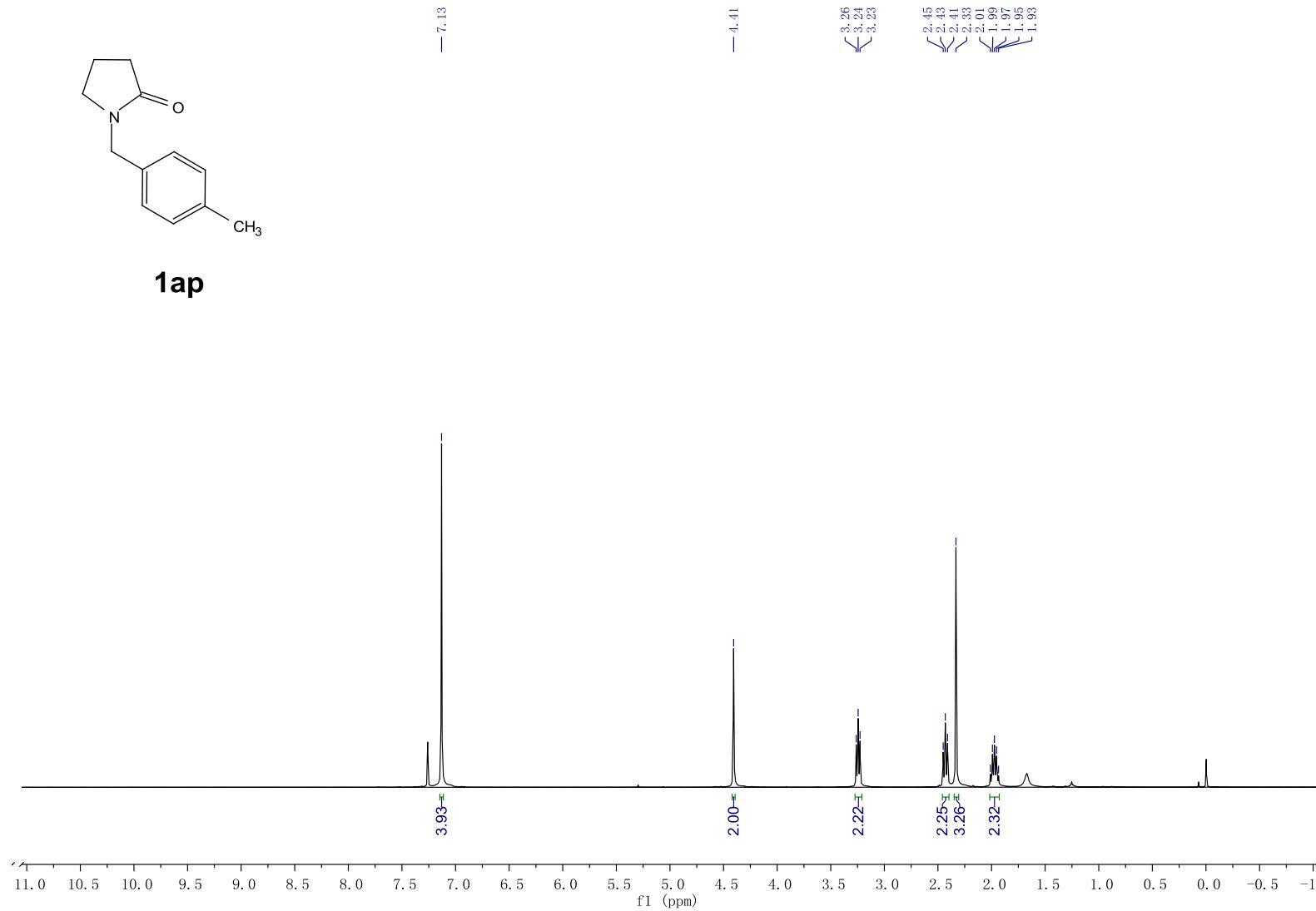
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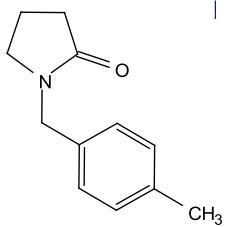
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1ap





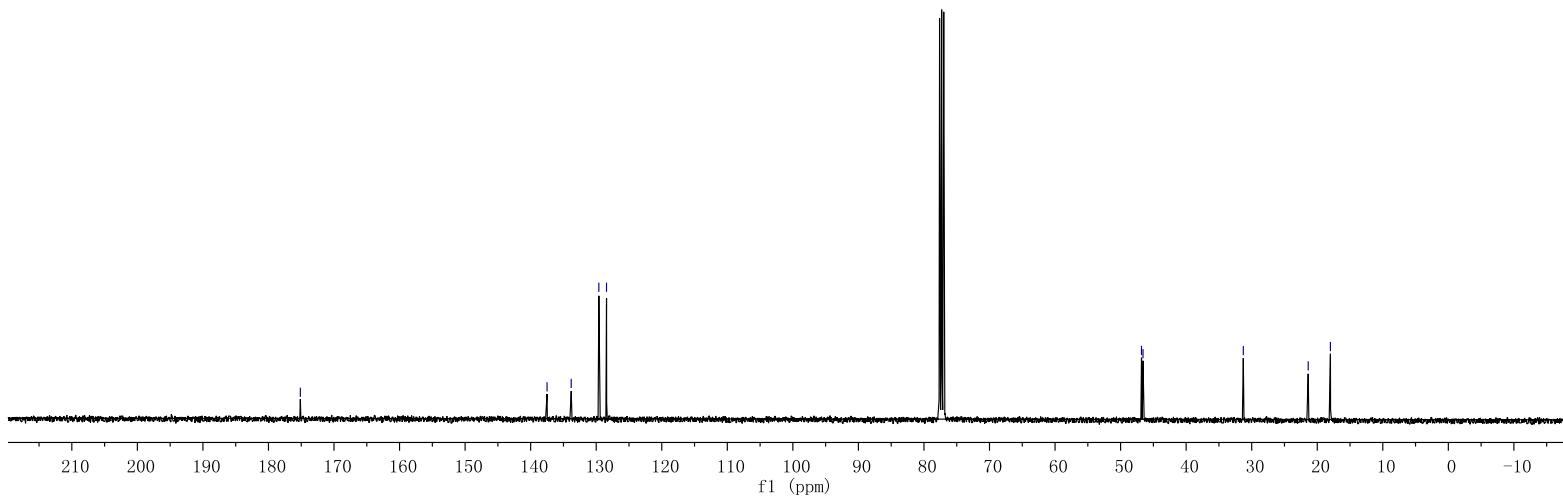
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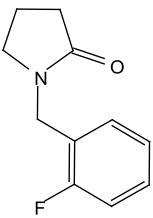
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— 133.81
— 129.60
— 128.43

< 46.58
— 46.81

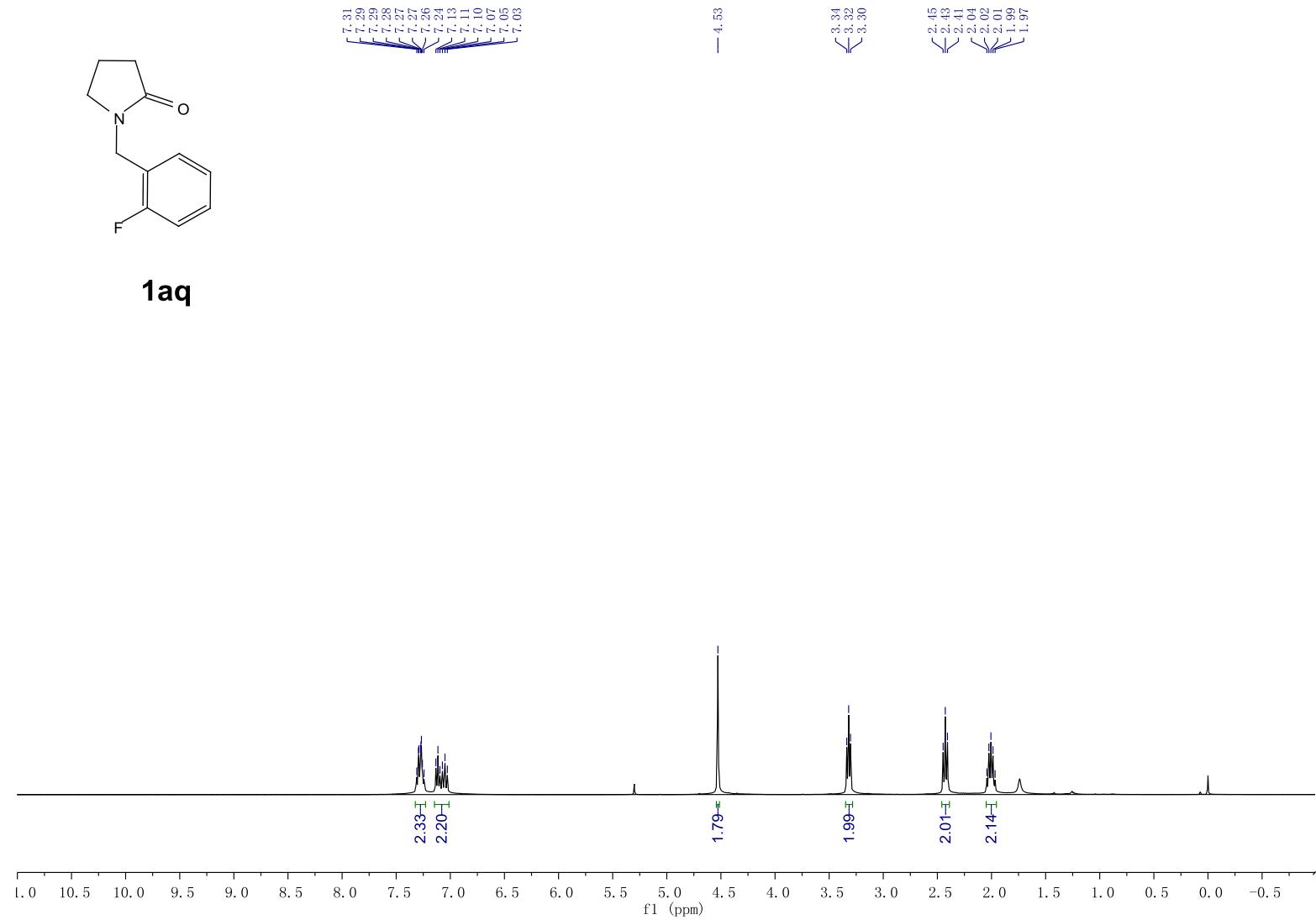
— 31.28
— 21.38
— 17.99

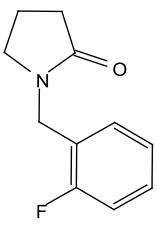
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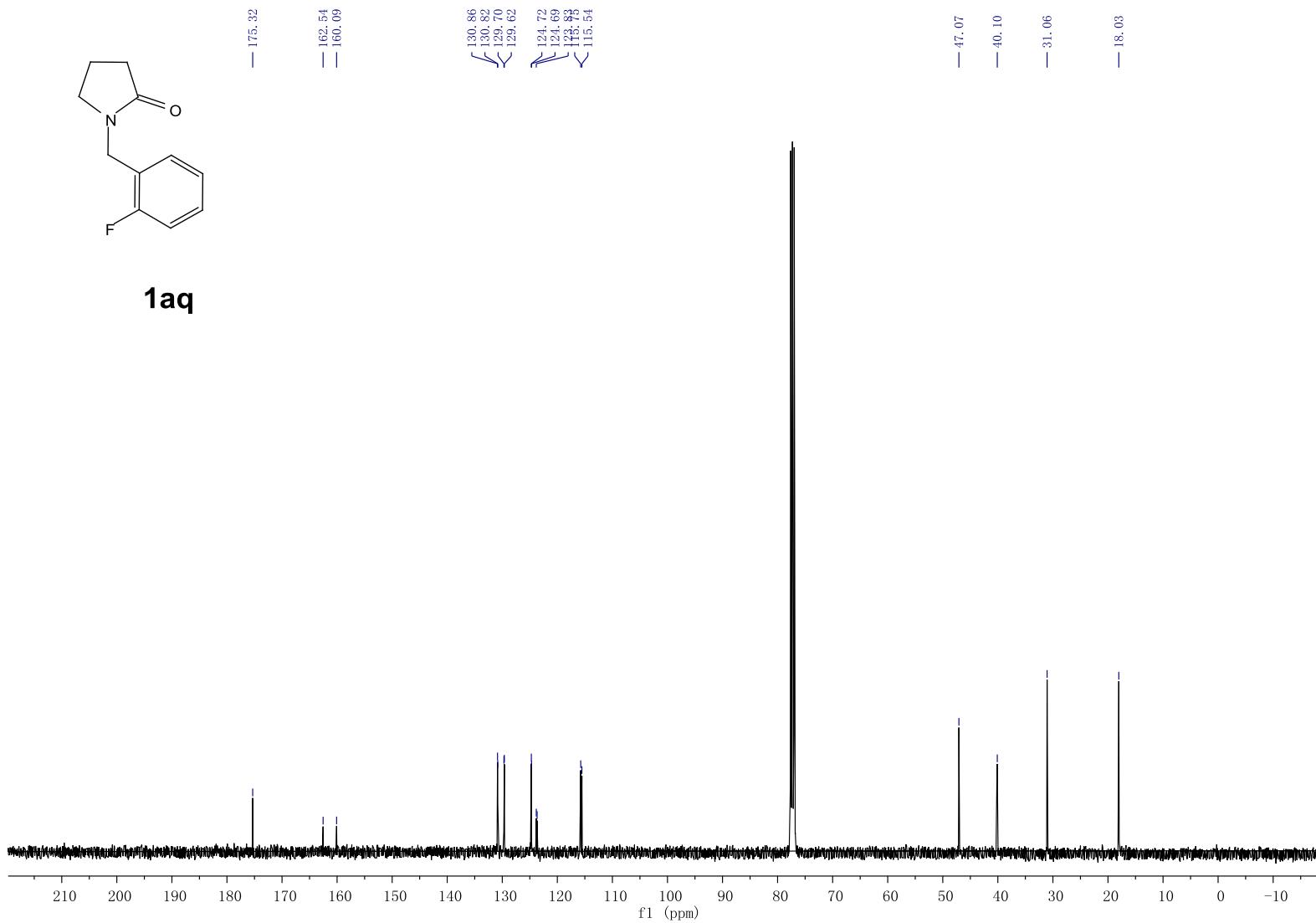


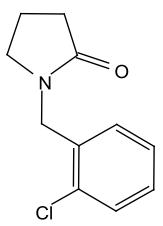
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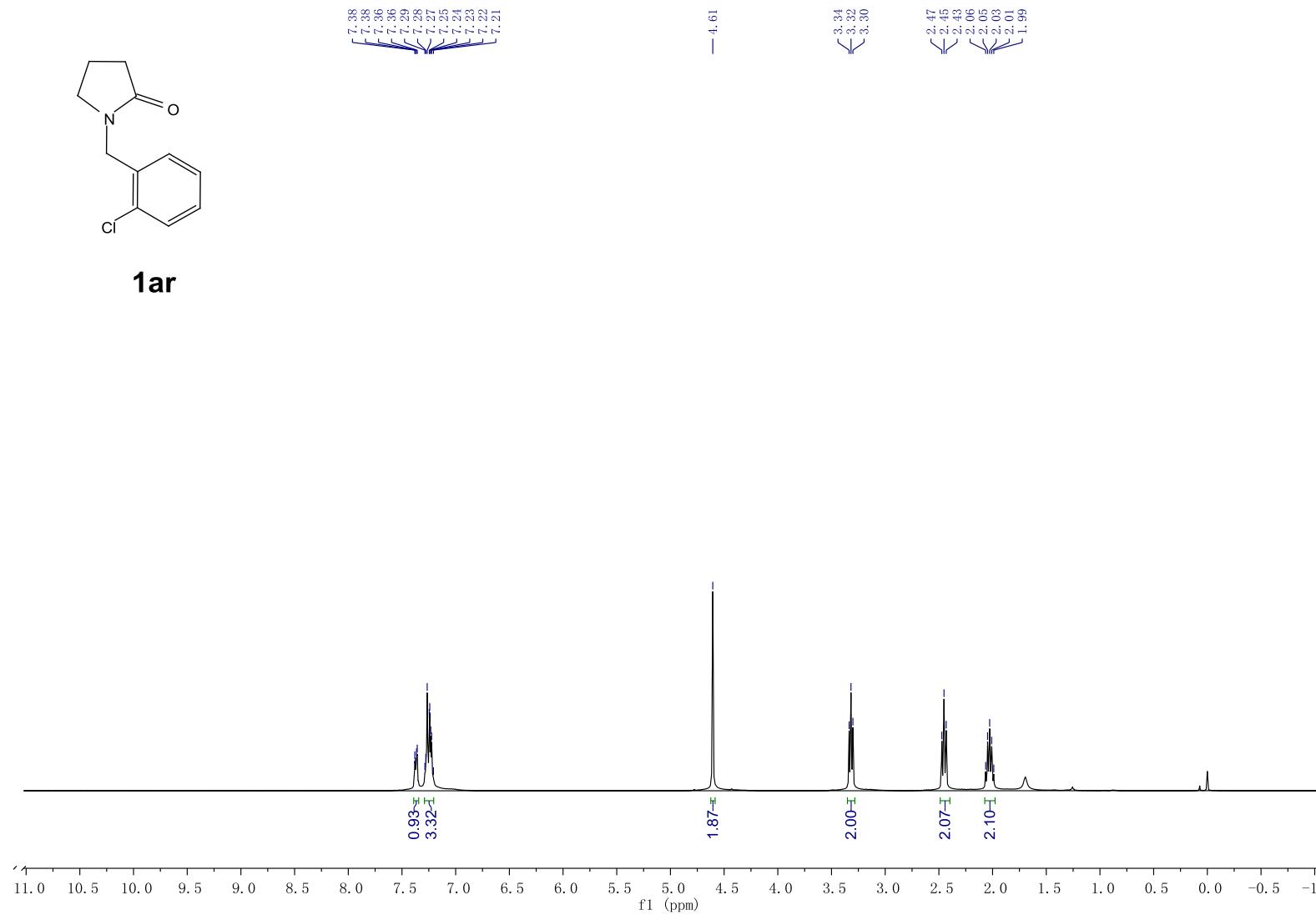


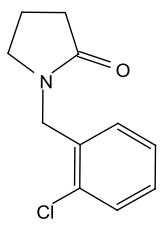
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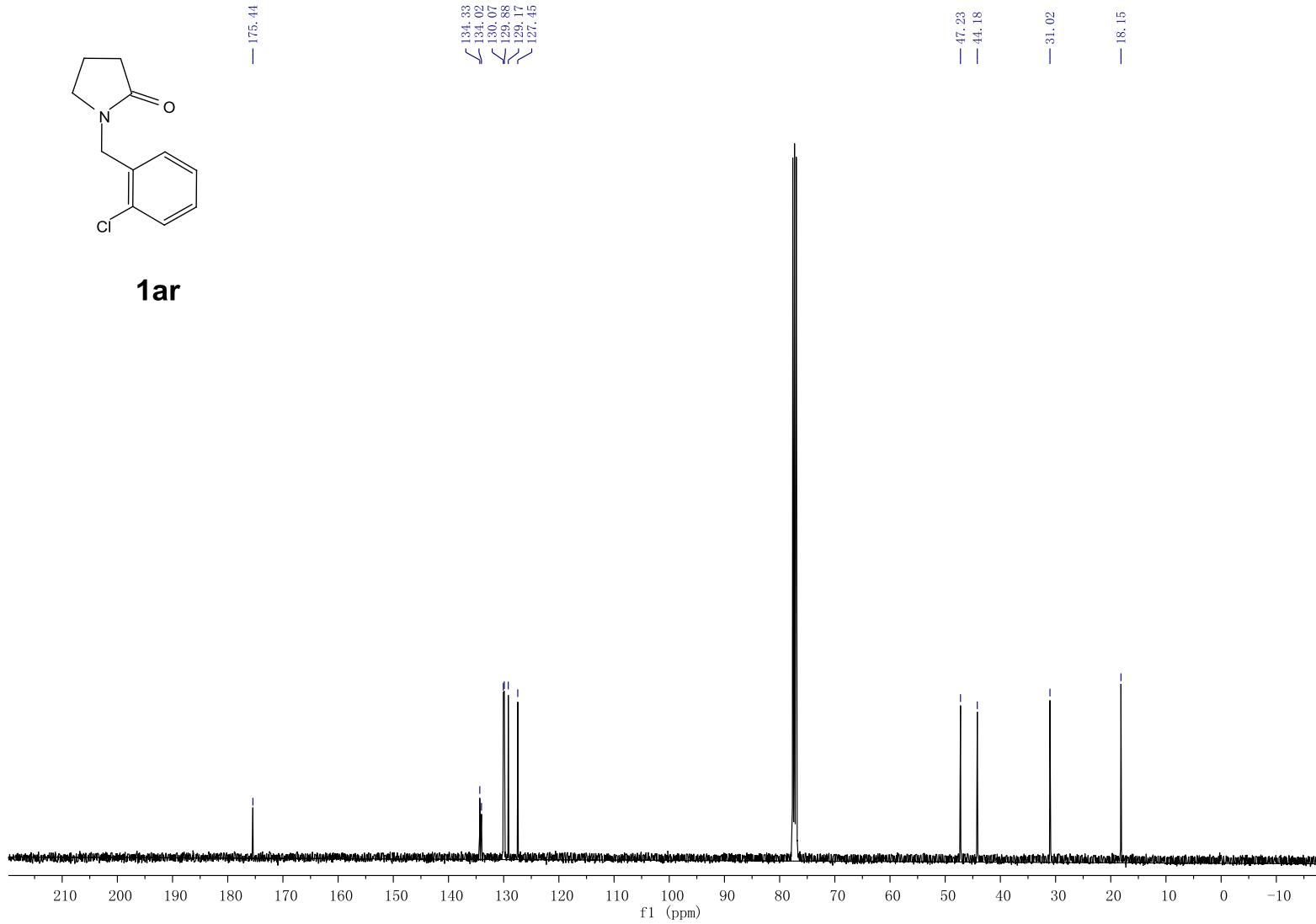


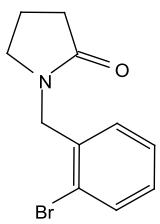
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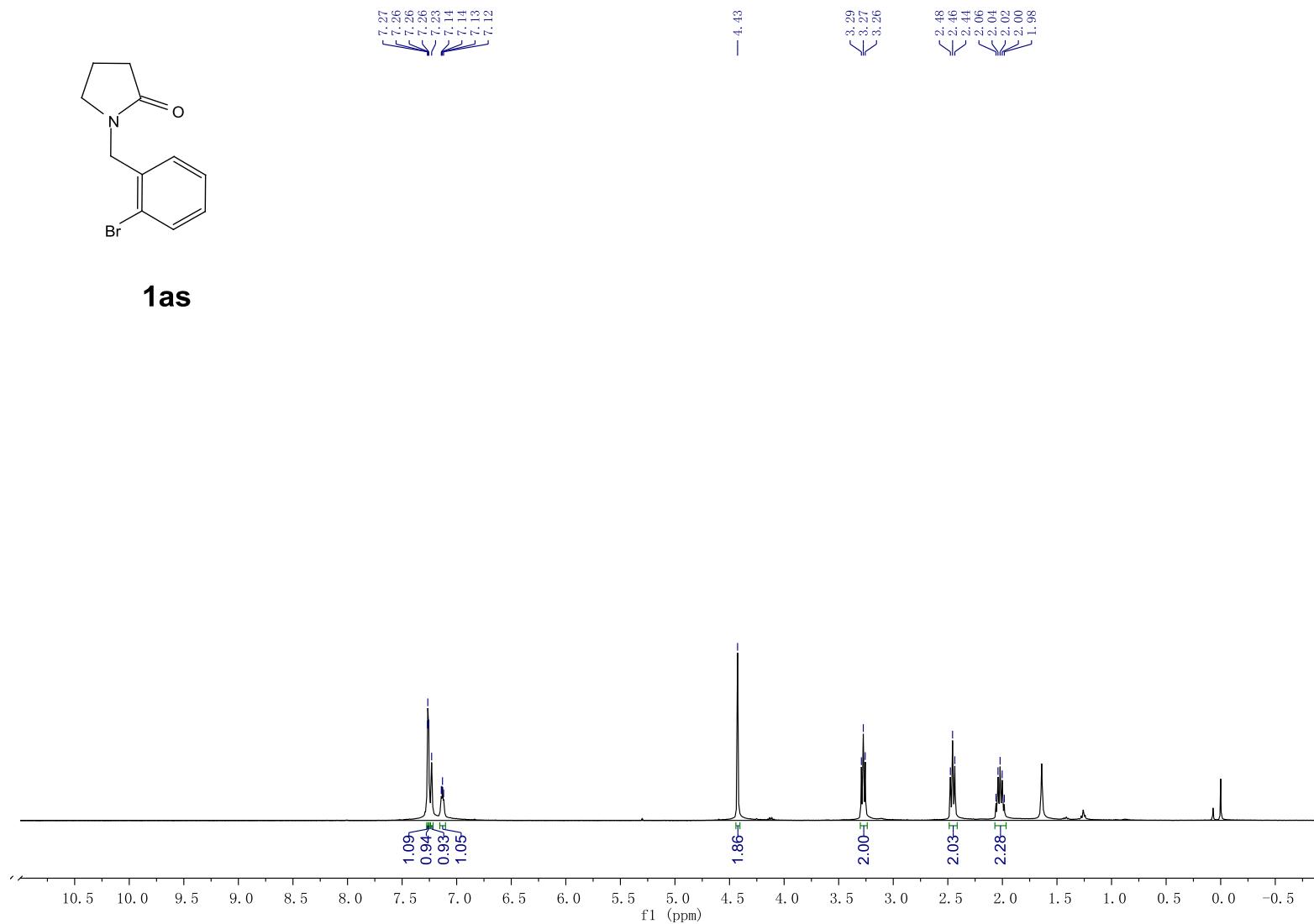


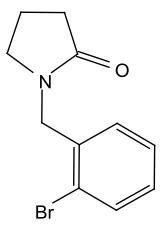
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1as





— 175.34

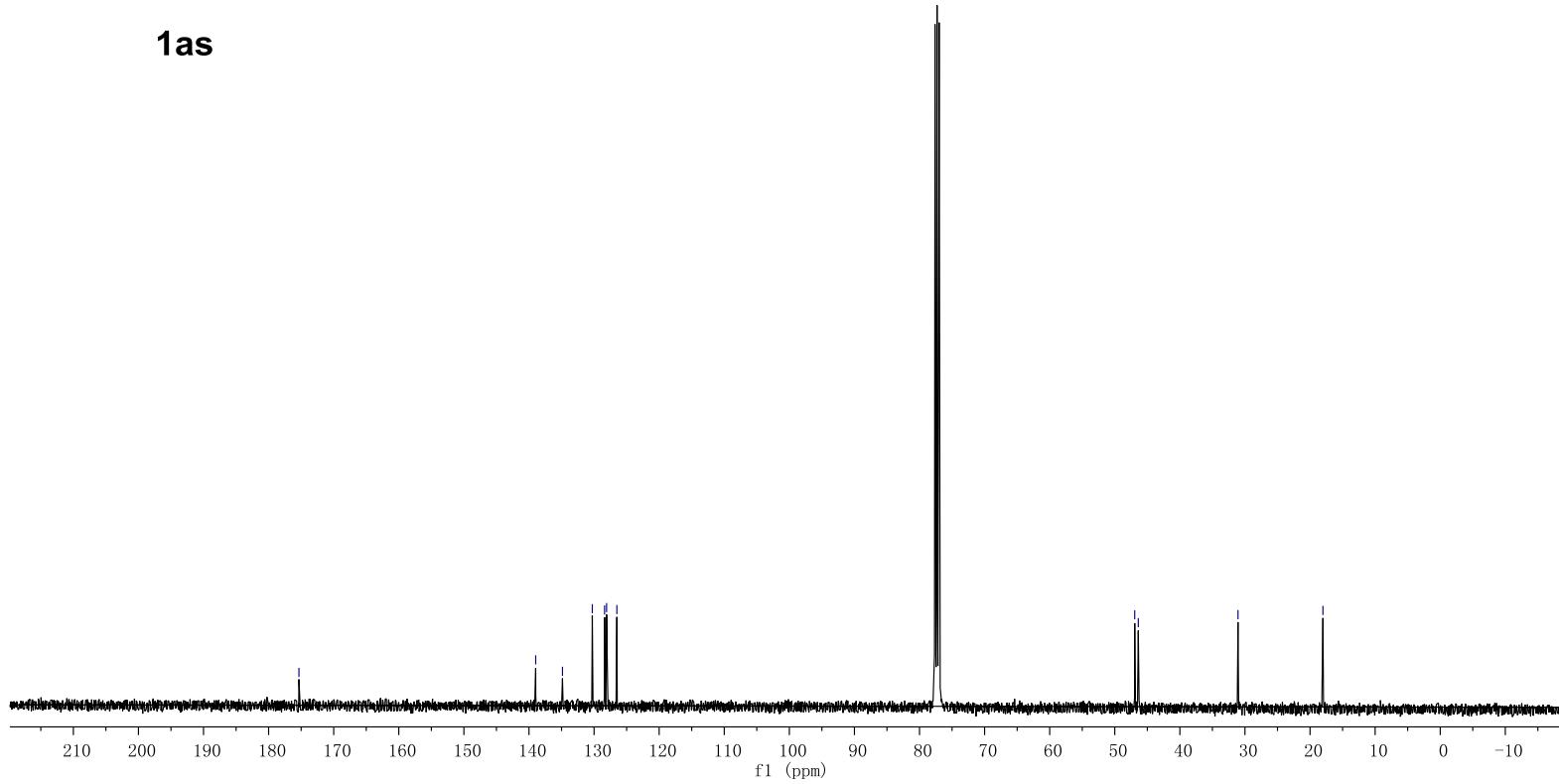
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— 134.85
— 130.27
— 128.38
— 128.08
— 126.50

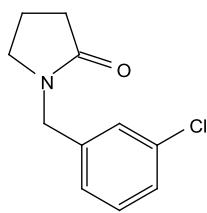
— 46.94
— 46.39

— 31.07

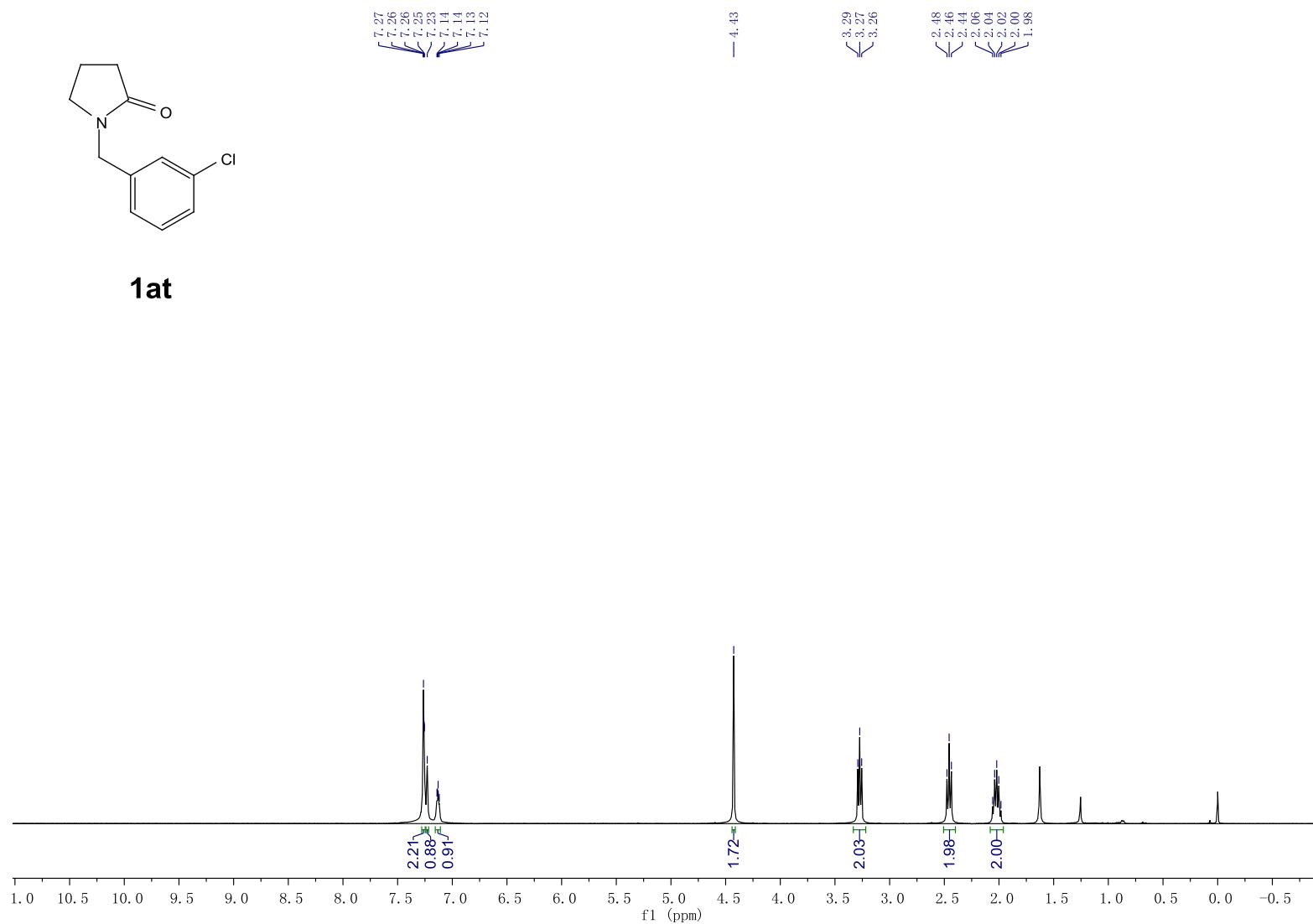
— 18.02

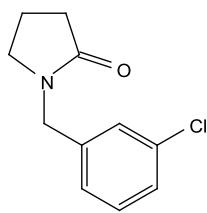
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1at





— 175.33

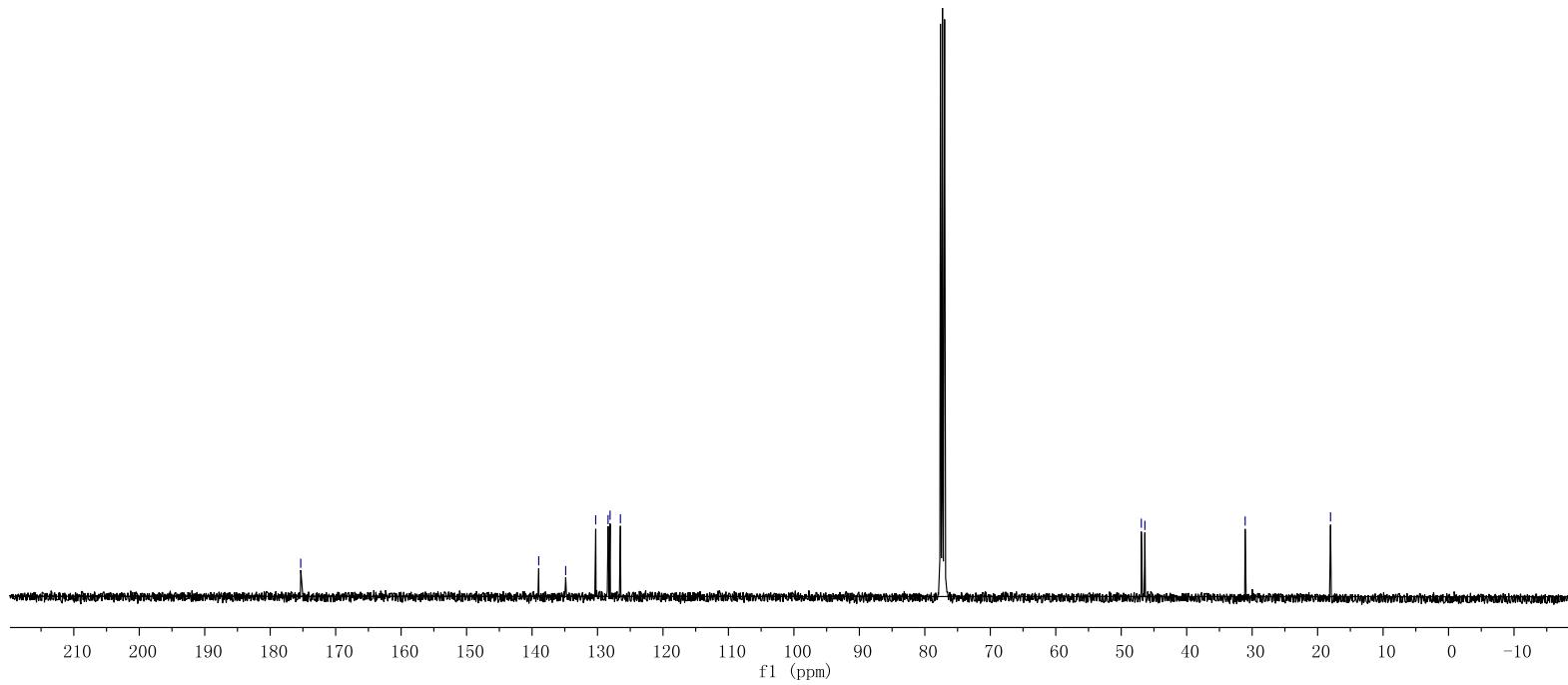
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— 134.86
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— 128.08
— 126.50

— 46.93
— 46.39

— 31.07

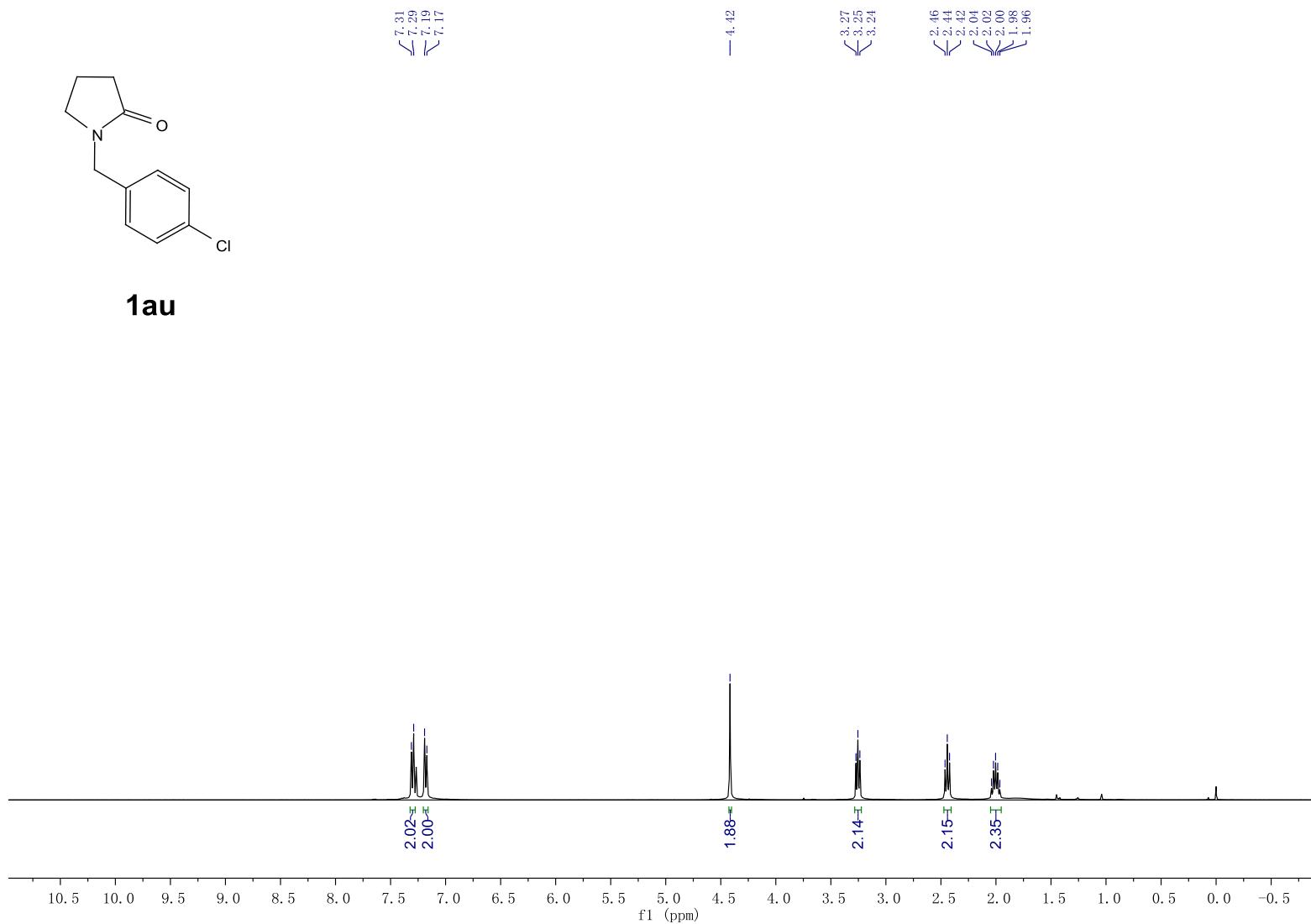
— 18.03

1at





1au





— 175.29

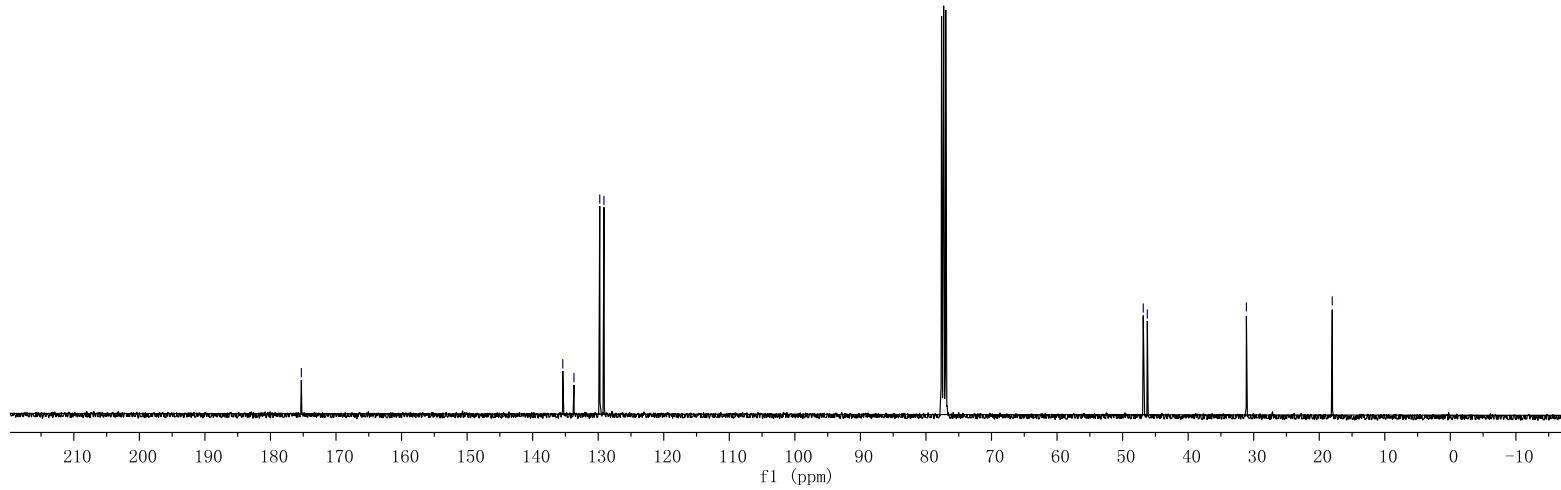
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— 133.70
— 129.77
— 129.12

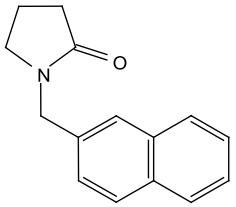
— 46.85
— 46.23

— 31.11

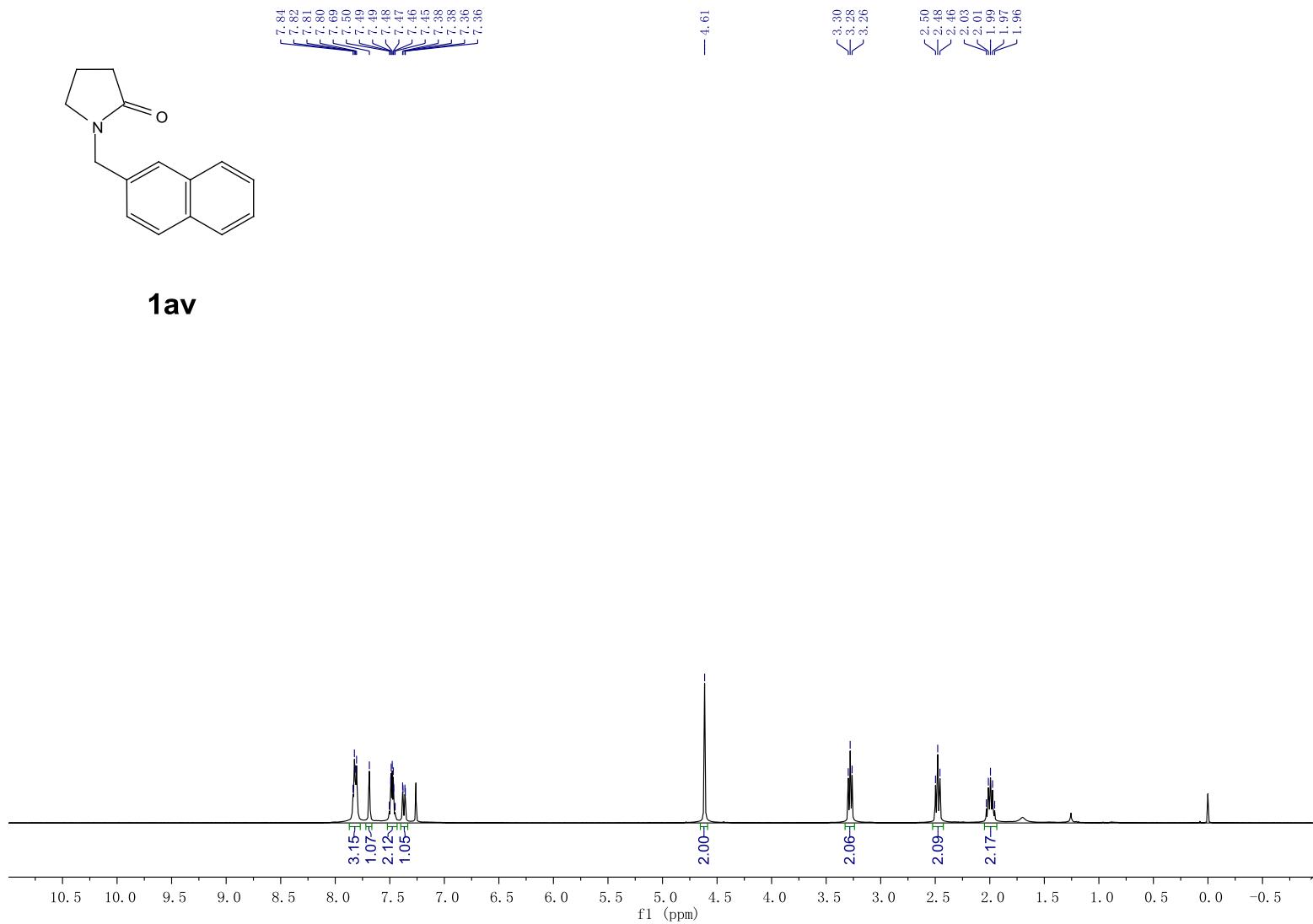
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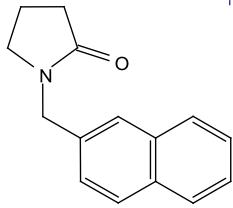
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1av





— 175.30

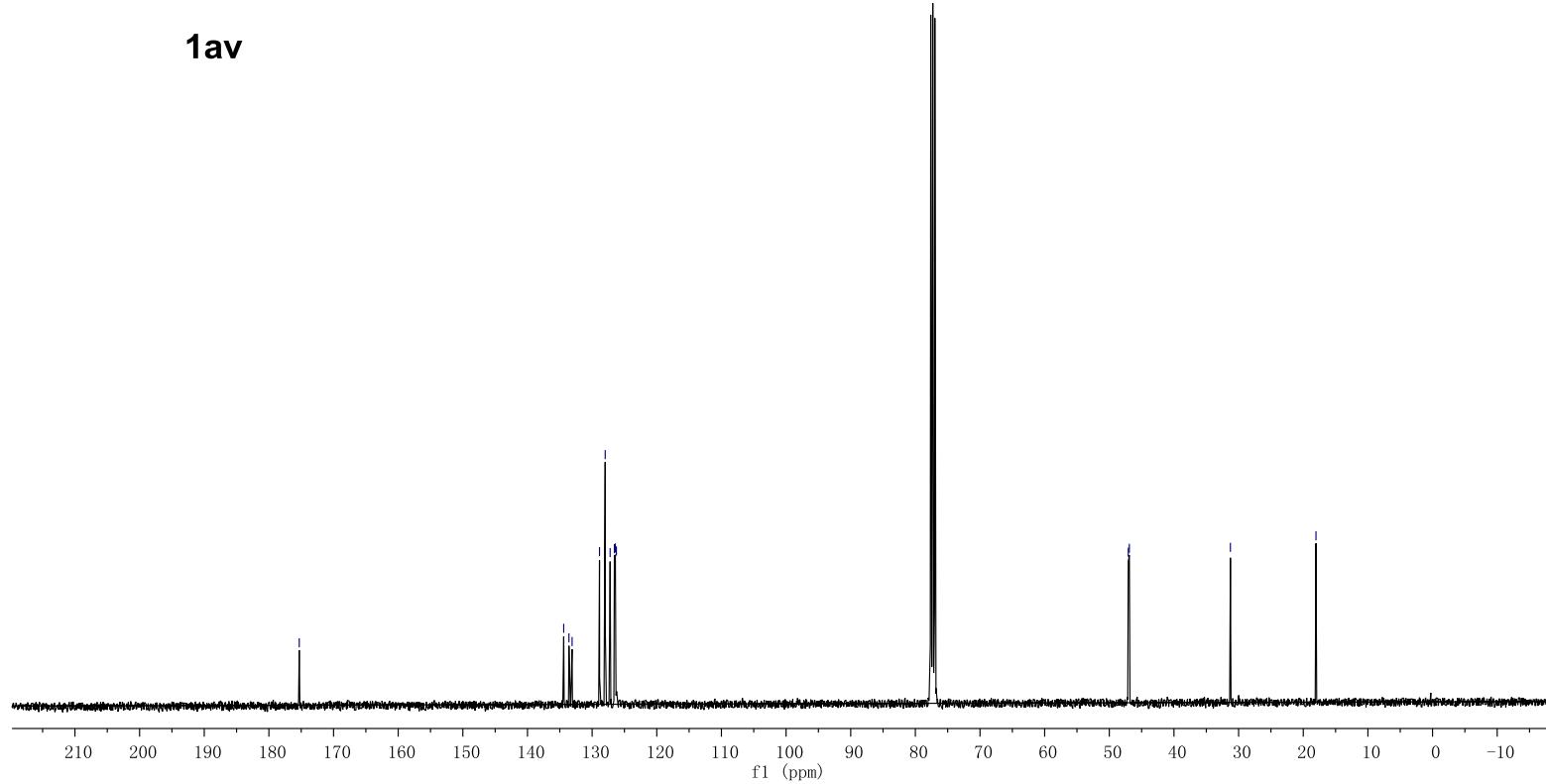
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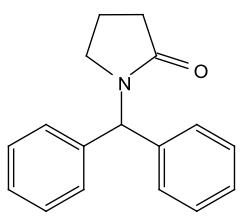
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31.27

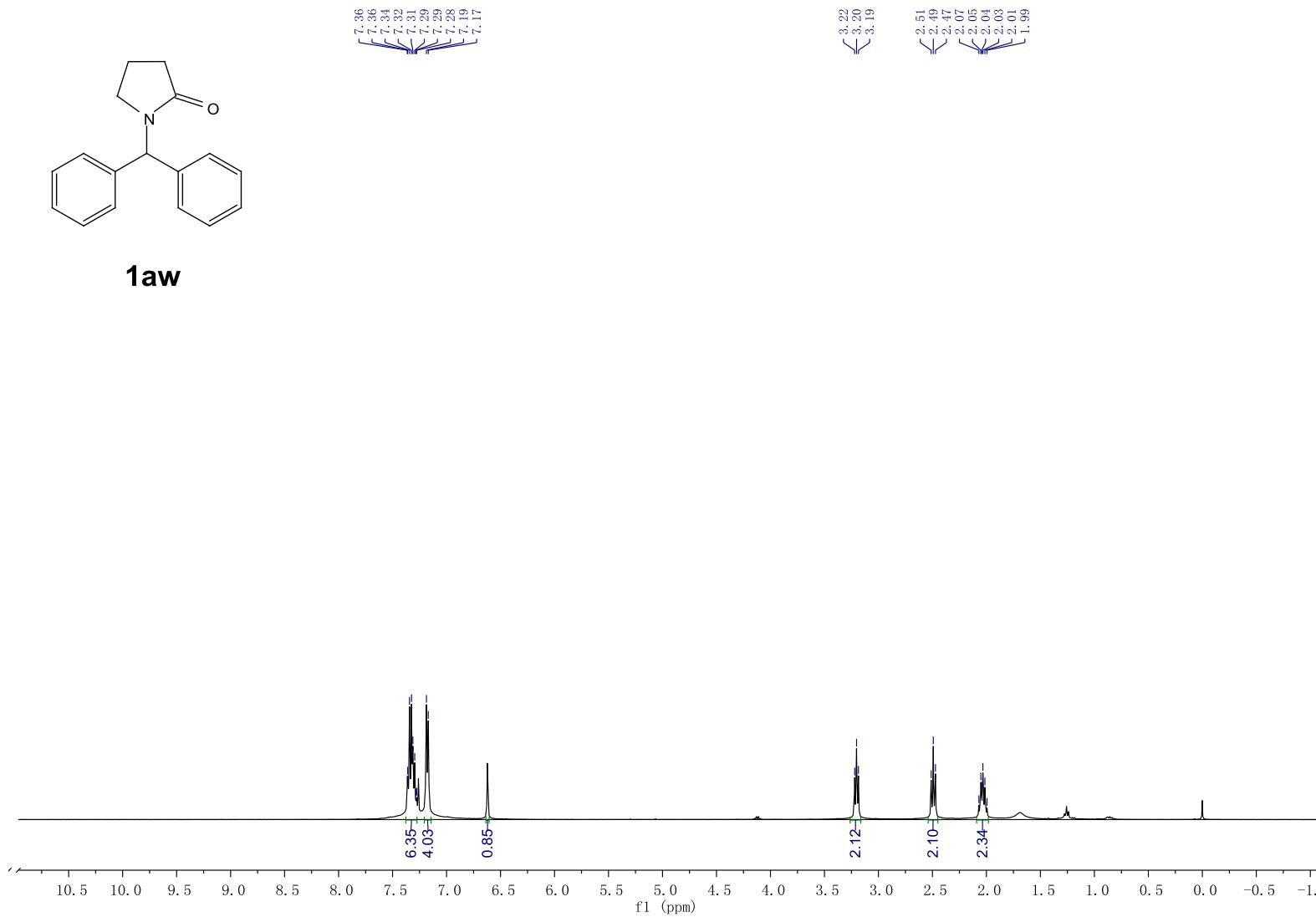
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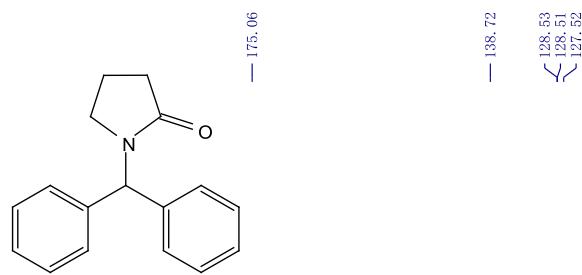
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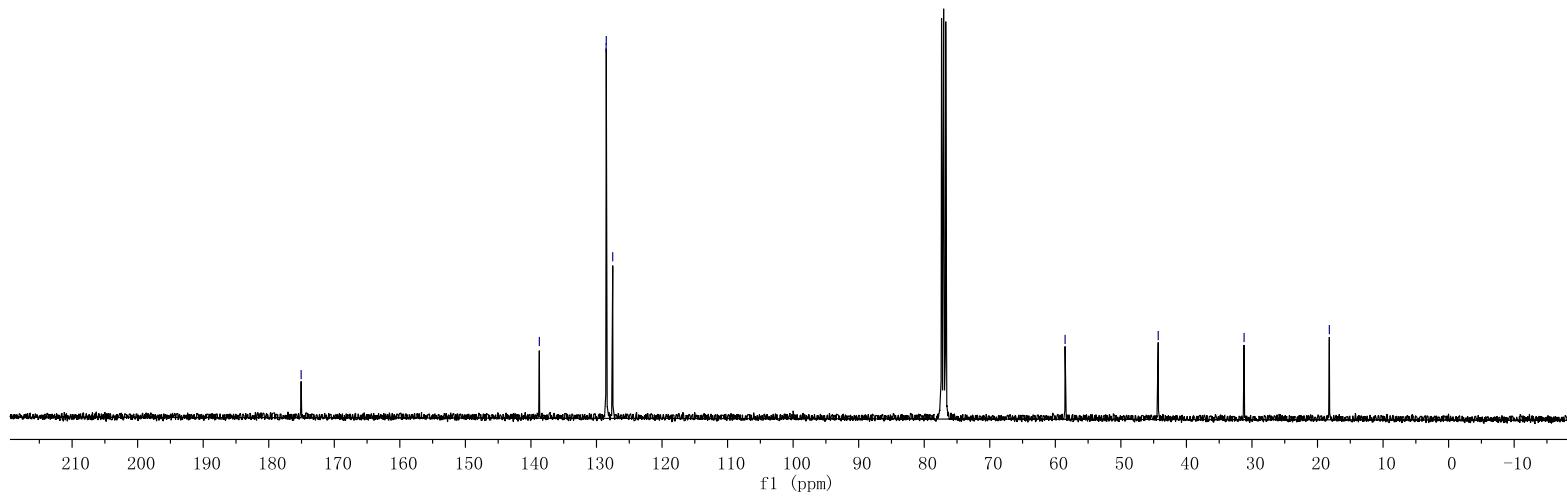


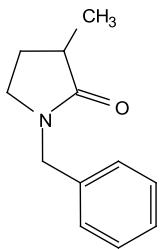
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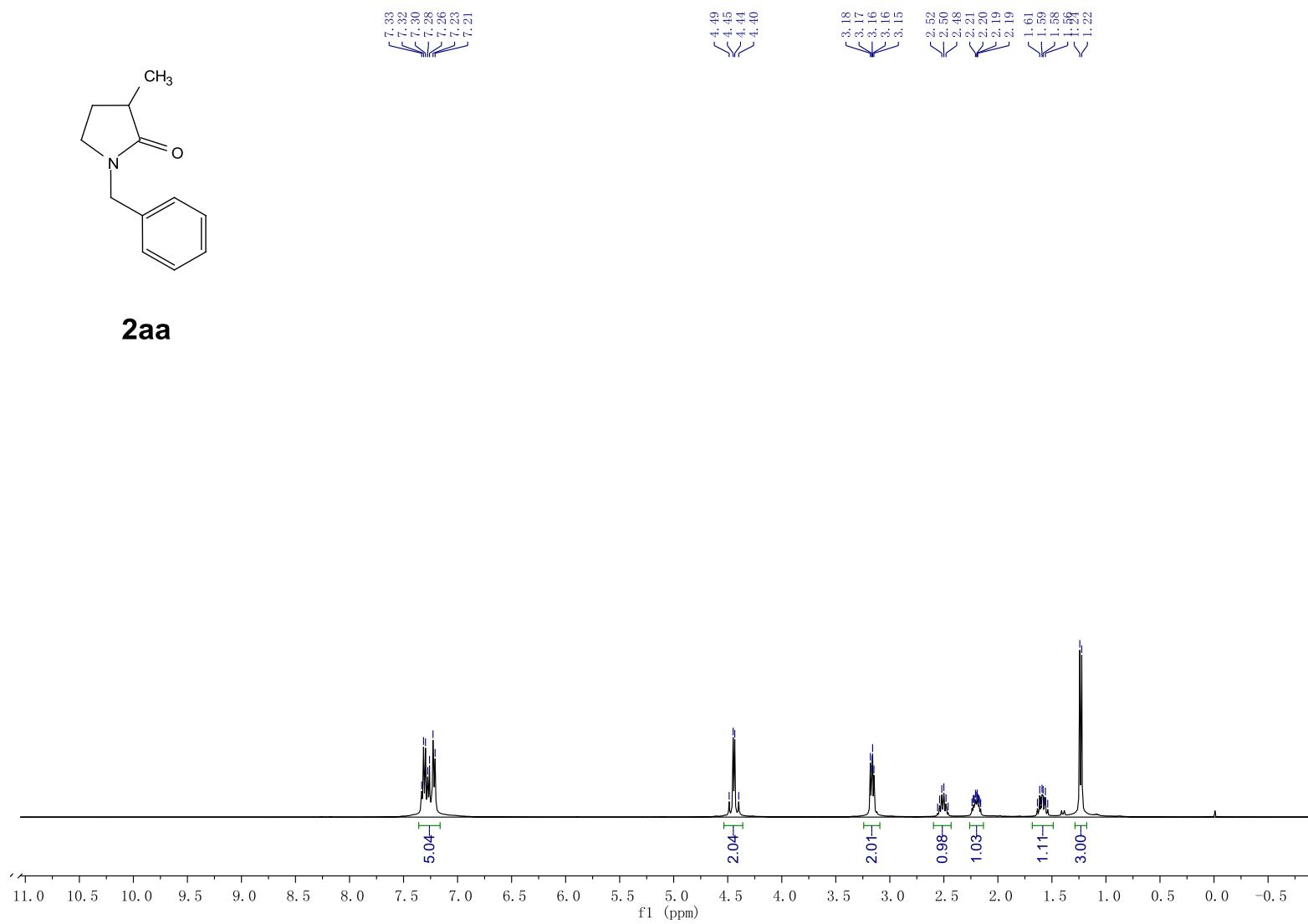


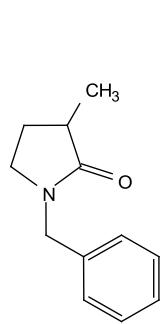
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2aa



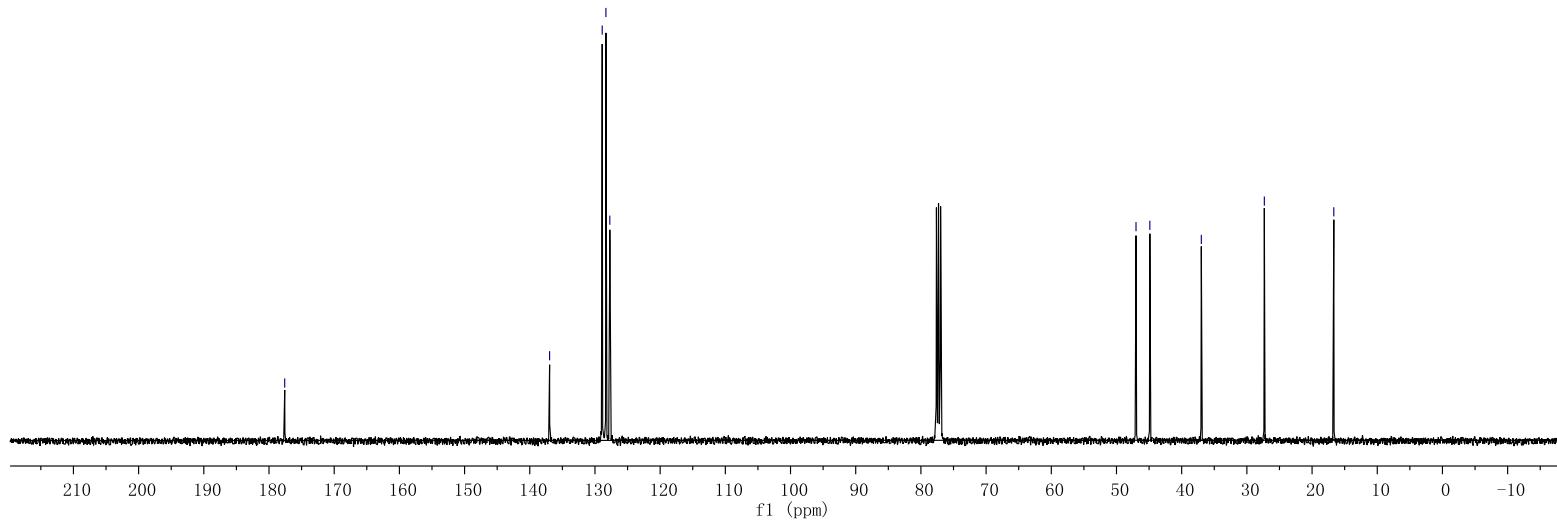


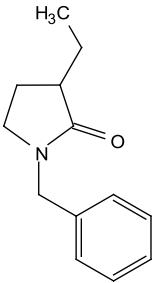
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— 136.96
— 128.89
— 128.32
— 127.72

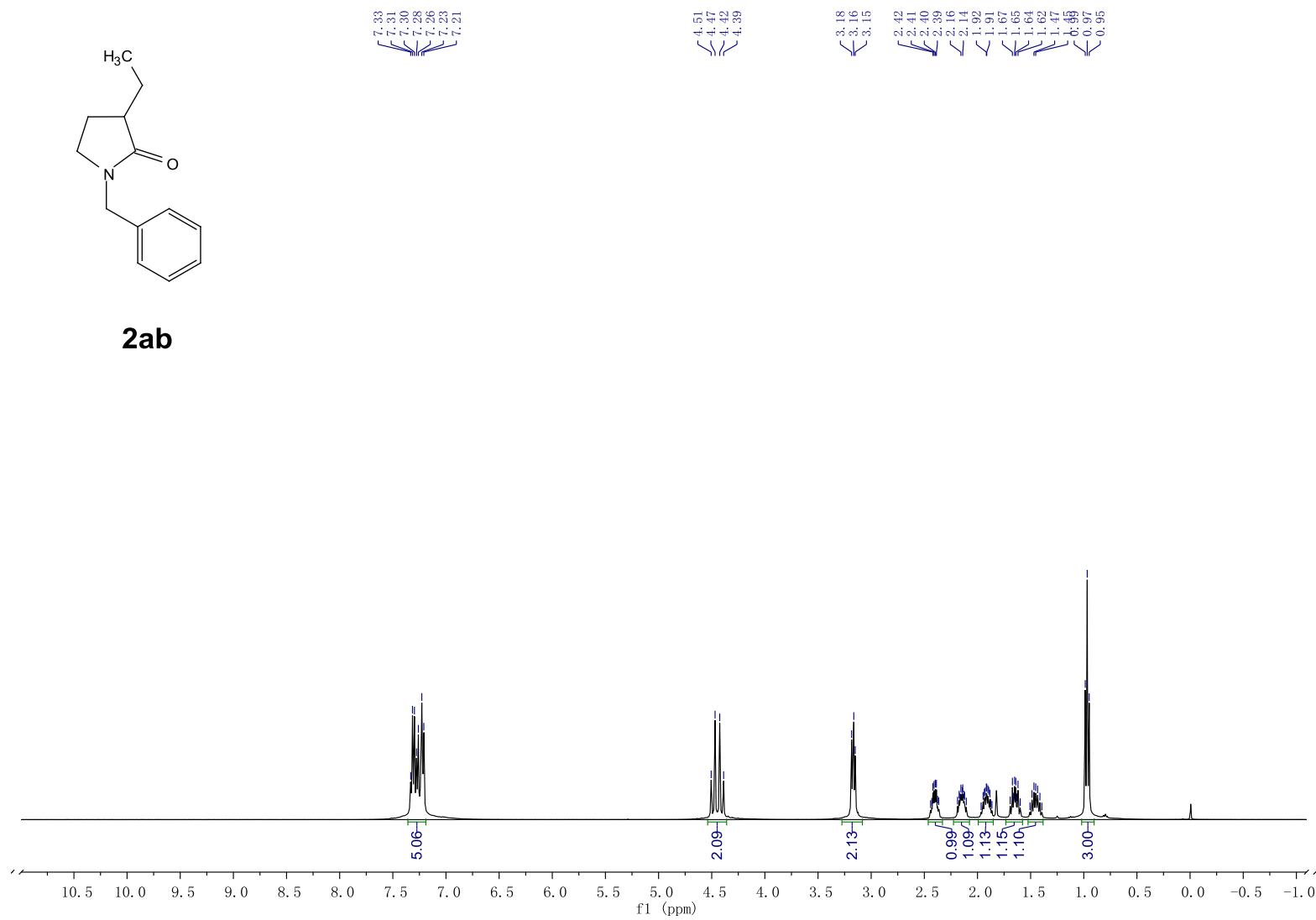
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— 27.32
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2aa





2ab





— 176.90

— 137.00

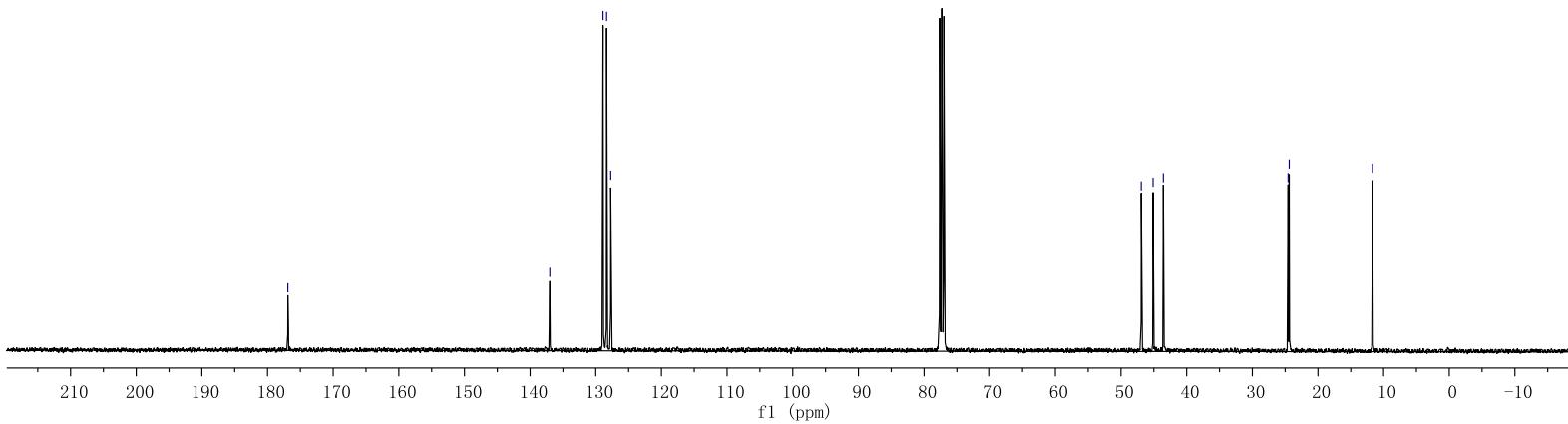
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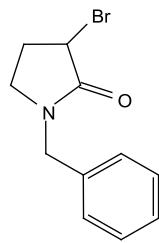
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↖ 24.55
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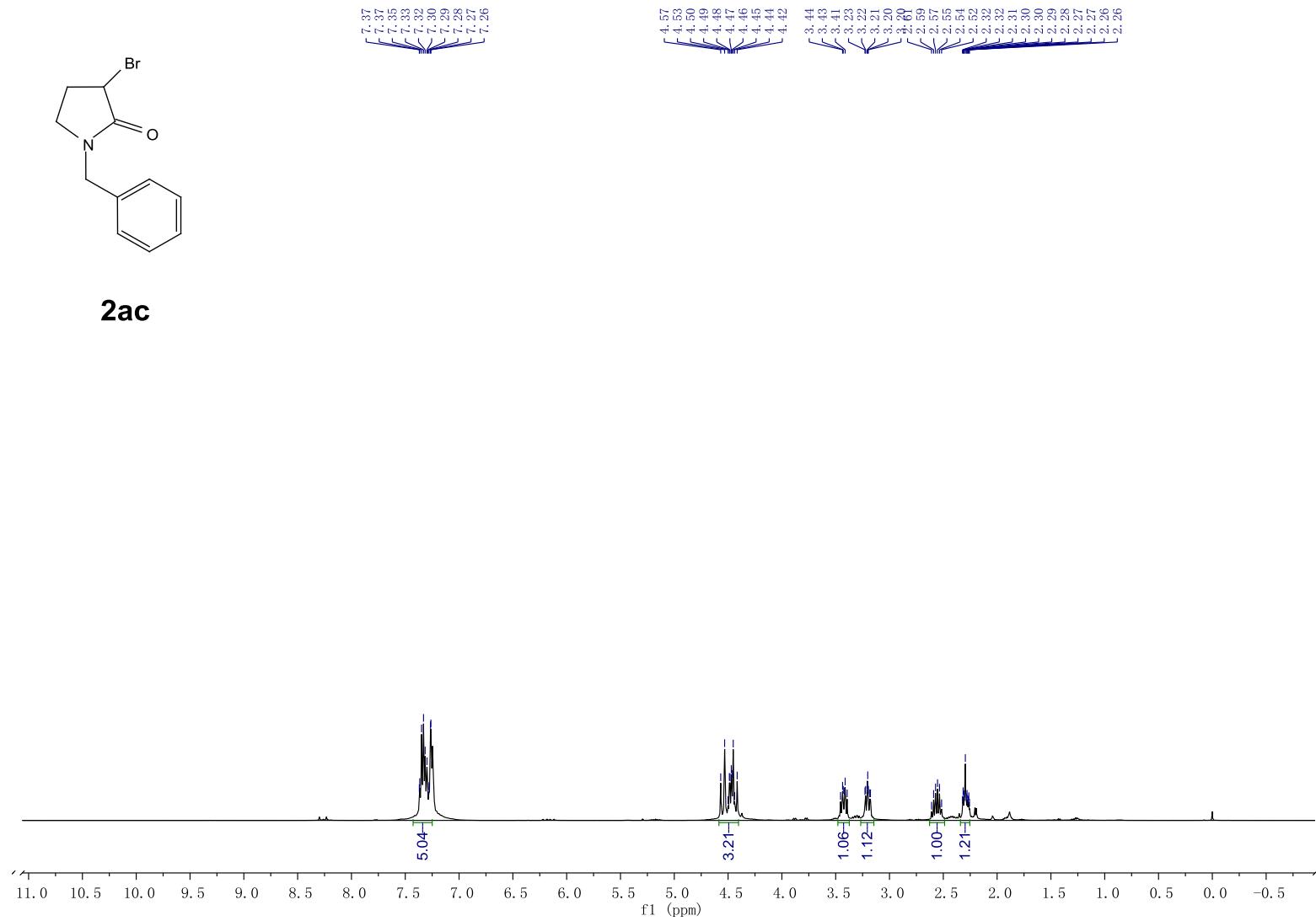
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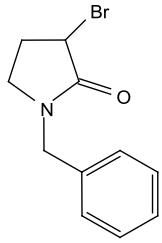
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2ac



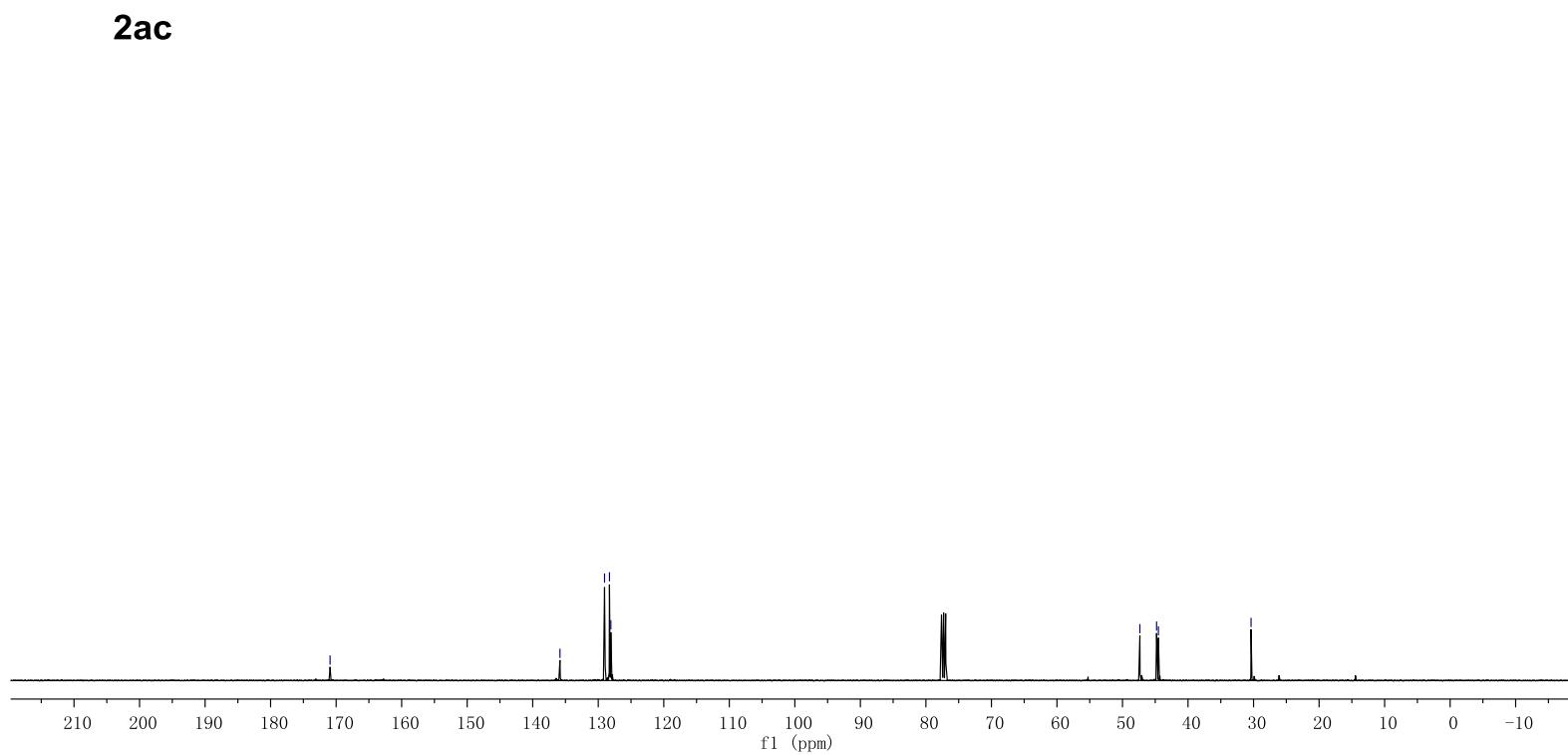


— 170.93

— 135.84
— 129.04
— 128.29
— 128.08

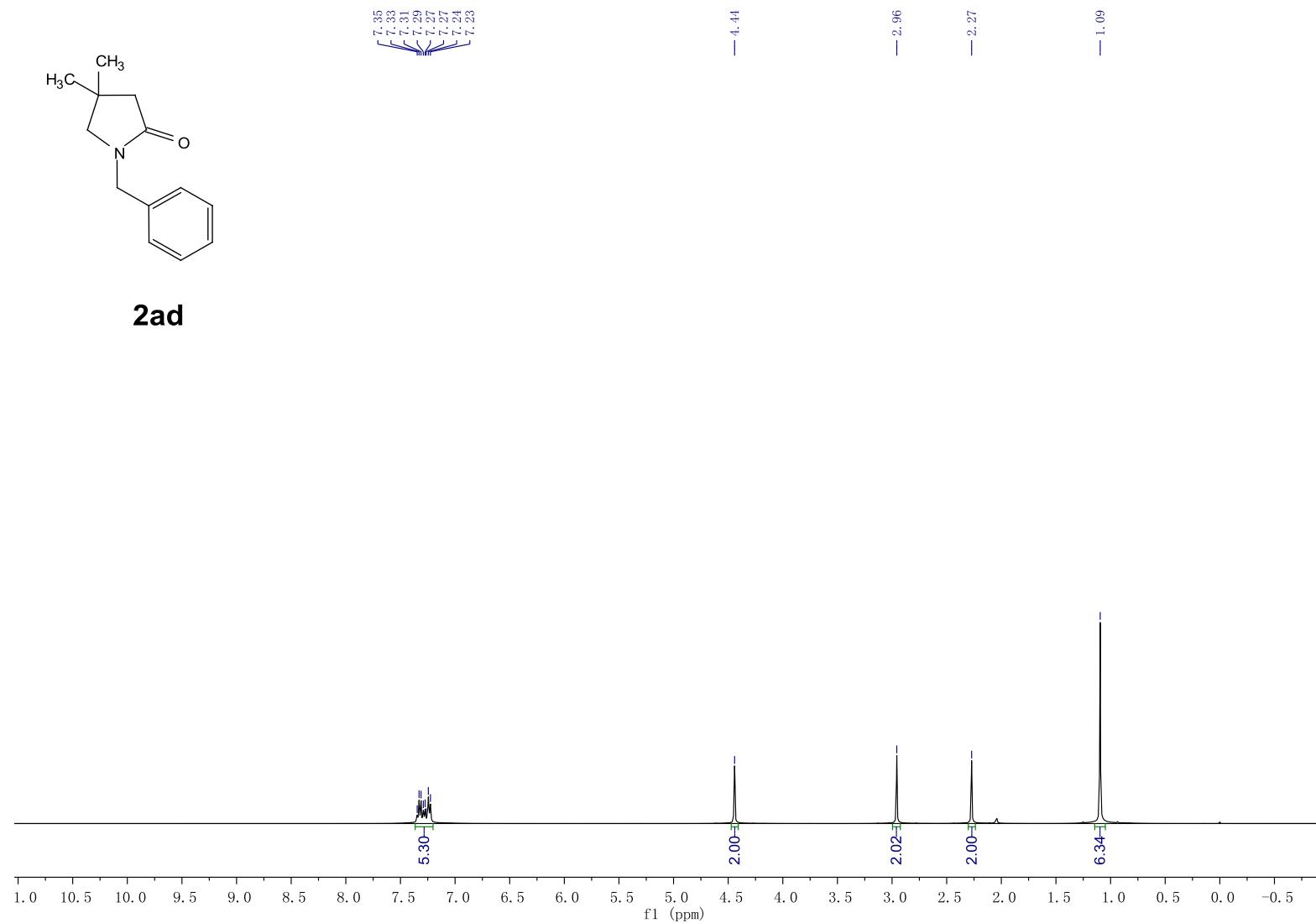
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— 44.80
— 44.52

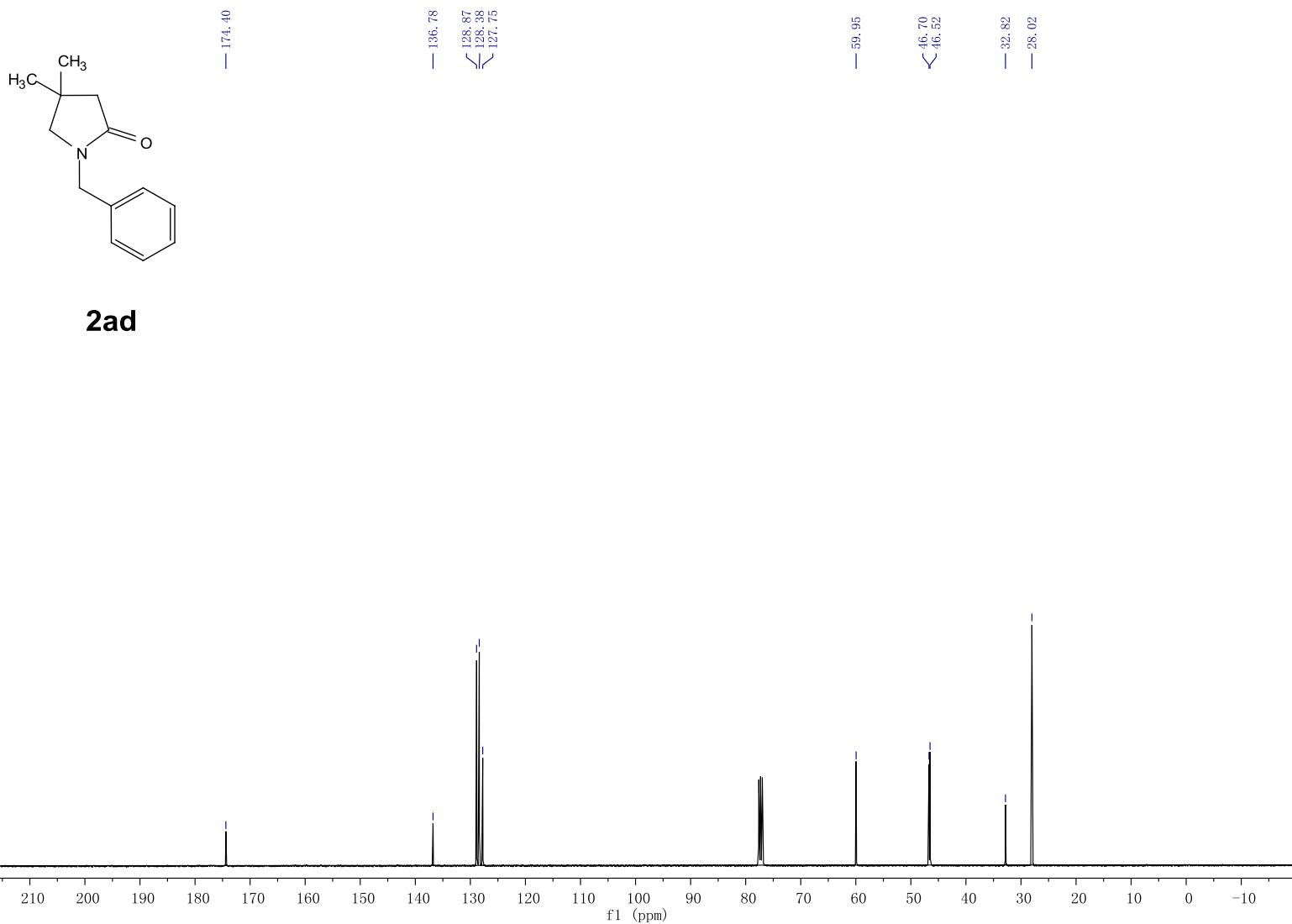
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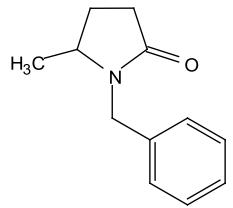


2ad

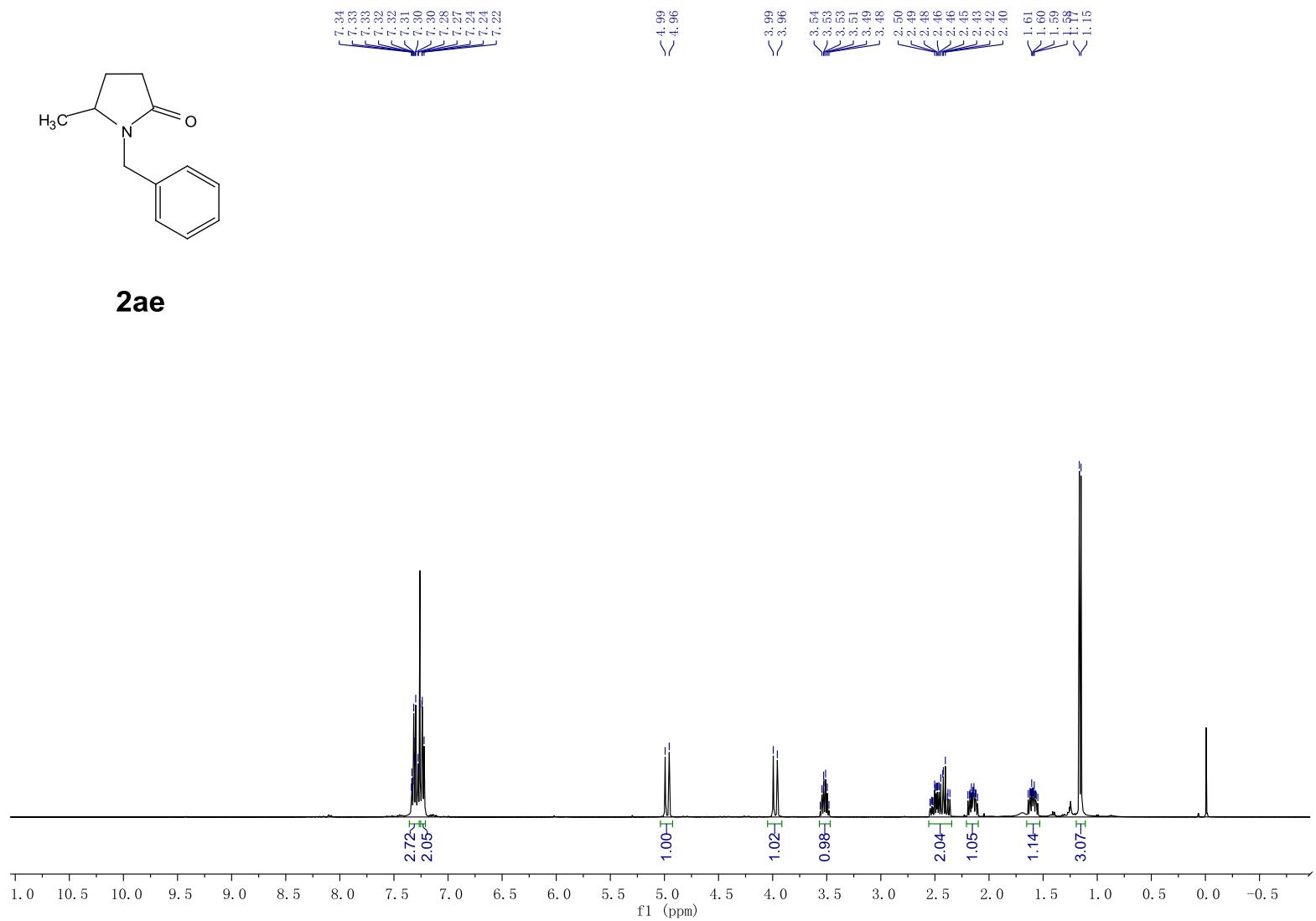


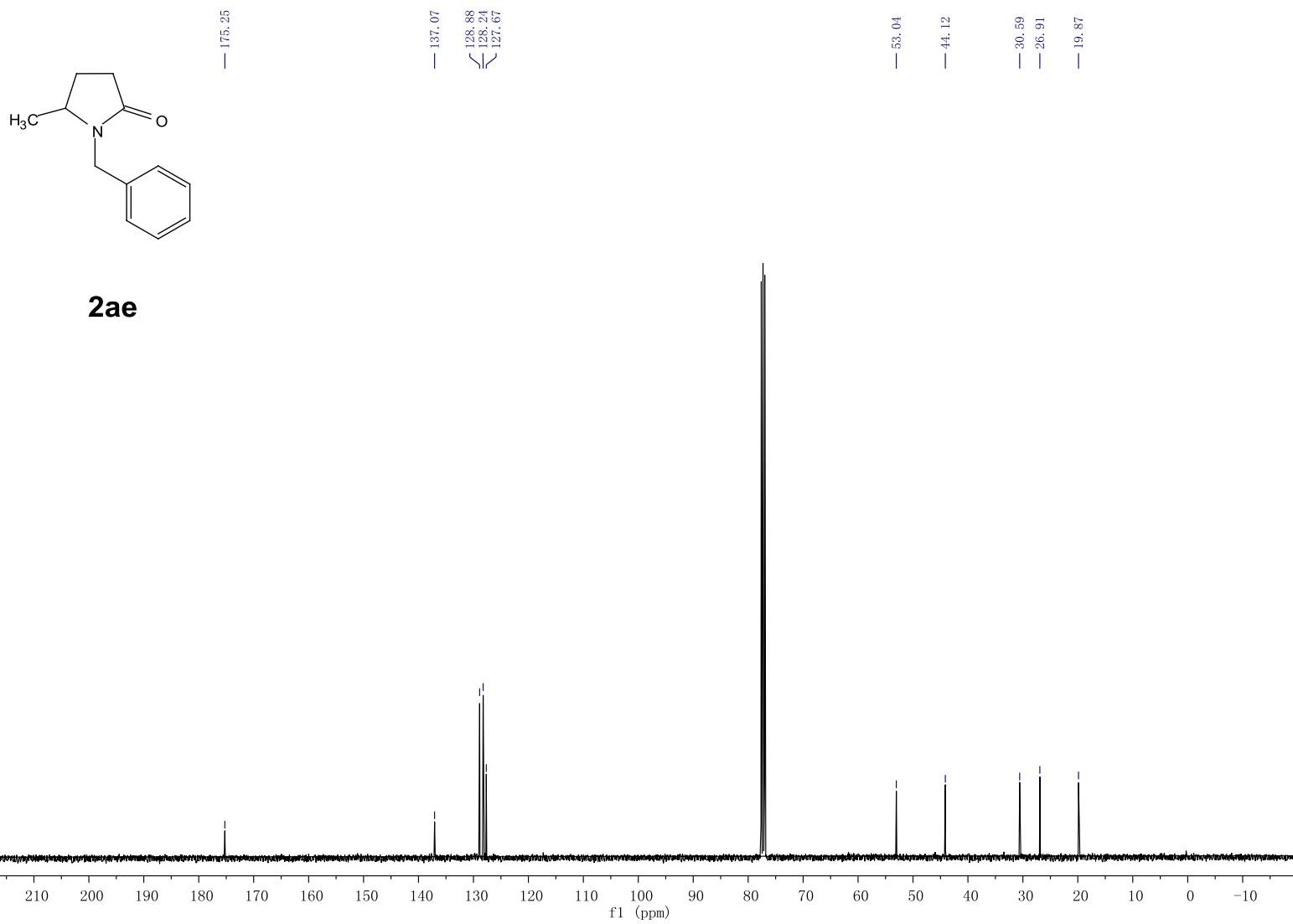


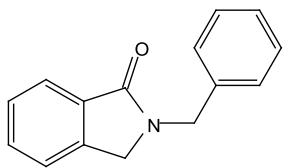
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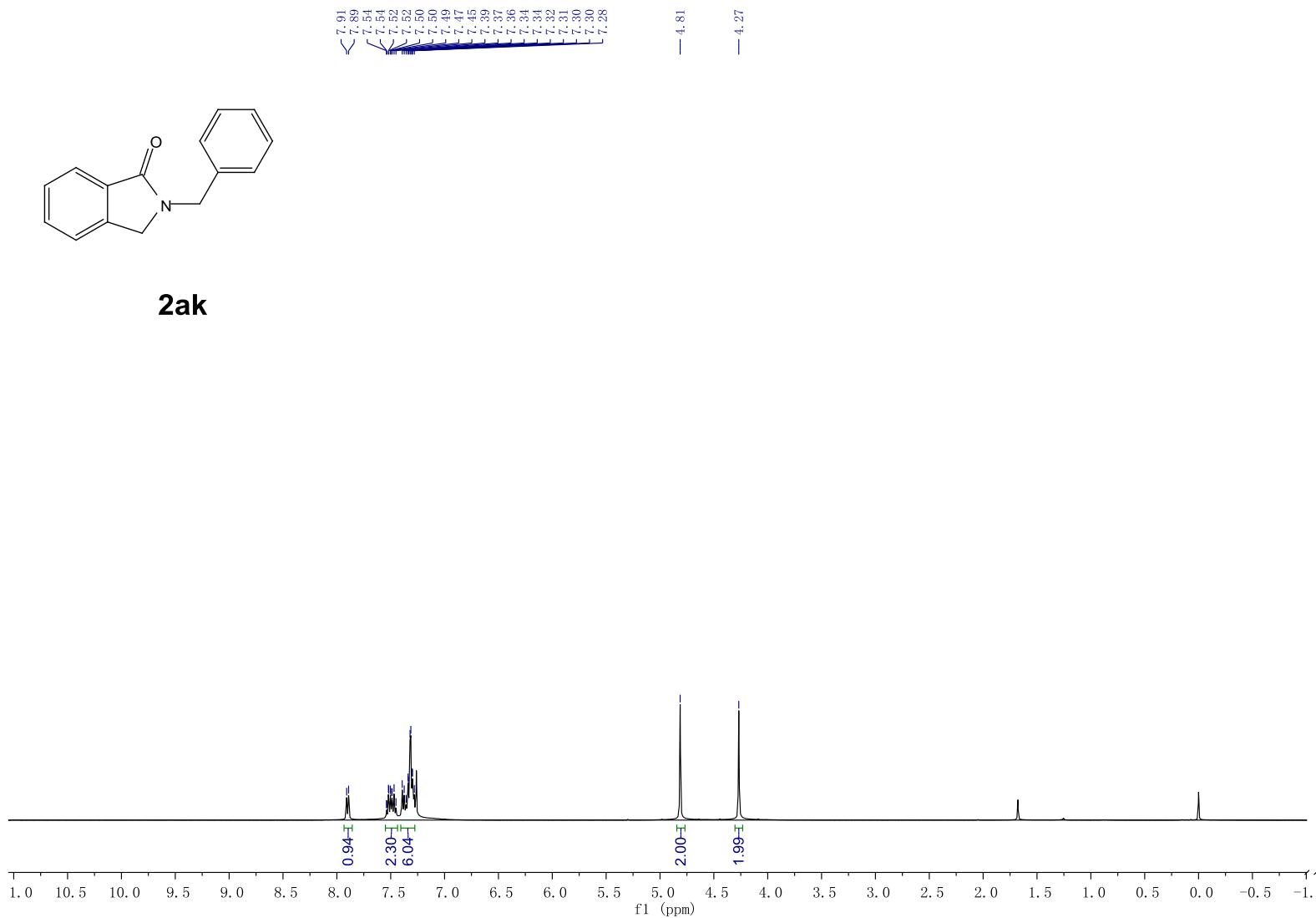
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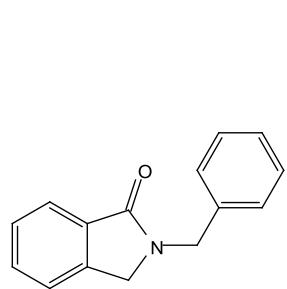




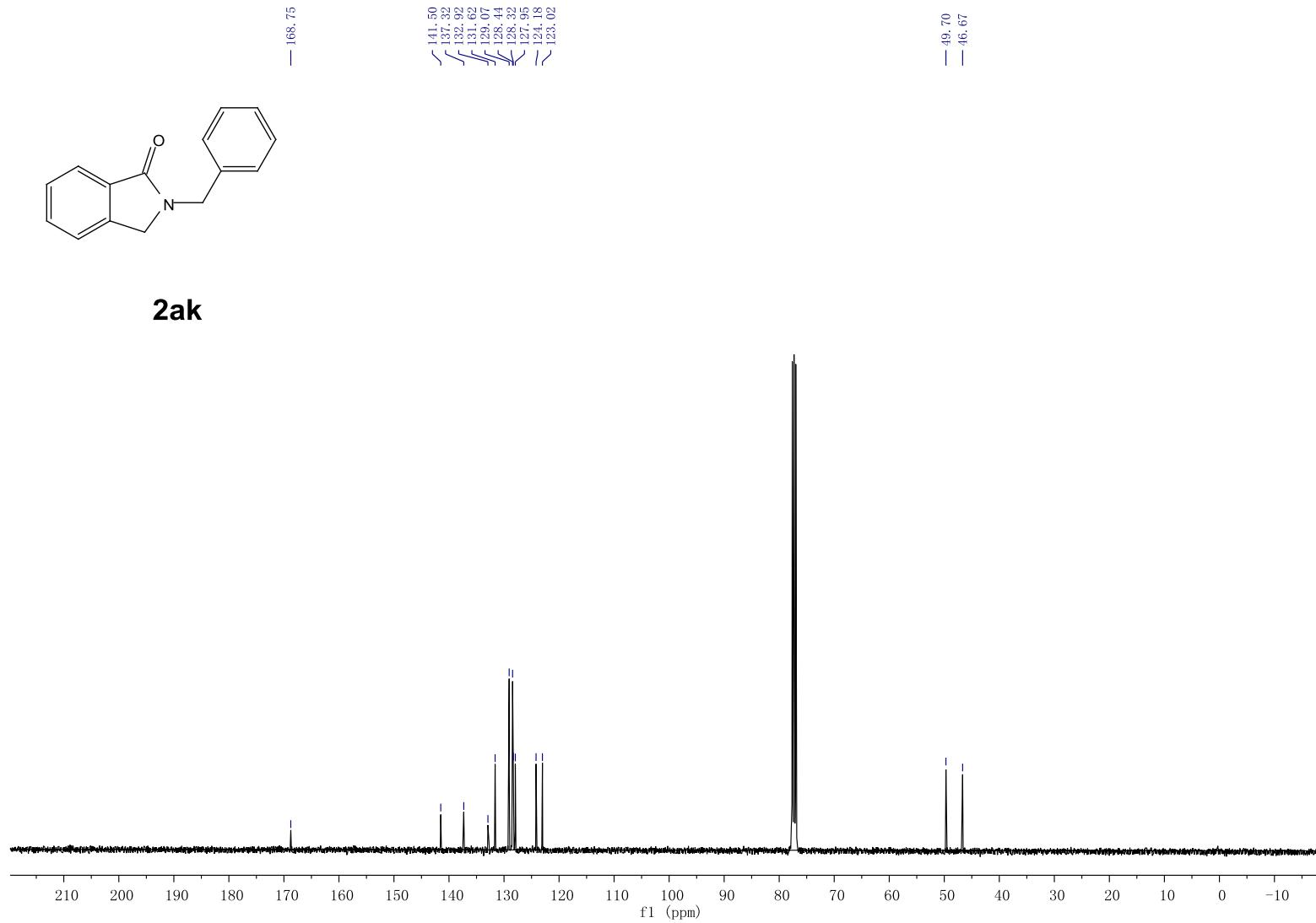


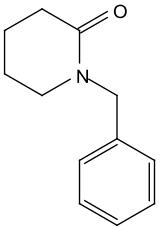
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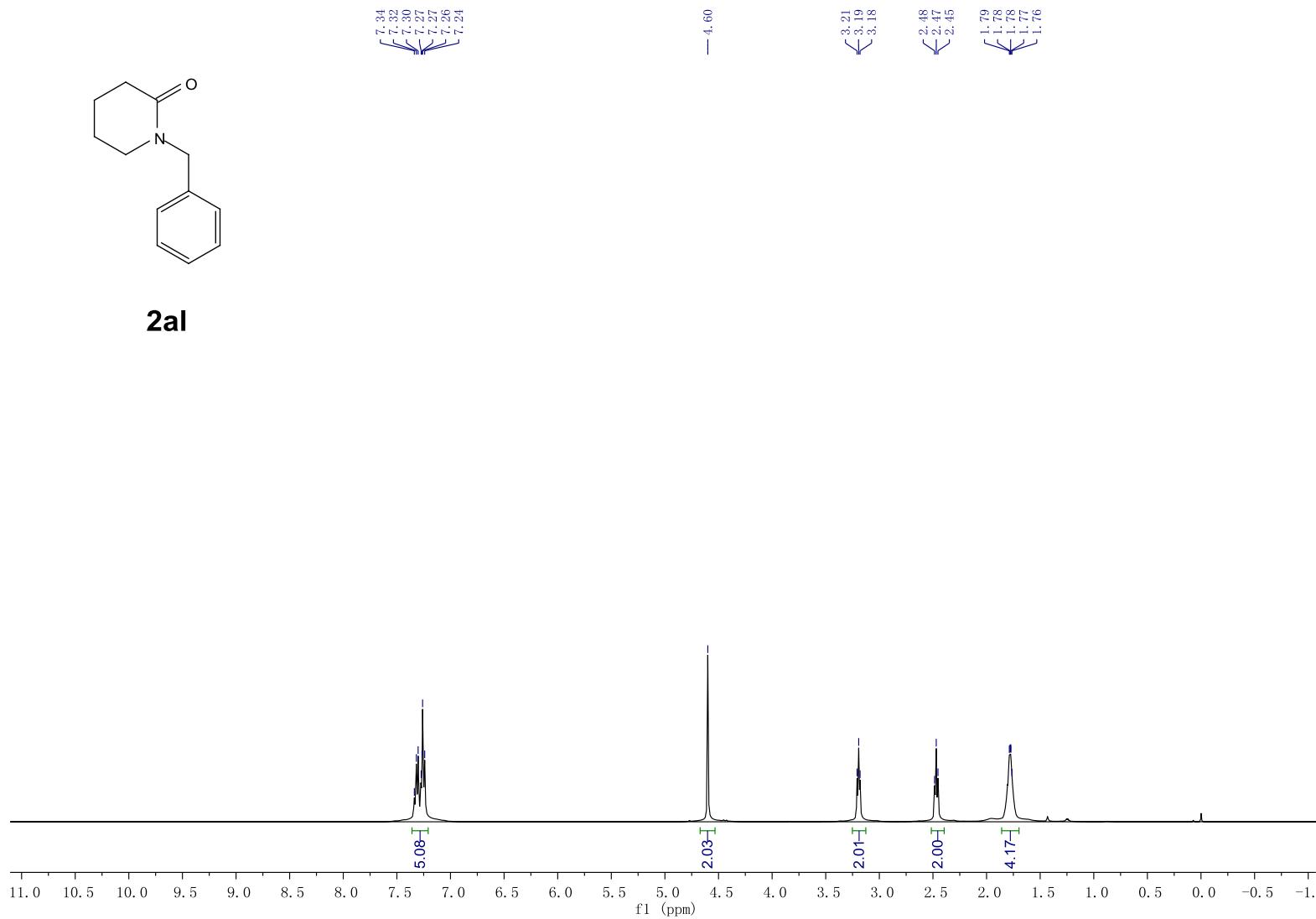


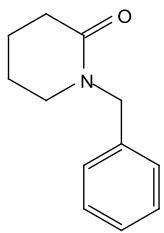
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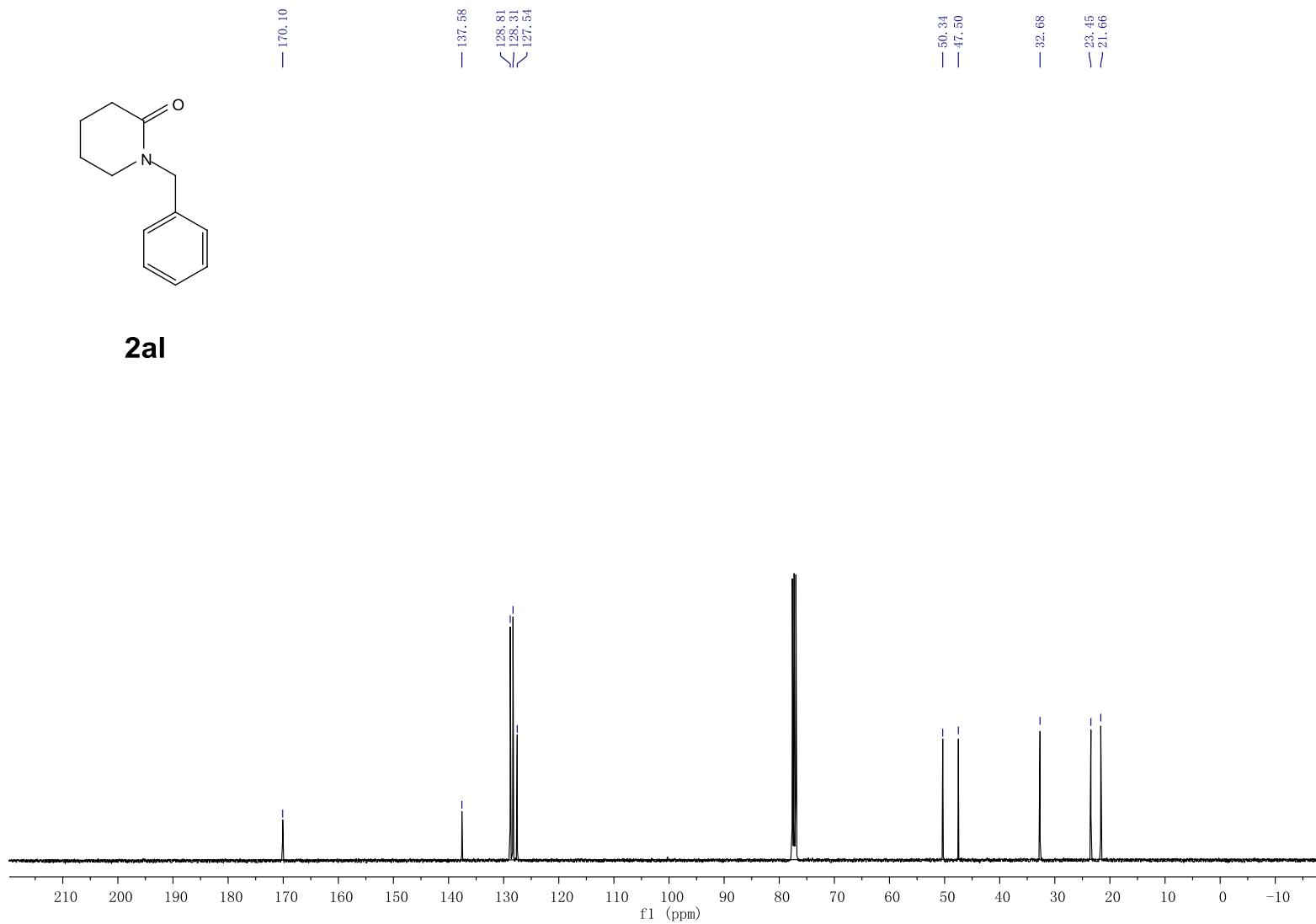


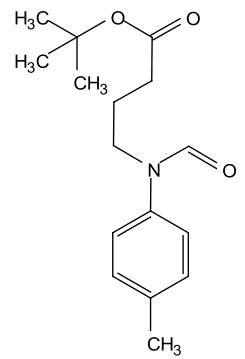
2al





2al





7.21
7.19
7.07
7.05

3.82
3.81
3.79

2.36
2.25
2.23
2.21

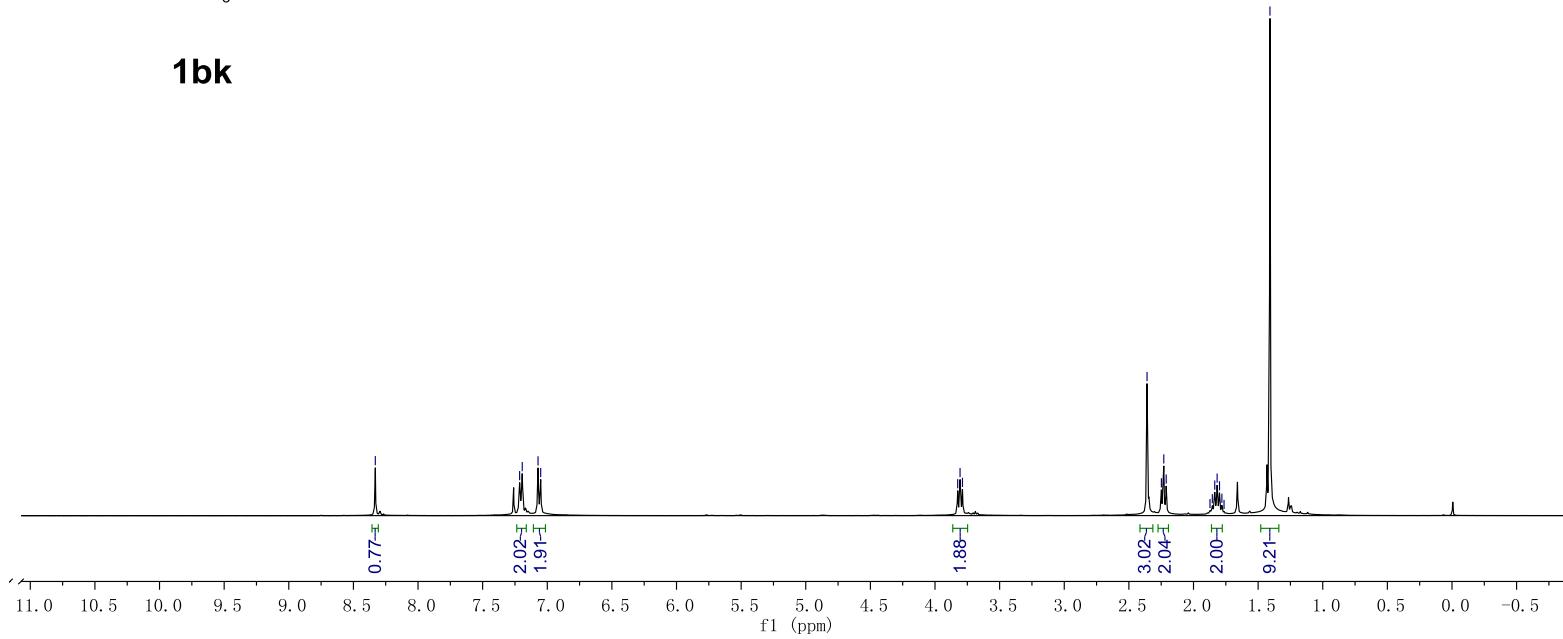
1.84

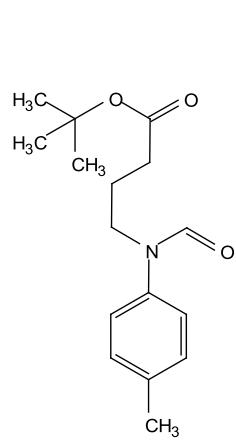
1.82

1.80

1.78

1bk





— 172.41

— 162.70

— 138.52
— 137.19

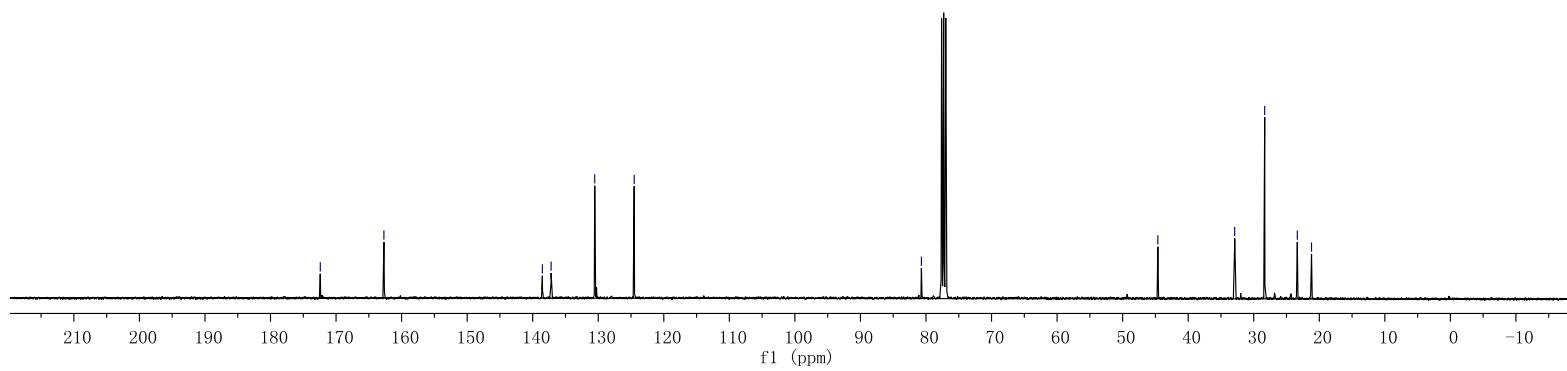
— 130.54

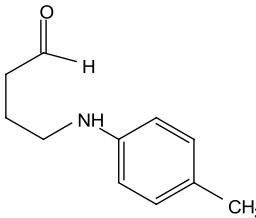
— 124.52

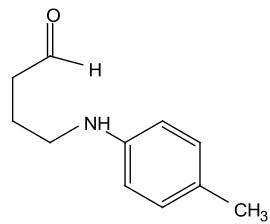
— 80.70

— 44.63
— 32.90
— 28.33
— 23.36
— 21.18

1bk







1ck

