

Supplementary Information of
Probing the Intermolecular Interactions of Aromatic Amides
Containing *N*-heterocycles and Triptycene

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General Methods. Chemicals were used as received unless otherwise indicated. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Mercury plus 300 (300 MHz), Bruker Avance 400 (400 MHz), or Bruker-500 MHz Avance III (500 MHz). Chemical shifts in ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were reported in parts per million (ppm) with internal references of TMS (0 ppm) and DMSO- d_6 (2.50 ppm) for ^1H and DMSO- d_6 (40.45 ppm) for ^{13}C spectra. ESI mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker APEX IV mass spectrometer. Elemental analyses were performed using a German Vario EL III elemental analyzer. Melting points were measured with a SGW-X4 melting point apparatus equipped with a microscopy and a JM628 digital thermometer. Thermal gravity analyses (TGA) were carried out on a TA Instrument SDT Q600 analyzer, and differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) analyses were performed on a METTLER TOLEDO Instrument DSC822 calorimeter under nitrogen atmosphere.

X-ray Crystallography.

Single crystals of **1** and **2** were obtained by vapor diffusion of methanol into a

solution of **1** or **2** in DMF. Single crystals of **2a**, **1b**, **2c**, and **3** were obtained by slowly evaporating solutions of corresponding molecules in 1,4-dioxane, chloroform, chloroform, and methanol, respectively. Other solvents including THF, ethyl acetate, ethanol, dichloromethane, acetonitrile and acetone were also tried via either solvent evaporation or diffusion method, but did not provide good-quality crystals. Single crystal data were collected on MM007HF Saturn724+ and ST Saturn724+.

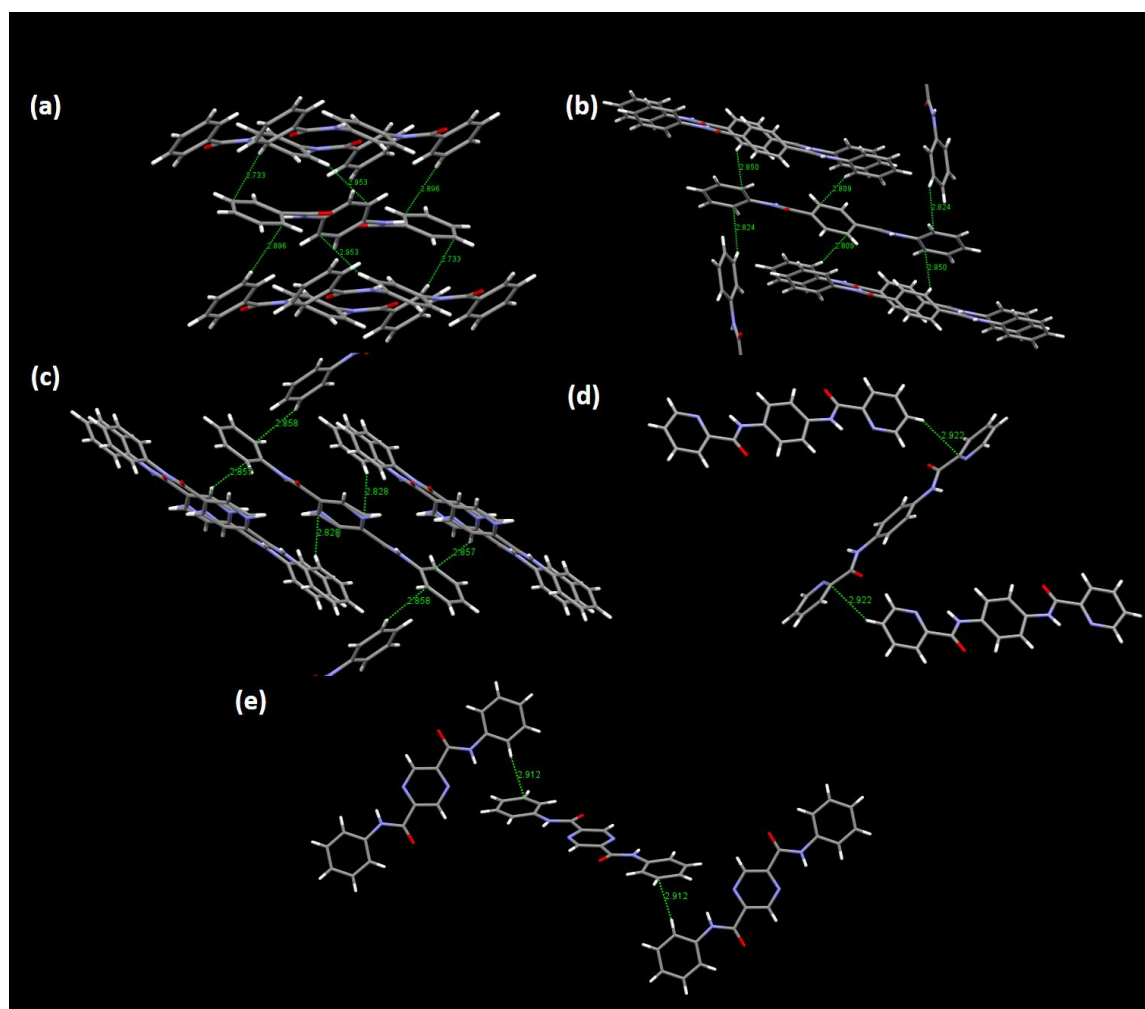


Fig. S1 CH- π contacts¹ in crystal structures of **1** (a), **2** (b), **2a** (c), **1b** (d) and **2c** (e) (gray: C; blue: N; red: O; white: H).

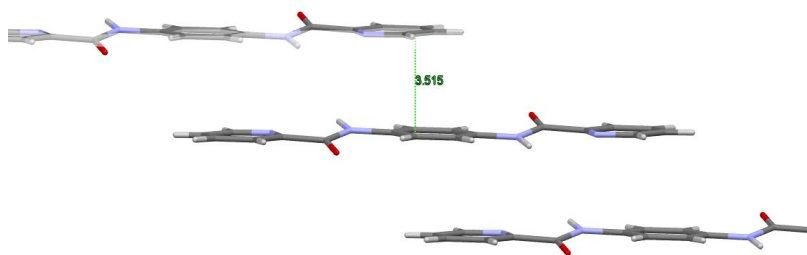


Fig. S2 Face-to-face aromatic stacking among **1b** in the crystal (gray: C; blue: N; red: O; white: H)

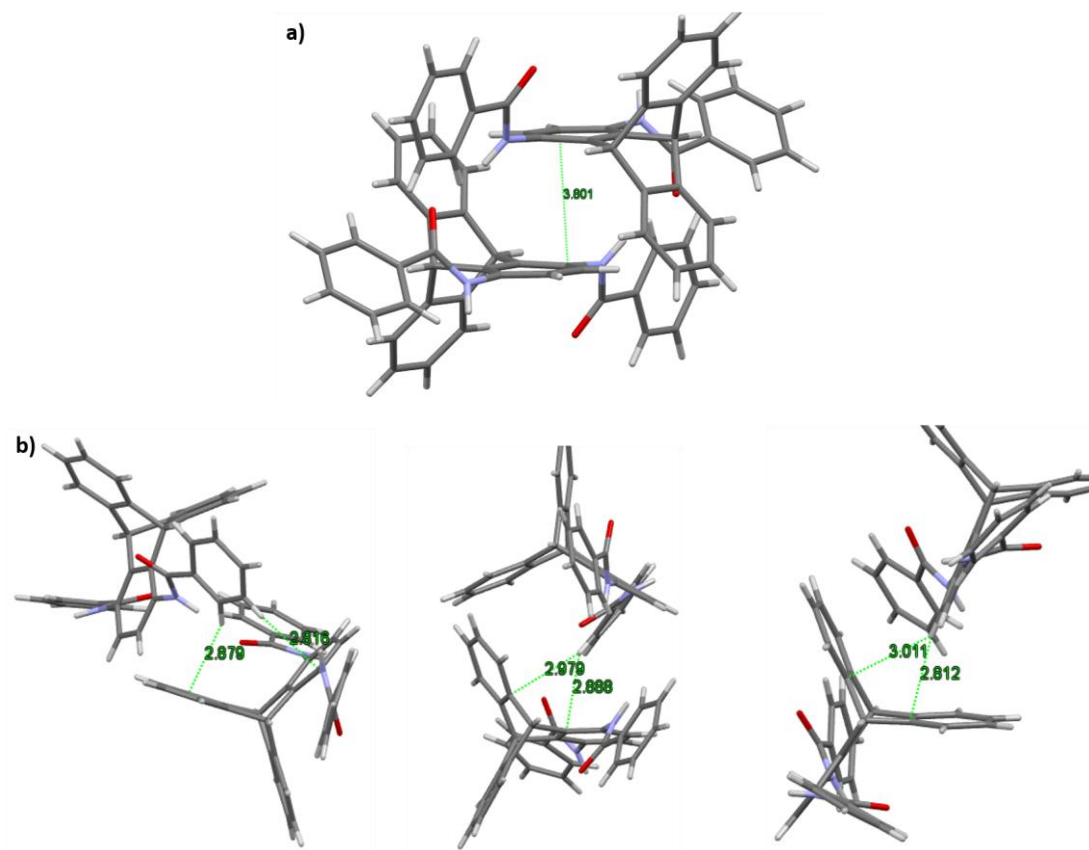


Fig. S3 Aromatic stacking (a) and CH- π (b) interactions among **3** in the crystal (gray: C; blue: N; red: O; white: H).

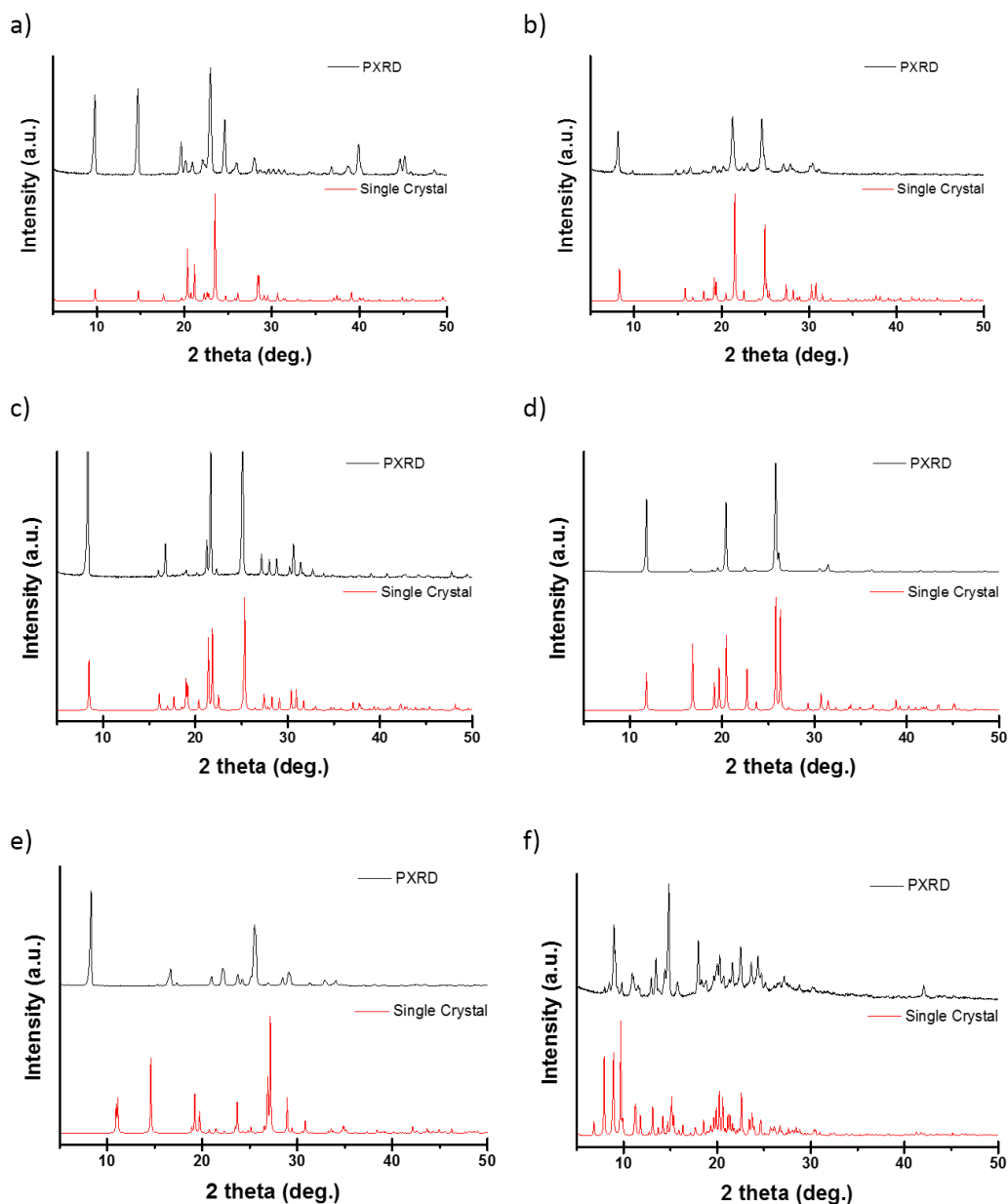


Fig. S4 Powder XRD patterns of **1** (a), **2** (b), **2a** (c), **1b** (d), **2c** (e) and **3** (f) in comparison with those simulated from single crystals.

Syntheses of *tert*-butyl substituted analogues of **1**, **2**, **2a** and **2c**.

***N,N'*-(1,4-phenylene)bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)benzamide)** (analogue of **1**) A synthesis procedure similar to that of **1** was adopted. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): δ 8.05 (s, 2H), 7.84 (d, 4H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.62 (s, 4H), 7.47 (d, 4H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 1.35 (s, 18 H).

^{13}C NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$, 125 MHz, ppm): δ 165.2, 154.2, 134.9, 132.2, 127.4, 125.0,

120.5, 34.6, 30.9.

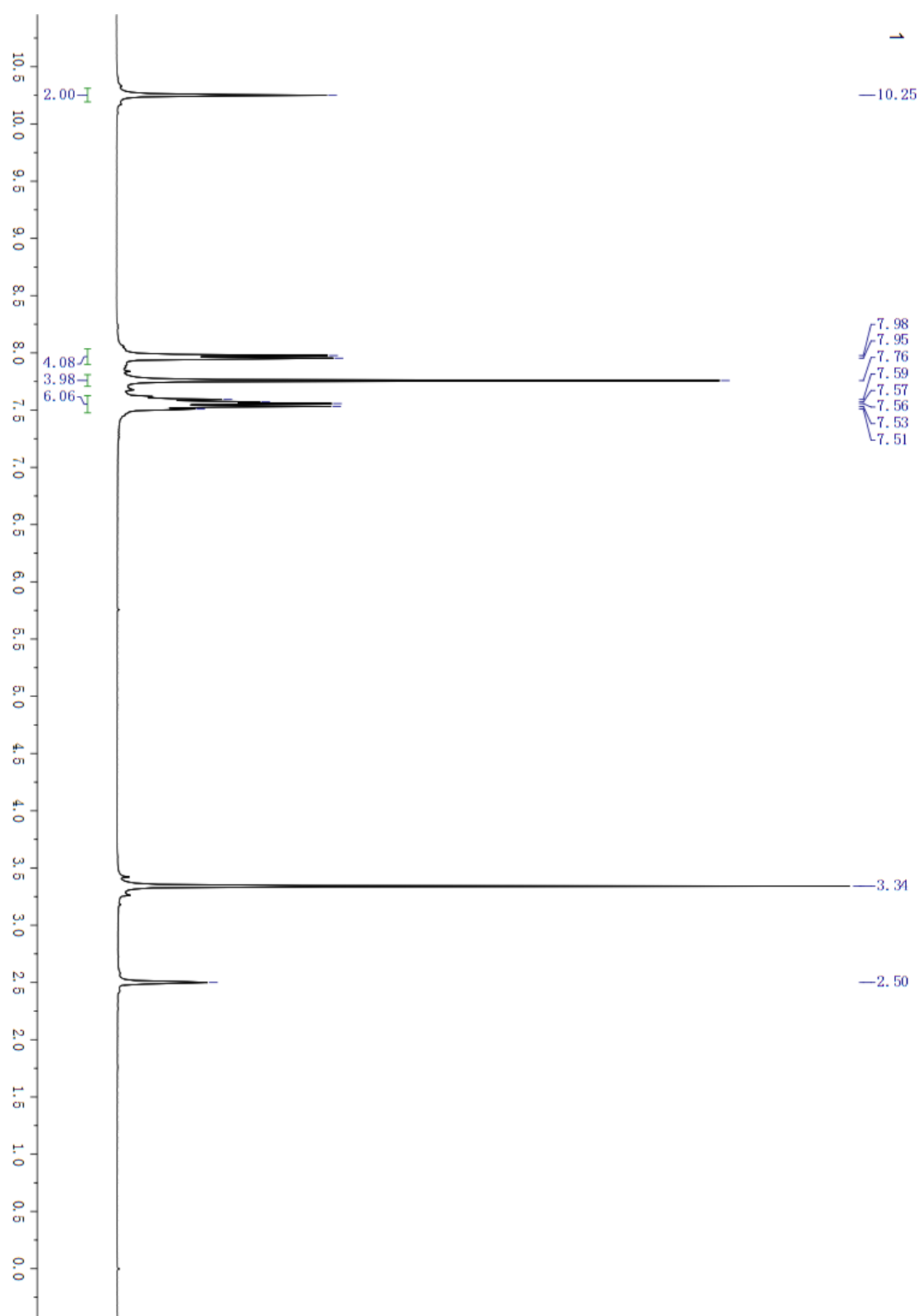
***N,N'*-bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)terephthalamide** (analogue of **2**)² A synthesis procedure similar to that of **2** was adopted. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm): δ 7.97 (s, 2H), 7.92 (s, 4H), 7.59 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.40 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 1.33 (s, 18 H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz, ppm): δ 164.5, 146.2, 137.3, 136.3, 127.6, 125.2, 120.2, 34.0, 31.1.

***N,N'*-bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)pyridine-2,5-dicarboxamide** (analogue of **2a**) A synthesis procedure similar to that of **2a** was adopted. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm): δ 9.92 (s, 1H), 9.07 (s, 1H), 8.32-8.35 (m, 2H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.60 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.43 (d, 2H, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 7.40 (d, 2H, *J* = 3.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz, ppm): δ 163.1, 161.6, 151.8, 147.7, 146.6, 146.5, 137.2, 136.1, 135.6, 132.9, 125.32, 125.28, 121.9, 120.2, 34.1, 31.2.

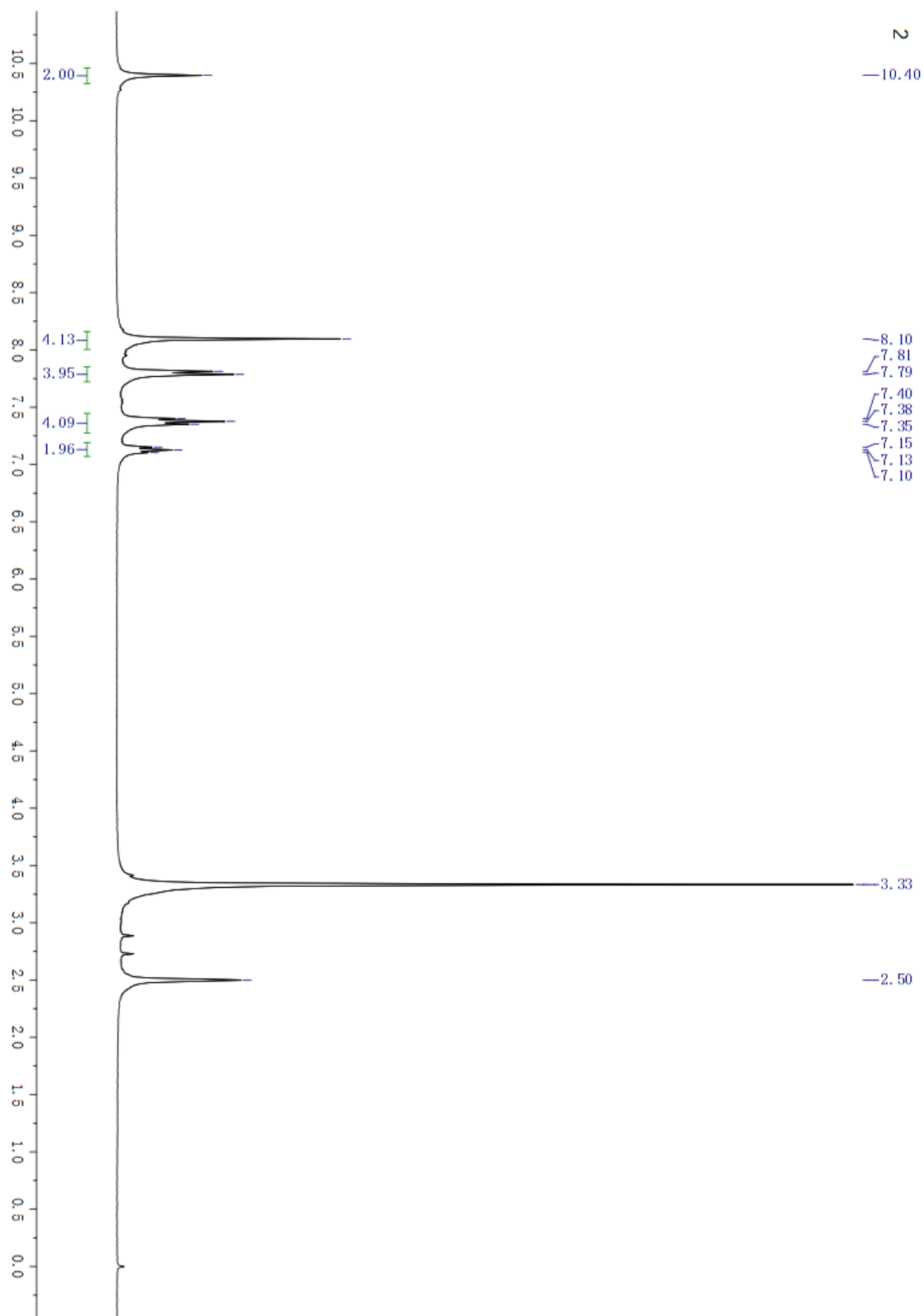
***N,N'*-bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)pyrazine-2,5-dicarboxamide** (analogue of **2c**)³ A synthesis procedure similar to that of **2c** was adopted. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm): δ 9.68 (s, 2H), 9.49 (s, 2H), 7.72 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.44 (d, 4H, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 1.35 (s, 18H).

Copies of ^1H NMR spectra

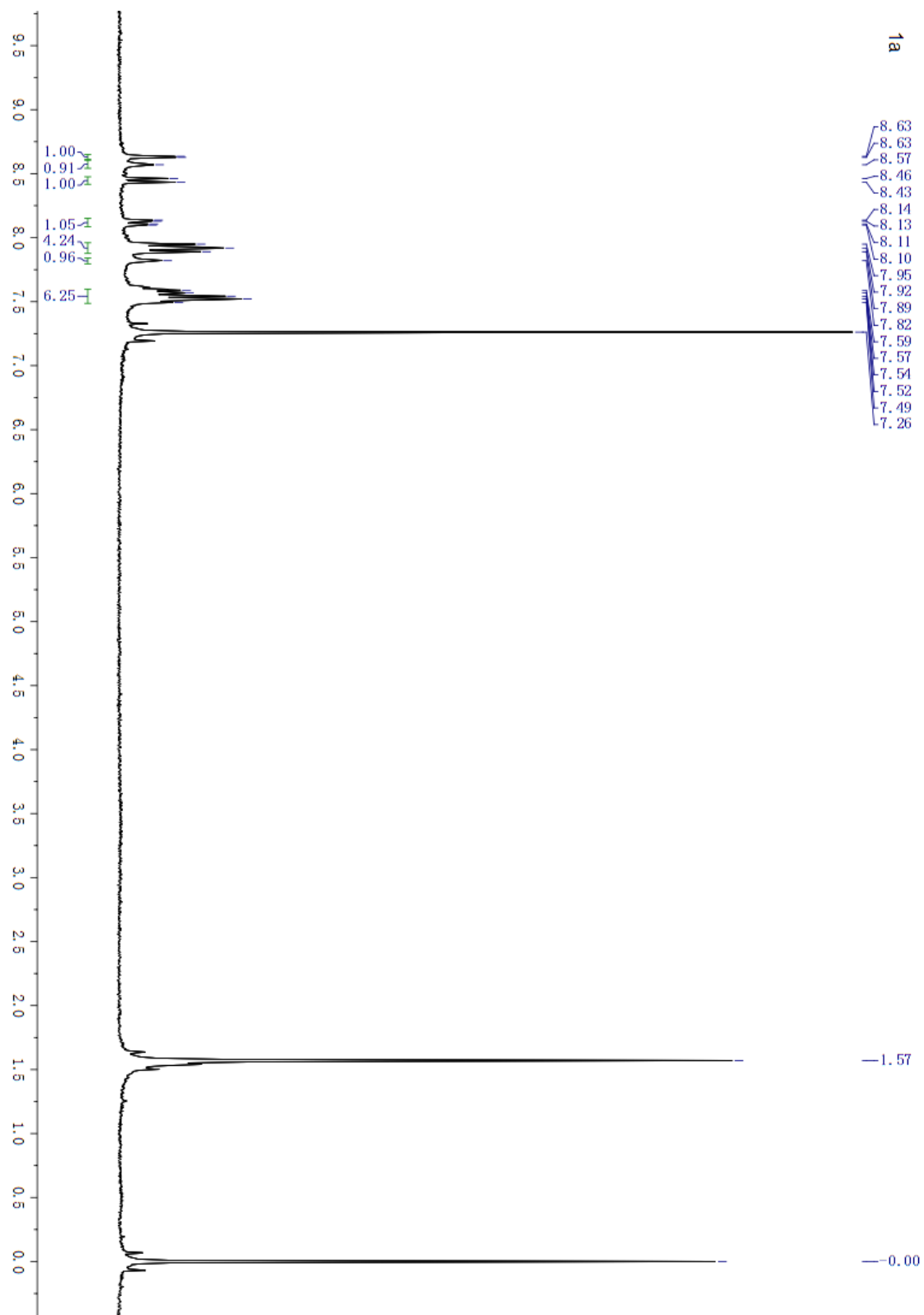
Compound 1



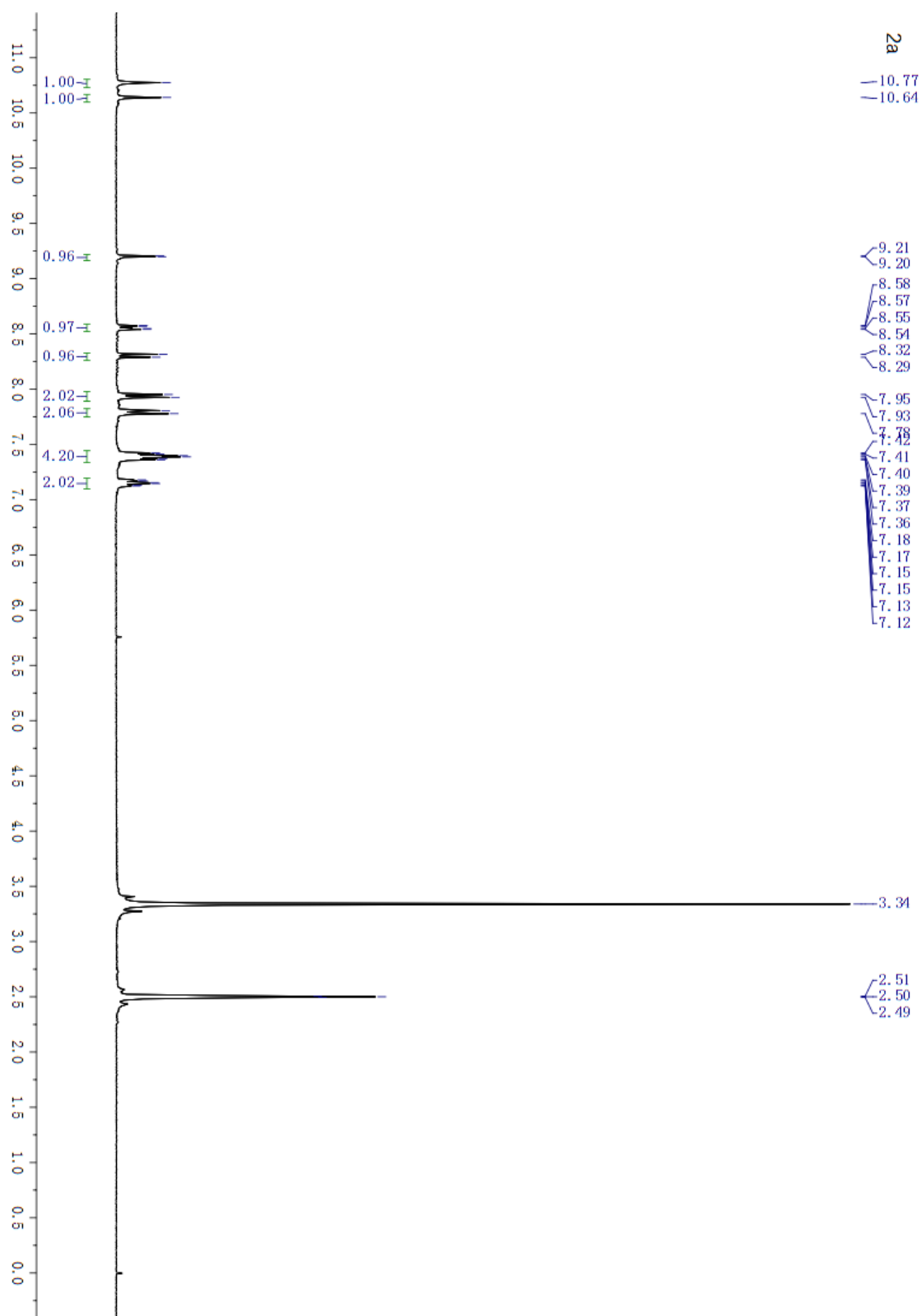
Compound 2



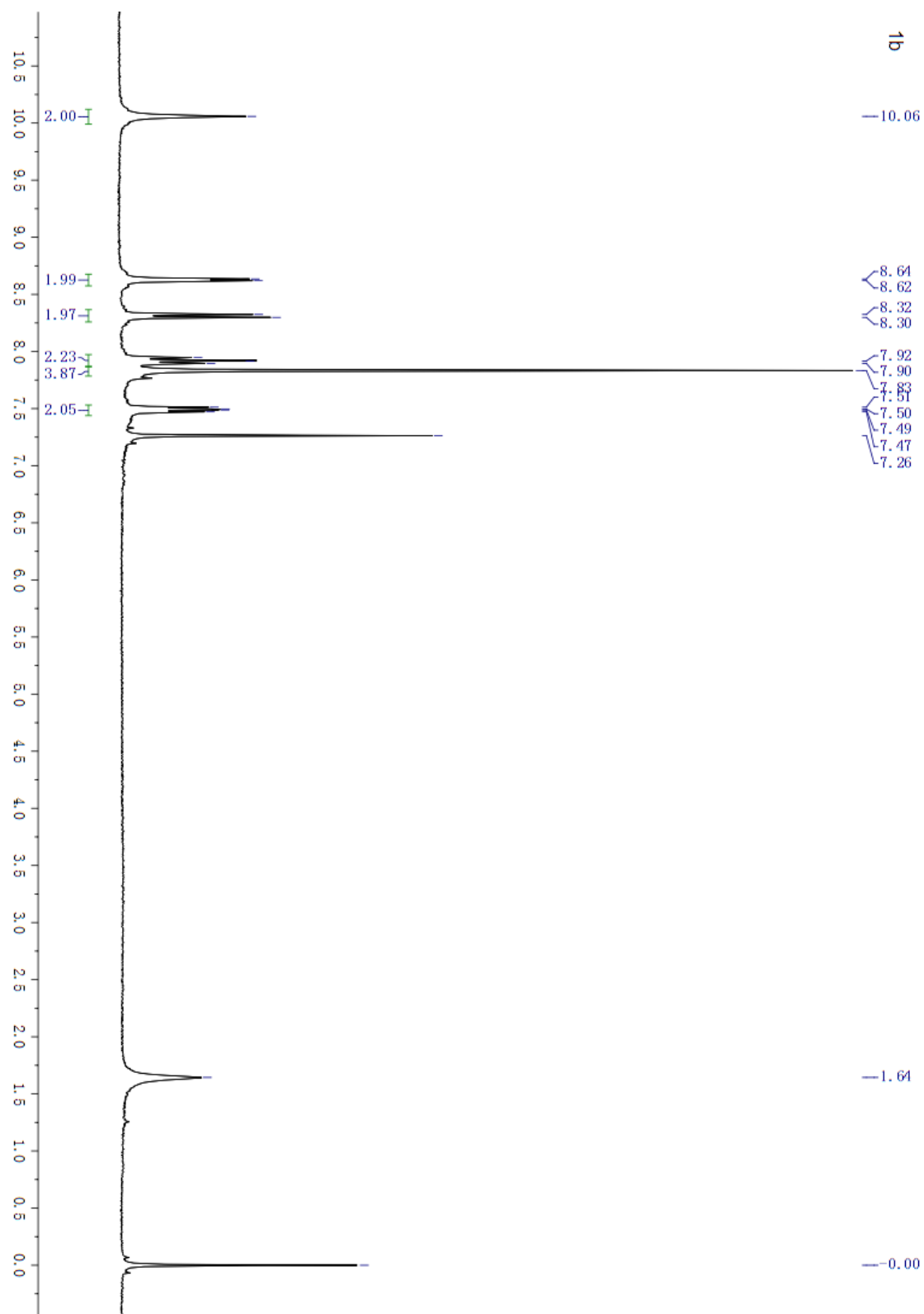
Compound 1a



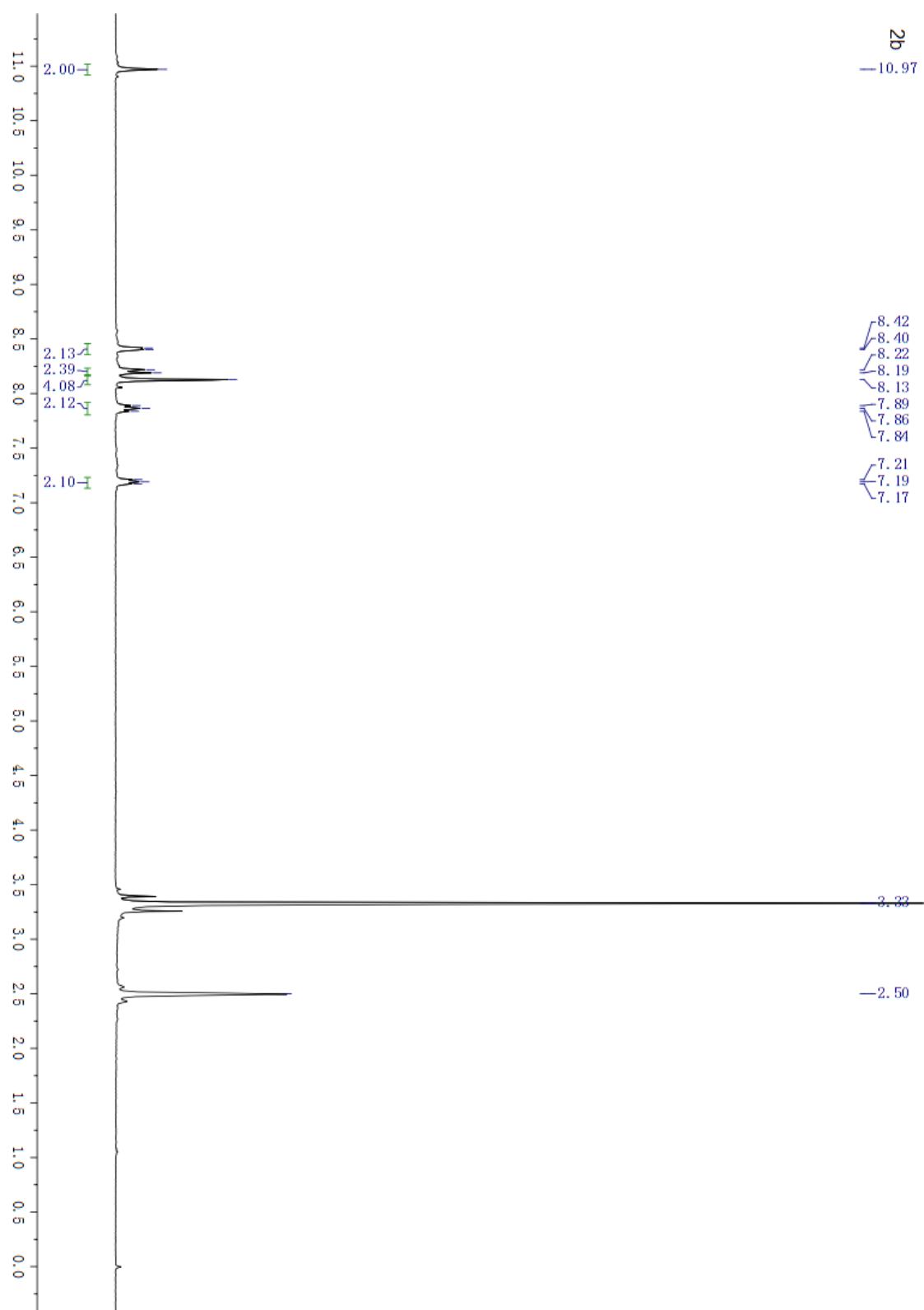
Compound 2a



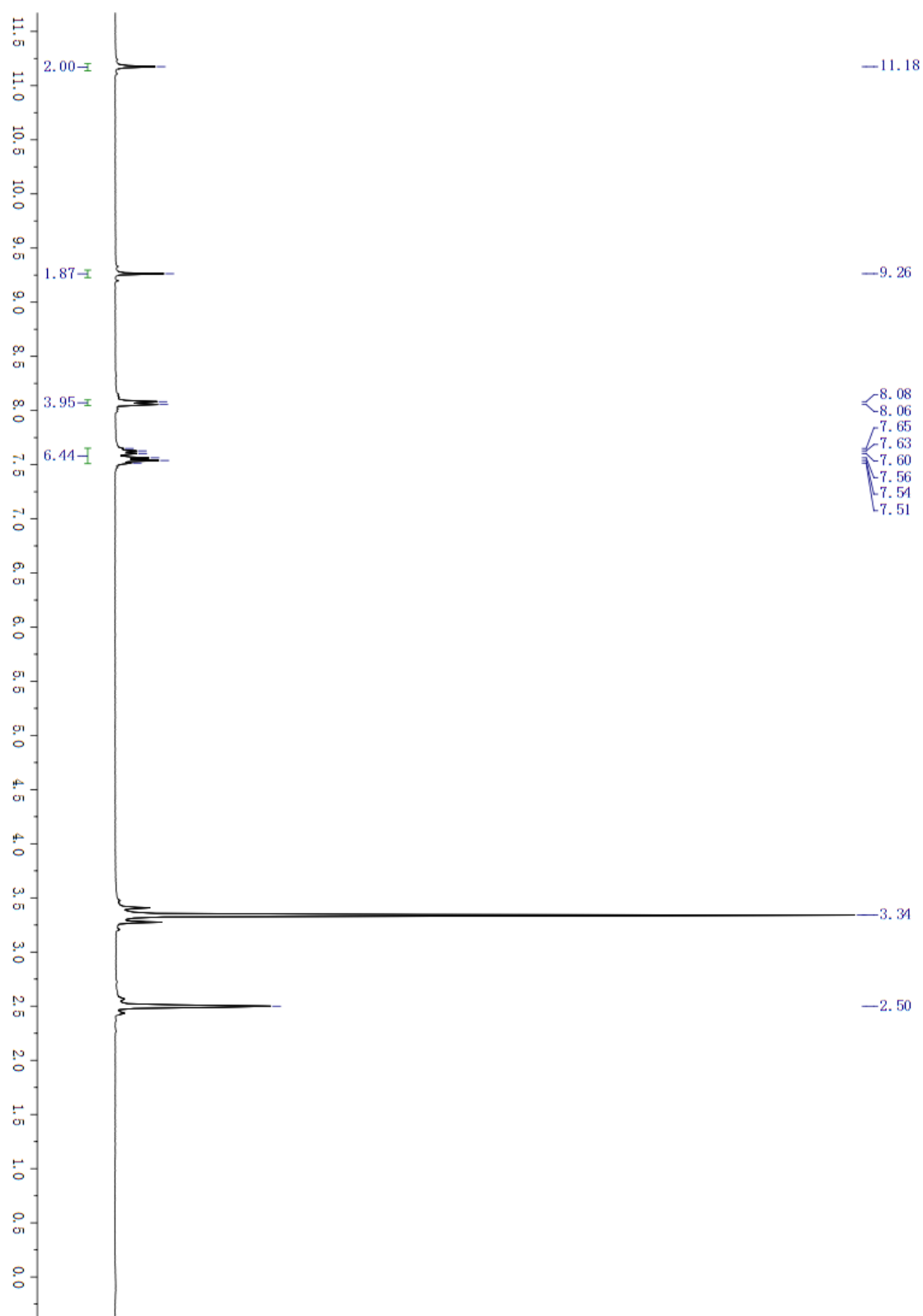
Compound **1b**



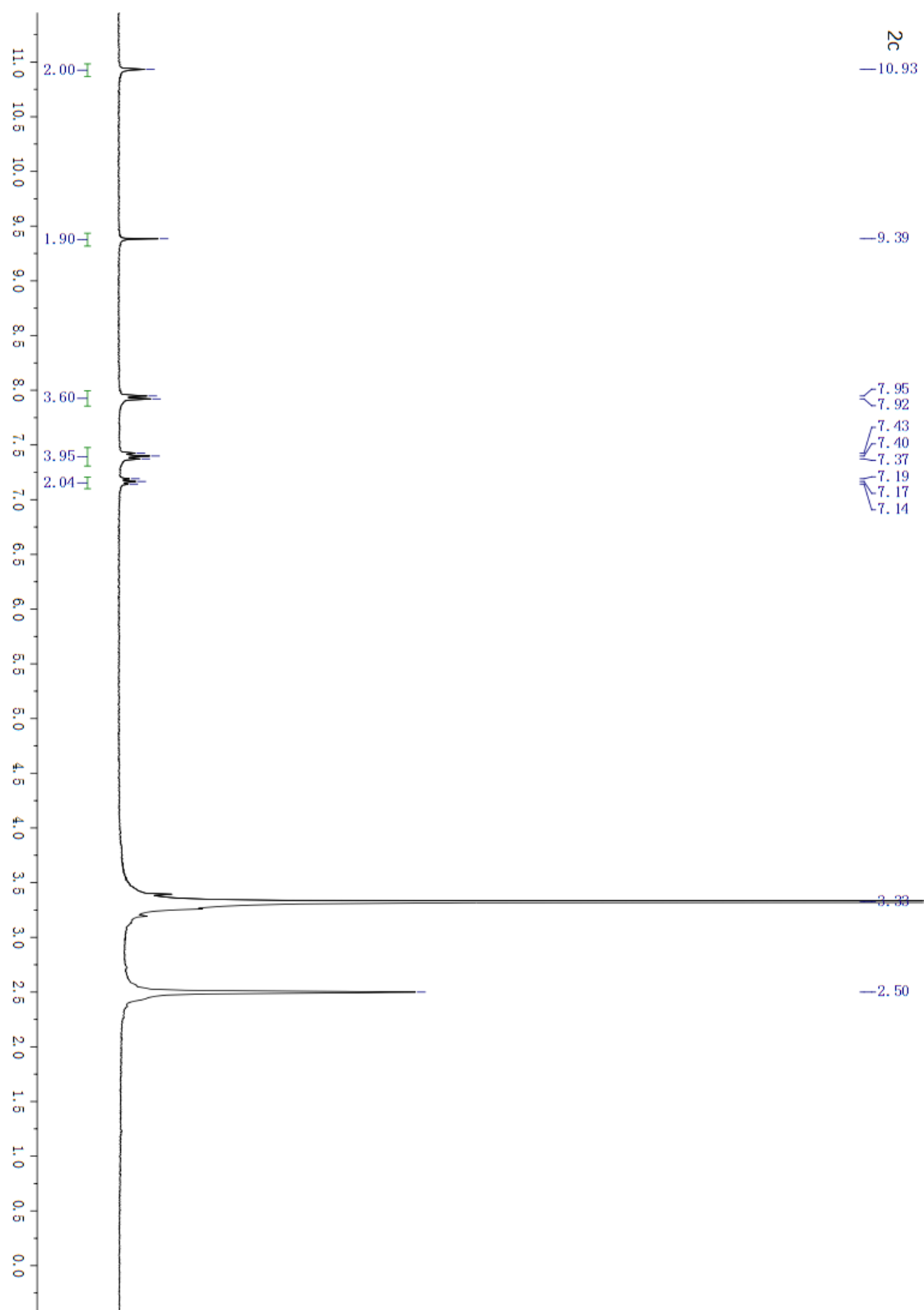
Compound 2b



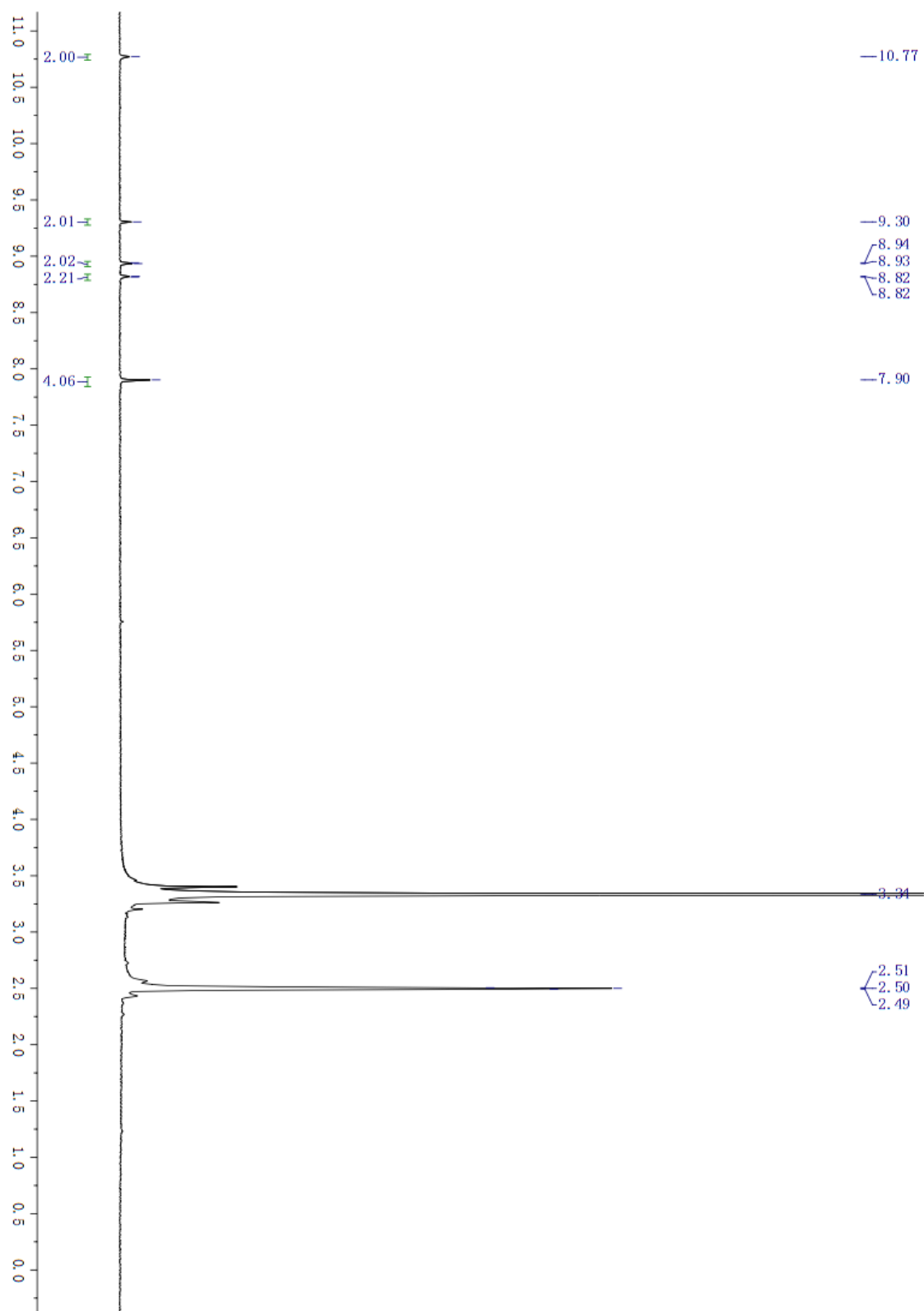
Compound **1c**



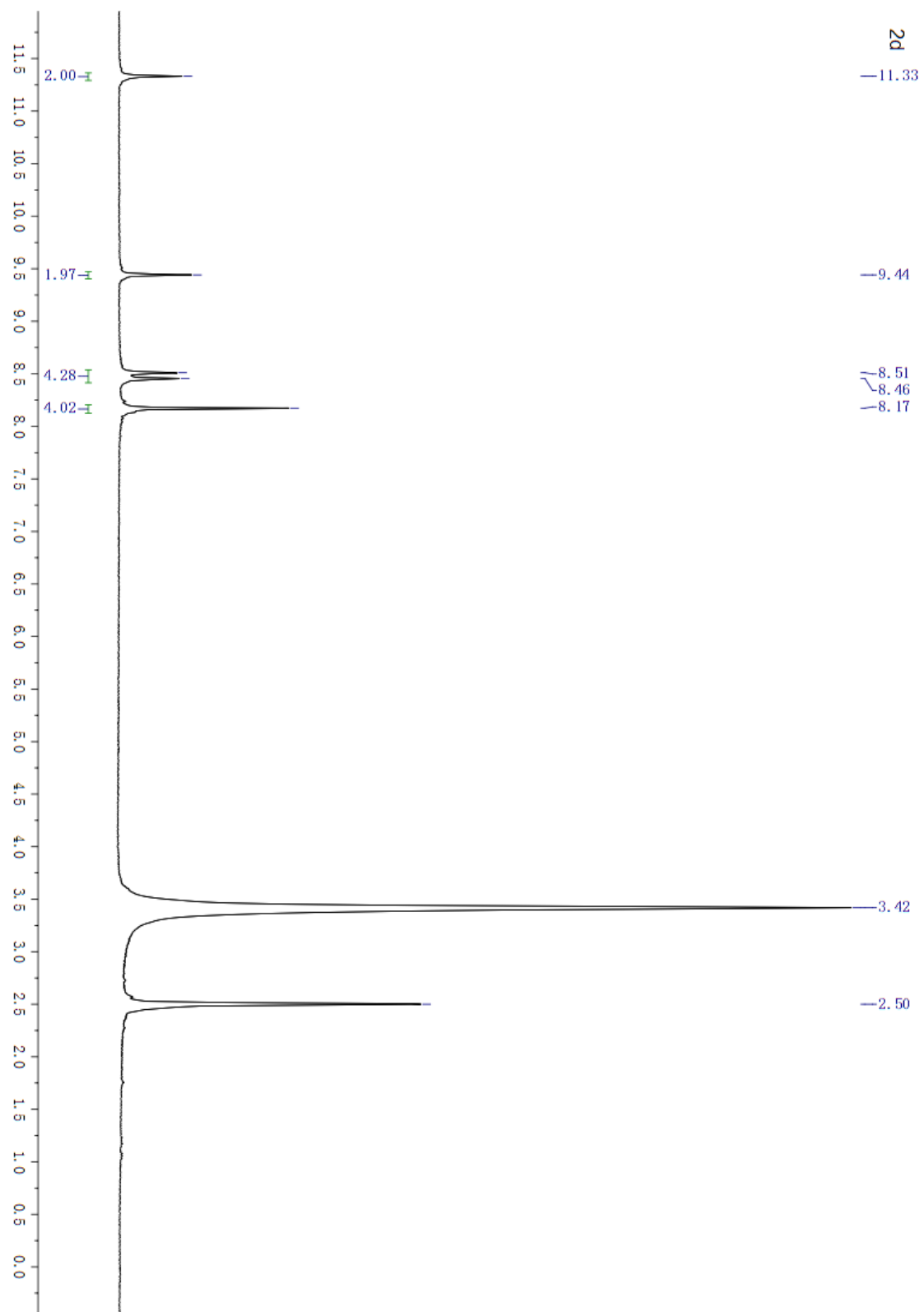
Compound 2c



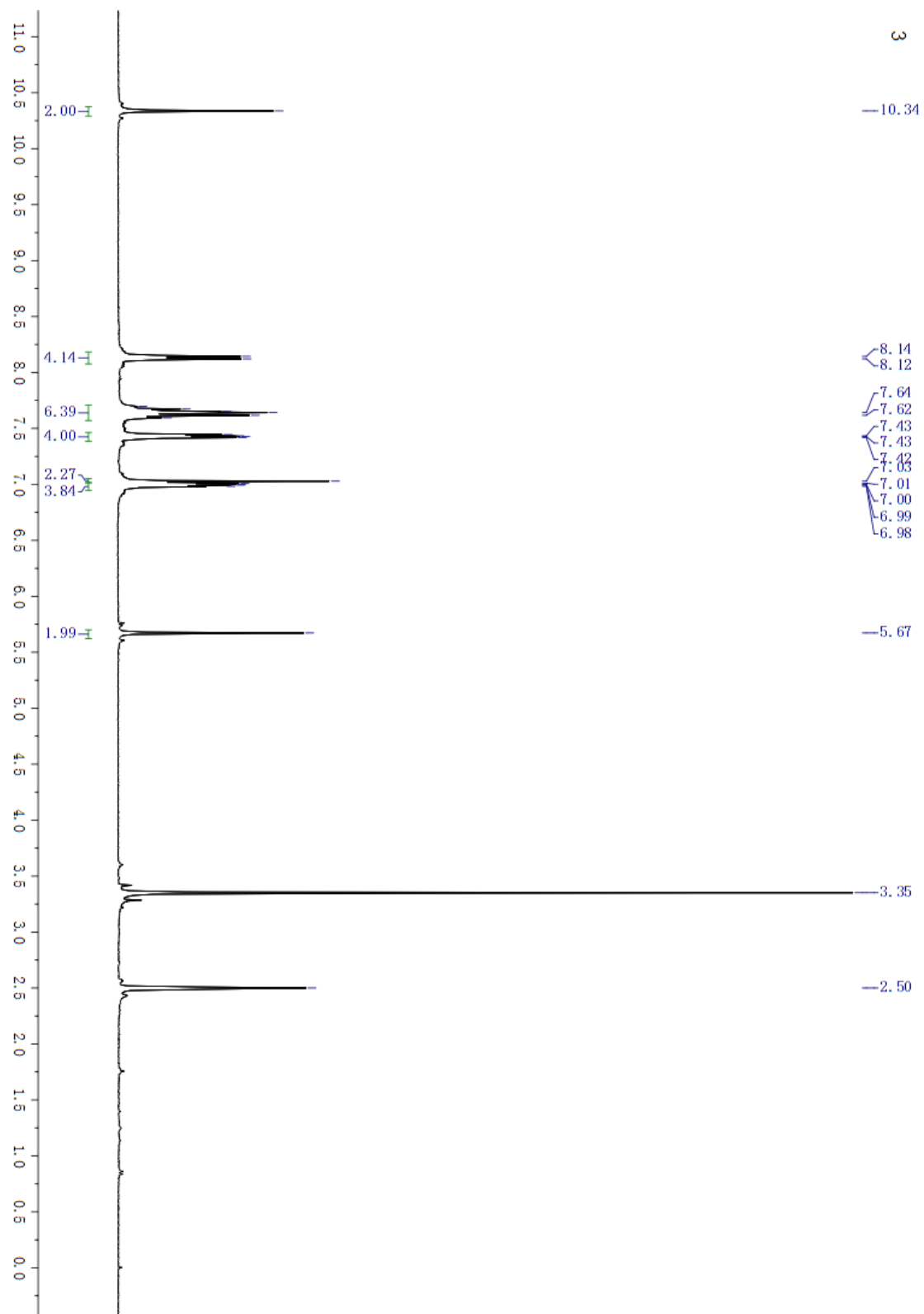
Compound **1d**



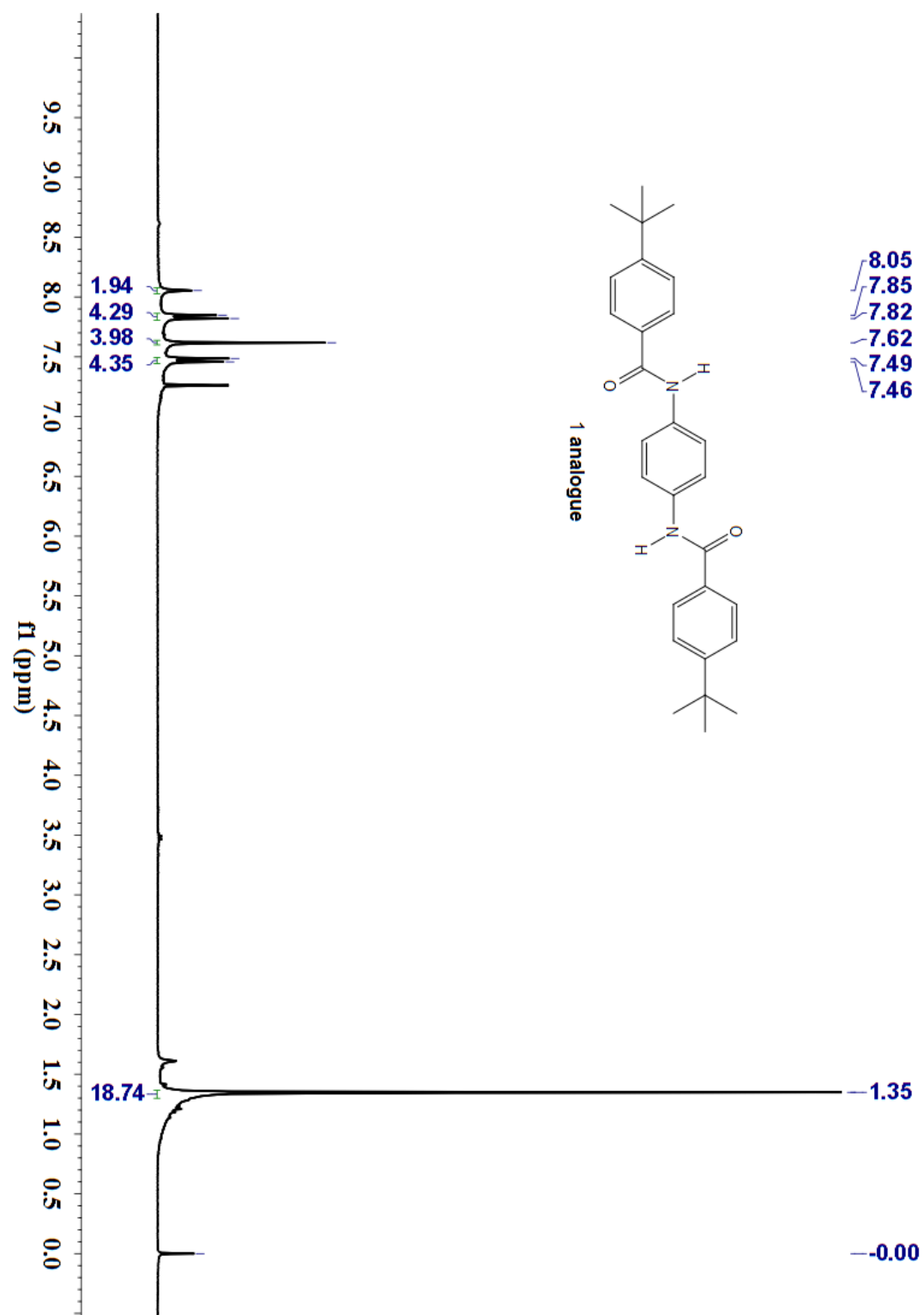
Compound **2d**



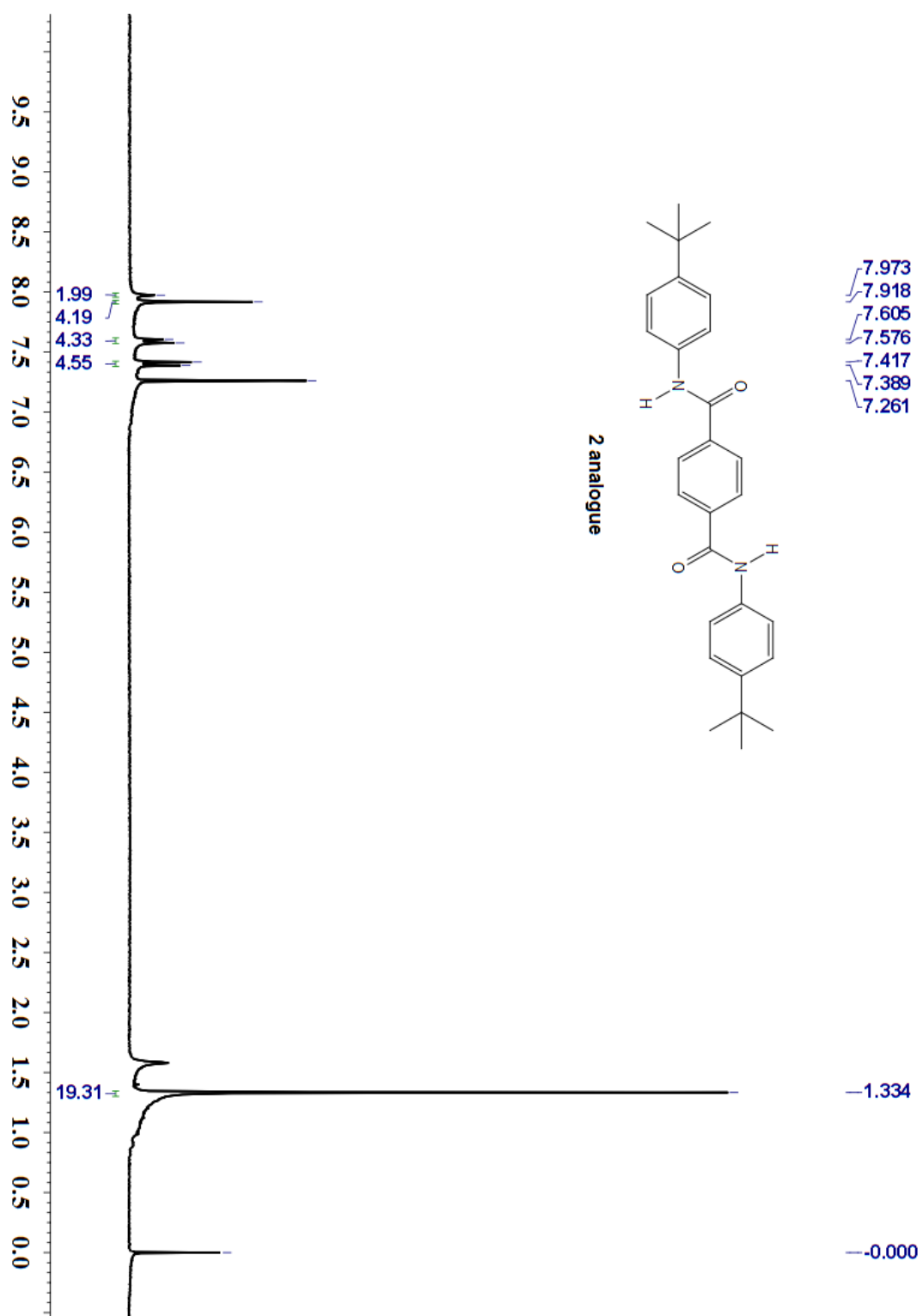
Compound 3



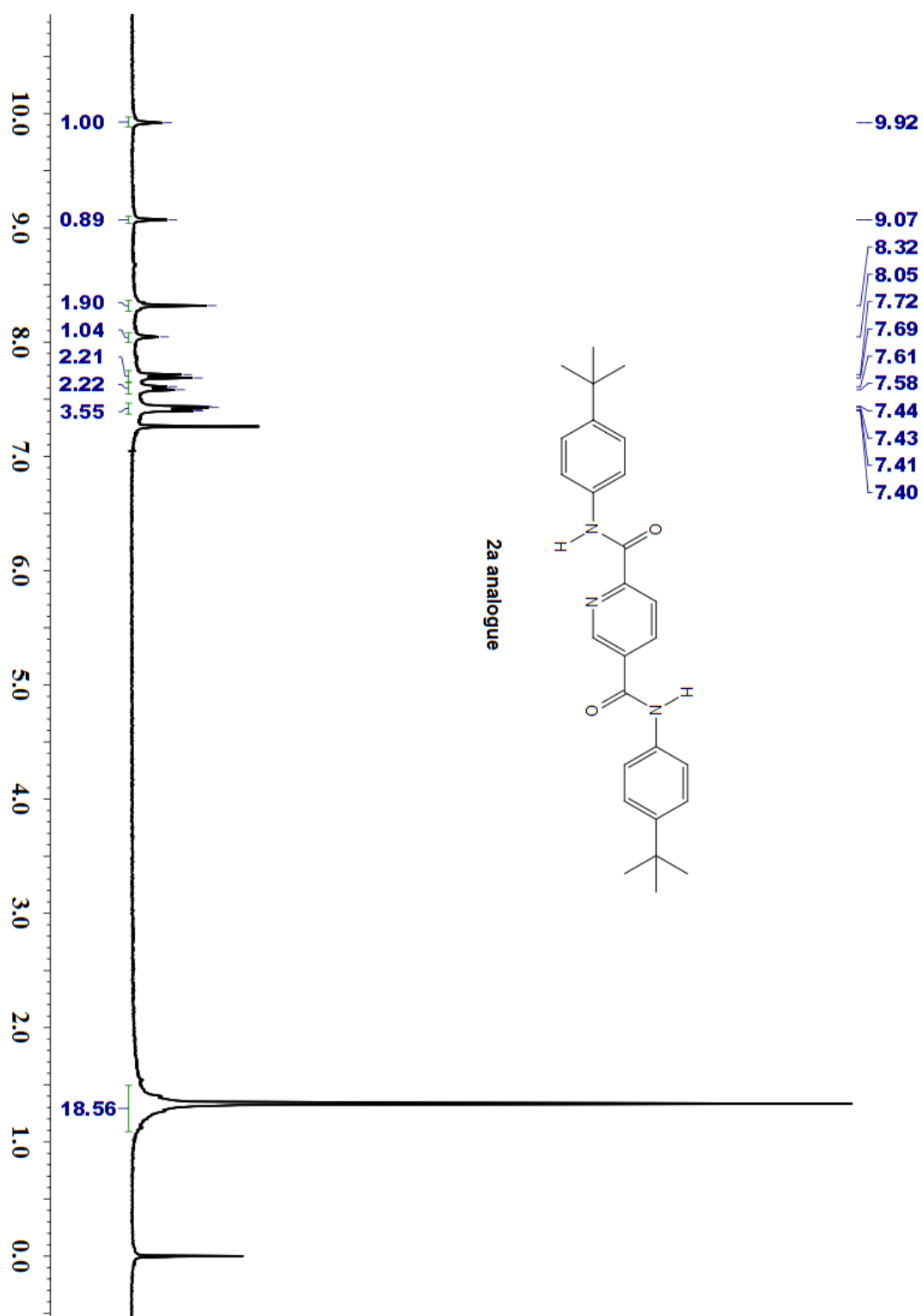
N,N'-(1,4-phenylene)bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)benzamide) (analogue of **1**).



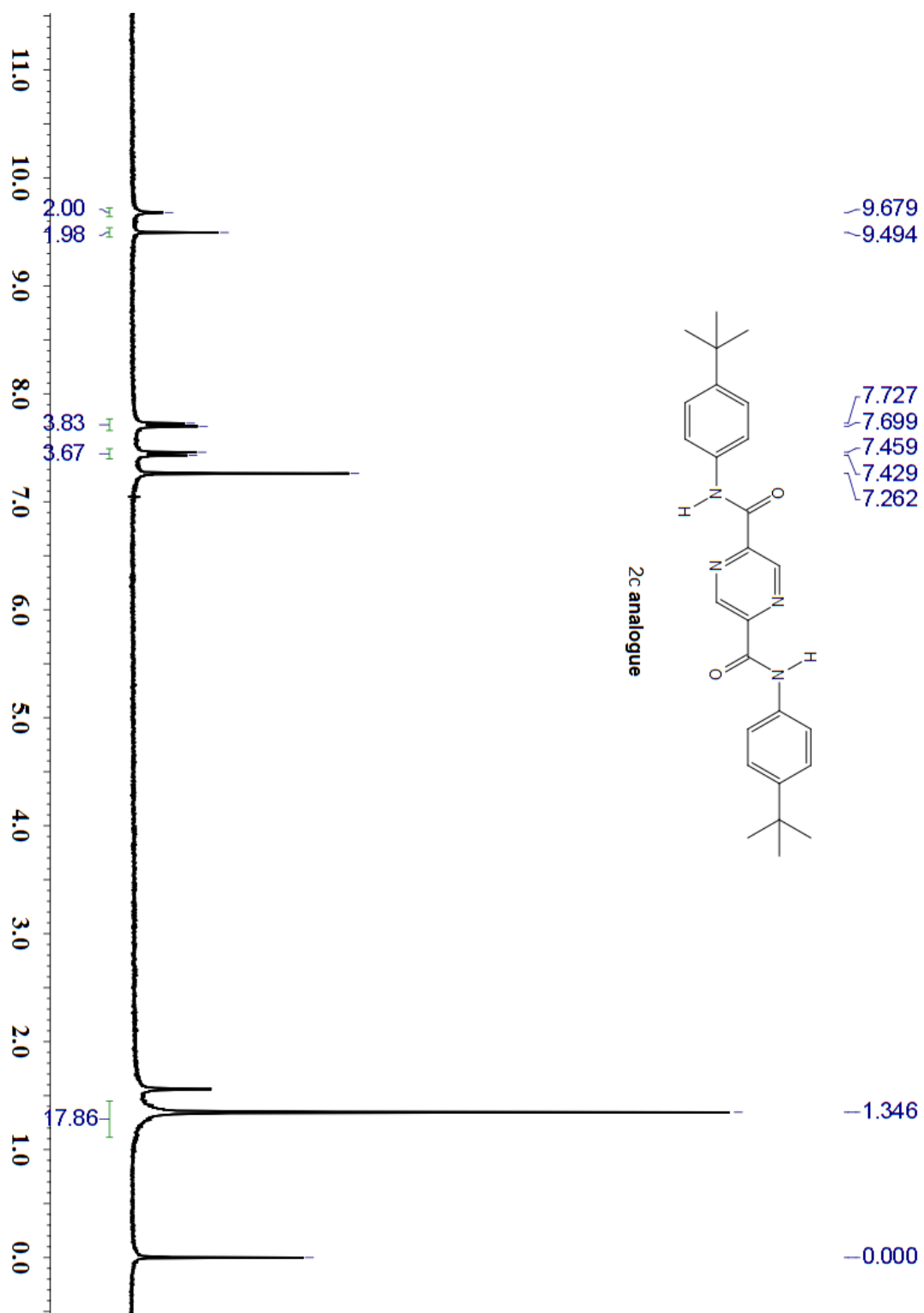
N,N'-bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)terephthalamide (analogue of **2**)



N,N'-bis(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)pyridine-2,5-dicarboxamide (analogue of **2a**)



N,N'-bis(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)pyrazine-2,5-dicarboxamide (analogue of **2c**).



References

1. A. Bondi, *J. Phys. Chem.*, 1964, **68**, 441-451.
2. C. A. Hunter, C. M. R. Low, M. J. Packer, S. E. Spey, J. G. Vinter, M. O. Vysotsky and C. Zonta, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2001, **40**, 2678-2682.
3. ^{13}C NMR data are not available due to the low solubility of the molecule in organic solvents, giving insufficient signal to noise ratio of ^{13}C NMR spectra.