

Supporting Information

Environmentally benign access to isoindolinones: synthesis, separation and resource recycling

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I. General Information

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in glassware and all commercially available compounds including organic solvents were used as purchased without further purification. ¹H NMR was recorded on 400 MHz or 600 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectra. Chemical shifts (δ) are given in parts per million (ppm) and are referenced to residual solvent peaks (¹H NMR: CHCl₃ 7.26 ppm, DMSO 2.50 ppm). Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublet, t = triplet, td = triplet of doublet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constant (Hz), integration. HRMS (ESI) spectra were recorded on a Waters Q-ToF premier™ mass spectrometer. Reactions were monitored by TLC on glass-backed plates coated with a 0.2 mm thickness of silica gel 60 F254. Flash column chromatography was performed with silica gel 300–400 mesh.

II. General Experimental Process

Preparation of 3a-3h.

To a stirred solution of **1** (1.5 mmol, 1 equiv), **5** (20 mol%), H₂O (160 μL) in ethyl acetate (EA, 3.8 mL) was added methyl vinyl ketone (MVK) (**2a**, 1.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at rt for several hours until the reaction is complete as indicated by TLC. The reaction mixture was filtered, and the precipitation was washed with EA to afford **3**.

Preparation of 4a-4h and 4i.

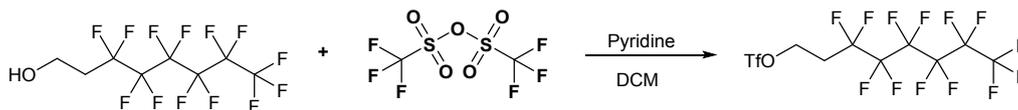
To a stirred solution of **1** (1.5 mmol, 1 equiv), **5** (20 mol%), *t*-BuOH (1.1 mL) ($V_{t\text{-BuOH}} : V_{\text{anisole}} = 1 : 2.5$) in anisole (2.7 mL) (For more inactive substrate **1a-1c**, 3.8 mL *i*-PrOH was directly used as solvents) was added **2b** or **2b'** (5.25 mmol, 3.5 equiv). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at rt for several hours until the reaction is complete as indicated by TLC. The reaction mixture was filtered, and the precipitation was washed with EA to afford **4**.

III. Preparation and recovery of fluororous-catalyst (**5**).

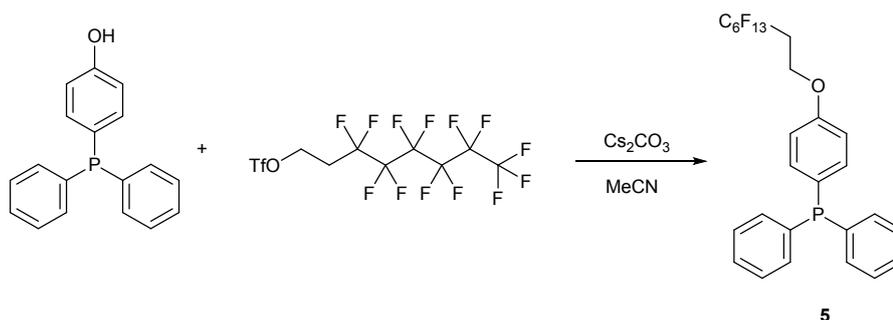
Preparation of (4-Hydroxyphenyl)-diphenylphosphine.

The (4-Hydroxyphenyl)-diphenylphosphine was prepared according to the known references.¹

Preparation of 2-(perfluorohexyl)ethyl triflate.²



This reaction was carried out in oven-dried round-bottomed flask with magnetic stirring under an argon atmosphere with freshly distilled dry solvents: To a stirred 0 °C solution of 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluoro-1-octanol (1 mmol) and pyridine (1.5 mmol) in DCM (3.3 mL) was added dropwise trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (1.3 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was then stirred at rt for several hours until the reaction is complete as indicated by TLC. The reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. Then, the resultant mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE/EA 45:1) to give pure 2-(perfluorohexyl)ethyl triflate (387 mg, 79%).



Preparation of fluorinated-triphenylphosphine (5).

To an oven-dried round-bottomed flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar were added Cs_2CO_3 (3.38 mmol), (4-hydroxyphenyl)-diphenylphosphine (1.69 mmol) in MeCN (15 mL) under Ar. After 10 min, the solution of 2-(perfluorohexyl)ethyl triflate (3.38 mmol) in MeCN (12 mL) was added dropwise and the mixture was kept stirring at rt for 16 h. The mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford **5** (81%).

Recovery of 5:

F-SPE procedure:

After 5 turns, the reaction mixture was filtrated to obtain the pure product, and the mother liquid was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in 5 mL of DCM and MeOH (v/v 1:1). 0.2 mL of the solution was taken and loaded on fluorinated silica gel

(FluorousFlash™ SPE cartridge 2 grams, 8 cc tube), then first washed with 15 mL of MeCN-H₂O (v/v: 1:1) to elute the organic-residue. The fluorous catalyst was obtained by eluting fluorous silica gel with 20 mL of THF. The evaporation of the THF filtrates in vacuo to afforded fluorous phosphine (70% yield of **5**), which could be used for the next cycle.

Catalytic performance of the recovered fluorous phosphine:

To a stirred solution of **1a** (0.15 mmol, 19.7 mg, 1 equiv), fluorous phosphine (obtained above) in *i*-PrOH (0.38 mL) was added methyl acrylate (MA) (**2b**, 0.525 mmol, 3.5 equiv). The resulting solution was stirred at rt for 3 h. Then the mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in 0.4 mL of CDCl₃ to detect the yield (89 % yield).

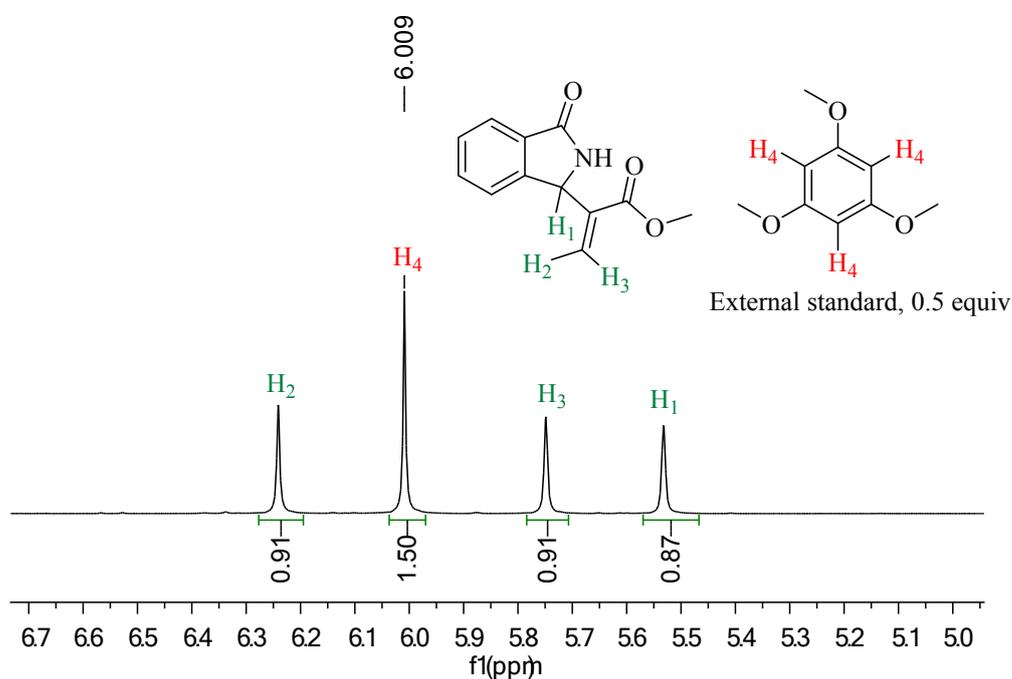
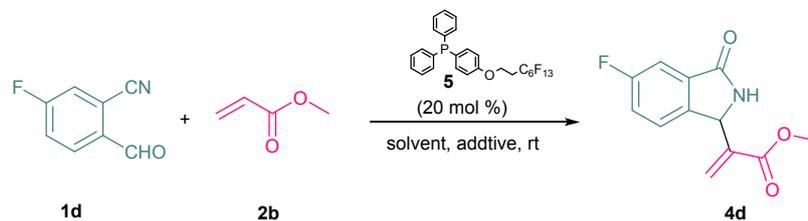


Fig. S1 Catalytic performance of **5a**: ¹H NMR of reaction mixture, the mesitoxybenzene (0.5 equiv) was added followed by adding 0.4 mL CDCl₃

IV. Determination of the optimal reaction conditions of MA

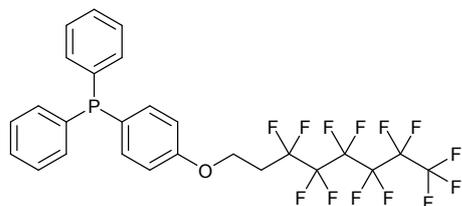


Entry	Solvents	Additive	T	MA	Yield ^d
1	EA	-	24 h	1.2 eq	trace
2	Anisole	-	24 h	1.2 eq	trace
3 ^b	EA	Water	24 h	1.2 eq	< 10%
4 ^b	Anisole	Water	24 h	1.2 eq	< 10%
5 ^b	EA	Water	24 h	2.4 eq	14%
6 ^b	Anisole	Water	24 h	2.4 eq	15%
7 ^b	Anisole	Water	24 h	3.5 eq	23%
8	<i>i</i> -PrOH	-	3 h	3.5 eq	47%
9	<i>t</i> -BuOH	-	3 h	3.5 eq	78%
10 ^c	Anisole	<i>t</i> -BuOH	12 h	3.5 eq	92% (88%) ^e

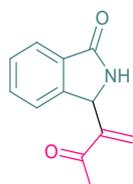
Table S1^a

^aUnless otherwise noted, all reactions were conducted with mixtures of 2-cyano-4-fluorobenzaldehyde (**1d**, 0.15 mmol, 1 equiv), methyl acrylate (**2b**, 0.53 mmol, 3.5 equiv) and the catalyst (**5**, 0.03 mmol, 20 mol%) in solvent (0.38 mL) at rt. ^b $V_{\text{solvent}} : V_{\text{Water}} = 28 : 1$. ^cAnisole: 0.27 mL, *t*-BuOH: 0.11 mL. ^dDetermined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. ^eFiltration yield.

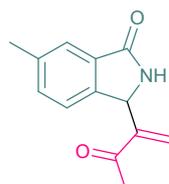
V. Characterization of the products.



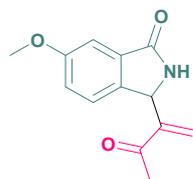
(4-((3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctyl)oxy)phenyl)diphenylphosphane (5): White solid, mp: 48-50 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35-7.23 (m, 12H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.70-2.55 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.8, 137.7 (d, *J*_{P-C} = 10.6 Hz), 135.7 (d, *J*_{P-C} = 21.3 Hz), 133.5 (d, *J*_{P-C} = 19.3 Hz), 128.9 (d, *J*_{P-C} = 6.1 Hz), 128.6, 128.5 (d, *J*_{P-C} = 4.4 Hz), 114.8 (d, *J*_{P-C} = 8.0 Hz), 60.0, 31.3. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) -6.43. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -80.8 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz 3F), -113.2 (m, 2F), -121.8 (m, 2F), -122.8 (m, 2F), -123.5 (m, 2F), -126.1 (m, 2F). HRMS: calcd. for C₂₆H₁₉F₁₃OP⁺ [M + H]⁺: 625.0949; Found: 625.0960.



3-(3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one (3a):³ White solid, mp: 166-168 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.20, 171.02, 146.19, 146.02, 132.08, 131.18, 128.47, 126.15, 123.99, 123.66, 55.27, 26.09. HRMS: calcd. for C₁₂H₁₁NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: 224.0682; Found: 224.0684.



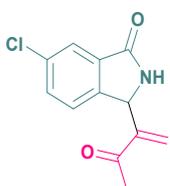
3-(5-methyl-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one (3b): White solid, mp: 135-137 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.22, 171.18, 146.32, 143.28, 138.53, 133.03, 131.26, 125.93, 124.12, 123.34, 55.11, 26.08, 21.22. HRMS: calcd. for C₁₃H₁₃NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: 238.0838; Found: 238.0838.



3-(5-methoxy-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one (3c): White solid, mp: 141-143 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 5.63 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.25, 170.96, 160.20, 146.27, 138.13, 132.57, 125.93, 124.56, 120.36, 106.53, 55.67, 54.99, 26.13. HRMS: calcd. for C₁₃H₁₃NNaO₃ [M + Na]⁺: 254.0788; Found: 254.0789.



3-(5-fluoro-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one (3d): White solid, mp: 108-110 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (td, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.12, 170.08 (d, ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 3.3 Hz), 162.98 (d, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 248.1 Hz), 145.93, 141.54 (d, ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 2.5 Hz), 133.30 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 8.3 Hz), 126.18, 125.32 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 8.3 Hz), 119.58 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 23.6 Hz), 110.59 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 23.6 Hz), 55.15, 26.07. HRMS: calcd. for C₁₂H₁₀FNNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: 242.0588; Found: 242.0591.



3-(5-chloro-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one (3e): White solid, mp: 127-130 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 2, 1H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.06, 169.79, 145.77, 144.24, 134.82, 132.95, 132.27, 126.32, 125.02, 124.08, 67.06, 55.21, 26.07. HRMS: calcd. for C₁₂H₁₀ClNNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: 258.0292; Found: 258.0292.



3-(5-bromo-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one (3f): White solid, mp: 147-149 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 1.6, 1H), 7.65 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.09, 169.62, 145.64, 144.71, 135.09, 133.17, 127.13, 126.40, 125.35, 122.61, 55.23, 26.10. HRMS: calcd. for C₁₂H₁₀BrNNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: 301.9787; Found: 301.9788.

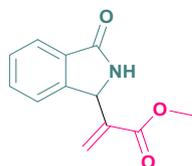


3-(6-fluoro-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one (3g): White solid, mp: 130-132 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 5 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.10, 169.78, 165.35 (d, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 252.3 Hz), 148.44 (d,

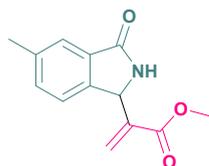
$^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 10.0$ Hz), 145.75, 127.04 (d, $^4J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.2$ Hz), 126.42, 126.04 (d, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.8$ Hz), 116.36 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 23.6$ Hz), 111.22 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 24.7$ Hz), 54.88 (d, $^4J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.6$ Hz), 26.08. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{FNNaO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 242.0588; Found: 242.0586.



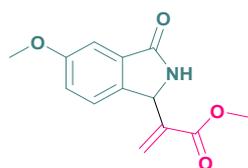
3-(6-bromo-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one (3h): White solid, mp: 136-139 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.70 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.01, 170.14, 147.86, 145.62, 132.01, 130.01, 127.10, 126.97, 126.55, 125.35, 54.95, 26.07. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{BrNNaO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 301.9787; Found: 301.9789.



Methyl 2-(3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)acrylate (4a):³ White solid, mp: 173-175 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 5.81 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.81, 166.40, 145.46, 137.90, 132.08, 131.37, 128.58, 126.30, 124.03, 123.52, 56.45, 52.36. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{NNaO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 240.0631; Found: 260.0623.

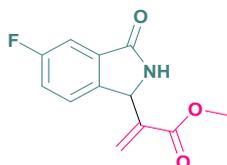


Methyl 2-(5-methyl-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)acrylate (4b): White solid, mp: 165-167 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.39-7.31 (m, 2 H), 7.00 (s, 1 H), 6.30 (s, 1 H), 5.79 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 1 H), 5.54 (s, 1 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 2.44 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 169.94, 165.77, 143.63, 138.53, 138.14, 132.89, 132.16, 126.52, 123.40, 122.96, 56.48, 52.39, 21.09. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{NNaO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 254.0788; Found: 254.0788.

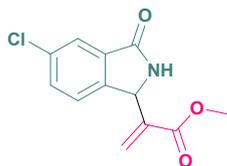


Methyl 2-(5-methoxy-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)acrylate (4c): White solid, mp: 146-148 °C ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.38-7.30 (m, 2 H), 7.20 (s, 1 H),

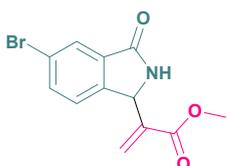
7.11 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.29 (s, 1 H), 5.79 (s, 1 H), 5.52 (s, 1 H), 3.86 (s, 3 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (101 MHz,) 170.68, 166.40, 160.28, 138.02, 137.54, 132.79, 126.04, 124.42, 120.36, 106.61, 56.09, 55.67, 52.36. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{NNaO}_4$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 270.0737; Found: 270.0739.



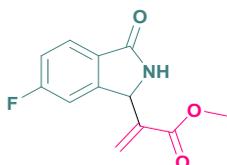
Methyl 2-(5-fluoro-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)acrylate (4d): White solid, mp: 140-142 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$) δ 9.00 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.38 (m, 3H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 5.92 (s, 1H), 5.51 (s, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$) δ 168.62 (d, $^4J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.5$ Hz), 165.51, 162.47 (d, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 244.7$ Hz), 142.03, 137.94, 134.38 (d, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.3$ Hz), 127.26, 125.21 (d, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.6$ Hz), 119.27 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 23.5$ Hz), 109.67 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 23.2$ Hz), 56.50, 52.25. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{FNNaO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 258.0537; Found: 258.0541.



Methyl 2-(5-chloro-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)acrylate (4e): White solid, mp: 143-145 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 5.80 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.56 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$) 168.34, 165.42, 144.92, 137.67, 134.23, 133.38, 131.90, 127.61, 125.08, 122.86, 56.66, 52.25. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClNNaO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 274.0241; Found: 274.0241.

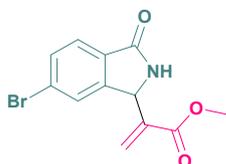


Methyl 2-(5-bromo-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)acrylate (4f): White solid, mp: 147-148 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.98 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 5.81 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.54 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) 169.13, 166.20, 144.08, 137.42, 135.11, 133.41, 127.27, 126.61, 125.18, 122.80, 56.33, 52.47. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{BrNNaO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 317.9736; Found: 317.9740.



Methyl 2-(6-fluoro-3-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)acrylate (4g): White solid,

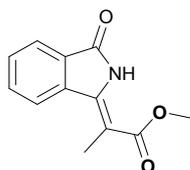
mp: 142-144 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 5.84 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 5.56 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, d₆-DMSO) δ 168.79, 165.51, 164.61 (d, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 248.3 Hz), 148.93 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 10.0 Hz), 137.73, 128.48 (d, ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 1.6 Hz), 127.65, 125.51 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 9.9 Hz), 116.11 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 23.5 Hz), 110.48 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 24.4 Hz), 56.54 (d, ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 2.5 Hz), 52.32. HRMS: calcd. for C₁₂H₁₀FNNaO₃ [M + Na]⁺: 258.0537; Found: 258.0539.



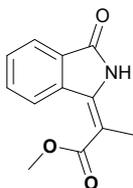
Methyl 2-(6-bromo-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)acrylate (4h): White solid, mp: 146-148 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 5.58 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, d₆-DMSO) δ 169.10, 165.72, 148.75, 137.78, 131.96, 131.71, 128.24, 126.47, 125.78, 125.40, 56.84, 52.58. HRMS: calcd. for C₁₂H₁₀BrNNaO₃ [M + Na]⁺: 317.9736; Found: 317.9737.



Benzyl 2-(3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindol-1-yl)acrylate (4i): White solid, mp: 122-124 °C. ¹H NMR (400 Hz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.54 (dt, *J* = 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.33 (m, 1H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 5.82 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 5.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.63, 165.72, 145.33, 137.90, 135.26, 132.07, 131.30, 128.65, 128.57, 128.49, 128.30, 126.67, 124.04, 123.49, 67.17, 56.45. HRMS: calcd. for C₁₈H₁₅NNaO₃ [M + Na]⁺: 316.0944; Found: 316.0952.



Methyl (Z)-2-(3-oxoisindolin-1-ylidene)propanoate (4a-s1): White solid, ¹H NMR (400 Hz, CDCl₃) δ 10.24 (s, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.70-7.55 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.96, 167.52, 143.24, 136.49, 132.43, 130.78, 130.39, 125.45, 124.02, 104.37, 52.26, 13.40. HRMS: calcd. for C₁₂H₁₁NNaO₃ [M + Na]⁺: 240.0631; Found: 260.0628.



Methyl (E)-2-(3-oxoisindolin-1-ylidene)propanoate (4a-s2): White solid, ^1H NMR (400 Hz, CDCl_3) δ 8.83 (s, 1H), 8.41(d, $J = 8$ Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.49 (m, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.68, 168.33, 140.20, 134.98, 132.88, 130.76, 129.96, 126.16, 123.32, 108.89, 52.16, 16.05. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{NNaO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 240.0631; Found: 260.0630.

VI. Mechanistic study.

Capture of intermediate 6'

To a stirred solution of **1a** (0.3 mmol, 2 equiv), **5** (2 equiv) in *i*-PrOH (0.75 mL) was added methyl acrylate (**2b**, 0.15 mmol, 1 equiv). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 15 mins. The intermediate **6'** was captured by ESI-MS as shown in Fig. S2.

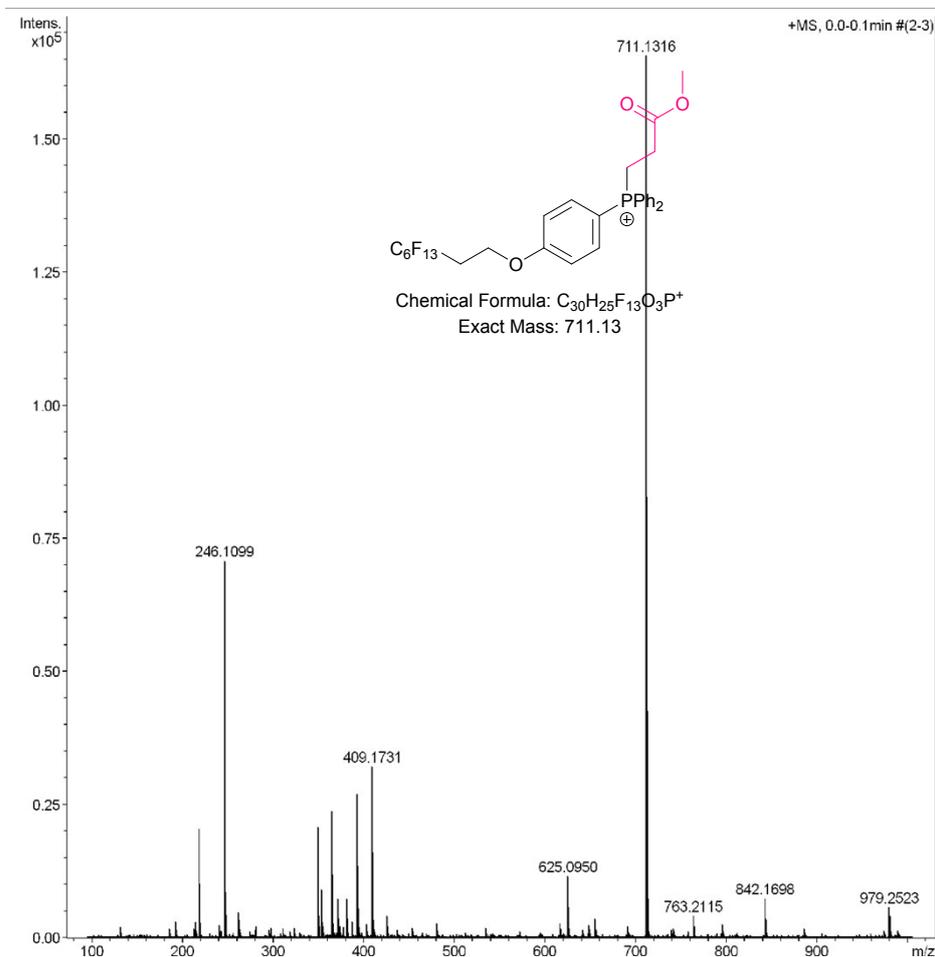
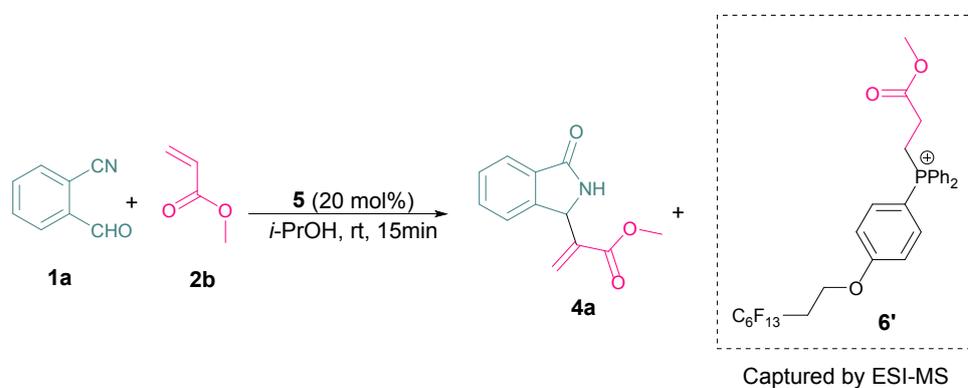


Fig. S2 ESI(+)-MS plot of the reaction: t=15 min.

Besides, the intermediate **6'** was obtained as shown in Fig. S3, A and B. Reaction procedure: To a stirred solution of **5** (0.15 mmol, 1 equiv), *p*-nitrophenol (PNP, 1.8 equiv) and EA (0.5 mL) was added methyl acrylate (**2b**, 3.5 equiv). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 3 h.

It should be noted that no obvious change was observed when adding **6'** to the solution of **2a** in *i*-PrOH, even prolonging the reaction time to 24 h (Fig. S3, C).

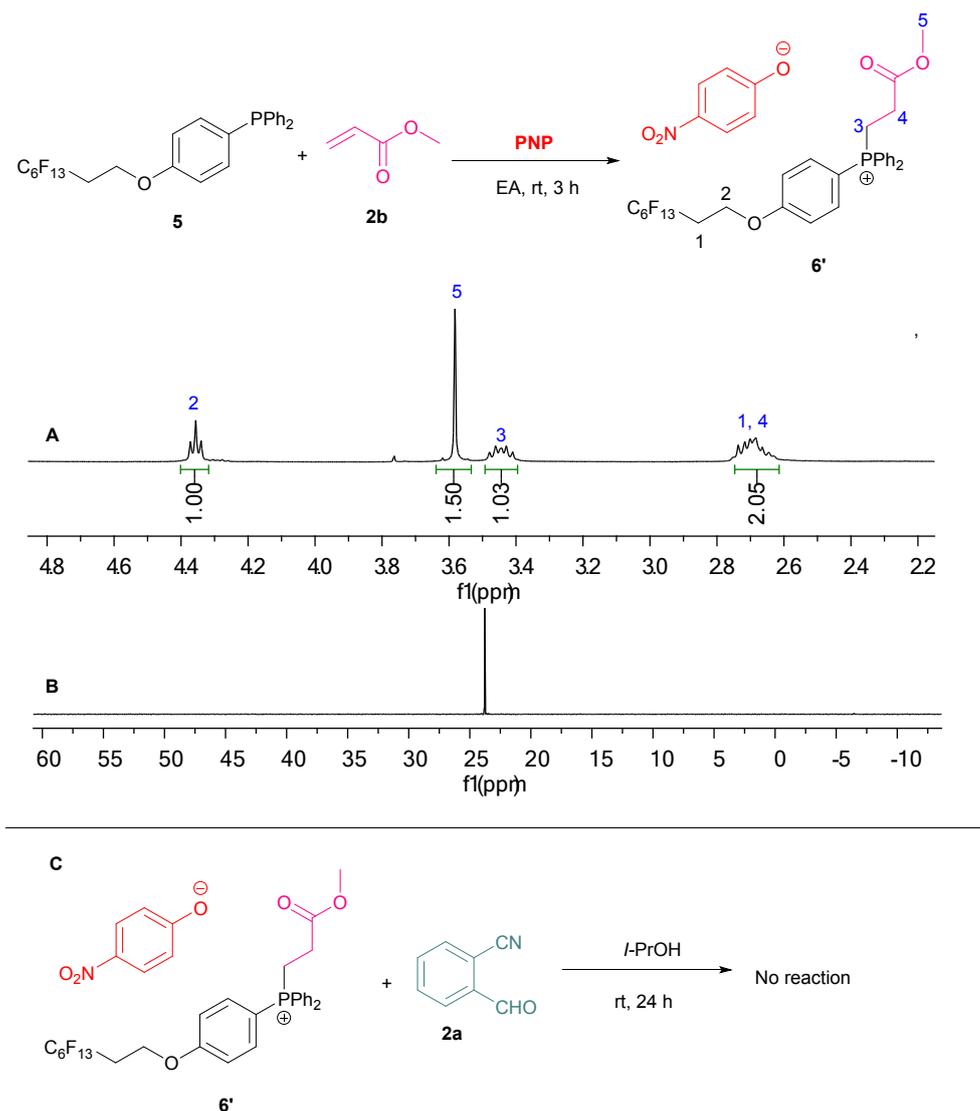


Fig. S3: A) ¹H NMR spectrum of **6'**; B) ³¹P NMR spectrum of **6'**; C) Further investigation of its reactivity.

Capture of intermediate **7**

To a stirred solution of **1a** (0.15 mmol, 1 equiv), **5** (1 equiv) in EA (0.38 mL) was added methyl acrylate (**2b**, 0.15 mmol, 1 equiv). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 5 mins. The intermediate **7** was markedly captured by ESI-MS as shown in Fig. S4.

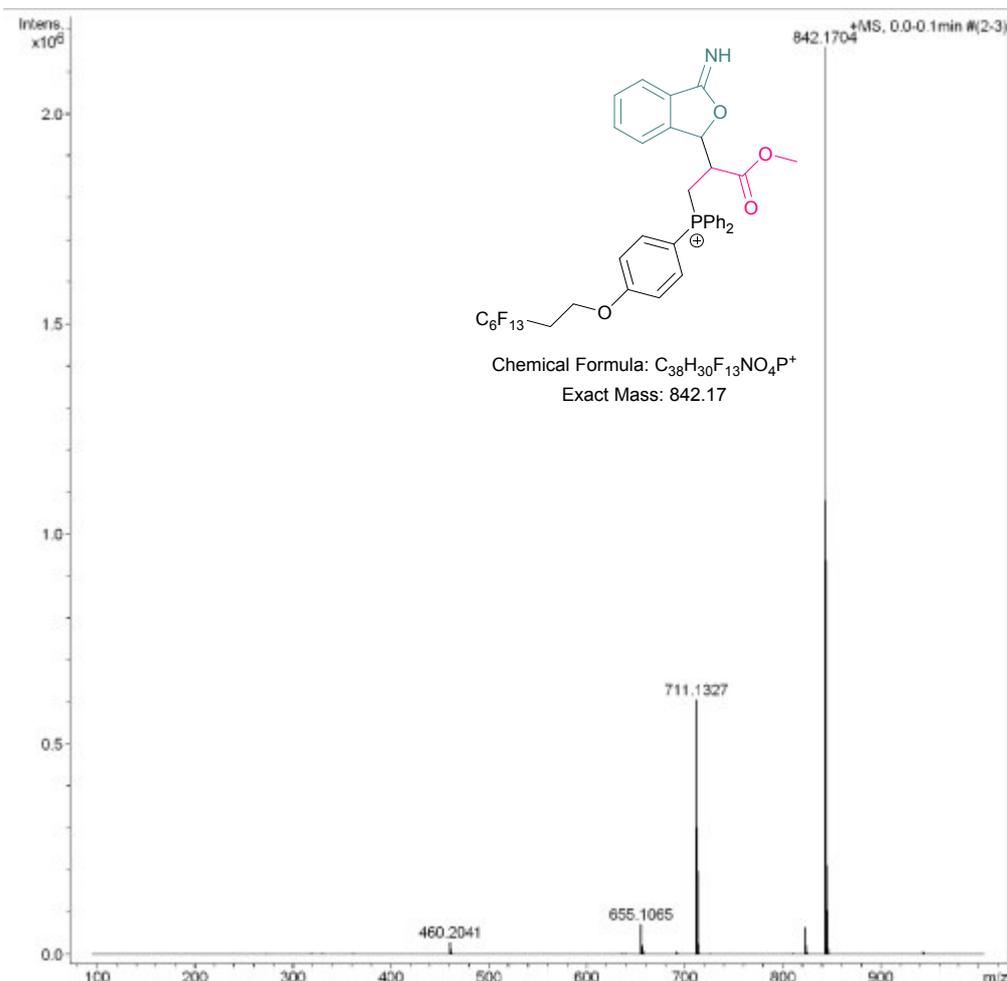
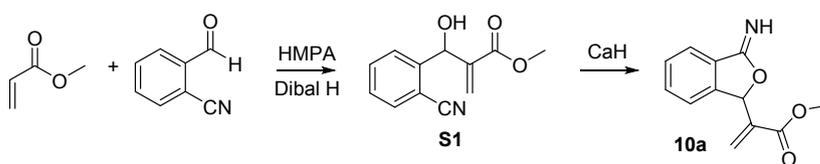
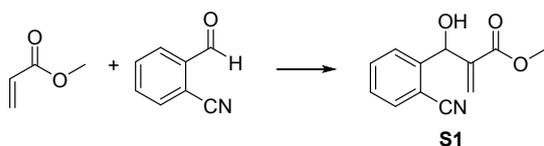


Fig. S4 ESI(+)-MS plot of the reaction: t=5 min.

Control experiment

1. Synthesis of possible intermediate 10

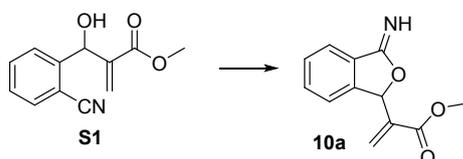




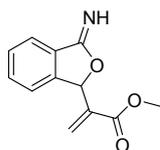
To a stirred solution of HMPA (0.391 mL, 2.25 mmol) in THF (8 mL) was dropped a solution of DIBAL H (1.65 mmol) in hexane (1 M, 1.65 mL) at 0 °C. After 0.5 h, methyl propynoate (0.133 mL, 1.50 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h, and then butyraldehyde (0.265 mL, 3.00 mmol) was added. The mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 15 h at the same temperature. The resulting solution was then treated with 5 mL of 1 N HCl solution, and extracted with 100 mL of ether. The organic layer was successively washed with 1 N HCl solution (10 mL×3) and saturated NaHCO₃ solution (10 mL×1). The ether solution was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc : PE = 1 : 5 v/v) to give compound **S1** 207 mg as oil (13%).



Methyl 2-((2-cyanophenyl)(hydroxy)methyl)acrylate (S1): ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 – 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.1, 165.3, 148.4, 136.4, 134.3, 129.5, 127.6, 125.8, 125.3, 122.8, 78.7, 52.3; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 3203, 1709, 1630; HRMS: calcd. for C₁₃H₁₃NNaO₃ [M + Na]⁺ 240.0631, found 240.0623.



To a stirred solution of compound **S1** (200 mg, 0.92 mmol) in THF (4.6 mL), CaH (39 mg, 0.92 mmol) was added in batches at -78 °C under Ar atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 1 h, and then quenched by saturated NH₄Cl solution, and extracted with 50 mL of ether. The organic layer was successively washed with H₂O (10 mL×3) and brine (10 mL×1). The ether solution was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc : PE = 1 : 3 v/v) to give compound **10a** 181 mg as oil (90 %).

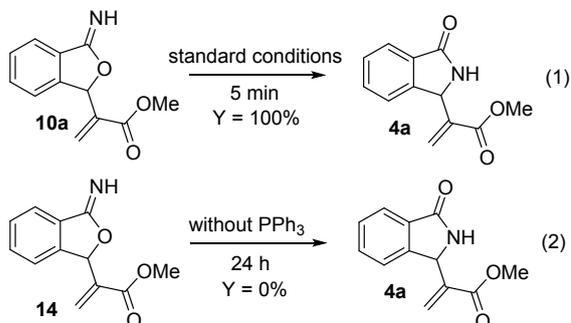


Methyl 2-(3-imino-1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran-1-yl)acrylate (10a):

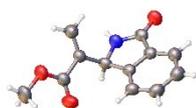
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 170.3, 167.0, 154.6, 147.5, 135.1, 129.9, 129.5, 127.6, 125.9, 125.8, 79.1, 52.4; HRMS: calcd. for C₁₃H₁₃NNaO₃ [M + Na]⁺ 240.0631, found 240.0633.

2. Control experiment:



To gain some insight of the tandem reaction, two control experiments were carried out. The imidate **10a** was converted into isoindolinone **4a** quantitatively within 5 min in presence of 0.2 equiv. of PPh₃ [Eq. (1)], while no reaction happened in the absence of PPh₃ [Eq. (2)], indicating that imidate **10** may be a possible intermediate in the formation of final product **3** or **4**.



VII. Crystal structure of 4a.

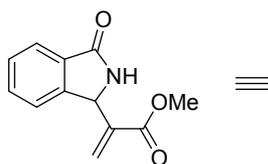


Fig. S5 ORTEP drawing (30%) of the crystal structure of compound **4a**.

Table S2. The single crystal data of compound **4a**

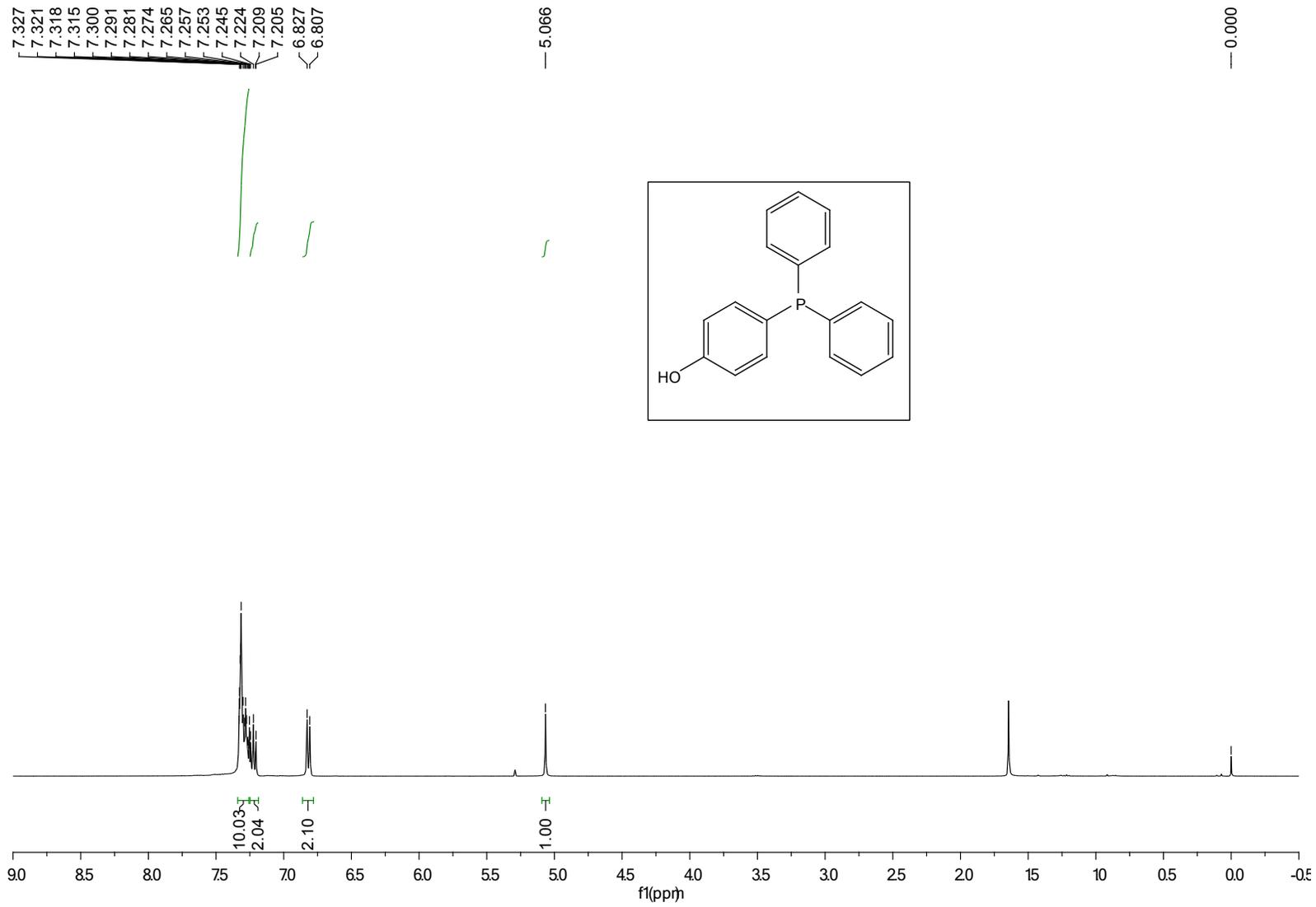
Identification code	exp_11203
Empirical formula	C ₁₂ H ₁₁ NO ₃
Formula weight	217.22
Temperature/K	293(2)
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1

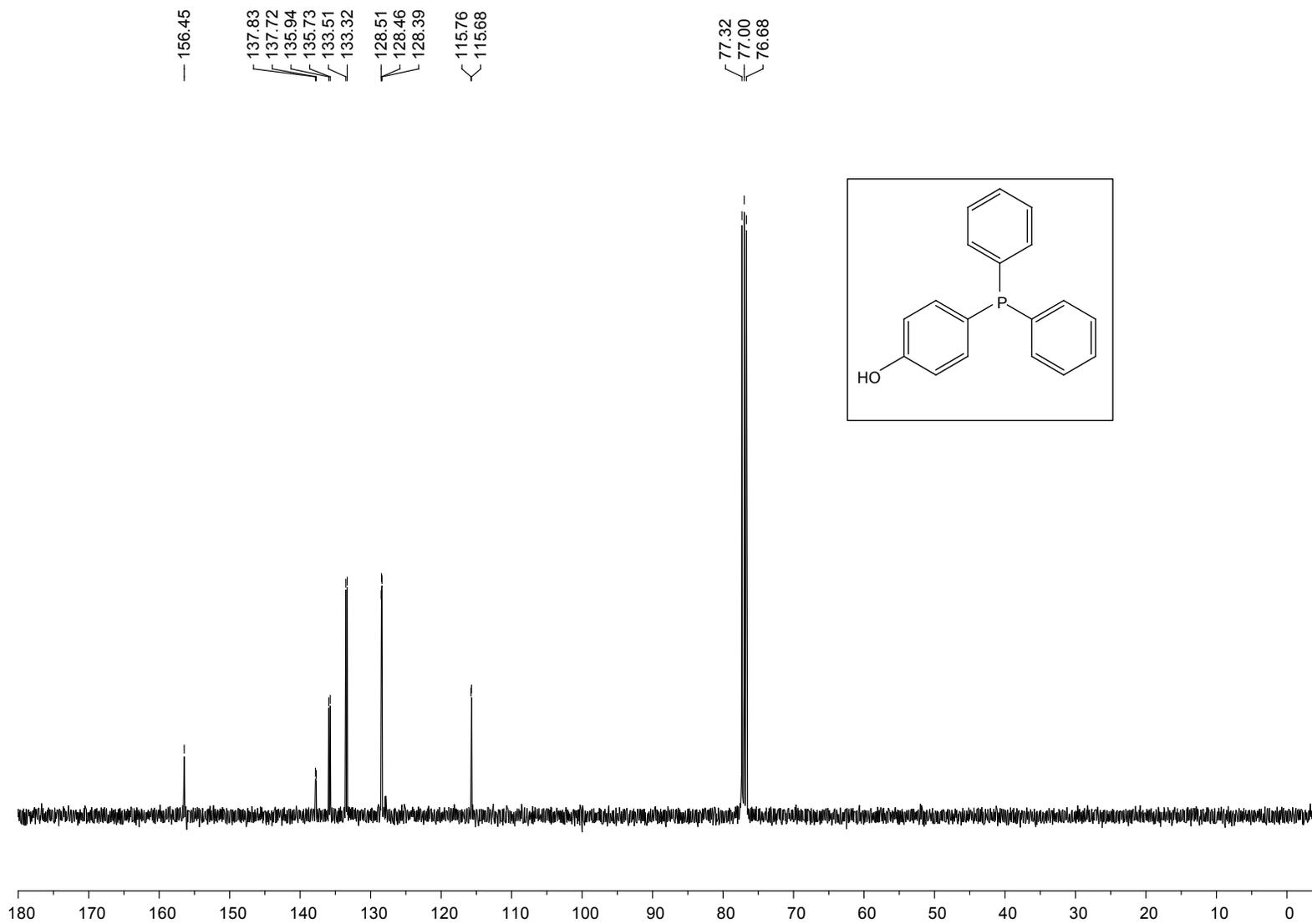
a/Å	4.1648(3)
b/Å	10.9613(6)
c/Å	12.0440(7)
α /°	105.854(5)
β /°	90.015(6)
γ /°	94.640(6)
Volume/Å ³	527.04(6)
Z	2
ρ calcg/cm ³	1.369
μ /mm ⁻¹	0.824
F (000)	228.0
Crystal size/mm ³	? × ? × ?
Radiation	CuK α (λ = 1.54184)
2 θ range for data collection/°	7.632 to 144.658
Index ranges	-5 \leq h \leq 3, -13 \leq k \leq 13, -14 \leq l \leq 14
Reflections collected	7998
Independent reflections	2037 [Rint = 0.0266, Rsigma = 0.0224]
Data/restraints/parameters	2037/0/154
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.030
Final R indexes [I \geq 2 σ (I)]	R1 = 0.0420, wR2 = 0.1076
Final R indexes [all data]	R1 = 0.0548, wR2 = 0.1181
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	0.15/-0.17

VIII. Reference

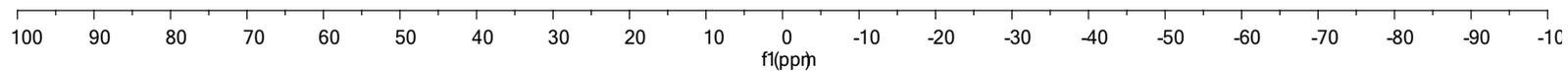
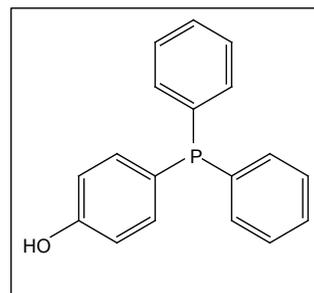
- 1 a) F. Sieber, P. J. Wentworth, J. D. Toker, A. D. Wentworth, W. A. Metz, N. N. Reed and K. D. Janda, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1999, **64**, 5188-5192; b) D. E. Bergbreiter and Y. C. Yang, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2010, **75**, 873–878.
- 2 T. Bríza, J. Kvícala, P. Mysík, O. Paleta, J. Cermák, *Synlett* 2001, 685-687.
- 3 Y. S. Song, C. H. Lee and K. J. Lee, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, 2003, **40**, 939-941.

IX. NMR spectra of the products.





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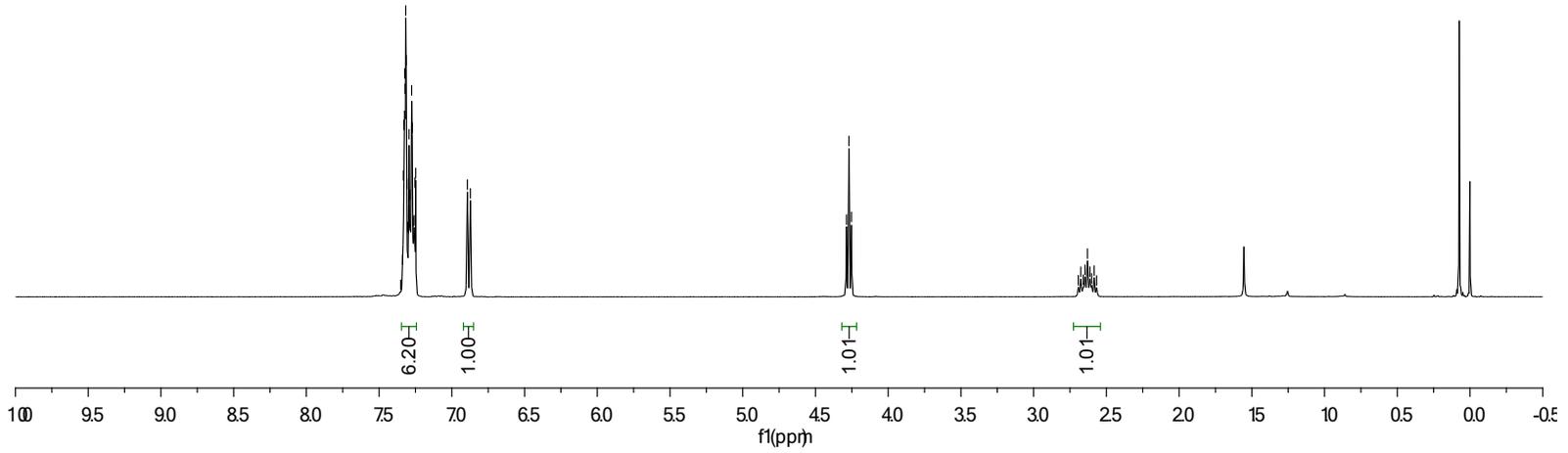
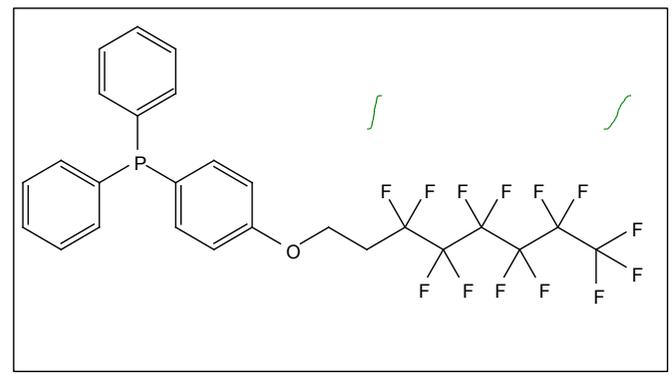


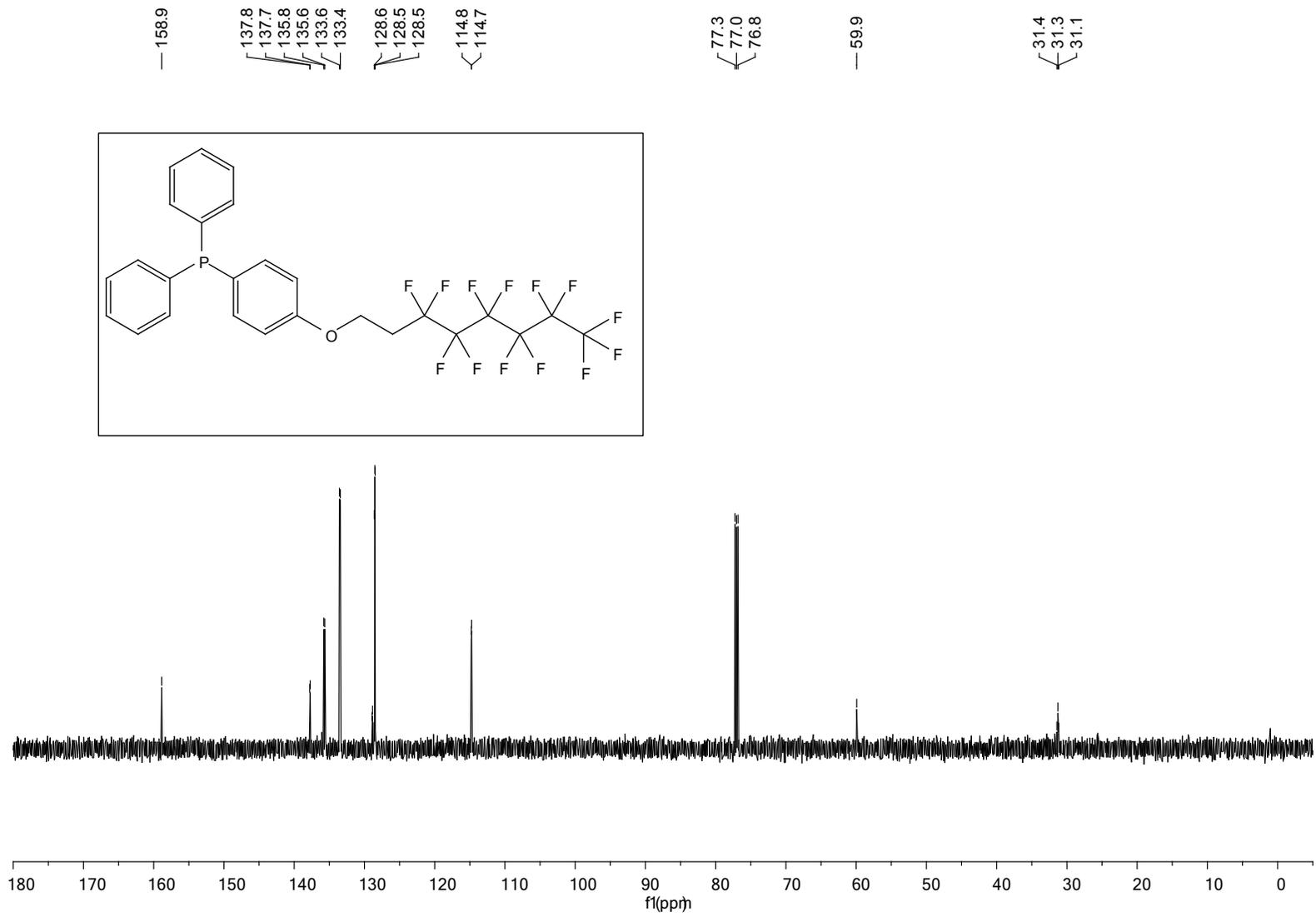
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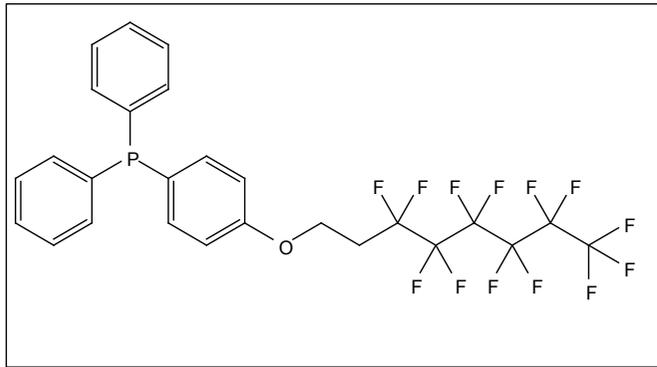
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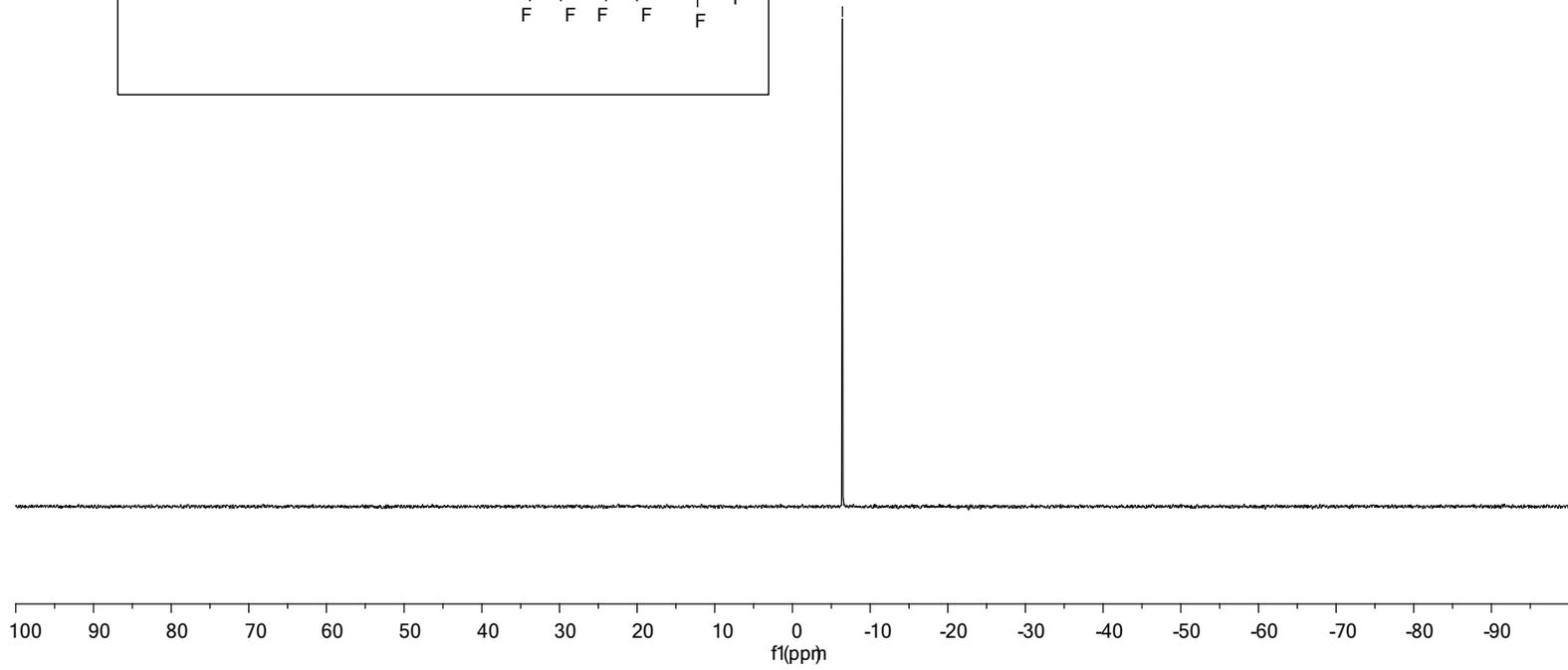
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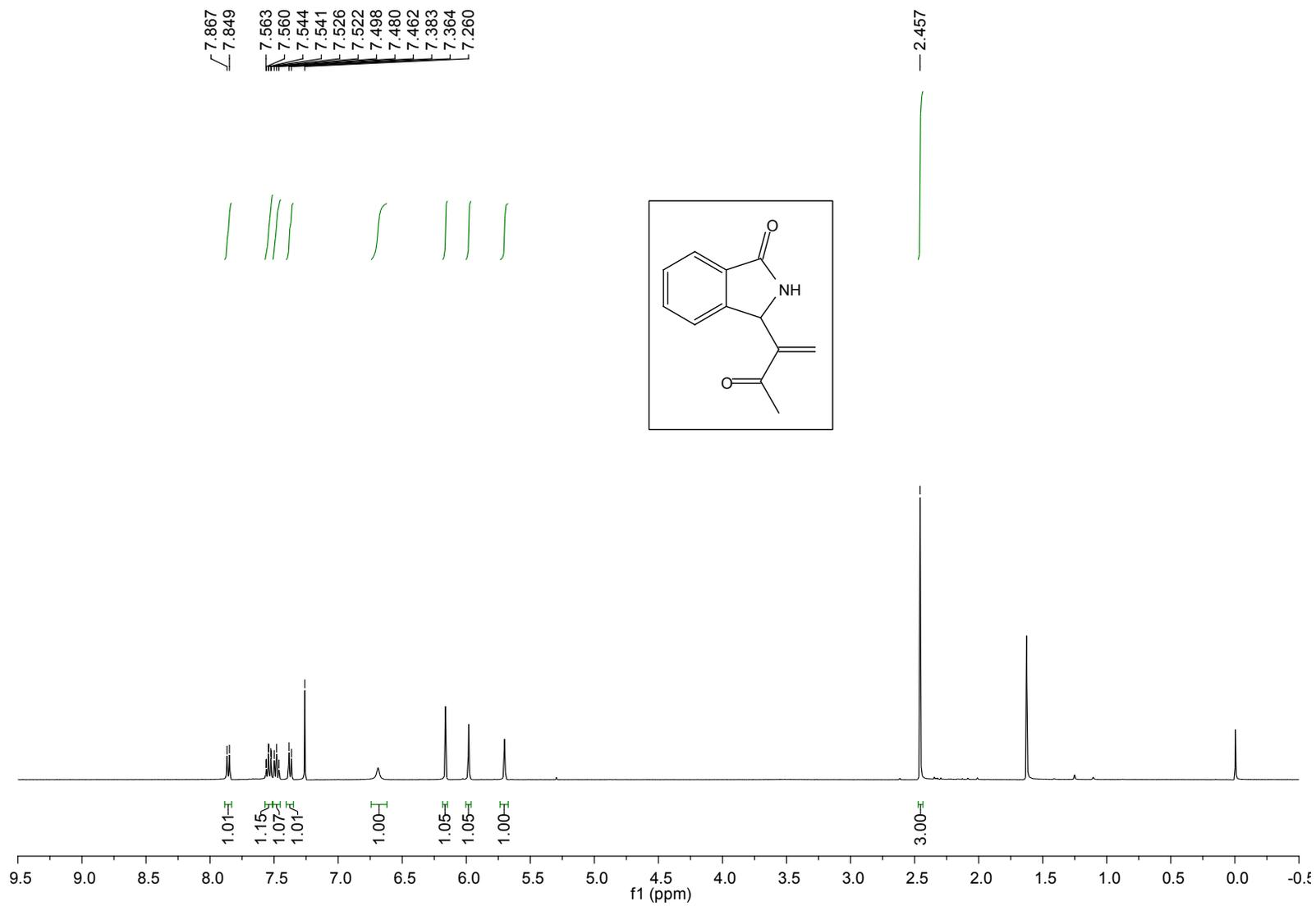


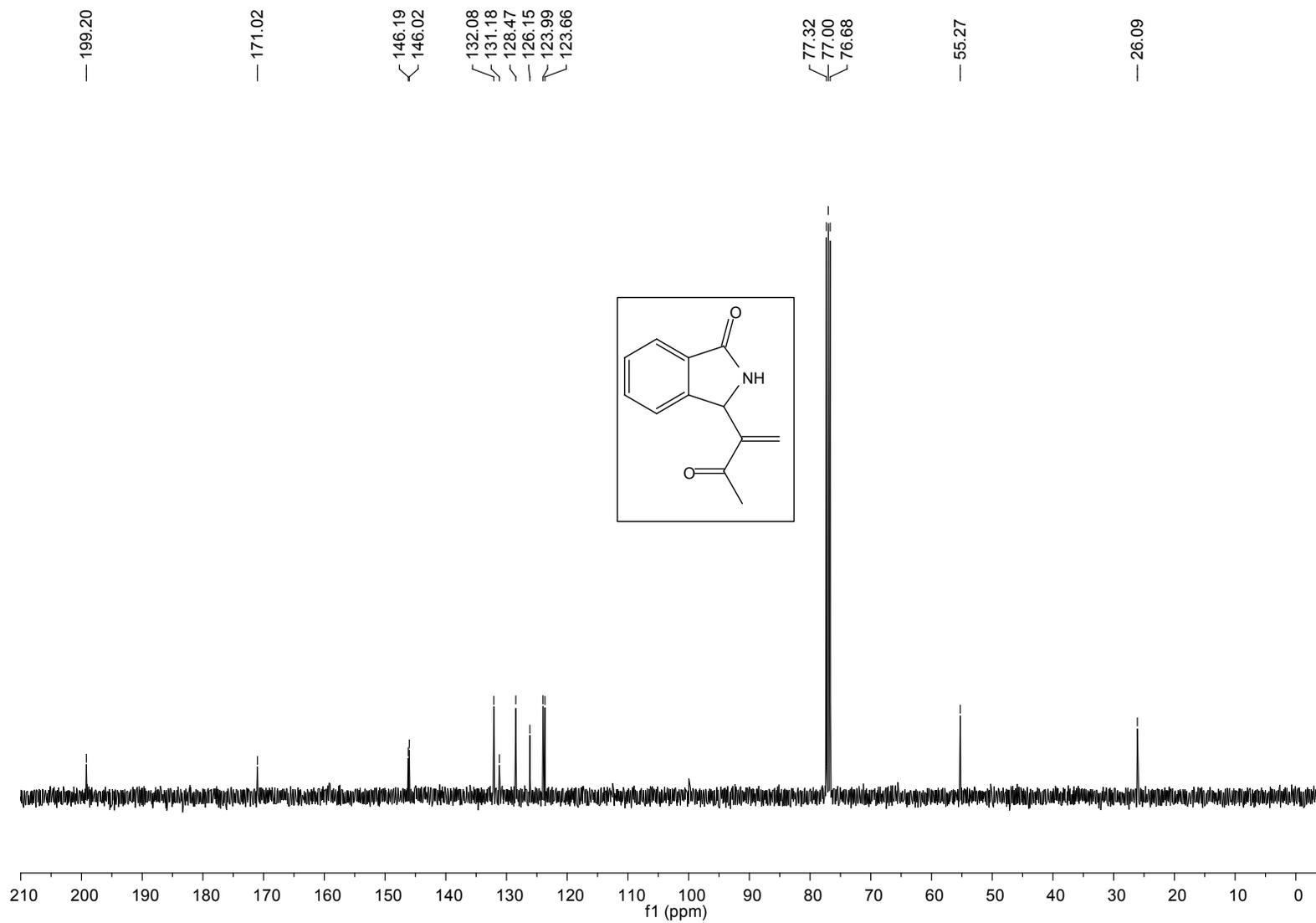


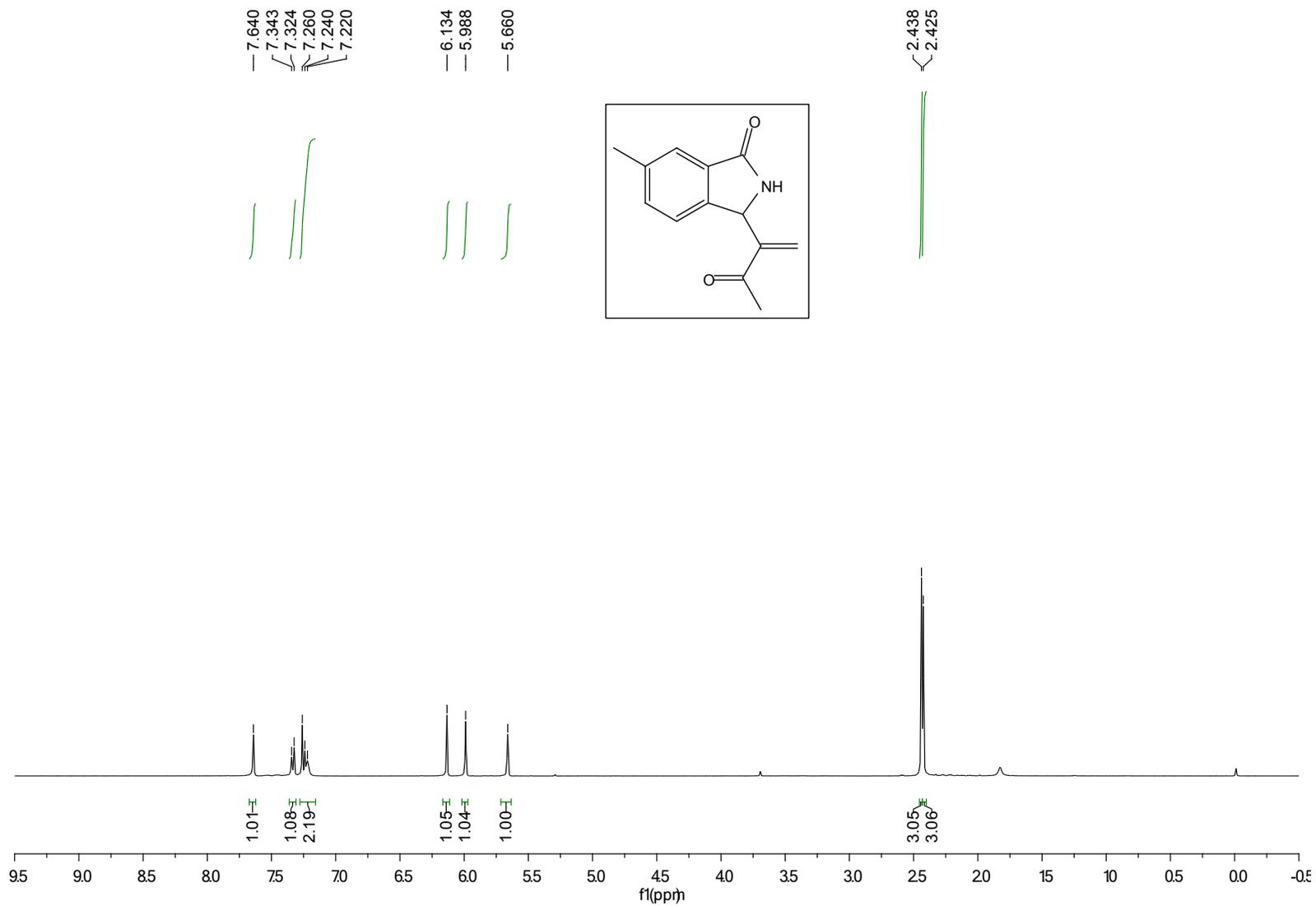


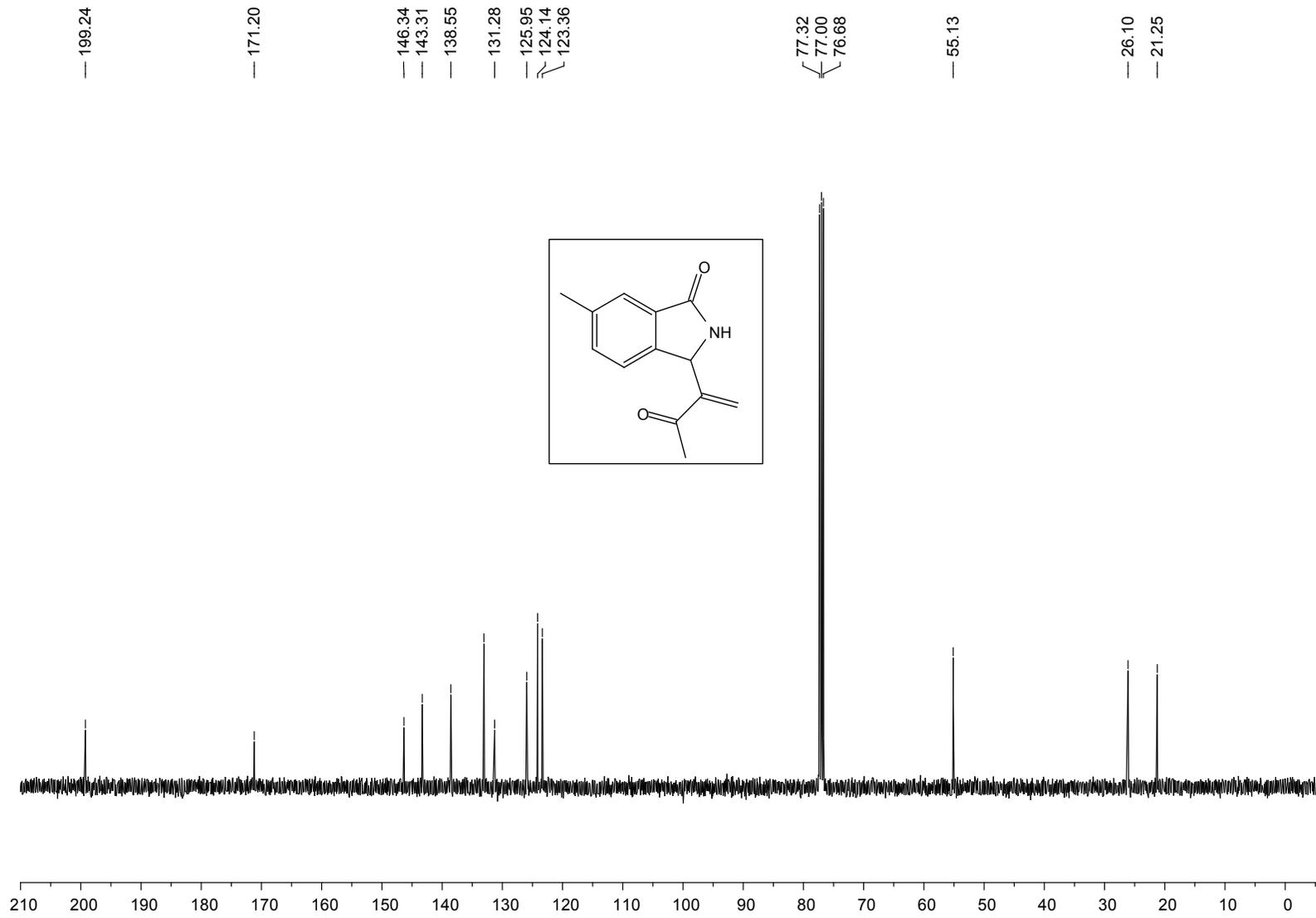
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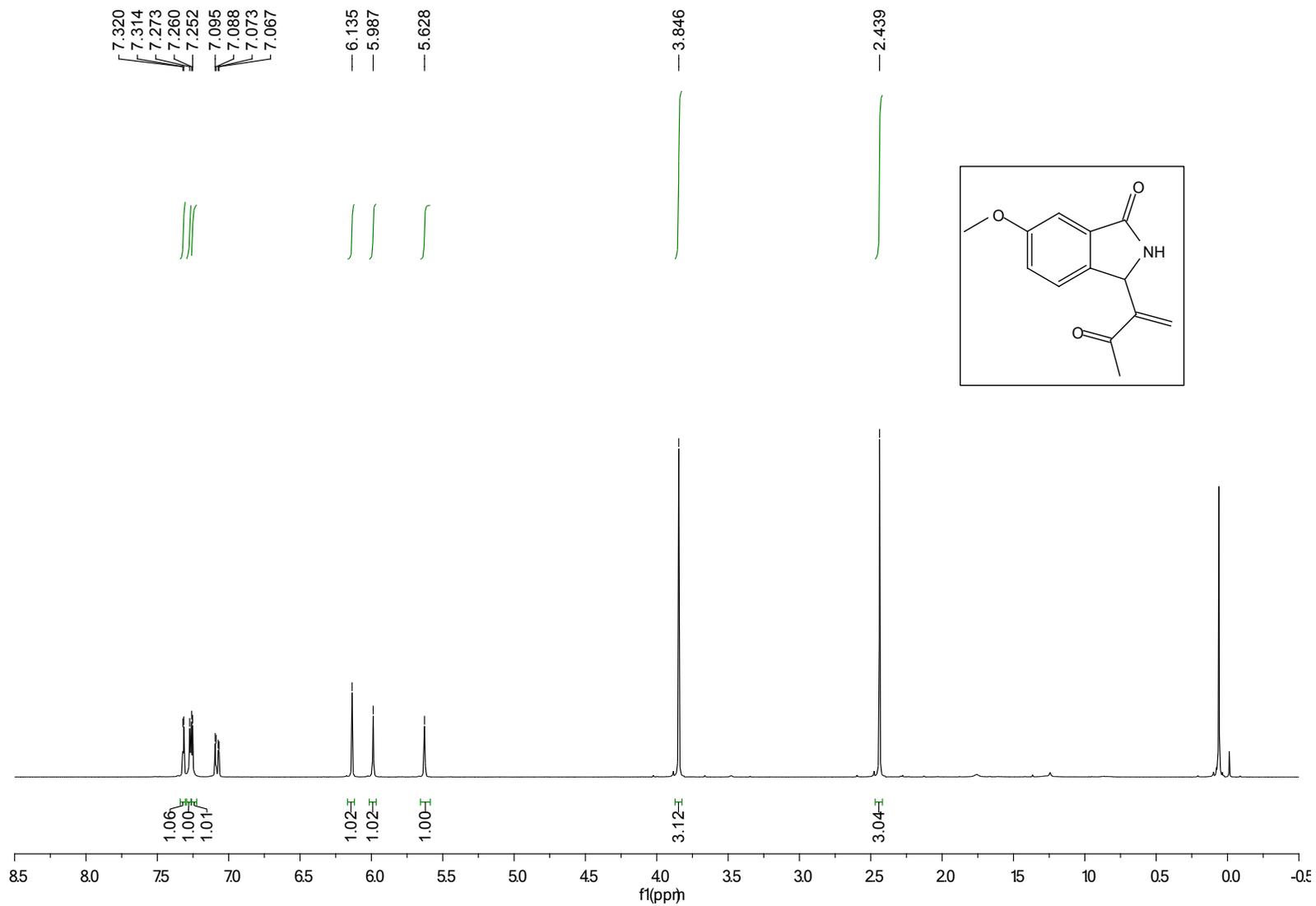


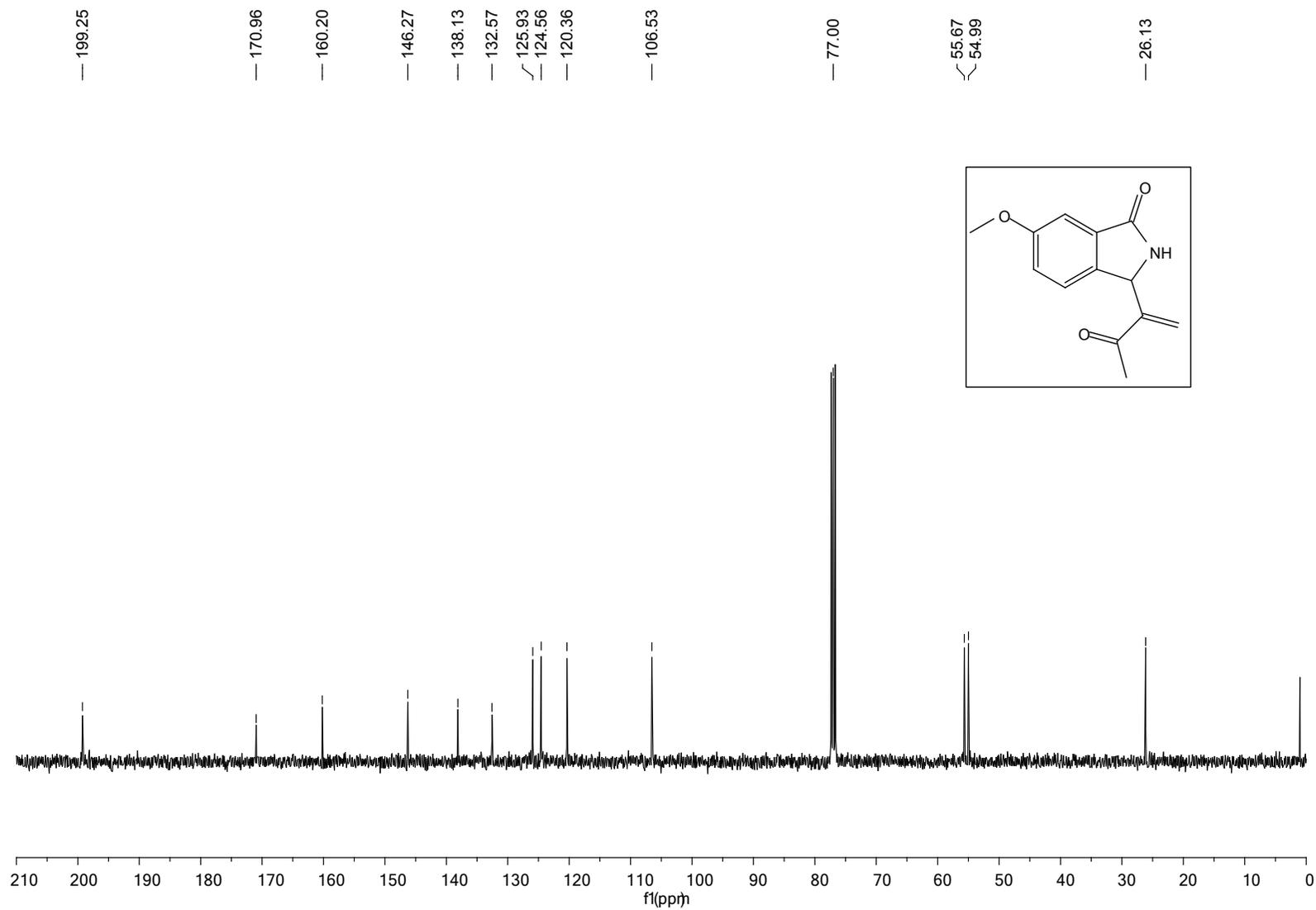


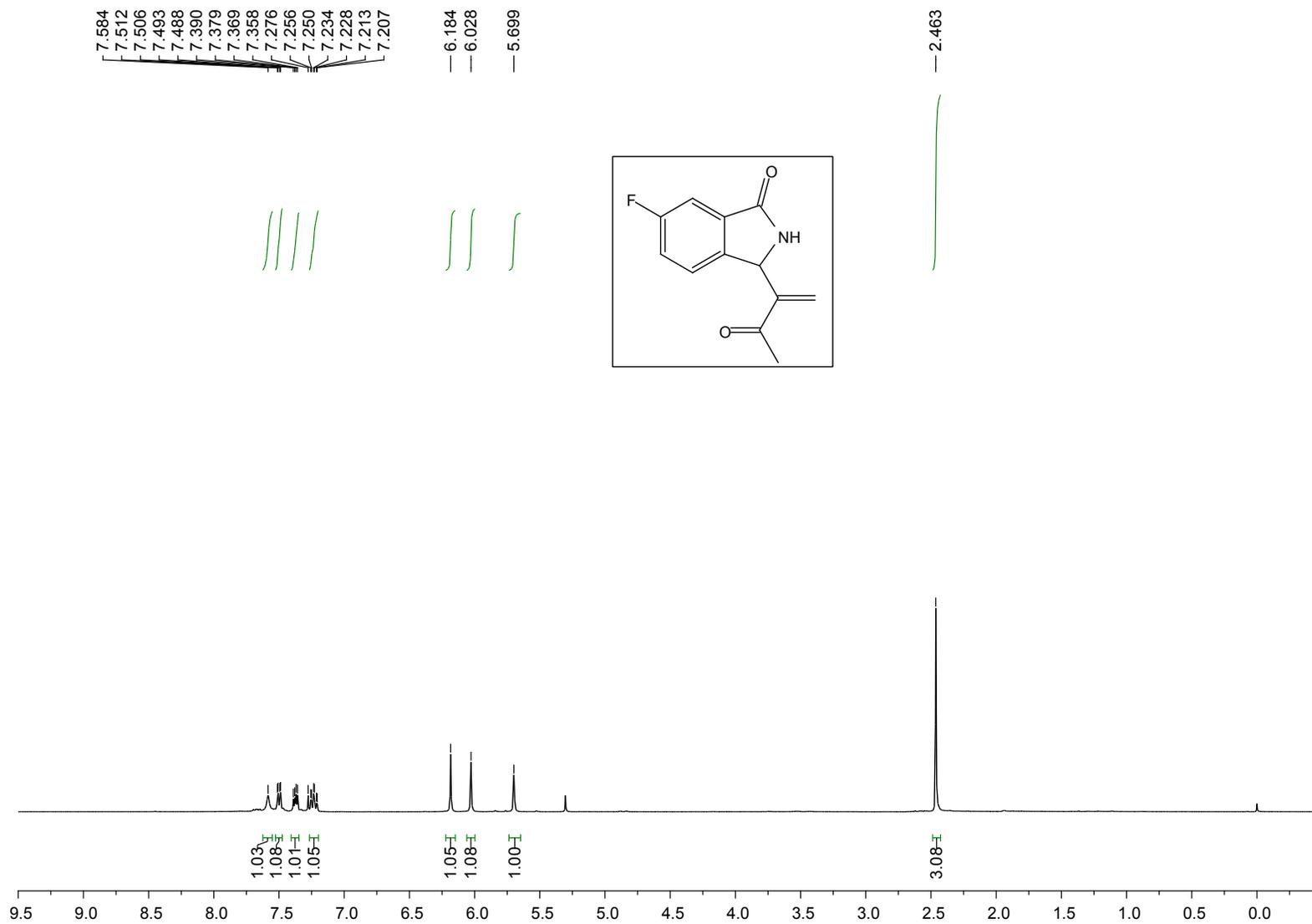


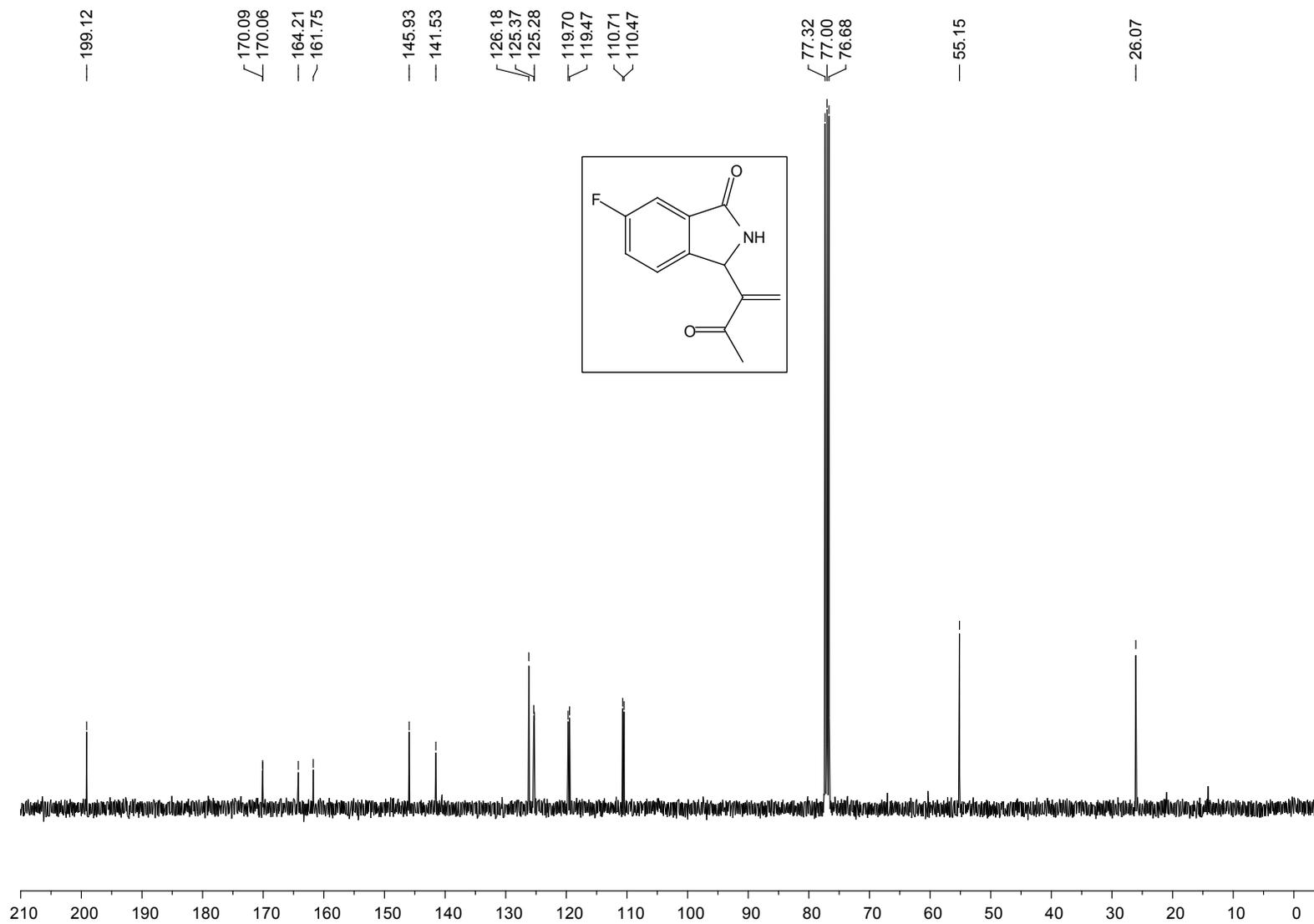


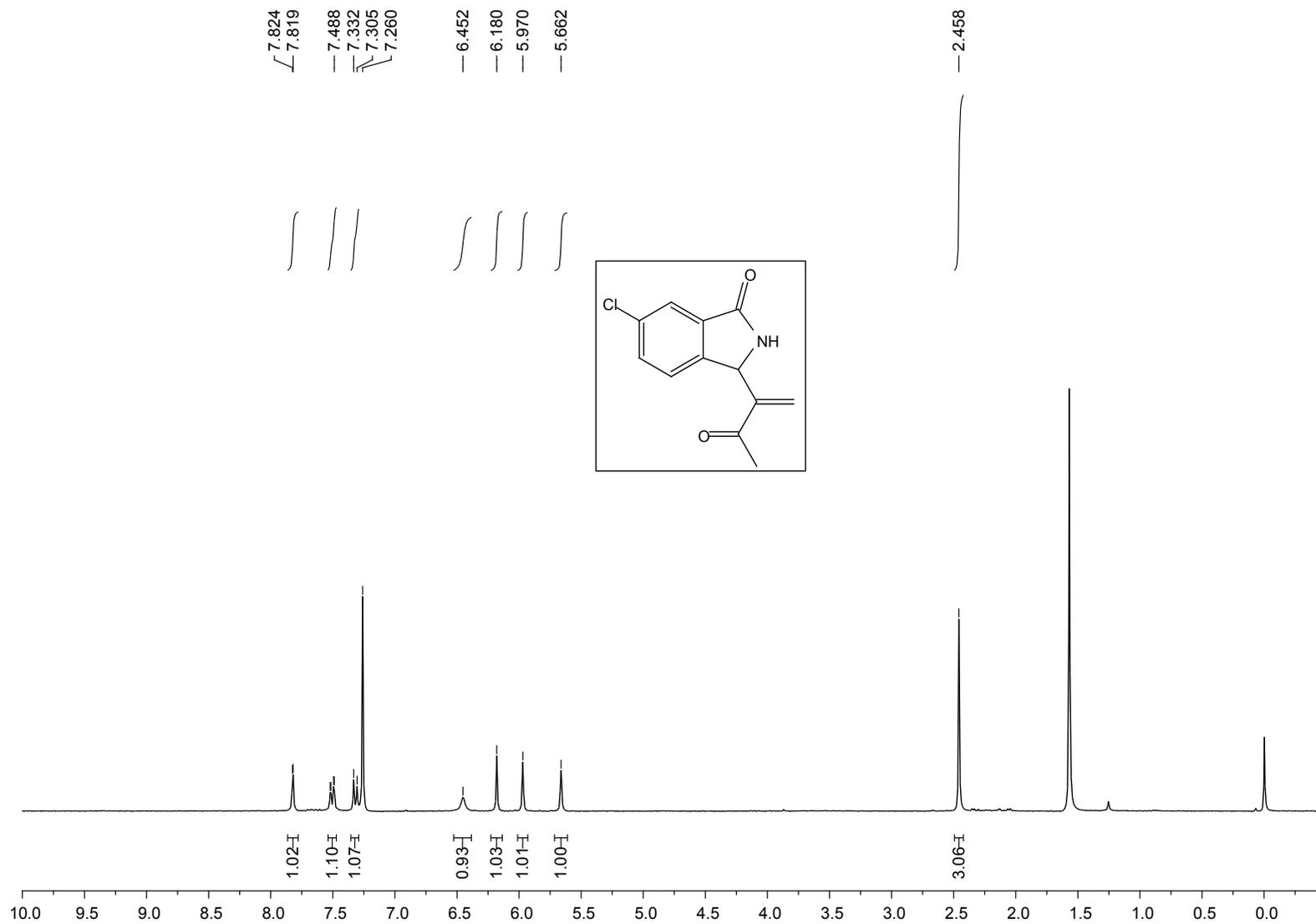


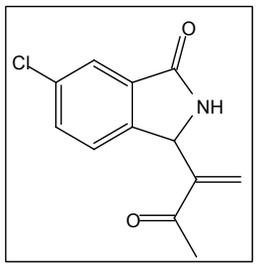
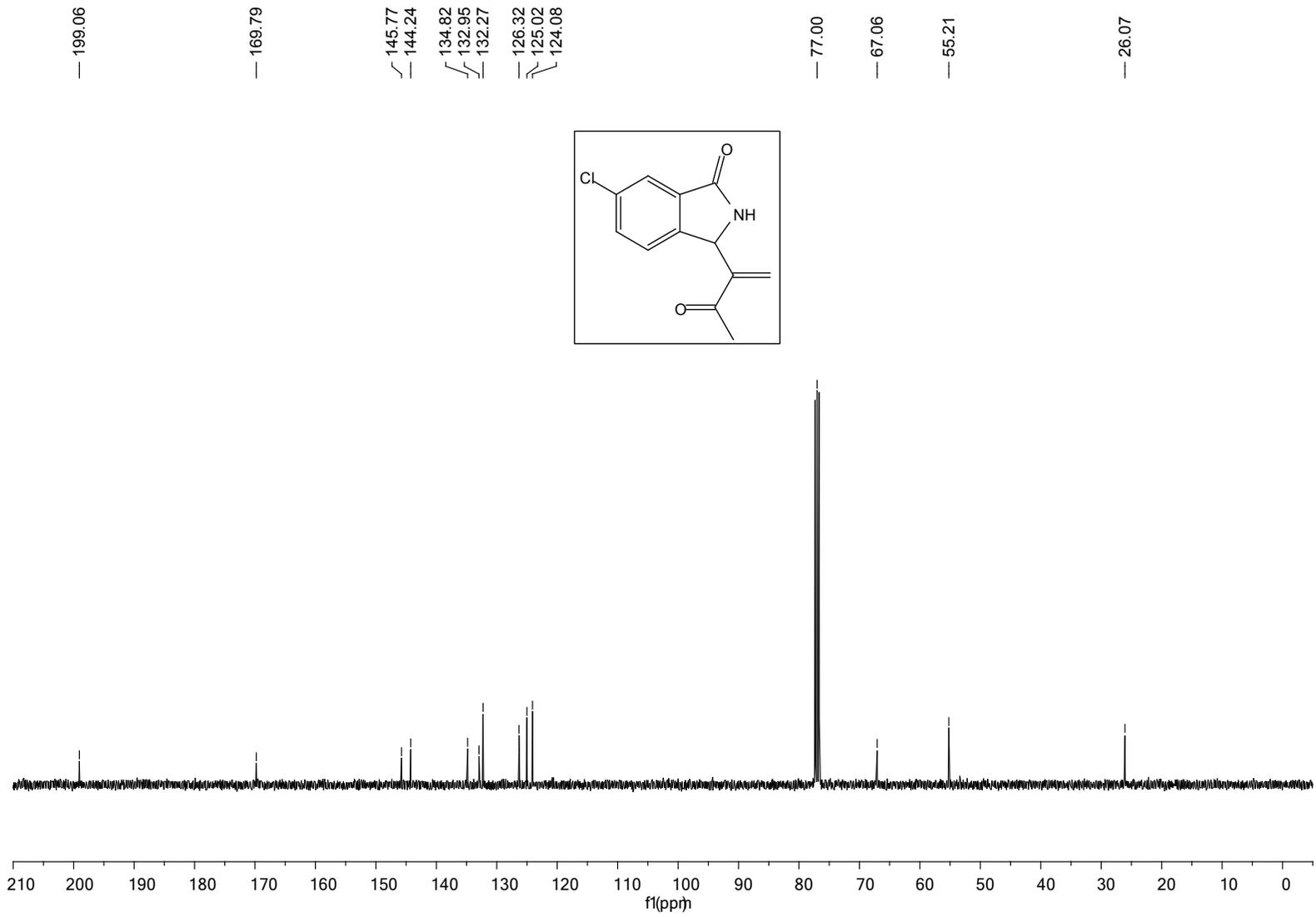


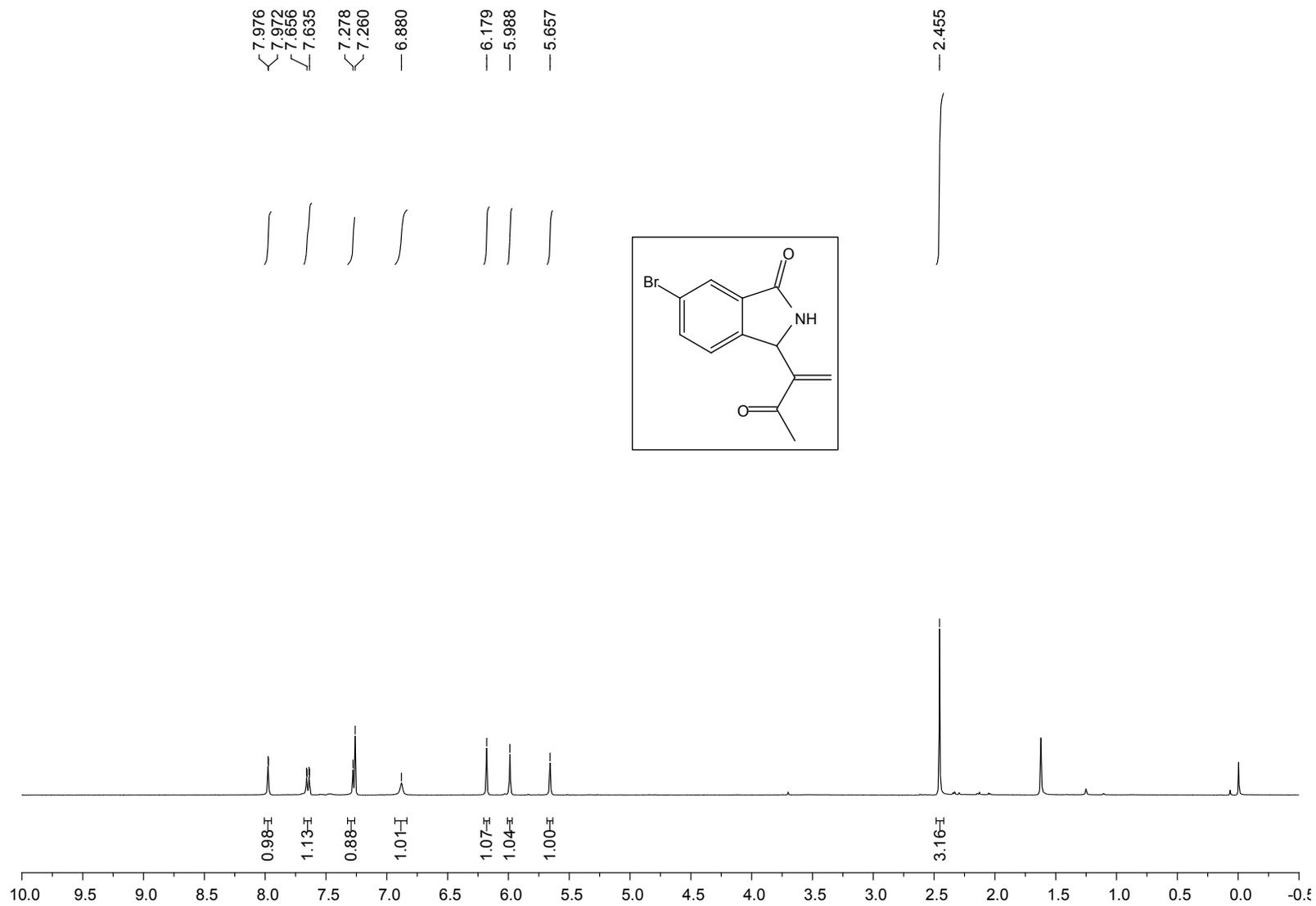


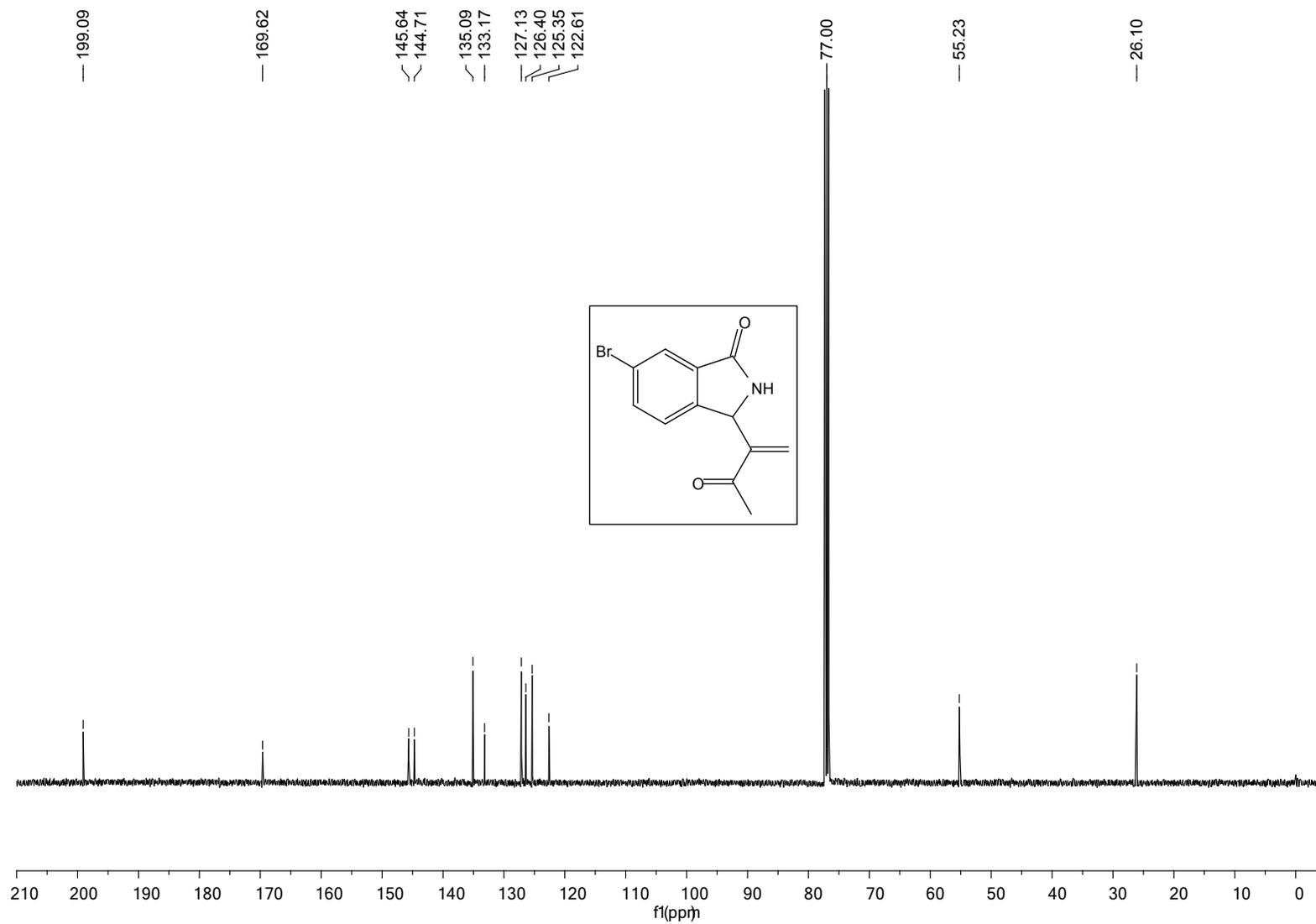


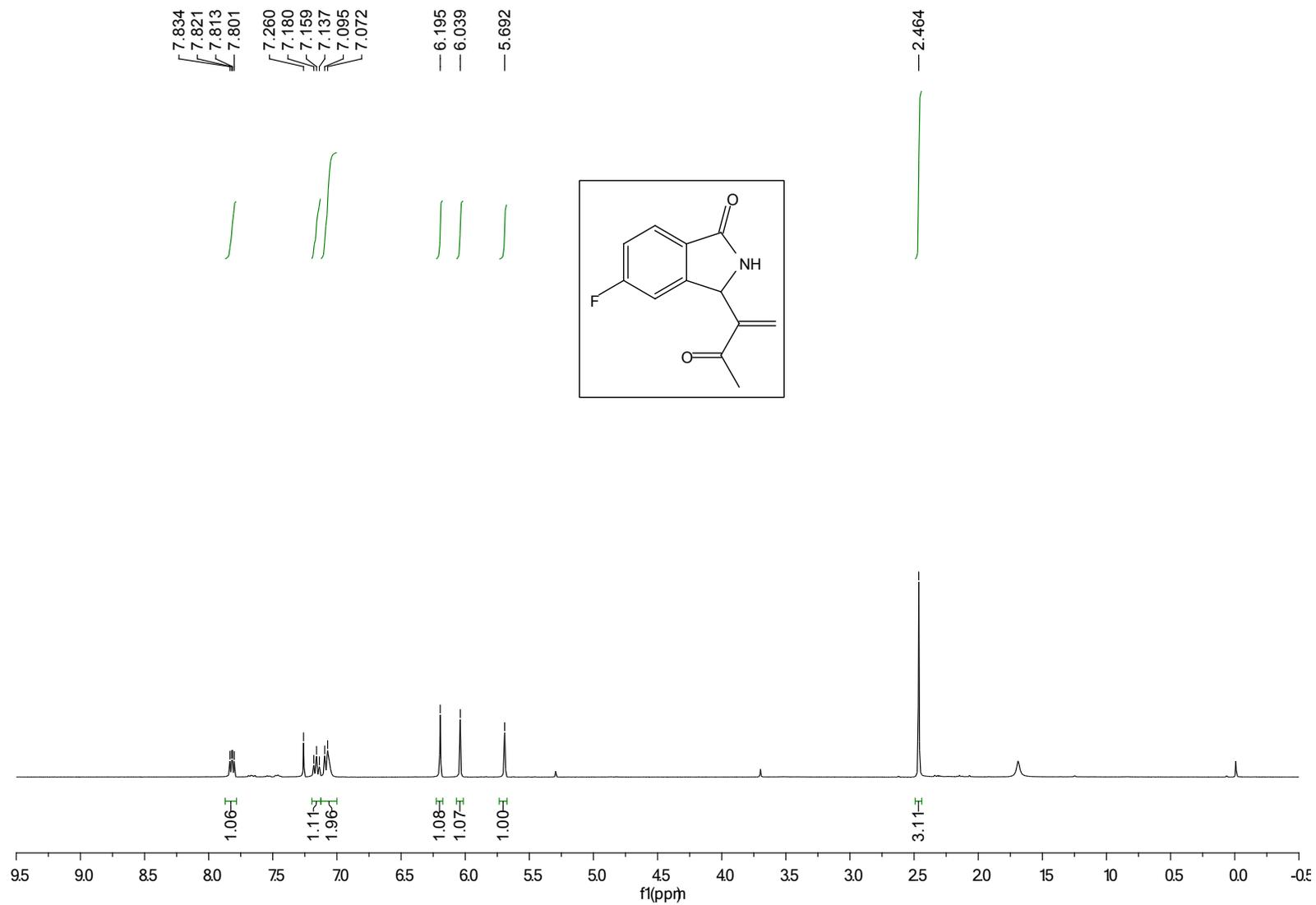


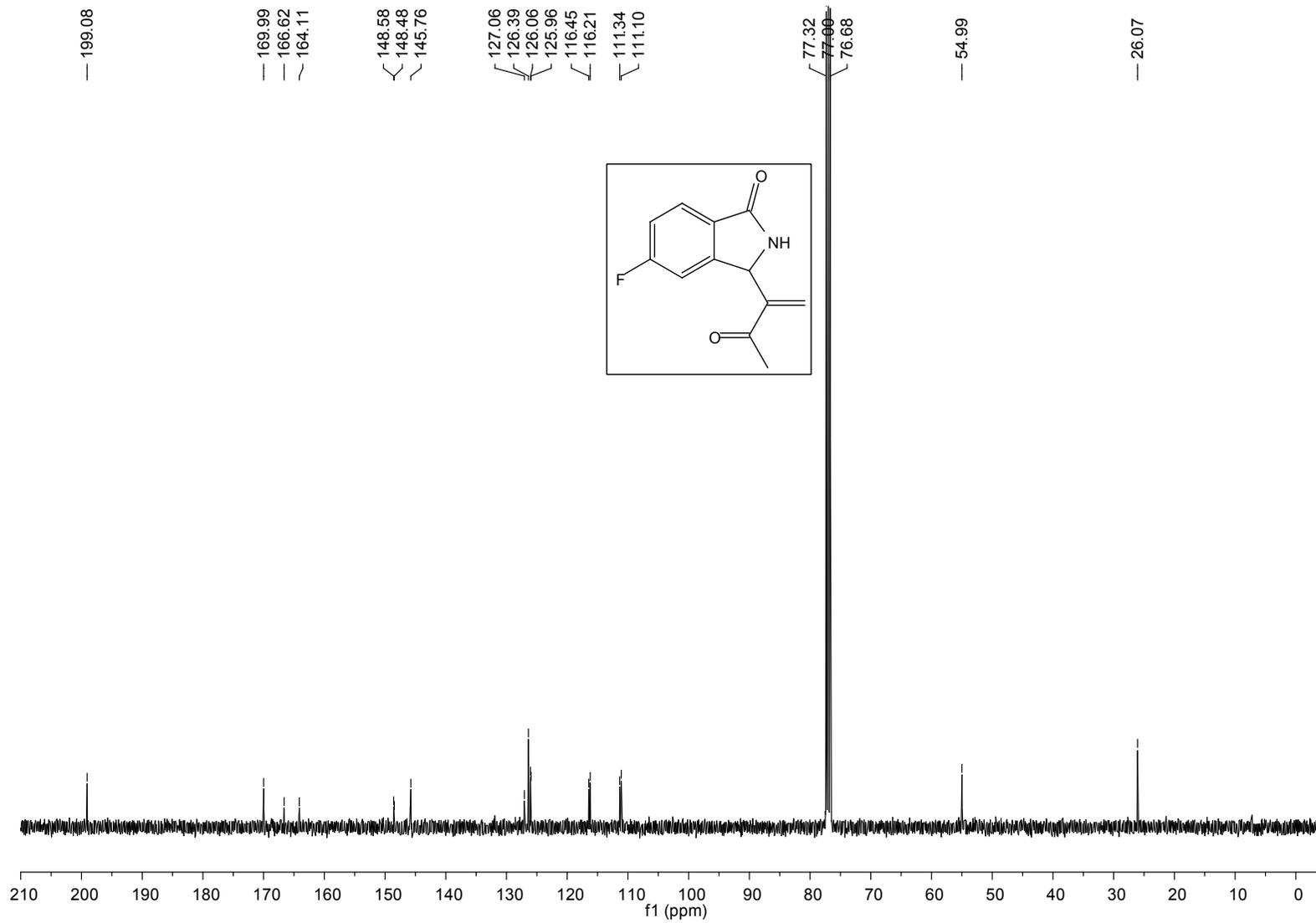


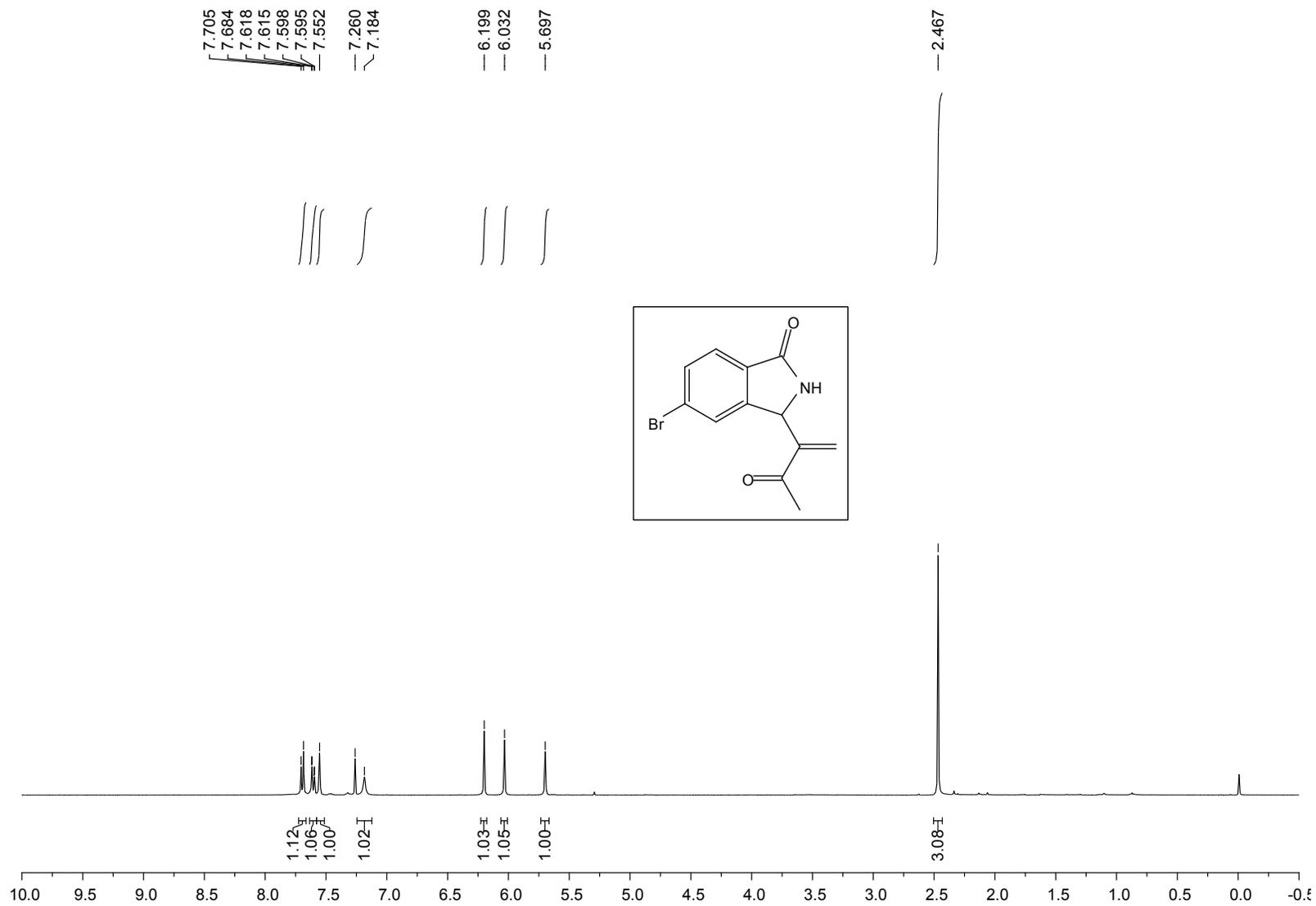


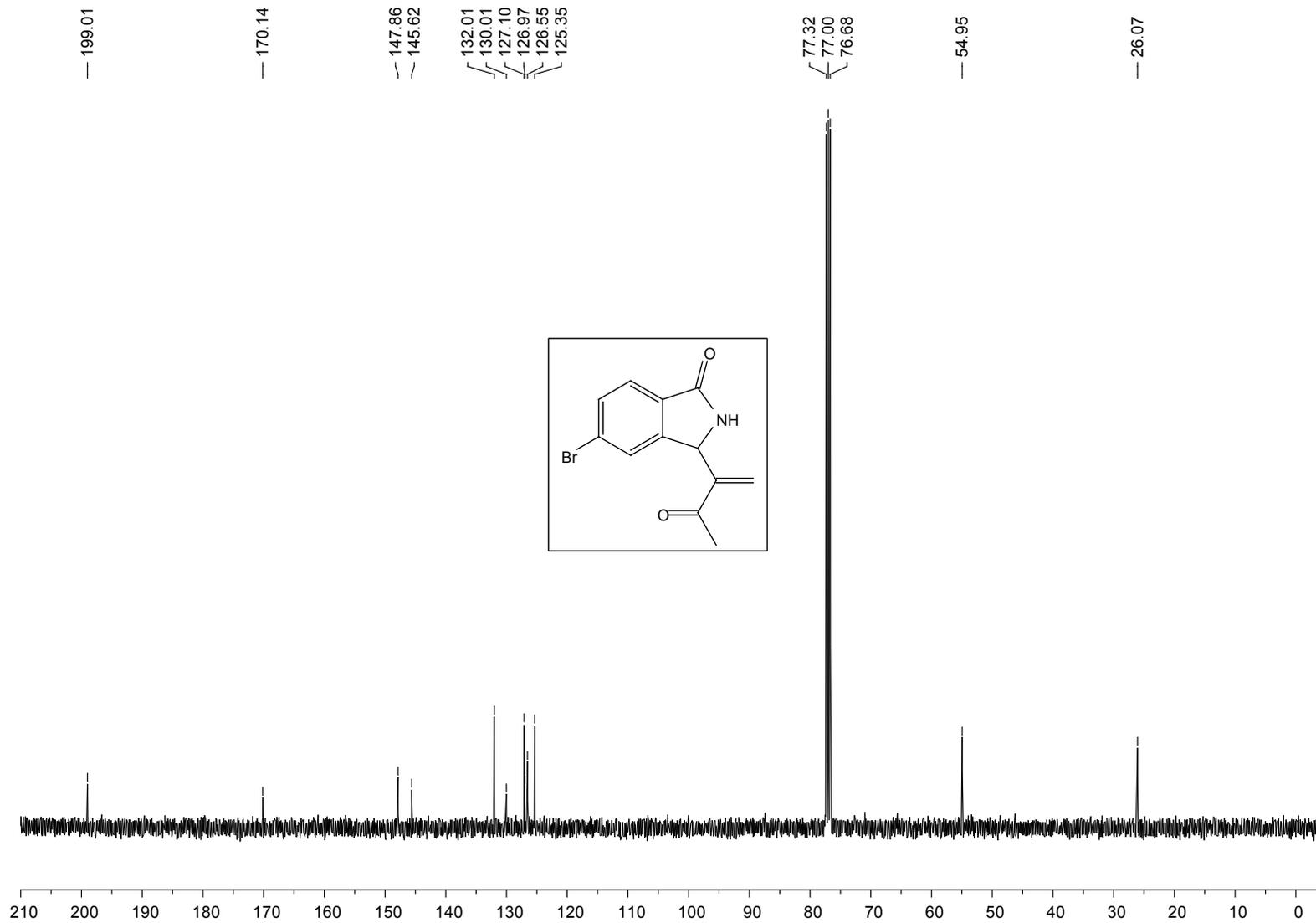


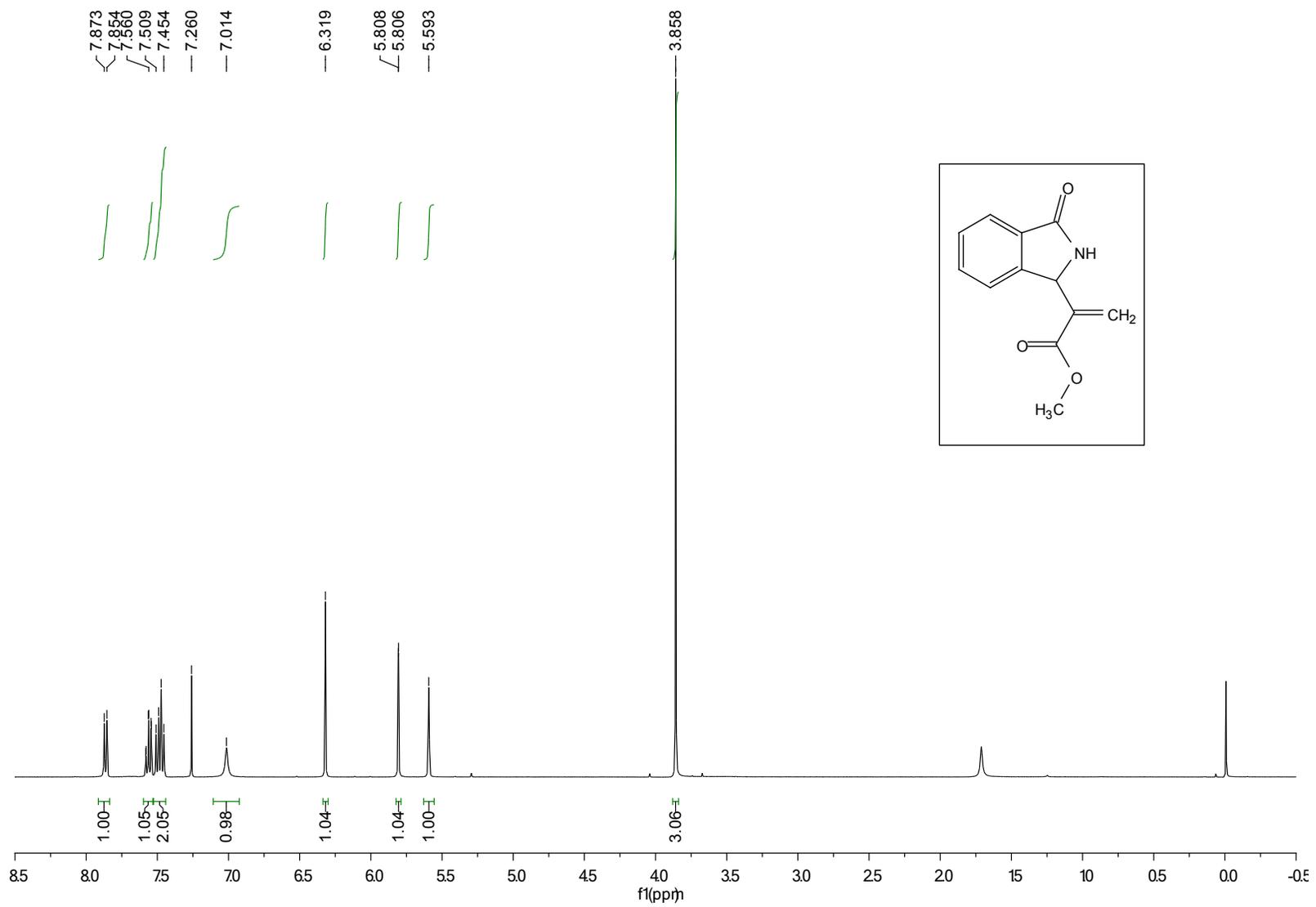


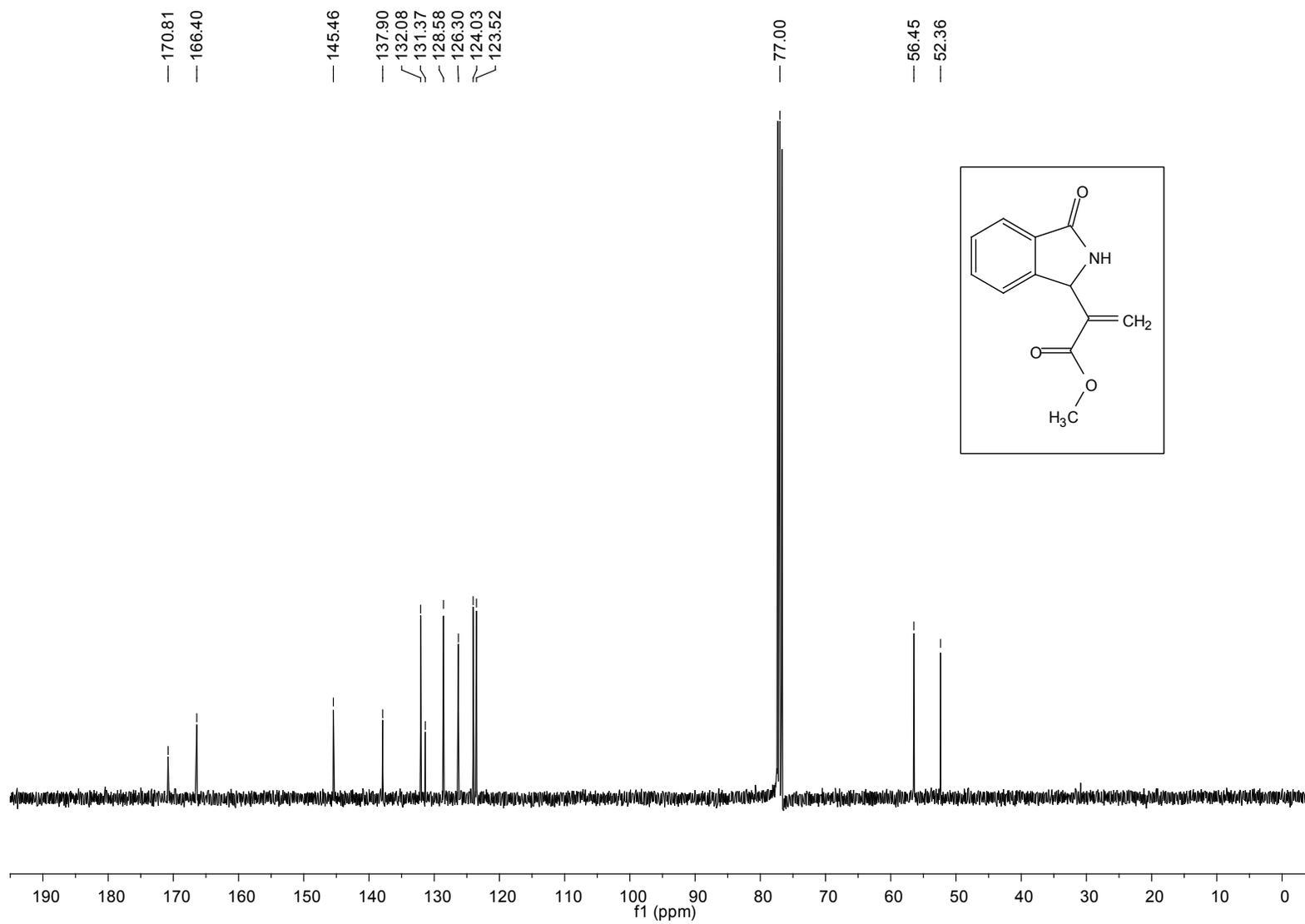


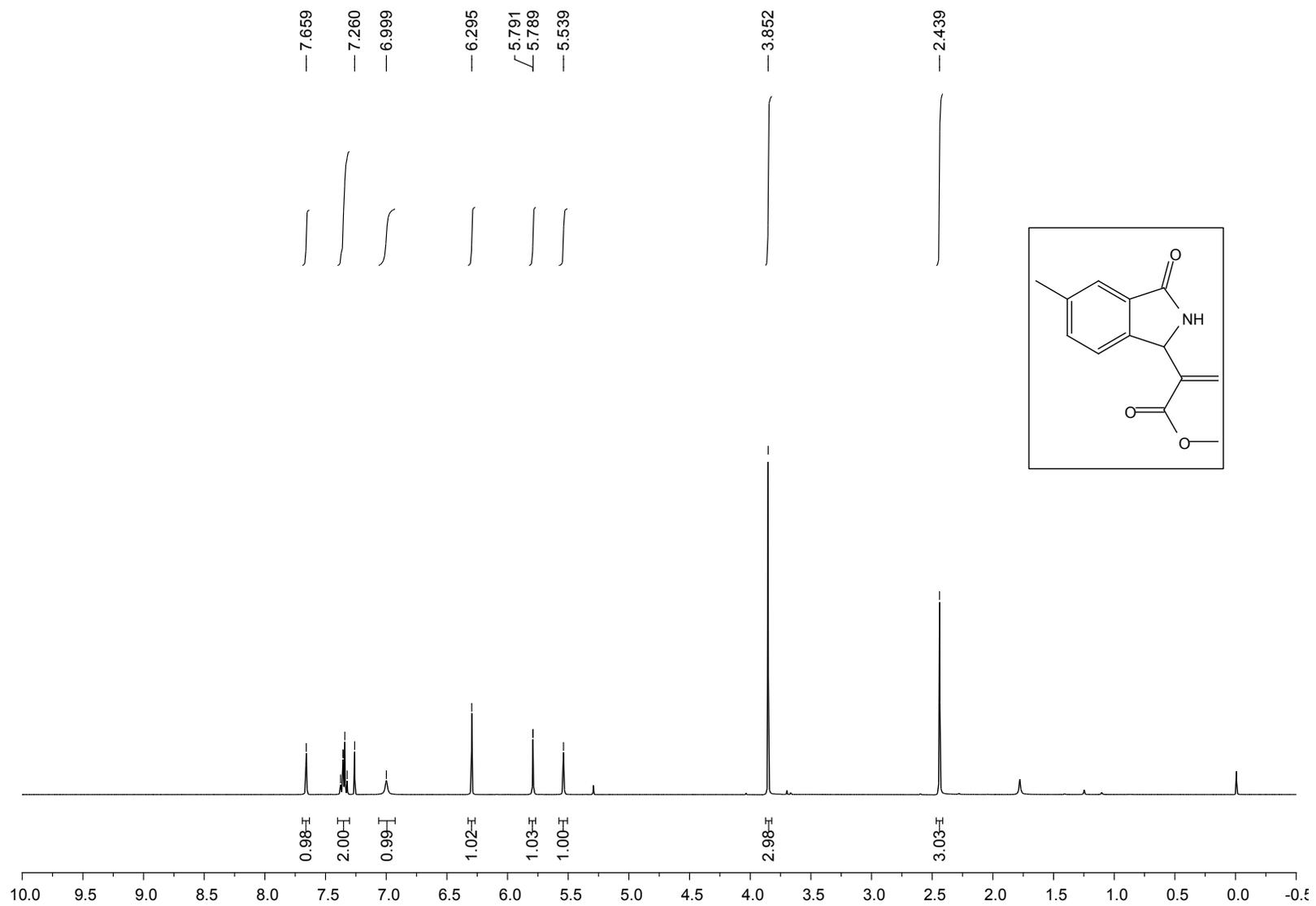


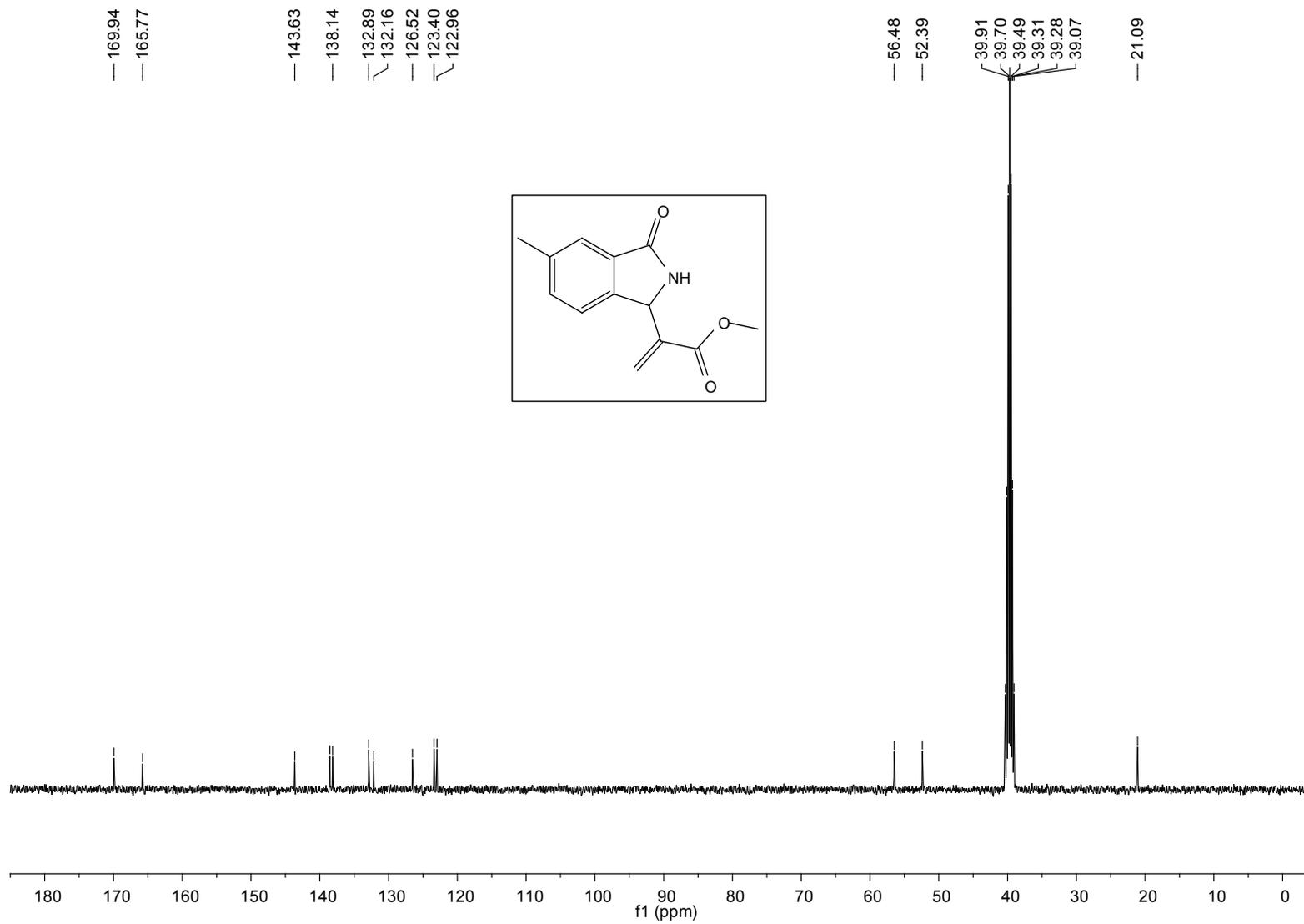


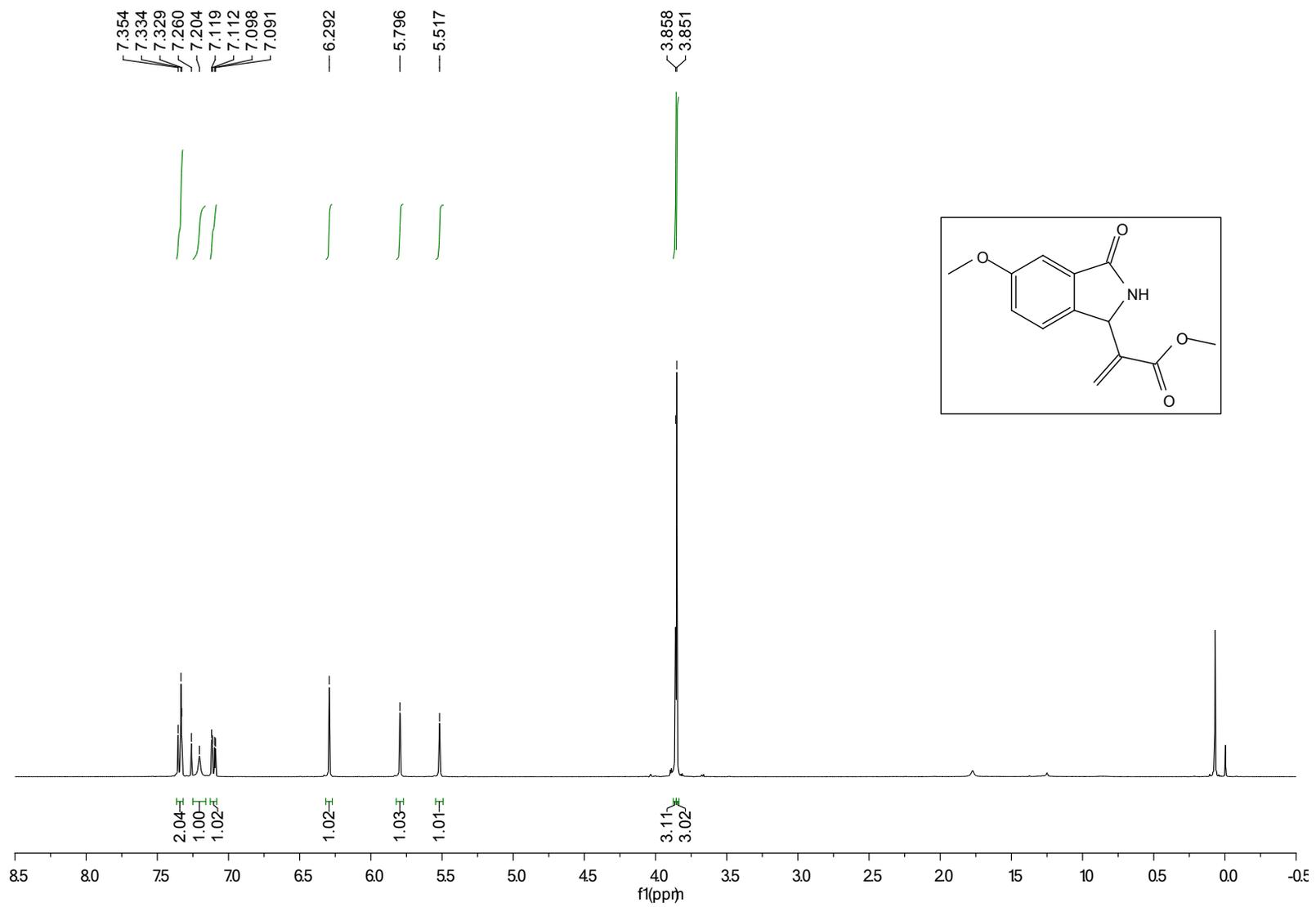


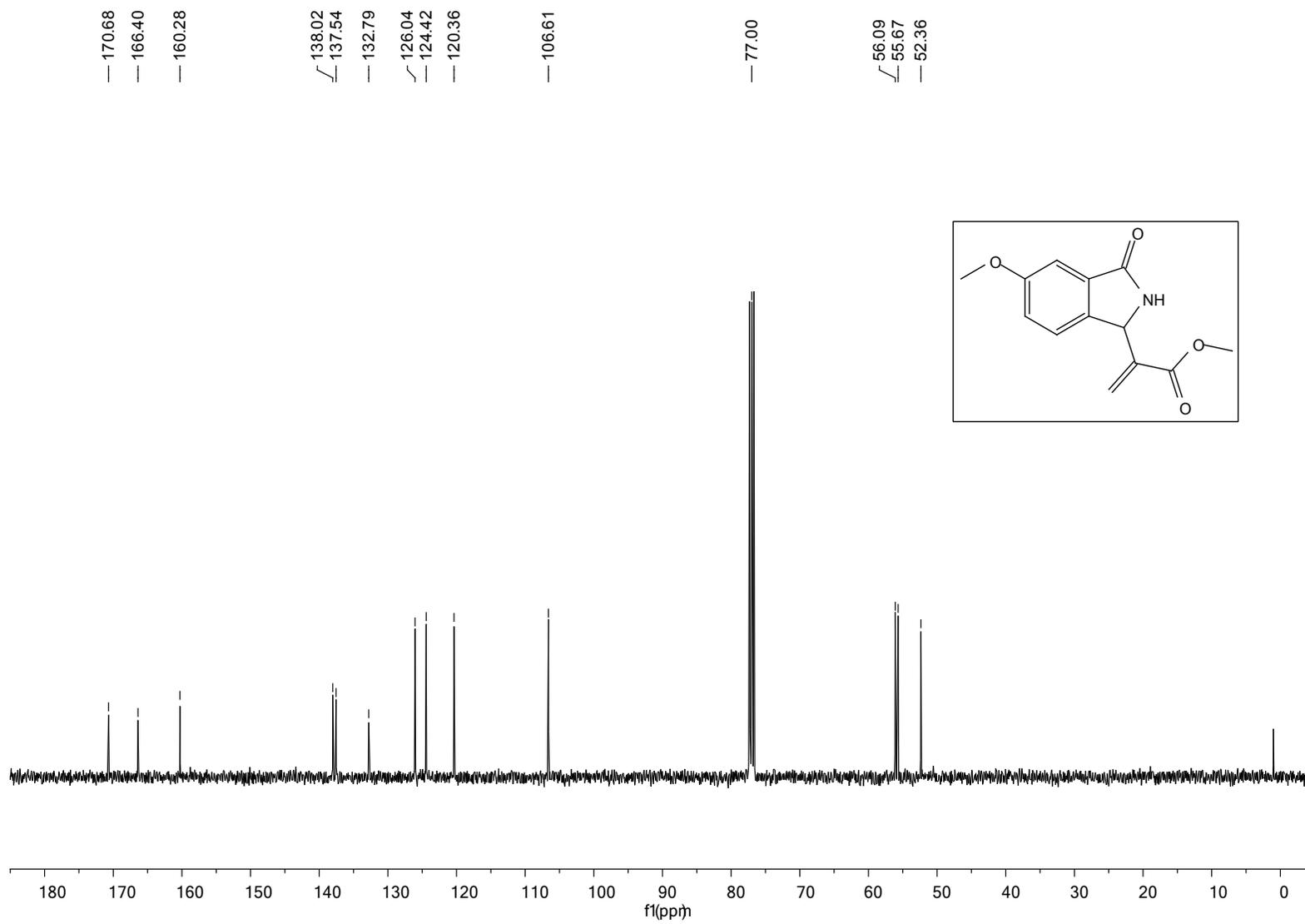


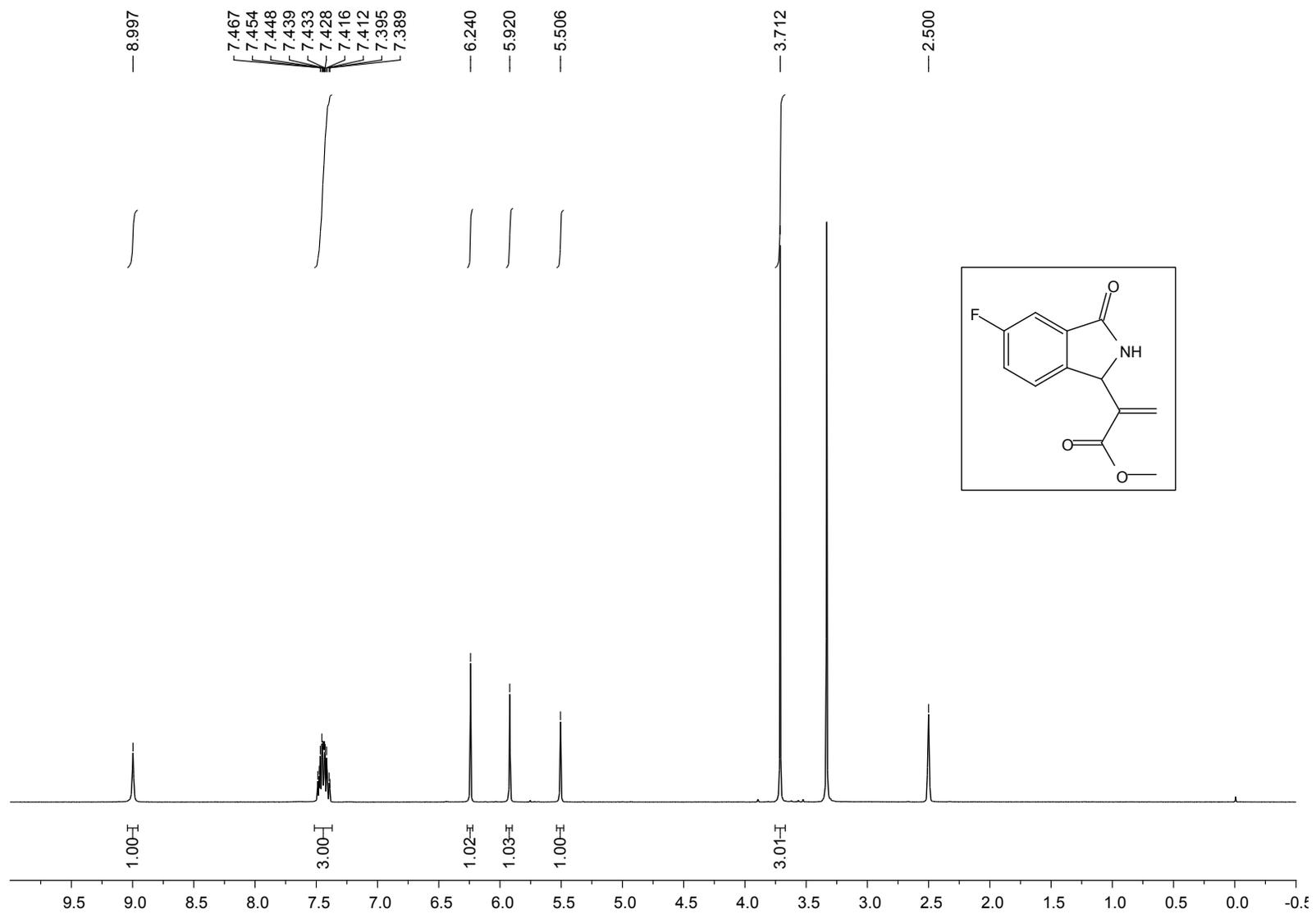


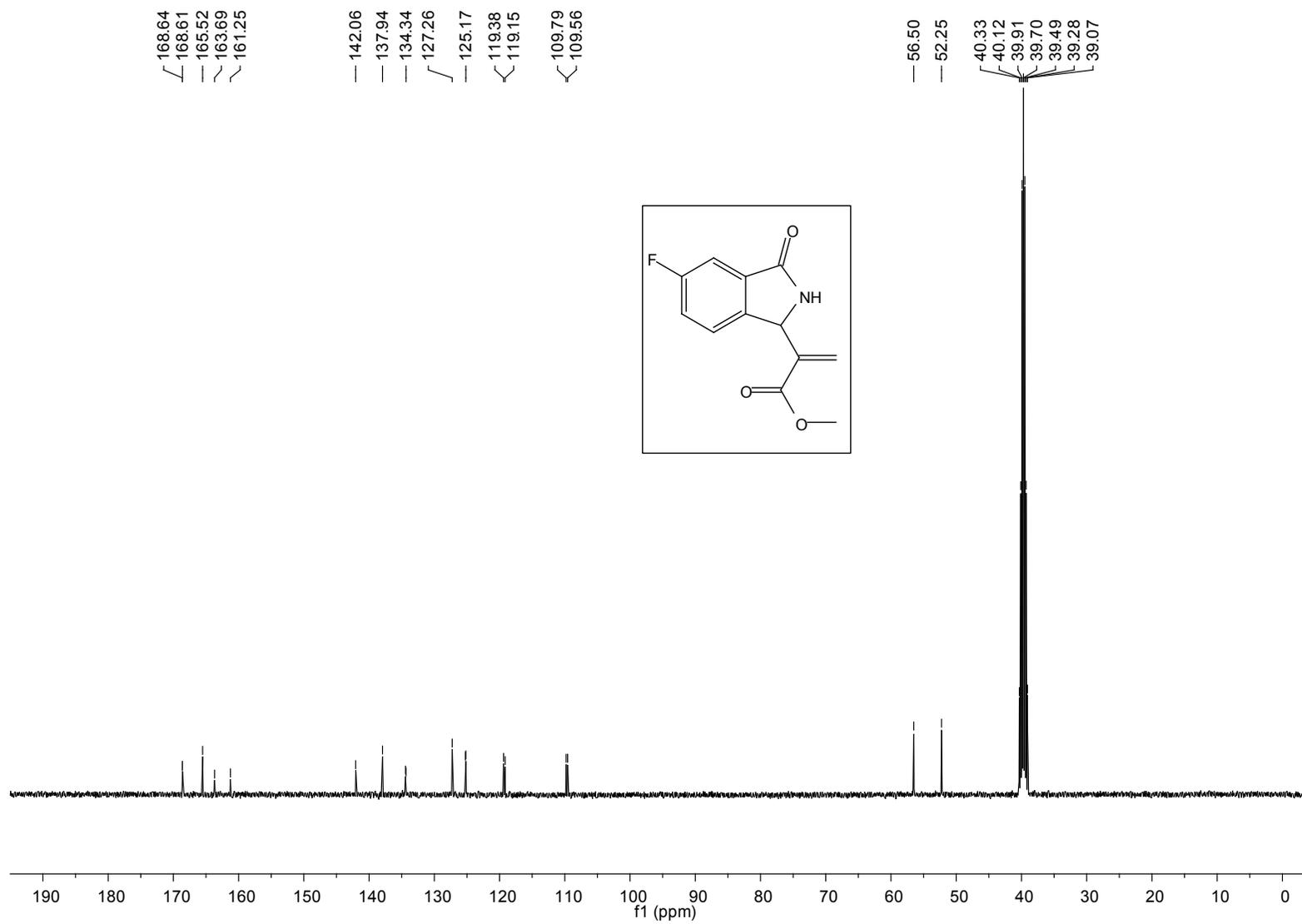


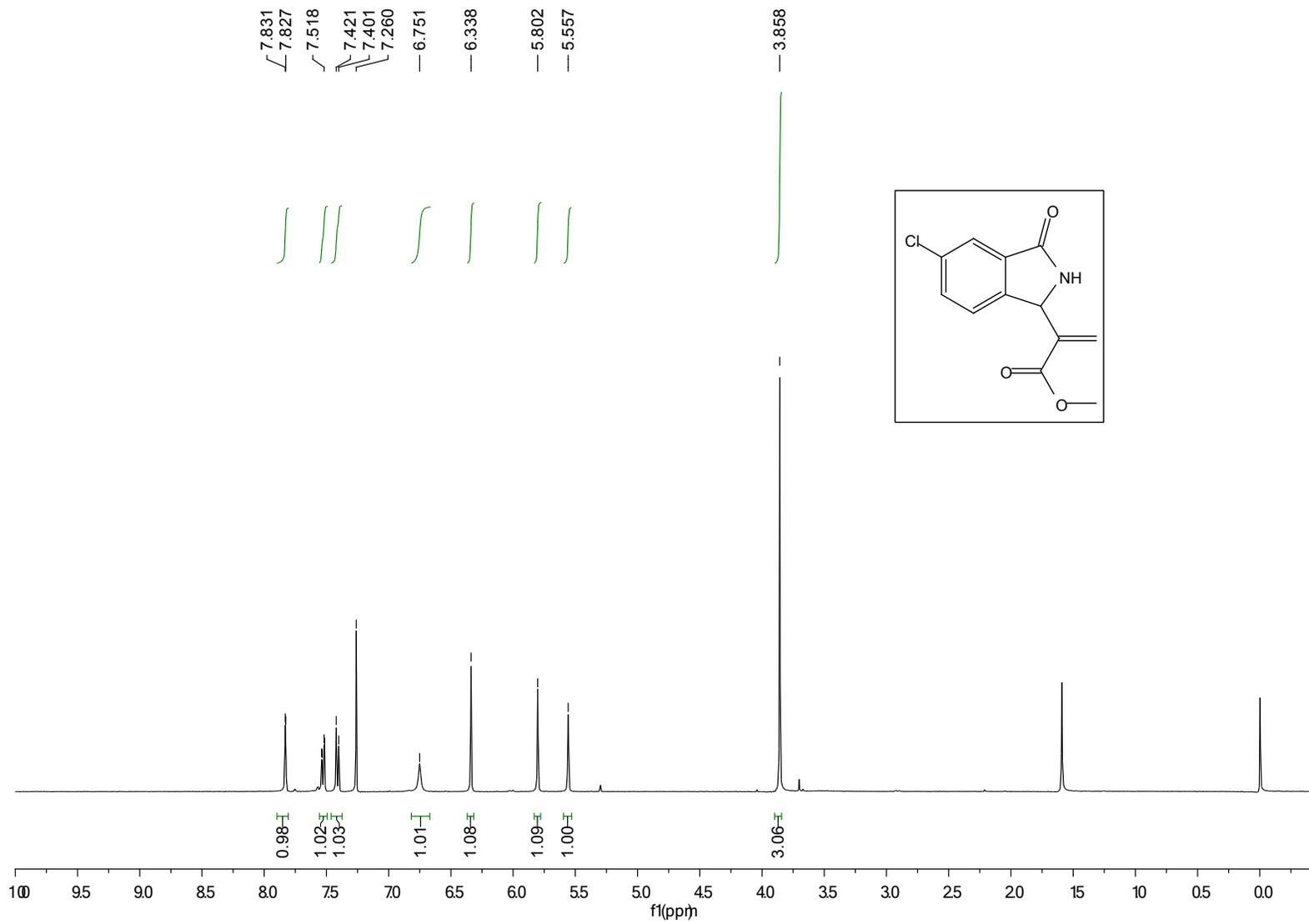


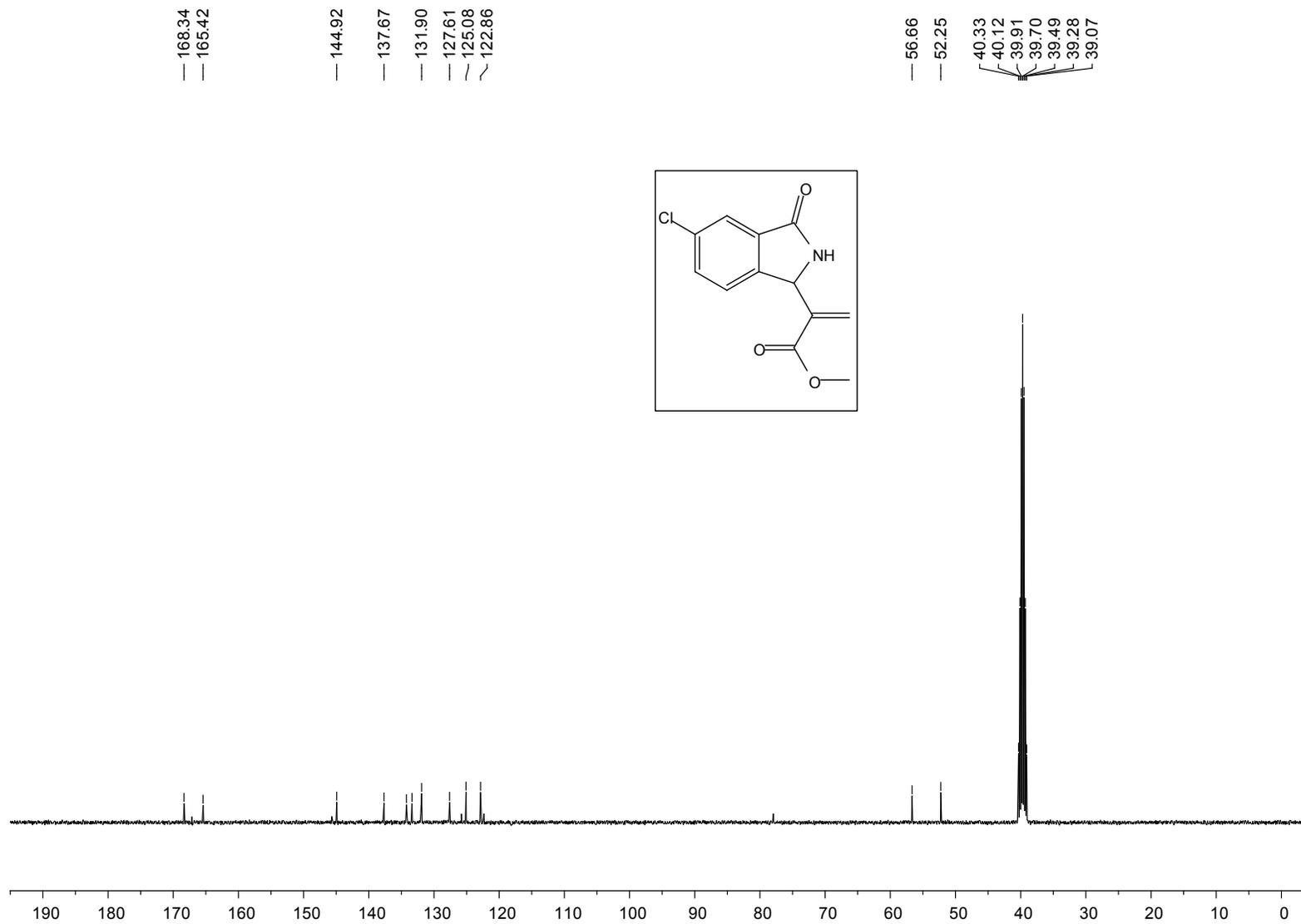


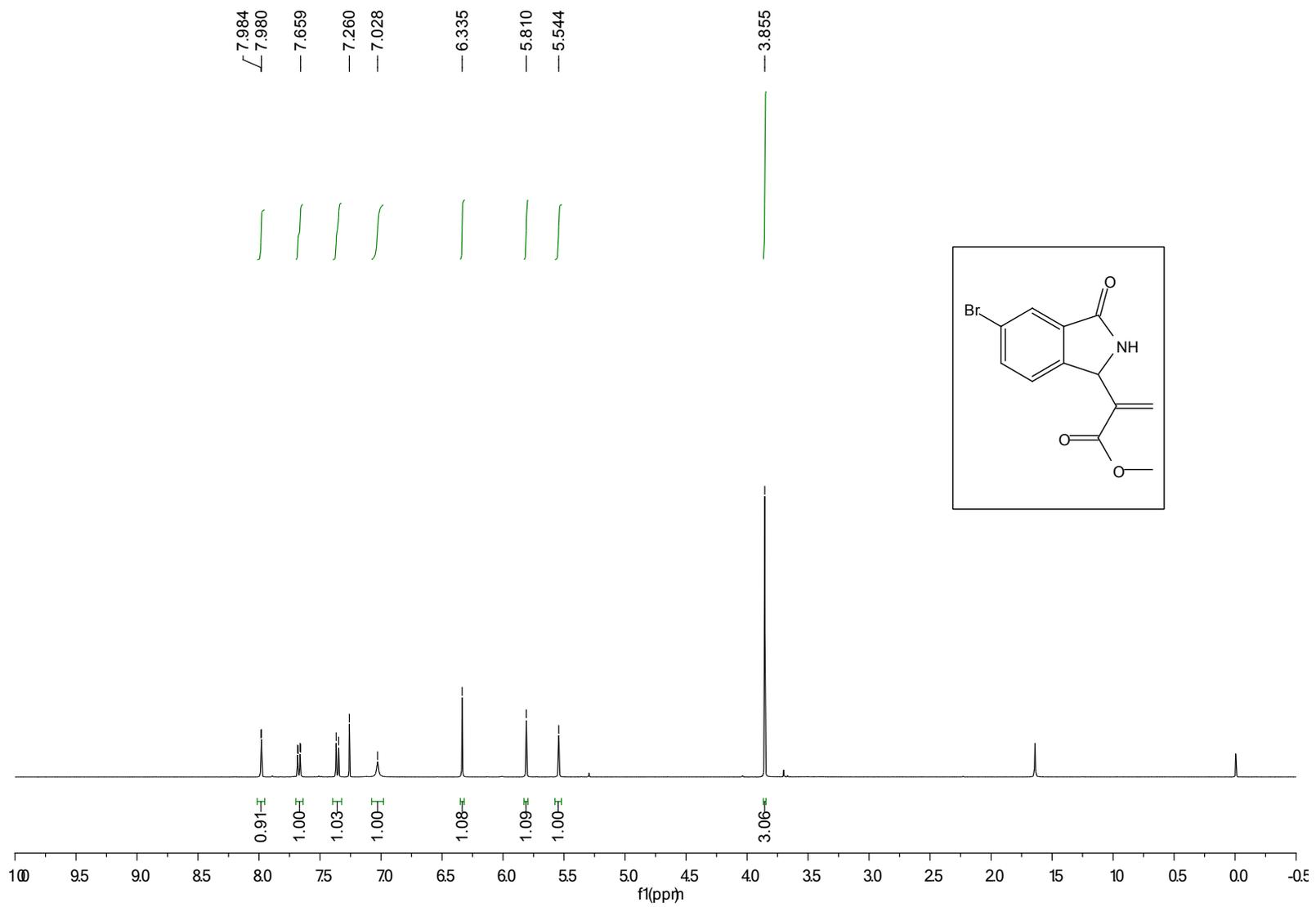


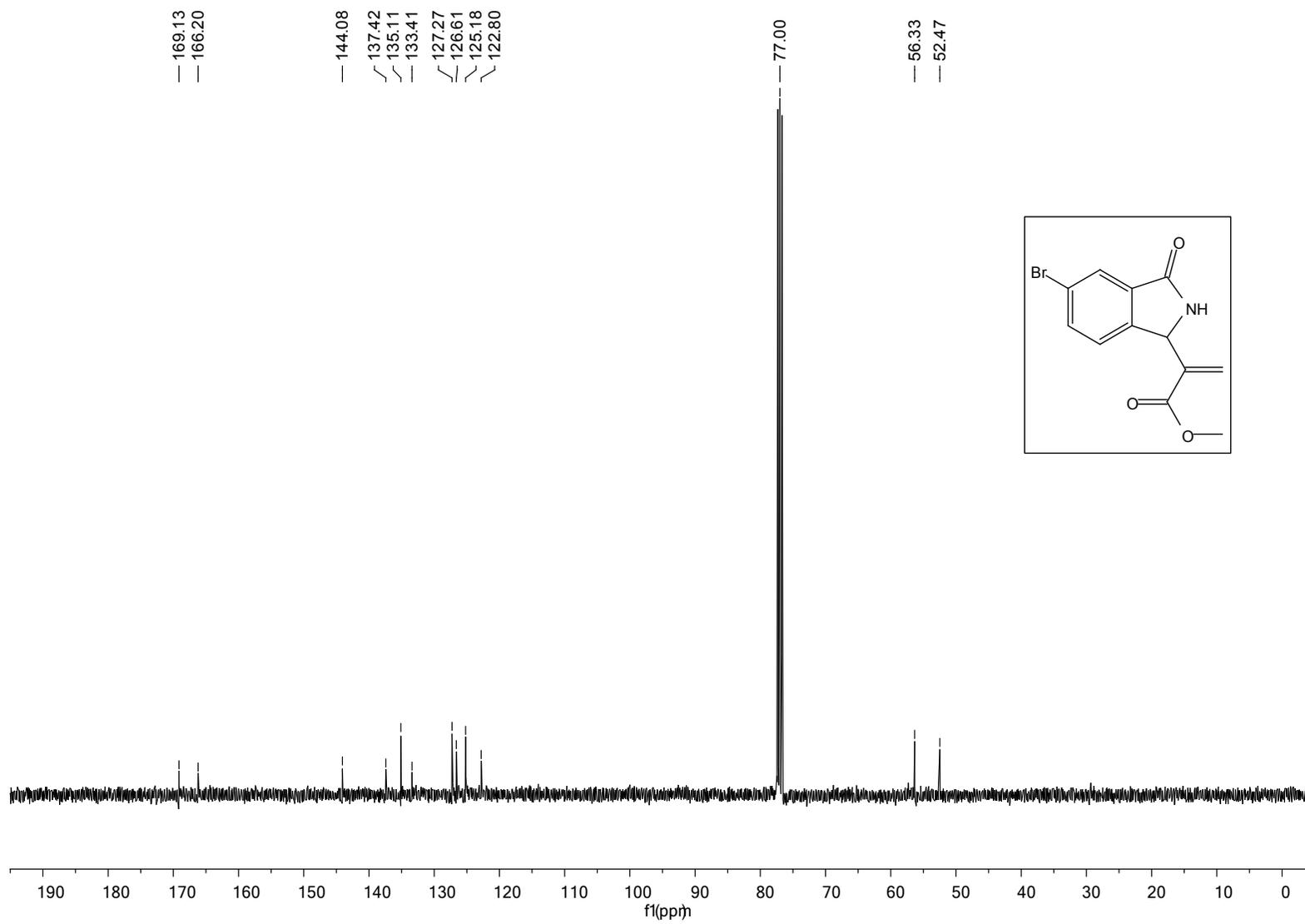


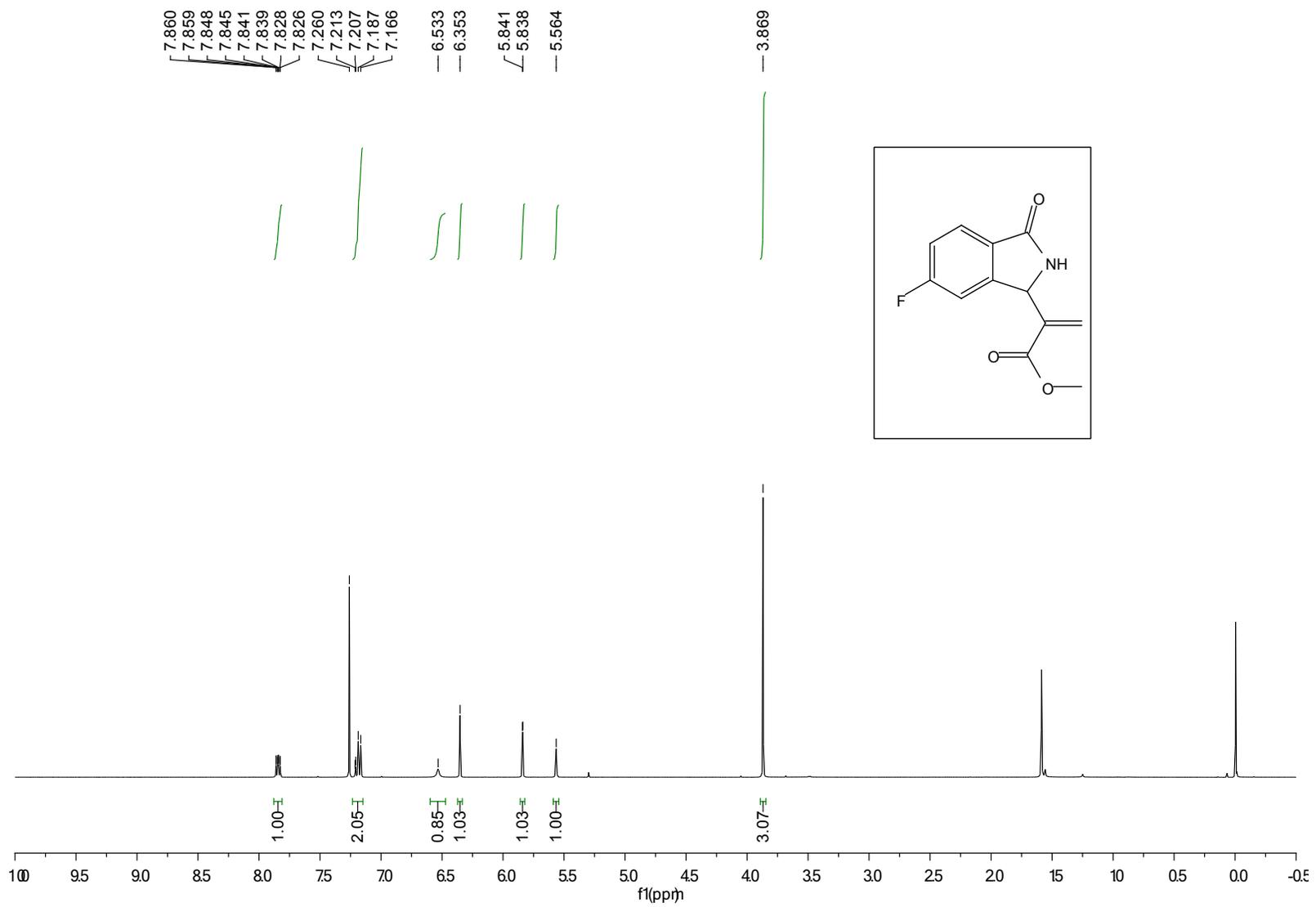


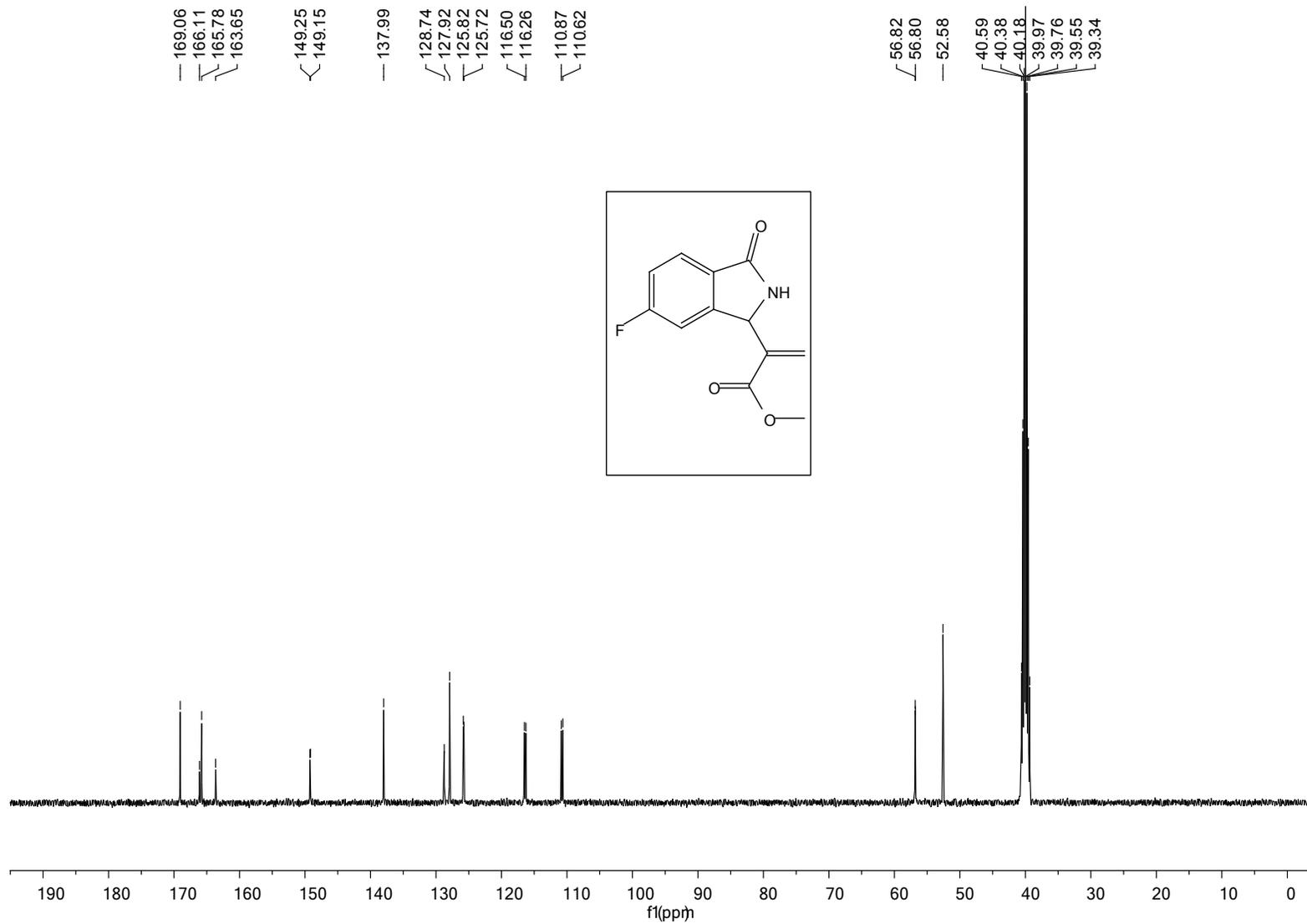


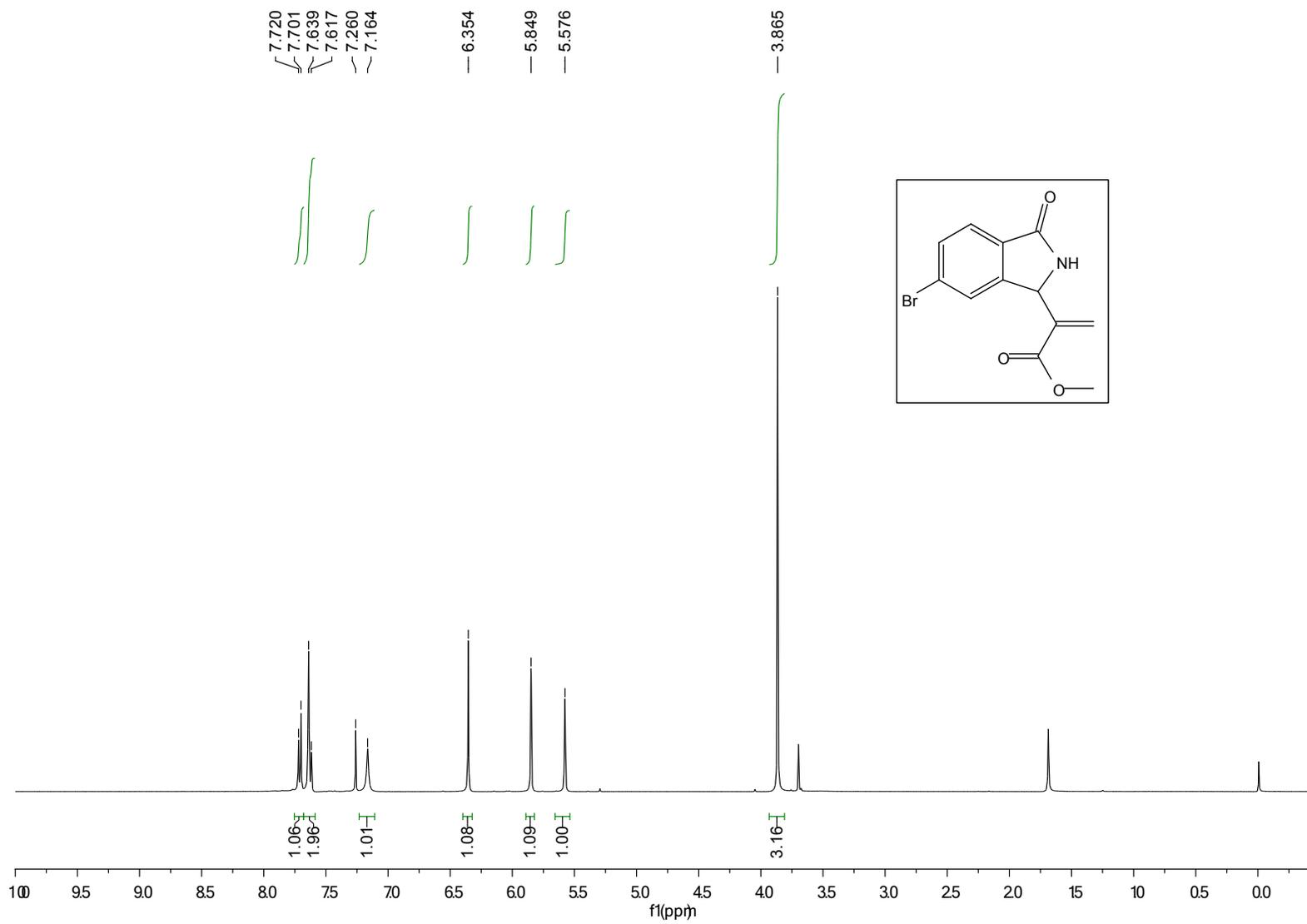


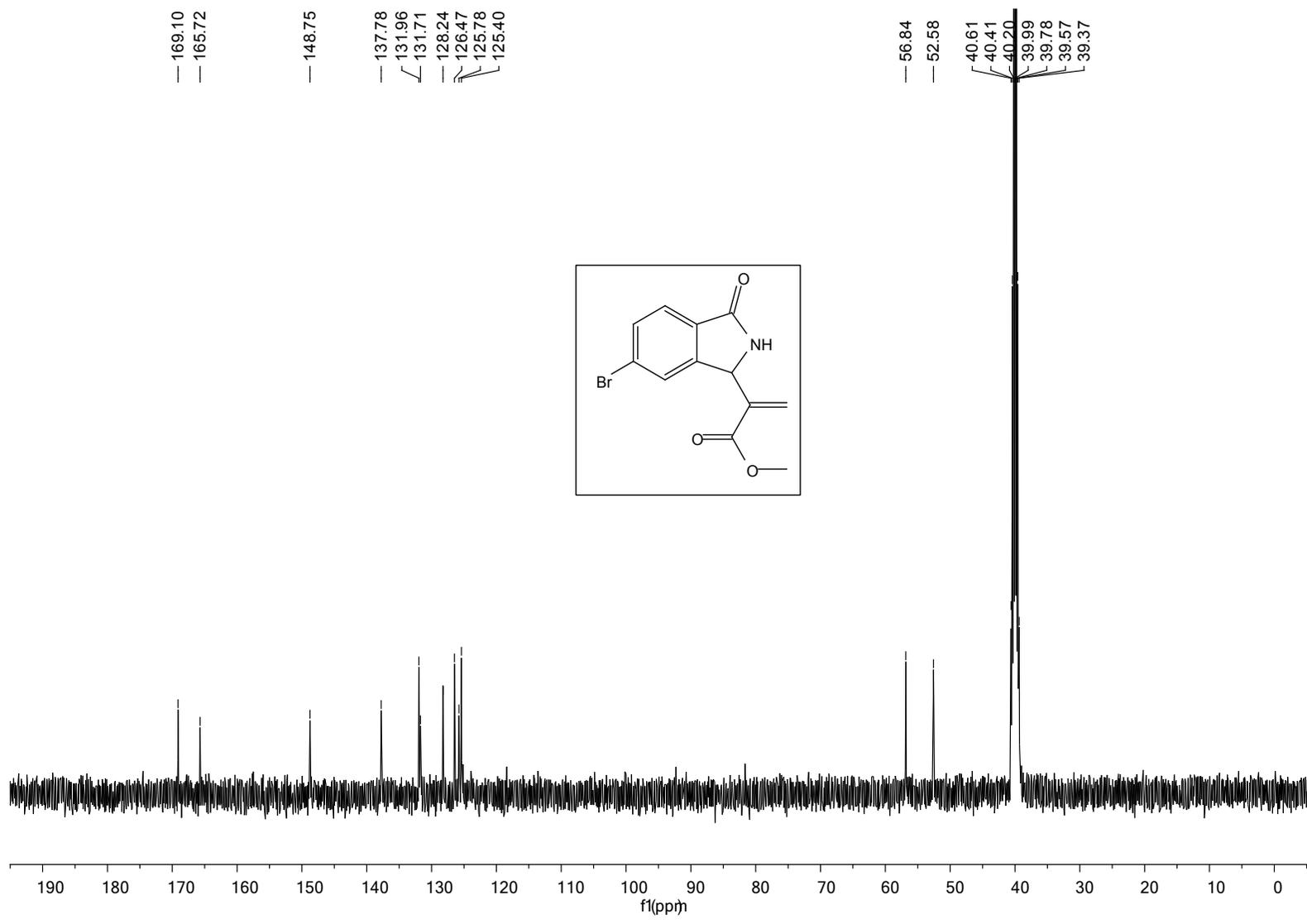


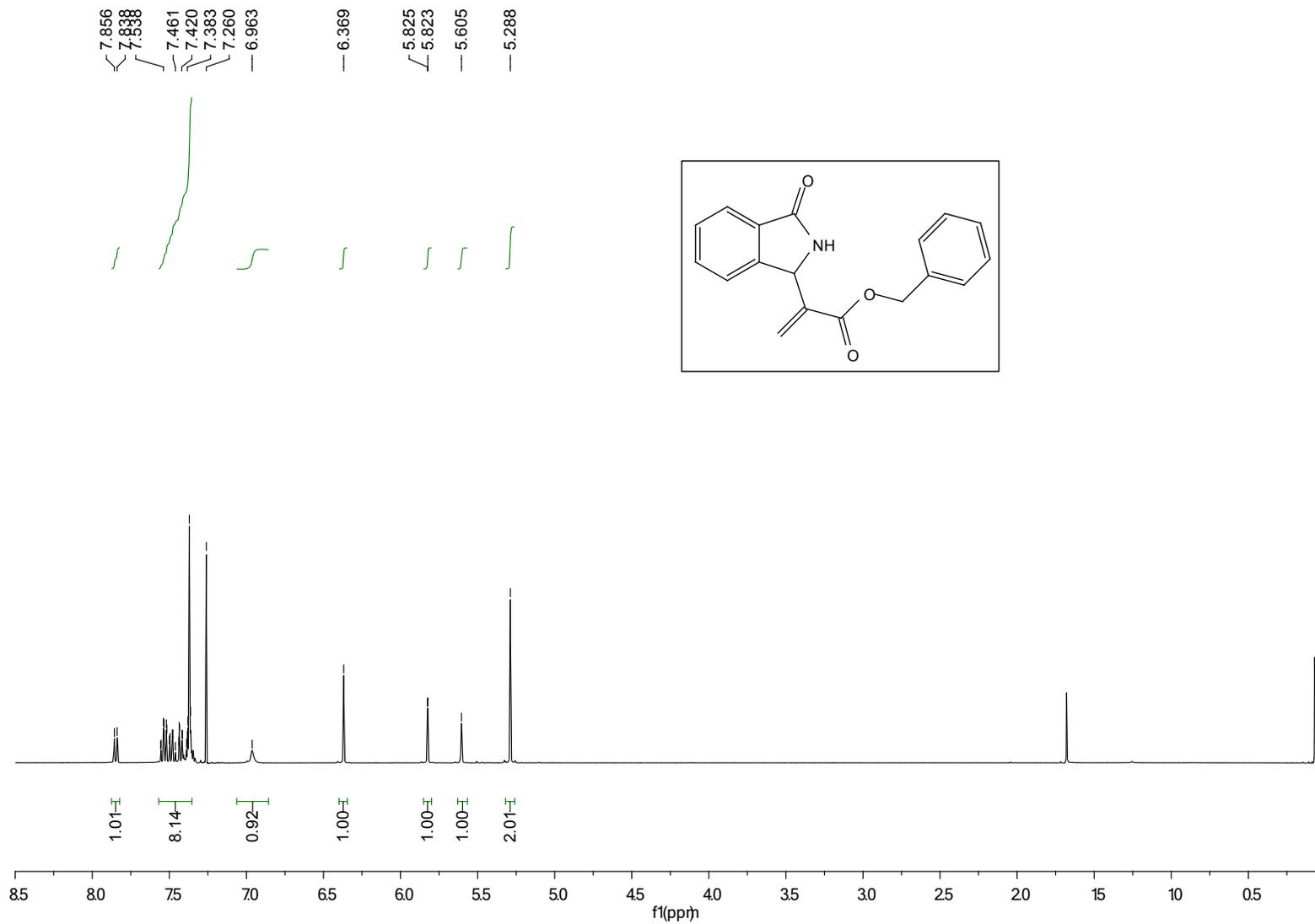


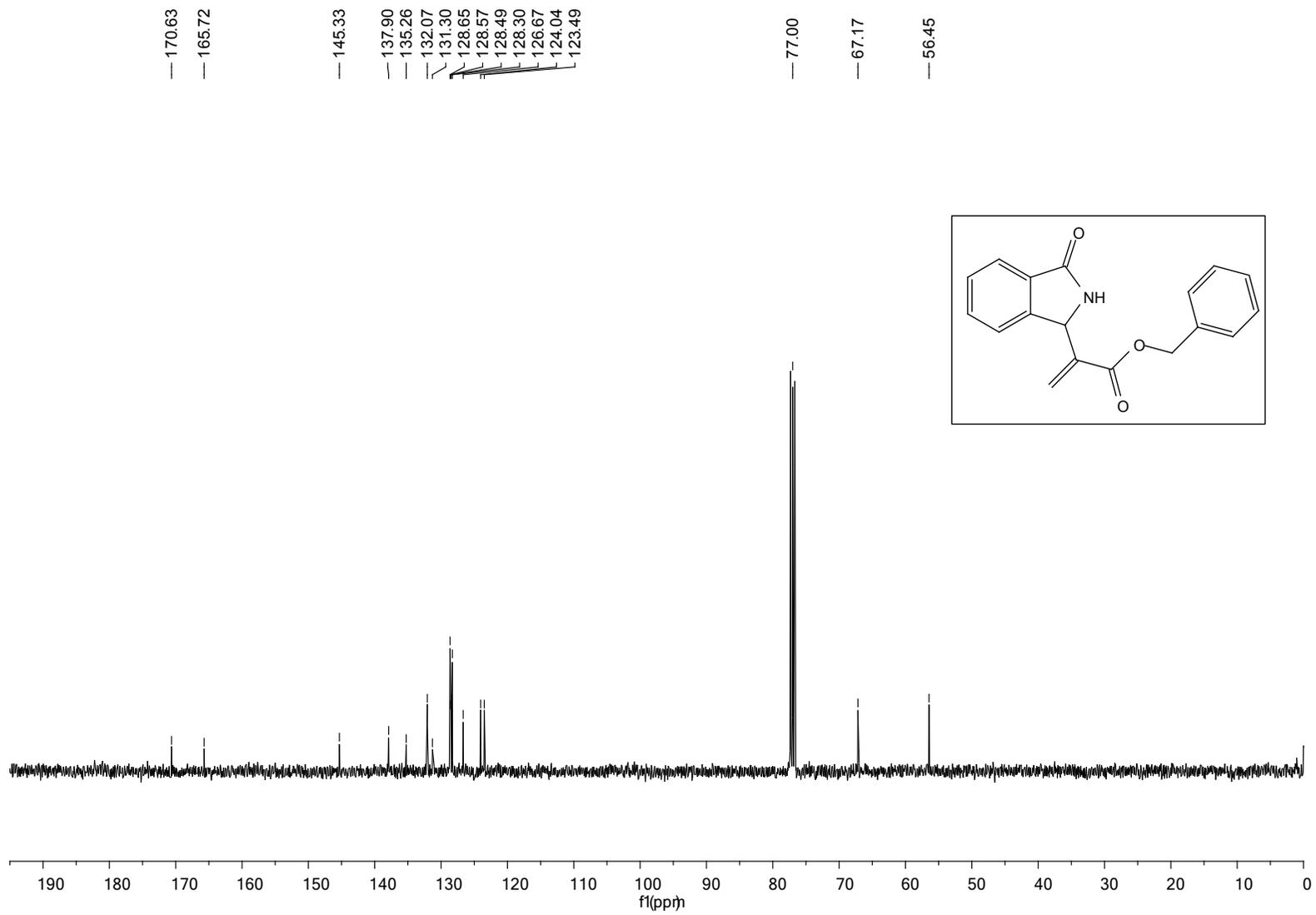


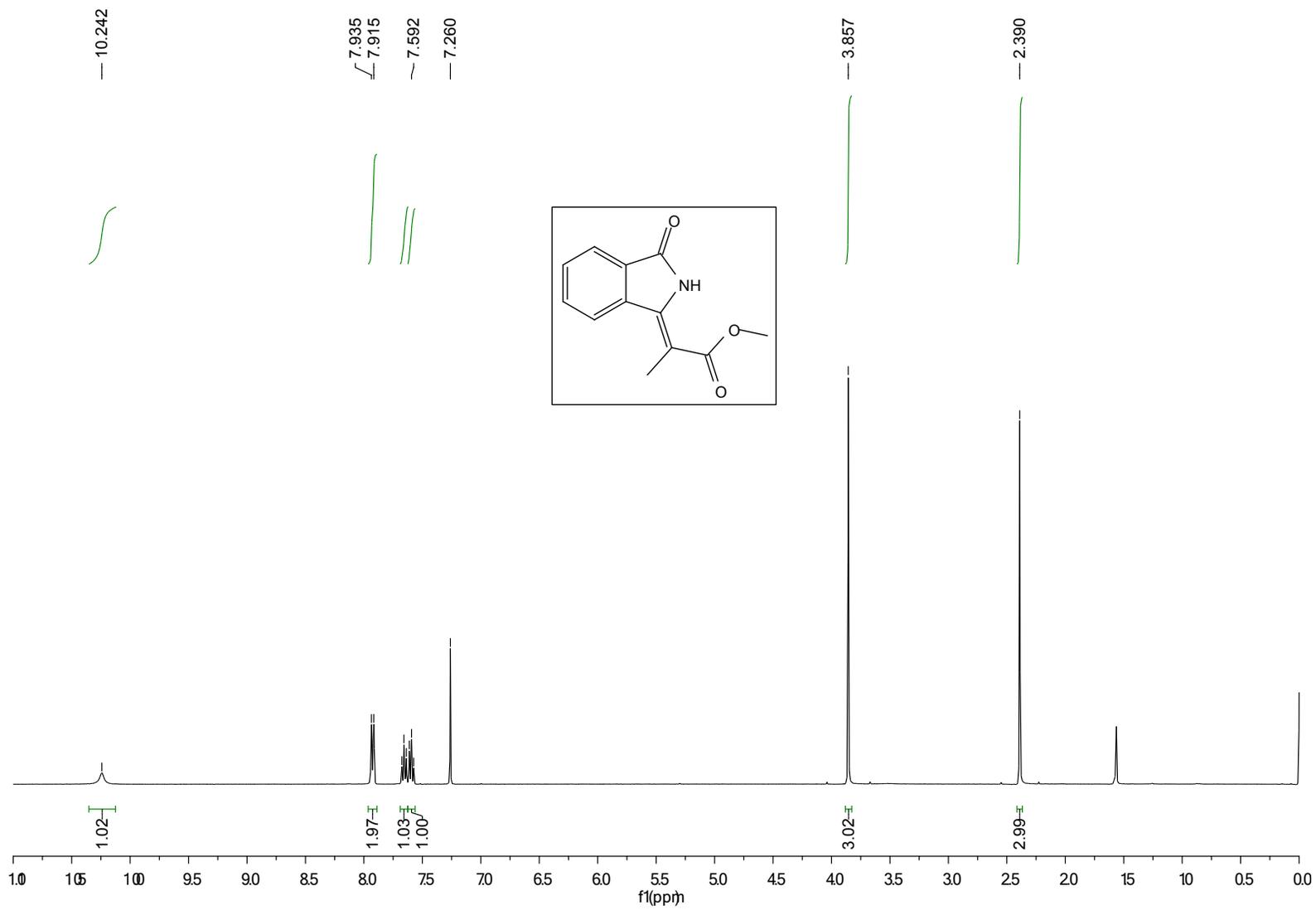












168.96
167.52

143.24

136.49

130.39

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124.02

104.37

77.32
77.00
76.68

52.26

13.40

