

Generation of benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazoles via a copper-catalyzed tandem reaction of carbodiimide and isocyanoacetate

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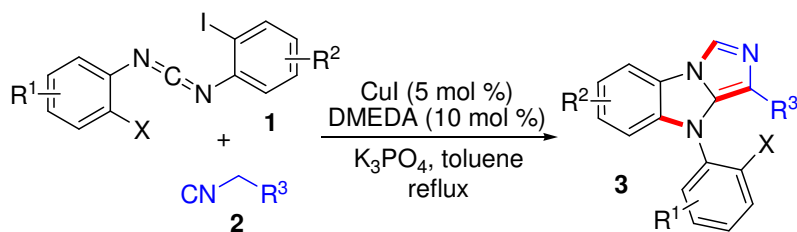
Supporting Information

1. General experimental methods (S2).
2. General experimental procedure and characterization data (S2-S8).
3. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compound **3-5** (S9-S38).

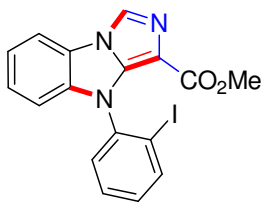
General Materials and Methods:

Unless otherwise stated, all commercial reagents were used as received. All solvents were dried and distilled according to standard procedures. Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (60-Å pore size, 32–63 µm, standard grade). Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed using glass plates pre-coated with 0.25 mm 230–400 mesh silica gel impregnated with a fluorescent indicator (254 nm). Thin layer chromatography plates were visualized by exposure to ultraviolet light. Organic solutions were concentrated on rotary evaporators at ~20 Torr at 25–35°C. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra are recorded in parts per million from internal tetramethylsilane on the δ scale. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 on a Bruker DRX-400 spectrometer operating at 400 MHz and 100 MHz, respectively. All chemical shift values are quoted in ppm and coupling constants quoted in Hz. High resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) spectra were obtained on a micrOTOF II Instrument.

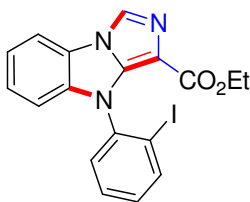
General procedure of the synthesis of benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazoles 3 via a copper-catalyzed tandem reaction of carbodiimide 1 and isocyanoacetate 2



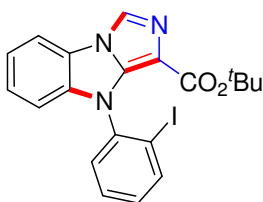
Copper(I) iodide (10 mol %), DMEDA (20 mol %), and K_3PO_4 (2 equiv) were added to a solution of carbodiimide **1** (0.5 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) under N_2 atmosphere at room temperature. After 2 minutes, isocyanoacetate (1.2 equiv) was added, and the mixture was stirred at reflux. After completion of reaction as indicated by TLC (8–12 hrs), the solvent was evaporated. The residue was purified on silica gel providing benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3**.



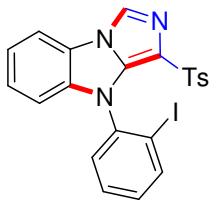
Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3a**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.49 (s, 3H), 6.92 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.01-8.04 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 50.7, 98.7, 106.1, 111.3, 111.8, 120.7, 121.8, 122.7, 125.4, 128.9, 129.8, 130.7, 138.4, 138.6, 139.3, 162.1; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 418.0047; found: 418.0057.



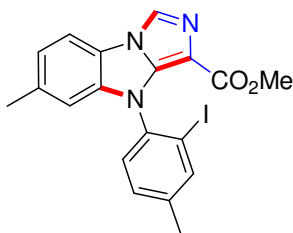
Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3b**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.03 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H), 3.97-4.01 (m, 2H), 6.90 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.47-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.99-8.04 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.2, 59.5, 99.0, 111.6, 111.8, 120.3, 120.8, 121.9, 122.3, 125.6, 129.2, 129.8, 130.3, 130.8, 138.6, 139.6, 140.4, 162.1; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 432.0203; found: 432.0202.



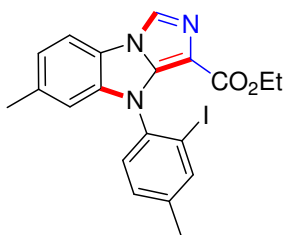
Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3c**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.26 (s, 3H), 6.85 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.46-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.97-8.04 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.1, 50.8, 98.6, 109.3, 111.7, 111.8, 120.3, 121.9, 122.3, 125.4, 129.3, 129.7, 129.8, 130.7, 139.2, 140.0, 140.4, 162.3; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 460.0516; found: 460.0505.



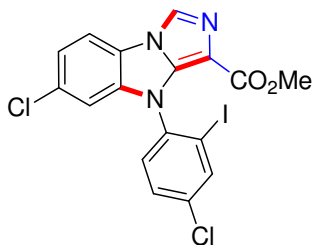
Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3d**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.67 (s, 3H), 6.61 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.89-6.92 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.30 (m, 9H), 7.47 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.89-7.94 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.2, 98.6, 109.4, 116.8, 120.4, 122.3, 129.8, 130.4, 130.8, 135.8, 140.4, 141.8, 156.3; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 514.0081; found: 514.0084.



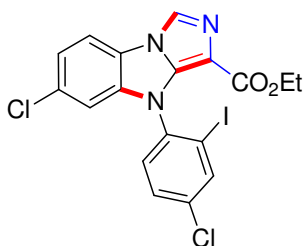
Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3e**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 7.10 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 20.8, 21.7, 50.9, 98.7, 106.3, 111.4, 111.6, 120.6, 120.9, 122.7, 129.4, 129.8, 136.0, 139.2, 139.8, 162.4; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 446.0360; found: 446.0347.



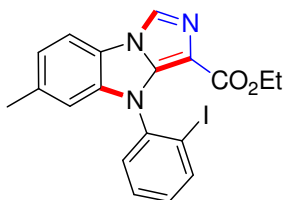
Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3f**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.05 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 4.02-4.05 (m, 2H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.4, 20.7, 21.7, 59.5, 98.7, 111.4, 111.6, 122.6, 123.2, 129.4, 129.8, 130.5, 135.9, 136.2, 139.2, 139.9, 140.6, 141.2, 162.0; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 460.0516; found: 460.0508.



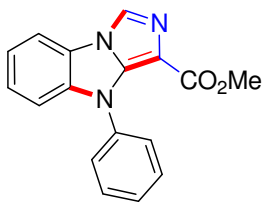
Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3g**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.59 (s, 3H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 51.1, 99.0, 106.9, 111.6, 112.8, 121.7, 122.5, 129.5, 130.4, 131.6, 136.2, 139.1, 139.4, 162.1; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{Cl}_2\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 485.9268; found: 485.9250.



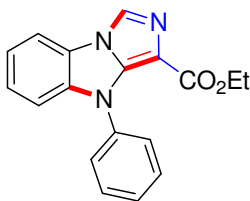
Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3h**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.12 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H), 4.07-4.10 (m, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 7.27-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.2, 59.8, 99.2, 107.3, 111.6, 112.8, 120.9, 121.7, 122.4, 129.6, 130.4, 131.6, 136.2, 136.7, 139.2, 161.7; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{Cl}_2\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 499.9424; found: 499.9414.



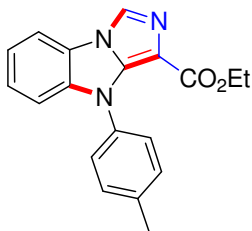
Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3i**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.12 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 3.98-4.10 (m, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.90-7.98 (m, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.3, 21.7, 59.7, 99.9, 109.7, 111.6, 111.7, 122.0, 122.9, 125.7, 129.6, 130.9, 132.4, 134.7, 136.3, 139.8, 140.2, 140.8, 161.7; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{Cl}_2\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 446.0360; found: 446.0349.



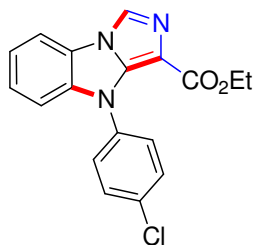
Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3j**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.61 (s, 3H), 7.11 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.40 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.68 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 50.7, 105.5, 111.1, 111.7, 120.5, 121.7, 122.8, 125.4, 127.3, 128.5, 128.8, 135.6, 139.3, 141.4, 162.1; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{NaO}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$): 314.0900; found: 314.0883.



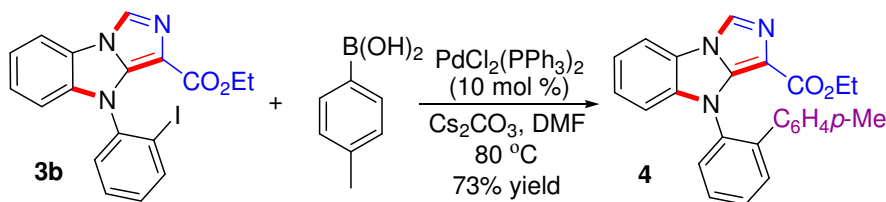
Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3k**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.20 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H), 4.03-4.08 (m, 3H), 7.11 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.52 (m, 5H), 7.68 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.6, 59.9, 106.1, 111.7, 112.7, 120.7, 121.9, 123.3, 125.8, 127.5, 130.0, 133.6, 138.9, 140.1, 162.4; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 306.1237; found: 306.1258.



Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3l**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.09 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 4.08-4.11 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.35 (m, 6H), 7.72 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.2, 21.3, 59.6, 105.8, 111.4, 111.7, 120.5, 121.7, 122.9, 125.5, 127.2, 129.7, 133.3, 138.6, 139.8, 162.1; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 320.1394; found: 320.1392.

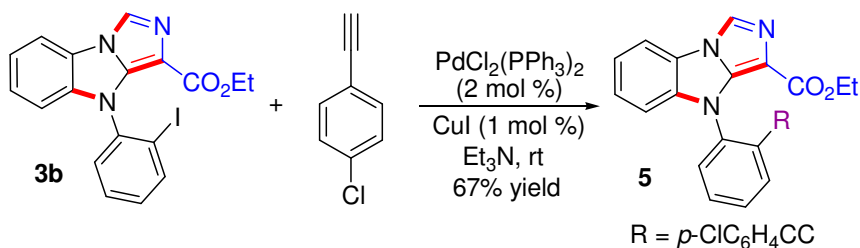


Benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3m**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.02 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 4.01-4.06 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.6, 60.2, 106.5, 111.9, 112.3, 120.7, 122.2, 123.5, 126.0, 127.7, 130.2, 139.1, 140.3, 162.6; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 340.0847; found: 340.0842.



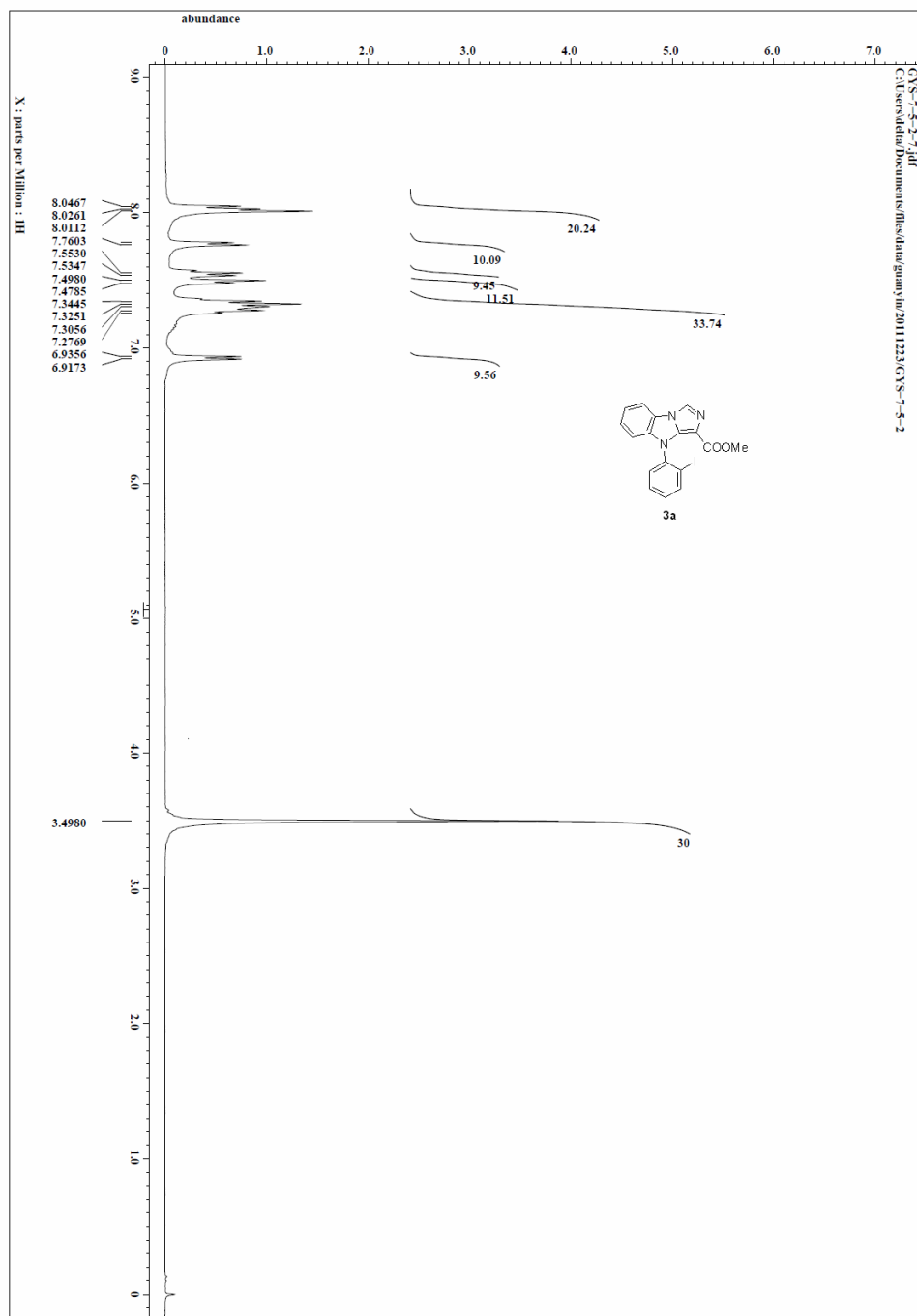
4-Methylphenylboronic acid (1.2 equiv), $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ (10 mol %), and Cs_2CO_3 (2 equiv) were added to a solution of benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **3b** (0.2 mmol) in DMF under N_2 atmosphere at 80 °C. After completion of reaction as indicated by TLC, the solvent was evaporated. The residue was purified on silica gel providing benzoimidazo[1,5-a]imidazole **4**.

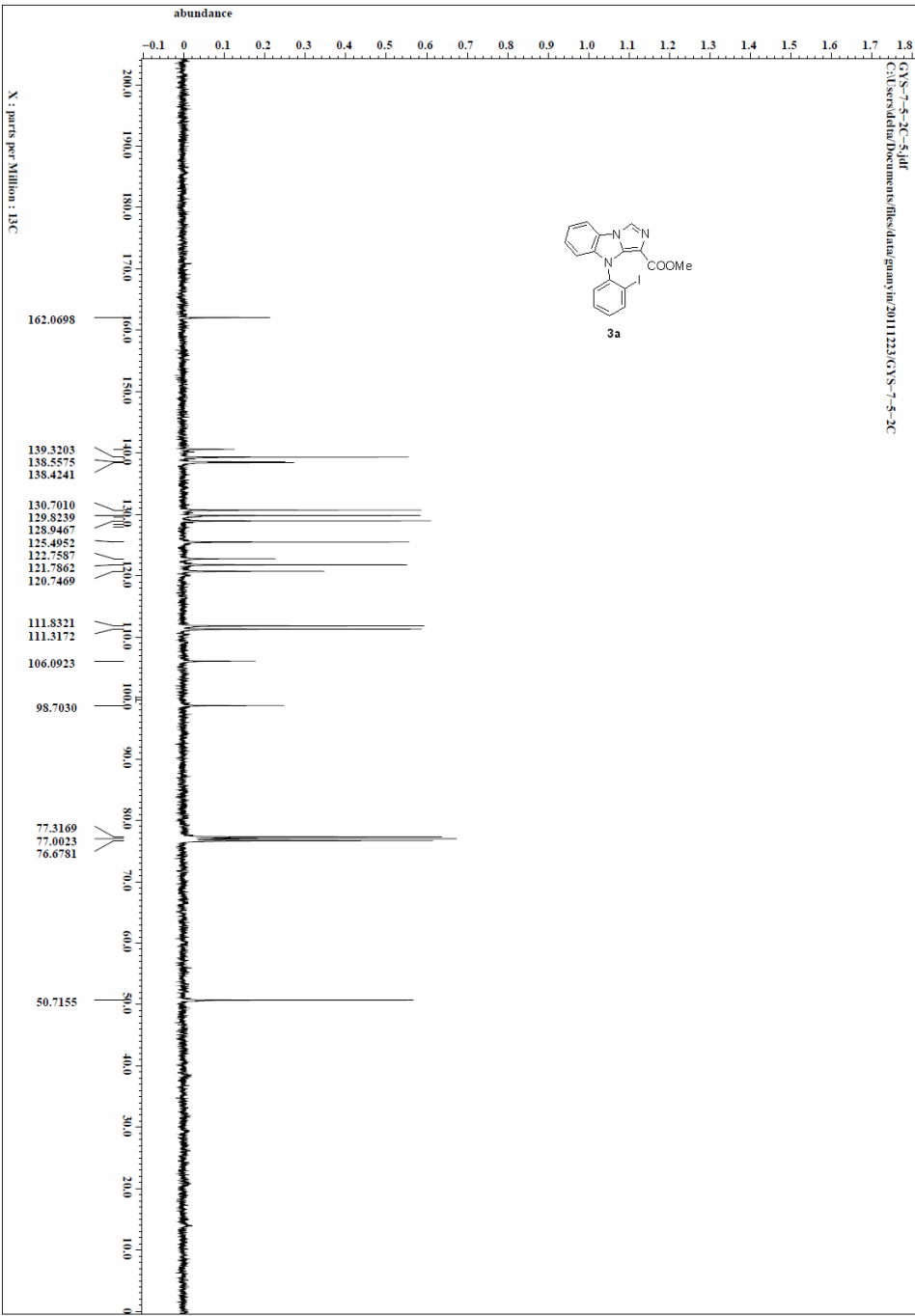
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.91 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 3.99-4.04 (m, 2H), 6.87-6.91 (m, 2H), 7.01 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.9, 20.9, 59.7, 105.7, 111.5, 111.7, 121.6, 127.7, 127.9, 128.3, 128.5, 128.6, 128.9, 130.9, 131.9, 132.0, 134.3, 141.3, 161.3; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 396.1707; found: 396.1715.

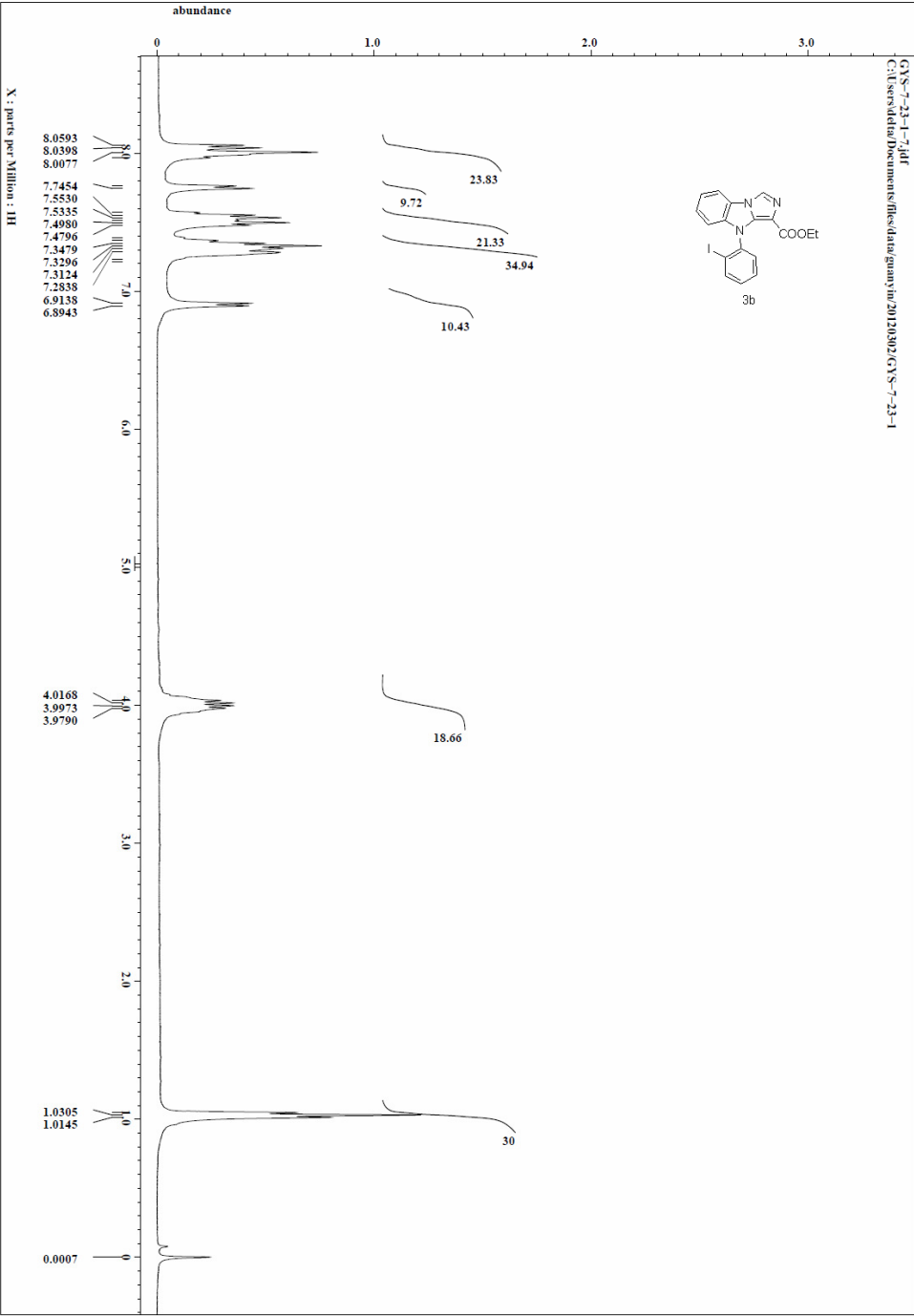


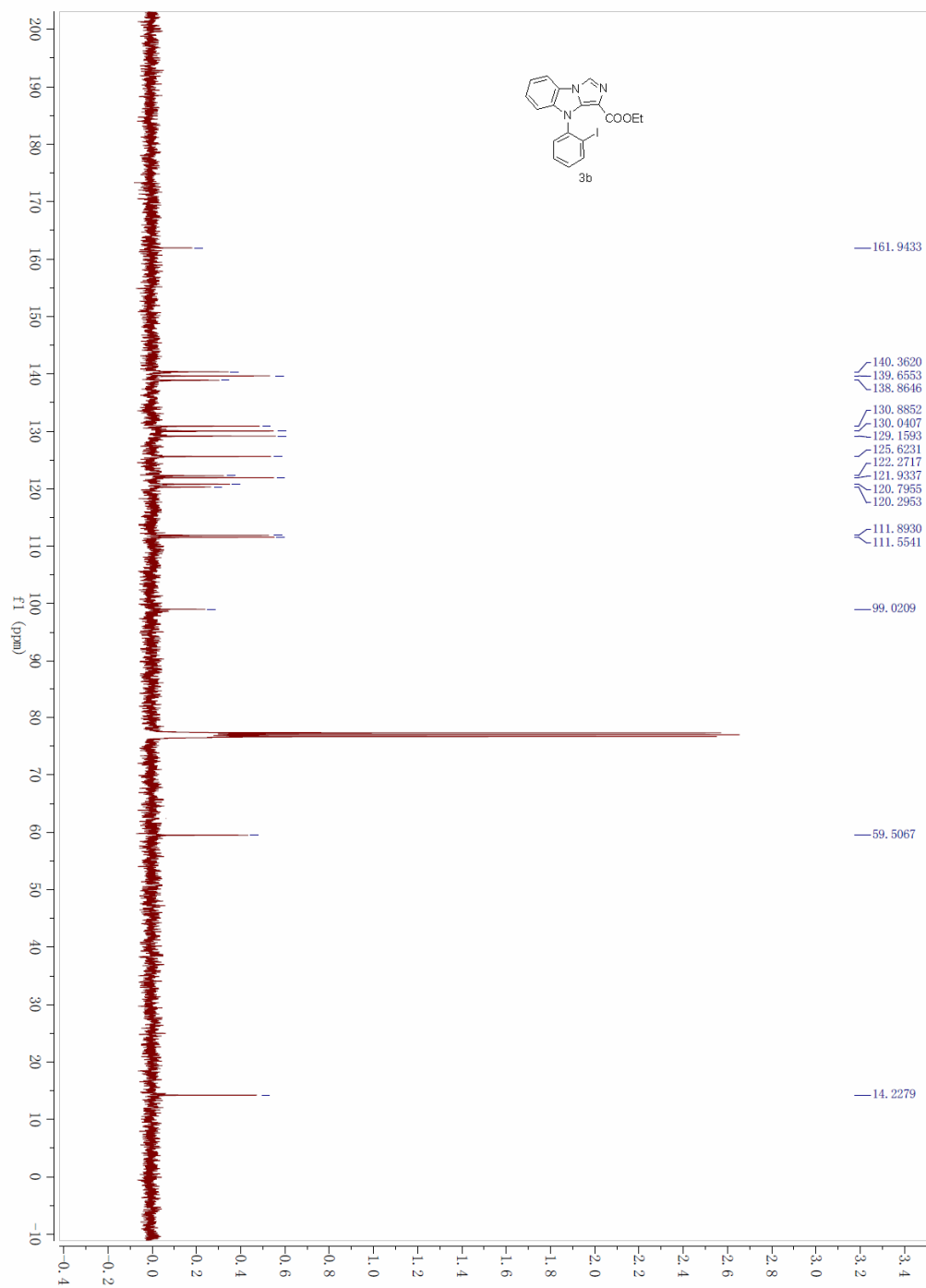
1-Chloro-4-ethynylbenzene (1.2 equiv), $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ (2 mol %), CuI (1 mol %), and benzoimidazo[1,5-*a*]imidazole **3b** (0.2 mmol) were added into a test tube. Dried triethylamine (2.0 mL) was added under N_2 atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at room temperature. After completion of reaction as indicated by TLC, the solvent was evaporated. The residue was purified on silica gel providing benzoimidazo[1,5-*a*]imidazole **5**.

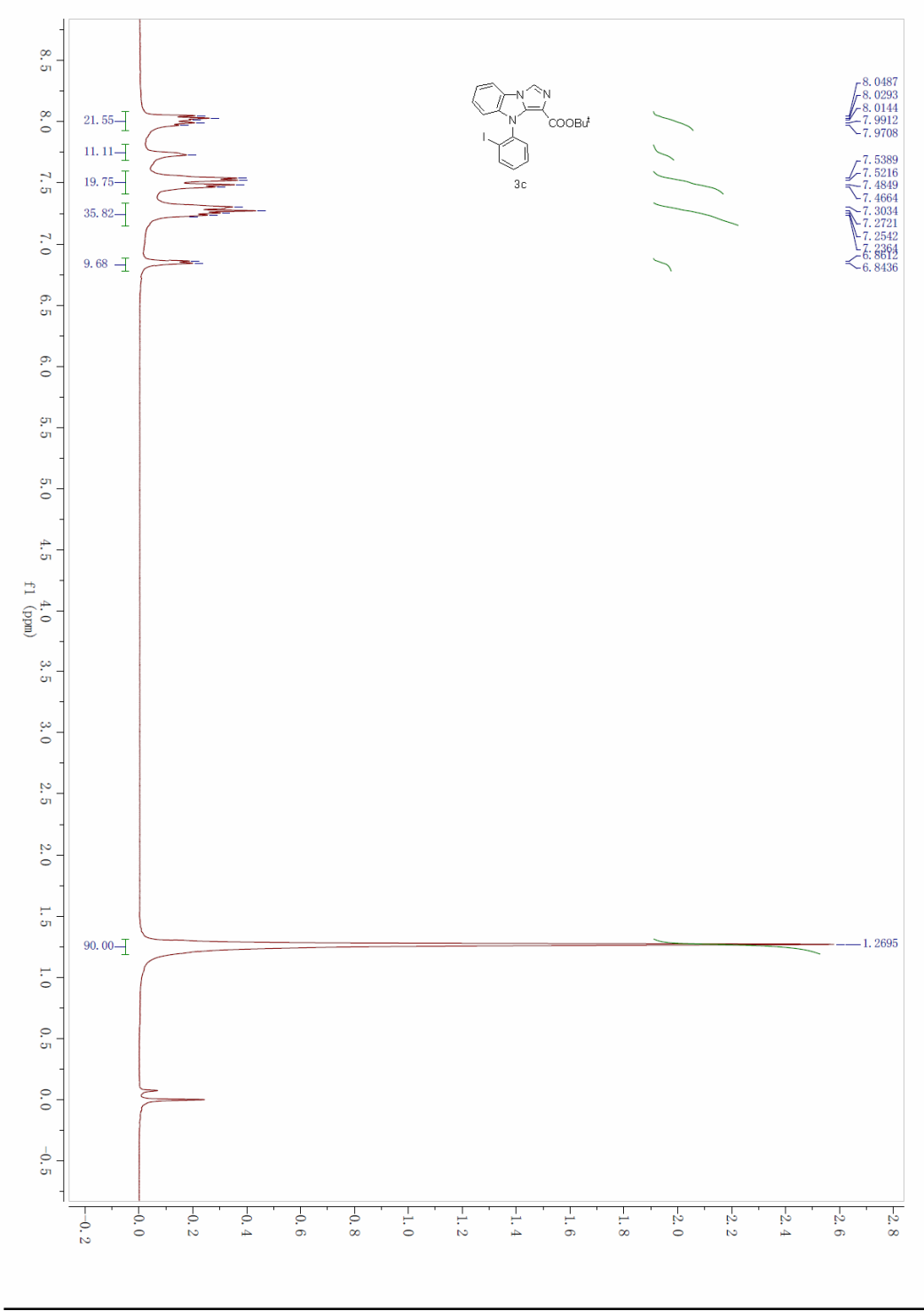
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.03 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 4.02-4.06 (m, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.70-7.72 (m, 3H), 8.01 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.2, 59.6, 85.6, 94.1, 111.8, 120.6, 121.9, 122.9, 125.5, 128.4, 128.5, 128.7, 129.0, 131.9, 132.1, 132.4, 132.6, 134.3, 138.9, 139.6, 141.3, 162.1; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ (ESI, $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 440.1160; found: 440.1166.

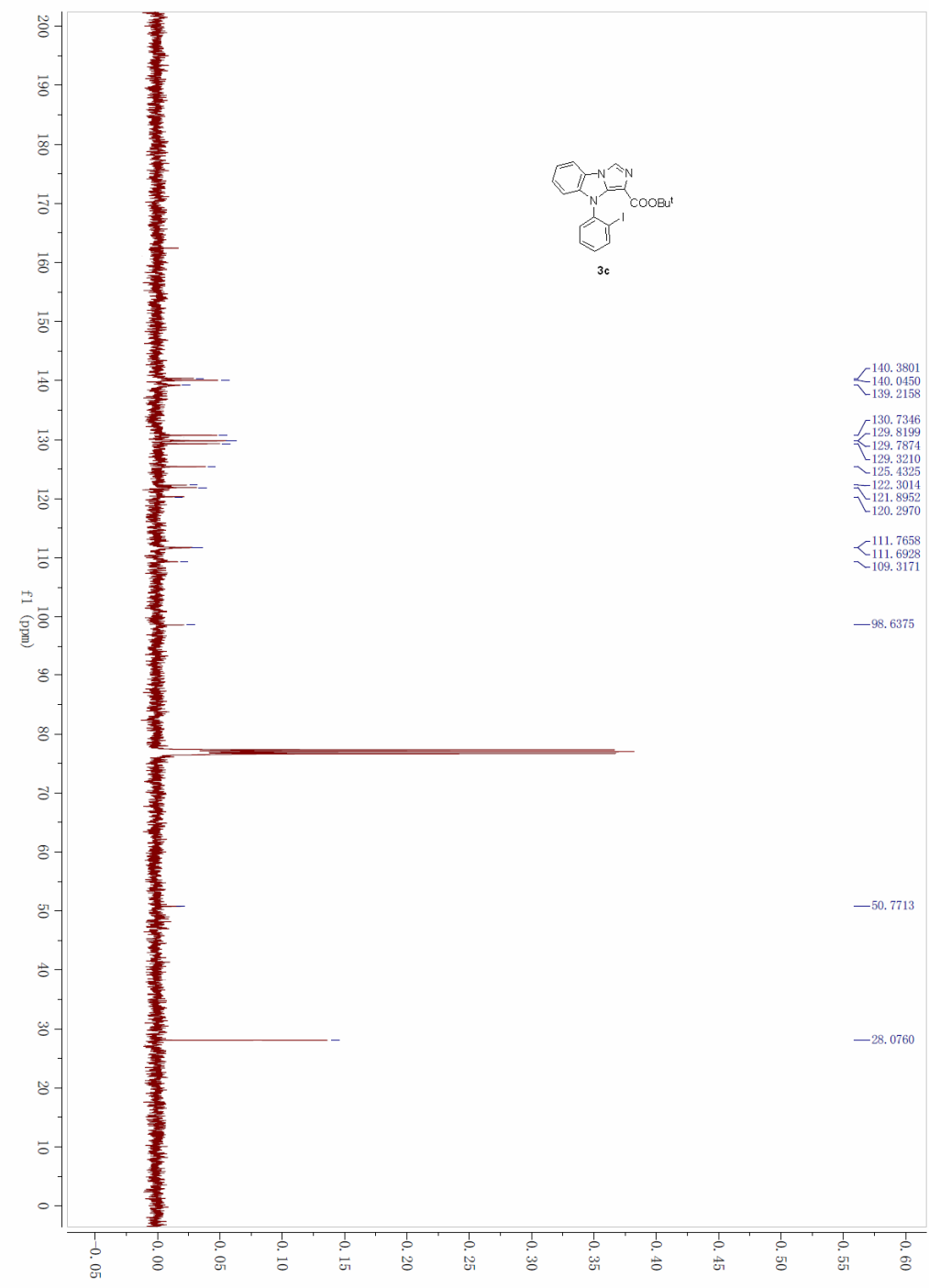


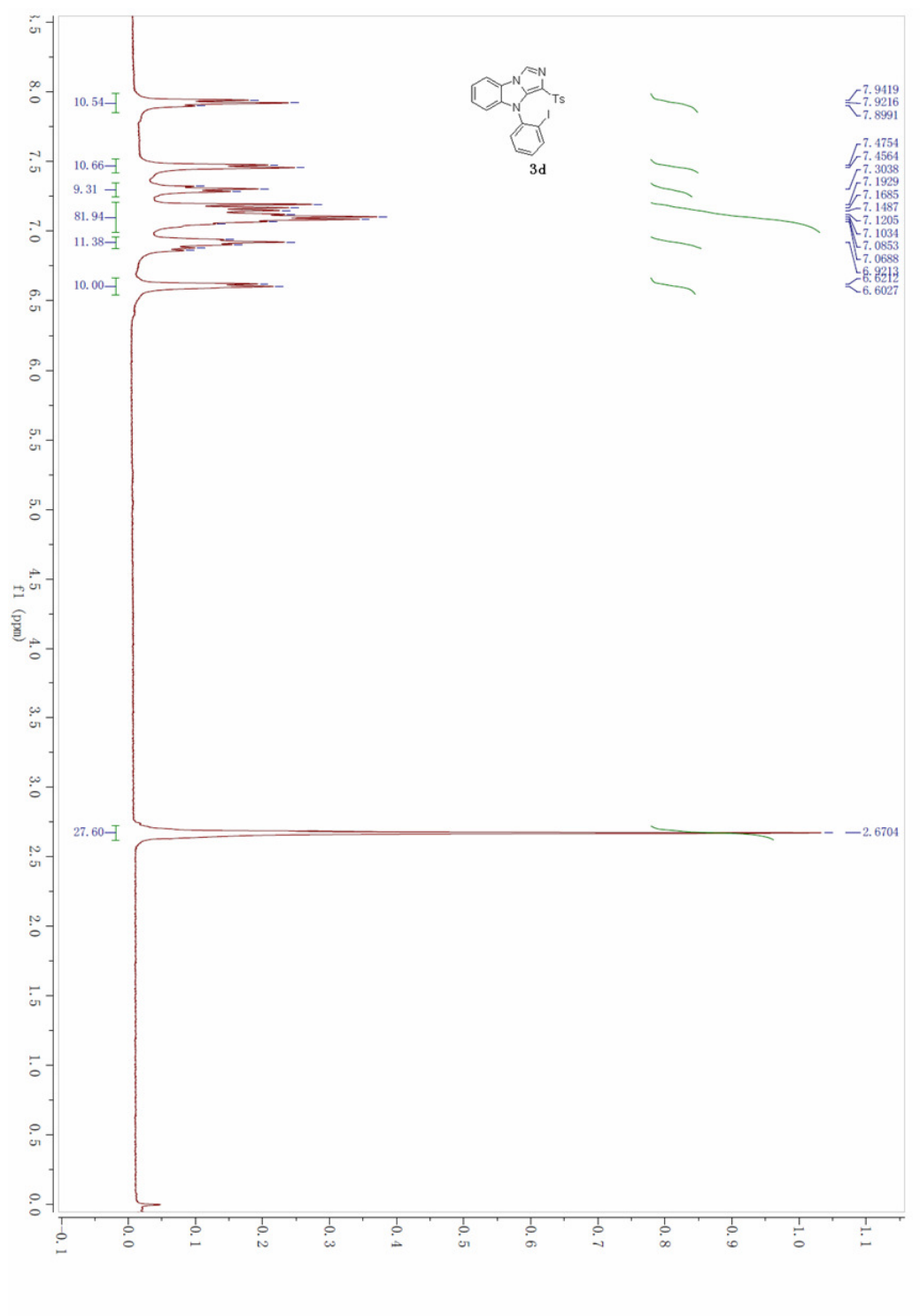


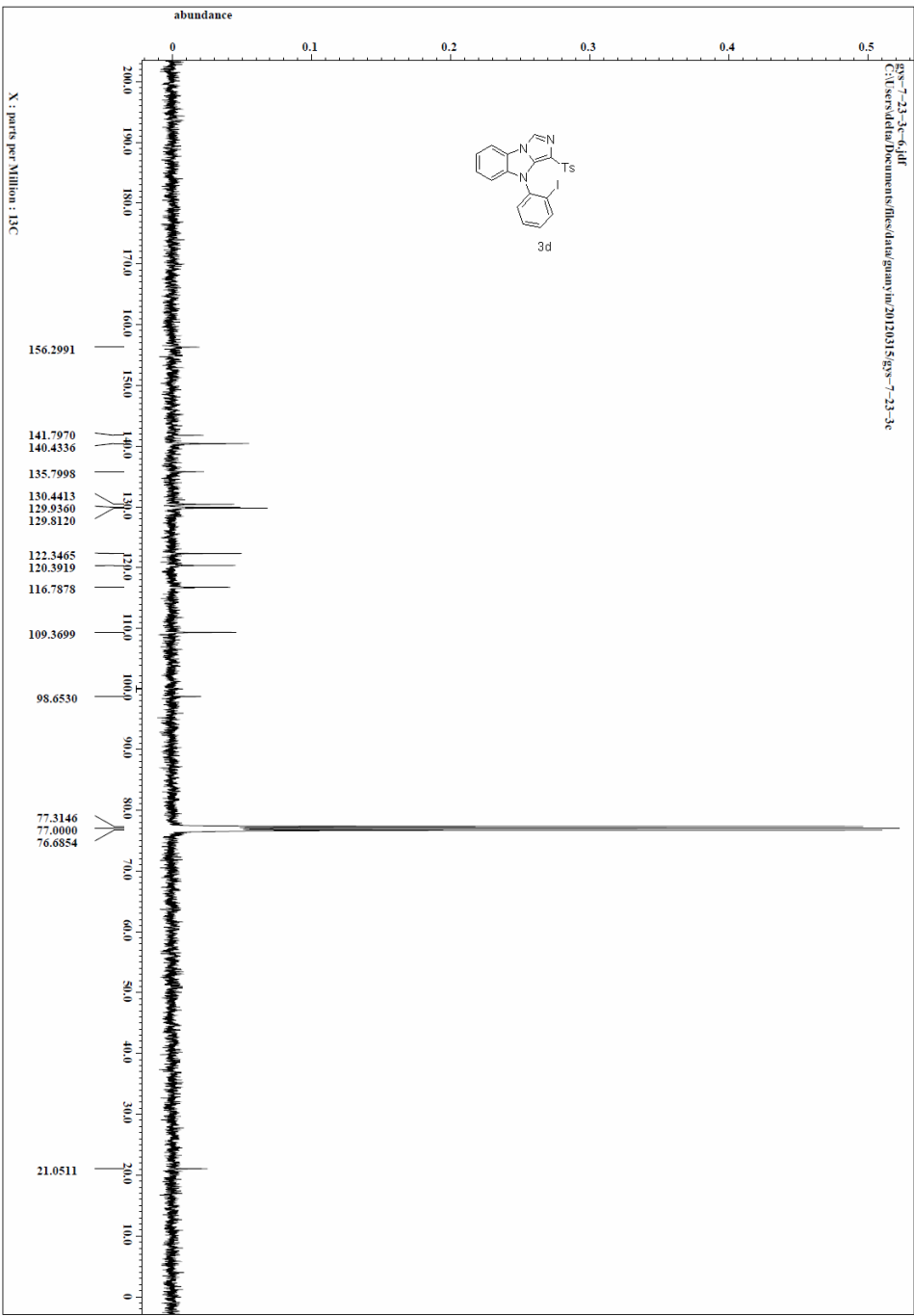


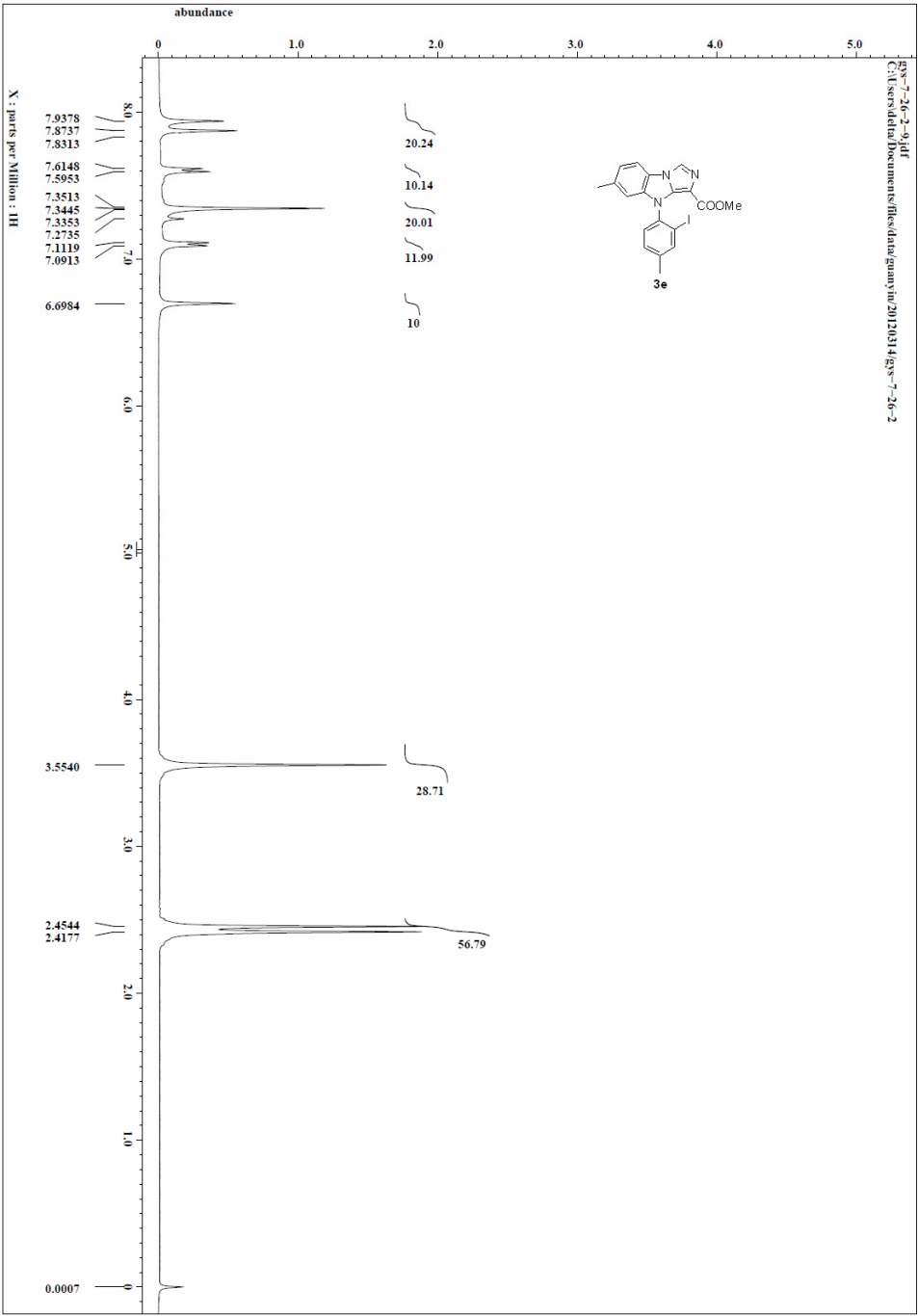












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