

Electronic Supporting information

Unprecedented reductive cyclisation of salophen ligands to tetrahydroquinoxalines during metal complex formation

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General experimental details

All chemicals were provided by Alfa Aesar, Acros Organics, Insight Biotechnology or Sigma-Aldrich and were used without further purification. Chromium(II) chloride (anhydrous, 97%) was purchased from Alfa Aesar. Bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)iron(II) (decamethylferrocene) was purchased from Insight Biotechnology; bis(cyclopentadienyl)titanium dichloride (titanocene dichloride, 99%) was obtained from Alfa Aesar; and bis(cyclopentadienyl)cobalt(III) hexafluorophosphate (98%), bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)cobalt(II) (decamethylcobaltocene) and samarium(II) iodide (0.1 M in THF, stabilised with samarium chips) were sourced from Sigma-Aldrich. A solution of 1 M NaOH was made by dissolving NaOH pellets (40 g) into deionised water (1 L). A 1 M HCl solution was made by adding 42 mL of concentrated HCl (12 M, 37 % w/w, 1.18 g mL⁻¹) first to 125 mL of water, then adding 375 mL of water.

Dry glassware was obtained by leaving glassware in an oven at 60 °C for a minimum of 16 h. Dry solvents were obtained from a Pure Solv MD-7 solvent purification system. Argon was obtained from BOC gases (>99%). For column purification, 40-60 nm silica gel was used (Fluorochem) and monitored using aluminium backed TLC silica gel F₂₅₄ plates (Fisher Scientific) with potassium permanganate (KMnO₄) solution as a staining agent. High purity silica gel was used for flash column chromatography purification (pore size 60 Å, 220-550 mesh particle size, 35-75 µm particle size, Sigma-Aldrich). All column and reaction solvents were HPLC grade from Fischer Scientific.

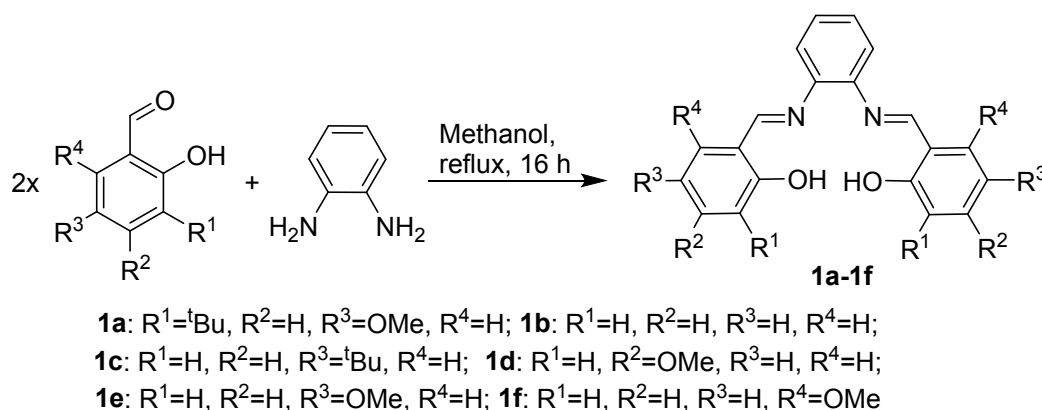
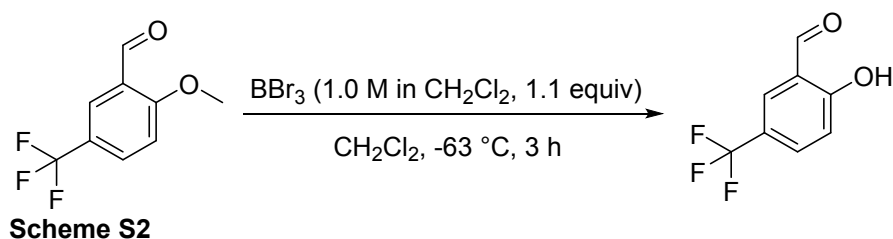
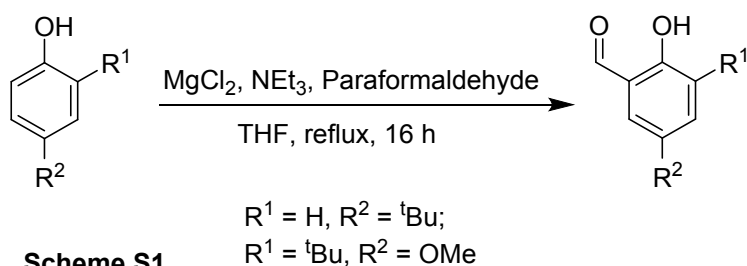
¹H, ¹³C[¹H] and ¹⁹F NMR 400 MHz spectra were obtained from a Jeol ECS-400 or Jeol ECX-400 NMR spectrometer. When required, further analysis was performed using a Bruker 500 MHz Avance III HD spectrometer, with a 5 mm triple resonance broadband probe and Topspin 3.5pl7 software, or a Bruker 700 MHz Avance Neo spectrometer equipped with a 5 mm triple resonance cryoprobe. Peak assignments were made with the aid of DEPT edited ¹³C NMR spectra and 2D NMR analyses including COSY, HSQC, HMBC and one bond ¹³C-¹⁹F correlations on one of the three spectrometers using standard pulse sequences. Samples were dissolved and analysed in deuterated CDCl₃ (Sigma-Aldrich). Spectra were referenced by assigning the CHCl₃ peak to 7.26 ppm for ¹H NMR spectra and the middle peak of the triplet CDCl₃ peak to 77.16 ppm for ¹³C[¹H] and ¹³C[¹⁹F] NMR spectra.^{1,2} All NMR spectra were run at room temperature (298 K) unless otherwise stated. Variable temperature NMR experiments were performed using a Bruker 500 MHz Avance III HD spectrometer, with a Bruker Chiller Unit for temperatures down to -20 °C and a liquid nitrogen evaporator for temperatures lower than -20 °C. Variable

temperature NMR analysis was performed from -55 °C to 25 °C in 10 °C increments. NMR spectra were analysed with MestReNova software (Mestrelab).

Mass Spectra were recorded on a Bruker compact time-of-flight mass spectrometer (microTOF) MS, twinned with an Agilent series 1260 LC for Electrospray Ionisation (ESI) and Atmospheric Pressure Chemical Ionisation (APCI) analysis. Samples were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ prior to analysis. ART-IR spectroscopy was performed using a PerkinElmer Spectrum Two FT-IR Spectrometer and analysed with Spectrum software (PerkinElmer). Samples were prior dissolved in CDCl₃ prior to analysis. Melting points were measured with a Stuart SMP20 (25-300 °C) melting point apparatus.

General synthetic procedures

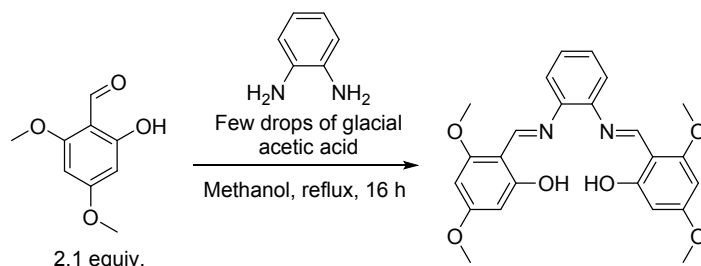
All aldehydes and salophen ligands **1a-h** were synthesised according to methods previously reported in the literature.³⁻¹¹ 5-(*Tert*-butyl)-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde⁵ and 3-(*tert*-butyl)-2-hydroxy-5-methoxybenzaldehyde⁶ were synthesised via a magnesium chloride-triethylamine *ortho*-formylation reaction (Scheme S1).^{3,4} 2-Hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde⁹⁻¹¹ was synthesised by the method of Lynch and Laykea (Scheme S2).^{9,10} *N,N'*-Bis(3-*tert*-butyl-5-methoxysalicylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1a**),⁸ *N,N'*-bis(salicylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1b**),⁷ *N,N'*-bis(5-*tert*-butylsalicylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1c**),⁷ *N,N'*-bis(4-methoxy-2-hydroxybenzylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1d**),^{12,13} *N,N'*-bis(2-hydroxy-5-methoxybenzylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1e**)¹³ and *N,N'*-bis(6-methoxysalicylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1f**)¹³⁻¹⁵ were synthesised by condensation of the required salicylaldehyde with 1,2-diaminobenzene in methanol (Scheme S3).³ All analyses of previously reported aldehydes and salophen ligands matched those reported in the literature.³⁻¹⁵



Scheme S3

Salophen ligand synthesis

2,2'-((1*E*,1'*E*)-(1,2-phenylenebis(azanylylidene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(3,5-dimethoxyphenol) (**1g**)



2,4-Dimethoxy-6-hydroxybenzaldehyde (0.2515 g, 1.38 mmol, 2.1 equiv.) was dissolved in methanol (12 mL). A solution of 1,2-diaminobenzene (0.0707 g, 0.65 mmol) in methanol (4 mL) was added dropwise to the stirring aldehyde solution. A few drops of acetic acid were added and the reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 16 h. After cooling to room temperature, a precipitate was isolated and purified by washing with methanol (10 mL). The solid was then dried *in vacuo* to afford salophen ligand **1g** as a yellow solid (0.2458 g, 86%).

m.p. 186.7–187.8 °C.

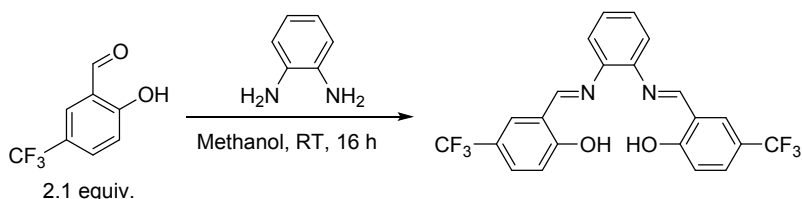
¹H NMR (400 MHz): $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 14.55 (2H, s, OH), 14.54 (1H, s, OH), 8.94 (2H, s, HC=N), 8.93 (1H, s, HC=N), 7.27 (4H, s, ArH), 6.13 (2H, d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, ArH), 5.84 (2H, d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, ArH), 3.82 (6H, s, OMe), 3.81 (6H, s, OMe) ppm.

¹³C NMR (100 MHz): $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 168.74 (C-OH), 166.01 (C=N), 161.24 (ArC), 156.66 (ArC), 141.04 (ArC), 126.81 (ArC), 119.16 (ArC), 104.03 (ArC), 94.43 (ArC), 89.81 (ArC), 55.72 (O-CH₃), 55.61 (O-CH₃) ppm.

Mass Spec ESI: Calc: $[\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6]^+$: 437.1707 (MH^+), found: 437.1698. Calc: $[\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_6]^+$: 459.1527 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$), found: 459.1519.

IR (CDCl_3): 3011, 2938, 2830 (C-H alkyl), 1604 (C=N), 1457 (C=C aromatic) cm^{-1} .

***N,N'*-Bis(2-hydroxy-5-trifluoromethyl)-1,2-phenylenediamine (1h)**



2-Hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (0.5002 g, 2.63 mmol, 2.1 equiv.) was dissolved in methanol (4 mL). A solution of 1,2-diaminobenzene (0.1365 g, 1.25 mmol) dissolved in methanol (4 mL) was added dropwise to the stirring aldehyde solution. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16 h, during which time a precipitate formed. The precipitate was isolated from the reaction solution and purified by washing with cold methanol (10 mL). The solid was then dried *in vacuo* to afford the salophen ligand **1h** as a yellow solid (0.1561 g, 28% yield).

m.p. 161.7–162.5 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz): $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 13.51 (2H, s, OH), 8.69 (2H, s, HC=N), 7.69 (2H, d, $J = 2$ Hz, ArH), 7.61 (2H, dd, $J = 9, 2$ Hz, ArH), 7.44–7.40 (2H, m, ArH), 7.30–7.26 (2H, m, ArH), 7.14 (2H, d, $J = 9$ Hz, ArH) ppm.

¹³C NMR (100 MHz): $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 163.94 (s, C-OH), 162.83 (s, C=N), 142.09 (s, ArC), 130.21 (q, $^3J_{\text{CF}} 3.5$ Hz, ArCH), 129.77 (q, $^3J_{\text{CF}} 3.5$ Hz, ArCH), 128.67 (s, ArC), 124.19 (q, $^1J_{\text{CF}} 270$ Hz, CF₃), 121.66 (q, $^2J_{\text{CF}} 33$ Hz, ArCCF₃) 119.67 (s, ArC), 118.72 (s, ArC), 118.44 (s, ArC) ppm.

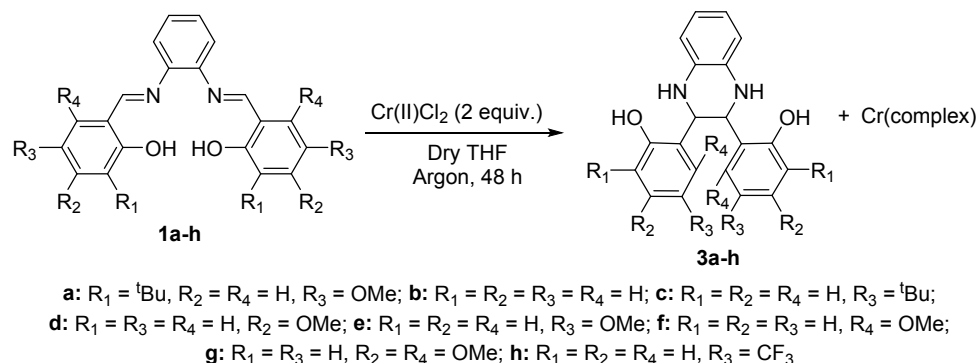
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz): $\delta_{\text{F}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ -61.55 (s, CF₃) ppm.

Mass Spec ESI: Calc: [C₂₂H₁₅F₆N₂O₂]⁺: 453.1032 (M+H⁺), found: 453.1030; Calc: [C₂₂H₁₄F₆N₂NaO₂]⁺: 475.0852 (M+Na⁺), found: 475.0850; Calc: [C₂₂H₁₄F₆KN₂O₂]⁺: 491.0591 (M+K⁺), found: 491.0585.

IR (CDCl₃): 1623 (C=N), 1491 (C=C aromatic) cm⁻¹.

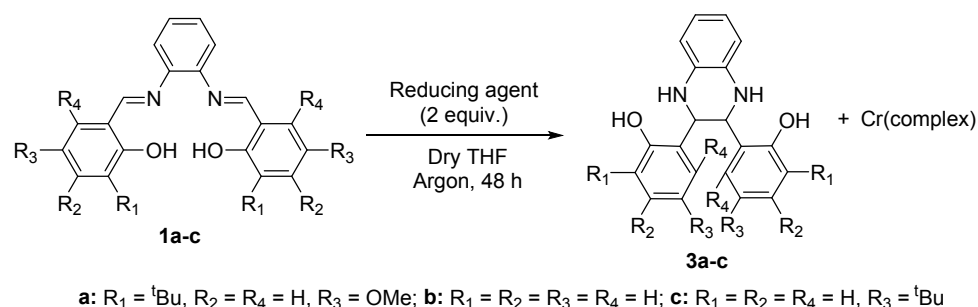
Tetrahydroquinoxaline synthesis

Method A: General procedure with chromium(II) chloride



Synthesis of tetrahydroquinoxalines using chromium(II) chloride was performed using conditions for the synthesis of metal(salophen) complexes reported by Darensbourg.¹⁶ Salophen ligand and chromium(II) chloride (2 equiv.) were added to a dry round bottom flask under argon. The flask then placed *in vacuo* for 5 mins. The flask was removed from the vacuum and dry THF (25 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was then left stirring for 2 days under argon. Et₂O was added (25 mL) to the reaction mixture followed by sat. aq. NH₄Cl (25 mL). The organic layer was then separated from the aqueous layer and washed with further with sat aq. NH₄Cl (25 mL) and then sat aq. brine (3 x 25 mL). The catalyst precipitate in the organic phase was separated by filtration from the reaction mixture. The organic phase was then concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue purified by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc) to isolate the tetrahydroquinoxaline product.

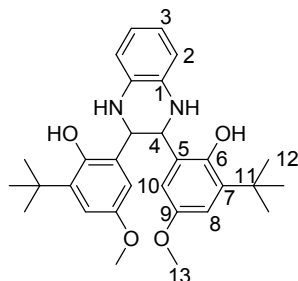
Method B: General procedure with reducing agents



Salophen ligand and a reducing agent (2 equiv.) were added to a dry round bottom flask under argon and then placed *in vacuo* for 5 mins. The flask was then removed from the vacuum and dry THF (15 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was then left stirring for 48 h under argon. Et₂O (15 mL) was then added to the reaction mixture followed by sat. aq. NH₄Cl (15 mL). The organic layer was then separated from the aqueous layer and washed

further with sat. aq. NH_4Cl (15 mL) and then sat aq. brine (3 x 15 mL). The organic phase was then concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue purified by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc) to isolate the tetrahydroquinoxaline product.

6,6'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(2-(*tert*-butyl)-4-methoxyphenol) (3a)



Using Method A: Prepared using *N,N'*-bis(3-*tert*-butyl-5-methoxysalicylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1a**, 0.2558 g, 0.52 mmol) and chromium(II) chloride (0.1293 g, 1.05 mmol, 2 equiv.). After workup, the product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 hexane:EtOAc mixture) to give compound **3a** as an off white solid (0.0136 g, 5% yield). Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow evaporation of a solution of **3a** in a 4:1 hexane:EtOAc mixture.

Using Method B: Prepared using *N,N'*-bis(3-*tert*-butyl-5-methoxysalicylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1a**, 0.1581 g, 0.32 mmol) and decamethylcobaltocene (0.2133 g, 0.64 mmol, 2 equiv.). After workup, the product was purified by column chromatography using first 4:1 hexane:EtOAc then 1:1 hexane:EtOAc, to give compound **3a** as an off white solid (0.0151 g, 10% yield).

R_f: 0.65 (4:1 hexane:EtOAc).

¹H NMR (400 MHz): $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 9.07 (2H, s, OH), 6.83-6.88 (2H, m, ArH, **3**), 6.77-6.89 (2H, m, ArH, **2**), 6.70 (2H, d, $J = 3$ Hz, ArH, **8**), 5.75 (2H, s, ArH, **10**), 4.81 (2H, s, N-C(H)-C, **4**), 4.42 (2H, s, NH), 3.36 (6H, s, 2xOMe, **13**), 1.38 (18H, s, 2xC(CH₃)₃, **12**) ppm.

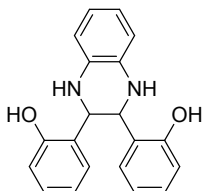
¹³C NMR (175 MHz): $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 152.14 (ArC-OMe, **9**), 149.59 (C-OH, **6**), 138.89 (ArC-CMe₃, **7**), 132.20 (ArC-NH, **1**), 122.46 (ArC, **5**), 121.94 (ArC, **3**), 117.59 (ArC, **2**), 115.18 (ArC, **8**), 110.93 (ArC, **10**), 59.24 (N-C(H)-C, **4**), 55.75 (O-CH₃, **13**), 35.05 (CMe₃, **11**), 29.66 (C(CH₃)₃, **12**) ppm.

Mass Spec ESI: Calc: $[\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{39}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4]^+$: 491.2904 (MH⁺), found: 491.2916; Calc: $[\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_4]^+$: 513.2724 (M+Na⁺), found: 513.2737; Calc: $[\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{38}\text{KN}_2\text{O}_4]^+$: 529.2463 (M+K⁺), found: 529.2473.

IR (CDCl₃): 3309 (O-H), 2998 (N-H), 2960, 2915, 2869 (C-H alkyl), 1434 (C=C aromatic) cm⁻¹.

Melting Point: 216.5–216.9 °C.

2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)diphenol (3b**)**



Using Method A: Prepared using *N,N'*-bis(salicylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1b**, 0.2530 g, 0.8 mmol) and chromium(II) chloride (0.1944 g, 1.6 mmol, 2 equiv.). After workup, the product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 hexane:EtOAc mixture) to give compound **3b** as an off white solid (0.0211 g, 8% yield). Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow evaporation of a solution of **3b** in a 4:1 hexane:EtOAc mixture.

Using Method B: Prepared using *N,N'*-bis(salicylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1b**, 0.1594 g, 0.5 mmol) and decamethylcobaltocene (0.3310 g, 1.0 mmol, 2 equiv.). After workup, the product was purified by column chromatography using first 4:1 hexane:EtOAc then 1:1 hexane:EtOAc, to give compound **3b** as an off white solid (0.0243 g, 15% yield).

R_f: 0.46 (4:1 hexane:EtOAc).

¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ_H(CDCl₃) 9.00 (2H, s, OH), 7.12–7.08 (2H, m, ArH), 6.90–6.84 (4H, m, ArH), 6.81–6.77 (2H, m, ArH), 6.49 (2H, dd, *J* 7.5, 1.5 Hz, ArH), 6.37 (2H, dd, *J* 7.5 Hz, 1.5 Hz ArH), 4.80 (2H, s, N-C(H)-C), 4.42 (2H, s, NH) ppm.

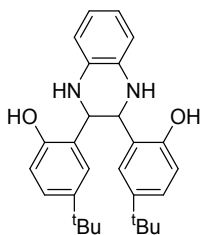
¹³C NMR (175 MHz δ_C(CDCl₃) 156.40 (C-OH), 132.33 (ArC-NH), 130.28 (ArC), 129.85 (ArC), 122.18 (ArC), 121.97 (ArC), 119.72 (ArC), 117.65 (ArC), 117.15 (ArC), 59.02 (N-C(H)-C) ppm.

Mass Spec ESI: Calc: [C₂₀H₁₉N₂O₂]⁺: 319.1441 (MH⁺), found: 319.1436.

IR (CDCl₃): 3289 (O-H), 3039 (N-H), 1505 (C=C aromatic) cm⁻¹.

Melting Point: 182.0–183.6°C

2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenol) (**3c**)



Using Method A: Prepared using *N,N'*-bis(5-*tert*-butylsalicylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1c**, 0.2524 g, 0.6 mmol) and chromium(II) chloride (0.1515 g, 1.2 mmol, 2 equiv.). After workup, the product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 hexane:EtOAc mixture) to give compound **3c** as an off white solid (0.0306 g, 12% yield). Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow evaporation of a solution of **3c** in a 4:1 hexane:EtOAc mixture.

R_f: 0.55 (4:1 hexane:EtOAc).

¹H NMR (400 MHz): 8.83 (2H, s, OH), 7.06 (2H, dd, *J* 8 Hz, 2.5 Hz, ArH), 6.90–6.86 (2H, m, ArH), 6.80–6.76 (4H, m, ArH), 6.38 (2H, d, *J* 2 Hz, ArH), 4.78 (2H, s, N-C(H)-C), 4.43 (2H, s, NH), 0.99 (18H, s, 2xC(CH₃)₃) ppm.

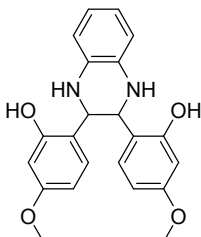
¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ_c(CDCl₃) 153.88 (C-OH), 142.39 (ArC-CMe₃), 132.45 (ArC-NH), 127.49 (ArC), 126.25 (ArC), 121.93 (ArC), 121.34 (ArC), 117.60 (ArC), 116.18 (ArC), 59.61 (N-C(H)-C), 33.81 (CMe₃), 31.46 (C(CH₃)₃) ppm.

Mass Spec ESI: Calc: [C₂₈H₃₅N₂O₂]⁺: 431.2693 (MH⁺), found: 431.2686; Calc: [C₂₈H₃₄N₂NaO₂]⁺: 453.2512 (M+Na⁺), found: 453.2511.

IR (CDCl₃): 3301 (O-H), 2960 (N-H), 2908, 2867 (C-H alkyl), 1498 (C=C aromatic), cm⁻¹.

Melting Point: 183.1–184.7 °C.

6,6'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3-methoxyphenol) (**3d**)



Using Method A: Prepared using *N,N'*-bis(4-methoxy-2-hydroxybenzylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1d**, 0.2479 g, 0.7 mmol) and chromium(II) chloride (0.1639 g, 1.3 mmol, 2 equiv.) After workup, the product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 hexane:EtOAc mixture) to give compound **3d** as an off white solid (0.0288 g, 12% yield).

R_f (0.27) 4:1 hexane:EtOAc.

¹H NMR (400 MHz): $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 9.09 (2H, br s, OH), 6.88–6.84 (2H, m, ArH), 6.79–6.74 (2H, m, ArH), 6.41 (2H, d, J 2.5 Hz, ArH), 6.27 (2H, d, J 8.5 Hz, ArH), 6.08 (2H, dd, J = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, ArH), 4.68 (2H, s, N-C(H)-C), 4.37 (2H, br s, NH), 3.72 (6H, s, 2xOMe) ppm.

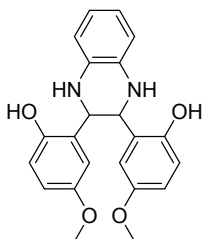
¹³C NMR (100 MHz): $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 160.99 (ArC-OMe), 157.56 (C-OH), 132.26 (ArC-NH), 131.11 (ArC), 121.94 (ArC), 117.47 (ArC), 114.57 (ArC), 105.87 (ArC), 102.39 (ArC), 58.84 (N-C(H)-C), 55.36 (O-CH₃) ppm.

Mass Spec ESI: Calc: [C₂₂H₂₃N₂O₄]⁺: 379.1652 (M+H⁺), found: 379.1652; Calc: [C₂₂H₂₂N₂NaO₄]⁺: 401.1472 (M+Na⁺), found: 401.1472.

IR (CDCl₃): 3304 (O-H), 2932 (N-H), 2838 (C-H alkyl), 1508 (C=C aromatic), cm⁻¹.

Melting Point: 194.8–195.4 °C.

2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-methoxyphenol) (3e)



Using Method A: Prepared using *N,N'*-bis(2-hydroxy-5-methoxybenzylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1e**, 0.2602 g, 0.7 mmol) and chromium(II) chloride (0.1653 g, 1.3 mmol, 2 equiv.). After workup, the product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 hexane:EtOAc mixture) to give compound **3e** as an off white solid (0.0137 g, 5% yield).

R_f (0.57) 4:1 hexane:EtOAc.

¹H NMR (400 MHz): $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 8.50 (2H, br s, OH), 6.91–6.86 (2H, m, ArH), 6.82–6.76 (4H, m, ArH), 6.68 (2H, ddd, J 8.5, 3.1 Hz, ArH), 5.95 (2H, d, J 2 Hz, ArH), 4.73 (2H, s, N-C(H)-C), 4.28 (2H, br s, NH), 3.61 (6H, s, 2xOMe) ppm.

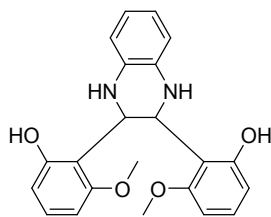
¹³C NMR (175 MHz): $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 152.94 (ArC-OMe), 150.38 (C-OH), 132.05 (ArC-CMe₃), 122.26 (ArC-NH), 122.14 (ArC), 117.89 (ArC), 117.65 (ArC), 116.66 (ArC), 114.56 (ArC), 59.10 (N-C(H)-C), 56.02 (O-CH₃) ppm.

Mass Spec ESI: Calc: [C₂₂H₂₃N₂O₄]⁺: 379.1652 (MH⁺), found: 379.1651; Calc: [C₂₂H₂₂N₂NaO₄]⁺: 401.1472 (M+Na⁺), found: 401.1469.

IR (CDCl₃): 3298 (O-H), 2925 (N-H), 1497 (C=C aromatic) cm⁻¹.

Melting Point: 204.5–206.6 °C.

2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3-methoxyphenol) (3f)



Using Method A: Prepared using *N,N'*-bis(6-methoxysalicylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1f**, 0.2508 g, 0.6 mmol) and chromium(II) chloride (0.1478 g, 1.2 mmol, 2 equiv.). After workup, the product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 hexane:EtOAc mixture) to give compound **3f** as an off white solid (0.0248 g, 12 % yield). Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow evaporation of a solution of **3f** in a 4:1 hexane:EtOAc mixture.

R_f (0.30) 4:1 hexane:EtOAc

¹H NMR (400 MHz): $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 9.67 (2H, s, OH), 6.99 (2H, t, *J* 8.5 Hz, ArH), 6.87–6.83 (2H, m, ArH), 6.79–6.75 (2H, m, ArH), 6.45 (2H, dd, *J* 8.5, 1 Hz, ArH), 6.02 (2H, dd, *J* 8.5, 1 Hz, ArH), 5.48 (2H, s, N-C(H)-C), 4.20 (2H, s, NH), 3.21 (6H, s, 2xOMe) ppm.

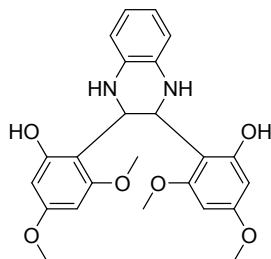
¹³C NMR (100 MHz): $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 159.04 (ArC-OMe), 158.39 (C-OH), 132.43 (ArC-NH), 129.50 (ArC), 121.85 (ArC), 117.82 (ArC), 110.64 (ArC), 109.46 (ArC), 101.39 (ArC), 55.31 (N-C(H)-C), 50.28 (O-CH₃) ppm.

Mass Spec ESI: Calc: [C₂₂H₂₃N₂O₄]⁺: 379.1652 (MH⁺), found: 379.1655; Calc: [C₂₂H₂₂N₂NaO₄]⁺: 401.1472 (M+Na⁺), found: 401.1475.

IR (CDCl₃): 3297 (O-H), 2935 (N-H), 2837 (C-H alkyl), 1466 (C=C aromatic) cm⁻¹.

Melting Point: 207.2–208.7 °C.

2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3,5-dimethoxyphenol) (3g)



Using Method A: Prepared using *N,N'*-bis(4,6-methoxy-2-hydroxybenzylidene)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1g**, 0.2508 g, 0.6 mmol) and chromium(II) chloride (0.1478 g, 1.2 mmol, 2 equiv.). After workup, the product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 hexane:EtOAc then EtOAc) to give compound **3g** as an unstable off white solid (0.0051 g, 2% yield).

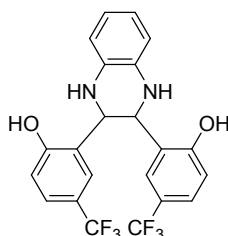
R_f (0.10) 4:1 hexane:EtOAc.

¹H NMR (400 MHz): $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 9.71 (2H, br s, OH), 6.86–6.81 (2H, m, ArH), 6.78–6.73 (2H, m, ArH), 6.03 (2H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz, ArH), 5.67 (2H, d, *J* 8.5 Hz, ArH), 6.08 (2H, dd, *J* 8.5, 2.5 Hz, ArH), 5.32 (2H, s, N-C(H)-C), 4.15 (2H, br s, NH), 3.72 (6H, s, 2xOMe) ppm, 3.25 (6H, s, 2xOMe) ppm.

¹³C NMR (100 MHz): $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 161.15 (ArC-OMe), 159.82 (ArC-OMe), 159.12 (C-OH), 132.60 (ArC-NH), 121.80 (ArC), 117.78 (ArC), 103.41 (ArC), 93.75 (ArC), 89.99 (ArC), 55.50 (N-C(H)-C), 55.35 (O-CH₃), 50.42 (O-CH₃) ppm.

Mass Spec ESI: Calc: [C₂₄H₂₇N₂O₆]⁺: 439.1864 (MH⁺), found: 439.1862.

2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenol) (**3h**)



Using Method A: Prepared using *N,N'*-Bis(2-hydroxy-5-trifluoromethyl)-1,2-phenylenediamine (**1h**, 0.2409 g, 0.5 mmol) and chromium(II) chloride (0.1850 g, 1.5 mmol, 3 equiv.). After workup, the product was purified by column chromatography (4:1 hexane:EtOAc) to give compound **3h** as an off white solid (0.0267 g, 11% yield). Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow evaporation of a solution of **3h** in a 4:1 hexane:EtOAc mixture.

R_f (0.42) 4:1 hexane:EtOAc.

¹H[¹⁹F] NMR (400 MHz): $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 9.56 (2H, br s, OH), 7.38 (2H, dd, *J* 8.5, 2 Hz, ArH), 6.97–6.92 (4H, m, ArH), 6.87–6.83 (2H, m, ArH), 6.46 (2H, d, *J* 2.0 Hz, ArH), 4.79 (2H, s, N-C(H)-C), 4.50 (2H, br s, NH) ppm.

¹³C[¹⁹F] NMR (125 MHz): $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 159.33 (C-OH), 131.50 (ArC-NH), 127.31 (ArC), 127.29 (ArC), 123.92 (CF₃), 122.81 (ArC), 122.28 (ArC), 121.55 (ArC), 118.06 (ArC), 117.66 (ArC), 59.01 (N-C(H)-C) ppm.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz): $\delta_{\text{F}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ -61.95 (s, CF₃) ppm.

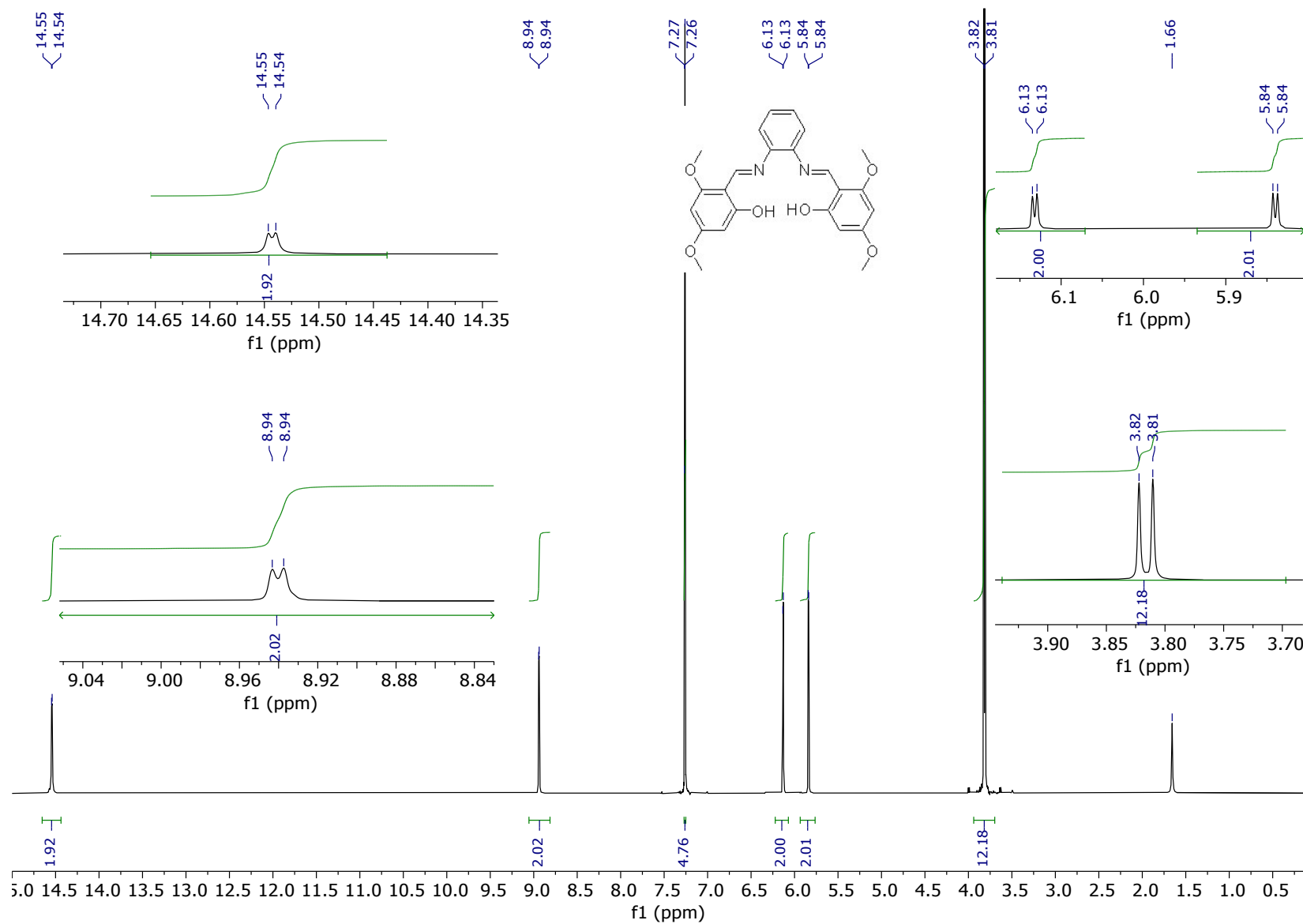
Mass Spec ESI: Calc: [C₂₂H₁₇F₆N₂O₂]⁺: 455.1189 (MH⁺), found: 455.1184.

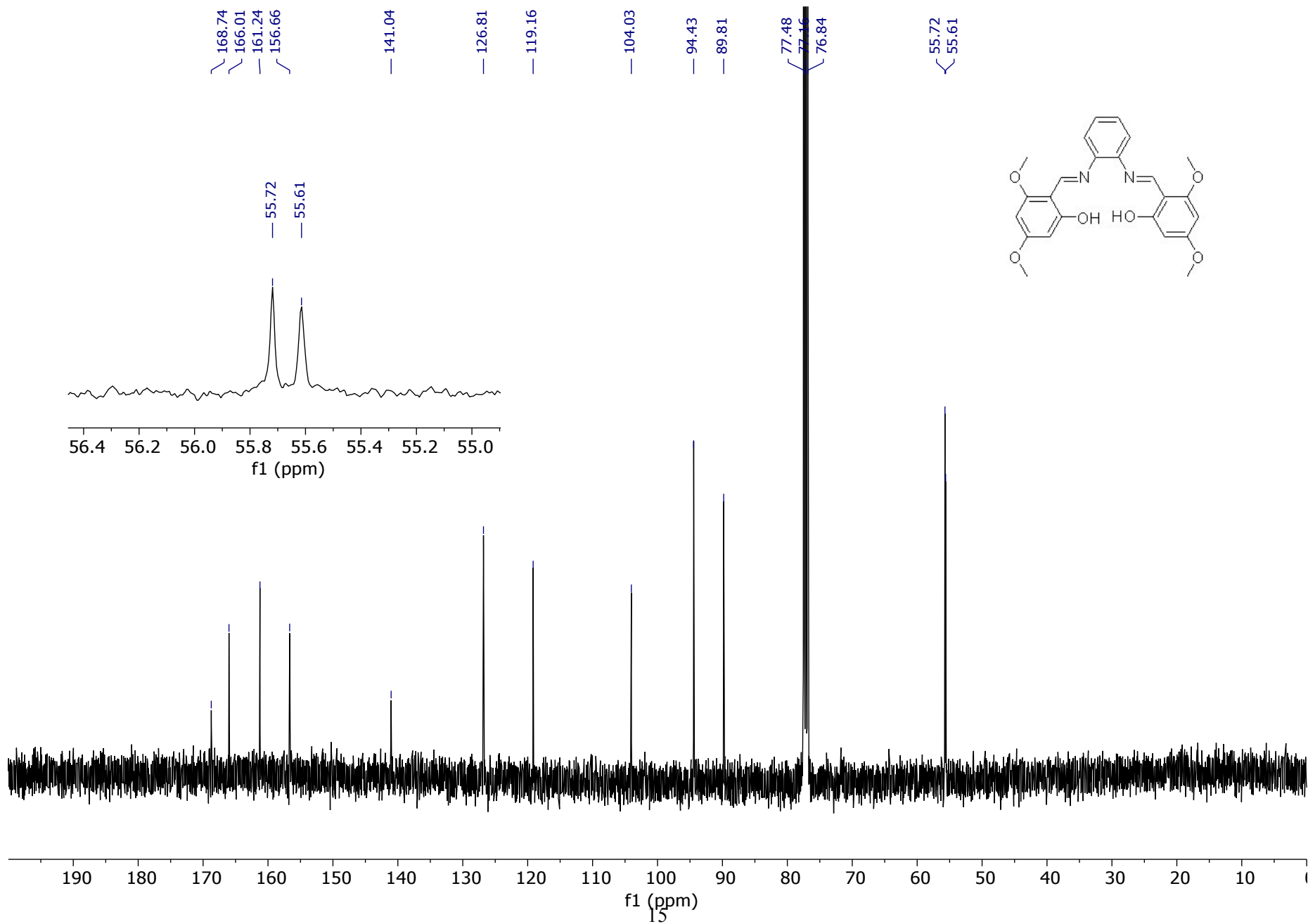
IR (CDCl₃): 3299 (O-H), 2925 (N-H), 2835 (C-H alkyl), 1326 (C=C aromatic) cm⁻¹.

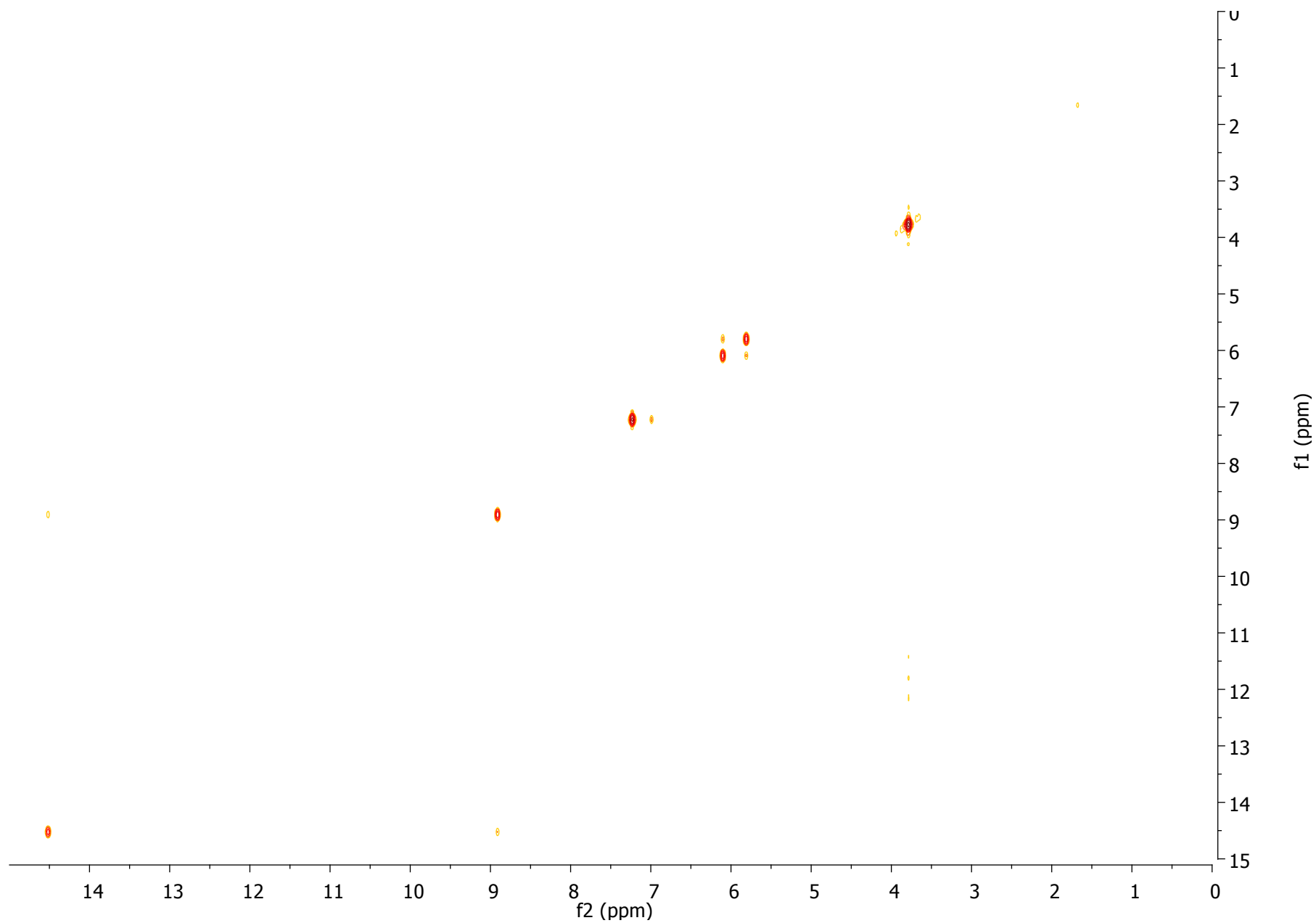
Melting Point: 197.6–198.2 °C.

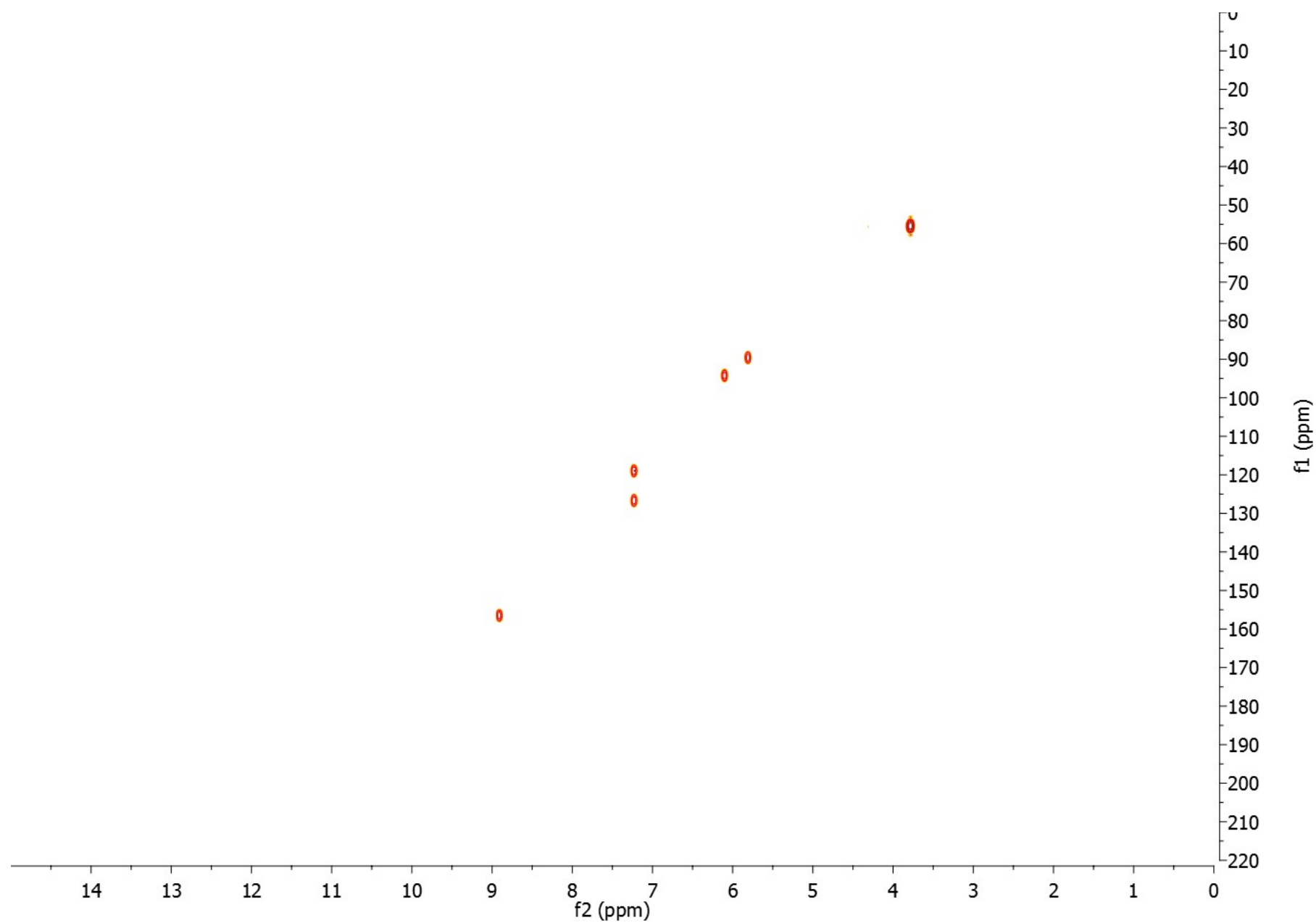
NMR spectra of salophen ligands

2,2'-((1*E*,1'*E*)-(1,2-phenylenebis(azanylylidene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(3,5-dimethoxyphenol) (1g)

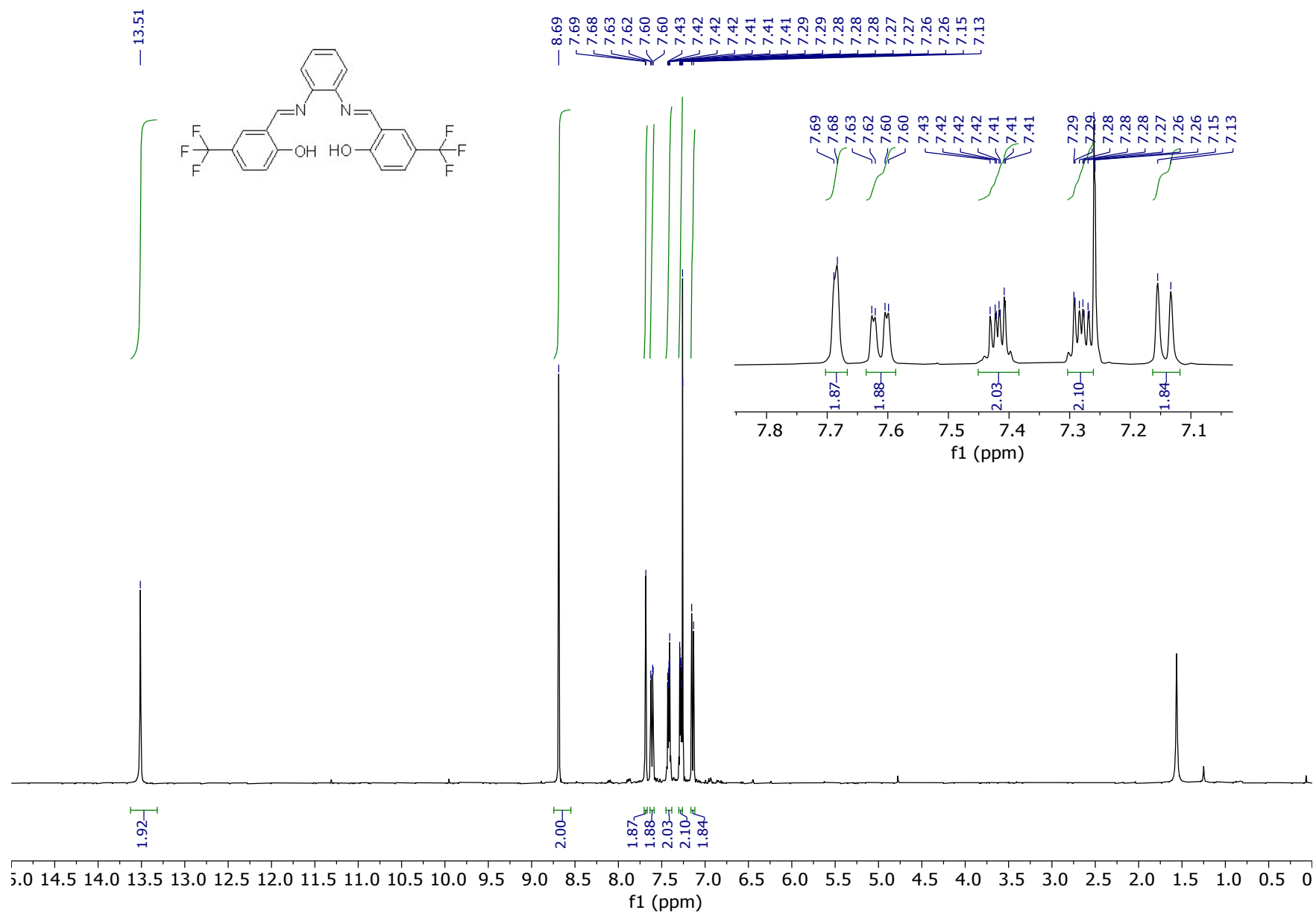


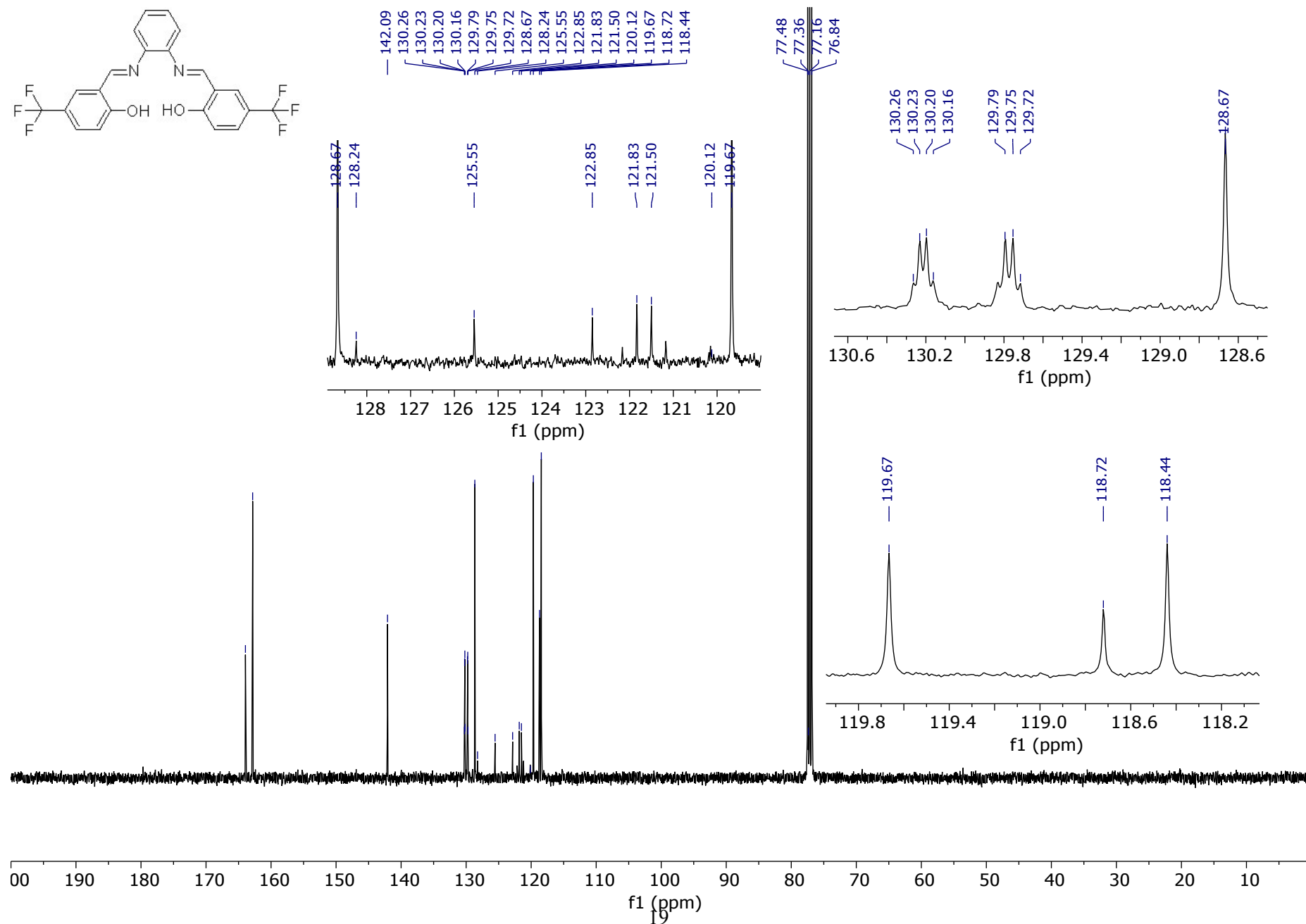
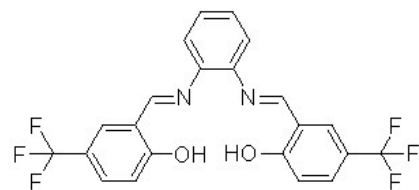


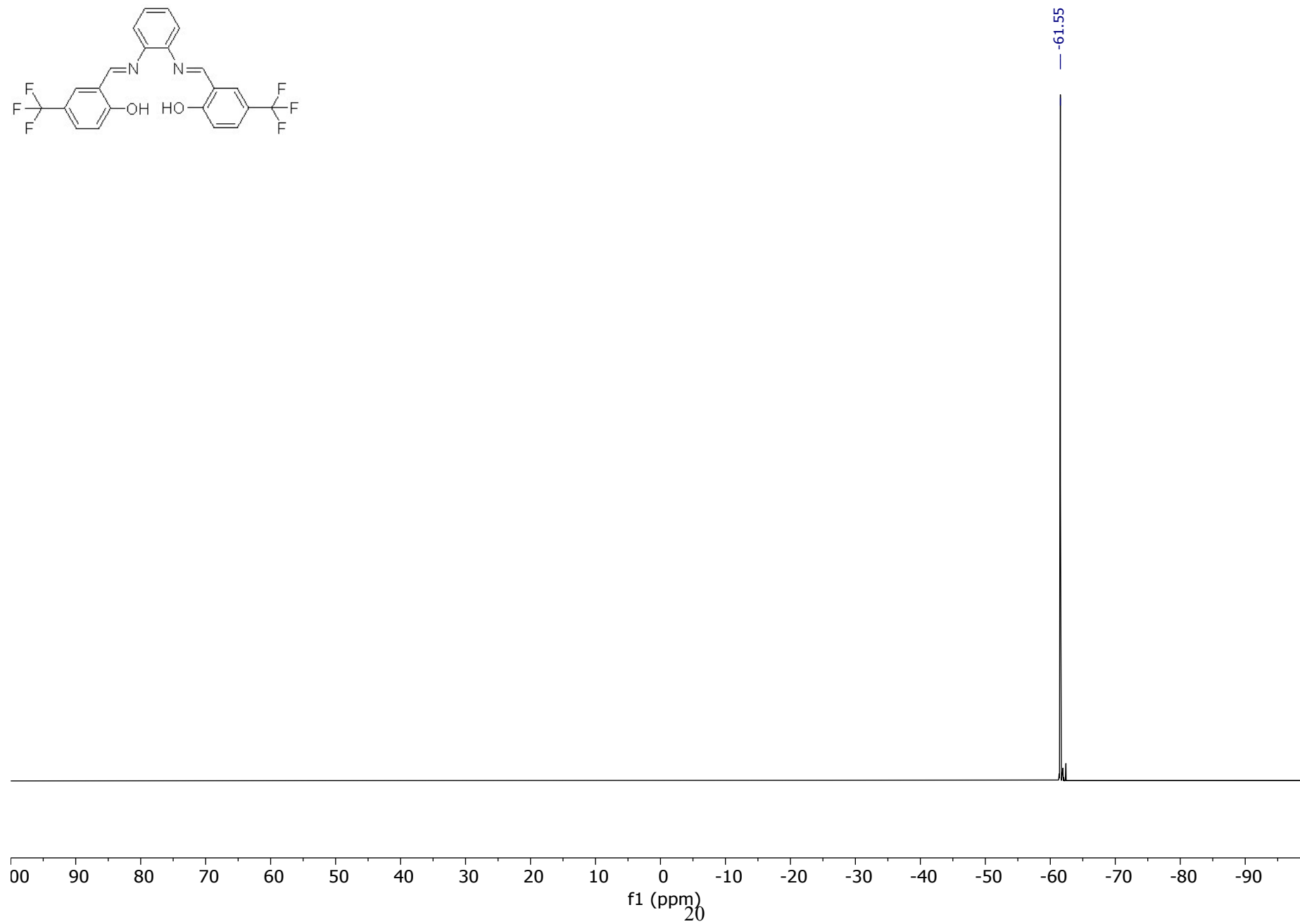
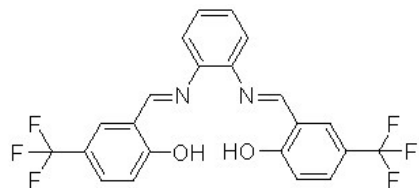


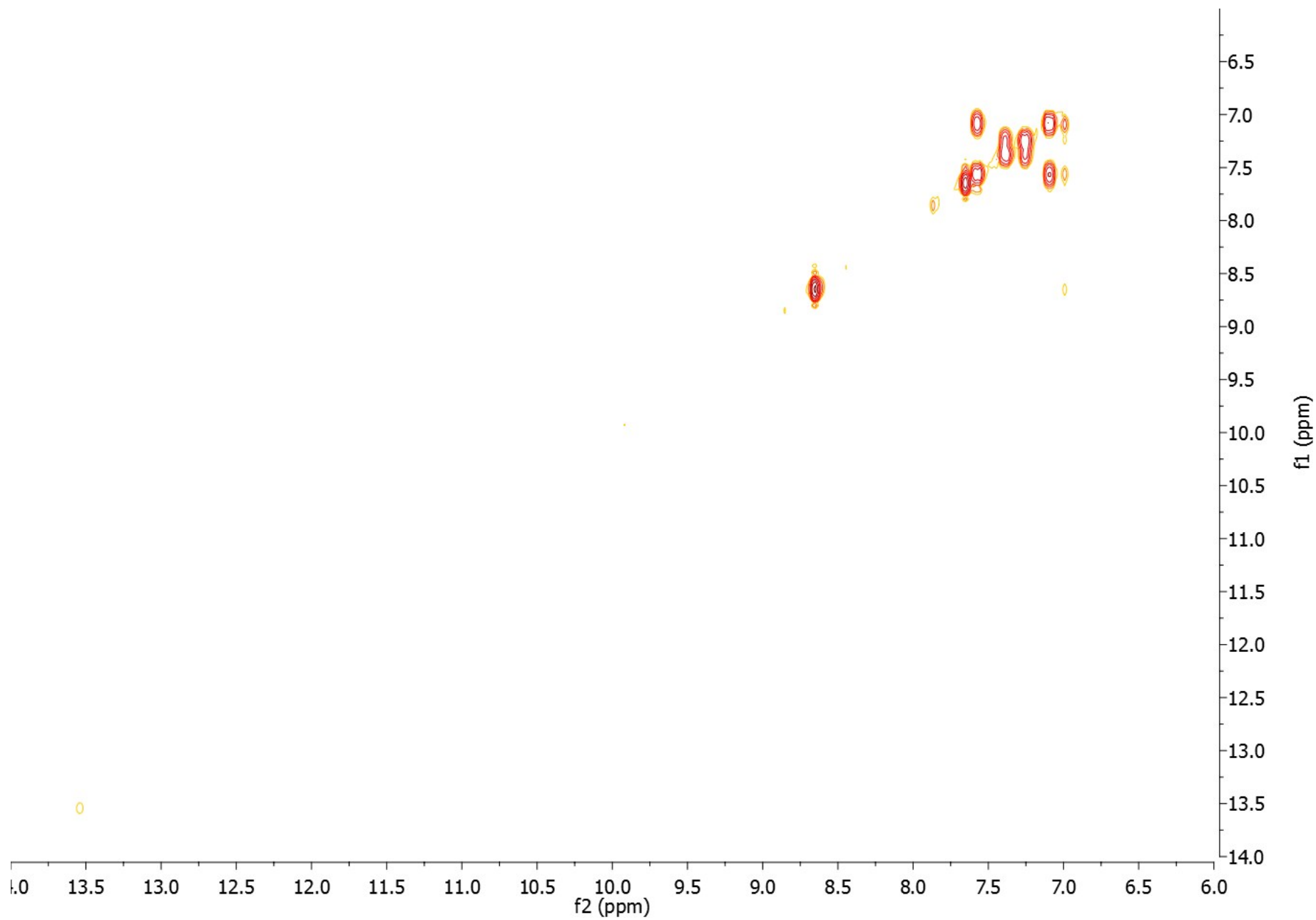


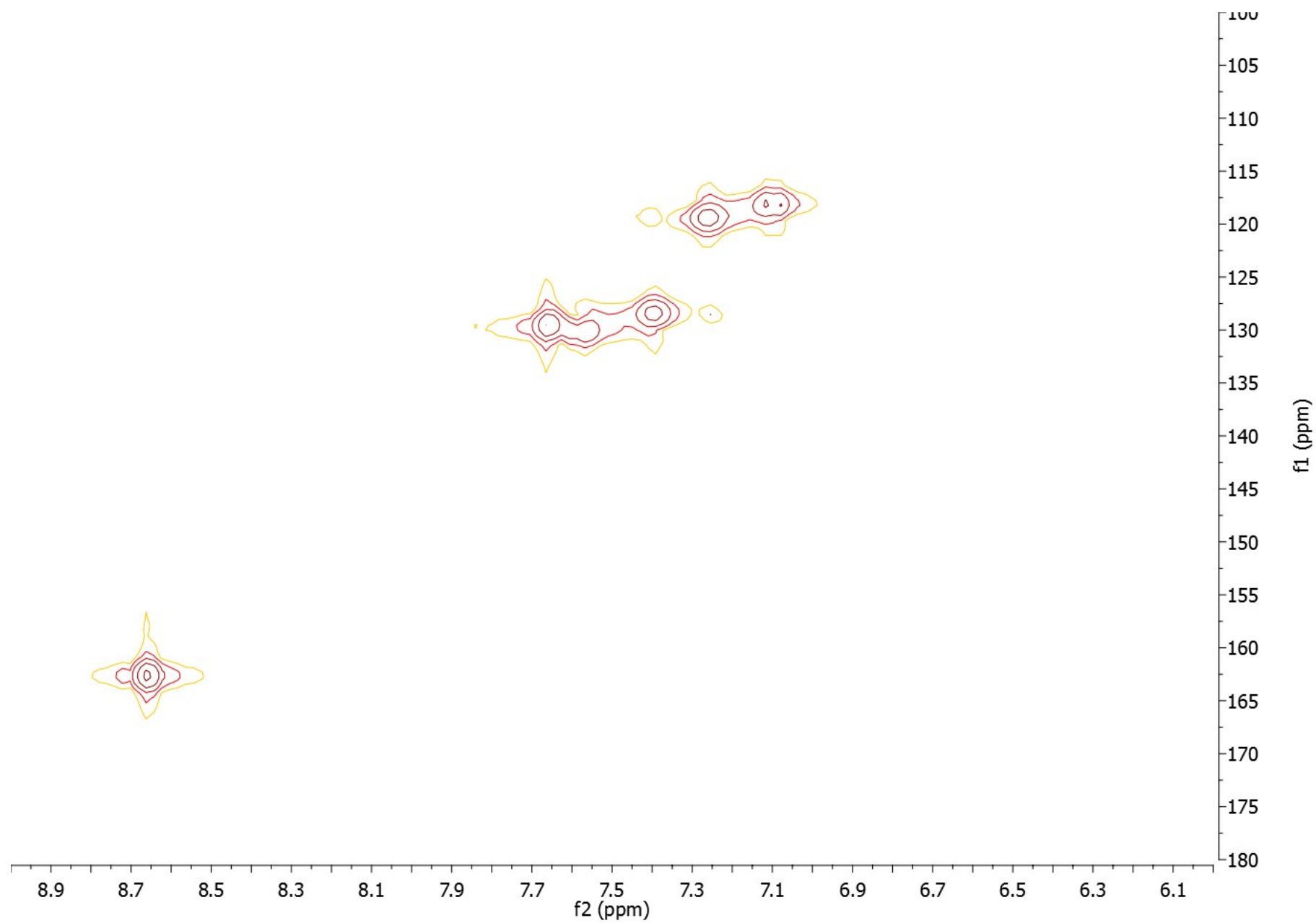
N,N'-Bis(2-hydroxy-5-trifluoromethyl)-1,2-phenylenediamine (1h)





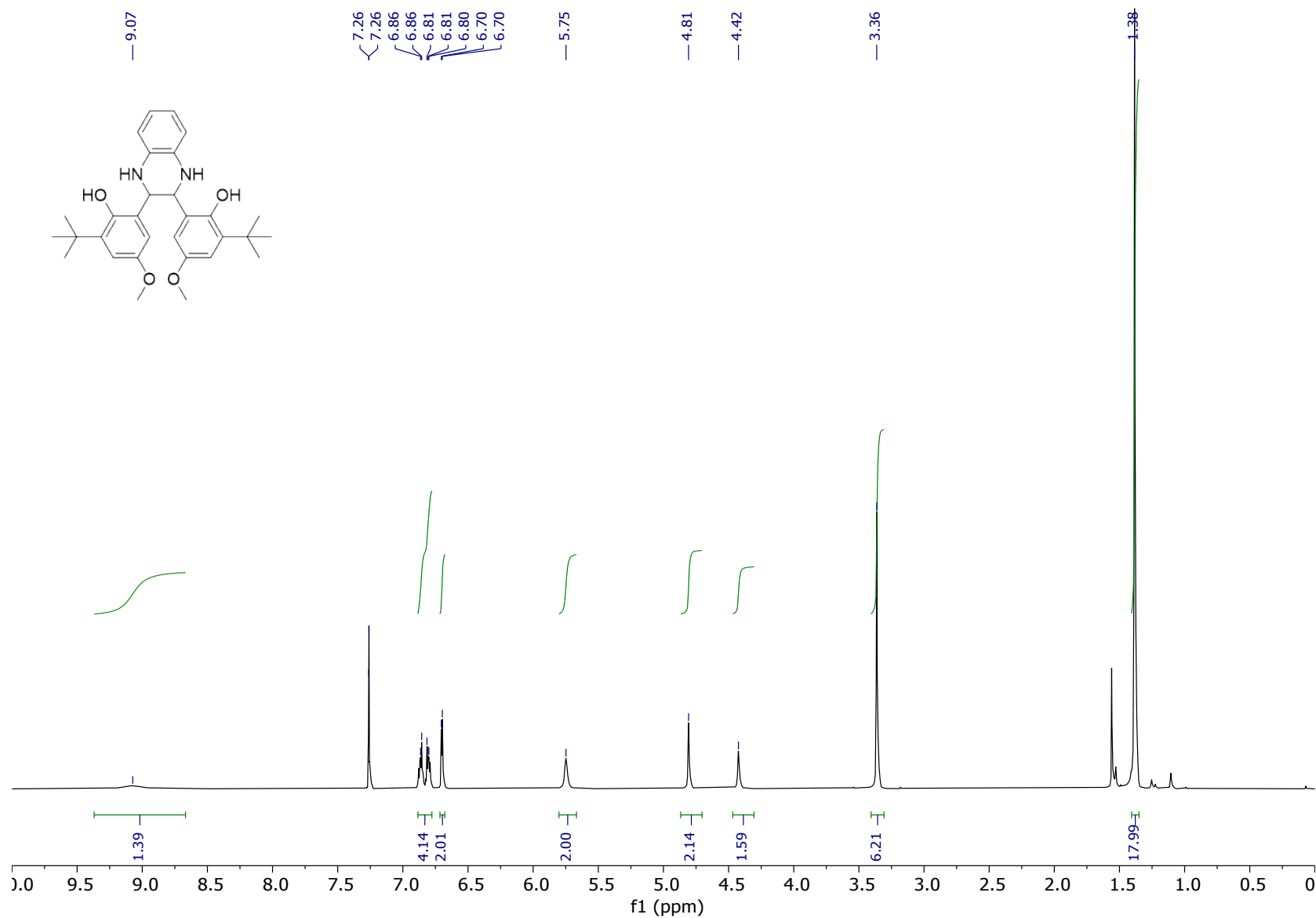


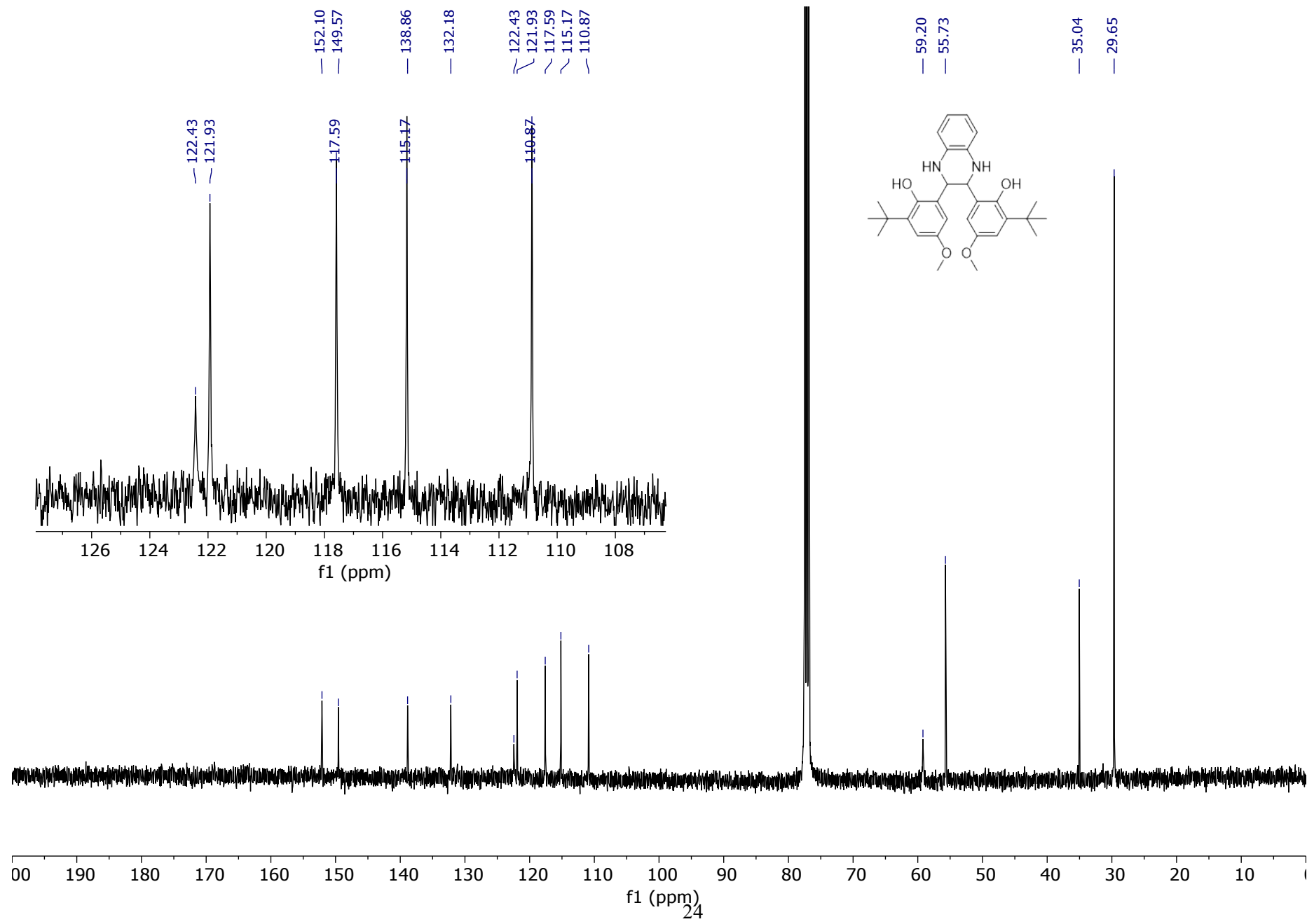


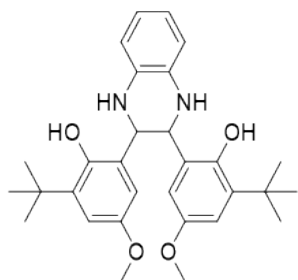


NMR spectra of tetrahydroquinoxalines

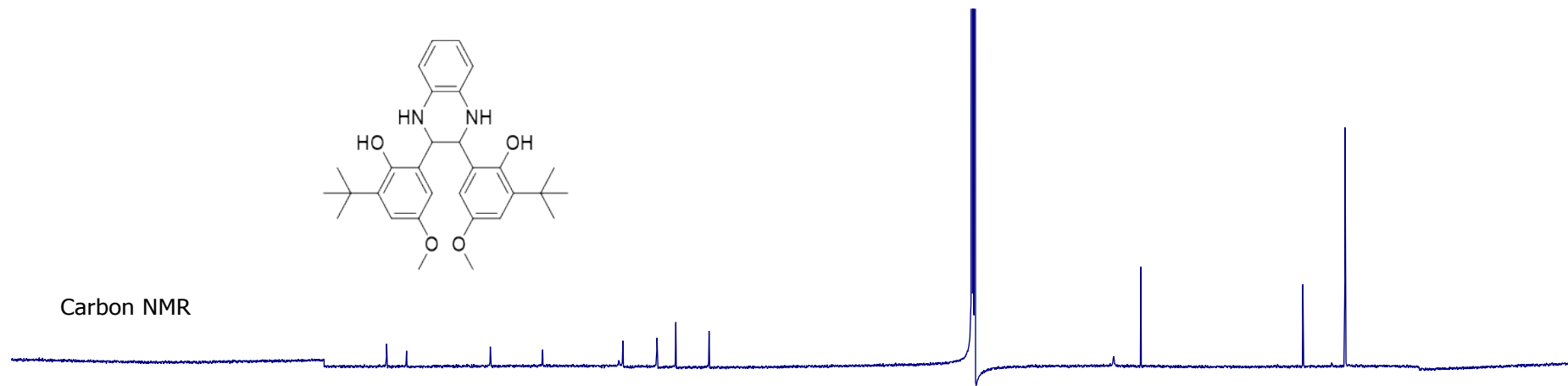
6,6'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(2-(tert-butyl)-4-methoxyphenol) (3a)



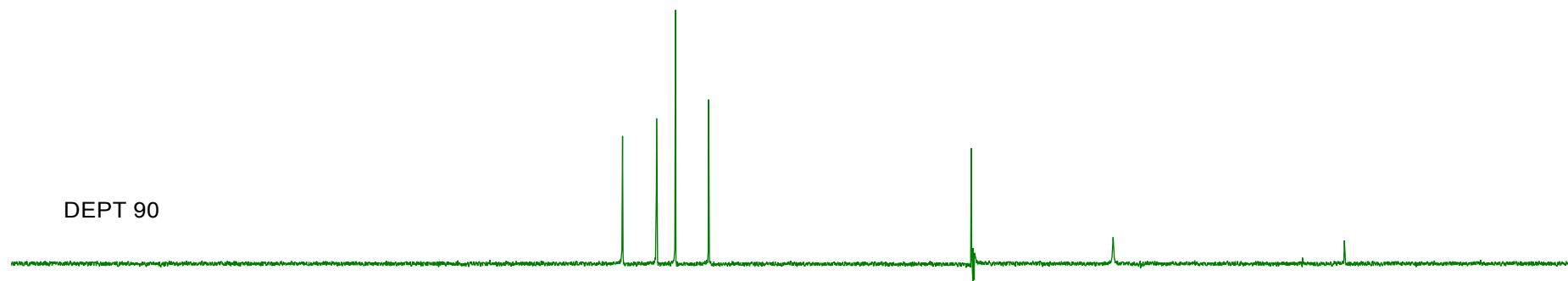




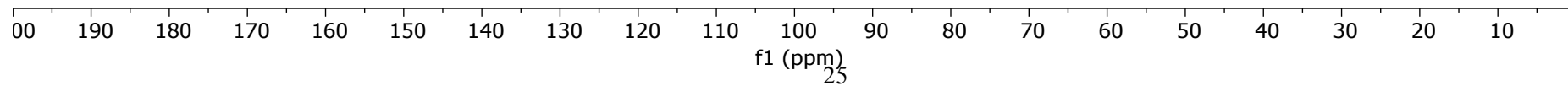
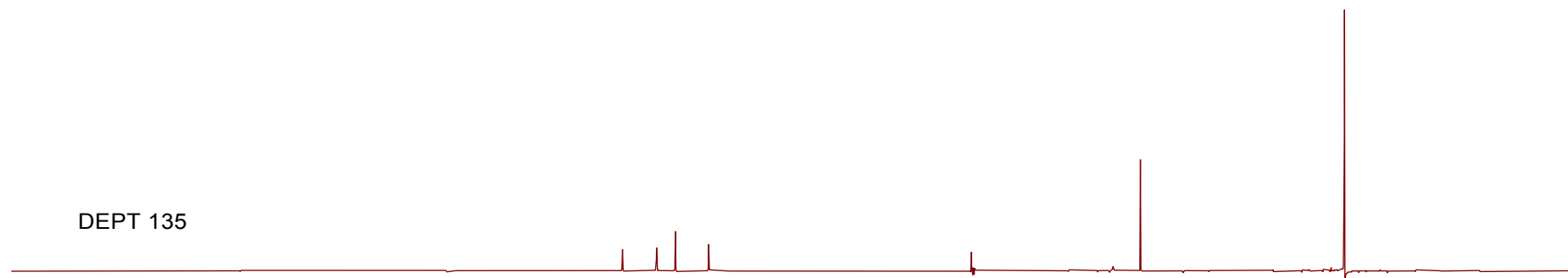
Carbon NMR

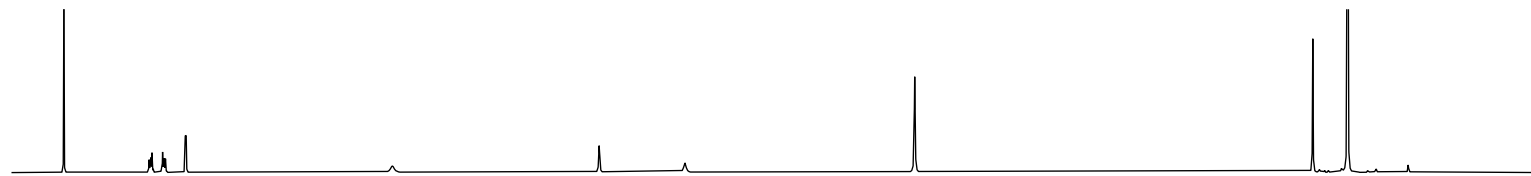


DEPT 90



DEPT 135





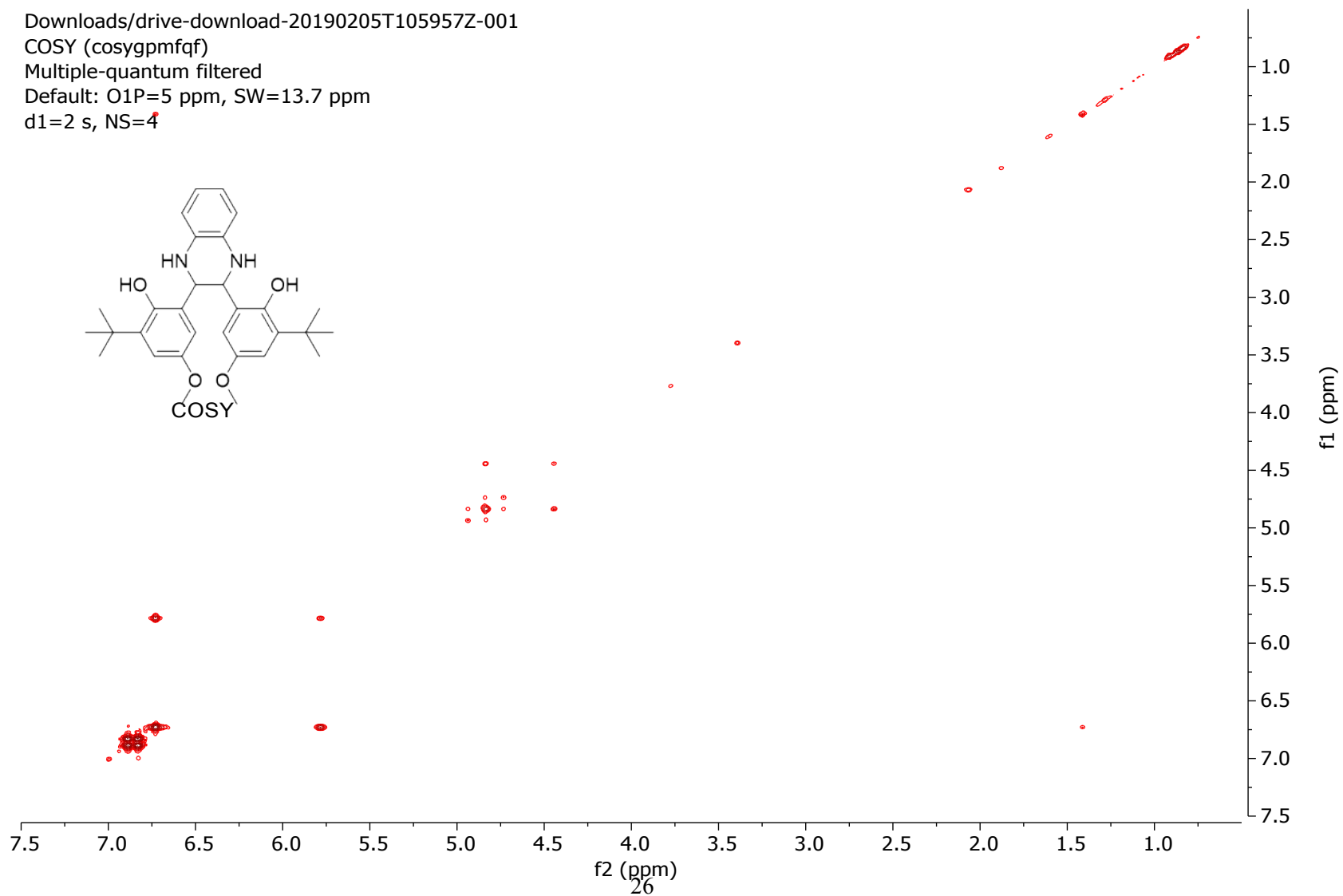
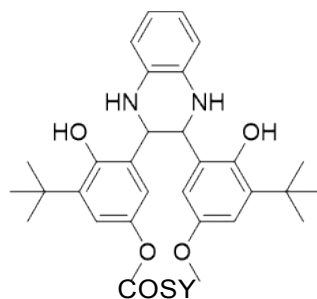
Downloads/drive-download-20190205T105957Z-001

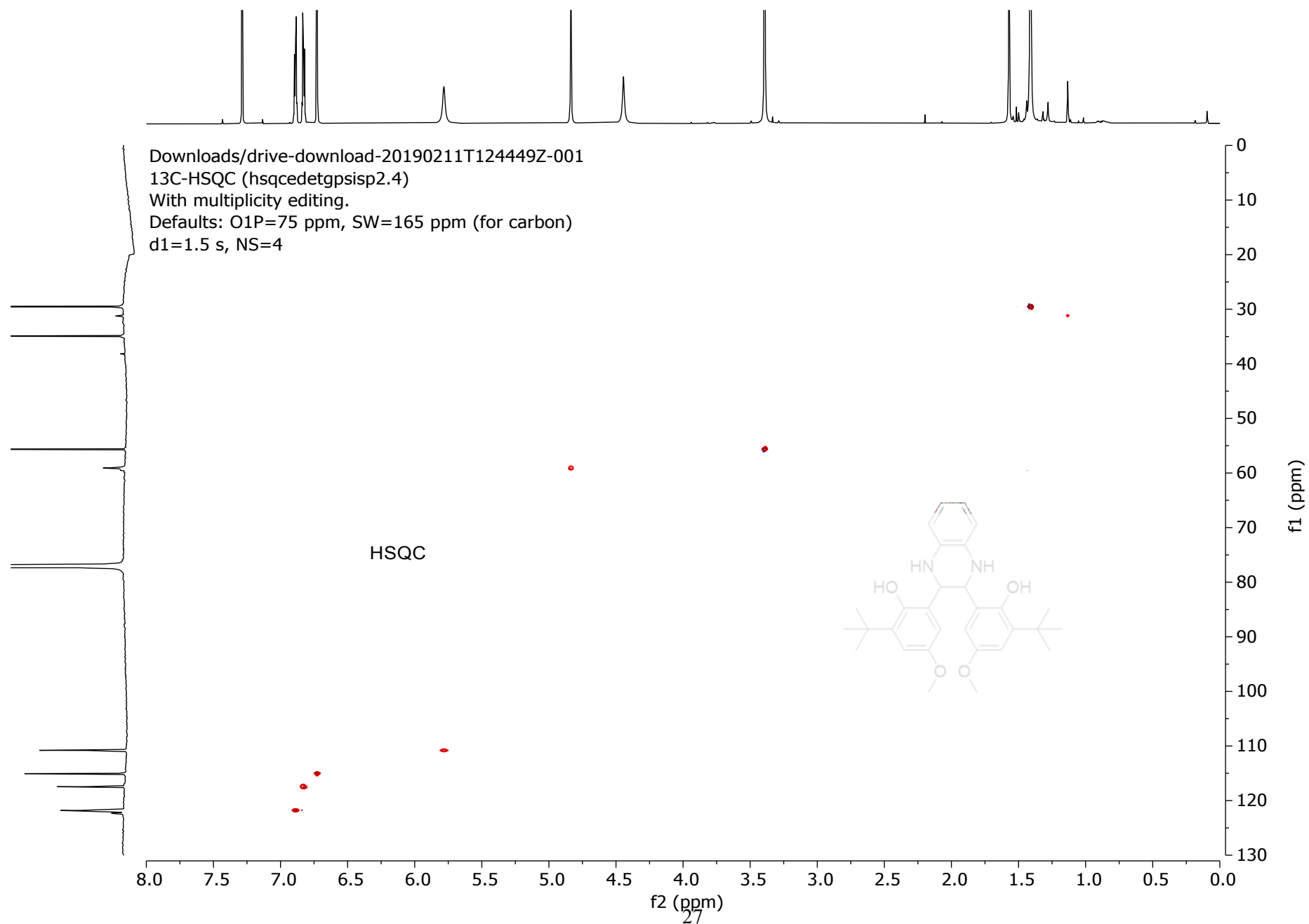
COSY (cosygpmfqf)

Multiple-quantum filtered

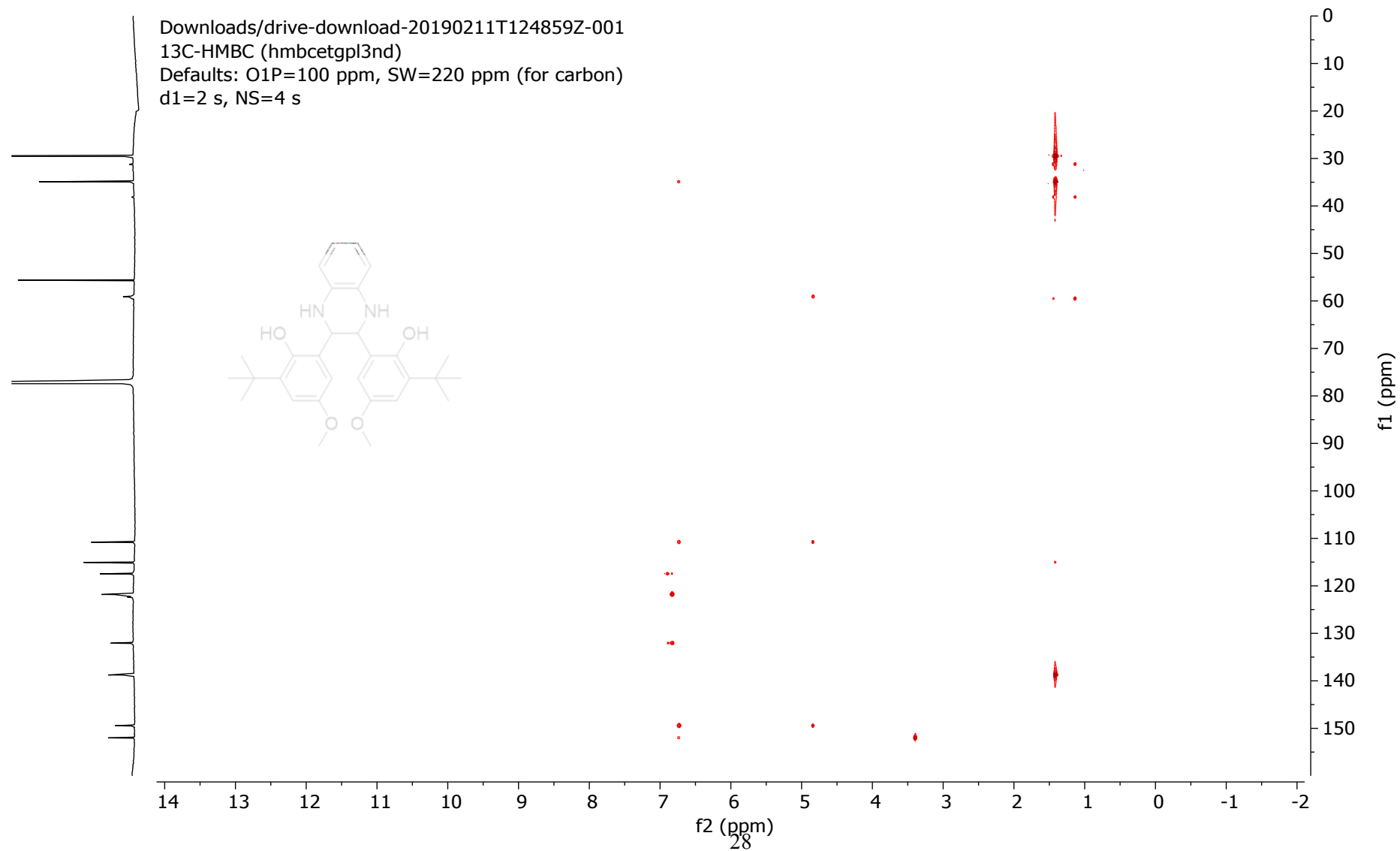
Default: O1P=5 ppm, SW=13.7 ppm

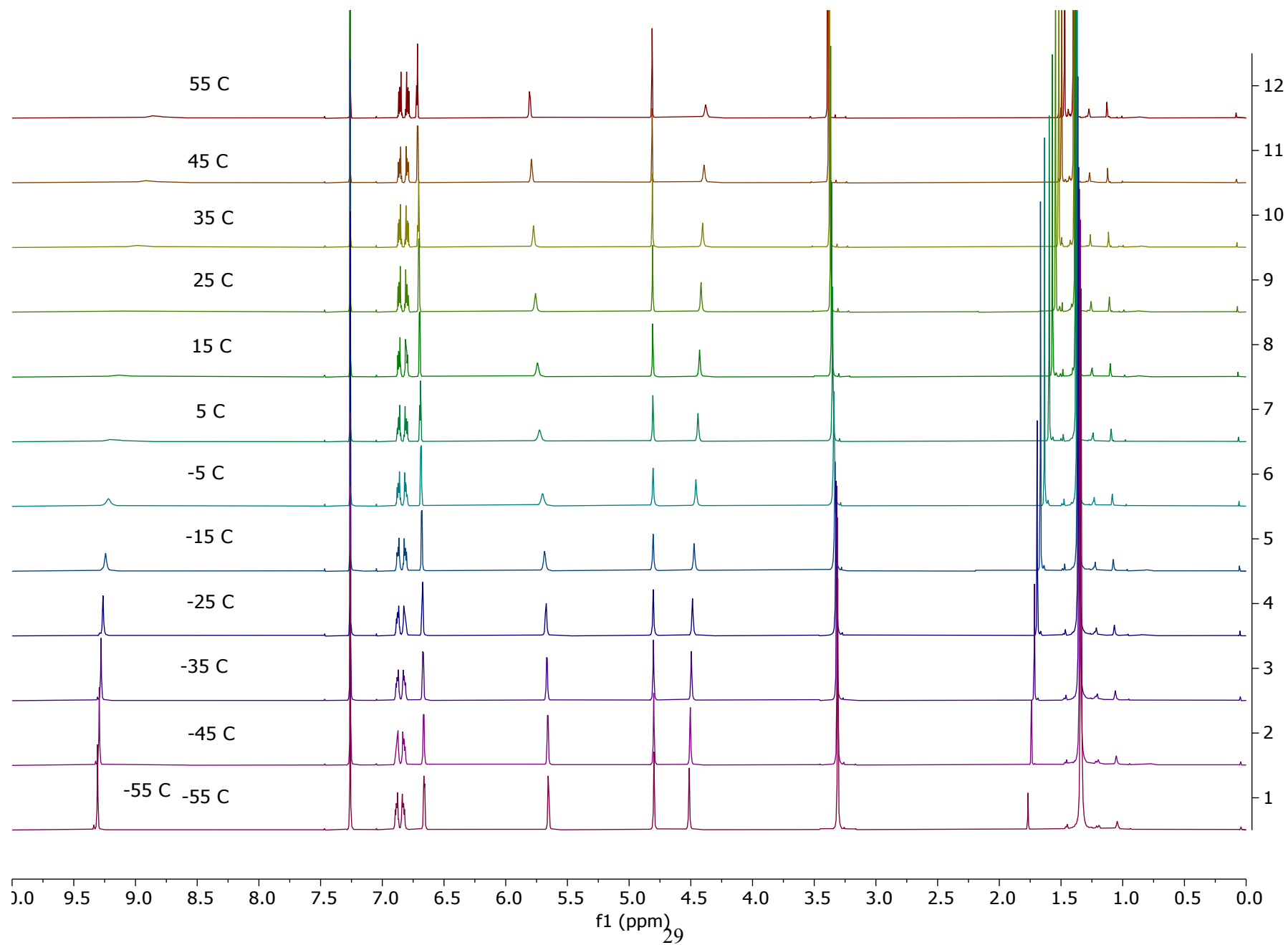
d1=2 s, NS=4



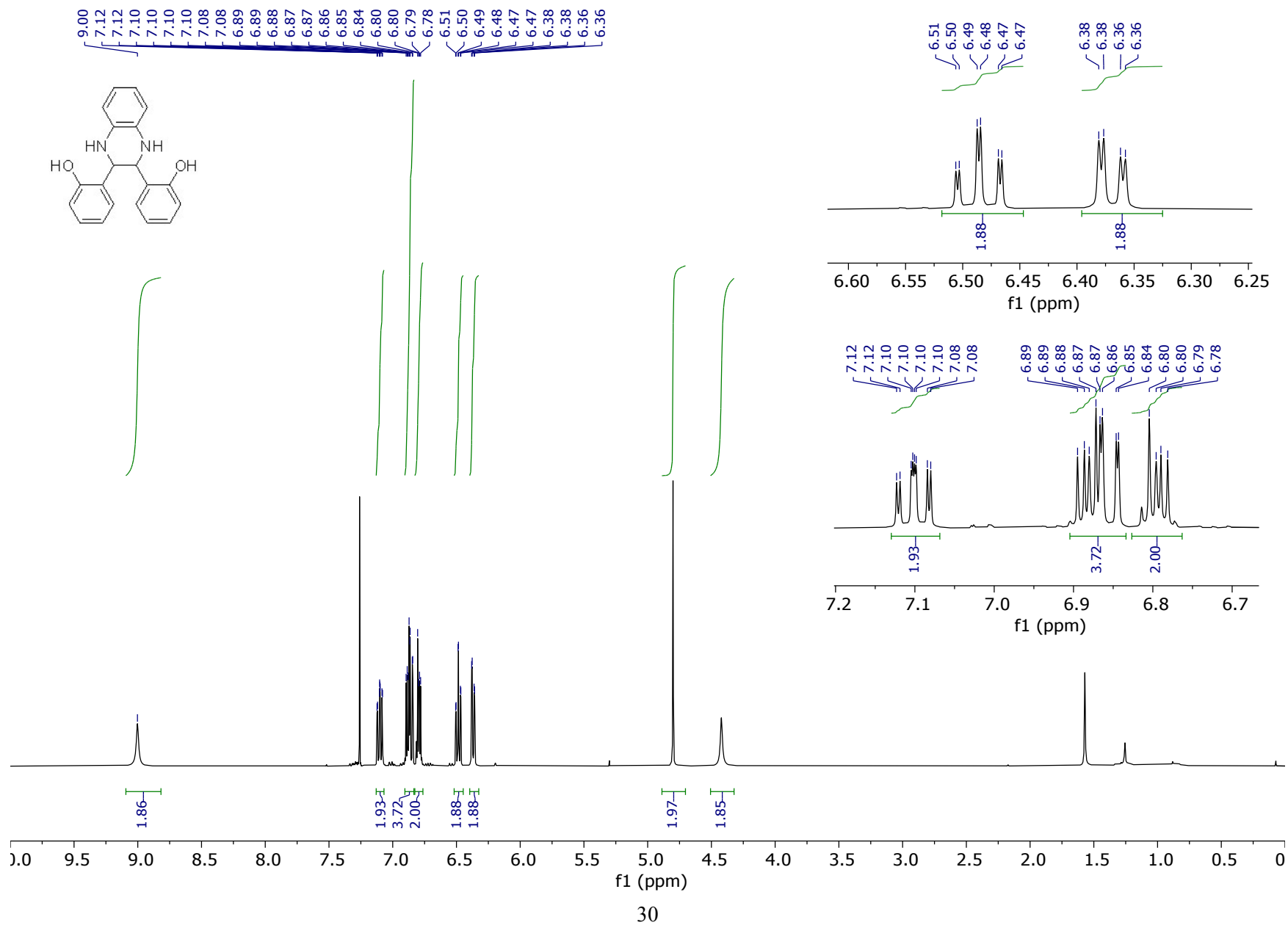


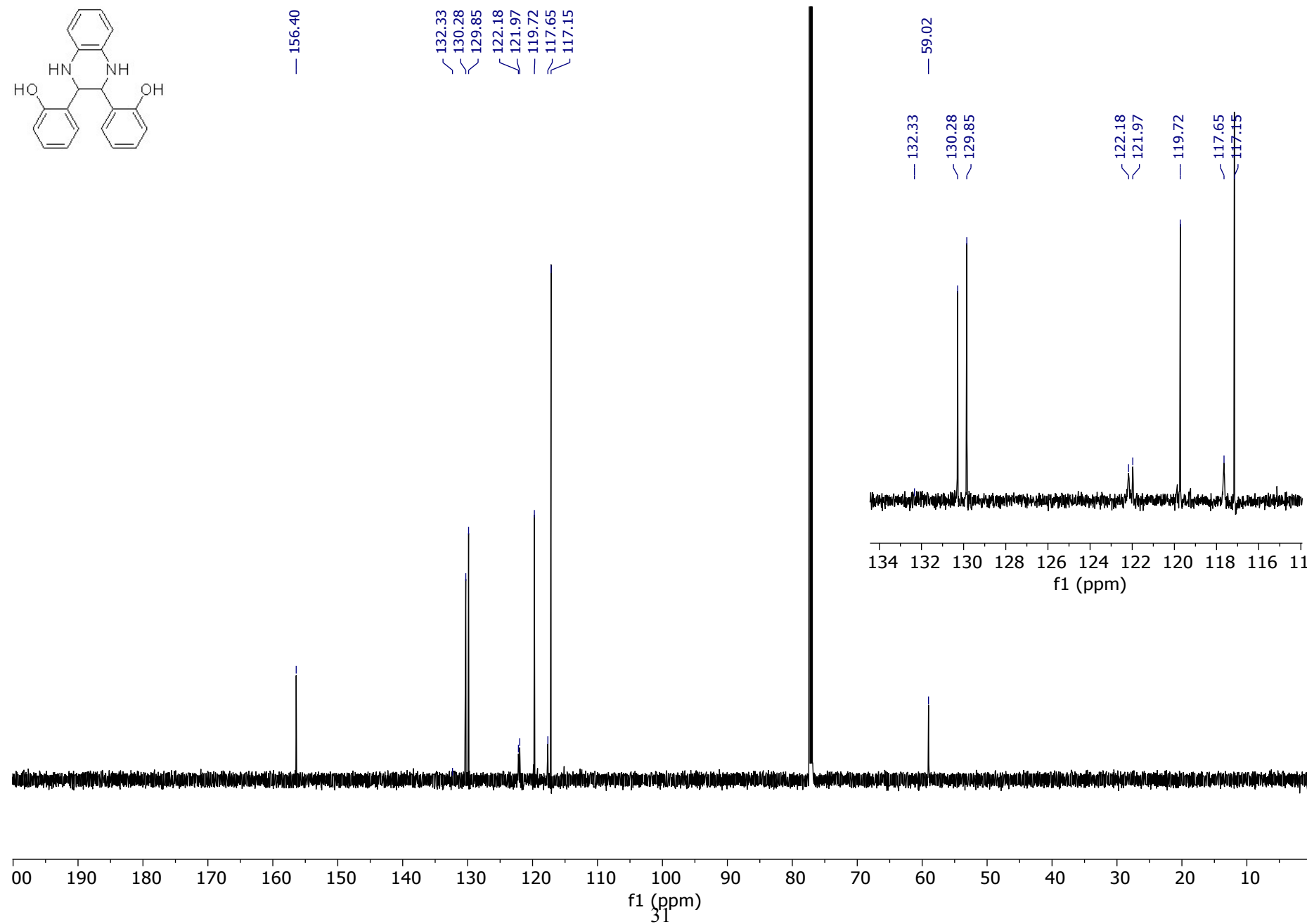
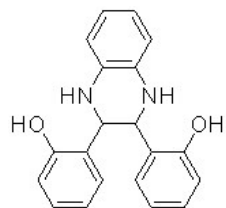
Downloads/drive-download-20190211T124859Z-001
13C-HMBC (hmbcetgpl3nd)
Defaults: O1P=100 ppm, SW=220 ppm (for carbon)
d1=2 s, NS=4 s



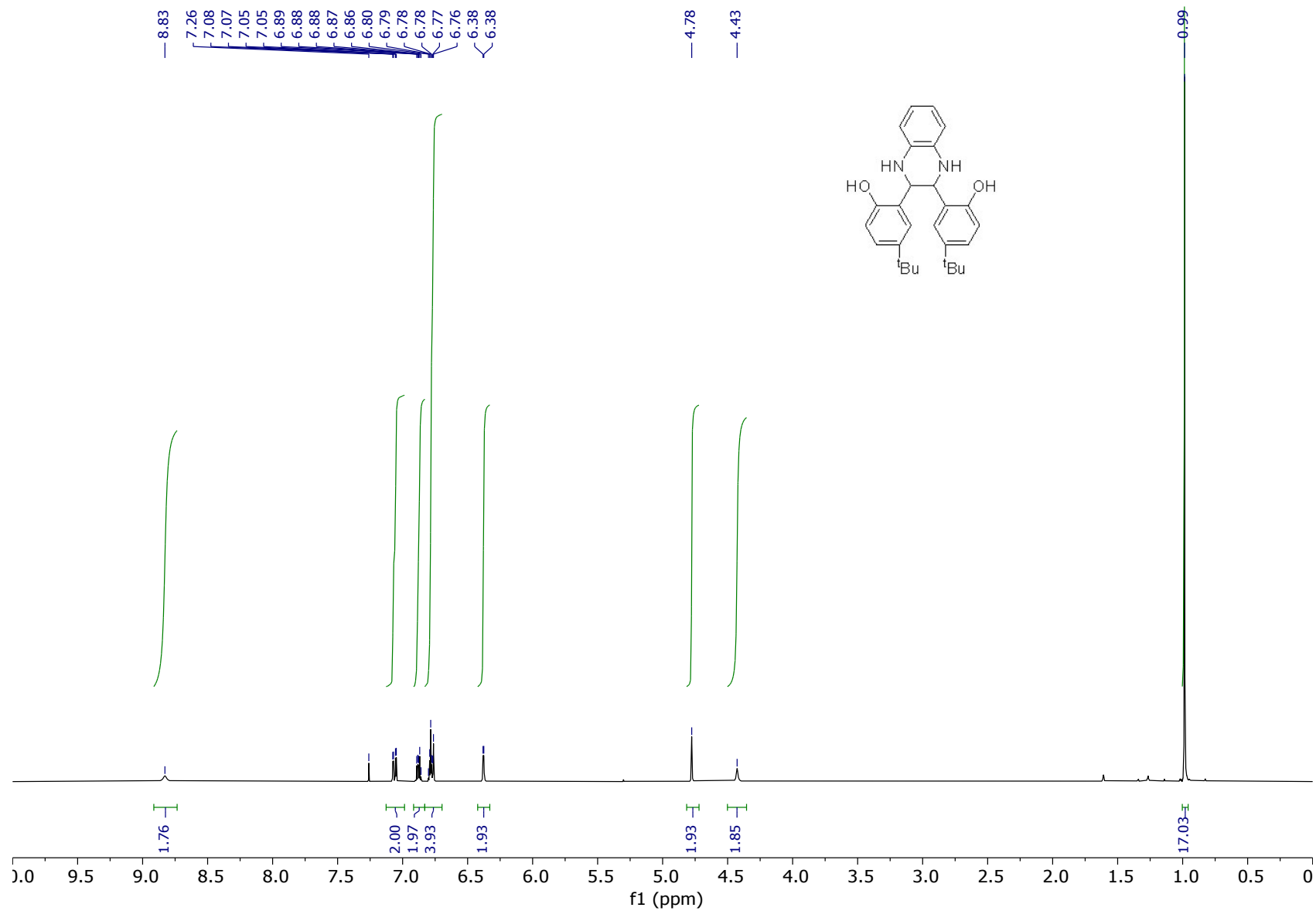


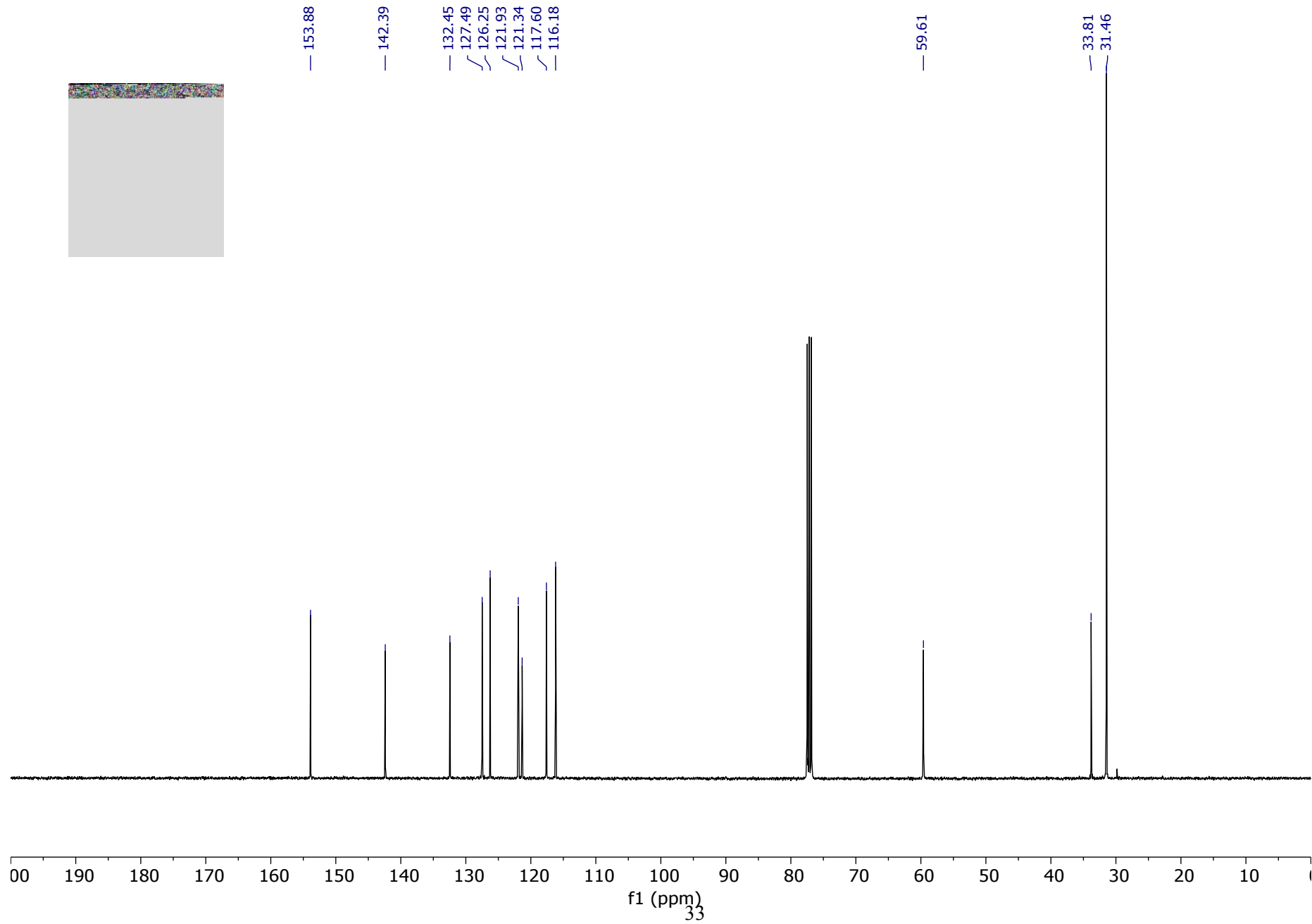
2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)diphenol (3b)



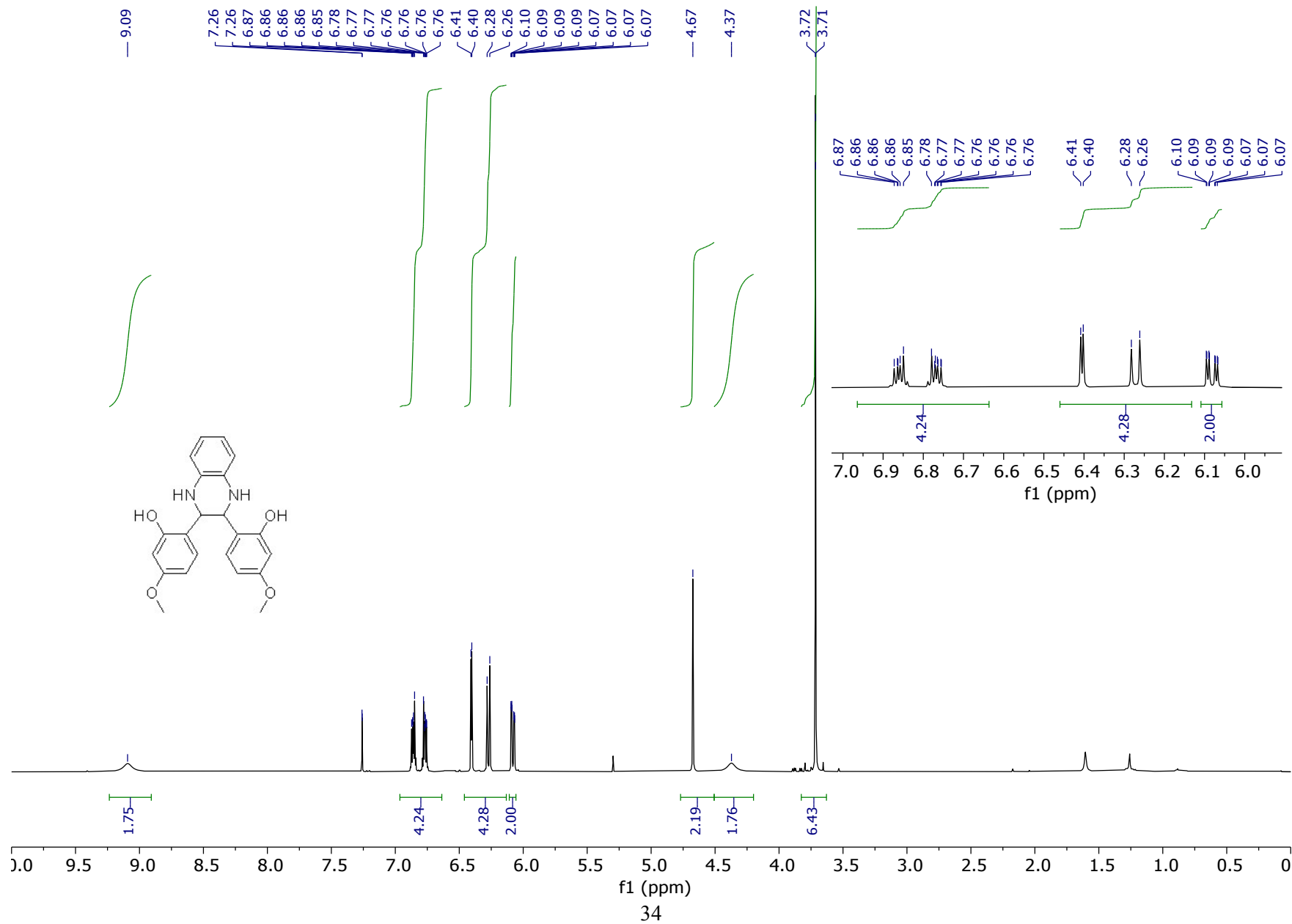


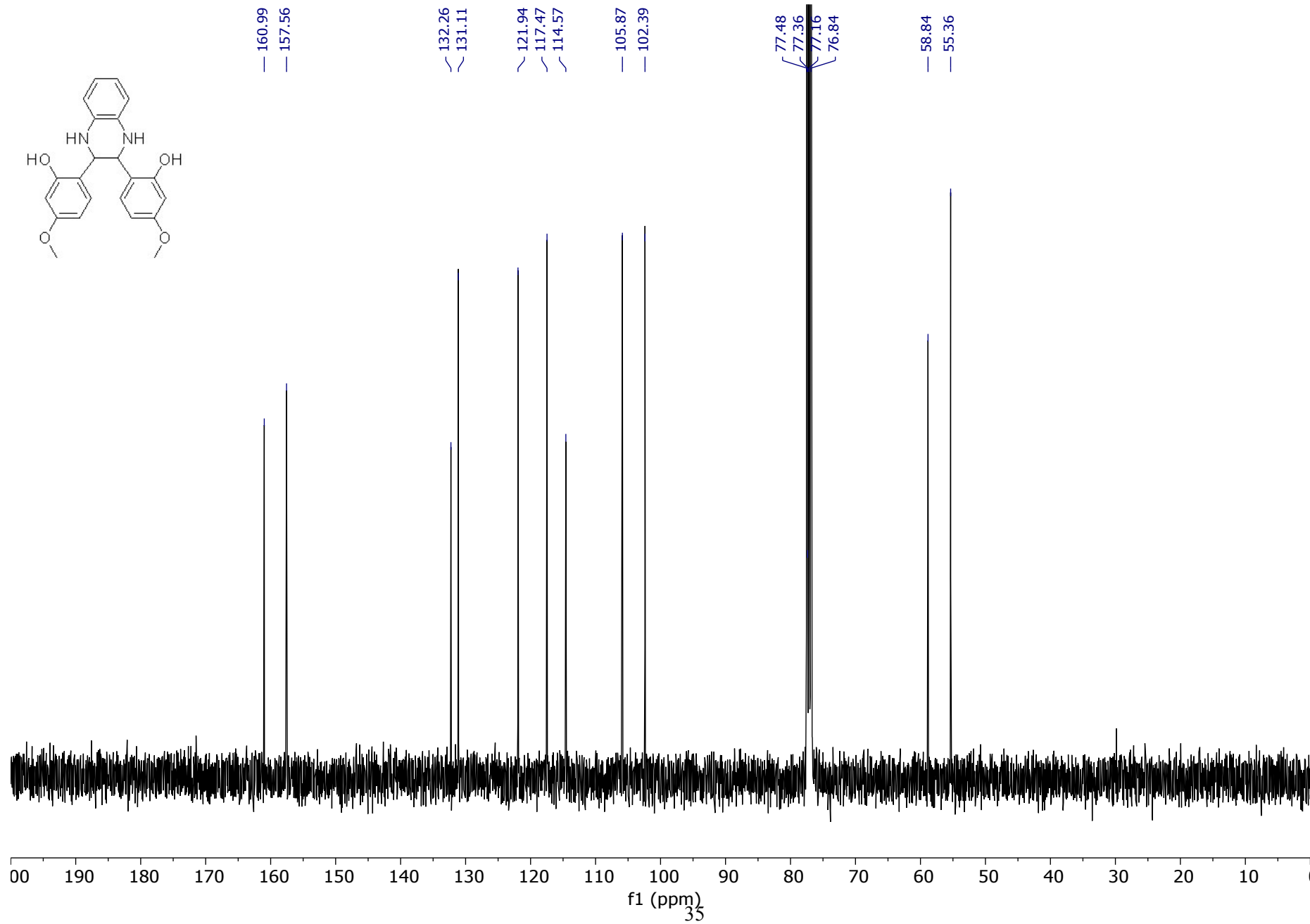
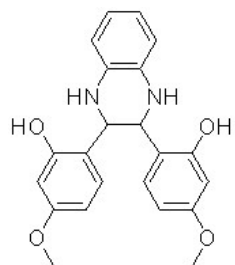
2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenol) (3c)



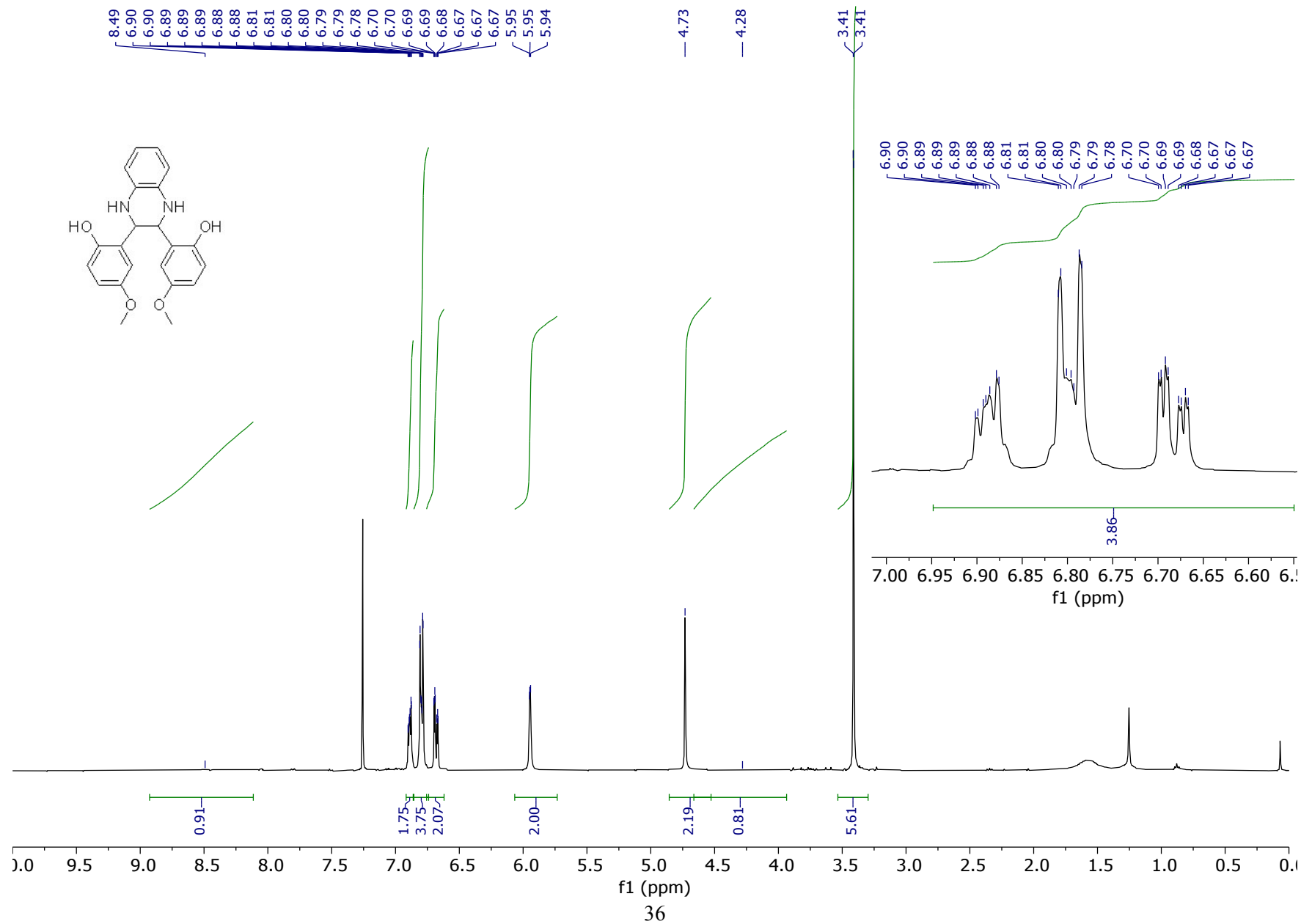


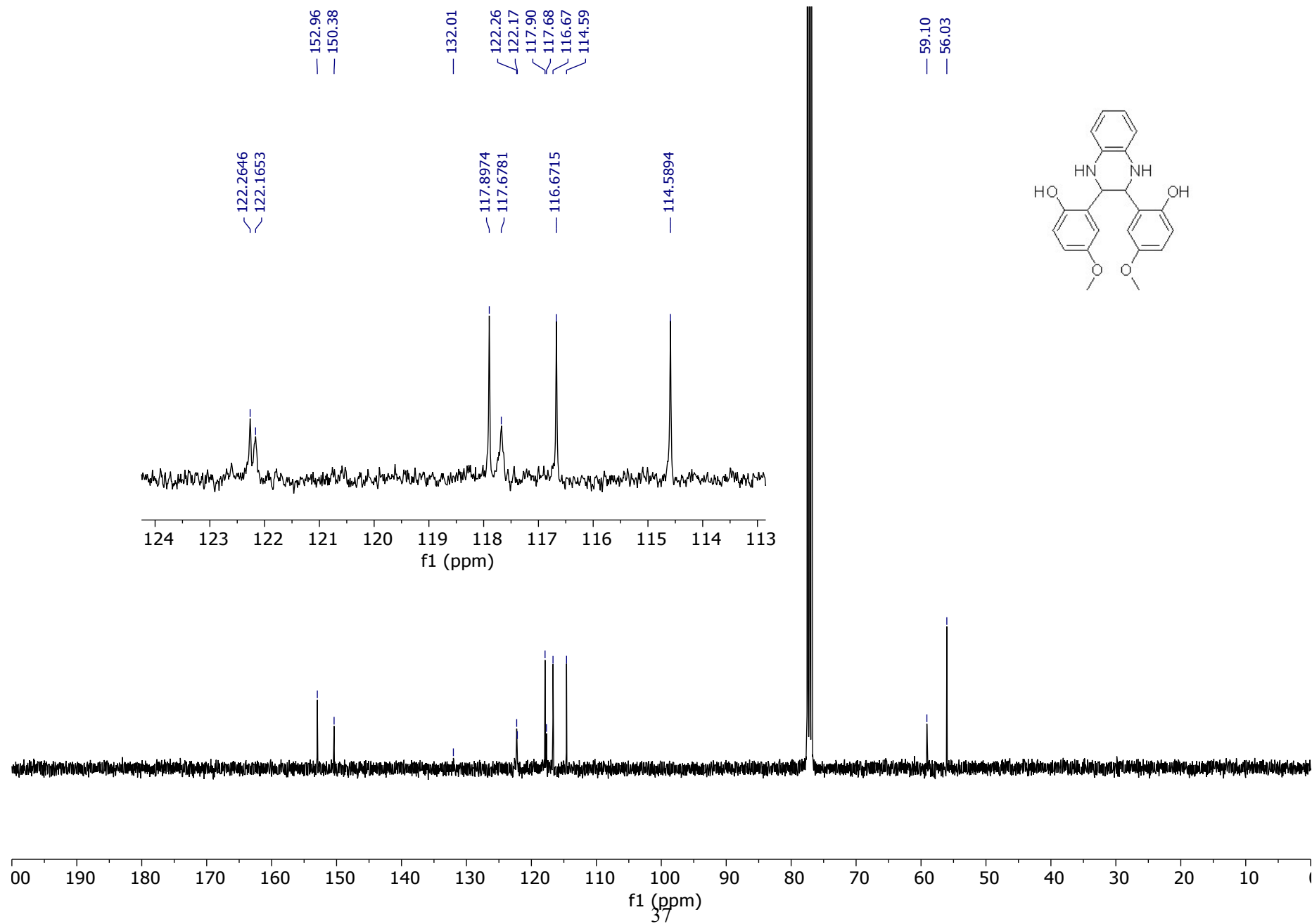
6,6'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3-methoxyphenol) (3d)



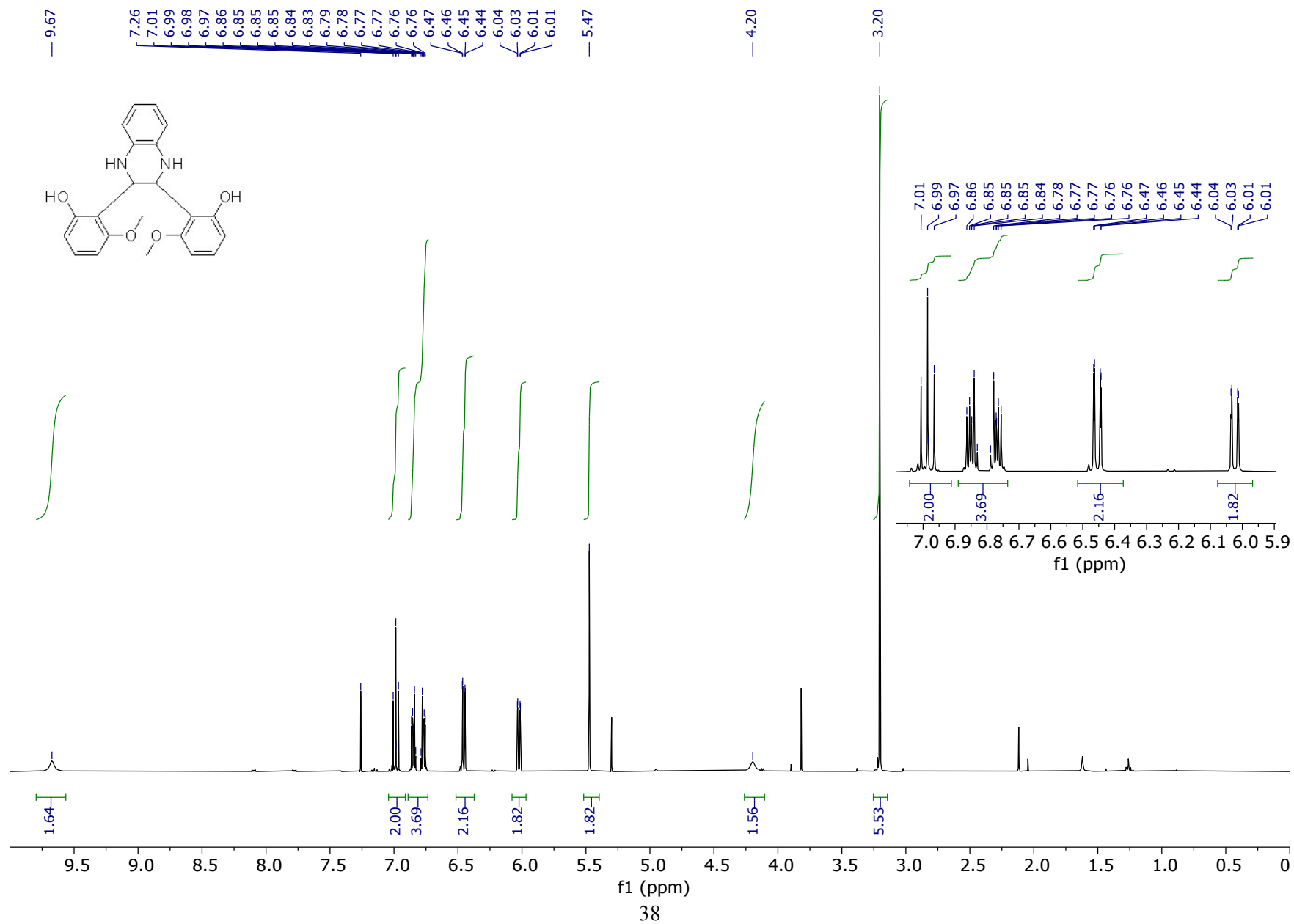


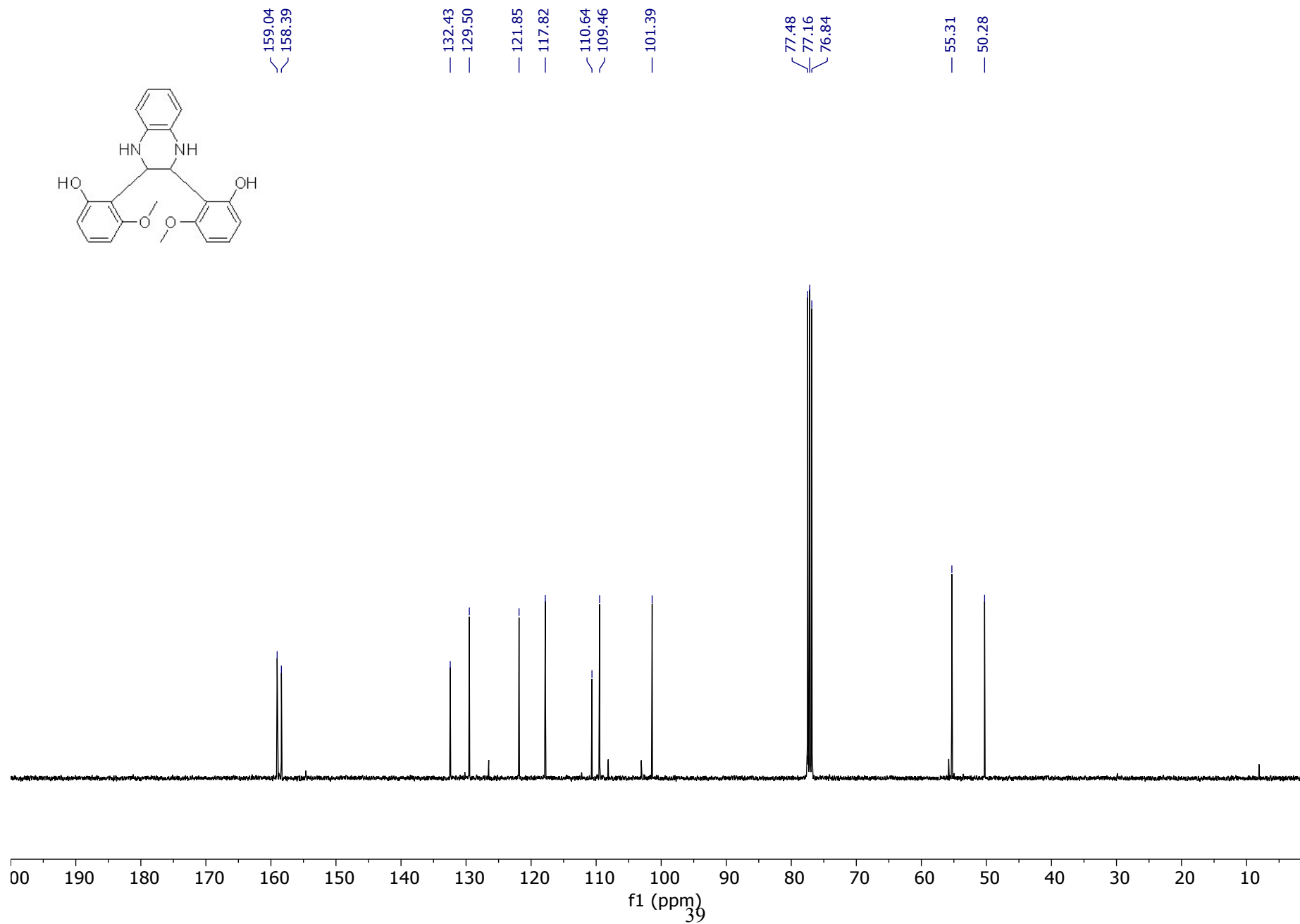
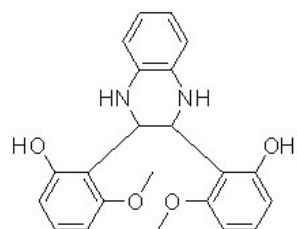
2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-methoxyphenol) (3e)



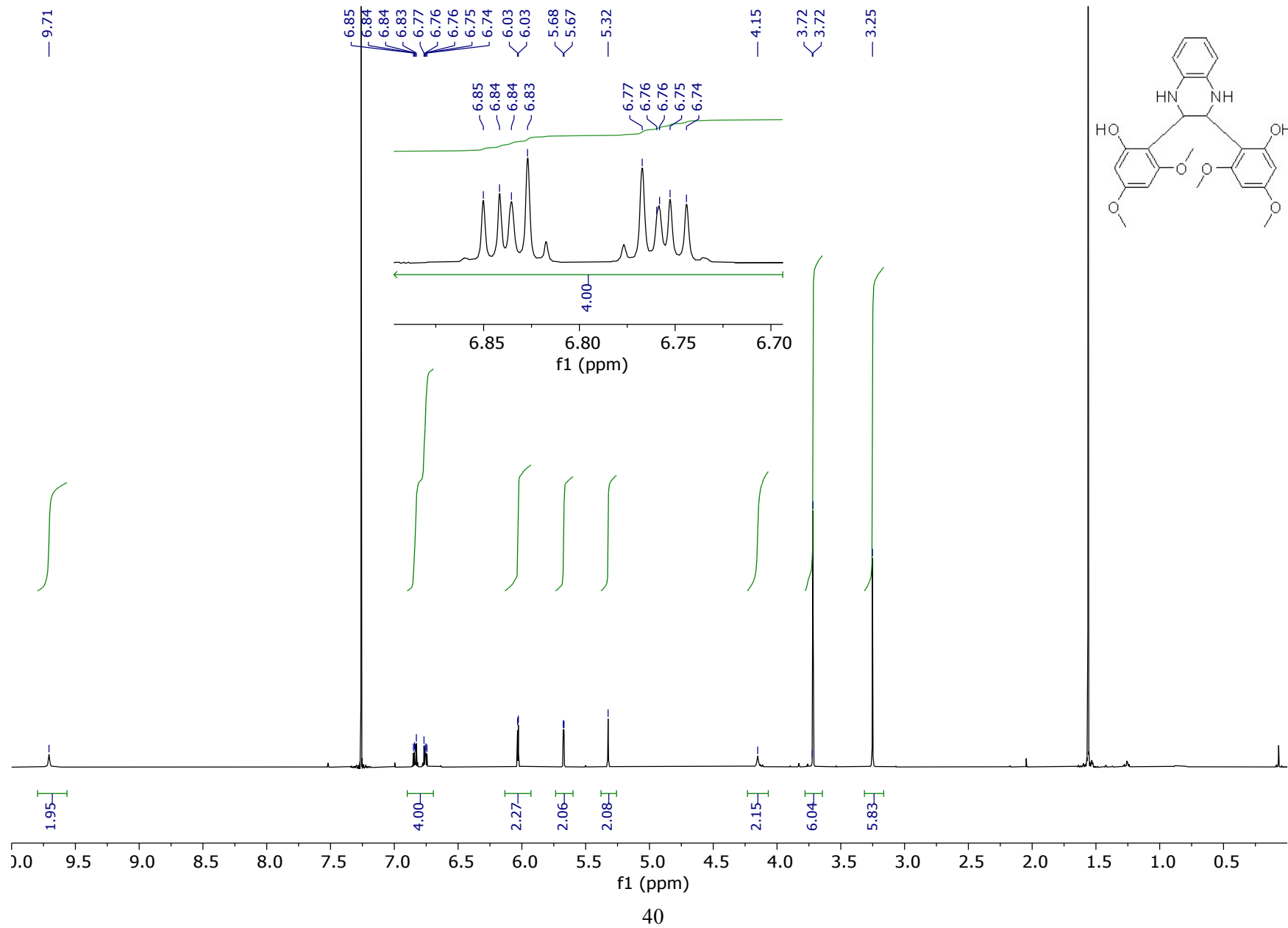


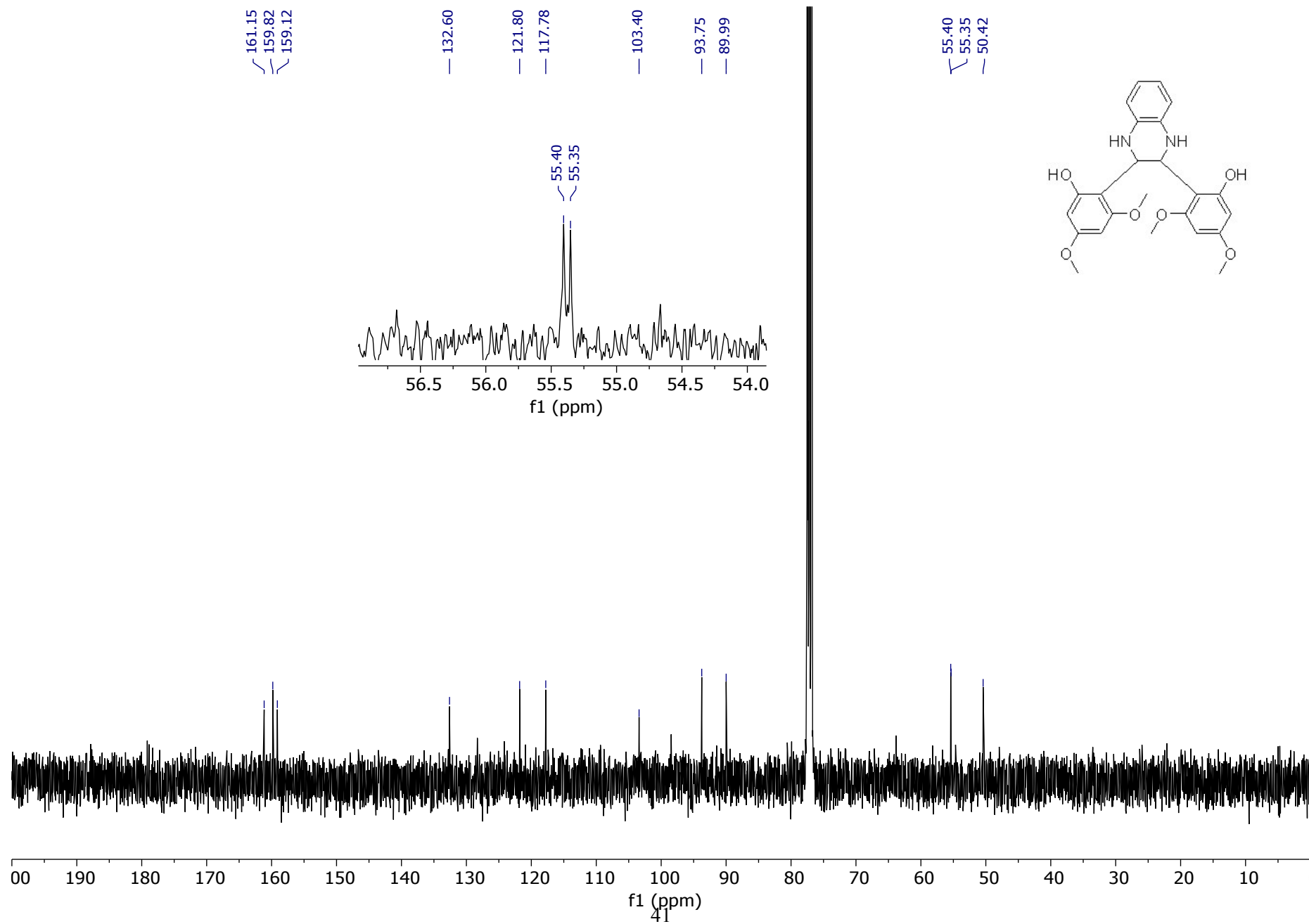
2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3-methoxyphenol) (3f)



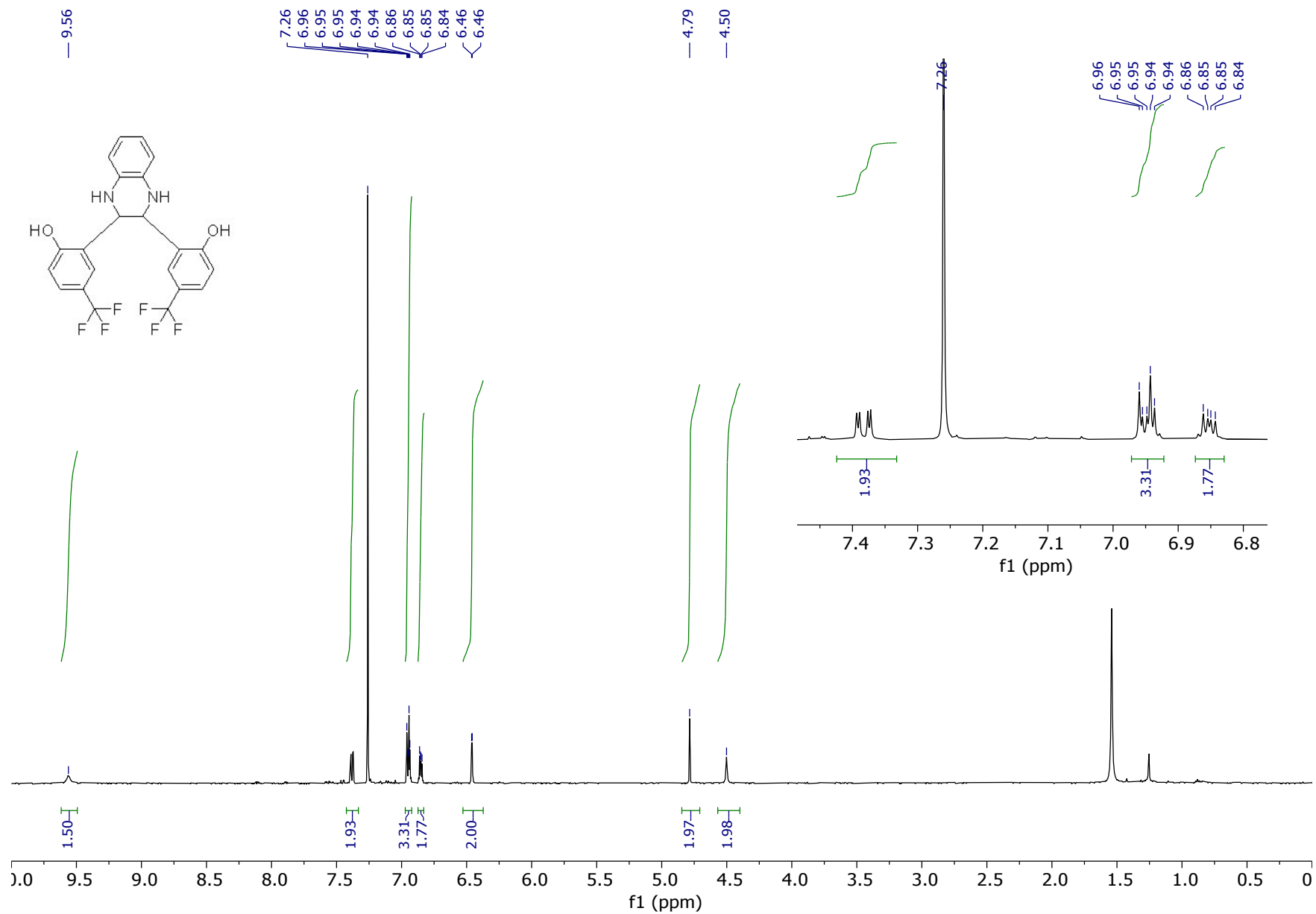


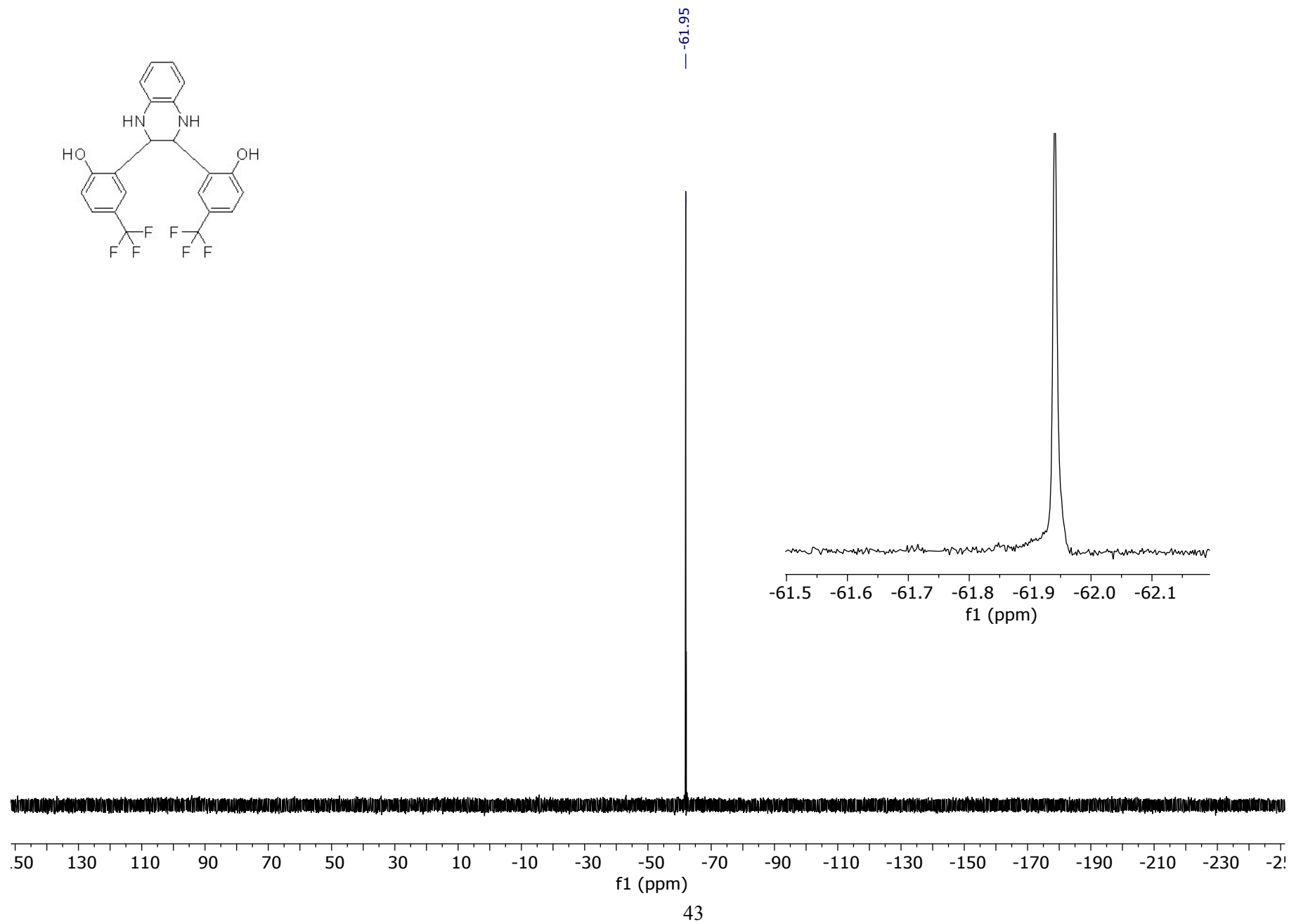
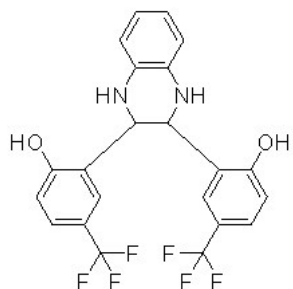
2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3,5-dimethoxyphenol) (3g)

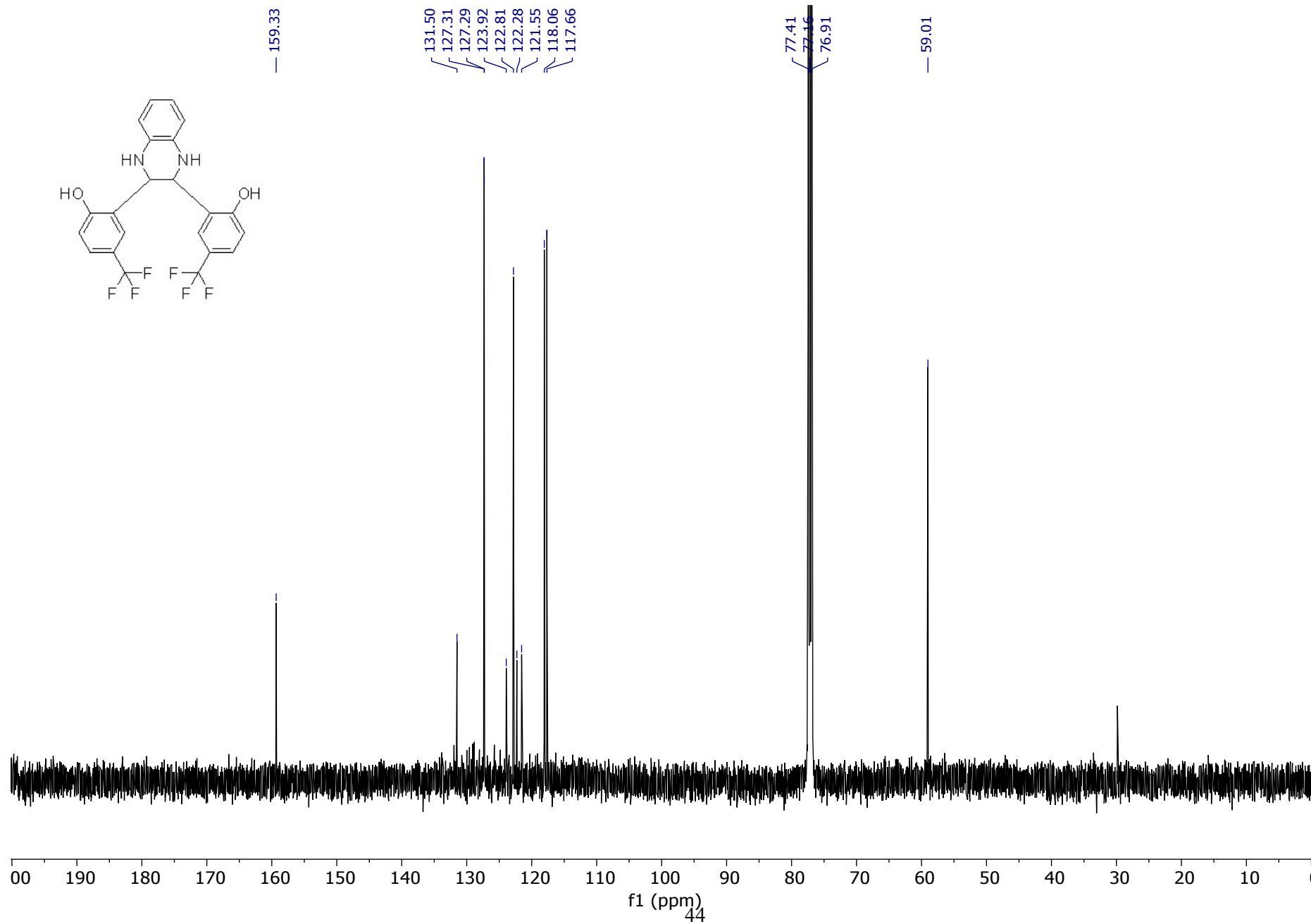
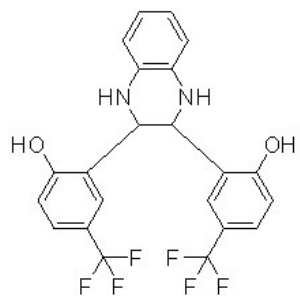


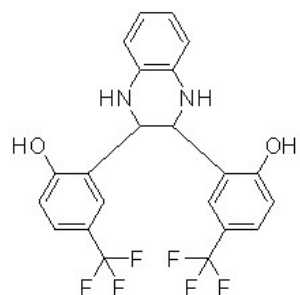


2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenol) (3h)







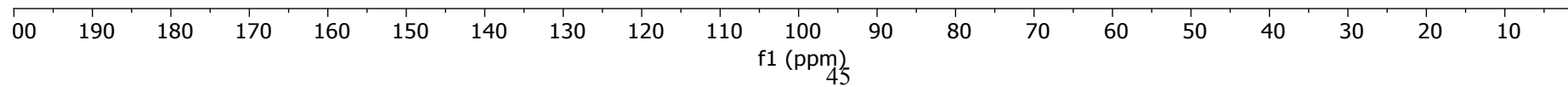


127.25
122.76
118.01
117.60

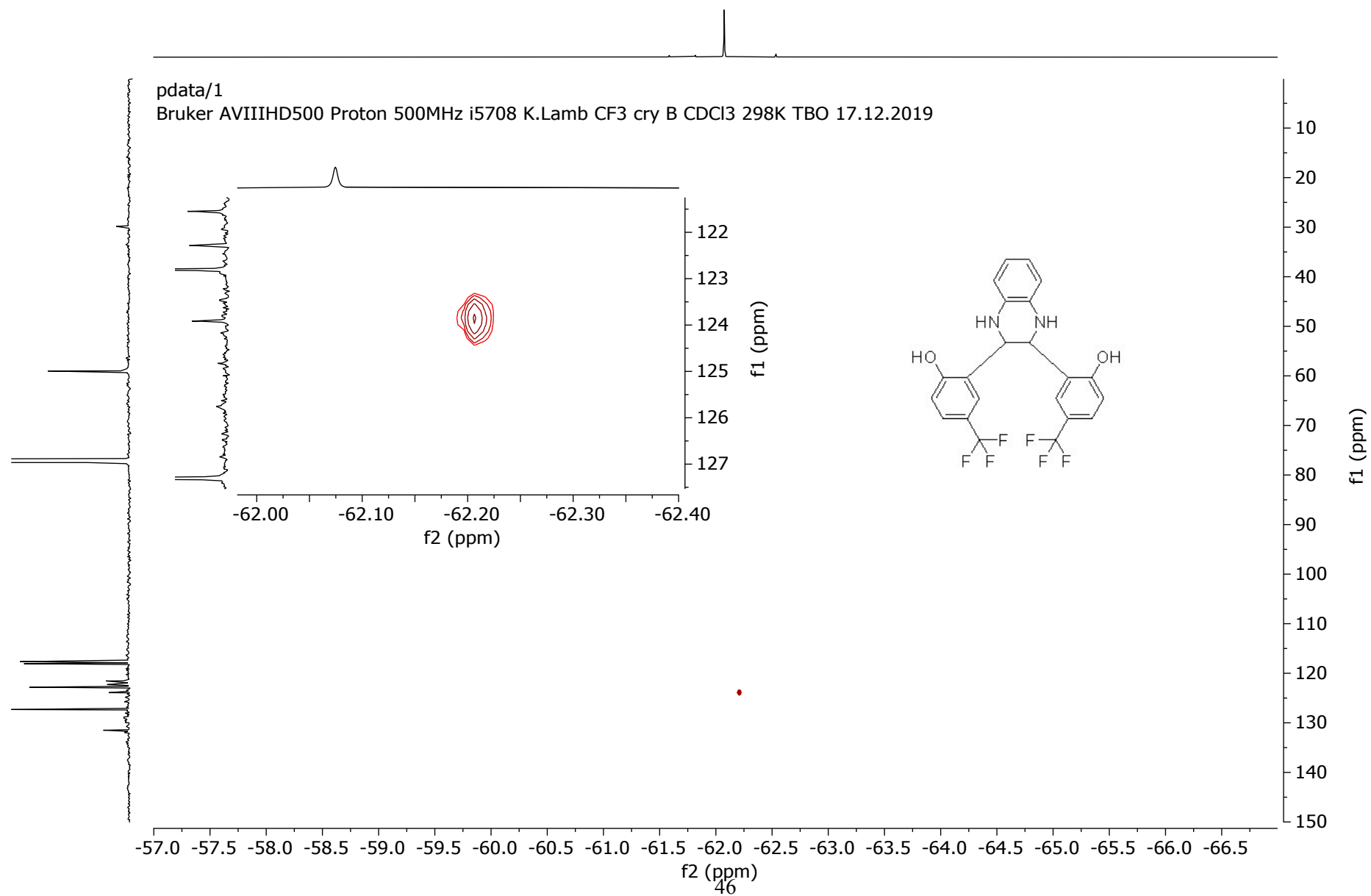
77.31

58.97

DEPT-45

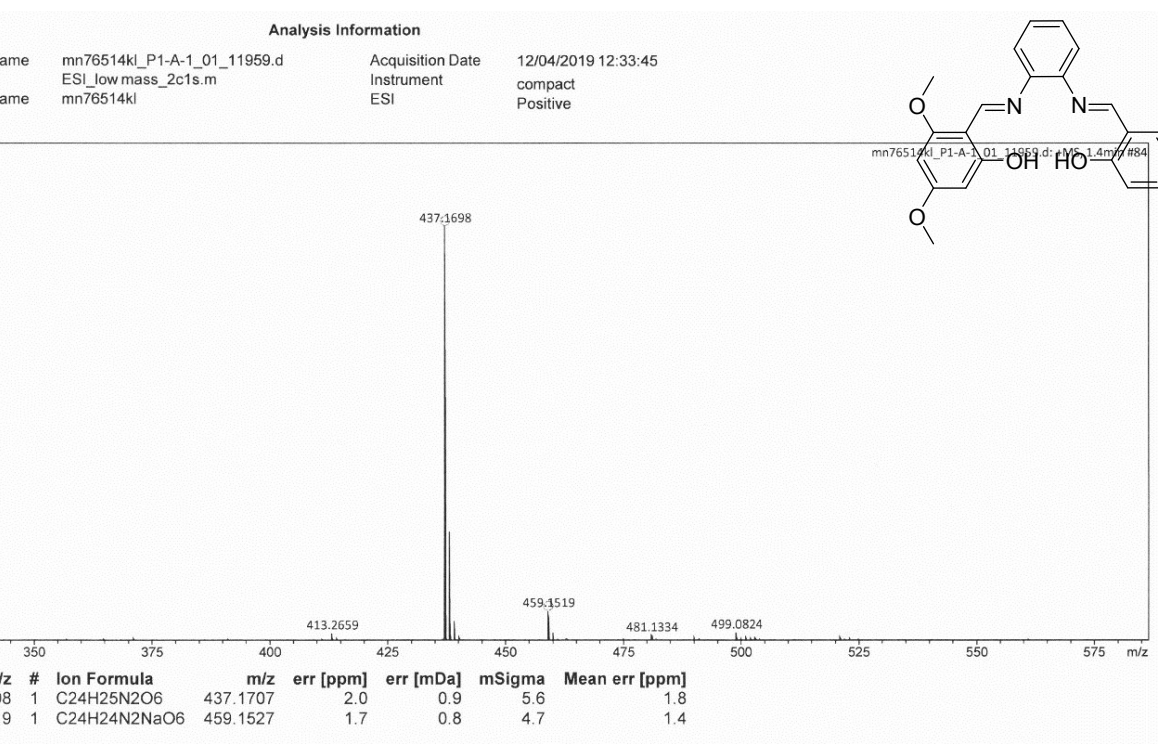


One Bond 13C-19F correlation

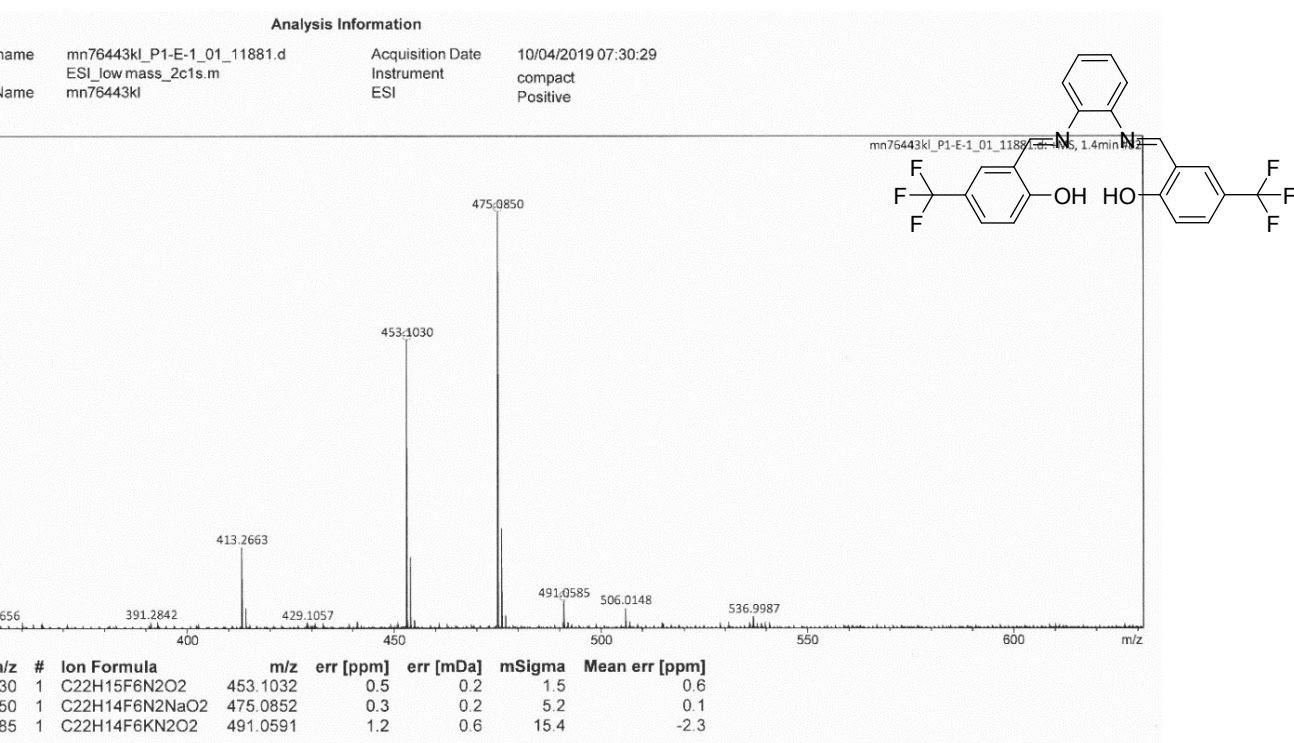


Mass spectra of salophen ligands

2,2'-((1E,1'E)-(1,2-phenylenebis(azanylylidene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(3,5-dimethoxyphenol) (1g)



N,N'-Bis(2-hydroxy-5-trifluoromethyl)-1,2-phenylenediamine (1h)



Mass spectra of tetrahydroquinoxalines

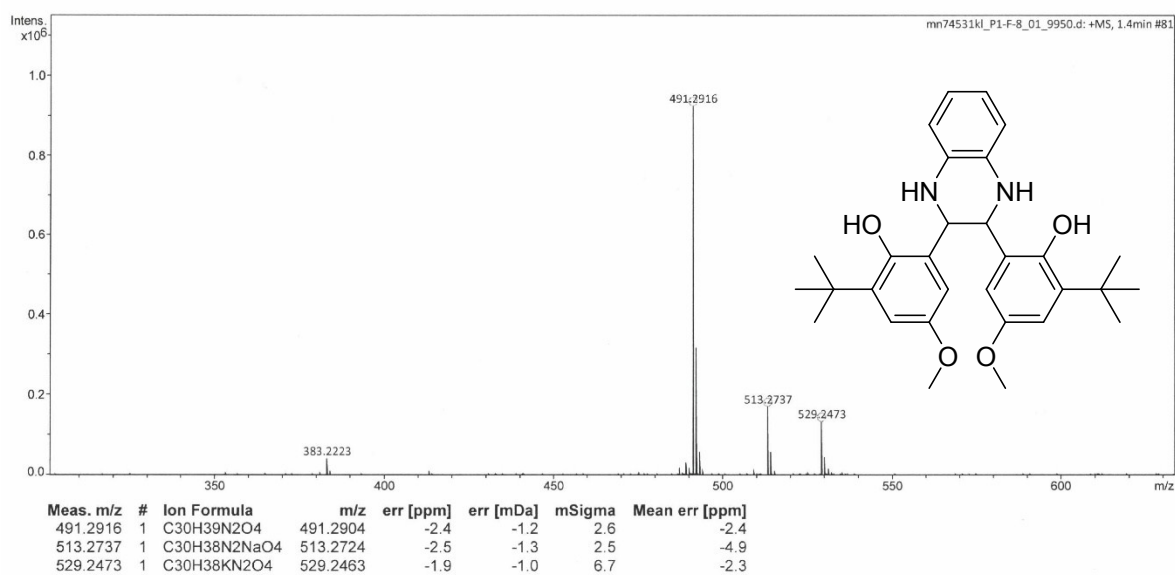
6,6'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(2-(*tert*-butyl)-4-methoxyphenol) (3a)

Purified product

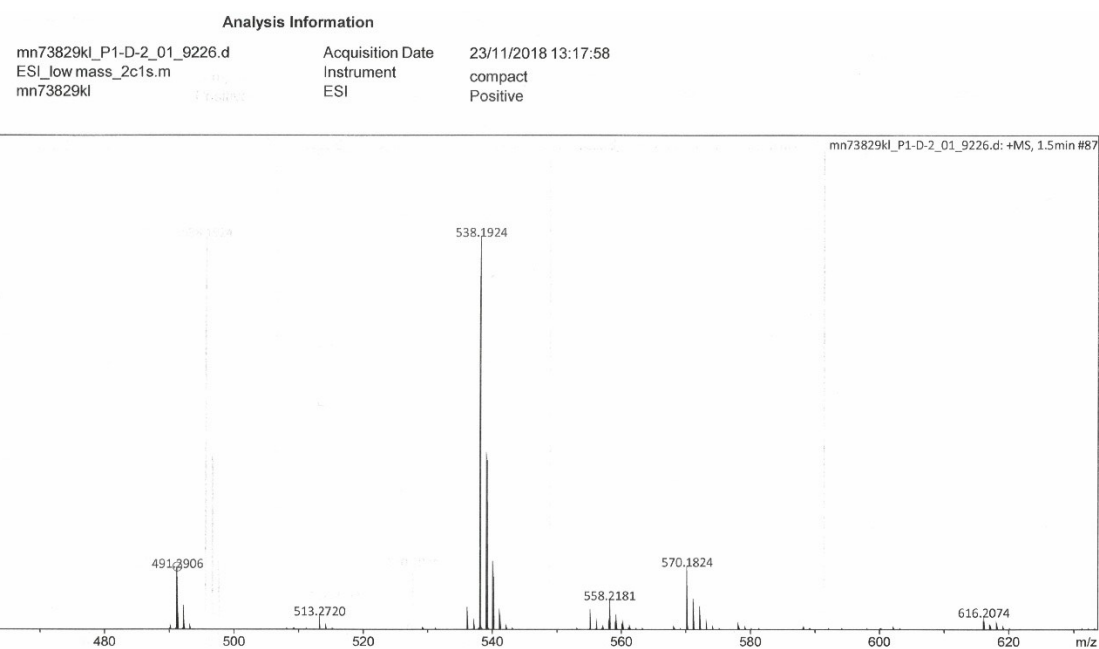
Analysis Information

Analysis Filename: mn74531kl_P1-F-8_01_9950.d
 Method: ESI_low mass_2c1s.m
 Submission Name: mn74531kl

Acquisition Date: 15/01/2019 13:58:56
 Instrument: compact
 ESI: Positive



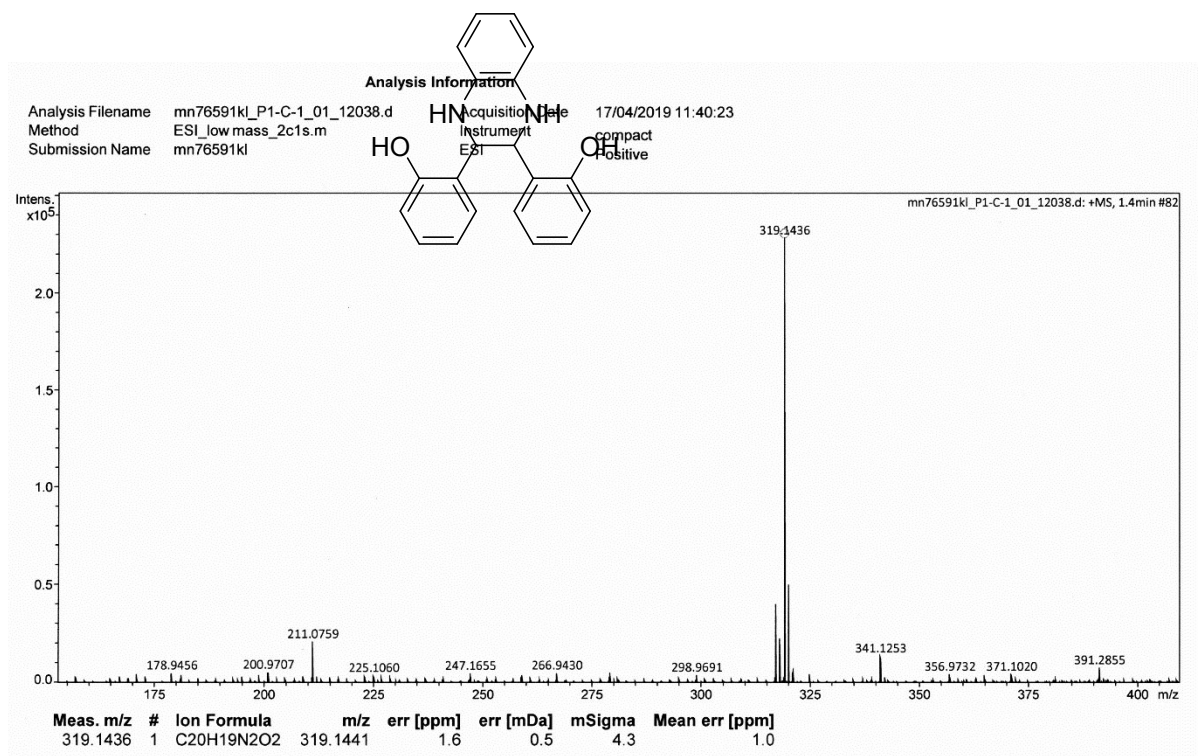
Unpurified reaction mixture



491.2906 corresponds to $[3a+H]^+$ (1 ppm error between the measured mass and the theoretical mass of 491.2904).

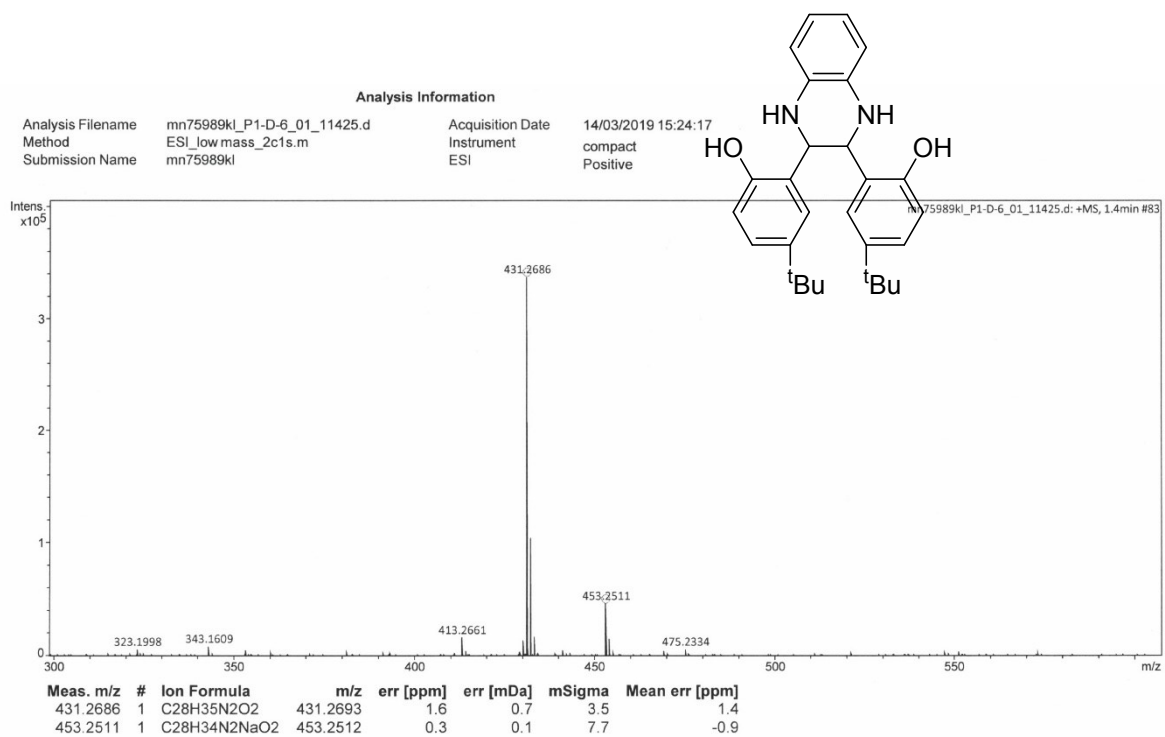
538.1924 corresponds to $[2a-Cl]^+$ (3 ppm error between the measured mass and the theoretical mass of 538.1918).

2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)diphenol (3b)



2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenol) (3c)

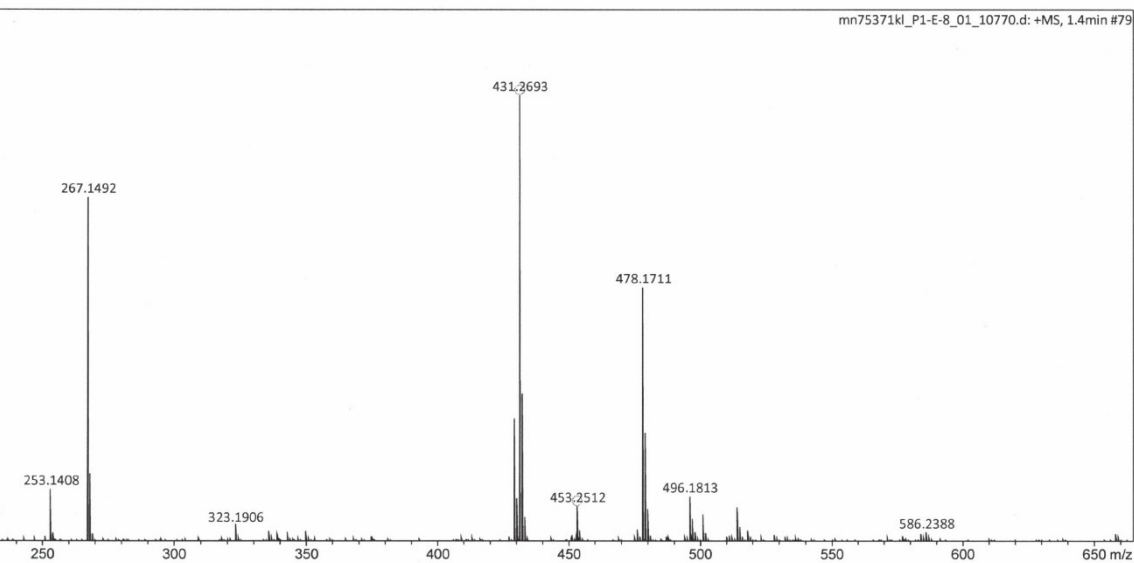
Purified product



Unpurified reaction mixture

Analysis Information

mn75371kl_P1-E-8_01_10770.d	Acquisition Date	21/02/2019 07:26:18
ESI_low mass_2c1s.m	Instrument	compact
mn75371kl	ESI	Positive

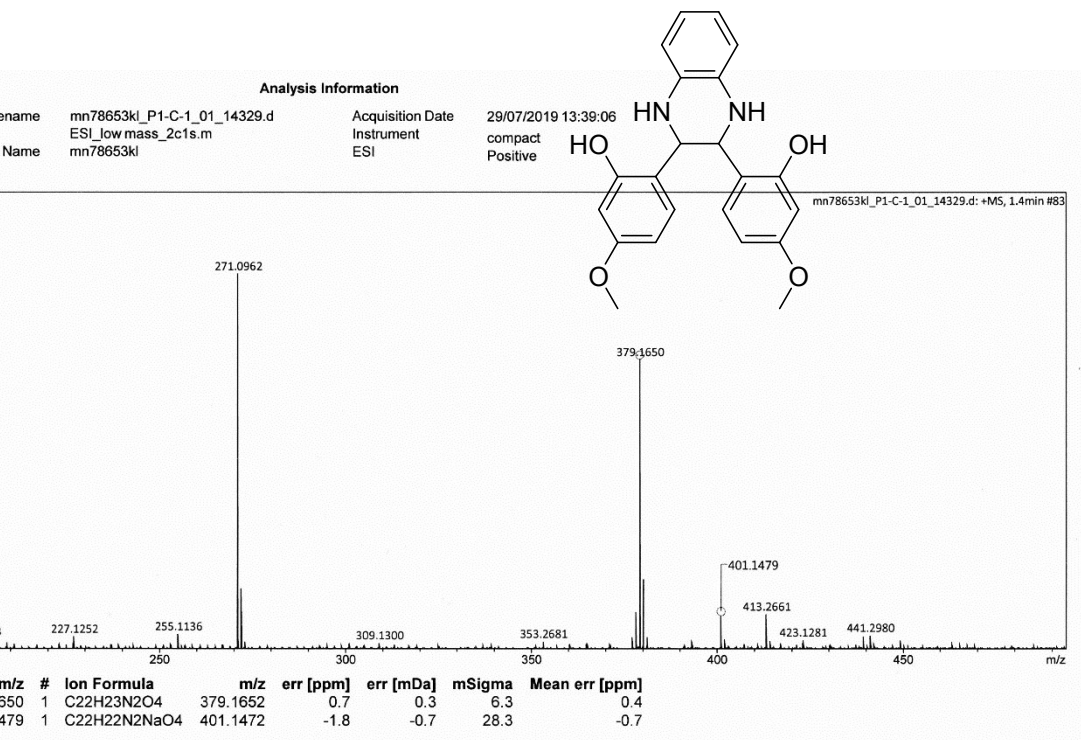


431.2693 corresponds to $[3\mathbf{c}+\mathbf{H}]^+$ (0 ppm error between the measured mass and the theoretical mass of 431.2693).

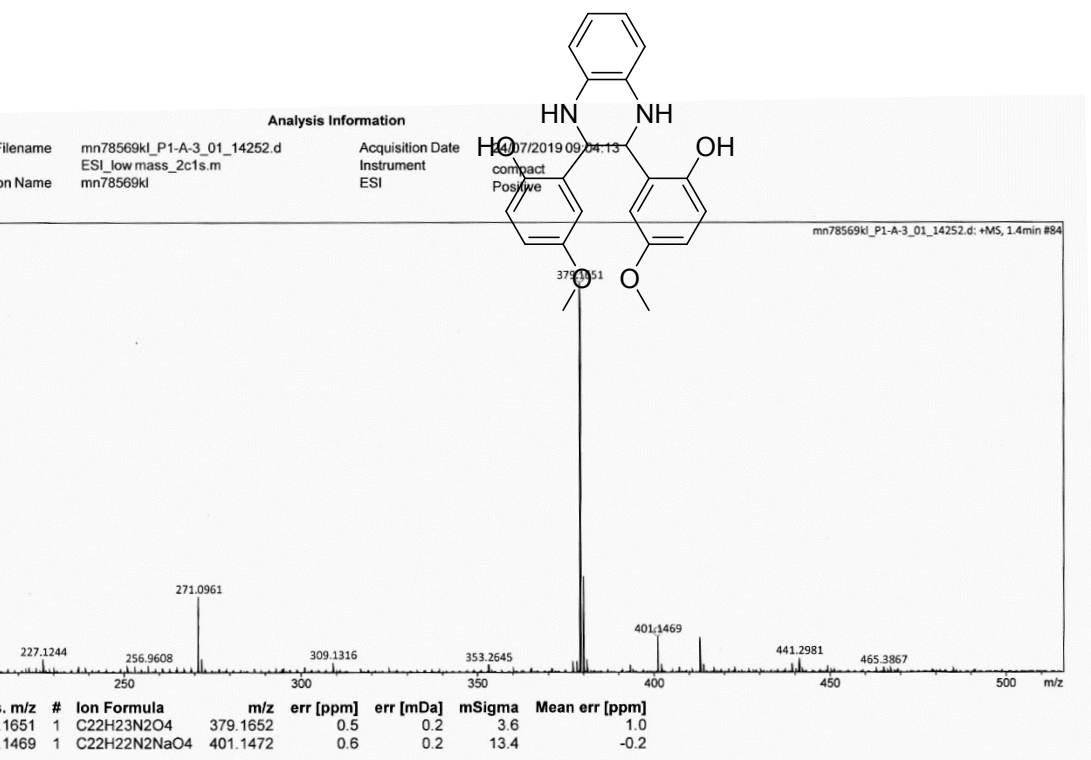
453.2512 corresponds to $[3\mathbf{c}+\mathbf{Na}]^+$ (0 ppm error between the measured mass and the theoretical mass of 453.2512).

478.1711 corresponds to $[2\mathbf{c}-\mathbf{Cl}]^+$ (1 ppm error between the measured mass and the theoretical mass of 478.1707).

6,6'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3-methoxyphenol) (3d)

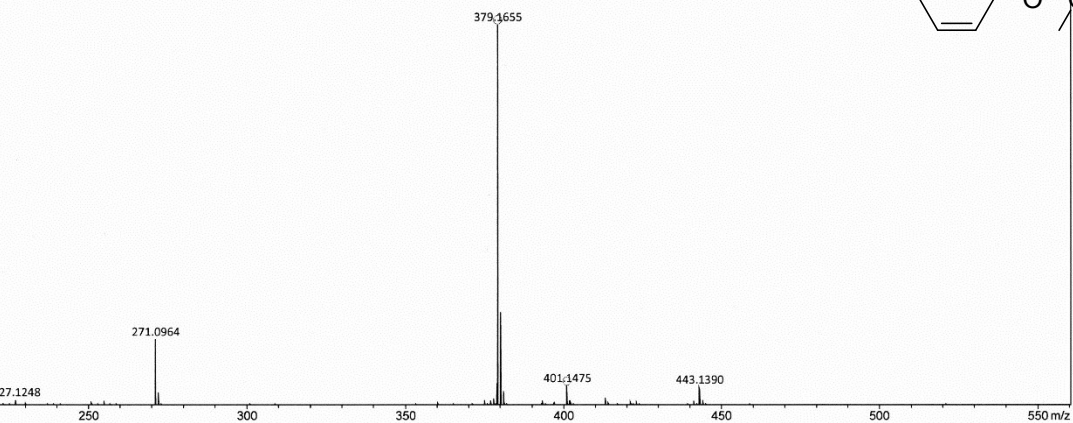
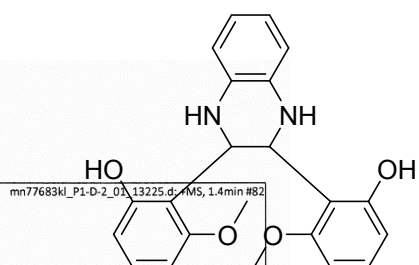


2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-methoxyphenol) (3e)



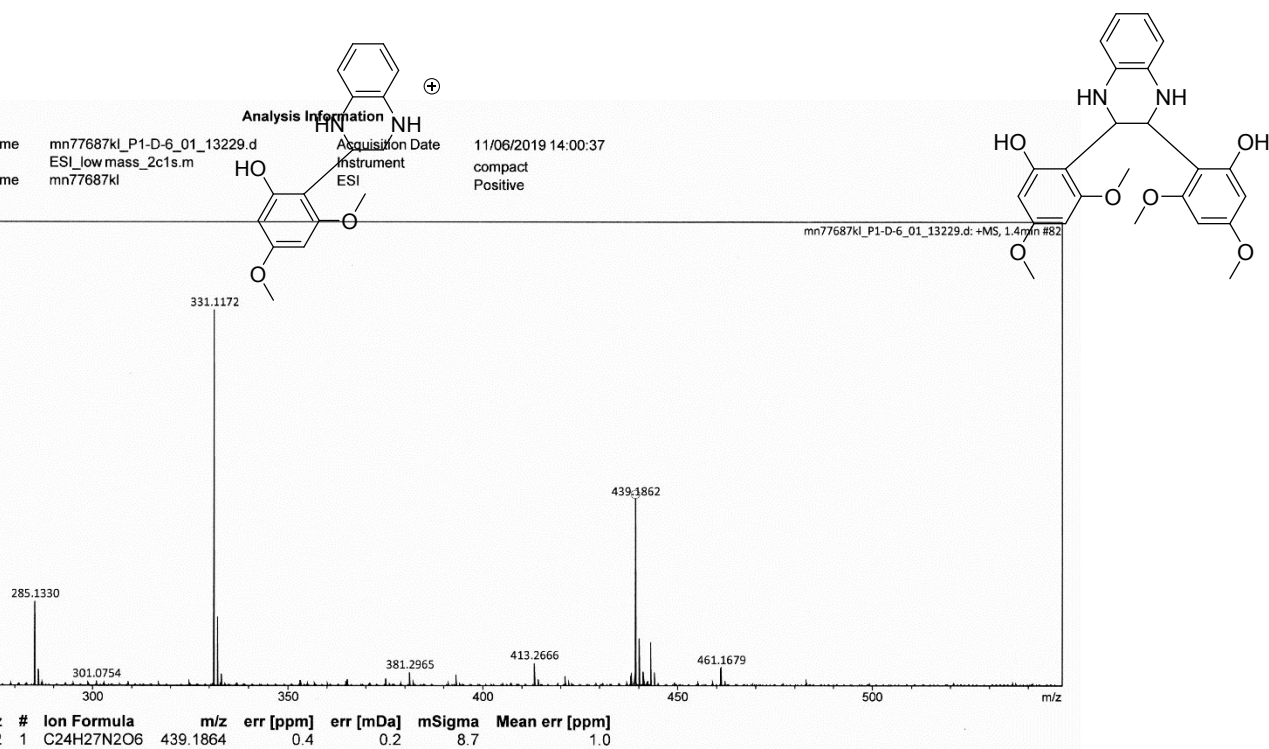
2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3-methoxyphenol) (3f)

Analysis Information
 Name: mn77683kl_P1-D-2_01_13225.d
 Acquisition Date: 11/06/2019 13:45:04
 ESI_low mass_2c1s.m
 Instrument: compact
 Name: mn77683kl
 ESI
 Positive

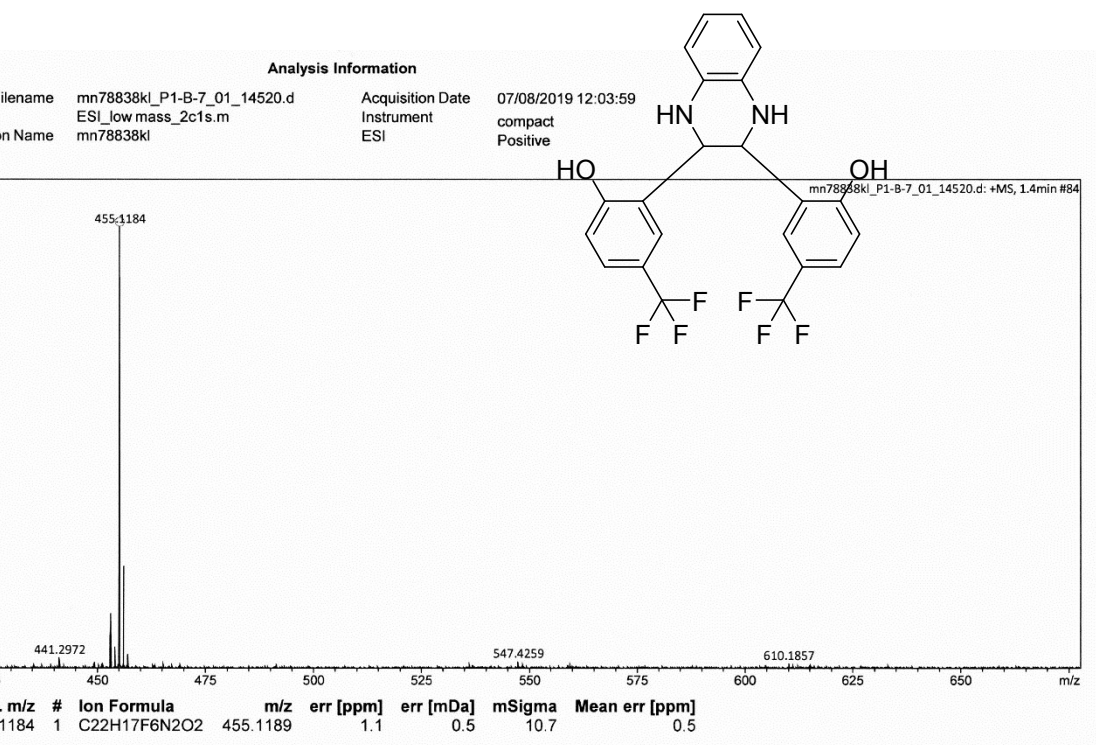


m/z	#	Ion Formula	m/z	err [ppm]	err [mDa]	mSigma	Mean err [ppm]
355	1	C22H23N2O4	379.1652	-0.6	-0.2	4.3	-0.9
475	1	C22H22N2NaO4	401.1472	-0.8	-0.3	8.0	-0.8

2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3,5-dimethoxyphenol) (3g)

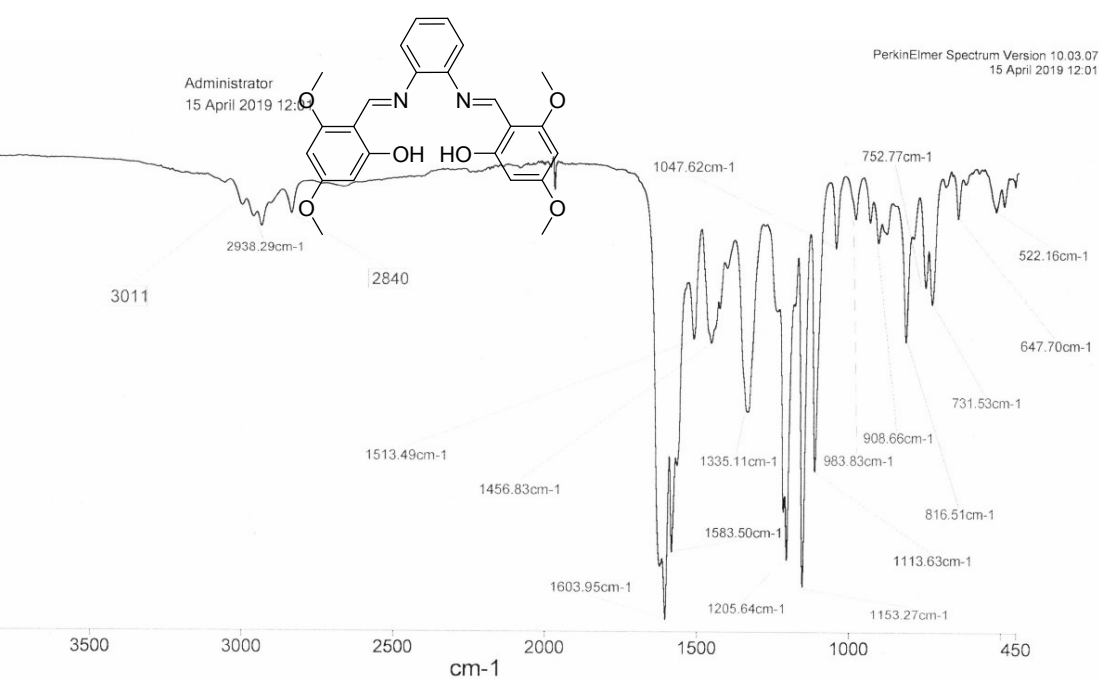


2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenol) (3h)



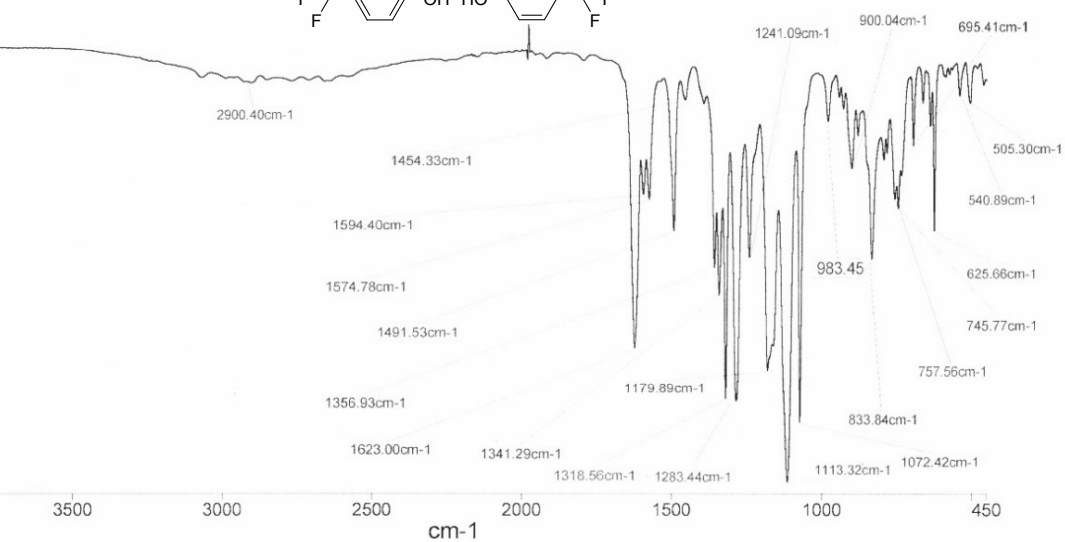
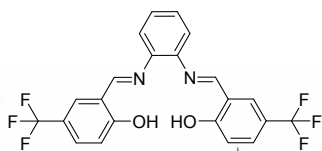
IR spectra of salophen ligands

2,2'-((1*E*,1'*E*)-(1,2-phenylenebis(azanylylidene))bis(methanylylidene))bis(3,5-dimethoxyphenol) (1g)



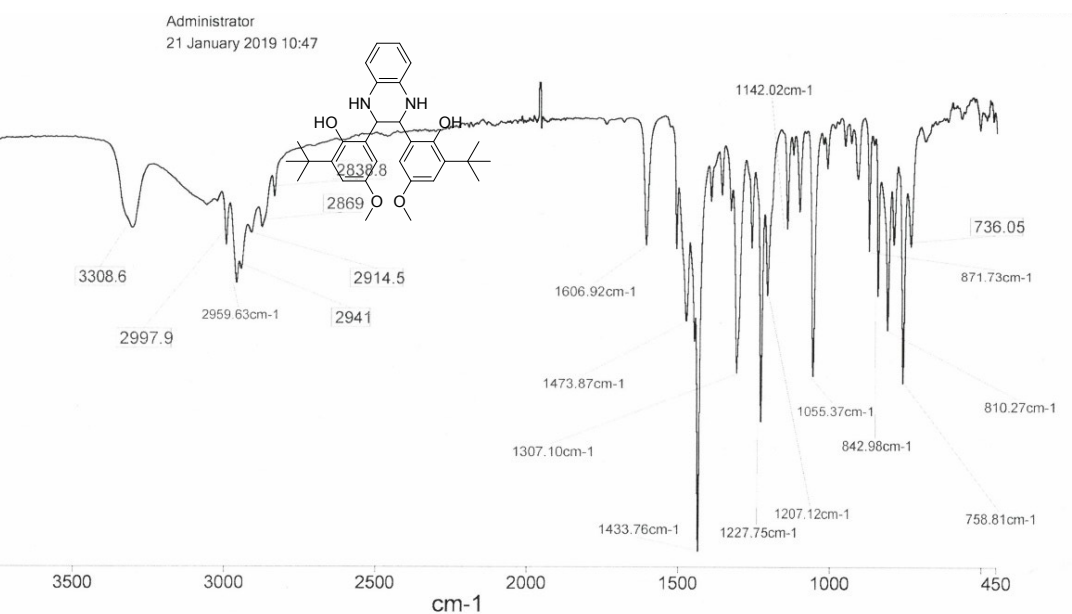
N,N'-Bis(2-hydroxy-5-trifluoromethyl)-1,2-phenylenediamine (1h)

Administrator
15 April 2019 12:08



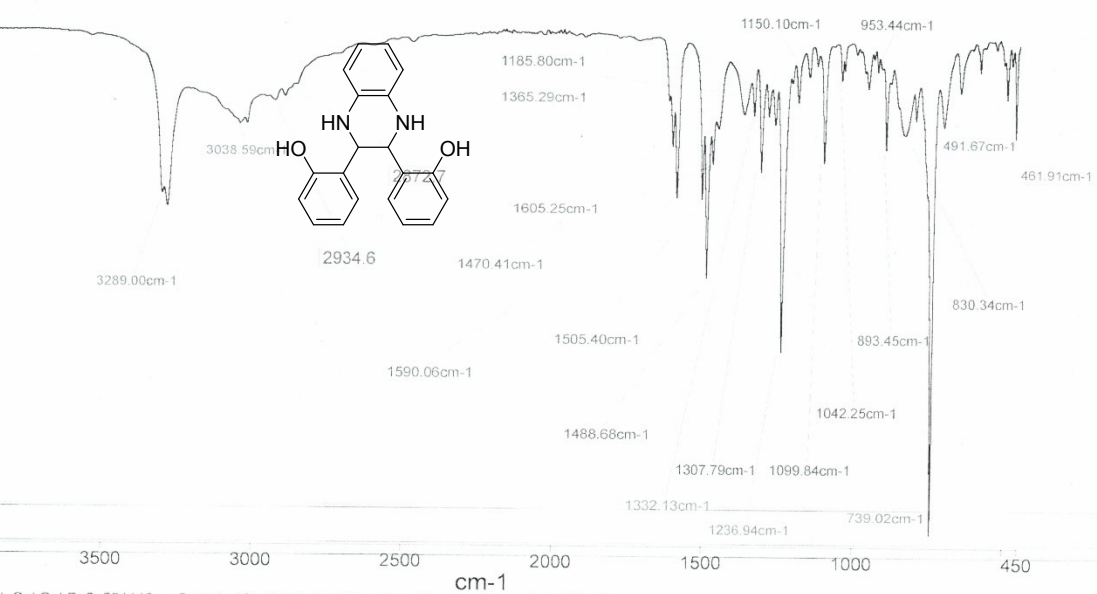
IR spectra of tetrahydroquinoxalines

6,6'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(2-(*tert*-butyl)-4-methoxyphenol) (3a)

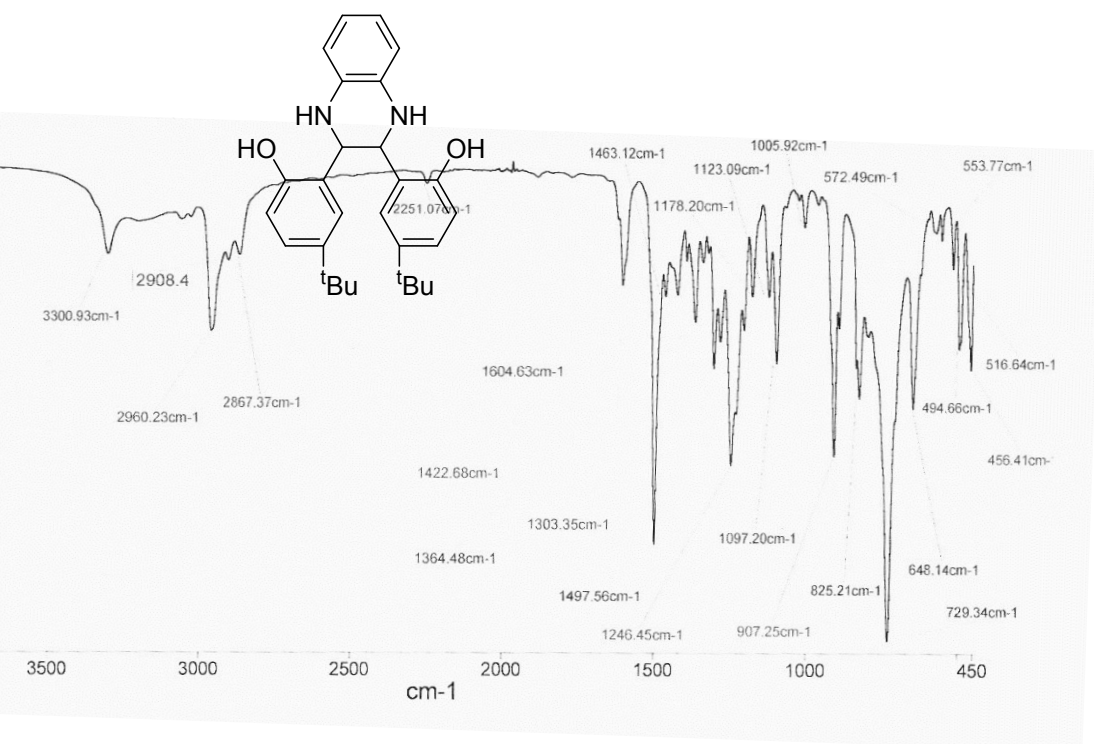


2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)diphenol (3b)

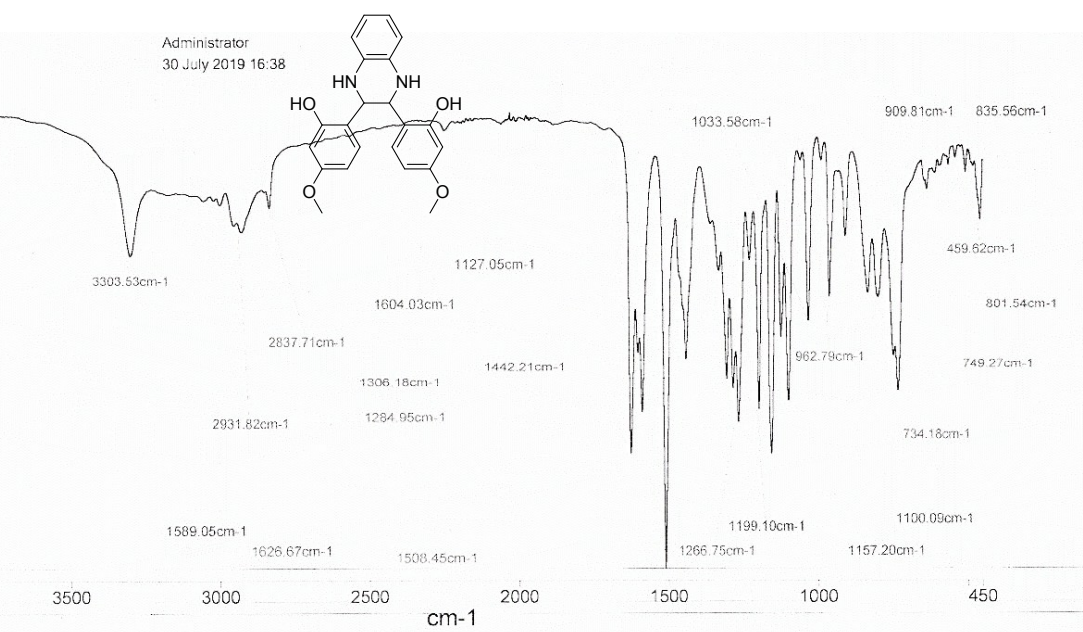
Administrator
25 November 2019 14:26



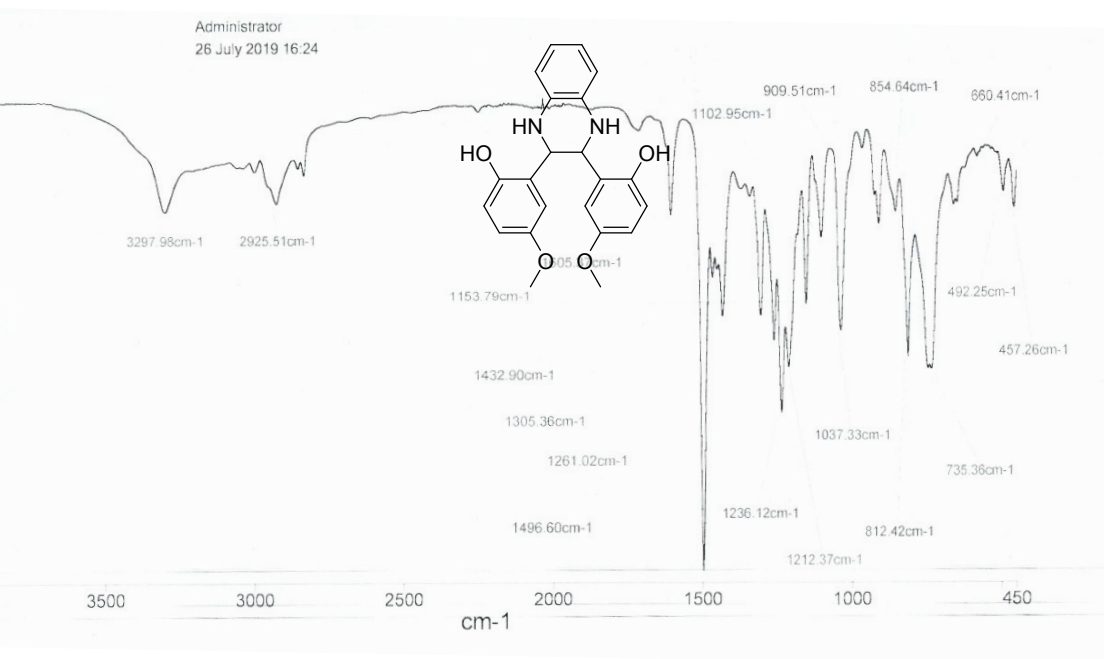
2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenol) (3c)



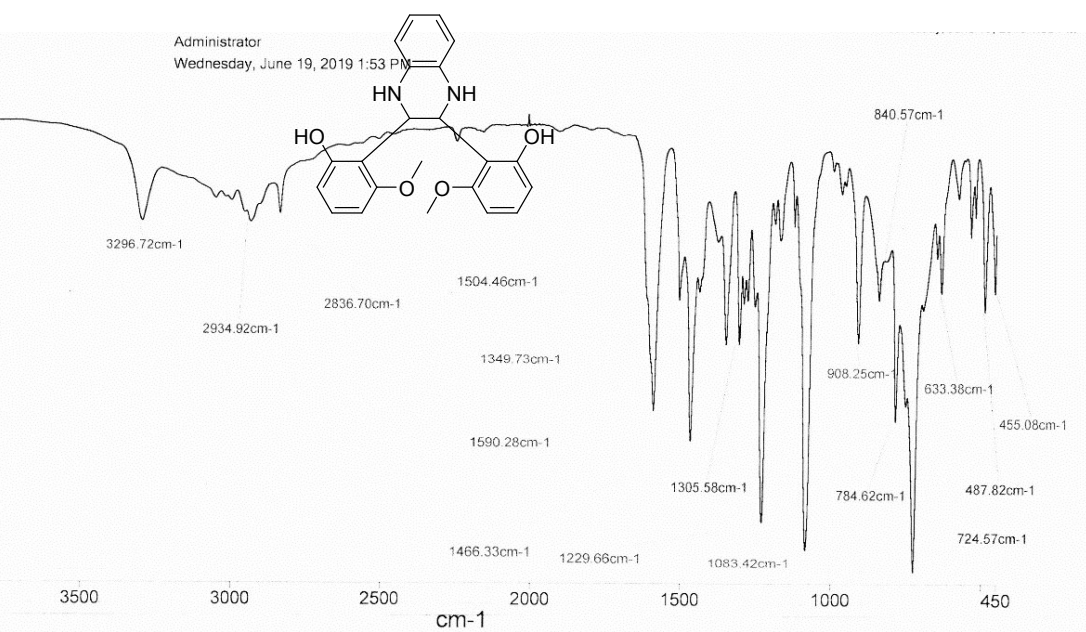
6,6'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3-methoxyphenol) (3d)



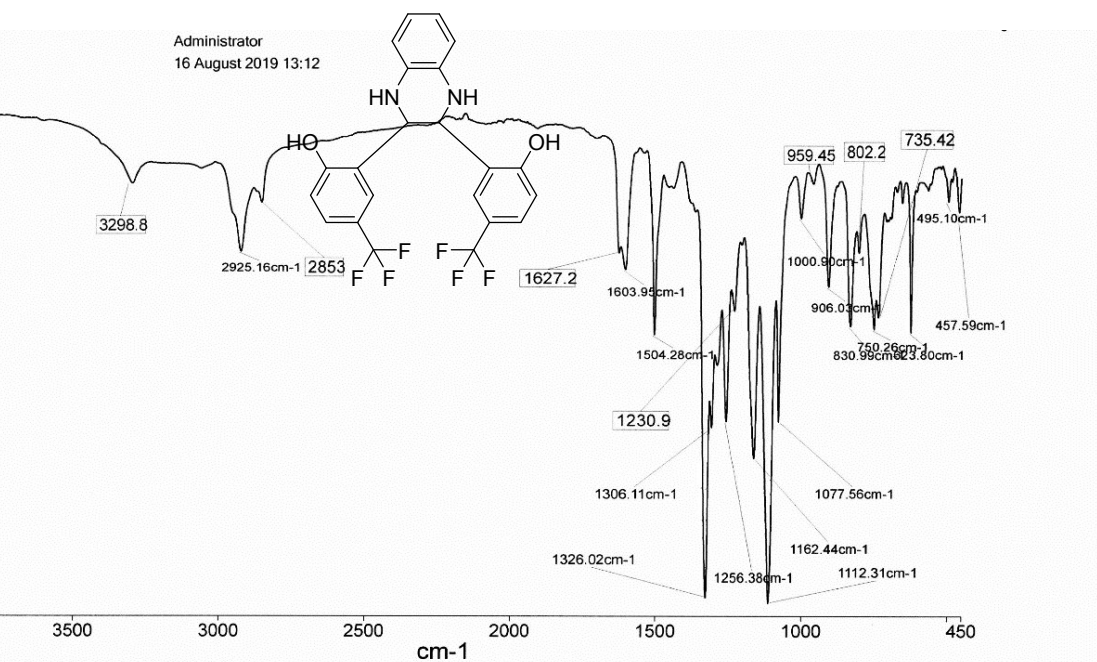
2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-methoxyphenol) (3e)



2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3-methoxyphenol) (3f)



2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenol) (3h)



Cyclic voltammetry

General

Cyclic voltammetry analysis was performed using an EmStat3 potentiostat and PSTrace5.7 software (PalmSens). Cyclic voltammetry experiments were performed using two separate Pt wires as a counter and a reference electrode, and a glassy carbon electrode as the working electrode. The experiments were performed in a specially designed glass electrochemical chamber/reaction vessel designed in-house at the University of York (Figure 1). Glassy carbon electrodes were prepared by polishing with an aluminium-water slurry paste, using aluminium oxide (1-5 micron powder, 99+%, Strem Chemicals) and de-ionised water on a polishing pad. The electrode was then washed with water before polishing with an alumina solution (alumina suspension, 0.3 microns, MetPrep). The carbon electrode was then placed in a centrifuge tube of de-ionised water and sonicated (3 x 5 mins). The water was discarded from the centrifuge tube and replenished for each sonication. This process was repeated prior to analysing every solution 17



Figure 1: Electrochemical cell used to perform cyclic voltammetry experiments.

All electrochemical solutions contained 1 mM of analyte, 1 mM of ferrocene and 100 mM of tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate in dry THF. Control reference experiments were performed with a reference solution of 1 mM of ferrocene and 100 mM of tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate in dry THF. Analysis was performed under ambient conditions and solutions were pre-purged with $N_2(g)$ for 2-3 min. prior to analysis.

All cyclic voltammograms reported were performed under N₂(g). The glass reaction vessel was washed with THF in-between runs. The ferrocene control solution was analysed from -2.0 V to +2.0 V versus Pt and from -1.0 V to +2.0 V versus Pt, with a scan rate of 100 mV s⁻¹ over 4-5 scans. Reducing agents and complex **2a** were analysed from a starting potential of 0.0 V versus Pt to a potential of -2.0 V versus Pt, in increasing 0.5 V increments, before then analysing from 0.0 V to +2.0 V versus Pt, also in increasing 0.5 V increments, with a scan rate of 100 mV s⁻¹ over 5-10 scans. All analysis was performed with an *E* step of 0.005 V, current range of 100 mA to 10 nA and equilibration time of 2 s. All reported *E*_{1/2} values are quoted versus Pt (Table S1) and are average values of 3-10 runs.

Table S1: *E*_{1/2} values of reducing agents and chromium(salophen) complex **2a**

Complex	<i>E</i> _{1/2} (V vs Pt) ^a	STD ^b	<i>E</i> _{1/2} (V vs SHE) ^c	<i>E</i> _{1/2} (V vs SHE) lit ^d	Redox process
Decamethylcobaltocene	-1.23	0.028	-1.50	-1.54 ¹⁸	[Co(η ⁵ -C ₅ Me ₅) ₂] ⁺ + e ⁻ ↔ Co(η ⁵ -C ₅ Me ₅) ₂
Samarium(II) iodide	-1.04	0.060	-1.31	-1.55 ¹⁹	Sm ³⁺ + e ⁻ ↔ Sm ²⁺
Titanocene dichloride	-0.67	0.006	-0.94	-0.81 ²⁰	[Ti(η ⁵ -C ₅ H ₅) ₂ Cl ₂] ⁺ + e ⁻ ↔ Ti(η ⁵ -C ₅ H ₅) ₂ Cl ₂
Titanocene dichloride	-0.67	0.006	-0.94	-0.90 ¹⁹	Ti ³⁺ + e ⁻ ↔ Ti ²⁺
Chromium(II) chloride	-0.13	N/A	-0.40	-0.41 ¹⁹	Cr ³⁺ + e ⁻ ↔ Cr ²⁺
Decamethylferrocene	+0.11	0.007	-0.16	-0.19 ¹⁸	Me ₁₀ Fc ⁺ + e ⁻ ↔ Me ₁₀ Fc
Chromium salophen complex 2a (peak 1) ^e	+0.92	0.016	+0.65	+0.78 ²¹	Metal phenoxyl oxidation ^{22,23}
Chromium salophen complex 2a (peak 2) ^e	+1.19	0.007	+0.92	+0.89 ²¹	Metal bis-phenoxyl oxidation ^{22,23}

- a) Experimental reduction potentials recorded in THF vs Pt. All experimental *E*_{1/2} results are average results from a minimum of 3 runs.
- b) Standard deviation of *E*_{1/2} results.
- c) Experimental *E*_{1/2} converted to vs SHE.
- d) Literature *E*_{1/2} values under standard electrochemical conditions in aqueous solution vs SHE.
- e) Reported *E*_{1/2} values for a copper non-halide version of **2a** for comparison. Salen and salophen complexes undergo two reversible one-electron redox processes, due to the oxidation of both phenolic moieties.

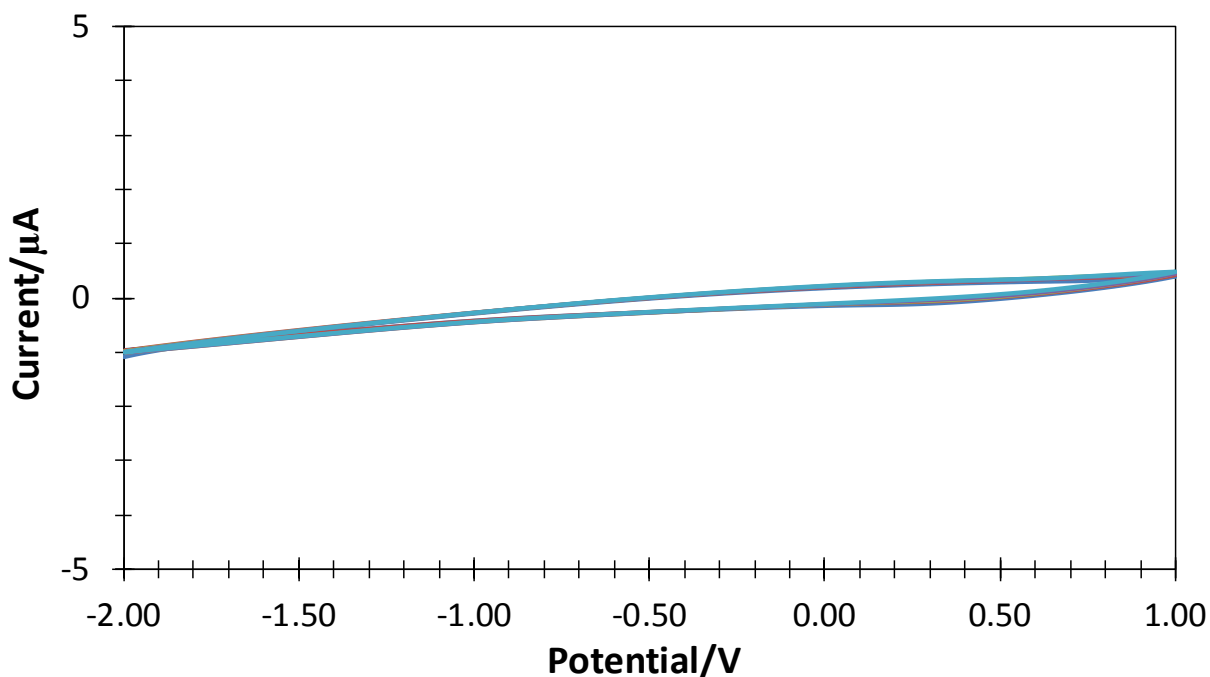
Comparing to SHE values

By analysing the ferrocene standard solution, it was found that the reduction potential ($E_{1/2}$) for ferrocene was +0.589 V ($\pm$ 0.012 V) versus Pt in THF with tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate. The reported value of $E_{1/2}$ for ferrocene in THF with tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate is +0.560 V versus SCE,¹⁸ which correlates to +0.319 V versus SHE (0.560-0.241 V).¹⁹ The difference between the $E_{1/2}$ versus Pt and $E_{1/2}$ versus SHE was therefore 0.270 V (0.589-0.319 V). To compare the reported experimental $E_{1/2}$ values to those quoted in the literature versus SHE, all values were therefore changed by 0.270 V to report them versus SHE (Table S1).

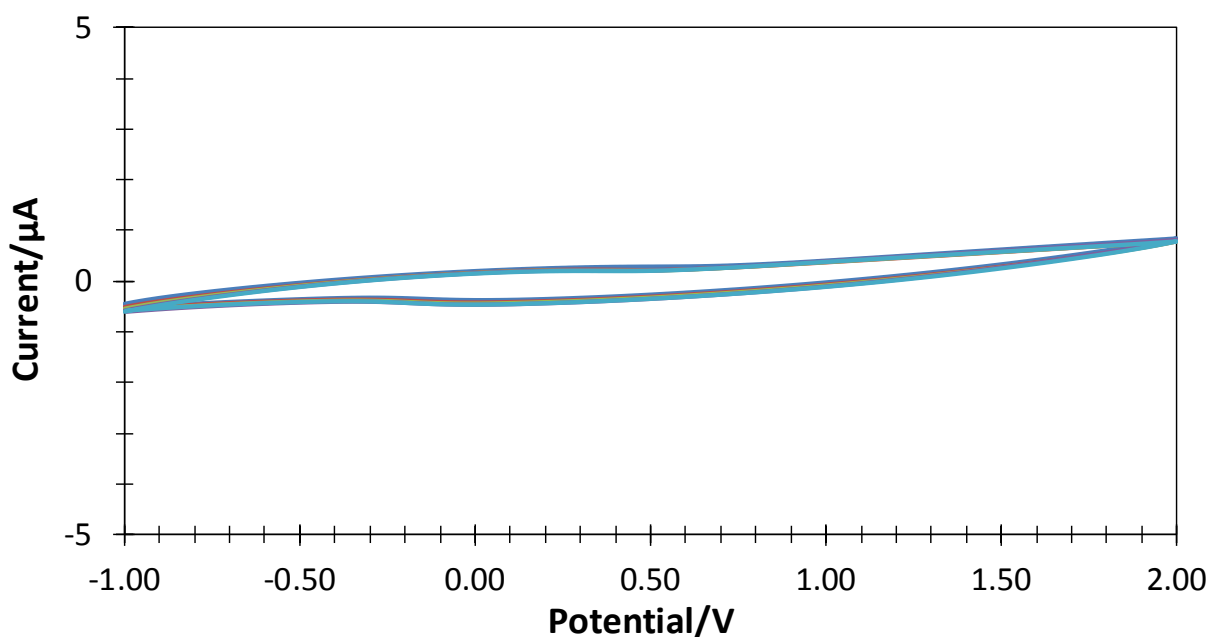
Cyclic voltammograms

Where inserts are shown, these are the results of separate experiments with a narrower scan range rather than expansions of the main plot.

Bare electrodes

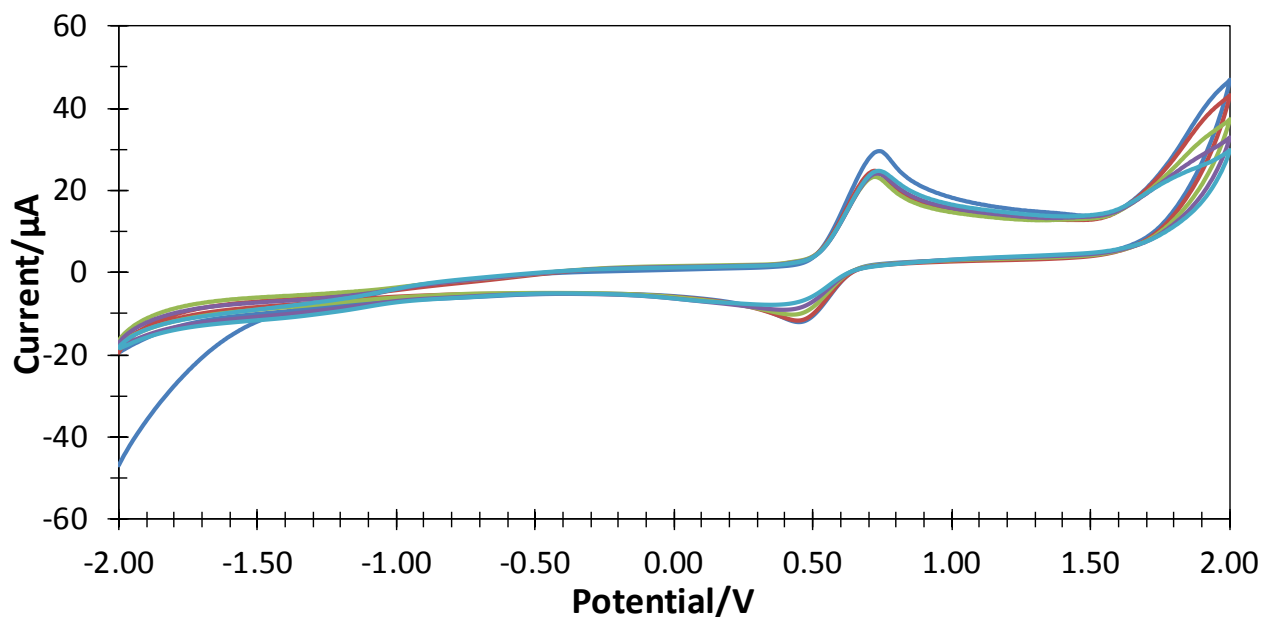


Cyclic voltammogram of bare electrodes in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from **-2.0 V to +1.0 V vs Pt**.

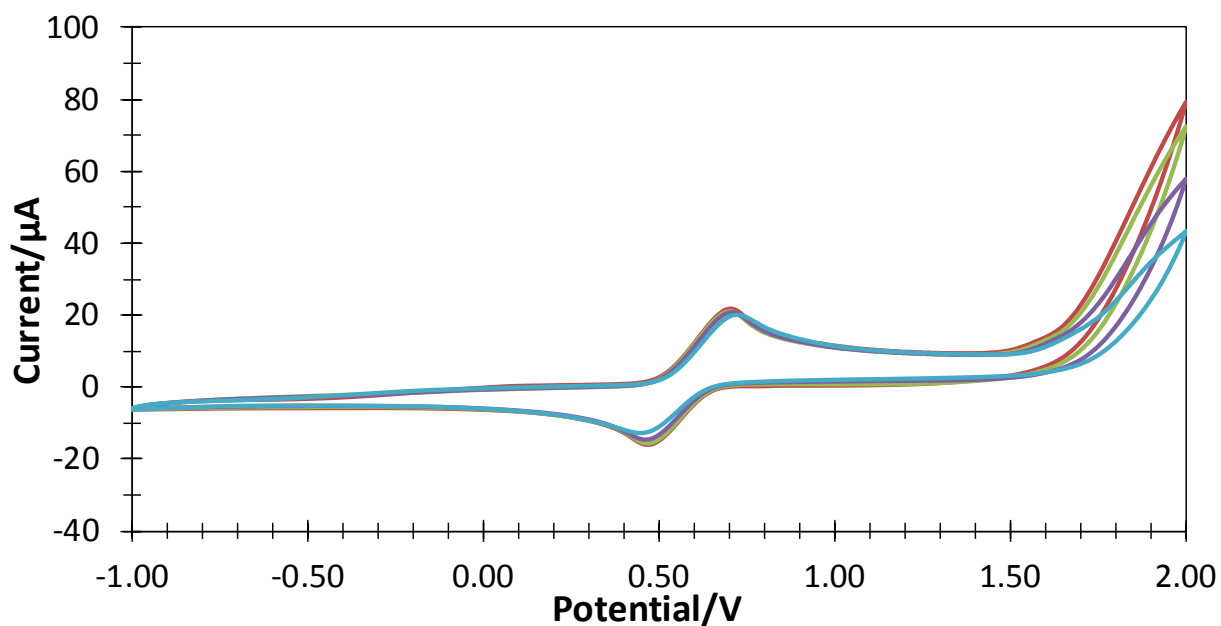


Cyclic voltammogram of bare electrodes in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from **-1.0 V to +2.0 V vs Pt**.

Ferrocene control

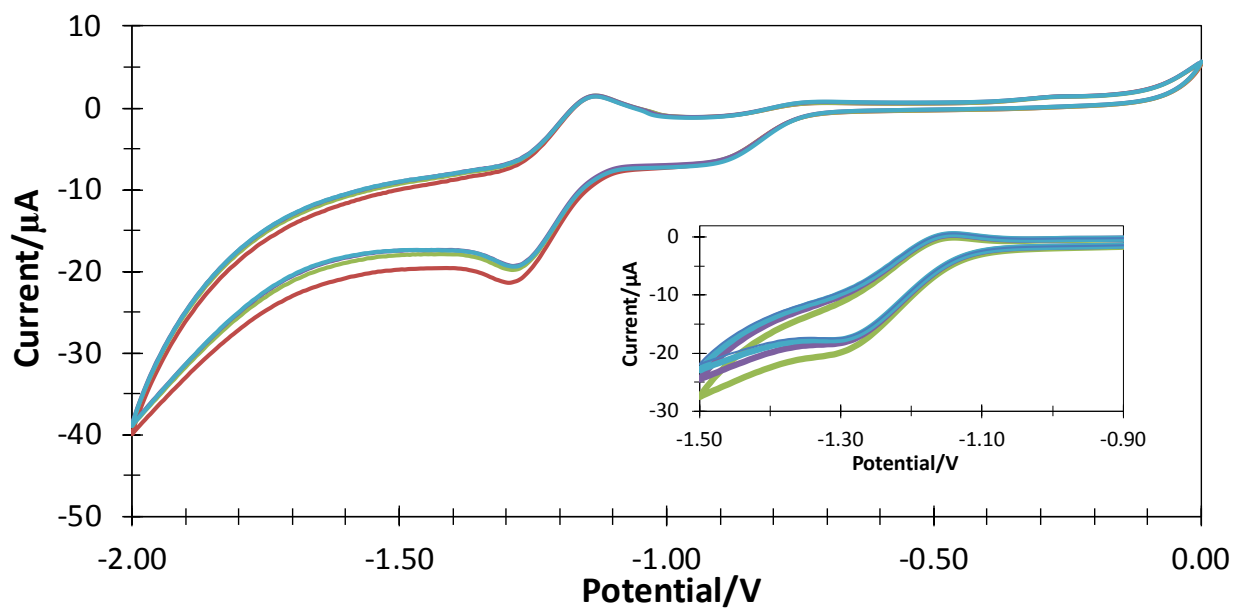


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from **-2.0 V to +2.0 V vs Pt.**

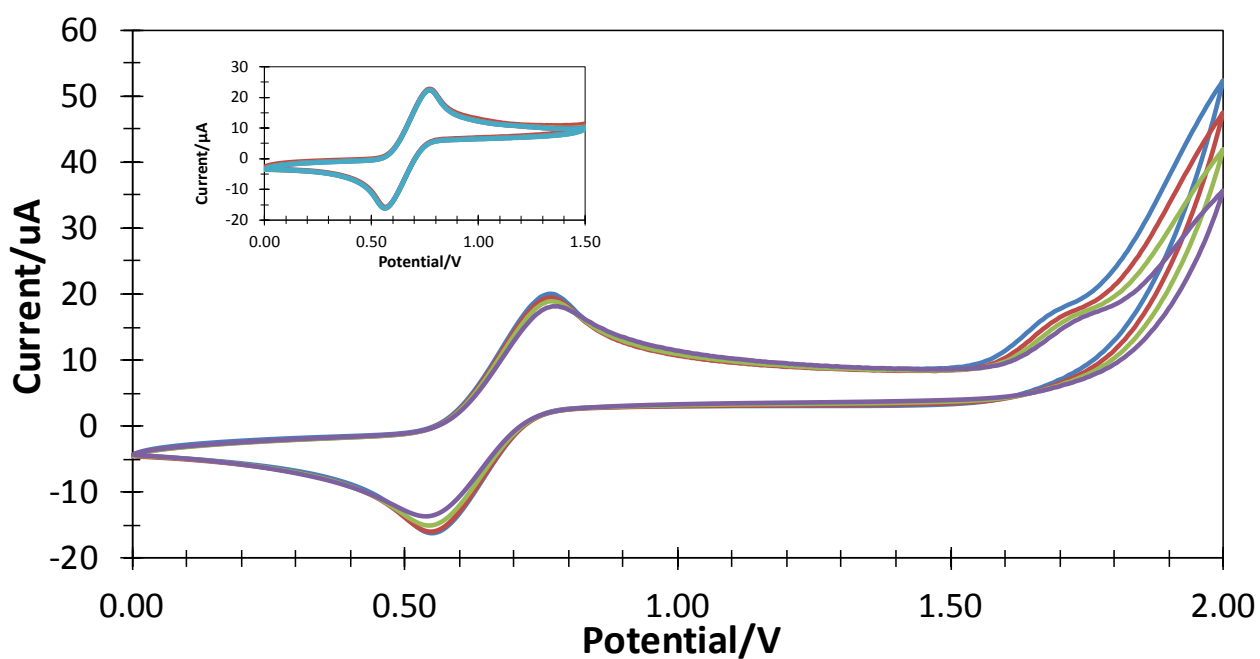


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from **-1.0 V to +2.0 V vs Pt.**

Decamethylcobaltocene

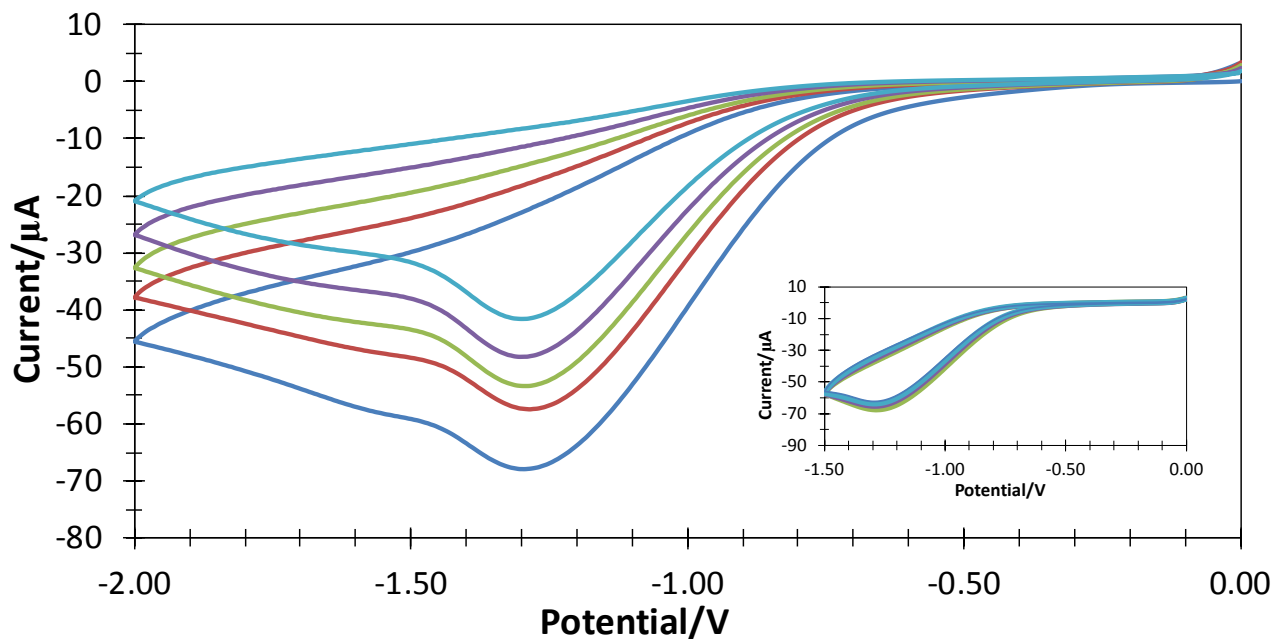


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of decamethylcobaltocene, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from **-2.0 V to 0.0 V vs Pt.**

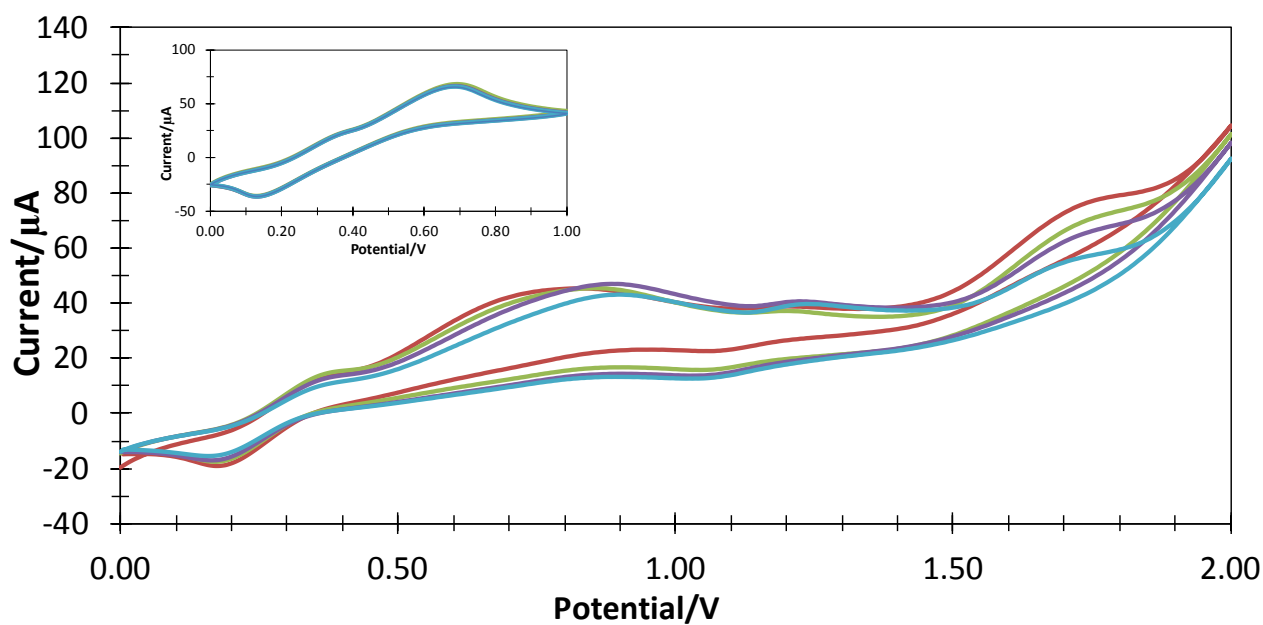


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of decamethylcobaltocene, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from **0.0 V to +2.0 V vs Pt.**

Samarium(II) iodide

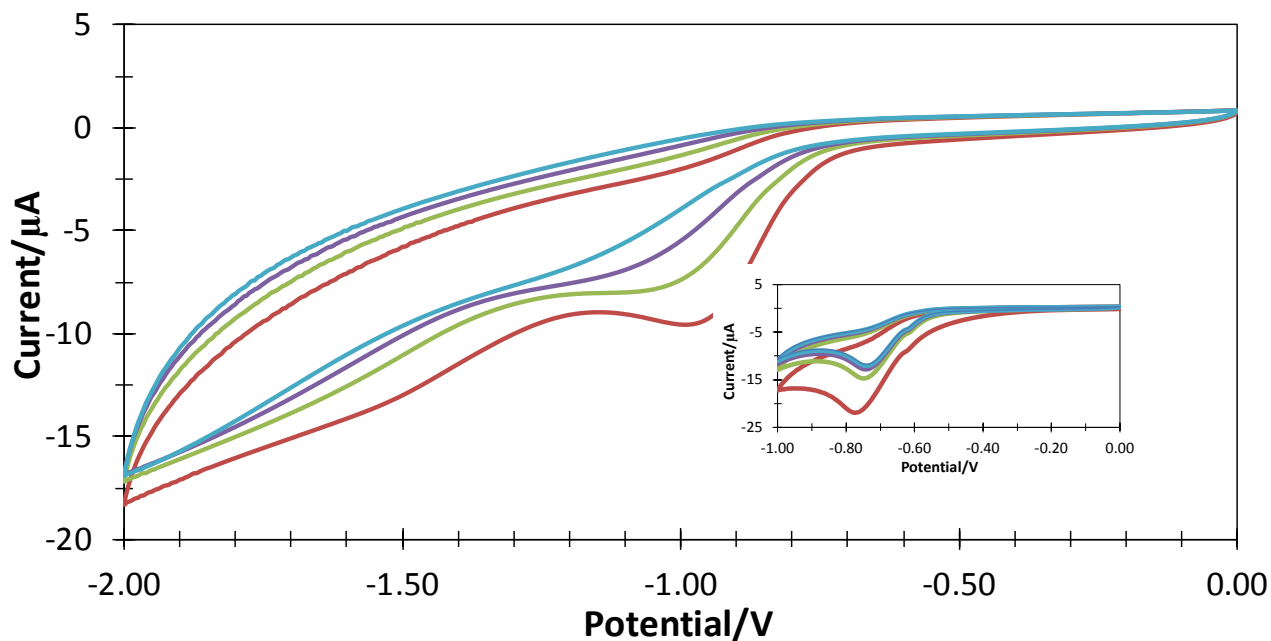


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of samarium(II) iodide, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from **-2.0 V to 0.0 V vs Pt.**

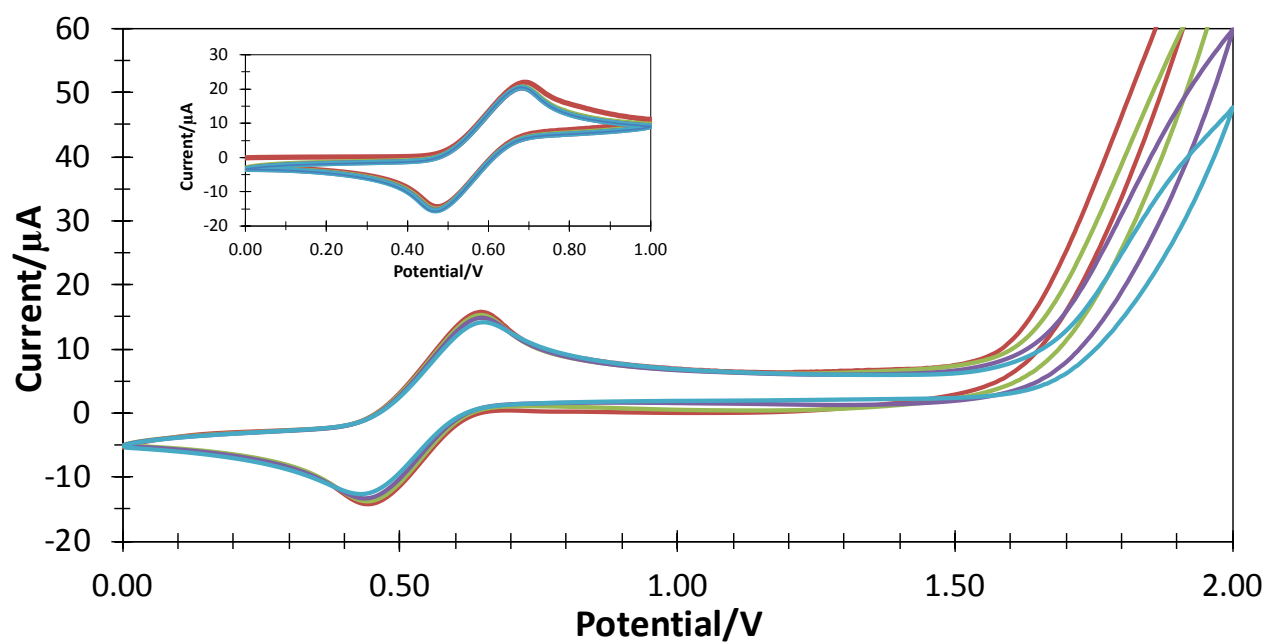


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of samarium(II) iodide, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from **0.0 V to +2.0 V vs Pt.**

Titanocene dichloride

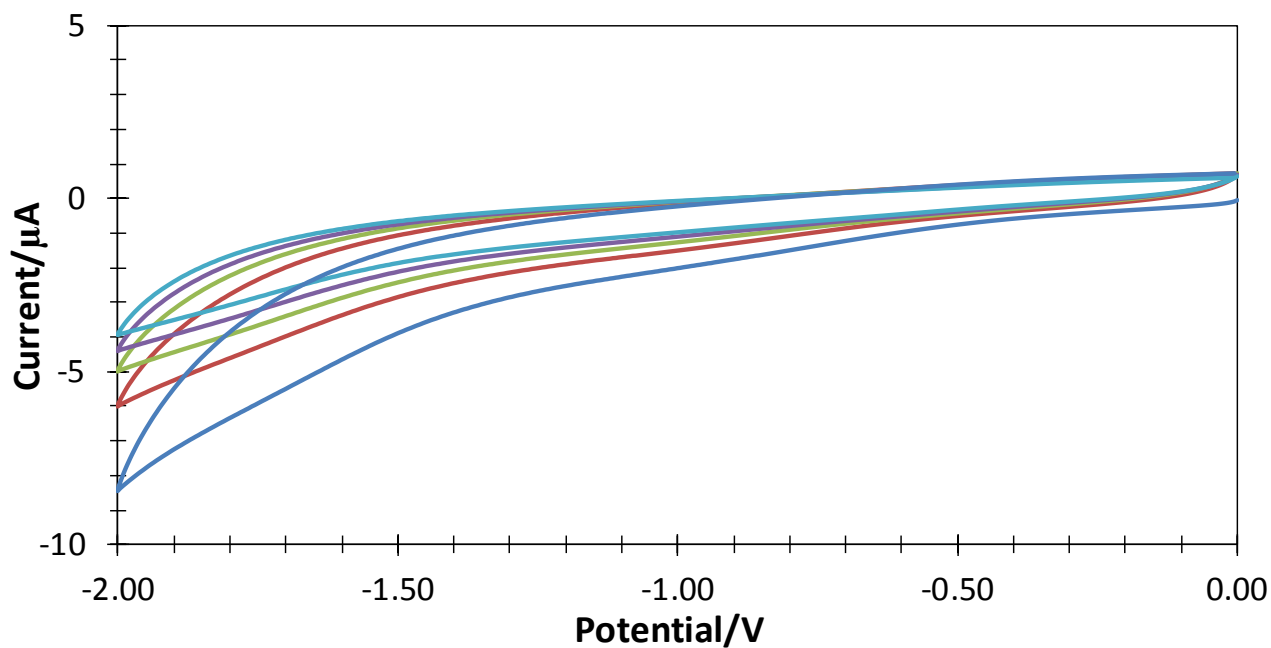


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of titanocene dichloride, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from **-2.0 V to 0.0 V vs Pt.**

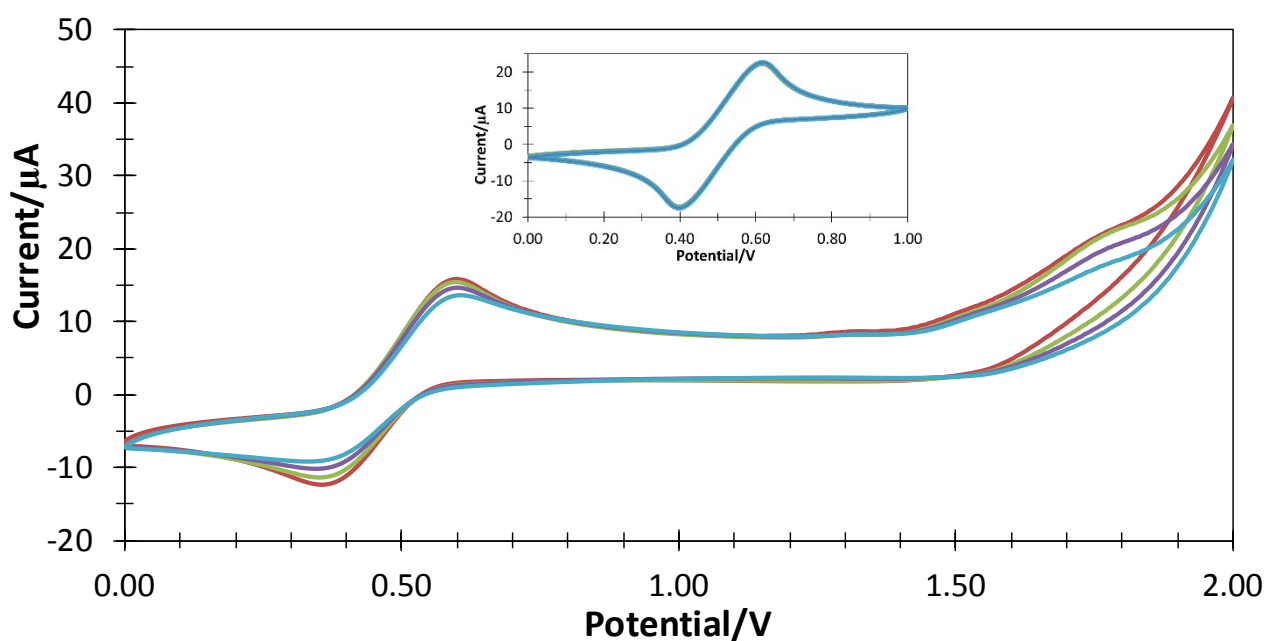


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of titanocene dichloride, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from **0.0 V to +2.0 V vs Pt.**

Chromium(II) chloride

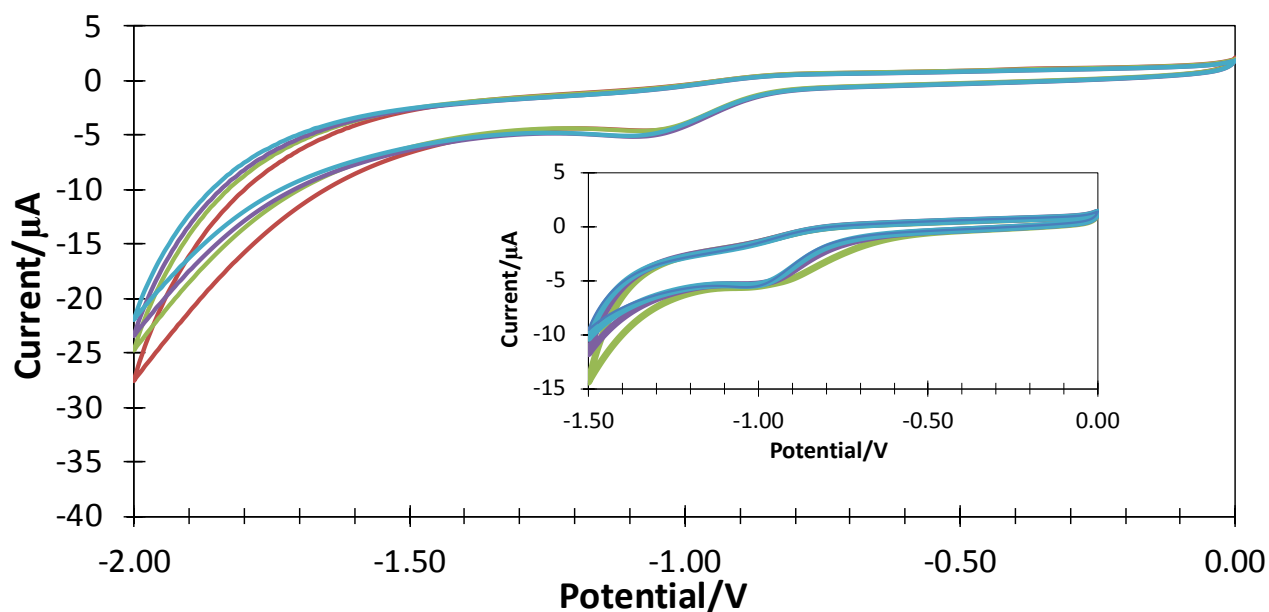


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of chromium(II) chloride, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from -2.0 V to 0.0 V vs Pt.

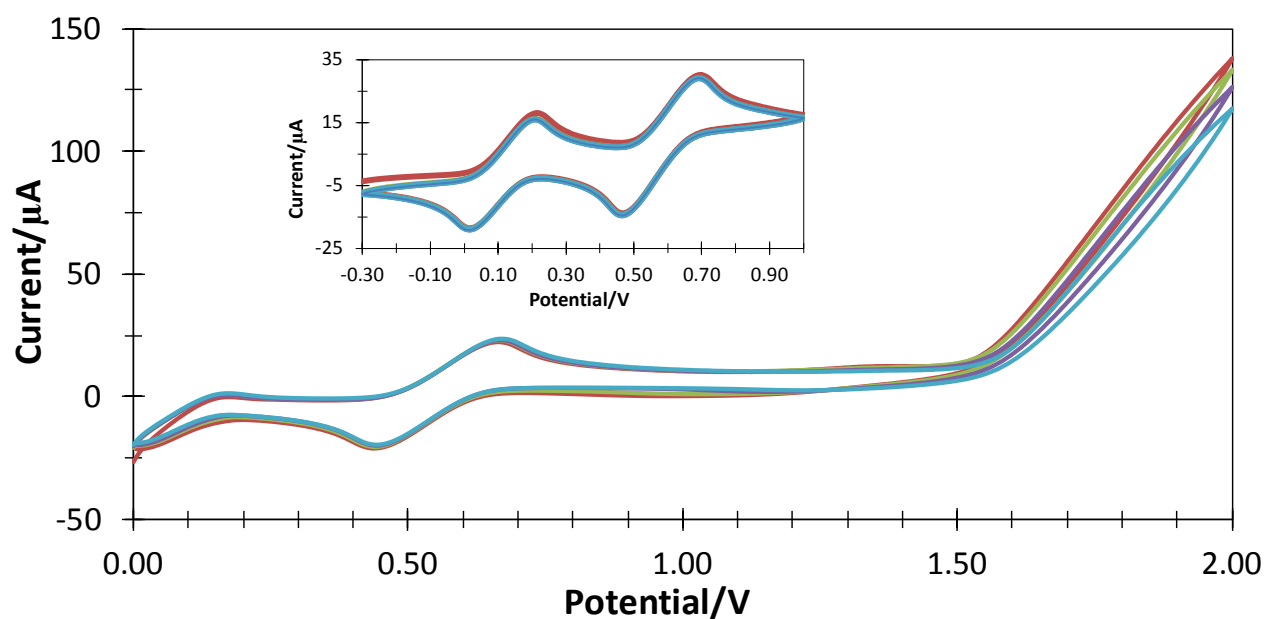


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of chromium(II) chloride, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from 0.0 V to +2.0 V vs Pt.

Decamethylferrocene

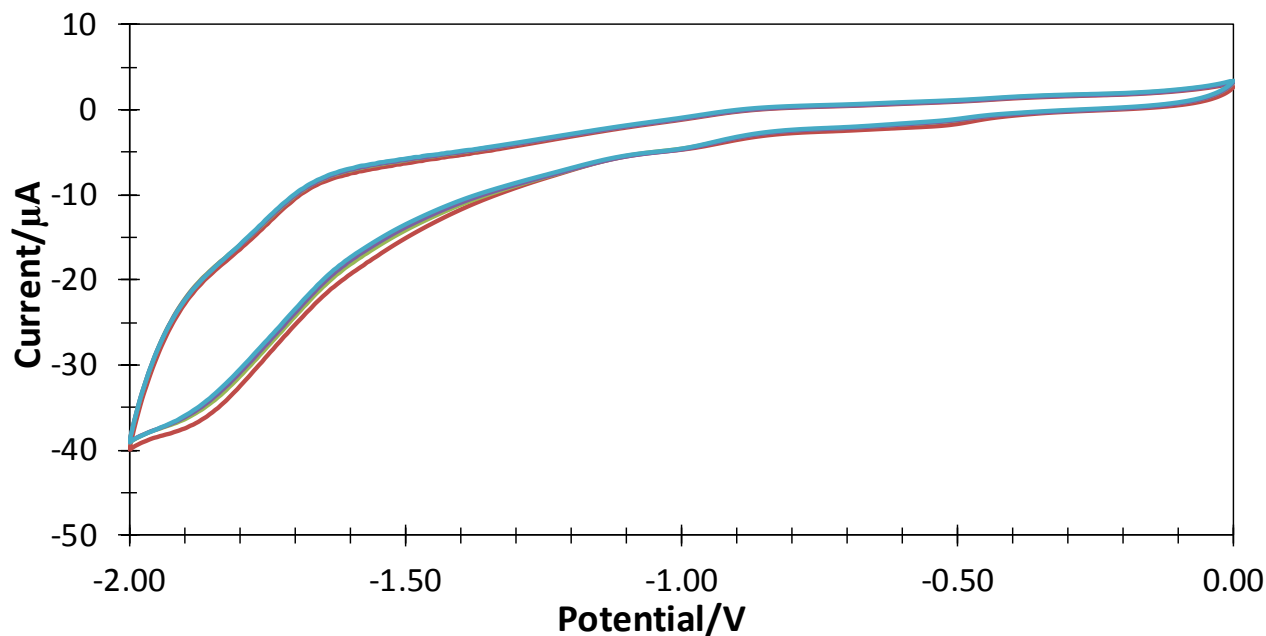


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of decamethylferrocene, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from -2.0 V to 0.0 V vs Pt.

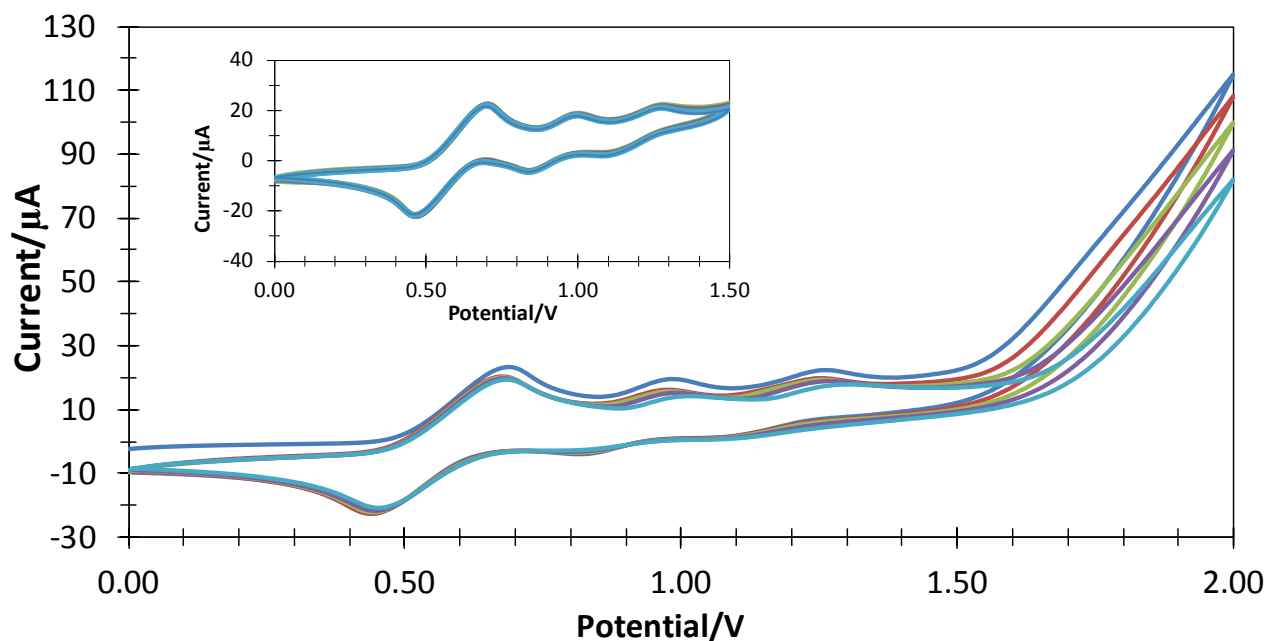


Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of decamethylferrocene, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from 0.0 V to +2.0 V vs Pt.

Chromium(III) salophen complex (**2a**)



Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of **2a**, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from -2.0 V to +0.0 V vs Pt.



Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM of **2a**, with 1 mM ferrocene in THF and 100 mM tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, from 0.0 V to +2.0 V vs Pt.

X-ray crystallography

Experimental procedures

Diffraction data were collected at 110 K on an Oxford Diffraction SuperNova diffractometer with Cu-K $_{\alpha}$ radiation ($\lambda = 1.54184 \text{ \AA}$) using a EOS CCD camera. The crystal was cooled with an Oxford Instruments Cryojet. Diffractometer control, data collection, initial unit cell determination, frame integration and unit-cell refinement was carried out with "Crysalis".²⁴ Face-indexed absorption corrections were applied using spherical harmonics, implemented in SCALE3 ABSPACK scaling algorithm.²⁵ OLEX2²⁶ was used for overall structure solution, refinement and preparation of computer graphics and publication data. Within OLEX2, the algorithms used for structure solution was "ShelXT dual-space"²⁷. Refinement by full-matrix least-squares used the SHELXL²⁸ algorithm within OLEX2.²⁶ All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically.

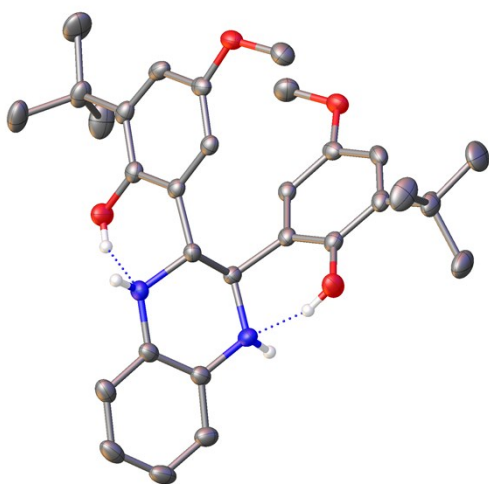
X-ray data for compounds 3a-c,f,h

Compound	3a	3b	3c	3f	3h
ID	mn1601	mn1904	mn1909	mn1908	mn2001
CCDC	1983173	1983171	1983172	1983170	1983169
Empirical formula	C ₃₀ H ₃₈ N ₂ O ₄	C ₂₀ H ₁₈ N ₂ O ₂	C ₂₈ H ₃₄ N ₂ O ₂	C ₂₂ H ₂₂ N ₂ O ₄	C ₂₂ H ₁₆ F ₆ N ₂ O ₂
Formula weight	490.62	318.36	430.57	378.41	454.37
Temperature/K	110.05(10)	110.00(14)	110.00(10)	110.00(10)	110.05(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	orthorhombic
Space group	C2/c	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /c	P-1	Pbcn
a/Å	17.8343(6)	7.16584(13)	16.29085(17)	7.3701(5)	28.1272(4)
b/Å	12.4405(4)	10.4417(2)	20.8151(2)	10.2836(7)	9.04947(13)
c/Å	13.0921(5)	21.8016(4)	23.2057(3)	12.5573(7)	14.7304(2)
α/°	90	90	90	97.383(5)	90
β/°	107.301(4)	96.8756(17)	105.2865(12)	104.649(6)	90
γ/°	90	90	90	99.610(6)	90
Volume/Å ³	2773.29(17)	1619.54(6)	7590.57(15)	893.21(10)	3749.43(9)
Z	4	4	12	2	8
ρ _{calc} /g/cm ³	1.175	1.306	1.130	1.407	1.610
μ/mm ⁻¹	0.618	0.683	0.552	0.796	1.265
F(000)	1056.0	672.0	2784.0	400.0	1856.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.2008 × 0.1607 × 0.1298	0.258 × 0.098 × 0.048	0.166 × 0.092 × 0.044	0.218 × 0.176 × 0.113	0.267 × 0.163 × 0.141
Radiation	CuKα (λ = 1.54184)	CuKα (λ = 1.54184)	CuKα (λ = 1.54184)	CuKα (λ = 1.54184)	CuKα (λ = 1.54184)
2θ range for data collection/°	8.804 to 142.972	8.17 to 134.09	7.048 to 134.154	7.396 to 134.072	10.268 to 134.104
Index ranges	-21 ≤ h ≤ 13, - 15 ≤ k ≤ 14, - 13 ≤ l ≤ 15	-8 ≤ h ≤ 5, -12 ≤ k ≤ 12, -25 ≤ l ≤ 26	-19 ≤ h ≤ 19, - 24 ≤ k ≤ 13, - 25 ≤ l ≤ 27	-8 ≤ h ≤ 6, -12 ≤ k ≤ 11, -14 ≤ l ≤ 14	-26 ≤ h ≤ 33, - 10 ≤ k ≤ 5, -9 ≤ l ≤ 17
Reflections collected	4991	5918	29179	5380	8178
Independent reflections	2640 [R _{int} = 0.0124, R _{sigma} = 0.0171]	2901 [R _{int} = 0.0178, R _{sigma} = 0.0236]	13536 [R _{int} = 0.0228, R _{sigma} = 0.0304]	3183 [R _{int} = 0.0160, R _{sigma} = 0.0247]	3350 [R _{int} = 0.0154, R _{sigma} = 0.0180]
Data/restraints/para meters	2640/0/168	2901/0/290	13536/0/926	3183/0/342	3350/0/354
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.062	1.040	1.047	1.032	1.030
Final R indexes [I > 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0367, wR ₂ = 0.0966	R ₁ = 0.0322, wR ₂ = 0.0752	R ₁ = 0.0504, wR ₂ = 0.1290	R ₁ = 0.0329, wR ₂ = 0.0829	R ₁ = 0.0343, wR ₂ = 0.0907
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0414, wR ₂ = 0.1008	R ₁ = 0.0381, wR ₂ = 0.0789	R ₁ = 0.0646, wR ₂ = 0.1379	R ₁ = 0.0393, wR ₂ = 0.0875	R ₁ = 0.0389, wR ₂ = 0.0942
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	0.23/-0.22	0.24/-0.14	0.44/-0.19	0.23/-0.22	0.42/-0.37

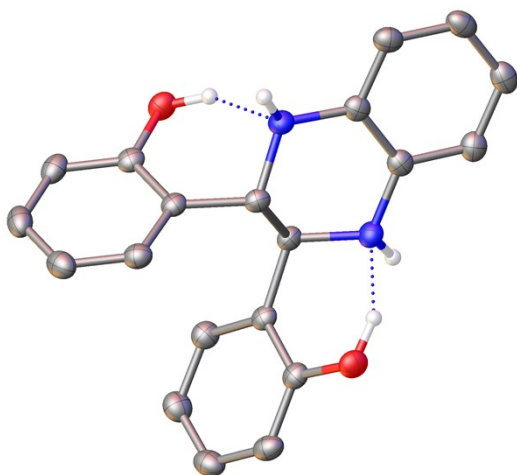
Hydrogen bond data

Phenolic H to N Hydrogen Bonds							
Compound	D	H	A	d(D-H)/Å	d(H-A)/Å	d(D-A)/Å	D-H-A/°
3a	O2	H2	N1	0.82	1.97	2.6977(13)	147.6
3b	O1	H1A	N1	0.923(19)	1.926(19)	2.7308(15)	144.5(15)
	O2	H2B	N2	0.94(2)	1.85(2)	2.6844(14)	146.4(17)
3c	O1	H1A	N1	0.82(3)	2.04(3)	2.771(2)	148(3)
	O2	H2B	N2	0.85(3)	1.93(3)	2.689(2)	149(3)
	O3	H3B	N3	0.82	2.02	2.726(2)	144.3
	O4	H4A	N4	0.82	2.08	2.783(3)	144.1
	O5	H5B	N5	0.84(3)	1.93(3)	2.696(2)	151(3)
	O6	H6A	N6	0.86(3)	1.93(3)	2.695(2)	148(2)
3f	O1	H1A	N1	0.93(2)	1.84(2)	2.6731(15)	148.3(18)
	O4	H4A	N2	0.94(2)	1.80(2)	2.6583(15)	150.9(19)
3h	O1	H1A	N1	0.85(3)	1.87(3)	2.6490(17)	152(2)
	O2	H2B	N2	0.87(2)	1.87(2)	2.6718(17)	152(2)

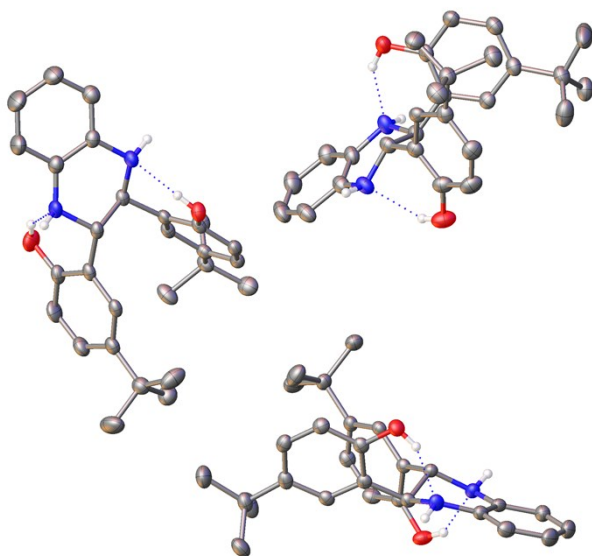
6,6'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(2-(*tert*-butyl)-4-methoxyphenol) (3a)



2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)diphenol (3b)

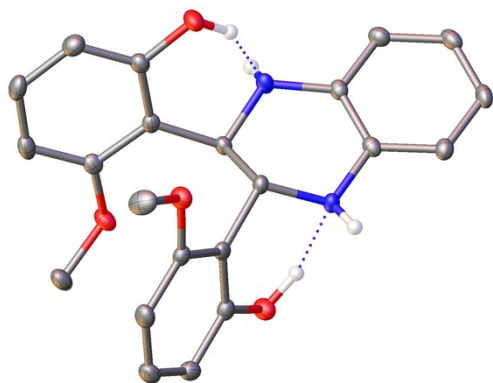


2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenol) (3c)

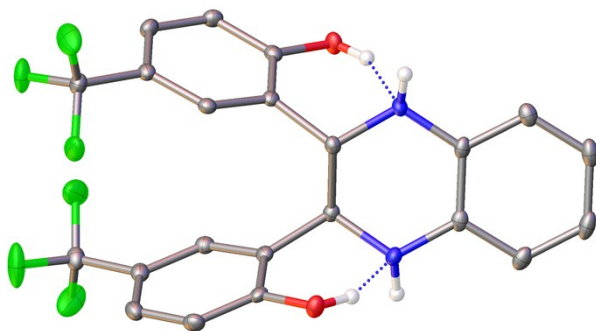


For **3c**, the crystal contained highly disordered solvents of crystallisation for which a satisfactory discrete atom model could not be obtained. Therefore a solvent mask was used which revealed two solvent voids per unit cell with a predicted electron count of 38 which corresponds approximately to one dichloromethane. The asymmetric unit contained 3 molecules of the phenol. Acidic hydrogens were located by difference map and allowed to refine apart from H3b and H4b. For these two hydrogens, refinement gave unrealistic O-H bond lengths so hydrogens on O3 and O4 were placed using a riding model.

2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(3-methoxyphenol) (3f)



2,2'-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline-2,3-diyl)bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenol) (3h)



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