

Supporting information

Unexpected C-C Bond Cleavage of Epoxide Motif: Rhodium(I)-Catalyzed Tandem Heterocyclization/[4+1] Cycloaddition of 1-(1-Alkynyl)oxiranyl Ketones.

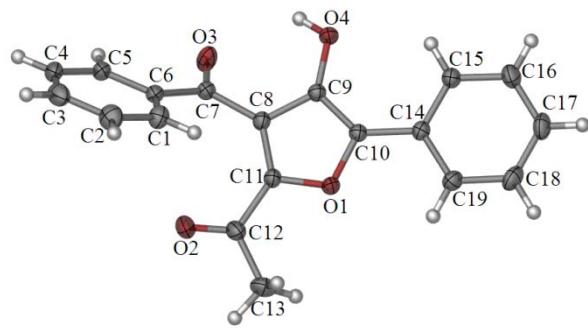
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General Information

¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, ¹⁹F NMR spectra were measured at 300 MHz or 400 MHz and 75 MHz or 100 MHz, 376 MHz in CDCl₃. Splitting patterns of an apparent multiplet associated with an averaged coupling constant were designed as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), and br (broadened).

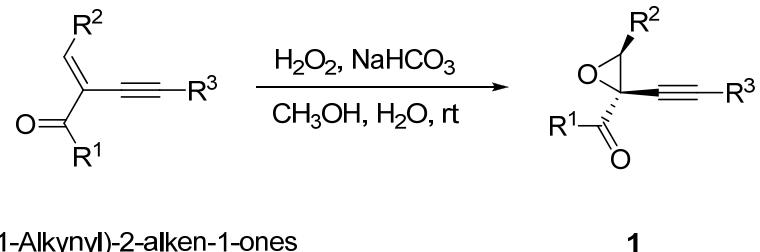


4m

General procedure for synthesis of substrates

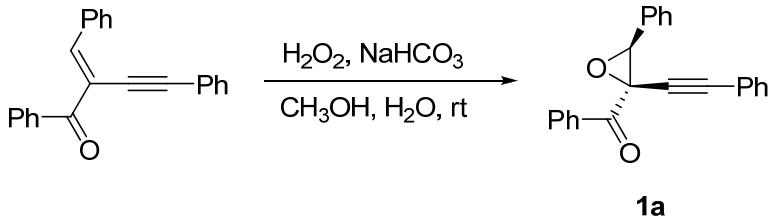
2-(1-Alkynyl)-2-alken-1-ones were prepared according to the reference.¹

Typical procedure for synthesis of substrates 1.



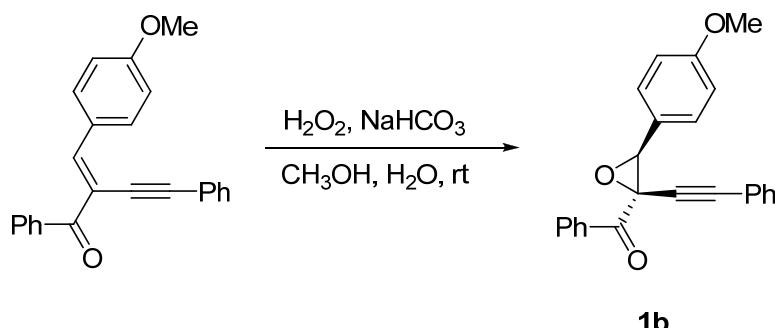
To the solution of the 2-(1-Alkynyl)-2-alken-1-ones (5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH₃OH, a solution of NaHCO₃ (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H₂O was added. The mixture was stirred at rt for 10 minutes, then H₂O₂ (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) was added, and the resulting mixture was stirred at rt until the reaction was completed (monitored by TLC). Then the reaction mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaS₂O₃ solution (30 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated under vacuo. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/EtOAc = 10 : 1) to give the desired products.

1. phenyl((2R*,3S*)-3-phenyl-2-(phenylethyynyl)oxiran-2-yl)methanone (1a).



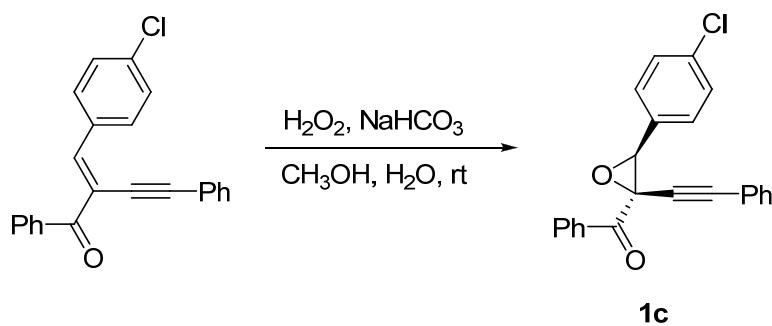
The reaction of (*E*)-2-benzylidene-1,4-diphenylbut-3-yn-1-one (1.54 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH₃OH, NaHCO₃ (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H₂O and H₂O₂ (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 12 h afforded 1.07 g of **1a** (66% yield) as a white solid. m.p. 118 - 119 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.15 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.5 Hz); 7.64 - 7.52 (m, 3 H); 7.52 - 7.40 (m, 5 H); 7.31 - 7.15 (m, 5 H); 4.37 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.86, 133.97, 133.95, 132.80, 131.78, 129.58, 129.14, 128.53, 128.19, 128.10, 127.21, 121.24, 89.69, 82.16, 64.68, 61.22 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3085, 2966, 2231, 1690, 1490, 1449, 1263, 960, 889, 853, 751, 692 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 324 (M⁺, 4.63), 105 (100). Anal calcd for C₂₃H₁₆O₂: C, 85.16; H, 4.97; found: C, 85.20; H, 5.24.

2. ((2R*,3S*)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(phenylethynyl)oxiran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (1b).



The reaction of (*E*)-2-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-yn-1-one (1.69 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH₃OH, NaHCO₃ (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H₂O and H₂O₂ (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 10 h afforded 1.22 g of **1b** (69 % yield) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.14 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.5 Hz); 7.60 (t, 2 H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); 7.52 - 7.46 (m, 4 H); 7.32 - 7.20 (m, 5 H); 6.97 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.7 Hz); 4.31 (s, 1 H); 3.84 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 191.05, 160.43, 134.10, 133.86, 131.77, 129.55, 129.10, 128.66, 128.49, 128.21, 124.76, 121.38, 113.62, 89.79, 82.45, 64.76, 61.35, 55.32 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3062, 3034, 3003, 2959, 2934, 2912, 2838, 2226, 2192, 1691, 1611, 1597, 1514, 1306, 1250, 1172, 1029, 826, 756, 689 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 354 (M⁺, 9.20), 77 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₁₈O₃: 354.1256, found: 354.1259.

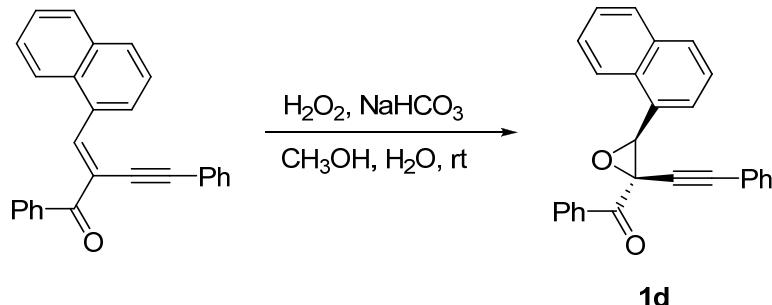
3. ((2R*,3S*)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(phenylethynyl)oxiran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (1c).



The reaction of (*E*)-2-(4-chlorobenzylidene)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-yn-1-one (1.71 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH₃OH, NaHCO₃ (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H₂O and H₂O₂ (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 12 h afforded 1.35 g of **1c** (75 % yield) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.13 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.0 Hz); 7.60 (t, 1 H, *J* = 7.4 Hz); 7.51 - 7.46 (m, 4 H); 7.41 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.0 Hz); 7.27 - 7.17 (m, 5 H); 4.34 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.42, 135.00, 134.02, 133.72, 131.69, 131.34, 129.49, 129.24, 128.51, 128.29, 128.21, 120.89, 89.97, 81.74, 63.88, 61.12 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3029, 3002, 2955, 2924, 2852, 1733, 1669, 1599, 1436, 1252, 1172, 1068, 723, 697 cm⁻¹;

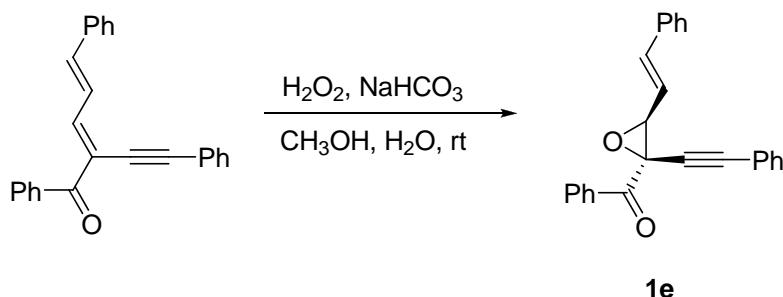
MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 358 (M^+ , 5.08), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for $C_{23}H_{15}ClO_2$: 358.0761, found: 358.0763.

4. ((2R*,3S*)-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-(phenylethynyl)oxiran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (1d).



The reaction of (*E*)-2-(naphthalen-1-ylmethylene)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-yn-1-one (1.79 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , $NaHCO_3$ (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 11 h afforded 1.39 g of **1d** (74 % yield) as a white solid. m.p. 157 - 159 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 8.29 (d, 2 H, J = 8.0 Hz); 8.14 (d, 1 H, J = 7.2 Hz); 7.98 - 7.92 (m, 2 H); 7.78 (d, 1 H, J = 6.8 Hz); 7.66 (t, 1 H, J = 7.2 Hz); 7.61 - 7.50 (m, 5 H); 7.21 (t, 1 H, J = 7.2 Hz); 7.13 (t, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 6.97 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 5.06 (s, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 190.97, 134.16, 133.91, 133.23, 131.76, 131.33, 129.77, 129.07, 129.01, 128.90, 128.58, 128.05, 126.73, 125.99, 125.05, 124.46, 122.55, 121.09, 89.01, 82.32, 63.09, 61.29 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3028, 3000, 2955, 2926, 2852, 1733, 1669, 1436, 1252, 1201, 1173, 1069, 722, 696 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 374 (M^+ , 7.02), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for $C_{27}H_{18}O_2$: 374.1307, found: 374.1309.

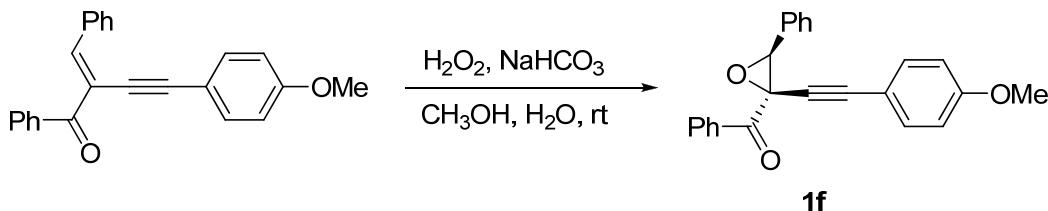
5. phenyl((2R*,3S*)-2-(phenylethynyl)-3-styryloxiran-2-yl)methanone (1e).



The reaction of (*2E,4E*)-1,5-diphenyl-2-(phenylethynyl)penta-2,4-dien-1-one (1.67 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , $NaHCO_3$ (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 40 h afforded 0.88 g of **1e** (50 % yield) as a yellow oil. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 8.16 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.62 (t, 1 H, J = 7.4 Hz); 7.52 - 7.46 (m, 4 H); 7.40 - 7.24 (m,

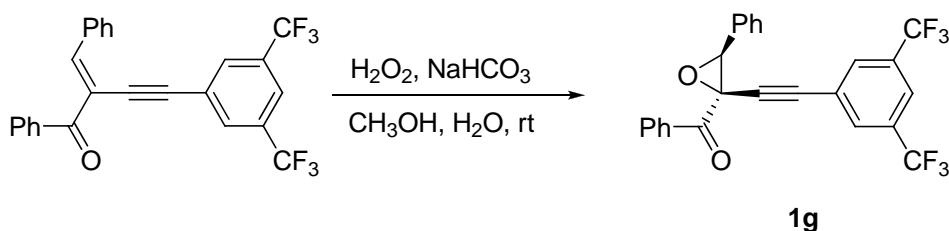
8 H); 7.01 (d, 2 H, $J = 16.4$ Hz); 6.37 (dd, 1 H, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 8.4 Hz); 3.94 (d, 1 H, $J = 8.4$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 190.87, 138.74, 135.53, 133.97, 131.88, 129.58, 129.25, 128.78, 128.75, 128.51, 128.32, 126.84, 122.07, 121.28, 89.65, 82.39, 64.38, 60.01$ ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu} = 3002, 2955, 2922, 2852, 1733, 1667, 1435, 1253, 1201, 1172, 1056, 723, 635\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 350 (M^+ , 2.31), 77 (100). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$: 350.1307, found: 350.1305.

6. ((2*R*^{*},3*S*^{*})-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)-3-phenyloxiran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (1f).



The reaction of (*E*)-2-benzylidene-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylbut-3-yn-1-one (1.69 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , NaHCO_3 (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 12 h afforded 1.45 g of **1f** (82 % yield) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.16$ (d, 2 H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); 7.64 - 7.54 (m, 3 H); 7.54 - 7.41 (m, 5 H); 7.12 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.8$ Hz); 6.74 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.8$ Hz); 4.36 (s, 1 H); 3.76 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 191.01, 160.25, 134.08, 133.88, 133.39, 133.04, 129.63, 129.06, 128.51, 128.07, 127.27, 113.88, 113.34, 89.94, 80.93, 64.64, 61.40, 55.24$ ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu} = 3063, 3036, 3004, 2960, 2936, 2838, 2223, 1693, 1604, 1509, 1449, 1290, 1249, 1173, 1028, 832, 730, 695\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 354 (M^+ , 7.21), 77 (100). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$: 354.1256, found: 354.1255.

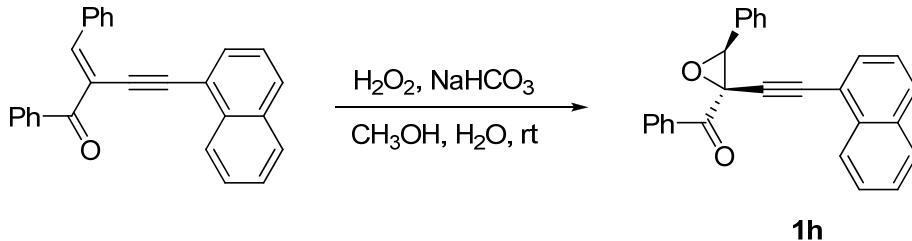
7. ((2*R*^{*},3*S*^{*})-2-((3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-3-phenyloxiran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (1g).



The reaction of (*E*)-2-benzylidene-4-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1-phenylbut-3-yn-1-one (2.22 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , NaHCO_3 (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 12 h afforded 1.70 g of **1g** (74 % yield) as a white solid. m.p. 124 - 126 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.13$ (d, 2 H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); 7.77 (s, 1 H); 7.66 (t, 1 H, $J =$

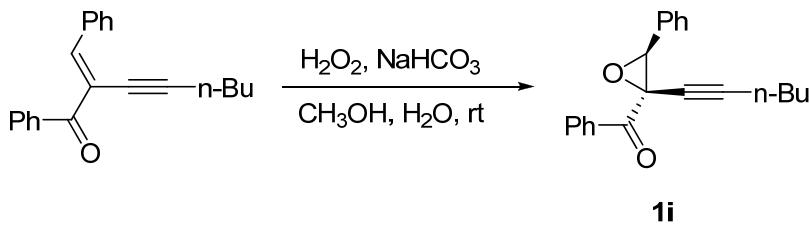
7.2 Hz); 7.57 - 7.48 (m, 9 H); 4.44 (s, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 190.24, 134.30, 133.77, 132.09, 129.50, 129.46, 128.74, 128.28, 127.02, 123.97, 123.52, 122.56 (hep, J = 3.7 Hz), 121.26, 86.11, 85.87, 64.79, 60.89 ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = -63.25 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3028, 3001, 2955, 2925, 2852, 1733, 1669, 1436, 1252, 1203, 1173, 1068, 721, 635 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 460 (M^+ , 4.24), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_6\text{O}_2$: 460.0898, found: 460.0899.

8. ((2R*,3S*)-2-(naphthalen-1-ylethyynyl)-3-phenyloxiran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (1h).



The reaction of (*E*)-2-benzylidene-4-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1-phenylbut-3-yn-1-one (1.71 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , NaHCO_3 (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 17 h afforded 1.14 g of **1h** (61 % yield) as a white solid. m.p. 99 - 101 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.20 (d, 2 H, J = 8.0 Hz); 7.67 - 7.61 (m, 4 H); 7.56 - 7.48 (m, 2 H); 7.45 - 7.40 (m, 5 H); 7.35 (t, 2 H, J = 7.8 Hz); 7.27 - 7.17 (m, 2 H); 4.46 (s, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 190.81, 133.90, 133.85, 132.92, 132.85, 132.59, 131.08, 129.53, 129.44, 129.00, 128.45, 128.17, 127.97, 126.98, 126.68, 126.25, 125.46, 124.72, 118.53, 88.04, 86.64, 64.55, 61.42 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3027, 3002, 2955, 2925, 2853, 1733, 1669, 1436, 1253, 1203, 1173, 1068, 723, 698 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 374 (M^+ , 11.94), 239 (100). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$: 374.1307, found: 374.1308.

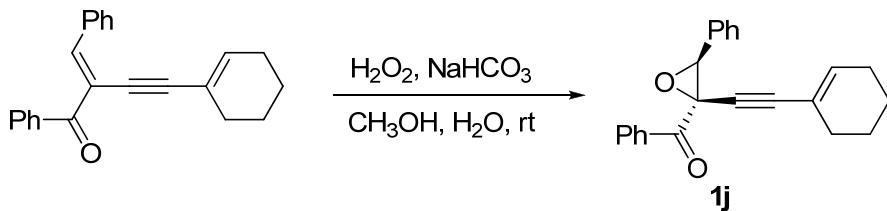
9. ((2R*,3S*)-2-(hex-1-ynyl)-3-phenyloxiran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (1i).



The reaction of (*E*)-2-benzylidene-1-phenyloct-3-yn-1-one (1.44 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , NaHCO_3 (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 17 h afforded 0.70 g of **1i** (46% yield) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.10 (d, 2

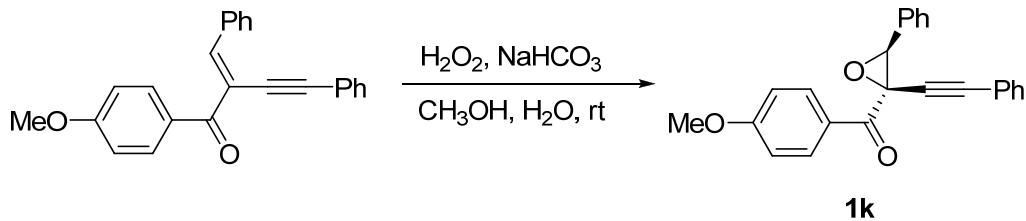
$\text{H}, J = 7.6 \text{ Hz}$); 7.60 (t, 1 H, $J = 7.4 \text{ Hz}$); 7.52 - 7.38 (m, 7 H); 4.23 (s, 1 H); 2.06 (t, 2 H, $J = 6.4 \text{ Hz}$); 1.31 - 1.23 (m, 2 H); 1.18 - 1.08 (m, 2 H); 0.75 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.2 \text{ Hz}$). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 191.35, 133.92, 133.72, 133.02, 129.52, 128.82, 128.36, 127.94, 127.10, 91.92, 73.11, 63.91, 61.09, 29.70, 21.40, 18.35, 13.31 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3064, 3033, 2957, 2932, 2871, 2239, 1694, 1598, 1450, 1260, 1174, 853, 756, 695 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 304 (M^+ , 2.43), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2$: 304.1463, found: 304.1465.

10. ((2R*,3S*)-2-(cyclohexenylethynyl)-3-phenyloxiran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (1j).



The reaction of (*E*)-2-benzylidene-4-cyclohexenyl-1-phenylbut-3-yn-1-one (1.56 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , NaHCO_3 (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 30 h afforded 1.31 g of **1j** (80 % yield) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.10 (m, 2 H); 7.60 (t, 1 H, $J = 7.4 \text{ Hz}$); 7.55 - 7.38 (m, 7 H); 5.95 - 5.92 (m, 1 H); 4.29 (s, 1 H); 2.01 - 1.98 (m, 2 H); 1.87 - 1.85 (m, 2 H); 1.54 - 1.45 (m, 4 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 191.10, 137.40, 133.95, 133.80, 132.94, 129.58, 128.95, 128.40, 127.96, 127.25, 119.30, 91.82, 79.37, 64.53, 61.30, 28.16, 25.49, 21.85, 21.11 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3063, 3031, 2933, 2861, 2840, 2215, 1693, 1597, 1449, 1260, 1178, 850, 751, 696 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 328 (M^+ , 3.53), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2$: 328.1463, found: 328.1462.

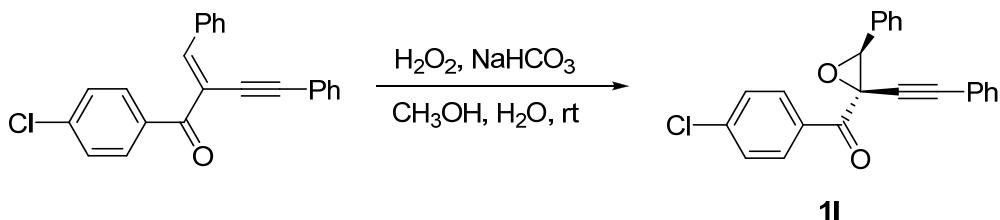
11. (4-methoxyphenyl)((2R*,3S*)-3-phenyl-2-(phenylethynyl)oxiran-2-yl)methanone (1k)



The reaction of (*E*)-2-benzylidene-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-yn-1-one (1.69 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , NaHCO_3 (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 9 h afforded 1.01 g of **1k** (57% yield) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (300 MHz,

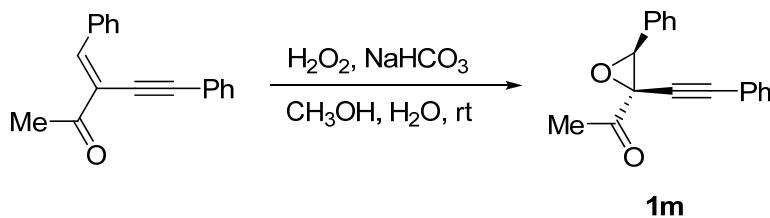
CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.16$ (d, 2 H, $J = 8.7$ Hz); 7.56 (d, 2 H, $J = 6.6$ Hz); 7.47 - 7.40 (m, 3 H); 7.27 - 7.18 (m, 5 H); 6.95 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.7$ Hz); 4.34 (s, 1 H); 3.84 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 189.03$, 164.19, 132.99, 131.97, 131.73, 129.02, 128.98, 128.13, 128.01, 127.12, 126.76, 121.29, 113.80, 89.31, 82.55, 64.41, 61.09, 55.43 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu} = 3062, 3034, 3010, 2968, 2935, 2840, 2226, 1683, 1597, 1510, 1314, 1257, 1170, 1205, 858, 757, 690 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 354 (M^+ , 2.67), 135 (100). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$: 354.1256, found: 354.1254.

12. (4-chlorophenyl)((2R*,3S*)-3-phenyl-2-(phenylethynyl)oxiran-2-yl)methanone (**1l**)



The reaction of (E)-2-benzylidene-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-yn-1-one (1.71 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , NaHCO_3 (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 13 h afforded 0.90 g of **1l** (50% yield) as a white solid. m.p. 104 - 105 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.10$ (d, 2 H, $J = 8.8$ Hz); 7.58 - 7.54 (m, 2 H); 7.50 - 7.40 (m, 5 H); 7.30 - 7.15 (m, 5 H); 4.36 (s, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 189.72, 140.50, 132.60, 132.25, 131.78, 130.96, 129.26, 129.22, 128.90, 128.24, 128.12, 127.19, 121.03, 89.91, 81.86, 64.69, 61.06$ ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu} = 3072, 2980, 2231, 1698, 1588, 1489, 1449, 1258, 1090, 960, 833, 758, 693 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 358 (M^+ , 7.34), 139 (100). Anal calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClO}_2$: C, 76.99; H, 4.21; found: C, 77.15; H, 4.05.

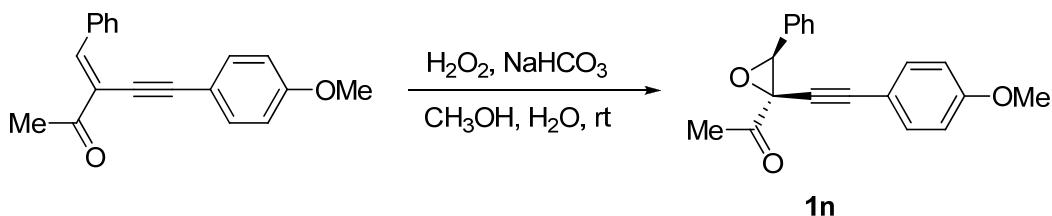
13. 1-((2R*,3S*)-3-phenyl-2-(phenylethynyl)oxiran-2-yl)ethanone (**1m**).



The reaction of (E)-3-benzylidene-5-phenylpent-4-yn-2-one (1.23 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , NaHCO_3 (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 12 h afforded 891.8 mg of **1m** (68% yield) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.52$

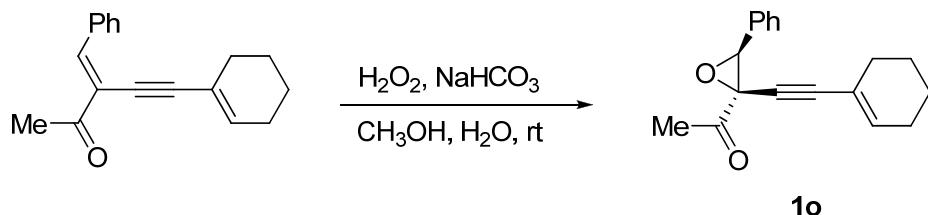
- 7.45 (m, 2 H); 7.45 - 7.39 (m, 3 H); 7.35 - 7.24 (m, 5 H); 4.38 (s, 1 H); 2.48 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 200.15, 132.59, 131.74, 129.01, 128.97, 128.14, 127.81, 127.13, 121.15, 88.04, 81.37, 65.41, 61.14, 26.37 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3063, 3033, 2924, 2868, 2233, 1722, 1491, 1358, 1246, 1215, 1120, 858, 753, 691 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 262 (M^+ , 10.65), 128 (100). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2$: 262.0994, found: 262.0996.

14. 1-((2R*,3S*)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)-3-phenyloxiran-2-yl)ethanone (1n).



The reaction of (E)-3-benzylidene-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)pent-4-yn-2-one (1.38 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , NaHCO_3 (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 36 h afforded 0.99 g of **1n** (68 % yield) as a yellow solid. m.p. 47 - 48 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.50 - 7.37 (m, 5 H); 7.20 (d, 2 H, J = 8.7 Hz); 6.78 (d, 2 H, J = 8.7 Hz); 4.33 (s, 1 H); 3.79 (s, 3 H); 2.48 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 200.69, 160.20, 133.49, 132.83, 129.07, 127.92, 127.31, 113.91, 113.30, 88.34, 80.08, 65.67, 61.40, 55.27, 26.75 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2973, 2903, 2840, 2227, 1711, 1603, 1509, 1289, 1249, 1112, 1020, 841, 760, 699 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 292 (M^+ , 13.61), 158 (100). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3$: 292.1099, found: 292.1100.

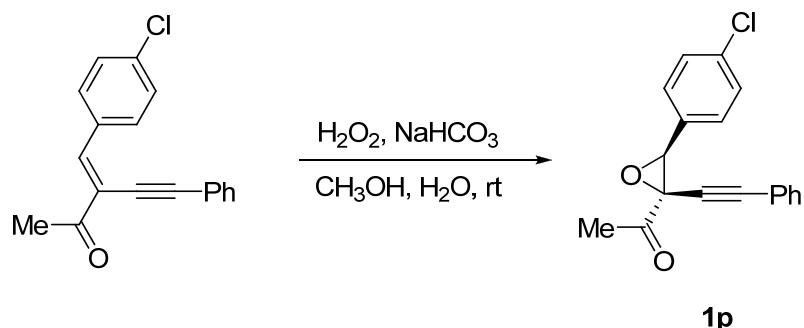
15. 1-((2R*,3S*)-2-(cyclohexenylethynyl)-3-phenyloxiran-2-yl)ethanone (1o).



The reaction of (E)-3-benzylidene-5-cyclohexenylpent-4-yn-2-one (1.25 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH_3OH , NaHCO_3 (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H_2O and H_2O_2 (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 18 h afforded 0.71 g of **1o** (53% yield) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.39 - 7.35 (m, 5 H); 6.03 (br, 1 H); 4.26 (s, 1 H); 2.41 (s, 3 H); 2.02 – 1.94 (m, 4 H); 1.54 – 1.52 (m, 4 H).

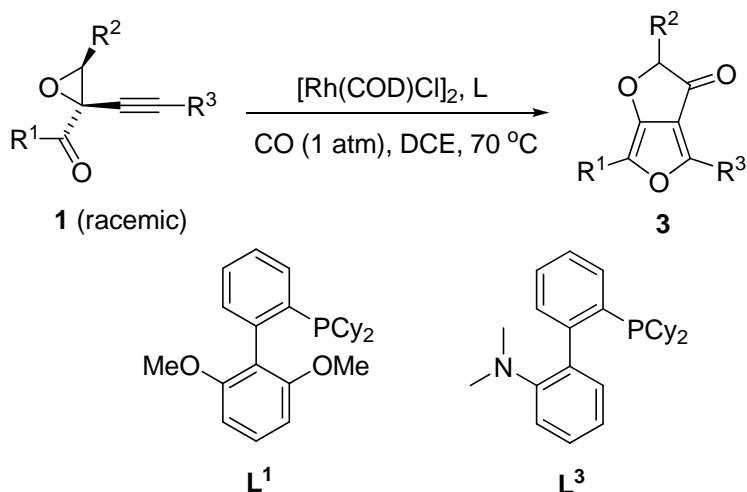
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 200.59, 137.33, 132.72, 128.82, 127.69, 127.18, 119.19, 90.09, 78.53, 65.44, 61.16, 28.21, 26.55, 25.43, 21.82, 21.07 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3001, 2957, 2849, 1736, 1669, 1442, 1258, 1199, 1087, 1066, 722, 657 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 266 (M⁺, 20.65), 43 (100). HRMS calcd for C₁₈H₁₈O₂: 266.1307, found: 266.1305.

16. 1-((2R*,3S*)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(phenylethynyl)oxiran-2-yl)ethanone (1p).



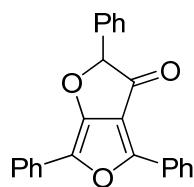
The reaction of (E)-3-(4-chlorobenzylidene)-5-phenylpent-4-yn-2-one (1.40 g, 5 mmol) in 200 mL of CH₃OH, NaHCO₃ (2.1 g, 25 mmol) in 20 mL of H₂O and H₂O₂ (30% in water, 5 mL, 50 mmol) at rt for 28 h afforded 1.04 g of **1p** (70 % yield) as a yellow solid. m.p. 89 - 90 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.42 - 7.25 (m, 9 H); 4.31 (s, 1 H); 2.48 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 199.93, 135.08, 131.90, 131.36, 129.32, 128.63, 128.37, 128.24, 121.09, 88.56, 81.07, 64.90, 61.13, 26.65 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3081, 2966, 2234, 1710, 1490, 1255, 1114, 1086, 1016, 866, 841, 799, 749, 683 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 296 (M⁺, 4.40), 128 (100). Anal calcd for C₁₈H₁₃ClO₂: C, 72.85; H, 4.42; found: C, 72.93; H, 4.15.

Typical procedure for Rhodium(I)-Catalyzed Tandem Heterocyclization/[4+1] Cycloaddition of 1-(1-Alkynyl)oxiranyl Ketones.



The [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) were allowed to stir together over 1 hour in 2 mL of anhydrous CH₂ClCH₂Cl in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon). The catalyst solution was then transferred to the solution of **1** (0.4 mmol) in 2 mL of anhydrous CH₂ClCH₂Cl in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon). The combined solution was then stirred at 70 °C until the reaction was completed (monitored by TLC). After evaporation, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ EtOAc = 20:1) afforded the desired product.

17. 2,4,6-triphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3a).

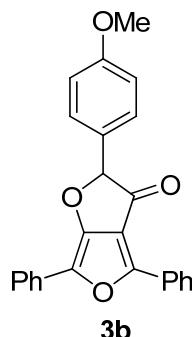


3a

The reaction of **1a** (129.7 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 11 hours to afford **3a** (139.8 mg) in 99% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 185 - 187 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.16 (d, 2 H, J = 8.0 Hz); 7.74 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.51 - 7.37 (m, 10 H); 7.24 (t, 1 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 6.06 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.18, 156.76, 148.82, 134.49, 130.57, 130.12, 129.08, 129.02, 128.99, 128.88, 128.85, 128.40, 126.48, 126.03, 125.80, 122.66, 114.17, 96.11 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3028, 3002, 2955, 2929, 2852, 1733, 1669, 1598, 1580, 1437,

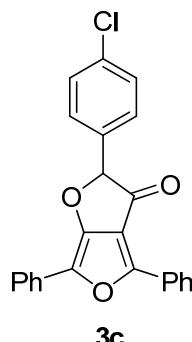
1254, 1203, 1172, 1068, 967, 722 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 352 (18.32), 324 (6.59), 77 (100). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3$: 352.1099, found: 352.1100.

18. 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,6-diphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3b).



The reaction of **1b** (141.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})\text{Cl}]_2$ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in $\text{ClCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 12 hours to afford **3b** (110.1 mg) in 72% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 184 - 186 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.15 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.71 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.47 - 7.37 (m, 7 H); 7.22 (t, 1 H, J = 7.0 Hz); 6.92 (d, 2 H, J = 8.0 Hz); 5.98 (s, 1 H); 3.79 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 190.68, 160.21, 156.66, 148.65, 130.49, 130.03, 129.08, 128.96, 128.82, 128.41, 127.84, 126.70, 126.38, 125.76, 122.60, 114.32, 114.27, 96.14, 55.29 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3029, 3002, 2955, 2925, 2852, 1733, 1669, 1598, 1580, 1436, 1259, 1203, 1171, 1068, 967, 722 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 382 (M^+ , 26.14), 354 (16.71), 77 (100). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4$: 382.1205, found: 382.1208.

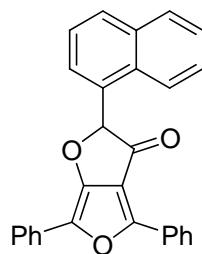
19. 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4,6-diphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3c).



The reaction of **1c** (143.5 mg, 0.4 mmol), $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})\text{Cl}]_2$ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in $\text{ClCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C

for 17 hours to afford **3c** (140.5 mg) in 91% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 192 - 194 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.15 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.73 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.49 - 7.38 (m, 9 H); 7.26 (t, 1 H, J = 7.2 Hz); 6.03 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 189.62, 156.51, 149.03, 135.00, 132.94, 130.71, 130.26, 129.05, 128.96, 128.92, 128.32, 127.32, 126.63, 125.83, 122.71, 113.89, 95.24 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3029, 3004, 2955, 2929, 2852, 1733, 1669, 1598, 1580, 1437, 1254, 1203, 1172, 1068, 967, 722 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 386 (M⁺, 22.37), 358 (7.38), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₁₅ClO₃: 386.0710, found: 386.0711.

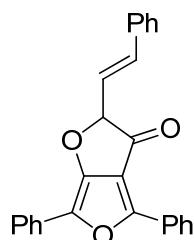
20. 2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4,6-diphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3d).



3d

The reaction of **1d** (149.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 22 hours to afford **3d** (130.8 mg) in 81% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 215 - 217 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.18 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 8.11 (d, 1 H, J = 8.4 Hz); 7.88 (t, 2 H, J = 6.8 Hz); 7.74 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.61 - 7.51 (m, 3 H); 7.47 - 7.37 (m, 6 H); 7.23 (t, 1 H, J = 7.2 Hz); 6.76 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.31, 156.39, 148.70, 134.07, 130.95, 130.56, 130.36, 130.31, 129.97, 129.08, 128.99, 128.87, 128.79, 128.44, 126.81, 126.50, 126.13, 125.83, 125.16, 123.92, 122.70, 114.51, 94.69 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3028, 3002, 2955, 2924, 2852, 1733, 1669, 1598, 1580, 1437, 1254, 1203, 1173, 1069, 967, 721 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 402 (M⁺, 19.64), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₈H₁₈O₃: 402.1256, found: 402.1257.

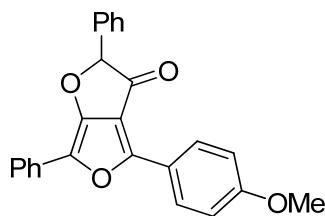
21. (E)-4,6-diphenyl-2-styrylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3e).



3e

The reaction of **1e** (140.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 13 hours to afford **3e** (87.8 mg) in 58% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 172 - 174 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.15 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.71 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.49 - 7.38 (m, 7 H); 7.34 - 7.21 (m, 5 H); 6.91 (d, 1 H, *J* = 16.0 Hz); 6.36 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 6.4 Hz); 5.72 (d, 1 H, *J* = 6.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.19, 156.39, 148.53, 135.60, 134.31, 130.51, 130.26, 129.07, 128.99, 128.84, 128.61, 128.42, 126.86, 126.43, 125.76, 122.61, 121.31, 114.27, 95.73 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3028, 3003, 2955, 2923, 2852, 1733, 1669, 1598, 1580, 1436, 1254, 1203, 1172, 1067, 966, 722 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 378 (M⁺, 34.94), 77 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₆H₁₈O₃: 378.1256, found: 378.1255.

22. 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-diphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3f).

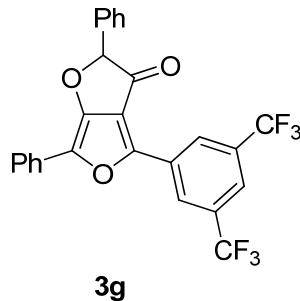


3f

The reaction of **1f** (141.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 11 hours to afford **3f** (145.8 mg) in 98% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 194 - 196 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.08 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.68 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.48 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); 7.43 - 7.33 (m, 5 H); 7.20 (t, 1 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 6.93 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 5.99 (s, 1 H); 3.81 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 189.81, 161.54, 156.53, 149.41, 134.69, 129.24, 129.07, 128.90, 128.78, 127.75, 126.05, 126.01, 122.38, 121.39, 114.40, 112.59, 96.09, 55.35 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ =

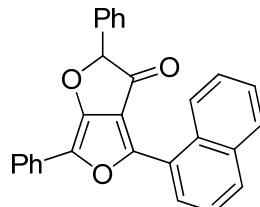
3028, 3002, 2955, 2922, 2853, 1733, 1670, 1598, 1580, 1447, 1436, 1251, 1203, 1171, 1068, 967, 722 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 382 (M⁺, 34.92), 354 (8.53), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₅H₁₈O₄: 382.1205, found: C, 382.1202.

23. 4-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2,6-diphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3g).



The reaction of **1g** (184.1 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 40 hours to afford **3g** (168.0 mg) in 86% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 227 - 229 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.56 (s, 2 H); 7.87 (s, 1 H); 7.79 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.51 - 7.39 (m, 7 H); 7.32 (t, 1 H, J = 7.2 Hz); 6.13 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.38, 156.83, 144.41, 133.74, 132.87, 132.54, 132.46, 130.08, 129.32, 129.07, 129.02, 128.30, 127.48, 125.91, 125.05, 124.30, 123.13, 123.03 (hep, J = 3.9 Hz), 121.58, 116.50, 96.27 ppm, ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -63.14 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3027, 3003, 2955, 2925, 2852, 1734, 1669, 1598, 1580, 1437, 1253, 1203, 1172, 1069, 968, 722 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 488 (M⁺, 13.61), 460 (5.37), 43 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₆H₁₄F₆O₃: 488.0847, found: 488.0846.

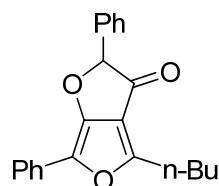
24. 4-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2,6-diphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3h).



The reaction of **1h** (149.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 40 hours to afford **3h** (144.9 mg) in 90% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 215 - 216 °C; ¹H NMR

(400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.97 (d, 2 H, J = 8.8 Hz); 8.53 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.92 (t, 2 H, J = 7.0 Hz); 7.80 (d, 2 H, J = 8.0 Hz); 7.70 (t, 1 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.59 - 7.36 (m, 9 H); 7.30 - 7.25 (m, 1 H); 6.11 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.00, 156.99, 150.65, 134.56, 134.13, 131.77, 130.70, 129.29, 129.12, 129.07, 129.03, 129.01, 128.87, 127.86, 126.55, 126.37, 126.06, 125.54, 125.51, 124.88, 122.66, 115.32, 96.20 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3028, 3002, 2955, 2922, 2852, 1733, 1670, 1598, 1580, 1436, 1253, 1203, 1172, 1068, 967, 721 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 402 (M⁺, 17.34), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₈H₁₈O₃: 402.1256, found: 402.1255.

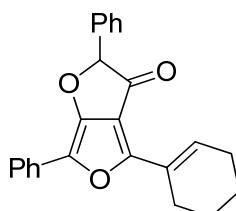
25. 4-butyl-2,6-diphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3i).



3i

The reaction of **1i** (121.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 48 hours to afford **3i** (91.7 mg) in 69% yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.61 (d, 2 H, J = 8.0 Hz); 7.43 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.39 - 7.30 (m, 5 H); 7.16 (t, 1 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 5.88 (s, 1 H); 2.81 (t, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 1.83 - 1.75 (m, 2 H); 1.44 - 1.34 (m, 2 H); 0.93 (t, 3 H, J = 7.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.40, 155.12, 154.15, 134.58, 129.51, 129.29, 128.79, 128.70, 125.89, 122.18, 114.67, 95.70, 28.81, 28.68, 22.24, 13.57 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3027, 3001, 2955, 2922, 2852, 1733, 1669, 1598, 1580, 1438, 1253, 1203, 1173, 1067, 967, 722 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 332 (M⁺, 7.91), 304 (3.61), 43 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₂H₂₀O₃: 332.1412, found: 332.1411.

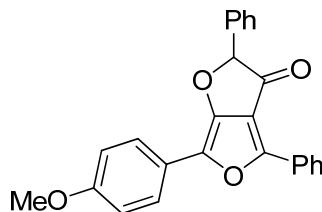
26. 4-cyclohexenyl-2,6-diphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3j).



3j

The reaction of **1j** (131.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 11 hours to afford **3j** (124.9 mg) in 88% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 155 - 157 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.62 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.45 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); 7.40 - 7.32 (m, 5 H); 7.22 - 7.15 (m, 1 H); 7.11 (s, 1 H); 5.94 (s, 1 H); 2.51 (br, 2 H); 2.28 (br, 2 H); 1.74 - 1.64 (m, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 189.75, 156.59, 151.53, 134.75, 134.42, 129.32, 128.80, 128.72, 128.52, 127.97, 125.93, 125.91, 122.29, 112.41, 95.93, 25.94, 23.69, 21.77, 21.64 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3027, 3002, 2955, 2922, 2851, 1733, 1669, 1598, 1580, 1438, 1253, 1203, 1173, 1067, 967, 723 cm⁻¹; 356 (M⁺, 32.82), 328 (7.07), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₀O₃: 356.1412, found: 356.1411.

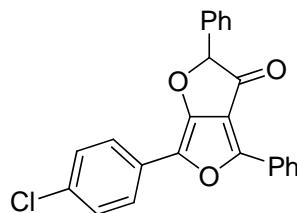
27. 6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,4-diphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3k).



3k

The reaction of **1k** (141.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 16 hours to afford **3k** (120.8 mg) in 79% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 190 - 192 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.13 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.67 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.52 - 7.37 (m, 8 H); 6.99 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 6.03 (s, 1 H); 3.85 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.33, 158.28, 155.36, 147.88, 134.61, 130.20, 130.17, 128.93, 128.91, 128.80, 128.50, 126.01, 125.54, 124.13, 122.11, 114.39, 114.16, 95.94, 55.31 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3026, 3001, 2955, 2924, 2853, 1733, 1670, 1598, 1580, 1437, 1259, 1203, 1171, 1065, 967, 722 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 382 (M⁺, 12.48), 43 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₅H₁₈O₄: 382.1205, found: 382.1208.

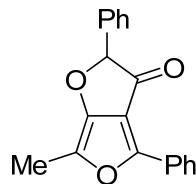
28. 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,4-diphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3l).



3l

The reaction of **1l** (143.5 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) and **L1** (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 17 hours to afford **3l** (151.6 mg) in 98% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 214 - 216 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.14 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.0 Hz); 7.64 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.0 Hz); 7.50 - 7.39 (m, 10 H); 6.05 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 189.94, 156.93, 149.10, 134.30, 131.89, 130.76, 129.17, 129.12, 129.09, 129.02, 128.89, 128.20, 127.53, 126.07, 125.83, 123.79, 114.18, 96.26 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3028, 3002, 2955, 2927, 2852, 1733, 1669, 1599, 1580, 1438, 1254, 1203, 1172, 1066, 951, 722 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 386 (M⁺, 35.86), 358 (12.64), 118 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₁₅ClO₃: 386.0710, found: 386.0710.

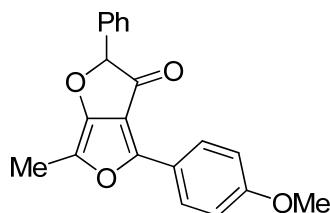
29. 6-methyl-2,4-diphenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3m).



3m

The reaction of **1m** (104.9 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (19.8 mg, 0.04 mmol) and **L3** (15.7 mg, 0.04 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 18 hours to afford **3m** (99.8 mg) in 86% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 115 - 117 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.09 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.51 - 7.35 (m, 8 H); 5.93 (s, 1 H); 2.45 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.62, 155.51, 148.38, 134.97, 129.89, 128.78, 128.75, 128.68, 128.64, 127.01, 125.99, 125.26, 113.03, 95.41, 10.56 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3027, 3002, 2955, 2929, 2852, 1733, 1673, 1598, 1579, 1436, 1253, 1203, 1172, 1067, 967, 723 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 290 (M⁺, 11.41), 262 (2.29), 43 (100). HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₁₄O₃: 290.0943, found: 290.0944.

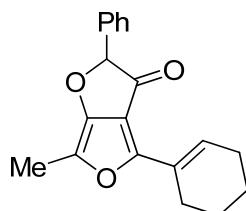
30. 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-2-phenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3n).



3n

The reaction of **1n** (116.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (19.8 mg, 0.04 mmol) and **L3** (15.7 mg, 0.04 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 36 hours to afford **3n** (85.8 mg) in 67% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 117 - 119 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.03 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.49 - 7.34 (m, 5 H); 6.94 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.0 Hz); 5.91 (s, 1 H); 3.83 (s, 3 H); 2.41 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.35, 161.04, 155.14, 149.04, 135.21, 128.71, 128.68, 127.23, 126.03, 125.91, 121.81, 114.26, 111.53, 95.47, 55.29, 10.54 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3026, 3002, 2955, 2920, 2853, 1733, 1676, 1660, 1598, 1578, 1436, 1250, 1203, 1172, 1068, 967, 719 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 320 (M⁺, 26.59), 43 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₁₆O₄: 320.1049, found: 320.1049.

31. 4-cyclohexenyl-6-methyl-2-phenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3o).

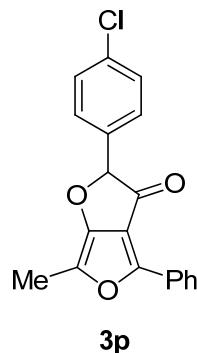


3o

The reaction of **1o** (106.5 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (19.8 mg, 0.04 mmol) and **L3** (15.7 mg, 0.04 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 42 hours to afford **3o** (68.3 mg) in 58% yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.42 - 7.29 (m, 5 H); 6.95 (br, 1 H); 5.80 (s, 1 H); 2.42 (br, 2 H); 2.32 (s, 3 H); 2.23 (br, 2 H); 1.71 - 1.61 (m, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.25, 155.14, 151.08, 135.29, 132.22, 128.58, 127.93, 125.92, 125.28, 111.31, 95.28, 25.70, 23.81, 21.82, 21.68, 10.41 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3028, 3002, 2955, 2924, 2853, 1733, 1669, 1598, 1580, 1436, 1253, 1203, 1172, 1068, 967, 722 cm⁻¹;

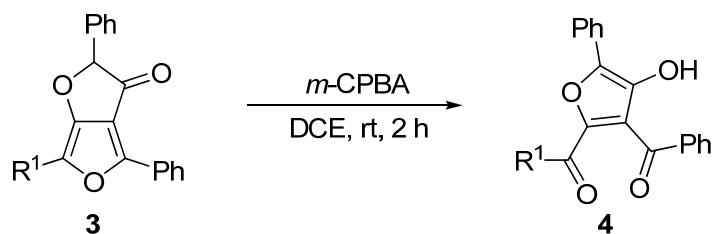
MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 294 (6.64), 266 (17.21), 43 (100). HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₁₈O₃: 294.1256, found: 294.1255.

32. 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-methyl-4-phenylfuro[3,4-b]furan-3(2H)-one (3p).



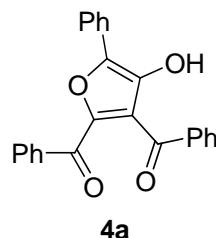
The reaction of **1p** (118.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (19.8 mg, 0.04 mmol) and **L3** (15.7 mg, 0.04 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) was carried out in the presence of 1 atm of CO (balloon) at 70 °C for 36 hours to afford **3p** (78.8 mg) in 61% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 128 - 130 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.03 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.44 - 7.33 (m, 7 H); 5.86 (s, 1 H); 2.42 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.16, 155.37, 148.71, 134.72, 133.43, 130.09, 128.90, 128.87, 128.58, 127.30, 127.20, 125.35, 112.74, 94.58, 10.62 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3028, 3002, 2955, 2927, 2852, 1733, 1671, 1599, 1579, 1437, 1254, 1203, 1172, 1067, 967, 722 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 324 (M⁺, 23.44), 296 (1.74), 152 (100). HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₁₃ClO₃: 324.0553, found: 324.0554.

Synthesis of tetrasubstituted furans 4.



To a stirred solution of **3** (0.4 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) at rt, *m*-CPBA (85%, 89.4 mg, 0.44 mmol) was added. The result solution was then stirred at rt for 2 hours. After evaporation, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ EtOAc = 20:1) afforded the desired products **4**.

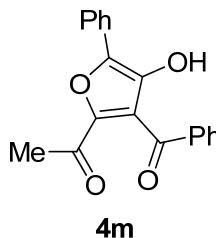
33. (4-hydroxy-5-phenylfuran-2,3-diyl)bis(phenylmethanone) (4a).



The reaction of **3a** (141.0 mg, 0.4 mmol), *m*-CPBA (85%, 89.4 mg, 0.44 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) at rt for 2 hours to afford **4a** (126.7 mg) in 86% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 201 - 203 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.93 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.88 (s, 1 H); 7.82 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.70 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.54 (t, 1 H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); 7.49 - 7.38 (m, 5 H); 7.33 - 7.28 (m, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 194.02, 182.22, 147.54, 143.24, 139.24, 137.97, 136.80, 133.37, 133.15, 129.69, 128.83, 128.78, 128.43, 128.00, 124.32, 121.00 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3469, 3029, 3003, 2955, 2924, 2852, 1733, 1669, 1599, 1580, 1436, 1254, 1202, 1173, 1067, 967, 724 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 368 (M⁺, 8.25), 41 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₁₆O₄: 368.1049, found: 368.1052.

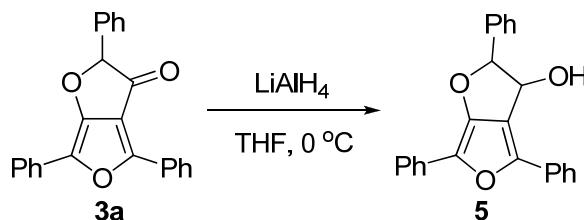
Keeping the solution of **3a** in THF stirring in the air for 24 hours afforded **4a** in 16% yield. When 1 equivalent of 2,6-lutidine was added, 48% of **4a** could be obtained within 4 hours.

34. 1-(3-benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-phenylfuran-2-yl)ethanone (4m).



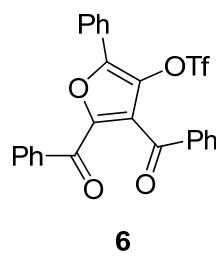
The reaction of **3m** (116.1 mg, 0.4 mmol), *m*-CPBA (85%, 89.4 mg, 0.44 mmol) in ClCH₂CH₂Cl (4 mL) at rt for 2 hours to afford **4m** (101.7 mg) in 83% yield as a yellow solid. m.p. 171 - 173 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.96 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.82 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz); 7.63 - 7.59 (m, 2 H); 7.50 - 7.43 (m, 4 H); 7.35 (t, 1 H, *J* = 7.4 Hz); 2.50 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 193.98, 186.62, 146.11, 143.18, 139.35, 137.53, 133.84, 129.28, 128.85, 128.80, 128.47, 128.24, 124.41, 120.19, 26.40 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3469, 3029, 3003, 2955, 2924, 2852, 1733, 1670, 1598, 1581, 1436, 1254, 1202, 1173, 1068, 967, 722 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 306 (M⁺, 25.37), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₁₄O₄: 306.0892, found: 306.0896.

35. Synthesis of 5.



To a stirred solution of **3a** (141.0 mg, 0.4 mmol) in THF (4 mL) at 0 °C, LiAlH₄ (22.8 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added. The result solution was then stirred at 0 °C for 1 hour. Then the reaction mixture was added water (4 mL), and extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 4 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated under vaccuo. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexanes : EtOAc = 10 : 1) to give the desired product **5** (113.6 mg, 80% yield) as mixed yellow solid (major / minor = 7.3 / 1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = [7.77 (d, 1.76 H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.73 (d, 0.24 H, J = 7.6 Hz)]; 7.69 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz); 7.50 - 7.36 (m, 9 H); 7.28 (t, 1 H, J = 7.2 Hz); 7.17 (t, 1 H, J = 7.2 Hz); [6.08 (d, 0.88 H, J = 5.6 Hz), 5.97 (br, 0.12 H)]; [5.38 (d, 0.88 H, J = 5.6 Hz), 5.26 (br, 0.12 H)]; [1.57 (br, 0.88 H), 1.42 (br, 0.12 H)]. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 150.86, 144.39, 134.19, 130.01, 129.87, 128.79, 128.67, 128.61, 127.90, 127.02, 125.70, 125.25, 124.46, 124.41, (122.65, 122.57), (120.33, 119.53), (102.88, 98.22), (76.02, 69.48) ppm, IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3465, 3029, 3003, 2955, 2929, 2852, 1733, 1670, 1598, 1580, 1439, 1254, 1203, 1173, 1086, 1071, 1058, 951, 726, 700 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 354 (M⁺, 22.66), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₁₈O₃: 354.1256, found: 354.1260.

36. 4,5-dibenzoyl-2-phenylfuran-3-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (6).



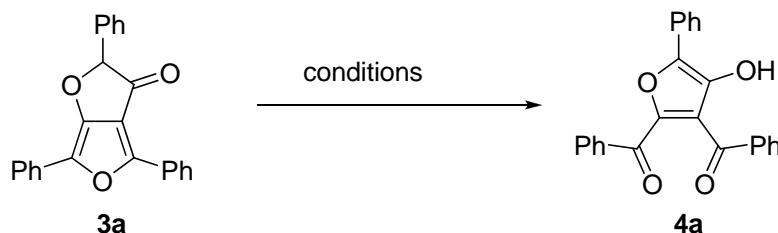
From 3: To a stirred solution of diisopropylamine (0.5 mL, 3.3 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added n-BuLi (1.1 mL, 2.5 M solution in hexane, 2.7 mmol) at -78 °C and stirred for 30 minutes at same temperature under N₂. To the resulting mixture was added a solution of **3a** (634.3 mg, 1.8 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) dropwise with syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred at

the same temperature for 2 hours under N₂ and to this was added solid N-phenyltrifluoromethanesulfonimide (PhNTf₂) (971.1 mg, 2.7 mmol) in one portion. The resulting solution was allowed to stir at -78 °C for 3 h and then at room temperature for 16 h in the air. After removing the solvent under reduced pressure, the crude residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes : EtOAc = 20 : 1) to afford the product **6** (603.8 mg, 67% yield) as a yellow solid. m.p. 152 - 154 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.91 - 7.87 (m, 4 H); 7.83 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); 7.59 - 7.53 (m, 5 H); 7.46 - 7.37 (m, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 187.38, 181.67, 147.41, 147.14, 136.85, 135.95, 133.80, 133.50, 131.39, 130.85, 129.50, 129.24, 129.14, 128.60, 128.55, 127.13, 126.35, 126.00, [(122.99, 119.80, 116.60, 113.41), *J*_{CF} = 239.5 Hz] ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -72.94 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3468, 3029, 3002, 2953, 2925, 2852, 1733, 1668, 1599, 1580, 1446, 1254, 1200, 1067, 968, 723 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 ev) m/z (%): 500 (M⁺, 1.88), 262 (51.12), 105 (100). HRMS calcd for C₂₅H₁₅F₃O₆S: 500.0541, found: 500.0542.

From 4a: To a stirred solution of **4a** (110.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) and DMAP (55.0 mg, 0.45 mmol) in anhydrous DCM (3 mL) was added Tf₂O (0.15 mL, 0.9 mmol) at 0 °C. The resulting solution was allowed to stir for 20 min. After removing the solvent under reduced pressure, the crude residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes : EtOAc = 20 : 1) to afford the product **6** (137.6 mg, 92% yield) as a yellow solid.

37. Experiments supporting the point that in the conversion of **3** to **6**, air plays the role of oxidant.

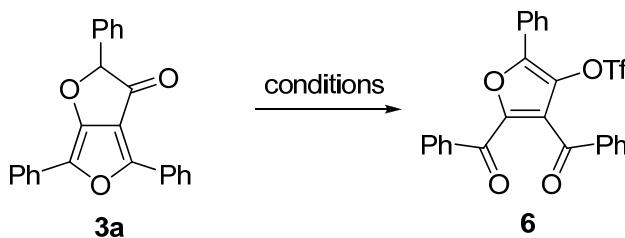
Table 1. Experiments to prove that this kind of 2,5-diphenylfurans could be easily oxidized by air, especially in the presence of base, which could result in the enolization of **3a** and make it more electron-rich.^a



| Entry | Conditions | Conversion (3a , %) ^b | Yield (4a , %) ^c |
|-------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | THF, air, rt, 24 h | 20 | 16 |
| 2 | 2,6-lutidine (1 eq.), THF, air, rt, 4 h | 100 | 48 ^d |
| 3 | 2,6-lutidine (1 eq.), DCM, air, rt, 3.5 h | 100 | 43 ^d |

^a The reactions were performed with 0.3 mmol of **3a** in the air in THF or DCM at rt. ^b Determined by NMR analysis. ^c Isolated yield. ^d With some by-products whose structures have not been established.

Table 2. Experiments to prove that the corresponding heterobicyclic furo[3,4-b]furan-3-yl triflate is easily converted into product **6** in the air, even in the presence of the trace amount of oxygen dissolved in the solvents.



| Entry | Conditions | Yield (6 , %) ^a |
|----------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 ^b | 2,6-lutidine (2 eq.), Tf ₂ O (2 eq.), DCM, N ₂ , 0 °C - rt, 24 h | 61 |
| 2 ^c | 2,6-lutidine (2 eq.), Tf ₂ O (2 eq.), DCM, N ₂ , 0 °C - rt, 24 h | 55 ^d |
| 3 ^e | LDA (2.7 eq.), PhNTf ₂ (2.7 eq.), THF, -78 °C - rt, 16 h | 64 |

^a Isolated yield. ^b without strict 'oxygen-free' operation. ^c The reaction was performed in strict 'oxygen-free' conditions. ^d By TLC analysis, an intermediate product could be observed obviously, which was observed just trace amount in entry 1, but after working up the reaction, we could not obtain the intermediate product, only product **6** in 55% yield.^e A similar result with entry 2.

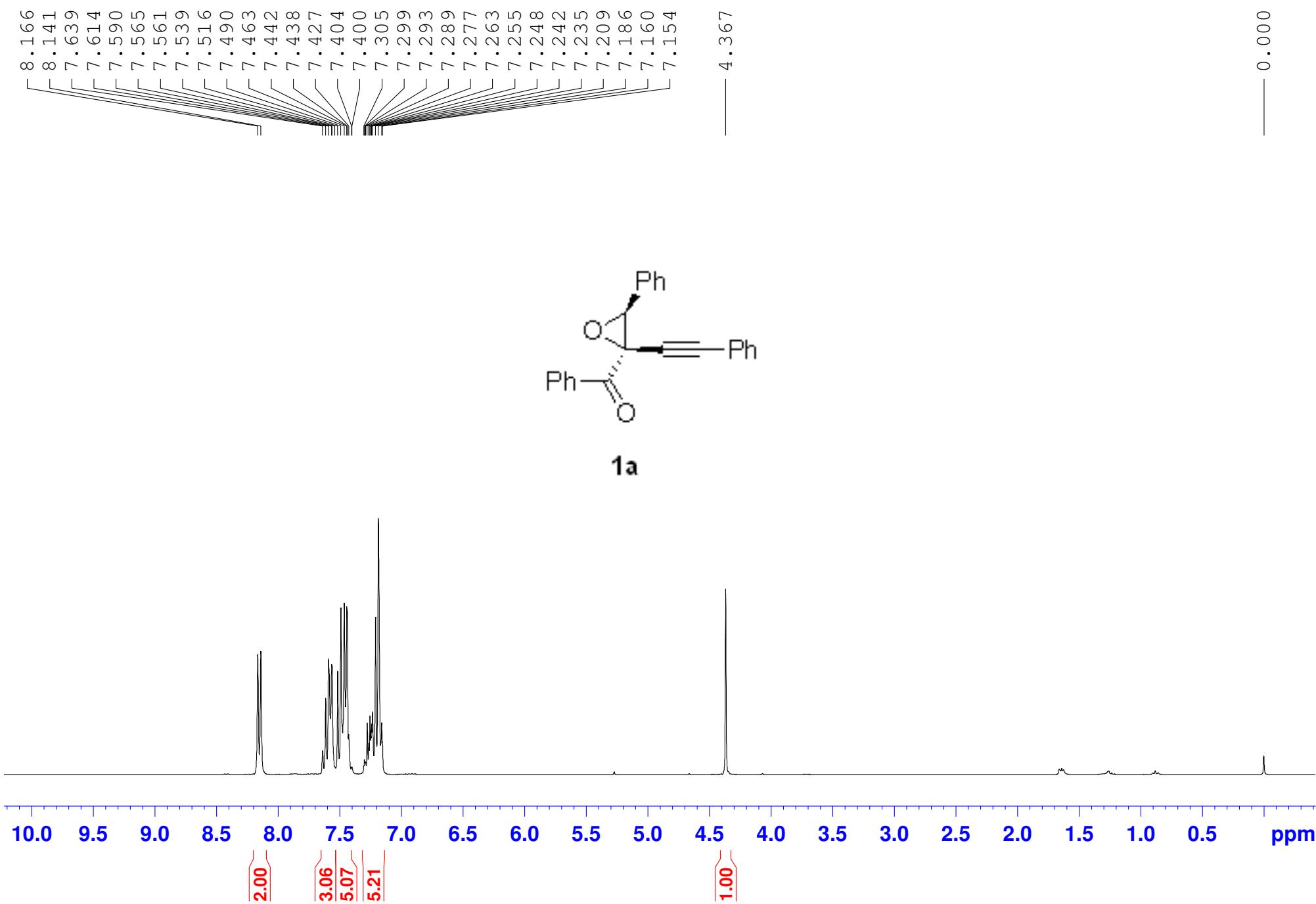
Entry 1: To a stirred solution of **3a** (105.7 mg, 0.3 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (70 µL, 0.6 mmol) in anhydrous DCM (3 mL) was added Tf₂O (0.1 mL, 0.6 mmol) under N₂ at 0 °C and stirred for 30 minutes at same temperature. The resulting solution was then allowed to stir at rt for 24 hours. After removing the solvent under reduced pressure, the crude residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes : EtOAc = 20 : 1) to afford the product **6** (91.5 mg, 61% yield) as a yellow solid.

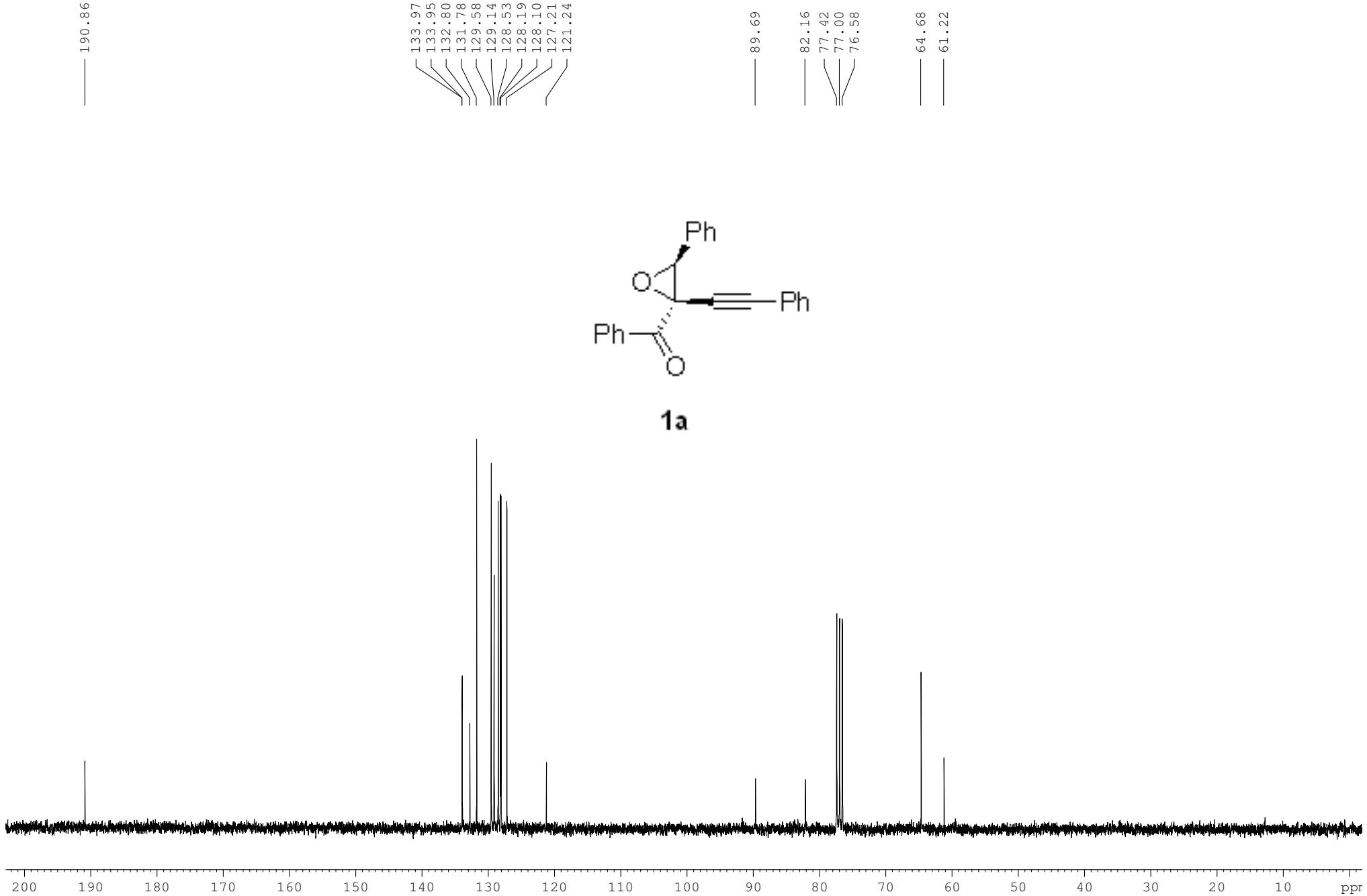
Entry 2: The mixed solution of **3a** (105.7 mg, 0.3 mmol), 2,6-lutidine (70 µL, 0.6 mmol) and Tf₂O (0.1 mL, 0.6 mmol) in anhydrous DCM (3 mL) was placed to liquid nitrogen until it was completely solidified. Then N₂ was charged after depressurization under vaccuo. The solution was allowed to warm slowly to become liquid state. Then the same operation was repeated 3 times. After that the solution was allowed to stir at rt for 24 hours. After removing the solvent under reduced pressure, the crude residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes : EtOAc = 20 : 1) to afford the product **6** (82.3 mg, 55% yield) as a yellow solid.

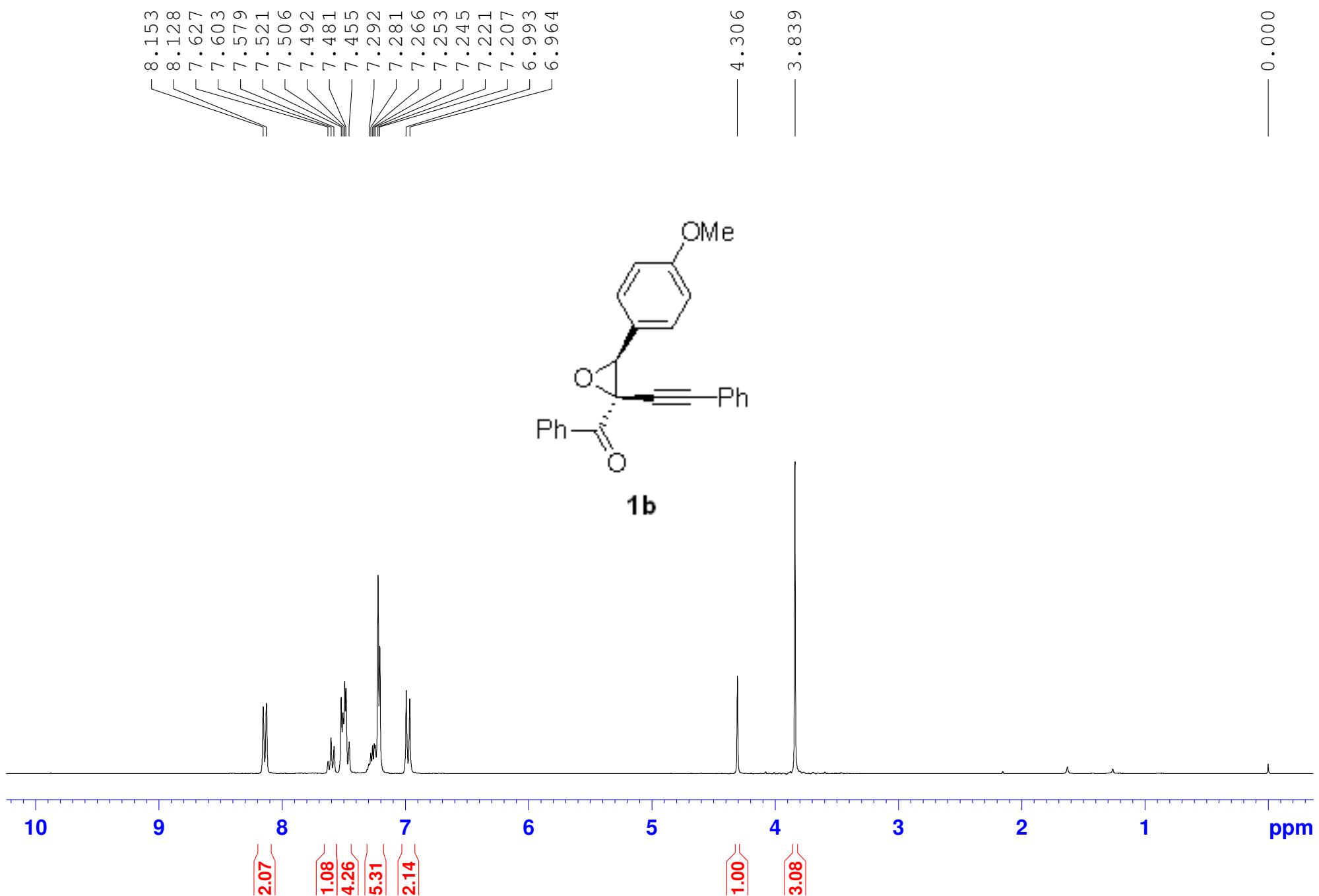
Entry 3: The similar operation with entry 2. 64% yield of **6** was obtained.

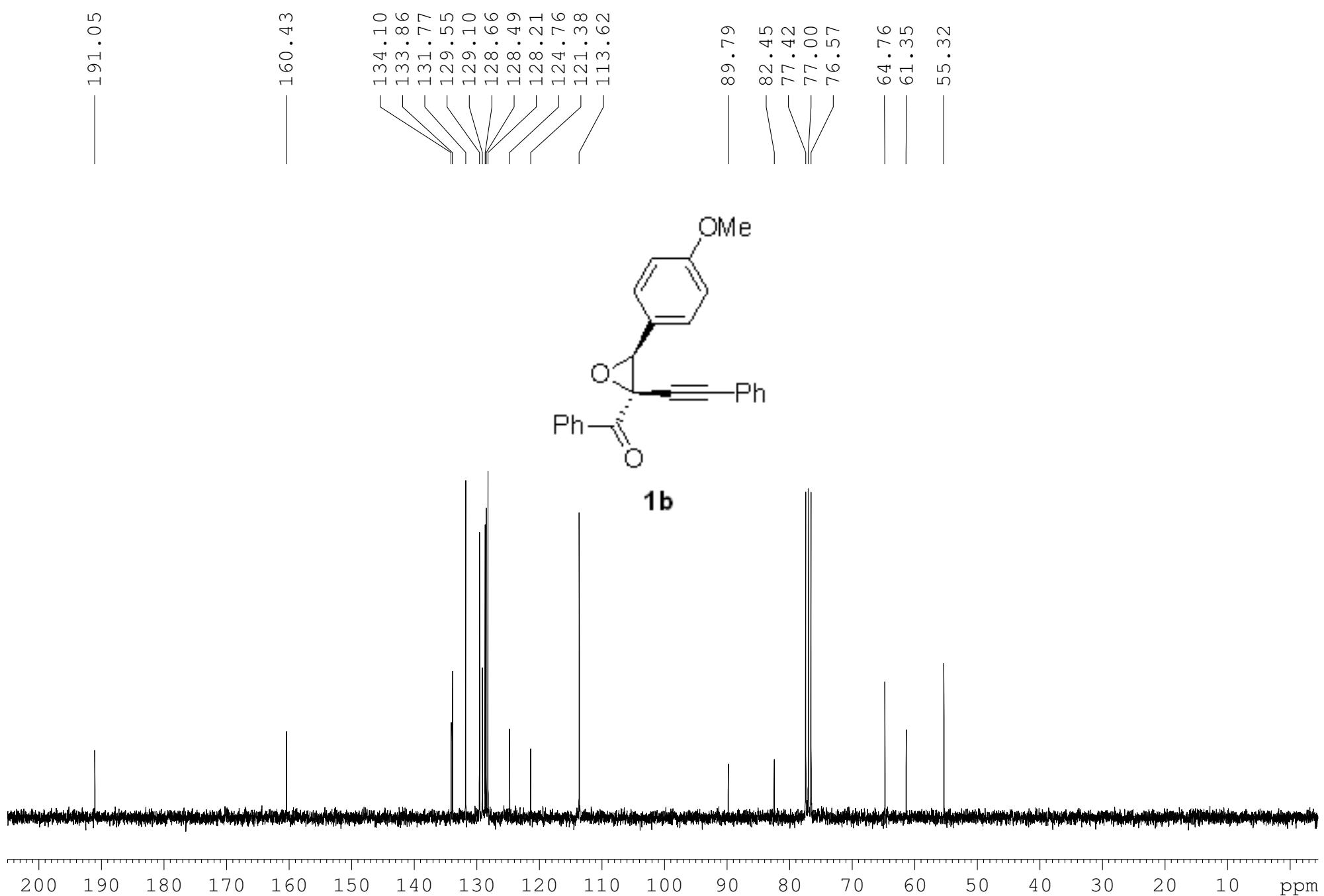
Reference:

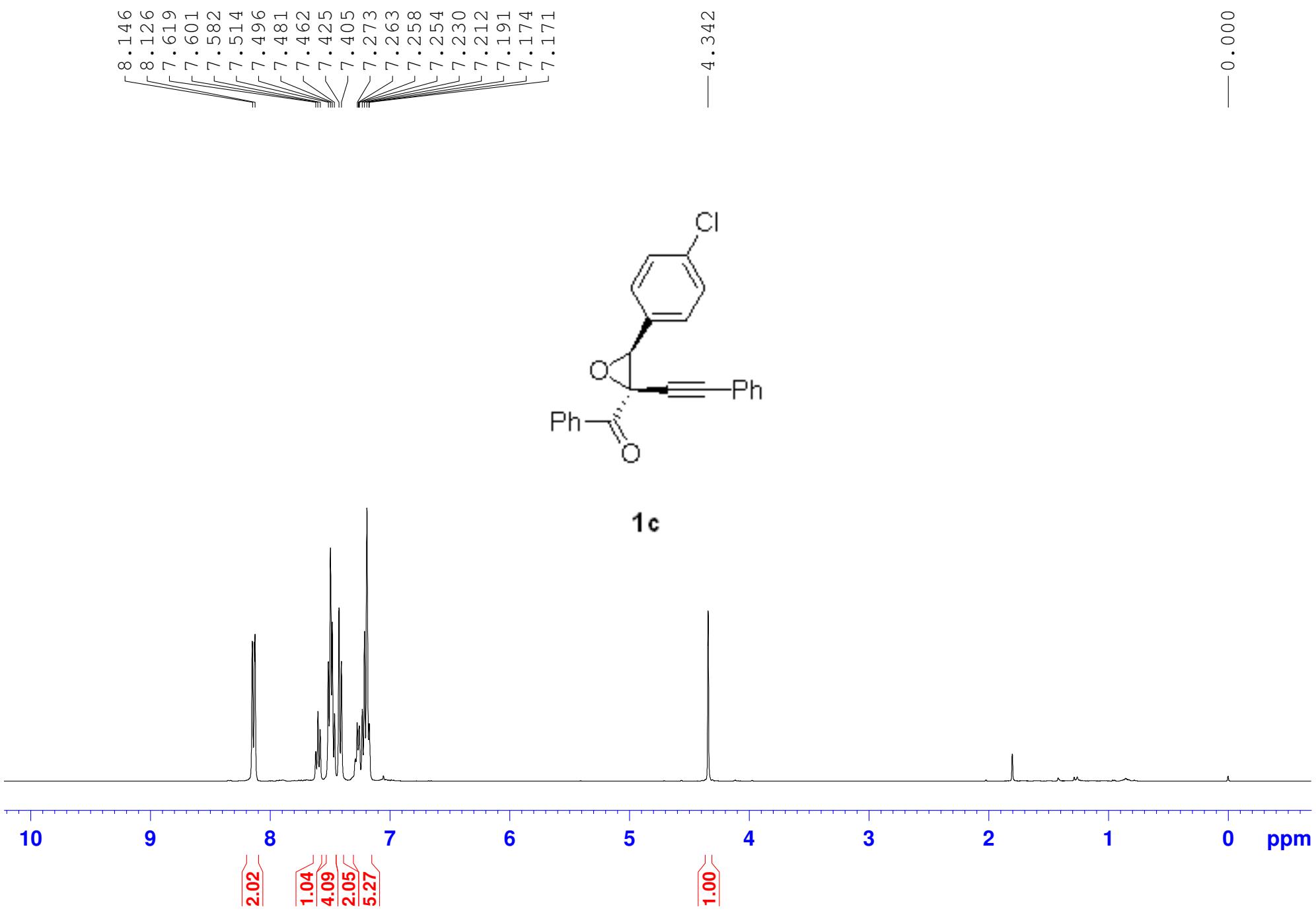
- [1] (a) T. Yao, X. Zhang and R. C. Larock, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2004, **126**, 11164; (b) G. Zhang, X. Huang, G. Li and L. Zhang, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2008, **130**, 1814; (c) F. Liu, Y. Yu and J. Zhang, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2009, **48**, 5505; (d) H. Gao, X. Zhao, Y. Yu and J. Zhang, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2010, **16**, 456; (e) Y. Zhang, F. Liu and J. Zhang, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2010, **16**, 6146.

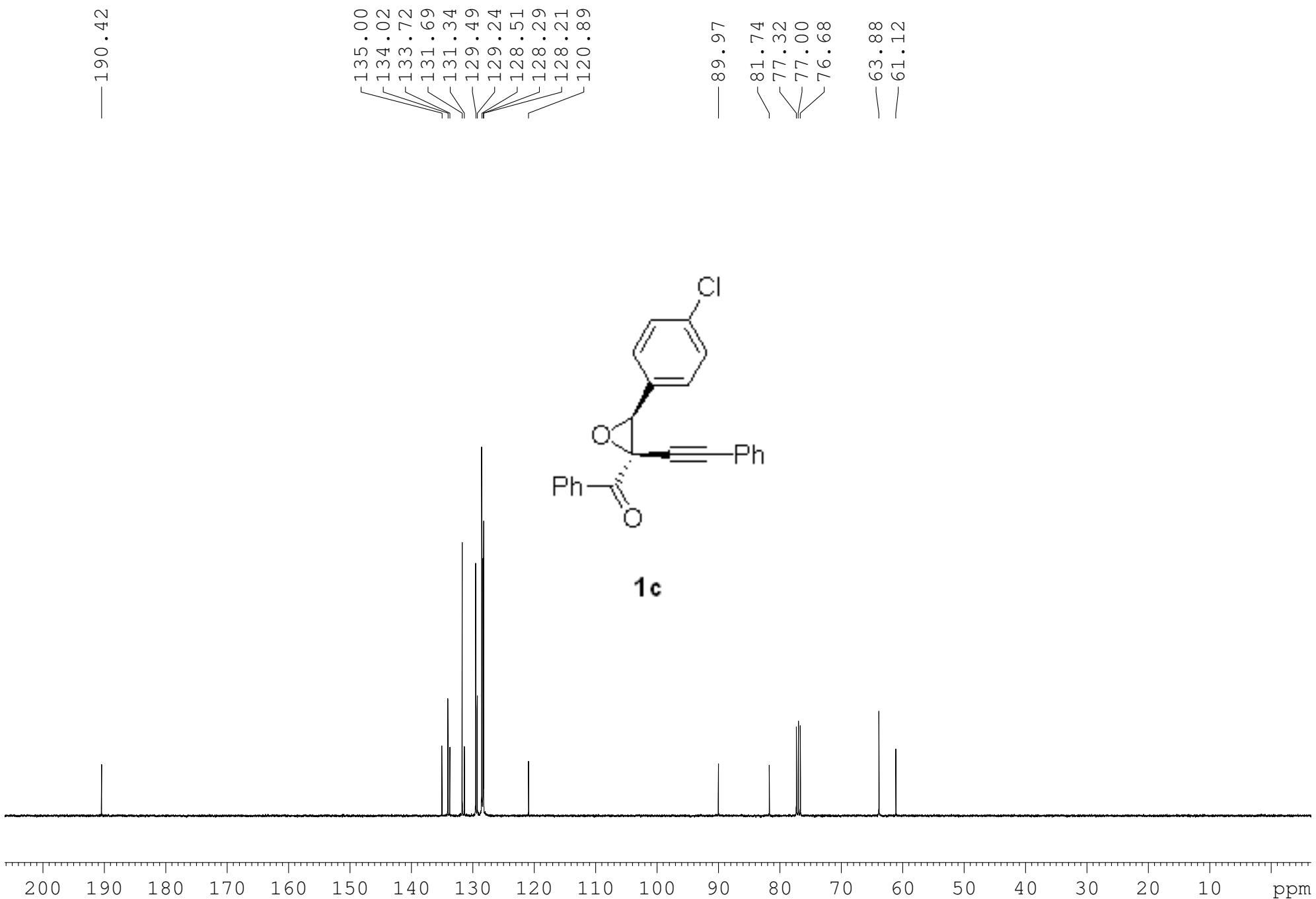


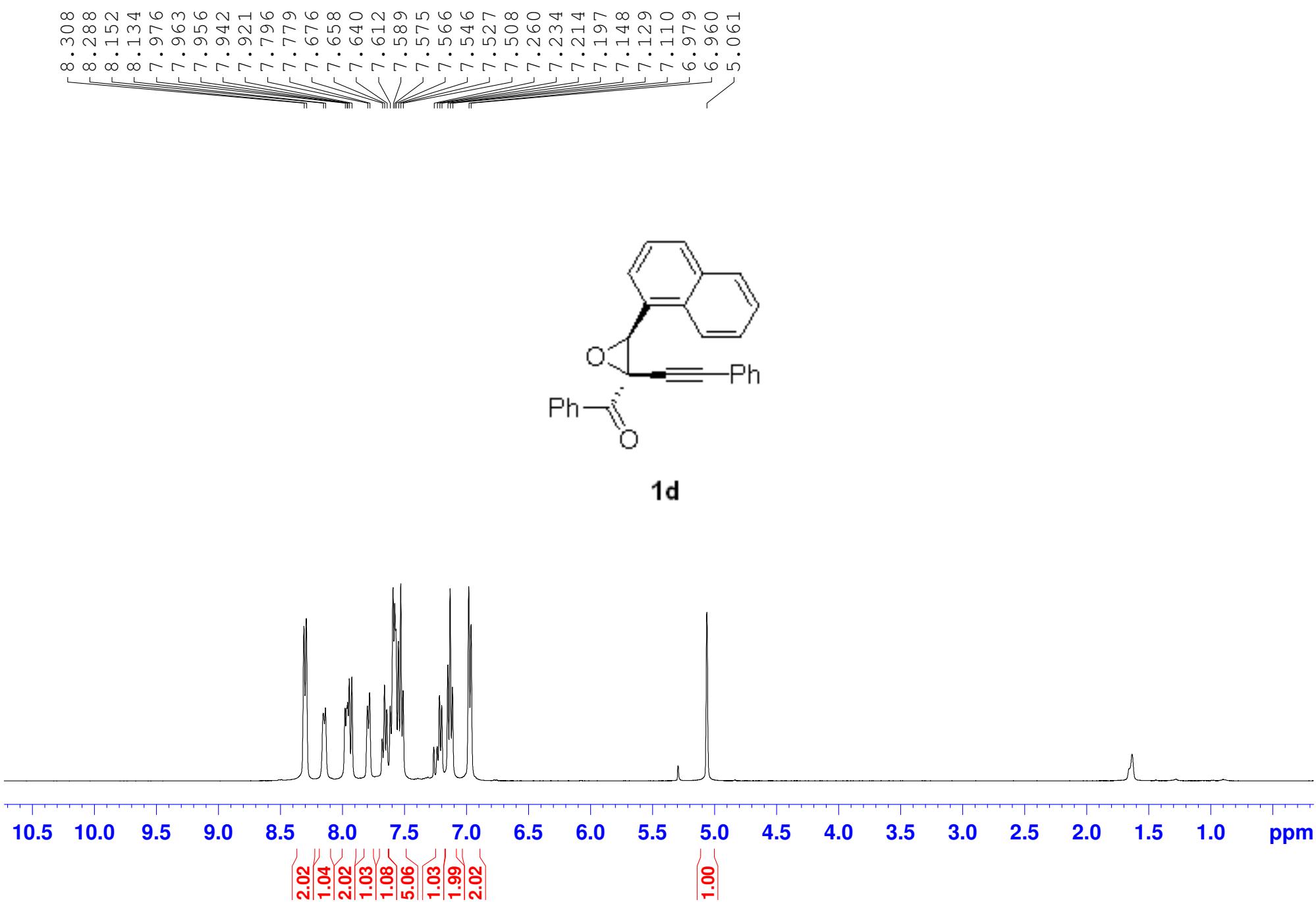




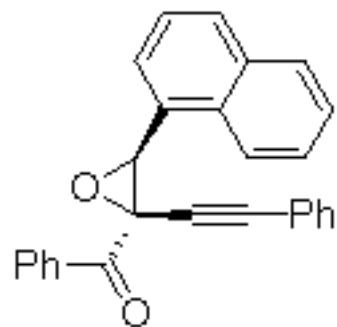
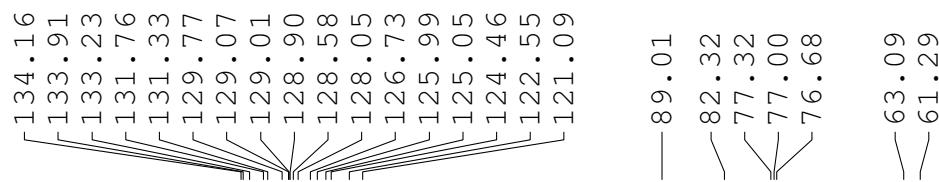




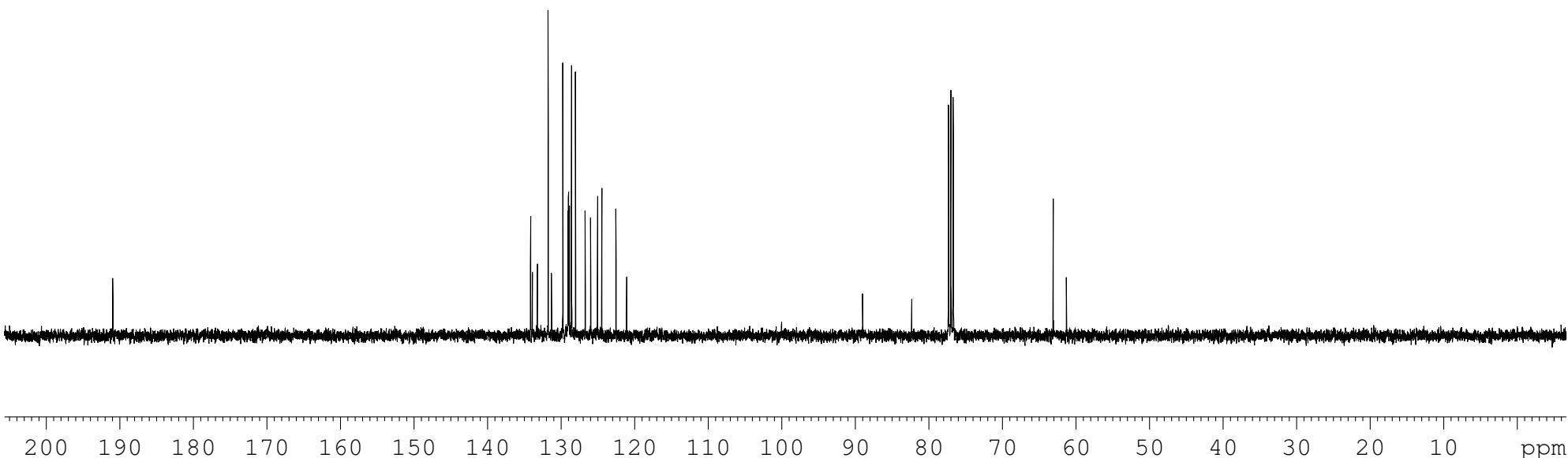


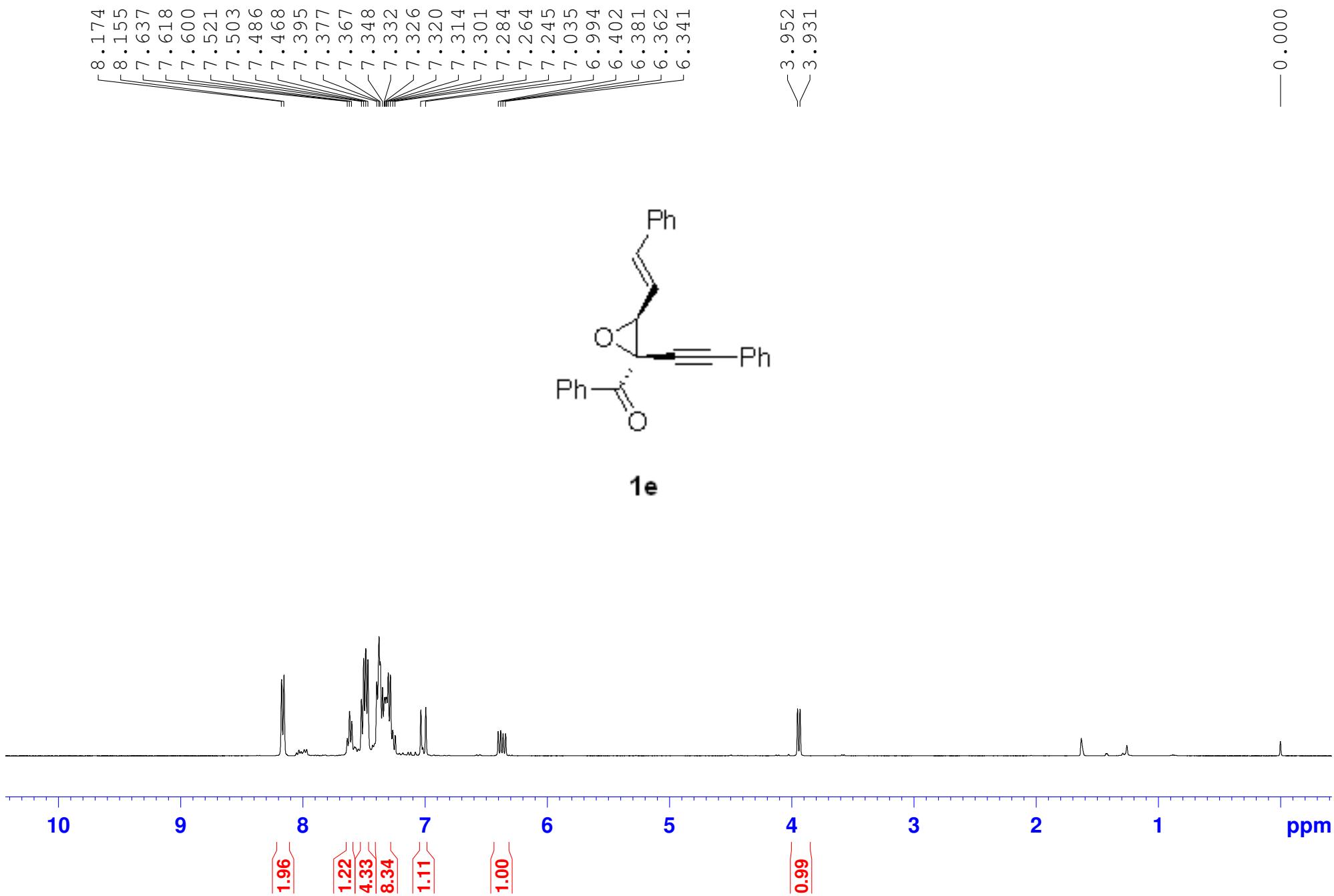


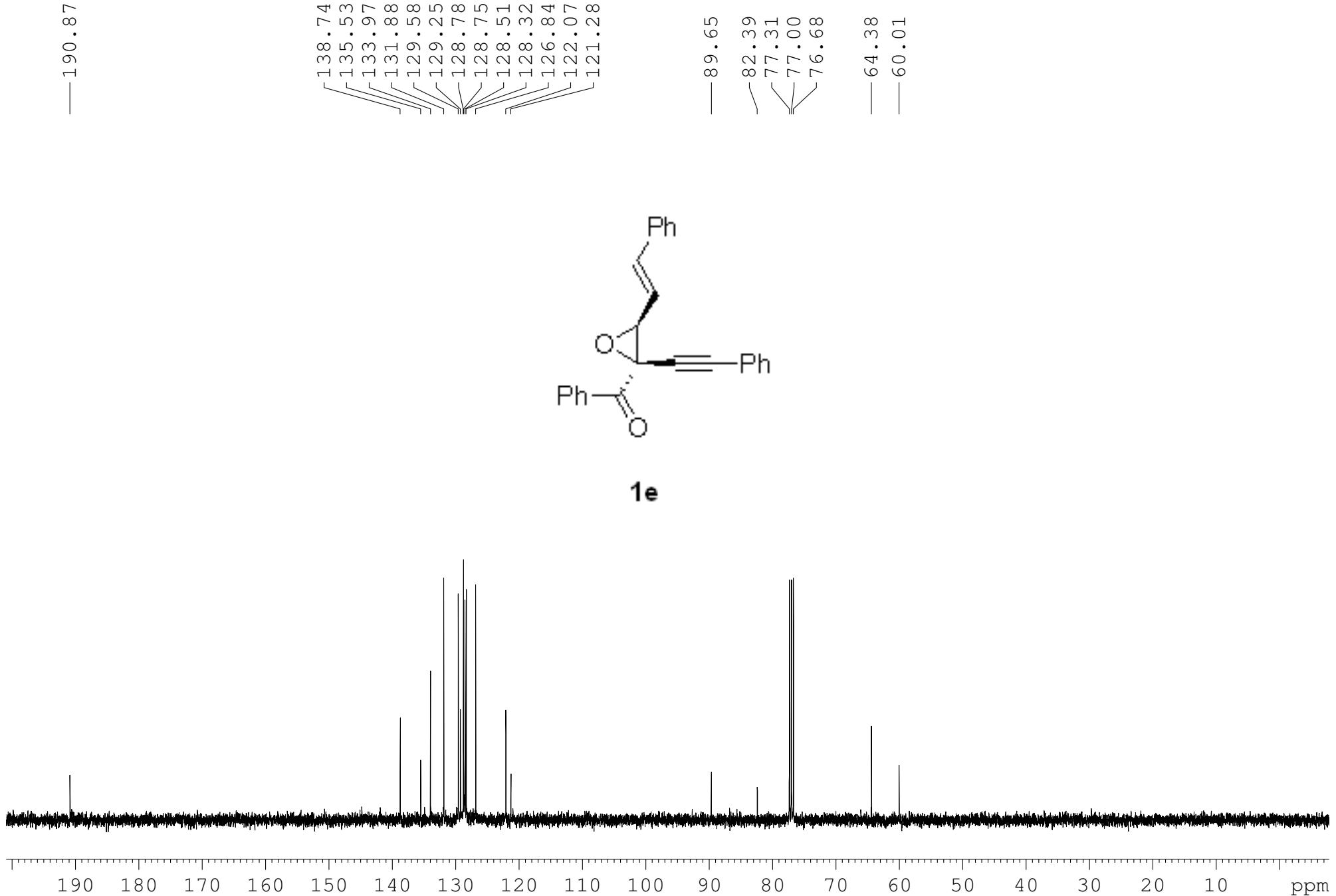
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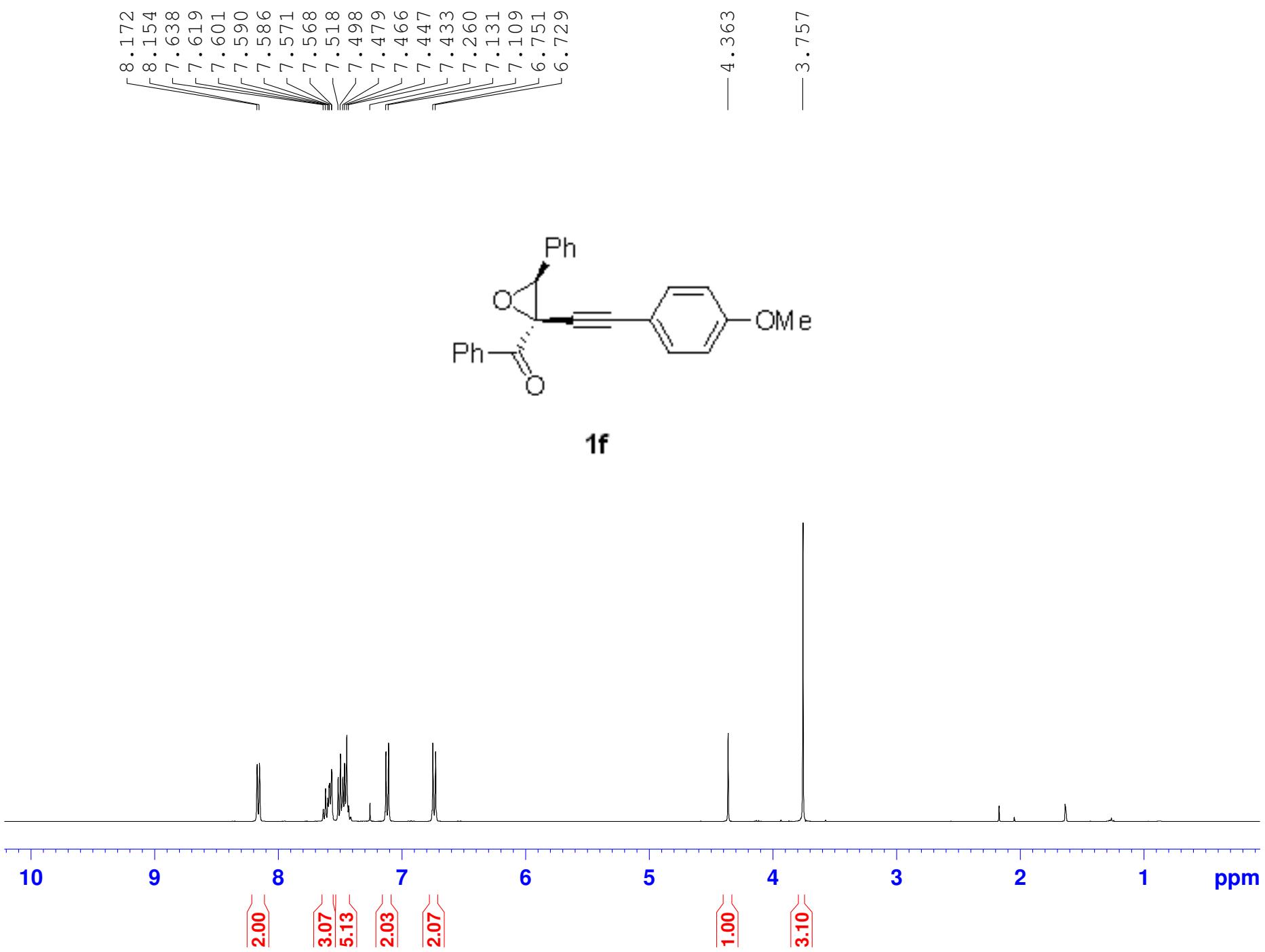


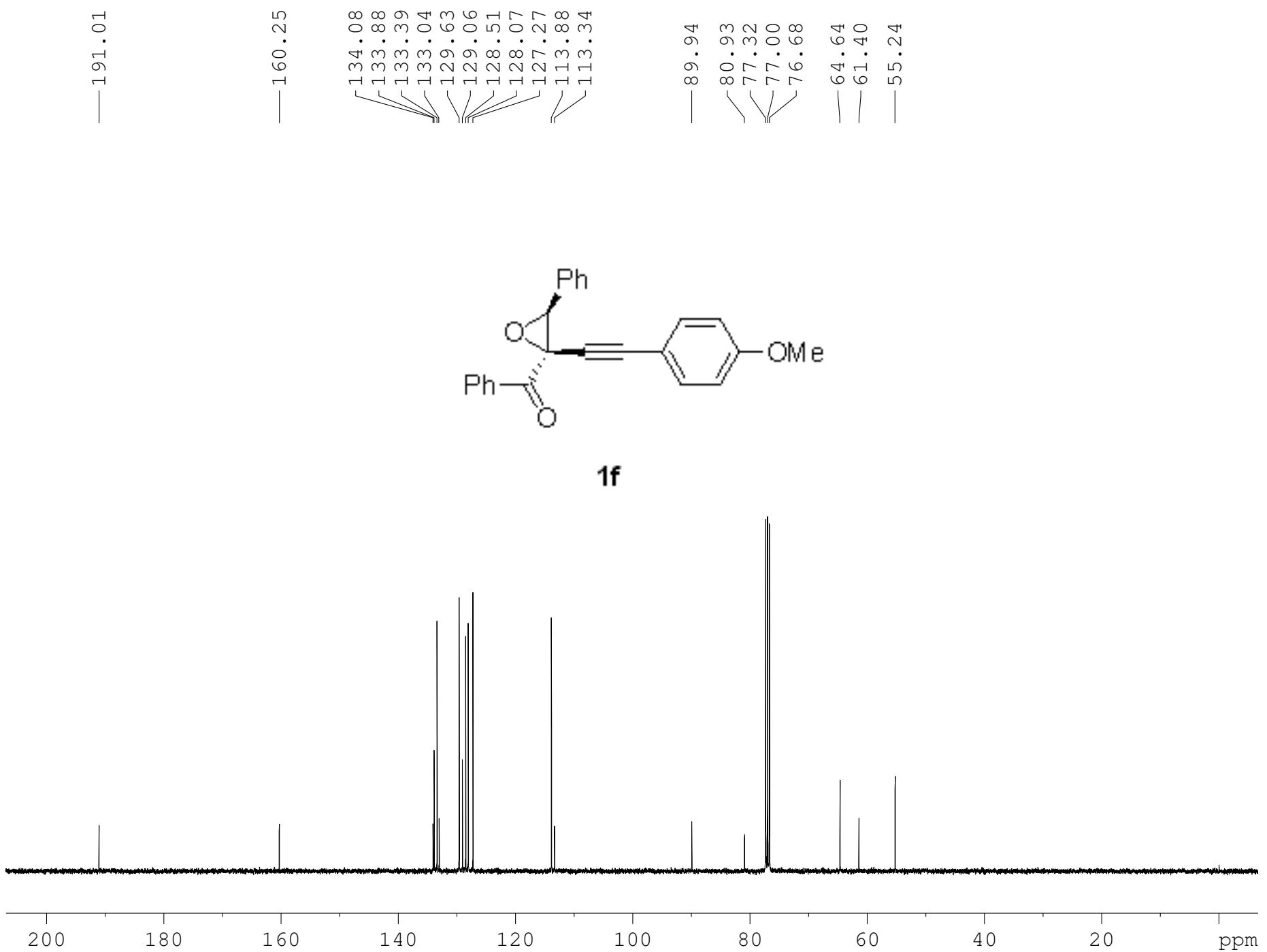
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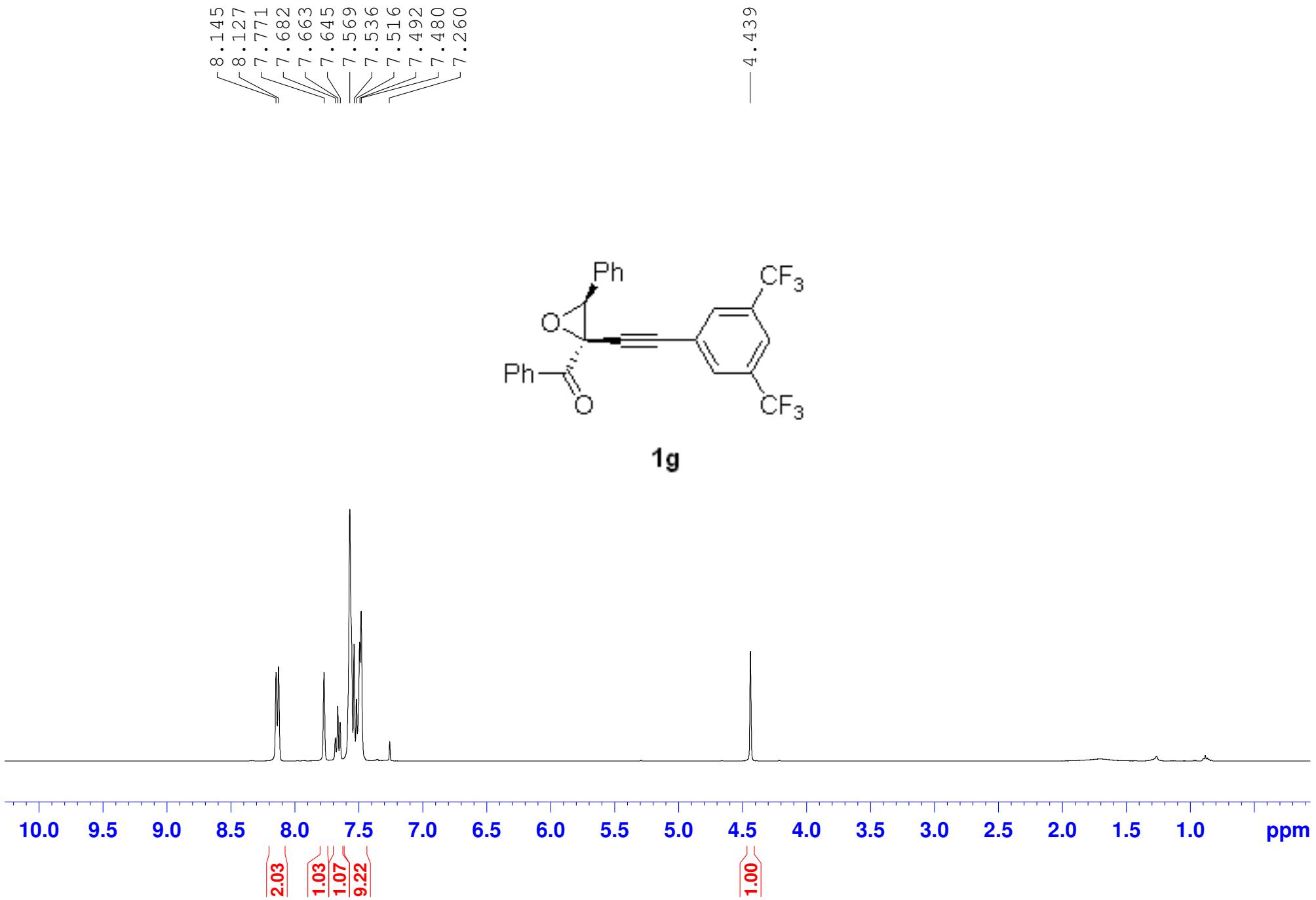


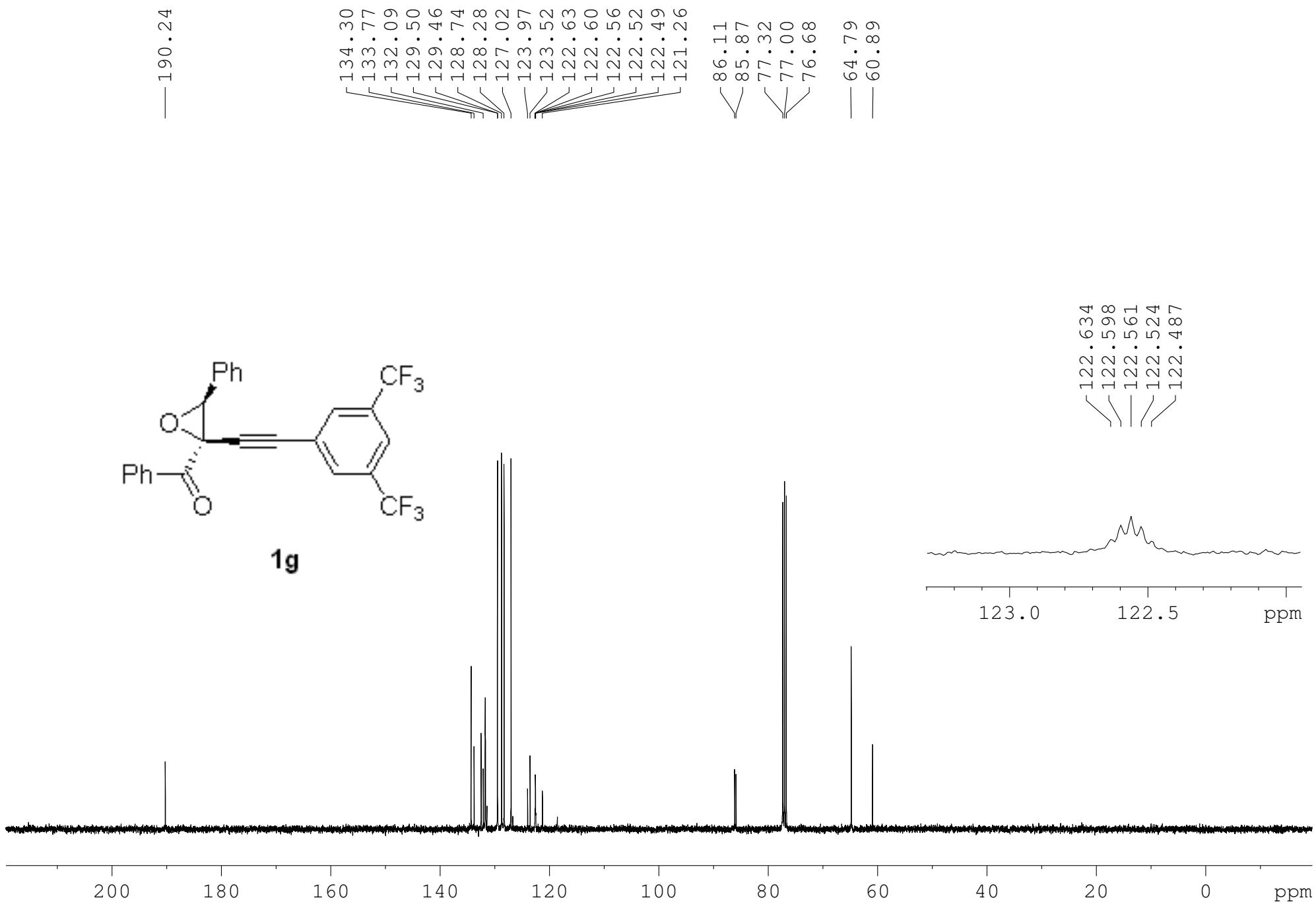


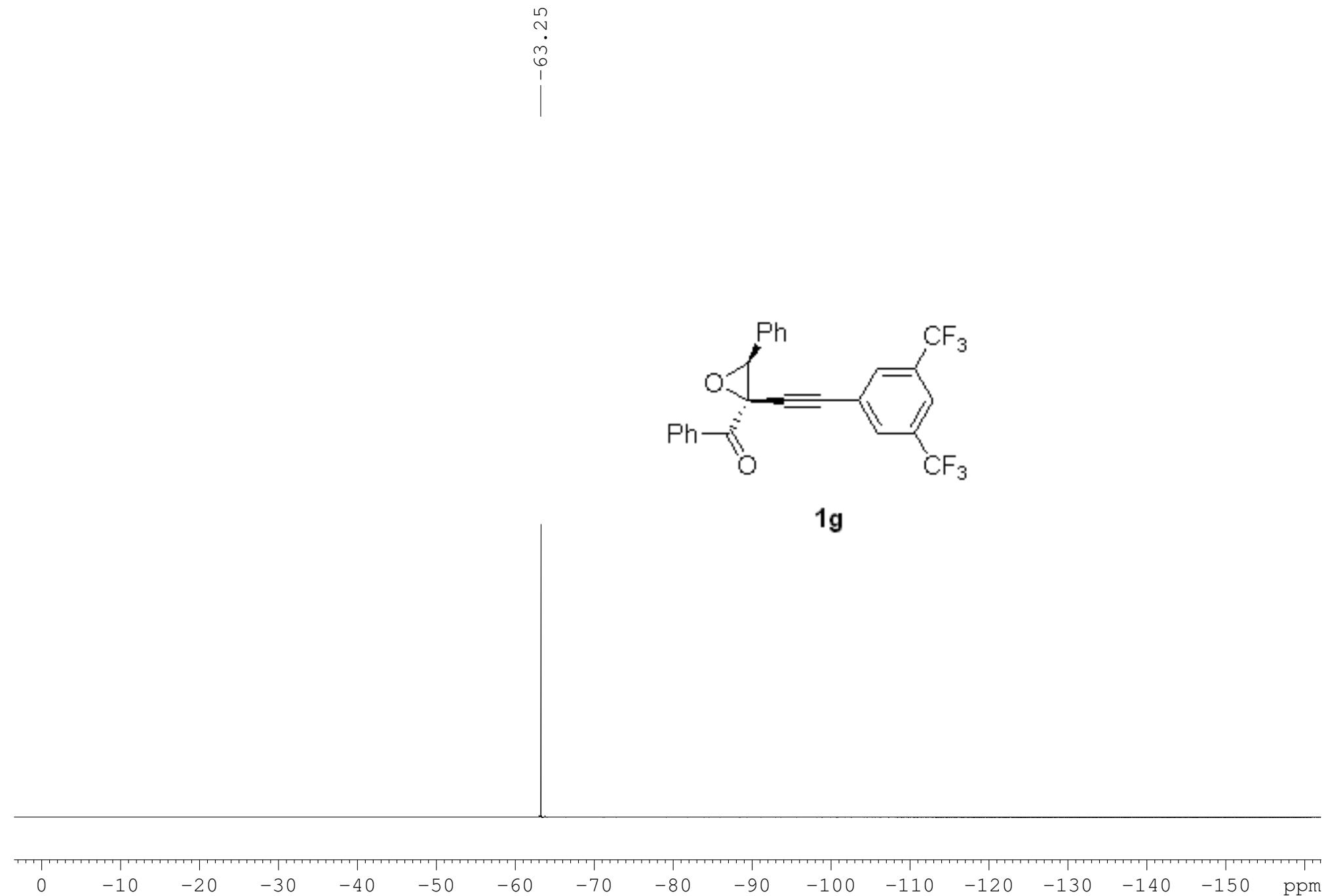


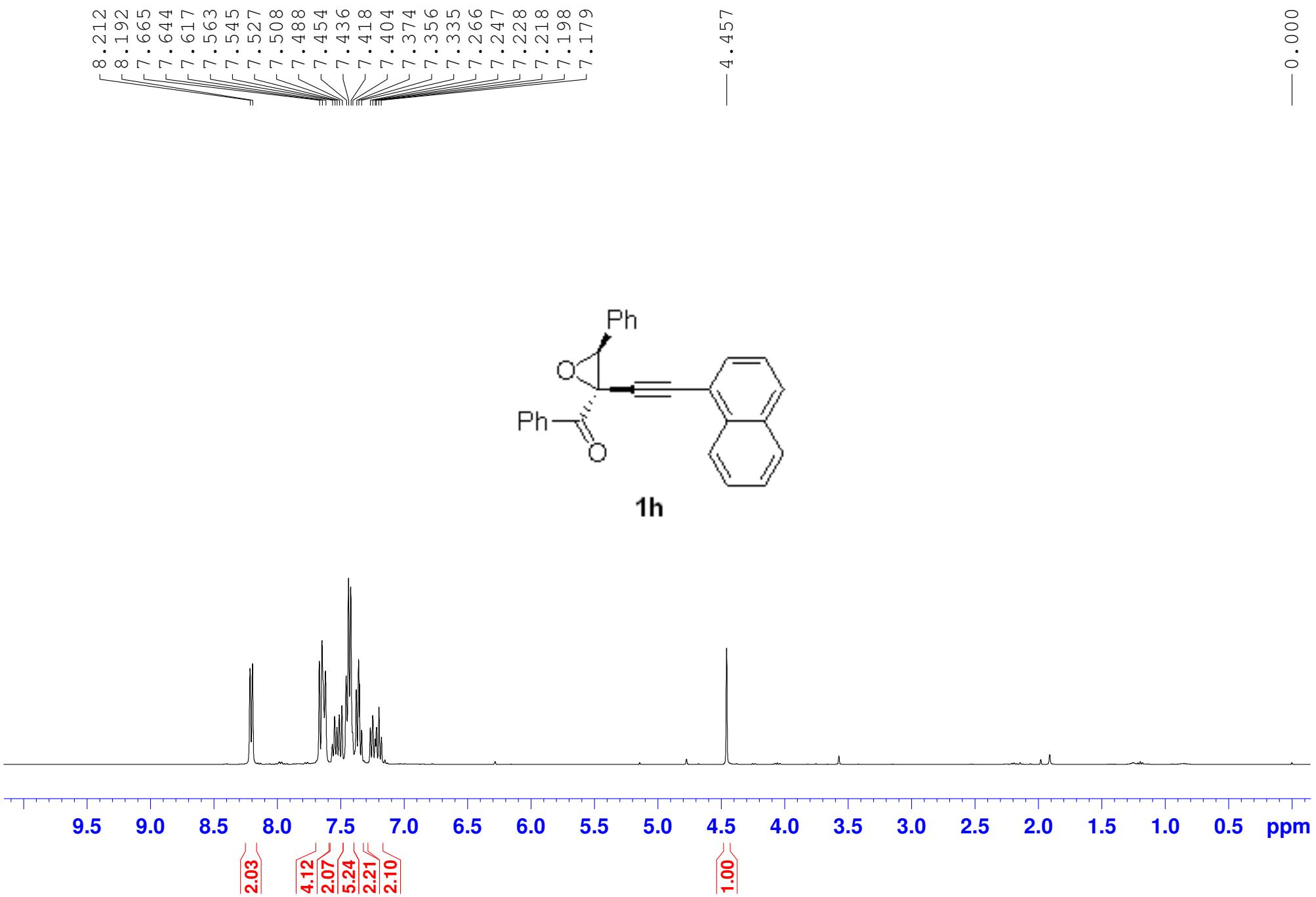




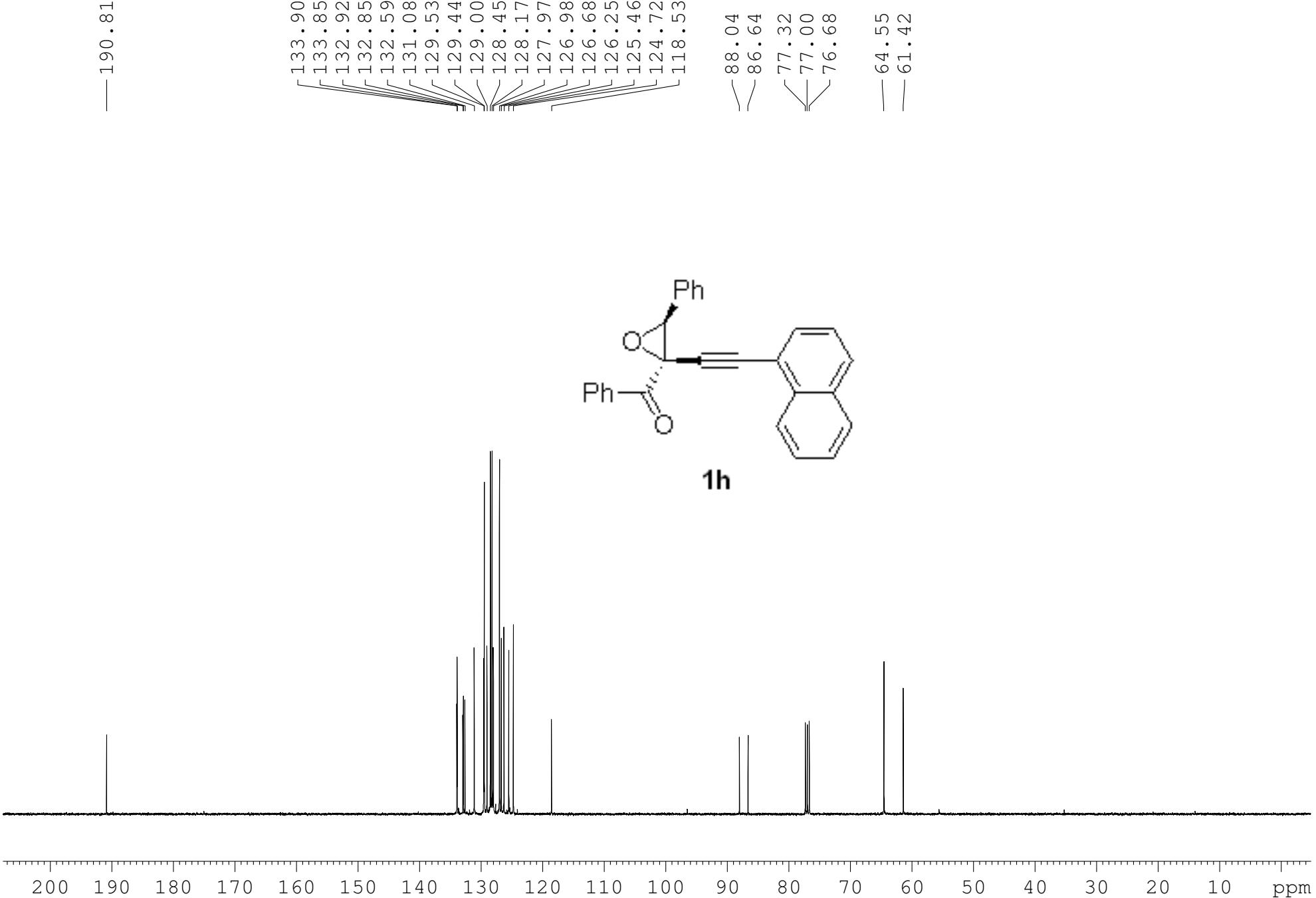


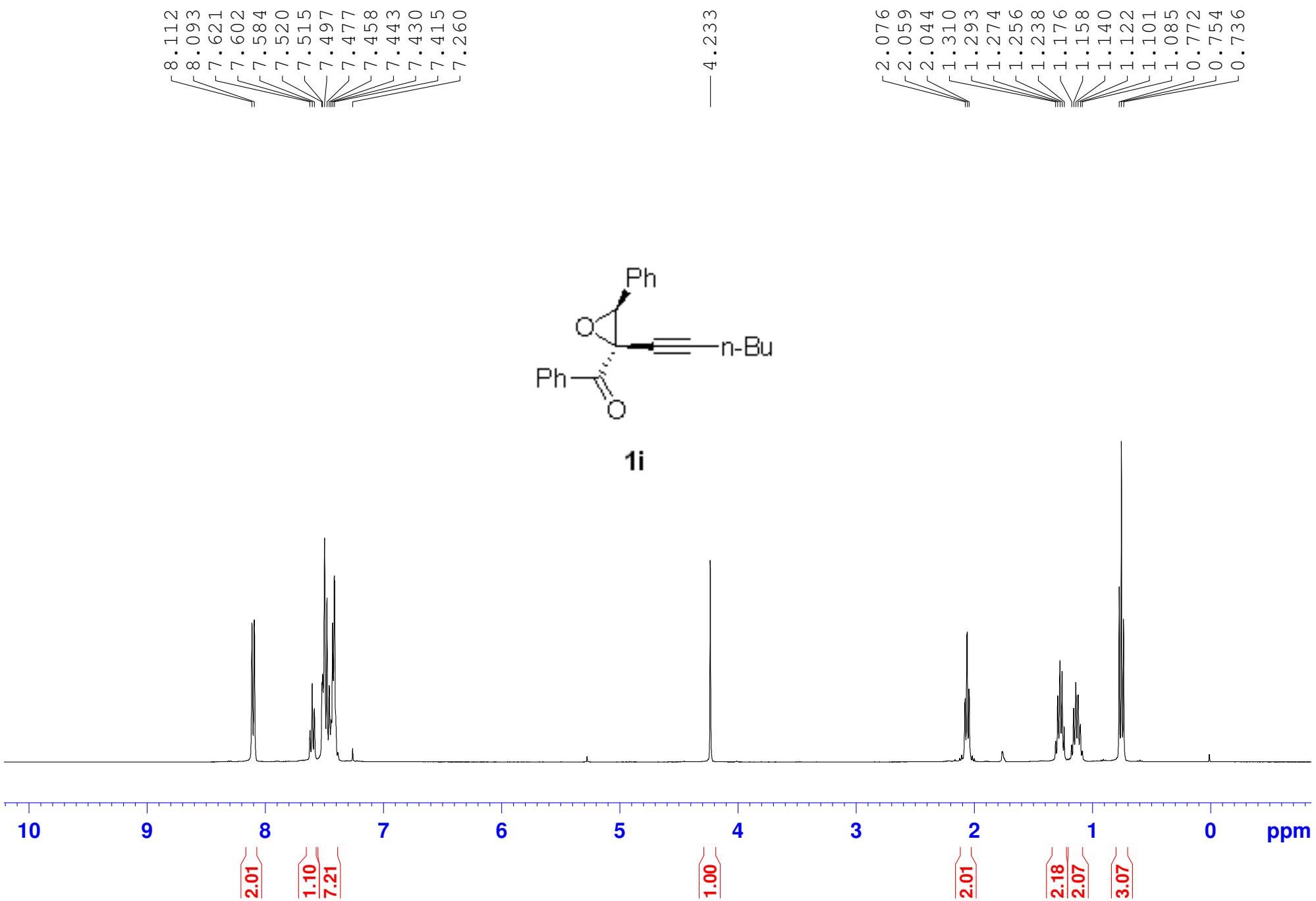






— 190.81 —





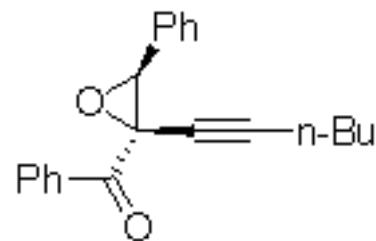
— 191.35

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133.72
133.02
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127.10

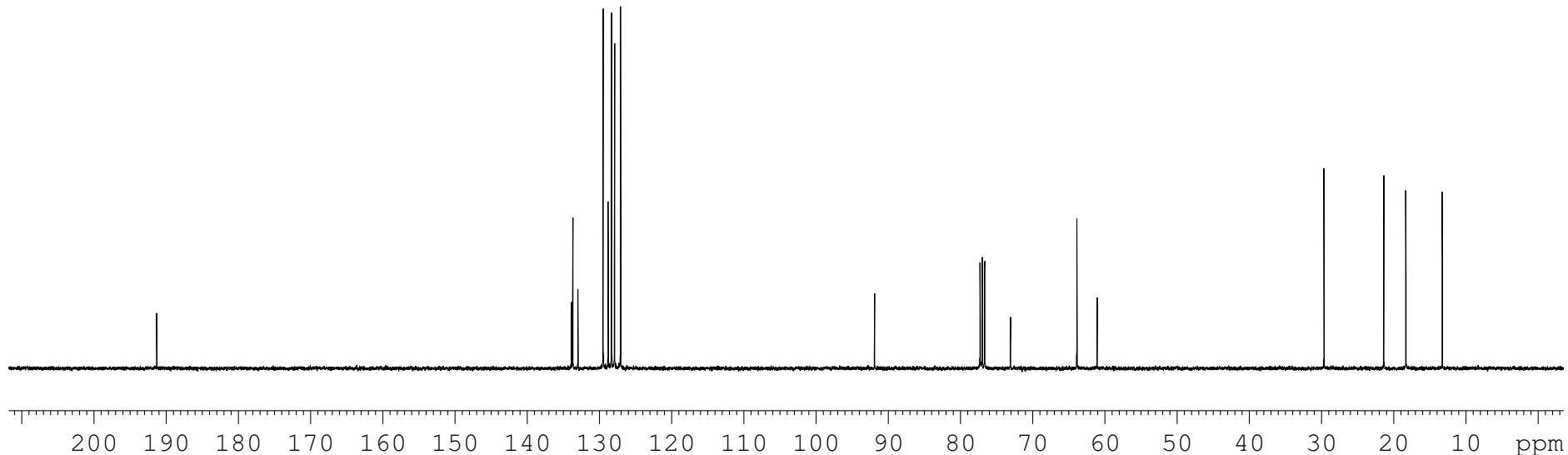
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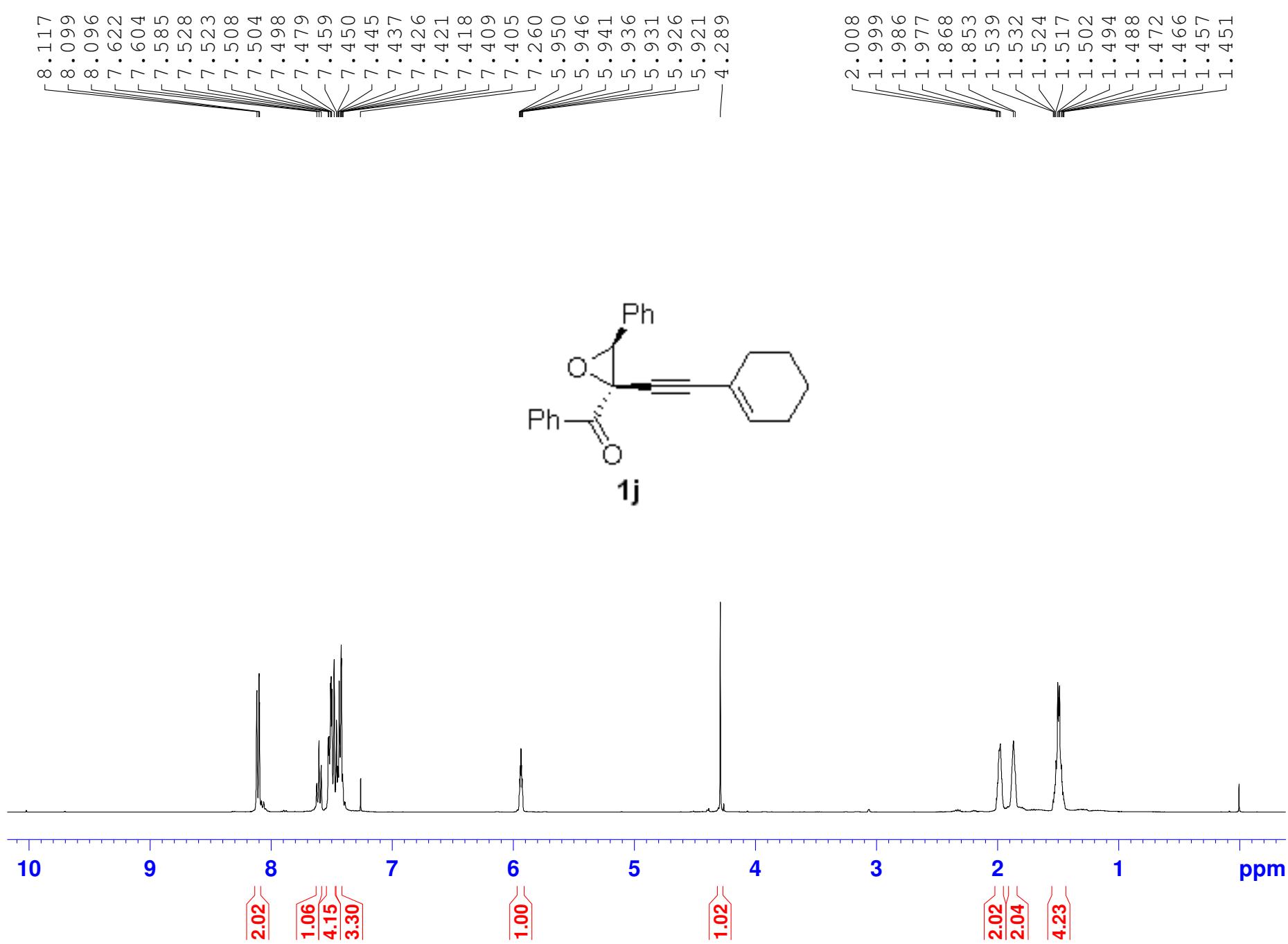
77.32
77.00
76.68
73.11
63.91
61.09

— 29.70
— 21.40
— 18.35
— 13.31

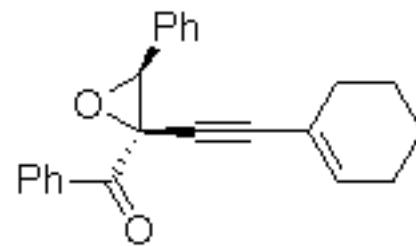
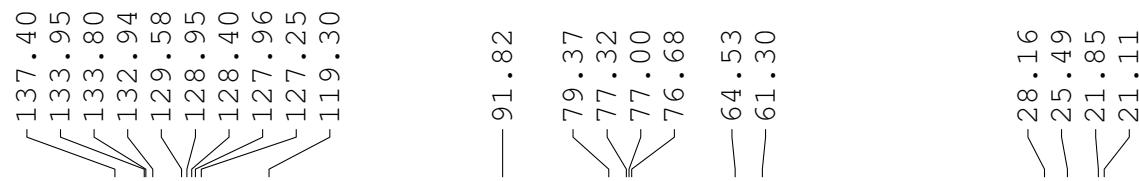


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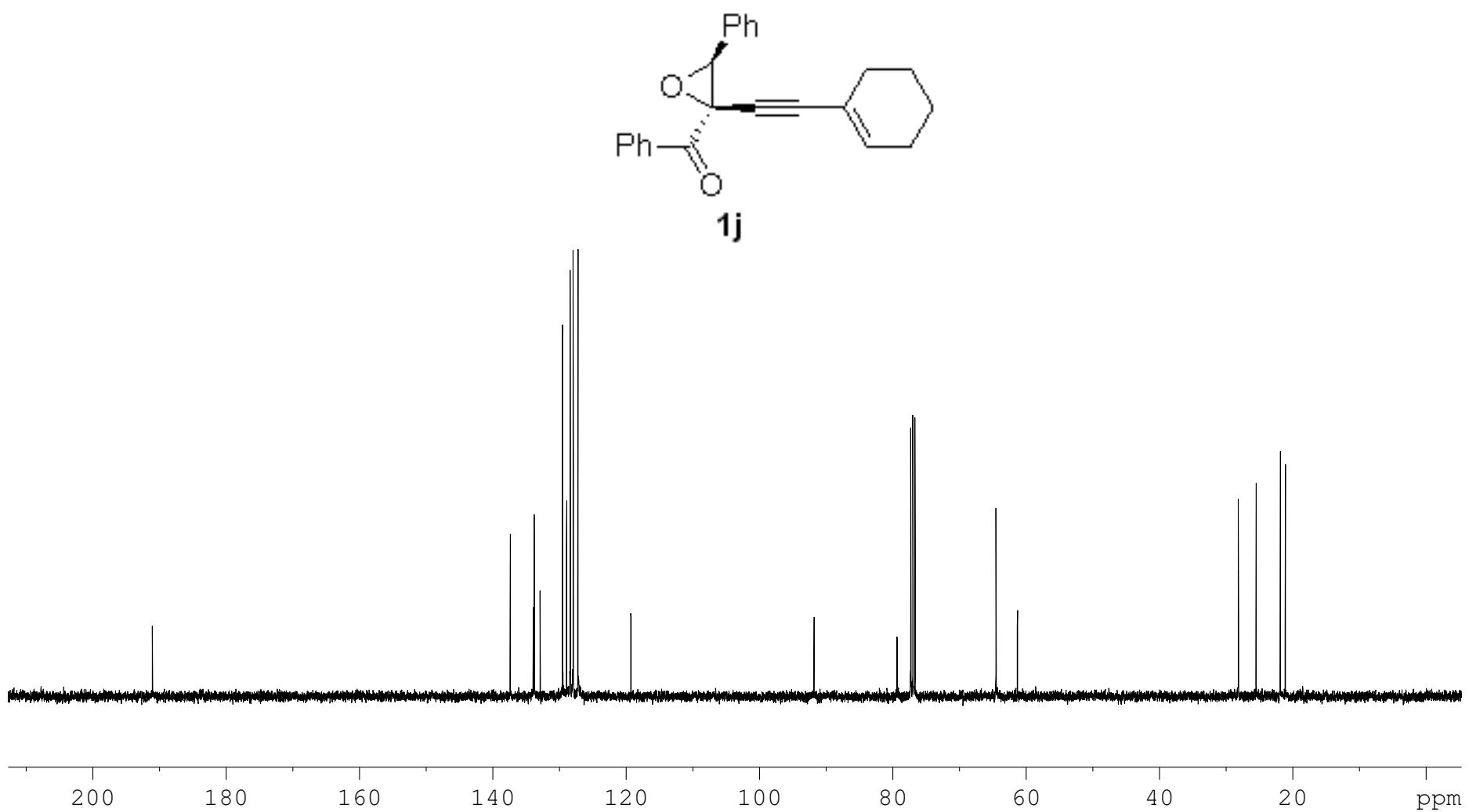


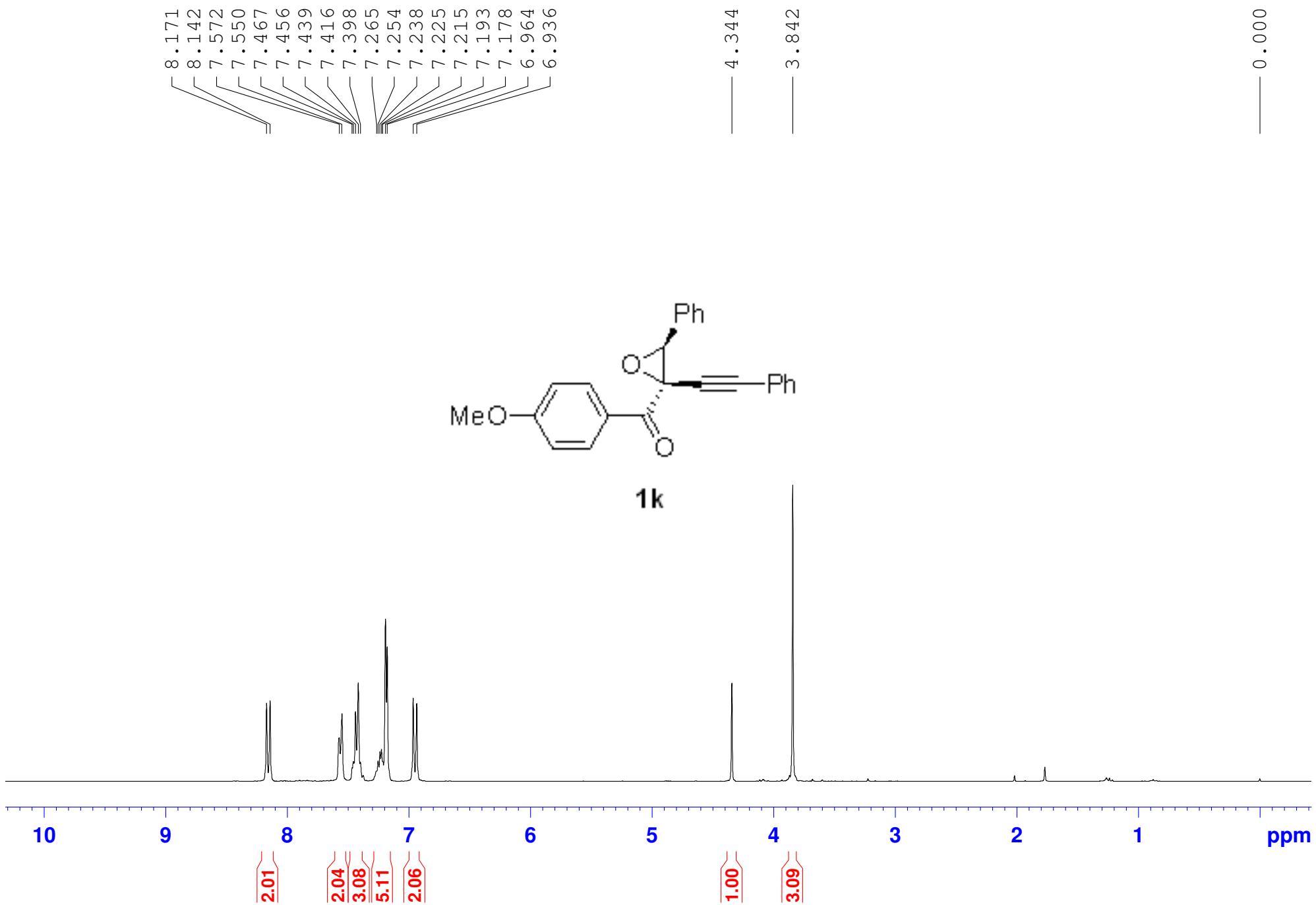


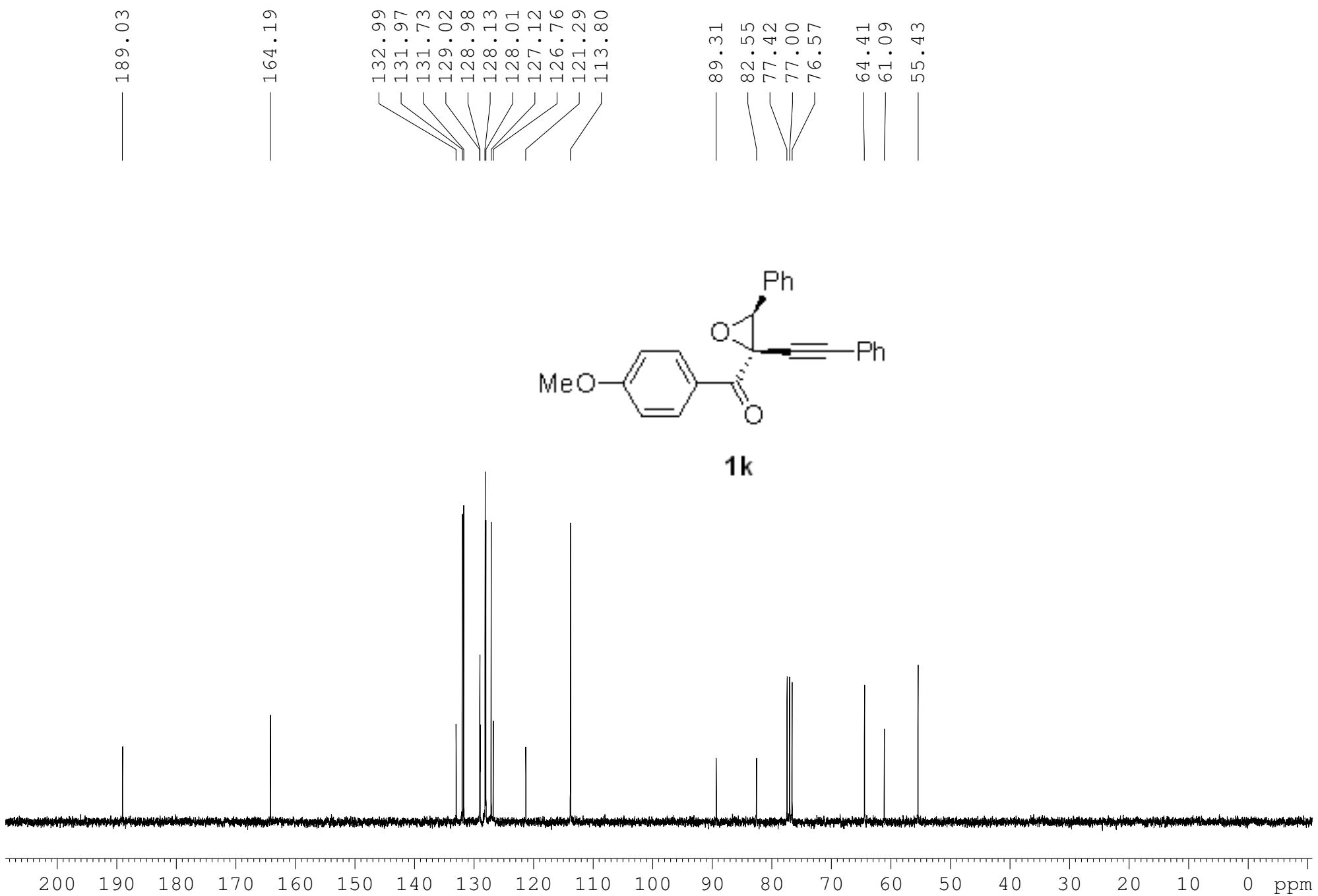
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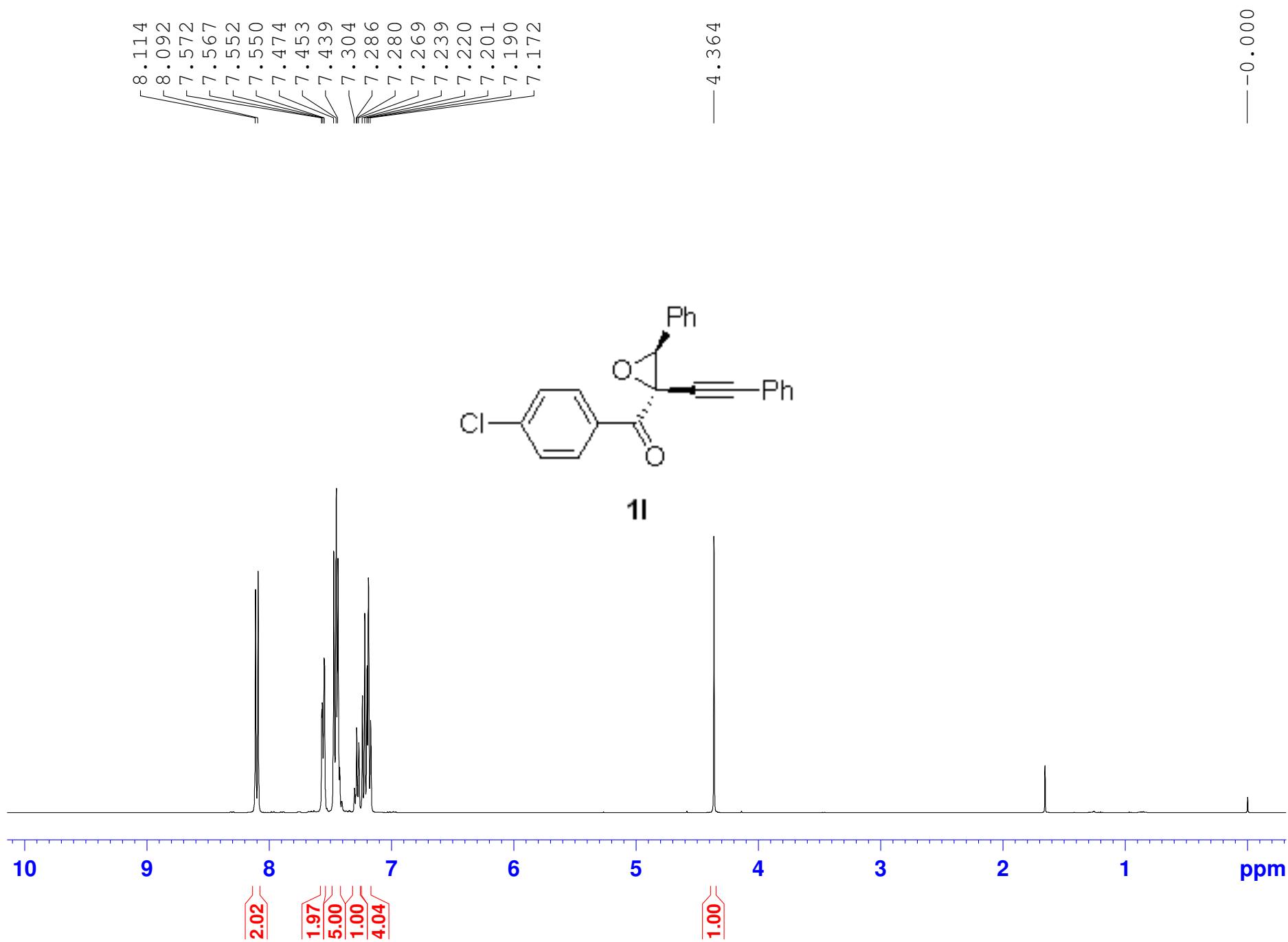


1j

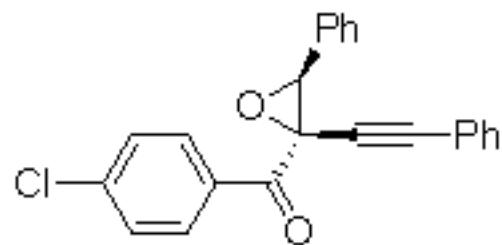
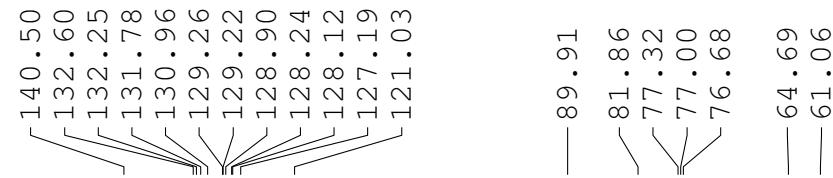




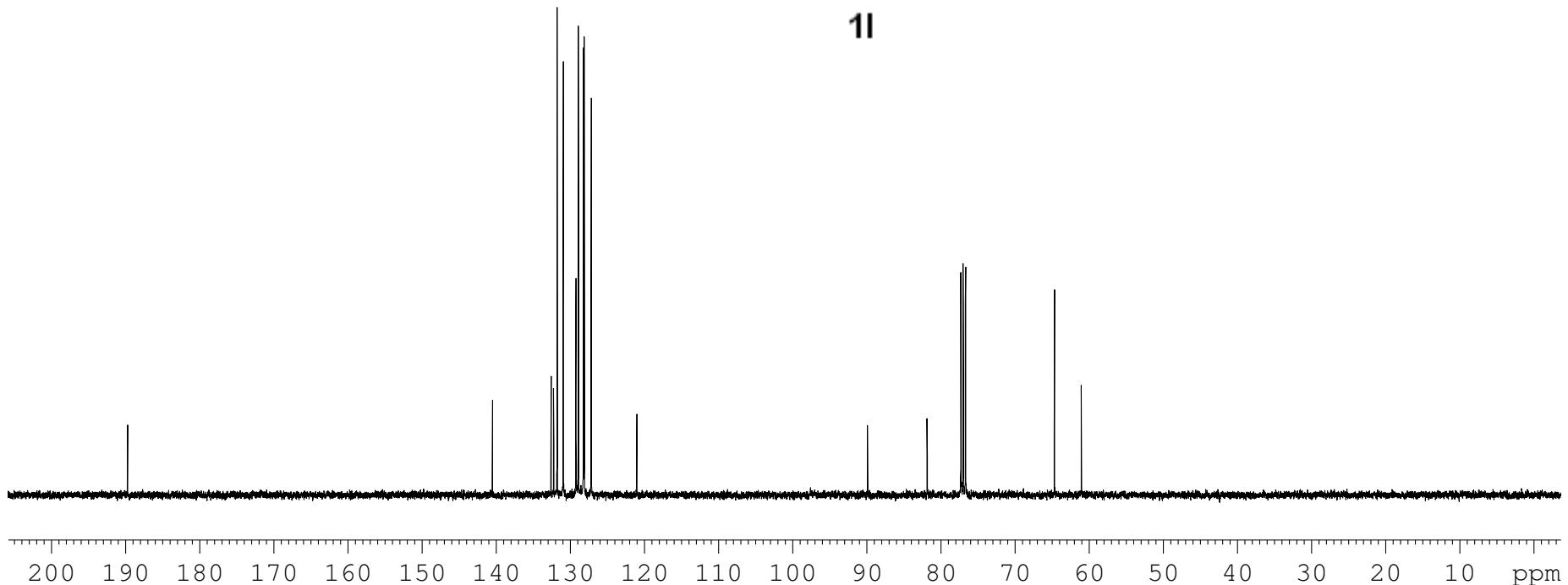


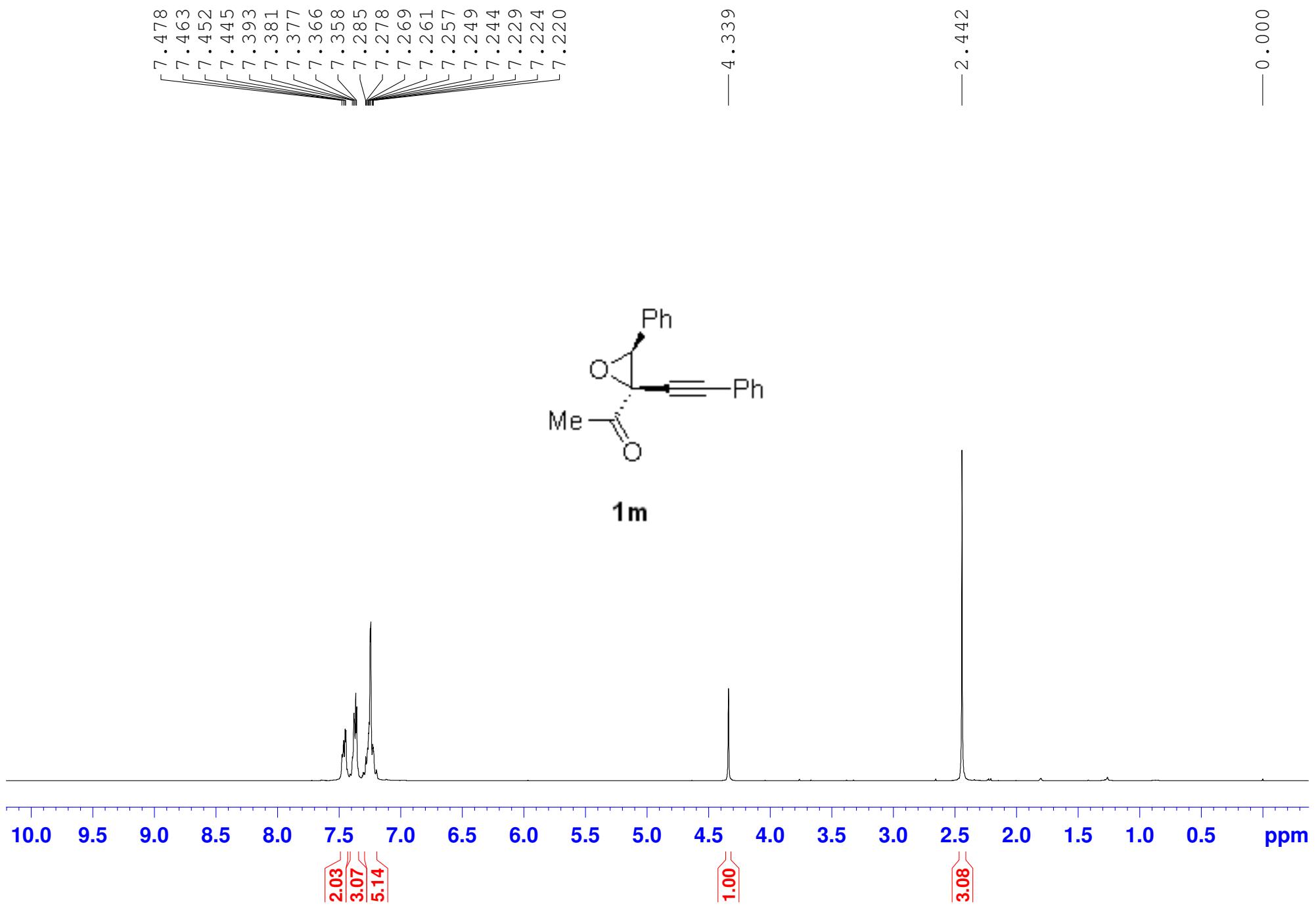


— 189.72



II





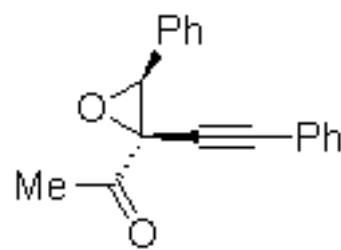
— 200.15

132.59
131.74
129.01
128.97
128.14
127.81
127.13
121.15

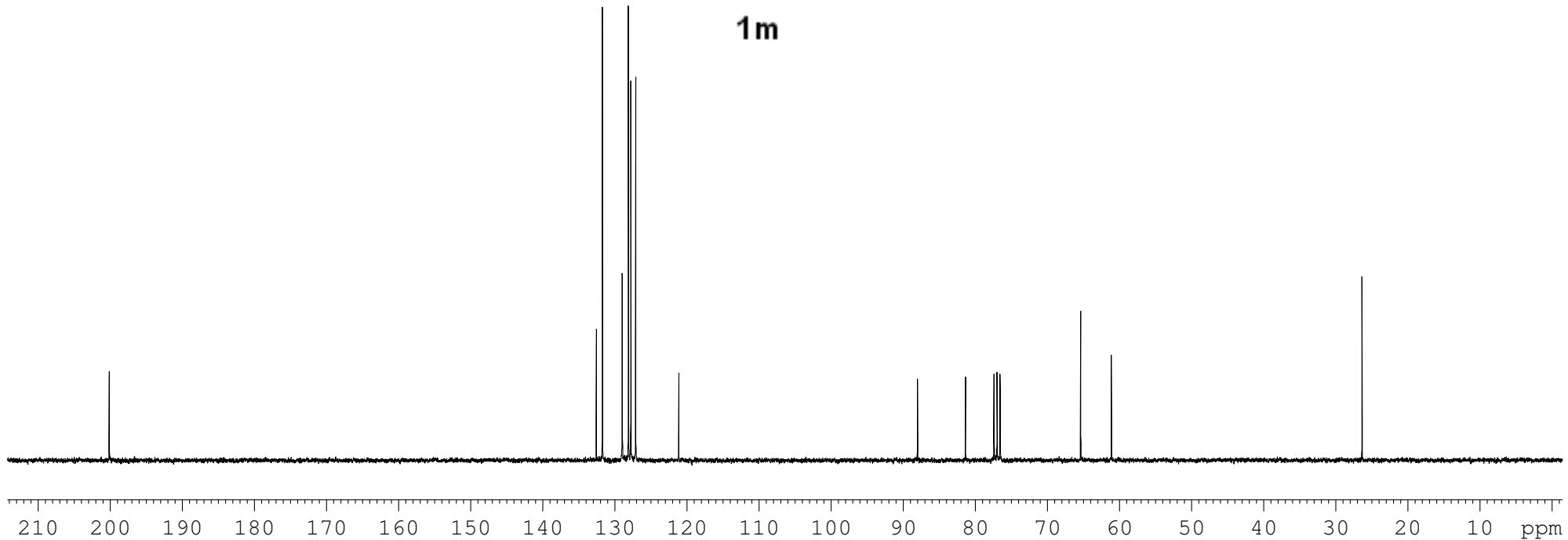
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77.43
77.00
76.58

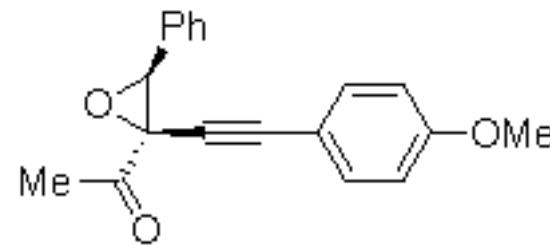
65.41
61.14

— 26.37

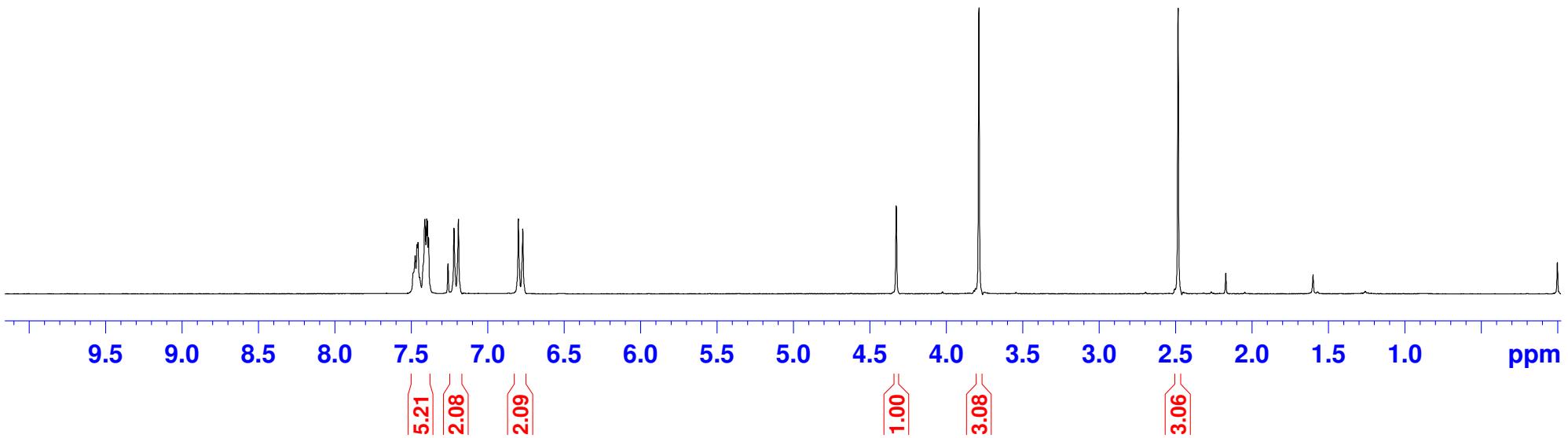


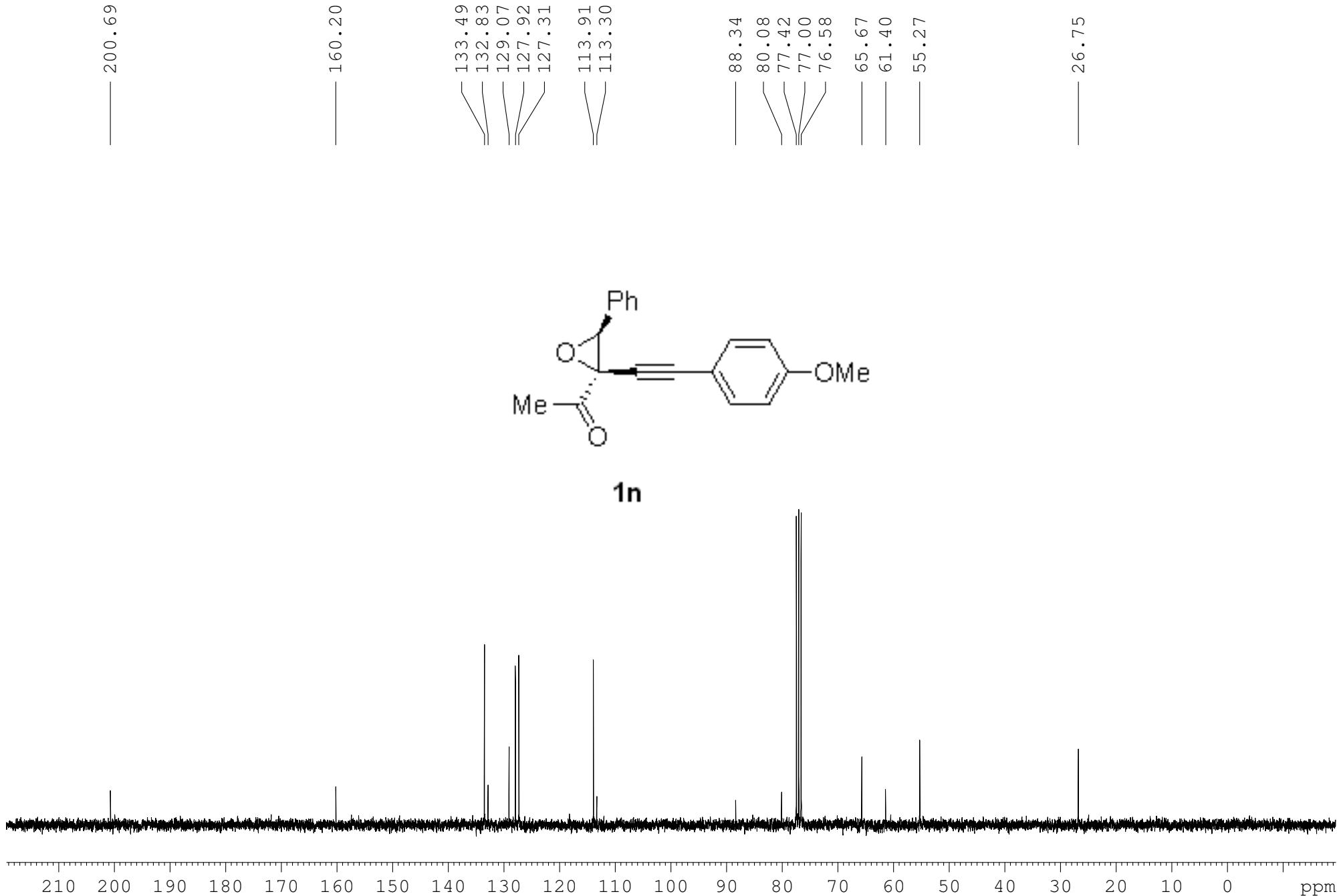
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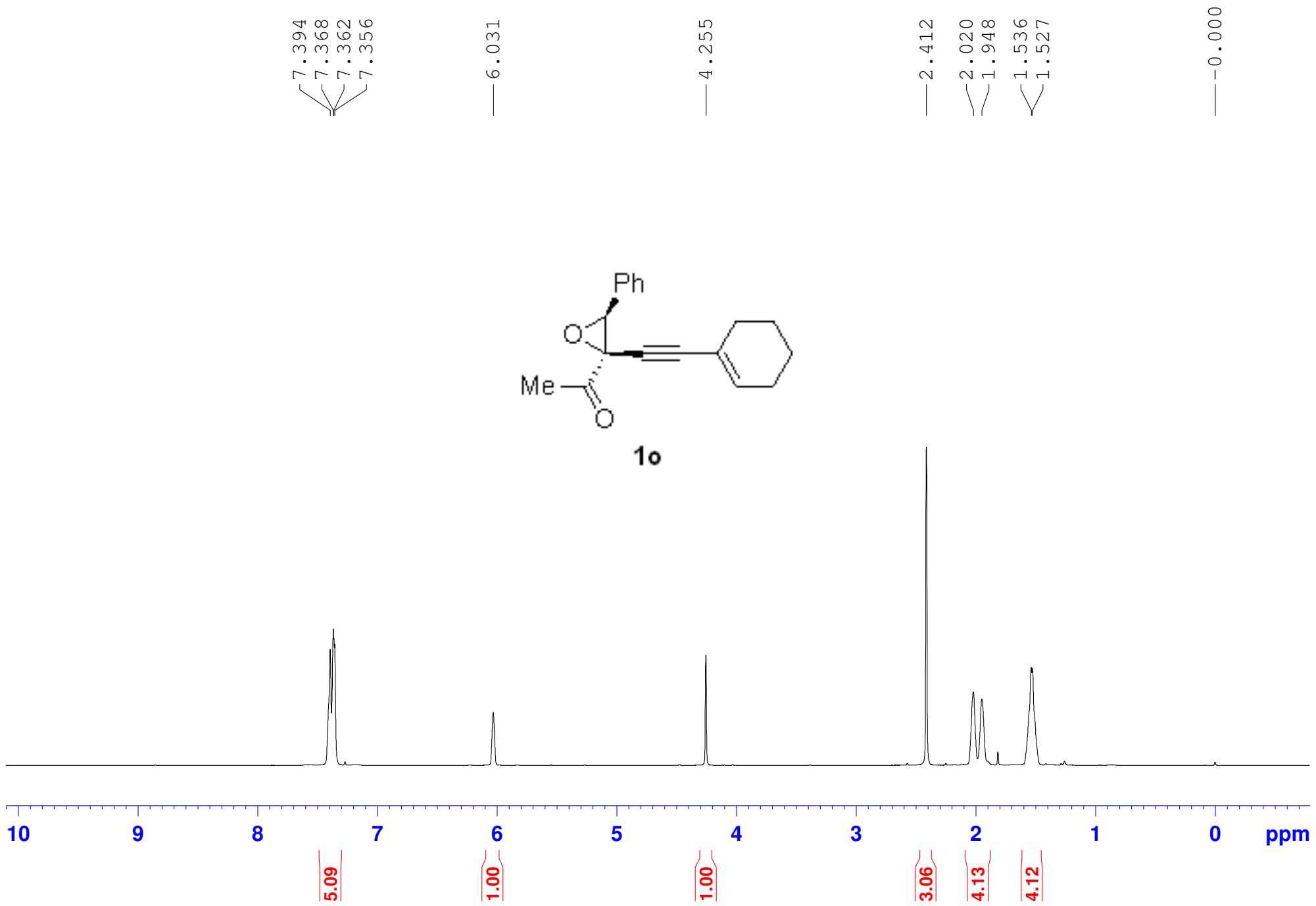


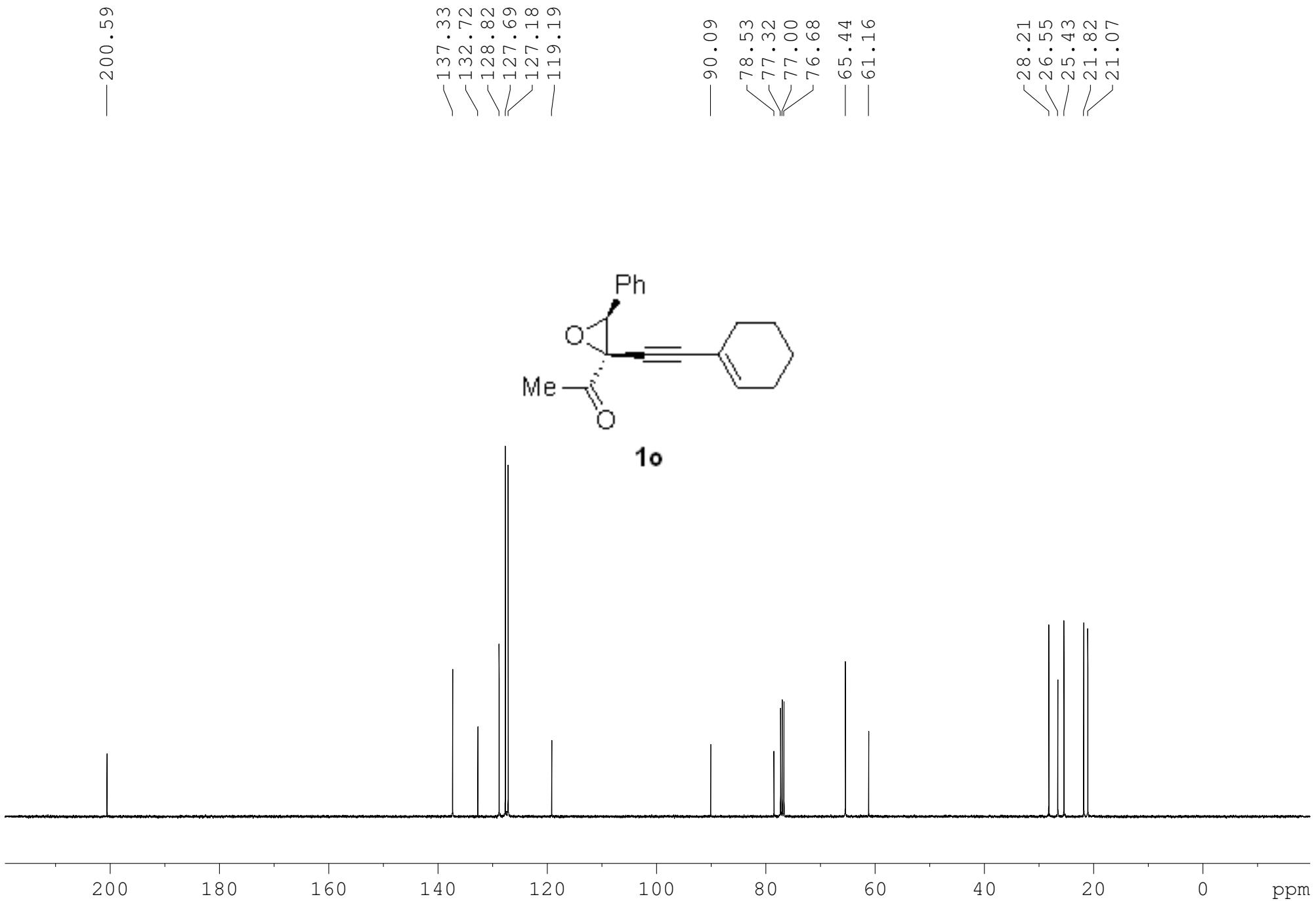


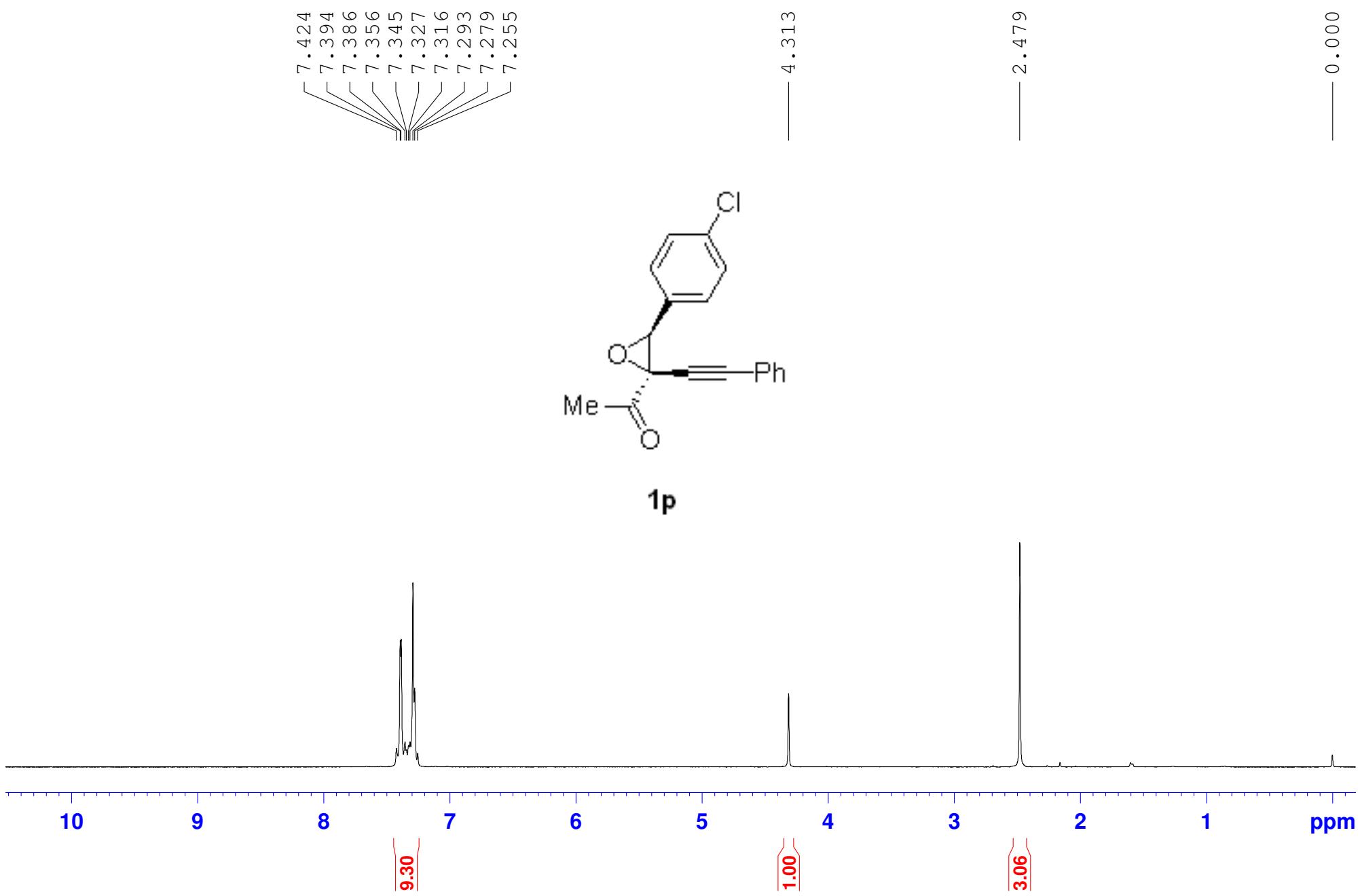
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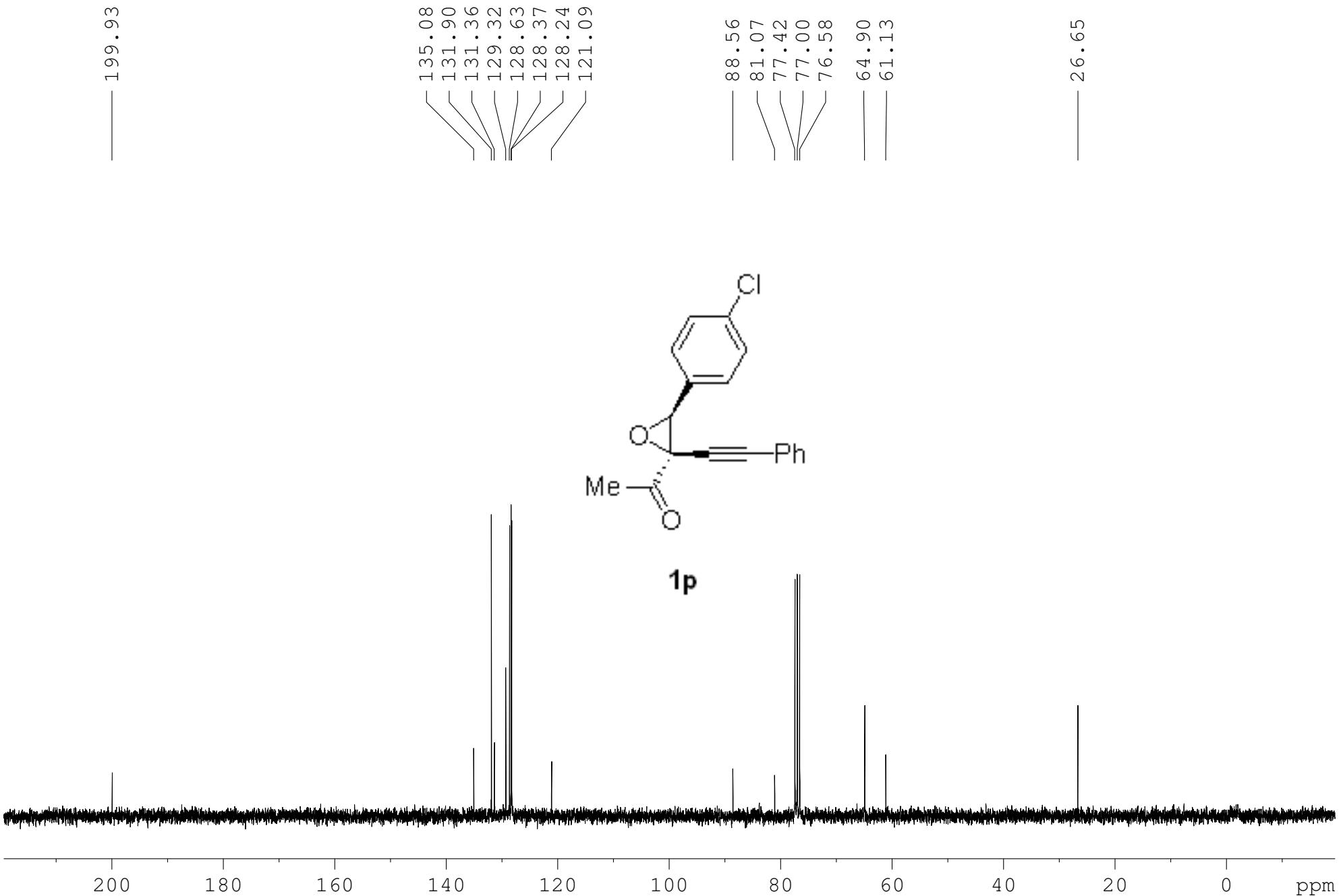


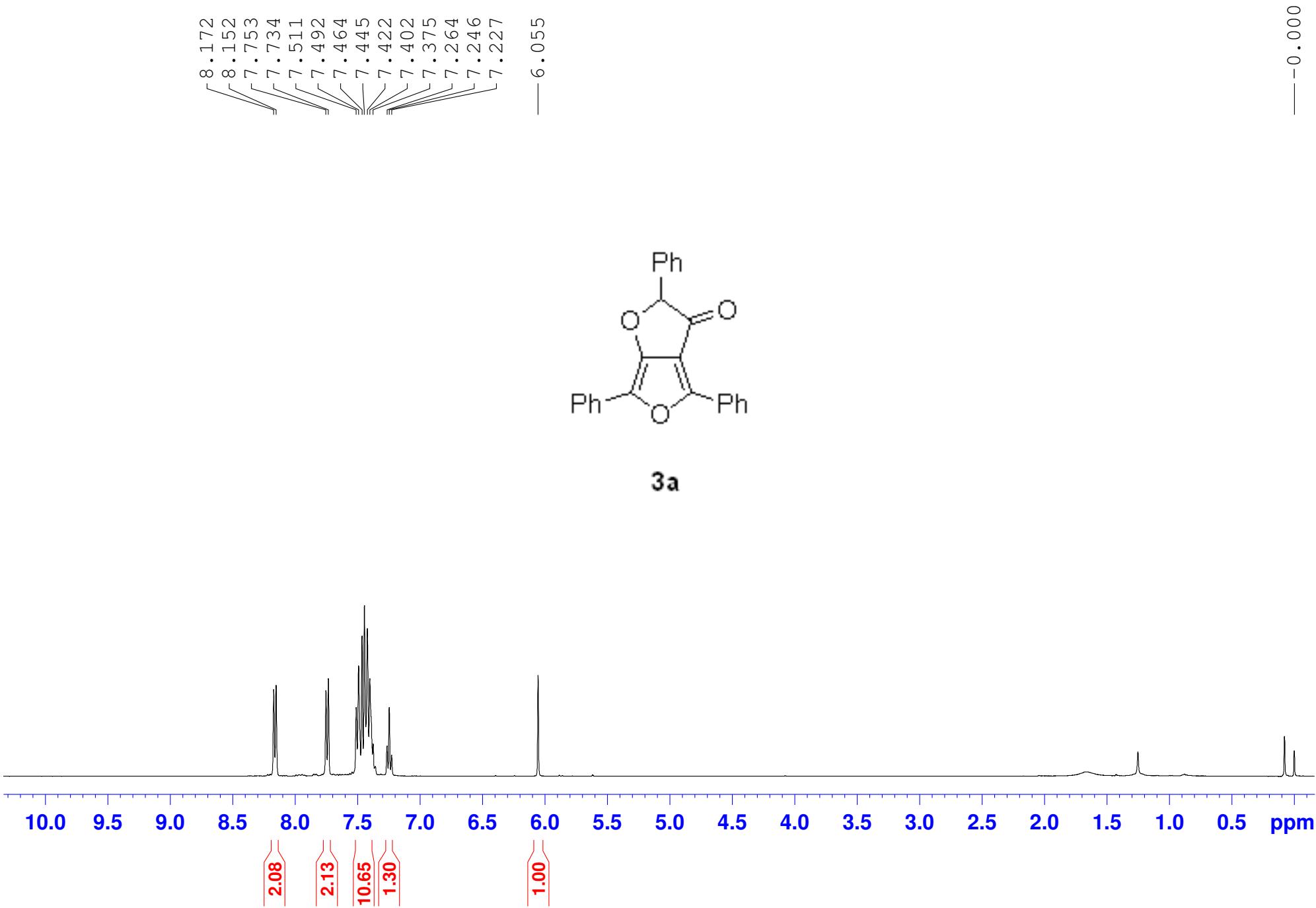




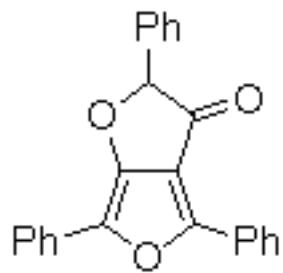
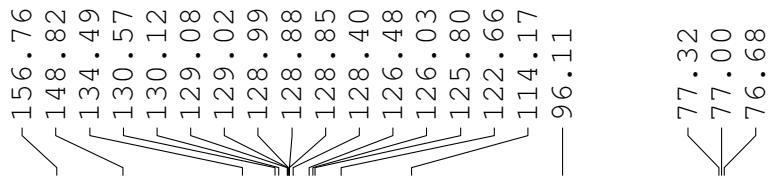




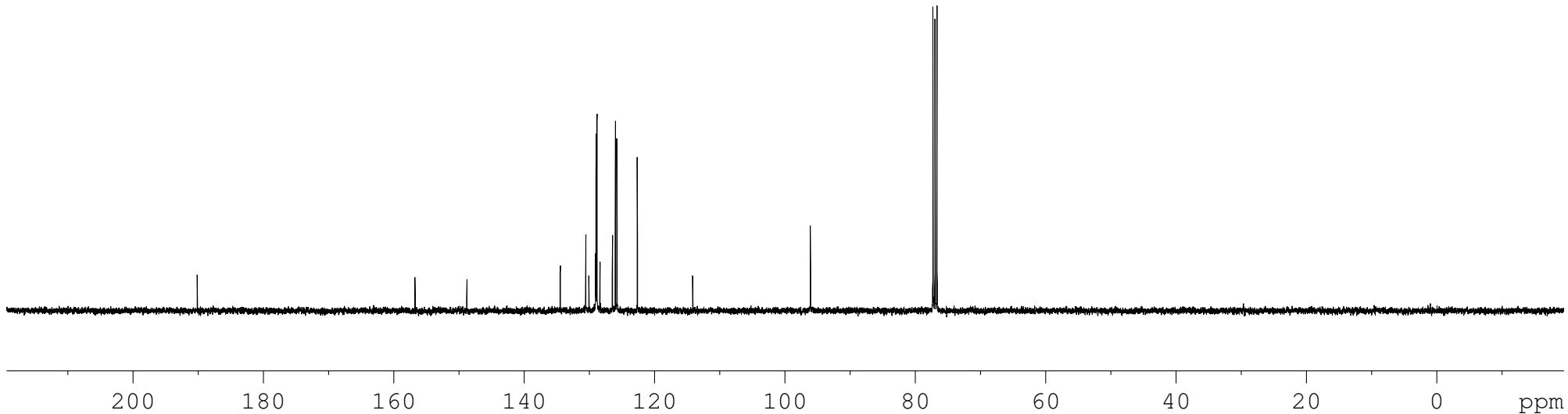


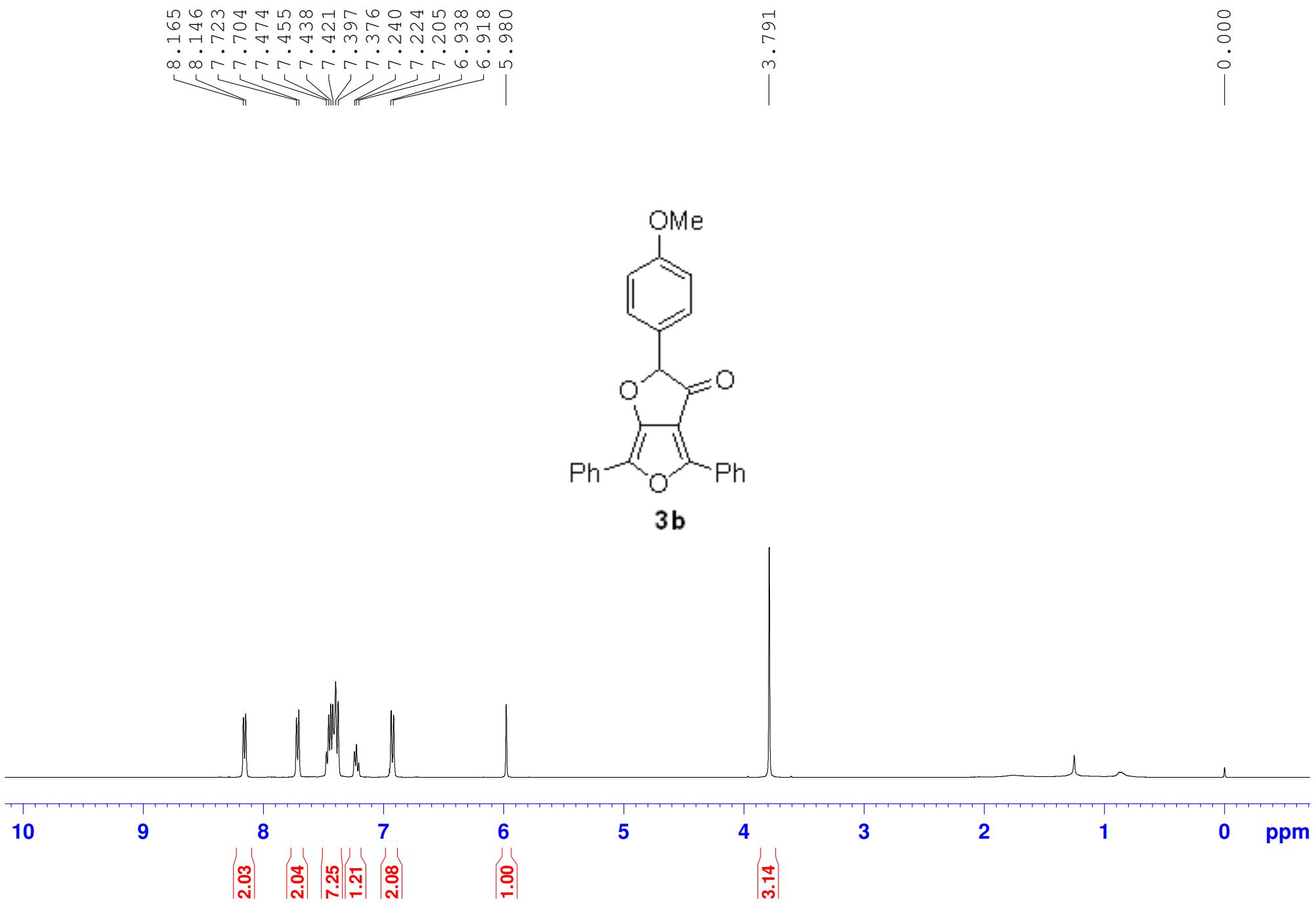


— 190.18 —



3a

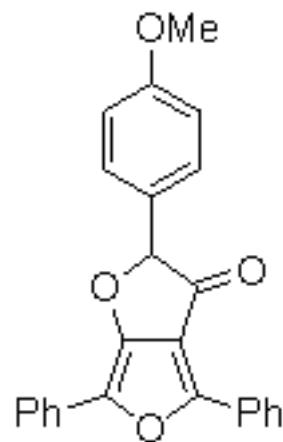




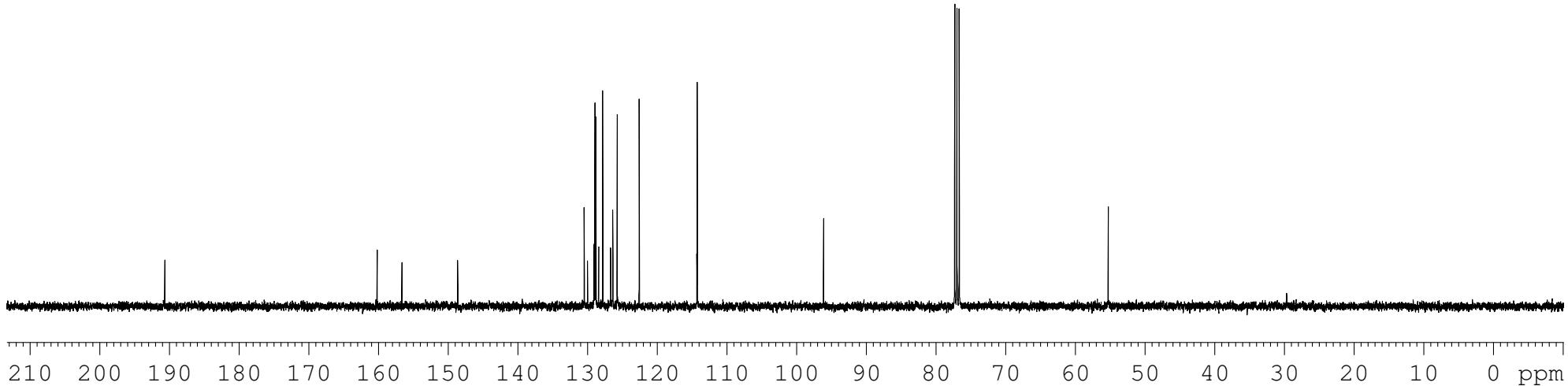
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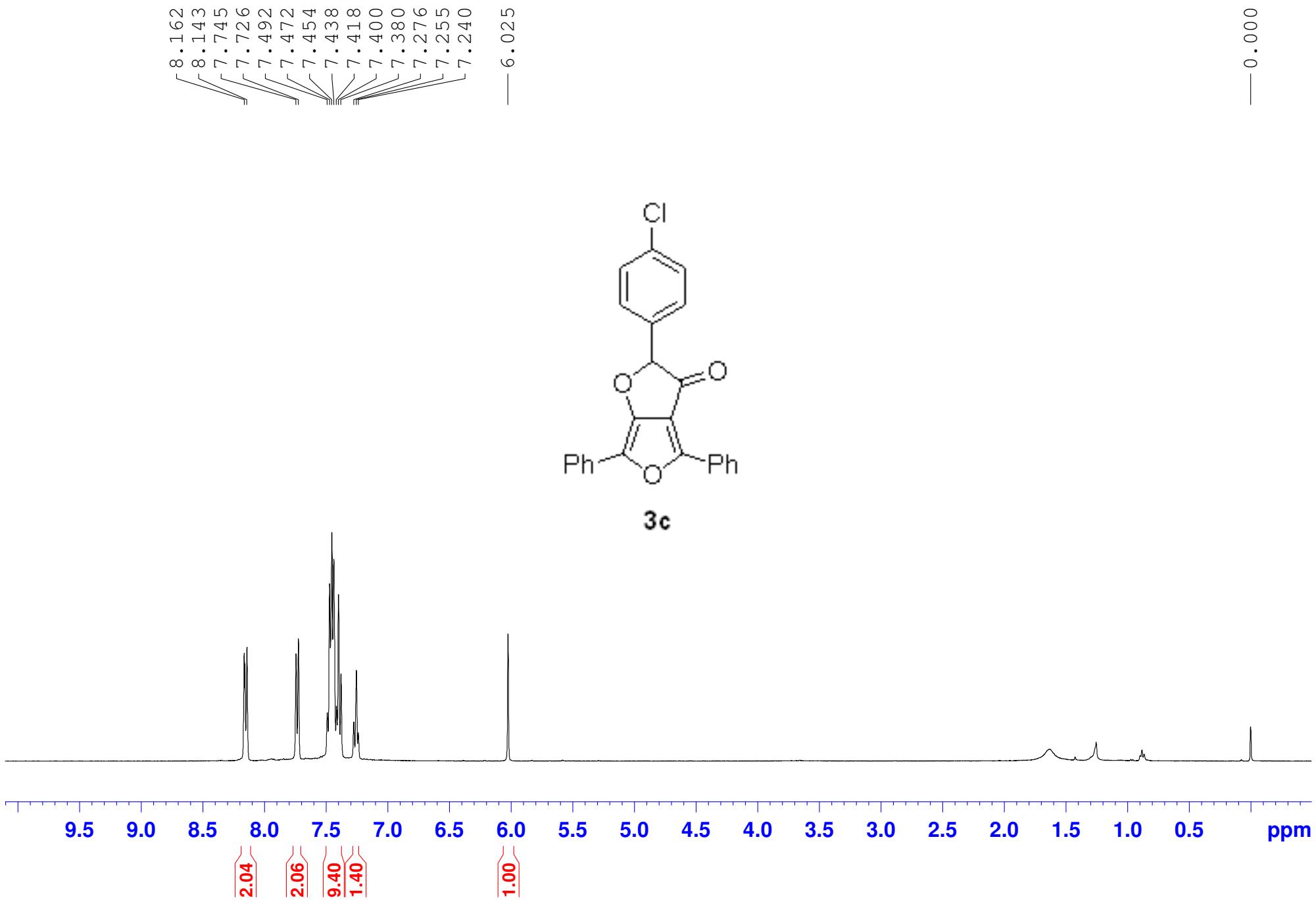
— 160.21
— 156.66
— 148.65
— 130.49
— 130.03
— 129.08
— 128.96
— 128.82
— 128.41
— 127.84
— 126.70
— 126.38
— 125.76
— 122.60
— 114.32
— 114.27
— 96.14

— 55.29

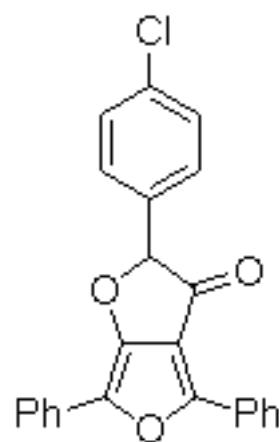
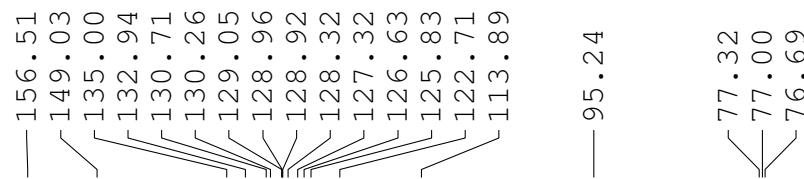


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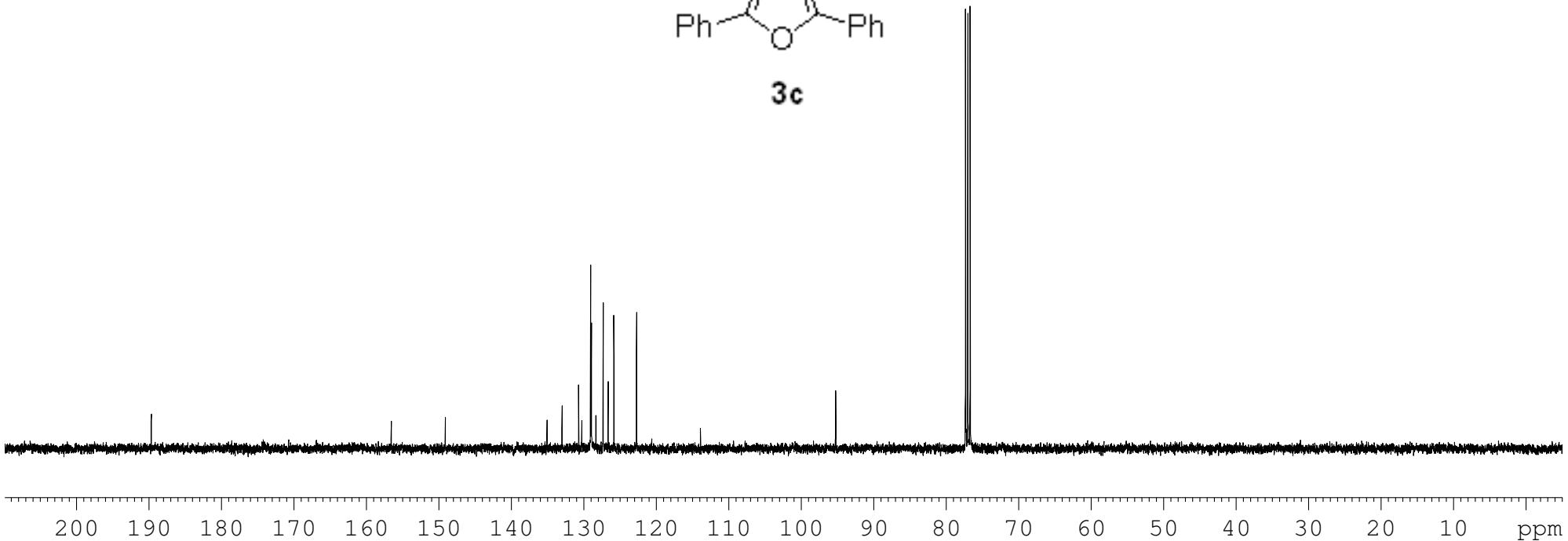


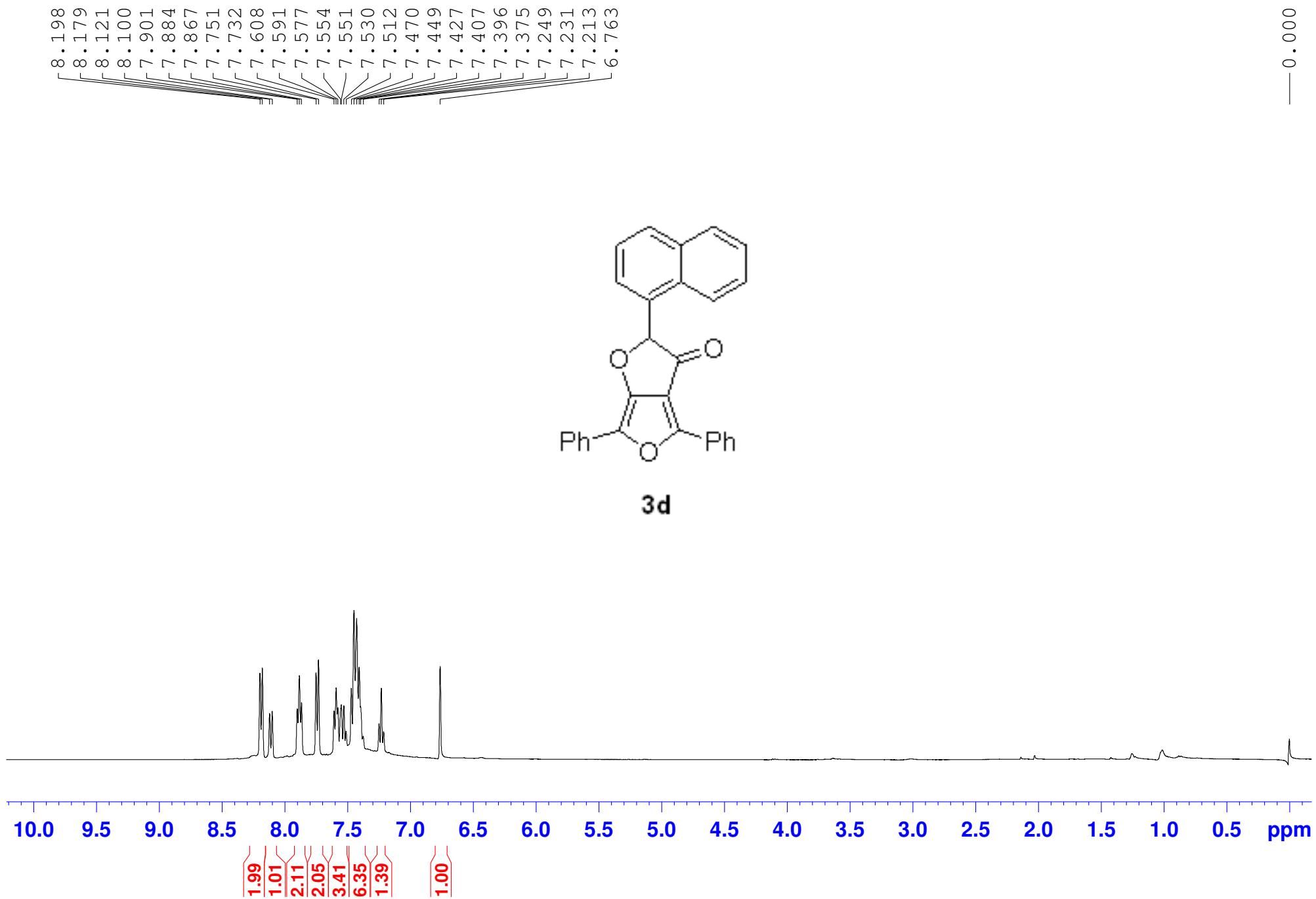


— 189.62

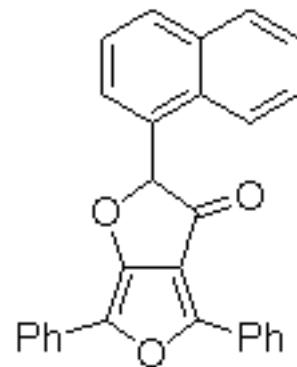
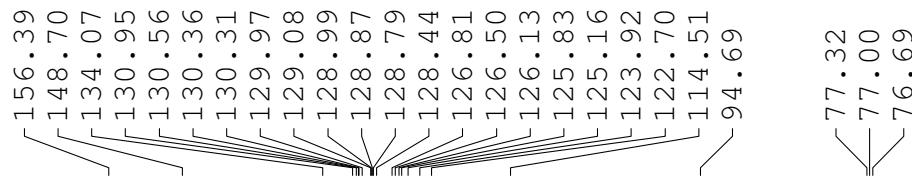


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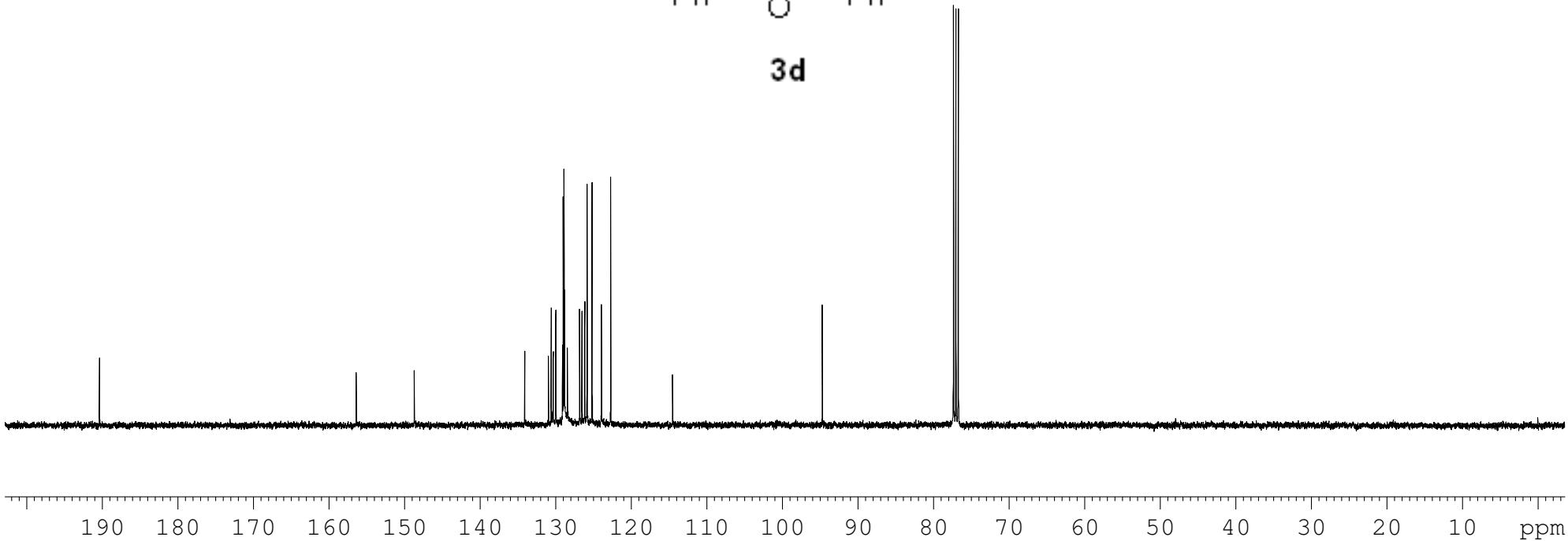


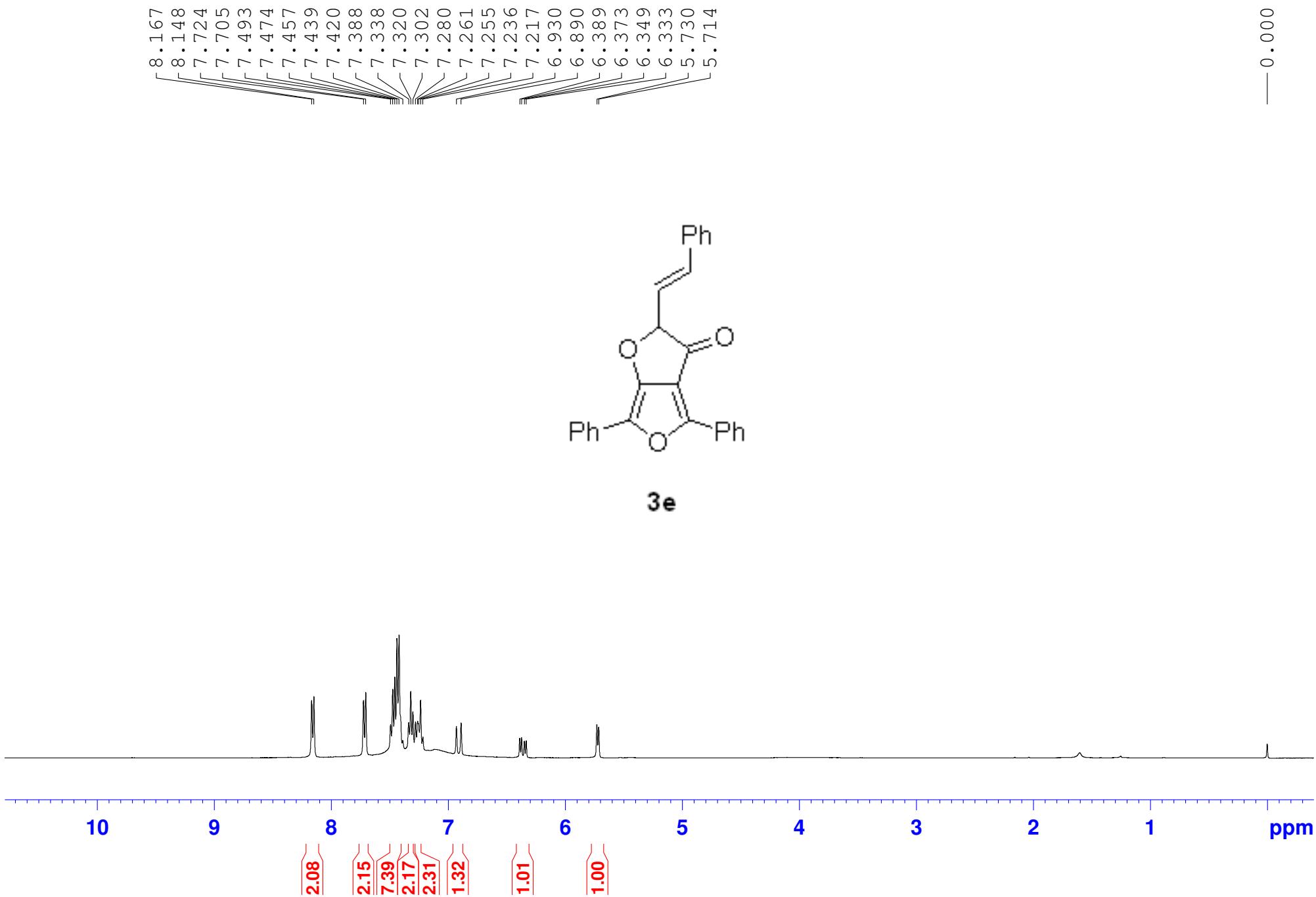


—190.31

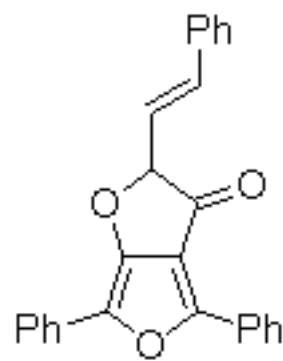
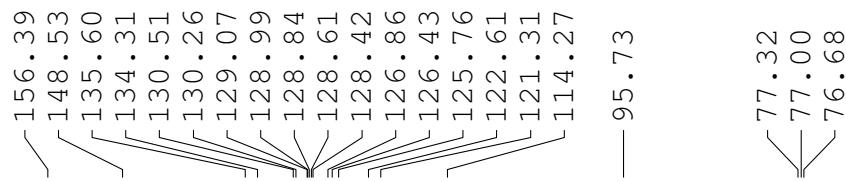


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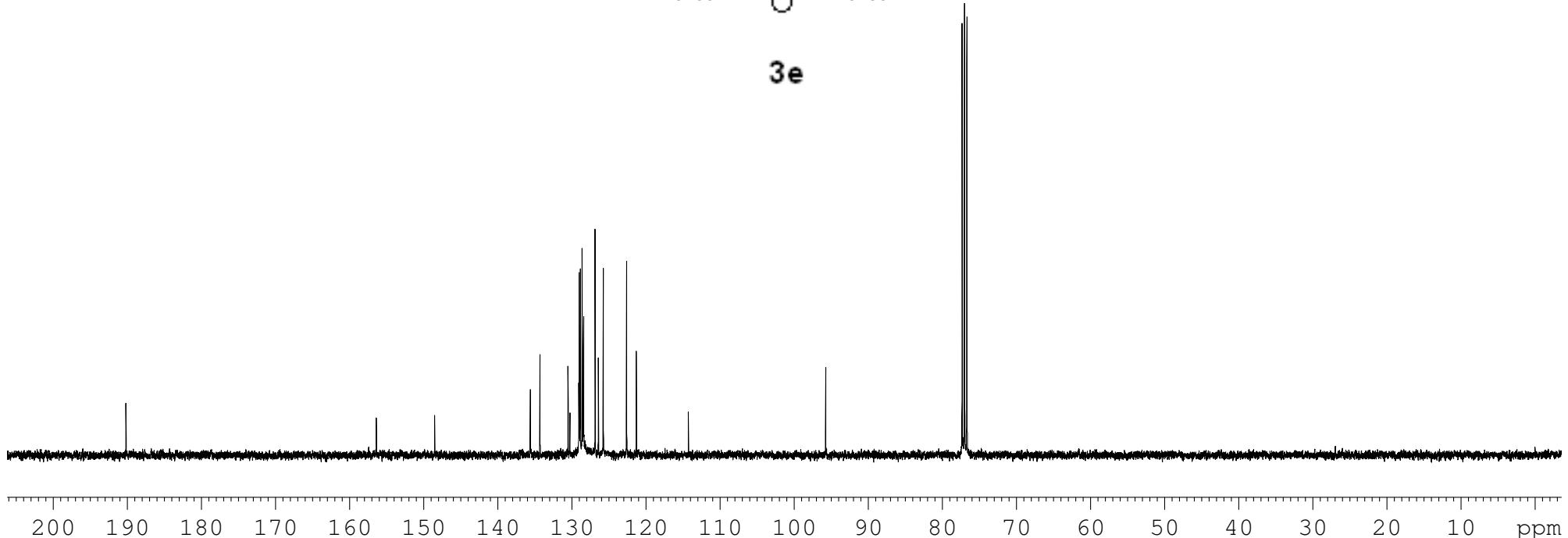


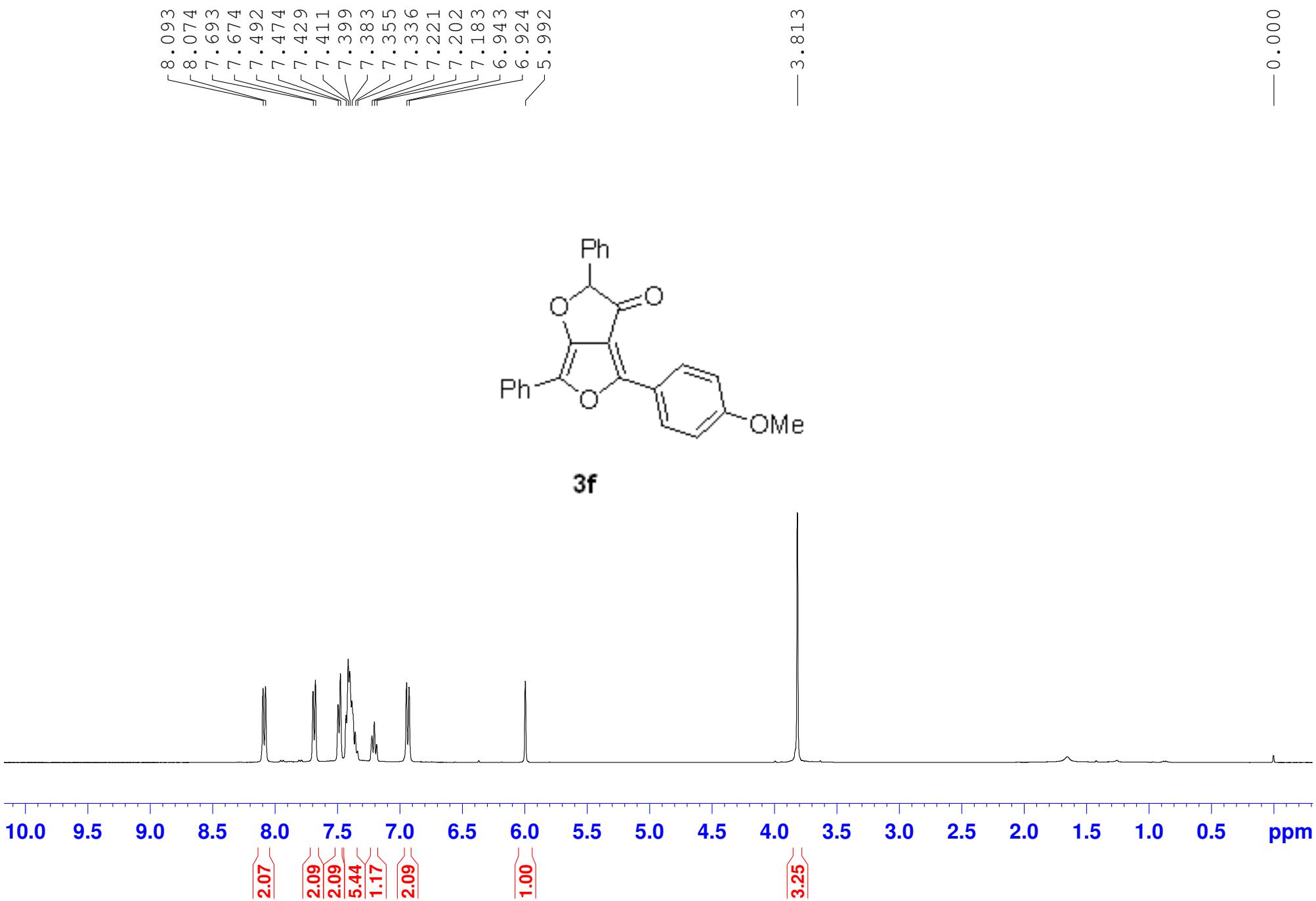


— 190.19



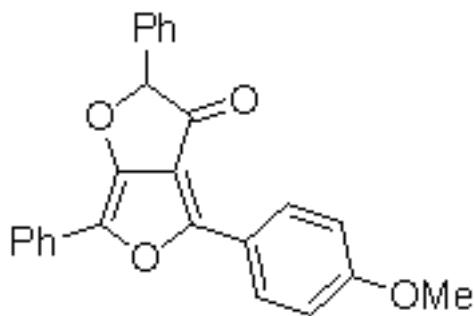
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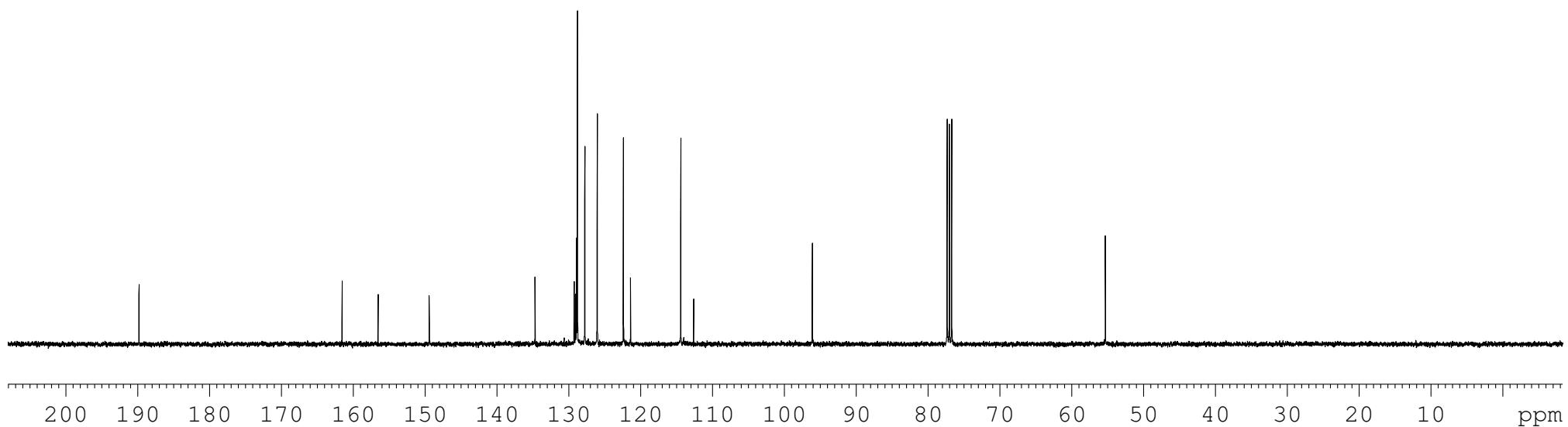


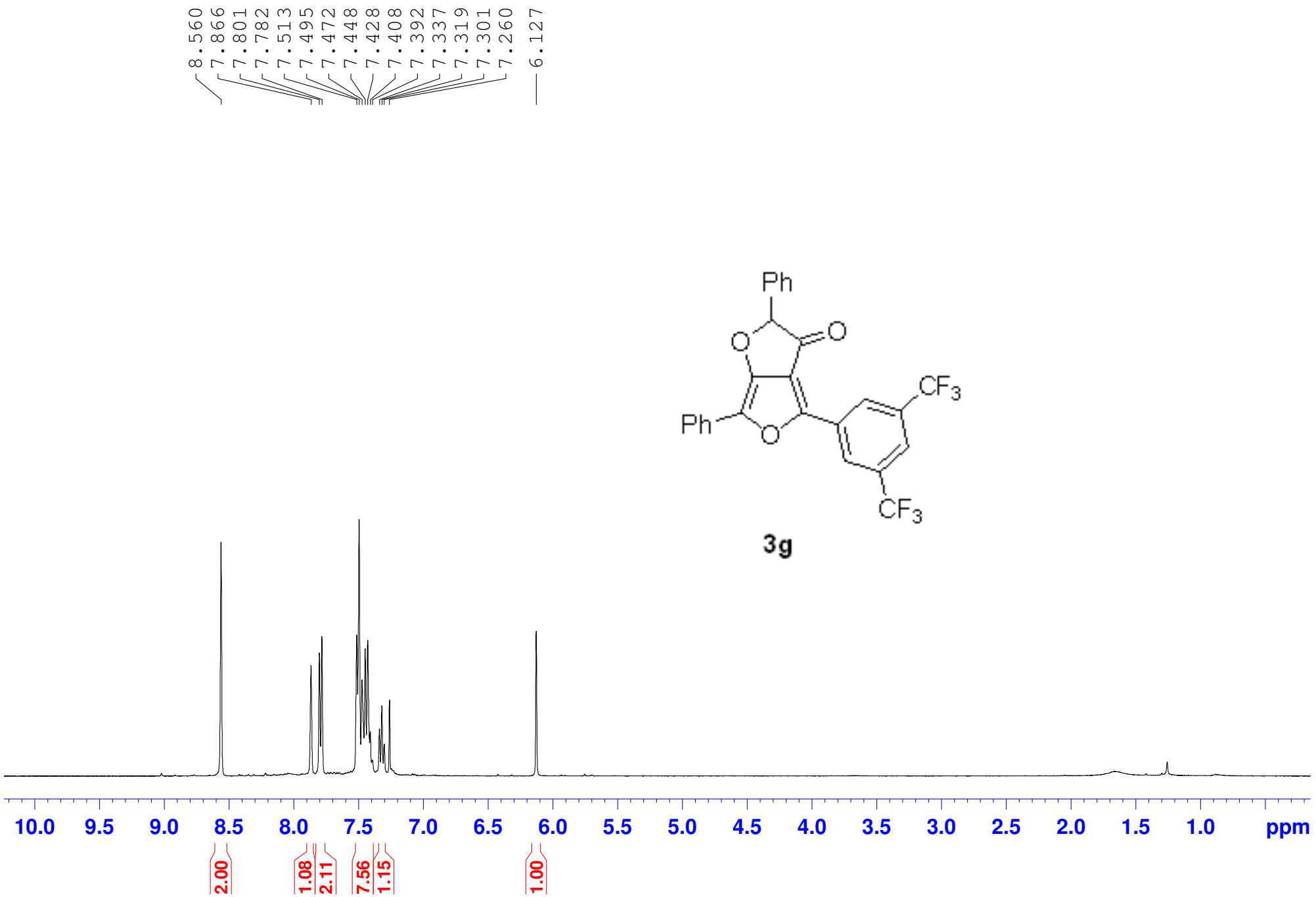
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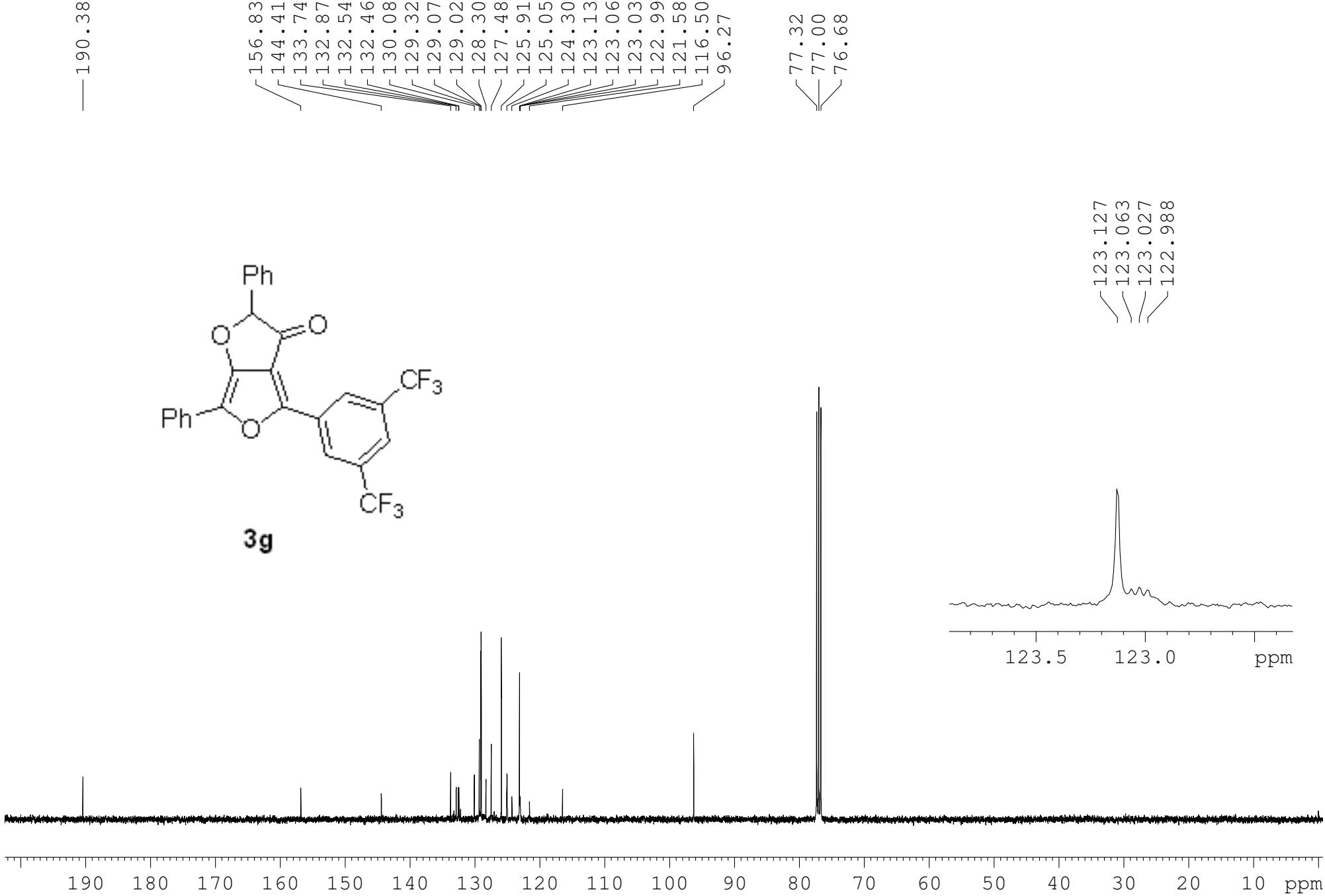
— 161.54
— 156.53
— 149.41
— 134.69
— 129.24
— 129.07
— 128.90
— 128.78
— 127.75
— 126.05
— 126.01
— 122.38
— 121.39
— 114.40
— 112.59
— 96.09
— 77.32
— 77.00
— 76.69
— 55.35



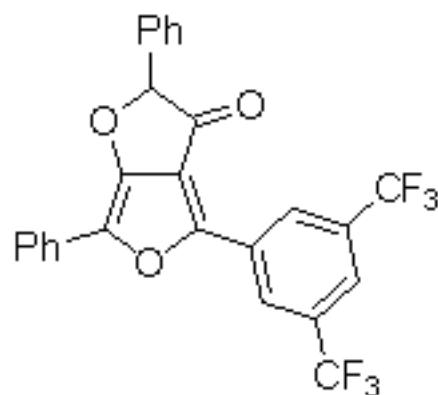
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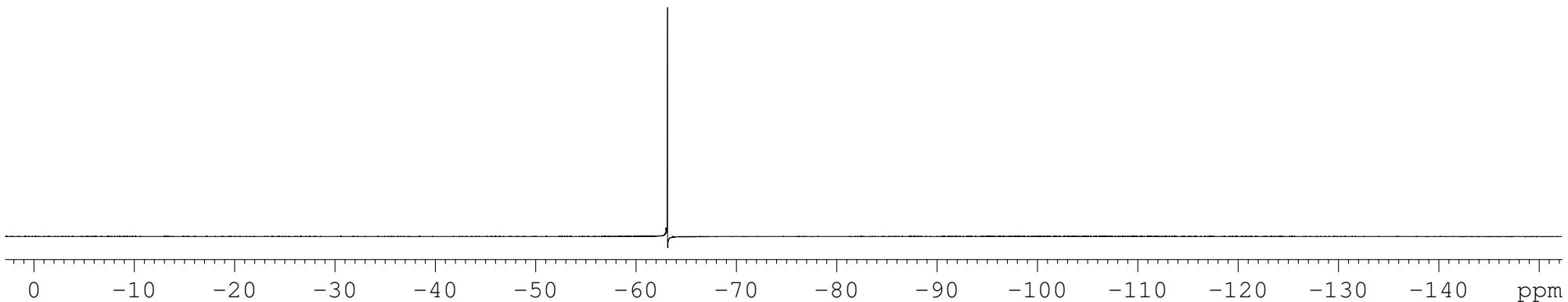


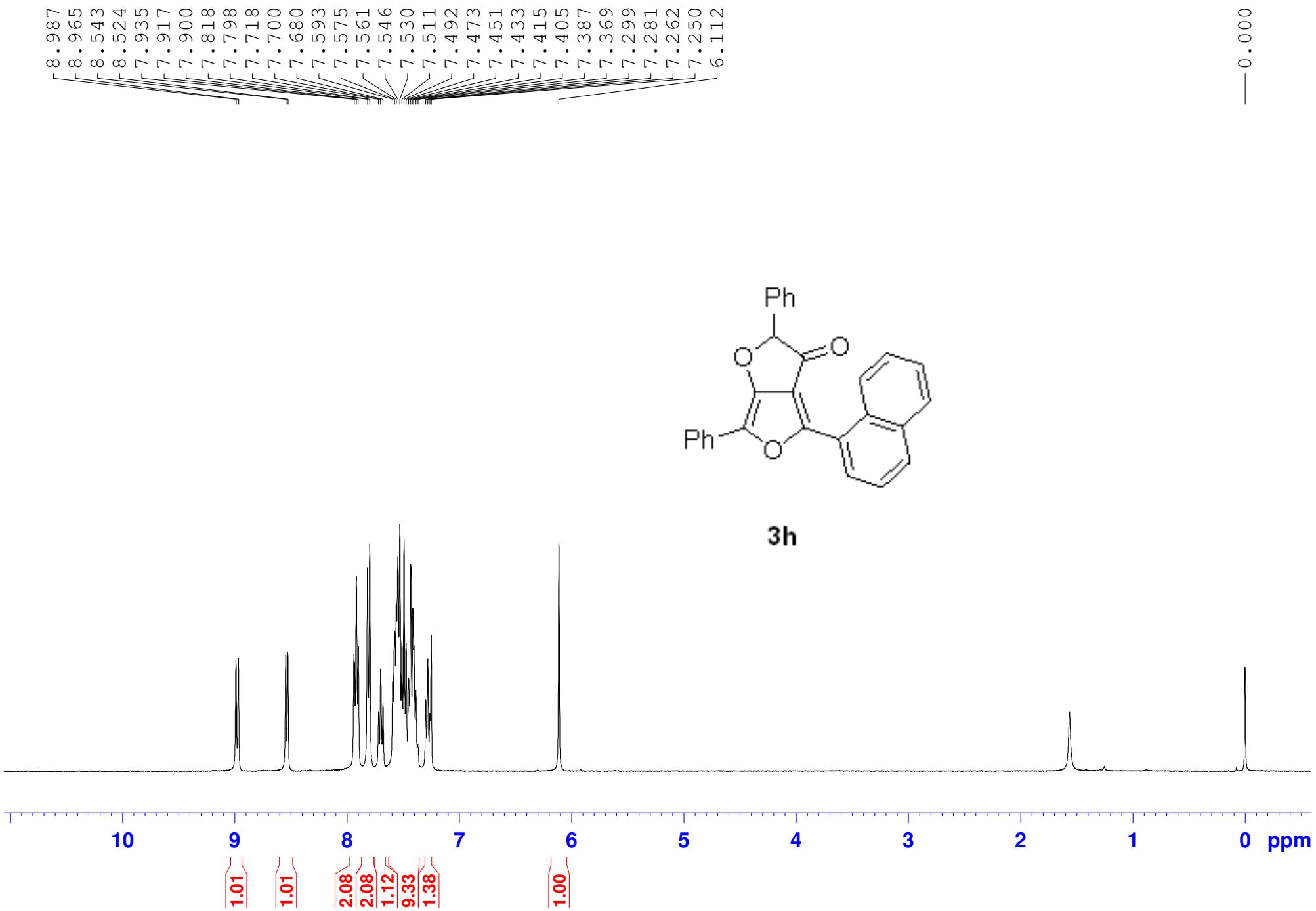


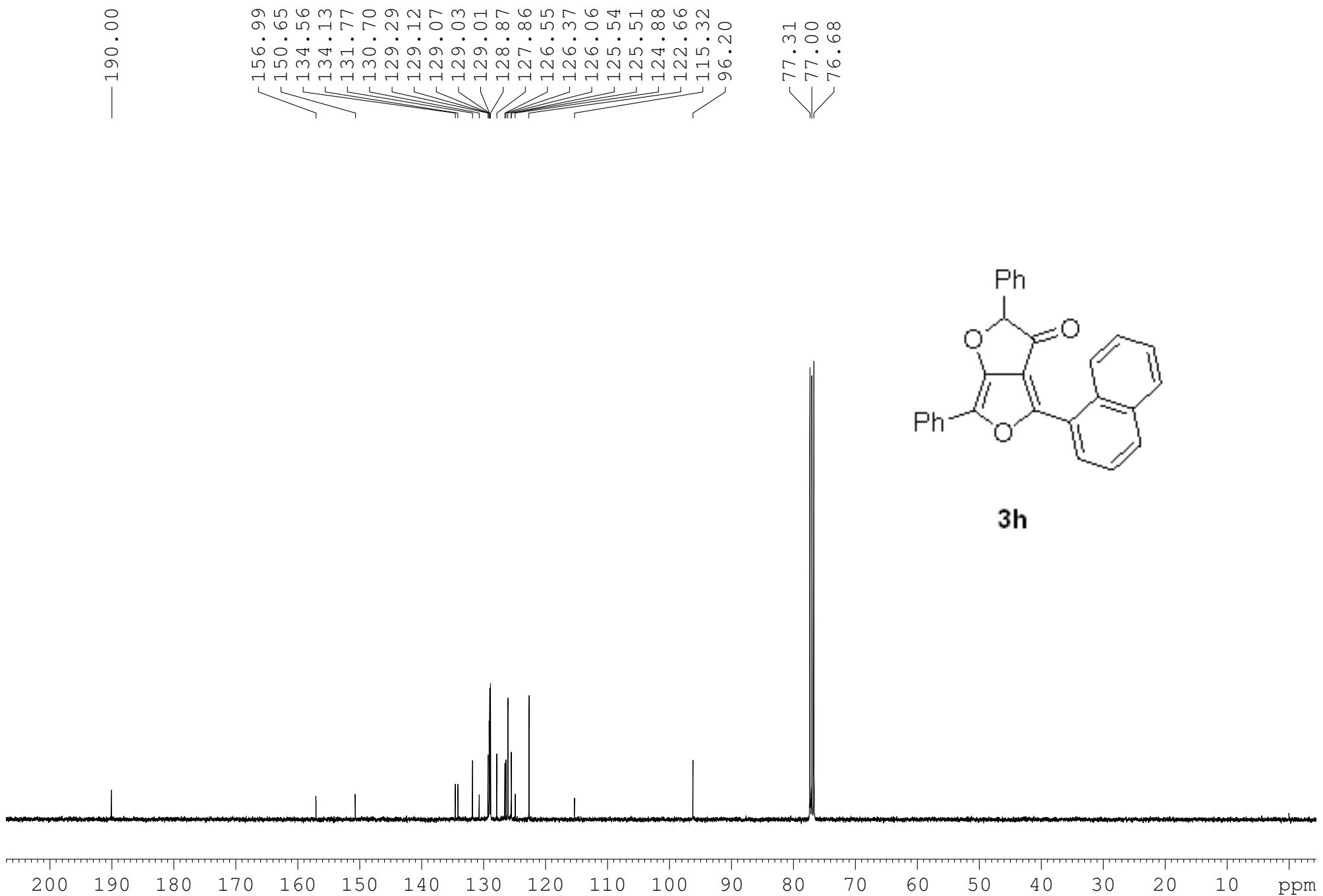
63.14

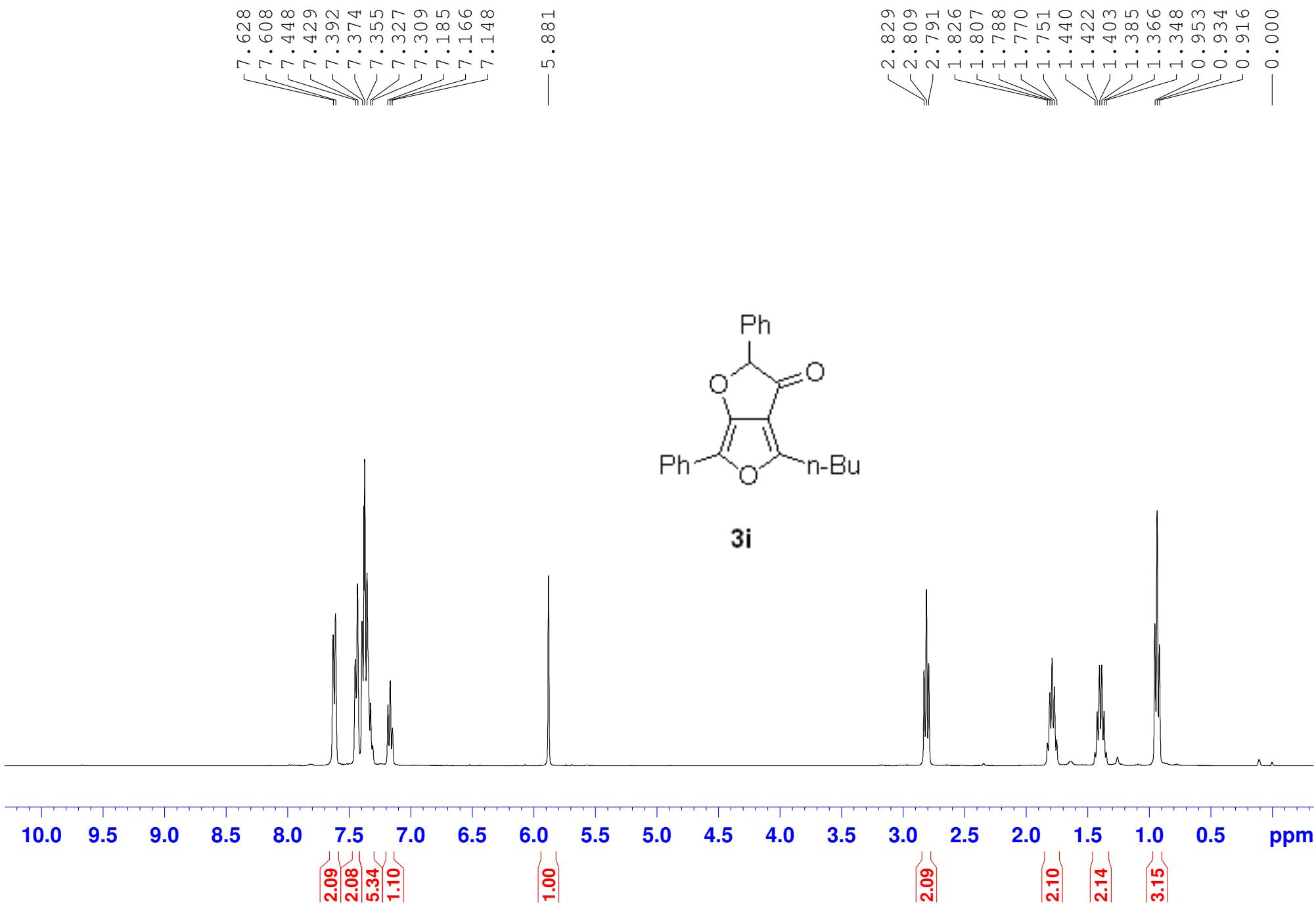


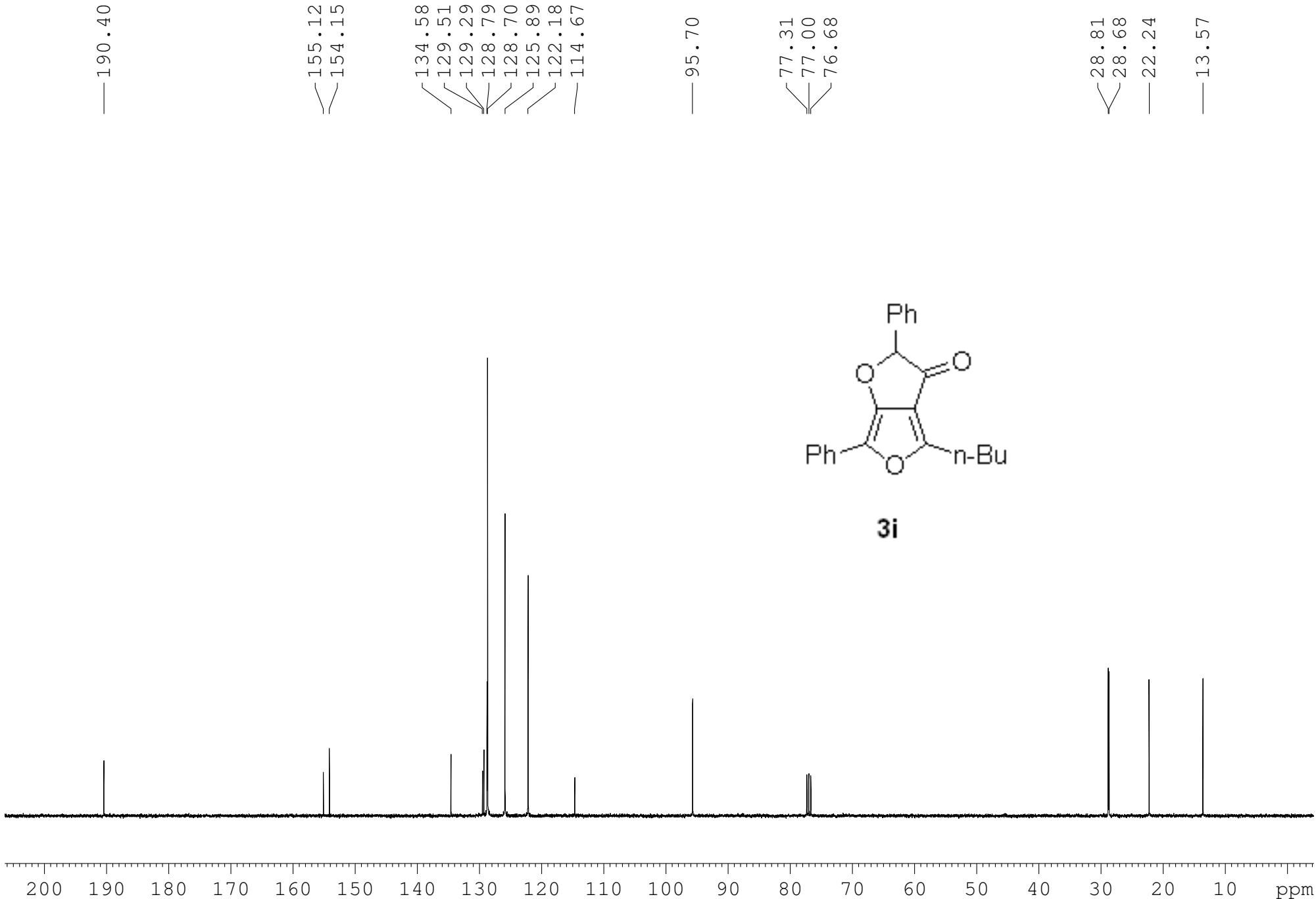
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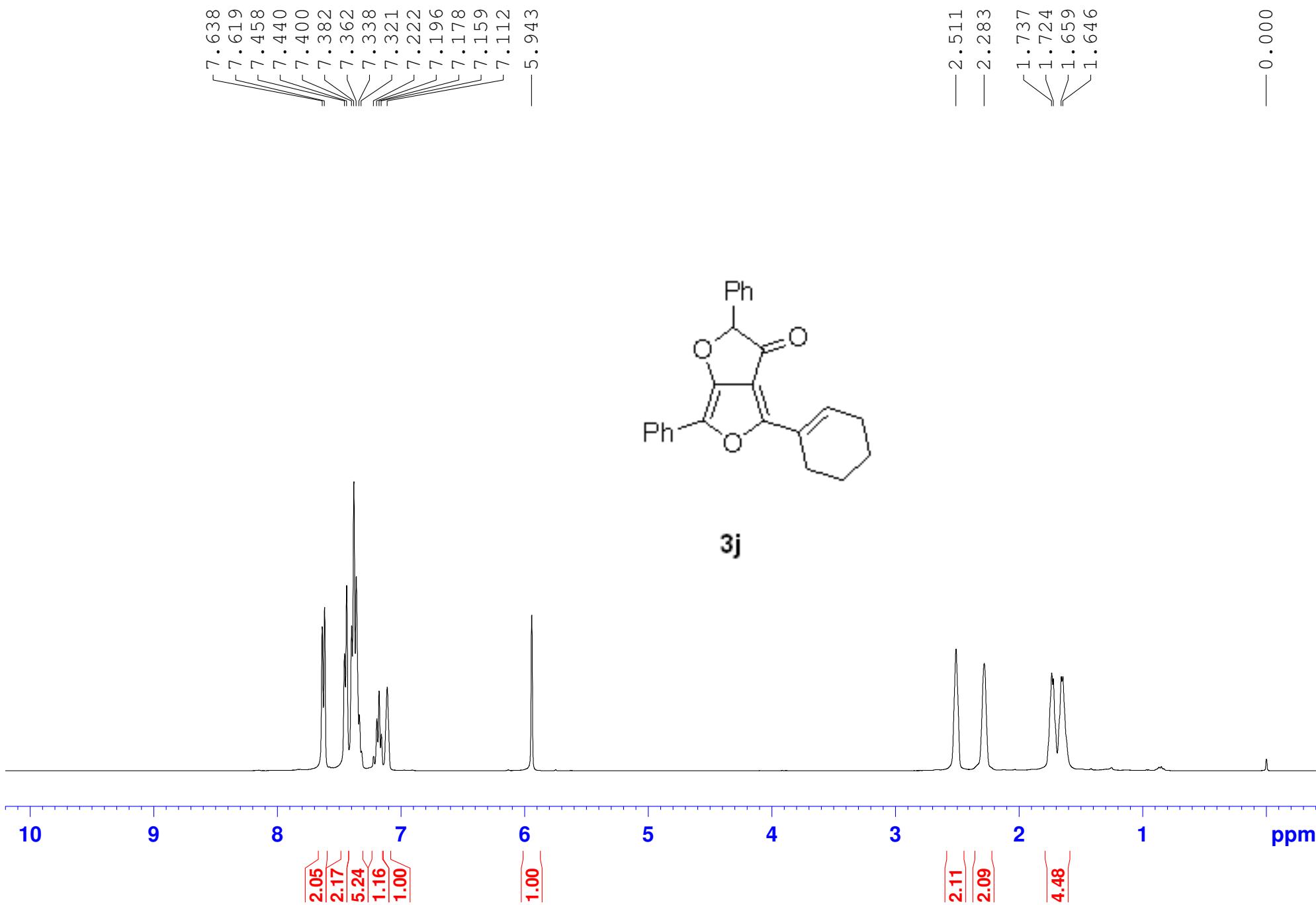


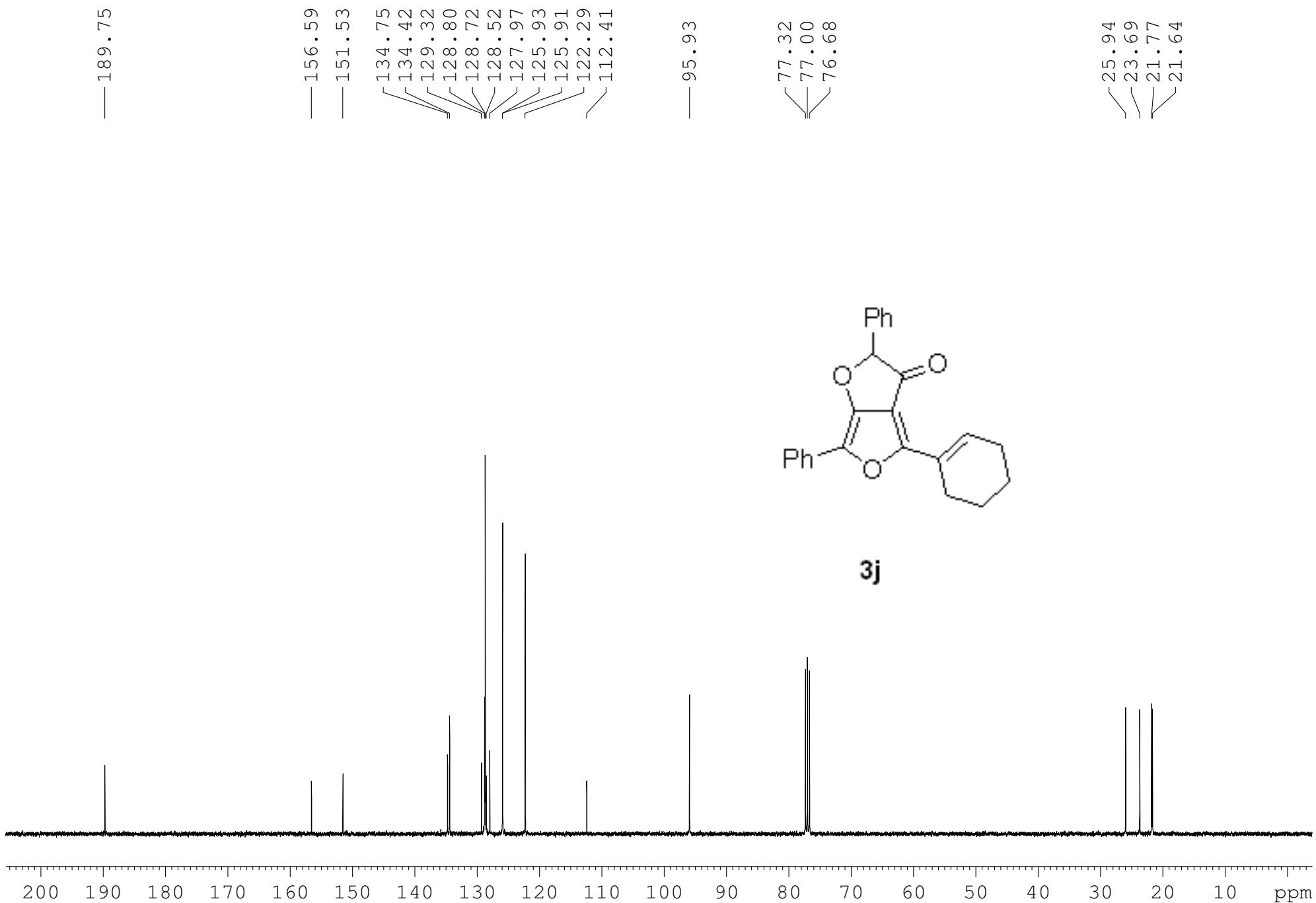


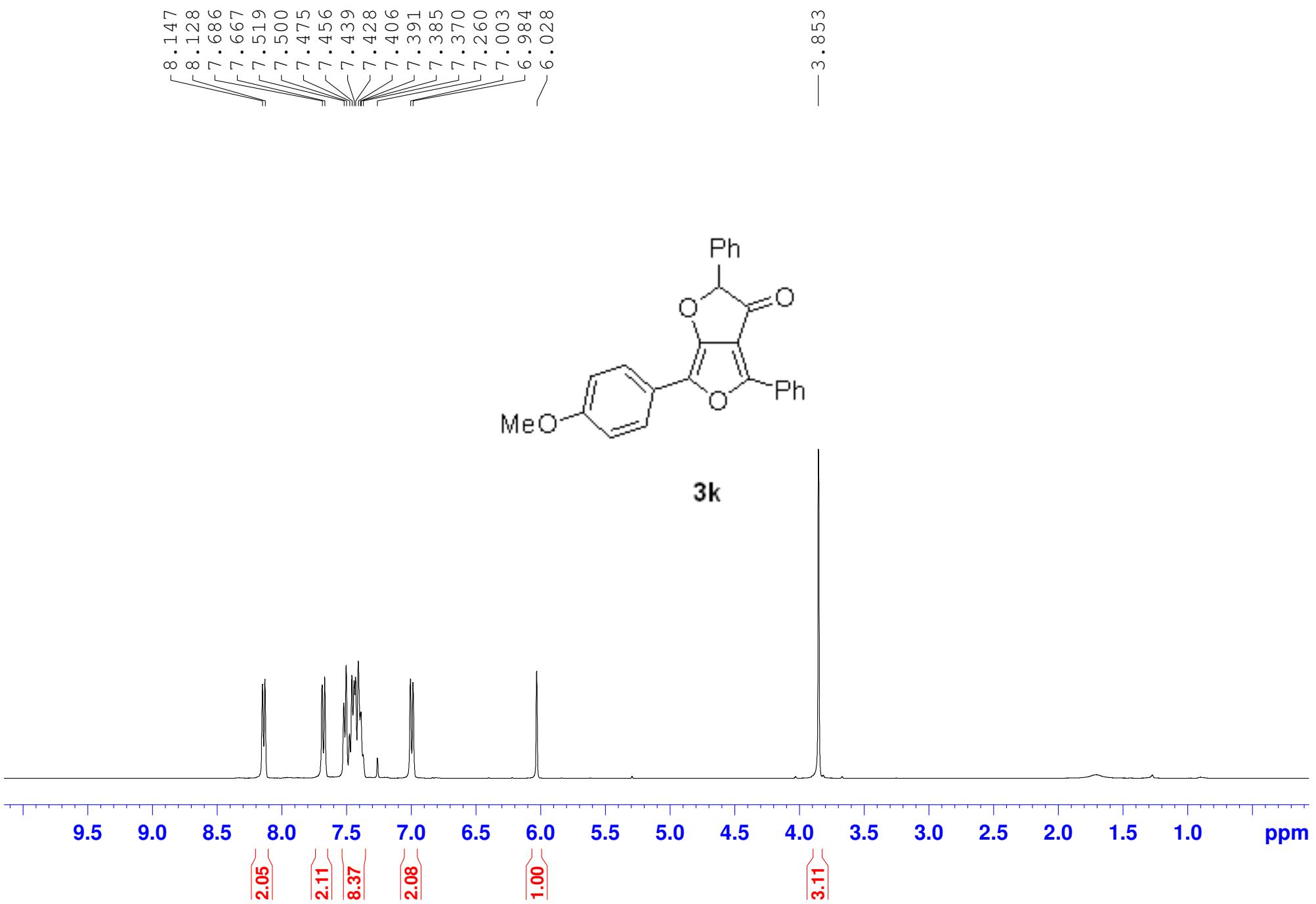




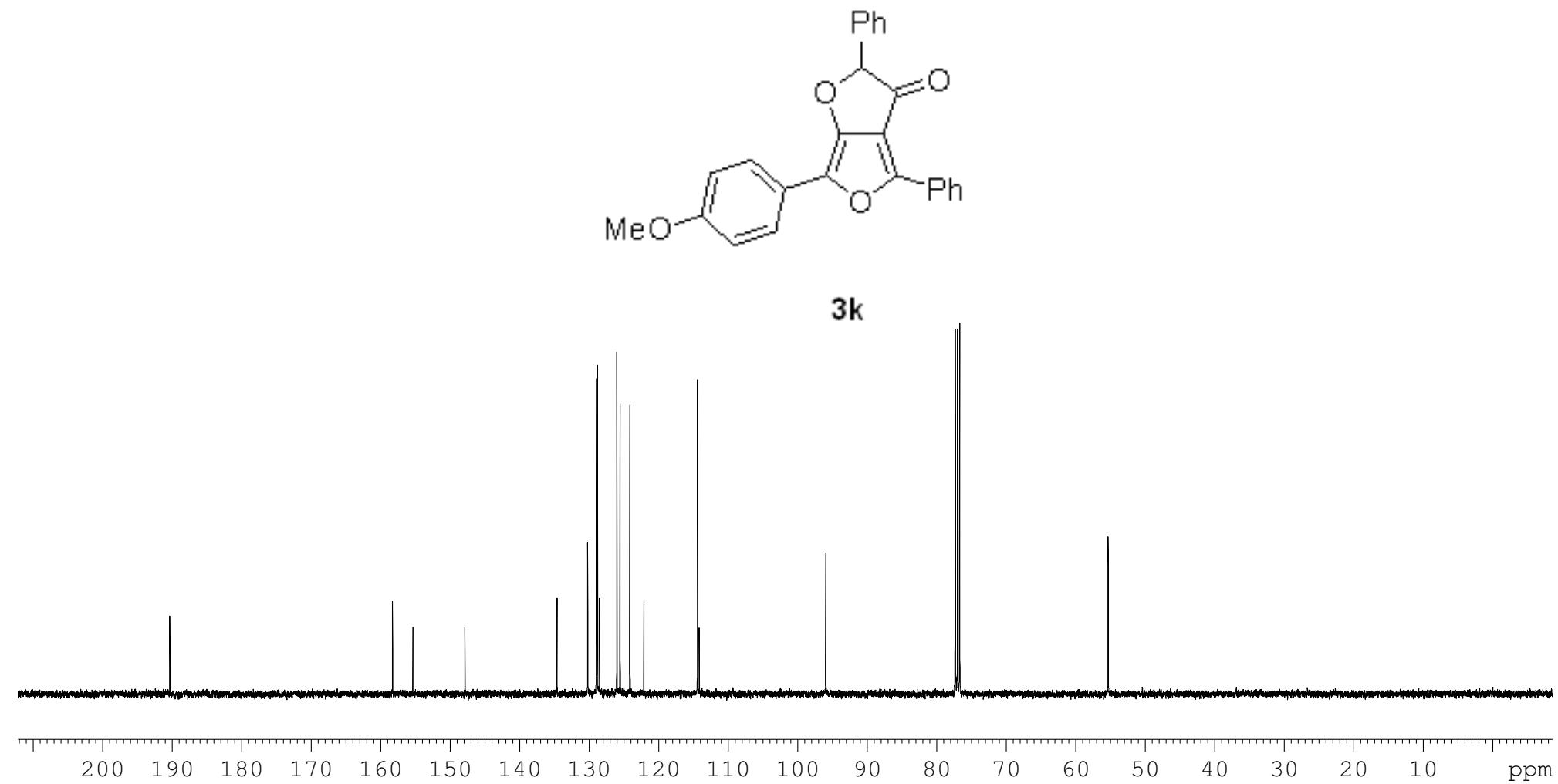
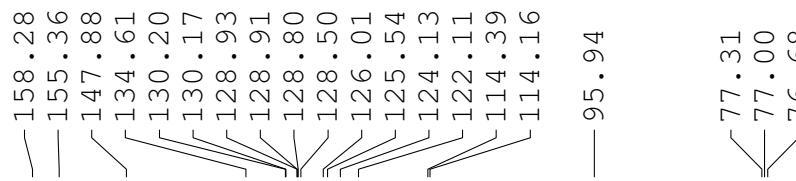


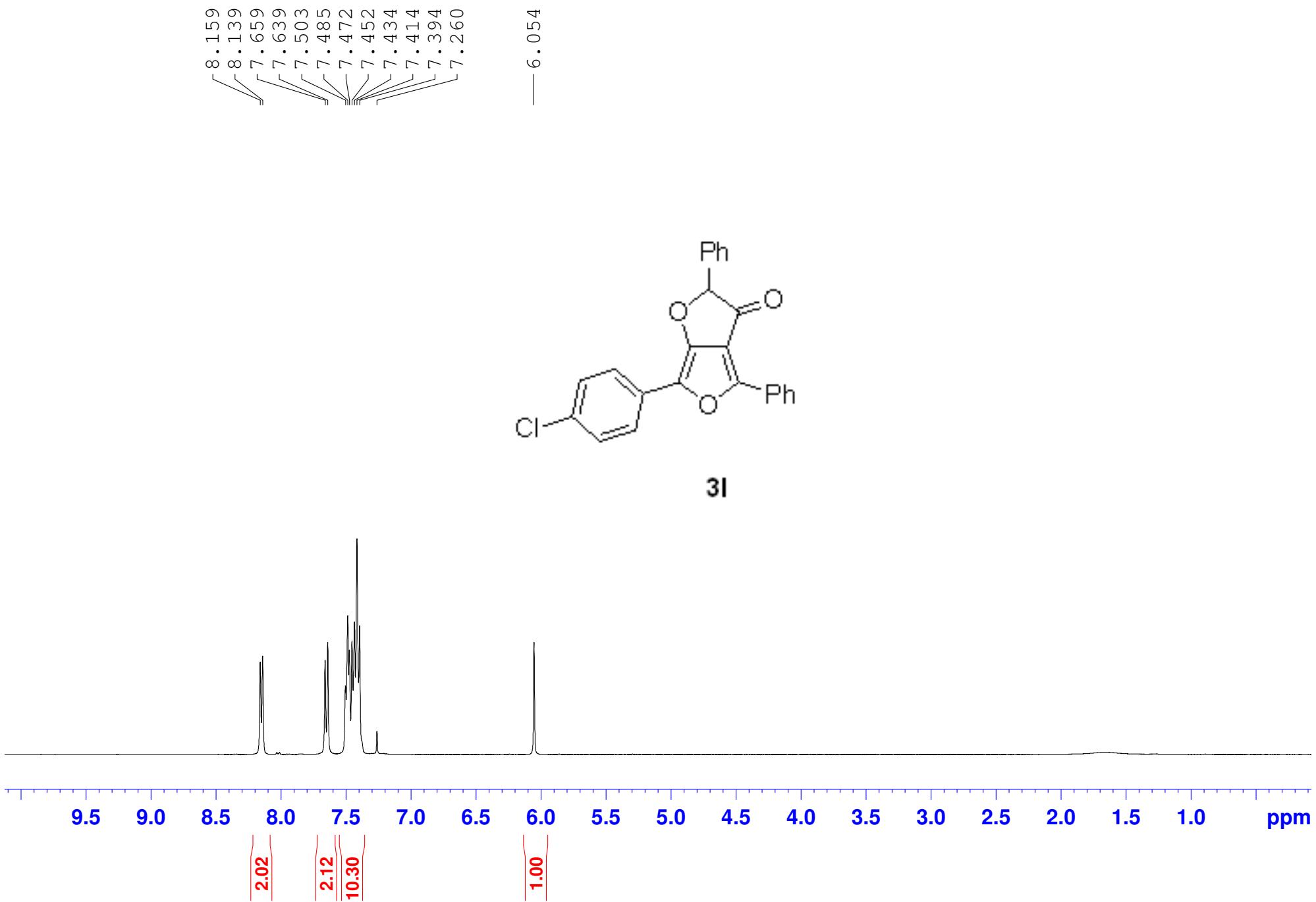




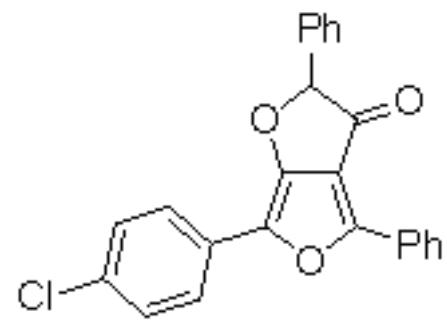
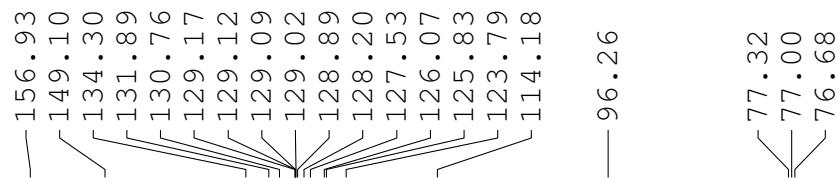


— 190.33

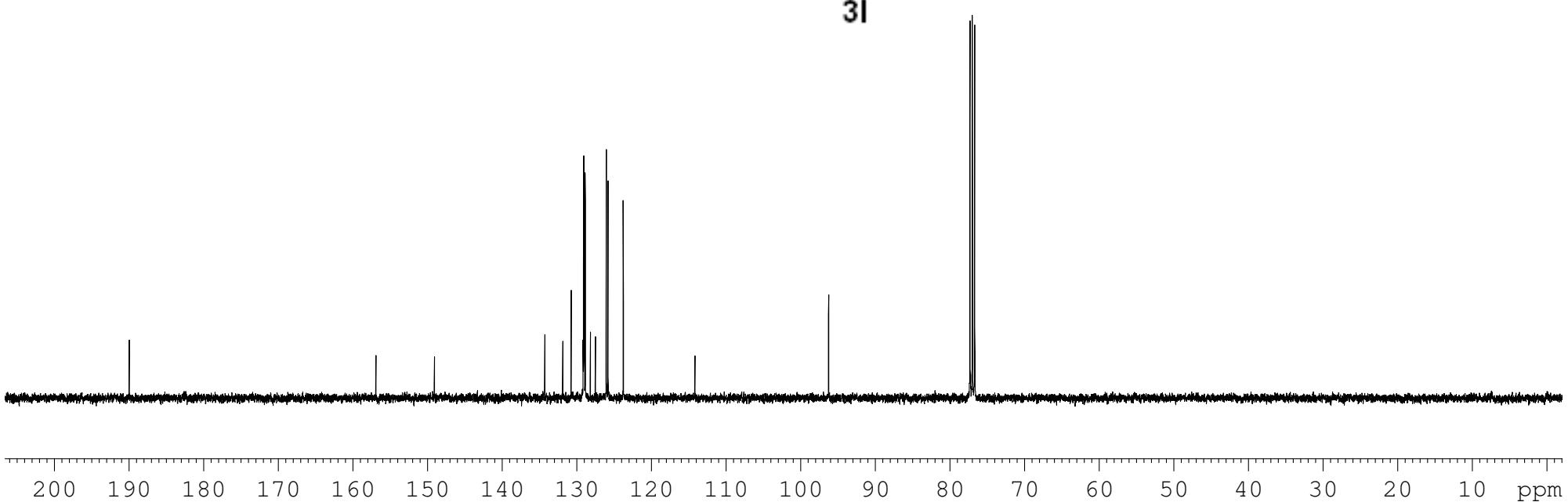


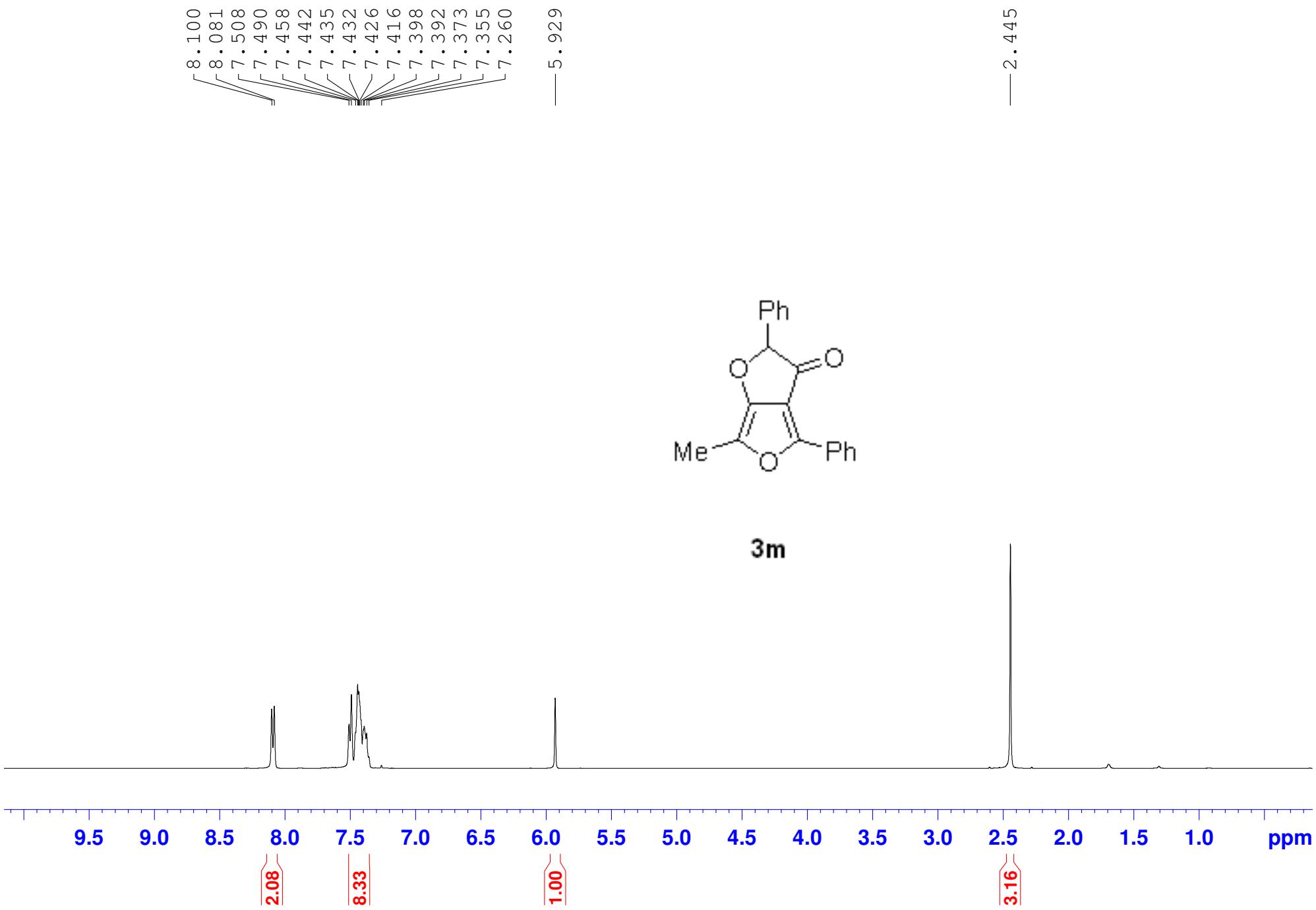


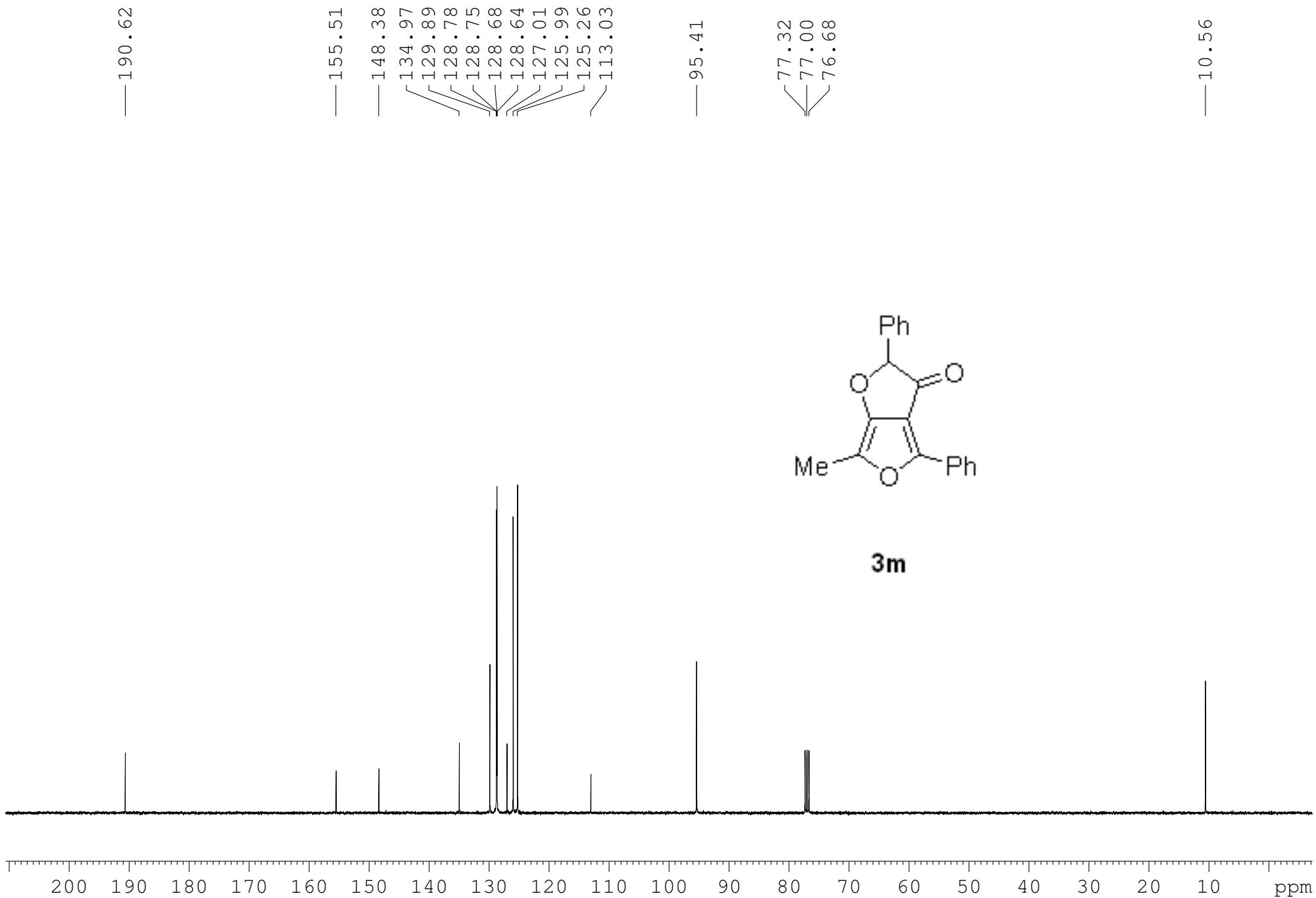
— 189.94

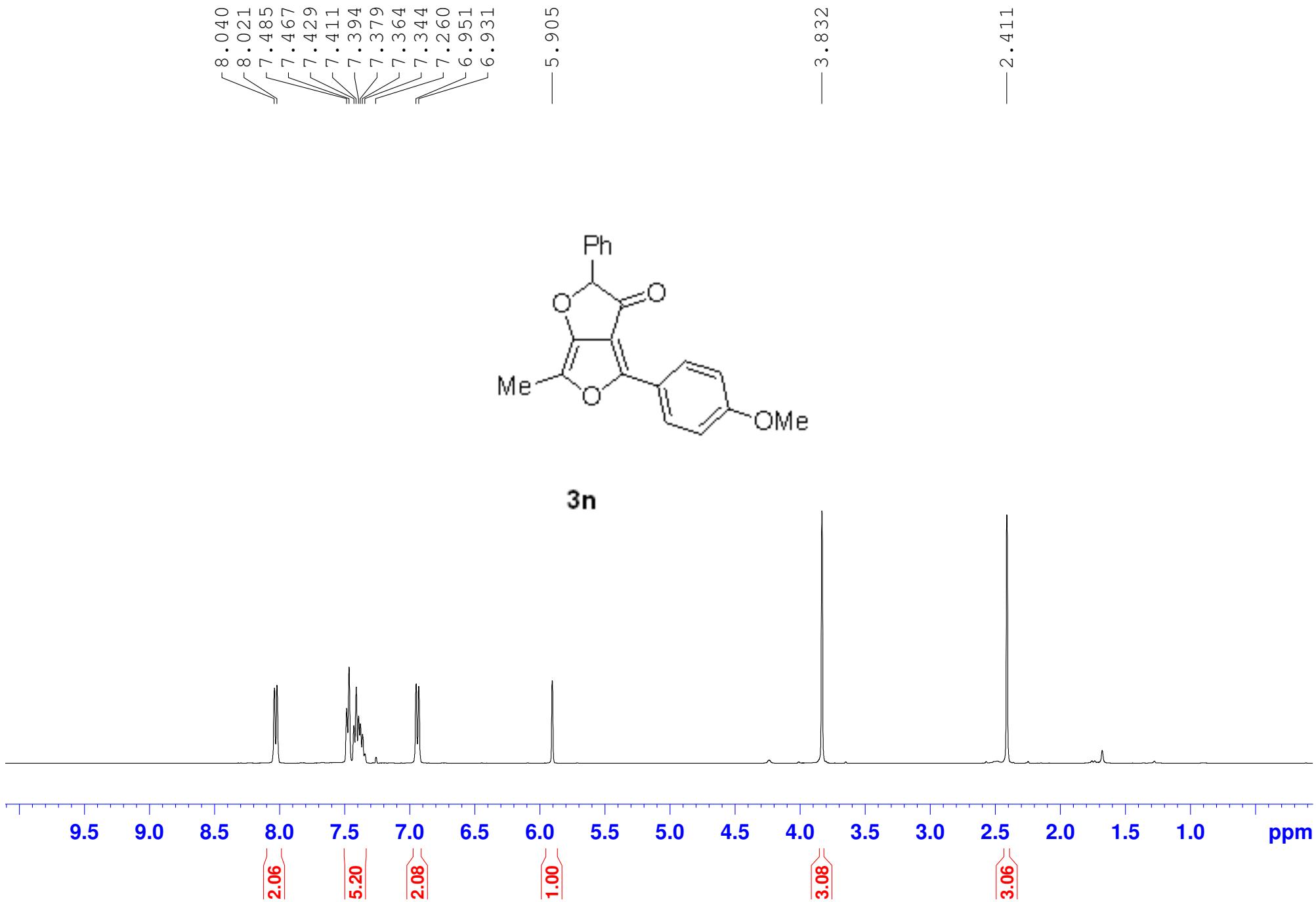


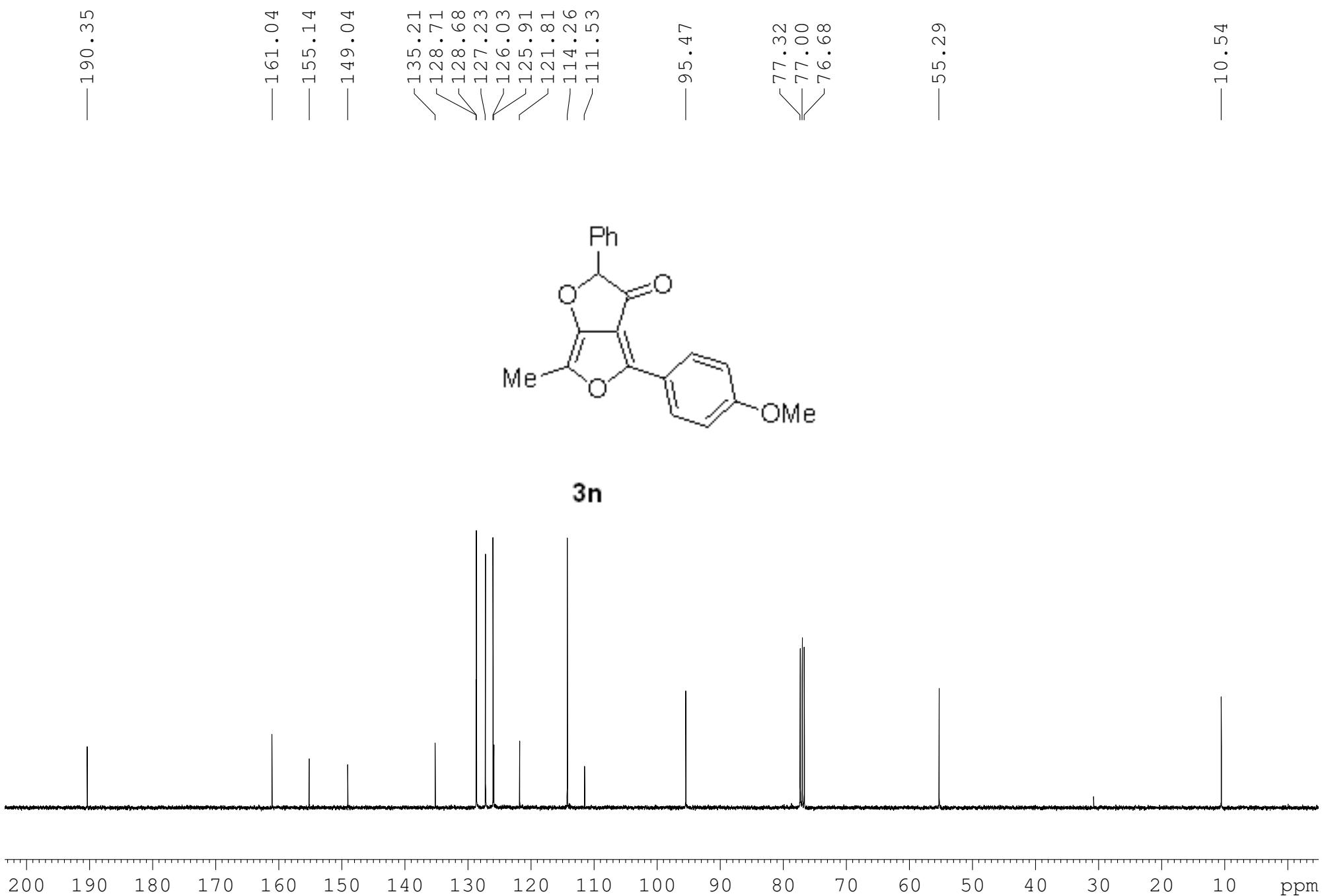
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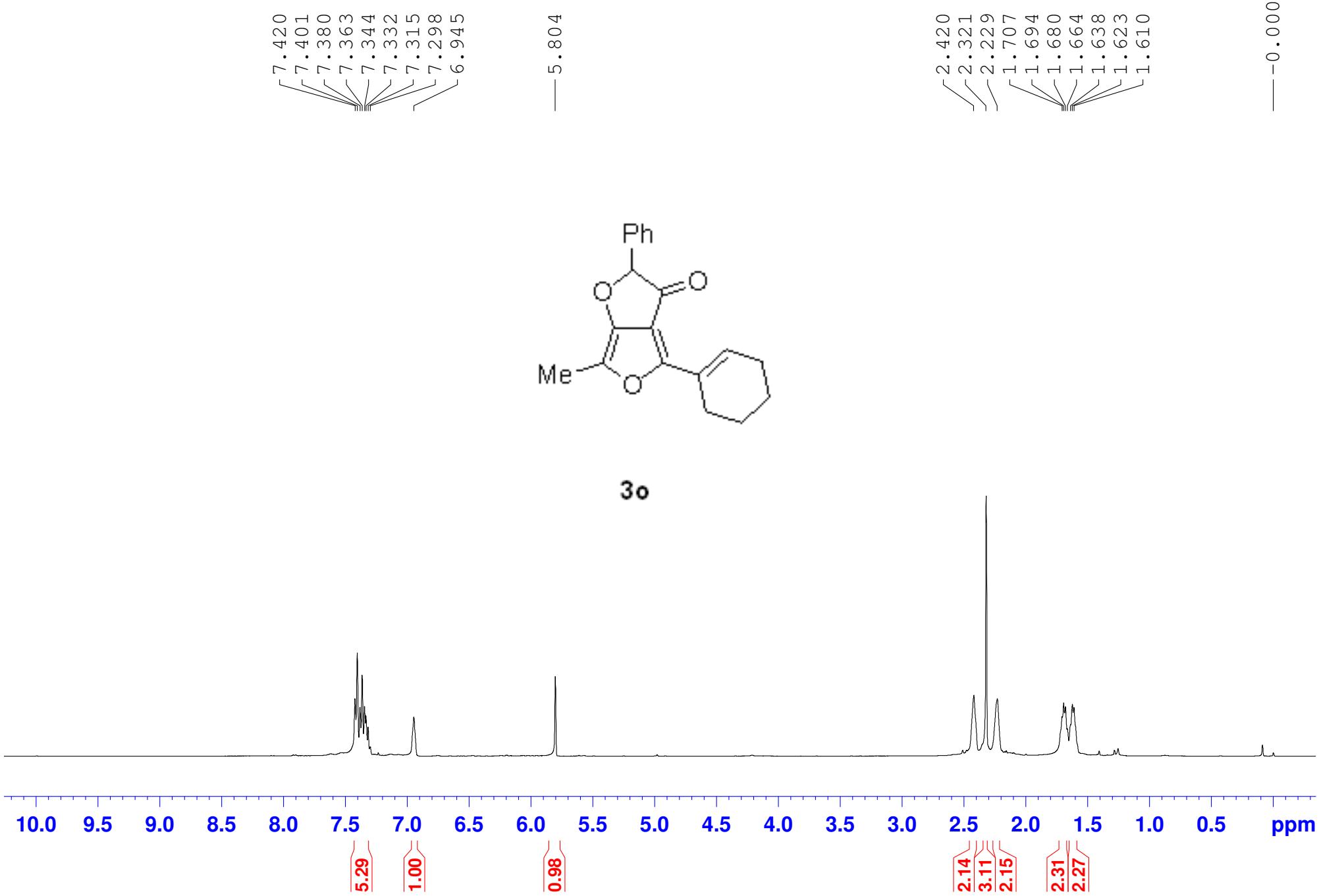


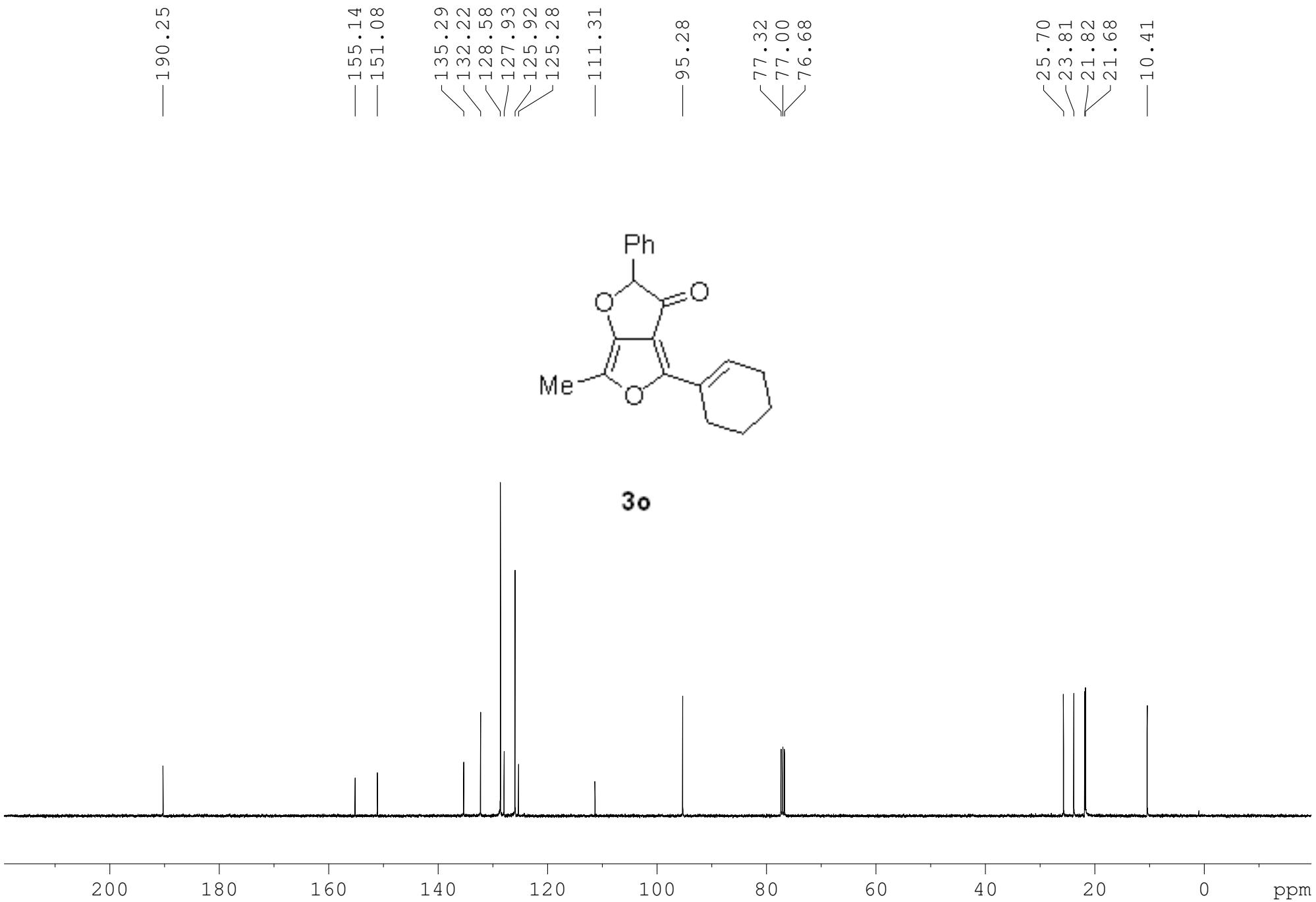


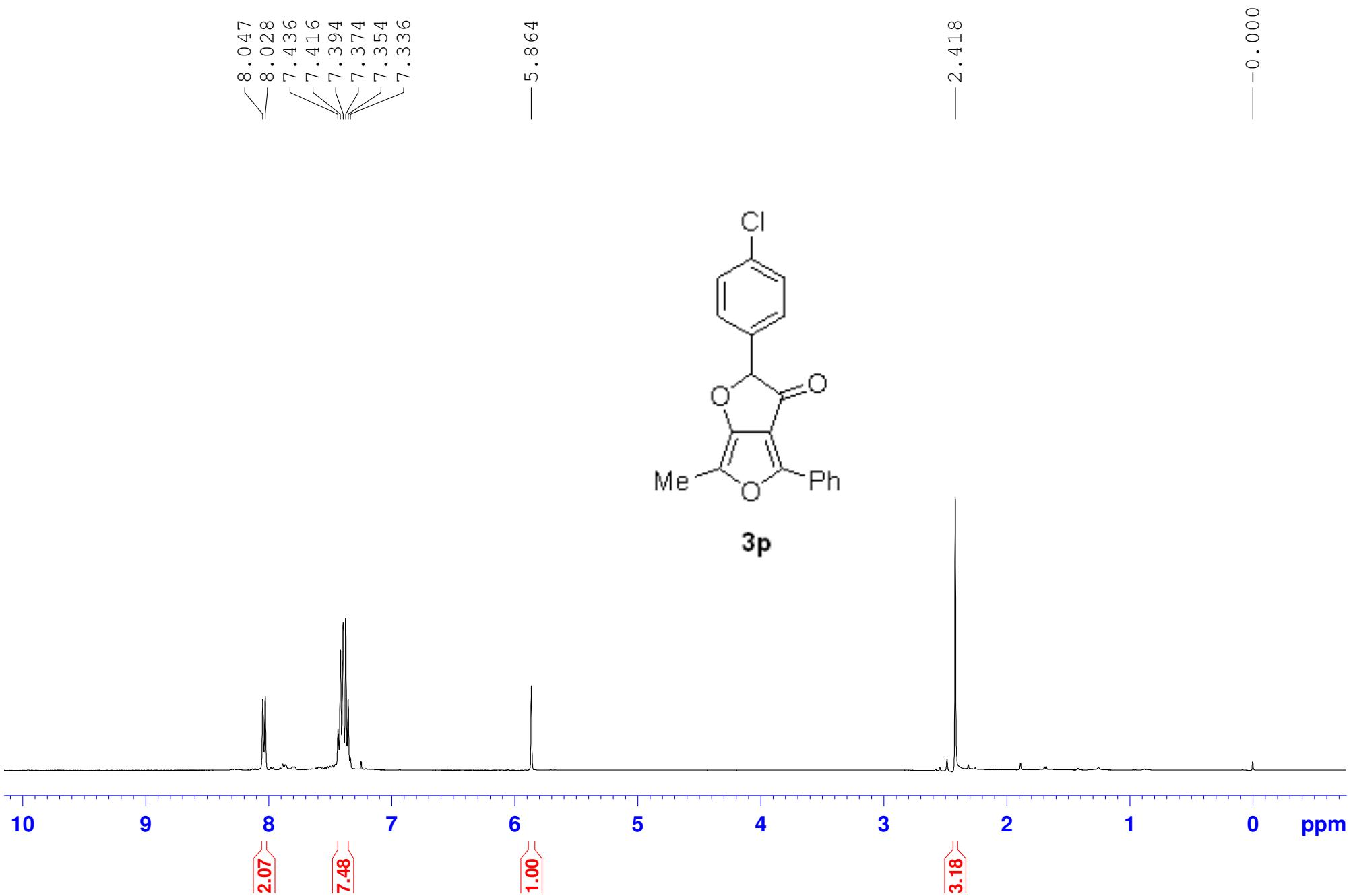


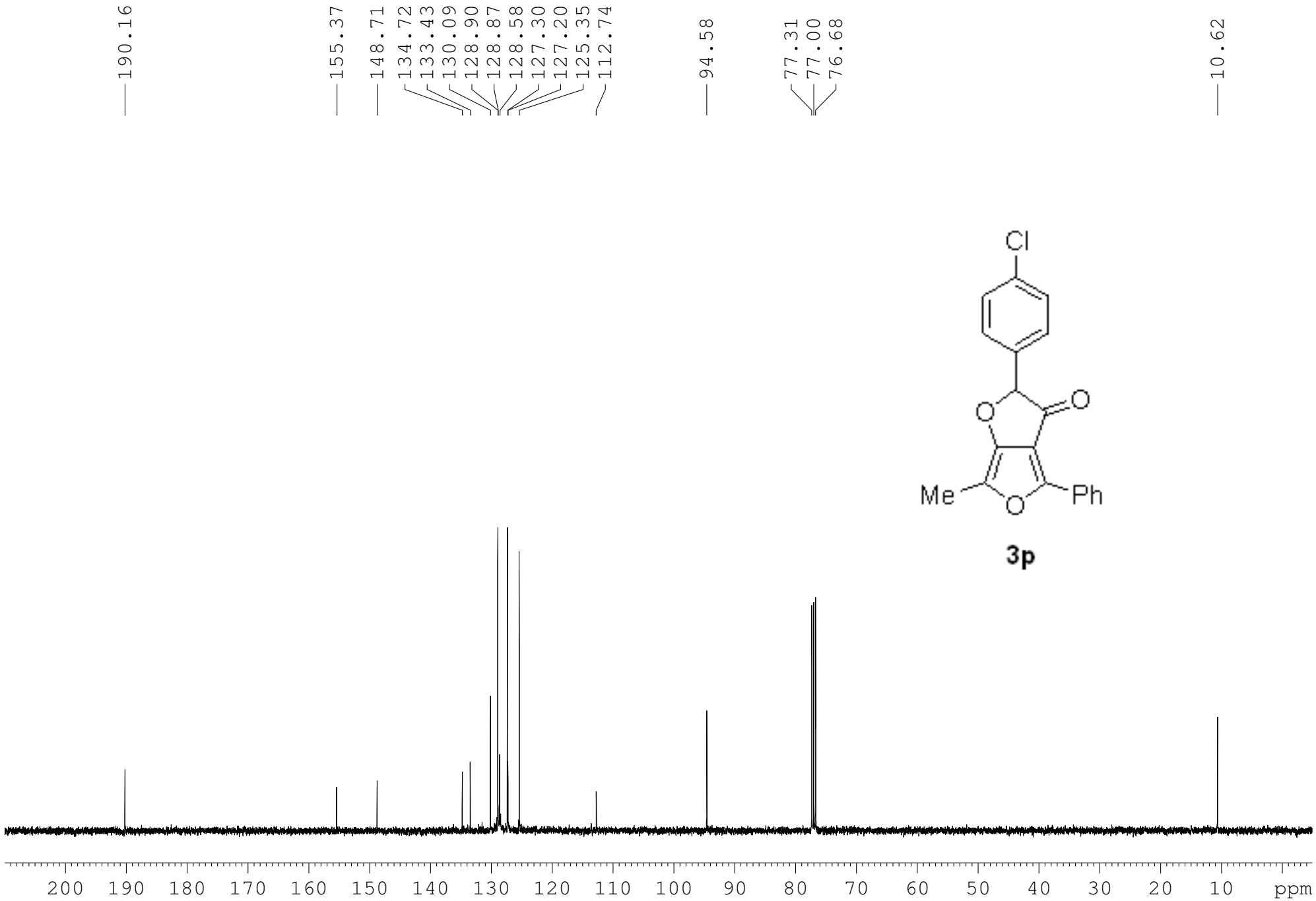


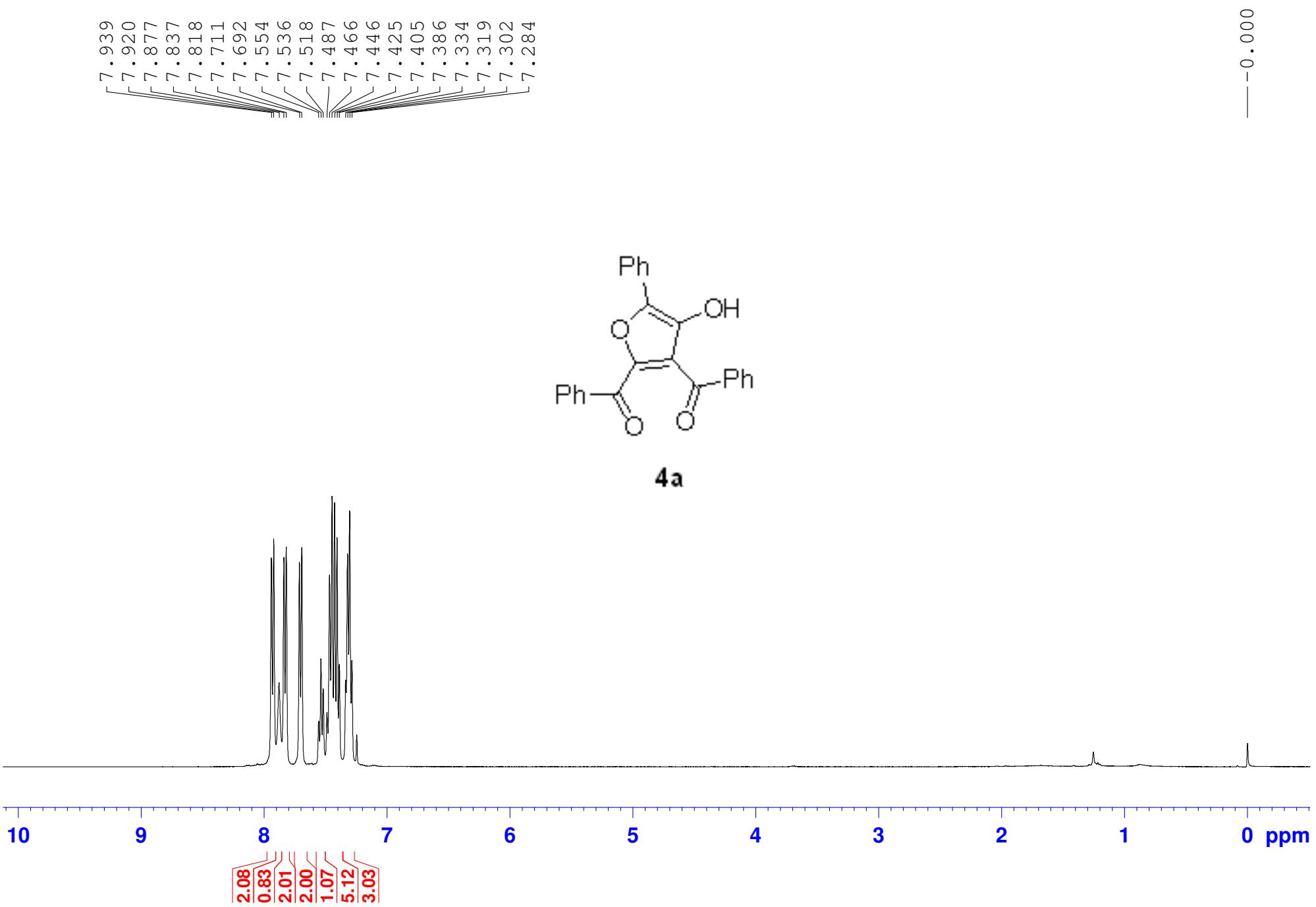


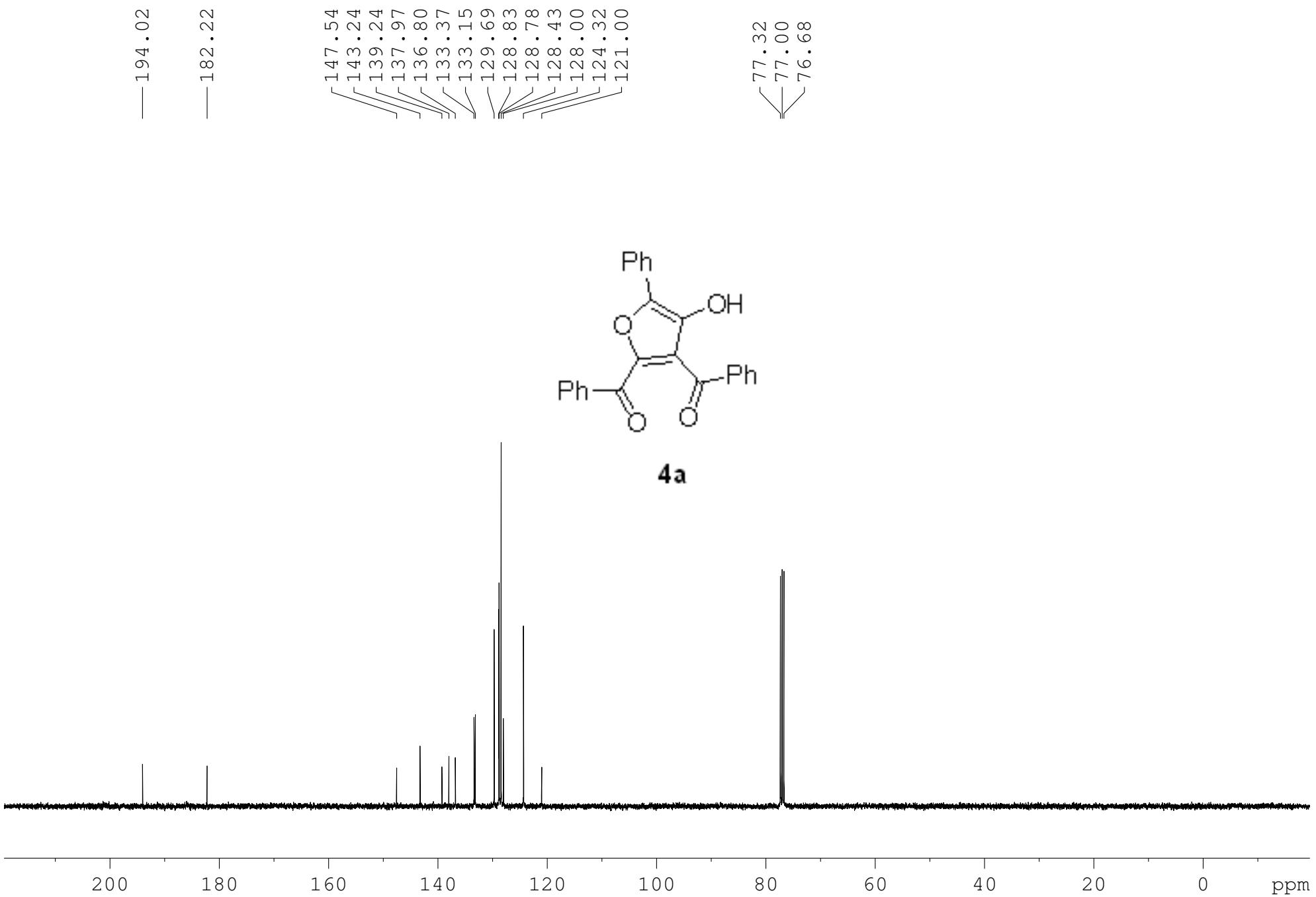


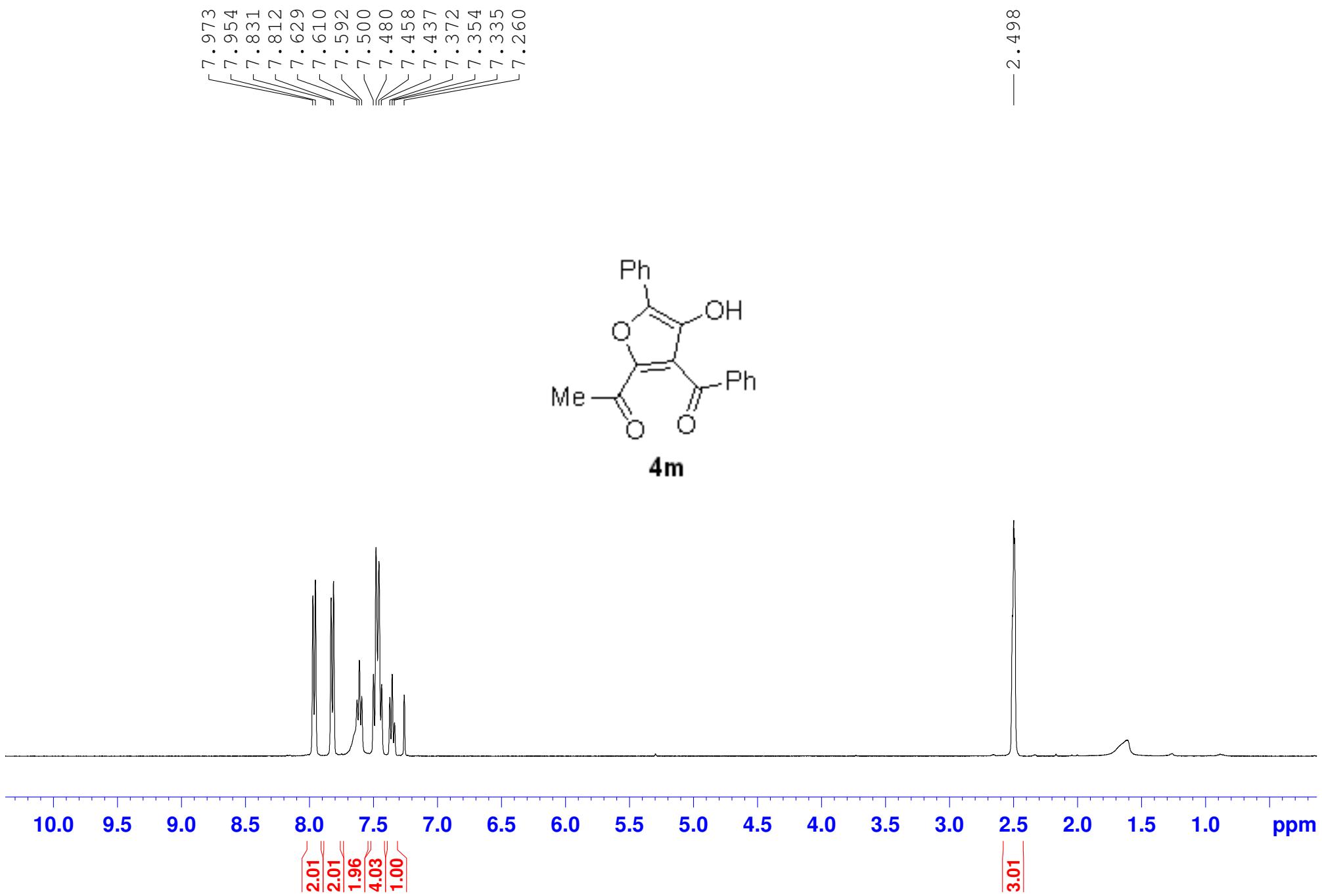


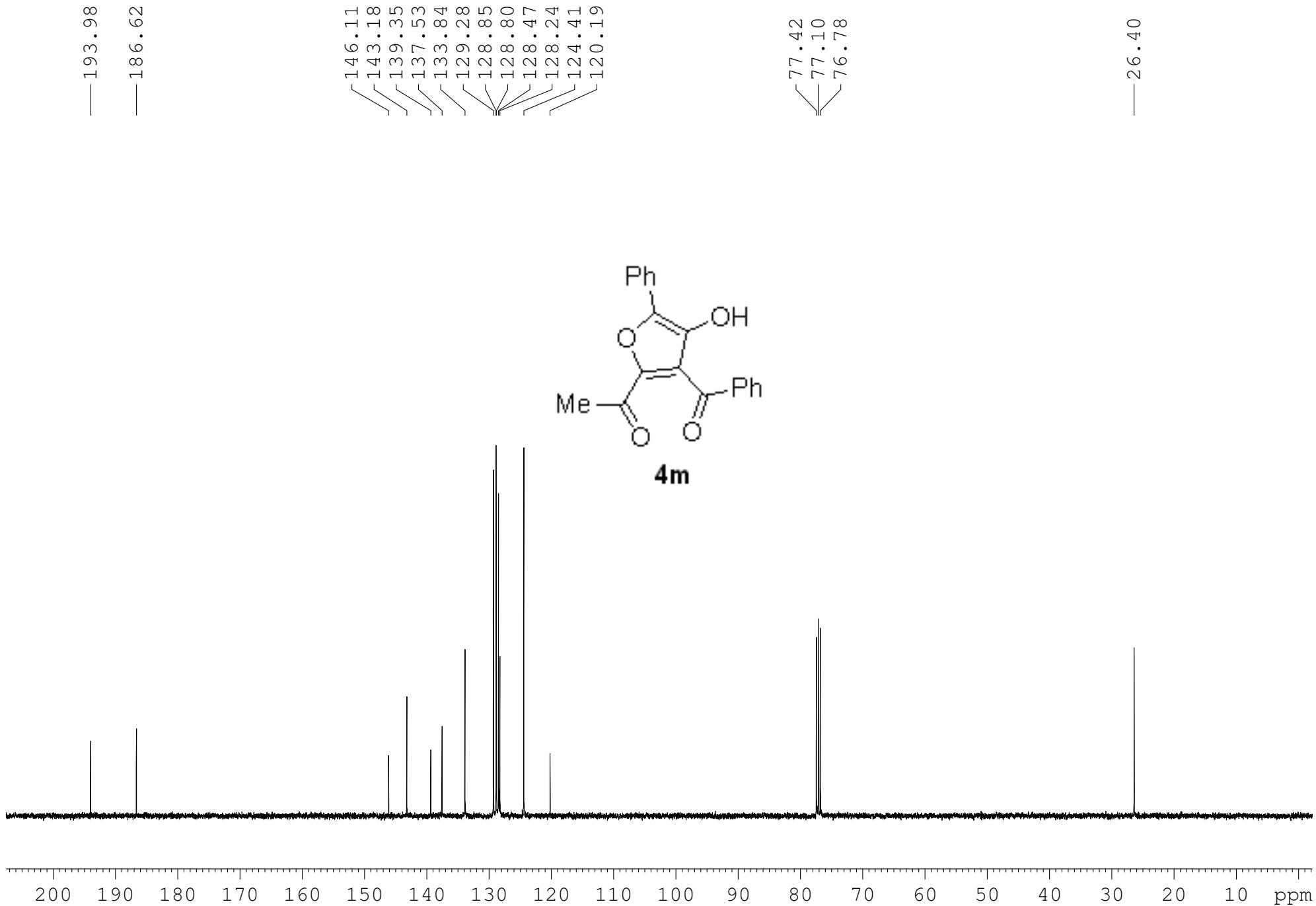


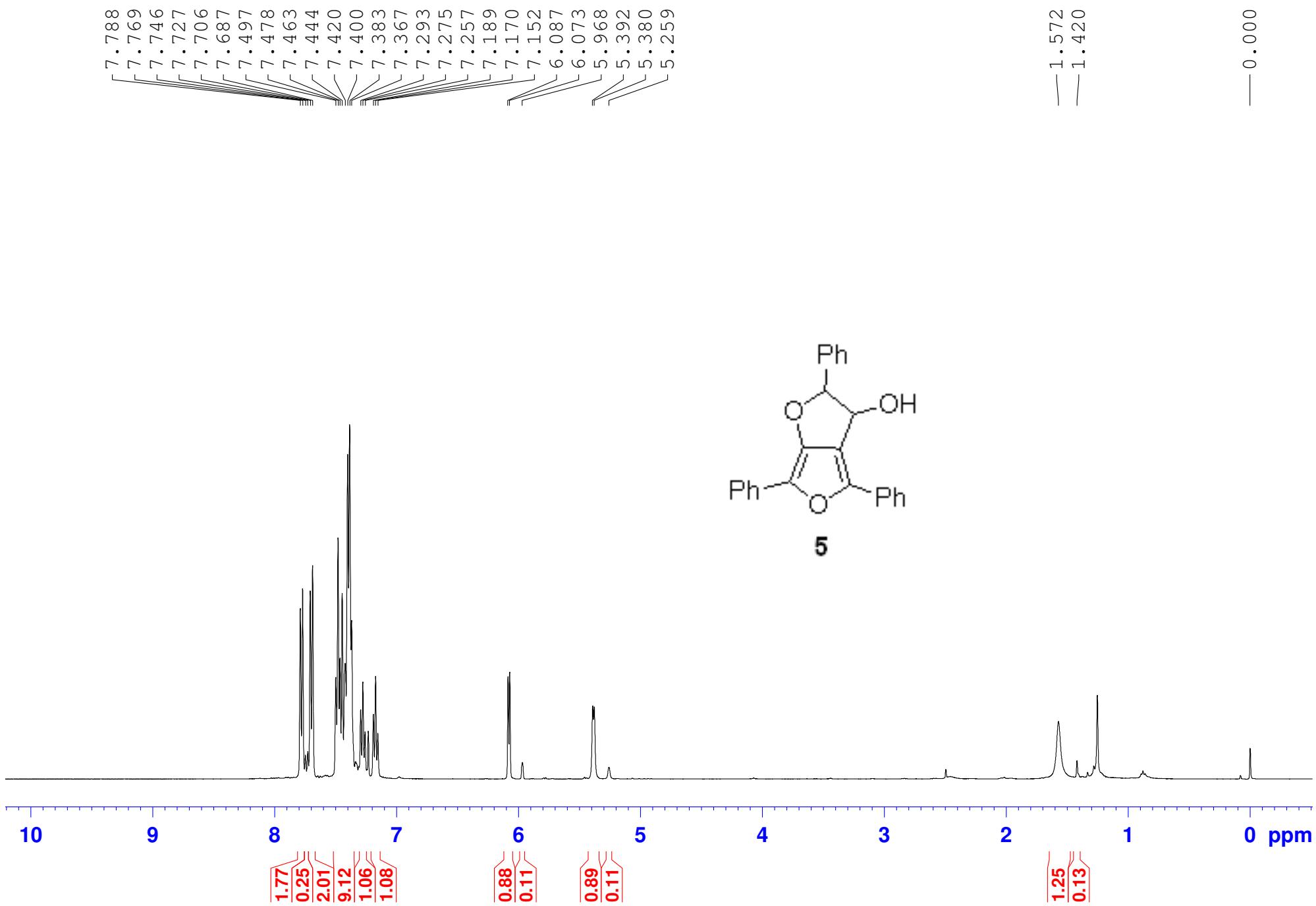


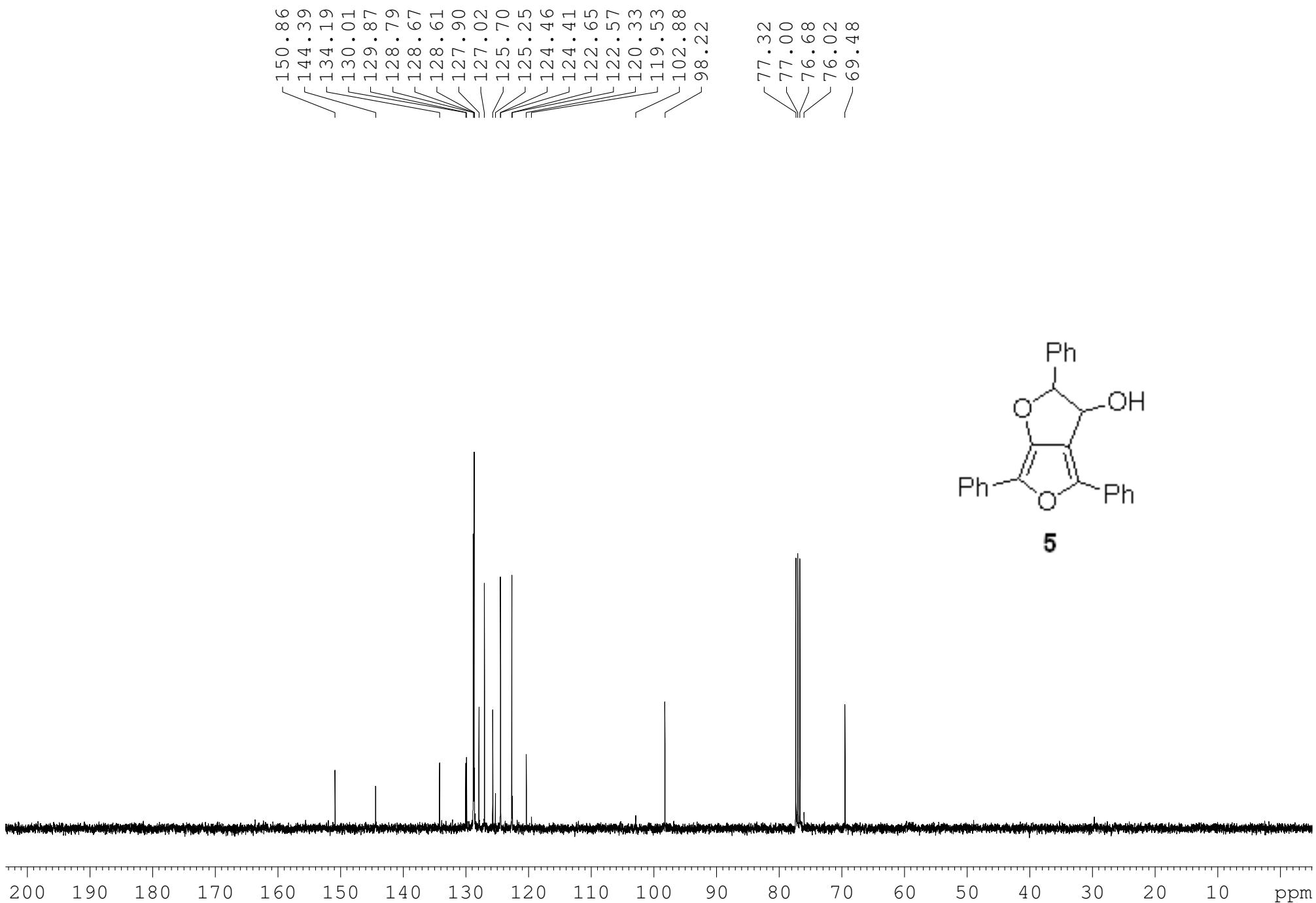




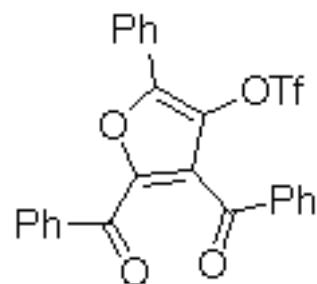




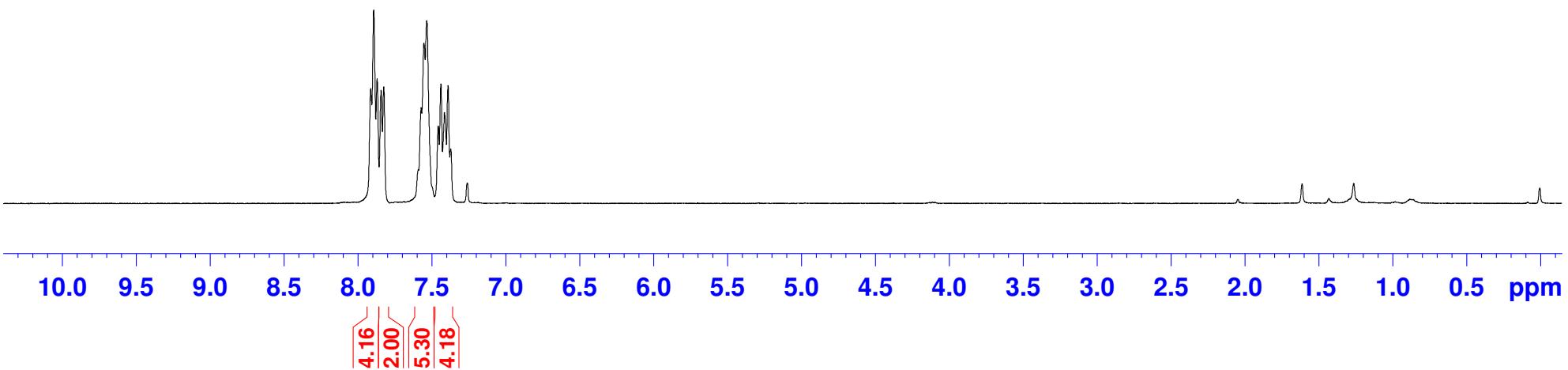


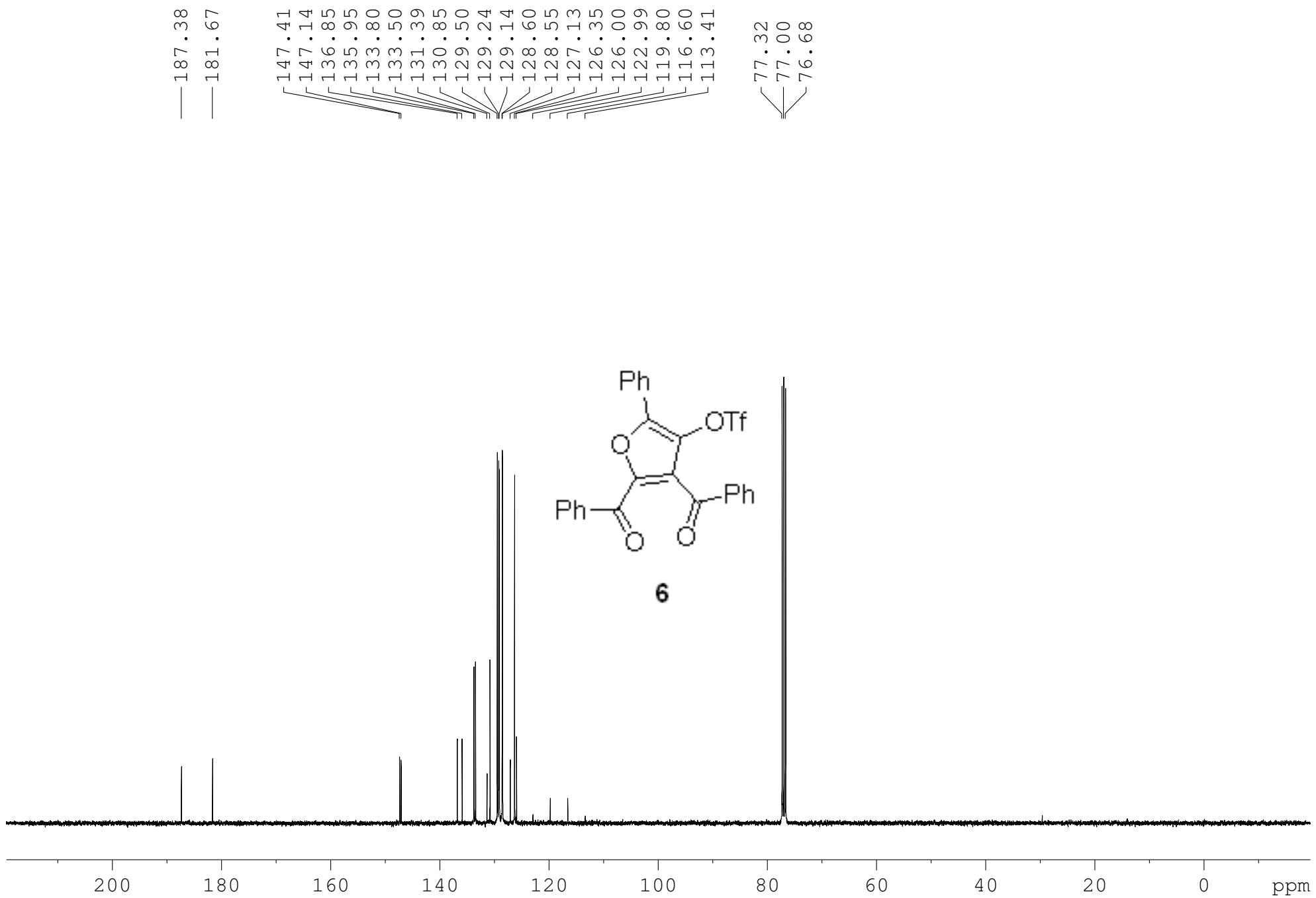


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7.553
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7.456
7.438
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7.390
7.372
7.260



6





— -72.94

