

Accessing *N*-Heteroarylated Indoles and Benzimidazoles from 2-Alkynyl Cyclohexadienimines and Cyclohexadienones through Metal-Catalyzed Tandem Reactions

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Supporting Information

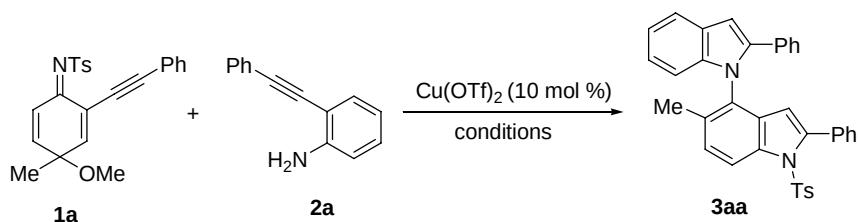
1. General experimental methods (S2)
2. General experimental procedure and characterization data. (S3-S18)
3. X-ray diffraction structure of compound **3aa**, **7aa**, and **10a** (S19-S21)
4. Copies of ¹H, ¹³C NMR spectra of products (S22-S101)

General experimental methods:

All reactions were performed in Schlenk tubes under nitrogen atmosphere. 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 (house vacuum) at 25–35 °C. Commercial reagents and solvents were used as received. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra are recorded in parts per million from internal tetramethylsilane on the δ scale.

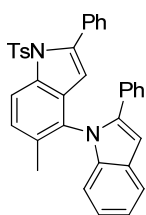
General procedure

1. Synthesis of *N,C4*-coupled biheteroaryl alkaloids from 2-alkynyl cyclohexadienimines via tandem reaction

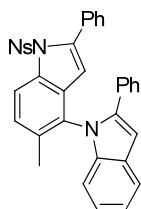


Entry	Conditions	3aa (%)
1	ClCH ₂ CH ₂ Cl, rt	95
2	CH ₃ CN, rt	0
3	THF, rt	25
4	toluene, rt	0
5	DMF, rt	0
6	1,4-dioxane, rt	11
7	ClCH ₂ CH ₂ Cl, reflux	90
8	ClCH ₂ CH ₂ Cl, rt	77

Cu(OTf)₂ (4 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added into the solution of compound **1a** (39 mg, 0.1 mmol) and compound **2a** (23 mg, 0.12 mmol) in DCE (2 mL) at room temperature. Upon completion determined by TLC, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ (25 mL), and extracted by ethyl acetate (25 mL x 3). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to afford the pure product **3aa** (52 mg, 95% yield).

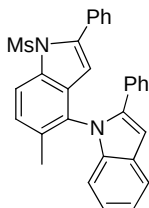


1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 3aa: colorless solid; m.p. 183-185 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.34-7.38 (m, 2 H), 7.33-7.34 (m, 3 H), 7.22 (m, 3 H), 7.01-7.12 (m, 9 H), 6.82 (s, 1 H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.07 (s, 1 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 1.88 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.4, 143.6, 141.2, 138.5, 137.6, 133.9, 132.9, 132.4, 131.8, 130.5, 130.1, 129.1, 128.8, 128.3, 128.0, 127.6, 127.4, 127.1, 126.8, 122.1, 120.5, 117.0, 111.6, 110.6, 102.6, 21.6, 17.1; IR (KBr) 3055, 3024, 2963, 2916, 2850, 1597, 1478, 1458, 1443, 1371 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m/z* calcd for C₃₆H₂₉N₂O₂S ([M+H]⁺): 553.1944, found 553.1939.

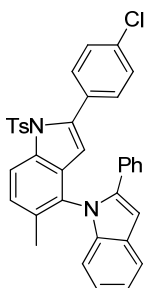


1-(5-methyl-1-(4-nitrophenylsulfonyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 3ba: yellow solid; m.p. 217-219 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.30-7.42 (m, 8 H), 7.01-7.12 (m, 7 H), 6.81 (s, 1 H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.00 (s, 1 H), 2.08 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.3, 143.2, 141.7, 141.3, 138.5, 137.2, 133.8, 132.4, 131.1, 130.6, 129.9, 129.7, 129.2, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7, 127.6, 127.2, 123.7, 122.4, 120.7, 120.6, 116.9, 112.4, 110.5, 103.1, 17.3; IR (KBr) 3101, 3060, 3029, 2957, 2916, 2845, 1607, 1535, 1473, 1448, 1386 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m/z* calcd for C₃₅H₂₆N₃O₄S ([M+H]⁺): 584.1639, found 584.1634.

1-(5-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 3ca: yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.28-7.39 (m, 6 H), 7.21-7.23 (m, 2 H), 7.13-7.17 (m,

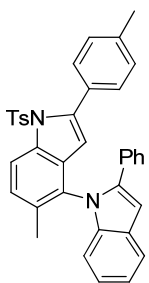


5 H), 6.87-6.89 (m, 2 H), 6.15 (s, 1 H), 2.59 (s, 3 H), 2.07 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.0, 141.4, 138.5, 137.2, 133.0, 132.7, 131.3, 129.9, 129.5, 129.0, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 127.6, 127.3, 122.4, 120.6, 116.0, 110.8, 110.7, 102.9, 38.8, 17.2; IR (KBr) 3060, 3035, 2957, 2927, 2865, 1602, 1576, 1484, 1463, 1437, 1365 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 477.1631, found 477.1646.



1-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole

3fa: yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.24 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.66 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.31-7.32 (m, 4 H), 7.19-7.26 (m, 3 H), 7.02-7.14 (m, 9 H), 6.83 (s, 1 H), 6.55 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.06 (s, 1 H), 2.38 (s, 3 H), 1.89 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.7, 142.3, 141.2, 138.5, 137.6, 134.9, 133.8, 133.1, 132.4, 131.2, 130.4, 129.1, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 127.2, 126.7, 122.2, 120.5, 117.0, 111.9, 110.6, 102.7, 21.6, 17.1; IR (KBr) 3055, 3029, 2952, 2921, 2850, 1591, 1494, 1473, 1458, 1365 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{28}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 587.1555, found 587.1542.

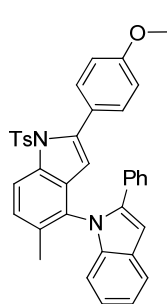


1-(5-methyl-2-p-tolyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole **3ga:**

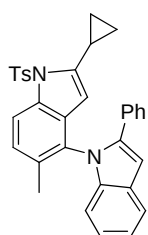
colorless solid; m.p. 154-156 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.23 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 7.66 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.30 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2 H), 7.23 (m, 3 H), 7.15 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 7.06-7.12 (m, 6 H), 7.00-7.03 (m, 3 H), 6.82 (s, 1 H), 6.54 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.05 (s, 1 H), 2.37 (s, 6 H), 1.86 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.4, 143.9, 141.2, 138.8, 138.5, 137.6, 133.9, 132.9, 132.4, 130.7, 129.9, 129.0, 128.2, 128.0, 127.6, 127.4, 127.1, 126.8, 122.1, 120.4, 117.1, 111.2, 110.7, 102.6, 21.6, 21.4, 17.0; IR (KBr) 3060, 3024, 2957, 2916, 2850, 1597, 1478, 1448, 1365 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 567.2101, found 567.2119.

1-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole

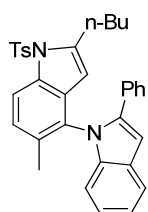
e 3ha: colorless solid; m.p. 181-183 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.23 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.66 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2 H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3 H), 7.06-7.12 (m, 6 H), 7.02-7.04 (m, 3 H), 6.87 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2



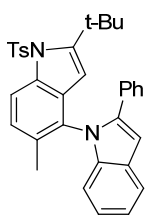
H), 6.82 (s, 1 H), 6.55 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.01 (s, 1 H), 3.83 (s, 3 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 1.87 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.1, 144.4, 143.6, 141.2, 138.8, 138.5, 137.5, 134.0, 132.8, 132.5, 131.4, 130.7, 129.0, 128.9, 128.3, 128.0, 127.6, 127.2, 127.1, 126.8, 124.2, 122.1, 120.4, 117.1, 112.9, 110.7, 102.6, 52.2, 21.6, 17.0; IR (KBr) 3055, 3029, 2952, 2927, 2850, 1612, 1576, 1504, 1478, 1448, 1371 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 583.2050, found 583.2048.



1-(2-cyclopropyl-5-methyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 3ia: yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.14 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.69 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.63 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2 H), 7.05-7.15 (m, 8 H), 6.85 (s, 1 H), 6.75 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 5.65 (s, 1 H), 2.40 (s, 3 H), 2.30-2.34 (m, 1 H), 1.88 (s, 3 H), 0.82-0.84 (m, 2 H), 0.31-0.42 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.3, 144.6, 141.4, 138.5, 136.4, 136.3, 132.5, 131.7, 129.6, 129.0, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 127.6, 127.2, 126.5, 122.1, 120.4, 114.6, 110.8, 103.5, 102.5, 21.6, 17.0, 9.3, 8.7, 8.4; IR (KBr) 3050, 3027, 2957, 2916, 2850, 1597, 1575, 1489, 1455, 1372 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 517.1944, found 517.1943.

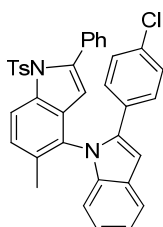


1-(2-butyl-5-methyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 3ja: yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.11 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.54 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 7.20 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 7.10-7.15 (m, 5 H), 7.03-7.08 (m, 3 H), 6.85 (s, 1 H), 6.73 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 5.88 (s, 1 H), 2.80-2.87 (m, 2 H), 2.38 (s, 3 H), 1.87 (s, 3 H), 1.50-1.56 (m, 2 H), 1.23-1.28 (m, 2 H), 0.84 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.6, 143.7, 141.4, 138.5, 136.3, 136.0, 132.5, 131.8, 129.7, 129.4, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.6, 127.2, 126.5, 126.1, 122.1, 120.4, 114.9, 110.8, 106.4, 102.5, 30.7, 28.7, 22.3, 21.6, 17.0, 13.8; IR (KBr) 3060, 3024, 2963, 2927, 2865, 1597, 1561, 1494, 1458, 1437, 1371 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 533.2257, found 533.2269.



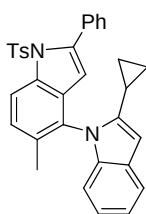
1-(2-tert-butyl-5-methyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 3ka:

colorless solid; m.p. 268-270 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 4 H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 7.08-7.16 (m, 6 H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 6.74 (s, 1 H), 6.44 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.44 (s, 3 H), 1.71 (s, 3 H), 0.75 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.9, 140.2, 139.2, 137.8, 135.8, 135.5, 134.6, 132.6, 130.5, 129.5, 128.2, 127.6, 127.3, 121.7, 121.5, 120.2, 117.7, 110.6, 110.5, 102.4, 30.0, 27.9, 21.6, 17.4; IR (KBr) 3055, 3029, 2962, 2922, 2870, 1596, 1576, 1482, 1457, 1391 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 533.2257, found 533.2254.



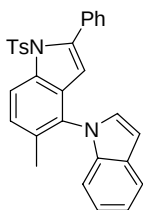
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-1H-indole

3ab: colorless solid; m.p. 159-161 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.26 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 5 H), 7.22-7.25 (m, 3 H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 3 H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.94-6.99 (m, 4 H), 6.81 (s, 1 H), 6.60 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.06 (s, 1 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H), 1.86 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.7, 143.9, 139.8, 138.6, 137.5, 133.9, 133.1, 132.8, 131.7, 130.9, 130.4, 130.1, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 127.6, 127.5, 126.8, 122.5, 120.7, 120.6, 117.1, 111.2, 110.7, 103.0, 21.6, 17.0; IR (KBr) 3049, 3024, 2952, 2922, 2845, 1597, 1473, 1452, 1375 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{28}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 587.1555, found 587.1553.

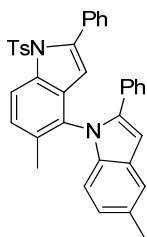


2-cyclopropyl-1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-1H-indole 3ac:

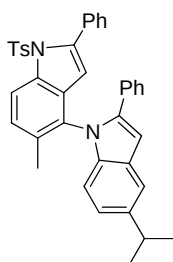
colorless solid; m.p. 202-204 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.40-7.43 (m, 2 H), 7.33-7.38 (m, 4 H), 7.24-7.26 (m, 2 H), 7.03-7.06 (m, 3 H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.53 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.16 (s, 1 H), 5.99 (s, 1 H), 2.31 (s, 3 H), 2.05 (s, 3 H), 1.22-1.26 (m, 1 H), 0.60-0.64 (m, 2 H), 0.56-0.58 (m, 1 H), 0.42-0.48 (m, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.6, 144.1, 143.6, 137.8, 137.5, 133.8, 133.6, 131.9, 131.0, 130.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 128.0, 127.5, 127.3, 126.8, 120.9, 119.8, 117.4, 111.7, 109.6, 96.7, 21.5, 17.0, 7.6, 7.6; IR (KBr) 3065, 3038, 2957, 2922, 2850, 1591, 1545, 1480, 1456, 1375 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 517.1944, found 517.1953.



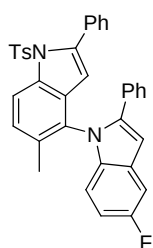
1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-1H-indole 3ad: yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.30 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 7.67 (dd, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.31-7.39 (m, 6 H), 7.27-7.29 (m, 2 H), 7.11-7.13 (m, 2 H), 7.06-7.09 (m, 3 H), 6.71 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.66 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.02 (s, 1 H), 2.31 (s, 3 H), 2.10 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.7, 143.0, 137.4, 136.7, 134.4, 131.8, 131.7, 130.2, 129.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 127.4, 126.8, 122.0, 120.9, 119.9, 116.6, 111.0, 110.5, 102.8, 21.5, 17.2; IR (KBr) 3050, 3029, 2947, 2916, 2855, 1730, 1597, 1509, 1478, 1453, 1371 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 477.1630, found 477.1647.



5-methyl-1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 3ae: colorless solid; m.p. 226-228 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.23 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.40 (m, 5 H), 7.21-7.23 (m, 3 H), 7.01-7.10 (m, 7 H), 6.86 (dd, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 6.75 (s, 1 H), 6.46 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.08 (s, 1 H), 2.43 (s, 3 H), 2.38 (s, 3 H), 1.88 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.4, 143.5, 141.2, 137.6, 136.9, 133.9, 132.9, 131.9, 130.5, 130.1, 129.8, 129.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 128.0, 127.5, 127.4, 127.0, 126.8, 123.7, 120.2, 116.9, 111.7, 110.3, 102.2, 21.6, 21.4, 17.1; IR (KBr) 3055, 3028, 2957, 2911, 2855, 1607, 1494, 1478, 1437, 1376 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 567.2101, found 567.2109.

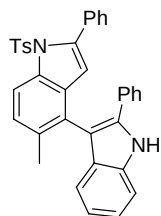


5-isopropyl-1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 3af: colorless solid; m.p. 153-155 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.23 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.40 (m, 2 H), 7.33-7.36 (m, 3 H), 7.21-7.23 (m, 3 H), 7.05-7.10 (m, 4 H), 7.00-7.02 (m, 2 H), 6.92 (dd, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1 H), 6.77 (s, 1 H), 6.51 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.10 (s, 1 H), 2.95-3.02 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 1.89 (s, 3 H), 1.30 (s, 3 H), 1.29 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.4, 143.5, 141.3, 141.1, 137.6, 137.2, 133.9, 132.9, 132.6, 131.9, 130.5, 130.1, 129.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.4, 128.0, 127.5, 127.4, 127.0, 126.8, 121.5, 117.3, 116.9, 111.7, 110.4, 102.4, 34.1, 24.5, 21.6, 21.4, 17.1; IR (KBr) 3050, 3024, 2958, 2924, 2870, 1735, 1598, 1479, 1444, 1375 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{35}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 595.2414, found 595.2434.



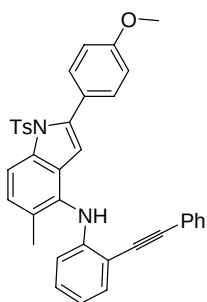
5-fluoro-1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole

3ag: colorless solid; m.p. 200-202 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.25 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 7.35-7.41 (m, 5 H), 7.30 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.22-7.24 (m, 3 H), 7.03-7.13 (m, 7 H), 6.73-6.78 (m, 2 H), 6.46-6.48 (m, 1 H), 6.06 (s, 1 H), 2.38 (s, 3 H), 1.86 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.5, 143.8, 142.8, 137.6, 135.0, 133.9, 132.8, 132.2, 131.7, 130.4, 130.1, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 126.8, 117.2, 111.2, 110.5, 110.3, 105.4, 105.1, 102.5, 34.1, 24.5, 21.6, 21.4, 17.0; IR (KBr) 3045, 3024, 2963, 2922, 2845, 1591, 1484, 1466, 1443, 1375 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{28}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 571.1850, found 571.1858.



5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-(2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-1-tosyl-1H-indole **5aa:**

yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.38 (s, 1 H), 8.20 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 7.42 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.36-7.39 (m, 2 H), 7.25-7.31 (m, 6 H), 7.11-7.21 (m, 6 H), 7.07 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2 H), 6.99 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.91 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.11 (s, 1 H), 2.35 (s, 3 H), 2.03 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.1, 142.4, 137.1, 135.9, 134.3, 133.9, 132.6, 132.4, 129.9, 129.2, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 126.9, 126.5, 126.3, 122.6, 120.0, 119.9, 116.0, 114.9, 111.3, 110.8, 21.6, 19.6; IR (KBr) 3399, 3060, 2922, 2844, 1602, 1489, 1448, 1371 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 553.1944, found 553.1953.

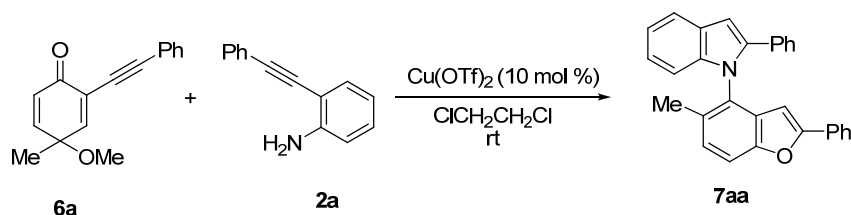


2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methyl-N-(2-(2-phenylethynyl)phenyl)-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-amine **8ha:**

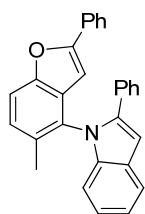
yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.09 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 7.50-7.52 (m, 2 H), 7.37-7.40 (m, 3 H), 7.32-7.34 (m, 3 H), 7.24-7.27 (m, 3 H), 7.05 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2 H), 6.96 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.90 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 6.68 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 6.32 (s, 1 H), 6.25 (s, 1 H), 6.07 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 2.32 (s, 3 H), 2.30 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.0, 146.7, 144.4, 142.1, 137.8, 134.3, 132.1, 131.5, 131.4, 130.6, 130.0, 129.5, 129.1, 128.6, 128.4, 127.4, 126.8, 124.6, 123.0, 117.8, 114.5, 112.9, 111.7, 111.4, 107.9, 95.5, 85.7, 52.3, 21.5, 17.5; IR (KBr) 3378, 3050, 2957,

2916, 2850, 1607, 1576, 1499, 1448, 1371 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 583.2050, found 583.2043.

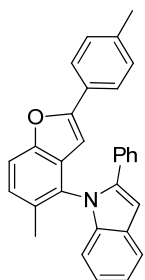
2. Synthesis of *N,C4*-coupled biheteroaryl alkaloids from 2-alkynyl cyclohexadienones via tandem reaction



$\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$ (4 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added into the solution of compound **6a** (24 mg, 0.1 mmol) and compound **2a** (23 mg, 0.12 mmol) in DCE (2 mL) at room temperature. Upon completion determined by TLC, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO_3 (25 mL), and extracted by ethyl acetate (25 mL x 3). The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate = 50:1) **7aa** (37 mg, 92% yield).

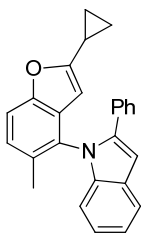


1-(5-methyl-2-phenylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 7aa: colorless solid; m.p. 244–246 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 3 H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2 H), 7.27–7.31 (m, 3 H), 7.12–7.20 (m, 6 H), 6.91 (s, 1 H), 6.88 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1 H), 6.63 (s, 1 H), 1.88 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.0, 153.9, 141.6, 138.8, 132.7, 131.4, 130.1, 129.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 127.9, 126.9, 125.1, 122.4, 120.7, 120.6, 111.3, 111.1, 102.8, 99.5, 17.2; IR (KBr) 3049, 3025, 2957, 2922, 2845, 1591, 1582, 1478, 1453 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 400.1696, found 400.1682.



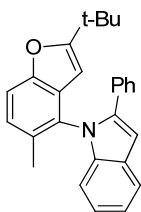
1-(5-methyl-2-p-tolylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 7fa: colorless solid; m.p. 224–226 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.64 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2 H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.27–7.28 (m, 2 H), 7.10–7.20 (m, 8 H), 6.87–6.90 (m, 2 H), 6.57 (s, 1 H), 2.35 (s, 3 H), 1.87 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.1, 153.6, 141.4, 138.9, 138.6, 132.5,

131.1, 129.4, 129.1, 128.4, 128.2, 127.7, 127.4, 127.2, 126.5, 124.9, 122.3, 120.5, 120.4, 111.0, 110.9, 102.6, 98.7, 21.4, 17.1; IR (KBr) 2963, 2922, 2850, 1602, 1489, 1448 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 414.1852, found 414.1852.



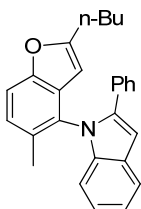
1-(2-cyclopropyl-5-methylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 7ha:

colorless solid; m.p. 153-155 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.71 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.22-7.26 (m, 2 H), 7.15-7.18 (m, 4 H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 1 H), 7.02 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (s, 1 H), 6.83 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 5.94 (s, 1 H), 1.89-1.93 (m, 1 H), 1.84 (s, 3 H), 0.88-0.94 (m, 4 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.6, 153.1, 141.4, 138.6, 132.7, 130.6, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.7, 127.3, 125.2, 122.1, 120.4, 110.9, 110.5, 102.5, 98.5, 17.0, 9.4, 7.6; IR (KBr) 3055, 3019, 2947, 2932, 2855, 1586, 1489, 1453, 1437, 1371 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 364.1696, found 364.1676.



1-(2-tert-butyl-5-methylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 7ia:

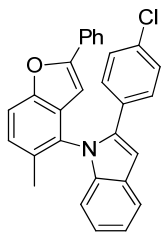
yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.72 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.23-7.25 (m, 2 H), 7.12-7.15 (m, 5 H), 7.06 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.85-6.88 (m, 2 H), 5.92 (s, 1 H), 1.87 (s, 3 H), 1.28 (s, 9 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.4, 153.5, 141.5, 138.6, 132.7, 130.4, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 127.3, 125.4, 122.1, 120.4, 111.0, 110.7, 102.5, 97.2, 33.0, 28.8, 17.1; IR (KBr) 3055, 3029, 2968, 2922, 2855, 1597, 1581, 1494, 1458, 1437, 1371 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 380.2009, found 380.2019.



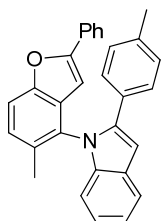
1-(2-butyl-5-methylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 7ja:

yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.71 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.23-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 5H), 7.06 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (s, 1 H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1 H), 5.95 (s, 1 H), 2.66 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2 H), 1.88 (s, 3 H), 1.60-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.34 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.8, 153.5, 141.4, 138.6, 132.7, 130.5, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3,

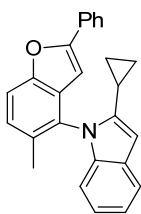
128.1, 127.7, 127.3, 125.4, 122.1, 120.4, 110.9, 110.6, 102.5, 100.0, 29.5, 28.1, 22.2, 17.1, 13.7; IR (KBr) 3055, 3024, 2957, 2922, 2855, 1586, 1489, 1458, 1437, 1376 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 380.2009, found 380.2013.



2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(5-methyl-2-phenylbenzofuran-4-yl)-1H-indole 7ab: colorless solid; m.p. 202-204 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73-7.77 (m, 3 H), 7.50 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2 H), 7.33 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.12-7.21 (m, 7 H), 6.90 (s, 1 H), 6.88 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.60 (s, 1 H), 1.87 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.0, 153.8, 140.1, 138.8, 133.4, 131.2, 130.1, 129.9, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 126.8, 125.0, 122.6, 120.7, 120.6, 111.3, 111.0, 103.0, 99.2, 17.1; IR (KBr) 3050, 3024, 2957, 2922, 2854, 1596, 1581, 1484, 1453 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClNO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 434.1306, found 434.1311.

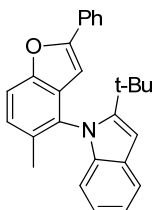


1-(5-methyl-2-phenylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-p-tolyl-1H-indole 7ah: colorless solid; m.p. 203-205 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.72-7.77 (m, 3 H), 7.49 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2 H), 7.32 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1 H), 7.11-7.17 (m, 5 H), 6.96 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2 H), 6.86-6.87 (m, 2 H), 6.63 (s, 1 H), 2.24 (s, 3 H), 1.89 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.7, 153.7, 141.5, 138.5, 137.2, 131.2, 130.0, 129.7, 129.4, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.6, 126.7, 124.9, 122.1, 120.5, 120.3, 111.1, 110.9, 102.2, 99.5, 21.1, 17.1; IR (KBr) 3050, 3024, 2947, 2922, 2855, 1597, 1581, 1494, 1473, 1448 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 414.1852, found 414.1865.

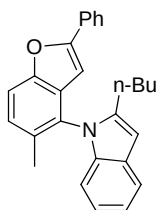


2-cyclopropyl-1-(5-methyl-2-phenylbenzofuran-4-yl)-1H-indole 7ac: yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79-7.82 (m, 2 H), 7.68 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1 H), 7.60 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.61 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.41-7.43 (m, 2 H), 7.32-7.36 (m, 2 H), 7.14-7.20 (m, 1 H), 7.07-7.13 (m, 1 H), 6.86 (t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.61 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1 H), 6.32 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1 H), 2.14 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3 H), 1.53-1.60 (m, 1 H), 0.79-0.82 (m, 4 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.8, 153.9, 144.4, 137.6, 131.9, 130.0, 129.4, 128.7, 128.1, 128.5, 124.9,

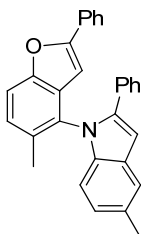
121.0, 119.9, 119.7, 111.3, 109.9, 99.4, 96.4, 17.0, 8.0, 7.7; IR (KBr) 3081, 3055, 3009, 2952, 2921, 2855, 1607, 1556, 1499, 1484, 1458, 1396 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 364.1696, found 364.1716.



2-tert-butyl-1-(5-methyl-2-phenylbenzofuran-4-yl)-1H-indole 7ai: colorless solid; m.p. 234-236 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2 H), 7.23-7.31 (m, 2 H), 7.09 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1 H), 6.98 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 6.57 (s, 1 H), 6.53 (s, 1 H), 6.51 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 1.95 (s, 3 H), 1.23 (s, 9 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.5, 153.3, 150.1, 139.2, 132.9, 130.9, 130.1, 128.7, 127.1, 126.5, 125.0, 121.4, 119.9, 119.7, 111.6, 109.8, 100.1, 99.7, 33.2, 30.4, 17.1; IR (KBr) 3060, 3026, 2968, 2927, 2865, 1602, 1576, 1504, 1484, 1453 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 380.2009, found 380.2026.

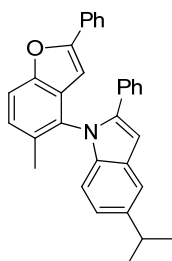


2-butyl-1-(5-methyl-2-phenylbenzofuran-4-yl)-1H-indole 7aj: yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.64 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.54 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 7.26-7.31 (m, 2 H), 7.11 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.03 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1 H), 6.78 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1 H), 6.50 (s, 1 H), 2.47 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 2.02 (s, 3 H), 1.50-1.56 (m, 2 H), 1.24-1.30 (m, 2 H), 0.79 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.8, 153.9, 142.1, 137.5, 131.7, 130.0, 129.2, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 126.6, 124.9, 121.0, 119.8, 119.7, 111.3, 110.0, 99.9, 99.2, 30.4, 26.6, 22.2, 16.9, 13.8; IR (KBr) 3050, 2955, 2928, 2859, 1602, 1581, 1550, 1498, 1483, 1457, 1392 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 380.2009, found 380.2023.



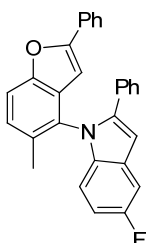
5-methyl-1-(5-methyl-2-phenylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 7ae: colorless solid; m.p. 227-229 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.52 (s, 1 H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2 H), 7.31 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1 H), 7.25-7.28 (m, 2 H), 7.12-7.15 (m, 4 H), 6.95 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.83 (s, 1 H), 6.78 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.63 (s, 1 H), 2.47 (s, 3 H), 1.88 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.7, 153.7, 141.5, 137.1, 132.7,

131.2, 130.0, 129.8, 129.5, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 127.6, 127.3, 126.7, 124.9, 123.9, 120.2, 118.2, 111.0, 110.6, 102.3, 99.5, 21.5, 17.1; IR (KBr) 2963, 2922, 2850, 1591, 1468 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 414.1852, found 414.1866.



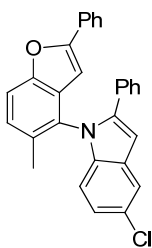
5-isopropyl-1-(5-methyl-2-phenylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 7af:

colorless solid; m.p. 156-158 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.68 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.51 (s, 1 H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 7.17-7.25 (m, 3 H), 7.05-7.08 (m, 4 H), 6.94 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.78 (s, 1 H), 6.73 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.58 (s, 1 H), 2.93-3.00 (m, 1 H), 1.81 (s, 3 H), 1.27 (s, 3 H), 1.25 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.7, 153.7, 141.5, 141.2, 137.4, 132.8, 131.2, 130.0, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 127.6, 127.2, 126.7, 124.9, 121.7, 117.2, 111.0, 110.7, 102.5, 99.6, 34.1, 24.6, 24.5, 17.2; IR (KBr) 3055, 3035, 2952, 2927, 2865, 1602, 1484, 1463, 1458 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 442.2165, found 442.2179.



5-fluoro-1-(5-methyl-2-phenylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 7ag:

colorless solid; m.p. 221-223 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.36-7.41 (m, 3 H), 7.32-7.34 (m, 1 H), 7.25-7.28 (m, 2 H), 7.13-7.17 (m, 4 H), 6.83-6.89 (m, 2 H), 6.76-6.80 (m, 1 H), 6.61 (s, 3 H), 1.87 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.0, 153.7, 143.0, 135.2, 132.3, 131.2, 129.9, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 127.7, 126.8, 125.0, 111.6, 111.5, 111.3, 110.7, 105.3, 105.1, 102.5, 99.2, 17.0; IR (KBr) 3060, 3025, 2952, 2922, 2850, 1602, 1478, 1463, 1448 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{21}\text{FNO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 418.1602, found 418.1614.

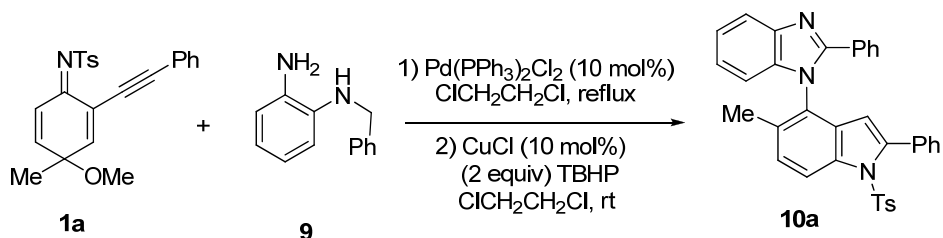


5-chloro-1-(5-methyl-2-phenylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole 7ak:

colorless solid; m.p. 207-209 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.76 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.70 (s, 1 H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.39 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.33 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.25-7.27 (m, 2 H), 7.13-7.17 (m, 4 H), 7.07 (dd, J = 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.84 (s, 1 H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.59 (s, 1 H), 1.86 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.0, 153.7, 142.7, 137.0, 132.1, 131.2, 129.9,

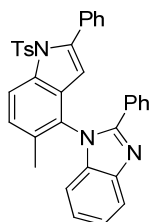
129.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 127.7, 126.8, 126.2, 125.0, 122.5, 119.8, 111.9, 111.4, 102.1, 99.1, 17.0; IR (KBr) 3059, 3020, 2958, 2916, 2850, 1607, 1555, 1478, 1443 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClNO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 434.1306, found 434.1311.

3. Synthesis of 1-(1*H*-indol-4-yl)-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazole



$\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_2\text{Cl}_2$ (7 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added into the solution of compound **1a** (39 mg, 0.1 mmol) and **9** (40 mg, 0.2 mmol) in DCE (2 mL) at 90 °C. After 3 hours, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO_3 (25 mL), and extracted by ethyl acetate (25 mL x 3). The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to afford the pure product **11a** (40 mg, 72% yield).

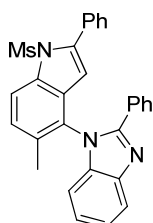
CuCl (1 mg, 10mol %) and *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (13 mg, 0.14 mmol) was added into the solution of compound **11a** (40 mg, 0.07 mmol) in DCE (2 mL) at room temperature. Upon completion determined by TLC, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO_3 (25 mL), and extracted by ethyl acetate (25 mL x 3). The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford the pure product **10a** (37 mg, 94% yield).



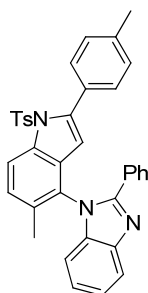
1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazole

e 10a: red solid; m.p. 187-189 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.35 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.88 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.29-7.41 (m, 9 H), 7.24-7.27 (m, 3 H), 7.08-7.16 (m, 5 H), 6.69 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.03 (s, 1 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 1.91 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.4, 144.7, 144.3, 143.1, 137.8, 136.5, 134.0, 132.0, 131.5, 130.1, 130.0, 129.5, 129.3, 129.1, 129.0, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.5, 127.2, 126.8, 123.3, 122.9, 119.9, 117.8, 110.5, 110.4, 21.6,

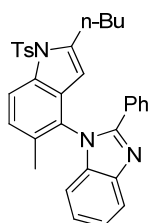
16.9; IR (KBr) 3065, 3024, 2957, 2911, 2855, 1597, 1473, 1443 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 554.1897, found 554.1897.



1-(5-methyl-1-(methanesulfonyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazole 10c: red solid; m.p. 186-188 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.16 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.93 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 7.39-7.41 (m, 2 H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 4 H), 7.29-7.31 (m, 1 H), 7.24-7.26 (m, 4 H), 6.96 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.14 (s, 1 H), 2.74 (s, 3 H), 2.05 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.6, 143.5, 143.1, 137.2, 136.5, 132.1, 130.9, 130.1, 129.6, 129.2, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.7, 127.6, 123.5, 123.0, 120.0, 116.7, 110.5, 109.5, 39.7, 17.1; IR (KBr) 3060, 3035, 2952, 2922, 2845, 1607, 1494, 1478, 1437 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 478.1584, found 478.1592.



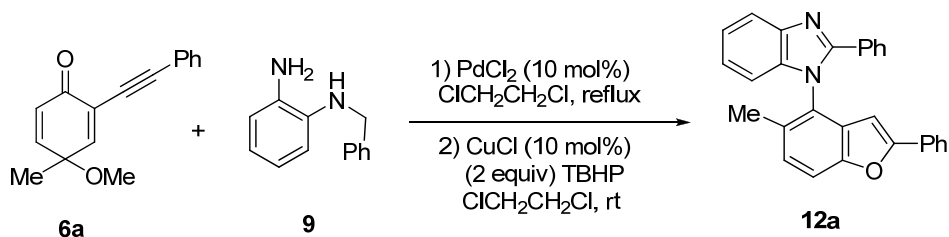
1-(5-methyl-2-p-tolyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazole 10g: red solid; m.p. 216-218 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.33 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.88 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.38 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2 H), 7.25-7.27 (m, 6 H), 7.09-7.17 (m, 8 H), 6.67 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.01 (s, 1 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 1.89 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.4, 144.6, 144.5, 143.0, 139.1, 137.7, 136.5, 133.9, 132.0, 130.0, 129.3, 129.1, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 127.5, 126.8, 123.3, 122.9, 119.8, 117.9, 110.4, 110.1, 21.6, 21.4, 16.9; IR (KBr) 3055, 3029, 2952, 2916, 2855, 1648, 1602, 1484, 1437 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 568.2053, found 568.2068.



1-(2-butyl-5-methyl-1-tosyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazole 10j: yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.21 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.92 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.60 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2 H), 7.45 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2 H), 7.32 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.19-7.25 (m, 4 H), 7.14-7.16 (m, 3 H), 6.83 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 5.84 (s, 1 H), 2.86-2.84 (m, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3 H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.50-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.25-1.27 (m, 2H), 0.84 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.6, 144.8, 144.4, 143.0, 136.6, 136.5, 135.9, 130.9, 130.0, 129.8, 129.4, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 126.7, 126.6, 126.2, 123.2, 122.8, 119.8, 115.7, 110.6,

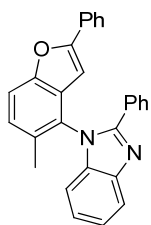
105.5, 30.6, 28.6, 22.2, 21.6, 16.9, 13.7; IR (KBr) 3060, 2952, 2932, 2865, 1597, 1561, 1489, 1458, 1443 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 534.2210, found 534.2215.

4. Synthesis of 1-(benzofuran-4-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole



PdCl_2 (2 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added into the solution of compound **6a** (24 mg, 0.1 mmol) and **9** (40 mg, 0.2 mmol) in DCE (2 mL) at 90 °C. After 10 hours, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO_3 (25 mL), and extracted by ethyl acetate (25 mL x 3). The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate = 30:1) to afford the pure product **13a** (30 mg, 74% yield).

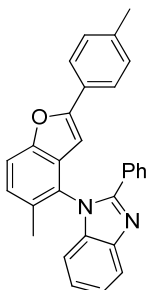
CuCl (1 mg, 10mol %) and *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (13 mg, 0.14 mmol) was added into the solution of compound **13a** (30 mg, 0.07 mmol) in DCE (2 mL) at room temperature. Upon completion determined by TLC, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO_3 (25 mL), and extracted by ethyl acetate (25 mL x 3). The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to afford the pure product **12a** (28 mg, 95% yield).



1-(5-methyl-2-phenylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole

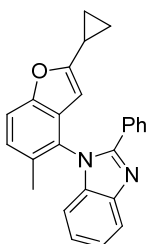
12a: red solid; m.p. 228-230 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 3 H), 7.74 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.62 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.36-7.38 (m, 2 H), 7.29-7.33 (m, 2 H), 7.21-7.23 (m, 5 H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.59 (s, 1 H), 1.92 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.5, 153.9, 152.6, 143.2, 136.7, 130.5, 130.1, 129.6, 129.1, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 127.4, 126.9, 125.0, 123.4, 122.9, 119.8, 112.0, 110.7, 98.7, 17.0; IR

(KBr) 3060, 3028, 2963, 2916, 2845, 1597, 1484, 1437 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 401.1648, found 401.1666.



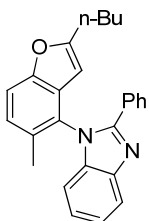
1-(5-methyl-2-p-tolylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole 12g:

red solid; m.p. 184-186 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.60-7.65 (m, 4H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.28-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.25 (m, 6H), 6.96 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.53 (s, 1 H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.91 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.7, 153.8, 152.7, 143.2, 139.3, 136.7, 130.4, 130.1, 129.6, 129.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.2, 126.9, 126.7, 125.0, 123.4, 122.9, 119.8, 111.9, 110.7, 98.0, 21.4, 17.0; IR (KBr) 3060, 3029, 2952, 2932, 2850, 1612, 1484, 1443 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 415.1805, found 415.1812.



1-(2-cyclopropyl-5-methylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole 12i:

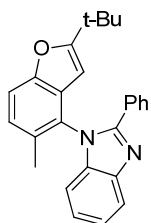
red solid; m.p. 178-180 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.92 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.58 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2 H), 7.40 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.28-7.33 (m, 2 H), 7.18-7.26 (m, 3 H), 7.10 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.90 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 5.92 (s, 1 H), 1.90-1.94 (m, 1 H), 1.88 (s, 3 H), 0.90-0.97 (m, 4 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.3, 153.3, 152.5, 143.1, 136.6, 130.2, 129.8, 129.5, 128.3, 128.2, 126.5, 125.5, 123.2, 122.8, 119.7, 111.4, 110.7, 97.9, 17.0, 9.4, 7.7; IR (KBr) 3070, 3019, 2952, 2921, 2850, 1586, 1494, 1458, 1443 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 365.1648, found 365.1665.



1-(2-butyl-5-methylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1 H-benzo[d]imidazole 12j:

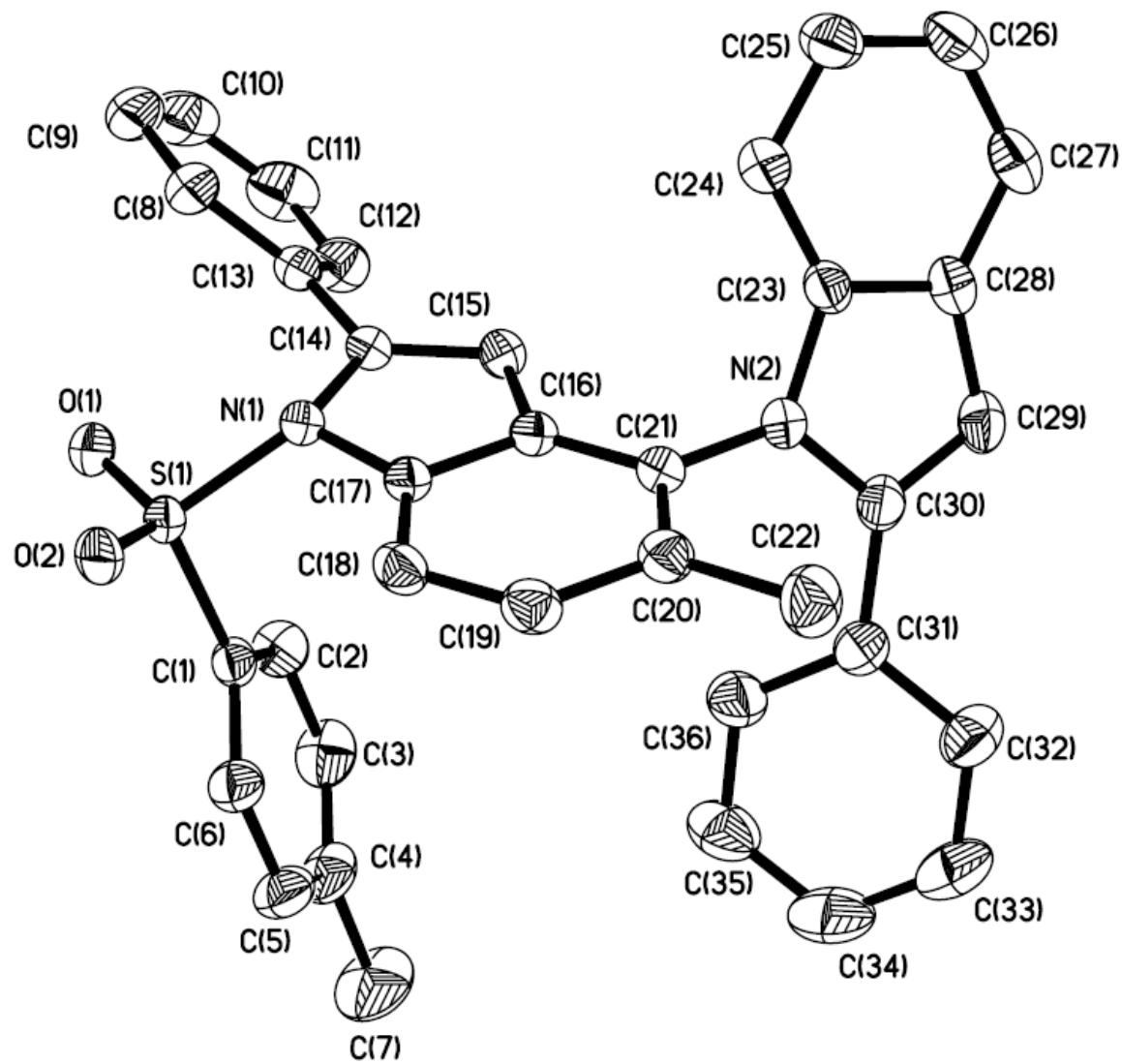
yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.93 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.57 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2 H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.28 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.21-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.92 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 5.93 (s, 1 H), 2.68 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2 H), 1.91 (s, 3 H), 1.61-1.65 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.35 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.5, 153.7, 152.6, 143.1, 136.6, 130.2, 129.7, 129.5, 128.3, 128.2, 127.9, 126.8, 125.7, 123.2, 122.8, 119.8, 111.5, 110.7, 99.5, 29.4, 28.1, 22.1, 17.0,

13.7; IR (KBr) 3060, 3029, 2957, 2927, 2865, 1586, 1489, 1453 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 381.1961, found 381.1974.

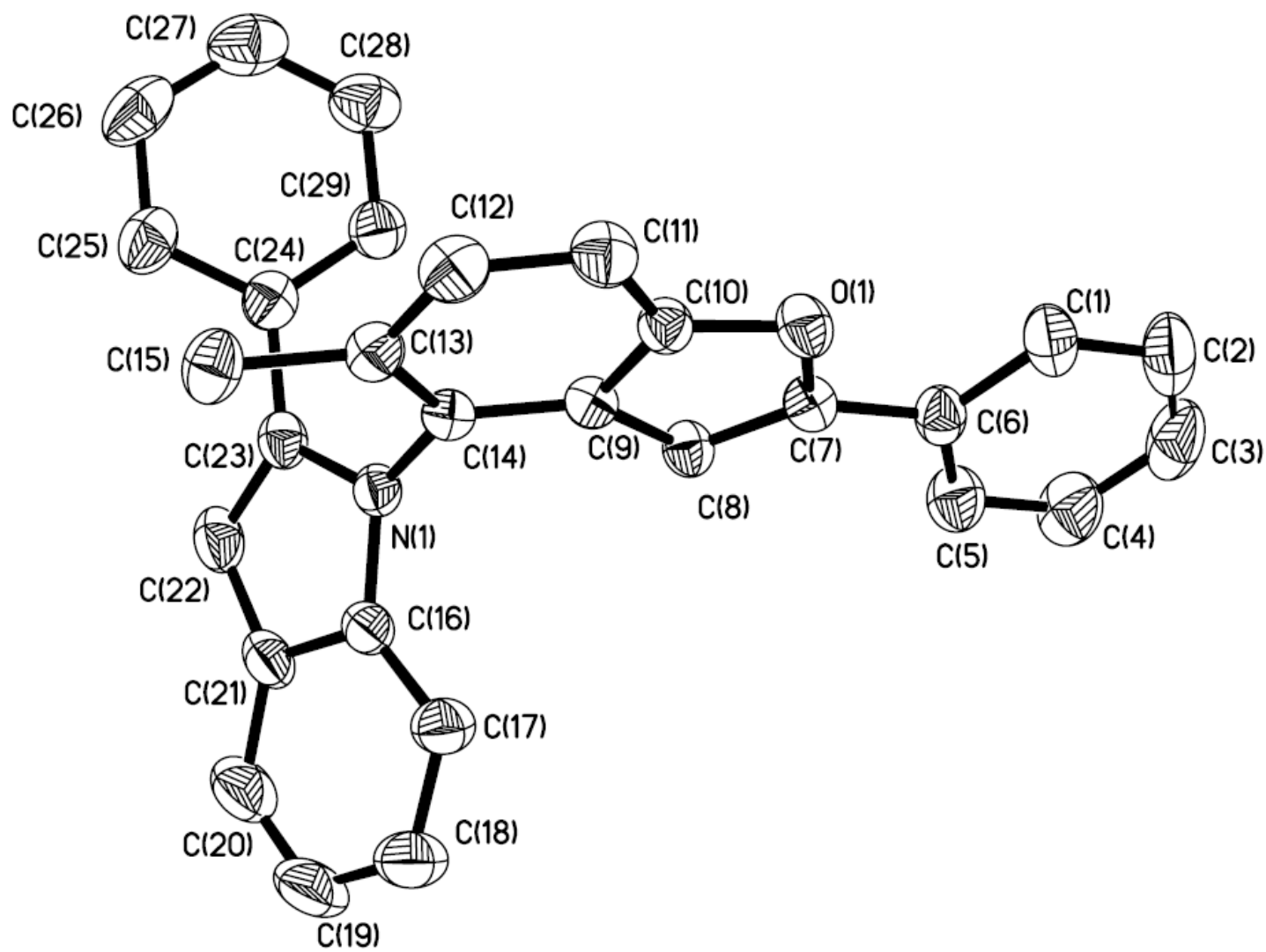


1-(2-tert-butyl-5-methylbenzofuran-4-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole

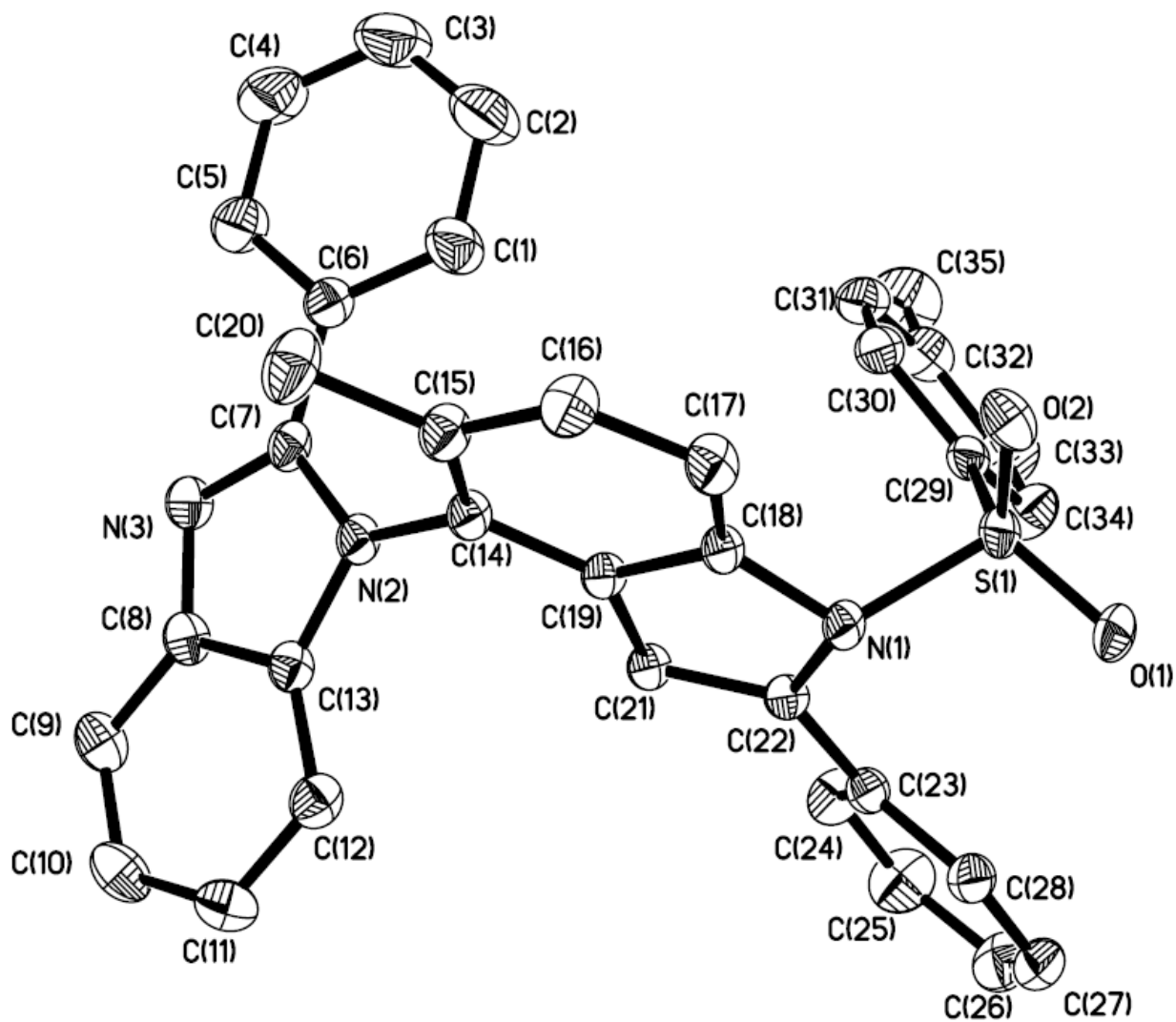
12k: yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.94 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.58 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2 H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.28 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1 H), 7.23-7.25 (m, 3 H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.93 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 5.90 (s, 1 H), 1.90 (s, 3 H), 1.29 (s, 9 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.1, 153.7, 152.6, 143.1, 136.7, 130.2, 129.6, 129.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.8, 127.0, 125.7, 123.2, 122.8, 119.7, 111.6, 110.8, 96.7, 33.1, 28.7, 17.0; IR (KBr) 3065, 3035, 2968, 2927, 2865, 1602, 1581, 1489, 1453 cm^{-1} ; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 381.1961, found 381.1977.



X-ray diffraction structure of compound **3aa**

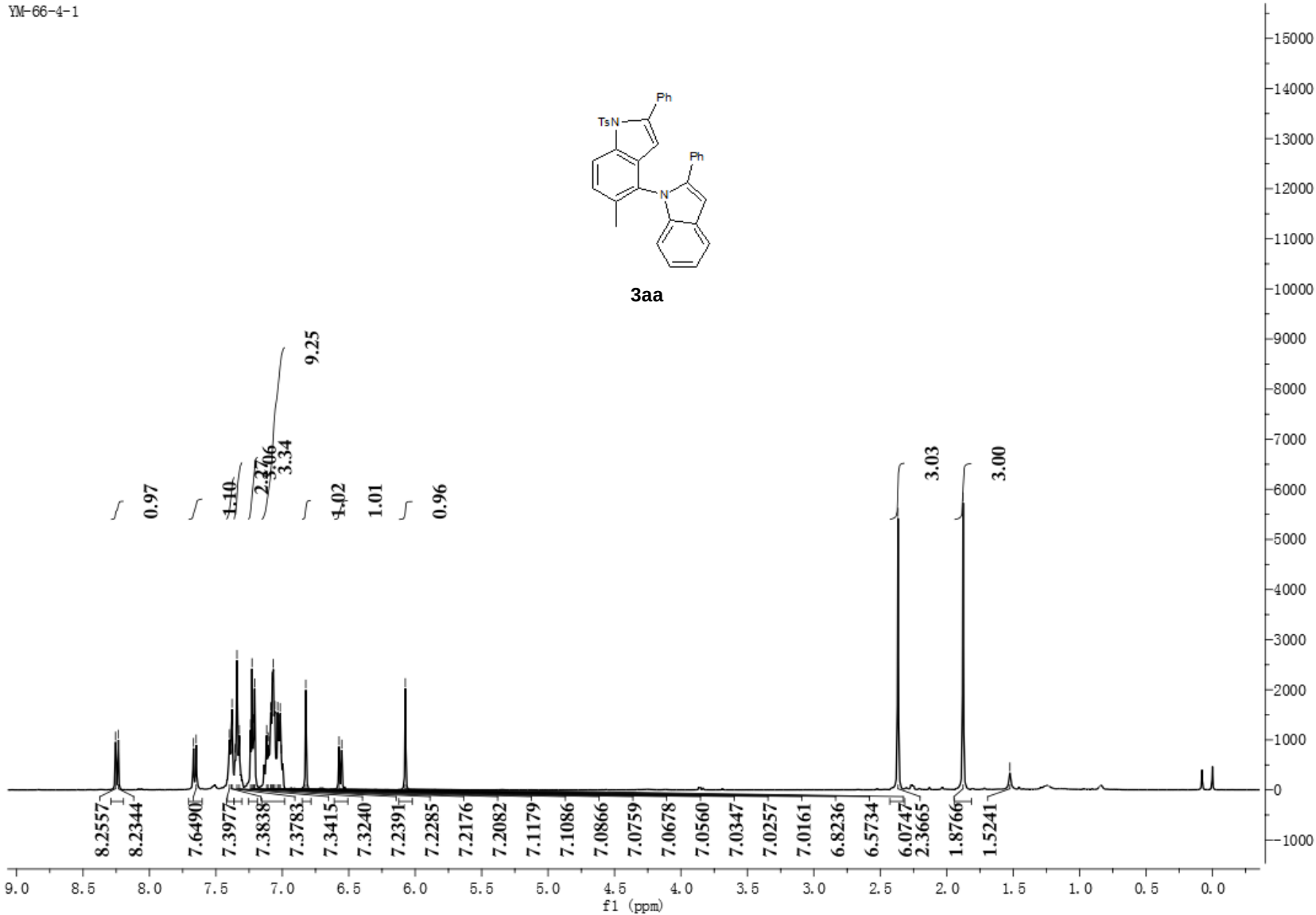


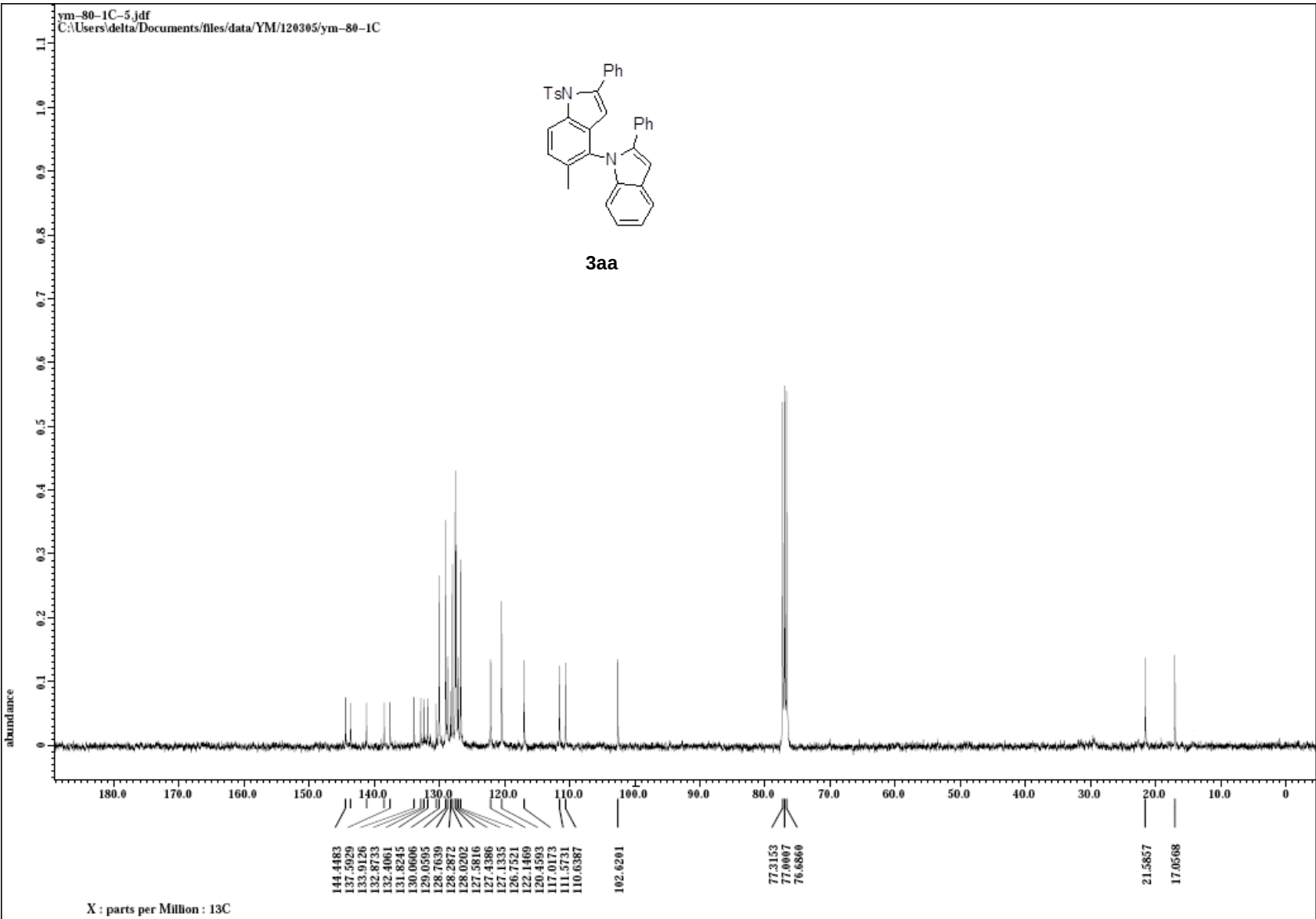
X-ray diffraction structure of compound **7aa**



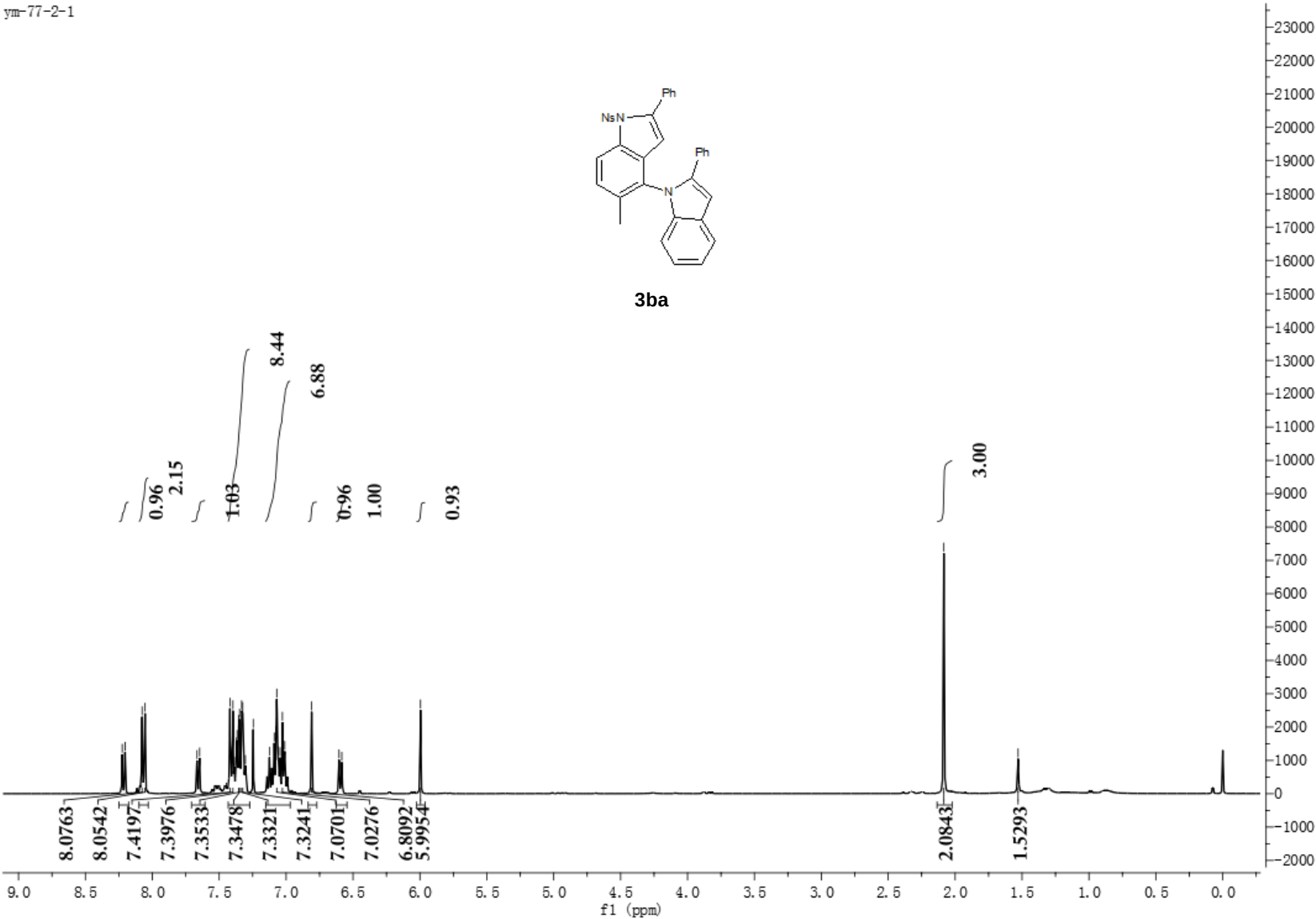
X-ray diffraction structure of compound **10a**

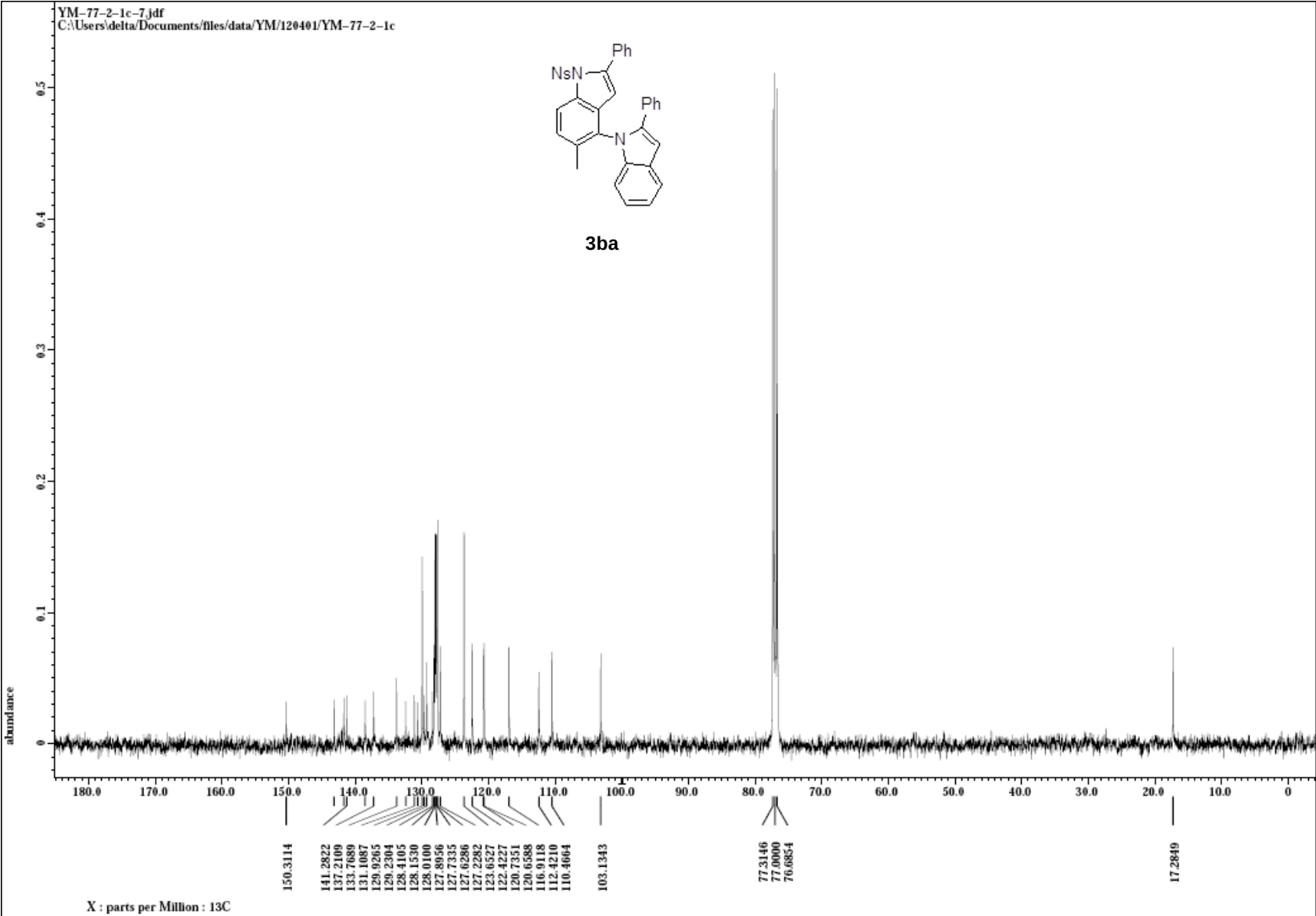
YM-66-4-1



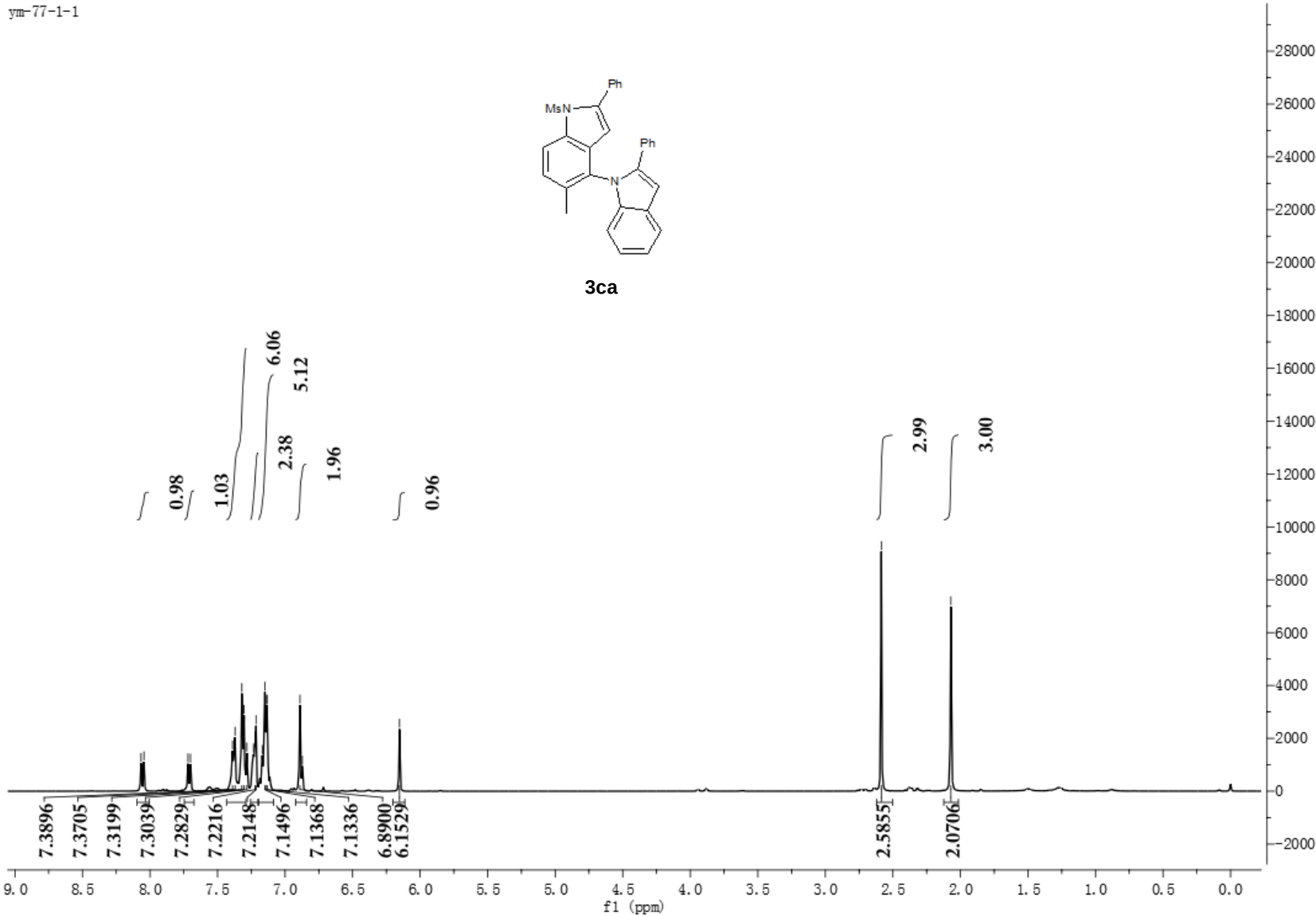


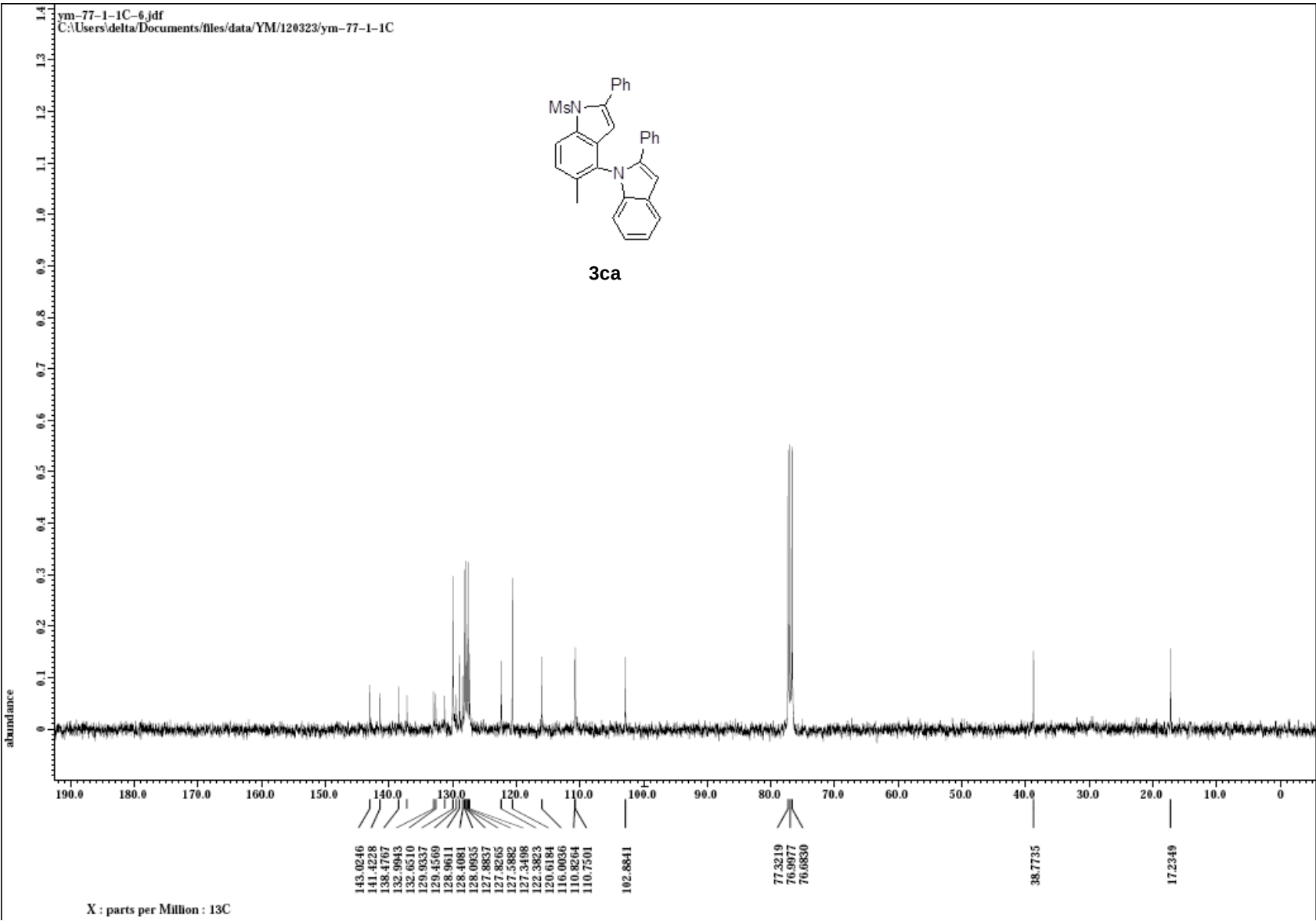
ym-77-2-1



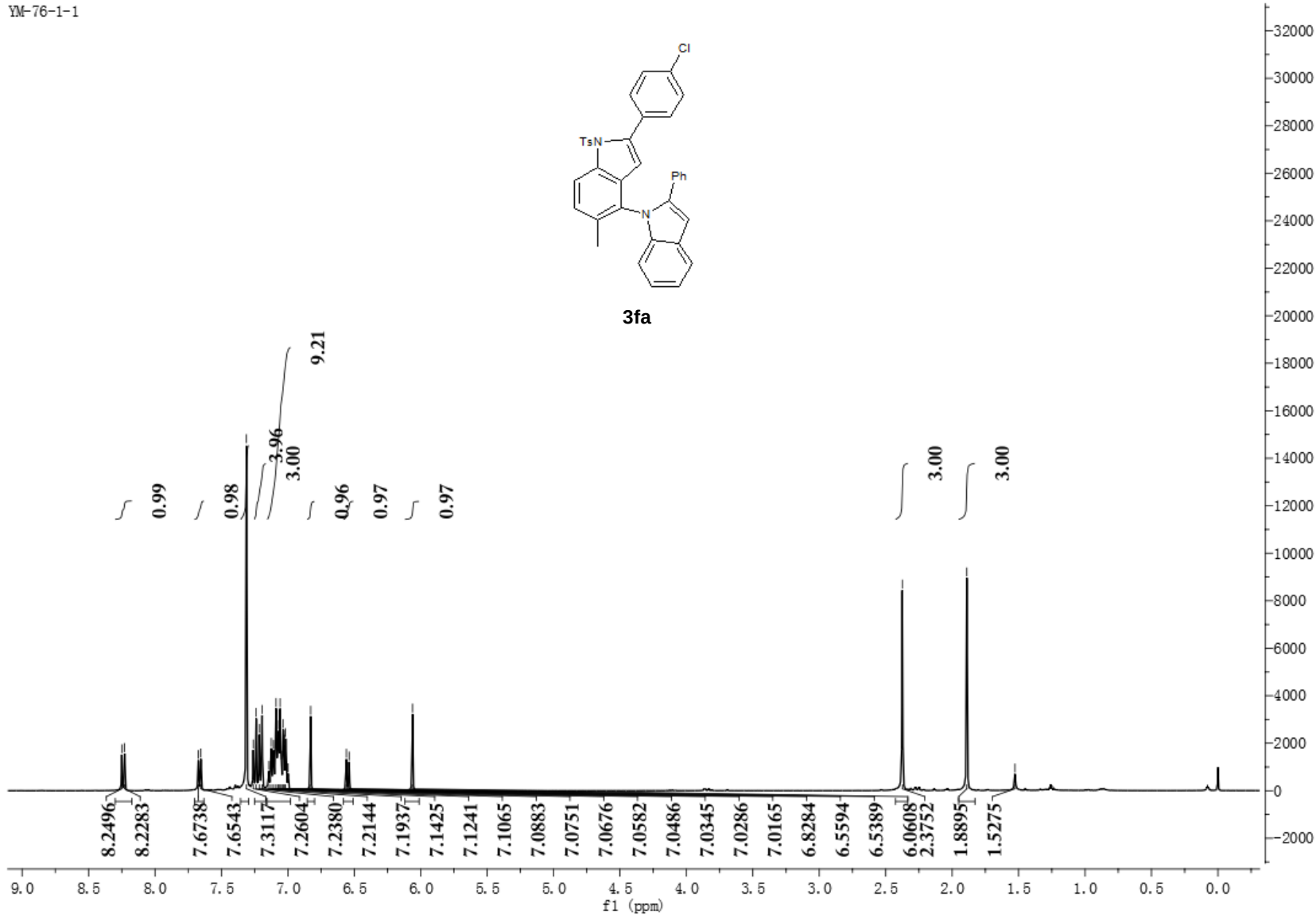


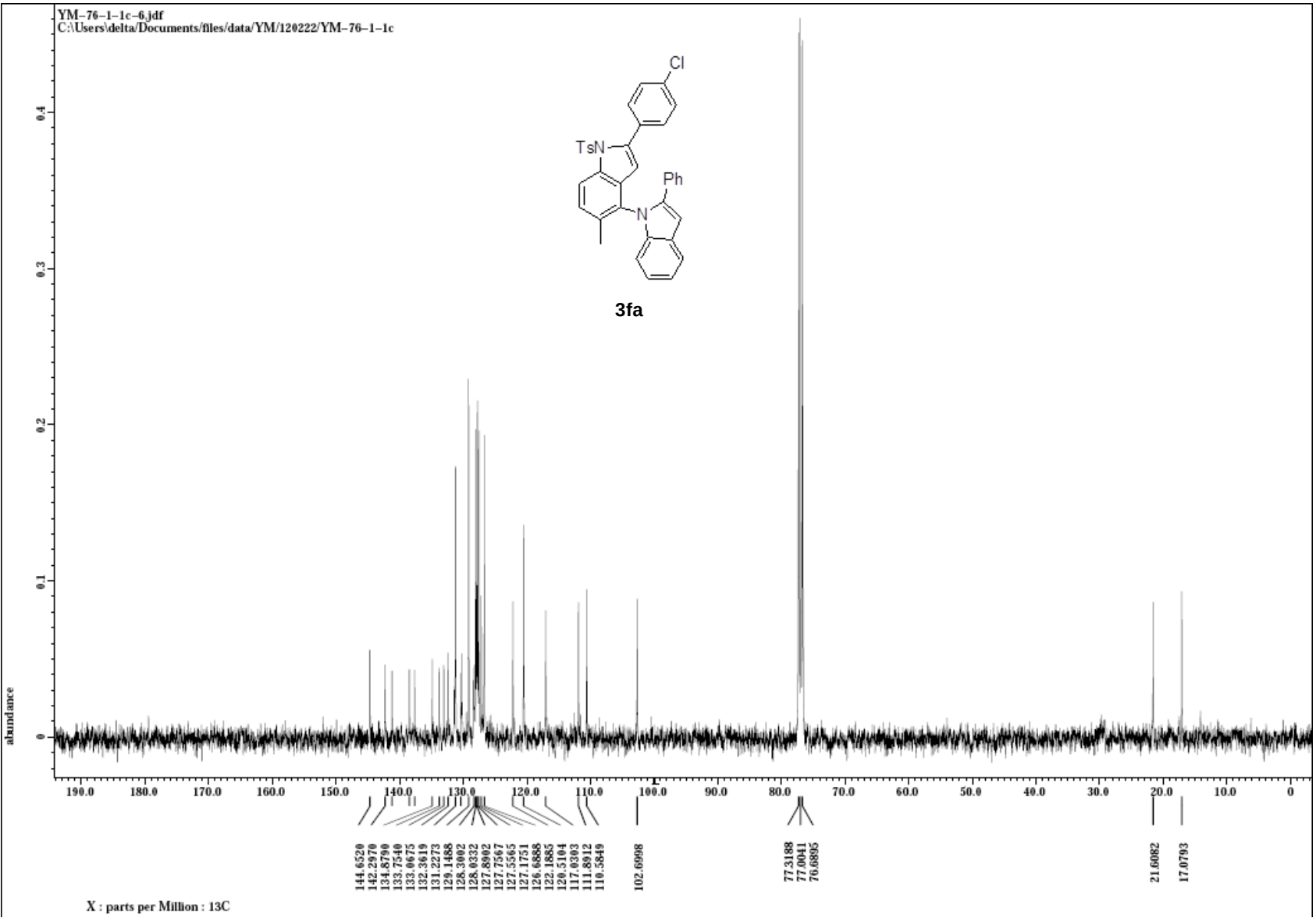
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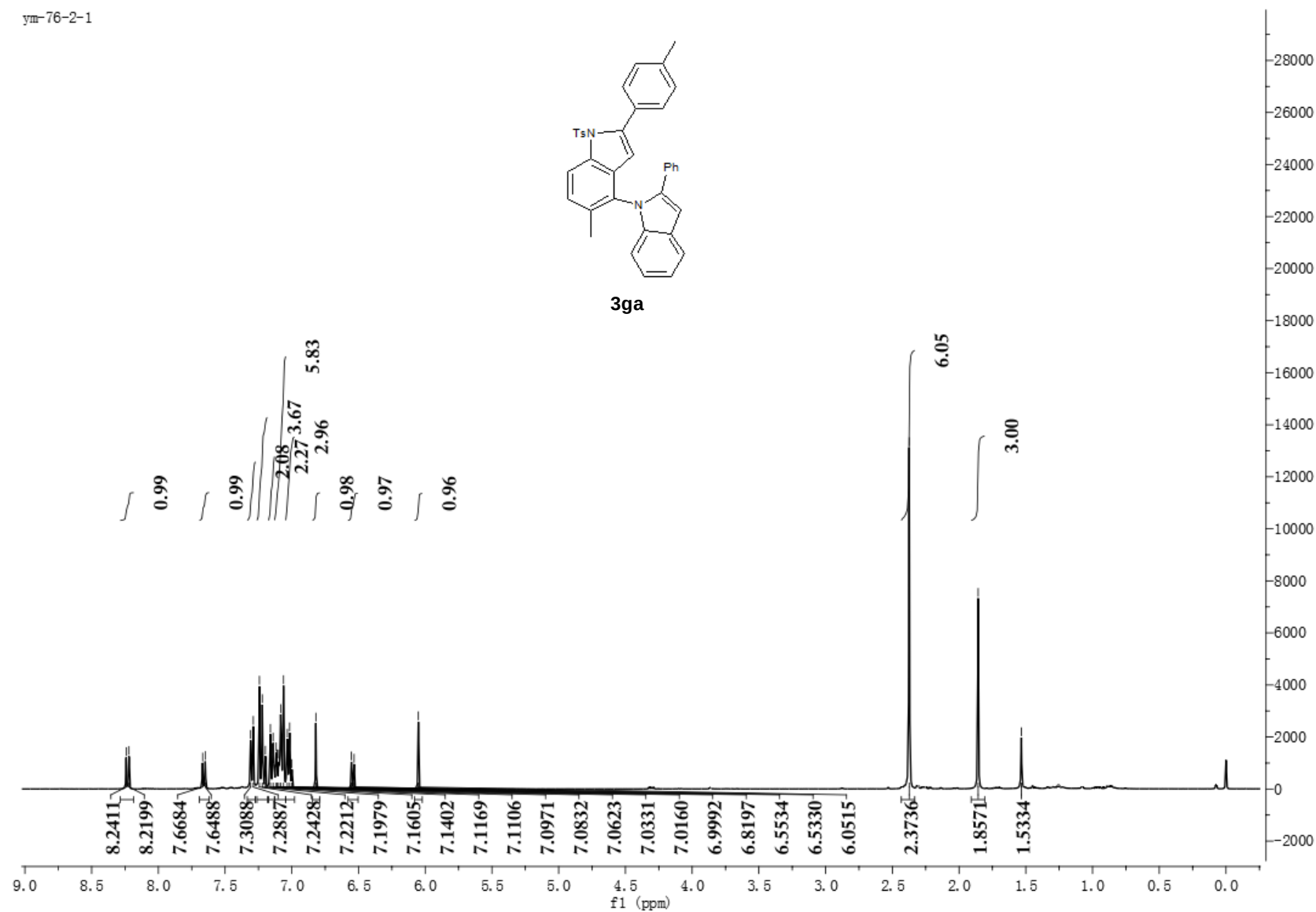


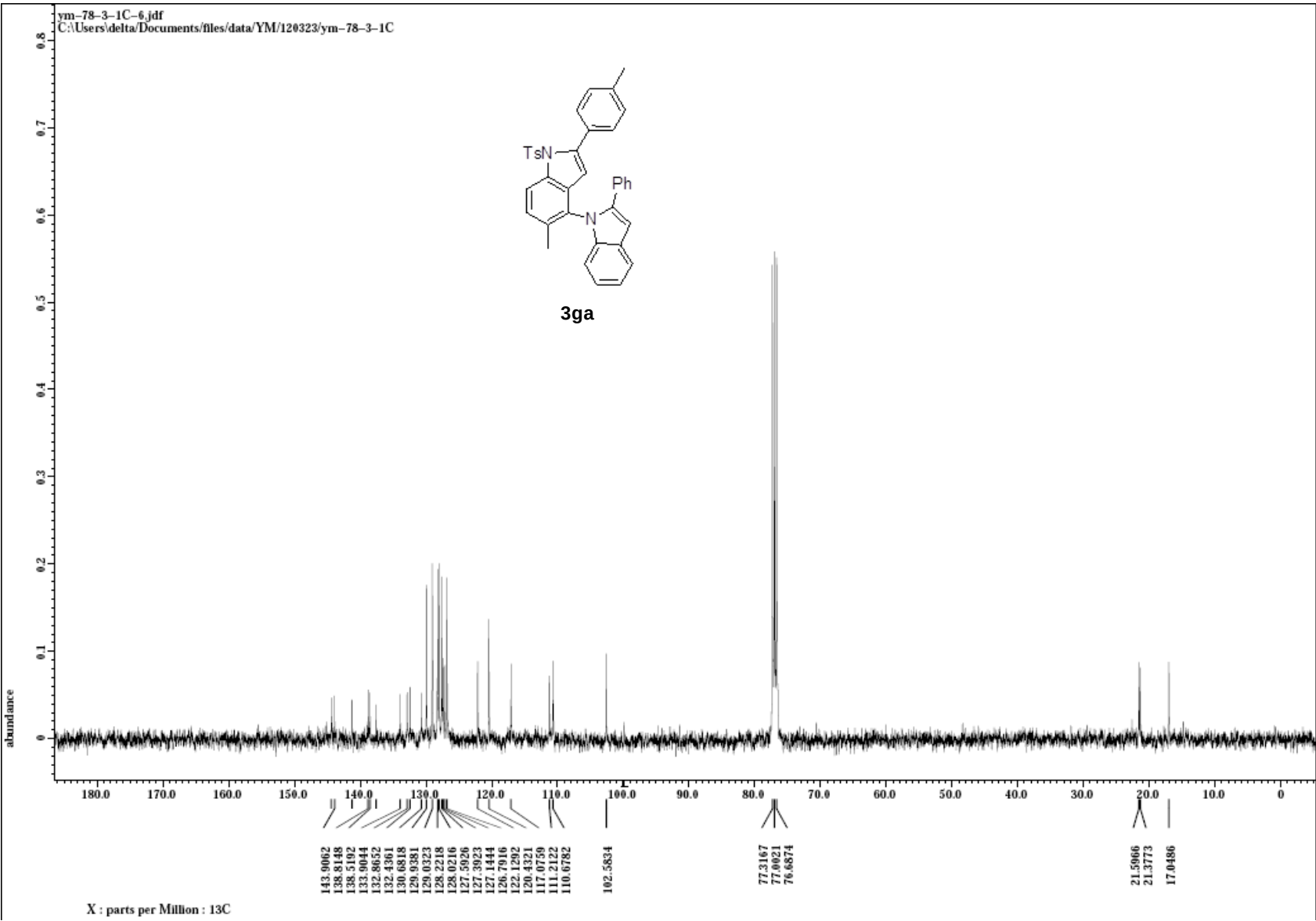
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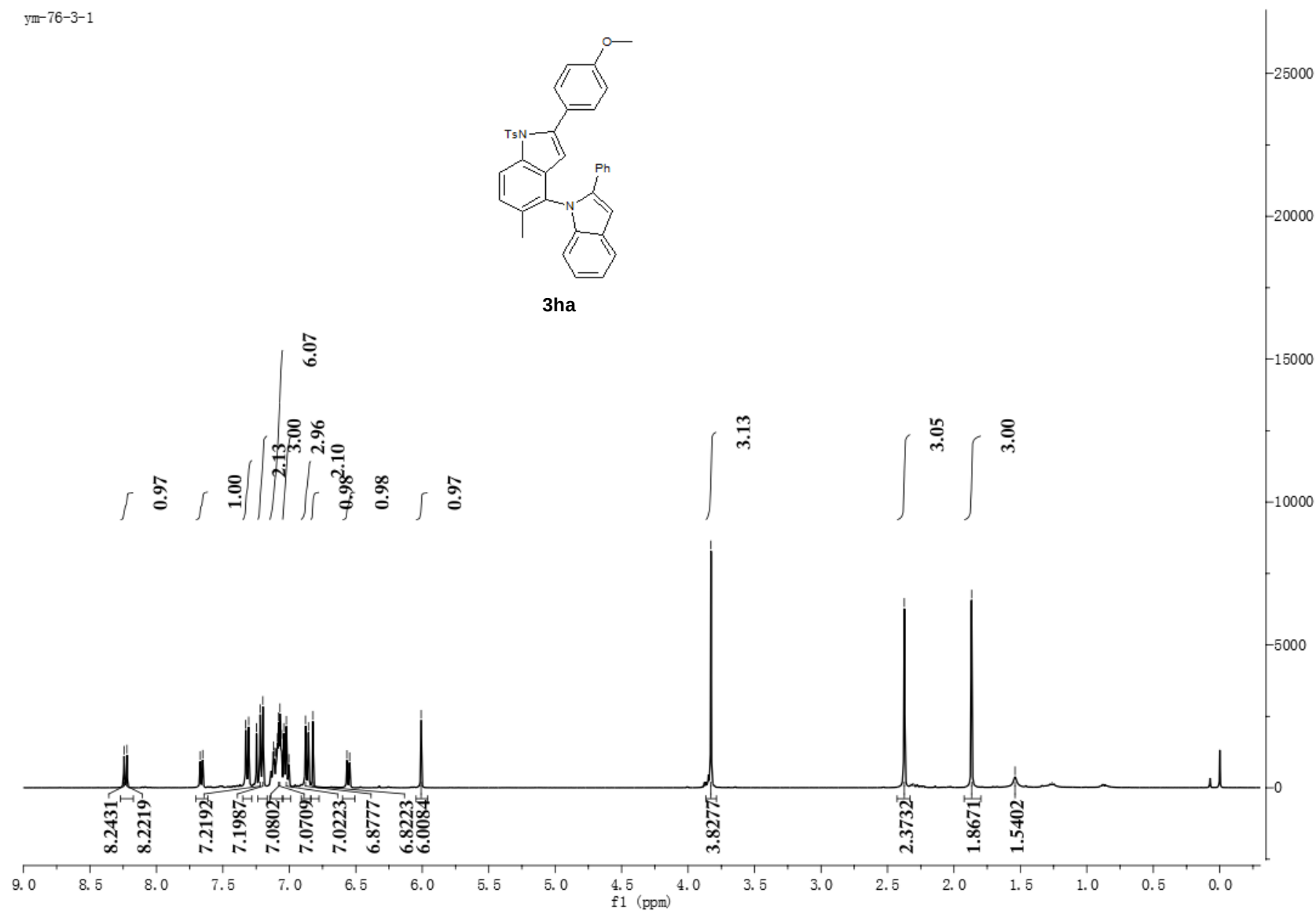


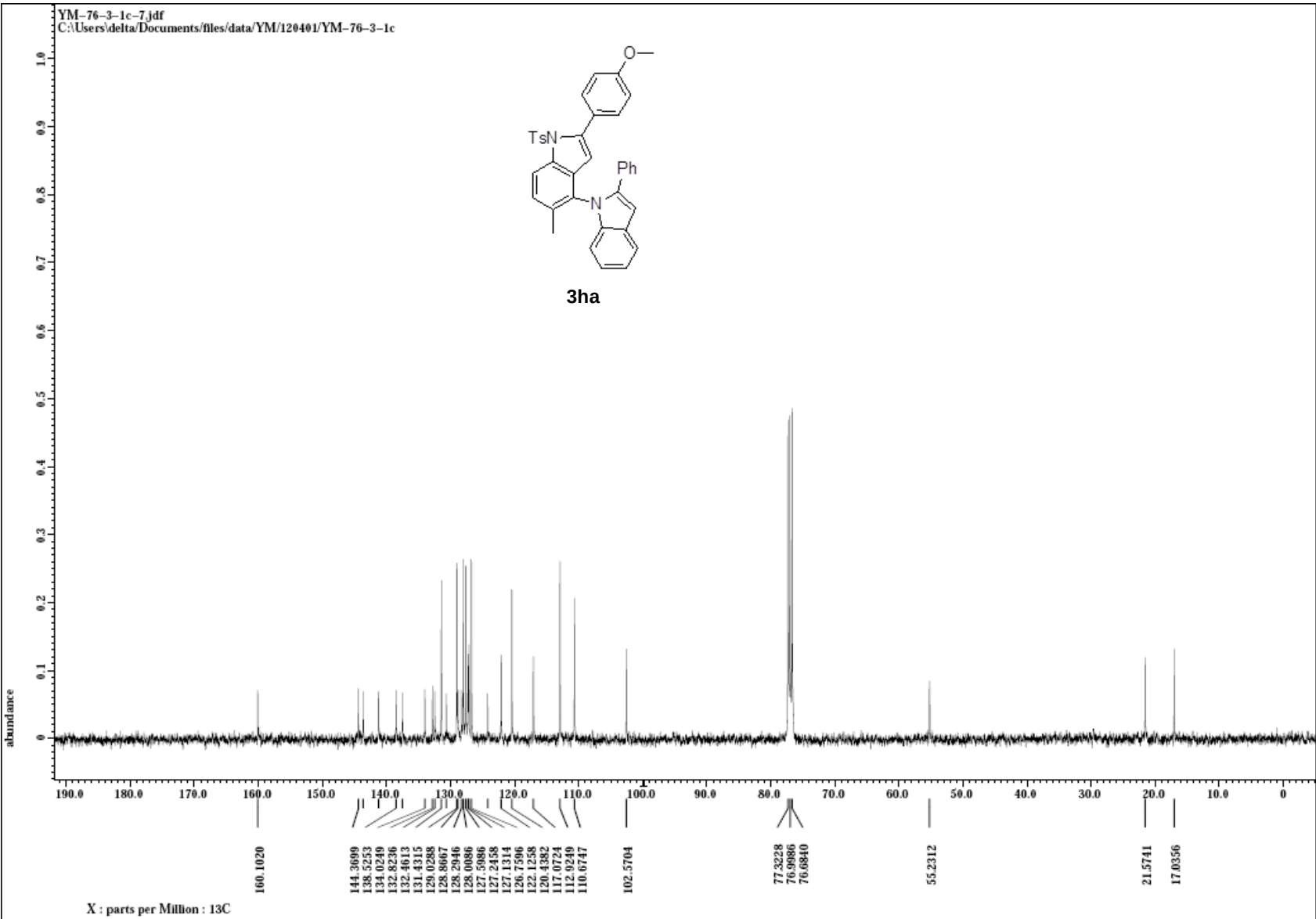
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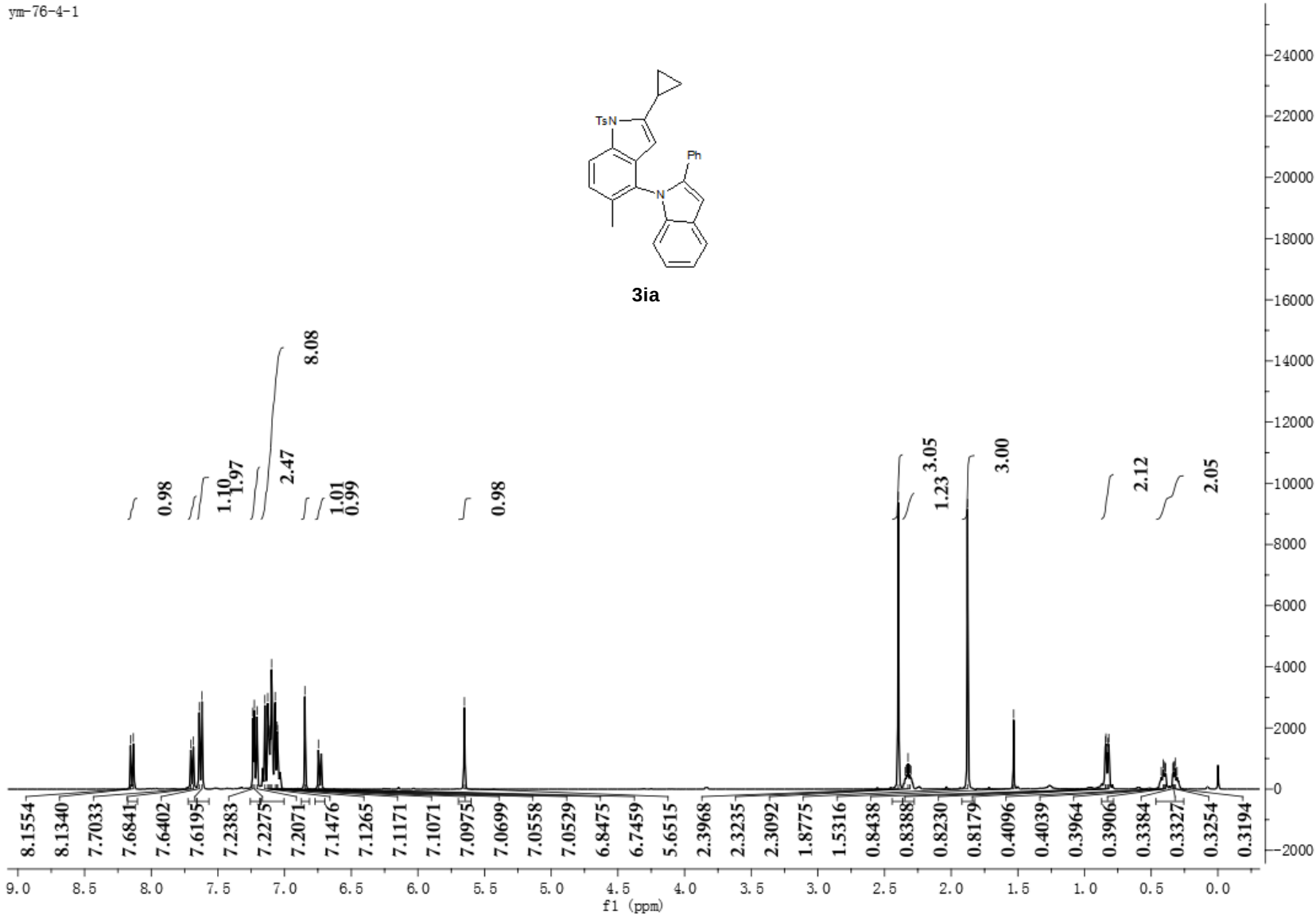


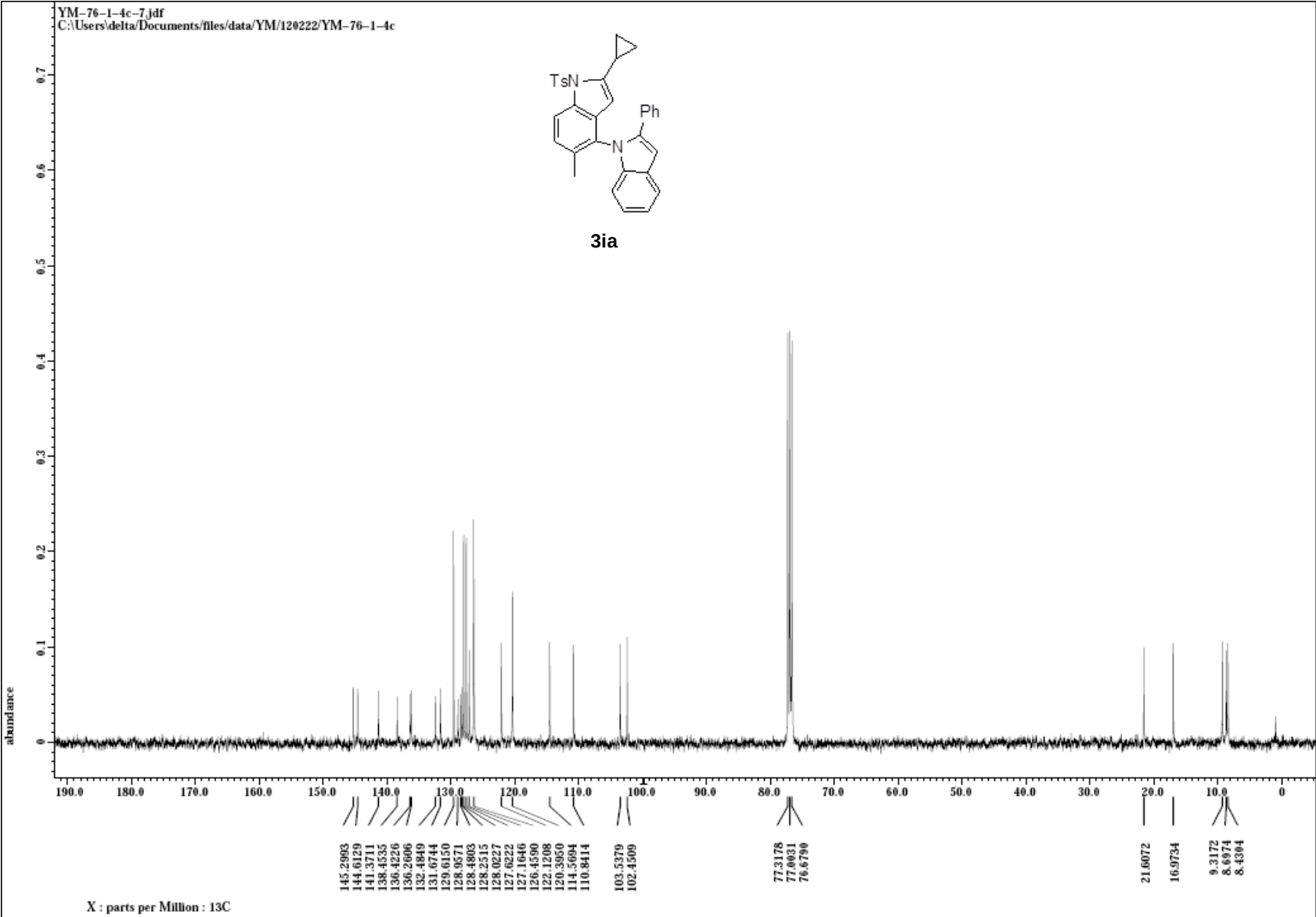
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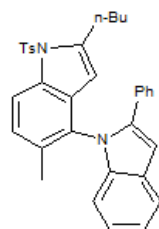


ym-76-4-1

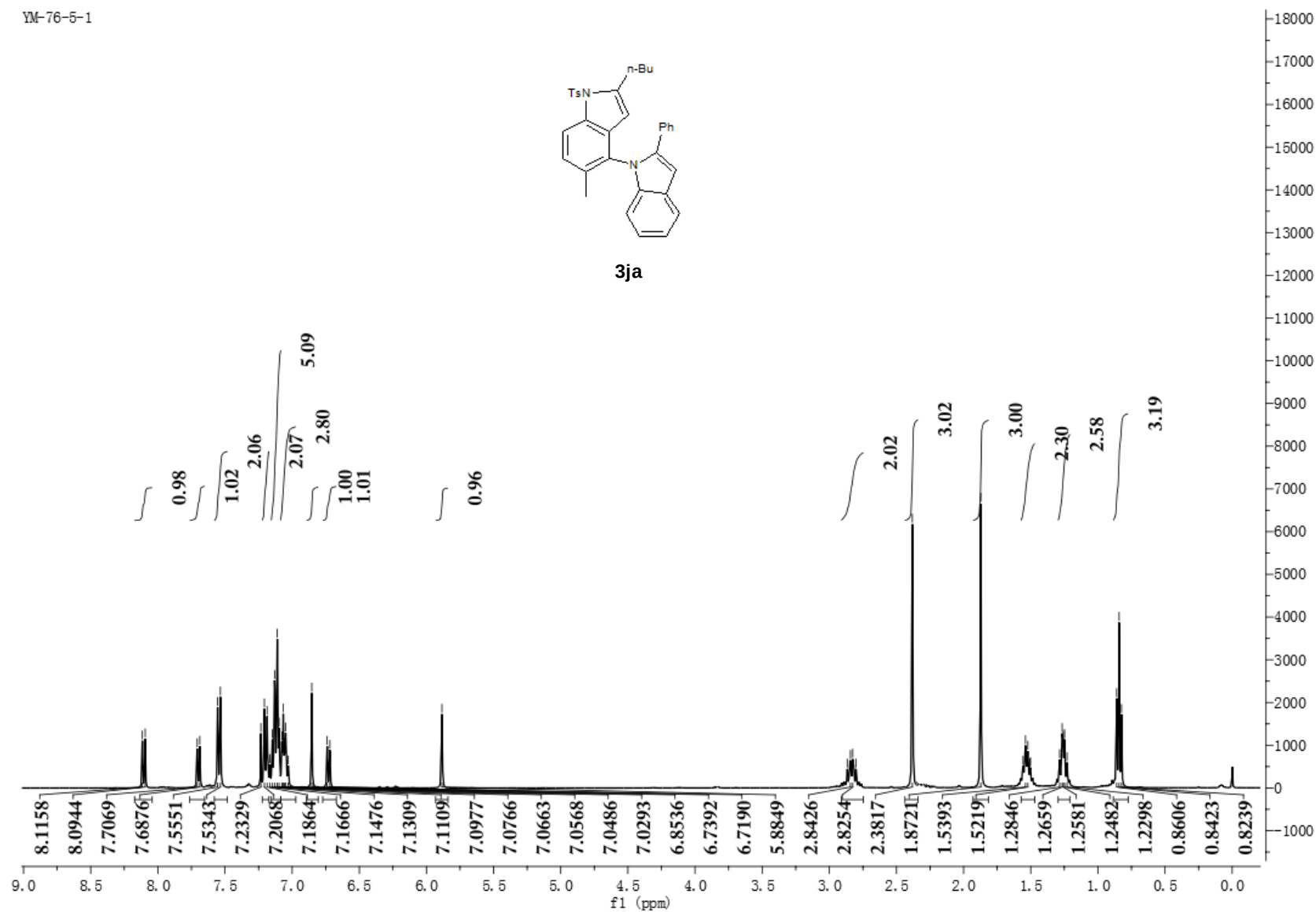


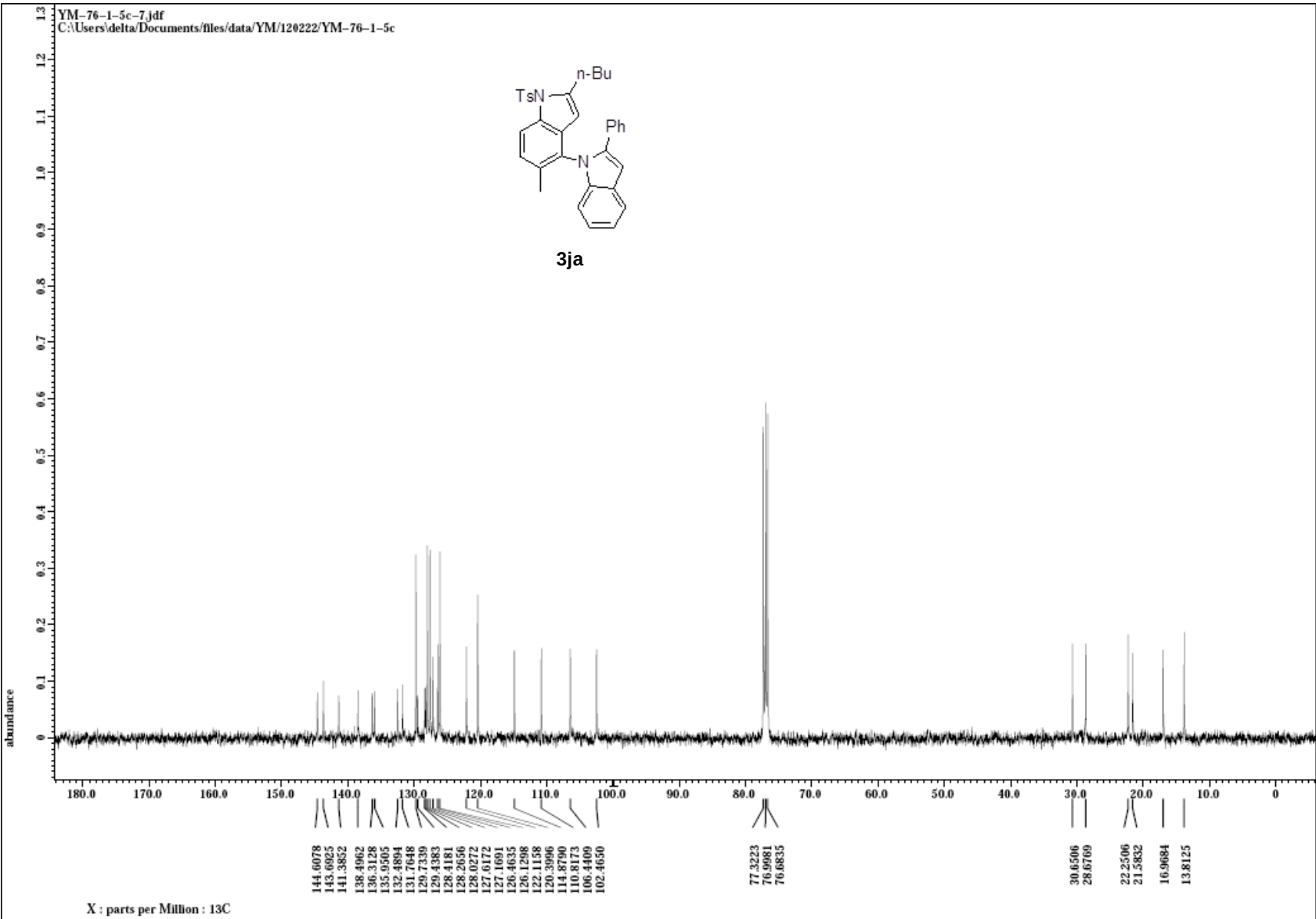


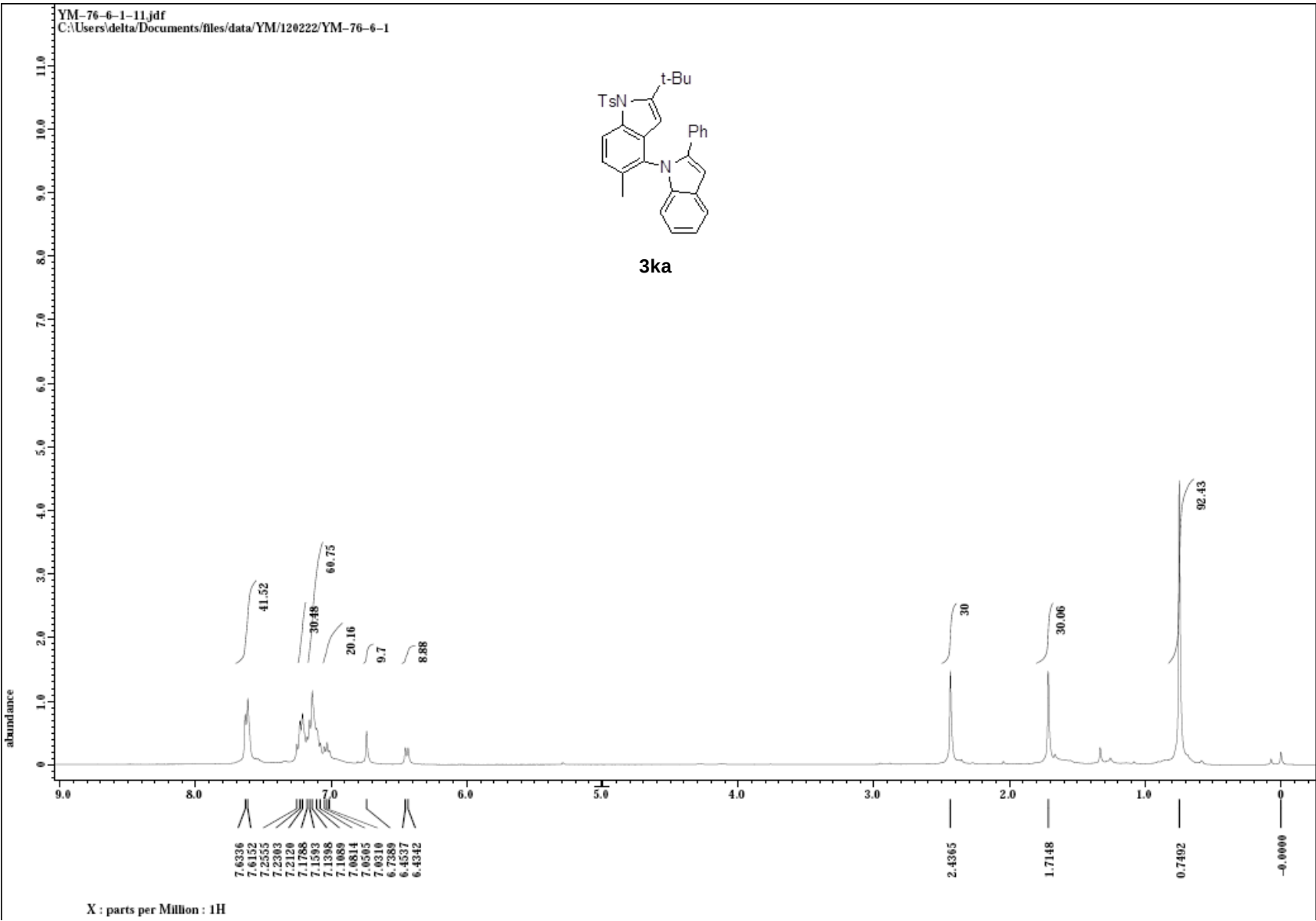
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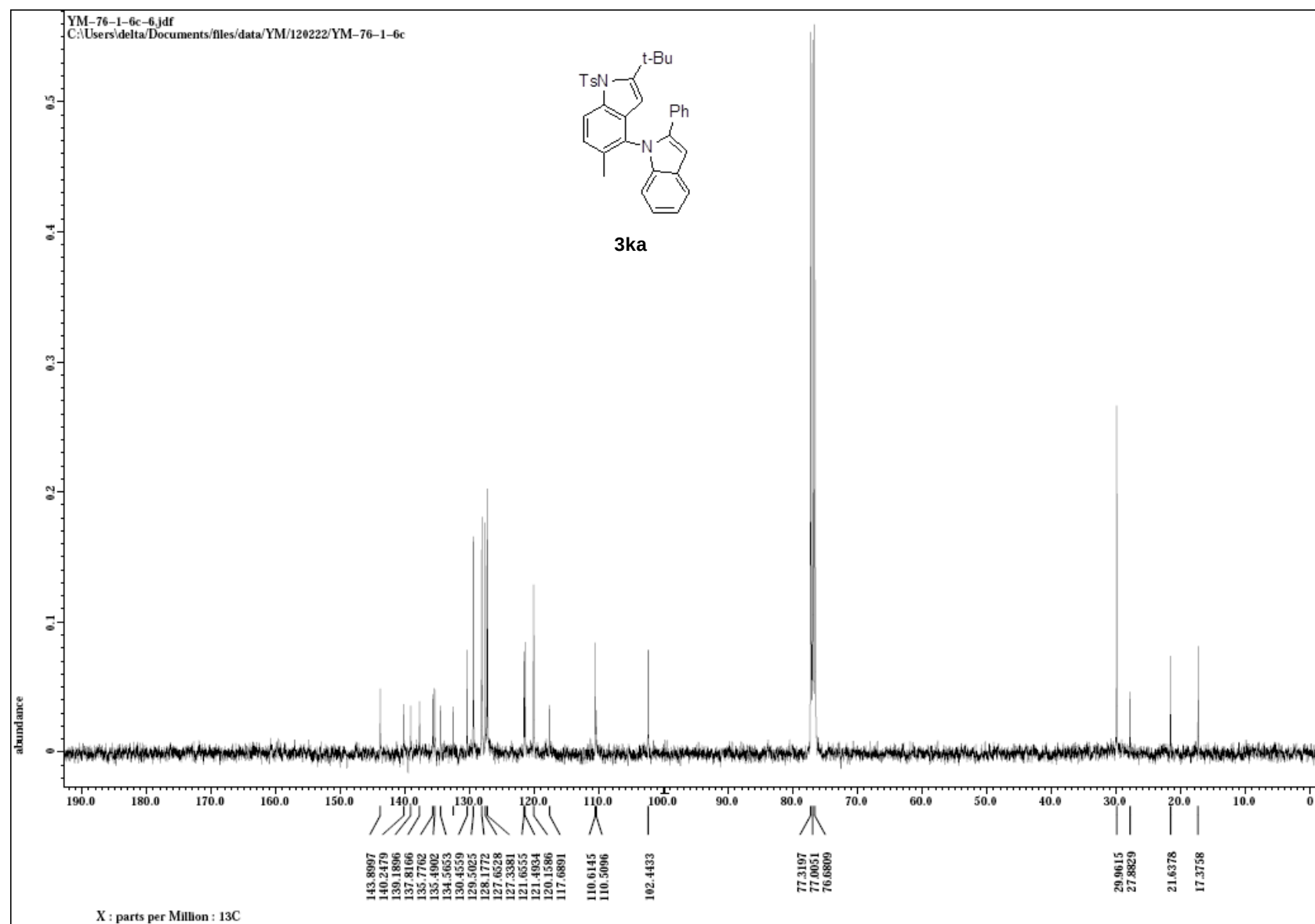


3ja

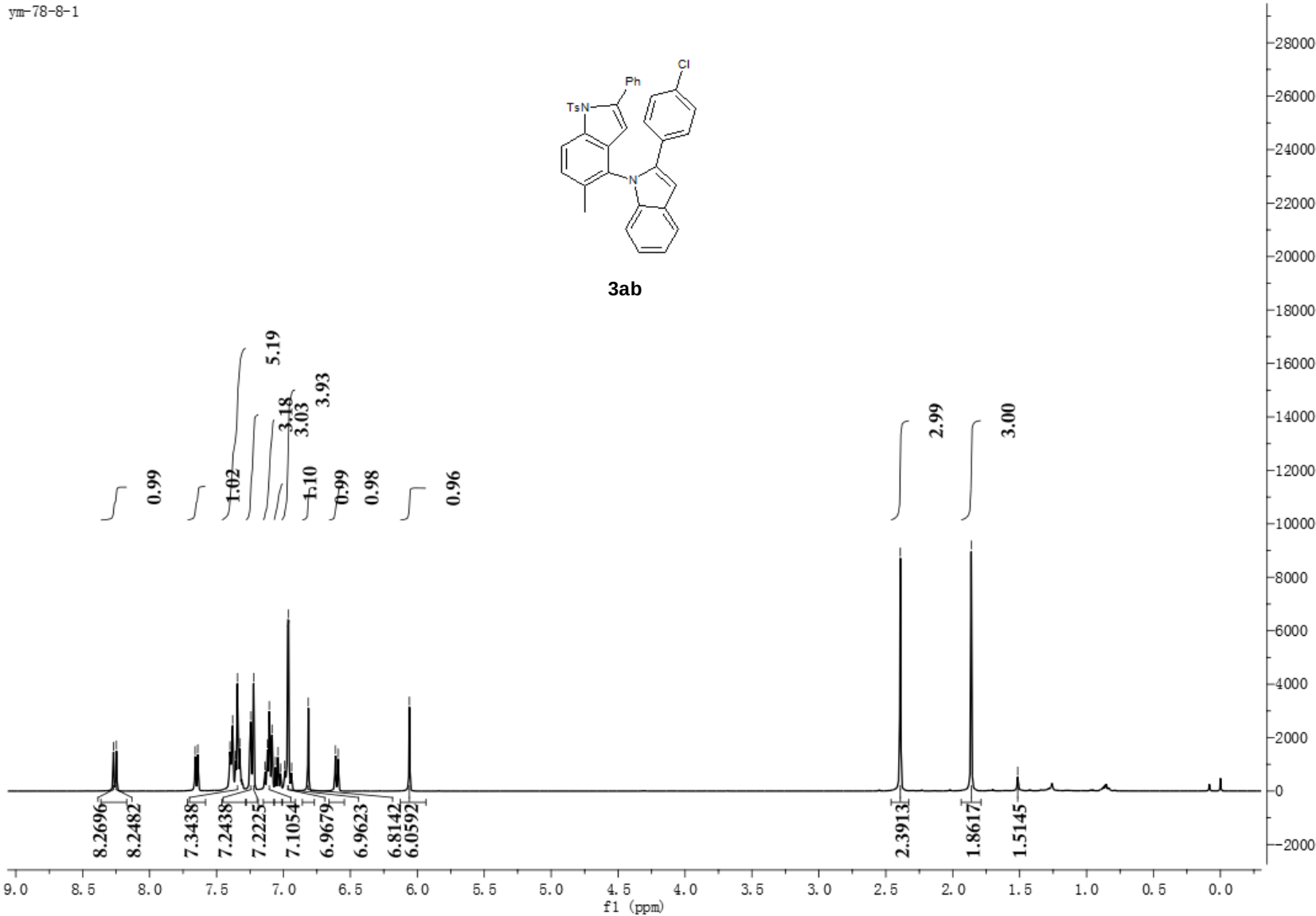


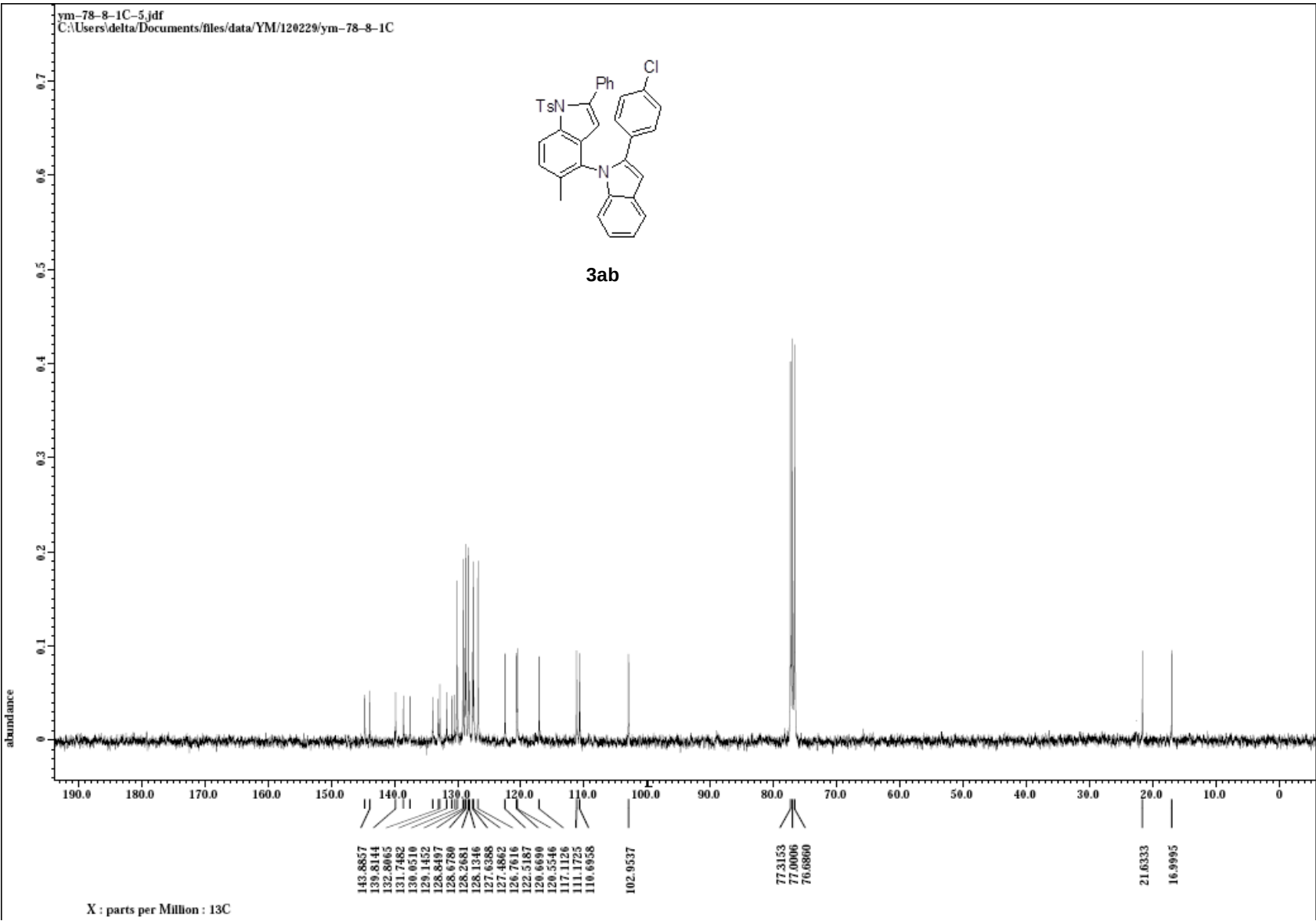




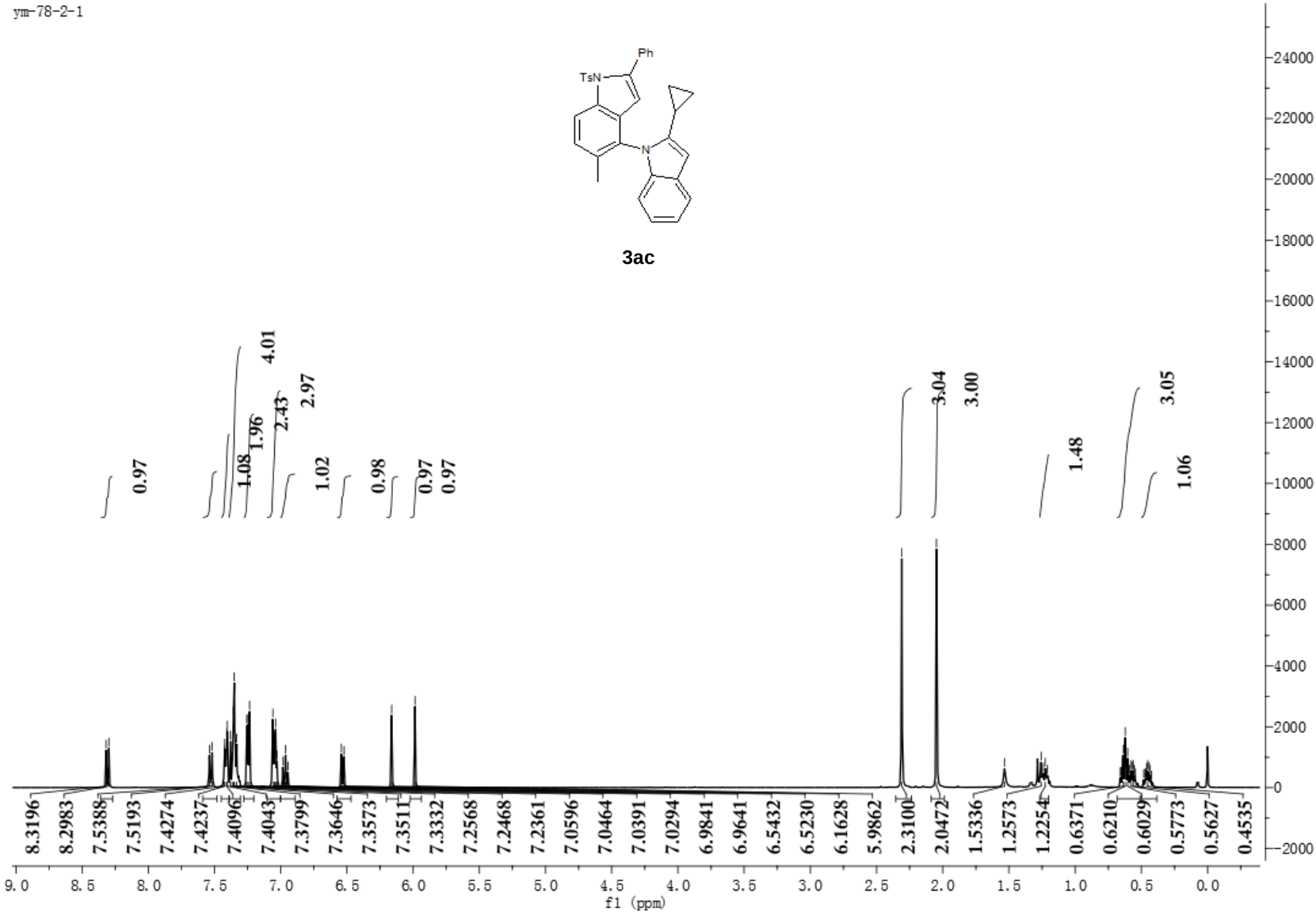


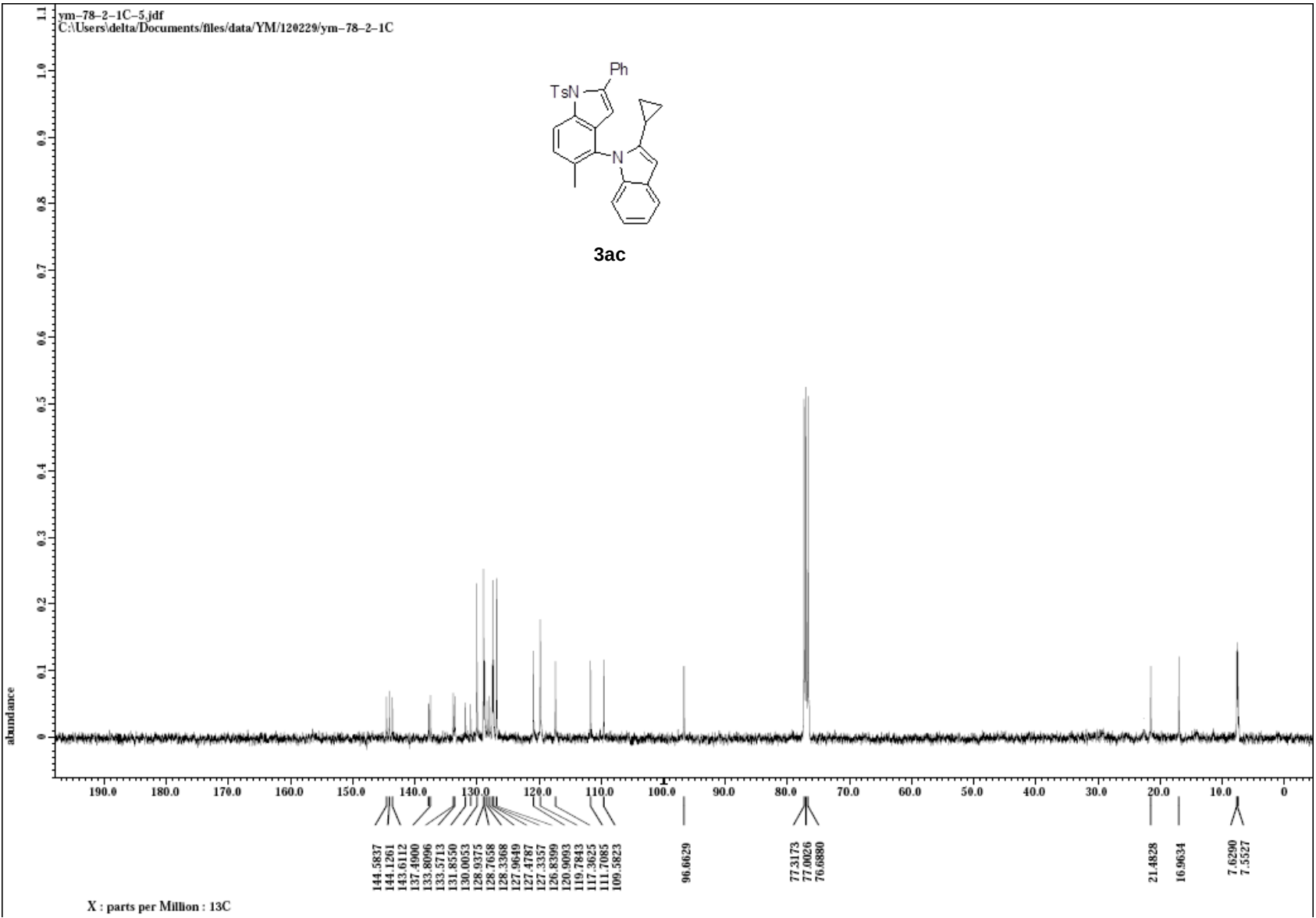
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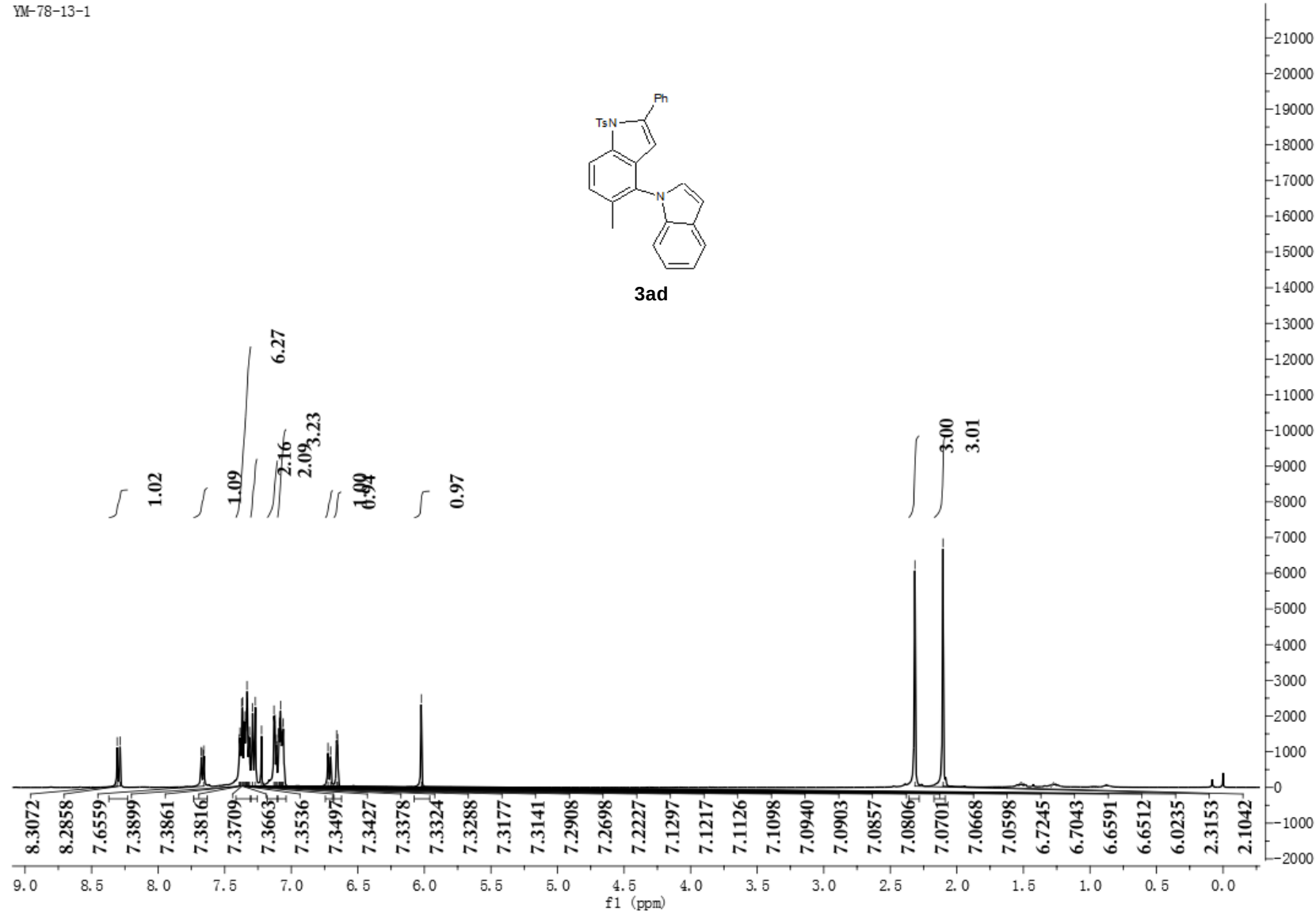


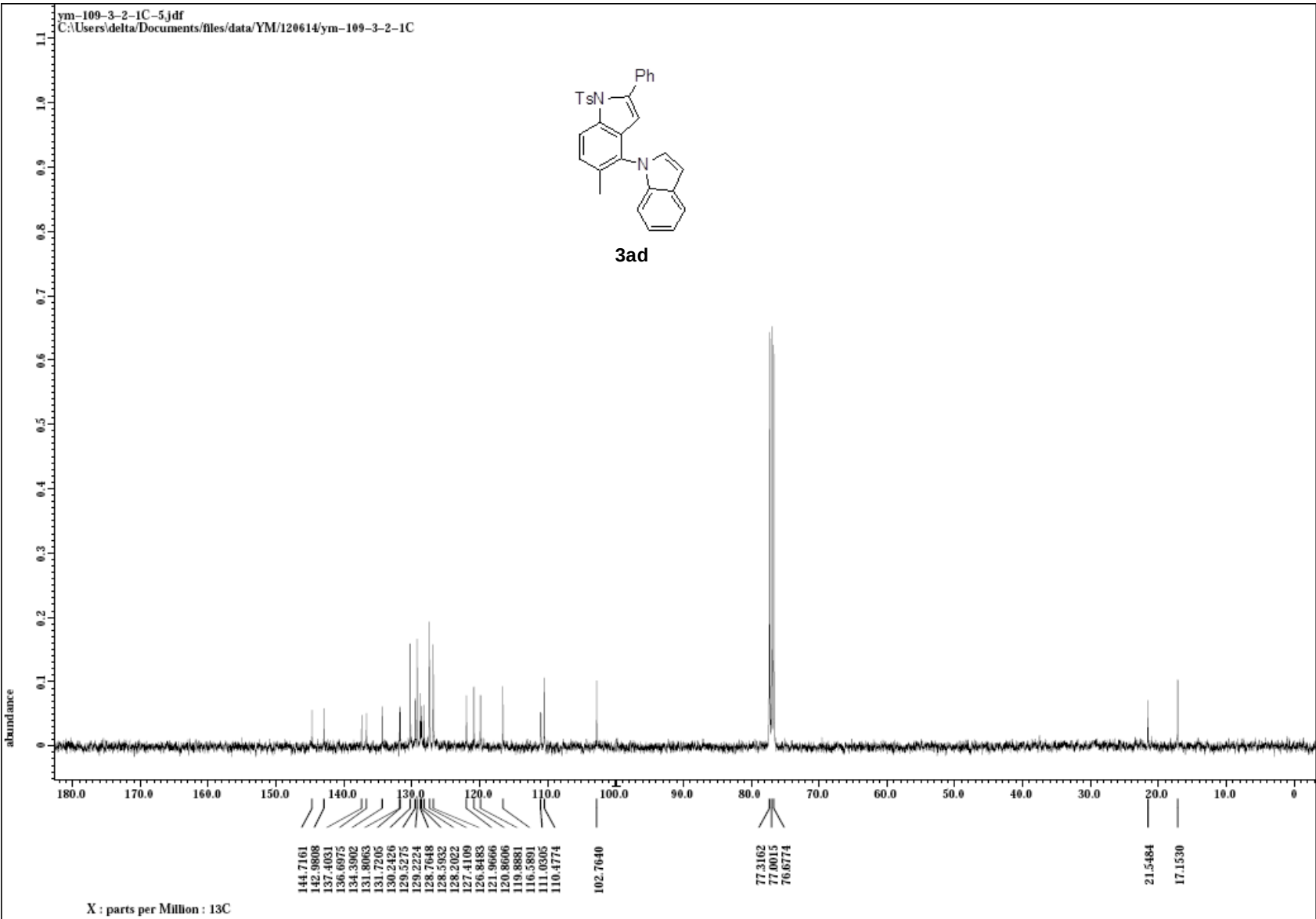
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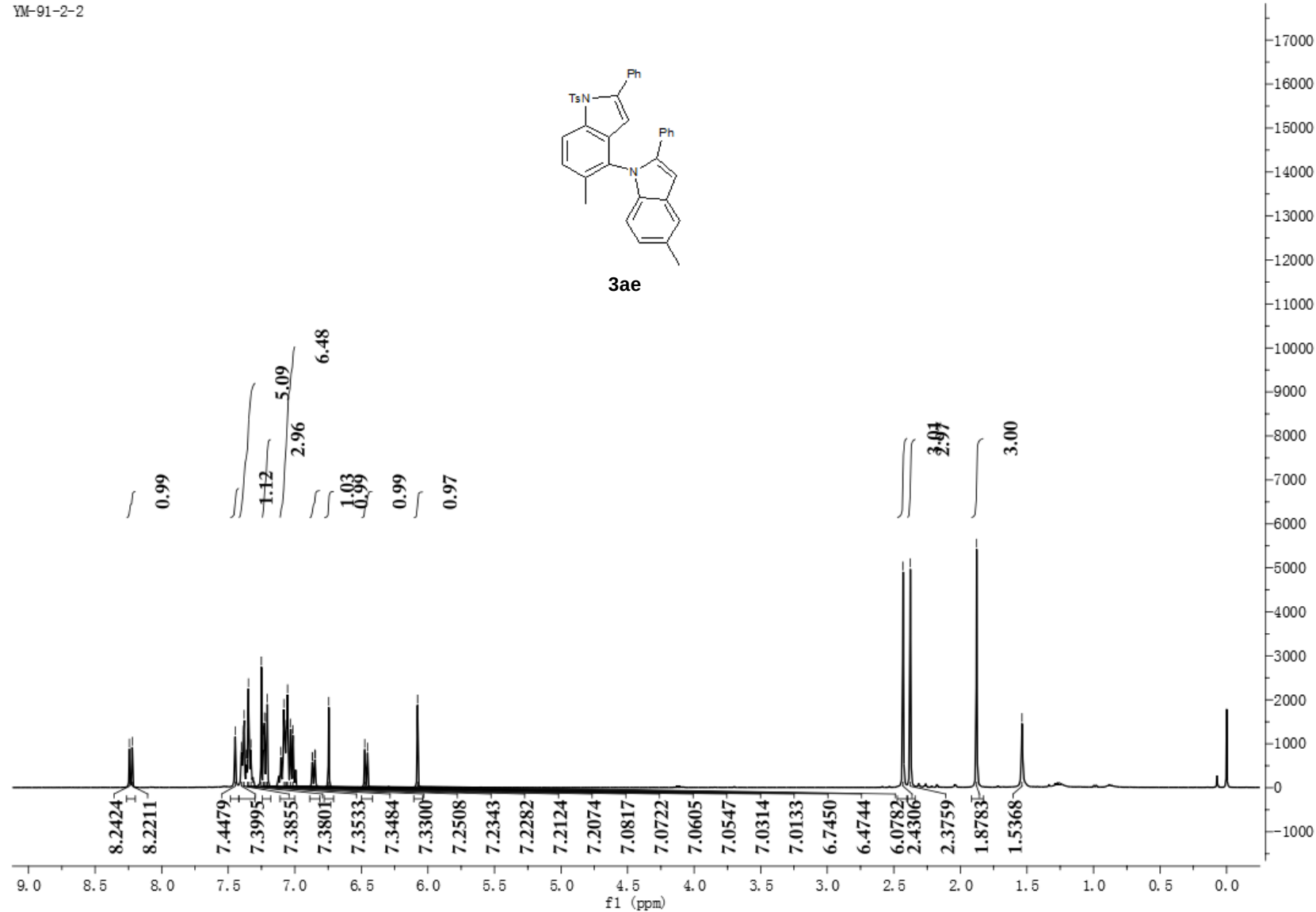


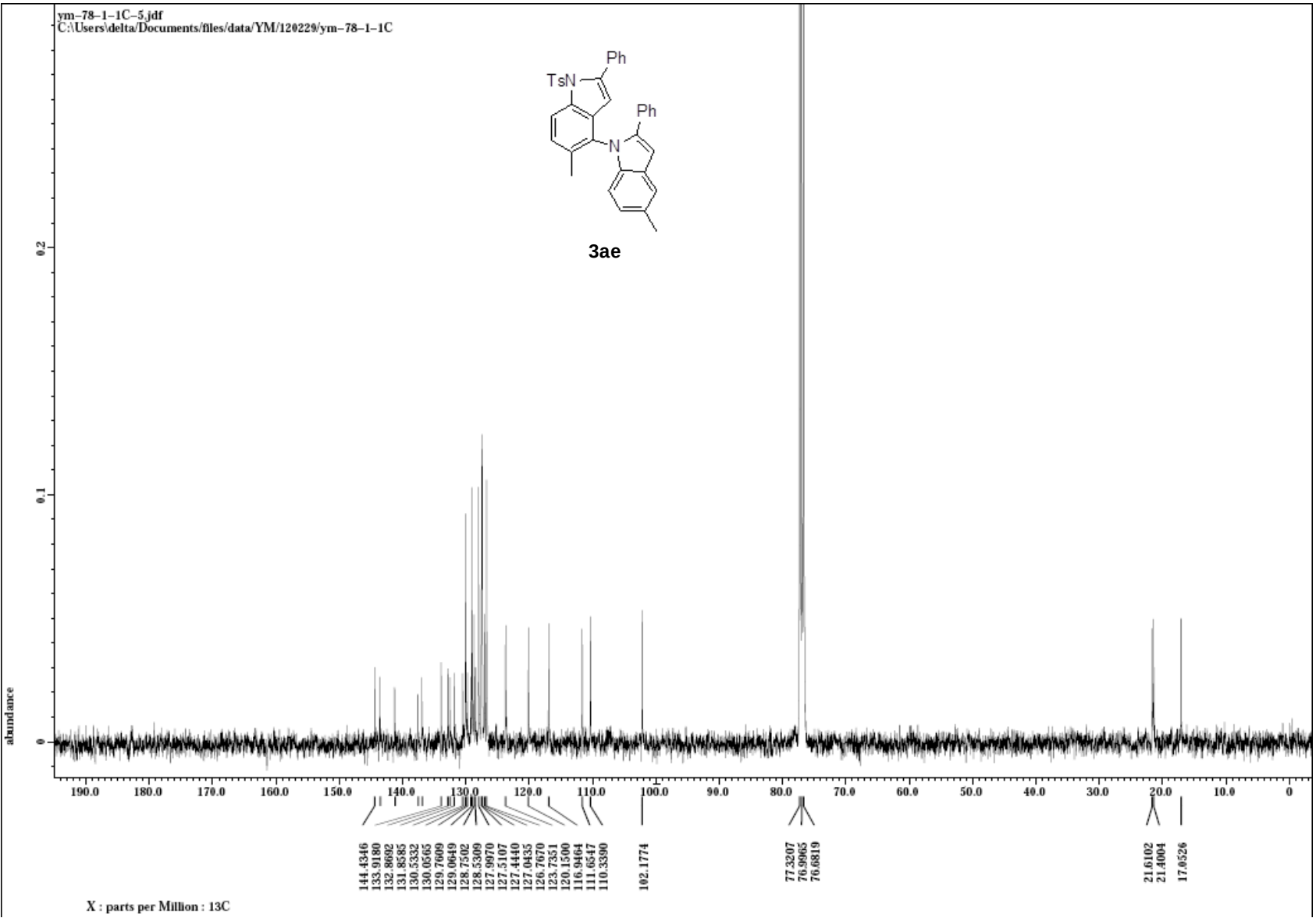
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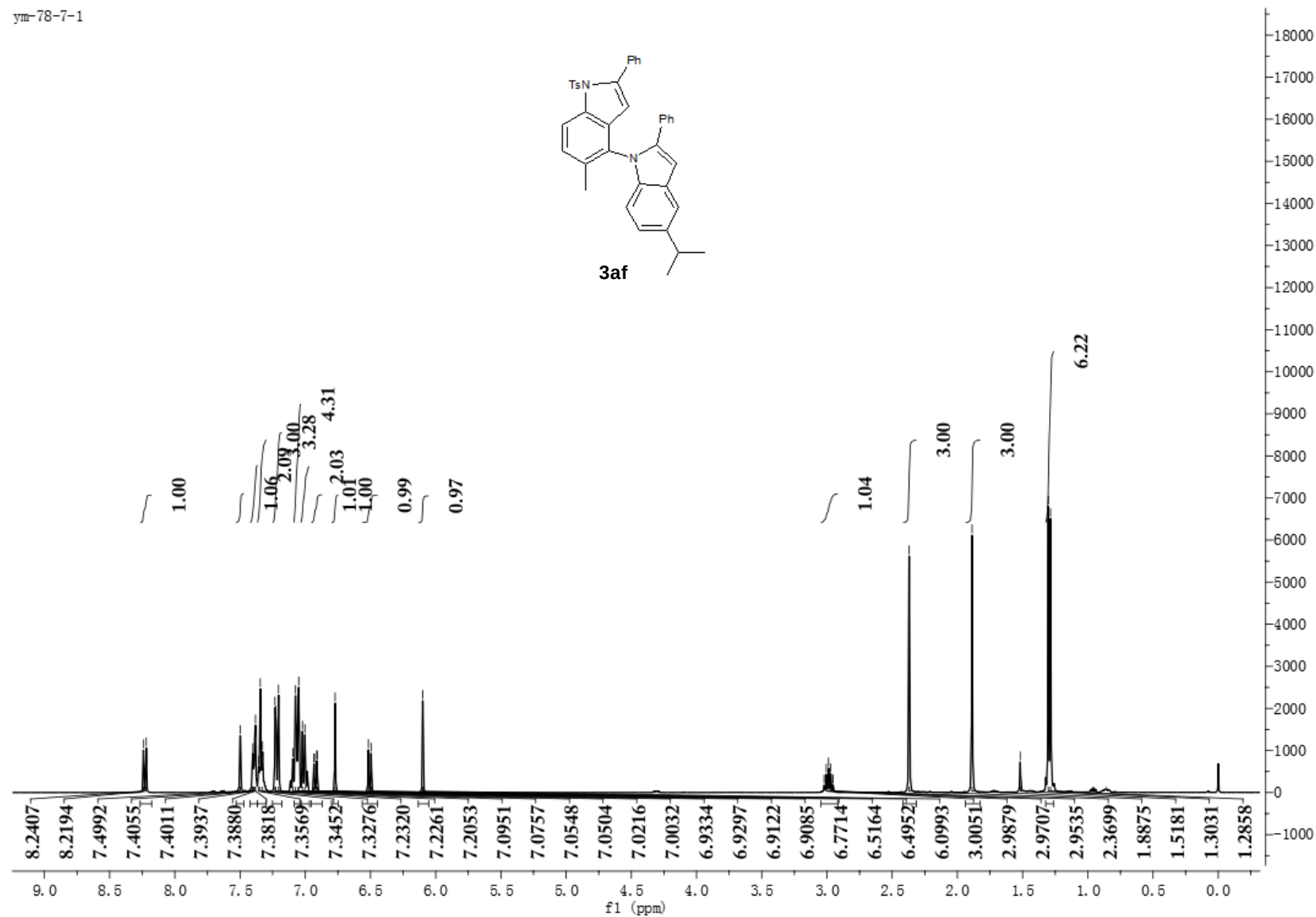


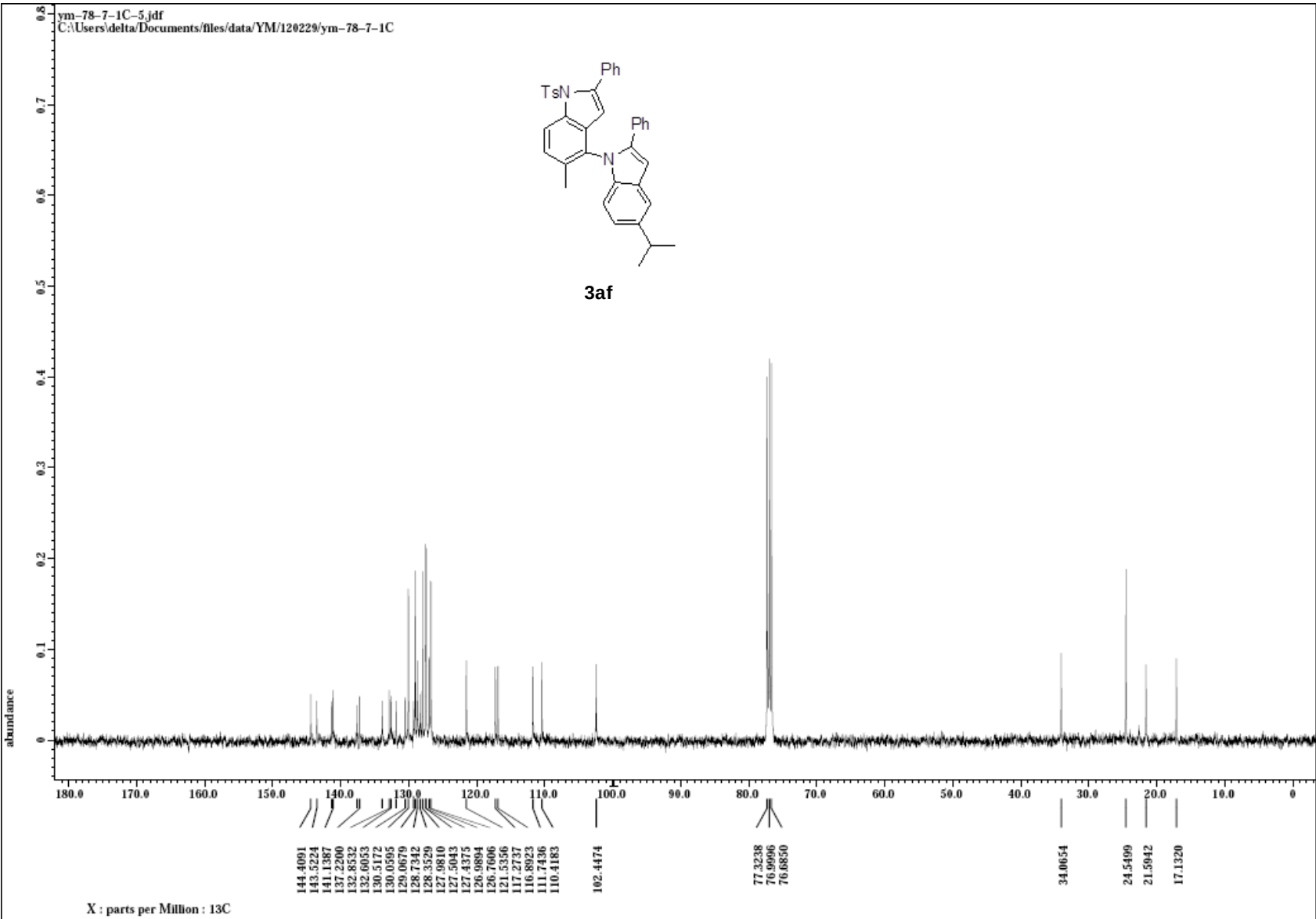
YM-91-2-2

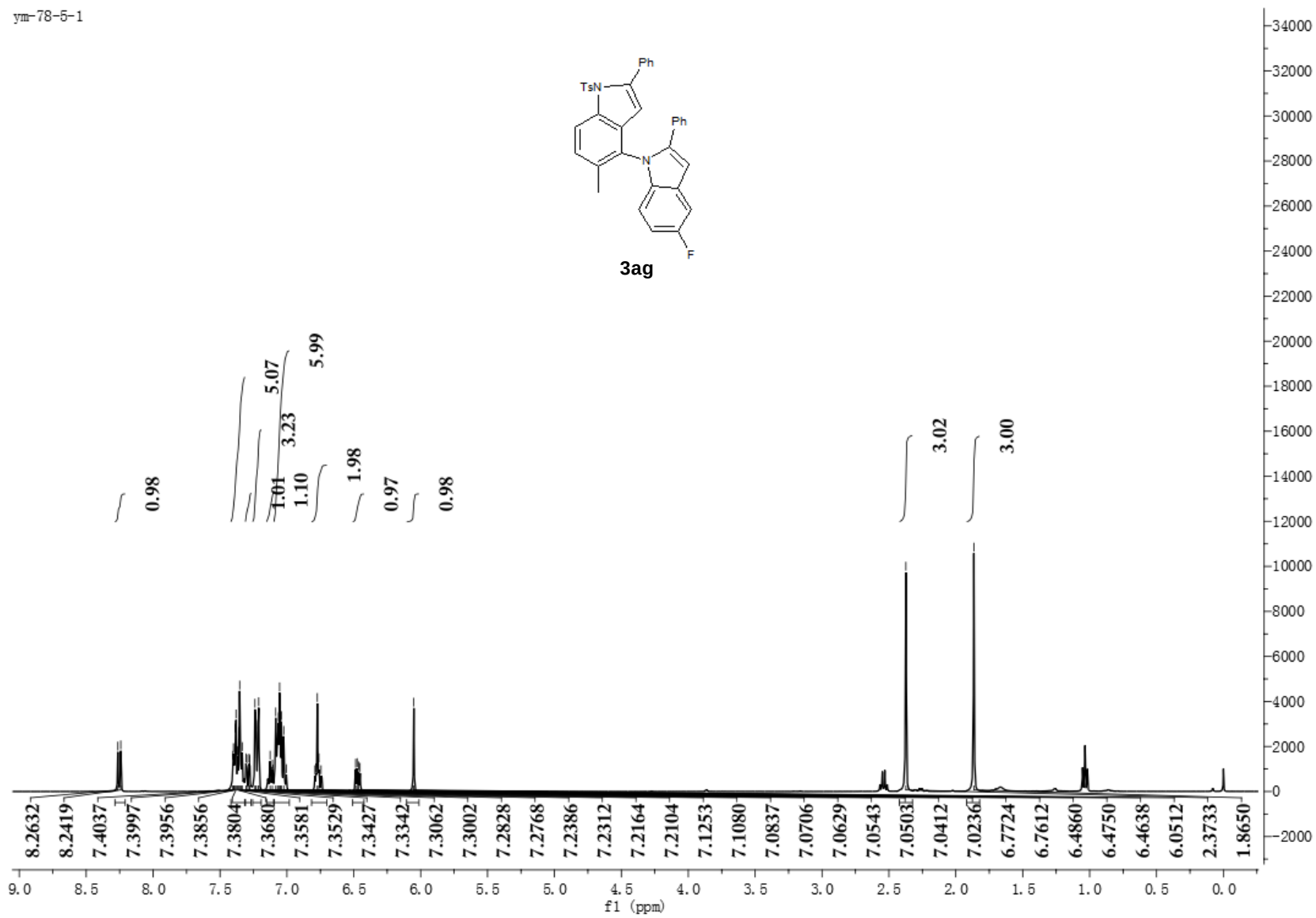


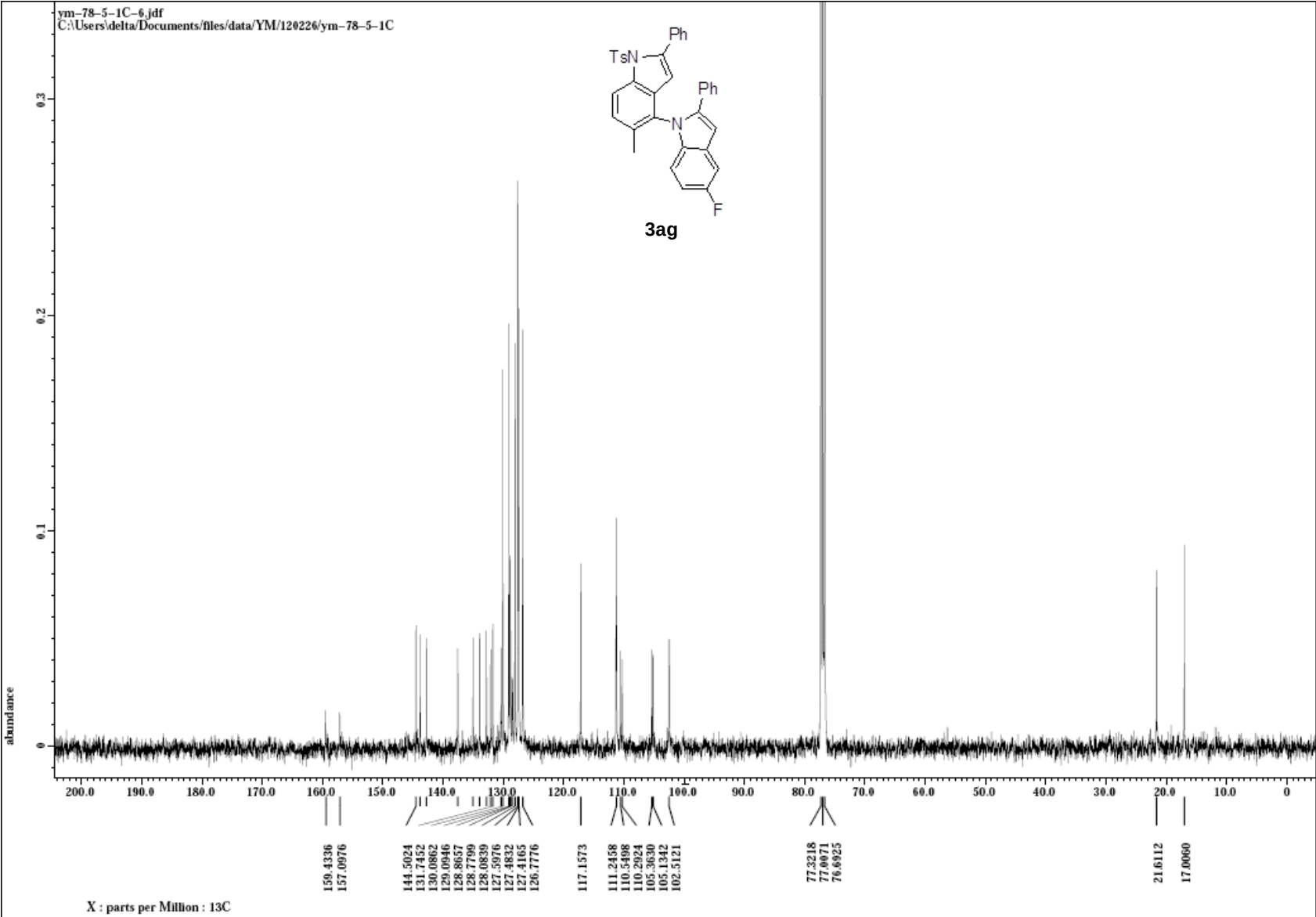


ym-78-7-1

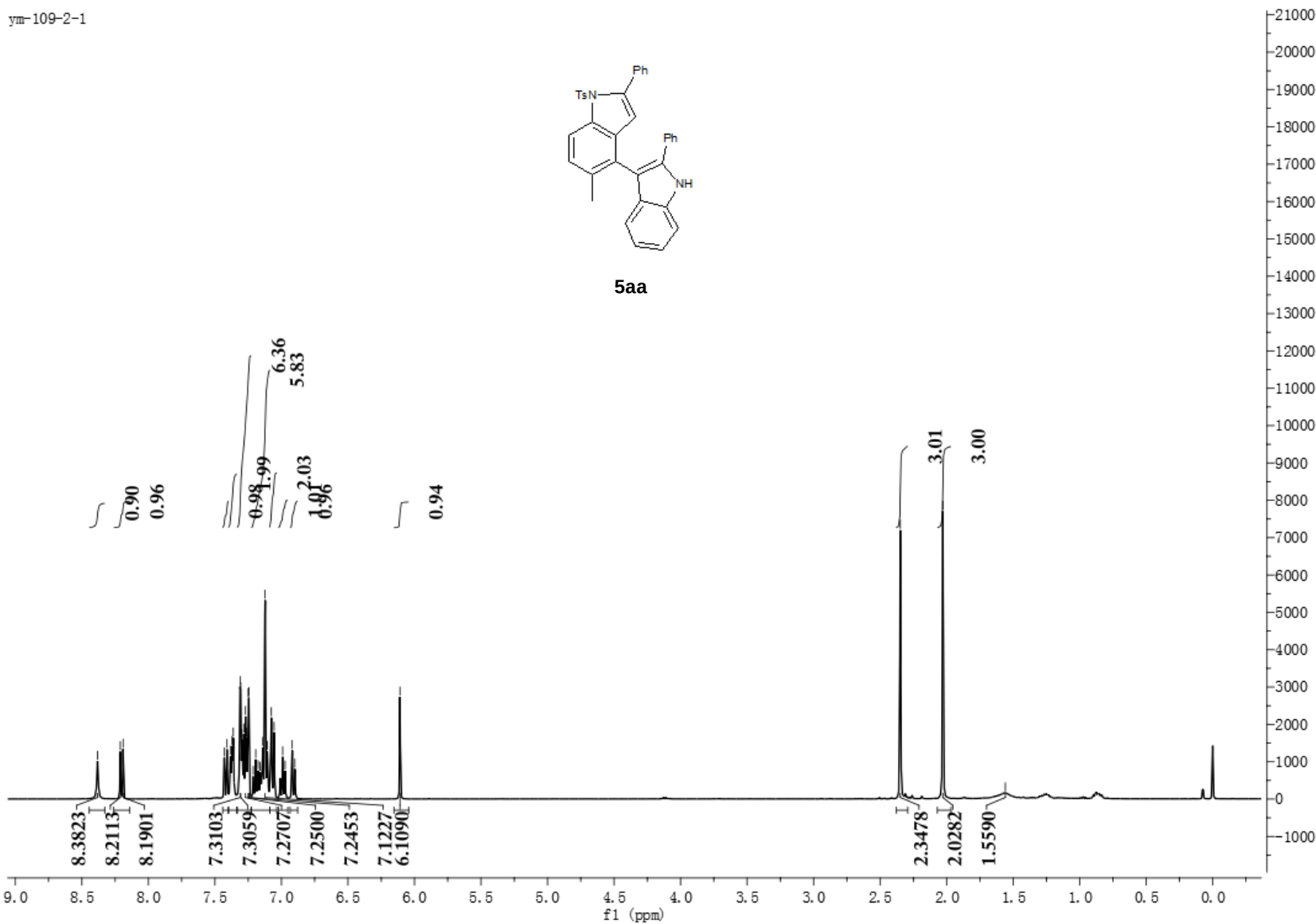


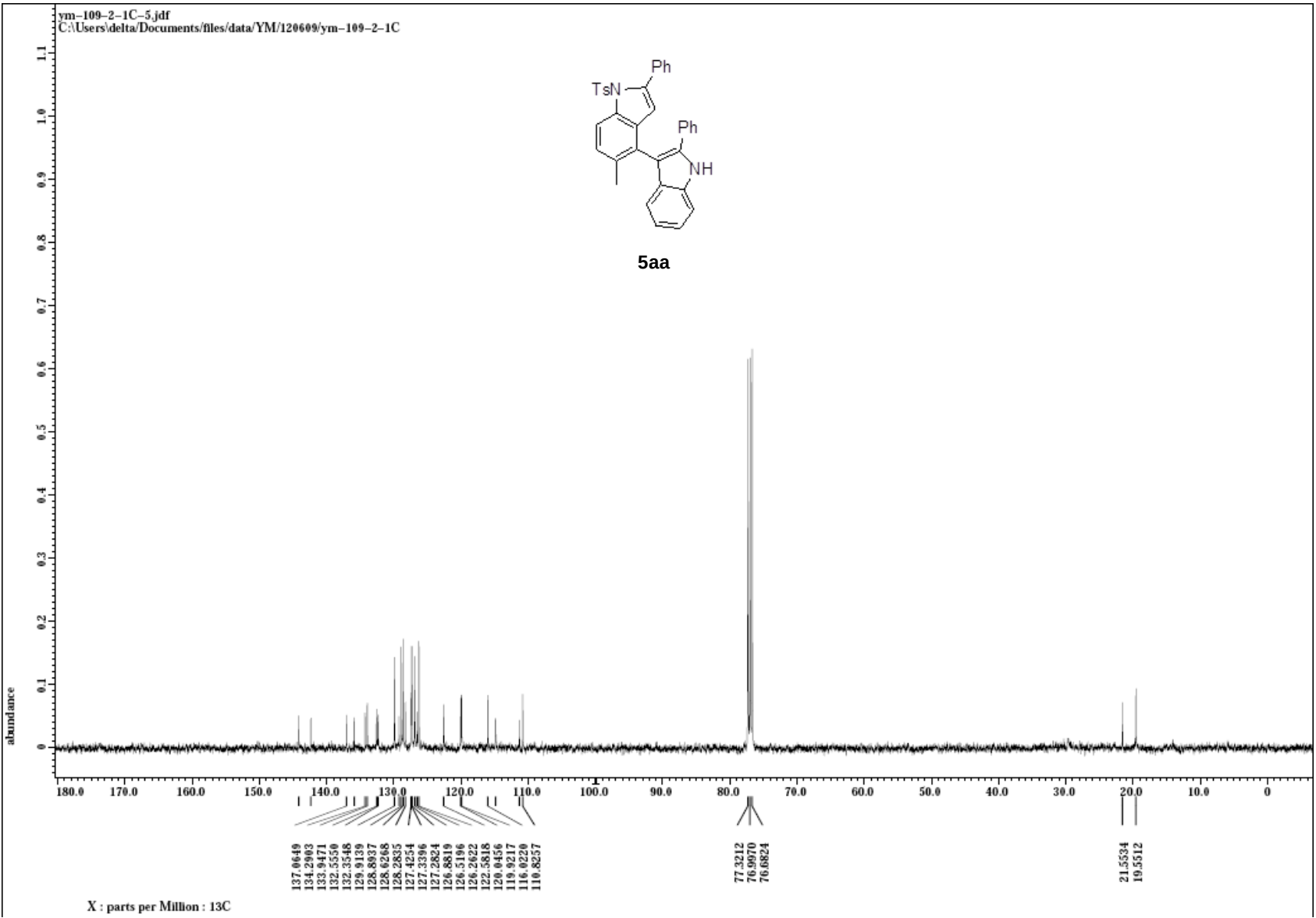


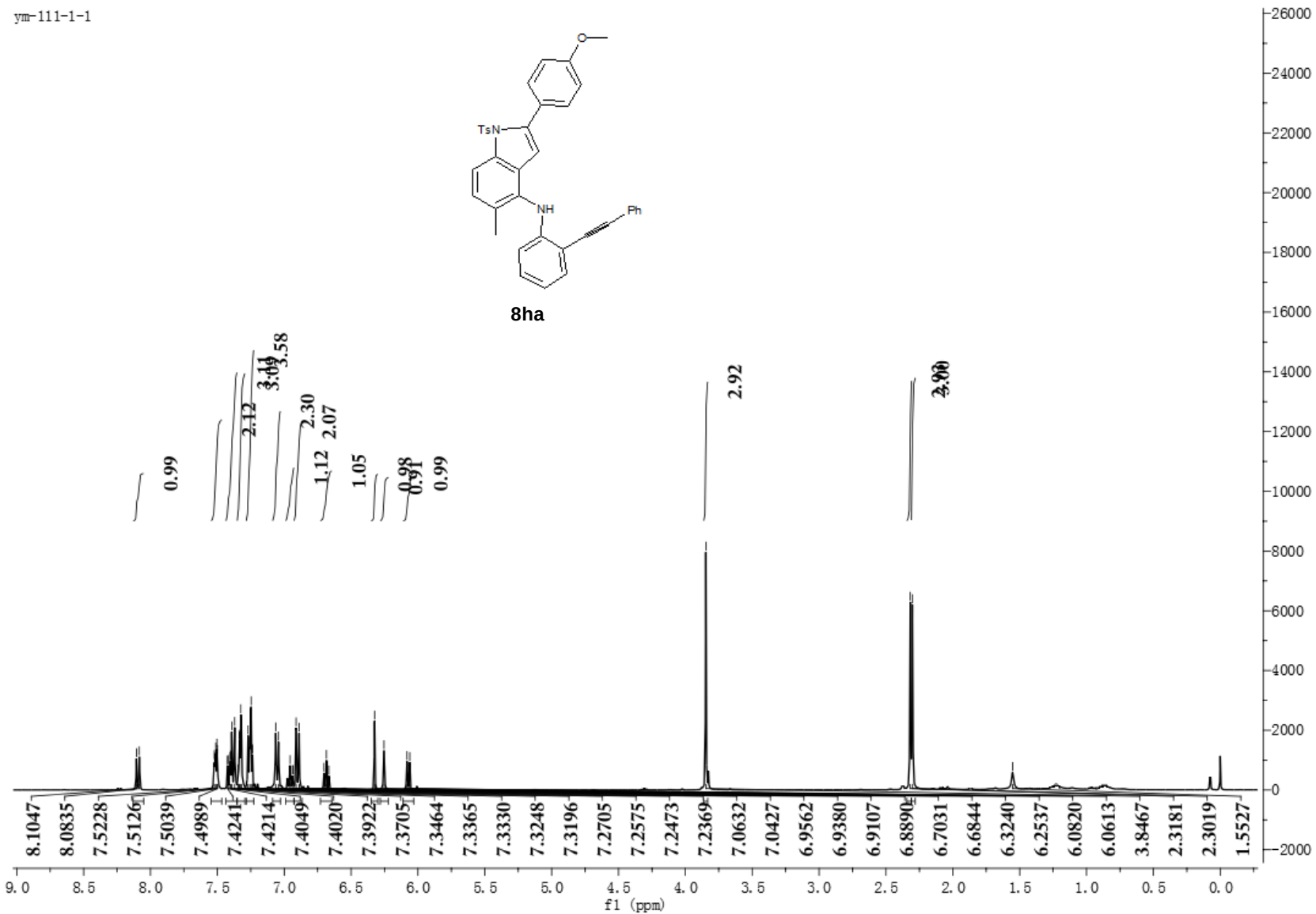


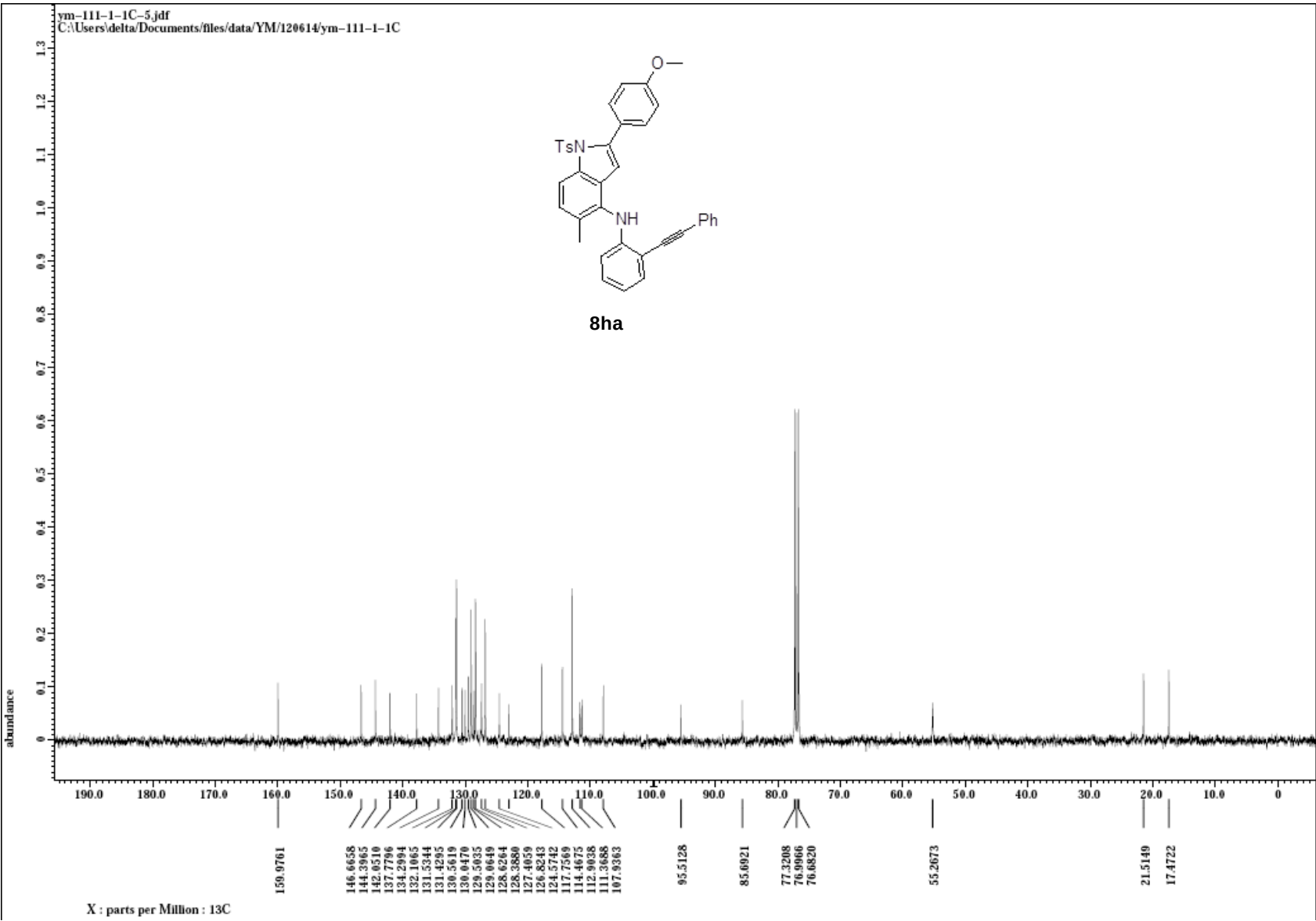


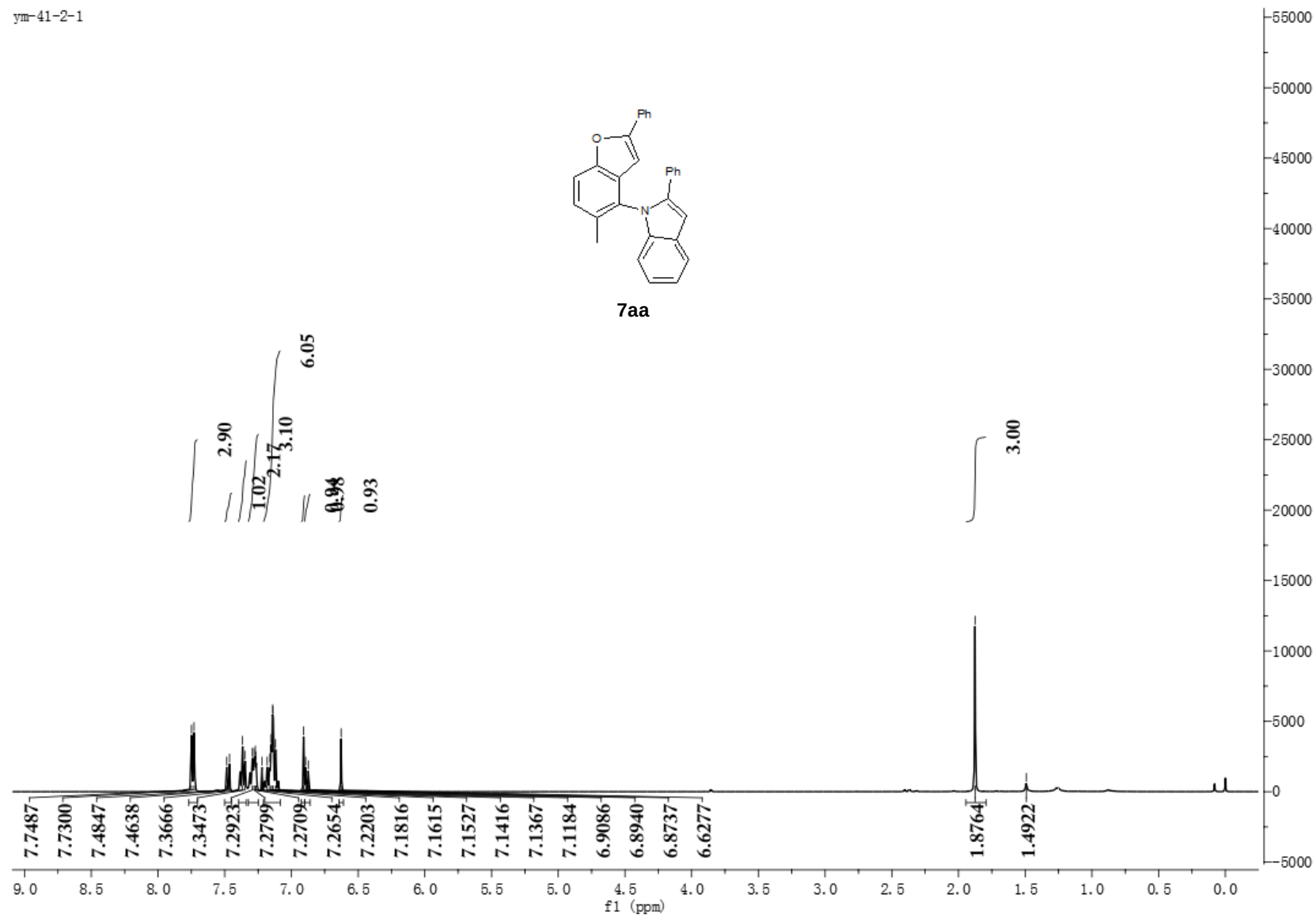
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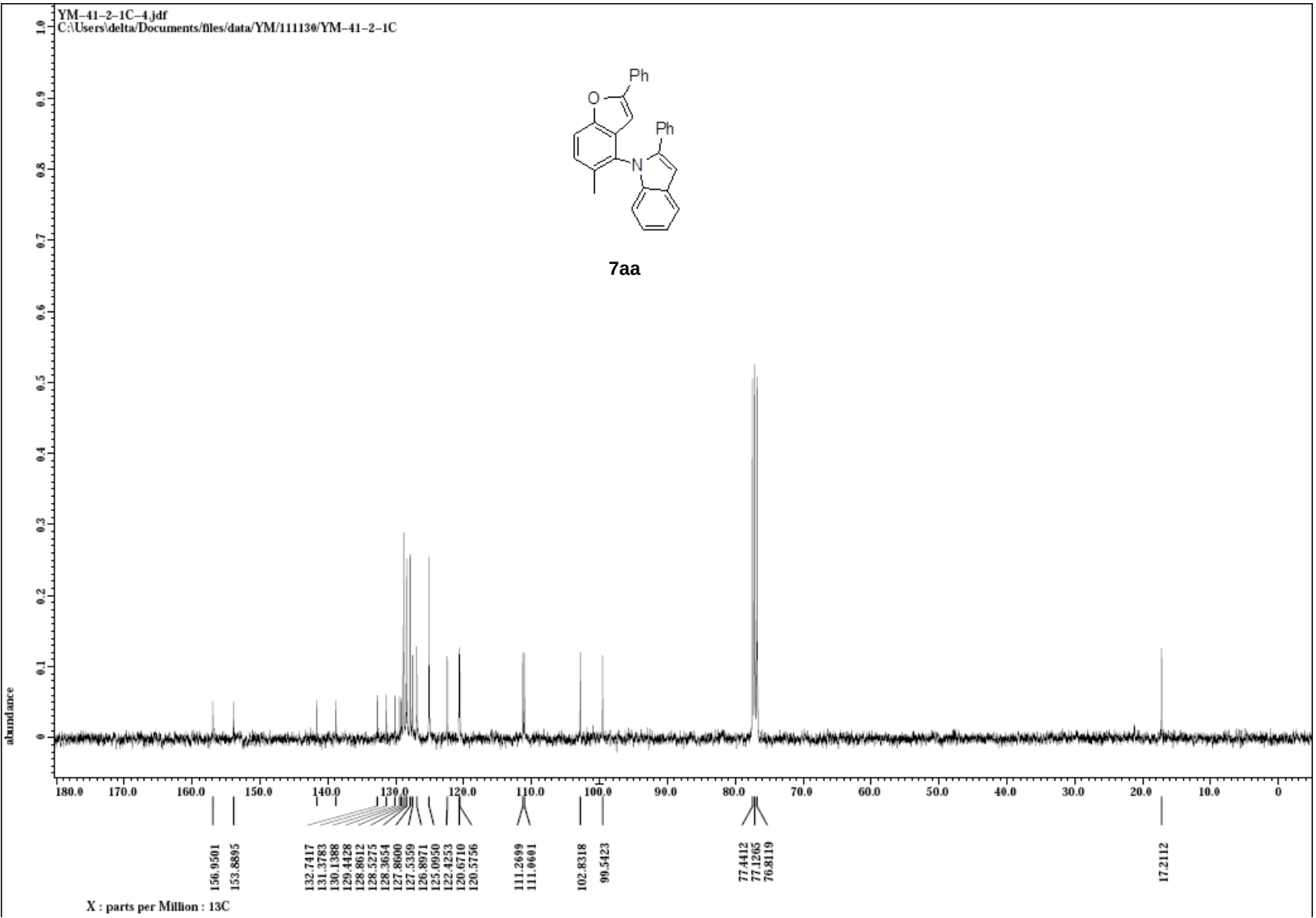


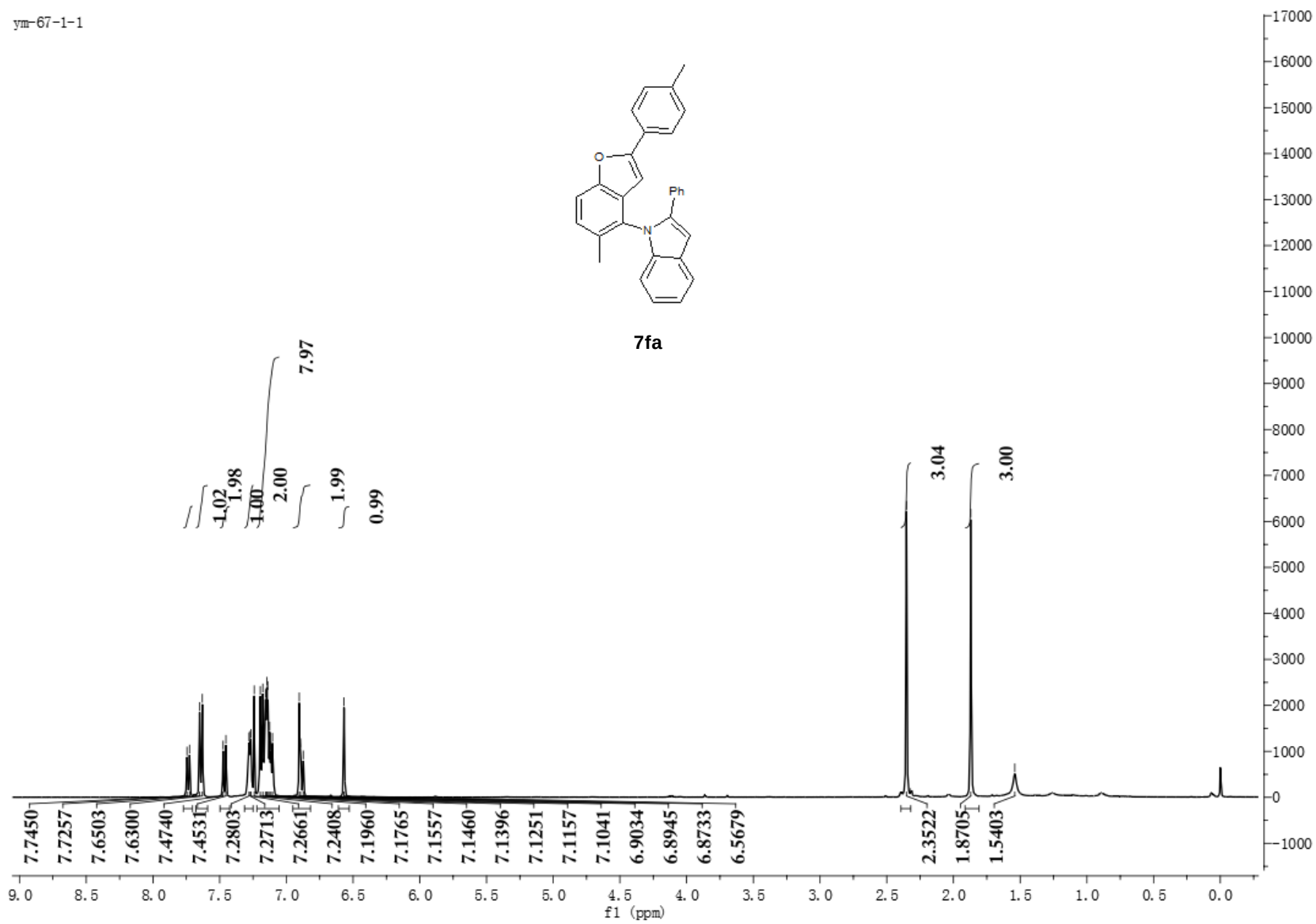


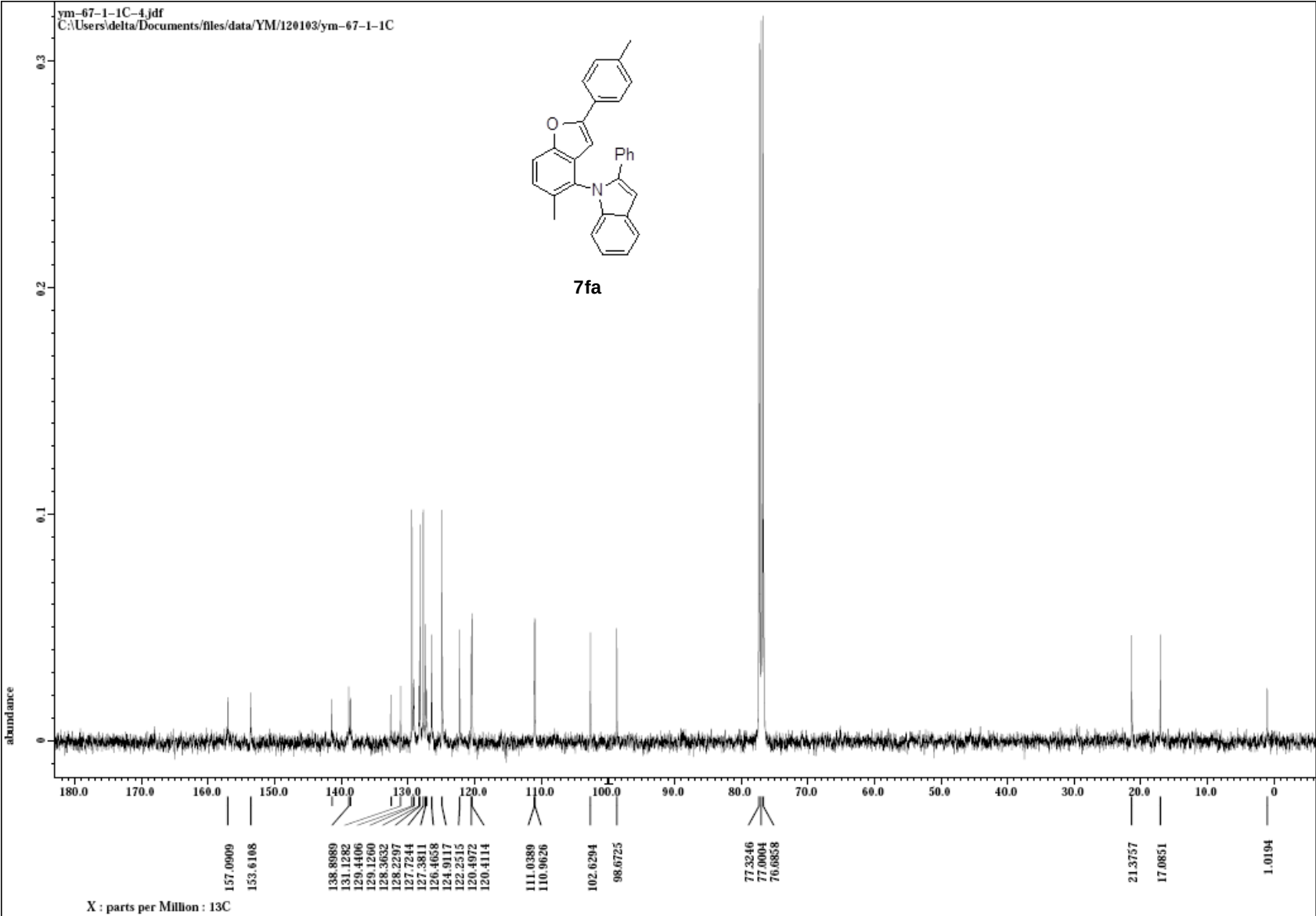




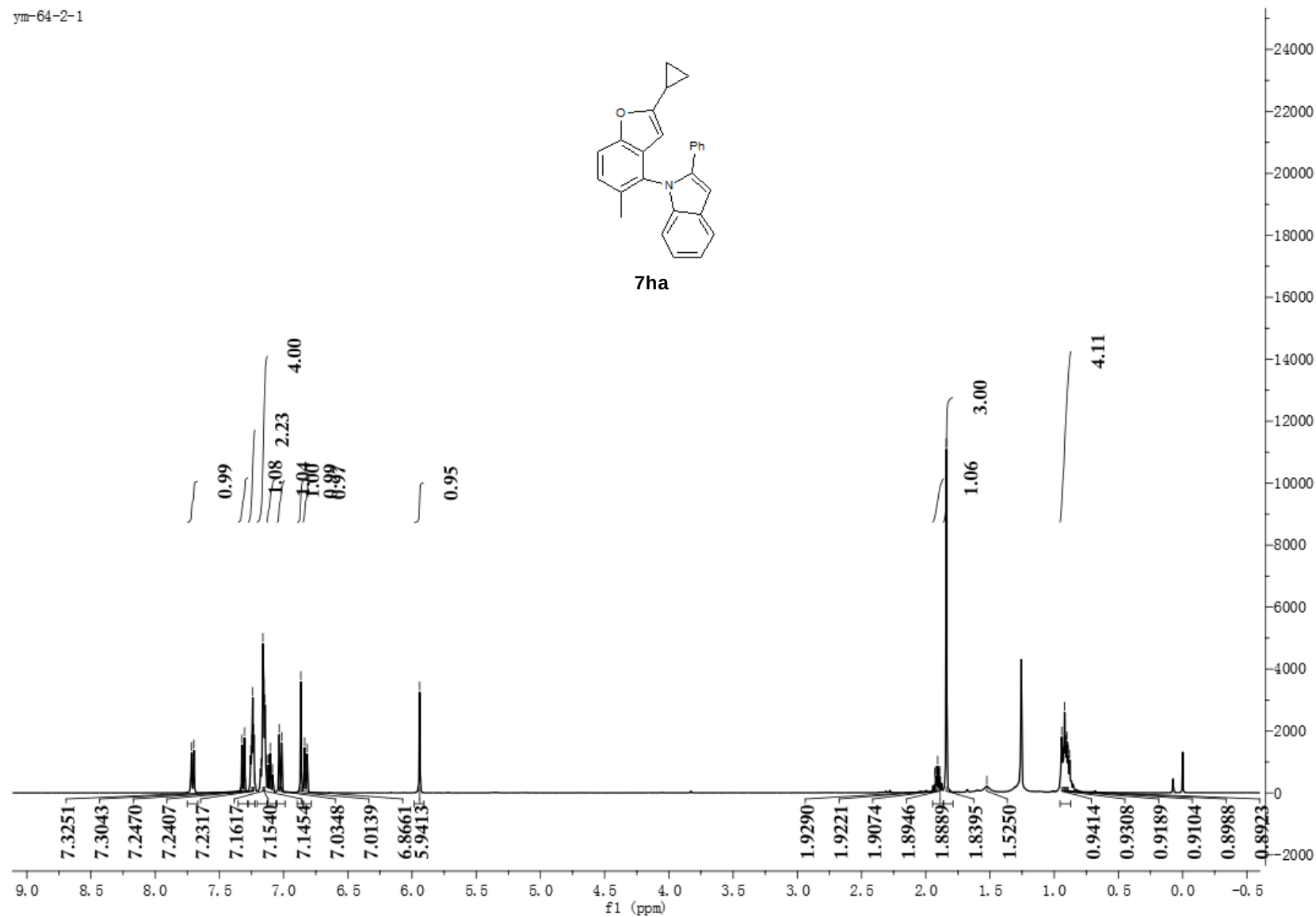


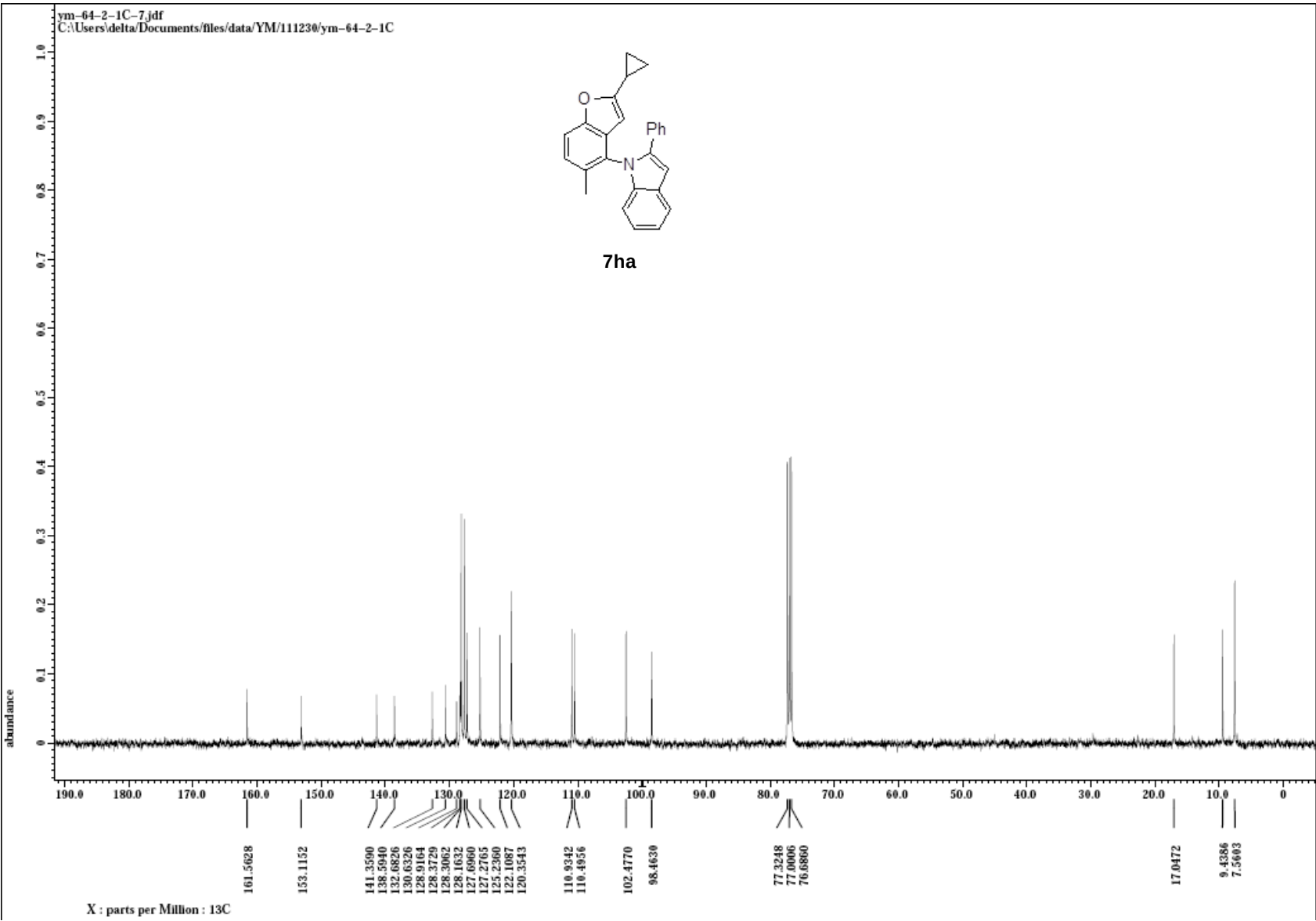


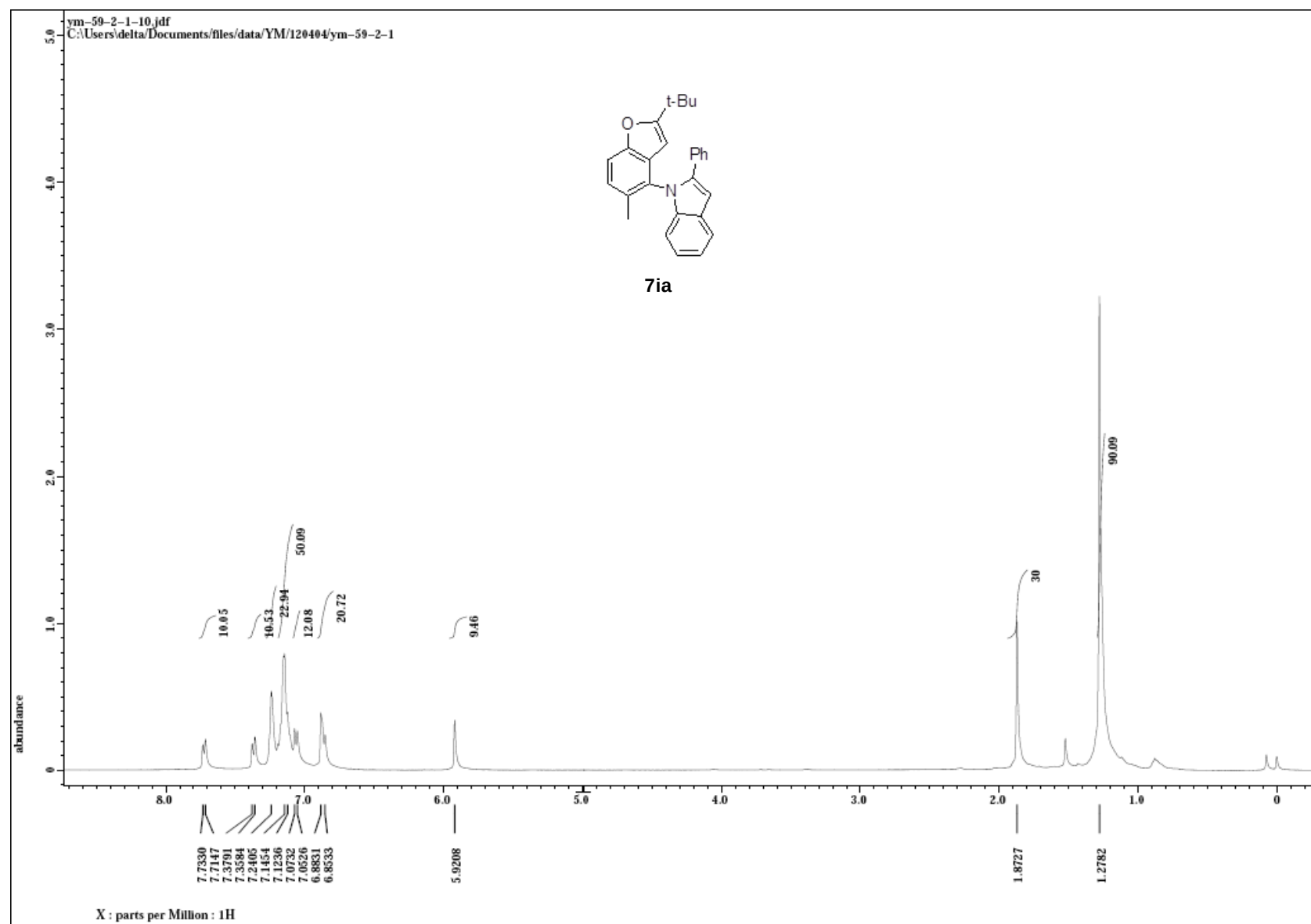


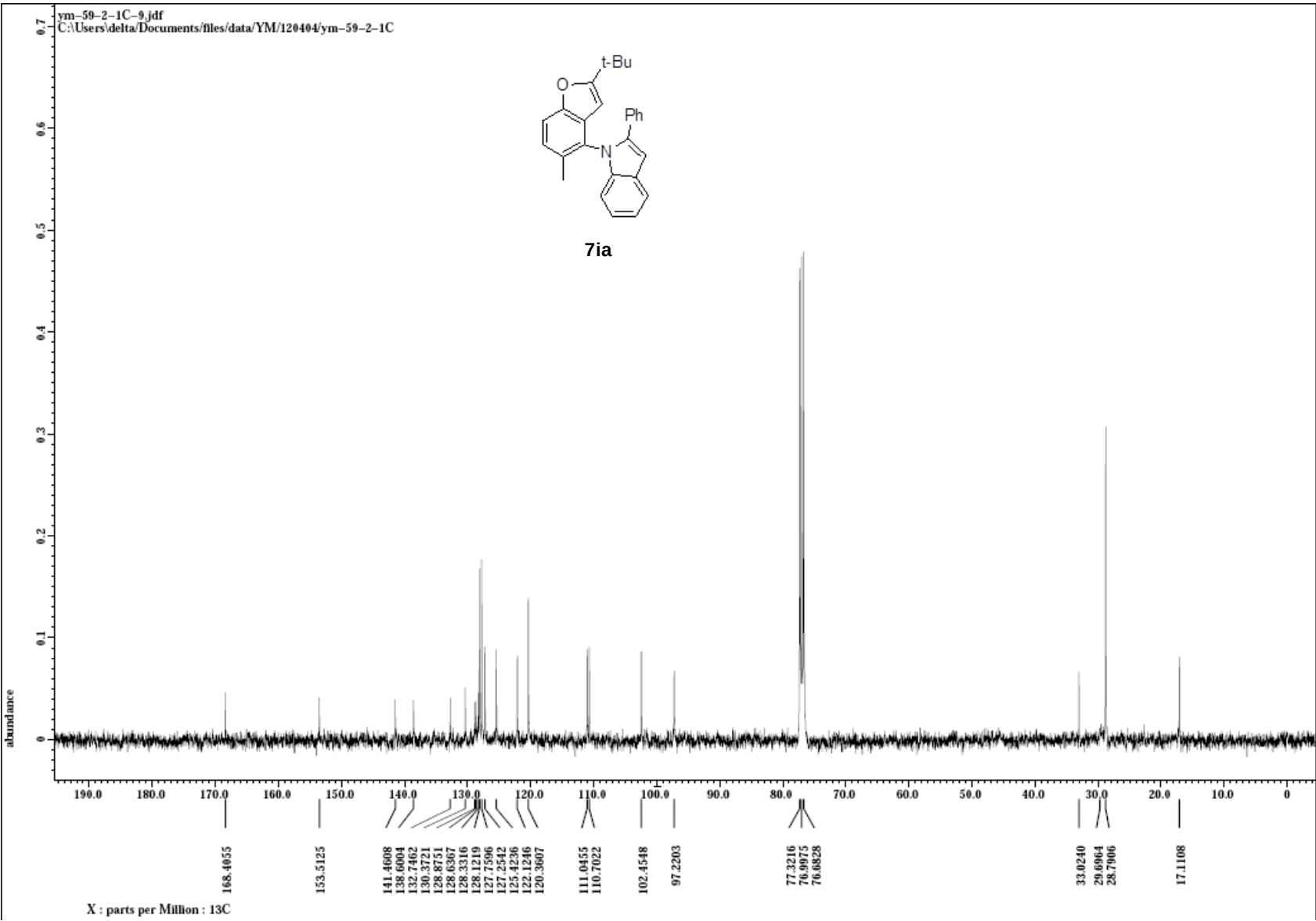


ym-64-2-1

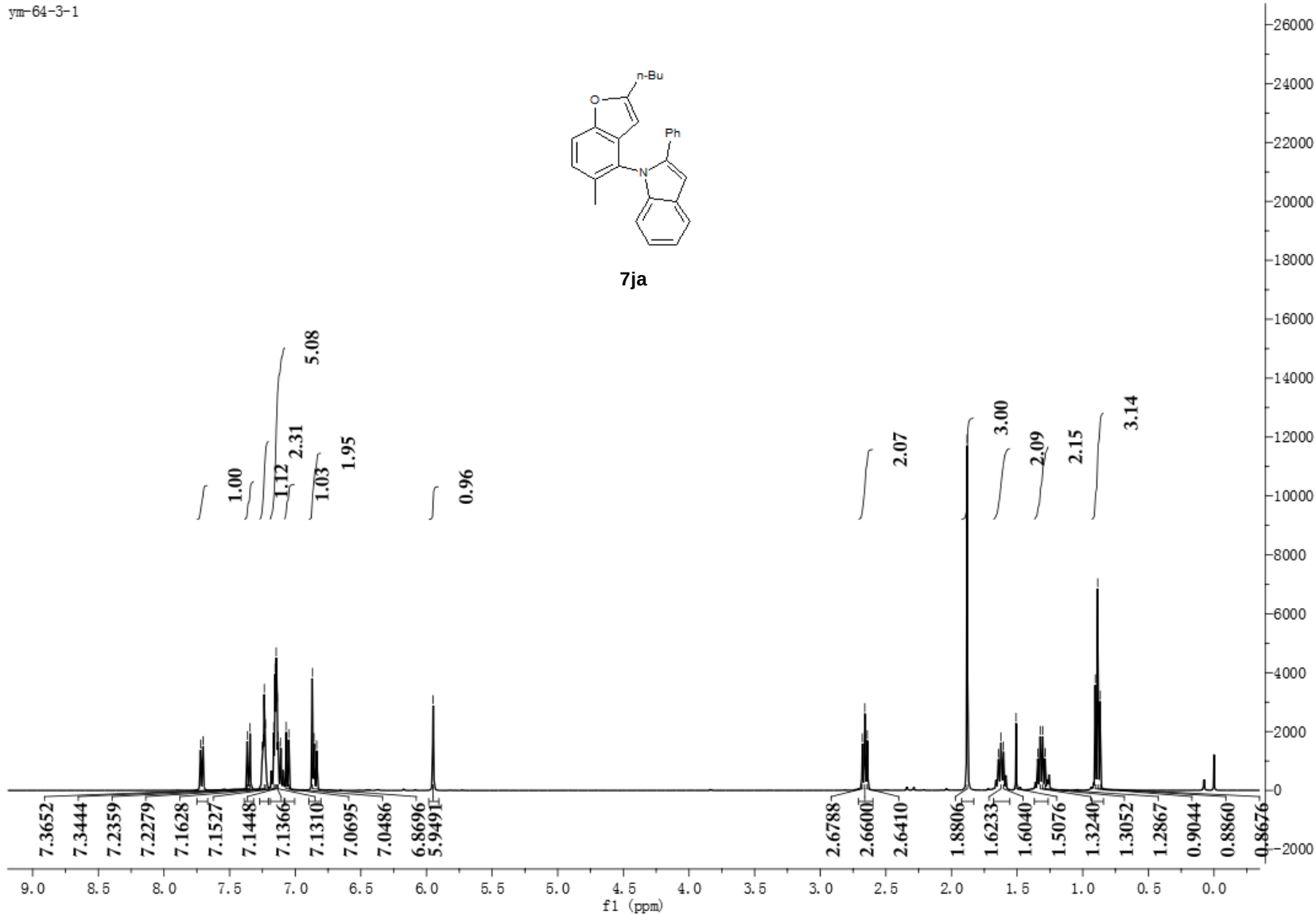


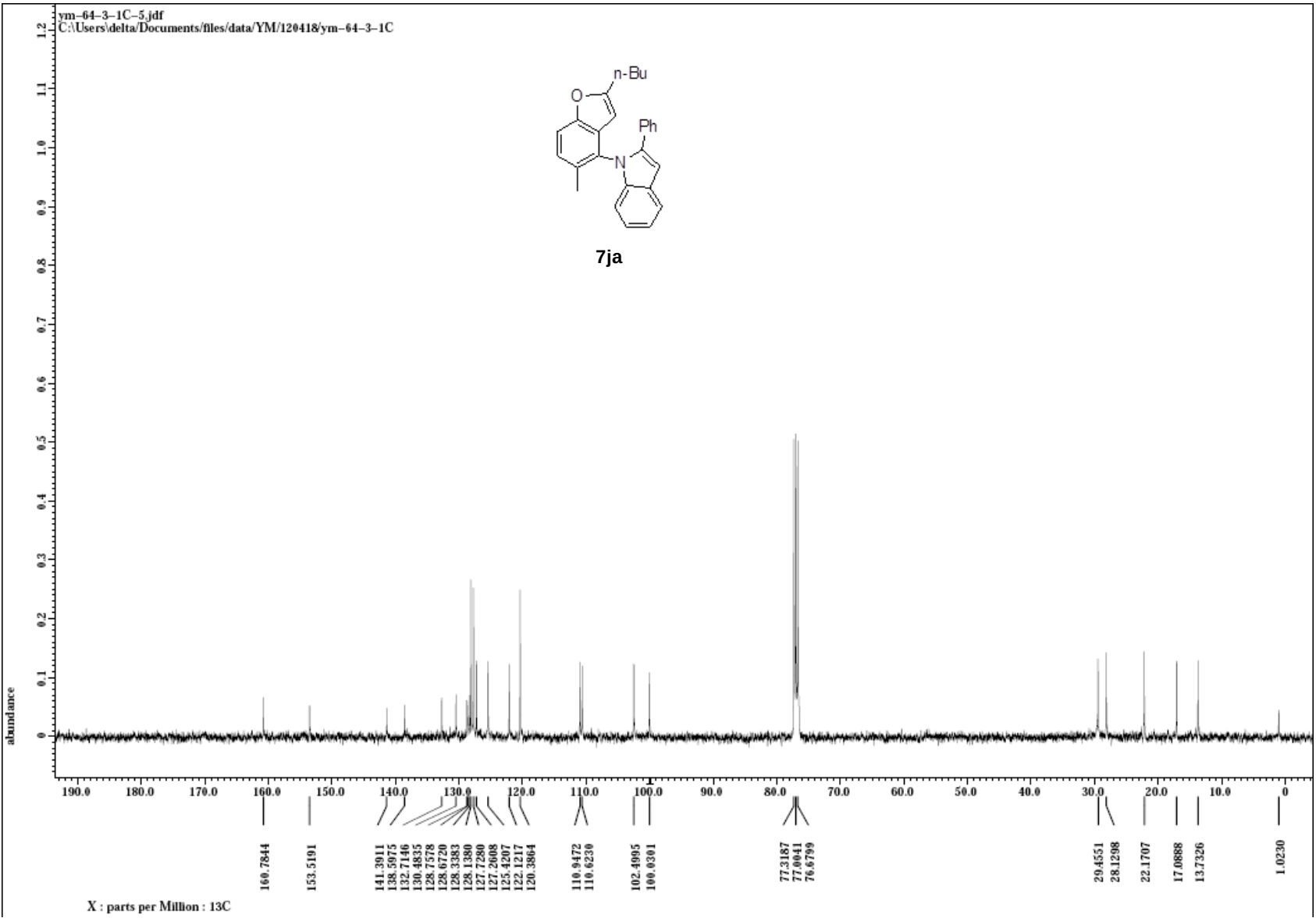




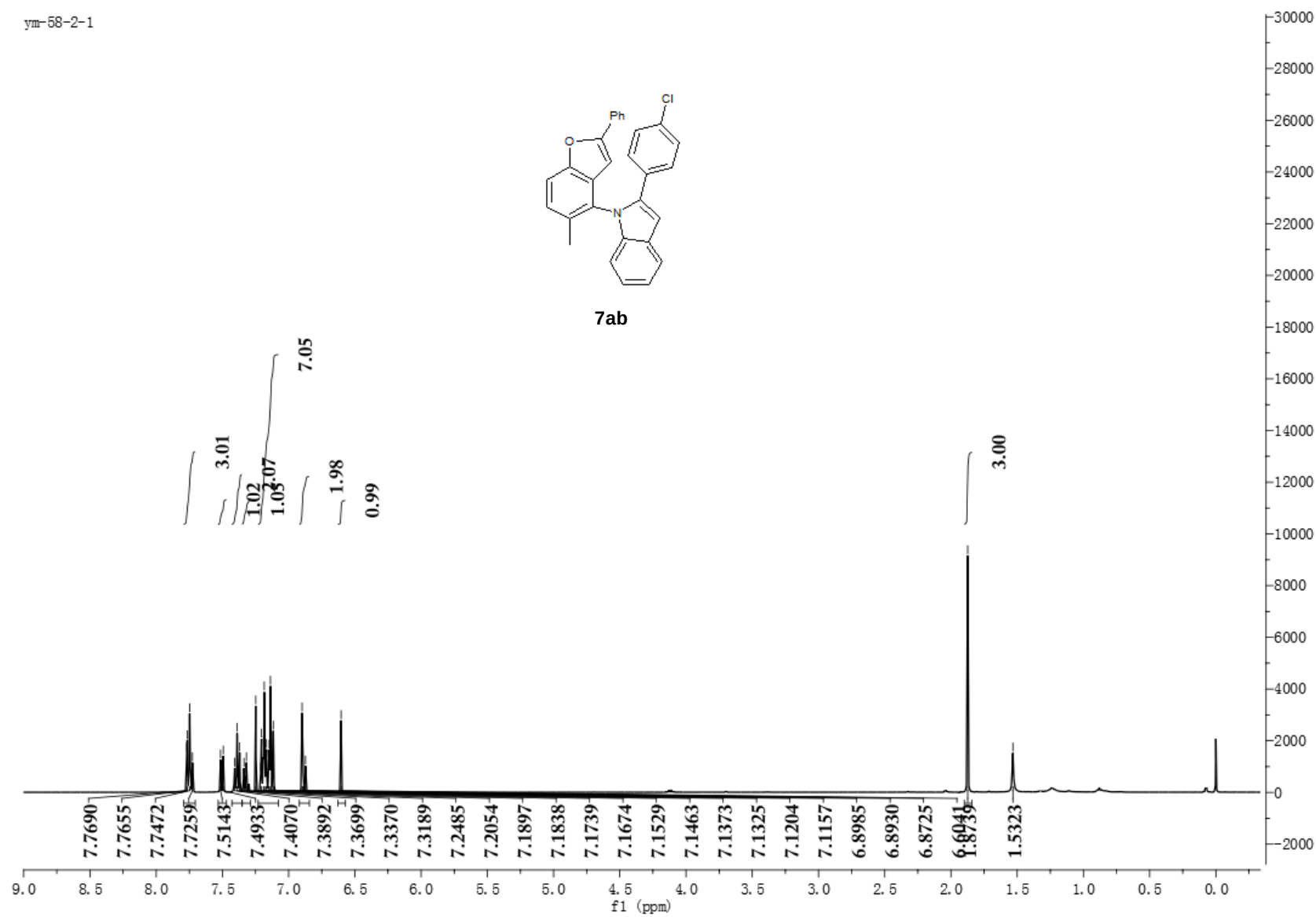


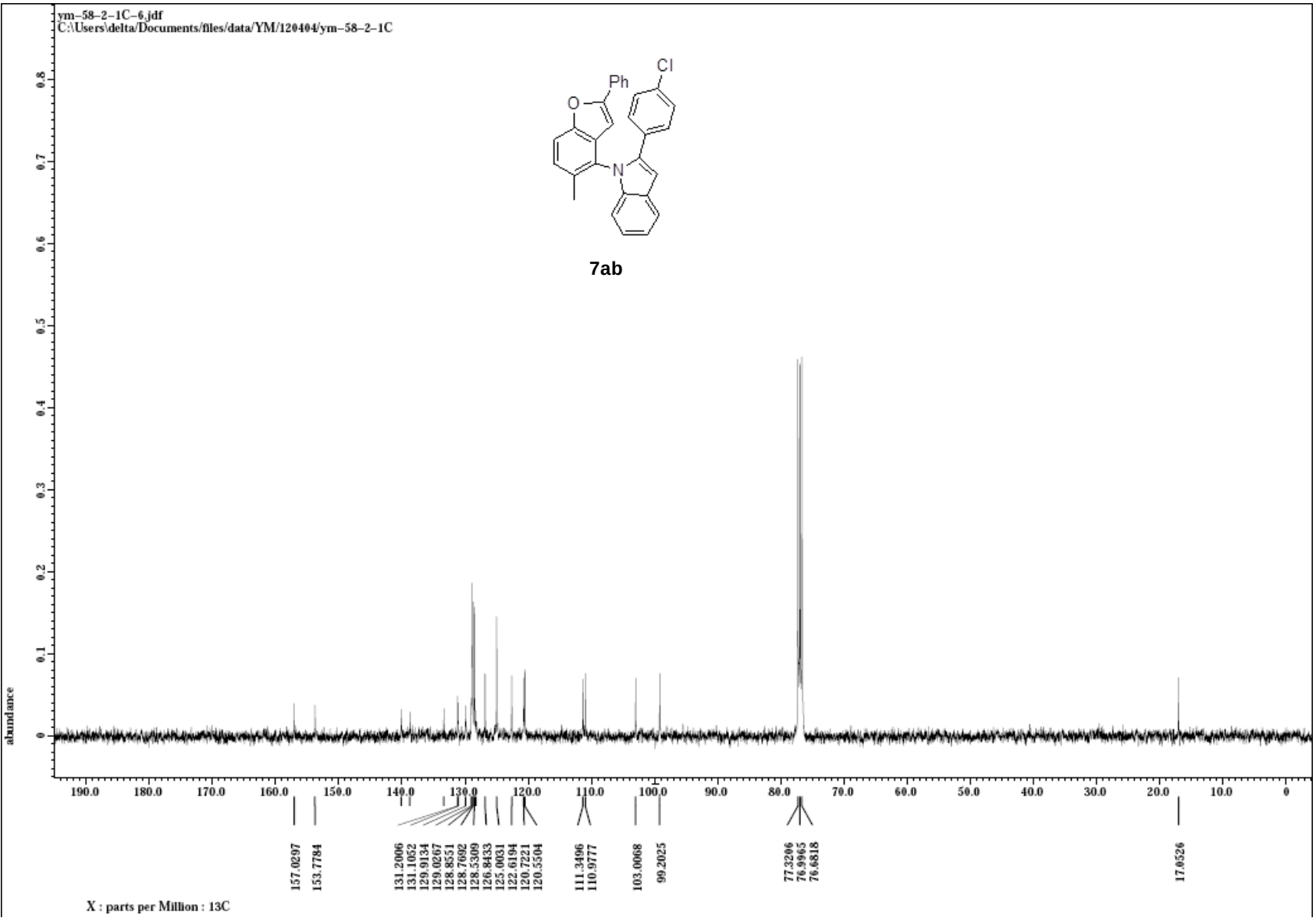
ym-64-3-1



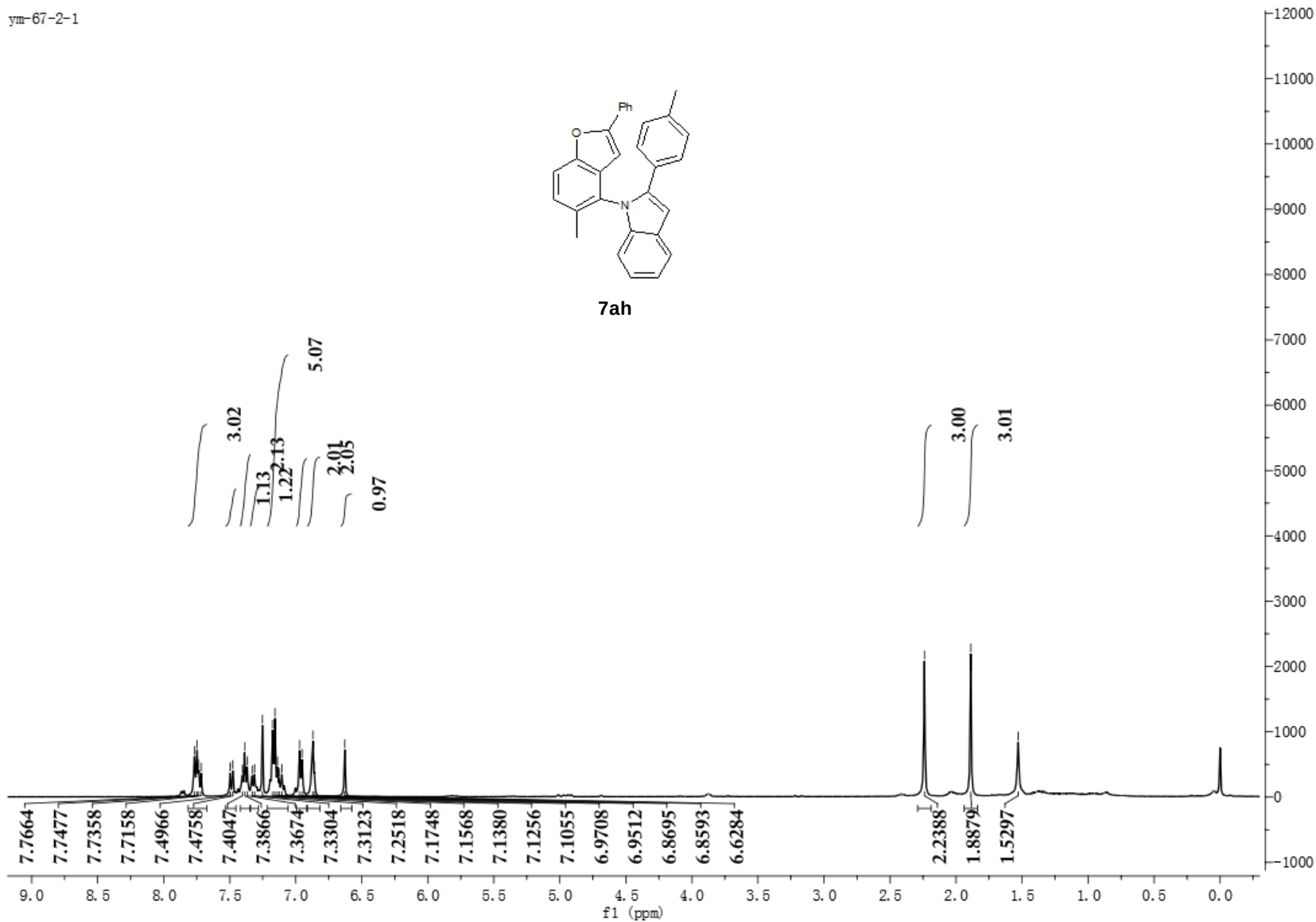


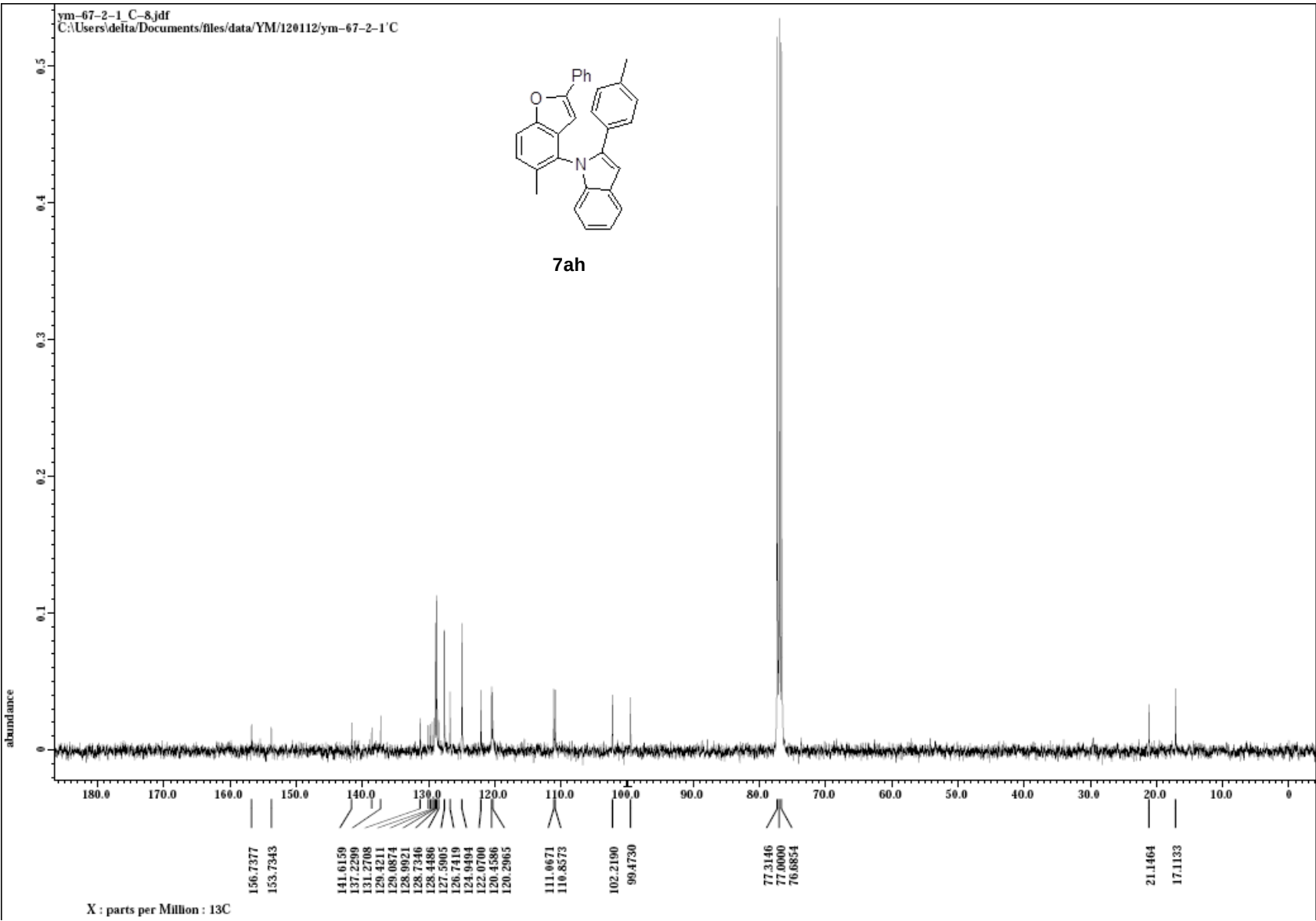
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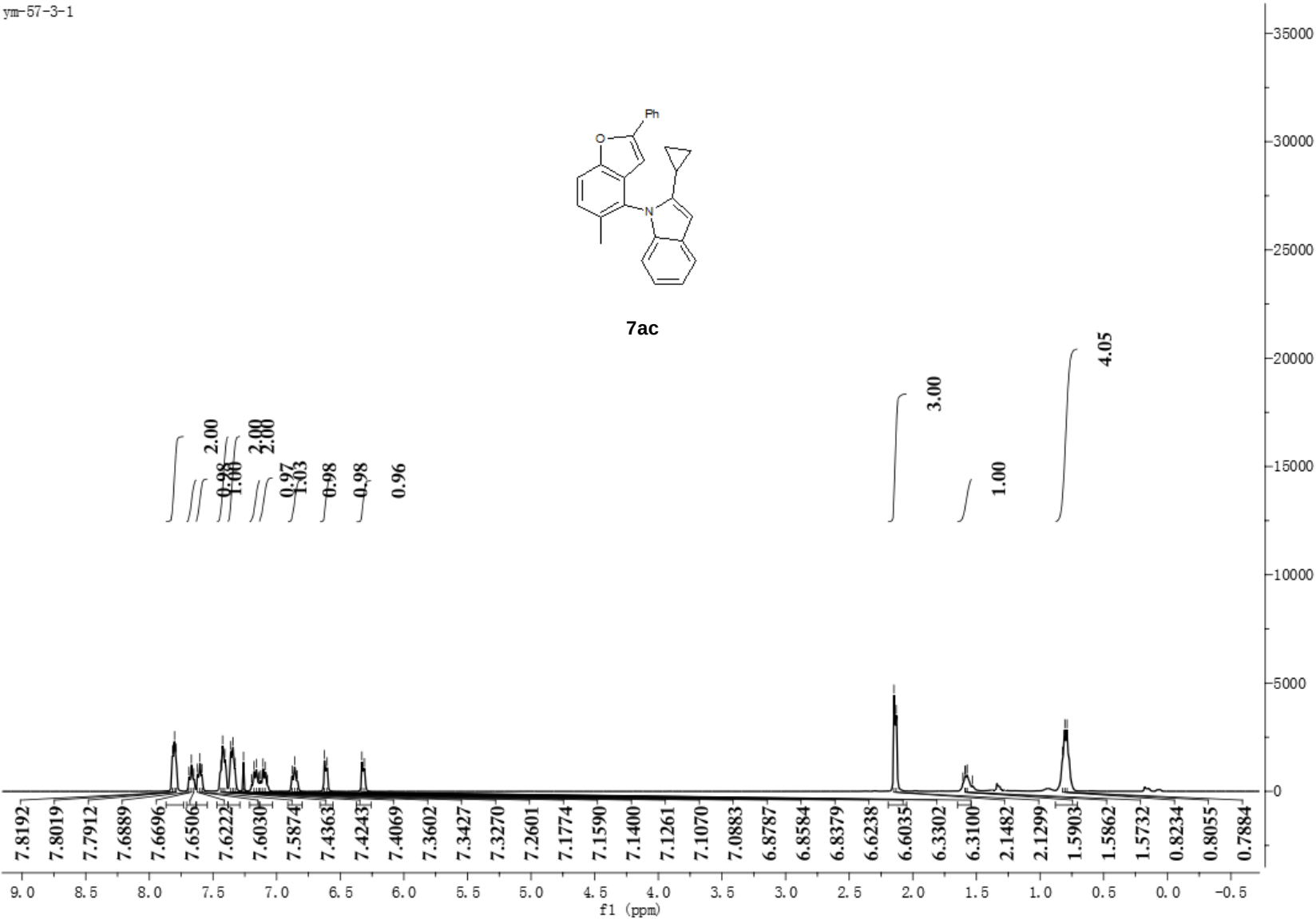


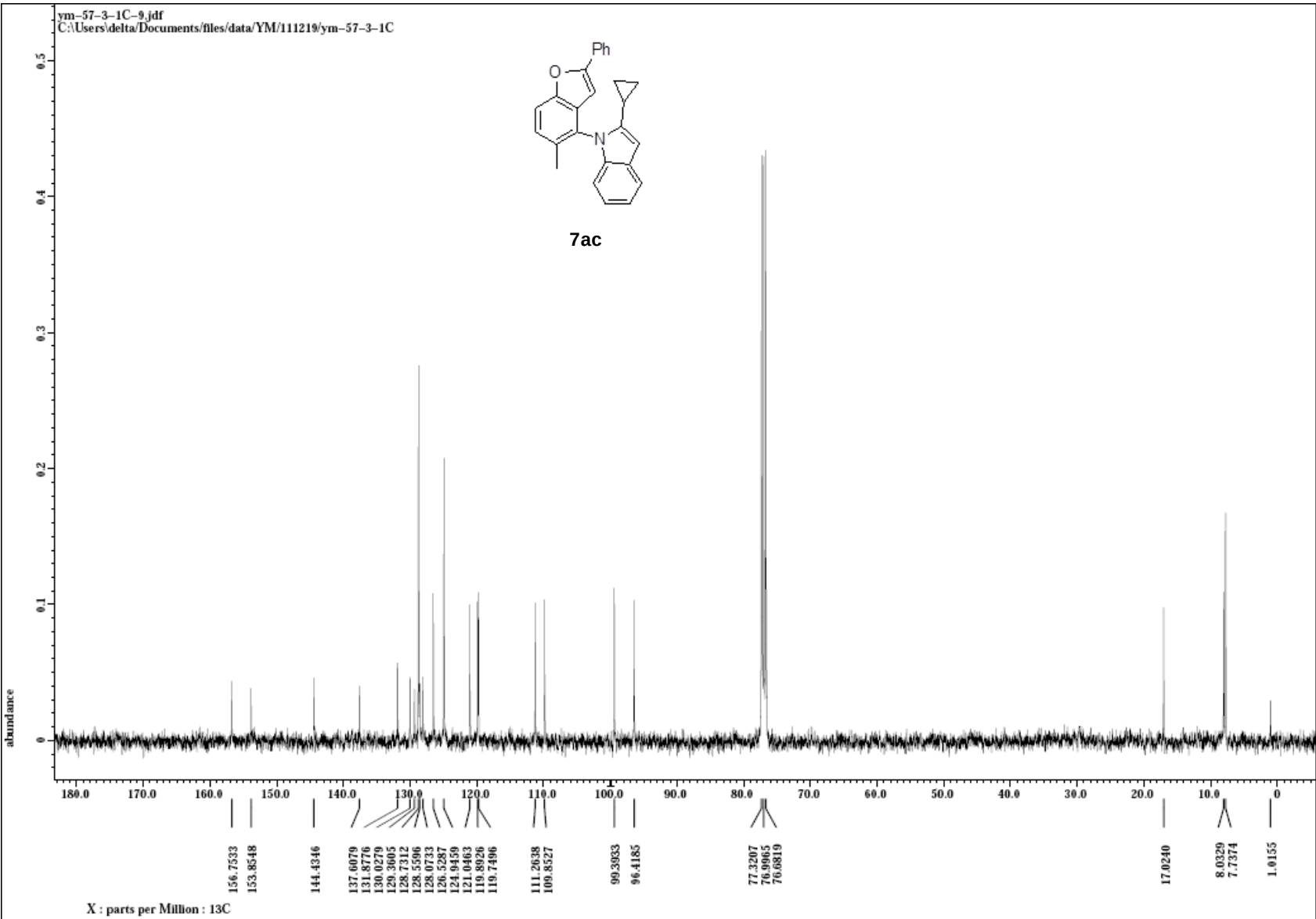
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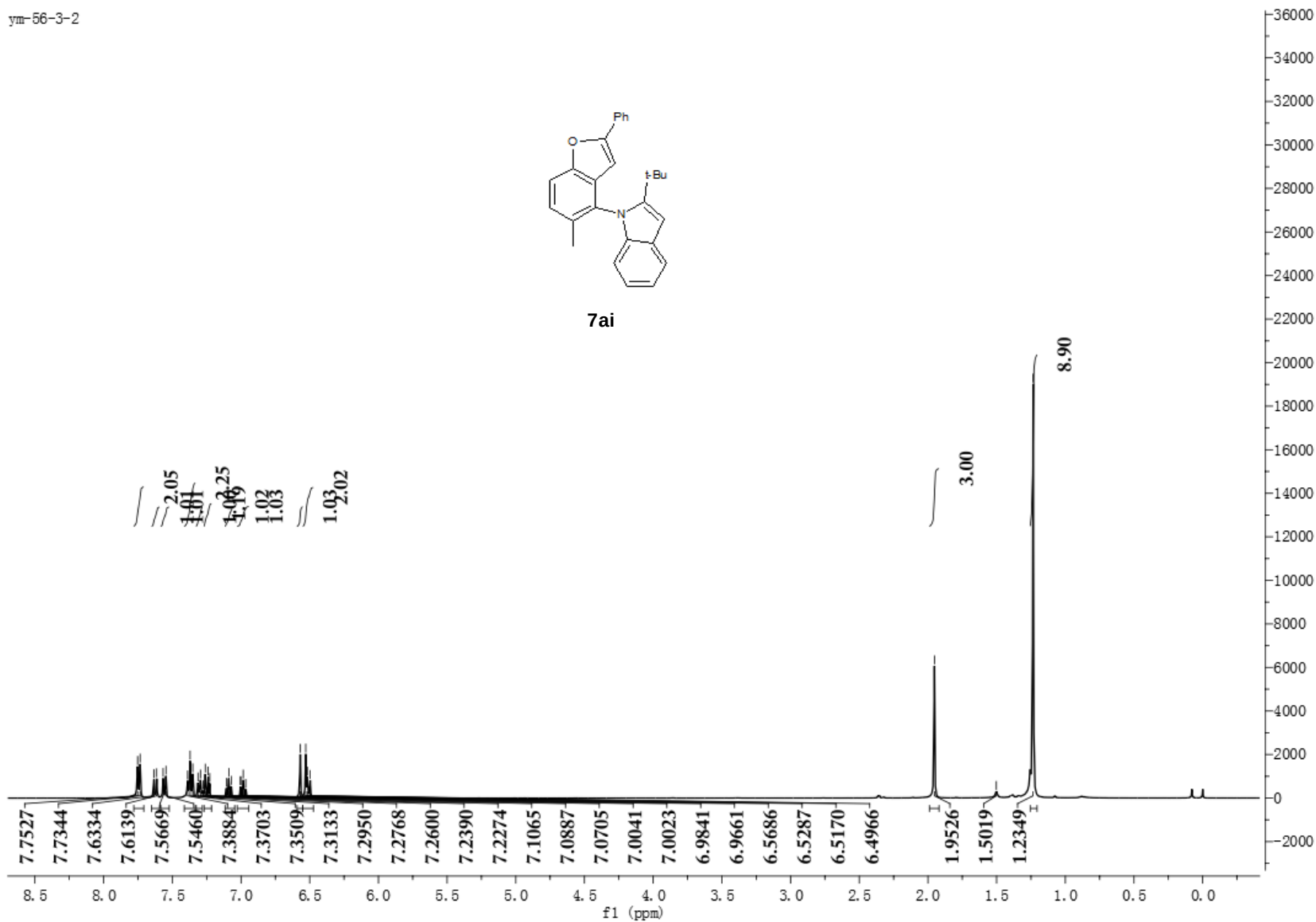


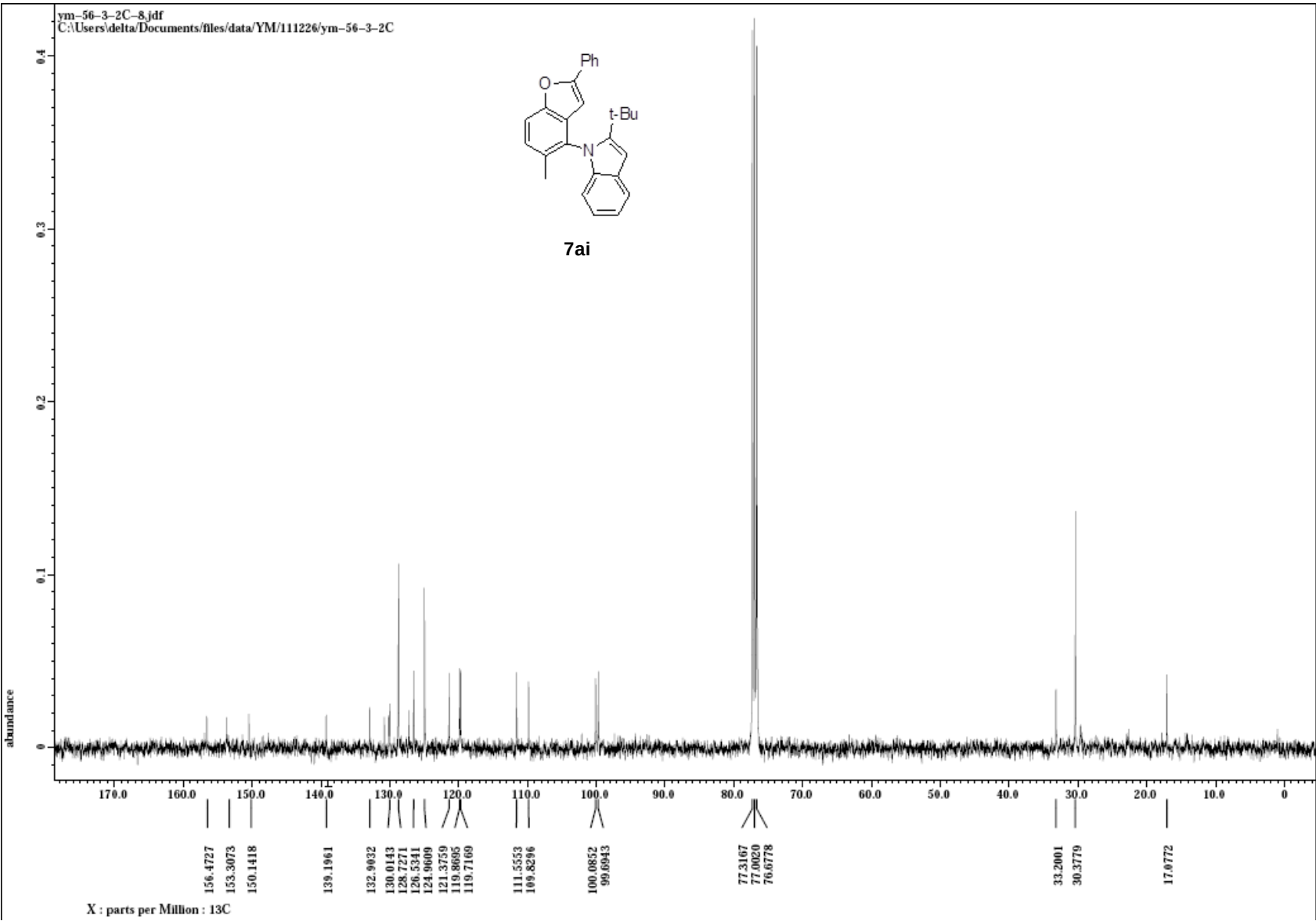
ym-57-3-1



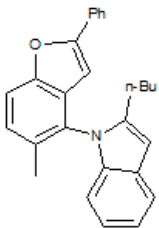


ym-56-3-2

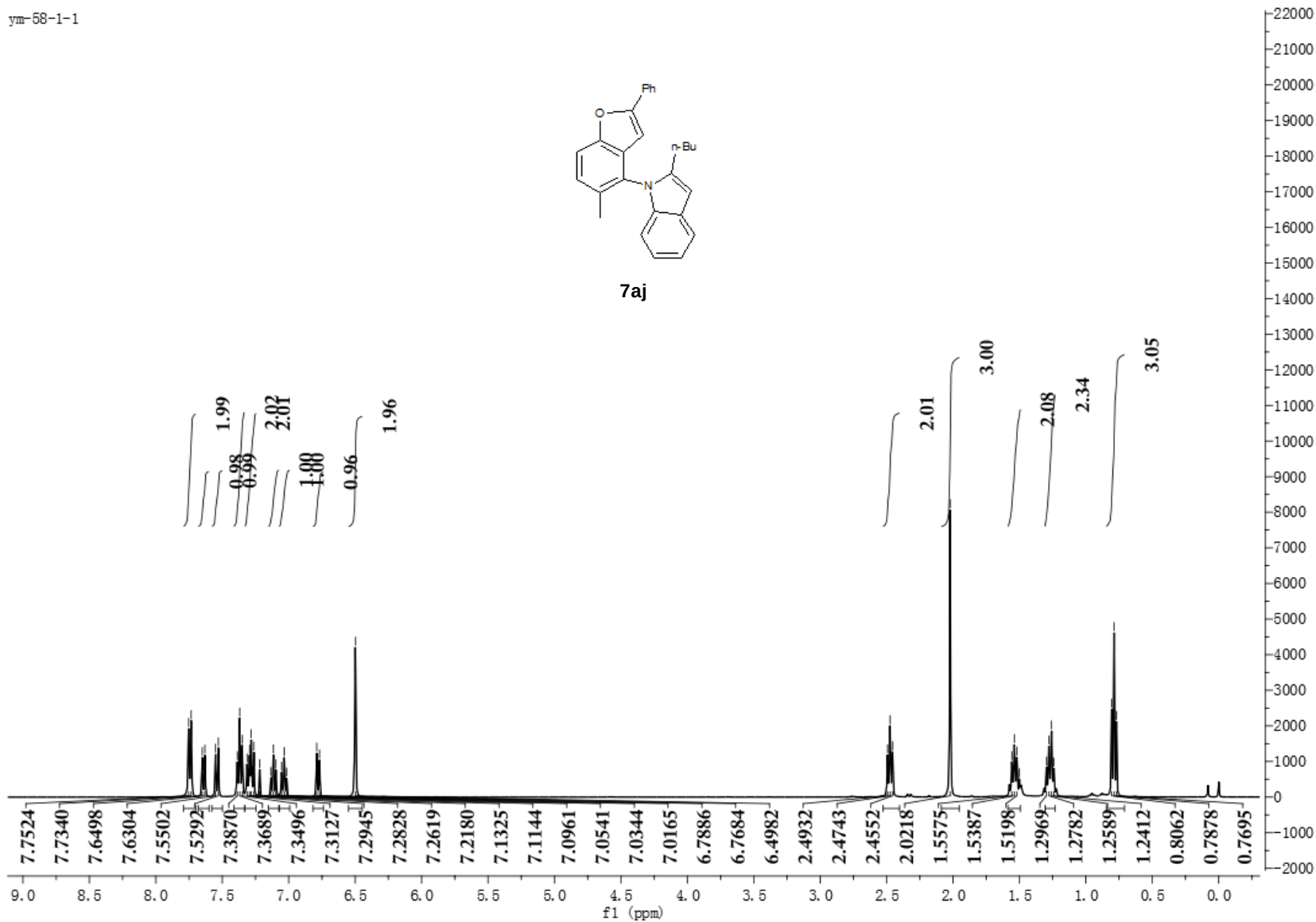


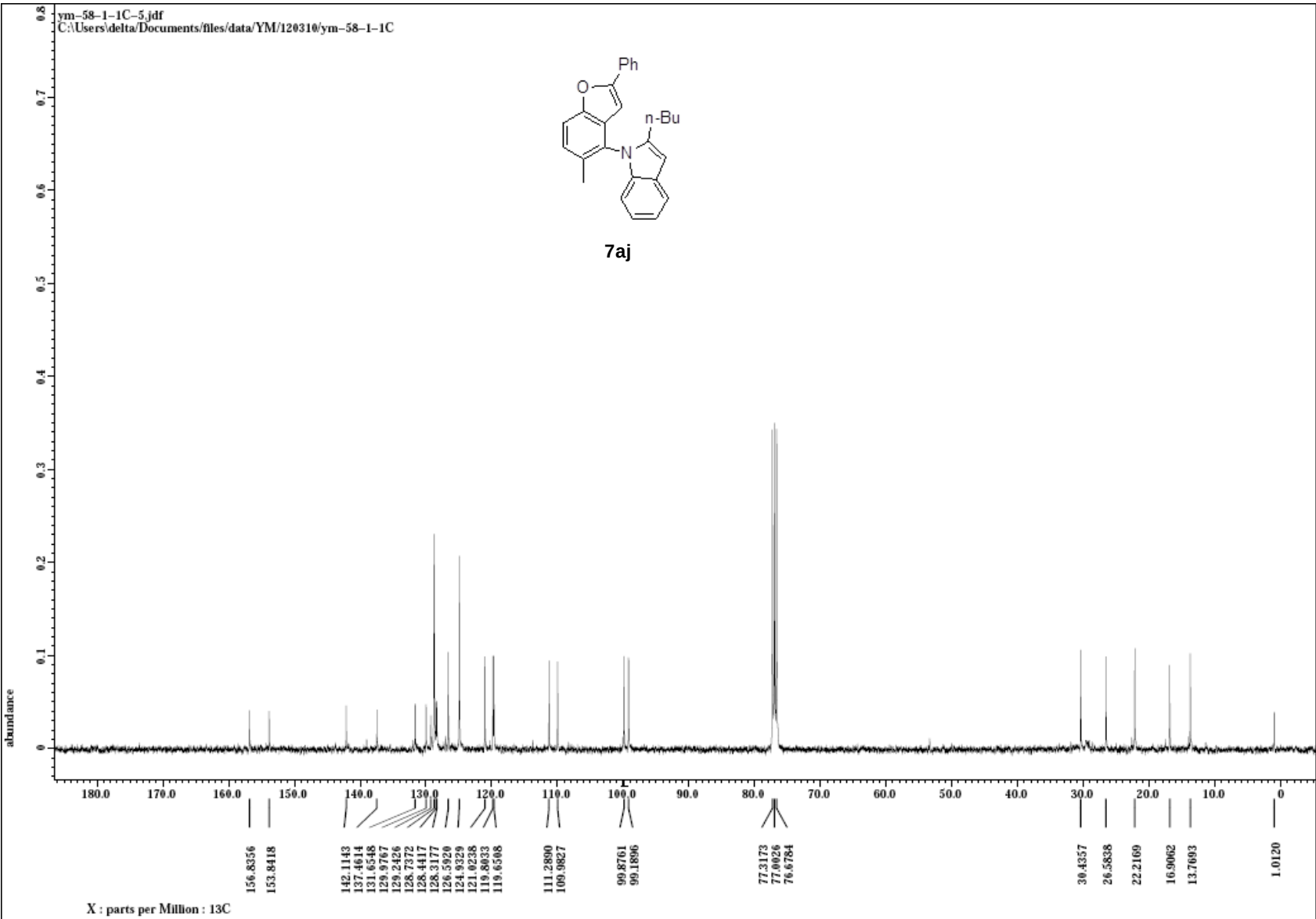


ym-58-1-1

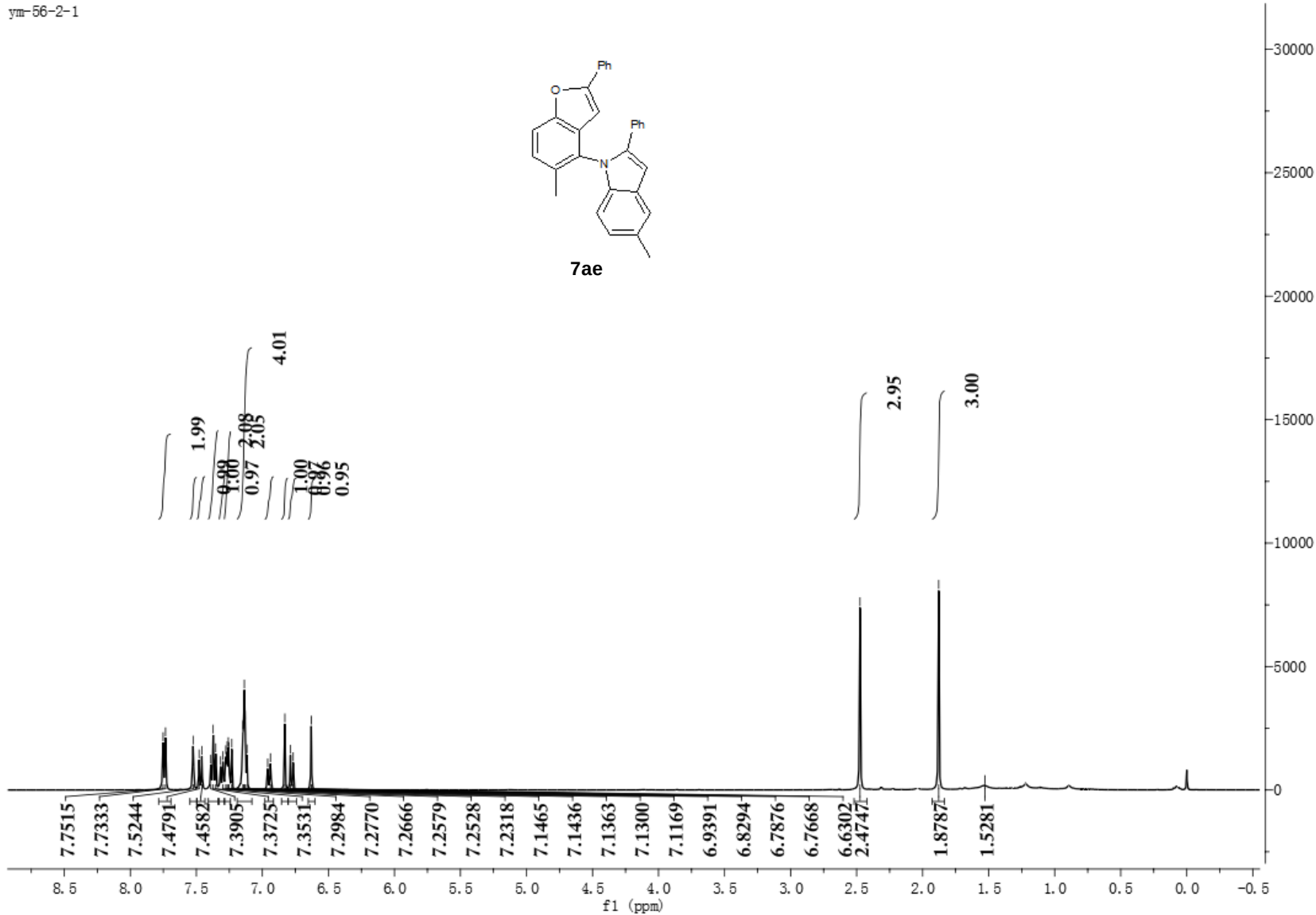


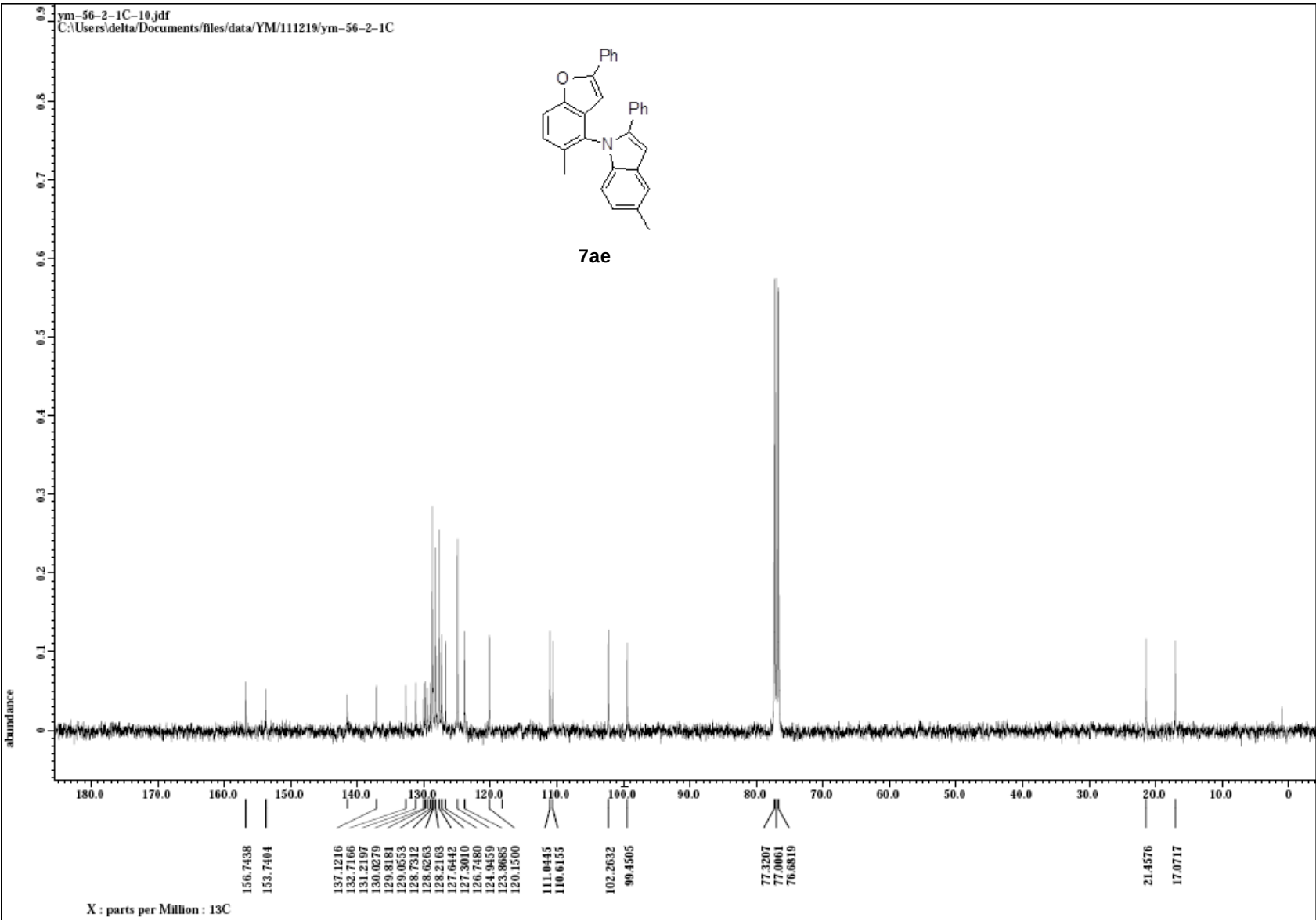
7aj



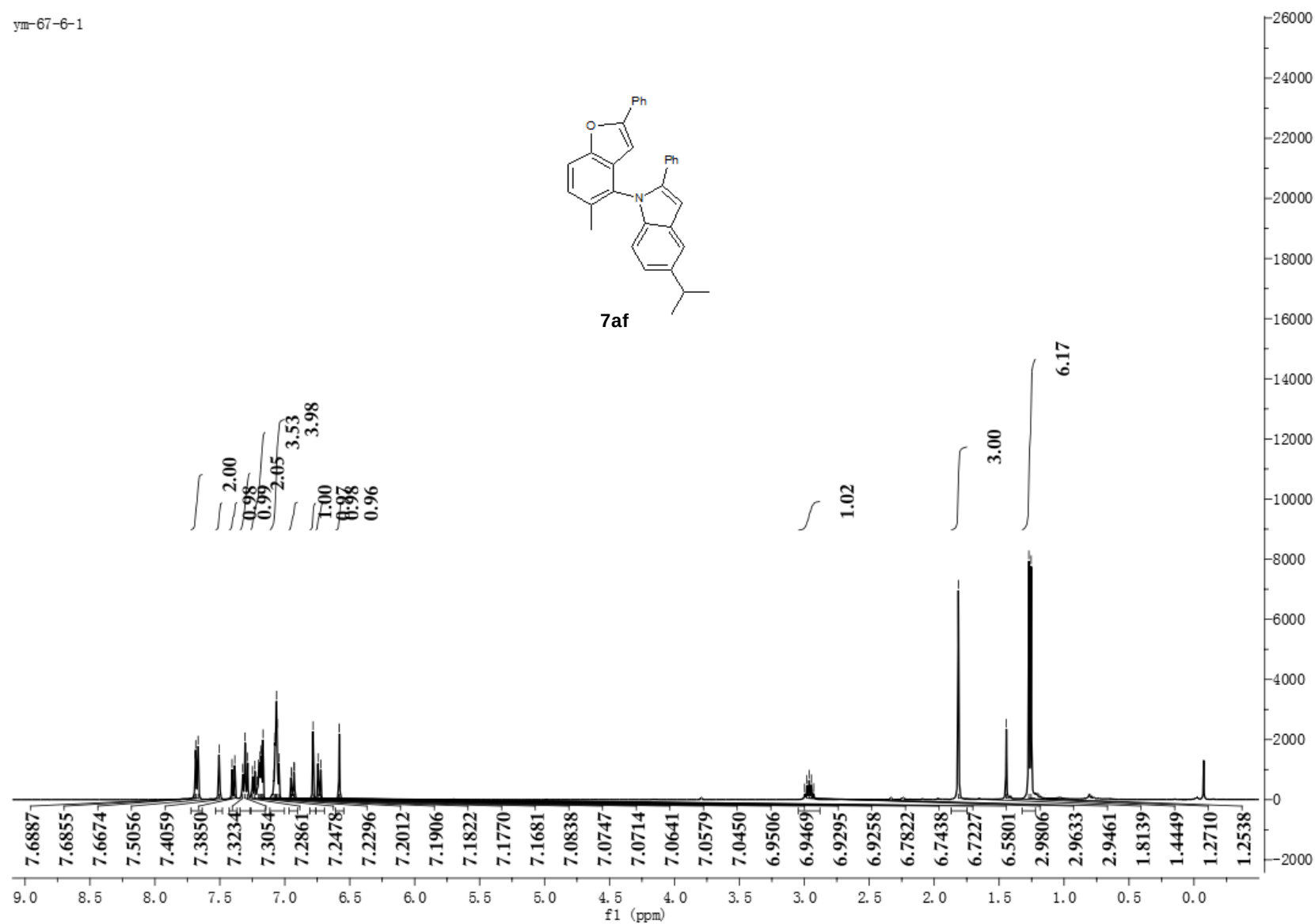


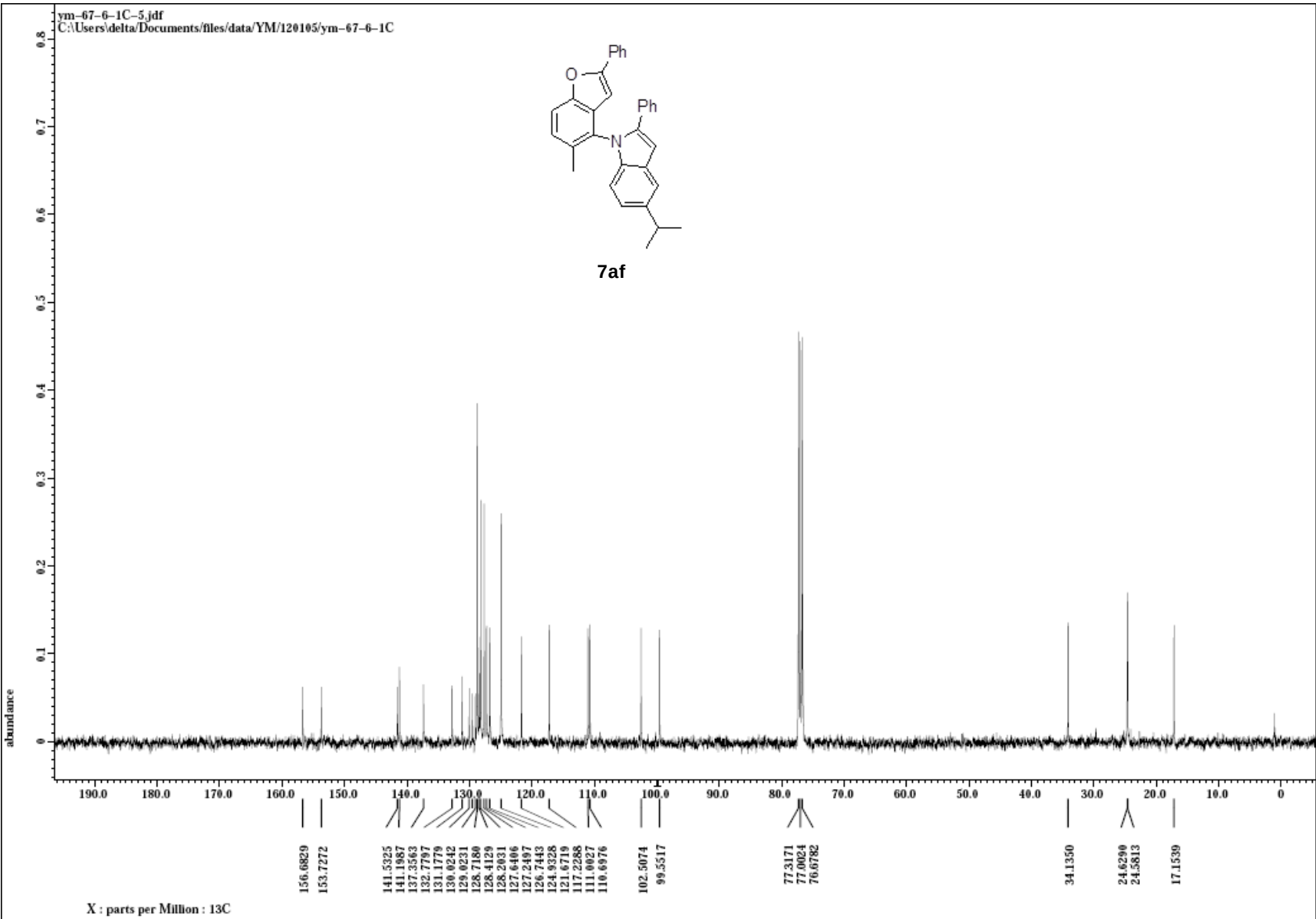
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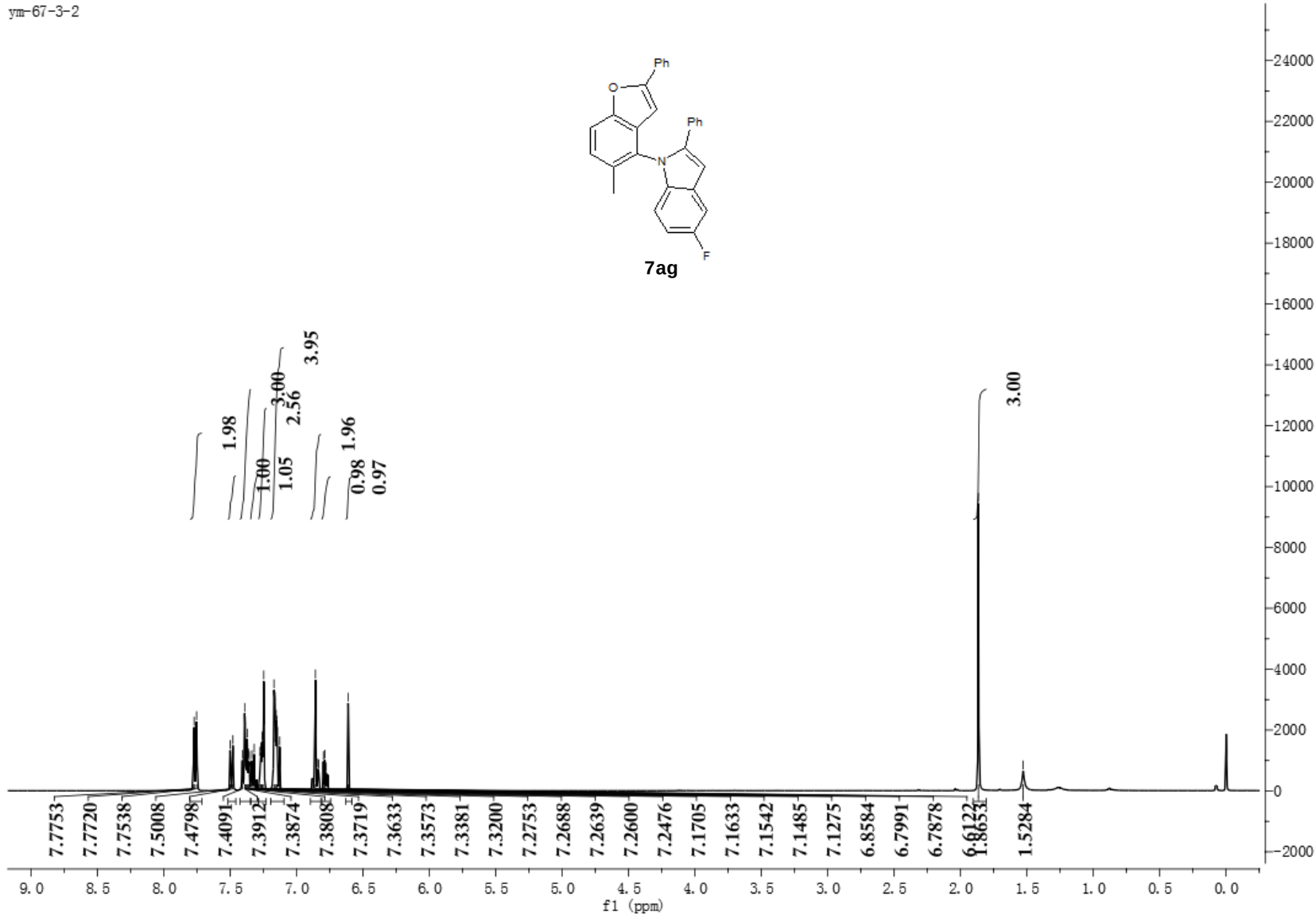


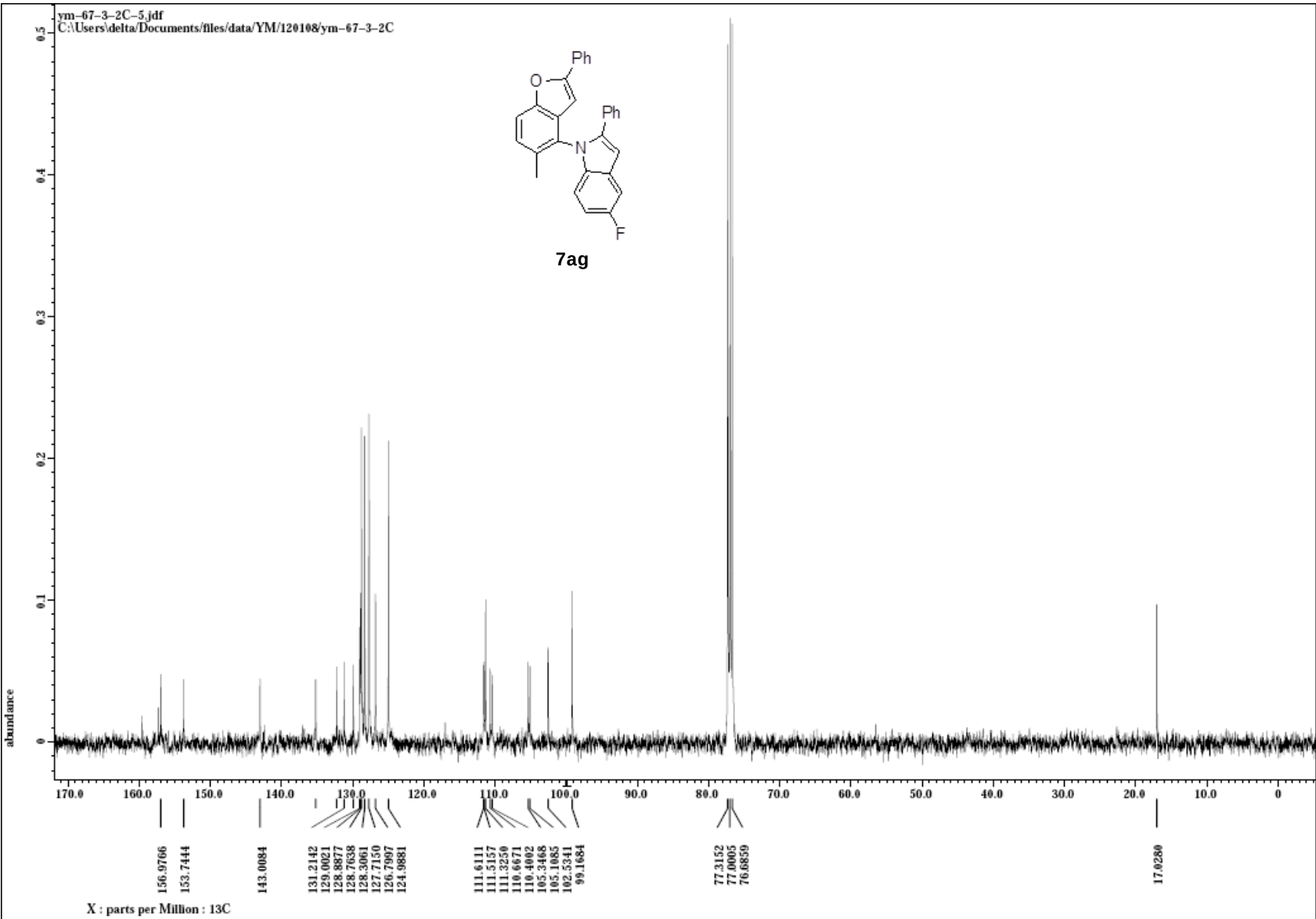
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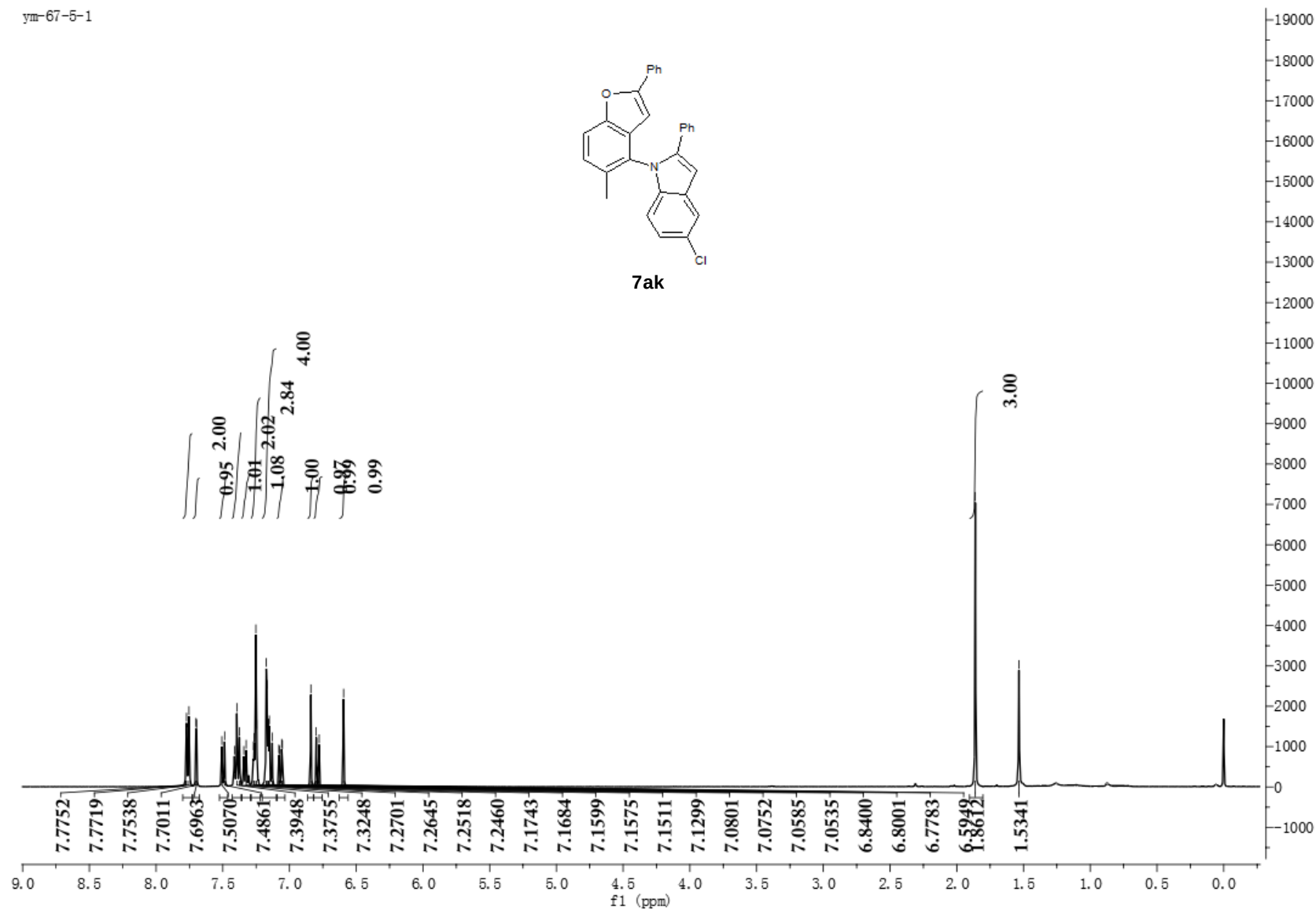


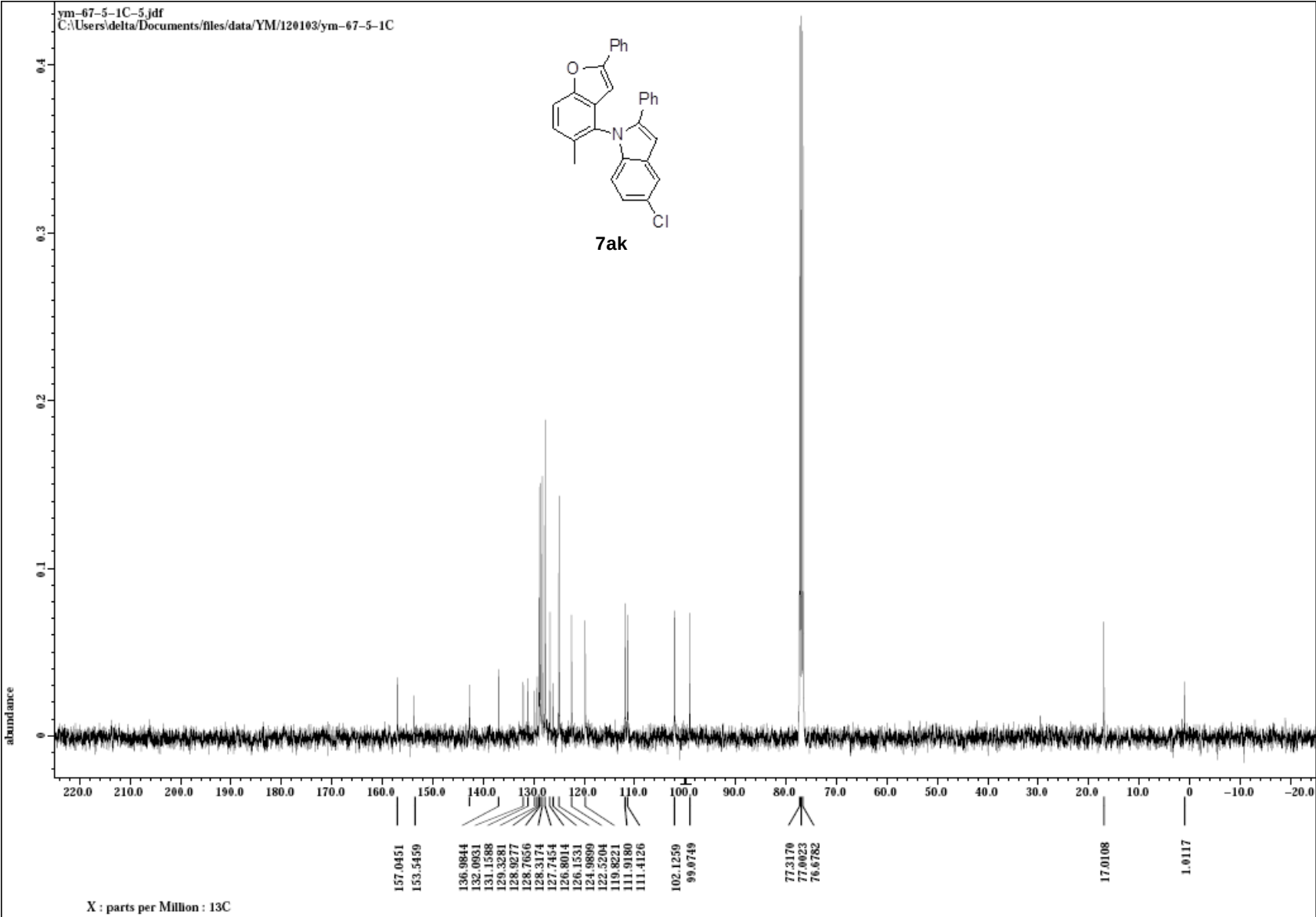
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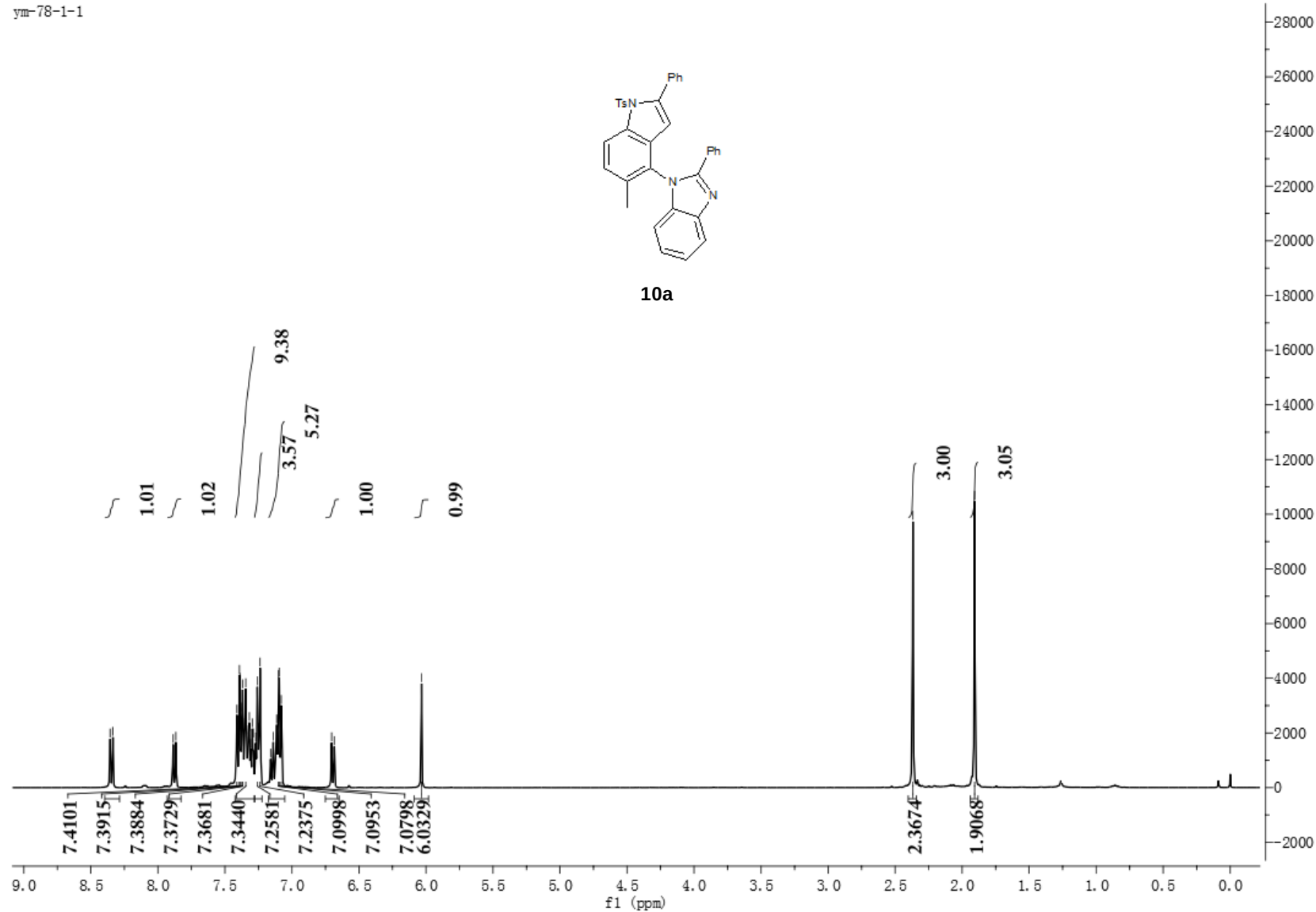


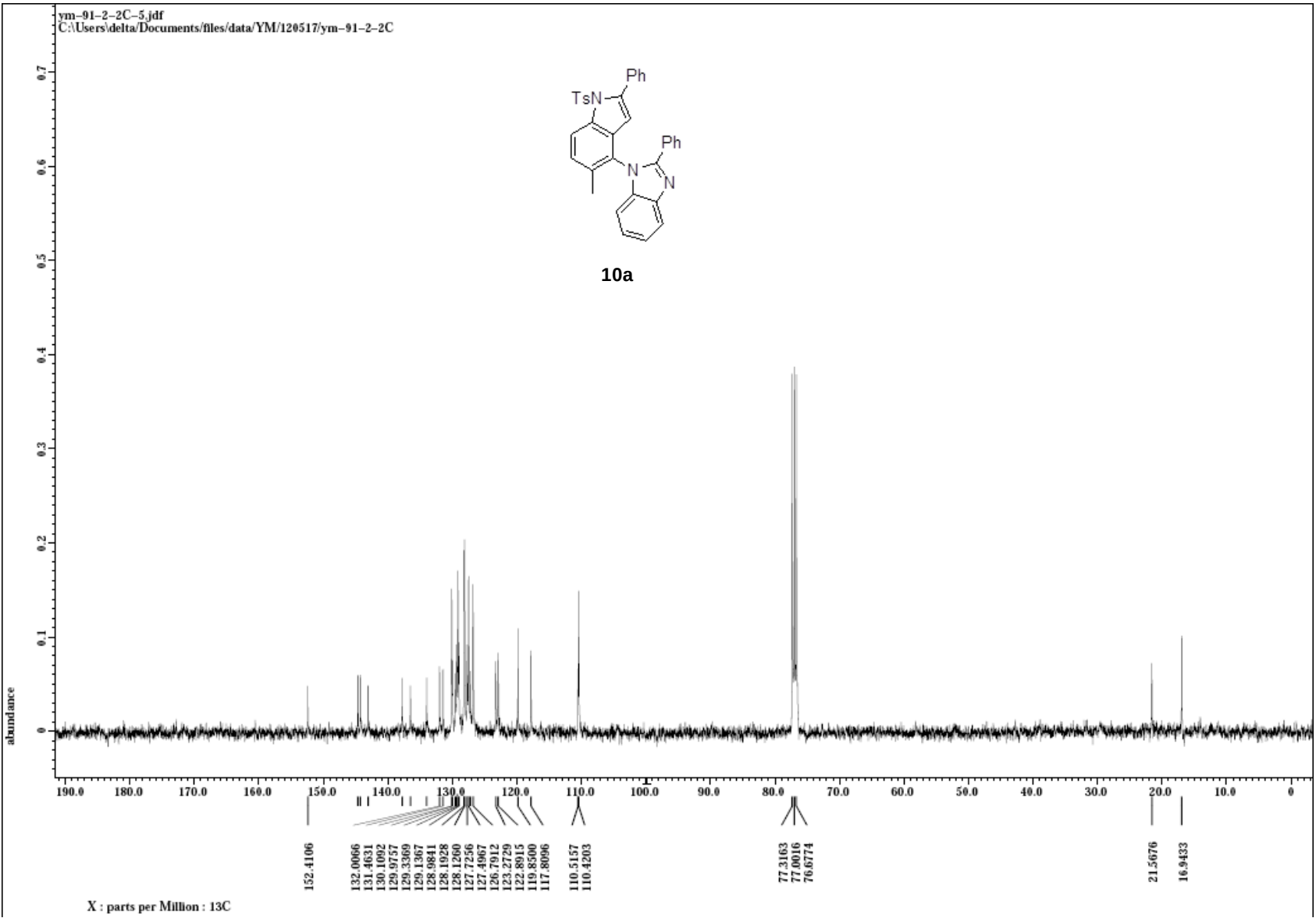
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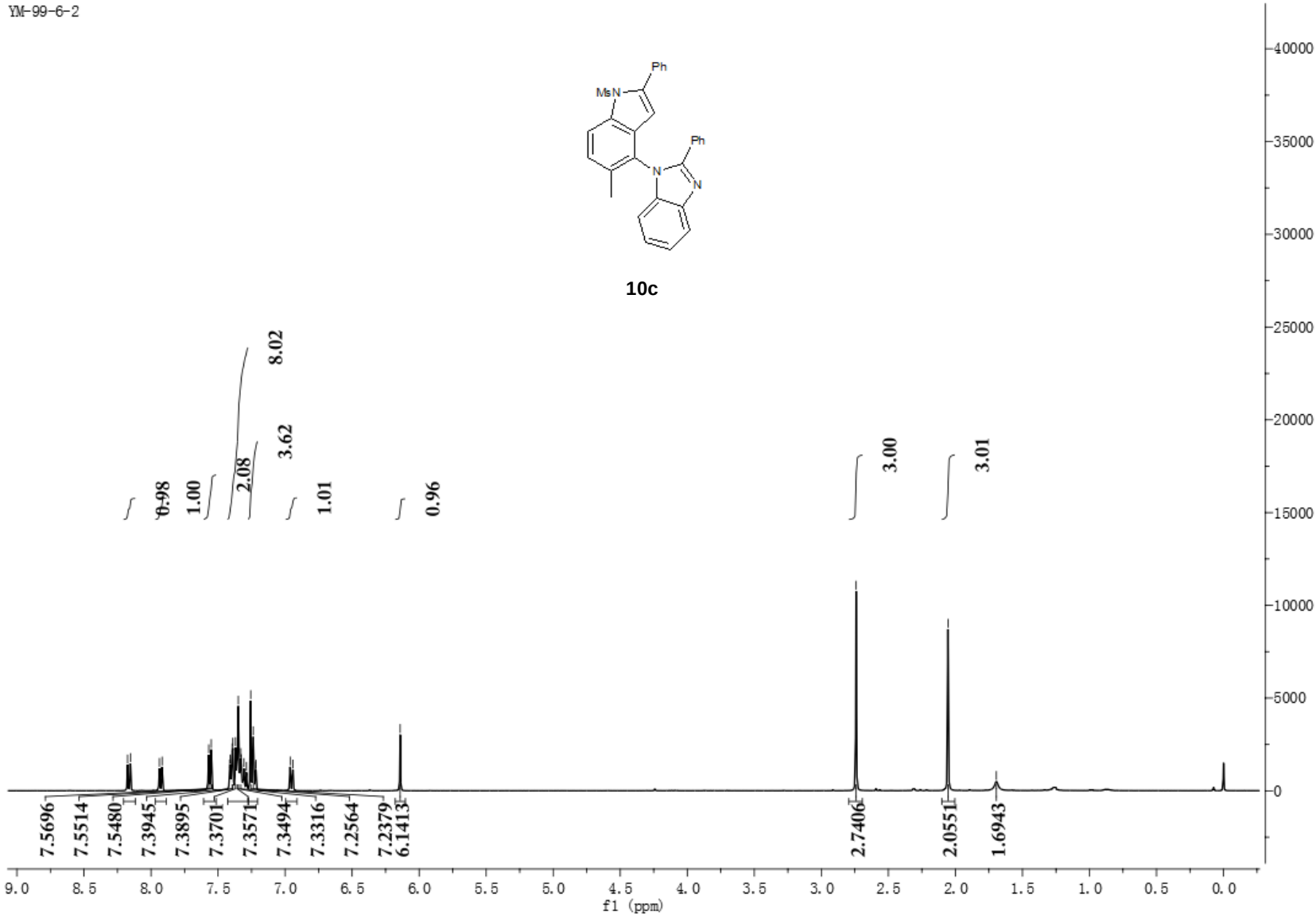


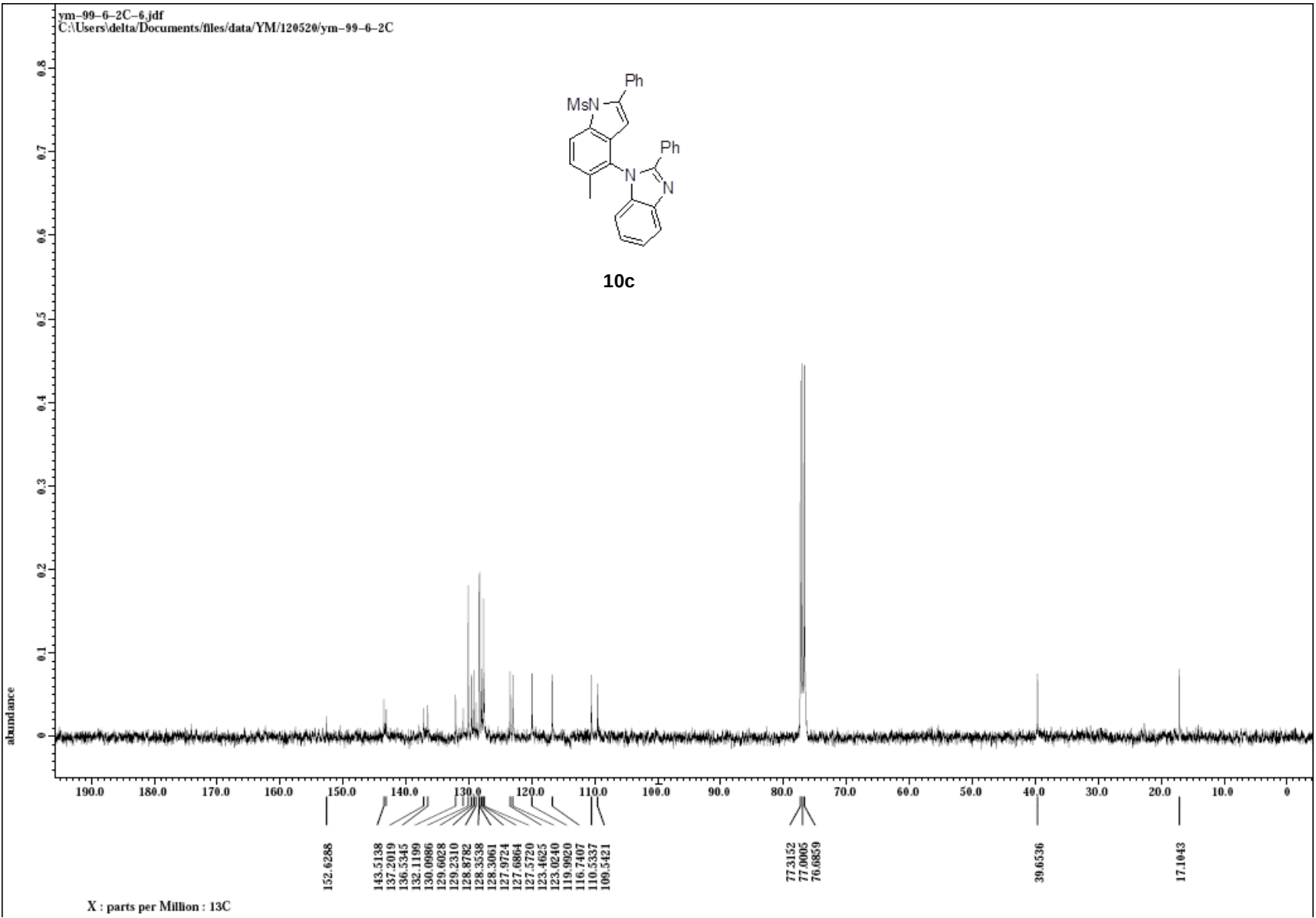
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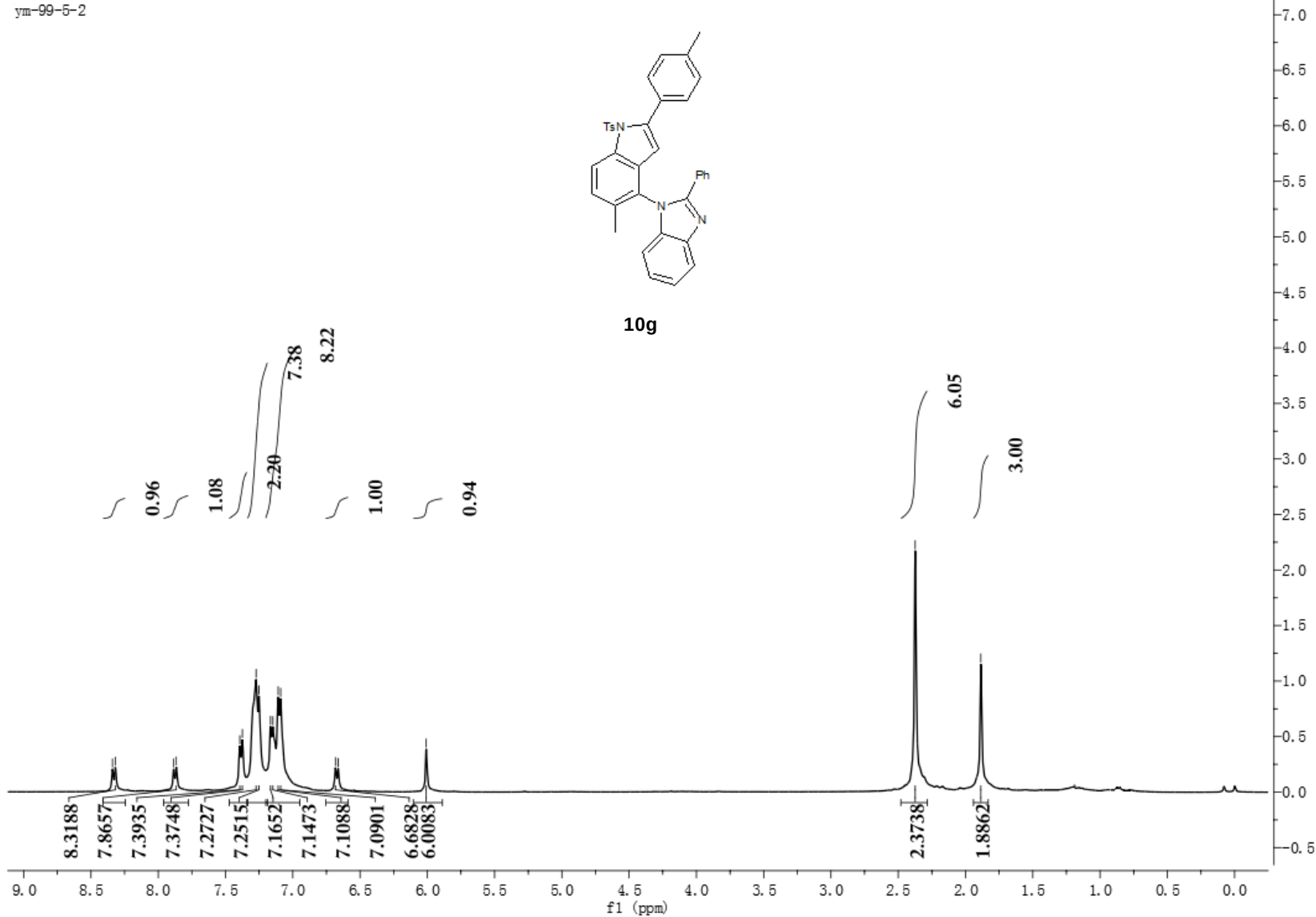


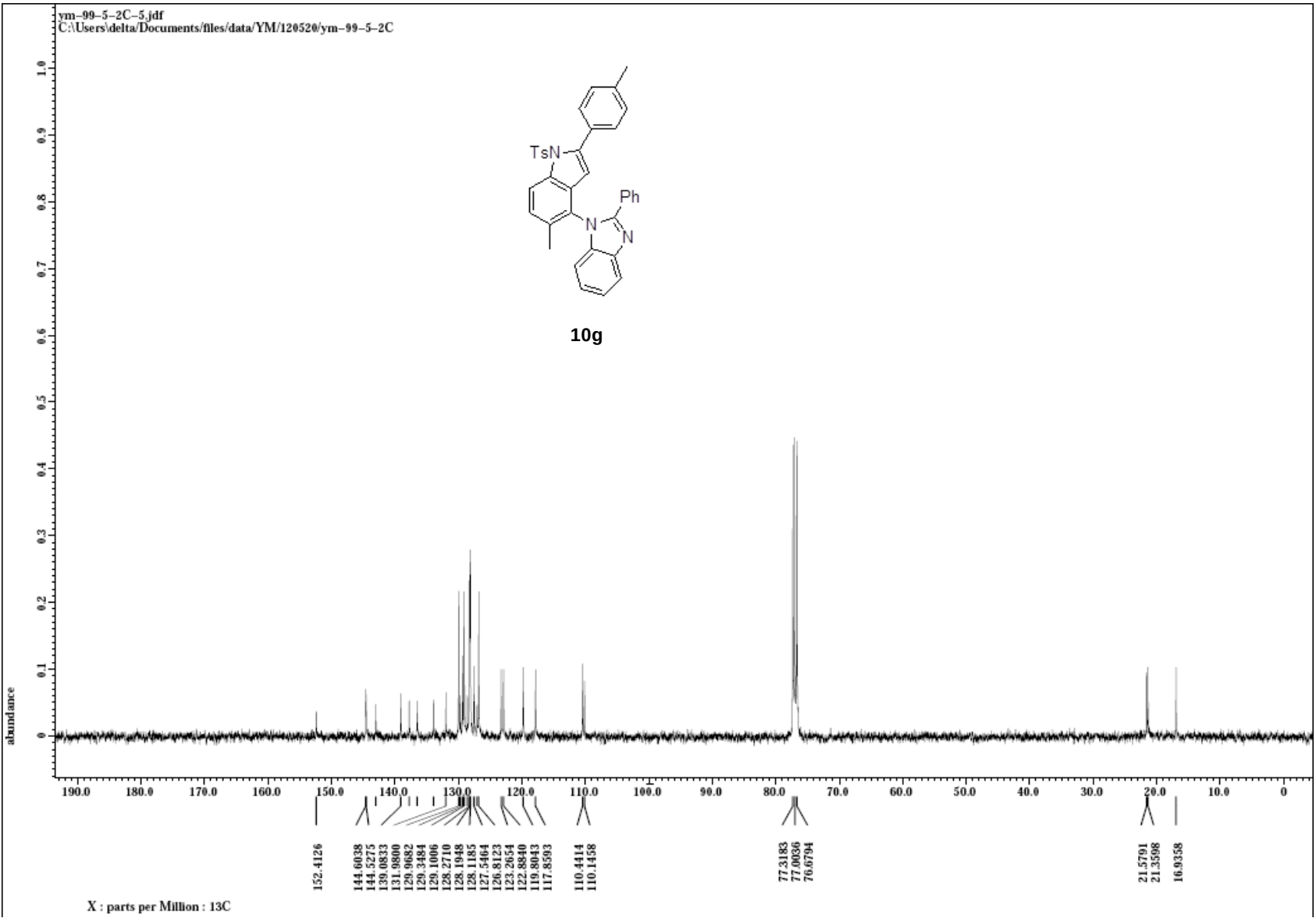
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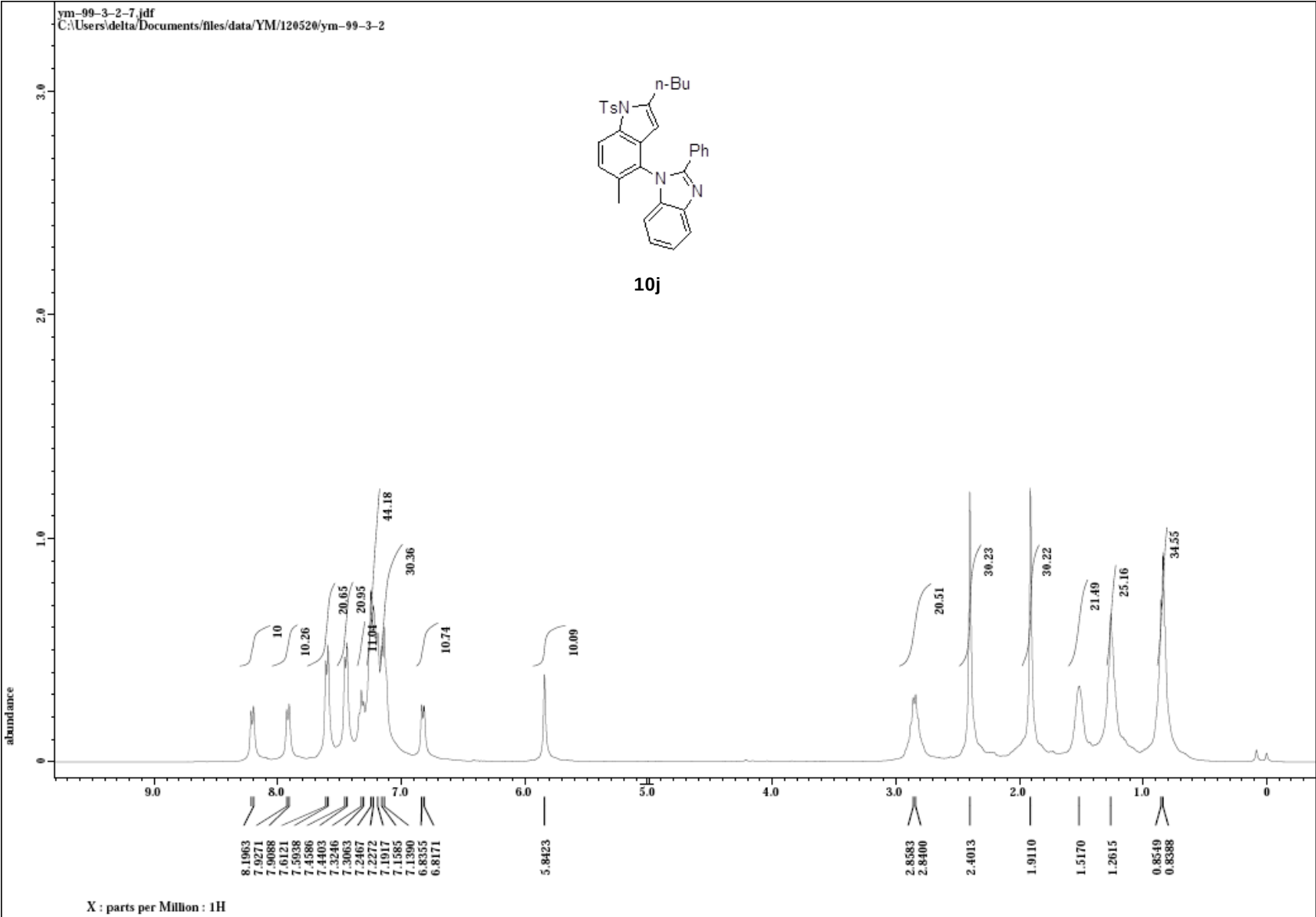


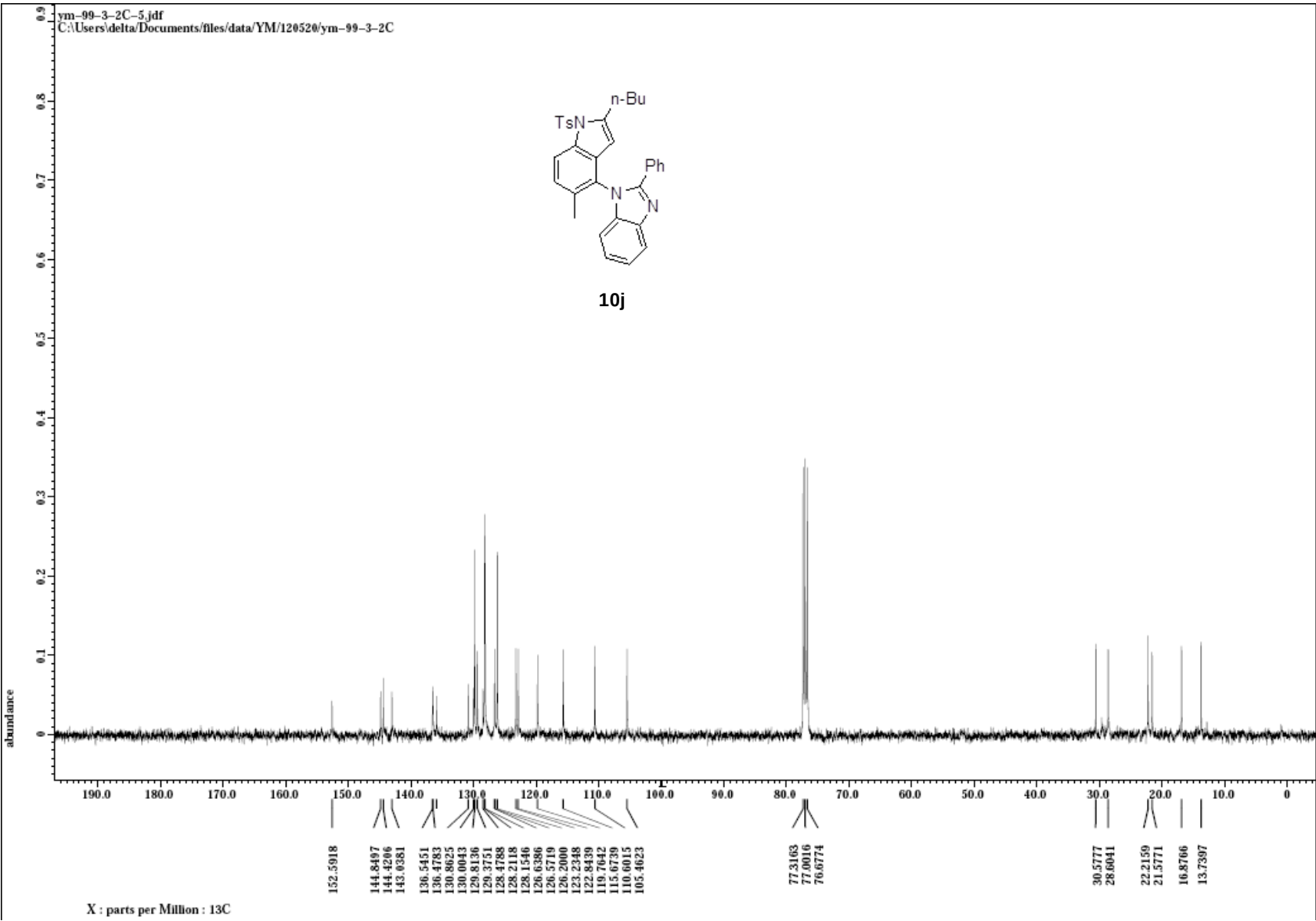


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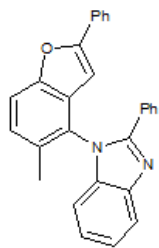




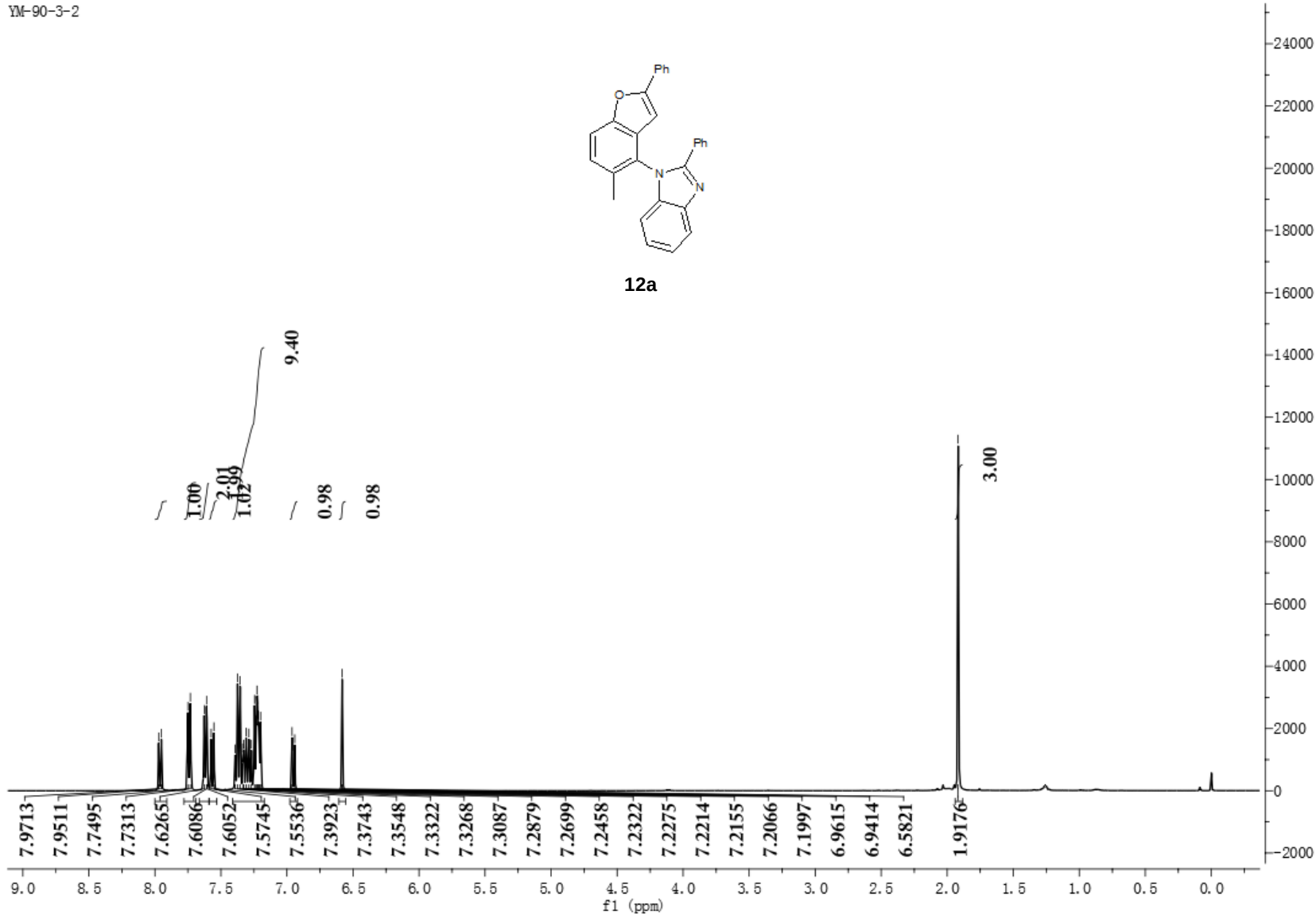


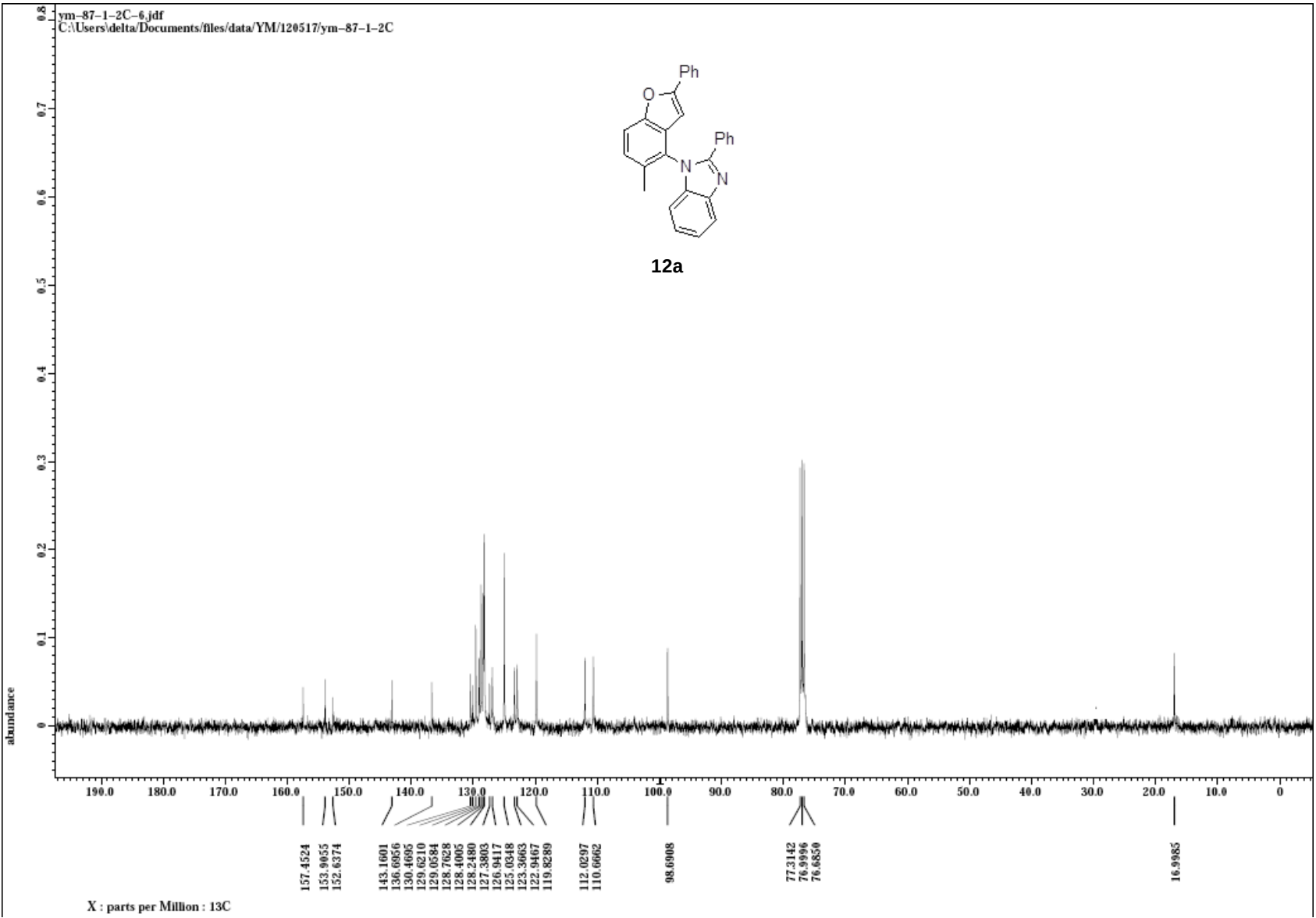


YM-90-3-2

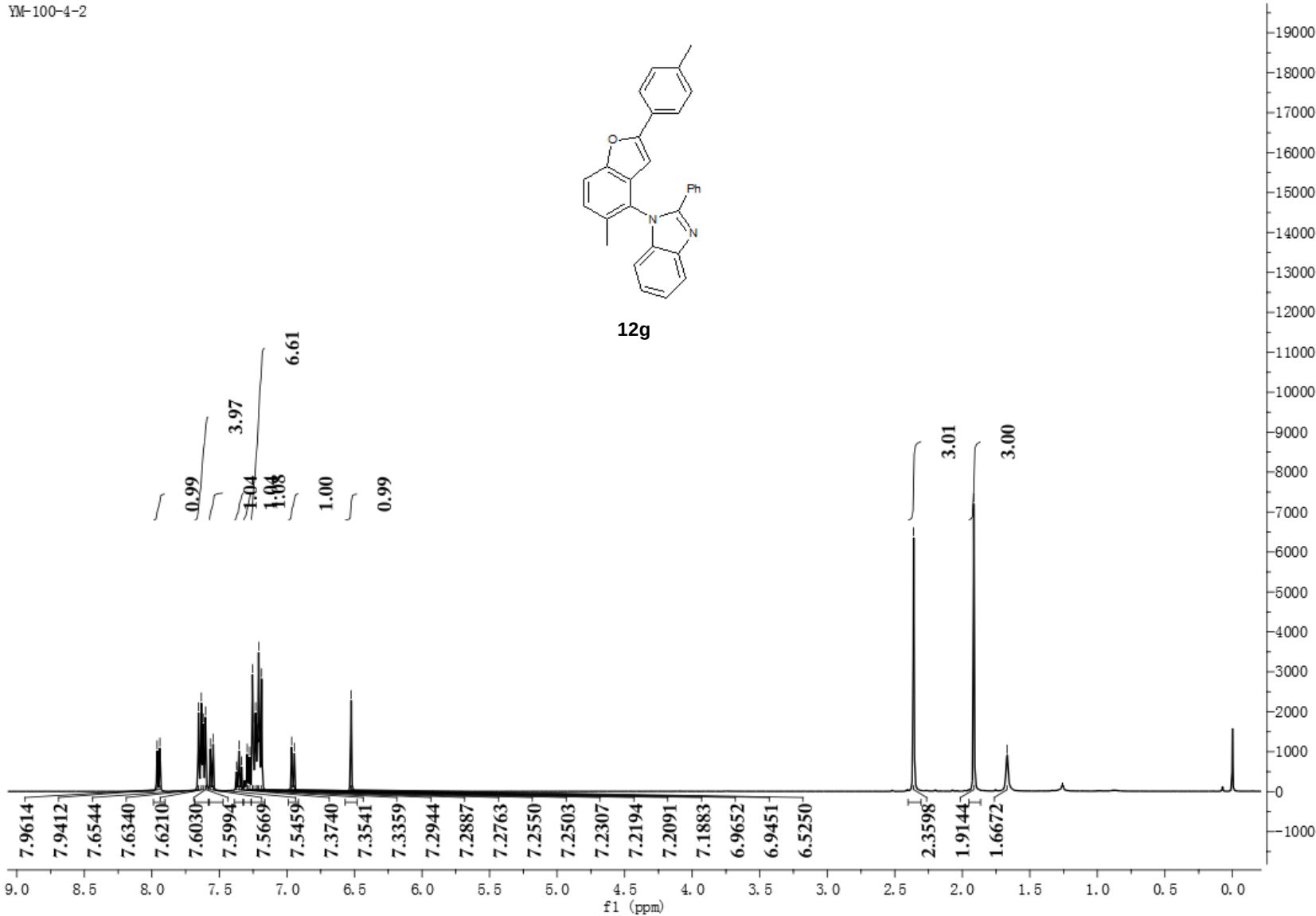


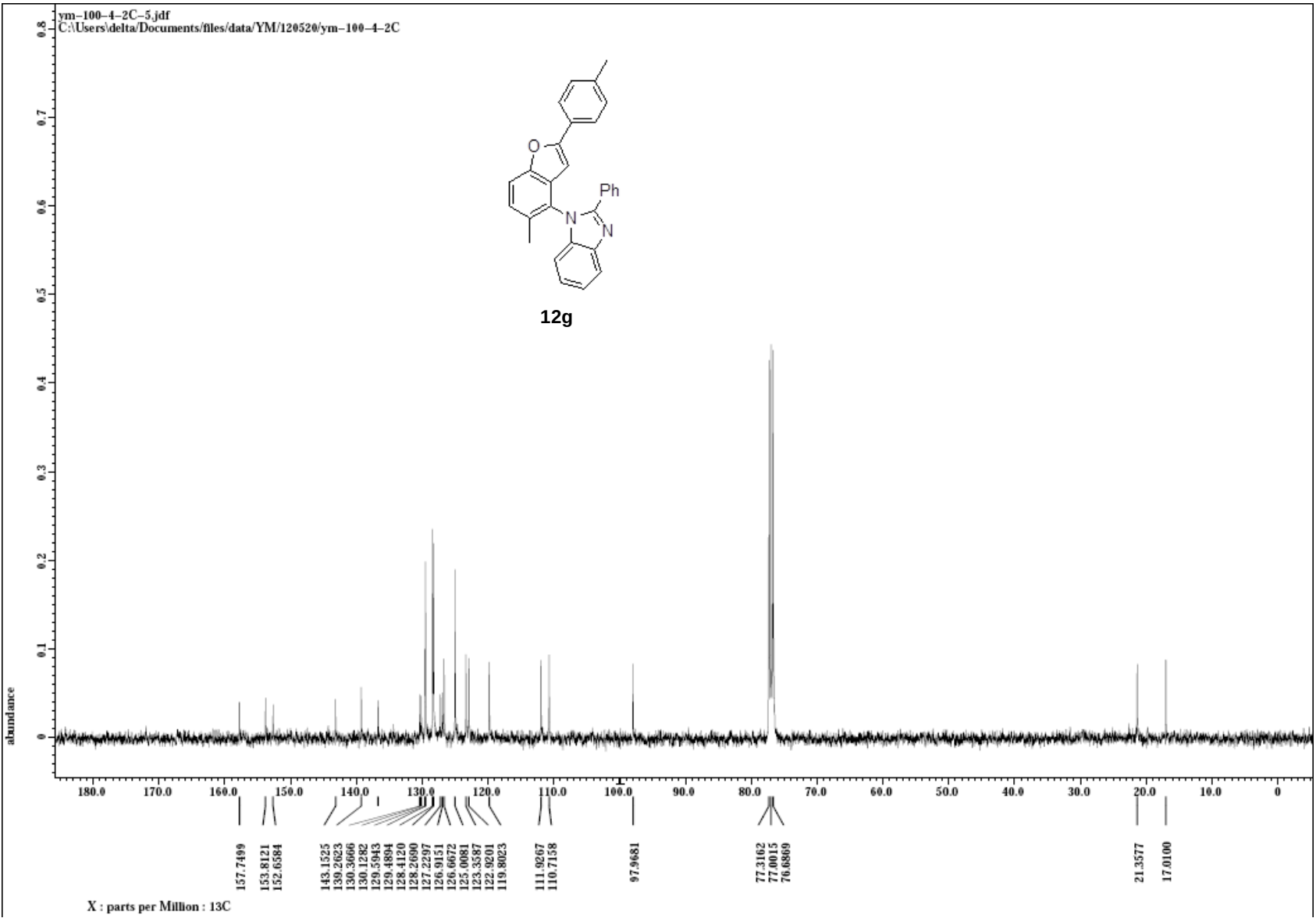
12a





YM-100-4-2





ym-100-3-2

