

A versatile, modular synthesis of monofunctionalized BODIPY dyes

Volker Leen, Els Braeken, Kristof Luckermans, Carine Jackers, Mark Van der
Auweraer, Noël Boens and Wim Dehaen^{*}

Department of Chemistry, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Celestijnenlaan 200f – bus 02404, 3001
Leuven, Belgium, Tel.: +32 16 327439, Fax: +32 16 327990. E-mail: wim.dehaen@chem.kuleuven.be

Supporting Info:

^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature on a Bruker Avance 300 instrument operating at a frequency of 300 MHz for ^1H and 75 MHz for ^{13}C . ^1H NMR spectra were referenced to tetramethylsilane (0.00 ppm) as an internal standard. ^{13}C NMR spectra were referenced to the CDCl_3 (77.67 ppm) signal. Mass spectra were recorded on a Hewlett-Packard 5989A mass spectrometer (EI mode and CI mode). High-resolution mass data were obtained with a Kratos MS50TC instrument. Melting points were taken on a Reichert Thermovar and are uncorrected.

Absorption spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Lambda 40. For the corrected steady-state emission spectra, a SPEX Fluorolog was used. Freshly prepared samples in 1-cm quartz cells were utilized to perform all UV-vis absorption and emission measurements. For the determination of the relative fluorescence quantum yields (Φ_f) in solution, only dilute solutions with an absorbance below 0.1 at the excitation wavelength of 500 nm were used. Rhodamine 6G in spectrograde ethanol (Fluka) was used as standard to determine the fluorescence quantum yields. All spectroscopic measurements were done at 20 °C.

General synthesis of 2-acyl-5-halopyrroles: 2-acetyl-5-chloropyrrole

CAUTION: This synthesis describes the preparation and handling of halogenated pyrroles. These compounds are highly unstable, and decompose rapidly and violently with the evolution of toxic gases. Always handle these compounds in a fume hood. Any remaining halopyrrole after reaction can be stabilized by the addition of a few drops of triethylamine to the reaction mixture just before evaporation.

A stirred solution of pyrrole (1.34 g, 1.4 ml, 20 mmol) in THF (100 ml) under nitrogen is cooled to -78 °C. A solution of NCS (2.67 g, 20 mmol) in THF (100 ml) is added dropwise over 15 minutes. The resulting solution is stirred at -78 °C for 30 minutes and then placed in the freezer for 14 h. The cooled solution is then brought to 0 °C and stirred at this temperature for 6 h. Next the acylating agent is added in a dropwise manner over 10 minutes and the resulting solution is left stirred at room temperature for 14 h. An aqueous solution of NaOAc (70 mmol in 200 ml H_2O) is added and the reaction is refluxed for 30 minutes. The mixture is extracted with diethyl ether (3 $\times$ 100 ml), washed with saturated NaHCO_3 (2 $\times$ 200 ml or until basic) and water (2 $\times$ 300 ml or until neutral). The solution is dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure until dryness. The residue is purified chromatographically (Silica, CH_2Cl_2 /ethyl acetate; 9:1) to yield a colorless solid (1.258 g, 44 % yield). Mp 78-81 °C.

^1H -NMR: 9.67 (s, br, 1H, NH), 6.84 (d, 1H, $J = 3.66$ Hz), 6.11 (d, 1H, $J = 3.66$ Hz), 2.42 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR: 187.1, 131.4, 123.4, 117.6, 109.2, 24.9; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 143 (M^+ 100), 145 ($\text{M}^+ - 31$); HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{ClNO}$ 143.0138, found 143.0141.

Note: The acylating agent can be prepared as for any Vilsmeier reaction by mixing 22 mmol of a dimethylamide or a N-morpholinoylamide and 22 mmol of POCl_3 at 0 °C and stirring at room temperature until the Vilsmeier reagent has formed. After formation of the salt, it is dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (50 ml) prior to addition.

In the case of trifluoroacetylation, the acylating agent constitutes of 20 mmol of trifluoroacetic acid anhydride in 50 ml of THF. The hydrolysis can then be replaced by stirring with water/ NaHCO_3 .

Condensation of selected pyrroles to corresponding BODIPY: 3-Chloro-5,7,8-trimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-sindacene 8b

2-Acetyl-5-chloropyrrole (5 mmol, 670 mg) is dissolved in a mixture of 4 ml CH₂Cl₂ and 2ml pentane and stirred under nitrogen. 2,4-Dimethylpyrrole (620 µl, 5mmol, 1 equiv.) is added and the resulting solution is cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath, followed by the addition of POCl₃ (470 µl, 5mmol, 1 equiv.). The solution is stirred at room temperature for 6 h. During this period the mixture turns dark. Triethylamine (7 ml, 50 mmol) is added and the mixture is stirred for 10 minutes while being cooled to 0 °C. Borontrifluoride etherate (7 ml, 55 mmol) is added dropwise and the reaction mixture is then stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The orange solution is poured in diethyl ether (400 ml) and extracted with water (3 × 200 ml). The ethereal solution is dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product is purified chromatographically (Silica, CH₂Cl₂/petroleum ether; 1:1, v/v) to yield brick-red crystals (964 mg, 72%). Mp 228-230 °C.

¹H-NMR: 7.03 (d, 1H, J = 3.63 Hz), 6.29 (d, 1H, J = 3.66 Hz), 6.17 (s, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C-NMR: 160.8, 145.6, 140.3, 137.3, 134.2, 133.3, 124.0, 123.4, 115.3, 16.9, 15.8, 15.0; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 268 (M⁺ 100); HRMS: calcd. for C₁₂H₁₂BClF₂N₂ 268.07501, found 268.07482.

3-Chloro-5,7-dimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene 8a

Bright orange solid. Mp 162°C. ¹H-NMR: 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.80 (d, 1H, J = 3.76 Hz), 6.23 (d, 1H, J = 3.76 Hz), 6.13 (s, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ¹³C-NMR: 163.6, 145.9, 138.3, 136.4, 132.0, 126.7, 123.4, 121.7, 115.8, 15.2, 11.3; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 254 (M⁺ 100); HRMS: calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀BClF₂N₂ 254.05936, found 254.06083.

3-Chloro-5-phenyl-8-methyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene 8c

Purple solid. Mp 162-165°C. ¹H-NMR: 7.91-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.35 (d, 1H, J = 3.21 Hz), 7.16 (d, 1H, J = 3.21 Hz), 6.67 (d, 1H, J = 3.21 Hz), 6.37 (d, 1H, J = 3.21 Hz), 2.55 (s, 3H); ¹³C-NMR: 160.3, 141.8, 133.9, 132.2, 130.0, 129.6; 129.5, 129.5, 129.0, 128.4, 126.5, 117.5, 15.5; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 316 (M⁺ 100); HRMS: calcd. for C₁₆H₁₂BClF₂N₂ 316.07501, found 316.07492.

3-Chloro-5,6-cyclohexano-8-methyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene 8d

Red solid. Mp 174-175°C. ¹H-NMR: 6.96 (s, 2H), 6.27 (d, 1H, J = 3.66 Hz), 3.09 (t, 2H, J = 6.39 Hz), 2.58 (t, 2H, J = 6.39 Hz), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.75 (m, 2H); ¹³C-NMR: 162.8, 139.2, 137.8, 135.7, 133.3, 131.9, 125.9, 124.0, 115.3, 25.1, 23.3, 22.6, 22.1, 15.1; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 294 (M⁺ 100); HRMS: calcd. for C₁₄H₁₄BClF₂N₂ 294.09066, found 294.09051.

3-Chloro-5,7-dimethyl-8-phenyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene 8e

Orange solid. Mp 137-140°C. ¹H-NMR: 7.49-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.30 (d, 2H, J = 7.29 Hz), 6.31 (d, 1H, J = 3.66 Hz), 6.23 (d, 1H, J = 3.66 Hz), 6.14 (s, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 1.51 (s, 3H); ¹³C-NMR: 162.7, 147.1, 141.8, 138.3, 133.8, 133.5, 133.2, 129.6, 128.9, 128.6, 127.3, 123.8, 115.7,

15.3, 15.0; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 330 (M^+ 100); HRMS: calcd. for $C_{17}H_{14}BClF_2N_2$ 330.09066, found 330.09052.

3-Bromo-5,7,8-trimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene 8f

Bright orange solid. Mp 219-220°C. 1H -NMR: 6.99 (d, 1H, J = Hz), 6.40 (d, 1H, J = Hz), 6.18 (s, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR: 161.1, 160.8, 140.0, 135.0, 134.3, 124.1, 123.6, 119.1, 17.0, 15.8, 15.1; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 312 (M^+ 100); HRMS: calcd. for $C_{12}H_{12}BBrF_2N_2$ 312.02450, found 312.02444.

2-Chloro-5,7,8-trimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene 8g

Orange solid. Mp 198-199°C. 1H -NMR: 7.44 (s, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR: 162.6, 147.1, 141.4, 135.0, 133.8, 132.9, 123.7, 120.4, 118.7, 17.1, 16.3, 15.2; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 268 (M^+ 100); HRMS: calcd. for $C_{12}H_{12}BClF_2N_2$ 268.07501, found 268.07547.

2-Bromo-5,7,8-trimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene 8h

Bright orange solid. Mp 178-180°C. 1H -NMR: 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR: 162.6, 147.2, 141.1, 135.8, 134.9, 133.7, 123.8, 123.1, 102.8, 17.0, 16.2, 15.1; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 312 (M^+ 100); HRMS: calcd. for $C_{12}H_{12}BBrF_2N_2$ 312.02450, found 312.02453.

2-Bromo-5,6-dihydronaphthyl-8-methyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene 8i

Purple solid. Mp 178-180°C. 1H -NMR: 8.66 (d, 1H, J = 7.53 Hz), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.27 (sn 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 2.90 (t, 2H, J = 7.17 Hz), 2.70 (t, 2H, J = 7.17 Hz), 2.43 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR: 157.2, 141.7, 139.5, 137.9, 136.8, 134.7, 133.7, 131.4, 129.2-129.0 (t), 129.0, 129.6, 127.6, 127.0, 126.0, 123.0, 103.6, 30.2, 22.2, 15.8; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 386 (M^+ 100); HRMS: calcd. for $C_{18}H_{14}BBrF_2N_2$ 386.04015, found 386.04007.

2-Iodo-5-phenyl-8-methyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene 8j

Purple solid. Mp 123-125°C. 1H -NMR: 7.94-9.89 (m, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.48-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.42 (d, 2H, J = 4.32 Hz), 7.26 (s, 1H), 6.72 (d, 1H, J = 4.32 Hz), 2.56 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR: 161.7, 144.2, 142.6, 137.9, 135.7, 131.7, 131.0, 130.6, 130.5, 129.6, 129.59, 129.56, 128.5, 121.8, 16.1; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 408 (M^+ 100); HRMS: calcd. for $C_{16}H_{12}BF_2IN_2$ 408.01063, found 408.01072.

2-Iodo-5,7,8-Trimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene 8k

Orange solid. Mp 176-178°C. 1H -NMR: 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR: 162.4, 147.1, 140.9, 140.7, 135.4, 134.7, 128.7, 123.9, 17.1, 16.3, 15.2; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 360 (M^+ 100); HRMS: calcd. for $C_{12}H_{12}BF_2IN_2$ 360.01063, found 360.00963.

Sonogashira reaction: 3-Phenylethynyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene **9a**

BODIPY **8b** (53.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) is dissolved in THF (2ml) and *i*Pr₂NEt (1ml) and purged with nitrogen. To the resulting solution is added phenylacetylene (29 μ l, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equivs.), followed by tetrakis(triphenylphosphine) palladium (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol%) and CuI (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol%). The mixture is refluxed for 3 h and cooled to room temperature after which the solvent is stripped. The product is purified by column (Silica, CH₂Cl₂/petroleum ether; 1:1, v/v) to yield **9a** as a purple crystalline solid (31 mg, 46%). Mp 202-204 °C.

¹H-NMR: 7.61 (d, 2H, J = 3.66 Hz), 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, 1H, J = 3.66 Hz), 6.63 (d, 1H, J = 3.66 Hz), 6.18 (s, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ¹³C-NMR: 161.5, 145.7, 139.9, 135.6, 135.4, 132.4, 132.1, 129.5, 128.7, 123.8, 123.6, 123.2, 121.6, 98.3, 83.2, 17.3, 16.7, 15.6, LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 334 (M⁺ 100); HRMS: calcd. for C₂₀H₁₇BF₂N₂ 334.1453, found 334.14607.

2-Phenylethynyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene **9b**

Red solid. Mp 191-192°C. ¹H-NMR: 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C-NMR: 162.1, 146.7, 141.5, 139.9, 135.2, 133.7, 131.5, 128.4, 128.0, 124.7, 123.7, 123.6, 111.2, 90.4, 83.2, 17.1, 16.4, 15.2; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 334 (M⁺ 100); HRMS: calcd. for C₂₀H₁₇BF₂N₂ 334.14529, found 334.14542.

3-Trimethylsilylethynyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene **9c**

solid. Mp 241-243°C. ¹H-NMR: 6.97 (d, 1H, J = 3.63 Hz), 6.56 (d, 1H, 3.66 Hz), 6.17 (s, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 0.29 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR: 161.6, 145.5, 139.7, 135.0, 134.7 131.1, 123.5, 122.7, 121.6, 104.1, 97.1, 16.2, 16.2, 15.1; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 330 (M⁺ 100); HRMS: calcd. for C₁₇H₂₁BF₂N₂Si 330.15351, found 330.15356.

2-Trimethylsilylethynyl-5,7,8-trimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene **9d**

solid. Mp 213-214°C. ¹H-NMR: 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 0.23 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR: 162.3, 146.7, 141.6, 140.3, 135.3, 133.3, 125.2, 123.8, 111.1, 98.7, 95.6, 17.1, 16.3, 15.1; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 330 (M⁺ 100); HRMS: calcd. for C₁₇H₂₁BF₂N₂Si 330.15351, found 330.15341.

Suzuki reaction: 3-(4-*t*-Butylphenyl)-5,7,8-trimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene **10a**

BODIPY **8b** (53.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) is dissolved in toluene (1ml) and purged with nitrogen. To the solution is added 4-*t*-Butyl-benzeneboronic acid (46 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equivs.), followed by tetrakis(triphenylphosphine) palladium (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol%) and Na₂CO₃ (1 ml of a 2M aquatic solution). The mixture is refluxed for 3 h, cooled to room

temperature and poured in diethyl ether (150 ml). The organic layer is dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and evaporated to dryness. The crude product is purified by column (Silica, CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether; 1:1, v/v) to yield **10a** as a dark red crystalline solid (68 mg, 93%). Mp 152-154 °C.

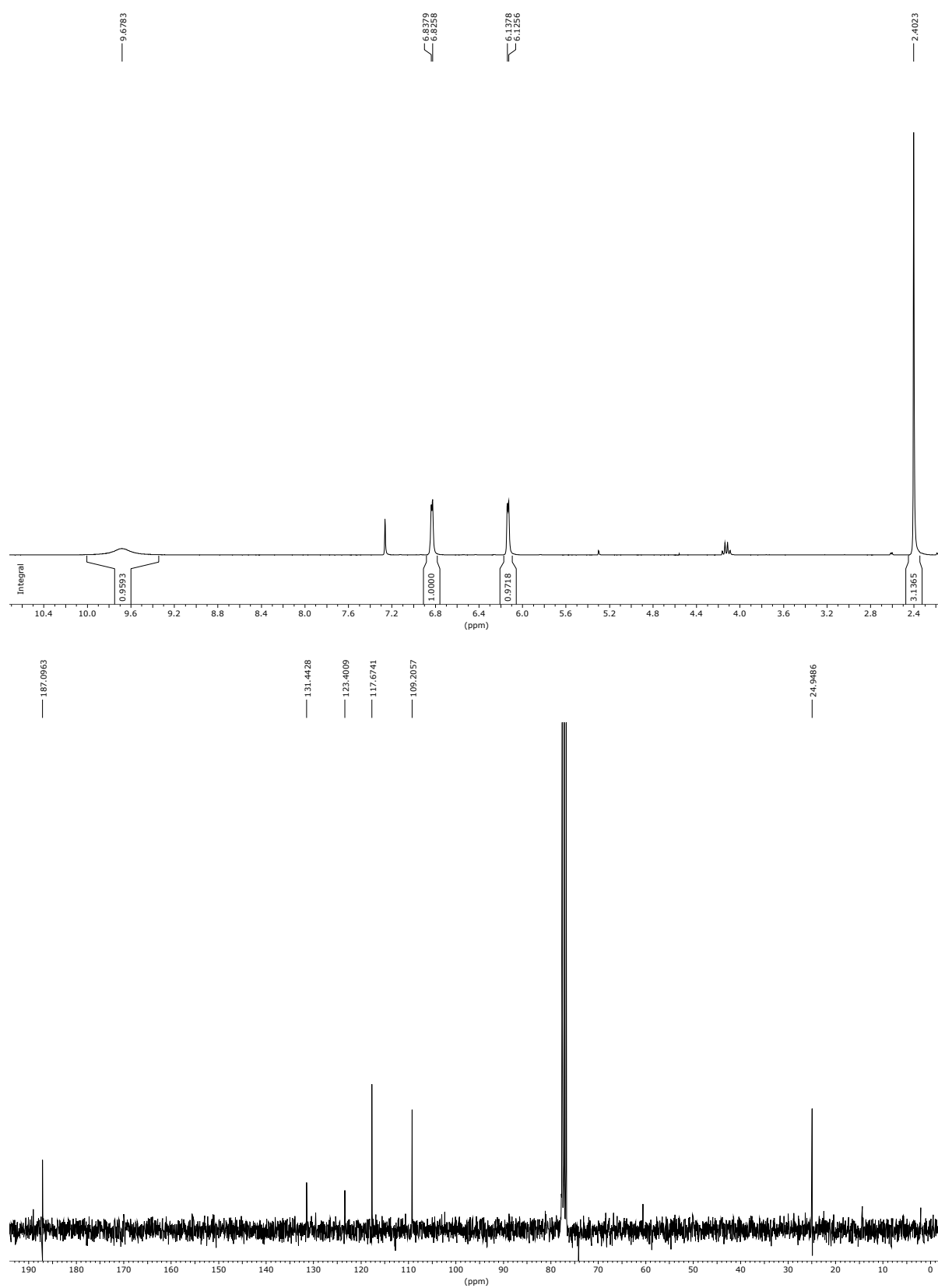
^1H -NMR: 7.82 (d, 2H, $J = 8.22$ Hz), 7.45 (d, 2H, $J = 8.22$ Hz), 7.16 (d, 1H, $J = 3.66$ Hz), 6.54 (d, 1H, $J = 3.66$ Hz), 6.10 (s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 6H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 9H); ^{13}C -NMR: 158.0, 154.9, 151.8, 143.4, 140.6, 136.1, 133.3, 130.4, 128.9, 125.3, 125.2, 122.5, 118.2, 34.8, 31.4, 16.7, 16.4, 15.0; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 366 ($\text{M}^+ 100$); HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{BF}_2$ 366.2078, found 366.20892.

2-(4-*t*-Butylphenyl)-5,7,8-trimethyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene **10b**

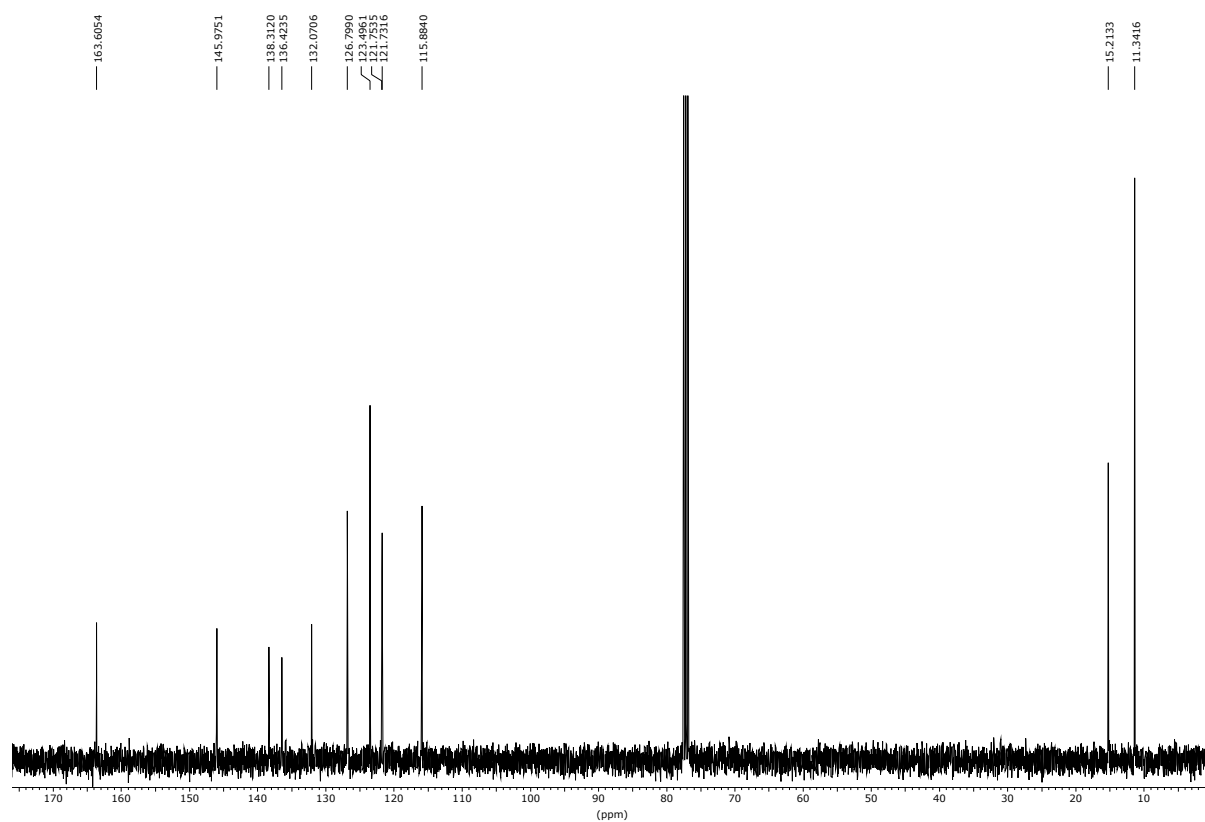
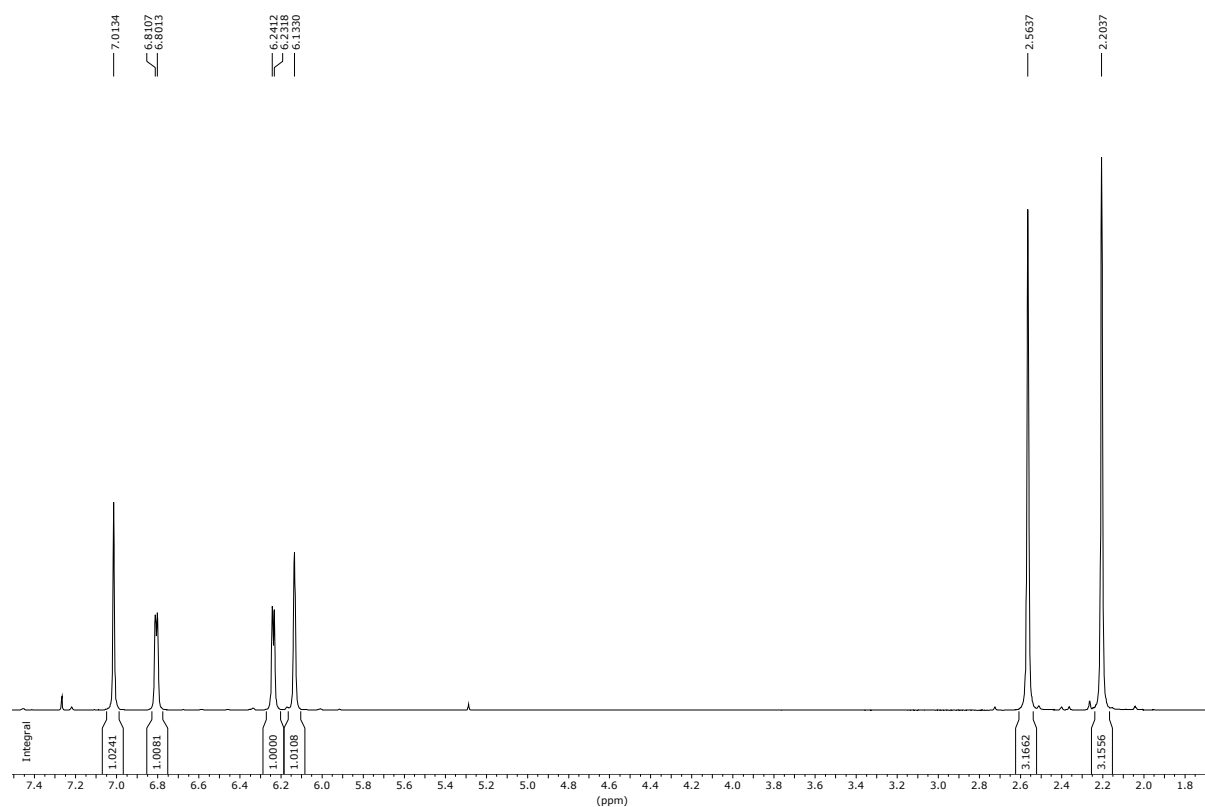
Red solid. Mp 166-168°C. ^1H -NMR: 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, 2H, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 7.39 (d, 2H, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 7.26 (s, 1H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 2.58 (s, 6H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 9H); ^{13}C -NMR: 160.0, 149.8, 145.2, 141.6, 135.6, 134.9, 134.3, 134.1, 130.8, 125.7, 125.0, 122.7, 119.2, 34.5, 31.3, 16.9, 16.5, 14.9; LRMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 366 ($\text{M}^+ 100$); HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{BF}_2\text{N}_2$ 366.20789, found 366.20801.

NMR-Spectra

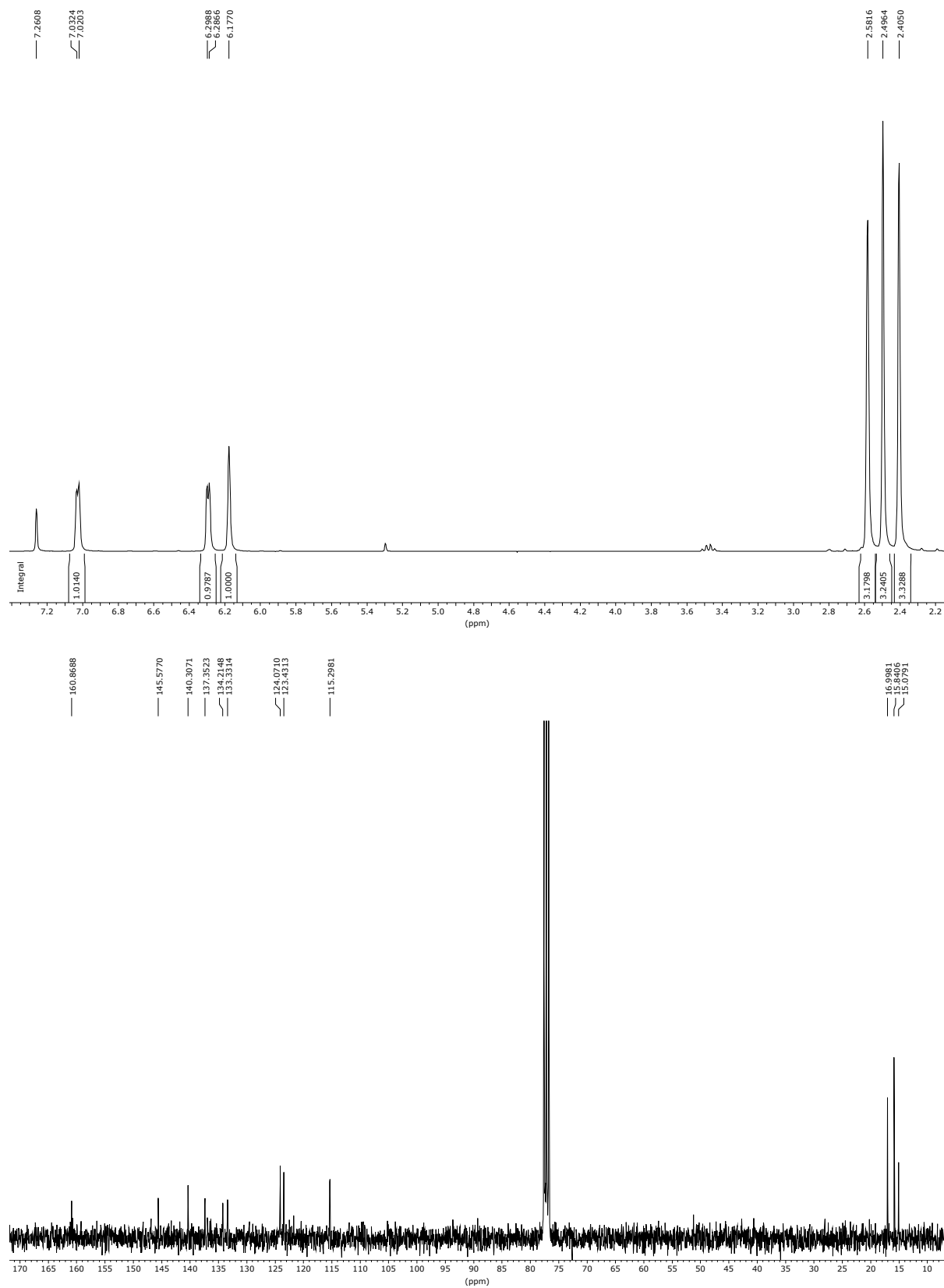
2-acetyl-5-chloropyrrole



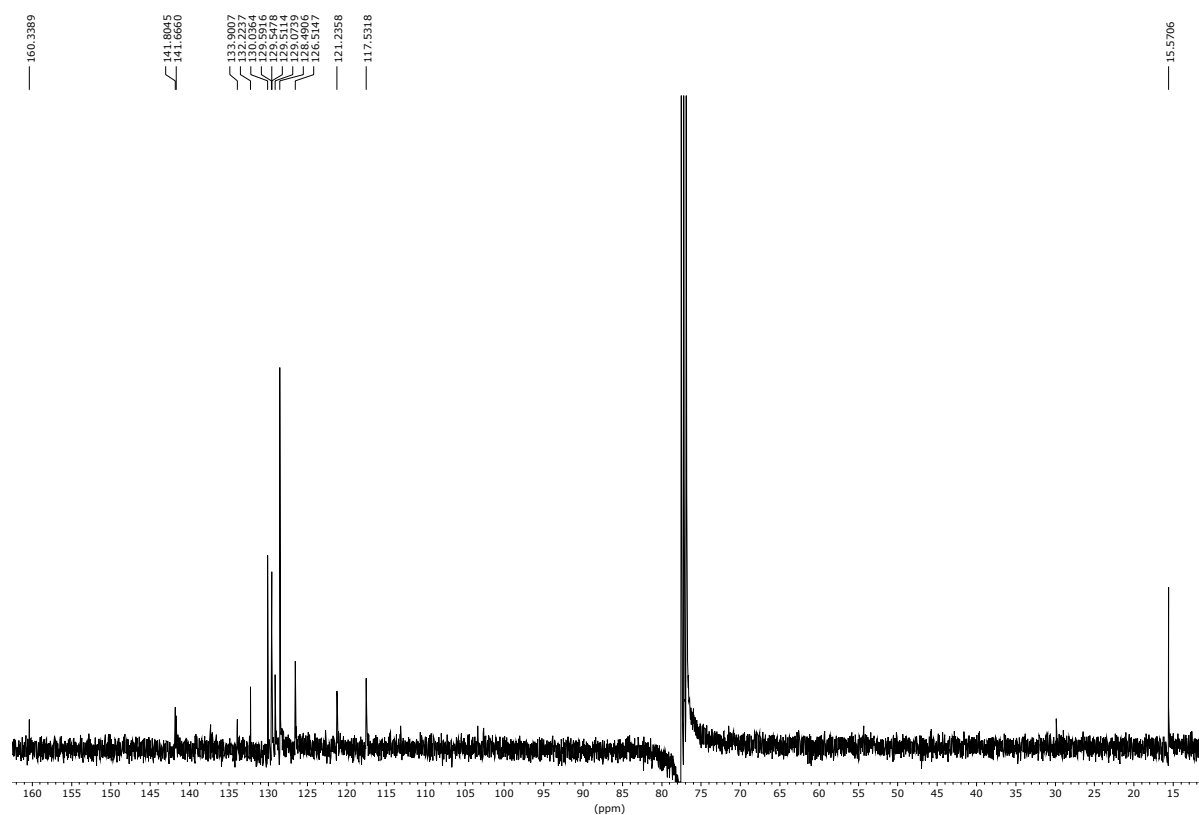
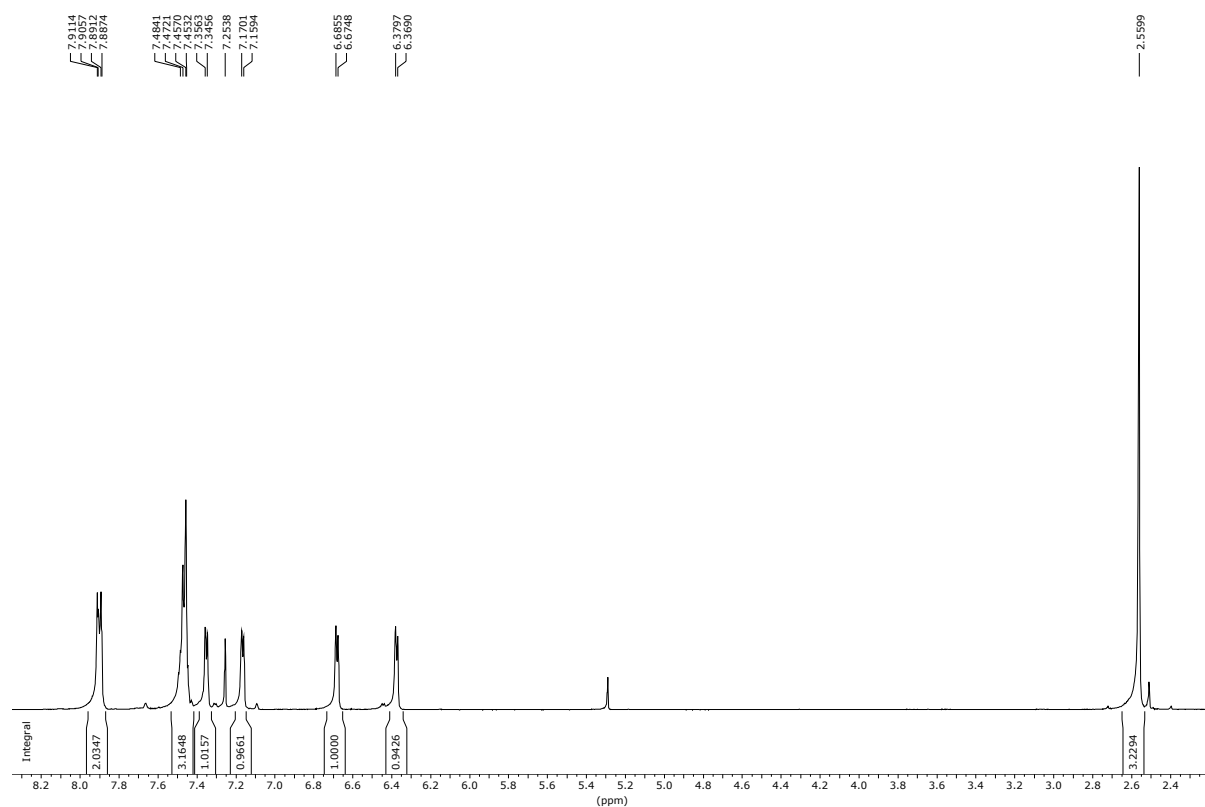
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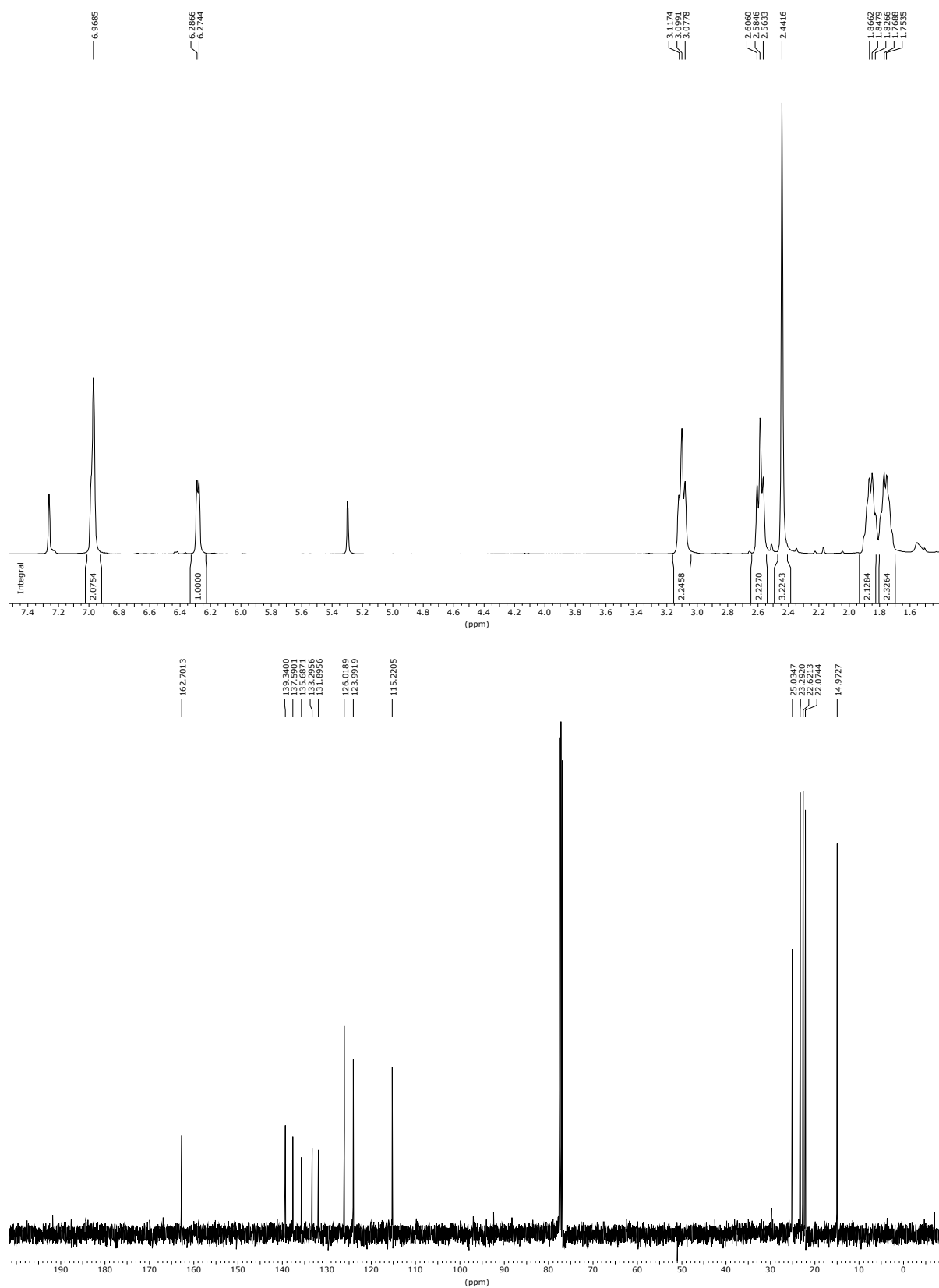
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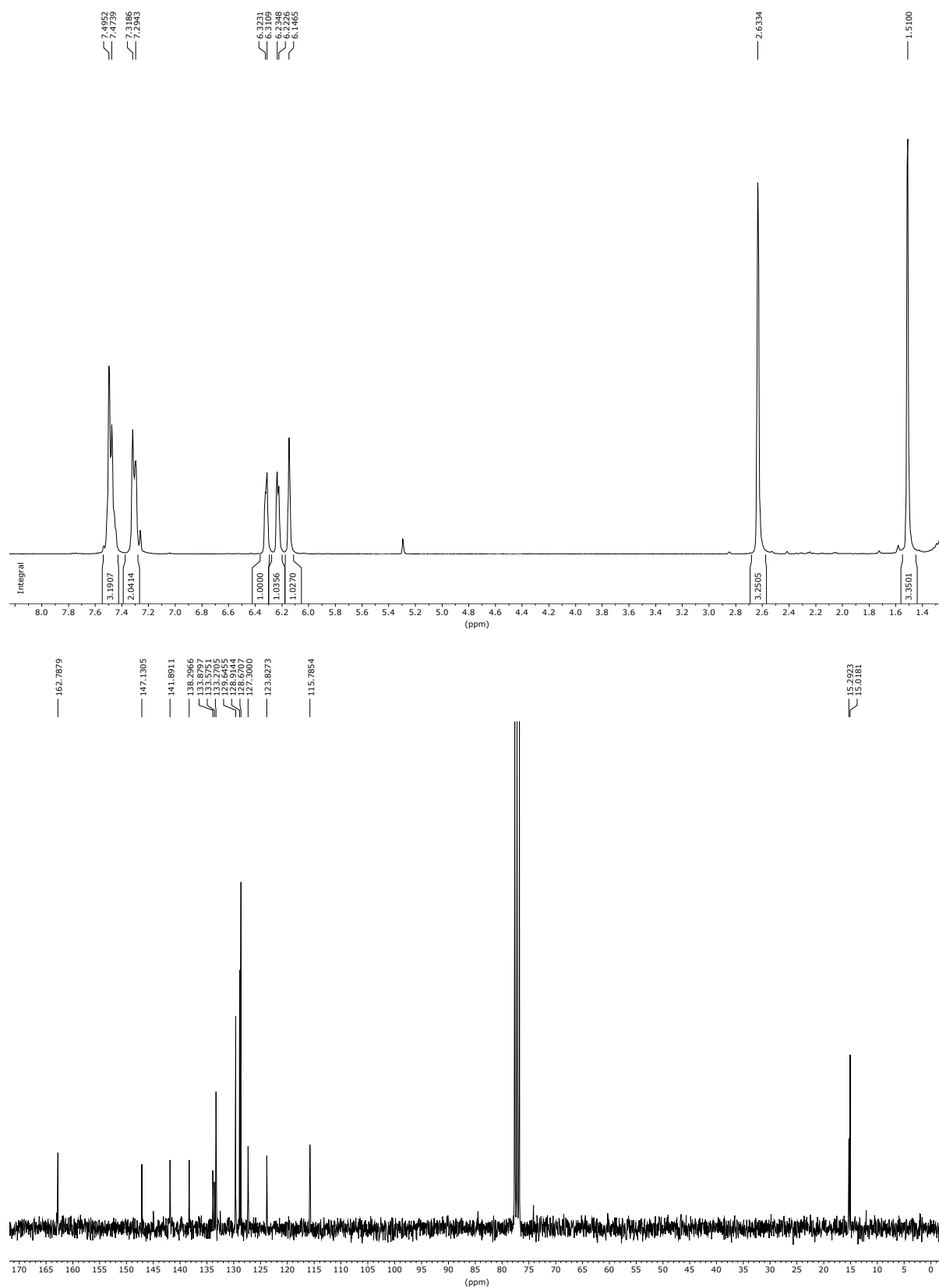
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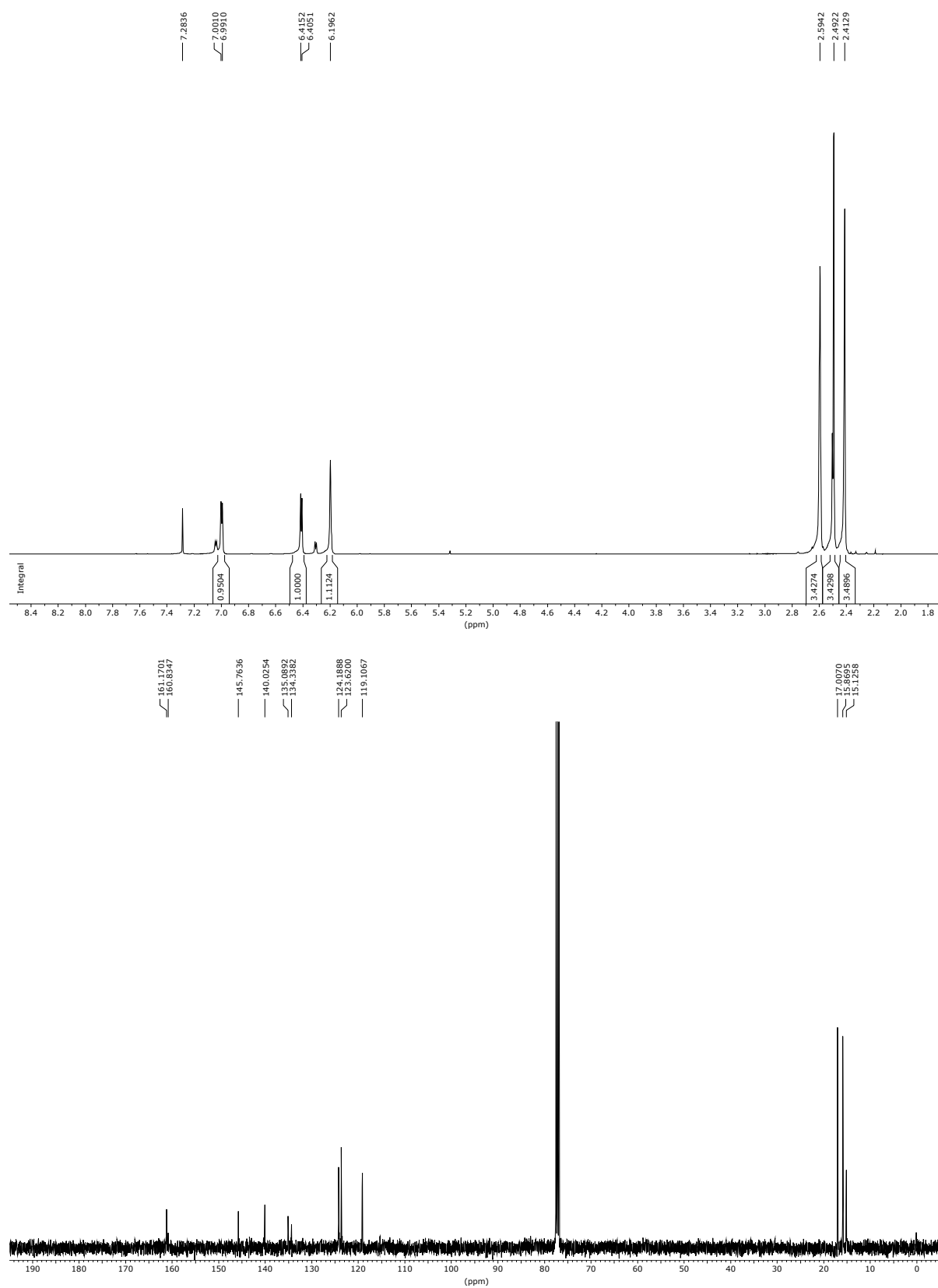
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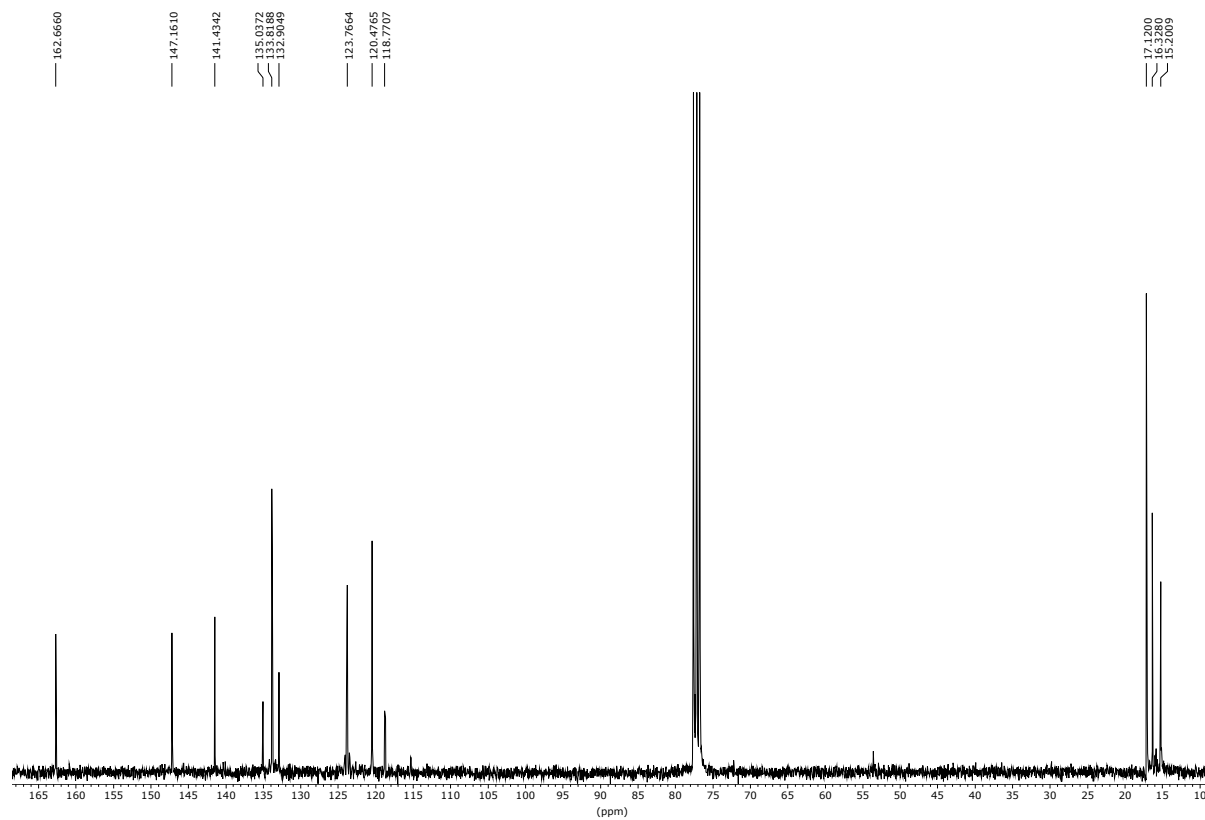
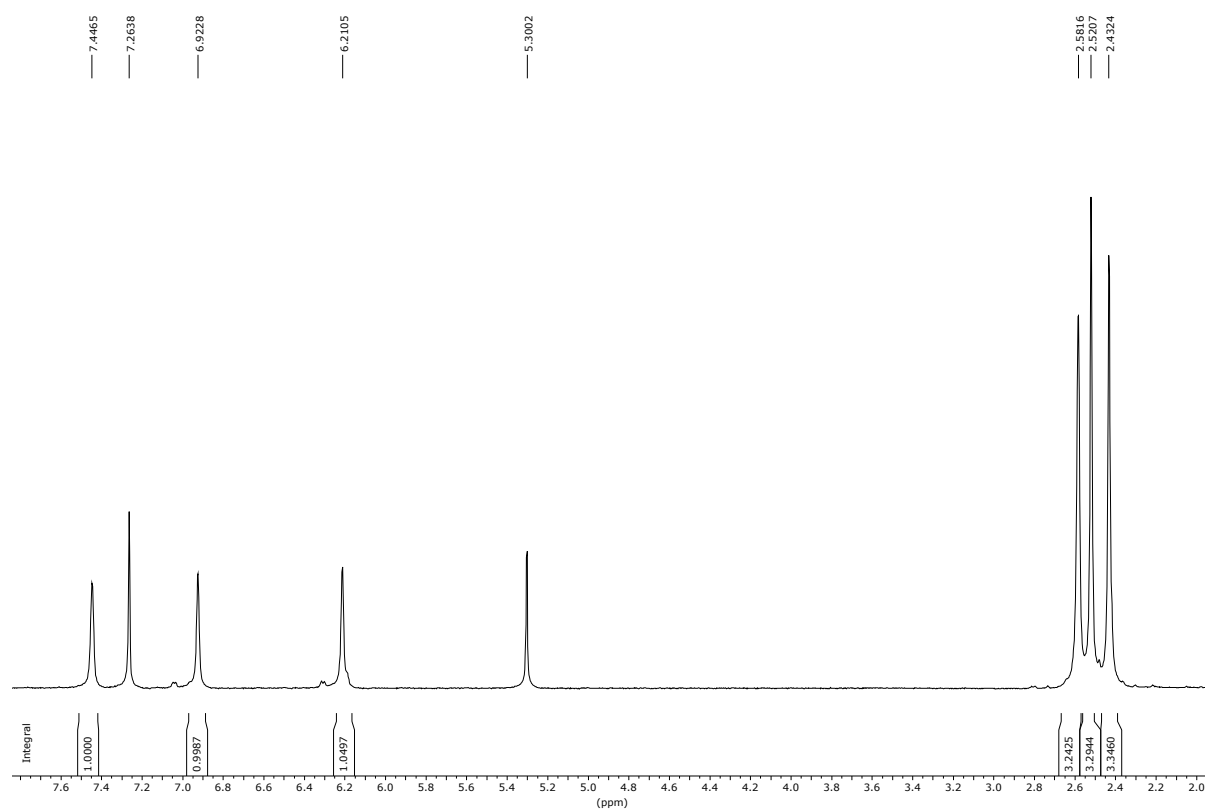
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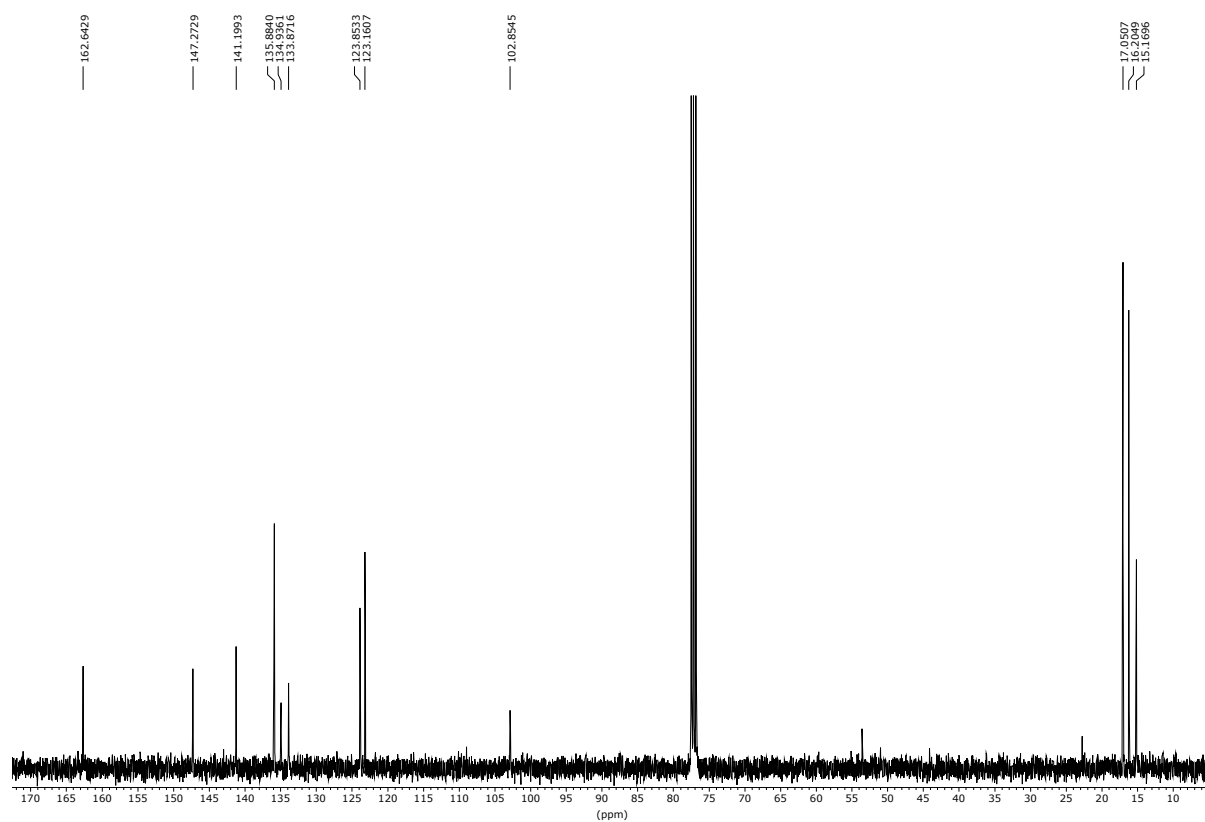
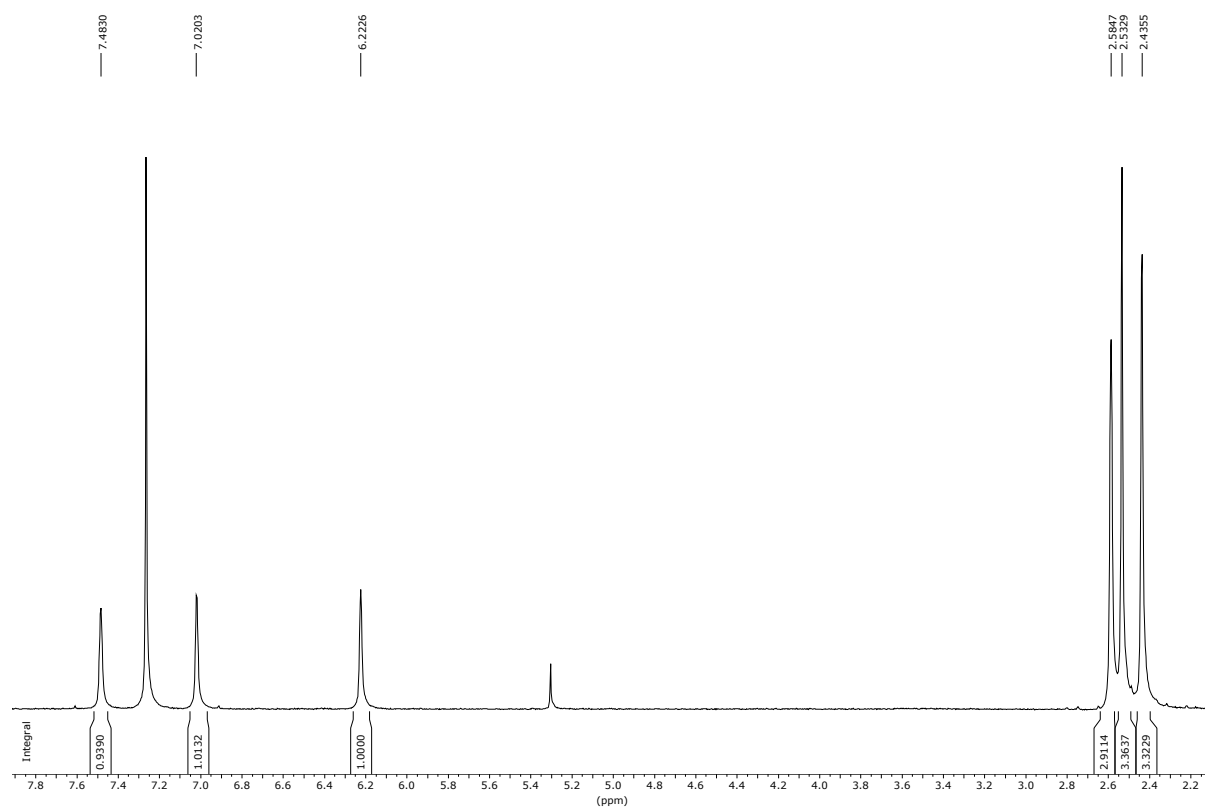
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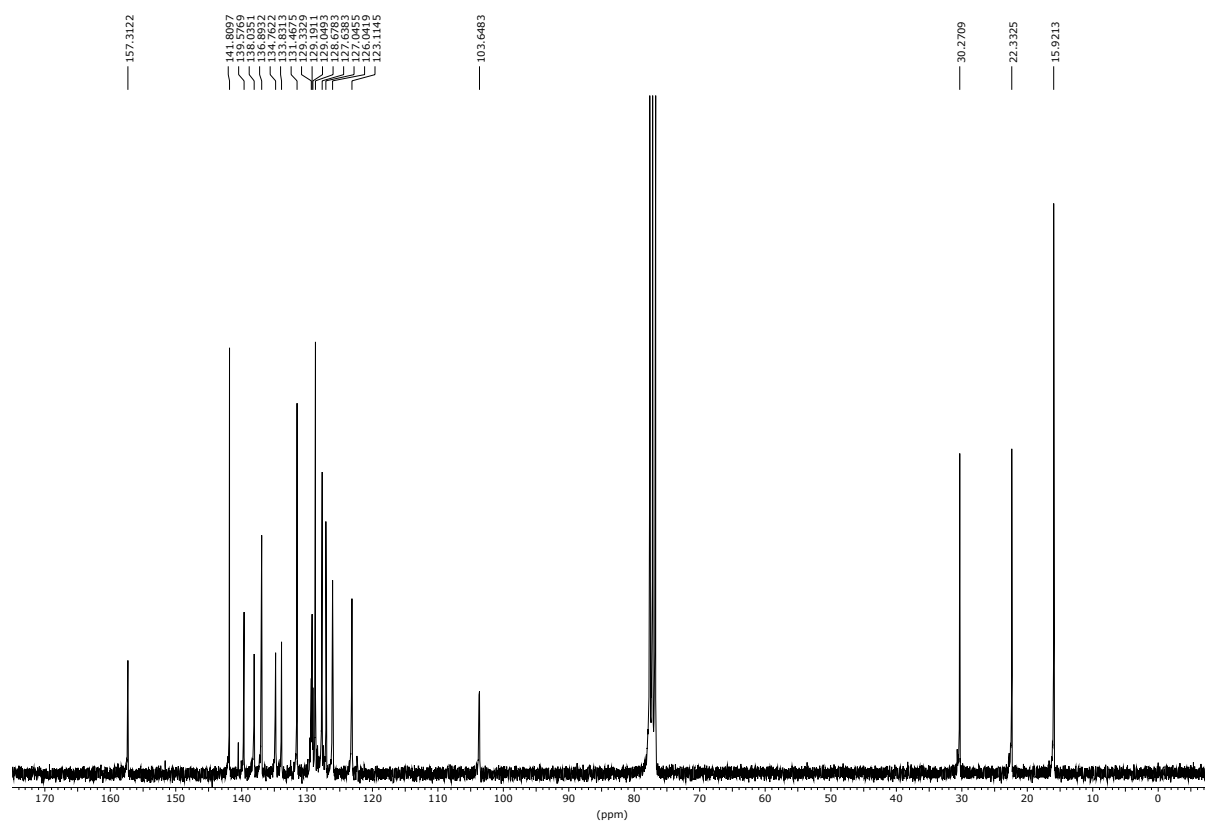
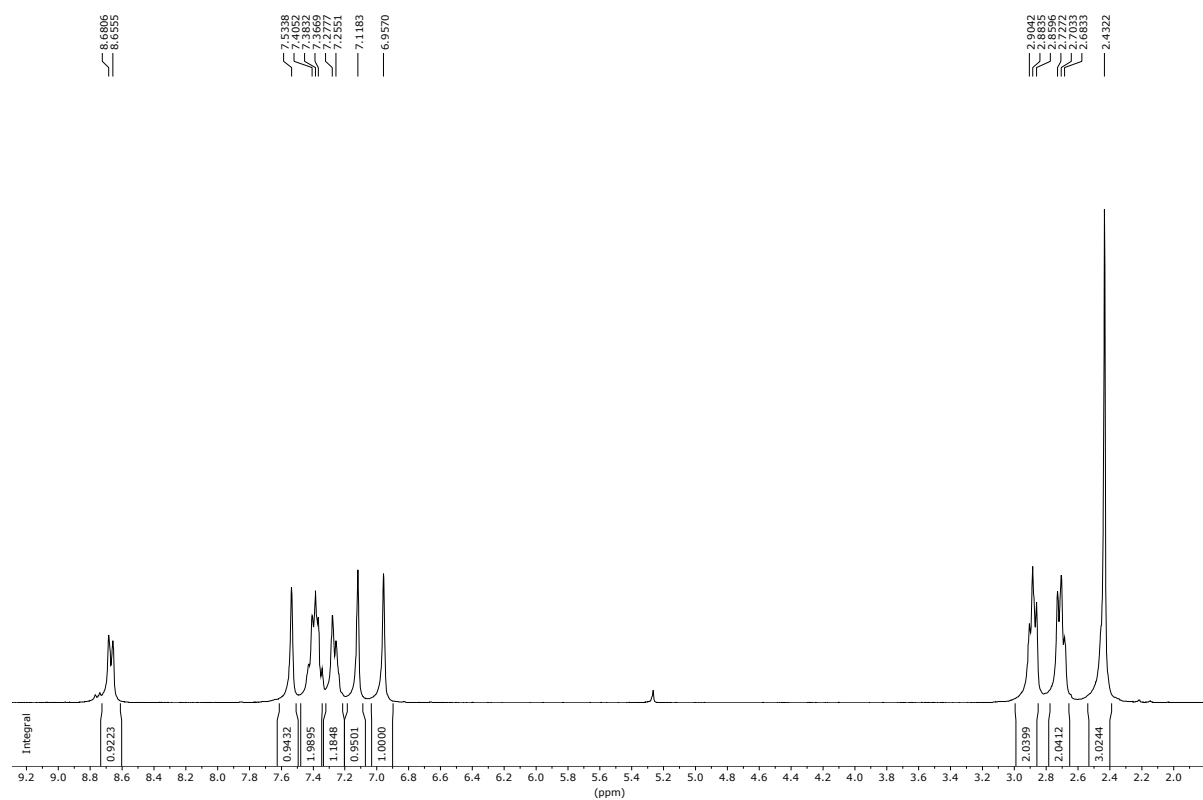
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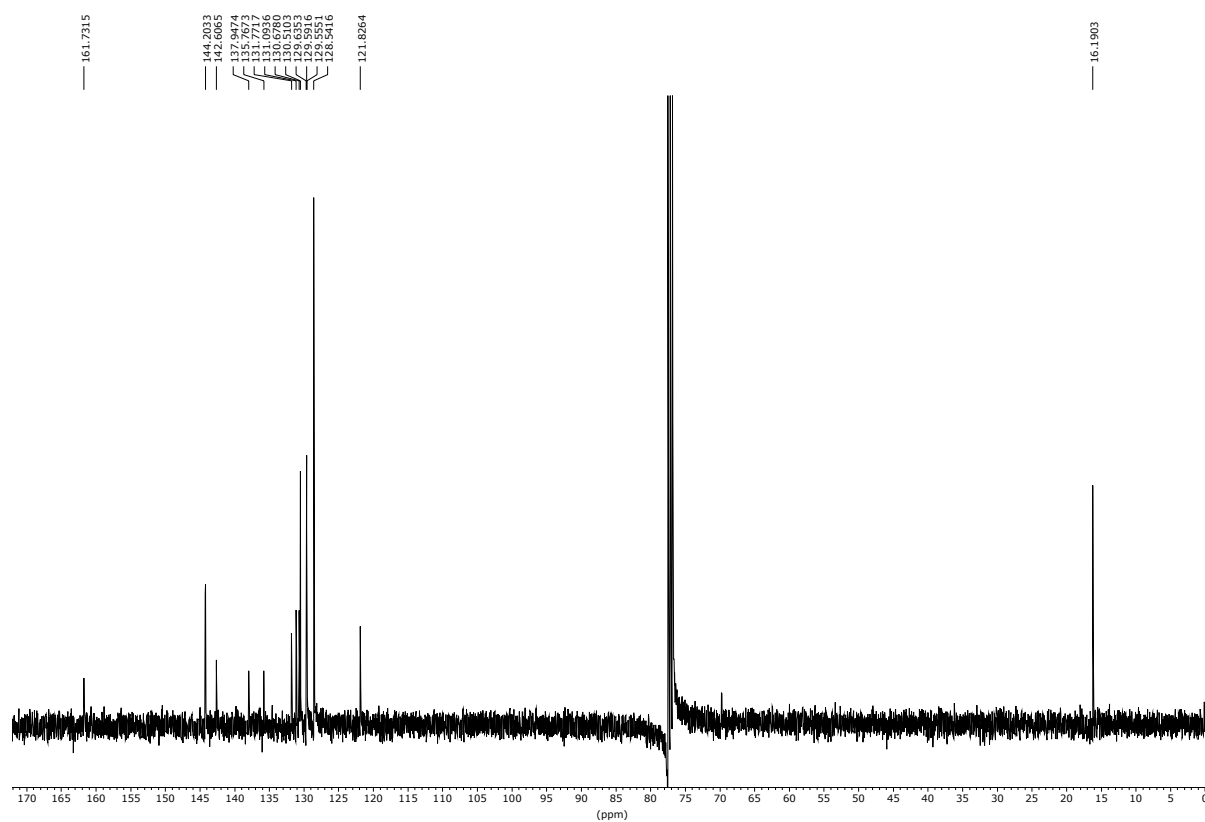
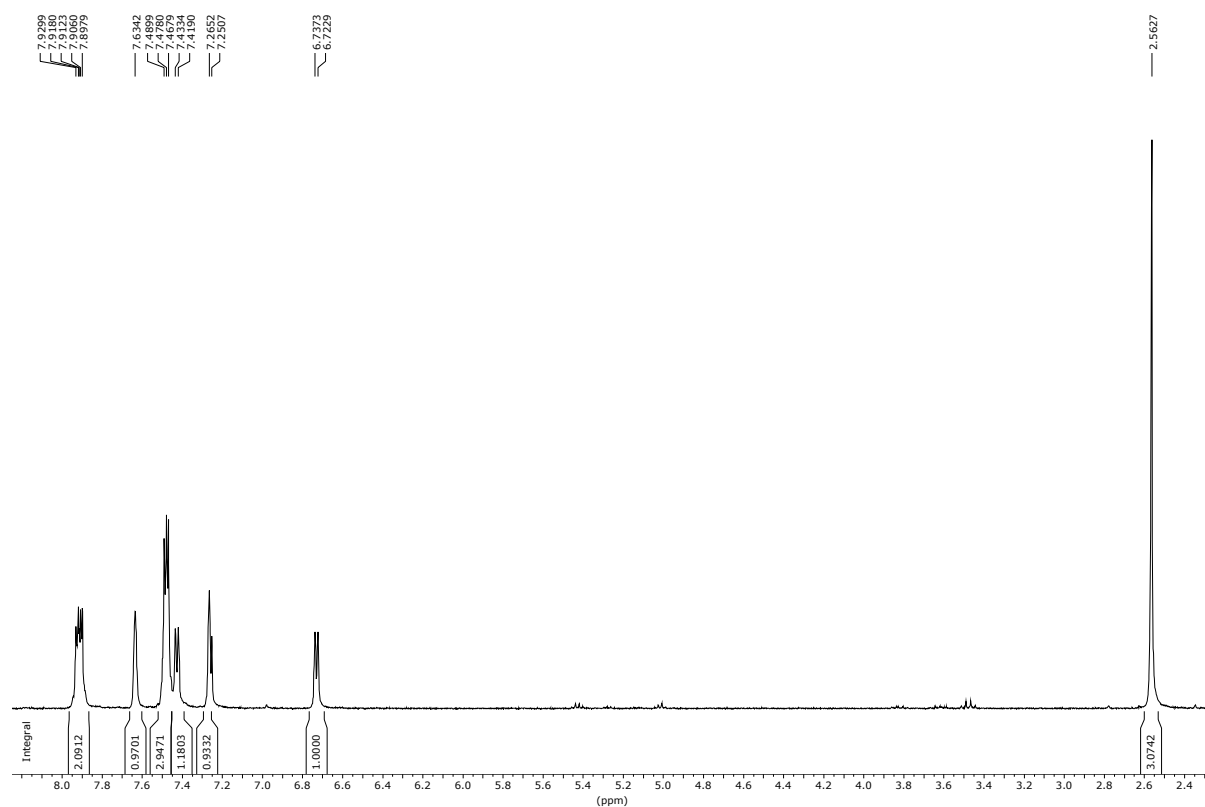
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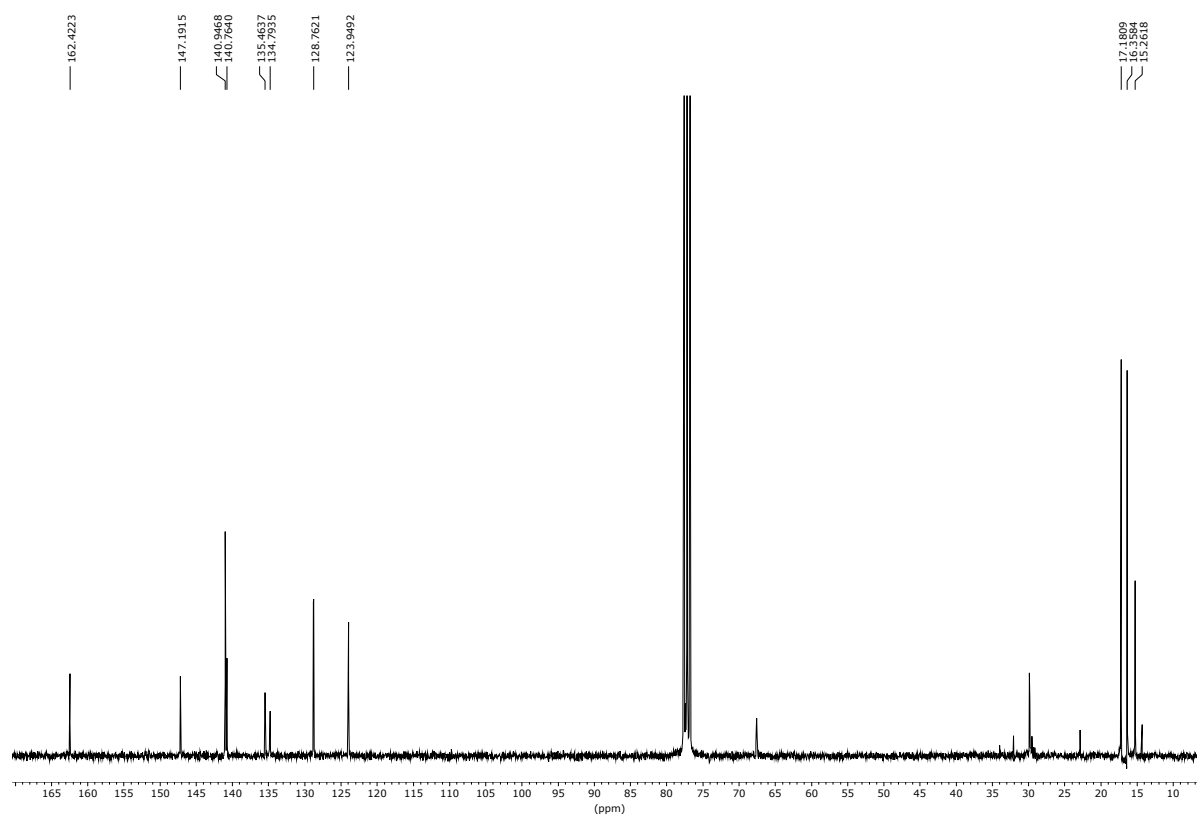
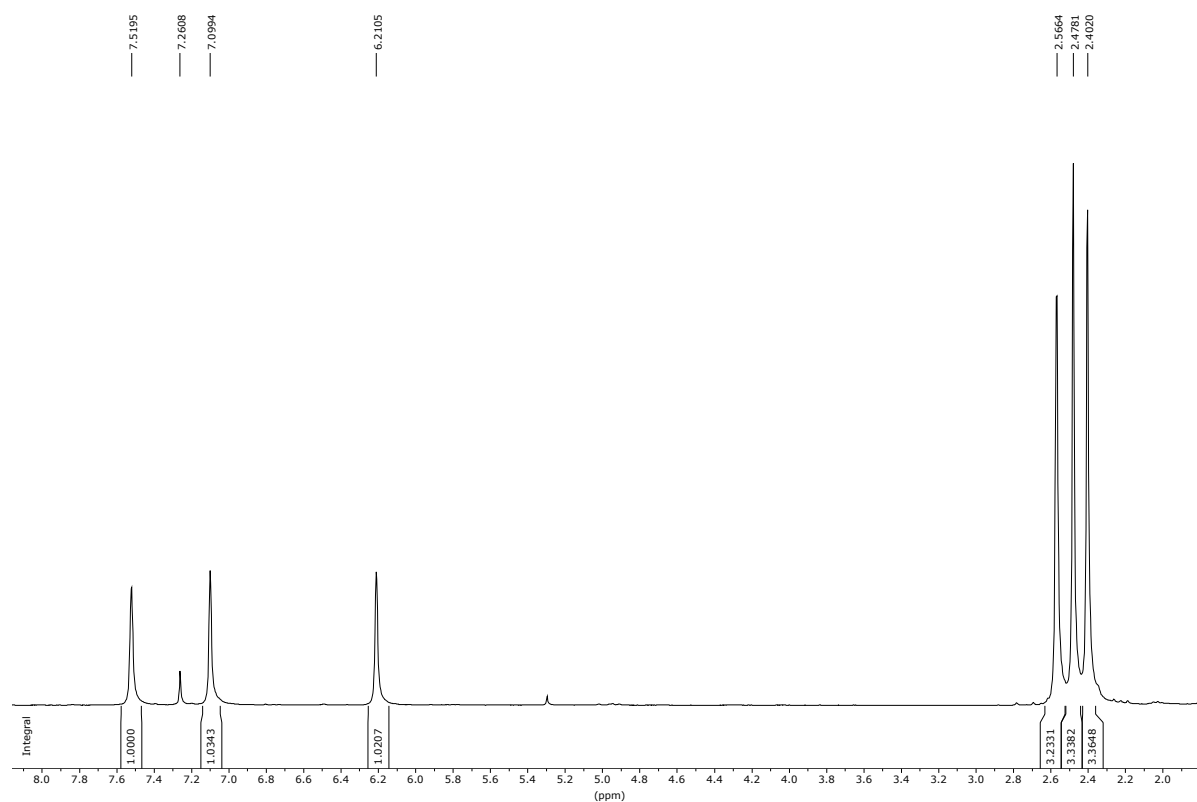
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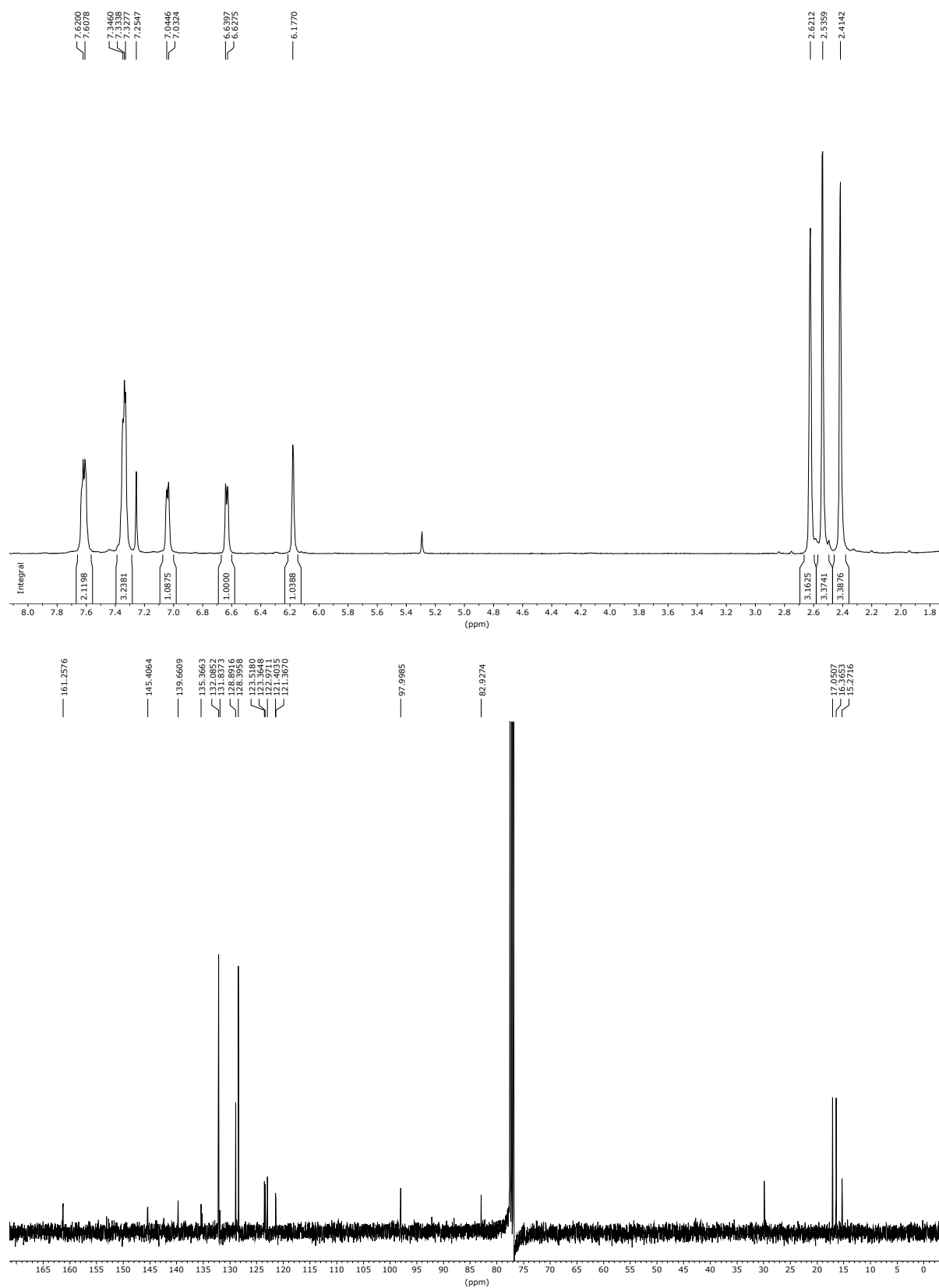
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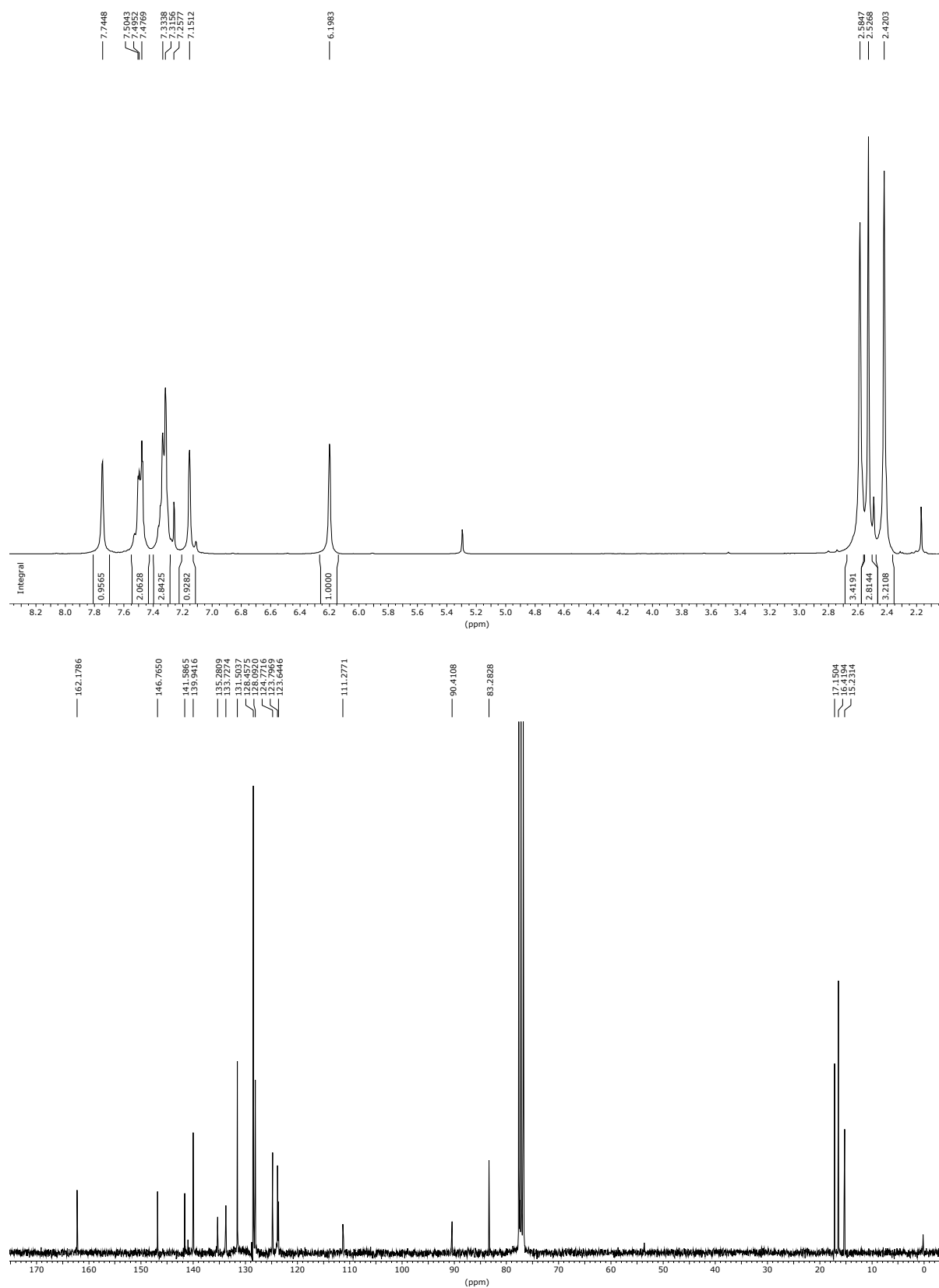
8k



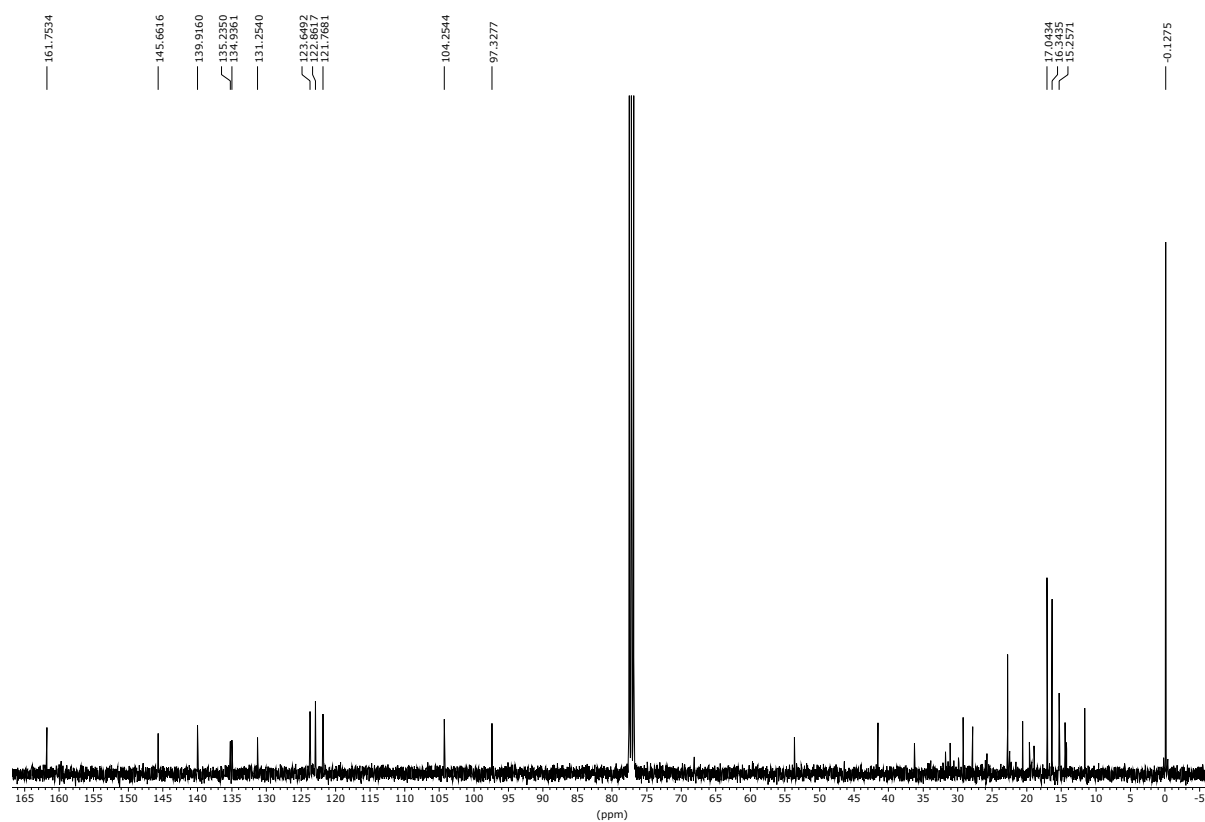
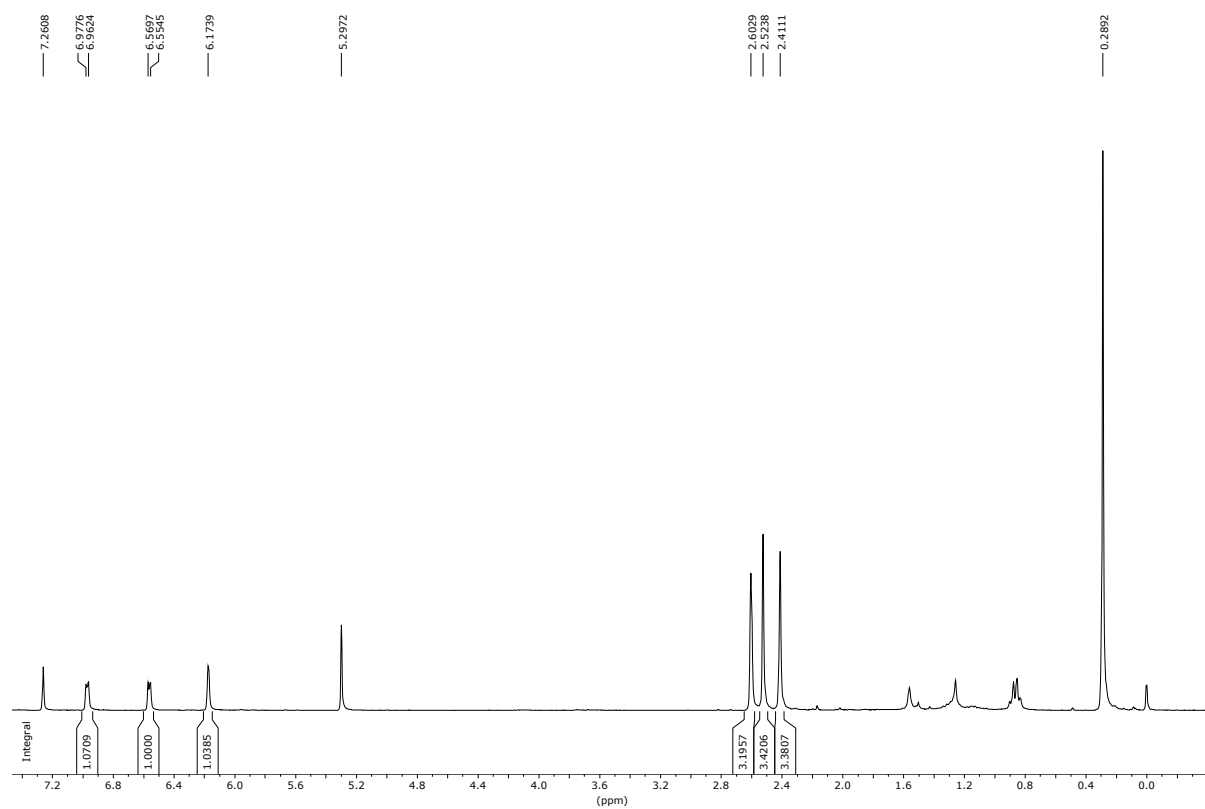
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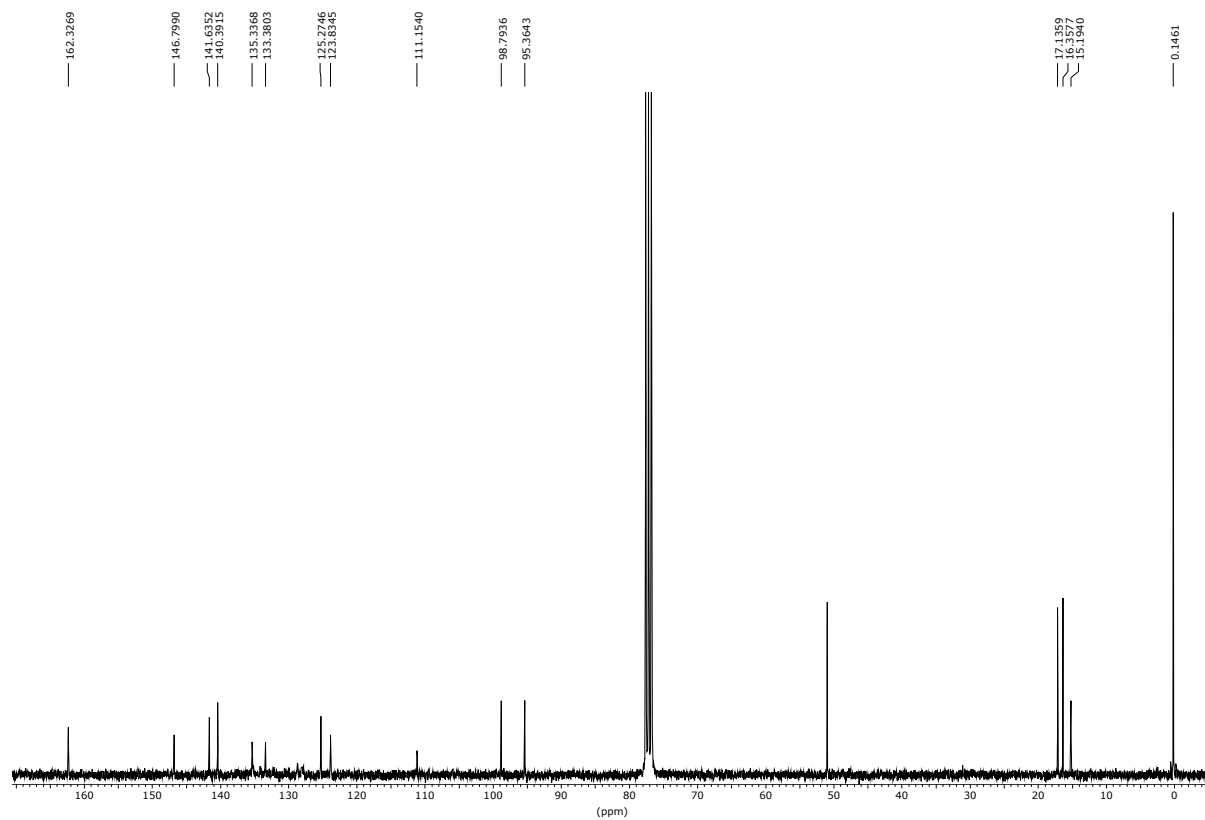
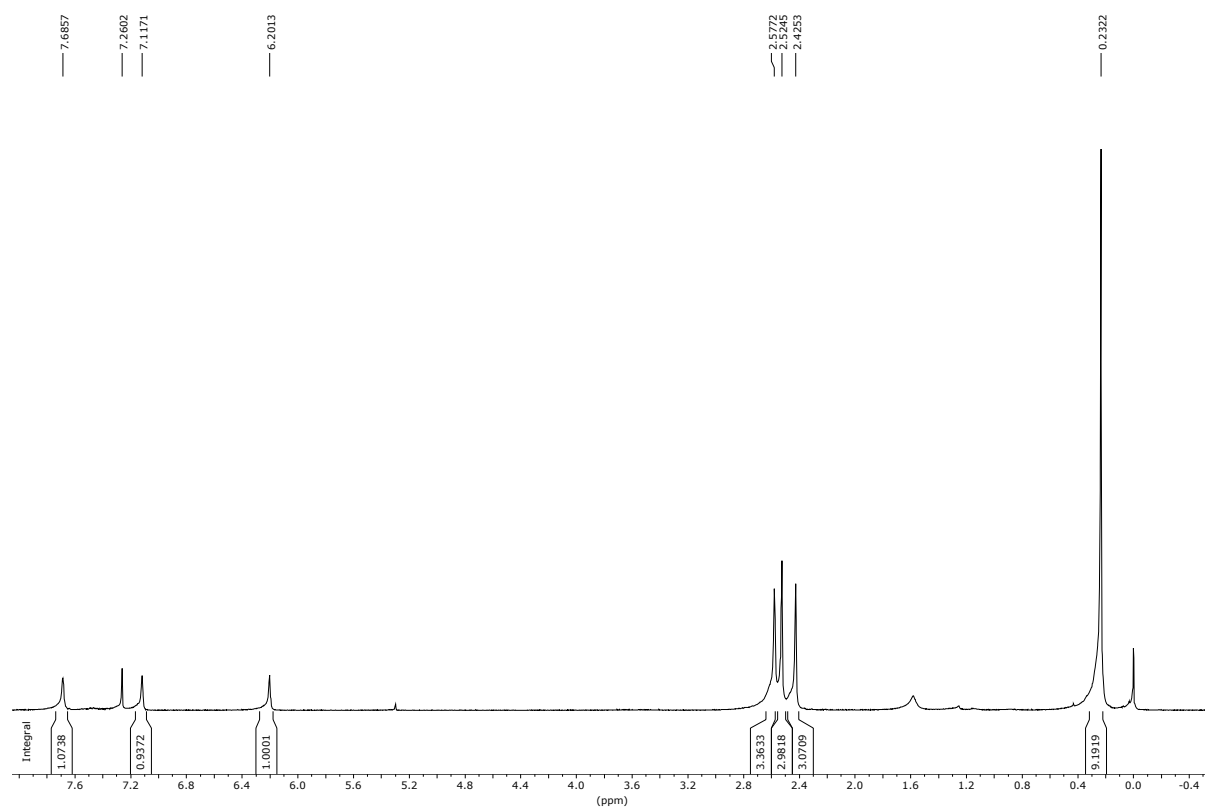
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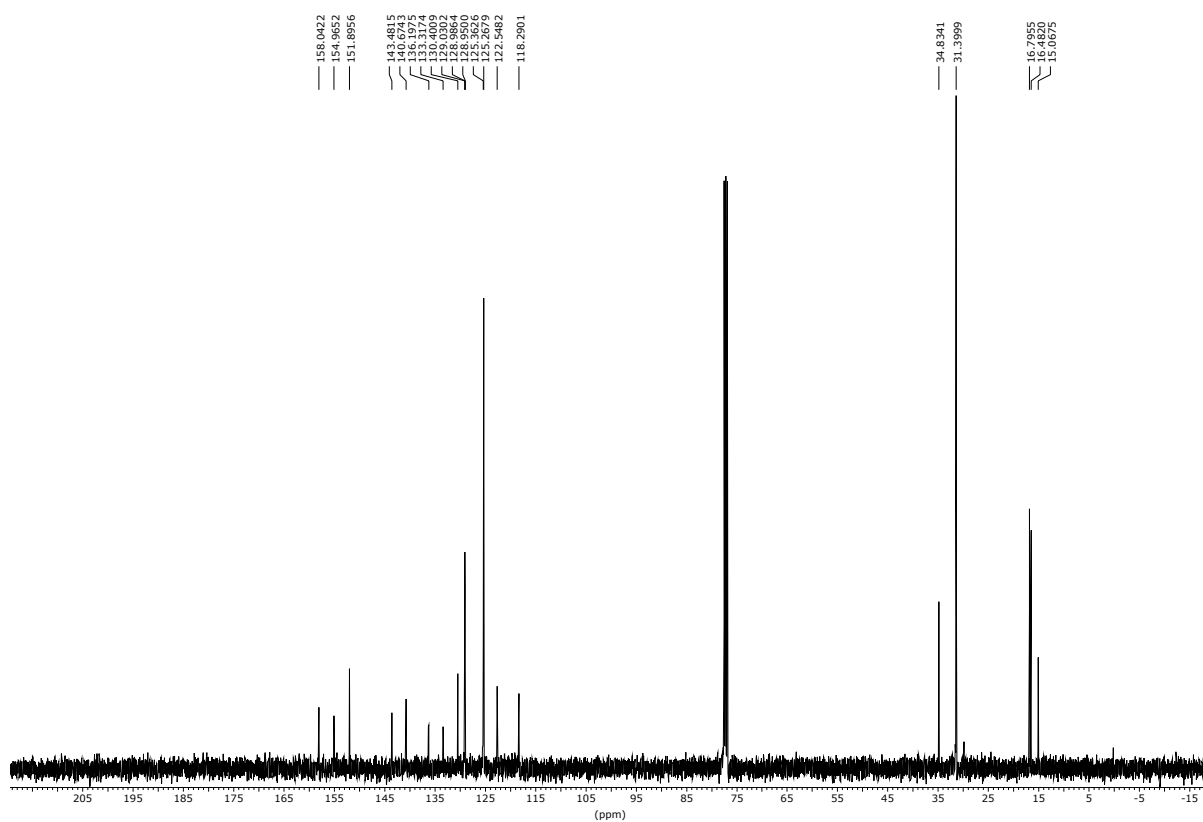
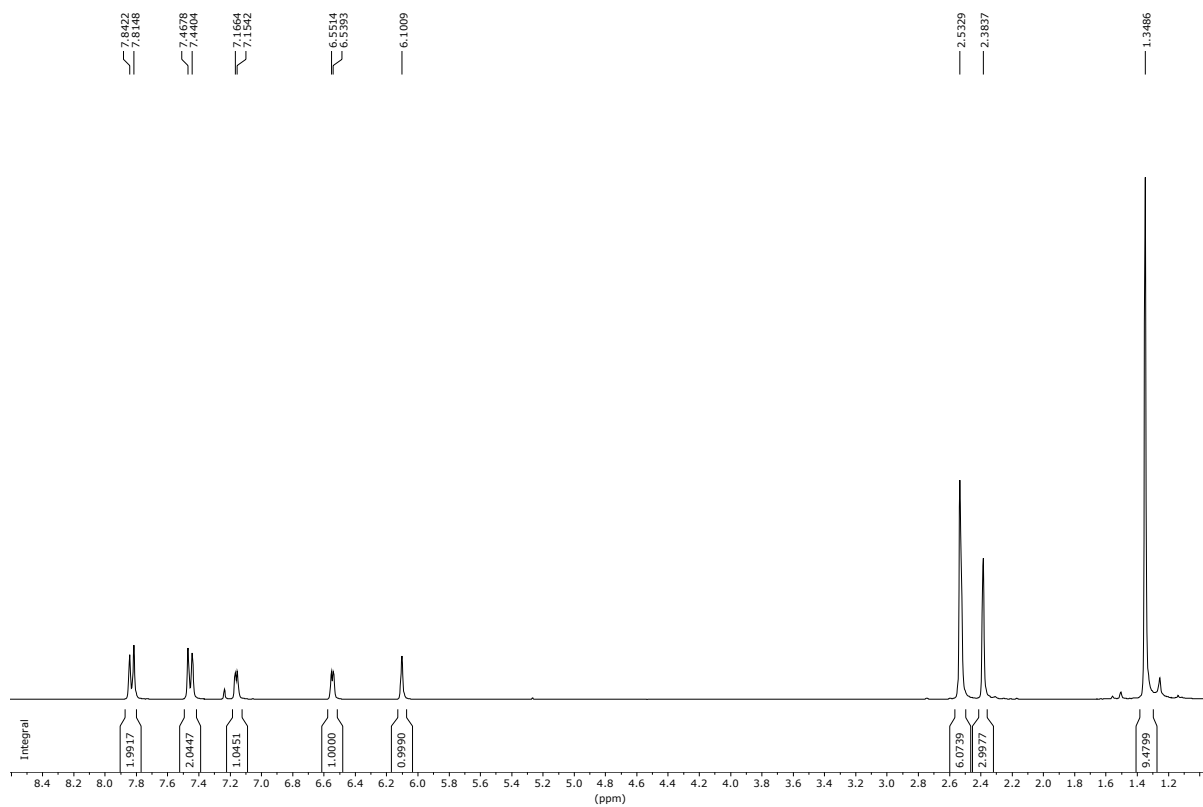
9c



9d



10a



10b

