

# Synthesis and Photophysical Evaluation of Polarity Sensitive Push-pull Isoquinolines and their alkynyl precursors

Elisa Brambilla,<sup>a</sup> Matteo Giannangeli,<sup>b</sup> Valentina Pirovano,<sup>a</sup>

Elisabetta Rossi,<sup>a</sup> Alessandro Caselli,<sup>b</sup> and Giorgio Abbiati<sup>a,\*</sup>

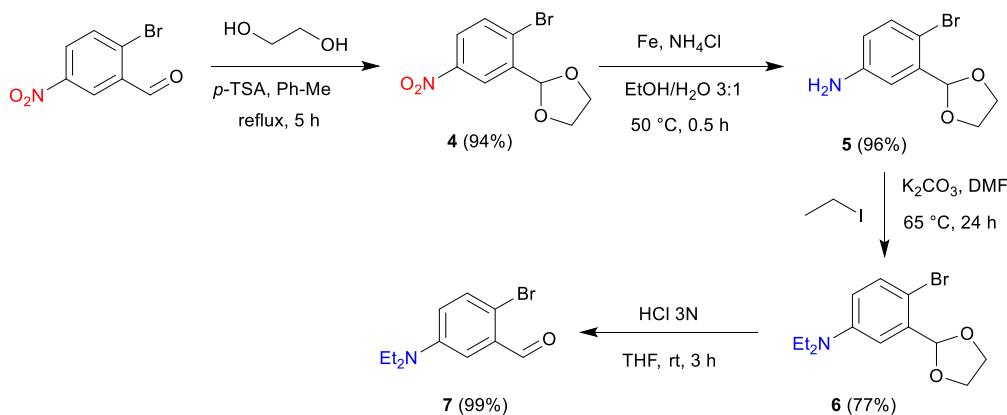
<sup>a</sup> Dipartimento di Scienze Farmaceutiche, Sezione di Chimica Generale e Organica “A. Marchesini”, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Venezian, 21, 20133 Milano, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Dipartimento di Chimica and CNR-SCITEC, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Golgi, 19, 20133 Milano, Italy

e-mail: giorgio.abbiati@unimi.it

## Supporting Information

## Preparation of 2-bromo-5-(diethylamino)benzaldehyde 7



Scheme S1

**2-(2-Bromo-5-nitrophenyl)-1,3-dioxolane 4:** A solution of 2-bromo-5-nitrobenzaldehyde (900 mg, 3.9 mmol), ethylene glycol (2.2 mL, 39 mmol) and *p*-TsOH (70 mg, 0.39 mmol) in toluene (25 mL) was refluxed for 5 h. After cooling at rt, the solution was diluted with EtOAc (25 mL) and washed with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL). The organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude pale yellow solid **4** (1.0 g, 94%) was sufficiently pure to be used for the next step without further purification. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.44 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 4.26 – 4.05 (m, 4H). NMR data are in agreement with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

**4-Bromo-3-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)aniline 5:** A suspension of 2-(2-bromo-5-nitrophenyl)-1,3-dioxolane **4** (400 mg, 1.44 mmol), iron powder (408 mg, 7.28 mmol) and ammonium chloride (40 mg, 0.72 mmol) in 16 mL EtOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (3:1) was heated at 80 °C for 1 h. The mixture was filtered through a thin pad of diatomite. The filtrate was extracted three times with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure affording the product **5** (336 mg, 96%) as brown oil. It was used for the next step without further purification. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 4.21 – 4.00 (m, 4H), 3.73 (bs, 2H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 145.9 (C), 137.0 (C), 133.4 (CH), 117.3 (CH), 114.2 (CH), 110.5 (C), 102.6 (CH), 65.4 (2 × CH<sub>2</sub>). **ESI(+) - MS:** m/z(%) = 244.13 (78) [<sup>79</sup>Br MH]<sup>+</sup>; 246.13 (76) [<sup>81</sup>Br MH]<sup>+</sup> 266.09 (20) [<sup>79</sup>Br M + Na]<sup>+</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> T. Kawabata, C. Jiang, K. Hayashi, K. Tsubaki, T. Yoshimura, S. Majumdar, T. Sasamori and N. Tokitoh, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2009, **131**, 54–55.

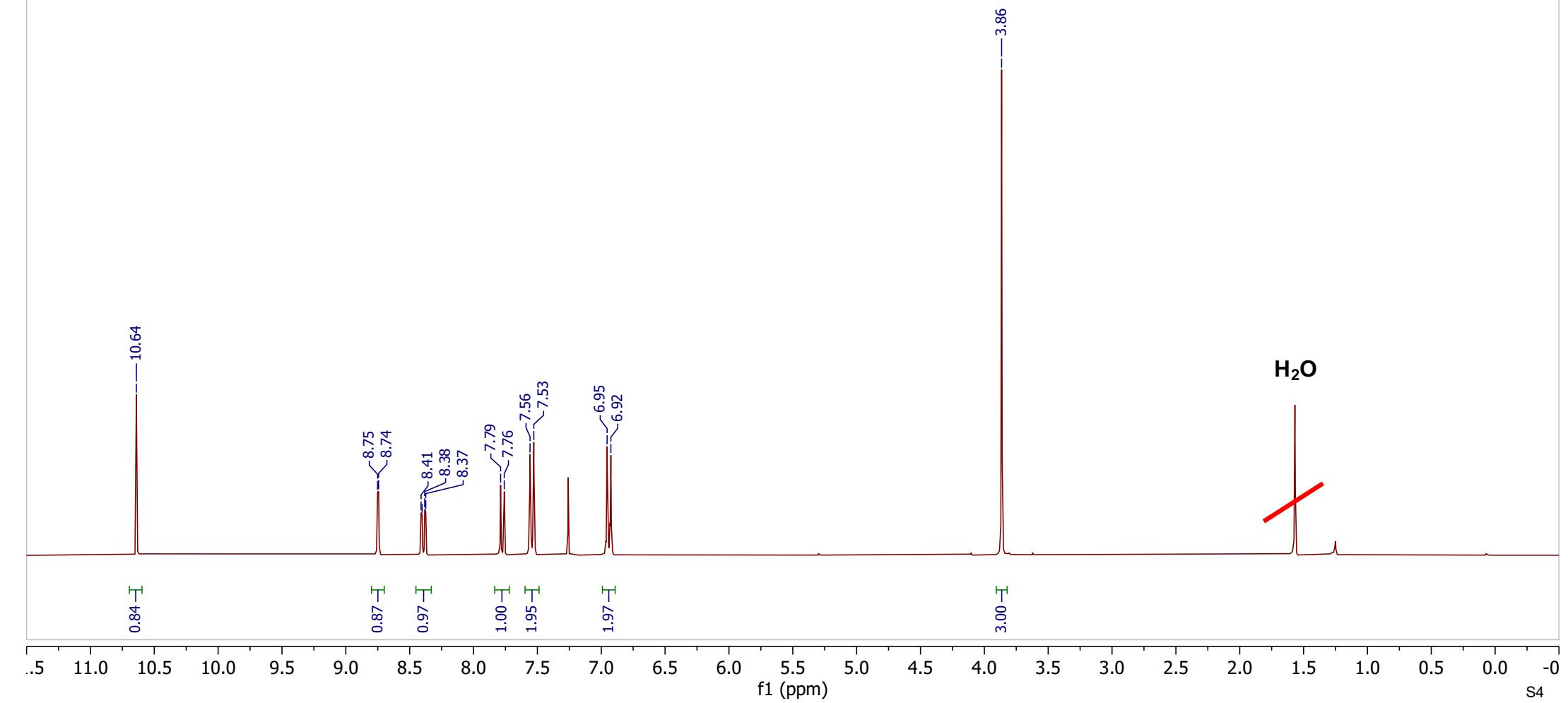
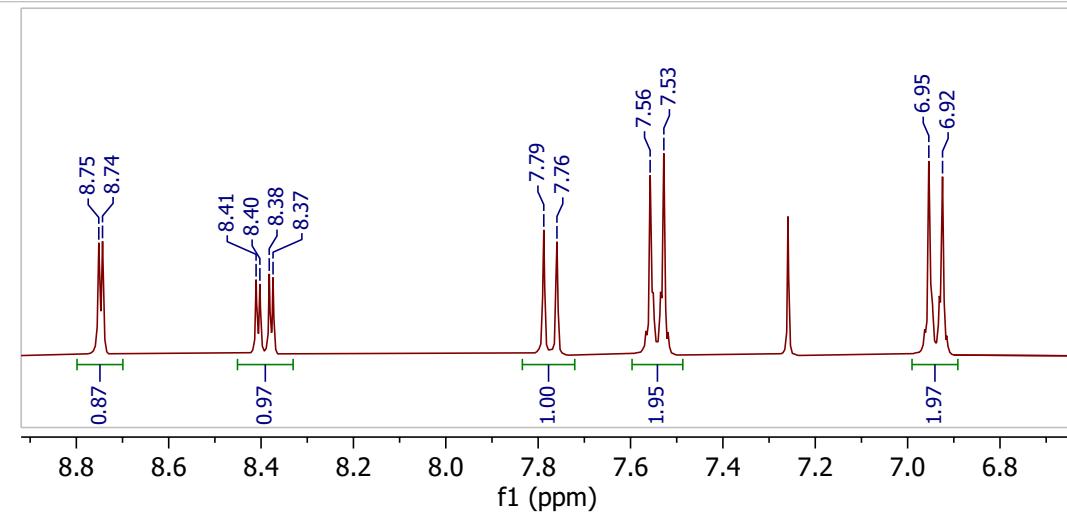
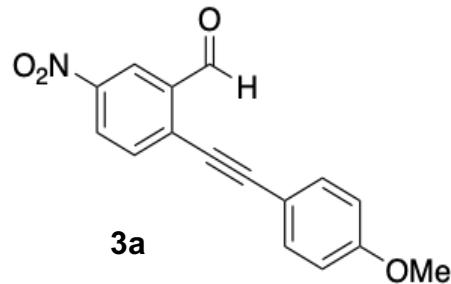
268.11 (22) [ $^{81}\text{Br}$  M + Na]<sup>+</sup>. Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub> (244.09): C, 44.29; H, 4.13; N, 5.74; found: C, 44.12; H, 4.15; N, 5.73.

**4-Bromo-3-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-N,N-diethylaniline 6:** Under a nitrogen atmosphere, 4-bromo-3-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)aniline **5** (400 mg 1.46 mmol) was dissolved in 5 mL of dry DMF. To the reaction mixture, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (303 mg 2.19 mmol) and iodoethane (956 mg, 6.13 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred at 65 °C for 24 h. The reaction was then stirred overnight until no more starting product was detected by TLC. A solution of brine was added (30 mL) and then extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and filtered. The solvent was removed at reduced pressure to afford product **6** (337 mg, 77%) as a brown oil. It was used directly for the next step without further purification. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 4.25 – 3.96 (m, 4H), 3.33 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H).

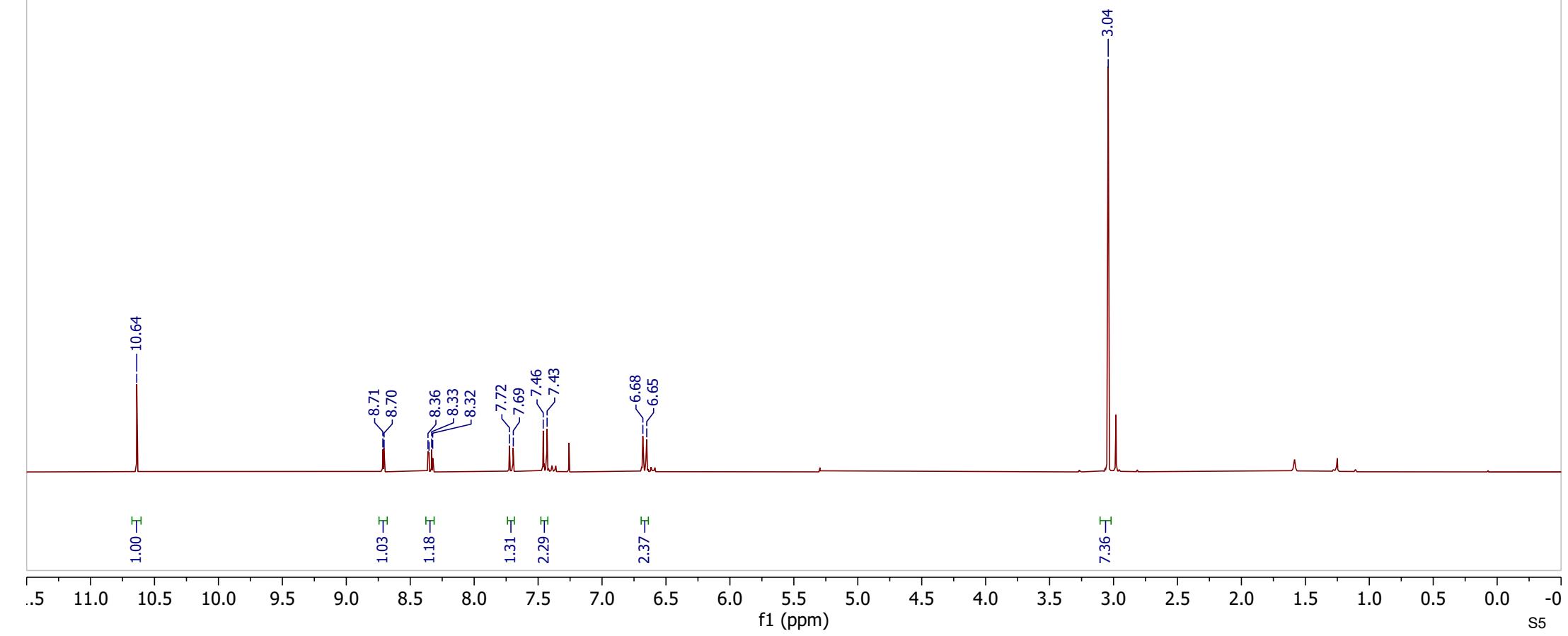
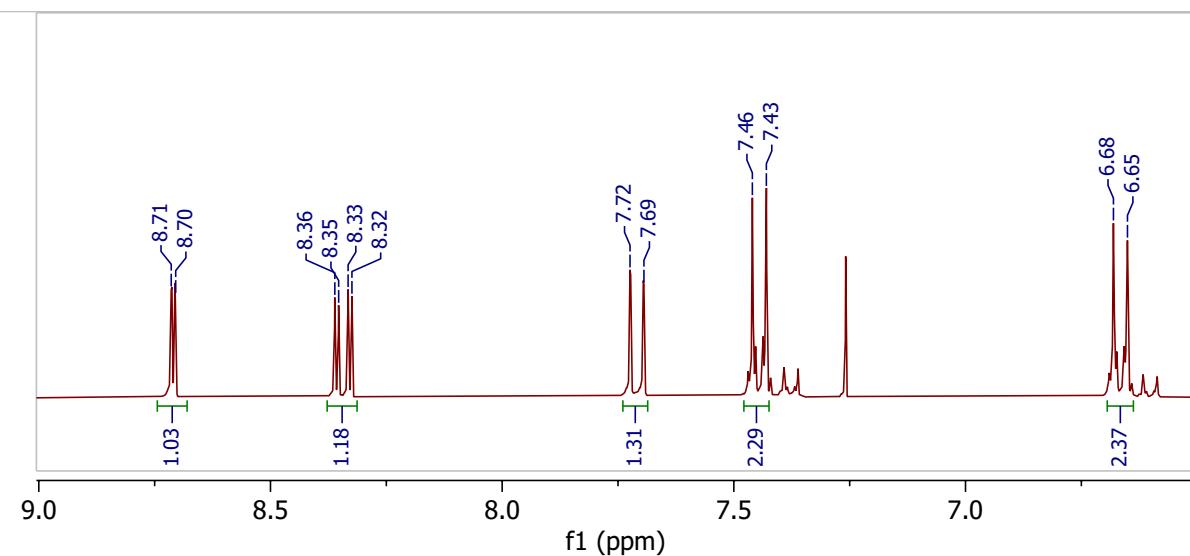
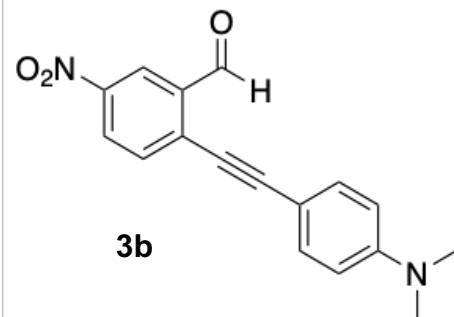
**2-Bromo-5-(diethylamino)benzaldehyde 7:** To a solution of 4-bromo-3-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-N,N-diethylaniline **6** (337 mg, 1.12 mmol) in 6 ml of THF, 6 mL of HCl 3N were added. The solution was stirred at rt overnight and then it was poured into NaHCO<sub>3</sub> saturated solution and extracted with DCM. The organic phases were combined, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford the 2-bromo-5-(diethylamino)benzaldehyde **7** (284 mg, 99%) as a brown oil, sufficiently pure to be used in the following Sonogashira coupling reactions without further purification.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.29 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 192.6 (CH), 147.2 (C), 134.1 (CH), 133.5 (C), 118.7 (CH), 111.7 (C), 111.6 (CH), 44.4 (2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.3 (2 × CH<sub>3</sub>). **ESI(+) - MS:** m/z(%) = 256.14 (45) [<sup>79</sup>Br MH]<sup>+</sup>; 258.15 (40) [<sup>81</sup>Br MH]<sup>+</sup>; 288.16 (94) [<sup>79</sup>Br MH + MeOH]<sup>+</sup>; 290.14 (100) [<sup>81</sup>Br MH + MeOH]<sup>+</sup>. Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub> (256.14): C, 51.58; H, 5.51; N, 5.47; found: C, 51.69; H, 5.45; N, 5.55.

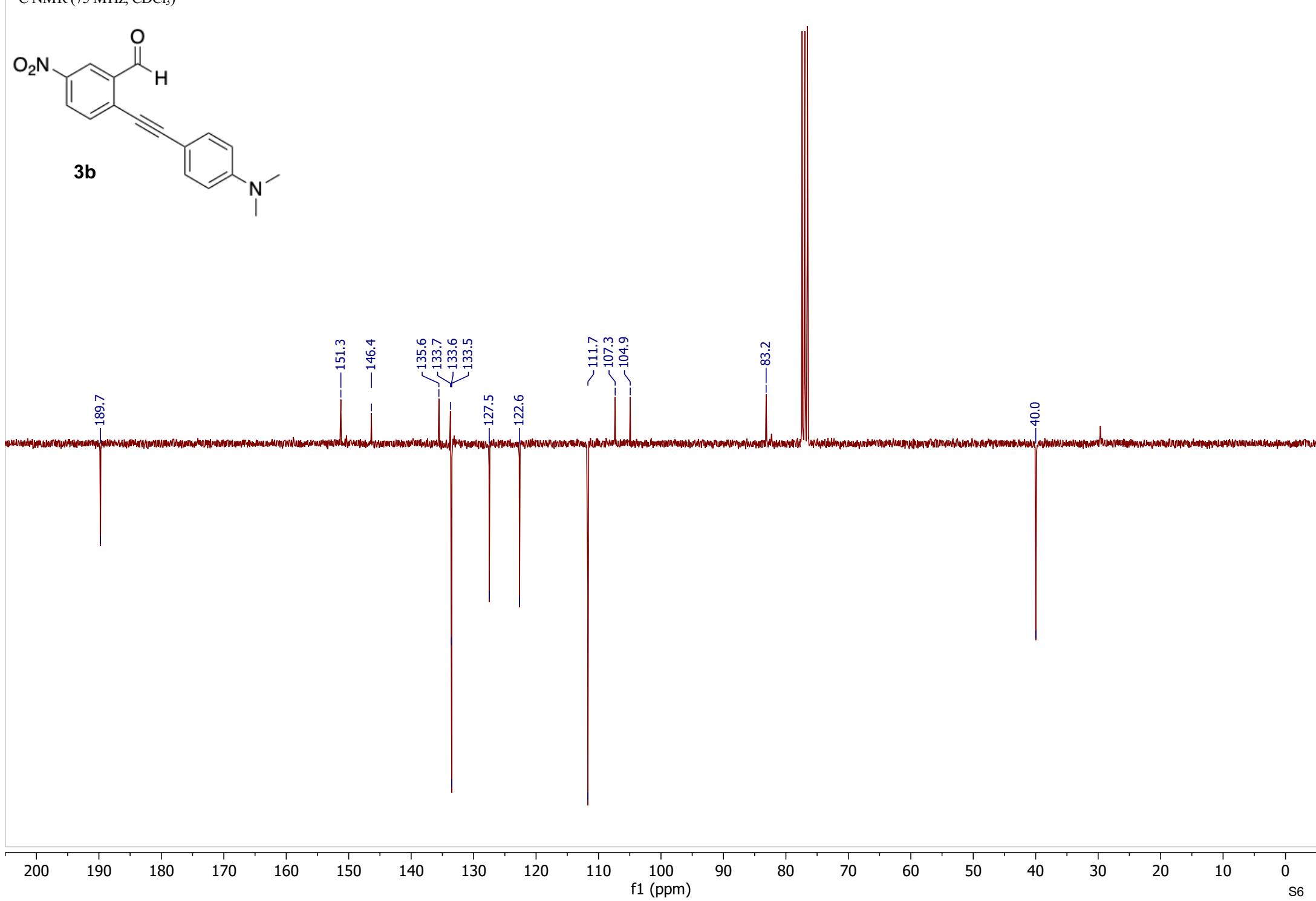
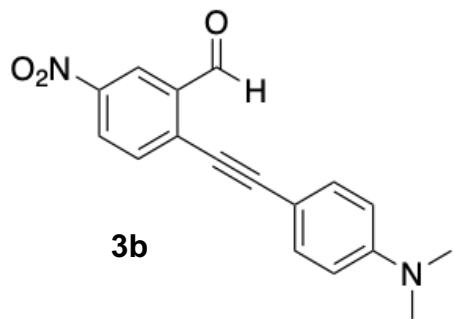
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



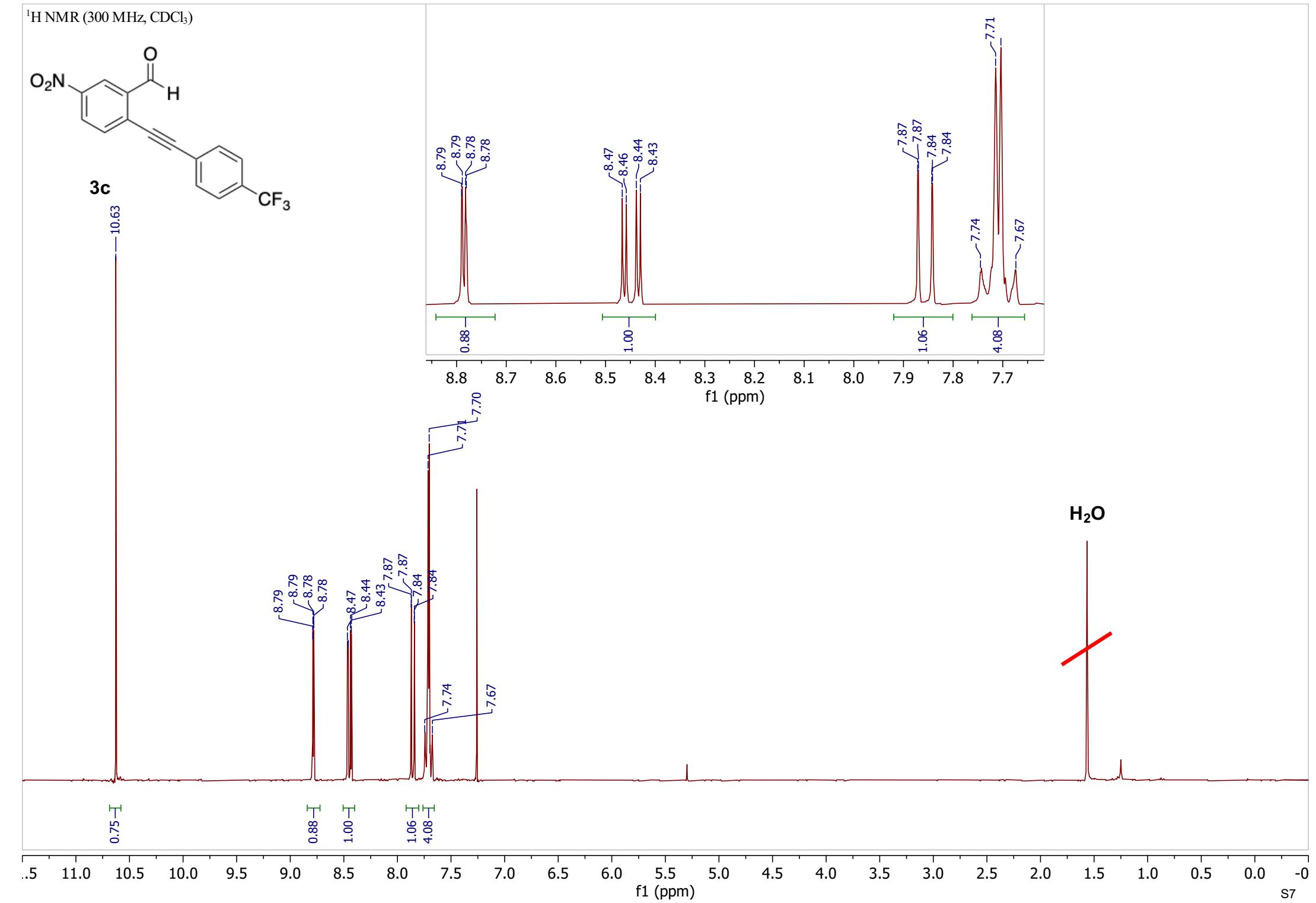
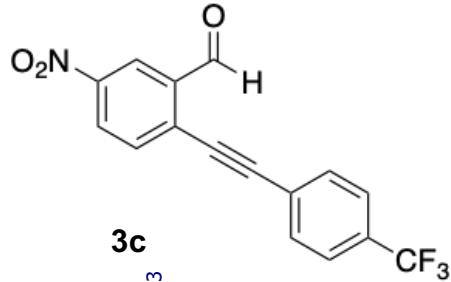
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



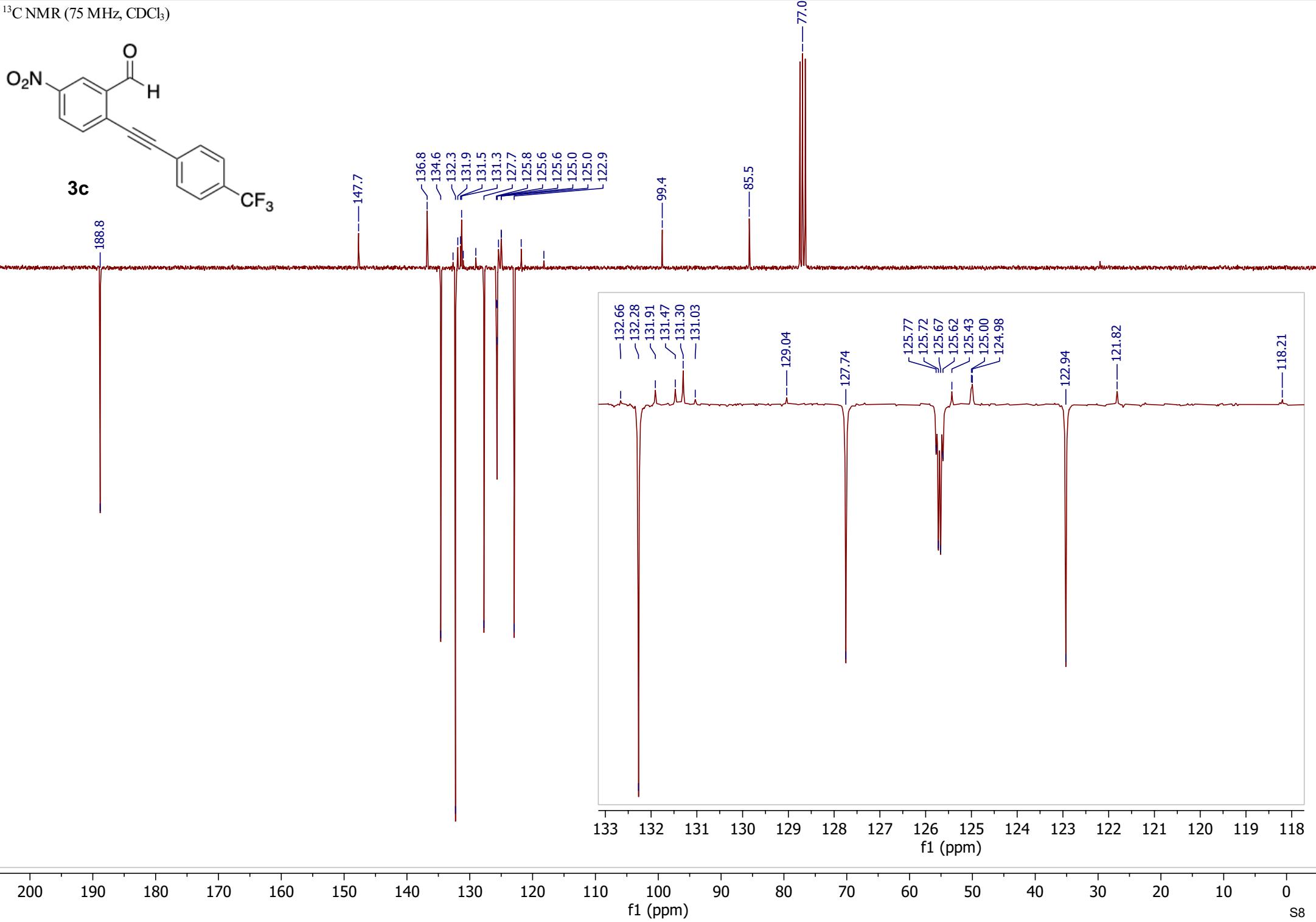
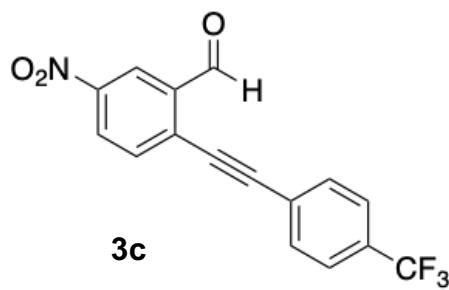
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



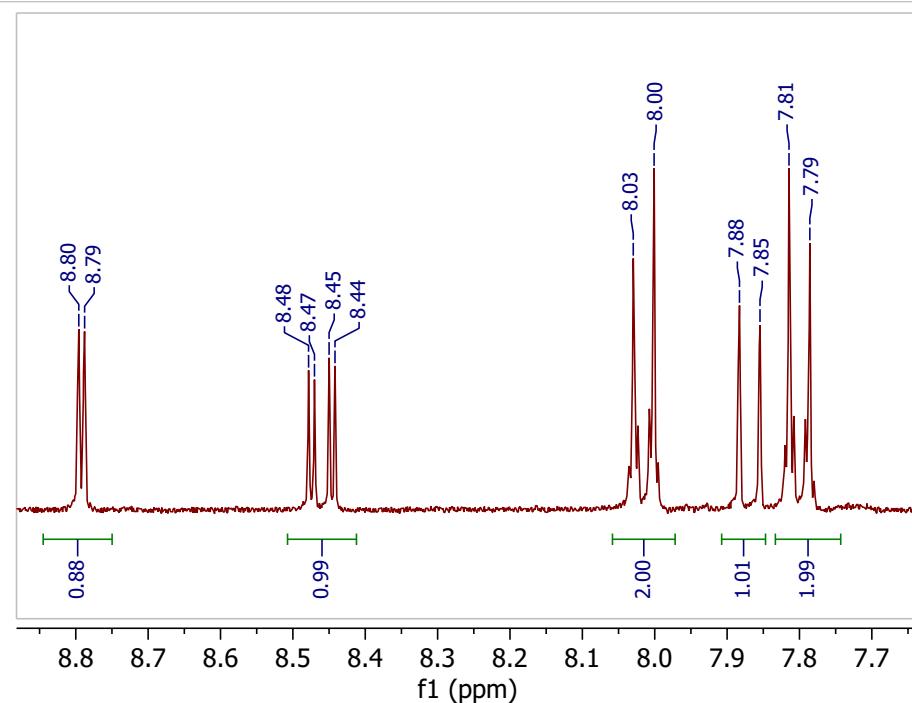
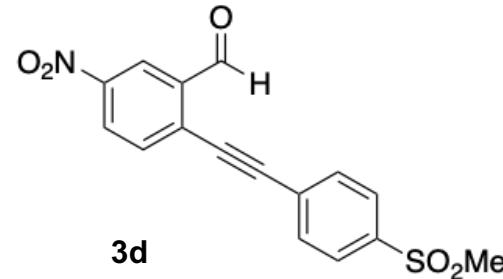
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



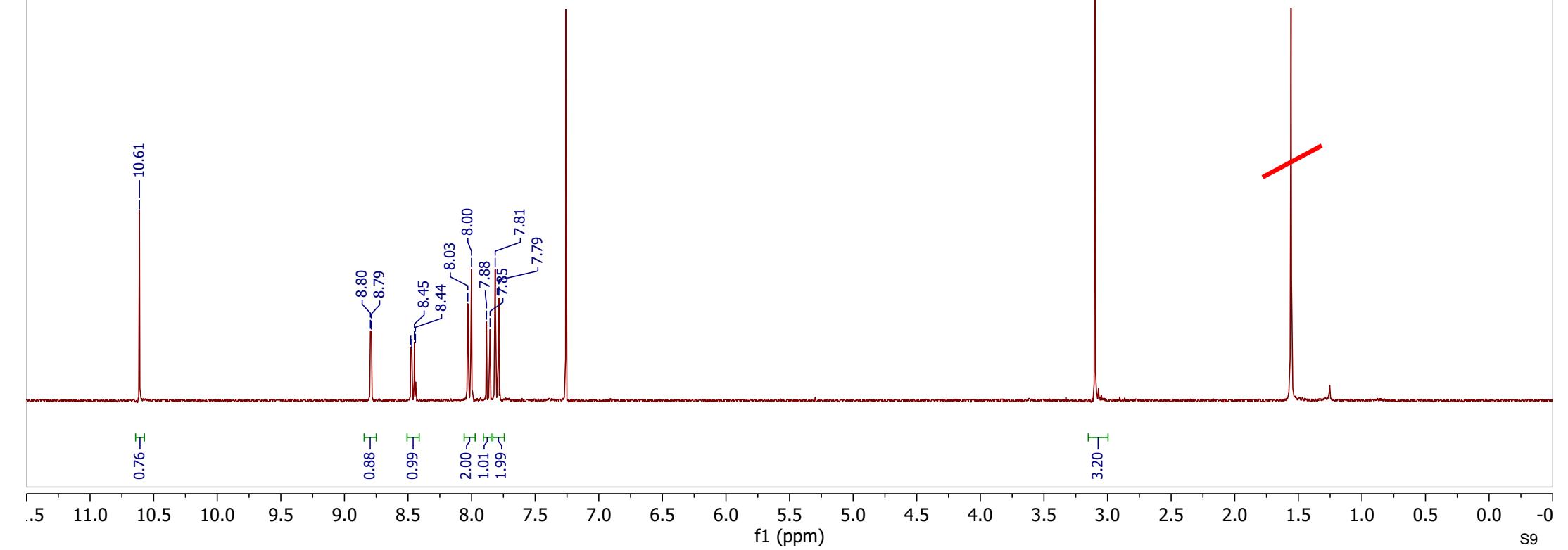
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



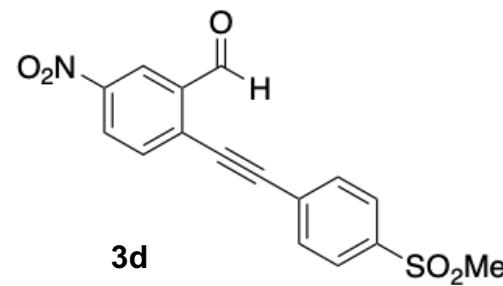
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



$\text{H}_2\text{O}$



<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



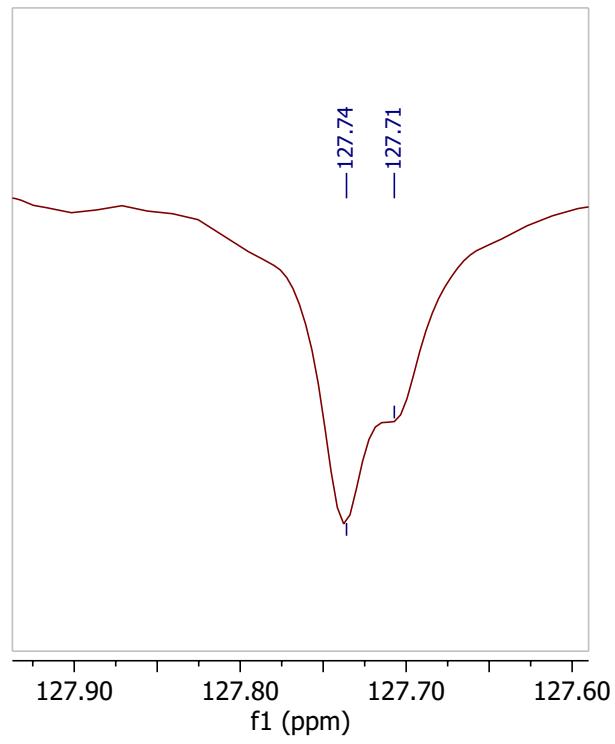
141.6  
137.0  
134.7  
132.7  
130.7  
127.7  
127.7  
126.9  
~123.1  
~120.5

98.6

86.8

—127.74  
—127.71

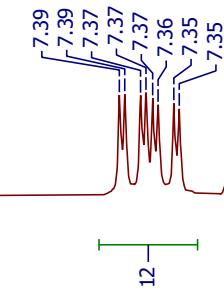
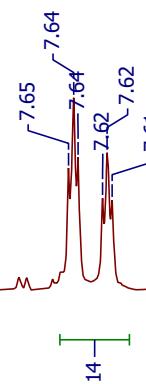
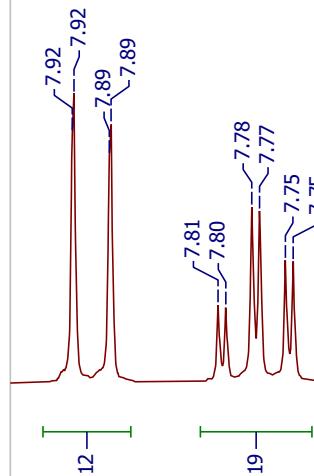
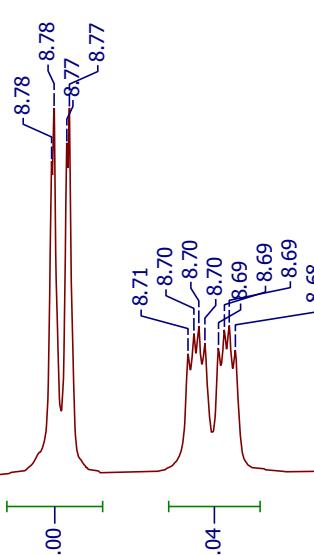
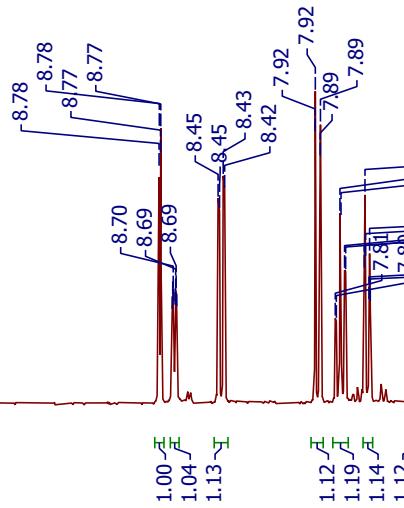
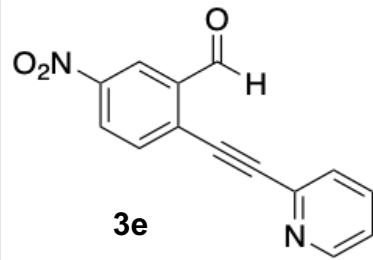
44.4



200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0  
f1 (ppm)

S10

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

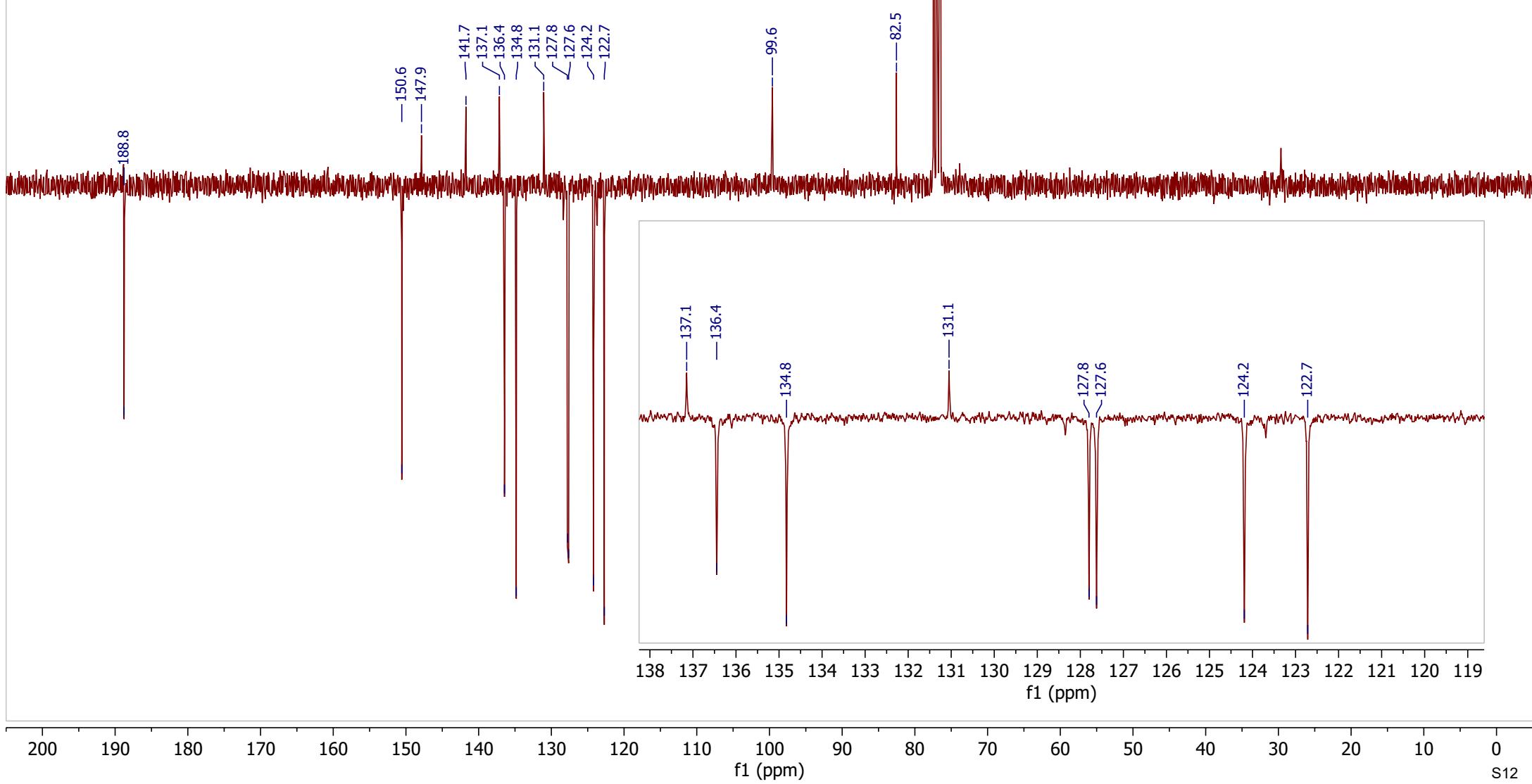
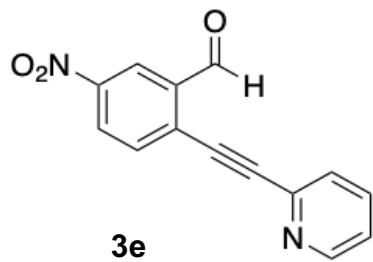


f1 (ppm)

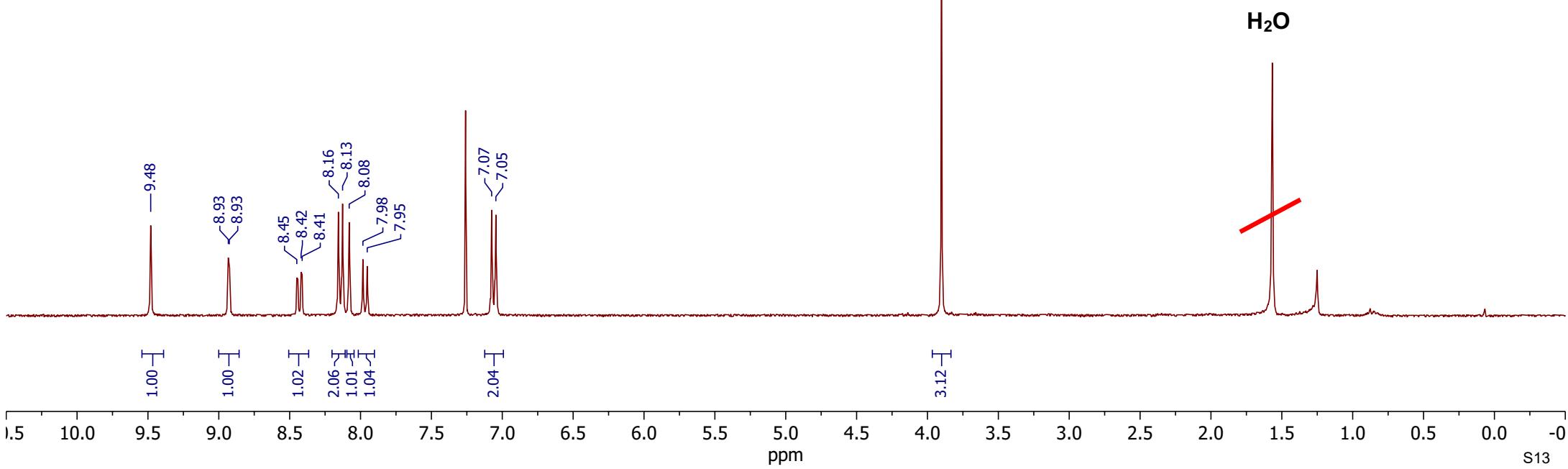
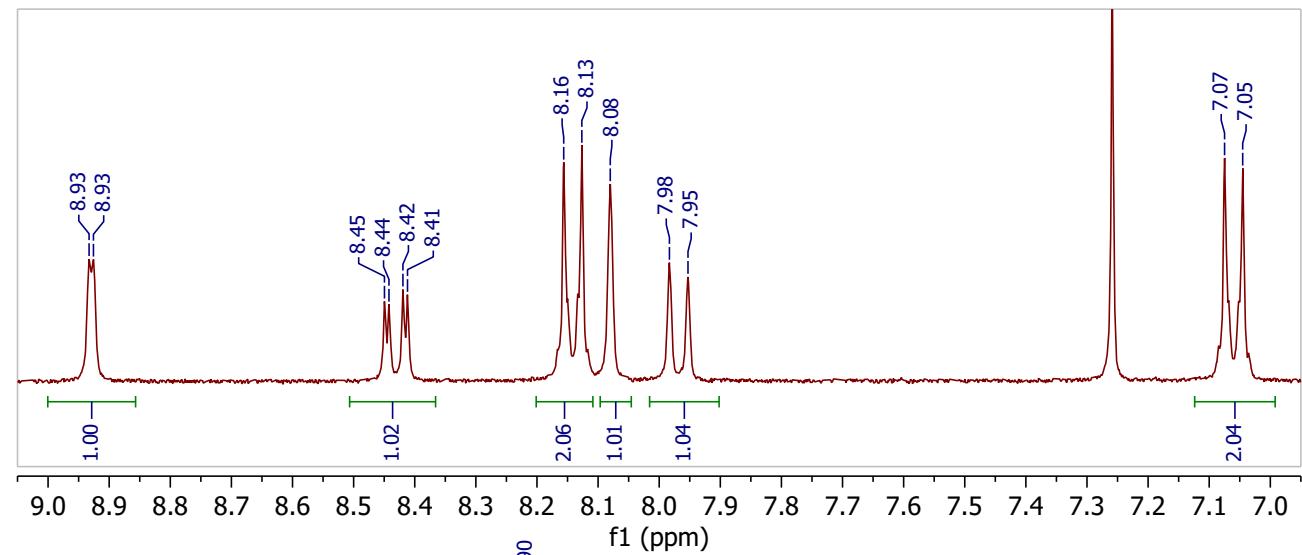
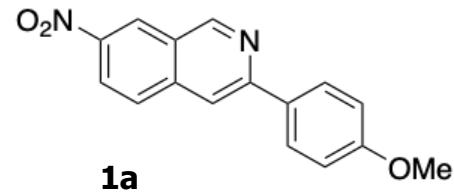
f1 (ppm)

S11

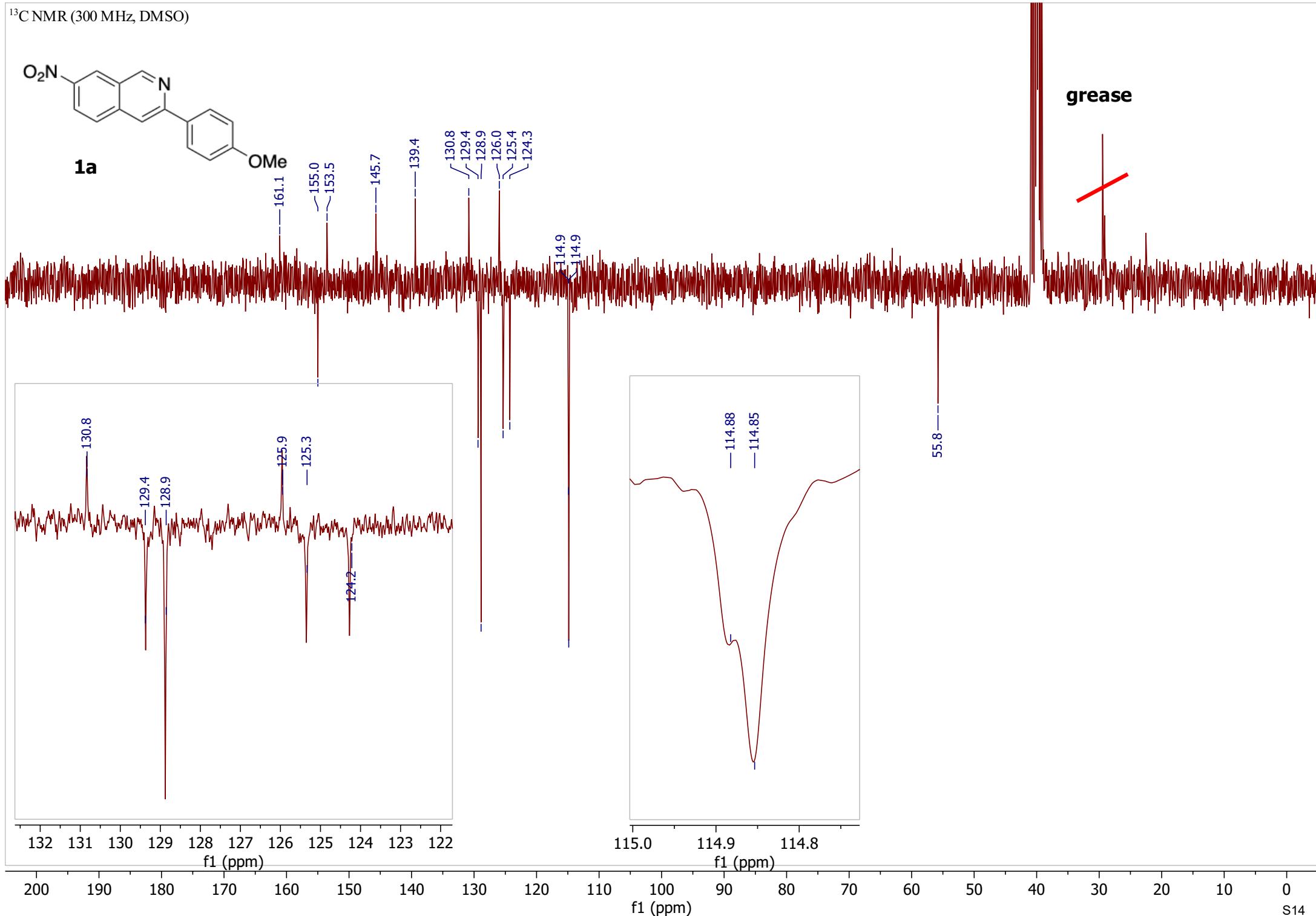
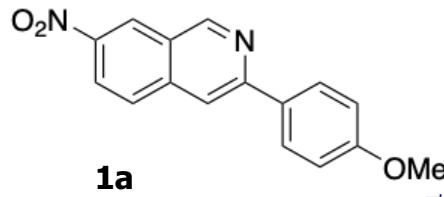
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



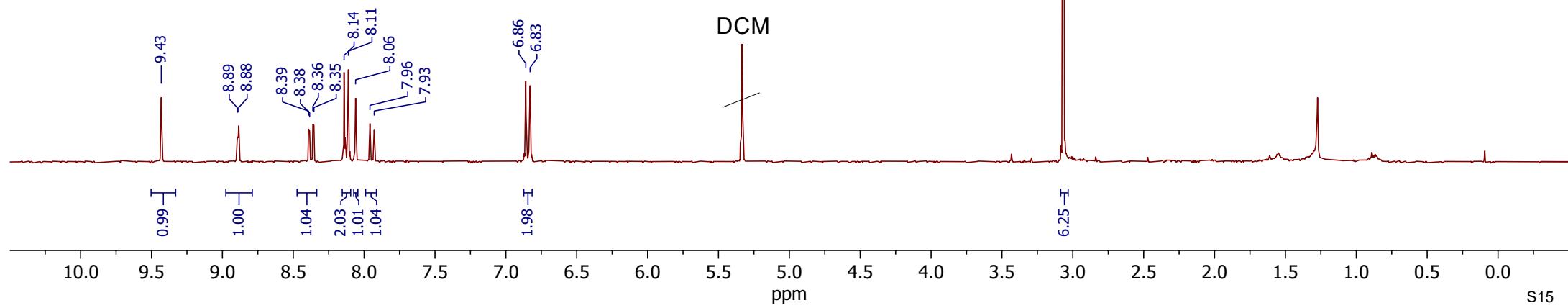
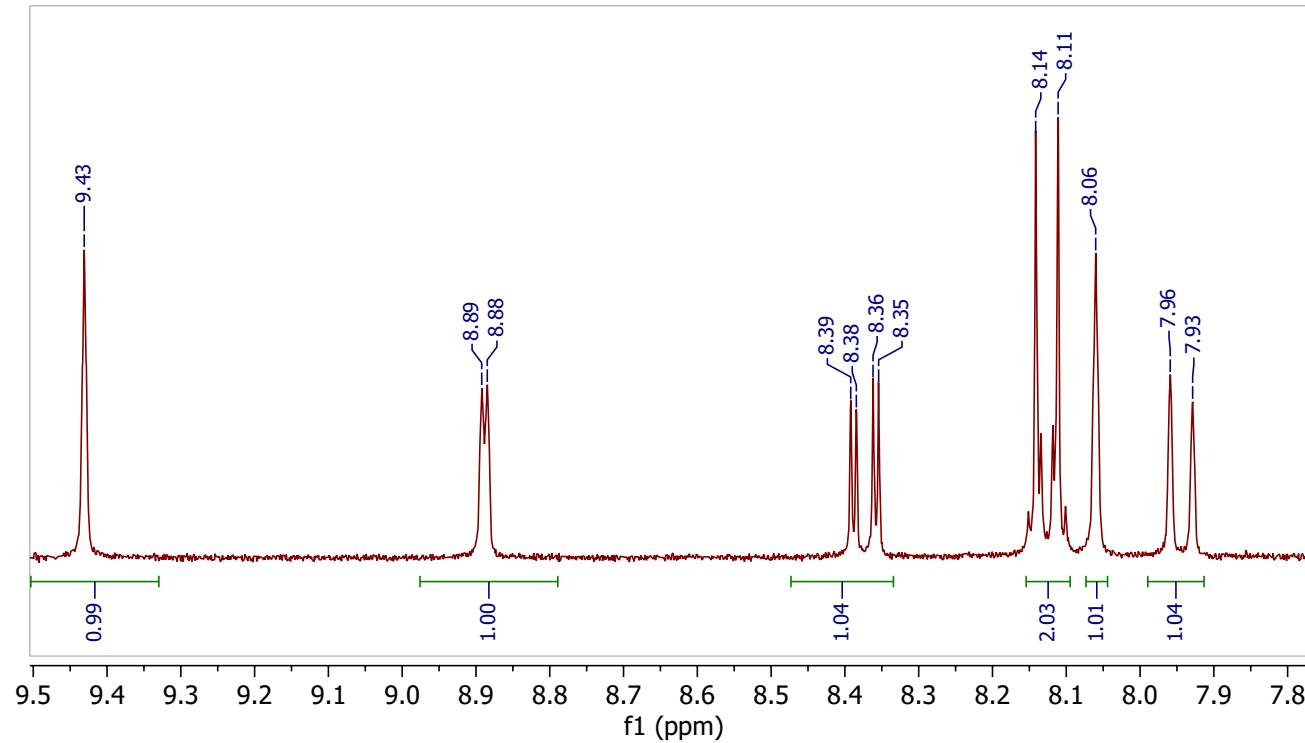
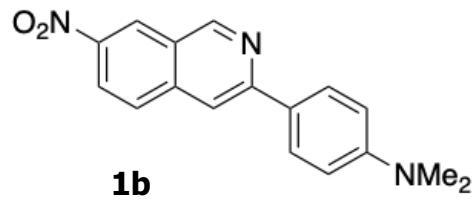
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



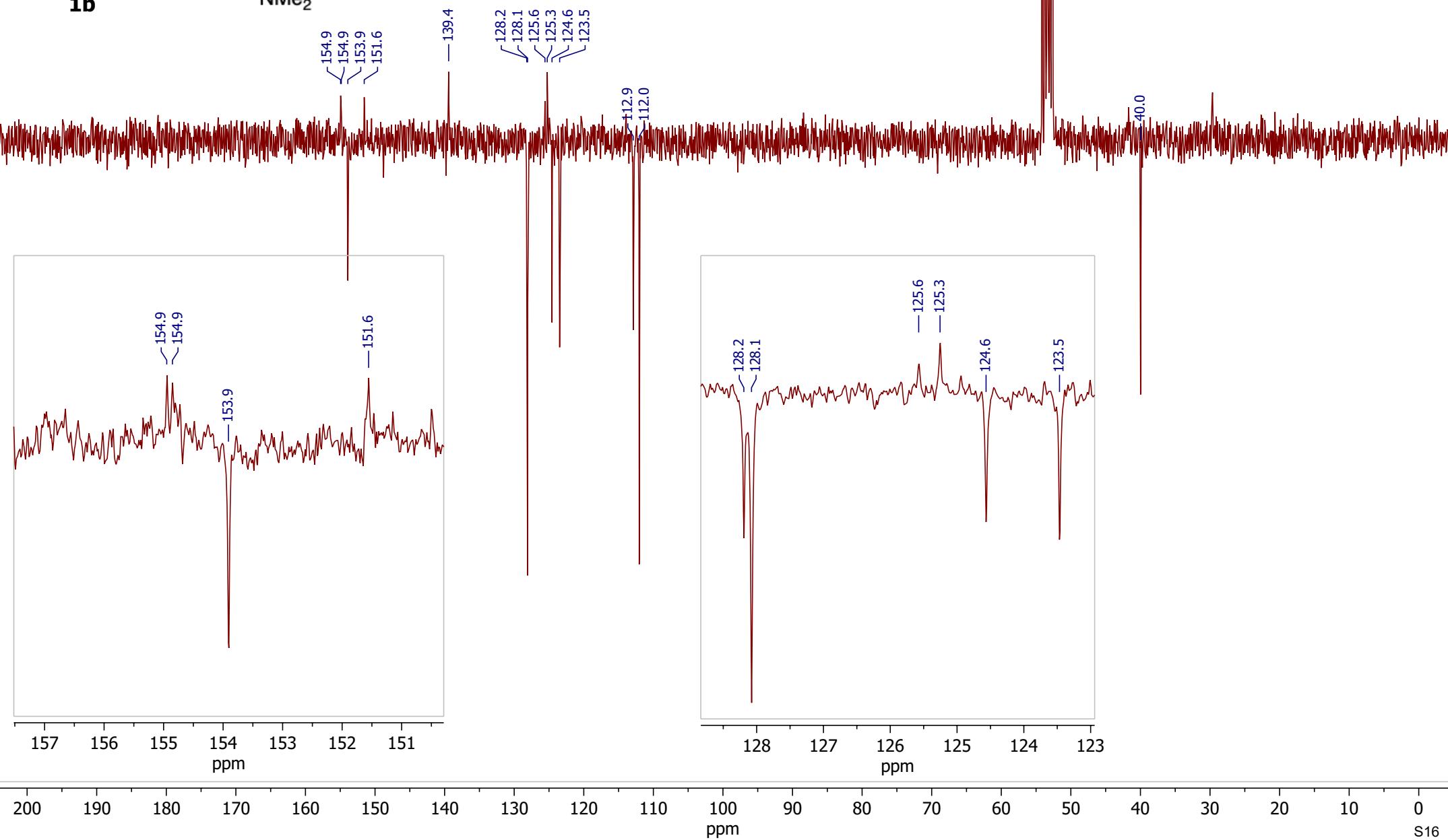
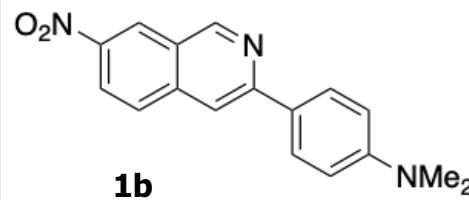
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (300 MHz, DMSO)

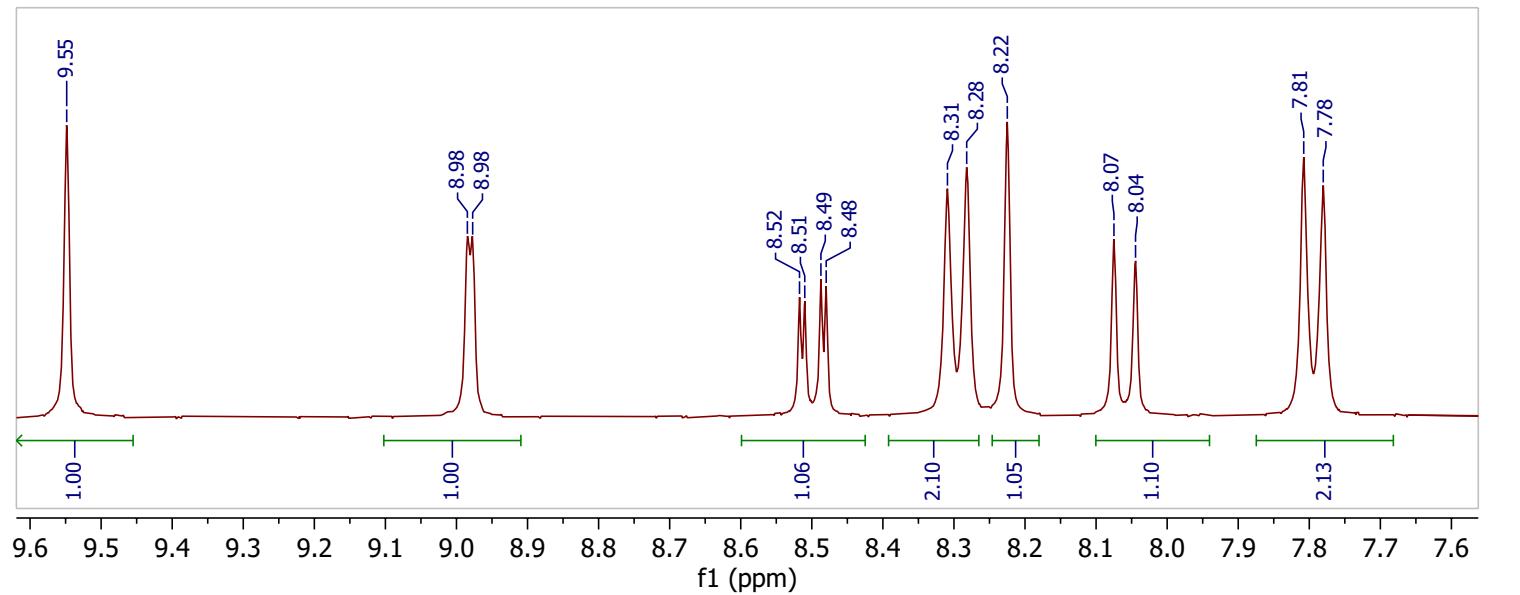
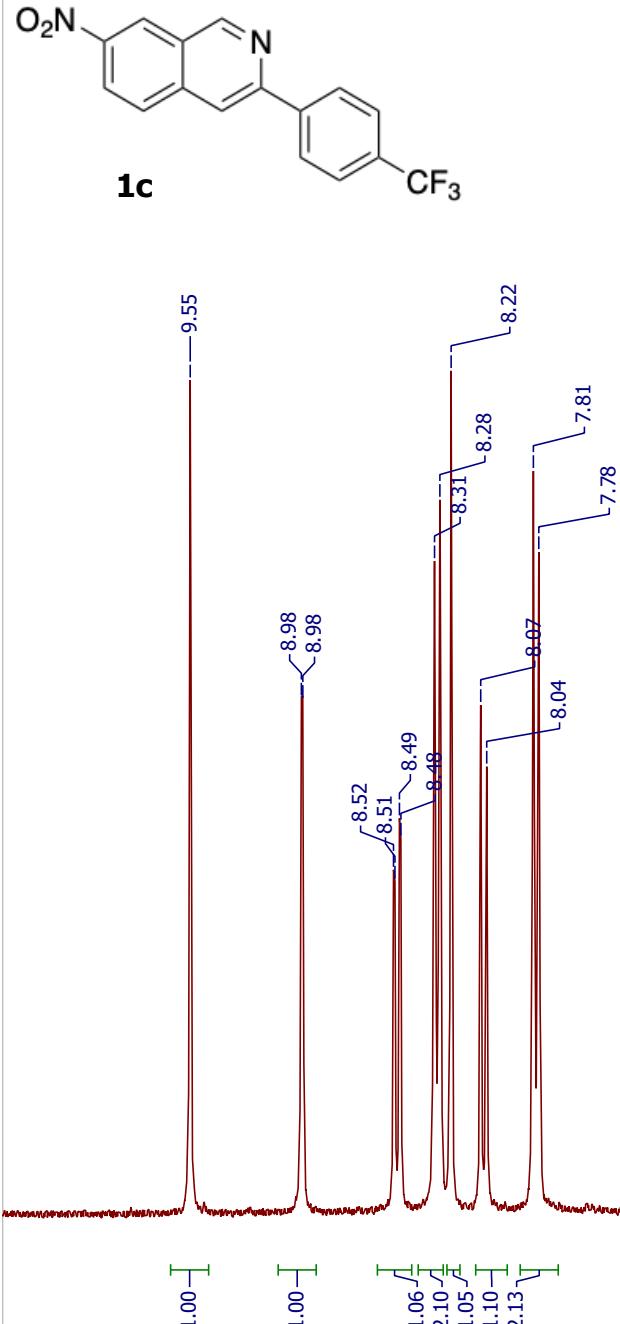


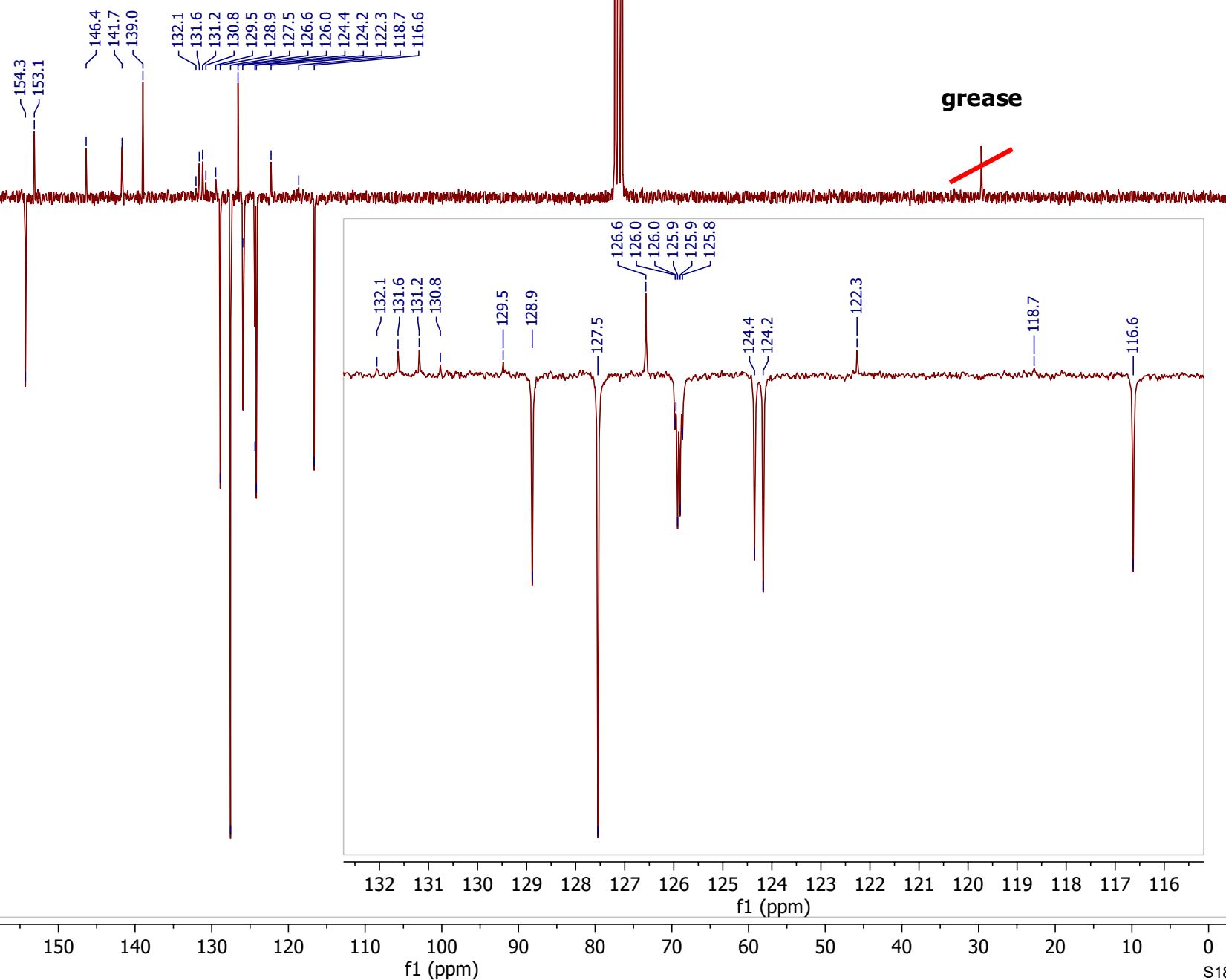
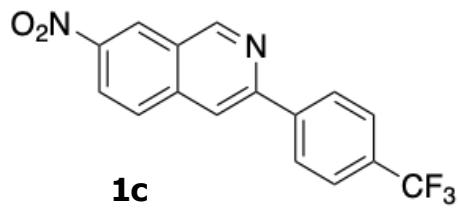
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)



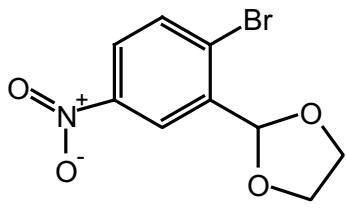
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)



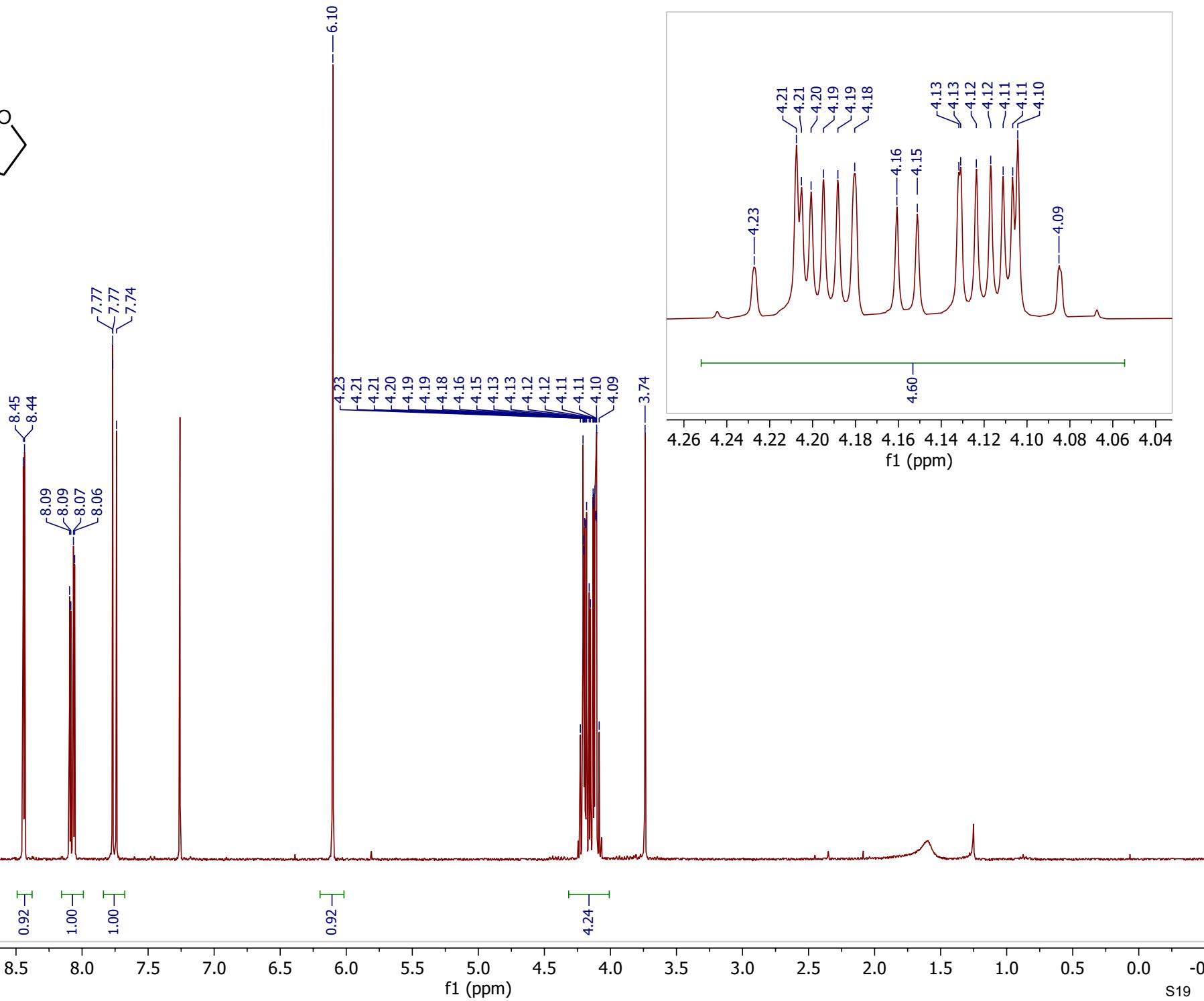
**grease****H<sub>2</sub>O**



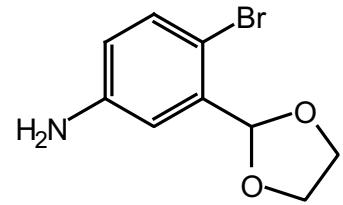
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



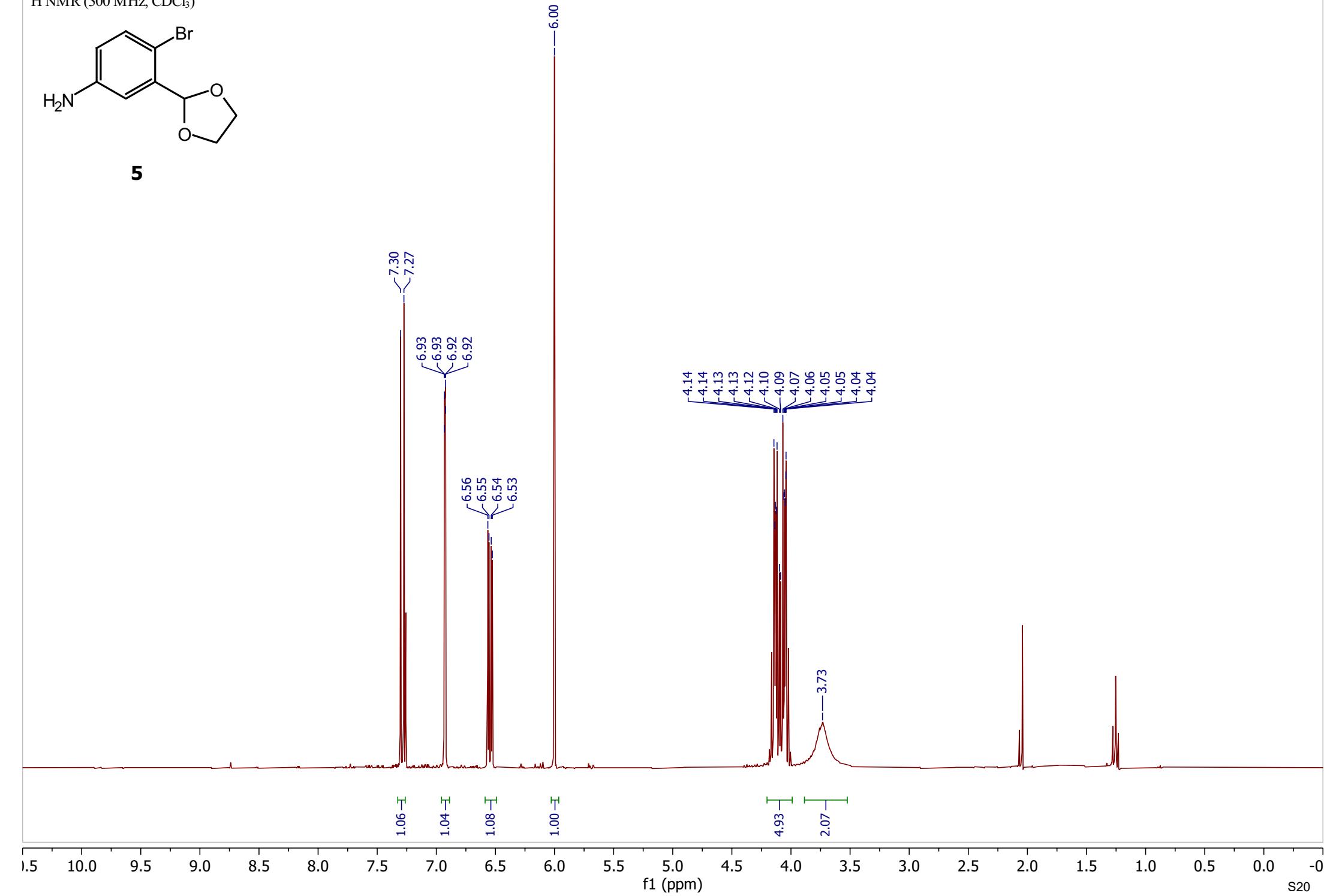
**4**



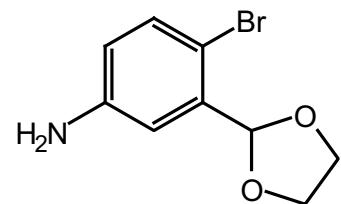
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



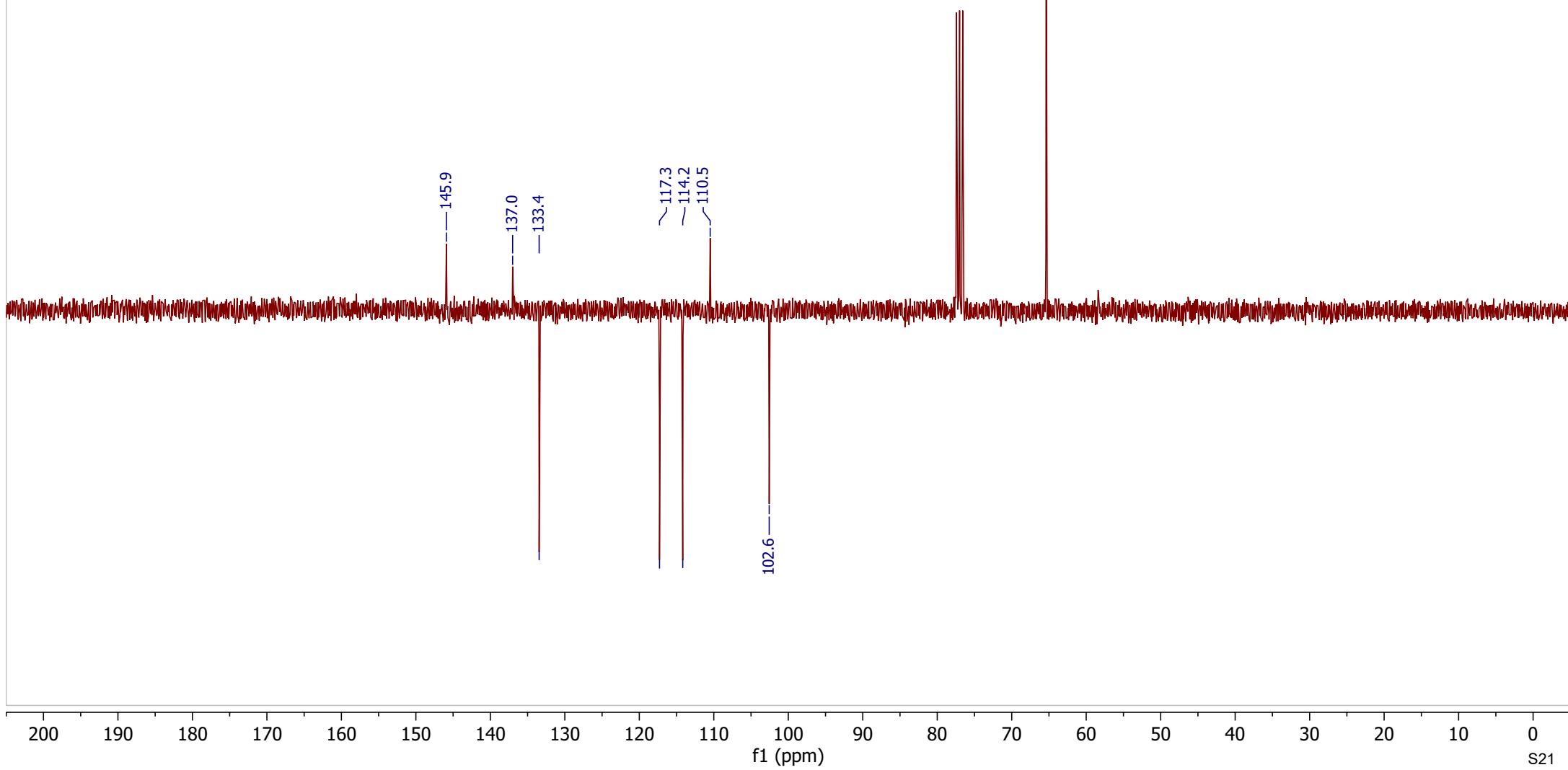
**5**



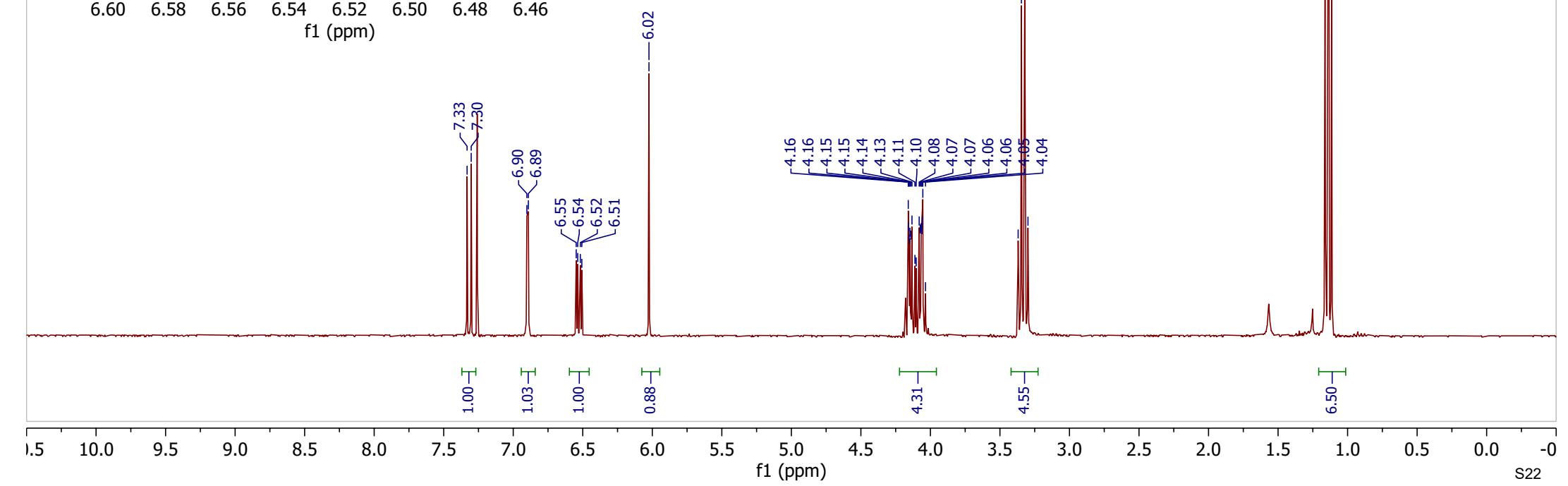
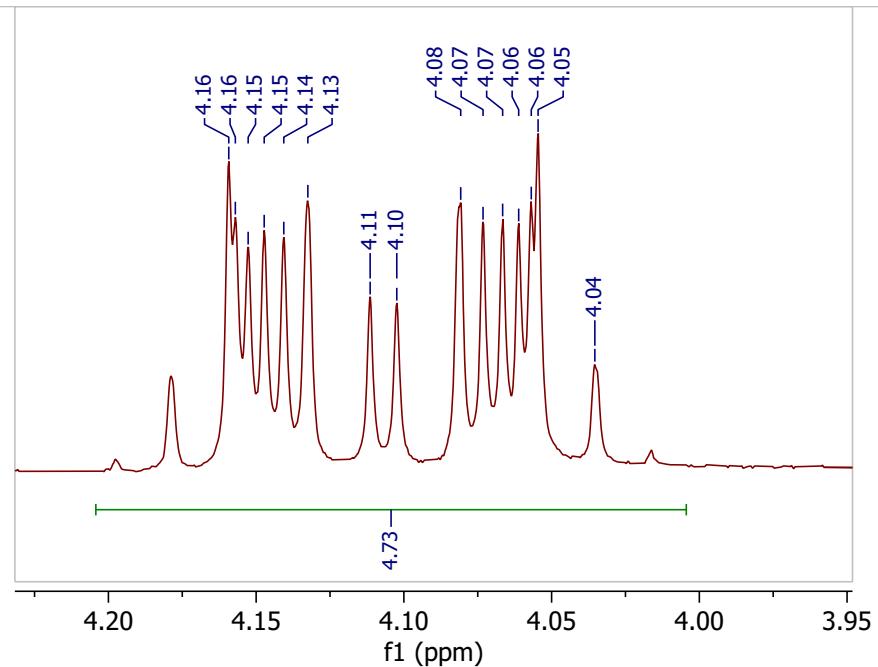
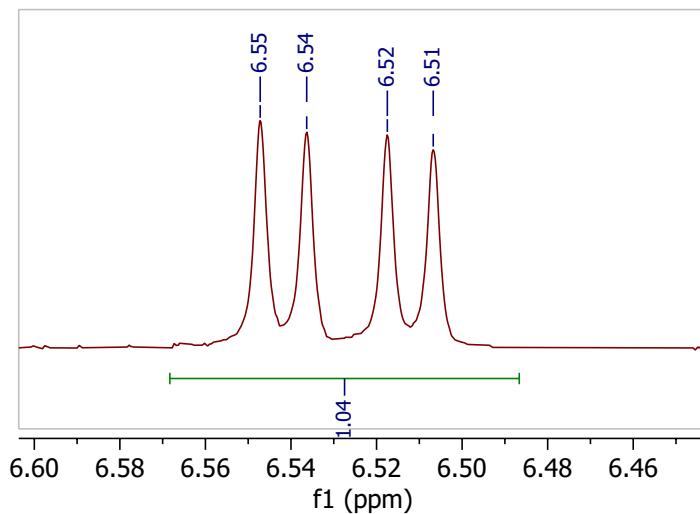
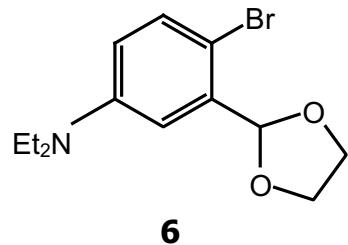
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



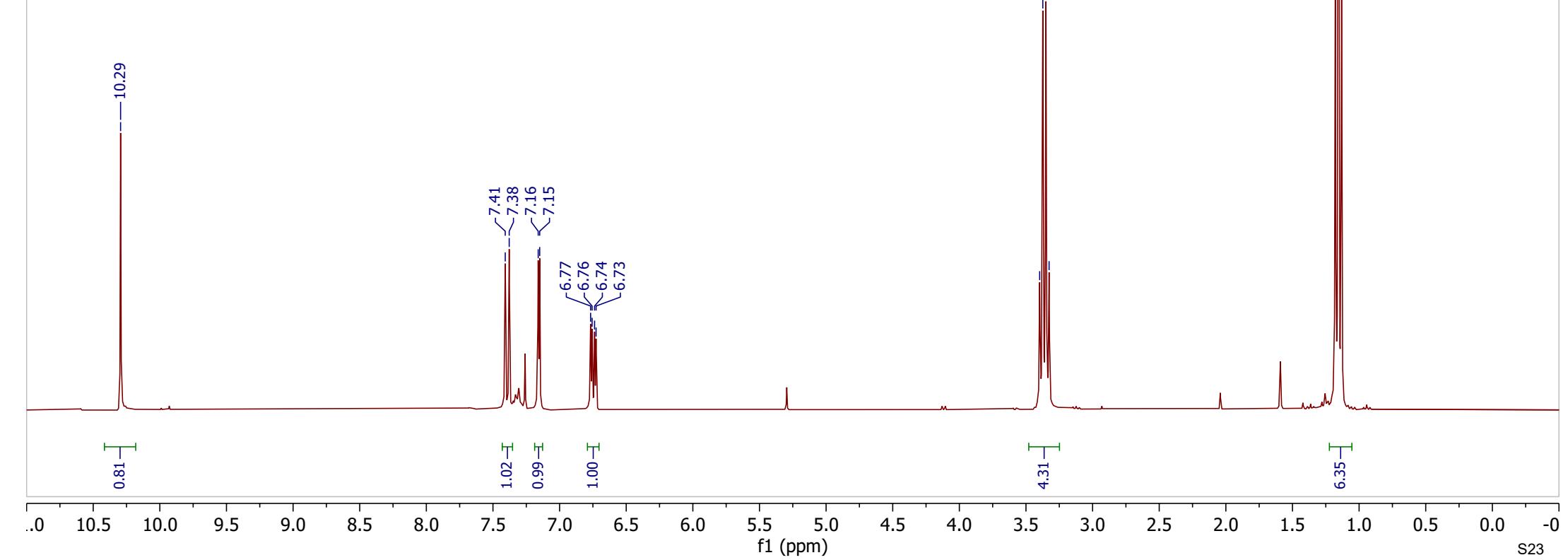
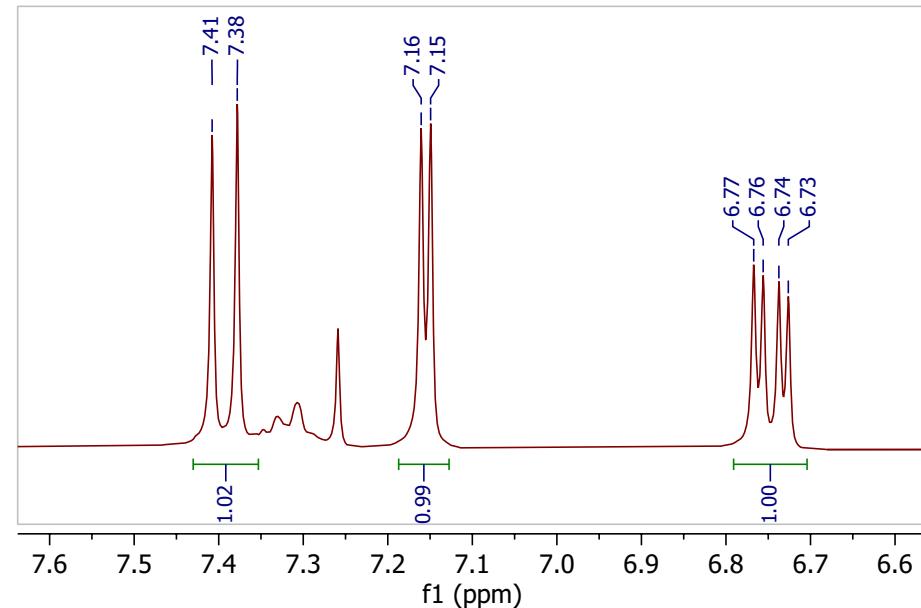
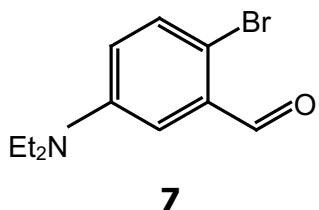
**5**

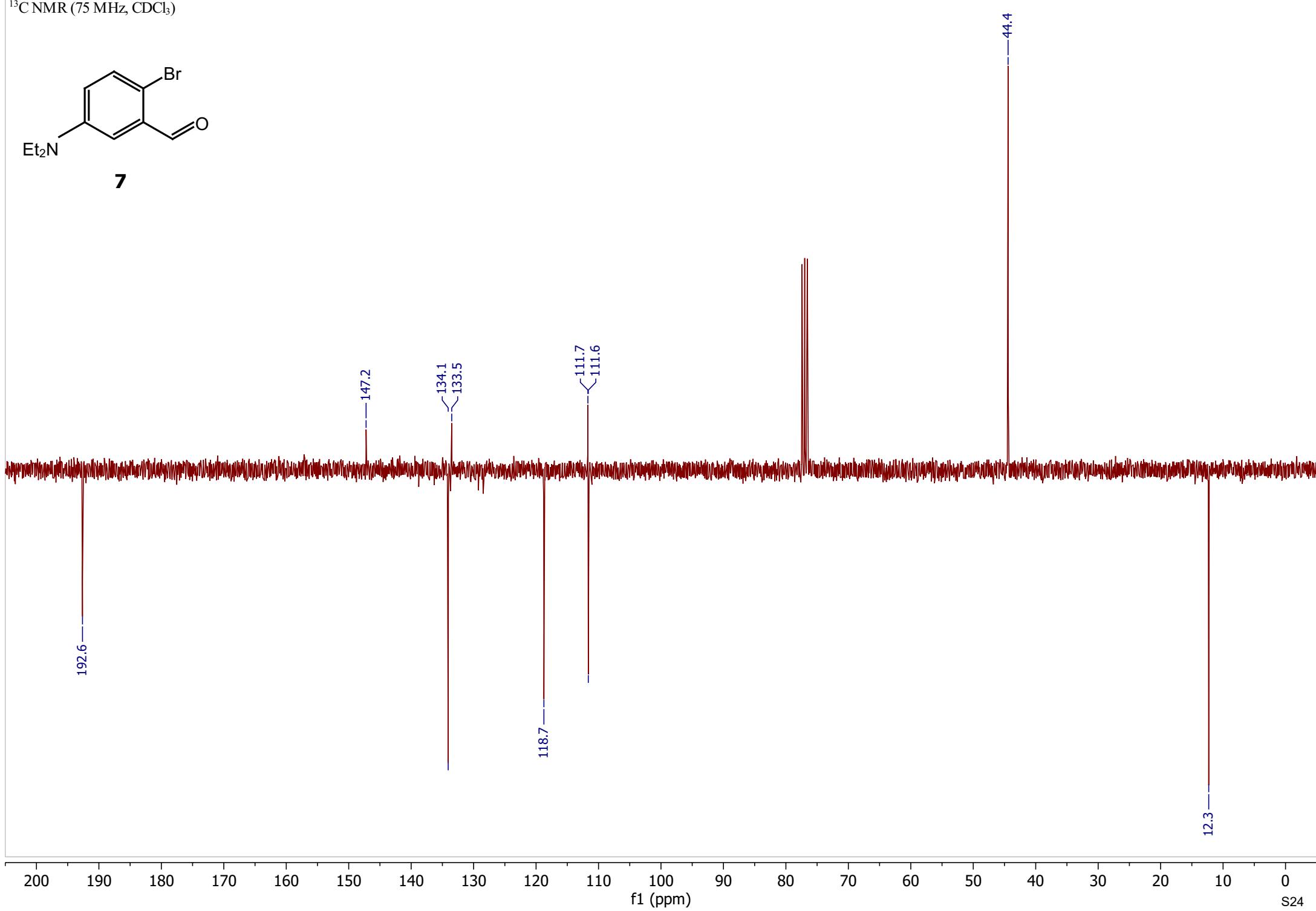
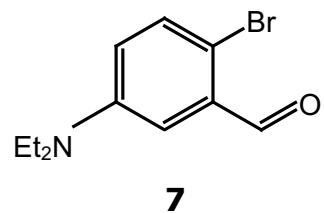


$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

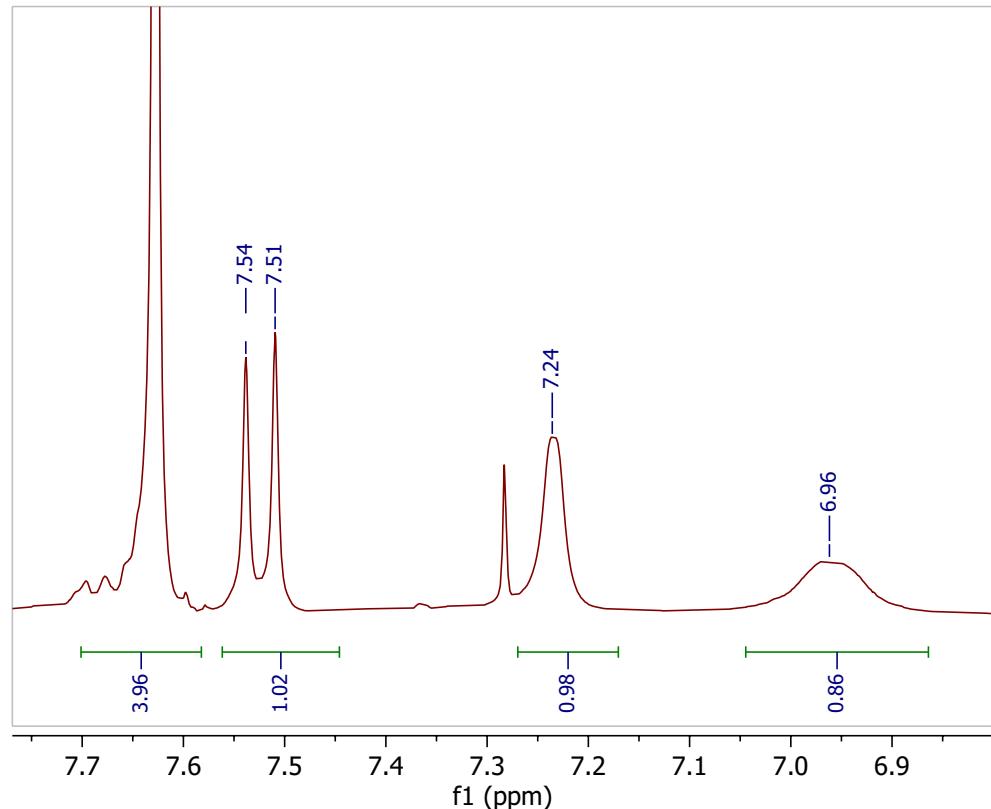
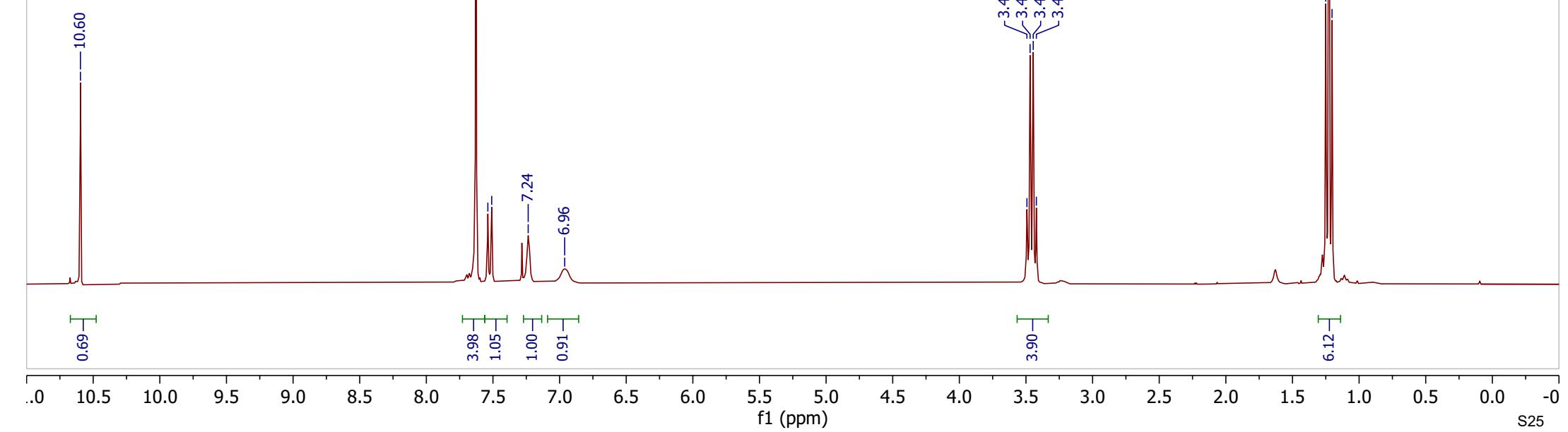
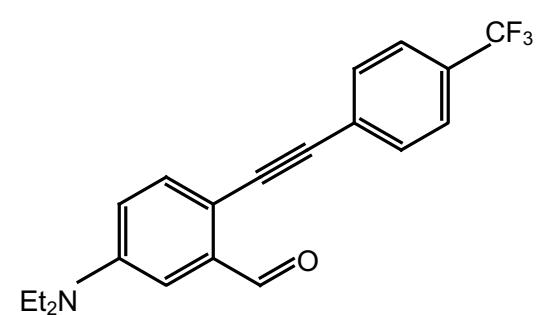


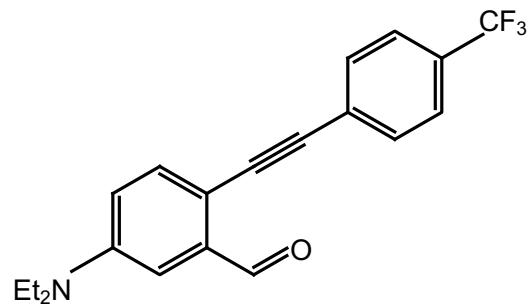
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



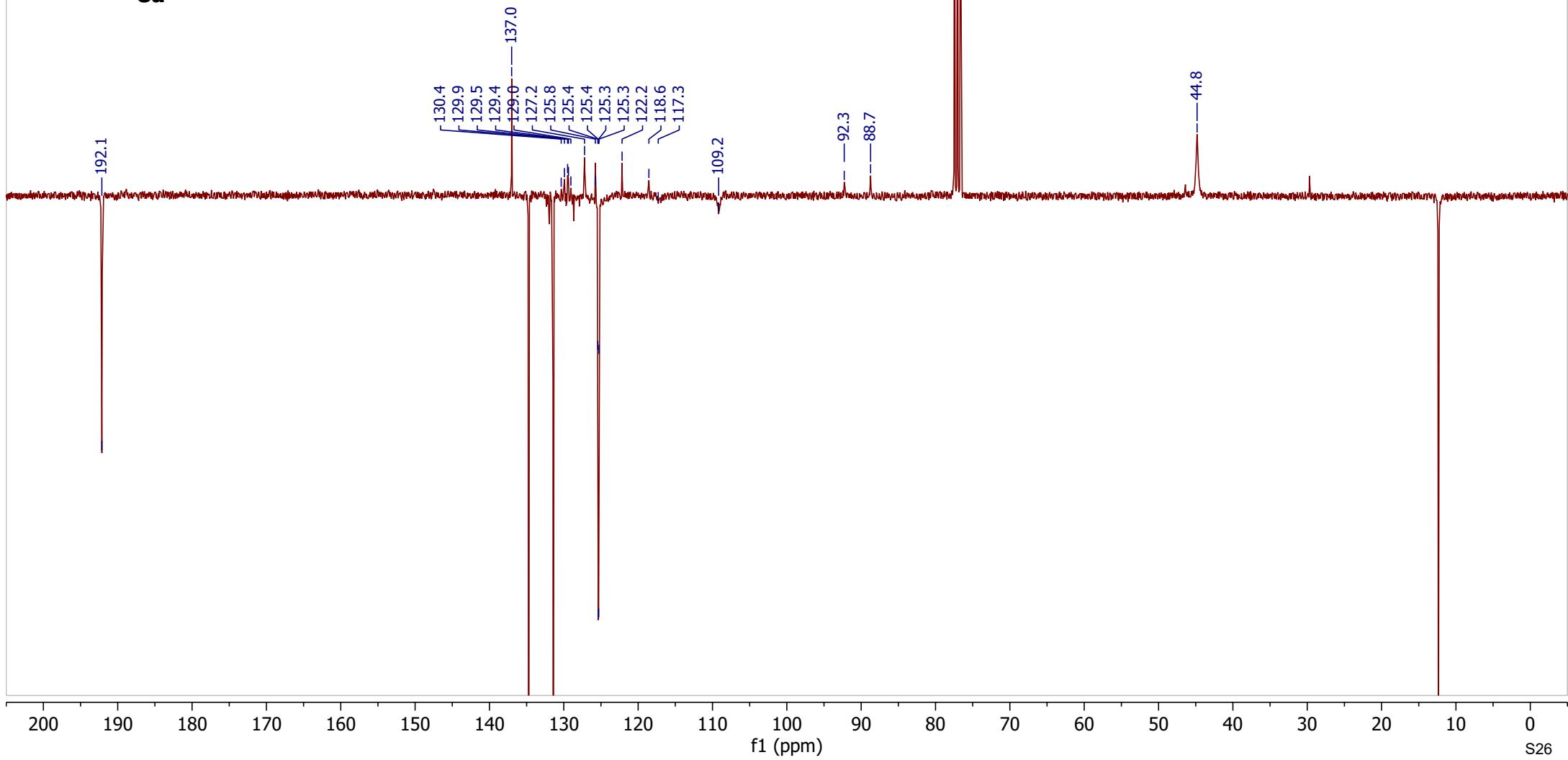


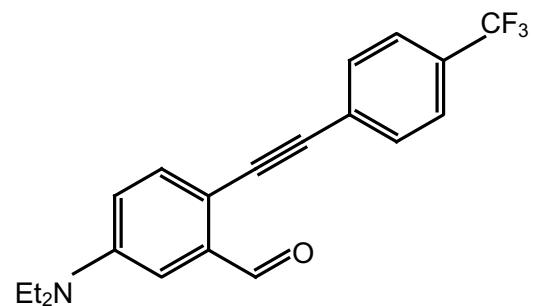
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



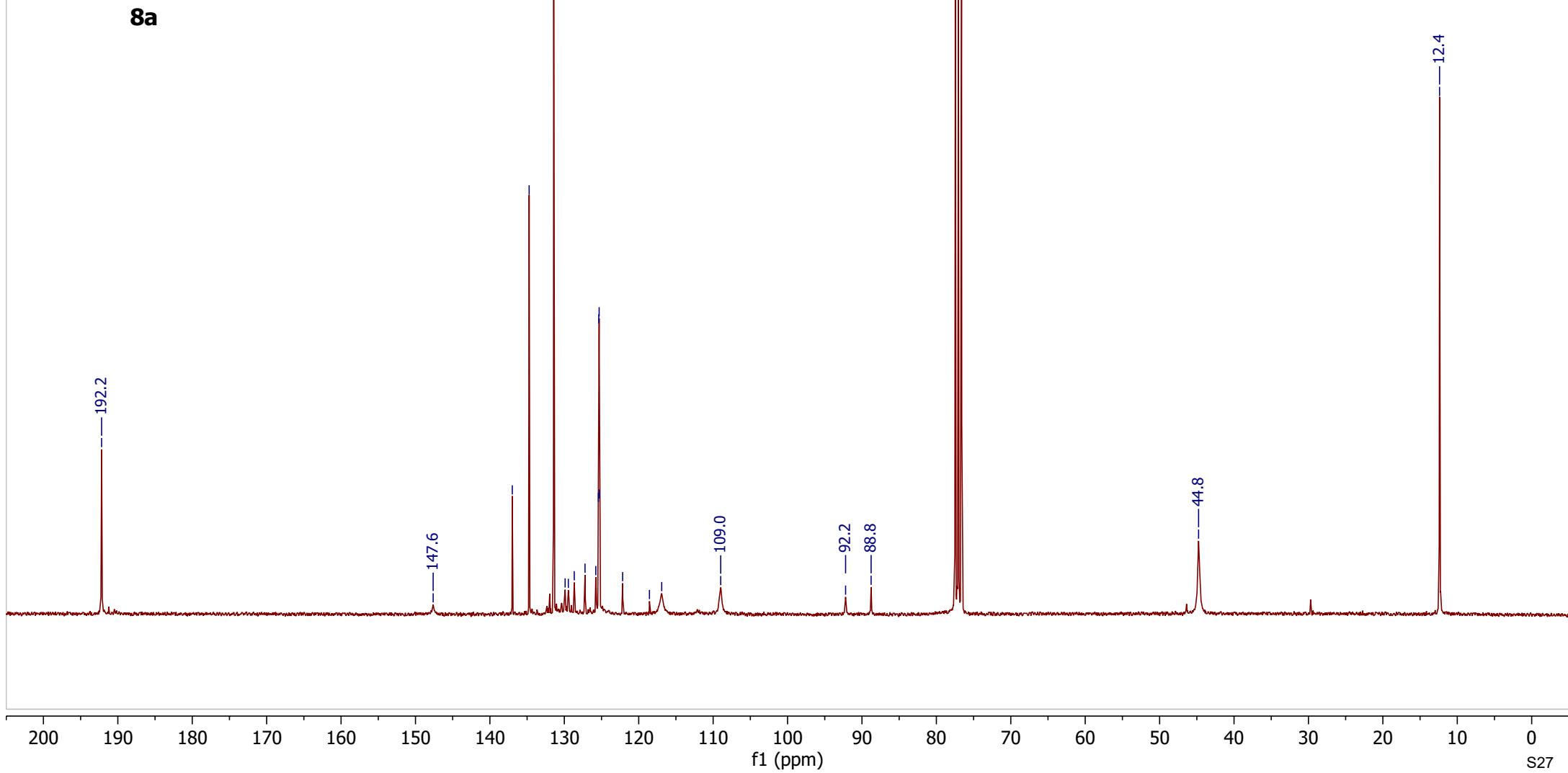


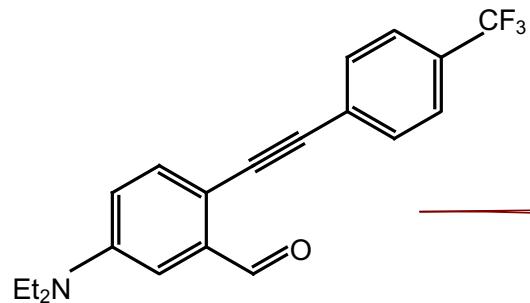
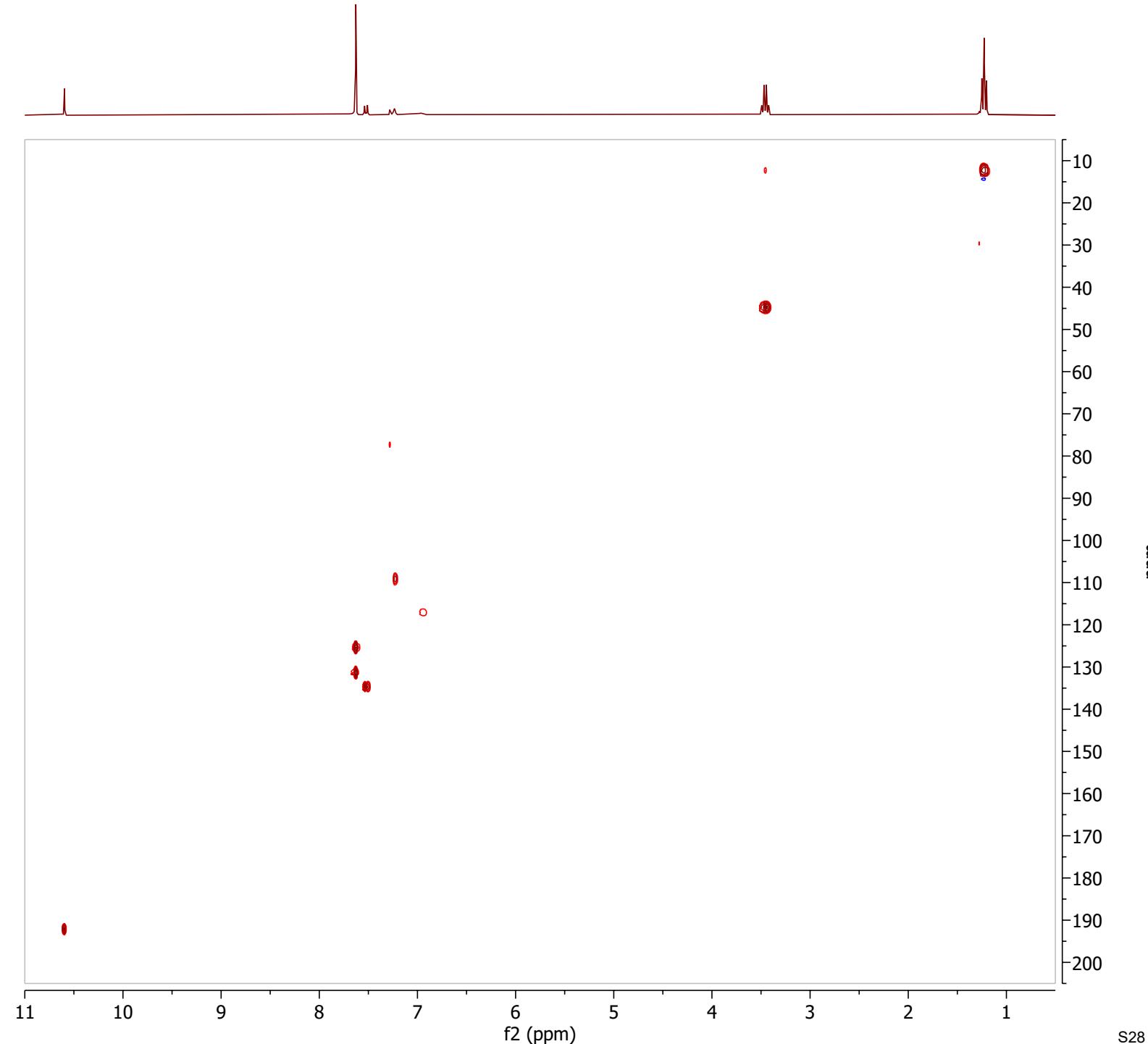
**8a**

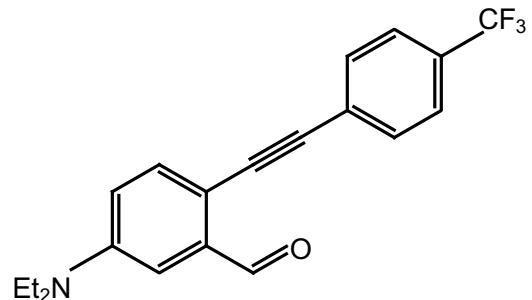
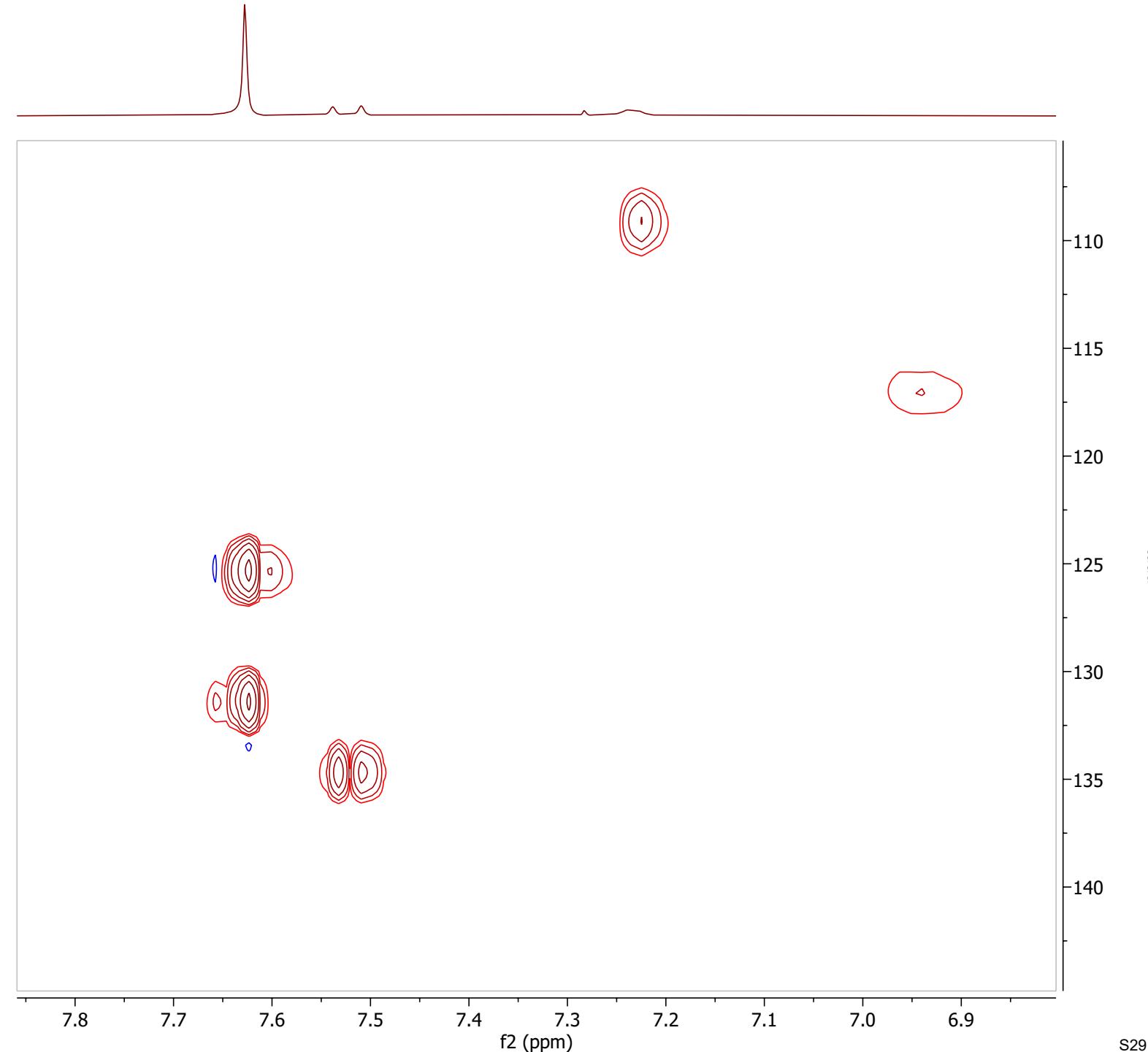




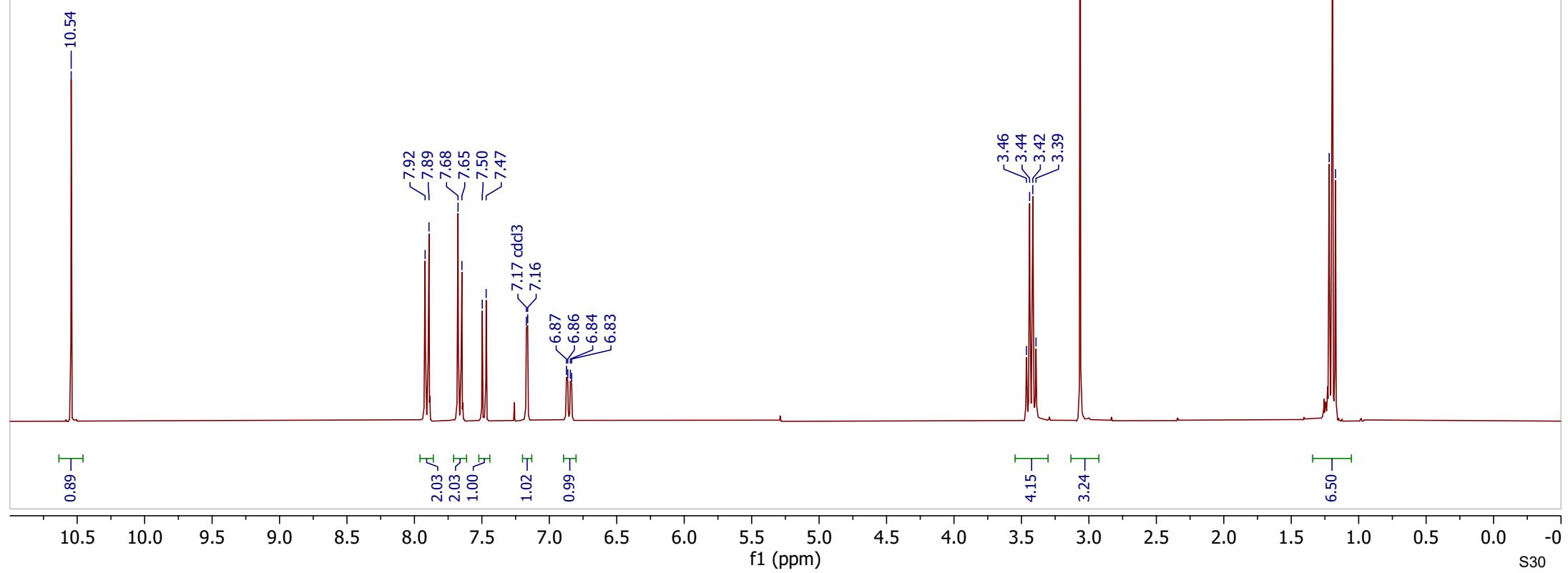
**8a**

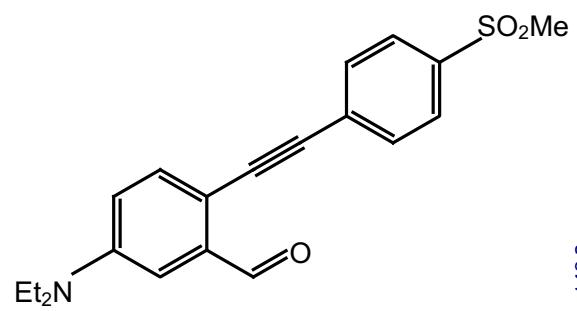


**8a**

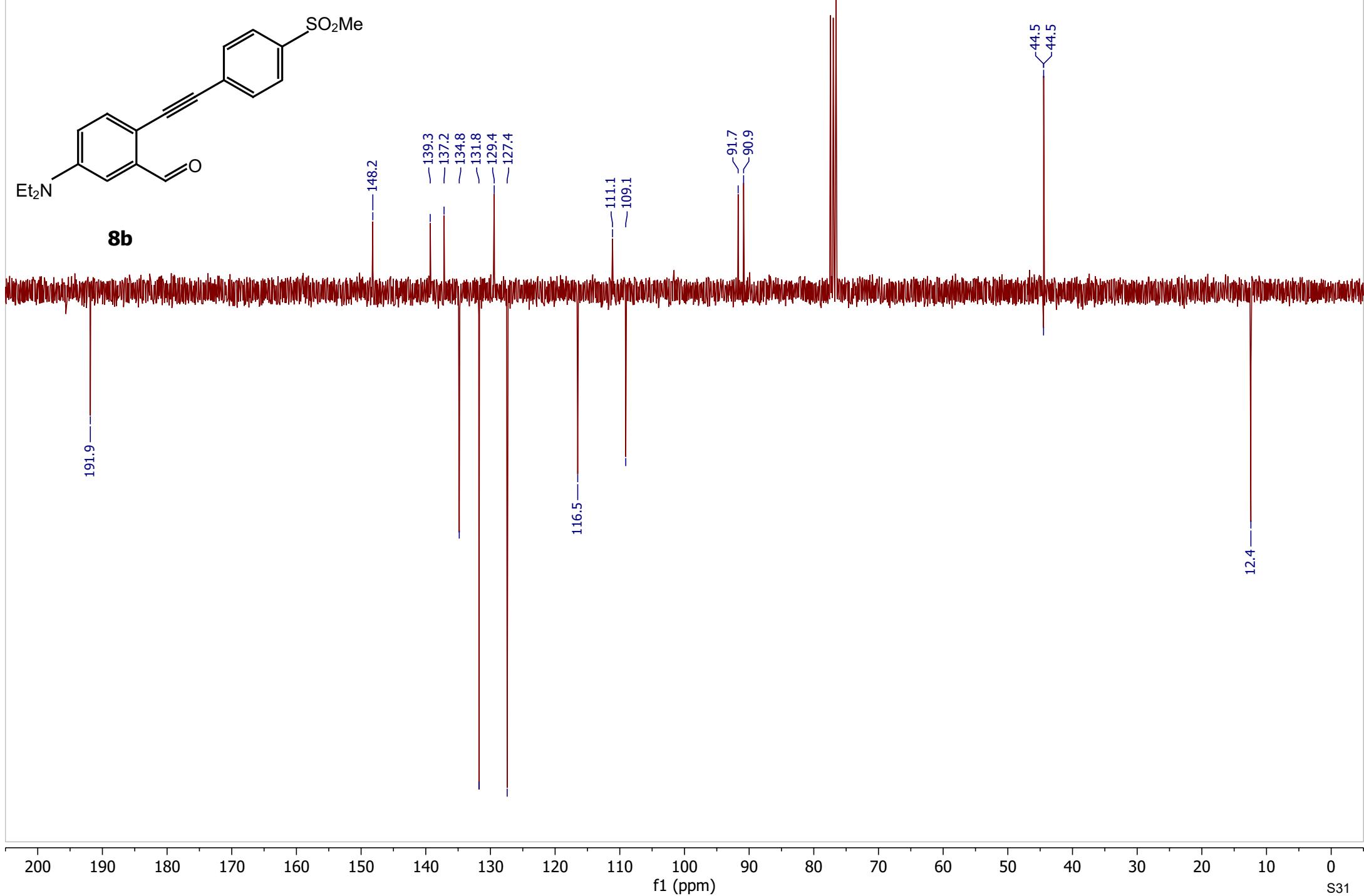
**8a**

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

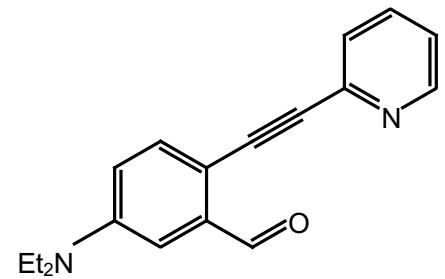




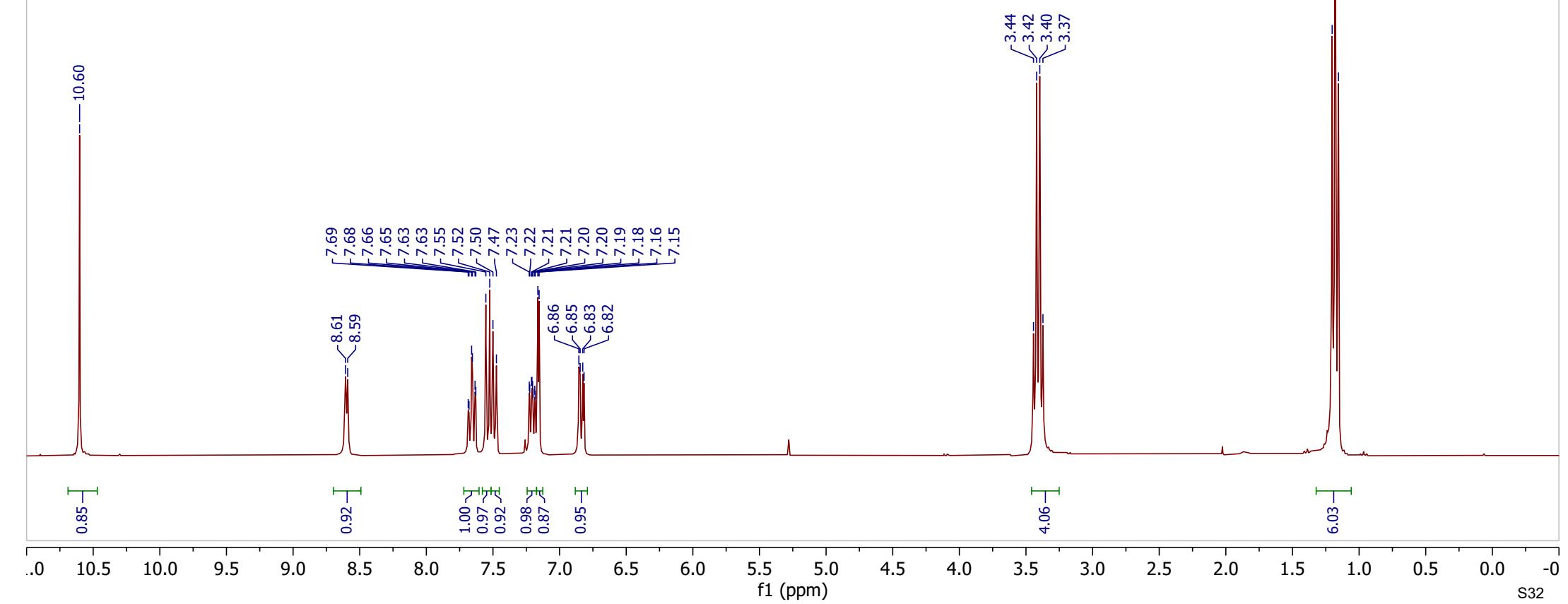
**8b**



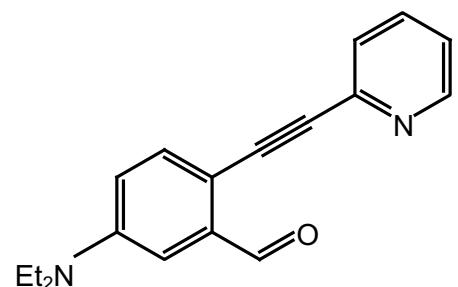
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



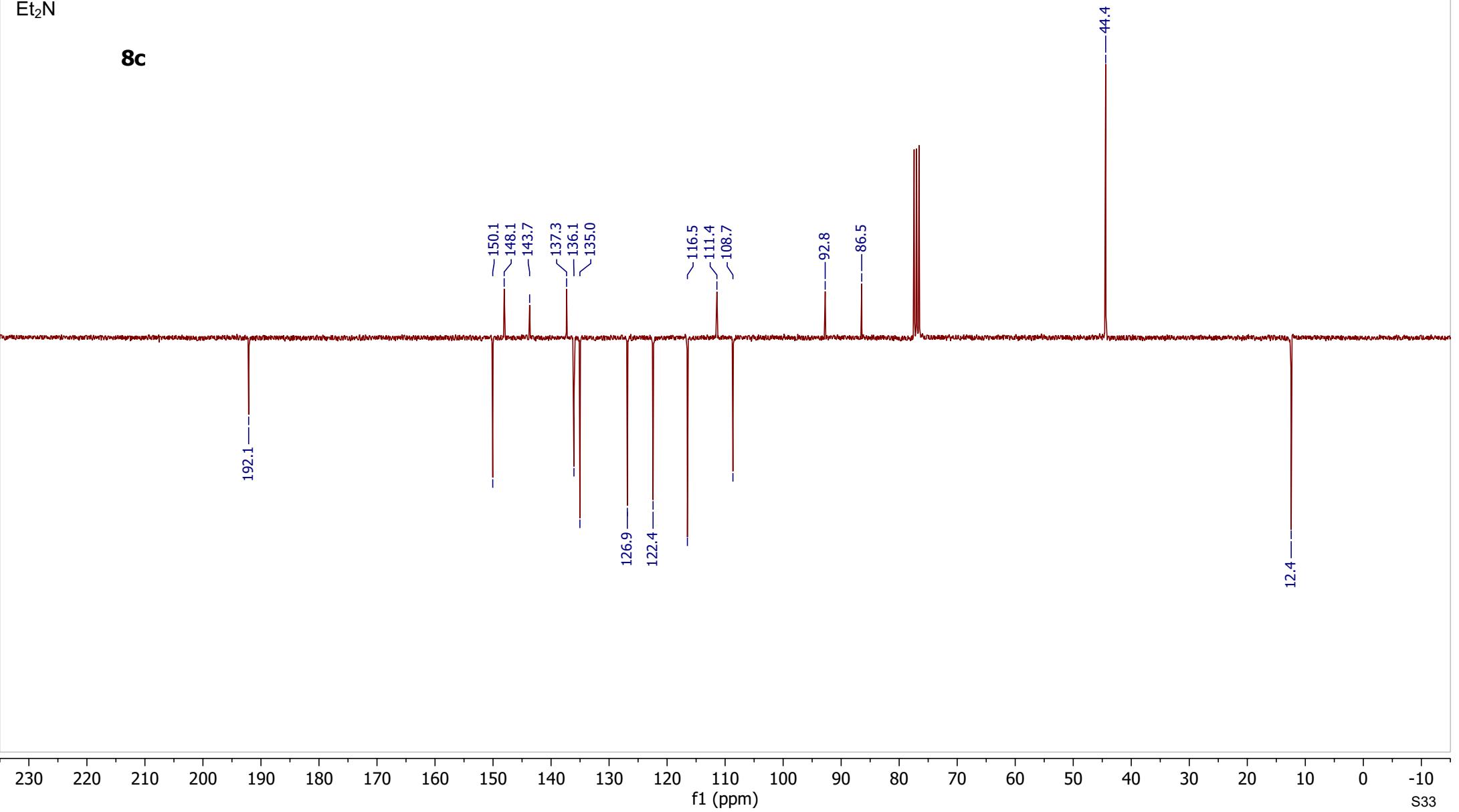
**8c**



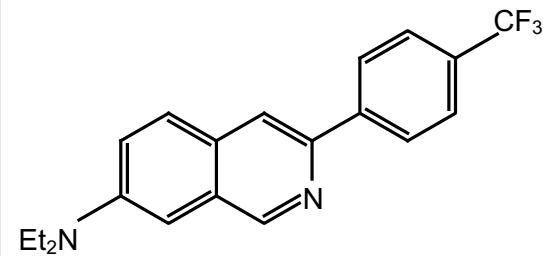
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



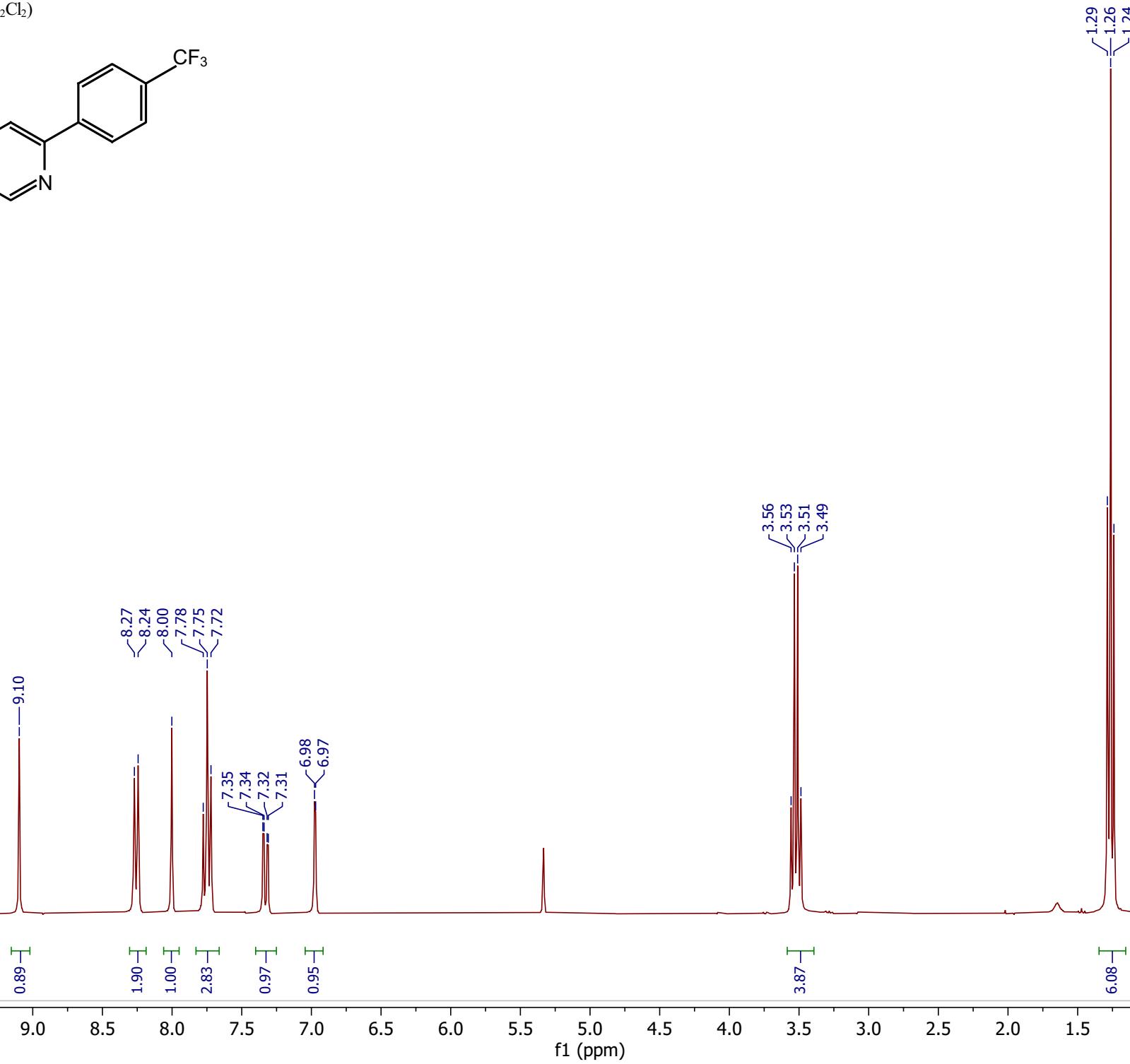
**8c**

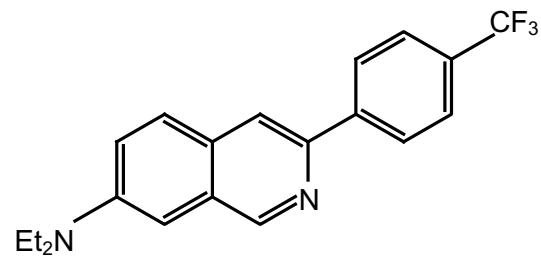


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)

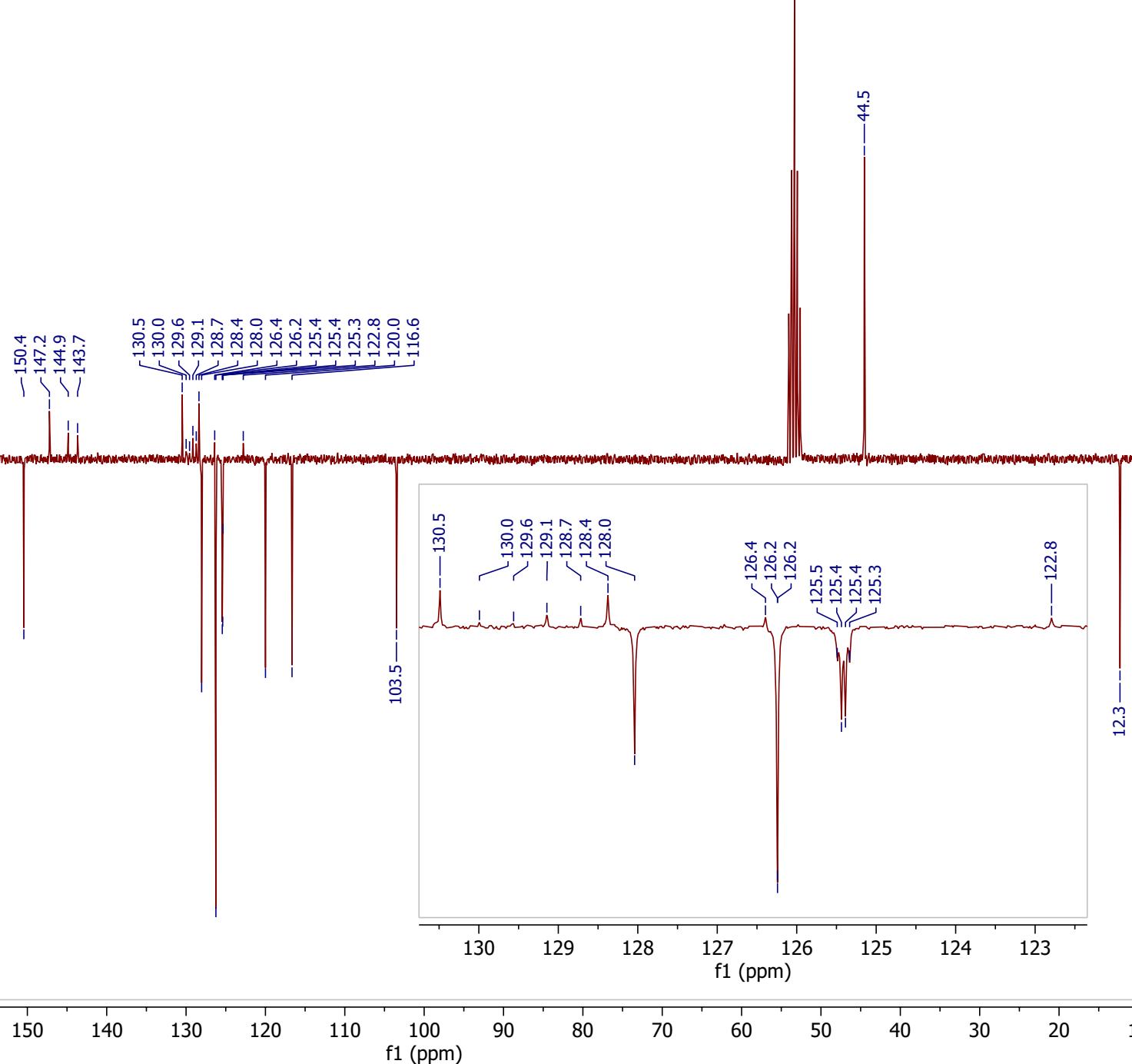


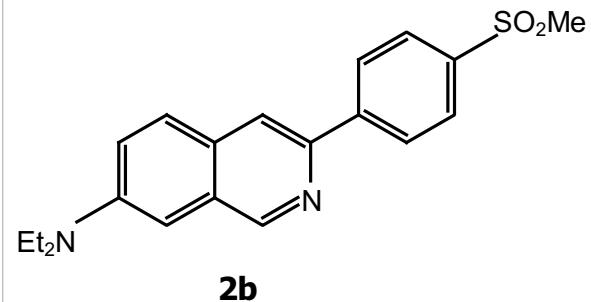
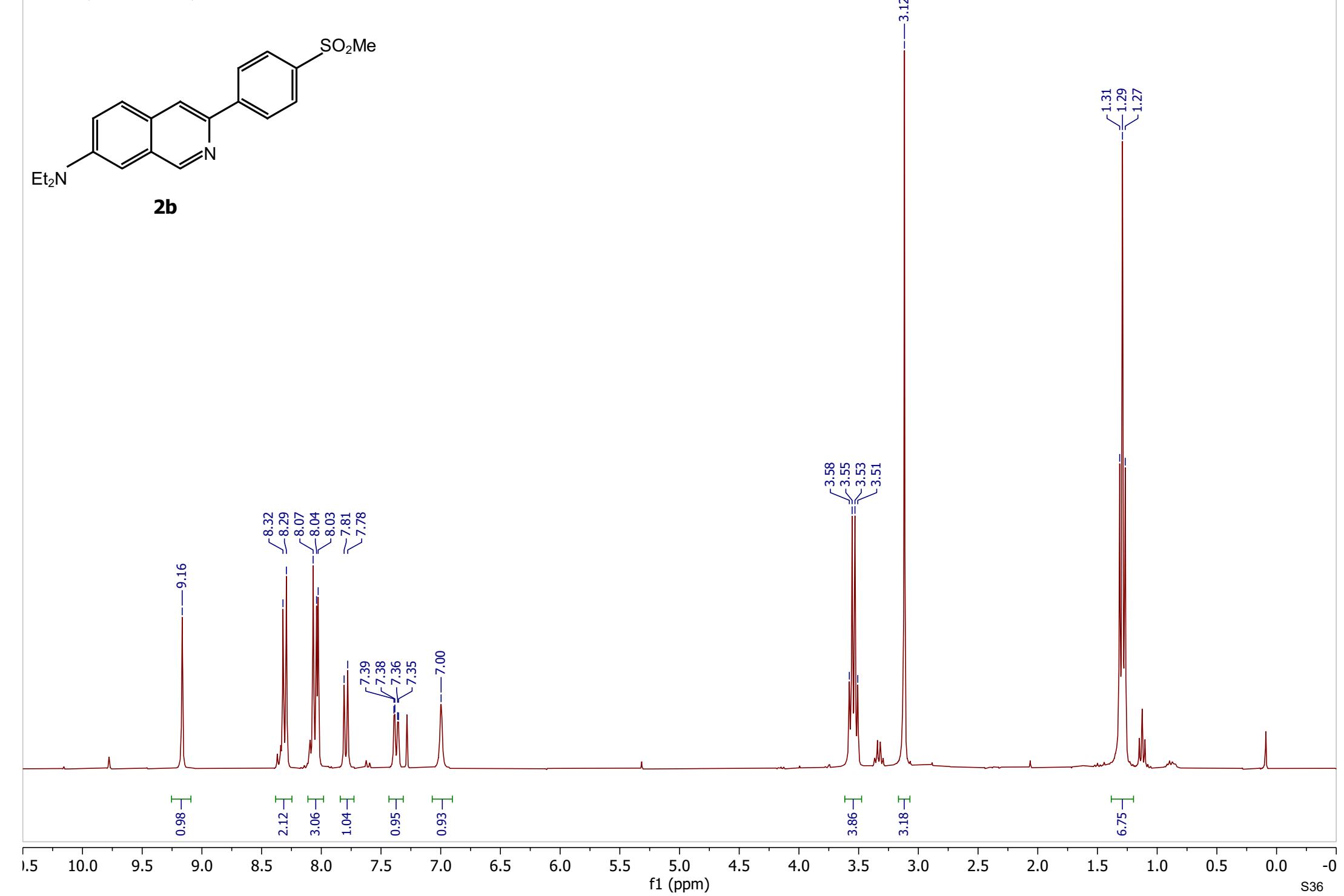
**2a**

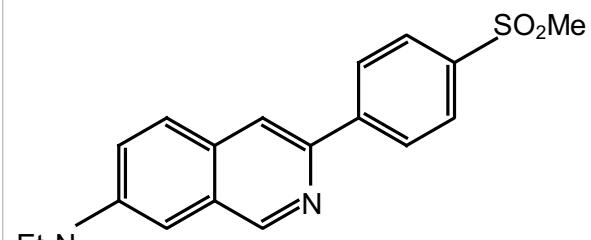
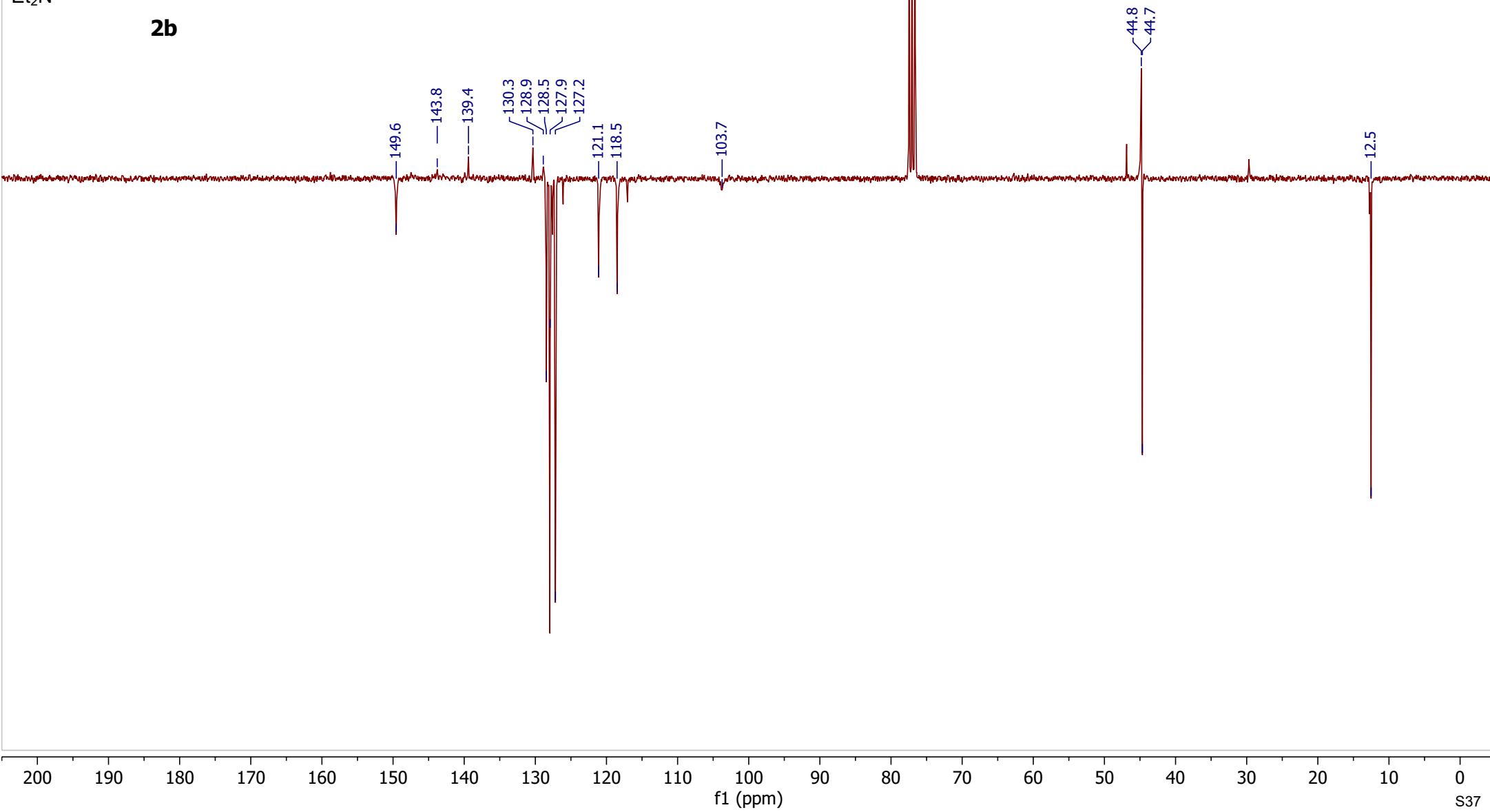


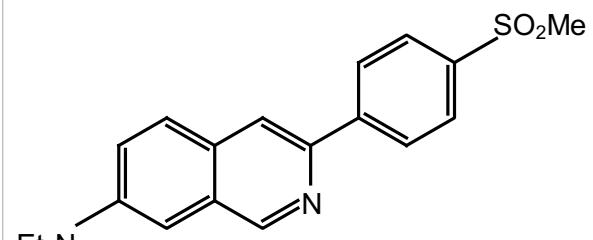
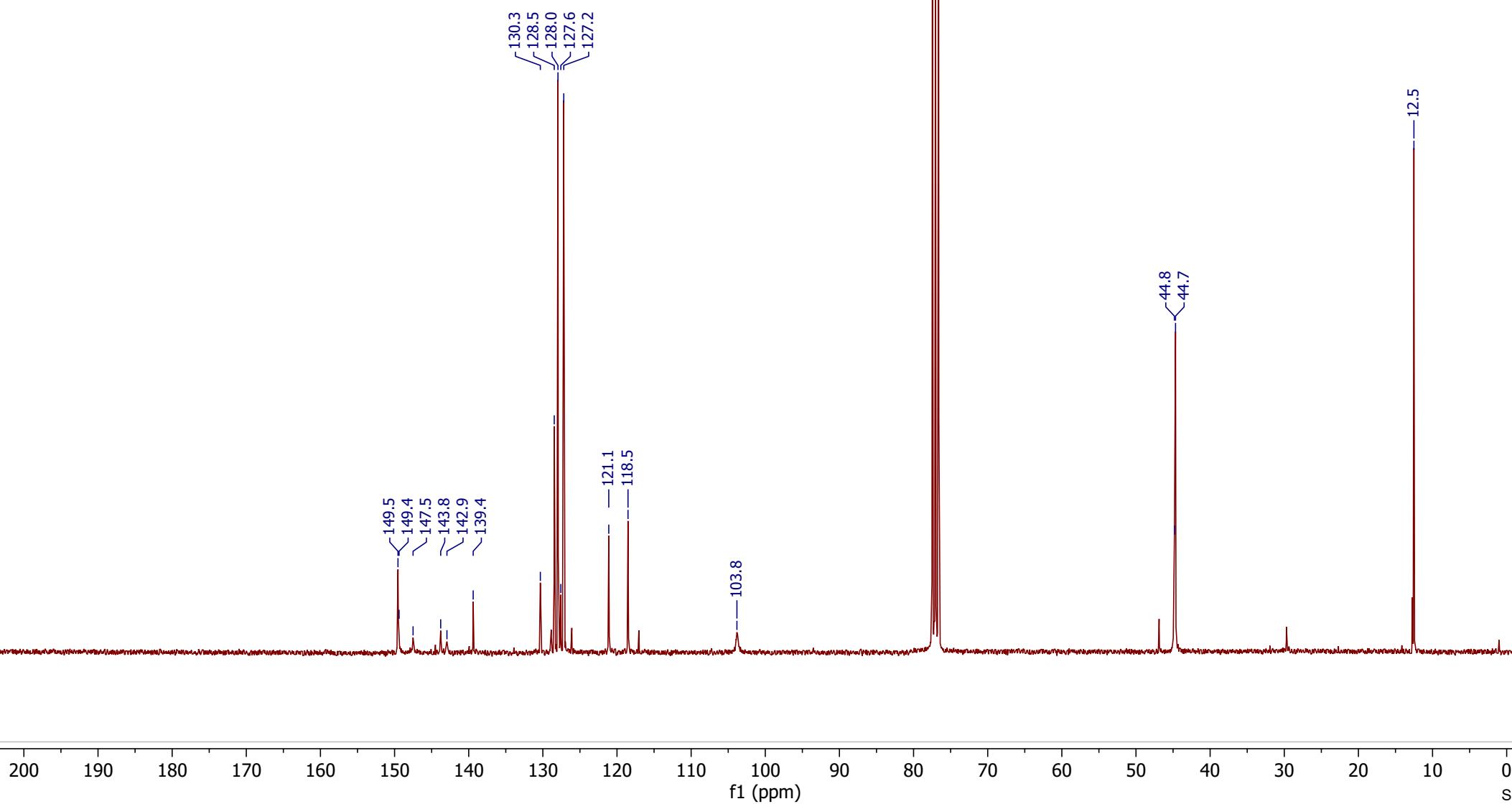


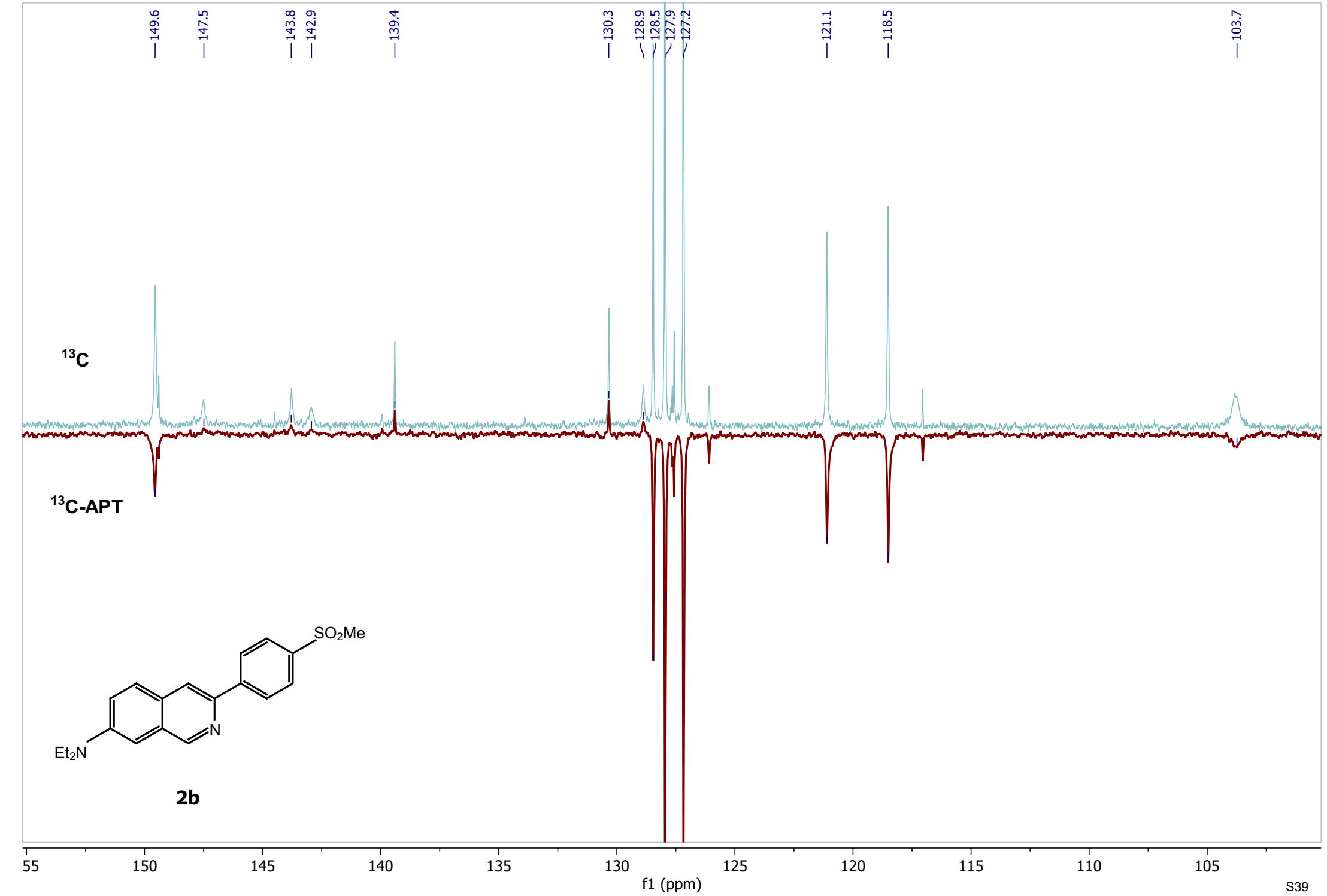
**2a**



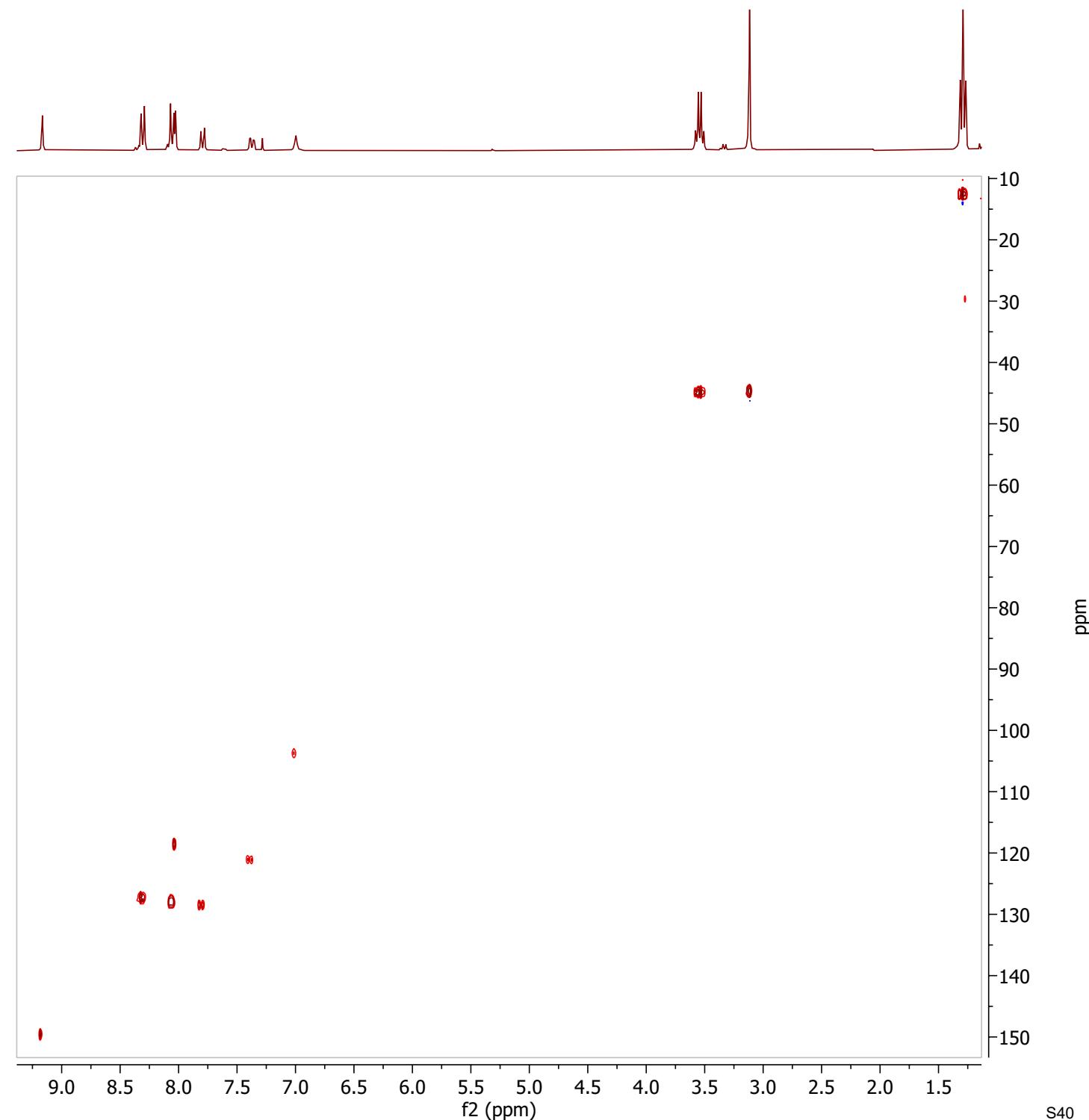
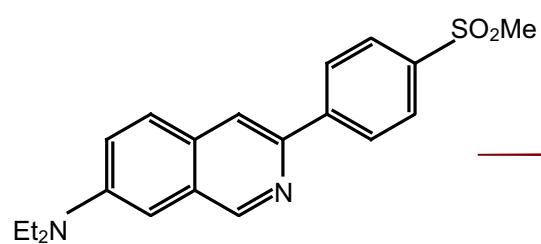
**2b**

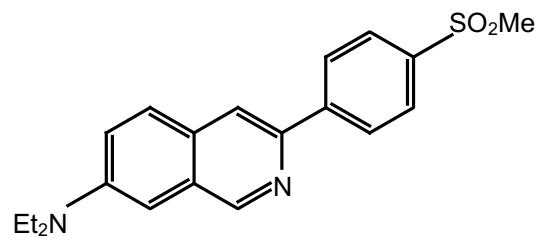
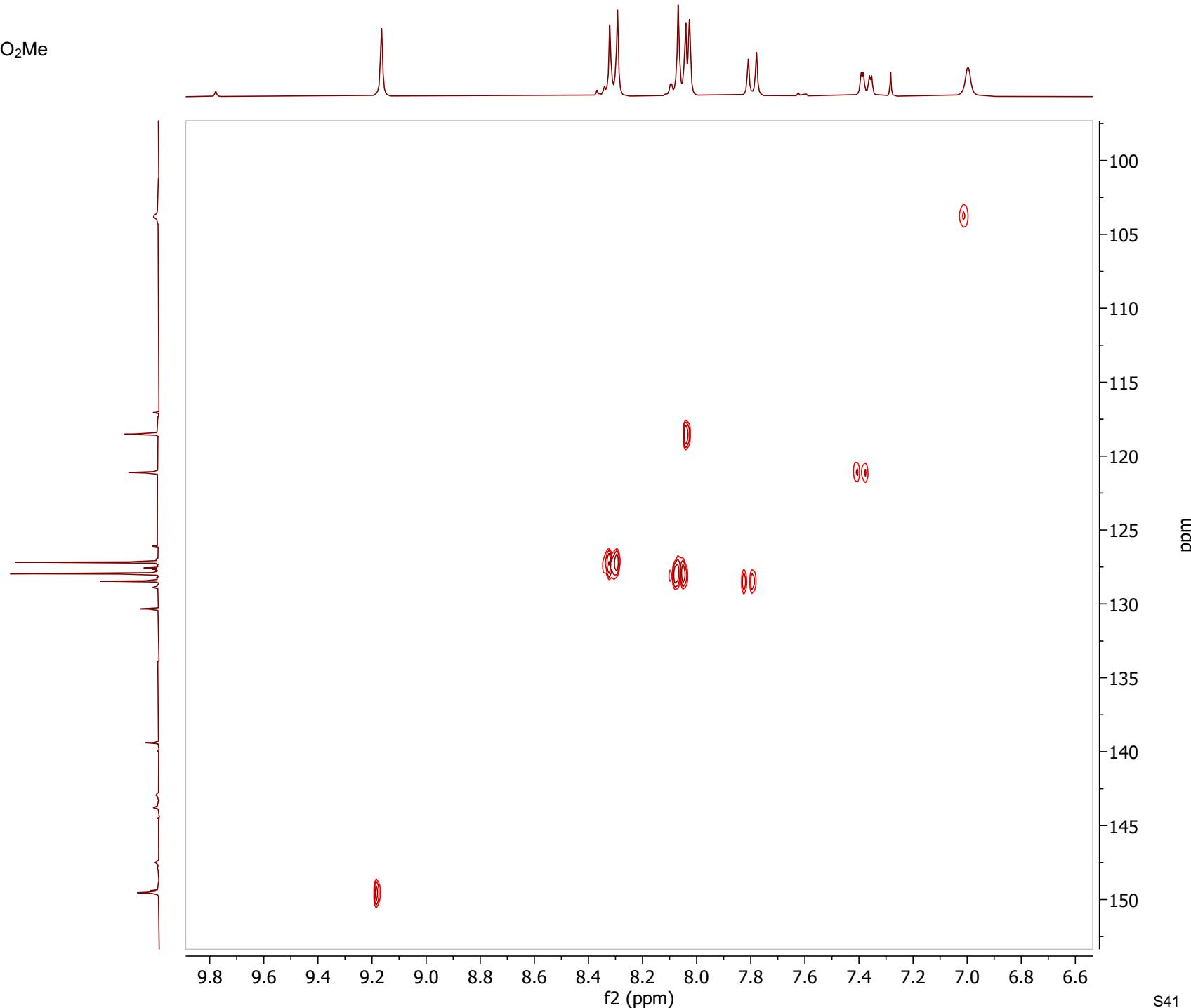
**2b**

**2b**

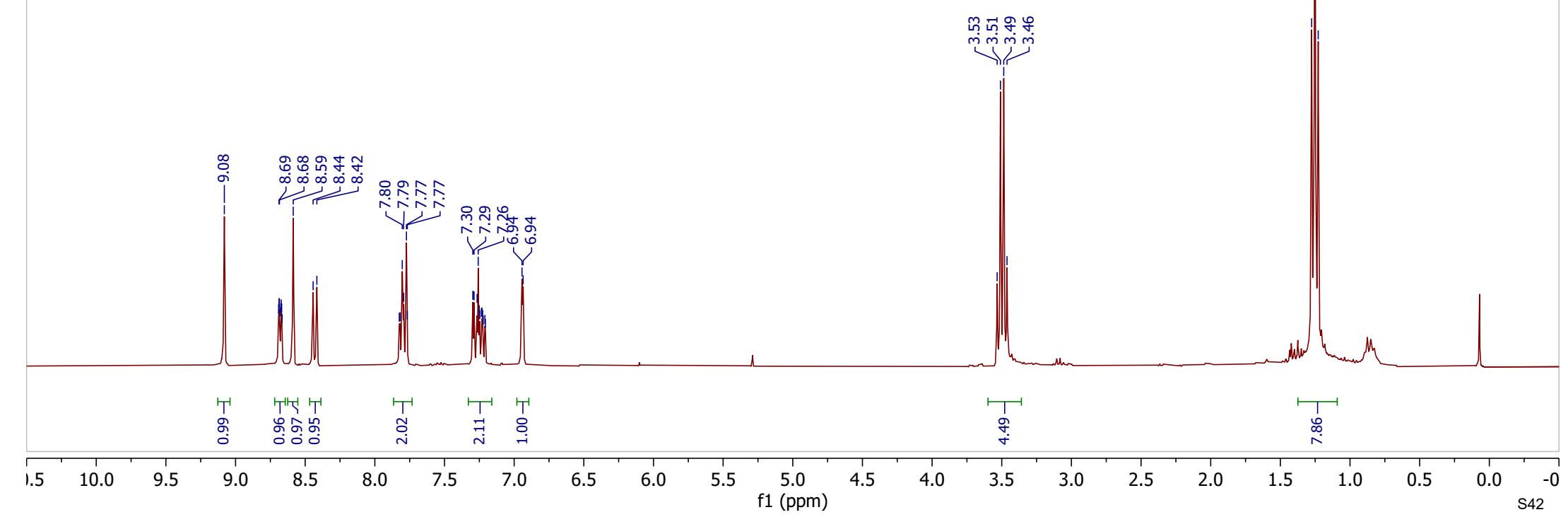
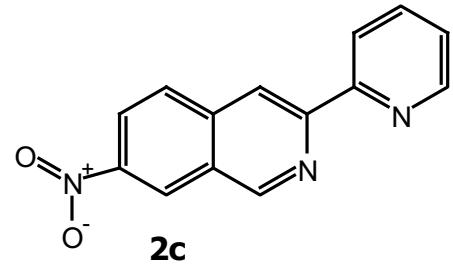


HSQC ( CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

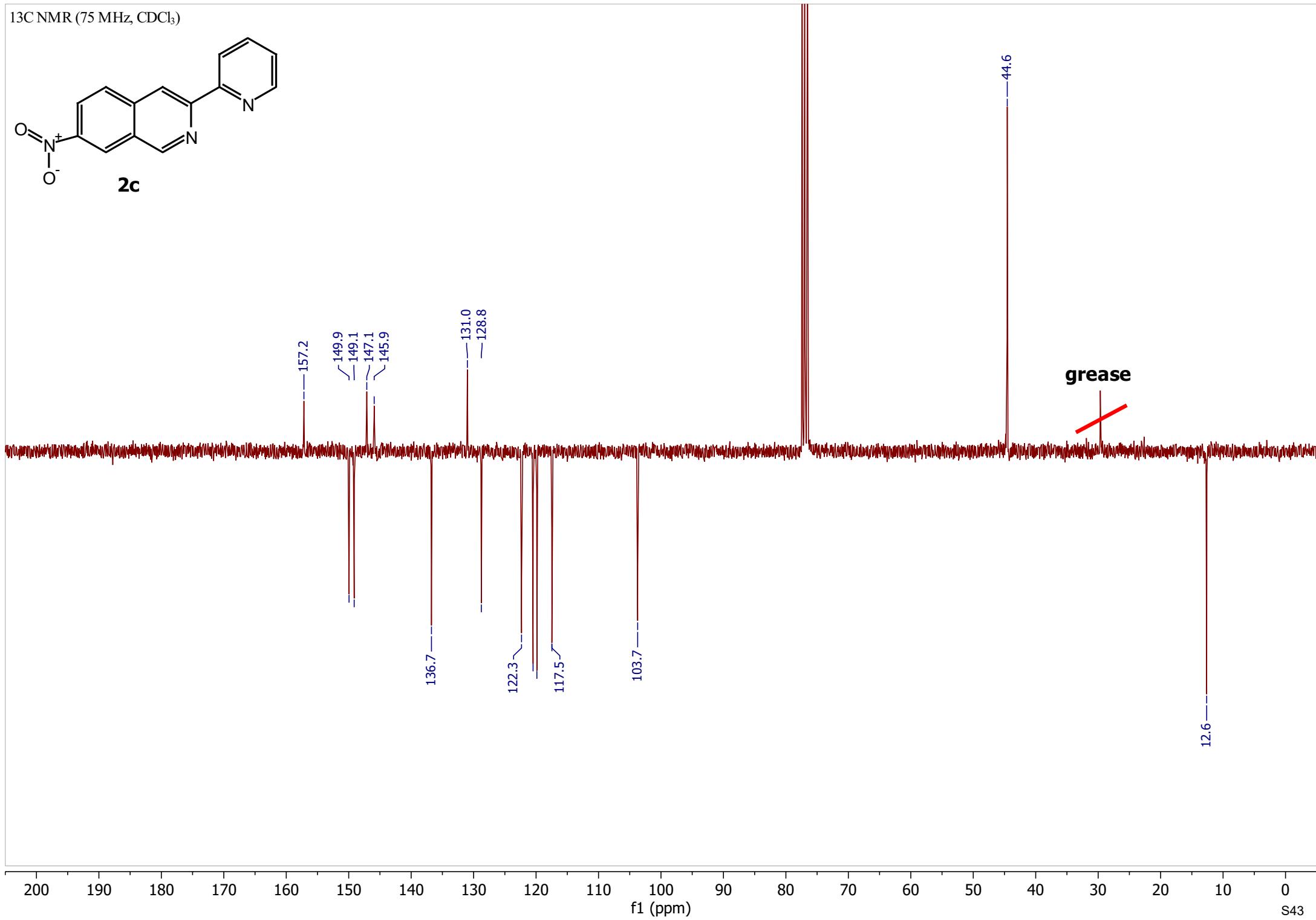
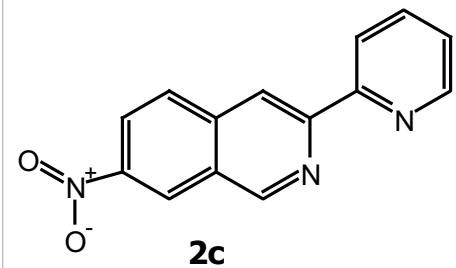


**2b**

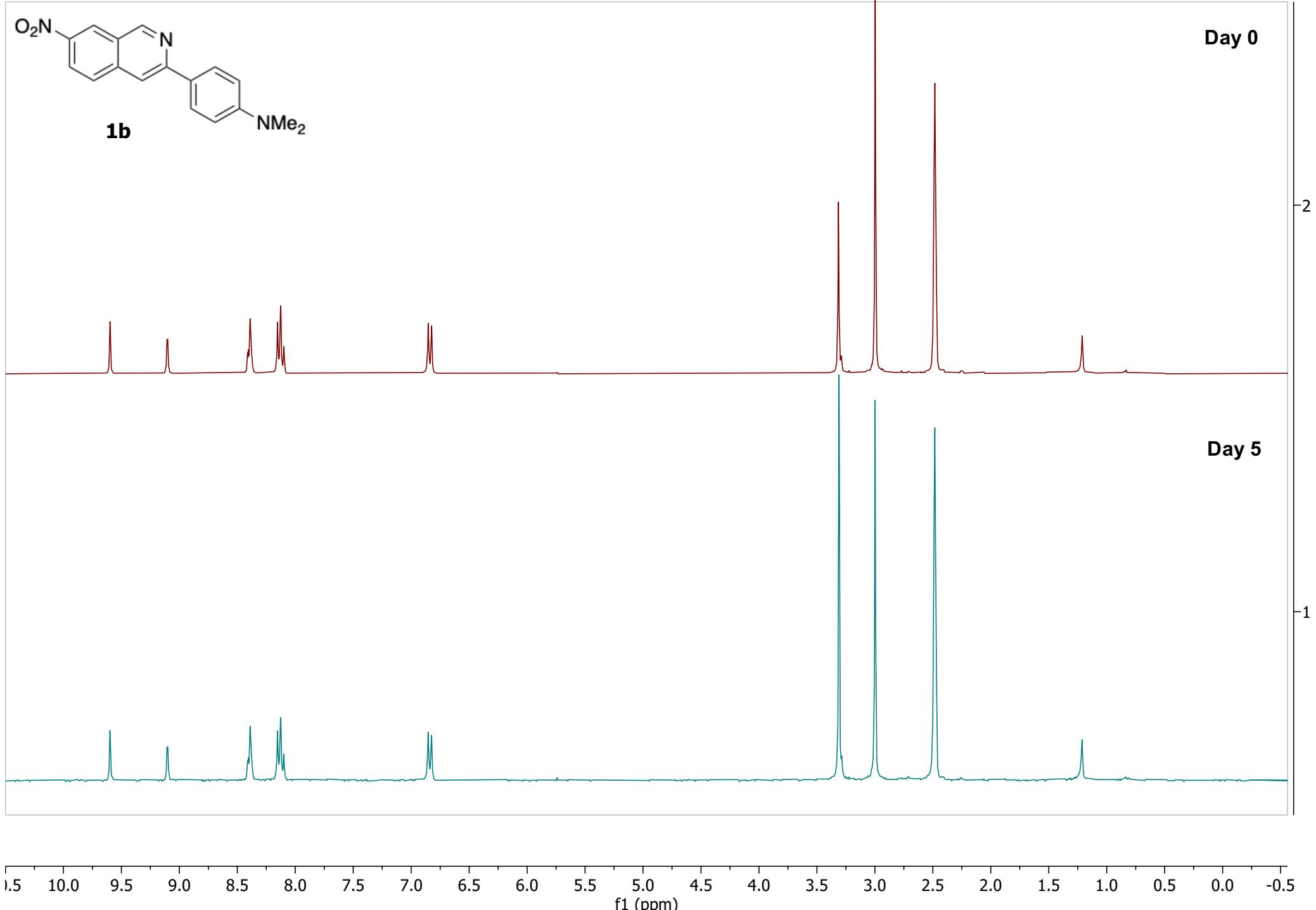
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



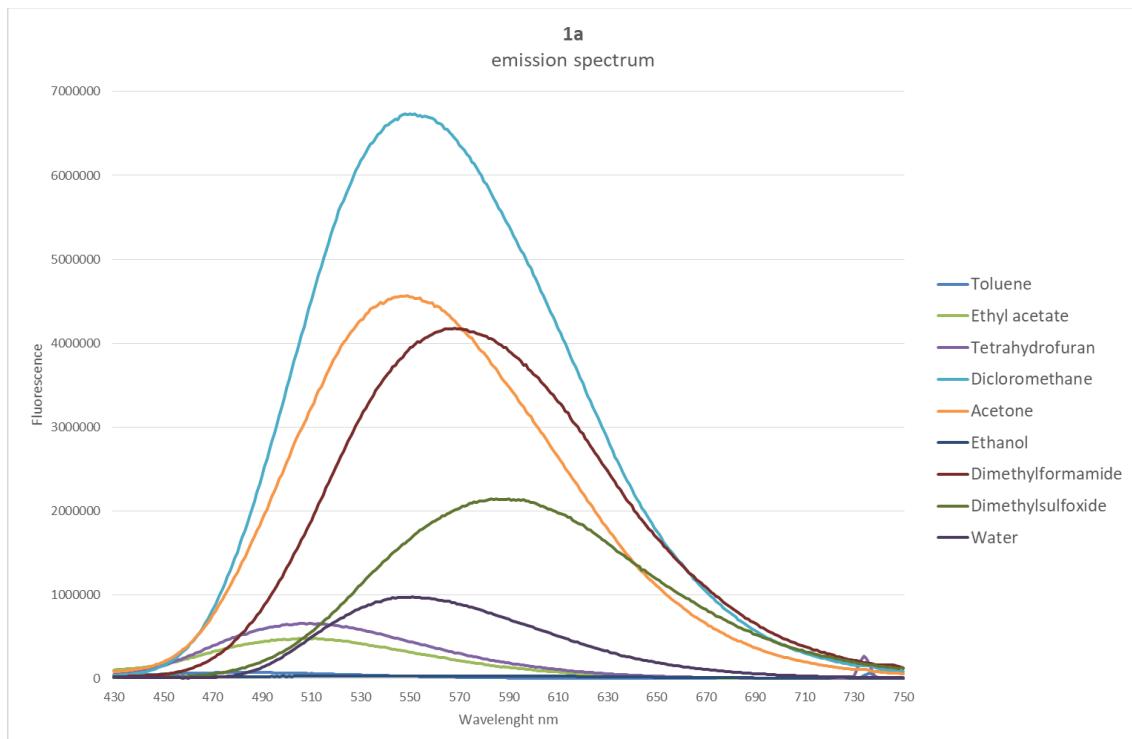
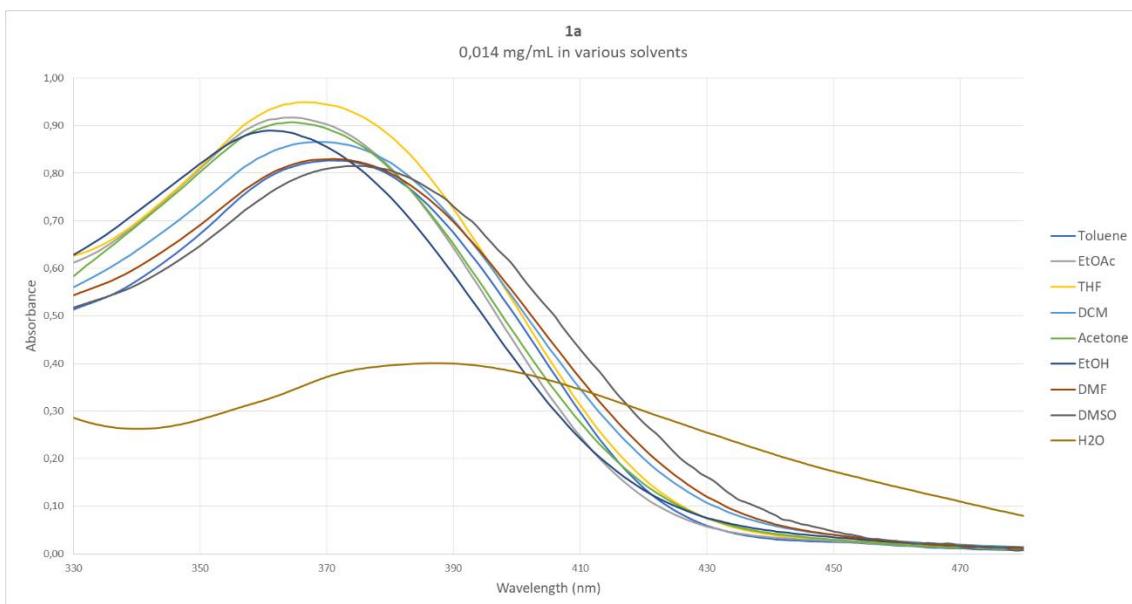
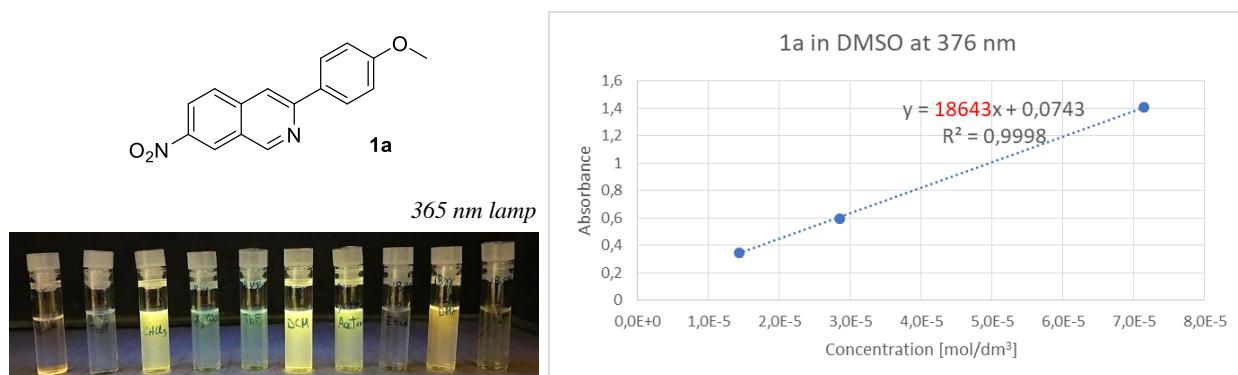
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



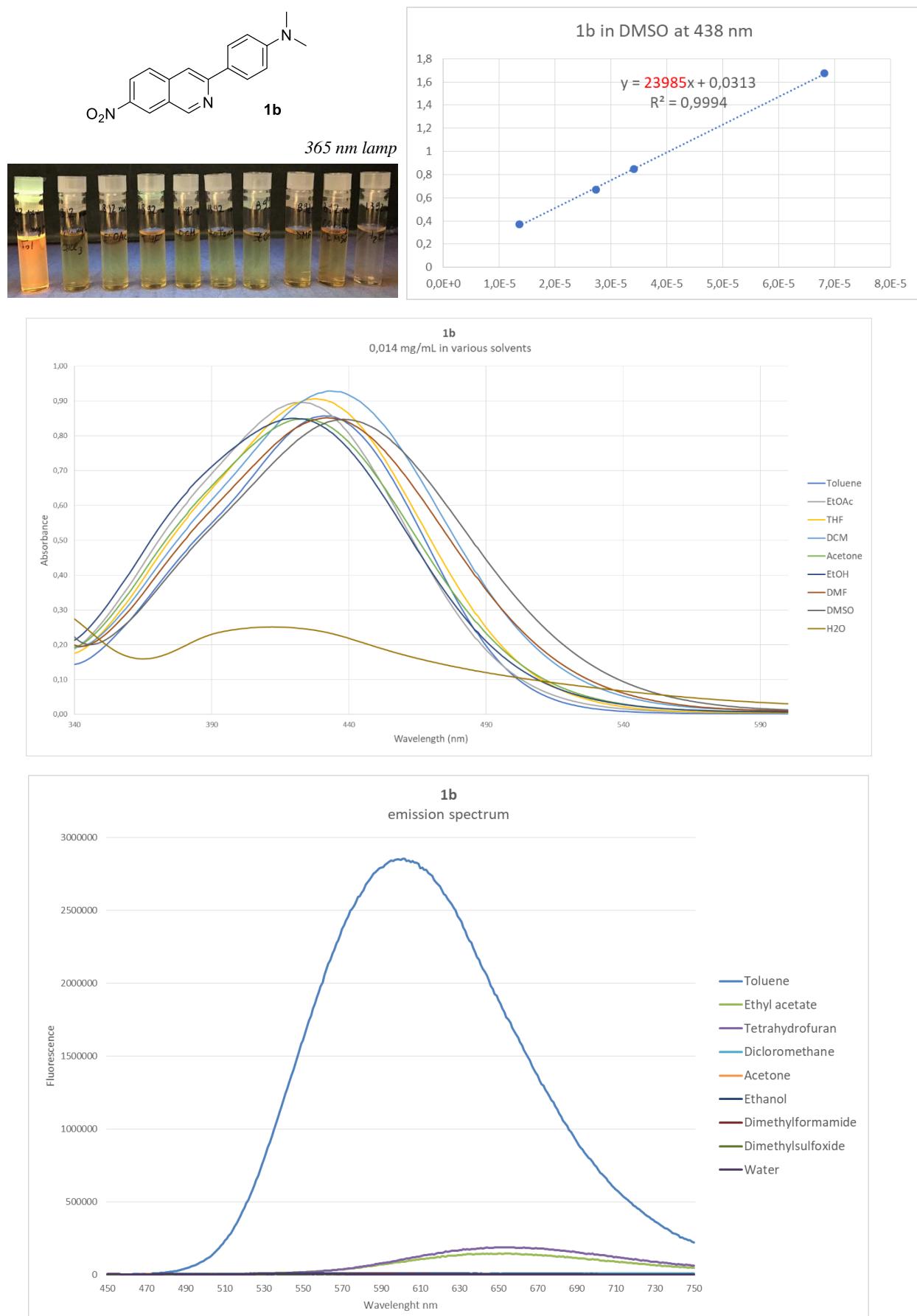
## Stability Test



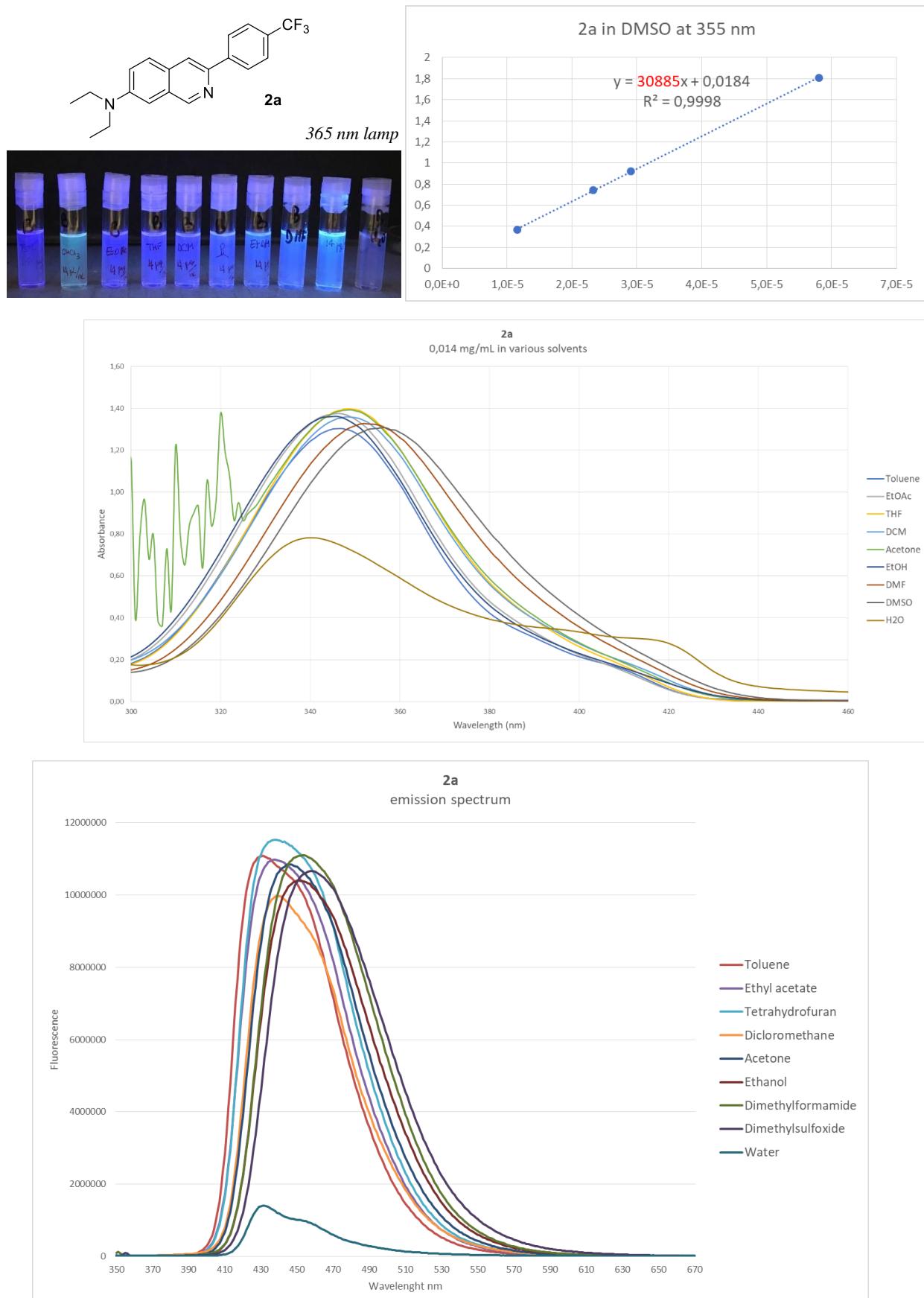
### 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-nitroisoquinoline **1a**



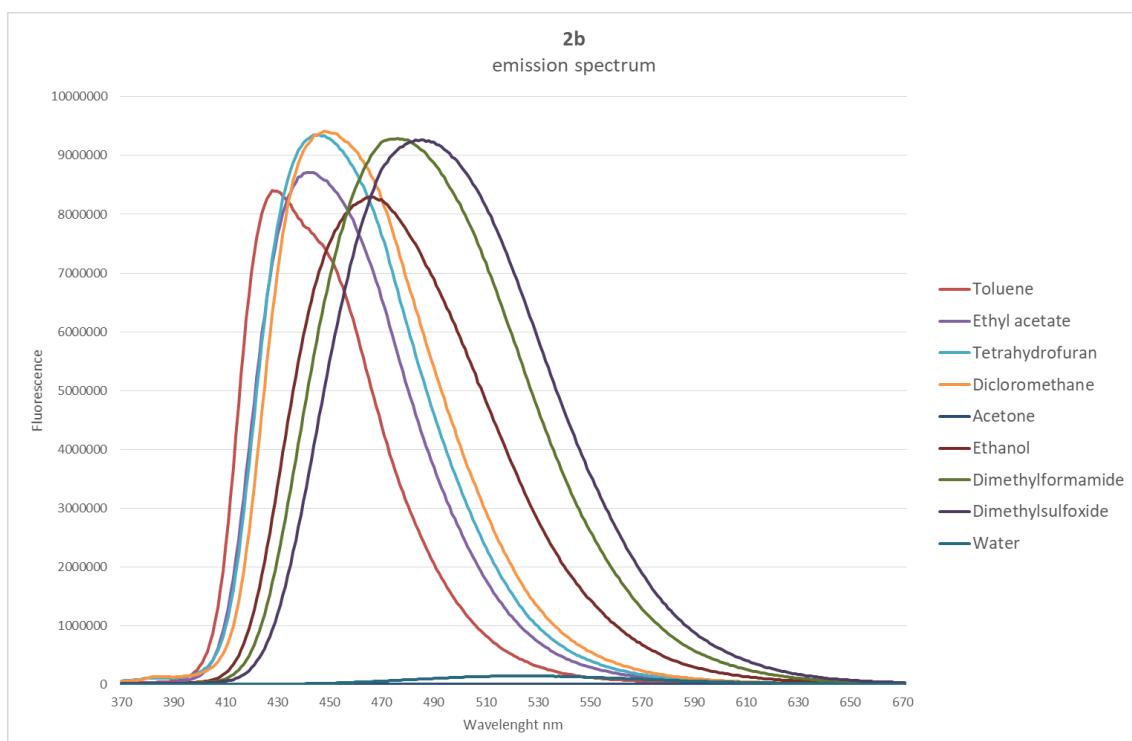
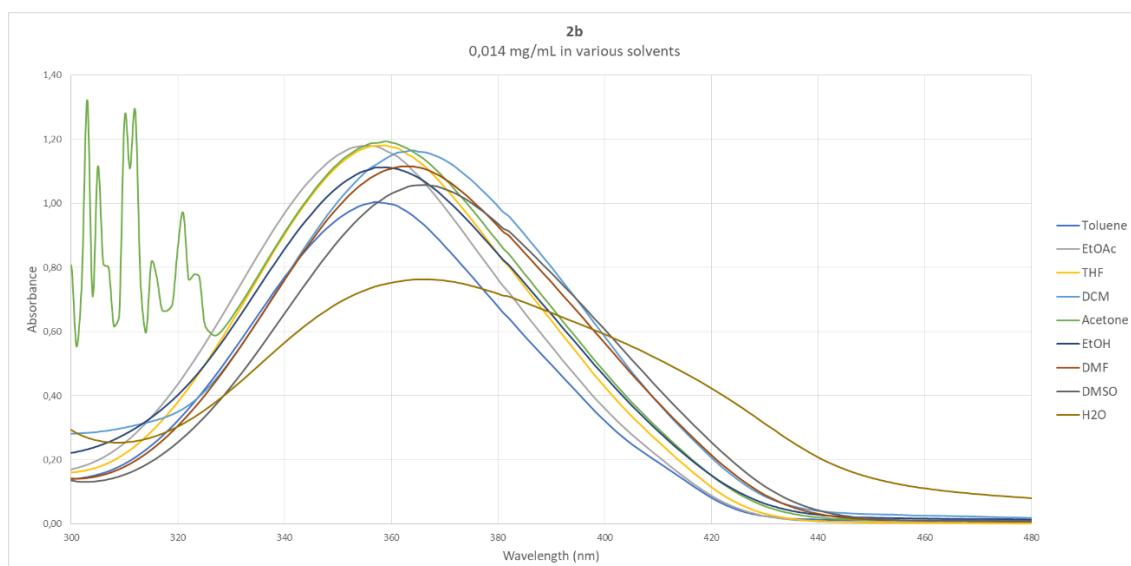
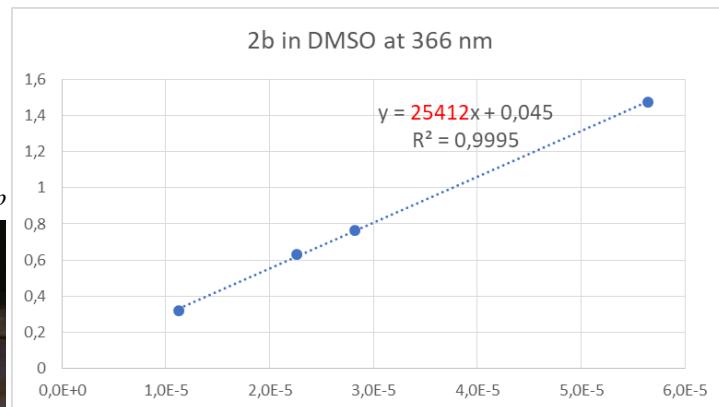
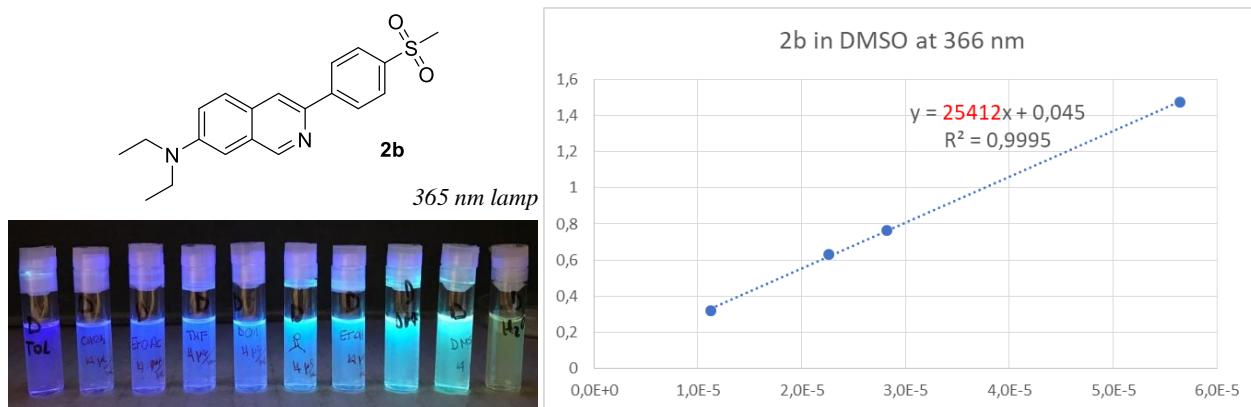
### *N,N-dimethyl-4-(7-nitroisoquinolin-3-yl)anilina 1b*



*N,N-diethyl-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)isoquinolin-7-amine* **2a**



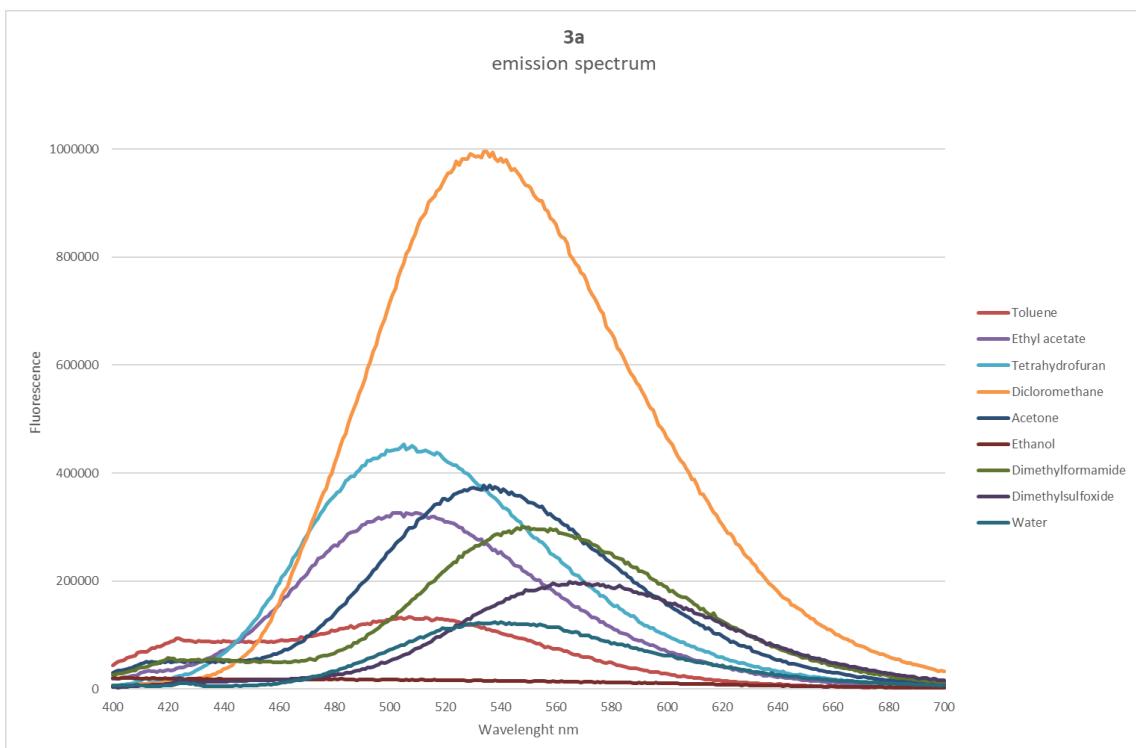
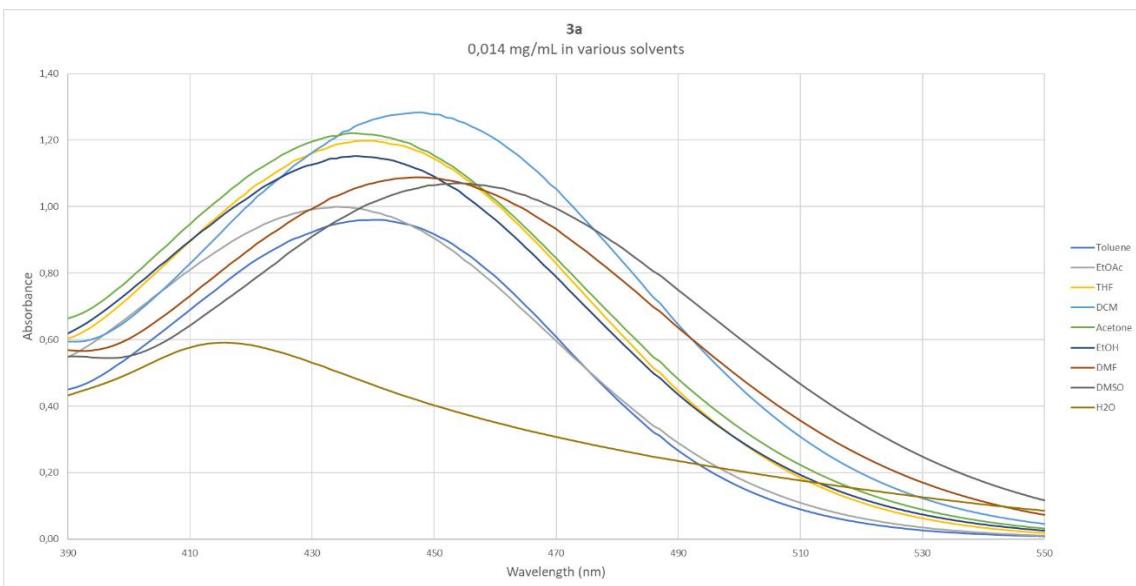
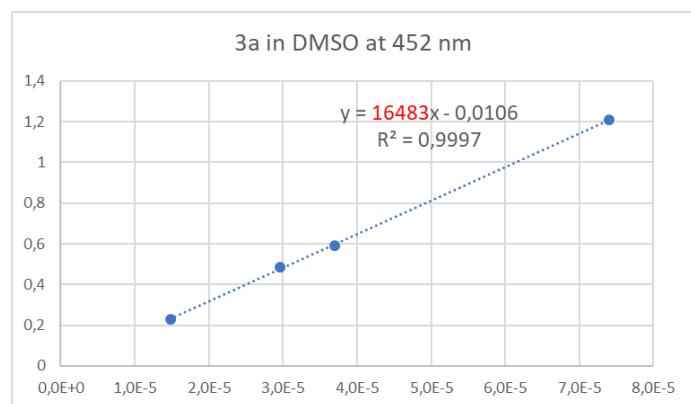
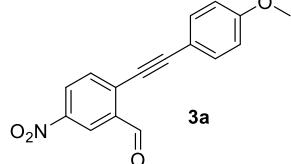
*N,N-diethyl-3-(4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)isoquinolin-7-amine **2b***



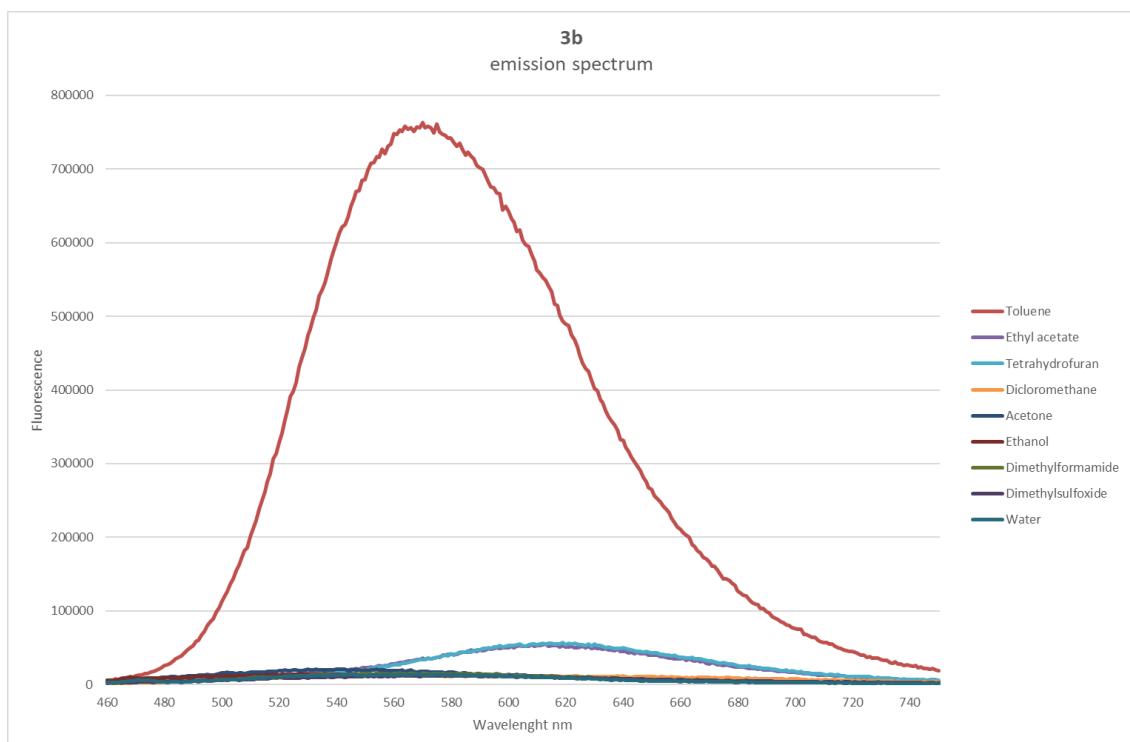
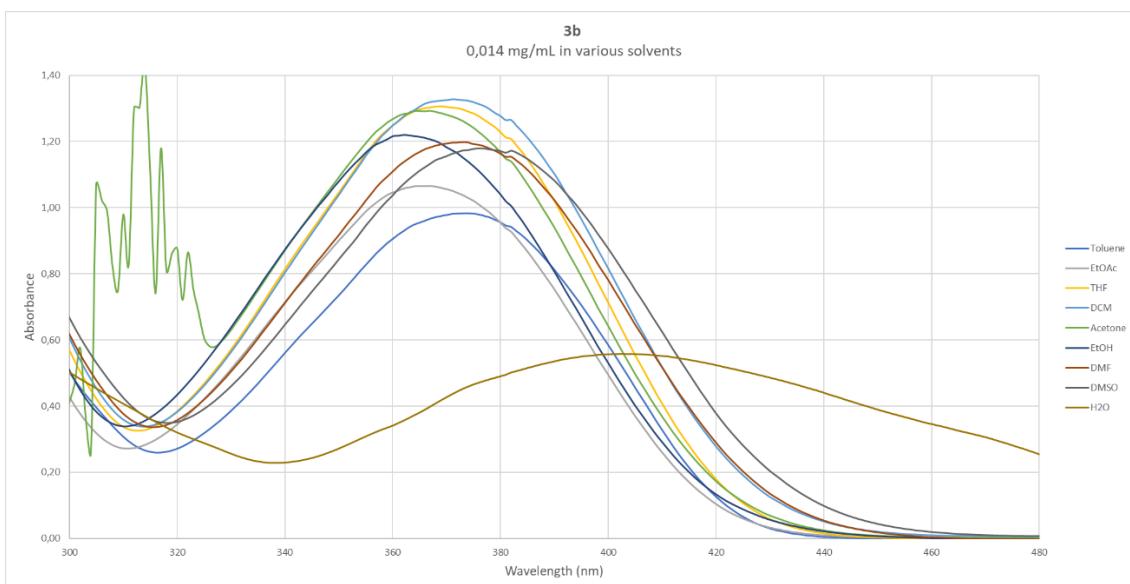
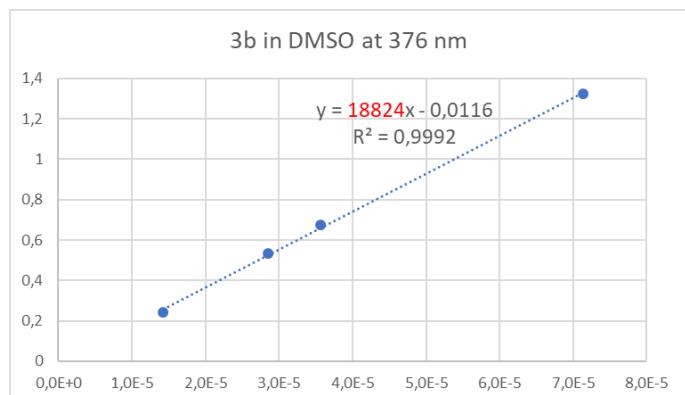
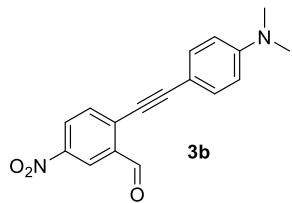
*N,N-diethyl-3-(pyridin-2-yl)isoquinolin-7-amine **2c***



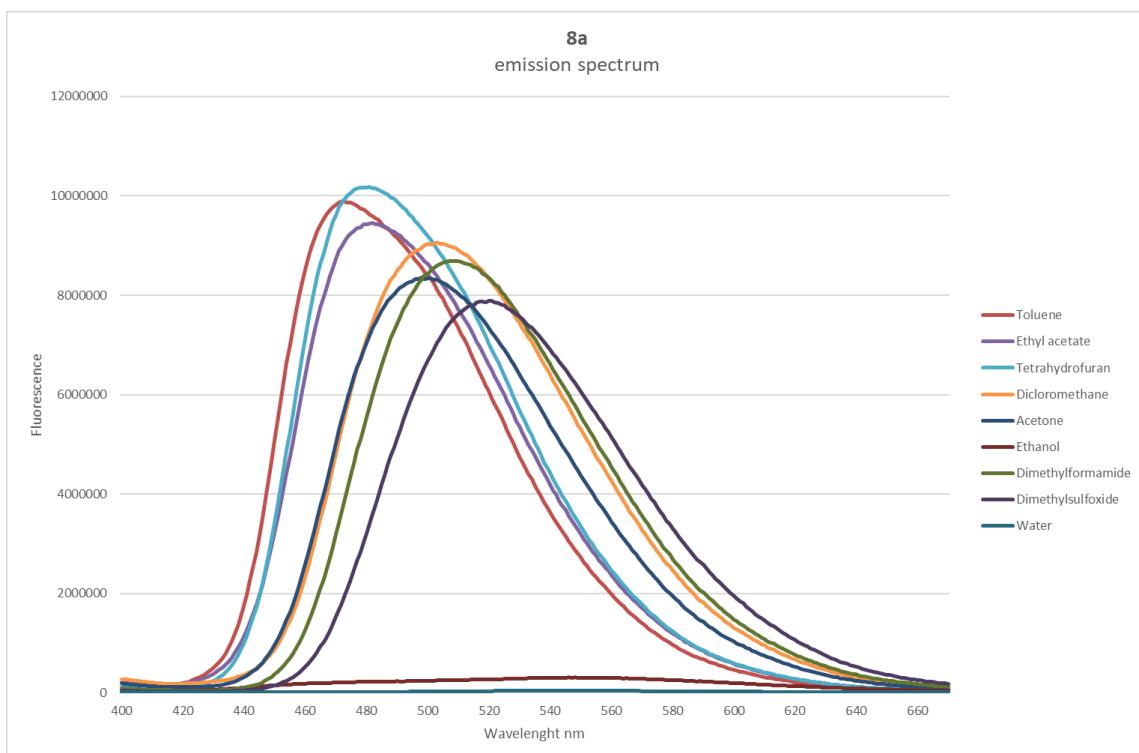
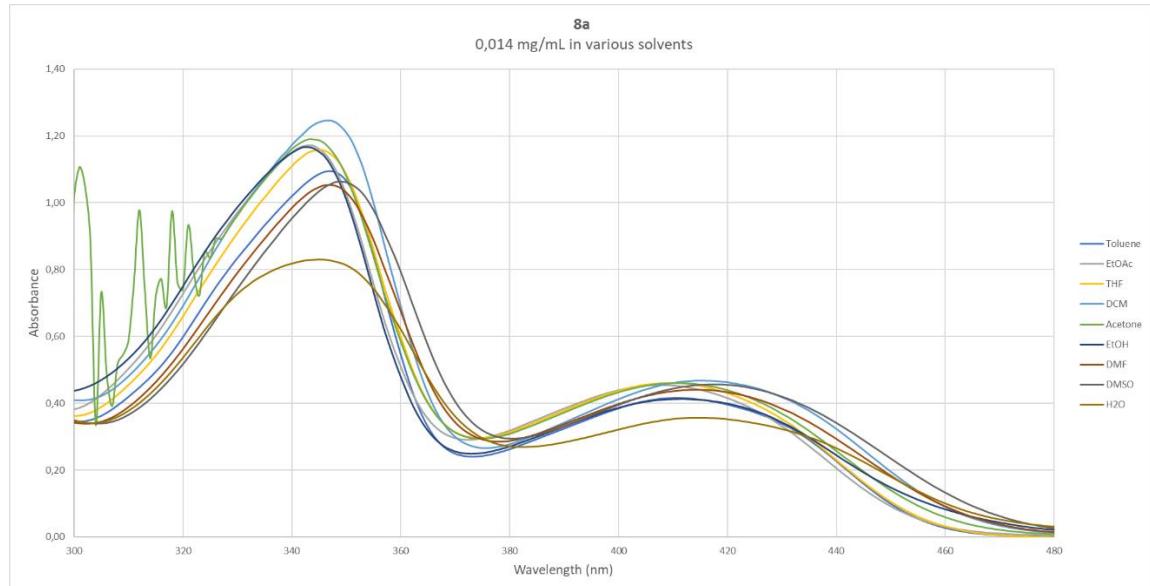
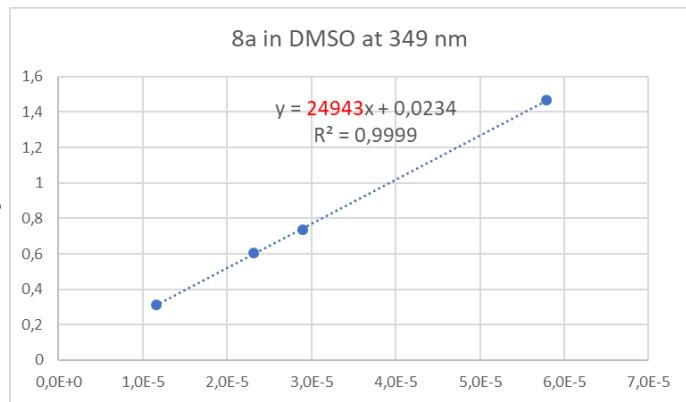
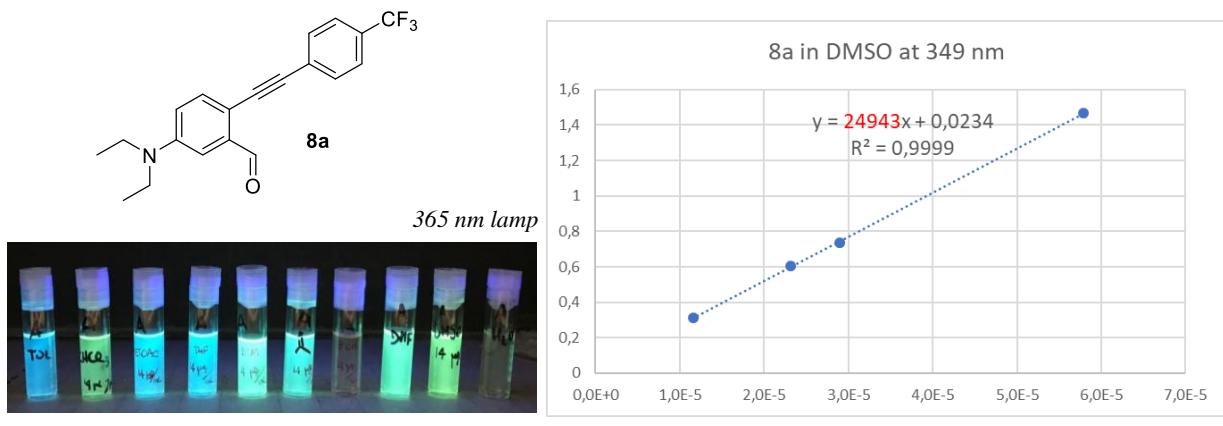
*2-((4-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)-5-nitrobenzaldehyde **3a***



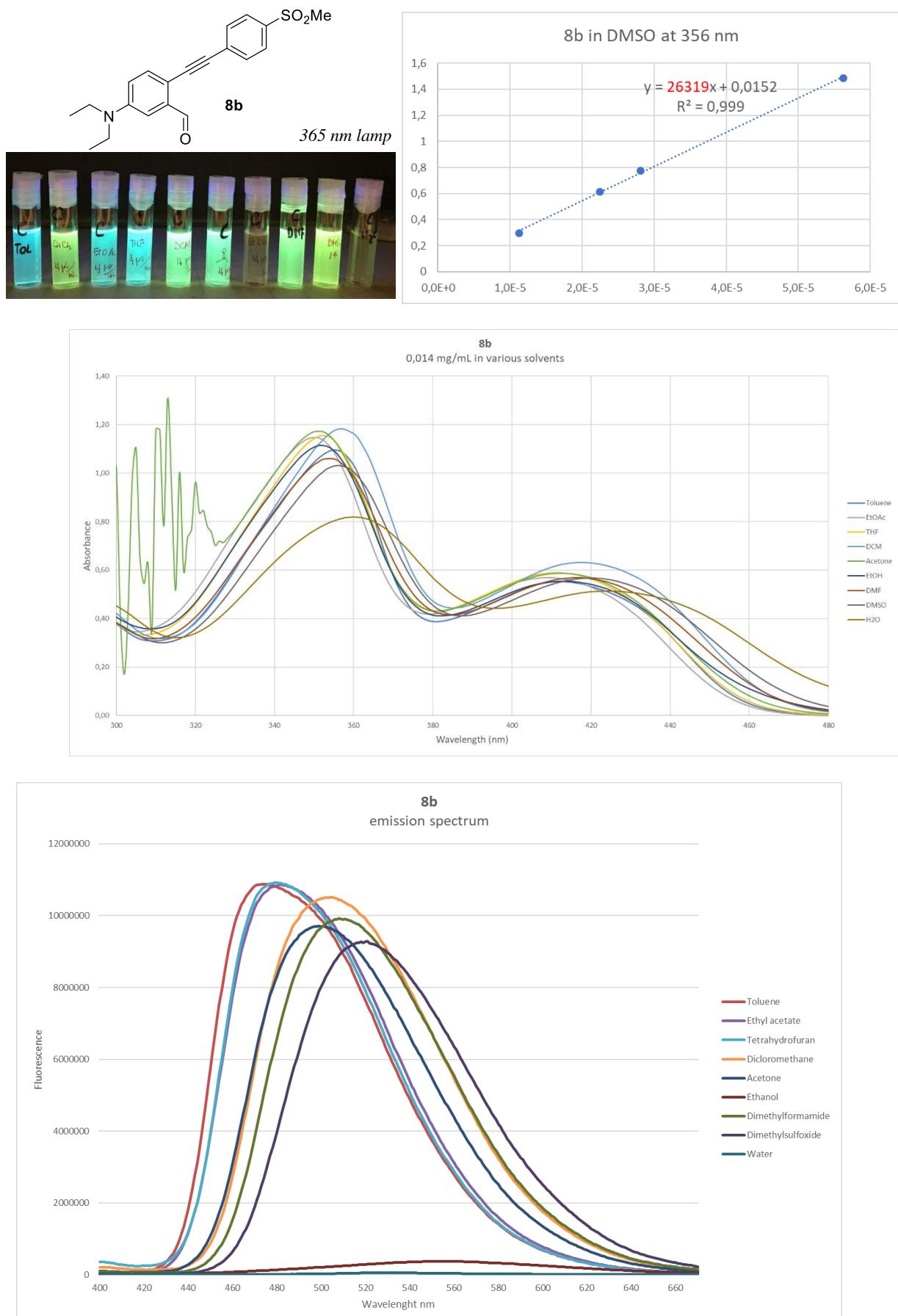
**2-((4(Dimethylamino)phenyl)ethynyl)-5-nitrobenzaldehyde **3b****



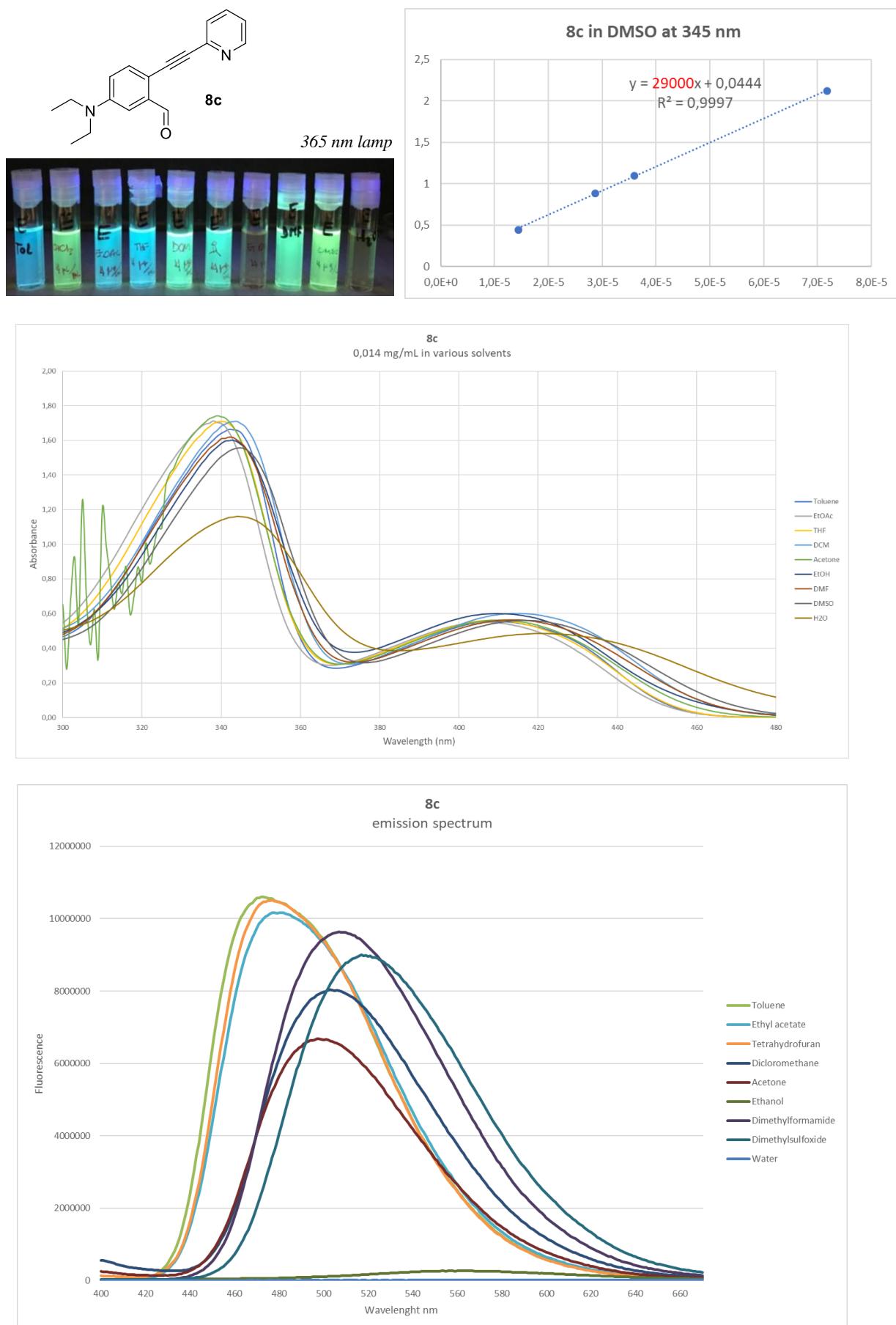
**5-(Diethylamino)-2-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)benzaldehyde **8a****



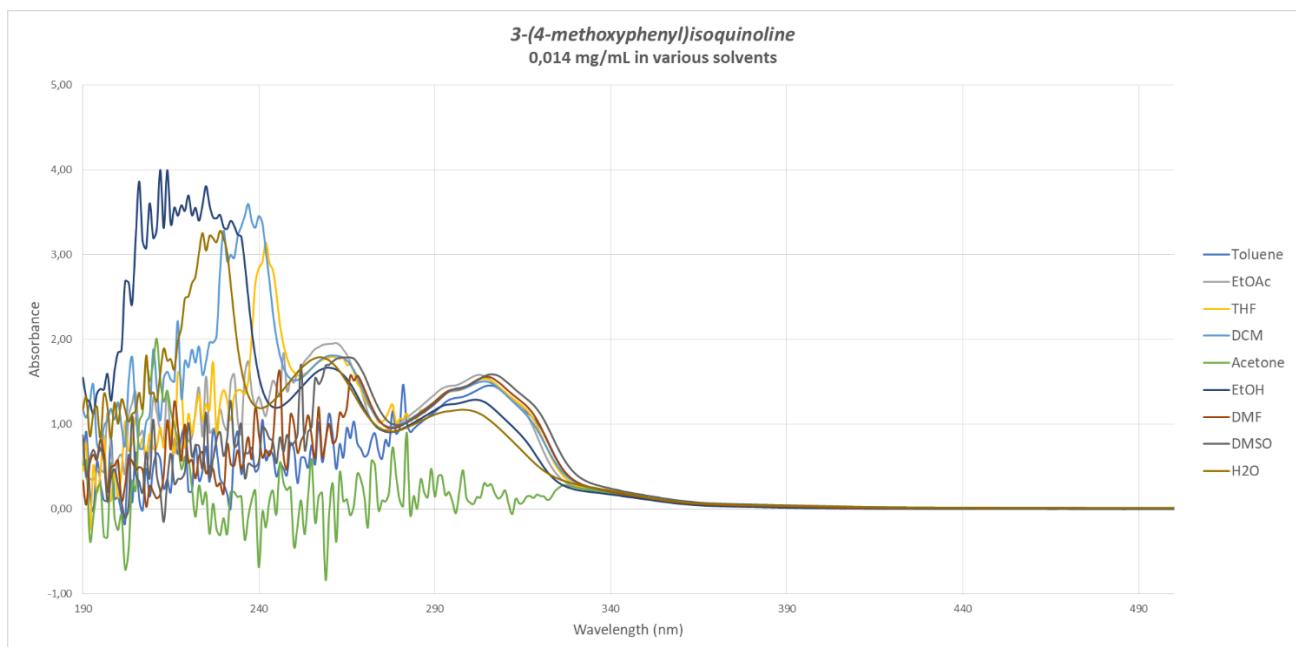
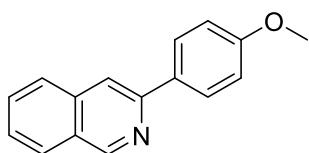
**5-(Diethylamino)-2-((4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)ethynyl)benzaldehyde **8b****



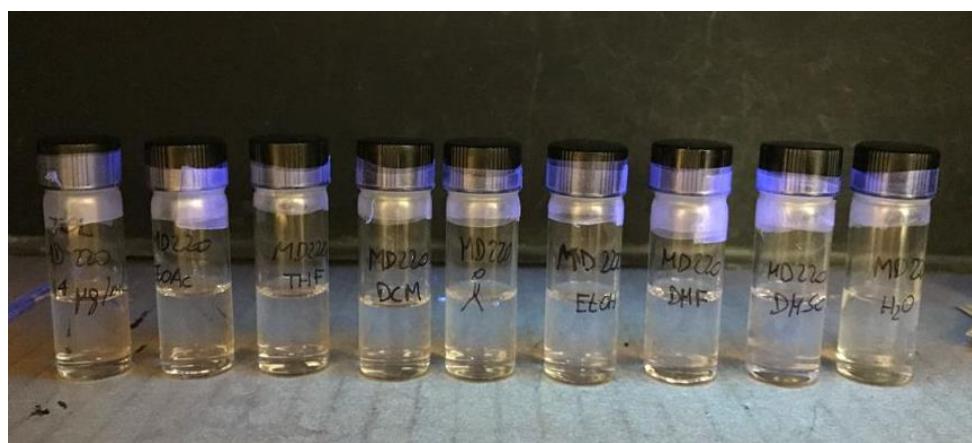
*5-(Diethylamino)-2-(pyridin-2-ylethynyl)benzaldehyde **8c***



*3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)isoquinoline*



*3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)isoquinoline solutions in 9 different solvents under a 254 nm lamp  
(same appearance under 365 nm lamp)*



### Absolute QY determination

Absolute photoluminescence quantum yields were measured using a C11347 (Hamamatsu Photonics K.K). A description of the experimental setup and measurement method can be found in the article of K. Suzuki et al.[K. Suzuki, A. Kobayashi, S. Kaneko, K. Takehira, T. Yoshihara, H. Ishida, Y. Shiina, S. Oishic, S. Tobita, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, **2009**, 11, 9850–9860]

For any fixed excitation wavelength, the fluorescence quantum yield  $\Phi$  is given by:

$$\Phi = \frac{\text{PN(Em)}}{\text{PN(Abs)}} = \frac{\int \frac{\lambda}{hc} [I_{\text{em}}^{\text{sample}}(\lambda) - I_{\text{em}}^{\text{reference}}(\lambda)] d\lambda}{\int \frac{\lambda}{hc} [I_{\text{ex}}^{\text{reference}}(\lambda) - I_{\text{ex}}^{\text{sample}}(\lambda)] d\lambda}$$

where PN(Em) is the number of photons emitted from a sample and PN(Abs) is the number of photons absorbed by a sample,  $\lambda$  is the wavelength,  $h$  is Planck's constant,  $c$  is the velocity of light,  $I_{\text{em}}^{\text{sample}}(\lambda)$  and  $I_{\text{em}}^{\text{reference}}(\lambda)$  are the photoluminescence intensities with and without a sample, respectively,  $I_{\text{ex}}^{\text{sample}}(\lambda)$  and  $I_{\text{ex}}^{\text{reference}}(\lambda)$  are the integrated intensities of the excitation light with and without a sample, respectively. PN(Em) is calculated in the wavelength interval  $[\lambda_i, \lambda_f]$ , where  $\lambda_i$  is taken 10 nm below the excitation wavelength, while  $\lambda_f$  is the upper end wavelength in the emission spectrum.

	Solvent		
	Toluene	DMSO	EtOH
Compound	Quantum Yield (%)	Quantum Yield (%)	Quantum Yield (%)
<b>1a</b>	45,8	15,7	2,4
<b>1b</b>	77,8	not determinable	not determinable
<b>2a</b>	14,2	28,1	13,8
<b>2b</b>	24,2	62,6	35,7
<b>2c</b>	17,6	27,2	13,5
<b>3a</b>	67	not determinable	not determinable
<b>3b</b>	not determinable	25,1	not determinable
<b>8a</b>	65,5	71	3,4
<b>8b</b>	71,4	88,5	4,4
<b>8c</b>	73,6	84,6	3,6

