

Supporting Information

**Base-free oxidation of alcohols enabled by nickel(II)-catalyzed
transfer dehydrogenation**

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1. General information

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in oven dried glassware. Anhydrous solvents were purified according to the procedures outlined in “Purification of Laboratory Chemicals”¹. Commercially available chemicals were used without further purification.

All NMR spectra were acquired on a Bruker 600 MHz or a JEOL ECZ 400 MHz NMR spectrometer.

¹H NMR chemical shifts were recorded relative to TMS (δ 0.00) or residual protonated solvents (CDCl₃: δ 7.26). Multiplicities were given as: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), hept (heptet) and m (multiplet). The number of protons (n) for a given resonance is indicated by nH. Coupling constants are reported as *J* values in Hz. ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained at 100 MHz or at 150 MHz, respectively, using the instruments noted above. Chemical shifts were recorded relative to the solvent resonance (CDCl₃: δ 77.16). ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded at 376 MHz or at 565 MHz on the spectrometers noted above without any external standard. Evidence of purity for new compounds was obtained through these spectroscopic studies (see below for copies of the individual spectra), as well as through mass spectrometric analyses; the latter yielded data consistent with the proposed structures in all cases.

TLC analyses were performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates and visualized with a UV light. Flash chromatography was performed using Qingdao Haiyang silica gel (200-300 mesh). The GC internal standards tetralin was degassed and dried over activated 4 Å molecular sieves before use. GC analyses were performed on a Shimadzu GC 2020 instrument equipped with an Agilent J&W GC column DB-5MS-UI. GC/MS analyses were conducted on a Shimadzu GC Mass-QP 2020 single quadruple GC/MS instrument with an Agilent J & W GC column DB-5MS-UI. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Bruker SolariX spectrometer.

2. Condition optimization

General procedure: A 10-mL Schlenk tube containing a magnetic stir bar was charged with 1-phenylethanol (12 mg, 0.1 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (1 mg, 0.002 mmol), dcype (2 mg, 0.004 mmol), cyclohexanone (49 mg, 0.5 mmol), the GC standard tetralin (10 μ L), and 0.5 mL of toluene. Note: dcype = 1,2-bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)ethane. The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux overnight (ca. 12 h). Water (1 mL) was added to quench the reaction. Then, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (2 mL). After stirring for 30 minutes, aliquots of the upper layer reaction mixture were passed through a short plug of silica gel, which was washed with ethyl acetate. The filtrate was subjected to GC analysis to determine the conversion of the alcohol, as well as the yield of the product.

Table S1. Effect of nickel salts

entry	metal	conversion of 1a (%)	2a yield (%)
1	Ni(OTf) ₂	100	99
2	NiI ₂	3	1
3	NiBr ₂ -DME	2	1
4	NiBr ₂	3	0
5	NiCl ₂ -DME	5	1
6	NiCl ₂ -6H ₂ O	0	0
7	NiCl ₂	1	<1
8	Ni(acac) ₂	13	7
9	Ni(COD) ₂	7	1
10	Ni(PPh ₃) ₄	6	1

Table S2. Effect of ligands

	Ni(OTf)₂ (2 mol %), ligand (4 mol %) cyclohexanone (5.0 equiv.) toluene, reflux		
entry	ligand	conversion of 1a (%)	2a yield (%)
1	dcype	100	99
2	dcypp	95	93
3	PCy ₃	85	trace
4	PBu ₃ ·HBF ₄	85	1
5	P(2-fury) ₂	29	0
6	DPPE	12	1
7	DPPP	31	1
8	DPPF	88	45
9	1,10-phenanthroline	8	2
10		7	trace
11	none	15	0

dcype: 1,2-bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)ethane; dcypp: 1,2-bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)propane.

As for the reaction of PCy₃, the major by-product was the aldol condensation of acetophenone, which was confirmed by GC and GC-Mass analysis. Additionally, no desired product was detected in the absence of ligand; rather, the reaction gave rise to the aldol condensation by-product.

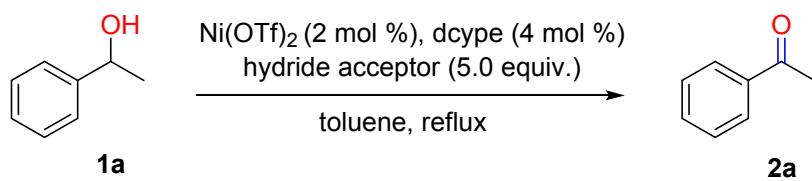
Table S3. Effect of solvents

	Ni(OTf)₂ (2 mol %), dcype (4 mol %) cyclohexanone (5.0 equiv.) solvent, reflux		
entry ^a	solvent	conversion of 1a (%)	2a yield (%)
1	toluene	100	99
2	DMF	100	96

3	DMA	98	98
4	DMSO	92	89
5	CH ₃ CN	98	98
6	1,4-dioxane	92	90
7	diglyme	97	96
8	THF	29	22
9	CHCl ₃	12	5
10	DCM	3	<1

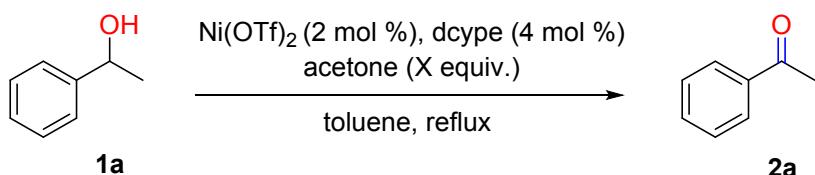
^aThe reaction temperatures for the reactions run in CH₃CN, THF, CHCl₃ and dichloromethane were those of their corresponding boiling points. Other reactions were run at 110 °C.

Table S4. Studies involving the hydride acceptor



entry	hydride acceptor	conversion of 1a (%)	2a yield (%)
1	cyclohexanone	100	99
2	acetone	86	85
3	1,1,1-trifluoroacetone	18	10
4		10	2
5		92	91
6		1	<1
7		6	4
8 ^a		14	4
9 ^b		46	38

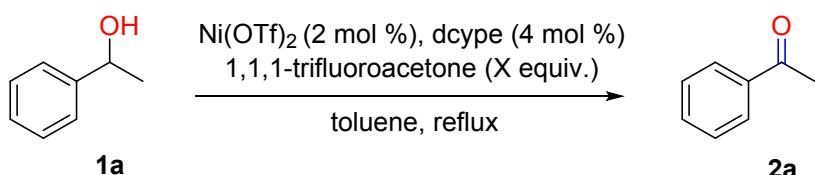
^a10.0 equiv. of chalcone was used under otherwise identical conditions. ^b20.0 equiv. of chalcone was used.

Table S5. Studies on the acetone as the hydride acceptor

entry	acetone	conversion of 1a (%)	2a yield (%)
1	5.0 equiv.	86	85
2	10.0 equiv.	95	91
3	20.0 equiv.	99	96
4	50.0 equiv.	100	99
5	100 equiv.	100	99
6	acetone as solvent	100	99
7 ^a	acetone as solvent	87	85
8 ^b	acetone as solvent	55	42

^aThe temperature of oil bath was kept at 80 °C. ^bThe temperature of oil bath was kept at 60 °C.

**It should be noted that almost quantitative yield was detected by GC when pure acetone was used both as the solvent and the hydride acceptor at 120 °C (entry 6).

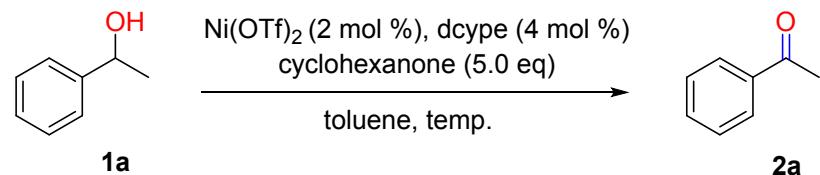
Table S6. Studies involving the use of 1,1,1-trifluoroacetone as the hydride acceptor

entry	trifluoroacetone (X equiv.)	conversion of 1a (%)	2a yield (%)
1	5.0 equiv.	18	10
2	10.0 equiv.	77	70
3	20.0 equiv.	100	99
4	50.0 equiv.	100	99

**We attribute the initial “detrimental effect” of 1,1,1-trifluoroacetone to its relatively low boiling point (22 °C) and its volatility. In fact when the reaction was run with the oil bath kept at 120 °C (i.e., with stirring under reflux), the bulk of the 1,1,1-trifluoroacetone was found in the vapor layer.

It was thus not an efficient hydride acceptor. Consistent with this rationale, the yield increased when an excess of trifluoroacetone was employed.

Table S7. Effect of temperature

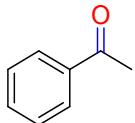


entry	temp. (°C)	conversion of 1a (%)	2a yield (%)
1	25	0	0
2	60	0	0
3	80	15	13
4	110	100	99

3. Preparation of products

General procedure: A 10-mL Schlenk tube containing a magnetic stir bar was charged with the secondary alcohol of interest (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), 1,2-bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)ethane (dcype) (0.012 mmol), cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol), and 1.5 mL of toluene. The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux overnight (*ca.* 12 h). The volatiles were then evaporated off under reduced pressure and the residue purified by flash chromatography over silica gel using ethyl acetate (EA)/petroleum ether as the eluent to give the product. Details of reactions giving specific ketones now follow.

Note: As the boiling point of products **2af**, **2ag**, **2ah**, **2aj** are relatively low yields were determined relative to an external standard. The formation of the products was also confirmed via GC-MS analysis.



Acetophenone (**2a**) [98-86-2]²

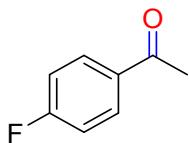
According to the general procedure, reaction of 1-phenylethanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol), and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (34 mg, 94% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

**As a demonstration, this reaction was performed on a 0.3 mmol scale using 20.0 equiv. of acetone as the hydride acceptor. Under these conditions an almost quantitative yield was obtained as inferred from a GC analysis.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.3, 137.2, 133.2, 128.7, 128.4, 26.7.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₈H₈O: 120.1; found: 120.0.



1-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one (2b) [403-42-9]²

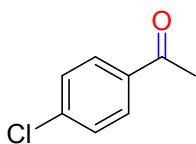
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (26 mg, 64% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.01 – 7.97 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.6, 165.9 (d, *J* = 254.8 Hz), 133.7, 131.1 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 115.8 (d, *J* = 22.0 Hz),, 26.6.

¹⁹F {¹H} NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -105.4.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₈H₇FO: 138.0; found: 138.0.



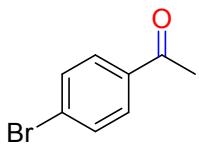
1-(4-Chlorophenyl)ethan-1-one (2c) [99-91-2]²

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (42 mg, 90% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.9, 139.7, 135.6, 129.8, 129.0, 26.7.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₈H₇ClO: 154.0; found: 154.0.



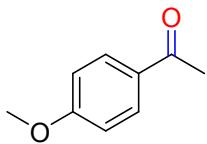
1-(4-Bromophenyl)ethan-1-one (2d) [99-90-1]³

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(4-bromophenyl)ethan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (50 mg, 84% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.1, 136.0, 132.0, 130.0, 128.4, 26.7.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₈H₇BrO: 198.0; found: 198.0.



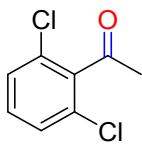
1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-one (2e) [100-06-1]⁴

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (44 mg, 98% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 6.95 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.9, 163.6, 130.7, 130.5, 113.8, 55.6, 26.5.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₉H₁₀O₂: 150.1; found: 150.0.



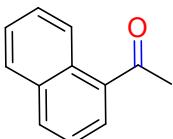
1-(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)ethan-1-one (2f) [2040-05-3]⁵

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)ethan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (42 mg, 74% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.52 (t, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.1, 140.4, 133.3, 132.04, 132.01, 129.7, 129.5, 30.7.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₈H₆Cl₂O: 188.0; found: 188.0.



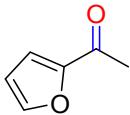
1-(Naphthalen-1-yl)ethan-1-one (2g) [941-98-0]⁶

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(naphthalen-1-yl)ethan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (39 mg, 76% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.74 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 2.75 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.0, 135.6, 134.1, 133.2, 130.3, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 126.6, 126.2, 124.5, 30.1.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O: 170.1; found: 170.0.



1-(Furan-2-yl)ethan-1-one (2h) [1192-62-7]⁷

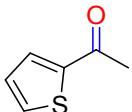
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(furan-2-yl)ethan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (32 mg, 98% yield). Purification

conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.59 (dd, *J* = 1.6, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.54 – 6.54 (m, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 186.9, 153.0, 146.5, 117.3, 112.3, 26.1.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₆H₆O₂: 110.0; found: 110.0.



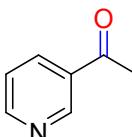
1-(Thiophen-2-yl)ethan-1-one (2i) [88-15-3]⁷

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(thiophen-2-yl)ethan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (36 mg, 95% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.70 (dd, *J* = 3.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.14 – 7.13 (m, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.8, 144.6, 133.9, 132.6, 128.2, 27.0.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₆H₆OS: 126.0; found: 126.0.



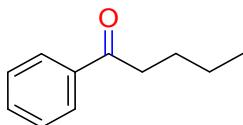
1-(Pyridin-3-yl)ethan-1-one (2j) [350-03-8]²

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(pyridin-3-yl)ethan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in DMA (1.5 mL) with stirring at 110 °C for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a yellow oil (30 mg, 83% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 20:1 to 10:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.18 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.79 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.9, 153.7, 150.1, 135.6, 132.5, 123.8, 26.9.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₇H₇NO: 121.1; found: 121.0.



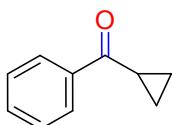
1-Phenylpentan-1-one (2k) [1009-14-9]⁸

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-phenylpentan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring at 110 °C for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a yellow oil (48 mg, 99% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.98 – 7.97 (m, 1H), 7.96 – 7.95 (m, 1H), 7.58 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.76 – 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.46 – 1.37 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.8, 137.2, 133.0, 128.7, 128.2, 38.5, 26.6, 22.6, 14.1.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₁H₁₄O: 162.1; found: 162.0.



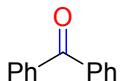
Cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (2l) [3481-02-5]²

According to the general procedure, the reaction of cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless crystal (43 mg, 98% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.02 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.70 – 2.66 (m, 1H), 1.26 – 1.23 (m, 2H), 1.06 – 1.03 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.8, 138.2, 132.9, 128.6, 128.2, 17.3, 11.8.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₀H₁₀O: 146.1; found: 146.0.



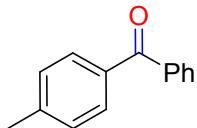
Benzophenone (2m) [119-61-9]²

According to the general procedure, the reaction of diphenylmethanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless crystal (54 mg, 99% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82 – 7.79 (m, 4H), 7.61 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.9, 137.7, 132.6, 130.2, 128.4.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₃H₁₀O: 182.1; found: 182.0.



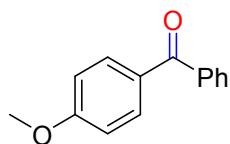
Phenyl(*p*-tolyl)methanone (2n) [134-84-9]⁹

According to the general procedure, the reaction of phenyl(*p*-tolyl)methanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (57 mg, 97% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): 196.6, 143.4, 138.1, 135.0, 132.3, 130.4, 130.1, 129.1, 128.3, 21.8.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂O: 196.1; found: 196.0.

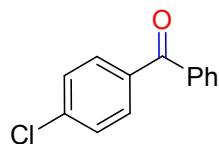


(4-Methoxyphenyl)(phenyl)methanone (2o) [611-94-9]¹⁰

According to the general procedure, the reaction of (4-methoxyphenyl)(phenyl)methanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (62 mg, 98% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.76 – 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.58 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.98 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.7, 163.4, 138.4, 132.7, 132.0, 130.3, 129.9, 128.3, 113.7, 55.6. GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂O₂: 212.1; found: 212.0.



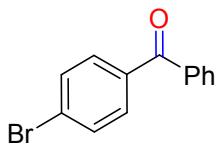
(4-Chlorophenyl)(phenyl)methanone (2p) [134-85-0]⁷

According to the general procedure, the reaction of (4-chlorophenyl)(phenyl)methanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (64 mg, 99% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.78 – 7.75 (m, 4H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.7, 139.1, 137.4, 136.0, 132.8, 131.6, 130.1, 128.8, 128.6.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₃H₉ClO: 216.0; found: 216.0.



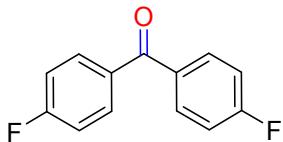
(4-Bromophenyl)(phenyl)methanone (2q) [90-90-4]¹¹

According to the general procedure, the reaction of (4-bromophenyl)(phenyl)methanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (73 mg, 93% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.8, 137.3, 136.5, 132.8, 131.8, 131.7, 130.1, 128.6, 127.7.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₃H₉BrO: 260.0; found: 260.0.



Bis(4-fluorophenyl)methanone (2r) [345-92-6]¹⁰

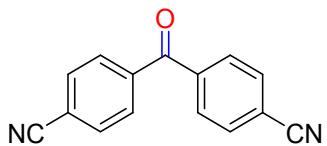
According to the general procedure, the reaction of bis(4-fluorophenyl)methanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (61 mg, 93% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.82 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 5.4 Hz, 4H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.0, 165.6 (d, *J* = 254.6 Hz), 133.9 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 132.7 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 115.71 (d, *J* = 21.9 Hz).

¹⁹F {¹H} NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -105.8.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₃H₈F₂O: 218.1; found: 218.0.



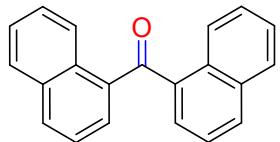
4,4'-Carbonyldibenzonitrile (2s) [32446-66-5]¹²

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 4,4'-(hydroxymethylene)dibenzonitrile (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in DMF (1.5 mL) with stirring at 110 °C for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (41 mg, 59% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 10:1 to 6:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 – 7.87 (m, 4H), 7.84 – 7.82 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 193.6, 139.9, 132.6, 130.4, 117.8, 116.7.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₅H₈N₂O: 232.1; found: 232.0.



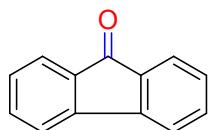
Di(naphthalen-1-yl)methanone (2t) [605-78-7]¹²

According to the general procedure, the reaction of di(naphthalen-1-yl)methanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (81 mg, 96% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.56 – 8.54 (m, 2H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.97 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.56 (m, 6H), 7.46 – 7.42 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.9, 137.3, 134.0, 132.7, 131.3, 130.6, 128.6, 128.0, 126.7, 126.0, 124.5.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₂₁H₁₄O: 282.1; found: 282.0.



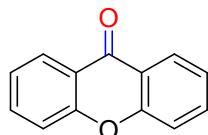
9H-Fluoren-9-one (2u) [486-25-9]⁷

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 9H-fluoren-9-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a yellow solid (53 mg, 98% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.47 (m, 4H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.1, 144.6, 134.8, 134.3, 129.2, 124.5, 120.4.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₃H₈O: 180.1; found: 180.0.



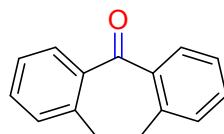
9H-Xanthan-9-one (2v) [90-47-1]¹⁰

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 9H-xanthan-9-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (48 mg, 81% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.35 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.75 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 177.4, 156.3, 135.0, 126.9, 124.1, 122.0, 118.1.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₃H₈O₂: 196.1; found: 196.0.



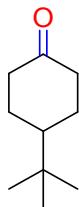
10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d][7]annulen-5-one (2w) [51529-12-5]¹³

According to the general procedure, the reaction of dibenzosuberol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (59 mg, 95% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.21 (s, 4H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.8, 142.1, 138.8, 132.5, 130.7, 129.4, 126.8, 35.1.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂O: 208.1; found: 208.0.



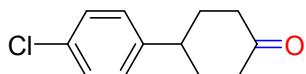
4-(*tert*-Butyl)cyclohexan-1-one (2x) [98-53-3]¹⁴

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 4-(*tert*-butyl)cyclohexan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless crystal (41 mg, 89% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 30:1 to 15:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.42 – 2.38 (m, 2H), 2.35 – 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.11 – 2.07 (m, 2H), 1.52 – 1.41 (m, 3H), 0.92 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 212.8, 46.9, 41.5, 32.6, 27.8.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₀H₁₈O: 154.1; found: 154.0.



4-(4-Chlorophenyl)cyclohexan-1-one (2y) [14472-80-1]¹⁵

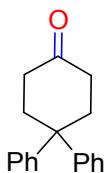
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 4-(4-chlorophenyl)cyclohexan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL)

with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (33 mg, 53% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.04 – 2.98 (m, 1H), 2.52 – 2.49 (m, 4H), 2.21 – 2.18 (m, 2H), 1.95 – 1.87 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 210.8, 143.4, 132.4, 128.9, 128.2, 42.3, 41.4, 34.0.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₂H₁₃ClO: 208.1; found: 208.0.



4,4-Diphenylcyclohexan-1-one (2z) [4528-68-1]¹⁶

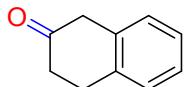
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 4,4-diphenylcyclohexan-1-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (69 mg, 92% yield).

Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33 – 7.32 (m, 8H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 2.67 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 2.45 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 211.2, 145.9, 128.8, 126.9, 126.5, 45.7, 38.8, 36.5.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₈H₁₈O: 250.1; found: 250.0.



3,4-Dihydronaphthalen-2(1*H*)-one (2aa) [530-93-8]¹⁷

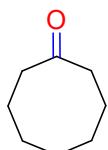
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-2-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a yellow oil (36 mg, 82% yield).

Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.14 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 3.06 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 210.8, 136.8, 133.4, 128.3, 127.7, 127.03, 126.96, 45.2, 38.3, 28.5.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₀H₁₀O: 146.1; found: 146.0.



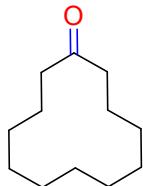
Cyclooctenone (2ab) [502-49-8]¹⁸

According to the general procedure, the reaction of cyclooctanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless crystal (28 mg, 75% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 80:1 to 60:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.42 – 2.40 (m, 6H), 1.90 – 1.86 (m, 4H), 1.57 – 1.53 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 218.6, 42.0, 27.2, 25.7, 24.8.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₈H₁₄O: 126.1; found: 126.0.



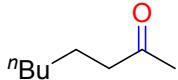
Cyclododecanone (2ac) [830-13-7]⁴

According to the general procedure, the reaction of cyclododecanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (48 mg, 87% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 80:1 to 60:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.48 – 2.45 (m, 4H), 1.75 – 1.68 (m, 4H), 1.31 – 1.25 (m, 14H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 213.1, 40.5, 24.9, 24.7, 24.4, 22.7, 22.5.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₂H₂₂O: 182.2; found: 182.0.



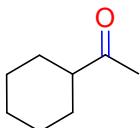
2-Octanone (2ad) [111-13-7]¹⁹

According to the general procedure, the reaction of cyclododecanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (35 mg, 91% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 60:1 to 30:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.42 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.59 – 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.33 – 1.23 (m, 6H), 0.90 – 0.86 (m, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 209.7, 44.0, 31.7, 30.0, 29.0, 24.0, 22.6, 14.2.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₈H₁₆O: 128.1; found: 128.1.



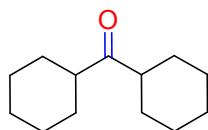
1-Cyclohexylethan-1-one (2ae) [823-76-7]²

According to the general procedure, the reaction of cyclododecanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (37 mg, 99% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 60:1 to 20:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 2.34 – 2.27 (m, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 1.87 – 1.82 (m, 2H), 1.78 – 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.67 – 1.62 (m, 1H), 1.35 – 1.19 (m, 5H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 212.6, 51.6, 28.5, 28.0, 26.0, 25.8.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₈H₁₄O: 126.1; found: 126.0.



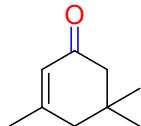
Dicyclohexylmethanone (2ai) [119-60-8]²⁰

According to the general procedure, the reaction of dicyclohexylmethanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (28 mg, 48% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 30:1 to 15:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.50 – 2.46 (m, 2H), 1.80 – 1.75 (m, 8H), 1.68 – 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.36 – 1.16 (m, 10H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 217.3, 49.3, 28.7, 26.0, 25.9.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₃H₂₂O: 194.2; found: 194.0.



3,5,5-Trimethylcyclohex-2-en-1-one (2ak) [78-59-1]²

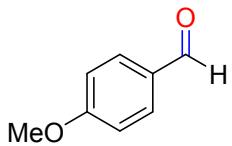
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 3,5,5-trimethylcyclohex-2-en-1-ol (12 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.24 mmol), dcype (0.48 mmol) and cyclohexanone (60 mmol) in dioxane (60 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a colorless oil (1.1 g, 66% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 10:1 to 5:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.89 (s, 1H), 2.20 (s, 2H), 2.17 (s, 2H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.0, 160.4, 125.6, 50.9, 45.4, 33.6, 28.4, 24.6.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₉H₁₄O: 138.1; found: 138.0.

The formation and the yields of **2al** and **2am** were determined by GC using standard samples as the reference, and further confirmed by GC-MS analyses.



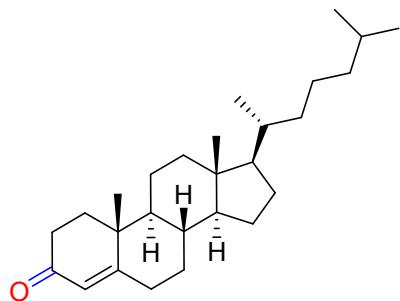
4-Methoxybenzaldehyde (2an) [123-11-5]²¹

According to the general procedure, the reaction of cyclododecanol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (20 mg, 50% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 40:1 to 10:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): 9.82 (s, 1H), 7.79 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 6.95 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.9, 164.6, 132.0, 130.0, 114.3, 55.6.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₈H₈O₂: 136.1; found: 136.0.



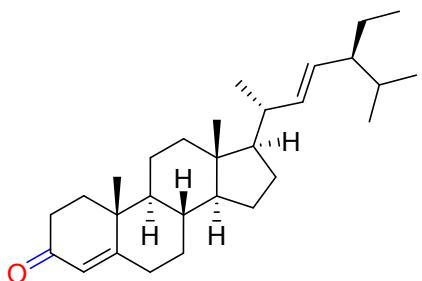
Cholest-4-en-3-one (2ao) [601-57-0]²

According to the general procedure, the reaction of sterol derivative (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in DMSO (1.5 mL) with stirring at 110 °C for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (99 mg, 87% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 20:1 to 10:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.72 (s, 1H), 2.45 – 2.31 (m, 3H), 2.28 – 2.25 (m, 1H), 2.05 – 2.01 (m, 2H), 1.86 – 1.82 (m, 2H), 1.72 – 1.67 (m, 2H), 1.63 – 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.55 – 1.48 (m, 3H), 1.46 – 1.24 (m, 6H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.16 – 1.07 (m, 6H), 1.00 – 0.97 (m, 3H), 0.91 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 3H), 0.86 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 3H), 0.71 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.8, 171.9, 123.9, 56.2, 56.0, 54.0, 42.5, 39.8, 39.6, 38.7, 36.3, 35.9, 35.82, 35.75, 34.1, 33.1, 32.2, 28.3, 28.1, 24.3, 24.0, 23.0, 22.7, 21.2, 18.8, 17.5, 12.1.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₇H₄₄O [M+H]⁺: 385.3465; found: 385.3469.



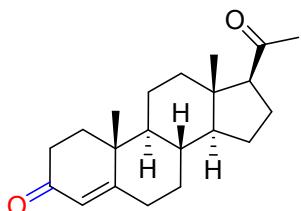
Stigmasta-4,22-dien-3-one (2ap) [20817-72-5]²²

According to the general procedure, the reaction of (8*S*,9*S*,10*R*,13*R*,14*S*,17*R*)-17-((2*R*,5*S*,*E*)-5-ethyl-6-methylhept-3-en-2-yl)-10,13-dimethyl-2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-3-ol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dctype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (77 mg, 63% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 20:1 to 10:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.72 (s, 1H), 5.15 (dd, *J* = 15.1, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (dd, *J* = 15.1, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.45 – 2.32 (m, 3H), 2.28 – 2.24 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 2.00 (m, 3H), 1.86 – 1.82 (m, 1H), 1.75 – 1.66 (m, 3H), 1.61 – 1.50 (m, 5H), 1.47 – 1.39 (m, 2H), 1.33 – 1.25 (m, 2H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.17 – 1.04 (m, 4H), 1.02 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.95 – 0.89 (m, 1H), 0.85 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 0.82 – 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 6H), 0.73 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.8, 171.8, 138.3, 129.6, 123.9, 56.1, 56.0, 54.0, 51.4, 42.4, 40.6, 39.7, 38.8, 35.83, 35.75, 34.1, 33.1, 32.2, 32.0, 29.0, 25.5, 24.4, 21.3, 21.23, 21.15, 19.1, 17.5, 12.4, 12.3.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₉H₄₆O [M+H]⁺: 411.3621; found: 411.3629.



Progesterone (2aq) [57-83-0]²

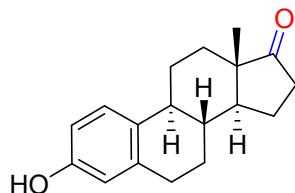
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-((8*S*,9*S*,10*R*,13*S*,14*S*,17*S*)-3-hydroxy-10,13-

dimethyl-2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-17-yl)ethan-1-one (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in DMSO (1.5 mL) with stirring at 110 °C for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (81 mg, 86% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 10:1 to 5:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.74 (s, 1H), 2.55 – 2.52 (m, 1H), 2.46 – 2.27 (m, 4H), 2.22 – 2.16 (m, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.08 – 2.02 (m, 2H), 1.89 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.74 – 1.63 (m, 5H), 1.59 – 1.53 (m, 1H), 1.50 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.31 – 1.25 (m, 1H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 1.18 – 1.15 (m, 1H), 1.10 – 0.96 (m, 2H), 0.67 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 209.4, 199.6, 171.0, 124.1, 63.6, 56.1, 53.8, 44.0, 38.8, 38.7, 35.8, 35.7, 34.1, 32.9, 32.1, 31.6, 24.5, 23.0, 21.1, 17.5, 13.5.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₂₁H₃₀O₂: 314.2; found: 314.0.



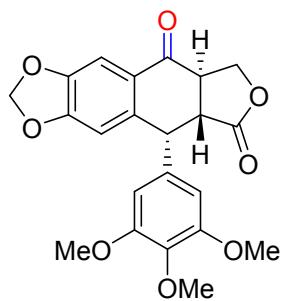
Estrone (2ar) [53-16-7]²³

According to the general procedure, the reaction of estradiol (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) with stirring under reflux for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (68 mg, 84% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 30:1 to 15:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 2.89 – 2.86 (m, 2H), 2.53 – 2.48 (m, 1H), 2.40 – 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.26 – 2.22 (m, 1H), 2.18 – 2.12 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 2.03 (m, 1H), 2.02 – 1.94 (m, 2H), 1.61 – 1.40 (m, 6H), 0.91 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 221.3, 153.7, 138.2, 132.3, 126.7, 115.4, 113.0, 50.6, 48.2, 44.1, 38.5, 36.0, 31.7, 29.6, 26.6, 26.1, 21.7, 14.0.

GC-MS: Calcd for C₁₈H₂₂O₂: 270.2; found: 270.0.



Podophyllotone (2as) [477-49-6]²⁴

According to the general procedure, the reaction of podophyllotoxin (0.3 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (0.006 mmol), dcype (0.012 mmol) and cyclohexanone (1.5 mmol) in DMA (1.5 mL) with stirring at 110 °C for 12 h, afforded the title compound as a white solid (57 mg, 46% yield). Purification conditions: Flash column chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether/EA 20:1 to 10:1 as the eluent.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.56 (s, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.39 (s, 2H), 6.09 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 2H), 4.85 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.58 – 4.55 (m, 1H), 4.38 – 4.34 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 3.55 – 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.30 – 3.26 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 192.6, 173.2, 153.2, 148.2, 141.6, 137.8, 132.2, 128.3, 109.8, 107.8, 106.2, 102.5, 67.1, 60.8, 56.4, 46.8, 44.8, 43.6.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₀O₈ [M+H]⁺: 413.1231; found: 413.1234.

4. Mechanistic studies:

(a) Reaction kinetics for three representative alcohols

Typical procedure: in an argon-filled glove box, a 10-mL Schlenk tube containing a magnetic stir bar was charged with Ni(OTf)₂ (1.4 mg, 0.004 mmol), dcype (3.4 mg, 0.008 mmol), and 1.0 mL of toluene. After stirring at room temperature for 5 minutes, alcohol (0.2 mmol), cyclohexanone (98 mg, 1.0 mmol), and GC standard dodecane (20 μL) were then added sequentially. The tube was capped tightly and the reaction mixture was heated on an oil bath maintained at 120 °C. At intervals, aliquots of the reaction mixture were taken in the glove box and passed through a short plug of silica gel with ethyl acetate washings. The filtrate was subjected to GC analysis for determination of the conversion of alcohol and to allow calibrated quantification of the GC yields of the associated ketone products.

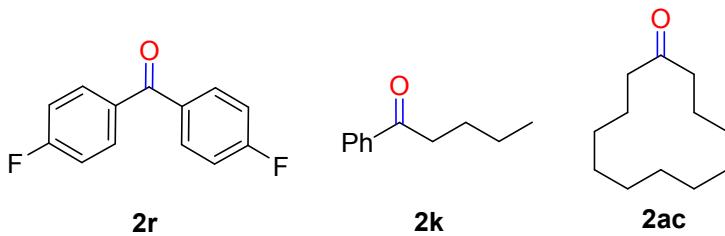
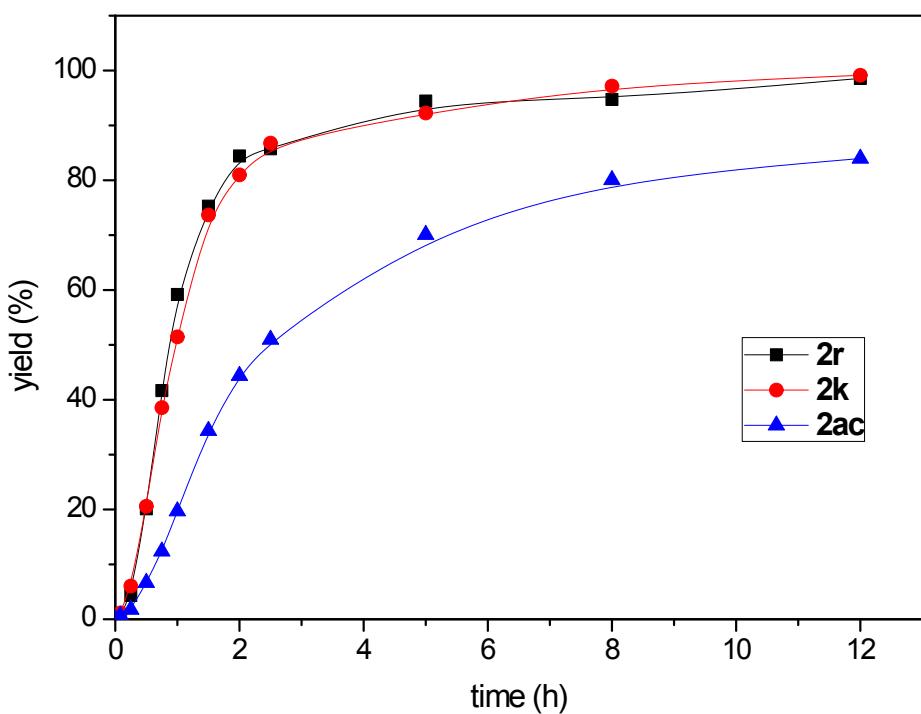
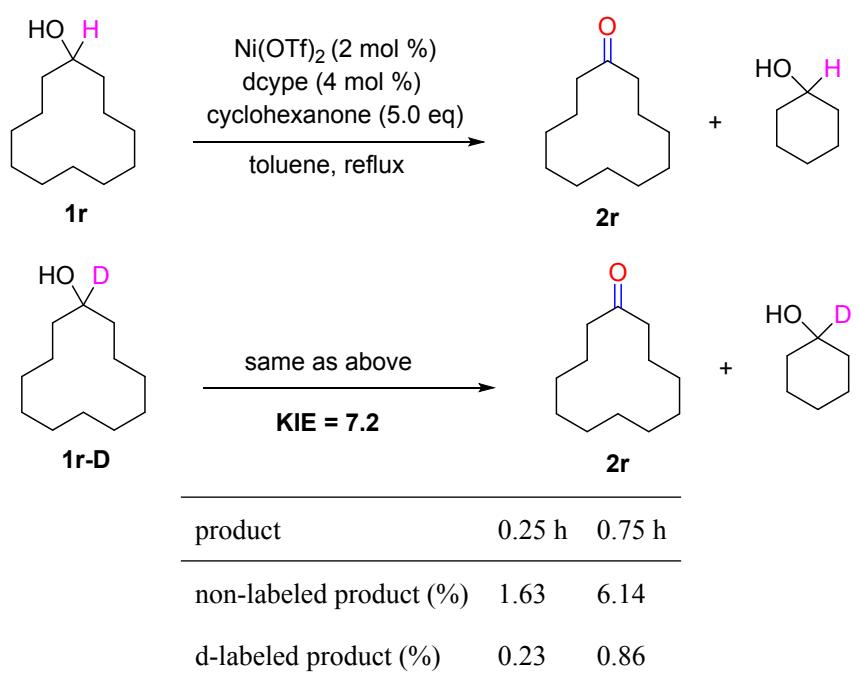


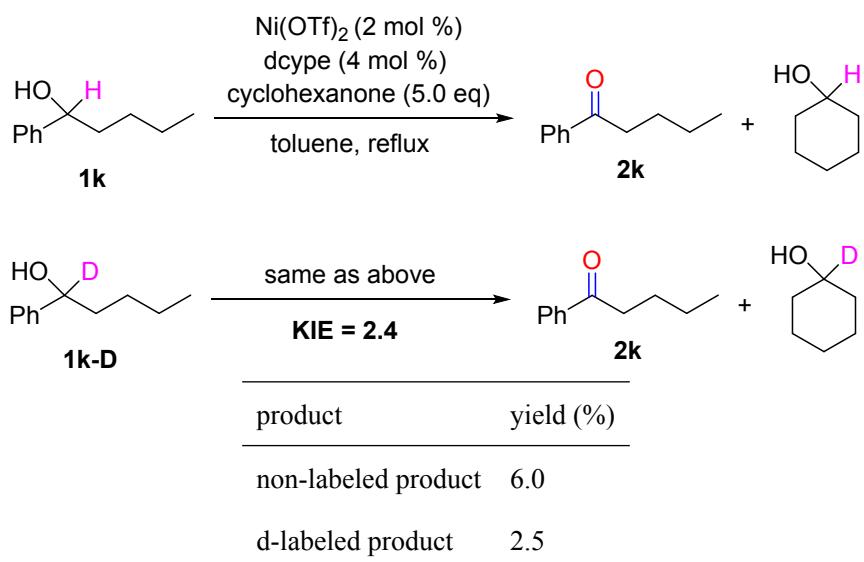
Figure S1. Plot of yield vs. time for the reaction of **1ac**, **1k** and **1r**.

(b) Kinetic isotope experiments (KIE) carried out in parallel in two separate vessels

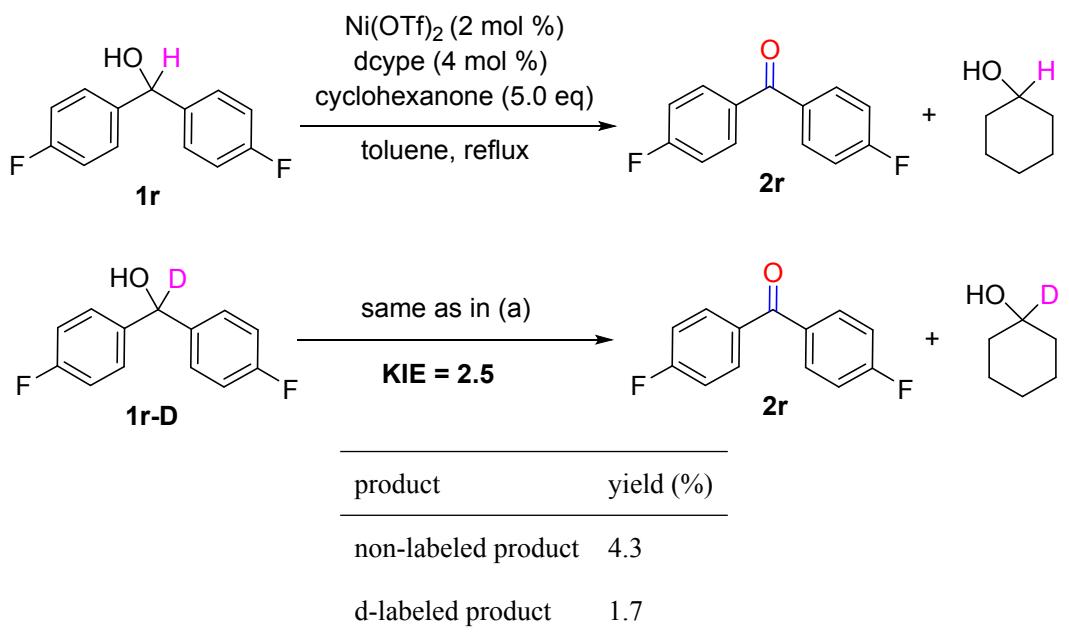
Typical procedure: In an argon-filled glove box, A 10-mL Schlenk tube containing a magnetic stir bar was charged with the alcohol of interest (0.2 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (1.4 mg, 0.004 mmol), dcype (3.4 mg, 0.008 mmol), cyclohexanone (98 mg, 1.0 mmol), the GC standard dedecane (20 μ L), and 1.0 mL of toluene. A separate tube was charged in exactly the same way except that the corresponding deuterated alcohol (0.2 mmol) was added instead. The two tubes were capped tightly and the reactions were heated on an oil bath pre-heated at 120 °C. At 15 min, aliquots of the reaction mixtures were passed through a short plug of silica gel with ethyl acetate washings. The filtrates were subjected to GC analysis so as to determine the extent of conversion of alcohol and to allow calibrated quantification of the GC yields of the associated ketone products.



The initial KIE value at 0.25 h was calculated to be 7.2.



The initial KIE value at 0.25 h was calculated to be 2.4.



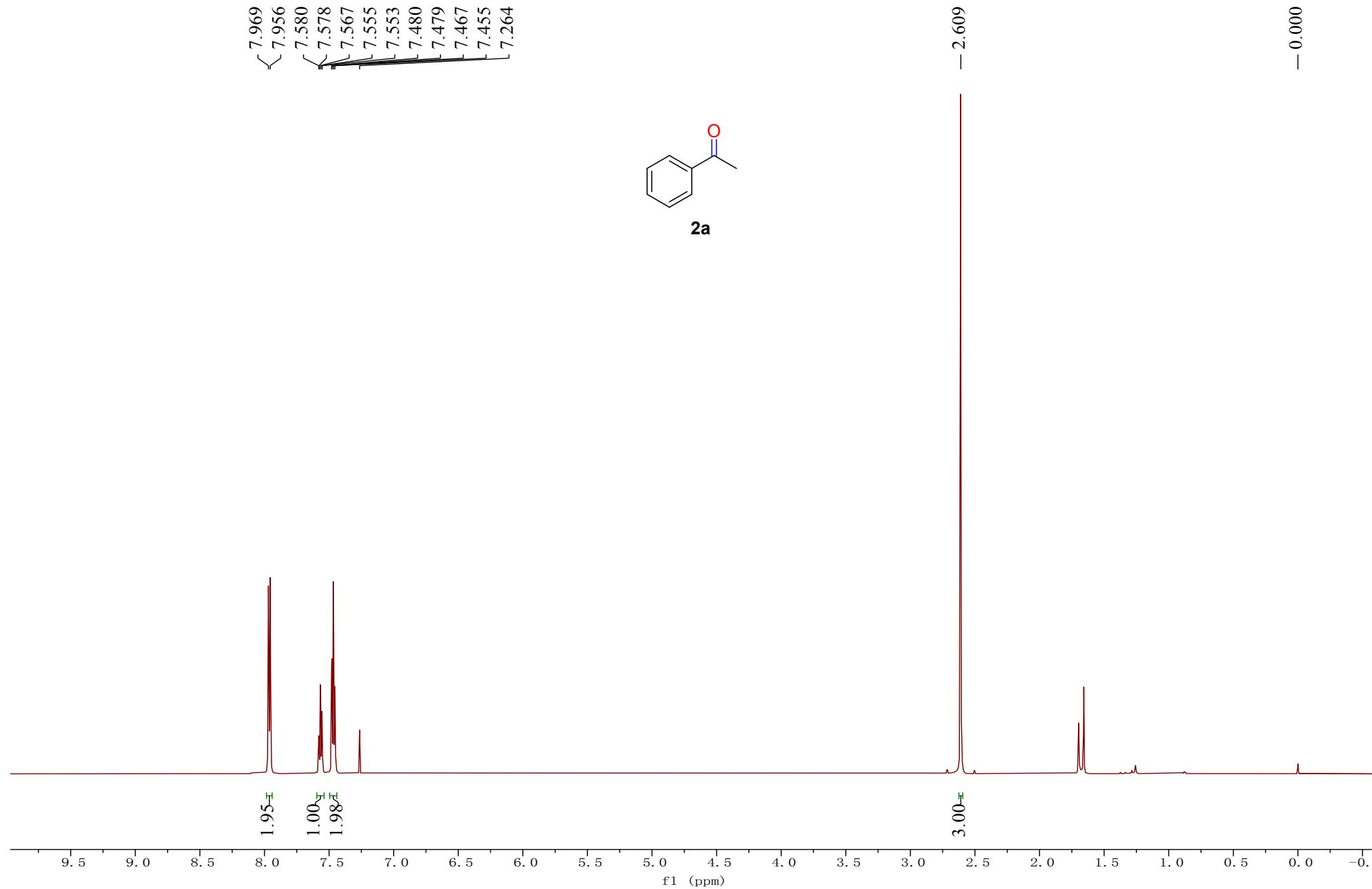
The initial KIE value at 0.25 h was calculated to be 2.5.

5. Supplemental references

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6. NMR Spectra

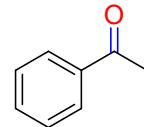


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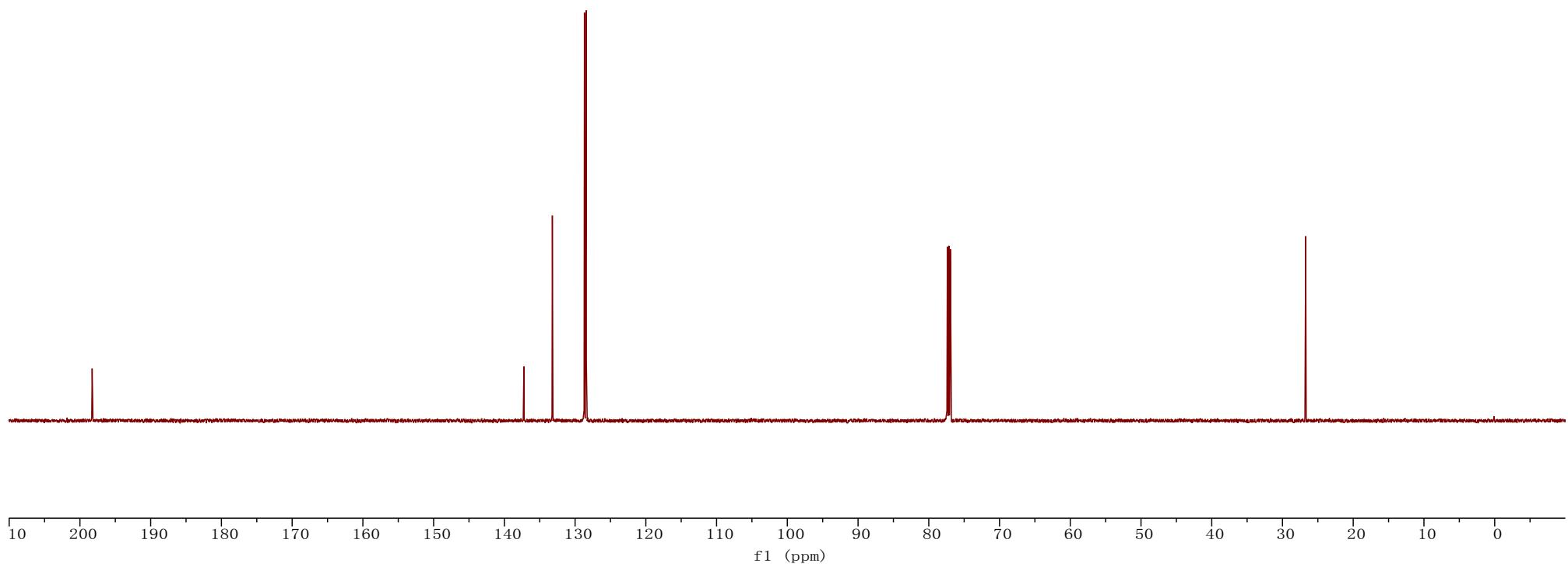
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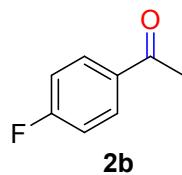
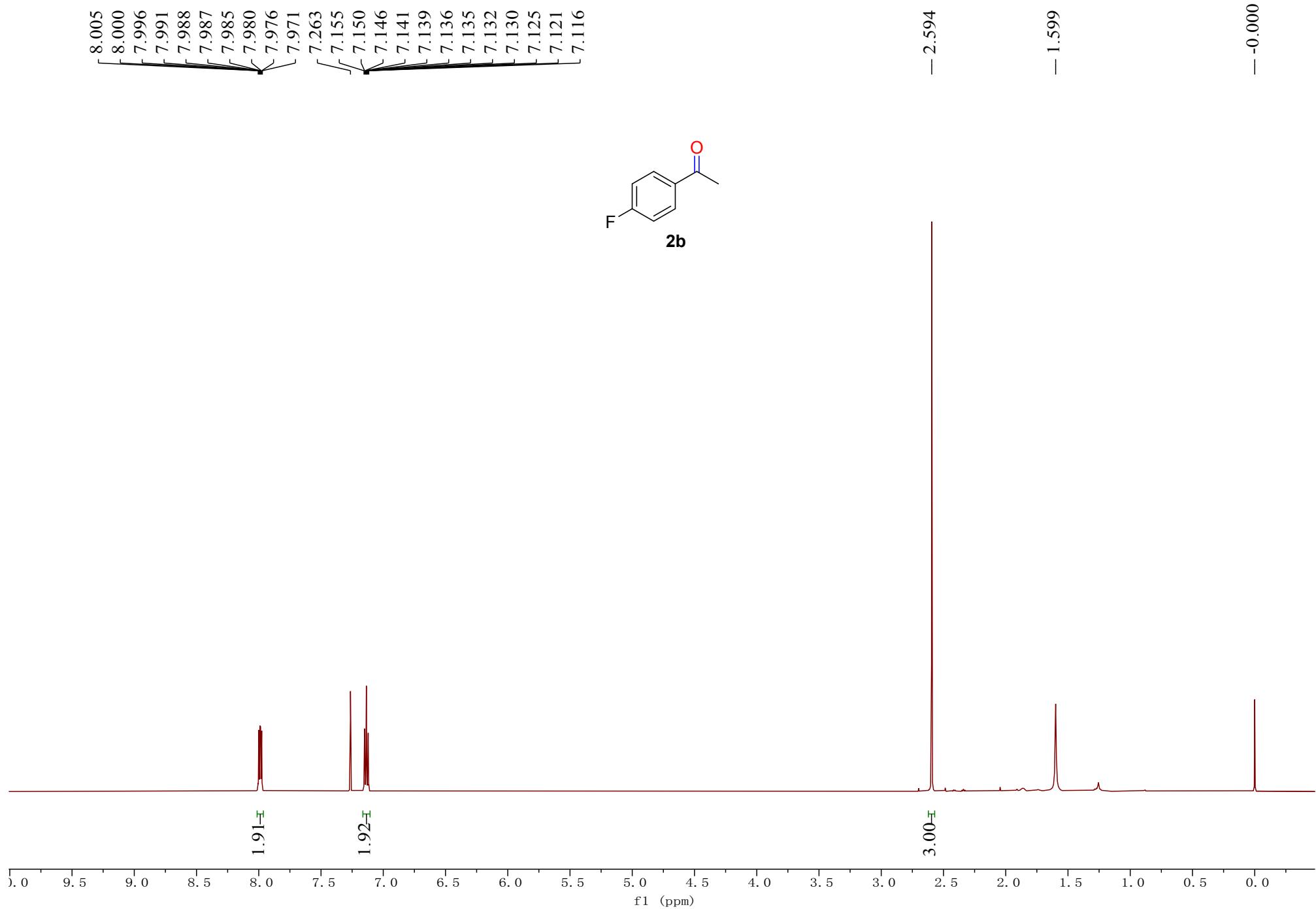
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2a





- 196.576

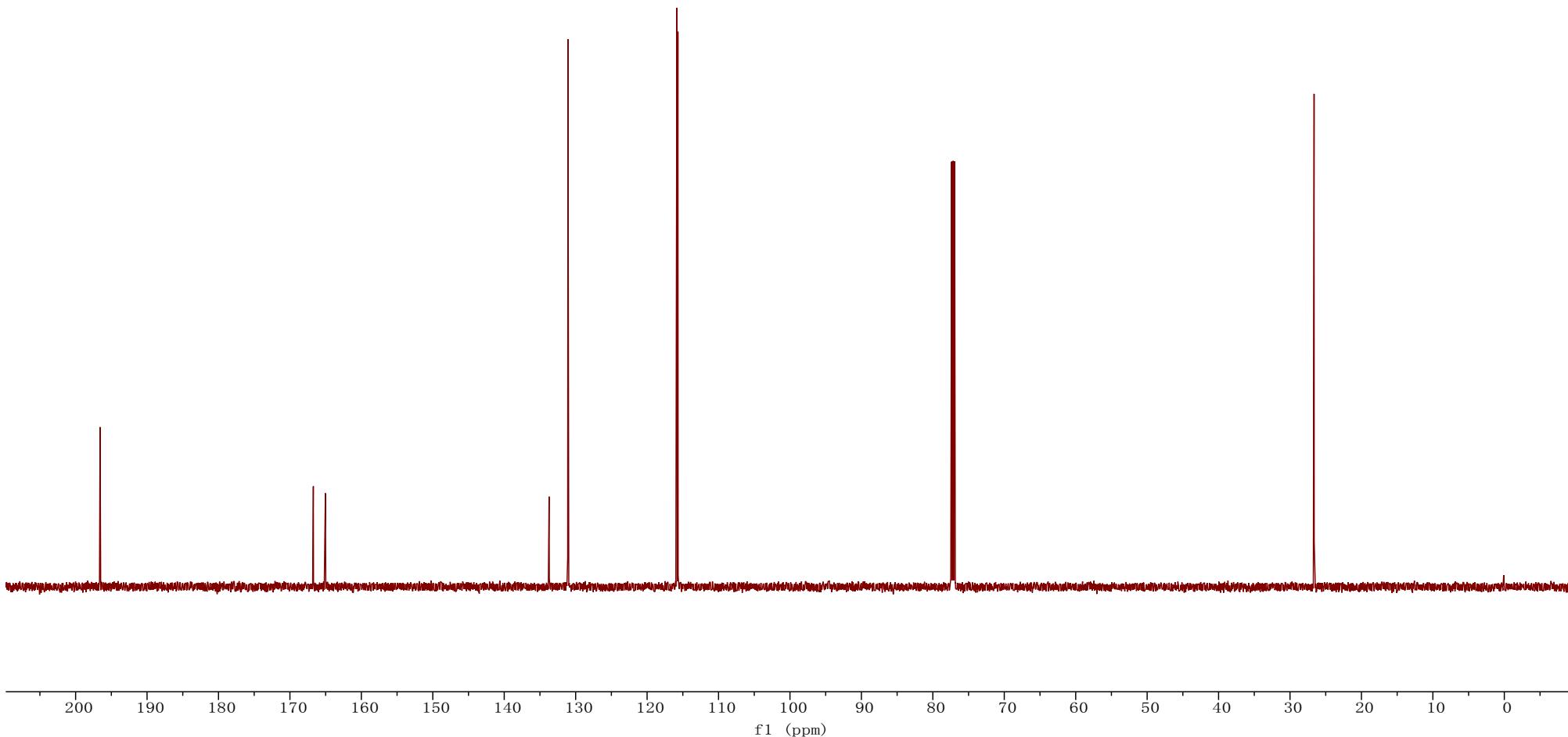
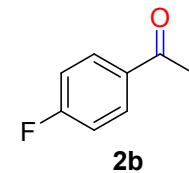
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~ 165.034

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∫ 131.020

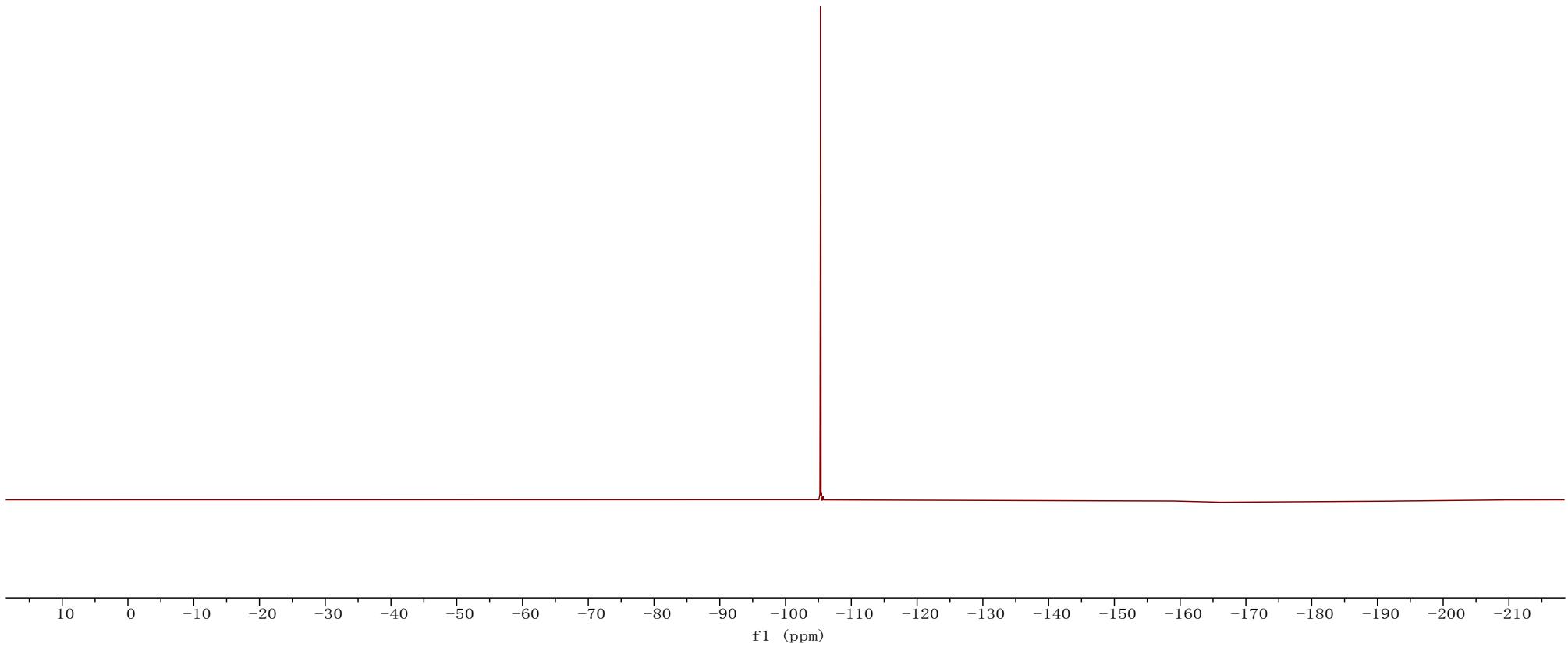
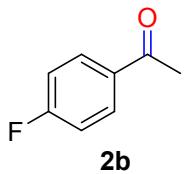
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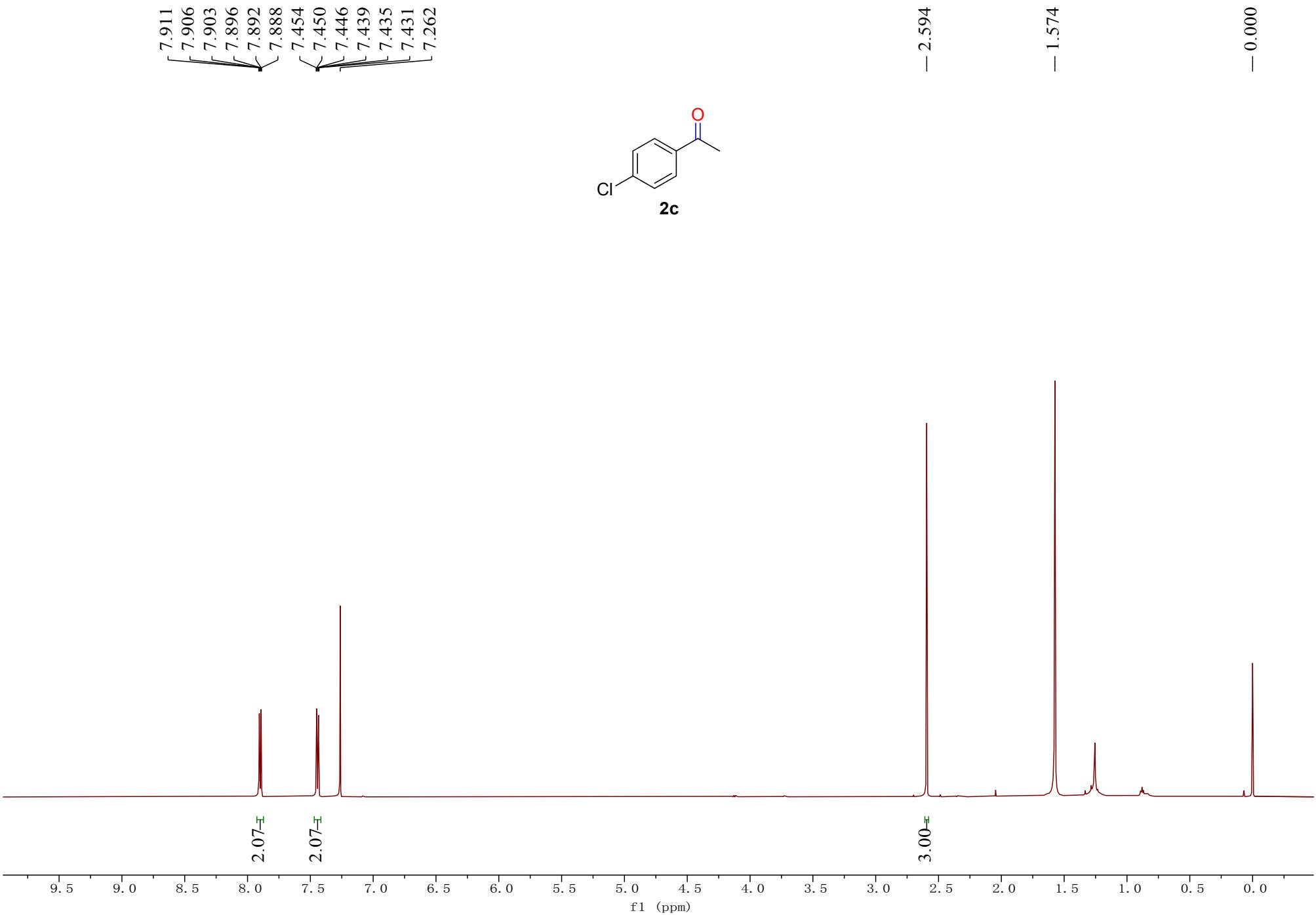
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-105.362



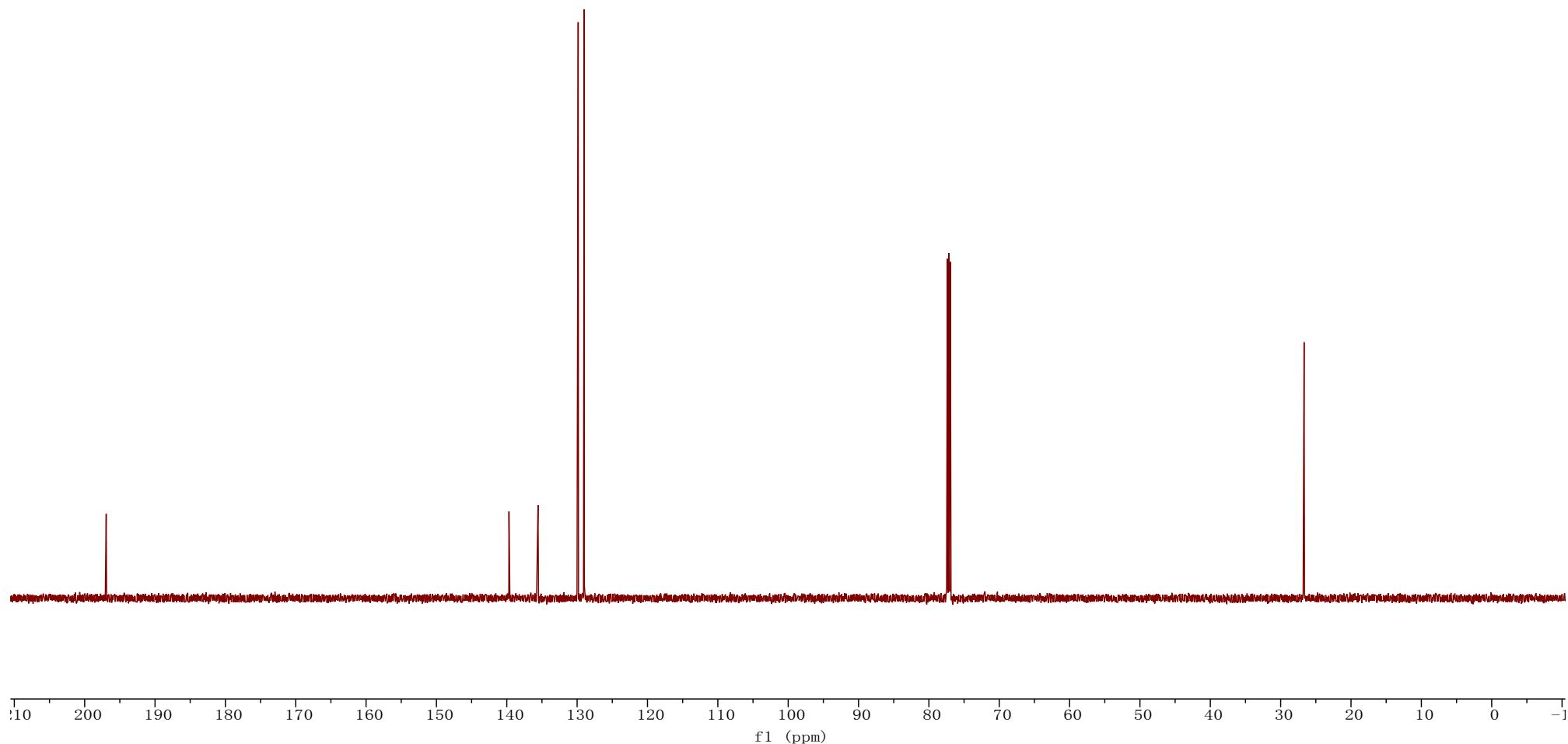
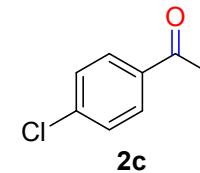


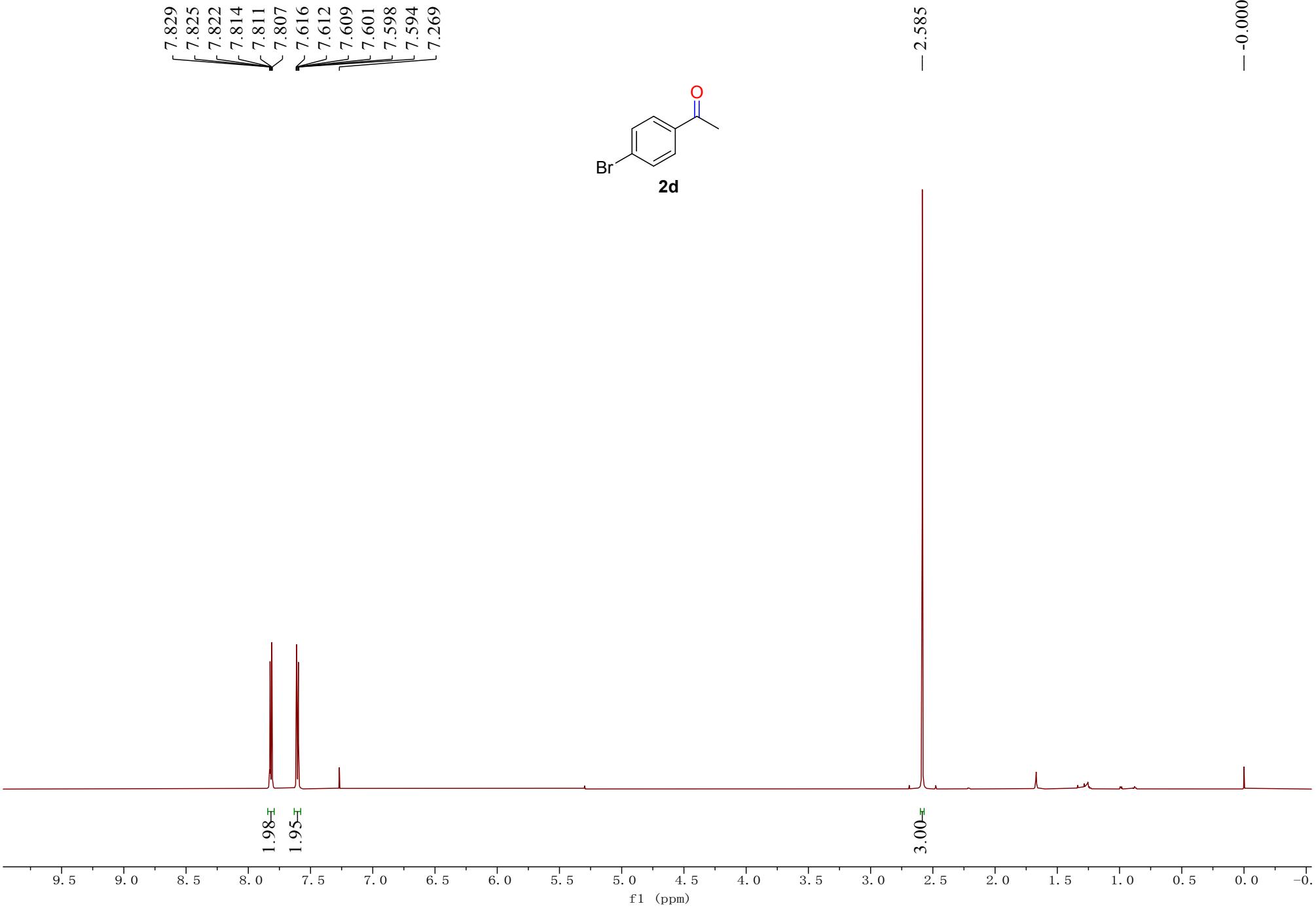
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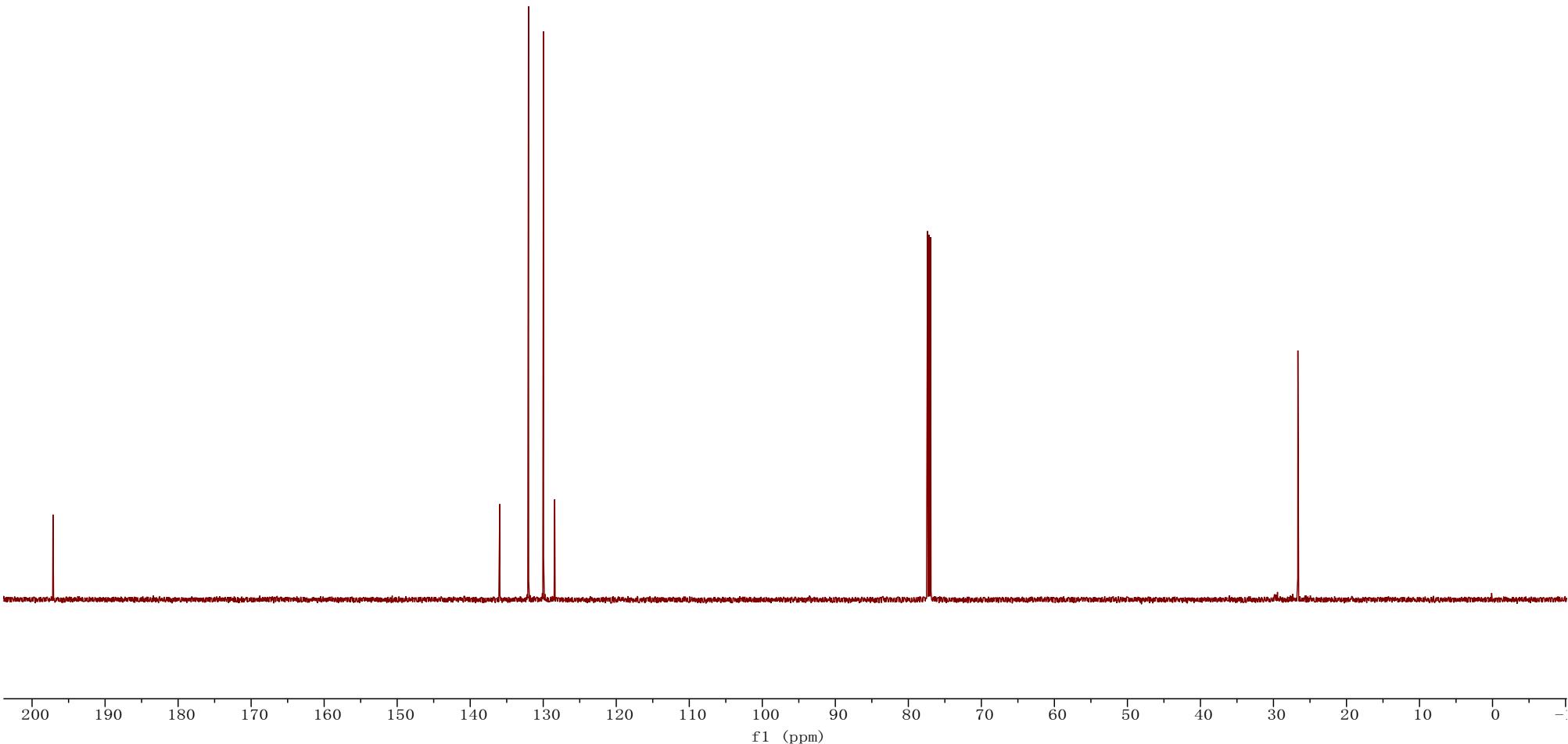
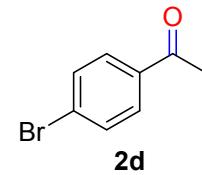


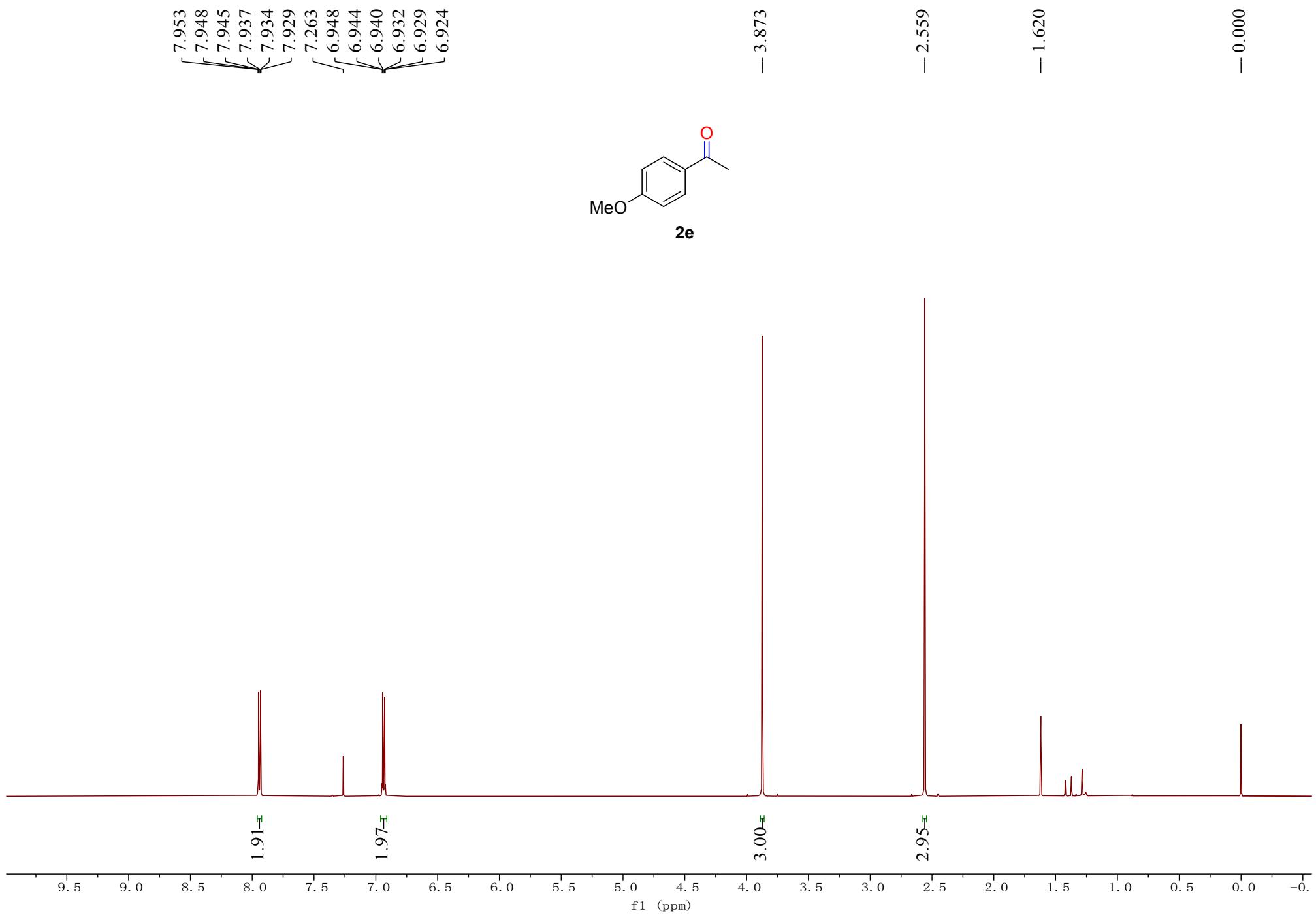
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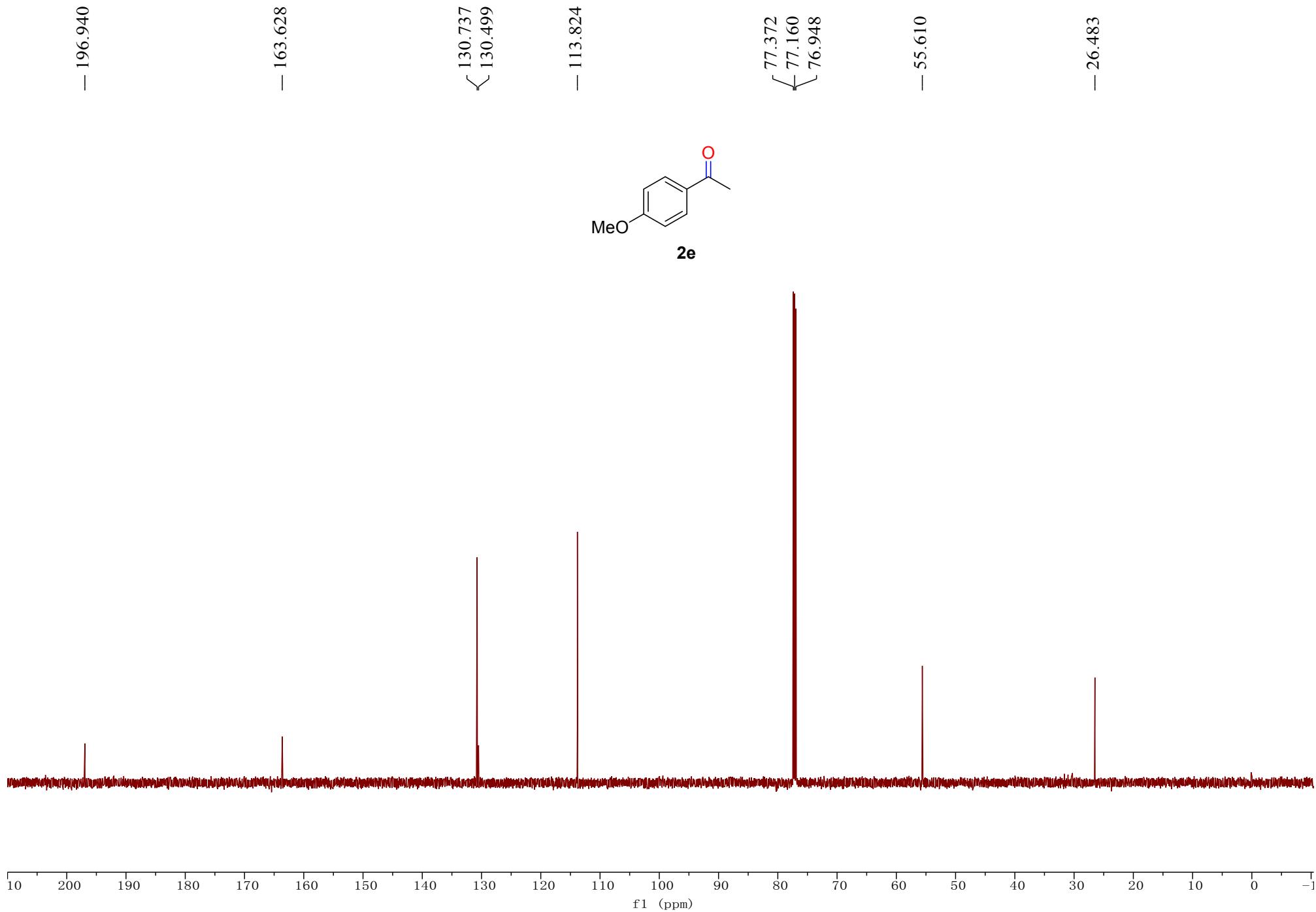
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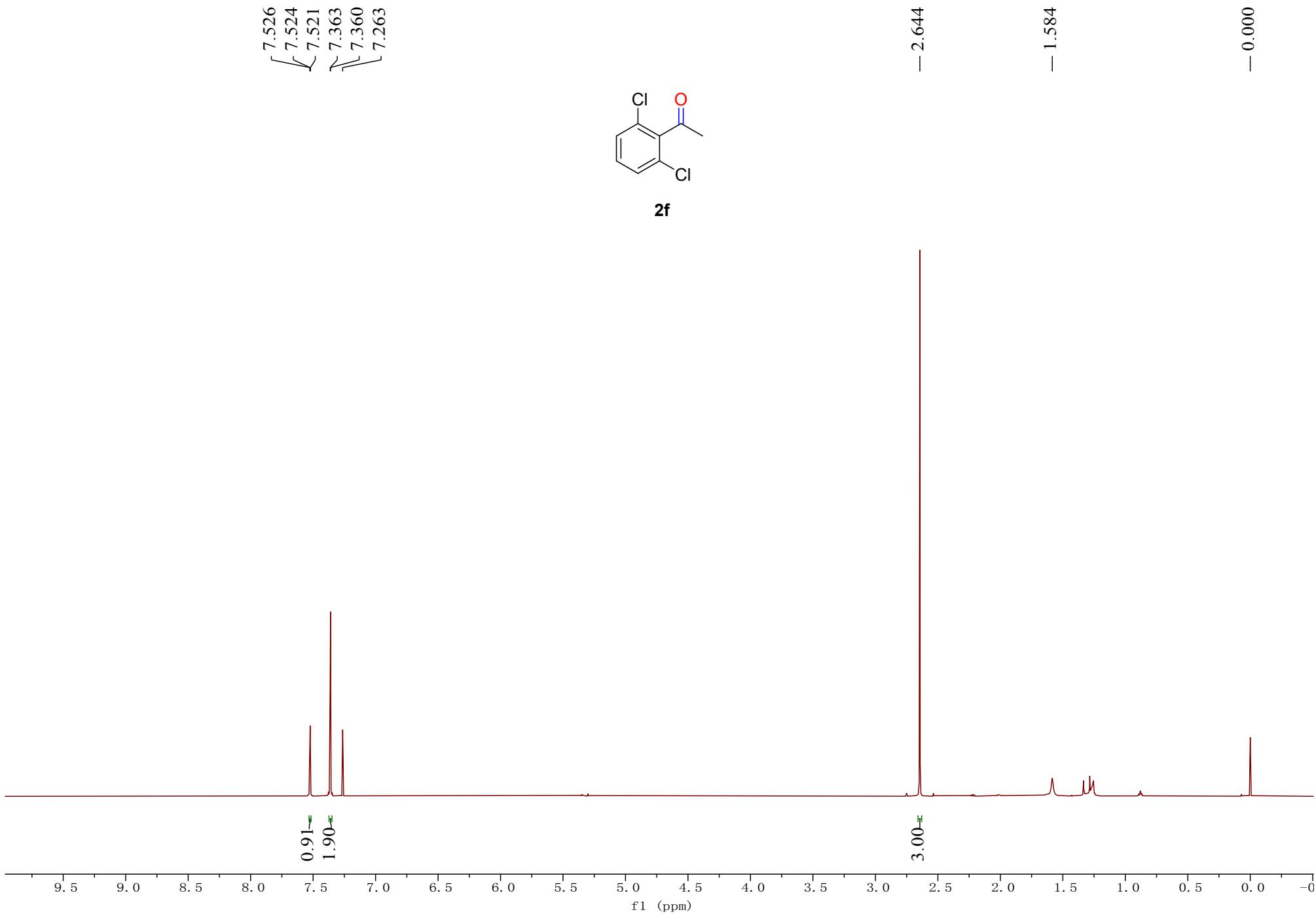
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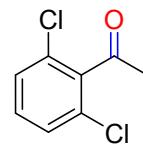


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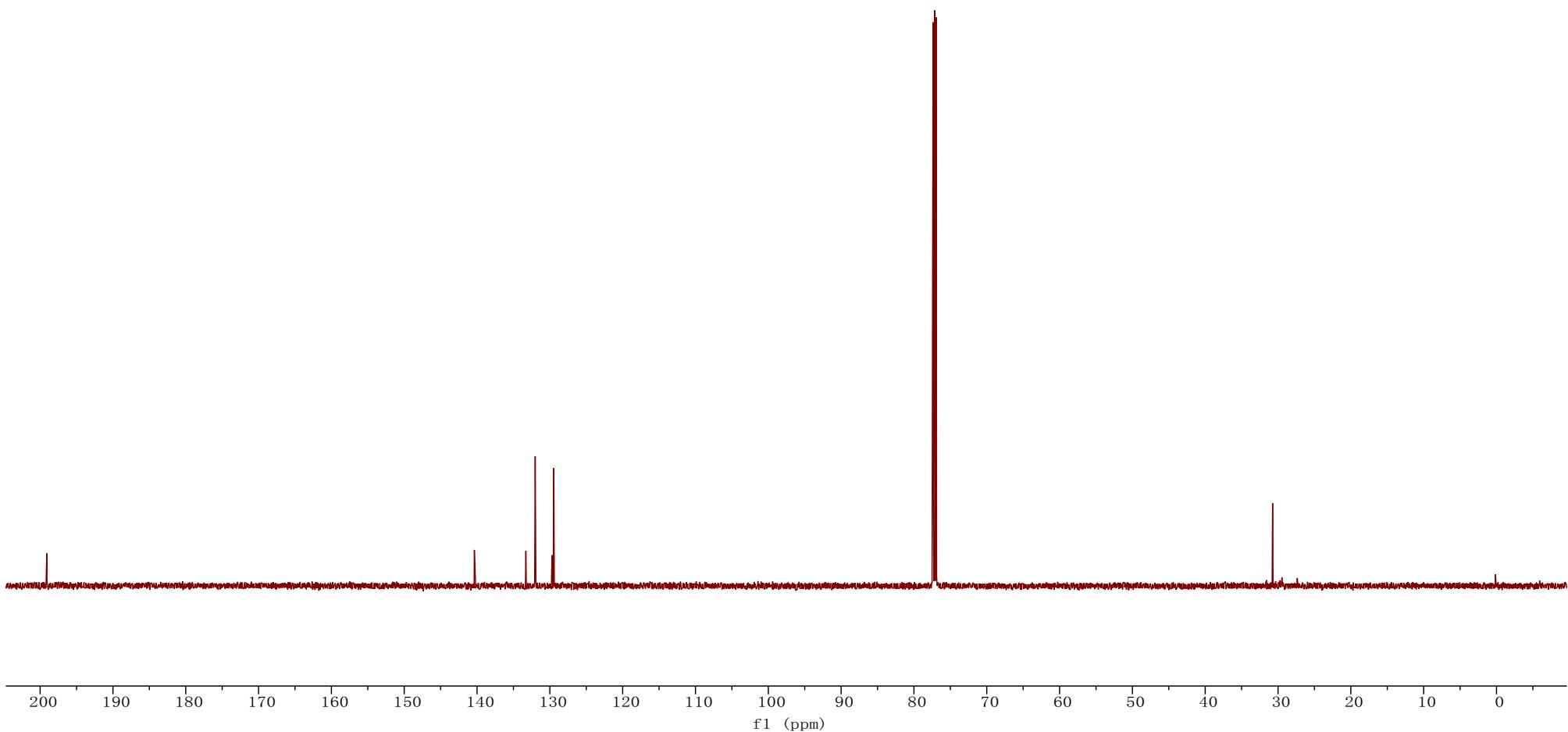
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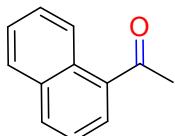
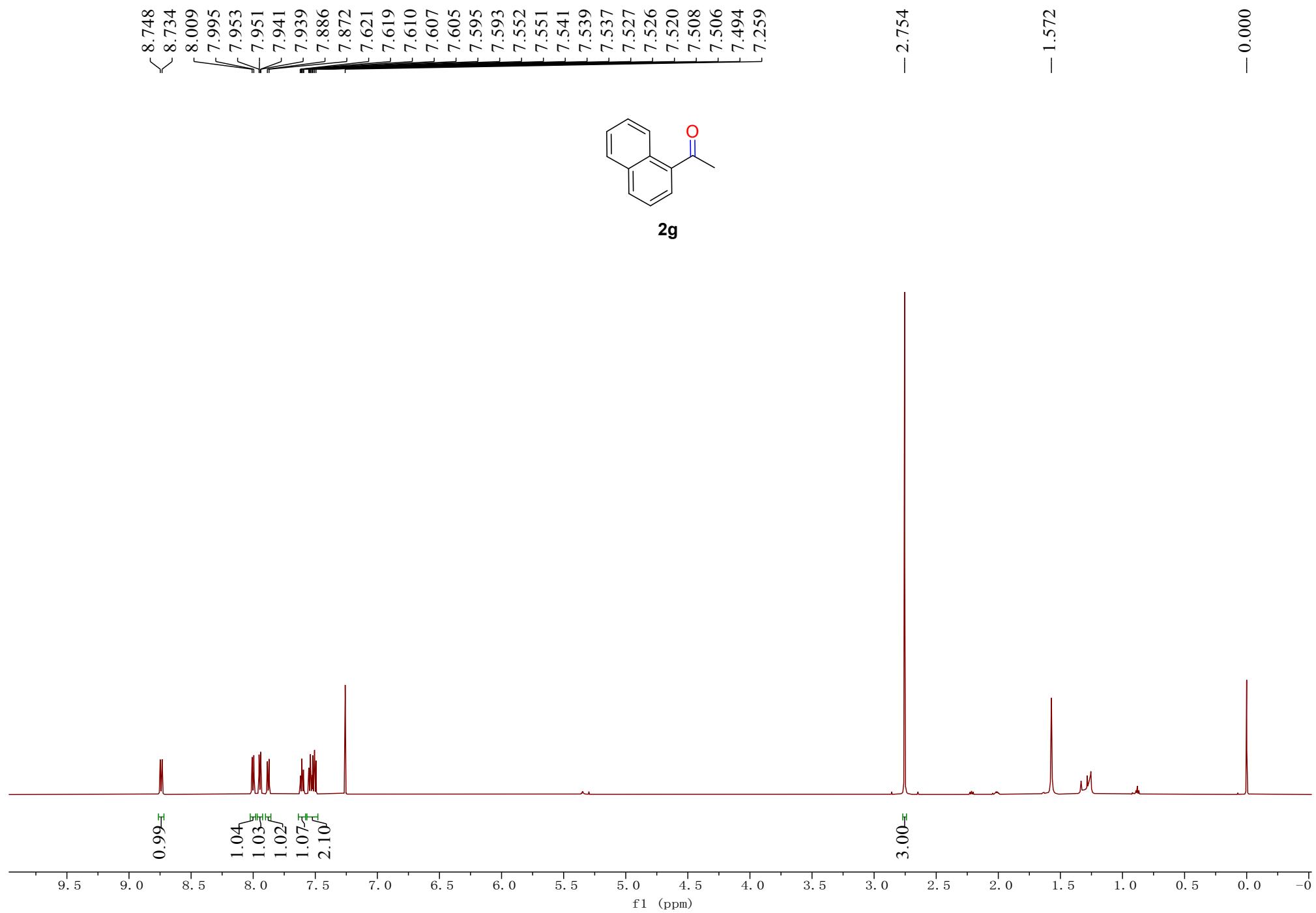
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2f

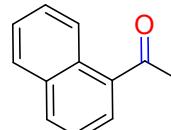




2g

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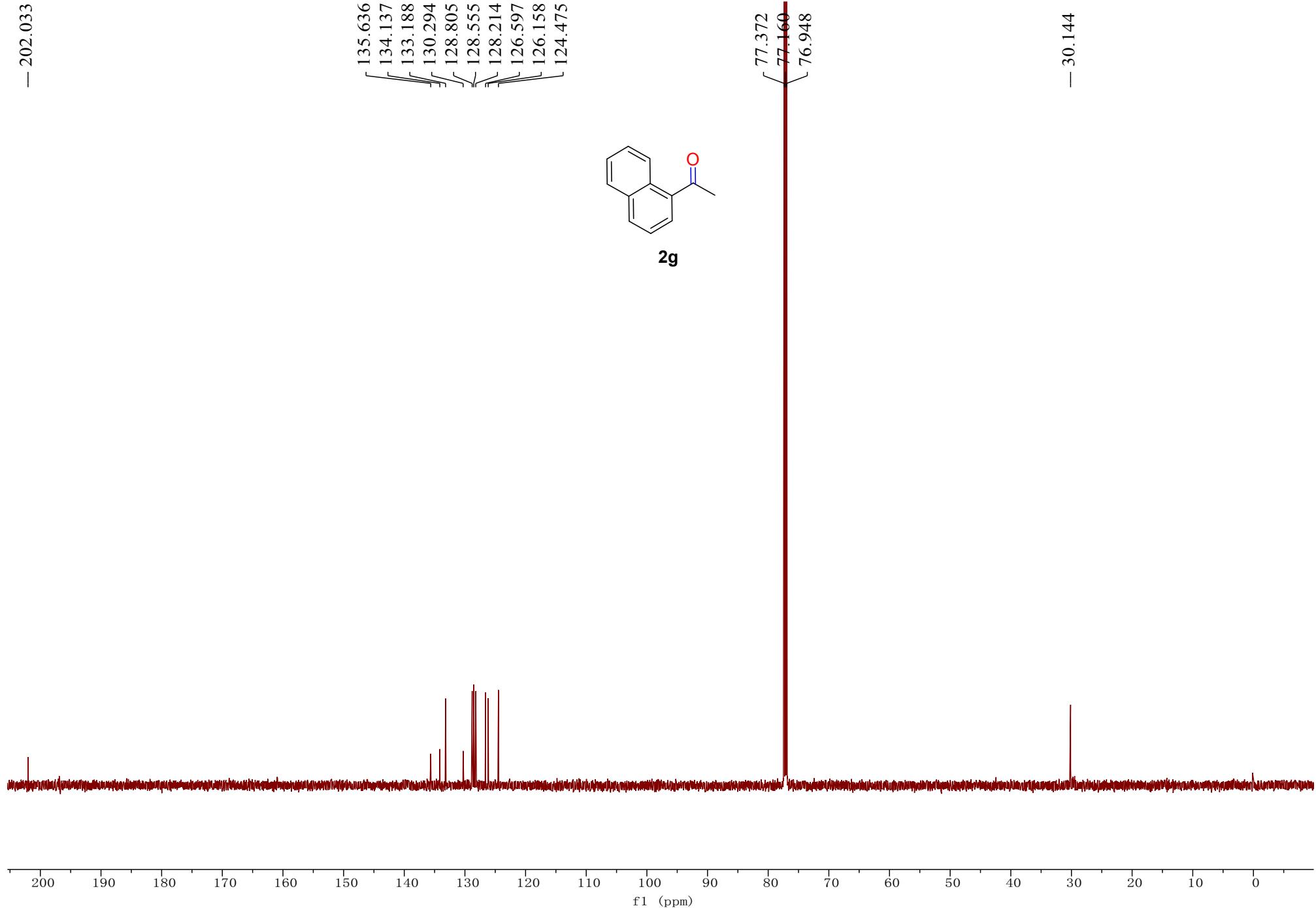
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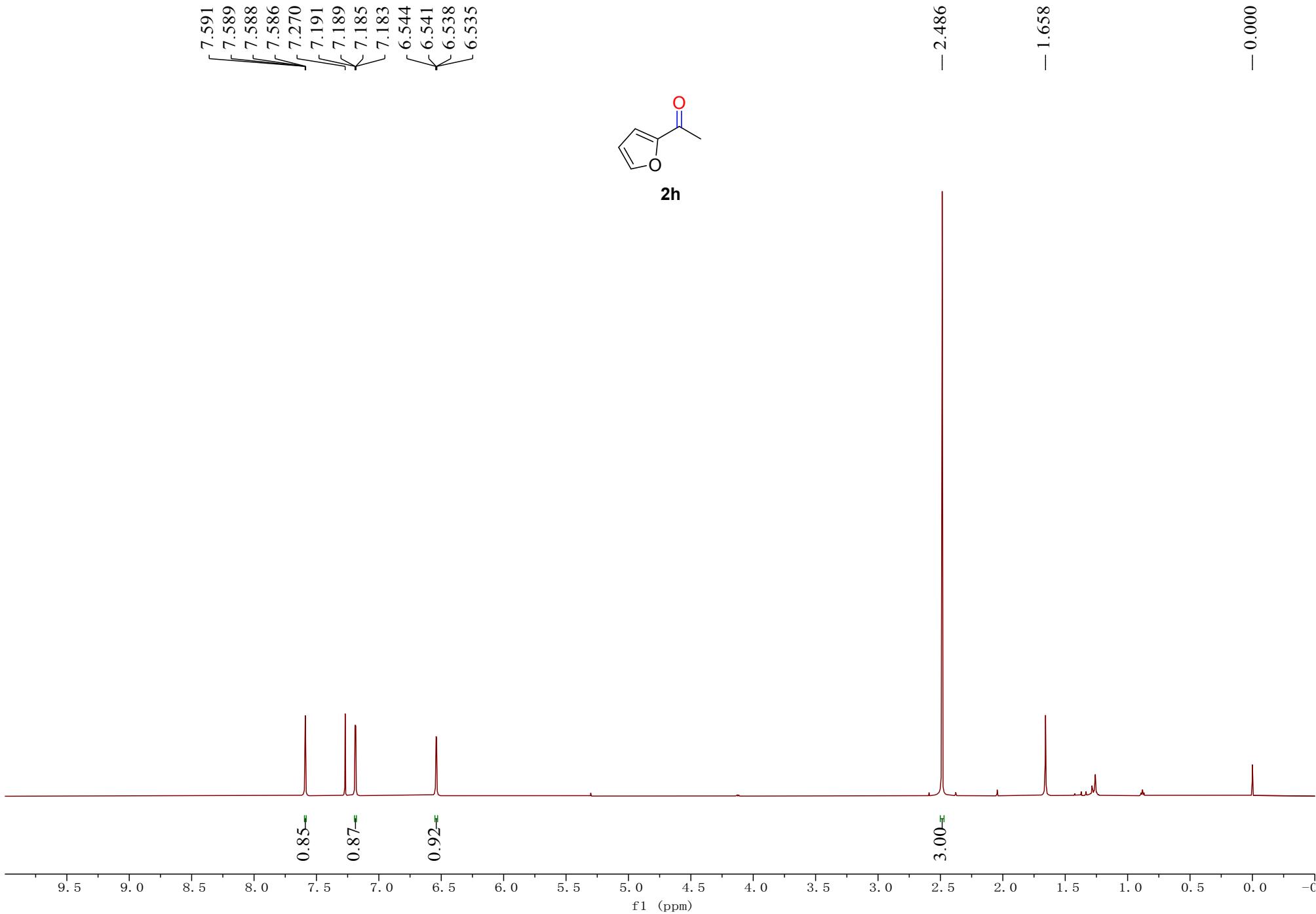


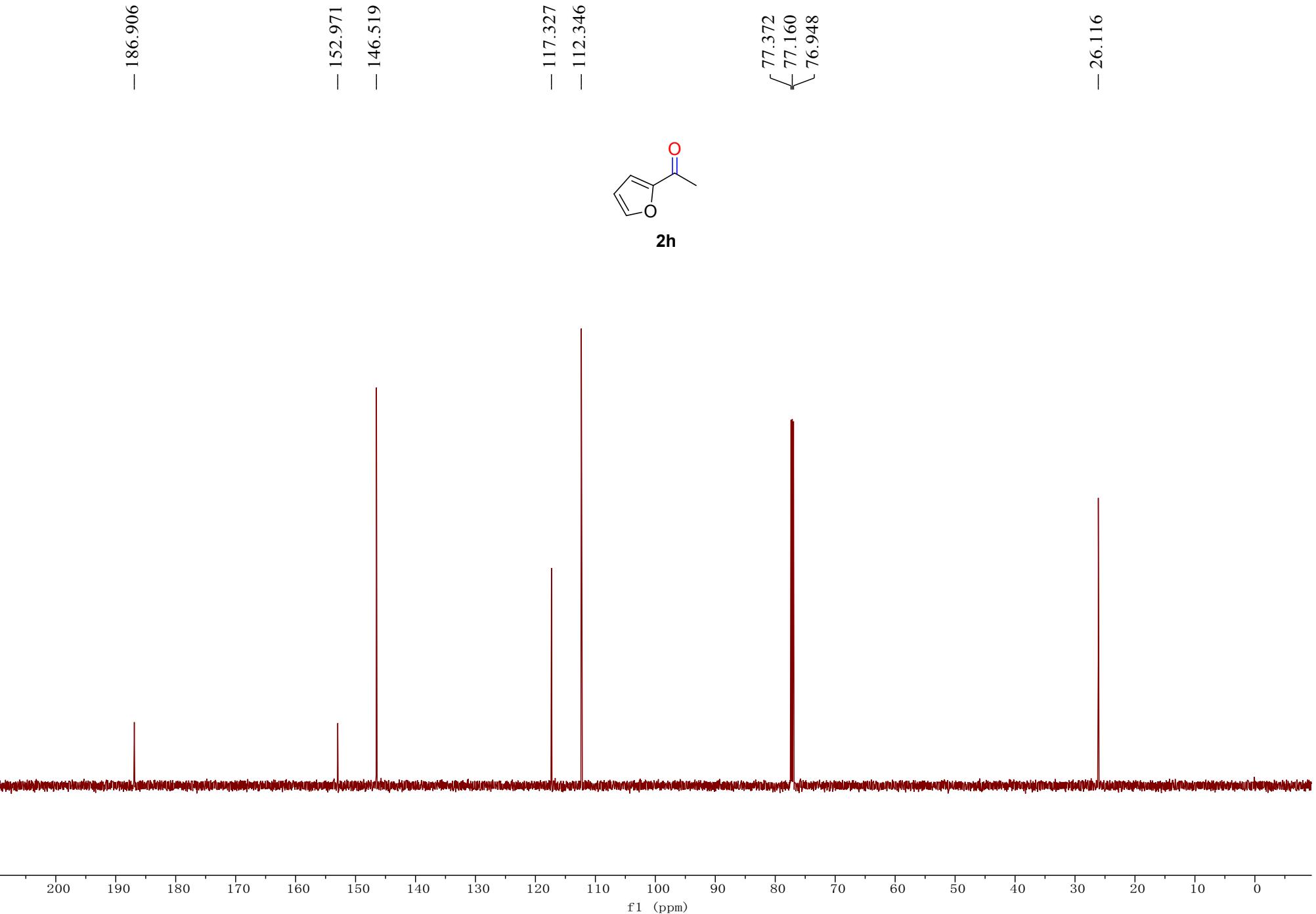
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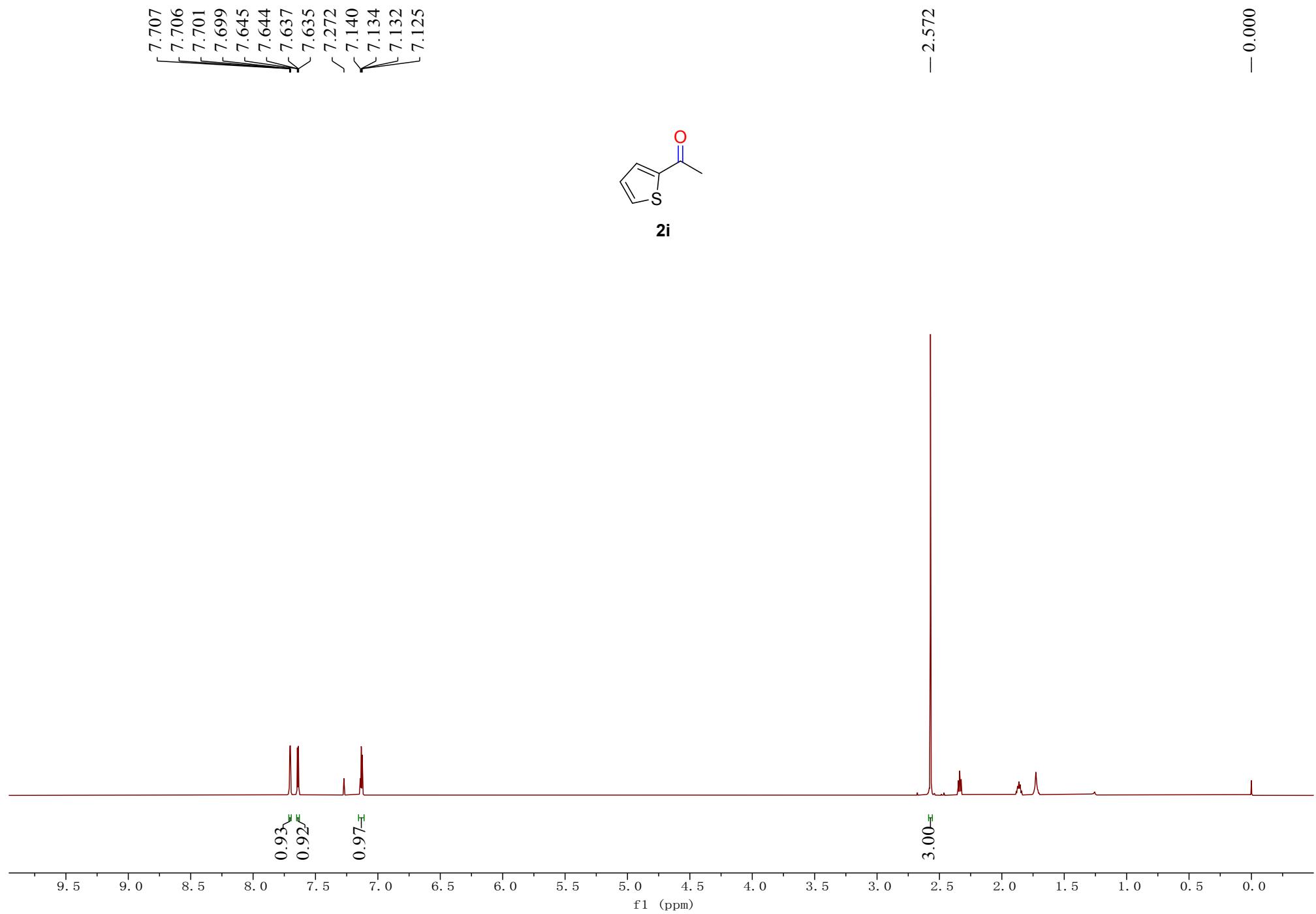
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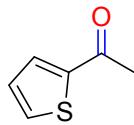
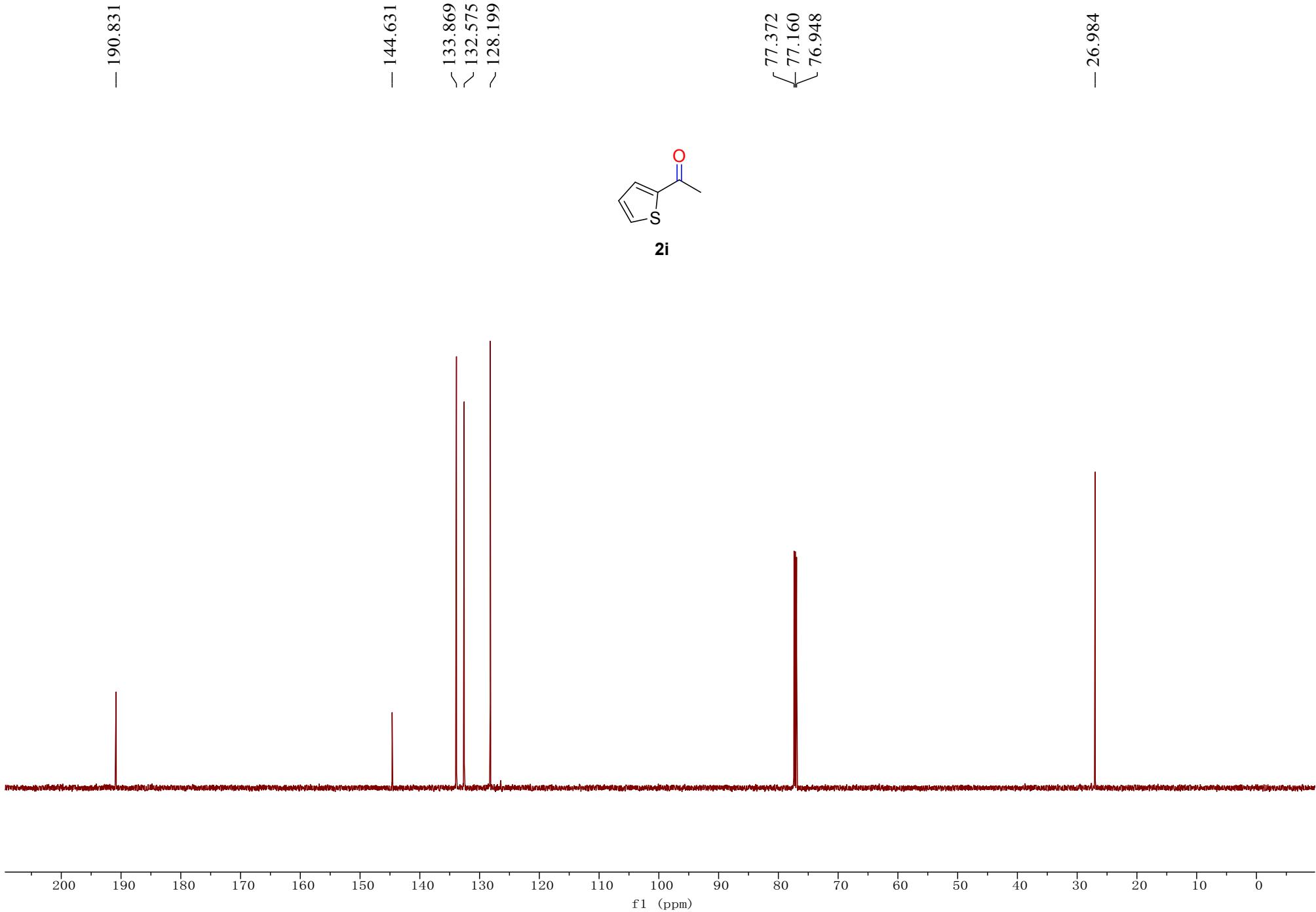
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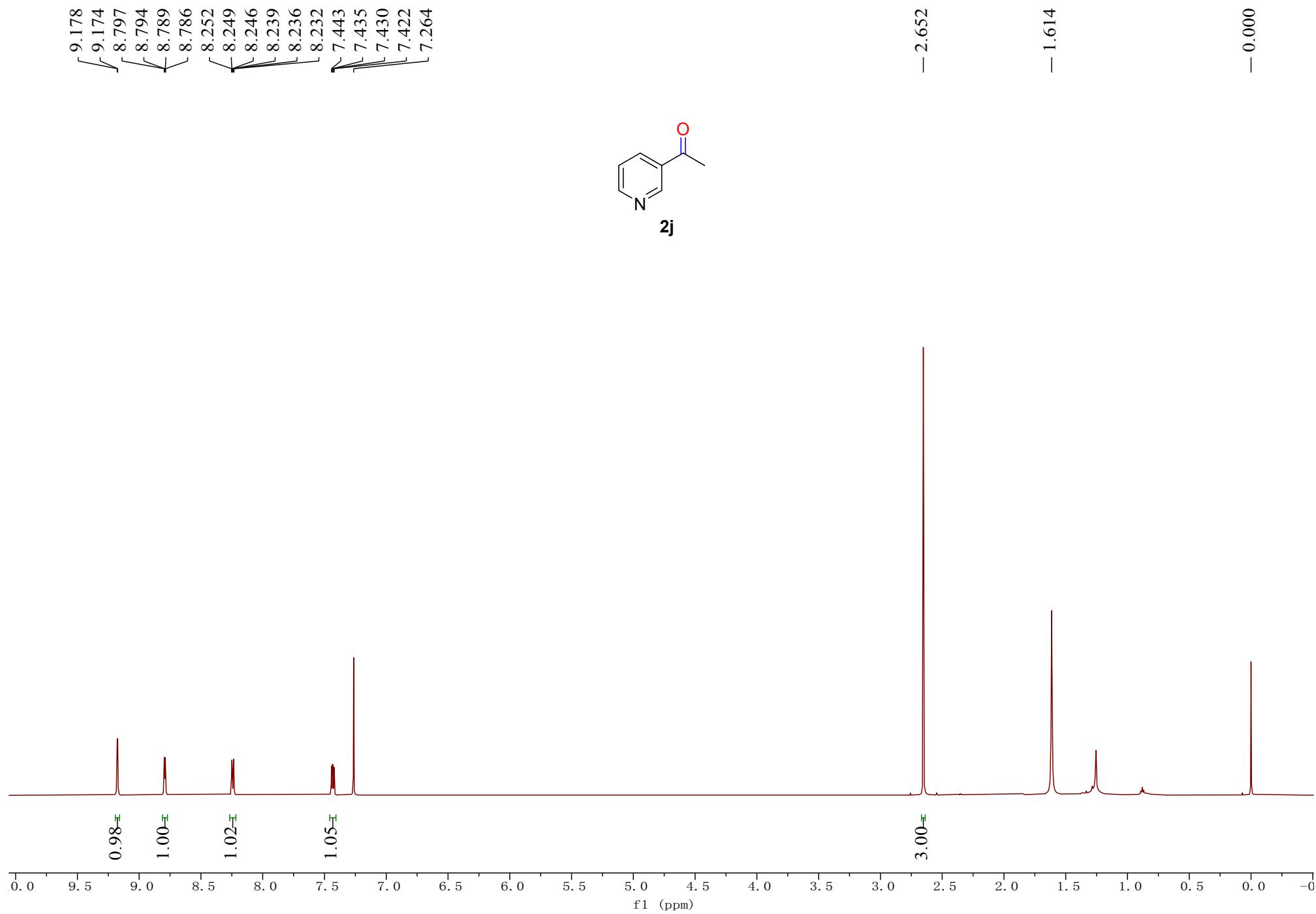


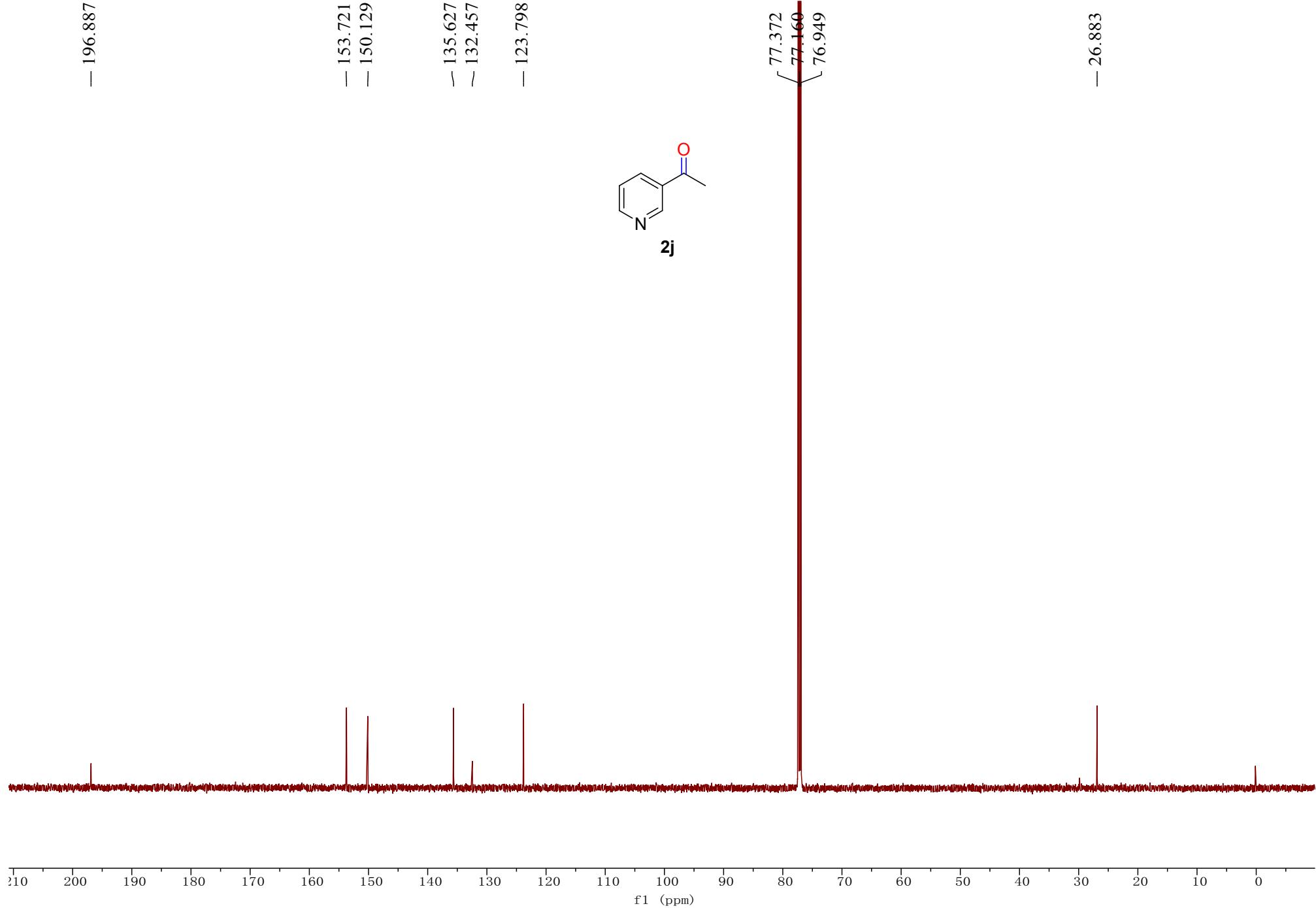


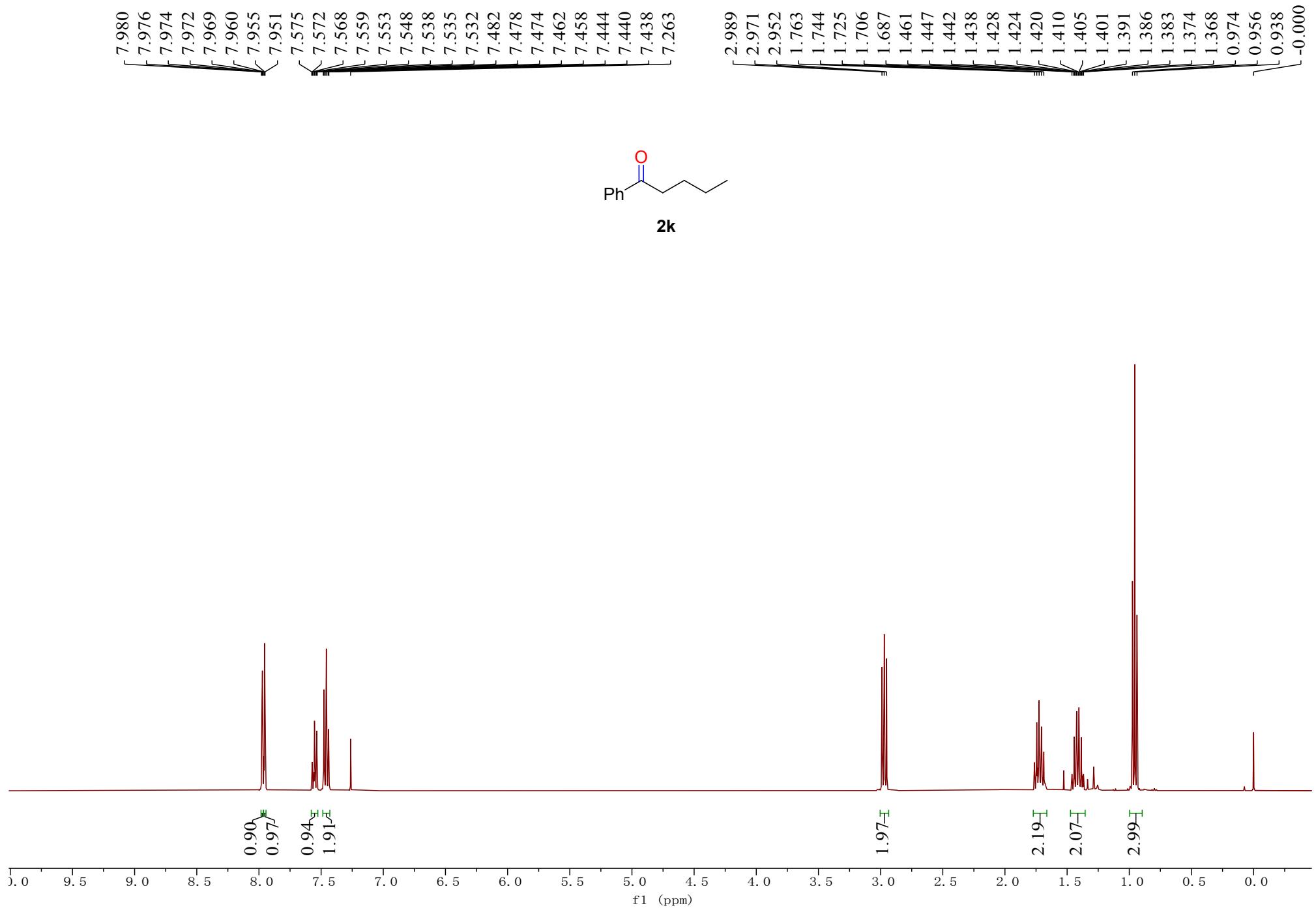




2i







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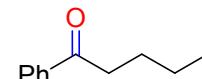
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✓ 128.182

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77.161
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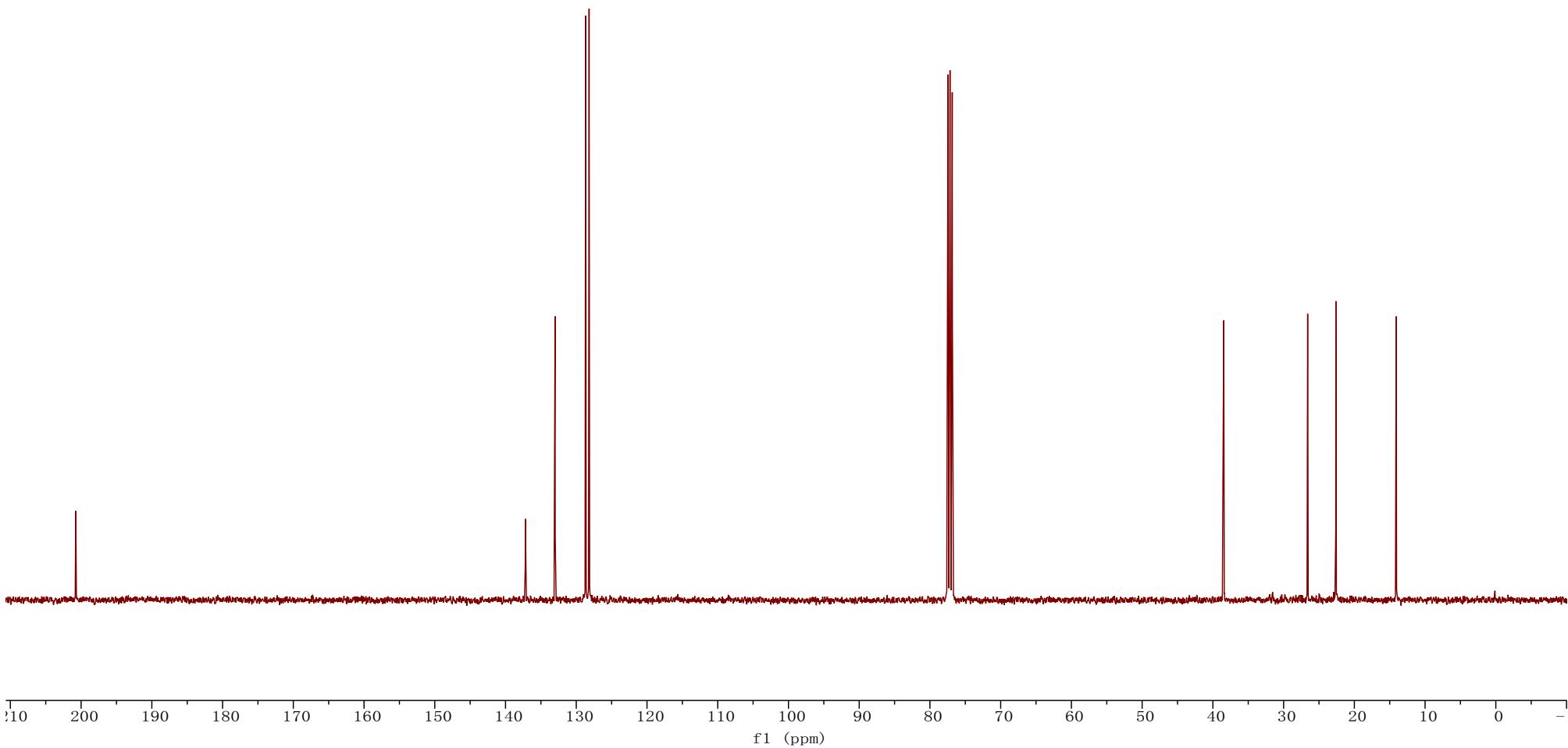
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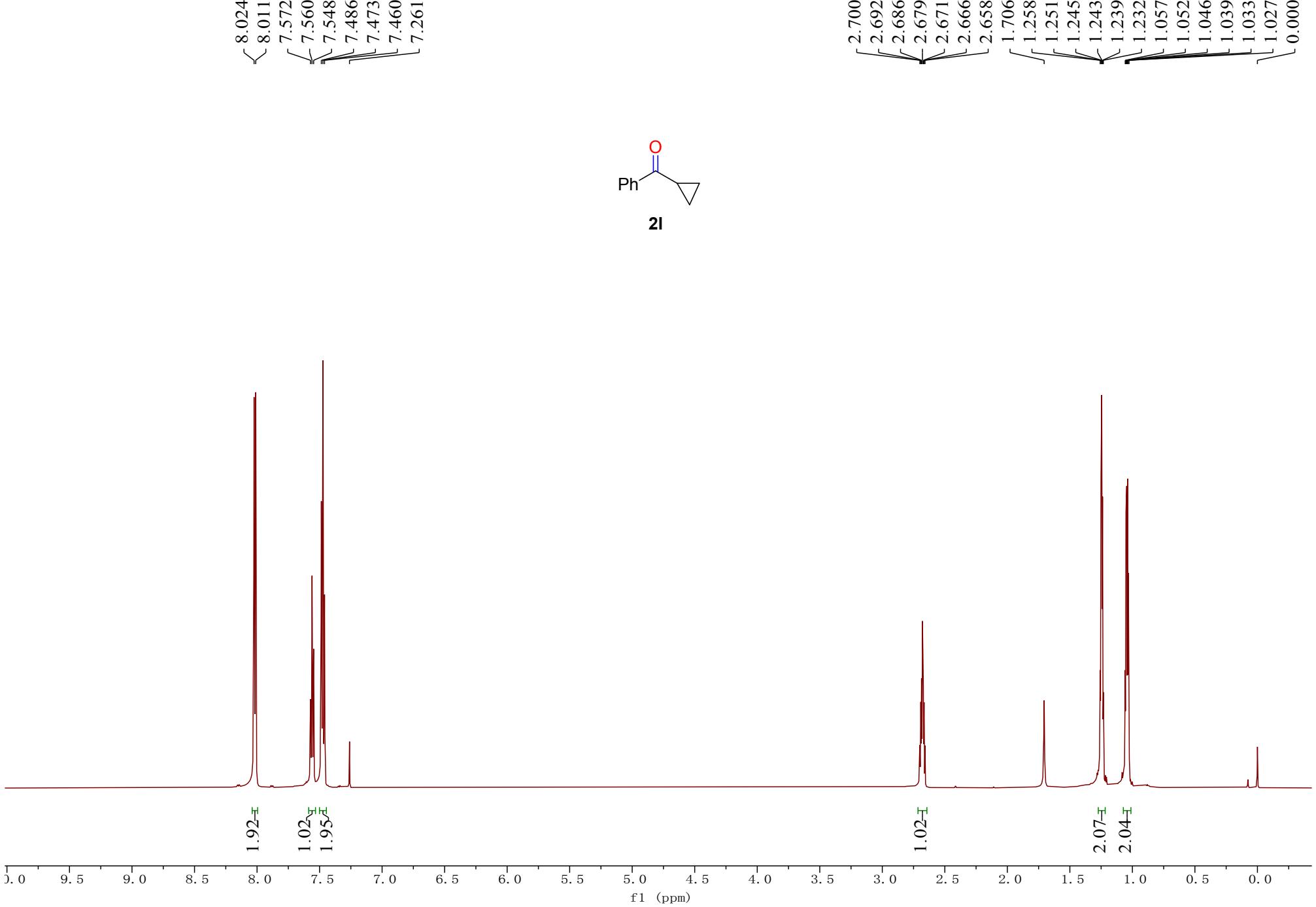
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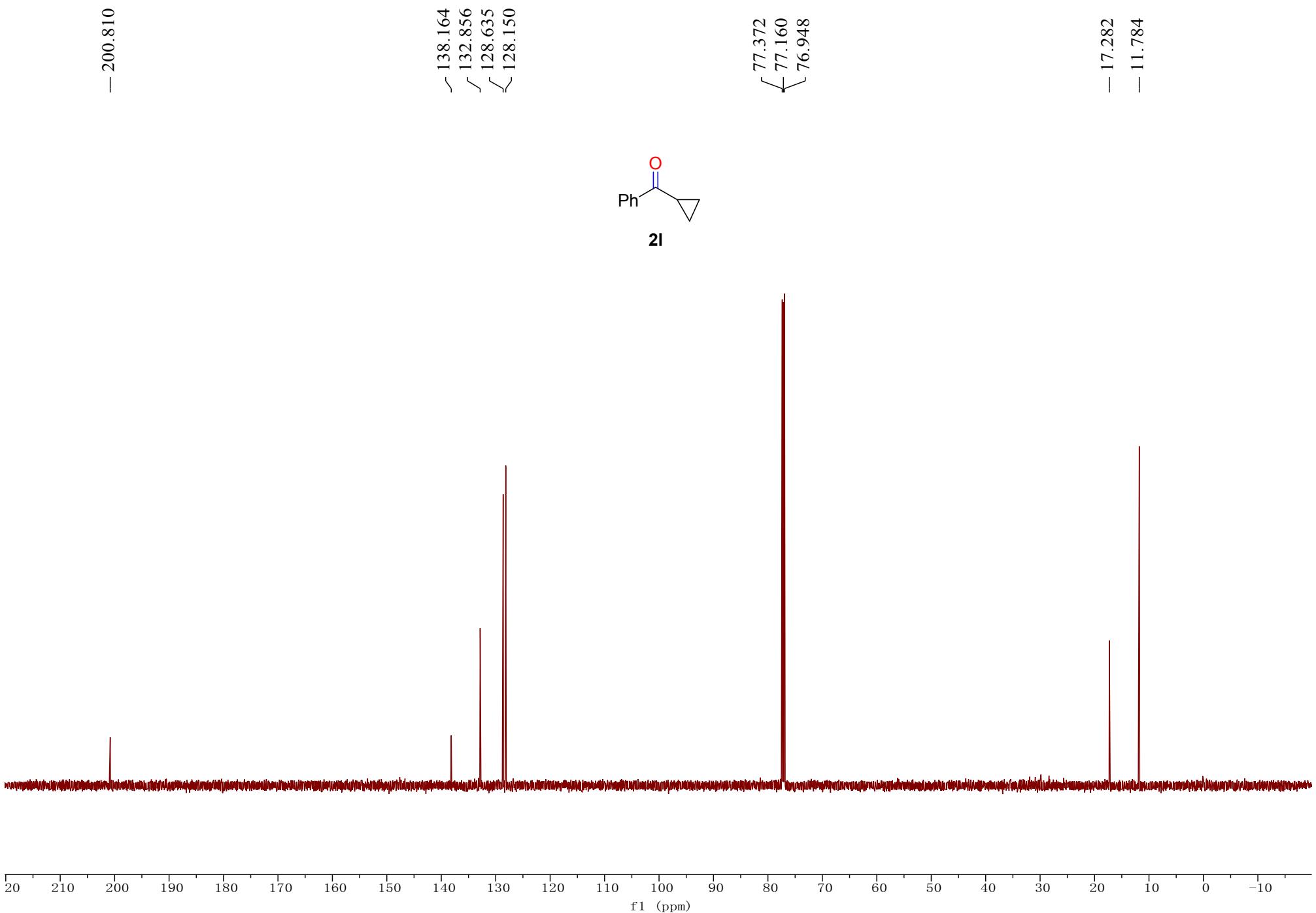
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2k



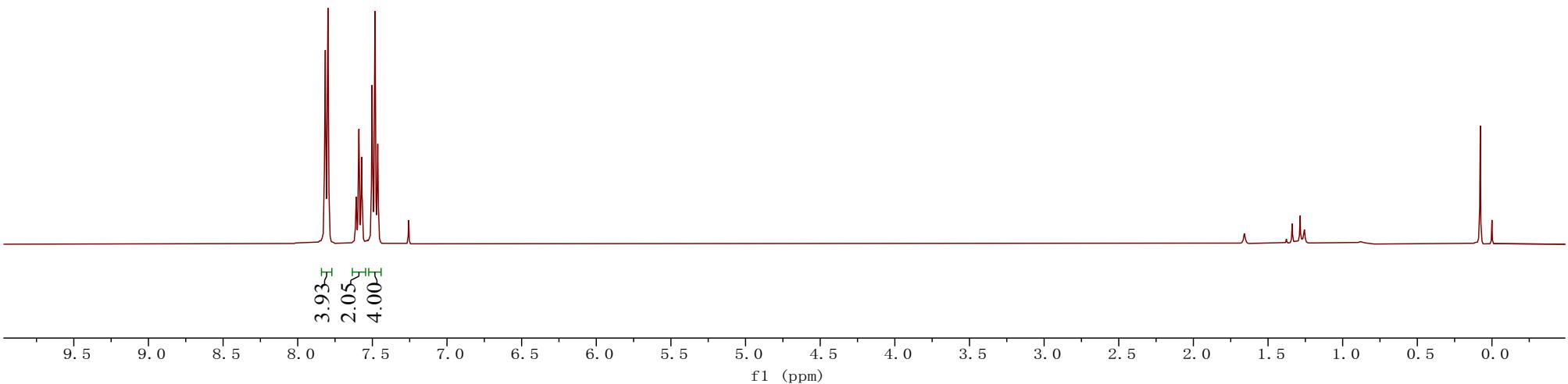
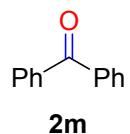




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7.815
7.798
7.794
7.612
7.608
7.605
7.595
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7.575
7.571
7.568
7.502
7.482
7.464
7.257

- 1.658

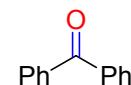
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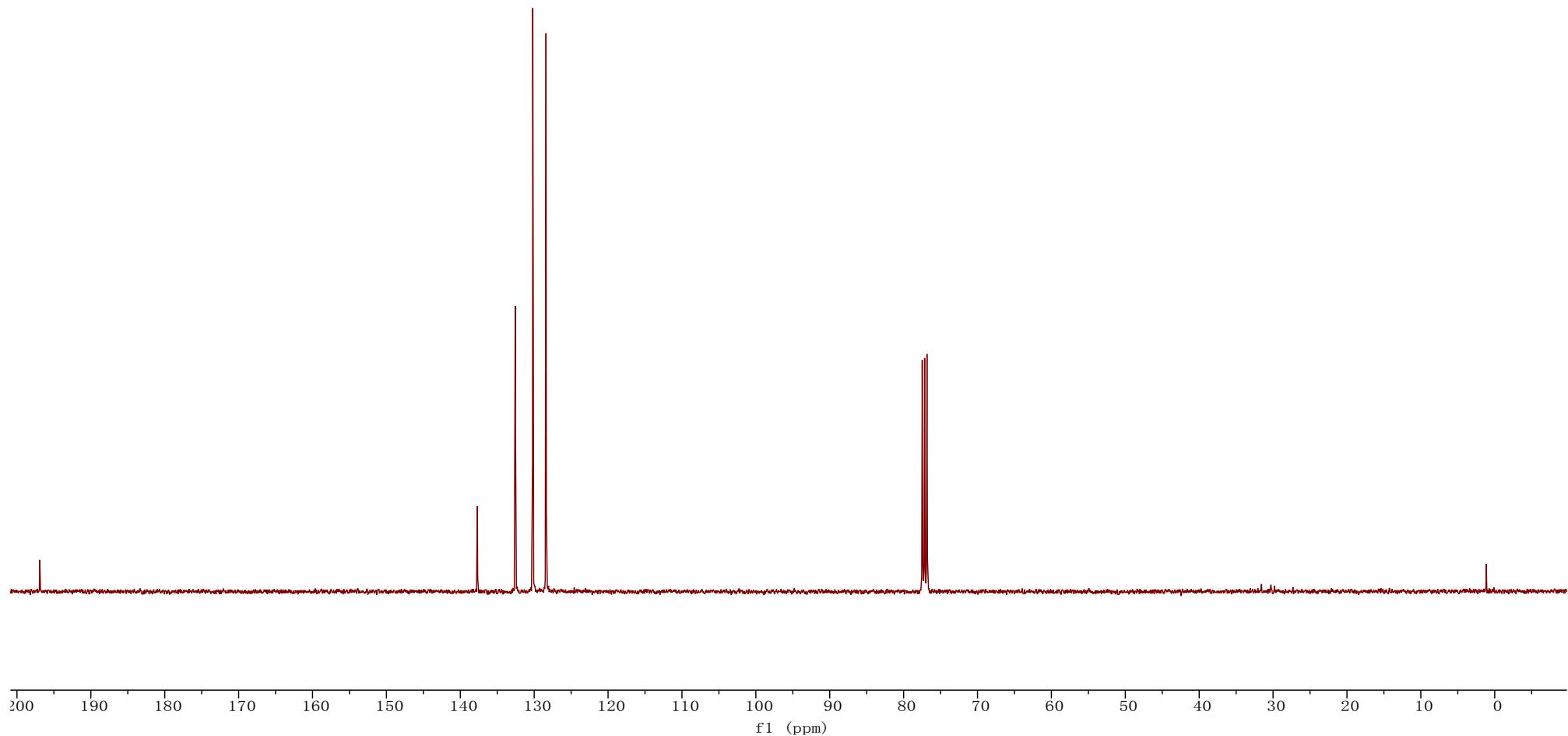
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~137.694
ʃ 132.554
ʃ 130.189
~ 128.402

77.478
ʃ 77.160
ʃ 76.841



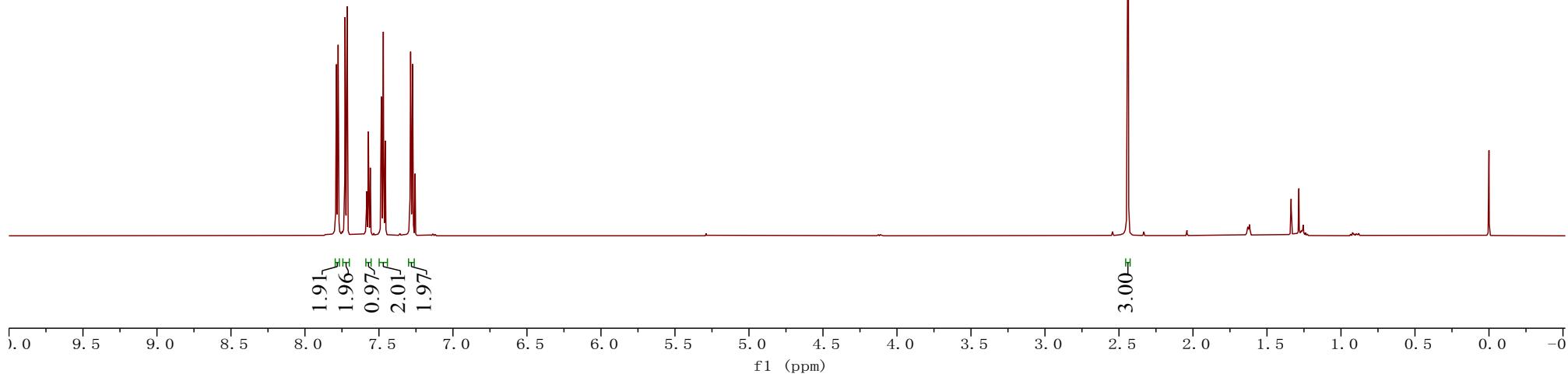
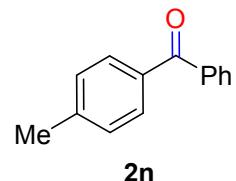
2m



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7.773
7.729
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7.586
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7.571
7.568
7.561
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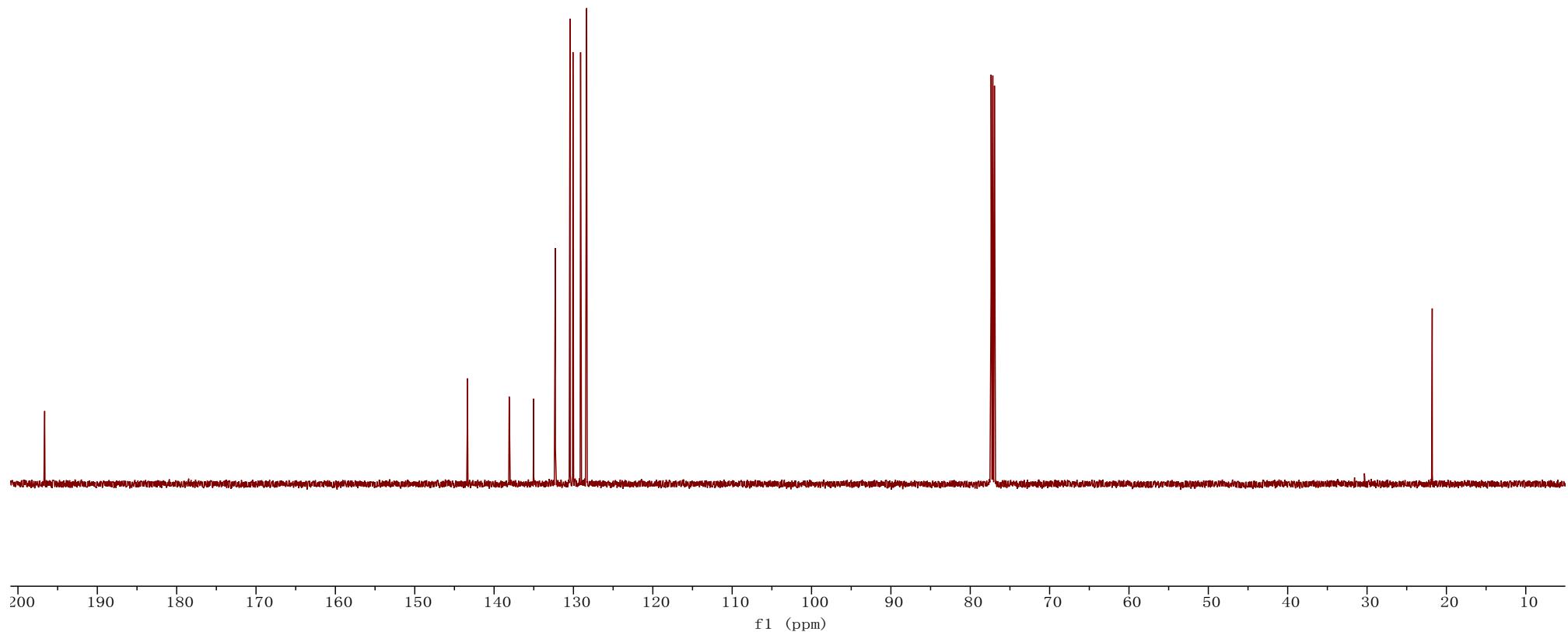
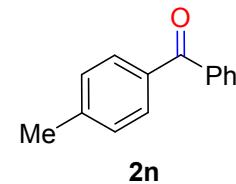


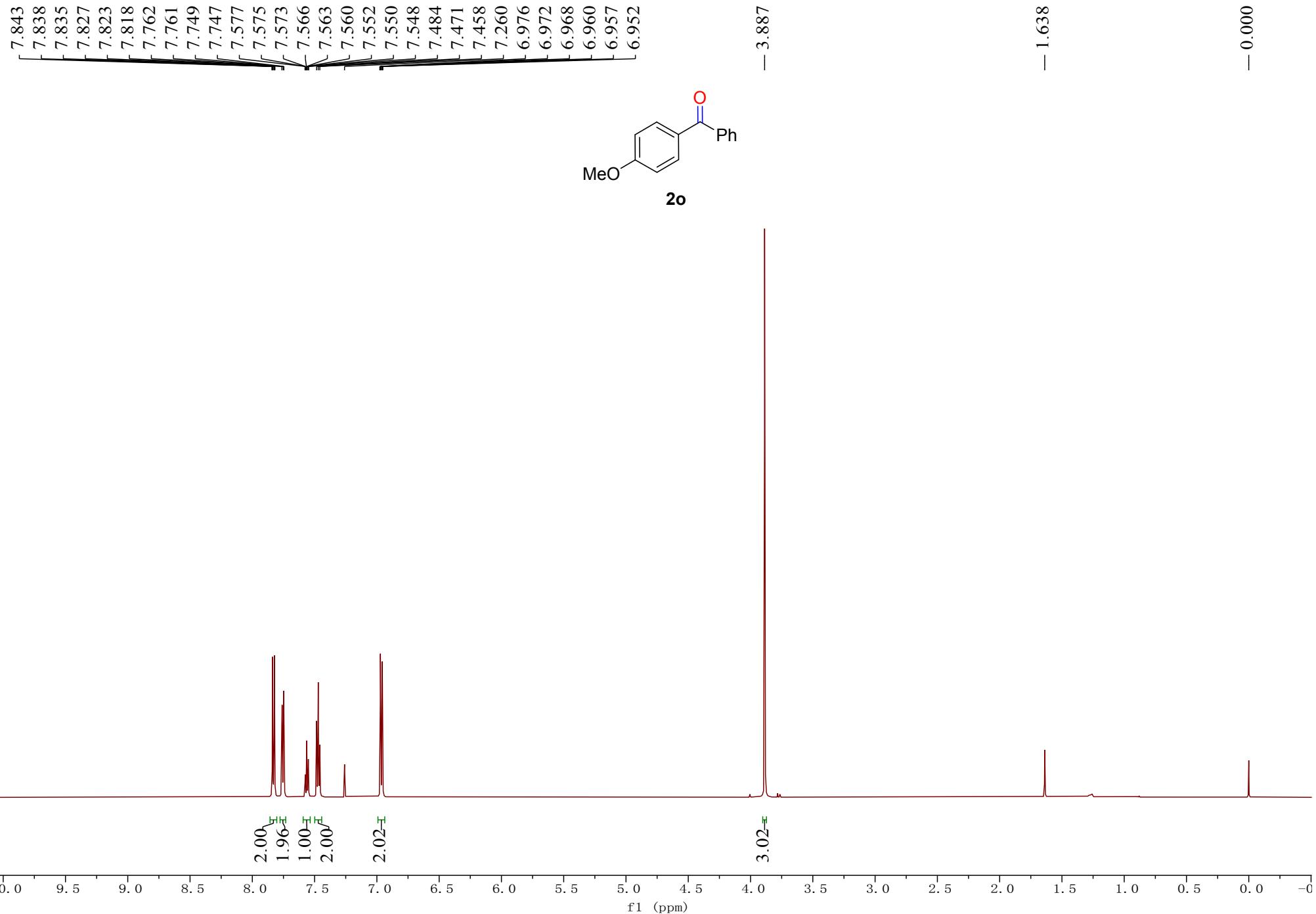
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143.365
138.097
135.023
132.283
130.440
130.062
129.105
128.337

77.372
77.160
76.949

- 21.786



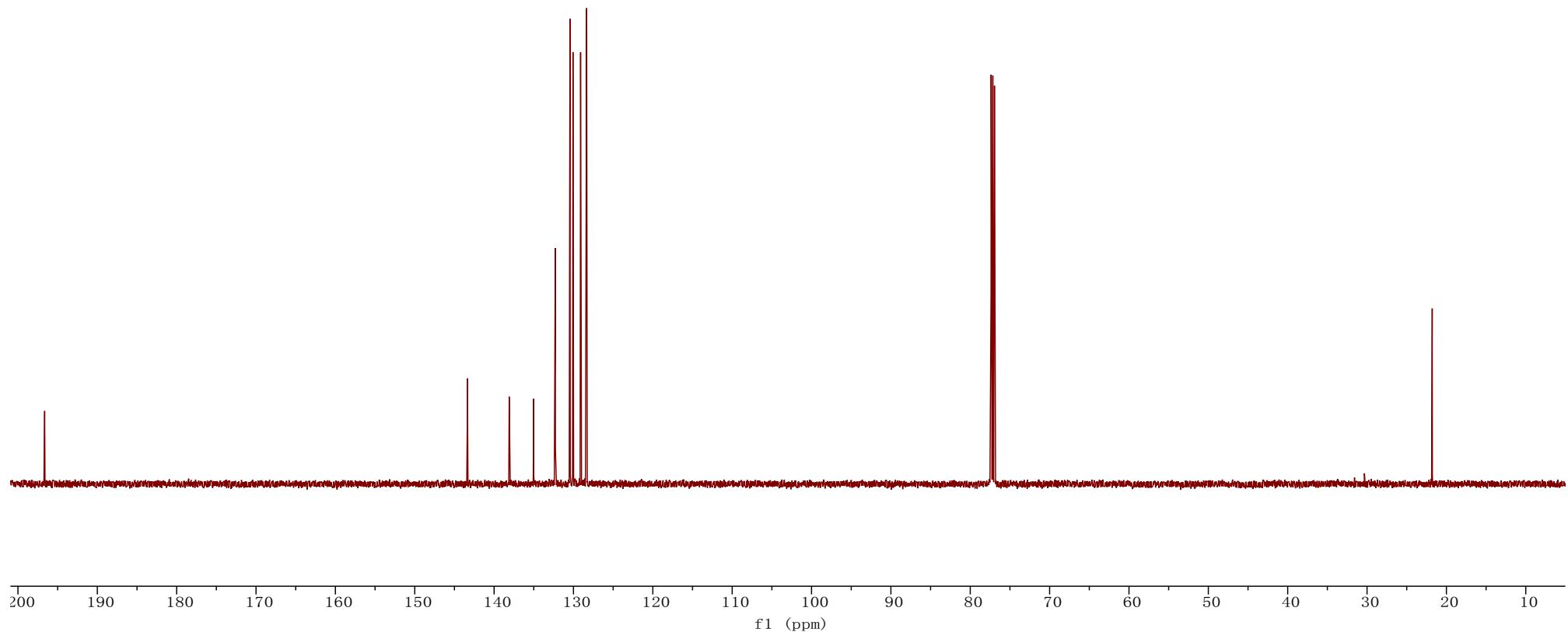
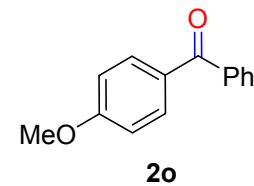


- 196.635

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76.949

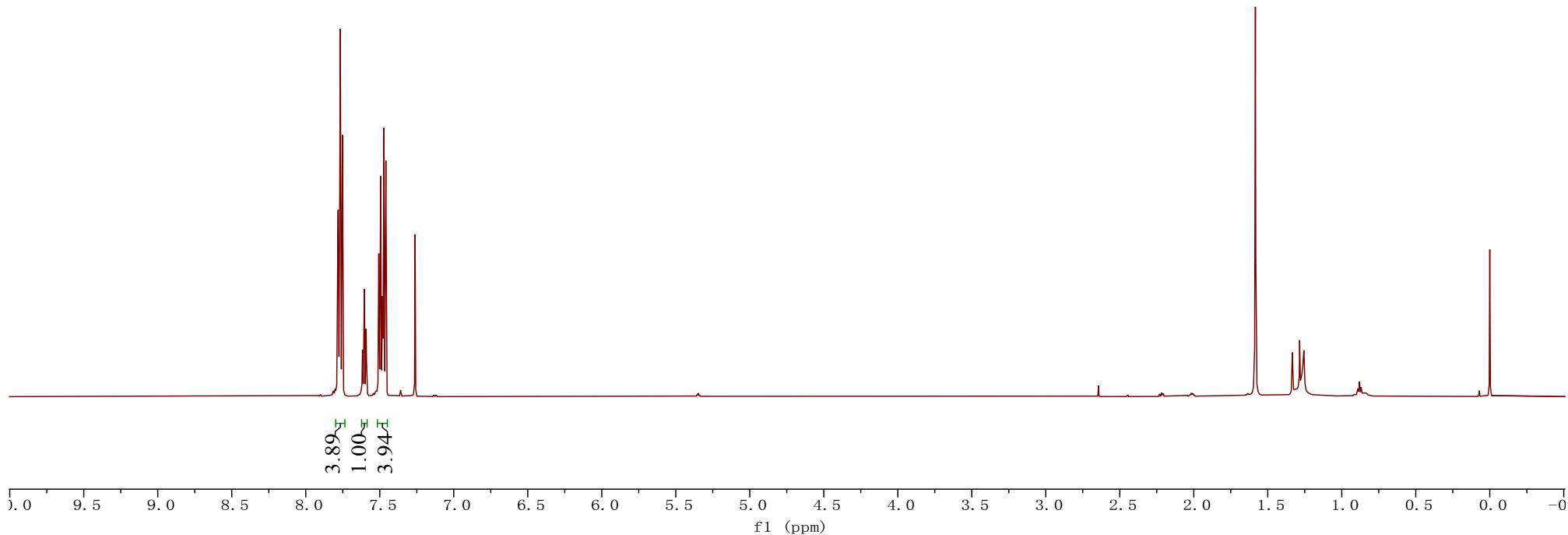
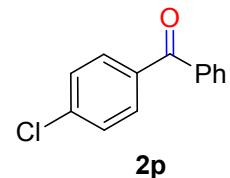
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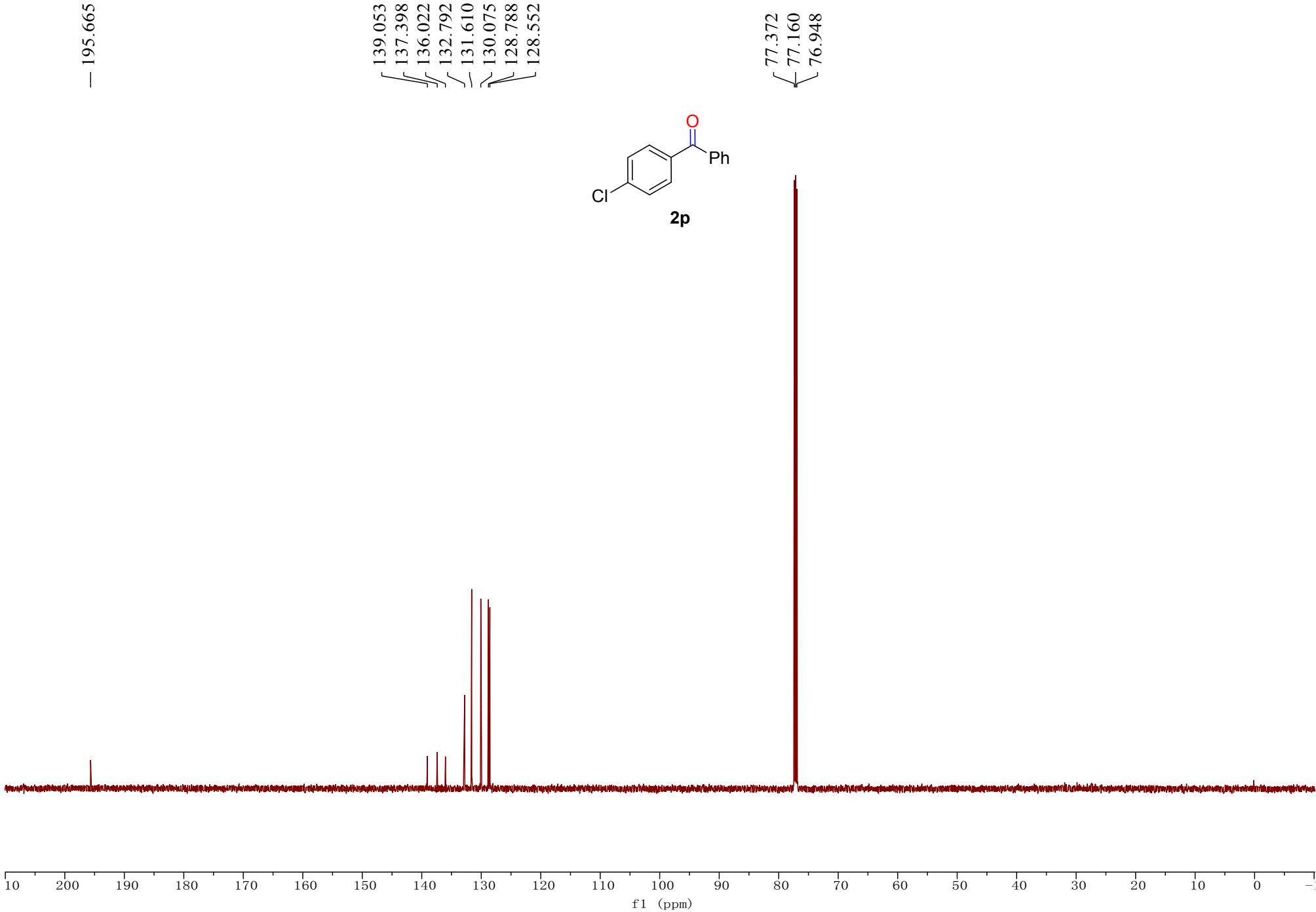


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7.752
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7.744
7.619
7.617
7.615
7.604
7.594
7.592
7.590
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7.261

- 1.584

- 0.000

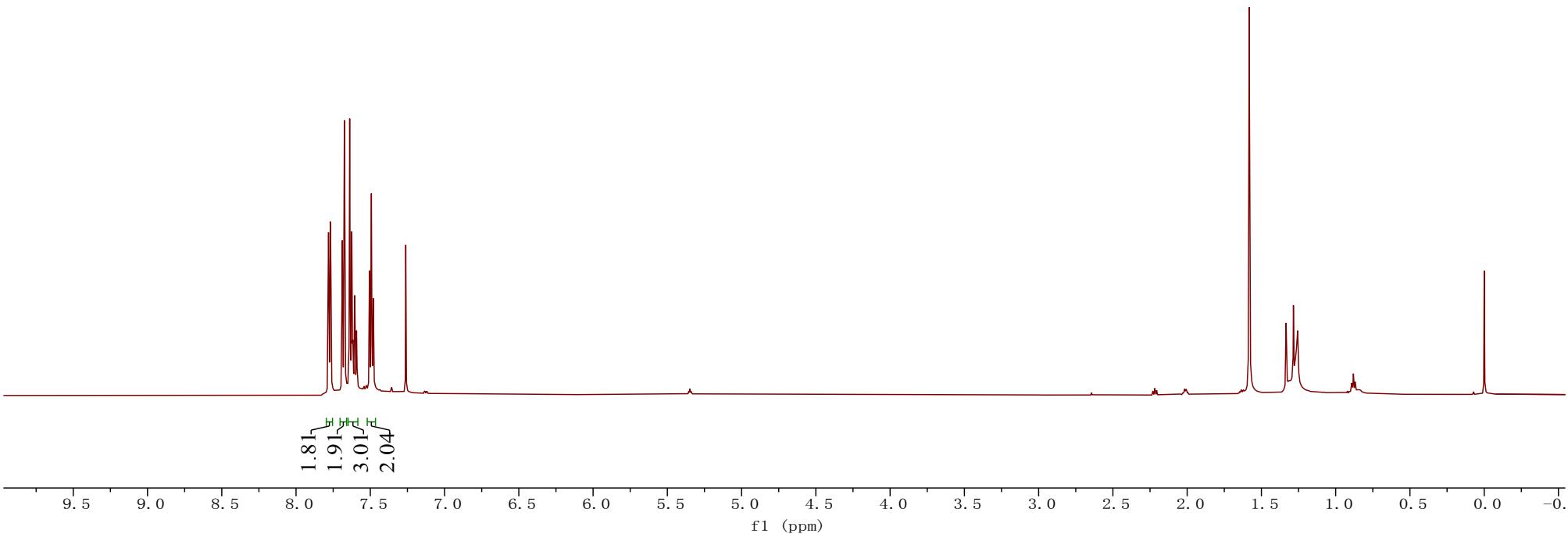
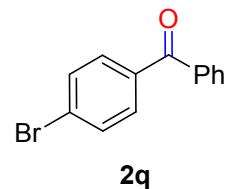




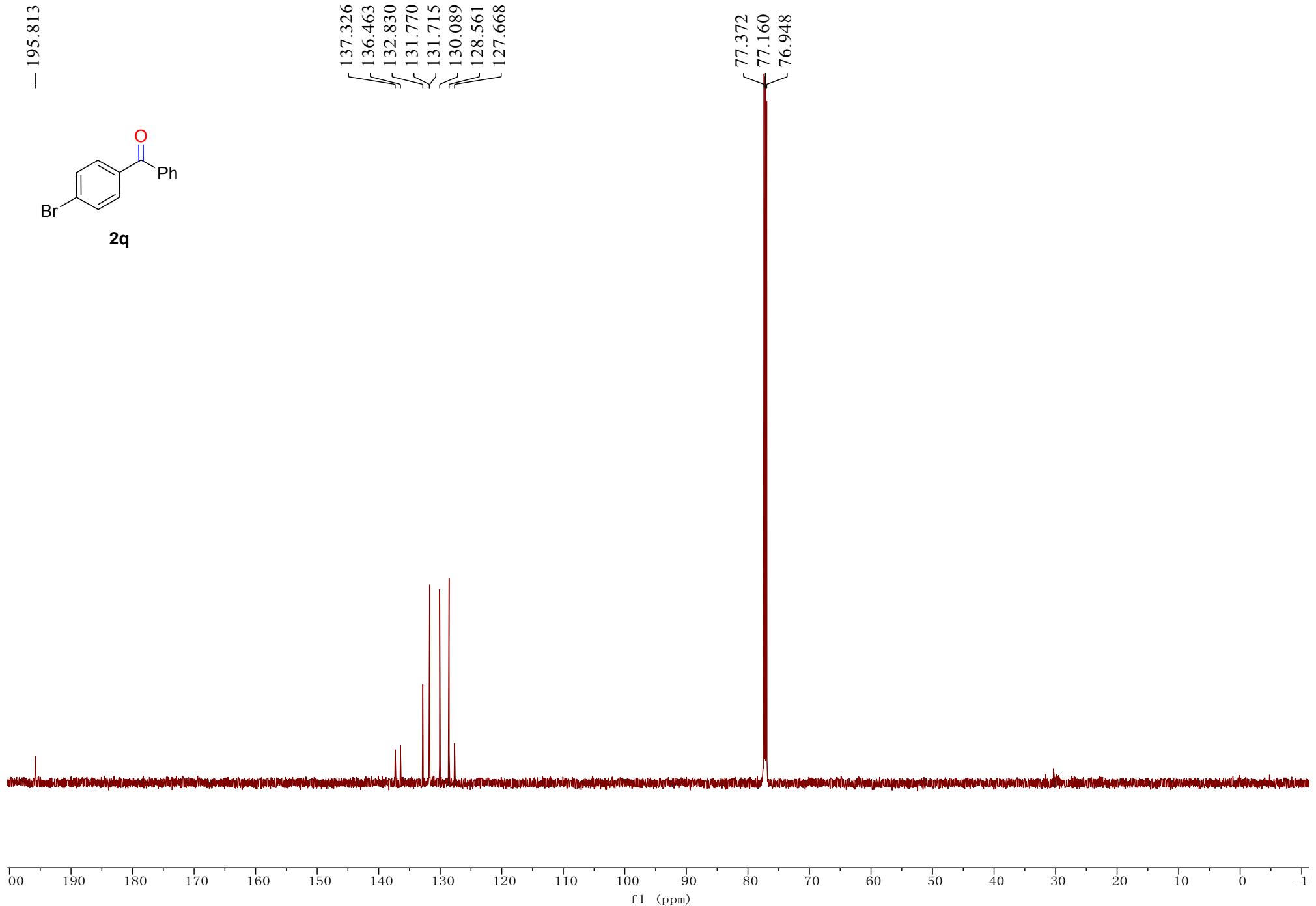
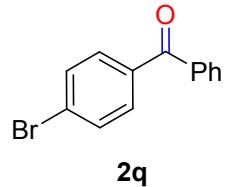
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7.261

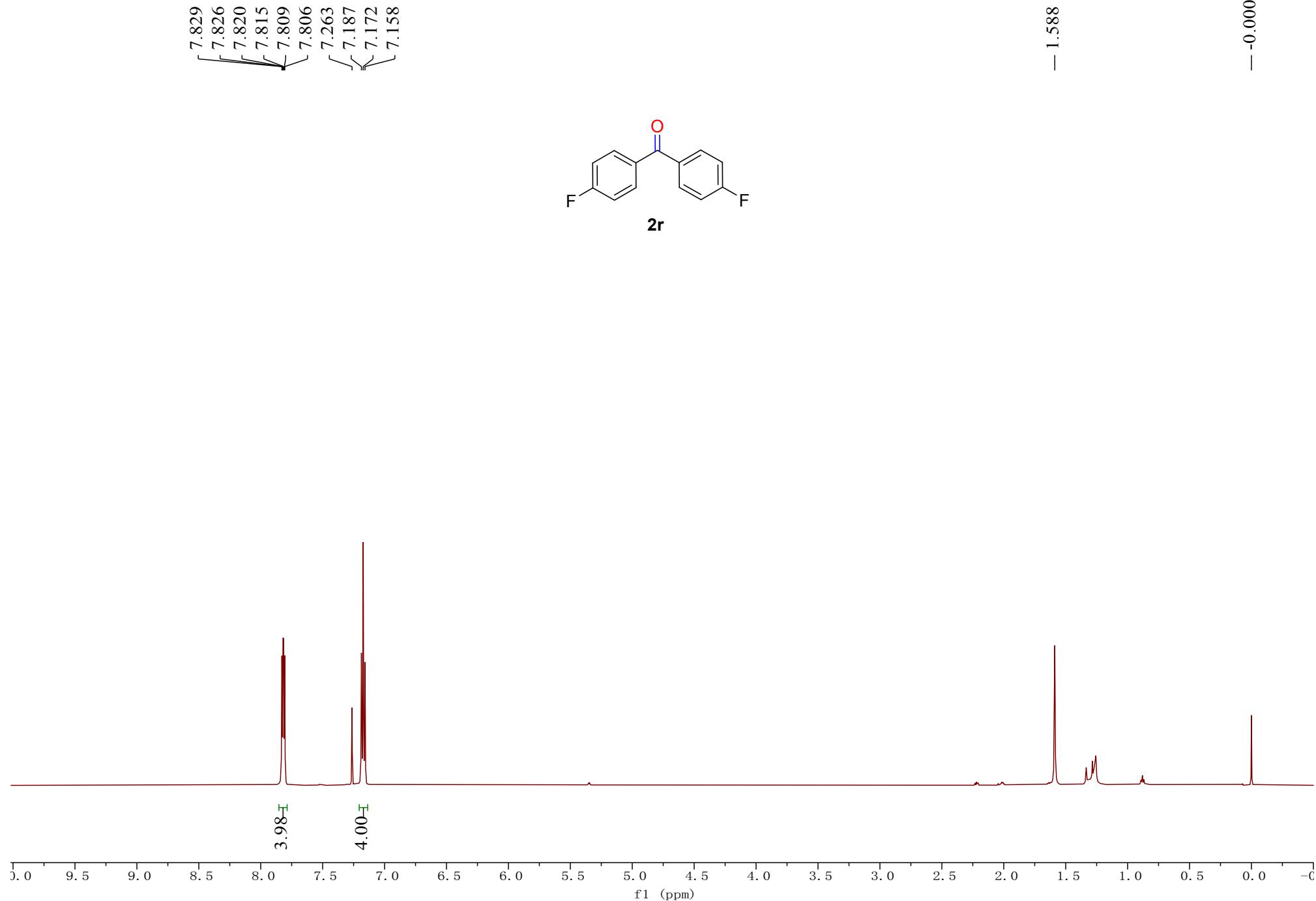
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- 0.000



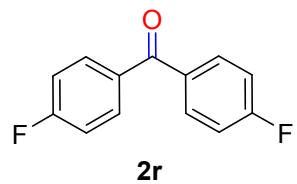
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-193.980

~166.396
~164.709

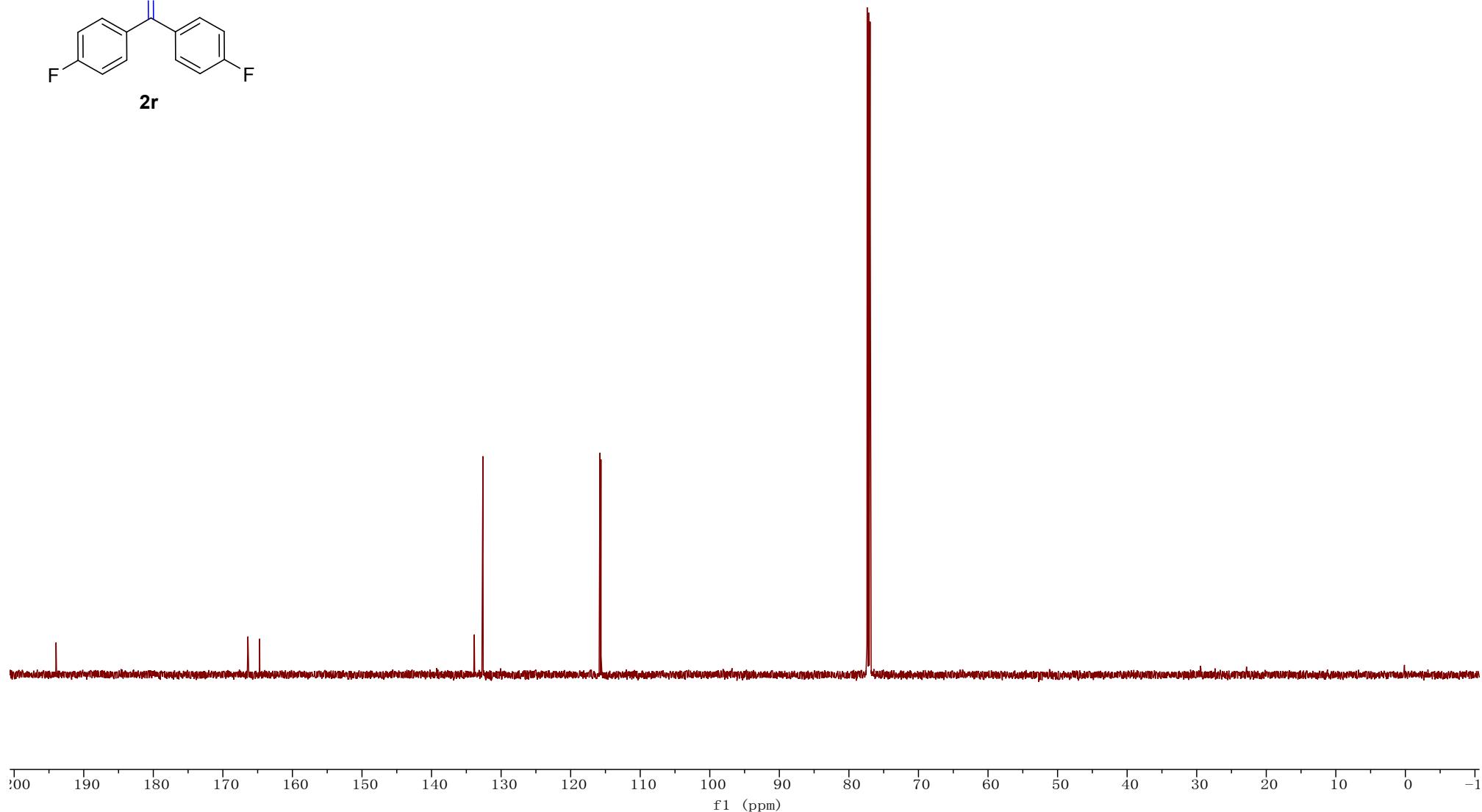


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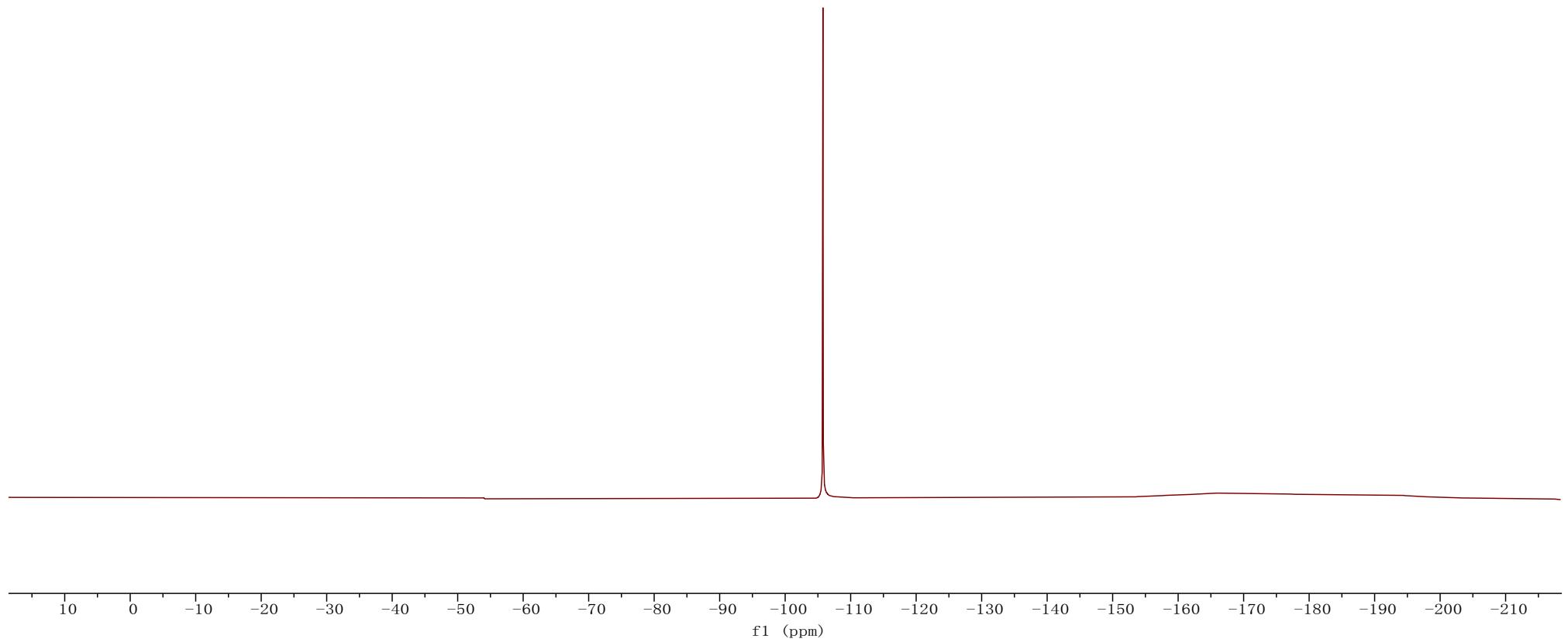
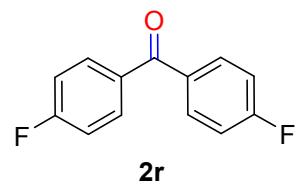
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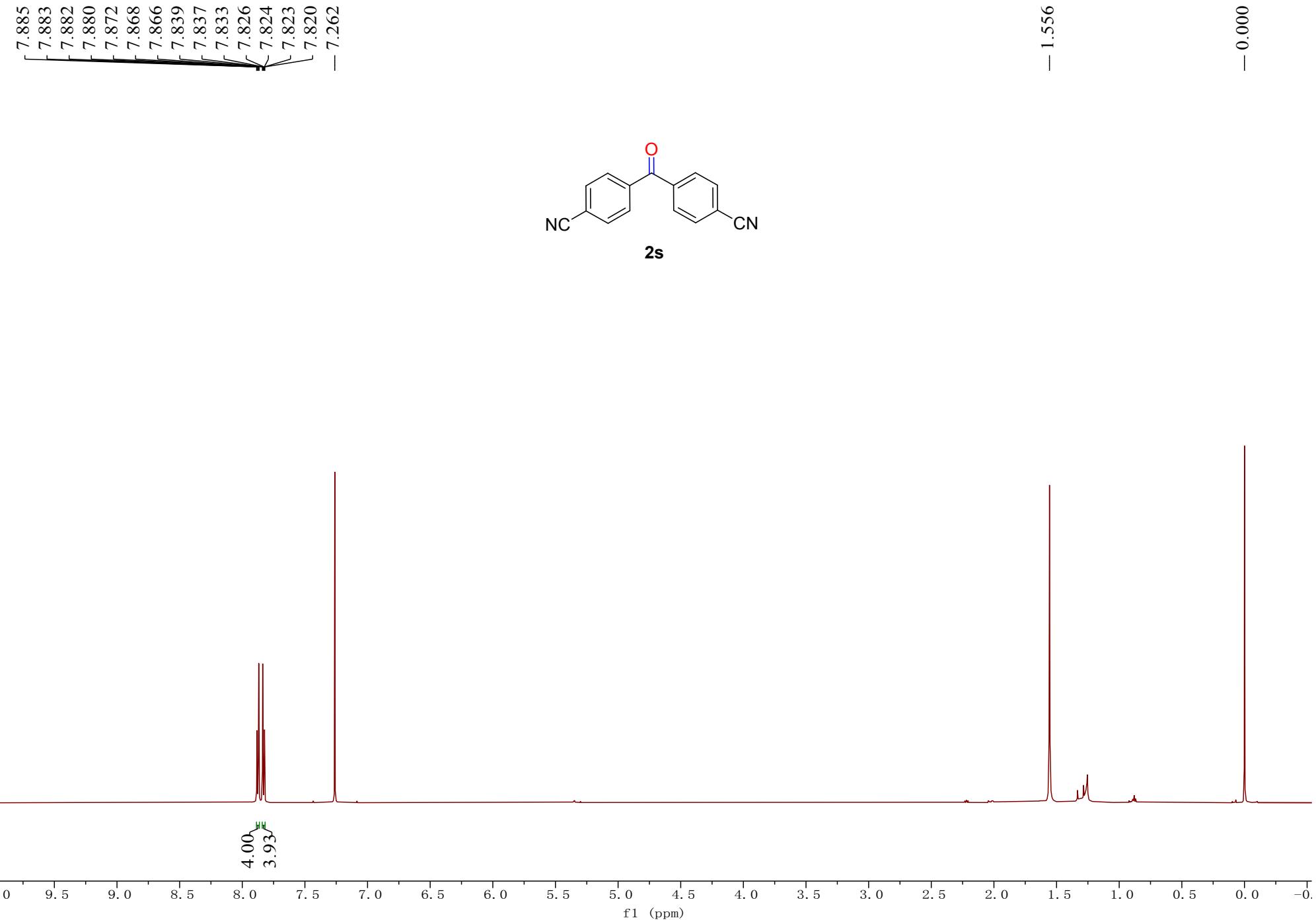
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77.372
77.160
76.949



-105.763





- 193.572

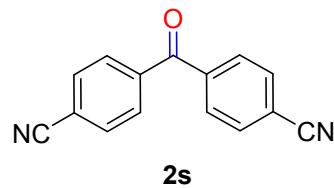
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- 132.620

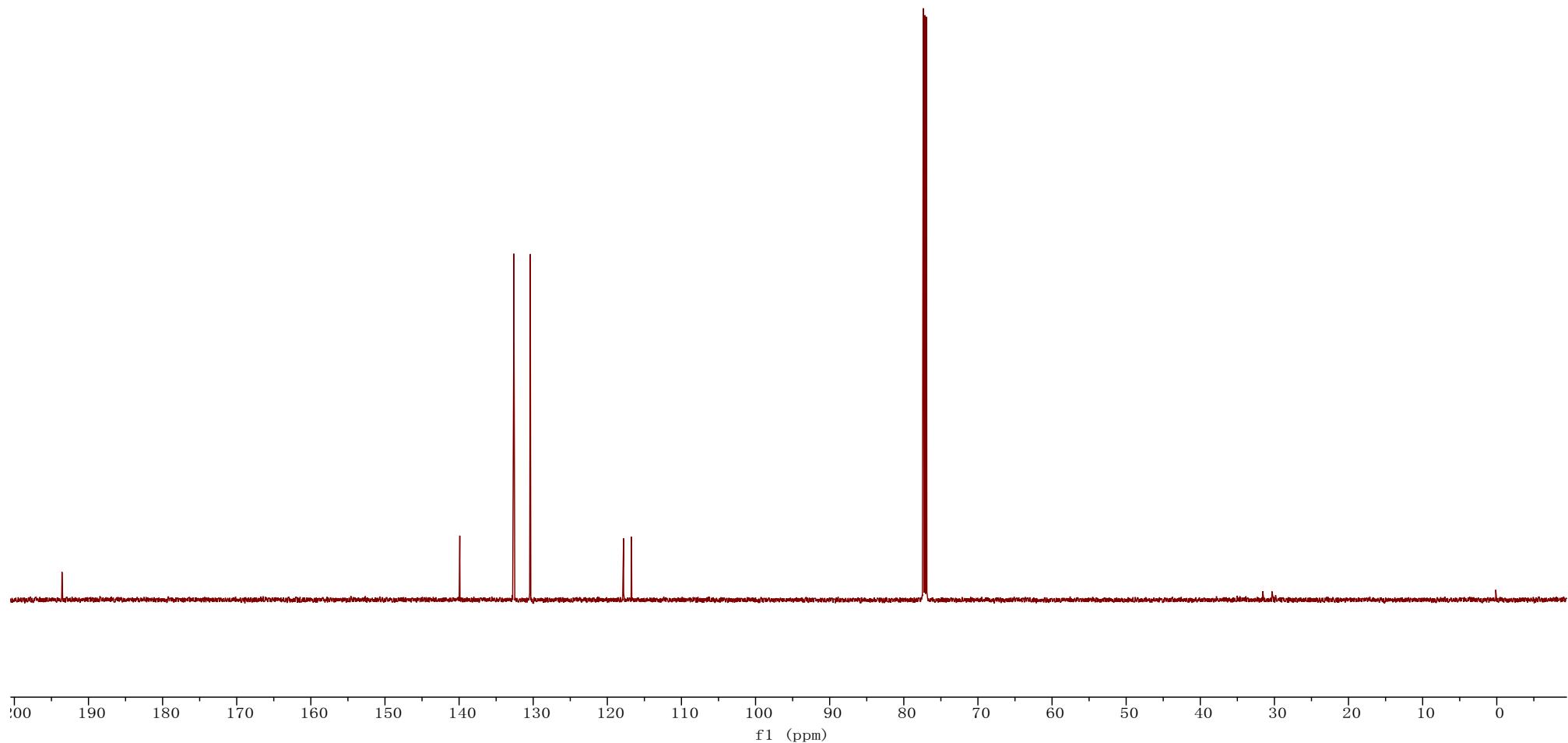
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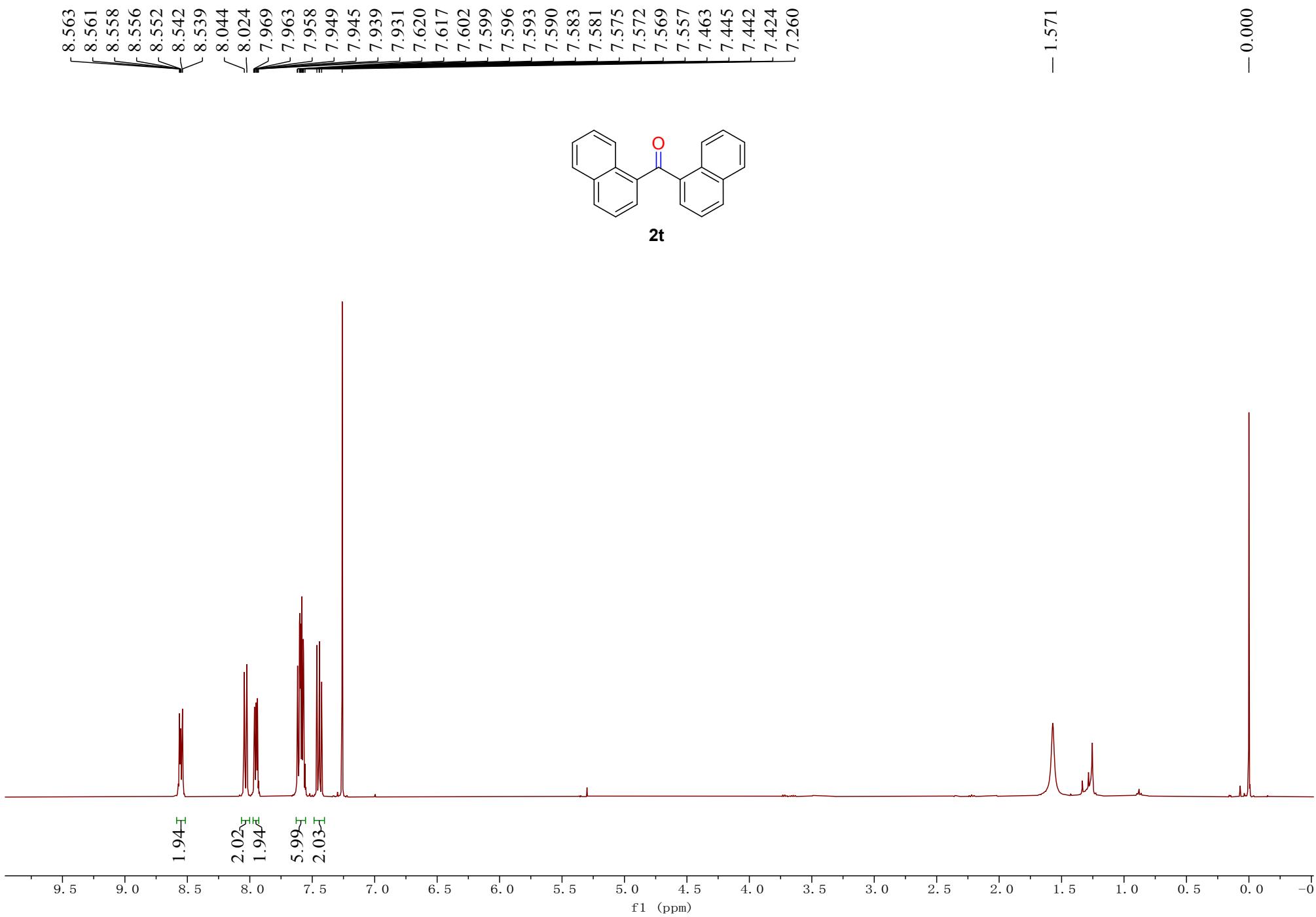
< 117.812

< 116.744

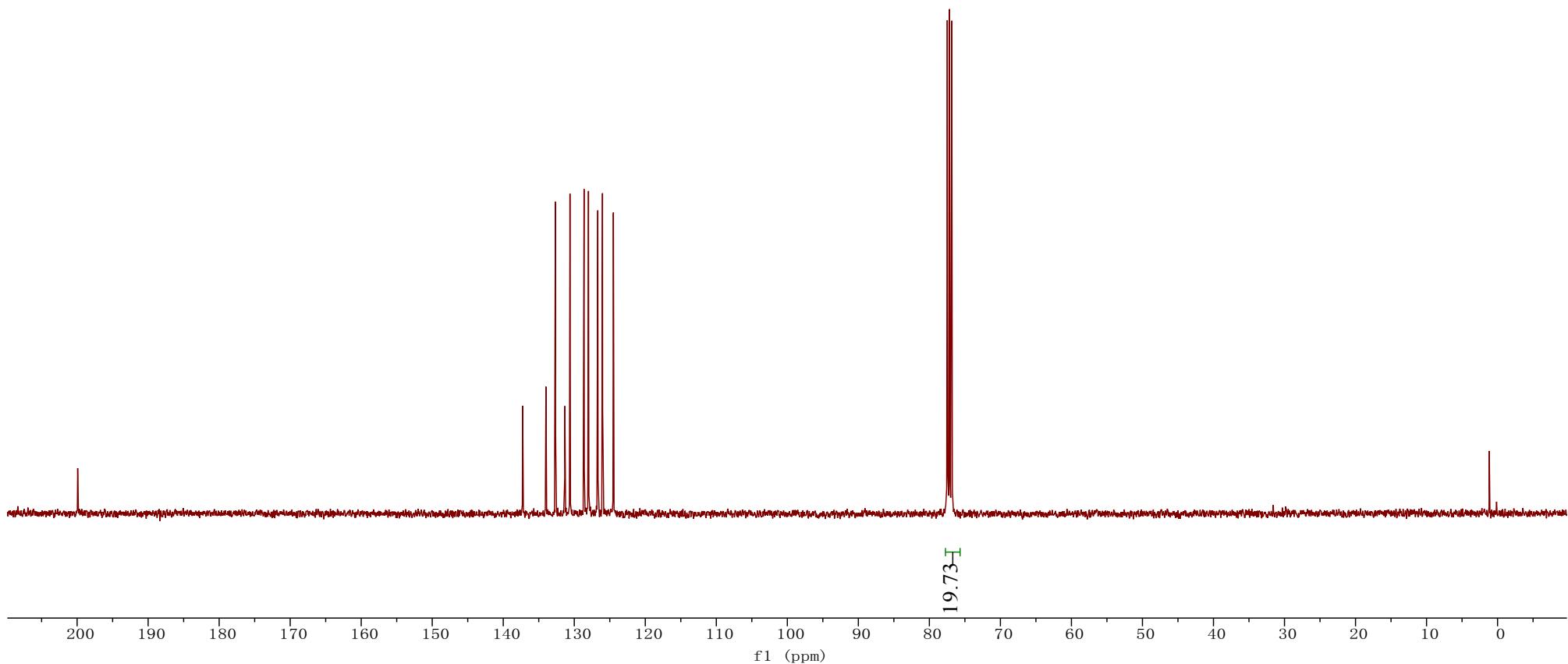
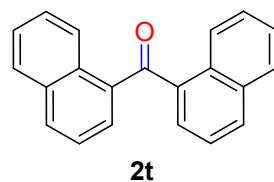


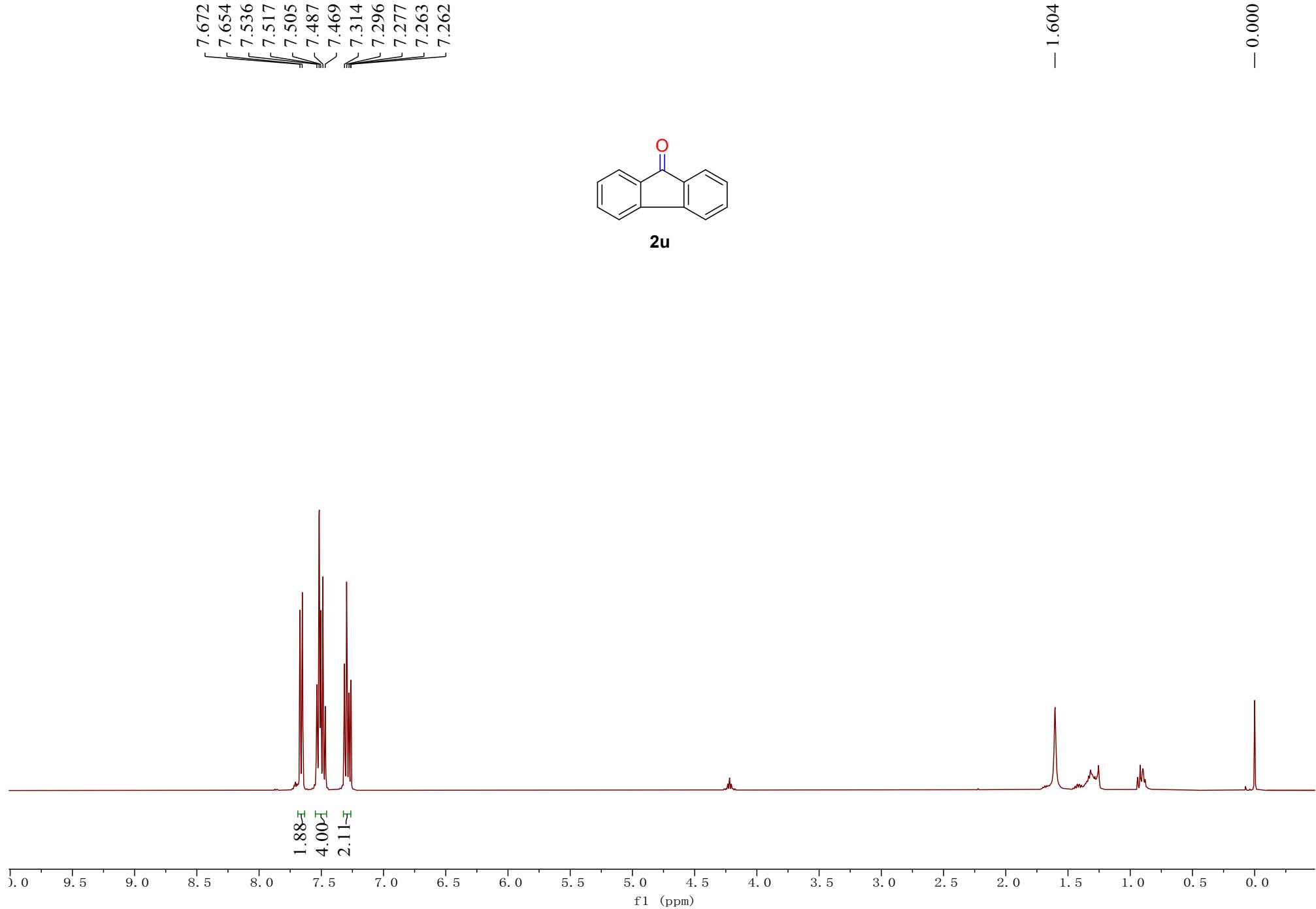
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77.160
76.949





- 199.923

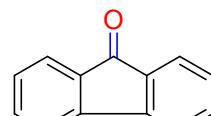




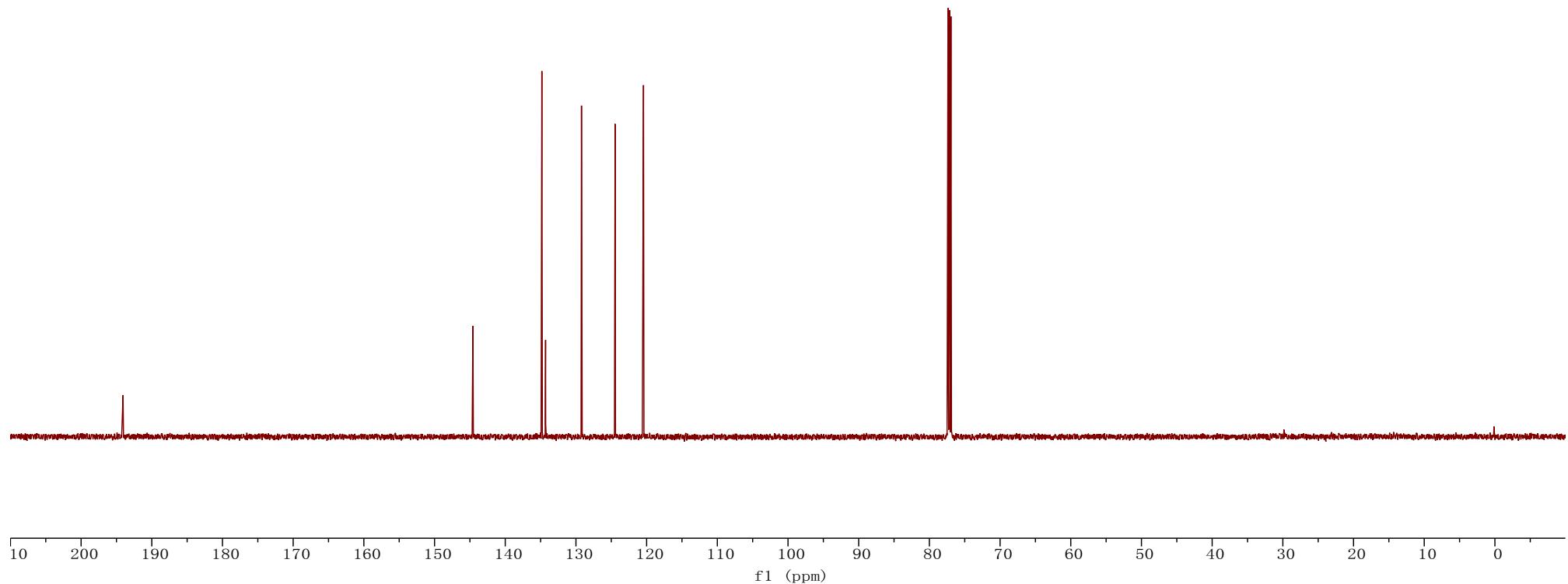
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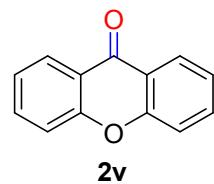
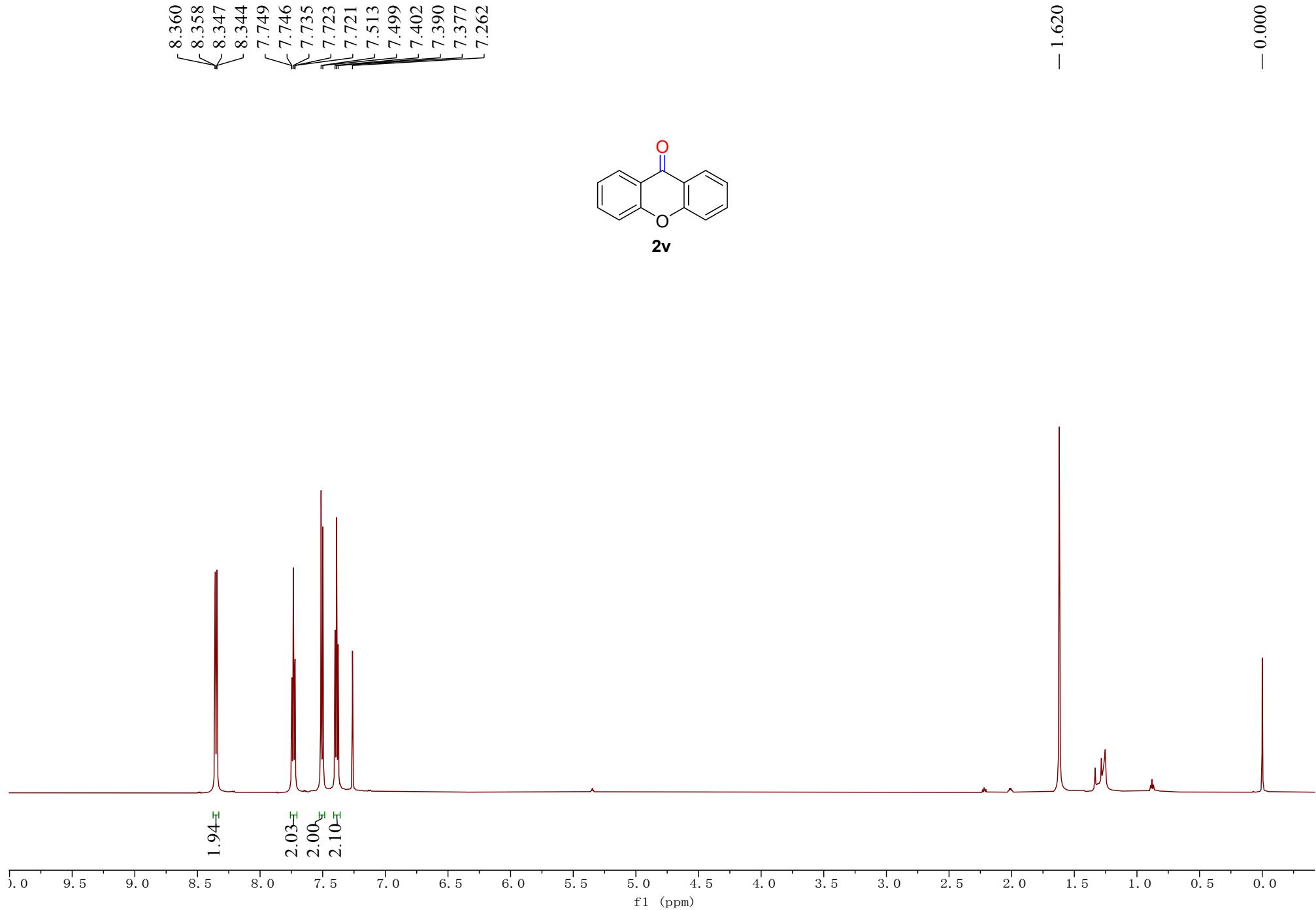
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- 134.822
- 134.293
- 129.216
- 124.458
- 120.442

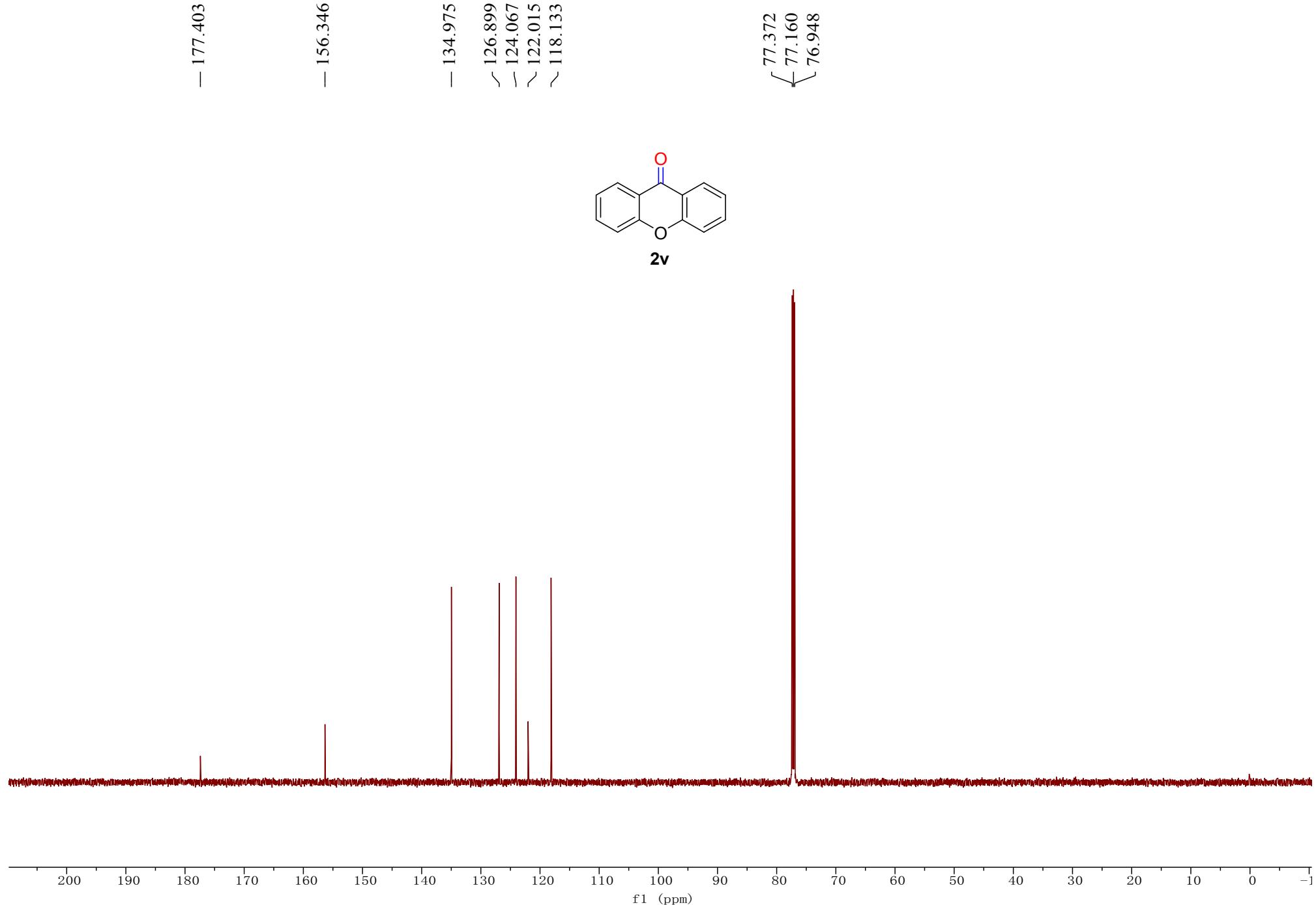
{ 77.371
77.160
76.949

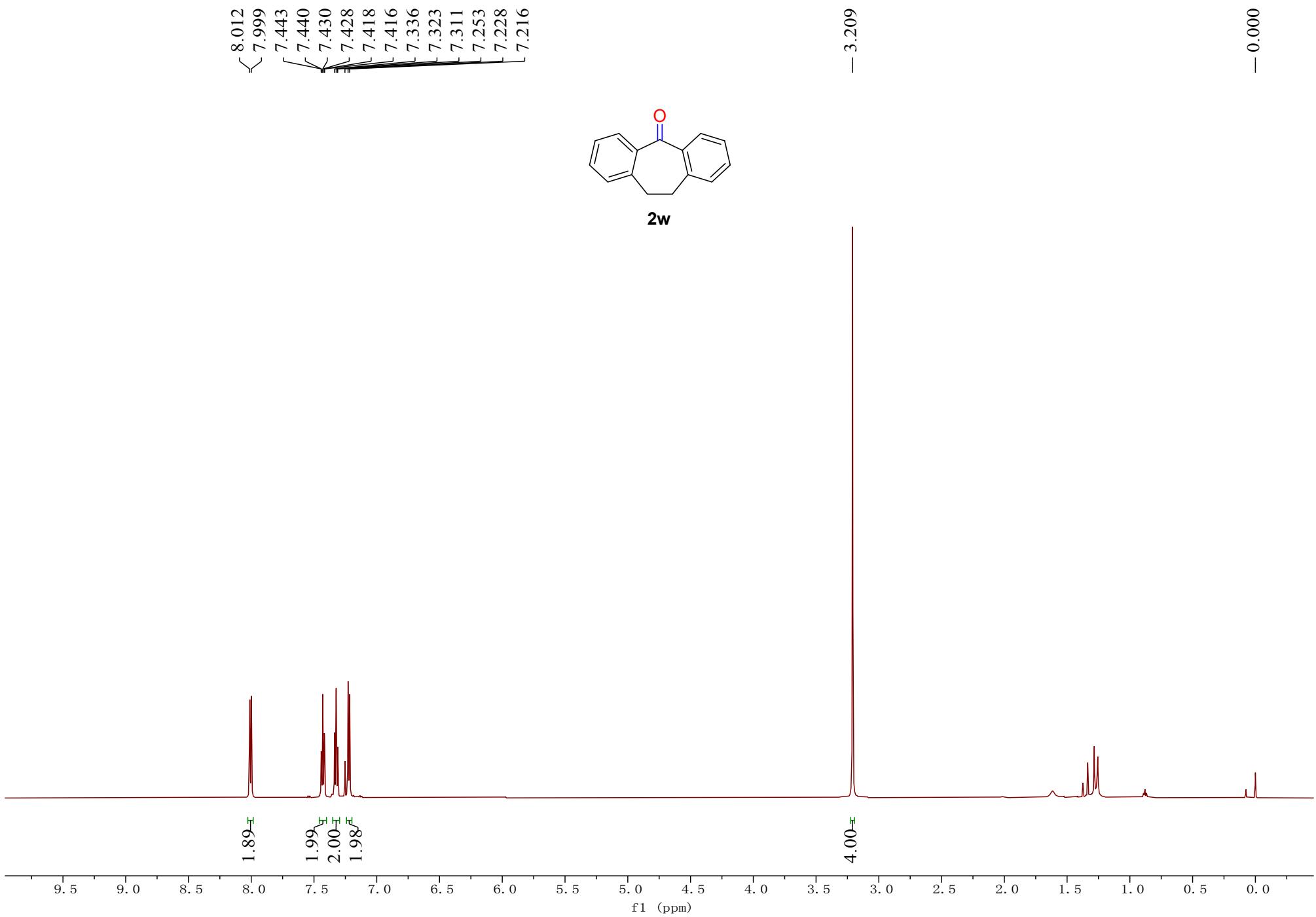


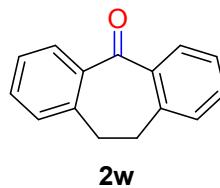
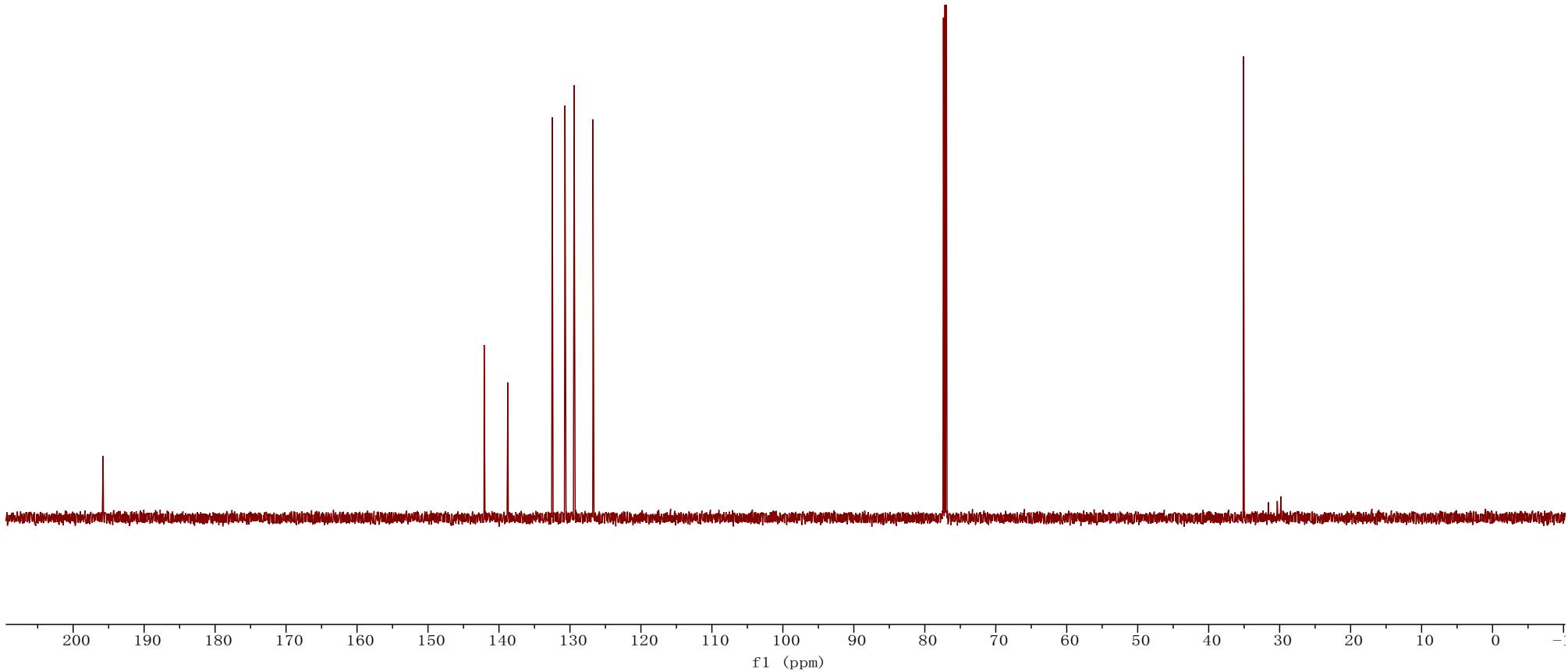
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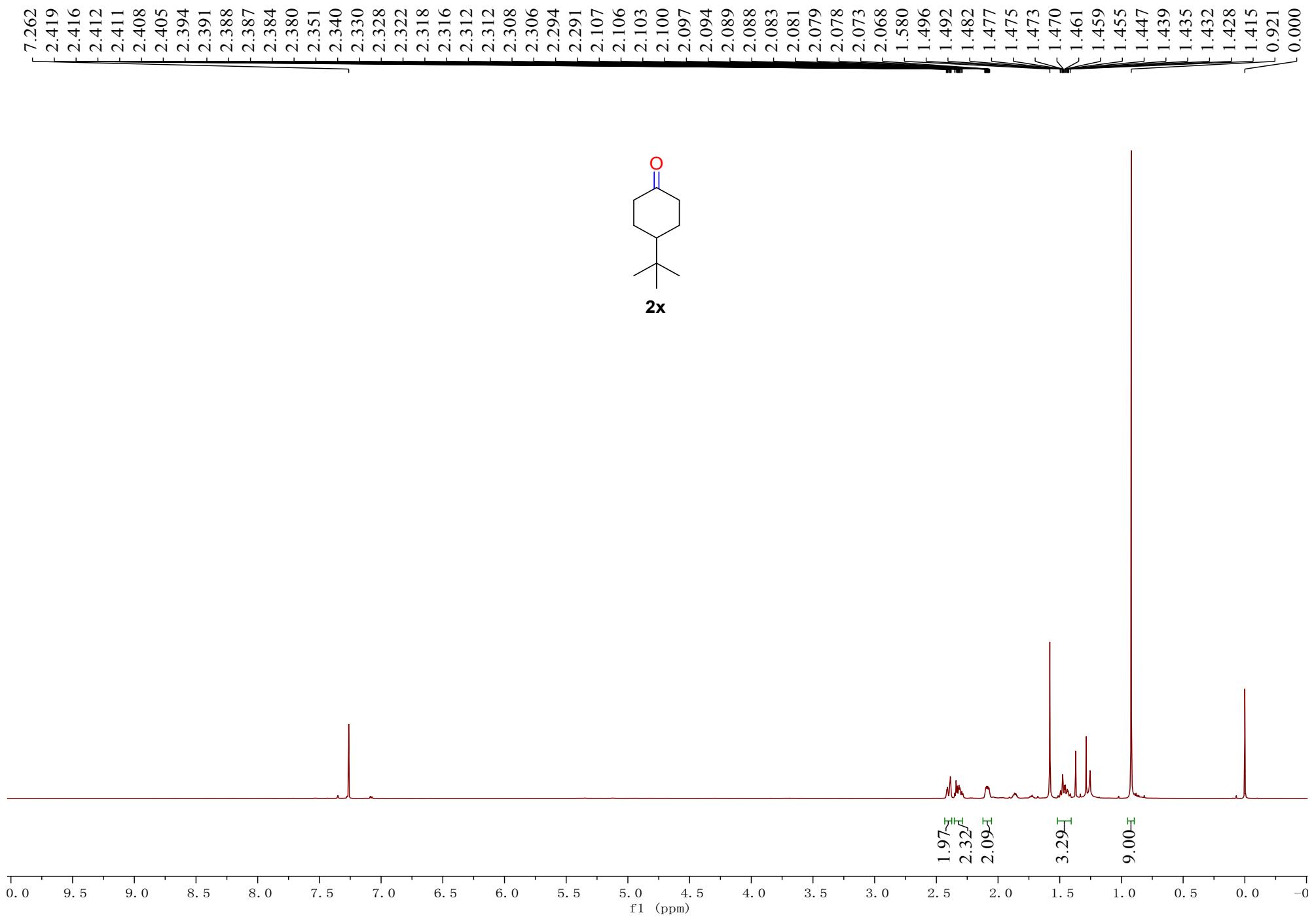




- 195.780

{ 77.372
77.160
76.948

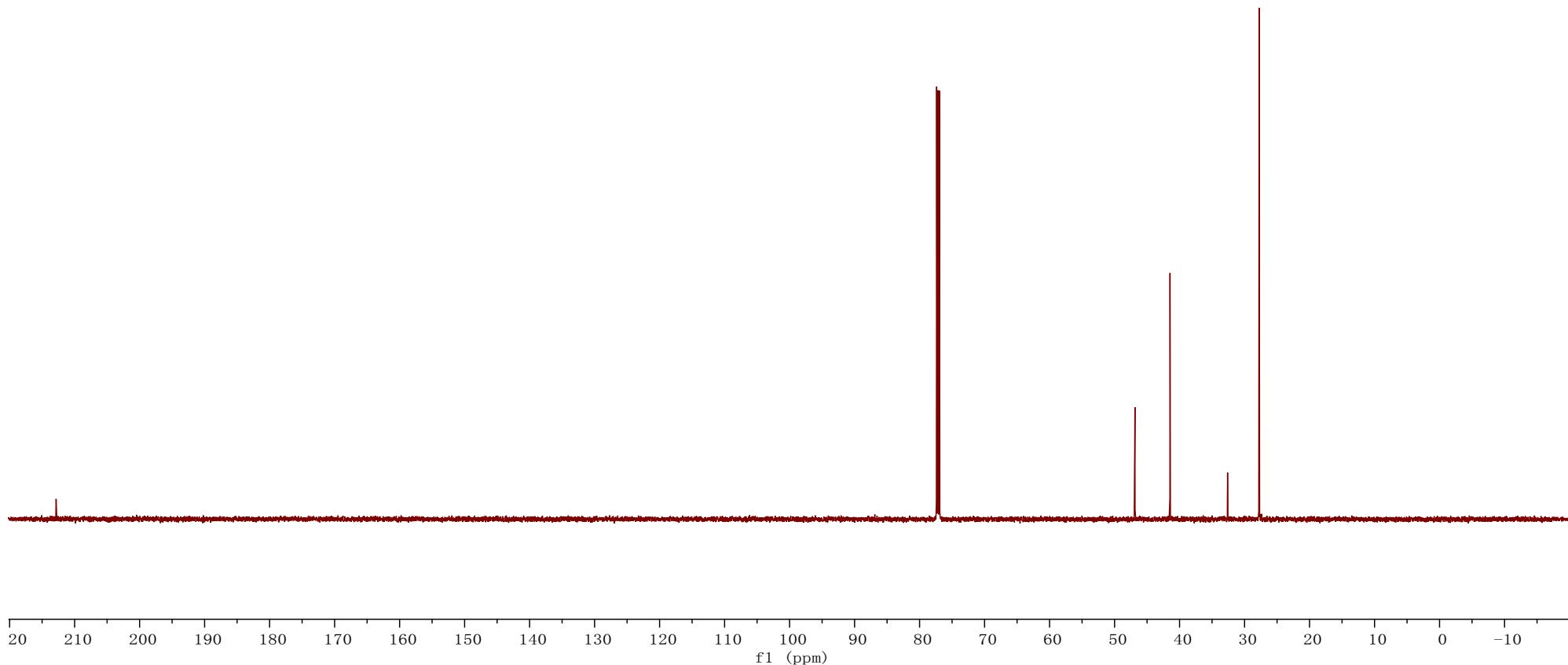
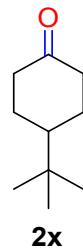
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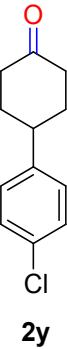
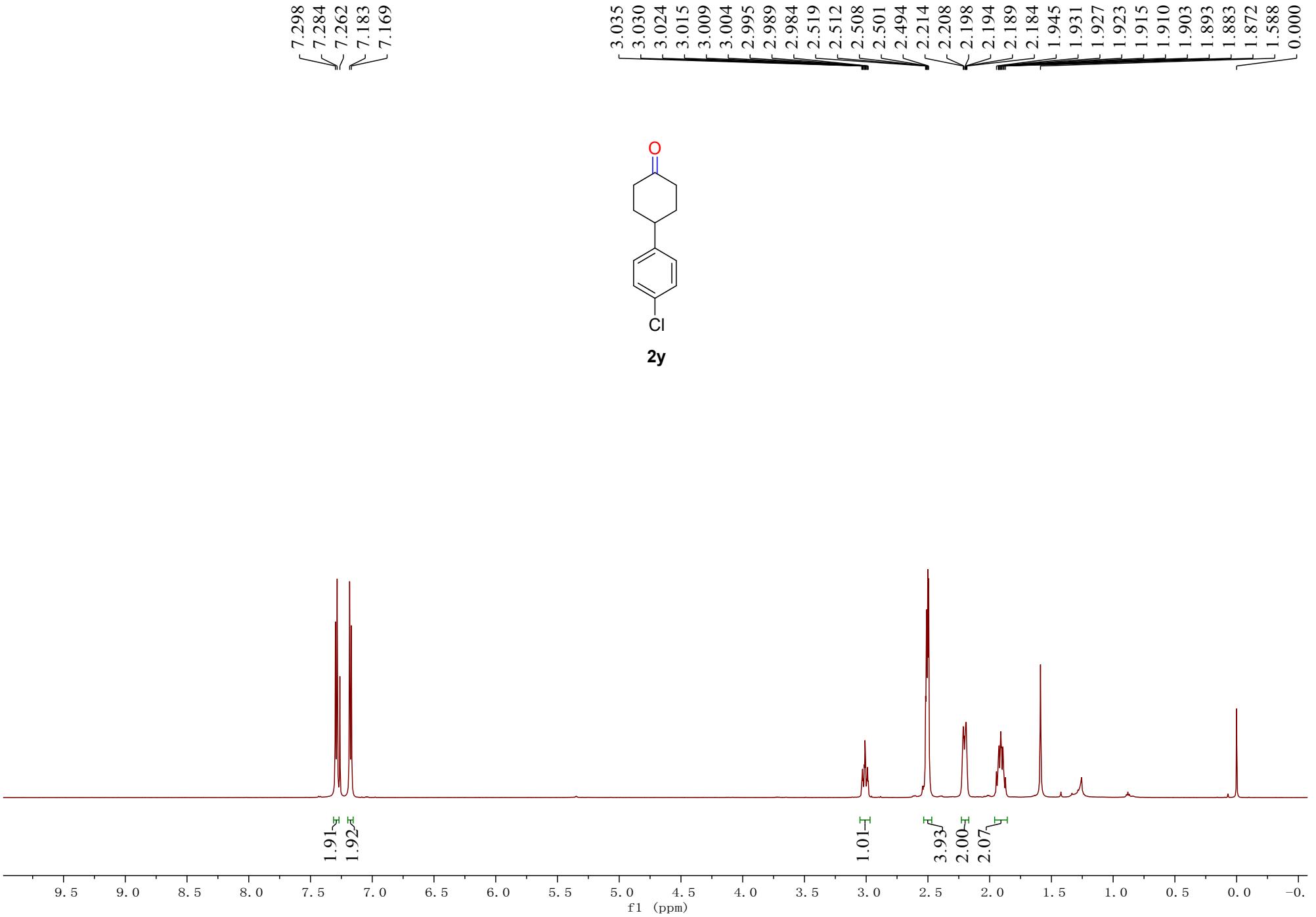


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77.160
76.949

-46.862
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-32.615
-27.750



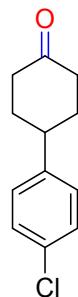


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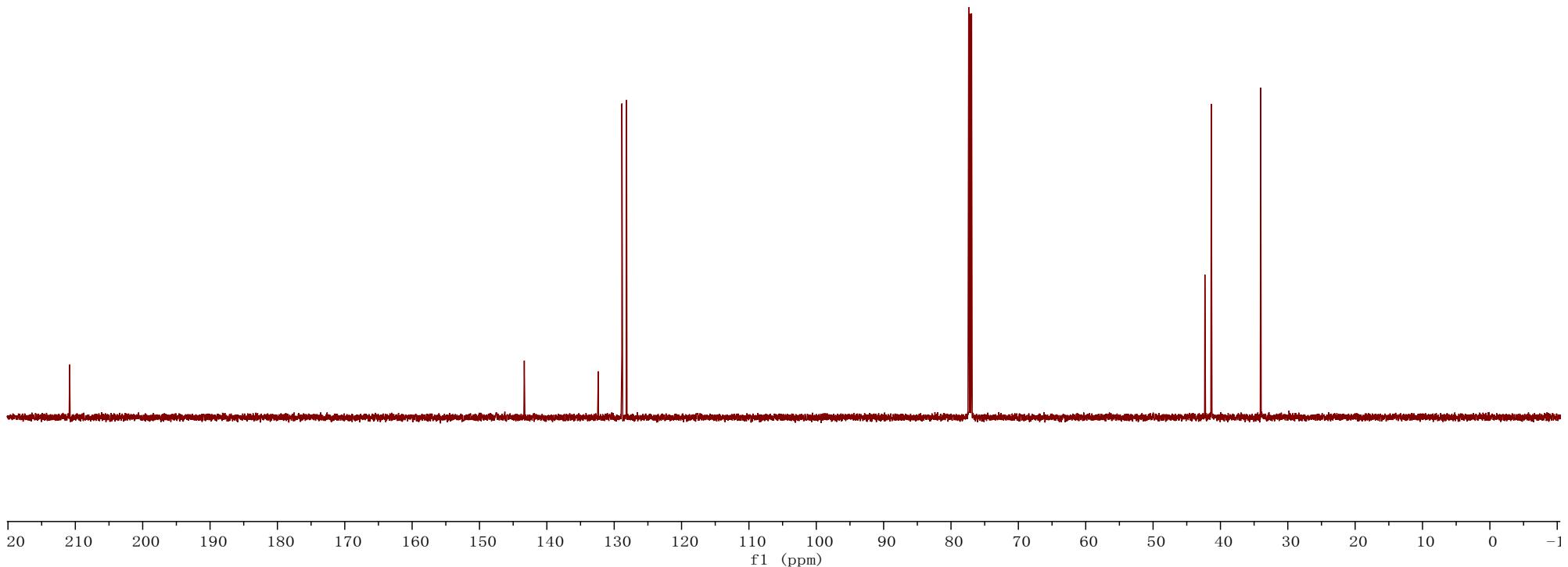
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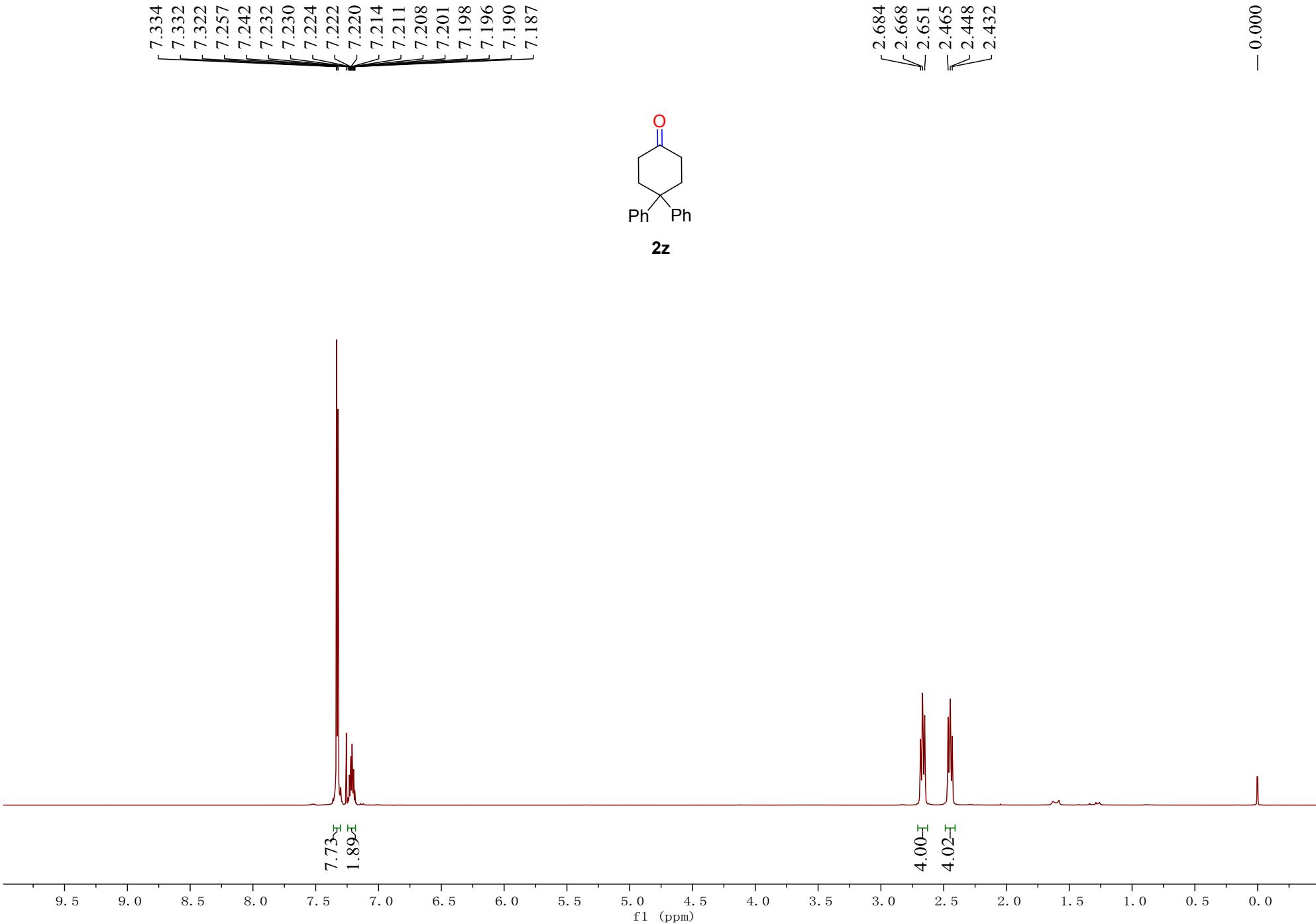
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76.948

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~41.360
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2y

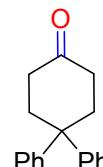




-211.247

-145.940

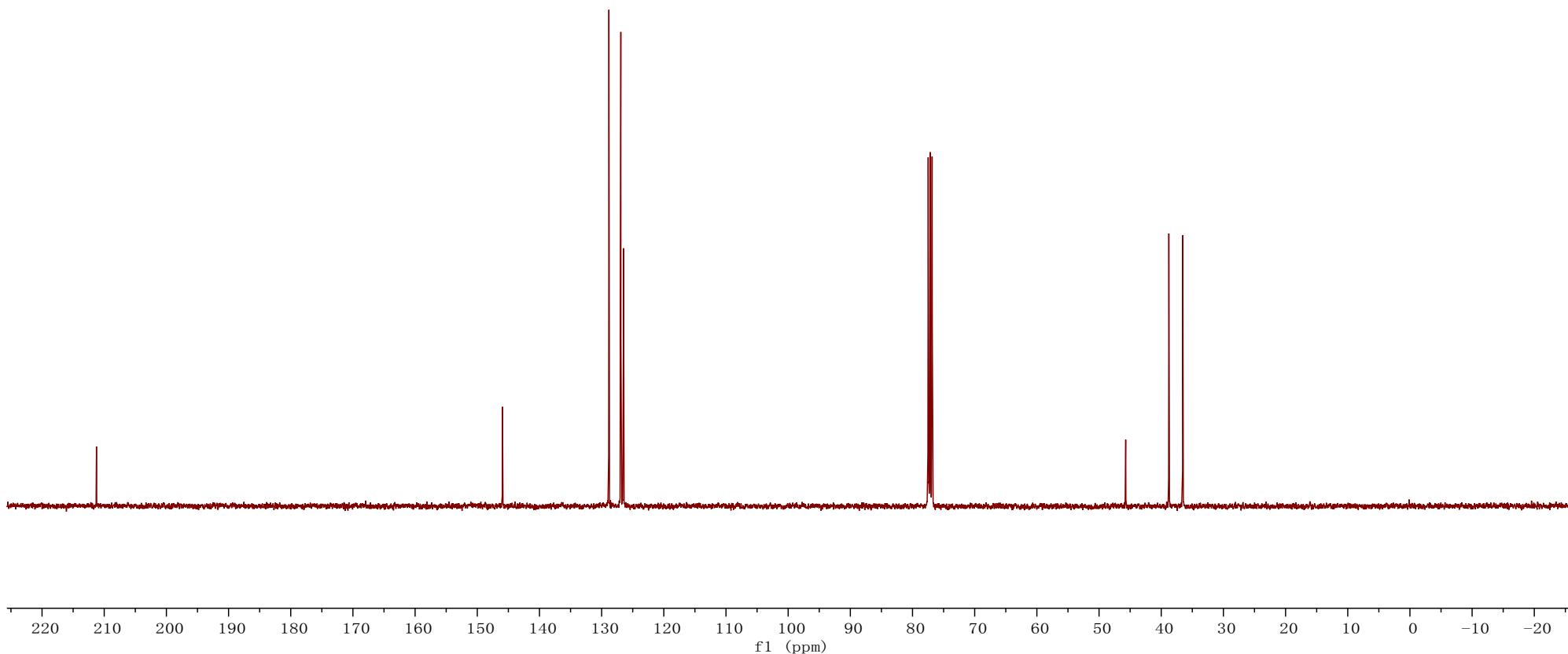
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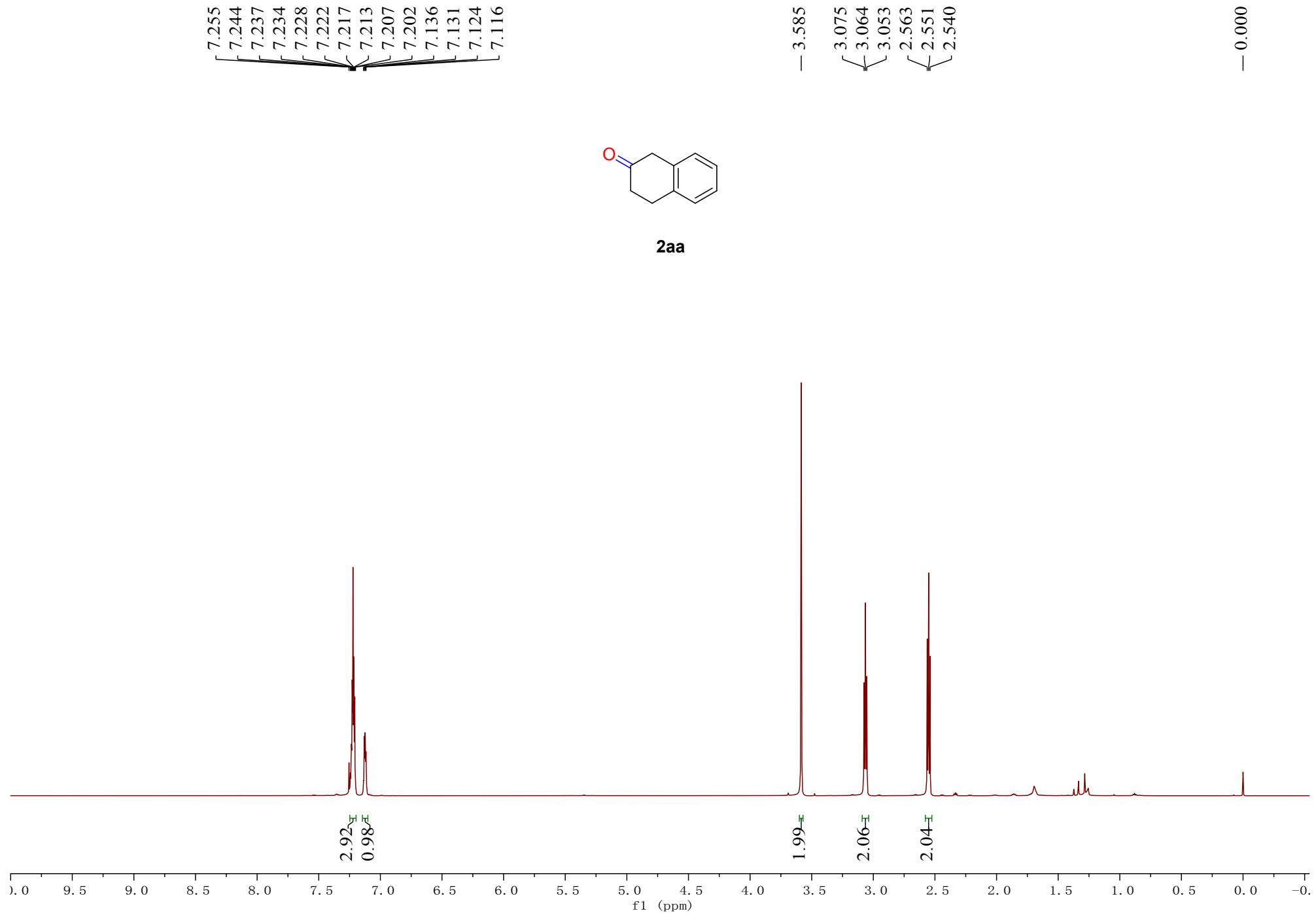


2z

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77.161
76.844

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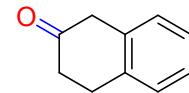


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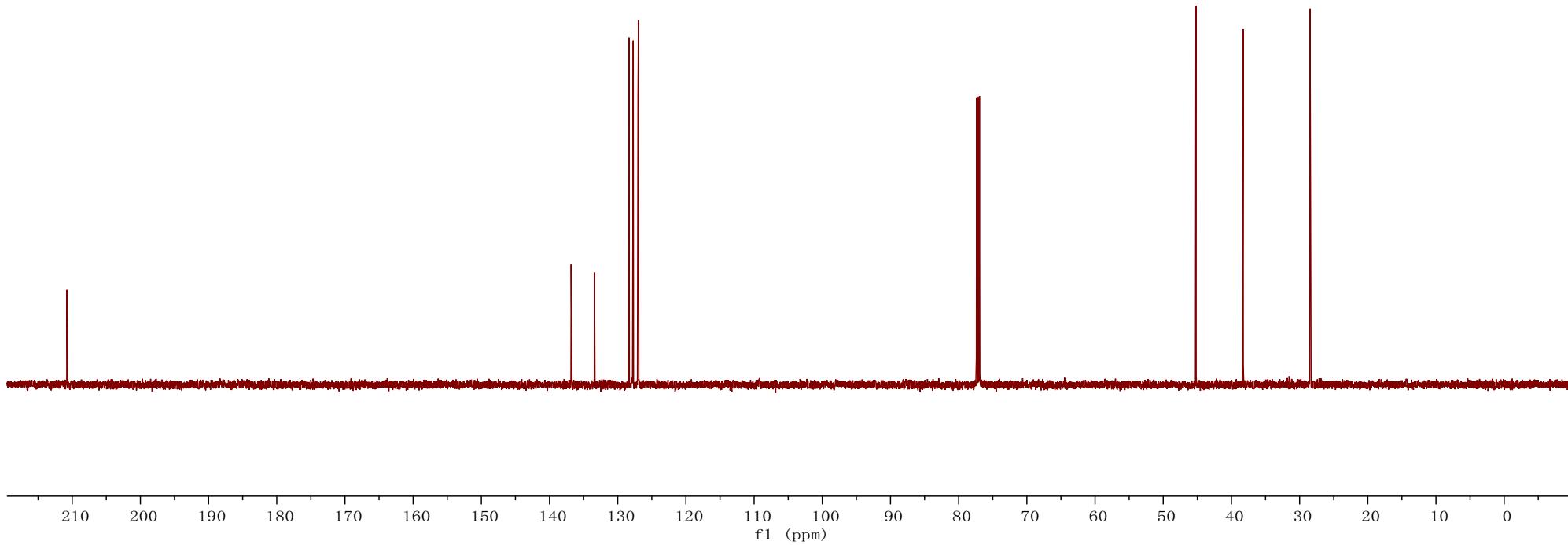
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126.959

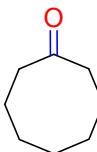
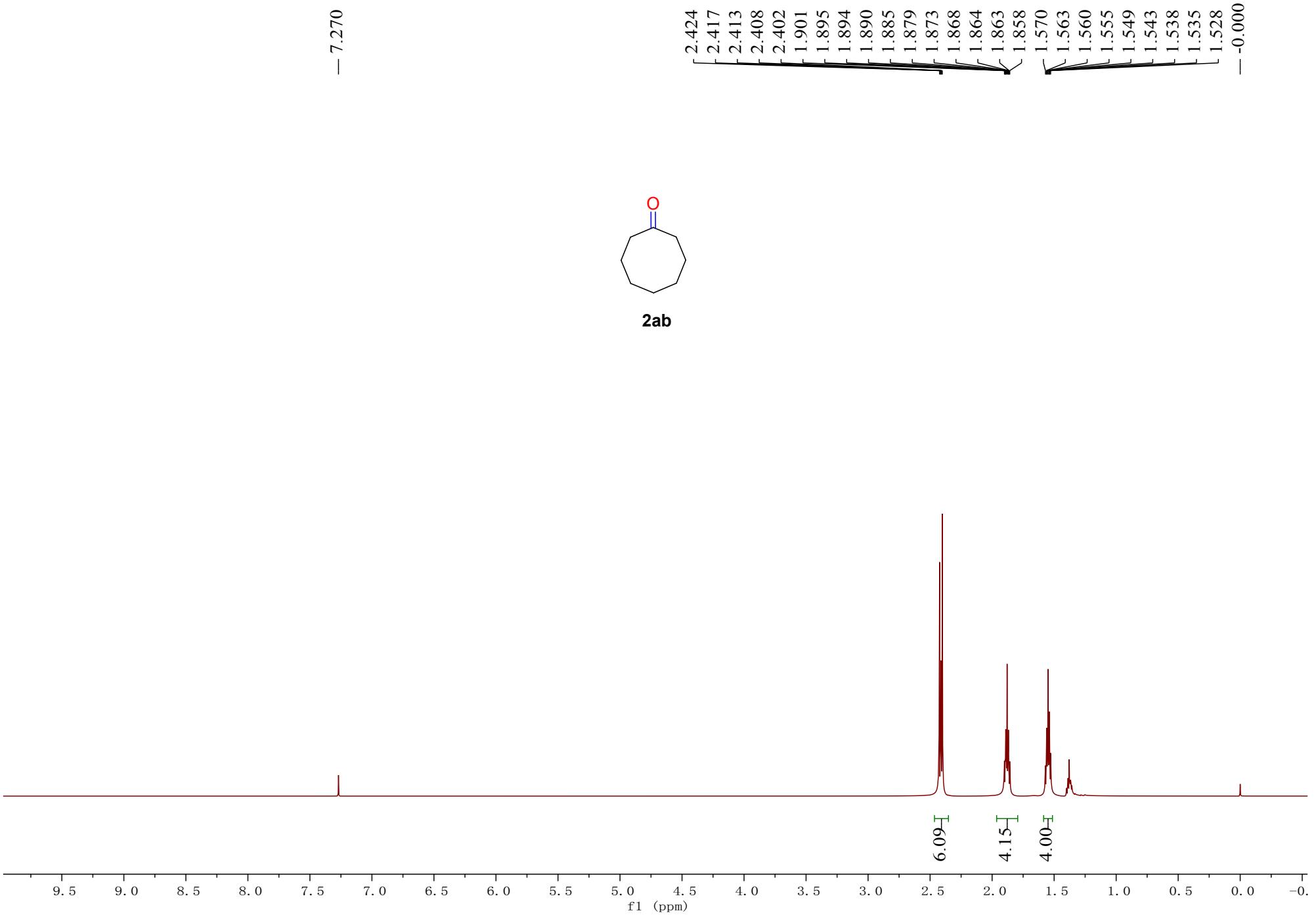
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77.160
76.949

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- 38.281
- 28.464



2aa





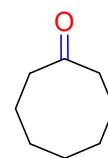
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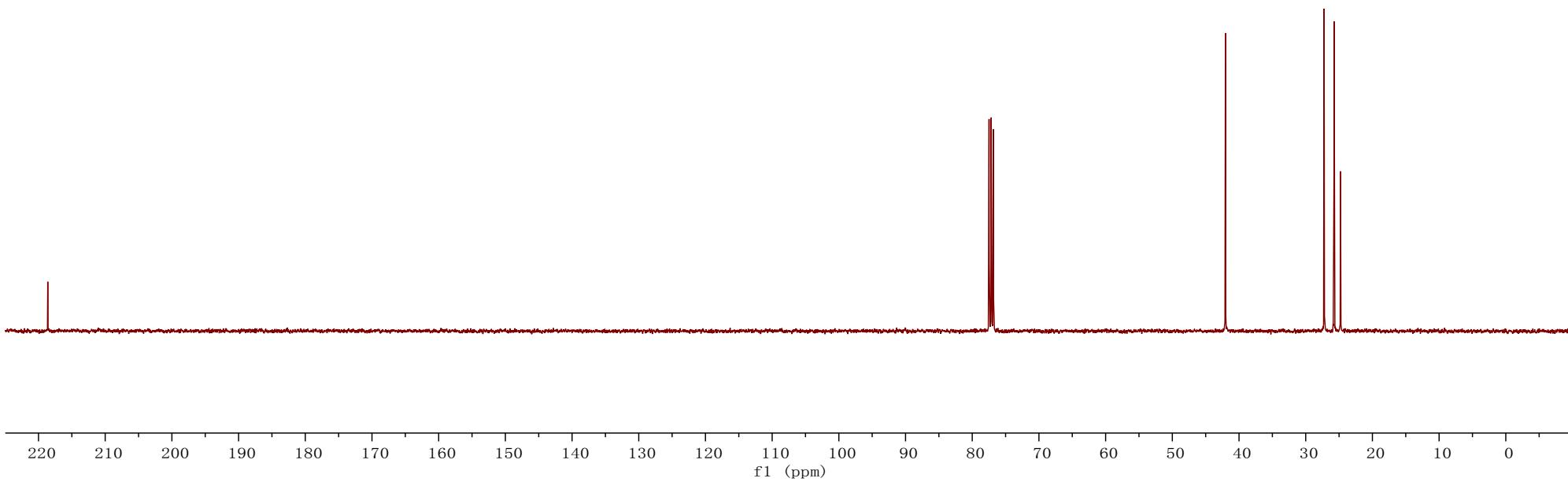
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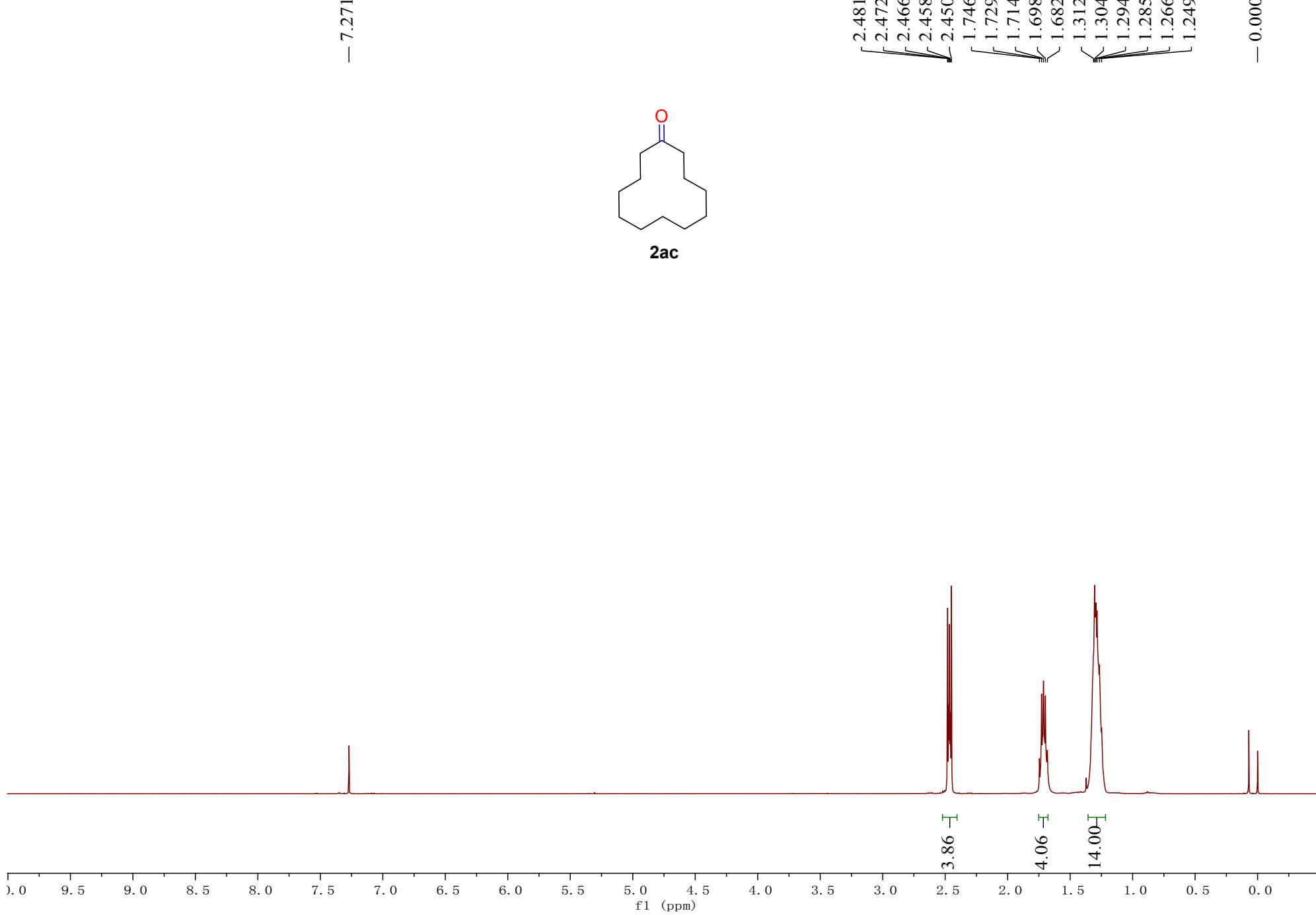
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2ab

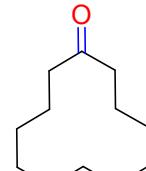




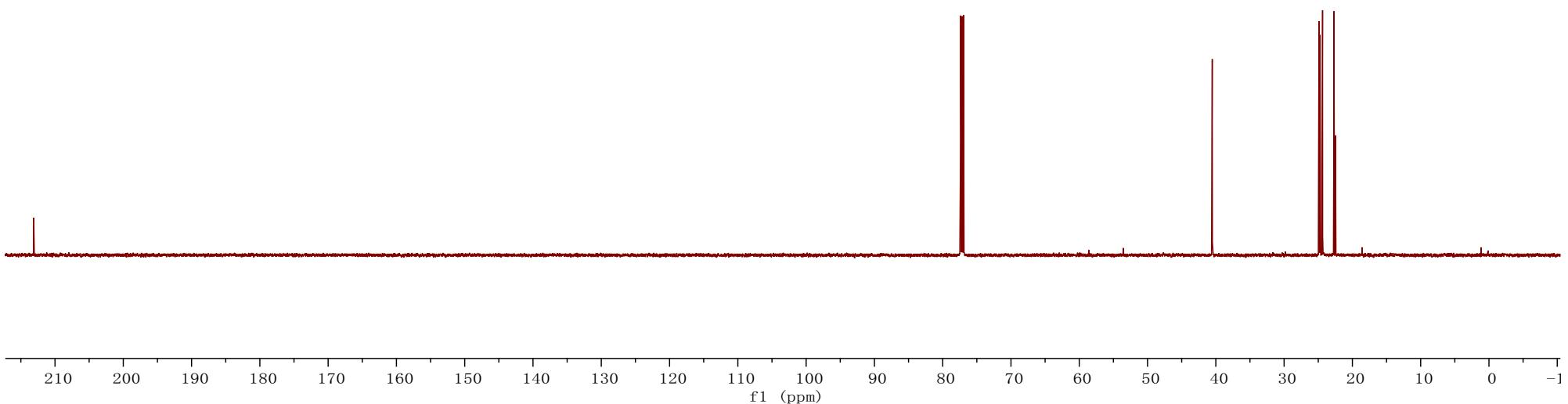
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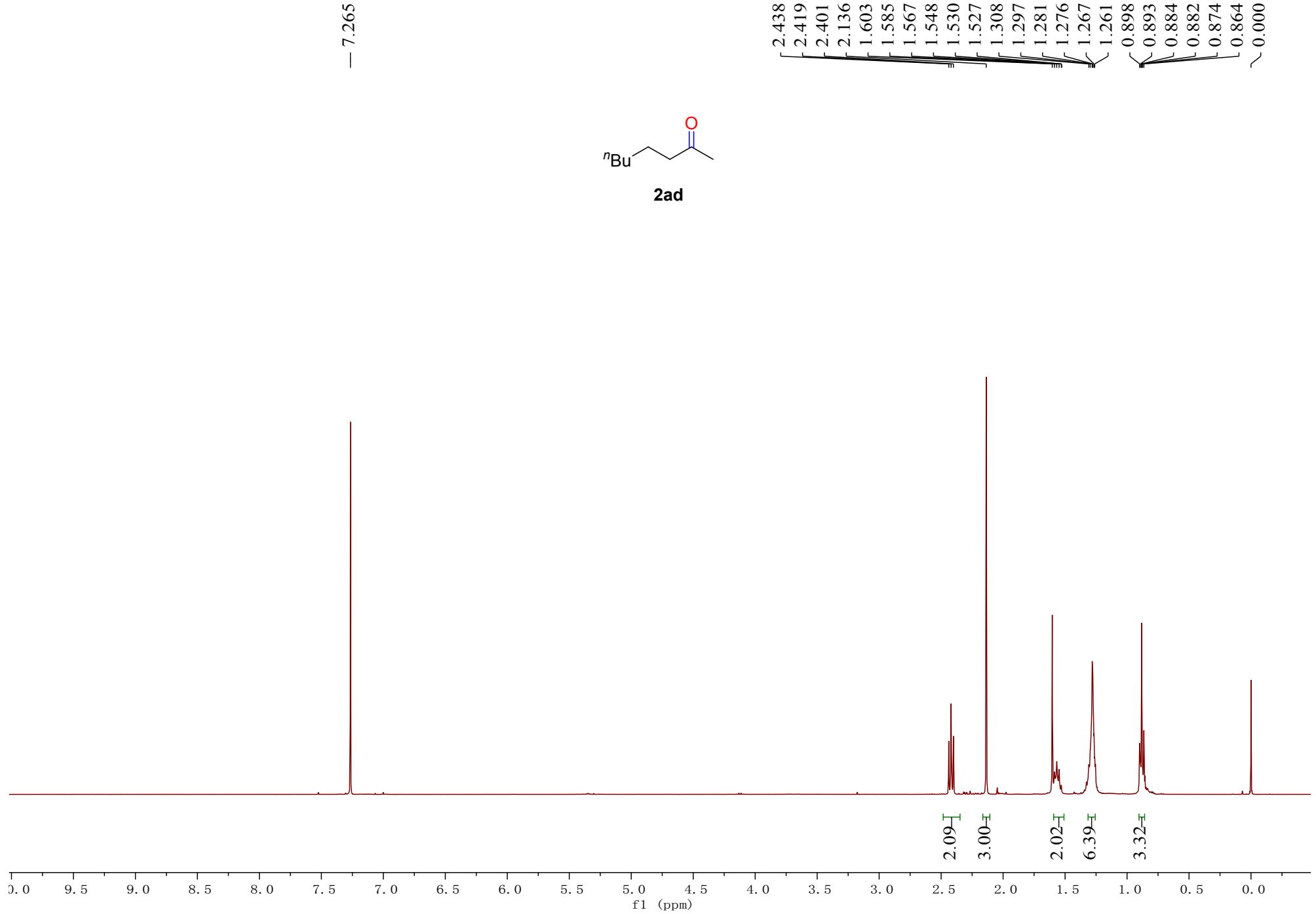
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76.949

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2ac

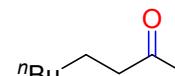




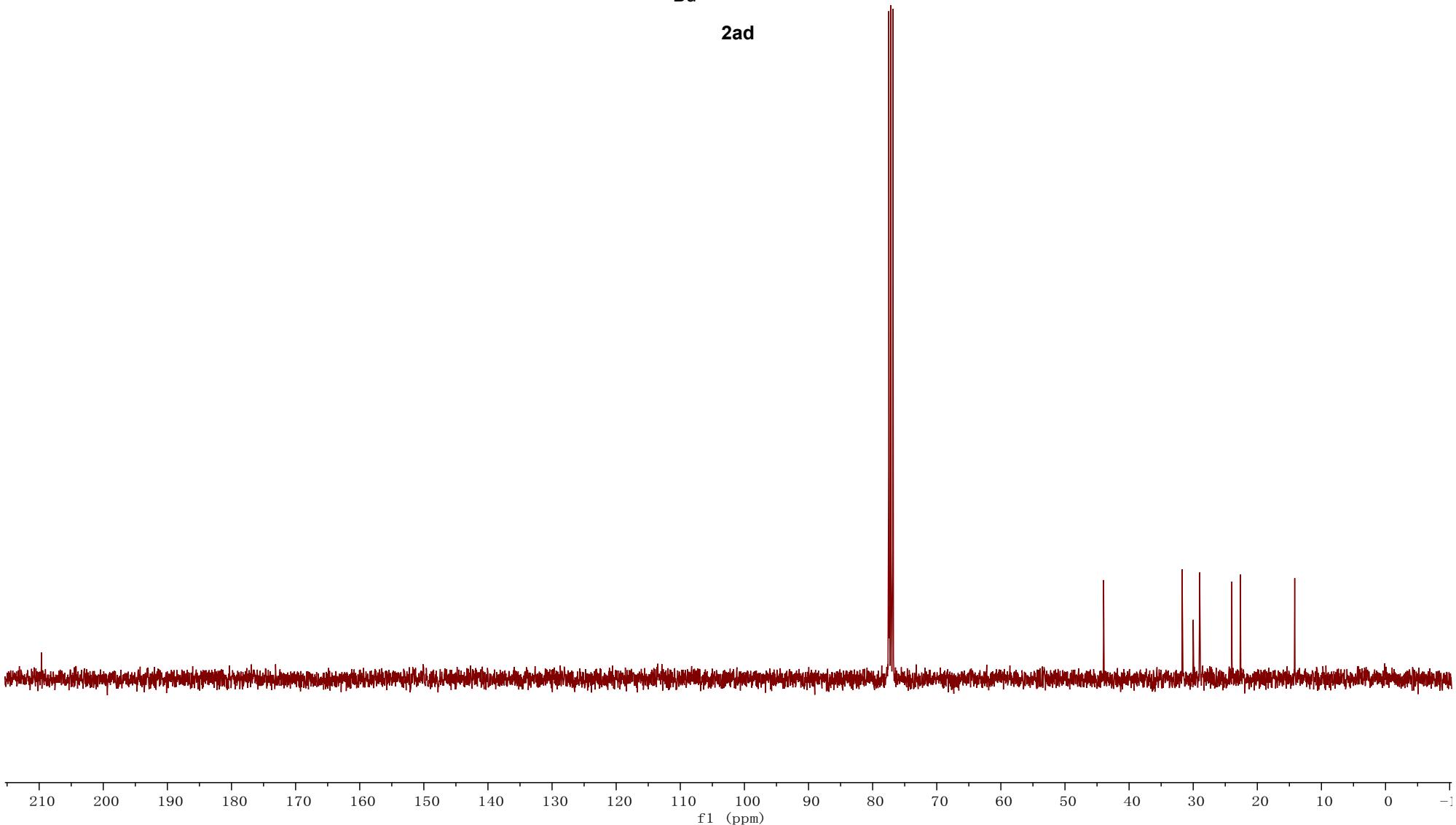
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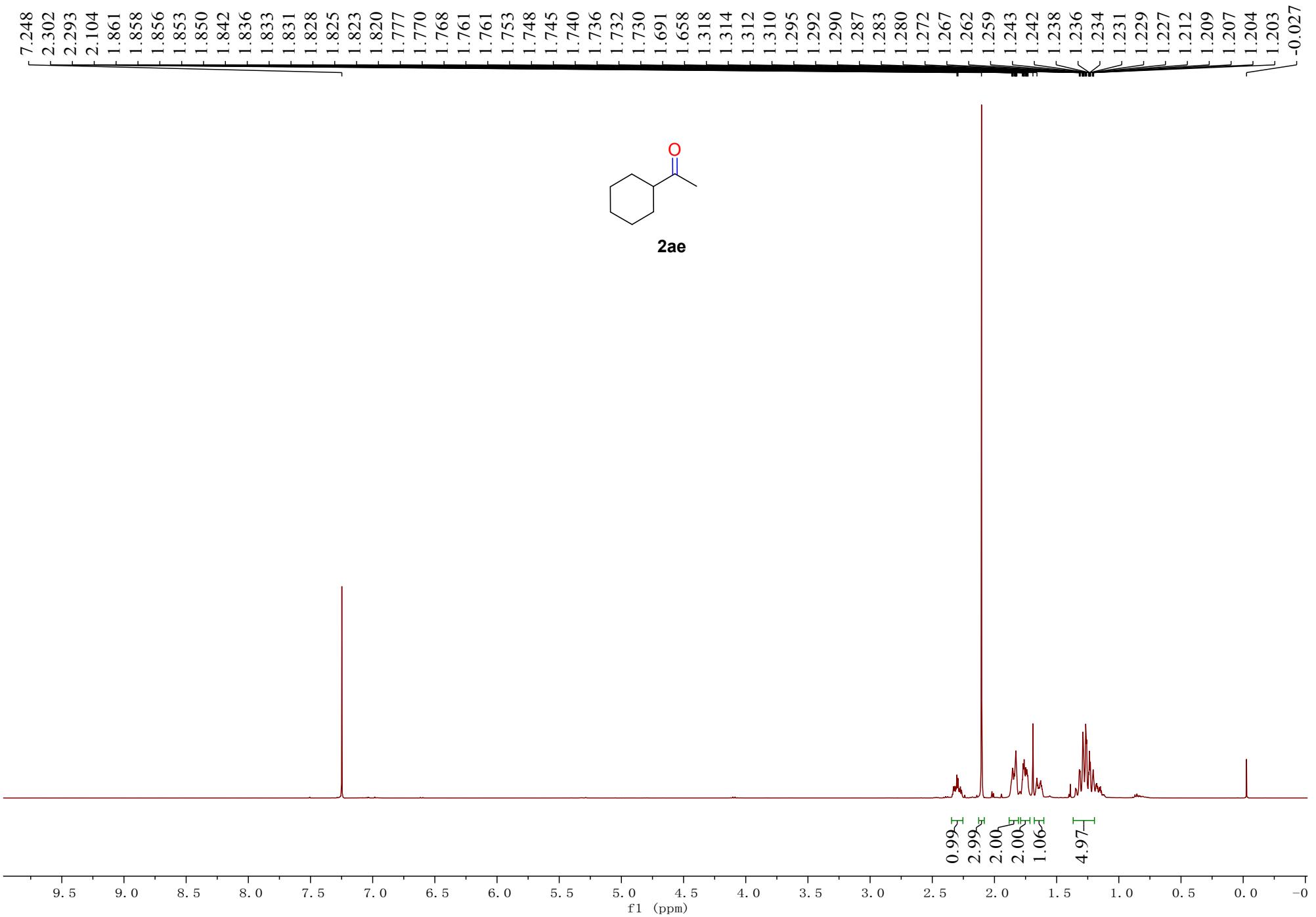
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2ad



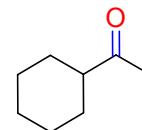


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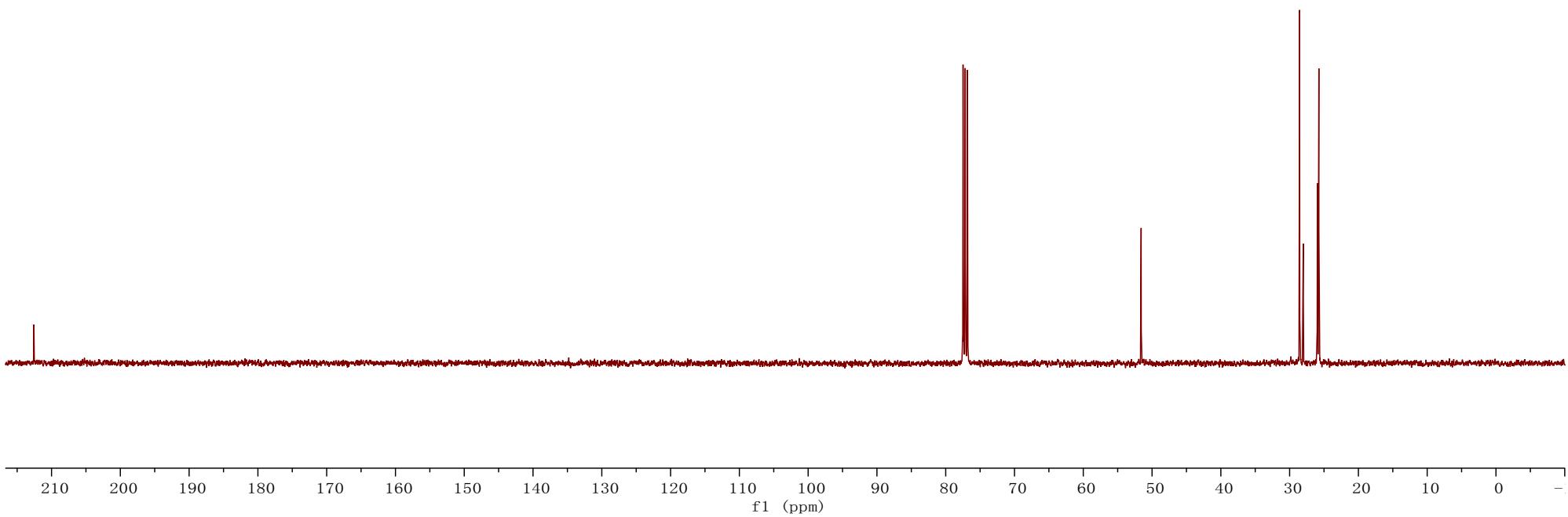
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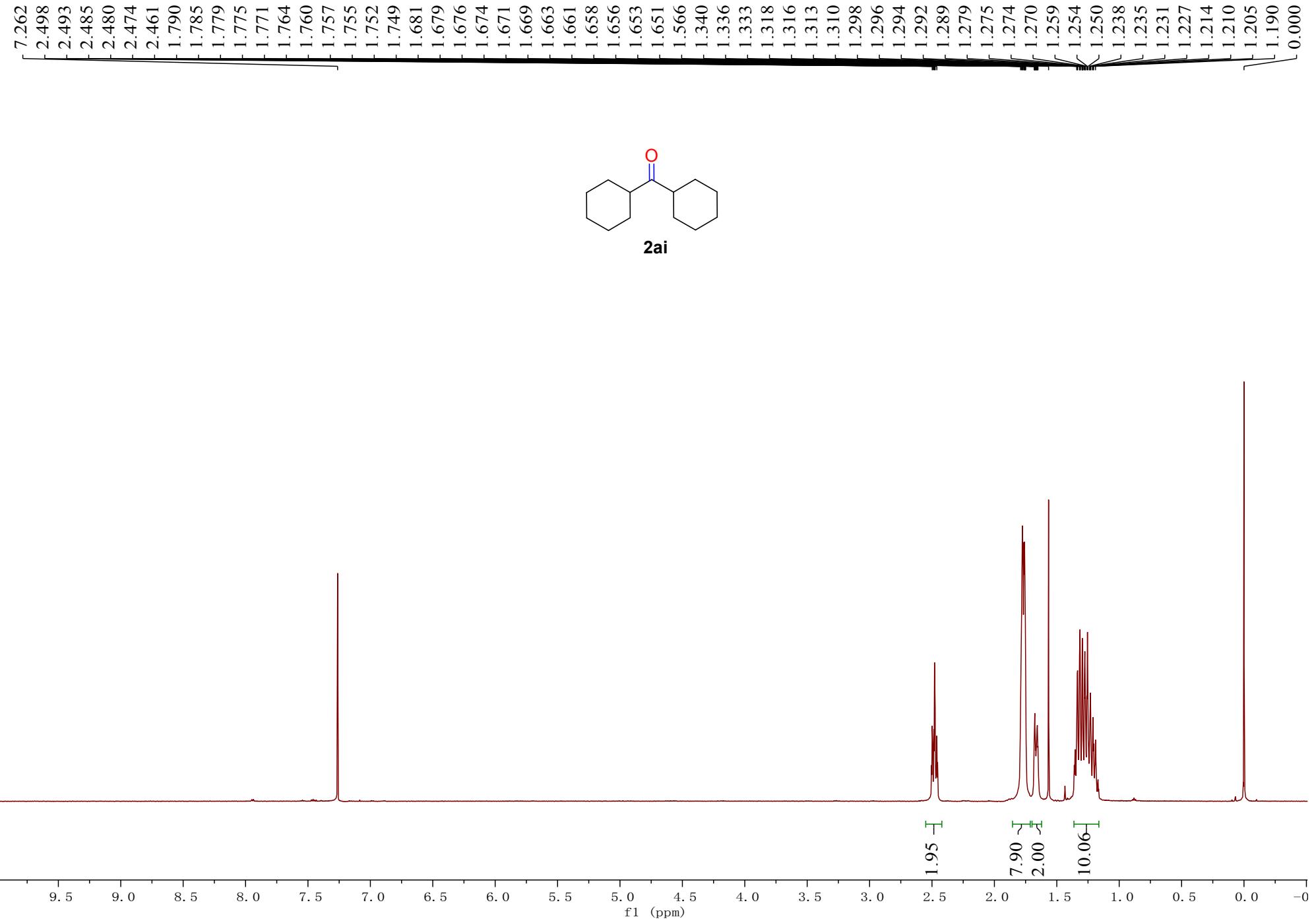
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2ae



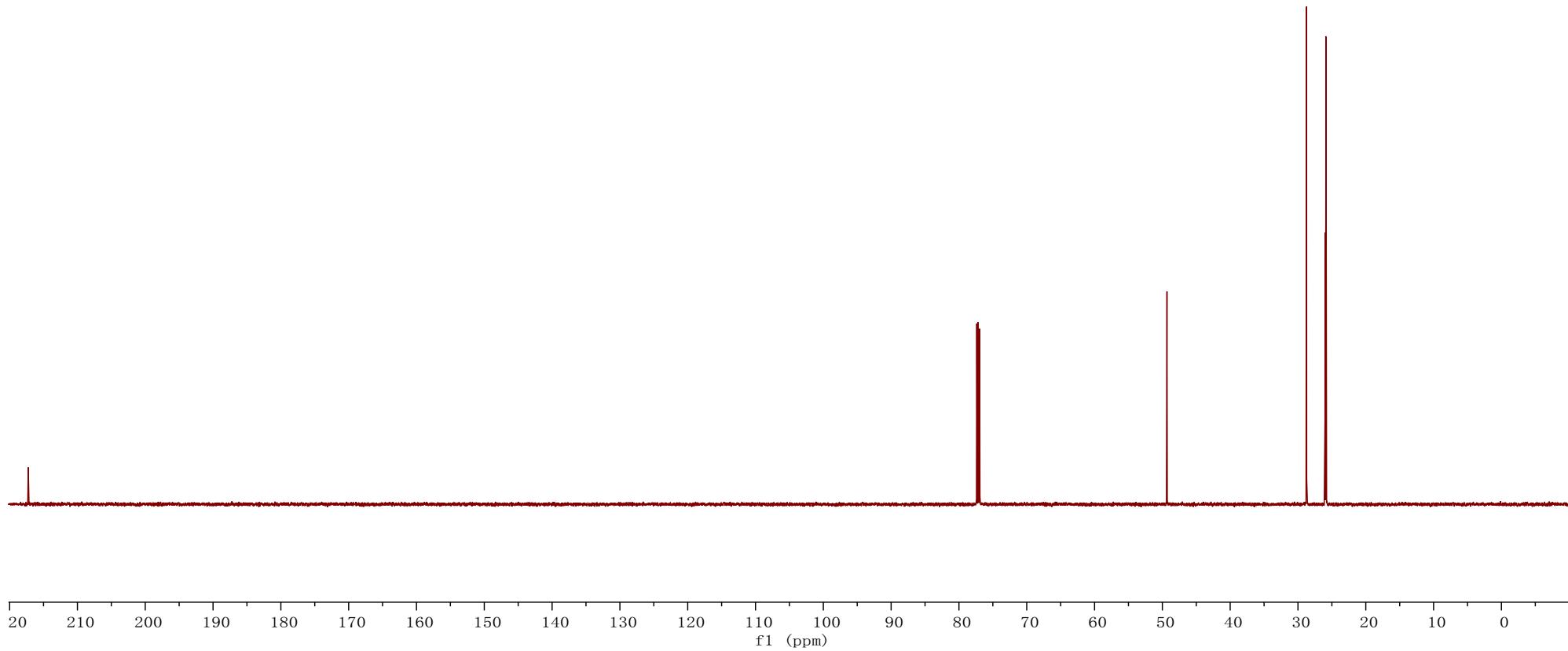
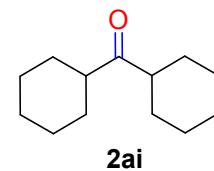


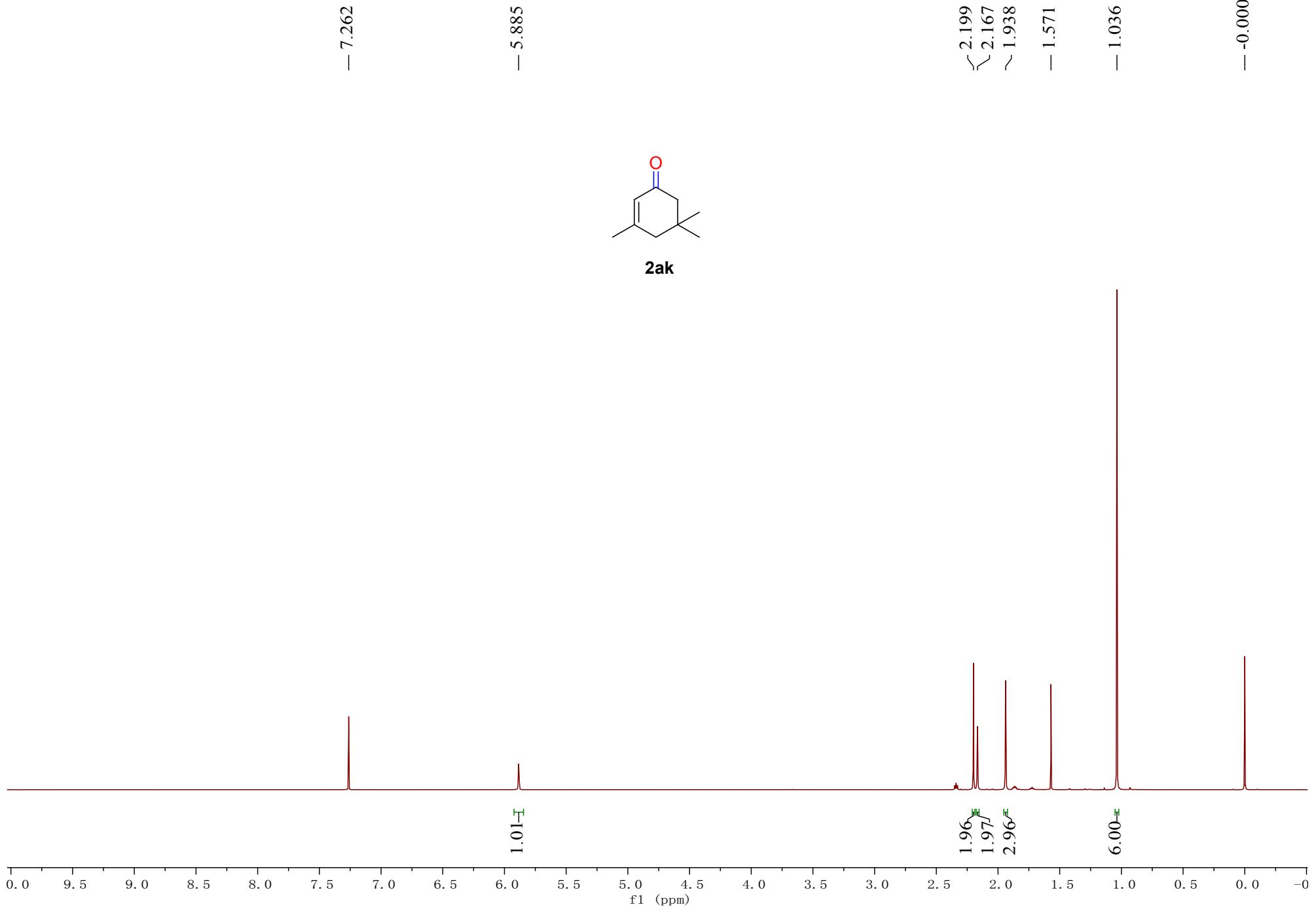
-217.251

77.372
77.160
76.948

-49.320

28.733
26.010
25.876





-199.968

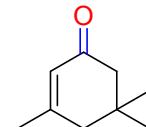
-160.375

-125.581

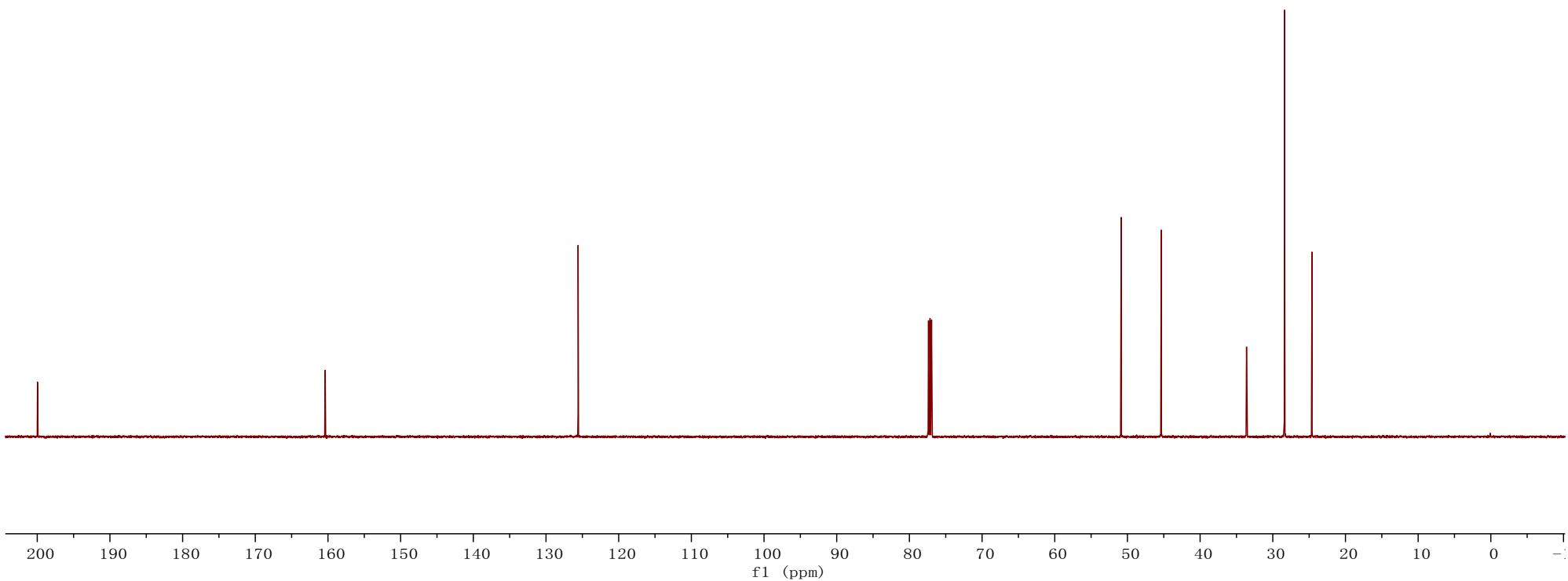
77.373
77.161
76.948

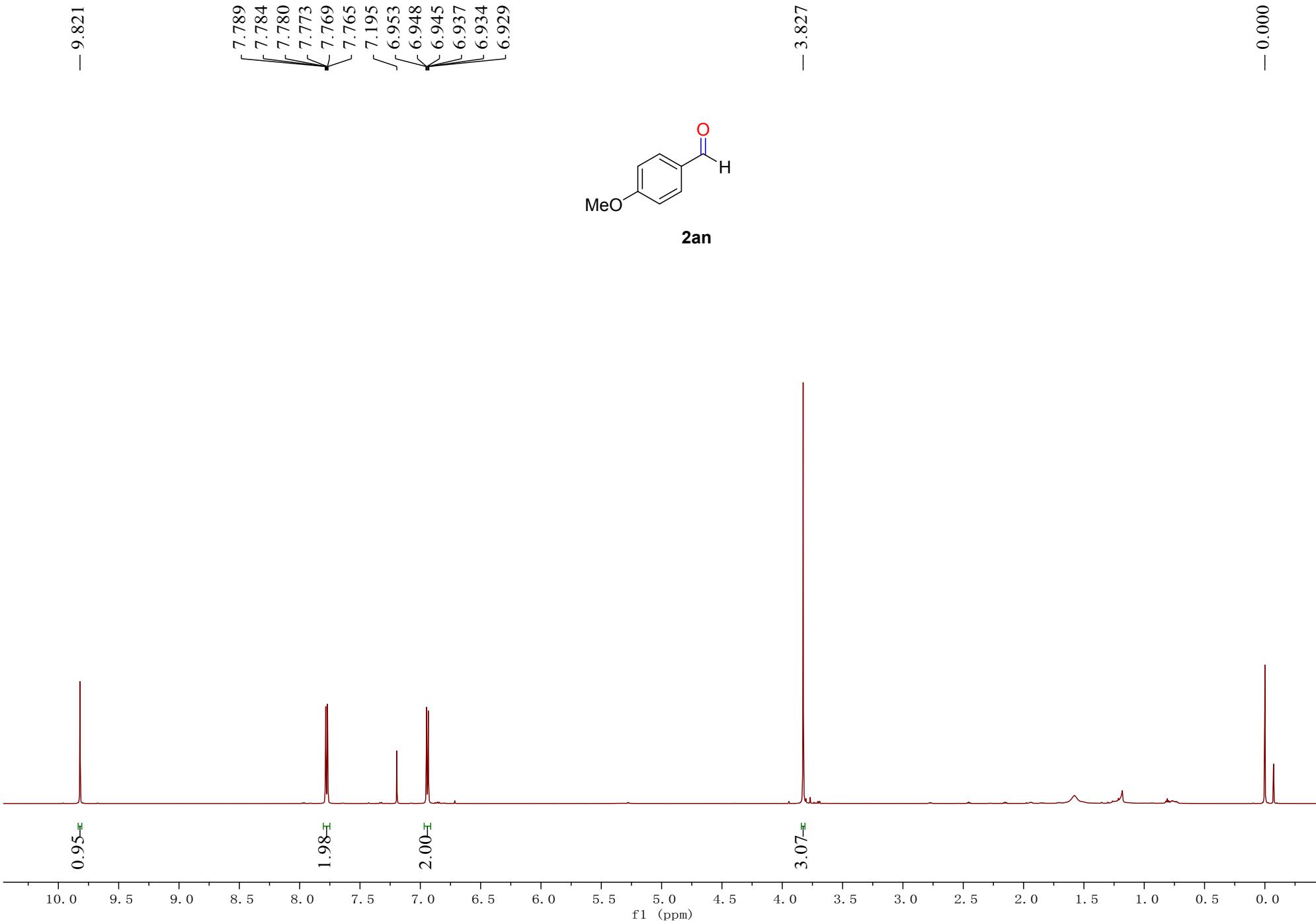
-50.861
-45.355

~33.614
~28.393
~24.609



2ak





— 190.898

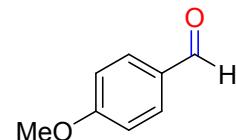
— 164.634

— 132.026
— 129.948

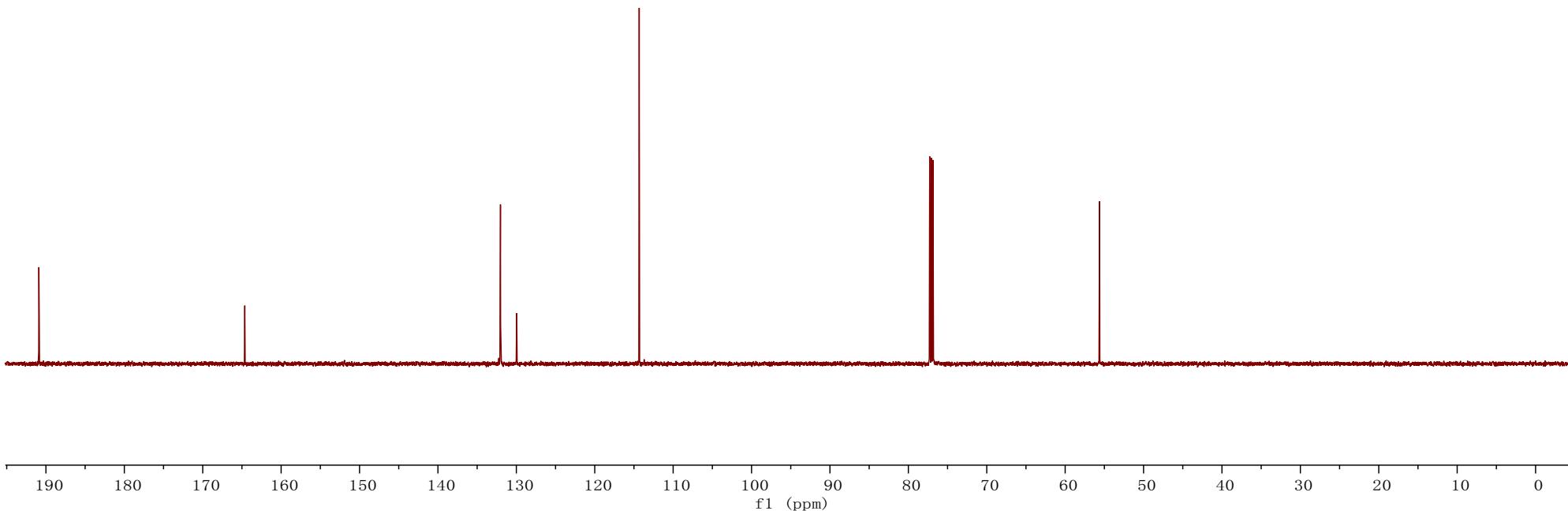
— 114.331

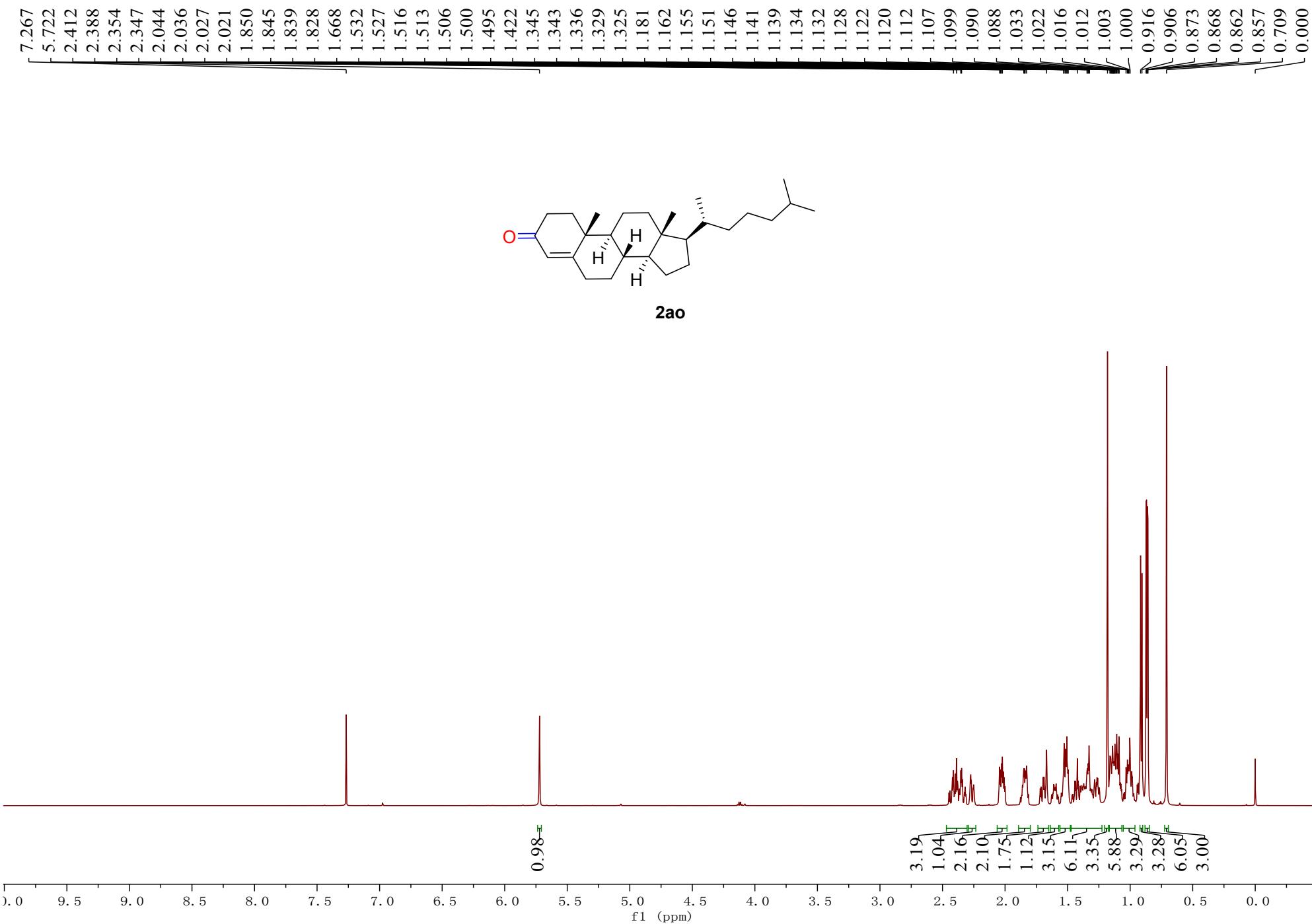
77.279
77.068
76.857

— 55.609



2an



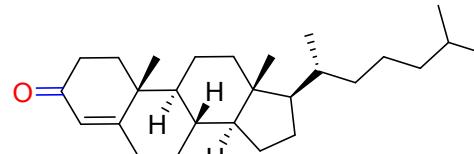


-199.794

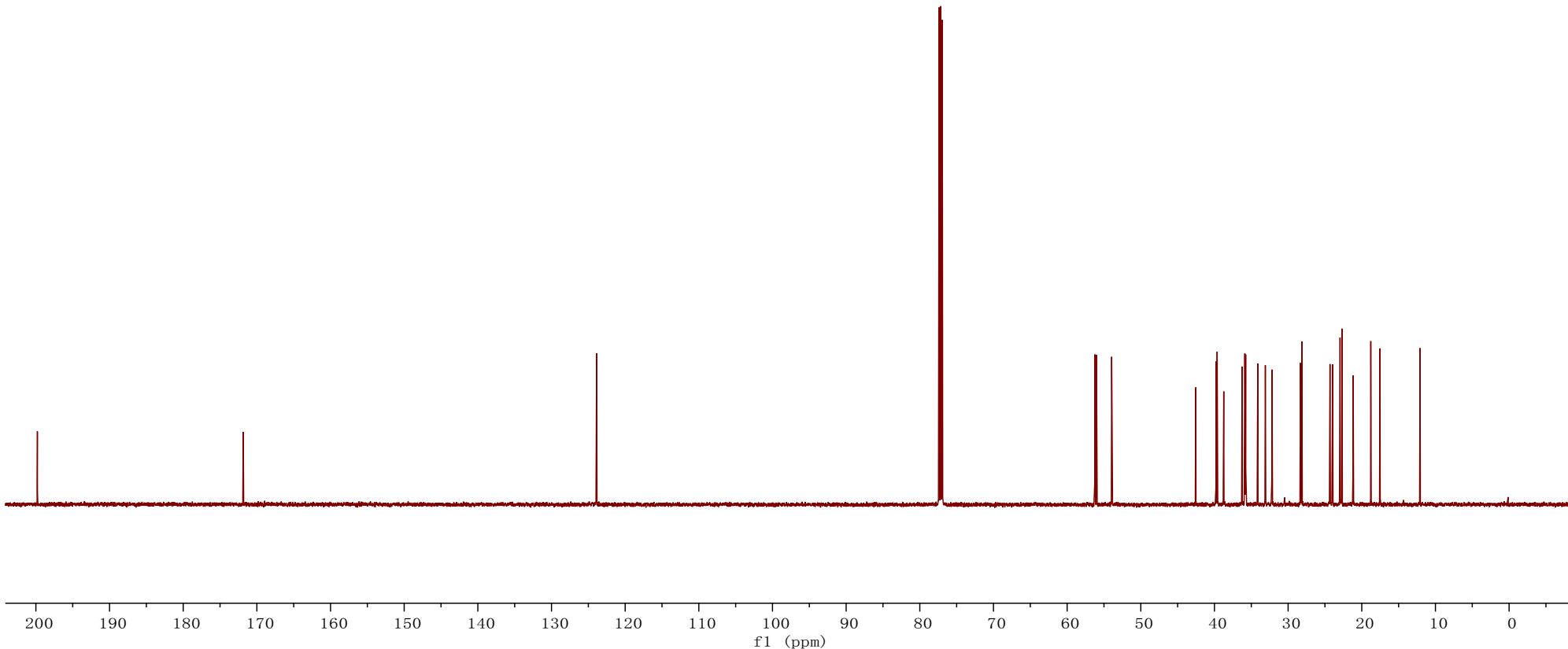
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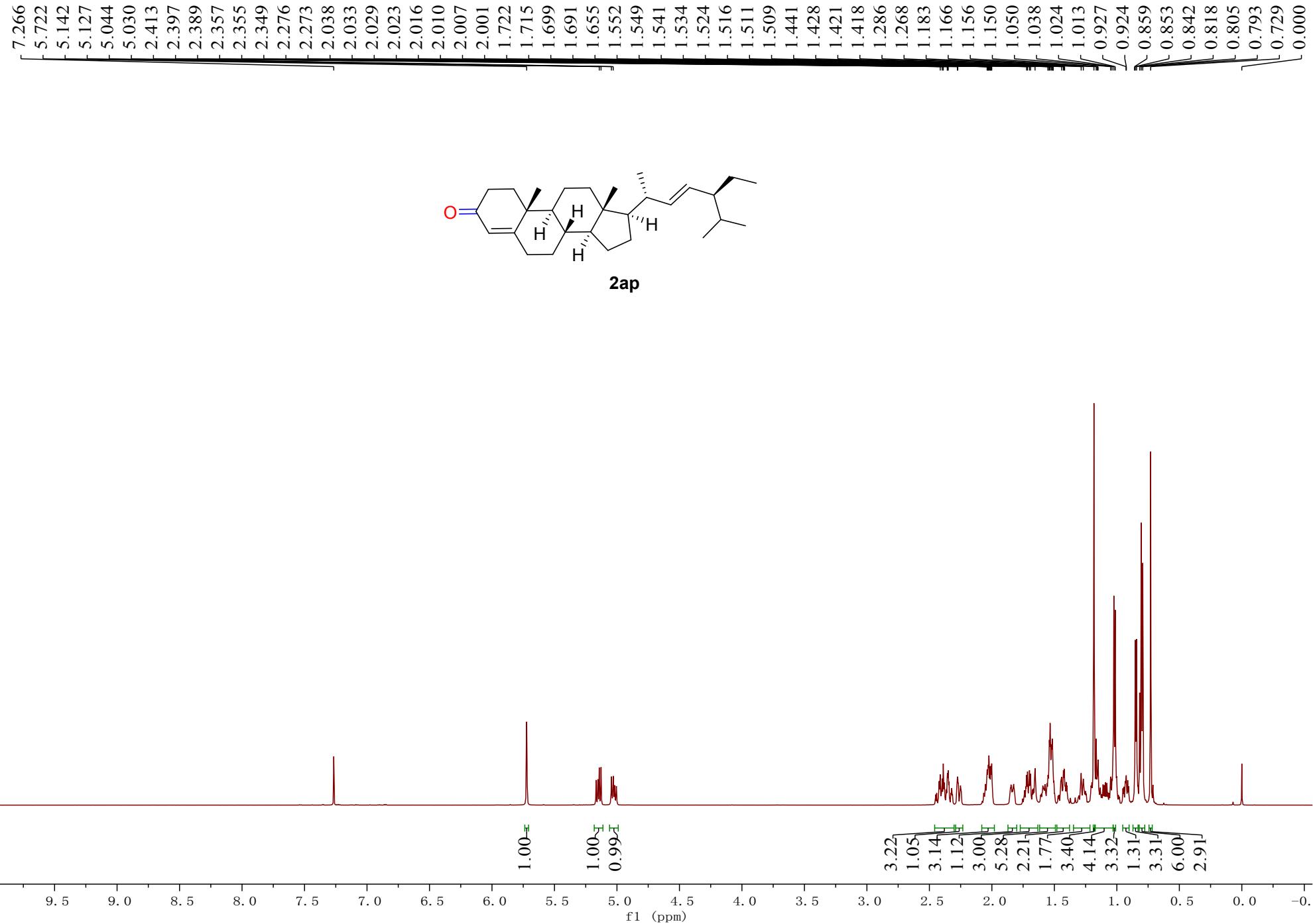
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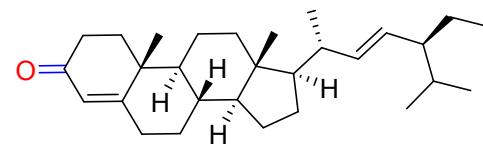
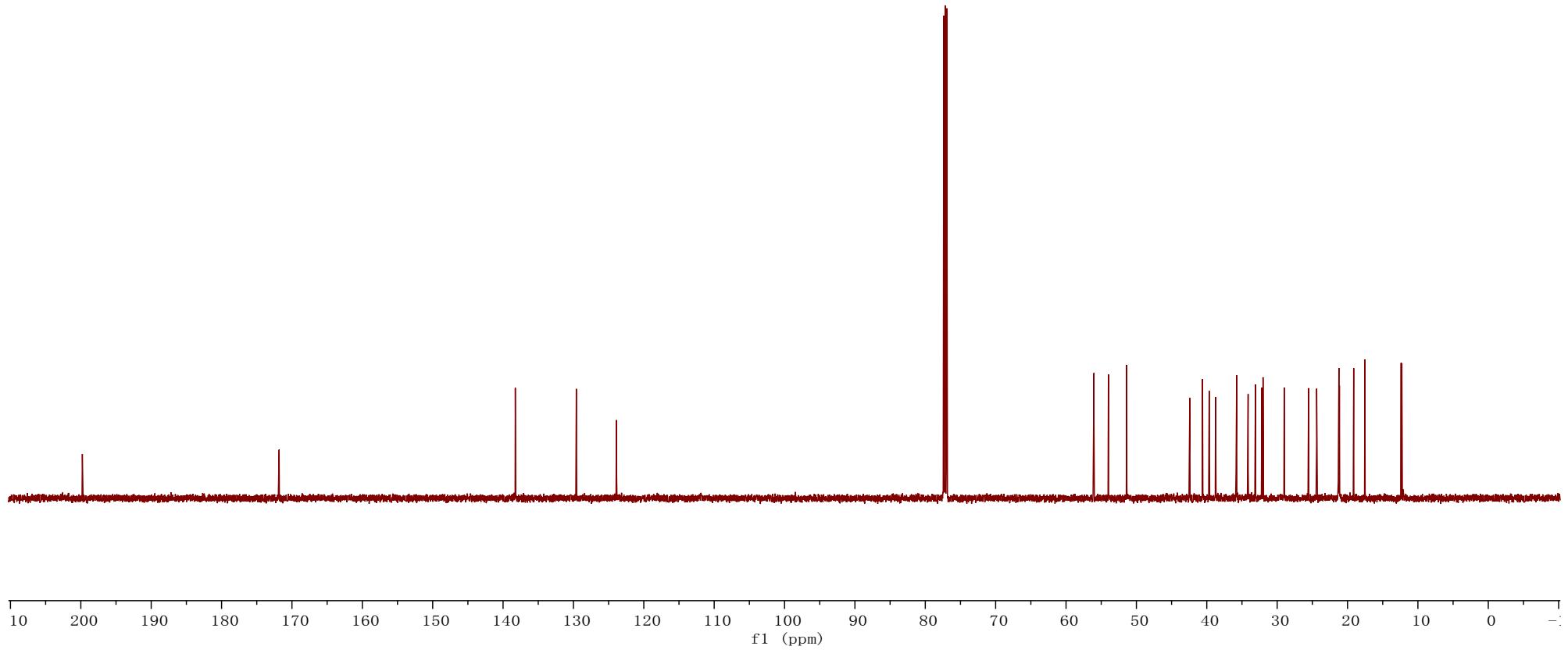
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77.160
76.948
56.242
56.014
53.953
42.525
39.767
39.631
38.738
36.253
35.881
35.828
35.758
34.122
33.092
32.187
28.311
28.143
24.314
23.949
22.692
21.167
18.775
17.522
12.089



2ao







2ap

— 199.785

— 171.820

— 138.260

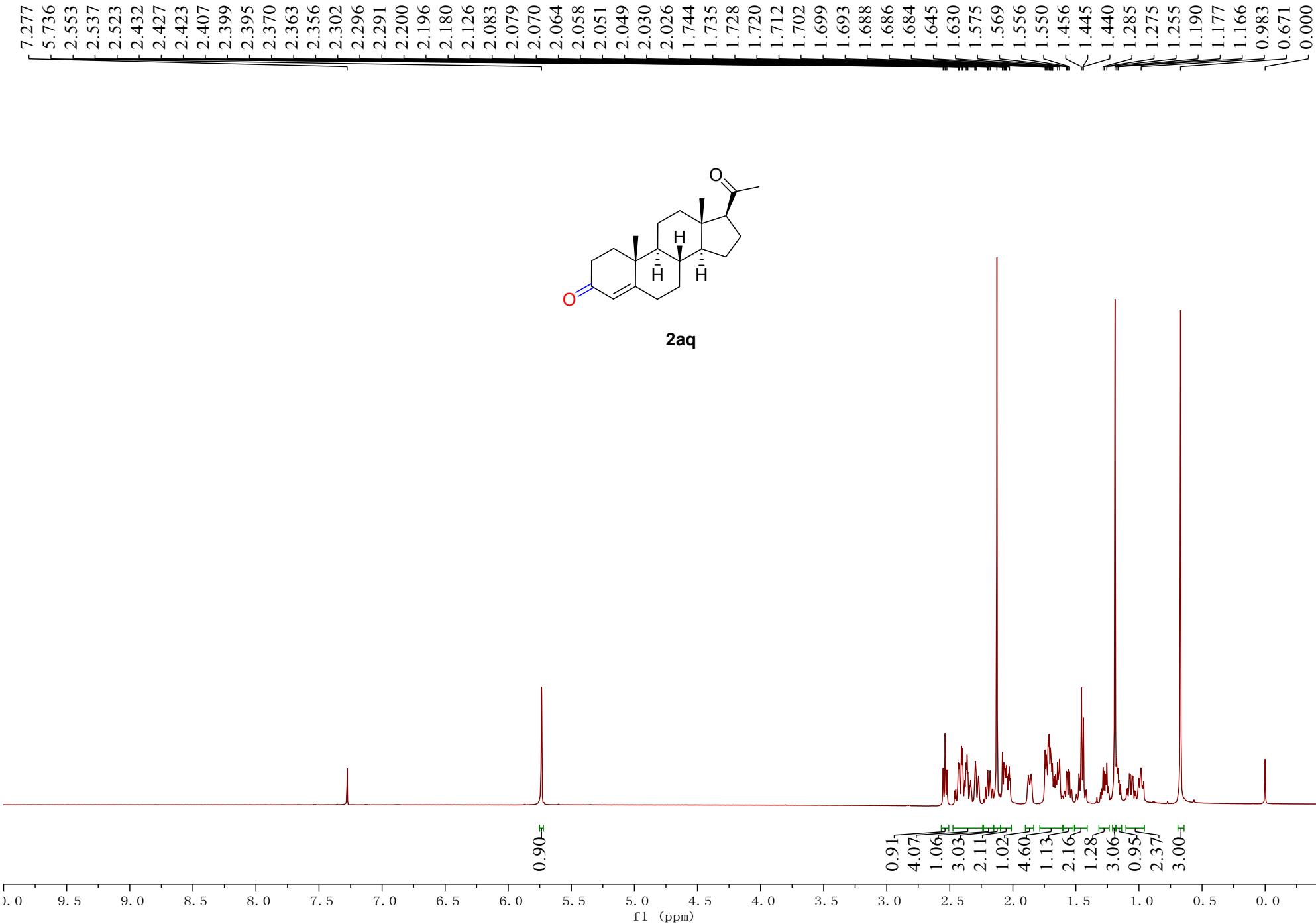
— 129.589

— 123.893

77.371
77.161
76.948

56.123
56.038
53.974
51.370

~40.607
35.833
35.753
33.086
32.173
32.008
25.537
24.385
21.300
21.228
21.151
19.124
17.523
12.384
12.171

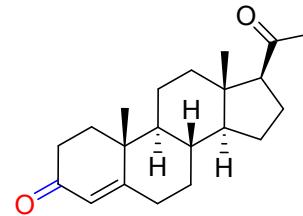


-209.407

-199.548

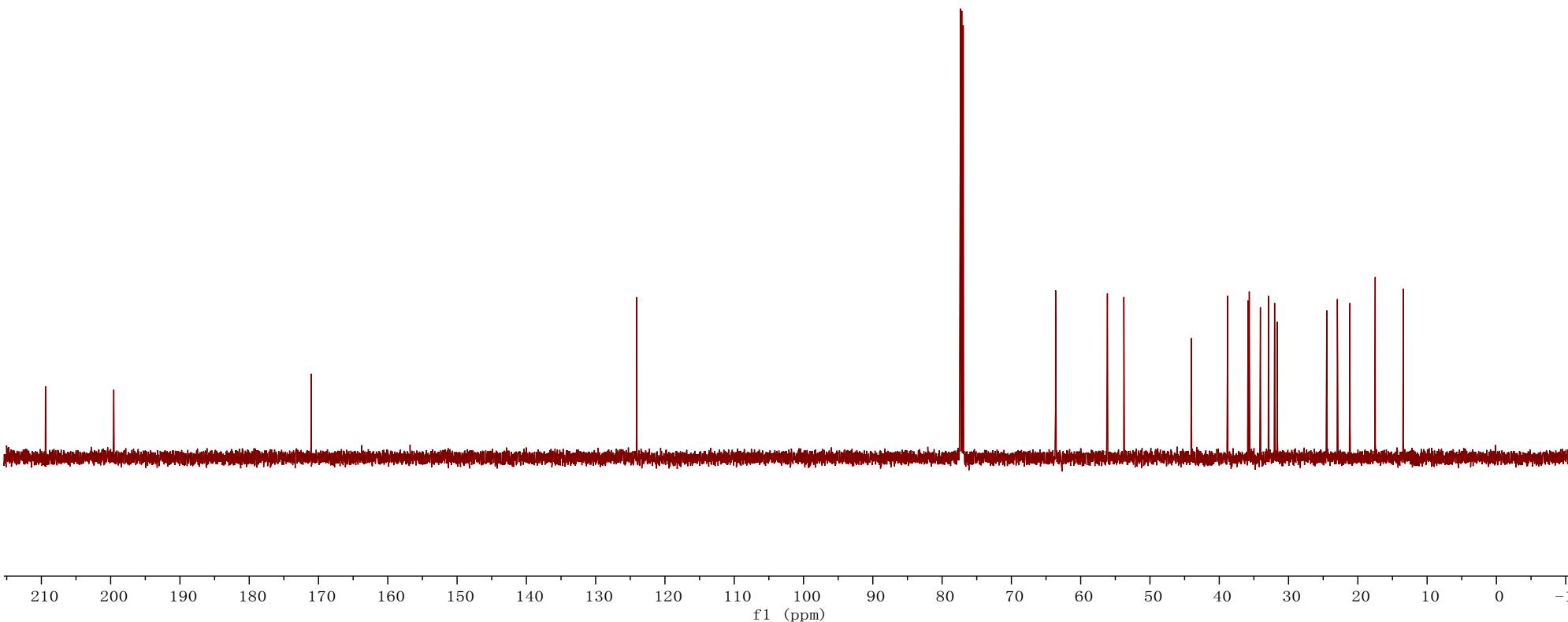
-171.043

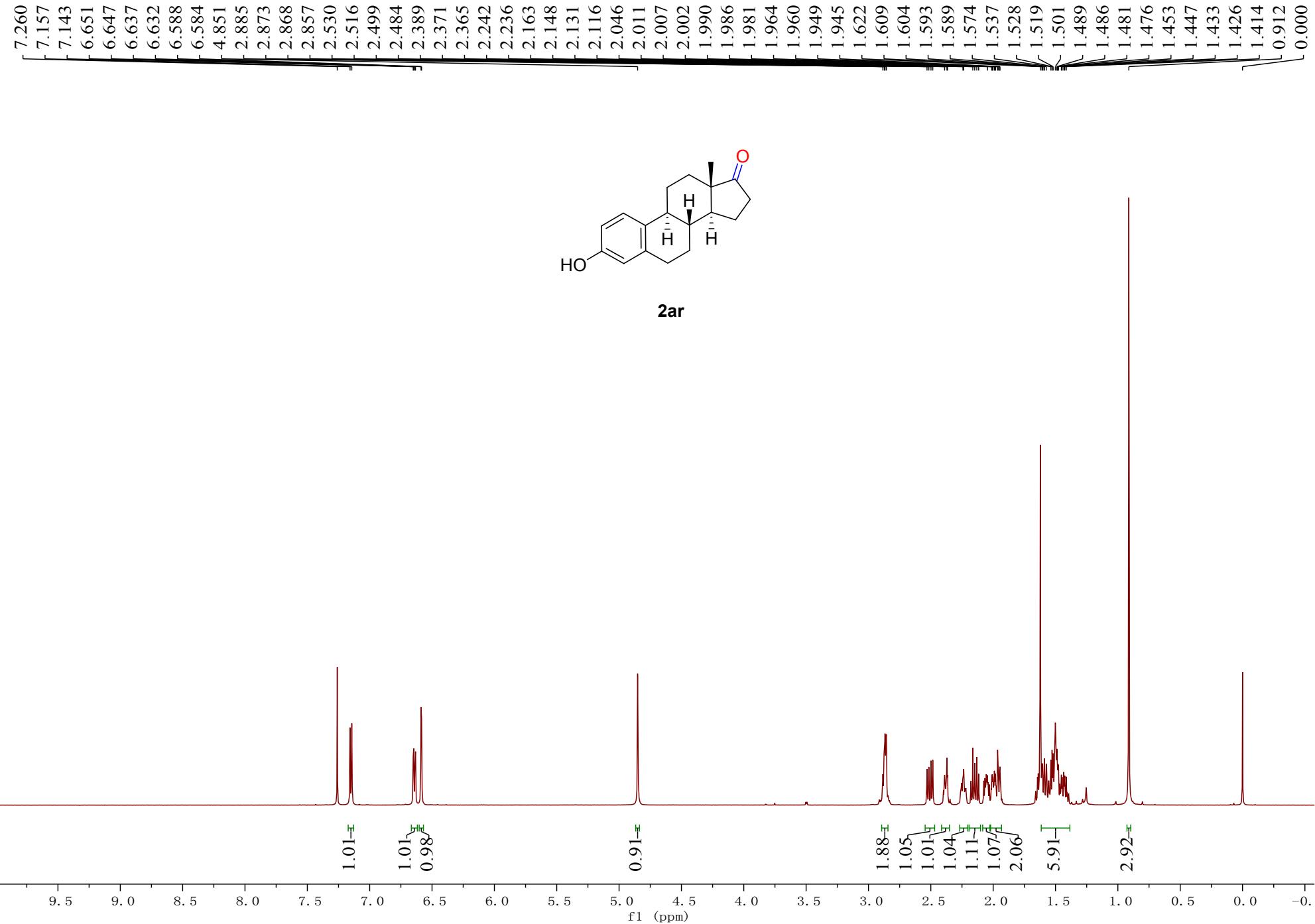
-124.055



2aq

77.372
77.160
76.949
~63.619
56.142
53.764
44.038
38.781
38.690
35.842
35.667
34.065
32.893
32.010
31.612
24.478
22.951
21.135
17.488
13.449





- 221.275

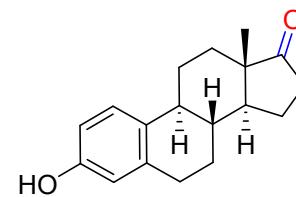
- 153.645

~ 138.209
- 132.253
~ 126.690

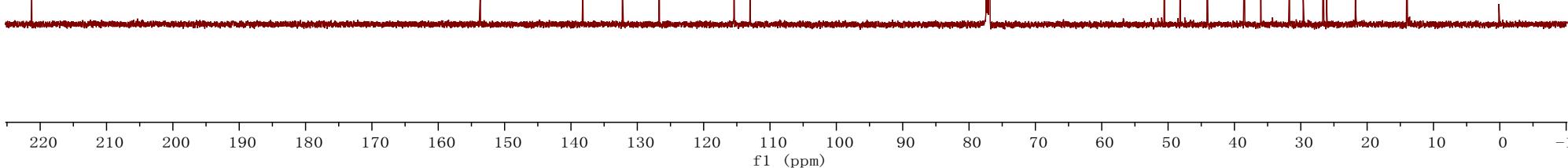
~ 115.431
~ 112.971

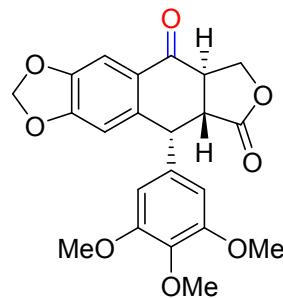
77.372
77.160
76.948

~ 50.561
- 48.182
- 44.110
~ 38.498
- 36.037
~ 31.717
~ 29.620
~ 26.638
26.074
~ 21.739
~ 14.007



2ar





2as

