

## Supplementary Information

### Assembly of unsymmetrical 1,3,5-triarylbenzenes via tandem reaction of $\beta$ -arylethenesulfonyl fluorides and $\alpha$ -cyano- $\beta$ -methylenones

Fang Zhang, Yi An, Jichang Liu, Guangfen Du,\* Zhihua Cai, Lin He\*

*Key Laboratory for Green Processing of Chemical Engineering of Xinjiang Bingtuan, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Shihezi University, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 832000, China.*

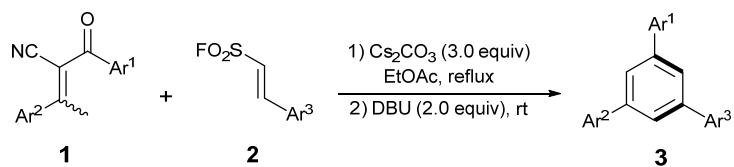
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## 1. General information.

Unless otherwise indicated, all reactions were conducted under air atmosphere in oven-dried glassware with magnetic stirring bar. All other chemicals were obtained from commercial supplies and used as received without any further purification. 2-Arylethenesulfonyl fluorides,<sup>1</sup>  $\alpha$ -cyano- $\beta$ -methylenones<sup>2</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures. Column chromatograph was performed with silica gel (200~300 mesh) and analytical TLC on silica gel 60-F<sub>254</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE III spectrometer (400 MHz, 100 MHz and 376 MHz, respectively). Chemical shifts are reported parts per million (ppm) referenced to CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  7.26 ppm), tetramethylsilane (TMS,  $\delta$  0.00 ppm) for <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>19</sup>F NMR. Melting points of the products were measured on a micro melting point apparatus (SGW X-4) and uncorrected. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a Q Exactive mass spectrometry and a LTQ Orbitrap XL mass spectrometry equipped with an EI or ESI source from Thermo Scientific. X-Ray diffraction study for product **3w'** was carried out on Bruker D8 VENTURE photon II diffractometer with I<sub>μ</sub>s 3.0 microfocus X-ray source using APEX III program.

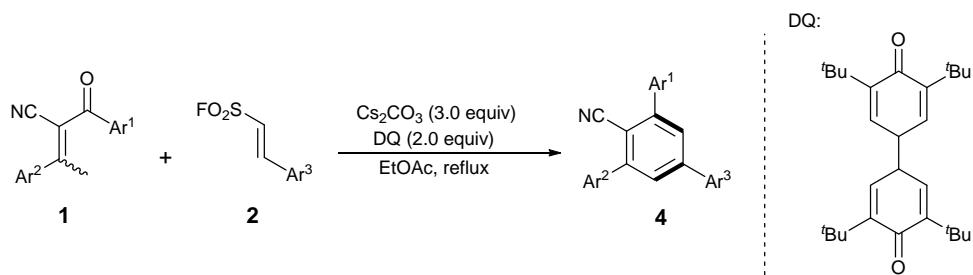
## 2. General procedure for the synthesis of 1,3,5-triarylbzenes



A 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with  $\beta$ -arylenone **1** (0.30 mmol), 2-arylethenesulfonyl fluoride **2** (0.45 mmol), and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.90

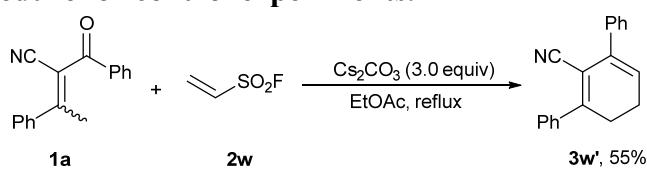
mmol), ethyl acetate (3 mL) was added in turn to the Schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was stirred at 78 °C for 2 h until complete consumption of the starting material (monitored by TLC). Then DBU was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 2 h at room temperature. When the reaction was finished, the reaction mixture was diluted by dichloromethane, and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (silica gel, PE/EtOAc (v : v) = 300:1) to afford the desired product **3**.

### 3. General procedure for the synthesis of 1,3,5-triarylbenzonitriles

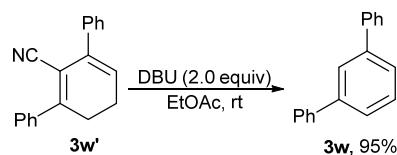


A 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with  $\beta$ -arylenones **1** (0.30 mmol), 2-arylethenesulfonfonyl fluorides **2** (0.45 mmol), DQ (0.60 mmol) and  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.90 mmol), ethyl acetate (3 mL) was added in turn to the Schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was stirred at 78 °C for 5 h until complete consumption of the starting material (monitored by TLC). When the reaction was finished, the reaction mixture was diluted by dichloromethane, and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (silica gel, PE/EtOAc (v : v) = 20:1) to afford the desired product **4**.

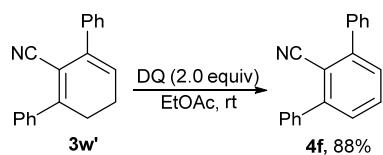
### 4. General procedure for control experiments.



A 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with enone **1a** (0.30 mmol), and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.90 mmol), ethyl acetate (3 mL) and vinyl sulfonyl fluoride **2w** (0.45 mmol) were added in turn to the Schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was stirred at 78 °C for 12 h until complete consumption of the starting material (monitored by TLC). When the reaction was finished, the reaction mixture was diluted by dichloromethane, and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (silica gel, PE/EtOAc (v : v) = 20:1) to afford the desired product **3w'** (55%, 42.4 mg).



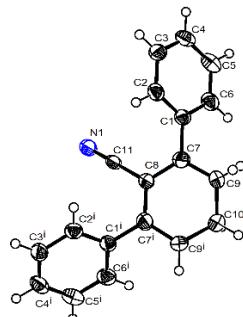
A 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with **3w'** (31.0 mg, 0.12 mmol), ethyl acetate (1 mL) and DBU (37.0 mg, 0.24 mmol) was added in turn to the Schlenk tube. When the reaction was finished, the reaction mixture was diluted by dichloromethane, and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (silica gel, PE/EtOAc (v : v) = 300:1) to afford the desired product **3w**.



A 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with **3w'** (31.0 mg, 0.12 mmol) and DQ (98.0 mg, 0.24 mmol), ethyl acetate (1 mL) was added in turn to the Schlenk tube. When the reaction was finished, the reaction mixture was diluted by dichloromethane, and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The

residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (silica gel, PE/EtOAc (v : v) = 20:1) to afford the desired product **4f**.

## 5. Single-crystal X-ray structure analysis



**Figure S1.** Crystal structure of **3w'**  
data-**3w'**

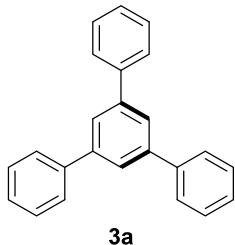
**Table S1.** Crystal data and structure refinement for **3w'**

|                                   |                                             |                 |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Identification code               | <b>3w'</b>                                  |                 |                                  |
| Empirical formula                 | C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N           |                 |                                  |
| Formula weight                    | 256.31                                      |                 |                                  |
| Temperature                       | 173.0 K                                     |                 |                                  |
| Wavelength                        | 1.54178 Å                                   |                 |                                  |
| Crystal system                    | Orthorhombic                                |                 |                                  |
| Space group                       | Pmn2 <sub>1</sub>                           |                 |                                  |
| Unit cell dimensions              | a = 14.1719(5) Å                            | b = 8.9226(3) Å | c = 5.6638(2) Å                  |
|                                   |                                             |                 | a = 90°.<br>b = 90°.<br>g = 90°. |
| Volume                            | 716.19(4) Å <sup>3</sup>                    |                 |                                  |
| Z                                 | 2                                           |                 |                                  |
| Density (calculated)              | 1.189 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>                     |                 |                                  |
| Absorption coefficient            | 0.528 mm <sup>-1</sup>                      |                 |                                  |
| F(000)                            | 270                                         |                 |                                  |
| Crystal size                      | 0.16 x 0.13 x 0.12 mm <sup>3</sup>          |                 |                                  |
| Theta range for data collection   | 4.956 to 72.166°.                           |                 |                                  |
| Index ranges                      | -17<=h<=14, -11<=k<=11, -6<=l<=6            |                 |                                  |
| Reflections collected             | 8521                                        |                 |                                  |
| Independent reflections           | 1417 [R(int) = 0.0456]                      |                 |                                  |
| Completeness to theta = 67.679°   | 99.9 %                                      |                 |                                  |
| Absorption correction             | Semi-empirical from equivalents             |                 |                                  |
| Max. and min. transmission        | 0.7536 and 0.6855                           |                 |                                  |
| Refinement method                 | Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup> |                 |                                  |
| Data / restraints / parameters    | 1417 / 67 / 114                             |                 |                                  |
| Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup> | 1.083                                       |                 |                                  |
| Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]     | R1 = 0.0337, wR2 = 0.0925                   |                 |                                  |
| R indices (all data)              | R1 = 0.0353, wR2 = 0.0936                   |                 |                                  |

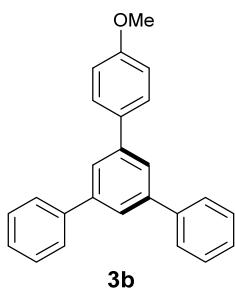
|                              |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Absolute structure parameter | 0.5                                   |
| Extinction coefficient       | 0.008(3)                              |
| Largest diff. peak and hole  | 0.158 and -0.137 e. $\text{\AA}^{-3}$ |

The CCDC number of product **3w'** is 2118497.

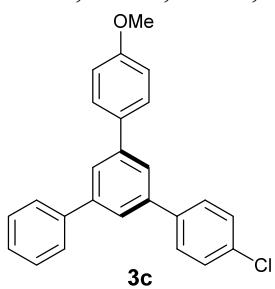
## 6. Characterization data of products



**5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** (known compound)<sup>3</sup> White solid, 51.4 mg, 56% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.79 (s, 3H), 7.73 – 7.66 (m, 6H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 6H), 7.43 – 7.34 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.5, 141.3, 129.0, 127.7, 127.5, 125.3.

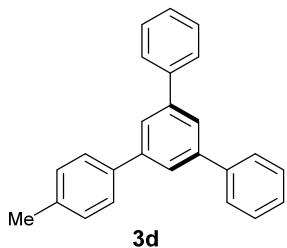


**4-methoxy-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** (known compound)<sup>3</sup> White solid, 47.4 mg, 47% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.74 (s, 3H), 7.72 – 7.67 (m, 4H), 7.66 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  159.5, 142.5, 142.1., 141.4, 133.8, 129.0, 128.5, 127.6, 127.5, 124.9, 124.8, 114.4, 55.5.

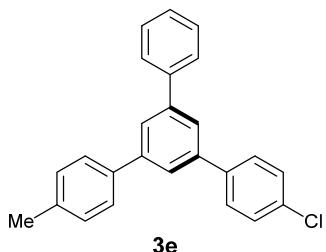


**4-chloro-4''-methoxy-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** (known compound)<sup>3</sup> White solid, 46.7 mg, 42% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.75 (s, 1H), 7.71 – 7.65 (m, 4H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.52 – 7.38 (m, 5H), 7.04 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  159.6, 142.6, 142.2, 141.2,

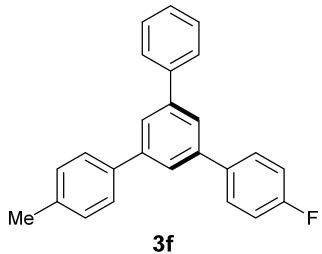
139.8, 133.8, 133.6, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 127.8, 127.5, 125.2, 124.7, 124.5, 114.5, 55.5.



**4-methyl-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** (known compound)<sup>3</sup> White solid, 50.9 mg, 53% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.79 – 7.74 (m, 3H), 7.72 – 7.66 (m, 4H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.51 – 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.5, 142.4, 141.4, 138.4, 137.5, 129.7, 129.0, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 125.1, 125.0, 21.3.

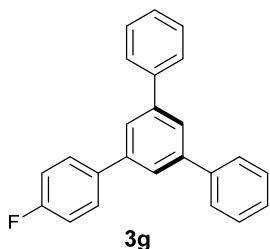


**4-chloro-4''-methyl-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** White solid, 65.9 mg, 62% yield. m.p. 160.3–161.0 °C; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3030, 2922, 2854, 1595, 1549, 1492, 1091, 813, 761, 698; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.78 (s, 1H), 7.74 – 7.65 (m, 4H), 7.65 – 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.51 – 7.37 (m, 5H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.6, 142.5, 141.2, 139.8, 138.2, 137.6, 133.8, 129.7, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 127.8, 127.5, 127.3, 125.4, 124.9, 124.8, 21.3; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>19</sub>Cl [M]<sup>+</sup> 354.1175, found 354.1168.

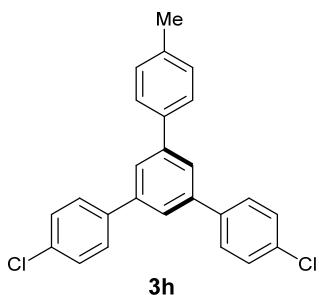


**4-fluoro-4''-methyl-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** White solid, 49.7 mg, 49% yield. m.p. 127.3–128.4 °C; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3049, 2954, 2854, 1603, 1511, 1230, 1158, 913, 743, 692; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.81 (s, 1H), 7.77 – 7.71 (m, 4H), 7.70 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.46 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  162.7 (d, *J* = 245.0 Hz), 142.5, 142.4, 141.4, 141.2, 138.2, 137.6, 137.4 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 129.7, 129.1, 129.0, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 125.1,

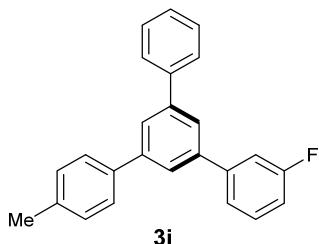
124.9 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz), 115.8 (d,  $J = 22.0$  Hz), 21.3;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -112.9; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F [M]<sup>+</sup> 338.1471, found 338.1462.



**4-fluoro-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** (known compound)<sup>3</sup> White solid, 48.7 mg, 50% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.80 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.74 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.66 (m, 4H), 7.66 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.42 (m, 4H), 7.42 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.09 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  162.8 (d,  $J = 245.0$  Hz), 142.6, 141.5, 141.2, 137.4 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 129.1, 129.0, 127.8, 127.5, 125.3, 125.2, 115.9 (d,  $J = 21.0$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -115.3.

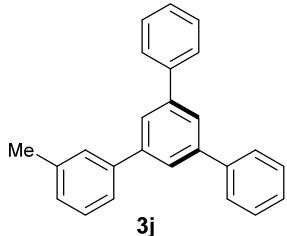


**4,4''-dichloro-5'-(p-tolyl)-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** White solid, 53.7 mg, 46% yield. m.p. 239.5–240.2 °C; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3535, 2392, 2280, 1598, 1513, 1492, 1441, 1092, 1012, 811;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.74 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.62 – 7.52 (m, 6H), 7.43 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 4H), 7.28 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.8, 141.4, 139.6, 138.0, 137.8, 133.9, 129.8, 129.2, 128.7, 127.3, 125.2, 124.6, 21.3; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>18</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup> 388.0786, found 388.0779.

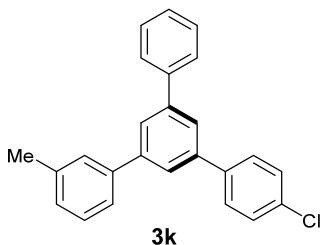


**3-fluoro-4''-methyl-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** White solid, 50.7 mg, 50% yield. m.p. 135.0–136.4 °C; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3056, 3035, 2923, 2851, 2367, 1584, 1514, 1179, 756, 697;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.81 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.76 –

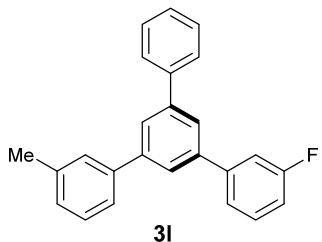
7.71 (m, 2H), 7.71 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.63 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.29 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.13 – 7.01 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  163.4 (d,  $J$  = 244.0 Hz), 143.6 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz), 142.6, 142.5, 141.1, 138.1, 137.7, 130.4 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz), 129.8, 129.0, 127.8, 127.5, 127.3, 125.7, 125.0, 124.9, 123.1 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz), 114.44 (d,  $J$  = 21.0 Hz), 114.38 (d,  $J$  = 22.0 Hz), 21.3;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -113.0; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F [M]<sup>+</sup> 338.1471, found 338.1462.



**3-methyl-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** (known compound)<sup>4</sup> White solid, 49.0 mg, 51% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.79 – 7.74 (m, 3H), 7.72 – 7.66 (m, 4H), 7.52 – 7.43 (m, 6H), 7.41 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.6, 142.4, 141.3, 141.2, 138.6, 129.0, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 127.5, 125.3, 125.2, 124.6, 21.7.

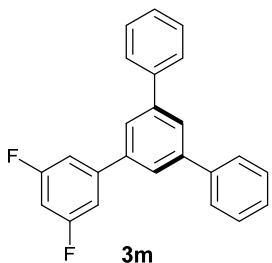


**4''-chloro-3-methyl-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** White solid, 55.3 mg, 52% yield. m.p. 156.0–157.1 °C; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3034, 2924, 2854, 1596, 1494, 1092, 878, 826, 760, 699;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.72 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.64 (s, 2H), 7.60 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.36 (m, 5H), 7.36 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.15 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.8, 142.6, 141.2, 141.1, 139.8, 138.6, 133.8, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 127.8, 127.5, 125.6, 125.1, 125.0, 124.6, 21.7; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>19</sub>Cl [M]<sup>+</sup> 354.1175, found 354.1168.

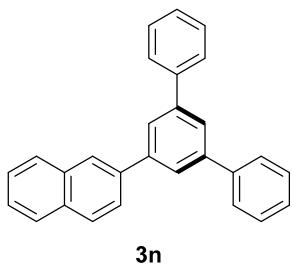


**3-fluoro-3''-methyl-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** White solid, 51.7 mg, 51% yield. m.p. 138.5–139.1 °C; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3056, 2922, 1610, 1582, 1408, 1265, 1178,

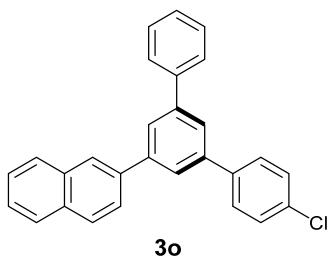
866, 752, 696;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.82 (s, 1H), 7.77 (s, 2H), 7.71 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.47 (m, 5H), 7.47 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.23 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  163.4 (d,  $J$  = 244.0 Hz), 143.6 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz), 142.8, 142.6, 141.2, 141.1, 141.0, 138.7, 130.4 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz), 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 127.8, 127.5, 125.9, 125.2, 125.1, 124.6, 123.1 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 114.5 (d,  $J$  = 21.0 Hz), 114.4 (d,  $J$  = 22.0 Hz), 21.7;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -113.0; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F [M]<sup>+</sup> 338.1471, found 338.1462.



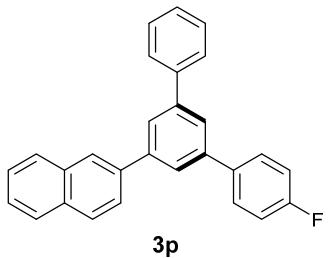
**3,5-difluoro-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1"-terphenyl** (known compound)<sup>5</sup> White solid, 45.1 mg, 44% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.82 (s, 1H), 7.75 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.65 (m, 4H), 7.49 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.44 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.74 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  163.5 (dd,  $J$  = 246.0 Hz), 144.6 (t,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 142.8, 140.8, 140.2, 129.1, 127.9, 127.5, 126.4, 125.0, 110.3 (dd,  $J$  = 18.0 Hz), 102.9 (t,  $J$  = 25.0 Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -109.5.



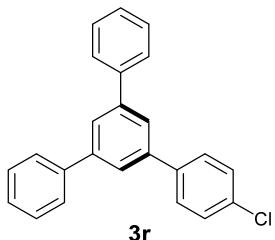
**2-([1,1':3',1"-terphenyl]-5'-yl)naphthalene** (known compound)<sup>6</sup> White solid, 67.3 mg, 63% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.14 (s, 1H), 7.96 – 7.89 (m, 4H), 7.89 – 7.79 (m, 3H), 7.75 – 7.68 (m, 4H), 7.54 – 7.45 (m, 6H), 7.43 – 7.34 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.6, 142.4, 141.3, 138.6, 133.8, 132.9, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.8, 127.7, 127.5, 126.5, 126.2, 125.8, 125.6, 125.4.



**2-(4-chloro-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-5'-yl)naphthalene** White solid, 60.9 mg, 52% yield. m.p. 188.2–189.0 °C; IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3053, 2956, 2853, 1594, 1492, 1092, 885, 816, 760, 701;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.14 (s, 1H), 7.99 – 7.91 (m, 3H), 7.91 – 7.81 (m, 3H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.74 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.68 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.50 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.8, 142.6, 141.4, 141.1, 139.7, 138.4, 133.9, 133.8, 132.9, 129.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.4, 127.8, 127.5, 126.6, 126.3, 126.2, 125.9, 125.7, 125.3, 125.2; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{19}\text{Cl} [\text{M}]^+$  390.1175, found 390.1170.

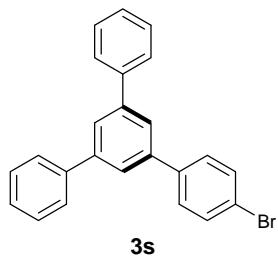


**2-(4-fluoro-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-5'-yl)naphthalene** White solid, 50.5 mg, 45% yield. m.p. 193.4–194.2 °C; IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3057, 2926, 2392, 1600, 1518, 1446, 1229, 1159, 834, 753;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.14 (s, 1H), 7.97 – 7.86 (m, 4H), 7.86 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.79 – 7.63 (m, 5H), 7.56 – 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.12 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  162.8 (d,  $J = 245.0$  Hz), 142.7, 142.5, 141.6, 141.2, 138.5, 137.4 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 133.8, 132.9, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.84, 127.81, 127.5, 126.6, 126.3, 126.2, 125.8, 125.6, 125.4, 125.3, 115.9 (d,  $J = 21.0$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -115.2; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{19}\text{F} [\text{M}]^+$  374.1471, found 374.1463.

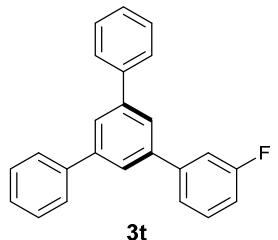


**4-chloro-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** (known compound)<sup>3</sup> White solid, 58.2 mg, 57% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.81 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.73 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.71 – 7.66 (m, 4H), 7.65 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 3H),

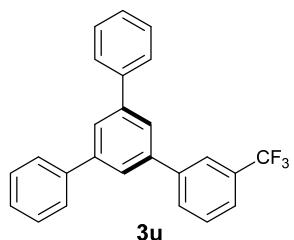
7.47 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.7, 141.2, 141.1, 139.7, 133.8, 129.2, 129.0, 128.7, 127.8, 127.5, 125.6, 125.1.



**4-bromo-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** (known compound)<sup>6</sup> White solid, 46.2 mg, 40% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.82 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.73 (d,  $J$  = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.71 – 7.64 (m, 4H), 7.63 – 7.53 (m, 4H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.43 – 7.34 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.7, 141.3, 141.1, 140.2, 132.1, 129.1, 129.0, 127.8, 127.5, 125.7, 125.0, 122.0.

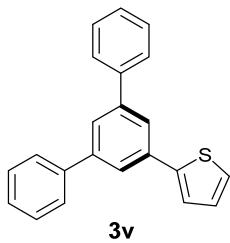


**3-fluoro-5'-phenyl-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** (known compound)<sup>6</sup> White solid, 55.4 mg, 57% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.83 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.78 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.72 – 7.66 (m, 4H), 7.52 – 7.46 (m, 5H), 7.45 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.15 – 7.02 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  163.4 (d,  $J$  = 245.0 Hz), 143.6 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz), 142.7, 141.2, 141.1, 141.1, 130.5 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 129.0, 127.8, 127.5, 125.9, 125.2, 123.1 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz), 114.5 (d,  $J$  = 21.0 Hz), 114.4 (d,  $J$  = 21.0 Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -112.9.

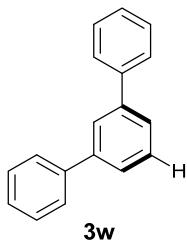


**5'-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** White solid, 44.9 mg, 40% yield. m.p. 199.3–200.6 °C; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3035, 2924, 2853, 2377, 1596, 1497, 1321, 1126, 756, 698;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.93 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.77 (d,  $J$  = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.72 – 7.67 (m, 4H), 7.67 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 7.44 – 7.36 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.8, 142.1, 141.1, 141.0, 131.4 (q,  $J$  = 32.0 Hz), 130.8, 129.5, 129.1, 127.9, 127.5, 126.1, 125.3, 124.3 (d,  $J$  = 271.0 Hz), 124.5 – 124.2 (m), 122.8;

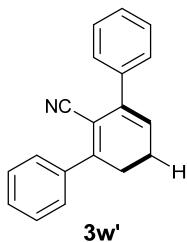
<sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -62.5; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>3</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup> 374.1282, found 374.1273.



**2-([1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-5'-yl)thiophene** White solid, 40.0 mg, 43% yield; m.p. 180.2–181.0 °C; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3057, 2924, 1595, 1489, 1313, 819, 759, 698. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.86 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.76 – 7.67 (m, 5H), 7.55 – 7.47 (m, 4H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 5.04 Hz, 1H), 7.18 – 7.10 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  144.4, 142.7, 141.0, 135.5, 129.0, 128.2, 127.8, 127.5, 125.6, 125.3, 124.0, 123.7. HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>S [M]<sup>+</sup> 312.0973, found 312.0966.

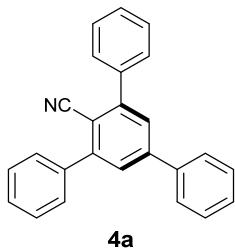


**1,1':3',1''-terphenyl** (known compound)<sup>7</sup> White solid, 34.5 mg, 50% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.81 (s, 1H), 7.66 (s, 2H), 7.64 (s, 2H), 7.60 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.54 – 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  141.9, 141.3, 129.3, 128.9, 127.6, 127.4, 126.3, 126.2.

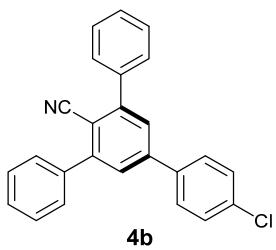


**4',5'-dihydro-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-2'-carbonitrile** White solid, 42.4 mg, 55% yield. m.p. 74.5–75.3 °C; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3057, 2919, 2850, 2397, 1598, 1552, 1492, 1443, 761, 698; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.61 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.43 – 7.33 (m, 5H), 6.12 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.81 – 2.73 (m, 2H), 2.52 – 2.44 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  155.8, 139.1, 138.5, 136.0, 129.6,

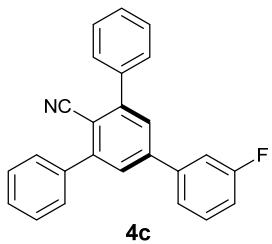
128.7, 128.4, 128.1, 127.92, 127.90, 126.0, 118.0, 108.8, 29.7, 22.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNa<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 280.1097, found 280.1097.



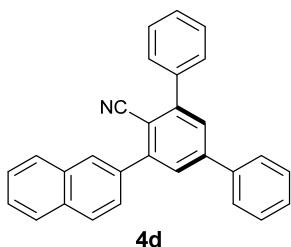
**5'-phenyl-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-2'-carbonitrile** (known compound)<sup>8</sup> White solid, 49.7 mg, 50% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.72 – 7.67 (m, 3H), 7.67 – 7.60 (m, 5H), 7.56 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.48 (m, 5H), 7.48 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.45 – 7.40 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 147.5, 145.3, 139.2, 138.9, 129.3, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8, 127.7, 127.5, 118.2, 109.2.



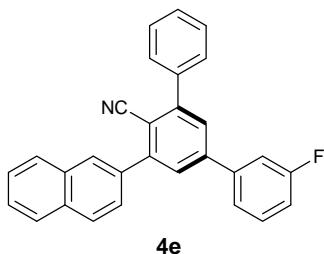
**5'-(4-chlorophenyl)-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-2'-carbonitrile** (known compound)<sup>9</sup> White solid, 62.5 mg, 57% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.64 (s, 4H), 7.63 – 7.60 (m, 3H), 7.60 – 7.57 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.50 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.42 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 147.7, 144.0, 138.7, 137.6, 135.2, 129.5, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 127.4, 118.0, 109.5.



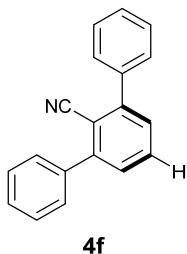
**5'-(3-fluorophenyl)-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-2'-carbonitrile** (known compound)<sup>10</sup> White solid, 52.4 mg, 50% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.69 – 7.60 (m, 6H), 7.56 – 7.47 (m, 6H), 7.47 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 – 7.07 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 163.4 (d, *J* = 246.0 Hz), 147.7, 143.9, 141.4 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 138.6, 130.8 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 127.6, 123.2 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 118.0, 115.8 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 114.5 (d, *J* = 22.0 Hz), 109.8.; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -112.1.



**5'-(naphthalen-2-yl)-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-carbonitrile** (known compound)<sup>8</sup>  
White solid, 56.1 mg, 49% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.12 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.96 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.81 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.73 – 7.63 (m, 5H), 7.58 – 7.51 (m, 4H), 7.51 – 7.39 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  147.6, 145.3, 139.2, 133.3, 129.3, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.9, 127.7, 127.5, 126.9, 118.3, 109.4.



**3-fluoro-5'-(naphthalen-2-yl)-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-carbonitrile** White solid, 57.5 mg, 48% yield. m.p. 255.2–256.7 °C; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3058, 2852, 1592, 1493, 1266, 1157, 1125, 853, 748, 699; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.11 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.96 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.79 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.71 – 7.61 (m, 3H), 7.59 – 7.51 (m, 4H), 7.51 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.43 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.07 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  163.4 (d, *J* = 245.0 Hz), 147.8, 147.7, 143.9, 141.4 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 138.6, 136.0, 133.34, 133.30, 130.9 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 127.0, 126.8, 126.7, 123.2 (d, *J* = 3.03 Hz), 118.1, 115.8 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 114.5 (d, *J* = 23.0 Hz), 110.0; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -112.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>18</sub>FNNa<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 422.1315, found 422.1314.



**[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-2'-carbonitrile** (known compound)<sup>8</sup> White solid, 34.4 mg, 45% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.69 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.62 – 7.55

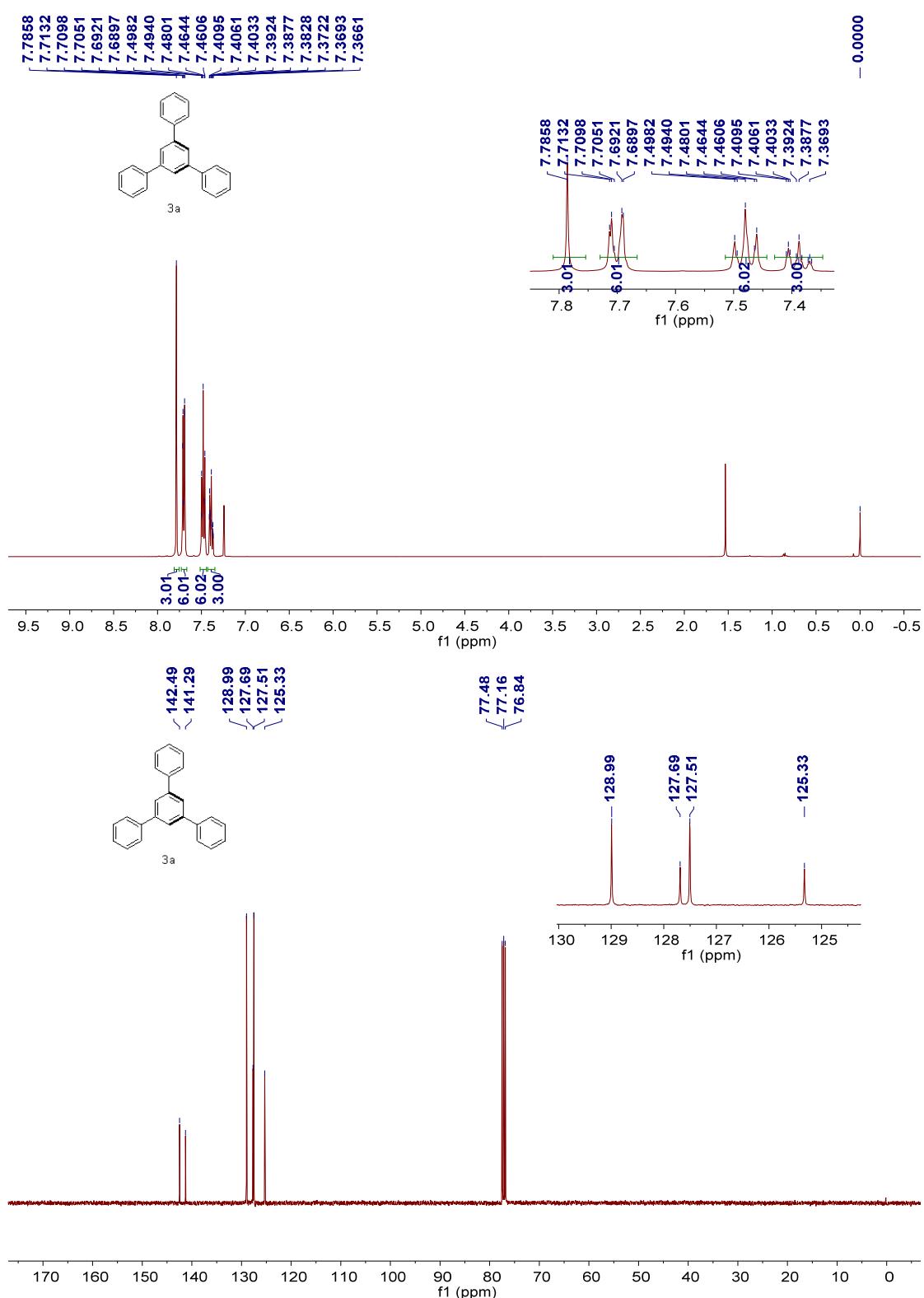
(m, 4H), 7.54 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.4511 (m, 4H), 7.45 – 7.42 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  147.1, 138.8, 132.4, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7.

## References.

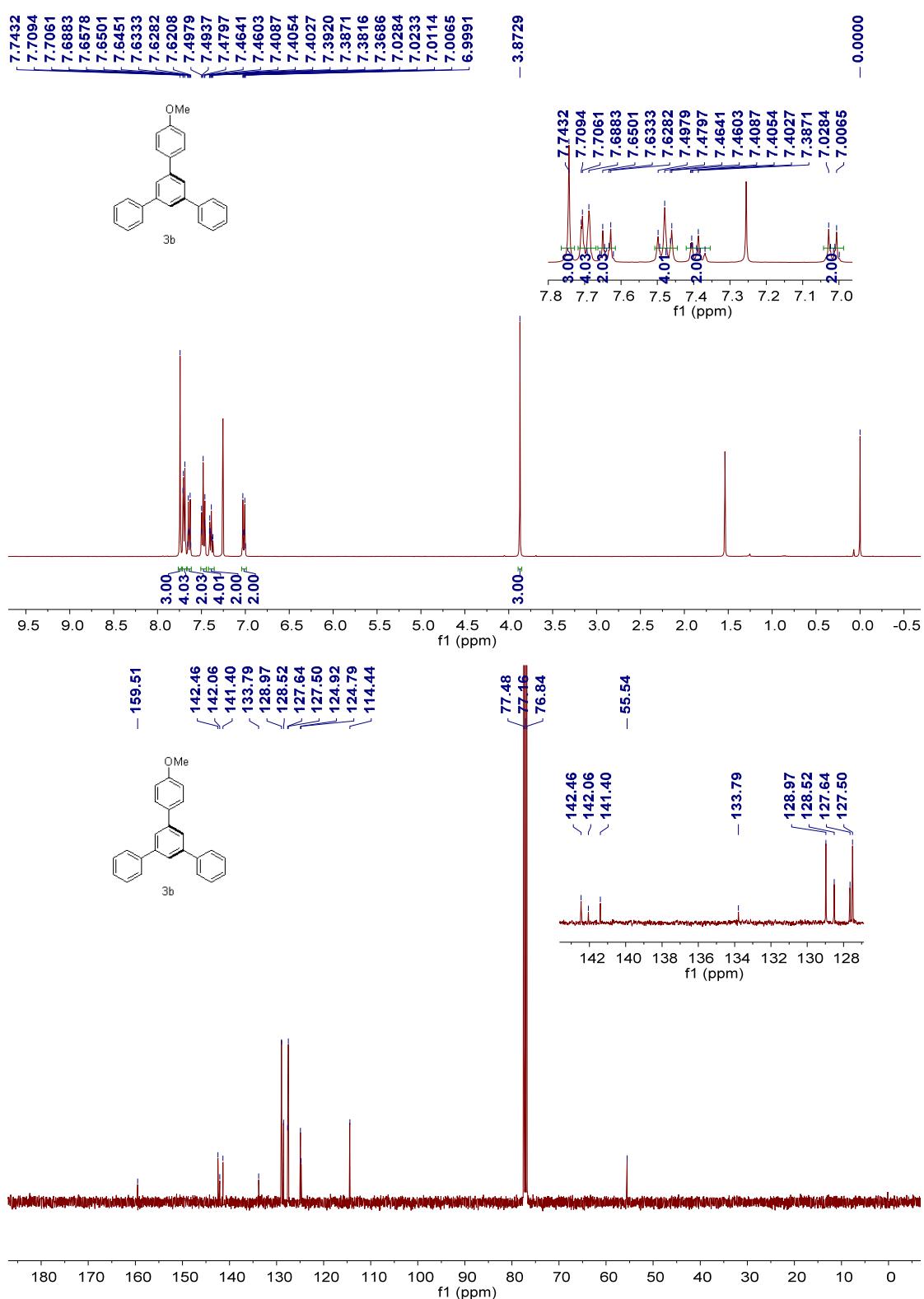
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## 7. Copies of NMR spectra

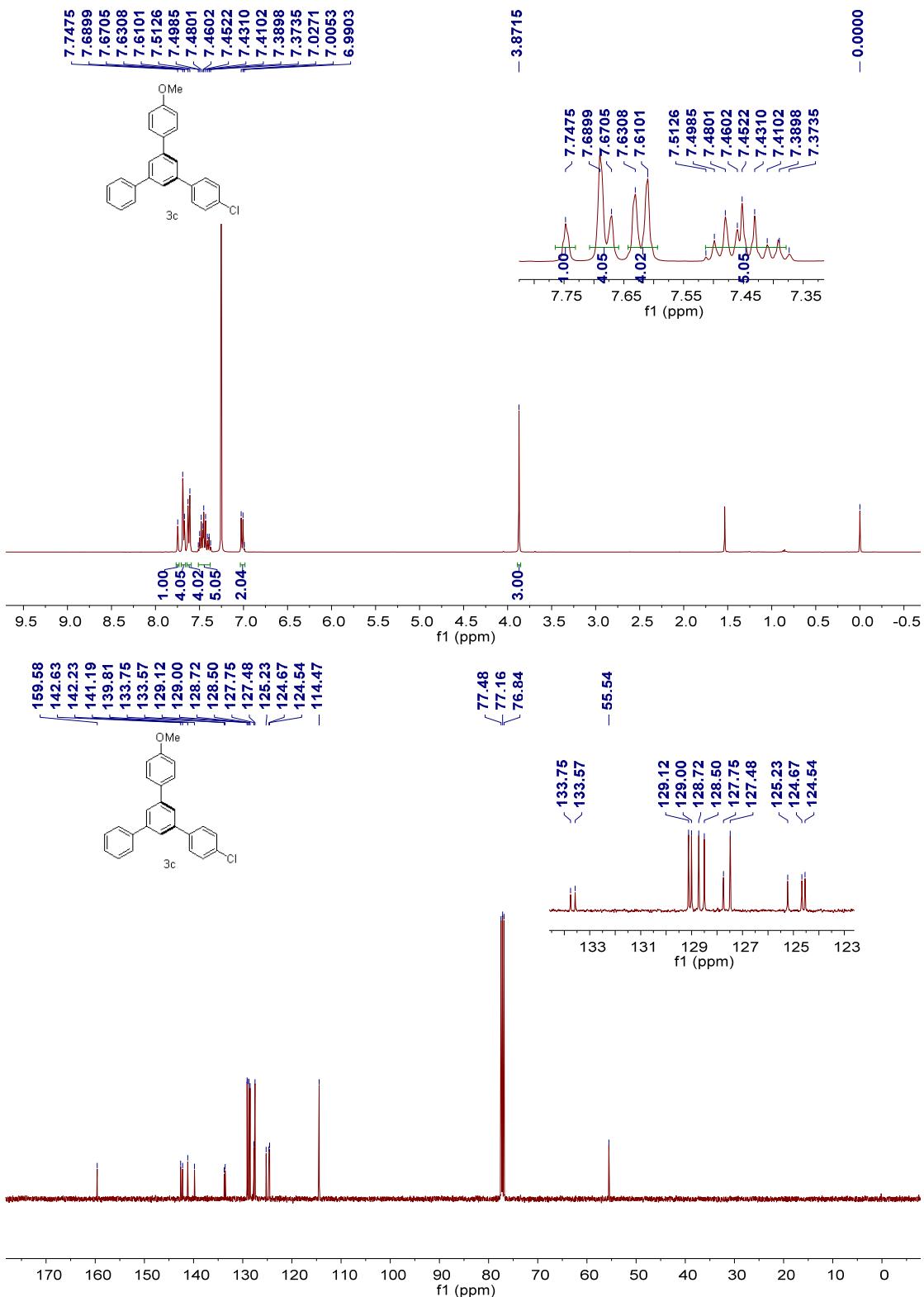
3a



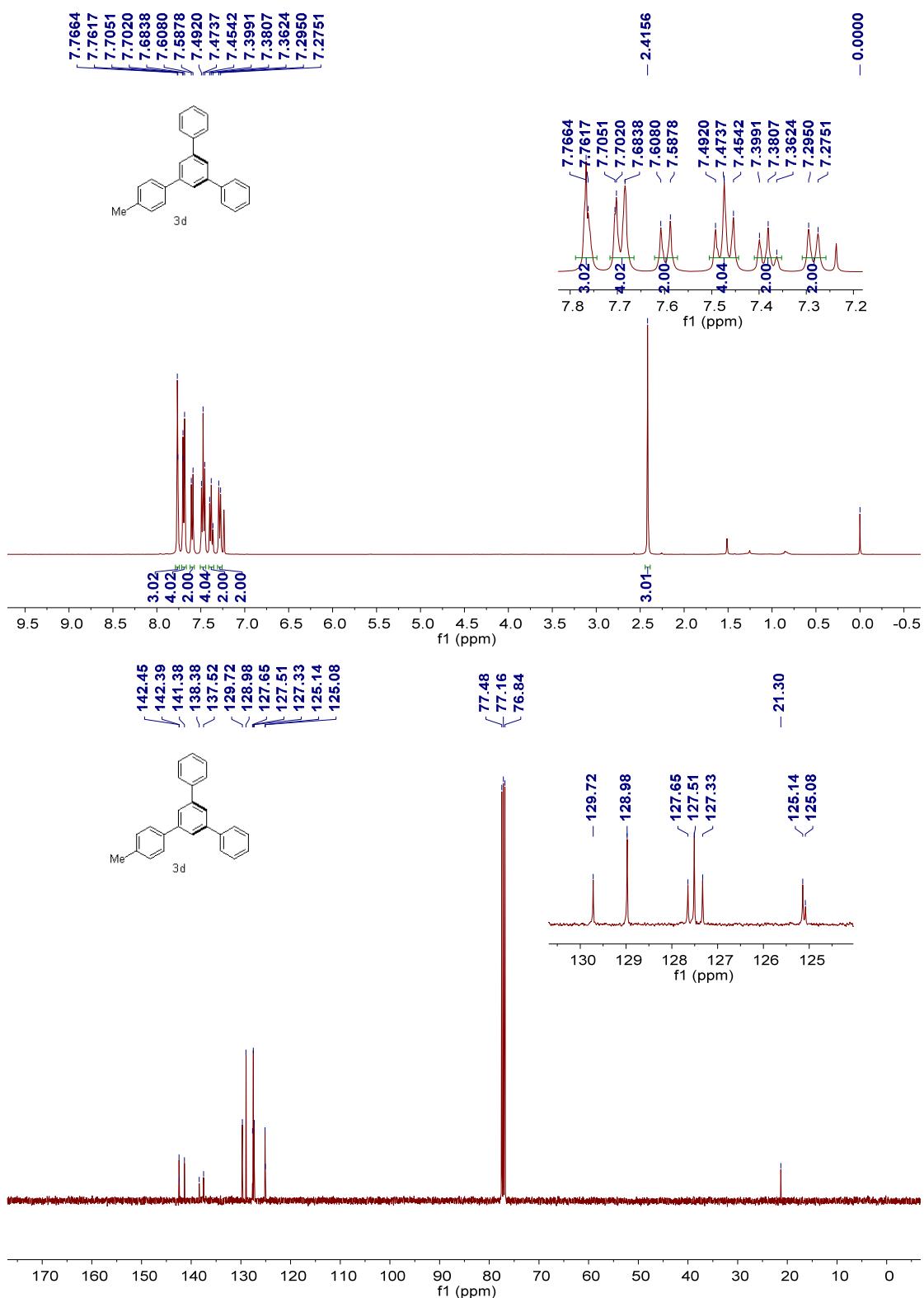
3b



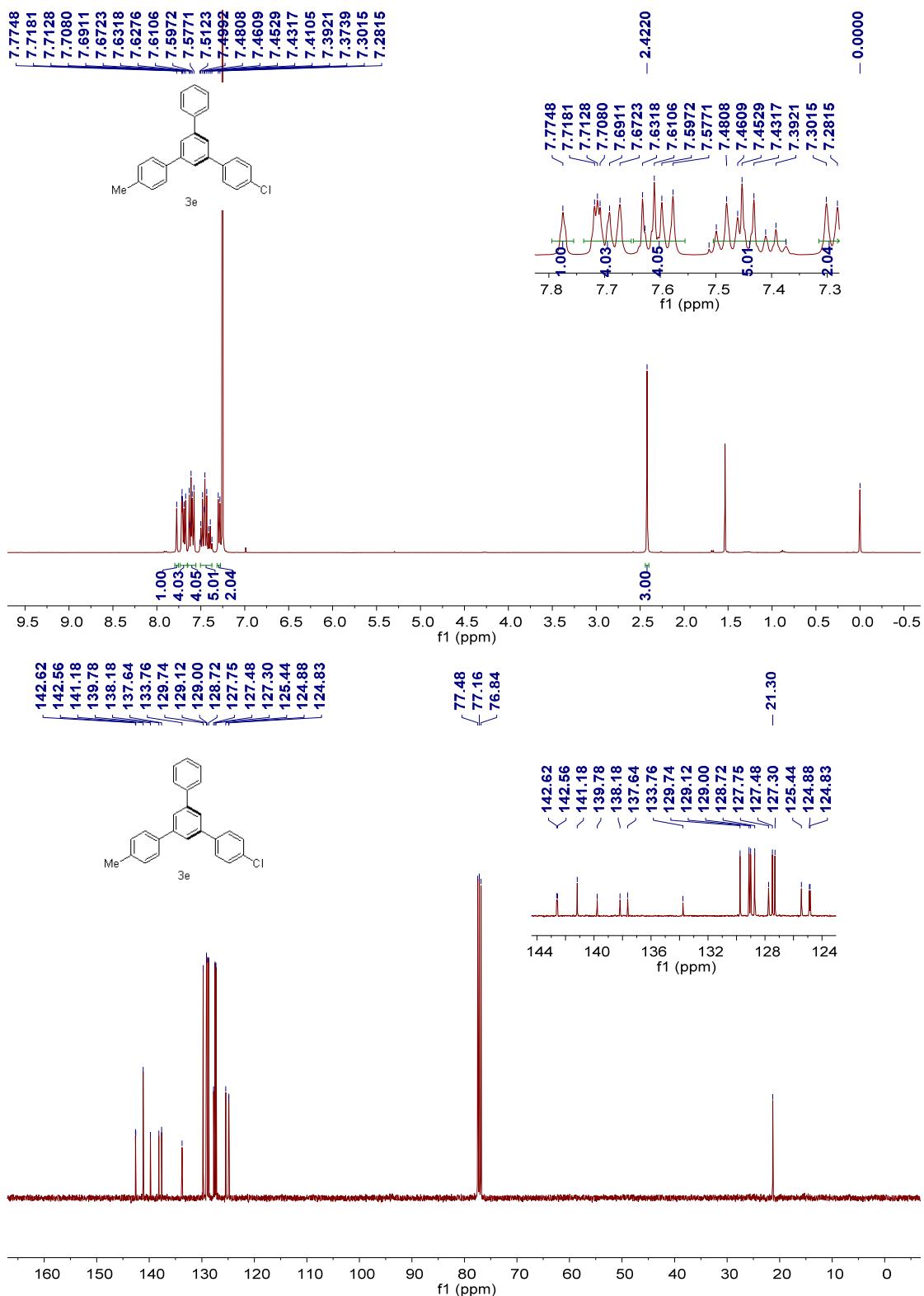
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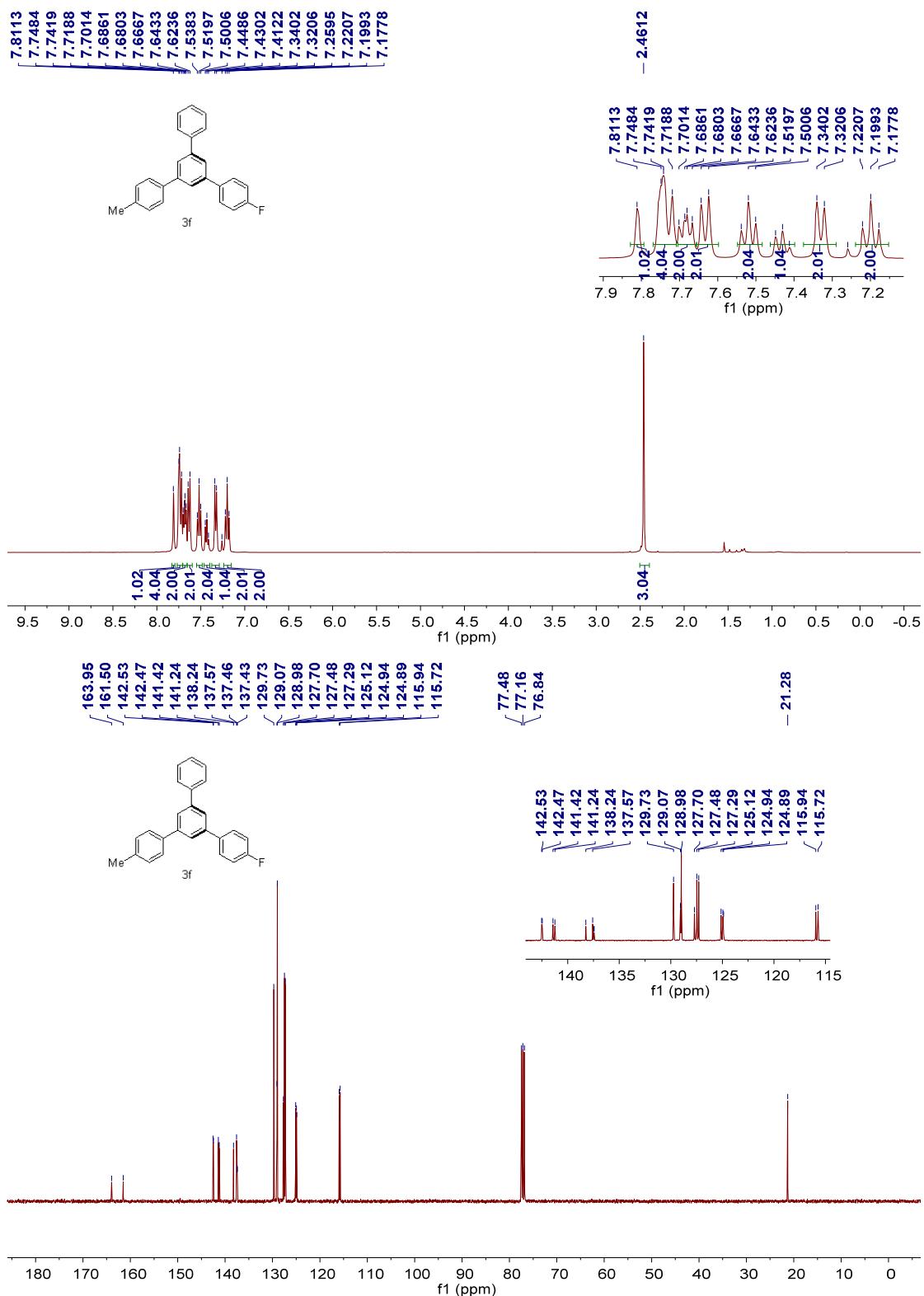
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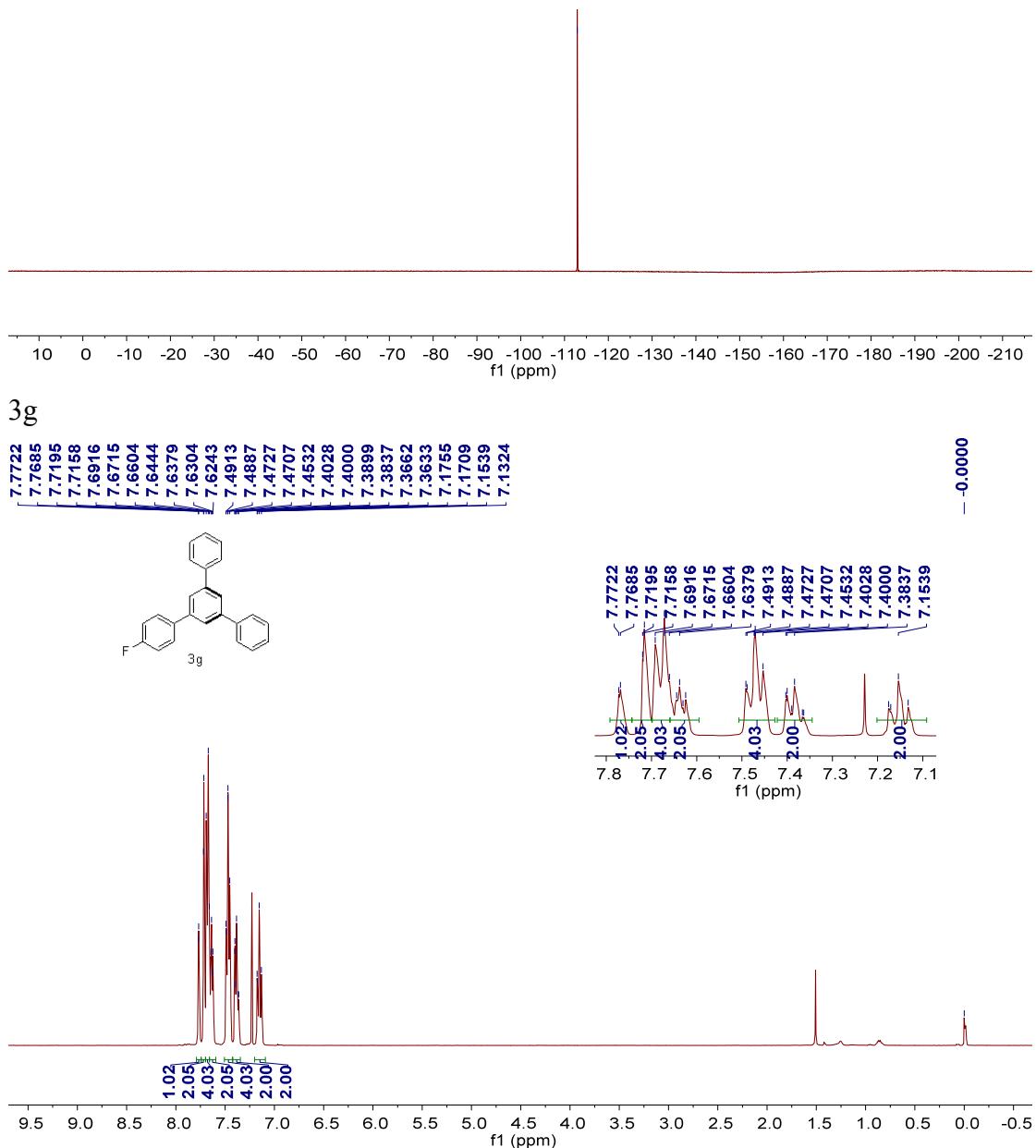
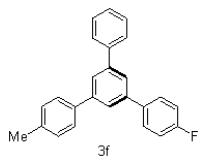


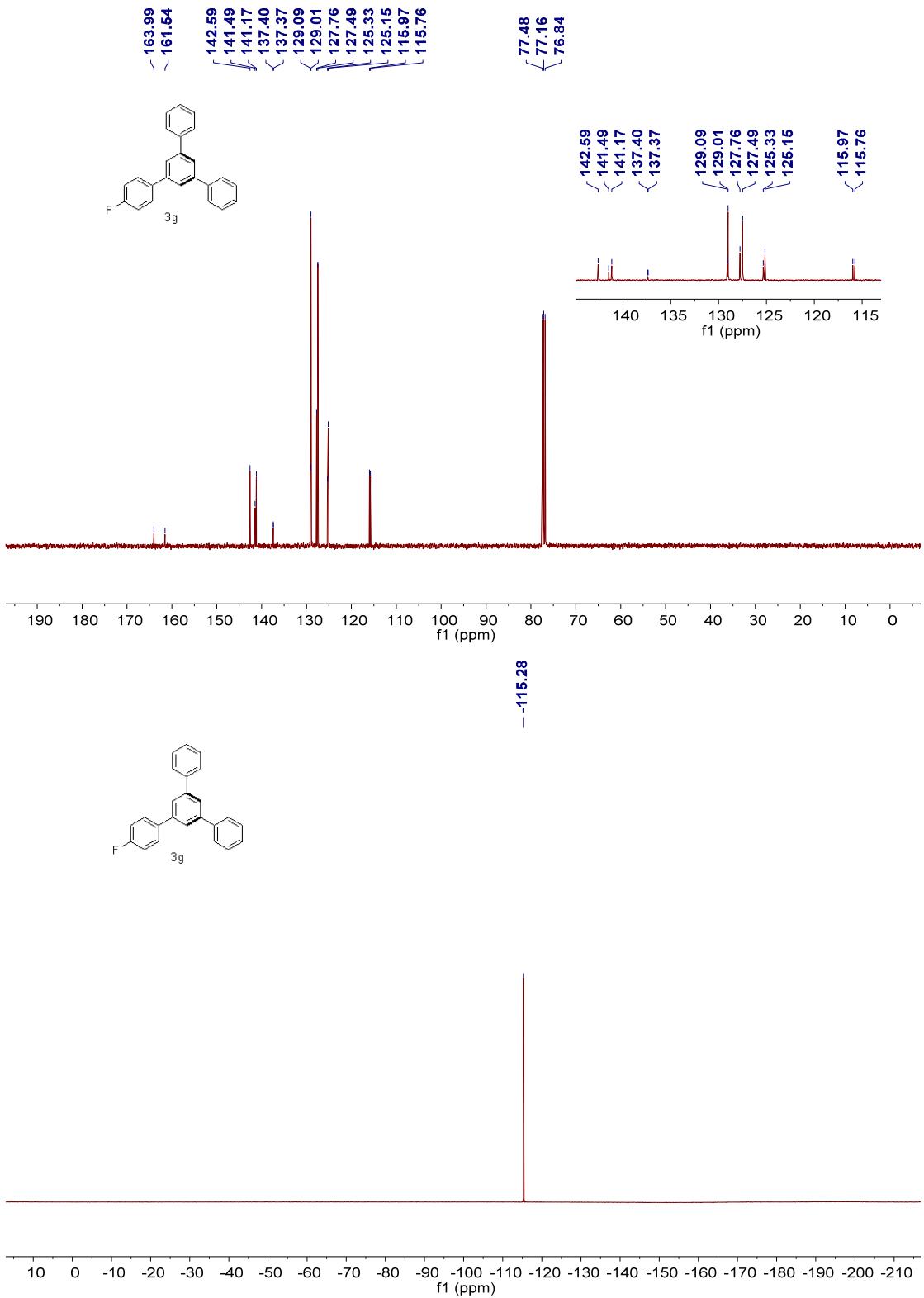
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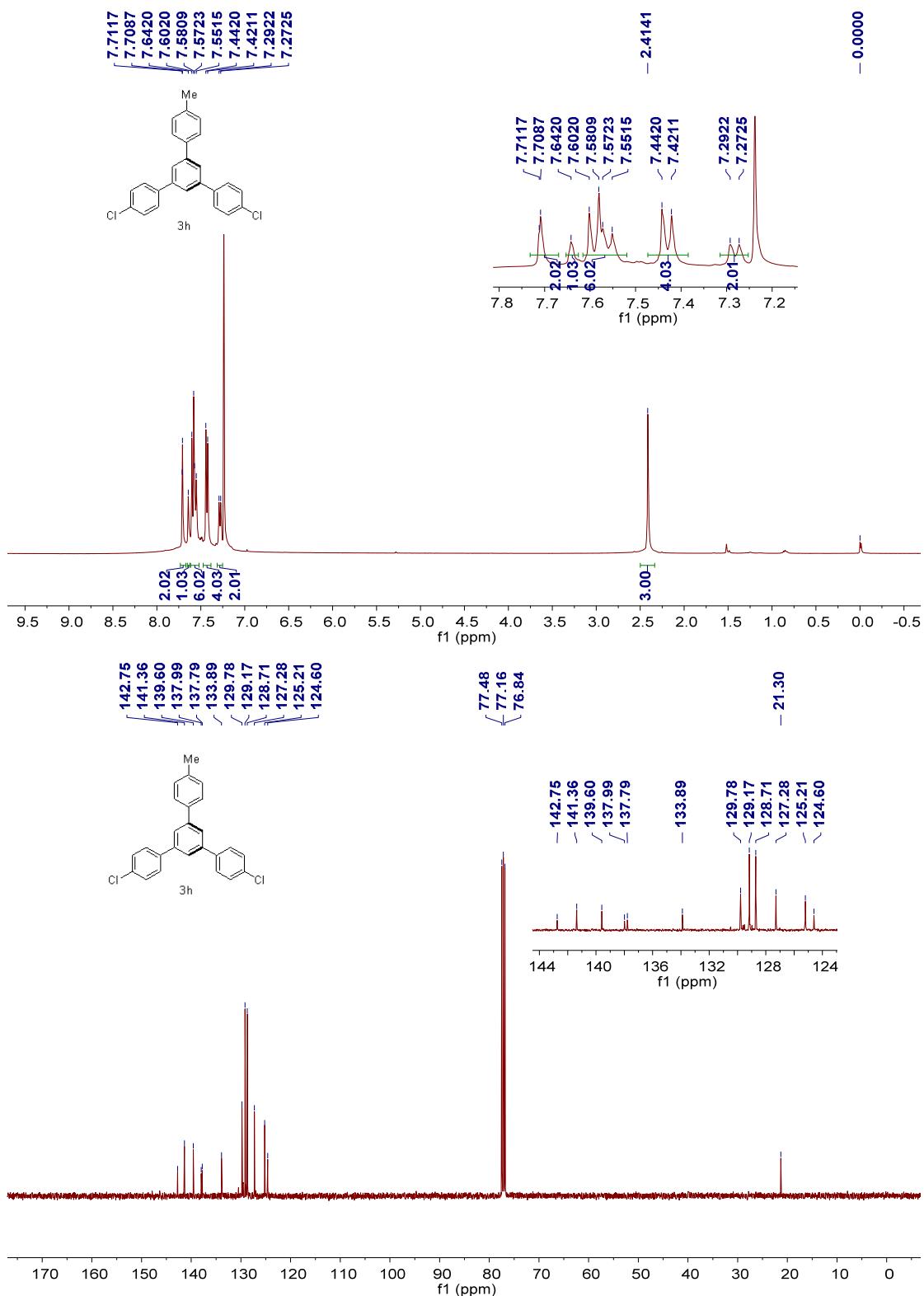
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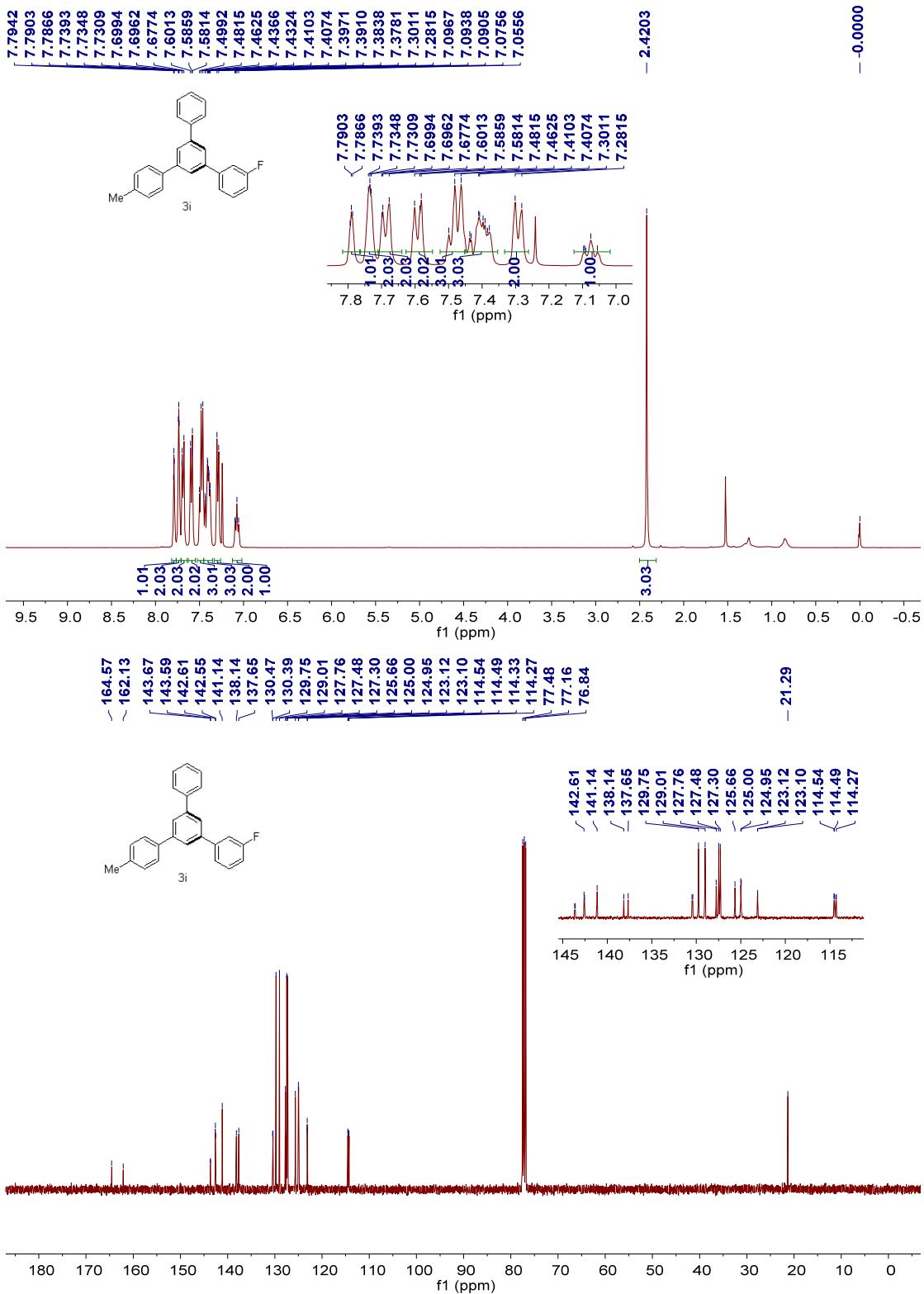


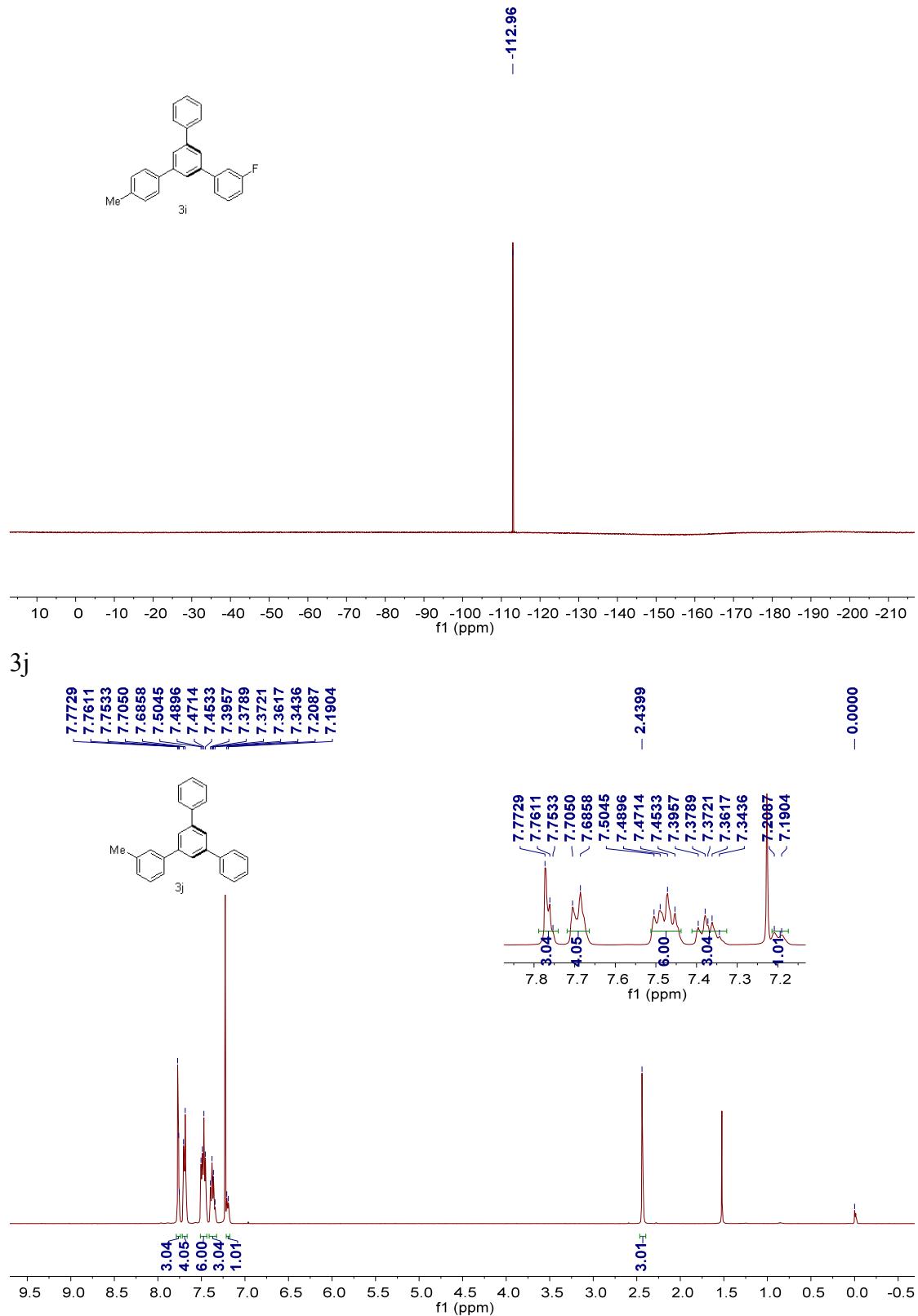


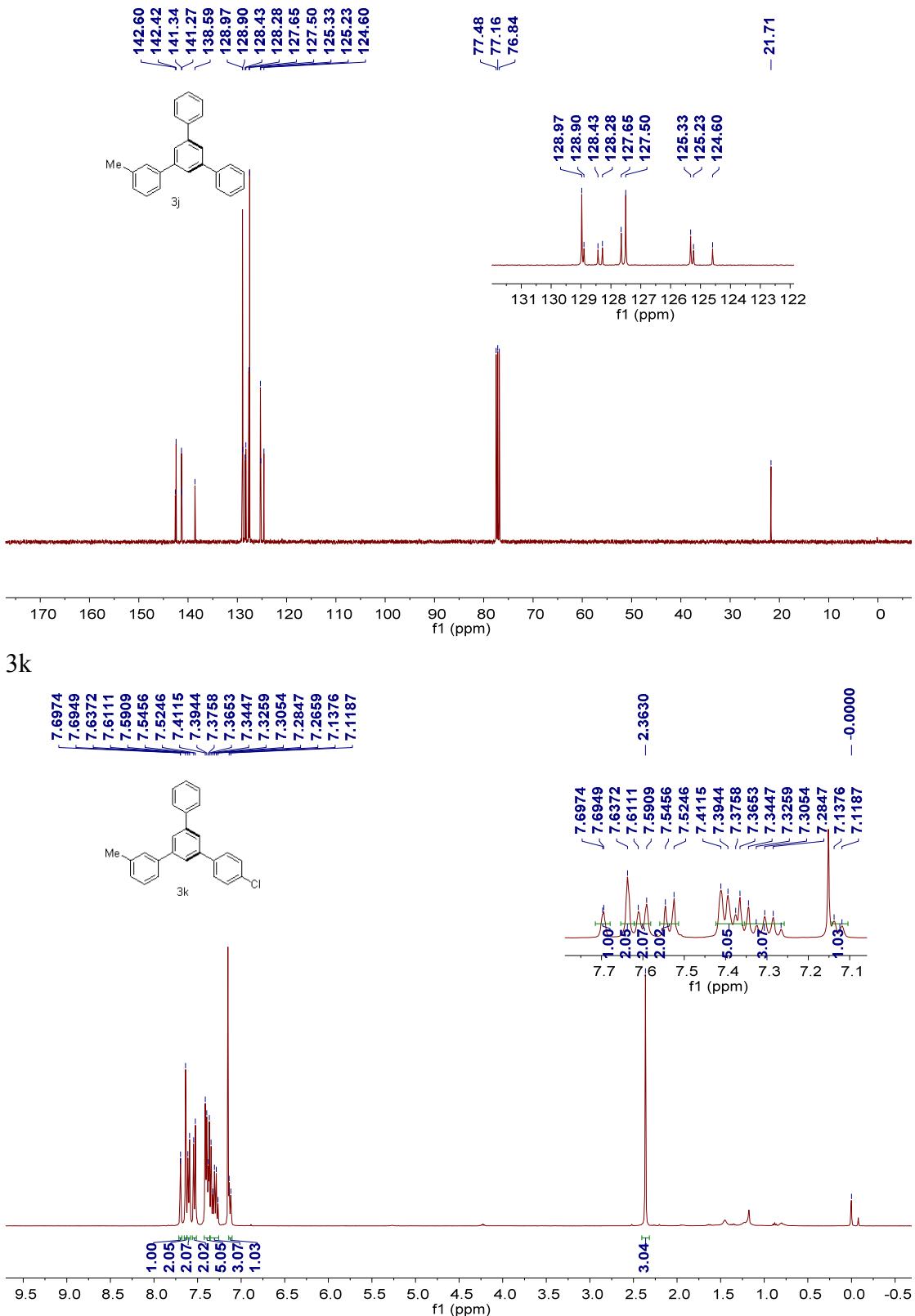
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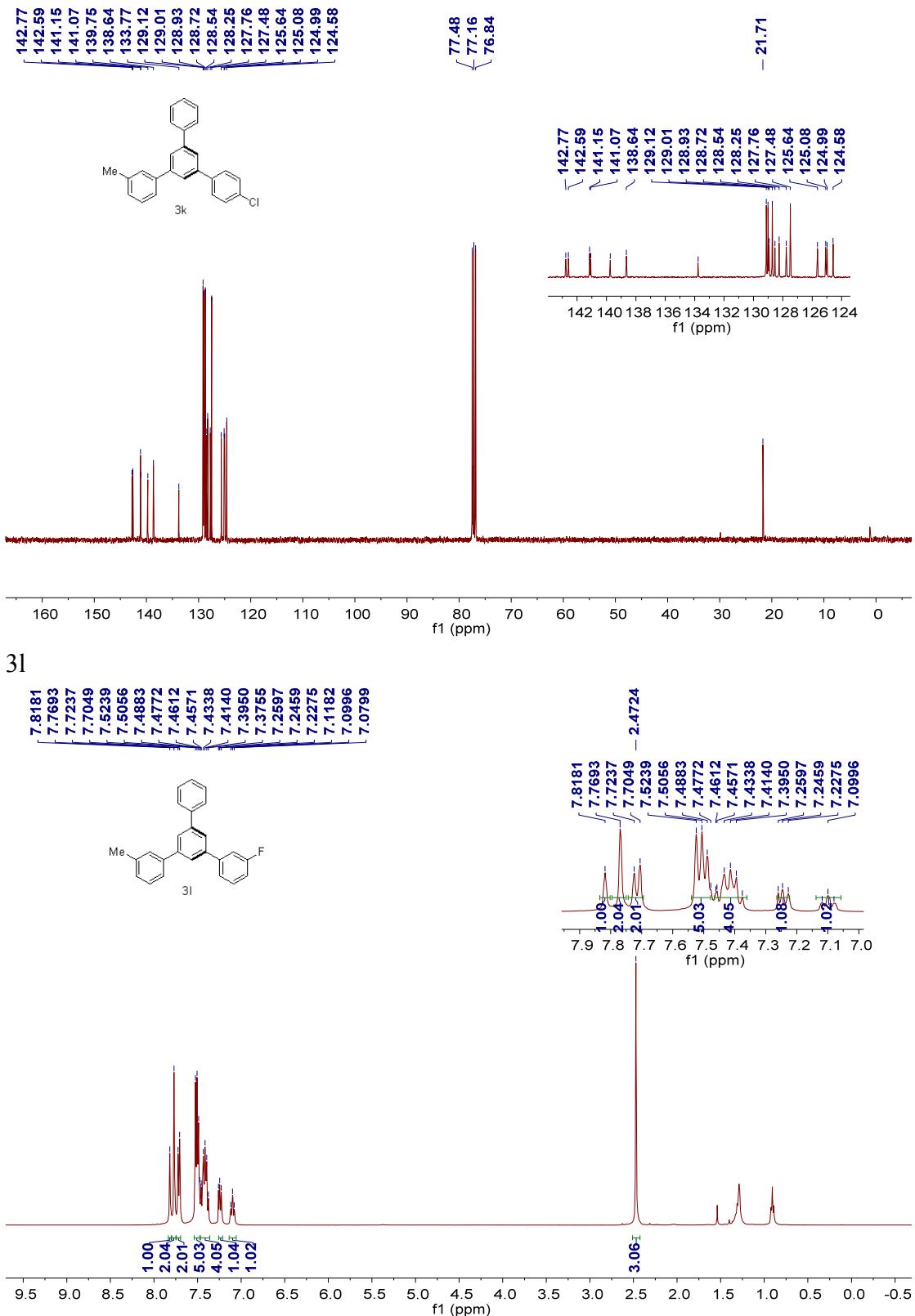


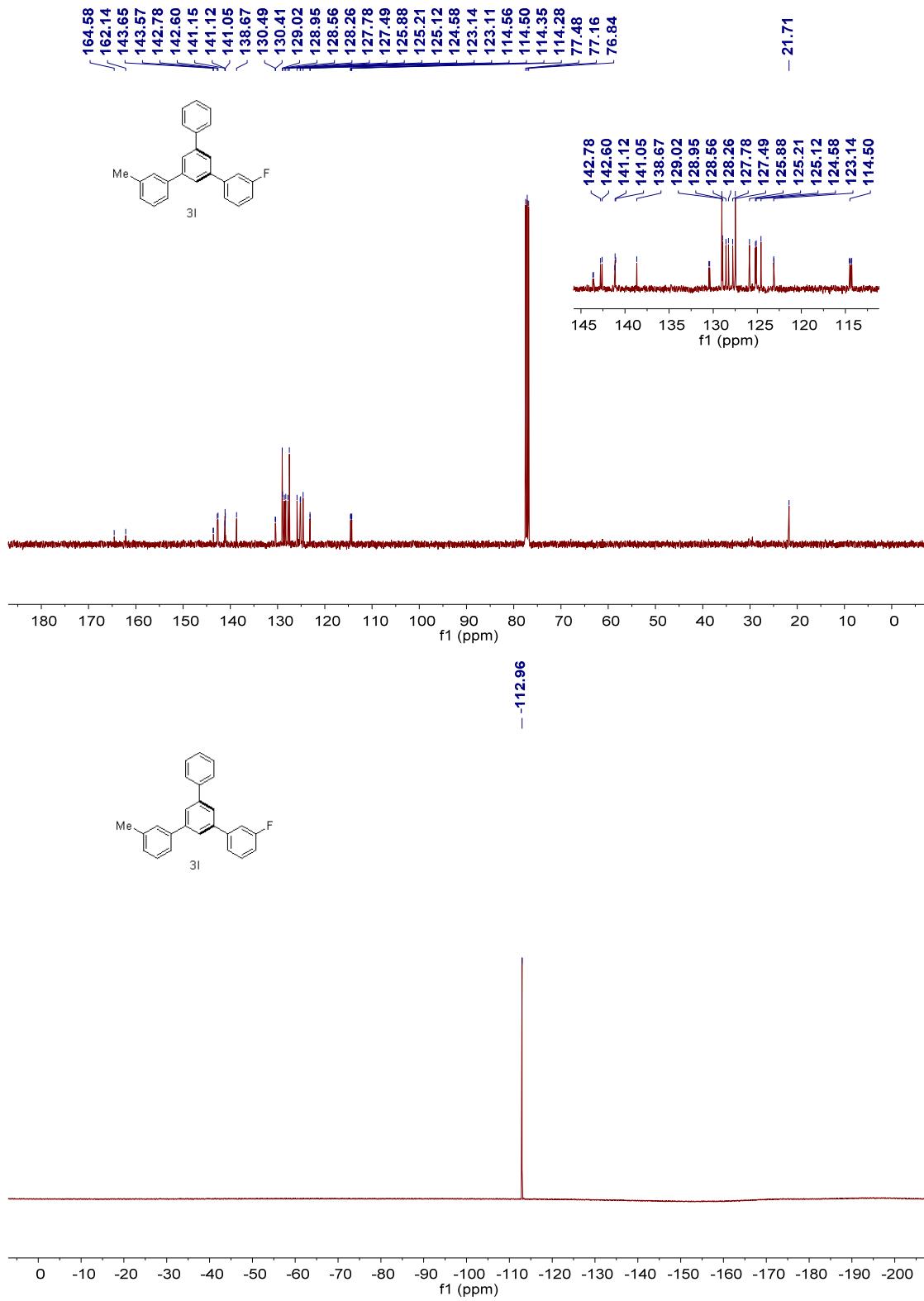
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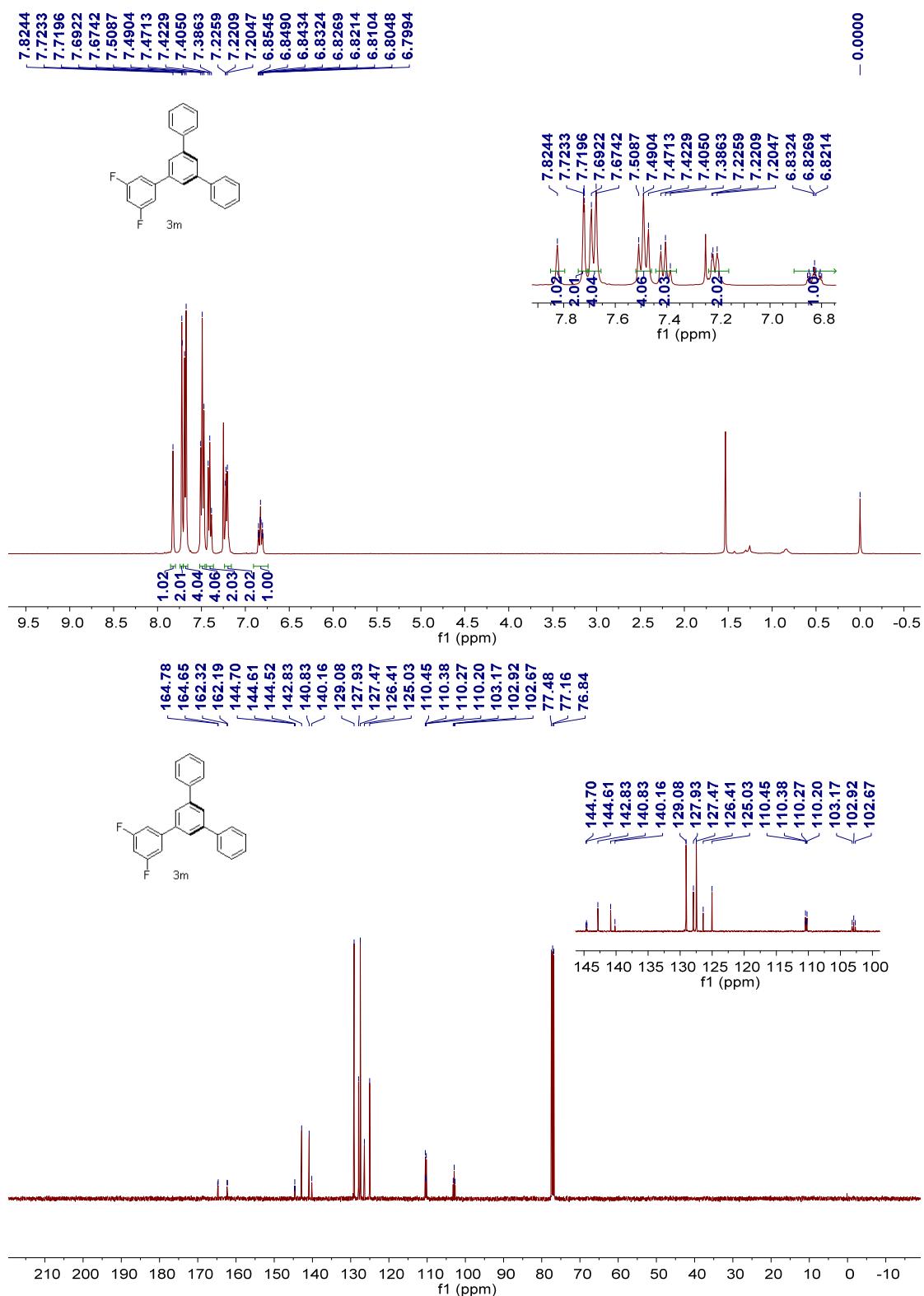


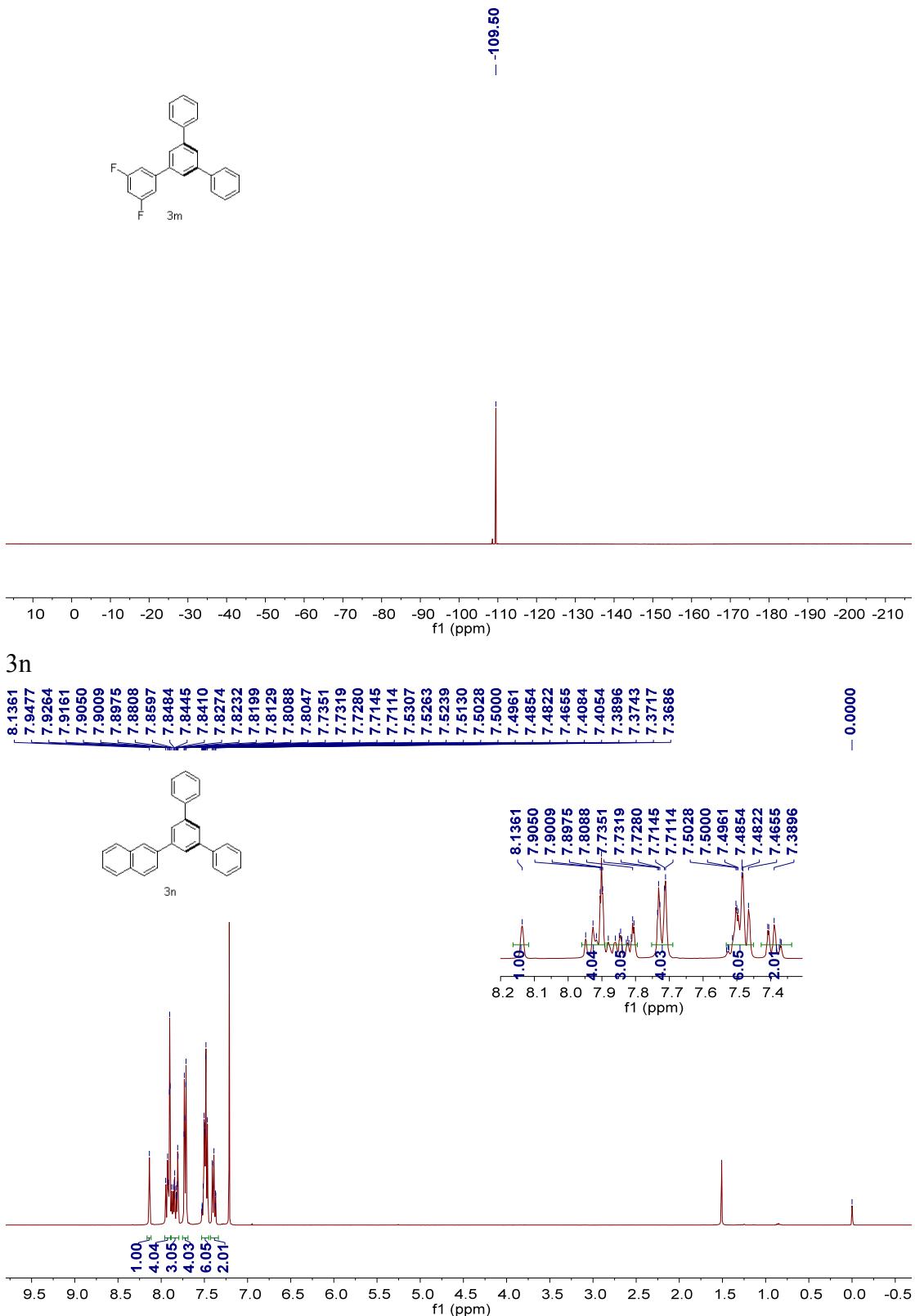


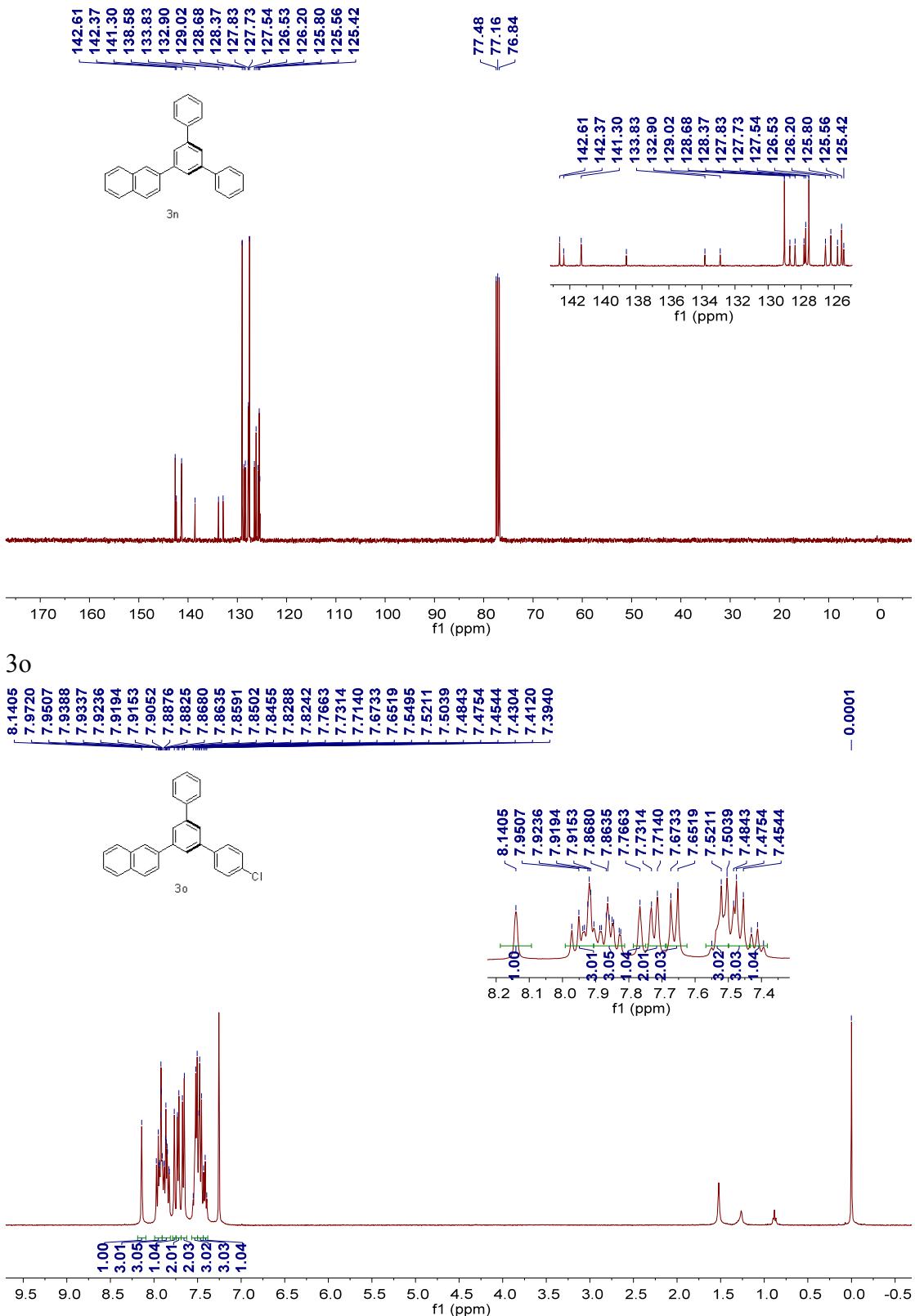


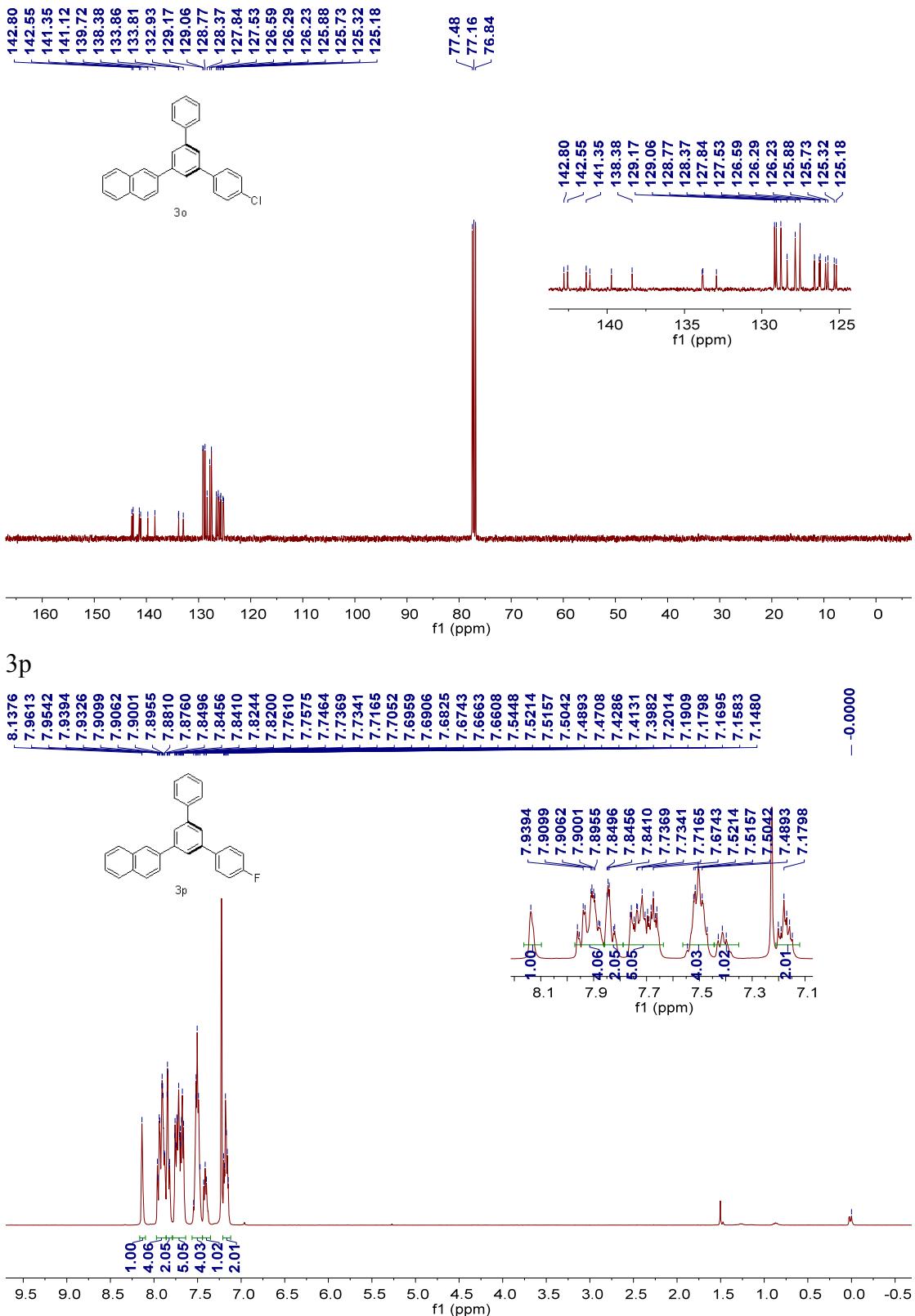


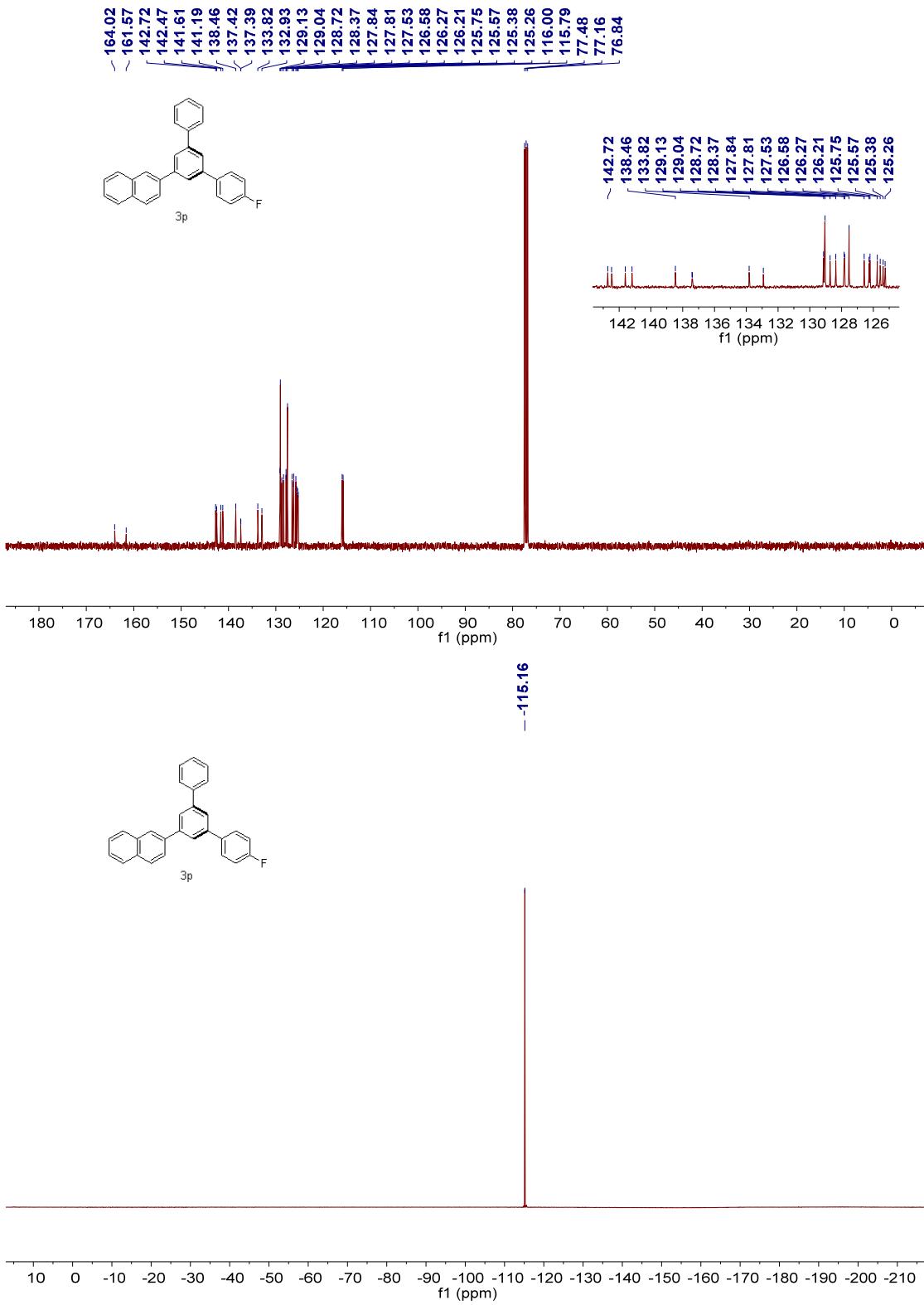
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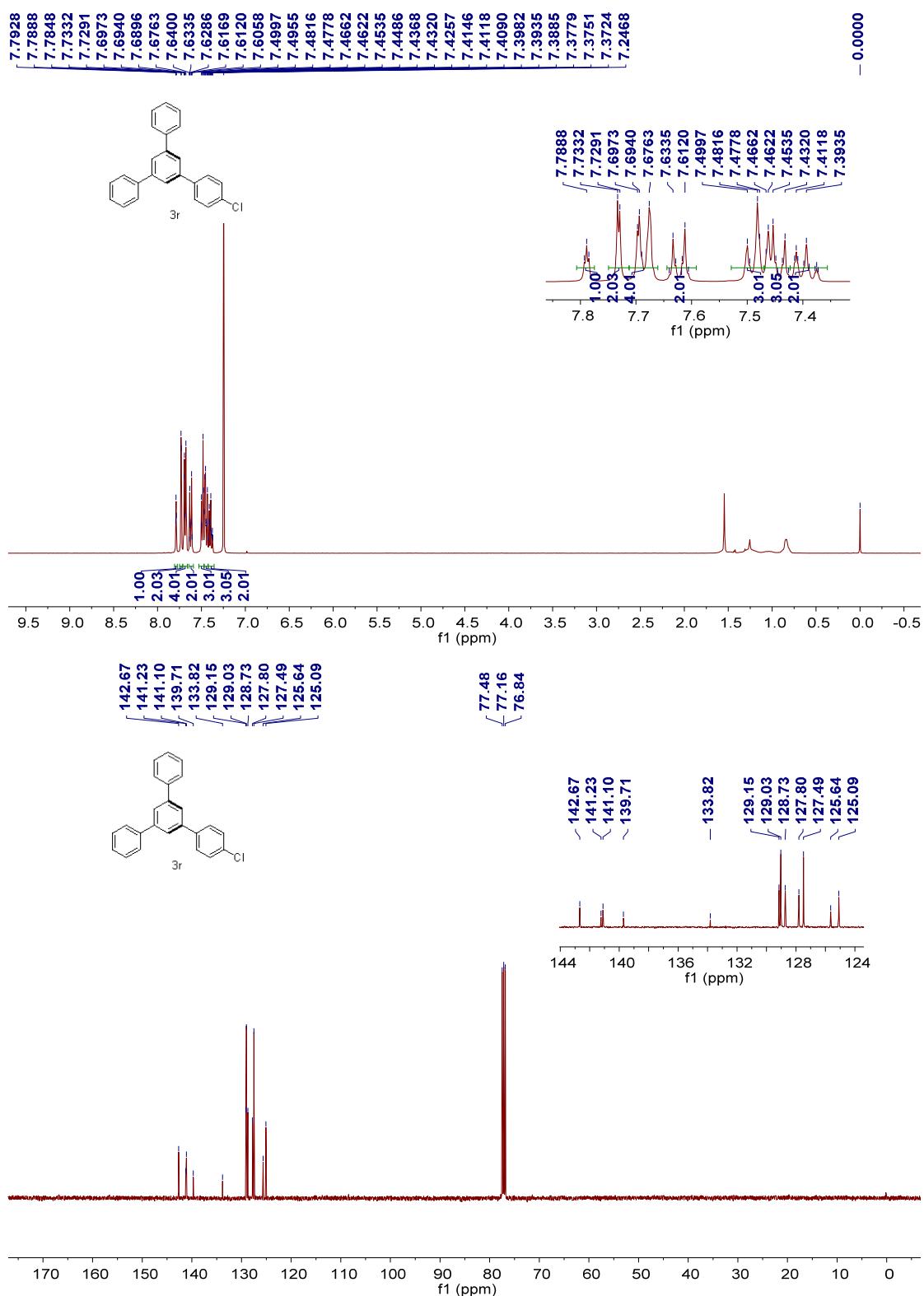




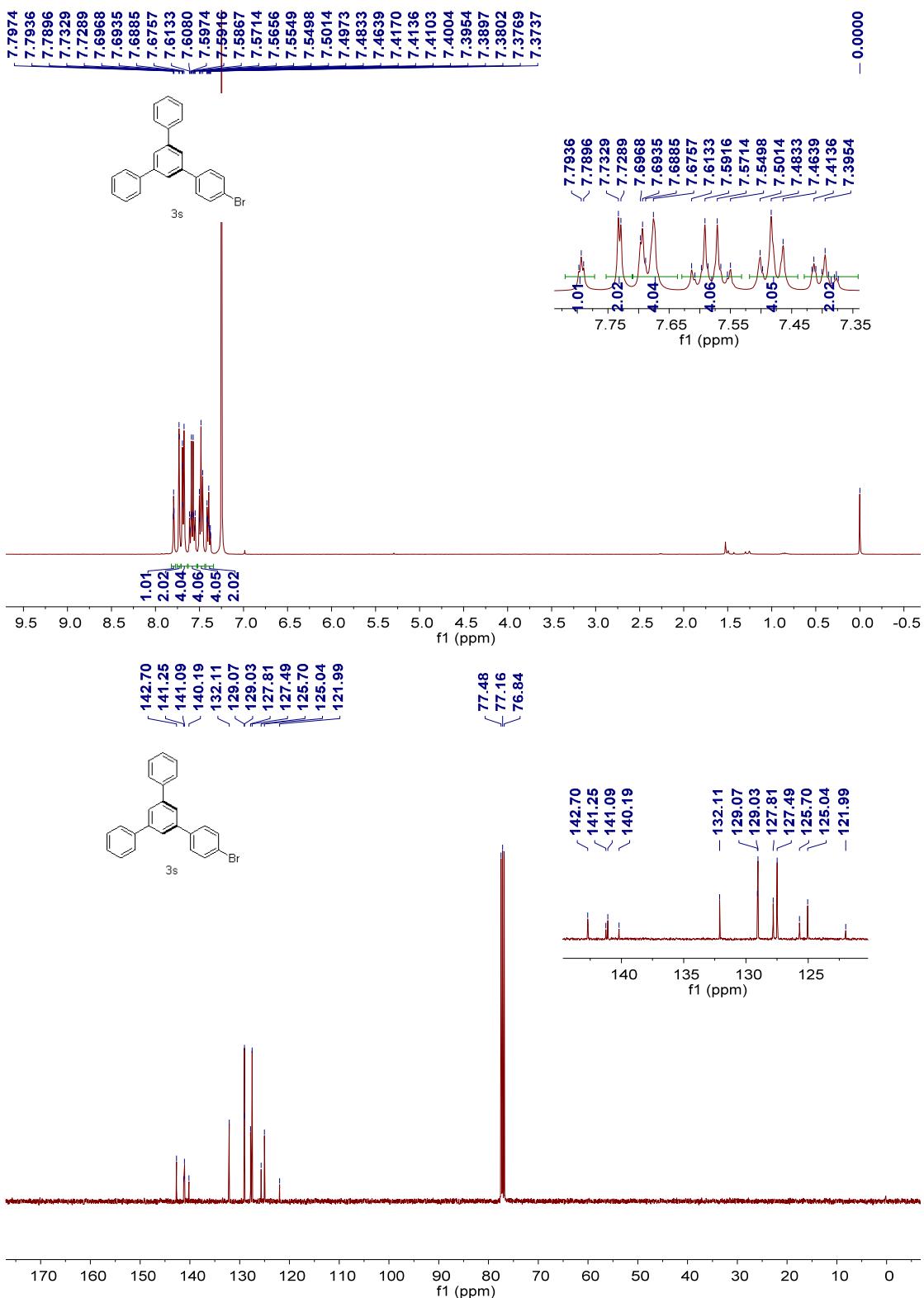




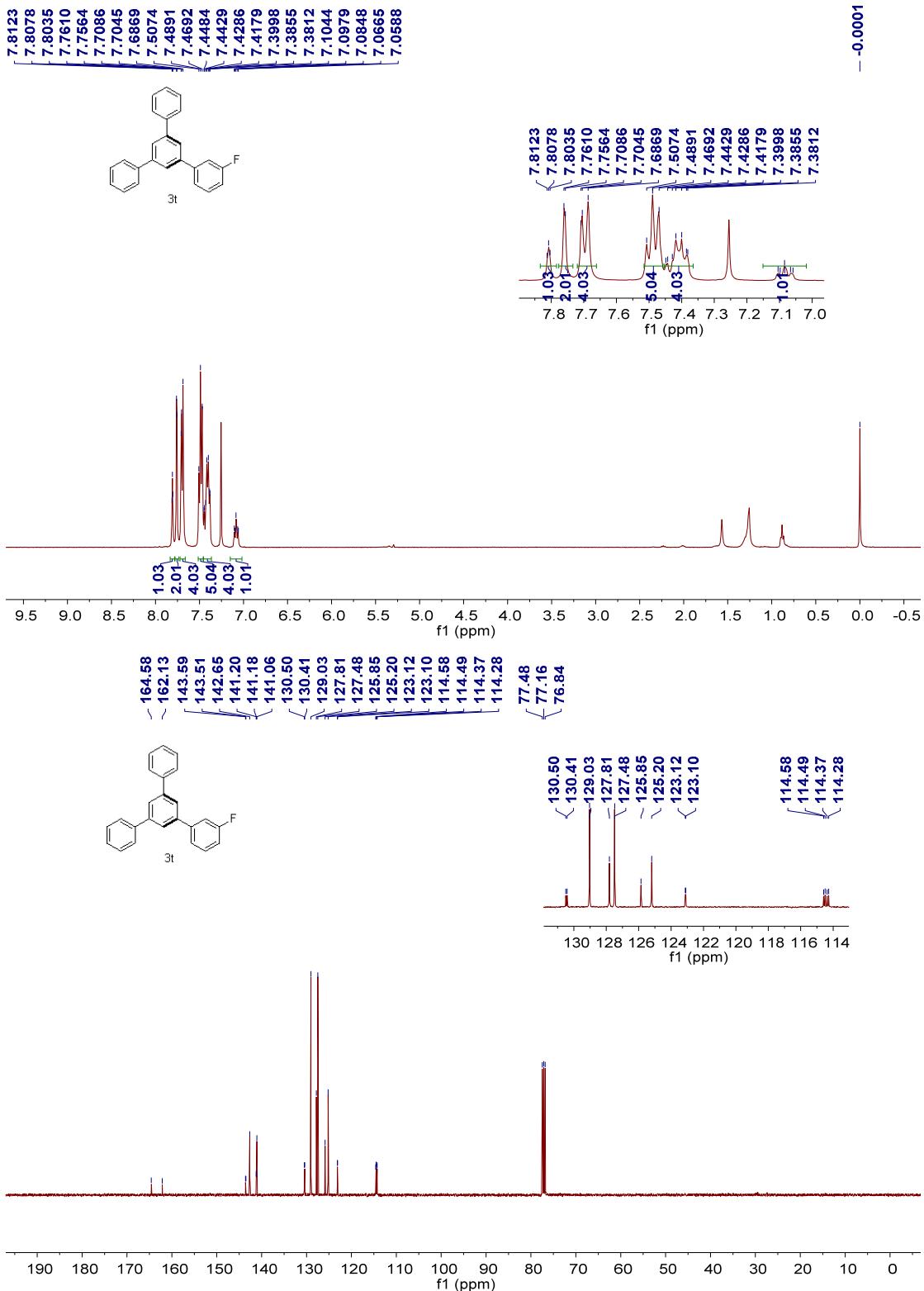
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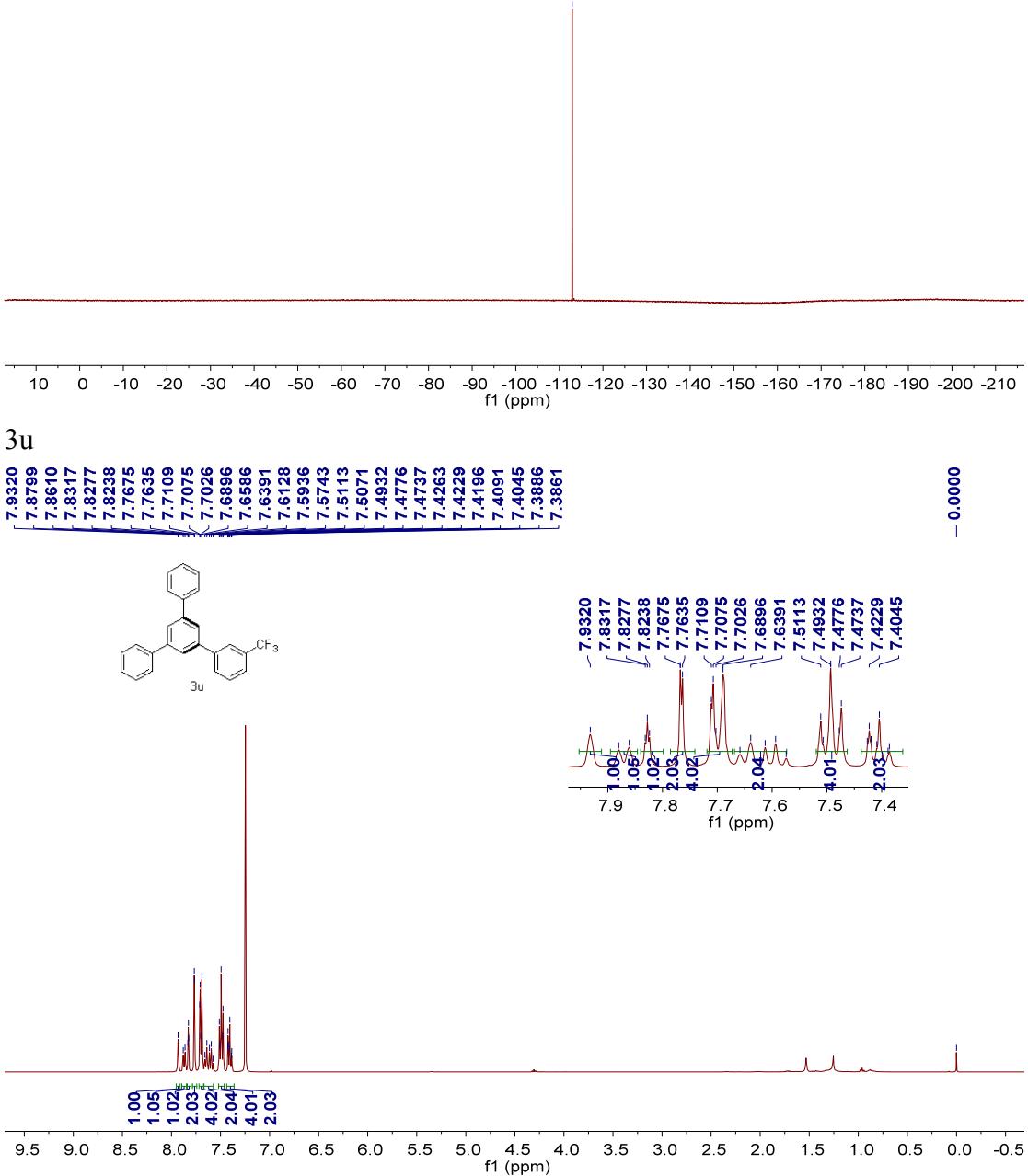
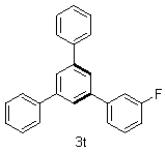


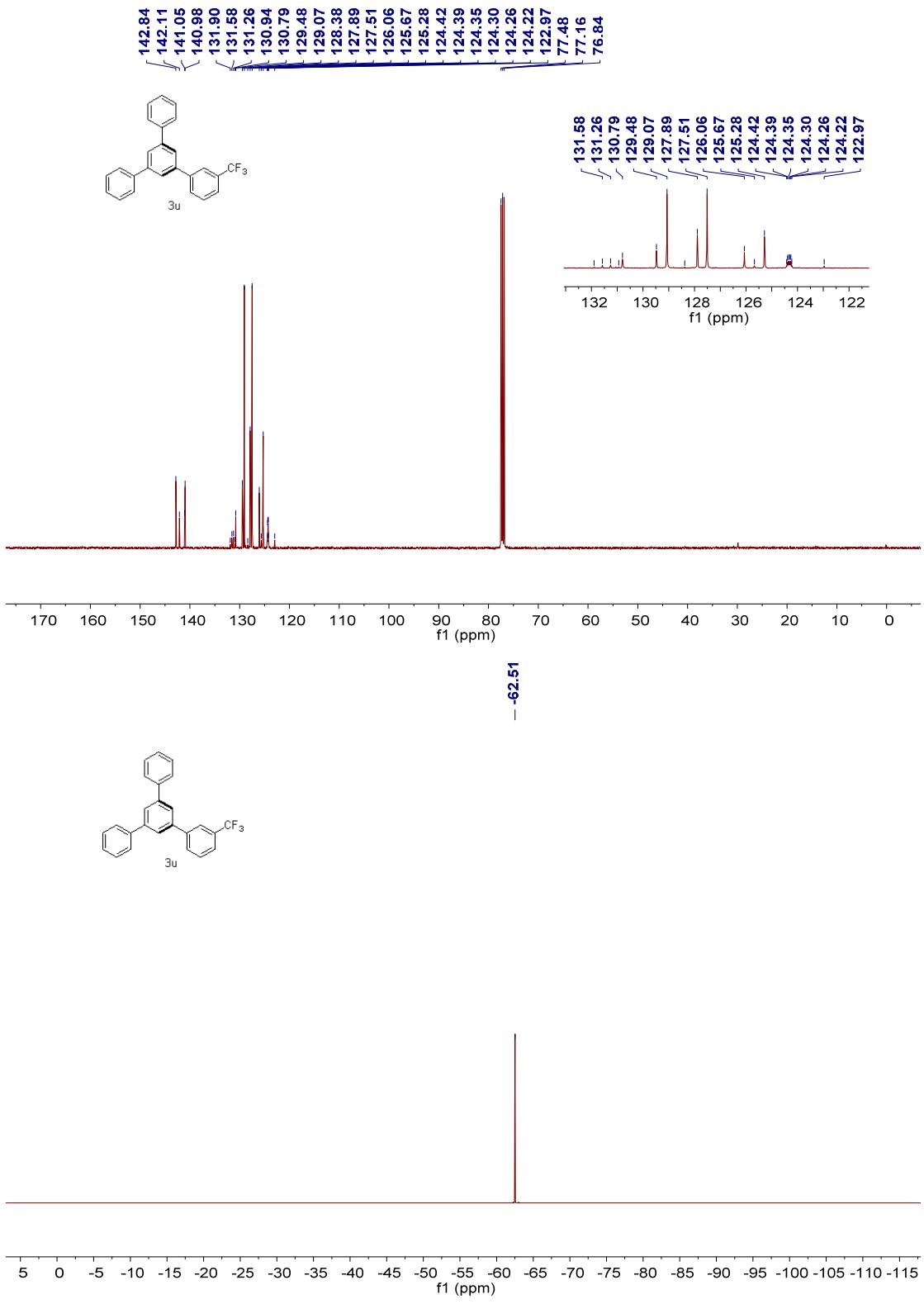
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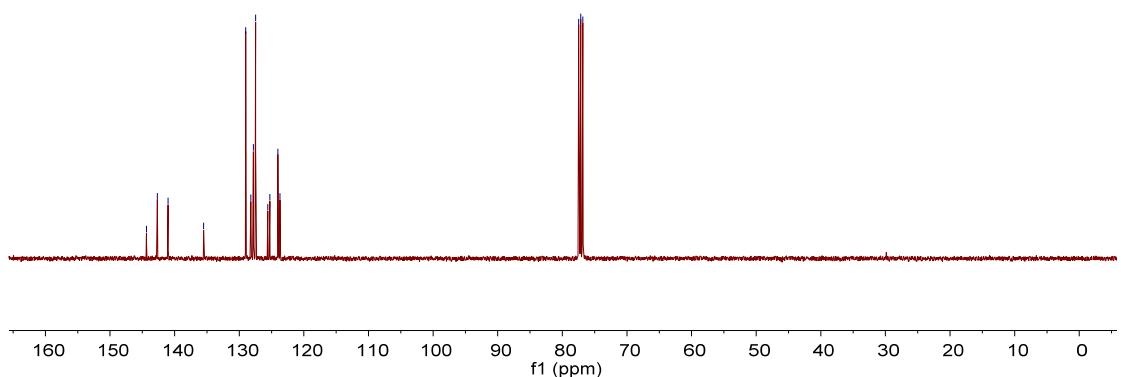
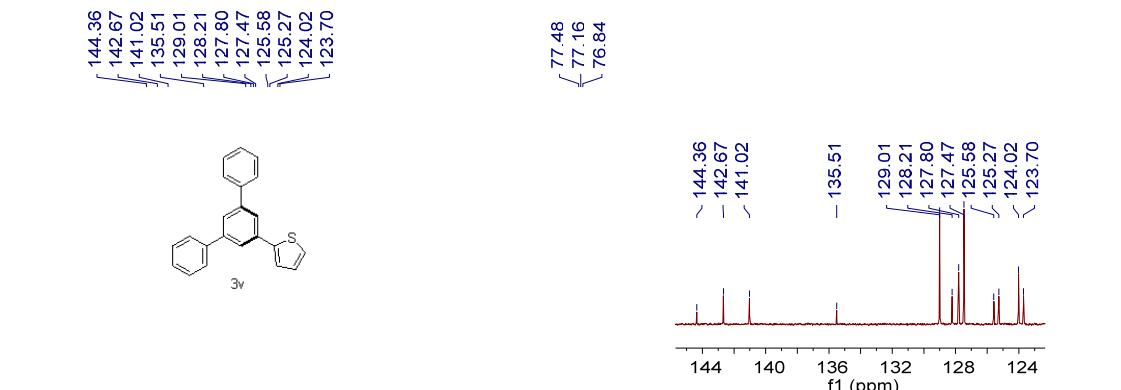
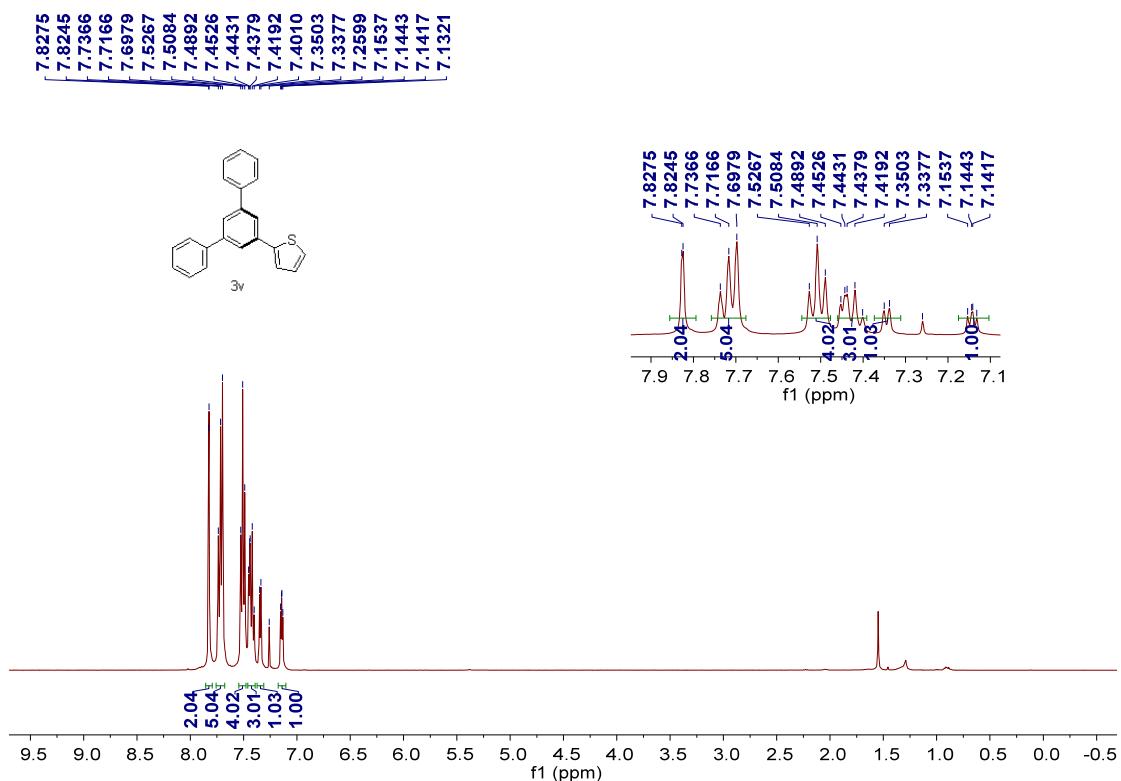
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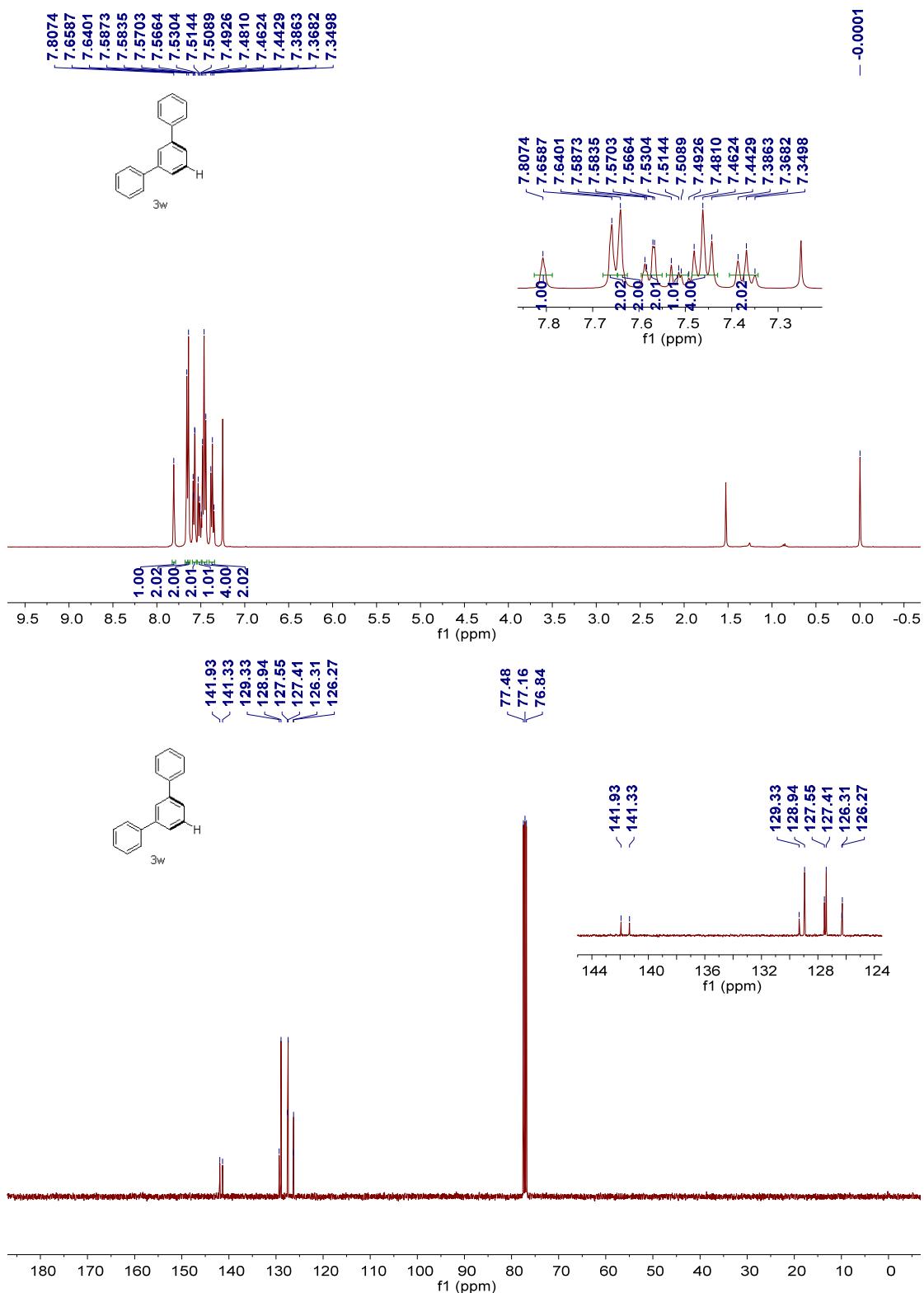


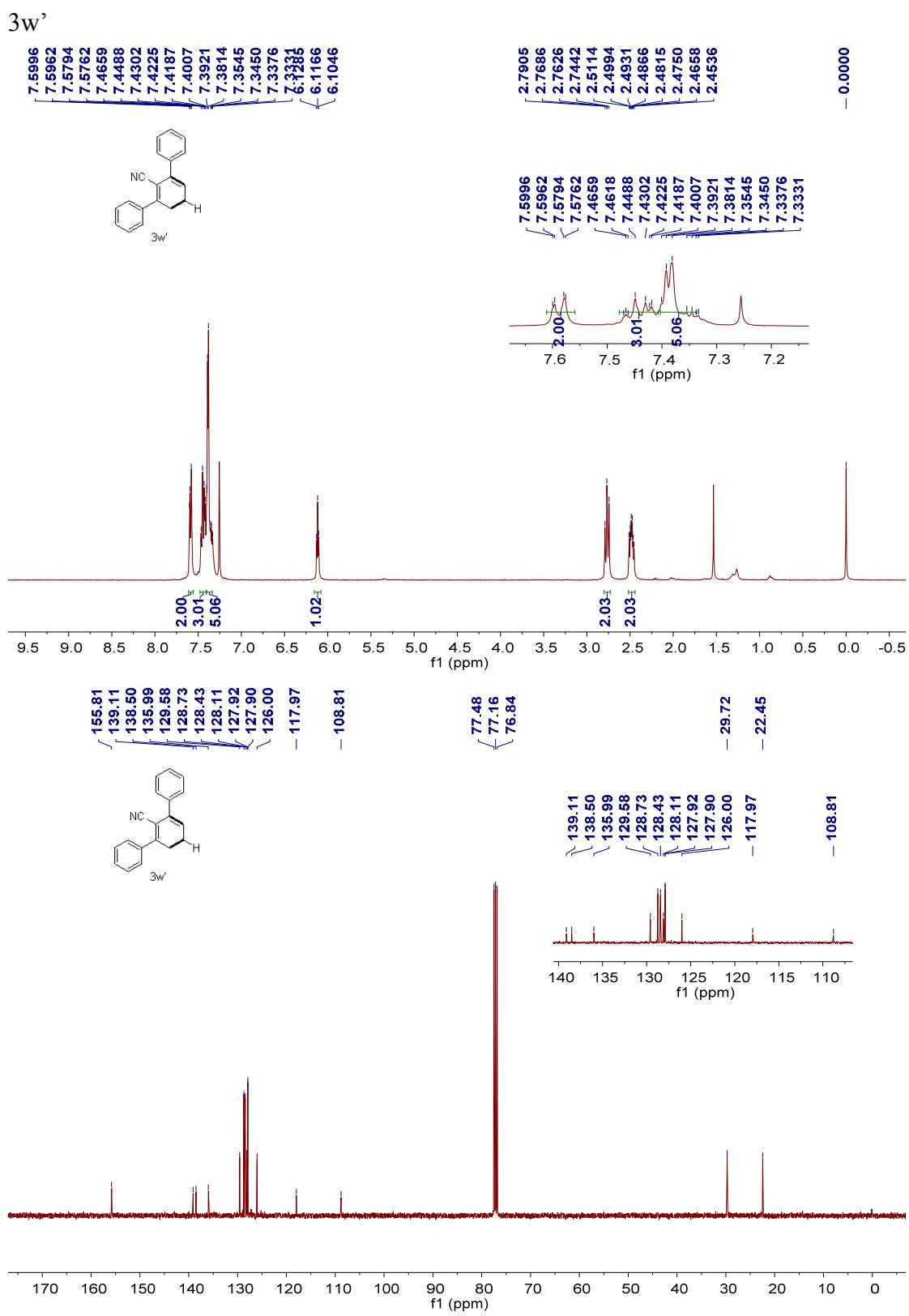


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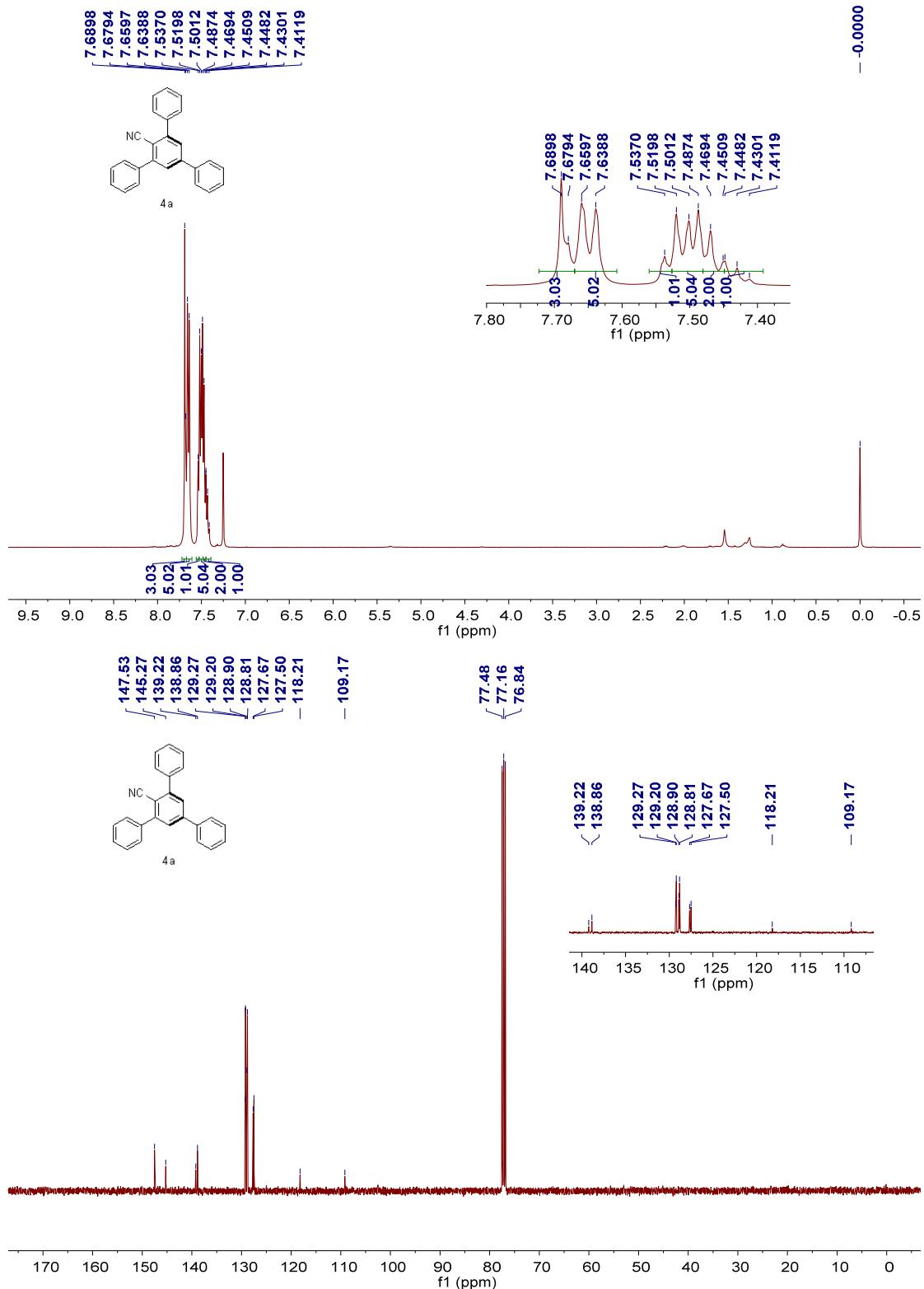


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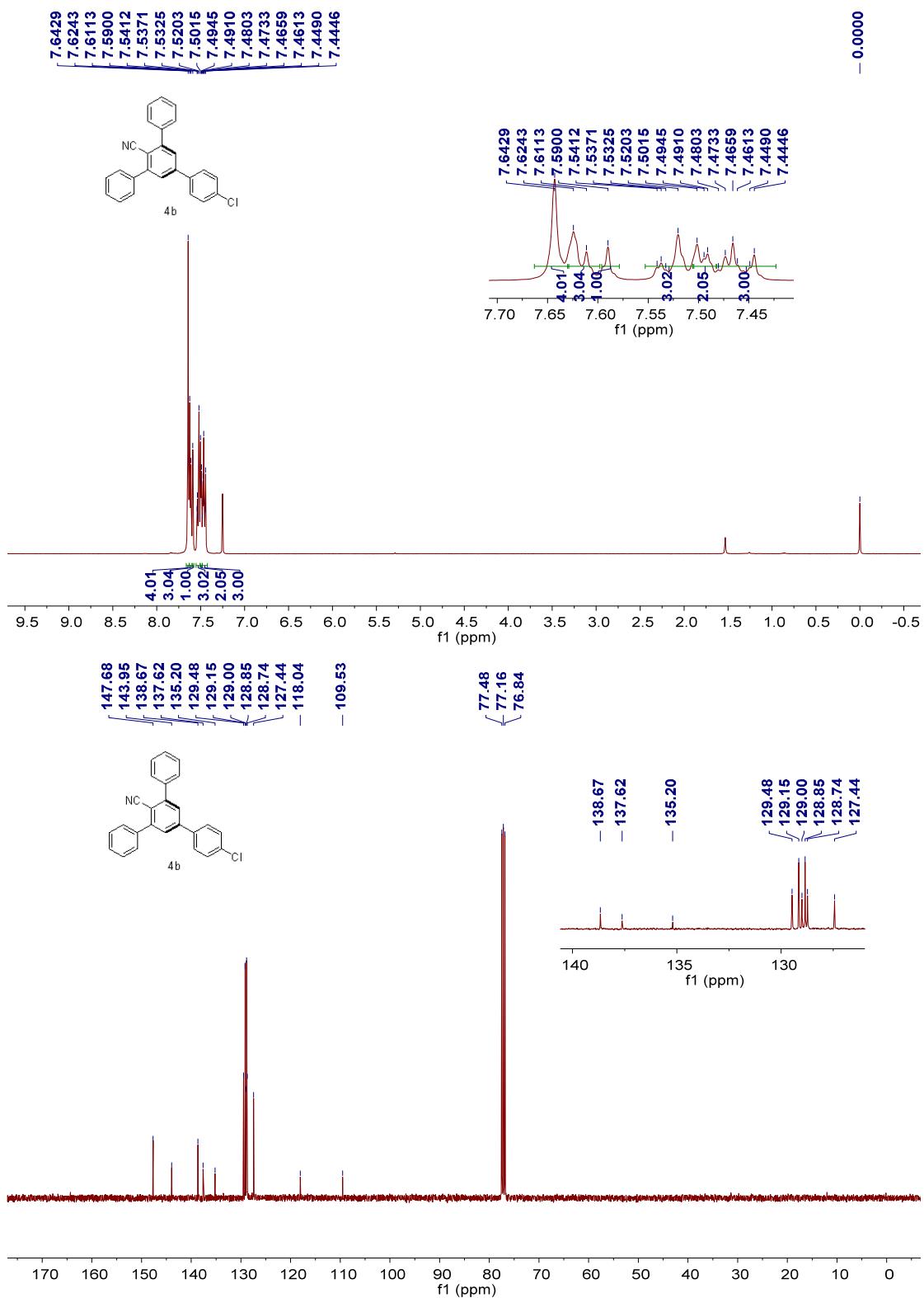




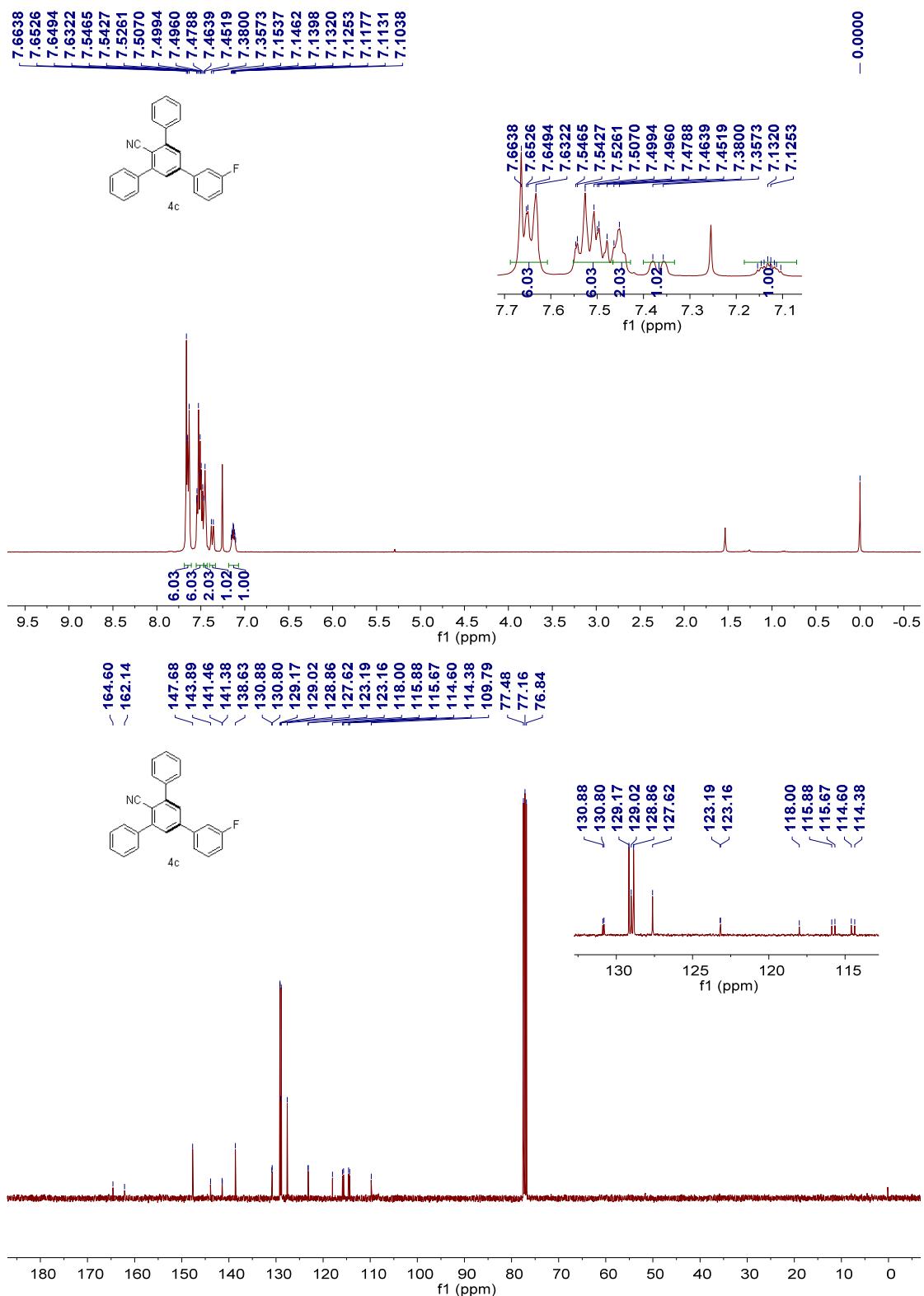
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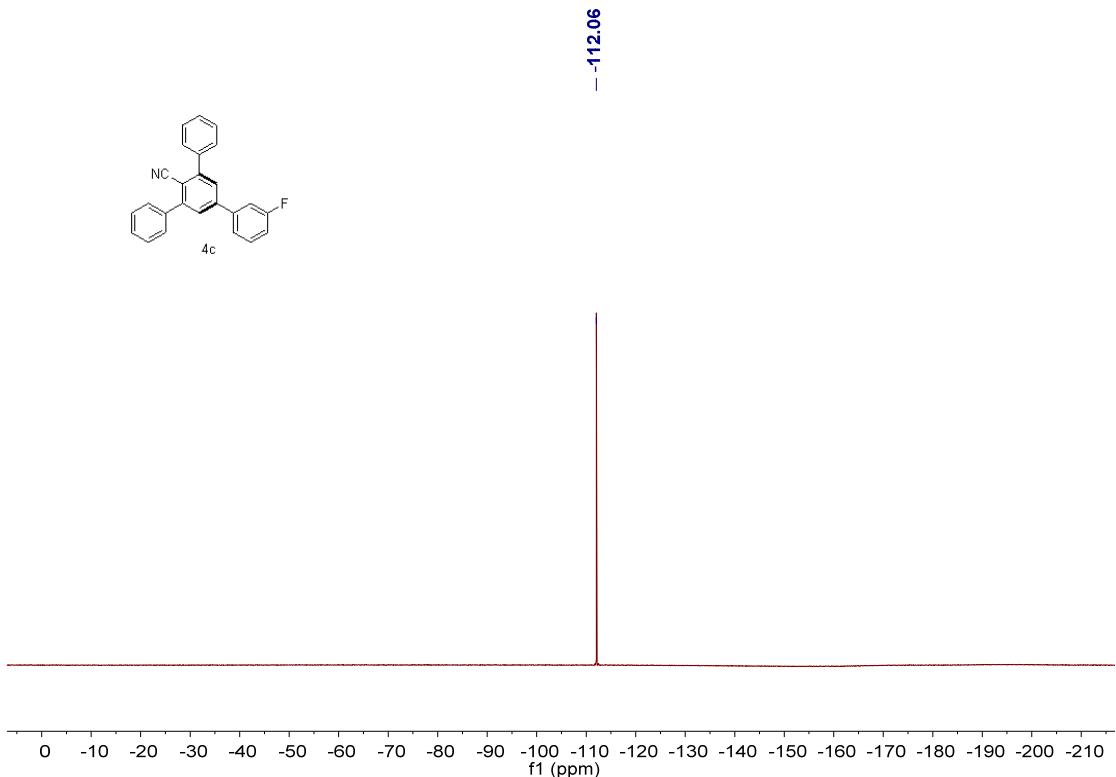
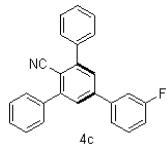


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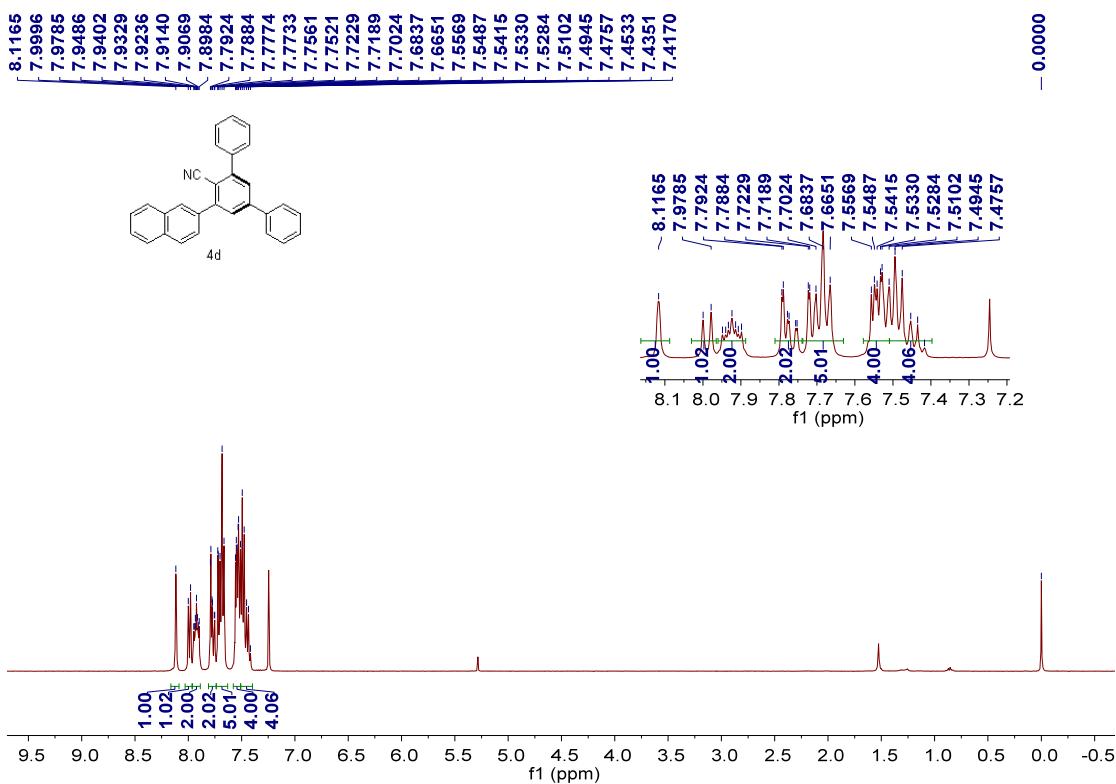
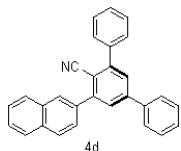


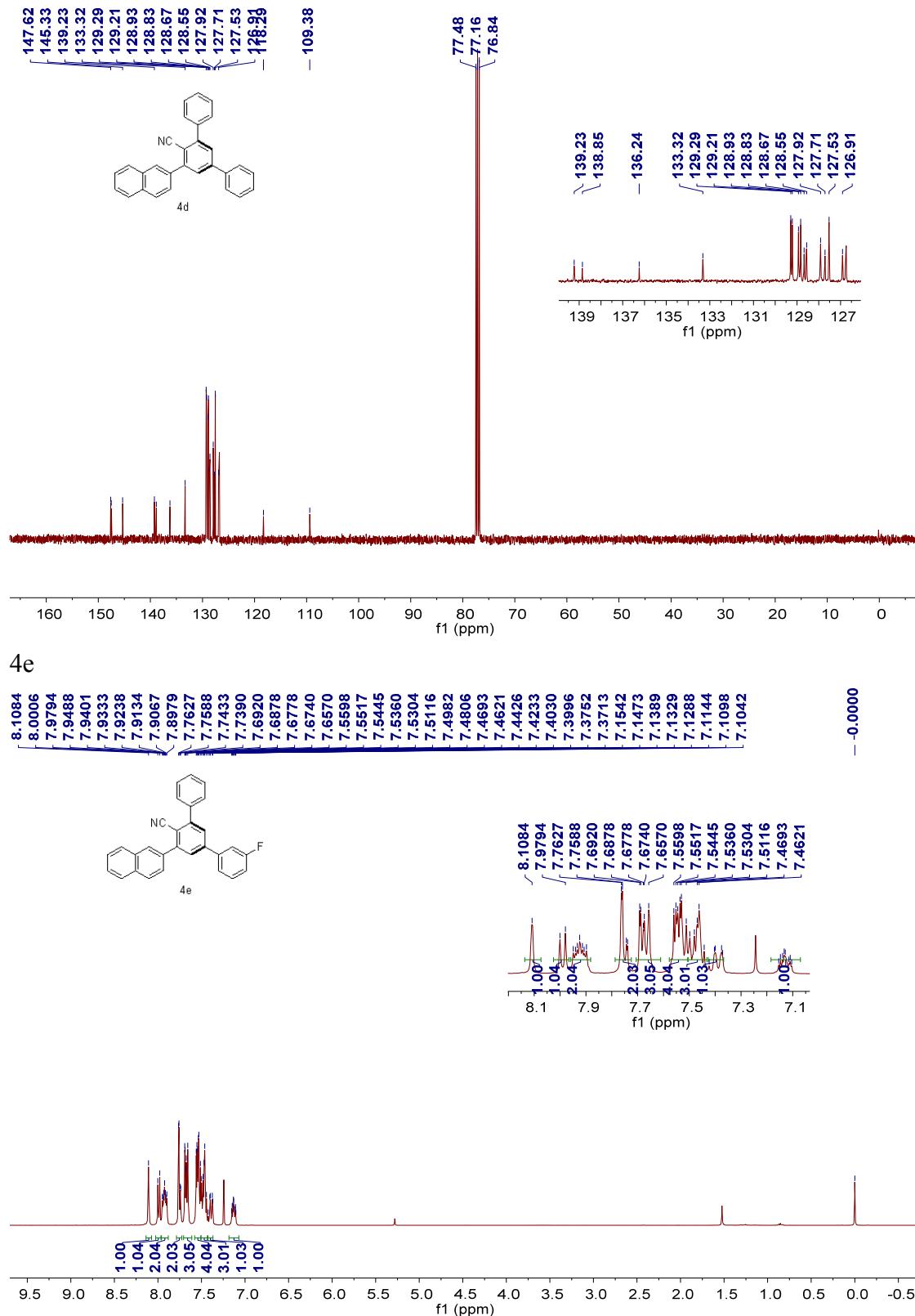
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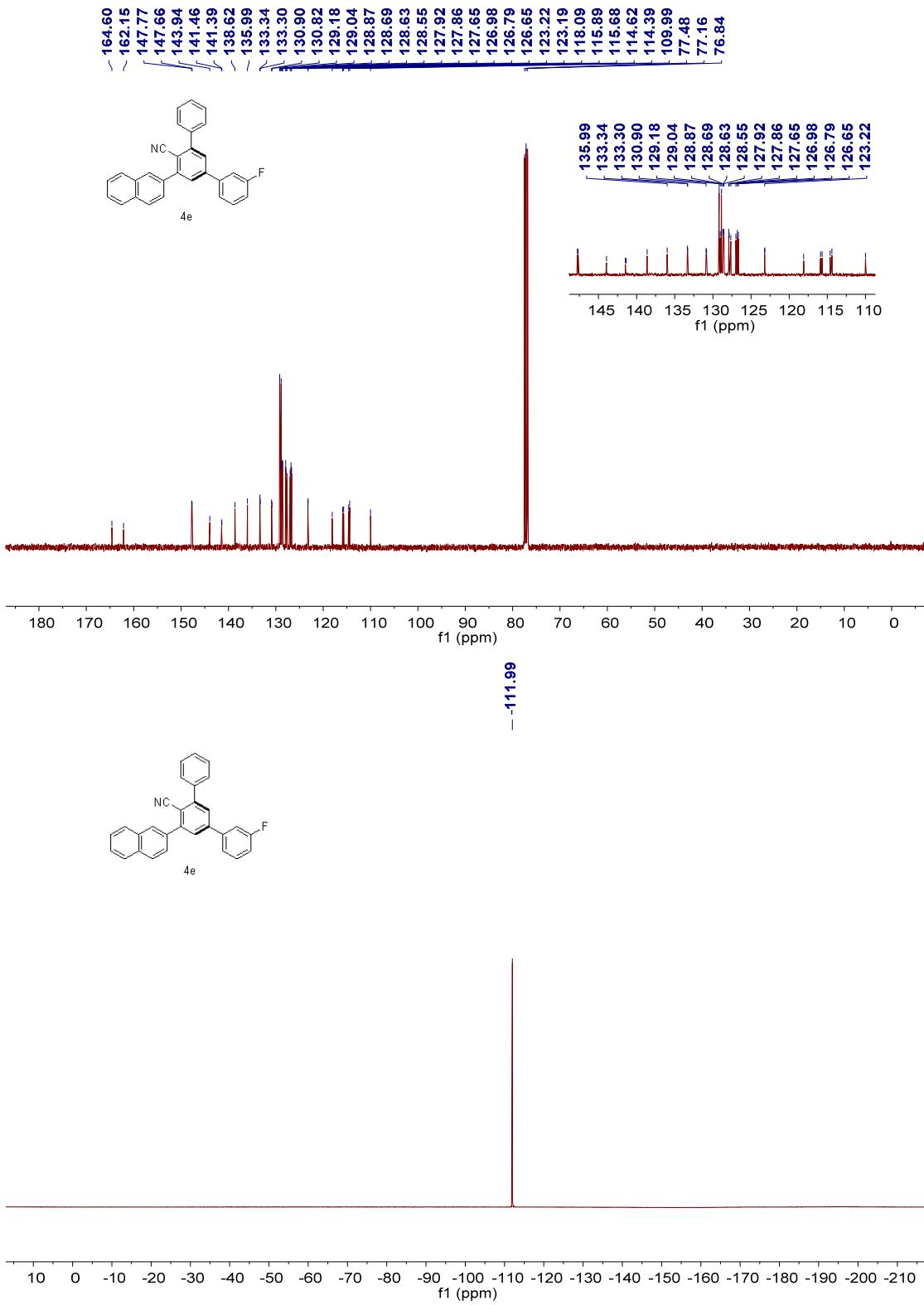




4d







4f

