

Aerobic Cu-Catalyzed Oxidative 1:2 Coupling of Benzyne with Terminal Alkynes

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Supporting Information

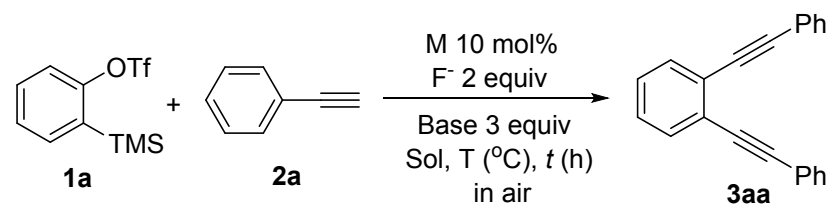
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General All the reactions were carried out under air atmosphere in oven-dried flasks unless otherwise noted. CH₃CN and DCE were distilled from CaH₂ prior to use. Toluene, DME and THF were distilled from Na before use. Benzyne precursors **1a-1f** were all prepared from corresponding *ortho*-bromophenols according to similar procedures in a reference.^[1] 2-Bromo-4,5-dimethylphenol for the benzyne precursor **1b** was synthesized from 3,4-dimethylphenol by a reference method.^[2] Substrate **2l** was prepared by the reference method.^[3] Substrate **4** was prepared by the reference method.^[4] Substrate **1a'** was synthesized by reference methods.^[5] Other materials were purchased from commercial sources and used without additional purification. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 500 MHz using TMS as an internal standard. ¹³C NMR spectra were acquired at 125 MHz. Mass spectroscopy data were collected on a TOF-MS instrument. EPR spectra were recorded on a Bruker A300 EPR Spectrometer. The samples were taken out into a thin quartz tube and frozen by liquid nitrogen, then recorded by EPR spectrometer at indicated temperature and parameters.

Representative procedure of the reaction: To an oven-dried flask, benzyne precursor **1a** (0.5 mmol), ethynylbenzene **2a** (2.0 mmol), CuCl₂•2H₂O (0.05 mmol), CsF (1.0 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (1.5 mmol) were added. Then, dry MeCN (2.5 mL) was injected by a syringe. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir in air at 60 °C for 6 hours. After the completion of the reaction, the mixture was filtered through a pad of celite. The filtrate was concentrated until the solvent was completely removed. The residue was then separated on a silica gel column using PE as an eluent, and the product **3aa** was obtained as a pale yellow powder (103 mg, 74% yield).

Table S1. The Optimization Work ^a



Entry	M	F ⁻	Base	[S]	T (°C)	t h	Yield (%)	^b
1	CuI	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	80	12	50	
2	no	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	80	12	trace	
3	CuI	no	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	80	12	trace	
4	CuI	CsF	no	MeCN	80	12	10	
5	CuI	CsF	K ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	80	12	47	
6	CuI	CsF	Na ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	80	12	29	
7 ^c	CuI	CsF	Et ₃ N	MeCN	80	12	13	
8 ^c	CuI	CsF	DBU	MeCN	80	12	trace	
9	CuI	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DME	80	12	27	
10	CuI	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	Toluene	80	12	Trace	
11 ^d	CuI	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	THF	80	12	Trace	
12	CuI	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	100	12	15	
13	CuI	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	12	75	
14	CuI	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	40	12	58	
15	CuBr	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	12	76	
16	CuCl	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	12	69	

17	CuBr ₂	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	12	77
18	CuCl ₂ •2H ₂ O	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	12	78
19	Cu(OAc) ₂ •H ₂ O	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	12	73
20	CuCl ₂ •2H ₂ O	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	24	76
21	CuCl ₂ •2H ₂ O	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	6	74
22	CuCl ₂ •2H ₂ O	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	3	35
23 ^e	CuCl ₂ •2H ₂ O	CsF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	6	15
24 ^f	CuCl ₂ •2H ₂ O	KF/18-C-6	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	6	17
25	CuCl ₂ •2H ₂ O	TBAF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	60	6	trace

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2a** (2.0 mmol), F⁻ (1.0 mmol), base (1.5 mmol), [S] (2.5 mL). ^b Isolated yields. ^c Base (3.0 mmol). ^d In sealed tube. ^e Under N₂. ^f 18-C-6 (1.0 mmol).

We commenced our study by selecting readily available benzyne precursor **1a**^[1] and ethynylbenzene **2a** as model substrates (Table S1). Control experiments revealed that this reaction was fruitless in the absence of either copper catalyst or fluoride (Table S1, entries 2-3). Performing the reaction in the absence of Cs₂CO₃ just gave a 10% yield (Table S1, entry 4). The optimization on a variety of bases showed that Cs₂CO₃ was the best choice (Table S1, entries 5-8). When conducting the reaction in the presence of nitrogen-containing organic bases such as Et₃N and DBU, sluggish results were obtained which might be attributed to the competitively coordination of these organic bases with copper ions. The screening on reaction solvents disclosed MeCN was superior to other common solvents such as toluene or THF (Table S1, entries 9-11). Optimization on the reaction temperature showed that 60 °C was most suitable for the reaction (Table S1, entries 12-14). A wide selection of copper salts including both Cu(I) and Cu(II) were able to effect this reaction giving comparable yields of **3aa** (Table S1, entries 15-19). With regard to the reaction yield and cost of these copper salts, we chose CuCl₂•2H₂O as the optimal catalyst for further studies. It should be noted

that lattice water in these copper salts had no deleterious effect on the reaction (Table S1, entries 18-19). This result together with the fact that this reaction could be performed in open air showed the convenience of handling this reaction. Different reaction time was tested indicating that 6 hours were adequate for this reaction (Table S1, entries 20-22). Shortening the reaction time to 3 hours furnished a lower yield while elongating it to 24 hours gave a comparable yield with 6 hours. Performing the reaction under N₂ afforded a lower yield (15%, Table S1, entry 23), implying the key role of atmospheric oxygen on the reaction. Finally, the optimization on the fluoride source revealed that CsF was the best choice with KF/18-C-6 and Bu₄NF both giving sluggish results (Table S1, entries 24-25).

EPR Experiments: At room temperature in air, benzyne precursor **1a** (0.5 mmol), ethynylbenzene **2a** (2.0 mmol), CuCl₂•2H₂O (0.05 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (1.5 mmol) were added into a screw-capped glass vial fitted with a magnetic stirring bar. Once CsF (1.0 mmol) was added, the system was kept stirring for an indicated time, then the sample was taken out into a thin glass capillary tube and frozen by liquid nitrogen. EPR spectra was recorded at 120 K on EPR spectrometer operated at 9.409 GHz. Typical spectrometer parameters are shown as follows, scan range: 2000 G; center field set: 3357 G; time constant: 163.84 ms; scan time: 81.92 s; modulation amplitude: 4.0 G; modulation frequency: 100 kHz; receiver gain: 1.00×10³; microwave power: 1.797 mW.

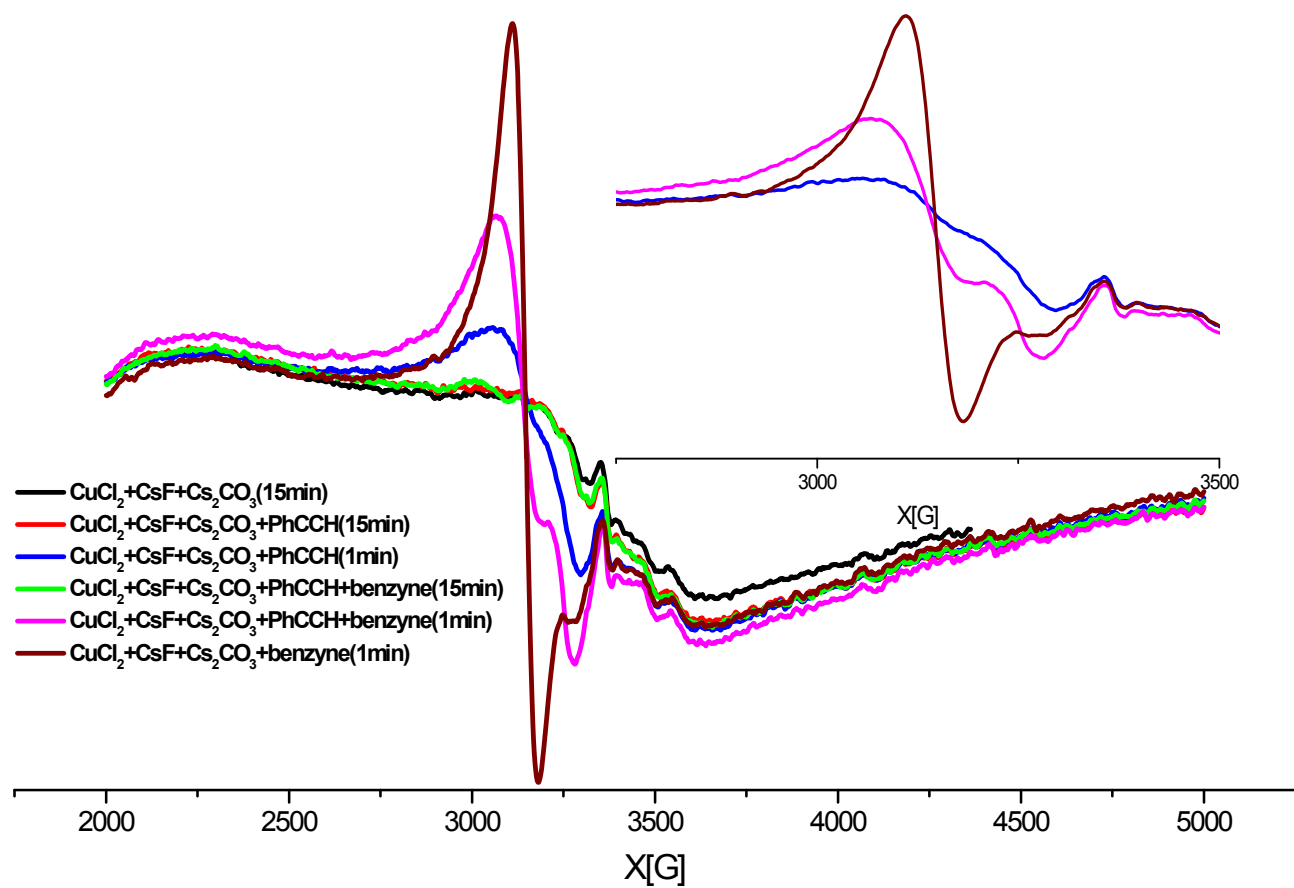
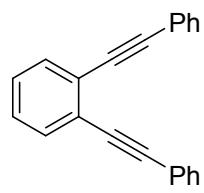


Figure S1. EPR (120K) analysis of several systems relevant to the reaction.

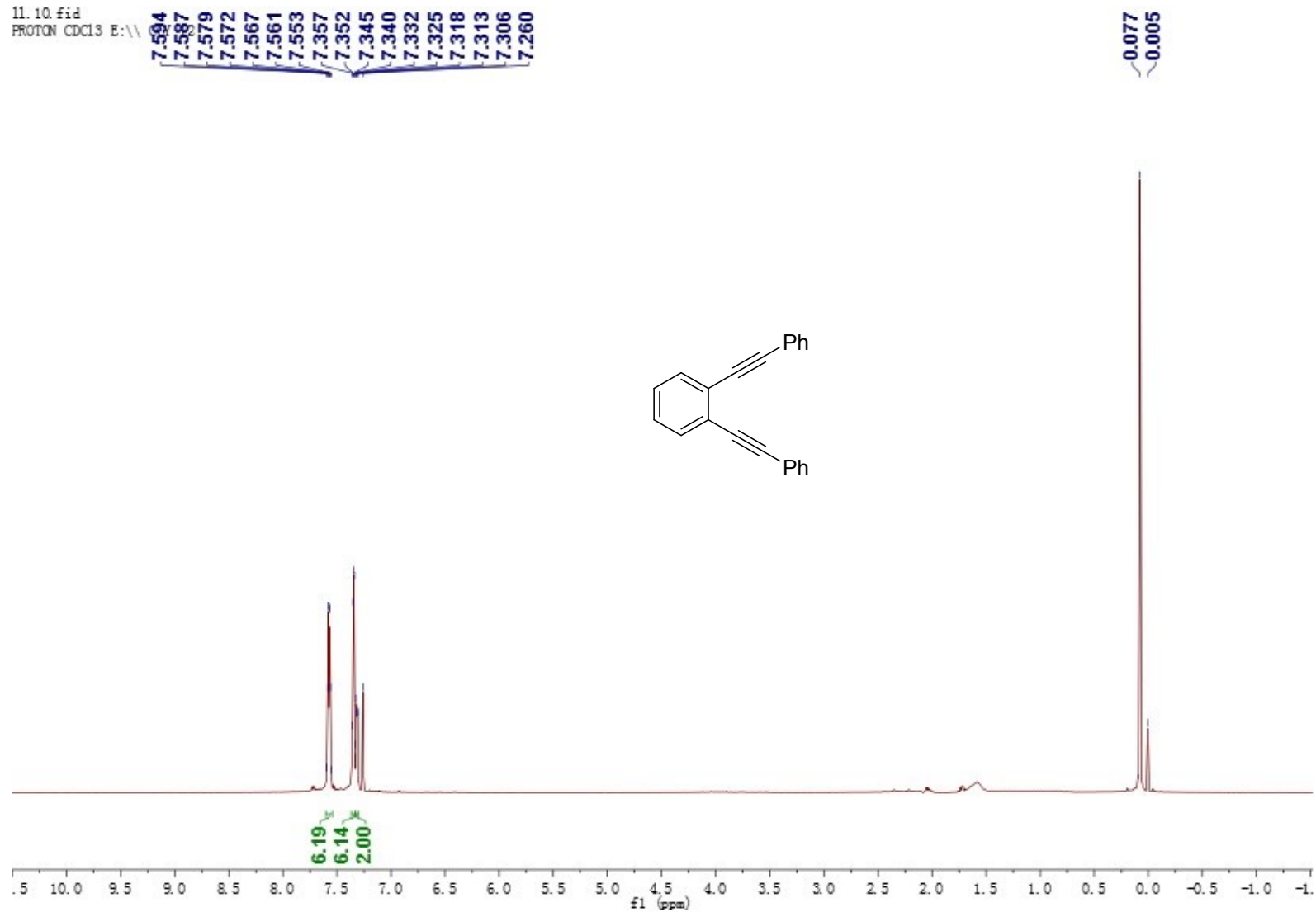
Spectroscopic data of the products

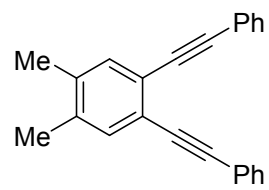


3aa, cas. 13203-60-6, ref. [6].

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.55-7.59 (m, 6H), 7.33-7.36 (m, 6H), 7.31 (dd, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). TOF-MS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{14}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 279.1174; Found, 279.1172.

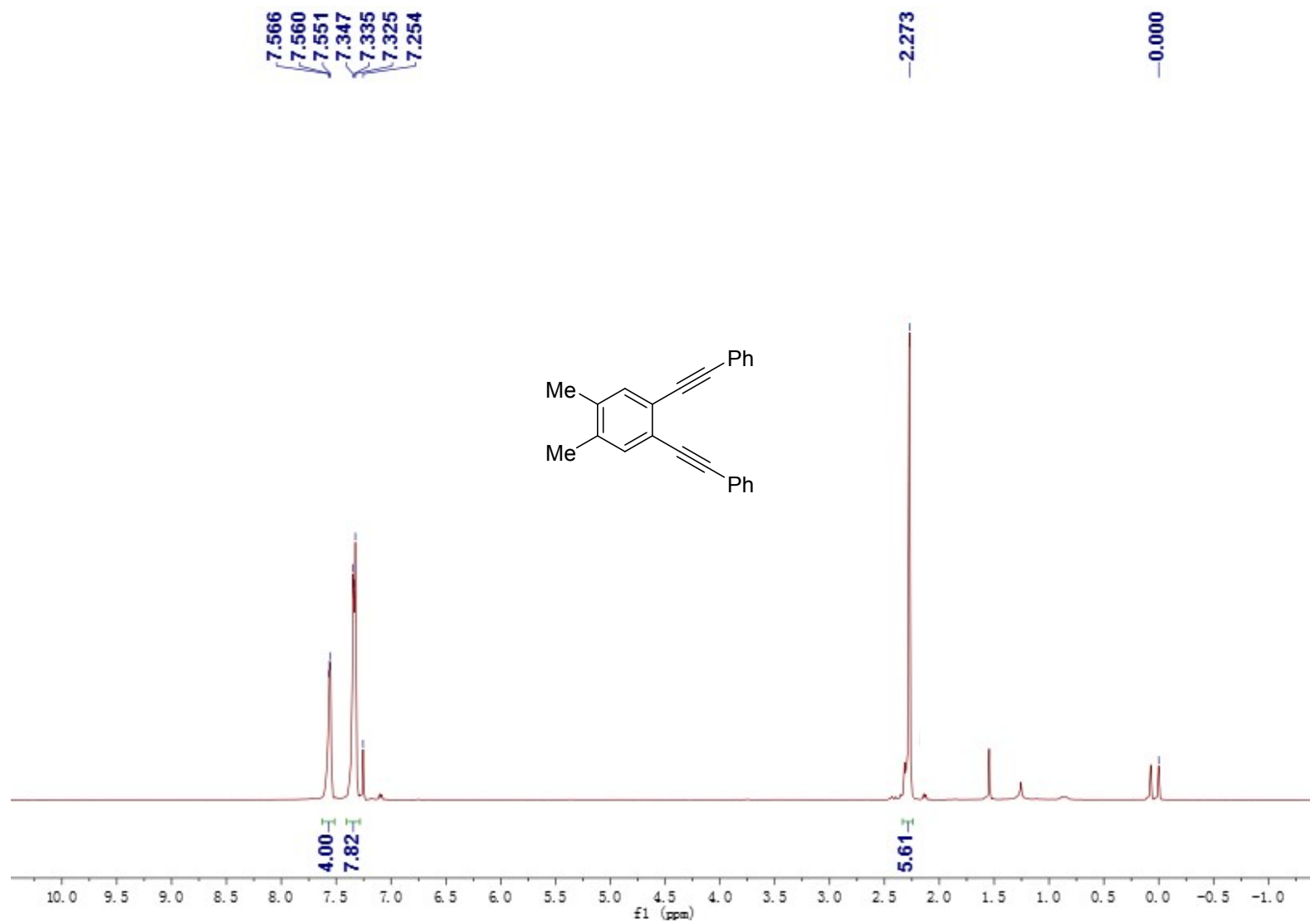
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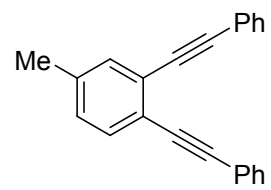




3ba, cas. 27286-84-6, ref. [7].

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.55-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.85 (m, 8H), 2.27 (s, 6H). TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 307.1487; Found, 307.1531.

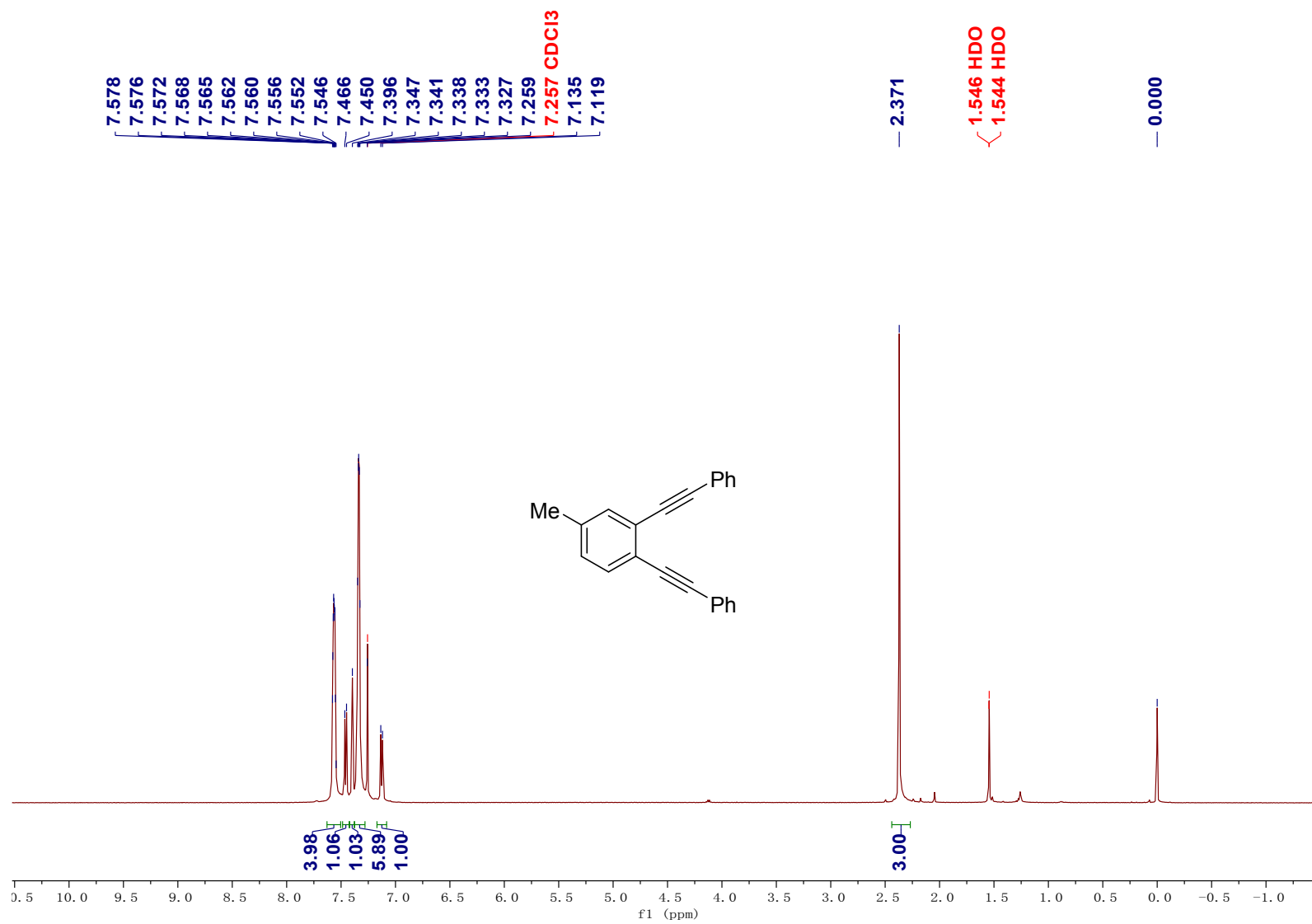


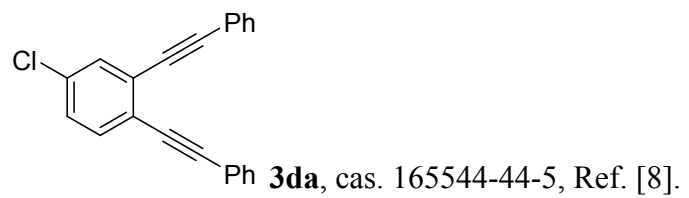


3ca, cas 165544-43-4, ref. [8].

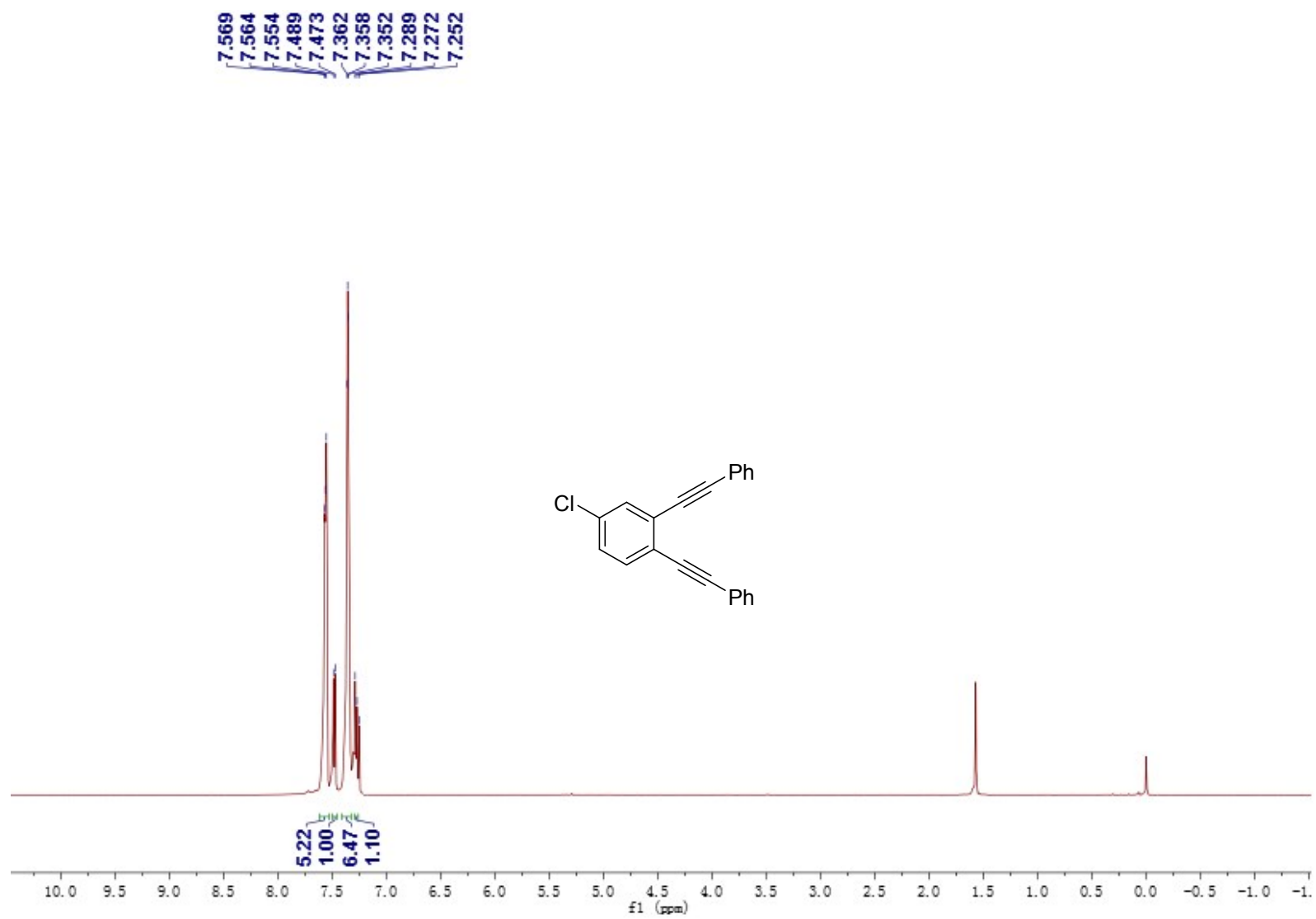
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.55-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.35 (m, 6H), 7.13 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H).

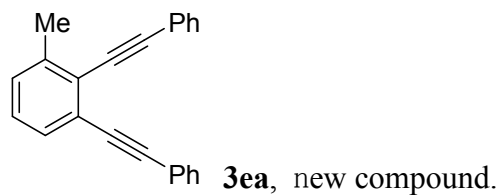
TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{16}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 293.1330; Found, 293.1331.



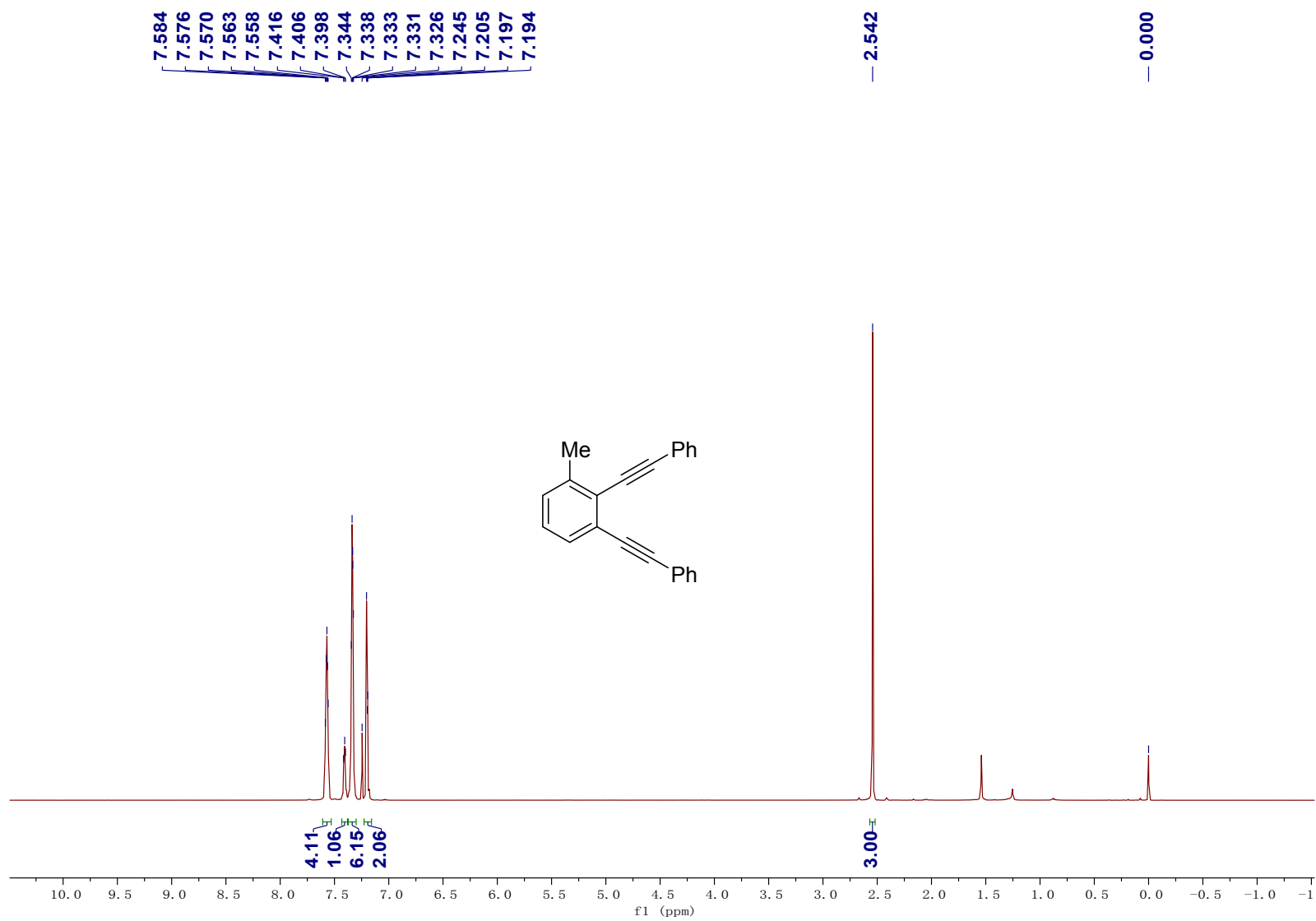


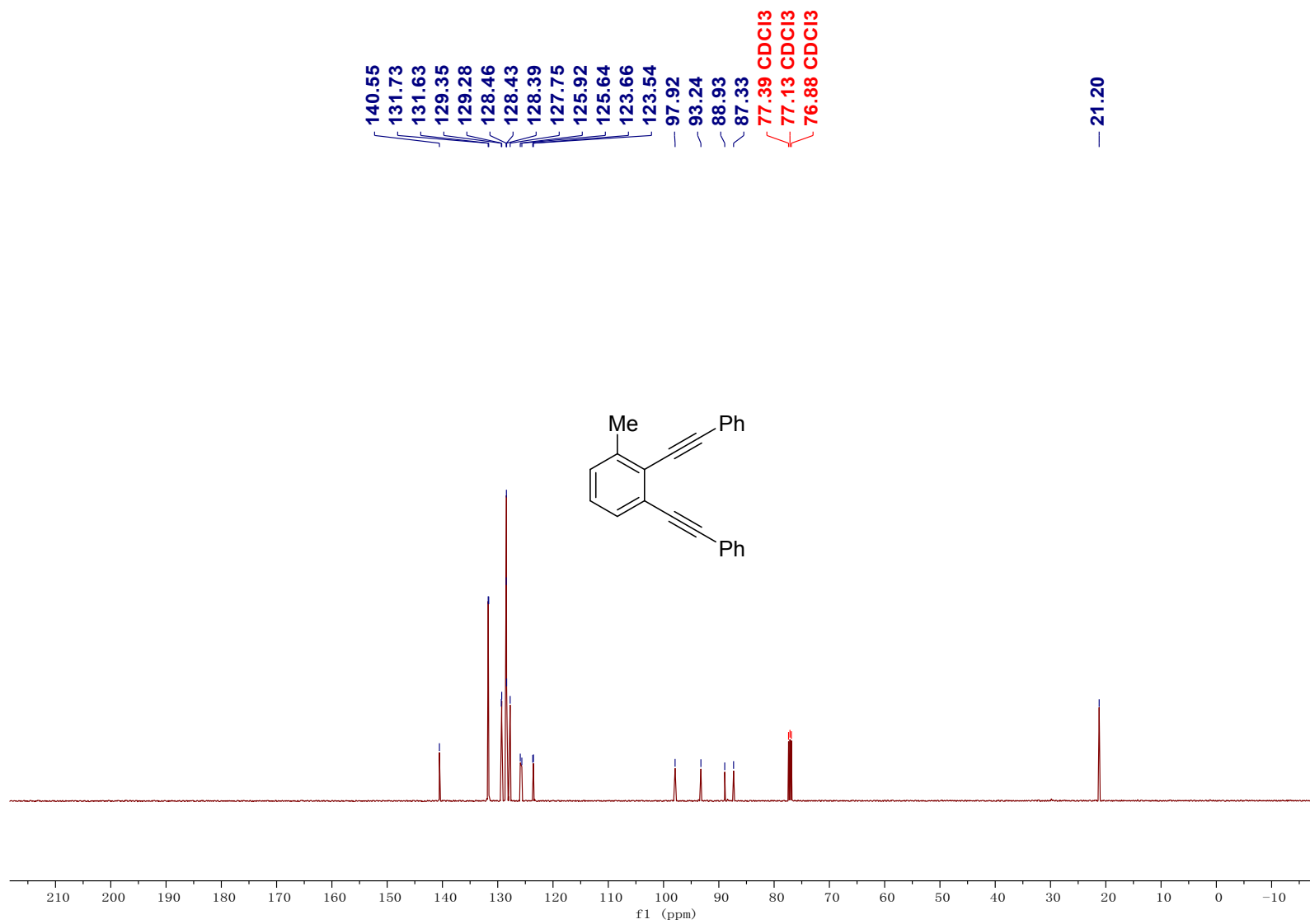
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.55-7.57 (m, 5H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.36 (m, 6H), 7.27 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H). TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{13}\text{Cl}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 313.0784; Found, 313.1618.

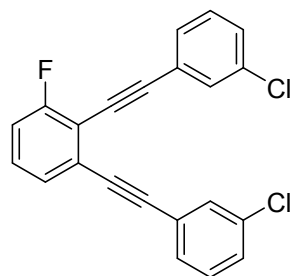




^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.41 (t, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.34 (m, 6H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 140.6, 131.7, 131.6, 129.4, 129.3, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 125.9, 125.6, 123.7, 123.5, 97.9, 93.2, 88.9, 87.3, 21.2. TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{16}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 293.1330; Found, 293.1331.

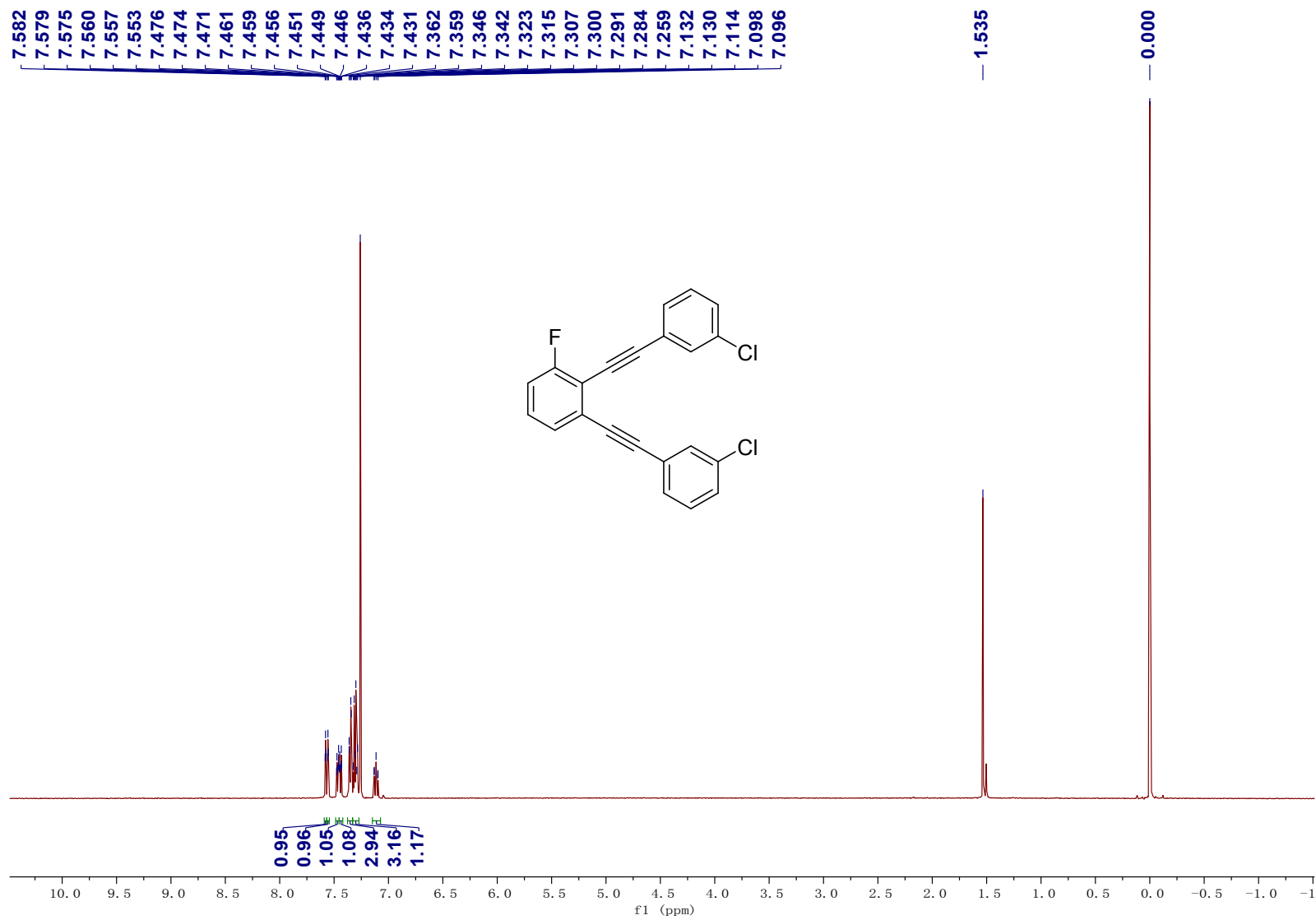


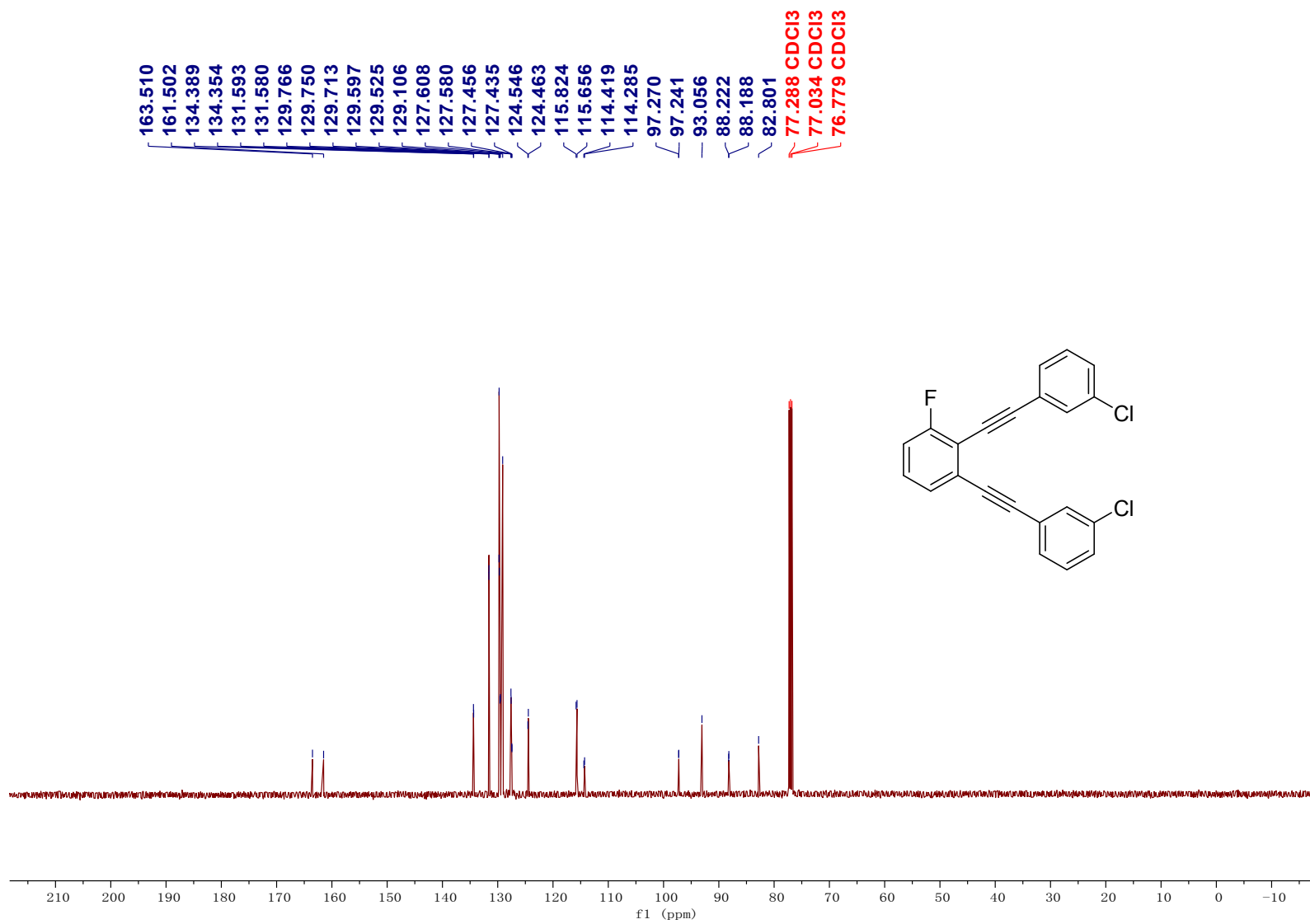


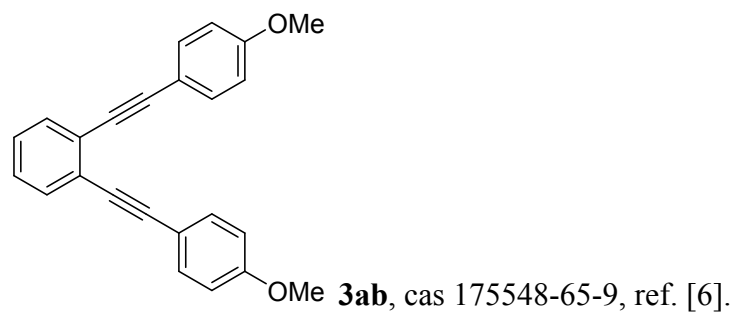


3fi, new compound.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (t, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dt, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dt, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.11 (td, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.5 (d, $J = 251$ Hz), 134.39, 134.35, 131.59, 131.58, 129.77, 129.75, 129.71, 129.6, 129.5, 129.1, 127.61, 127.58, 127.46, 127.44, 124.55, 124.46, 115.8, 115.6, 114.4, 114.3, 97.2 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 93.0, 88.2 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz), 82.8. TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{11}\text{Cl}_2\text{F}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 365.0300; Found, 365.0301.

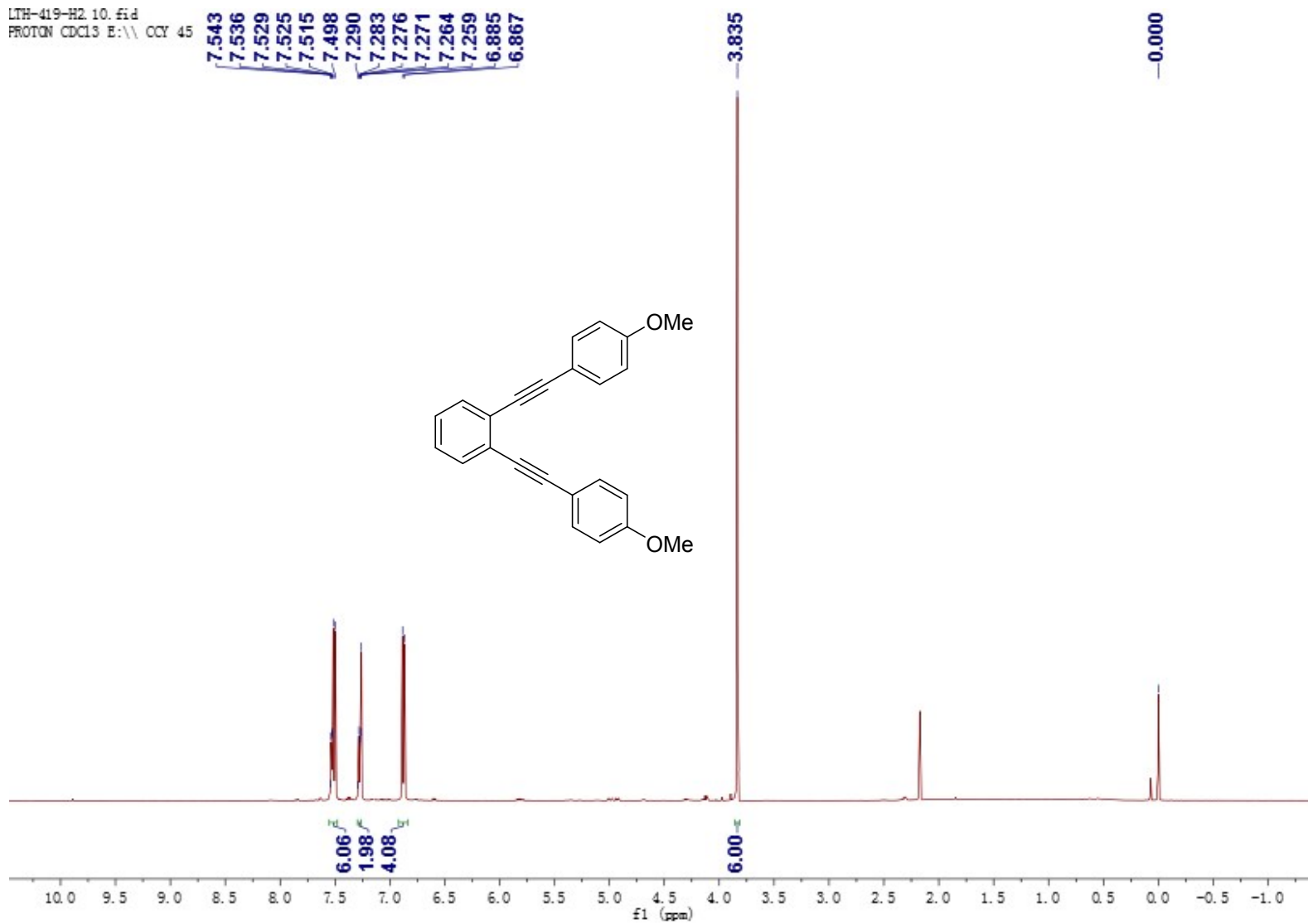


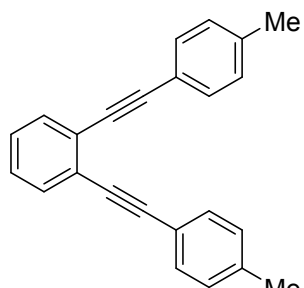




^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 4H), 7.28 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 4H), 3.84 (s, 6H). TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 339.1385; Found, 339.1417.

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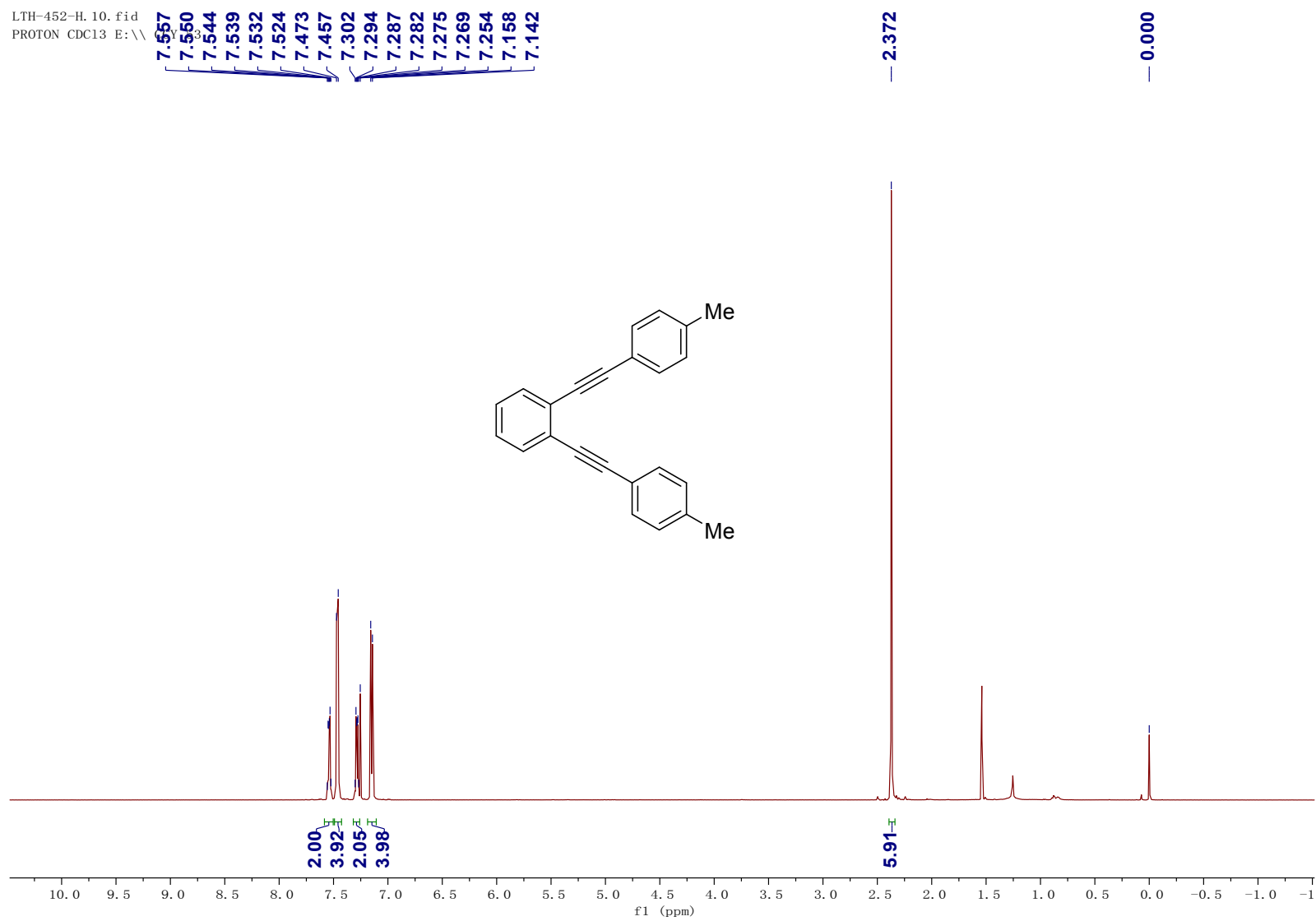


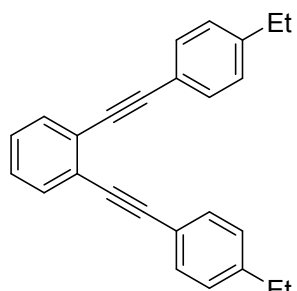


Me **3ac**, cas 731854-44-7, ref. [9].

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 4H), 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 4H), 2.37 (s, 6H). TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 307.1487; Found, 307.1487.

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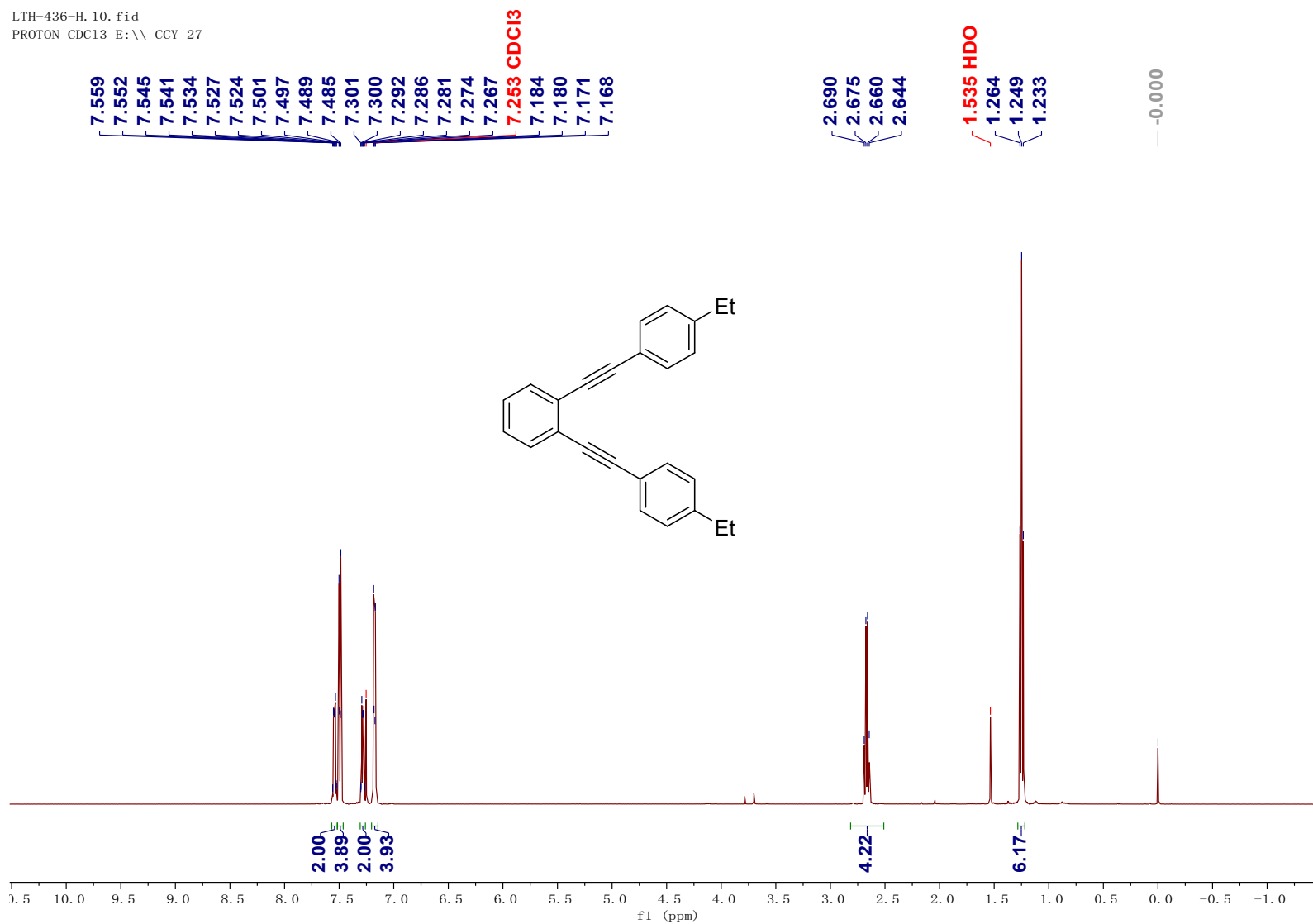


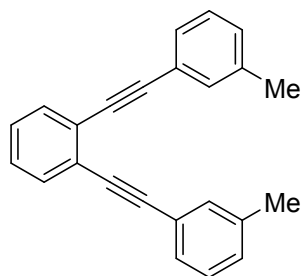


Et **3ad**, cas 2032453-59-9, ref. [9].

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54 (dd, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 4H), 7.28 (dd, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 4H), 2.67 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 4H), 1.25 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 6H). TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{22}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 335.1800; Found, 335.1867.

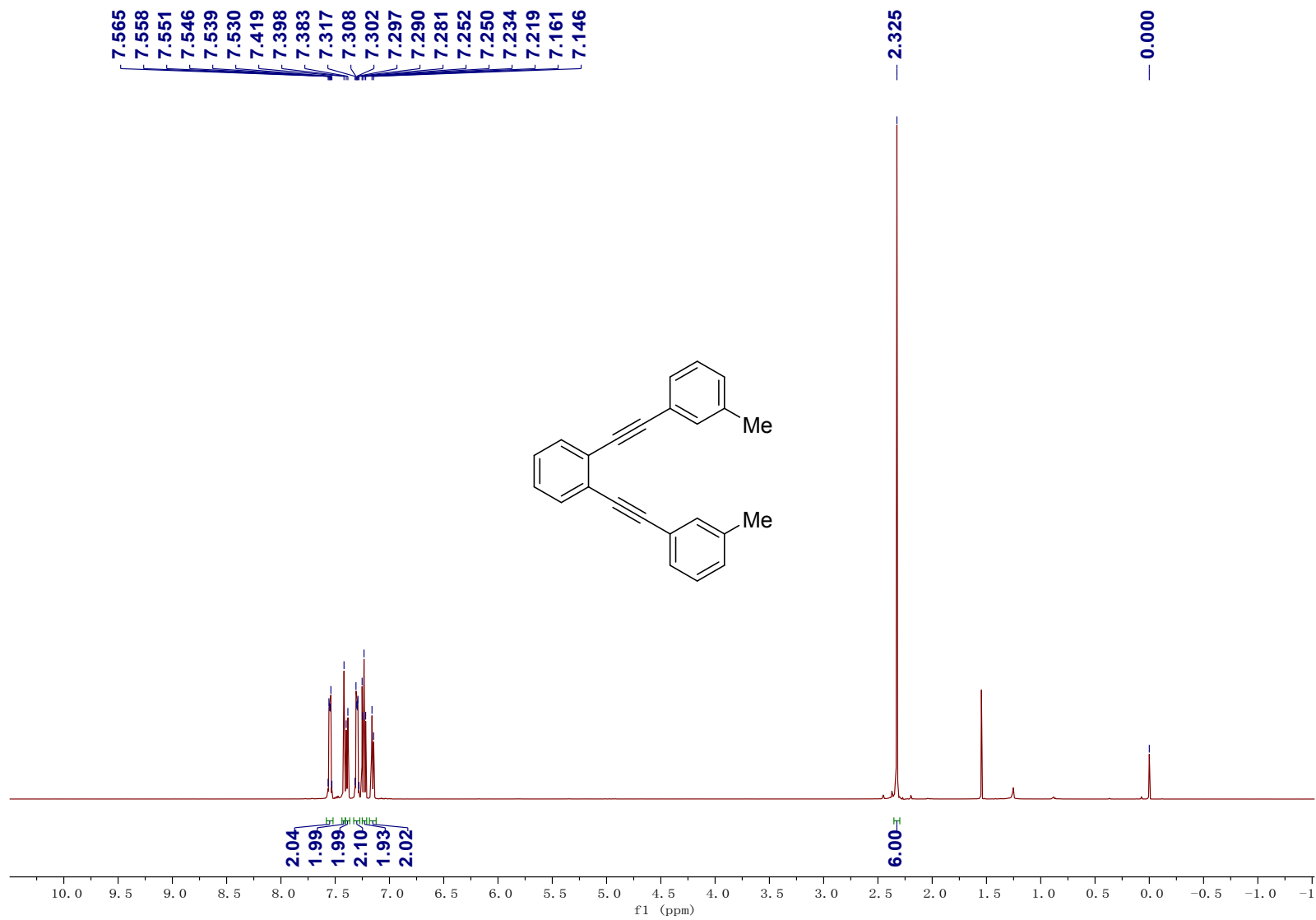
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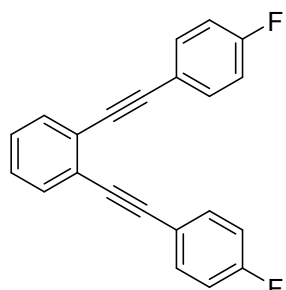




3ae, cas 2032453-58-8, ref. [9].

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.42 (s, 2H), 7.39 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.23 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 6H). TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 307.1487; Found, 307.1487.

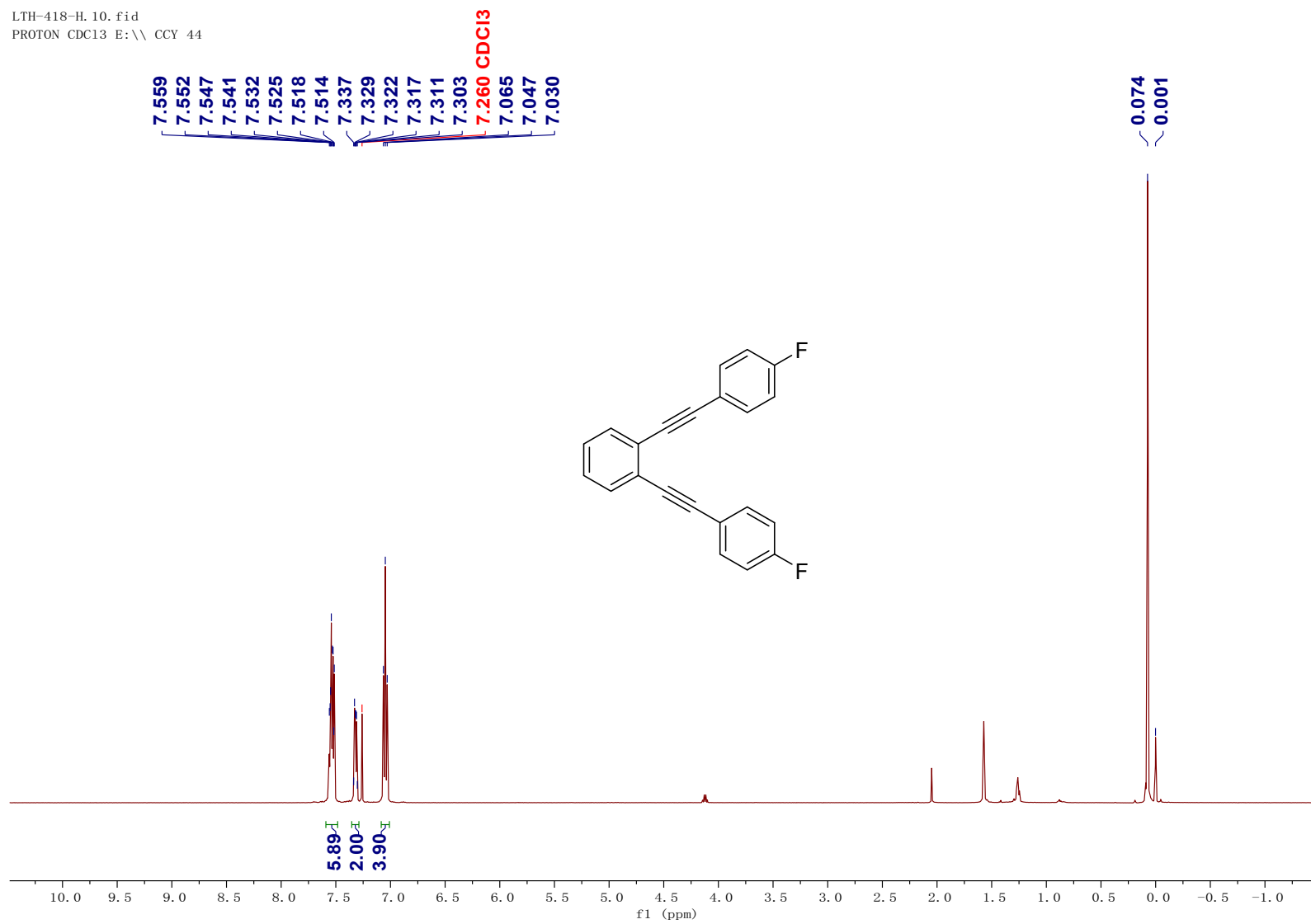


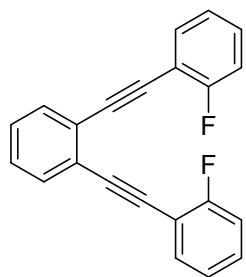


3af, cas 731854-45-8, ref. [6].

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.51-7.56 (m, 6H), 7.30–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.05 (t, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 4H). TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 315.0985; Found, 315.0984.

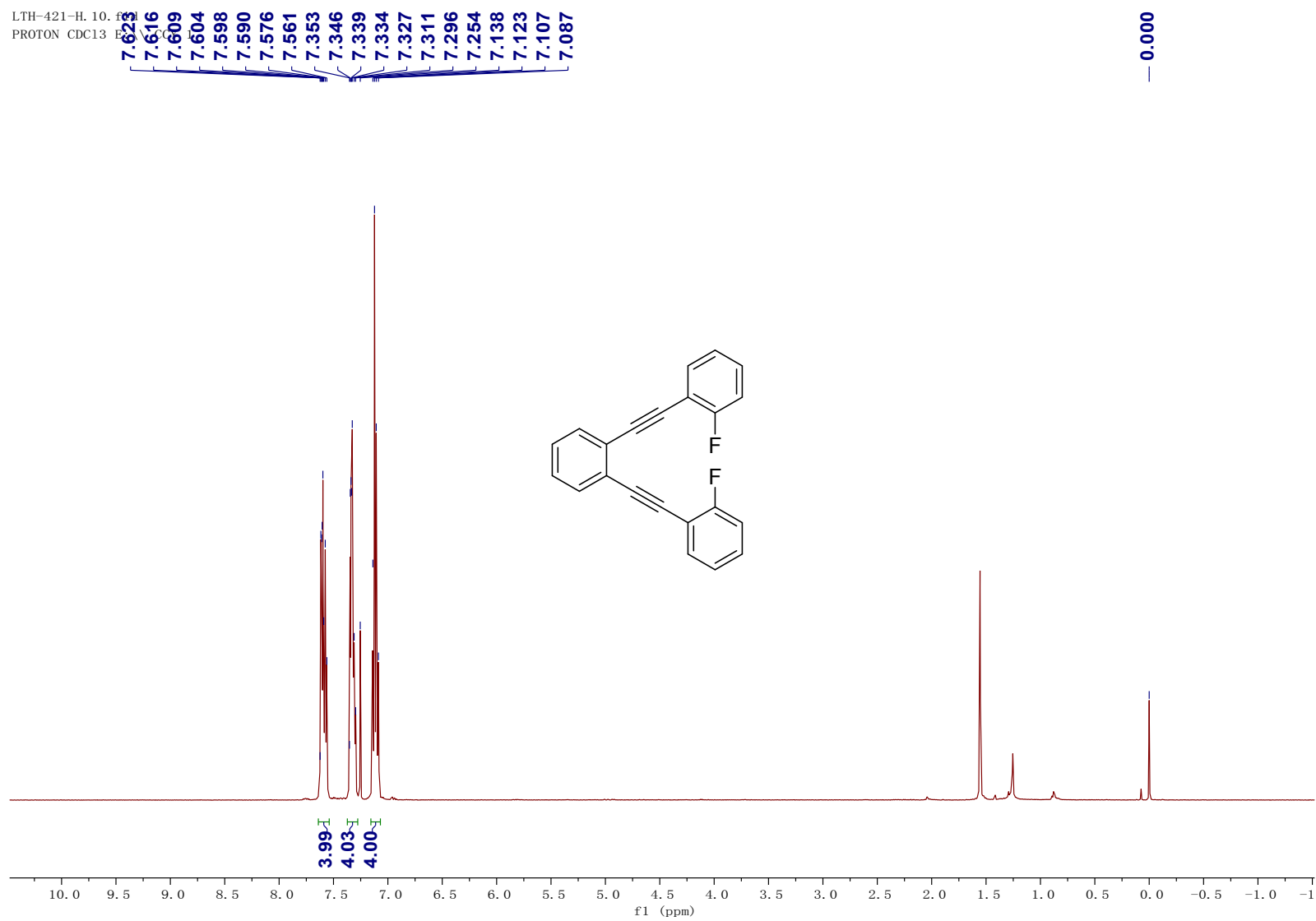
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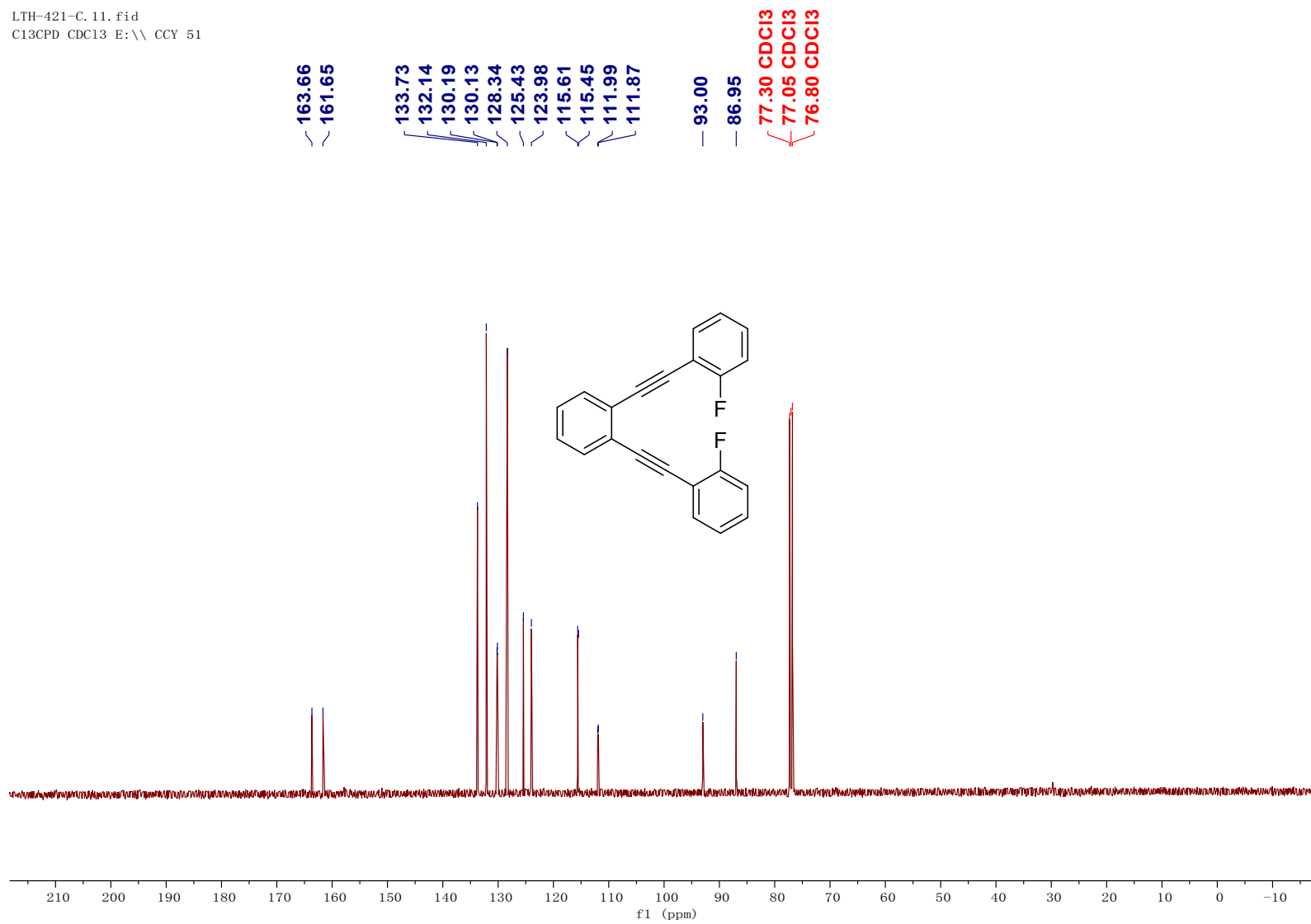


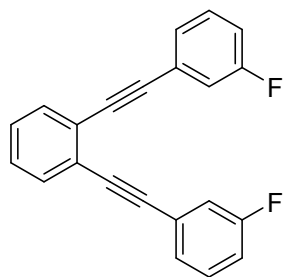
3ag, new compound.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56-7.62 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.09-7.14 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.6 (d, $J = 250$ Hz), 133.7, 132.1, 130.1 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 128.3, 125.4, 123.9, 115.5 (d, $J = 20$ Hz), 111.9 (d, $J = 15$ Hz), 93.0, 86.9. TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 315.0985; Found, 315.0984.



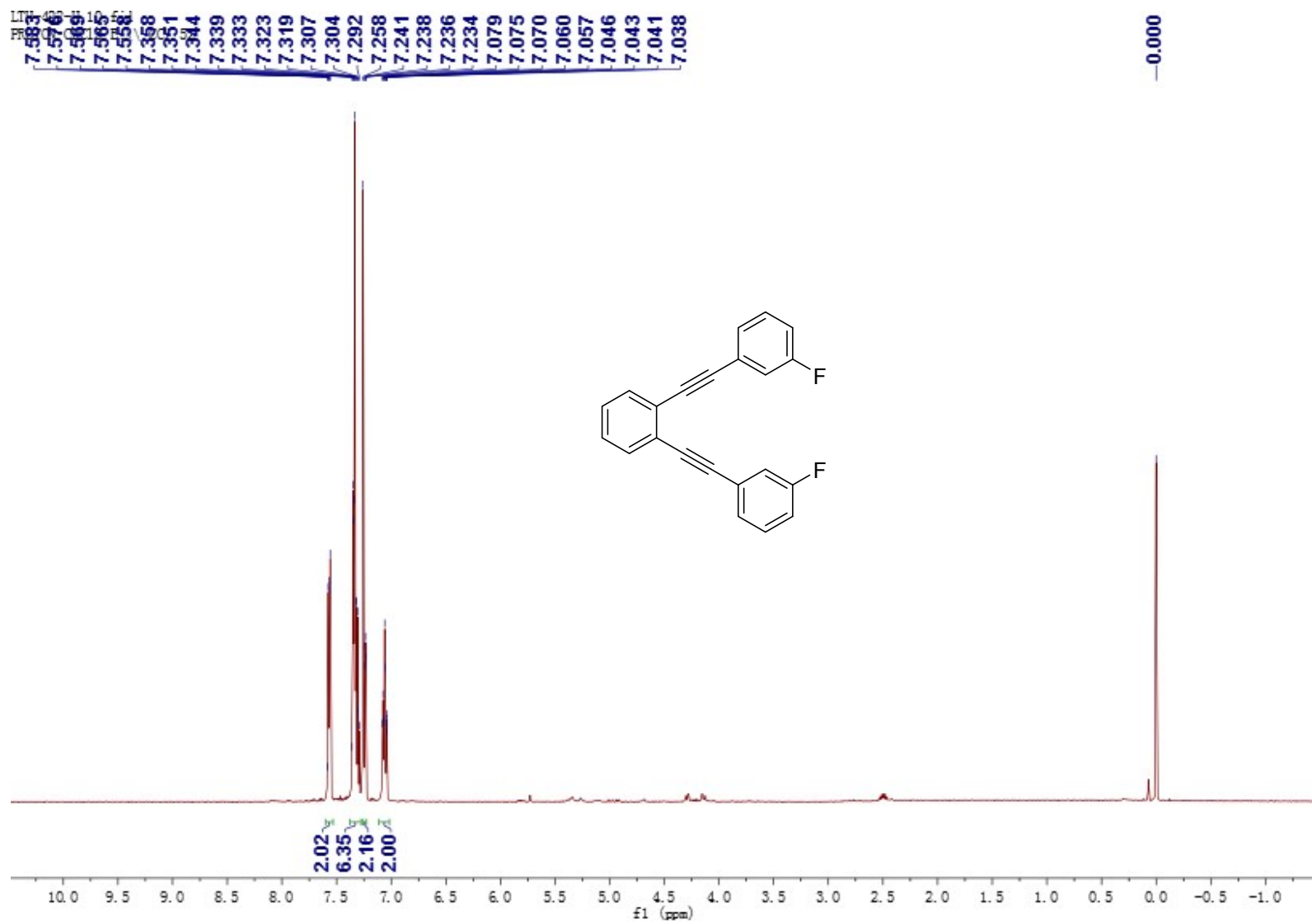
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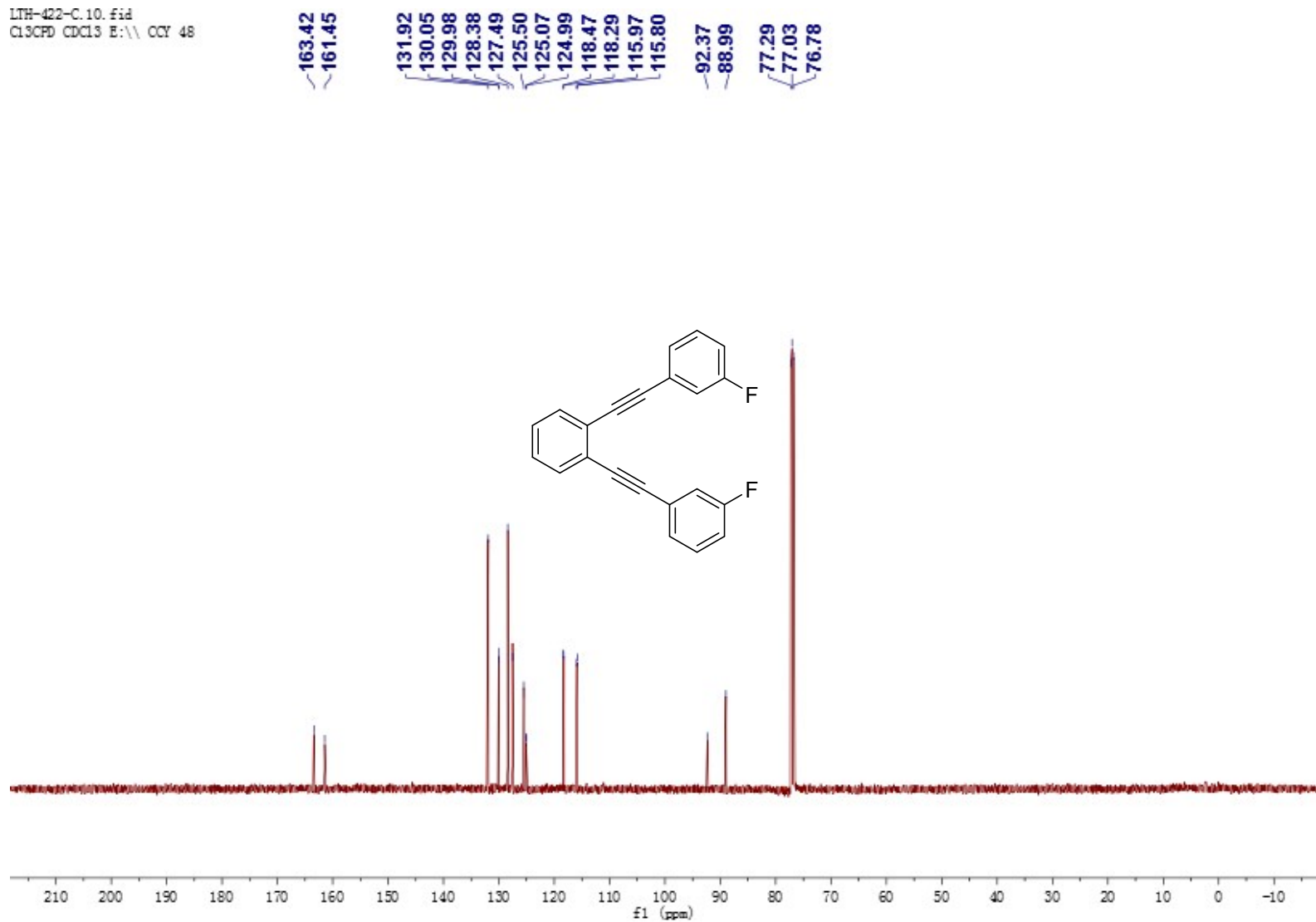


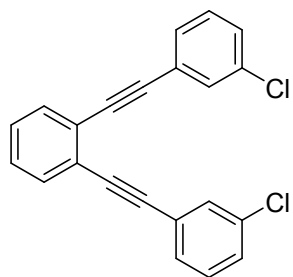
3ah, new compound.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.36 (m, 6H), 7.23-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.06 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.4 (d, $J = 250$ Hz), 131.9, 130.0 (d, $J = 8.75$ Hz), 128.4, 127.5, 125.5, 125.0 (d, $J = 10$ Hz), 118.4 (d, $J = 22.5$ Hz), 115.9 (d, $J = 21.25$ Hz), 92.4, 89.0. TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 315.0985; Found, 315.0984.



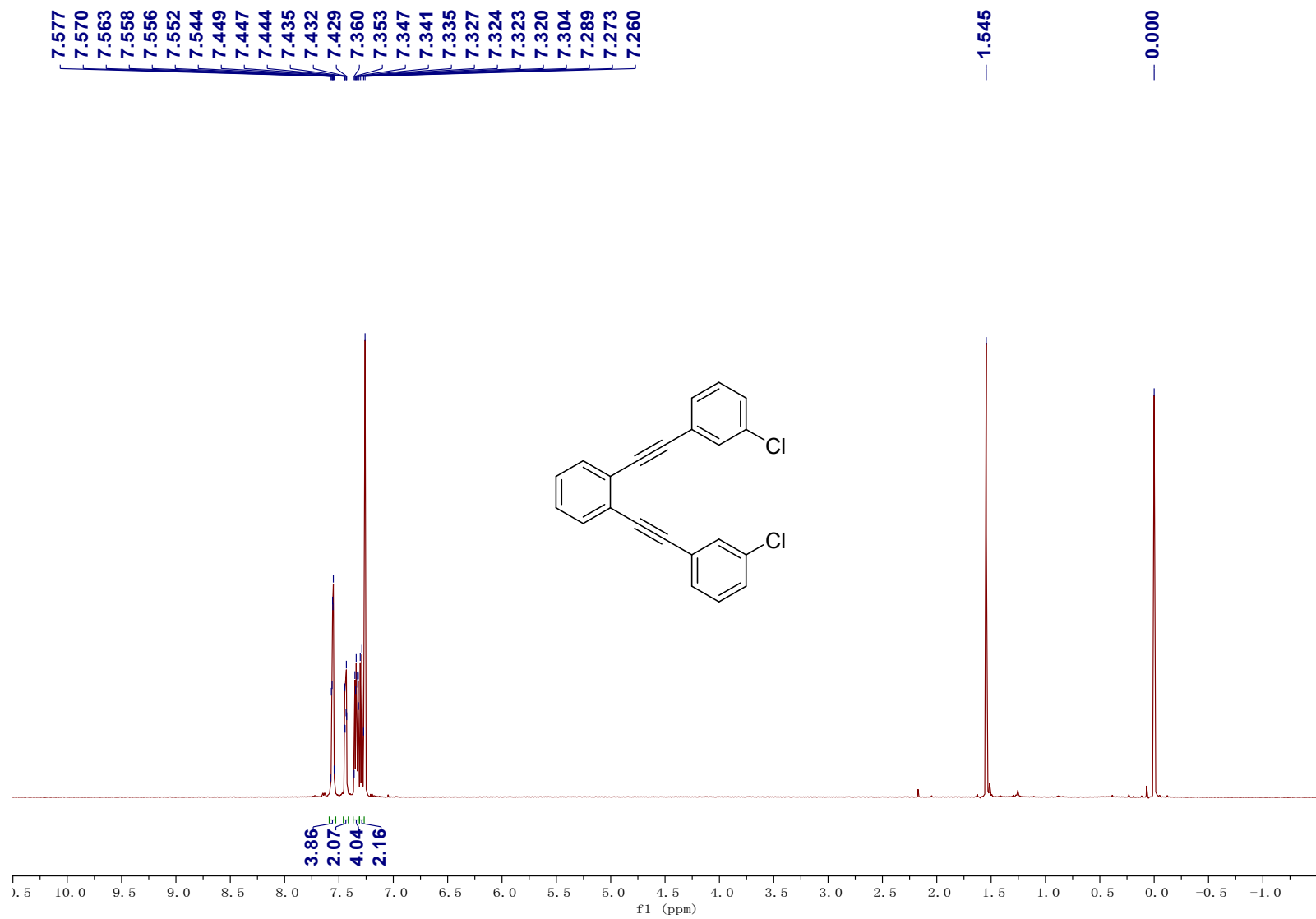
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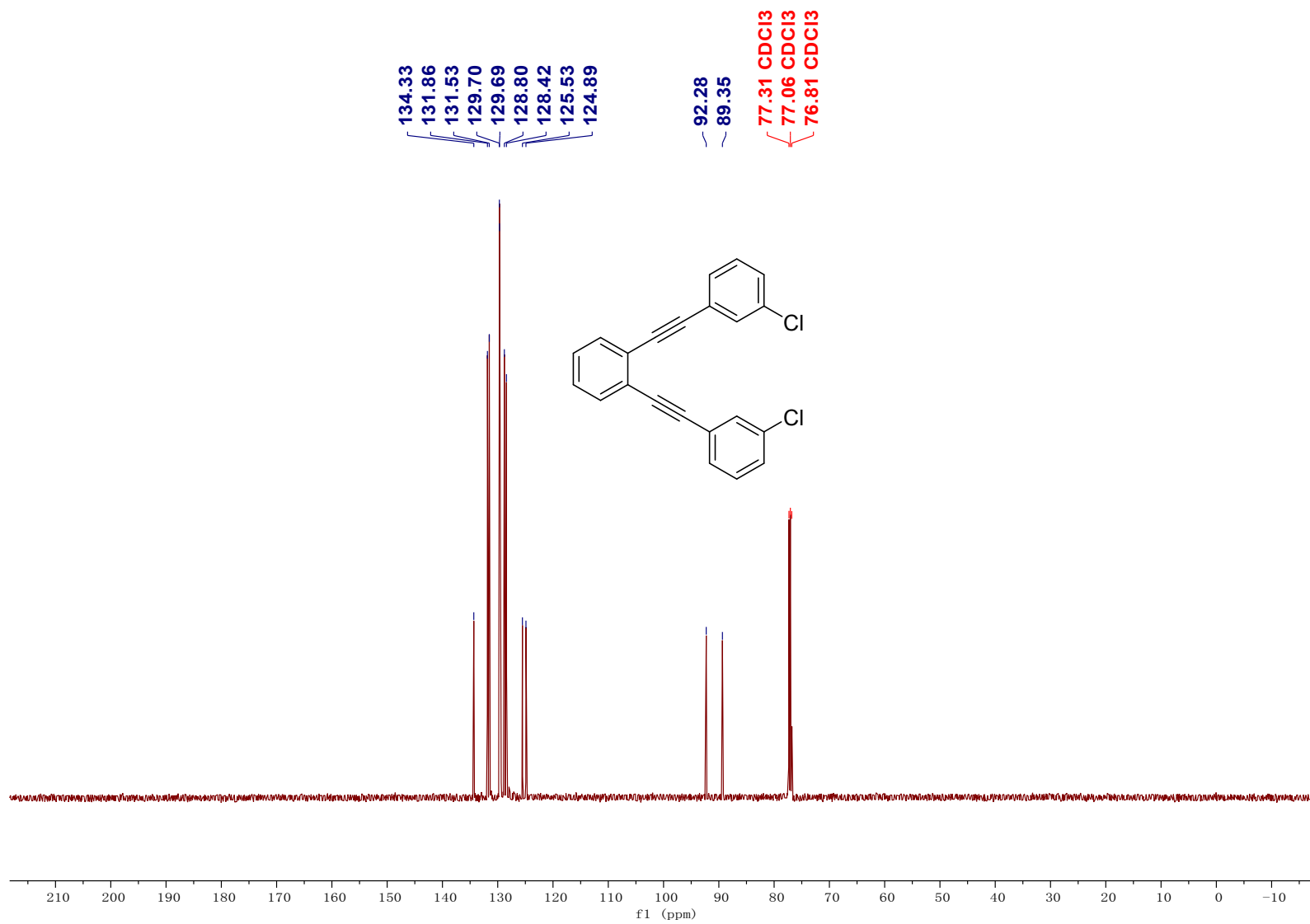


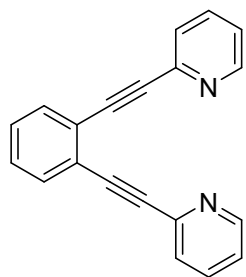


3ai, new compound.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.44 (dt, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.29 (q, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 134.3, 131.9, 131.5, 129.7, 129.6, 128.8, 128.4, 125.5, 124.9, 92.3, 89.4. TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{12}\text{Cl}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 347.0394; Found, 347.0387.

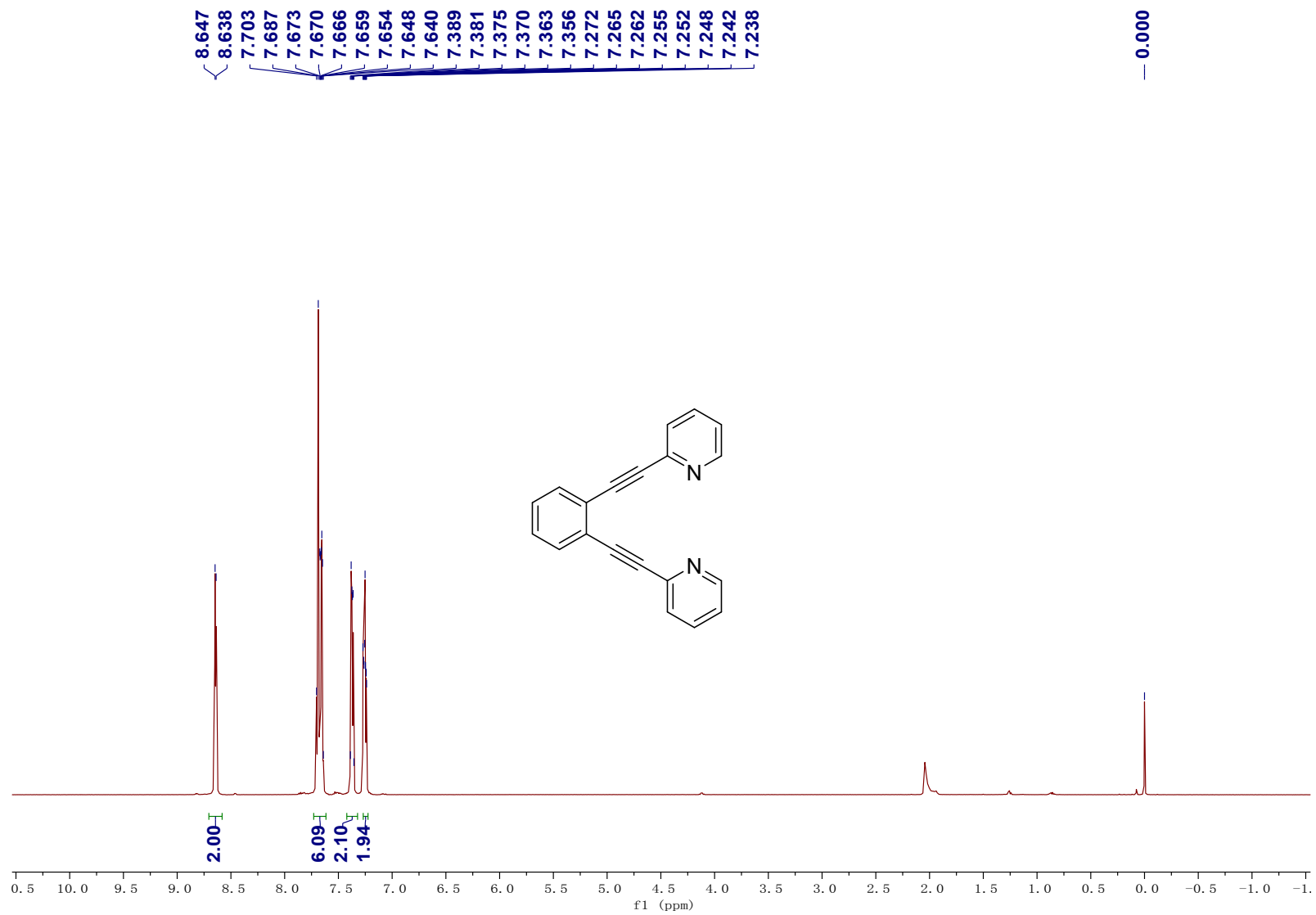


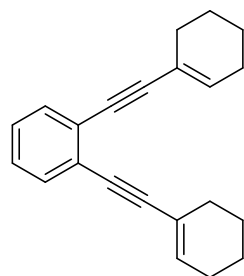




3aj, cas. 350587-04-1, ref. [10].

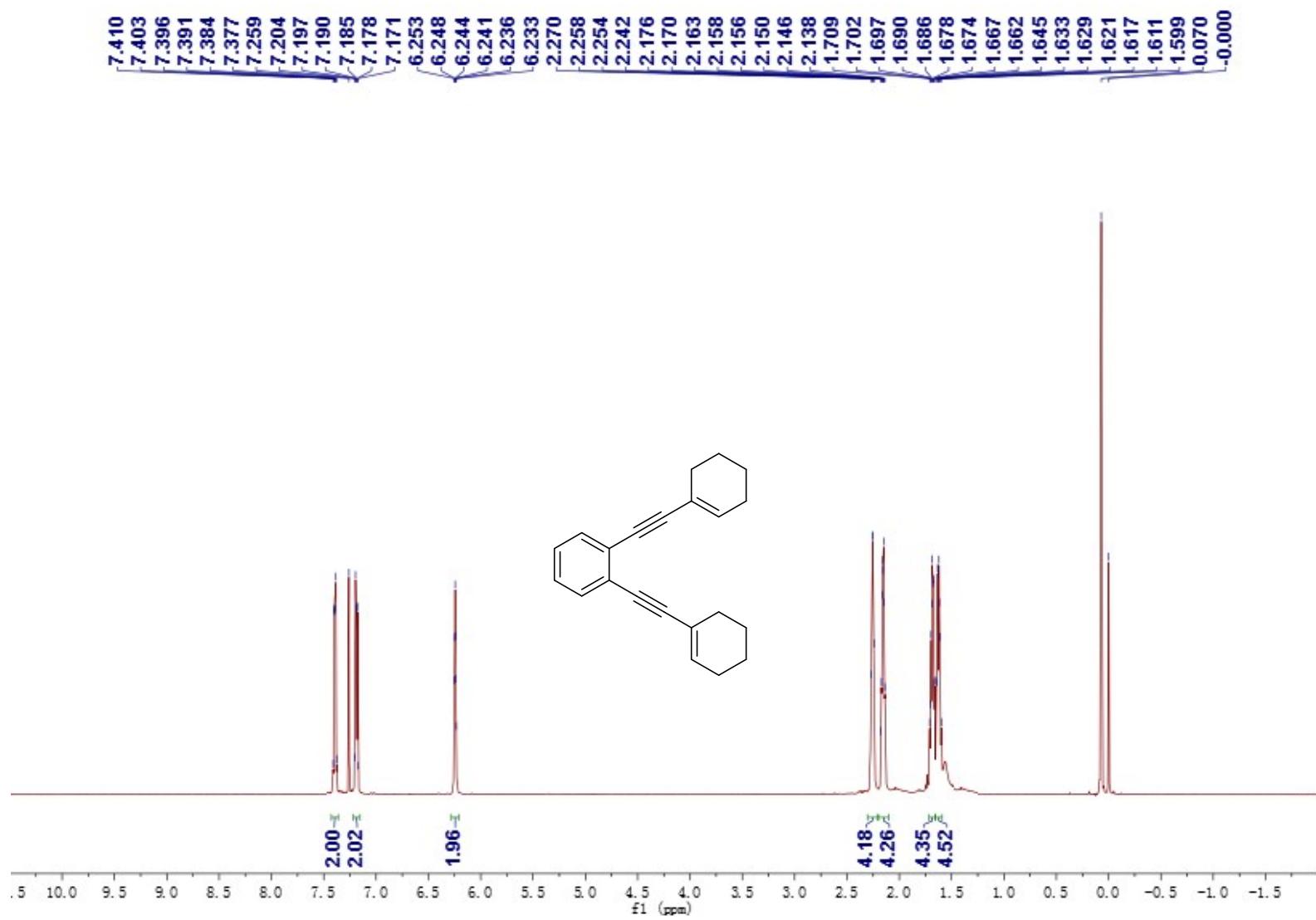
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.64 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.64-7.70 (m, 6H), 7.36-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.26 (m, 2H). TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 281.1079; Found, 281.1107.

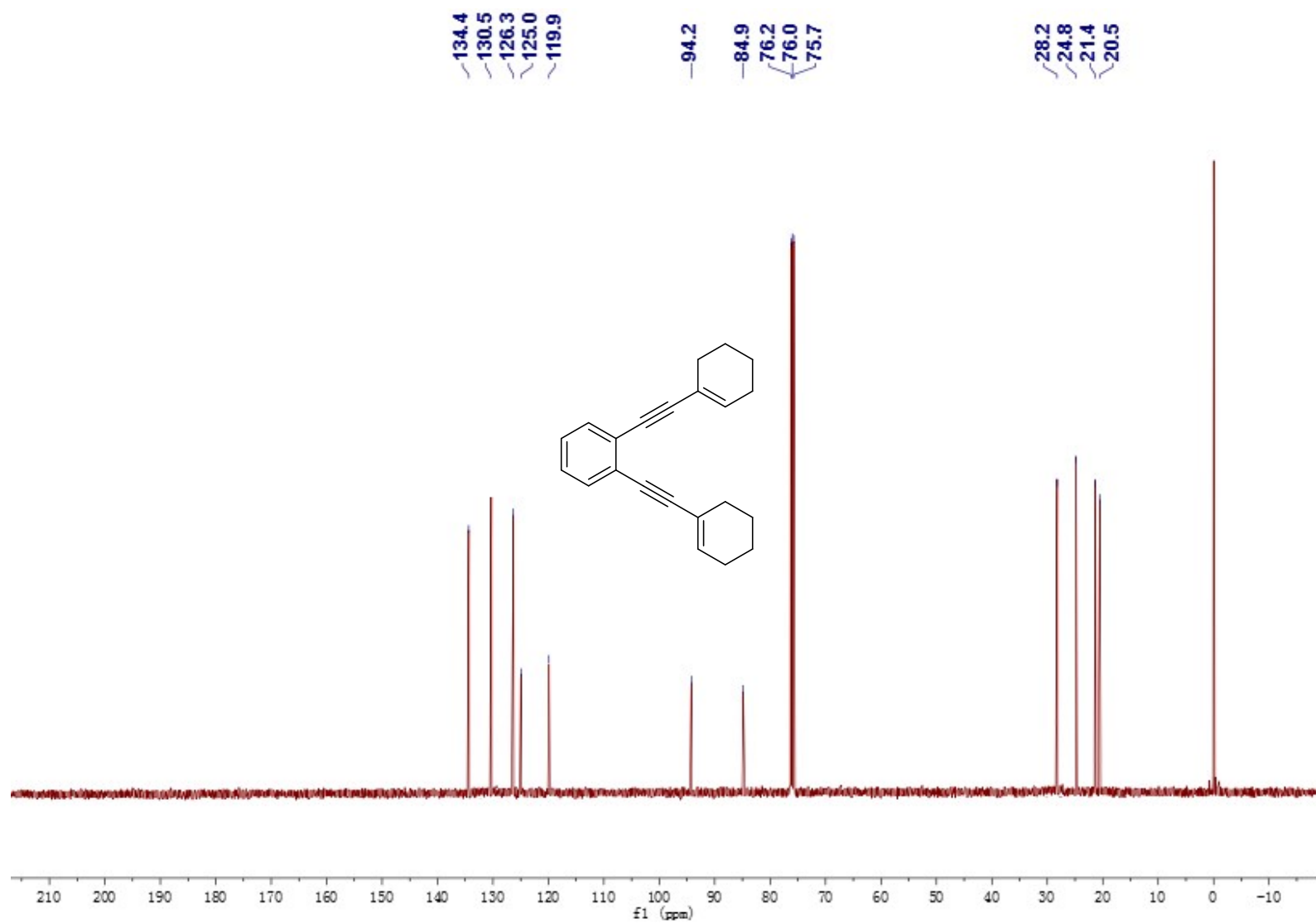


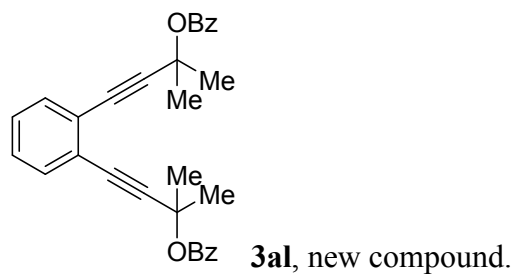


3ak, new compound.

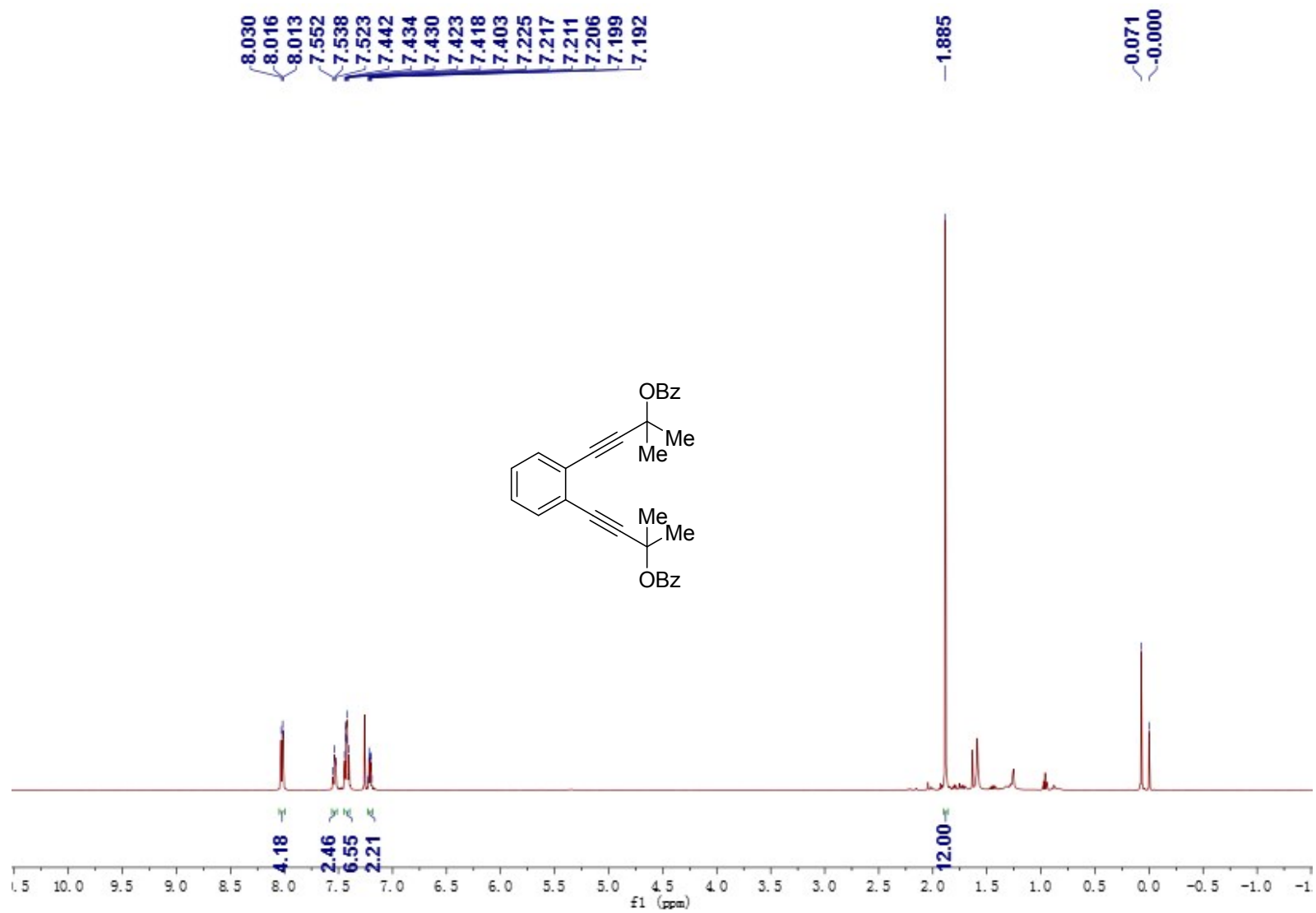
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.18 (m, 2H), 6.24 (m, 2H), 2.25 (m, 4H), 2.16 (m, 4H), 1.66-1.71 (m, 4H), 1.60-1.64 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 134.4, 130.5, 126.3, 125.0, 119.9, 94.2, 84.9, 28.2, 24.8, 21.4, 20.5. TOF-MS (EI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 287.1800; Found, 287.1748.

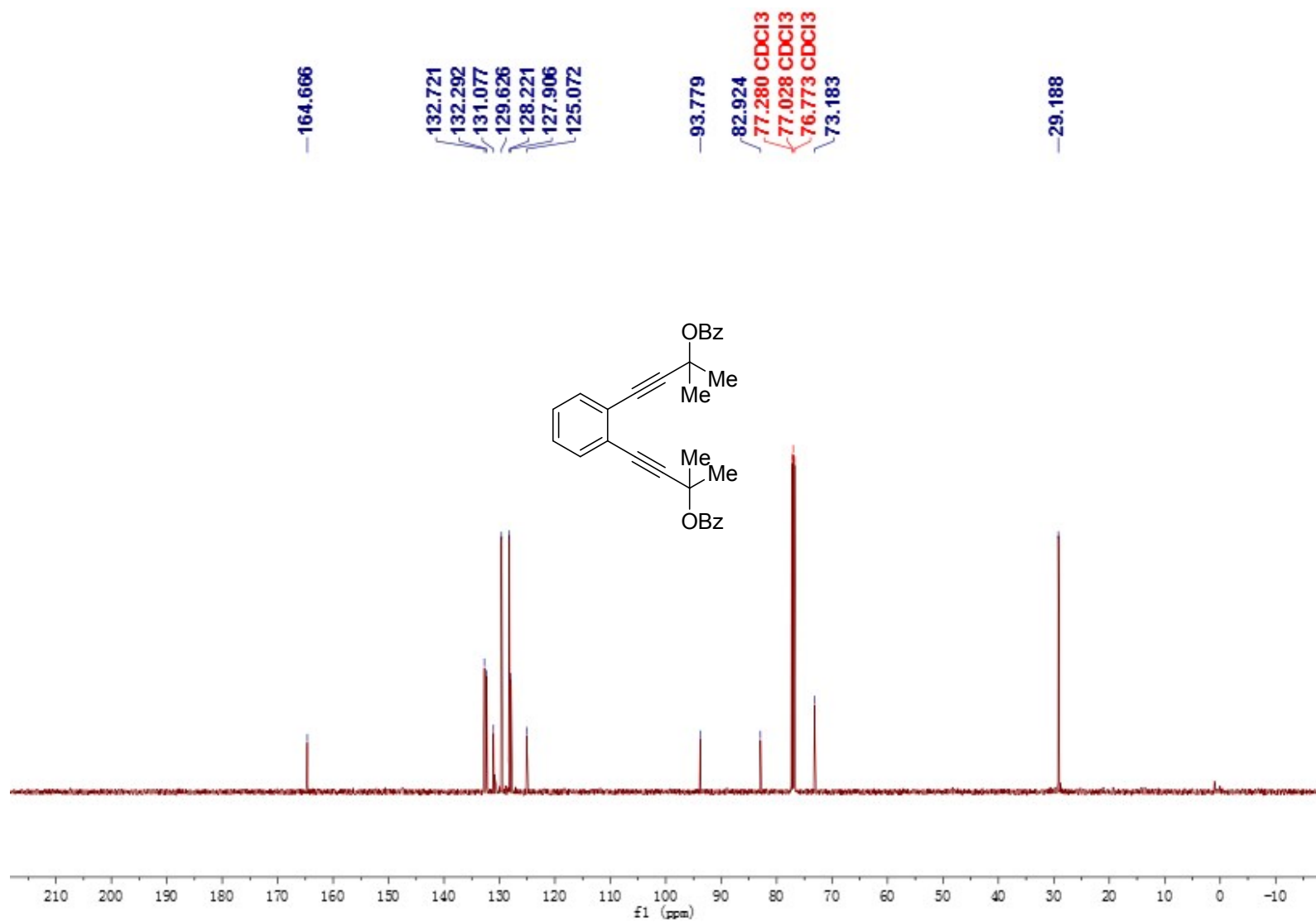


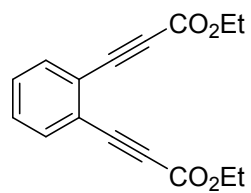




^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 4H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 6H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 2H), 1.88 (s, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.7, 132.7, 132.3, 131.1, 129.6, 128.2, 127.9, 125.1, 93.8, 82.9, 73.2, 29.2. TOF-MS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_4$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 451.1909; Found, 451.1872.

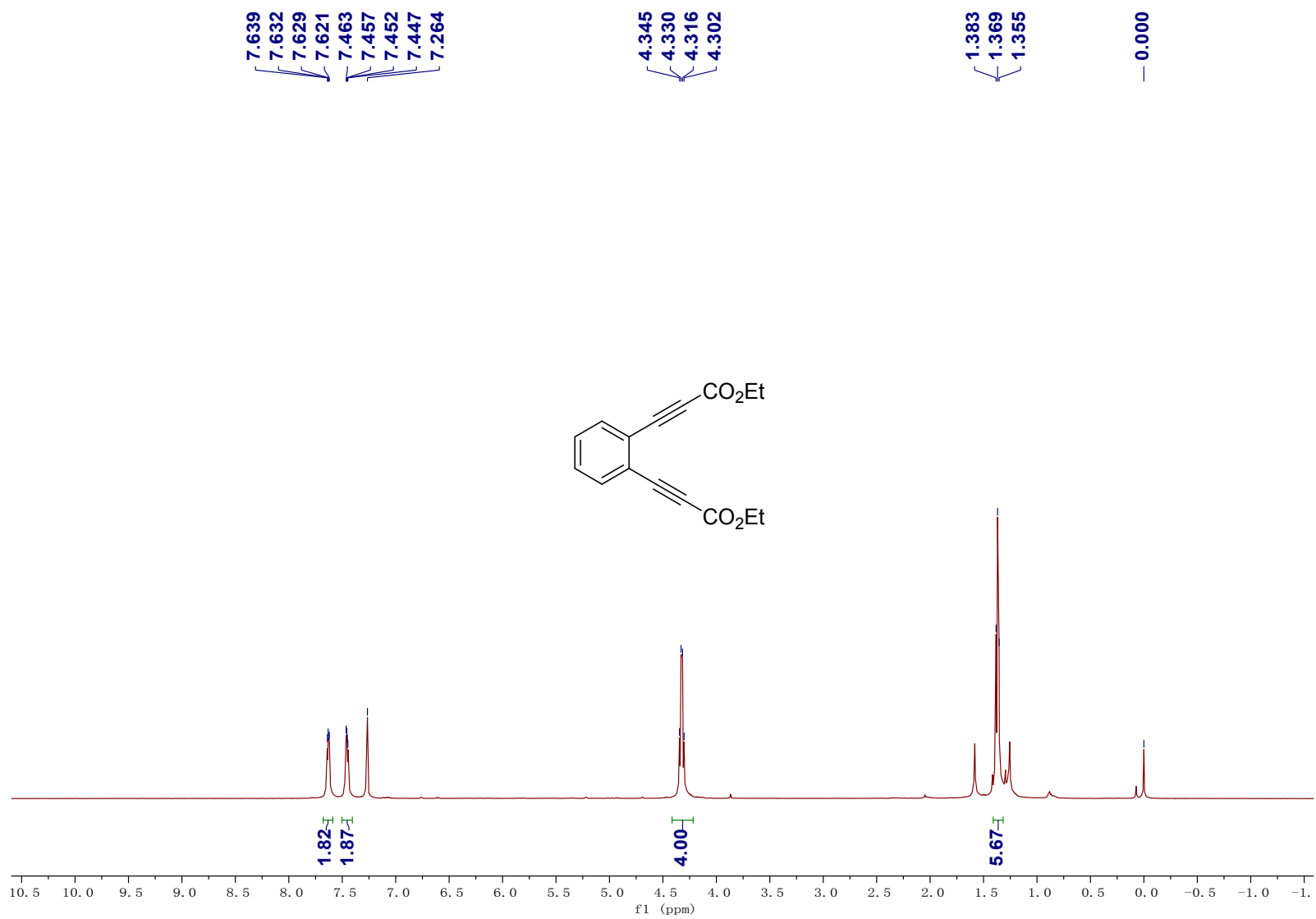


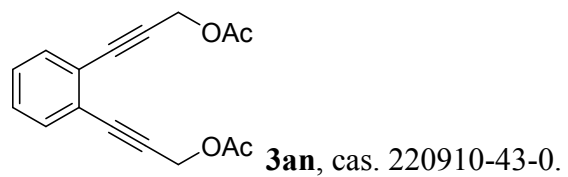




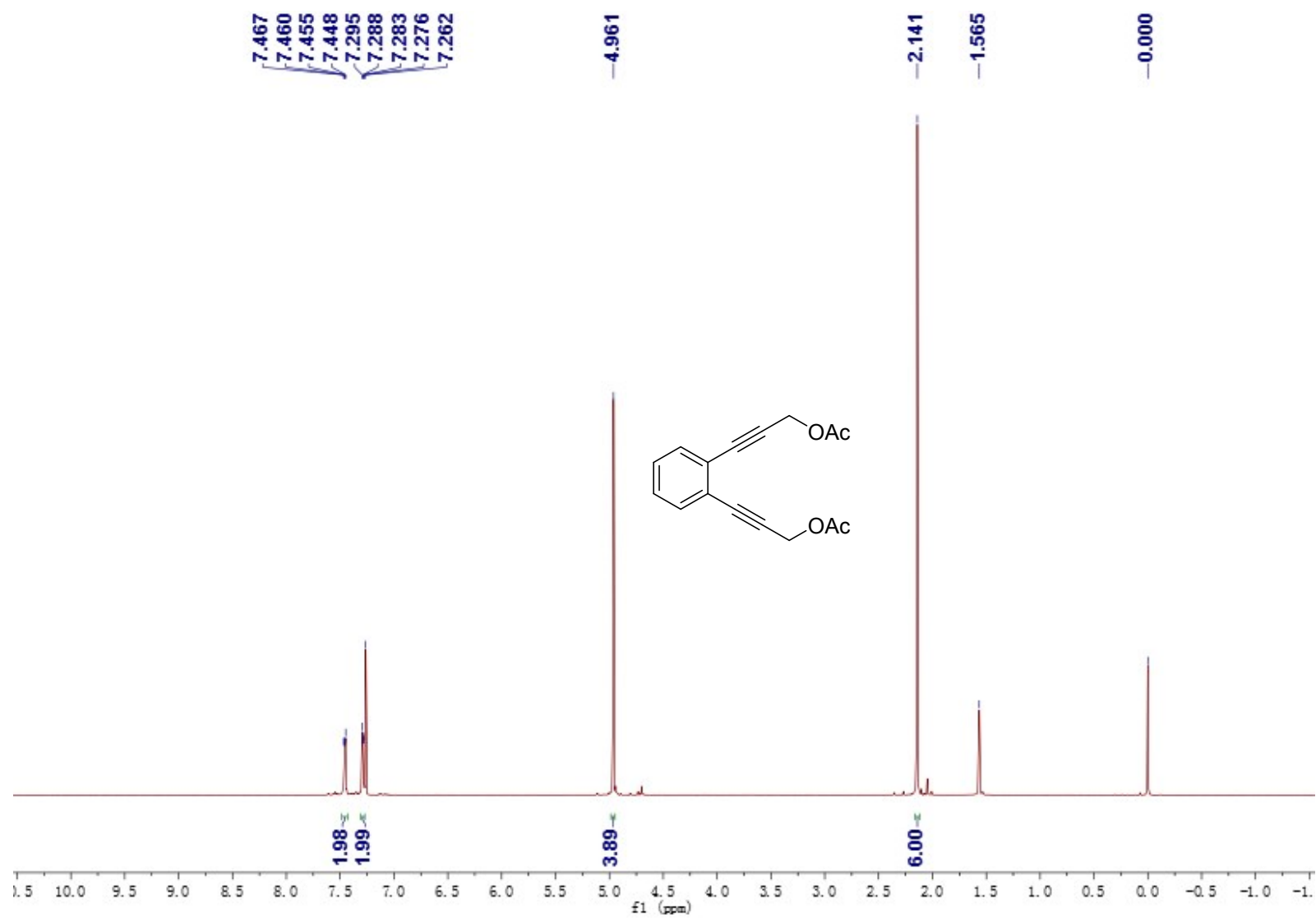
3am, cas. 334868-10-9, ref. [11].

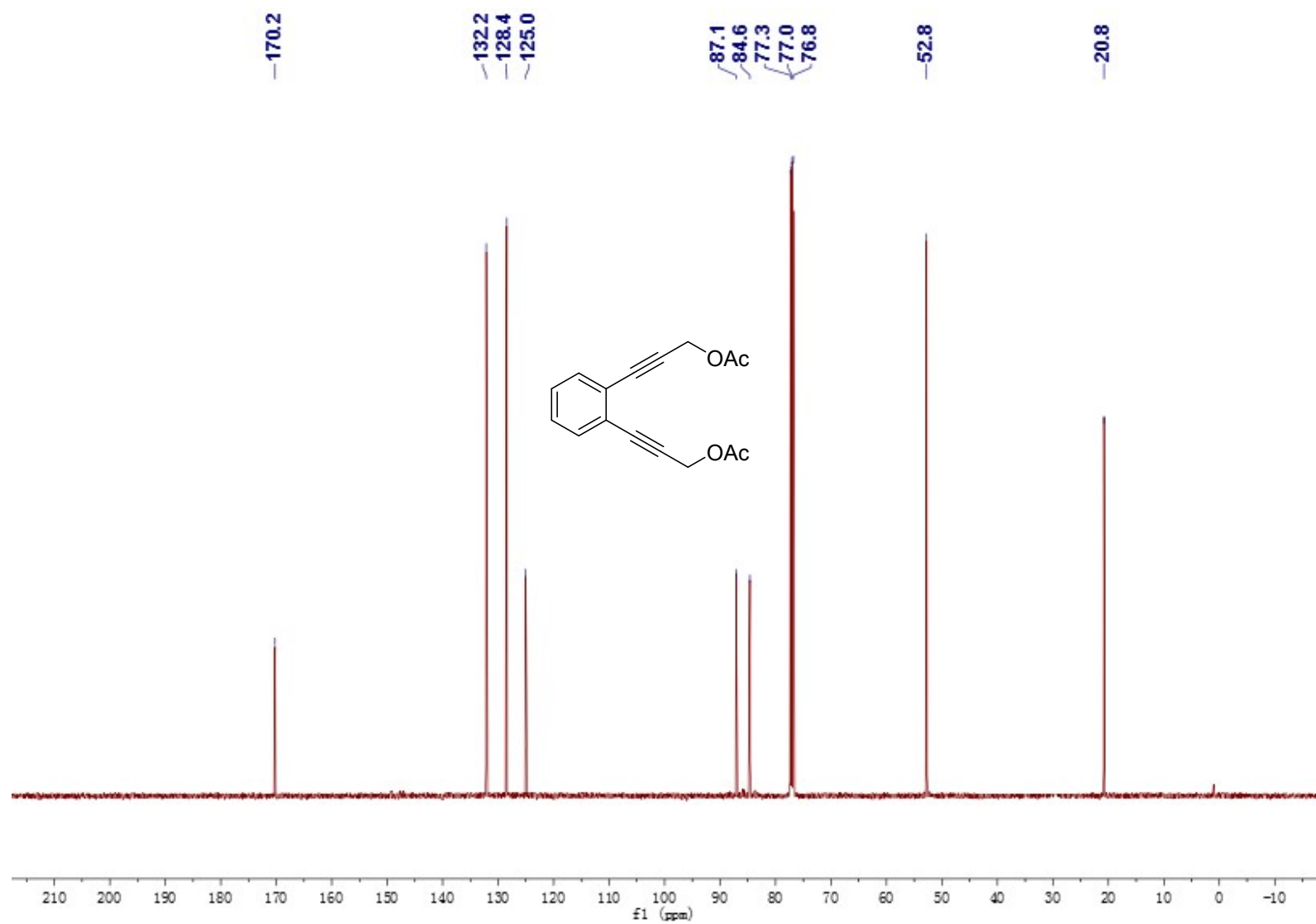
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.46 (m, 2H), 4.32 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4H), 1.37 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H). TOF-MS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 271.0970; Found, 271.1008.

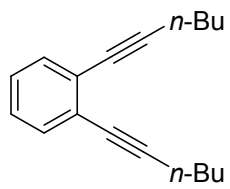




^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.46 (dd, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 3.5 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 3.5 Hz, 2H), 4.96 (s, 4H), 2.14 (s, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.2, 132.2, 128.4, 125.0, 87.1, 84.6, 52.8, 20.8. TOF-MS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 271.0970; Found, 271.0961.



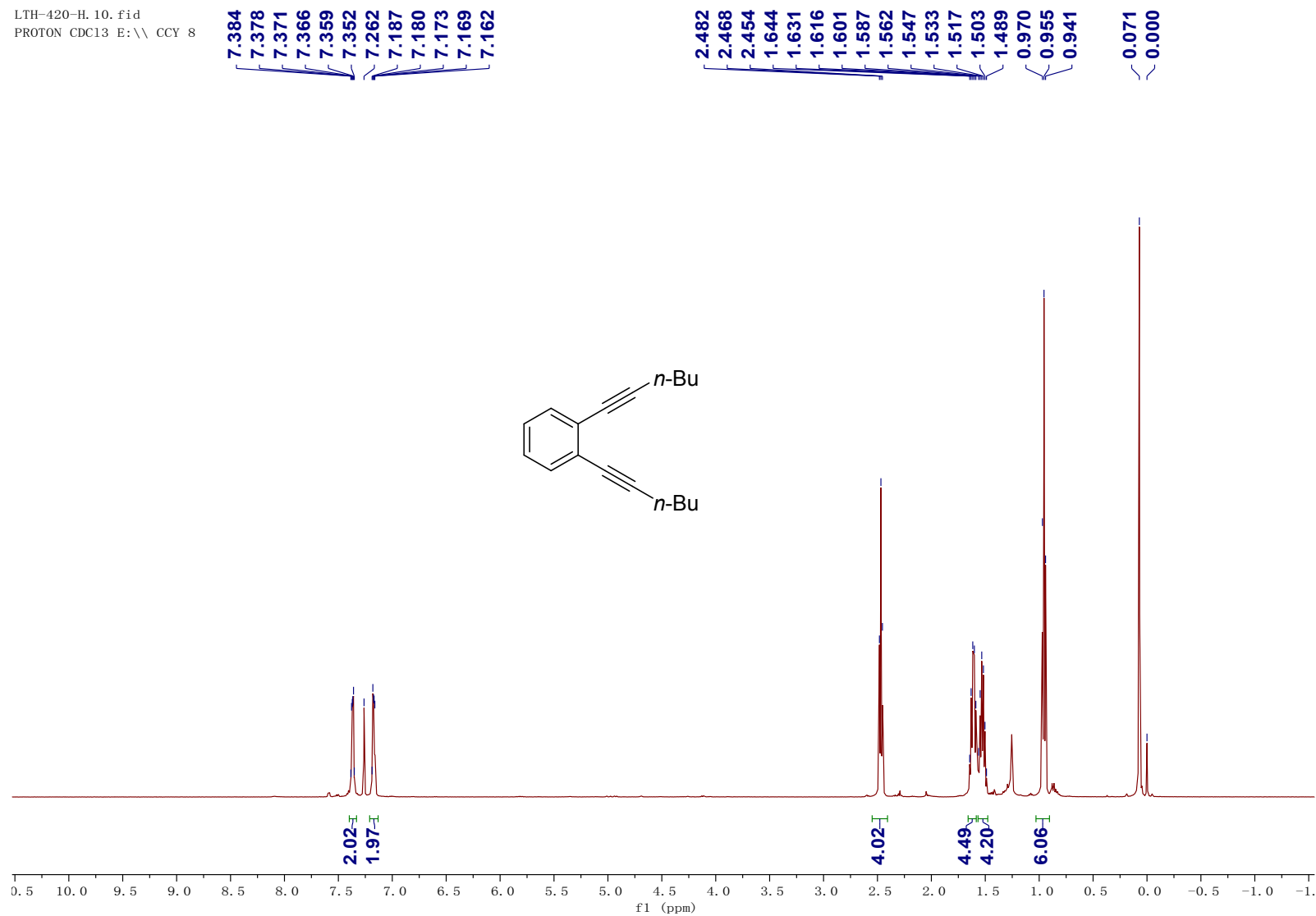


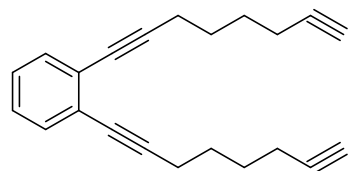


3ao, cas. 185038-15-7, ref. [12].

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.17 (m, 2H), 2.47 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4H), 1.61 (m, 4H), 1.52 (m, 4H), 0.96 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H). TOF-MS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 239.1800; Found, 239.1813.

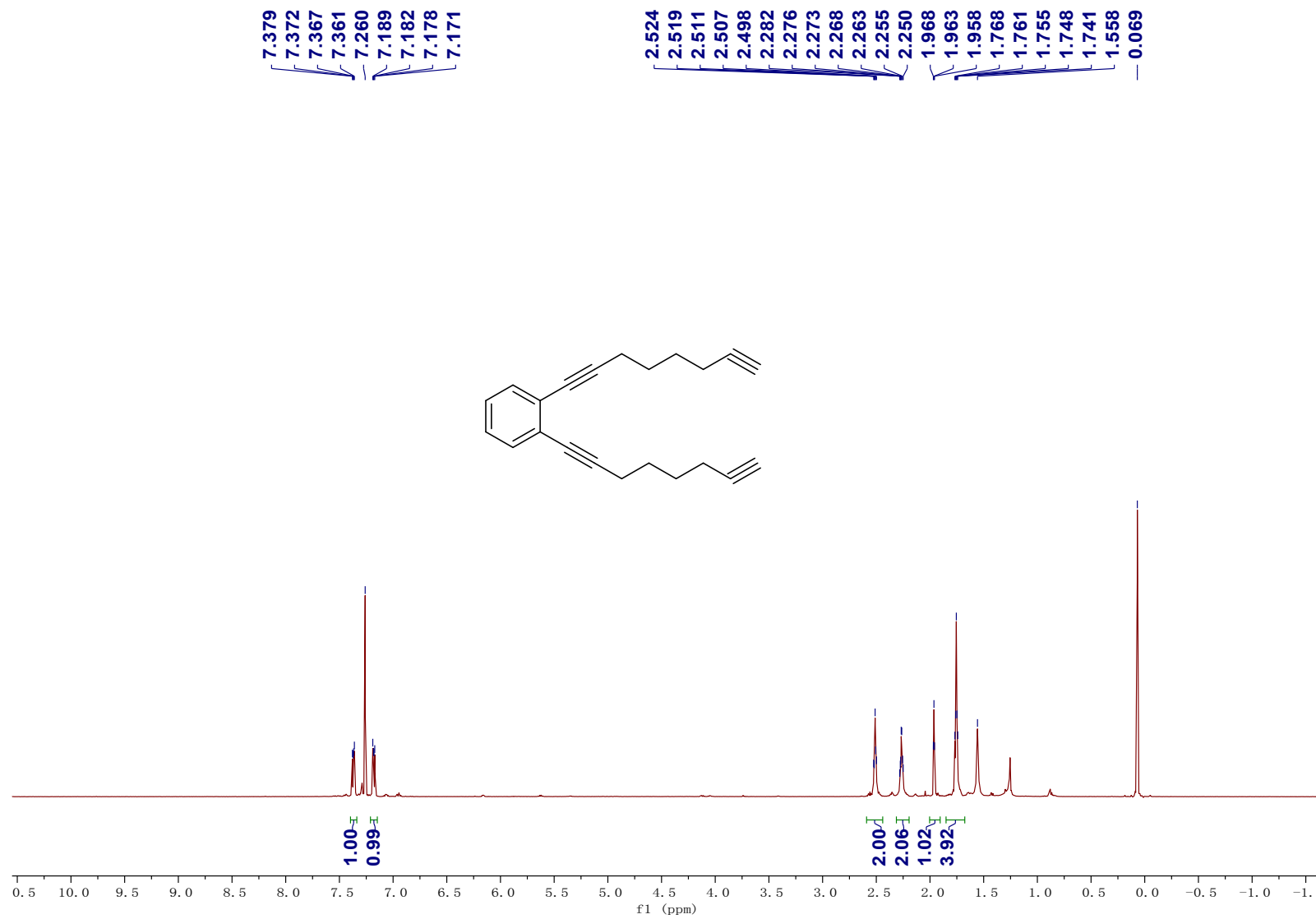
LTH-420-H. 10. fid
 PROTON CDC13 E:\ CCY 8

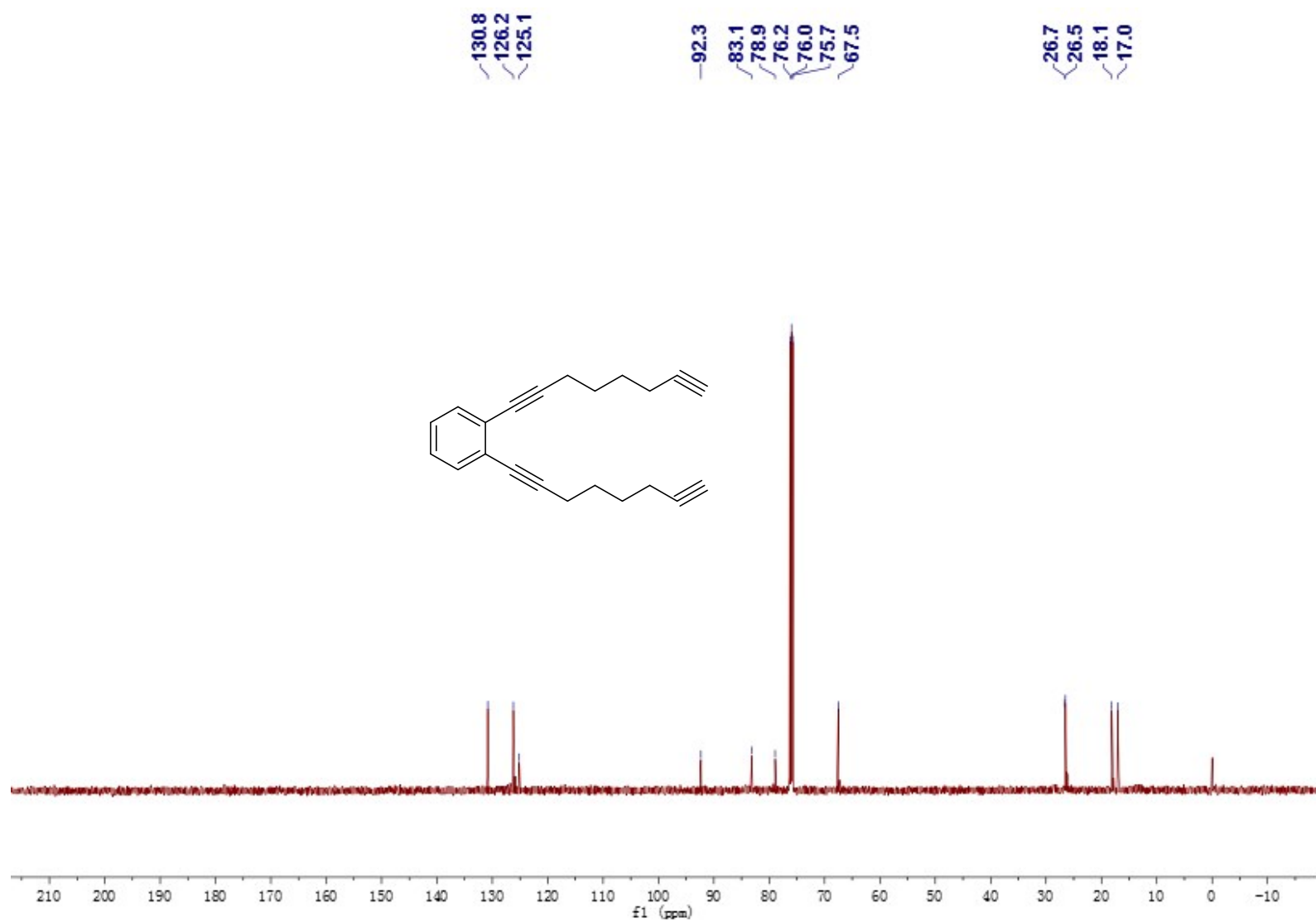


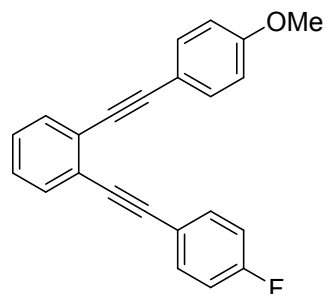


3ap, new compound.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.18 (m, 2H), 2.51 (m, 2H), 2.27 (m, 2H), 1.96 (t, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.74-1.77 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 130.8, 126.2, 125.1, 92.3, 83.1, 78.9, 67.5, 26.7, 26.5, 18.1, 17.0. TOF-MS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 287.1800; Found, 287.1769.



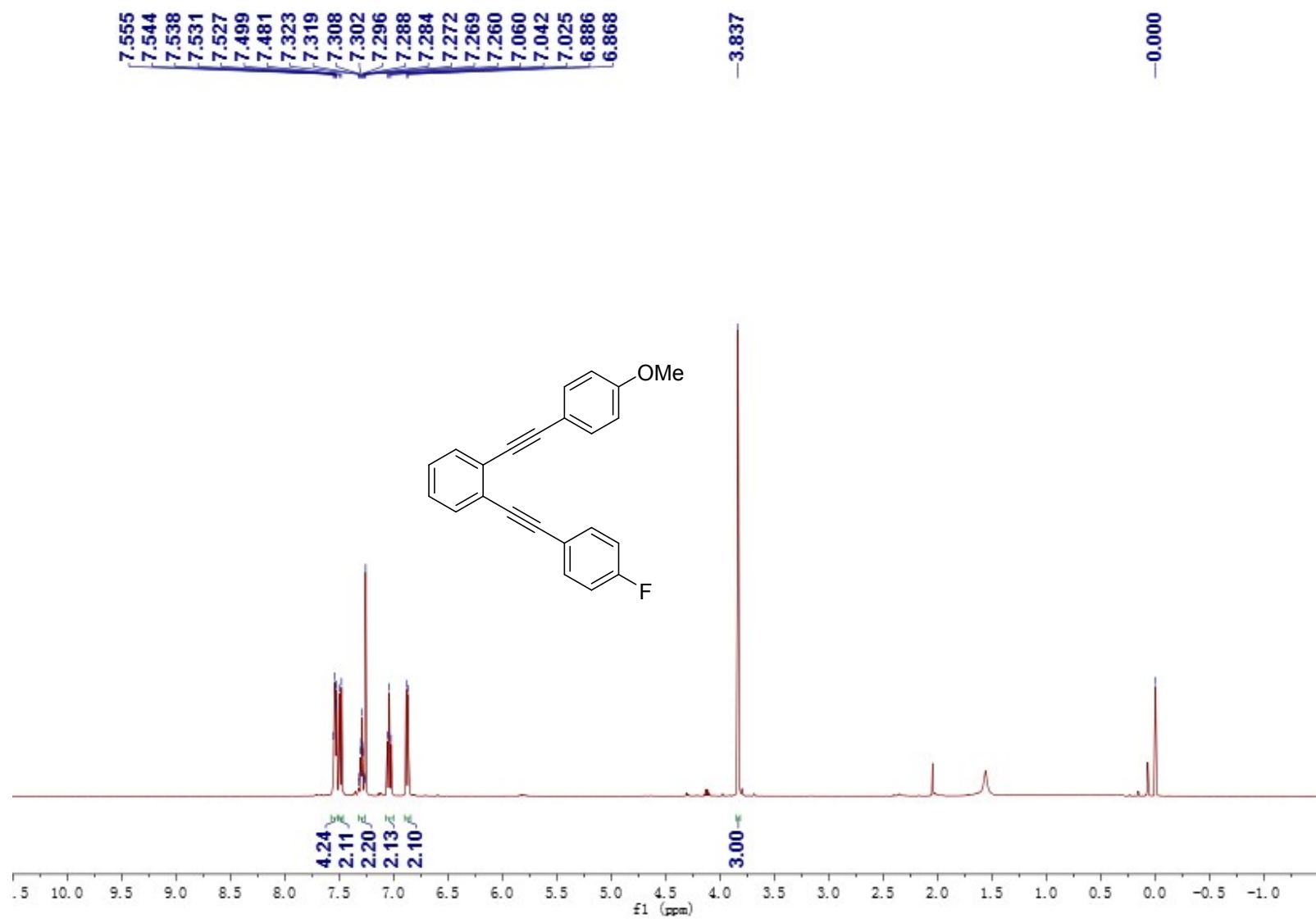


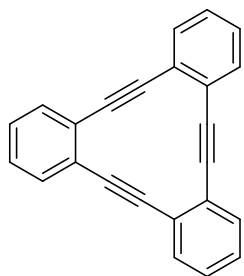


3abf, cas. 600707-32-2, ref. [13].

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.53-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.49 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.04 (t, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H).

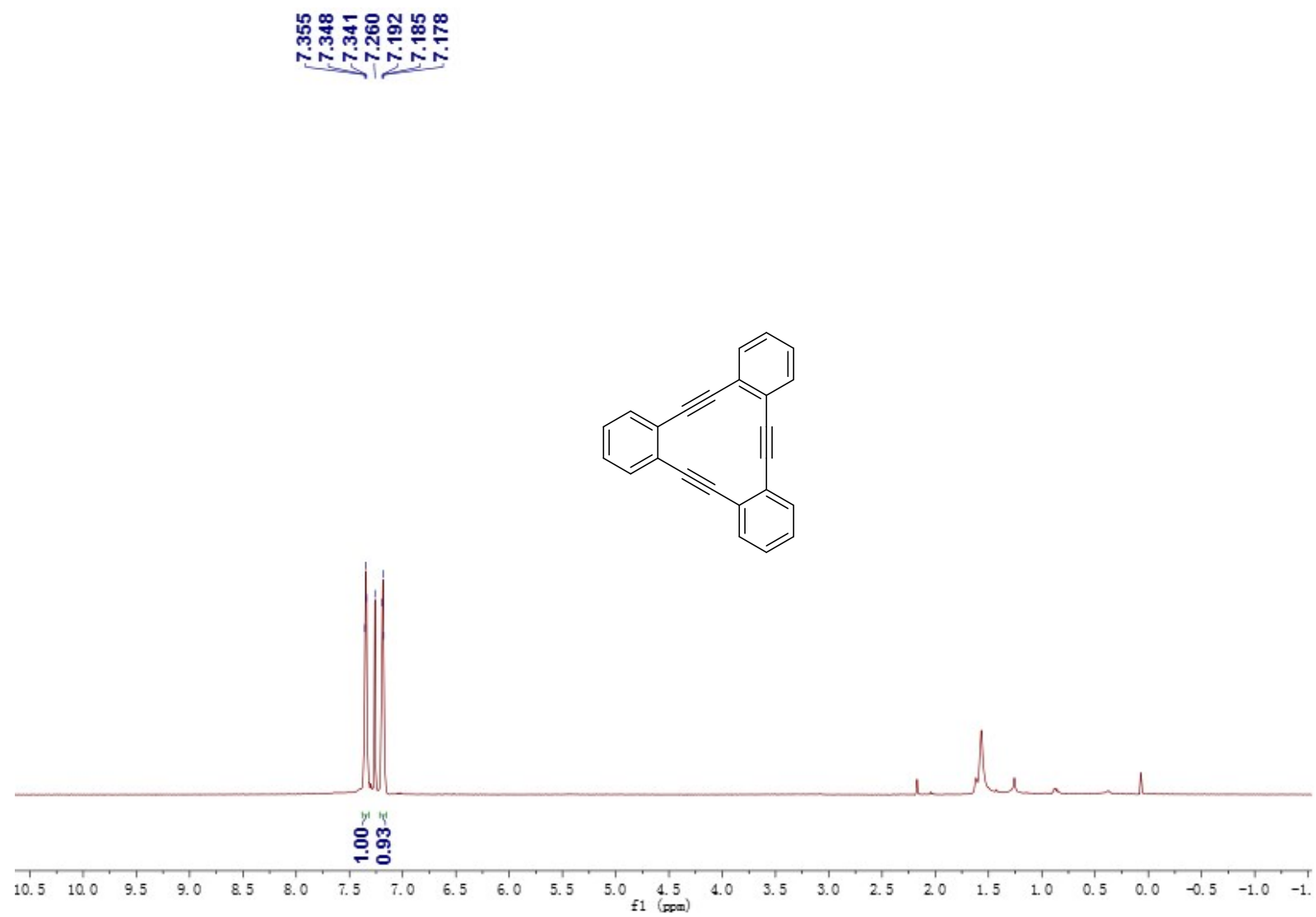
TOF-MS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{15}\text{FO}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 327.1185; Found, 327.1183.

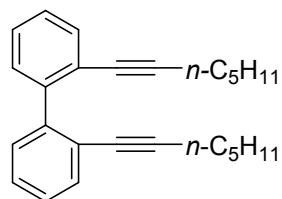




5, cas. 5385-26-2, ref. [14].

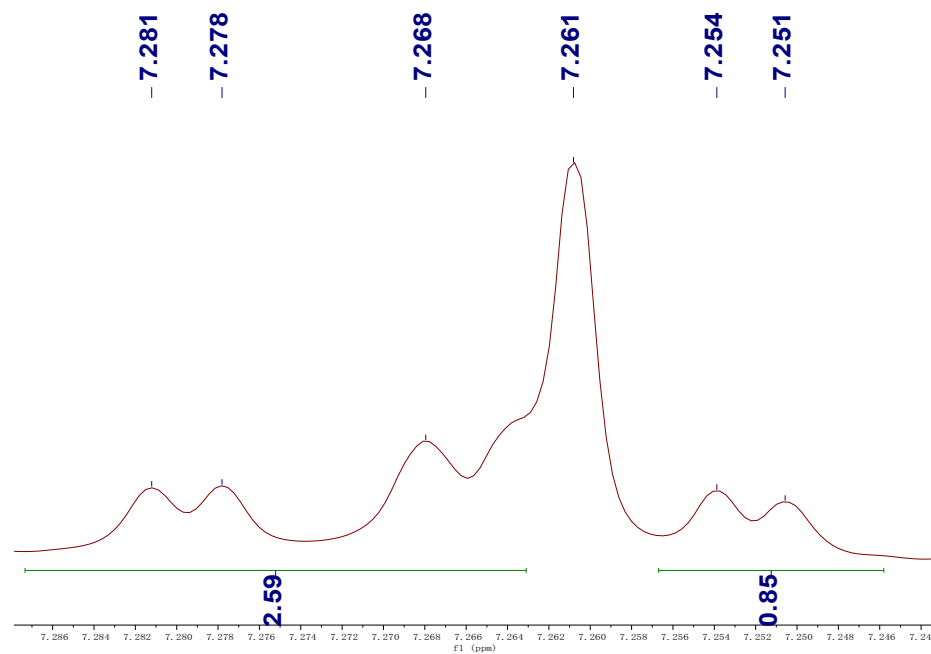
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.35 (m, 6H), 7.18 (m, 6H). TOF-MS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{12}$: $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 323.0837; Found, 323.0800.

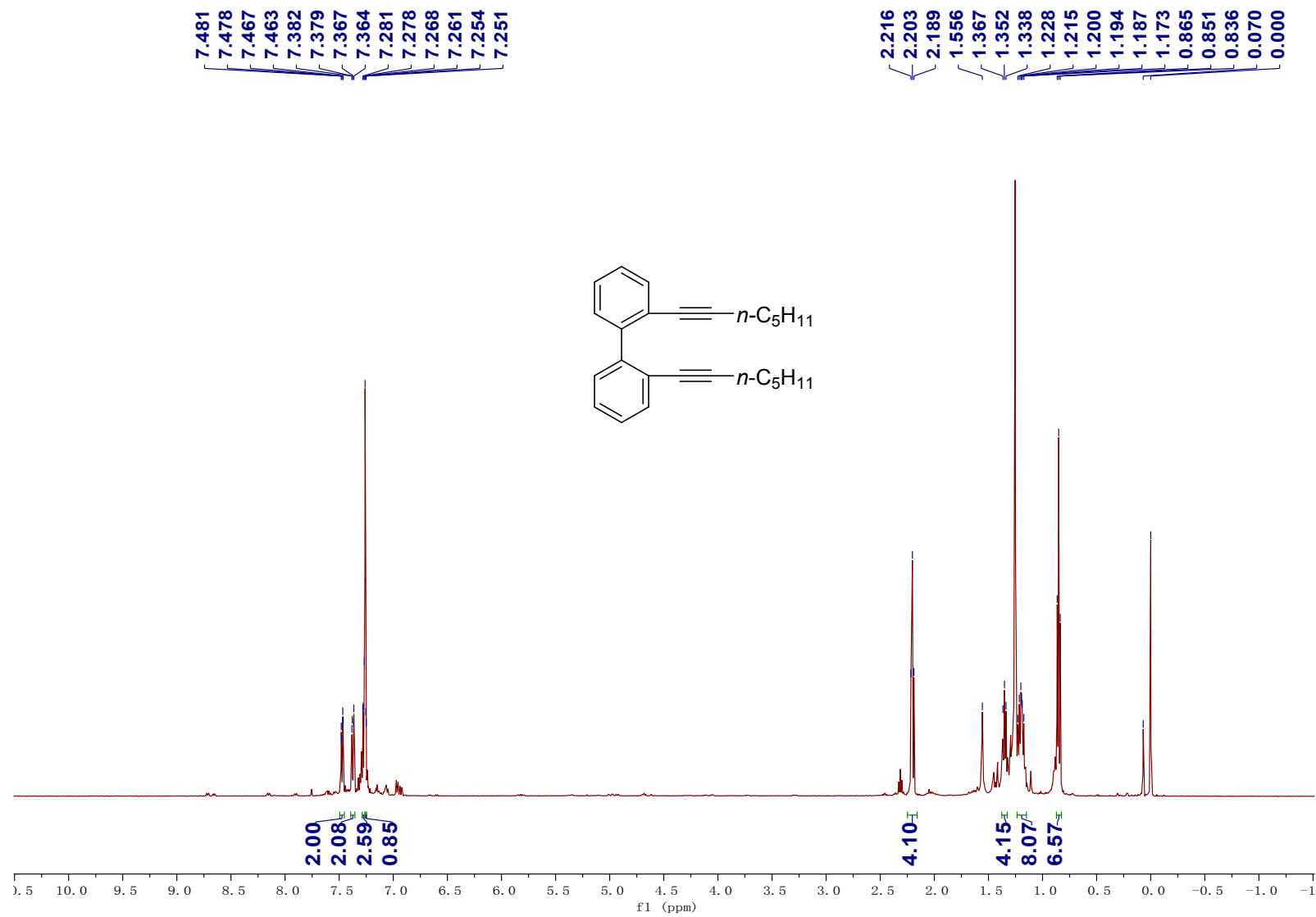


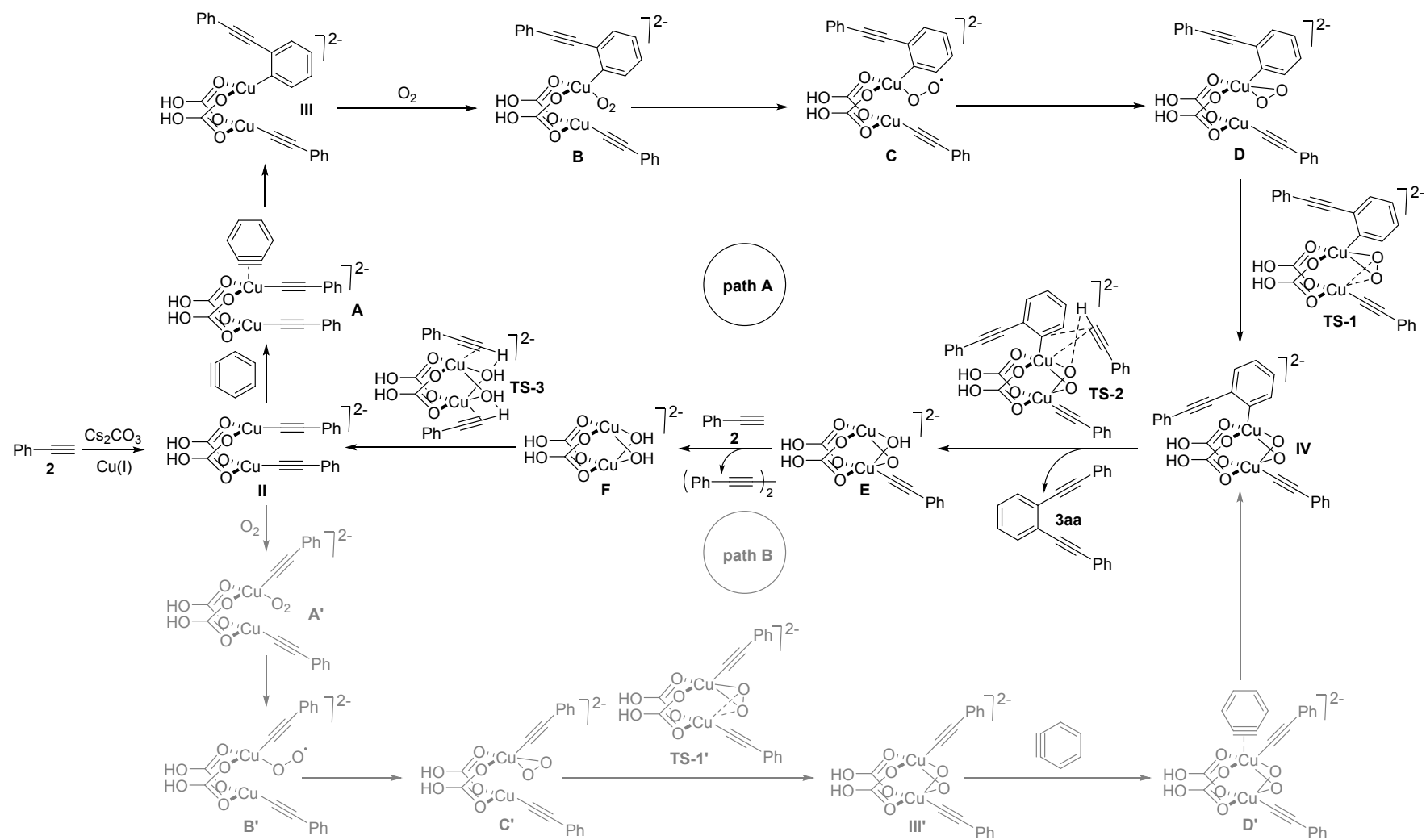


4', cas 836602-70-1.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.47 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (m, 4H), 2.20 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4H), 1.35 (m, 4H), 1.71-1.23 (m, 8H), 0.85 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H). TOF-MS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{30}$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 343.2426; Found, 343.2421.







Scheme S1. Possible detailed catalytic cycles of the reaction.

In this proposal, we outlined HCO_3^- bridged dinuclear copper intermediates **II** for the reaction. However, it should be emphasized that the possibility analogous mononuclear copper intermediates might also be catalytically competent species for the reaction. Moreover, it should be pointed out that other coordinative ligands other than HCO_3^- , such as CO_3^{2-} , Cl^- etc. can not be excluded at present.

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