

Supporting Information

Efficient Cu-catalyzed intramolecular O-arylation for synthesis of benzoxazoles in water†

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1. Experimental section

1.1 General considerations

Starting materials were commercially available and analytically pure without purification. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectras were recorded on a Bruker AV 400 spectrometer (Bruker Company, Germany), using TMS as standard. High-resolution mass spectra were performed on an ESI Q-TOF MS spectrometer (Micromass, England).

1.2 Synthesis of ligand DPPAP

To a stirred solution of 1-(2-aminoethyl)pyrrolidine (2.28 g, 20 mmol) and triethylamine (3.03 g, 30 mmol) in dry DCM (50 mL), acryloyl chloride (2.26 g, 25 mmol) was added and reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. After completion of the reaction as indicated by TLC, the reaction was quenched by the addition of 5% NaOH (20 mL) and was extracted with DCM (3×30 mL). The organic layer was washed by H₂O (3×30 mL), and dried using anhydrous Na₂SO₄, concentrated in vacuo. Then diphenylphosphine (4.65 g, 25 mmol), CH₃CN (50 mL) and TEAOH (25% wt, 0.2 mL) was add to the residue in sequence for 24 h. When the reaction was completed, the mixture was concentrated in vacuo to form crude amide. After that, amide was dissolved in dry THF (50 mL), and LiAlH₄ (1.52 g, 40 mmol) was added slowly. The reaction was carried out at 60 °C for 12 h. The crude product was dried and purified by column chromatography (DCM) to obtain ligand **DPPAP**. Pale green oil; ¹H NMR(400Hz, CDCl₃) δ:7.39-7.46(m, 5H), 7.28-7.32(m, 5H), 3.58(t, *J*=5.8Hz, 2H), 2.70-2.74(m, 3H), 2.61(t, *J*=6.0Hz, 2H), 2.48-2.53(m, 4H), 2.04-2.09(m, 2H), 1.72-1.76(m, 4H), 1.61-1.69(m, 2H); ¹³C NMR(100MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 138.50, 138.37, 132.61, 132.43, 130.64, 130.55, 128.59, 128.47, 128.38, 128.27, 128.21, 55.31, 53.98, 50.67, 50.53, 47.78, 25.92, 25.76, 25.51, 25.40, 23.22; HRMS-ESI: *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₃₀N₂P (M+H)⁺ 341.2141 found 341.2145.

1.3 General procedure for the synthesis of benzoxazoles (**2**)

To a stirred solution of the *o*-halobenzanilides **1** (1 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (9 mg, 0.05 mmol), Et₃N (202 mg, 2 mmol) and DPPAP (17 mg, 0.1 mmol) in water (3 mL) at 110 °C for 12 h. After cooled to room temperature, the reaction was extracted with EtOAc (3×5 mL). The organic layer was dried using anhydrous Na₂SO₄, concentrated in vacuo and purified by column chromatography to afford respective products.

Compound 2a: ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.18-8.21(m, 2H), 7.72-7.74(m, 1H), 7.46-7.48(m, 1H), 7.40-7.43(m, 3H), 7.24-7.27(m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 162.85, 150.64, 142.07, 131.31, 128.73, 127.50, 127.08, 124.94, 124.43, 119.92, 110.45; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}$ (M+H) $^+$ 196.0757 found 196.0759.

Compound 2b: ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.11(d, $J=8.2\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.73-7.75(m, 1H), 7.50-7.73(m, 1H), 7.25-7.30(m, 4H), 2.36(s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 163.30, 150.74, 142.27, 142.00, 129.63, 127.62, 124.86, 124.48, 119.88, 110.50, 21.62; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}$ (M+H) $^+$ 210.0913 found 210.0910.

Compound 2c: ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.16(d, $J=8.3\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.74-7.76(m, 1H), 7.52-7.74(m, 1H), 7.29-7.33(m, 4H), 2.72(q, $J=7.6\text{Hz}$, 2H), 1.27(t, $J=7.6\text{Hz}$, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 163.35, 150.78, 148.28, 142.30, 128.48, 127.76, 124.89, 124.70, 124.51, 119.91, 110.53, 28.98, 15.23; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$ (M+H) $^+$ 224.1070 found 224.1069.

Compound 2d: ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.20(d, $J=8.6\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.72-7.75(m, 1H), 7.54-7.56(m, 1H), 7.30-7.35(m, 2H), 7.03(d, $J=8.6\text{Hz}$, 2H), 3.88(s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 163.32, 162.48, 150.83, 142.44, 129.53, 124.72, 124.55, 119.86, 119.76, 114.50, 110.50, 55.57; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_2$ (M+H) $^+$ 226.0863 found 226.0865.

Compound 2e: ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.18(d, $J=9.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.55-7.74(m, 1H), 7.52-7.54(m, 1H), 7.29-7.32(m, 2H), 7.00(d, $J=9.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 4.11(q, $J=7.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 1.45(t, $J=7.0\text{Hz}$, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 163.36, 161.87, 150.79, 142.44, 129.49, 124.65, 124.49, 119.71, 119.61, 114.92, 110.46, 63.81, 14.82; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2$ (M+H) $^+$ 240.1019 found 240.1018.

Compound 2f: ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.17-8.21(dd, $J=5.4\text{Hz}$, 5.4Hz, 2H), 7.71-7.74(m, 1H), 7.49-7.52(m, 1H), 7.29-7.32(m, 2H), 7.17(t, $J=8.7\text{Hz}$, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 166.10, 163.59, 162.15, 150.82, 142.15, 129.89, 129.80, 125.15, 124.68, 123.58, 123.55, 120.05, 116.28, 116.06, 110.58; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{FNO}$ (M+H) $^+$ 241.0663 found 241.0661.

Compound 2h: ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.18(d, $J=8.7\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.75-7.77(m, 1H), 7.55-7.57(m, 1H), 7.49(d, $J=8.8\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.33-7.37(m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 162.19, 150.92, 142.18, 137.90, 129.40, 128.98, 125.84, 125.47, 124.87, 120.24, 110.74; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{ClNO}$ (M+H) $^+$ 230.0367 found 230.0366.

Compound 2i: ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.14-8.16(dd, $J=2.1\text{Hz}$, 2.2Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.86(m, 1H), 7.62-7.63(m, 1H), 7.56-7.61(dd, $J=11.4\text{Hz}$, 6.3Hz, 1H), 7.47(d, $J=1.9\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.45(d, $J=2.0\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.43(d, $J=2.1\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.38-7.42(m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 161.11, 150.75, 141.85, 133.65, 132.03, 131.97, 131.52, 127.05, 126.44, 125.70, 124.78, 120.65, 110.87; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{ClNO}$ (M+H) $^+$ 230.0367 found 230.0366.

Compound 2j: ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.15(s, 2H), 7.80(d, $J=9.1\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.61(d, $J=2.6\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.51(s, 1H), 7.41(t, $J=3.7\text{Hz}$, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 151.32, 141.93, 135.98, 131.40, 126.12, 126.01, 125.20, 120.61, 110.97; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_8\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}$ (M+H) $^+$ 263.9977 found 263.9975.

Compound 2k: ^1H NMR(400Hz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.09(d, $J=8.7\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.74-7.76(m, 1H), 7.64(d, $J=8.6\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.53-7.56(m, 1H), 7.33-7.35(m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR(100MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 162.22, 150.87, 142.15, 132.33, 129.10, 126.33, 126.23, 126.23, 125.48, 124.86, 120.24, 110.73; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{BrNO}$ (M+H) $^+$ 273.9862 found 273.9862.

Compound 2l: ^1H NMR(400Hz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.26(d, $J=8.1\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.69-7.71(m, 1H), 7.68(d, $J=8.9\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.48-7.50(m, 1H), 7.27-7.30(m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR(100MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 161.58, 150.99,

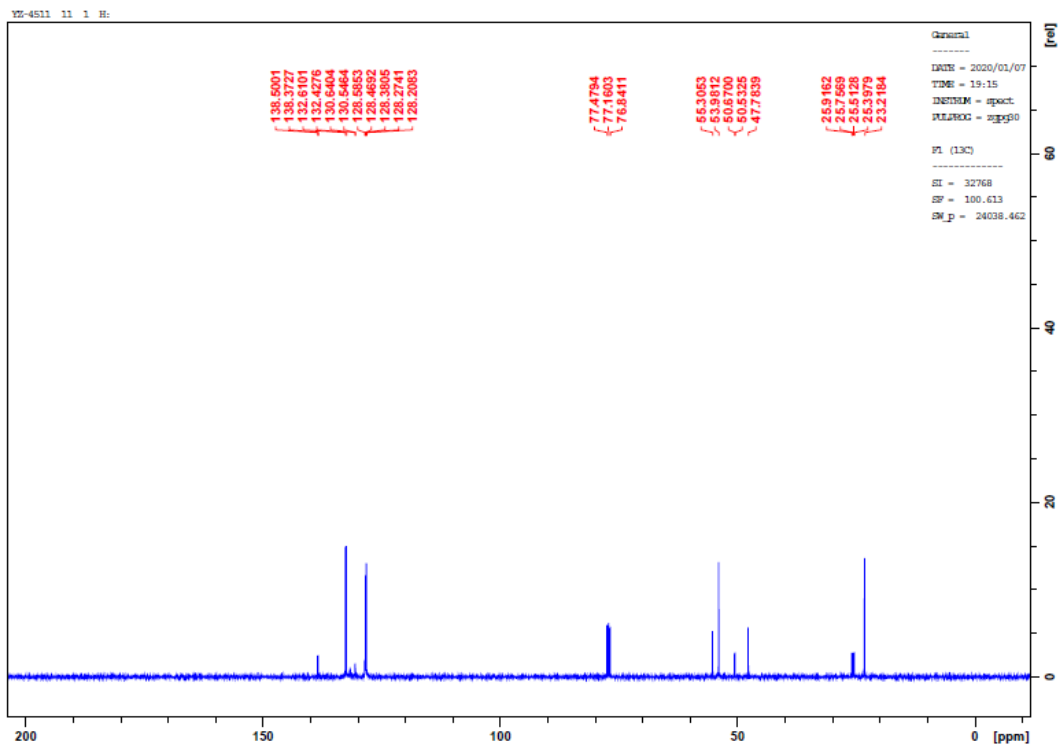
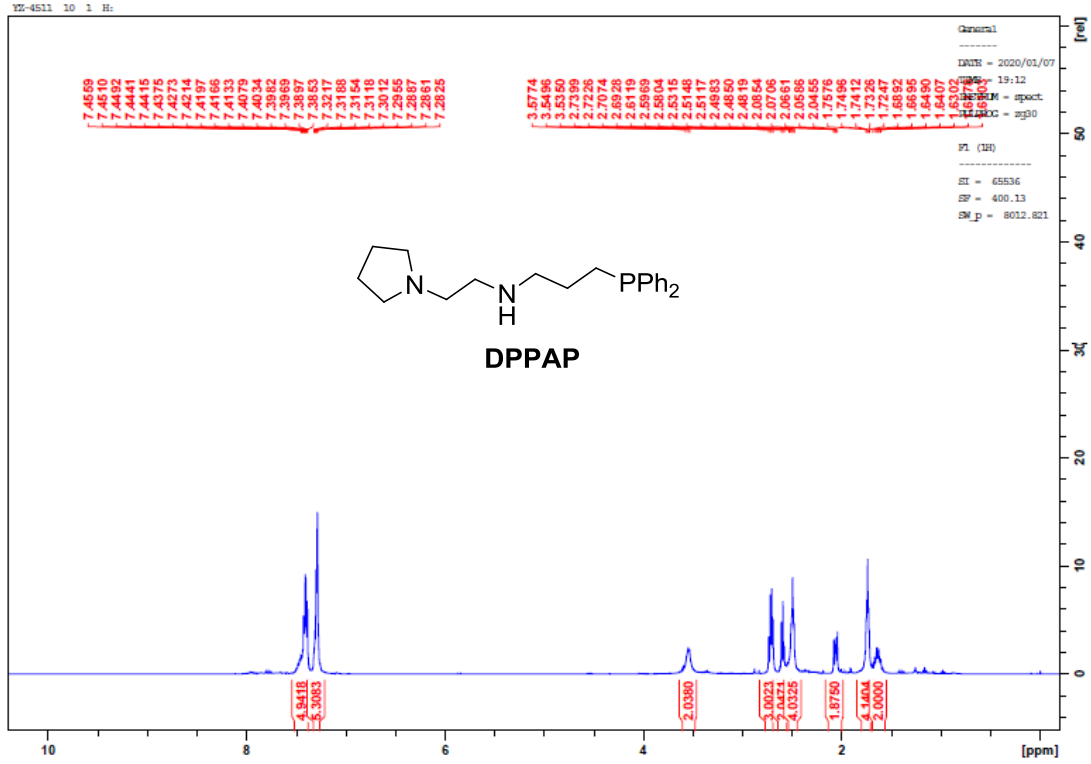
142.05, 127.97, 126.04, 126.01, 125.92, 125.06, 120.54, 110.91; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_9F_3NO(M+H)^+$ 264.0631 found 264.0632.

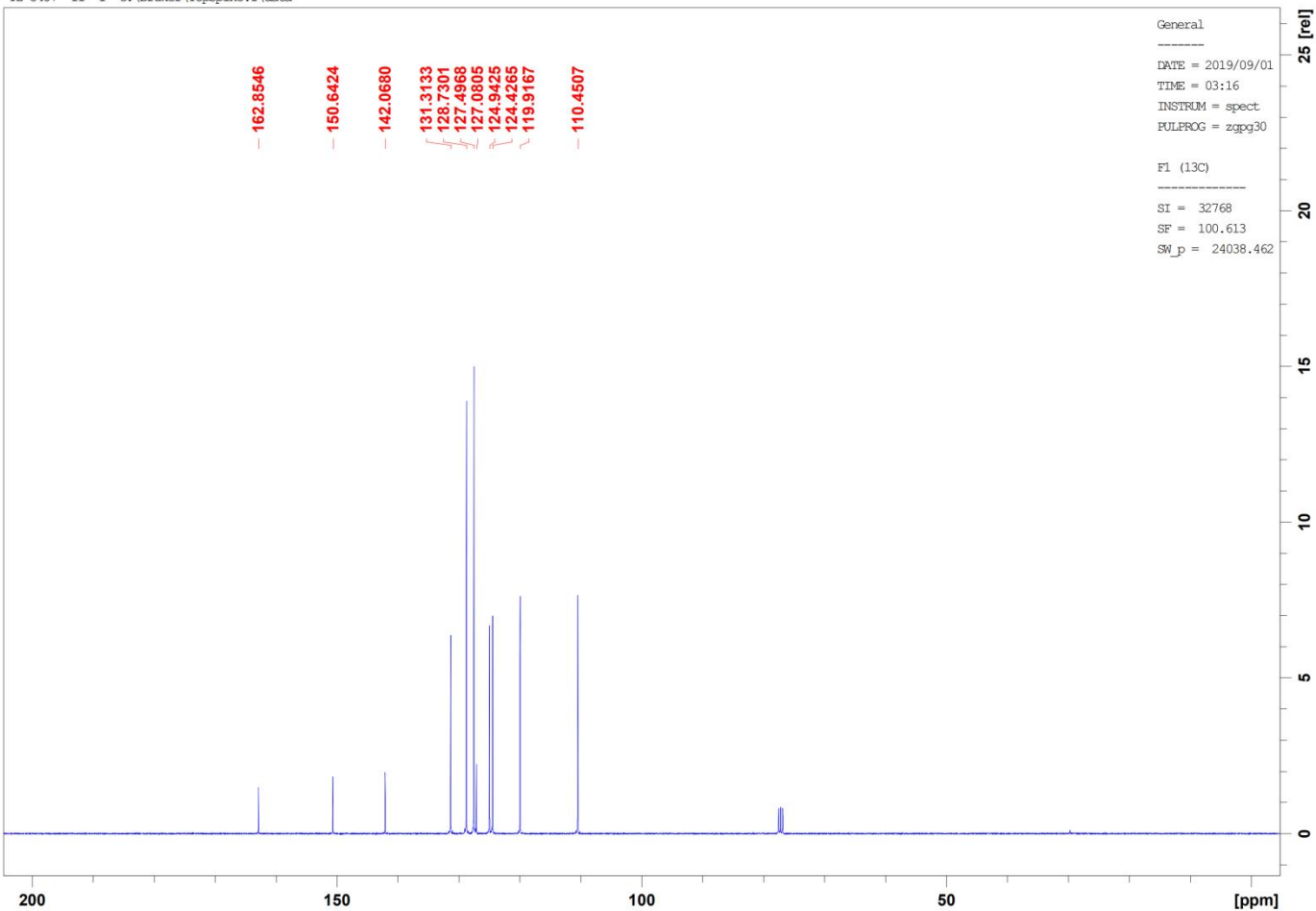
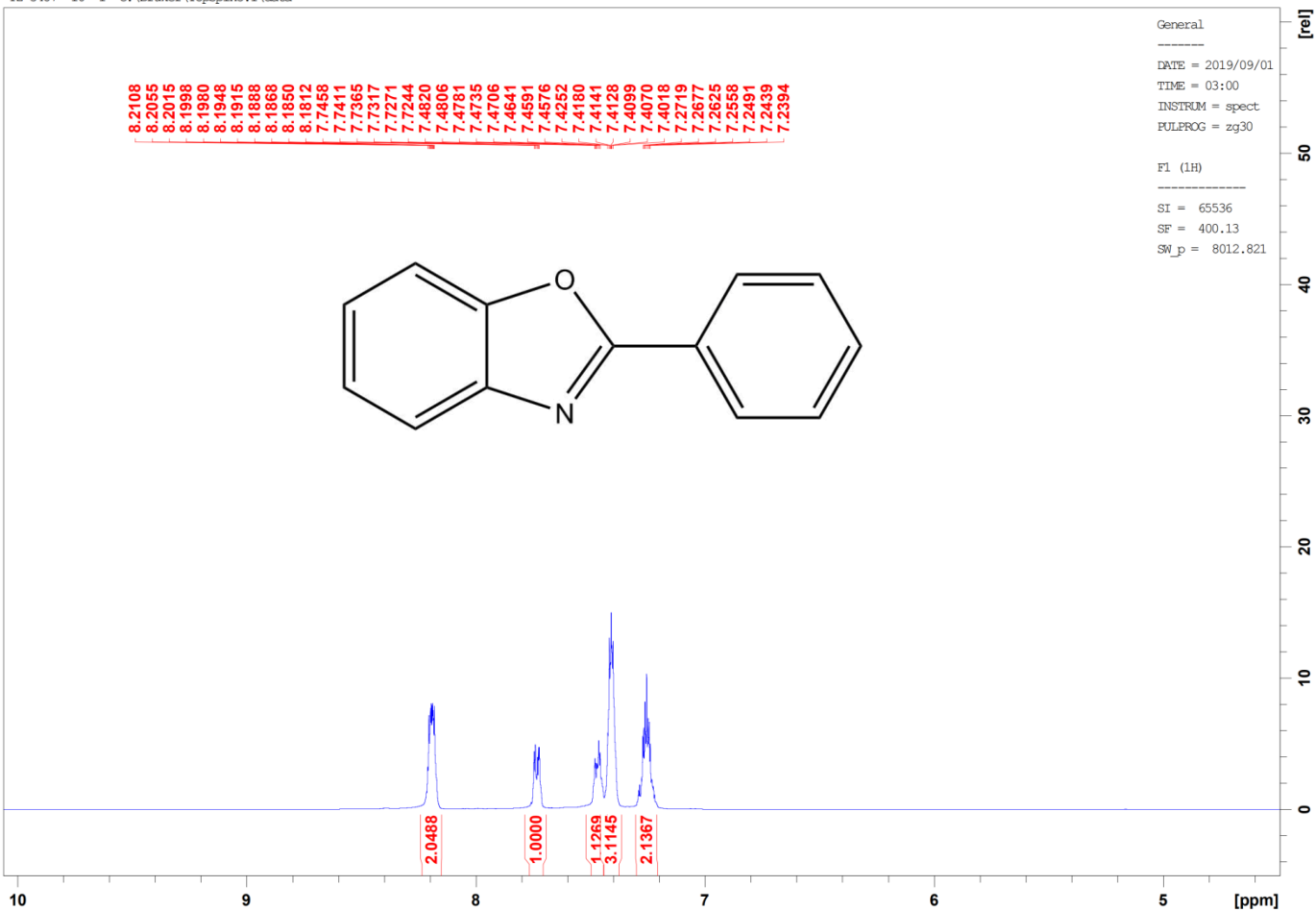
Compound 2m: 1H NMR(400Hz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 8.44(s, 1H), 8.34(d, $J=7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.71(m, 2H), 7.58(d, $J=7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.54(m, 1H), 7.28-7.31(m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR(100MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 161.62, 150.96, 142.02, 130.74, 129.66, 128.20, 128.05, 128.02, 125.85, 125.05, 124.65, 124.61, 120.46, 110.90; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_9F_3NO(M+H)^+$ 264.0631 found 264.0631.

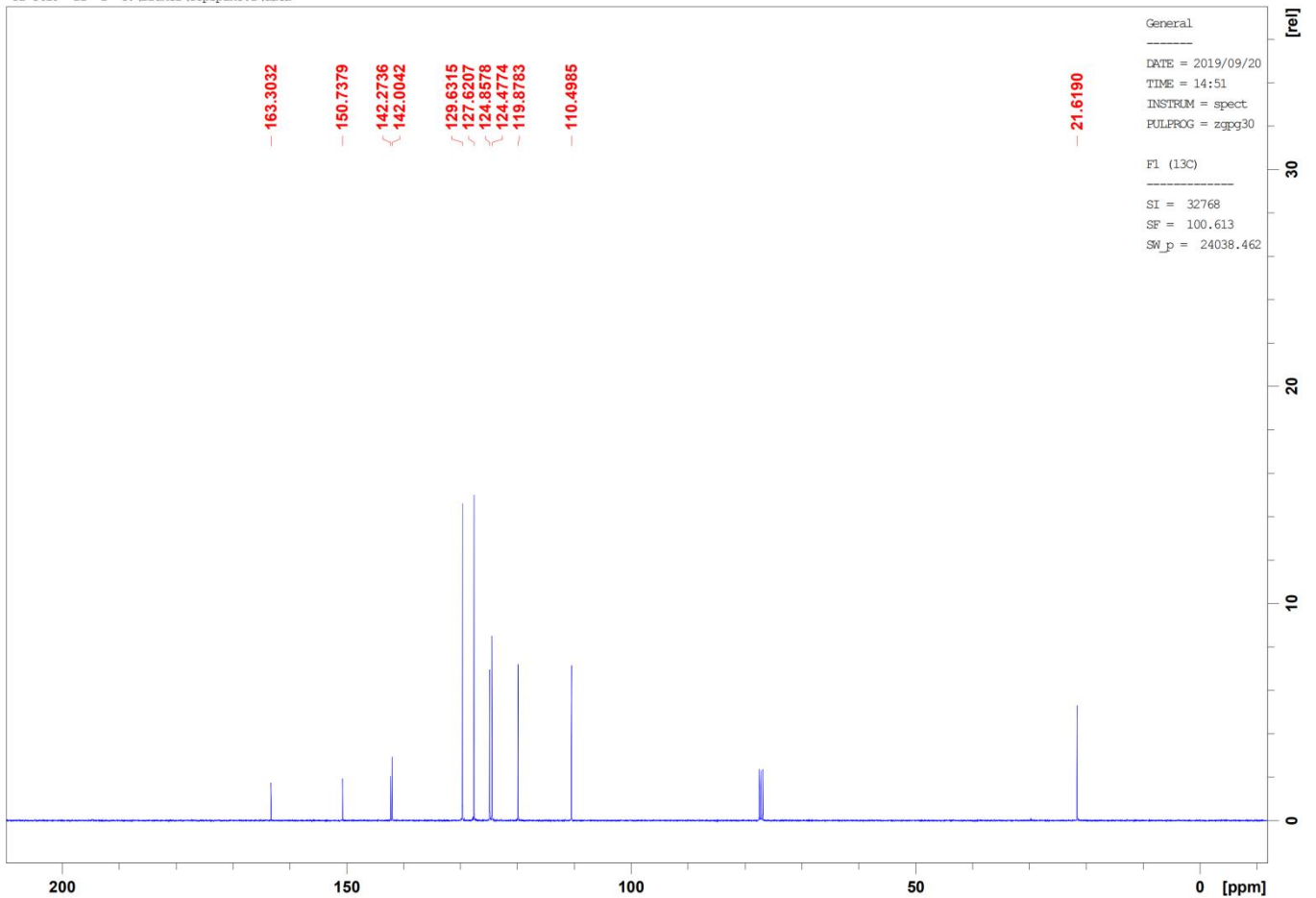
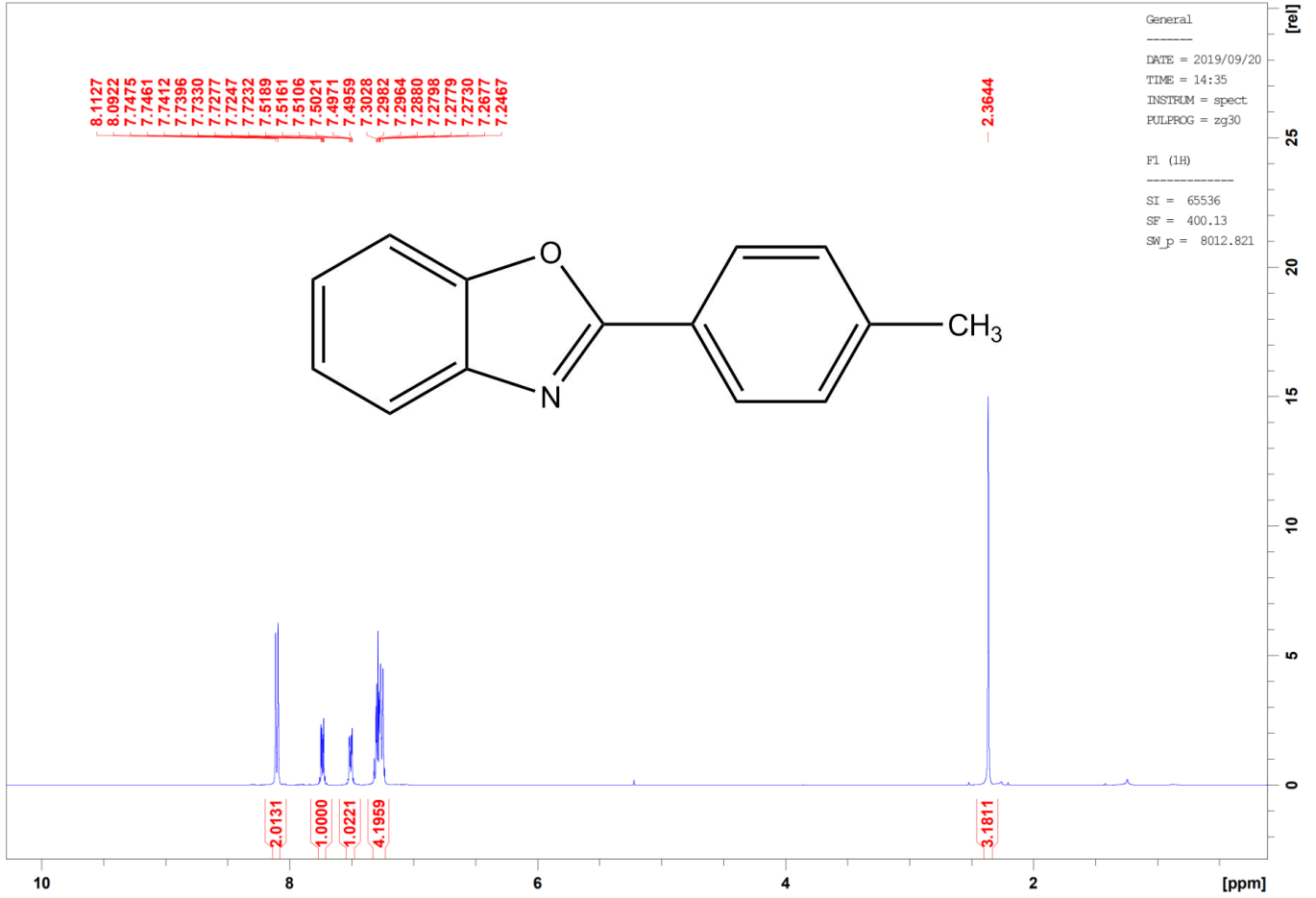
Compound 2n: 1H NMR(400Hz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 8.16(d, $J=7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.83-7.89(m, 2H), 7.62-7.72(m, 3H), 7.40-7.42(m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR(100MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 161.30, 151.38, 141.78, 139.13, 132.37, 132.05, 131.17, 127.26, 127.20, 125.83, 124.90, 120.70, 111.05; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_9F_3NO(M+H)^+$ 264.0631 found 264.0628.

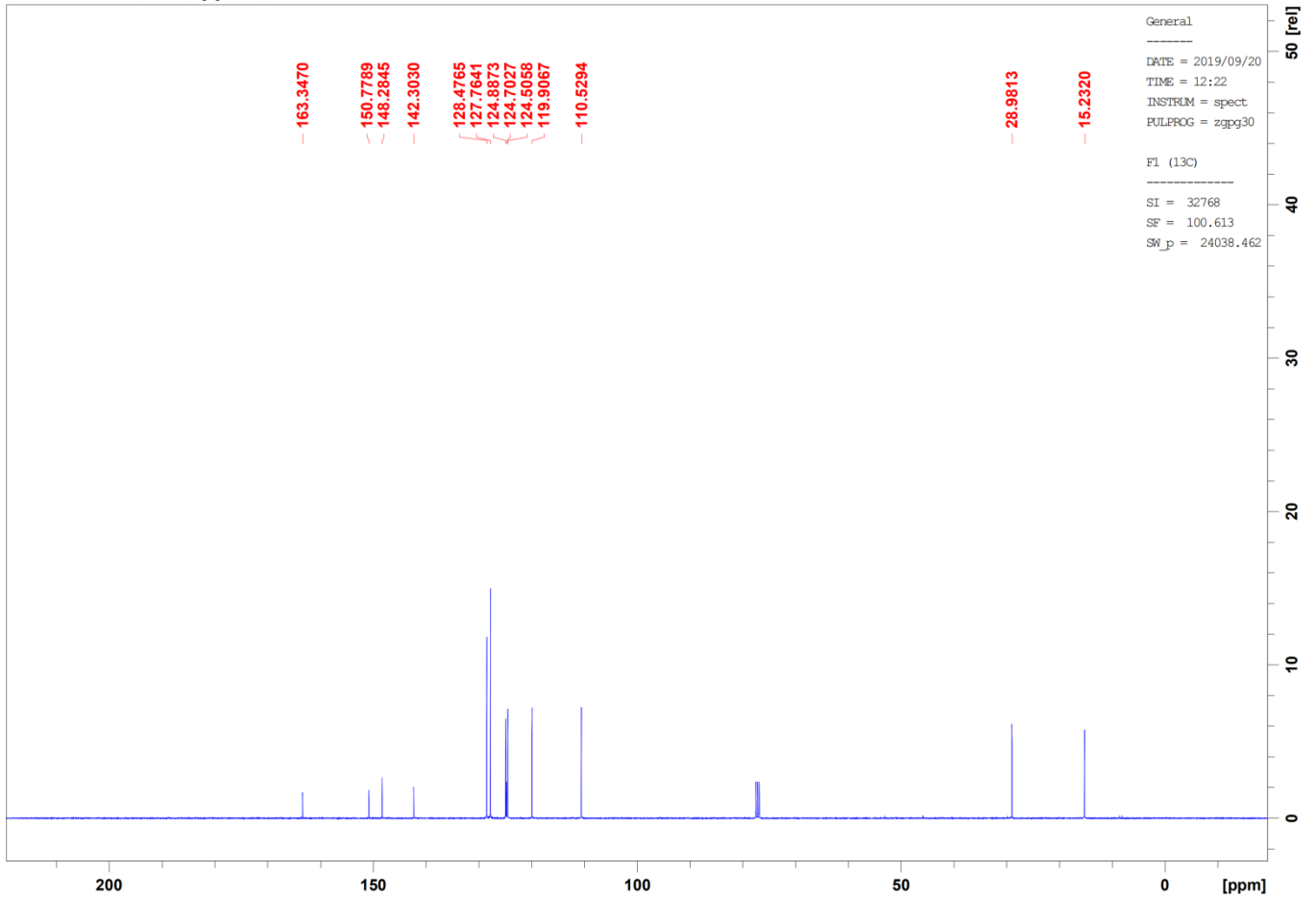
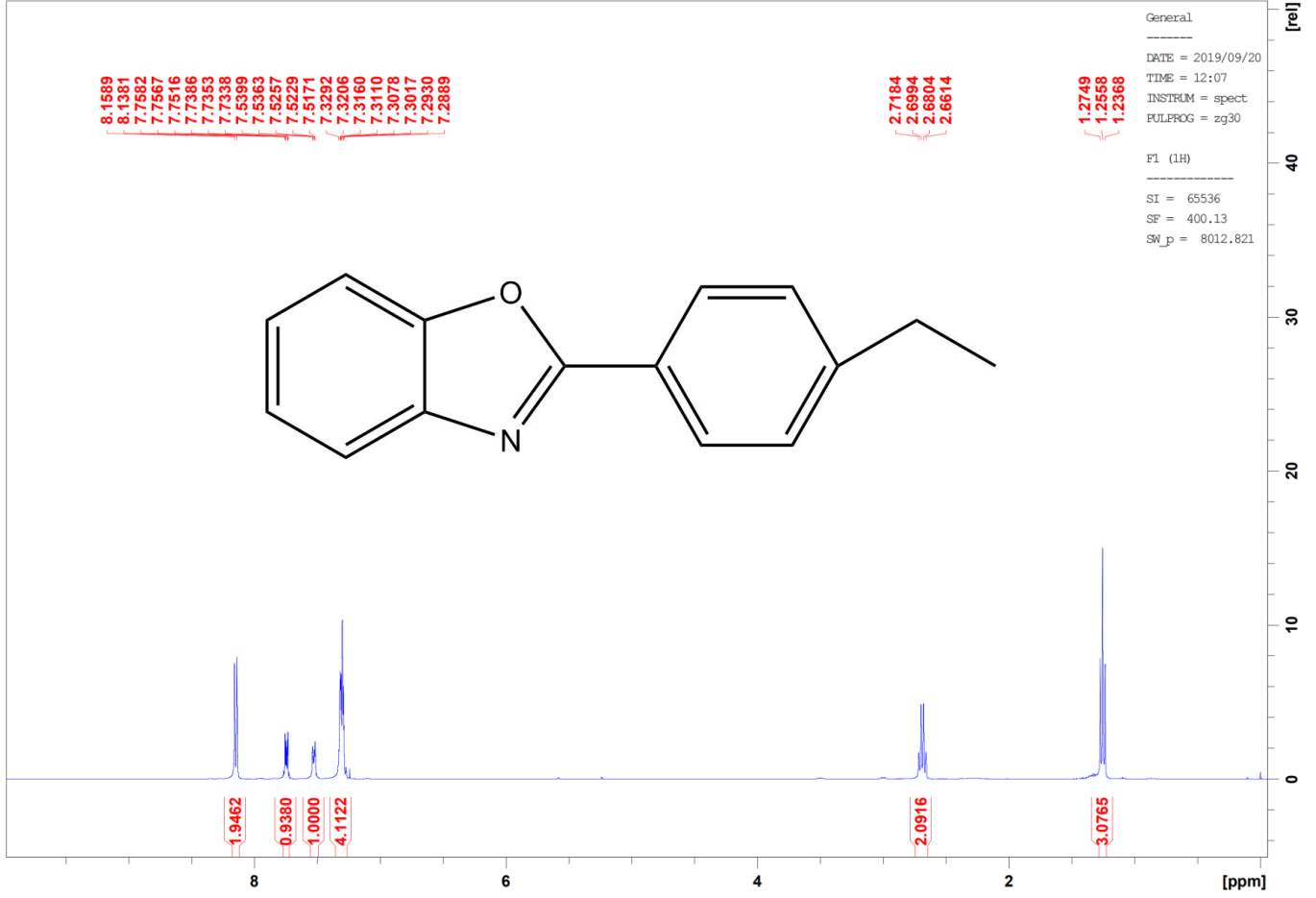
Compound 2o: 1H NMR(400Hz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 8.75(s, 1H), 8.31(d, $J=8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.94-7.97(dd, $J=5.2$ Hz, 7.1Hz, 2H), 7.87(d, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.81(m, 1H), 7.57-7.79(m, 1H), 7.53-7.56(m, 2H), 7.34-7.37(m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR(100MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 163.33, 151.01, 142.37, 134.88, 133.11, 129.07, 128.89, 128.27, 128.03, 127.91, 127.01, 125.29, 124.76, 124.54, 124.09, 120.16, 110.71; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for $C_{17}H_{12}NO(M+H)^+$ 246.0913 found 246.091.

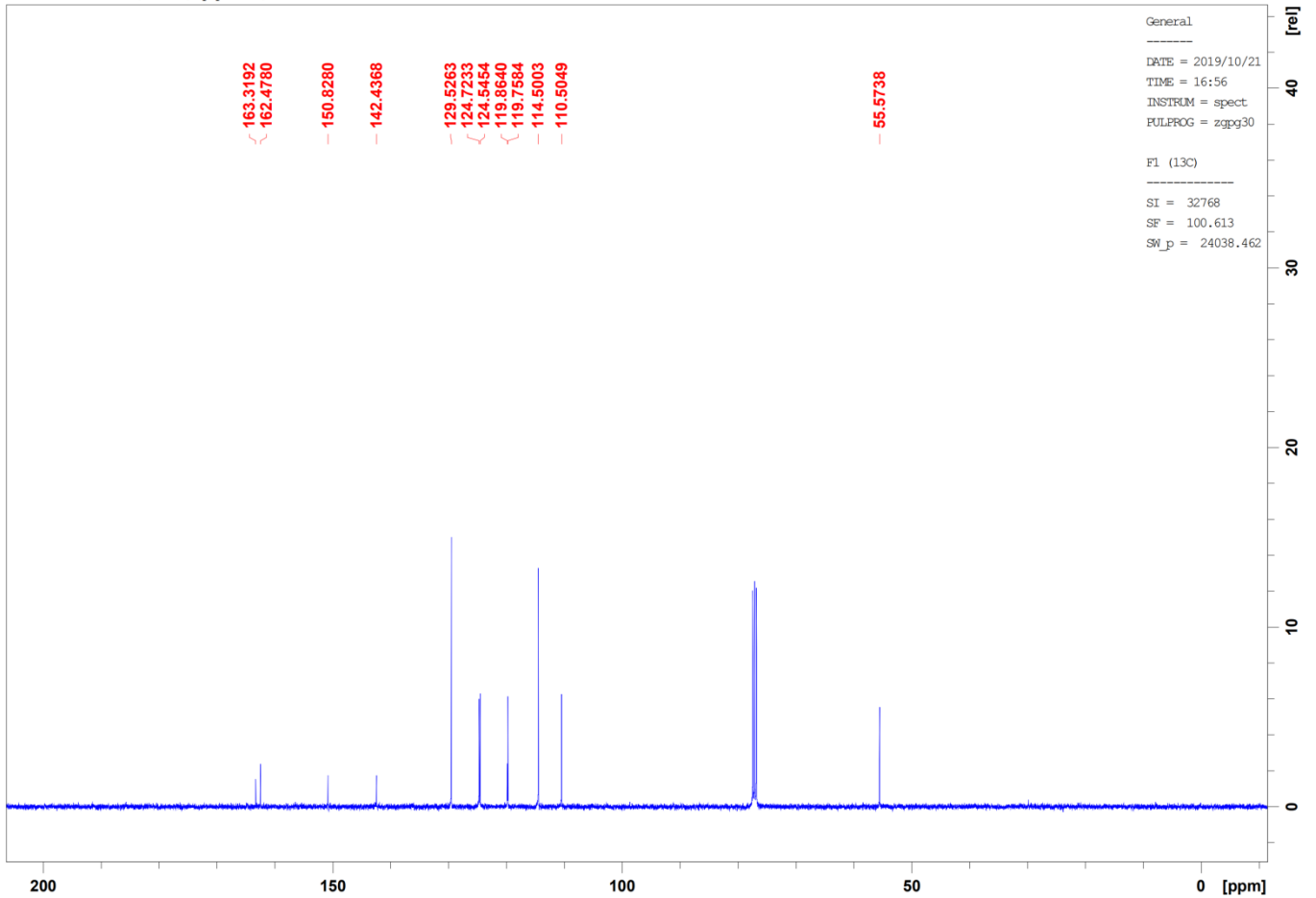
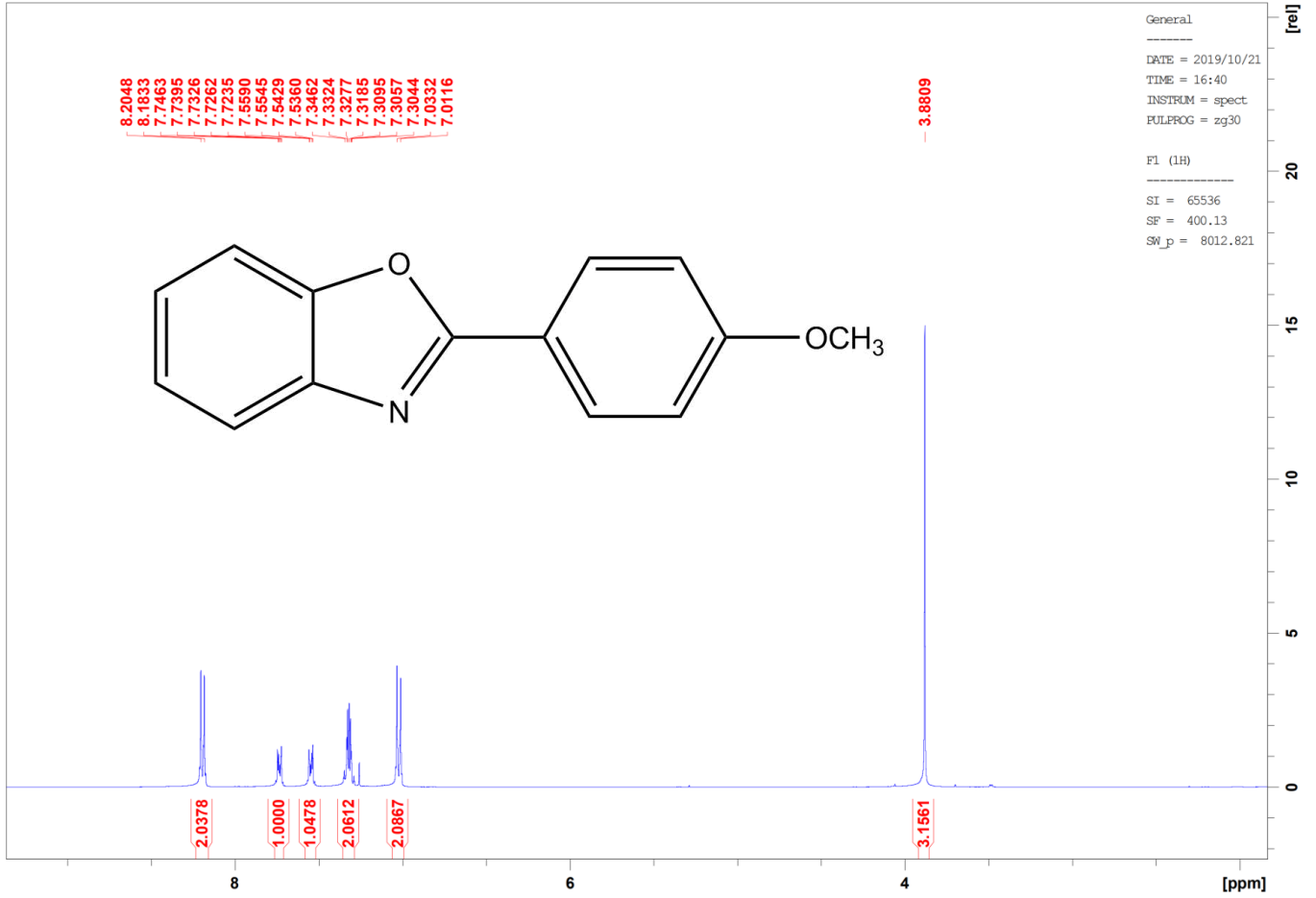
2. NMR spectra

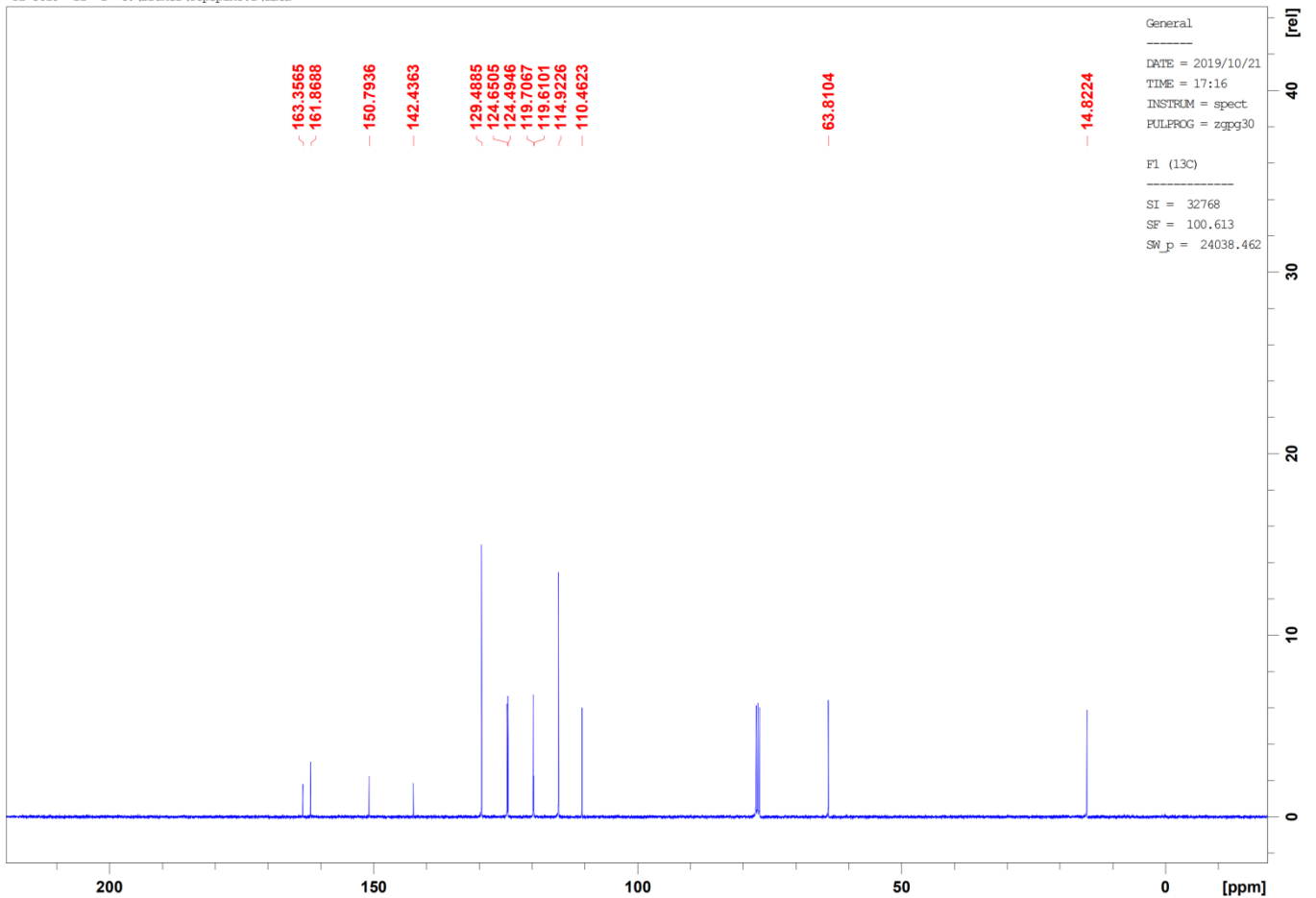
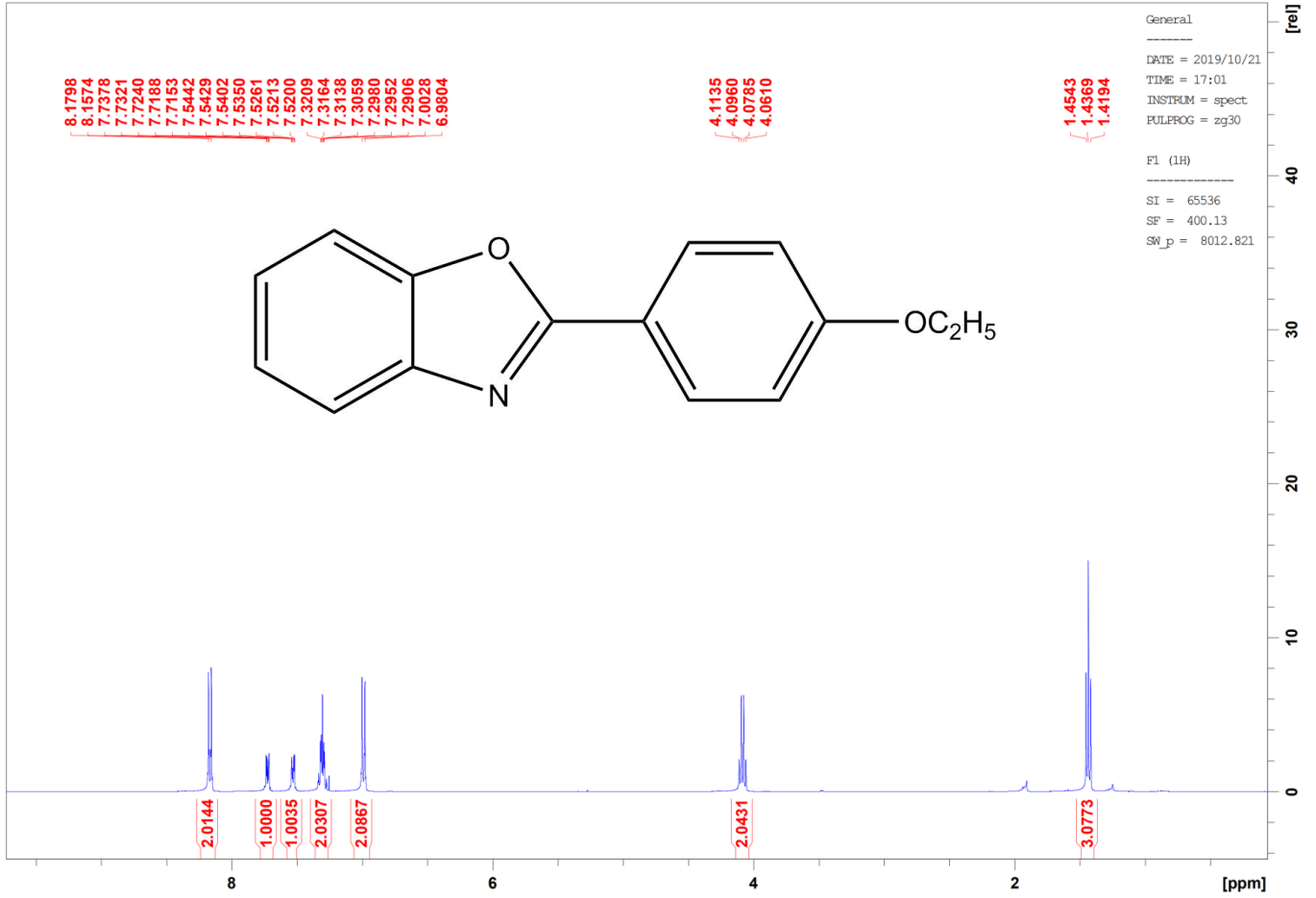


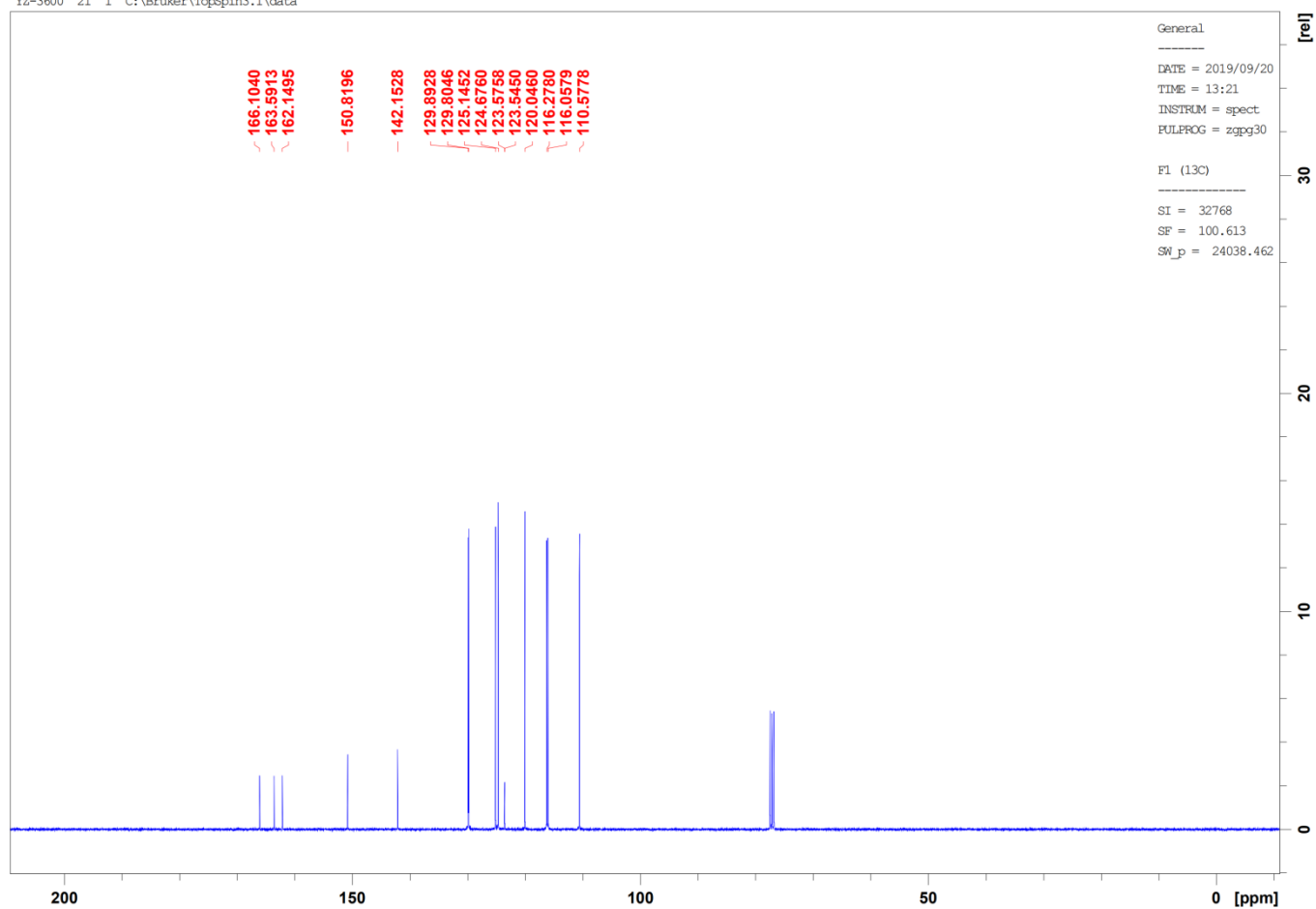
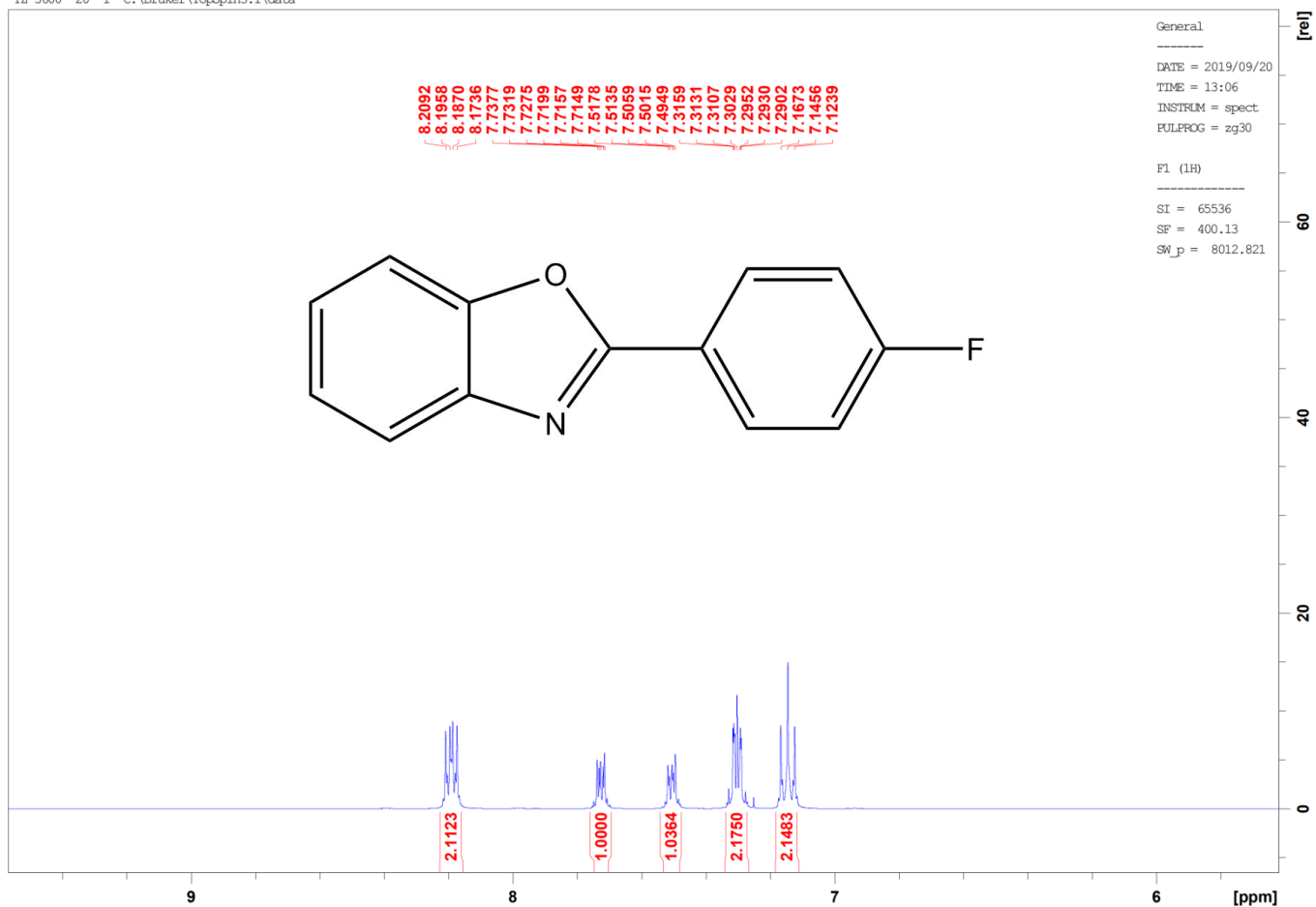


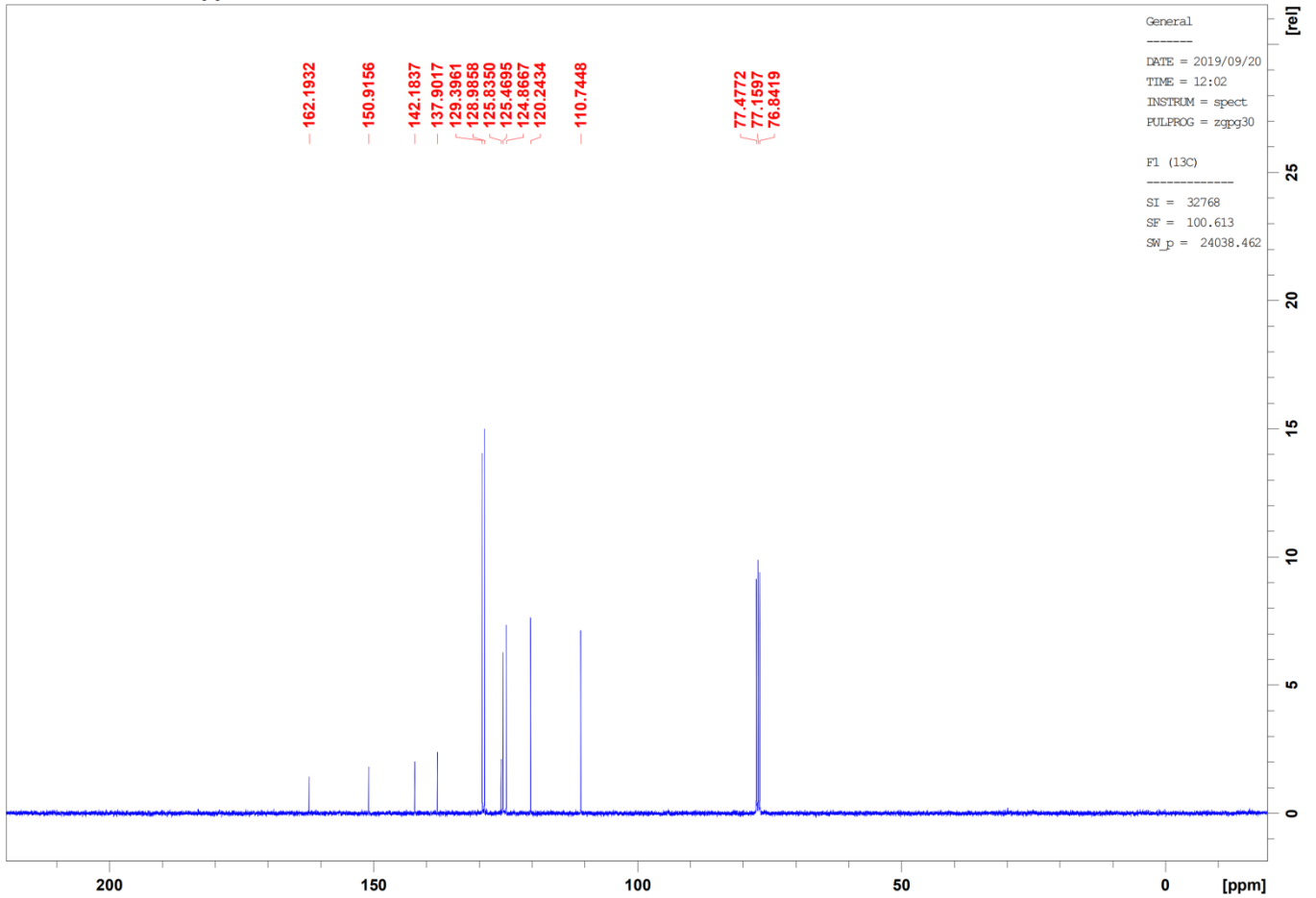
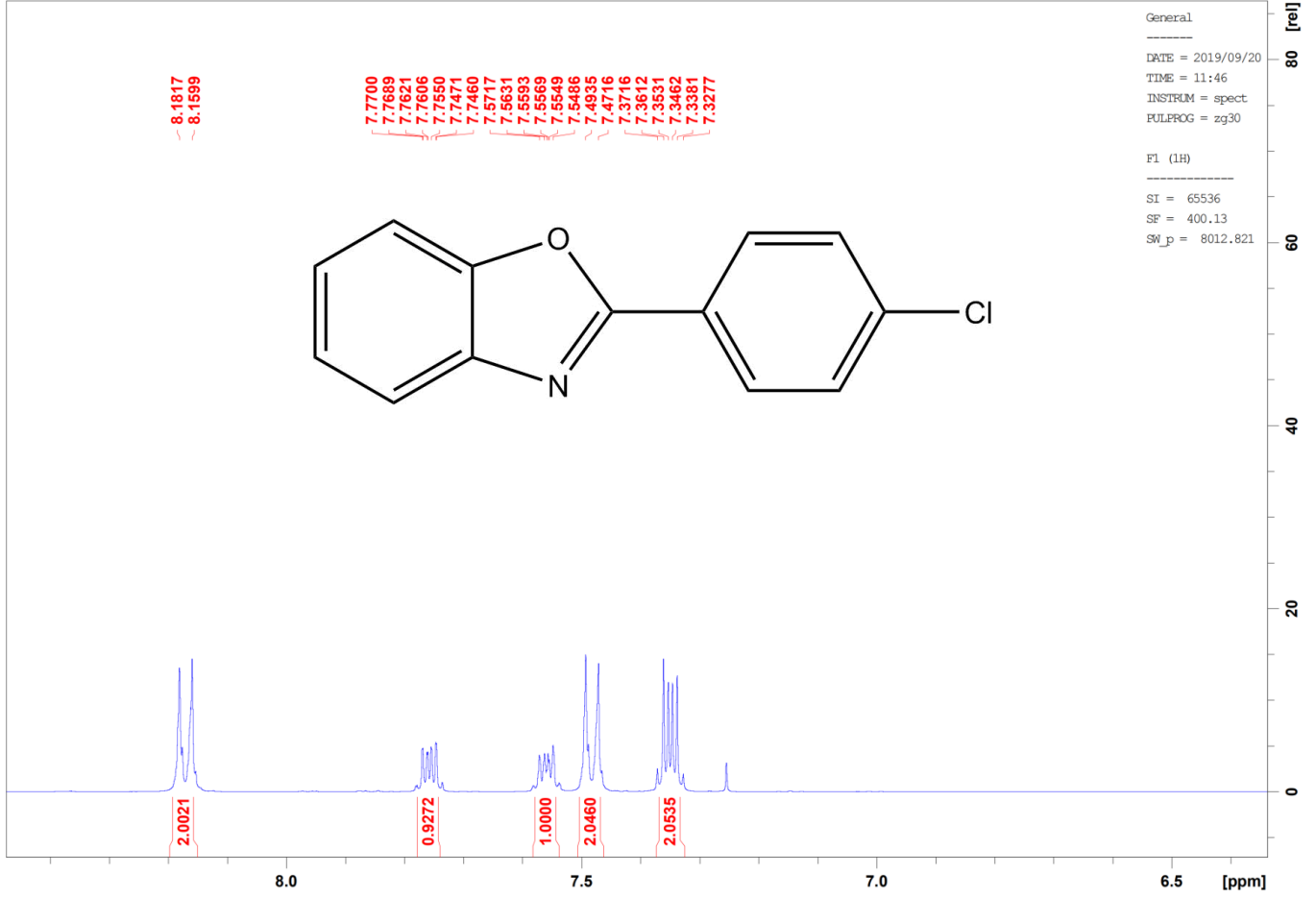


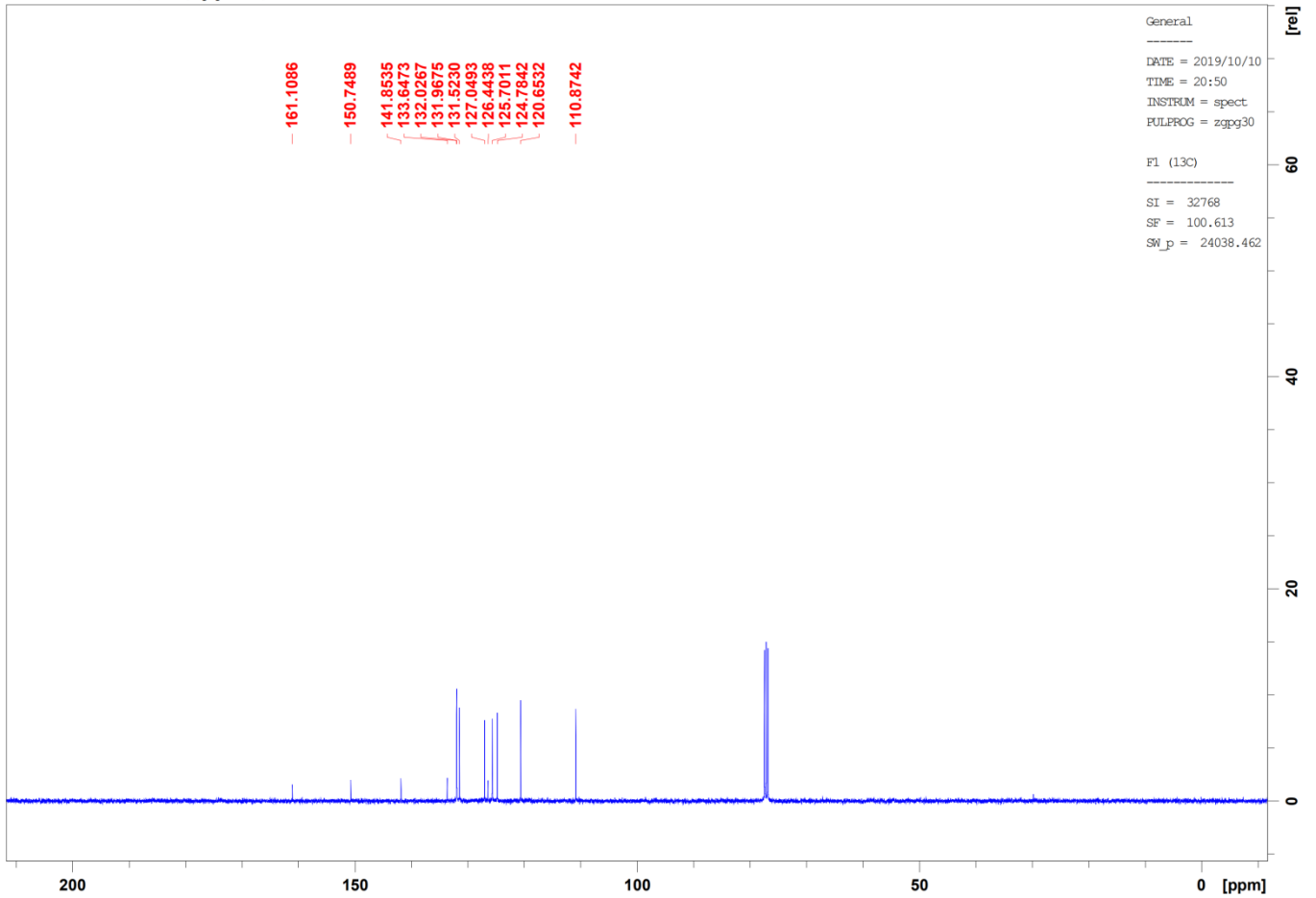
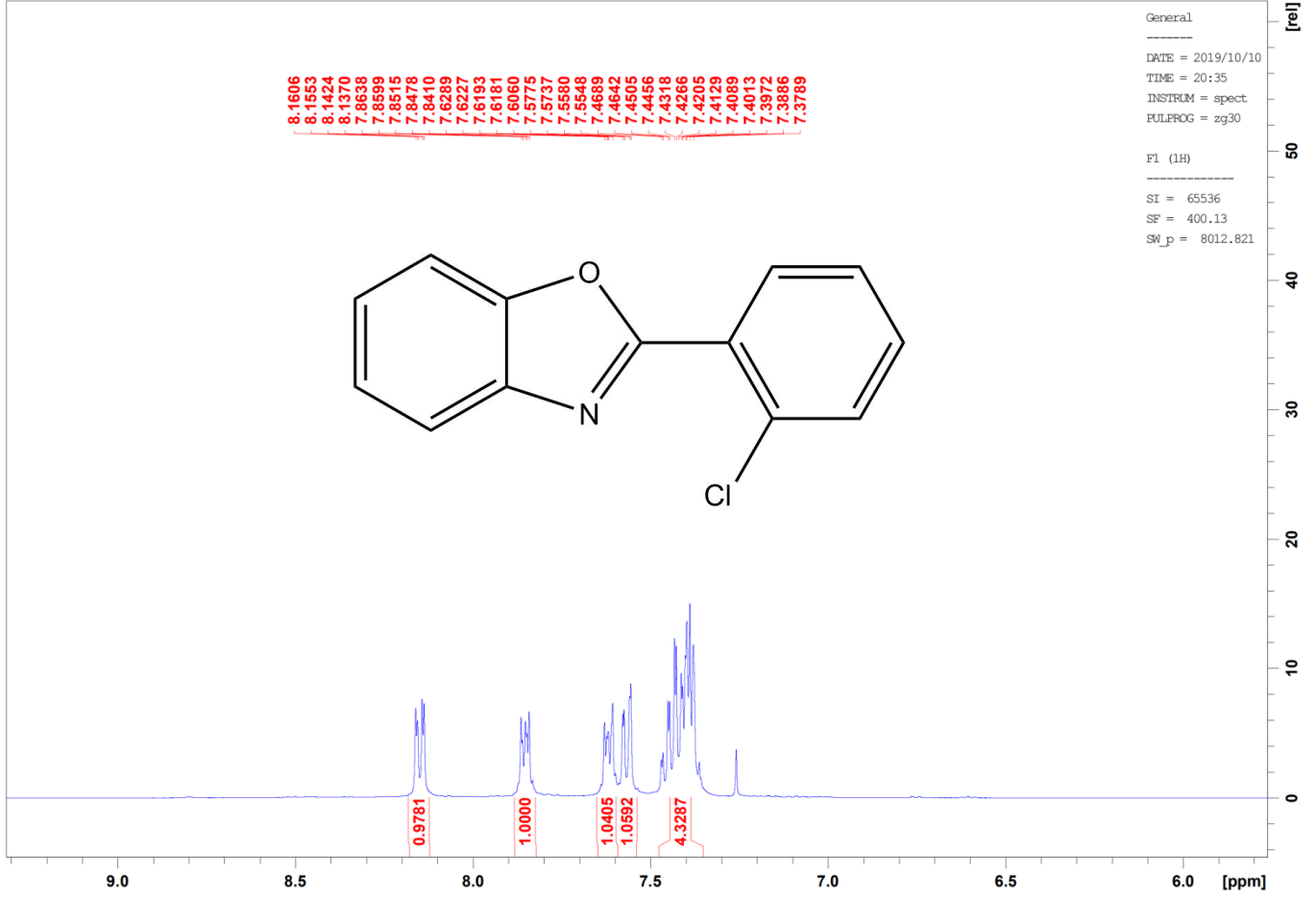


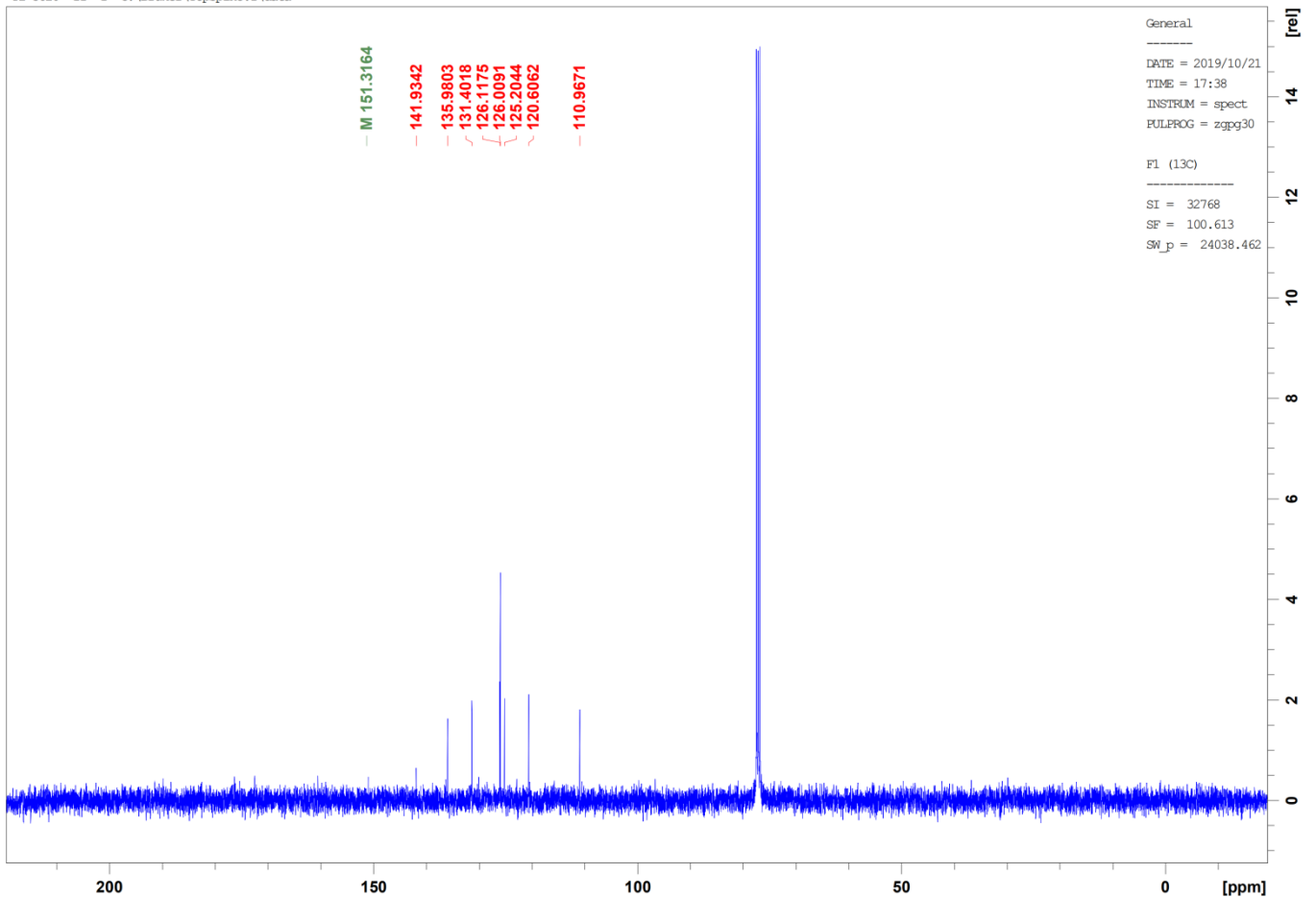
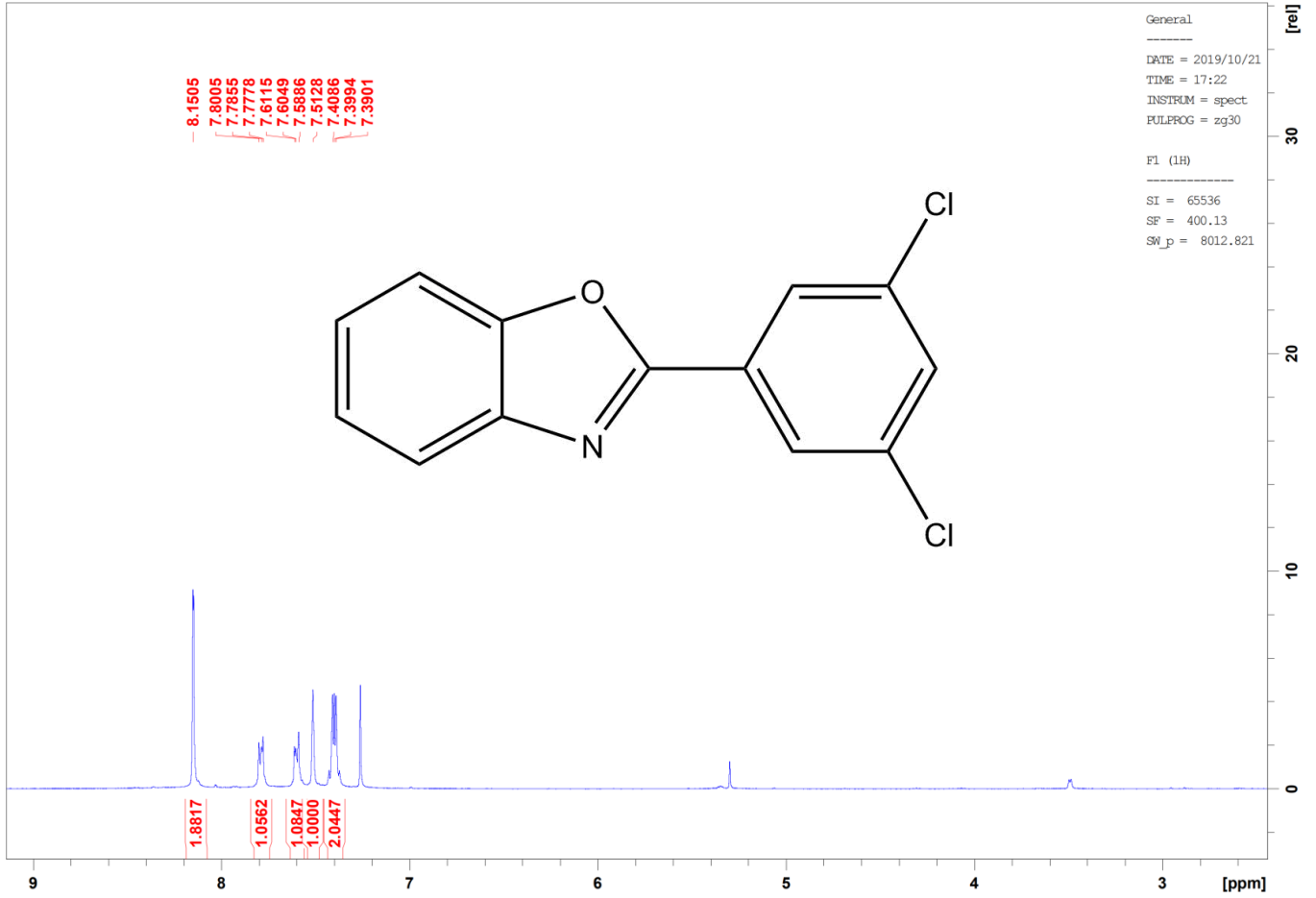


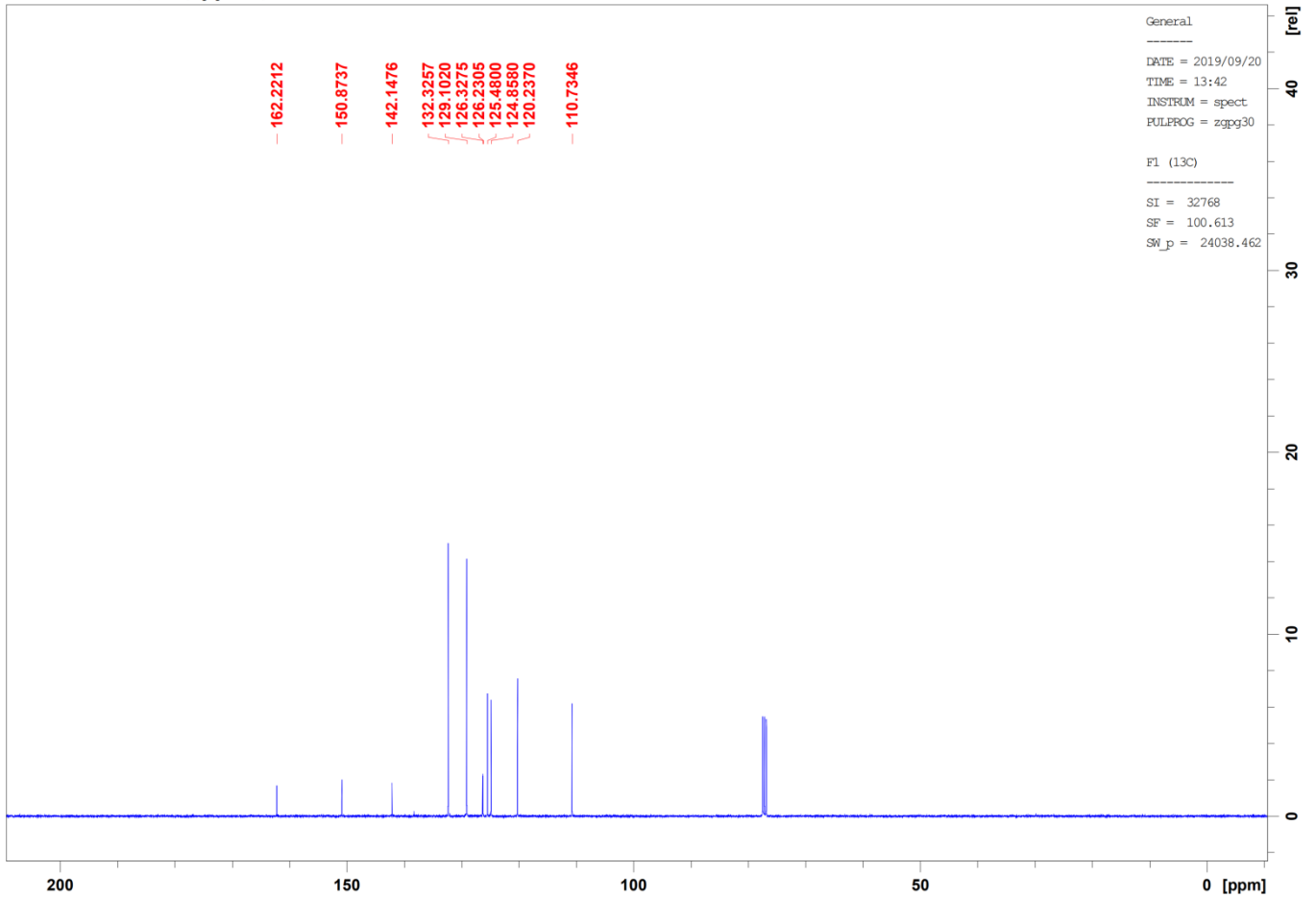
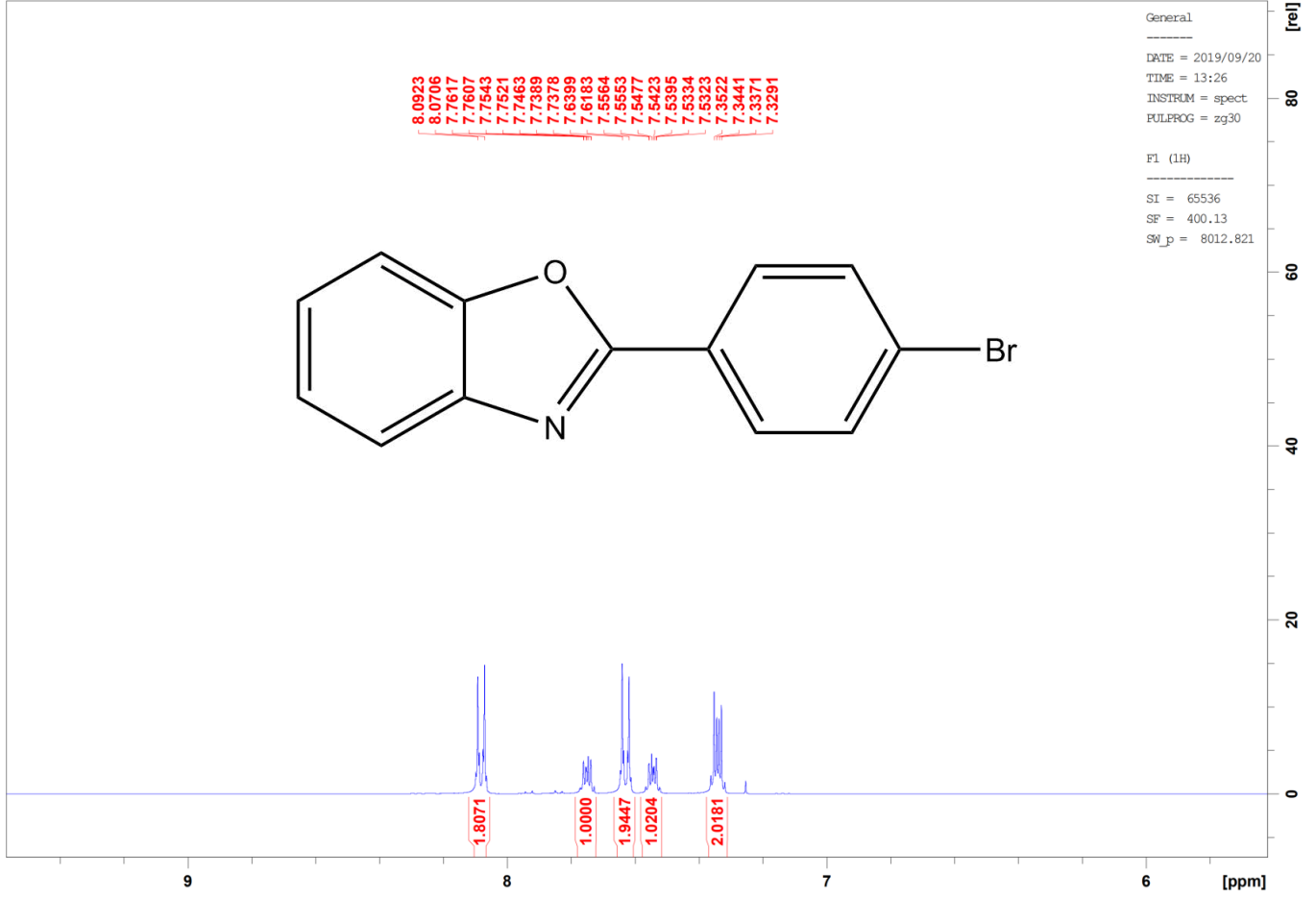


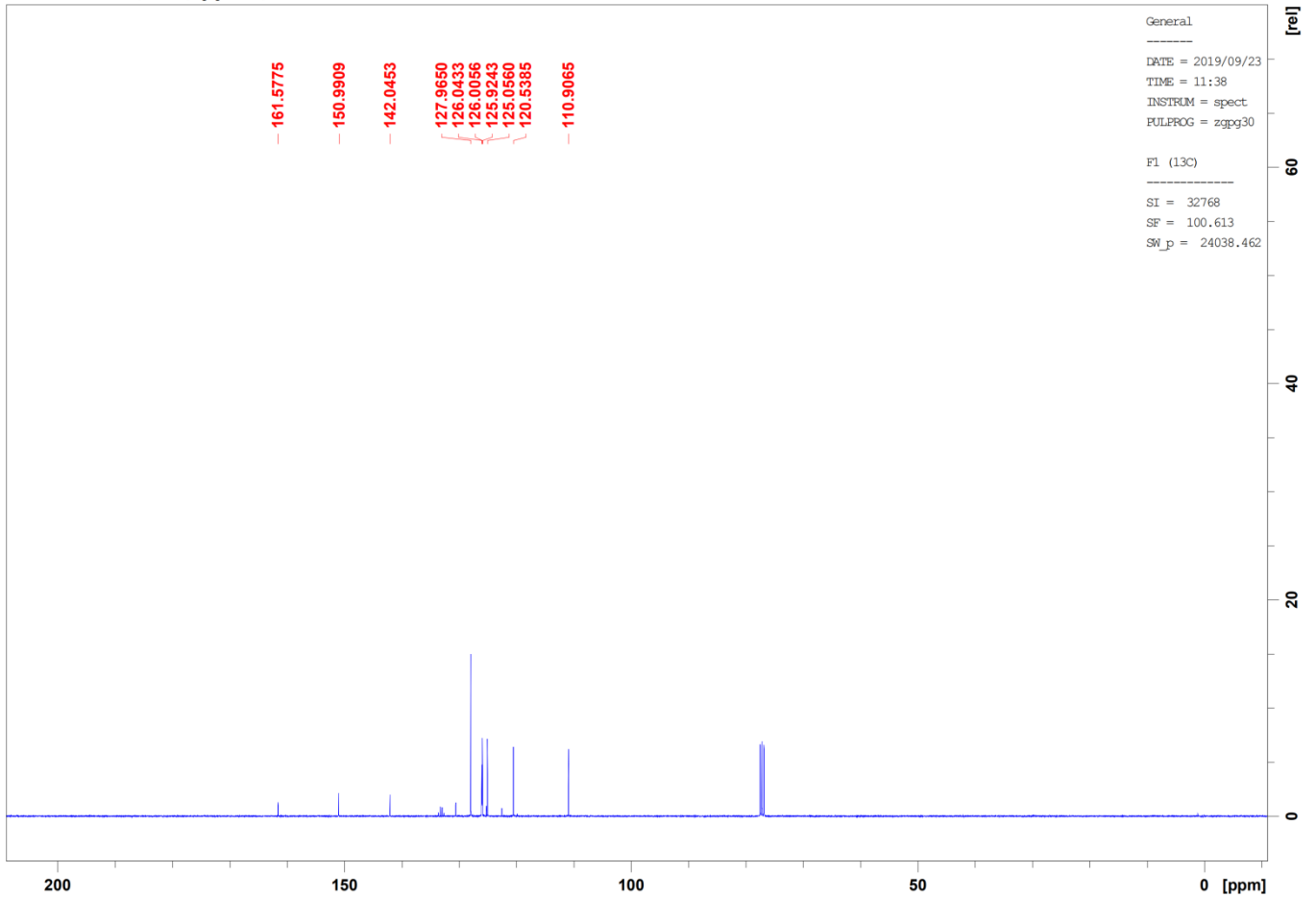
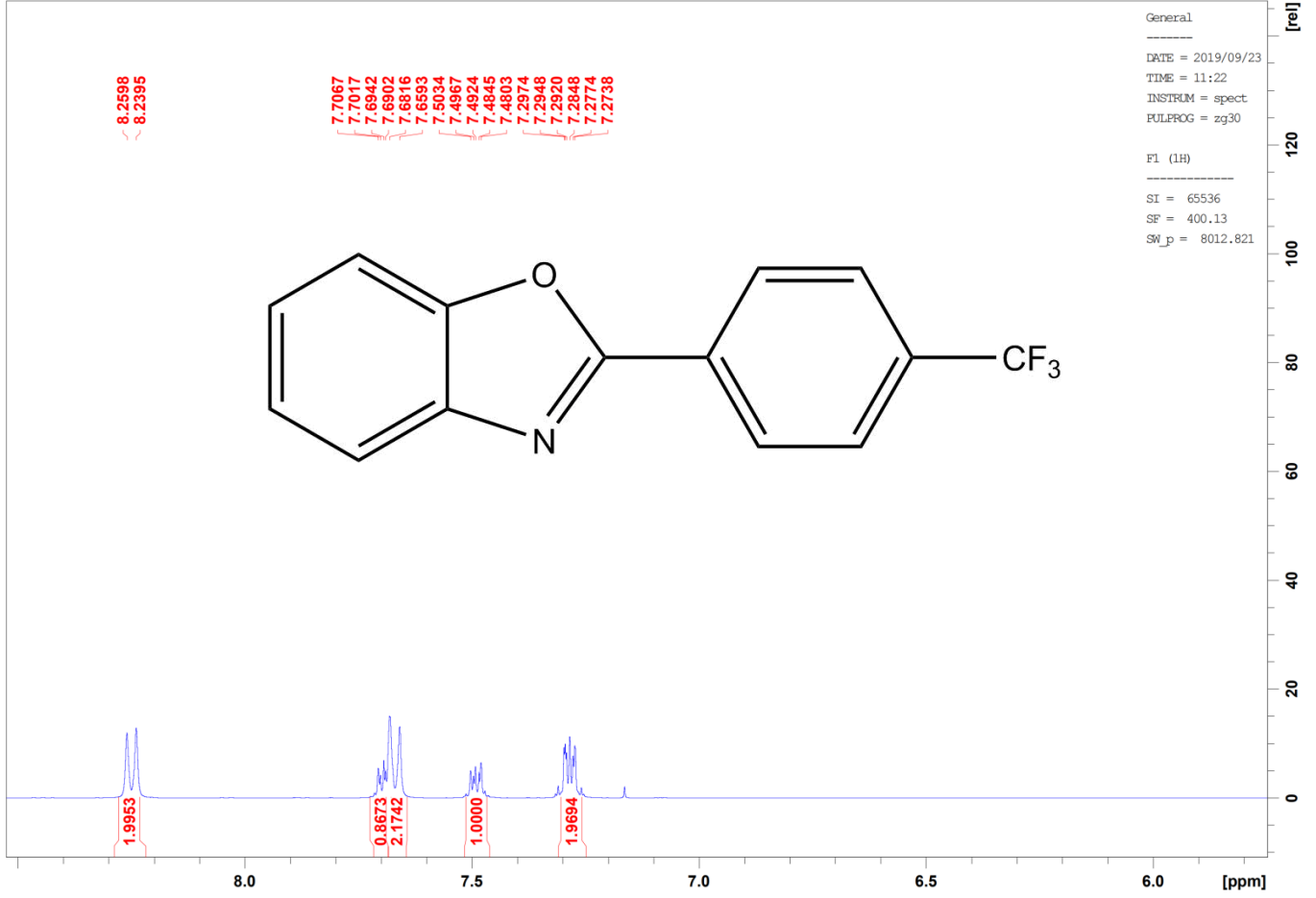


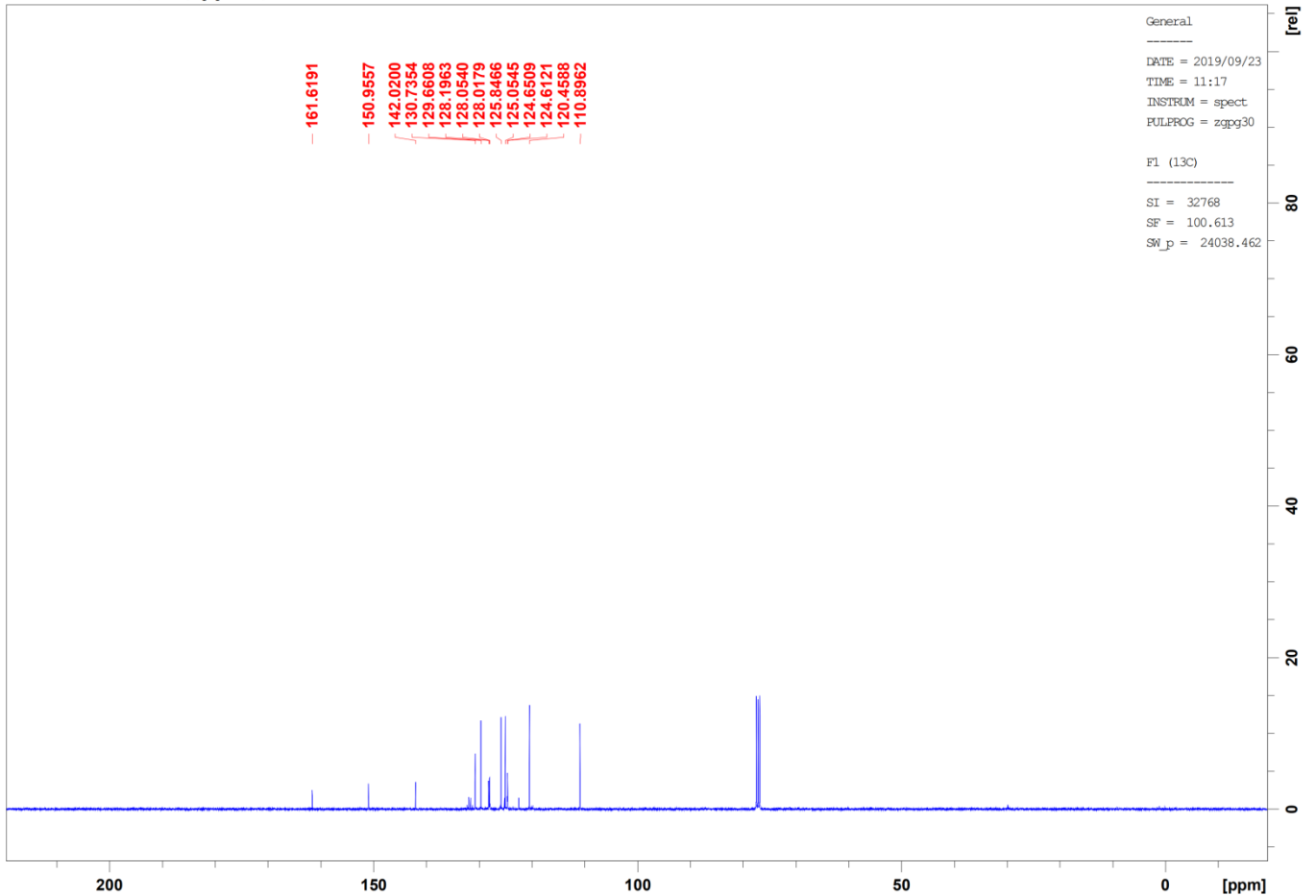
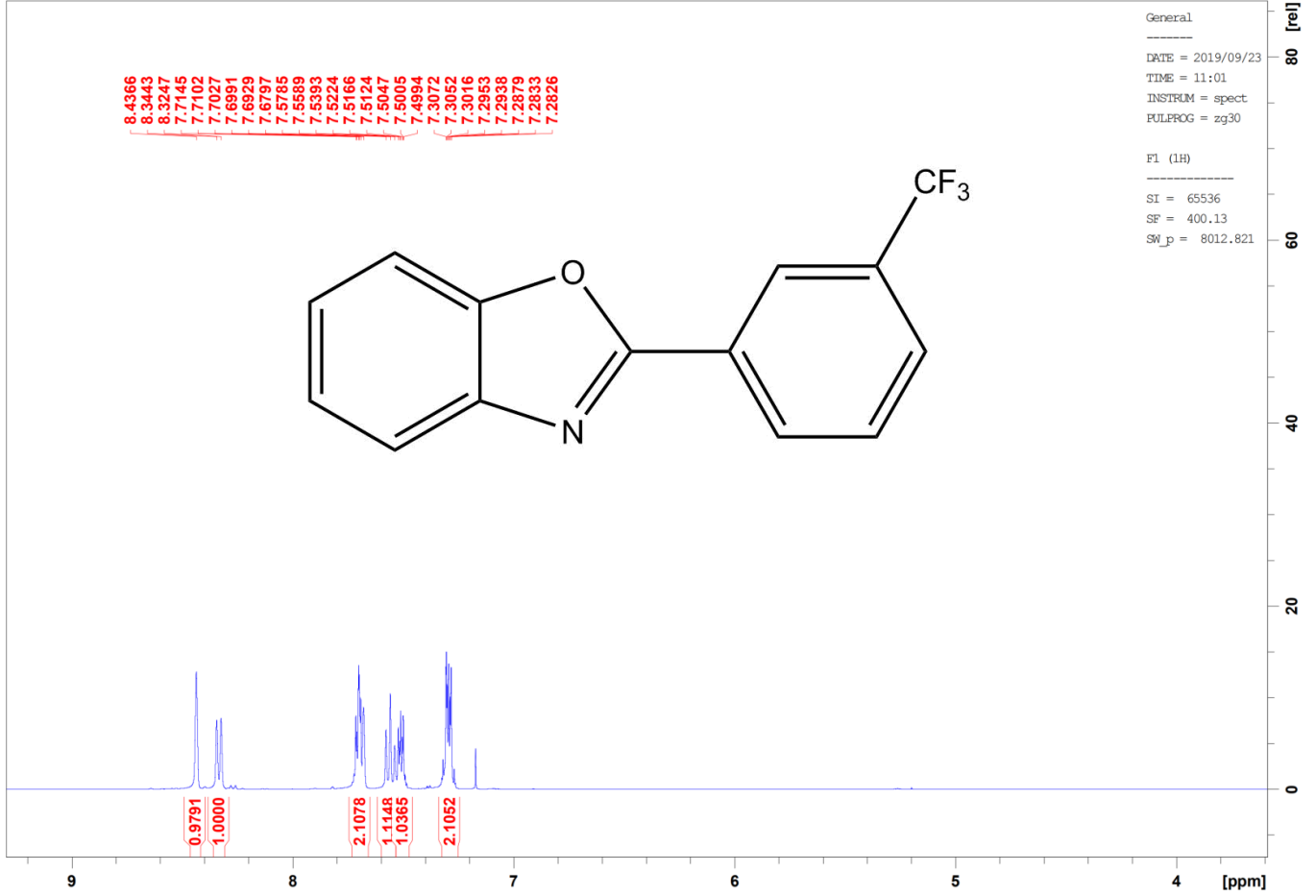


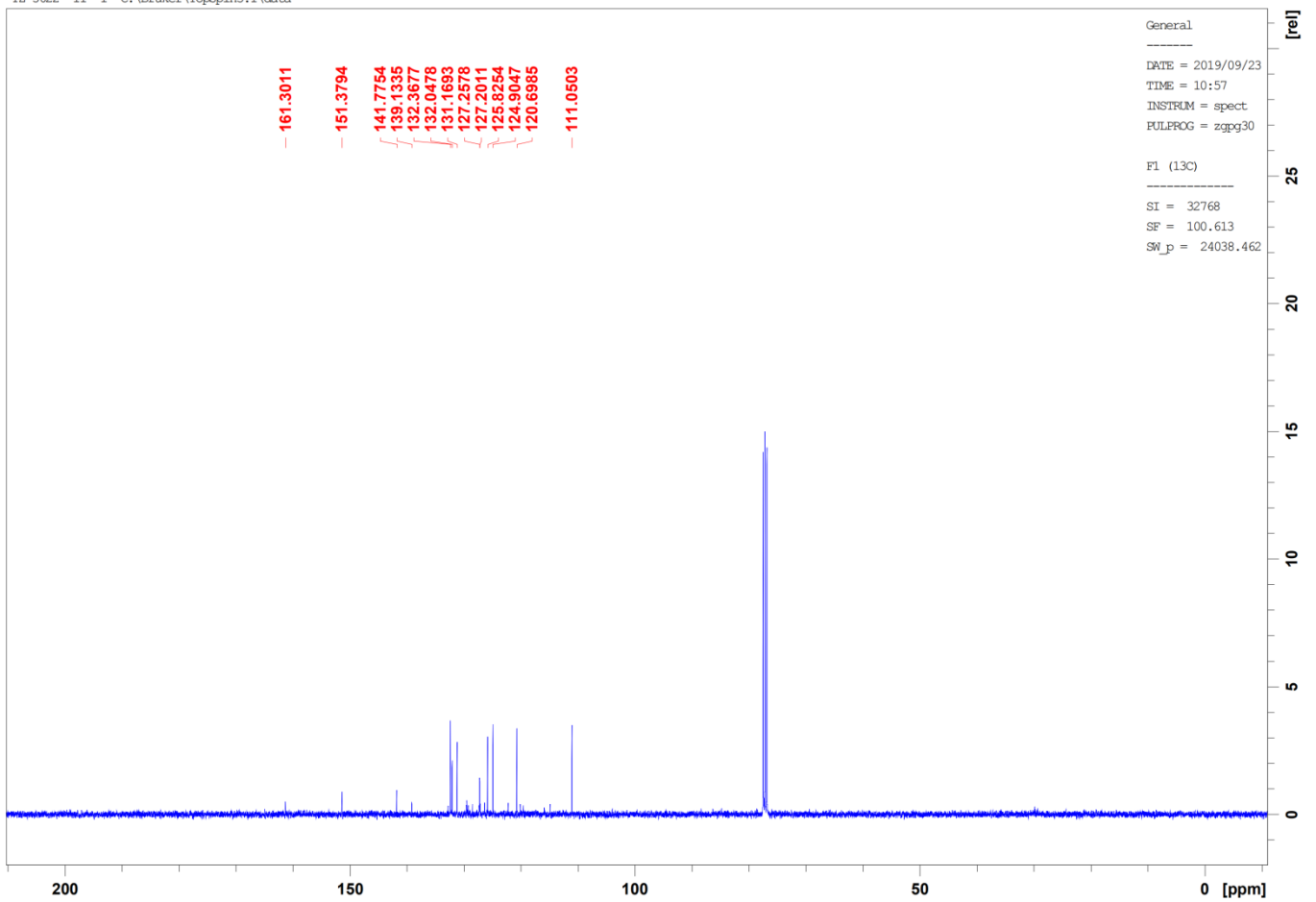
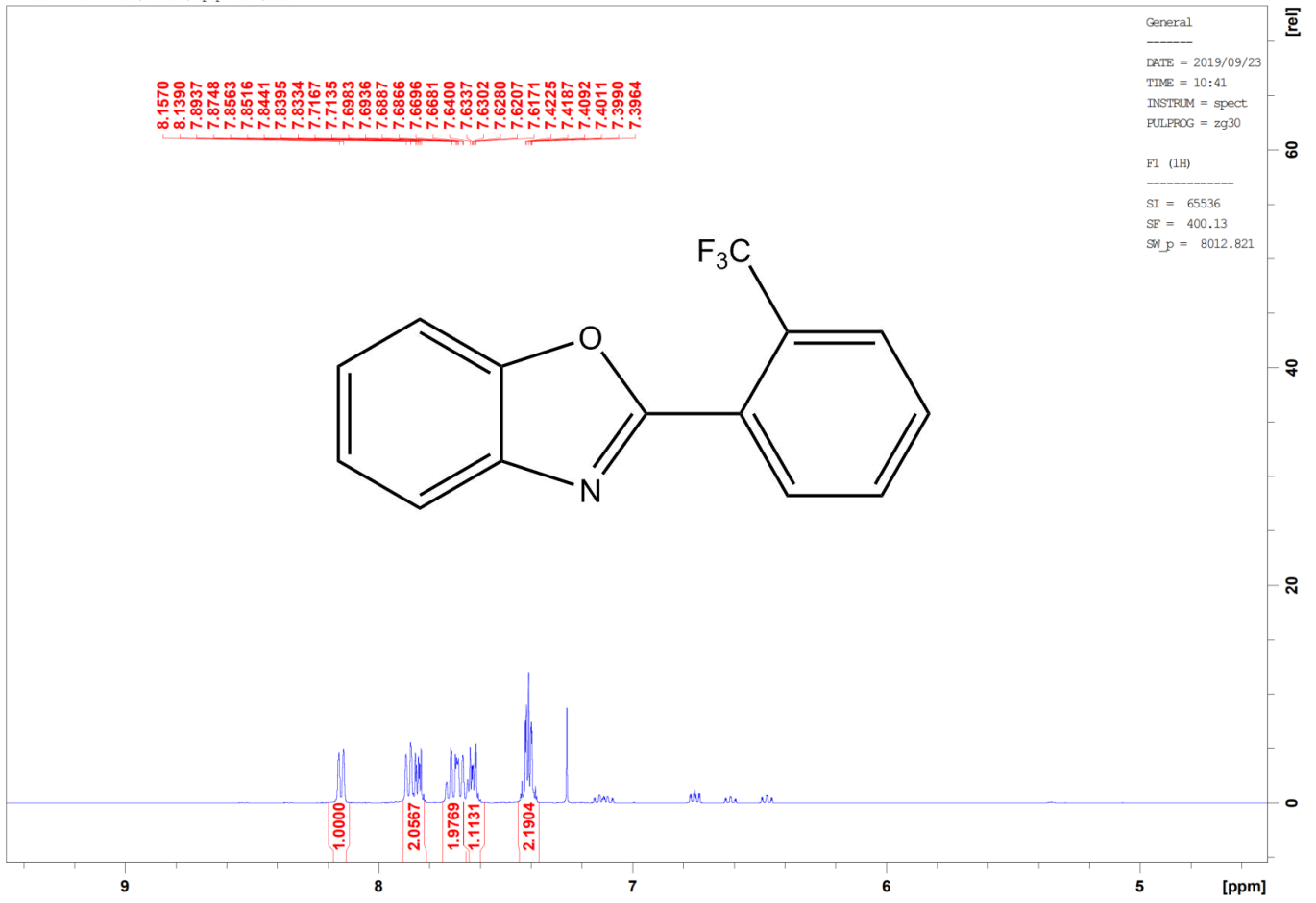


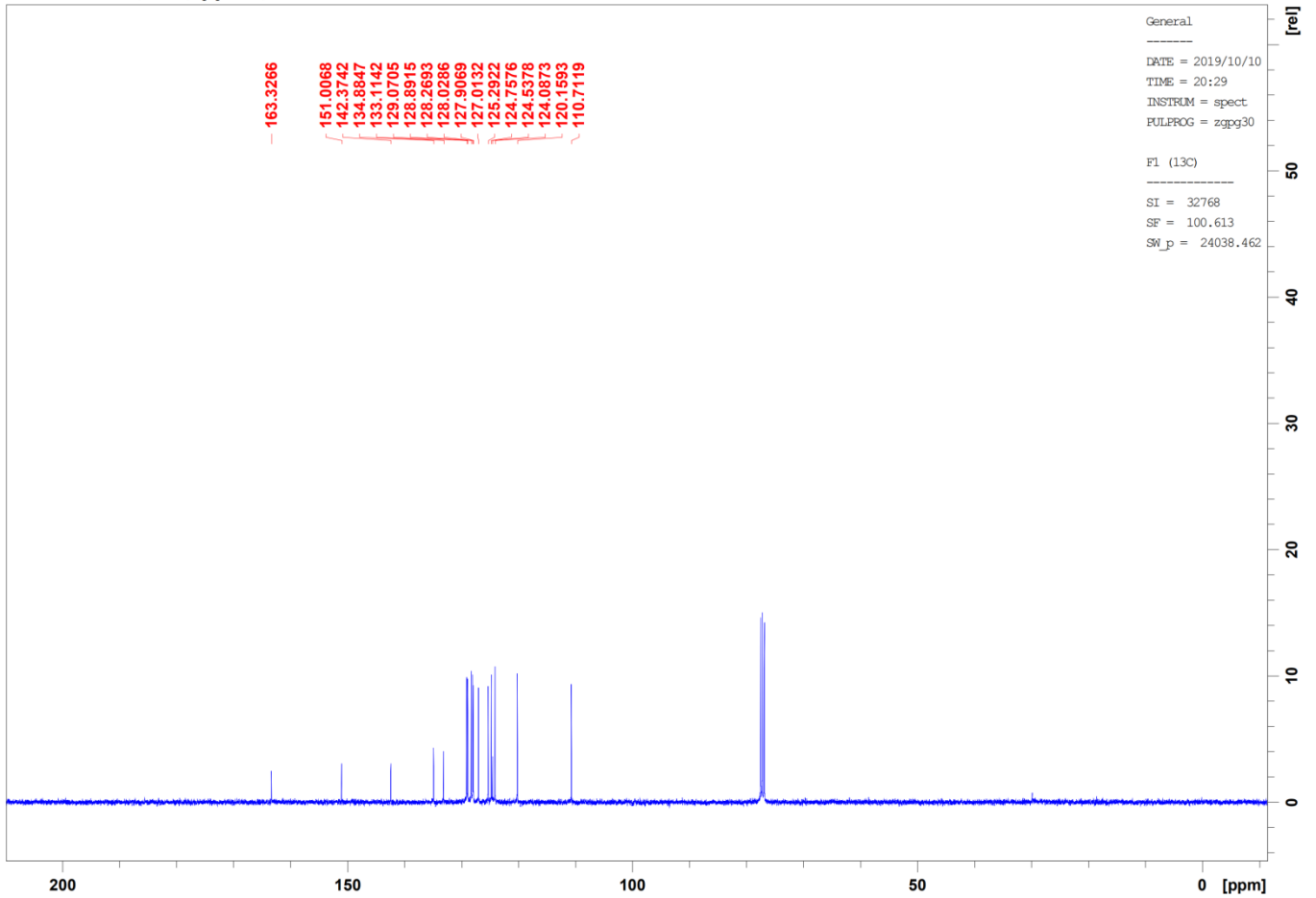
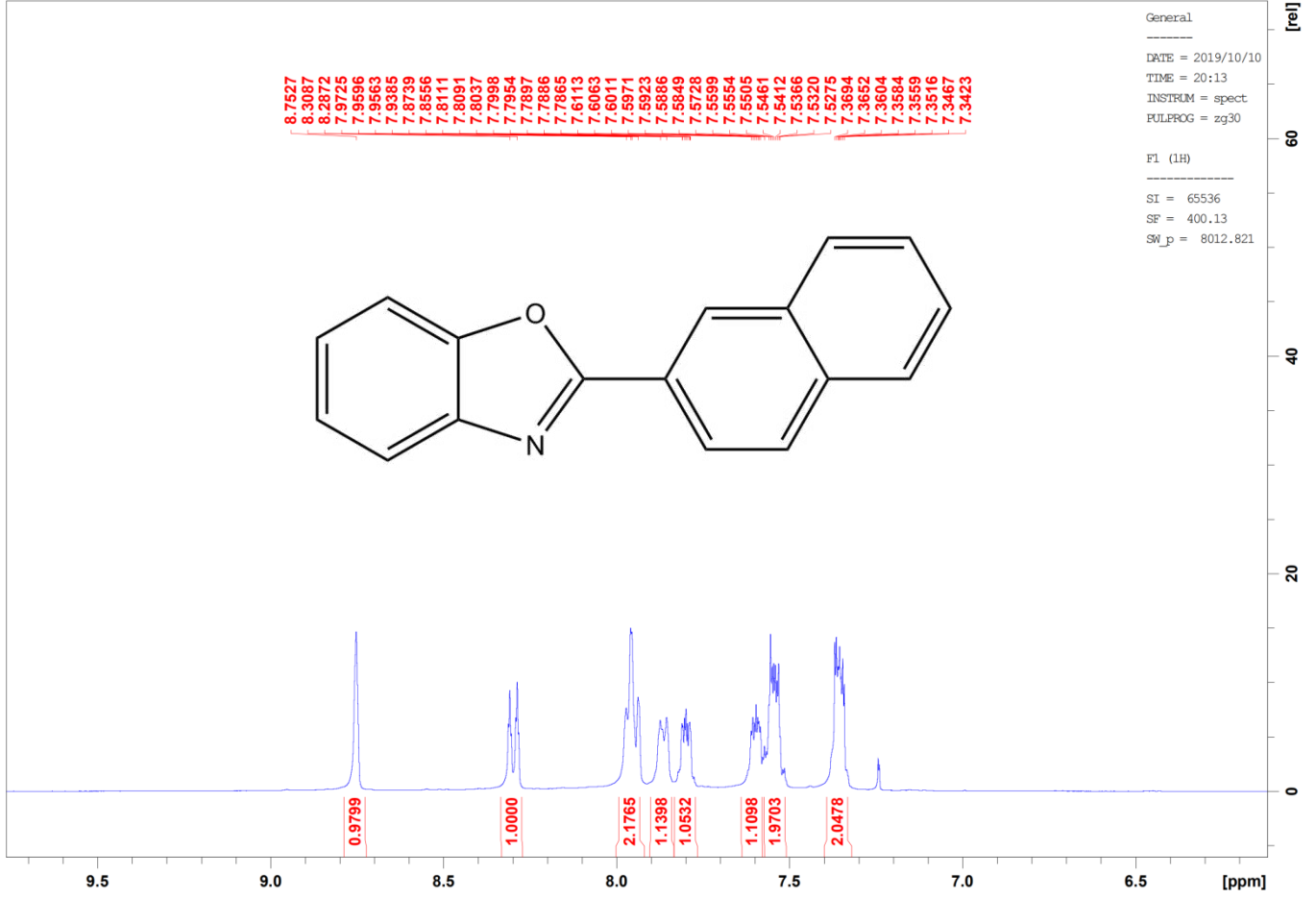




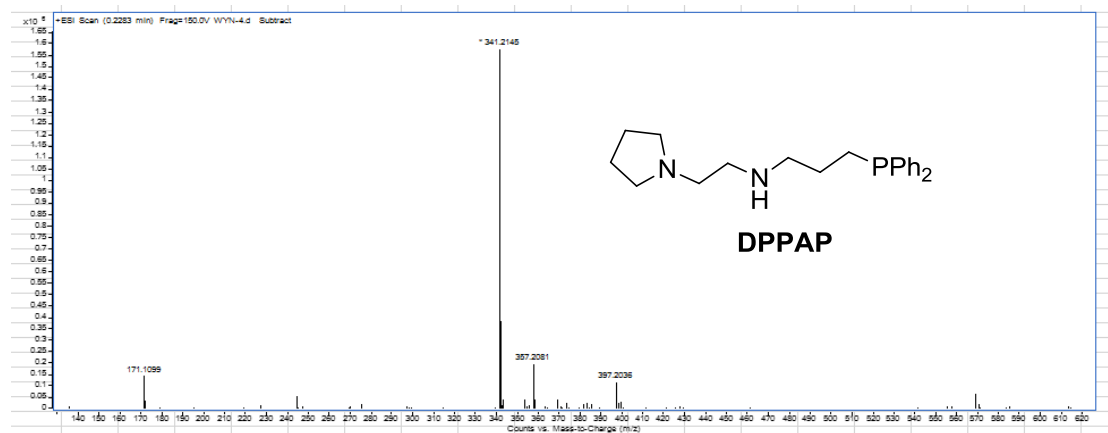








3. HRMS spectra



MS Formula Results: + Scan (0.2283 min) Sub (WYN-4.d)

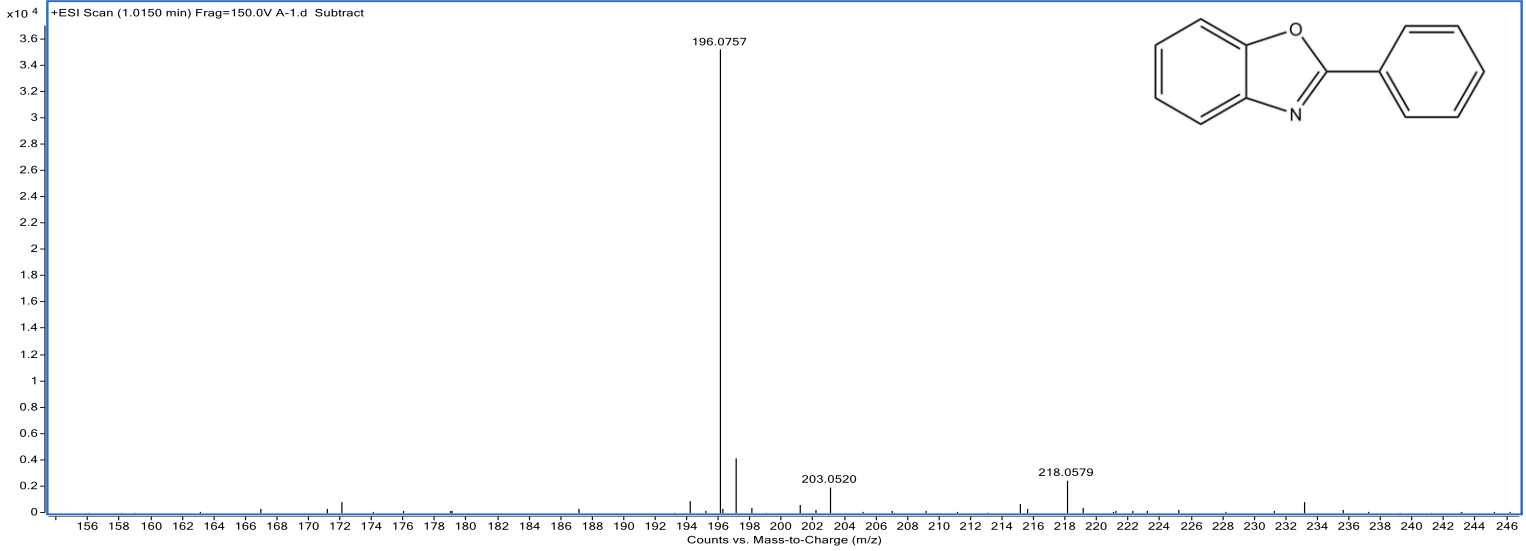
m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
341.2145	(M+H) ⁺	C ₂₁ H ₃₀ N ₂ P	1576775

Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₂₁ H ₂₉ N ₂ P	C ₂₁ H ₃₀ N ₂ P	97.22		341.2141	-0.98	99.28	99.44	90.46

MS Formula Results: + Scan (1.0476 min) Sub (A-1.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
196.0759	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₃ H ₁₀ N O	36052.2

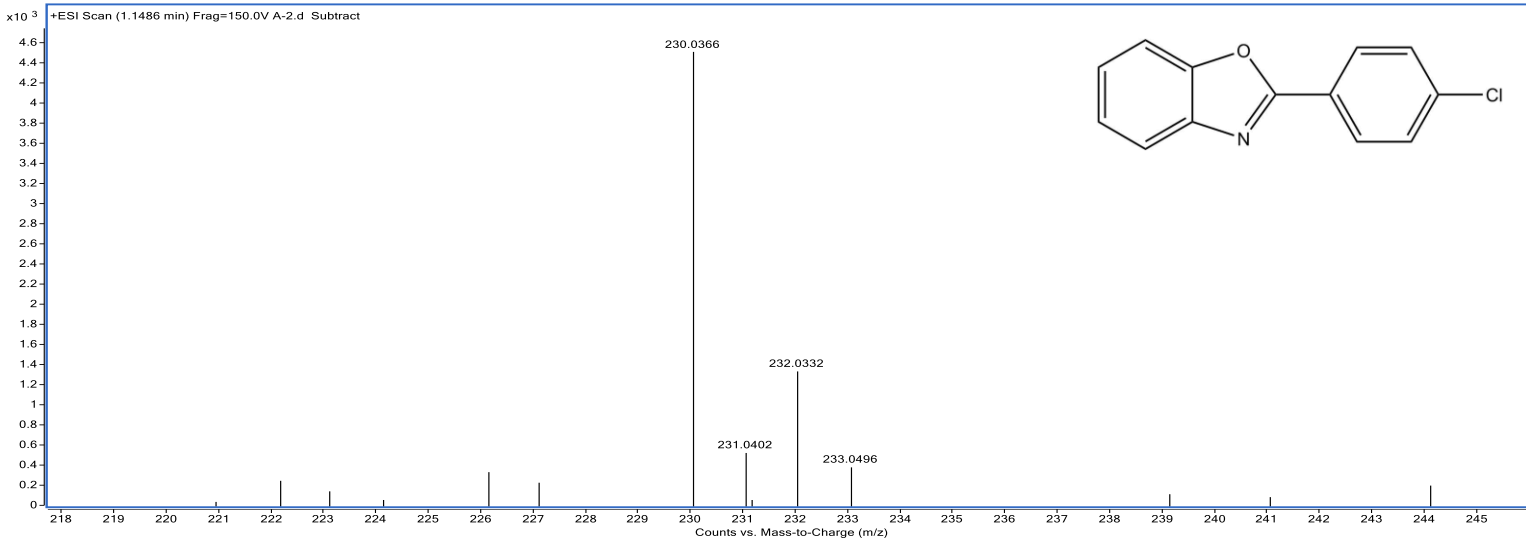
Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₃ H ₉ N O	C ₁₃ H ₁₀ N O	98.71		196.0757	-0.82	99.74	99.51	95.7



MS Formula Results: + Scan (1.1486 min) Sub (A-2.d)

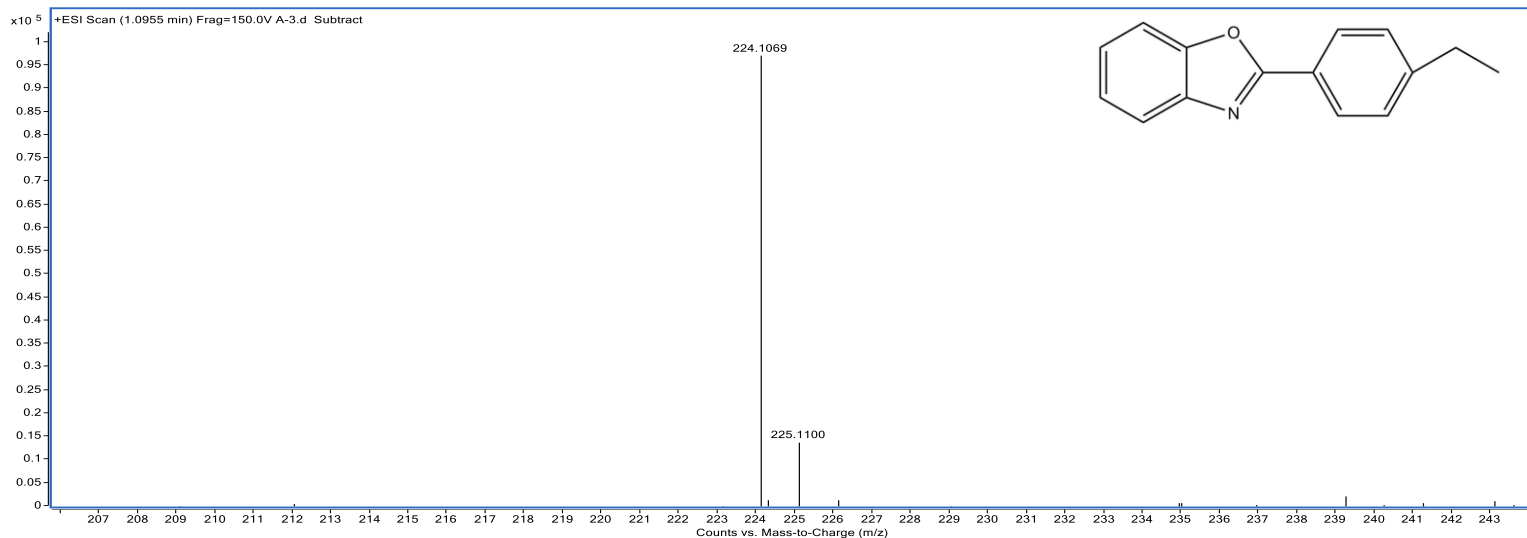
m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
230.0366	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₃ H ₉ Cl N O	4513.2

Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₃ H ₈ Cl N O	C ₁₃ H ₉ Cl N O	93.71		230.0367	0.8	99.69	81.13	96.85



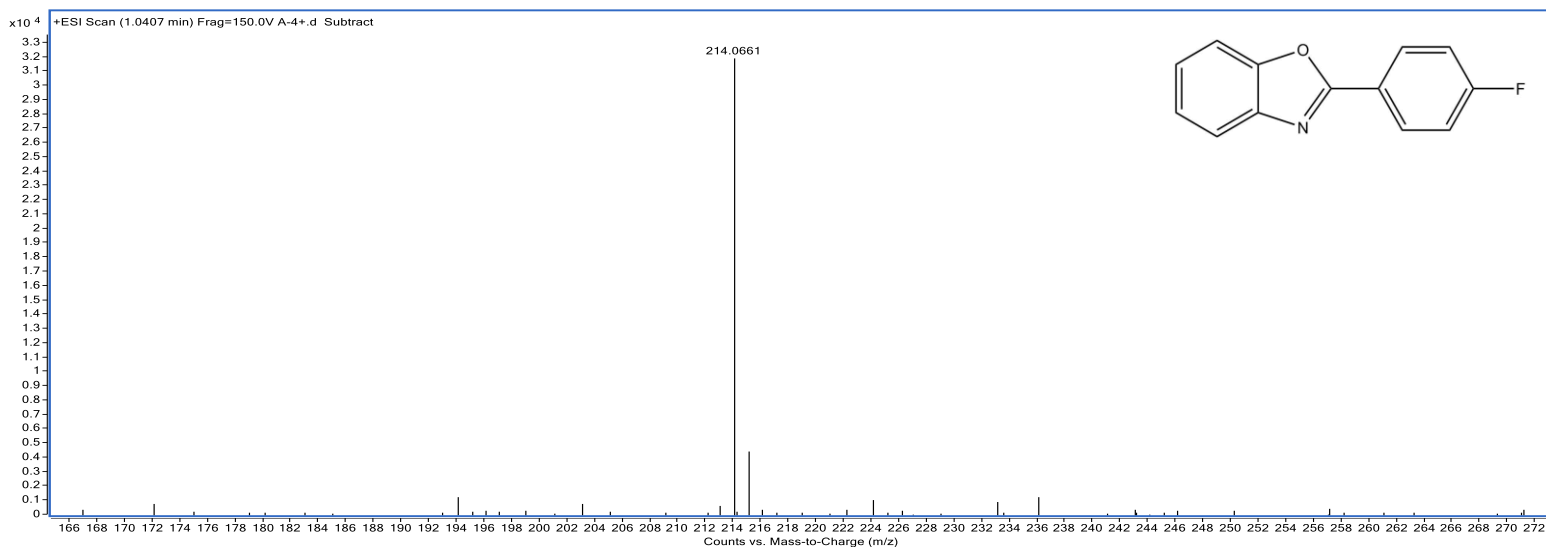
MS Formula Results: + Scan (1.0955 min) Sub (A-3.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance						
224.1069	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₅ H ₁₄ N O	97181.7						
Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₅ H ₁₃ N O	C ₁₅ H ₁₄ N O	98.22		224.107	0.21	99.98	94.13	99.58



MS Formula Results: + Scan (1.0407 min) Sub (A-4+.d)

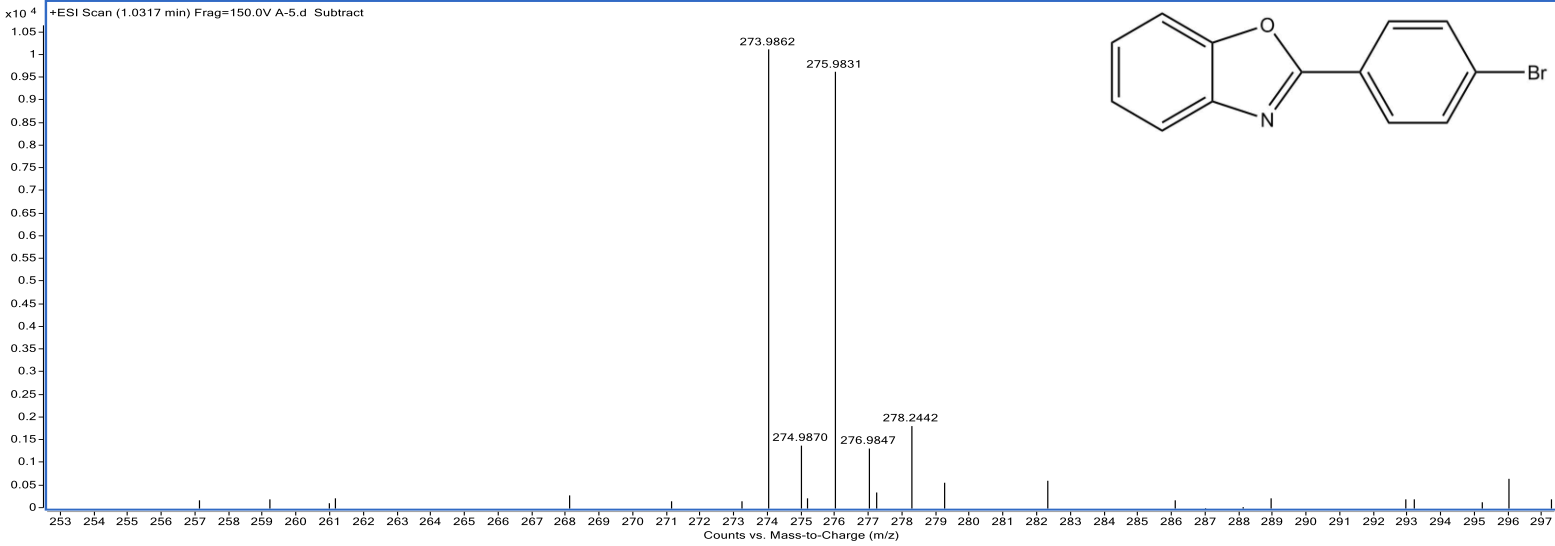
m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance						
214.0661	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₃ H ₉ F N O	31931.8						
Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₃ H ₈ F N O	C ₁₃ H ₉ F N O	99.56		214.0663	0.75	99.75	99.75	98.96



MS Formula Results: + Scan (1.0317 min) Sub (A-5.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
273.9862	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₃ H ₉ BrNO	10135.1

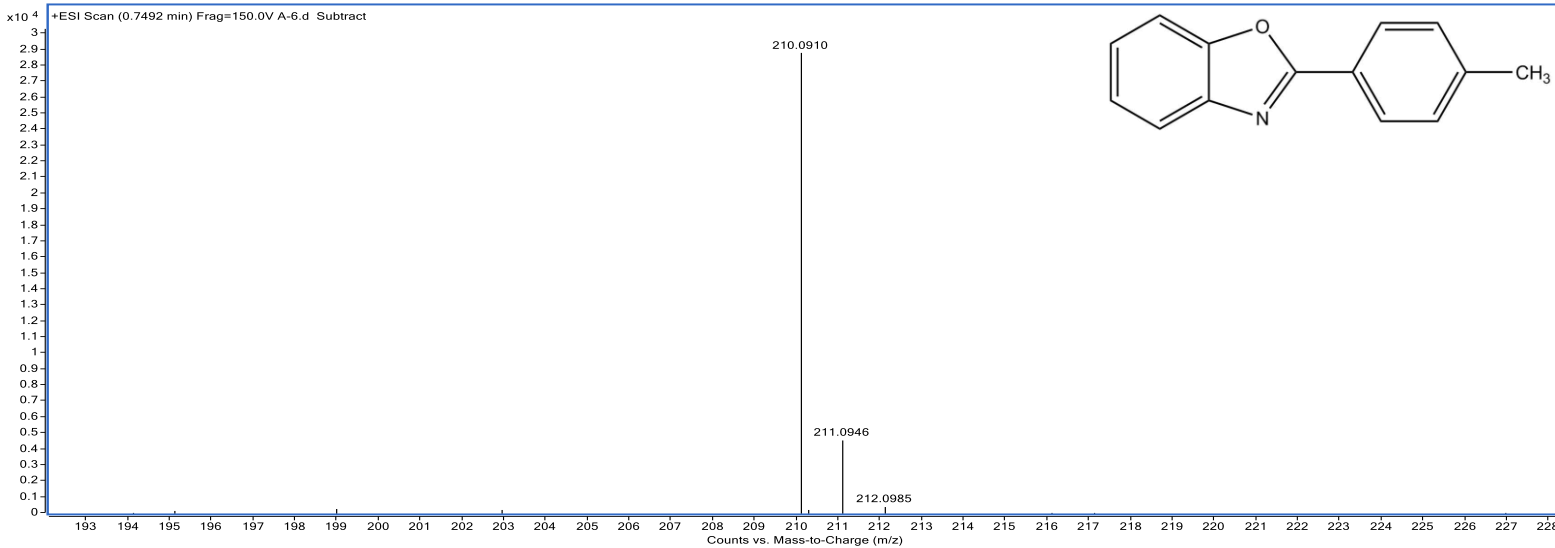
Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₃ H ₈ BrNO	C ₁₃ H ₉ BrNO	91.94		273.9862	2.04	97.55	99.18	72.05



MS Formula Results: + Scan (0.7492 min) Sub (A-6.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
210.091	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₄ H ₁₂ NO	28819.7

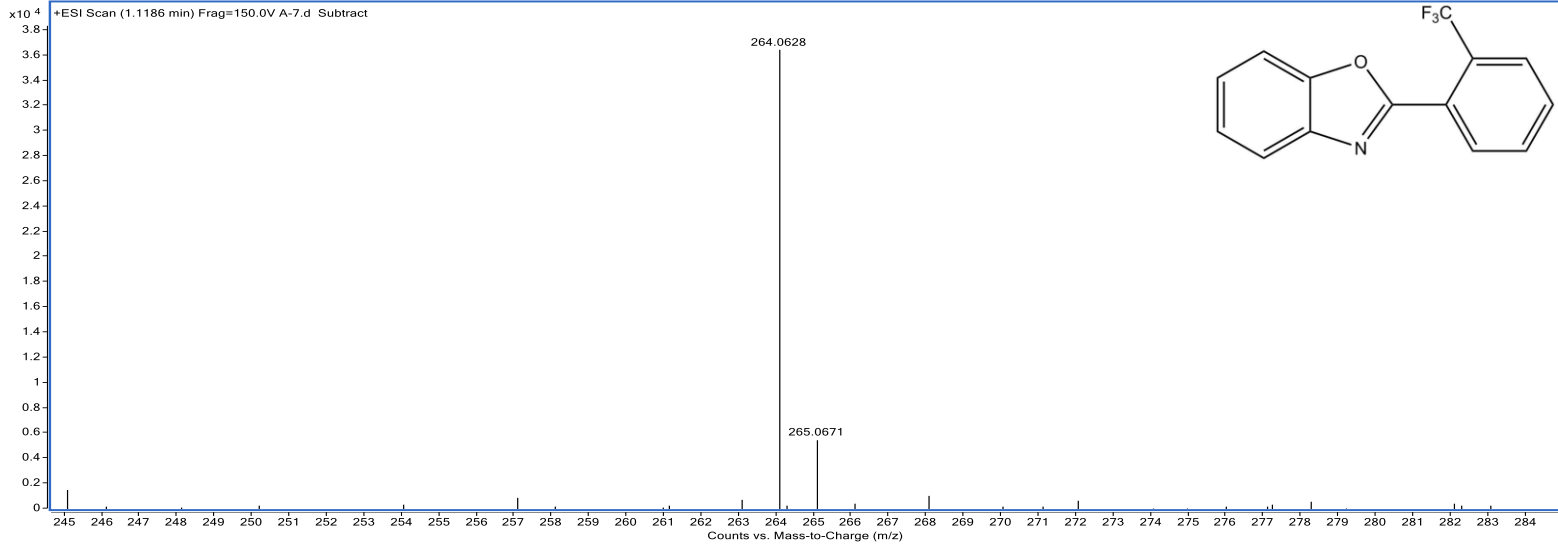
Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₄ H ₁₁ NO	C ₁₄ H ₁₂ NO	99.05		210.0913	1.74	98.7	99.87	98.76



MS Formula Results: + Scan (1.1186 min) Sub (A-7.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
264.0628	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₄ H ₉ F ₃ N O	36473.3

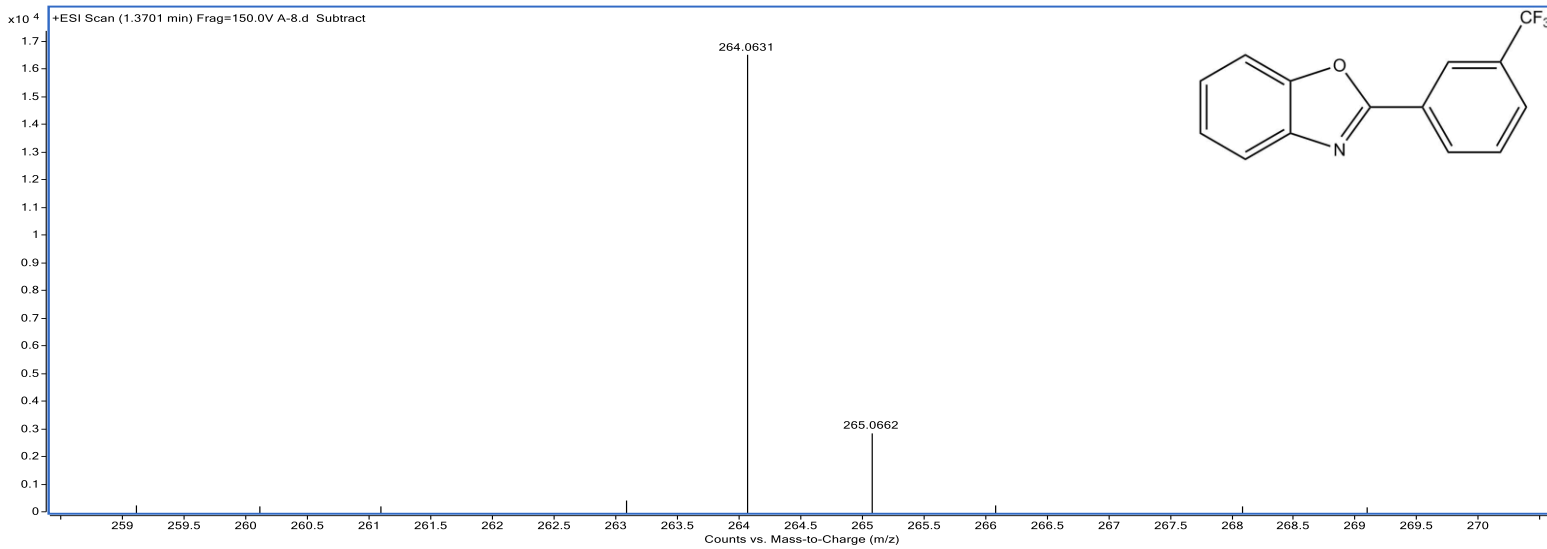
Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₄ H ₈ F ₃ N O	C ₁₄ H ₉ F ₃ N O	97.94		264.0631	1.02	99.41	99.73	92.84



MS Formula Results: + Scan (1.3701 min) Sub (A-8.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
264.0631	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₄ H ₉ F ₃ N O	16555.1

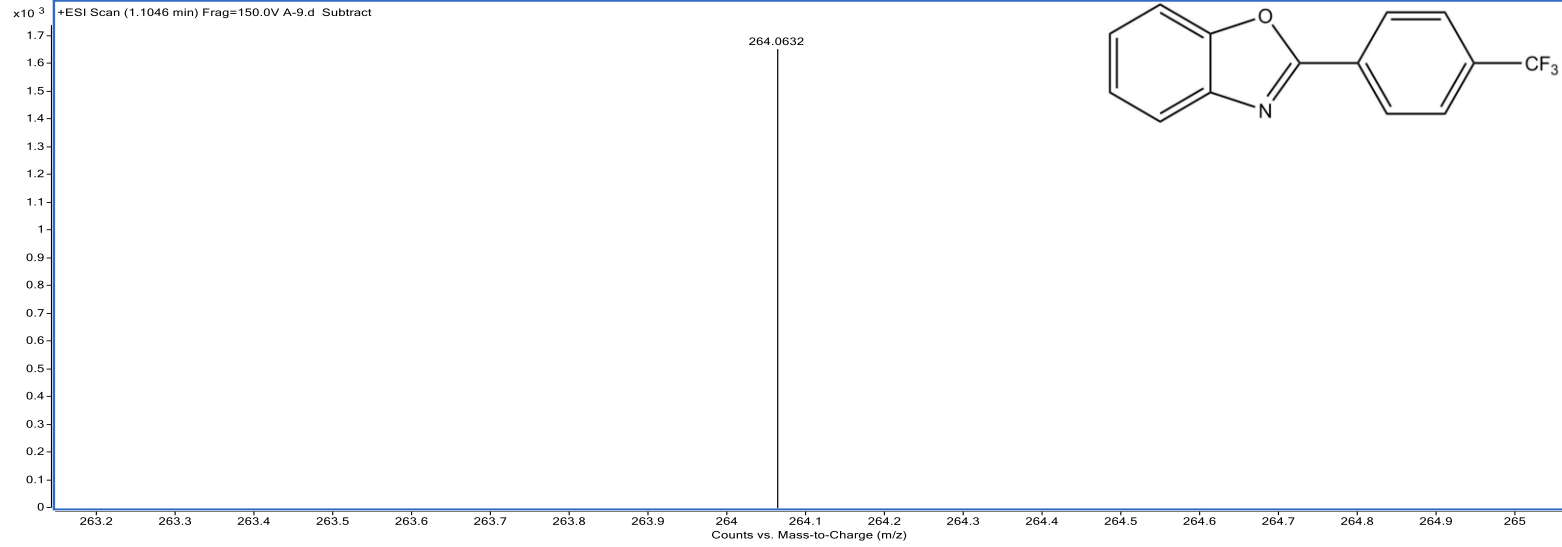
Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₄ H ₈ F ₃ N O	C ₁₄ H ₉ F ₃ N O	99.05		264.0631	-0.13	99.99	97.36	99.19



MS Formula Results: + Scan (1.1046 min) Sub (A-9.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
264.0632	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₄ H ₉ F ₃ N O	1655.3

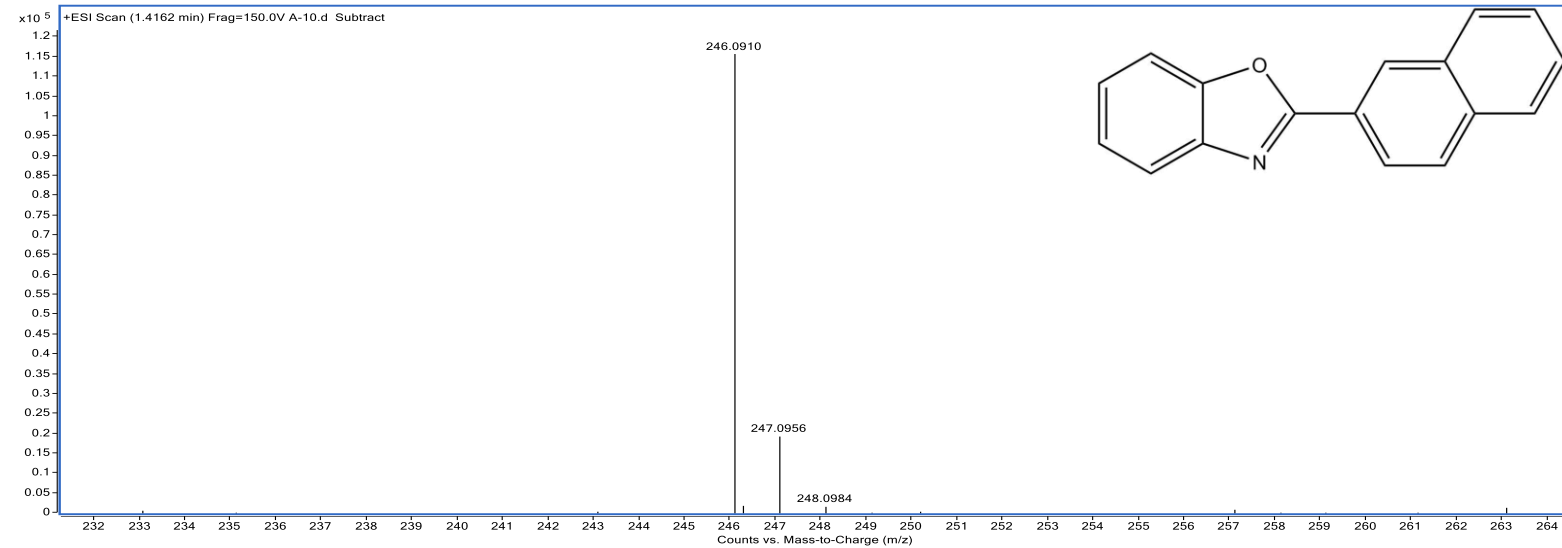
Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₄ H ₈ F ₃ N O	C ₁₄ H ₉ F ₃ N O	75.51		264.0631	-0.31	99.94	67.04	36.81



MS Formula Results: + Scan (1.4162 min) Sub (A-10.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
246.091	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₇ H ₁₂ N O	115798.4

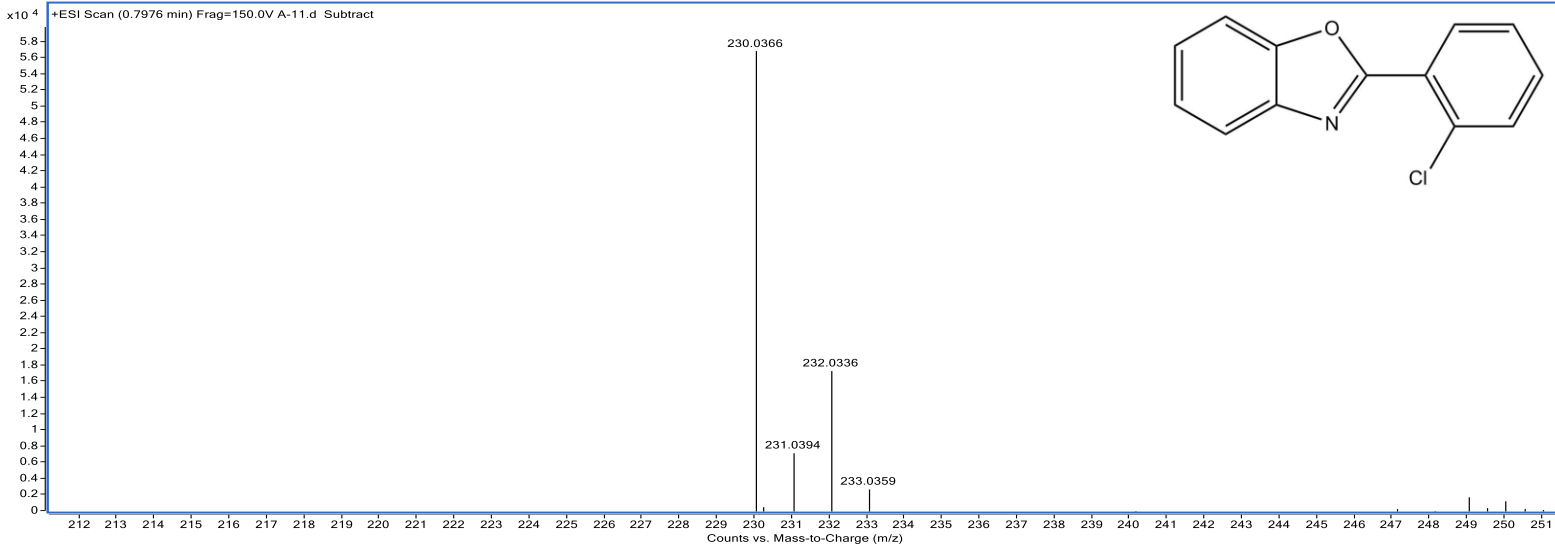
Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₇ H ₁₁ N O	C ₁₇ H ₁₂ N O	95.64		246.0913	1.32	99.08	95.84	88.51



MS Formula Results: + Scan (0.7976 min) Sub (A-11.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
230.0366	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₃ H ₉ ClN ₂ O	56916.5

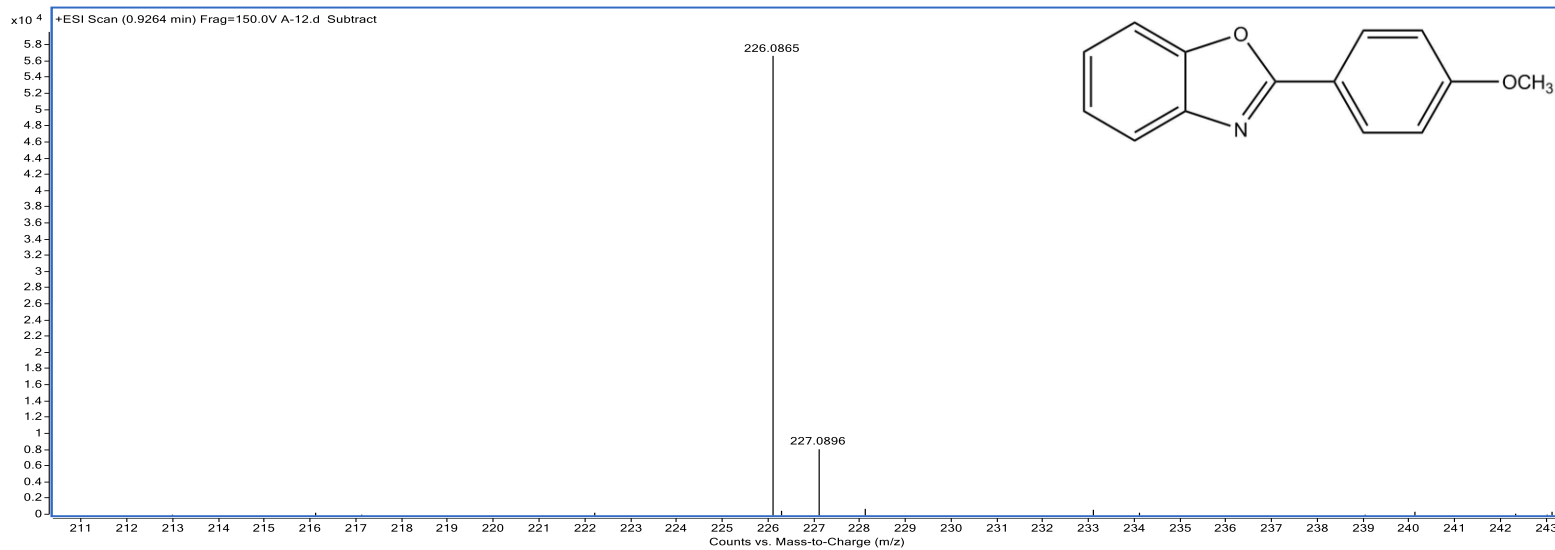
Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₃ H ₈ ClN ₂ O	C ₁₃ H ₉ ClN ₂ O	98.31		230.0367	0.42	99.92	96.08	97.75



MS Formula Results: + Scan (0.9264 min) Sub (A-12.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
226.0865	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₄ H ₁₂ N ₂ O ₂	56757

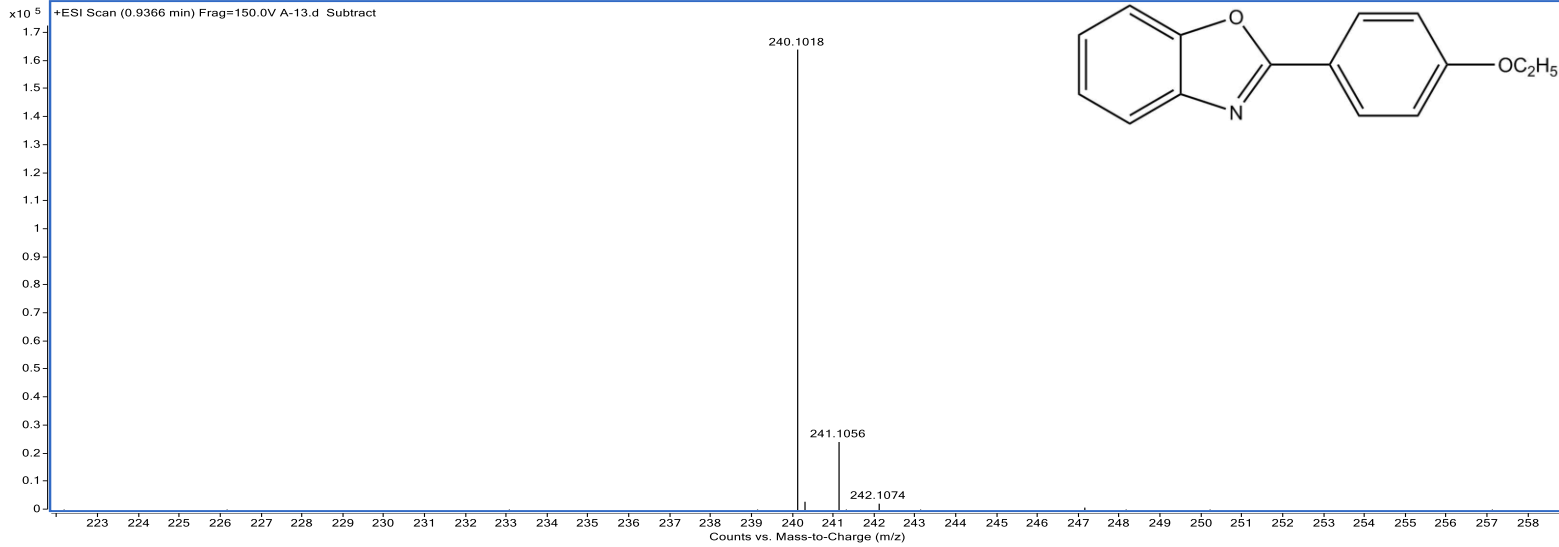
Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₄ H ₁₁ N ₂ O ₂	C ₁₄ H ₁₂ N ₂ O ₂	99.27		226.0863	-0.95	99.57	98.29	99.86



MS Formula Results: + Scan (0.9366 min) Sub (A-13.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
240.1018	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₅ H ₁₄ N O ₂	164253.1

Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₅ H ₁₃ N O ₂	C ₁₅ H ₁₄ N O ₂	98.37		240.1019	0.42	99.91	96.06	98.06



MS Formula Results: + Scan (1.1206 min) Sub (A-14.d)

m/z	Ion	Formula	Abundance
263.9975	(M+H) ⁺	C ₁₃ H ₈ Cl ₂ N O	1181.2

Best	Formula (M)	Ion Formula	Score	Cross Score	Calc m/z	Diff (ppm)	Mass Match	Abund Match	Spacing Match
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C ₁₃ H ₇ Cl ₂ N O	C ₁₃ H ₈ Cl ₂ N O	47.29		263.9977	1.1	99.31	0	0

