

Nickel-Catalyzed Cyclization of 1,7-Enynes for the Selective Synthesis of Dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3-ones and Benzo[*b*]azocin-2-ones

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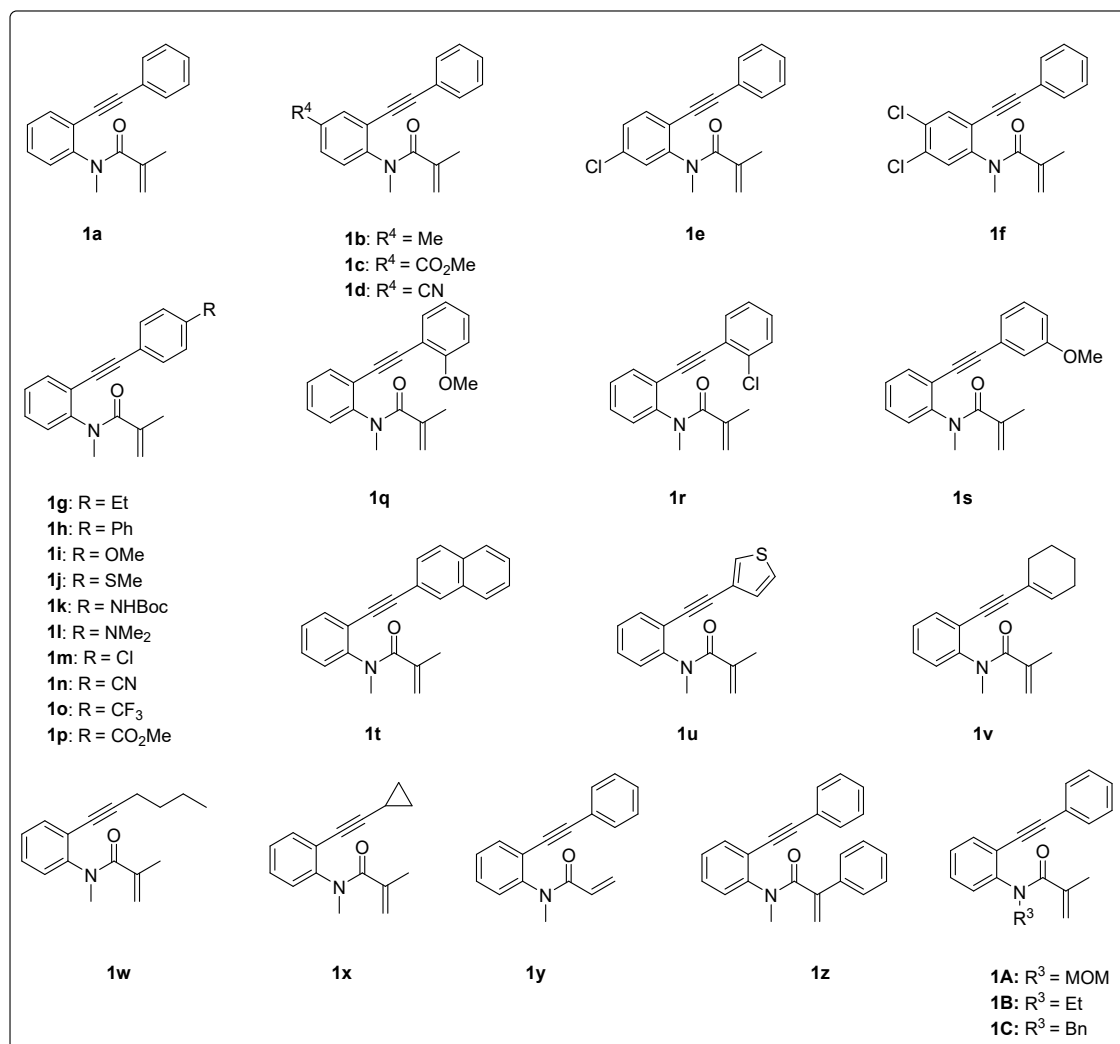
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1. General Information

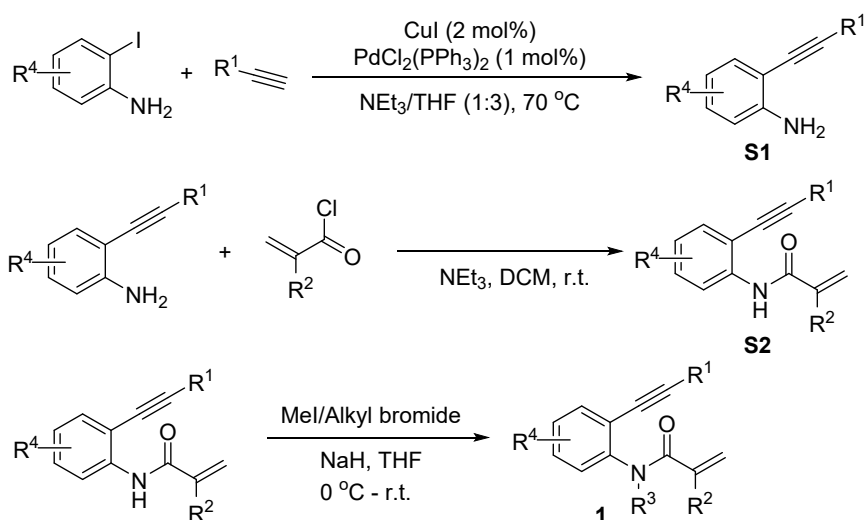
Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in flame-dried reaction vessels with Teflon screw caps under nitrogen. Solvents were purified and dried according to standard methods prior to use. All commercially available reagents were obtained from chemical suppliers and used after proper purification if necessary. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh) with the indicated solvent mixtures. TLC analysis was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates and visualized with UV light.

The ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 500 AV spectrometers. Chemical shifts (δ) were reported as parts per million (ppm) downfield from tetramethylsilane and the following abbreviations were used to identify the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublets, dt = doublet of triplets, dq = doublet of quartets, br = broad and all combinations thereof can be explained by their integral parts. Coupling constant (J) was reported in hertz unit (Hz). The high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an Agilent 6210 LC/TOF spectrometer.

2 Preparation of 1,7-Enynes



1, 7-Enynes are prepared according to the reported procedures¹⁻⁴.



General procedure for synthesis of **S1**: To the suspension of Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (0.1 mmol, 1 mol%) and CuI (0.2 mmol, 2 mol%) in a mixture of THF (20 mL) and Et₃N (20 mL), was added aryl iodide (10 mmol) and phenylacetylene (12 mmol). The mixture was allowed to react for 12 h at 70 °C. Then the crude mixture was filtered through a shot pad of celite and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) for three times, and the combined organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether as eluent.

General procedure for synthesis of **S2**: To a stirred solution of **S1** (1.0 equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was added methacryloyl chloride (1.5 equiv.) and Et₃N (2.0 equiv.). The resulted mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. Then the reaction was quenched by saturated NaHCO₃ solution and the reaction mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography using ethyl acetate and petroleum as eluent.

General procedure for the synthesis of substrates **1**: To a solution of NaH (2.0 equiv.) in THF (5 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of **S2** (1.0 equiv.) in THF dropwise and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min. Afterwards iodomethane or alkyl bromide (1.5 equiv.) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature followed by TLC. The reaction was quenched by water and the reaction

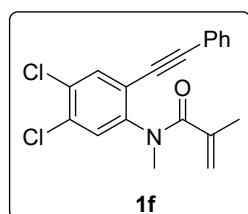
mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ for three times. The combined organic layer was washed with brine and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate and petroleum as eluent.

Characterization of new compounds:

N-(4, 5-dichloro-2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1f)

white solid, mp: 117-118 °C.

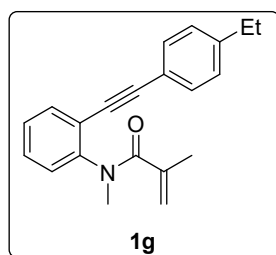
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 5.08 (d, *J* = 34.5 Hz, 2H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H).



¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.03, 145.55, 140.02, 133.82, 132.87, 131.74, 131.66, 129.98, 129.32, 128.59, 122.31, 121.85, 119.76, 96.54, 83.74, 37.00, 20.05.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₉H₁₆Cl₂NO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 344.05307, found: 344.06035.

N-(2-((4-ethylphenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1g)



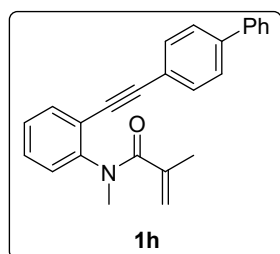
white solid, mp: 97-98 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (dd, *J*₁ = 7.4, *J*₂ = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 5.02 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 2.67 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.31, 146.28, 145.32, 140.50, 132.84, 131.66, 129.01, 128.20, 128.06, 127.45, 122.54, 119.78, 118.90, 95.10, 85.13, 36.86, 28.87, 20.15, 15.32.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₁H₂₁NONa⁺ ([M+Na]⁺): 326.16231, found: 326.1515

N-(2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylethynyl)phenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1h)



white solid, mp: 121-123 °C.

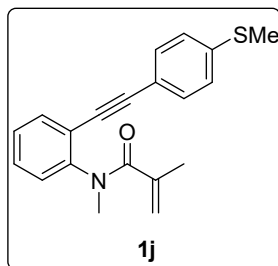
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65-7.61 (m, 7H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 2H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.42, 146.38, 141.53, 140.43, 140.23, 132.92, 132.12, 129.32, 128.93, 128.25, 127.79, 127.56, 127.20, 127.08, 122.31, 121.45, 119.19, 94.74, 86.45, 37.01, 20.24.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₅H₂₂NO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 352.16231, found: 352.16959.

N-methyl-N-(2-((4-(methylthio)phenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)methacrylamide (1j)

white solid, mp: 96-99 °C.

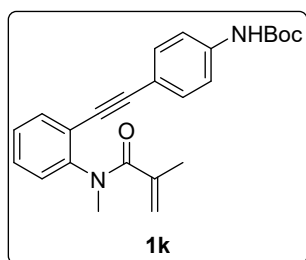


¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 2.51 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 3H), 1.85 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.38, 146.24, 140.36, 140.16, 132.77, 131.90, 129.17, 128.19, 127.51, 125.77, 122.31, 119.16, 118.68, 94.64, 85.86, 36.97, 20.17, 15.26.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₀H₂₀NOS⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 322.11873, found: 322.12601.

Tert-butyl(4-((2-(N-methylmethacrylamido)phenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)carbamate (1k)



white solid, mp: 168-169 °C.

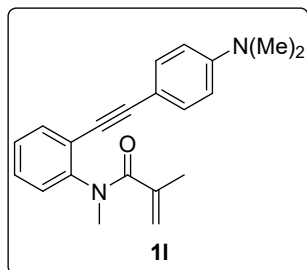
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dd, *J*₁ = 18.2, *J*₂ = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 5.01 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.52 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.43, 152.51, 140.39, 139.24, 132.74, 132.48, 128.93, 128.13, 127.48, 122.56, 119.07, 118.19, 116.60, 94.94, 84.95, 80.77, 53.43, 36.95, 28.31, 20.12.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₄H₂₆N₂O₃Na⁺ ([M+Na]⁺): 413.19434, found:

413.18356.

N-(2-((4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1l)



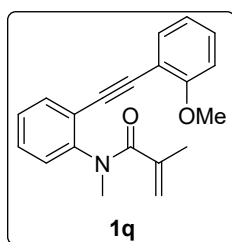
white solid, mp: 127-129 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.13 (m, 1H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.02 (d, *J* = 26.3 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 3.00 (s, 6H), 1.86 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.38, 150.42, 145.78, 140.57, 132.86, 132.36, 128.19, 128.11, 127.37, 123.23, 118.72, 111.83, 109.27, 96.48, 83.98, 40.15, 36.78, 20.17.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₁H₂₂N₂ONa⁺ ([M+Na]⁺): 341.17321, found: 341.16243.

N-(2-((2-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1q)



white solid, mp: 85-87 °C.

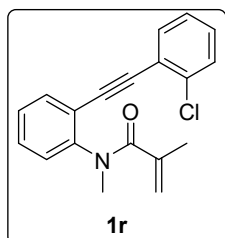
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (dd, *J*₁ = 7.3, *J*₂ = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, *J*₁ = 7.5, *J*₂ = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (dd, *J*₁ = 10.9, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (d, *J* = 64.7 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s,

3H), 1.84 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.15, 160.27, 146.20, 140.66, 133.34, 132.91, 130.25, 128.95, 128.24, 127.43, 122.67, 120.47, 118.36, 111.97, 110.66, 91.60, 89.72, 55.69, 36.60, 20.20.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₀H₁₉NO₂Na⁺ ([M+Na]⁺): 328.14158, found: 328.13080.

N-(2-((2-chlorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1r)



white solid, mp: 77-80 °C.

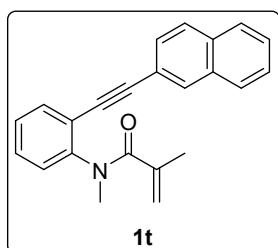
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (dd, $J_1 = 7.5$, $J_2 = 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dd, $J_1 = 7.3$, $J_2 = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.04 (d, $J = 40.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.12, 146.37, 140.48, 135.93, 133.44, 133.32, 129.76, 129.66, 129.37, 128.32, 127.53, 126.60, 122.64, 121.91, 118.84, 91.44, 90.65, 36.92, 20.20.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₉H₁₇ClNO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 310.09204, found: 310.09932.

N-methyl-N-(2-(naphthalen-2-ylethynyl)phenyl)methacrylamide (1t)

white solid, mp: 102-104 °C.



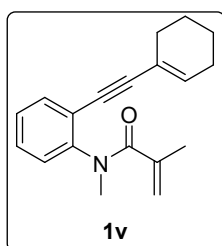
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.88-7.83 (m, 3H), 7.64-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.07 (d, $J = 15.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.44, 146.38, 140.43, 133.03, 132.95, 131.67, 129.34, 128.24, 128.23, 127.95, 127.82, 127.57, 126.98, 126.72, 122.29, 119.86, 119.21, 95.23, 86.08, 37.06, 20.24.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₃H₂₀NO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 326.14666, found: 326.15394.

N-(2-(cyclohex-1-en-1-ylethynyl)phenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1v)

white solid, mp: 57-60 °C.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.11 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 4.98 (d, $J = 9.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.21-2.12 (m, 4H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.69-1.59 (m, 4H).

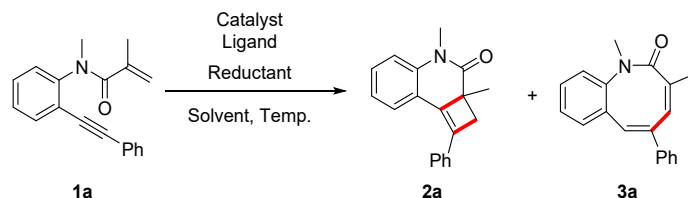
¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.21, 145.94, 140.41, 136.36, 132.74, 128.63, 128.08, 127.41, 122.71, 120.36, 118.69, 96.84, 83.06, 36.66, 28.91, 25.78, 22.19, 21.40, 20.18.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₉H₂₂NO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 280.16231, found: 280.16959.

3 Nickel-Catalyzed Divergent Cyclization of 1,7-Enynes

3.1 Optimization of reaction conditions

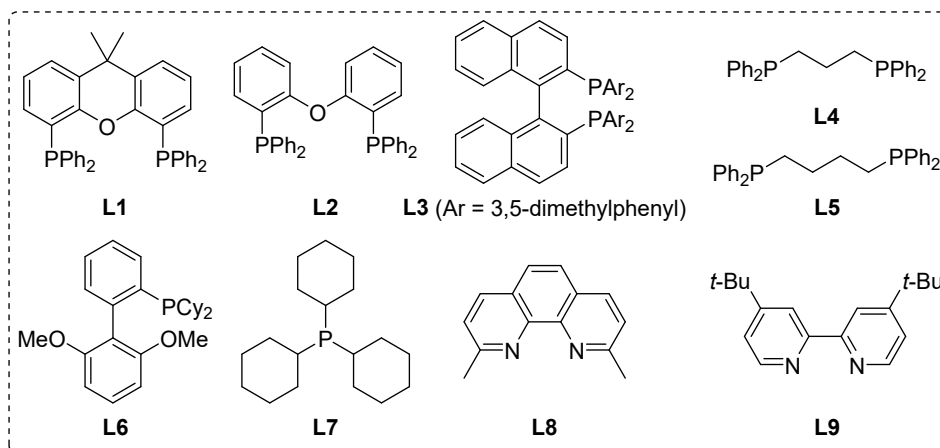
Survey of the reaction parameters^a



Entry	Catalyst (mol%)	Ligand (mol%)	Reductant (equiv.)	Solvent	Temp. (°C)	Yield/2a/3a (%)
1	NiBr ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/1	THF	60	99/0
2	NiBr ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.5	THF	60	98/0
3	NiBr ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	98/0
4	NiBr ₂ /10	L1/10	- ^b	THF	60	0/0
5	NiCl ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	89/0
6	Ni(acac) ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
7	Ni(PPh ₃) ₂ Br ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
8	NiCl ₂ .glyme/10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
9	Ni(dppe)Cl ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
10	Ni(OAc) ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
11	Ni(OTf) ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	5/0
12	Ni(cod) ₂ /10	L1/10	- ^b	THF	60	98/0
13	NiBr ₂ /10	L2/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
14	NiBr ₂ /10	L3/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
15	NiBr ₂ /10	L4/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
16	NiBr ₂ /10	L5/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
17	NiBr ₂ /10	L6/20	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
18	NiBr ₂ /10	L7/20	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
19	NiBr ₂ /10	L8/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
20	NiBr ₂ /10	L9/10	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
21	NiBr ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	Toluene	60	86/0
22	NiBr ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	CH ₃ CN	60	0/0
23	NiBr ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	DMF	60	35/0
24	NiBr ₂ /10	L1/10	Zn/0.2	Dioxane	60	94/0
25	NiBr ₂ /10	L1/10	Fe/0.2	THF	60	0/0
26	NiBr ₂ /10	L1/10	Mn/0.2	THF	60	95/0
27	NiBr ₂ /5	L1/5	Zn/0.2	THF	60	98/0
28	- ^c	L1/5	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
29	NiBr ₂ /5	- ^d	Zn/0.2	THF	60	0/0
30	NiBr ₂ /1 ^e	L1/1	Zn/0.2	THF	60	63/0
31	NiBr ₂ /5	L1/5	Zn/0.2	THF	80	81/18
32	NiBr ₂ /5	L1/5	Zn/0.2	THF	100	50/47

33	NiBr ₂ /5	L1 /5	Zn/0.2	THF	120	8/91
34	NiBr ₂ /5	L1 /5	Zn/0.2	THF	140	0/98

^aReaction conditions unless otherwise noted: **1a** (0.1 mmol), catalyst, ligand, reductant, solvent (1 mL), 60-140 °C, 6 h under N₂ atmosphere. Isolated yields were given. ^bNo reductant. ^cNo catalyst. ^dNo ligand. ^eFor 24 h.

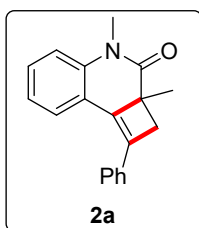


3.2 Experimental details and characterization of products

General procedure for the synthesis of dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3-ones **2**: In a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube, **1**, 7-Enynes (0.4 mmol), NiBr₂ (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), **L1** (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), Zn (0.2 equiv, 0.08 mmol), THF (4 mL) were added sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 60 °C for 6 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The combined organic phase was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether : Ethyl acetate = 50 : 1) to provide the product **2**.

General procedure for the synthesis of benzo[*b*]azocin-2-ones **3**: In a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube, **1**, 7-Enynes (0.4 mmol), NiBr₂ (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), **L1** (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), Zn (0.2 equiv, 0.08 mmol), THF (4 mL) were added sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 140 °C for 6 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The combined organic phase was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether : Ethyl acetate = 10 : 1) to provide the product **3**.

2a,4-dimethyl-1-phenyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(2*aH*)-one (2a)



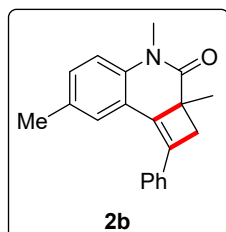
Yield: 98% (107.8 mg), white solid, mp: 78-79 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 3.35 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.36 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.06, 141.66, 138.47, 137.26, 134.55, 128.70, 128.53, 128.43, 125.83, 125.78, 122.70, 121.89, 115.70, 43.03, 39.59, 30.13, 21.79.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₉H₁₈NO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 276.13101, found: 276.13829.

2a,4,7-trimethyl-1-phenyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(2*aH*)-one (2b)



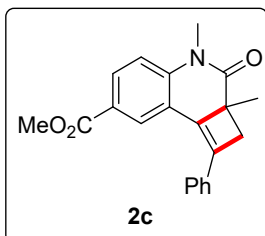
Yield: 90% (140.1 mg), white solid, mp: 136-137 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.6-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.3, *J*₂ = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (d, 4H, overlap), 2.90 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.37 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.98, 139.40, 138.18, 137.52, 134.67, 132.26, 129.28, 128.55, 128.37, 126.25, 125.83, 121.85, 115.63, 43.07, 39.53, 30.12, 21.80, 20.83.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₀H₂₀NO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 290.14666, found: 290.15394.

Methyl 2a,4-dimethyl-3-oxo-1-phenyl-2,2a,3,4-tetrahydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinoline-6-carboxylate (2c)



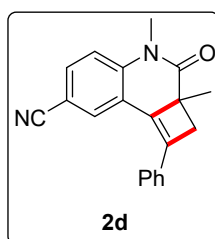
Yield: 80% (106.6 mg), white solid, mp: 155-156 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.6, *J*₂ = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.38 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.36 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 174.02, 166.41, 145.23, 139.85, 135.76, 134.22, 130.31, 128.80, 128.68, 127.04, 126.00, 124.37, 121.60, 115.35, 52.22, 42.94, 39.78, 30.35, 21.72.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₁H₂₀NO₃⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 334.13649, found: 334.14377.

2a,4-dimethyl-3-oxo-1-phenyl-2,2a,3,4-tetrahydrocyclobuta[c]quinoline-7-carbonitrile (2d)



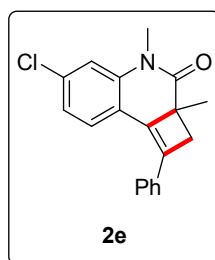
Yield: 87% (104.4 mg), white solid, mp: 164-167 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.6, *J*₂ = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, 4H, overlap), 2.86 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 1.28 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.66, 144.99, 141.56, 134.11, 133.82, 132.58, 129.30, 129.07, 128.83, 126.05, 122.47, 118.77, 116.13, 105.93, 42.86, 40.02, 30.35, 21.71.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₀H₁₇N₂O⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 301.12626, found: 301.13354.

6-chloro-2a,4-dimethyl-1-phenyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2e)



Yield: 75% (92.7 mg), white solid, mp: 111-112 °C.

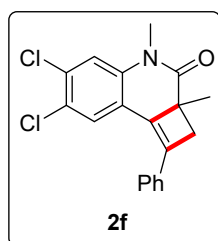
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.16 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.1, *J*₂ = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.37 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.81, 142.80, 139.22, 135.93, 134.34, 134.20, 128.68, 128.63, 126.62, 125.88, 122.59, 120.23, 116.13, 42.93, 39.74, 30.21, 21.82.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₉H₁₇ClNO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 310.09204, found: 310.09932.

6,7-dichloro-2a,4-dimethyl-1-phenyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2f)

Yield: 82% (112.5 mg), white solid, mp: 182-184 °C.



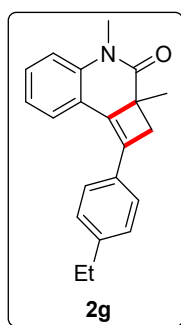
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 3.35 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 2.90 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.45, 141.13, 140.59, 134.51, 134.02, 132.06, 129.04, 128.75, 126.74, 126.07, 126.00, 121.63,

117.57, 42.91, 39.87, 30.33, 21.77.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₉H₁₆Cl₂NO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 343.05307, found: 344.06035.

1-(4-ethylphenyl)-2a,4-dimethyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2g)



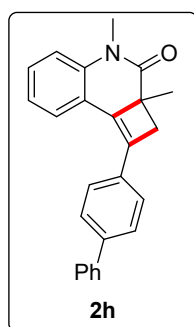
Yield: 91% (110.4 mg), white solid, mp: 52-53 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (dd, *J*₁ = 7.5, *J*₂ = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.13 (m, 3H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.37 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.16, 144.93, 141.63, 138.59, 136.08, 132.18, 128.52, 128.08, 125.93, 125.77, 122.68, 122.07, 115.69, 42.96, 39.64, 30.14, 28.83, 21.85, 15.55.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₁H₂₂NO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 304.16231, found: 304.16959

1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2a,4-dimethyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2h)



Yield: 78% (109.6 mg), white solid, mp: 181-183 °C.

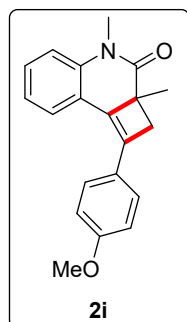
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 6H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (s, 4H, overlap), 2.96 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.04, 141.72, 141.08, 140.50,

138.13, 137.48, 133.58, 128.89, 128.79, 127.57, 127.22, 126.97, 126.35, 125.82, 122.78, 121.95, 115.79, 43.20, 39.66, 30.18, 21.90.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $C_{25}H_{22}NO^+$ ($[M+H]^+$): 352.16231, found: 352.16959.

1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2a,4-dimethyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(2*aH*)-one (2i)



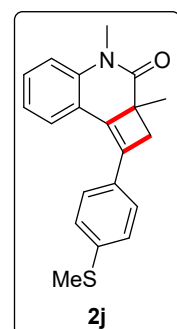
Yield: 97% (118.4 mg), white solid, mp: 127-129 °C.

1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.56 (dd, $J_1 = 7.5$, $J_2 = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.08-7.01 (m, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.84-6.73 (m, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 3.23 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.77 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 174.17, 159.84, 141.58, 138.20, 134.37, 128.36, 127.71, 127.33, 125.58, 122.66, 122.16, 115.69, 113.99, 55.31, 42.81, 39.65, 30.14, 21.82.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $C_{20}H_{20}NO_2^+$ ($[M+H]^+$): 306.14158, found: 306.14886.

2a,4-dimethyl-1-(4-(methylthio)phenyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(2*aH*)-one (2j)



Yield: 86% (110.5 mg), white solid, mp: 145-147 °C.

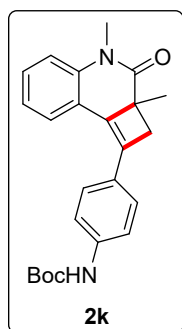
1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.66 (dd, $J = 7.4$, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.34 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 174.03, 141.62, 139.18, 137.92, 136.52, 131.41, 128.63, 126.20, 125.71, 122.70, 121.95, 115.73, 43.04, 39.54, 30.15, 21.81, 15.57.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $C_{20}H_{20}NOS^+$ ($[M+H]^+$): 322.11873, found: 322.12601.

Tert-butyl(4-(2a,4-dimethyl-3-oxo-2,2a,3,4-tetrahydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-1-yl)

phenyl)carbamate (2k)



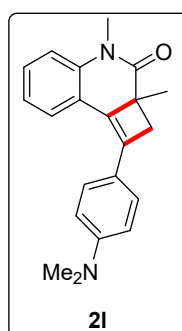
Yield: 83% (129.5 mg), white solid, mp: 175-177 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (dd, $J_1 = 7.5$, $J_2 = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.09 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.33 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.87 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.52 (s, 9H), 1.35 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.17, 152.52, 141.57, 138.69, 138.10, 135.31, 129.51, 128.46, 126.68, 125.63, 122.70, 122.06, 118.22, 115.70, 80.72, 42.90, 39.58, 30.15, 28.34, 21.80.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₄H₂₇N₂O₃⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 391.19434, found: 391.20162.

1-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-2a,4-dimethyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2l)



yield: 87% (110.7 mg), white solid, mp: 130-131 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 (dd, $J_1 = 7.5$, $J_2 = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.33 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.00 (s, 6H), 2.87 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.34 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.44, 150.41, 141.46, 138.96, 127.79, 127.15, 126.64, 125.54, 123.31, 122.68, 122.54, 115.58, 111.94, 42.61, 40.34, 39.59, 30.14, 21.93.

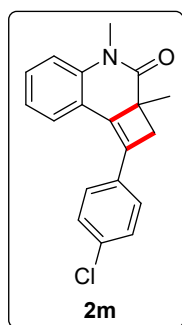
HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₁H₂₃N₂O⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 319.17321, found: 319.18049.

1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2a,4-dimethyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2m)

Yield: 68% (84.1 mg), white solid, mp: 100-102 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (dd, $J_1 = 7.5$, $J_2 = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.11 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H),

3.40 (s, 3H), 3.37 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 3H).

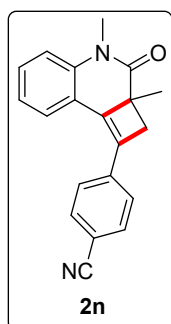


^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.09, 141.67, 138.48, 137.27, 134.56, 128.71, 128.55, 128.45, 125.84, 125.80, 122.72, 121.91, 115.72, 43.04, 39.60, 30.15, 21.80.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClNO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 310.09204, found: 310.09932.

4-(2a,4-dimethyl-3-oxo-2,2a,3,4-tetrahydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-1-yl)benzoyl nitrile

(2n)



Yield: 90% (108.0 mg), white solid, mp: 155-156 °C.

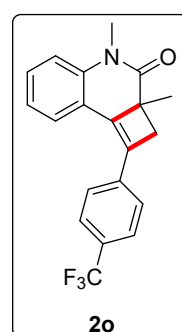
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.68-7.57 (m, 5H), 7.46-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.13 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.35 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.47, 142.30, 141.80, 138.43, 136.21, 132.39, 129.69, 126.13, 125.73, 122.95, 121.08, 118.84, 115.99, 111.26, 43.70, 39.39, 30.19, 21.79.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 301.12626, found: 301.13354.

2a,4-dimethyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-

3(2aH)-one (2o)



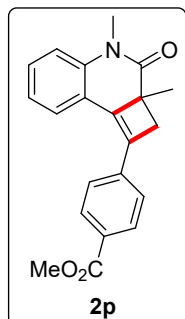
Yield: 95% (130.4 mg), white solid, mp: 98-100 °C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67 (dd, $J_1 = 7.5$, $J_2 = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.13 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.38 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.93 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.70, 141.78, 140.53, 137.67, 136.75, 129.87 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 32.5$ Hz), 129.35, 125.92, 125.71, 125.53 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.8$ Hz), 124.04 (d, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 272.0$ Hz), 122.86, 121.32, 115.90, 43.48, 39.53, 30.17, 21.78.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 344.11840, found: 344.12568.

Methyl 4-(2a,4-dimethyl-3-oxo-2,2a,3,4-tetrahydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-1-yl)benzoate (2p)



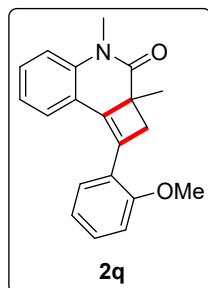
yield: 95% (126.6 mg), white solid, mp: 158-160 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.38 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 4H), 2.92 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.70, 166.66, 141.78, 140.63, 138.56, 137.26, 129.88, 129.49, 129.28, 125.80, 125.62, 122.84, 121.46, 115.84, 52.14, 43.50, 39.55, 30.15, 21.79.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₁H₂₀NO₃⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 334.13649, found: 334.14377.

1-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2a,4-dimethyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2q)



Yield: 93% (113.5 mg), light yellow oil.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.99-6.93 (m, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.42 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.03 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 3H).

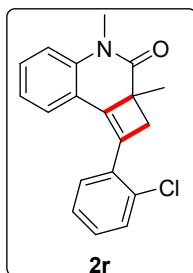
¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.39, 157.28, 141.72, 137.62, 135.23, 129.63, 128.33, 128.17, 127.40, 123.79, 122.94, 122.17, 120.35, 115.29, 110.79, 54.68, 43.69, 41.68, 30.15, 21.73.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₀H₂₀NO₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 306.14158, found: 306.14886.

1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2a,4-dimethyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2r)

Yield: 75% (92.7 mg), light yellow oil.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.32 (m,

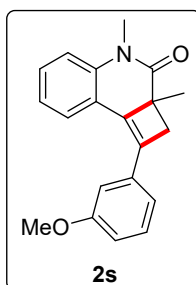


2H), 7.24-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.05 (m, 2H), 3.58 (d, $J = 13.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.23 (d, $J = 13.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.89, 141.75, 141.03, 136.84, 133.09, 132.68, 130.57, 129.16, 129.01, 128.77, 126.44, 125.76, 122.60, 121.42, 115.69, 44.48, 43.88, 30.12, 22.02.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClNO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 310.09204, found: 310.09932.

1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2a,4-dimethyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2s)



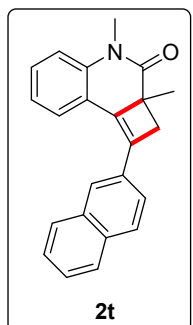
Yield: 92% (112.3 mg), light yellow oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.59 (dd, $J_1 = 7.5$, $J_2 = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.97 (m, 2H), 6.75 (dd, $J = 8.2$, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 3.25 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.79 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.27 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.00, 159.71, 141.71, 138.36, 137.66, 135.88, 129.61, 128.78, 125.76, 122.72, 121.83, 118.47, 115.76, 114.15, 111.20, 55.26, 43.03, 39.68, 30.14, 21.79.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 306.14158, found: 306.14886.

2a,4-dimethyl-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2t)



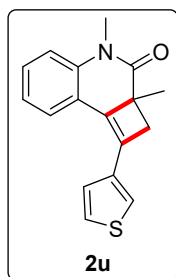
Yield: 94% (122.2 mg), white solid, mp: 128-130 °C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.90-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.85-7.77 (m, 4H), 7.56-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.23 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.48 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 3.04 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.06, 141.76, 138.47, 137.80, 133.35, 133.22, 132.18, 128.80, 128.31, 128.18, 127.77, 126.50, 126.40, 125.80, 125.19, 123.60, 122.79, 122.02, 115.80, 43.17, 39.68, 30.19, 21.86.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $C_{23}H_{20}NO^+$ ($[M+H]^+$): 326.14666, found: 326.15394.

2a,4-dimethyl-1-(thiophen-3-yl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2u)



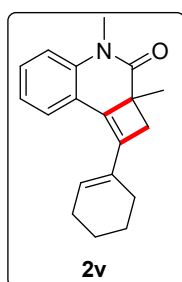
Yield : 95% (106.8 mg), white solid, mp: 103-104 °C.

1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.60 (dd, $J_1 = 7.4$, $J_2 = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.16 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.36 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 173.94, 141.62, 136.88, 134.91, 133.52, 128.57, 126.28, 125.57, 125.35, 122.96, 122.75, 121.72, 115.68, 43.67, 40.31, 30.13, 21.94.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $C_{17}H_{16}NOS^+$ ($[M+H]^+$): 282.08743, found: 282.09471.

1-(cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-2a,4-dimethyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2v)



Yield: 97% (108.3 mg), white solid, mp: 109-110 °C.

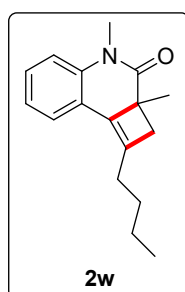
1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.50-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.14-6.99 (m, 2H), 5.87 (t, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.09 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.61 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.49-2.38 (m, 1H), 2.31-2.23 (m, 1H), 2.17 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.82-1.71 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.61 (m, 1H), 1.61-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.25 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 174.38, 141.54, 140.96, 133.99, 133.73, 128.87, 127.95, 126.24, 122.45, 122.26, 115.47, 42.16, 38.79, 30.11, 26.88, 25.71, 22.36, 21.88, 21.60.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $C_{19}H_{22}NO^+$ ($[M+H]^+$): 280.16231, found: 280.16959.

1-butyl-4-methyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(2aH)-one (2w)

yield: 92% (93.9 mg), light yellow oil.



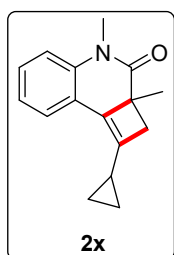
1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.30-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 2H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.01 (d, $J = 13.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.53 (d, $J = 13.8$ Hz,

1H), 2.26 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.50 (dt, $J_1 = 12.5$, $J_2 = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.34 (dd, $J_1 = 15.0$, $J_2 = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 0.91 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.54, 144.00, 141.33, 137.12, 127.80, 125.00, 122.48, 121.48, 115.34, 43.06, 41.97, 29.98, 29.49, 22.59, 21.97, 13.84.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 256.16231, found: 256.16959.

1-cyclopropyl-2a,4-dimethyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(2*aH*)-one (2x)



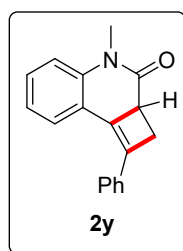
Yield: 91% (87.0 mg), white solid, mp: 55-56 °C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.44-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.15-6.95 (m, 2H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 2.81 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.32 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.79-1.60 (m, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 0.89-0.80 (m, 1H), 0.80-0.69 (m, 2H), 0.65-0.54 (m, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.34, 144.52, 141.07, 135.18, 127.64, 124.90, 122.58, 121.56, 115.42, 41.92, 38.77, 30.04, 21.91, 11.35, 6.78, 5.37.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 240.13101, found: 240.13829.

4-methyl-1-phenyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(2*aH*)-one (2y)



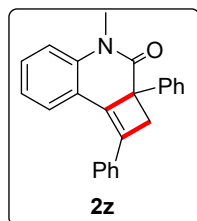
yield: 94% (98.2 mg), light yellow oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.45 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$, $J_2 = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 5.94 (d, $J = 0.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.45 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.17, 150.82, 145.52, 140.09, 138.77, 130.53, 128.69, 128.34, 127.92, 126.31, 121.95, 121.84, 120.26, 116.87, 114.35, 29.46.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 262.11536, found: 262.12264.

4-methyl-1,2a-diphenyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(2*aH*)-one (2z)



yield: 81% (109.2 mg), white solid, mp: 160-161 °C.

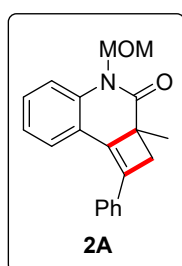
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (dd, $J = 7.5$, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.66-

7.62 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.18 (m, 4H), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.79 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.14 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.51, 141.74, 141.08, 140.02, 134.66, 134.19, 128.84, 128.81, 128.63, 128.49, 127.21, 126.11, 126.04, 125.42, 123.03, 122.84, 115.97, 49.73, 42.70, 30.50.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 338.14666, found: 338.15394.

4-(methoxymethyl)-2a-methyl-1-phenyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(2*aH*)-one (2A)



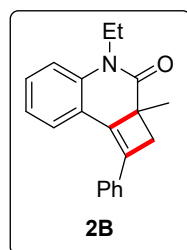
yield: 95% (116.0 mg), white solid, mp: 110-111 °C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.72 (dd, $J_1 = 7.5$, $J_2 = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.17 (m, 1H), 5.84 (d, $J = 10.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.89 (d, $J = 10.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.39 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.94 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.45 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.89, 140.96, 138.49, 136.82, 134.49, 129.02, 128.60, 128.57, 125.90, 125.67, 123.42, 121.62, 116.72, 74.34, 56.00, 43.05, 39.45, 21.68.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2\text{Na}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$): 328.14158, found: 328.13080.

4-ethyl-2a-methyl-1-phenyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(2*aH*)-one (2B)



yield: 91% (105.2 mg), white solid, mp: 103-104 °C.

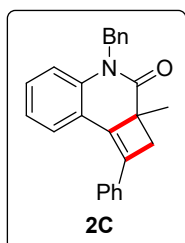
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.72 (dd, $J = 7.5$, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.19-4.11 (m, 1H), 3.94-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.39 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.57, 140.55, 138.34, 137.47, 134.65, 128.75, 128.55, 128.40, 126.08, 125.87, 122.49, 122.02, 115.46, 42.92, 39.45, 37.62, 21.65,

12.76.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $C_{20}H_{20}NO^+$ ($[M+H]^+$): 290.14666, found: 290.15394.

4-benzyl-2a-methyl-1-phenyl-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(2*aH*)-one (2C)



yield: 83% (116.6 mg), white solid, mp: 149-150 °C.

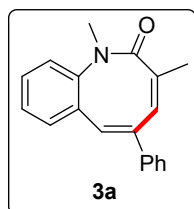
1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.74 (dd, $J_1 = 7.4$, $J_2 = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.01-6.98 (m, 1H), 5.69 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.50 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz,

1H), 3.00 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 174.23, 141.22, 138.62, 137.31, 137.19, 134.62, 128.84, 128.77, 128.63, 128.55, 127.07, 126.17, 125.96, 125.87, 122.86, 121.93, 116.52, 46.69, 43.13, 39.70, 22.01.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $C_{25}H_{22}NO^+$ ($[M+H]^+$): 352.16231, found: 352.16959.

(3*Z*,5*E*)-1,3-dimethyl-5-phenylbenzo[*b*]azocin-2(1*H*)-one (3a)



Yield: 98% (107.9 mg), white solid, mp: 122-124 °C.

1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.58-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.14-7.10 (m, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 5.25 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H).

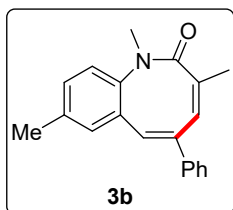
^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.73, 146.28, 143.88, 138.76, 137.98, 129.38, 128.75, 128.31, 127.75, 127.40, 125.81, 122.01, 120.91, 115.88, 113.92, 29.92, 15.04.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $C_{19}H_{18}NO^+$ ($[M+H]^+$): 276.13101, found: 276.13829.

(3*Z*,5*E*)-1,3,8-trimethyl-5-phenylbenzo[*b*]azocin-2(1*H*)-one (3b)

Yield: 93% (107.6 mg), colorless oil.

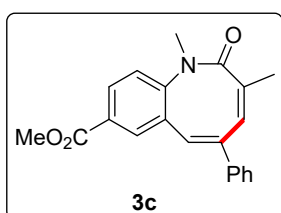
1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.40-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 5H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H).



^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.59, 146.08, 143.91, 138.04, 136.80, 131.44, 130.62, 128.74, 128.25, 127.60, 127.09, 125.82, 120.87, 115.73, 113.85, 29.91, 20.79, 15.04.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 290.14666, found: 290.15394.

Methyl(3Z,5E)-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-1,2-dihydrobenzo[b]azocine-8-carboxylate (3c)



Yield: 84% (111.9 mg), white solid, mp: 120-122 °C.

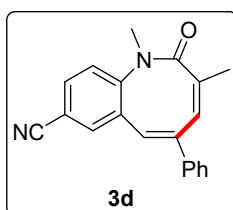
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.27 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.17-8.11 (m, 1H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 5H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H),

2.17 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.41, 162.76, 146.45, 143.31, 141.76, 137.90, 130.25, 129.43, 128.82, 128.55, 128.43, 125.84, 123.85, 120.53, 116.53, 113.96, 52.08, 30.20, 15.06.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 334.13649, found: 334.14377.

(3Z,5E)-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-1,2-dihydrobenzo[b]azocine-8-carbonitrile (3d)



Yield: 92% (110.4 mg), white solid, mp: 160-162 °C.

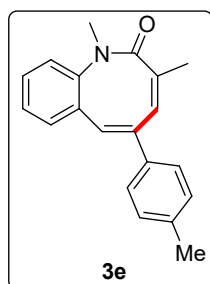
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.85 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 5H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 5.26 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.42, 145.31, 142.77, 141.34, 137.12, 131.98, 131.97, 129.99, 129.00, 128.78, 125.67, 121.12, 118.69, 116.74, 114.92, 105.50, 30.21, 15.15.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 301.12626, found: 301.13354.

(3Z,5E)-1,3-dimethyl-5-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*b*]azocin-2(1*H*)-one (3e)

Yield: 94% (108.7 mg), colorless oil.

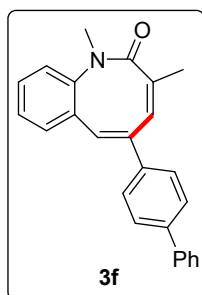


$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.57 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.11 (m, 3H), 6.11 (s, 1H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 3.84 (d, $J = 0.5$ Hz, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.77, 146.50, 143.67, 138.73, 138.27, 135.13, 129.46, 129.35, 127.63, 127.45, 125.71, 122.01, 120.96, 114.85, 113.90, 29.91, 21.13, 15.03.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 290.14666, found: 290.15394.

(3Z,5E)-5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-1,3-dimethylbenzo[*b*]azocin-2(1*H*)-one (3f)



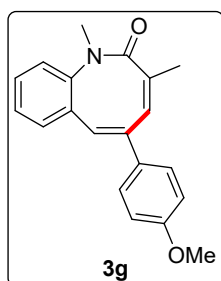
Yield: 97% (127.8 mg), white solid, mp: 133-135 °C.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.47-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 5.28 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.74, 146.23, 143.45, 141.13, 140.38, 138.79, 136.84, 129.45, 128.82, 127.82, 127.51, 127.45, 127.42, 126.96, 126.25, 122.07, 120.92, 115.80, 113.98, 29.96, 15.12.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 352.16231, found: 352.16959.

(3Z,5E)-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dimethylbenzo[*b*]azocin-2(1*H*)-one (3g)



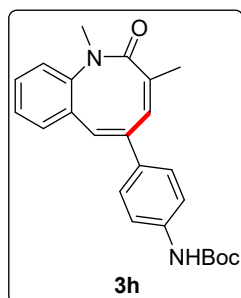
Yield: 96% (117.2 mg), colorless oil.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.59-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.10 (m, 1H), 6.85-6.81 (m, 2H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 5.13 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.76, 159.73, 146.55, 143.21, 138.74, 130.57, 129.33, 127.58, 127.45, 127.09, 121.98, 120.92, 114.11, 113.88, 113.70, 55.25, 29.89, 14.98.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 306.14158, found: 306.14886.

Tert-butyl(4-((3Z,5E)-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydrobenzo[*b*]azocin-5-yl)phenyl)carbamate (3h)



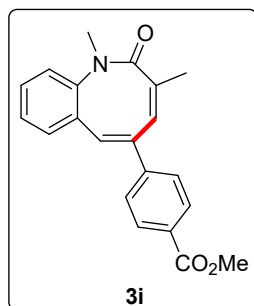
Yield: 89% (138.9 mg), white solid, mp: 204-206 °C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 5.14 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.49 (s, 9H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.77, 152.75, 146.46, 143.22, 138.79, 138.68, 132.48, 129.39, 127.58, 127.46, 126.46, 122.04, 120.89, 118.67, 114.34, 113.90, 80.53, 31.56, 29.94, 28.30, 22.62, 15.02, 14.09.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 389.19434, found: 389.18707.

Methyl 4-((3Z,5E)-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydrobenzo[*b*]azocin-5-yl)benzoate (3i)



Yield: 88% (117.2 mg), colorless oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.97 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.26 (s, 1H), 5.37 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H).

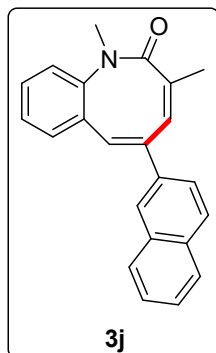
^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.59, 162.58, 145.51, 143.16, 142.27, 138.79, 130.10, 129.87, 129.56, 127.97, 127.11, 125.76, 122.09, 120.64, 118.18, 114.05, 52.11, 29.95, 15.04.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 334.13649, found: 334.14377.

(3Z,5E)-1,3-dimethyl-5-(naphthalen-2-yl)benzo[*b*]azocin-2(1H)-one (3j)

Yield: 95% (123.56 mg), colorless oil.

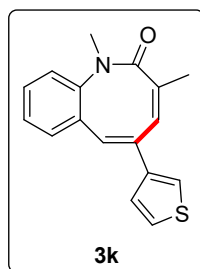
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.70-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H).



¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.83, 146.35, 143.84, 138.82, 135.12, 133.43, 133.18, 129.44, 128.57, 128.38, 127.89, 127.55, 127.46, 126.39, 125.54, 123.17, 122.09, 120.96, 116.33, 113.99, 29.99, 15.12.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₃H₂₀NO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 326.14666, found: 326.15394.

(3Z,5E)-1,3-dimethyl-5-(thiophen-3-yl)benzo[b]azocin-2(1H)-one (3k)



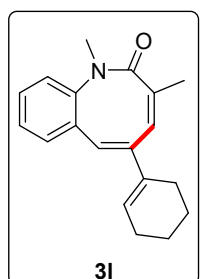
Yield: 96% (107.9 mg), colorless oil.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.88-6.85 (m, 1H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 5.17 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.74, 146.20, 140.20, 139.13, 138.77, 129.42, 127.41, 127.32, 126.39, 124.87, 123.02, 122.00, 120.61, 114.67, 113.90, 29.91, 14.94.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₇H₁₆NOS⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 282.08743, found: 282.09471.

(3Z,5E)-5-(cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-3-phenylbenzo[b]azocin-2(1H)-one (3l)



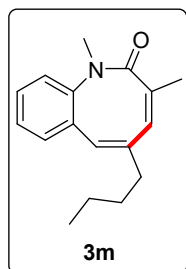
yield:80% (89.3 mg), colorless oil.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 1H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 5.41 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.41-2.37 (m, 2H), 2.10 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 3H), 2.01-1.93 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.73 (m, 2H), 1.60-1.54 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.66, 147.19, 145.64, 138.40, 134.26, 129.20, 129.04, 127.46, 127.16, 121.74, 121.27, 113.68, 111.97, 29.75, 25.74, 24.76, 22.65, 21.96, 14.79.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 280.16231, found: 280.16959.

(3Z,5Z)-5-butyl-1,3-dimethylbenzo[*b*]azocin-2(1H)-one (3m)



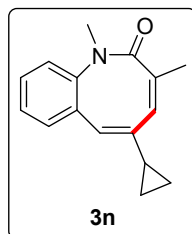
Yield: 95% (96,7 mg), colorless oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 1H), 5.46 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.36-2.25 (m, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.53-1.45 (m, 2H), 1.40-1.31 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.74, 148.24, 145.49, 138.70, 129.18, 126.92, 125.91, 121.75, 120.34, 114.96, 113.95, 36.71, 29.78, 29.54, 22.65, 14.92, 13.91.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 256.16231, found: 256.16959.

(3Z,5Z)-5-cyclopropyl-1,3-dimethylbenzo[*b*]azocin-2(1H)-one (3n)



Yield: 94% (89.9 mg), colorless oil.

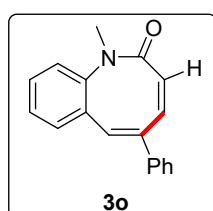
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H), 5.42 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.87 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.69 (m, 1H), 0.77-0.67

(m, 2H), 0.49-0.43 (m, 1H), 0.35-0.30 (m, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.62, 146.35, 145.92, 138.53, 129.23, 127.51, 126.91, 121.77, 120.88, 113.83, 112.90, 29.78, 17.31, 15.31, 7.11, 6.82.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 240.13101, found: 240.13829.

(3Z,5E)-1-methyl-5-phenylbenzo[*b*]azocin-2(1H)-one (3o)



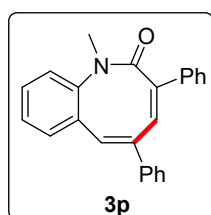
Yield: 96% (100.2 mg), white solid, mp: 89-91 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.09-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 5.94 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 5.44 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.16, 150.82, 145.54, 140.12, 138.78, 130.52, 128.67, 128.33, 127.92, 126.31, 121.93, 121.82, 120.27, 116.83, 114.33, 29.44.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₈H₁₆NO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 262.11536, found: 262.12264.

(3*Z*,5*E*)-1-methyl-3,5-diphenylbenzo[*b*]azocin-2(1*H*)-one (3p)



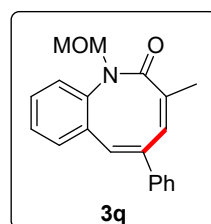
Yield: 80% (107.9 mg), colorless oil.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.20 (m, 8H), 7.19-7.14 (m, 3H), 5.92 (s, 1H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.96, 147.50, 143.30, 139.50, 139.16, 136.08, 132.12, 130.32, 129.69, 128.36, 128.32, 127.87, 127.50, 127.10, 125.96, 122.10, 120.79, 117.55, 114.06, 30.04.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₄H₂₀NO⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 338.14666, found: 338.15394.

(3*Z*,5*E*)-1-(methoxymethyl)-3-methyl-5-phenylbenzo[*b*]azocin-2(1*H*)-one (3q)



Yield: 97% (118.4 mg), colorless oil.

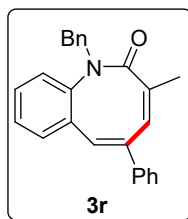
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 5.92-5.80 (m, 2H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 3.53 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s,

3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.27, 147.59, 143.84, 137.90, 137.82, 129.55, 128.81, 128.39, 127.37, 127.31, 125.80, 122.62, 120.96, 115.87, 115.00, 73.90, 56.80, 14.88.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₀H₂₀NO₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 306.14158, found: 306.14886.

(3*Z*,5*E*)-1-benzyl-3-methyl-5-phenylbenzo[*b*]azocin-2(1*H*)-one (3r)



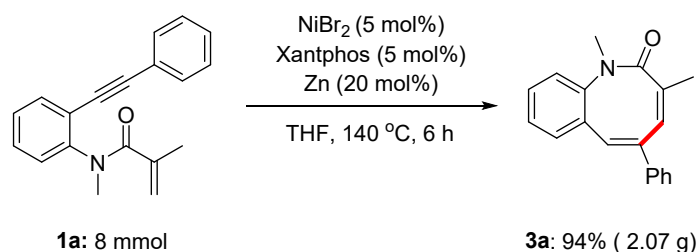
Yield: 91% (127.8 mg), white solid, mp: 122-124 °C.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.27 (m, 10H), 7.10-7.06 (m, 1H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 5.75 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.59 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.87, 146.87, 143.92, 138.26, 137.96, 136.69, 129.38, 128.80, 128.36, 127.70, 127.49, 127.23, 126.76, 125.82, 122.09, 121.15, 115.97, 114.80, 46.60, 15.09.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}^+$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 352.16231, found: 352.16959.

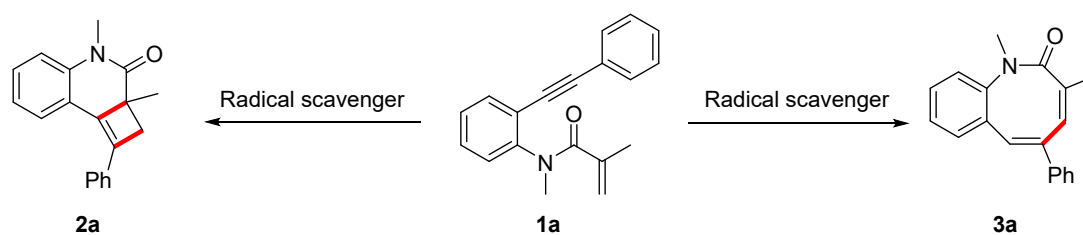
3.3 Gram-scale reaction



In a 250 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube, 1, 7-Enynes (8 mmol, 2.2 g), NiBr_2 (5 mol%), **L1** (5 mol%), Zn (0.2 equiv), THF (25 mL) were added sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 140 °C for 6 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phase was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether : Ethyl acetate = 10 : 1) to provide the product **3a** in 94% yield.

4 Mechanistic experiments

4.1 Radical inhibition reaction

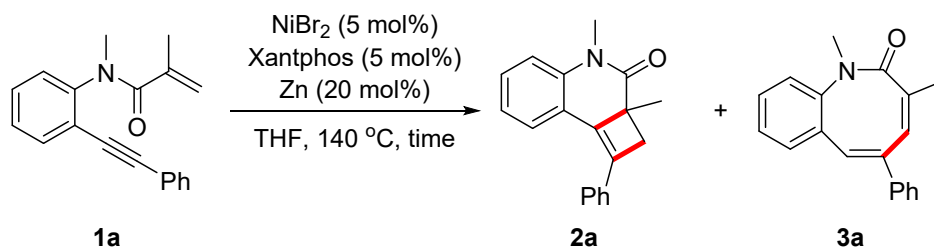


Radical scavenger	Yield/ 2a	Yield/ 3a
TEMPO	0	0
BHT	90%	89%
1,1-diphenylethylene	93%	91%

(a) *General procedure for the radical inhibition reaction:* In a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube, **1a** (0.4 mmol), NiBr₂ (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), **L1** (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), Zn (0.2 equiv, 0.08 mmol), radical scavenger (1 equiv, 0.4 mmol), THF (4 mL) were added sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 60 °C for 6 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The combined organic phase was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether : Ethyl acetate = 50 : 1) to provide the product **2a**.

(b) *General procedure for the radical inhibition reaction:* In a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube, **1a** (0.4 mmol), NiBr₂ (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), **L1** (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), Zn (0.2 equiv, 0.08 mmol), radical scavenger (1 equiv, 0.4 mmol), THF (4 mL) were added sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 140 °C for 6 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The combined organic phase was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether : Ethyl acetate = 10 : 1) to provide the product **3a**.

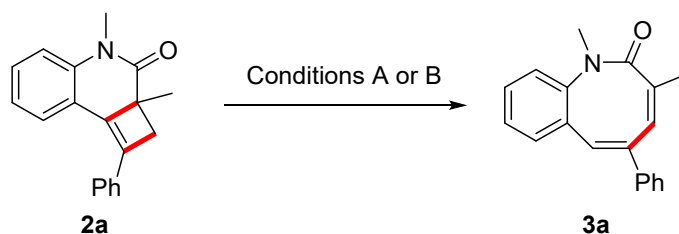
4.2 Time evaluation for the model reaction



time/h	yield/ 2a	yield/ 3a
0.5	78%	17%
1	55%	42%

In a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube, **1a** (0.4 mmol), NiBr_2 (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), **L1** (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), Zn (0.2 equiv, 0.08 mmol), THF (4 mL) were added sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 140 °C for 0.5 h or 1 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The combined organic phase was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether : Ethyl acetate = 10 : 1) to provide the product **2a** and **3a**.

4.3 Formation of **3a** from **2a**



Conditions A: In a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube, **2a** (0.4 mmol), NiBr_2 (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), **L1** (5 mol%, 0.02 mmol), Zn (0.2 equiv, 0.08 mmol), THF (4 mL) were added sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 140 °C for 0.5 h or 1 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The combined organic phase was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether : Ethyl acetate = 10 : 1) to provide the product **3a** in 17% and 44% yield, respectively.

Conditions B: In a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube, **2a** (0.4 mmol) in THF (4 mL), under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 140 °C for 0.5 h or 1 h. After

completion, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The combined organic phase was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether : Ethyl acetate = 10 : 1) to provide the product **3a** in 18% and 46% yield, respectively.

5. X-Ray Crystallography of 2i

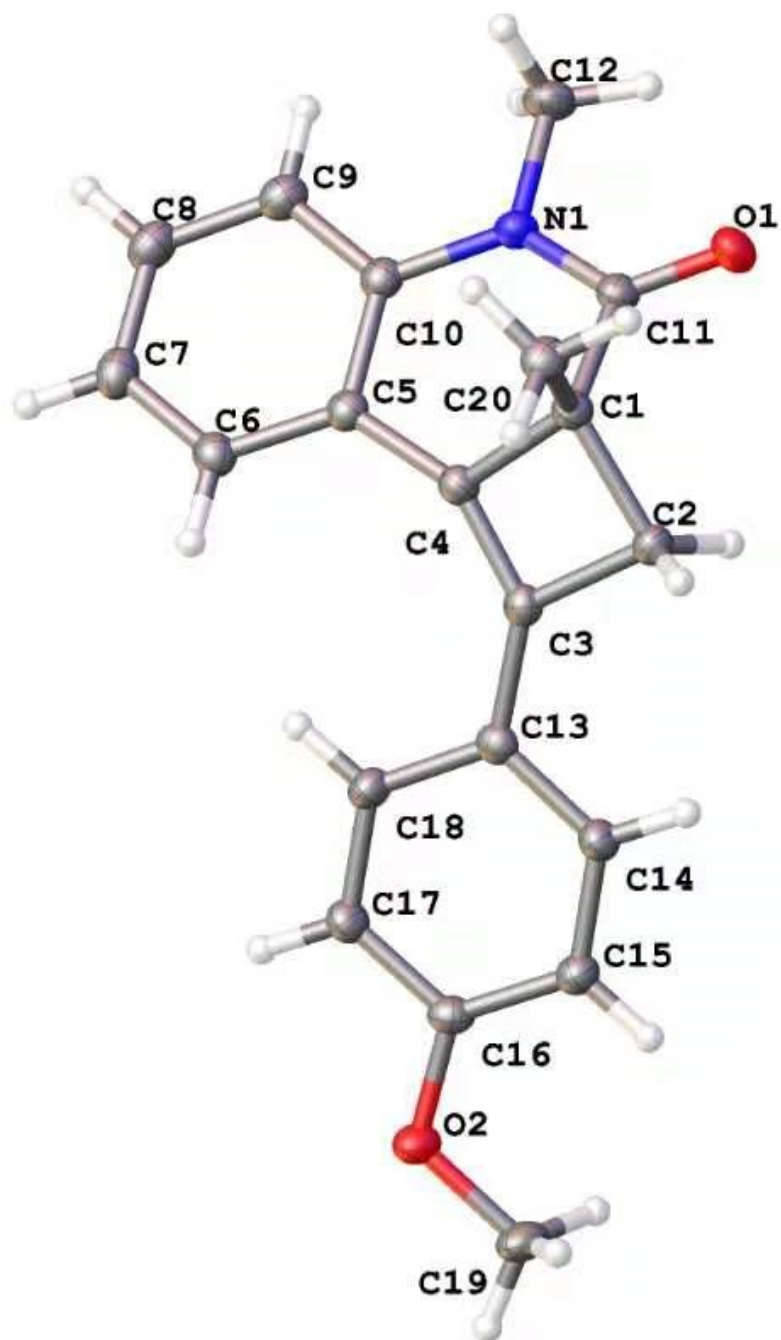


Figure S1. The X-Ray Crystallographic Structure of 2i

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for 2i

Identification code	2103027077
Empirical formula	C ₂₀ H ₁₉ N O ₂
Formula weight	305.36
Temperature	173.0 K
Wavelength	1.34139 Å
Crystal system	Orthorhombic
Space group	Pna2 ₁
Unit cell dimensions	a = 36.302(4) Å a = 90°. b = 8.0420(10) Å b = 90°. c = 5.3509(6) Å g = 90°.
Volume	1562.1(3) Å ³
Z	4
Density (calculated)	1.298 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	0.427 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	648
Crystal size	0.07 x 0.06 x 0.05 mm ³
Theta range for data collection	4.238 to 54.989°.
Index ranges	-44 ≤ h ≤ 42, -6 ≤ k ≤ 9, -6 ≤ l ≤ 5
Reflections collected	9828
Independent reflections	2815 [R(int) = 0.0479]
Completeness to theta = 53.594°	99.6 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.7508 and 0.4755
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	2815 / 1 / 211
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.061
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0424, wR2 = 0.1024
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0536, wR2 = 0.1113
Absolute structure parameter	0.2(3)
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.137 and -0.181 e.Å ⁻³

Table S2. Atomic coordinates (x 10⁴) and equivalent isotropic displacement

parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for 2-11. U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized U_{ij} tensor.

Atom	x	y	z	U(eq)
O(1)	2923(1)	8362(3)	677(4)	47(1)
O(2)	5509(1)	7045(3)	2423(4)	41(1)
N(1)	3001(1)	6458(3)	3795(5)	35(1)
C(1)	3424(1)	8795(4)	3526(6)	32(1)
C(2)	3742(1)	9340(4)	1744(6)	33(1)
C(3)	3985(1)	8177(3)	3284(6)	31(1)
C(4)	3699(1)	7634(4)	4691(6)	31(1)
C(5)	3571(1)	6303(4)	6320(6)	31(1)
C(6)	3765(1)	5569(4)	8275(6)	36(1)
C(7)	3611(1)	4303(4)	9685(7)	42(1)
C(8)	3259(1)	3758(4)	9140(7)	44(1)
C(9)	3056(1)	4479(4)	7226(6)	41(1)
C(10)	3207(1)	5761(4)	5802(6)	33(1)
C(11)	3101(1)	7859(4)	2463(6)	34(1)
C(12)	2649(1)	5682(4)	3125(8)	48(1)
C(13)	4377(1)	7857(3)	3022(6)	31(1)
C(14)	4577(1)	8618(4)	1109(6)	35(1)
C(15)	4953(1)	8392(4)	832(6)	36(1)
C(16)	5139(1)	7373(4)	2495(6)	33(1)
C(17)	4948(1)	6590(4)	4403(6)	37(1)
C(18)	4575(1)	6821(4)	4671(6)	36(1)
C(19)	5713(1)	7722(4)	379(7)	49(1)
C(20)	3277(1)	10172(4)	5225(7)	40(1)

Table S3. Bond lengths [\AA] for 2i

Atom 1,2	d 1,2 [\AA]	Atom 1,2	d 1,2 [\AA]
O(1)-C(11)	1.224(4)	C(8)-C(9)	1.389(5)
O(2)-C(16)	1.370(3)	C(9)-H(9)	0.9500
O(2)-C(19)	1.428(4)	C(9)-C(10)	1.394(4)

N(1)-C(10)	1.424(4)	C(12)-H(12A)	0.9800
N(1)-C(11)	1.382(4)	C(12)-H(12B)	0.9800
N(1)-C(12)	1.467(4)	C(12)-H(12C)	0.9800
C(1)-C(2)	1.562(4)	C(13)-C(14)	1.396(4)
C(1)-C(4)	1.504(4)	C(13)-C(18)	1.410(4)
C(1)-C(11)	1.503(4)	C(14)-H(14)	0.9500
C(1)-C(20)	1.528(4)	C(14)-C(15)	1.384(4)
C(2)-H(2A)	0.9900	C(15)-H(15)	0.9500
C(2)-H(2B)	0.9900	C(15)-C(16)	1.386(4)
C(2)-C(3)	1.528(4)	C(16)-C(17)	1.387(4)
C(3)-C(4)	1.355(4)	C(17)-H(17)	0.9500
C(3)-C(13)	1.453(4)	C(17)-C(18)	1.374(4)
C(4)-C(5)	1.456(4)	C(18)-H(18)	0.9500
C(5)-C(6)	1.392(4)	C(19)-H(19A)	0.9800
C(5)-C(10)	1.419(4)	C(19)-H(19B)	0.9800
C(6)-H(6)	0.9500	C(19)-H(19C)	0.9800
C(6)-C(7)	1.384(4)	C(20)-H(20A)	0.9800
C(7)-H(7)	0.9500	C(20)-H(20B)	0.9800
C(8)-H(8)	0.9500		

Table S4. Bond angles[°] for 2i

Atom 1,2,3	Angle 1,2,3[°]	Atom 1,2,3	Angle 1,2,3[°]
C(16)-O(2)-C(19)	117.1(2)	O(1)-C(11)-N(1)	122.2(3)
C(10)-N(1)-C(12)	118.4(2)	O(1)-C(11)-C(1)	122.9(3)
C(11)-N(1)-C(10)	124.8(2)	N(1)-C(11)-C(1)	114.7(2)
C(11)-N(1)-C(12)	116.8(2)	N(1)-C(12)-H(12A)	109.5
C(4)-C(1)-C(2)	86.3(2)	N(1)-C(12)-H(12B)	109.5
C(4)-C(1)-C(20)	115.8(3)	N(1)-C(12)-H(12C)	109.5
C(11)-C(1)-C(2)	119.1(3)	H(12A)-C(12)-H(12B)	109.5
C(11)-C(1)-C(4)	111.3(2)	H(12A)-C(12)-H(12C)	109.5
C(11)-C(1)-C(20)	108.5(2)	H(12B)-C(12)-H(12C)	109.5
C(20)-C(1)-C(2)	114.7(2)	C(14)-C(13)-C(3)	120.2(3)
C(1)-C(2)-H(2A)	114.4	C(14)-C(13)-C(18)	117.0(2)
C(1)-C(2)-H(2B)	114.4	C(18)-C(13)-C(3)	122.8(3)

H(2A)-C(2)-H(2B)	111.5	C(13)-C(14)-H(14)	118.9
C(3)-C(2)-C(1)	85.8(2)	C(15)-C(14)-C(13)	122.2(3)
C(3)-C(2)-H(2A)	114.4	C(15)-C(14)-H(14)	118.9
C(3)-C(2)-H(2B)	114.4	C(14)-C(15)-H(15)	120.3
C(4)-C(3)-C(2)	93.1(2)	C(14)-C(15)-C(16)	119.3(3)
C(4)-C(3)-C(13)	138.3(3)	C(16)-C(15)-H(15)	120.3
C(13)-C(3)-C(2)	128.5(3)	O(2)-C(16)-C(15)	125.1(3)
C(3)-C(4)-C(1)	94.6(2)	O(2)-C(16)-C(17)	115.2(3)
C(3)-C(4)-C(5)	144.5(3)	C(15)-C(16)-C(17)	119.8(2)
C(5)-C(4)-C(1)	119.4(2)	C(16)-C(17)-H(17)	119.7
C(6)-C(5)-C(4)	126.9(2)	C(18)-C(17)-C(16)	120.6(3)
C(6)-C(5)-C(10)	119.1(3)	C(18)-C(17)-H(17)	119.7
C(10)-C(5)-C(4)	114.0(2)	C(13)-C(18)-H(18)	119.5
C(5)-C(6)-H(6)	119.4	C(17)-C(18)-C(13)	121.0(3)
C(7)-C(6)-C(5)	121.2(3)	C(17)-C(18)-H(18)	119.5
C(7)-C(6)-H(6)	119.4	O(2)-C(19)-H(19A)	109.5
C(6)-C(7)-H(7)	120.3	O(2)-C(19)-H(19B)	109.5
C(8)-C(7)-C(6)	119.4(3)	O(2)-C(19)-H(19C)	109.5
C(8)-C(7)-H(7)	120.3	H(19A)-C(19)-H(19B)	109.5
C(7)-C(8)-H(8)	119.5	H(19A)-C(19)-H(19C)	109.5
C(7)-C(8)-C(9)	120.9(3)	H(19B)-C(19)-H(19C)	109.5
C(9)-C(8)-H(8)	119.5	C(1)-C(20)-H(20A)	109.5
C(8)-C(9)-H(9)	119.9	C(1)-C(20)-H(20B)	109.5
C(8)-C(9)-C(10)	120.1(3)	C(1)-C(20)-H(20C)	109.5
C(10)-C(9)-H(9)	119.9	H(20A)-C(20)-H(20B)	109.5
C(5)-C(10)-N(1)	121.1(3)	H(20A)-C(20)-H(20C)	109.5
C(9)-C(10)-N(1)	119.7(2)	H(20B)-C(20)-H(20C)	109.5
C(9)-C(10)-C(5)	119.2(3)		

Table S5. Anisotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for 1-2l. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form: $-2p^2 [h^2 a^* U^{11} + \dots + 2 h k a^* b^* U^{12}]$

Atom	U11	U22	U33	U23	U13	U12
O(1)	35(1)	59(2)	47(2)	14(1)	-9(1)	1(1)
O(2)	30(1)	44(1)	48(1)	9(1)	6(1)	4(1)
N(1)	27(1)	40(2)	37(2)	4(1)	0(1)	-5(1)
C(1)	28(1)	33(2)	36(2)	4(1)	1(1)	3(1)
C(2)	31(1)	35(2)	33(2)	5(1)	1(1)	-1(1)
C(3)	33(1)	31(2)	28(2)	0(1)	-1(1)	0(1)
C(4)	29(1)	32(2)	32(2)	0(1)	-2(1)	0(1)
C(5)	32(1)	31(2)	30(2)	-1(1)	3(1)	1(1)
C(6)	36(1)	36(2)	35(2)	0(1)	0(1)	4(1)
C(7)	50(2)	39(2)	37(2)	6(2)	4(1)	7(1)
C(8)	50(2)	39(2)	44(2)	6(2)	9(2)	-2(2)
C(9)	40(2)	40(2)	43(2)	1(2)	6(1)	-3(1)
C(10)	33(1)	32(2)	32(2)	0(1)	4(1)	2(1)
C(11)	27(1)	39(2)	38(2)	4(1)	1(1)	2(1)
C(12)	31(2)	56(2)	58(2)	6(2)	0(2)	-8(1)
C(13)	30(1)	32(2)	30(2)	-3(1)	-2(1)	-1(1)
C(14)	31(1)	38(2)	36(2)	6(1)	-1(1)	3(1)
C(15)	32(1)	40(2)	35(2)	4(1)	3(1)	-1(1)
C(16)	27(1)	33(2)	39(2)	-3(1)	2(1)	1(1)
C(17)	33(1)	37(2)	39(2)	5(2)	-1(1)	5(1)
C(18)	33(1)	38(2)	35(2)	6(2)	4(1)	-2(1)
C(19)	33(2)	56(2)	57(2)	13(2)	13(2)	2(2)
C(20)	39(2)	37(2)	43(2)	1(2)	5(1)	6(1)

Table S6. Hydrogen coordinates ($\times 10^4$) and isotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for 2i.

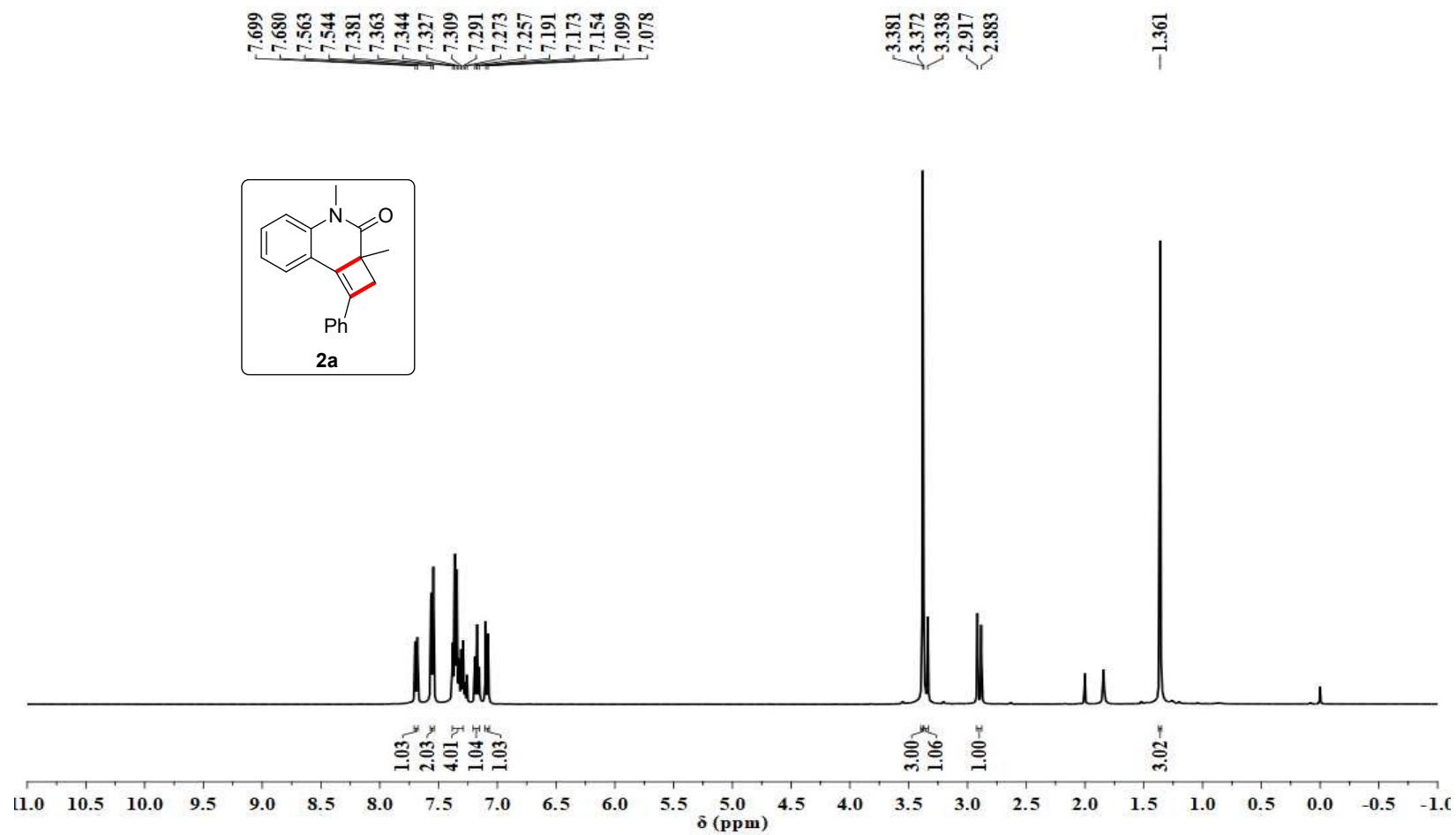
Atom	x	y	z	U(eq)
H(2A)	3709	8995	-18	40
H(2B)	3809	10530	1870	40
H(6)	4007	5943	8649	43
H(7)	3746	3814	11015	50

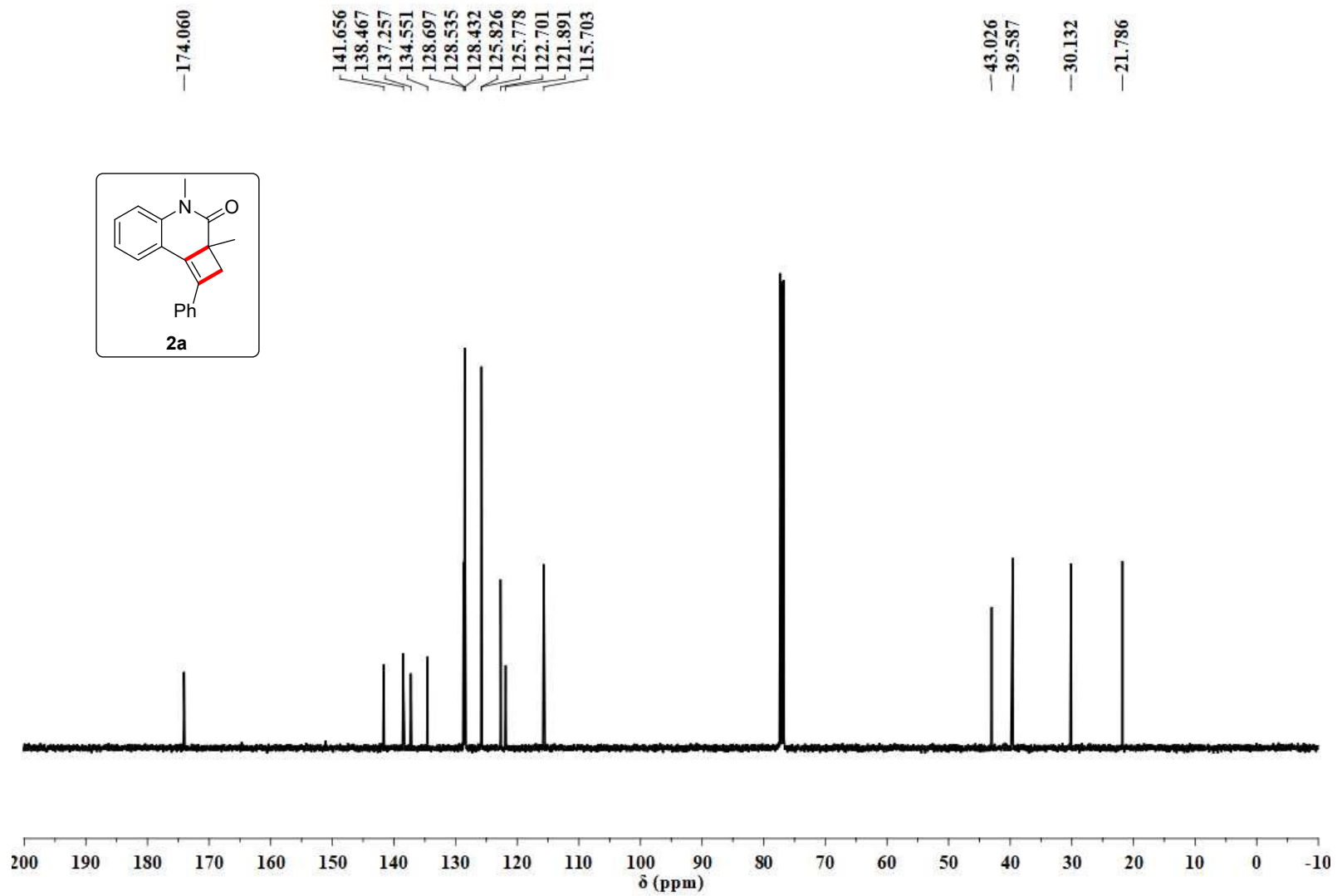
H(8)	3155	2877	10088	53
H(9)	2813	4099	6885	49
H(12A)	2686	4487	2870	73
H(12B)	2555	6183	1581	73
H(12C)	2471	5857	4475	73
H(14)	4451	9314	-43	42
H(15)	5082	8930	-484	43
H(17)	5075	5886	5536	44
H(18)	4448	6274	5989	43
H(19A)	5602	7357	-1199	73
H(19B)	5968	7336	463	73
H(19C)	5707	8939	468	73
H(20A)	3132	9678	6579	60
H(20B)	3121	10927	4251	60
H(20C)	3484	10794	5936	60

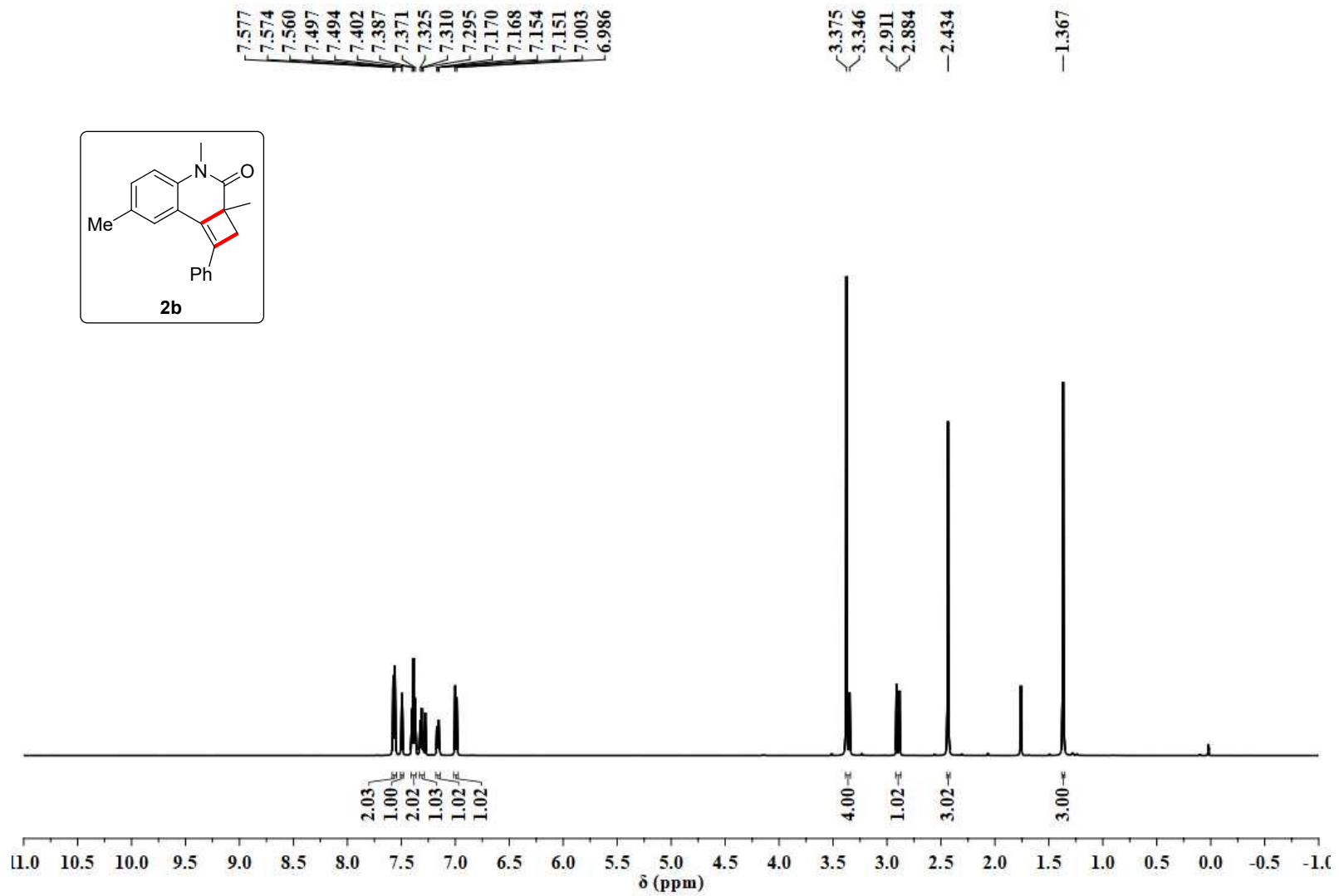
6. References

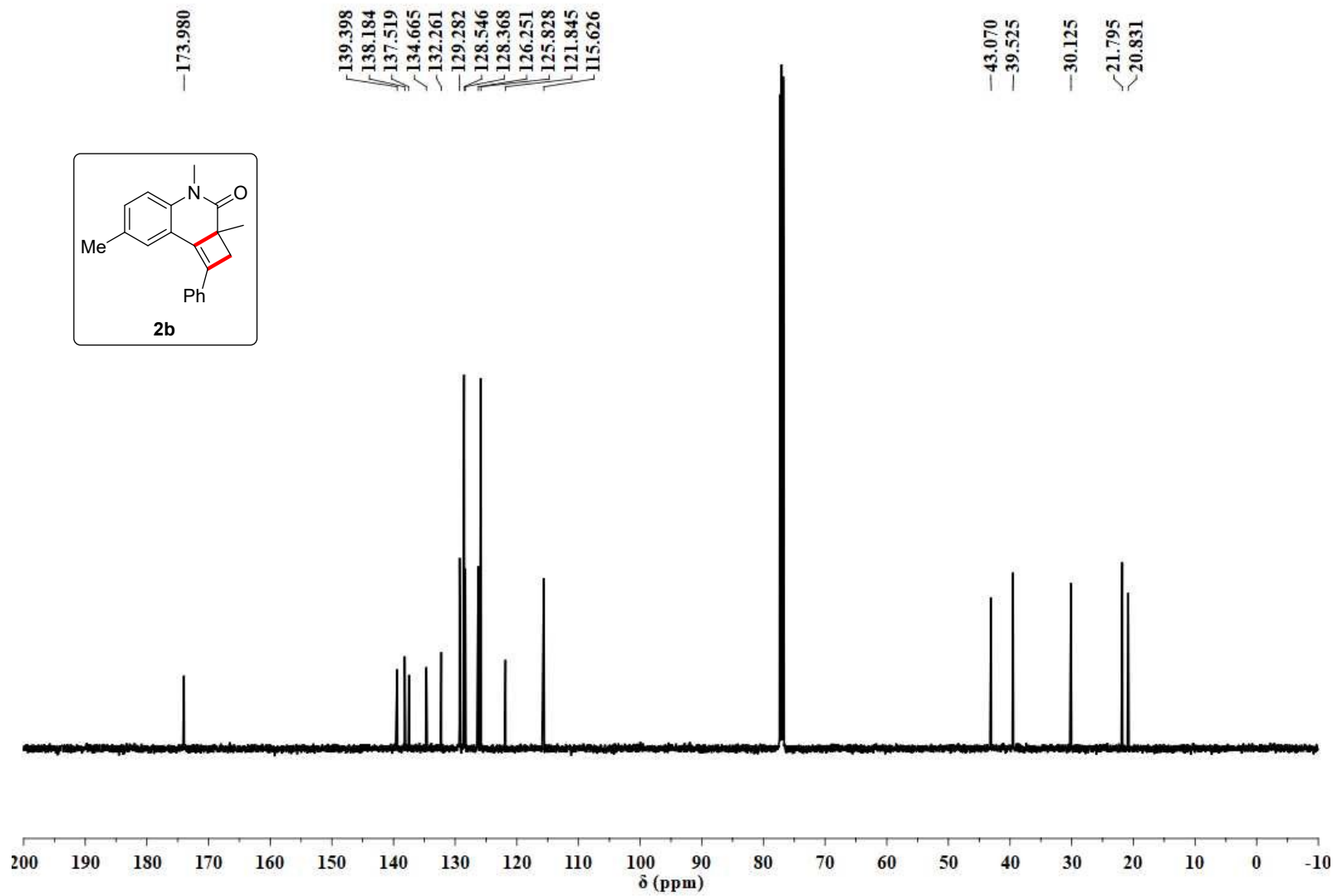
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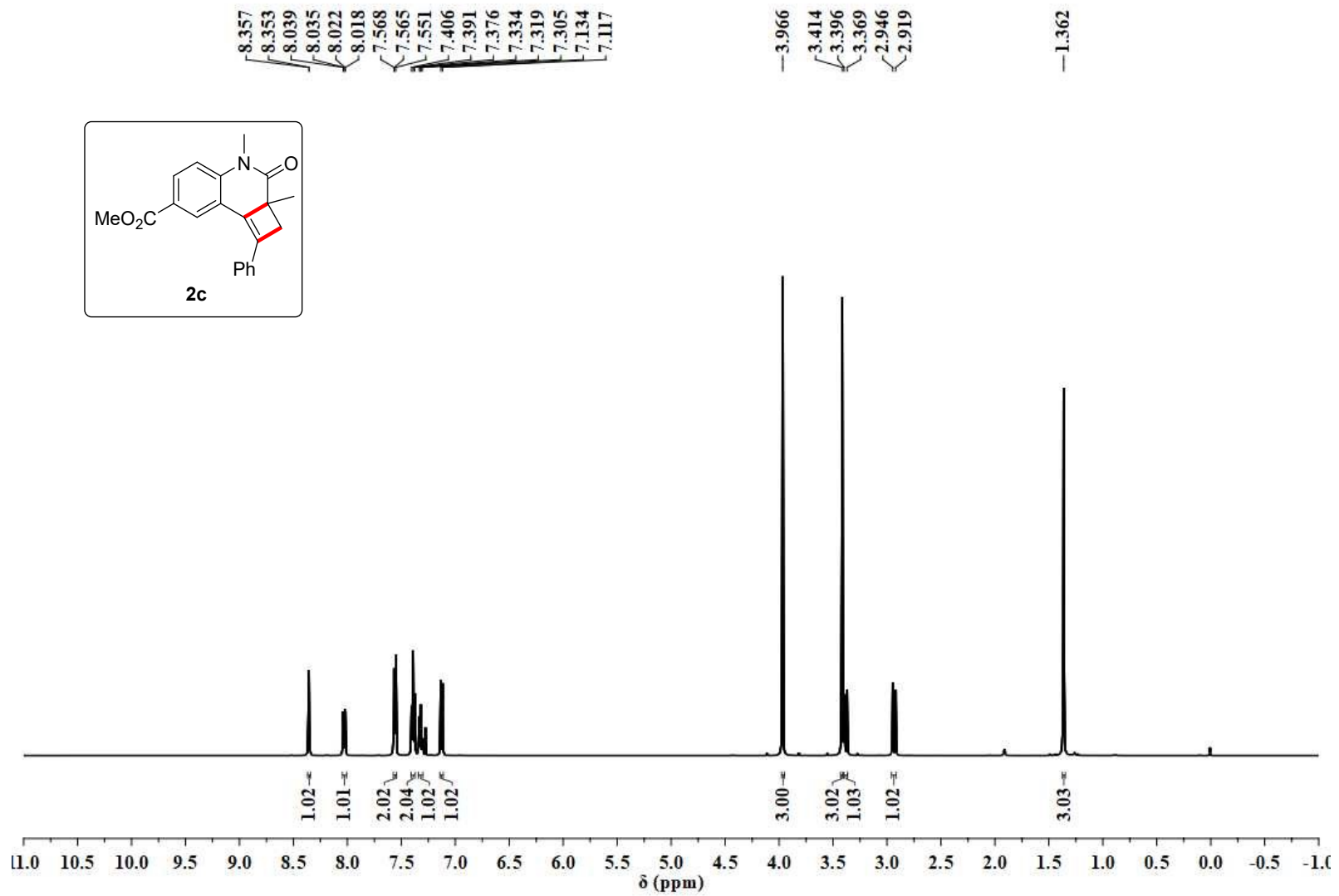
7. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ Spectra

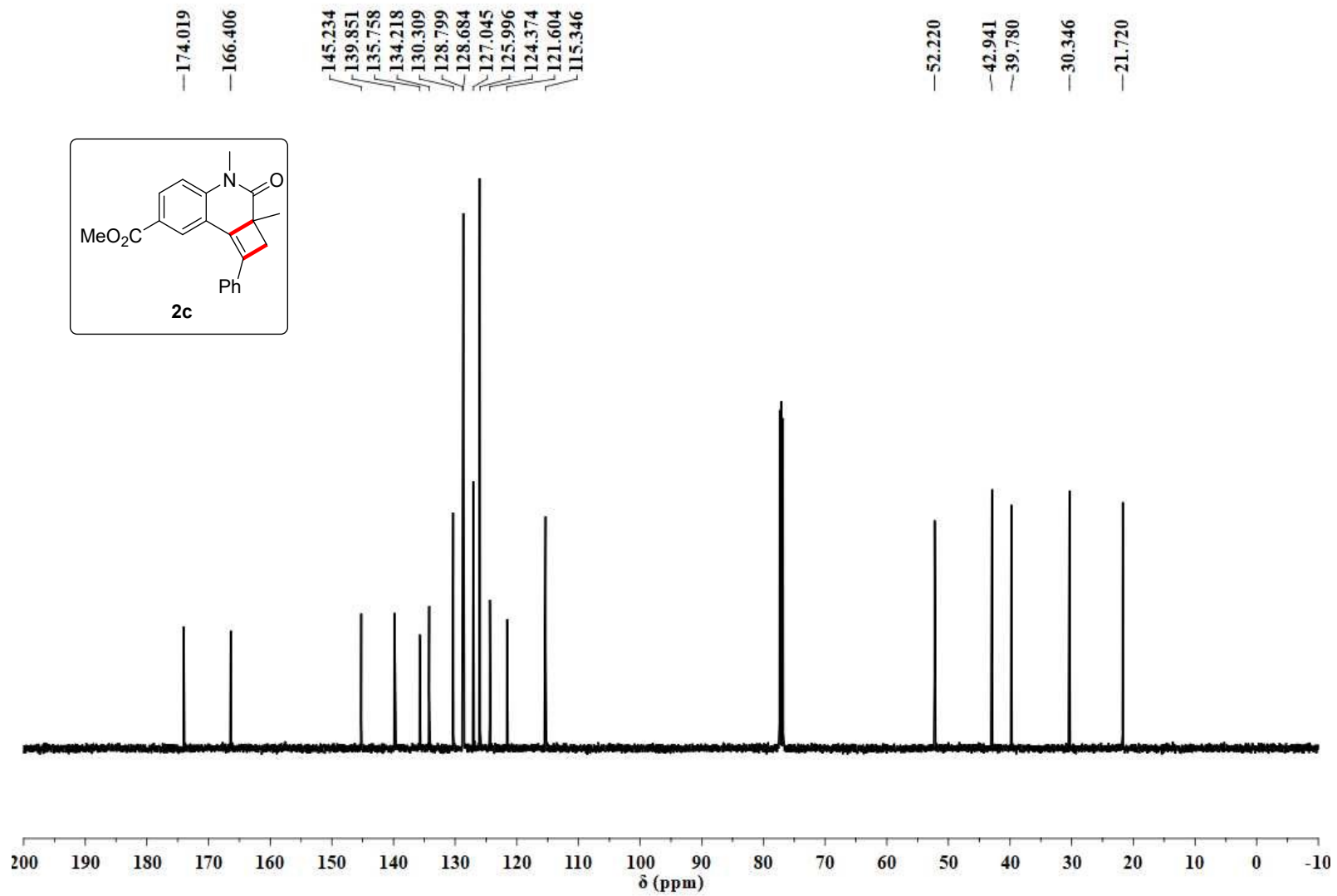


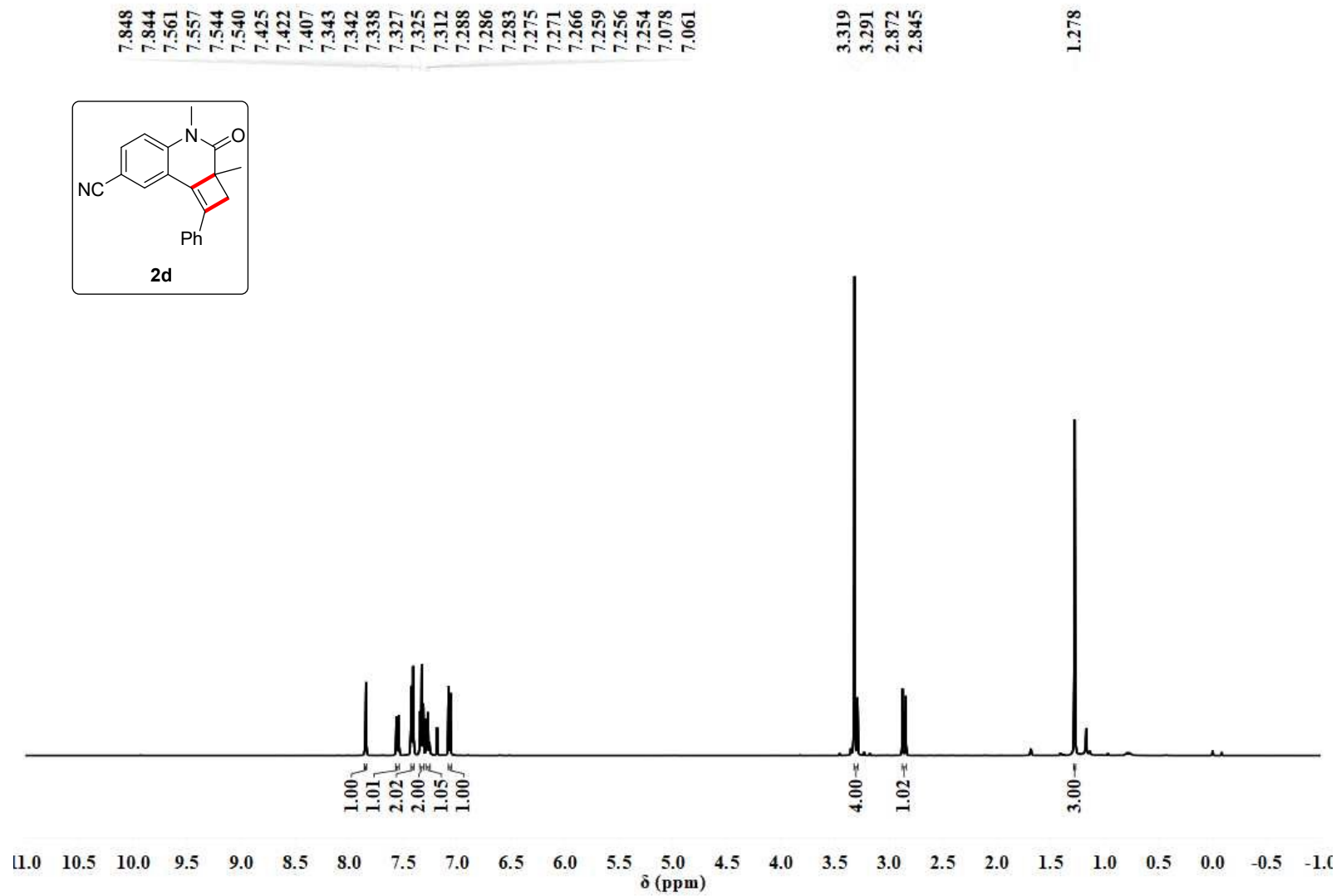


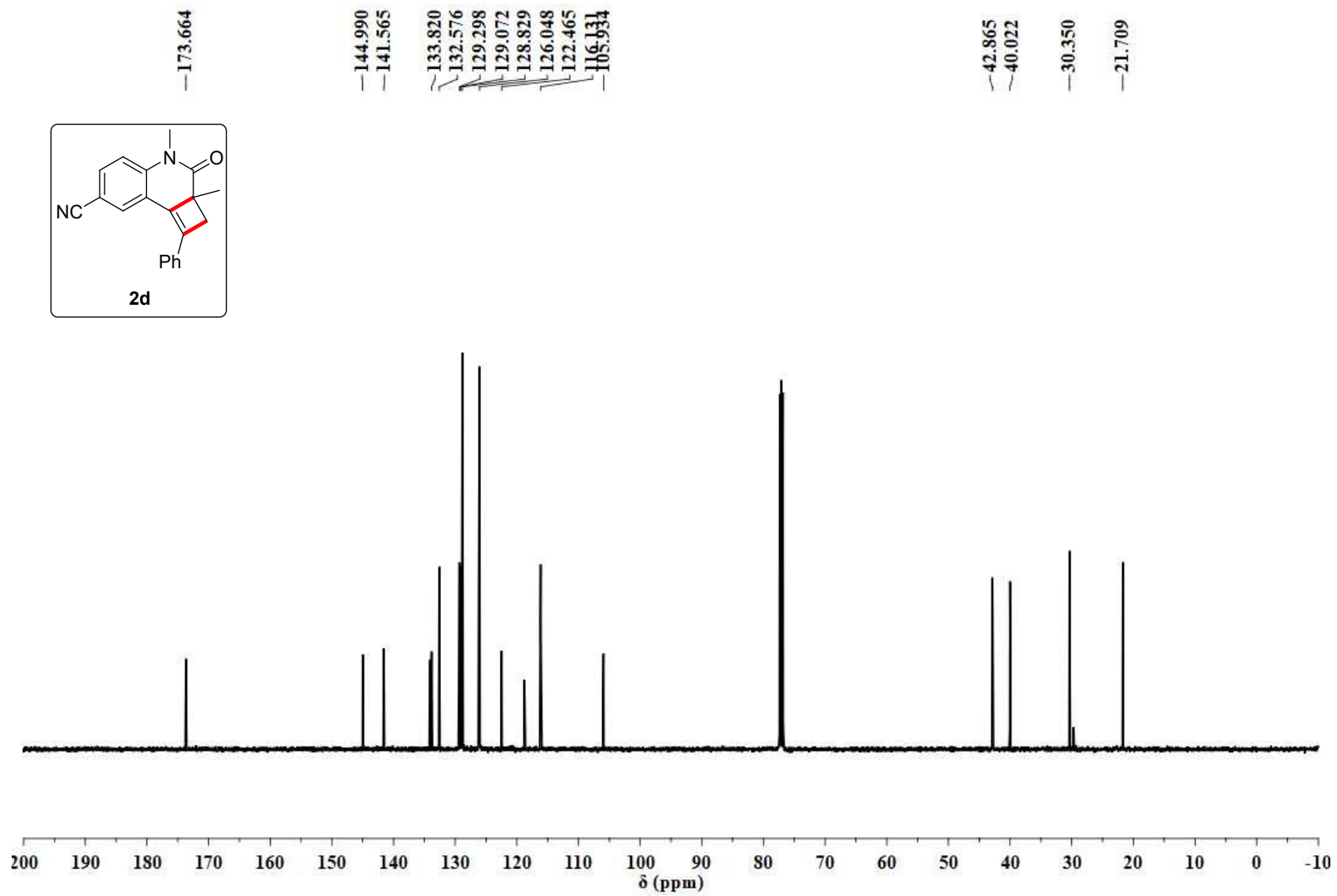


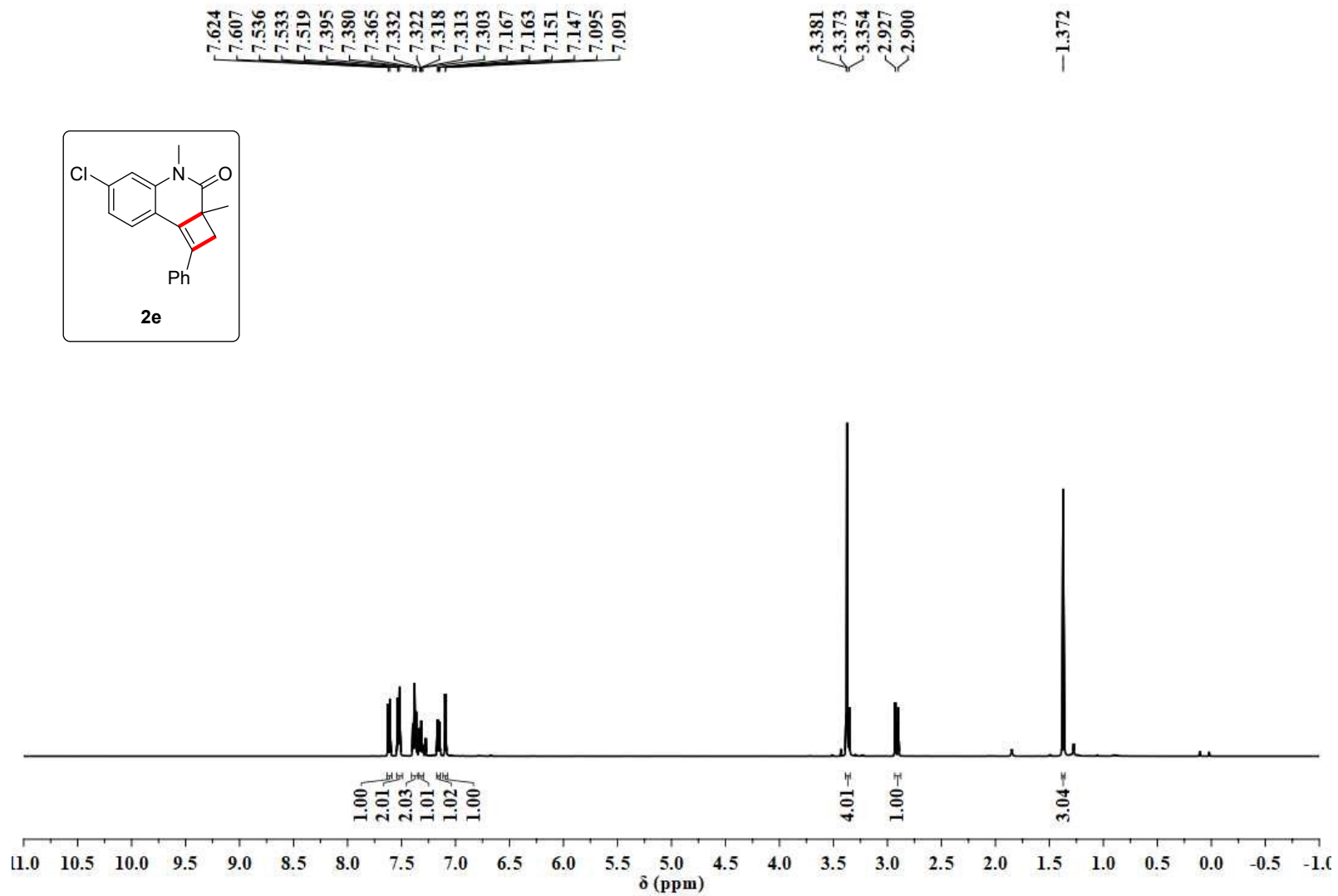
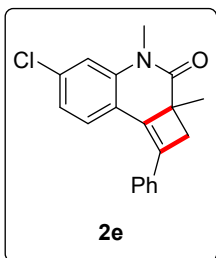


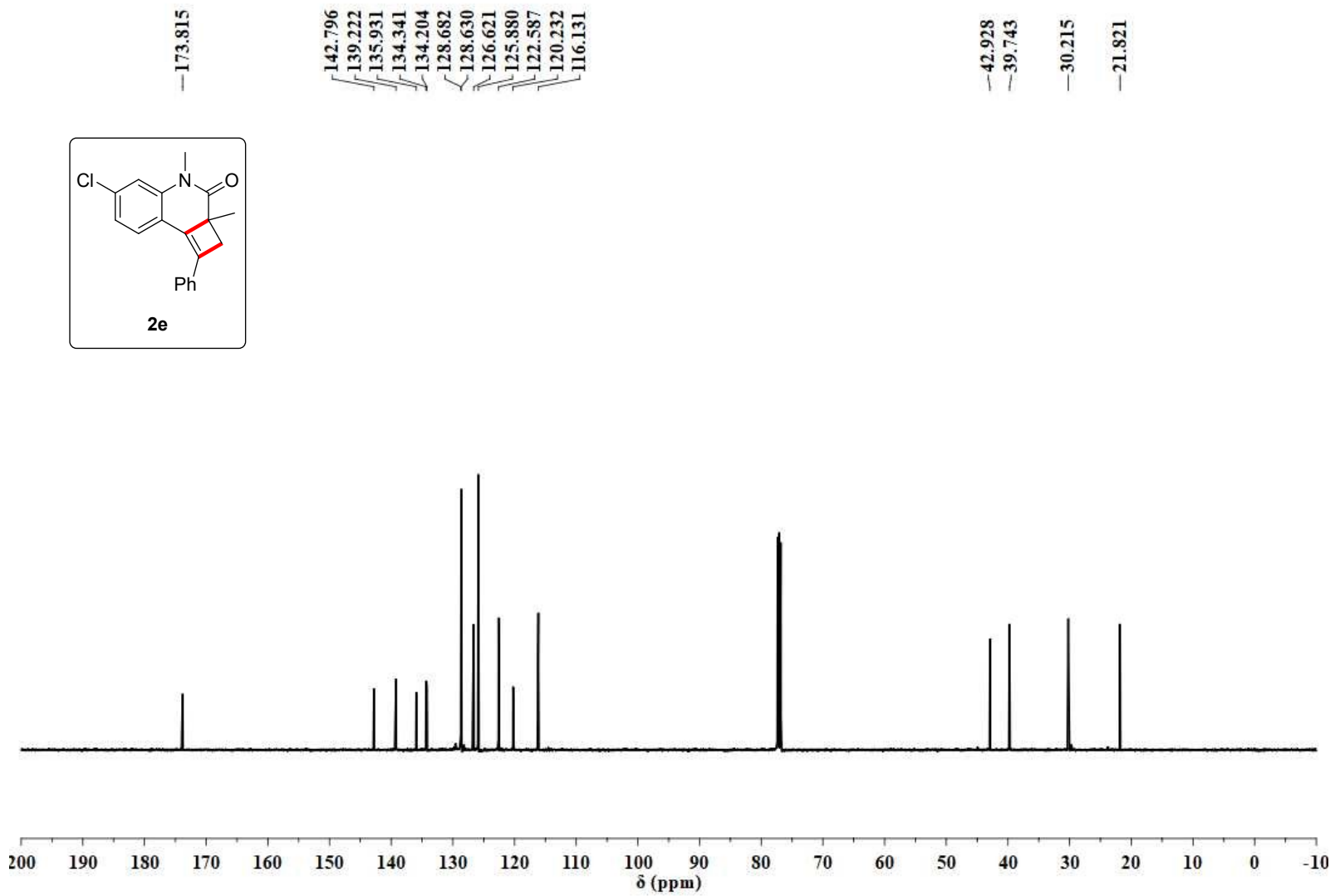
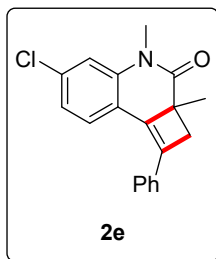


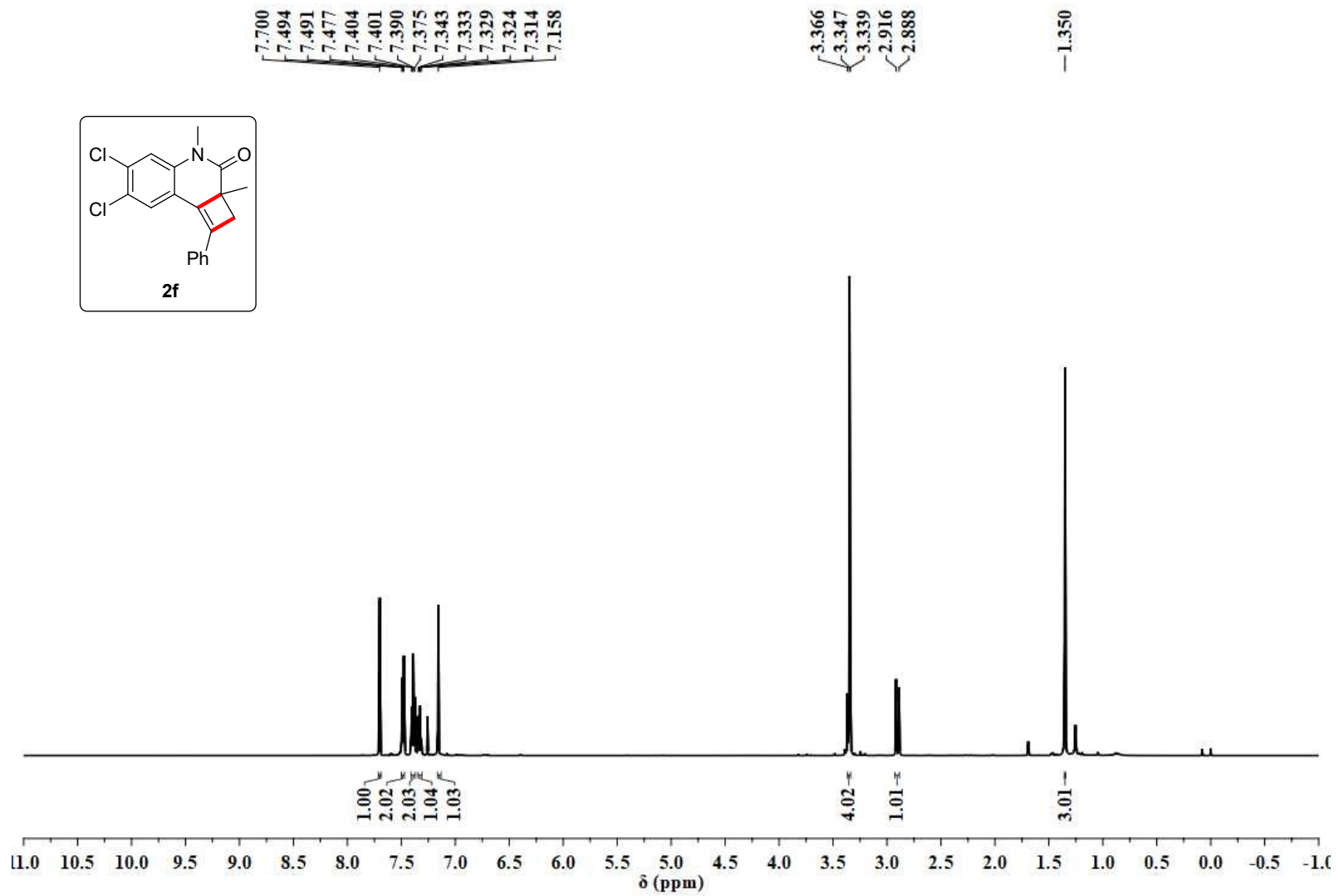


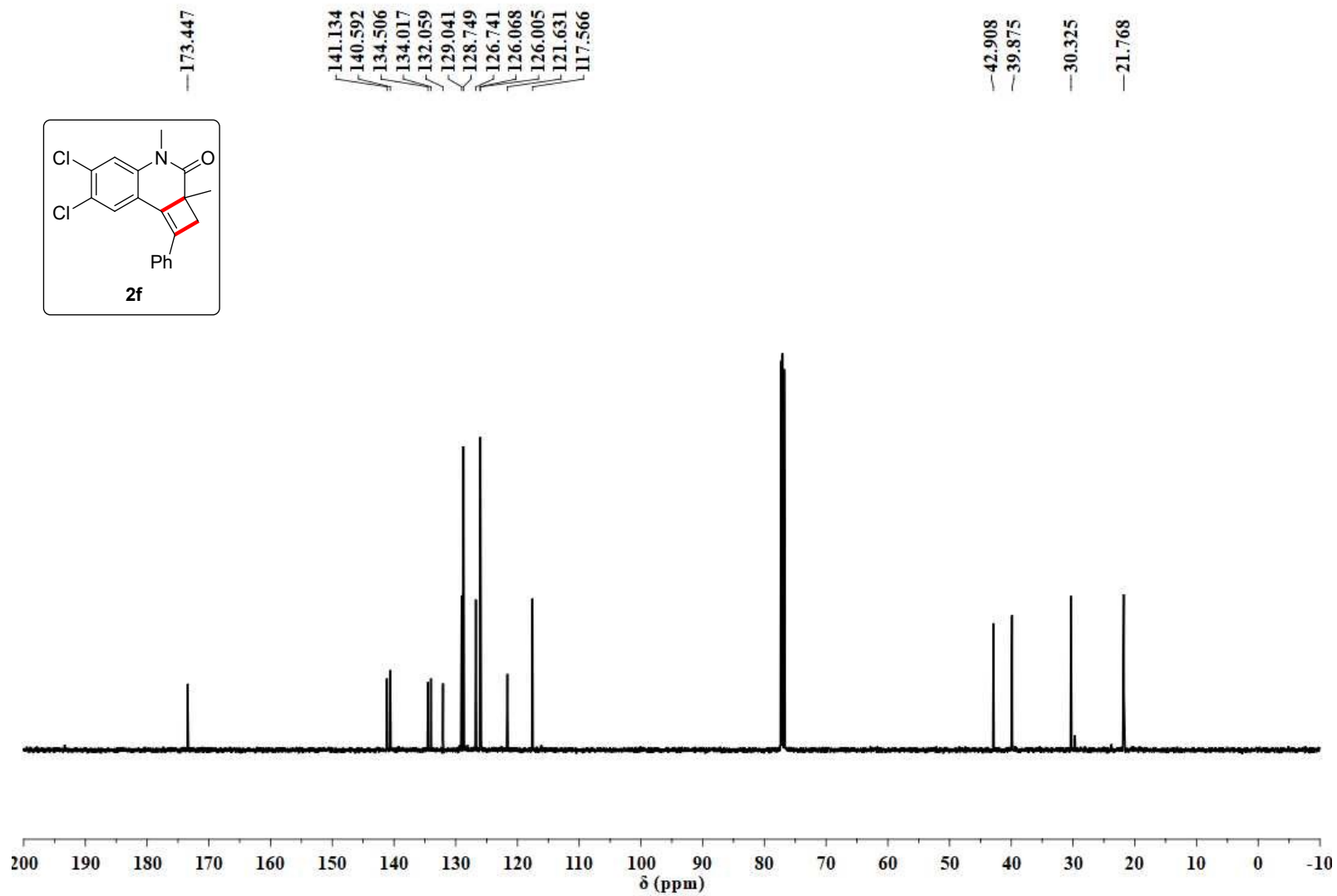
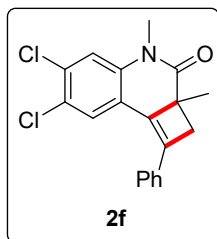


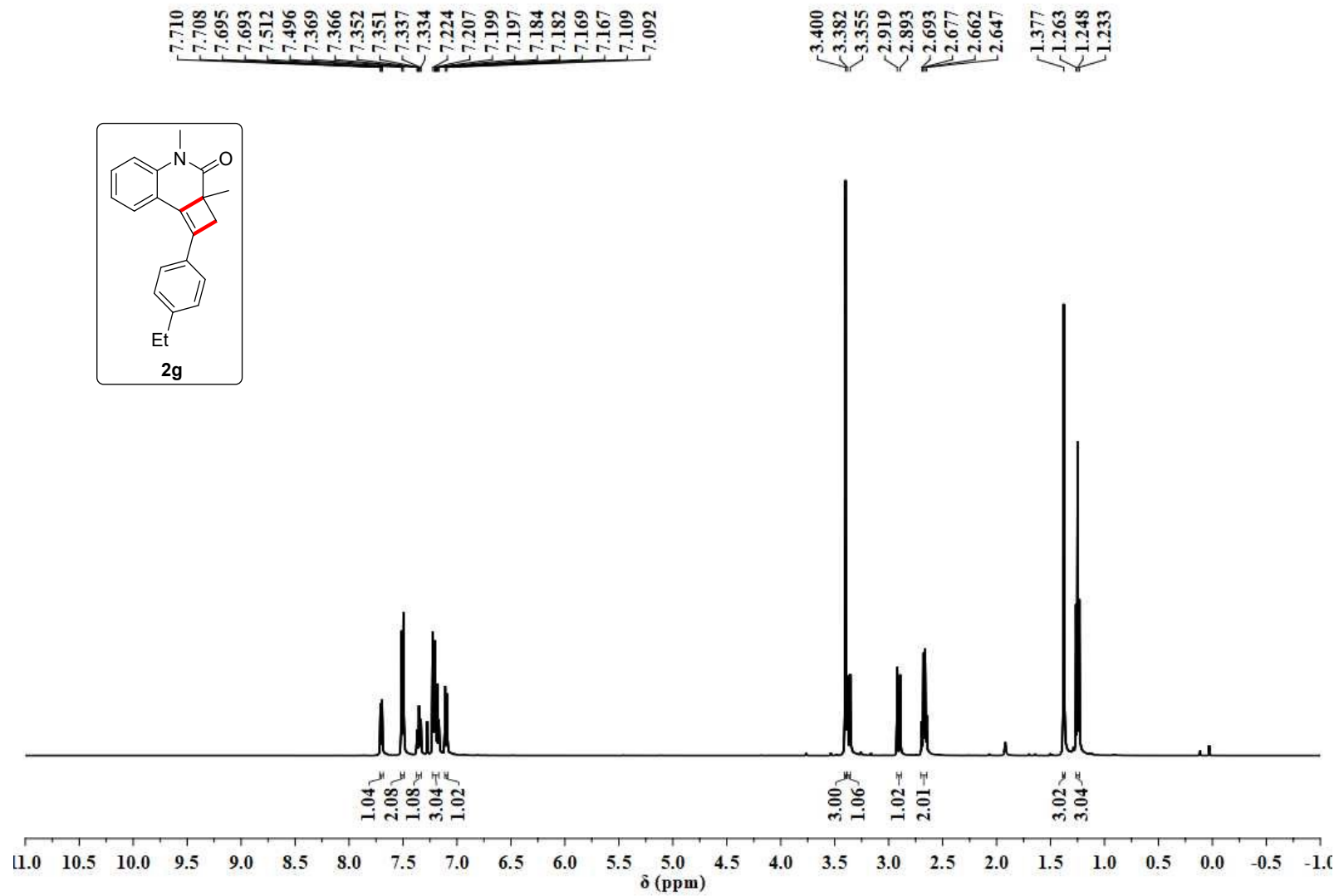


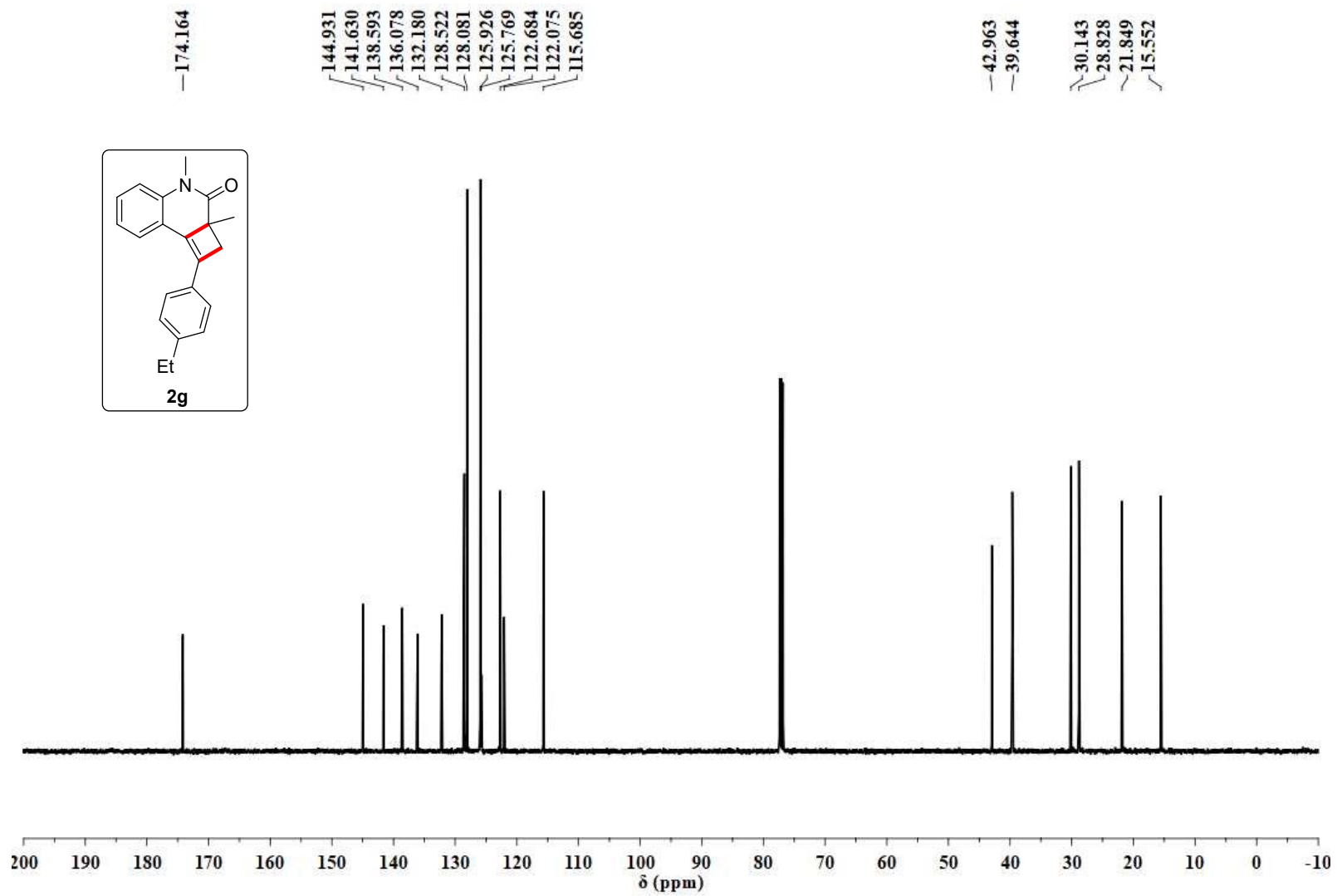


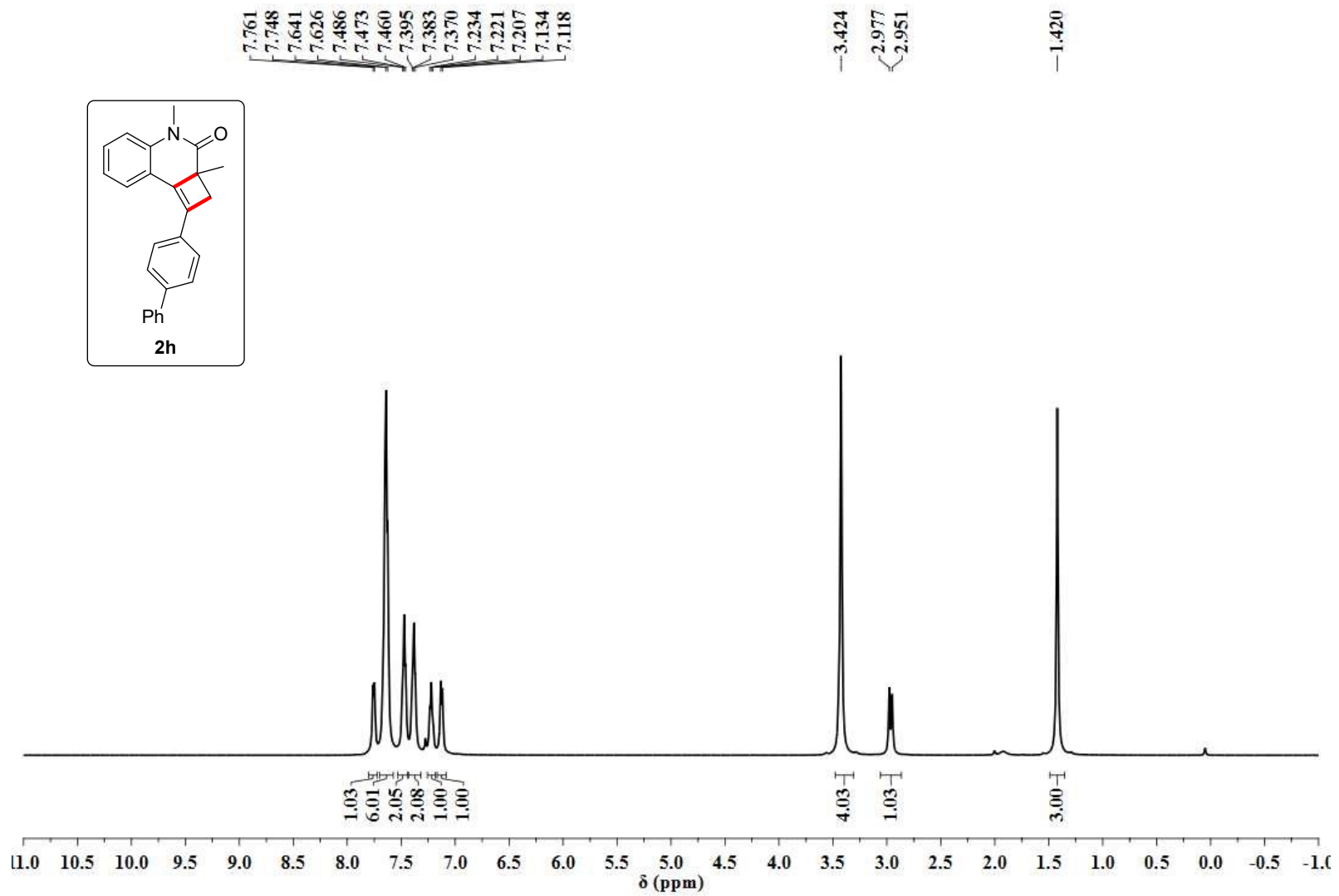


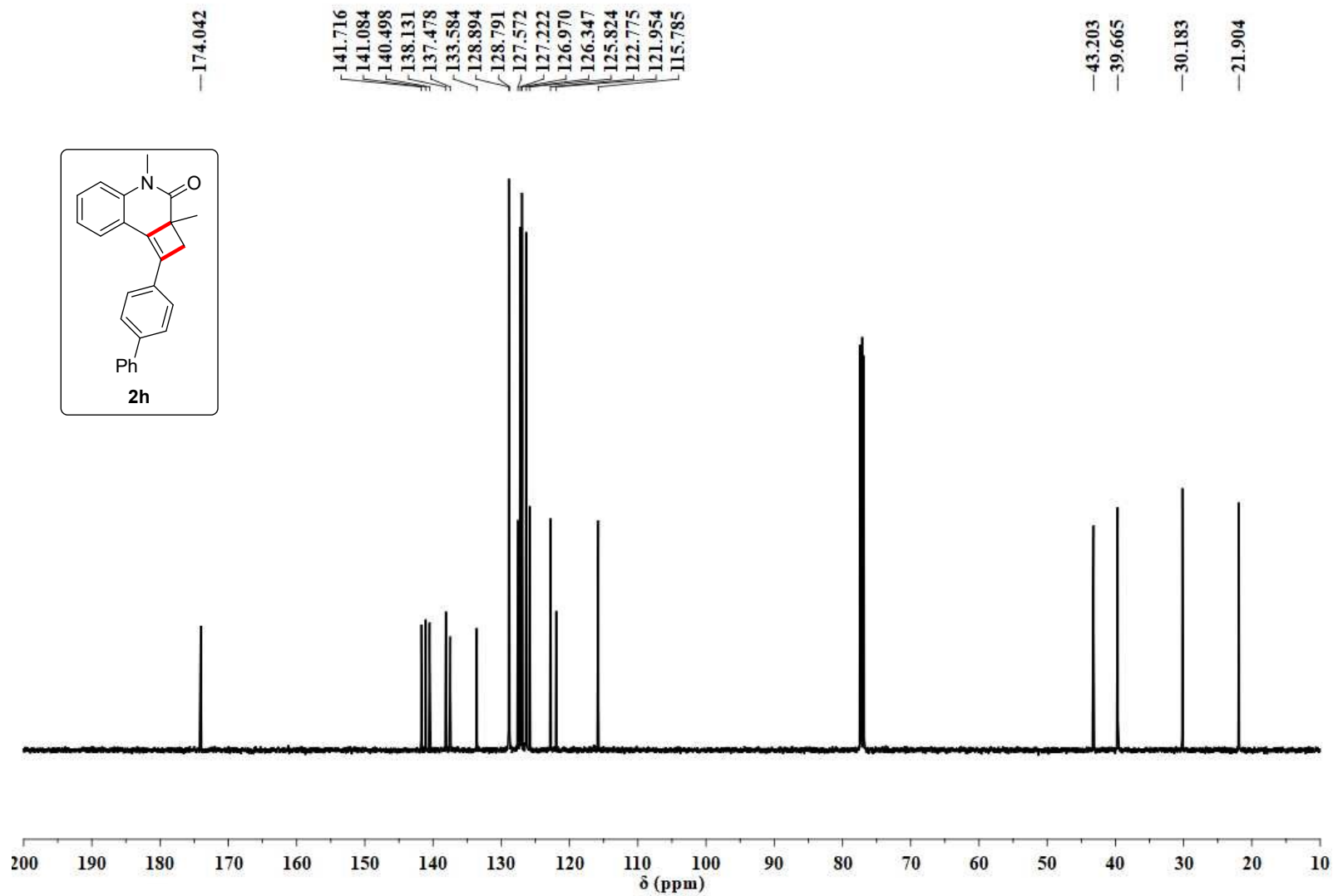


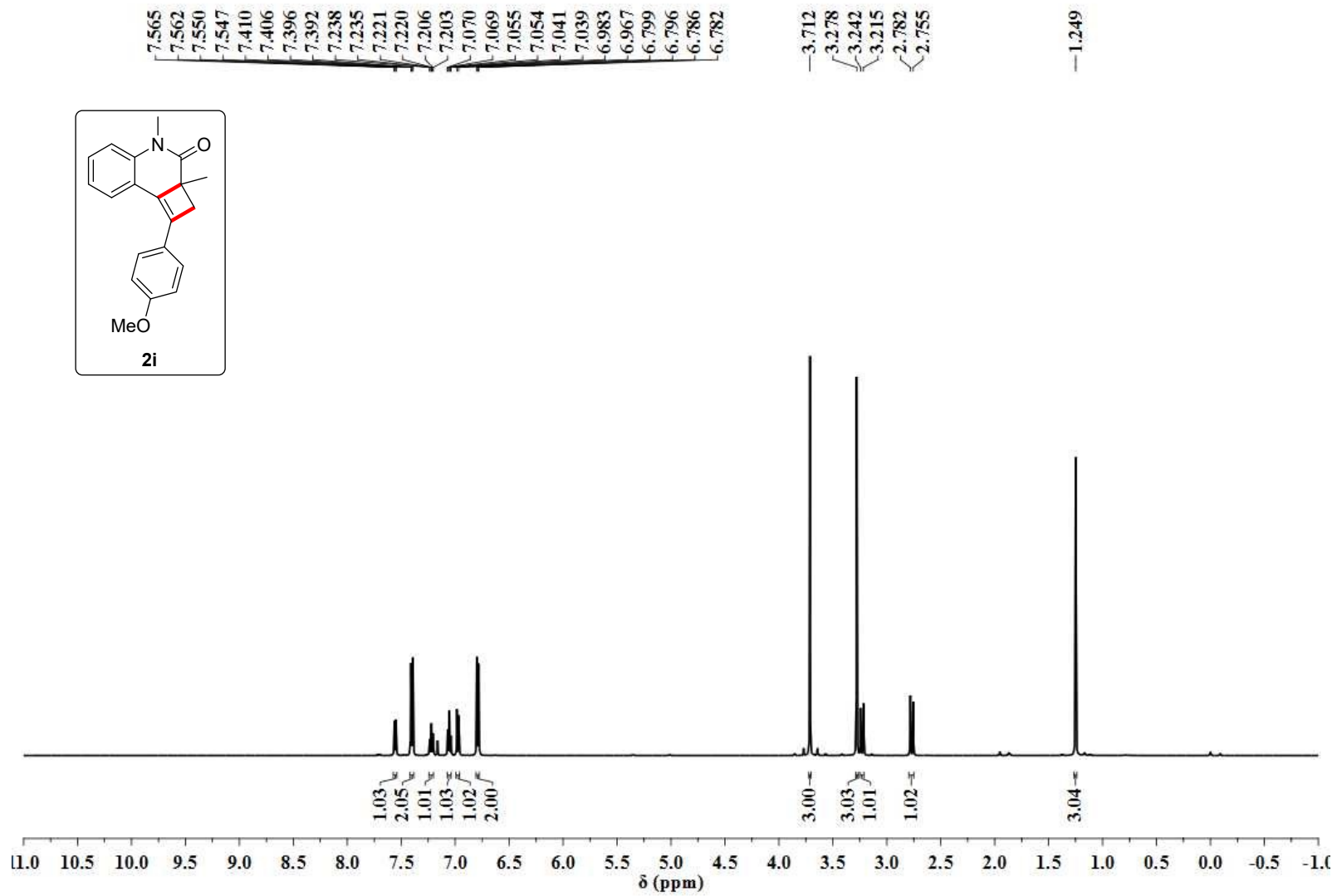


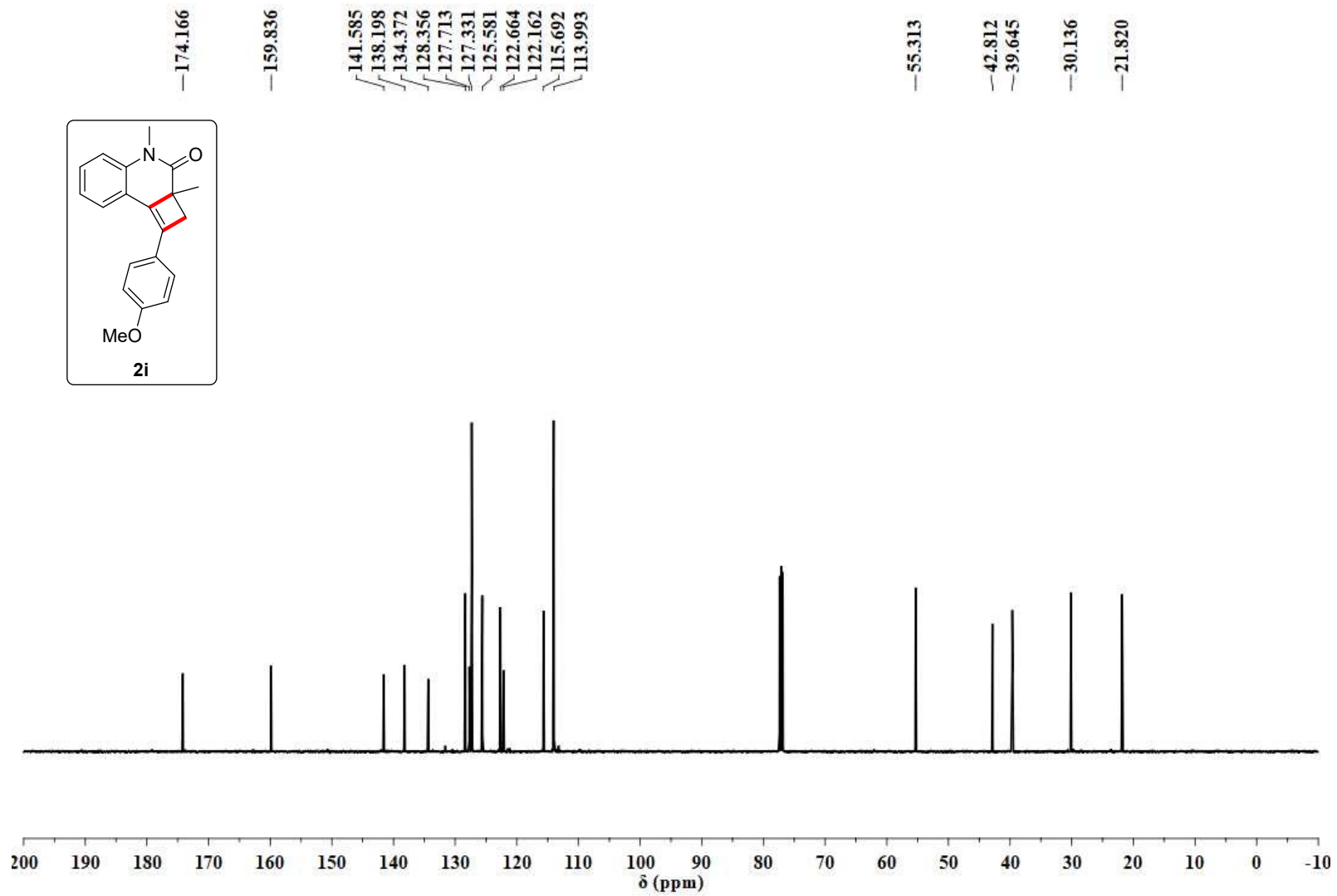


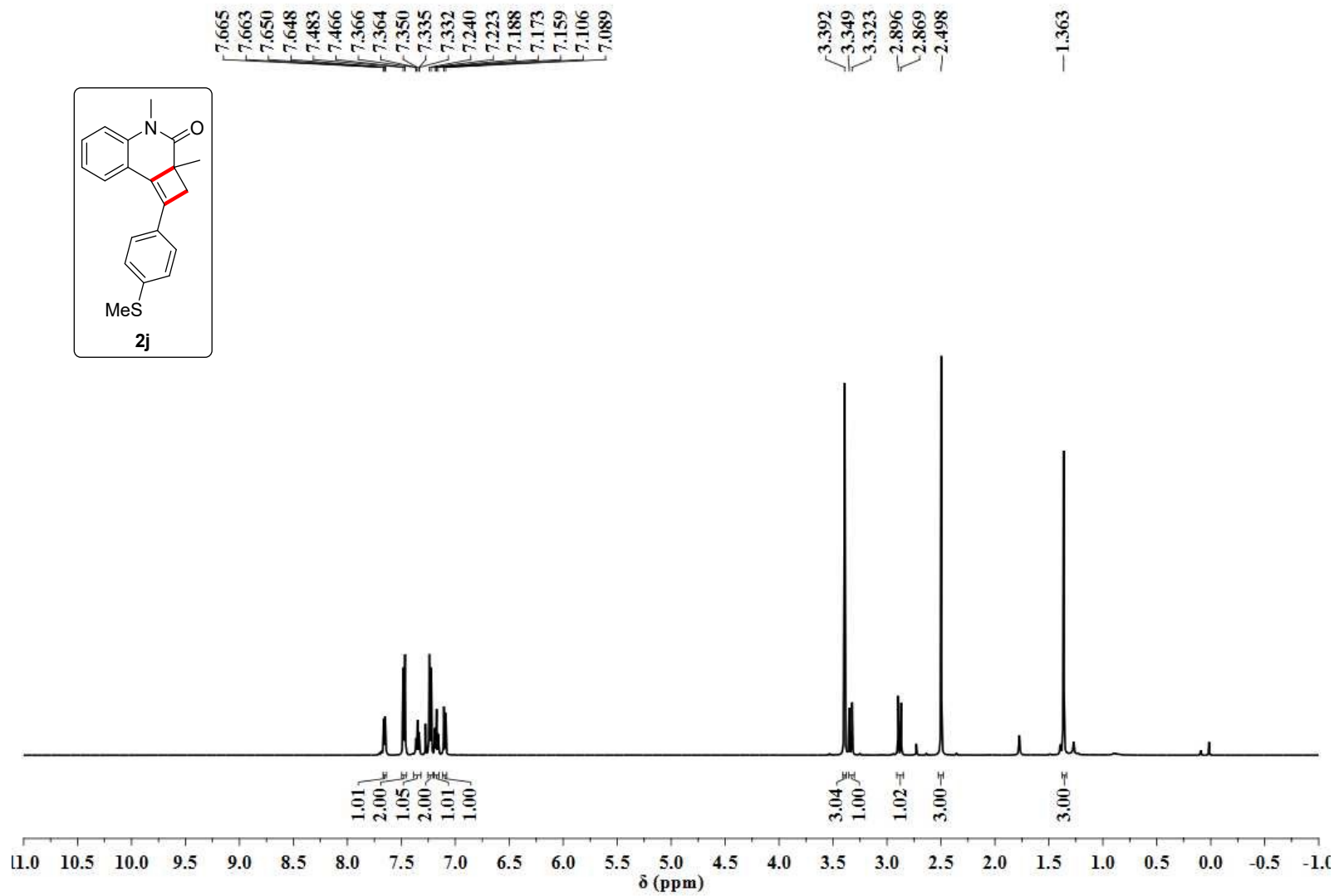


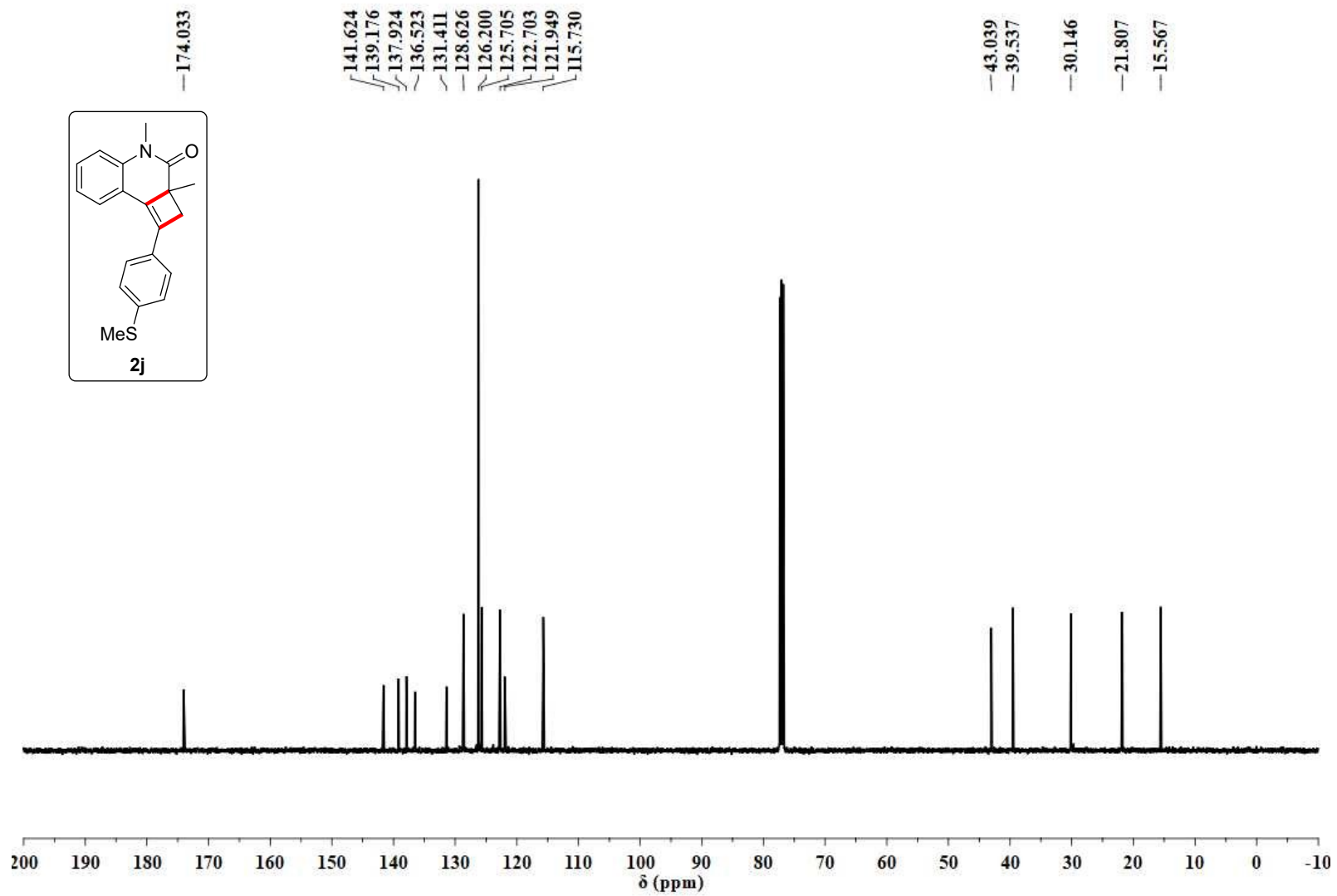


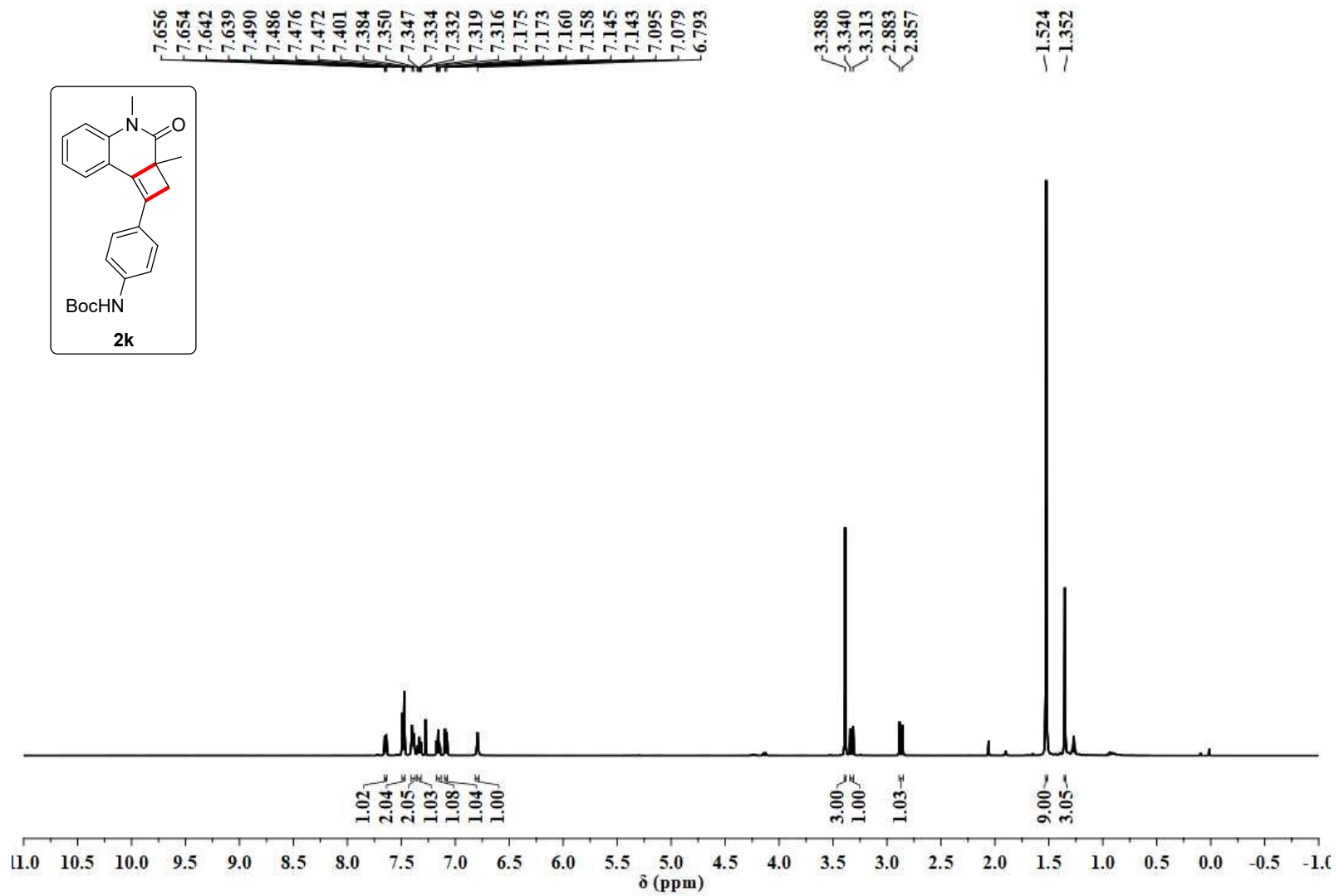


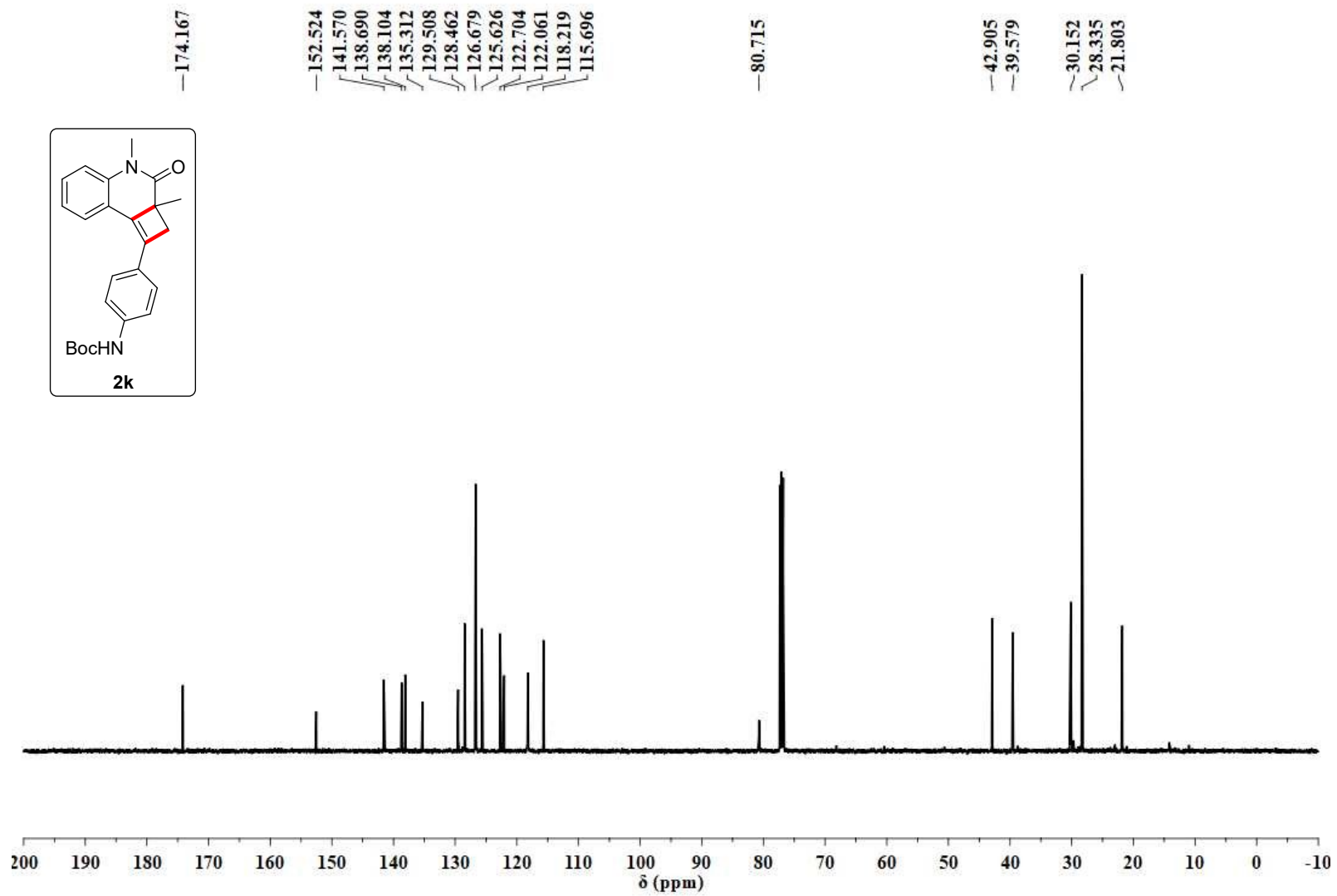


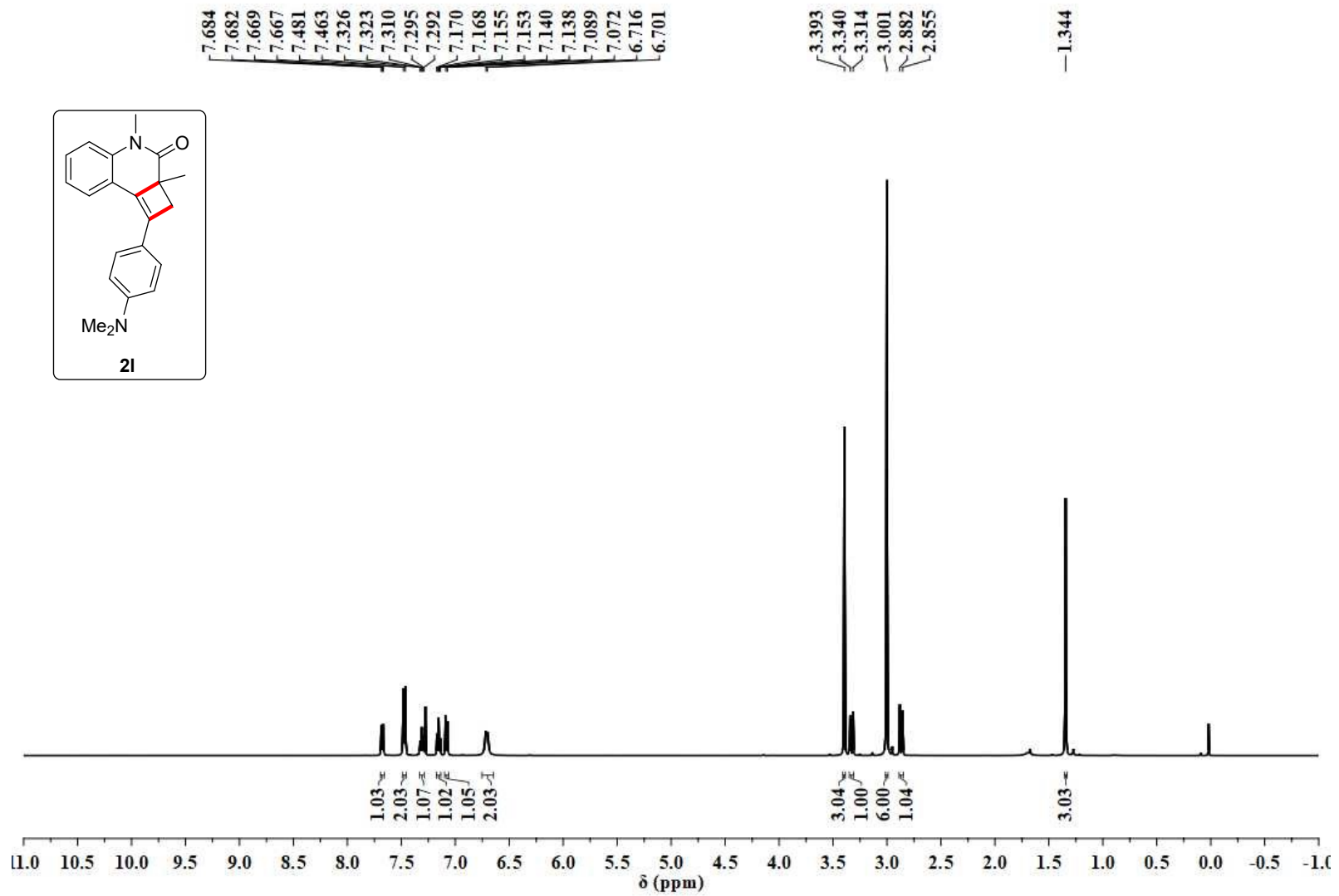


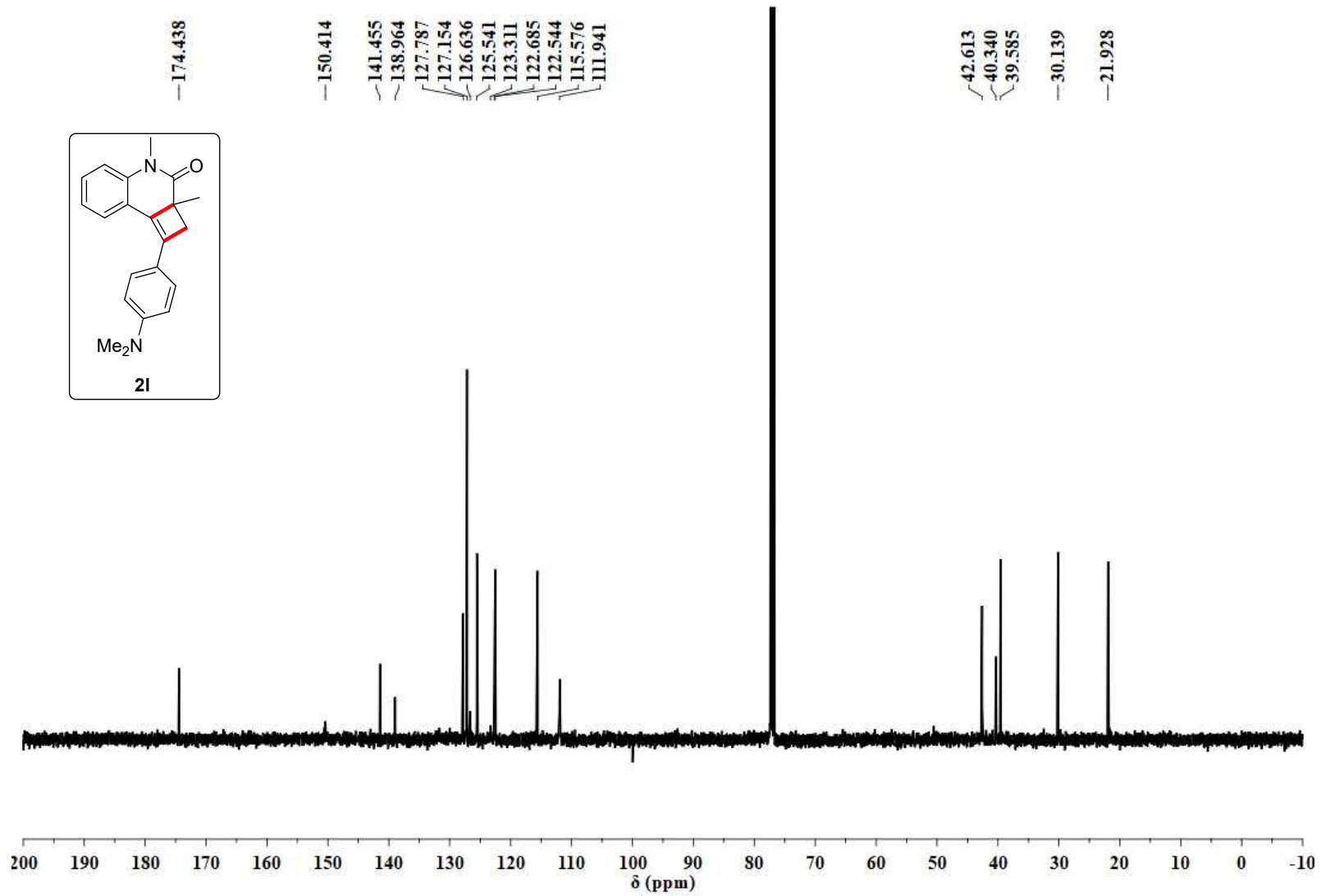


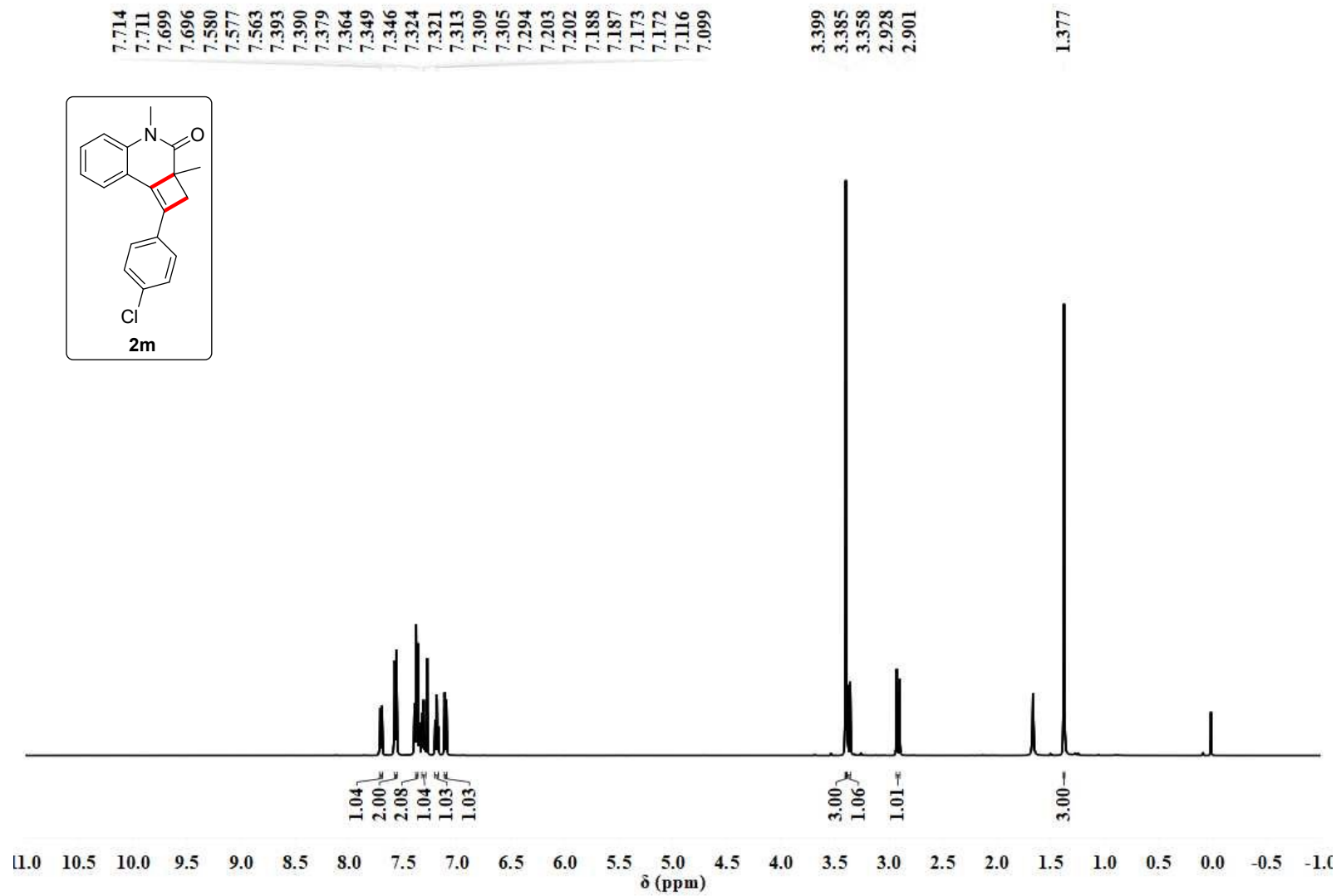


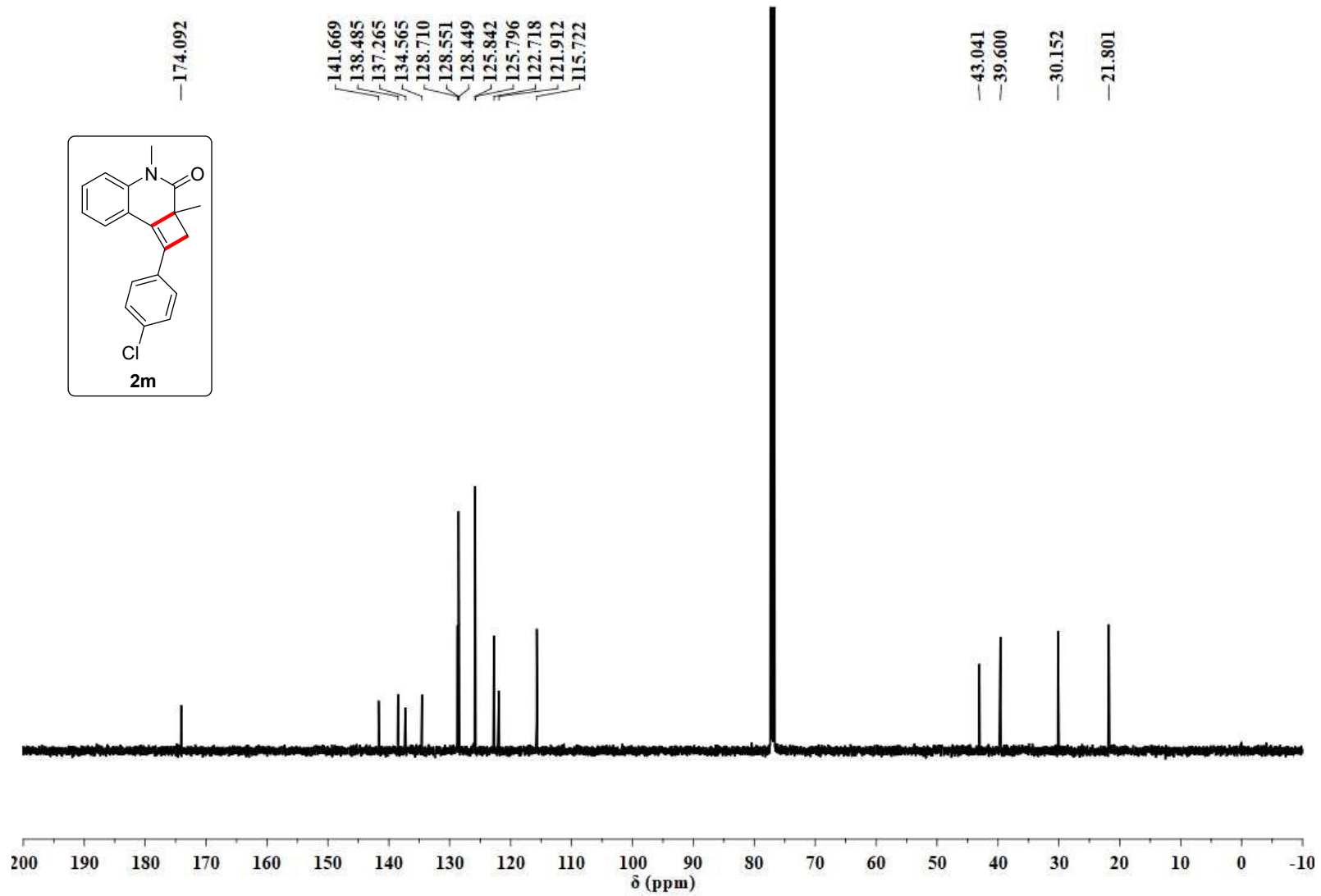


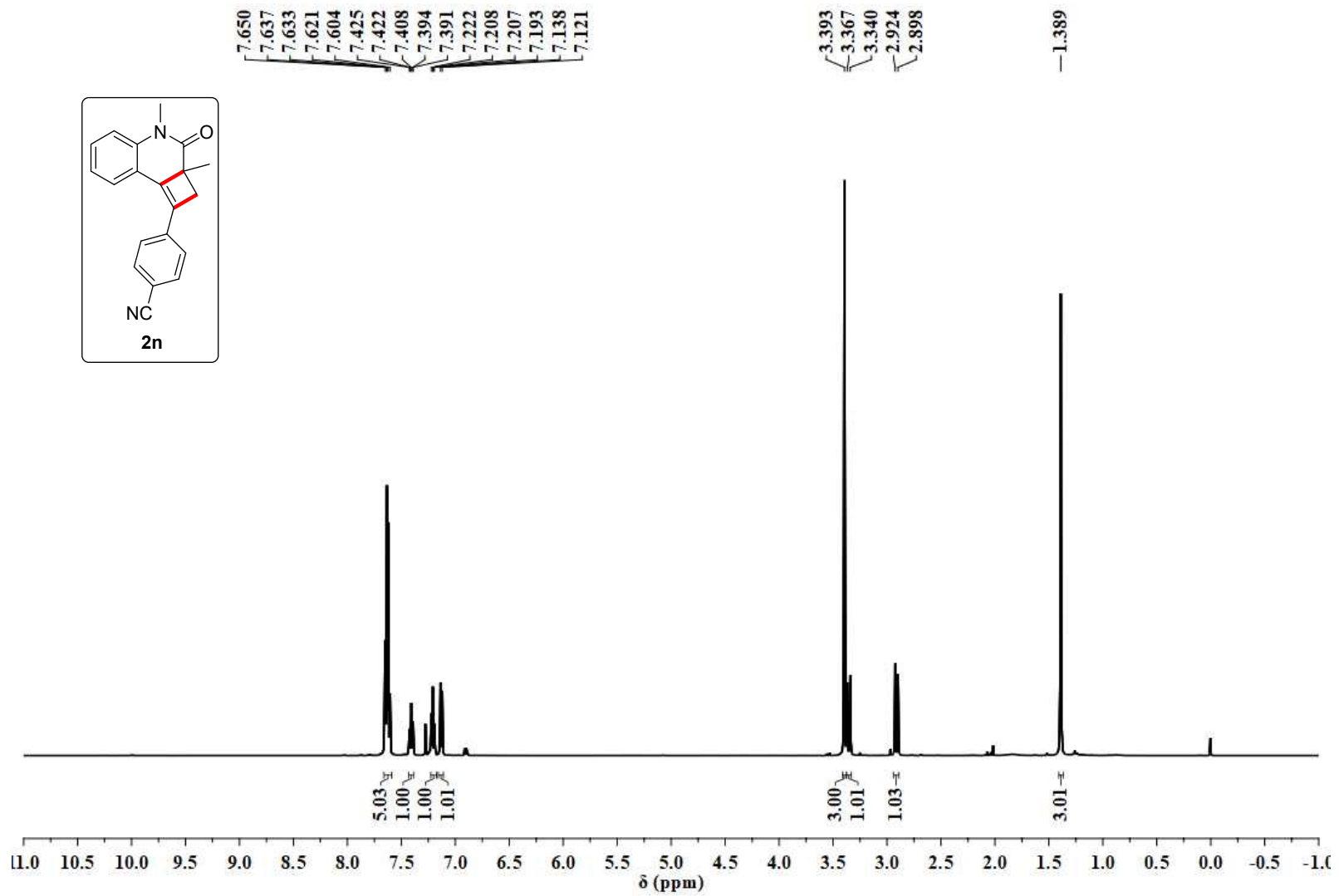


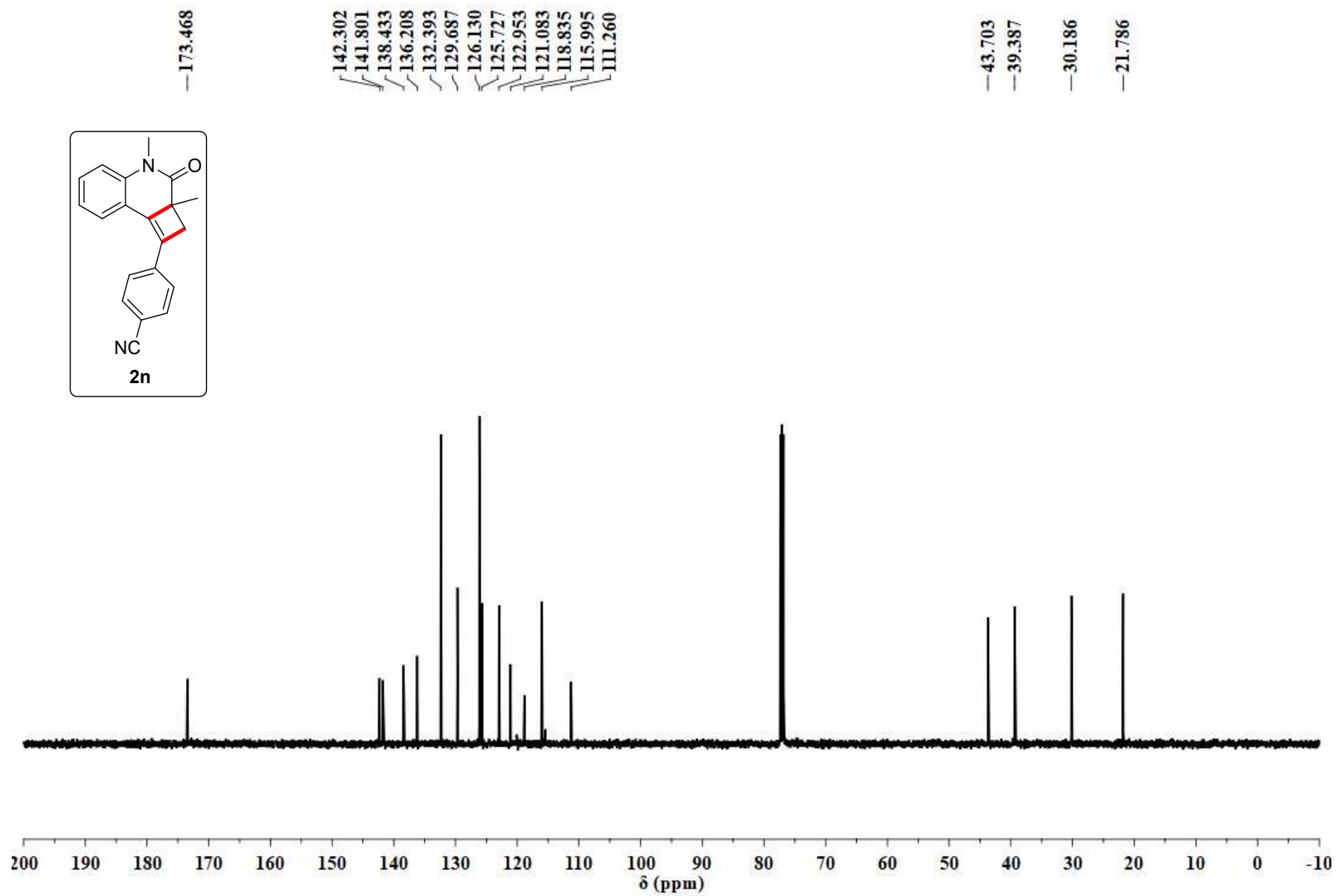
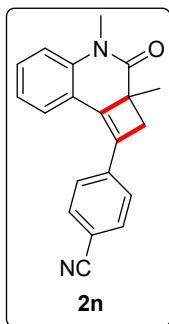


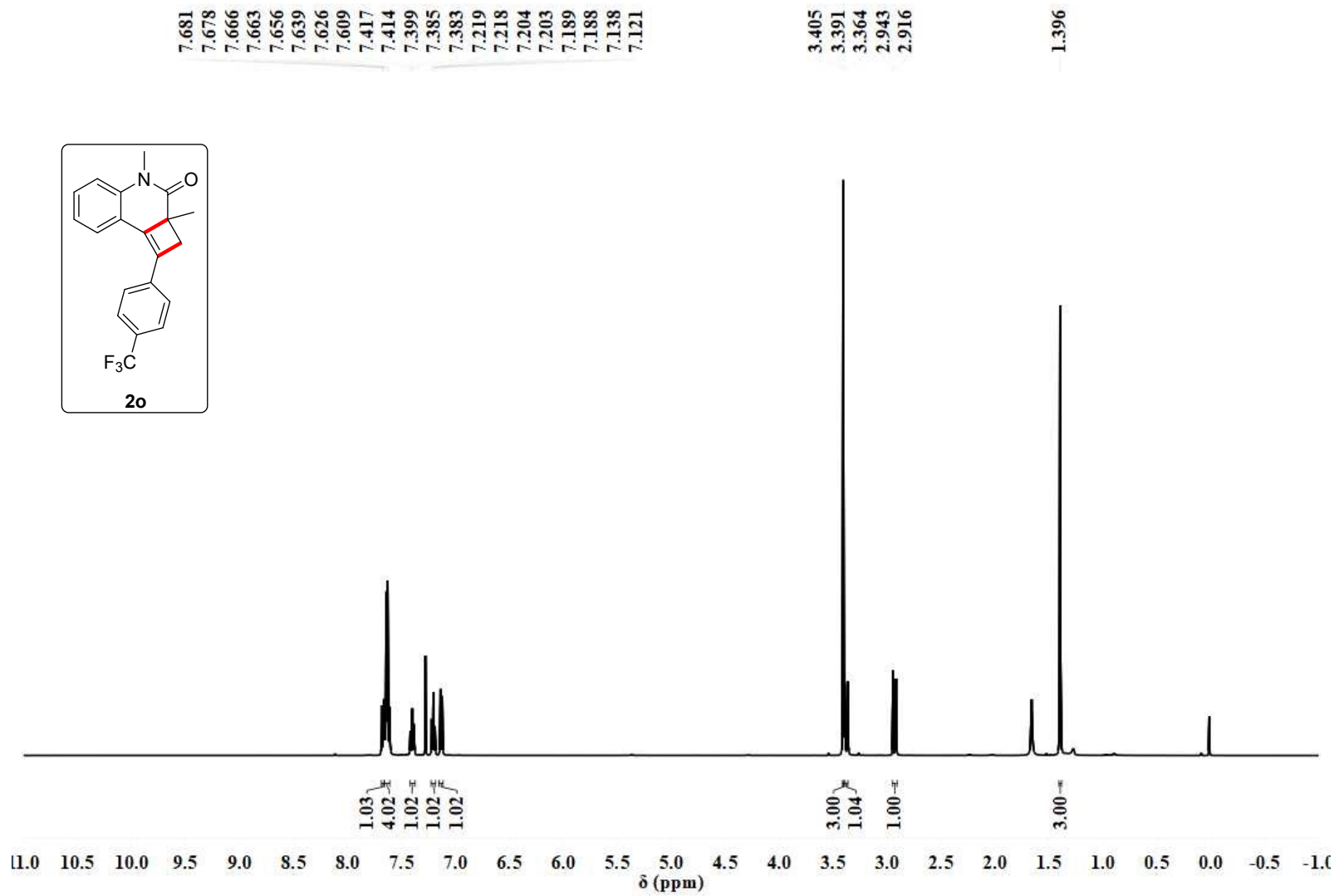


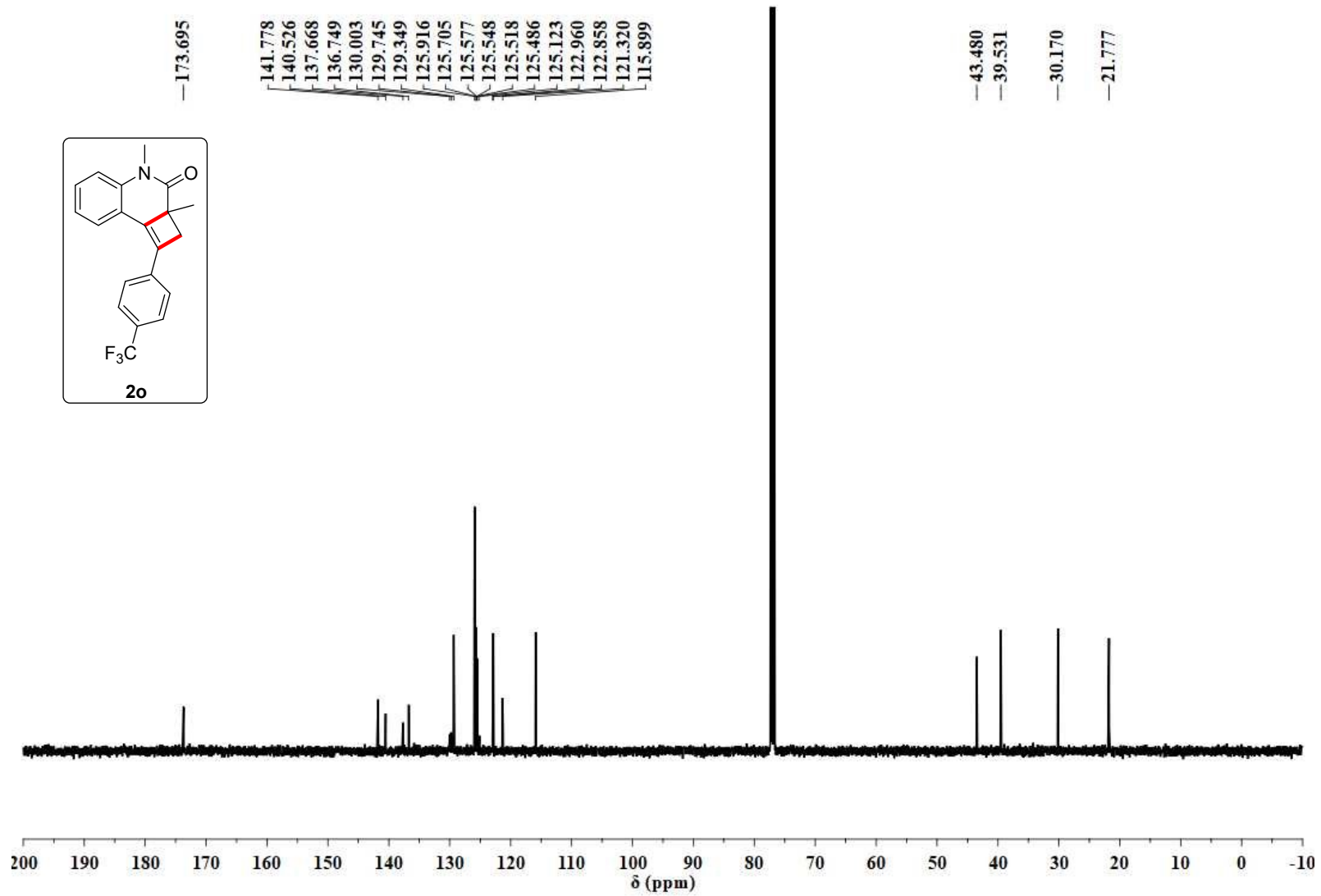


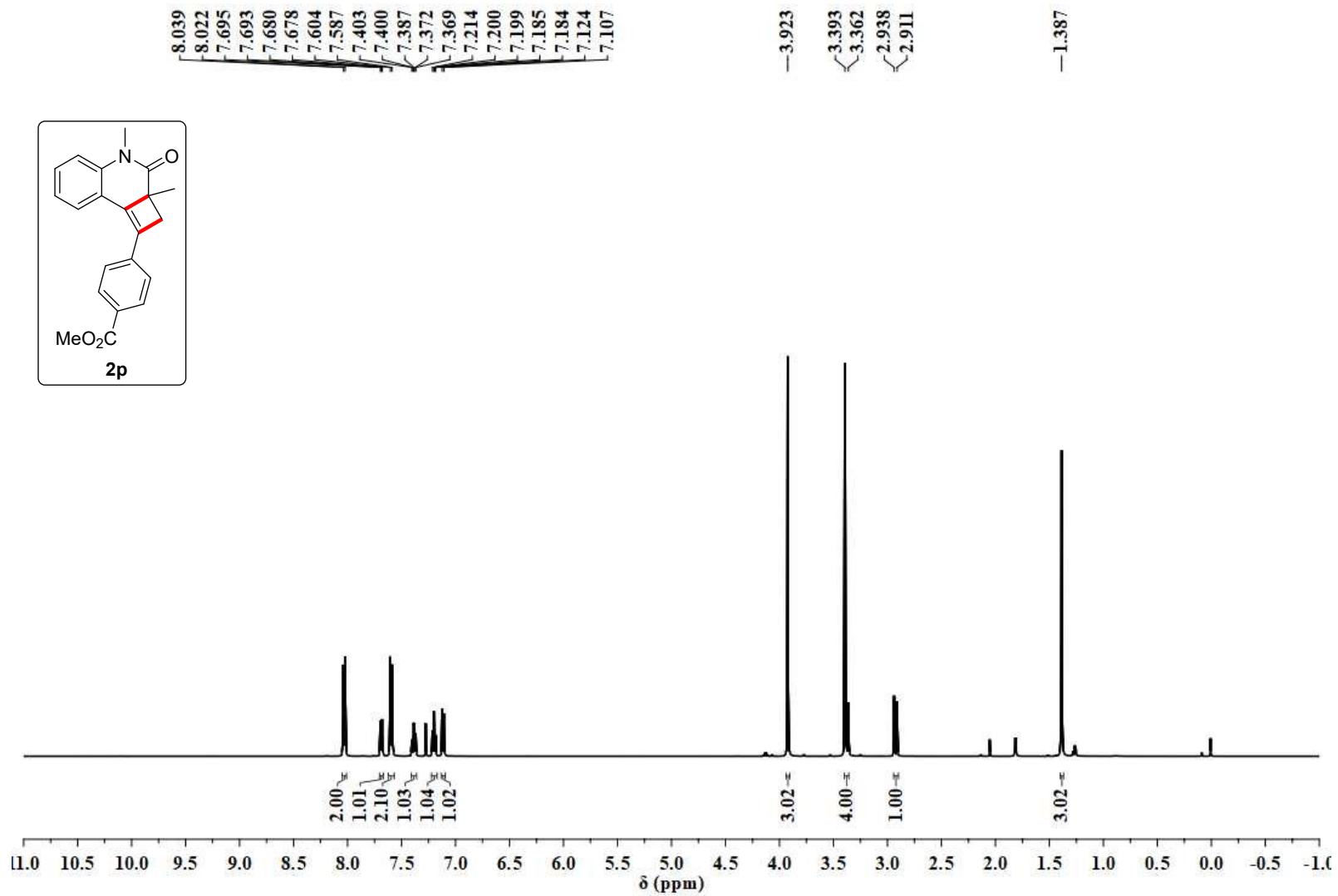


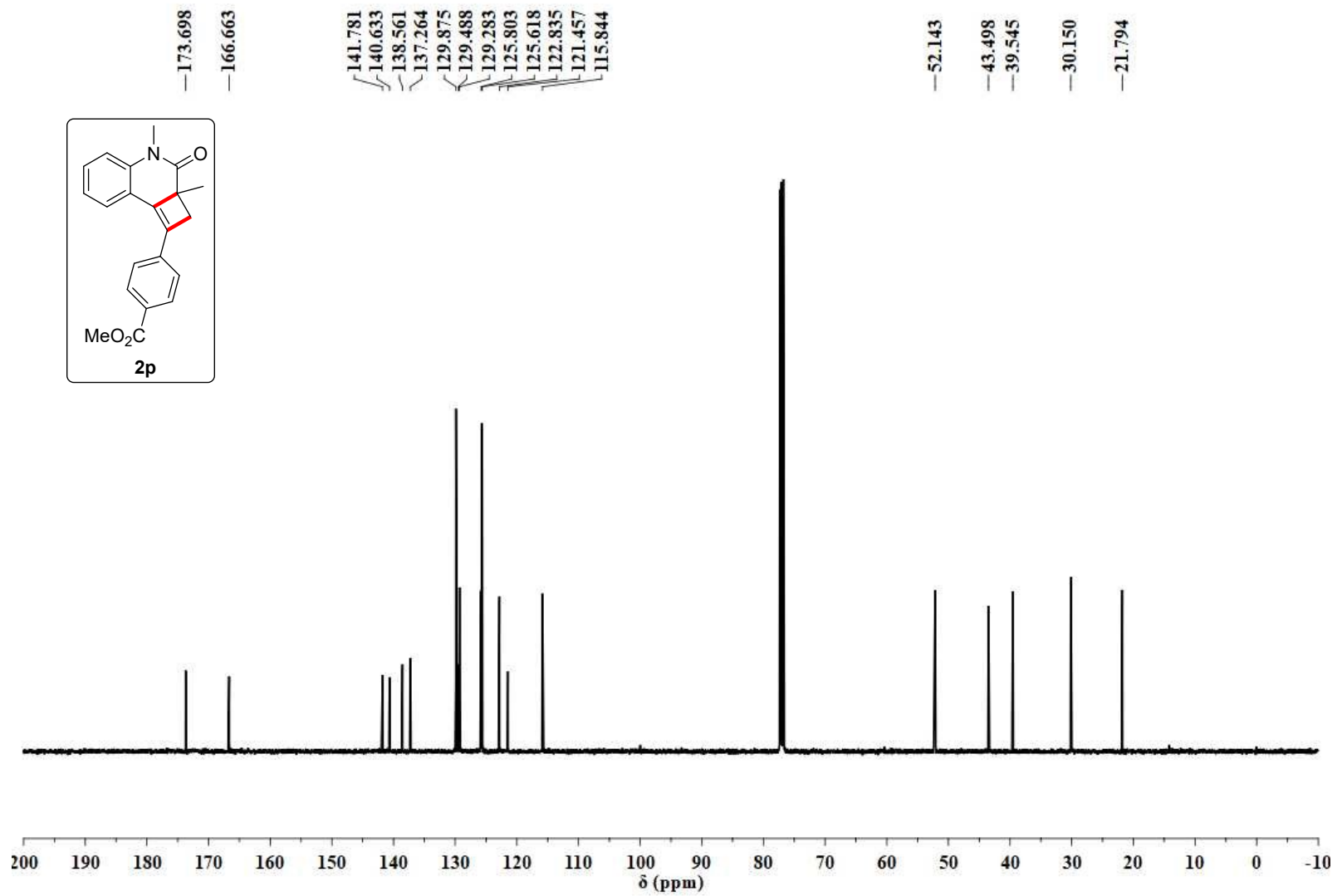


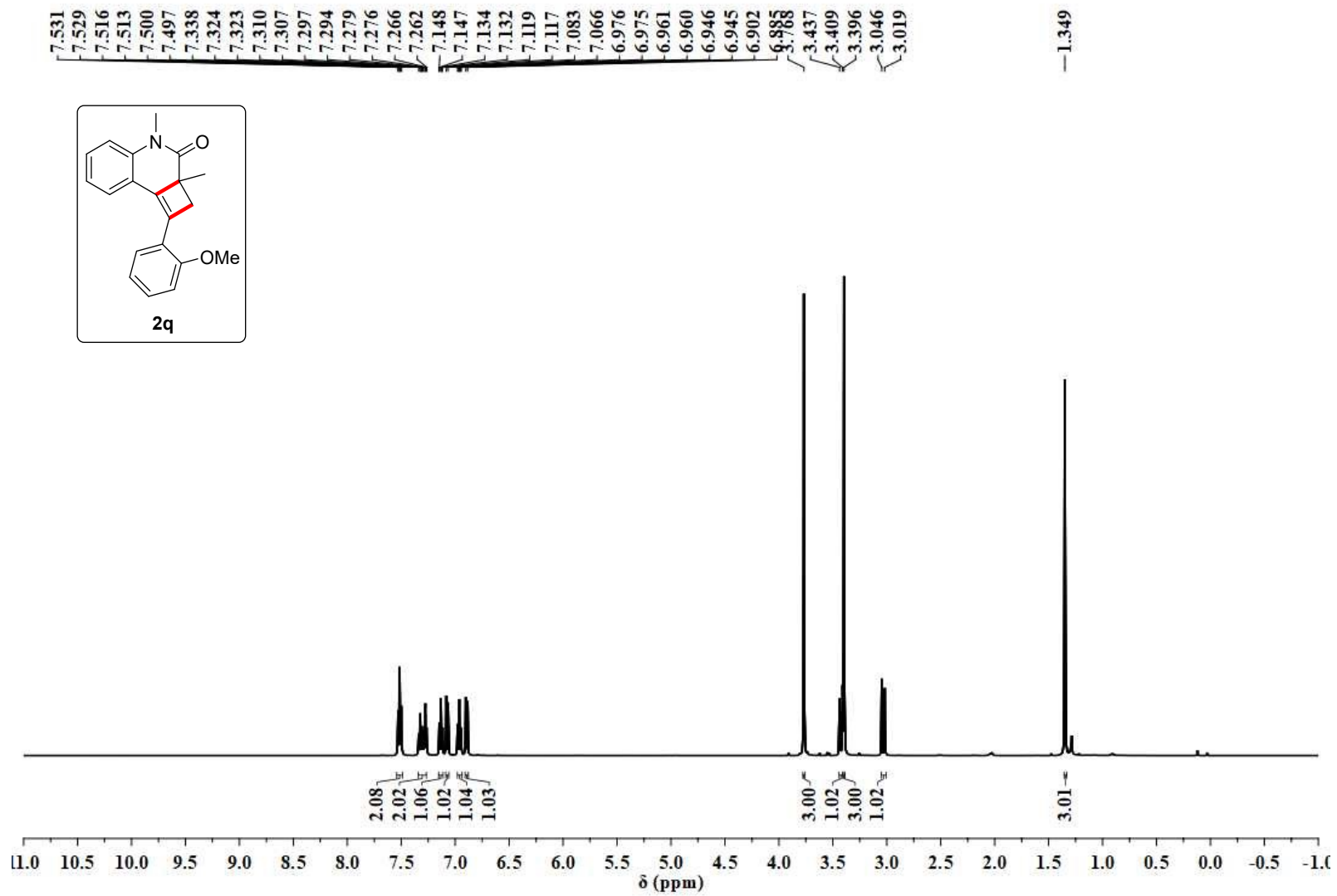


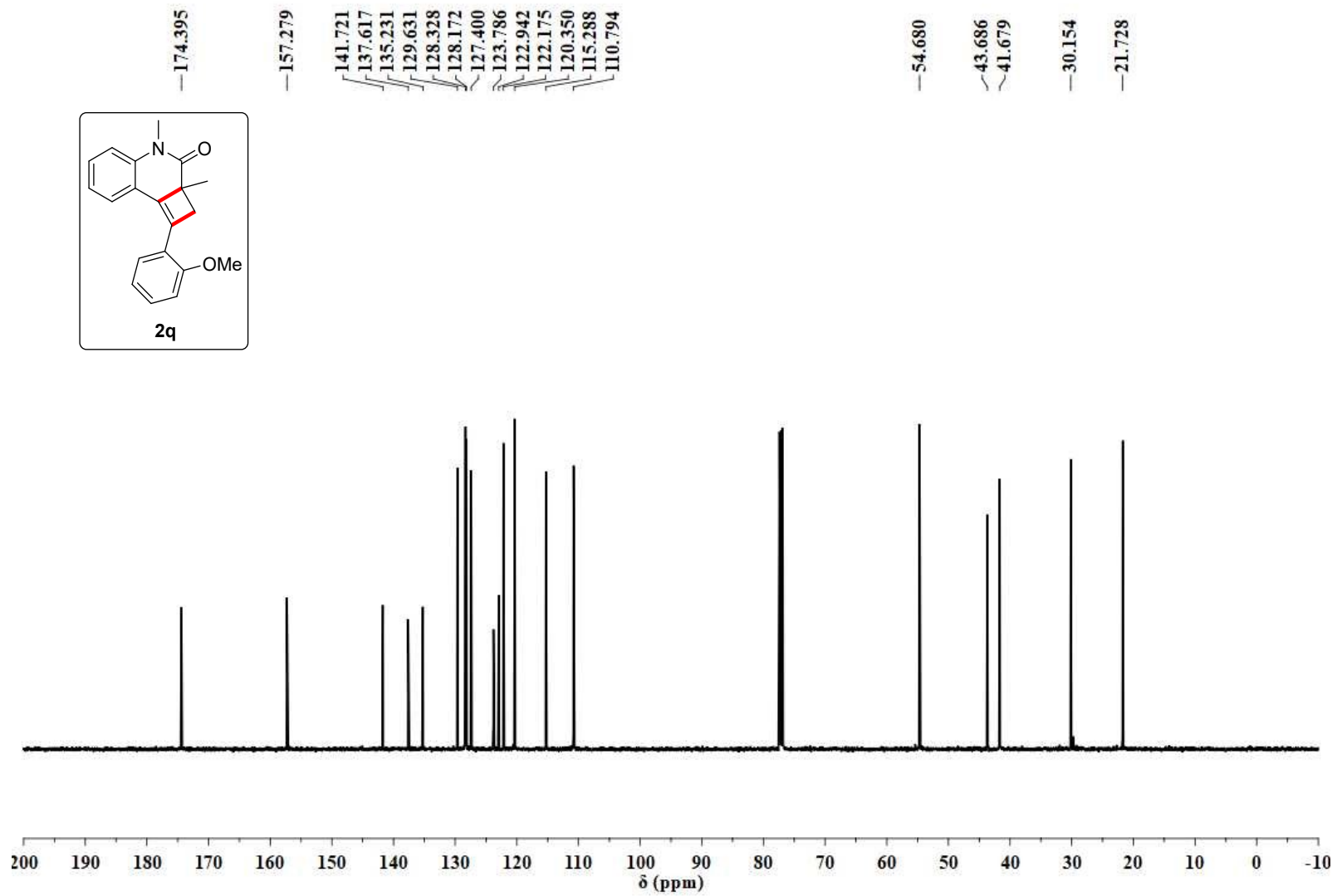


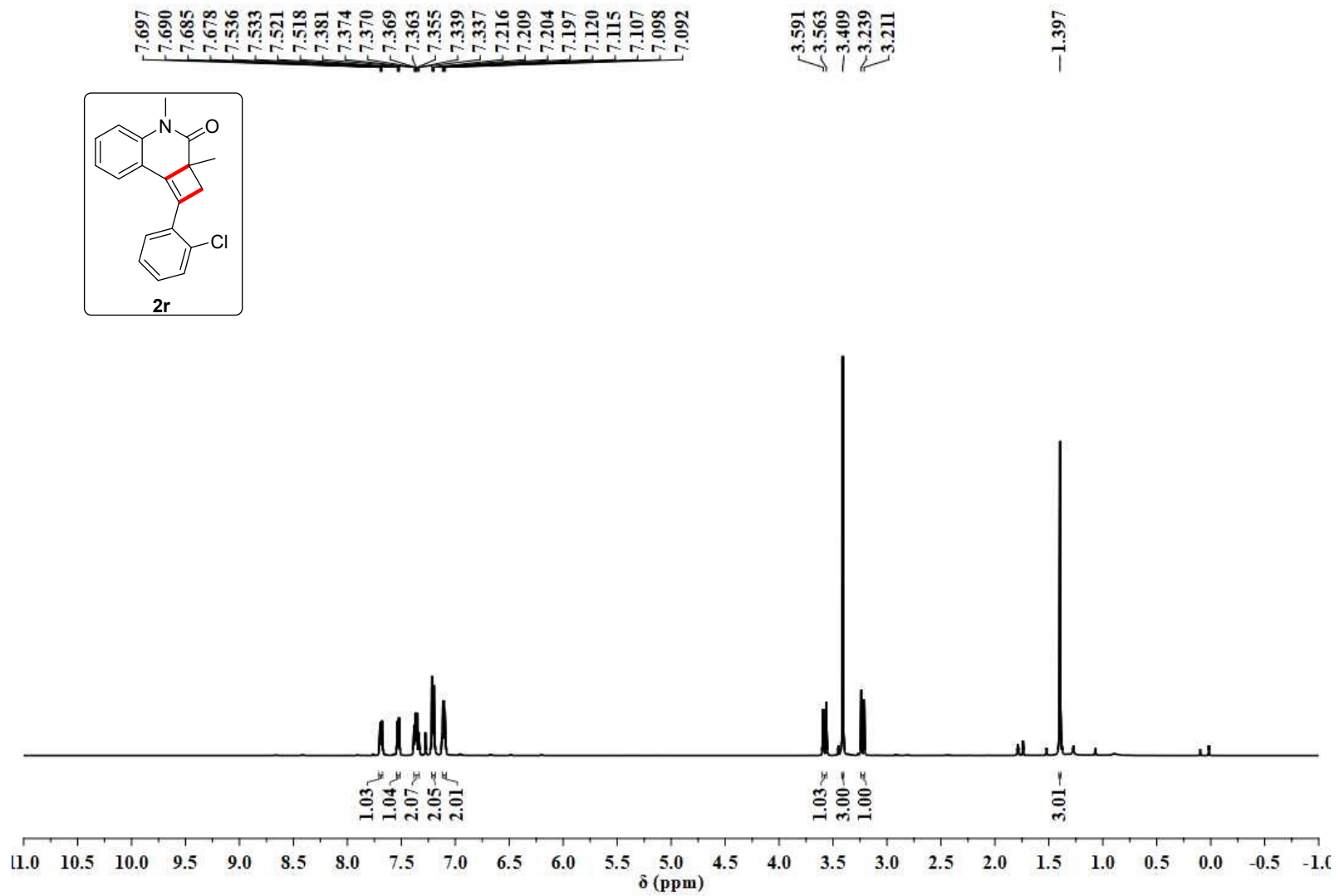


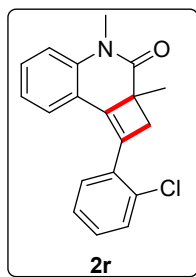
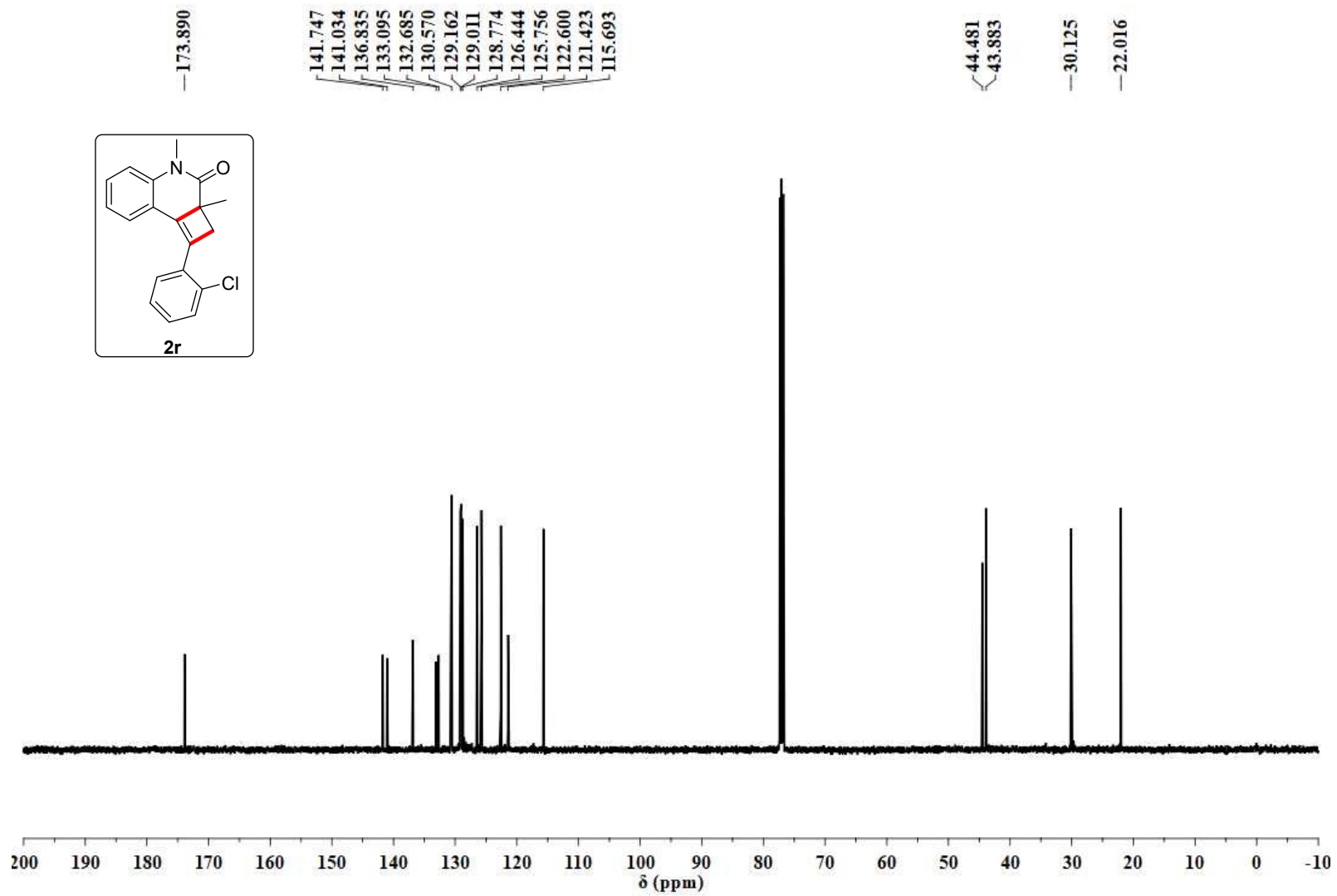


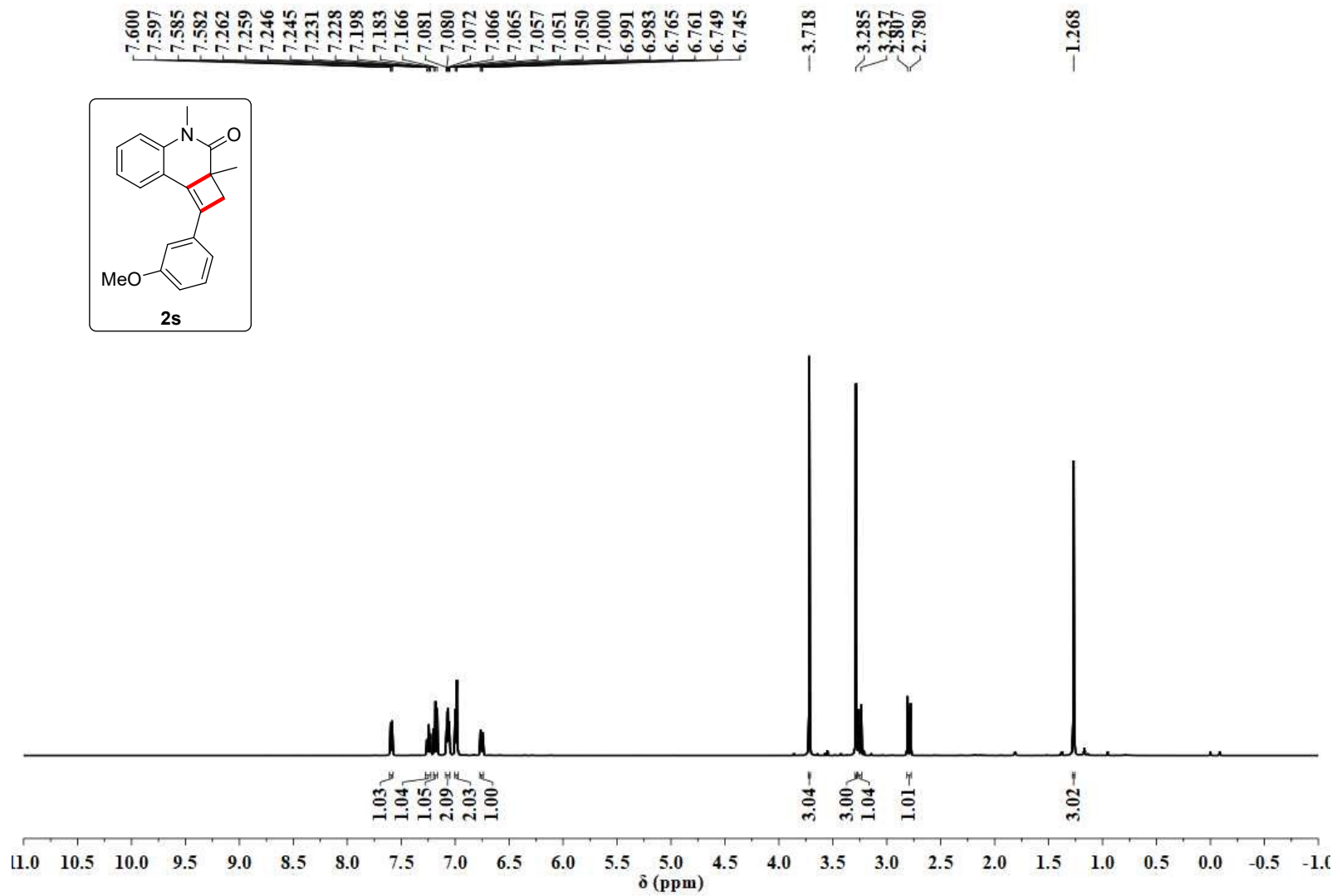


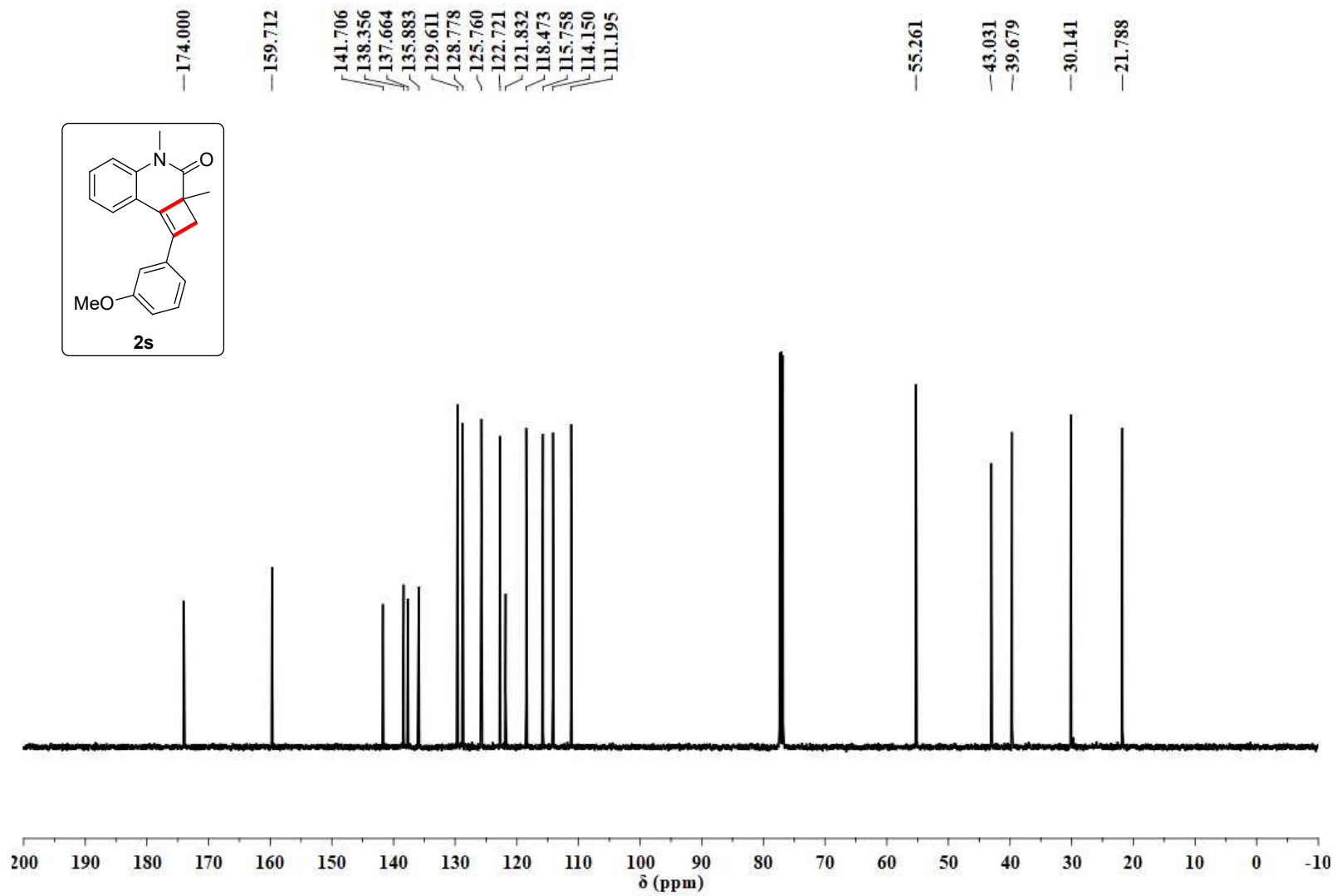


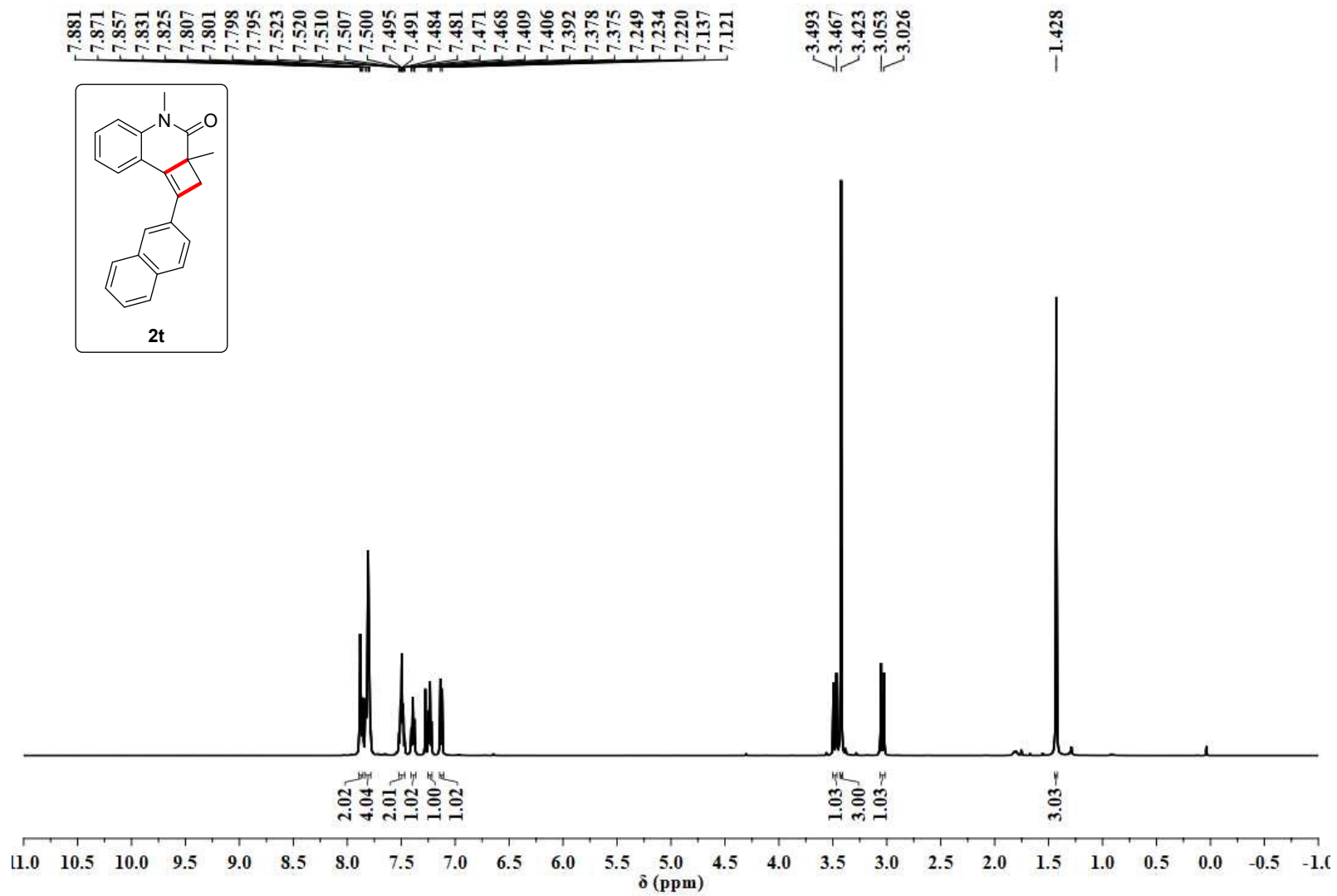


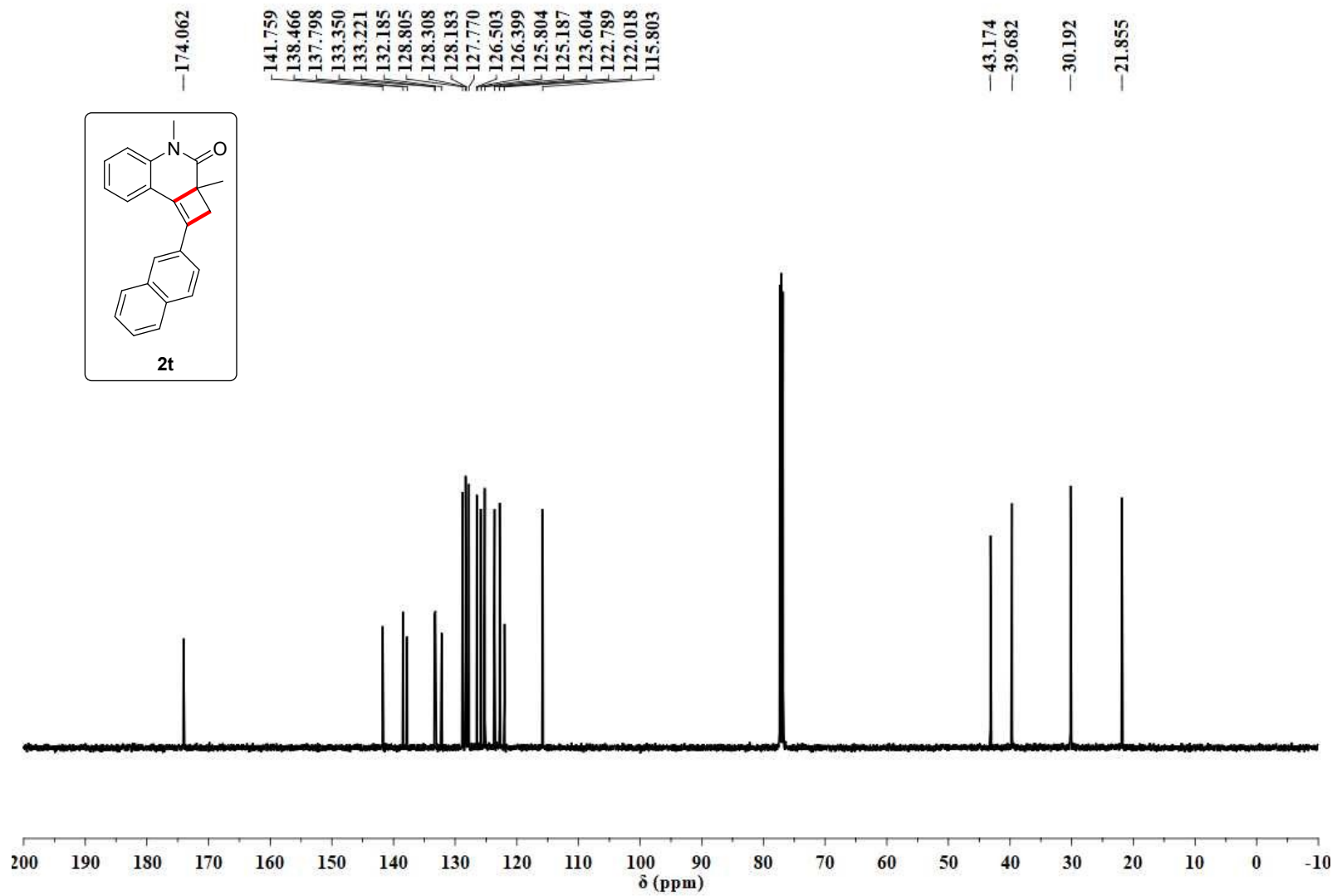


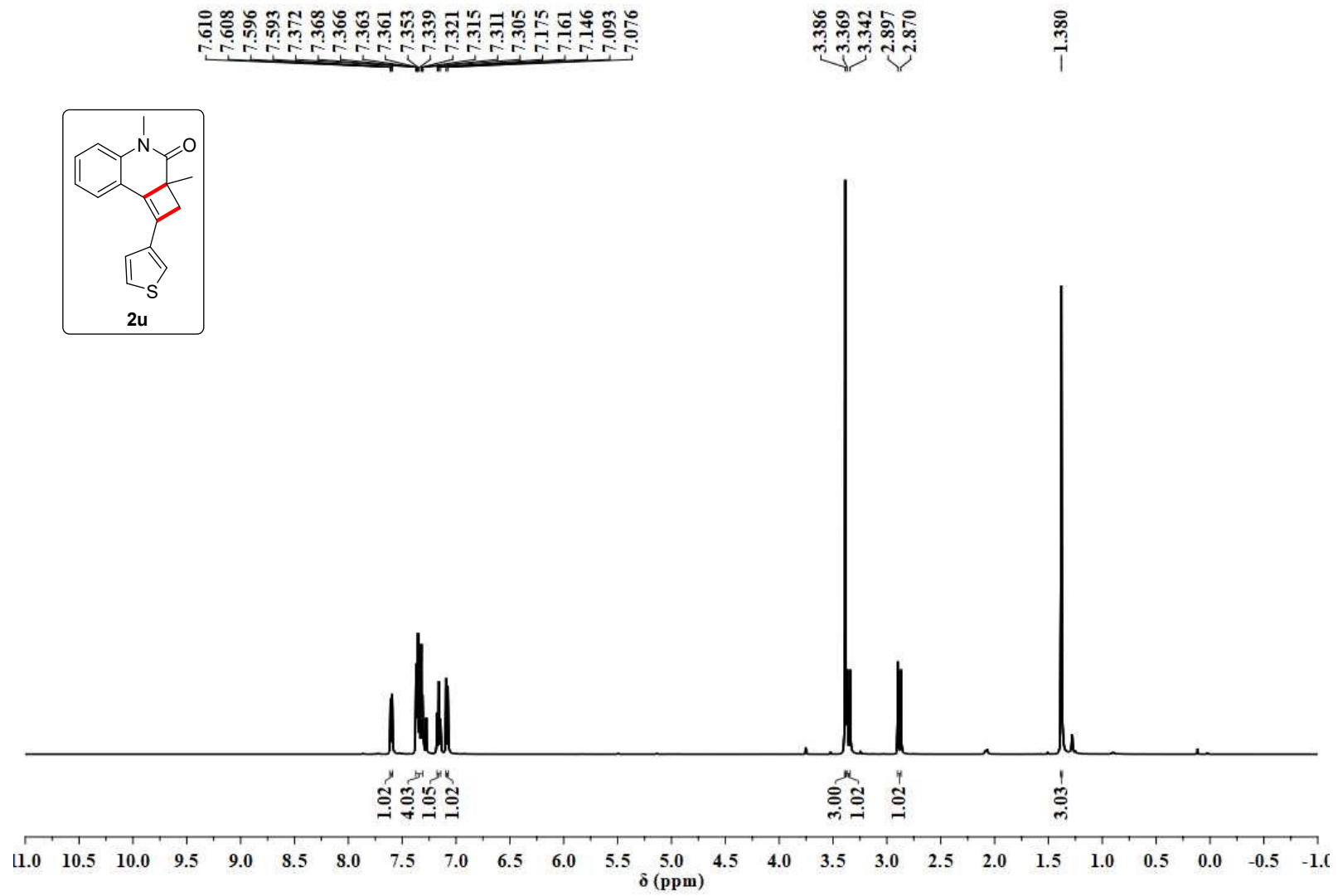


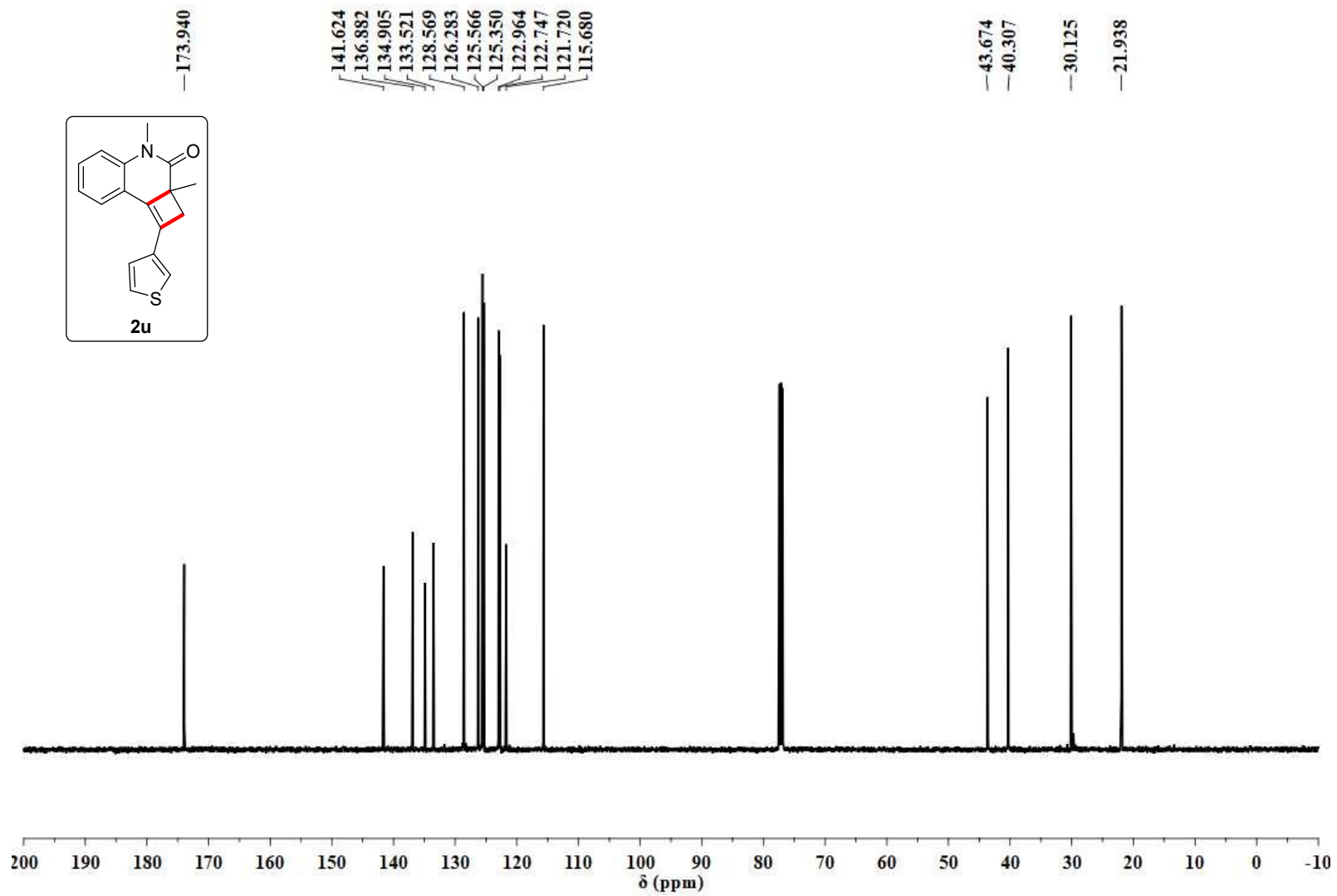


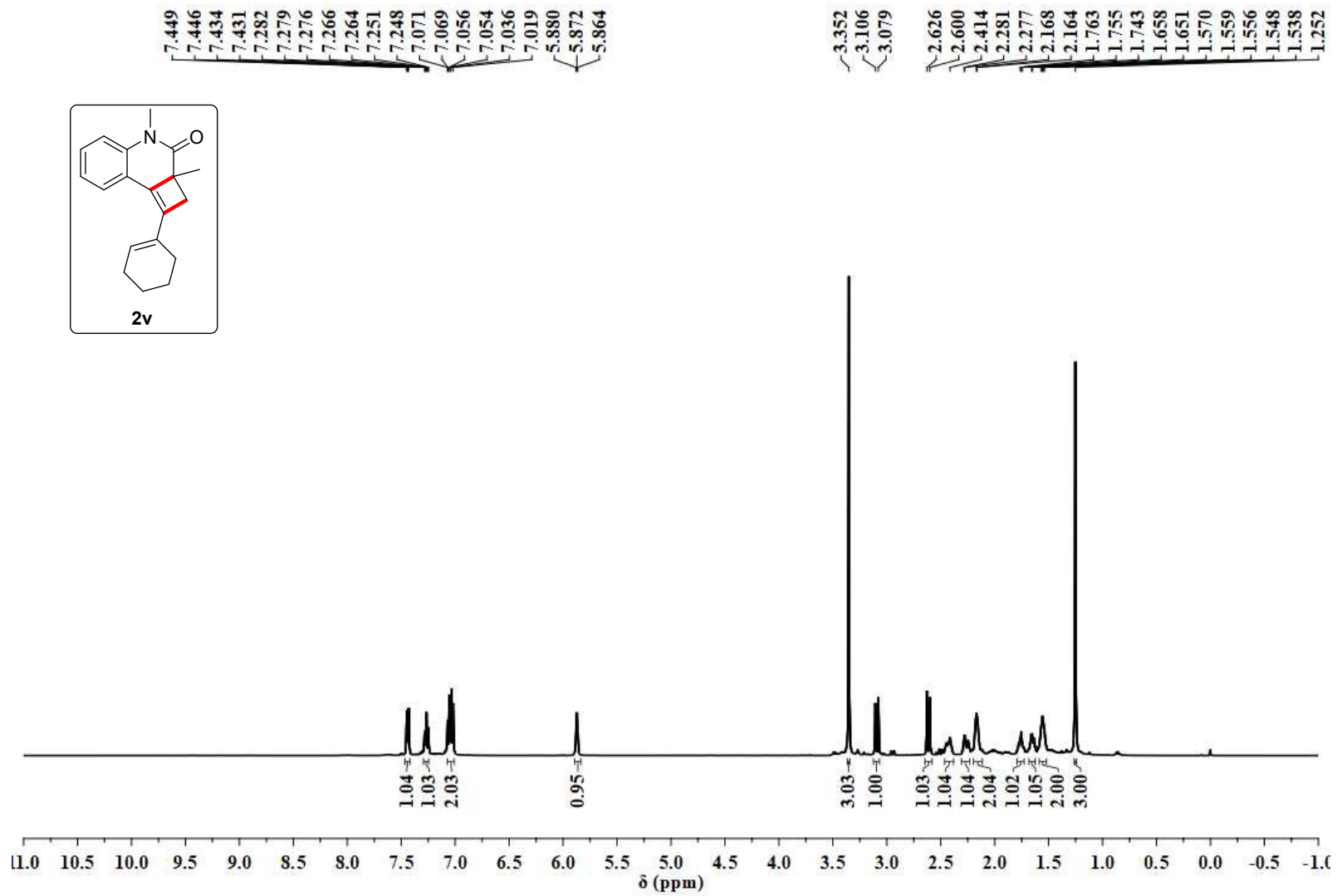


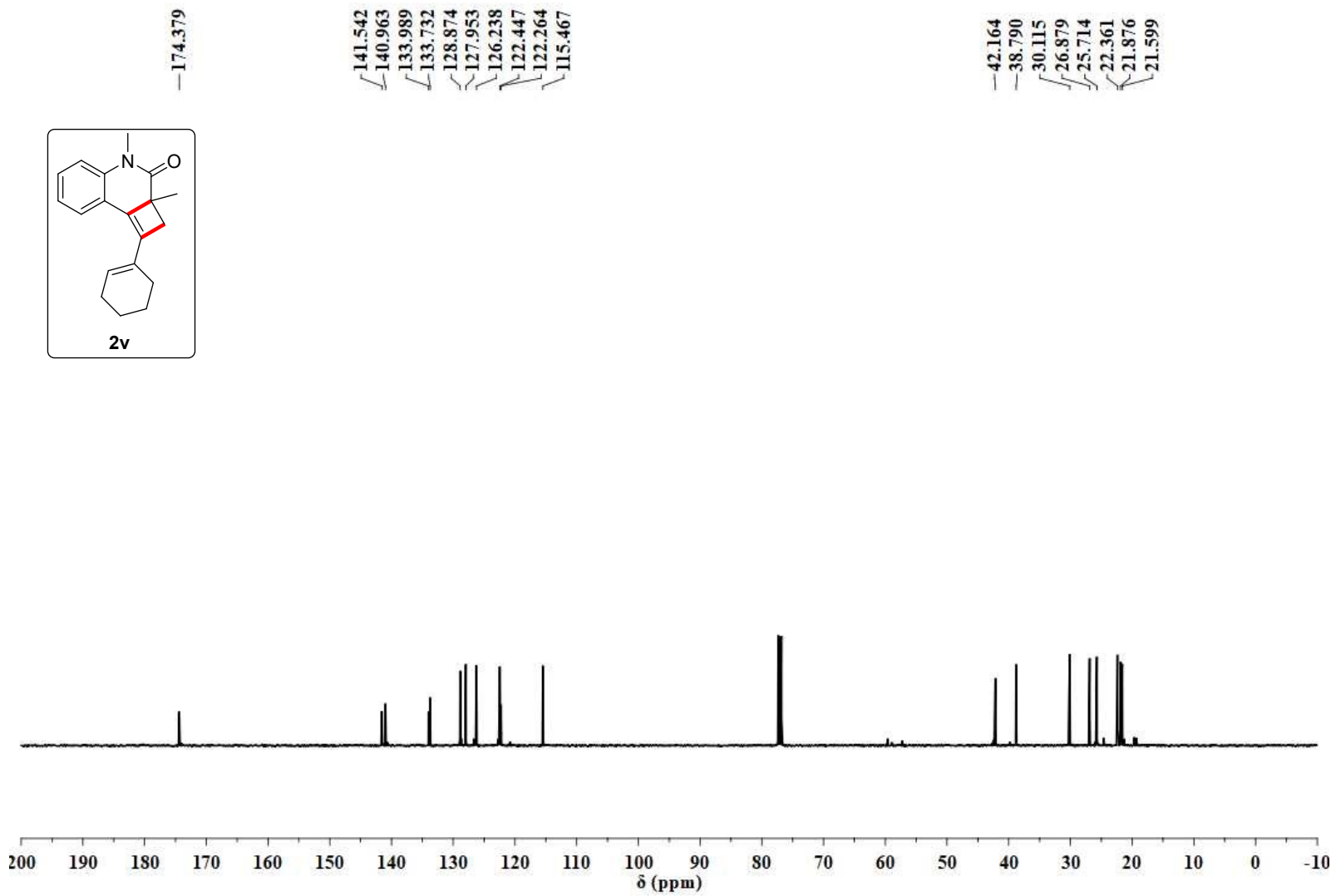
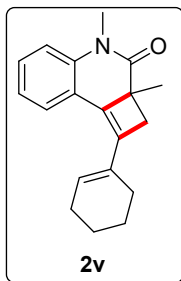


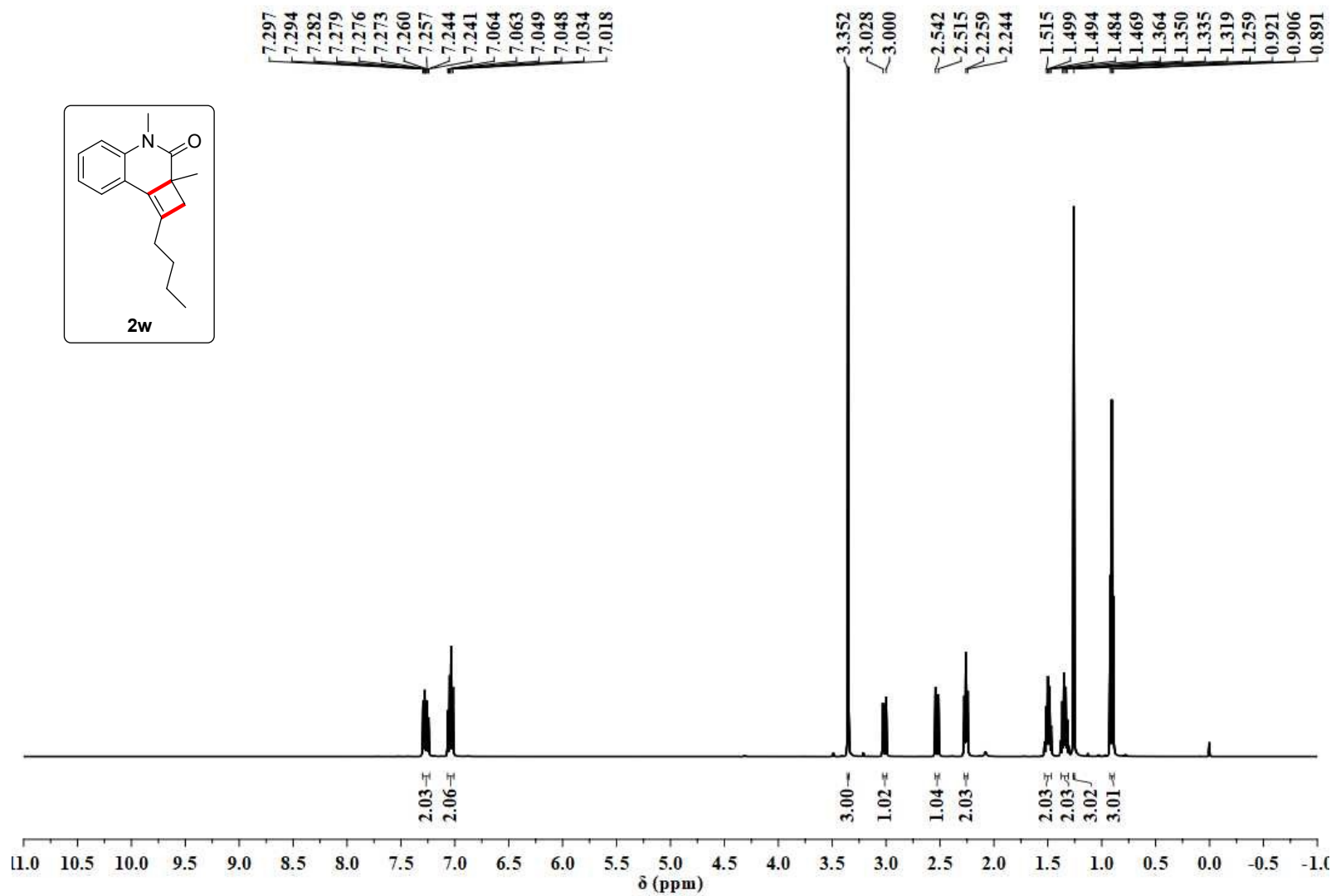
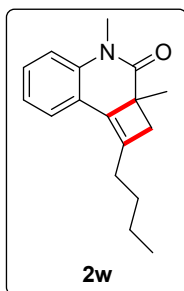


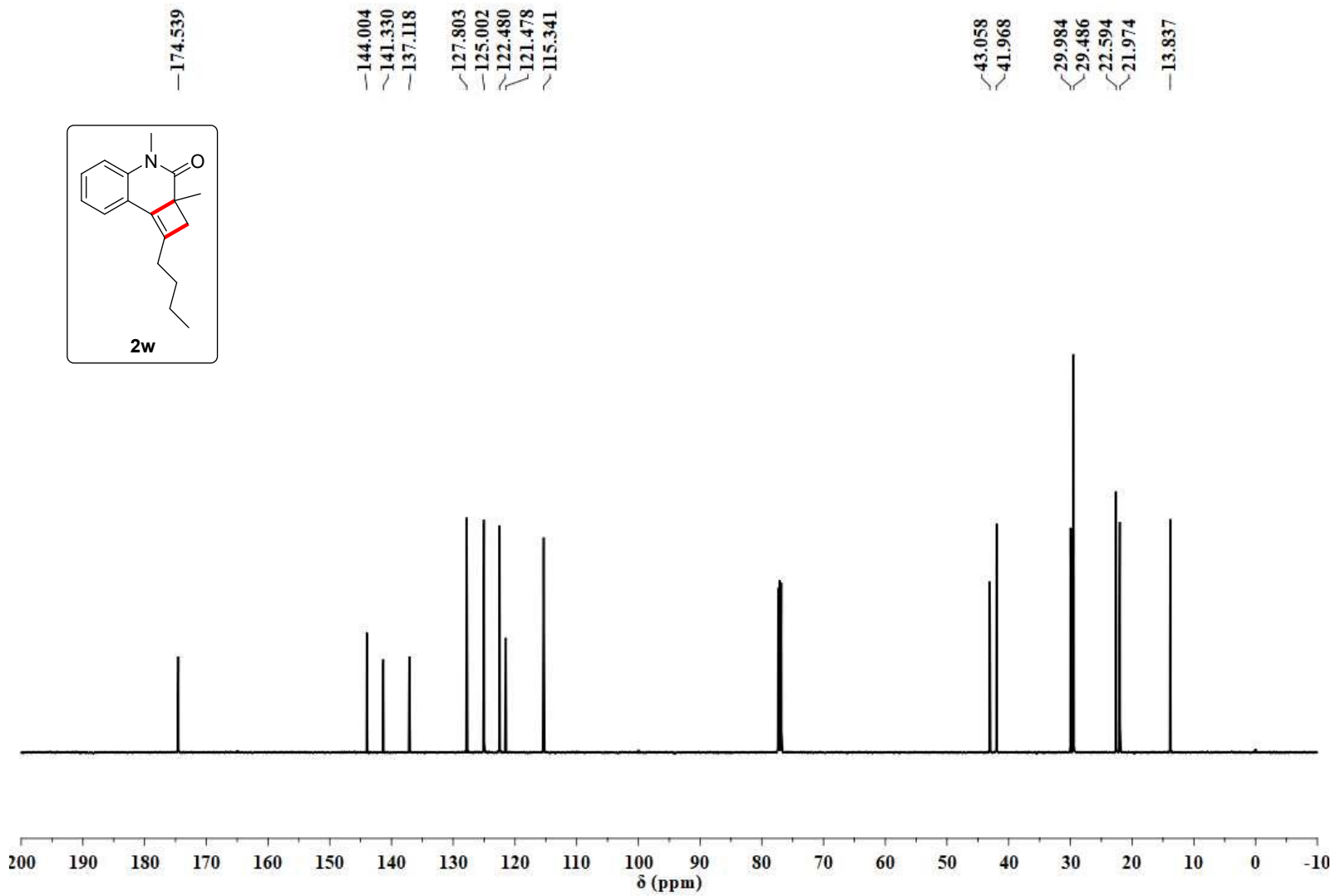
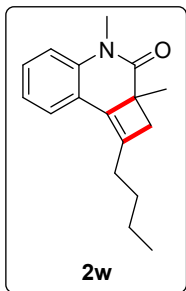


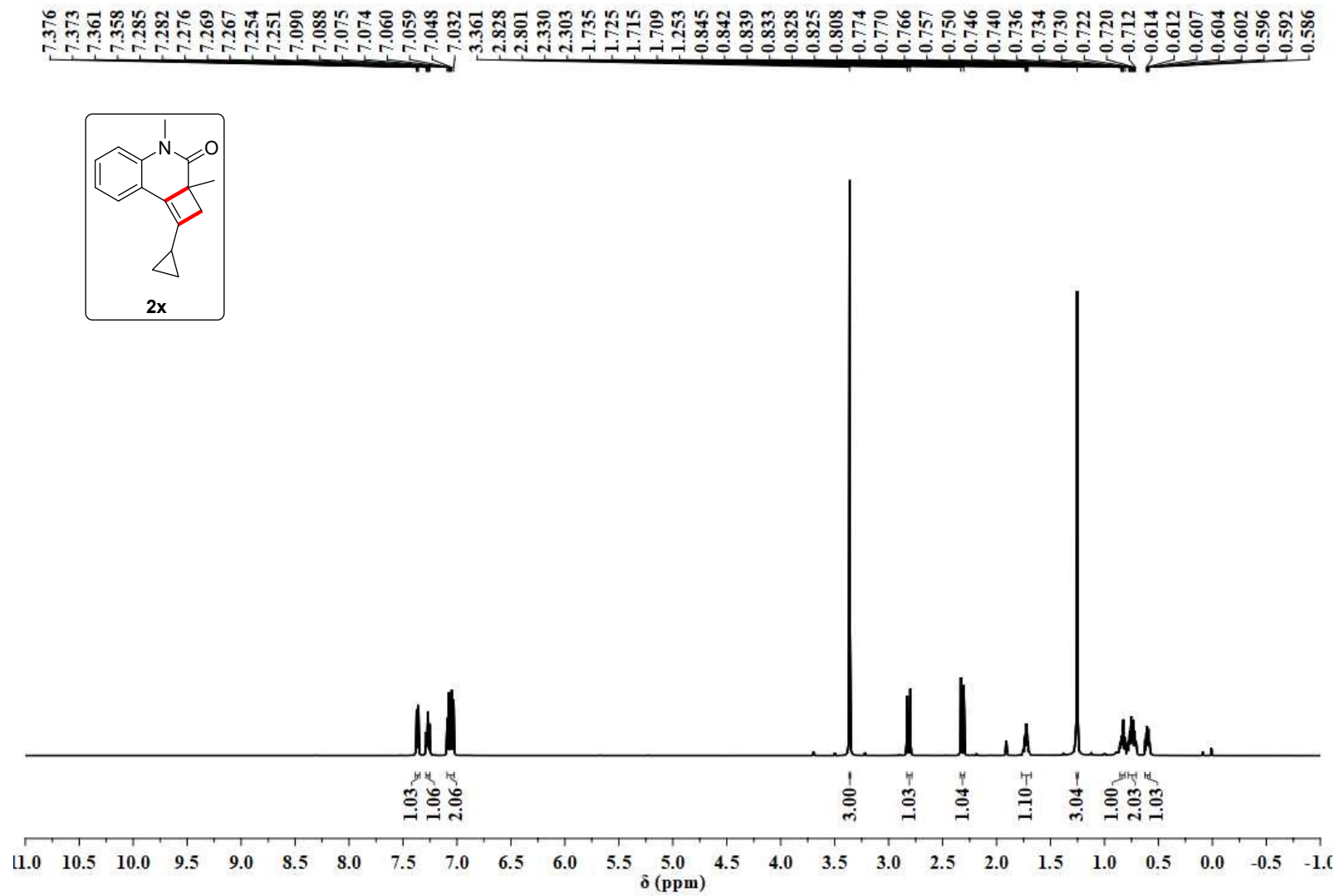


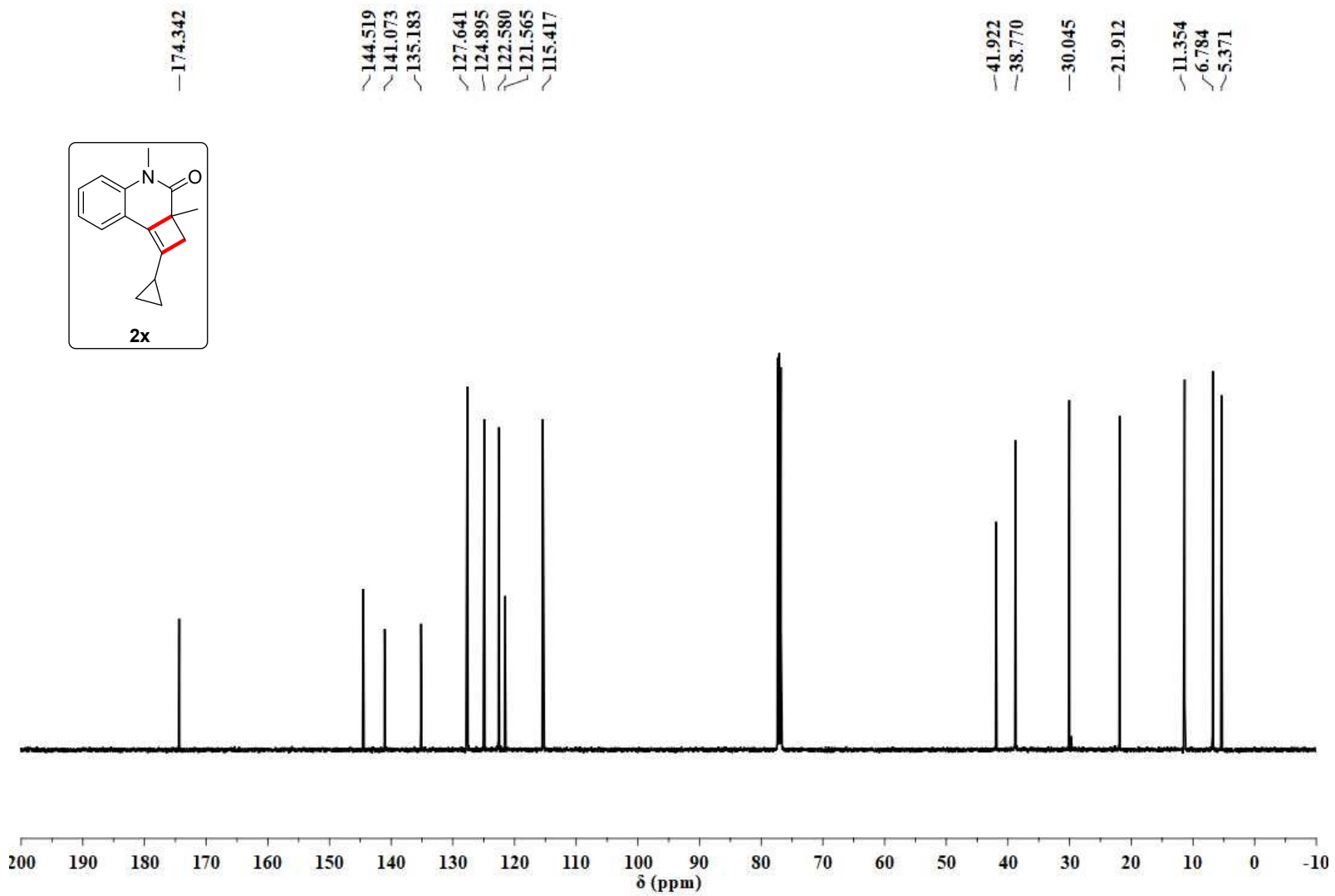


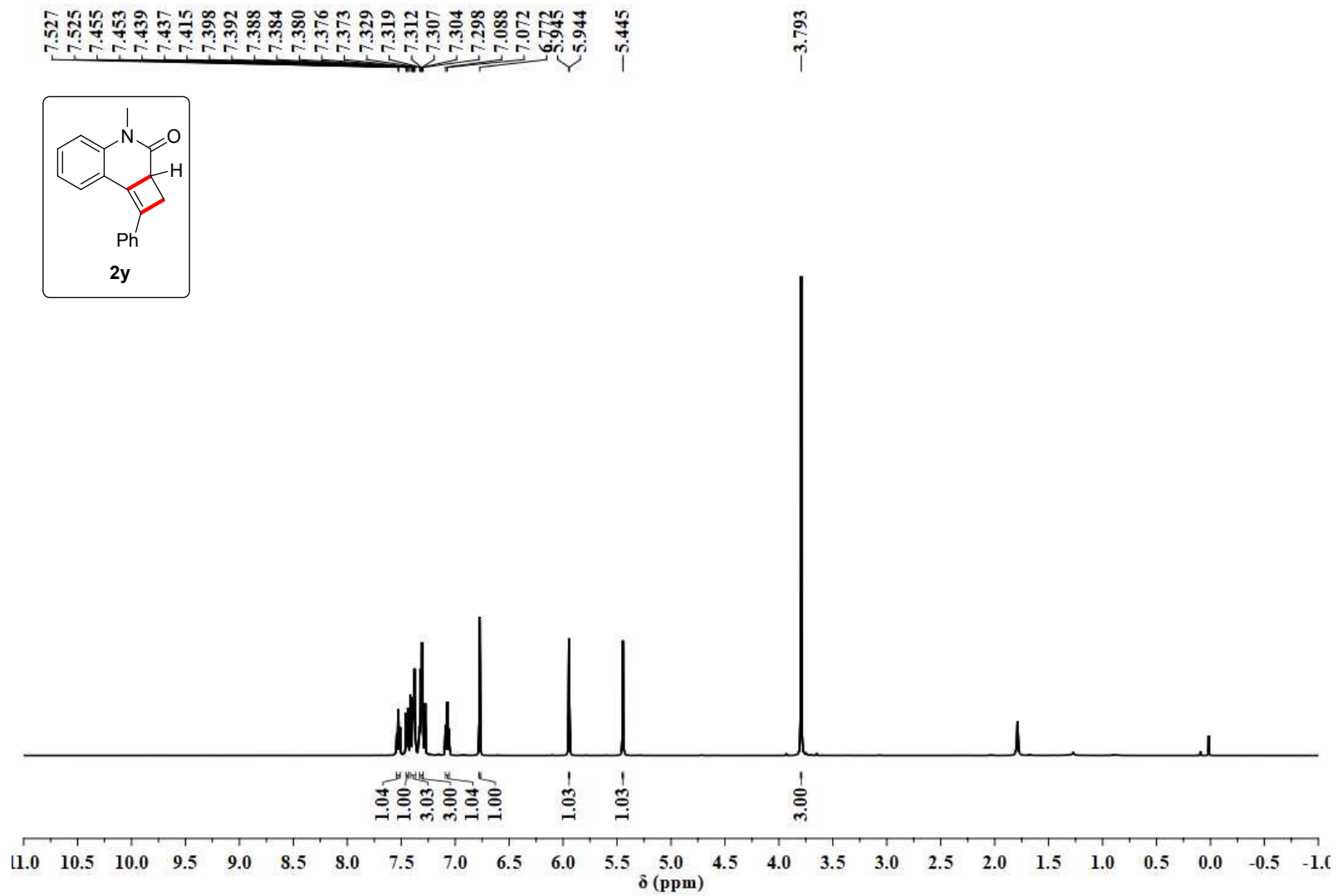


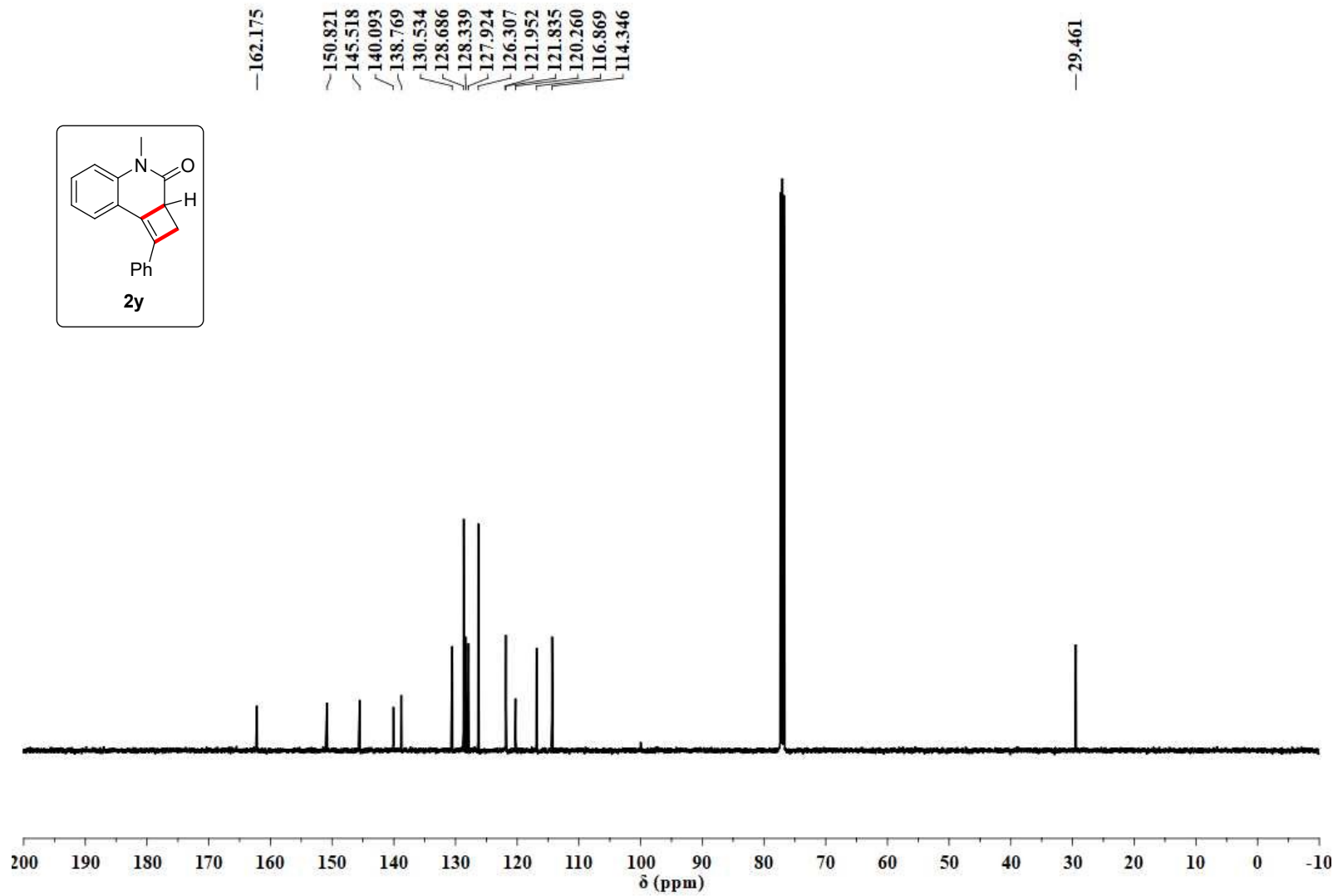
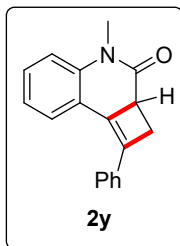


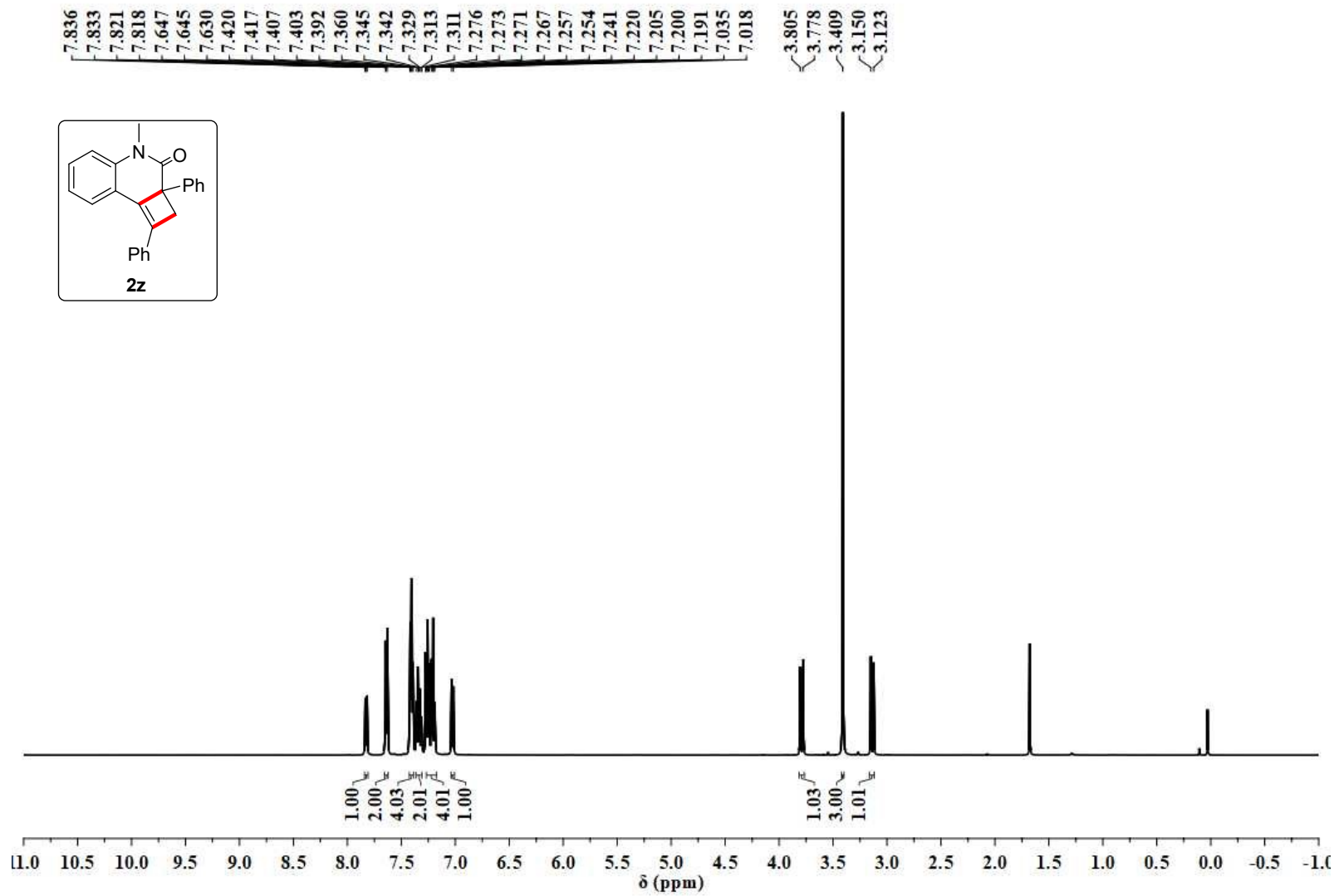


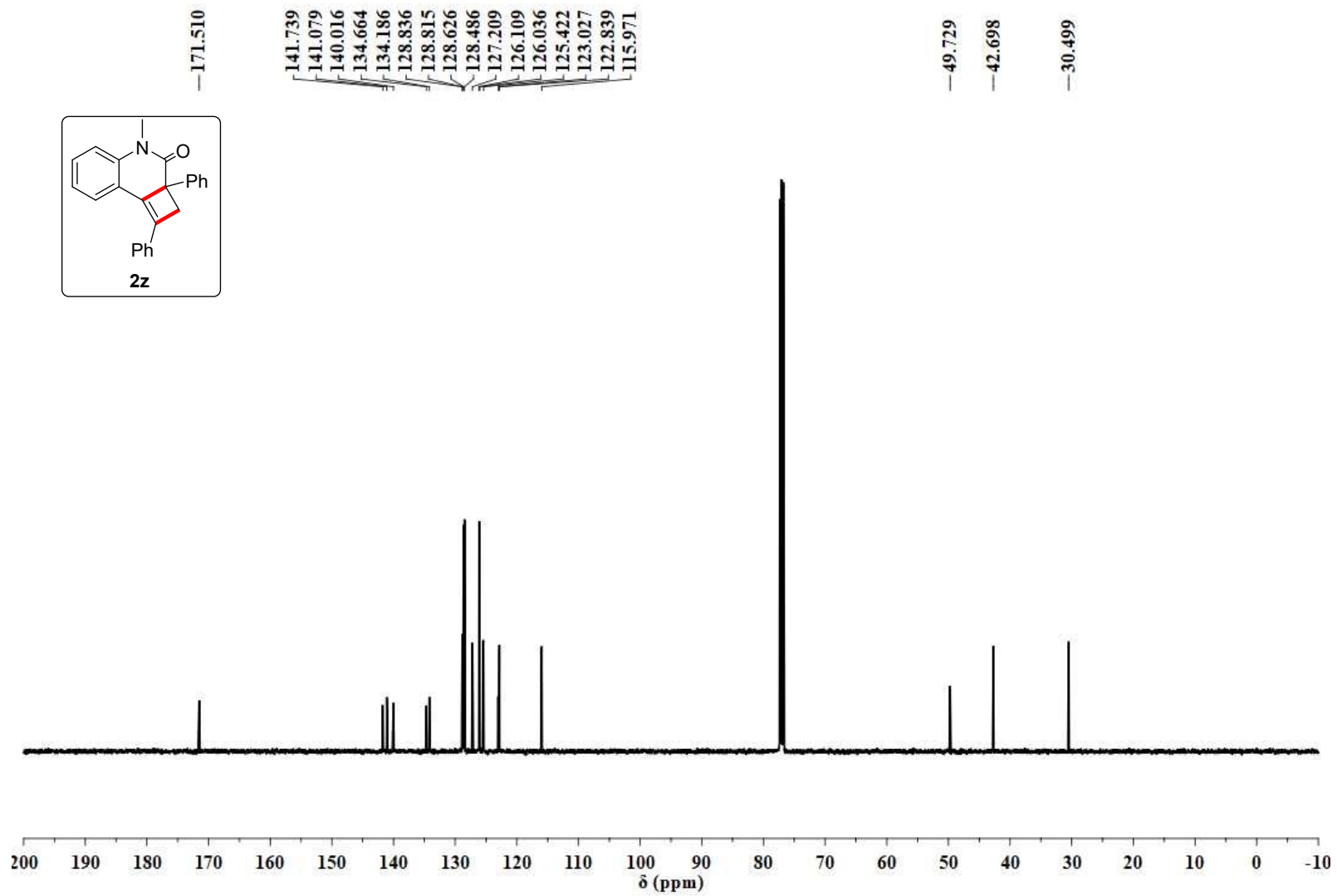


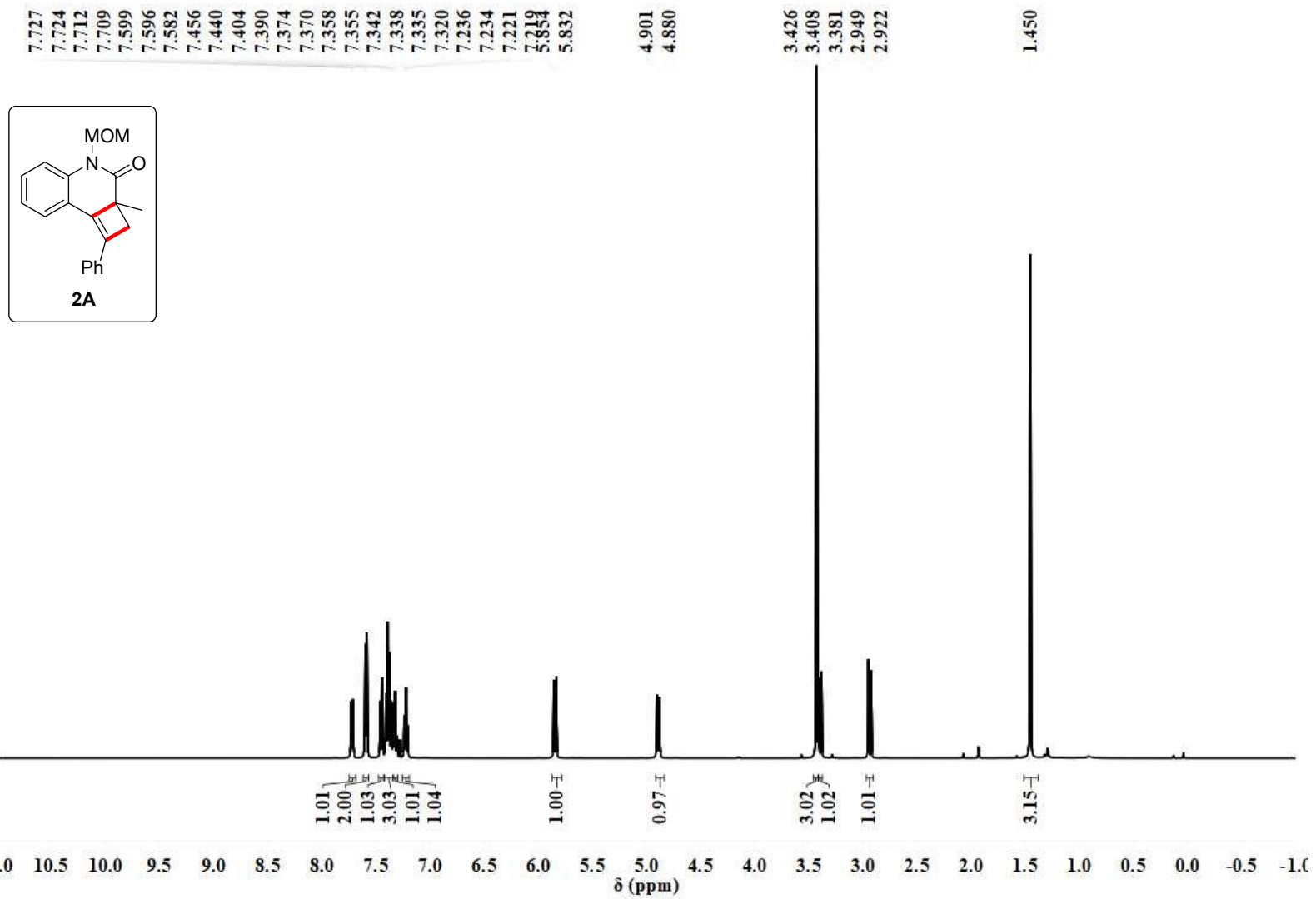


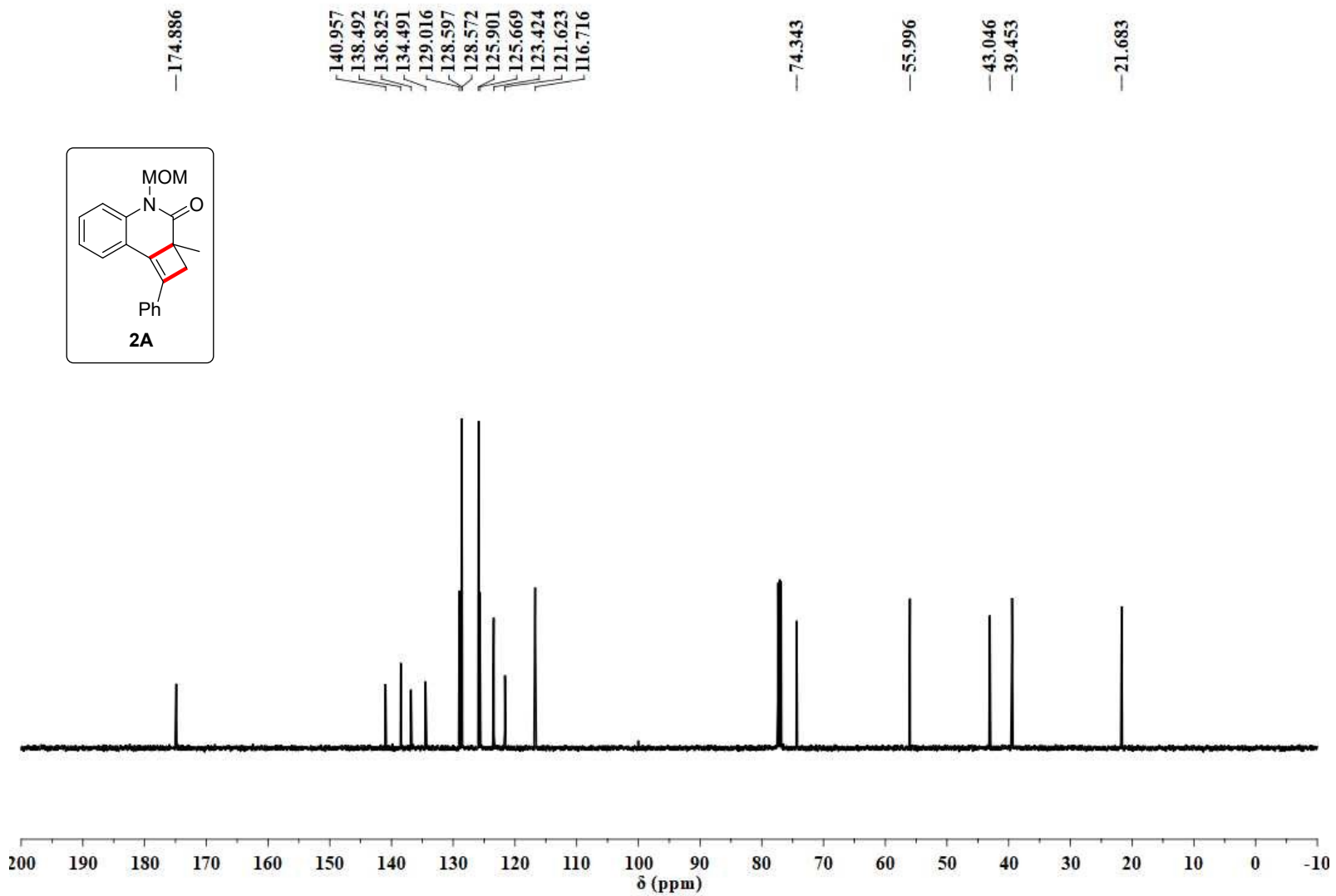
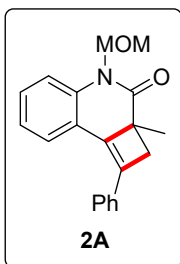


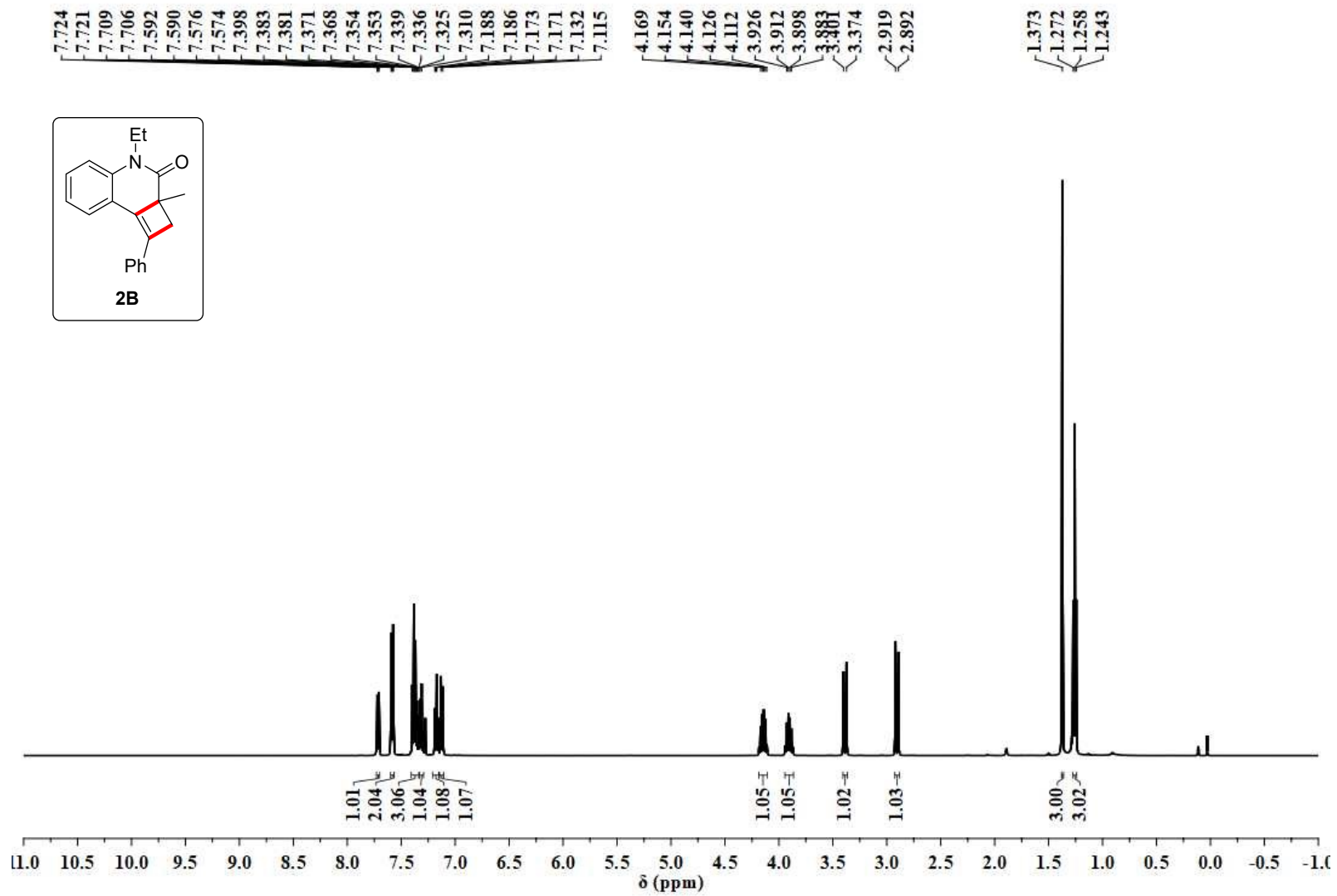


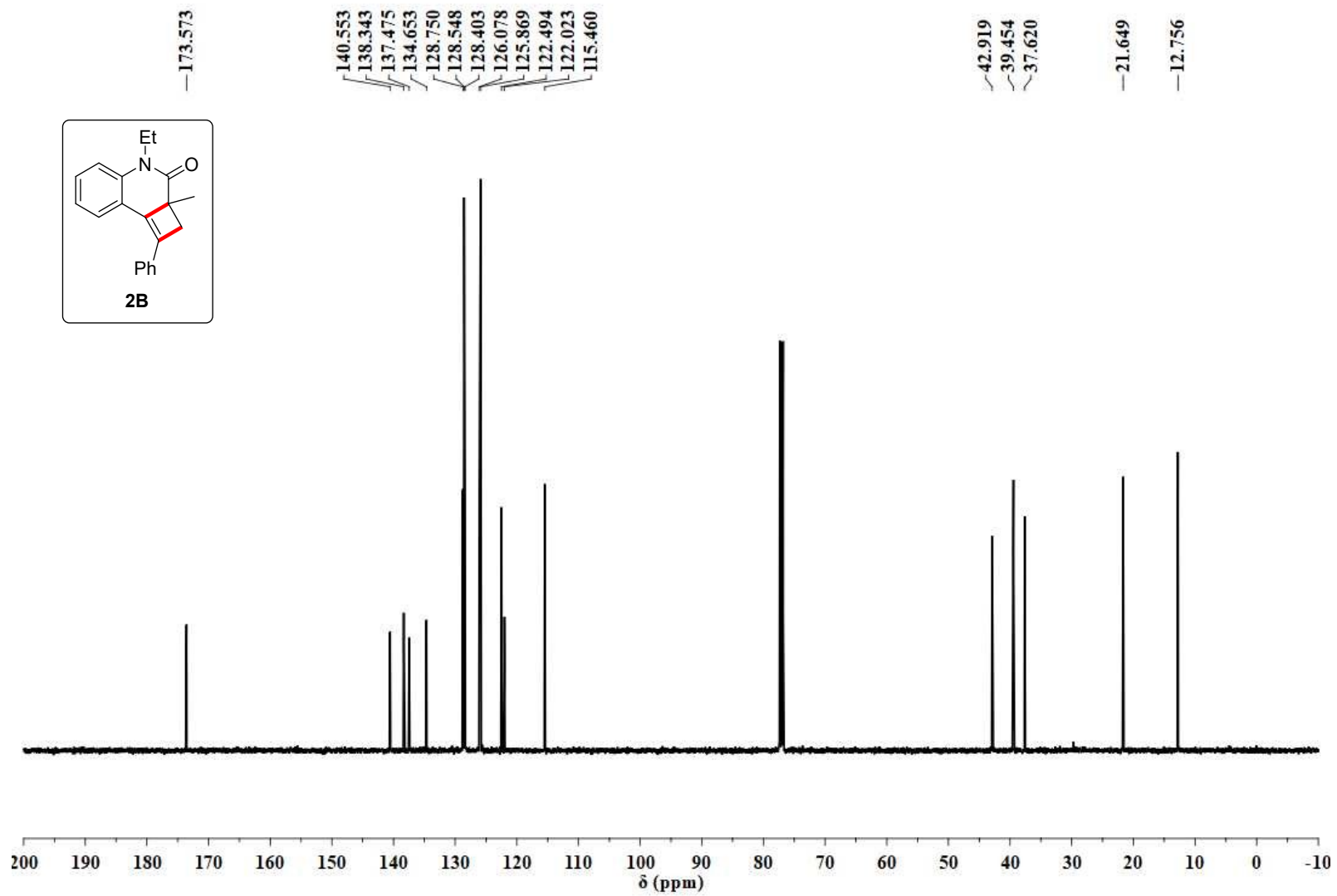


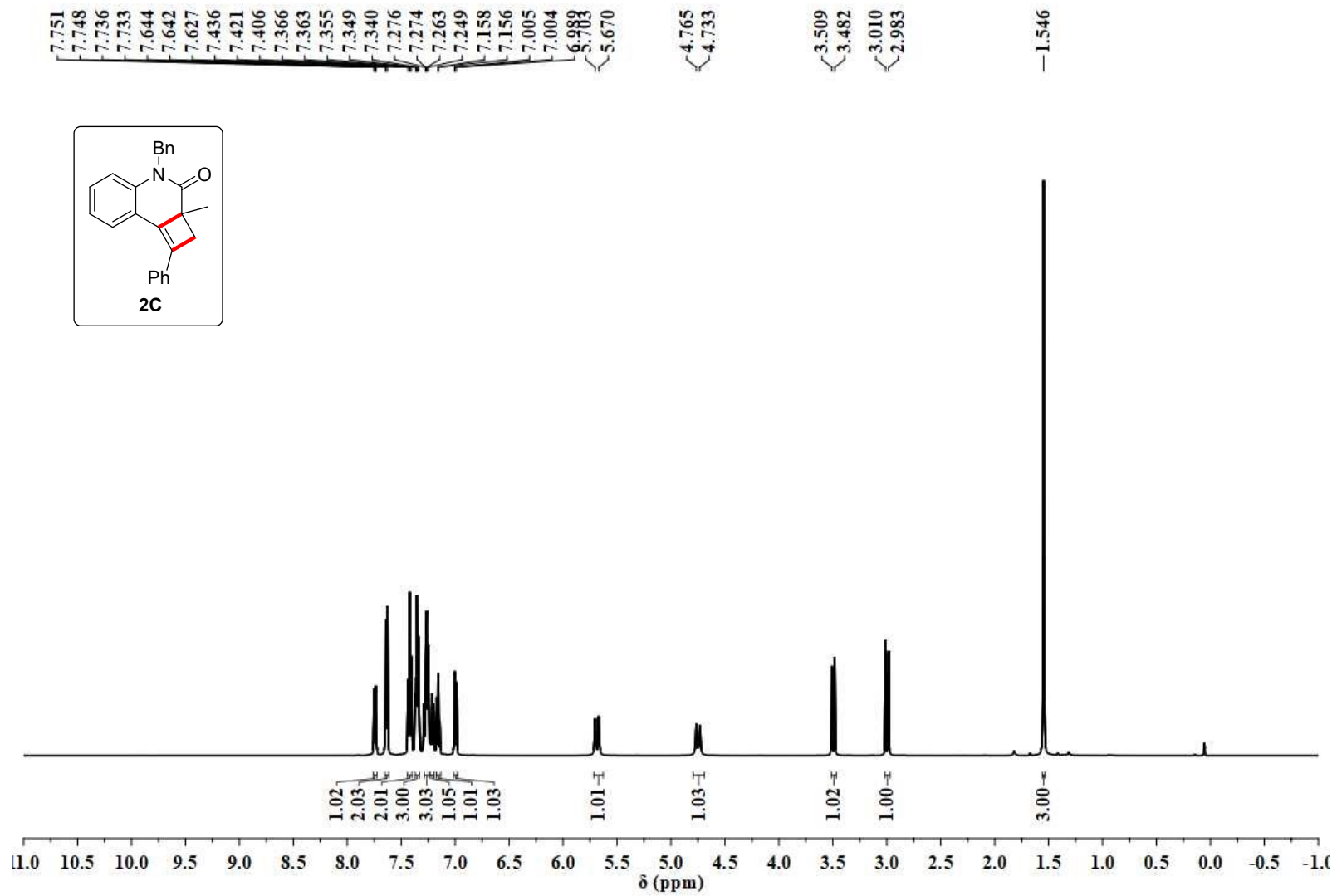


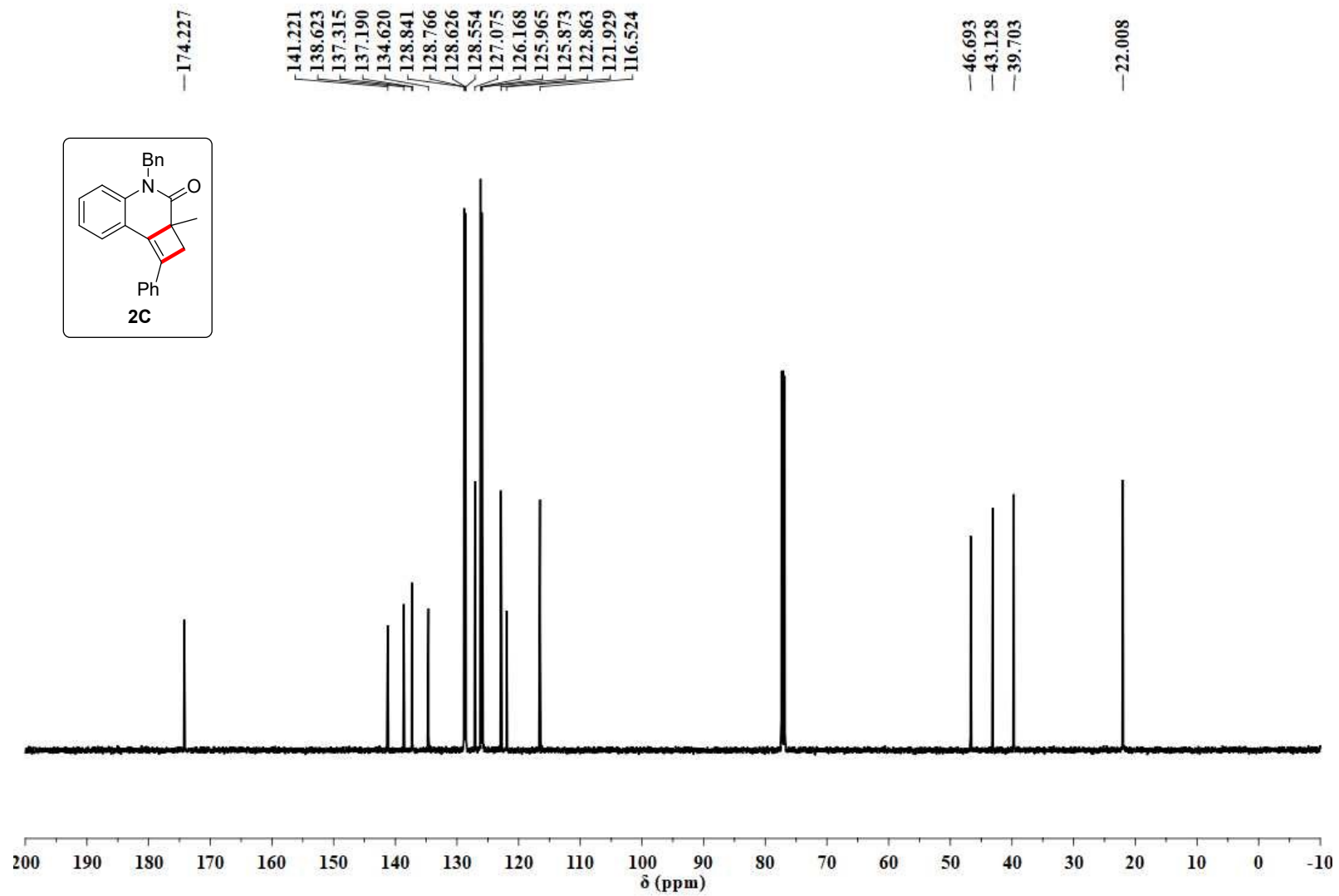


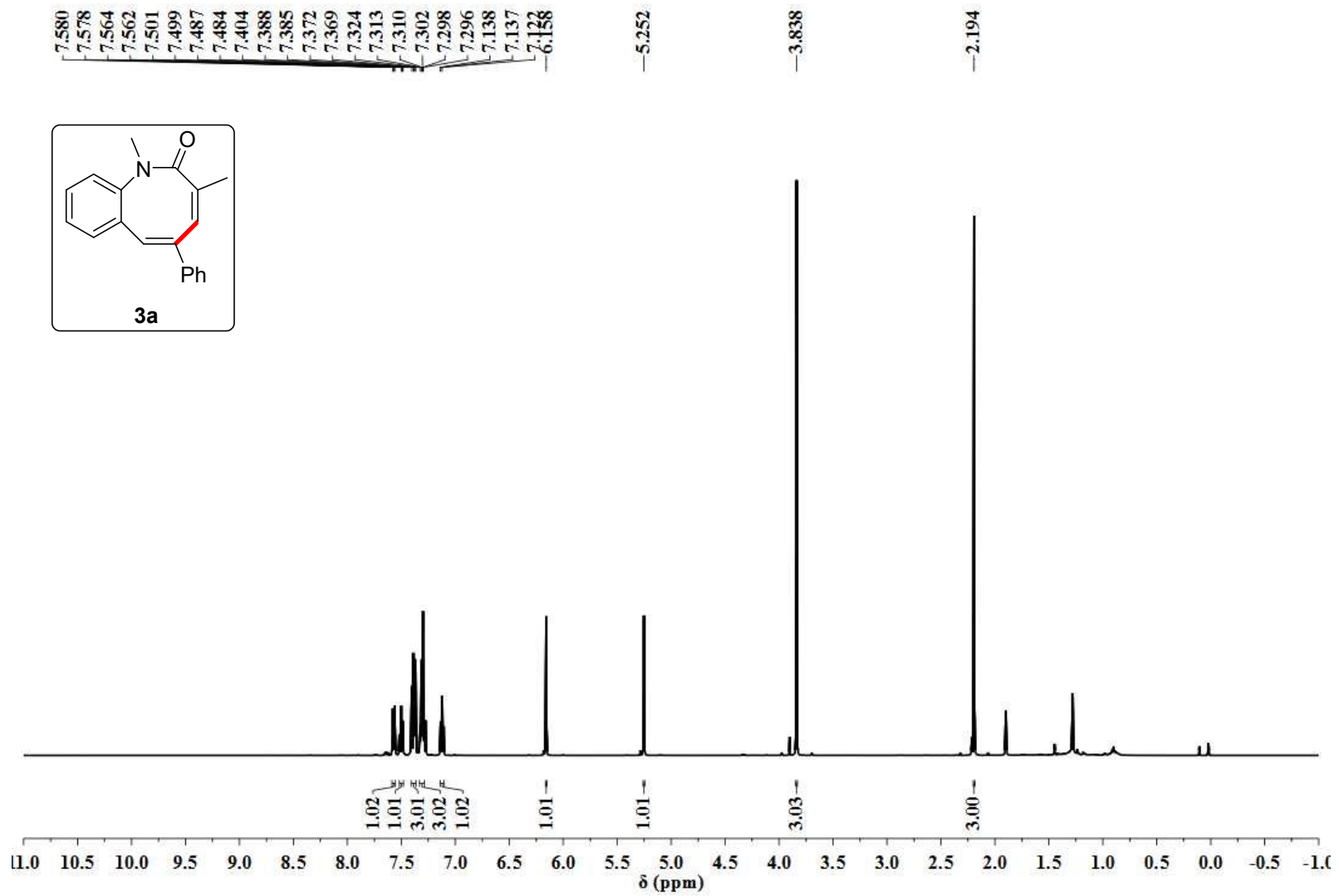


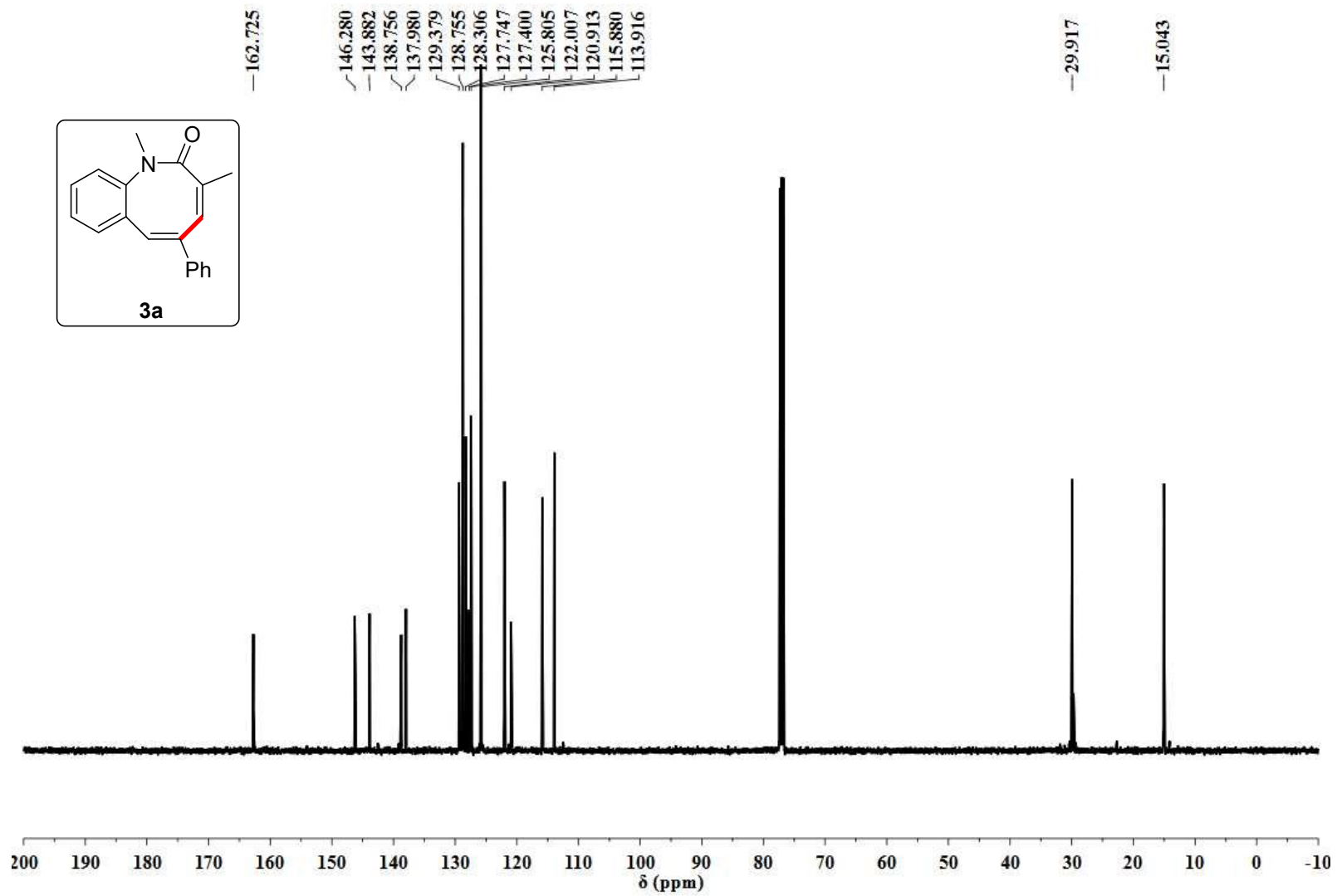


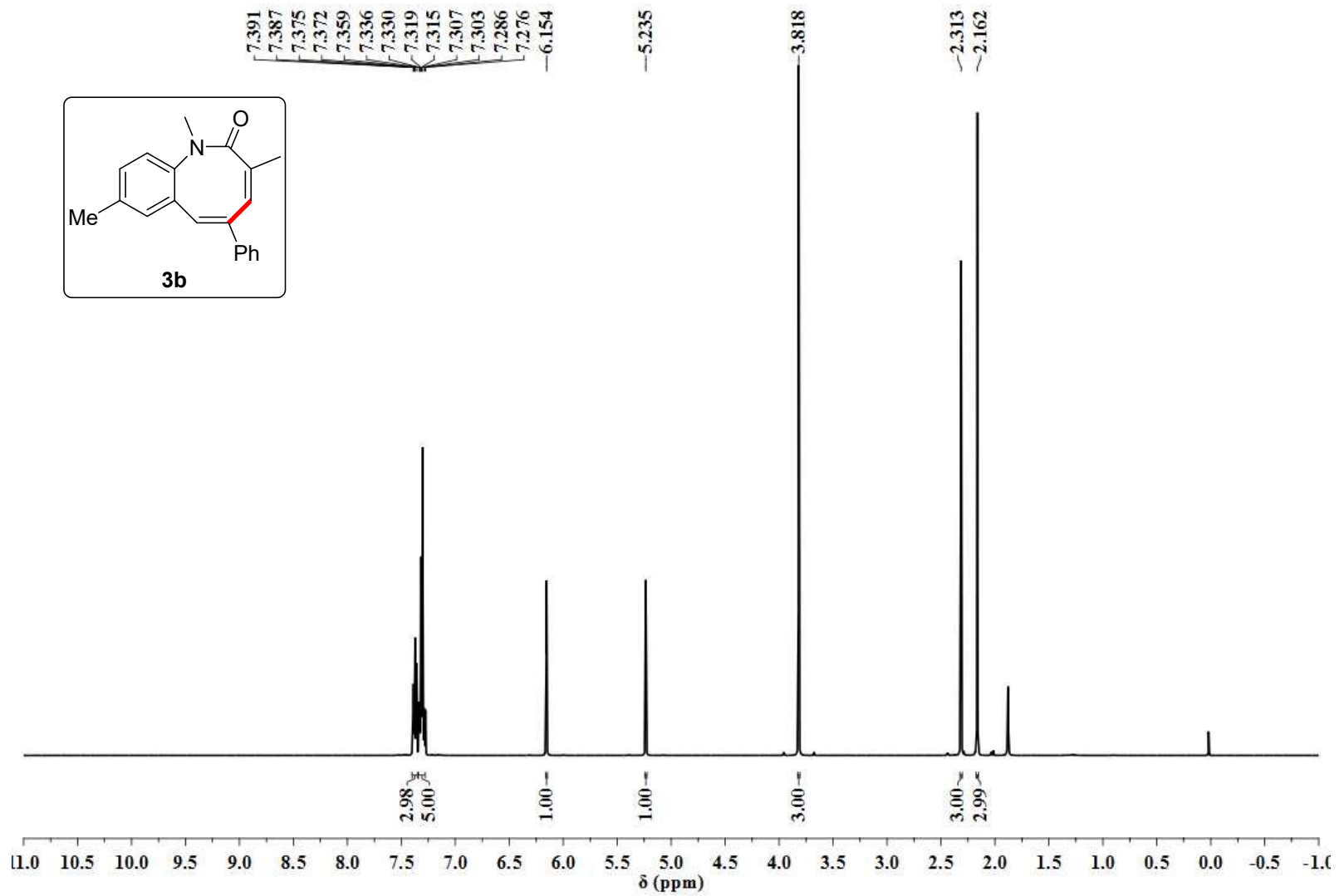


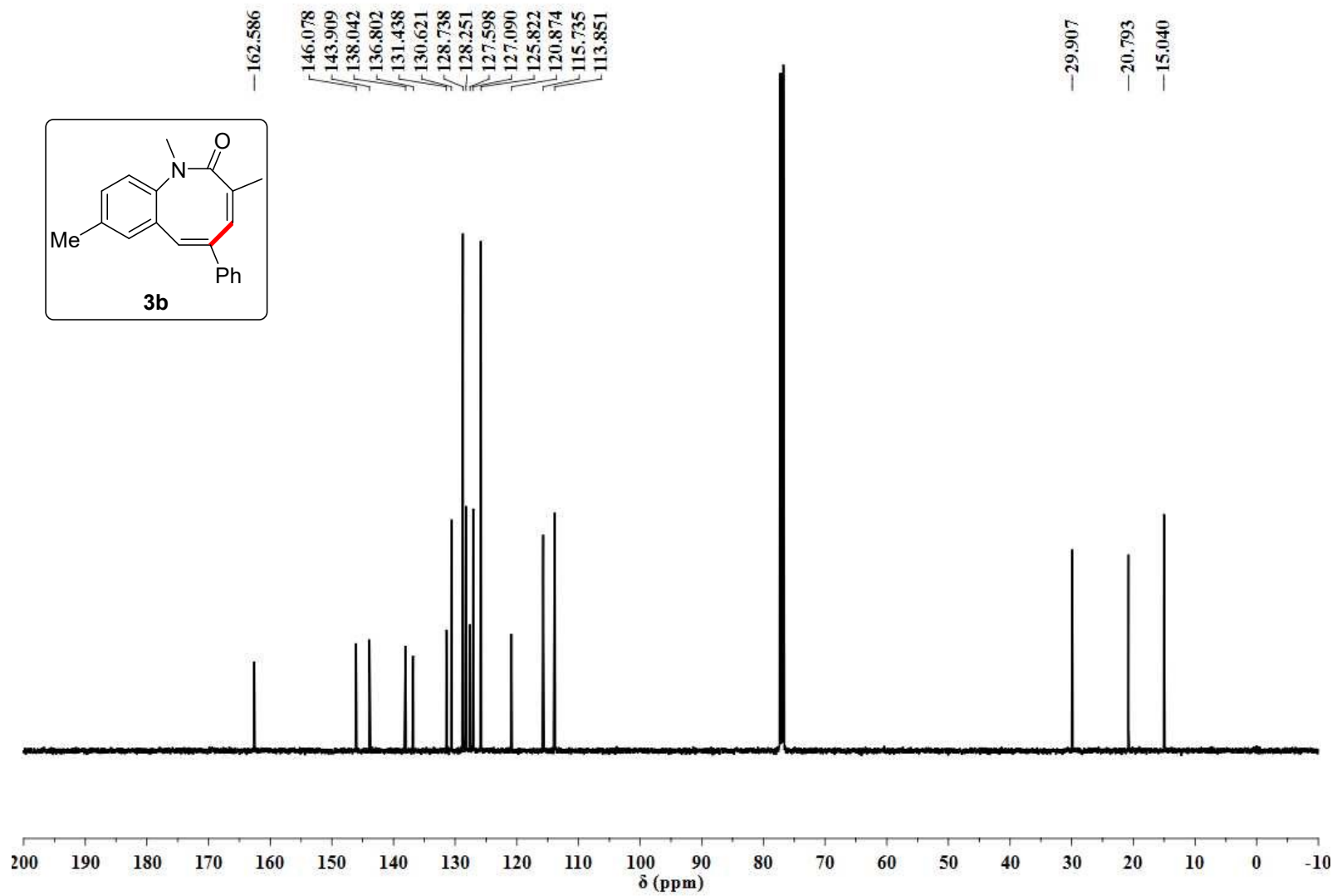


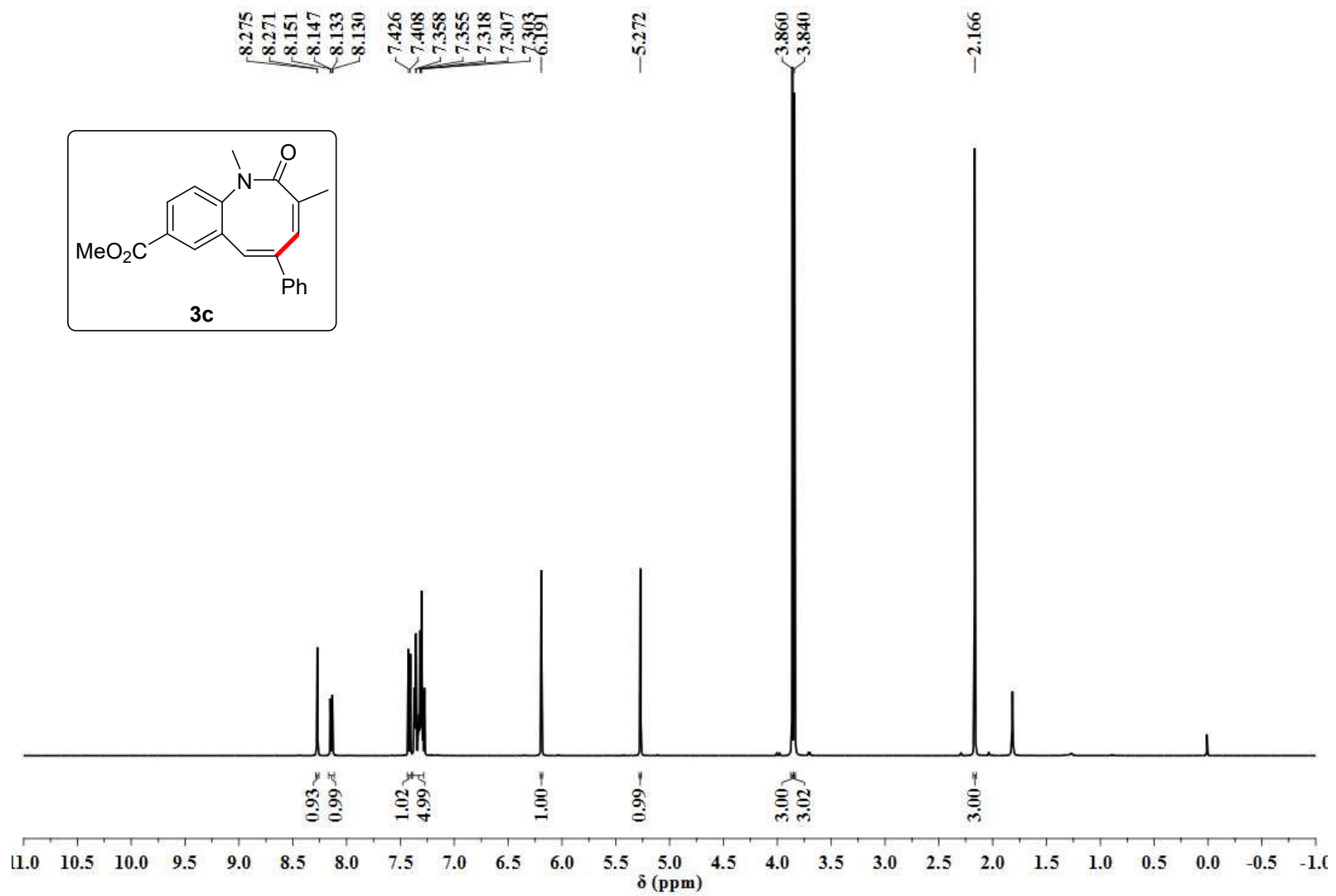


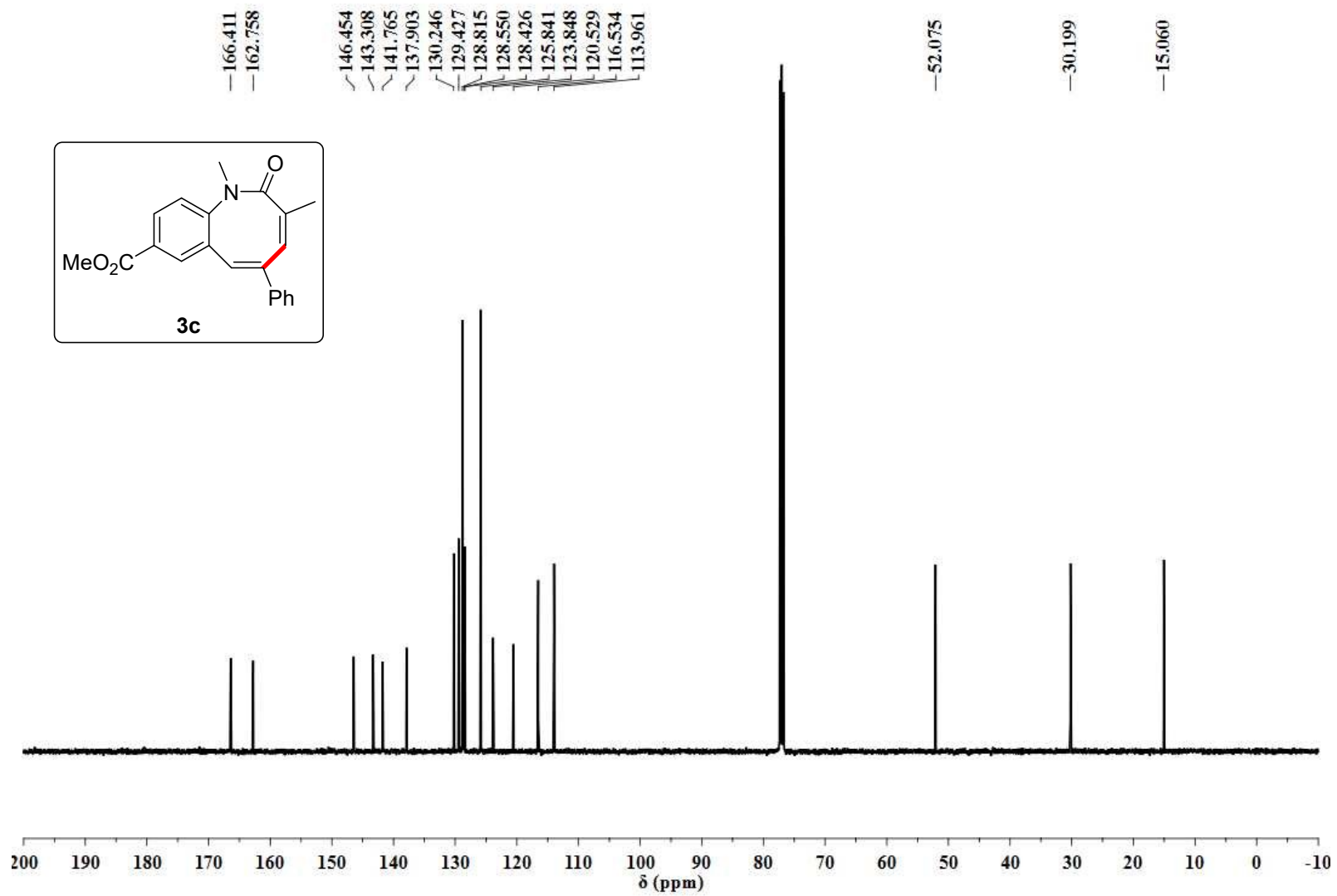


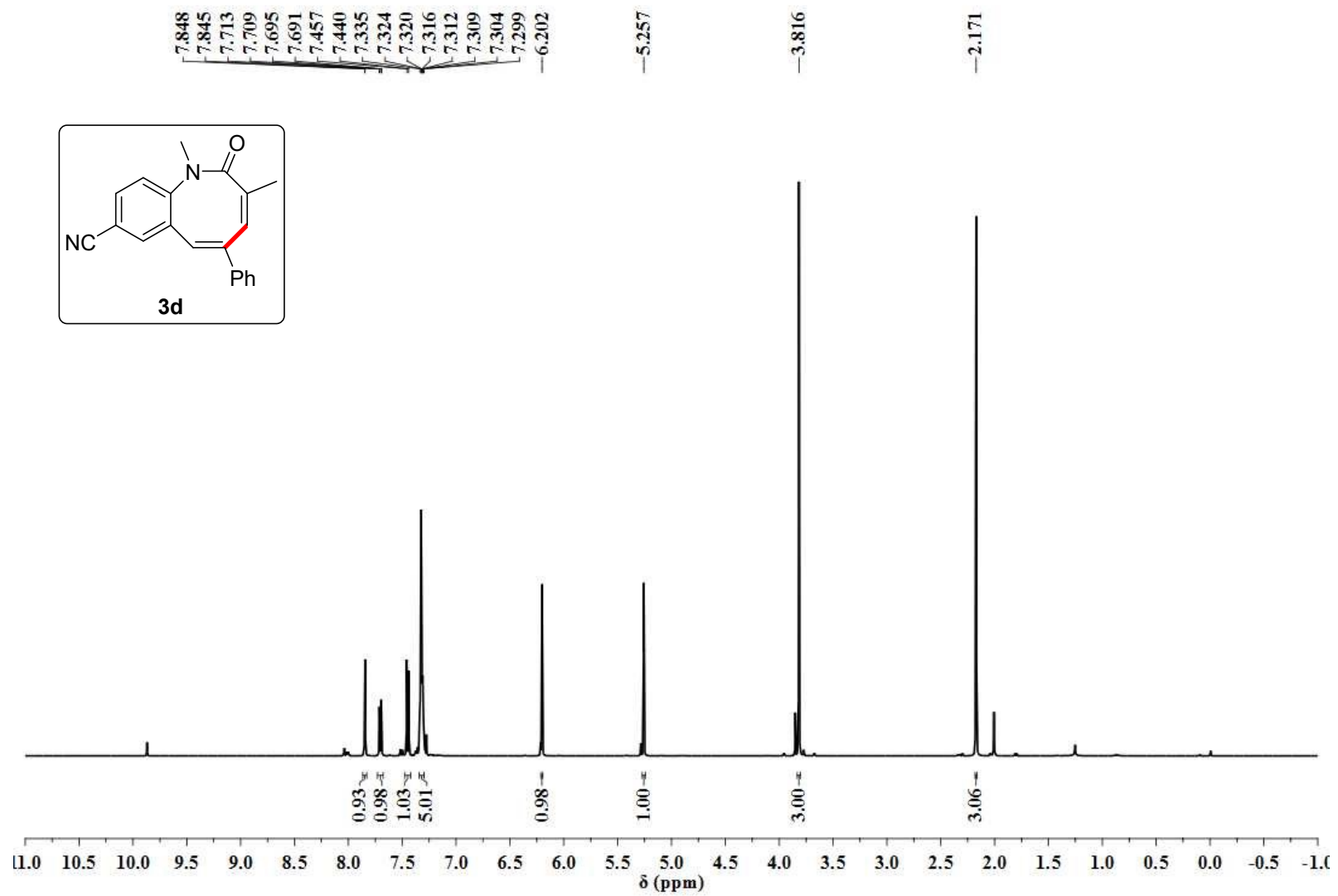


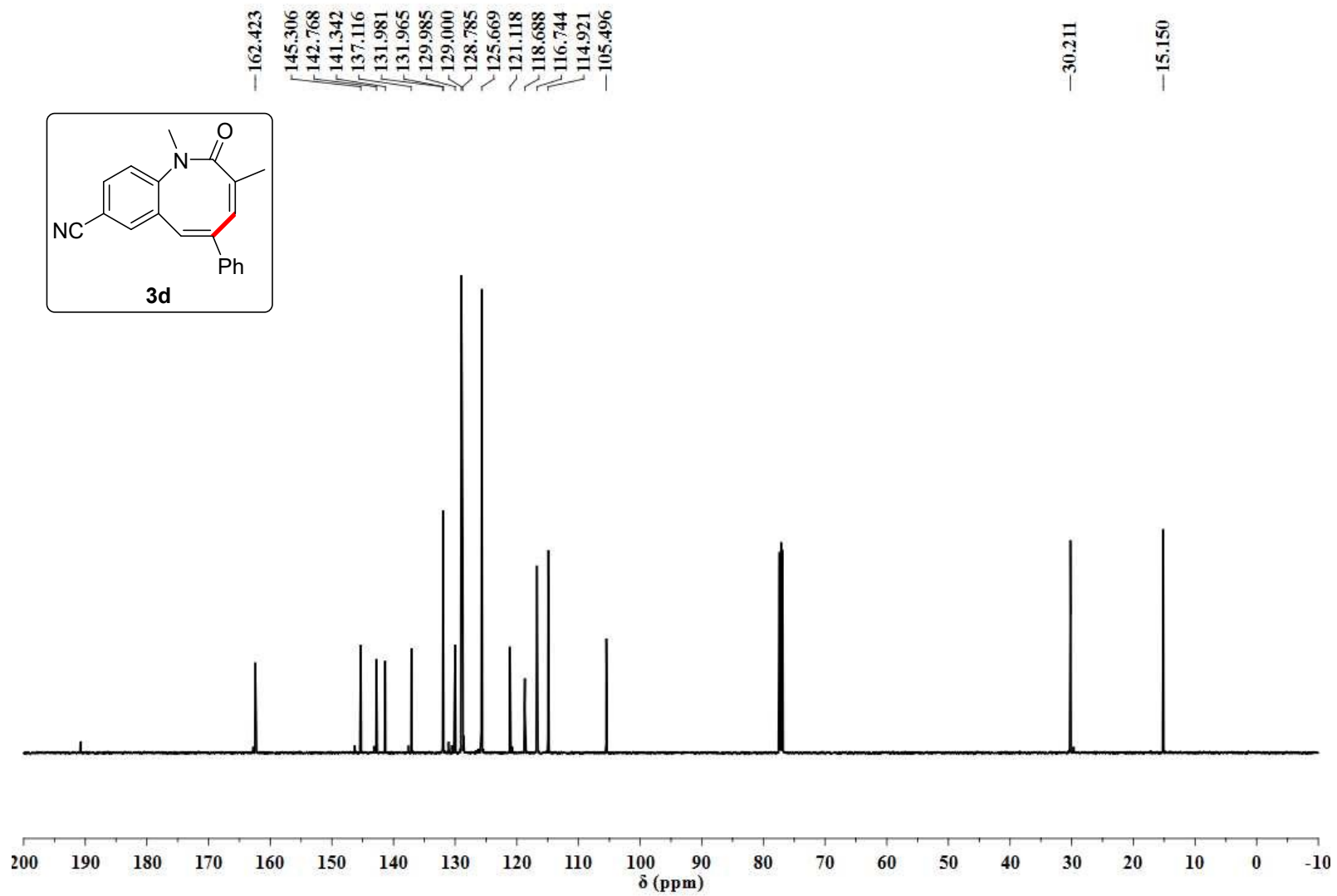


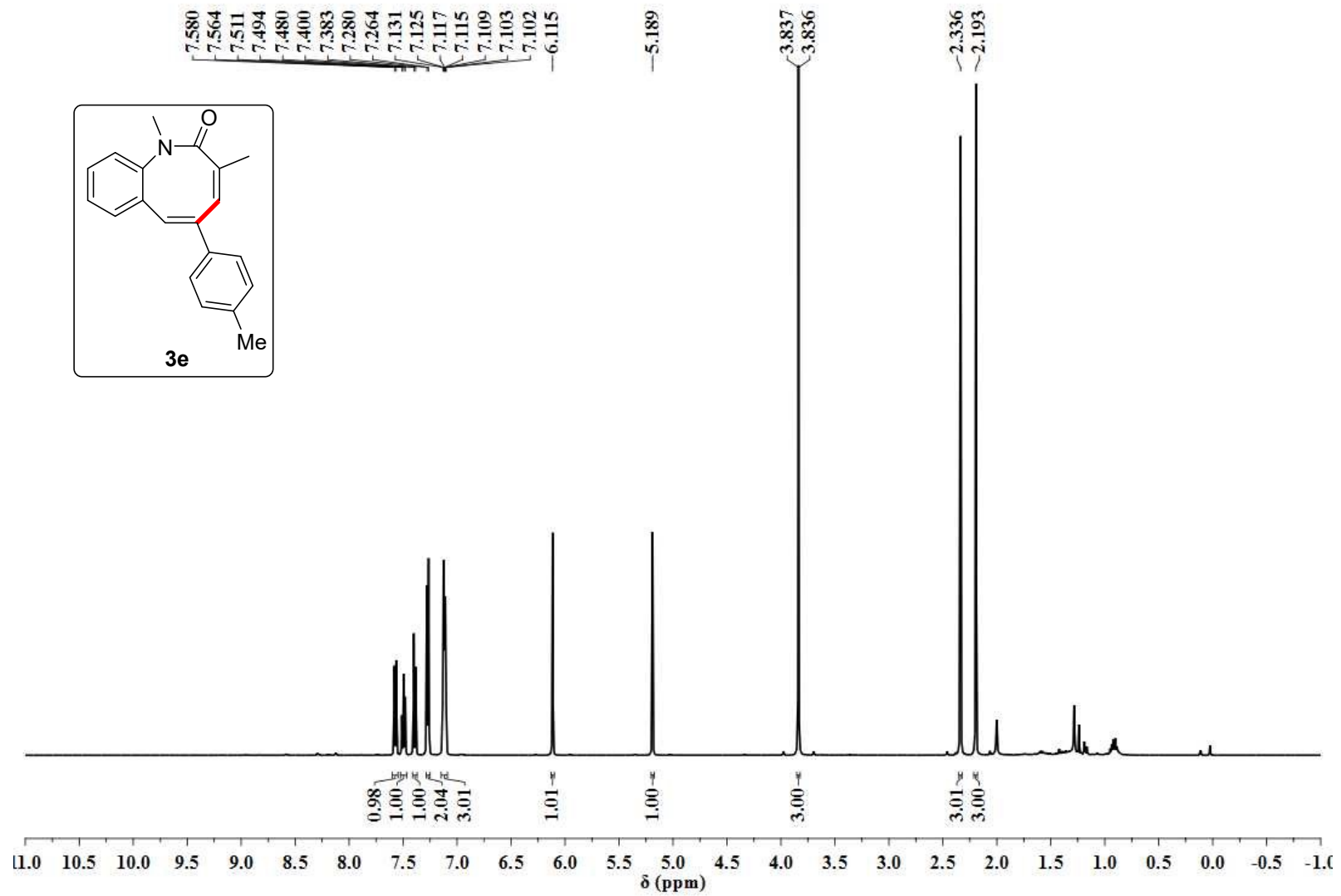


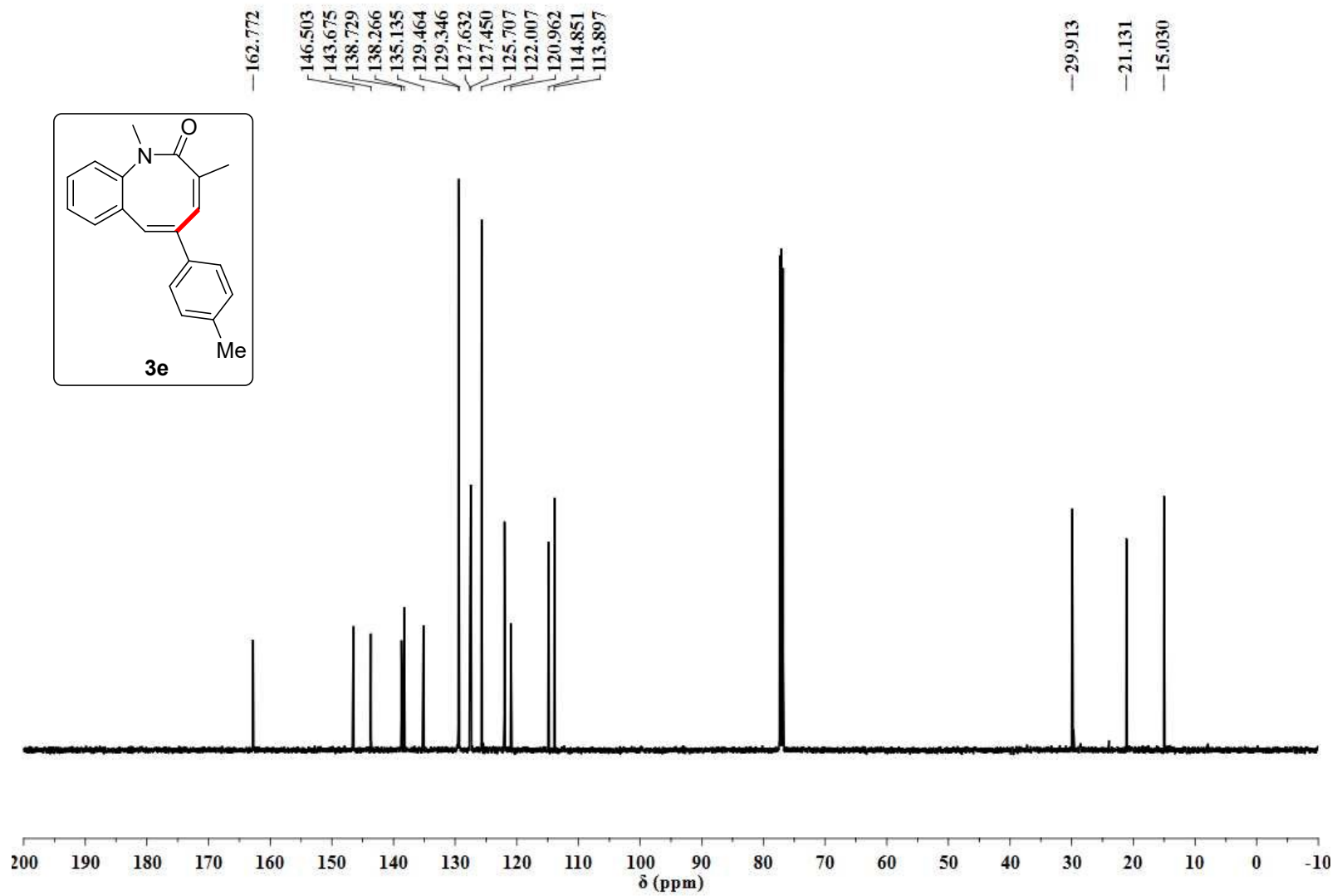


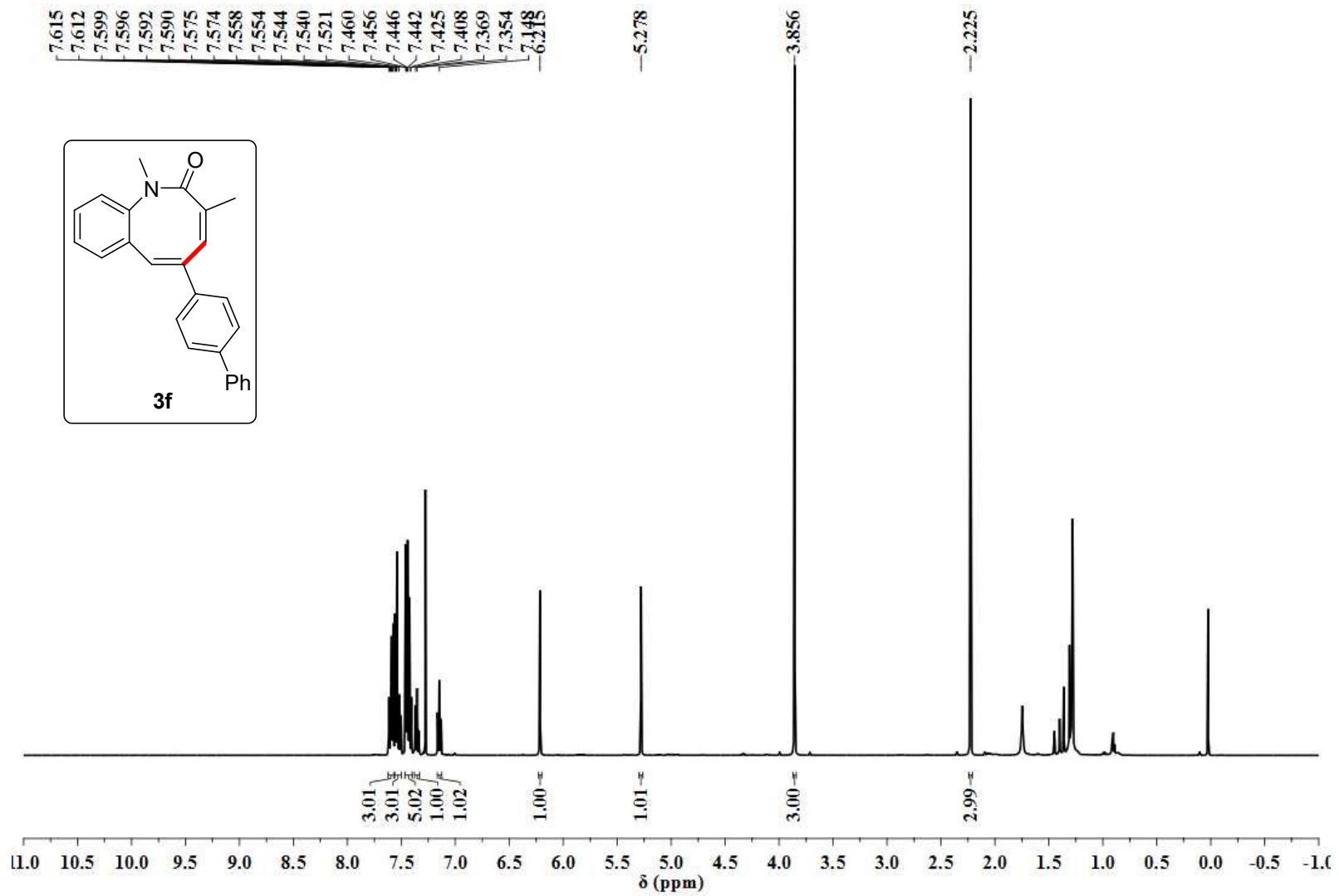


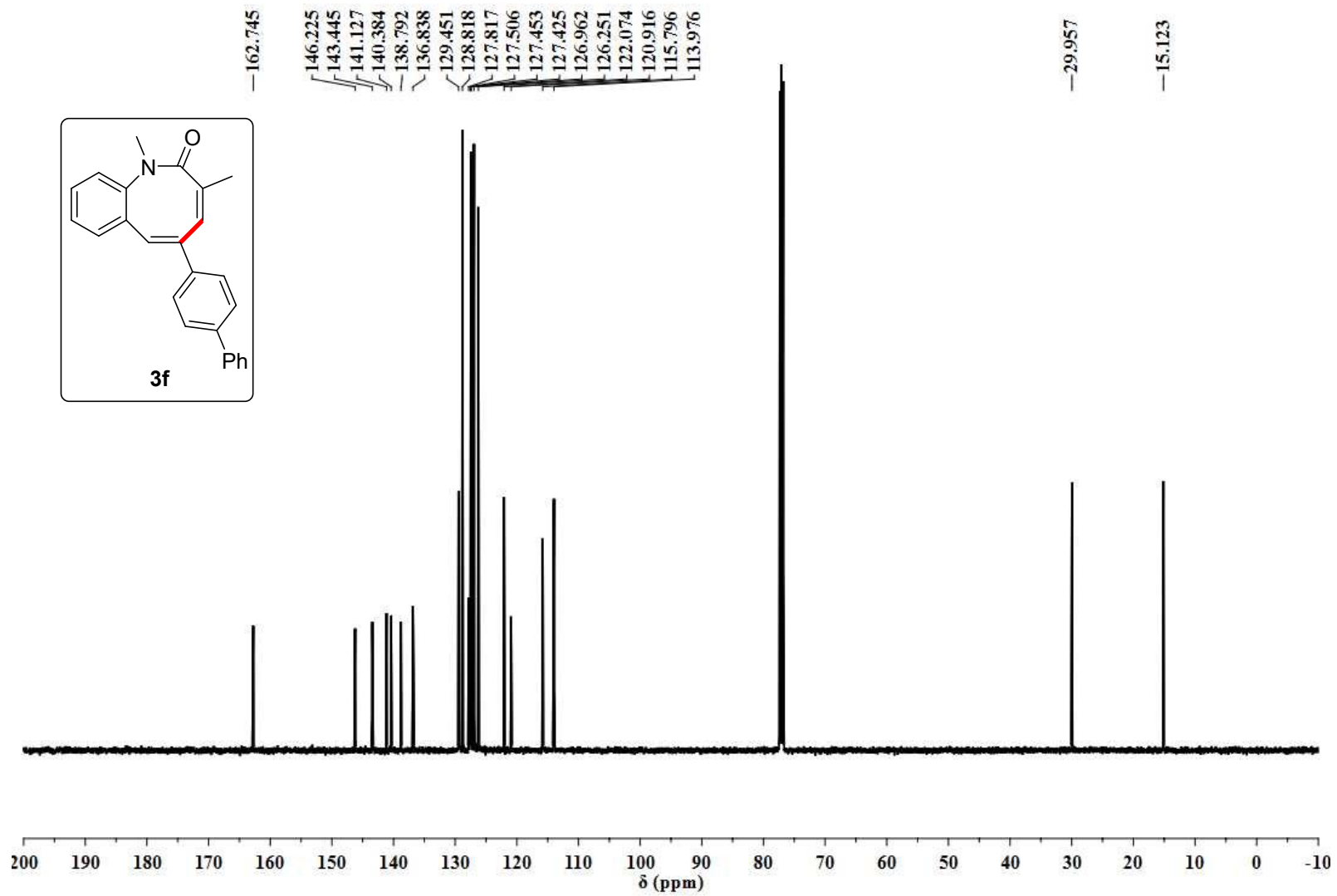


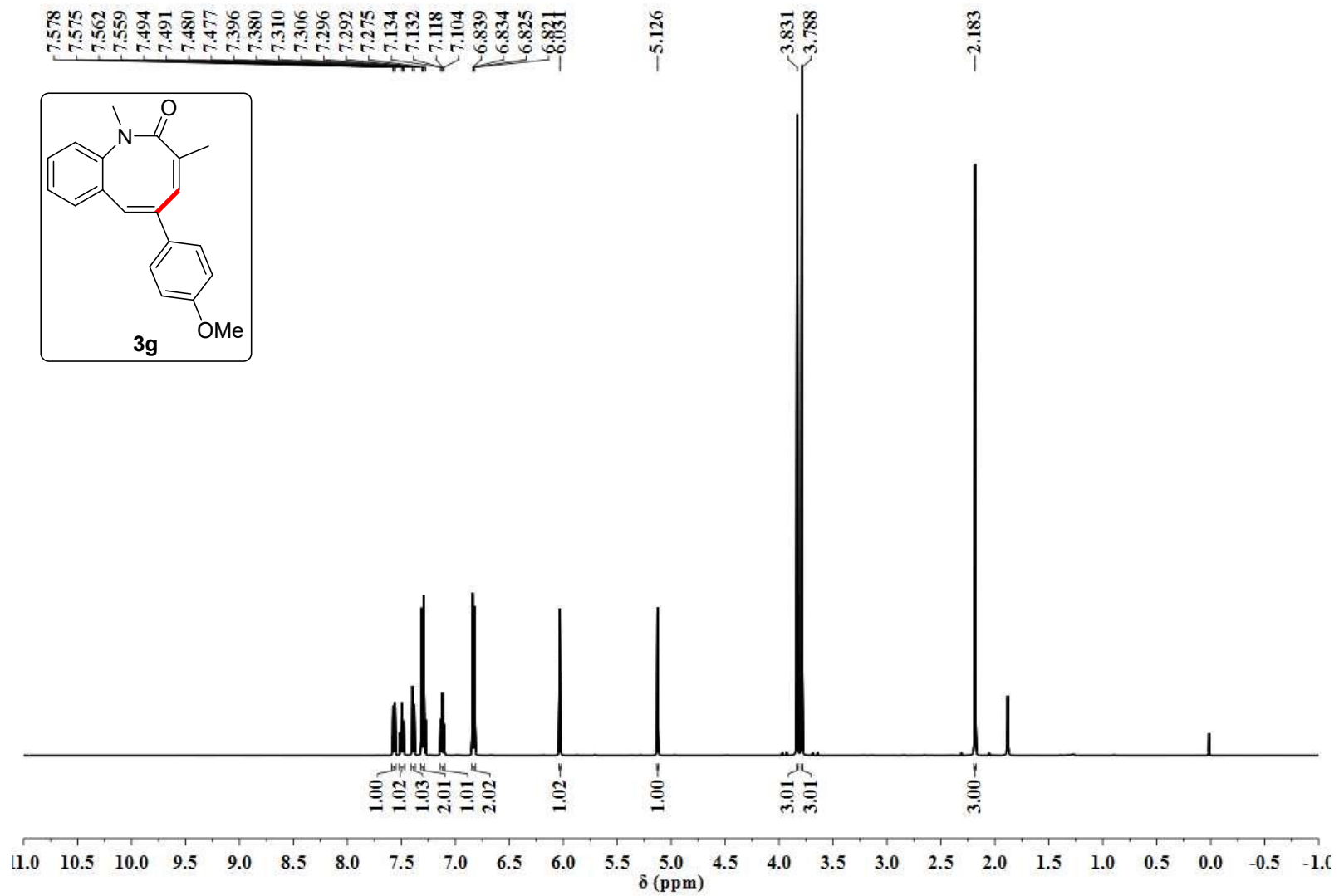


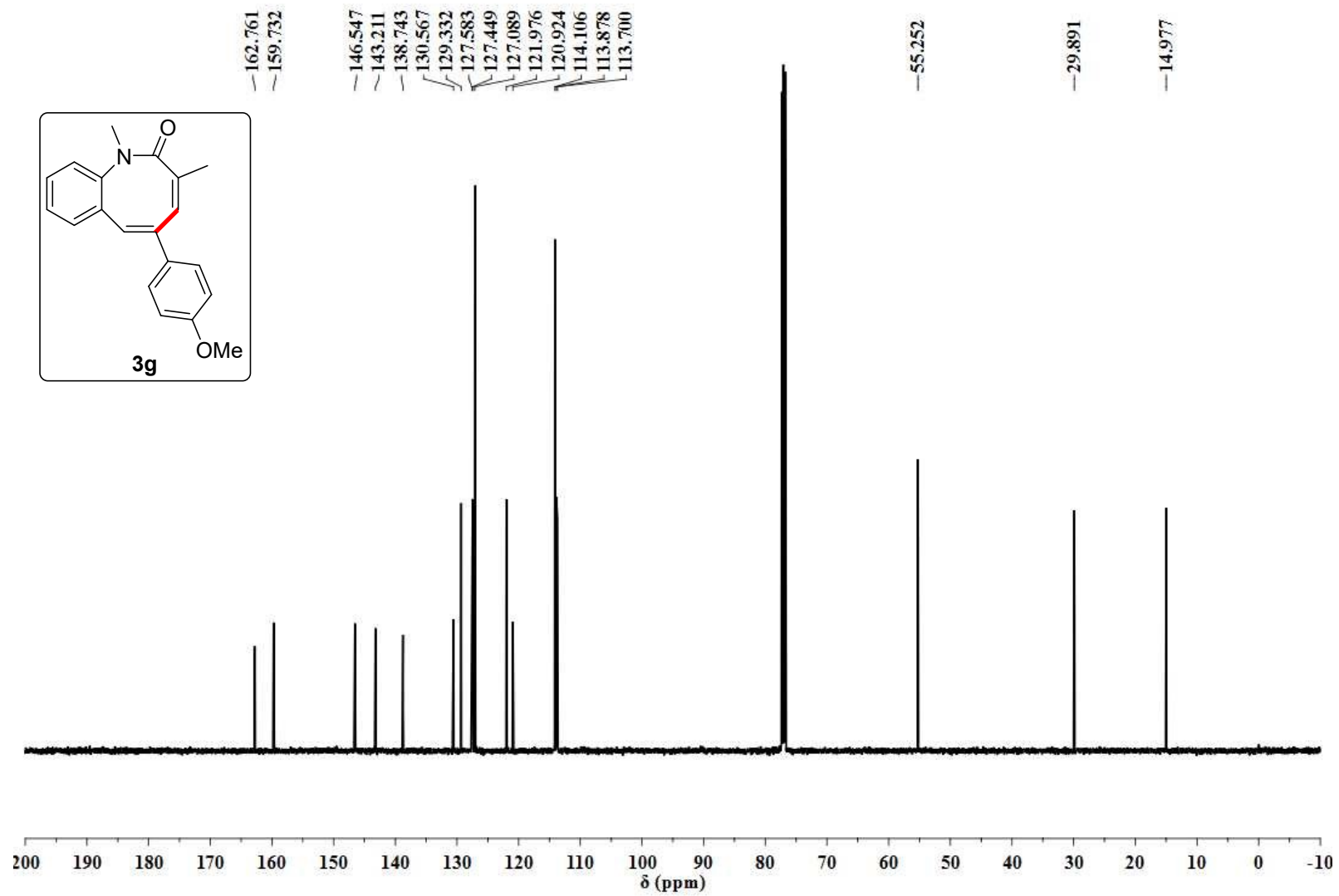


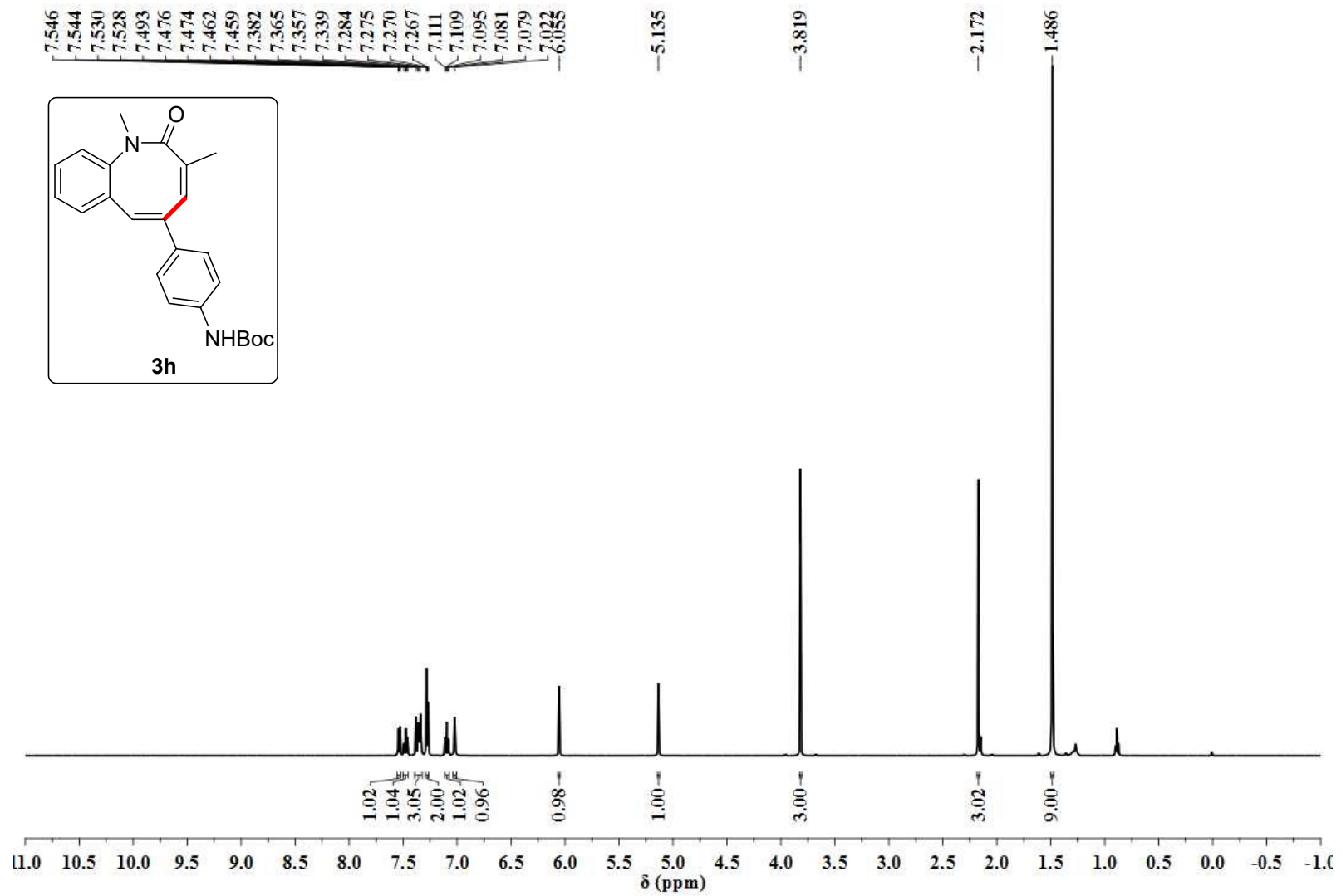


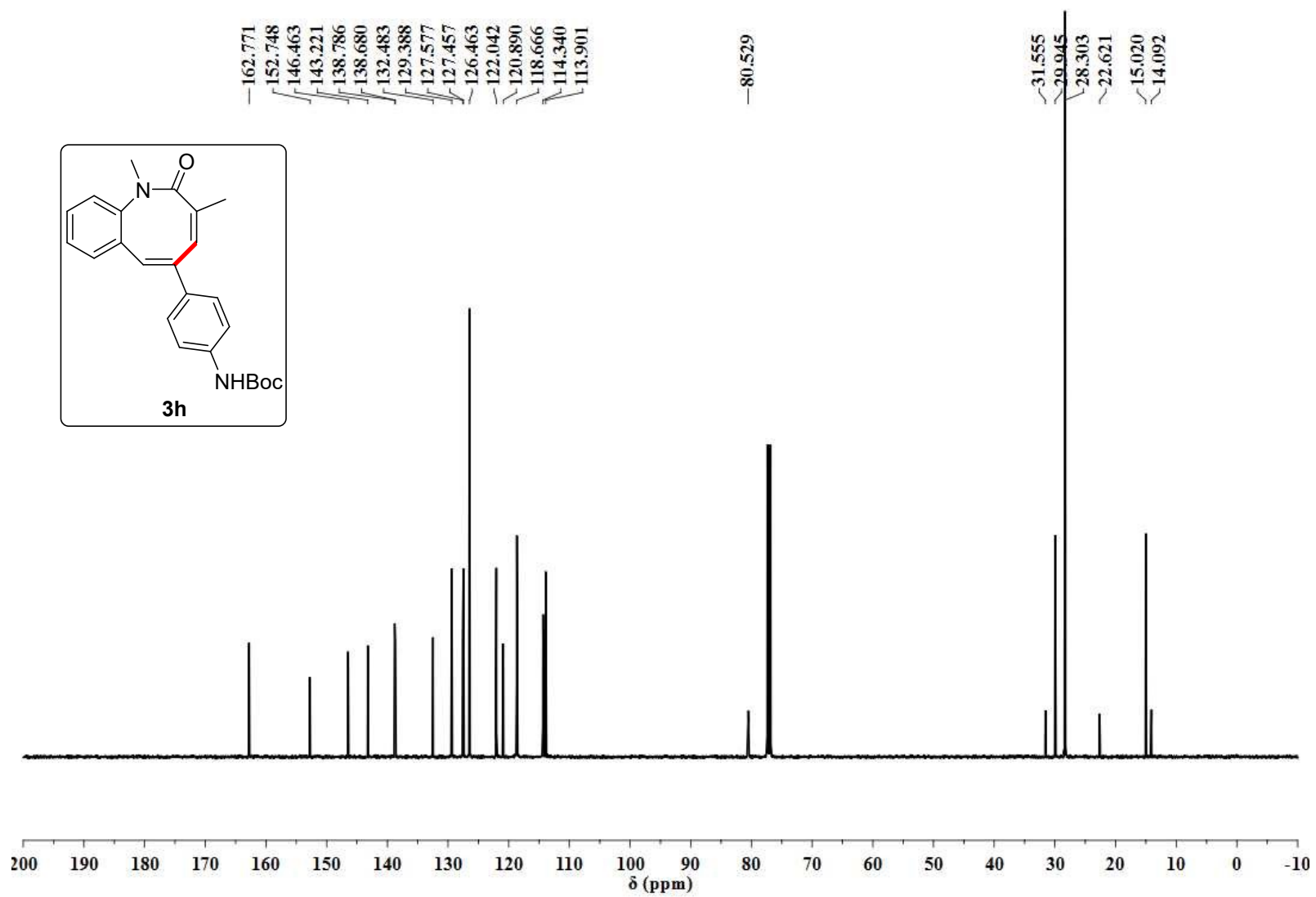


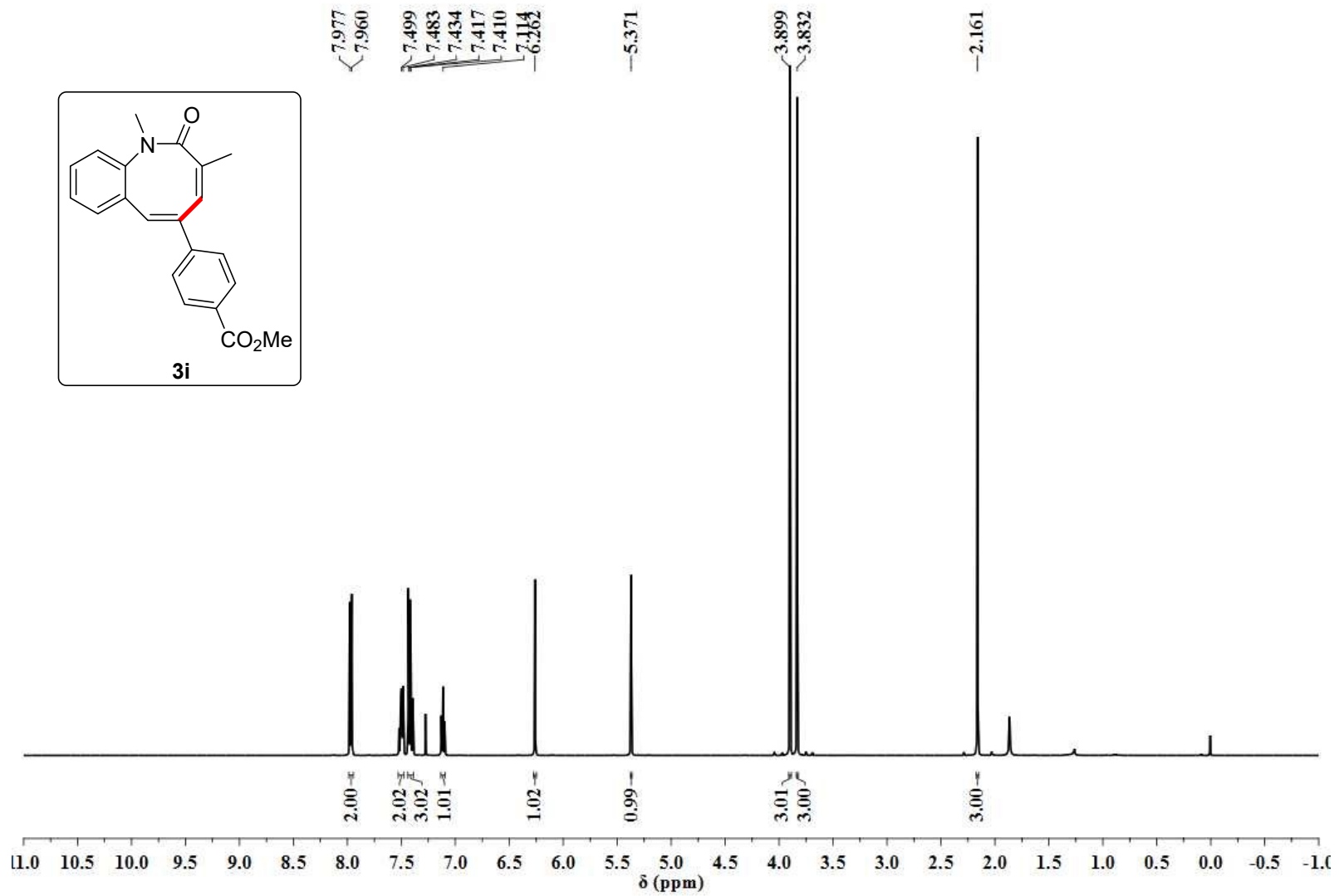


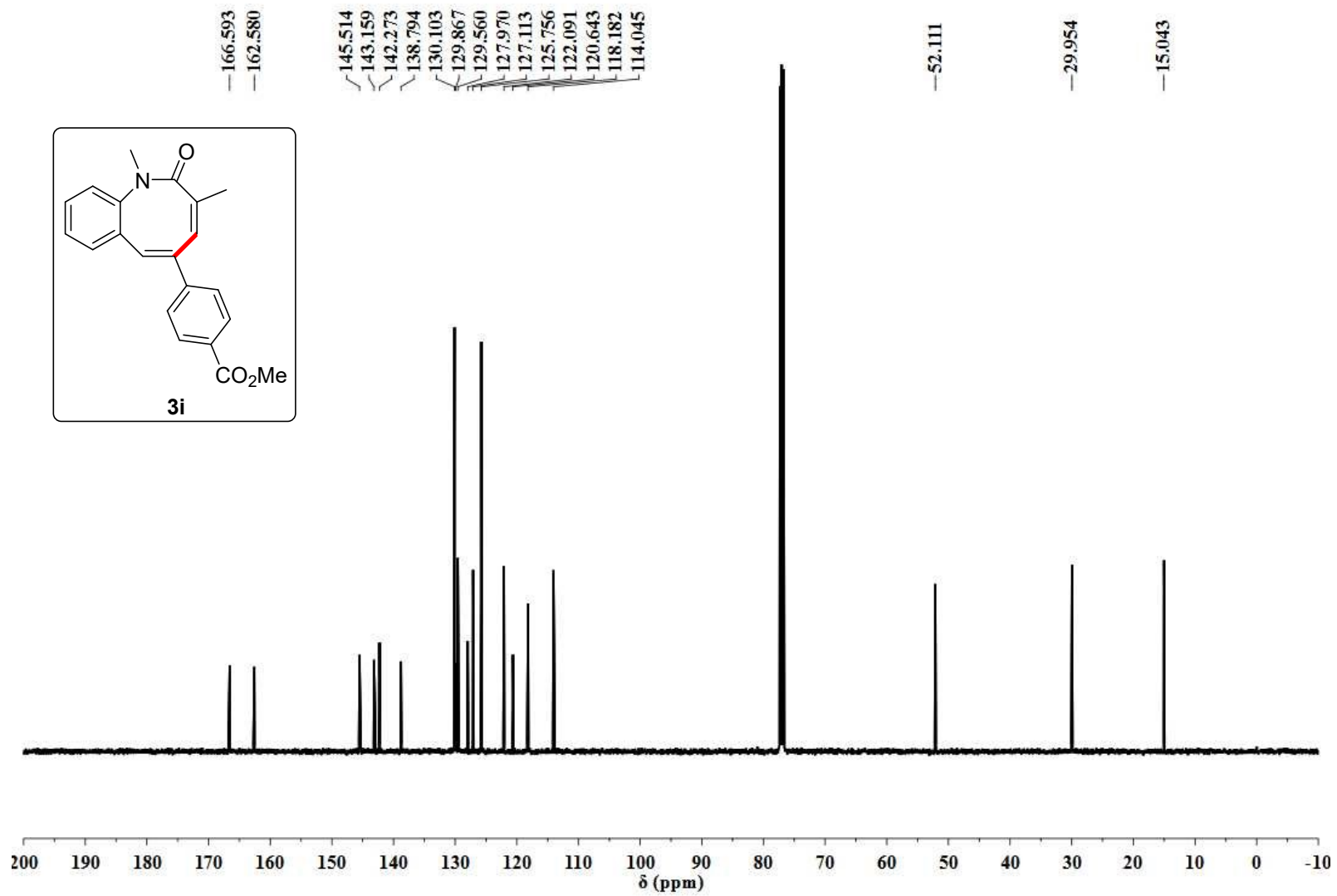


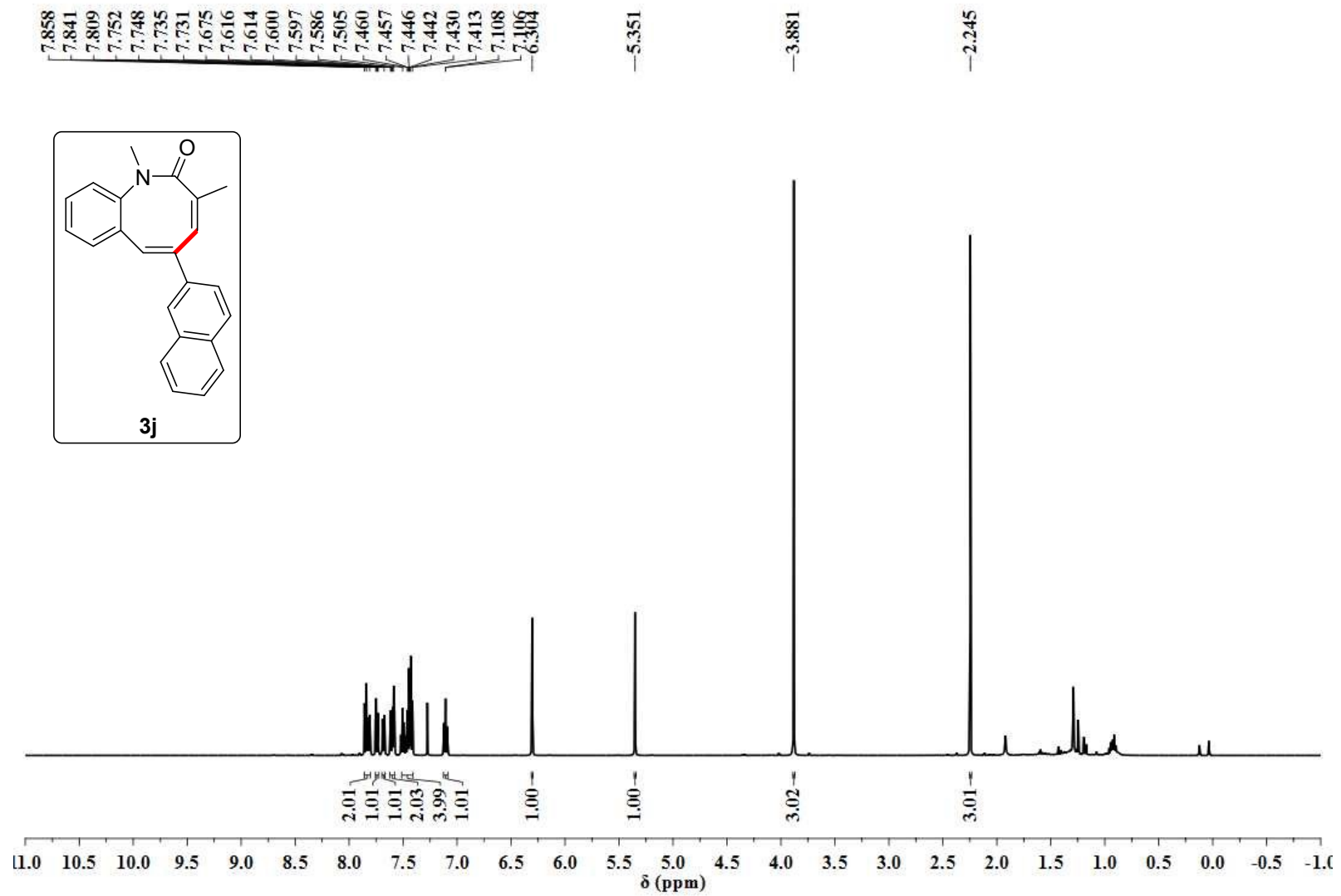


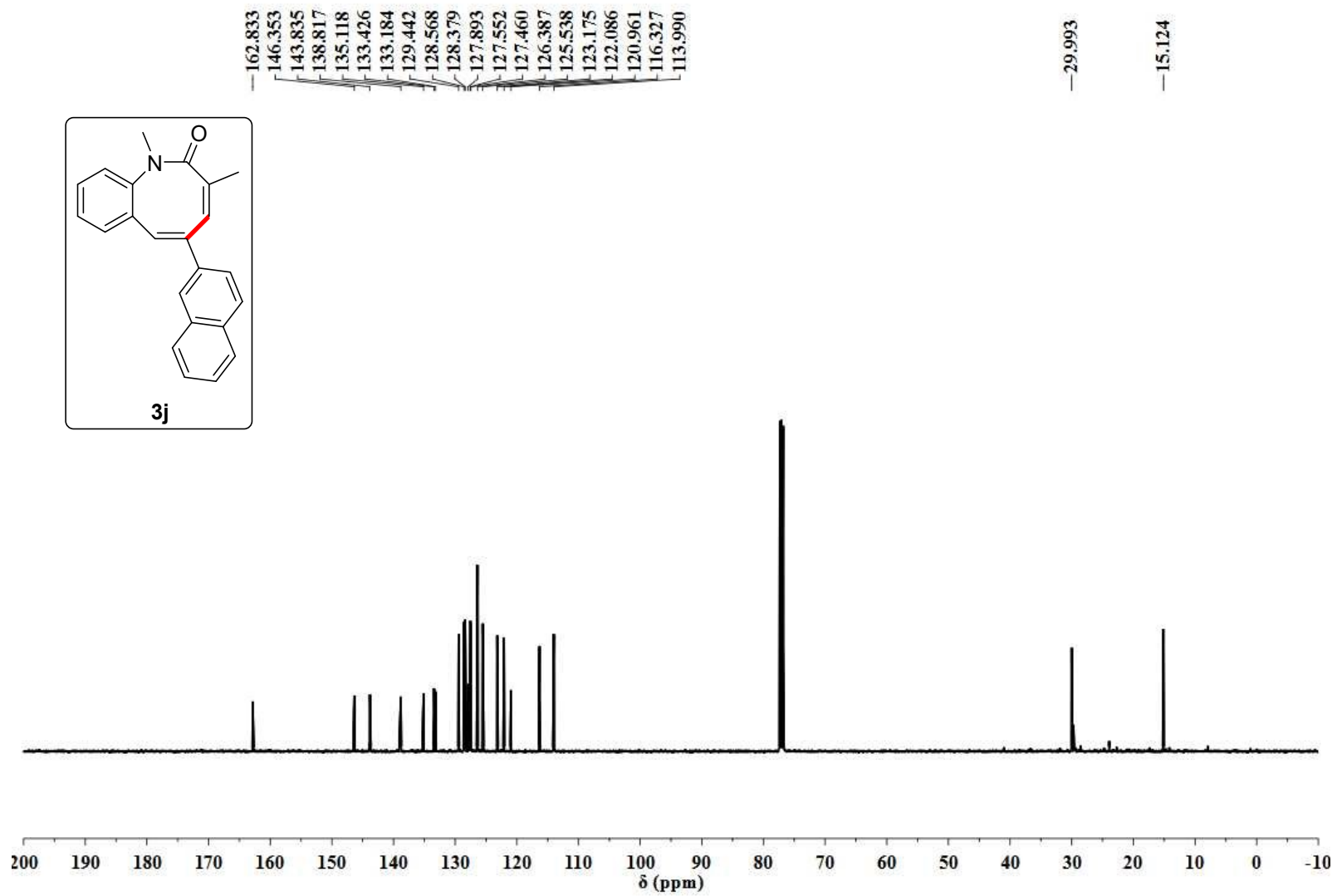


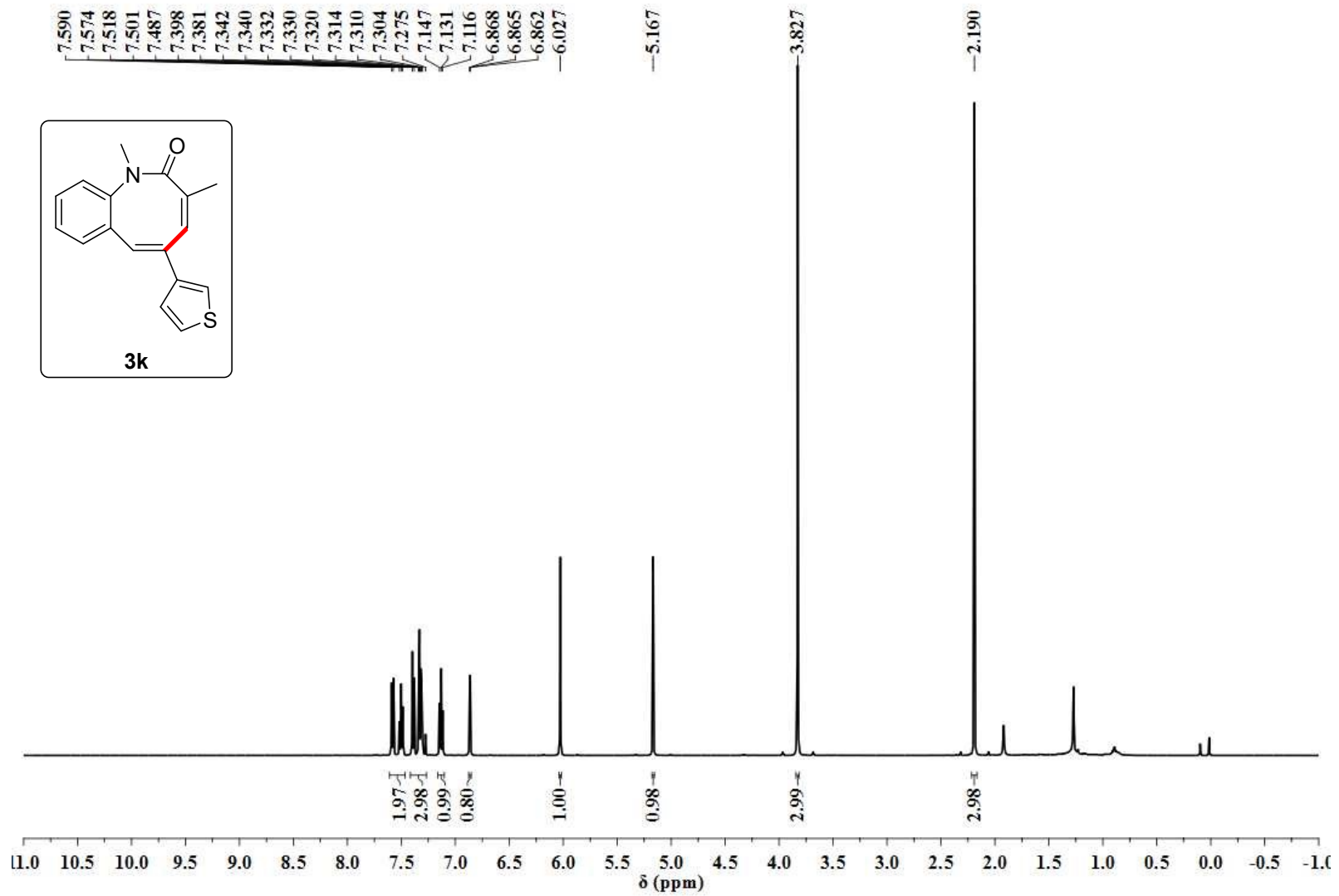


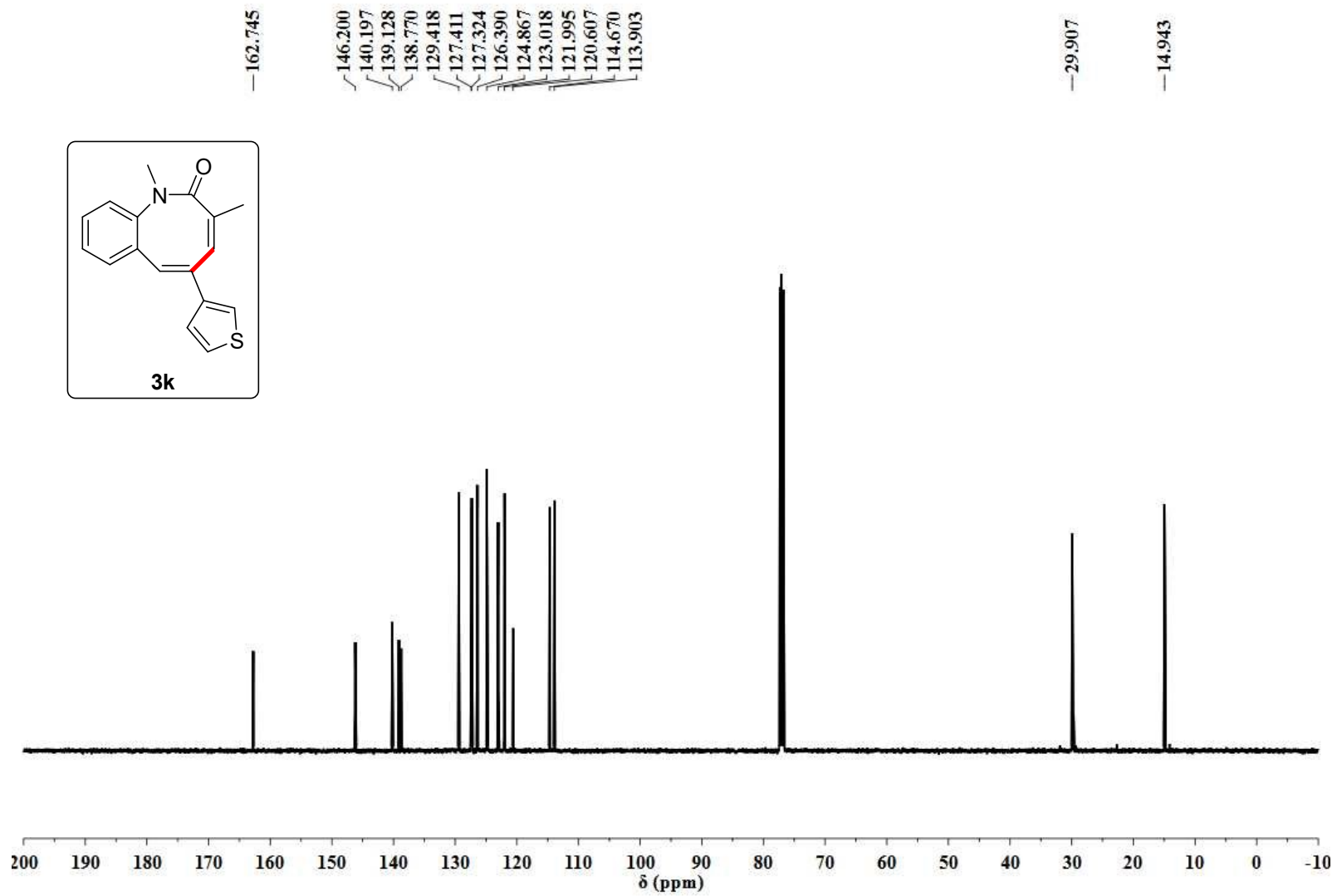


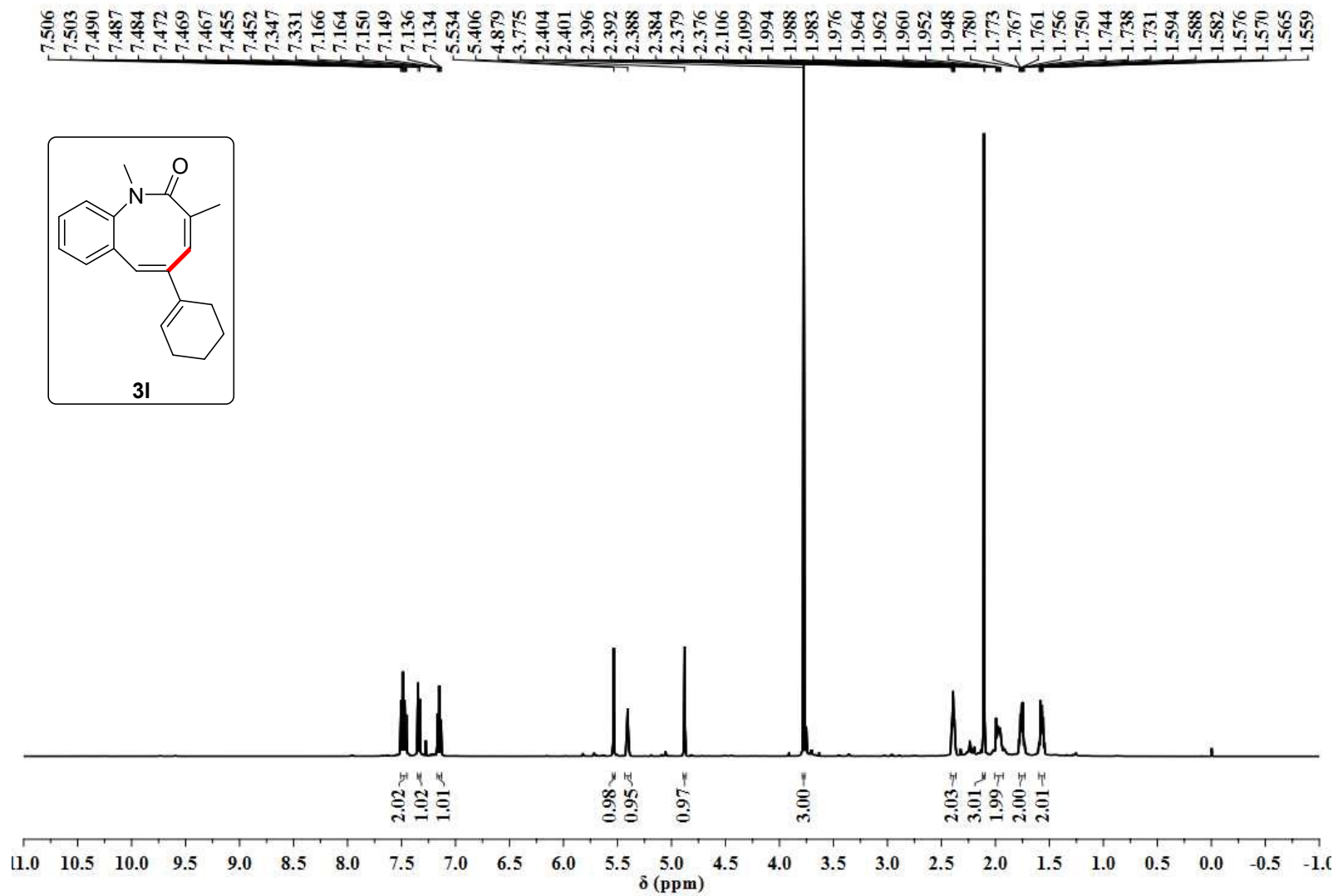


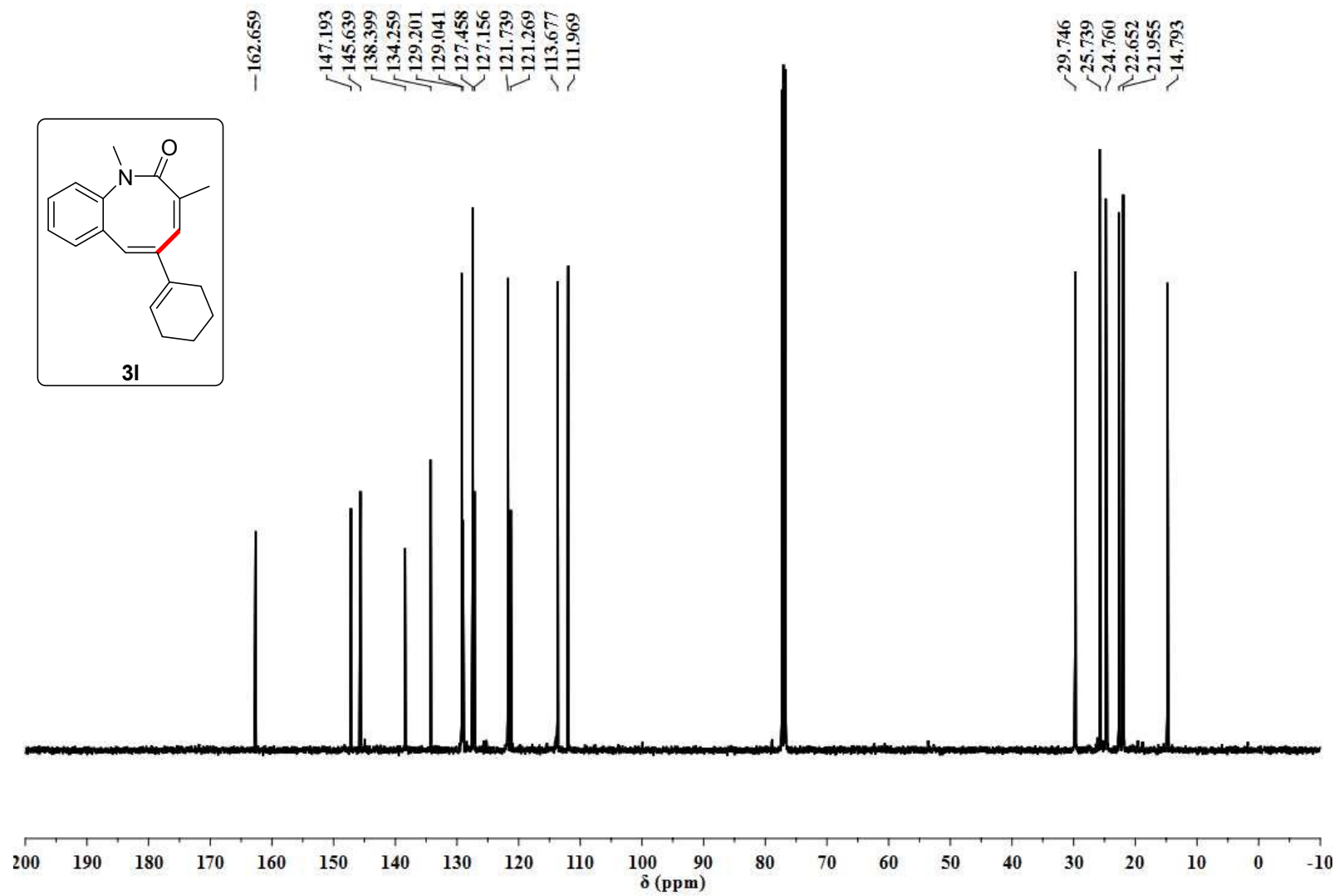


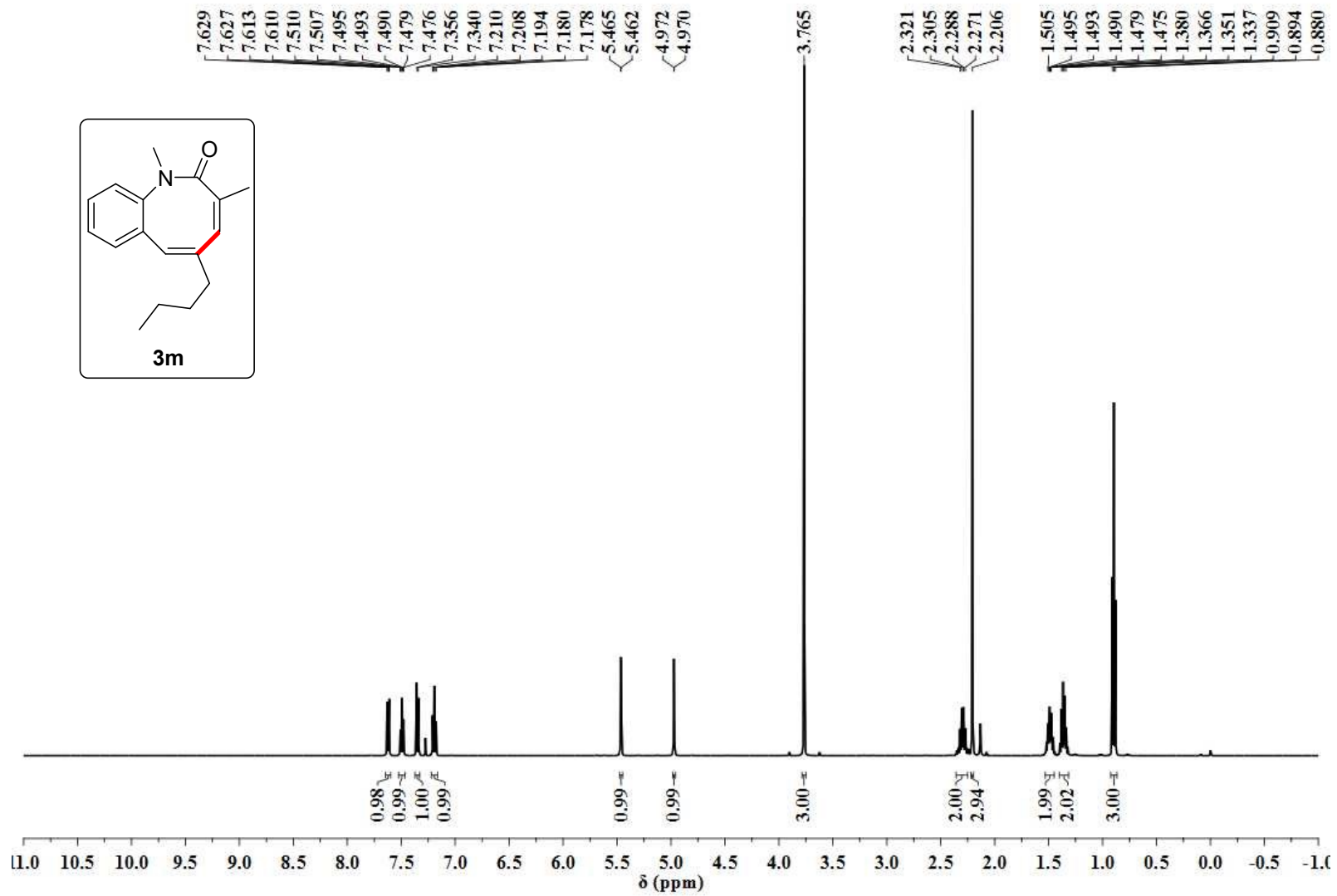


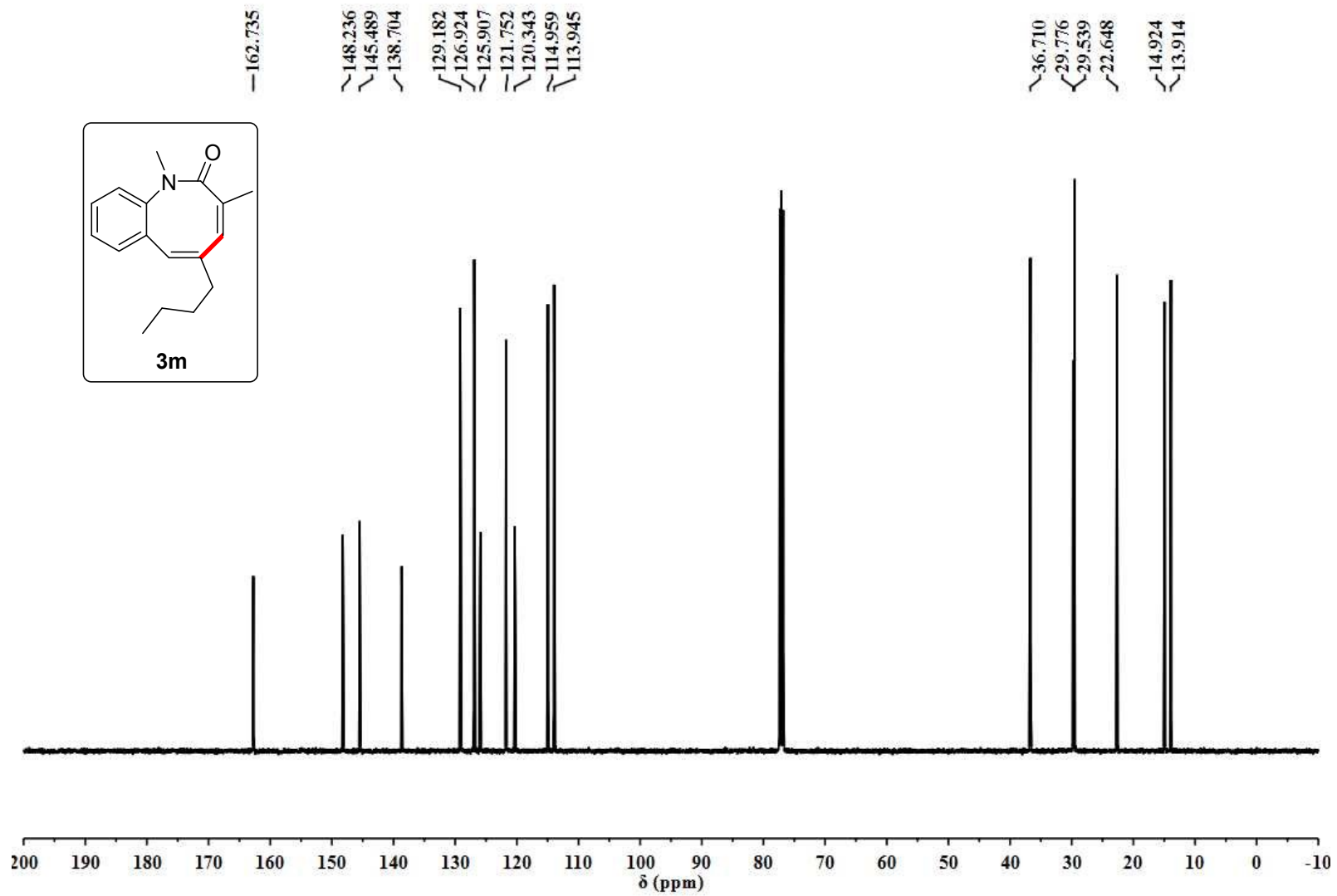


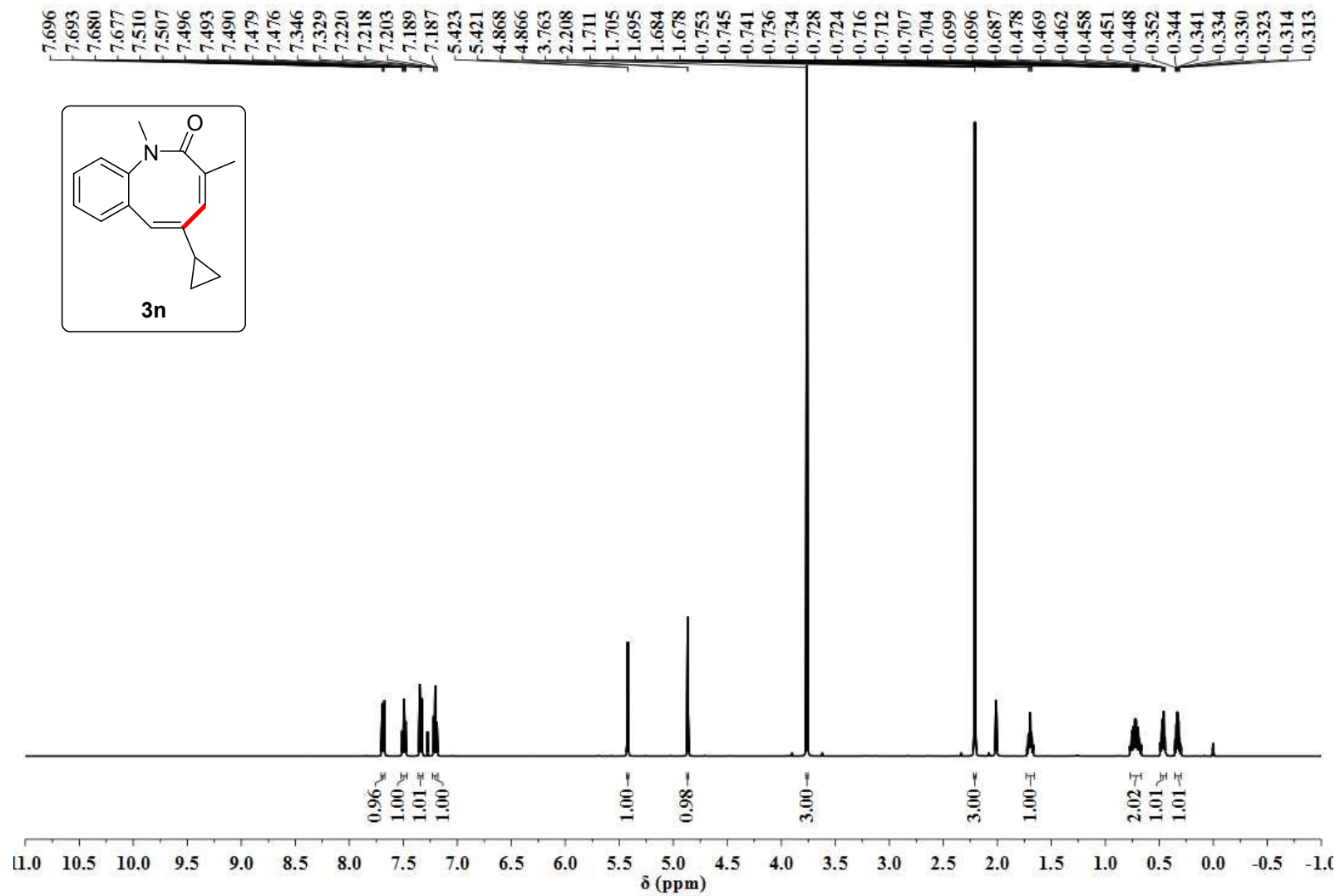




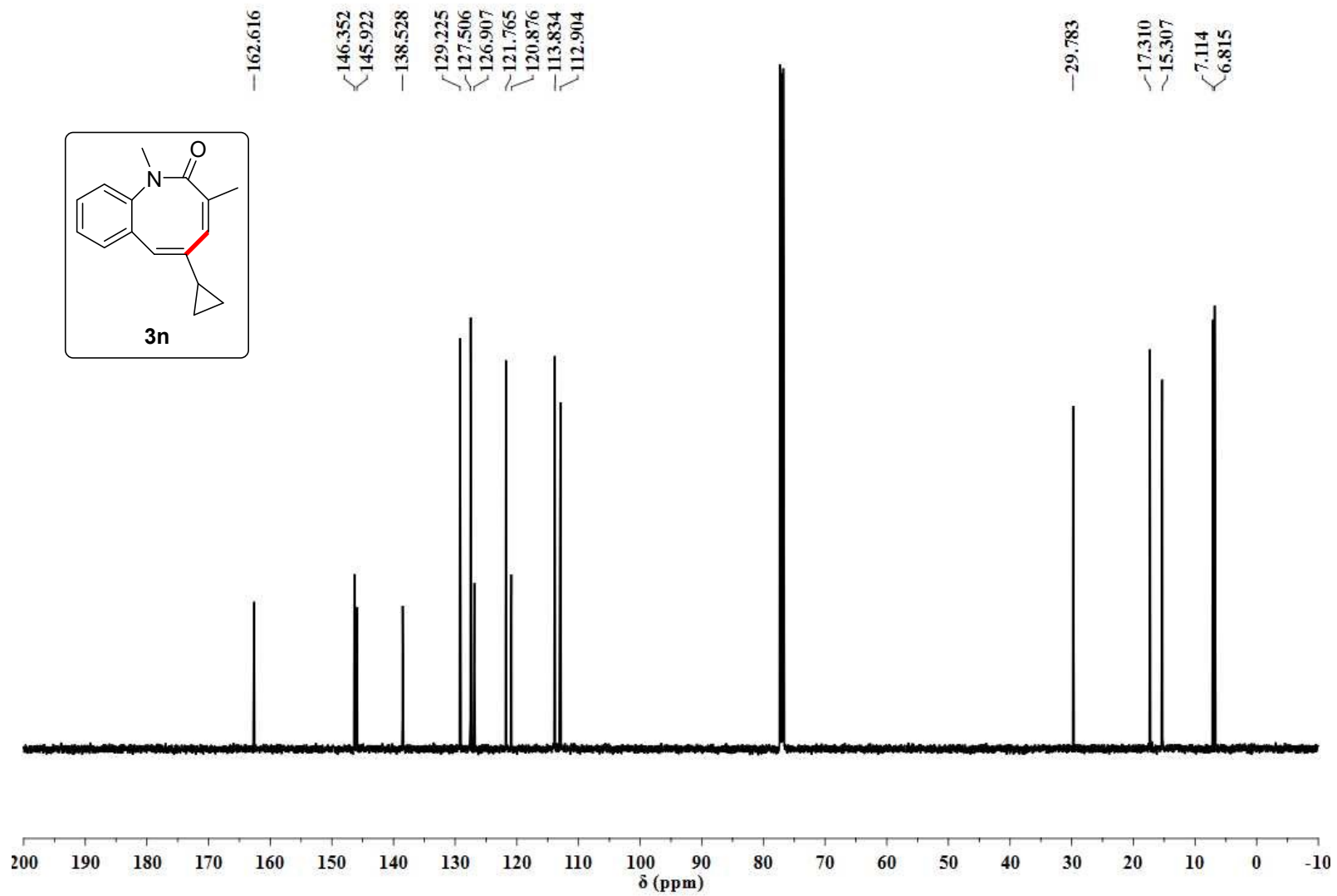


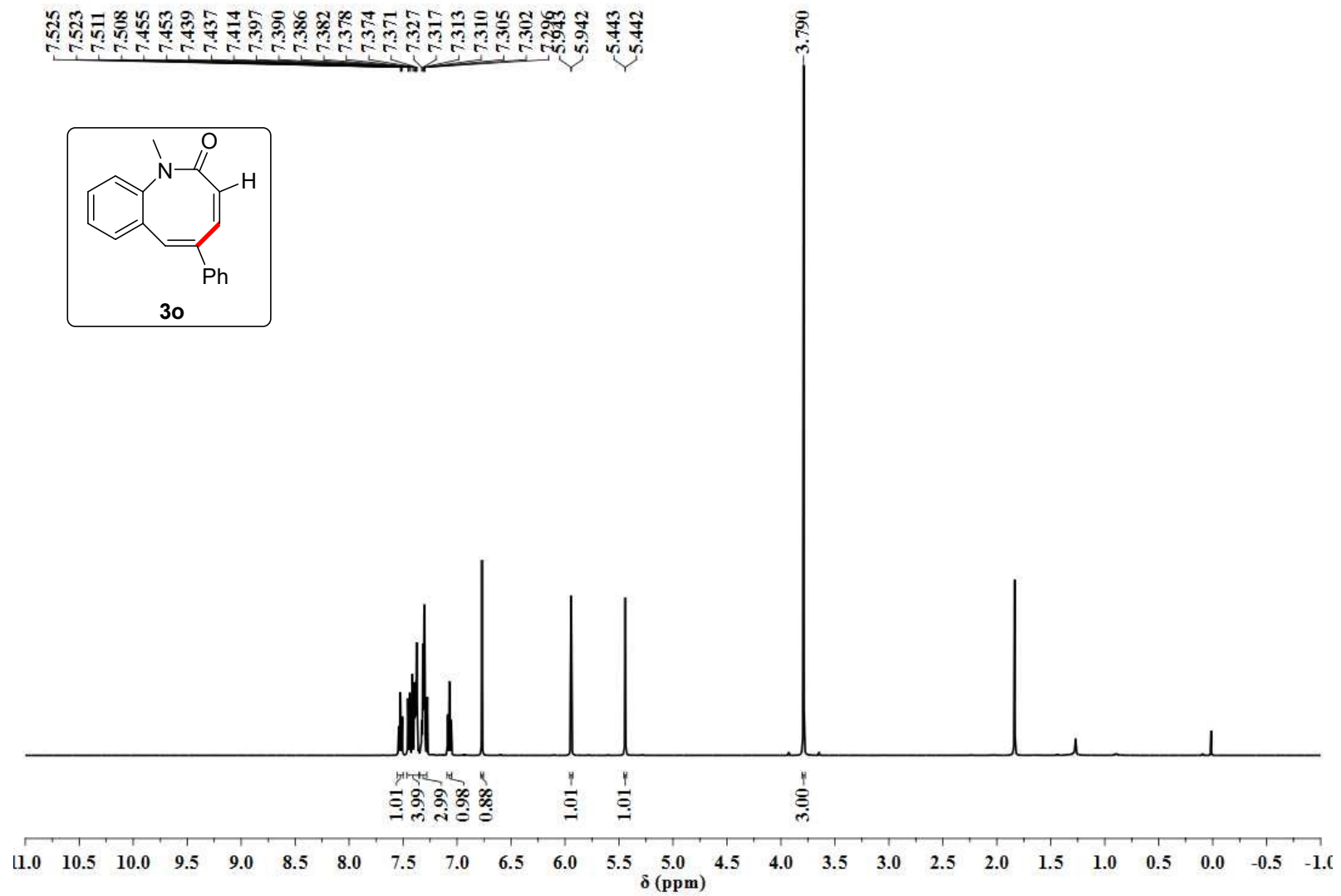


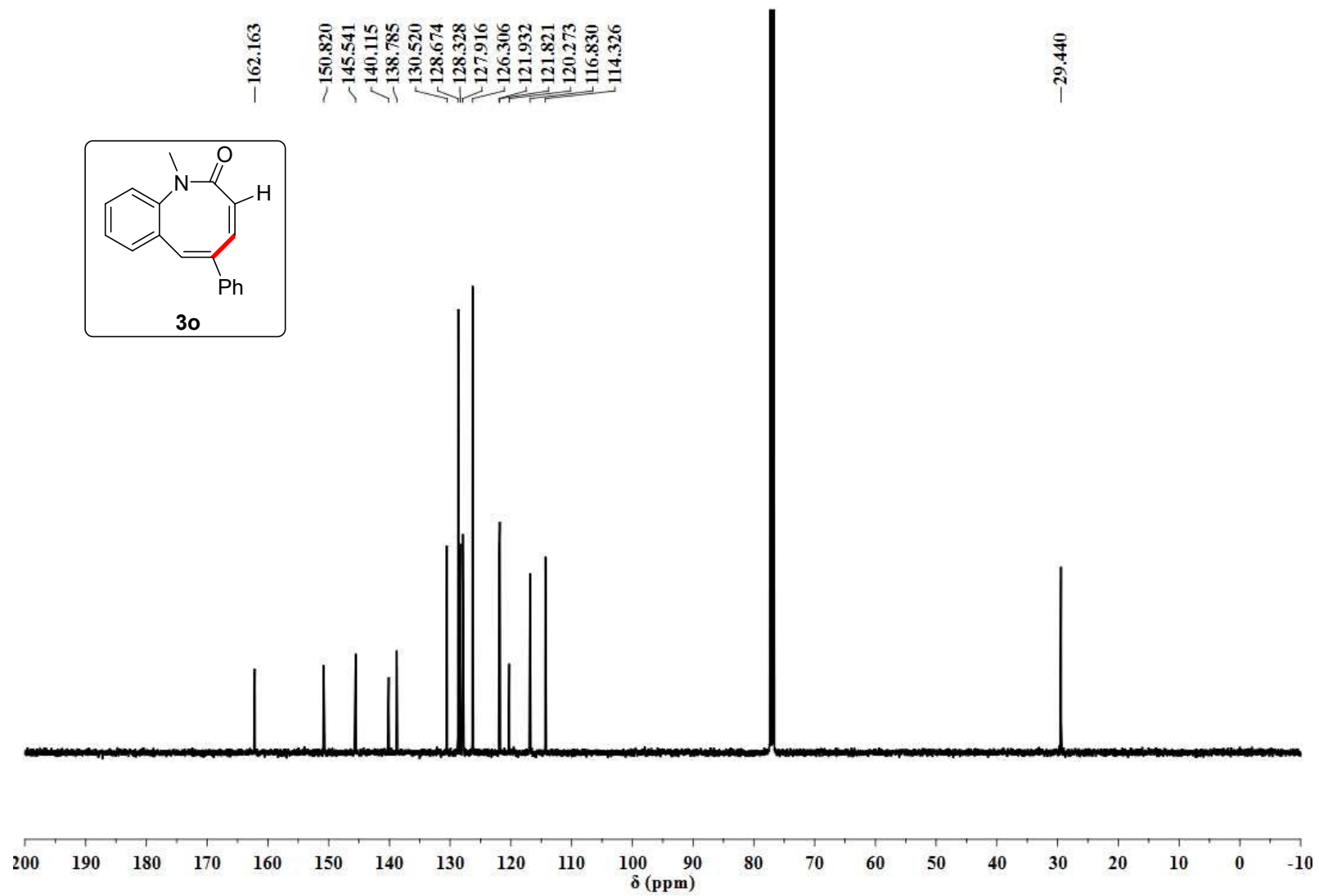


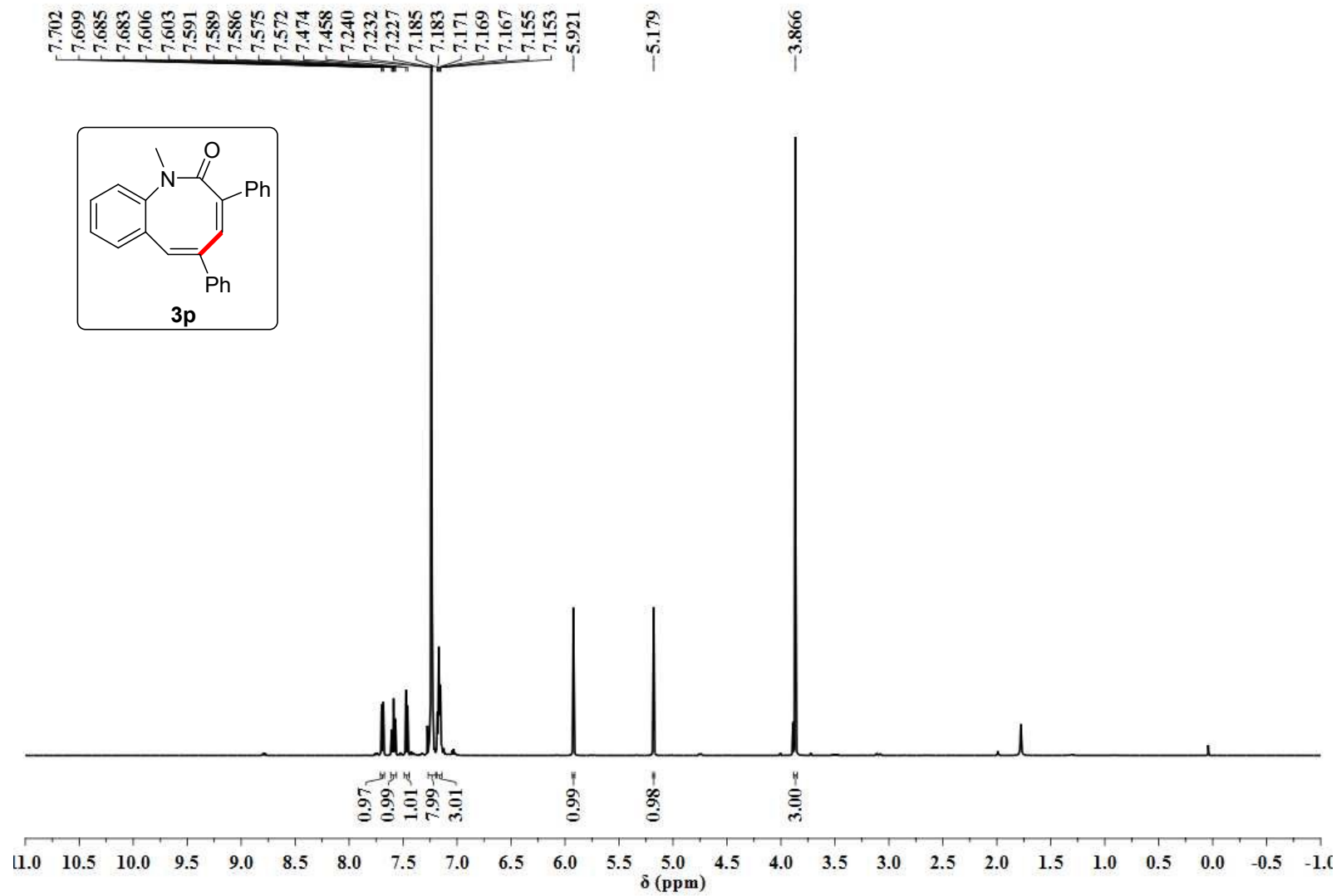


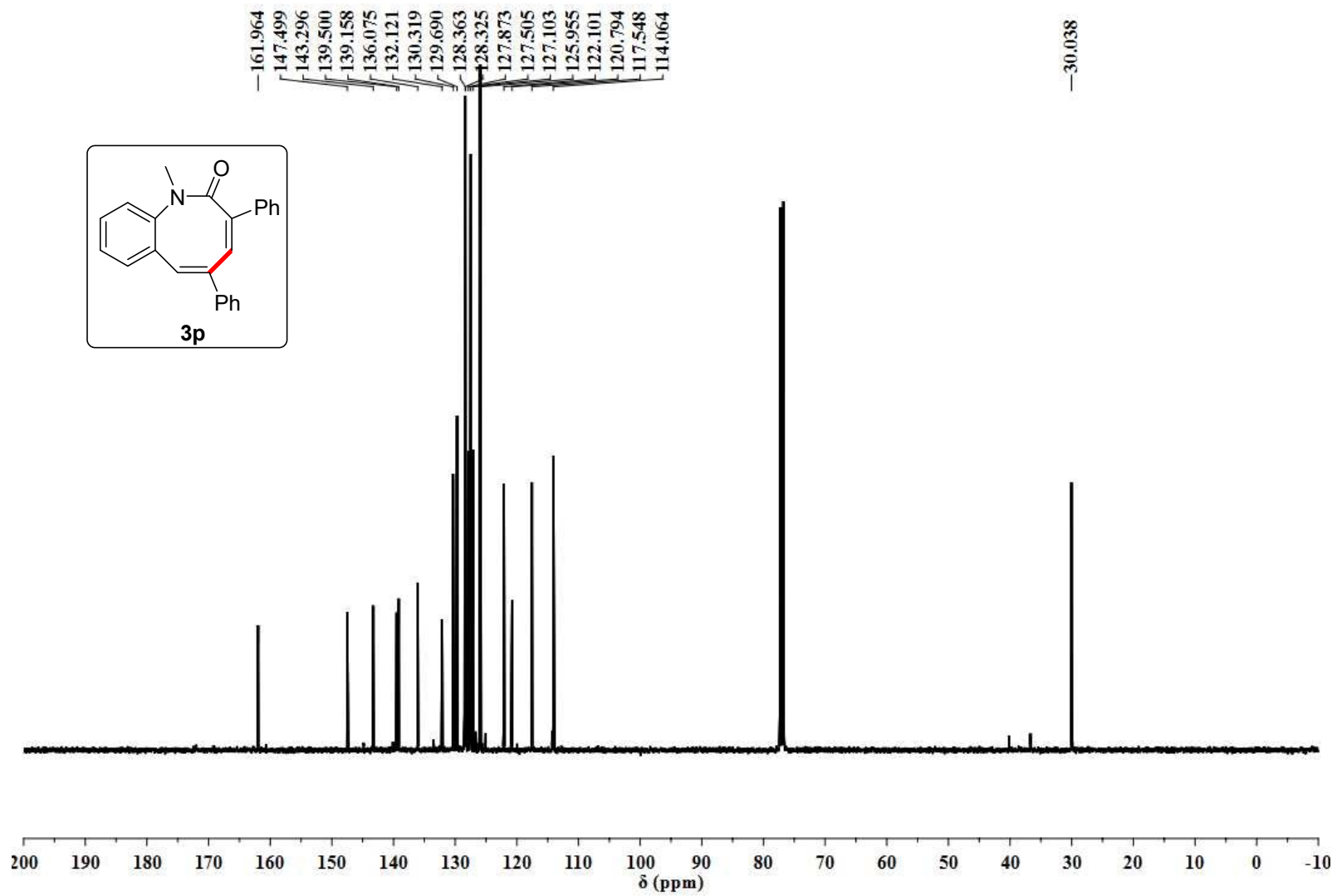
S125

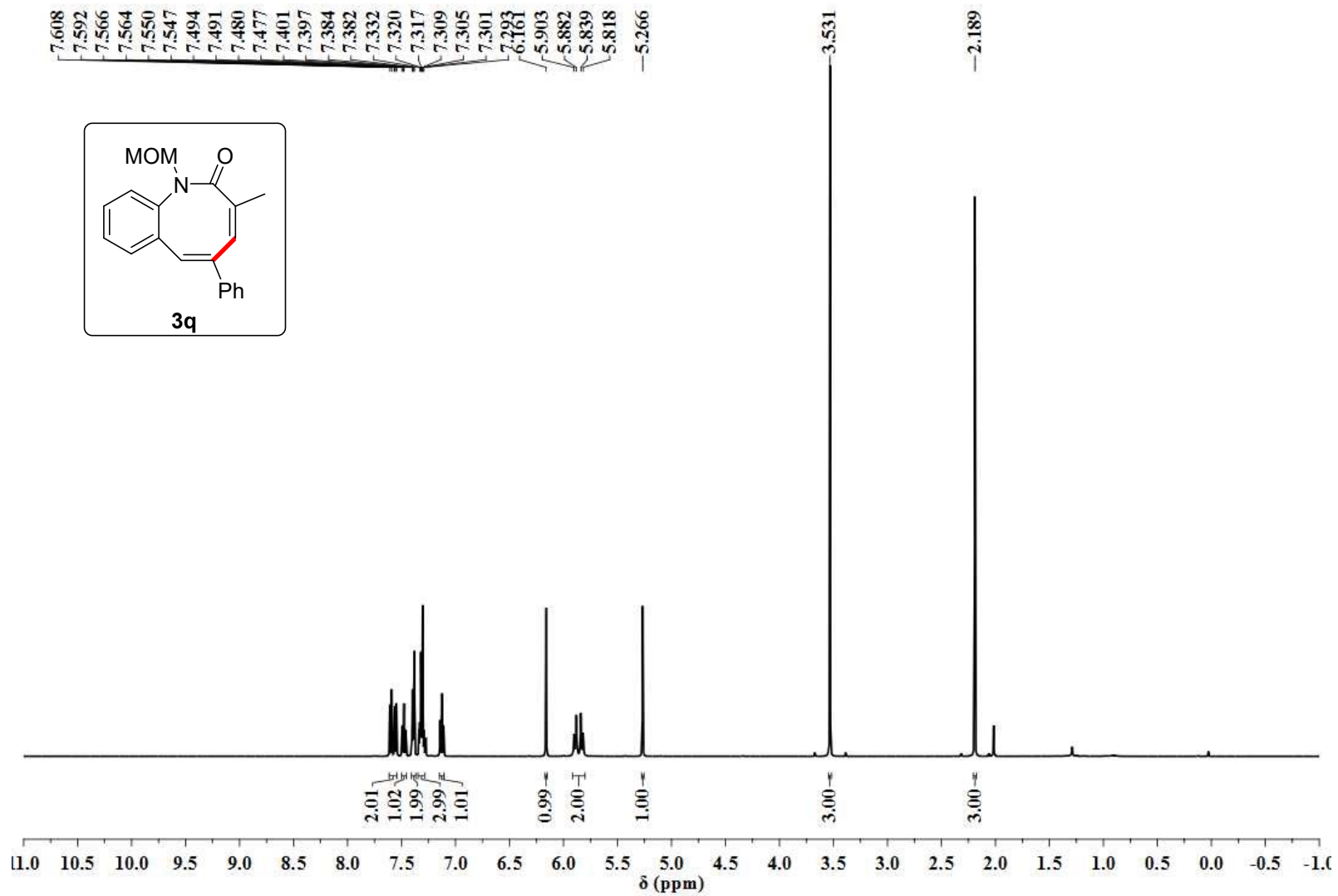


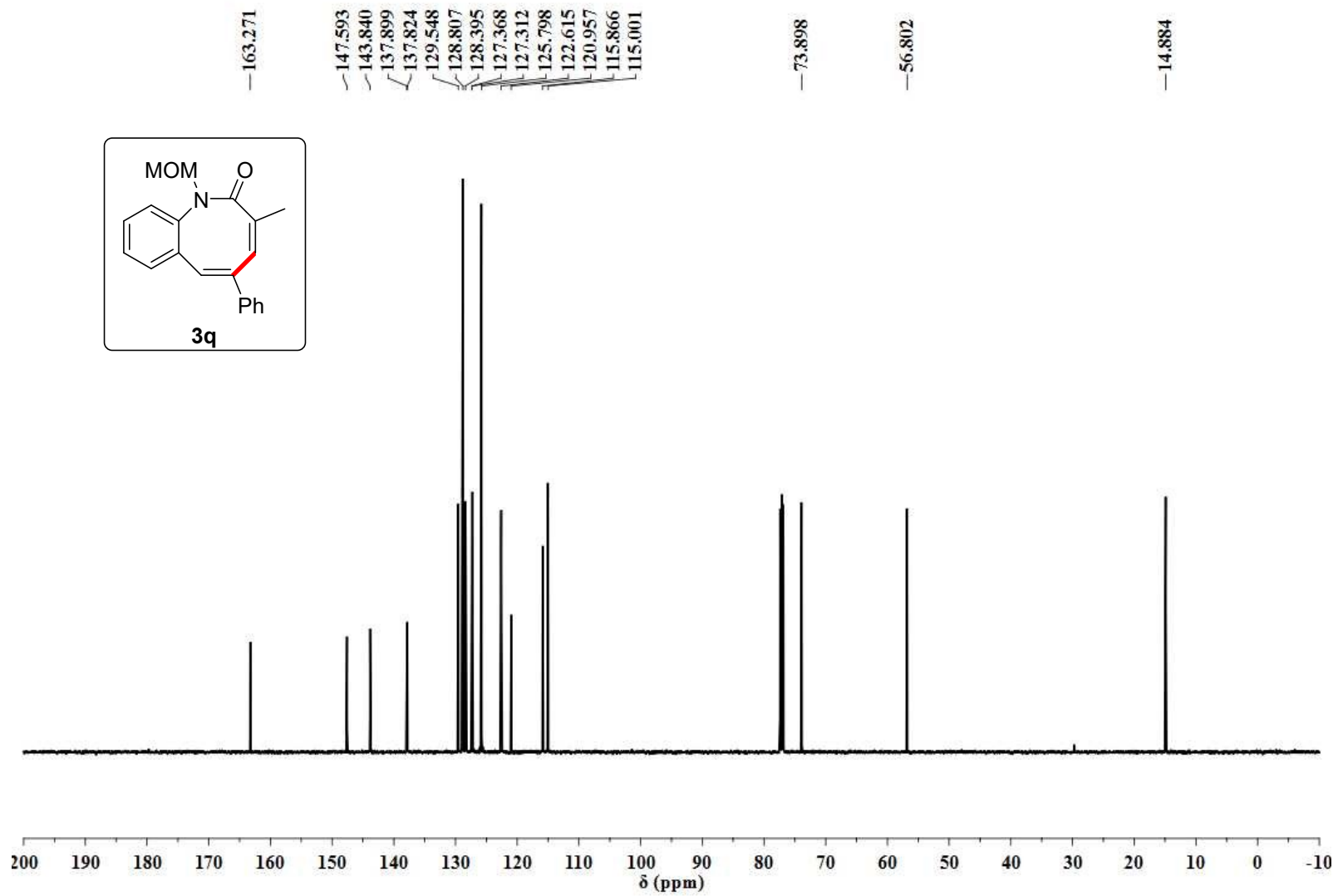




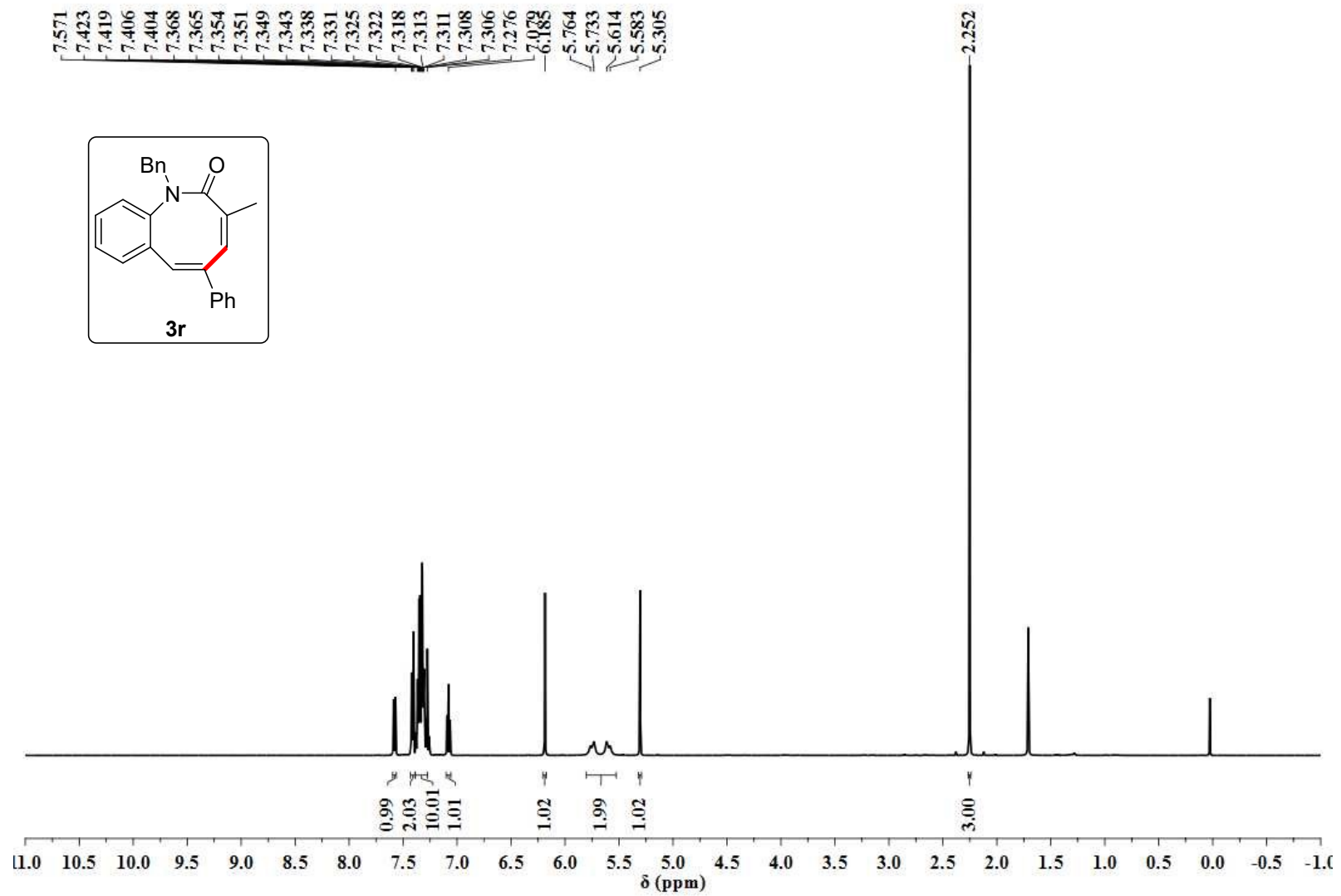


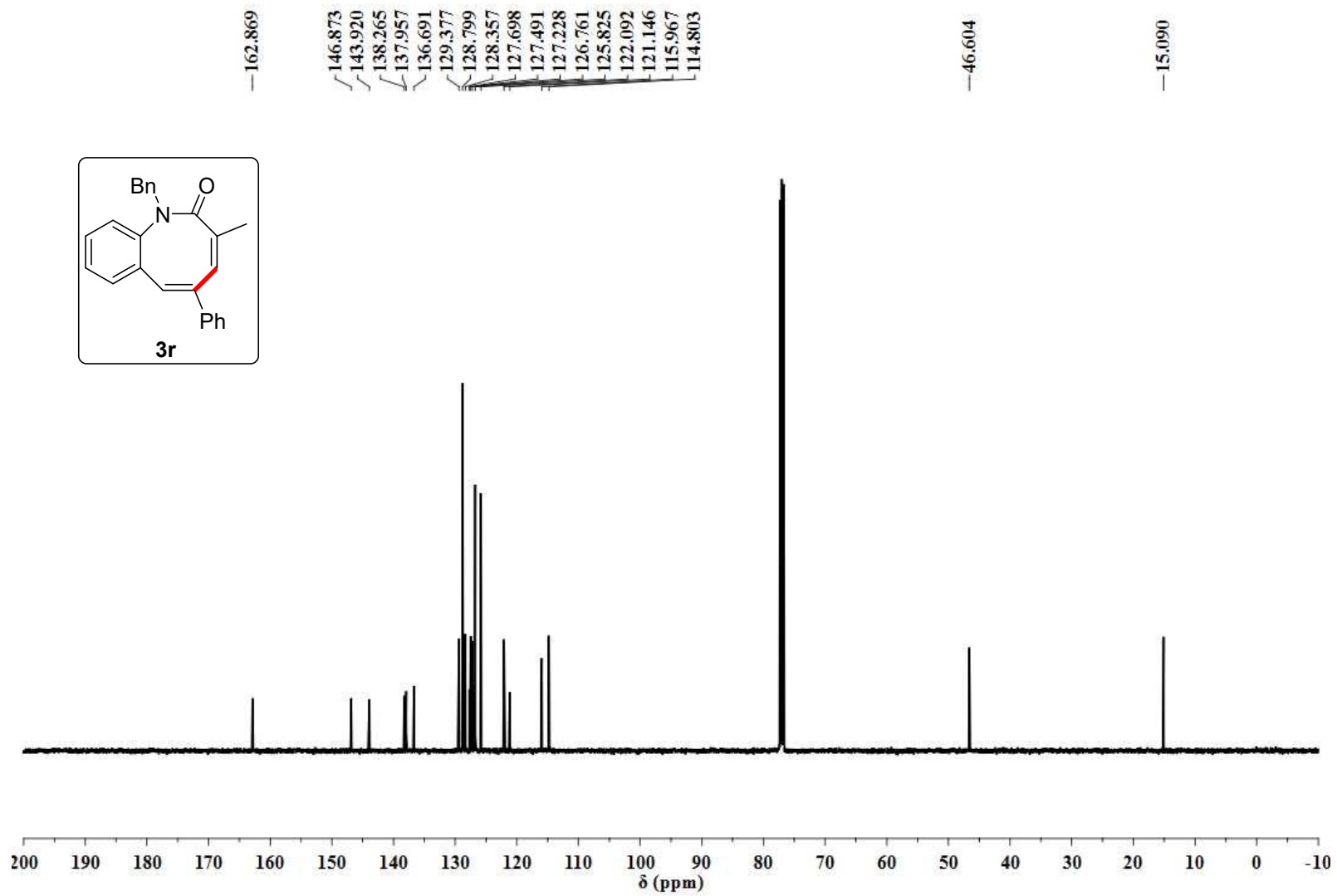


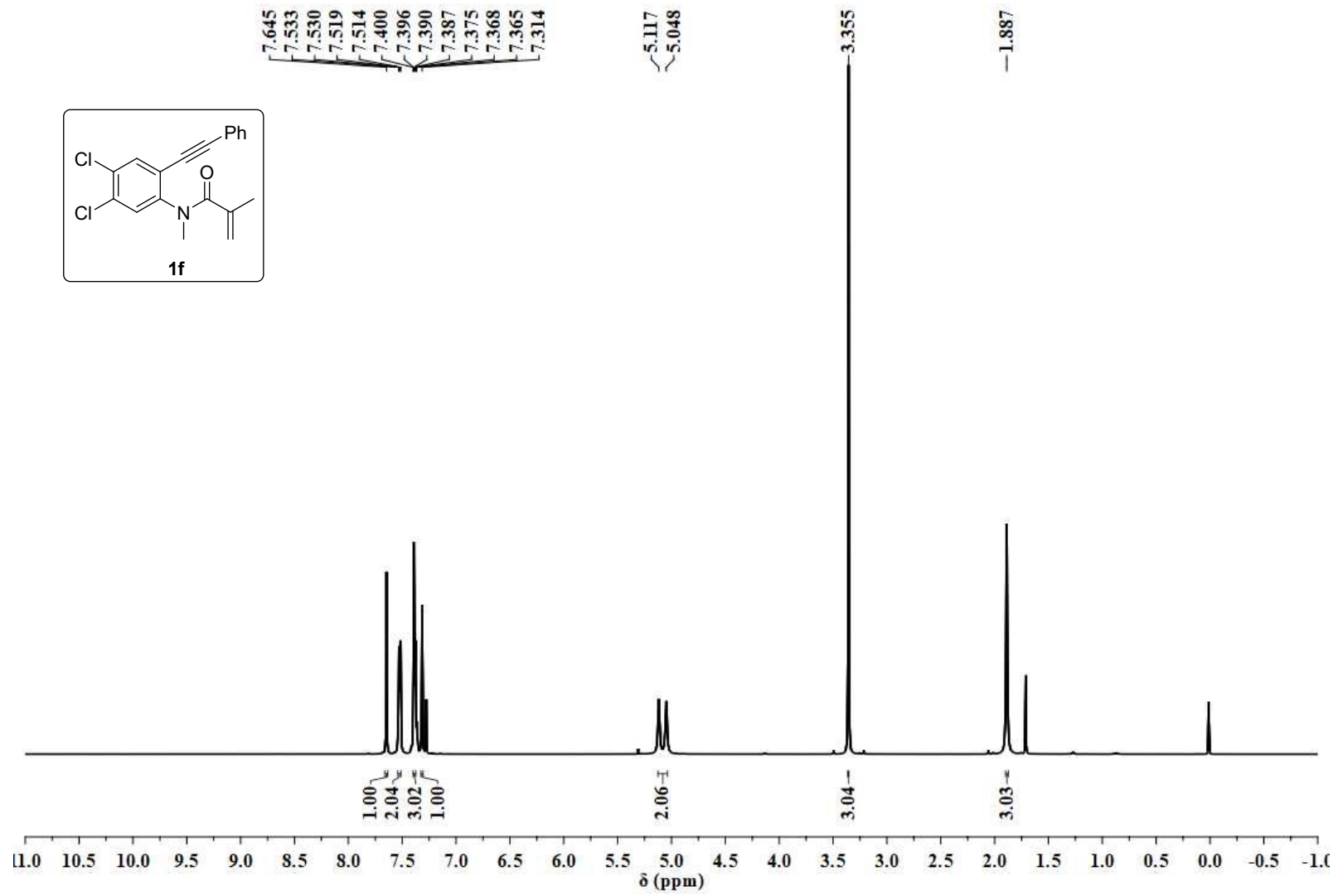


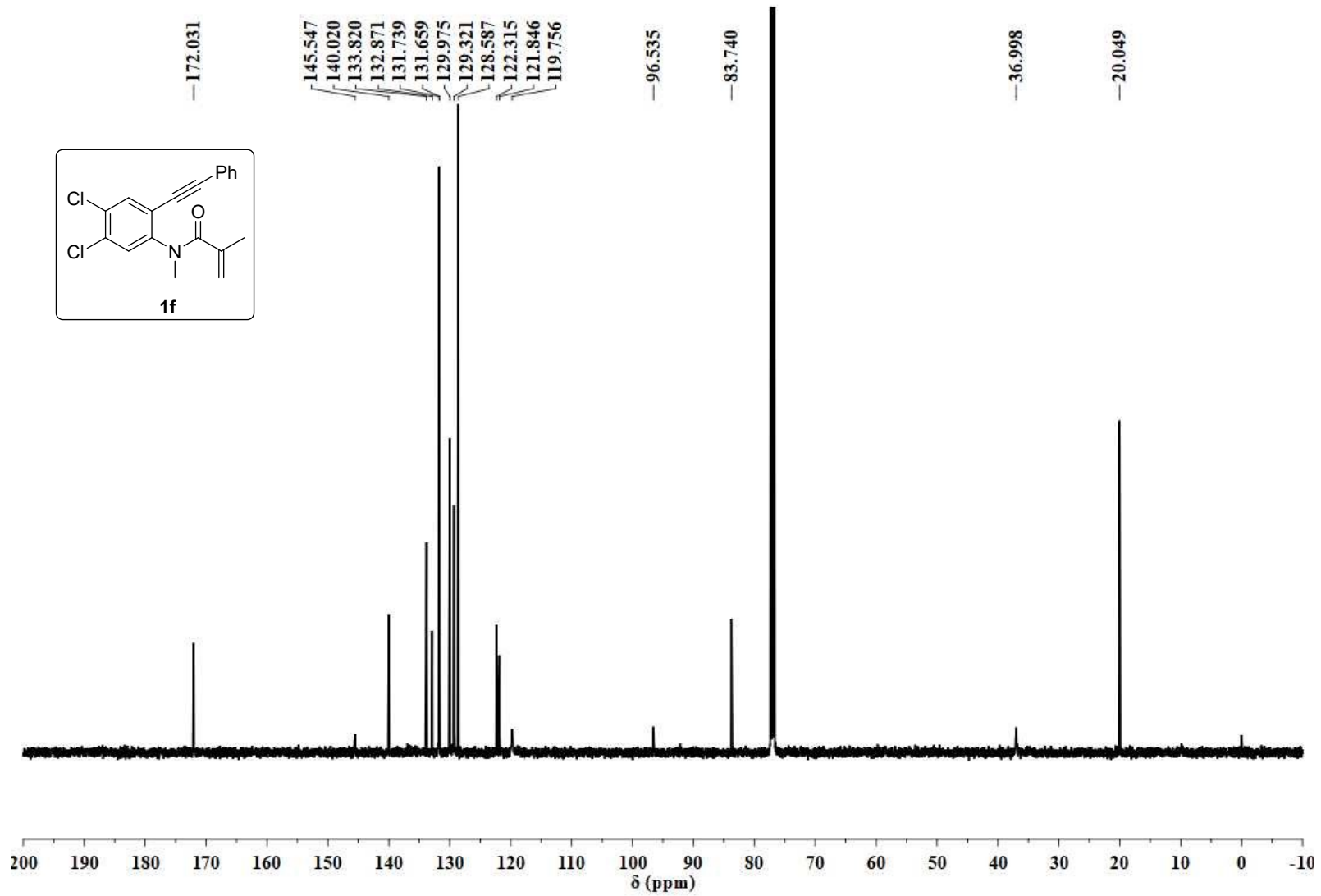


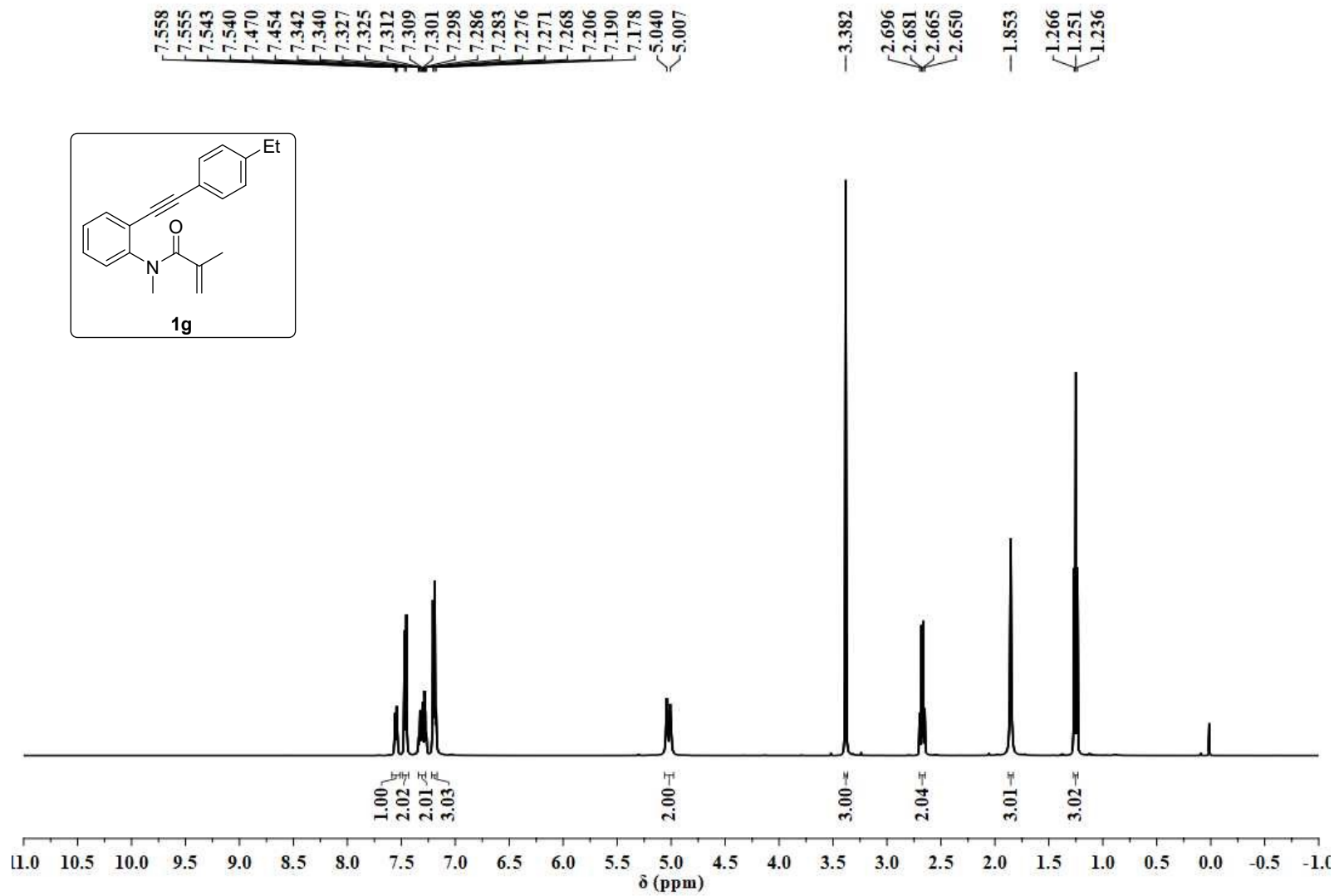
S132



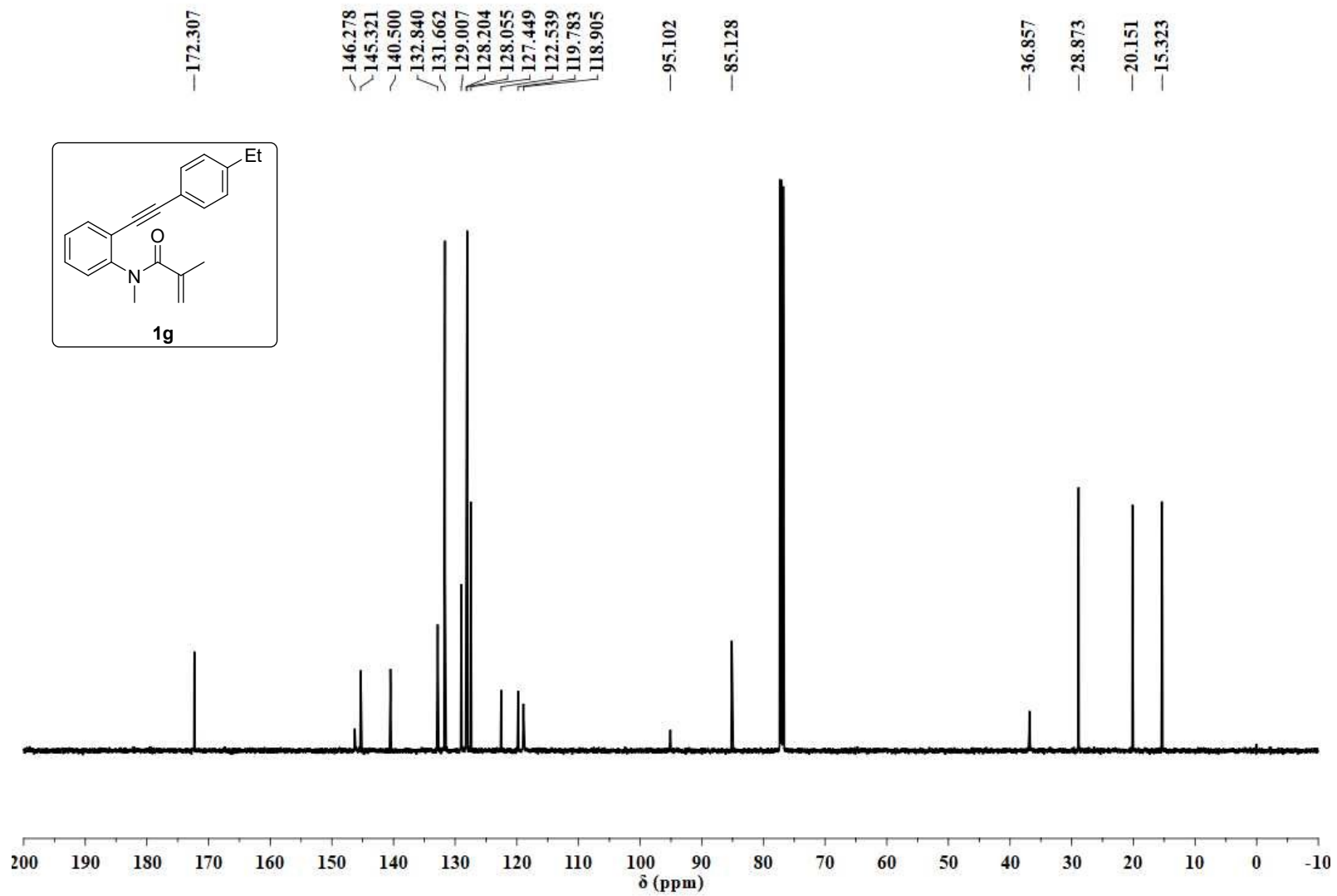


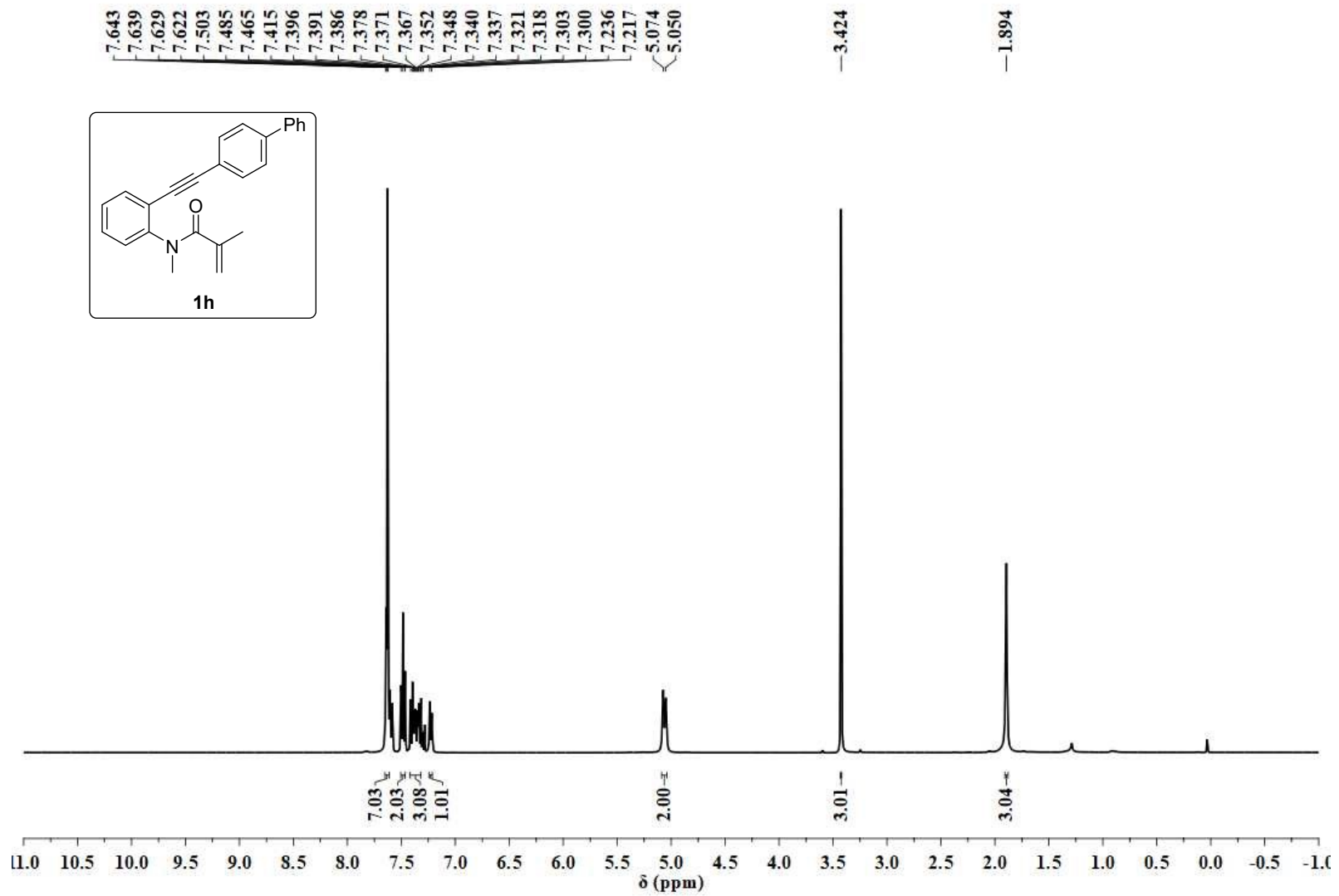


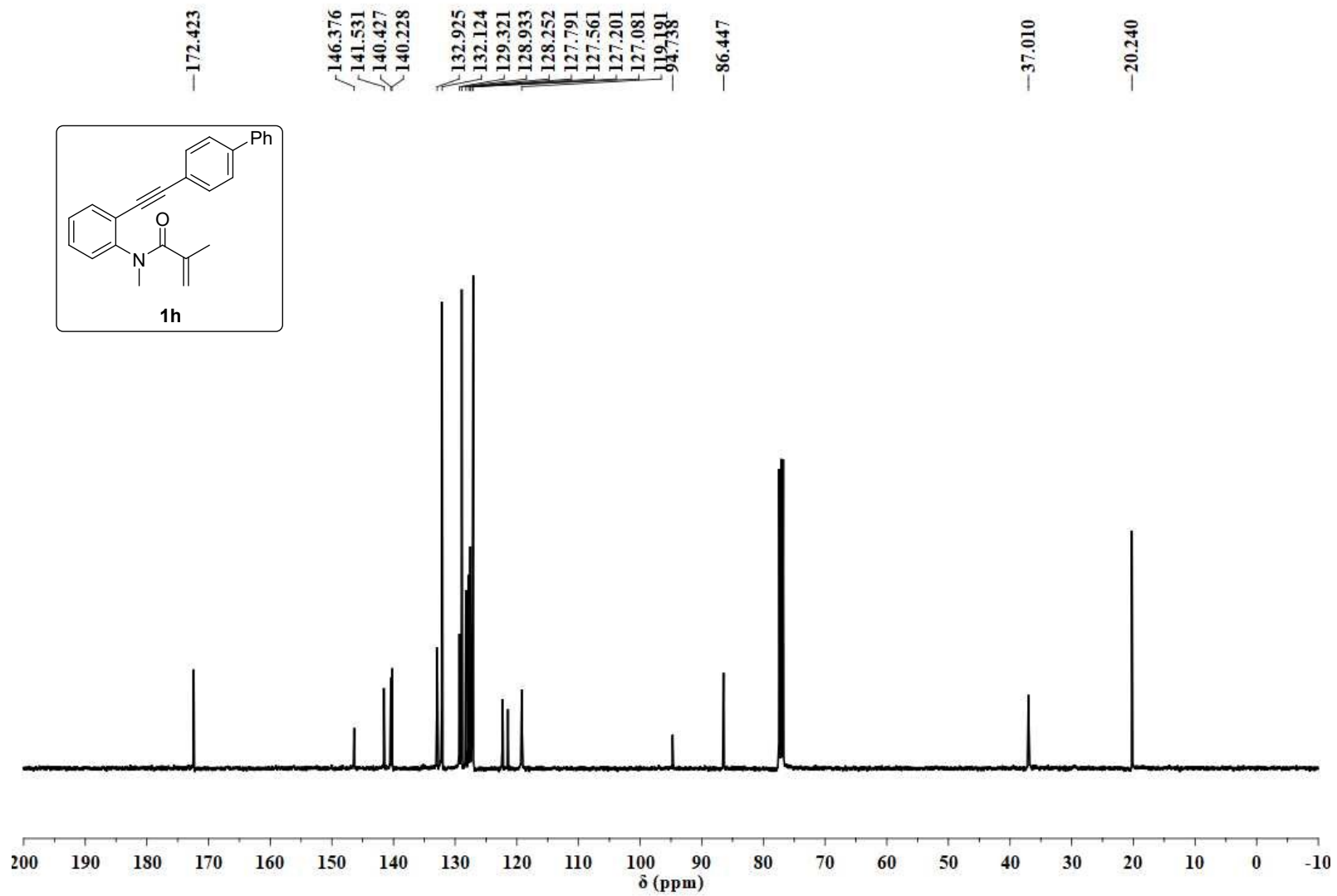


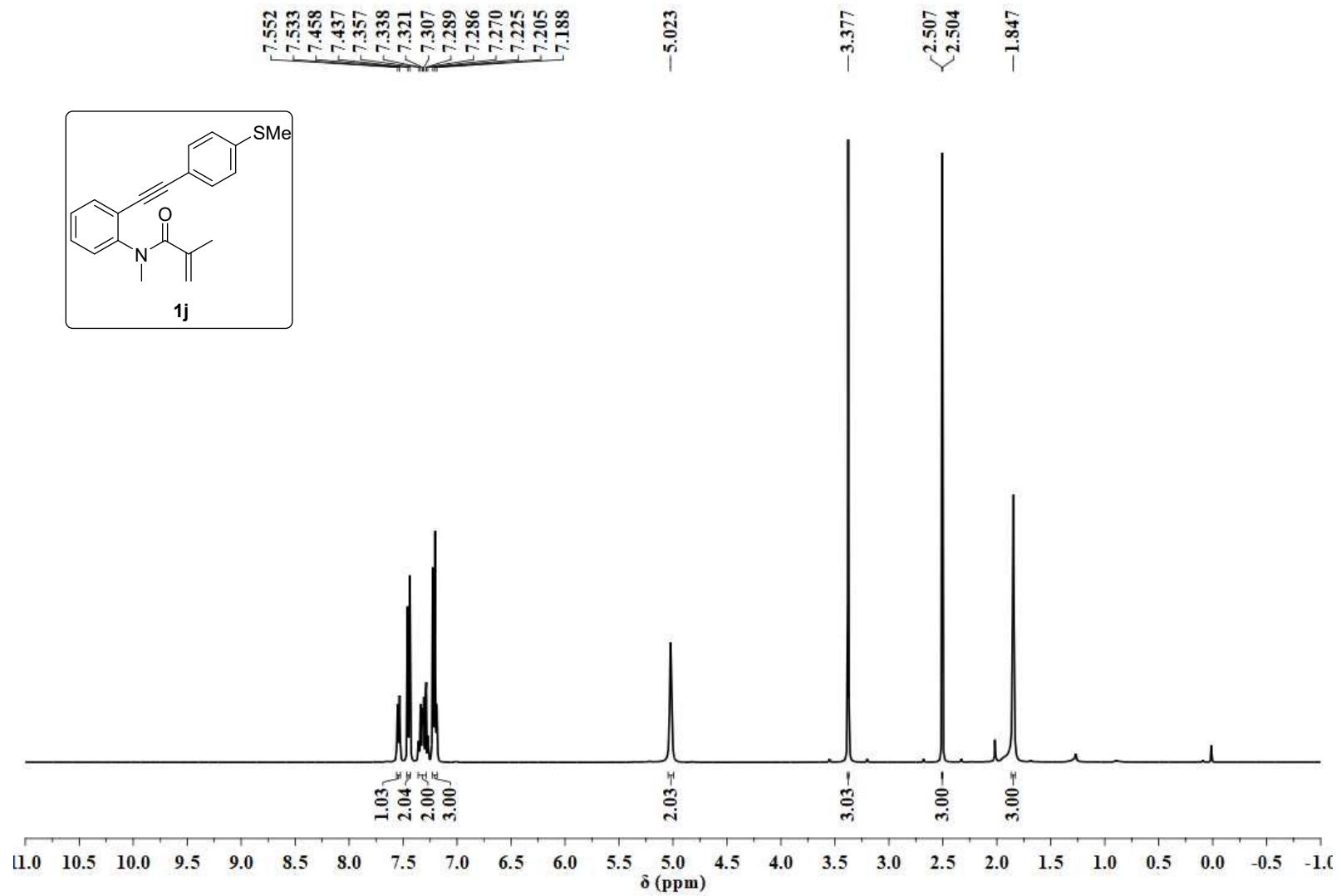


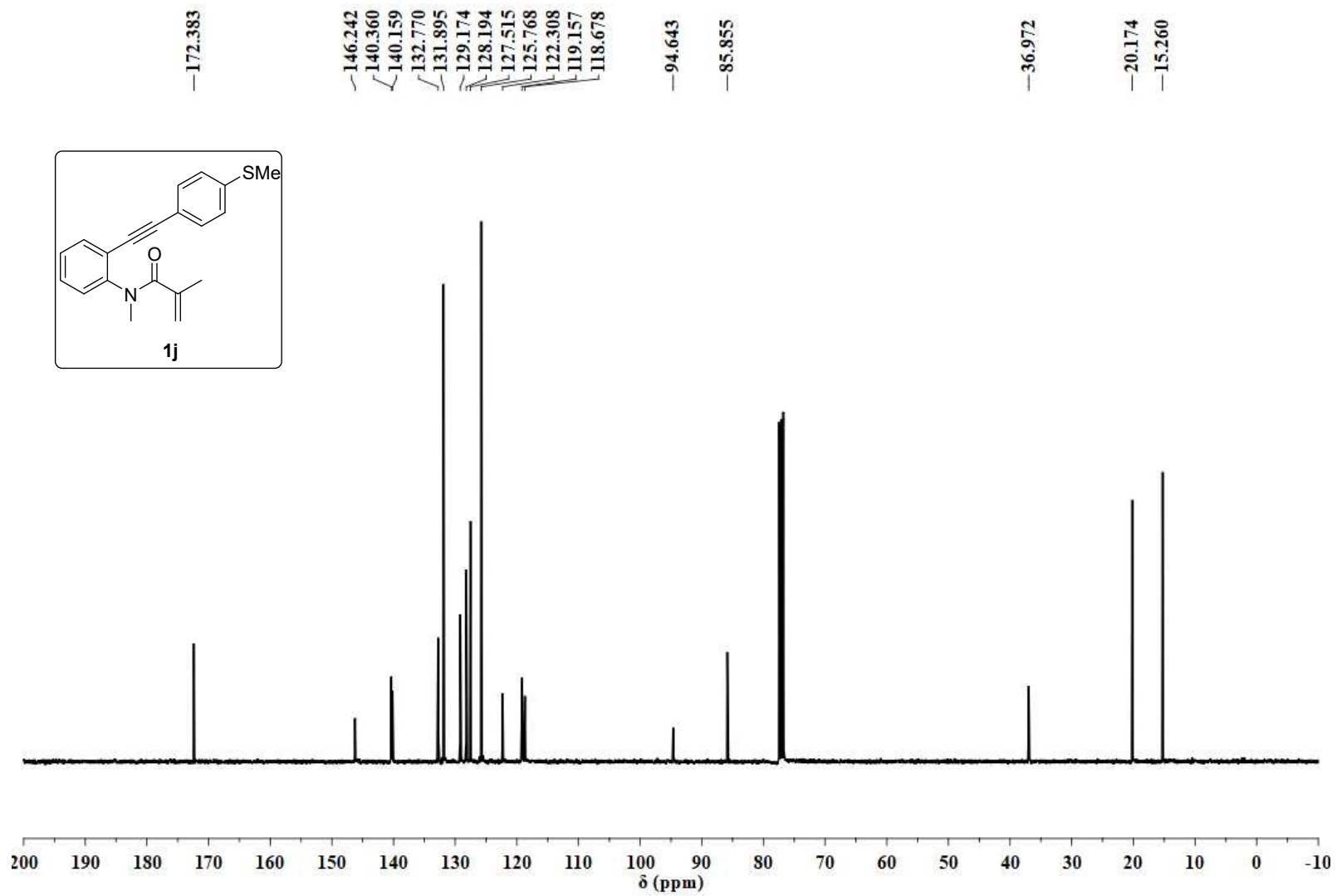
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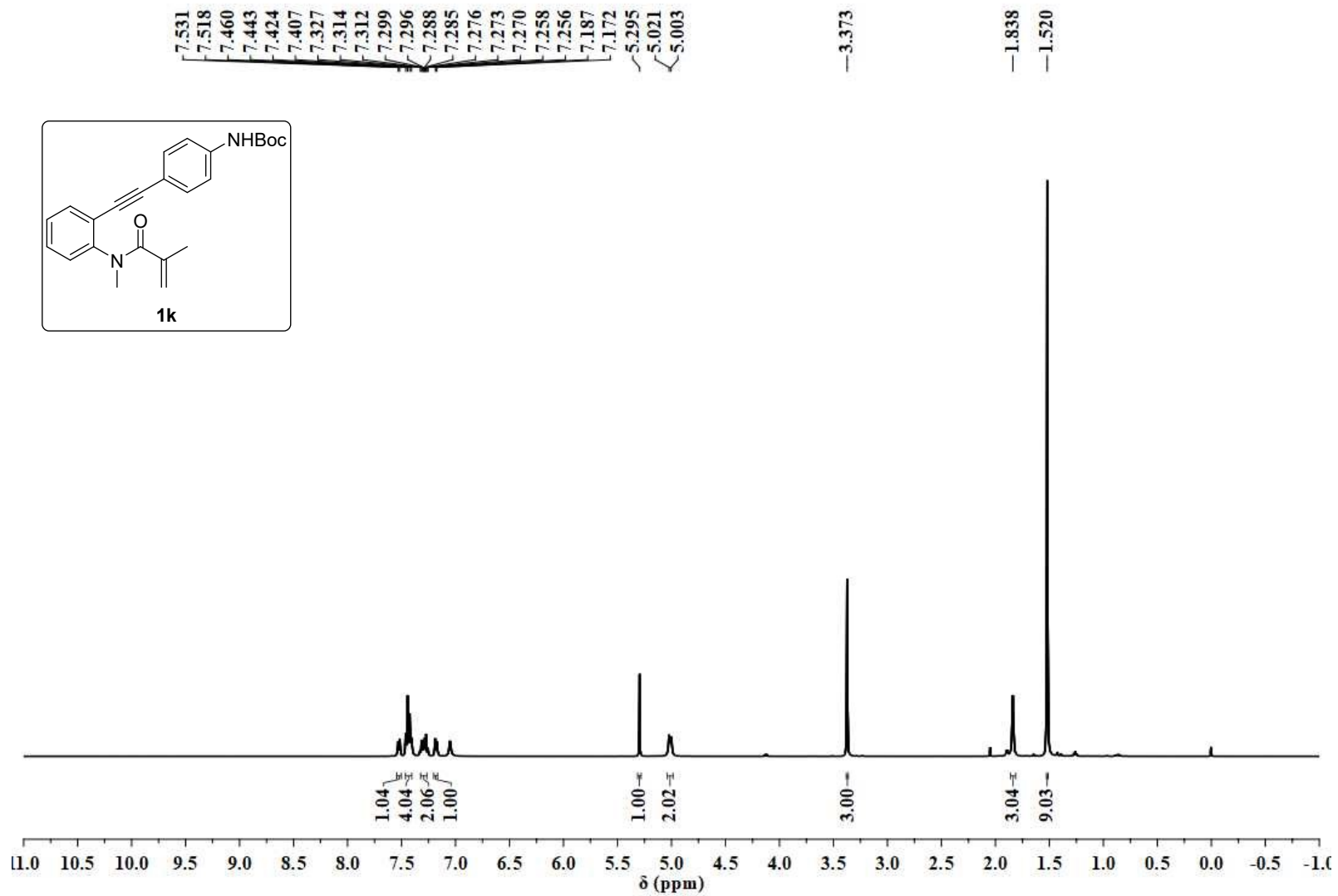


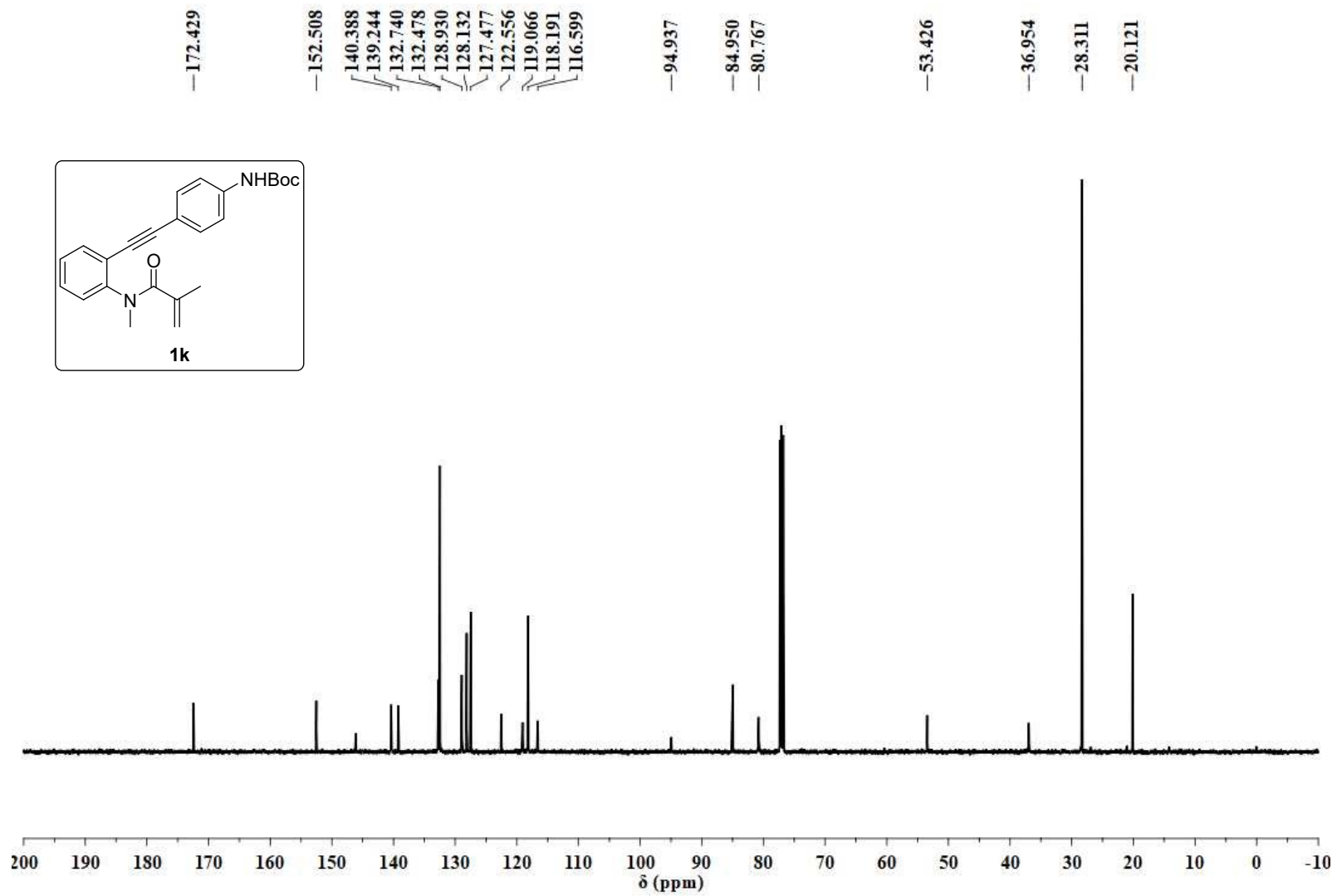


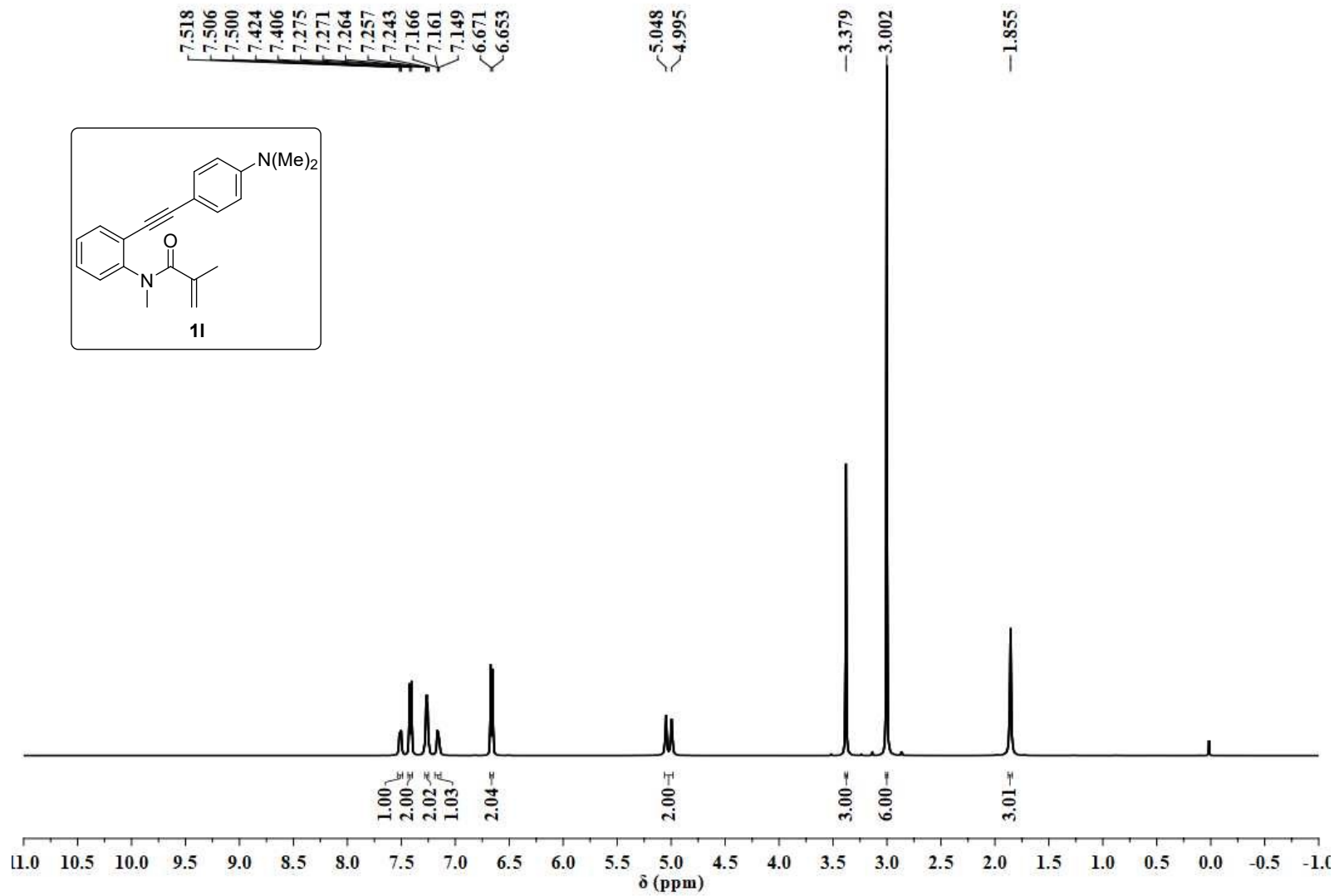




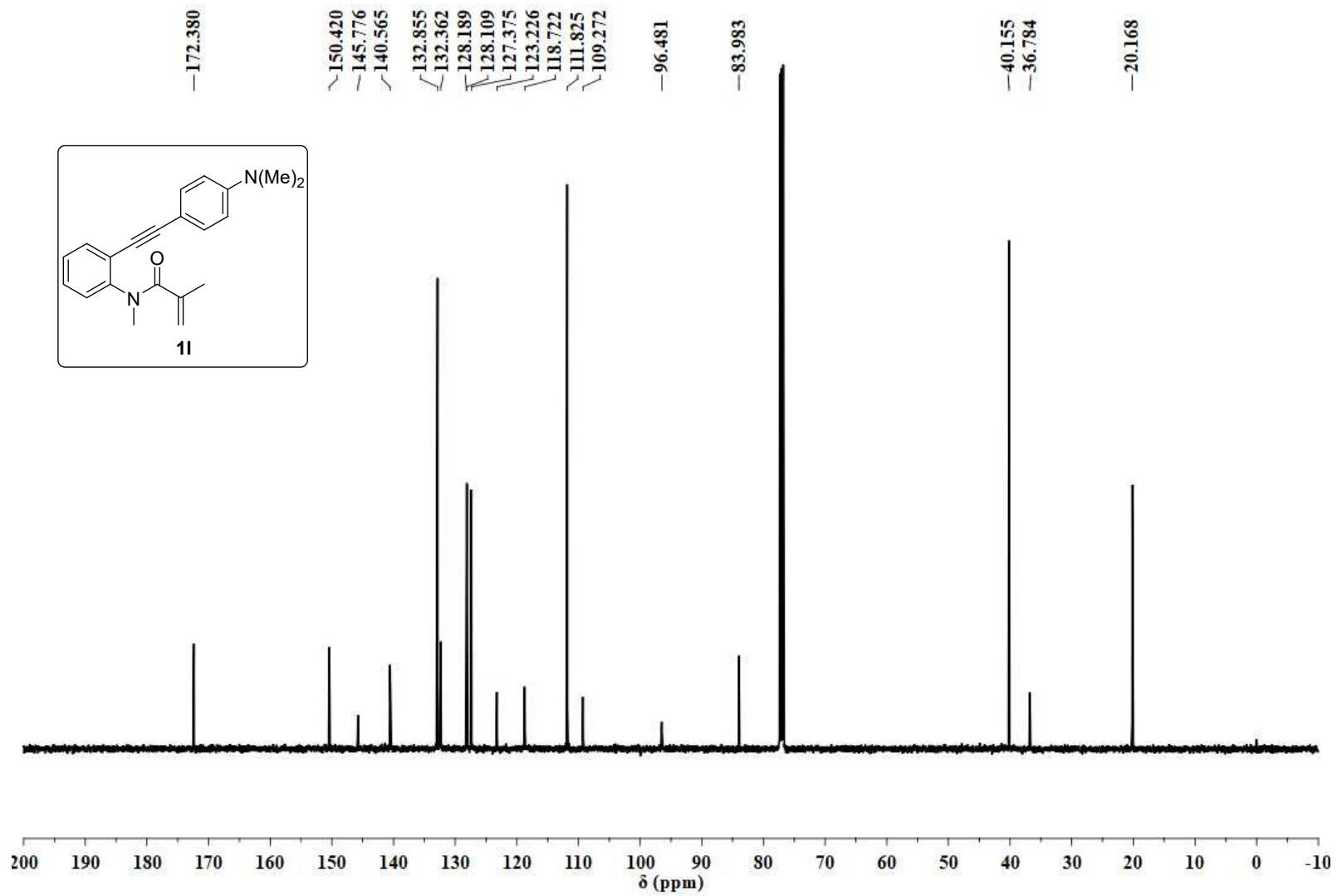


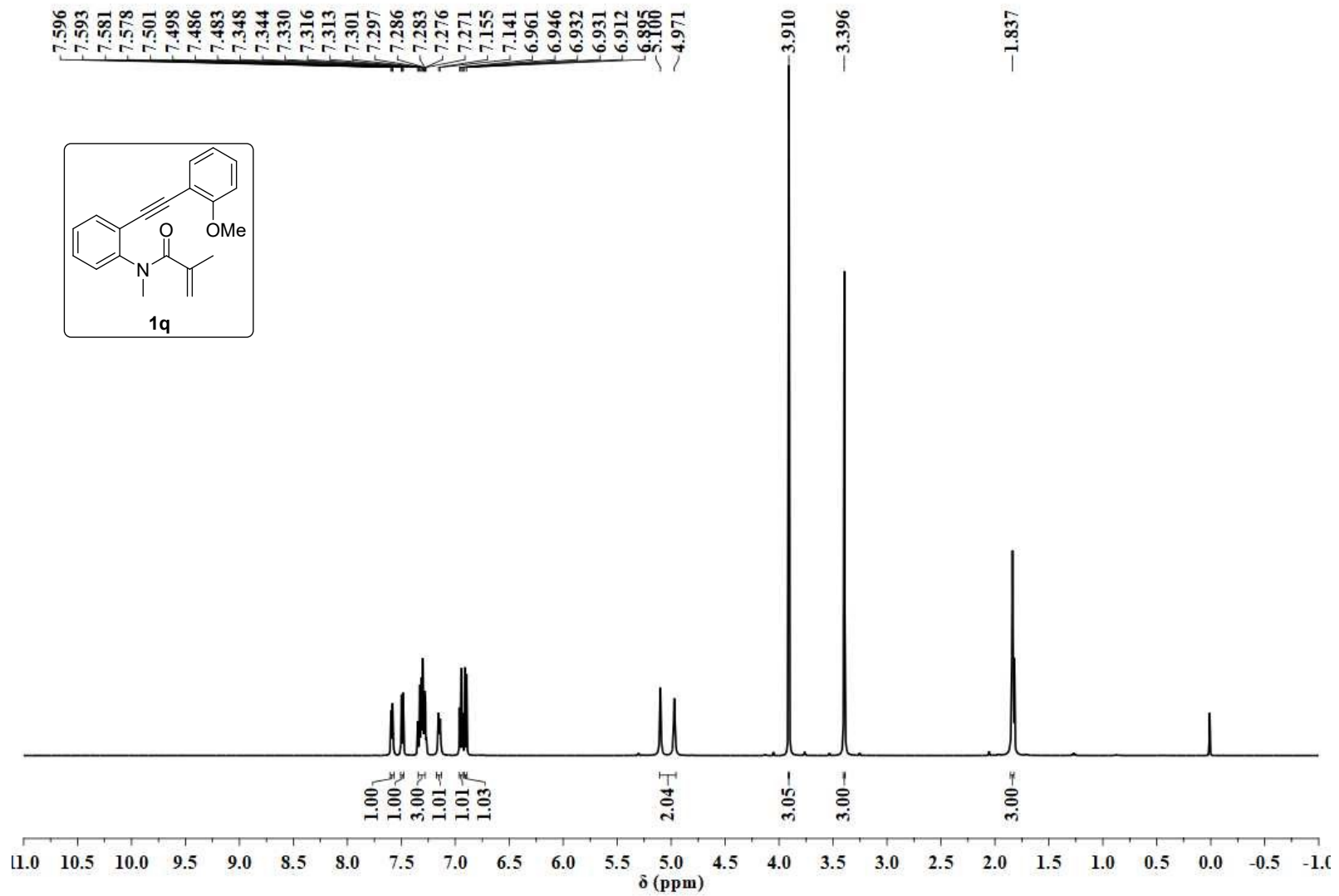






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