

Supporting Information for:

Cu-catalyzed Oxygenation of Alkene-tethered Amides with O₂ via Unactivated C=C Bond Cleavage: A Direct Approach to Cyclic Imides

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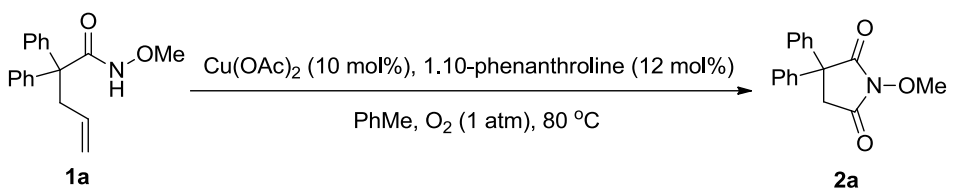
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A. General information

All commercially available compounds were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa-Aesar, Acros, Beijing Ouhe and Beijing Chemical Works, Ltd. Unless otherwise noted, materials obtained from commercial suppliers were used without further purification. Analysis of crude reaction mixture was done on an Agilent 7890 GC System with an Agilent 5975 Mass Selective Detector. Products were purified by flash chromatography on silica gel. ^1H -NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AVANCE III-400 spectrometers. Chemical shifts (in ppm) were referenced TMS (0.00 ppm). ^{13}C -NMR spectra were obtained by using the same NMR spectrometers and were calibrated with CDCl_3 ($\delta = 77.00$ ppm). Mass spectra were recorded using a PE SCLEX QSTAR spectrometer. High resolution mass spectra were obtained with a Bruker APEX IV Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometer.

B. Optimization details for the unactivated C=C bond cleavage.

Table S1. The control experiment of the reaction^a

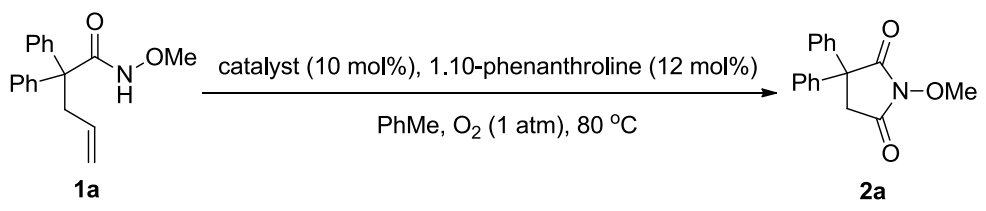


Entry	Condition	Yield (%) ^b
1	Standard condition	47
2	Without Cu(OAc) ₂	nd ^[c]
3	Without 1,10-phenanthroline	13
4	Without O ₂	nd

^a Unless noted otherwise, reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (0.02 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (0.024 mmol), in toluene (2.0 mL) was stirred at 80 °C under O₂ atmosphere.

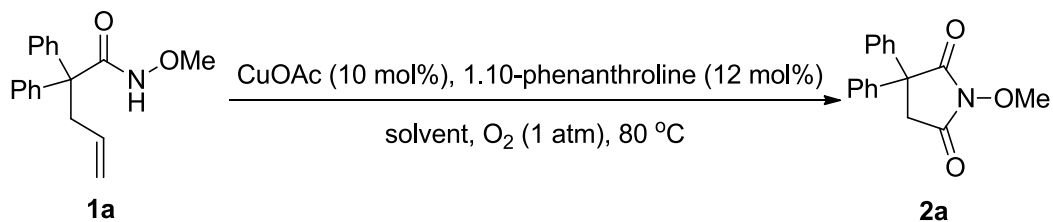
^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard. ^c Not determined.

Table S2. Optimization of copper catalysts^a



Entry	[Cu] catalyst	Yield (%) ^b
1	Cu(OAc) ₂	47
2	CuOAc	53 (60) ^c
3	CuBr	34
4	CuBr ₂	16
5	CuCl	44
6	Cu(OTf) ₂	19
7	Cu(CH ₃ CN) ₄ PF ₆	14
8	CuCl ₂	19
9	Cu(acac) ₂	54 (59) ^c
10	CuI	44
11	CuCN	51

^a Unless noted otherwise, reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), copper catalyst (0.02 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (0.024 mmol), in toluene (2.0 mL) was stirred at 80 °C under O₂. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard. ^c Isolated yield.

Table S3. Optimization of solvents^a

Entry	Solvent	Yield (%) ^b
1	PhMe	53
2	CH ₃ CN	48
3	CH ₃ OH	22
4	PhCl	63
5	1,2-DCE	50
6	1,4-dioxane	26
7	acetone	nd
8	ethyl acetate	50
9	DMF	nd
10	DMSO	nd
11	THF	nd
12	CH ₃ NO ₂	9
13	cyclohexane	3
14	1,2-dimethoxyethane	16
15	PhCF ₃	66

^a Unless noted otherwise, reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (0.024 mmol), in solvent (2.0 mL) was stirred at 80°C under O₂. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard.

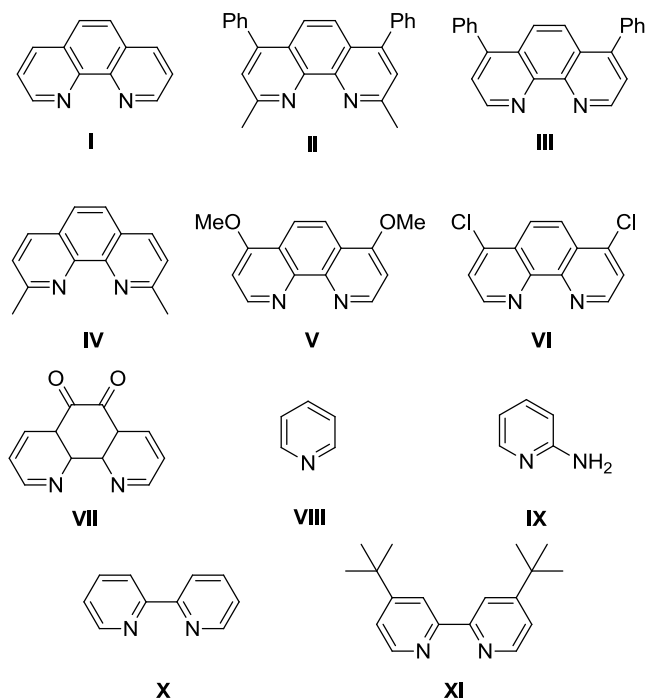
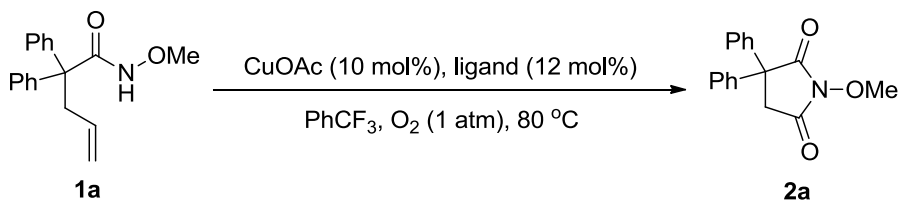


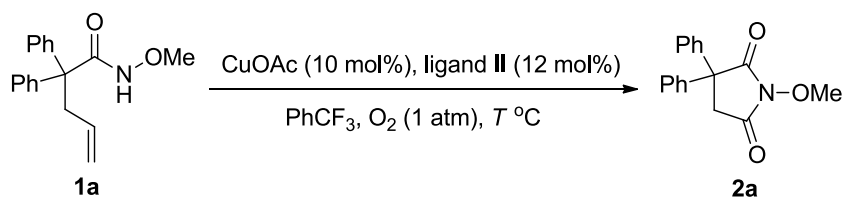
Fig. S1 The structures of screened ligand.

Table S4. Optimization of ligands^a



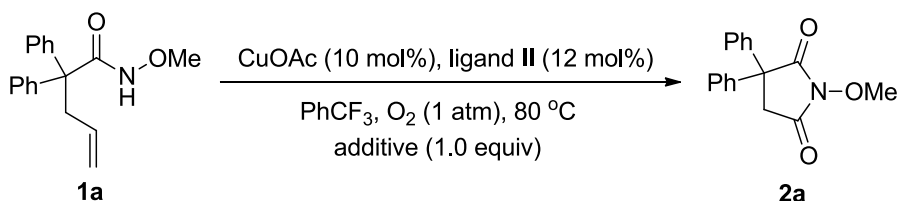
Entry	Ligand	Yield (%) ^b
1	I	66
2	II	82
3	III	69
4	IV	76
5	V	67
6	VI	33
7	VII	32
8 ^[c]	VIII	29
9	IX	32
10	X	61
11	XI	66

^a Unless noted otherwise, reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol), ligand (0.024 mmol), in PhCF₃ (2.0 mL) was stirred at 80°C under O₂. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard. ^c 1.0 equiv ligand was used.

Table S5. Optimization of temperature^a

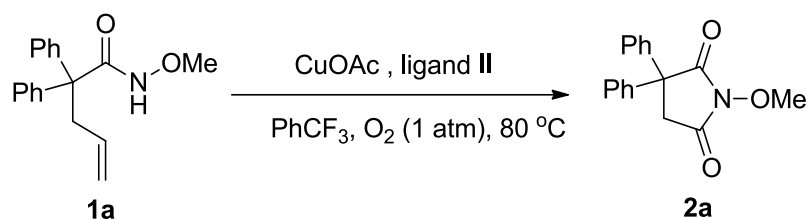
Entry	Temperature (°C)	Yield (%) ^b
1	rt	Trace
2	50	50
3	100	76
4	120	5
5	70	82
6	80	82
7	90	82

^a Unless noted otherwise, reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol), ligand (0.024 mmol), in PhCF₃ (2.0 mL) was stirred at specified temperature under O₂. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard.

Table S6. Optimization of additives^a

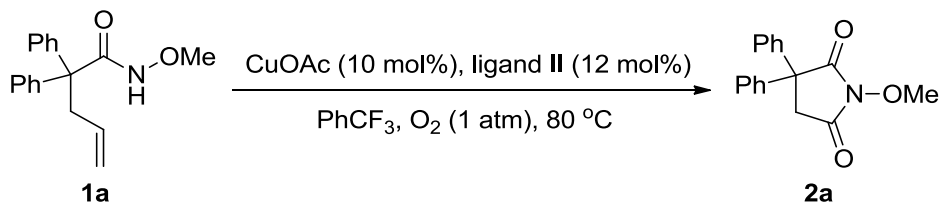
Entry	Additive	Yield (%) ^b
1	10 equiv H ₂ O	79
2	20 mg 4Å M.S.	78
3	0.2 equiv NABARF ^c	19
4	CsOAc	64
5	K ₃ PO ₄	2
6	K ₂ CO ₃	10
7	Cs ₂ CO ₃	trace
8	DABCO	64
9	PhCOOH	52
10	Pivalic acid	75

^a Unless noted otherwise, reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol), ligand **II** (0.024 mmol), additives (0.2 mmol) in PhCF₃ (2.0 mL) was stirred at 80°C under O₂. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard. ^c NABARF: Sodium tetrakis[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]borate.

Table S7. Optimization of the catalyst and ligand loadings^a

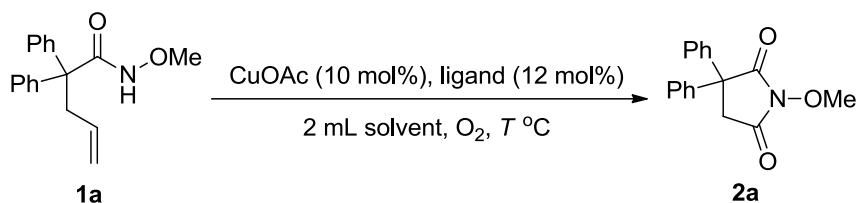
Entry	Loadings	Yield (%) ^b
1	2 mol% CuOAc, 2.4 mol% ligand II	47
2	5 mol% CuOAc, 6 mol% ligand II	77
3	15 mol% CuOAc, 18 mol% ligand II	78
4	20 mol% CuOAc, 24 mol% ligand II	81

^a Unless noted otherwise, reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), corresponding CuOAc and ligand **II**, in PhCF₃ (2.0 mL) was stirred at 80°C under O₂. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard.

Table S8. Optimization of reaction concentrations^a

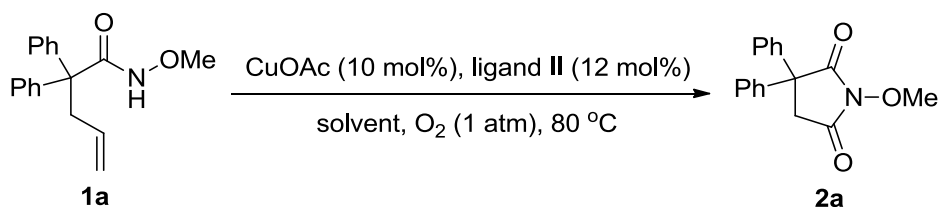
Entry	PhCF ₃ (mL)	Yield (%) ^b
1 ^c	2	81
2	1	76
3	3	84

^a Unless noted otherwise, reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol), ligand **II** (0.024 mmol), in corresponding volume PhCF₃ was stirred at 80°C under O₂. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard. ^c Air atmosphere instead of O₂.

Table S9. Optimization of solvent, temperature and ligand^a

Entry	Solvent	T (°C)	Ligand	Yield (%) ^b
1	PhMe	80	IV	67
2	PhCl	80	IV	80
3	PhMe	80	II	81
4	PhCl	80	II	79
5	PhMe	100	II	74
6	PhCl	100	II	75
7	PhMe	120	II	23
8	PhCl	120	II	50

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol), ligand (0.024 mmol), in solvent (2.0 mL) was stirred at specified temperature under O₂. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard.

Table S10. Optimization of reaction concentrations under different solvents^a

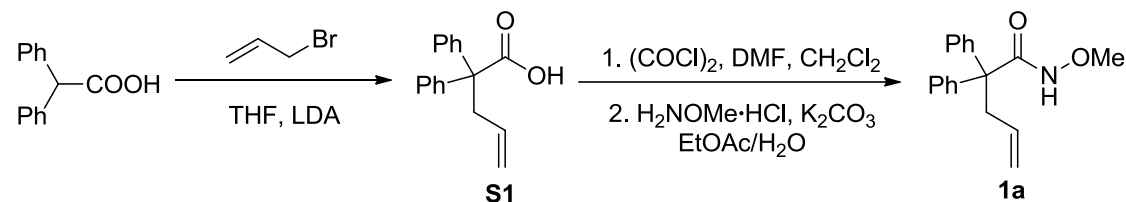
Entry	Solvent	Yield (%) ^b
1	2 mL PhMe	81
2	2 mL PhCl	79
3	1 mL PhMe	78
4	1 mL PhCl	74
5	3 mL PhMe	70
6	3 mL PhCl	79

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol), ligand (0.024 mmol), in solvent was stirred at 80 °C under O₂. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard.

C. The synthesis of substrates

The synthesis of the substrates were described as follows:

1) *N*-Methoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide (**1a**):

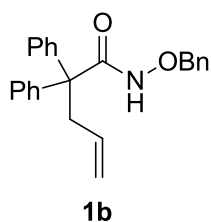


Following a reported procedure with appropriate modifications,^{1,2,3} A solution on diphenylacetic acid (4.24 g, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 16 mL of anhydrous THF was added to freshly prepared LDA (44 mmol, 2.2 equiv) at 0 °C. The suspension was stirred for 1 h at 25 °C and 0.5 h at 60 °C. The red reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, then allyl bromide (3.5 mL, 40.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added dropwise. The color dissipated and the reaction mixture was heated at 45 °C for 4 hours. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and 80 mL of Et_2O and 95 mL of H_2O were added. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was acidified with 2M HCl and extracted with Et_2O (3 x 70 mL). The organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and the solvent was removed. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography (PE: EA = 4:1) on silica gel to afforded crude 2,2-diphenylpent-4-enoic acid as a white solid.

To a solution of 2,2-diphenylpent-4-enoic acid (20 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) was added dropwise oxalyl chloride (2.2 mL, 26 mmol) followed by a catalytic amount of DMF. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, and then was concentrated under reduced pressure to remove the solvent. The resulting residue was added dropwise to a biphasic mixture of $\text{MeONH}_2\cdot\text{HCl}$ (2.51 g, 30 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (5.52 g, 40 mmol) in EtOAc (36 mL) and H_2O (18 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc . The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and filtrated. The filtrate was concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **1a** as a white solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.34–7.25 (m, 10H), 5.82–5.72 (m, 1H), 5.01 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.98 (d, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.22 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 171.9, 142.0, 134.5, 128.8, 128.3, 127.2, 118.2, 64.1, 58.9, 43.2 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺,

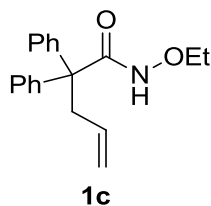
282.1494, found 282.1496.

2) *N*-(Benzyloxy)-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide (1b):



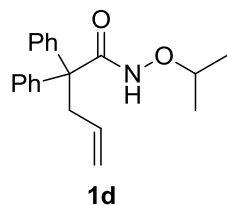
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using benzyloxyamine hydrochloride instead of methoxyammonium chloride as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **1b** as a white solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.30–7.20 (m, 15H), 5.76–5.66 (m, 1H), 4.97–4.92 (m, 2H), 4.83 (s, 2H), 3.18 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 171.6, 141.9, 134.9, 134.5, 129.2, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.0, 118.1, 77.9, 59.0, 43.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 358.1807, found 358.1799.

3) *N*-Ethoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide (1c):



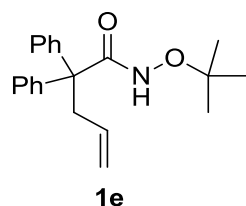
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using ethoxyamine hydrochloride instead of methoxyammonium chloride as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 5:1) gave **1c** as a white solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.34–7.24 (m, 10 H), 5.82–5.71 (m, 1H), 5.00 (d, $J = 18.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.90 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.22 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 171.9, 142.1, 134.6, 128.8, 128.3, 127.1, 118.1, 71.9, 59.0, 43.2, 13.3 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 196.1651, found 196.1652.

4) *N*-isopropoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide (1d):



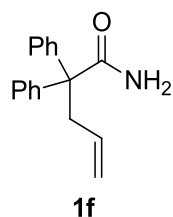
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using 2-(aminooxy)propane hydrochloride instead of methoxyammonium chloride as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 10:1) gave **1d** as a white solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.35–7.25 (m, 10H), 5.81–5.71 (m, 1H), 4.99 (d, $J = 16.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.14–4.05 (m, 1H), 3.22 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.13 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 172.1, 142.2, 134.6, 128.8, 128.3, 127.2, 118.1, 77.8, 59.2, 43.3, 20.4 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 310.1807, found 310.1806.

5) N-(Tert-butoxy)-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide (1e):



Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using *o*-(tert-butyl)hydroxylamine hydrochloride instead of methoxyammonium chloride as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 10:1) gave **1e** as a white solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.36–7.27 (m, 10 H), 5.81–5.71 (m, 1H), 4.98 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.95 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.12 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 172.7, 142.2, 134.6, 128.9, 128.3, 127.1, 118.1, 82.4, 59.5, 43.4, 26.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 324.1964, found 324.1963.

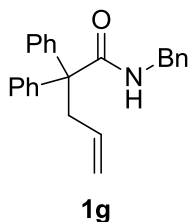
6) 2,2-Diphenylpent-4-enamide (1f):



Following a reported procedure.⁴ To a solution of 2,2-diphenylpent-4-enoic acid (5.04 g, 20 mmol)

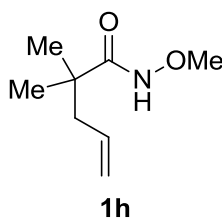
in dry CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) with dry tube packed with anhydrous calcium chloride was added oxalyl chloride (2.2 mL, 26 mmol) dropwise at room temperature, followed by the addition of 2 drops of DMF. After 8 h, the resulting mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was taken up with CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL). The mixture was added aqueous ammonia solution (28%, 35 mL) dropwise through a funnel in an iced-water bath. After 22 h, the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (35 mL × 3). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 2:1) gave **1f** as a white solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.32–7.23 (m, 10H), 6.36 (s, br, 1H), 5.79–5.69 (m, 1H), 5.54 (s, br, 1H), 5.00–4.93 (m, 2H), 3.20 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 176.8 142.8, 135.0, 128.9, 128.2, 127.0, 117.8, 60.4, 43.1 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₈NO (M + H)⁺, 252.1388, found 252.1391.

7) N-Benzyl-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide (1g):



Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using benzylamine hydrochloride instead of methoxyammonium chloride as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 10:1) gave **1g** as a white solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.32–7.19 (m, 13H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 5.84 (s, 1H), 5.80–5.69 (m, 1H), 4.99–4.92 (m, 2H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.25 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 173.9, 142.8, 138.1, 135.1, 129.0, 128.5, 128.3, 127.33, 127.25, 127.0, 117.8, 60.7, 43.8, 43.4 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₂₄H₂₄NO (M + H)⁺, 342.1858, found 342.1856.

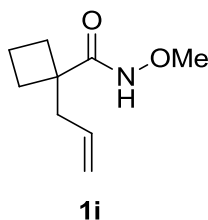
8) N-Methoxy-2,2-dimethylpent-4-enamide (1h):



Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using isobutyric acid instead of diphenylacetic acid as the raw

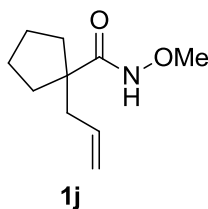
material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **1h** as a colorless oil; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.74 (s, 1H), 5.81–5.70 (m, 1H), 5.12–5.06 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.30–2.27 (m, 2H), 1.18 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 175.0, 133.8, 118.3, 64.1, 44.8, 41.2, 24.6 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 158.1181, found 158.1179.

9) 1-Allyl-N-methoxycyclobutanecarboxamide (1i):



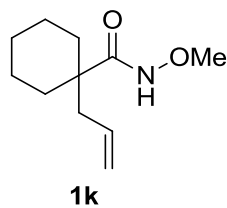
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using cyclobutanecarboxylic acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **1i** as a colorless oil; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.77 (s, 1H), 5.82–5.71 (m, 1H), 5.16–5.09 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.51 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.42–2.35 (m, 2H), 1.99–1.81 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.6, 133.4, 118.2, 64.1, 46.1, 42.1, 29.2, 15.3 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 170.1181, found 170.1180.

10) 1-Allyl-N-methoxycyclopentanecarboxamide (1j):



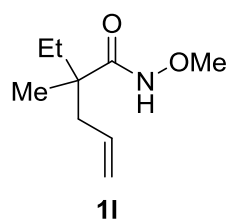
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using cyclopentanecarboxylic acid instead of diphenylacetic acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **1j** as a colorless oil; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.91 (s, 1H), 5.82–5.71 (m, 1H), 5.11–5.07 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.33 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.02–1.99 (m, 2H), 1.67–1.58 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.9, 134.3, 117.9, 64.0, 52.7, 42.7, 34.9, 24.2 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 184.1338, found 184.1335.

11) 1-Allyl-N-methoxycyclohexanecarboxamide (1k):



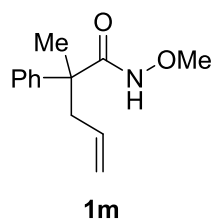
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using cyclohexanecarboxylic acid instead of diphenylacetic acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **1k** as a colorless oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.61 (s, 1H), 5.80–5.70 (m, 1H), 5.09–5.05 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.26 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.95–1.90 (m, 2H), 1.58–1.26 (m, 8H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 173.8, 133.2, 118.3, 64.2, 45.6, 44.2, 33.4, 25.7, 22.6 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 198.1494, found 198.1497.

12) 2-Ethyl-N-methoxy-2-methylpent-4-enamide (1l):



Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using 2-methyl butyric acid instead of diphenylacetic acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **1l** as a yellow oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 9.58 (s, 1H), 5.81–5.70 (m, 1H), 5.11–5.05 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.45 (dd, $J_1 = 7.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.15 (dd, $J_1 = 7.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 13.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.79–1.70 (m, 1H), 1.49–1.40 (m, 1H), 1.13 (s, 3H), 0.87 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.0, 133.7, 117.9, 63.7, 44.7, 43.2, 31.7, 19.7, 8.5 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 172.1338, found 172.1339.

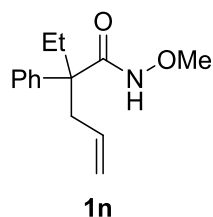
13) N-Methoxy-2-methyl-2-phenylpent-4-enamide (1m):



Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using 2-phenylpropionic acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **1m** as a colorless oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400

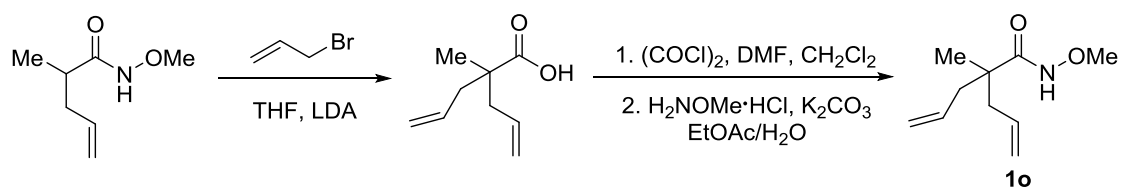
MHz): δ 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.37–7.32 (m, 4H), 7.29–7.25 (m, 1H), 5.59–5.49 (m, 1H), 5.09–5.01 (m, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.80 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, $J_1 = 6.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.53 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 174.3, 142.3, 133.4, 128.6, 127.1, 126.6, 118.6, 63.9, 48.6, 43.3, 23.2 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₈NO₂ (M + H)⁺, 220.1338, found 220.1335.

14) 2-Ethyl-*N*-methoxy-2-phenylpent-4-enamide (1n):



Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using 2-phenylbutyric acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **1n** as a colorless oil; **^1H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.23 (m, 3H), 5.53–5.42 (m, 1H), 5.06 (d, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.02 (d, $J = 10.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.80 (dd, $J_1 = 7.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, $J_1 = 6.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.06–1.97 (m, 2H), 0.81 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); **^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 173.7, 141.8, 133.1, 128.5, 127.0, 126.9, 118.2, 63.8, 52.4, 38.9, 27.4, 7.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₂₀NO₂ (M + H)⁺, 234.1494, found 234.1494.

15) 2-Allyl-*N*-methoxy-2-methylpent-4-enamide (1o):

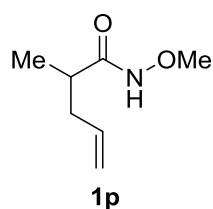


A solution of *N*-methoxy-2-methylpent-4-enamide (2.3 g, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 16 mL of anhydrous THF was added to freshly prepared LDA (44 mmol, 2.2 equiv) at 0 °C. The suspension was stirred for 1 h at 25 °C and 1.5 h at 60 °C. The red reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, then allyl bromide (3.5 mL, 40.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added dropwise. The color dissipated and the reaction mixture was heated at 50 °C for 24 hours. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and 80 mL of Et₂O and 95 mL of H₂O were added. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was acidified with 2M HCl and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 70

mL). The organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and the solvent was removed. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography (PE: EA = 4:1) on silica gel to afforded crude 2-allyl-2-methylpent-4-enoic acid as a colorless oil.

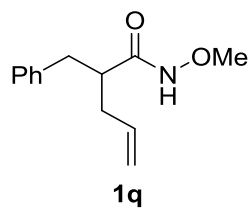
To a solution of 2-allyl-2-methylpent-4-enoic acid (20 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) was added dropwise oxalyl chloride (2.2 mL, 26 mmol) followed by a catalytic amount of DMF. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, and then was concentrated under reduced pressure to remove the solvent. The resulting residue was added dropwise to a biphasic mixture of MeONH₂·HCl (2.51 g, 30 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (5.52 g, 40 mmol) in EtOAc (36 mL) and H₂O (18 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and filtrated. The filtrate was concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **1o** as a white solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.58 (s, 1H), 5.81–5.71 (m, 2H), 5.12–5.19 (m, 2H), 5.07 (s, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.46 (dd, *J*₁ = 7.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 14.0 Hz, 2H), 2.17 (dd, *J*₁ = 7.6 Hz, *J*₂ = 13.6 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 173.6, 133.4, 118.2, 63.7, 44.2, 43.1, 20.2 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₀H₁₈NO₂ (M + H)⁺, 184.1338, found 184.1338.

16) *N*-Methoxy-2-methylpent-4-enamide (**1p**):



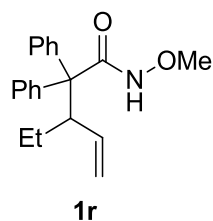
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using propionic acid instead of diphenylacetic acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 2:1) gave **1p** as a colorless oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.68 (s, 1H), 5.80–5.70 (m, 1H), 5.10–5.06 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.43–2.36 (m, 1H), 2.29–2.24 (m, 1H), 2.19–2.13 (m, 1H), 1.16 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 173.7, 135.4, 116.9, 64.0, 37.9, 37.5, 17.0 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₇H₁₄NO₂ (M + H)⁺, 144.1025, found 144.1021.

17) 2-Benzyl-*N*-methoxypent-4-enamide (**1q**):



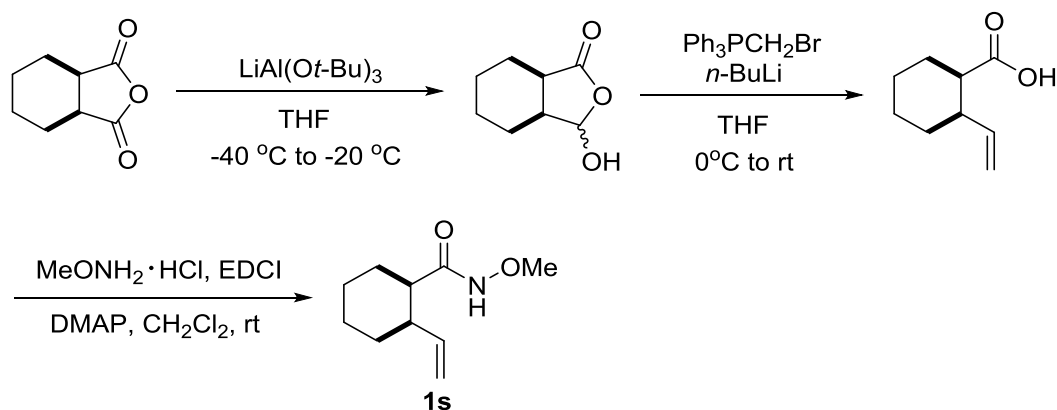
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using 3-phenylpropionic acid instead of diphenylacetic acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **1q** as a colorless oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 9.59 (s, 1H), 7.26–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.19–7.16 (m, 3H), 5.80–5.71 (m, 1H), 5.09 (d, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.03 (d, $J = 10.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 2.95–2.90 (m, 1H), 2.77–2.74 (m, 1H), 2.47–2.37 (m, 2H), 2.26–2.20 (m, 1H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 171.8, 139.1, 135.1, 128.9, 128.2, 126.2, 117.1, 63.8, 45.4, 38.1, 36.3 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 220.1338, found 220.1338.

18) 3-Ethyl-N-methoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide (1r):



The product **1r** was synthesized according to literature procedure.³ Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave the product **1r** as a white solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.36–7.23 (m, 10H), 5.50–5.41 (m, 1H), 5.11–5.07 (m, 2H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.37 (t, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.74–1.66 (m, 1H), 0.91 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 0.80–0.71 (m, 1H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 171.5, 140.9, 140.5, 137.8, 130.1, 129.7, 127.9, 127.8, 127.1, 127.0, 118.5, 63.8, 63.6, 50.4, 23.8, 12.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 310.1807, found 310.1805.

19) N-Methoxy-2-vinylcyclohexanecarboxamide (1s):



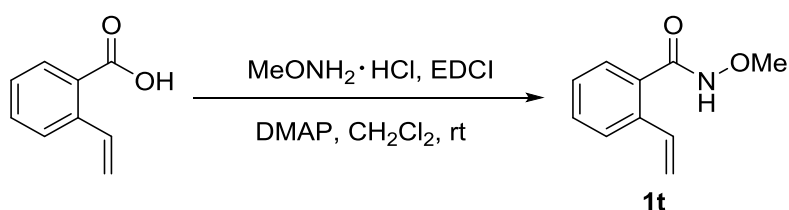
The product **1s** was synthesized according to literature procedure.^{5,6} Generally, 1,2-cyclohexanedicarboxylic anhydride (3.08 g, 20 mmol, 1.00 equiv) was dissolved in THF (25 mL) and the resulting solution was cooled to -40 °C. LiAl(O*t*-Bu)₃ (6.34 g, 25 mmol, 1.25 equiv) was dissolved in THF (40 mL) at -40 °C and the resulting off-white solution was cannulated into the flask containing the anhydride solution. The mixture was allowed to warm to -20 °C over 6 h (attention was paid not to go over this temperature). The reaction mixture was then quenched by addition of a 10% HCl solution until all solids were dissolved. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (4 x 30 mL) and the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by column chromatography (SiO₂, PE/EtOAc 90/10) afforded lactol as a colorless viscous oil.

n-BuLi (1.6 M in hexanes) (20.7 mL) was added dropwise to a suspension of Ph₃PCH₂Br (11.8 g) in THF (53.7 mL) at 0 °C. After 30 min, a solution of lactol 37 (2.34g, 15 mmol) in THF (35.3 mL) was cannulated into the ylide solution and the resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature under stirring. The reaction was then quenched by adding a 10% NaOH solution until all solids were dissolved. The aqueous layer was washed with EtOAc (3 x 40 mL). The resulting aqueous solution was acidified with 4 N HCl until pH 3 and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 40 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by column chromatography (SiO₂, PET/EtOAc 90/10) afforded 2-vinylcyclohexanecarboxylic acid as a yellow oil.

To a solution of 2-vinylcyclohexanecarboxylic acid (1.2 g, 8 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) was added MeONH₂·HCl (1.0 mg, 12 mmol), EDCI (3.1 g, 16 mmol) and DMAP (1.96g, 16 mmol) successively. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction was

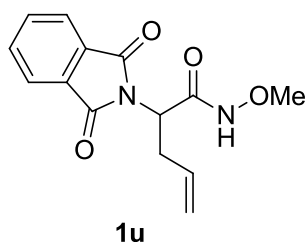
quenched by adding HCl (2M, 20 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and filtrated. The filtrate was concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 2:1) gave **1s** as a white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.78 (s, 1H), 6.05–5.96 (m, 1H), 5.12–5.06 (m, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.56 (s, br, 1H), 2.36 (s, br, 1H), 1.89–1.73 (m, 3H), 1.66–1.55 (m, 3H), 1.46–1.32 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.4, 138.7, 115.7, 64.3, 44.1, 41.9, 30.0, 25.2, 24.0, 22.4 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₀H₁₈NO₂ (M + H)⁺, 184.1338, found 184.1336.

20) N-Methoxy-2-vinylbenzamide (1t):



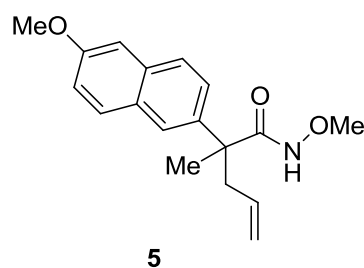
The product **1t** was synthesized according to literature procedure.⁵ To a solution of 2-vinylbenzoic acid (712 mg, 4 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) was added MeONH₂·HCl (501 mg, 6 mmol), EDCI (1.54 g, 8 mmol) and DMAP (979 mg, 8 mmol) successively. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction was quenched by adding HCl (2M, 10 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and filtrated. The filtrate was concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 2:1) gave the product as a white solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.95 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (dd, *J*₁ = 11.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.71 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 167.2, 136.4, 133.8, 131.6, 130.7, 127.7, 127.5, 126.1, 117.1, 64.4 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₀H₁₂NO₂ (M + H)⁺, 178.0868, found 178.0867.

21) 2-(1,3-Dioxisoindolin-2-yl)-N-methoxypent-4-enamide (1u):



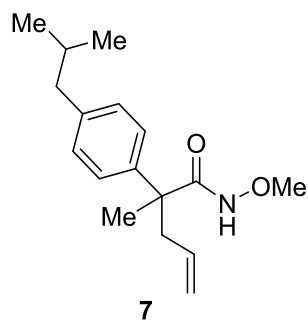
The product **1u** was synthesized according to literature procedure,⁷ Using 2-Allylglycine as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 2:1) gave **1u** as a white solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.55 (s, 1H), 7.86–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.77–7.74 (m, 2H), 5.72–5.62 (m, 1H), 5.07 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (s, br, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.00–2.87 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 167.9, 166.5, 134.4, 132.8, 131.4, 123.6, 119.3, 64.4, 52.4, 33.2 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₅N₂O₄ (M + H)⁺, 275.1032, found 275.1033.

22) 2-(4-Isobutylphenyl)-N-methoxy-2-methylpent-4-enamide (5):



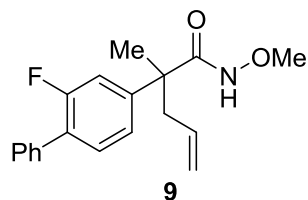
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using naproxen instead of diphenylacetic acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **7** as a colorless oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.36 (dd, *J*₁ = 2.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dd, *J*₁ = 2.4 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.57–5.47 (m, 1H), 5.06 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.87–2.75 (m, 2H), 1.59 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 174.3, 157.8, 137.2, 133.4, 133.3, 129.3, 128.5, 127.2, 125.5, 124.9, 119.0, 118.5, 105.4, 63.8, 55.2, 48.4, 43.0, 23.1 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₂₆NO₂ (M + H)⁺, 276.1964, found 276.1960.

23) N-Methoxy-2-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)-2-methylpent-4-enamide (7):



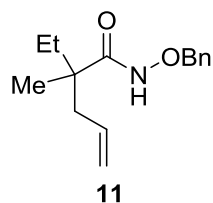
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using ibuprofen instead of diphenylacetic acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **5** as a colorless oil; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.59–5.49 (m, 1H), 5.07 (d, $J = 17.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.02 (d, $J = 10.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.79 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, $J_1 = 6.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.91–1.81 (m, 1H), 1.52 (s, 3H), 0.90 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.6, 140.7, 139.4, 133.6, 129.4, 126.4, 118.4, 64.0, 48.3, 44.8, 43.3, 30.0, 23.4, 22.3 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 300.1600, found 300.1598.

24) 2-(2-Fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-*N*-methoxy-2-methylpent-4-enamide (9):



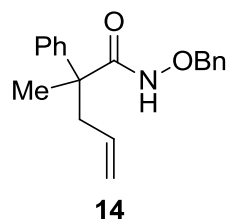
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using flurbiprofen instead of diphenylacetic acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **9** as a white solid; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.55–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.35 (m, 4H), 7.20–7.13 (m, 2H), 5.63–5.53 (m, 1H), 5.14–5.07 (m, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.83 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.72 (dd, $J_1 = 6.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 173.5, 159.6 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 247.3$), 143.9 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 7.1$ Hz), 135.0, 133.0, 130.8 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 4.1$ Hz), 128.8 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 2.9$ Hz), 128.4, 127.8, 127.7, 122.7 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 3.4$ Hz), 119.1, 114.6 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 24.1$ Hz), 64.1, 48.5, 43.3, 23.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2\text{F}$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 314.1556, found 314.1559.

25) *N*-(Benzyloxy)-2-ethyl-2-methylpent-4-enamide (11):



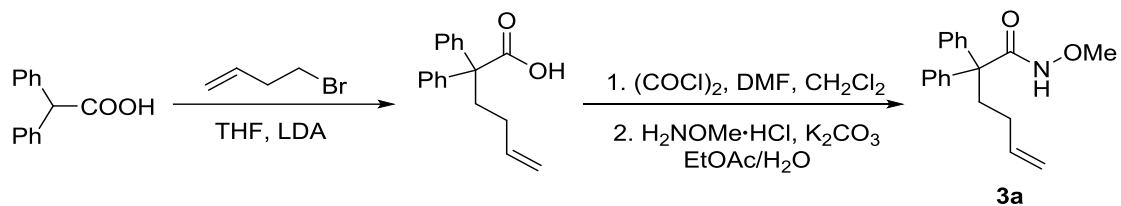
Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using 2-methyl butyric acid and benzyloxyamine hydrochloride instead of diphenylacetic acid and methoxyammonium chloride as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 5:1) gave **11** as a colorless oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 9.03 (s, 1H), 7.41–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.28 (m, 3H), 5.74–5.64 (m, 1H), 5.05–5.00 (m, 2H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 2.40 (dd, $J_1 = 7.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.10 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 13.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.73–1.64 (m, 1H), 1.45–1.36 (m, 1H), 1.06 (s, 3H), 0.83 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.0, 135.2, 133.7, 129.0, 128.3, 128.2, 117.9, 77.7, 44.8, 43.1, 31.7, 19.8, 8.5 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 248.1651, found 248.1650.

26) N-(Benzyloxy)-2-methyl-2-phenylpent-4-enamide (14):



Follow the same procedure with **1a**, using 2-phenylpropionic acid and benzyloxyamine hydrochloride instead of diphenylacetic acid and methoxyammonium chloride as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 5:1) gave **14** as a colorless oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.30–7.20 (m, 10H), 5.54–5.44 (m, 1H), 5.04–4.96 (m, 2H), 4.77 (s, 2H), 2.77 (dd, $J_1 = 7.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd, $J_1 = 6.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.47 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 173.7, 142.1, 134.8, 133.4, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 126.8, 126.3, 118.3, 77.5, 48.4, 43.1, 22.8 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 296.1651, found 296.1651.

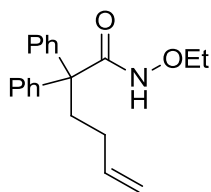
27) N-Methoxy-2,2-diphenylhex-5-enamide (3a):



Following a reported procedure with appropriate modifications,^{1,5} A solution of diphenylacetic acid (4.24 g, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 16 mL of anhydrous THF was added to freshly prepared LDA (44 mmol, 2.2 equiv) at 0 °C. The suspension was stirred for 1 h at 25 °C and 0.5 h at 60 °C. The red reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, then 4-bromo-1-butene (4.1 mL, 40.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added dropwise. The color dissipated and the reaction mixture was heated at 45 °C for 4 hours. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and 80 mL of Et₂O and 95 mL of H₂O were added. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was acidified with 2M HCl and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 70 mL). The organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and the solvent was removed. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography (PE: EA = 4:1) on silica gel to afford crude 2,2-diphenylhex-5-enoic acid.

To a solution of 2,2-diphenylhex-5-enoic acid (20 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) was added dropwise oxalyl chloride (2.2 mL, 26 mmol) followed by a catalytic amount of DMF. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, and then was concentrated under reduced pressure to remove the solvent. The resulting residue was added dropwise to a biphasic mixture of MeONH₂·HCl (2.51 g, 30 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (5.52 g, 40 mmol) in EtOAc (36 mL) and H₂O (18 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and filtrated. The filtrate was concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **3a** as a white solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.35–7.25 (m, 10H), 5.83–5.73 (m, 1H), 4.98 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.48 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.02–1.96 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 172.2, 142.1, 138.2, 128.6, 128.4, 127.1, 114.4, 64.0, 58.8, 37.9, 29.6 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₂NO₂ (M + H)⁺, 296.1651, found 296.1644.

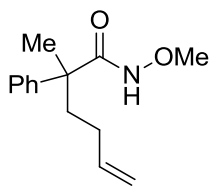
28) N-Ethoxy-2,2-diphenylhex-5-enamide (3b):



3b

Follow the same procedure with **3a**, using ethoxyamine hydrochloride instead of methoxyammonium chloride as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **3b** as a white solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.35–7.25 (m, 10H), 5.84–5.73 (m, 1H), 4.98 (d, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.91 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.51–2.46 (m, 2H), 1.99 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.16 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 172.2, 142.2, 138.3, 128.6, 128.4, 127.1, 114.4, 71.9, 58.9, 38.1, 29.6, 13.3 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 310.1807, found 310.1808.

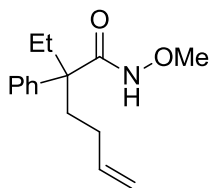
29) N-Methoxy-2-methyl-2-phenylhex-5-enamide (3c):



3c

Follow the same procedure with **3a**, using 2-phenylpropionic acid instead of diphenylacetic acid as the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **3c** as a colorless oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.37–7.25 (m, 5H), 5.83–5.73 (m, 1H), 4.99 (d, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.93 (d, $J = 10.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 2.17–1.95 (m, 3H), 1.88–1.79 (m, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.5, 142.6, 138.1, 128.6, 127.0, 126.5, 114.5, 63.8, 48.8, 37.8, 28.3, 23.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 234.1494, found 234.1493.

30) 2-Ethyl-N-methoxy-2-phenylhex-5-enamide (3d):



3d

Follow the same procedure with **3a**, using 2-phenylbutyric acid instead of diphenylacetic acid as

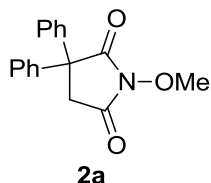
the raw material. Purification by column chromatography (PE: EA = 3:1) gave **3d** as a colorless oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.35–7.23 (m, 5H), 5.83–5.73 (m, 1H), 4.99 (d, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.93 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 2.12–1.98 (m, 4H), 1.95–1.86 (m, 1H), 1.83–1.73 (m, 1H), 0.78 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.0, 142.1, 138.1, 128.5, 126.89, 126.87, 114.4, 63.7, 52.5, 33.3, 27.8, 27.3, 7.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 248.1651, found 248.1647.

D. The general experimental procedure and the characterization data of products.

The general experimental procedure:

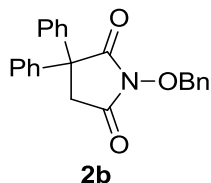
The reaction of *N*-alkoxy enamide **1** (0.2 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen (with a dioxygen balloon, 1 atm) for 18 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the mixture was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (with ethyl acetate/petroleum ether as the eluent) to afford the desired products **2**.

1) 1-Methoxy-3,3-diphenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**2a**):



The reaction of *N*-methoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide **1a** (0.2 mmol, 56.3 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h. The resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford 46.8 mg (83% yield) of **2a** as white solid: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.38–7.28 (m, 10H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.44 (s, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 172.5, 169.1, 140.9, 129.0, 127.9, 127.2, 64.7, 54.3, 42.5 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 282.1125, found 282.1123.

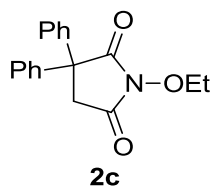
2) 1-(Benzyloxy)-3,3-diphenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**2b**):



The reaction of *N*-(benzyloxy)-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide **1b** (0.2 mmol, 71.5 mg), CuOAc

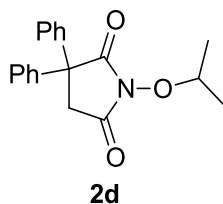
(0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 53.1 mg (74% yield) of **2b** as white solid: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.43–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.26 (m, 9H), 7.15–7.13 (m, 4H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 3.33 (s, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 172.9, 169.3, 141.0, 133.1, 130.1, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 127.8, 127.3, 78.5, 54.2, 42.4 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 358.1438, found 358.1438.

3) 1-Ethoxy-3,3-diphenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2c):



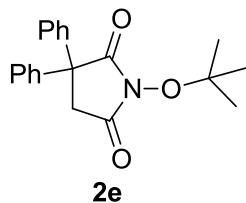
The reaction of *N*-ethoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide **1c** (0.2 mmol, 59.1 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 49.6 mg (84 % yield) of **2c** as white solid: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.37–7.28 (m, 10 H), 4.18 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.44 (s, 2H), 1.33 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 173.0, 169.5, 141.0, 128.9, 127.9, 127.2, 73.1, 54.2, 42.5, 13.4 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 296.1281, found 296.1281.

4) 1-Isopropoxy-3,3-diphenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2d):



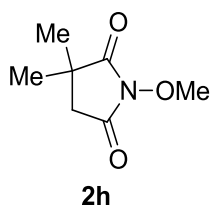
The reaction of *N*-isopropoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide **1d** (0.2 mmol, 61.9 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 33.6 mg (54% yield) of **2d** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.38–7.28 (m, 10H), 4.56–4.47 (m, 1H), 3.44 (s, 2H), 1.27 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 173.7, 170.1, 141.1, 128.9, 127.9, 127.3, 79.9, 54.3, 42.5, 20.7 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 310.1438, found 310.1438.

5) 1-(*tert*-Butoxy)-3,3-diphenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2e):



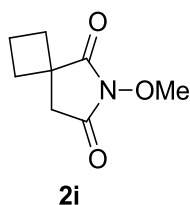
The reaction of *N*-(tert-butoxy)-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide **1e** (0.2 mmol, 64.7 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 21.4 mg (33% yield) of **2e** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.37–7.29 (m, 10H), 3.45 (s, 2H), 1.31 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.9, 171.2, 141.3, 128.9, 127.8, 127.3, 87.8, 54.4, 42.5, 27.3 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 324.1594, found 324.1595.

6) 1-Methoxy-3,3-dimethylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2h):



The reaction of *N*-methoxy-2,2-dimethylpent-4-enamide **1h** (0.2 mmol, 31.4 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 18.2 mg (58% yield) of **2h** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 3.95 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 2H), 1.35 (s, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 177.1, 169.8, 64.5, 41.1, 37.6, 25.4 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 158.0812, found 158.0809.

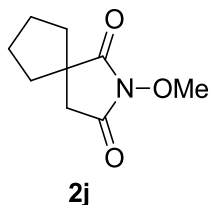
7) 6-Methoxy-6-azaspiro[3.4]octane-5,7-dione (2i):



The reaction of 1-allyl-*N*-methoxycyclobutanecarboxamide **1i** (0.2 mmol, 33.8 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 16.2 mg (48% yield) of **2i** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz):

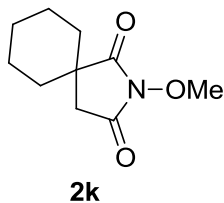
δ 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.82 (s, 2H), 2.69–2.62 (m, 2H), 2.25–2.14 (m, 1H), 2.12–2.02 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 175.9, 169.9, 64.6, 41.5, 40.4, 31.6, 16.2 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for C₈H₁₂NO₃ (M + H)⁺, 170.0812, found 170.0812.

8) 2-Methoxy-2-azaspiro[4.4]nonane-1,3-dione (2j):



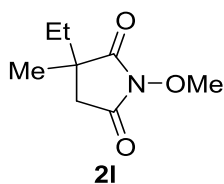
The reaction of 1-allyl-*N*-methoxycyclopentanecarboxamide **1j** (0.2 mmol, 36.7 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 15.4 mg (42% yield) of **2j** as colorless oil: ^1H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 3.96 (s, 3H), 2.57 (s, 2H), 2.24–2.12 (m, 2H), 1.98–1.87 (m, 2H), 1.80–1.64 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 177.2, 170.3, 64.6, 47.6, 41.3, 38.3, 25.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for C₉H₁₄NO₃ (M + H)⁺, 184.0968, found 184.0964.

9) 2-Methoxy-2-azaspiro[4.5]decane-1,3-dione (2k):



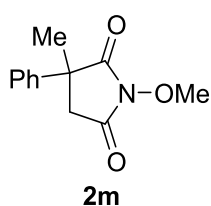
The reaction of 1-allyl-*N*-methoxycyclohexancarboxamide **1k** (0.2 mmol, 39.5 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 20.9 mg (53% yield) of **2k** as white solid: ^1H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 2H), 1.89–1.78 (m, 4H), 1.68 (s, 1H), 1.51 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 2H), 1.37–1.30 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 176.9, 170.3, 64.6, 42.1, 37.7, 33.2, 24.7, 21.6 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for C₁₀H₁₆NO₃ (M + H)⁺, 198.1125, found 198.1123.

10) 3-Ethyl-1-methoxy-3-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2l):



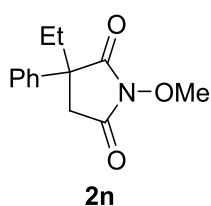
The reaction of 2-ethyl-*N*-methoxy-2-methylpent-4-enamide **1l** (0.2 mmol, 34.2 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 19.5 mg (57% yield) of **2l** as yellow oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.61 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.42 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.82–1.73 (m, 1H), 1.67–1.58 (m, 1H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 0.92 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 176.6, 170.0, 64.4, 41.4, 37.8, 30.9, 23.7, 8.3 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 172.0968, found 172.0968.

11) 1-Methoxy-3-methyl-3-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2m):



The reaction of *N*-methoxy-2-methyl-2-phenylpent-4-enamide **1m** (0.2 mmol, 43.9 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 29.9 mg (68% yield) of **2m** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.41–7.29 (m, 5H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.10 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.84 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.74 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.9, 169.5, 141.0, 129.1, 127.8, 125.4, 64.7, 45.2, 42.7, 25.7 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 220.0968, found 220.0968.

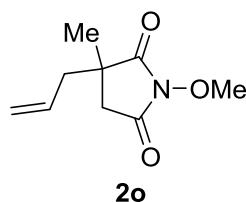
12) 3-Ethyl-1-methoxy-3-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2n):



The reaction of 2-ethyl-*N*-methoxy-2-phenylpent-4-enamide **1n** (0.2 mmol, 46.7 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 33.6 mg (72% yield) of **2n** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.44–7.29 (m, 5H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.08 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.90 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.17–2.03 (m, 2H), 0.92 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.2, 169.7, 139.9, 129.0, 127.7, 125.9, 49.5, 38.8, 32.7, 8.8 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$,

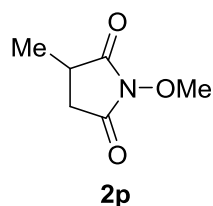
234.1125, found 234.1123.

13) 3-Allyl-1-methoxy-3-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2o):



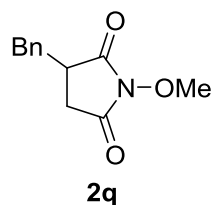
The reaction of 2-allyl-*N*-methoxy-2-methylpent-4-enamide **1o** (0.2 mmol, 36.6 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 15.0 mg (44% yield) of **2o** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 5.71–5.61 (m, 1H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 5.18–5.17 (m, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.68 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.51 (dd, $J_1 = 7.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.38 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.26 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 13.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 176.2, 169.9, 131.2, 120.9, 64.7, 42.3, 41.0, 37.7, 24.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 184.0968, found 184.0968.

14) 1-Methoxy-3-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2p):



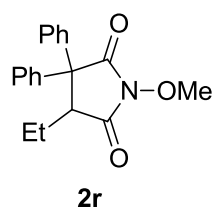
The reaction of *N*-methoxy-2-methylpent-4-enamide **1p** (0.2 mmol, 28.6 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 10.6 mg (37% yield) of **2p** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 3.95 (s, 3H), 2.93 (dd, $J_1 = 9.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 17.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.89–2.82 (m, 1H), 2.32 (dd, $J_1 = 3.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 17.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.38 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.4, 170.3, 64.5, 33.8, 32.0, 16.5 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 144.0655, found 144.0654.

15) 3-Benzyl-1-methoxypyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2q):



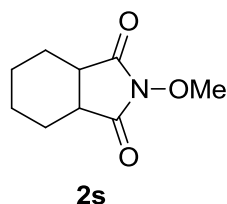
The reaction of 2-benzyl-*N*-methoxypent-4-enamide **1q** (0.2 mmol, 43.9 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 17.6 mg (40% yield) of **2q** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.33–7.24 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.20–3.11 (m, 2H), 2.96 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 13.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.69 (dd, $J_1 = 8.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 18.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (d, $J = 18.4$ Hz, 1H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 173.2, 170.2, 136.1, 129.1, 128.9, 127.3, 64.6, 38.3, 36.2, 30.5 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 220.0968, found 220.0967.

16) 4-Ethyl-1-methoxy-3,3-diphenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2r):



The reaction of 3-ethyl-*N*-methoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide **1r** (0.2 mmol, 61.9 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 48 h to afford 29.4 mg (48% yield) of **2r** as white solid: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.48 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.41–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.32–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.08–7.05 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.43 (dd, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.39–1.27 (m, 2H), 1.02 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 172.8, 172.6, 140.0, 139.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.7, 64.3, 58.9, 49.4, 23.2, 12.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 310.1438, found 310.1437.

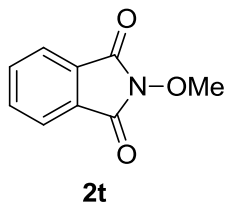
17) 2-Methoxyhexahydro-1*H*-isoindole-1,3(2*H*)-dione (2s):



The reaction of *N*-methoxy-2-vinylcyclohexanecarboxamide **1s** (0.2 mmol, 36.7 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 13.6 mg (37% yield) of **2s** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.92–2.86 (m, 2H), 1.94–1.85 (m, 2H), 1.82–1.75 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.42 (m,

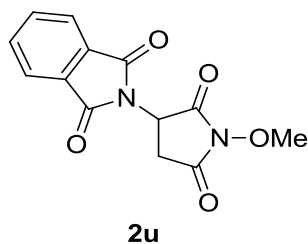
4H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 173.7, 64.3, 37.2, 23.4, 21.2 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 184.0968, found 184.0968.

18) 2-Methoxyisoindoline-1,3-dione (2t):⁸



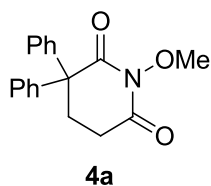
The reaction of *N*-methoxy-2-vinylbenzamide **1t** (0.2 mmol, 35.4 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 9.6 mg (27% yield) of **2t** as white solid: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.86–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.79–7.74 (m, 2H), 4.08 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 163.2, 134.5, 128.9, 123.5, 65.8 ppm. HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 178.0499, found 178.0495.

19) 2-(1-Methoxy-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (2u):



The reaction of 2-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-*N*-methoxypent-4-enamide **1u** (0.2 mmol, 54.9 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 25.1 mg (46% yield) of **2u** as white solid: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.92–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.82–7.78 (m, 2H), 5.21 (dd, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.20 (dd, $J_1 = 9.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 17.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 18.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 167.8, 167.5, 166.8, 134.8, 131.5, 124.0, 64.9, 44.2, 32.4 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 275.0668, found 275.0668.

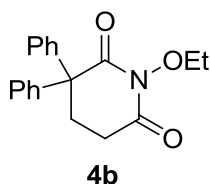
20) 1-Methoxy-3,3-diphenylpiperidine-2,6-dione (4a):



The reaction of *N*-methoxy-2,2-diphenylhex-5-enamide **3a** (0.2 mmol, 59.1 mg), CuOAc (0.02

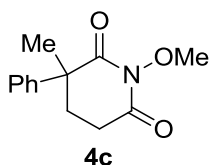
mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 34.9 mg (59% yield) of **4a** as white solid: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.37–7.30 (m, 6H), 7.16 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.73 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.67 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 170.4, 167.4, 140.2, 128.7, 127.9, 127.8, 63.8, 57.4, 30.3, 29.5 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 296.1281, found 296.1279.

21) 1-Ethoxy-3,3-diphenylpiperidine-2,6-dione (4b):



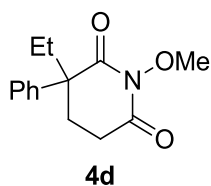
The reaction of *N*-ethoxy-2,2-diphenylhex-5-enamide **3b** (0.2 mmol, 61.9 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 34.1 mg (55% yield) of **4b** as white solid: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.37–7.31 (m, 6H), 7.16 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 4H), 4.11 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.72 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.66 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 170.8, 167.7, 140.3, 128.7, 128.0, 127.8, 72.1, 57.8, 30.3, 29.6, 13.3 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 310.1438, found 310.1435.

22) 1-Methoxy-3-methyl-3-phenylpiperidine-2,6-dione (4c):



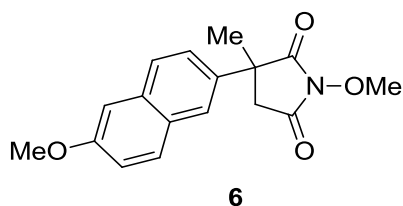
The reaction of *N*-methoxy-2-methyl-2-phenylhex-5-enamide **3c** (0.2 mmol, 46.7 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 22.5 mg (45% yield) of **4c** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.38 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.71–2.65 (m, 1H), 2.51–2.35 (m, 2H), 2.18–2.10 (m, 1H), 1.61 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 171.8, 167.7, 140.3, 129.2, 127.7, 125.3, 63.8, 49.0, 30.4, 30.3, 27.5 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 234.1125, found 234.1124.

23) 3-Ethyl-1-methoxy-3-phenylpiperidine-2,6-dione (4d):



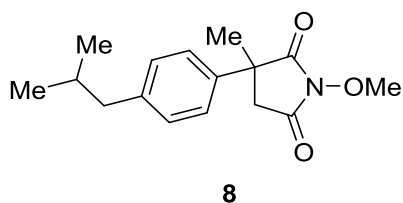
The reaction of 2-ethyl-*N*-methoxy-2-phenylhex-5-enamide **3d** (0.2 mmol, 49.5 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 17.8 mg (36% yield) of **4d** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.38 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.32–7.24 (m, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.74–2.69 (m, 1H), 2.58–2.49 (m, 1H), 2.34 (dd, $J_1 = 2.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.26–2.17 (m, 1H), 2.15–2.06 (m, 1H), 1.97–1.88 (m, 1H), 0.89 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 171.1, 167.6, 138.6, 129.1, 127.7, 125.9, 63.7, 52.7, 33.6, 30.0, 25.7, 9.0 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 248.1281, found 248.1286.

24) 1-Methoxy-3-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)-3-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (6):



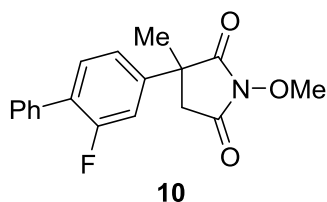
The reaction of 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-*N*-methoxy-2-methylpent-4-enamide **5** (0.2 mmol, 59.9 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 46.7 mg (78% yield) of **6** as white solid: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.76–7.70 (m, 3H), 7.37 (dd, $J_1 = 2.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, $J_1 = 2.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.18 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.81 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 175.1, 169.6, 158.1, 135.7, 133.6, 129.6, 128.5, 128.0, 124.1, 123.7, 119.5, 105.4, , 55.3, 45.2, 42.6, 25.6 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_4$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 300.1230, found 300.1221.

25) 3-(4-Isobutylphenyl)-1-methoxy-3-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (8):



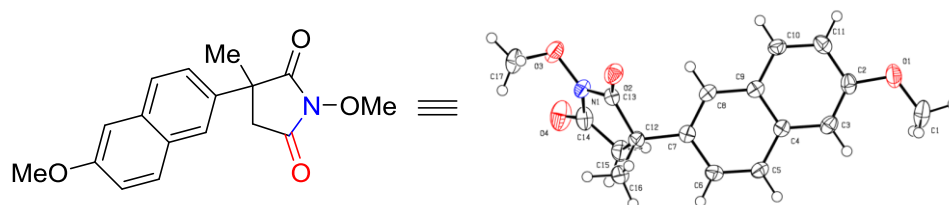
The reaction of *N*-methoxy-2-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)-2-methylpent-4-enamide **7** (0.2 mmol, 55.1 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 32.9 mg (60% yield) of **8** as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.27–7.24 (m, 2H), 7.17–7.14 (m, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.09 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.82 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.89–1.79 (m, 1H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 0.89 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 175.2, 169.7, 141.4, 138.2, 129.8, 125.2, 64.7, 45.0, 44.8, 42.8, 30.1, 25.7, 22.3 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 276.1594, found 276.1591.

26) 3-(2-Fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-1-methoxy-3-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (10):



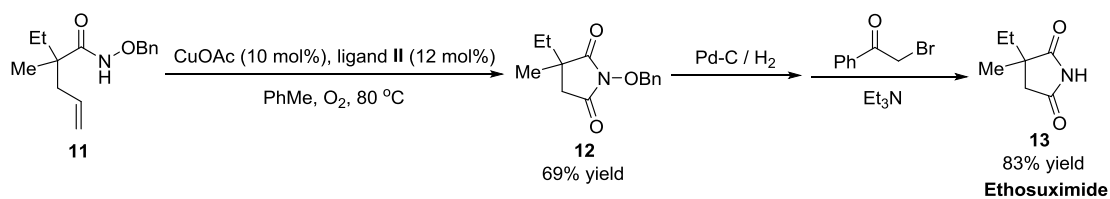
The reaction of 2-(2-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-*N*-methoxy-2-methylpent-4-enamide **9** (0.2 mmol, 62.6 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 46.9 mg (75% yield) of **10** as white solid: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.53–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.48–7.36 (m, 4H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.12 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.87 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.76 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 174.4, 169.1, 159.7 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 247.9$), 142.1 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 7.5$ Hz), 134.8, 131.3 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 4.0$ Hz), 128.8 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 2.9$ Hz), 128.6, 128.5, 128.0, 121.4 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 3.5$ Hz), 113.8 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 24.7$ Hz), 64.8, 44.9, 42.3, 25.8 ppm; $^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 375 MHz): δ -115.8 (s, 1F) ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{FNO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, 314.1187, found 314.1187.

E. The crystal structure of compound 6 (CCDC: 1912652).



F. Synthesis of succinimide-containing bioactive compounds.

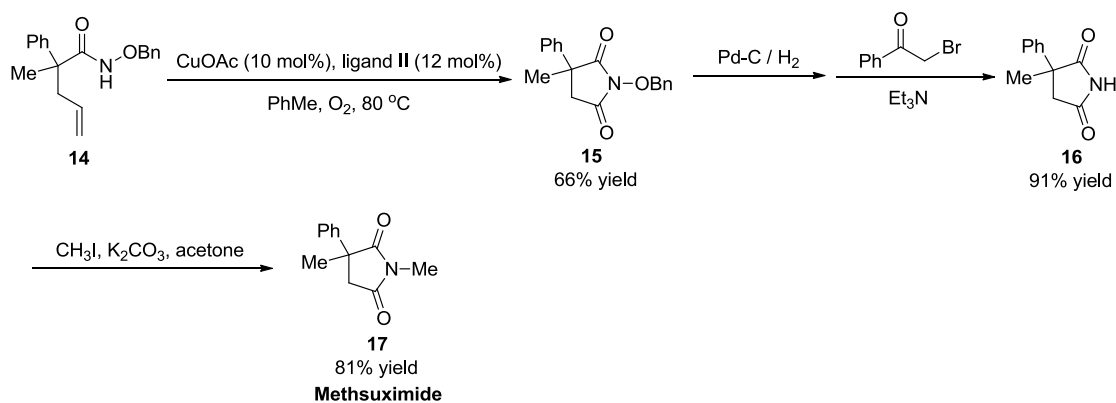
1) The synthesis of the ethosuximide 13:



The reaction of *N*-(benzyloxy)-2-ethyl-2-methylpent-4-enamide **11** (0.8 mmol, 197.8 mg), CuOAc (0.08 mmol, 10.0 mg) and ligand **II** (0.096 mmol, 34.8 mg) were stirred in 4 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h. Then the mixture was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (with ethyl acetate/petroleum ether 1:4 as the eluent) to afford the desired products **12** as white solid (135.9 mg, 69% yield): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.49–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.36 (m, 3H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 2.50 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 1.69–1.59 (m, 1H), 1.54–1.45 (m, 1H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 0.78 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 176.9, 170.4, 133.2, 130.1, 129.4, 128.4, 78.3, 41.5, 37.9, 30.9, 23.9, 8.3 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₈NO₃ (M + H)⁺, 248.1281, found 248.1279.

Then, a catalytic amount of 5% Pd/C (27.2 mg, 20% w/w) was added to a solution of **12** (135.9 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in dry methanol (4 mL), and the mixture was stirred under H₂ for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite, washed with methanol, and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in acetonitrile (2 mL) and added dropwise to a stirred solution of 2-bromoacetophenone (109.6 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (3 mL) at room temperature. A solution of triethylamine (115.1 μL, 83.6 mg, 0.825 mmol, 1.50 equiv) in acetonitrile (1 mL) was added dropwise over 2 h, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight.⁹ The mixture was concentrated and then partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ (12.5 mL) and 5% hydrochloric acid (2 × 10 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated, and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (with ethyl acetate/petroleum ether 1:3 as the eluent) to afford ethosuximide **13** as a white solid (64.2 mg, 83% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.78 (s, 1H), 2.67 (d, *J* = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (d, *J* = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 1.80–1.71 (m, 1H), 1.65–1.56 (m, 1H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 183.5, 176.6, 45.6, 41.5, 30.9, 23.7, 8.6 ppm.¹⁰ MS (70 ev): *m/z* (%): 55.0 (100), 70.1 (50), 85.0 (12), 113.0 (84), 141.0 (M⁺, 1).

2) The synthesis of the methsuximide **17**:



The reaction of *N*-(Benzyloxy)-2-methyl-2-phenylpent-4-enamide **14** (0.6 mmol, 177.2 mg), CuOAc (0.06 mmol, 7.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.072 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h to afford 116.3 mg (66% yield) of **15** as yellow oil: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.49–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.31–7.24 (m, 3H), 7.15–7.12 (m, 2H), 5.19 (s, 2H), 2.96 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 175.2, 169.8, 141.0, 133.1, 130.1, 129.5, 128.9, 128.5, 127.6, 125.4, 78.3, 45.1, 42.7, 25.4 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₁₈NO₃ (M + H)⁺, 296.1281, found 296.1283.

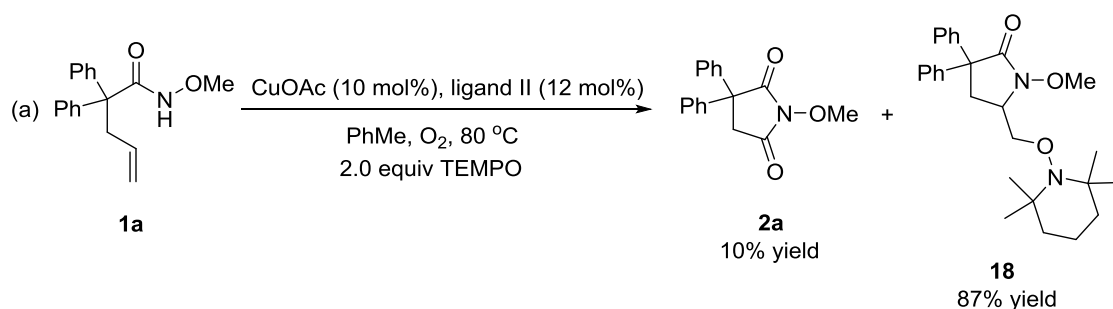
Then, a catalytic amount of 5% Pd/C (23.2 mg, 20% w/w) was added to a solution of **15** (116 mg, 0.39 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in dry methanol (4 mL), and the mixture was stirred under H₂ for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite, washed with methanol, and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in acetonitrile (2 mL) and added dropwise to a stirred solution of 2-bromoacetophenone (77.6 mg, 0.39 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (3 mL) at room temperature. A solution of triethylamine (81.6 μL, 59.3 mg, 0.585 mmol, 1.50 equiv) in acetonitrile (1 mL) was added dropwise over 2 h, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight.⁸ The mixture was concentrated and then partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) and 5% hydrochloric acid (2 × 7.5 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (7.5 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated, and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (with ethyl acetate/petroleum ether 1:2 as the eluent) to afford **16** as a white solid (66.8 mg, 91% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 7.38–7.33 (m, 4H), 7.29–7.25 (m, 1H), 3.12 (d, *J* = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (d, *J* = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 1.72 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 182.0, 176.5, 141.2, 128.8, 127.5, 125.5, 49.1, 46.0, 25.3 ppm.

A mixture of succinimide **16** (65.5 mg, 0.346 mmol), methyl iodide (56.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) and anhydrous potassium carbonate (62.2 mg, 0.45 mmol) was heated at reflux in anhydrous acetone 4

mL for 4 h. After cooling to 20 °C, the mixture was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (with ethyl acetate/petroleum ether 1:3) to afford methsuximide **17** as a white solid (56.7 mg, 81% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.38–7.33 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.25 (m, 1H), 3.11 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.85 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 1.71 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 180.9, 175.5, 141.7, 128.8, 127.4, 125.5, 47.8, 45.1, 25.6, 25.1 ppm.¹¹ MS (70 ev): *m/z* (%): 51.1 (17), 77.1 (40), 91.1 (30), 103.1 (58), 118.1 (100), 203.1 (M⁺, 100).

G. Mechanistic investigation

1) The radical trapping experiment:

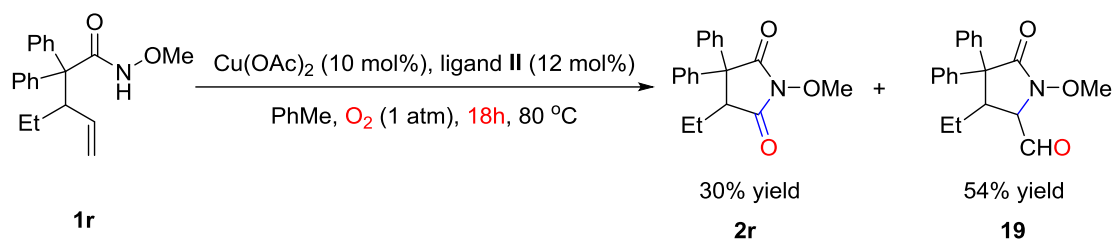


To a reaction tube charged with *N*-methoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide **1a** (56.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added CuOAc (2.5 mg, 0.02 mmol), ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) and TEMPO (62.5 mg, 0.4 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo, and the crude mixture was subjected to flash column chromatography to afford the C=C bond cleavage product in only 10% yield (5.6 mg), and radical trapping product **18** in 87% yield (76.0 mg) as a white solid: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.40–7.20 (m, 10H), 4.02–3.94 (m, 2H), 3.91–3.86 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.93 (dd, *J*₁ = 6.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 1.60–1.43 (m, 5H), 1.33–1.30 (m, 1H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 171.7, 143.8, 141.3, 128.5, 128.3, 127.8, 127.7, 127.2, 126.8, 76.0, 62.3, 60.0, 54.3, 53.6, 39.7, 36.3, 33.0, 32.9, 20.1, 16.9 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₂₇H₃₇N₂O₃ (M + H)⁺, 437.2799, found 437.2793.

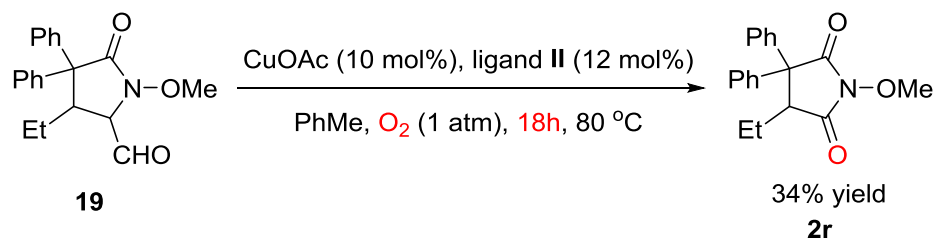
2) The intermediate product isolation and further reaction.

In order to probe the mechanism, further control experiments were investigated. When the olefin ortho-substituted **1r** was used as the substrate and reaction for 18 hours, both the C=C

double-bond cleavage product (**2r**, 30% yield) and aldehyde product (**19**, 54% yield) could be detected, and the aldehyde product was separated. Next, we investigated the possibility that aldehyde **19** as an intermediates in the formation of succinimide **2r**. Submitting **19** to the standard reaction condition resulted in the formation of **2r**, which means the aldehyde might be the key intermediate in this transformation.



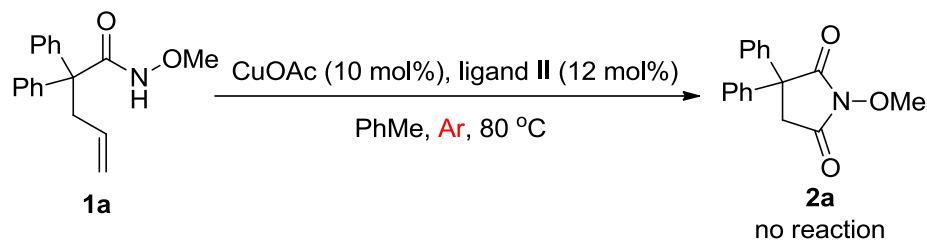
The reaction of 3-ethyl-*N*-methoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide **2r** (0.2 mmol, 61.9 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo, and the crude mixture was subjected to flash column chromatography to afford the C=C bond cleavage product **2r** in 30% yield (18.6 mg), and aldehyde product 3-ethyl-1-methoxy-5-oxo-4,4-diphenylpyrrolidine-2-carbaldehyde **19** in 54% yield (33.4 mg, dr > 25:1) as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 9.68 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.28–7.24 (m, 3H), 6.89–6.87 (m, 2H), 4.00 (dd, $J_1 = 4.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.15–3.11 (m, 1H), 1.49–1.40 (m, 1H), 1.01–0.92 (m, 1H), 0.89 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 198.3, 174.1, 140.6, 139.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.3, 69.3, 63.9, 57.9, 42.1, 23.3, 12.5 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$), 324.1600, found 324.1596.



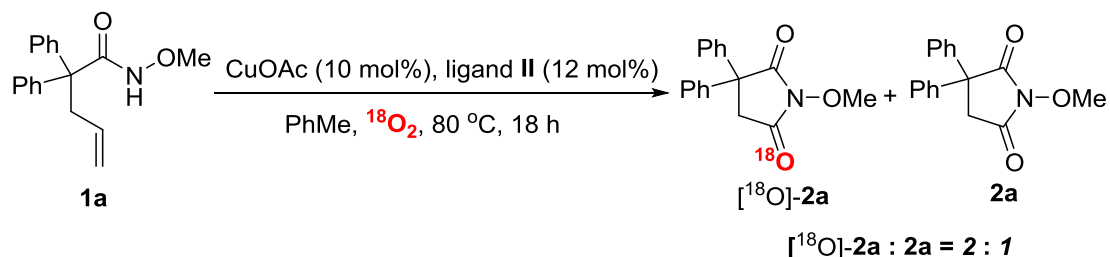
The reaction of 3-ethyl-1-methoxy-5-oxo-4,4-diphenylpyrrolidine-2-carbaldehyde **19** (0.107 mmol, 34.7 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen for 18 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the mixture was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (with ethyl acetate/petroleum

ether as the eluent) to afford the desired product **2r** (11.3 mg, 34% yield).

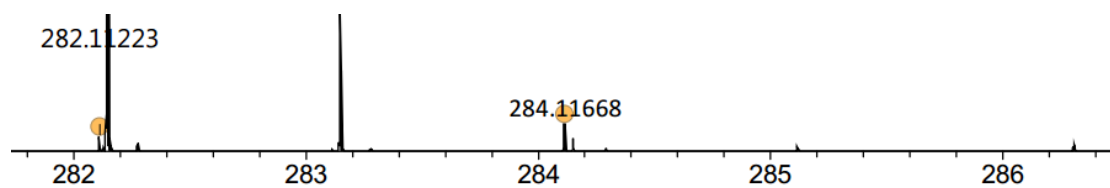
3) [¹⁸O]-Labeling experiments



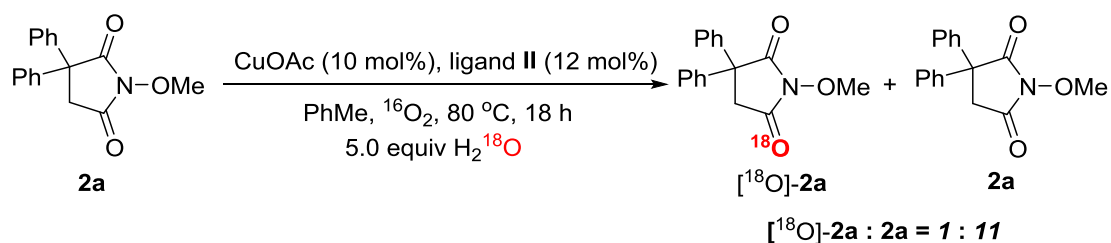
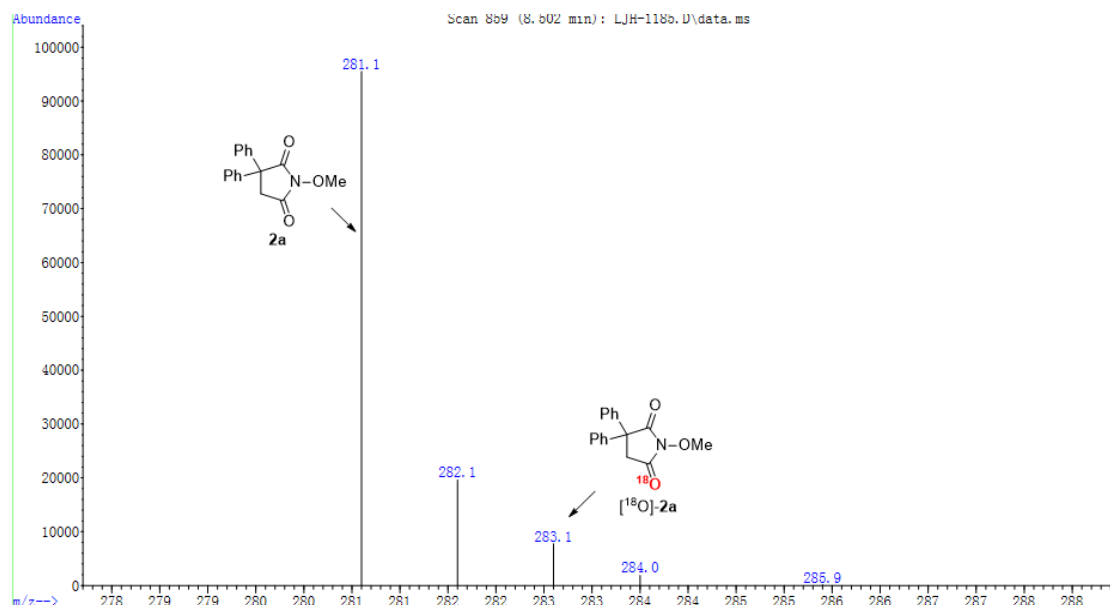
Reaction conditions: *N*-methoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide **1a** (28.1 mg, 0.1 mmol), CuOAc (0.01 mmol, 1.3 mg), ligand **II** (0.012 mmol, 4.3 mg) and 2 mL PhMe were added to a 20 mL reaction tube with a stir bar. Then the reaction tube was placed into the liquid nitrogen and vacuum pumping. Next, the reaction mixture was warmed to the room temperature and filled with argon. This operation was repeated three times, then the reaction mixture was placed into the heating device which was 80 °C and reaction for 18 hours. After cooling down to room temperature, the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis, and the target product was not detected.



Reaction conditions: *N*-methoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide **1a** (28.1 mg, 0.1 mmol), CuOAc (0.01 mmol, 1.3 mg) and ligand **II** (0.012 mmol, 4.3 mg) were stirred in 1 mL PhMe at 80 °C under ¹⁸O₂ for 18 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the mixture was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (with ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 5:1 as the eluent) to afford the desired product [¹⁸O]-**2a** (22.5 mg, 80% yield). The ¹⁸O in product **2a** was determined by HRMS. Two products were detected on the base of HRMS analysis (see below): [¹⁸O]-**2a** and **2a**, with the ratio 2:1. [¹⁸O]-**2a**: HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₆NO₂¹⁸O (M + H)⁺, 284.1167, found 284.1167. **2a**: HRMS *m/z* (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₆NO₃ (M + H)⁺, 282.1125, found 282.1122.



When 5.0 equiv of H_2^{18}O was added into the reaction of **2a** under the standard conditions, the two products could also be detected with the ratio 1:11 on the base of GC-MS analysis (see below).



Reaction conditions: **2a** (28.1 mg, 0.1 mmol), CuOAc (0.01 mmol, 1.3 mg, 10 mol%), ligand **II** (0.012 mmol, 4.3 mg, 12 mol%) and H_2^{18}O (10 mg, 5.0 equiv) were stirred in 1 mL PhMe at 80 °C under O_2 for 18 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the mixture was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (with ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 5:1 as the eluent) to afford the desired product. The $[\text{}^{18}\text{O}]\text{-2a}$ was determined by GC-MS. The two products were detected on the base of GC-MS analysis: $[\text{}^{18}\text{O}]\text{-2a}$ and **2a** with the ratio 1:11.

The above ^{18}O -labeling experiments suggest that the additional oxygen atom in imide product is original from O_2 . The O-isotope exchange products are probably generated from exchange with H_2^{18}O , which was the byproduct in PhMe.

4) Kinetic studies:

Prepare nine reactions which was numbered as one to nine, to each of the reaction, the *N*-methoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide **1a** (0.2 mmol, 56.3 mg), CuOAc (0.02 mmol, 2.5 mg) and ligand **II** (0.024 mmol, 8.7 mg) were stirred in 2 mL PhMe at 80 °C under oxygen. At time of 5 min, 10 min, 30 min, 1 h, 2 h, 4 h, 8 h, 14 h and 18 h, the reaction of 1 to 9 was stopped in turn, and filtration through quartz sand, then the NMR yield of each compound was determined by using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard (**Table S10**). The graph below represents the changes of relative concentration of analyses as a function of time (**Fig. S2**).

Table S10. Kinetic data and profile of the reaction.

The reaction scheme shows the conversion of **1a** to **2a** via an intermediate. **1a** is *N*-methoxy-2,2-diphenylpent-4-enamide. The reaction conditions are CuOAc (10 mol%), ligand **II** (12 mol%), PhMe, O₂, 80 °C. The intermediate is a 5-membered ring with a carbonyl group and an N-OMe group. **2a** is *N*-methoxy-2,2-diphenylsuccinimide.

Entry	Time	1a (yield ^b)	2a (yield ^b)	Intermediate product (yield ^b)
1	5 min	68%	Trace (3%)	15%
2	10 min	55%	Trace (2%)	27%
3	30 min	nd	18%	34%
4	1 h	nd	37%	30%
5	2h	nd	51%	25%
6	4h	nd	72%	10%
7	8h	nd	76%	8%
8	14h	nd	77%	6%
9	18h	nd	81%	2%

^a Unless noted otherwise, reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol), ligand **II** (0.024 mmol), in PhMe (2.0 mL) was stirred at 80 °C under O₂. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as internal standard.

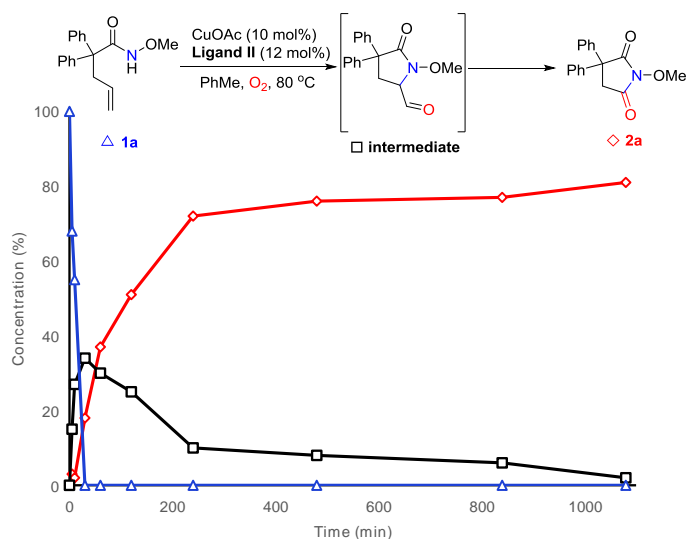


Figure S2. Kinetic profile of the reaction.

5) EPR spectra:

To get more information about the mechanism of this transformation, we also tried to catch some intermediates by EPR. EPR spectra were recorded at room temperature on a Bruker ESP-300E: Receiver Gain=1.00e+005; Phase=0deg; Harmonic=1; Mod. Frequency=100.000 KHz; Mod. Amplitude=1.944G; Center Field=3485.000G; Sweep width 100.000G; Resolution=1024 points; Conversion=40.960ms; Time const=20.480m; Sweep time=41.943s; Power=1.00e+001 mw. DMPO (5,5-dimethyl-1-pyrroline N-oxide) was employed as the radical trap.

When the reaction was carried out under the standard conditions (**1a**, CuOAc, ligand **II**, O₂ and DMPO) was recorded for the EPR spectra, the signals corresponding to (DMPO–O(H)) can be obviously identified, which are classical four peaks (**Fig. S3**). The hydroxyl radical maybe derived from a superoxide compound according to our previous report.¹²

When the reaction was carried out without ligand **II** (bathocuproine), complex signals of organic radical were detected (**Fig. S4**). Which indicate that a series of side effects were occurred in the reaction, and only 13% yield of the desired product could be obtained under this condition.

Furthermore, Cu^{II} complex signal were also detected by EPR in the reaction under standard conditions (**Fig. S5**). Meanwhile, the signal of nitrogen radicals was not detected, which demonstrate that this reaction was not going through the process of nitrogen radicals, but a kind of alkyl–metal intermediates.

In addition, there were no radical signals detected when the reaction was carried out under Ar (1 atm) (**Fig. S6**), which proves that molecular oxygen is very important for the initiate of this radical process.

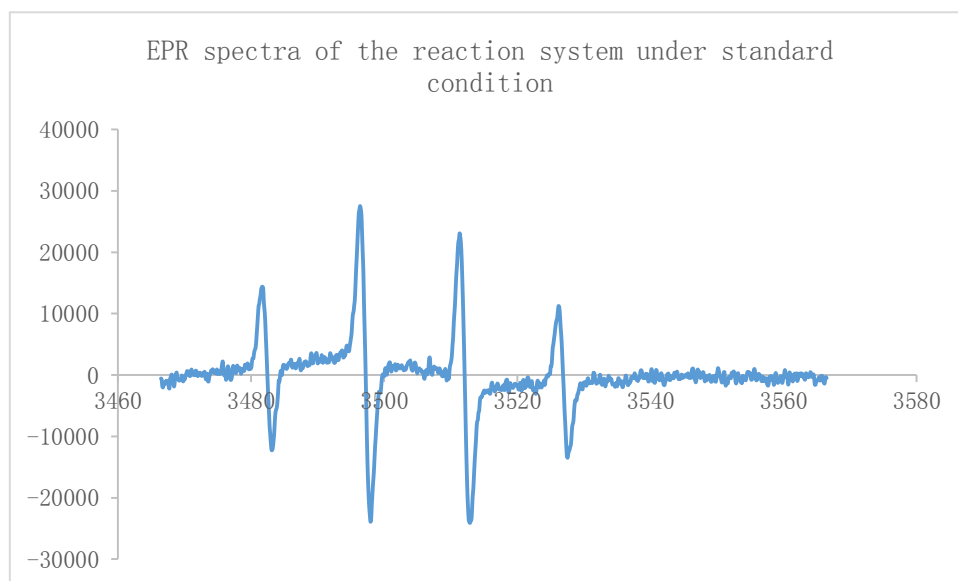


Figure S3. EPR spectra of reaction system: **1a** (0.2 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol), ligand **II** (0.024 mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL), stirred at 80 °C under O₂ (1 atm), 1.5 h. 0.01 mL of this reaction solution was taken out into a small tube, followed by the addition of 0.01 mL DMPO (5*10⁻² M). Then, this mixture was analyzed by EPR. There are classical 4 peaks the signals corresponding to (DMPO–O(H)).

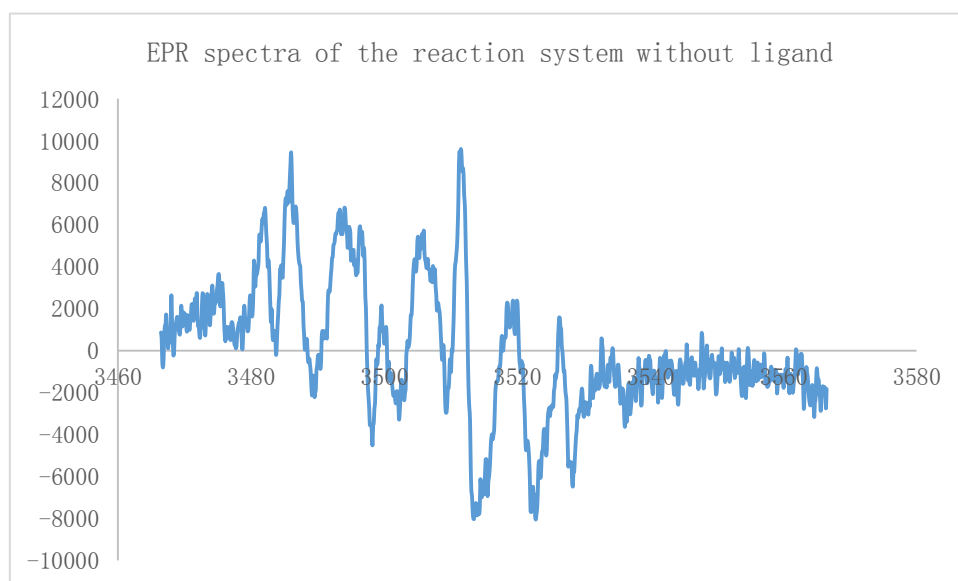


Figure S4. EPR spectra of reaction system: **1a** (0.2 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL), stirred at 80 °C under O₂ (1 atm), 0.25 h. 0.01 mL of this reaction solution was taken out into a small tube, followed by the addition of 0.01 mL DMPO (5*10⁻² M). Then, this mixture was analyzed by EPR.

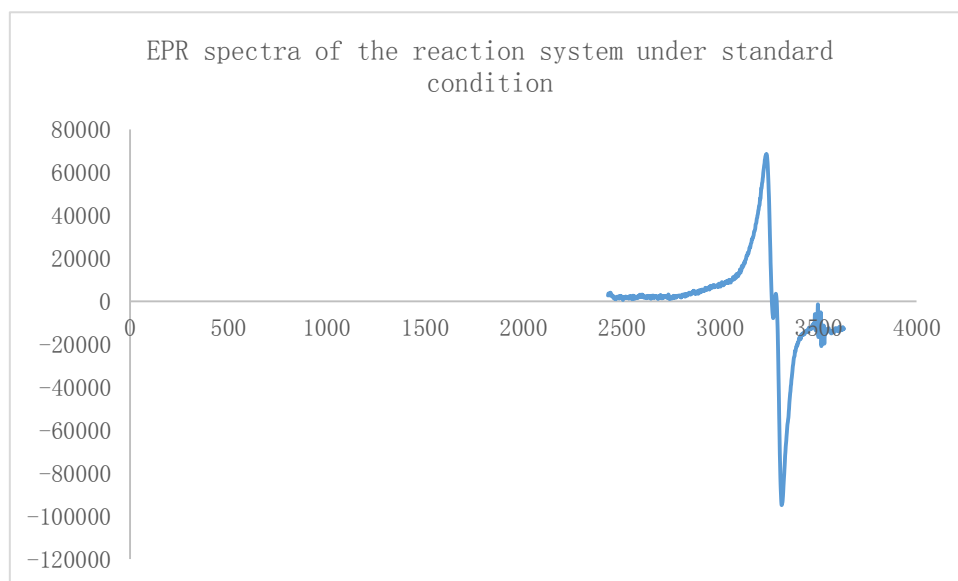


Figure S5. EPR spectra of reaction system: **1a** (0.2 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol), ligand **II** (0.024 mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL), stirred at 80 °C under O₂ (1 atm), 5 min. 0.01 mL of this reaction solution was taken out into a small tube, followed by the addition of 0.01 mL DMPO (5*10⁻² M). Then, this mixture was analyzed by EPR.

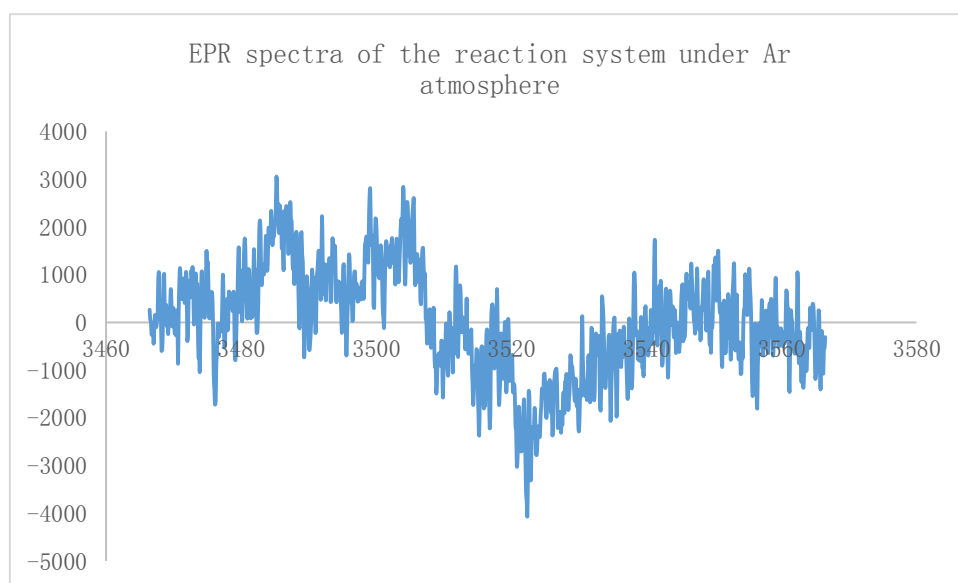


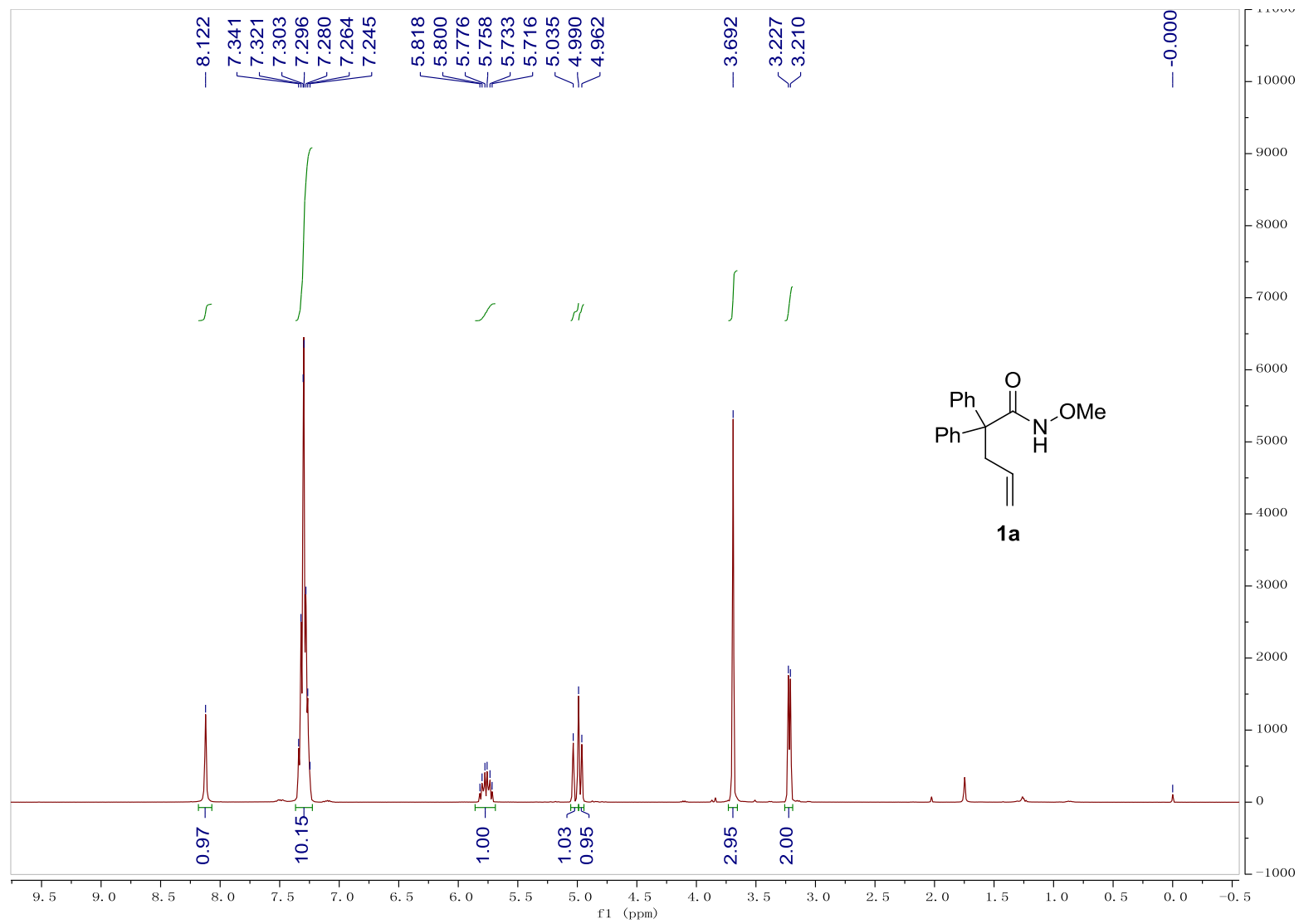
Figure S6. EPR spectra of reaction system: **1a** (0.2 mmol), CuOAc (0.02 mmol), ligand **II** (0.024 mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL), stirred at 80 °C under Ar (1 atm), 0.5 h. 0.01 mL of this reaction solution was taken out into a small tube, followed by the addition of 0.01 mL DMPO (5*10⁻² M). Then, this mixture was analyzed by EPR.

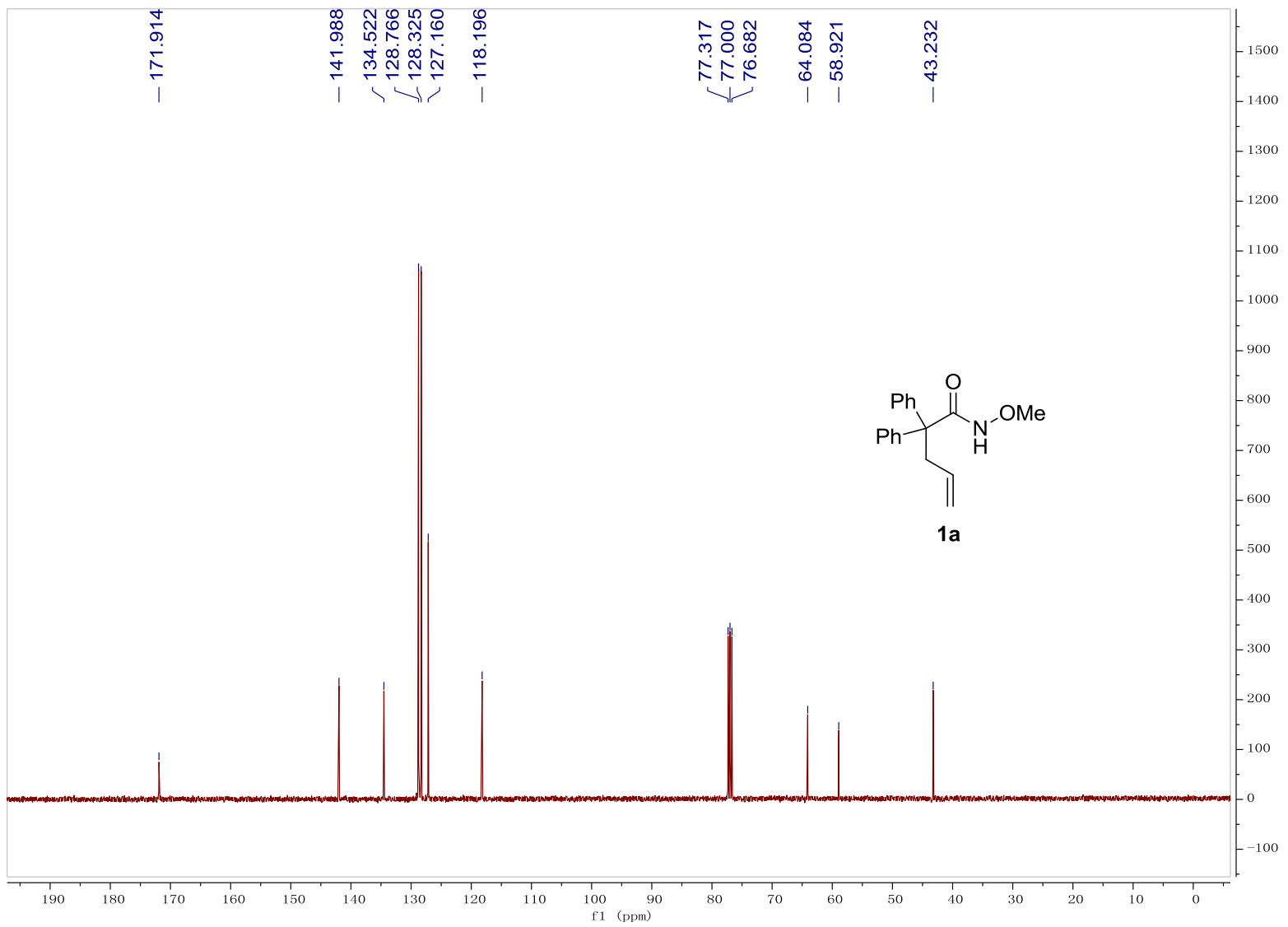
H. References:

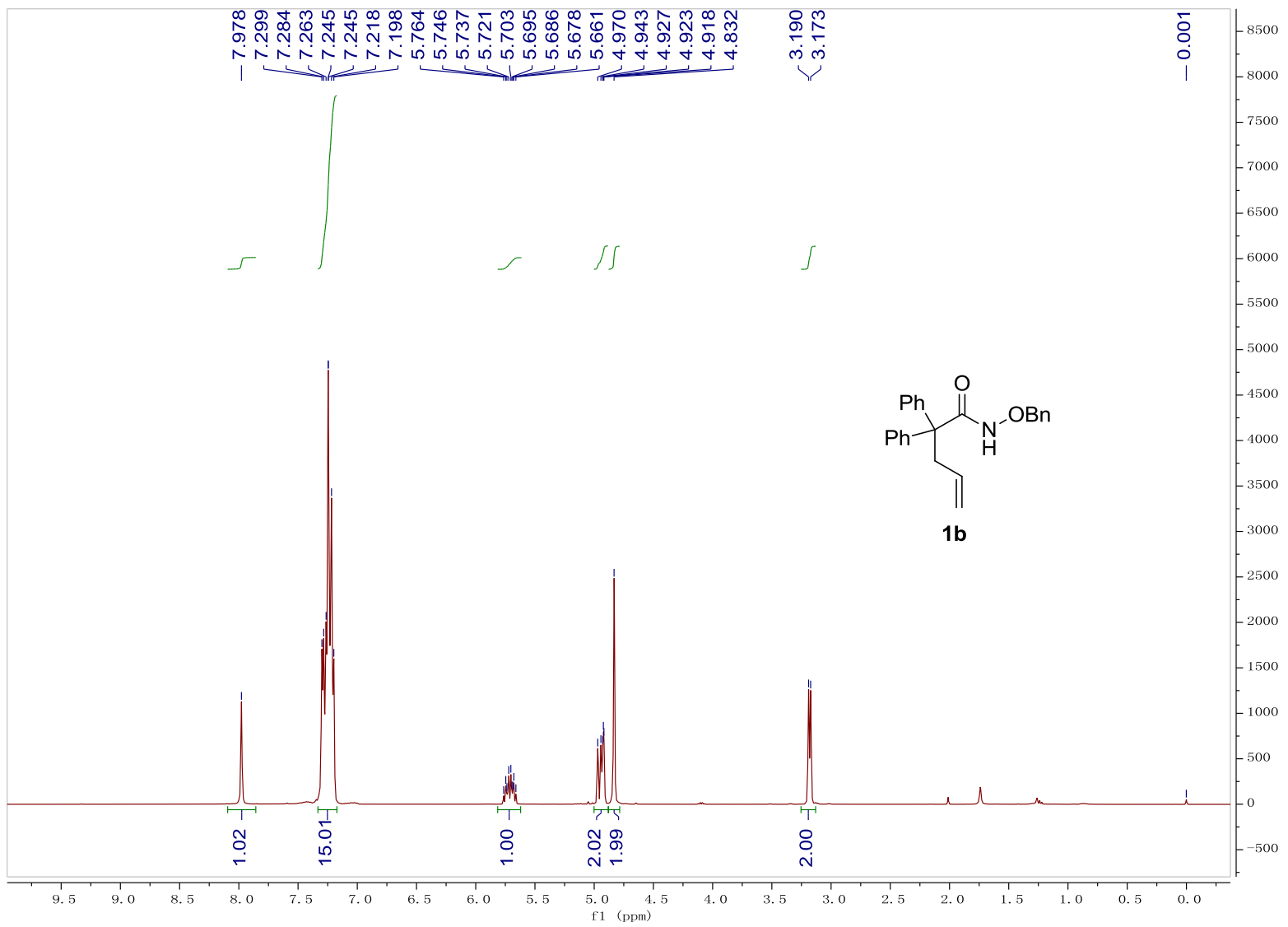
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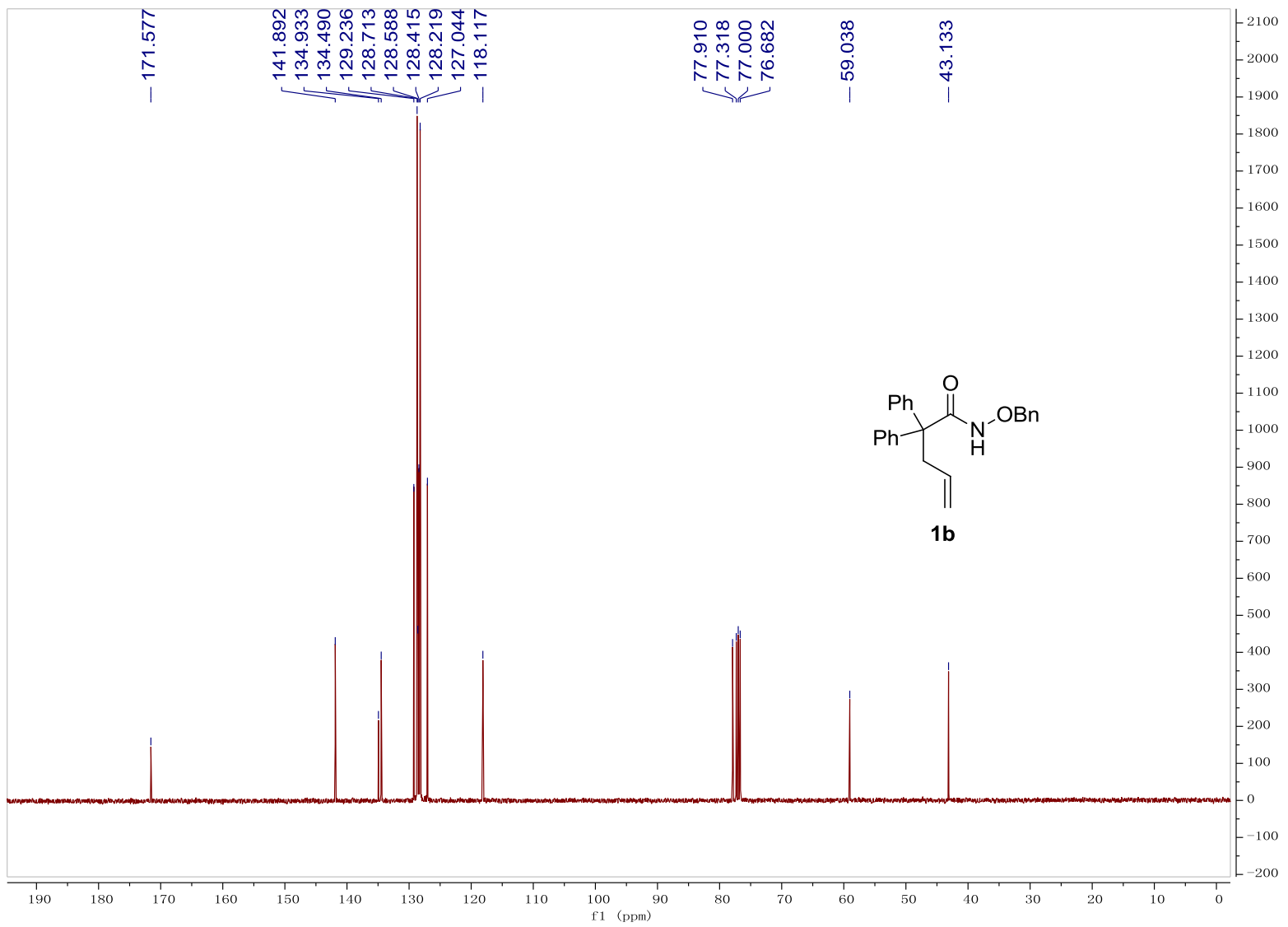
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I. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra

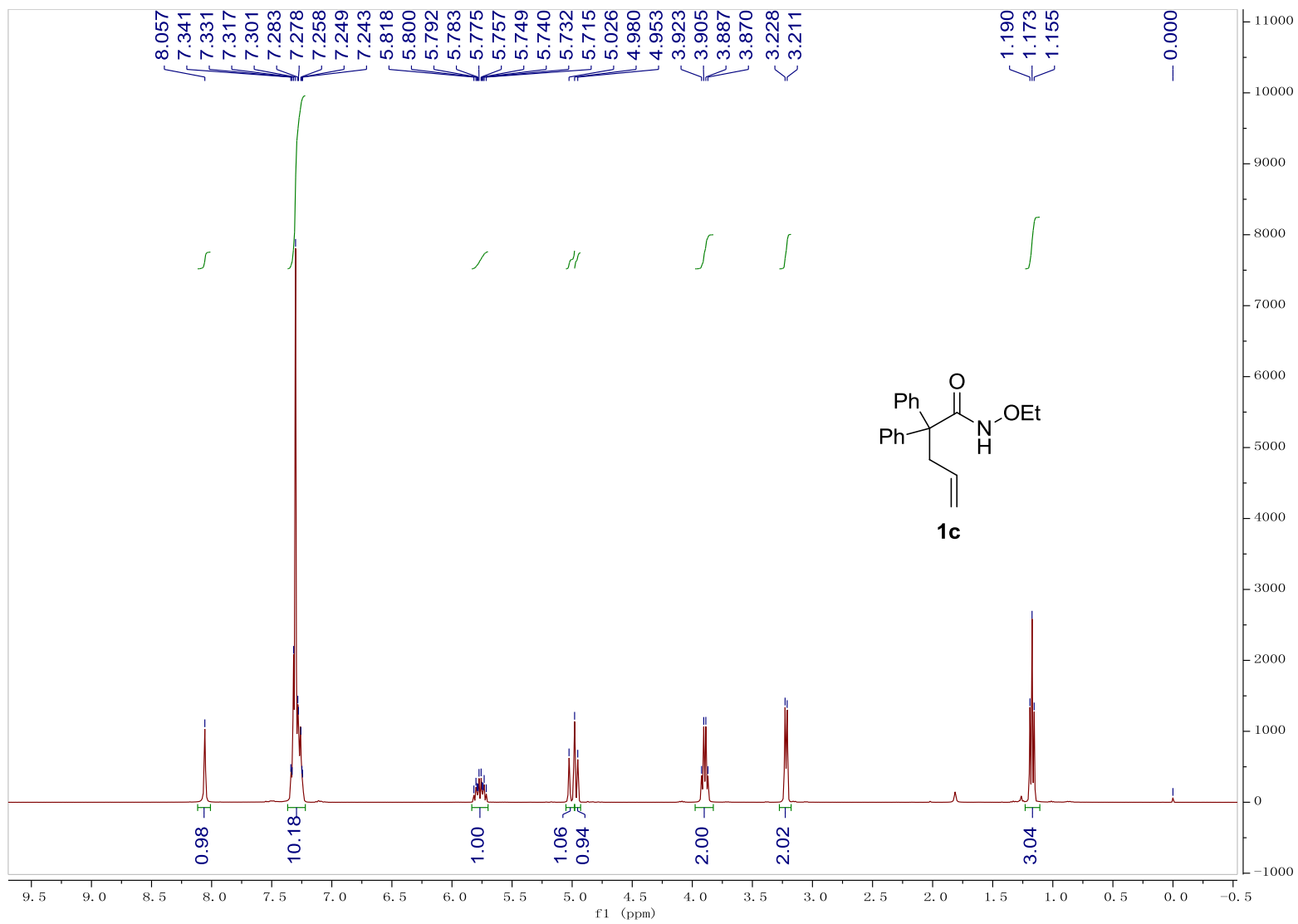


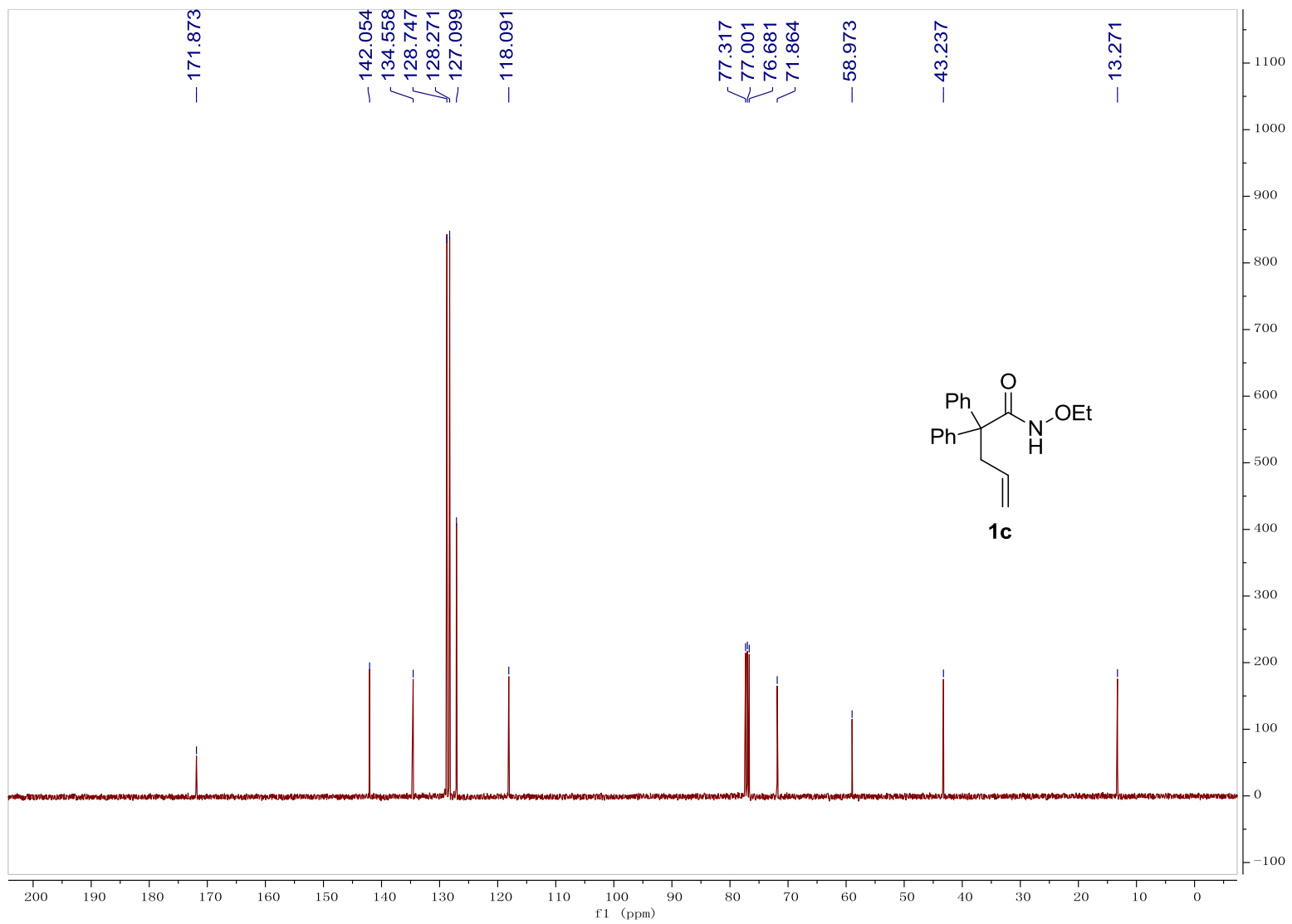


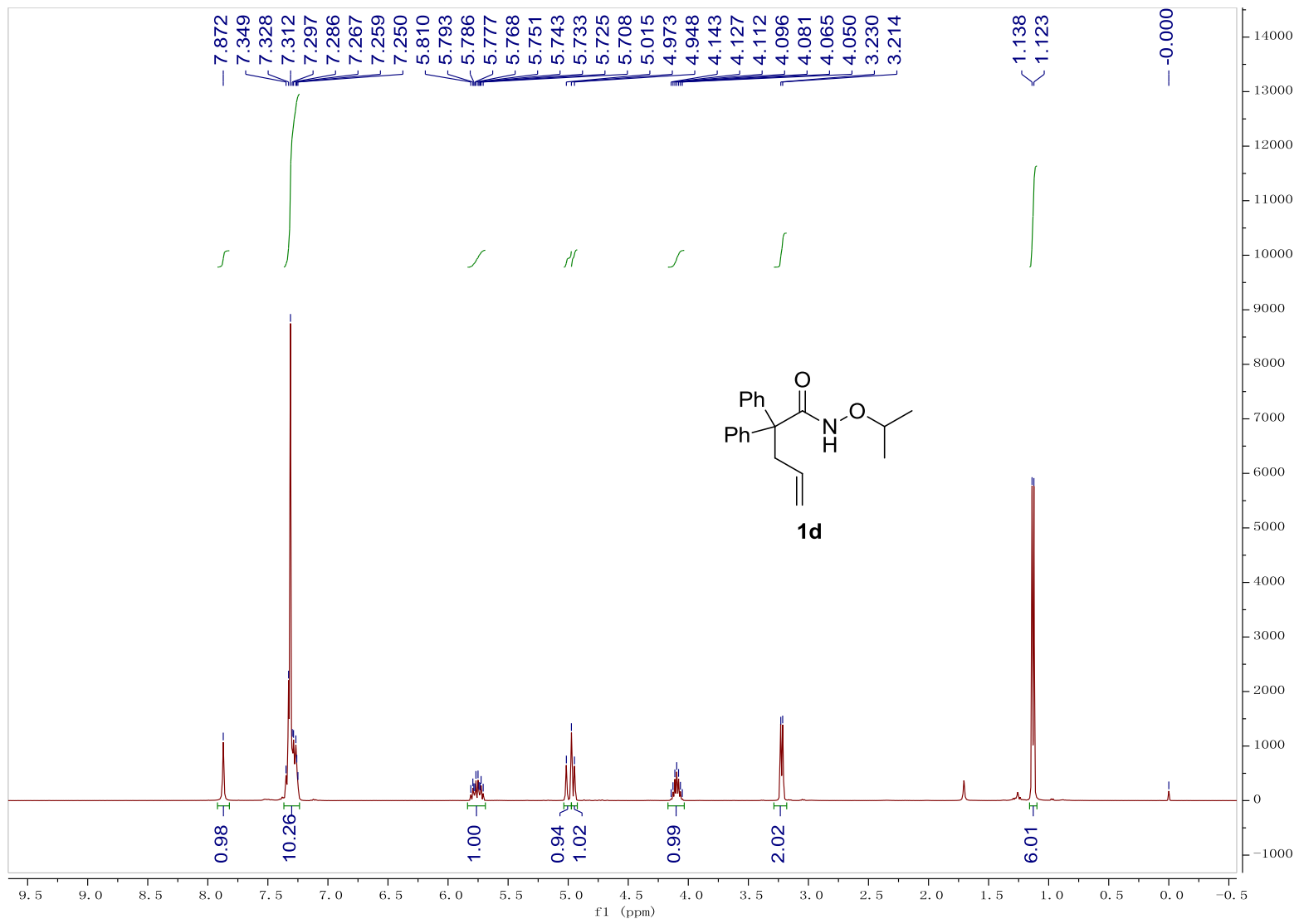


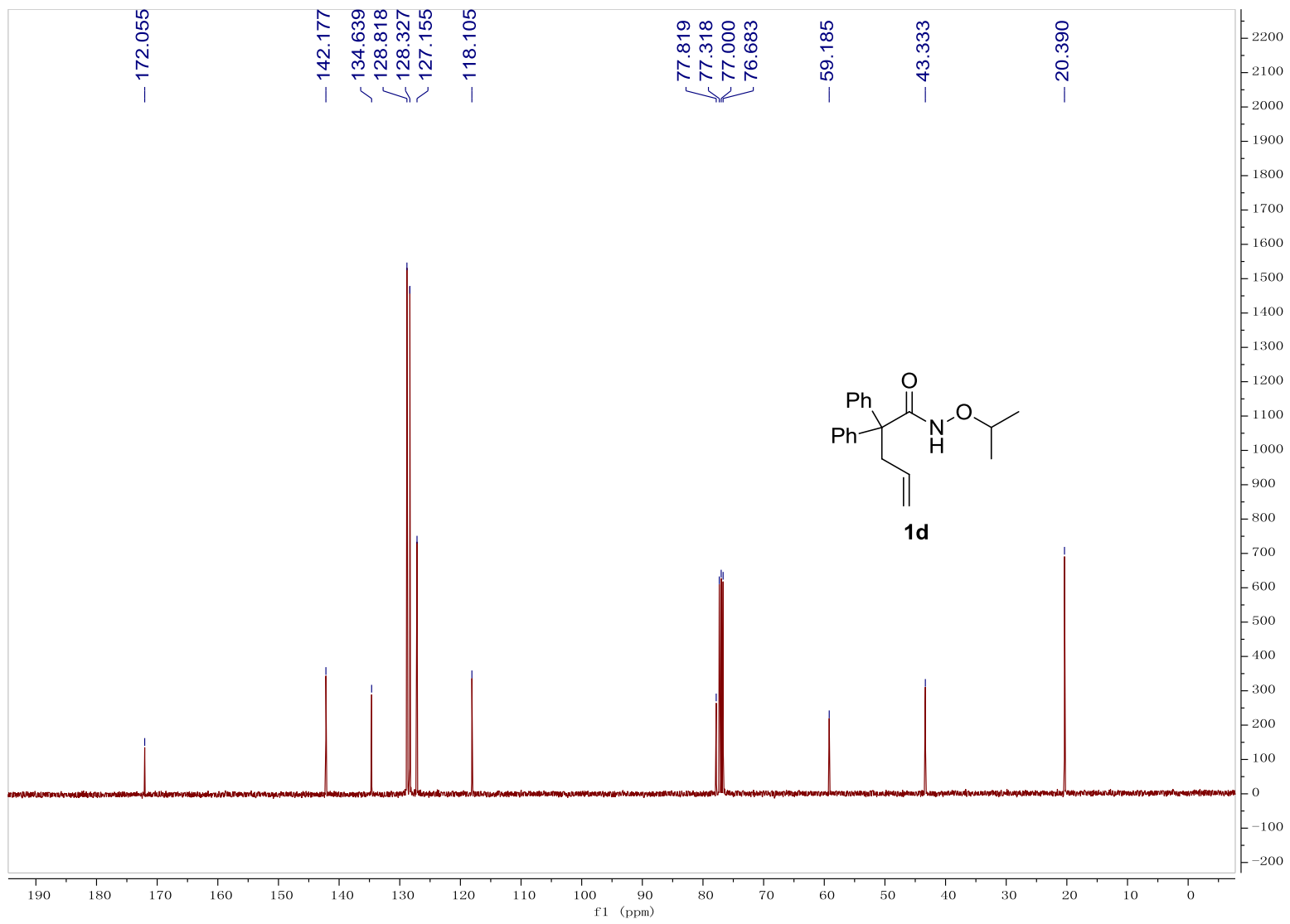


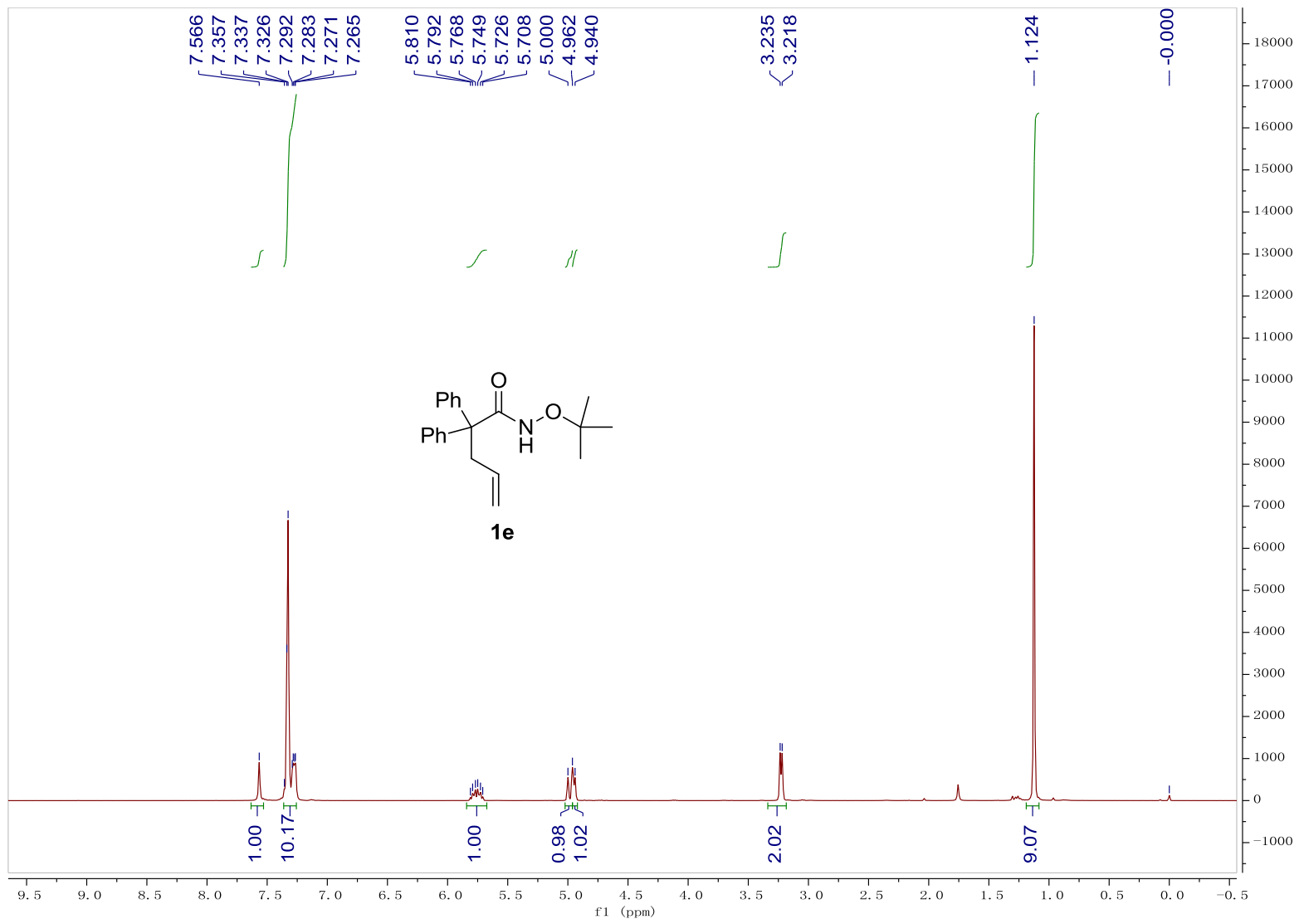
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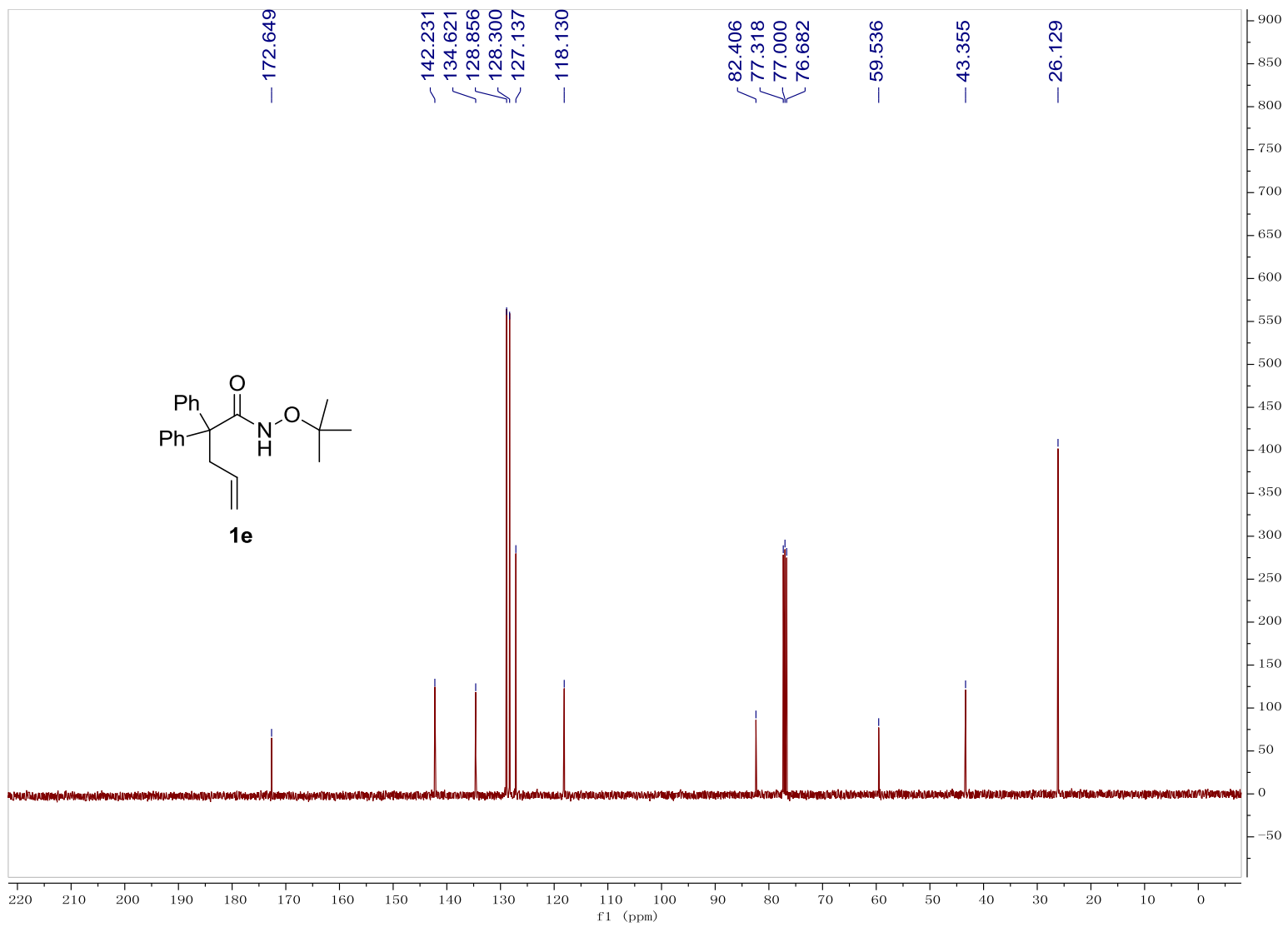


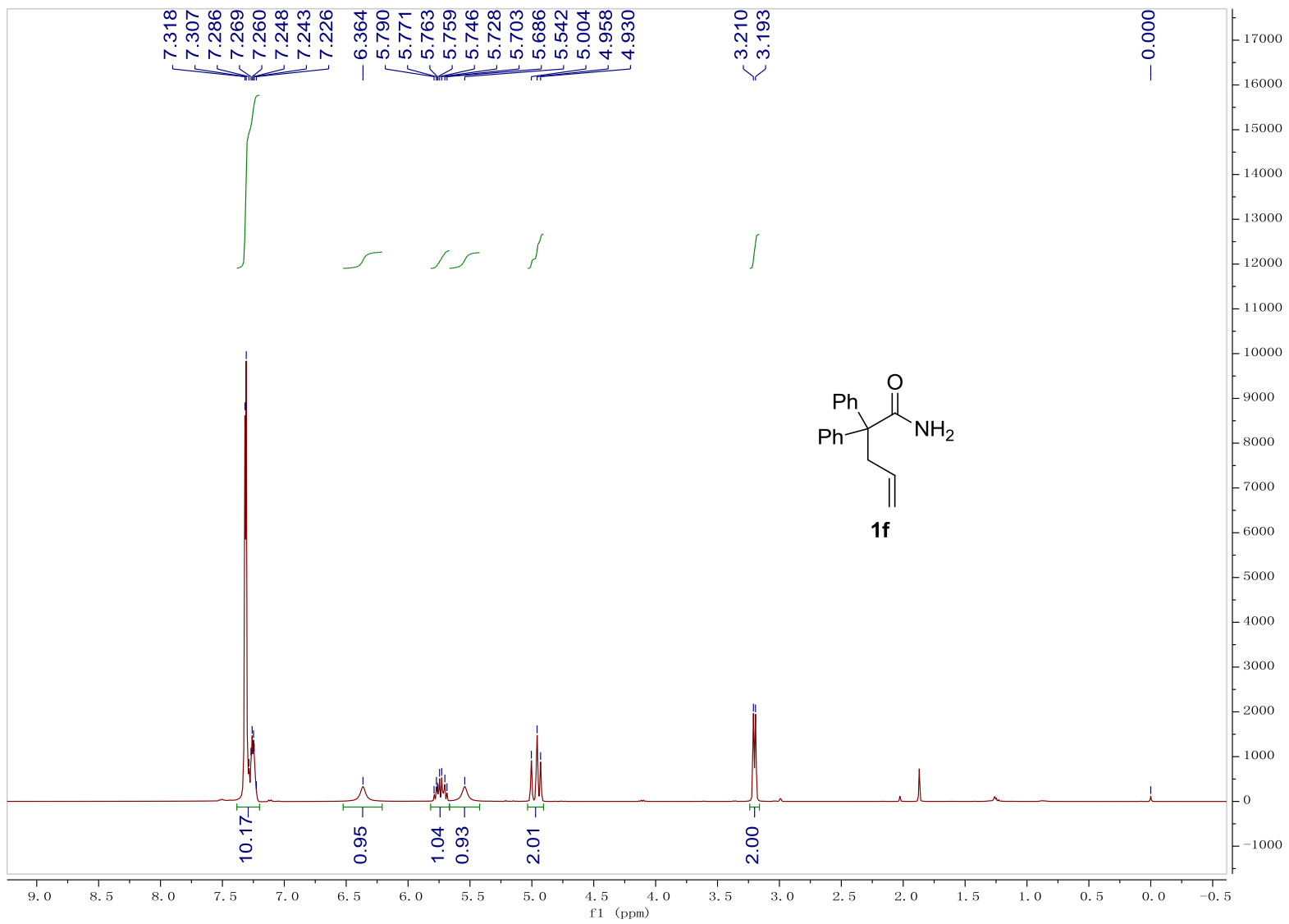


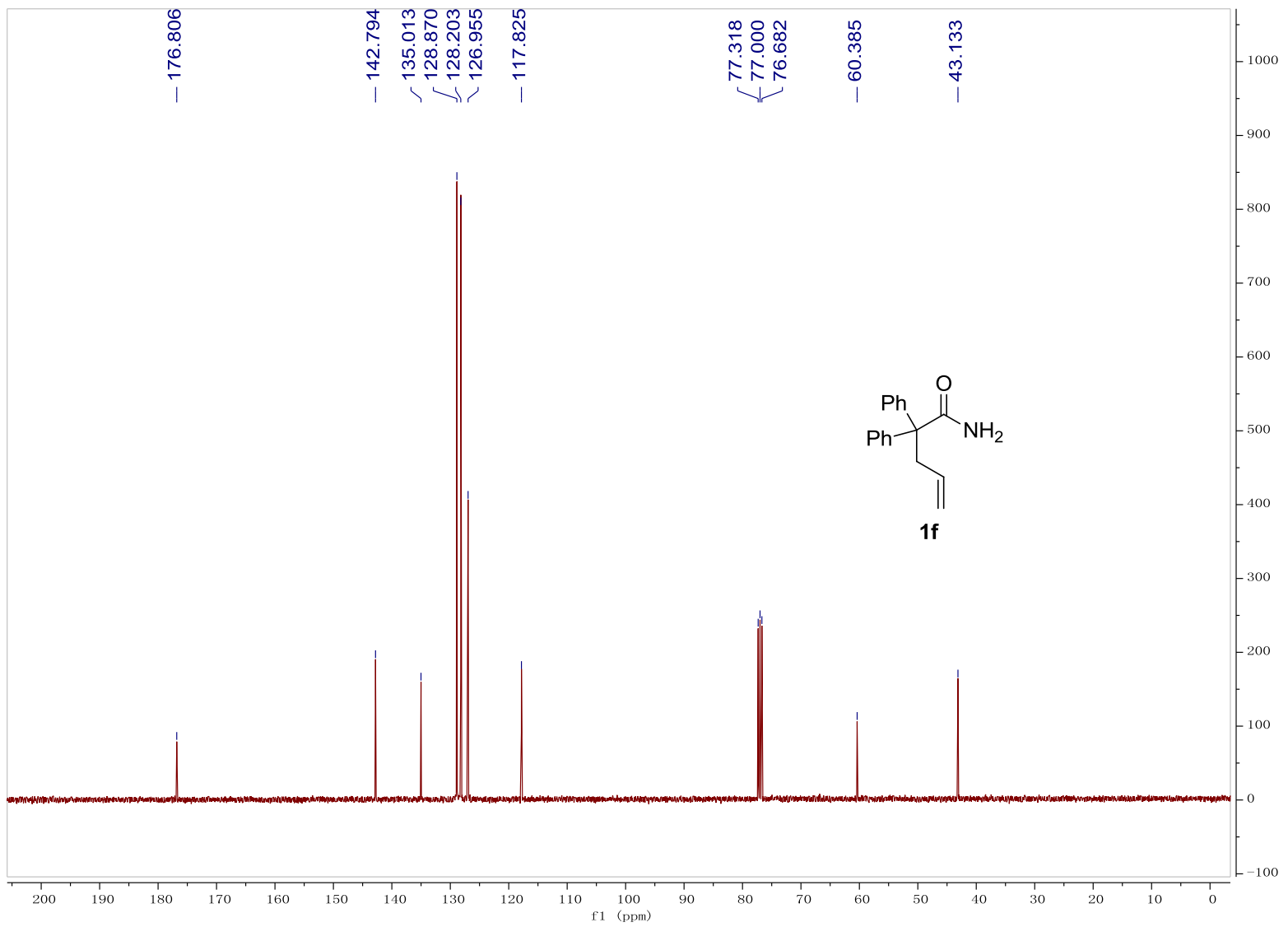


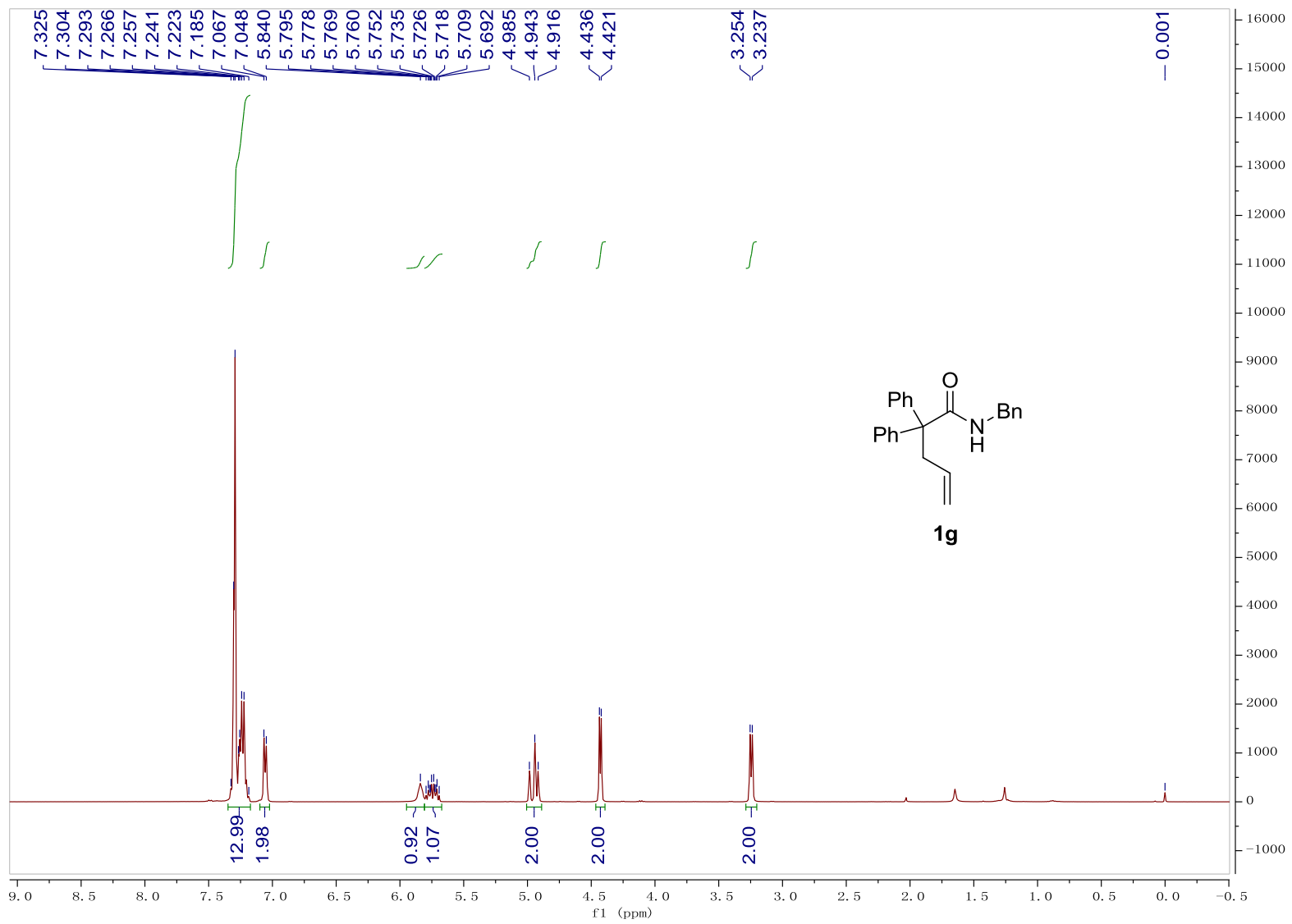


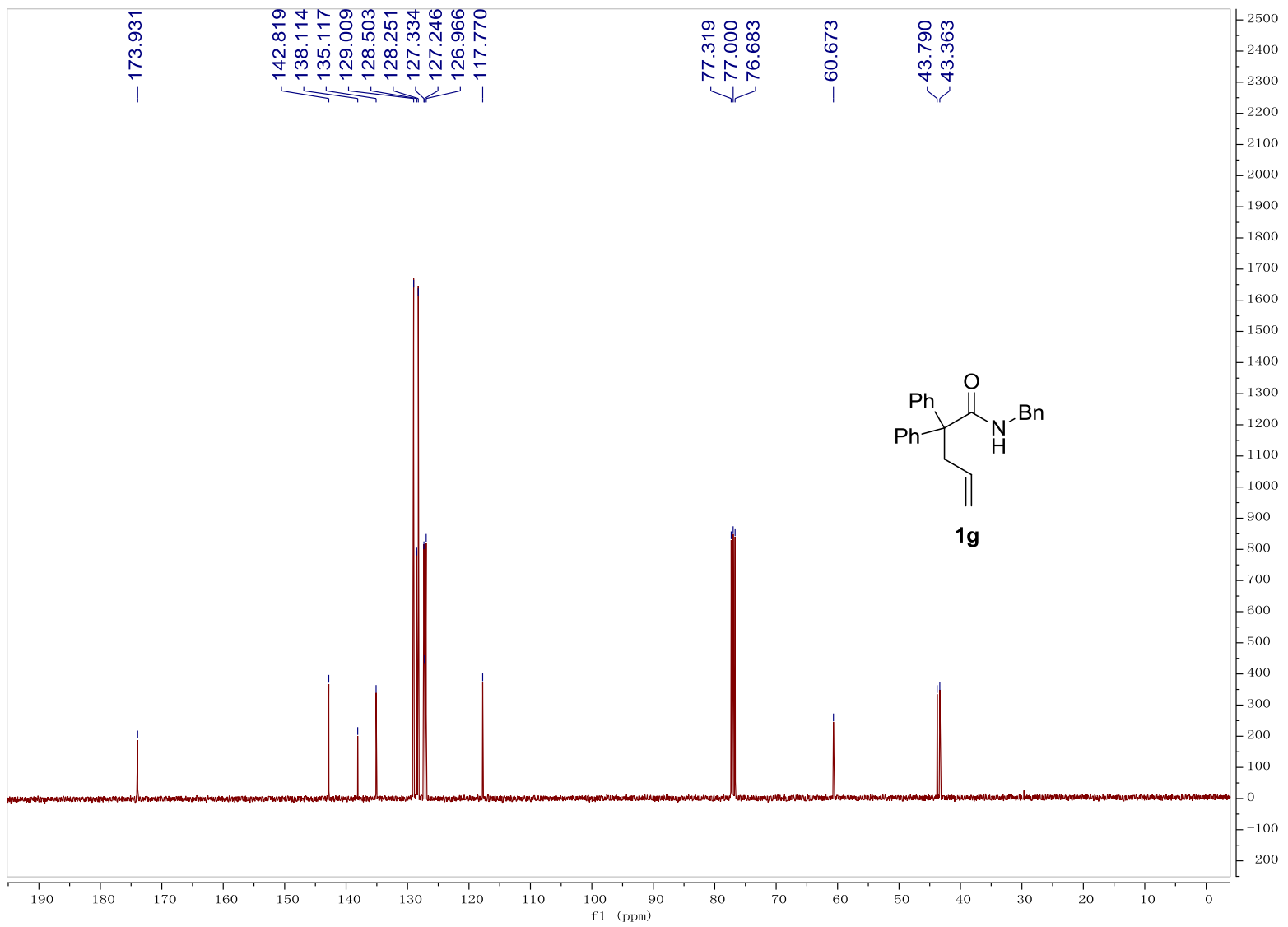


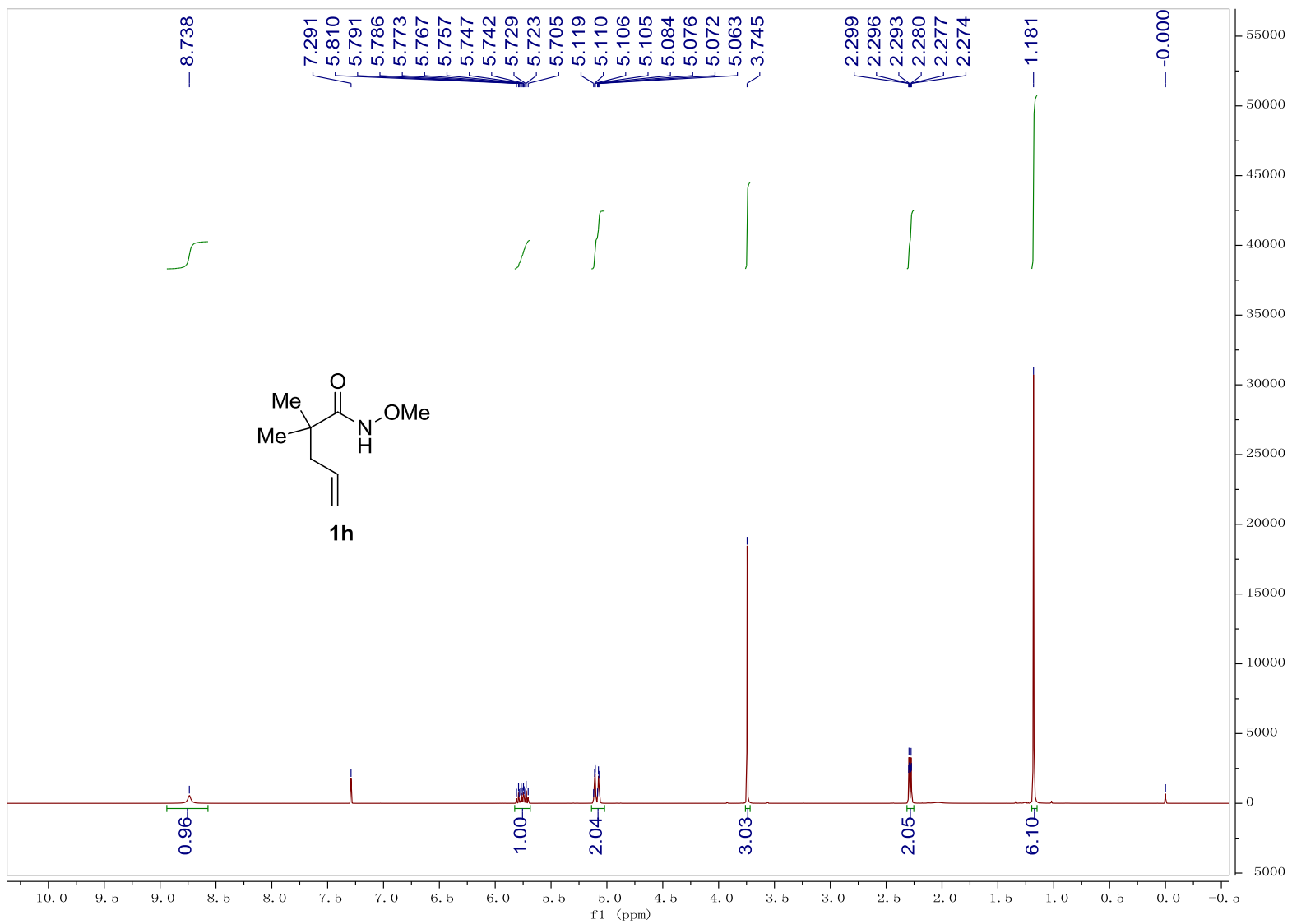


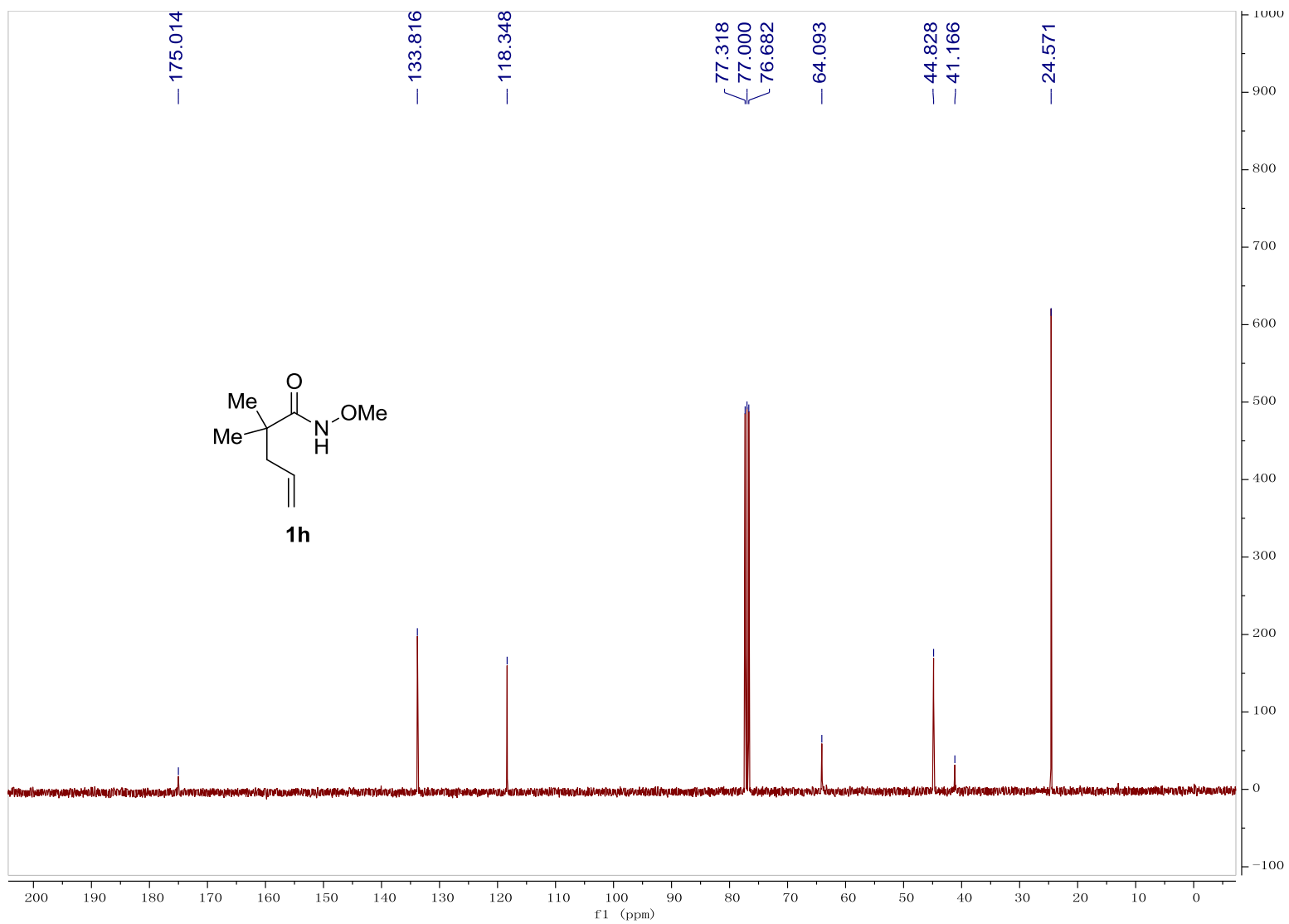


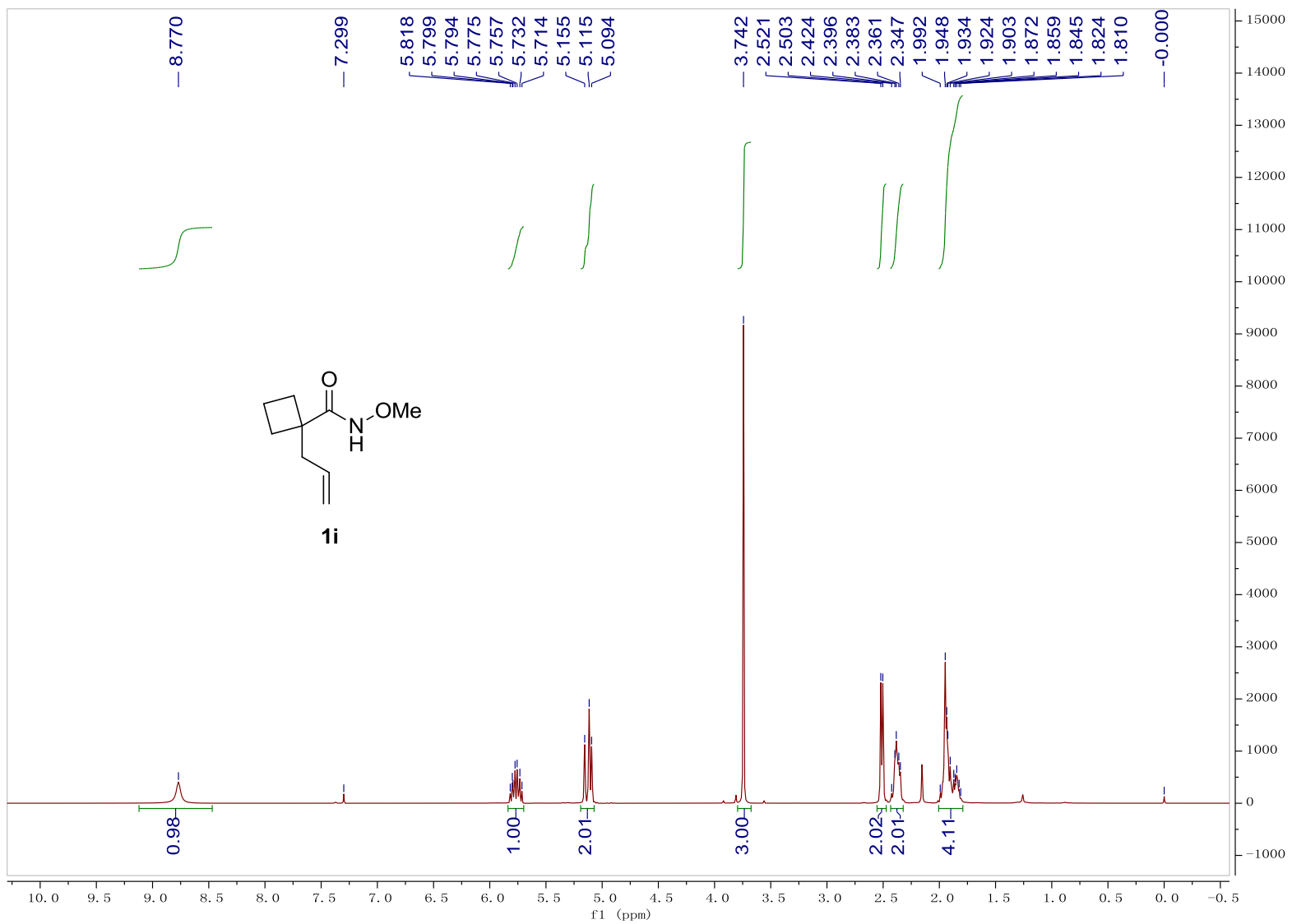


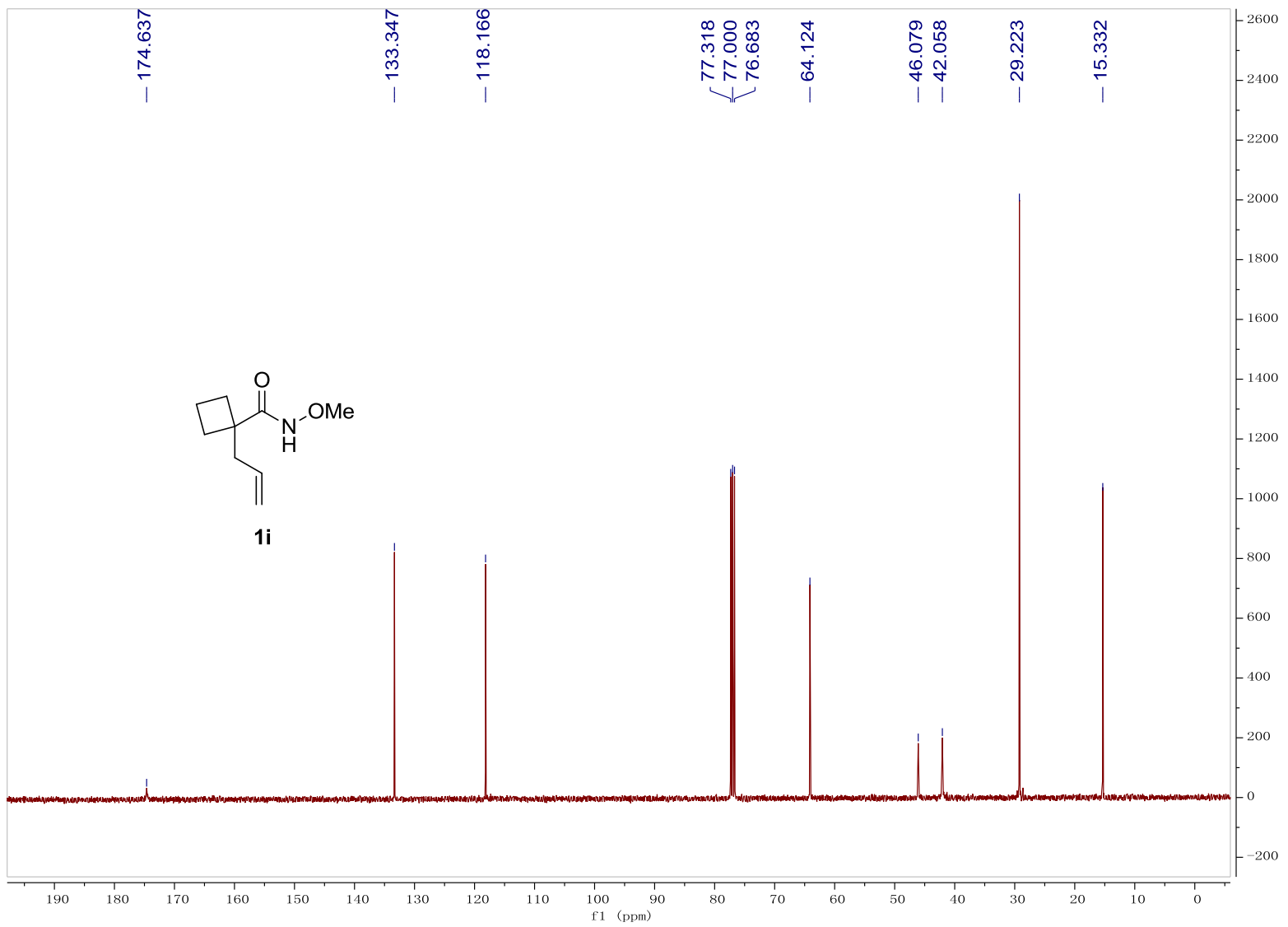


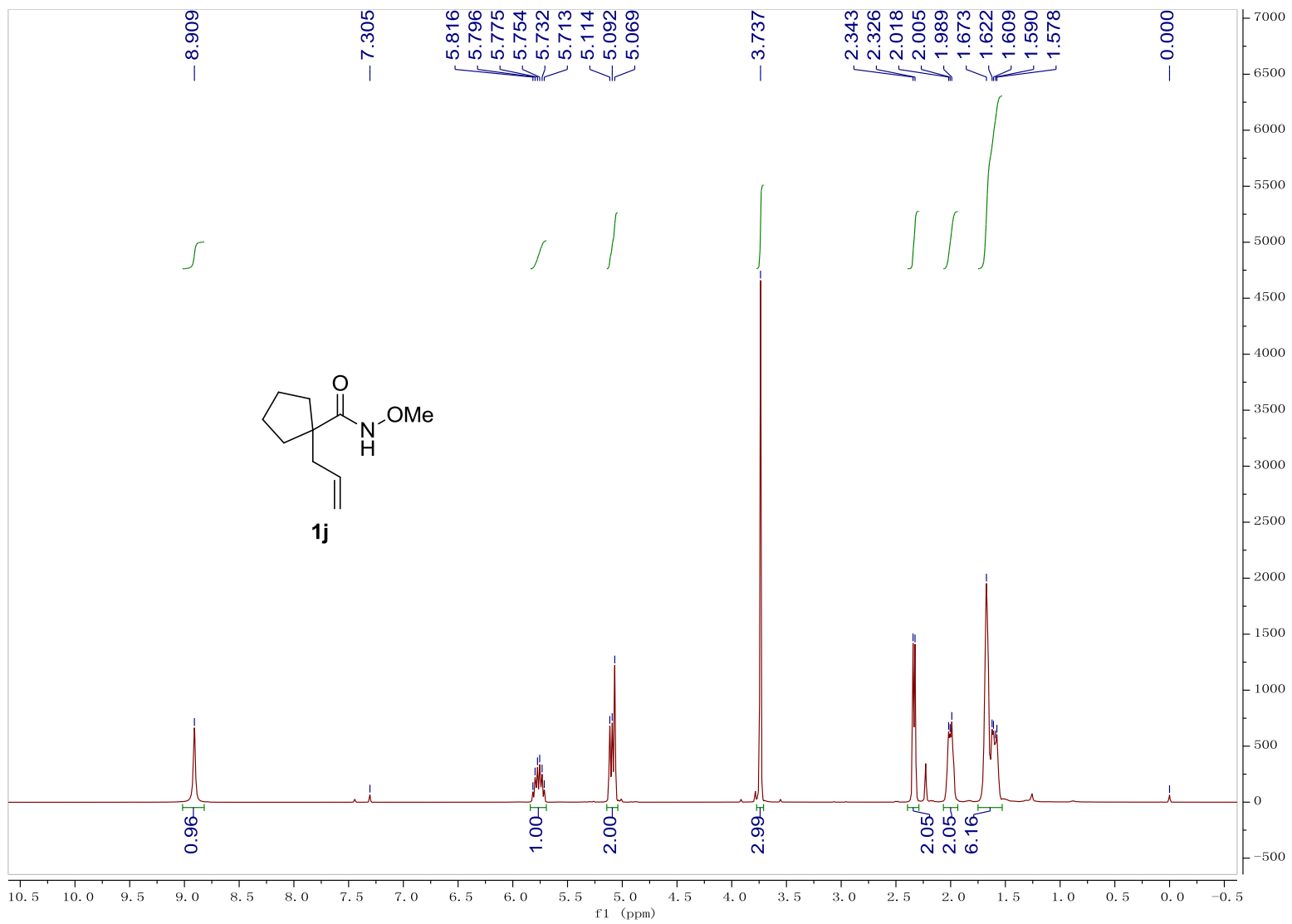


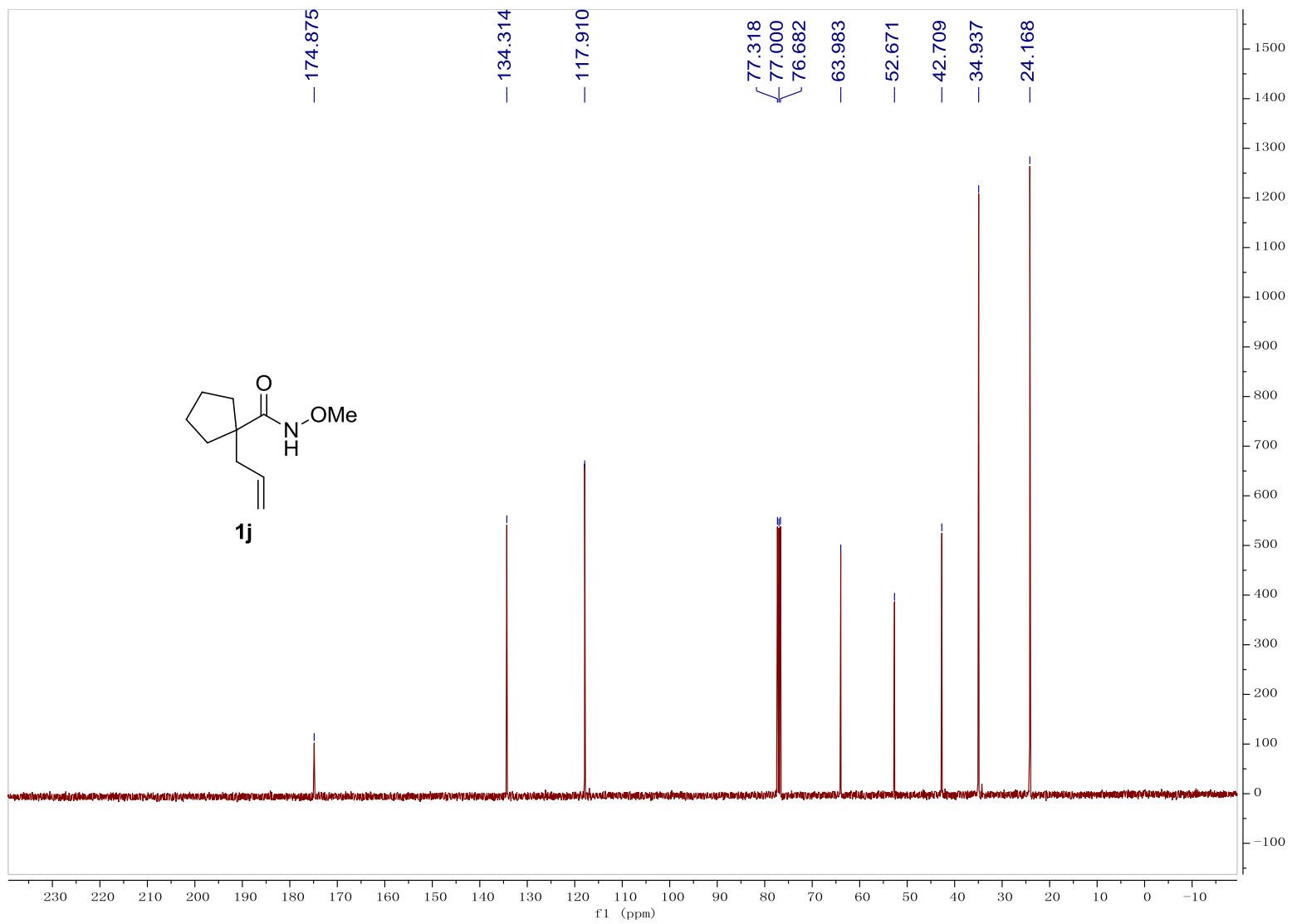


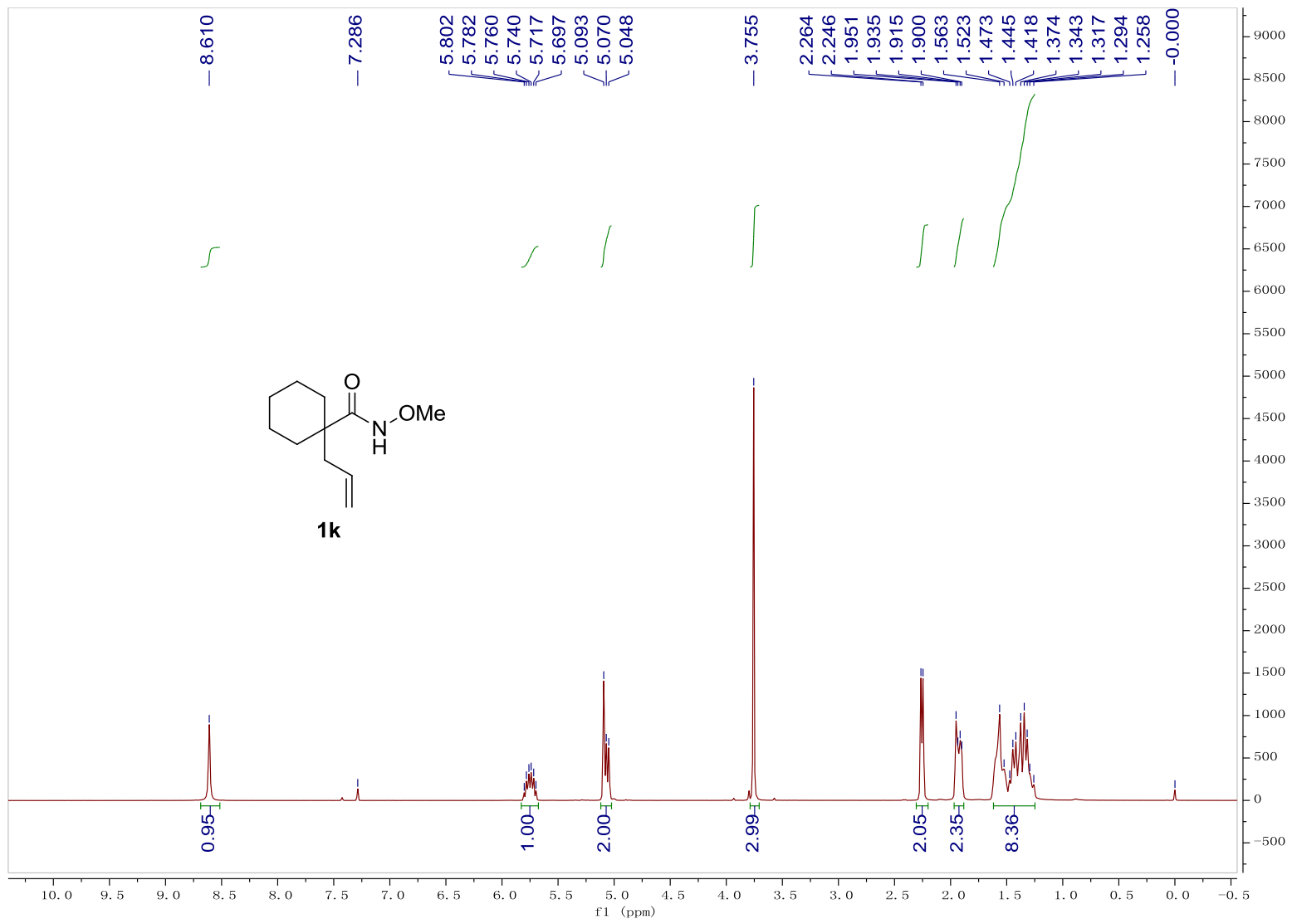


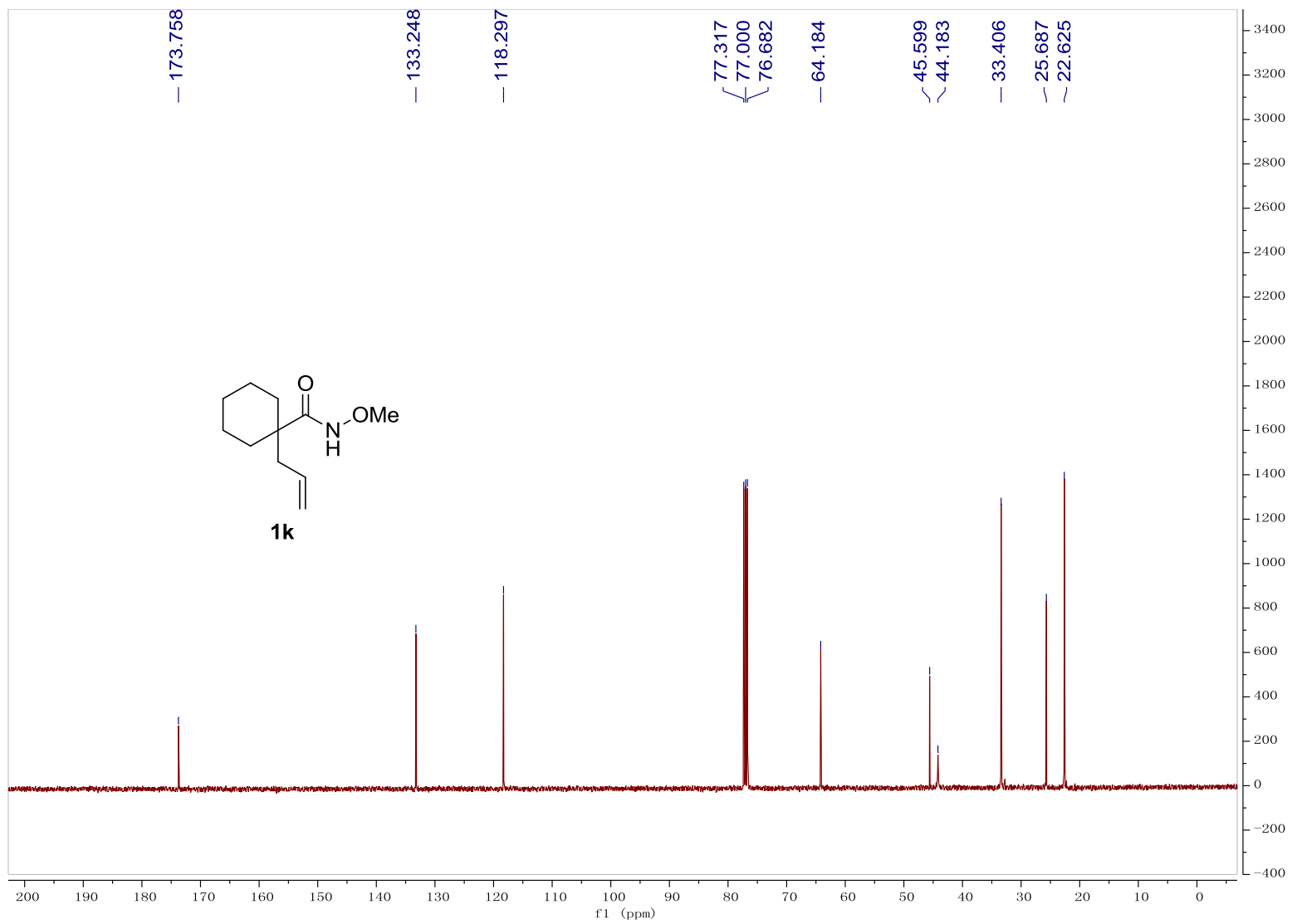


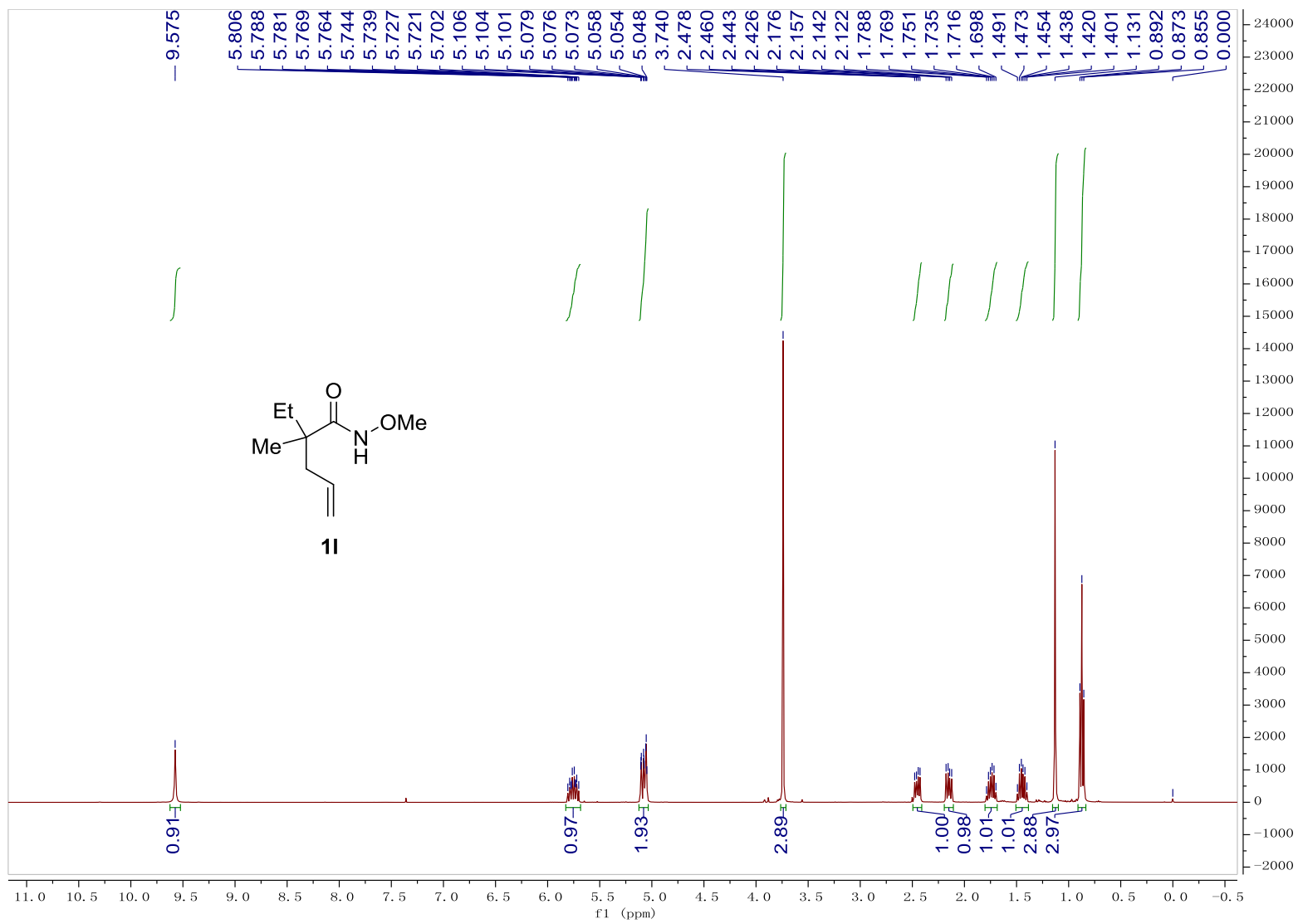


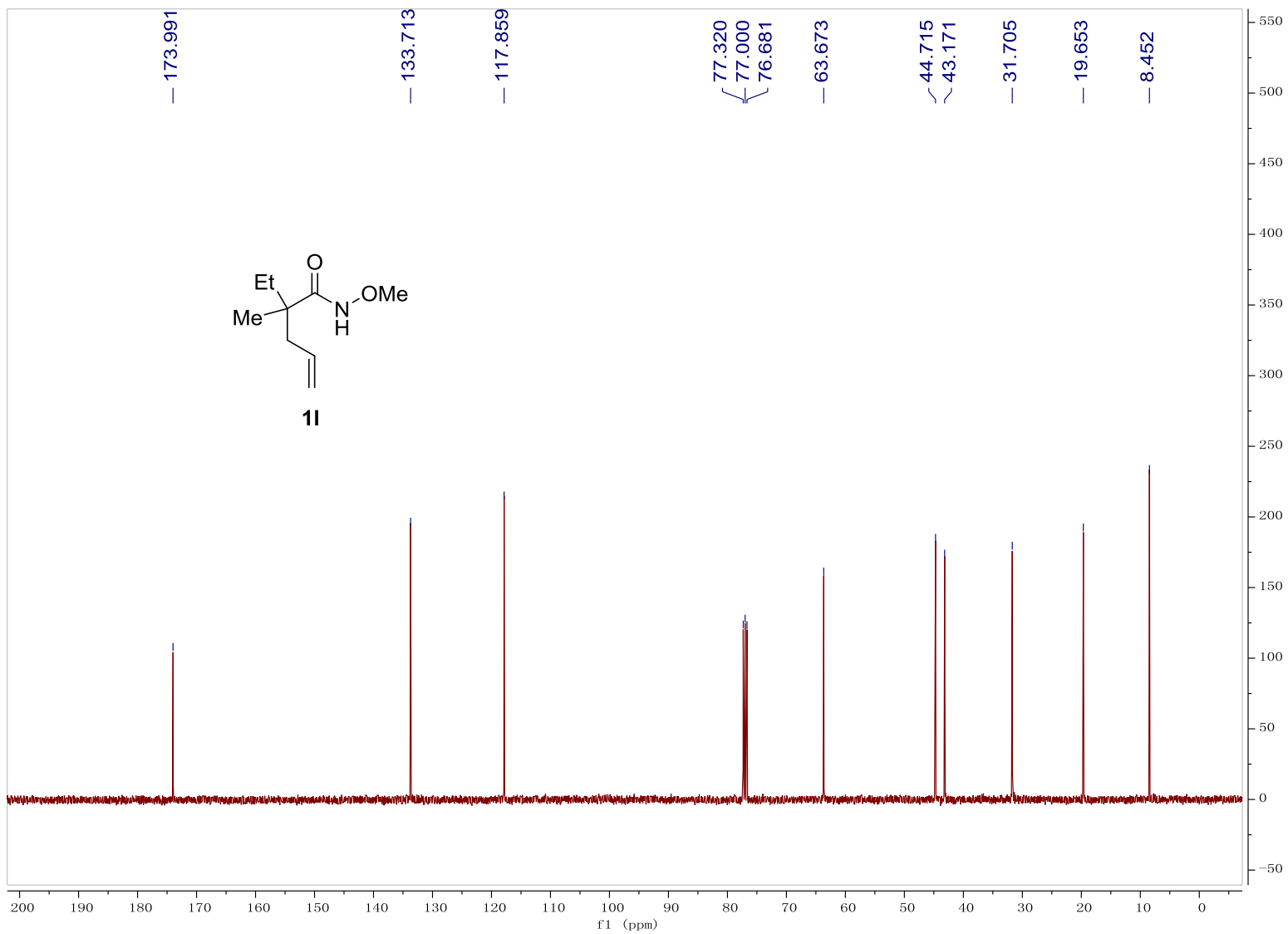


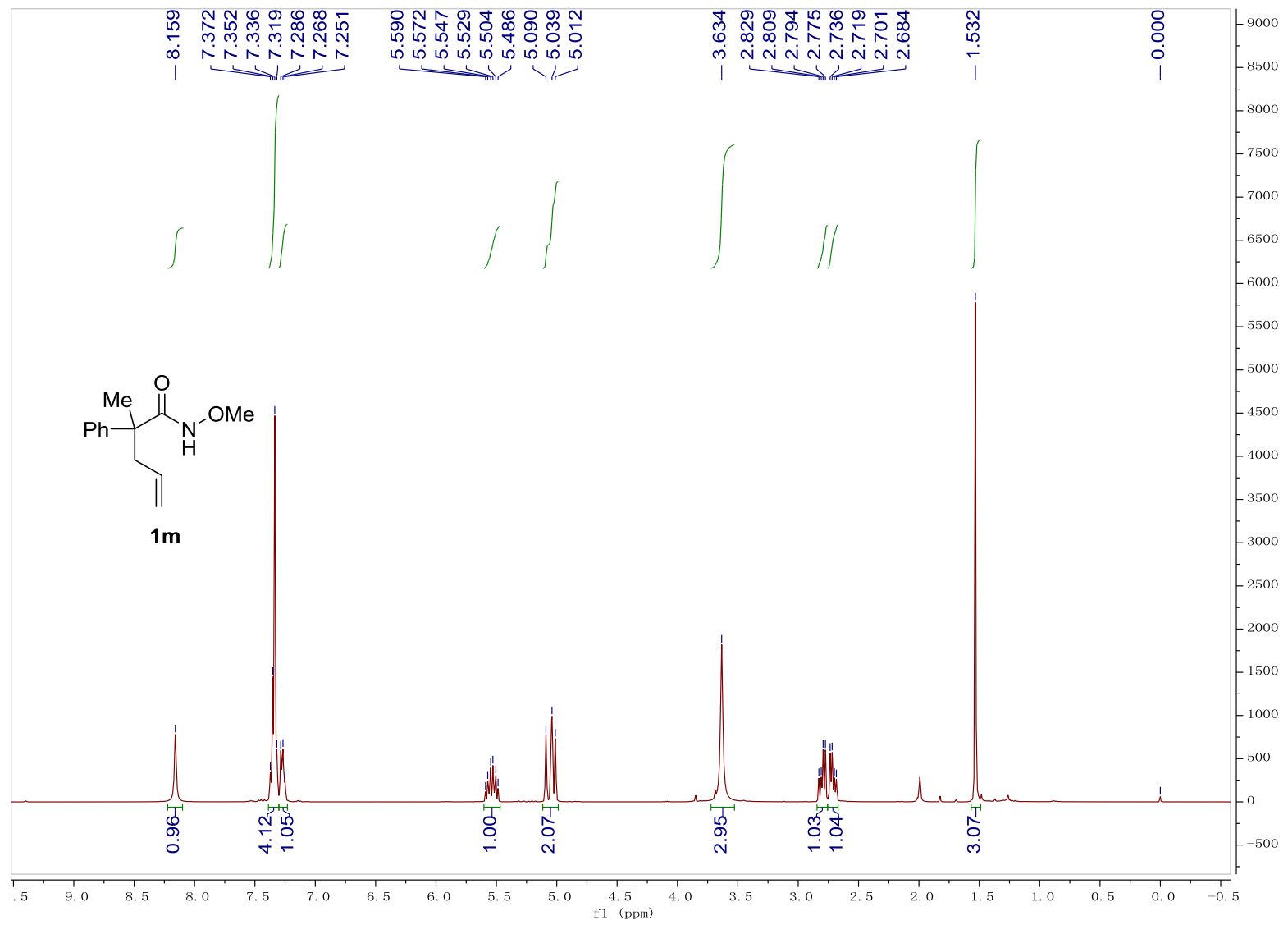


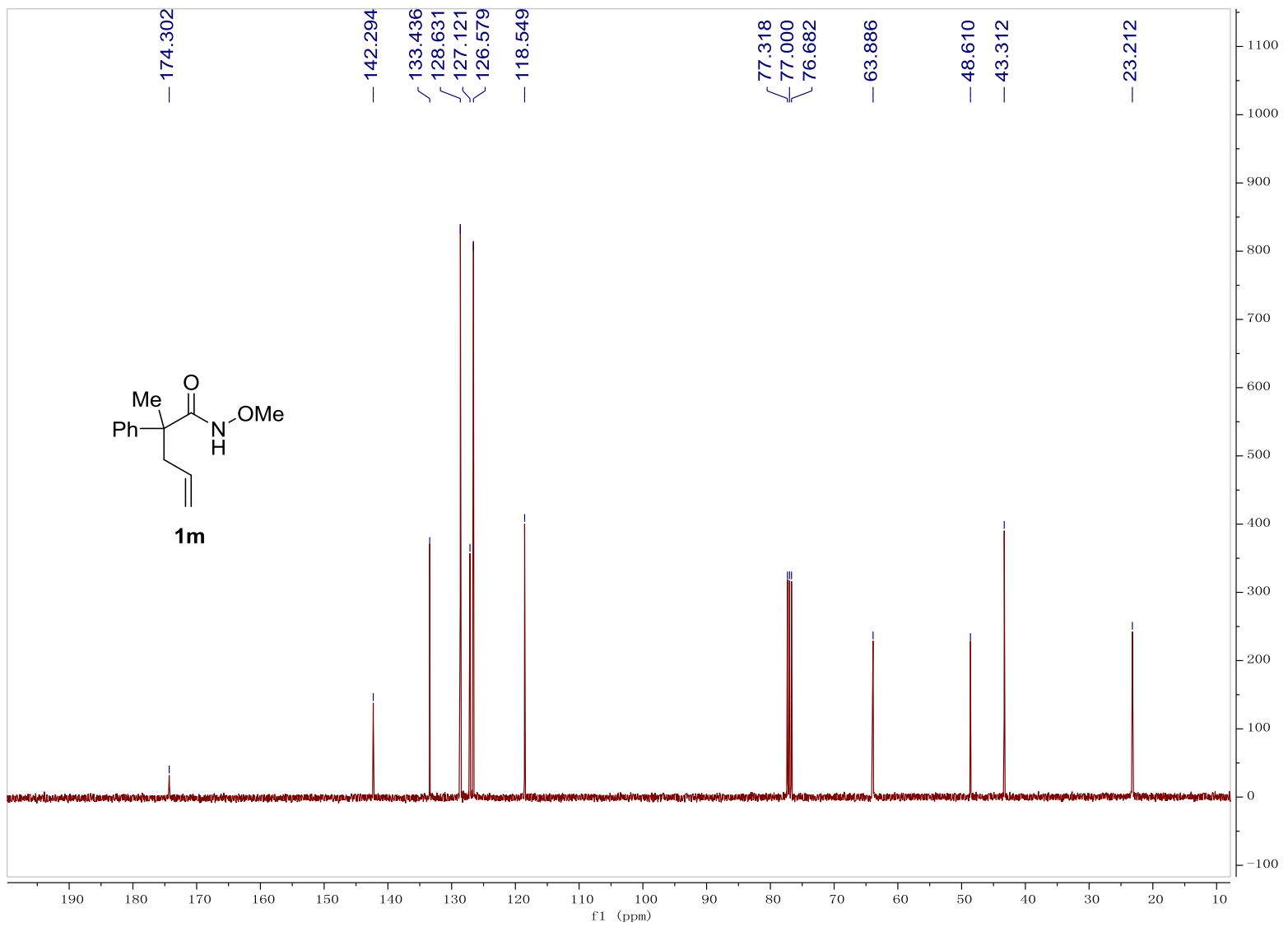


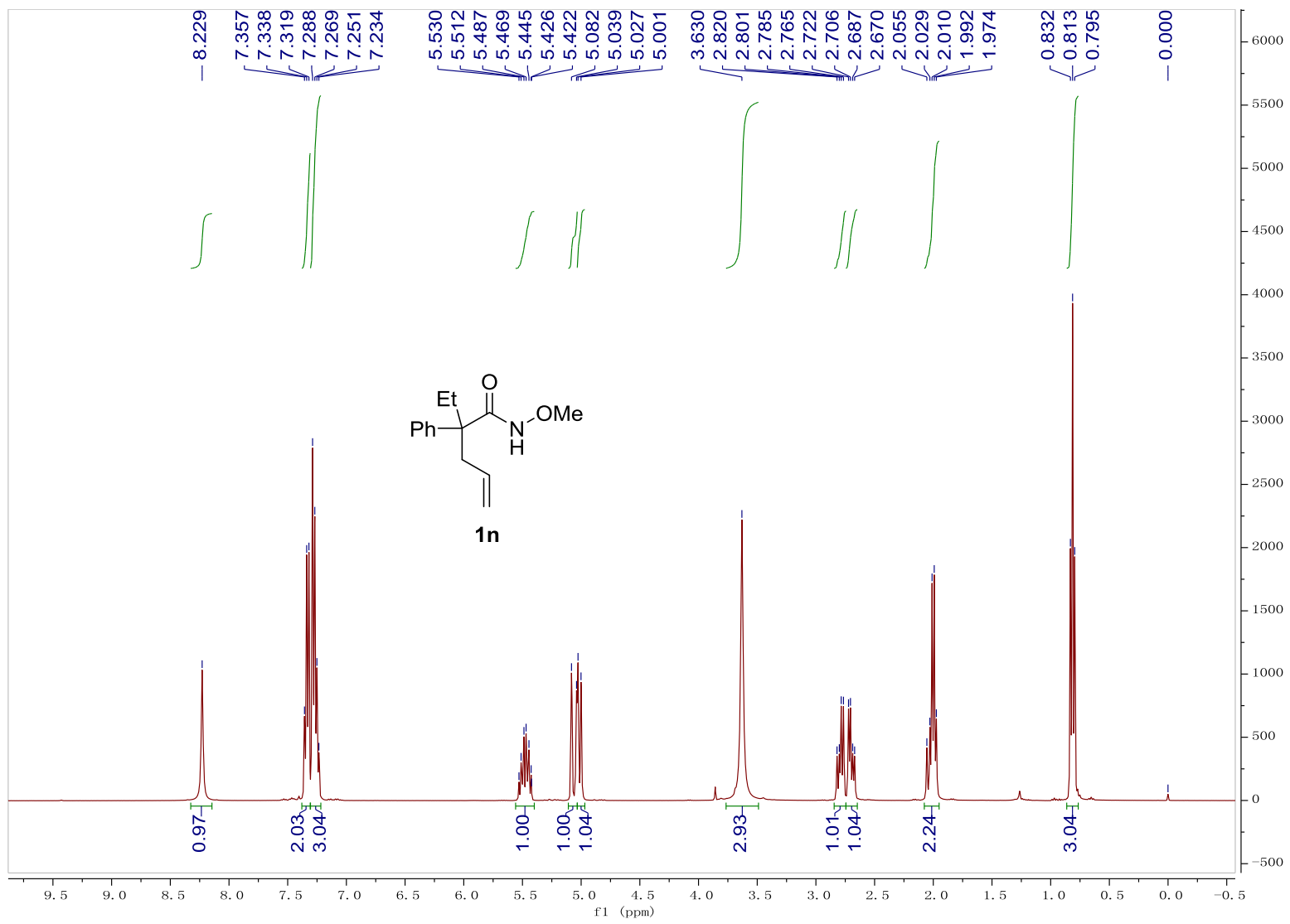


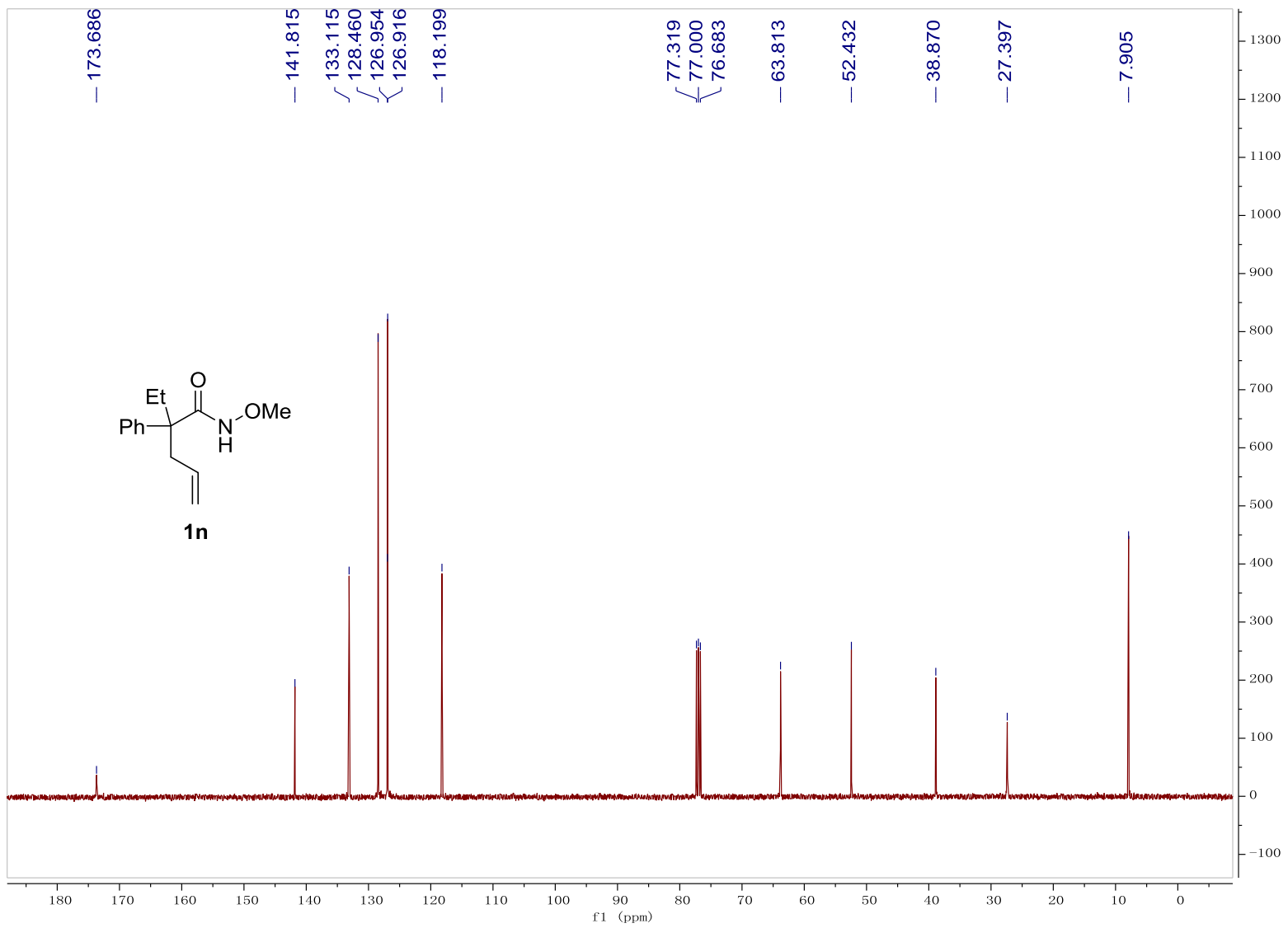


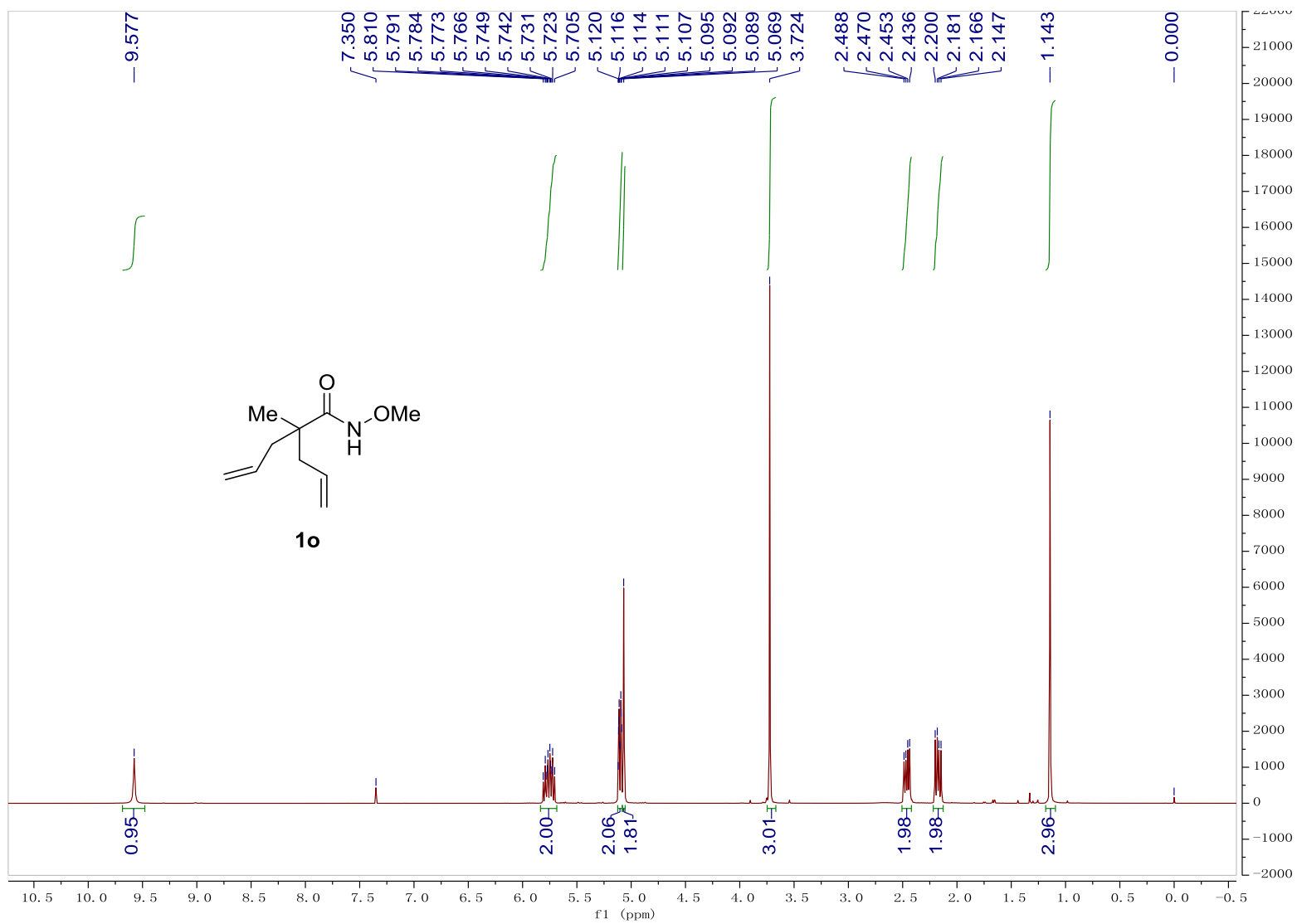


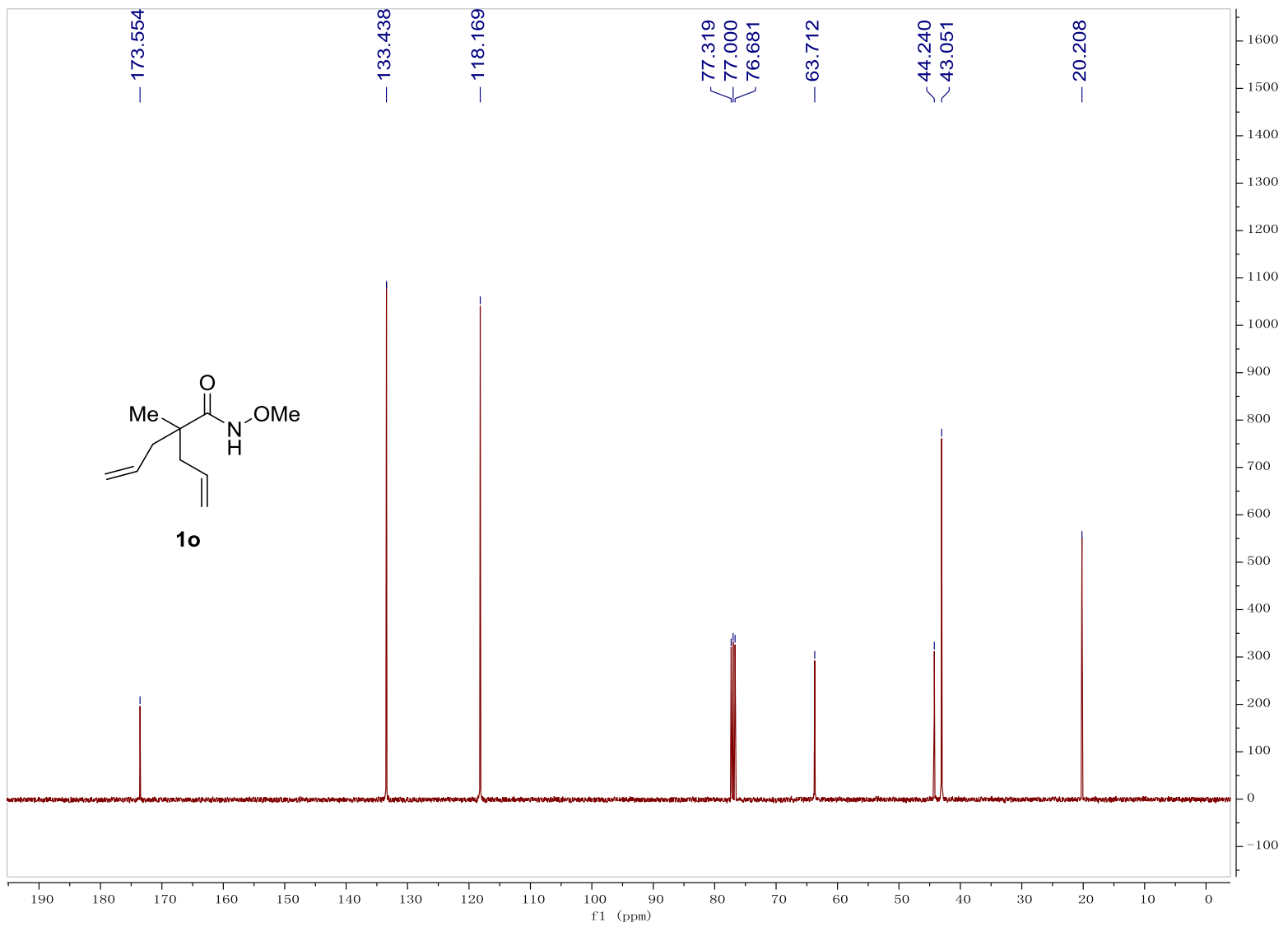


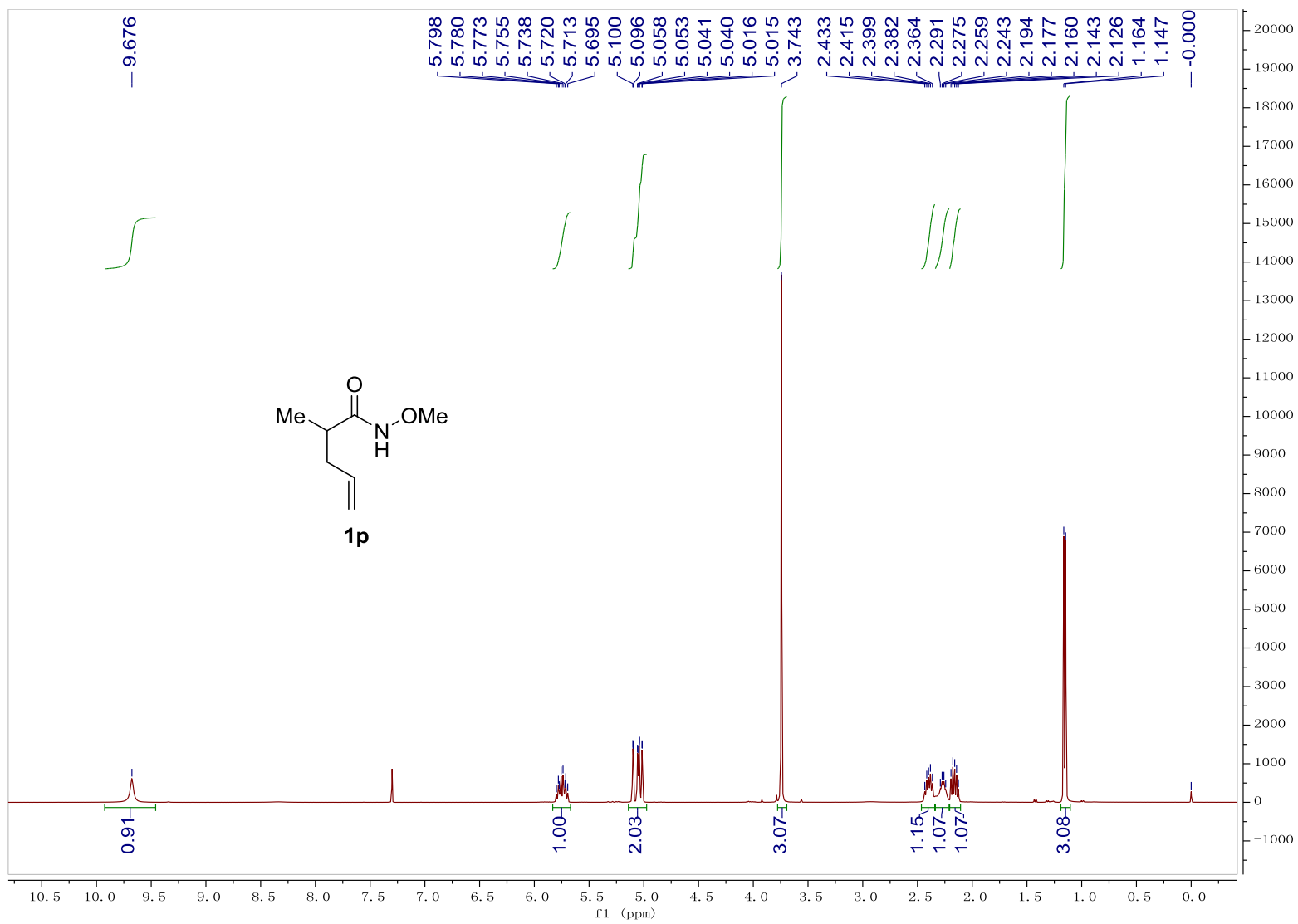


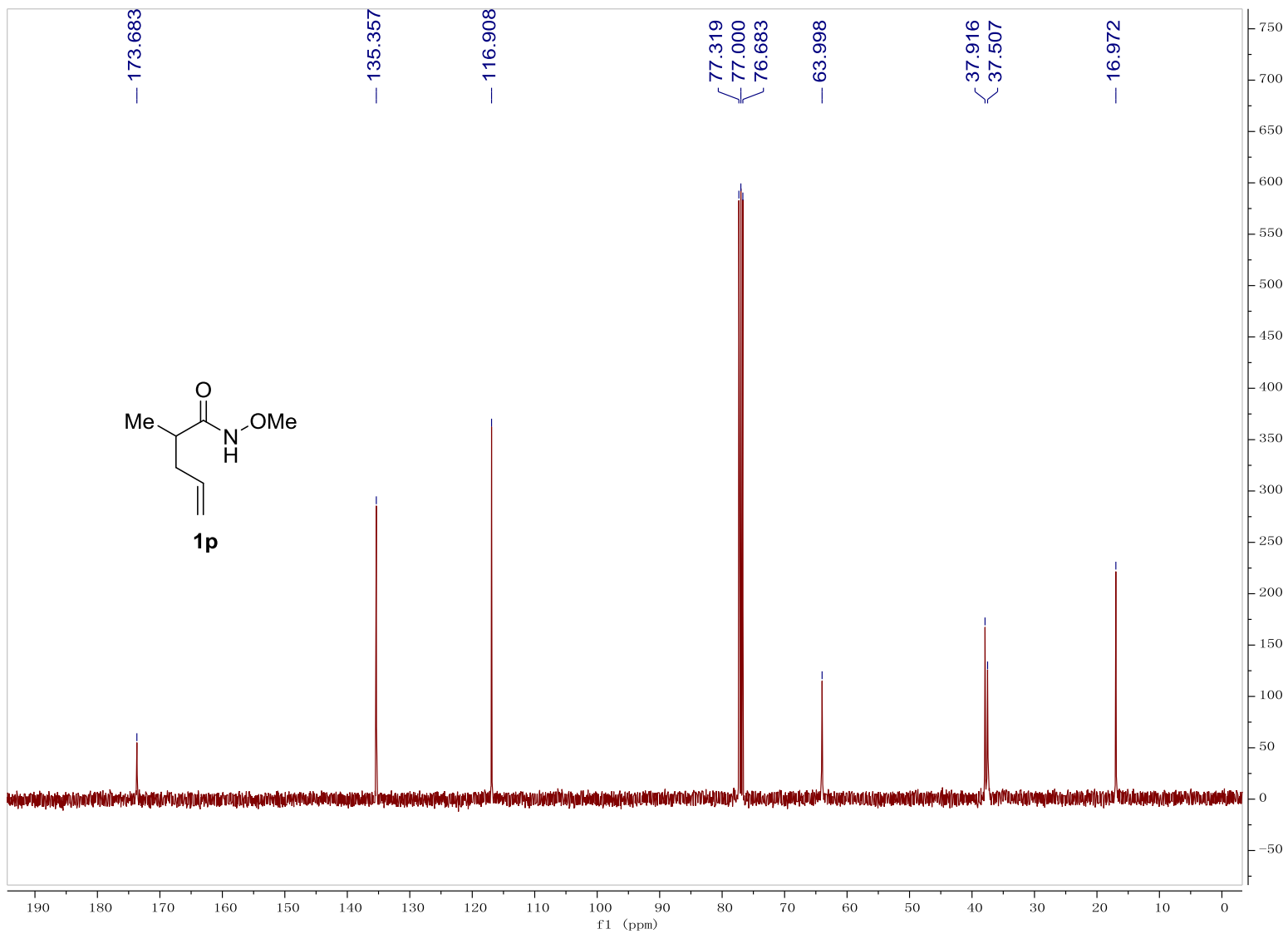


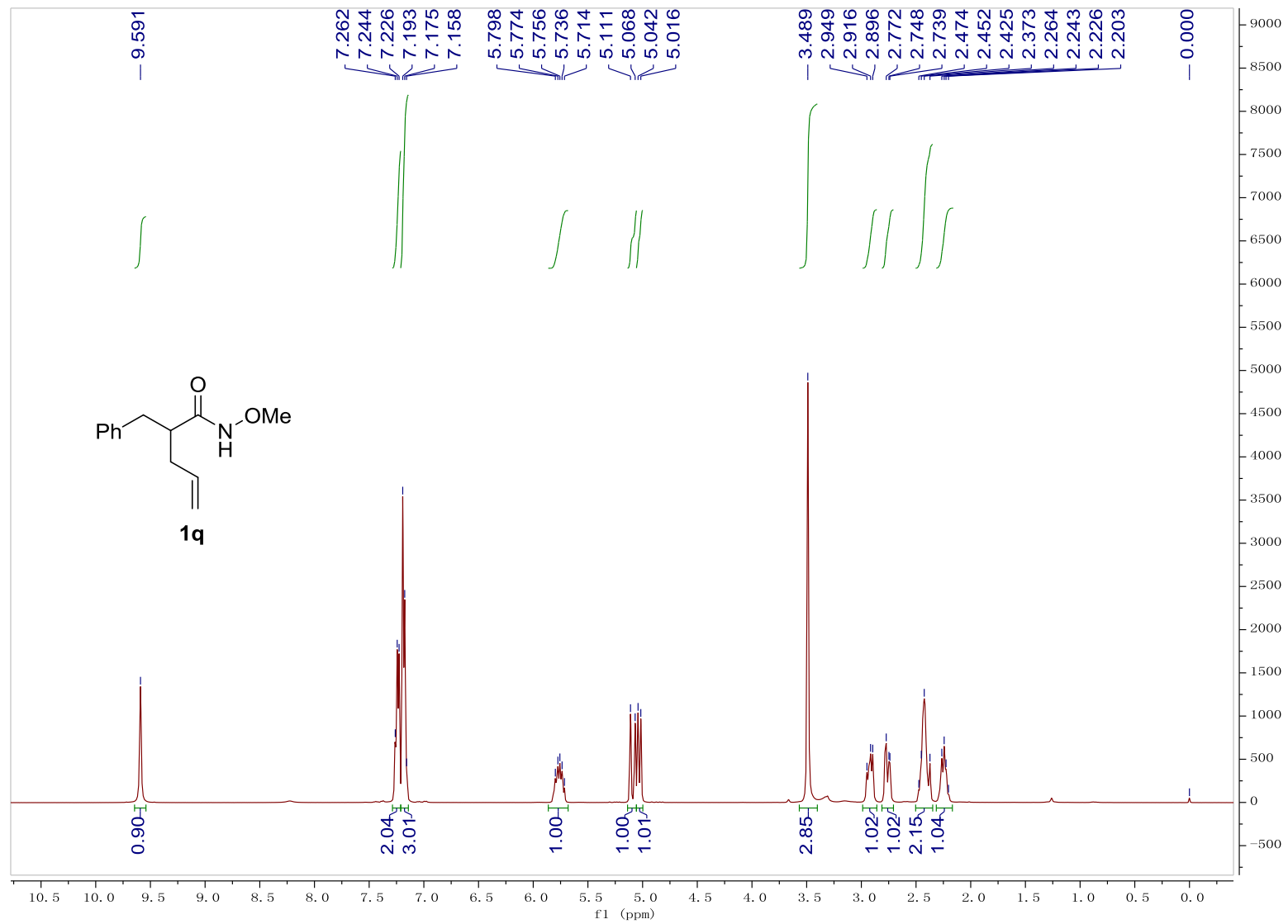


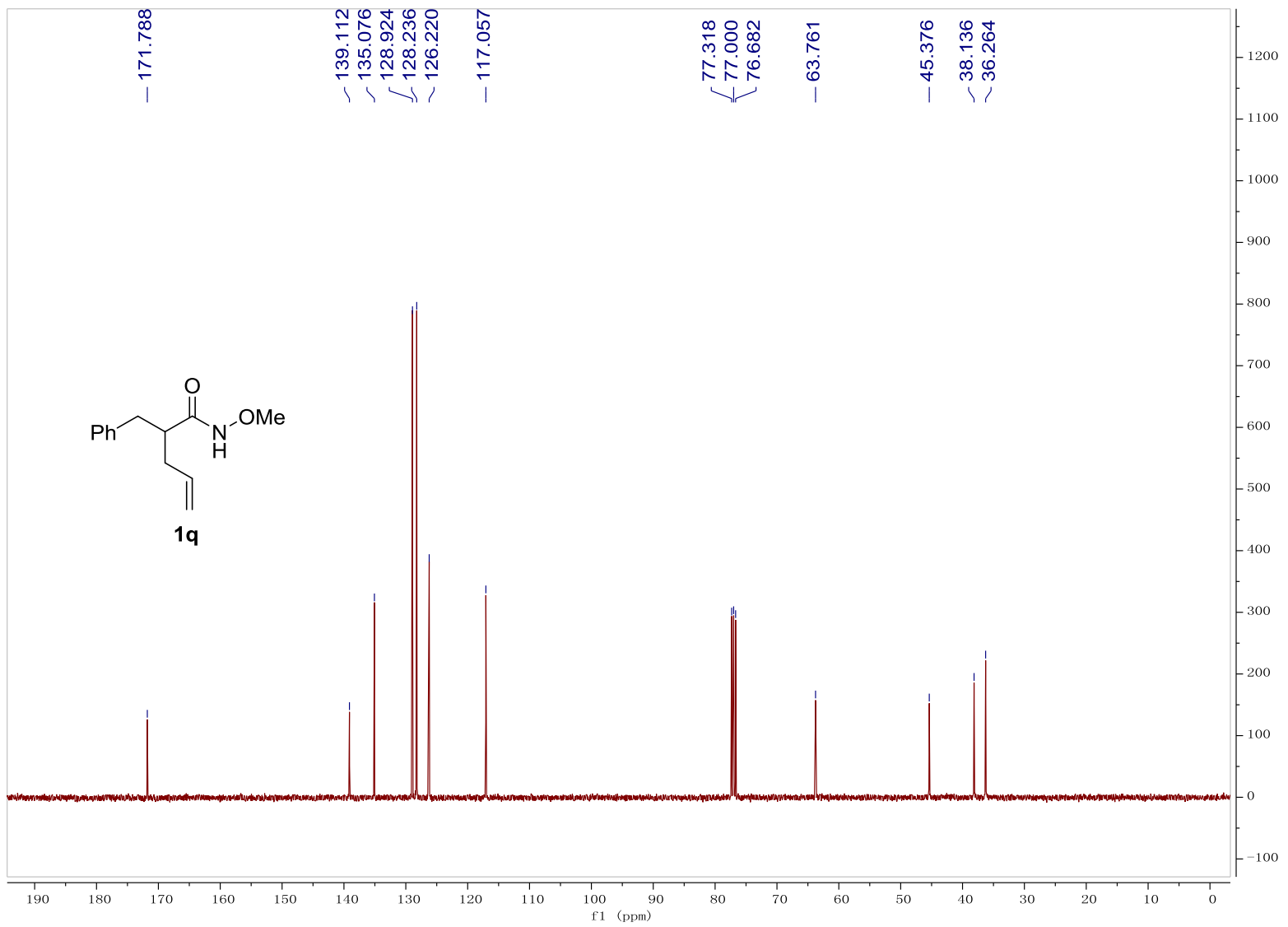


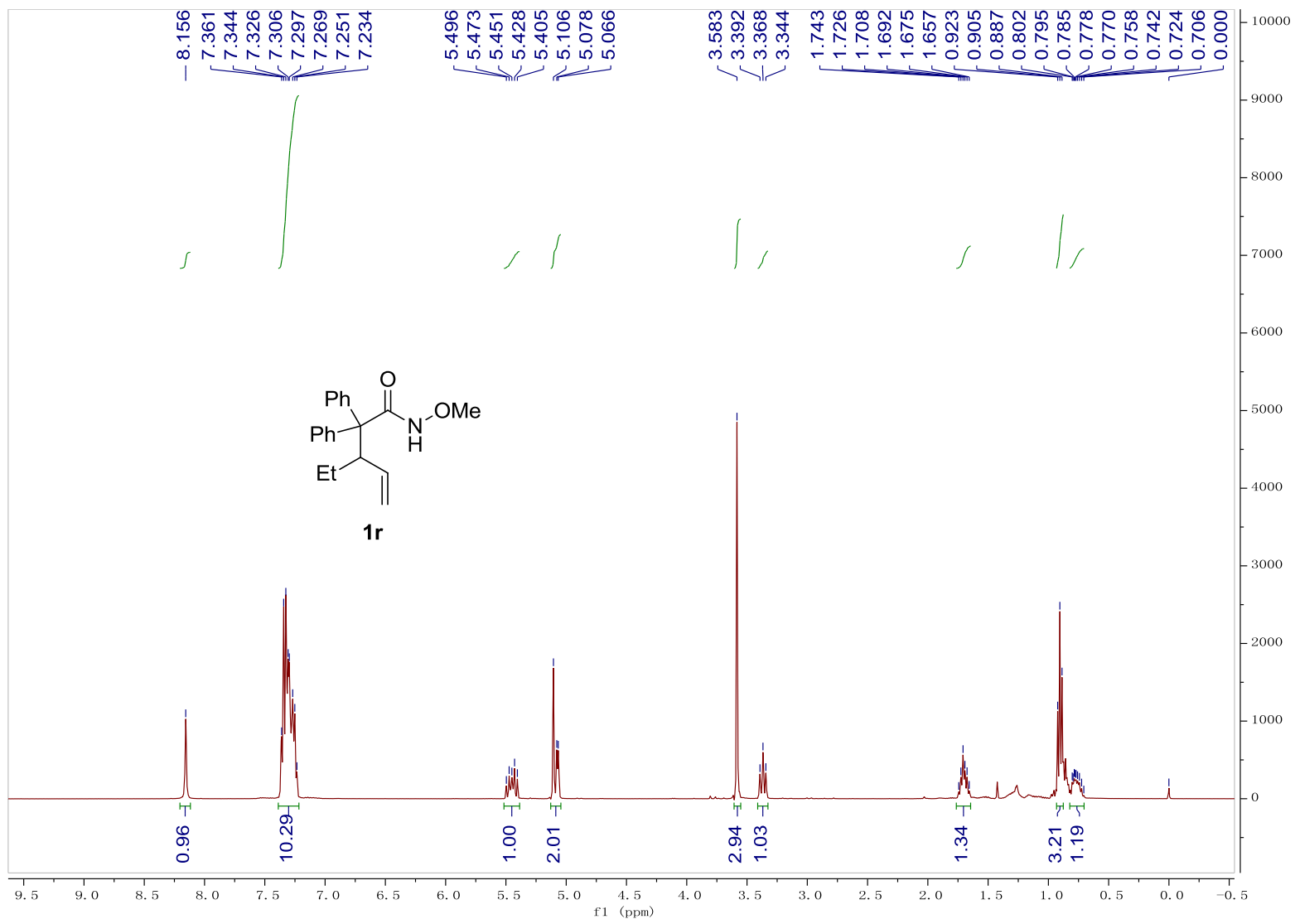


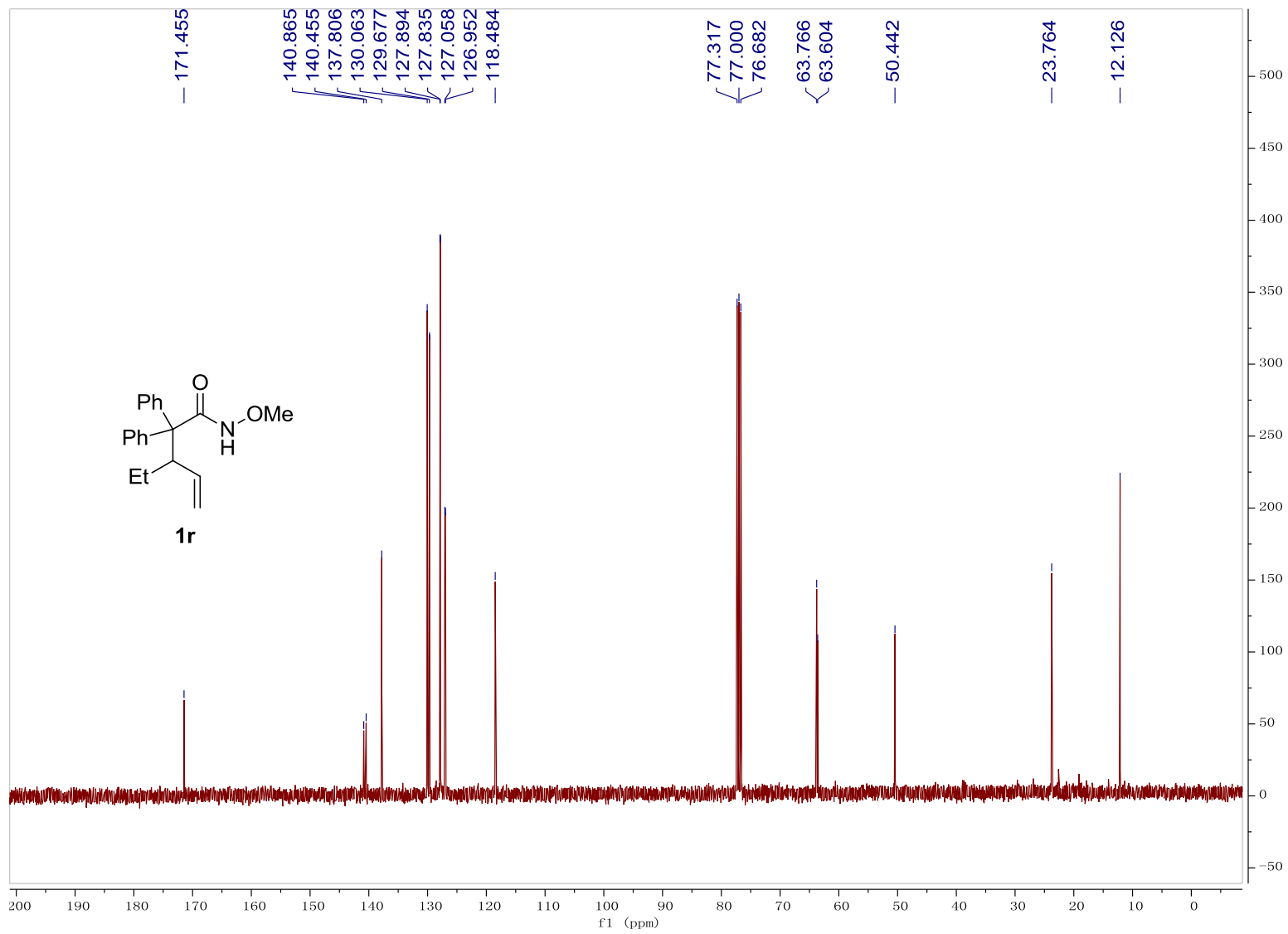


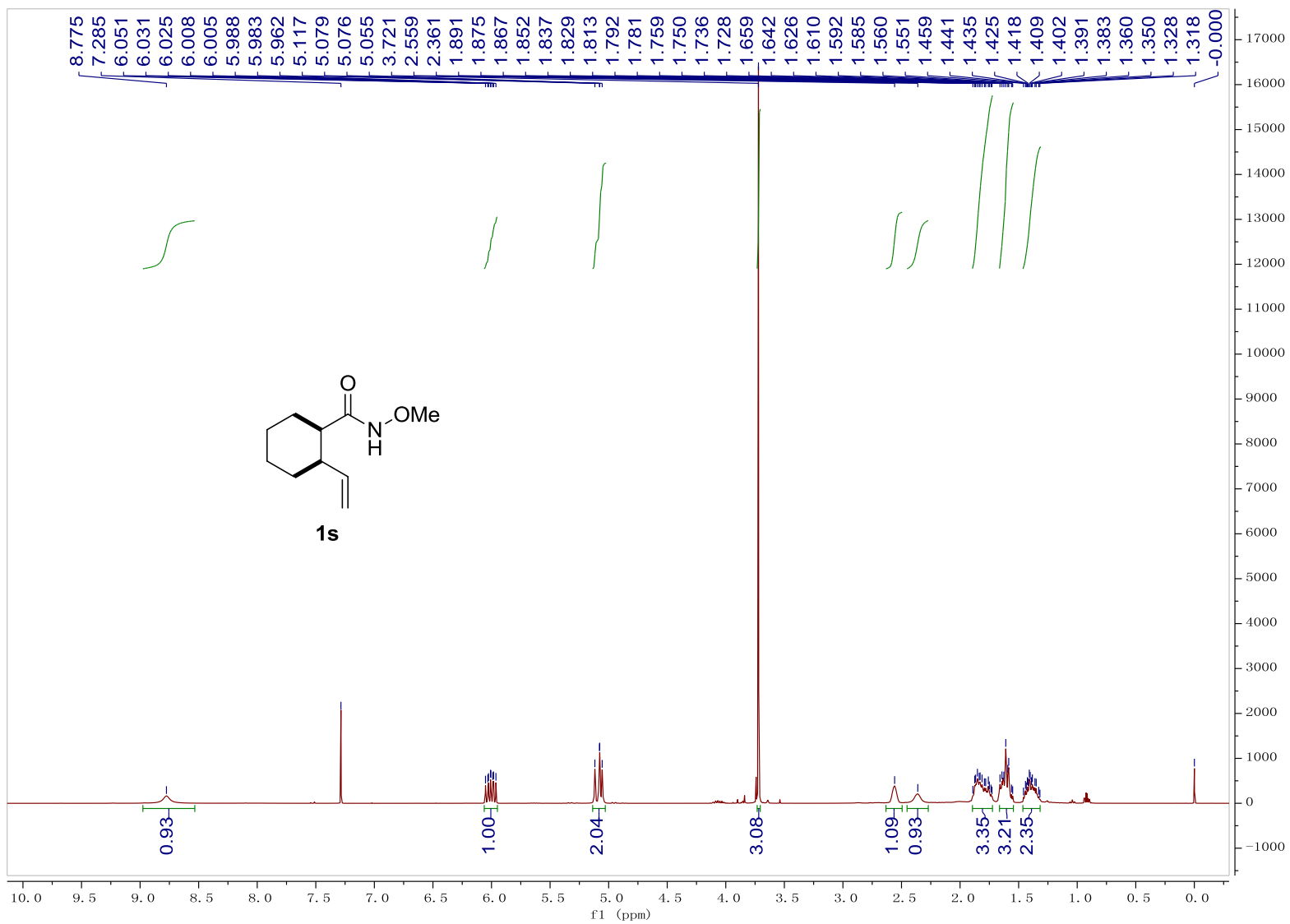


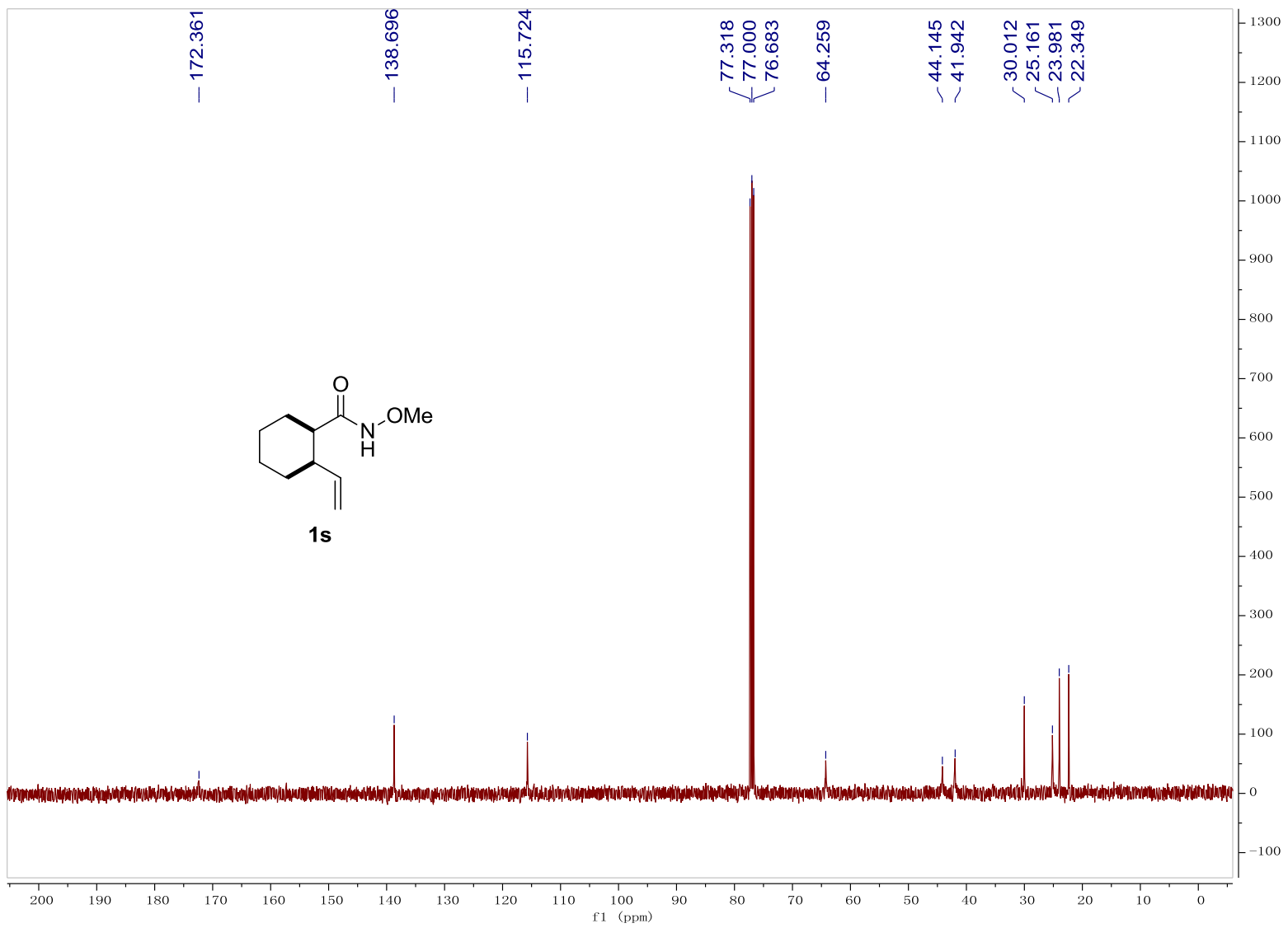


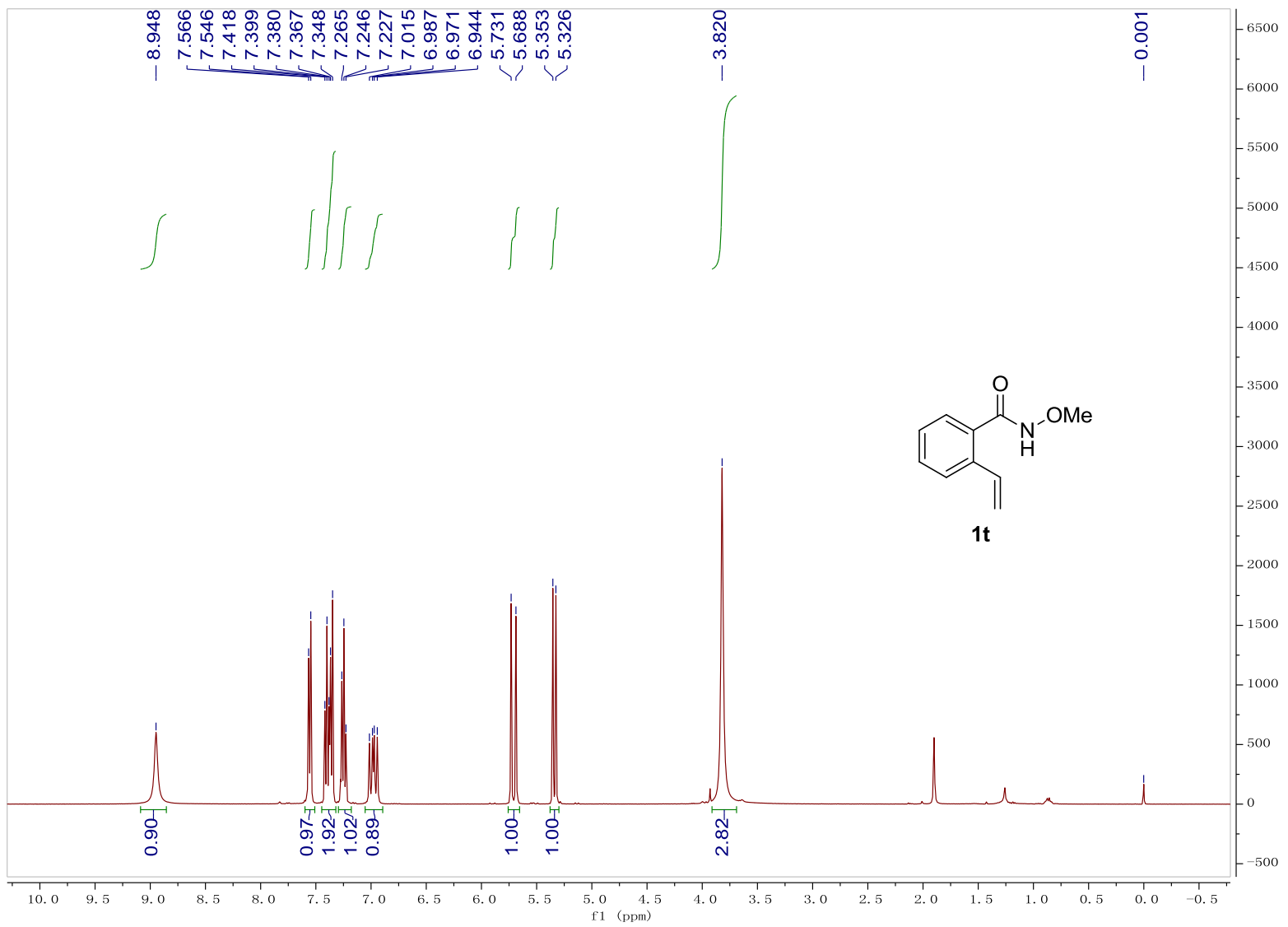


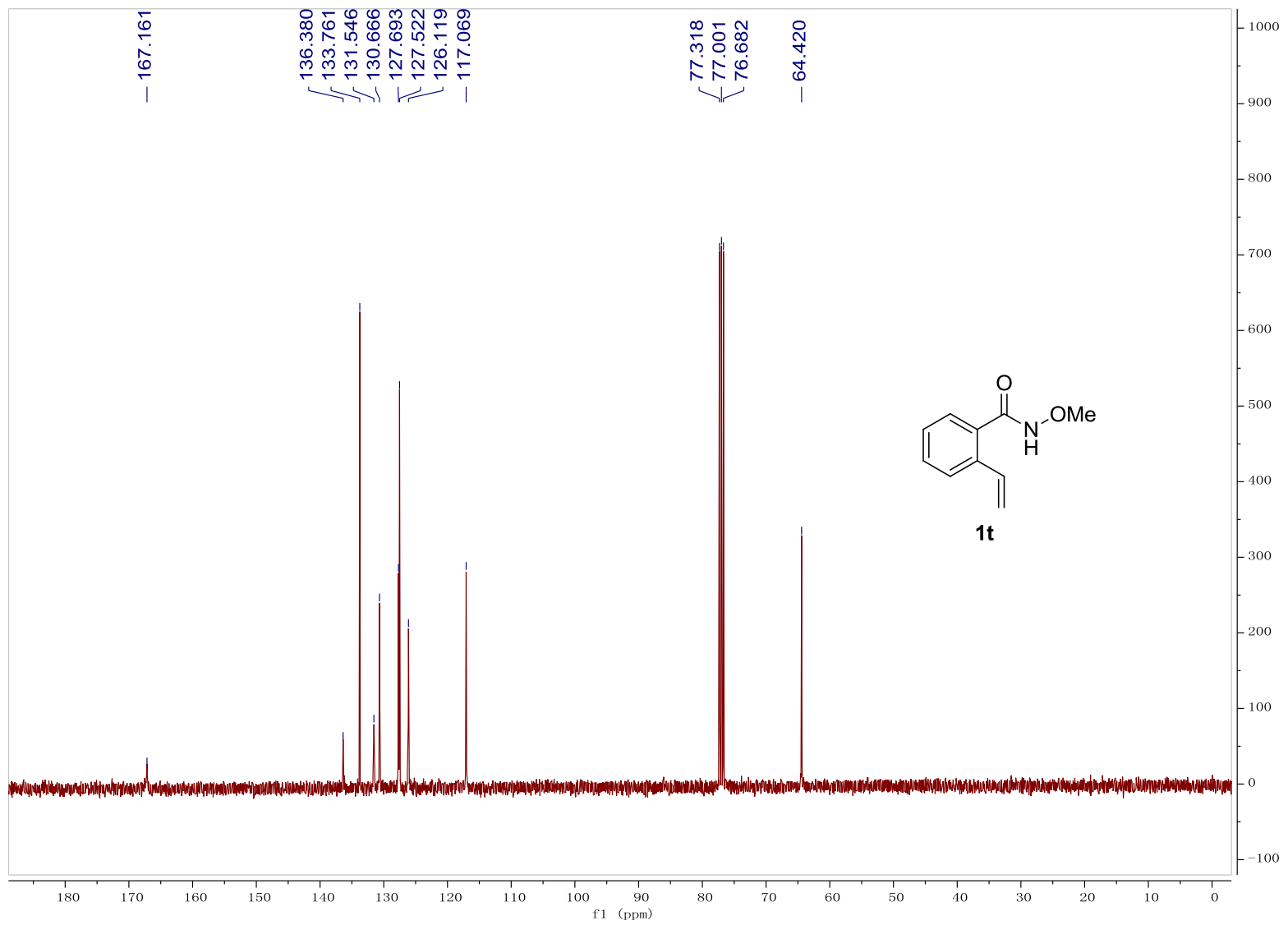


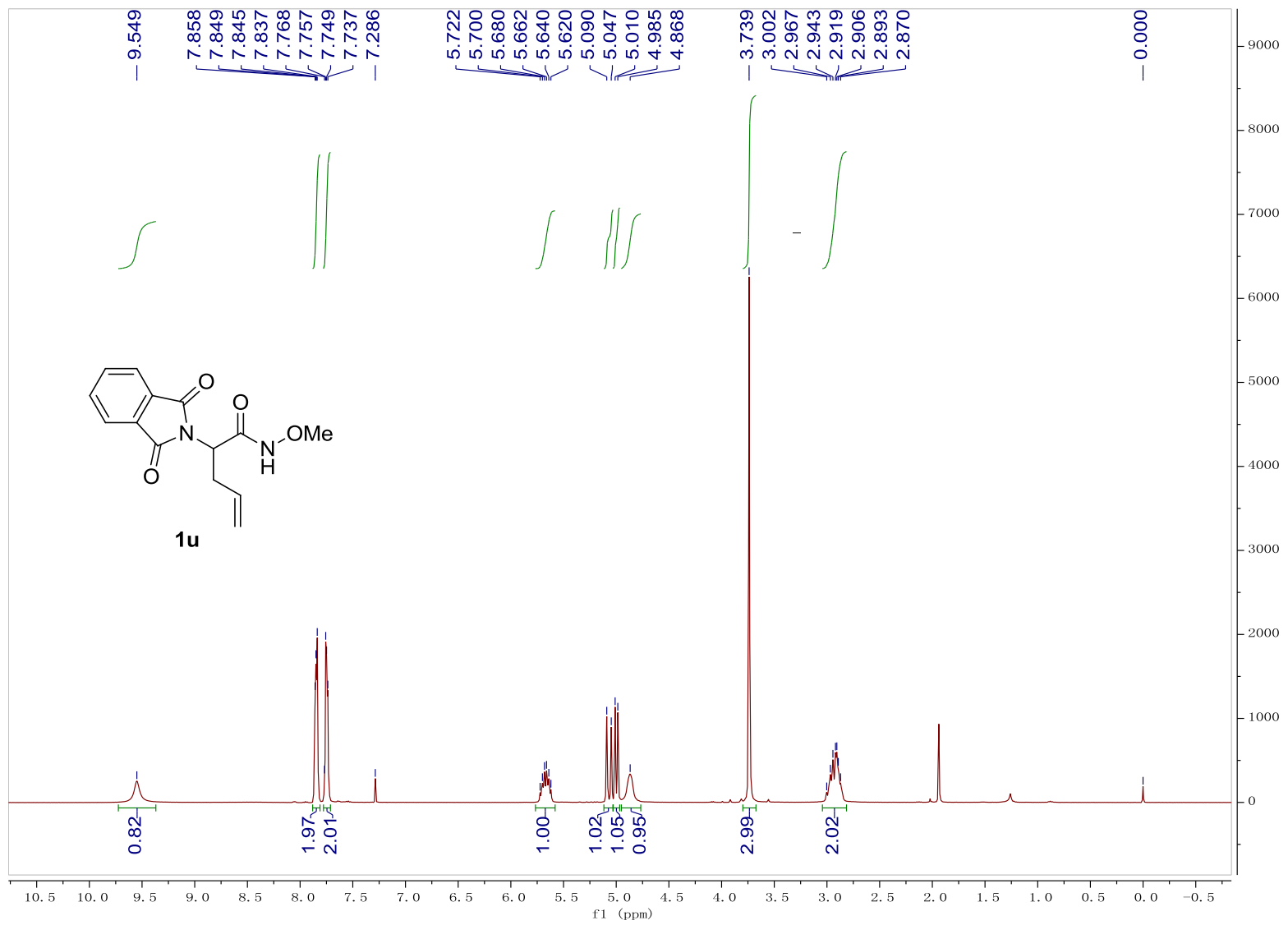


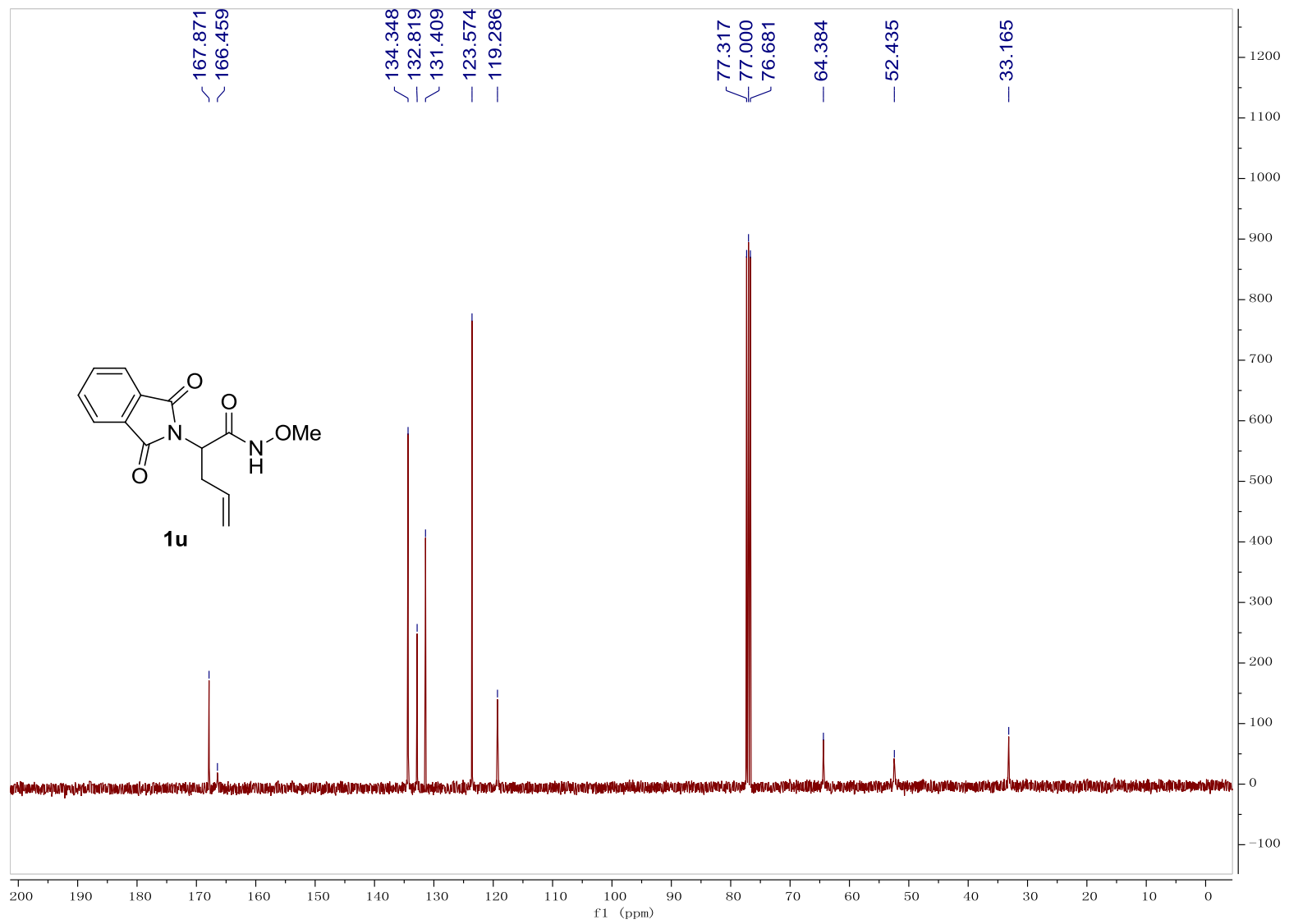


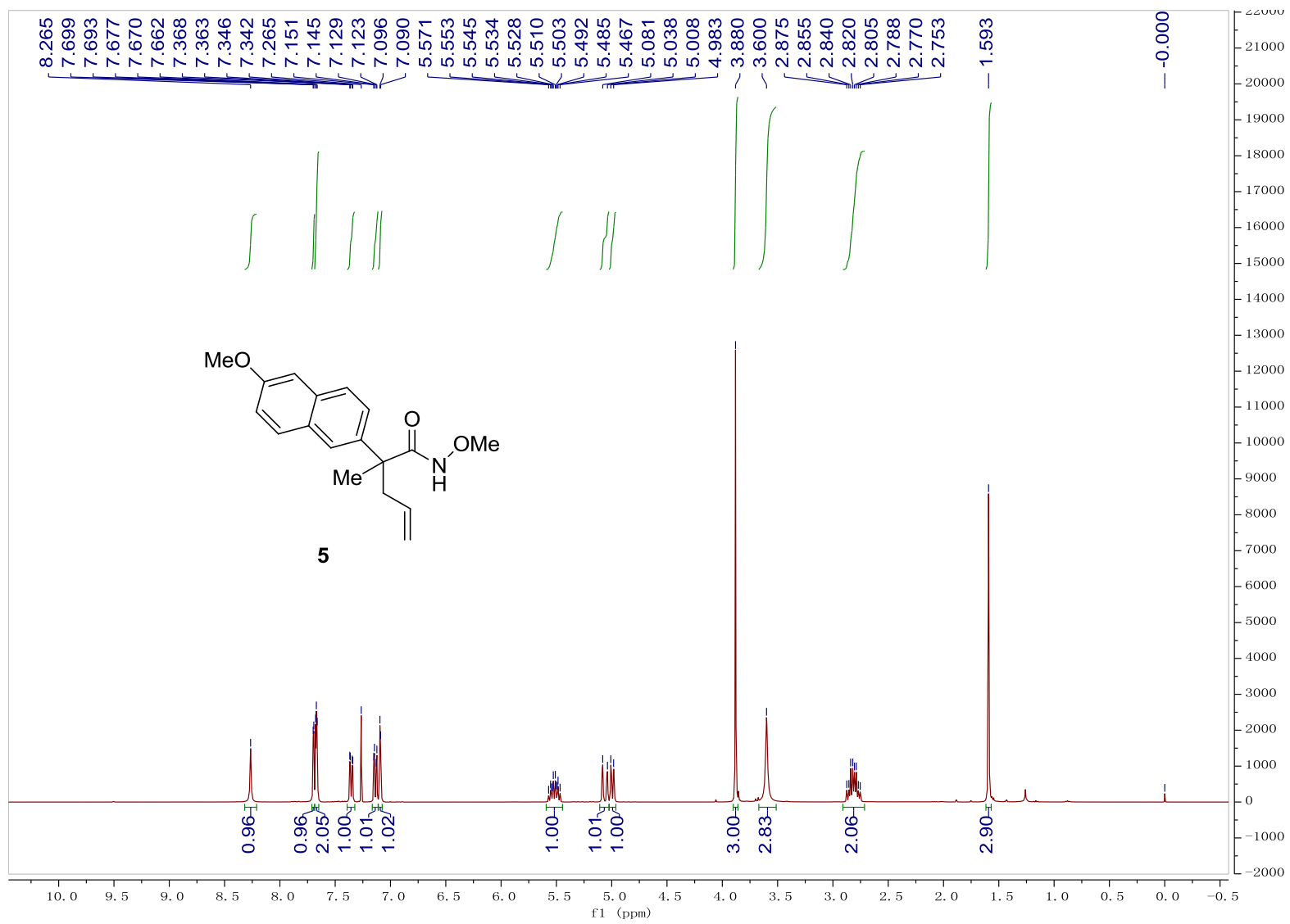


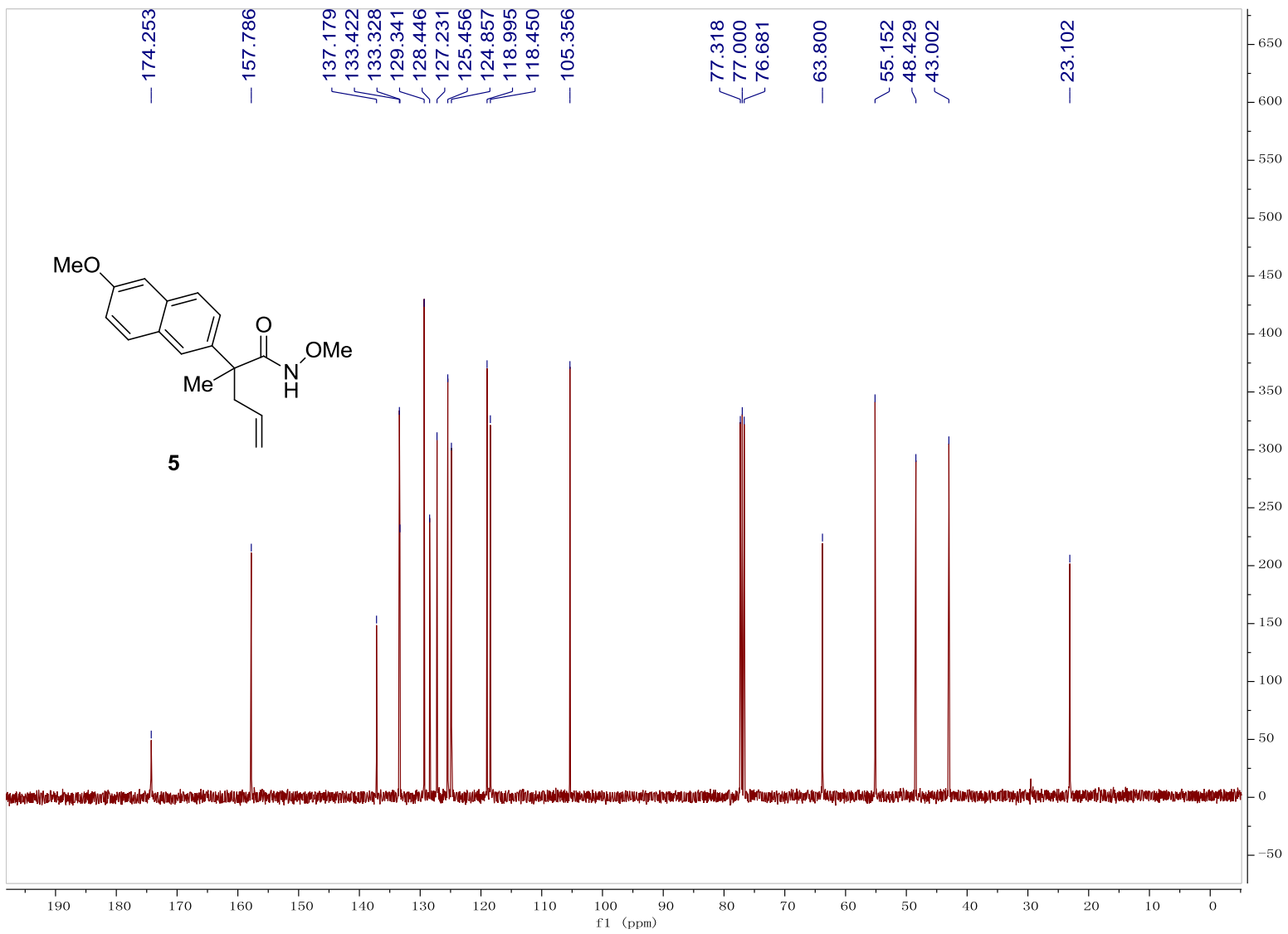


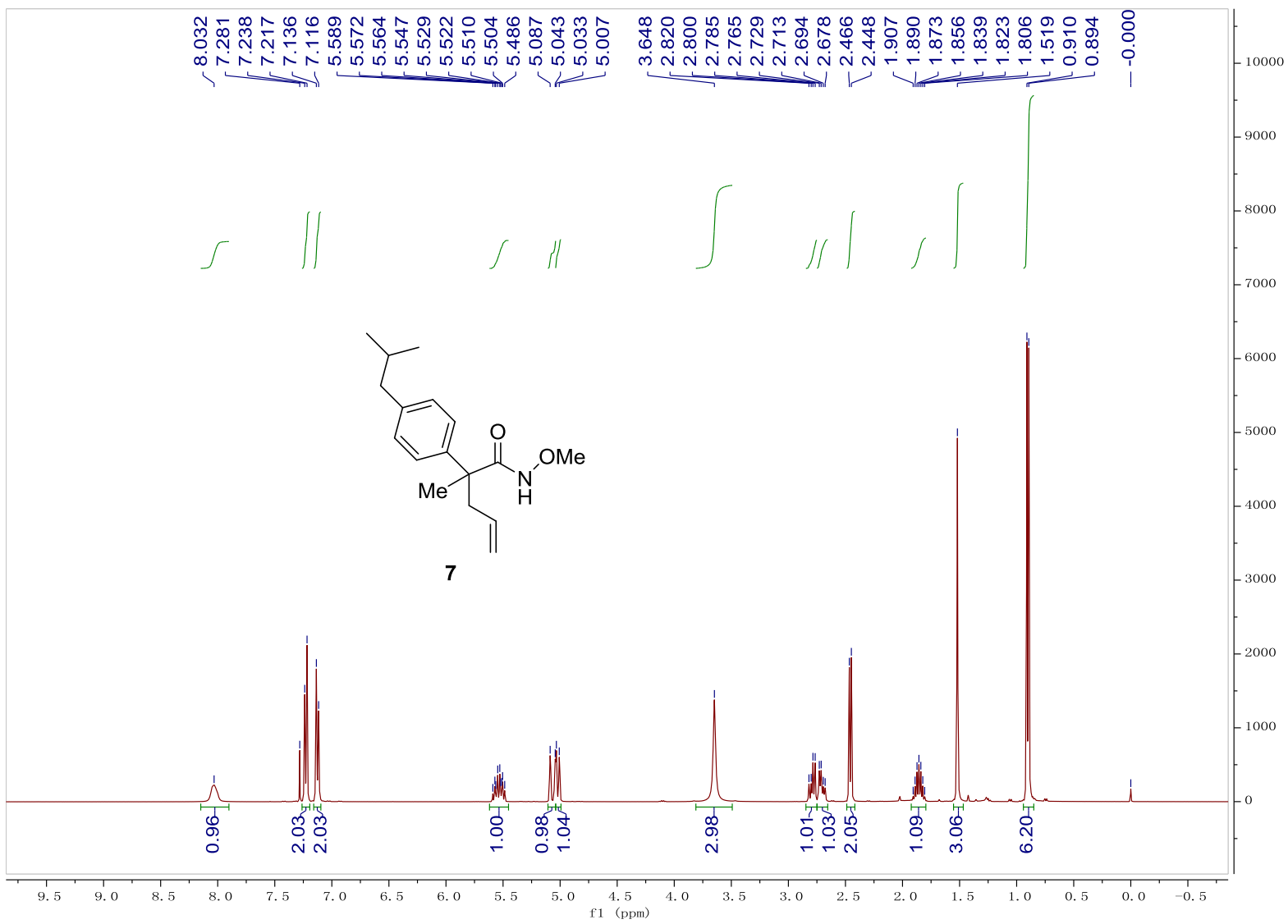


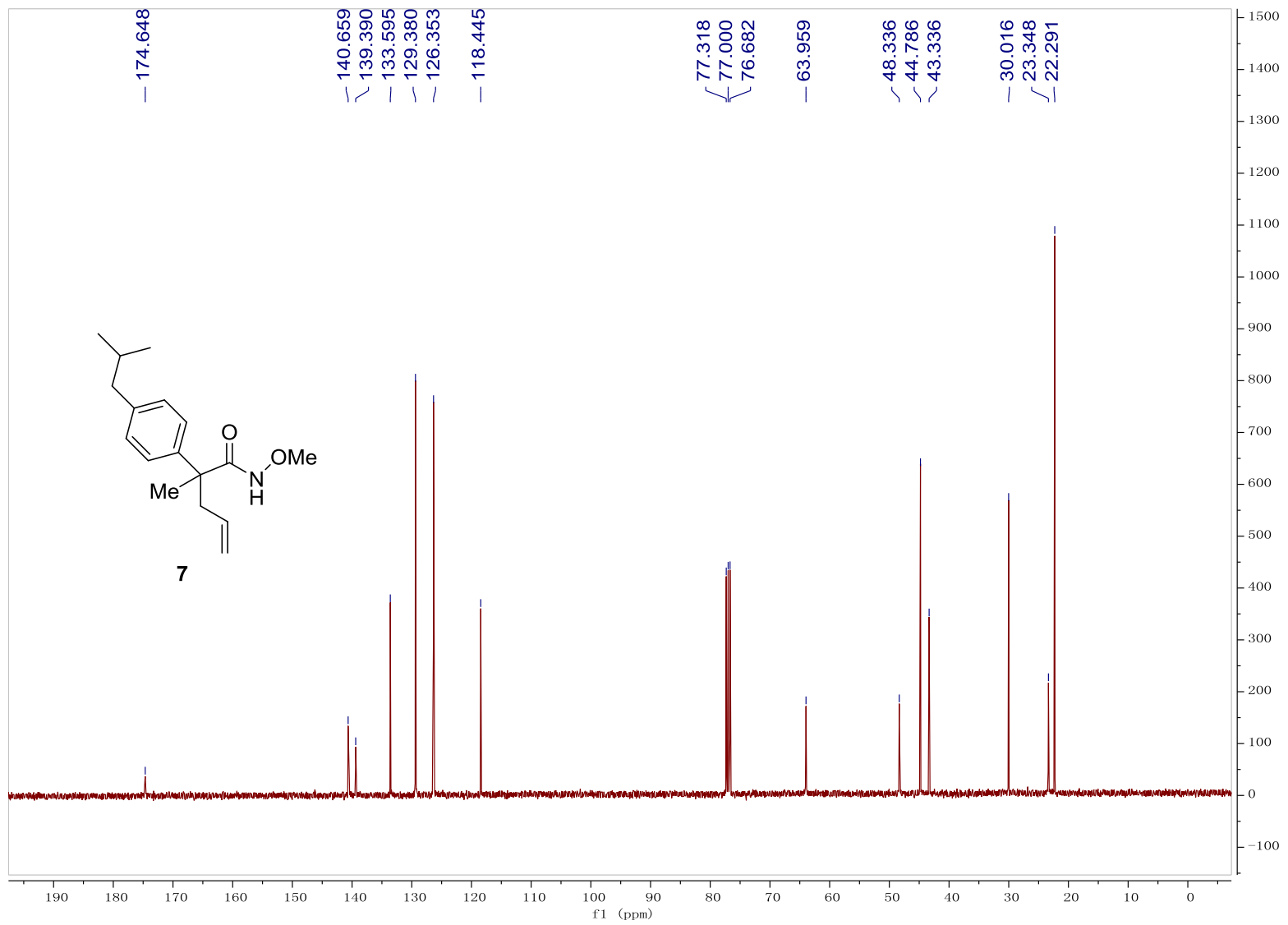


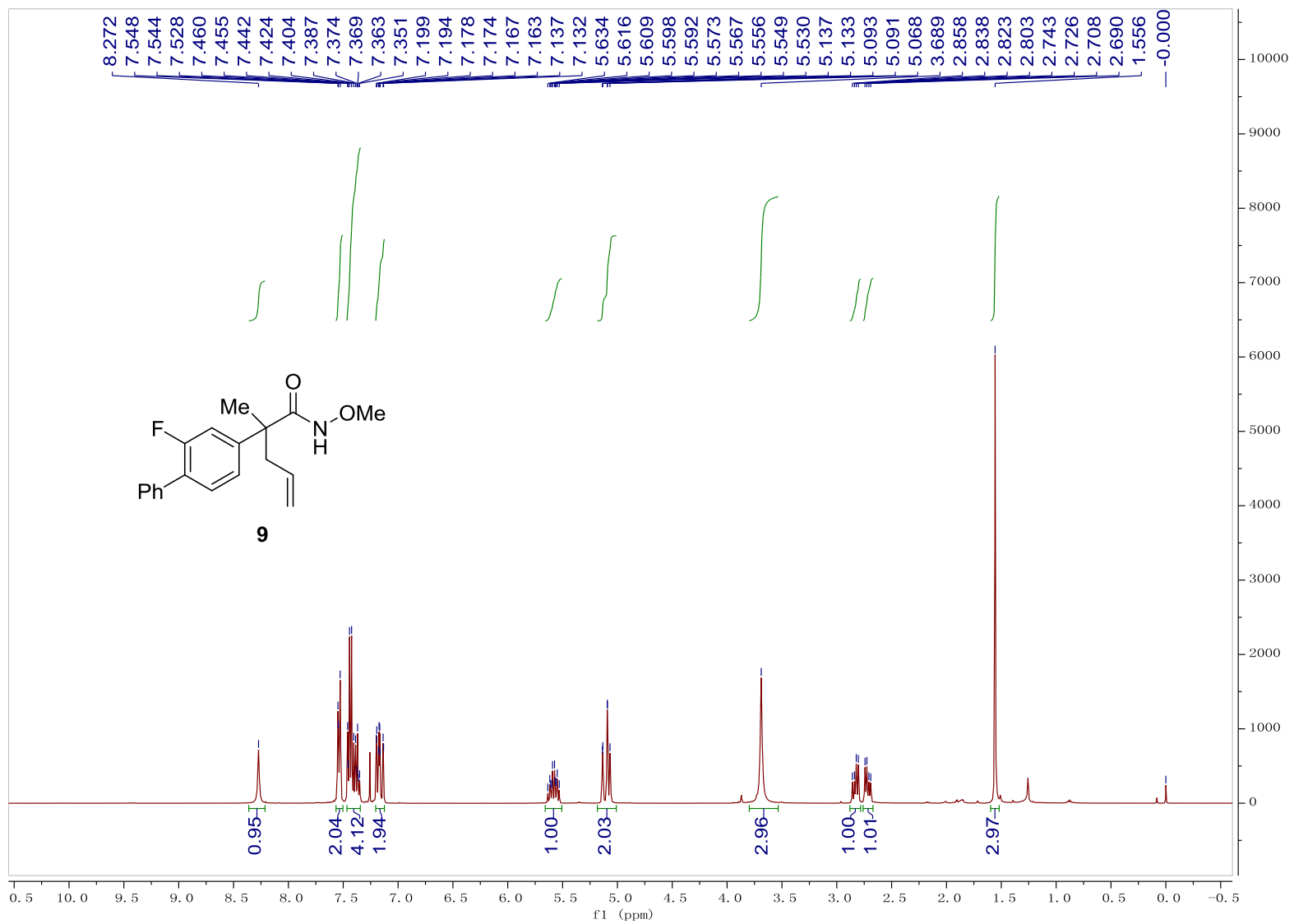


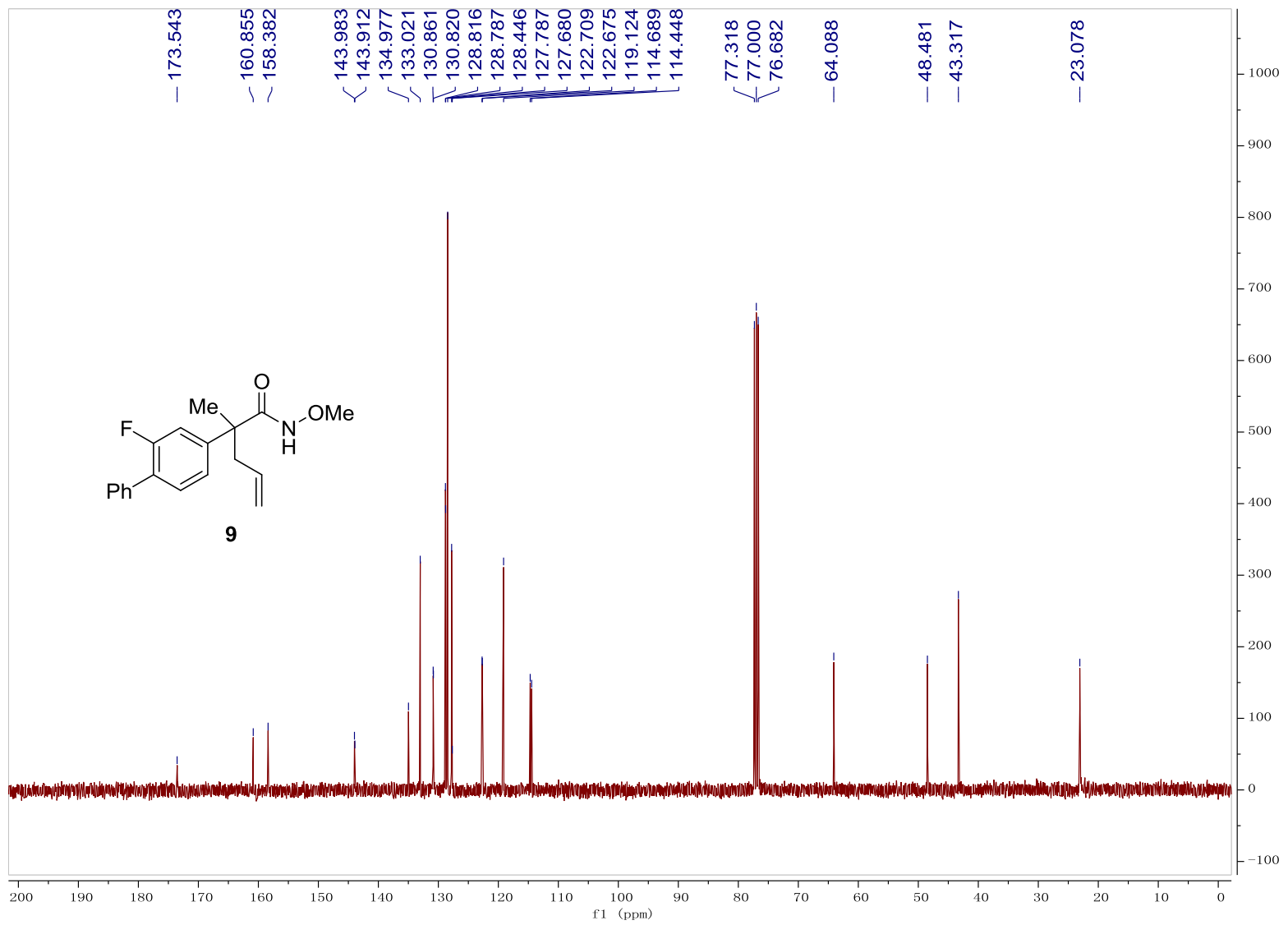


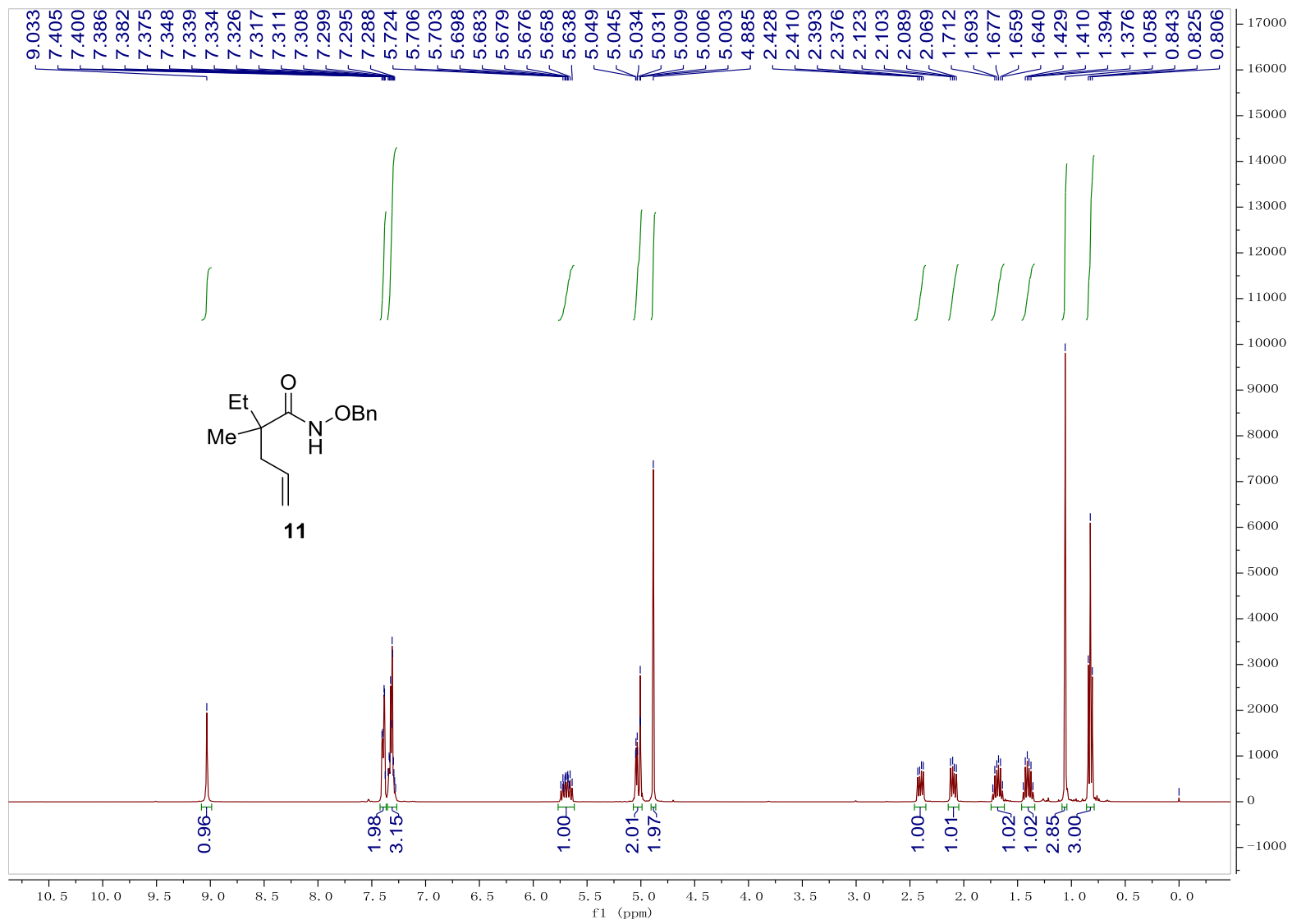


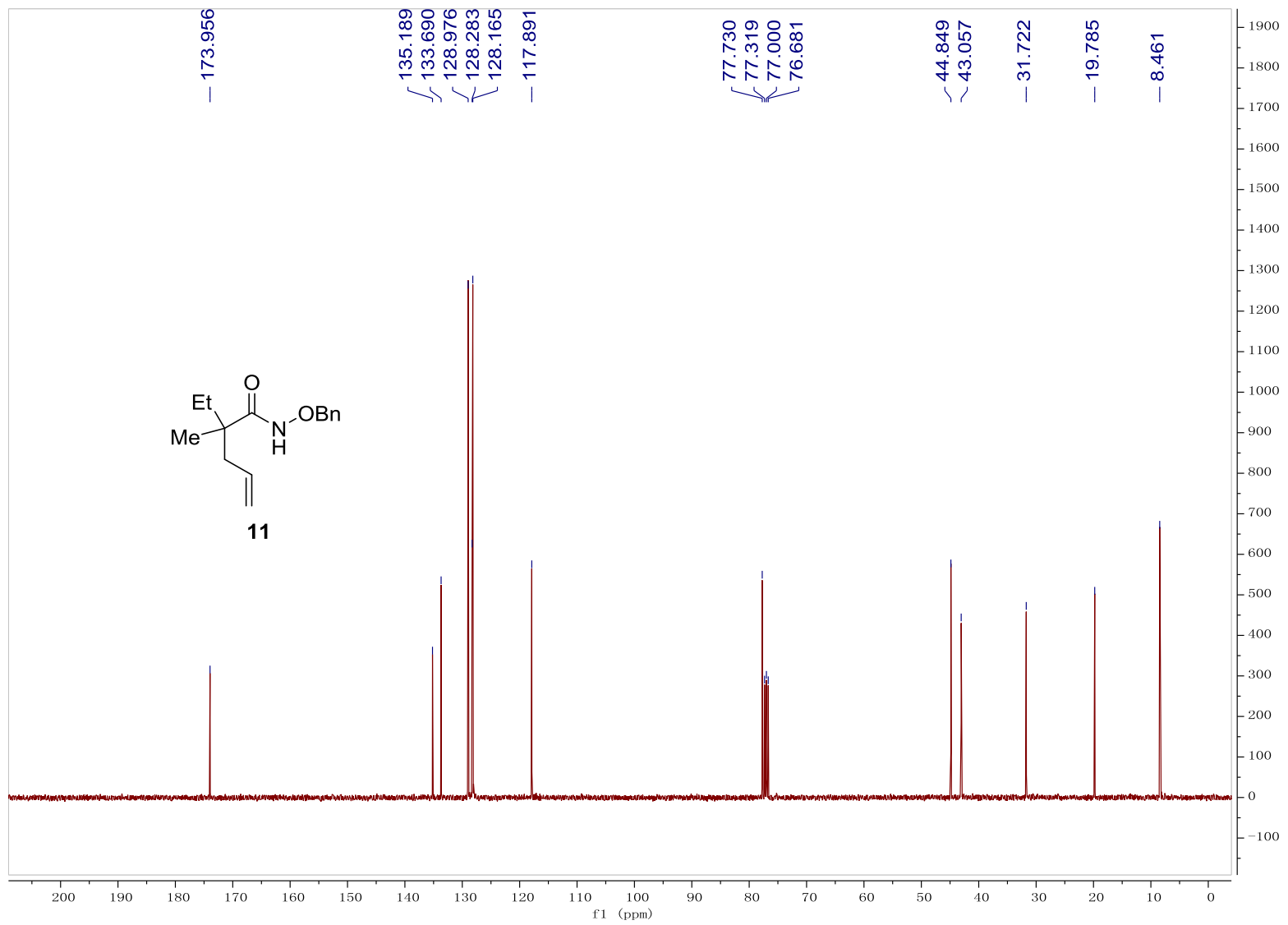


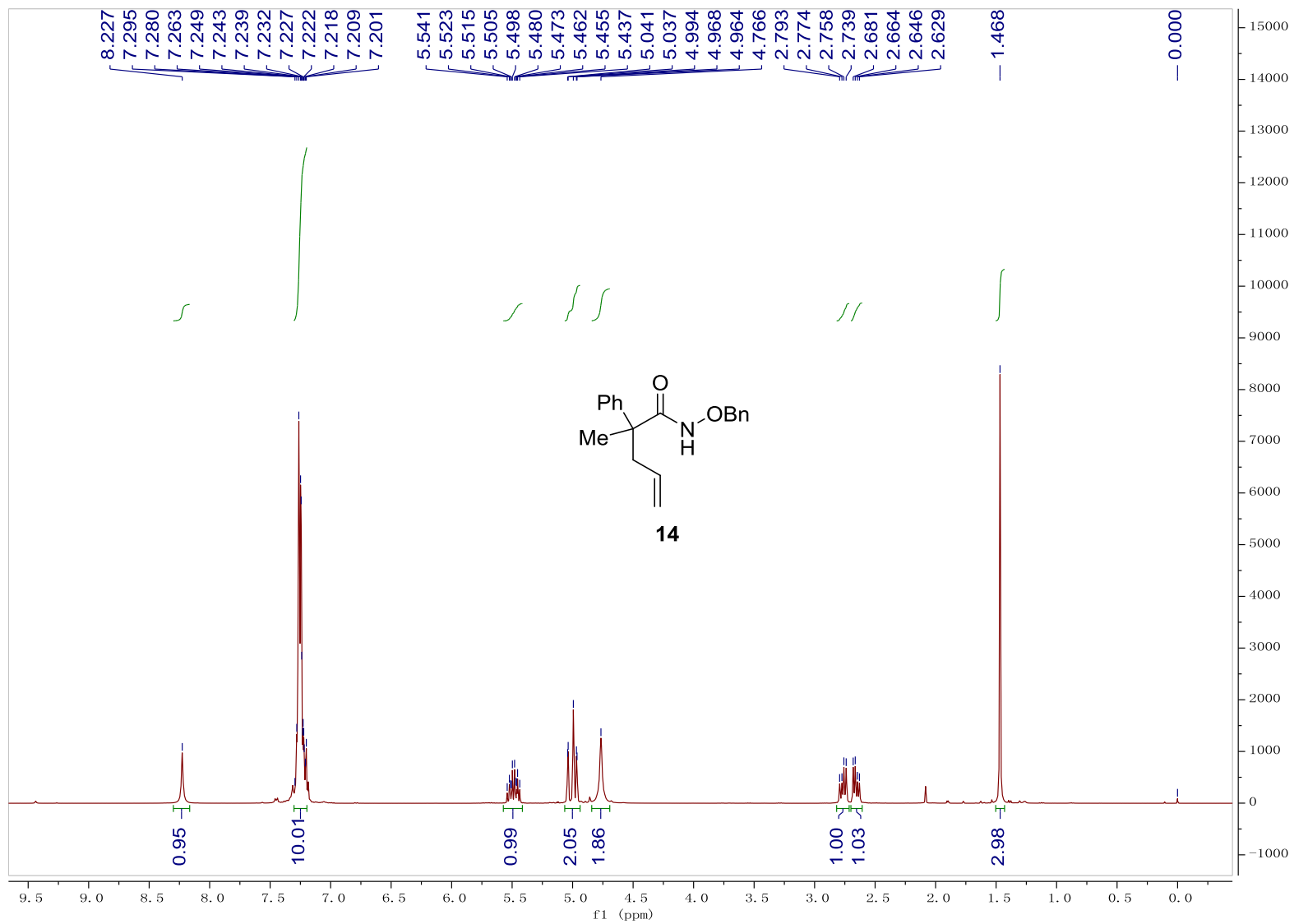


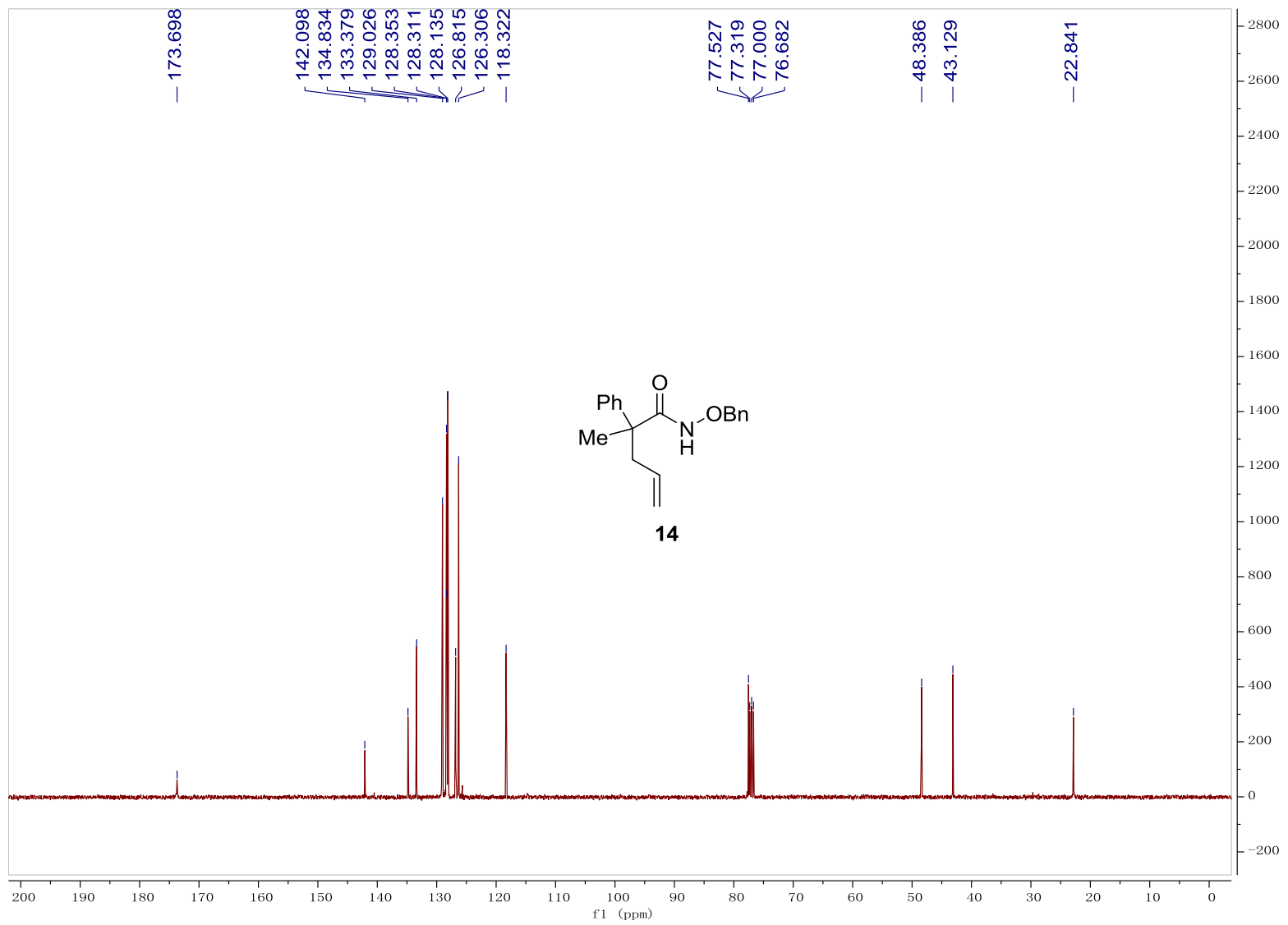




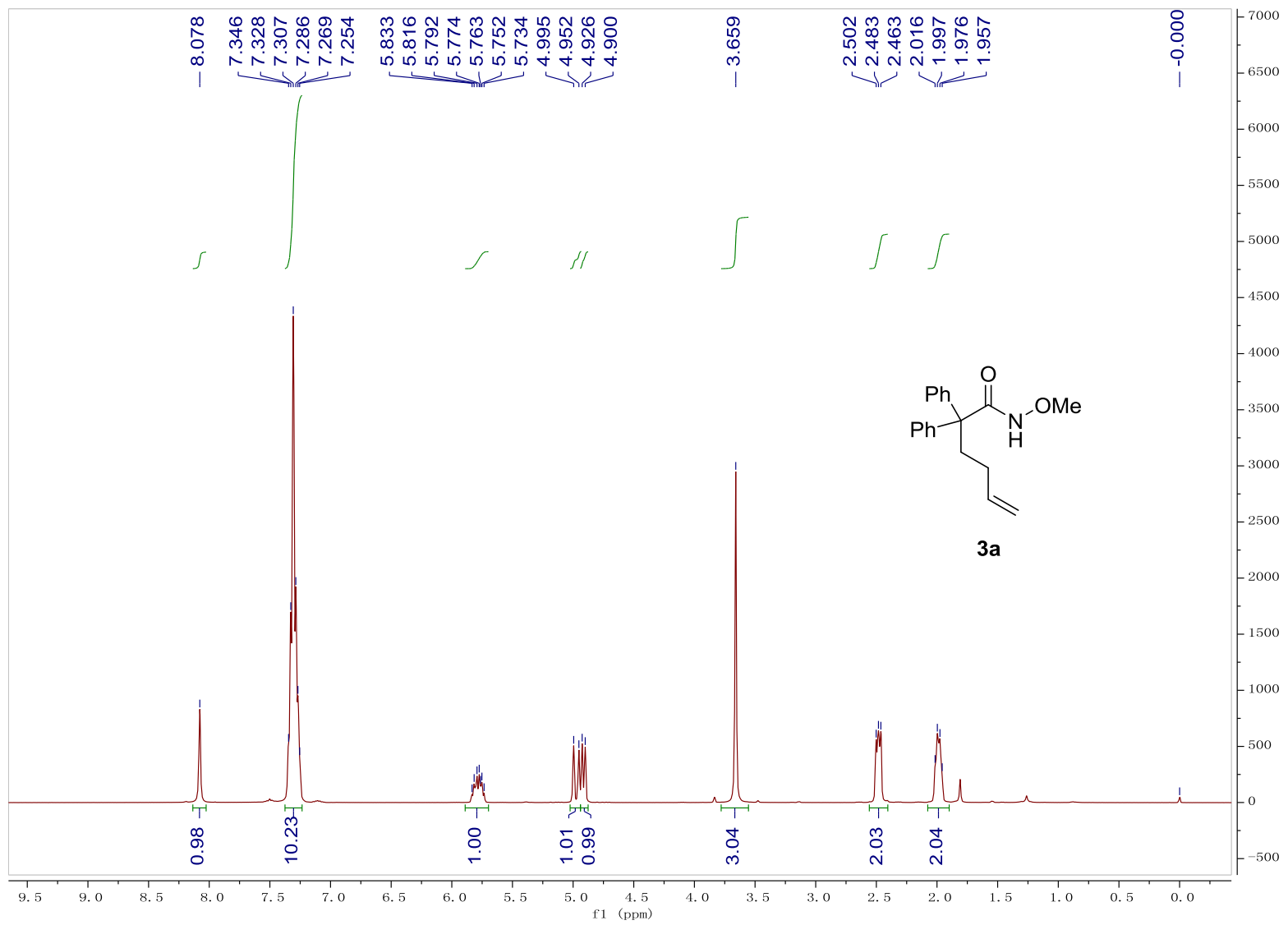


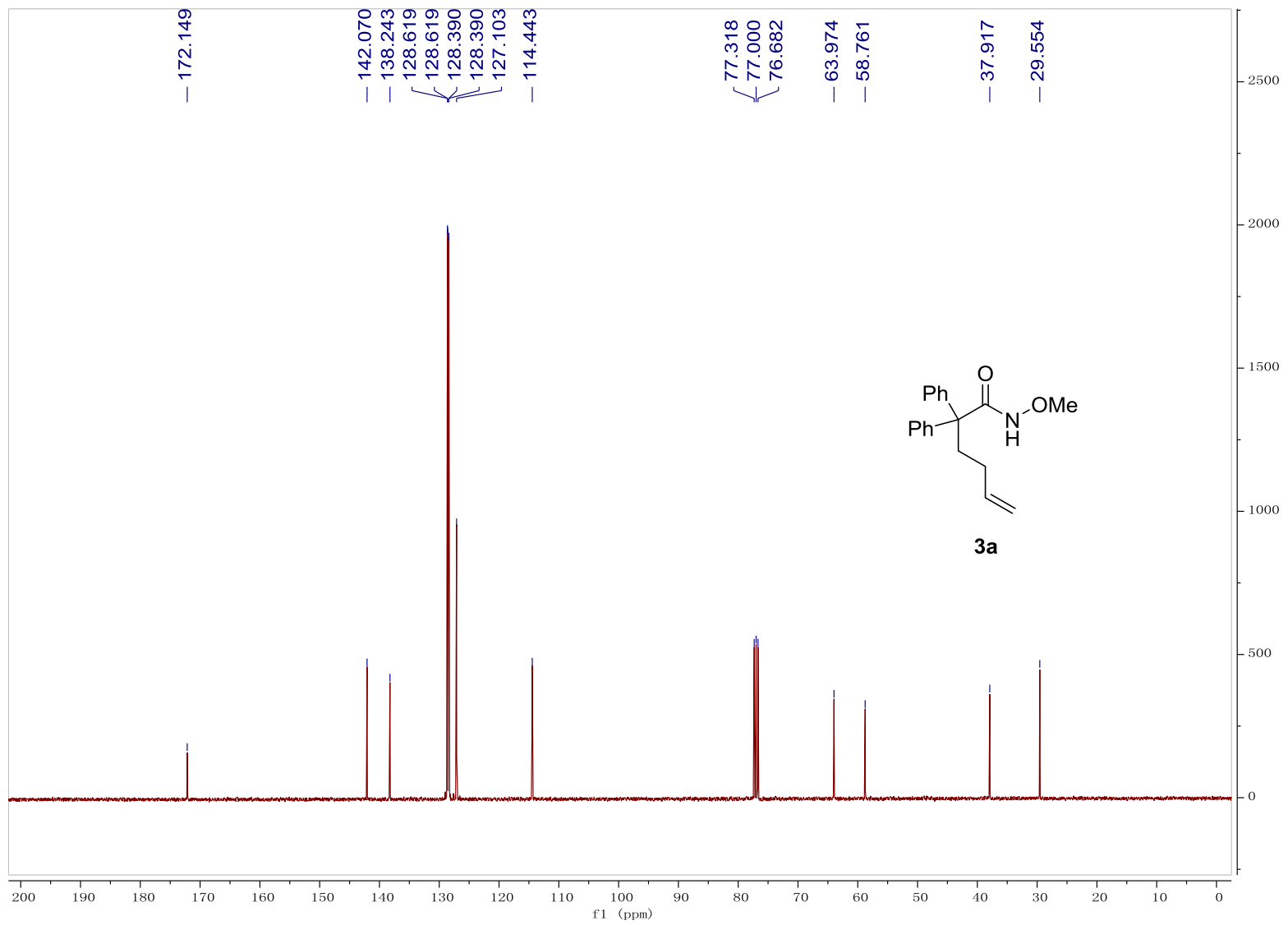




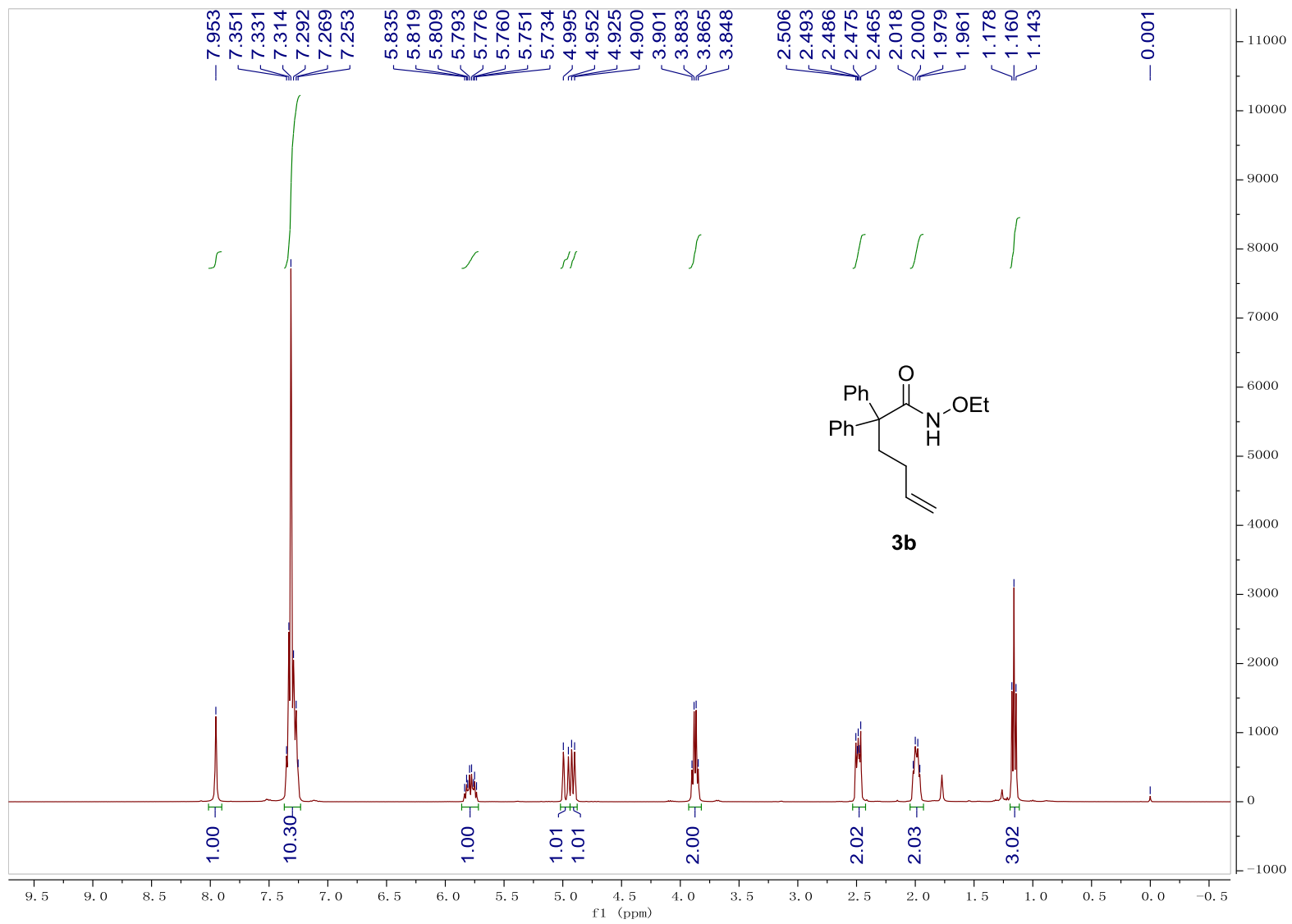


S98

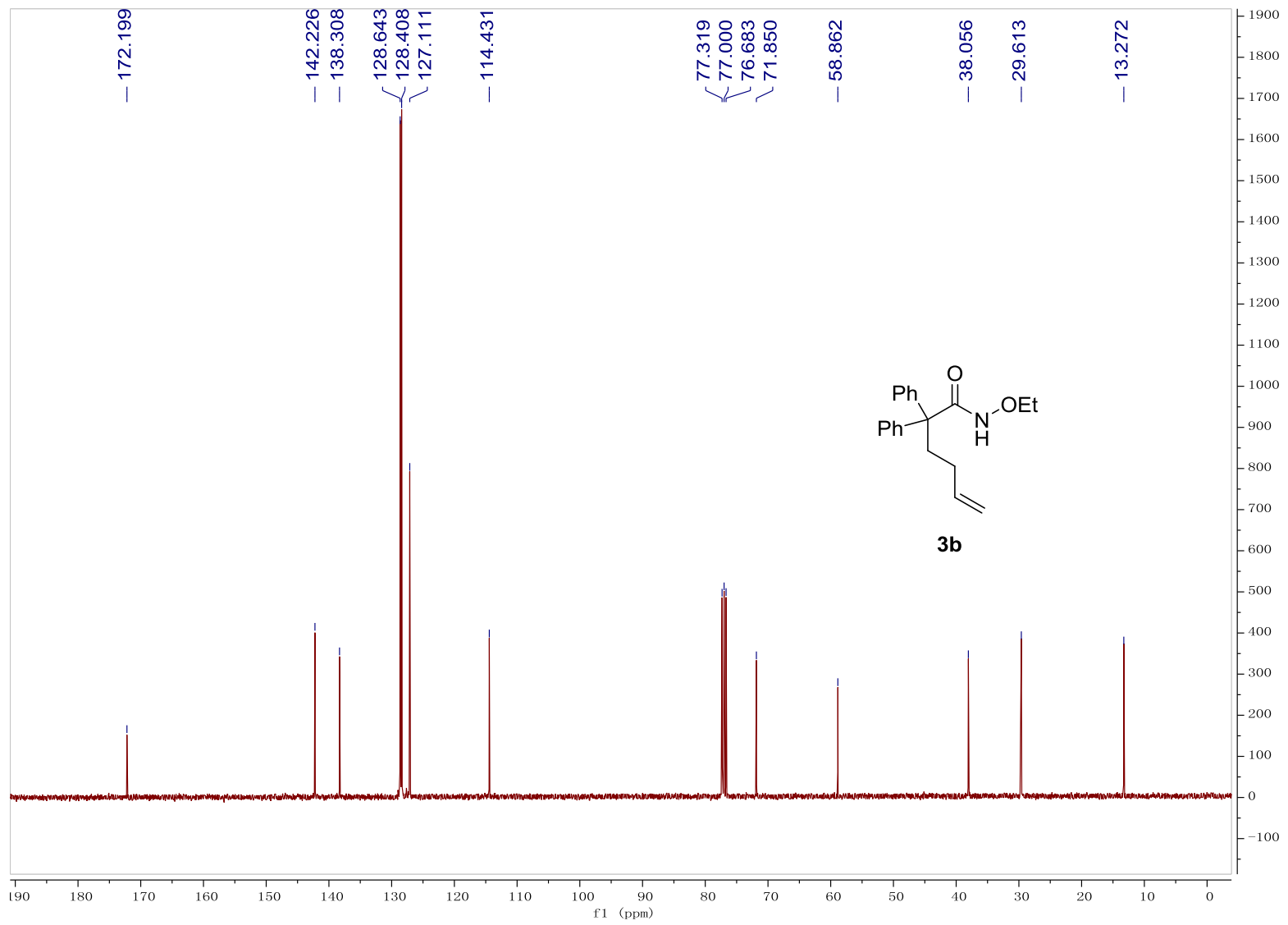




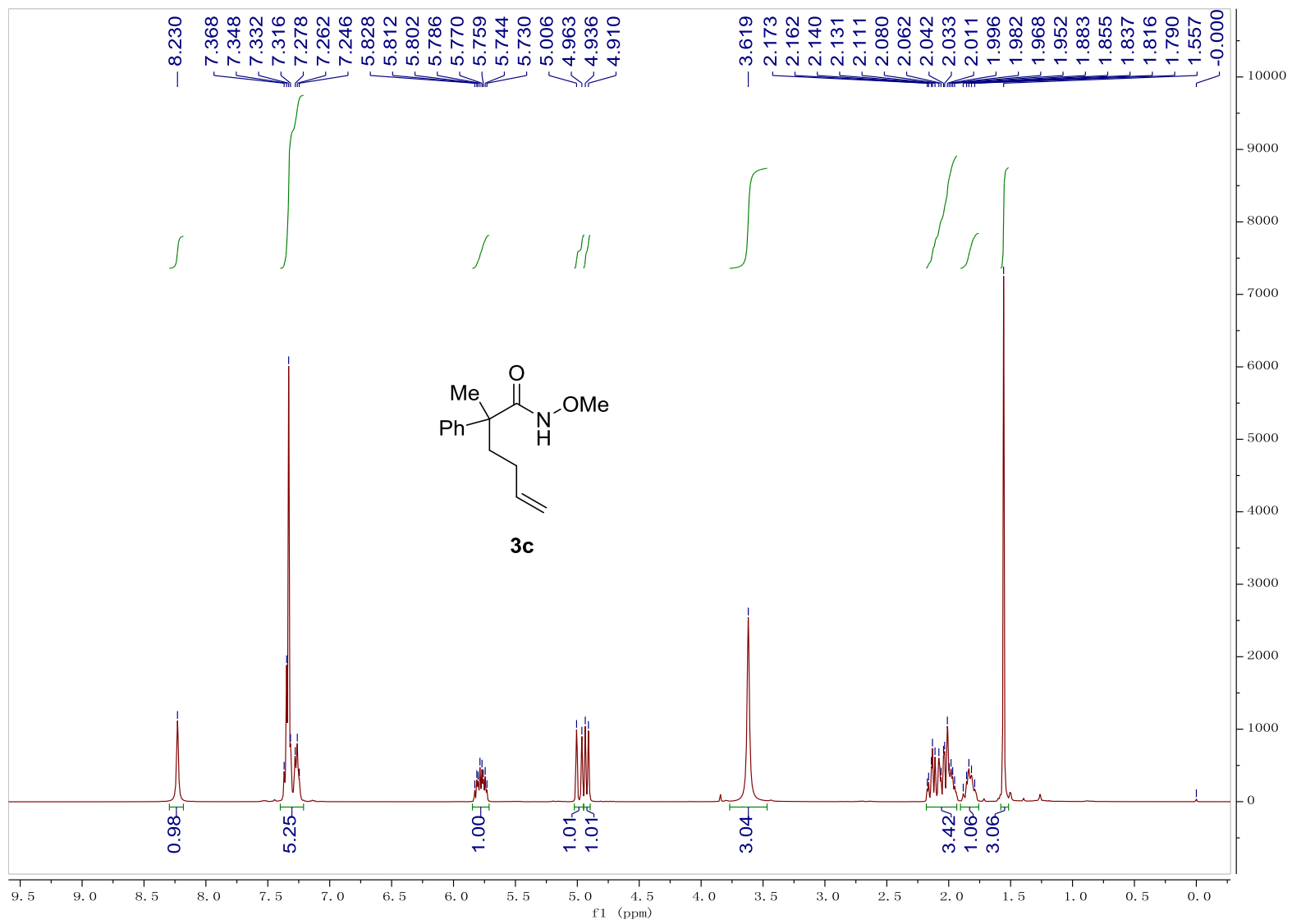
S100



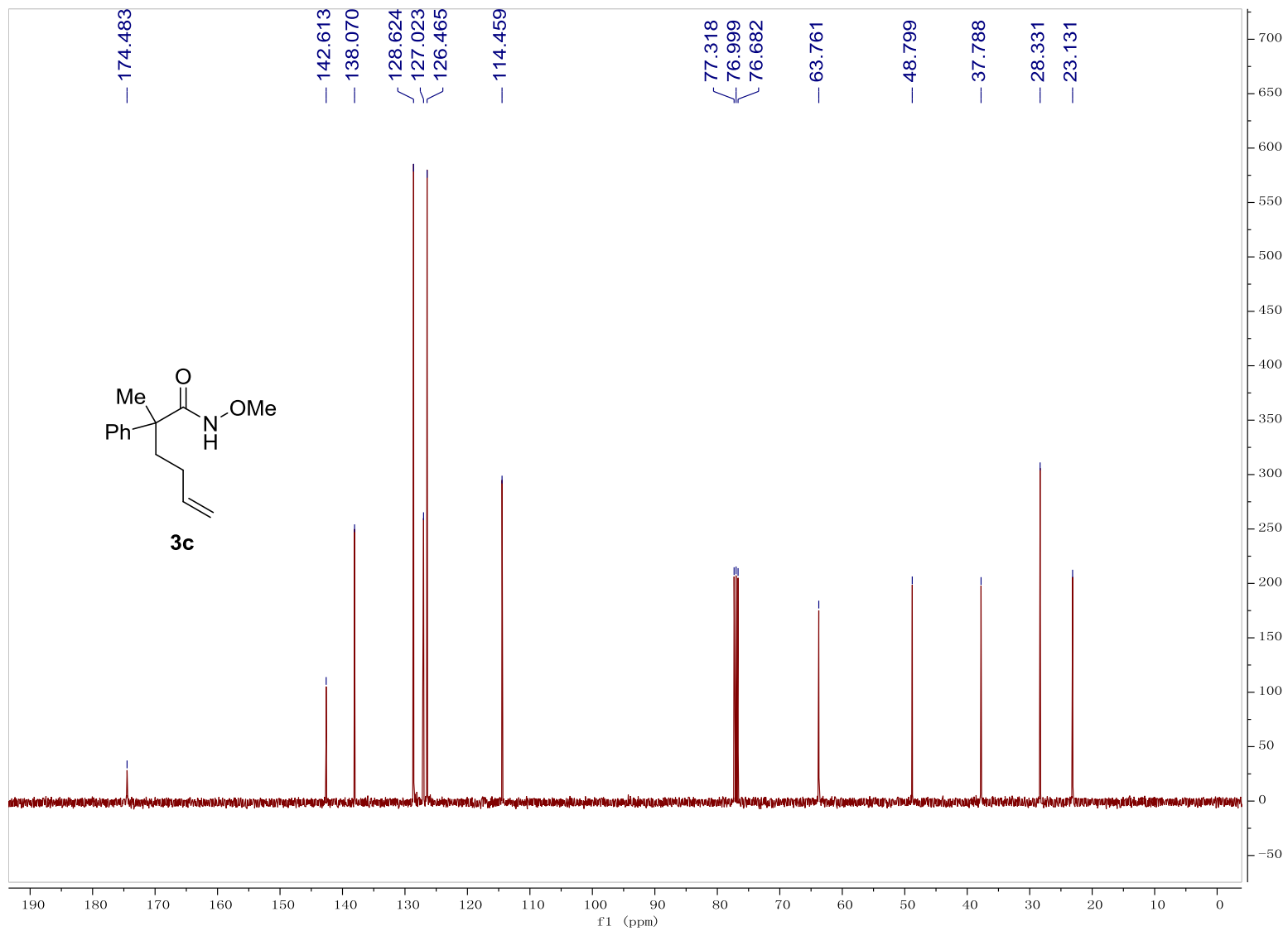
S101



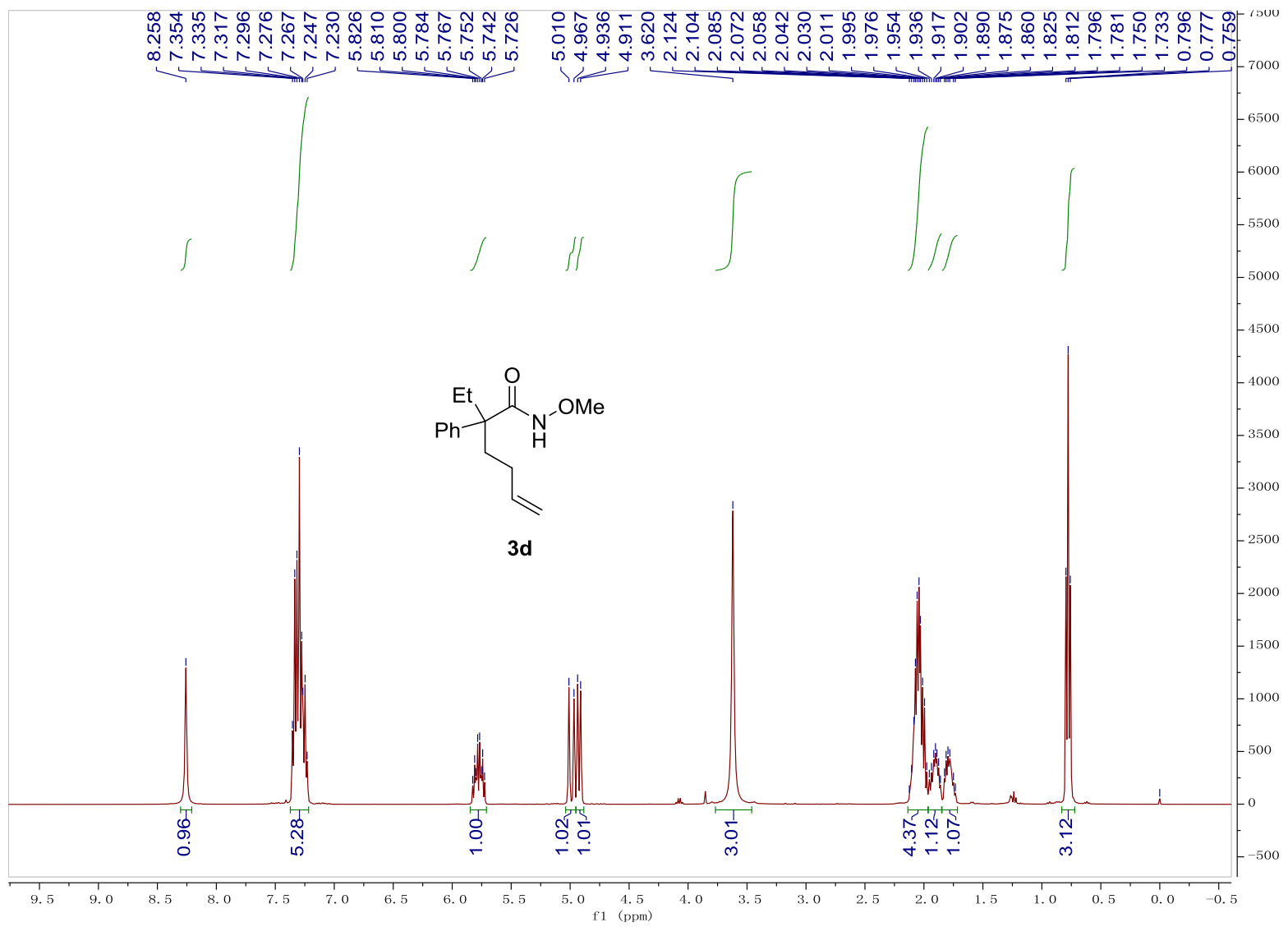
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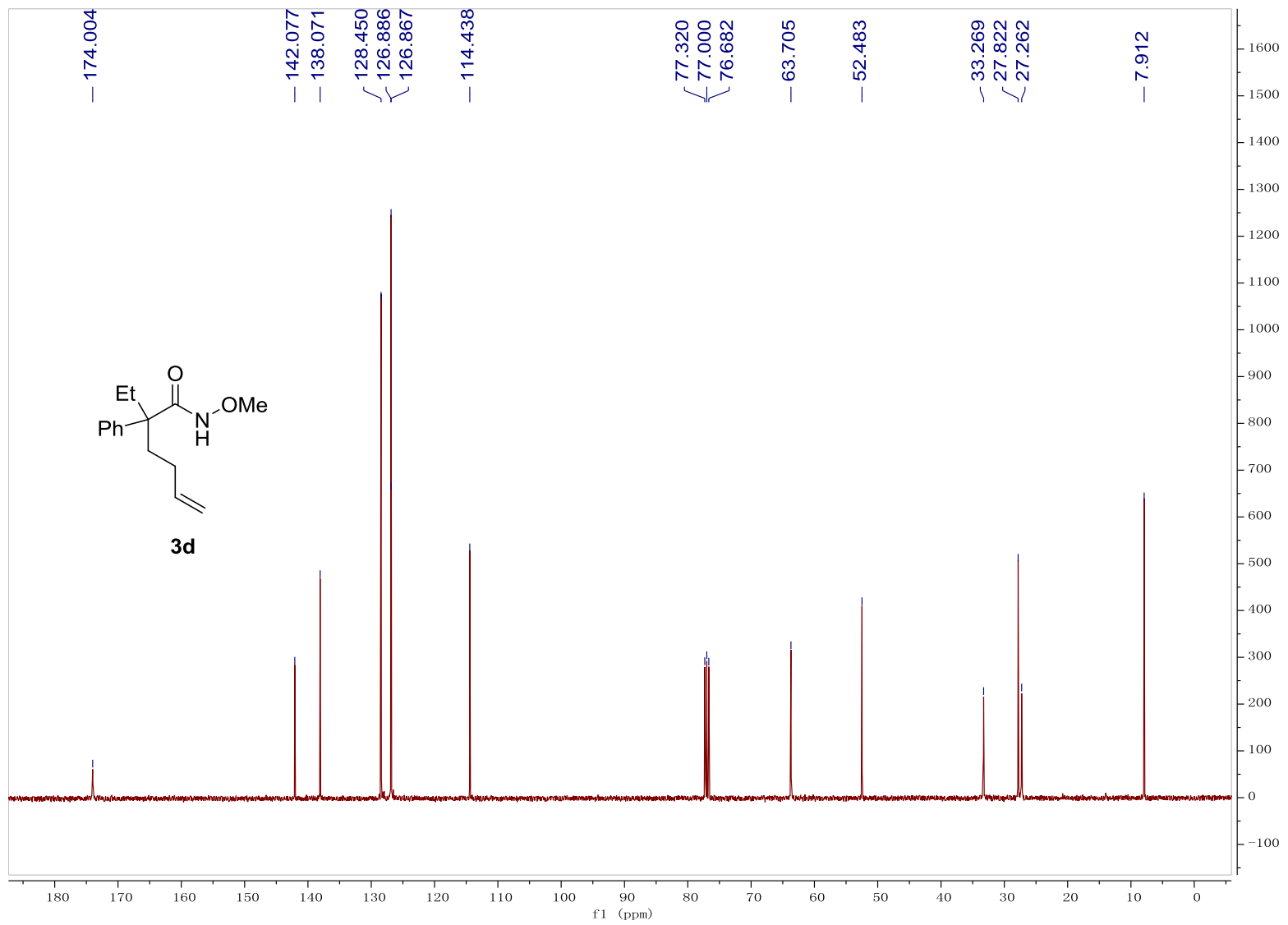
S103



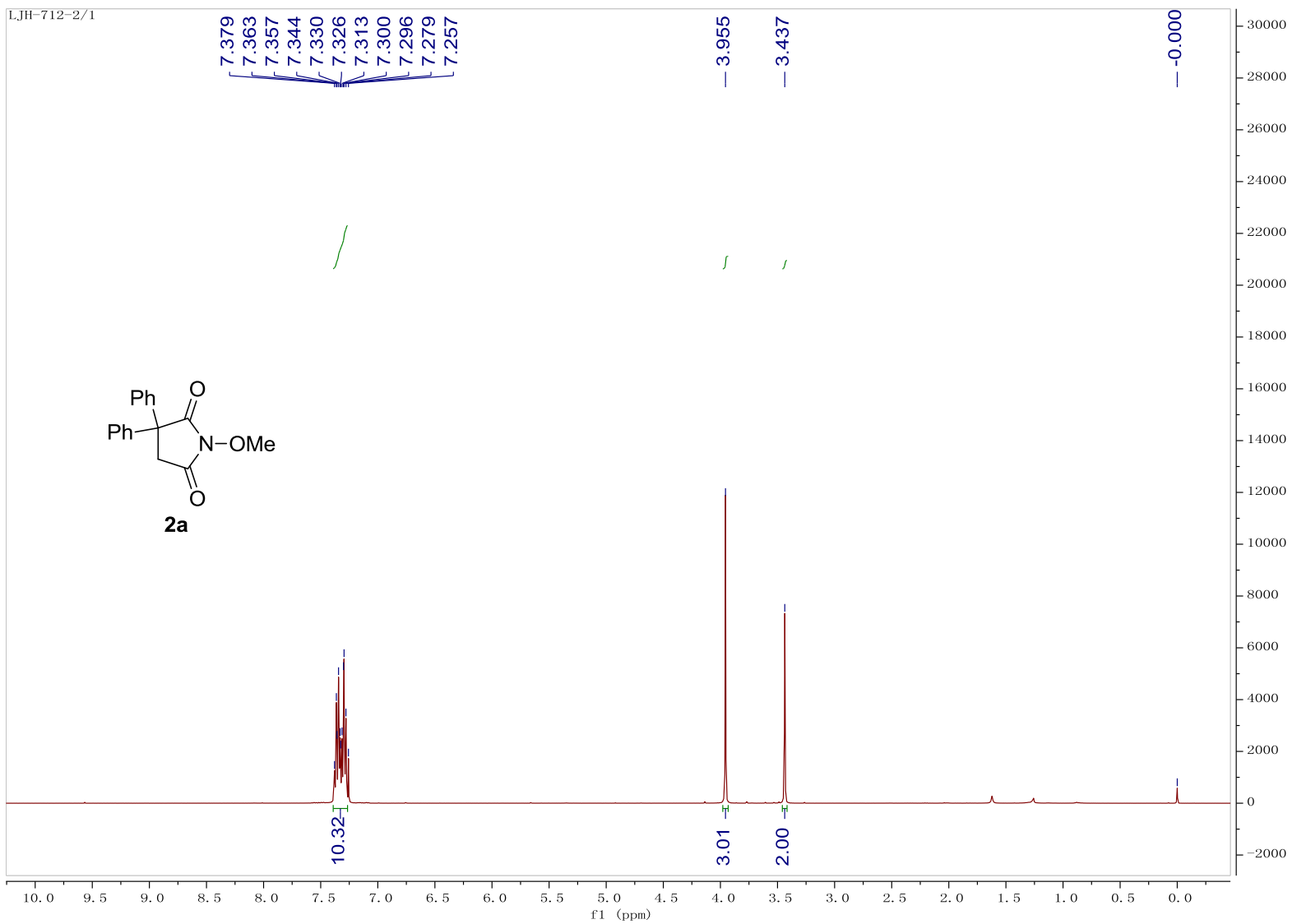
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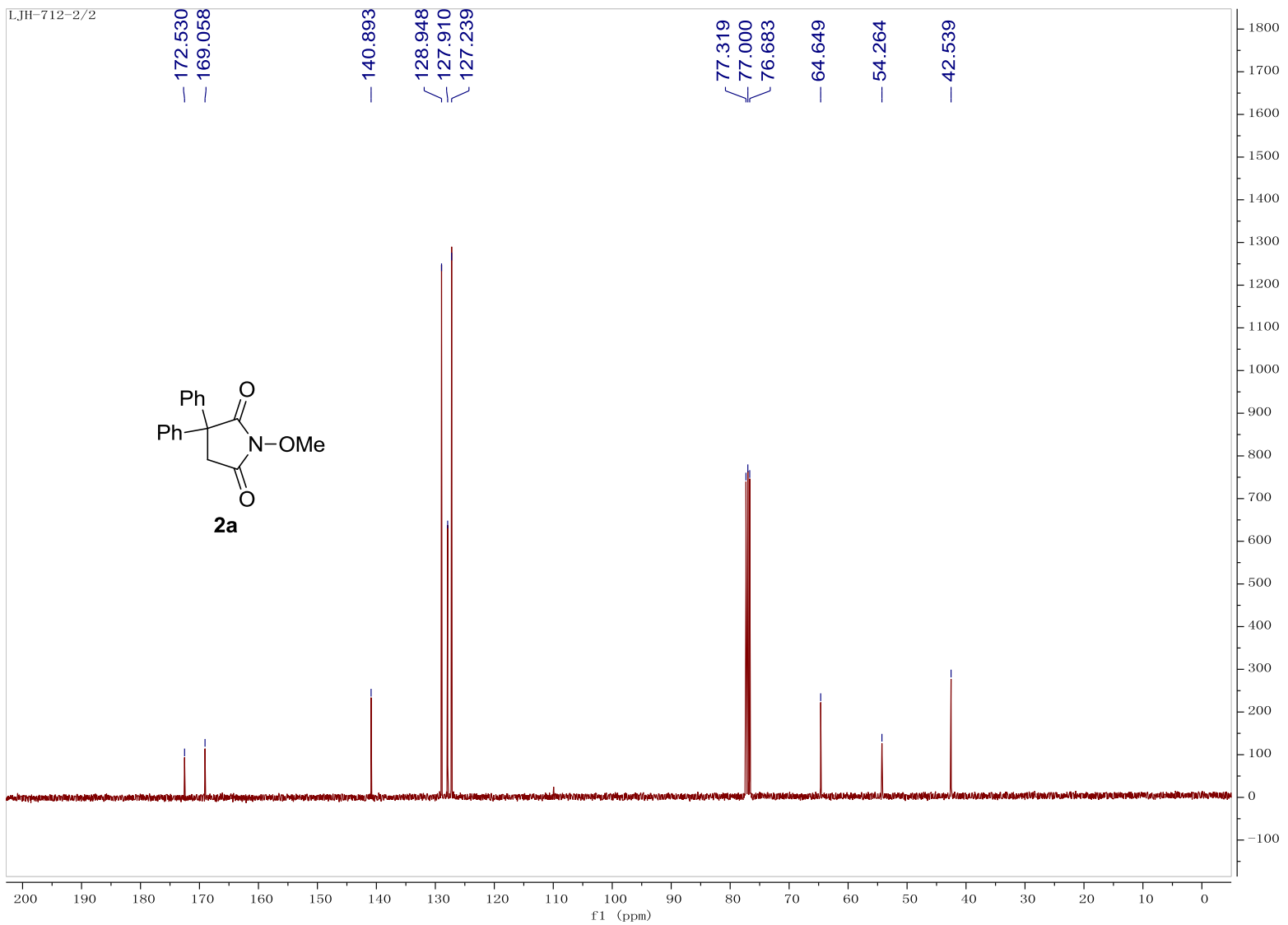


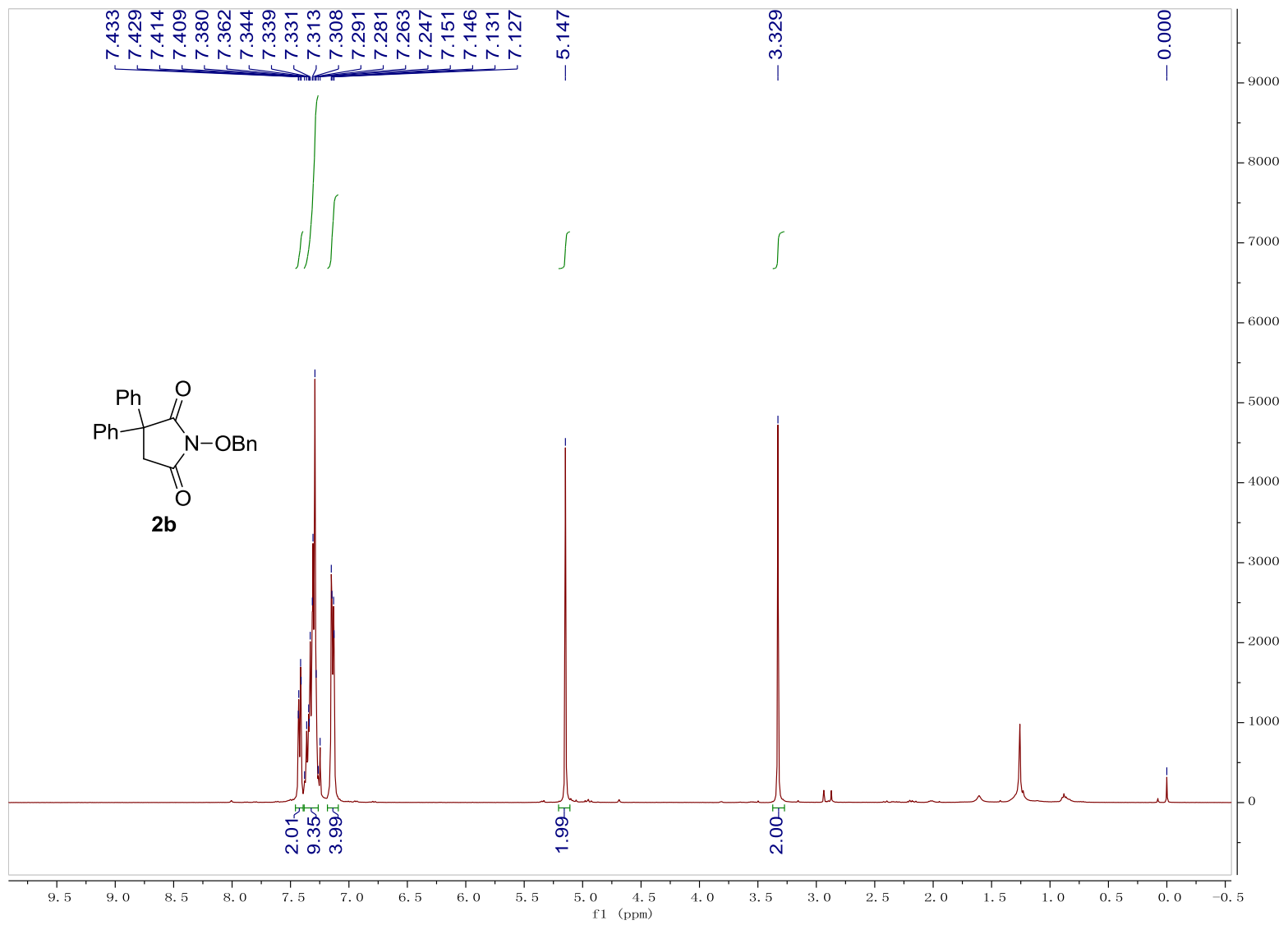
S105

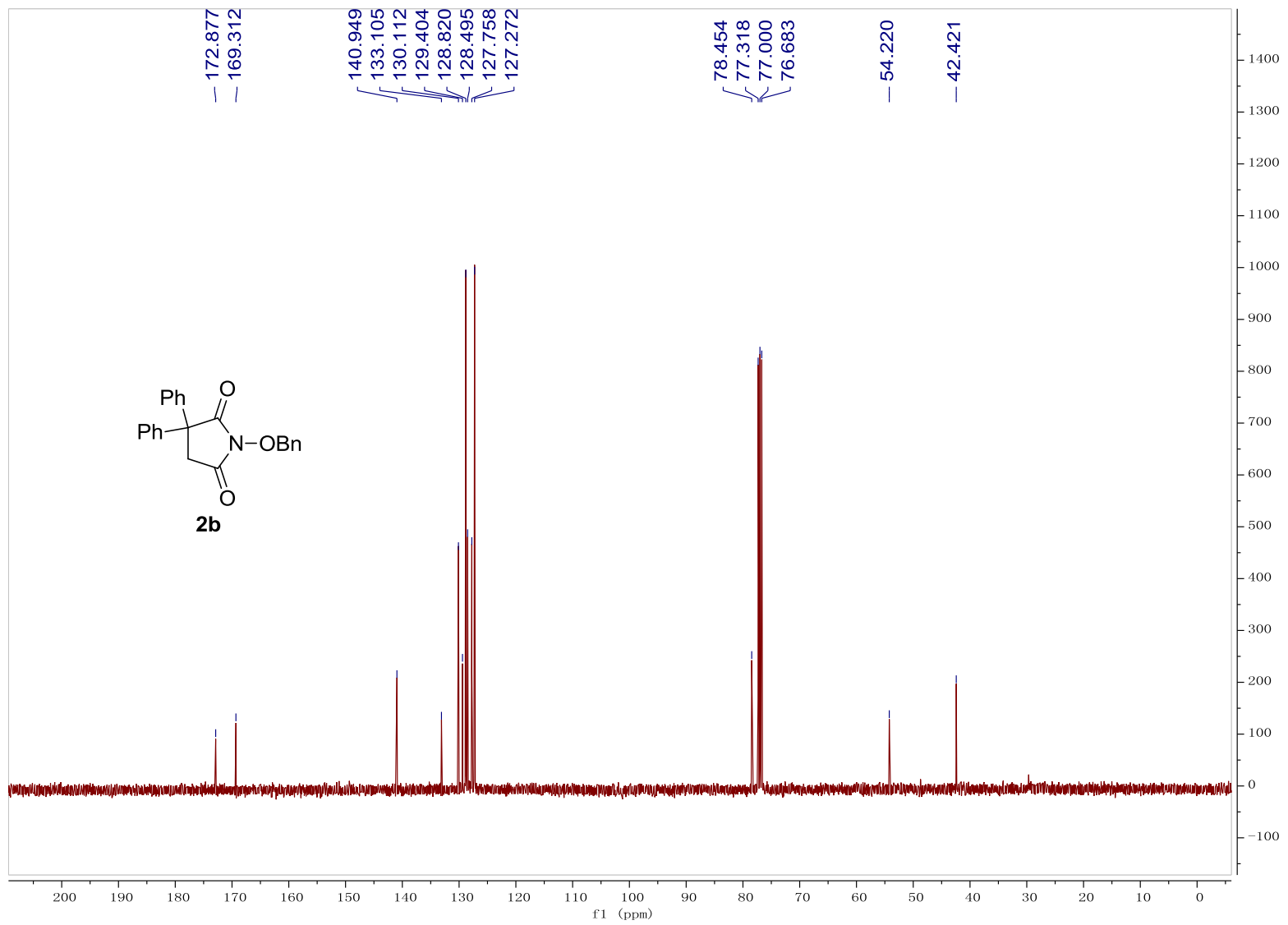


S106

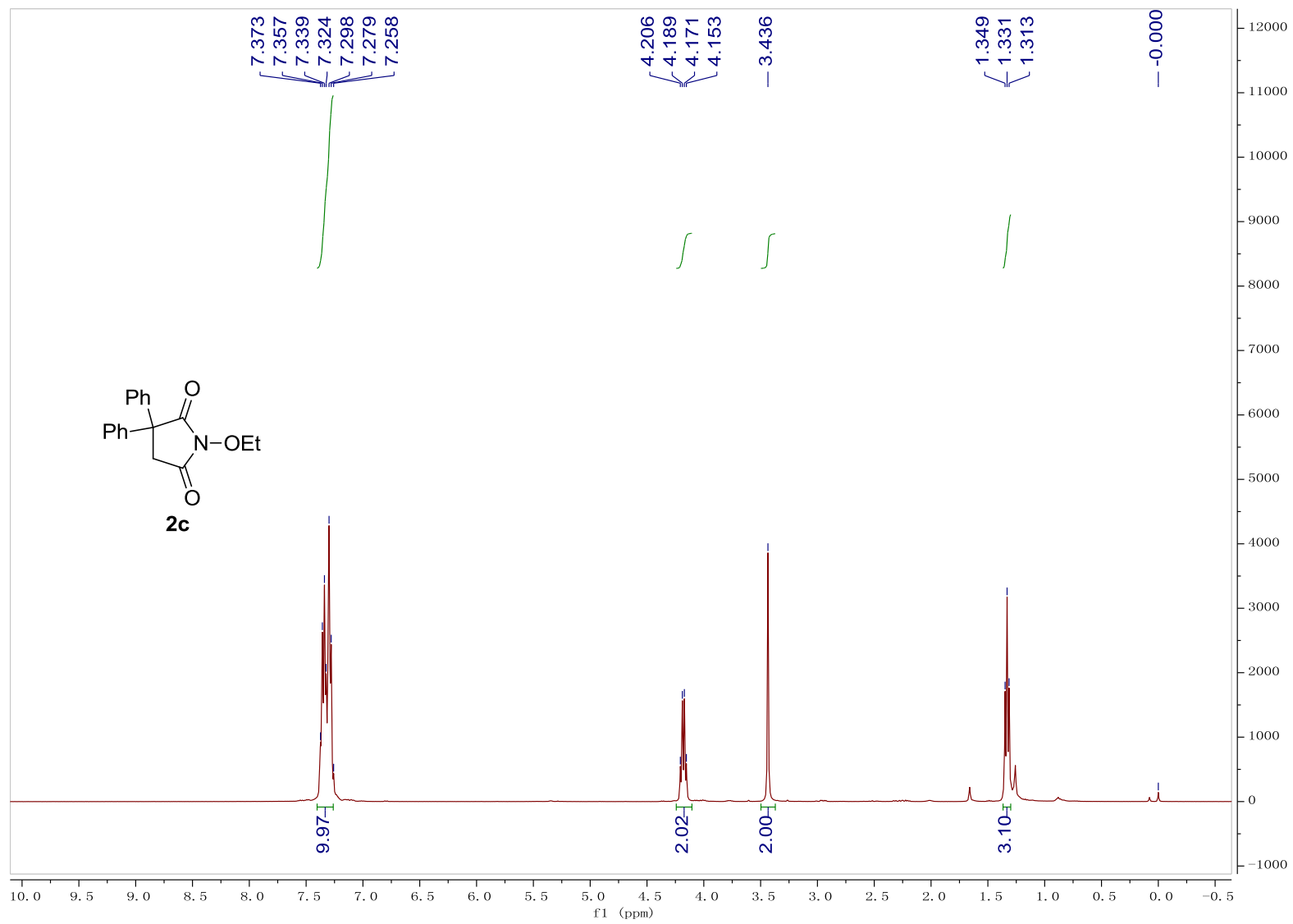




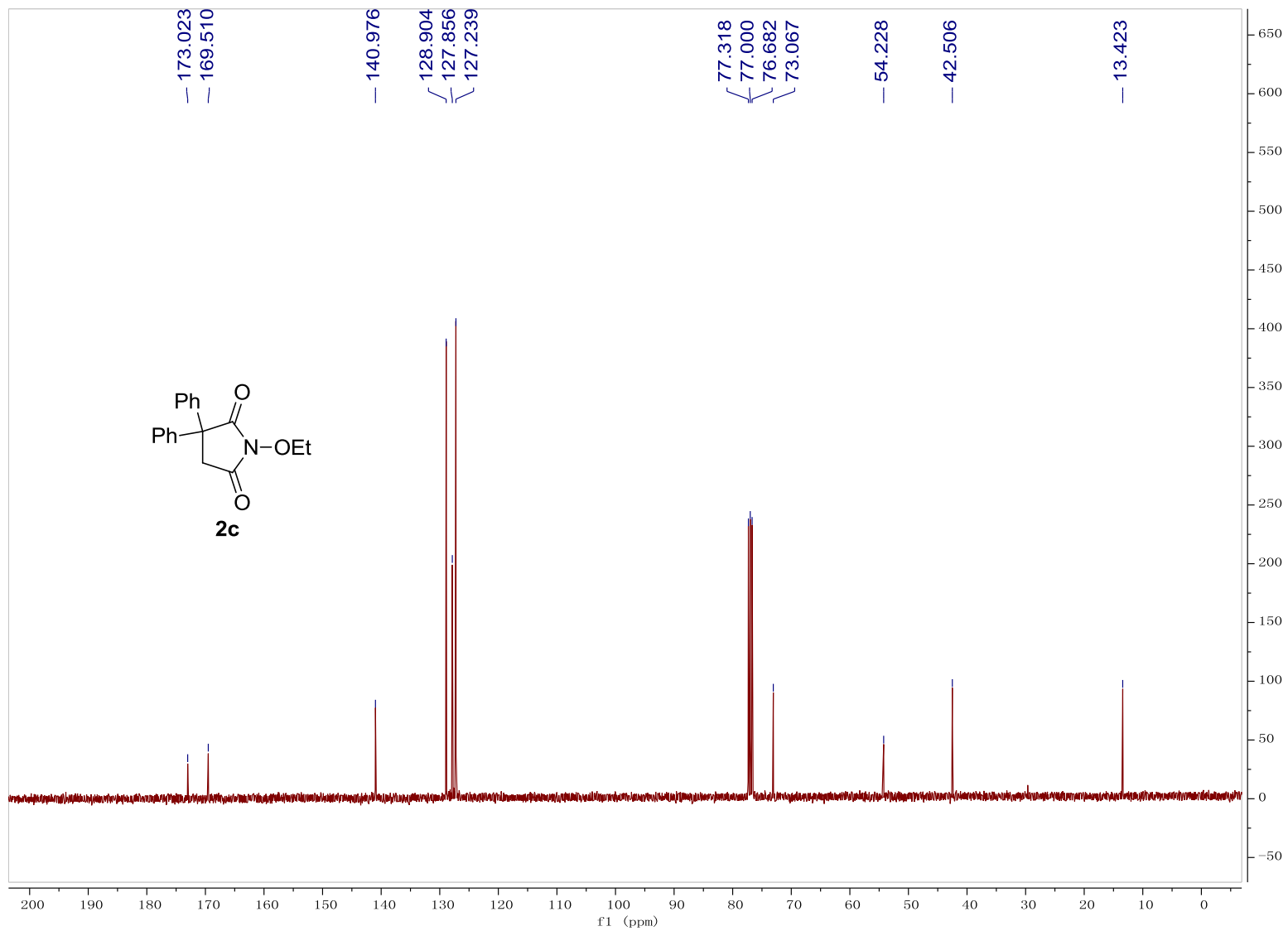




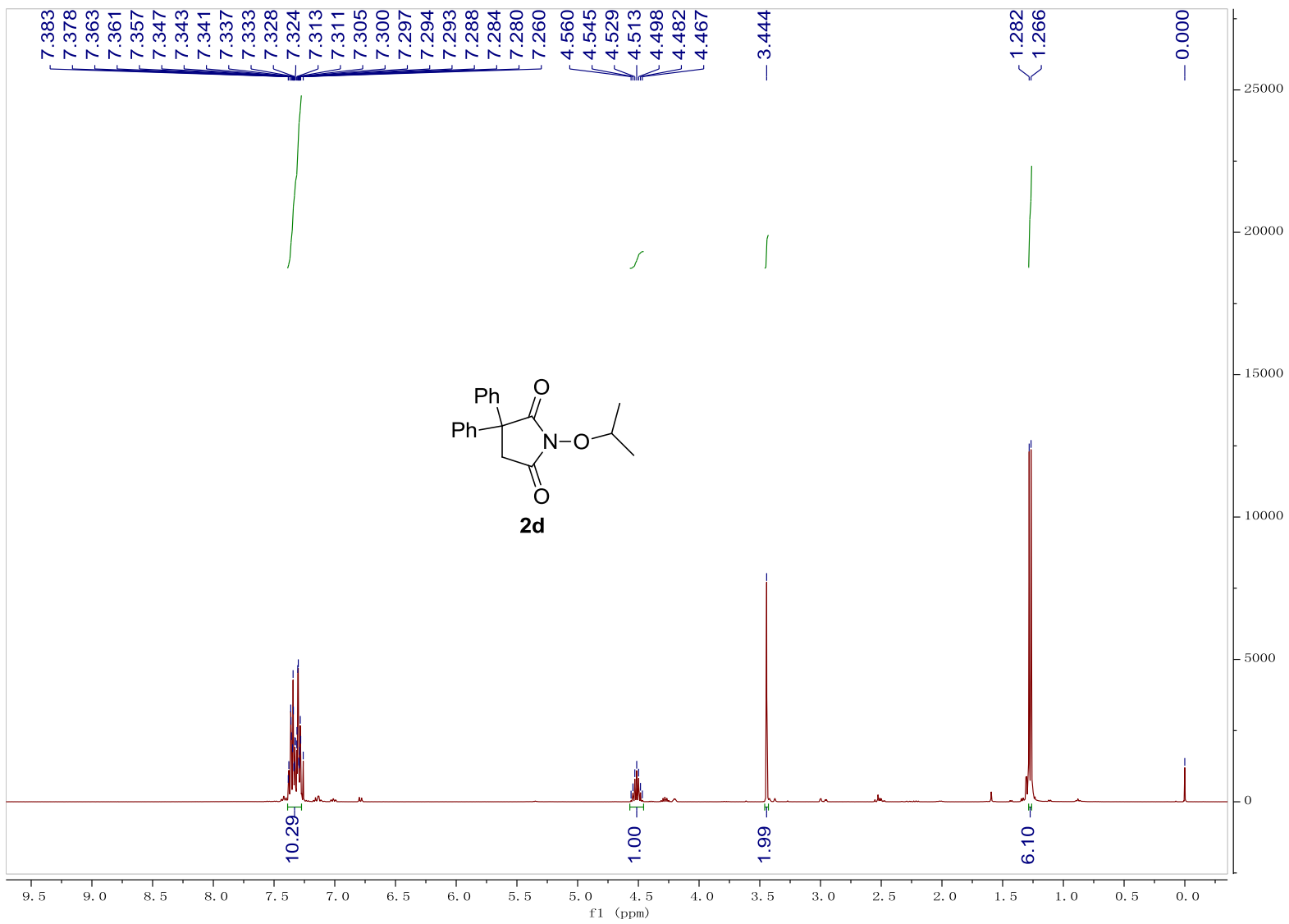
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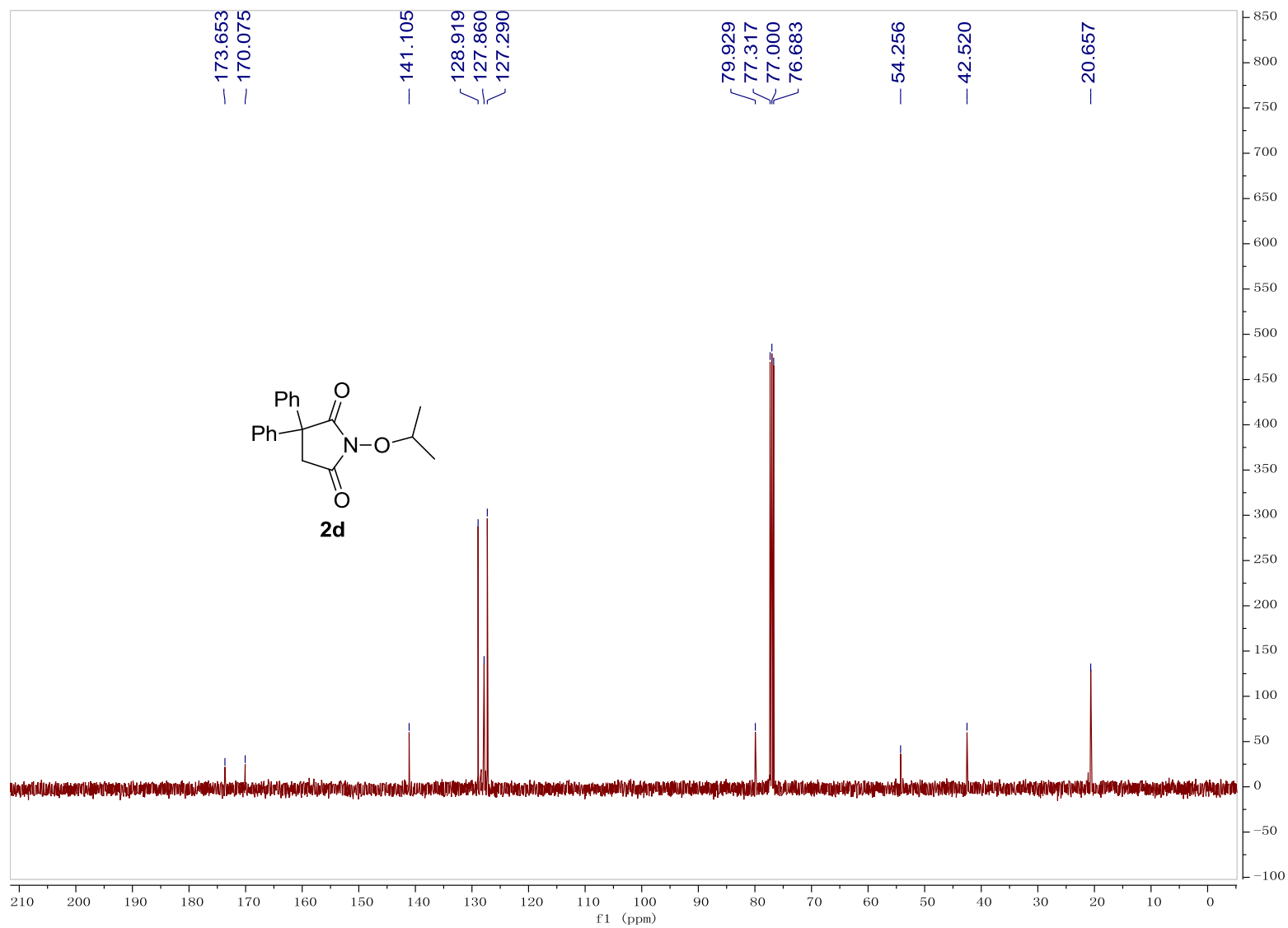
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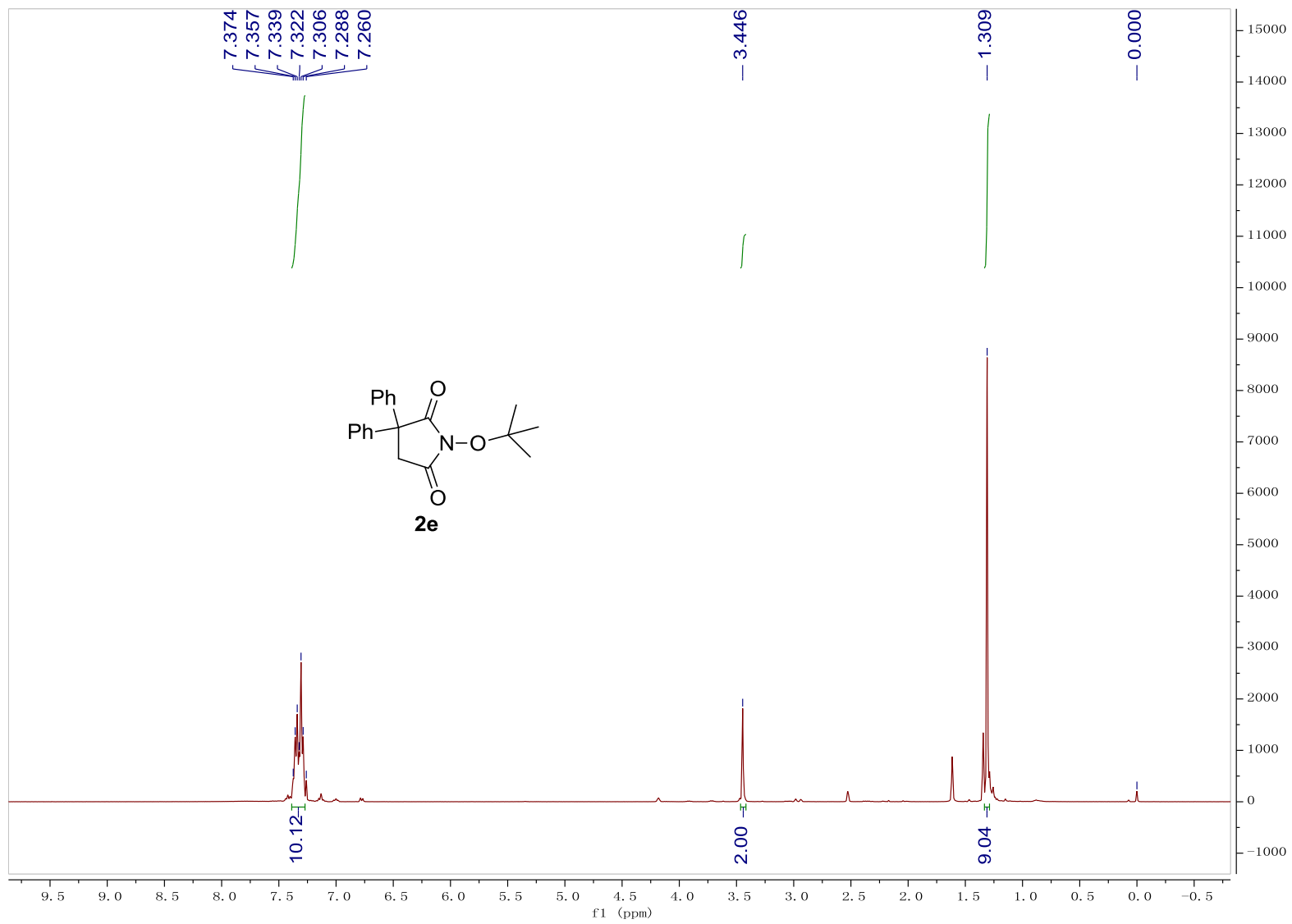
S112



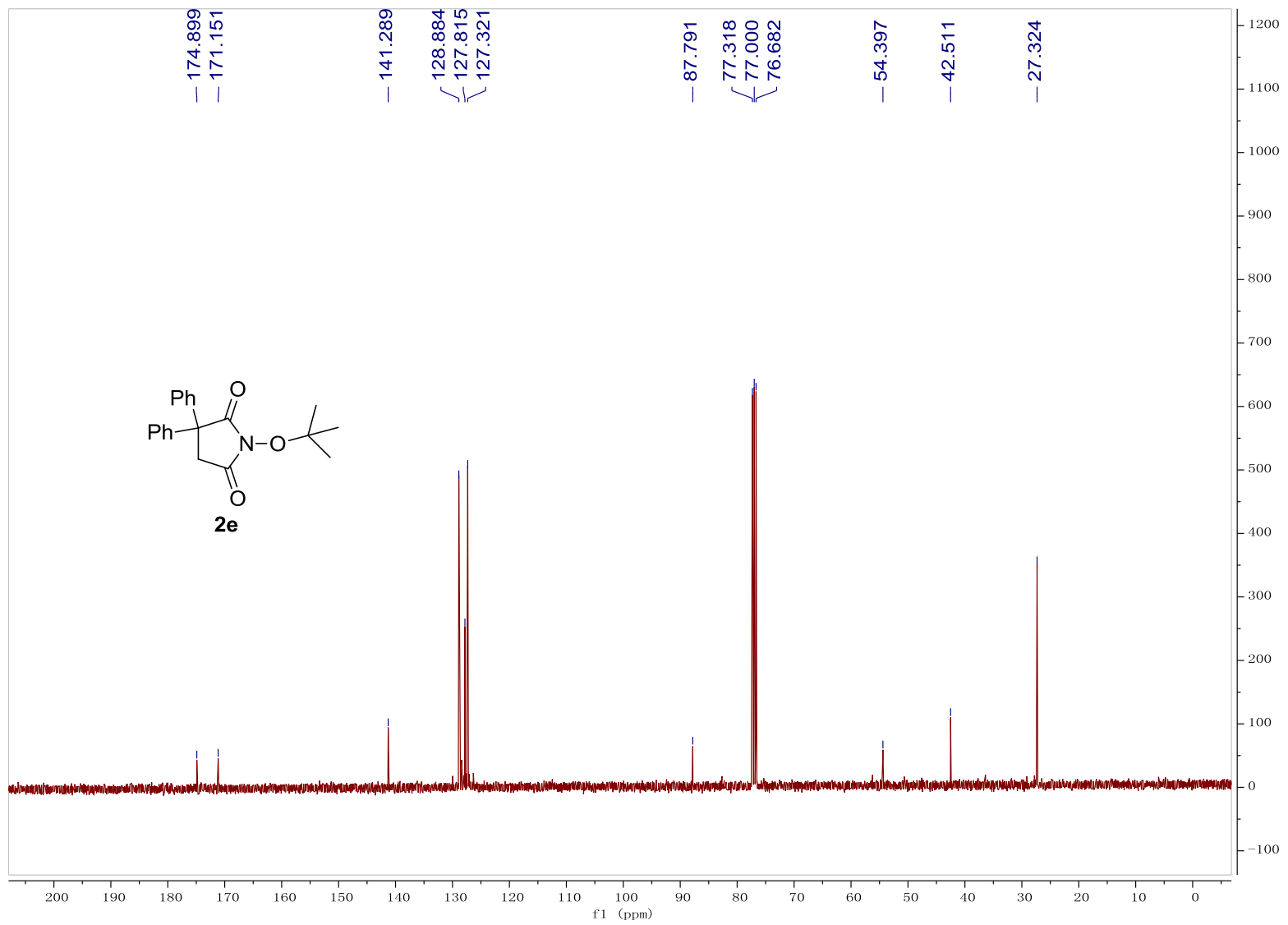
S113



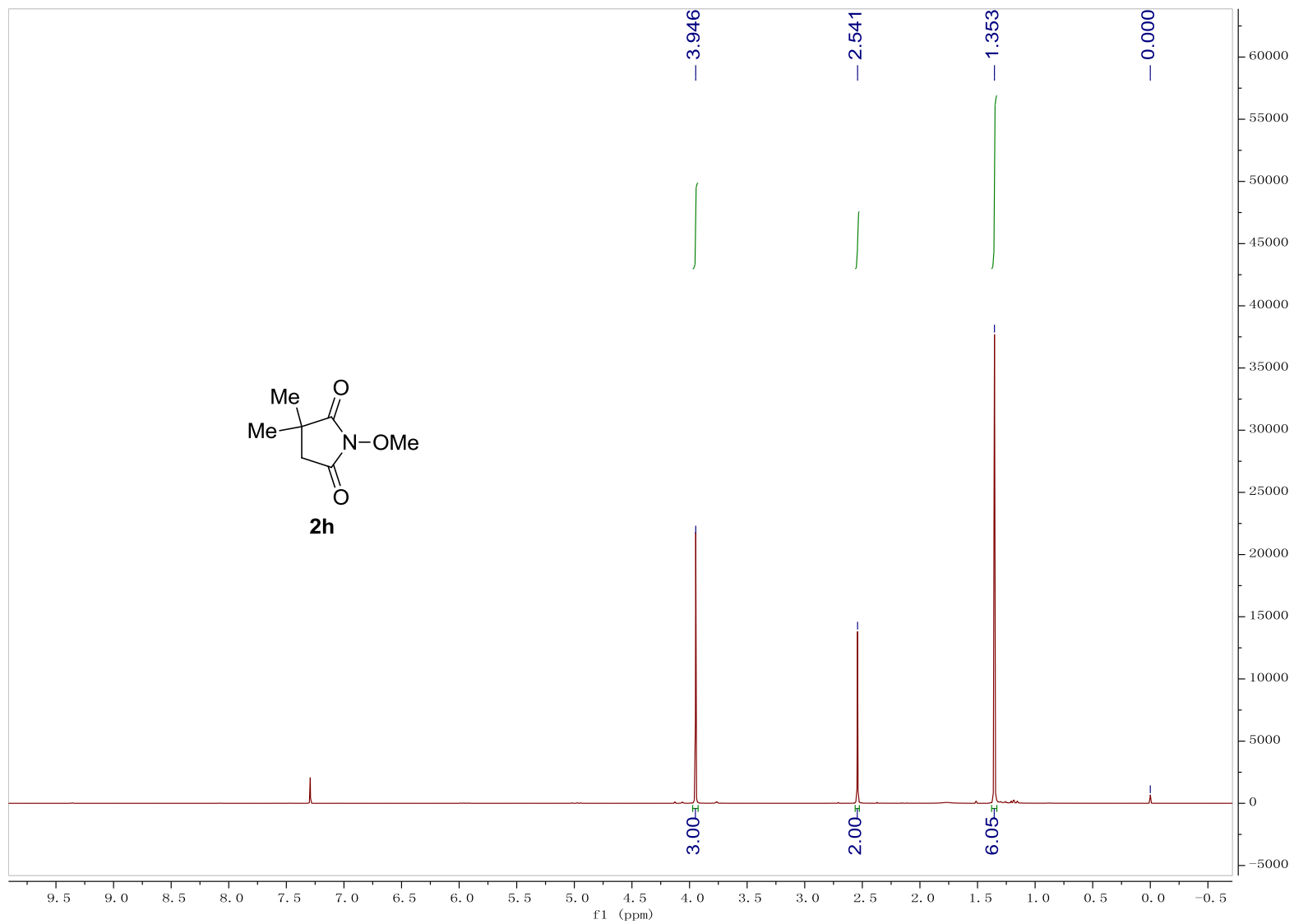
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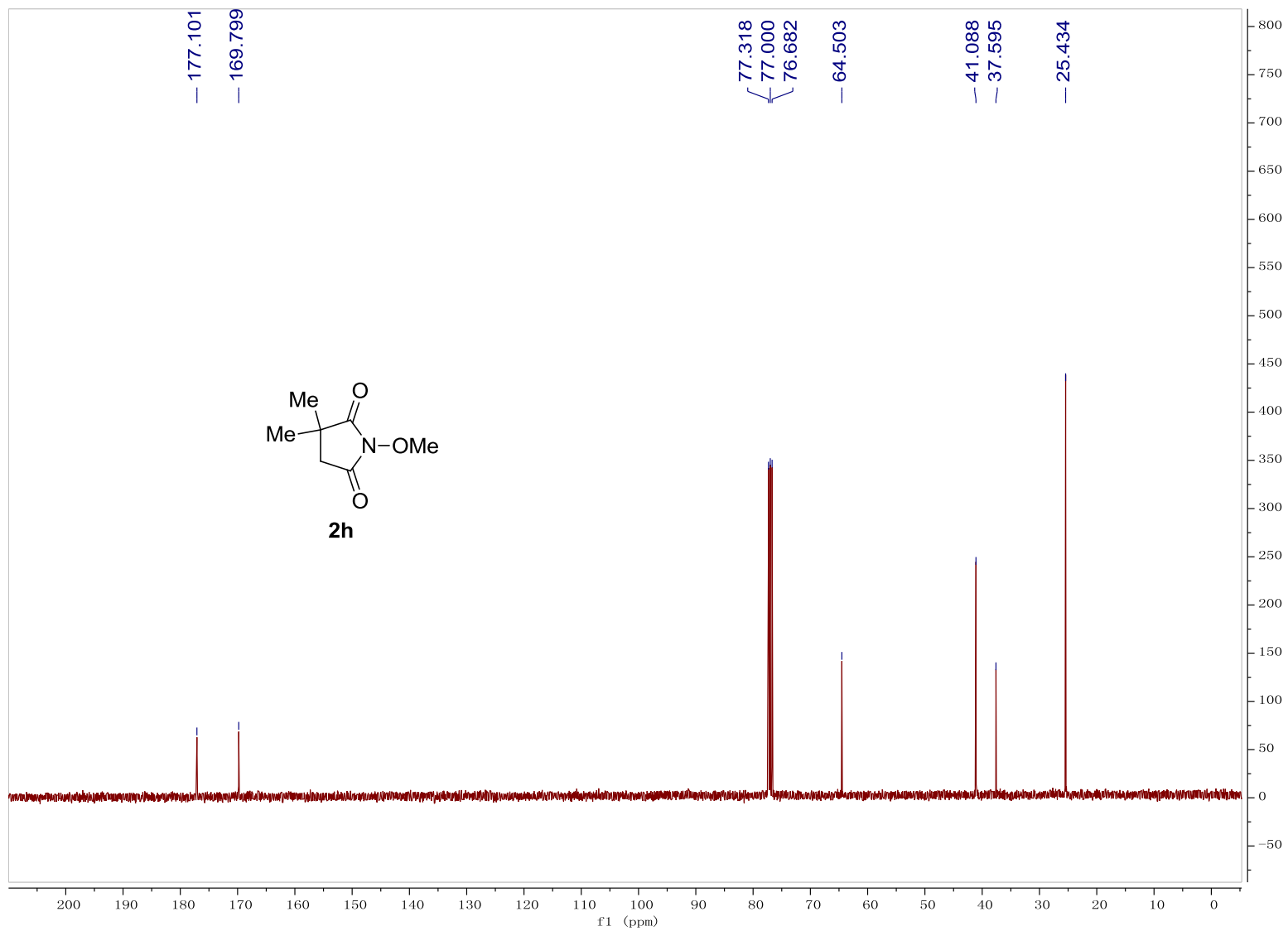
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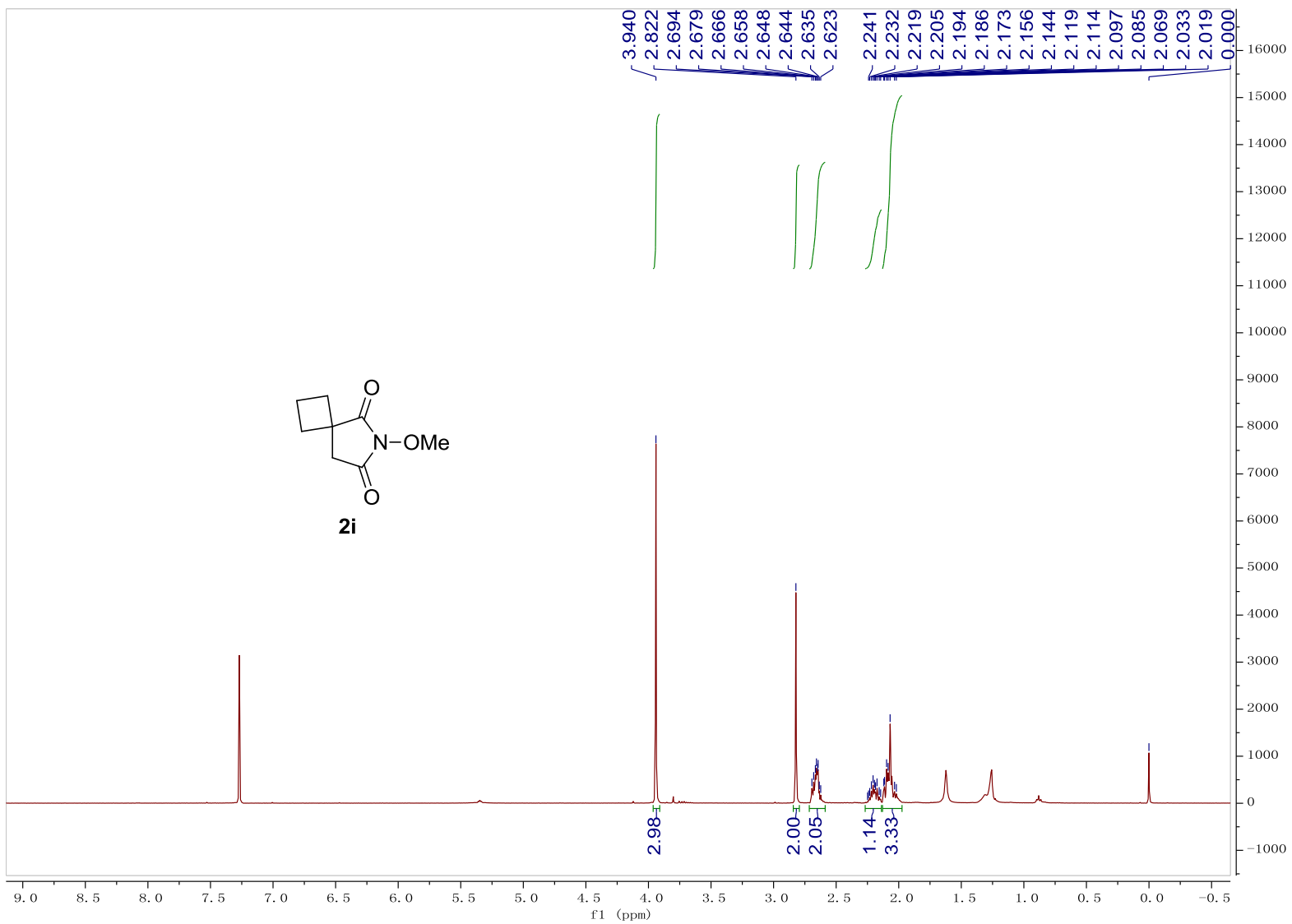
S116



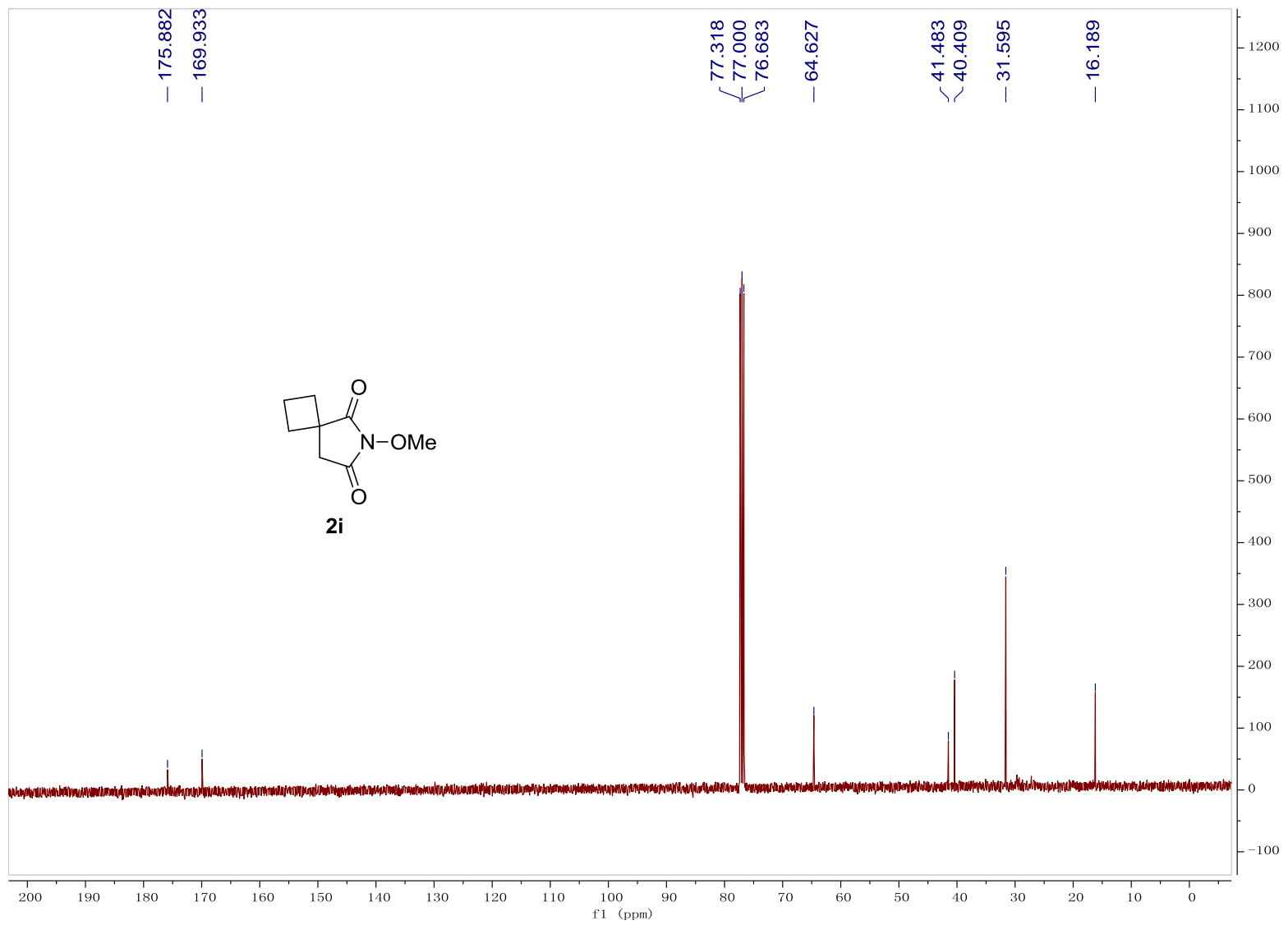
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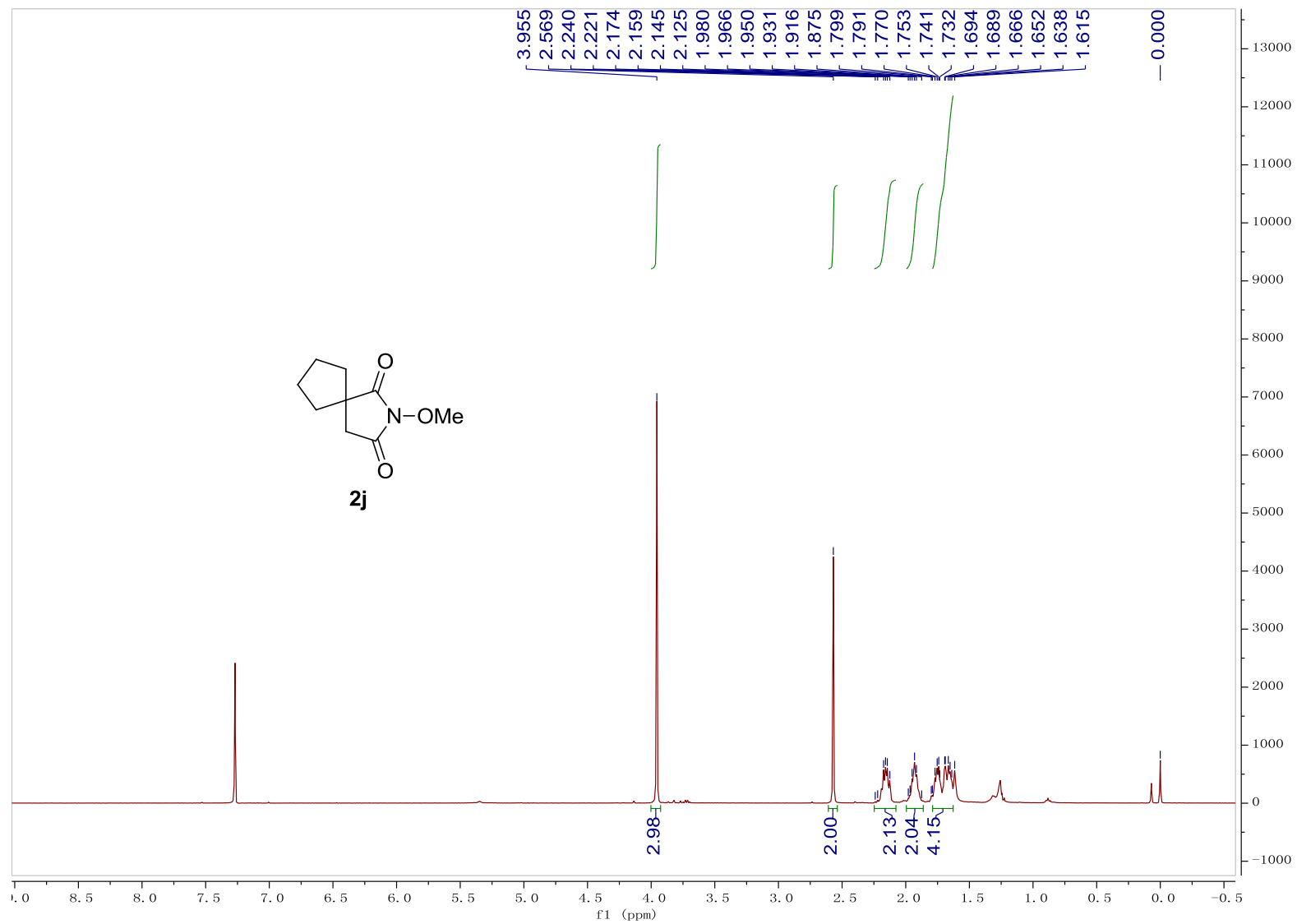
S118



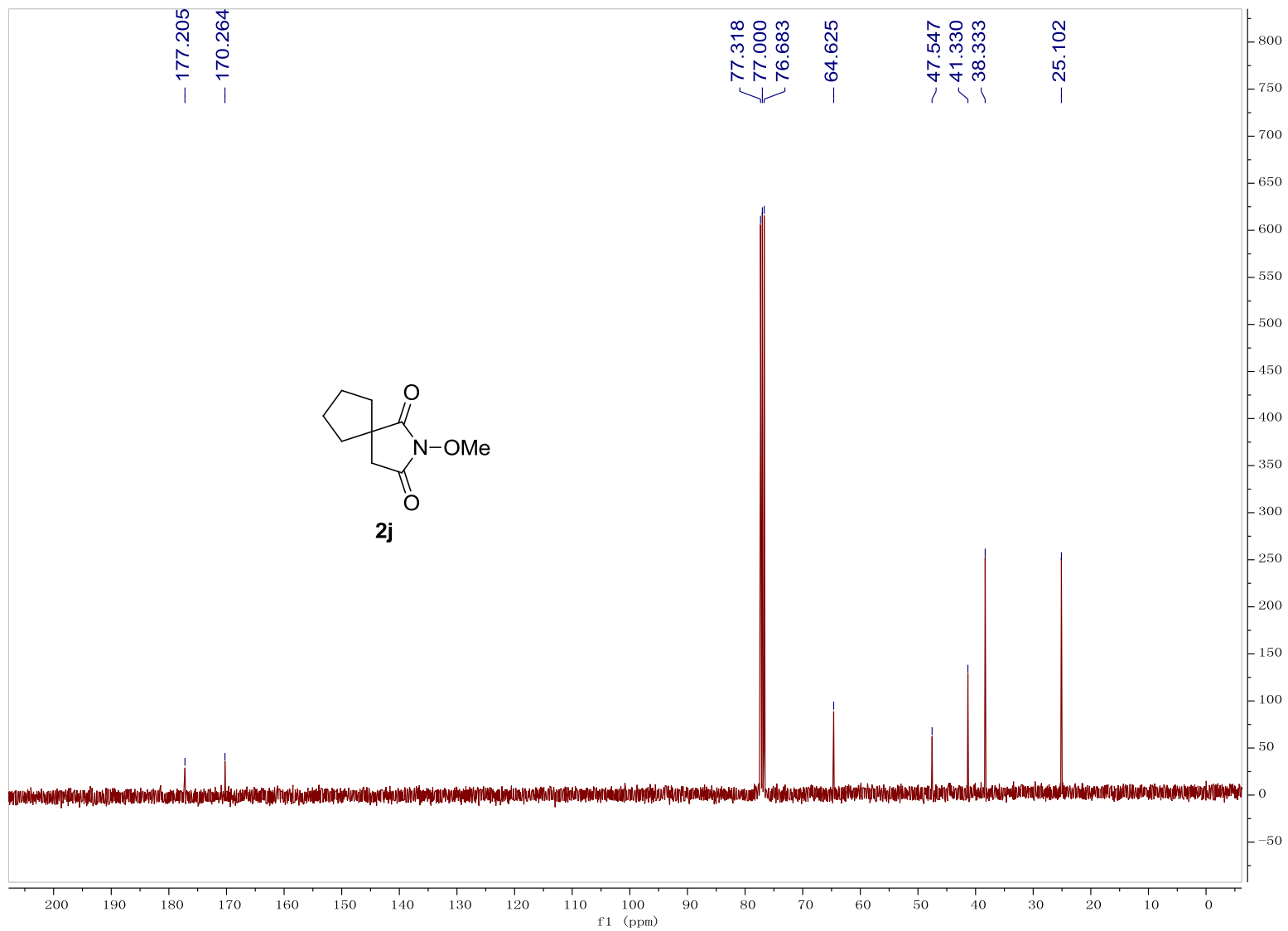
S119



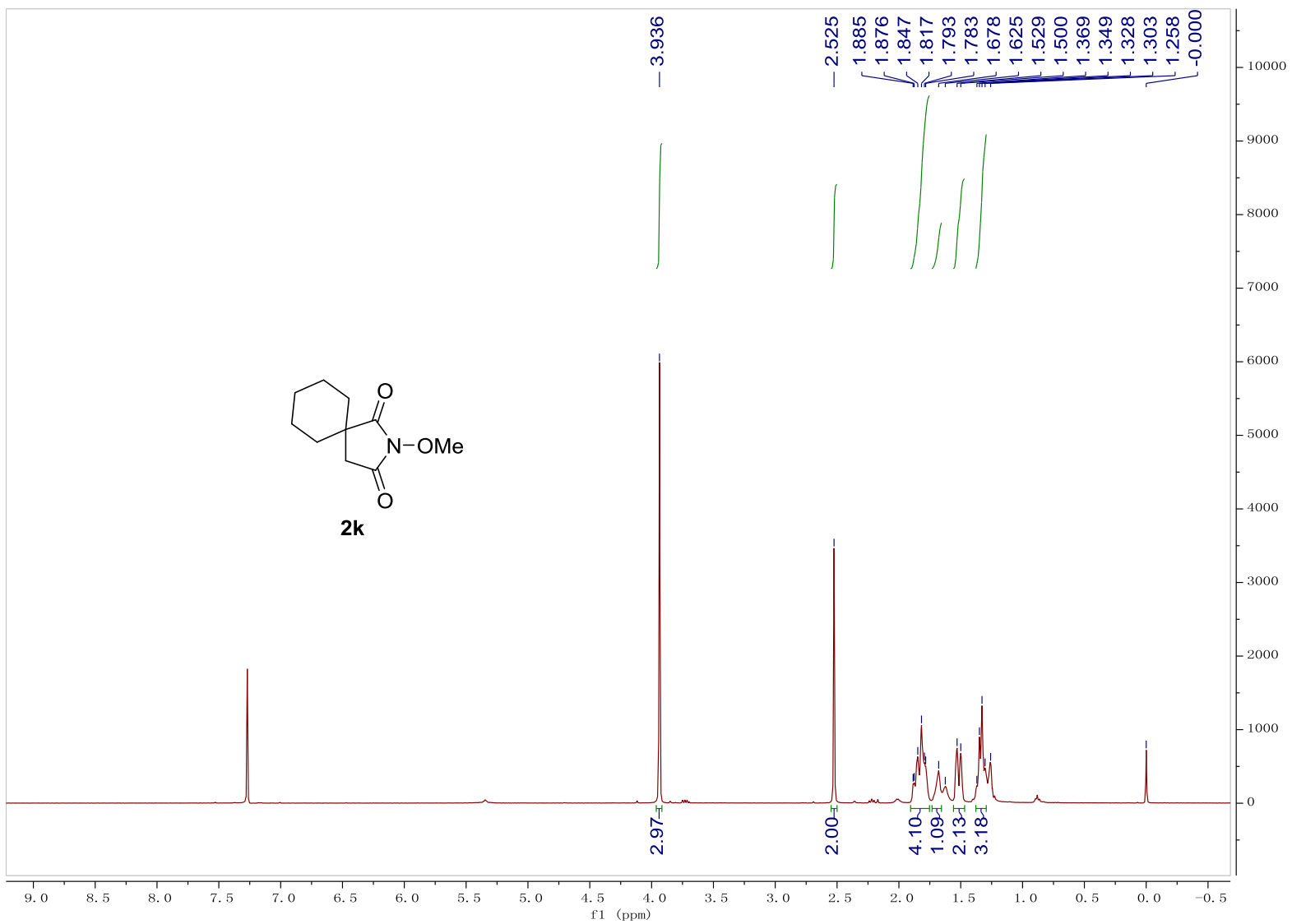
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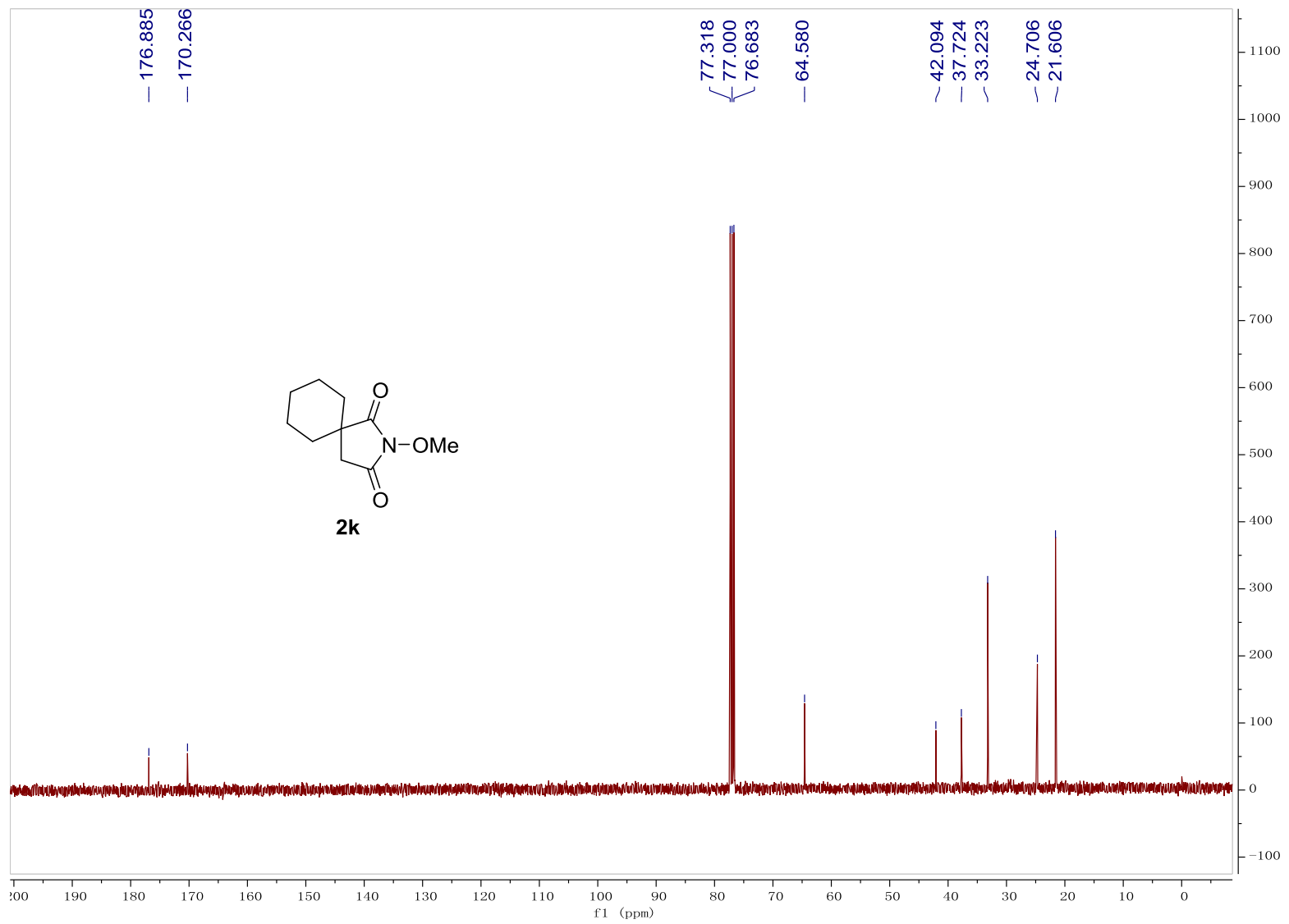
S121



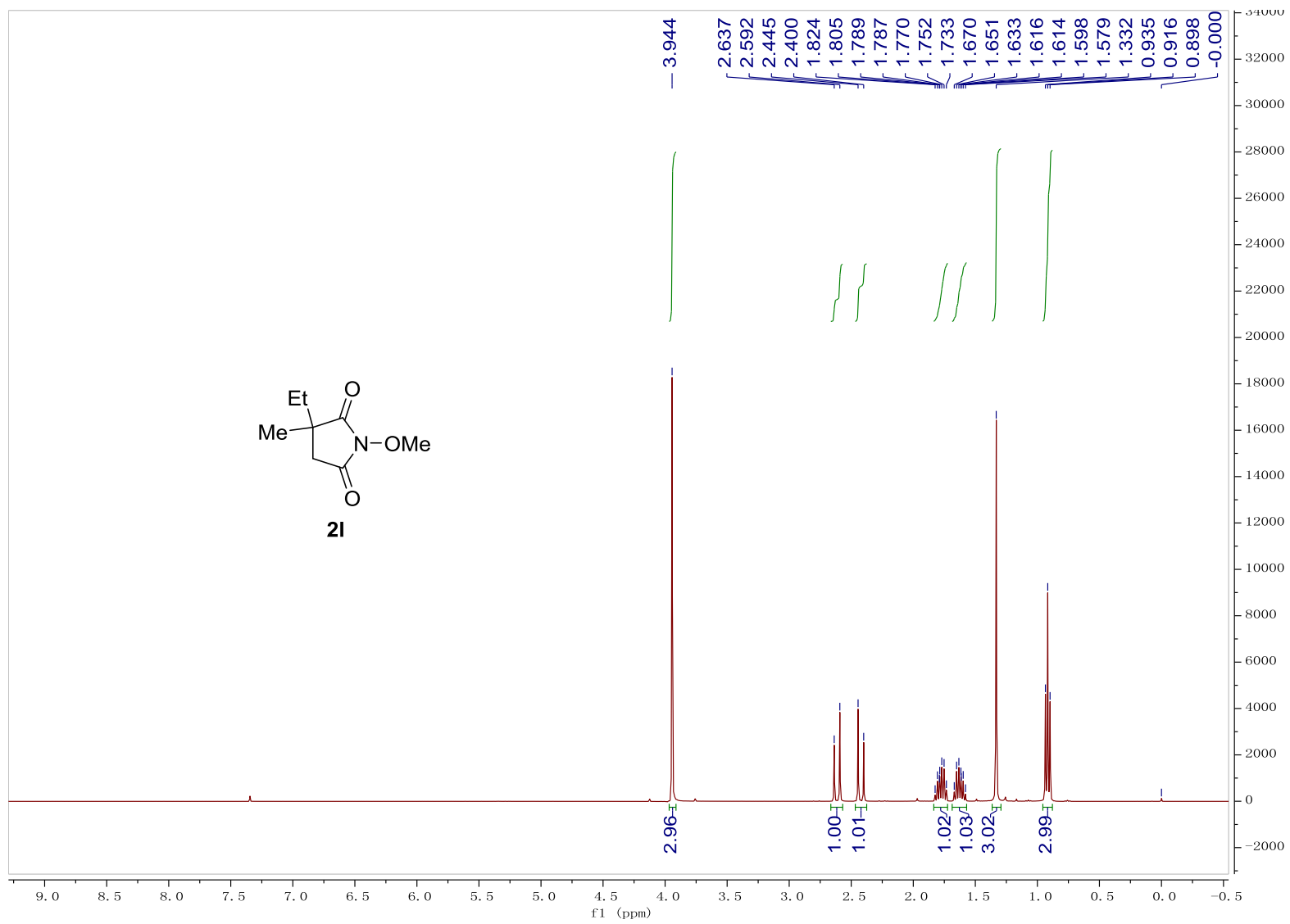
S122



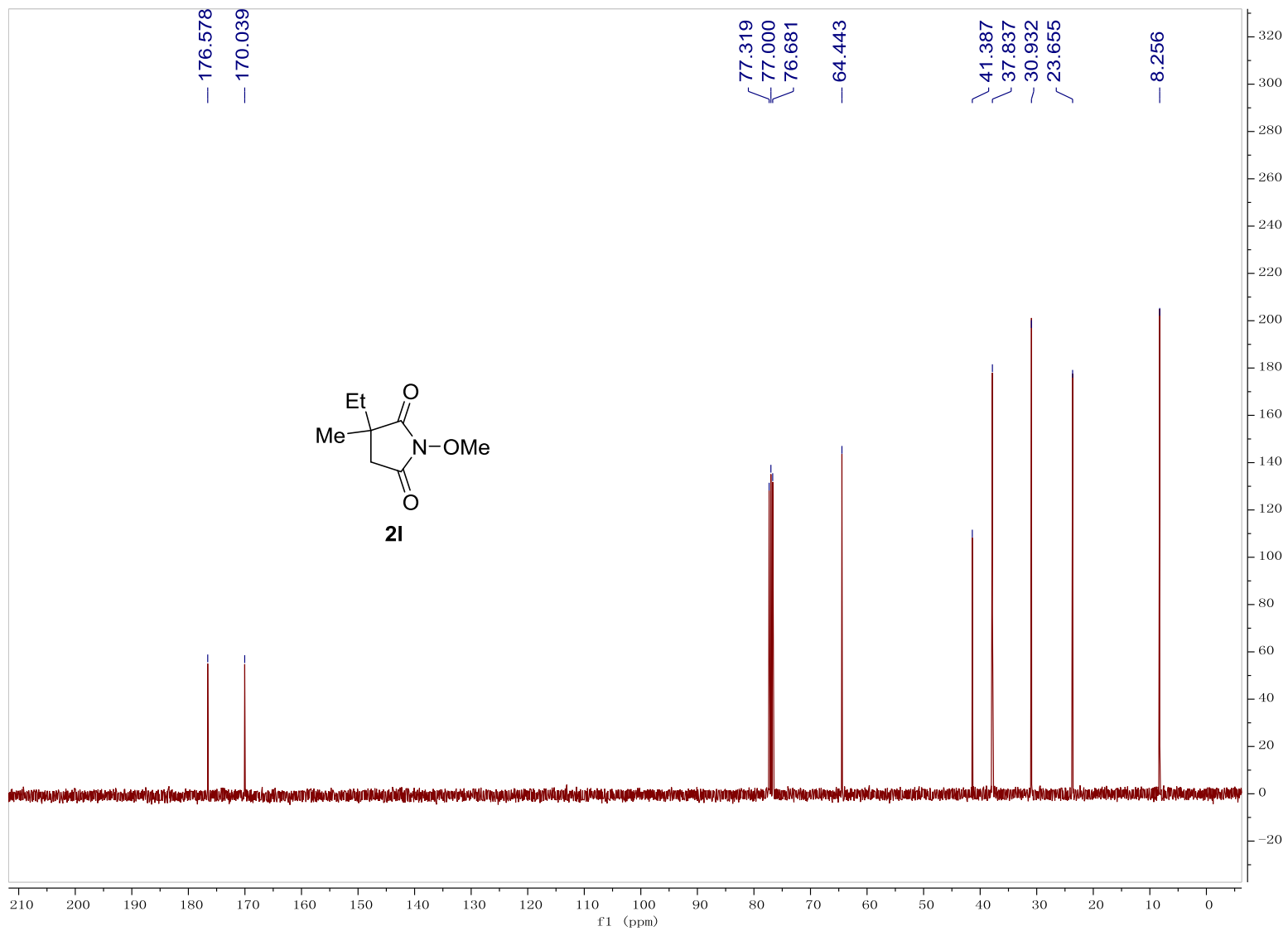
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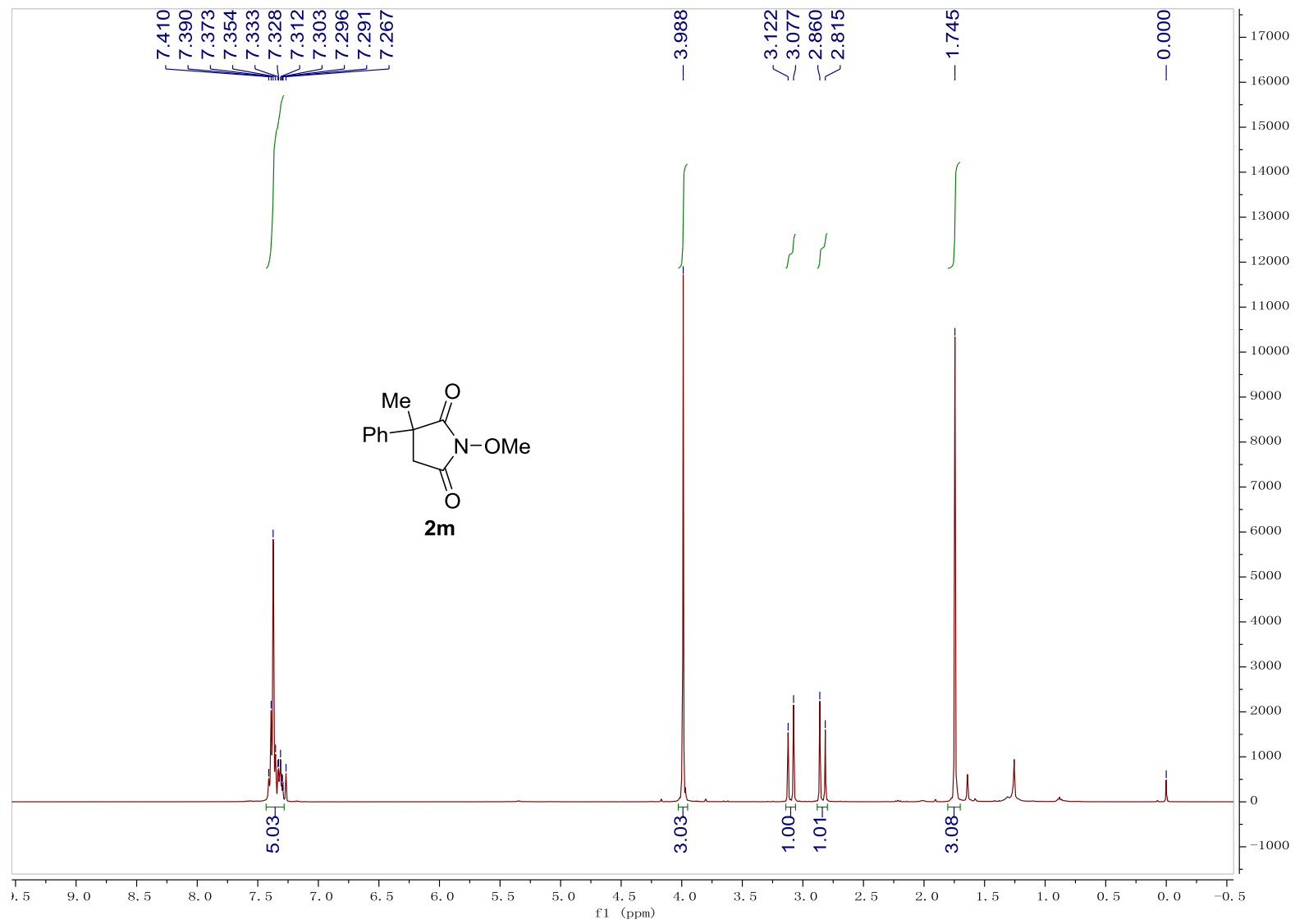
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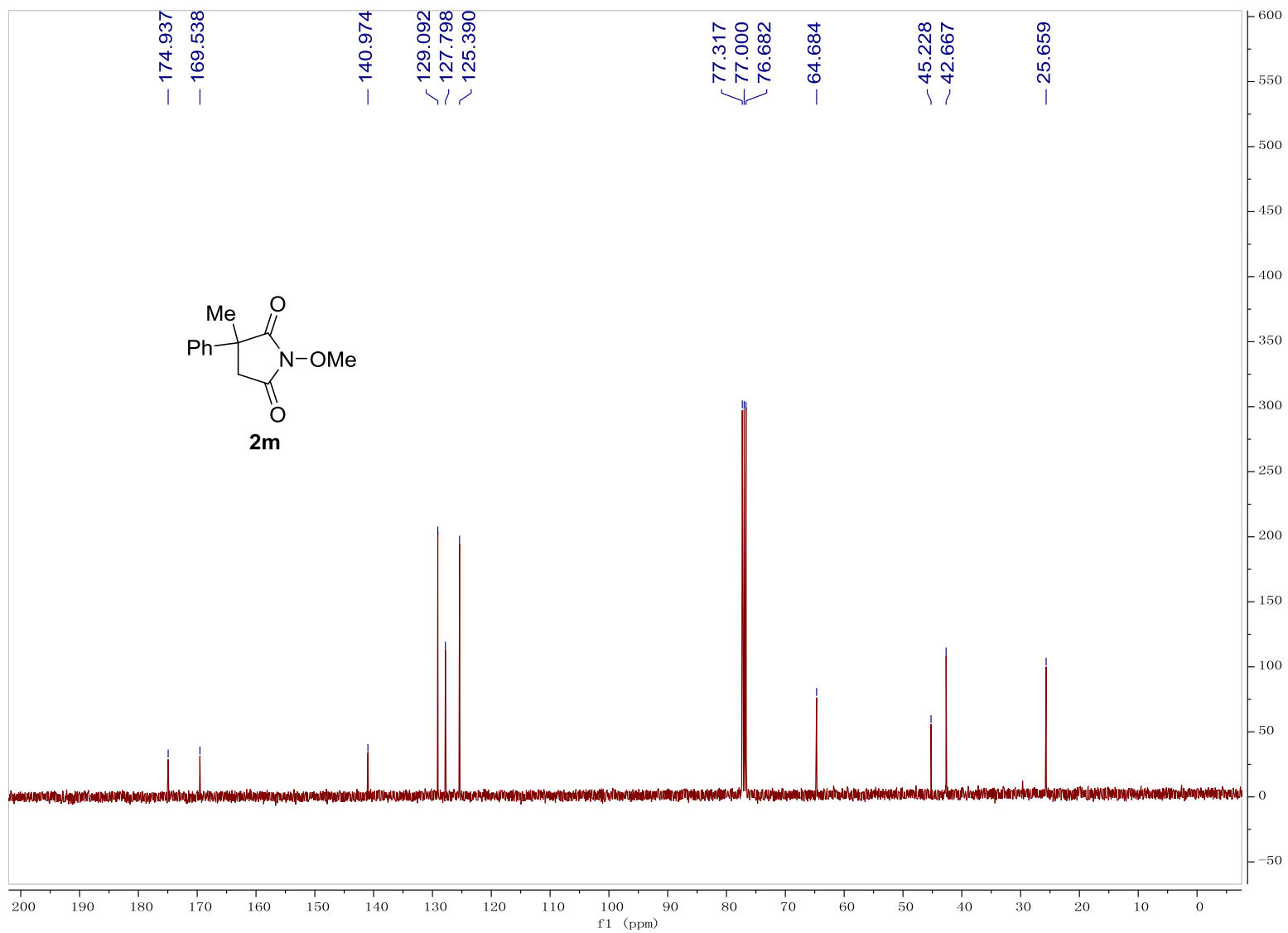


S125

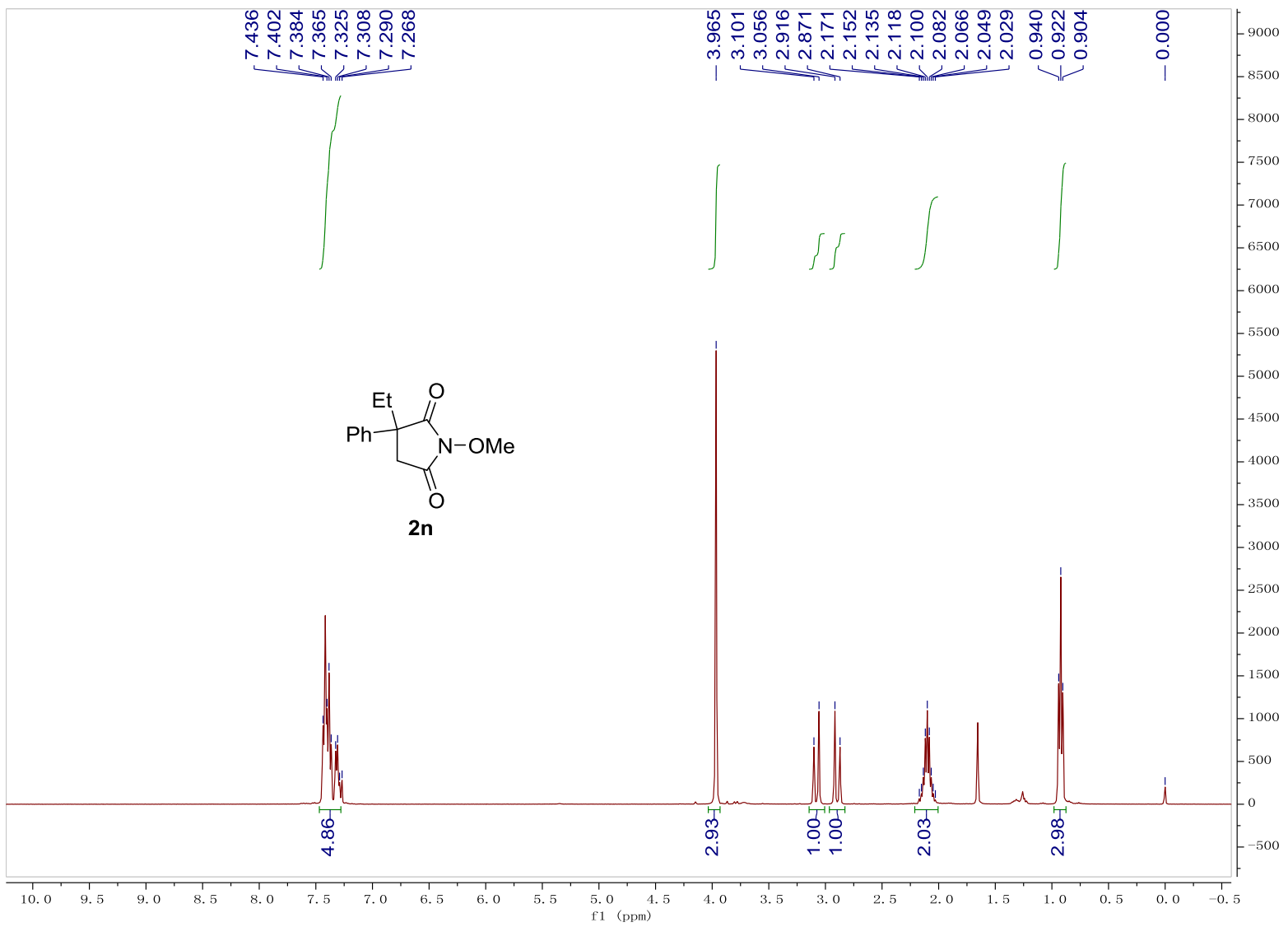


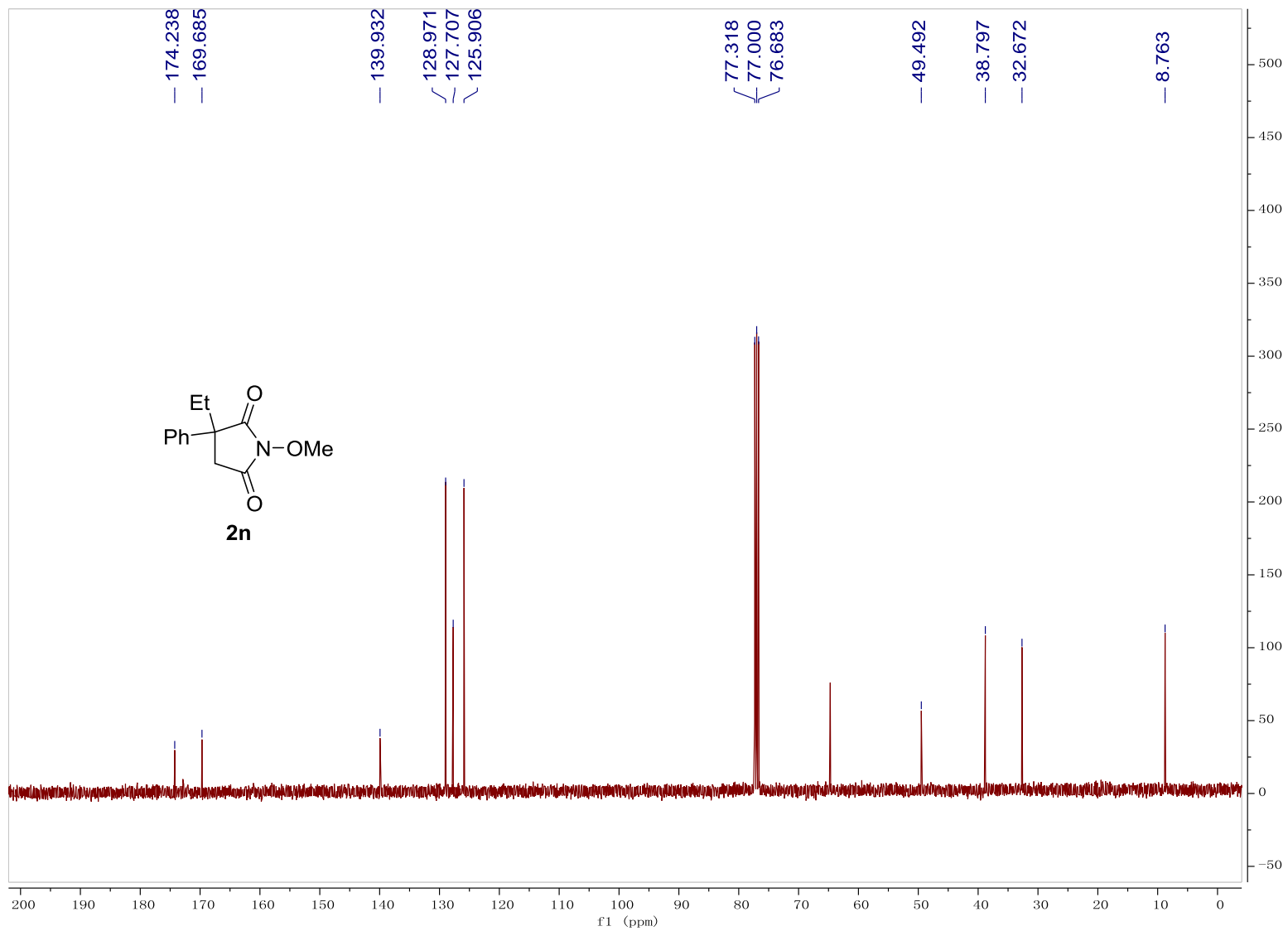
S126



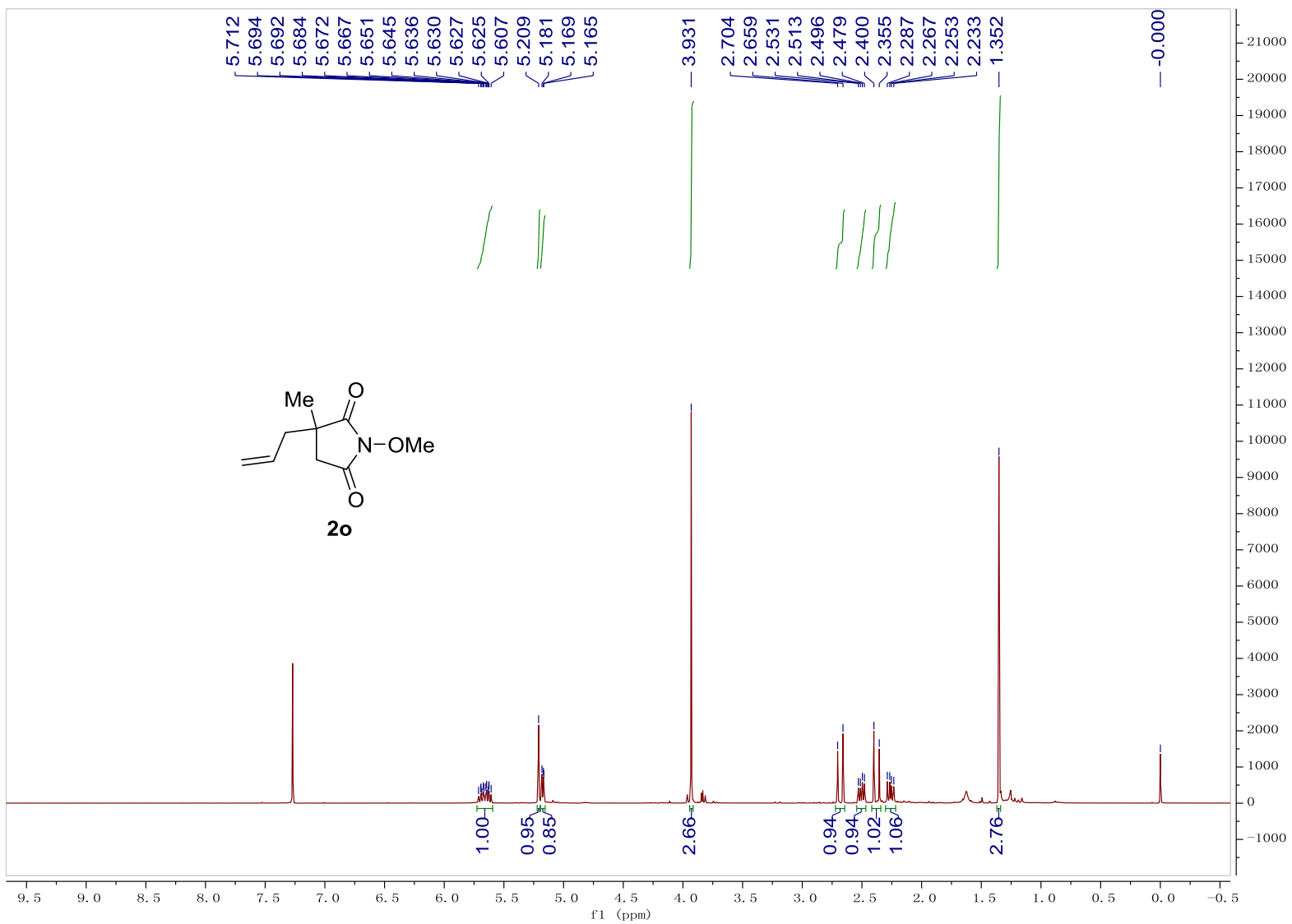


S128

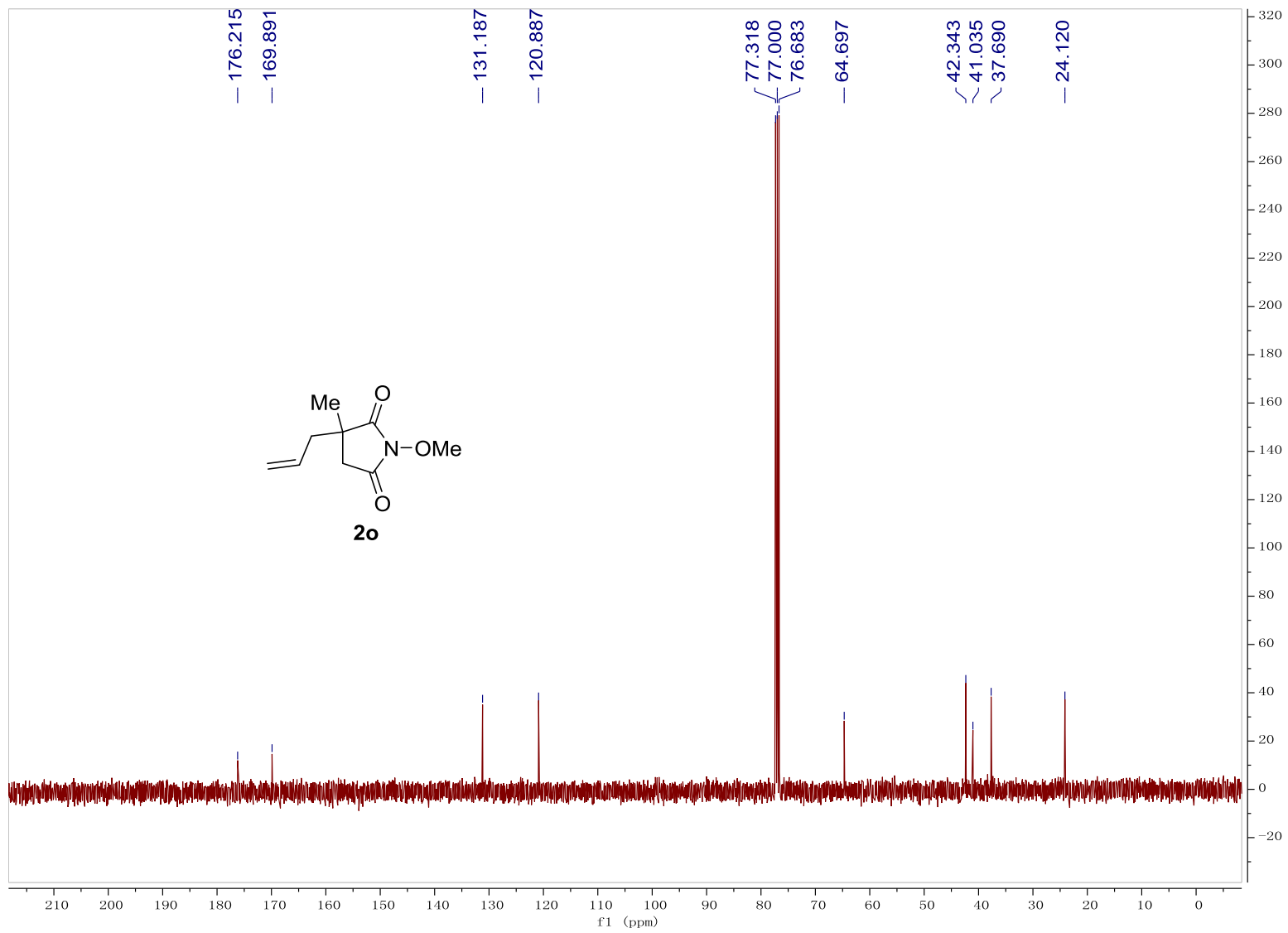




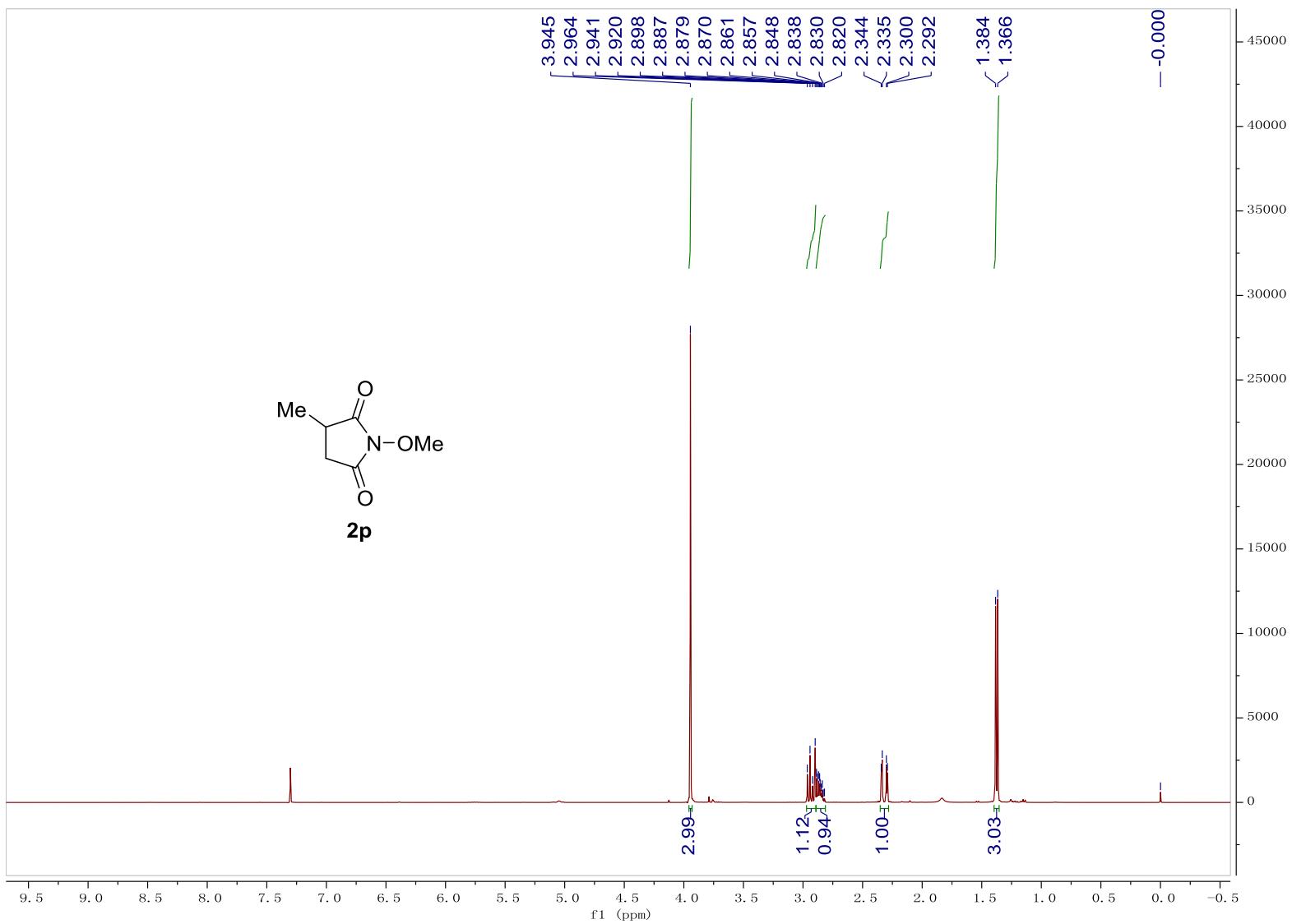
S130



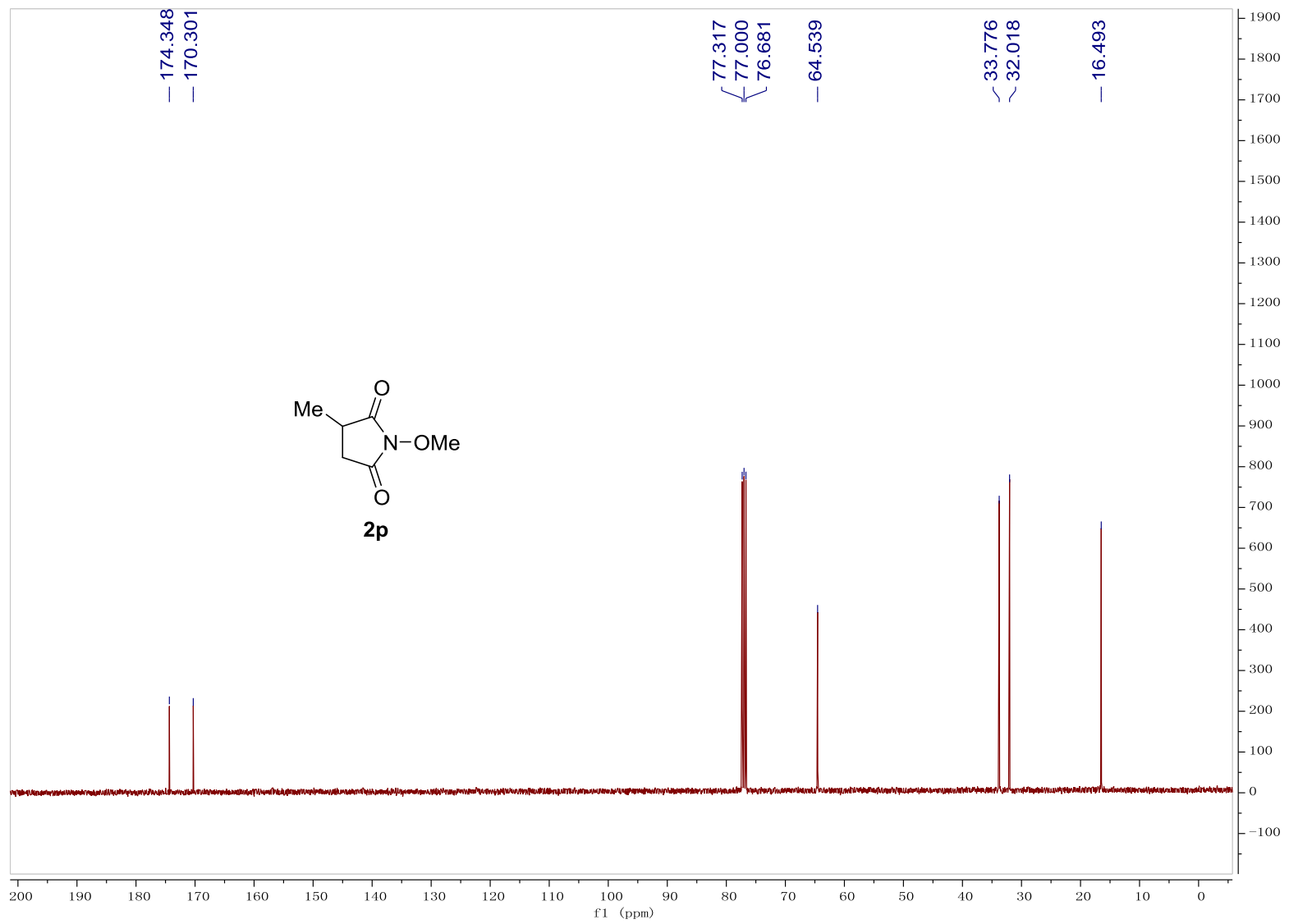
S131



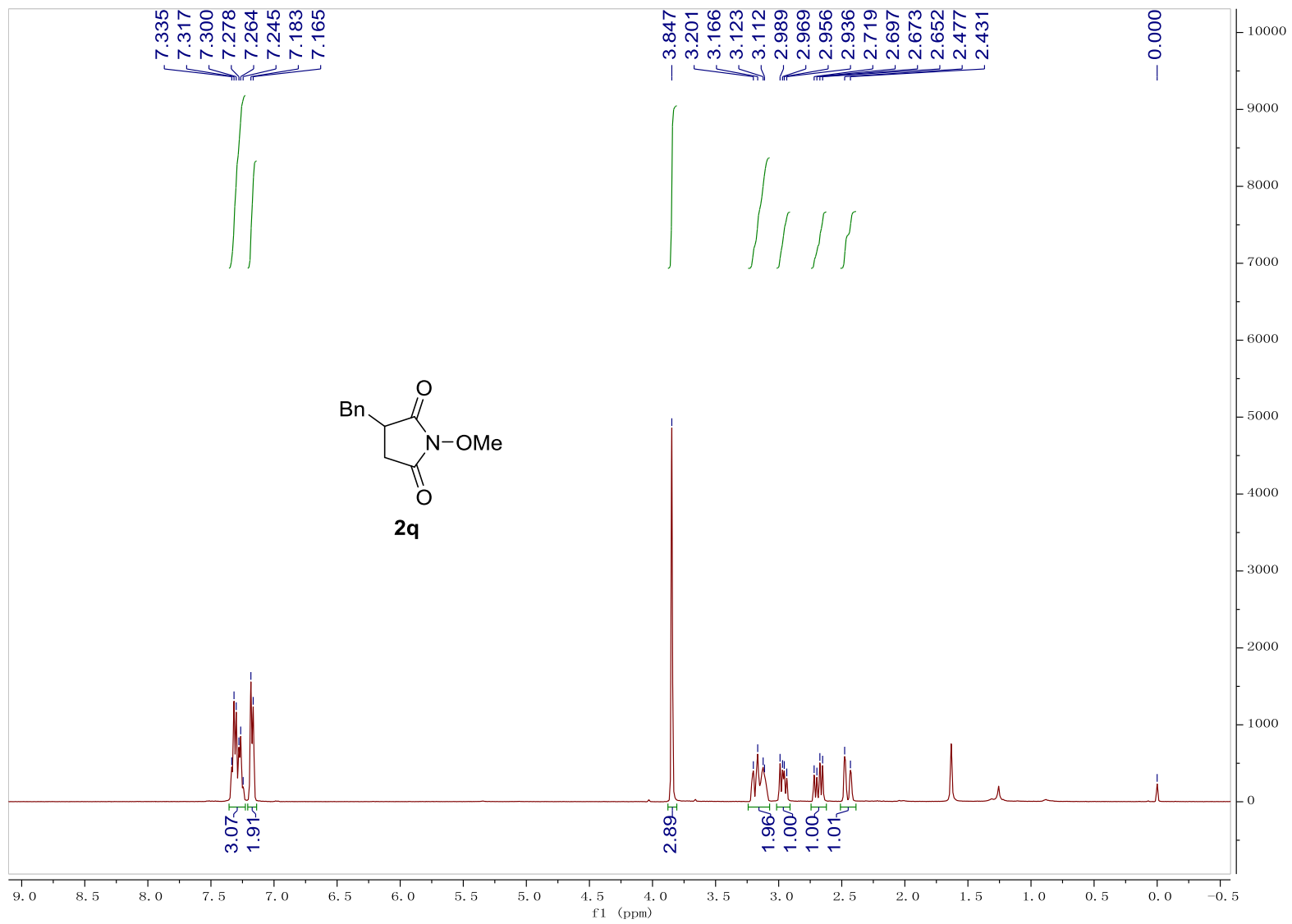
S132



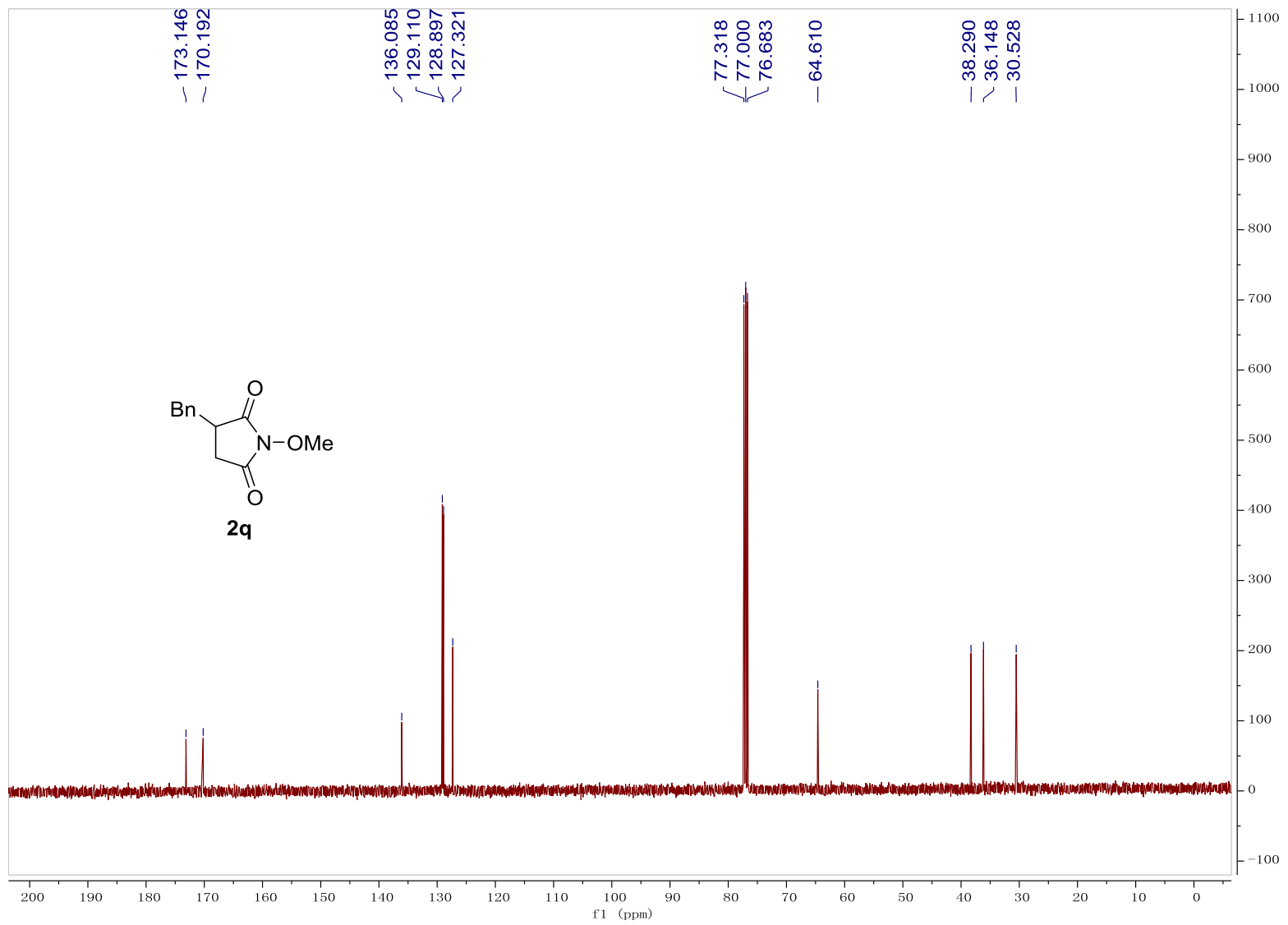
S133



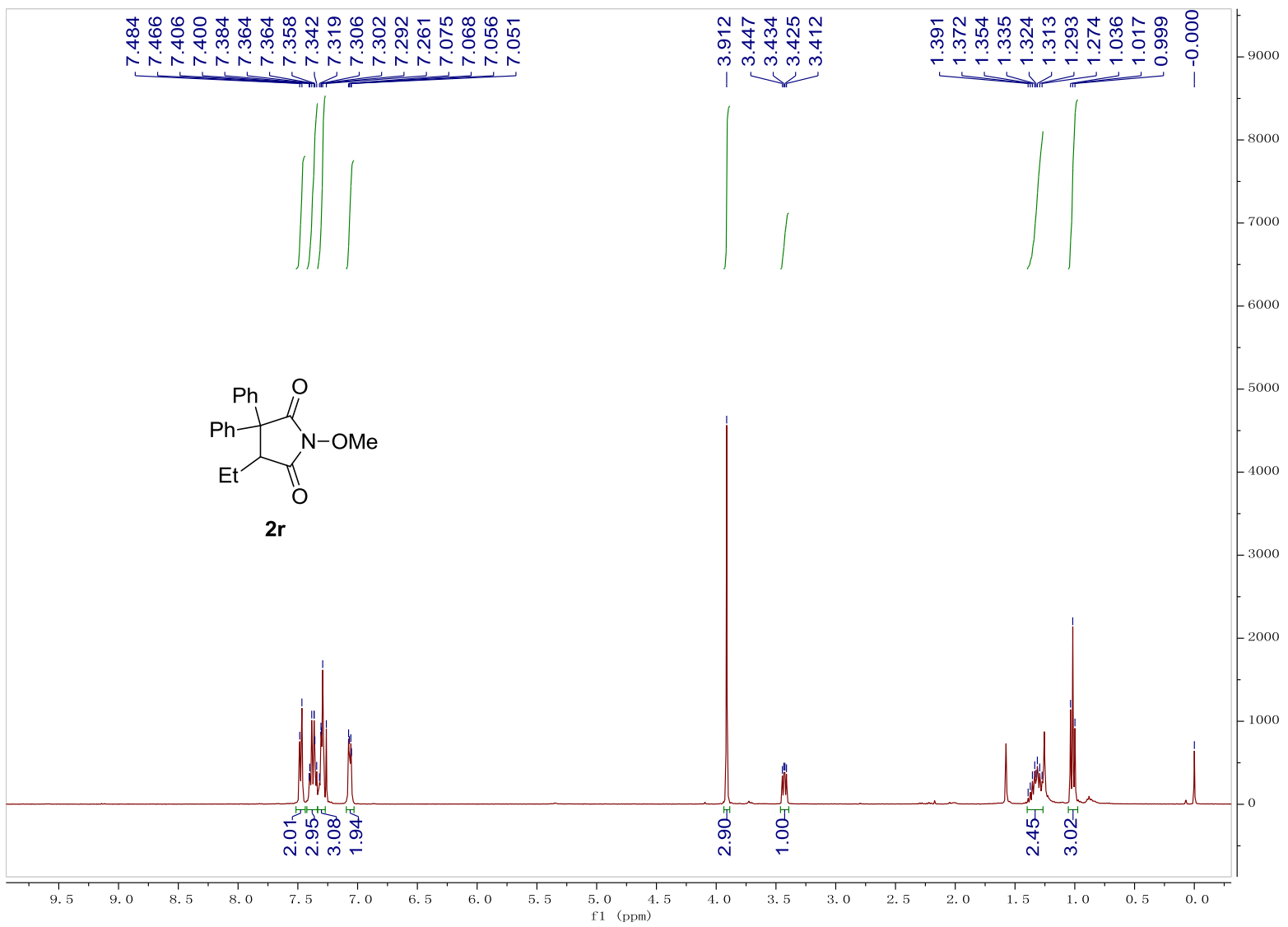
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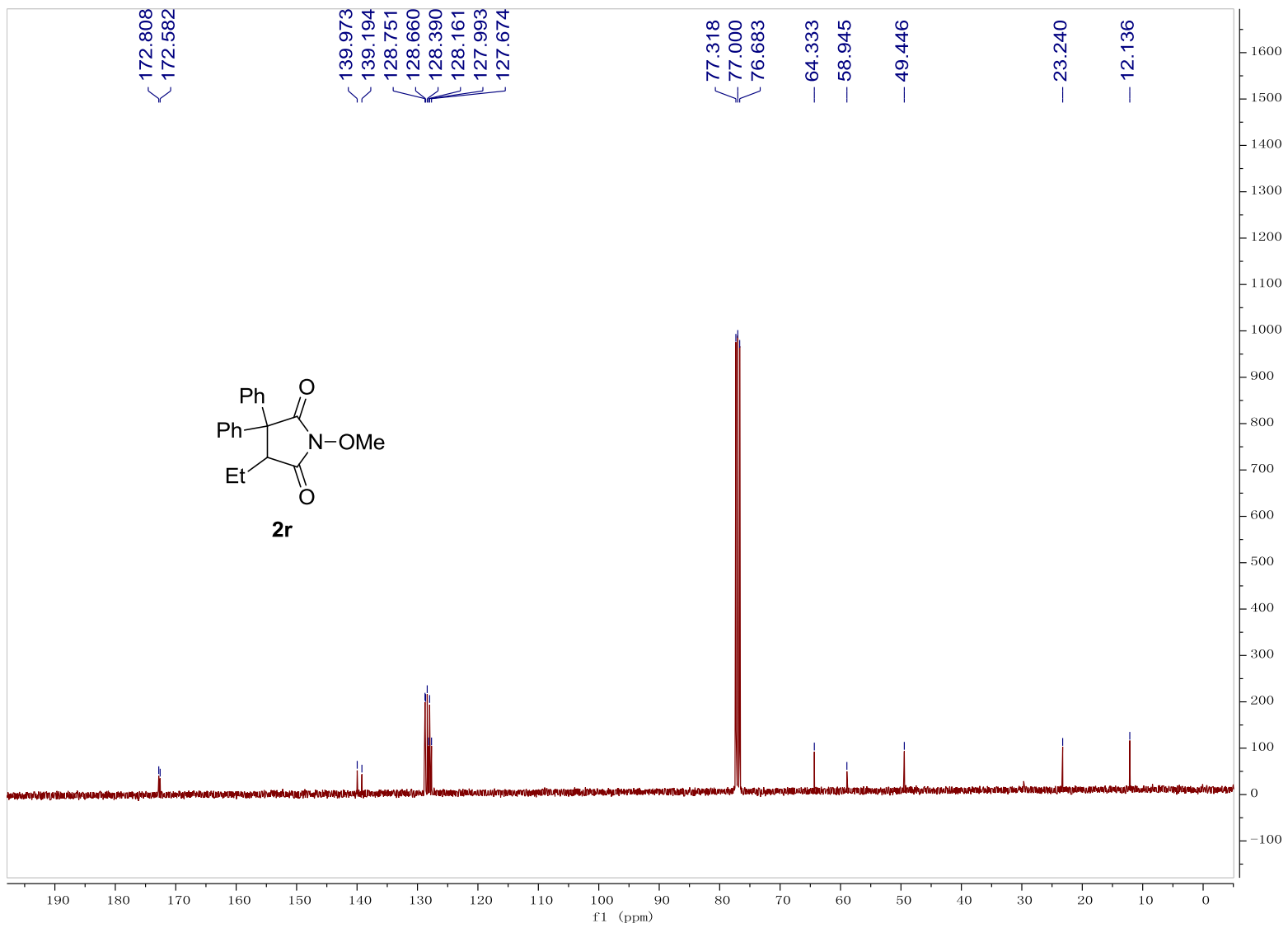


S135

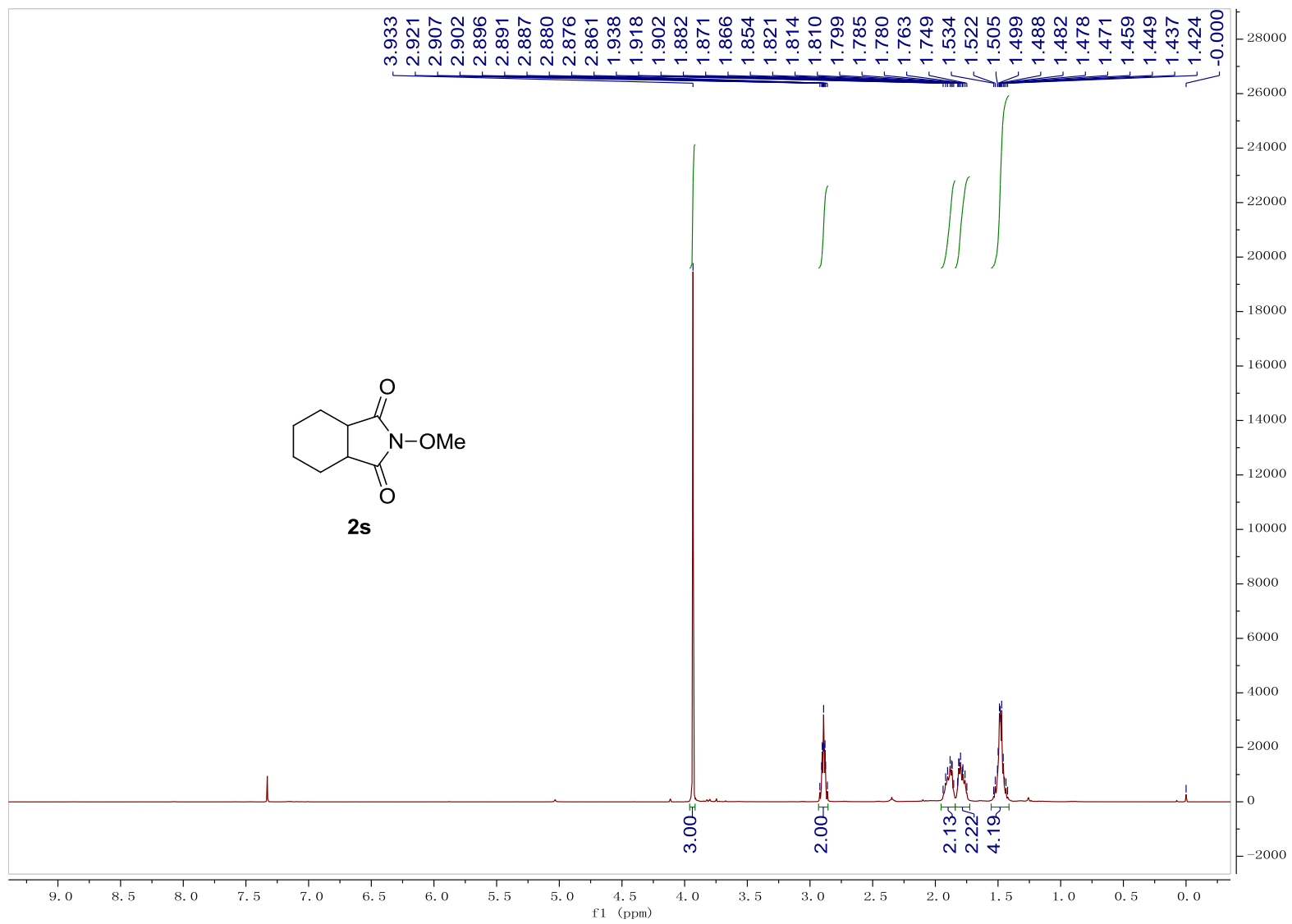


S136

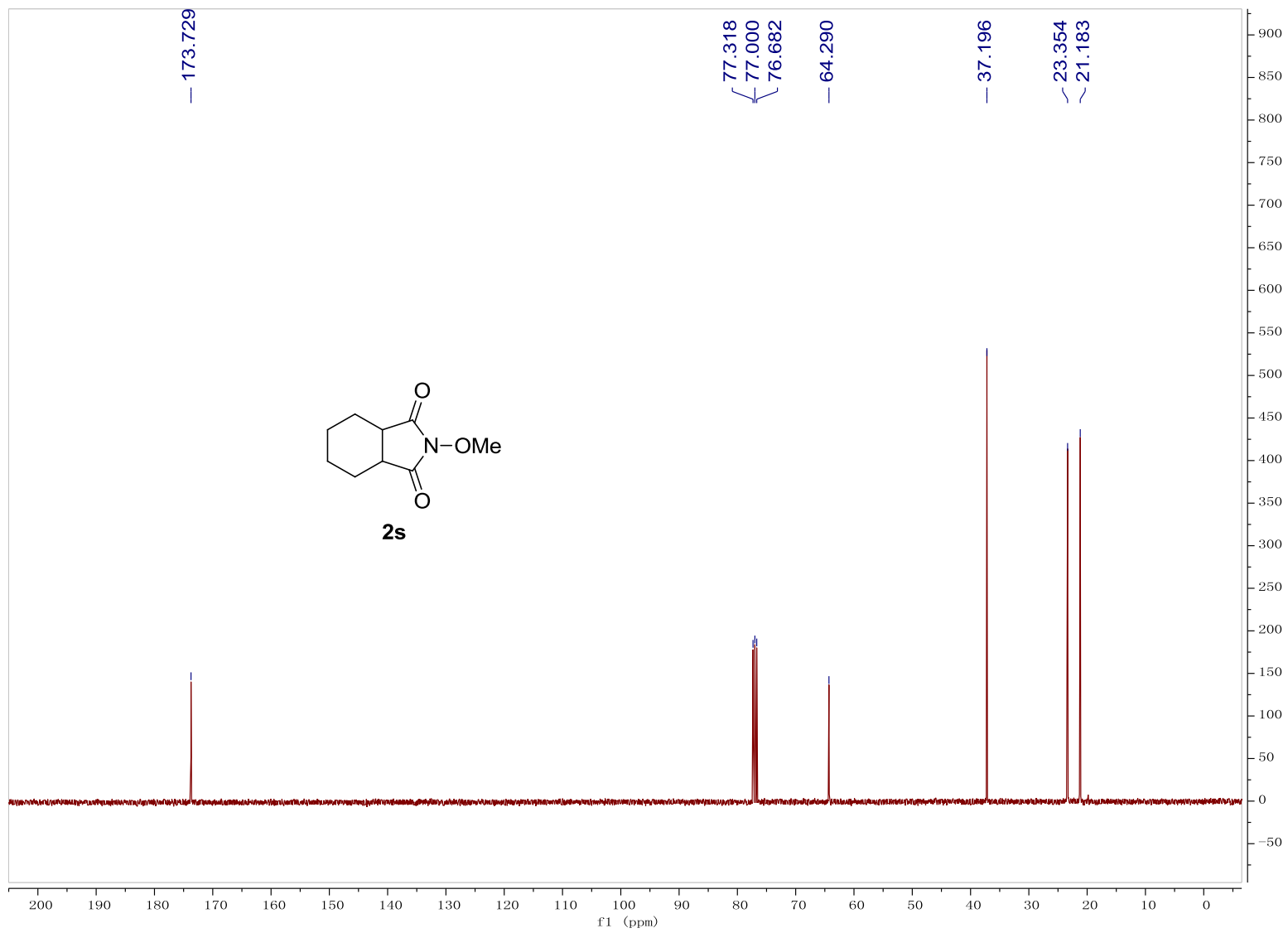




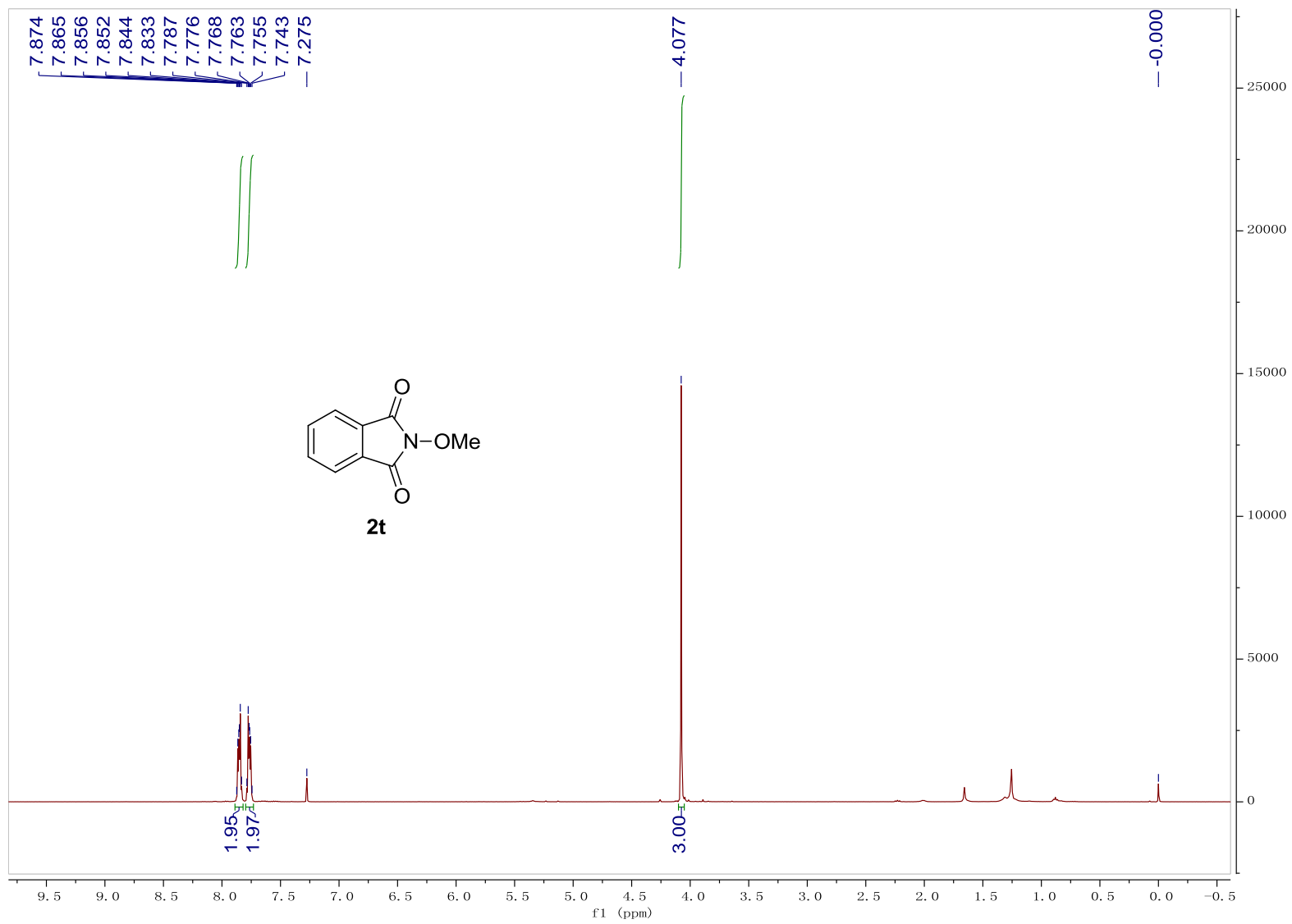
S138



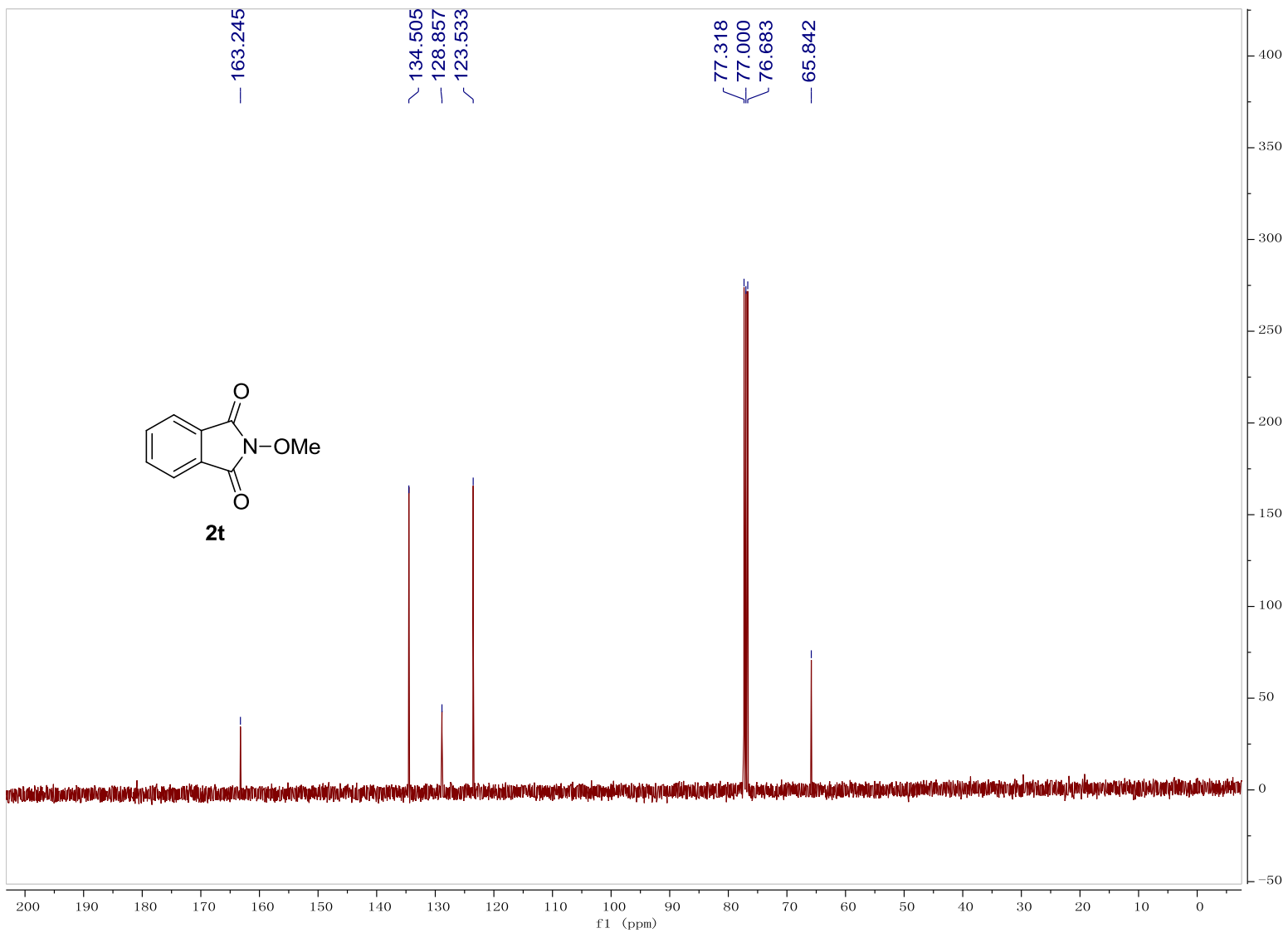
S139



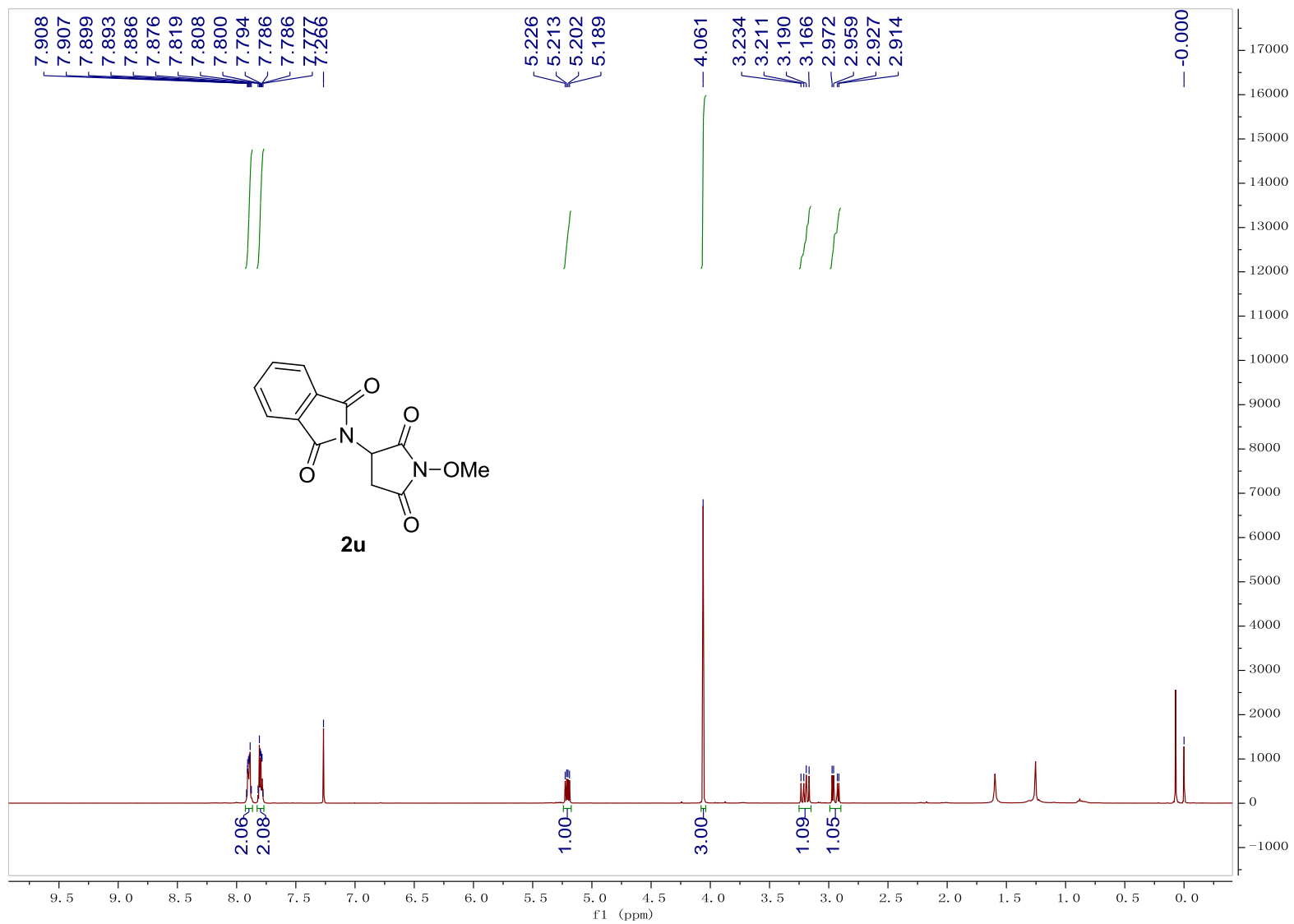
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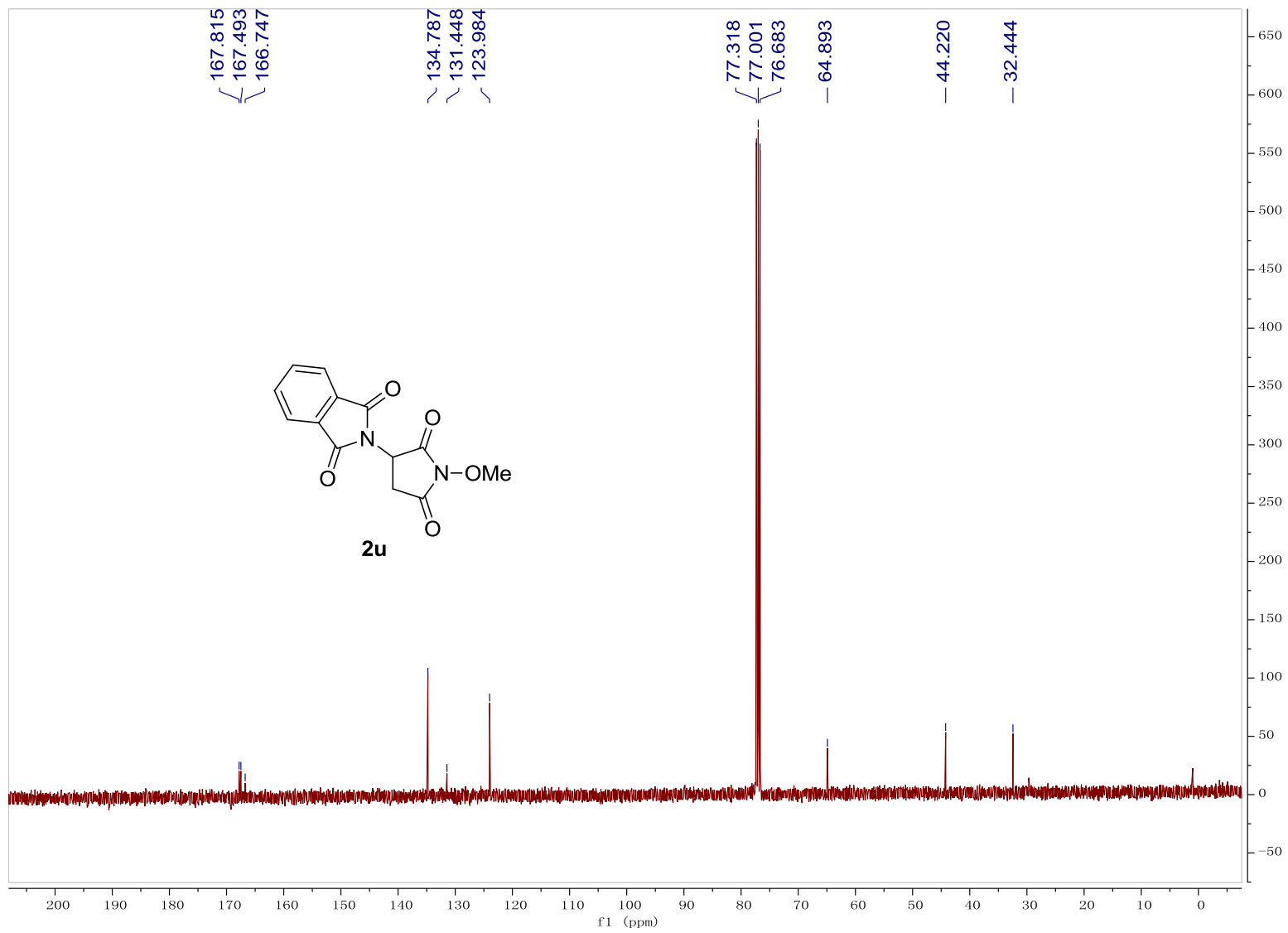
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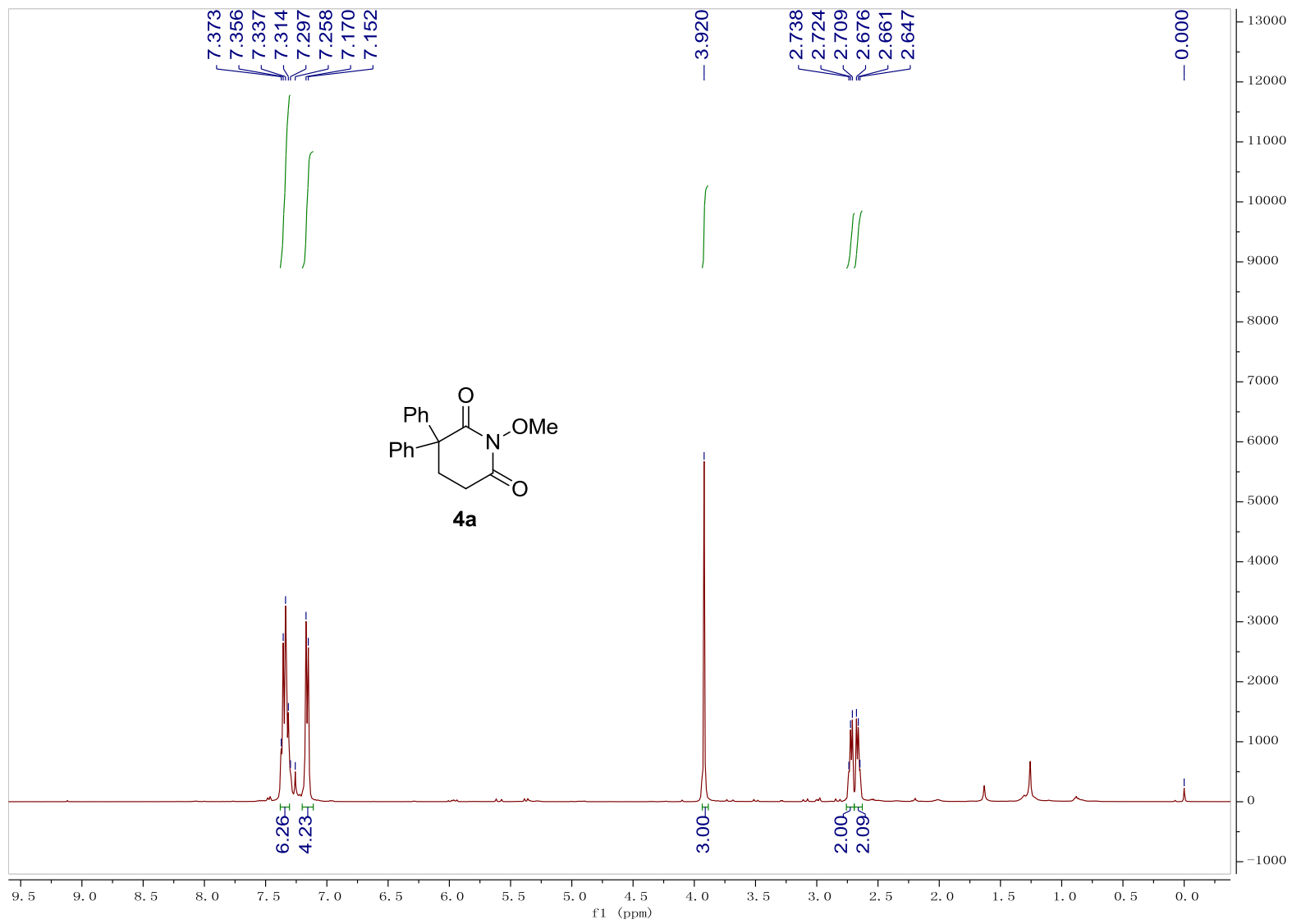
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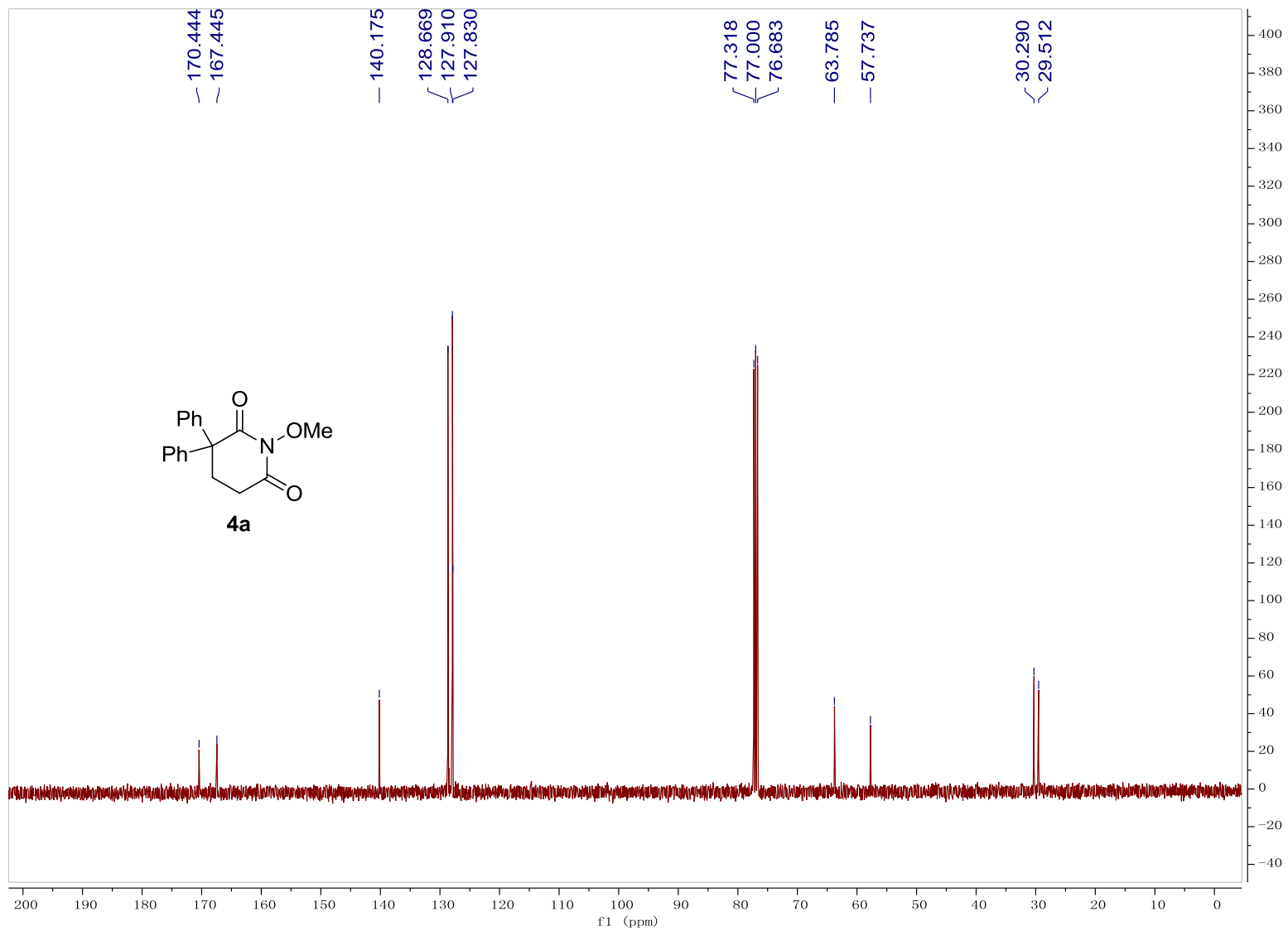


S143

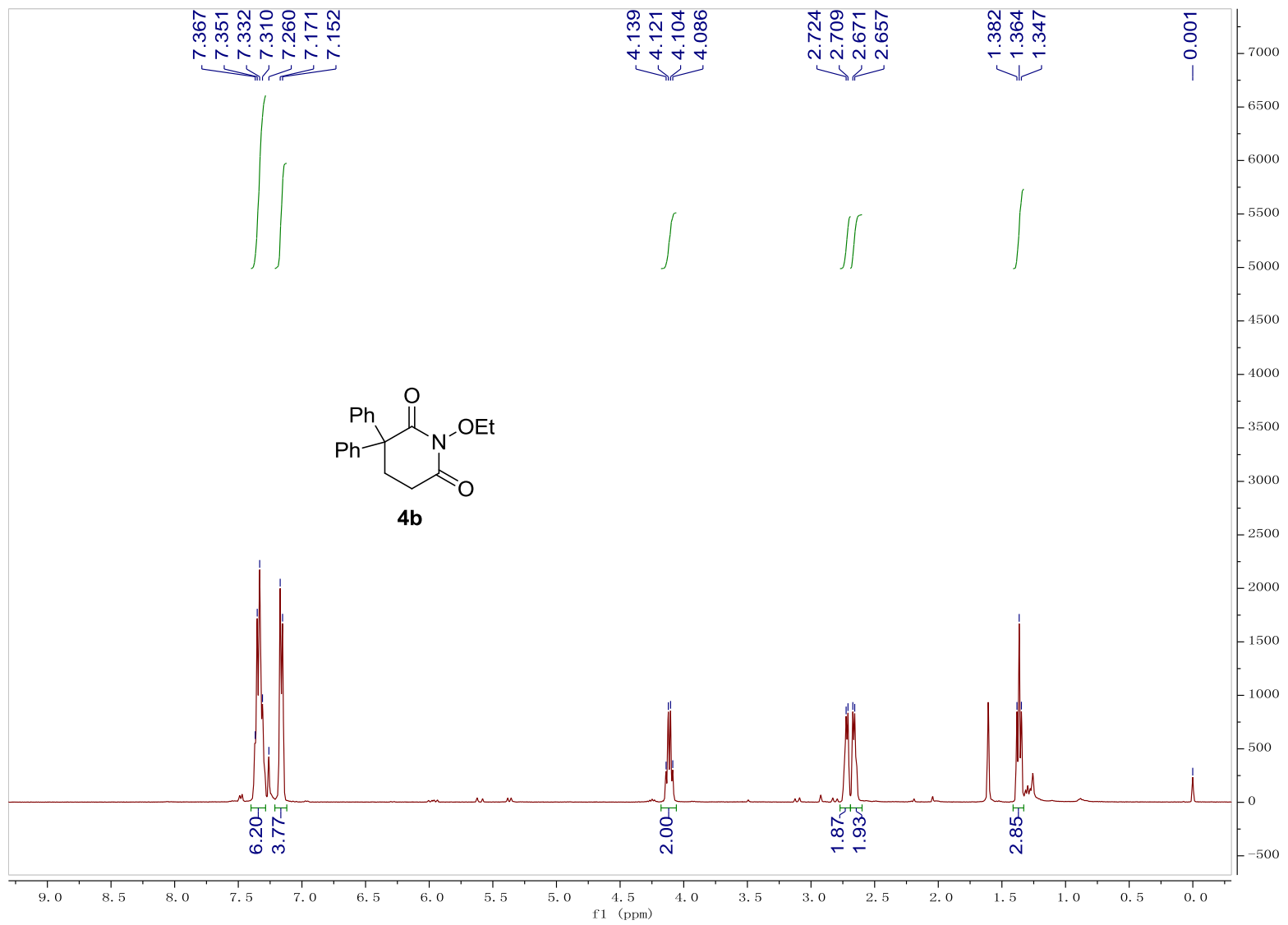


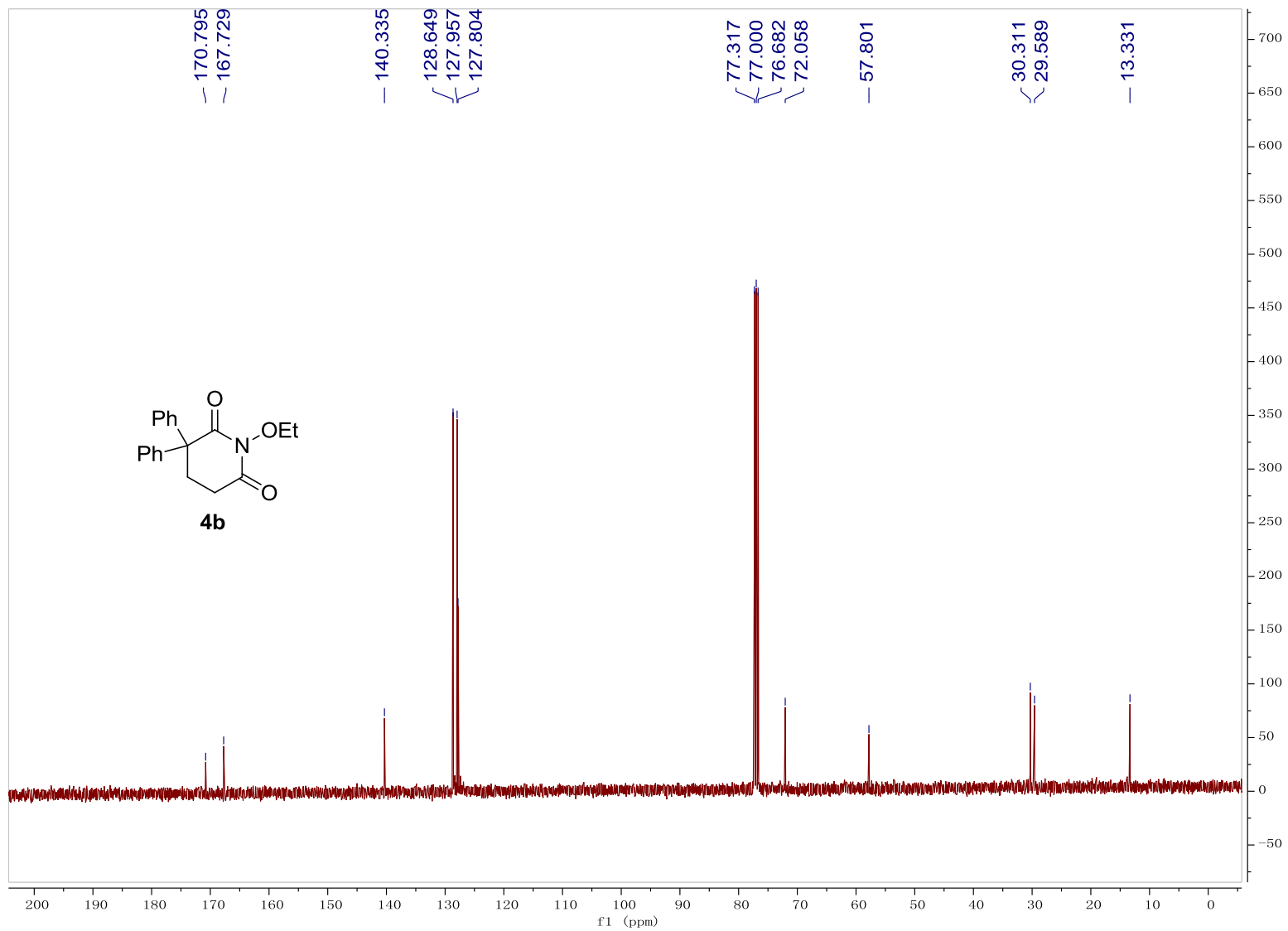
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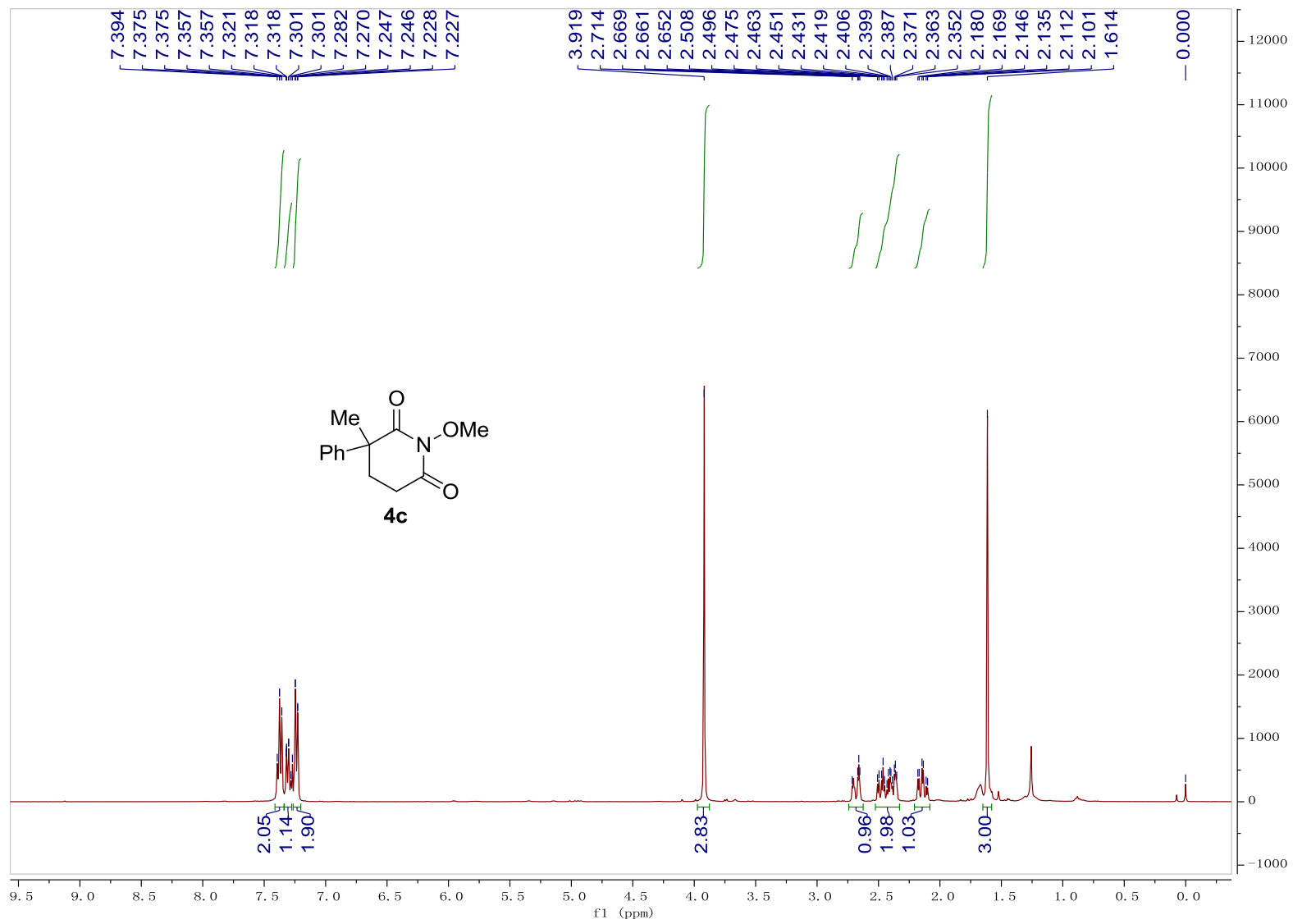




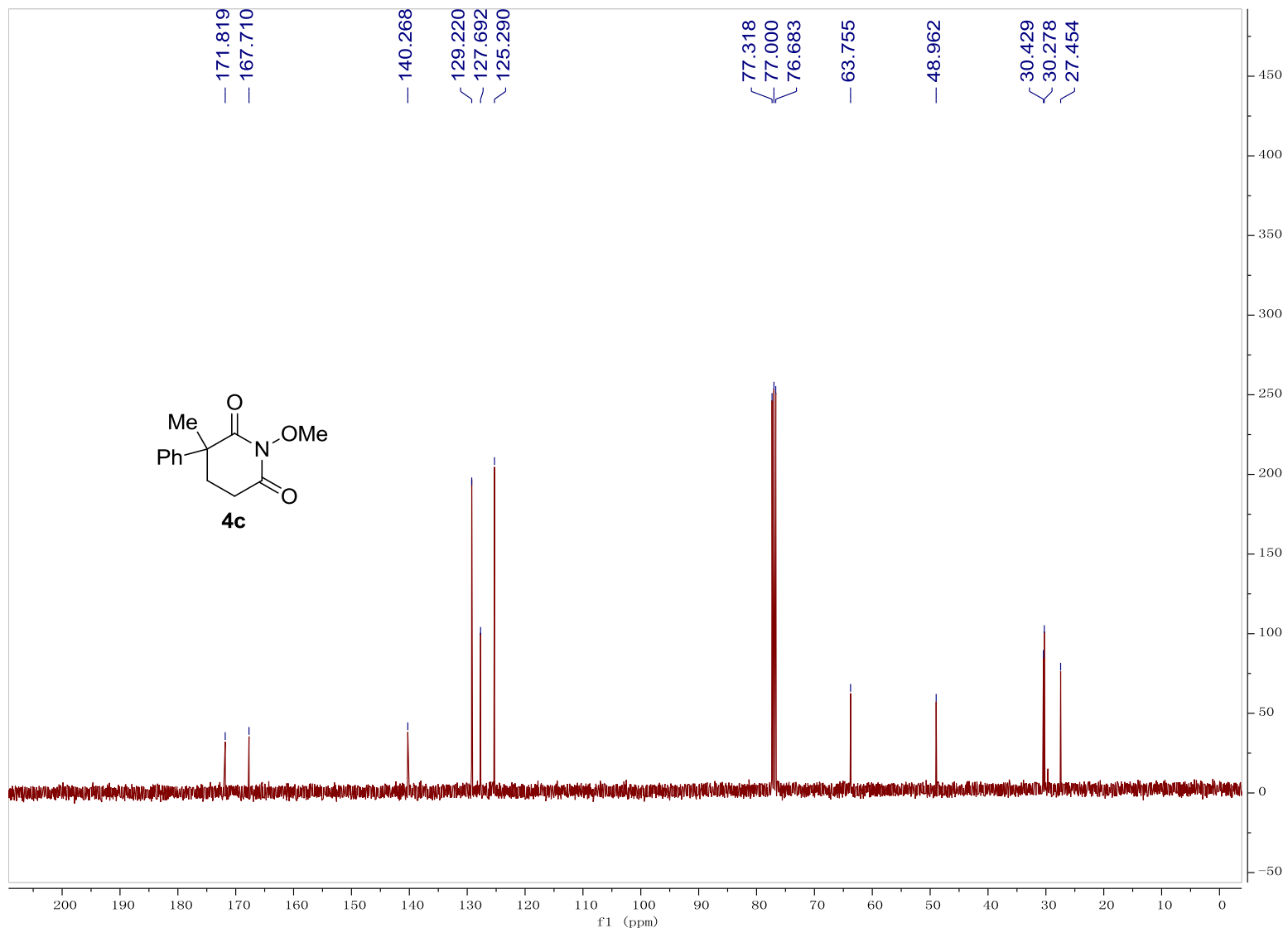
S146



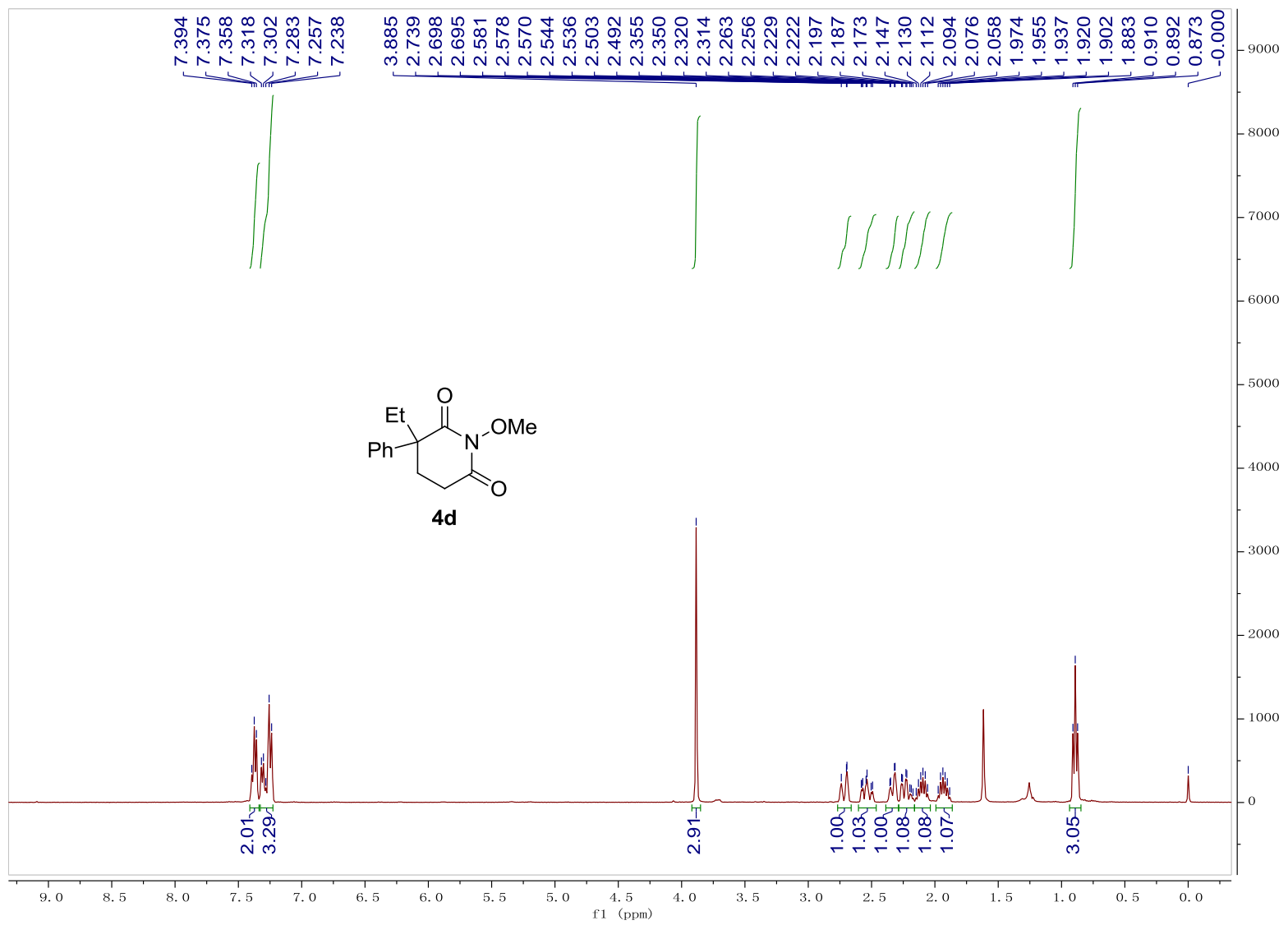


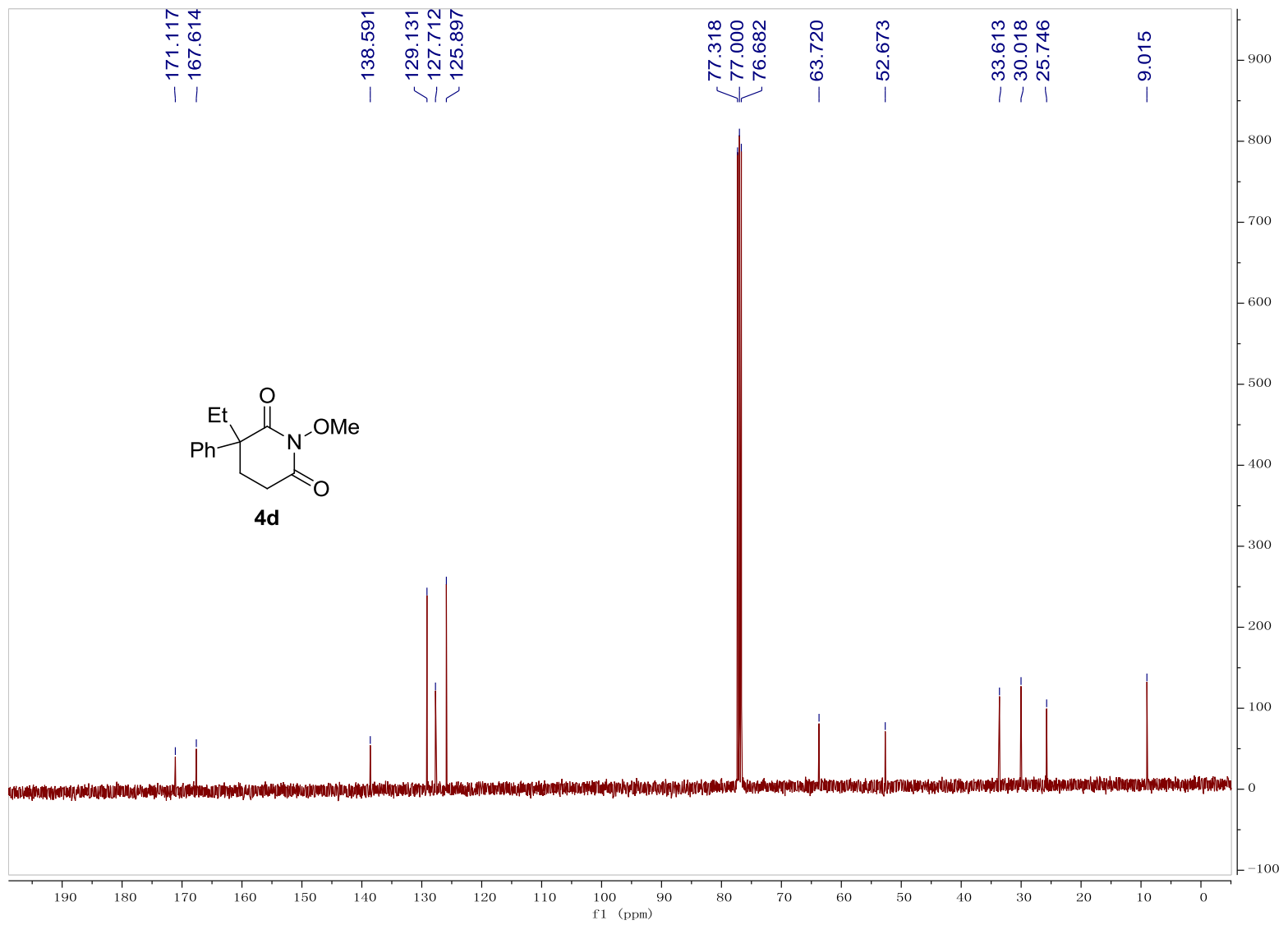


S149

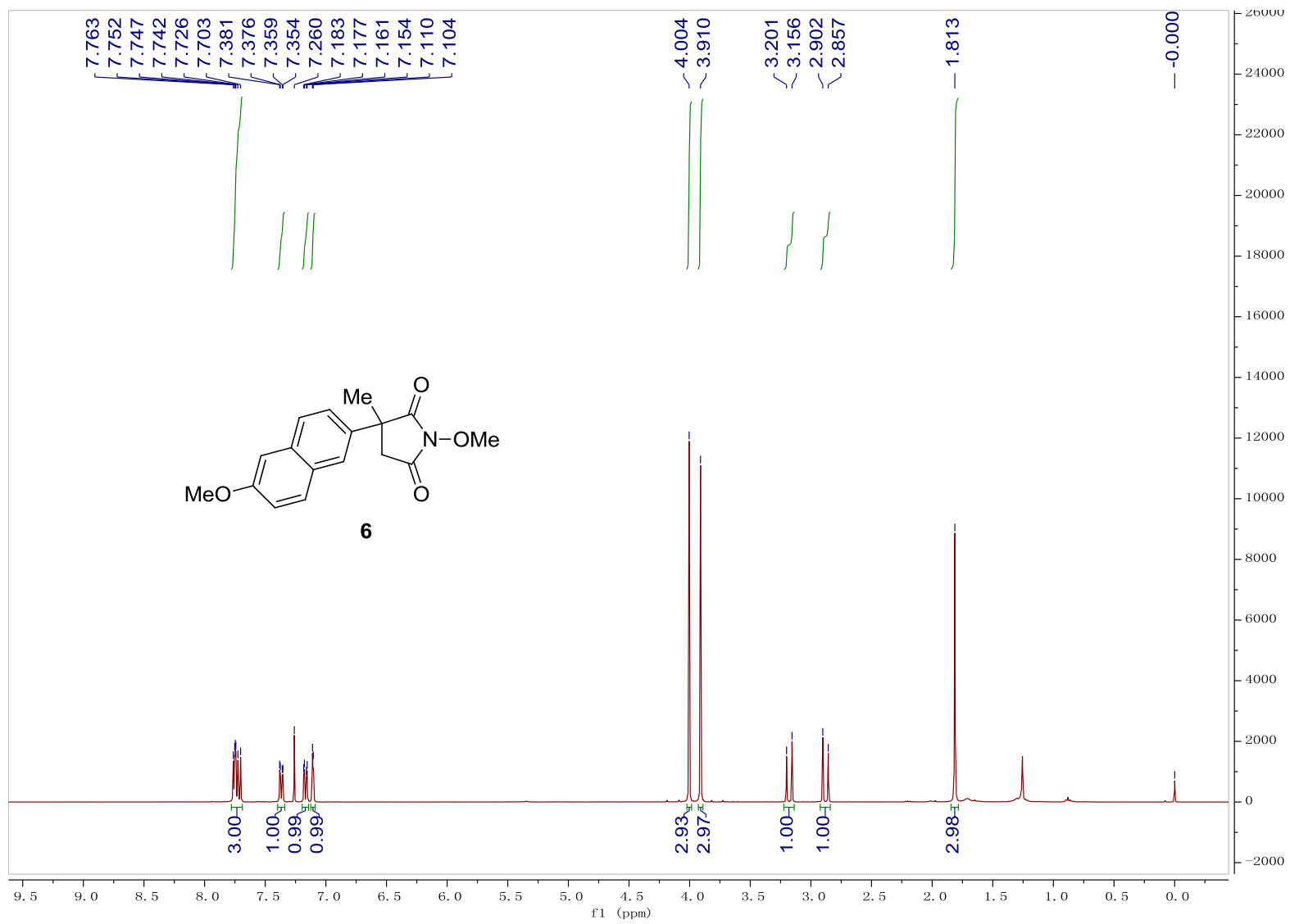


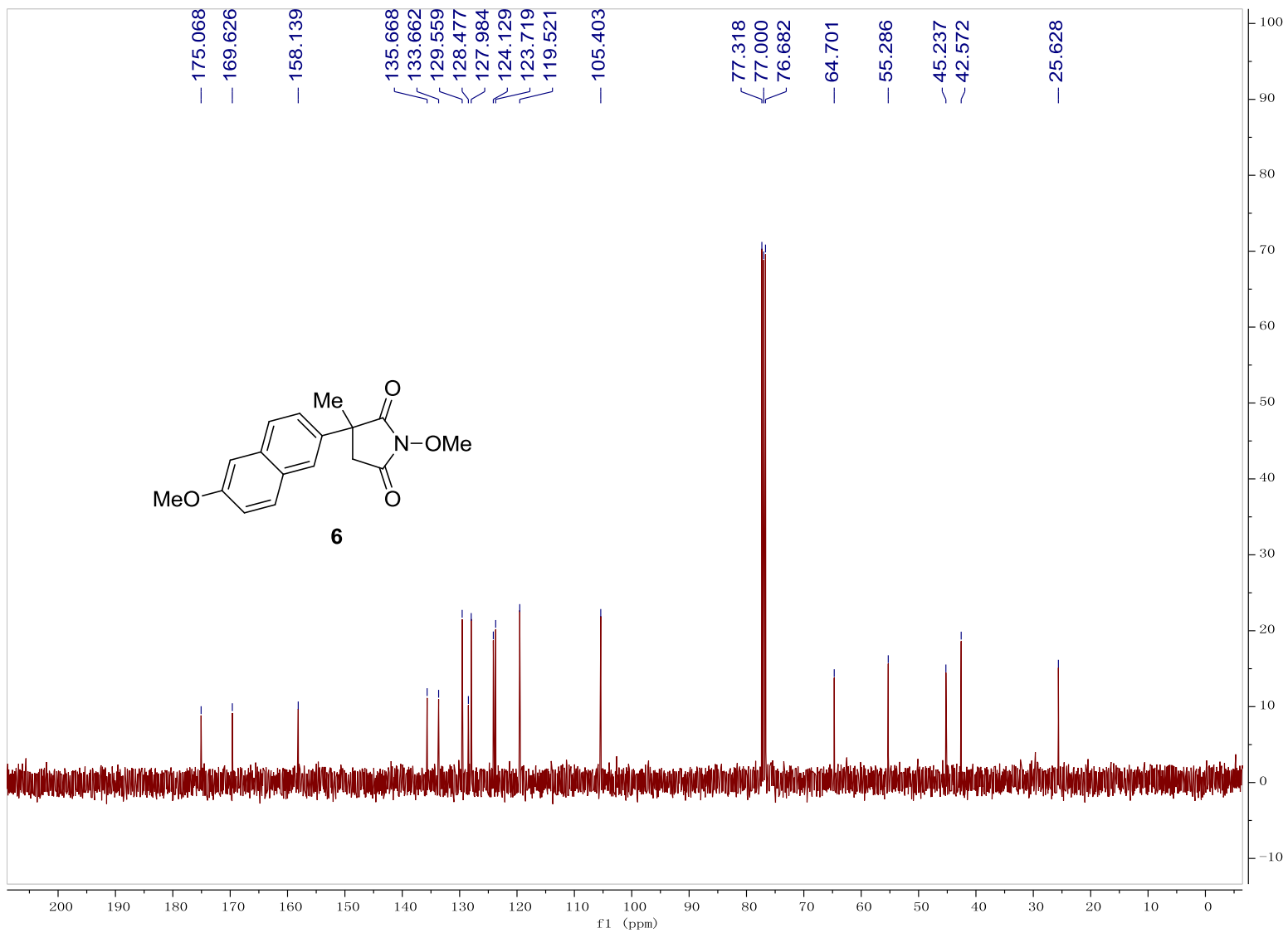
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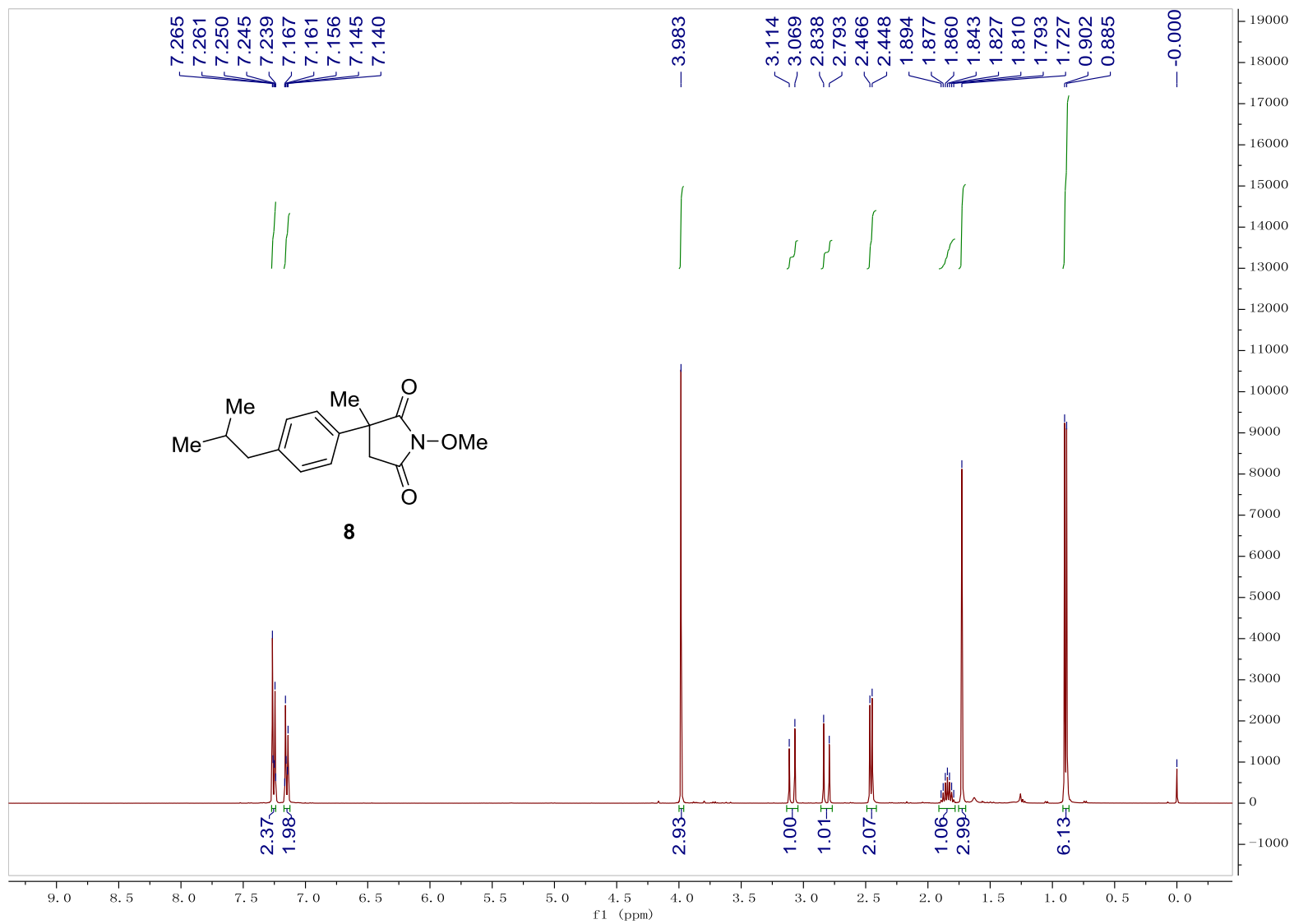




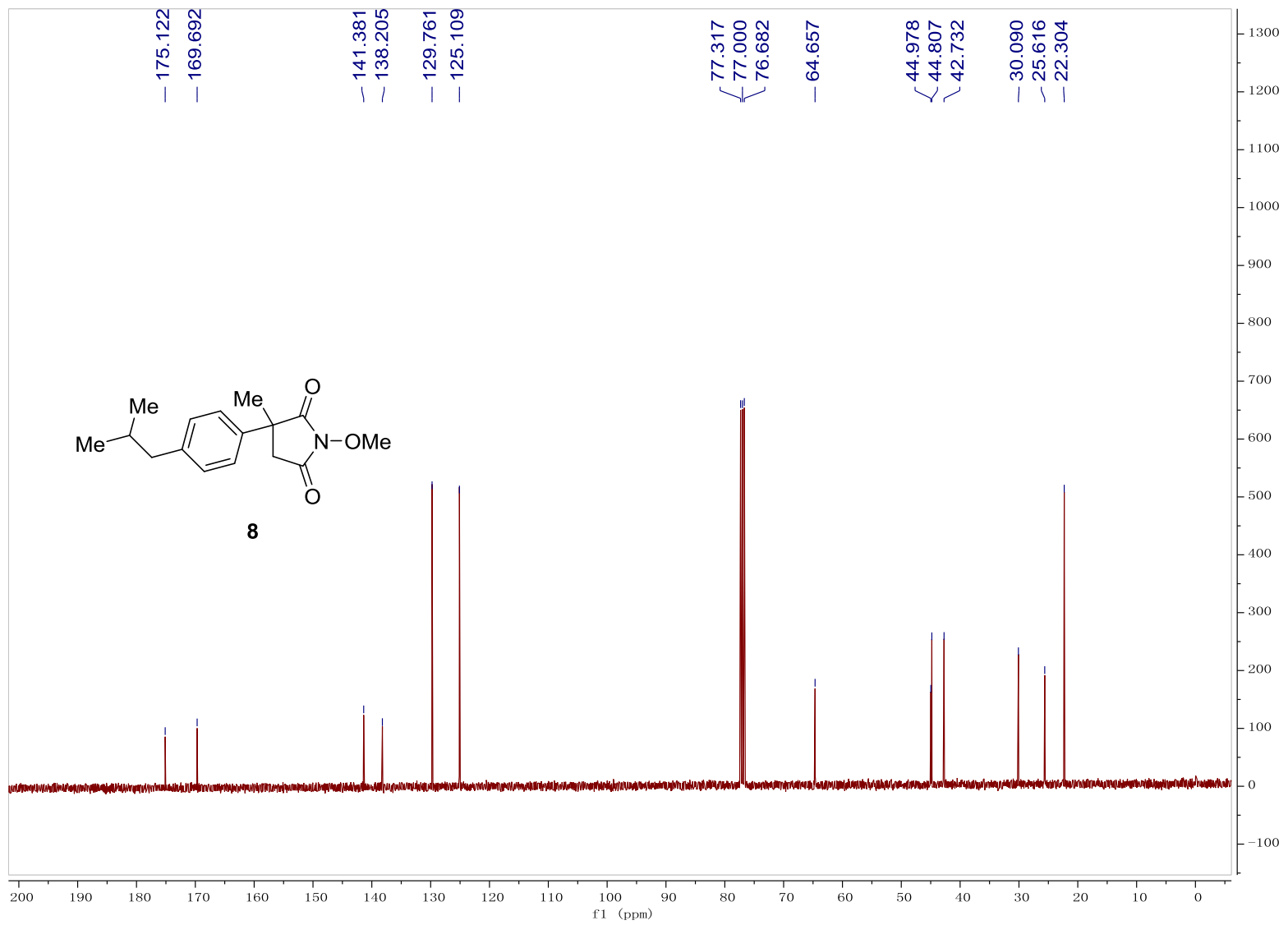
S152



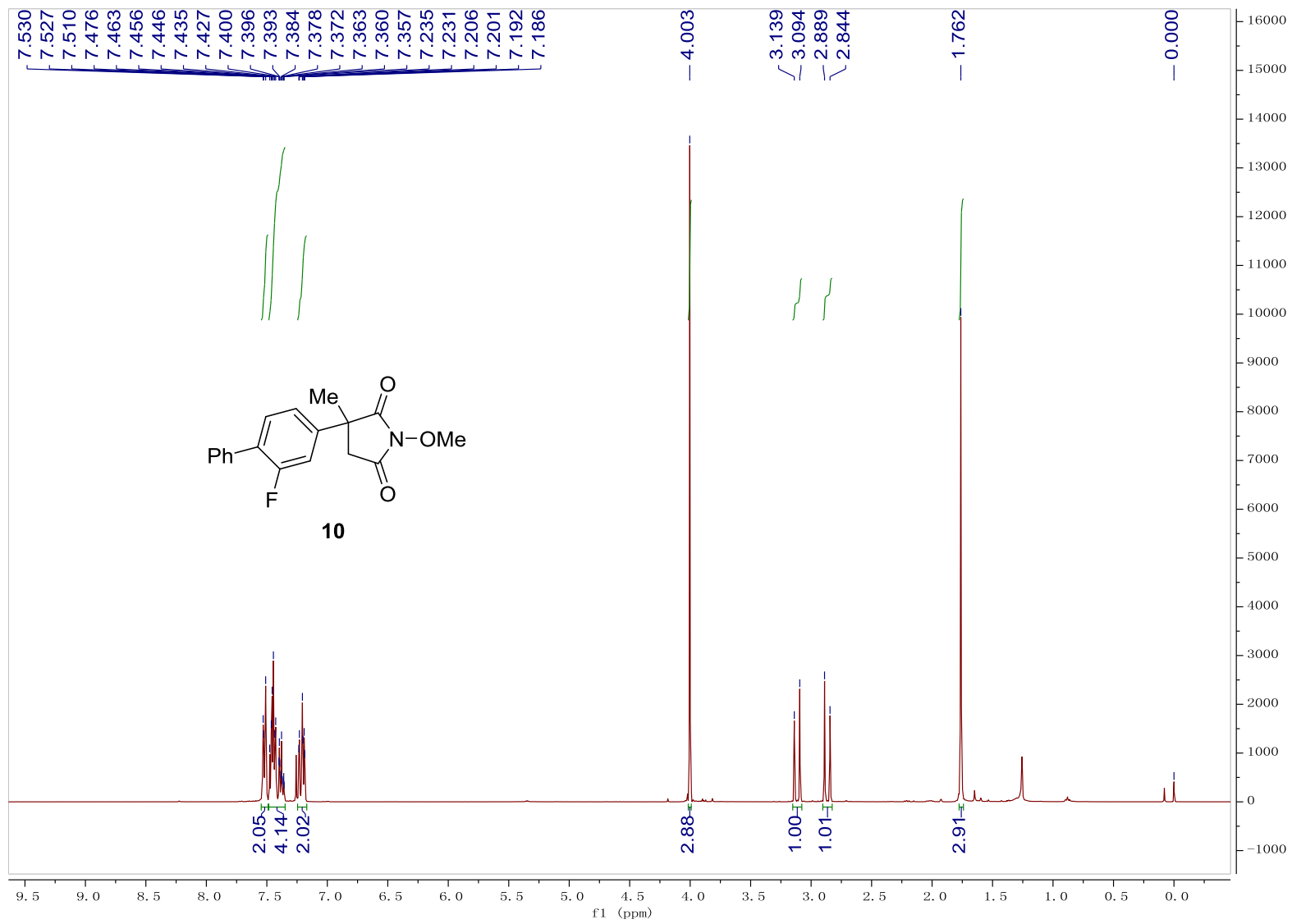


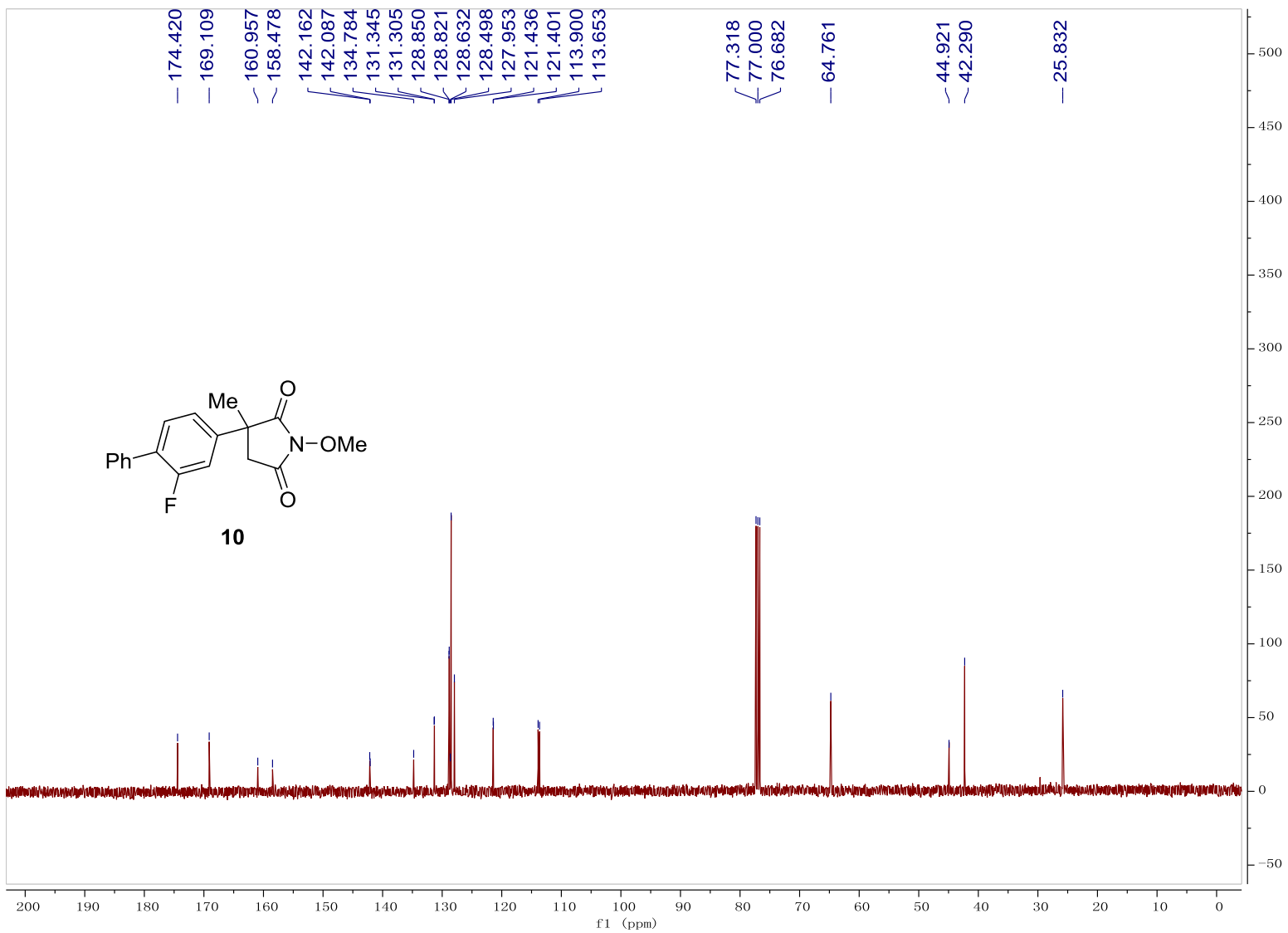


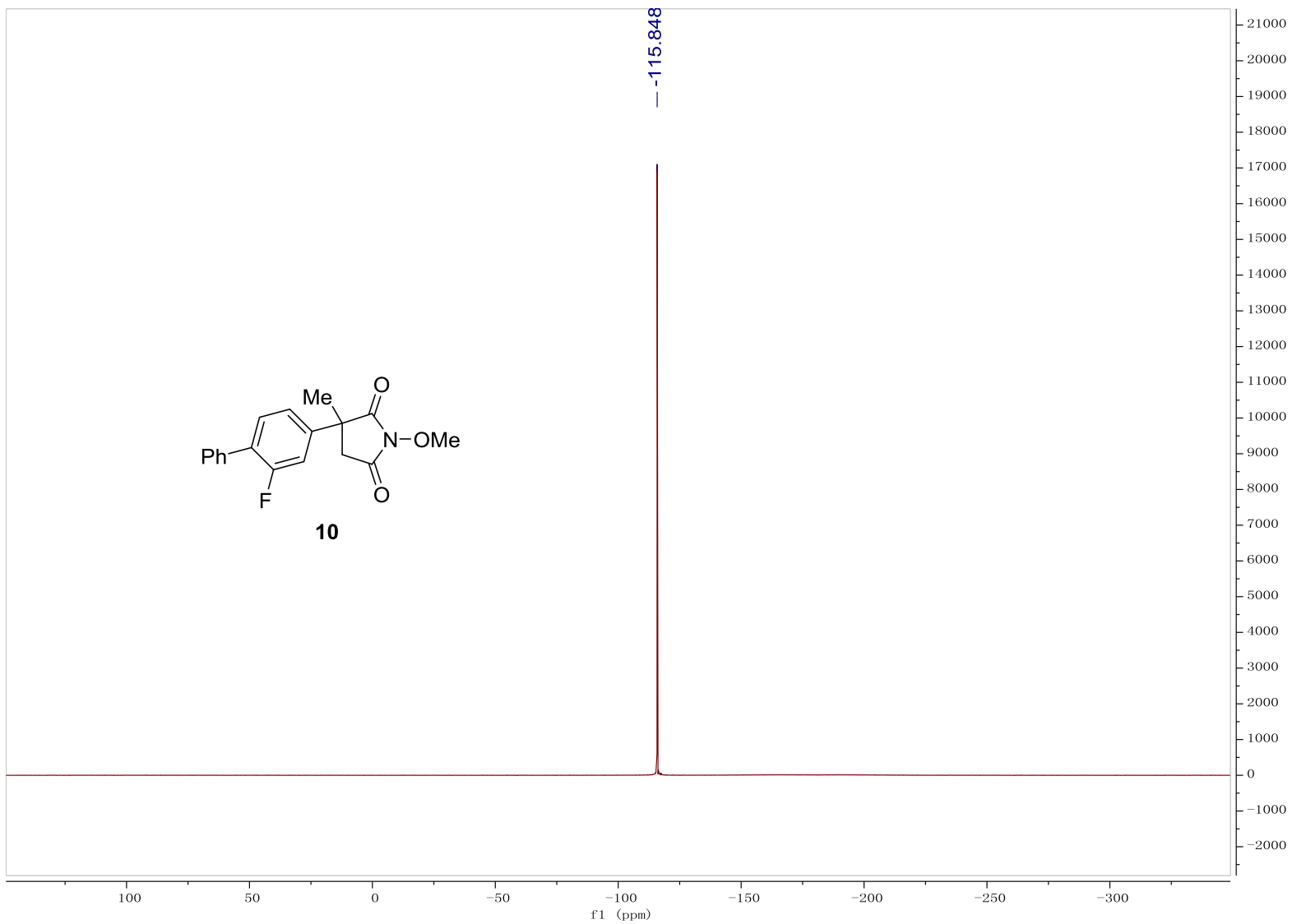
S155



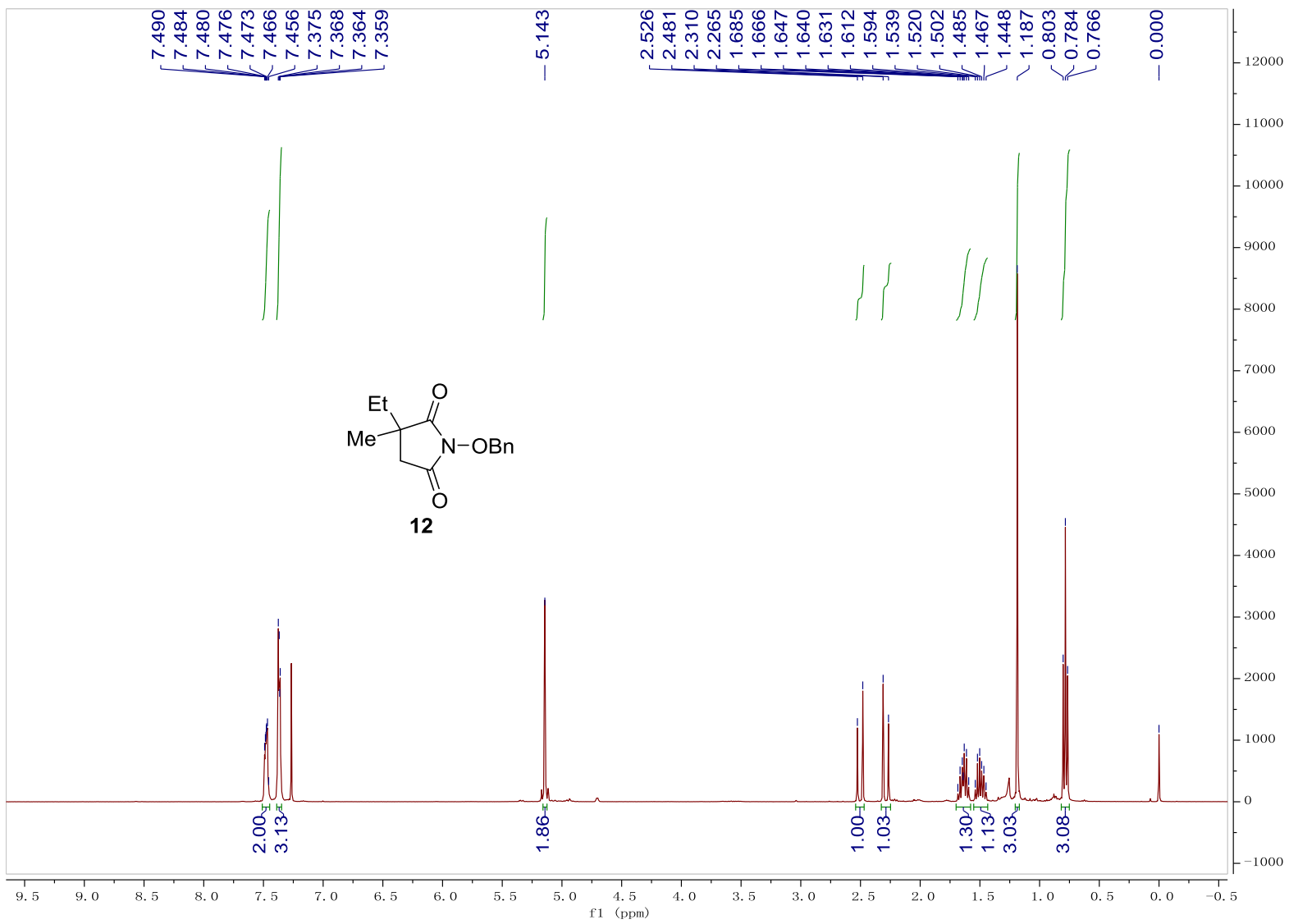
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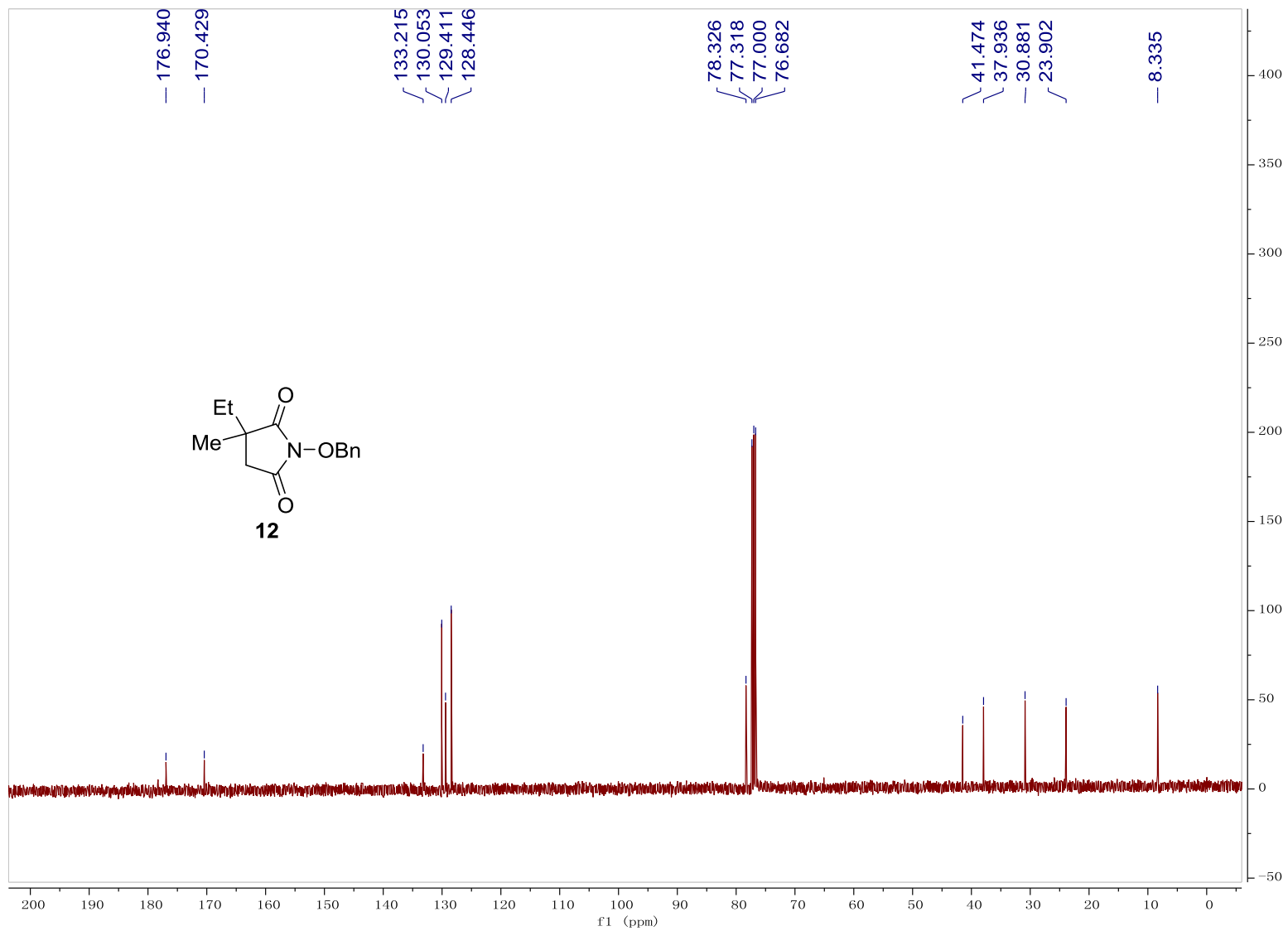




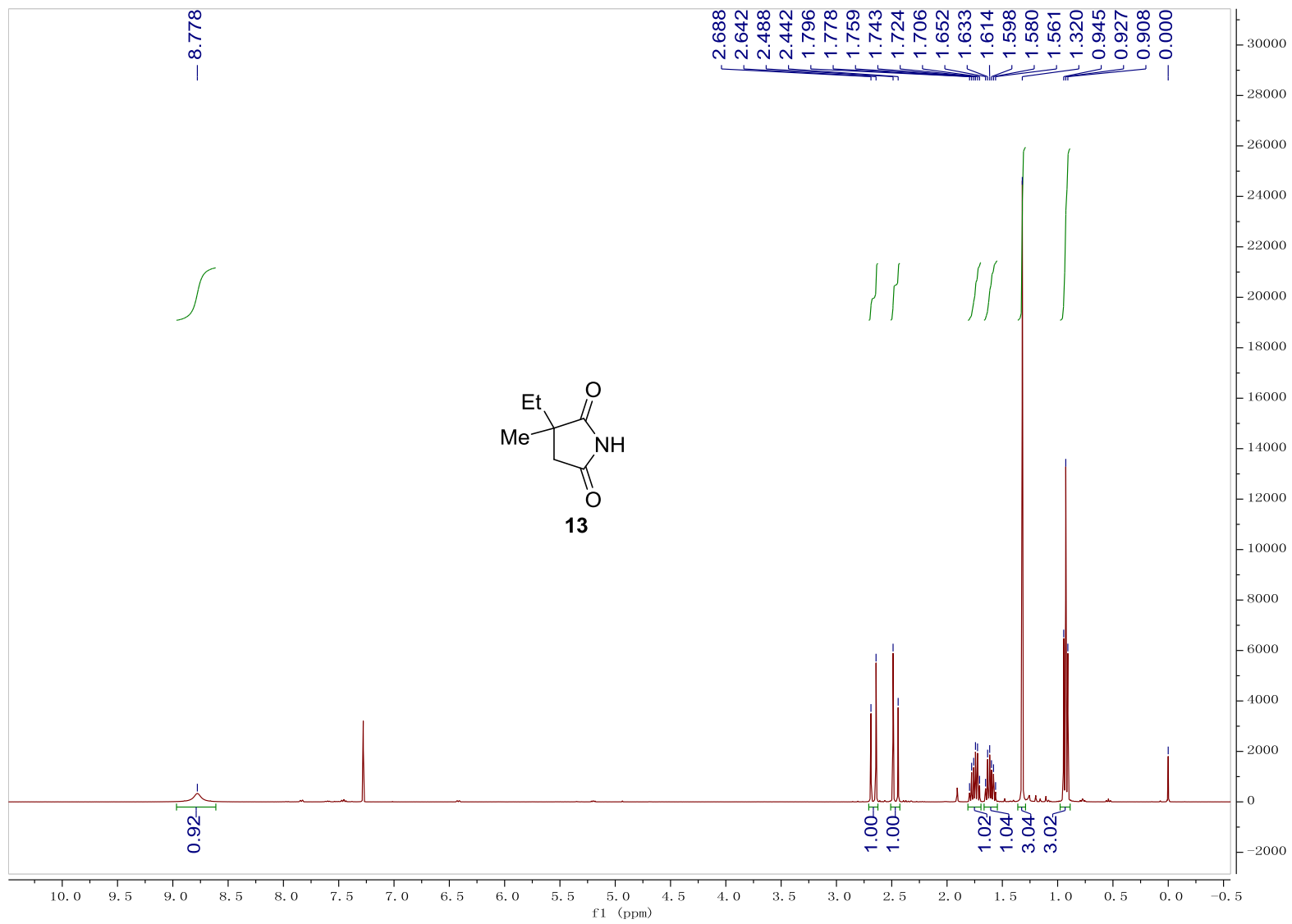
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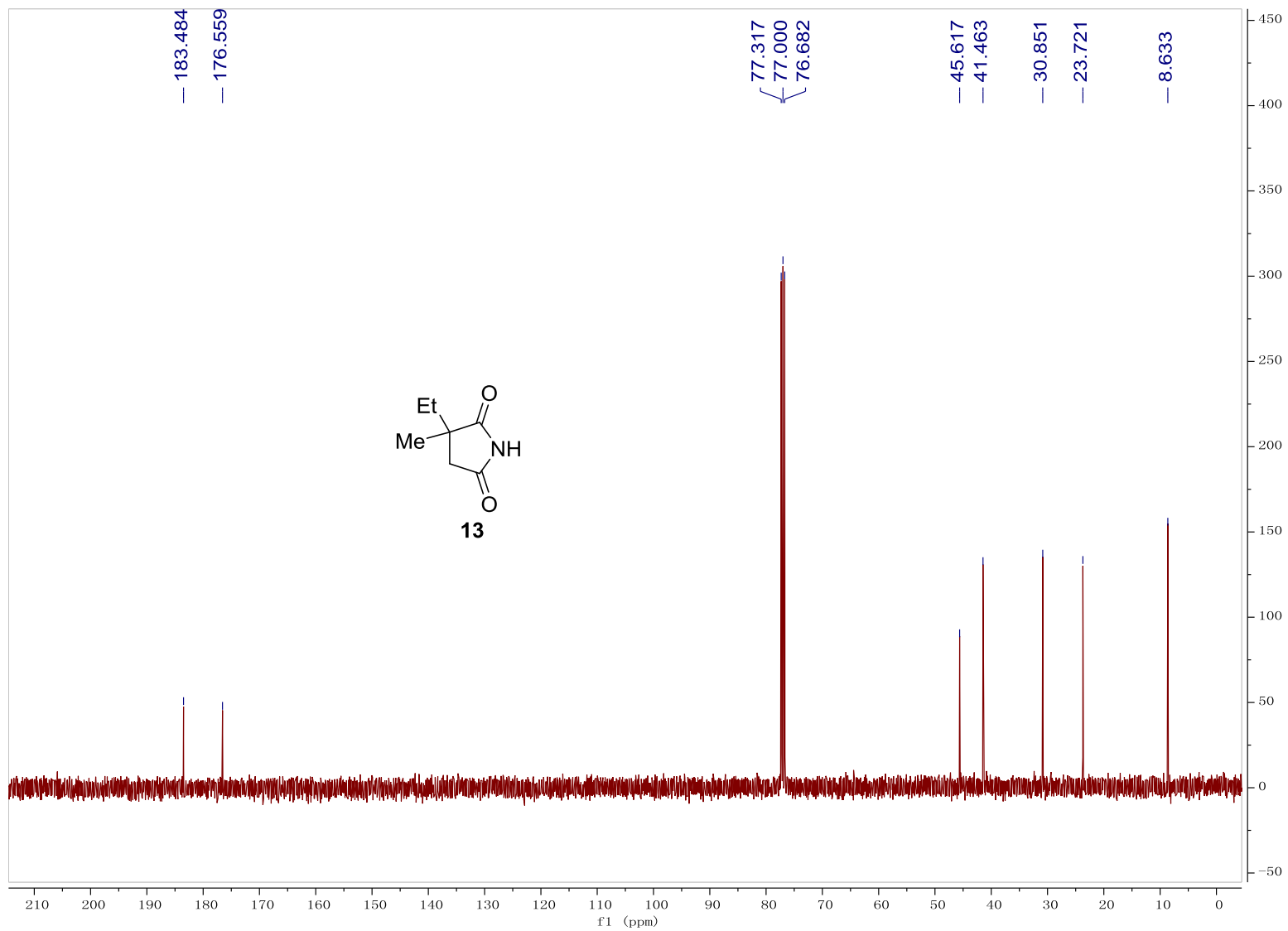
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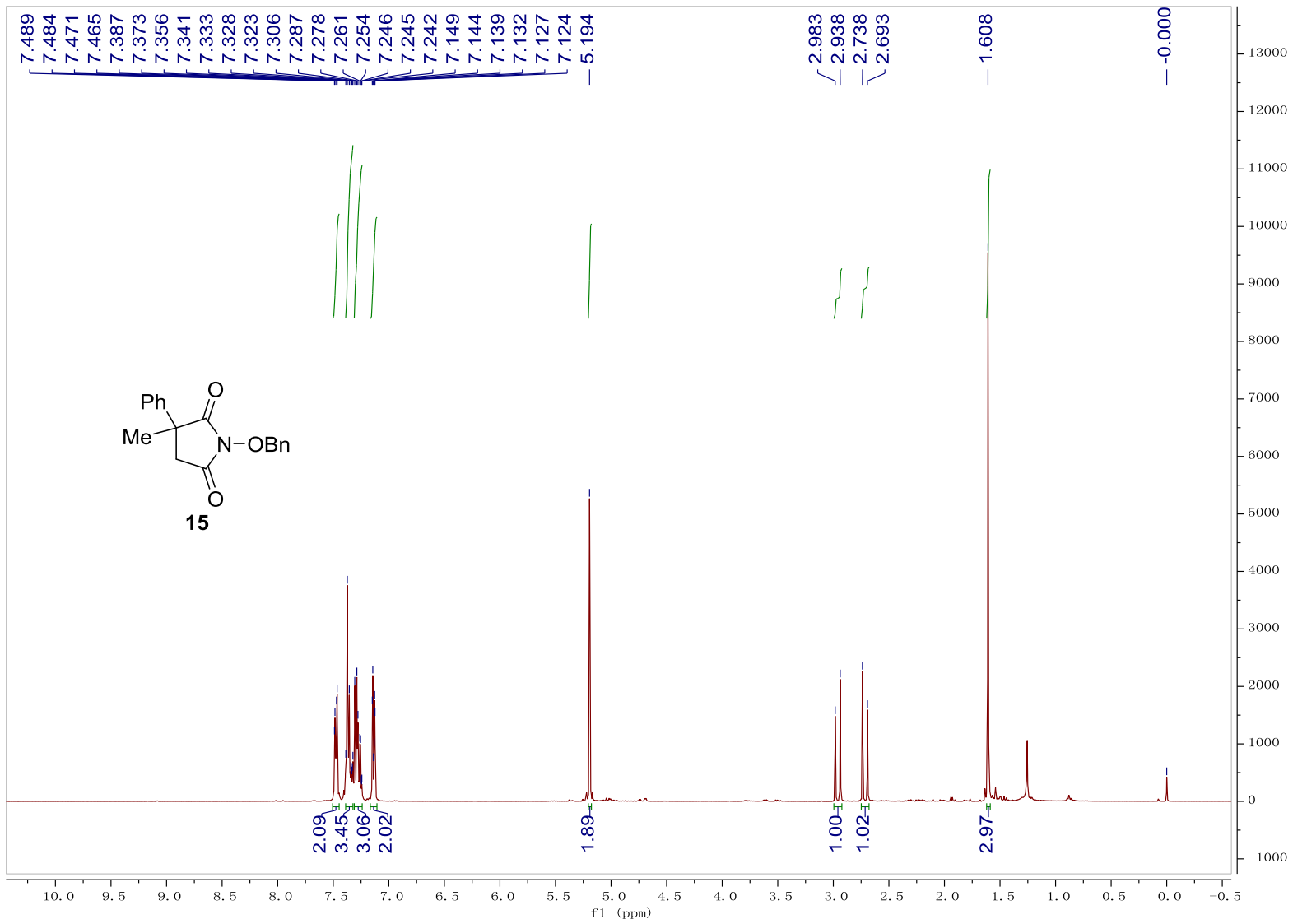
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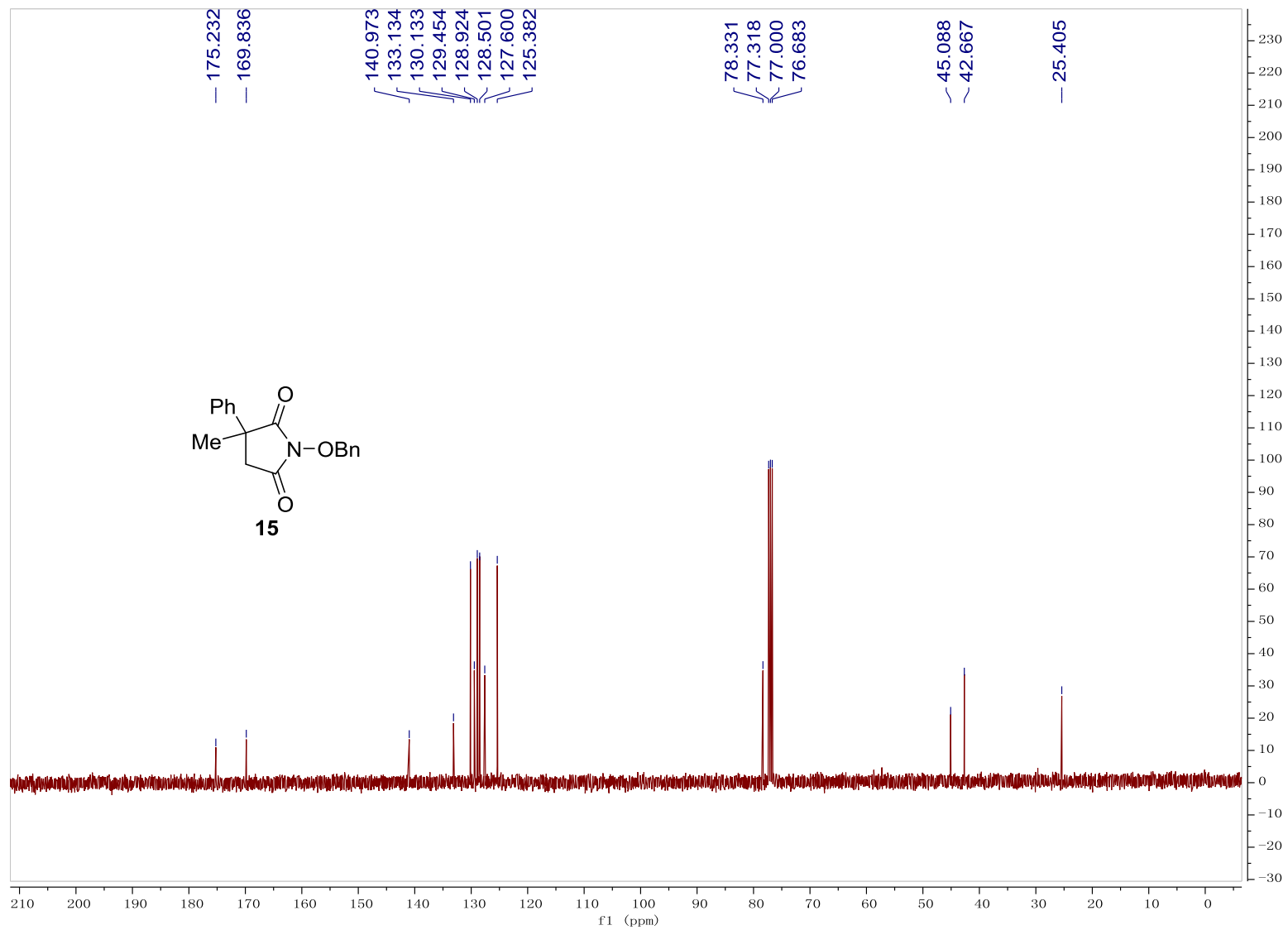
S162



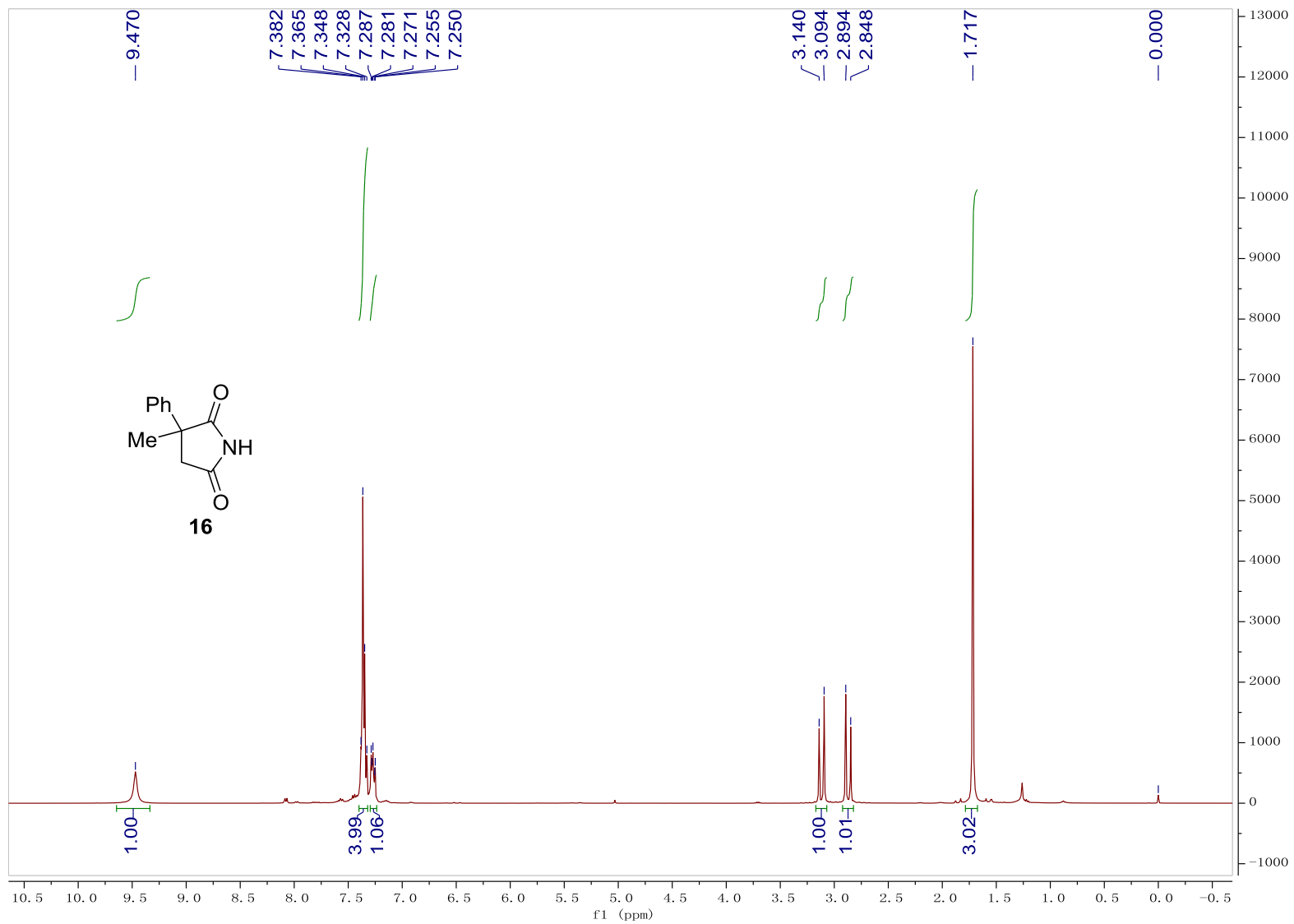
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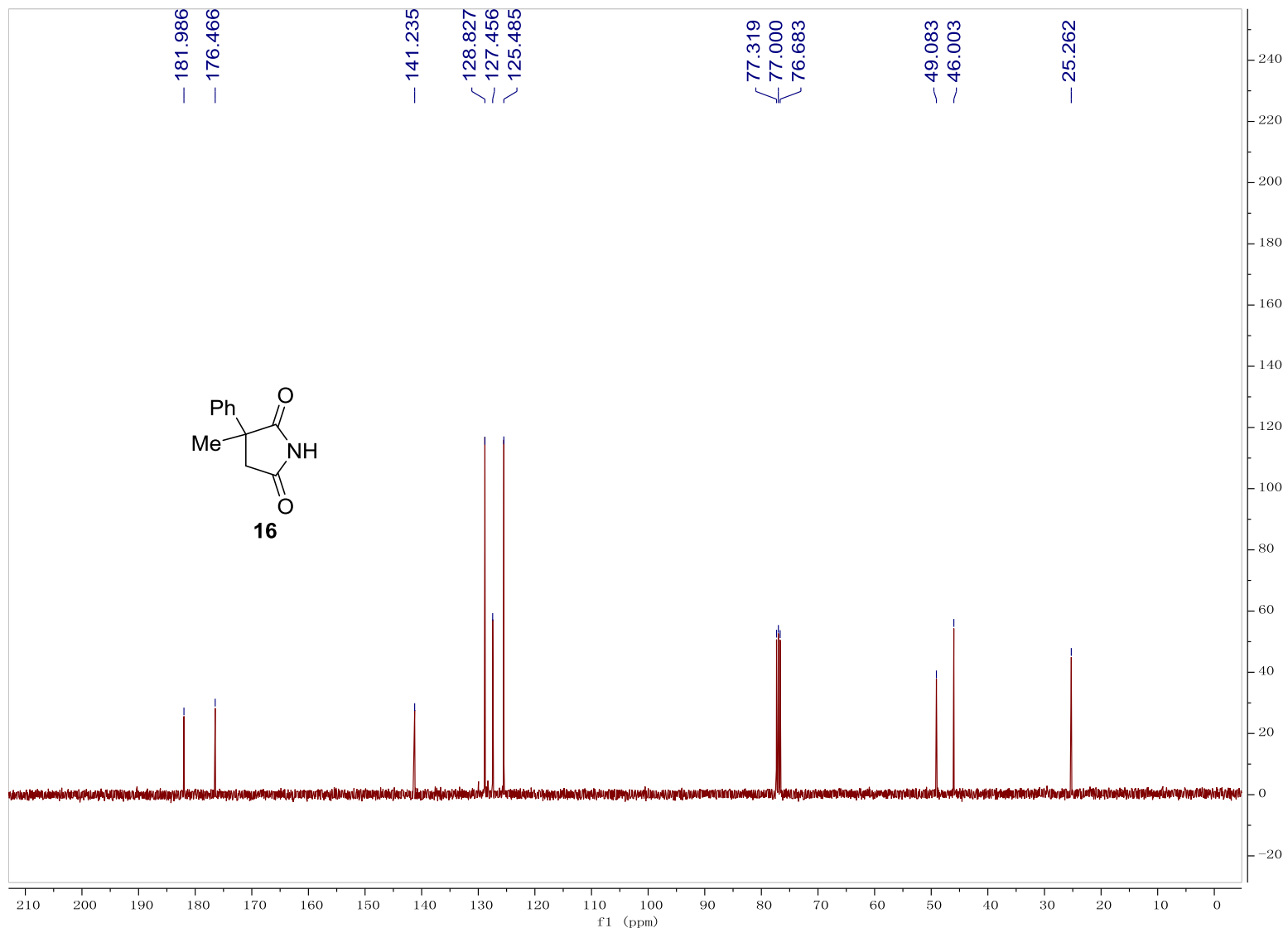


S164

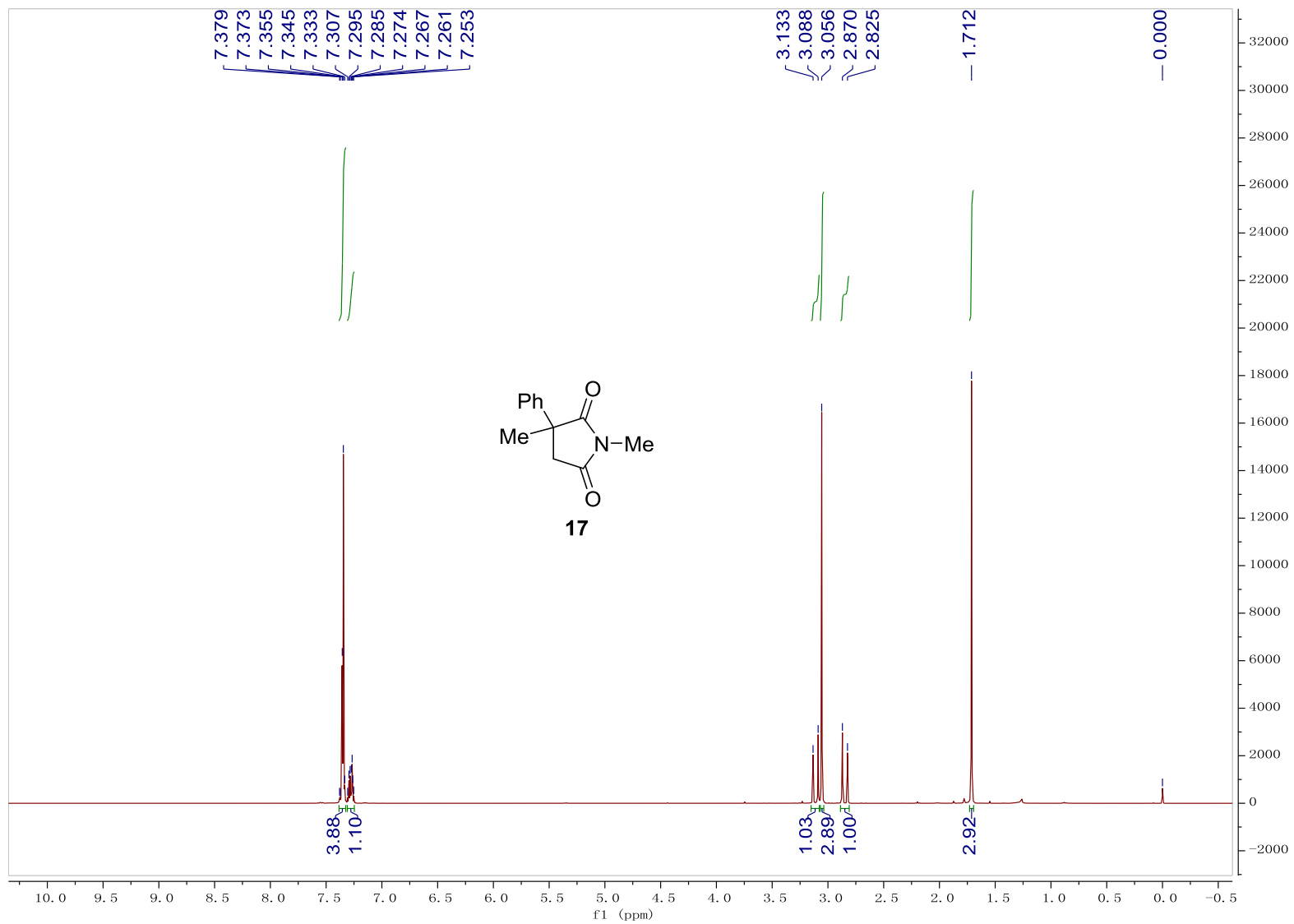


S165

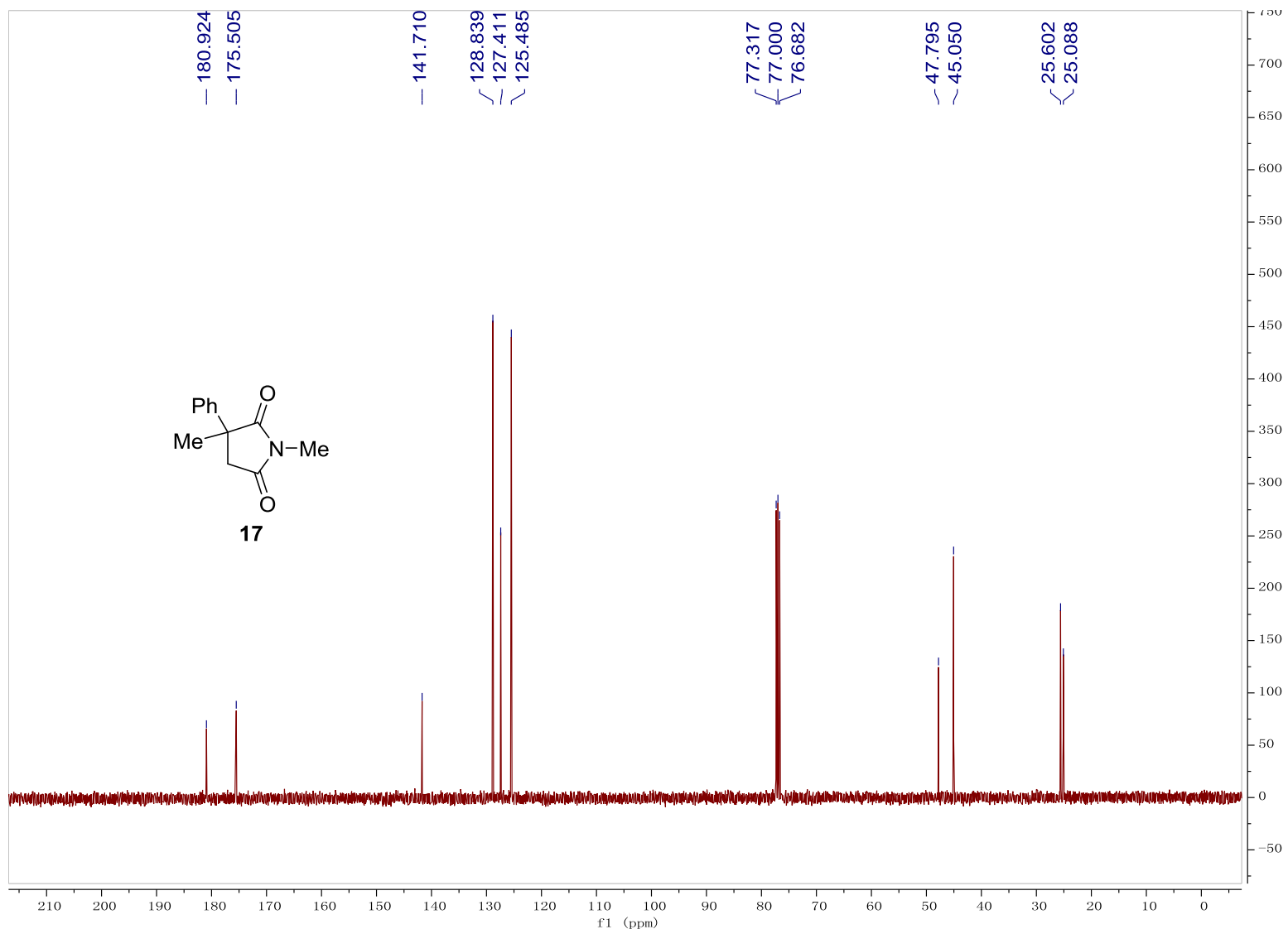




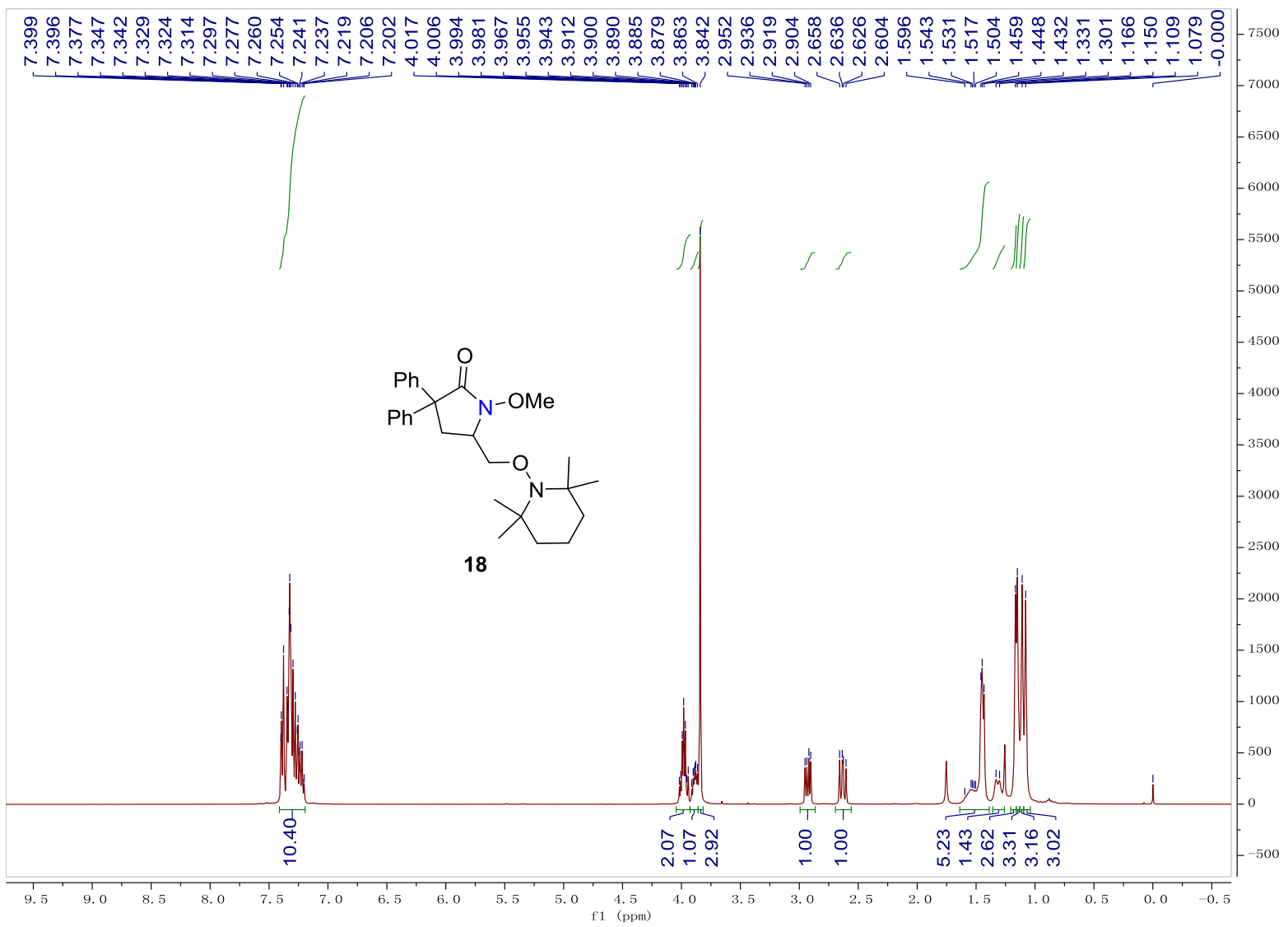
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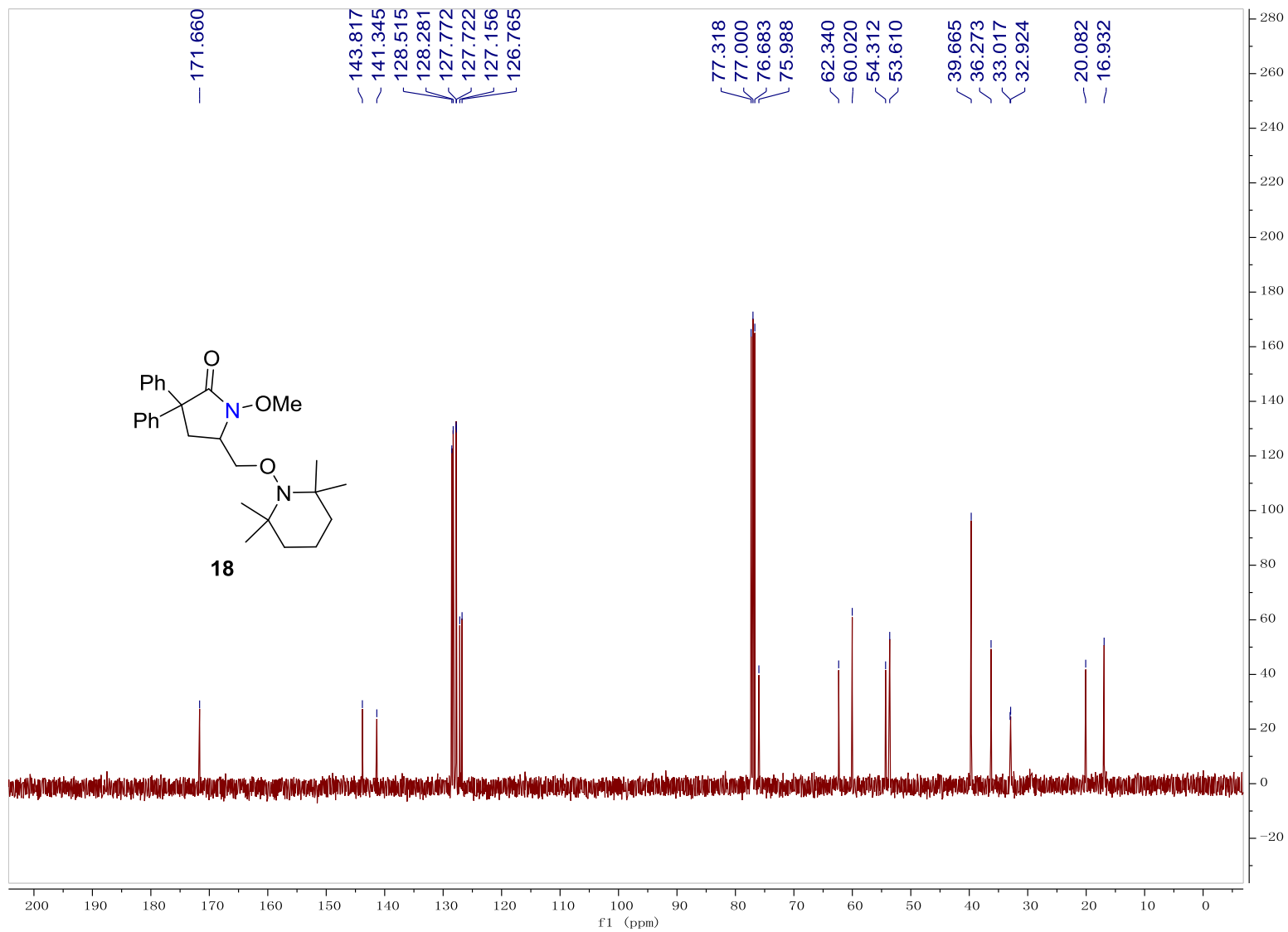
S168



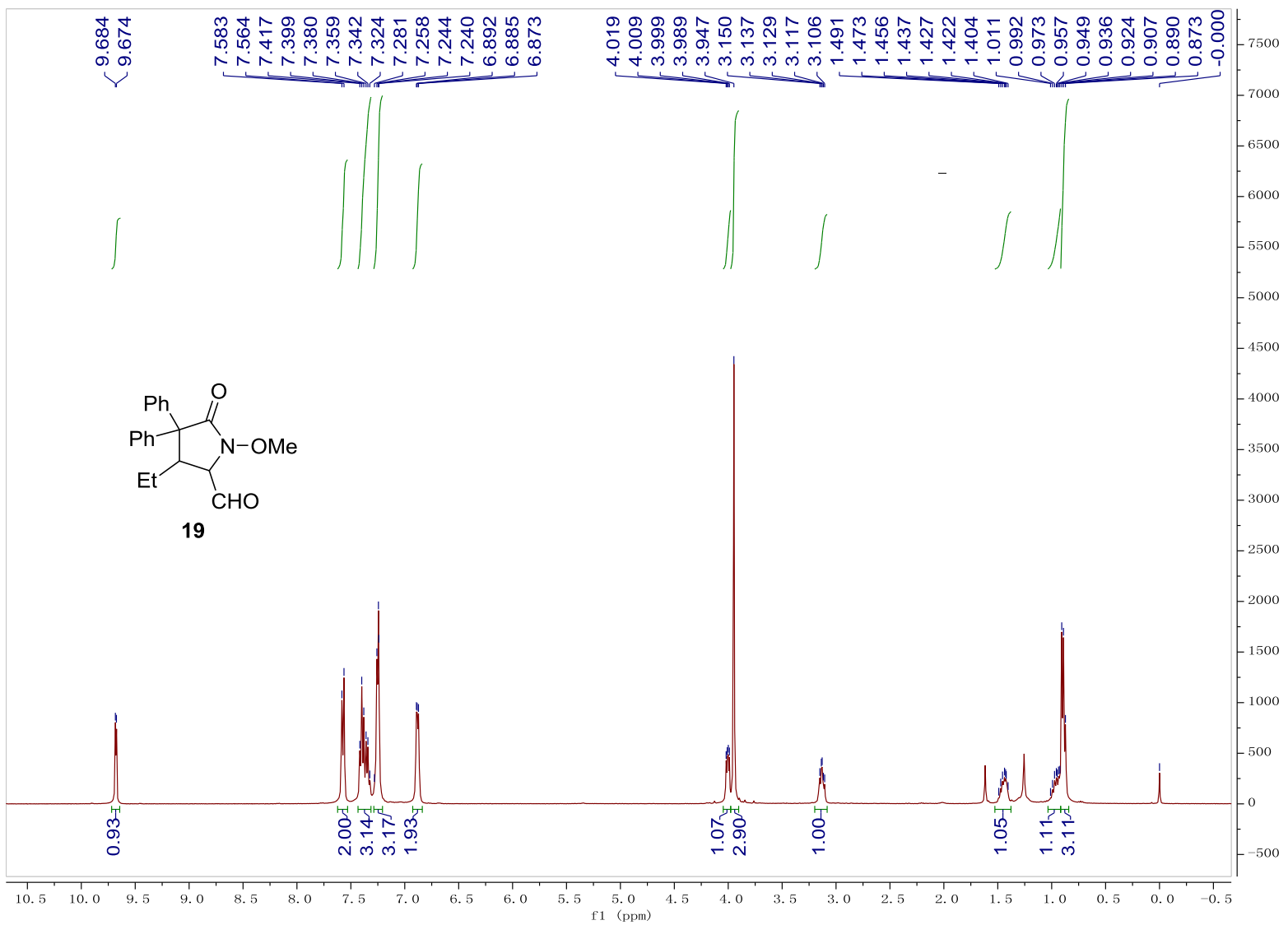
S169

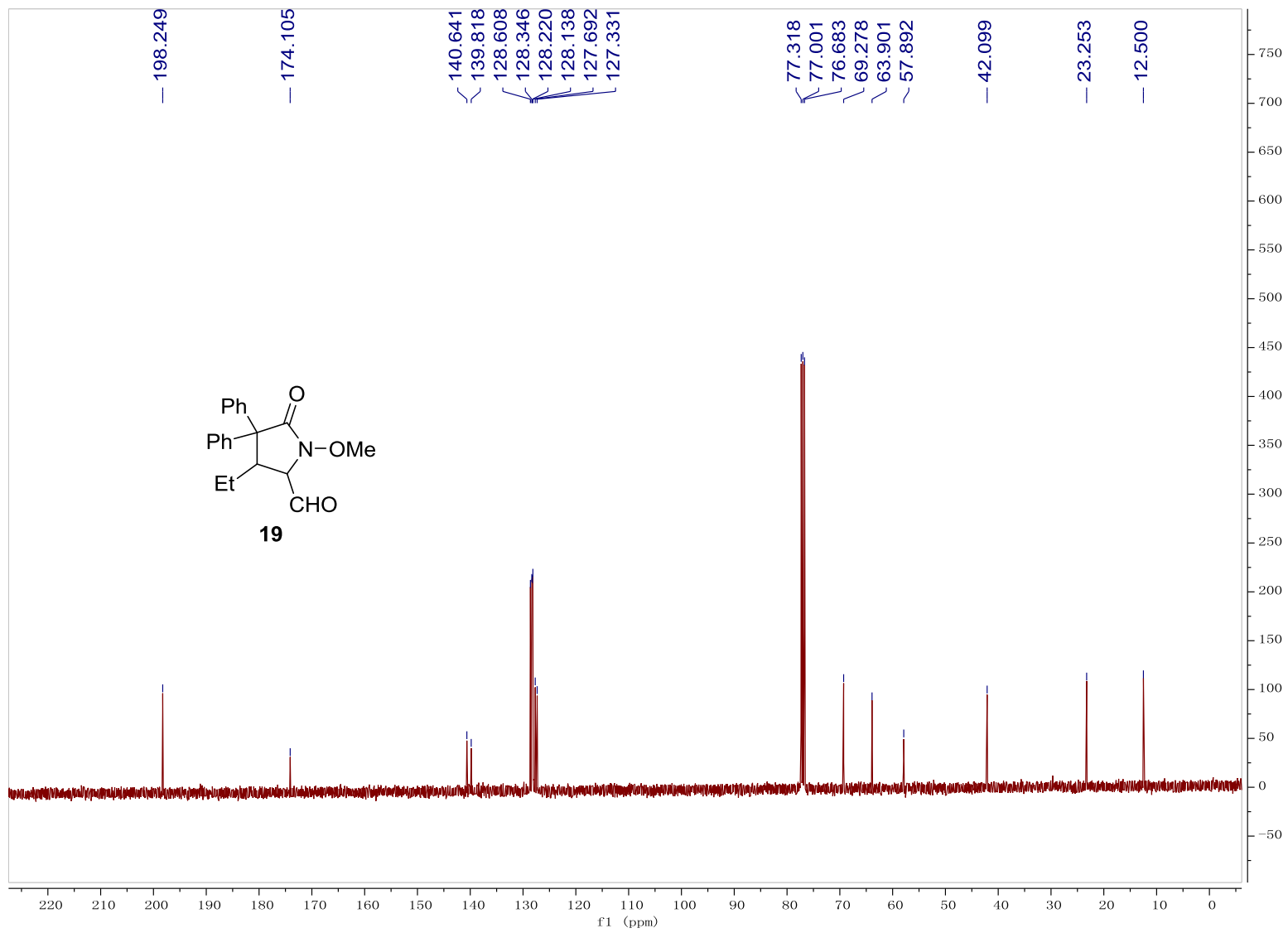


S170



S171





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