

## Supporting Information

### Efficient synthesis of benzo[c]cinnolines and azoarenes via dual C–N coupling of phthalhydrazide and trivalent halogen reagents

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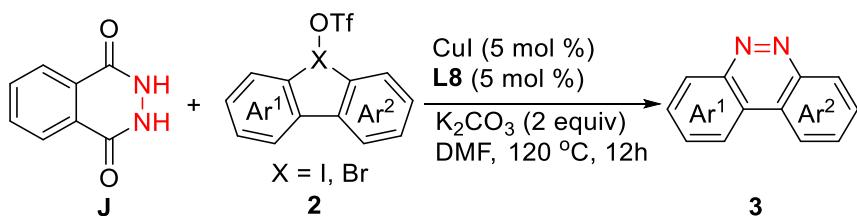
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## 1. General remarks

NMR spectra were obtained on a BRUKER Ascend500. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) chemical shifts were measured relative to  $\text{CDCl}_3$  or  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  as the internal reference ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ :  $\delta = 7.26$  ppm;  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ :  $\delta = 2.50$  ppm). The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) chemical shifts were given using  $\text{CDCl}_3$  or  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  the internal standard ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ :  $\delta = 77.16$  ppm;  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ :  $\delta = 39.52$  ppm). Multiplicity is indicated as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublet), br s (broad singlet). High-resolution mass spectra (HR-MS) were obtained with a BRUKER solanX 70 FT-MS (ESI $^+$ ) at Shianjia lab ([www.Shiyanjia.com](http://www.Shiyanjia.com)). Melting points were determined with SGW $^\circ$  X-4 and are uncorrected. UV-vis spectra were recorded by a Perkin Elmer LAMBDA 365.

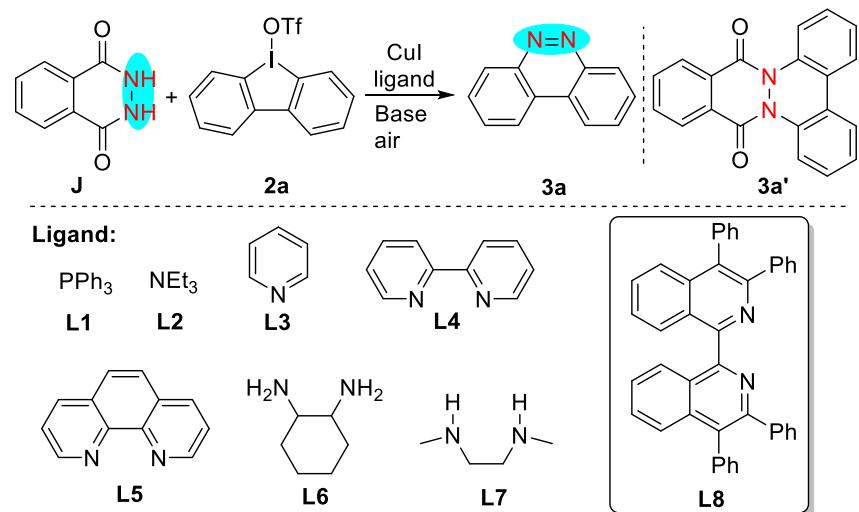
Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All reaction mixtures were heated with oil bath. CuI,  $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ ,  $\text{Cu}(\text{MeCN})_4\text{BF}_4$ , NaOH, NEt<sub>3</sub>, K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, PPh<sub>3</sub>, pyridine, 2,2'-bipyridine, 1,10-phenanthroline, (1*S*,2*S*)-cyclohexane-1,2-diamine, *N,N*'-dimethylethylenediamine, *N,N*-dimethylformamide, hydrazines **A-I** were purchased from Beijing Innochem Chemical Engineering Reagent (China) Co., Ltd. TsOH·H<sub>2</sub>O and *m*-CPBA (purity of 75%) were purchased from Adamas-beta Ltd. Cyclic iodoniums,<sup>1a-c</sup> cyclic bromoniums,<sup>1d</sup> linear iodoniums,<sup>2a-c</sup> *N*-aryl phthalic hydrazides,<sup>3</sup> 3,3',4,4'-Tetraphenyl-1,1'-biisoquinoline<sup>4</sup> were prepared according to the literature procedures.

## 2. General procedure for the synthesis of benzo[*c*]cinnolines from cyclic iodoniums/bromoniums



To a dry Schlenck tube with a magnetic stir bar was added phthalhydrazide **J** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv, 32.4 mg), a cyclic iodonium or bromonium **2** (0.25mmol), CuI (1.9 mg, 5 mol %), 3,3',4,4'-tetraphenyl-1,1'-biisoquinoline (**L8**, 5 mol %),  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv, 55.2 mg) and DMF (1 mL). The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 12 h under air. After the reaction was completed, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by a silica gel column, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (50/1→10/1, v/v) to afford corresponding benzo[*c*]cinnolines **3**.

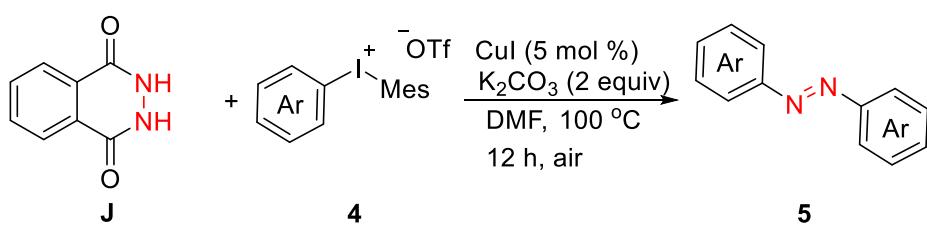
**Table S1.** Optimization of the reaction condition for the synthesis of benzo[c]cinnolines.<sup>a</sup>



| Entry     | CuI<br>(mol %) | Ligand<br>(mol %)      | Base<br>(2 equiv)                  | Yield (%) <sup>b</sup><br>(3a:3a') |
|-----------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1         | 5              | none                   | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>     | 67:0                               |
| 2         | none           | none                   | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>     | ND                                 |
| 3         | 5              | <b>L1</b> (10)         | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>     | 89:0                               |
| 4         | 5              | <b>L2</b> (10)         | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>     | 90:0                               |
| 5         | 5              | <b>L3</b> (10)         | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>     | 85:0                               |
| 6         | 5              | <b>L4</b> (5)          | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>     | 90:0                               |
| 7         | 5              | <b>L4</b> (5)          | none                               | ND                                 |
| 8         | 5              | <b>L5</b> (5)          | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>     | 92:0                               |
| 9         | 5              | <b>L6</b> (5)          | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>     | 95:0                               |
| 10        | 5              | <b>L7</b> (5)          | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>     | 52:33                              |
| <b>11</b> | <b>5</b>       | <b>L8</b> ( <b>5</b> ) | <b>K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub></b> | <b>99:0</b>                        |
| 12        | 1              | <b>L8</b> (1)          | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>     | 75:0                               |
| 13        | 5              | <b>L8</b> (5)          | Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>    | 68:0                               |
| 14        | 5              | <b>L8</b> (5)          | DBU                                | 20:80                              |
| 15        | 5              | <b>L8</b> (5)          | NEt <sub>3</sub>                   | trace:45                           |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **J** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), **2a** (0.25 mmol, 1.25 equiv), CuI (5 mol %), **L8** (5 mol %), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv) were stirred in DMF (1 mL) at 120 °C for 12 h under air, <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields.

### 3. General procedure for the synthesis of symmetrical azabenzenes



To a dry Schleck tube with a magnetic stir bar was added phthalhydrazide **J** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv, 32.4 mg), a linear iodonium **4** (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv), CuI (1.9 mg, 5 mol %), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv, 55.2

mg) and DMF (1 mL). The mixture was placed in a dark environment and stirred at 100 °C for 12 h under air. After the reaction was completed, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by a silica gel column, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (100/1→50/1, v/v) to afford corresponding symmetrical azobenzenes **5**.

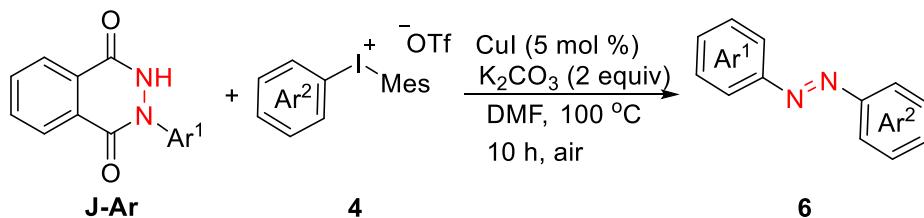
**Table S2.** Optimization of the reaction conditions of the synthesis of azoarenes.<sup>a</sup>

| Entry | <b>4a</b> | Ligand    | Yield of<br><b>5a (%)</b> <sup>b</sup> |
|-------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 1     | 1 equiv   | <b>L8</b> | 30                                     |
| 2     | 2 equiv   | <b>L8</b> | 92                                     |
| 3     | 2 equiv   | -         | 95                                     |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **J** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), **4a** (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv), CuI (1.9 mg, 5 mol%), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.4 mmol, 85 mg, 2 equiv) and DMF (1 mL) were stirred at 100 °C for 10 h under air. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield.

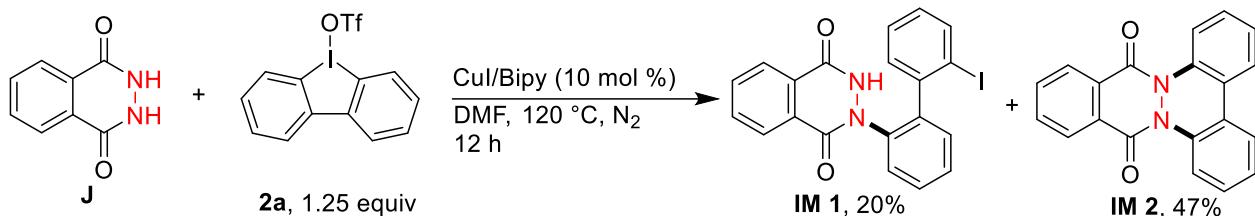
The reaction of phthalhydrazide and [Ph-I-Mes]OTf **4a** gave azobenzene **5a** in only 30% yield (Table S1, entry 1). The yield of **5a** increased to 92% when increasing the usage of **4a** to 2 equiv (Table S1, entry 2). Moving the ligand away gave **3a** in the highest yield of 95% (Table S1, entry 3). In all of these tests, azo compound **5a-Mes** was not detected.

#### 4. General procedure for the synthesis of unsymmetrical azobenzenes



To a dry Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was added *N*-aryl phthalhydrazide **J-Ar** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), a linear iodonium **4** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), CuI (1.9 mg, 5 mol%), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv, 55.2 mg) and DMF (1 mL). The mixture was placed in a dark environment and stirred at 100 °C for 10 h under air. After the reaction was completed, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by a silica gel column, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (100/1→50/1, v/v) to afford corresponding unsymmetrical azobenzenes **6**.

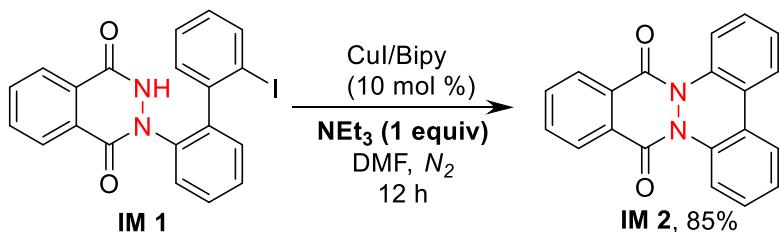
## 5. Mechanistic study



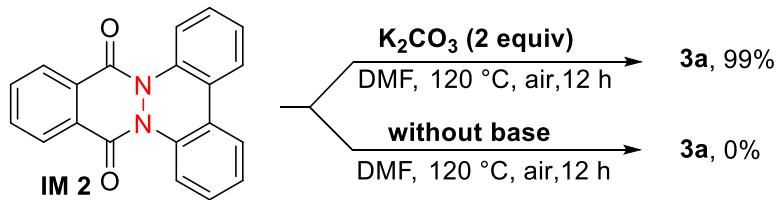
**Synthesis of IM 1 and IM2:** A mixture of phthalic hydrazide **J** (32.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), cyclic iodonium **2a** (107 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.25 equiv),  $\text{CuI}$  (3.8 mg, 10 mol%), 2,2'-bipyridine (3.1 mg, 10 mol%) and  $\text{DMF}$  (1 mL) was reacted at  $120^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h under  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere. The reaction was cooled to room temperature before  $\text{DMF}$  was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by a silica gel column, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (50/1 → 20/1 → 5/1, v/v) to afford **IM 1** as a white solid (17.6 mg, 20% yield) and **3a'** as a yellow solid (29 mg, 47% yield).

**2-(2'-iodo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-2,3-dihydrophthalazine-1,4-dione (IM 1).** White solid (12 mg, 20%). M.p.: 177–179 °C. **1H NMR** (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.94 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.80–7.73 (m, 3H), 7.53 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. **13C NMR** (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 159.7, 151.5, 150.3, 142.5, 139.0, 137.3, 133.7, 132.4, 131.5, 130.5, 129.7, 129.2, 128.8, 127.8, 126.9, 125.9, 124.9, 124.1, 122.5, 99.8 ppm. **HRMS (ESI)**  $m/z$ : calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{IN}_2\text{O}_2^+$  ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 441.0094, found 441.0091.

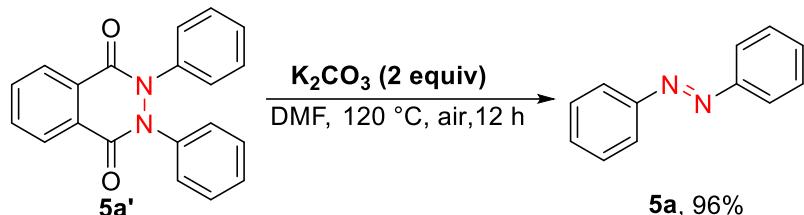
**benzo[c]phthalazino[2,3-a]cinnoline-10,15-dione (IM 2).** A yellow solid (29 mg, 47%). **1H NMR** (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.44–8.42 (m, 2H), 7.92–7.90 (m, 4H), 7.80–7.78 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.33 (m, 4H) ppm. **13C NMR** (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 158.2, 136.6, 134.3, 129.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.0, 125.1, 123.8, 120.2 ppm. The data are consistent with the literature.<sup>5</sup>



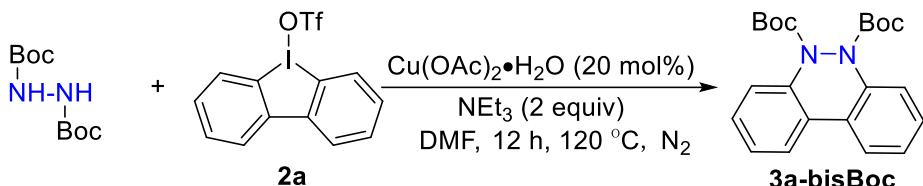
**Transforming IM 1 to IM2:** A mixture of **IM 1** (44 mg, 0.1 mmol),  $\text{CuI}$  (1.9 mg, 10 mol%), 2,2'-bipyridine (1.6 mg, 10 mol%),  $\text{NEt}_3$  (14  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) and  $\text{DMF}$  (0.5 mL) was reacted at  $120^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h under  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere. The reaction was cooled to room temperature before  $\text{DMF}$  was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by a silica gel column, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (50/1 → 20/1, v/v) to afford **IM 2** as a yellow solid (26.5 mg, 85% yield).



**Deprotection/oxidation under copper-free conditions:** The solution of **IM2** (31 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) with or without  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (27.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2 equiv) in DMF (0.5 mL) was reacted at 120 °C for 12 h under air. **3a** was isolated in 99% yield in the presence of  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ , while **3a** was not detected by TLC in the absence of  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ .

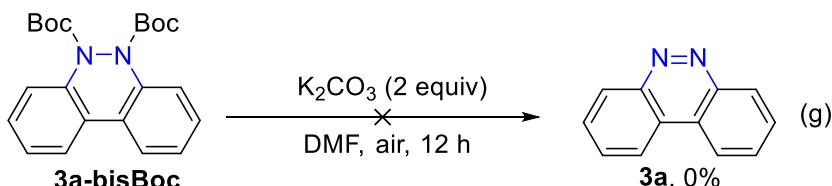


**Transforming 5a' to 5a under the standard conditions:** A mixture of **5a'** which was prepared according to our previous work<sup>6</sup> (31 mg, 0.1 mmol), CuI (1.9 mg, 10 mol%),  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.2 mmol, 27.6 mg, 2 equiv) and DMF (0.5 mL) was reacted at 120 °C for 12 h under air. After then DMF was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by a silica gel column, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (50/1→20/1, v/v) to afford **3a** (17.2 mg, 96% yield).



**Synthesis of 3a-bisBoc:** A mixture of bis-Boc hydrazine (23.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), cyclic iodonium **2a** (53.5 mg, 0.125 mmol),  $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \bullet \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (4.0 mg, 20 mol%), NEt<sub>3</sub> (20.2 mg, 2 equiv), and DMF (0.5 mL) was reacted at 120 °C for 12 h under air. After then DMF was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by a silica gel column, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (50/1→10/1, v/v) to afford **3a-bisBoc** as a white solid (15 mg, 39% yield).

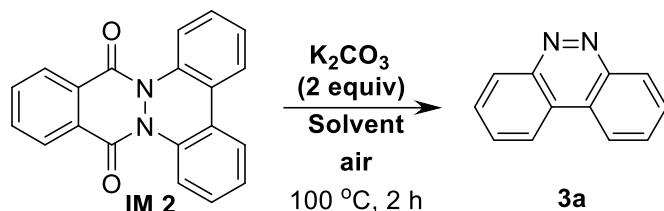
**di-tert-butyl benzo[c]cinnoline-5,6-dicarboxylate(3a-bisBoc):** White solid. M.p.: 131–133 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (br s, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 1.48 (s, 18H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 128.0, 126.7, 126.3, 124.2, 123.5, 110.9, 82.2, 28.3 ppm. **HRMS (ESI) m/z:** calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 383.1965, found 383.1964.



**Deprotection of **3a**-bisBoc:** The solution of **3a**-bisBoc (38 mg, 0.1 mmol) with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (27.6 mg, 2 equiv) in DMF (0.5 mL) was reacted at 120 °C for 12 h under air. **3a** was not detected by TLC.

## 6. Studies on deprotection

### Deprotection in different solvents:



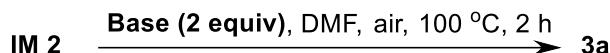
**Table S3. Deprotection in different solvents.<sup>a</sup>**

| Entry | Solvent          | Yield of <b>3a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup> |
|-------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1     | HOAc             | 0                                   |
| 2     | PhCl             | 0                                   |
| 3     | DCE              | 0                                   |
| 4     | THF              | 20                                  |
| 5     | MeCN             | 38                                  |
| 6     | MeOH             | 100                                 |
| 7     | DMSO             | 100                                 |
| 8     | DMF              | 100                                 |
| 9     | H <sub>2</sub> O | 0                                   |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **IM 2** (0.1 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv) and solvent (1 mL) were stirred at 100 °C for 2 h under air.

<sup>b</sup>Isolated yield.

### Deprotection with different bases:



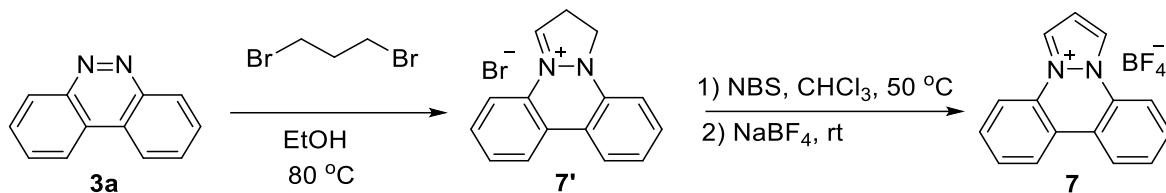
**Table S4. Deprotection with different bases.<sup>a</sup>**

| Entry | Solvent                         | Yield of <b>3a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup> |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1     | NaHCO <sub>3</sub>              | 12                                  |
| 2     | NEt <sub>3</sub>                | 0                                   |
| 3     | NaOAc                           | 21                                  |
| 4     | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>  | 100                                 |
| 5     | Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | 100                                 |
| 6     | DBU                             | 100                                 |
| 7     | K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>  | 46                                  |
| 8     | NaOH                            | 100                                 |
| 9     | KO'Bu                           | 100                                 |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **IM 2** (0.1 mmol), base (2 equiv) and DMF (1 mL) were stirred at 100 °C for 2 h under air.

<sup>b</sup>Isolated yield.

## 7. Derivatization reactions

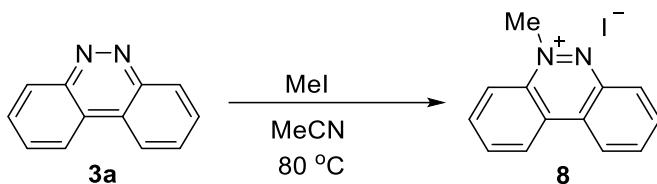


Compounds **7'** and **7** were prepared according to the modified procedure of reference:<sup>6</sup>

**Synthesis of 7':** A mixture of benzo[c]cinnoline **3a** (74 mg, 0.4 mmol) and 1,3- dibromopropane (399.8 g, 2 mmol, 5 equiv) in EtOH (1 ml) was reacted at 80 °C for 24 h. Filtration of the cooled mixture yielded **7'** as red solid (84 mg, 70% yield) without further purification for next step.

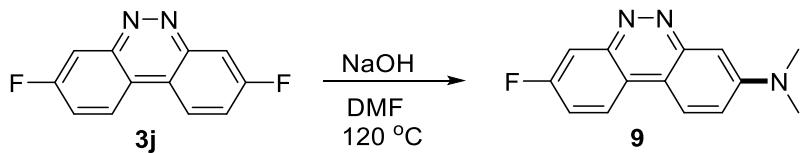
**Synthesis of 7:** To a solution of bromide salt **7'** (60 mg, 0.2 mmol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1 mL) was added N-bromosuccinimide (46.3 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv). The mixture was reacted at 50 °C for 3 h. Then NaBF<sub>4</sub> (110 mg, 5 equiv) was added and stirred at room temperature for 10 h. After the anion was completely exchanged, MeOH (10 mL) was added and the mixture was filtered through a celite pad. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (100-200 mesh), eluting with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (50/1→10/1, v/v) to provide **7** as a white solid (52 mg, 85% yield).

**Benzo[c]pyrazolo[1,2-a]cinnolin-4-ium tetrafluoroborate (7):** White solid. M.p.: > 240 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):** δ = 9.93 (t, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 8.72 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.54 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.91–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.84–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.75–7.74 (m, 1H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):** δ = 131.0, 130.0, 129.6, 129.1, 124.4, 118.8, 116.6, 110.6 ppm. **<sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):** δ = -148.23 (s), -148.28 (s) ppm. **HRMS (ESI) m/z:** calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> ([M-BF<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>+</sup>) 219.0917, found 219.0918.



A mixture of **3a** (36 mg, 0.2 mmol), MeI (56.8 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv) and MeCN (1 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 2 h. After the reaction was completed, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by a silica gel column, eluting with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (50/1→20/1, v/v) to afford salt **8** as yellow solid (58 mg, 90% yield).

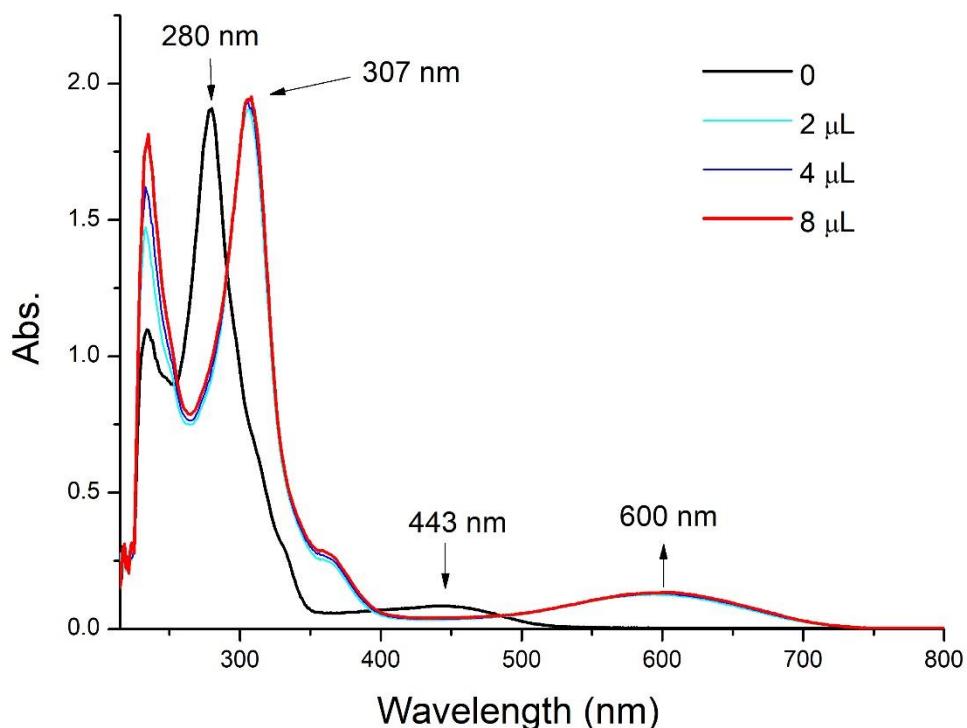
**5-Methylbenzo[c]cinnolin-5-ium iodide (8):** Yellow solid. M.p.: 227–229 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):** δ = 9.39 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 9.33 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 9.02 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.88 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.42–8.37 (m, 2H), 5.27 (s, 3H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):** δ = 143.2, 140.0, 138.1, 135.7, 134.3, 133.8, 132.5, 128.8, 126.7, 124.8, 123.6, 121.8, 52.9 ppm. **HRMS (ESI) m/z:** calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> ([M-I<sup>-</sup>]<sup>+</sup>) 195.0917, found 195.0920.



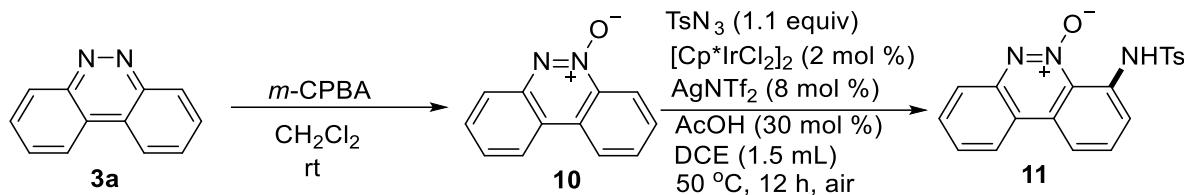
**Synthesis of 9:** A solution of benzo[*c*]cinnoline **3j** (43.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and NaOH (20 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv) in DMF (1 mL) was reacted at 120 °C for 4 h. DMF was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (5/1→1/1, v/v) to afford **9** as orange solid (30 mg, 63%).

**8-Fluoro-*N,N*-dimethylbenzo[*c*]cinnolin-3-amine (9):** Orange solid. M.p.: 177–179 °C. **1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.40–8.36 (m, 1H), 8.32–8.30 (m, 1H), 8.24 (dt, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.80–7.78 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.42 (m, 1H), 3.18 (s, 6H) ppm. **13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 161.2 (d, *J<sub>C-F</sub>* = 246.9 Hz), 150.9, 147.5, 145.0 (d, *J<sub>C-F</sub>* = 10.0 Hz), 123.1 (d, *J<sub>C-F</sub>* = 8.8 Hz), 122.0, 121.4 (d, *J<sub>C-F</sub>* = 24.6 Hz), 120.3, 118.7, 115.0 (d, *J<sub>C-F</sub>* = 20.6 Hz), 111.7, 109.0, 40.6 ppm. **19F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = -112.56 (s) ppm. **HRMS (ESI) m/z:** calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>FN<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 242.1088, found 242.1087.

#### UV-vis absorption spectrum of 9:



**Figure S1.** UV-vis absorption spectrum of **9** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.1 mM)



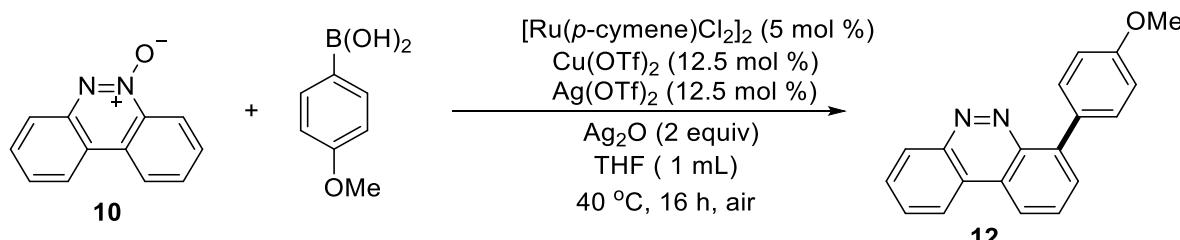
**Synthesis of 10:** To a solution of benzo[c]cinnoline **3a** (72 mg, 0.4 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) was added *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (*m*-CPBA, purity of 75%, 230.1 mg, 2.5 equiv) and the mixture was reacted at room temperature for 4 h. Then the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (100/1 → 50/1, v/v) to afford desired *N*-oxide **10** as yellow solid (57 mg, 72% yield).

**Benzo[c]cinnoline 5-oxide (10):** Yellow solid. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.84 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 142.6, 132.8, 130.7, 130.3, 130.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.4, 126.7, 122.6, 121.4, 118.5 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>7</sup>

**Synthesis of 11:** To a dry Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was added *N*-oxide **14** (39.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), azide (43.3 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv), [IrCp\*Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (3.2 mg, 0.004 mmol, 2 mol%), AgNTf<sub>2</sub> (6.2 mg, 0.016 mmol, 8 mol%), AcOH (3.6 mg, 0.06 mmol, 30 mol%) and 1,2-dichloroethane (1 mL) under air. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 12 h before filtered through a pad of celite and then washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL × 3). Organic solvents were concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (5/1, v/v) to afford **11**.

#### 4-(4-methylphenylsulfonamido)benzo[c]cinnoline 5-oxide (11)

Yellow solid (45 mg, 62% yield). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 12.96 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 144.4, 141.8, 136.4, 134.9, 133.3, 131.4, 131.2, 130.4, 129.9, 127.6, 126.9, 121.9, 118.9, 118.7, 116.3, 21.7 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>8</sup>

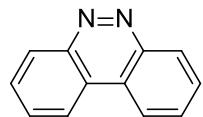


**Synthesis of 12:** To a dry Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was added *N*-oxide **14** (39.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), (4-methoxyphenyl)boronic acid (91.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (6 mg, 5 mol%), Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (9 mg, 12.5 mol%), Ag(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (6.4 mg, 12.5 mol%), Ag<sub>2</sub>O (93 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv) and THF (1 mL) under air. The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 16 h before filtered through a pad of celite and then washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL × 3). Organic solvents were concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (100/1-20/1, v/v) to afford **12**.

**4-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzo[*c*]cinnoline (12):** Yellow solid (23 mg, 40% yield). M.p.: 183–185 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.27 – 8.22 (m, 3H), 7.89 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.78 (m, 5H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 159.7, 143.4, 142.2, 140.8, 132.3, 131.0, 130.8, 130.6, 130.2, 130.0, 129.2, 128.4, 113.8, 55.5 ppm. **HRMS (ESI) m/z:** calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 309.0999, found 309.1003.

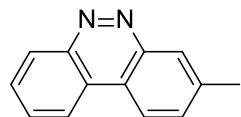
## 8. Experimental data for the described substances

### benzo[*c*]cinnoline (3a and 3s)<sup>7</sup>



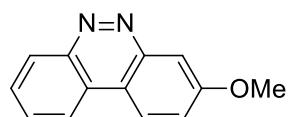
White solid (**3a**: 36 mg, 99% yield; **3s**: 35 mg, 95% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.78–8.76 (m, 2H), 8.61–8.59 (m, 2H), 7.95–7.91 (m, 4H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 145.4, 131.8, 131.4, 129.5, 121.6, 121.2 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>9</sup>

### 3-methylbenzo[*c*]cinnoline (3b)



Light yellow solid (31 mg, 85% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M. p.: 122–124 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.71–8.70 (m, 1H), 8.50 (br, 2H), 8.44–8.41 (m, 1H), 7.88–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.72–7.70 (m, 1H), 2.66 (s, 3H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 145.7, 145.3, 139.8, 133.6, 131.6, 131.3, 130.5, 128.9, 121.4, 121.3, 121.2, 118.9, 21.8 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>7</sup>

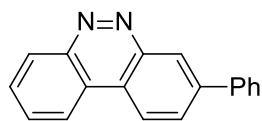
### 3-methoxybenzo[*c*]cinnoline (3c)



White solid (38 mg, 90% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M. p.: 153–155 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.90–7.82 (m, 2H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (s, 3H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz,**

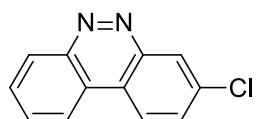
**CDCl<sub>3</sub>:**  $\delta$  = 160.6, 147.0, 145.2, 134.5, 131.9, 131.4, 128.5, 124.1, 122.9, 121.2, 115.8, 109.5, 56.0 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>7</sup>

### 3-phenylbenzo[c]cinnoline (3d)



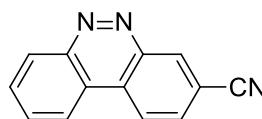
White solid (33 mg, 63% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M. p.: 137–139 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  = 8.93 (s, 1H), 8.73–8.70 (m, 1H), 8.57–8.49 (m, 2H), 8.11 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.89–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.81–7.79 (m, 2H), 7.54 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  = 145.8, 145.4, 142.2, 139.5, 131.7, 131.4, 130.8, 129.3, 128.9, 128.4, 127.5, 122.1, 121.5, 120.8, 119.9 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>10</sup>

### 3-chlorobenzo[c]cinnoline (3e)



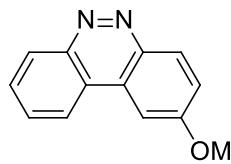
White solid (28 mg, 64% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M. p.: 140–142 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  = 8.76–8.72 (m, 2H), 8.53–8.50 (m, 2H), 7.95–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.85 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  = 145.6, 145.5, 135.2, 132.5, 132.3, 131.6, 130.4, 129.8, 123.3, 121.4, 120.5, 119.6 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>11</sup>

### benzo[c]cinnoline-3-carbonitrile (3f)



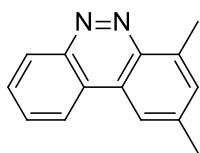
White solid (41 mg, 99% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M. p.: 197–199 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  = 9.11 (s, 1H), 8.84 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.70 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.09–8.02 (m, 3H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  = 146.0, 144.0, 136.8, 132.8, 132.6, 131.9, 131.3, 124.0, 123.4, 121.9, 119.6, 117.9, 113.0 ppm. **HRMS (ESI) m/z:** calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 206.0713, found 206.0716.

### 2-methoxybenzo[c]cinnoline (3g)



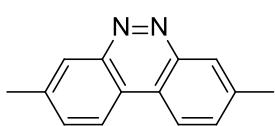
White solid (36 mg, 86% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M. p.: 141–143 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  = 8.67 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.46 (dd,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (s, 3H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  = 162.0, 145.2, 142.1, 133.3, 131.1, 130.9, 129.4, 123.3, 121.5, 121.1, 120.4, 100.6, 56.0 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>12</sup>

### 2,4-dimethylbenzo[c]cinnoline (3h)



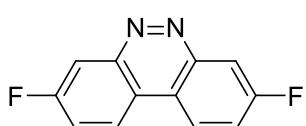
White solid (32 mg, 76% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M. p.: 120–122 °C. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.69–8.67 (m, 1H), 8.51–8.49 (m, 1H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.86–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 2.60 (s, 3H) ppm. **13C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 145.1, 143.0, 142.3, 139.6, 132.0, 131.1, 131.0, 129.0, 121.7, 121.2, 121.1, 118.5, 22.5, 18.1 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>11</sup>

### 3,8-dimethylbenzo[c]cinnoline (3i)



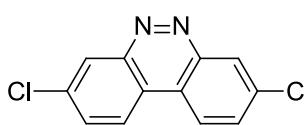
White solid (38 mg, 91% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M.p.: 145–147 °C. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.49 (s, 2H), 8.42 (dd, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 3.5 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (s, 6H) ppm. **13C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 145.6, 139.3, 133.6, 130.4, 121.2, 119.1, 21.8 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>13</sup>

### 3,8-difluorobenzo[c]cinnoline (3j)



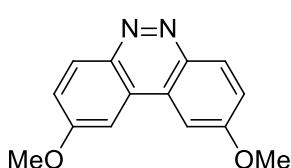
White solid (18 mg, 42% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M.p.: 165–167 °C. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.57–8.55 (m, 2H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H) ppm. **13C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 162.3 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 250.4 Hz), 161.1 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 11.1 Hz), 123.7 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 9.6 Hz), 122.5 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 24.8 Hz), 117.4, 115.5 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 20.3 Hz) ppm. **19F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = -109.14 (s) ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>14</sup>

### 3,8-dichlorobenzo[c]cinnoline (3k)



White solid (32 mg, 64% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M.p.: 143–145 °C. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.73 (s, 2H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H) ppm. **13C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 145.7, 135.6, 133.0, 130.6, 123.1, 119.0 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>13</sup>

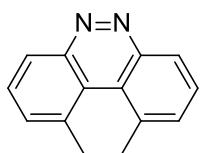
### 2,9-dimethoxybenzo[c]cinnoline (3l)



Gray solid (40 mg, 83% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1, v/v). M.p.: 156–158 °C. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.56 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (dd, 2H) ppm. **13C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 145.7, 135.6, 133.0, 130.6, 123.1, 119.0 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>13</sup>

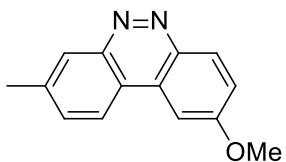
*J* = 9.0 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 6H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 161.4, 141.9, 133.0, 123.1, 120.4, 100.7, 56.0 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>15</sup>

### 1,10-dimethylbenzo[c]cinnoline (3m)



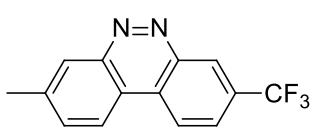
White solid (27 mg, 65% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M.p.: 120–123 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (s, 6H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 146.5, 134.5, 133.8, 128.5, 127.8, 121.2, 22.6 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>15</sup>

### 2-methoxy-8-methylbenzo[c]cinnoline (3n)



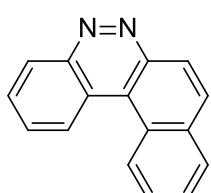
White solid (28 mg, 62% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 8.58–8.55 (m, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.30 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.69–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.40 (m, 1H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 2.65 (s, 3H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 161.9, 145.4, 142.0, 139.8, 133.2, 132.9, 130.1, 123.3, 121.3, 120.0, 118.9, 100.4, 56.0, 21.8 ppm. **HRMS (ESI) m/z**: calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup> (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 225.1022, found 225.1021.

### 3-methyl-8-(trifluoromethyl)benzo[c]cinnoline (3o)



White solid (26 mg, 50% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M.p.: 148–150 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 8.99 (s, 1H), 8.64–8.61 (m, 1H), 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.47–8.45 (m, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (s, 3H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 146.2, 144.1, 141.4, 134.4, 130.9 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 33.3 Hz), 130.8, 129.1 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.9 Hz), 127.2 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 123.8 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 271.1 Hz), 123.4, 122.9, 121.6, 117.8, 21.9 ppm. **<sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = -62.46 (s) ppm. **HRMS (ESI) m/z**: calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 263.0791, found 263.0794.

### dibenzo[c,f]cinnoline (3p)



White solid (21 mg, 46% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M.p.: 165–167 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 9.25–9.23 (m, 1H), 9.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.90 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.65 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.16–8.14 (m, 1H), 8.04–7.98 (m, 2H), 7.87–7.83 (m, 2H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: 147.5, 145.0, 135.1, 131.9, 131.5, 131.0, 129.4, 129.1, 129.0, 128.5, 127.8, 127.6, 125.7, 122.0, 119.5 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>16</sup>

### thieno[3,2-*c*]cinnoline (3q)

White solid (25 mg, 68% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M.p.: 124–126 °C. **1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.72–8.70 (m, 1H), 8.12–8.09 (m, 2H), 7.85–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. **13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 155.0, 145.2, 132.8, 131.7, 131.1, 129.4, 128.6, 125.9, 122.9, 122.5 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>17</sup>

### 2-methylbenzo[*c*]cinnoline (3t)

White solid (30 mg, 78% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M.p.: 115–117 °C. **1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.73–8.73 (m, 1H), 8.63 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.57–8.56 (m, 1H), 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.90–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H) ppm. **13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 145.5, 144.4, 142.5, 131.4, 131.3 (2C), 131.2, 129.2, 121.5, 121.1, 121.0, 120.8, 22.6 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>18</sup>

### 2-(trifluoromethyl)benzo[*c*]cinnoline (3u)

White solid (20 mg, 40% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). M.p.: 112–114 °C. **1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.91–8.89 (m, 2H), 8.84–8.83 (m, 1H), 8.65–8.63 (m, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.02–8.01 (m, 2H) ppm. **13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 145.9, 145.5, 133.1, 132.8, 132.6, 131.9, 130.4, 125.5 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.3 Hz), 123.8 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 271.5 Hz), 121.6, 120.8, 120.4, 119.9 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 4.0 Hz) ppm. **19F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = -62.44 (s) ppm. **HRMS (ESI) m/z:** calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 249.0634, found 249.0635.

### (E)-1,2-diphenyldiazene (5a)

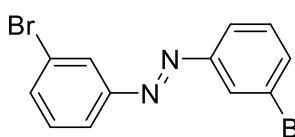
Orange solid (34 mg, 95% yield), purification via a silica (100–200 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v). **1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 7.99–7.97 (m, 4H), 7.56–7.53 (m, 4H), 7.51–7.48 (m, 2H) ppm. **13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 152.8, 131.1, 129.2, 123.0 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>19</sup>

### (E)-1,2-di-*m*-tolyldiazene (5b)

Orange solid (39 mg, 94% yield, *E/Z* = 15:1), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v). **1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, major):** δ = 7.75–7.74 (m, 4H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.5

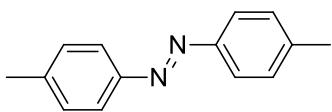
Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 6H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, major):** δ = 153.0, 139.1, 131.8, 129.0, 123.0, 120.6, 21.5 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>19</sup>

#### (E)-1,2-bis(3-bromophenyl)diazene (5c)



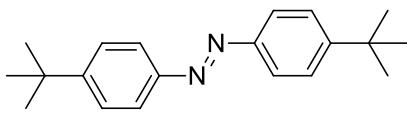
Orange solid (62 mg, 91% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.05 (s, 2H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 153.3, 134.3, 130.7, 124.9, 123.4, 123.3 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>20</sup>

#### (E)-1,2-di-p-tolylidiazene (5d)



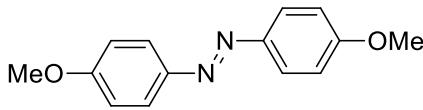
Orange solid (40 mg, 96% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 2.44 (s, 6H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 151.0, 141.3, 129.8, 122.9, 21.6 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>19</sup>

#### (E)-1,2-bis(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)diazene (5e)



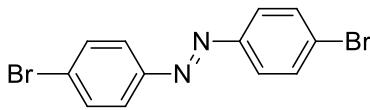
Orange solid (58 mg, 98% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 1.38 (s, 18H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 154.4, 150.9, 126.1, 122.6, 35.1, 31.4 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>21</sup>

#### (E)-1,2-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)diazene (5f)



Orange solid (47 mg, 98% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 3.89 (s, 6H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 161.7, 147.2, 124.5, 114.3, 55.7 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>19</sup>

#### (E)-1,2-bis(4-bromophenyl)diazene (5g)

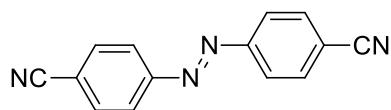


Orange solid (64 mg, 94% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 4H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 151.3, 132.6, 124.6, 122.3 ppm.

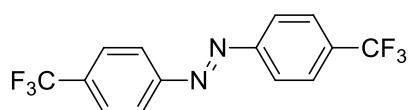
The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>19</sup>

#### (E)-1,2-bis(4-bromophenyl)diazene (5h)



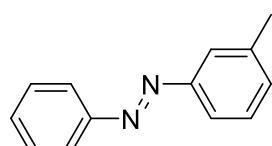
Orange solid (42 mg, 91% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 4H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 154.1, 133.5, 123.9, 118.3, 115.3 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>19</sup>

#### (E)-1,2-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)diazene (5i)



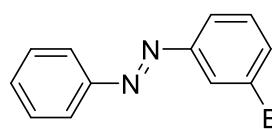
Orange solid (63 mg, 97% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 154.2, 133.1 (*q*, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 32.4 Hz), 126.6 (*q*, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.7 Hz), 123.5, 123.9 (*q*, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 270.8 Hz) ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>19</sup>

#### (E)-1-phenyl-2-(*m*-tolyl)diazene (6ab)



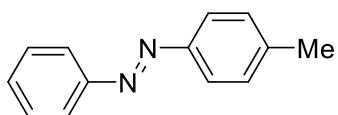
Orange solid (35 mg, 90% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.74–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 152.9, 152.9, 139.1, 131.9, 131.0, 129.2, 129.1, 123.1, 123.0, 120.7, 21.5. ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>21</sup>

#### (E)-1-(3-bromophenyl)-2-phenyldiazene (6ac)



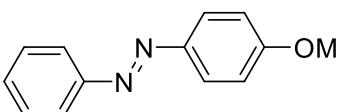
Orange solid (45 mg, 86% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 8.07 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.90–7.88 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.55–7.49 (m, 3H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ = 153.7, 152.5, 133.7, 131.7, 130.6, 129.3, 124.8, 123.3, 123.2, 123.1 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>21</sup>

**(E)-1-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)diazene (6ad)**



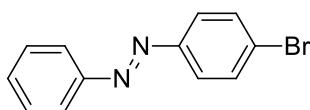
Orange solid (35 mg, 90% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):**  $\delta$  = 7.92 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H) ppm.  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):**  $\delta$  = 152.9, 150.9, 141.7, 130.8, 129.9, 129.2, 123.0, 122.9, 21.6 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>21</sup>

**(E)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyldiazene (6af)**



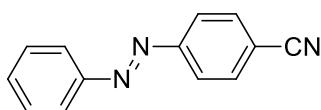
Orange solid (28 mg, 67% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50/1, v/v).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):**  $\delta$  = 7.94 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H) ppm.  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):**  $\delta$  = 162.2, 152.9, 147.2, 130.5, 129.2, 124.9, 122.7, 114.3, 55.7 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>21</sup>

**(E)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-phenyldiazene (6ag)**



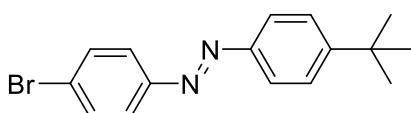
Orange solid (48 mg, 92% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):**  $\delta$  = 7.92 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.54–7.47 (m, 3H) ppm.  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):**  $\delta$  = 152.6, 151.5, 132.5, 131.5, 129.3, 125.5, 124.5, 123.1, ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>21</sup>

**(E)-4-(phenyldiazenyl)benzonitrile (6ah)**



Orange solid (39 mg, 95% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 30/1, v/v).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):**  $\delta$  = 7.99 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.97–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.56–7.54 (m, 3H) ppm.  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):**  $\delta$  = 154.7, 152.5, 133.4, 132.4, 129.4, 123.5, 123.5, 118.6, 114.1 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>22</sup>

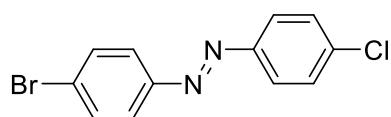
**(E)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)diazene (6ge)**



Orange solid (61 mg, 97% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):**  $\delta$  = 7.85 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (s, 9H) ppm.  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):**

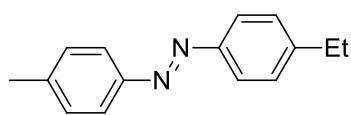
$\delta$  = 155.2, 151.7, 150.6, 132.4, 126.2, 125.1, 124.4, 122.8, 35.2, 31.4 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>22</sup>

**(E)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)diazene (6gi)**



Orange solid (58 mg, 99% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.87 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 132.6, 129.6, 124.6, 124.4 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>23</sup>

**(E)-1-(4-ethylphenyl)-2-(*p*-tolyl)diazene (6kd)**



Orange solid (following procedure B, 43 mg, 95% yield), purification via a silica (200–300 meshes) gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.86–7.82 (m, 4H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 4H), 2.74 (q,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.30 (td,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 3H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 151.2, 151.0, 147.6, 141.3, 129.8, 128.6, 122.9, 122.9, 29.0, 21.6, 15.6 ppm. The NMR data are consistent with the literature.<sup>22</sup>

## 8. References

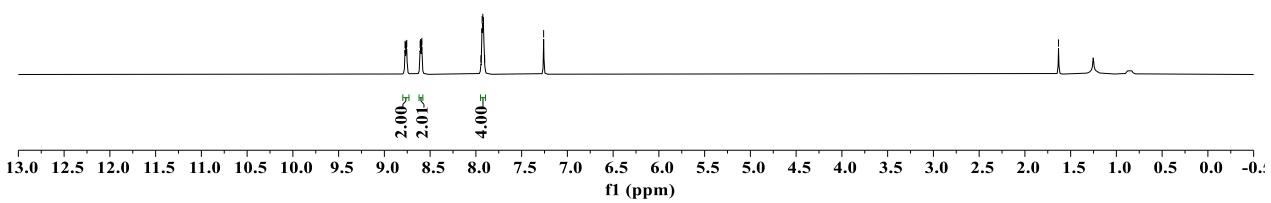
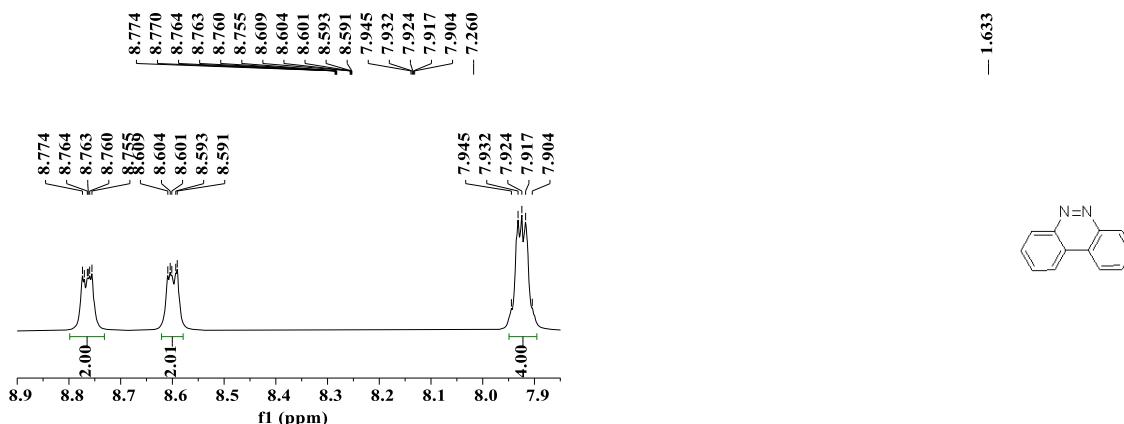
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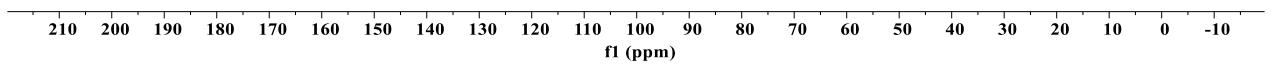
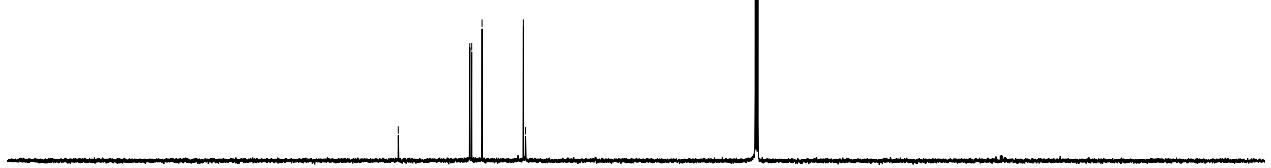
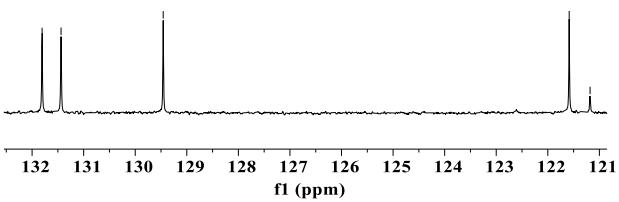
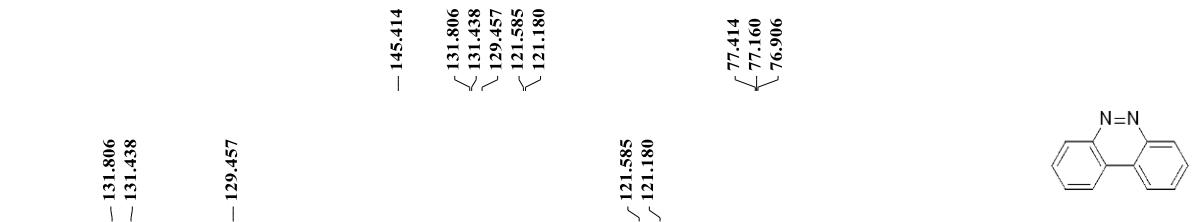
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## **9. Copies of $^1\text{H}$ , $^{13}\text{C}$ and $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR spectra**

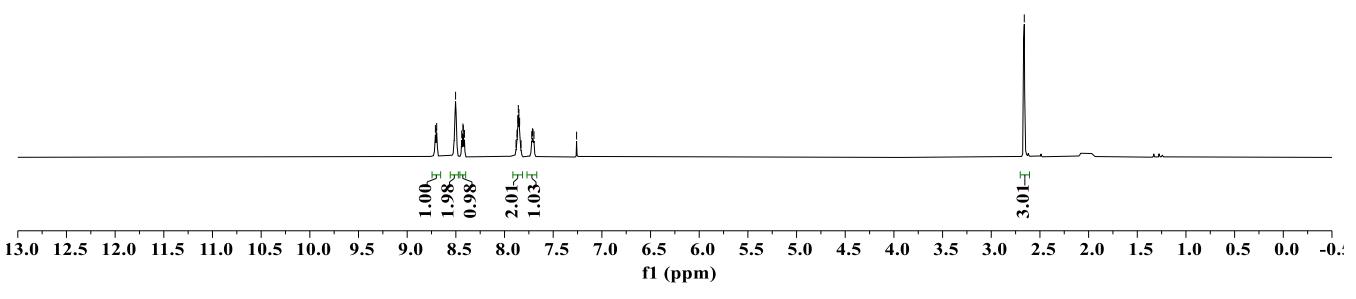
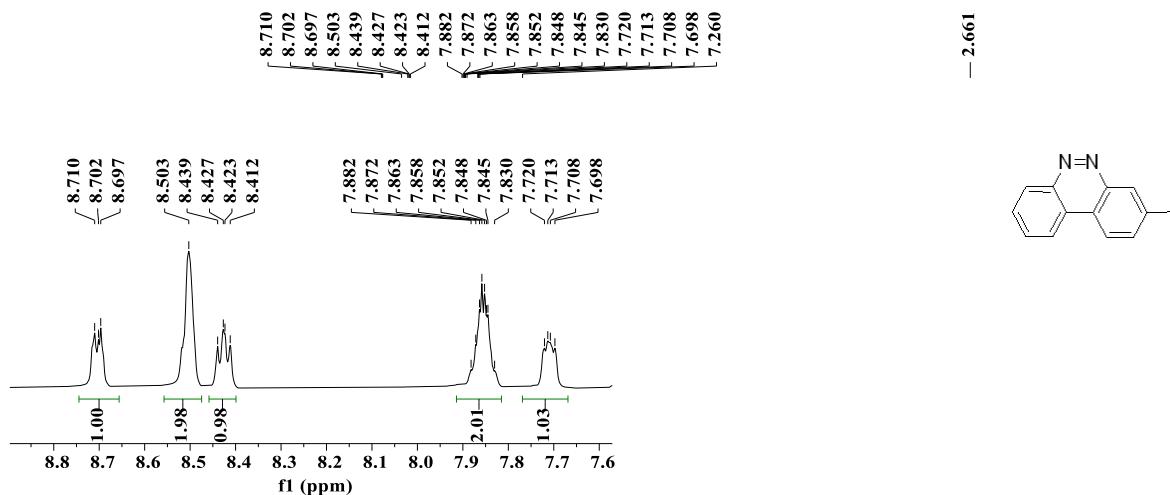
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3a**



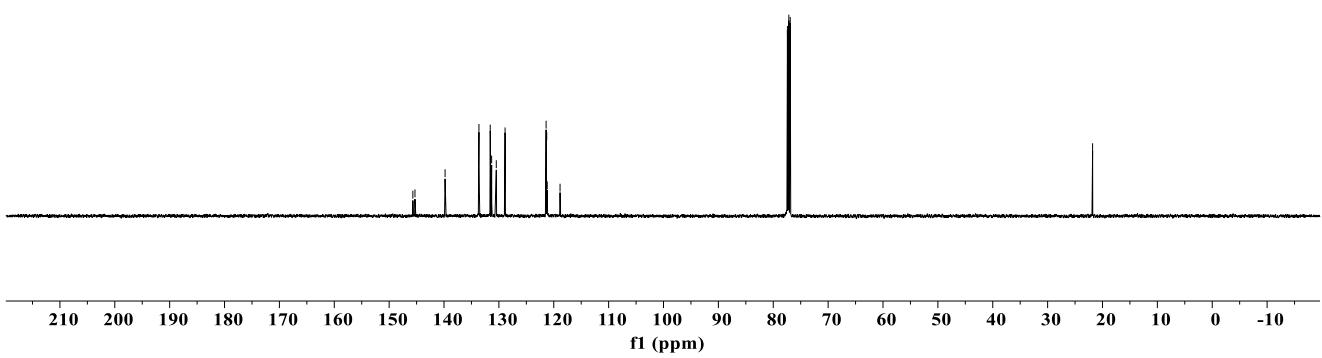
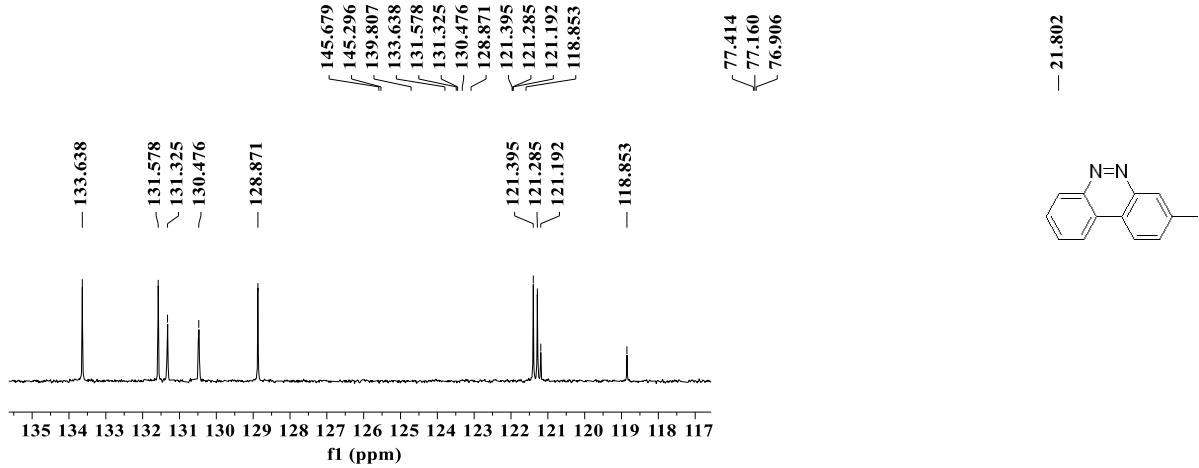
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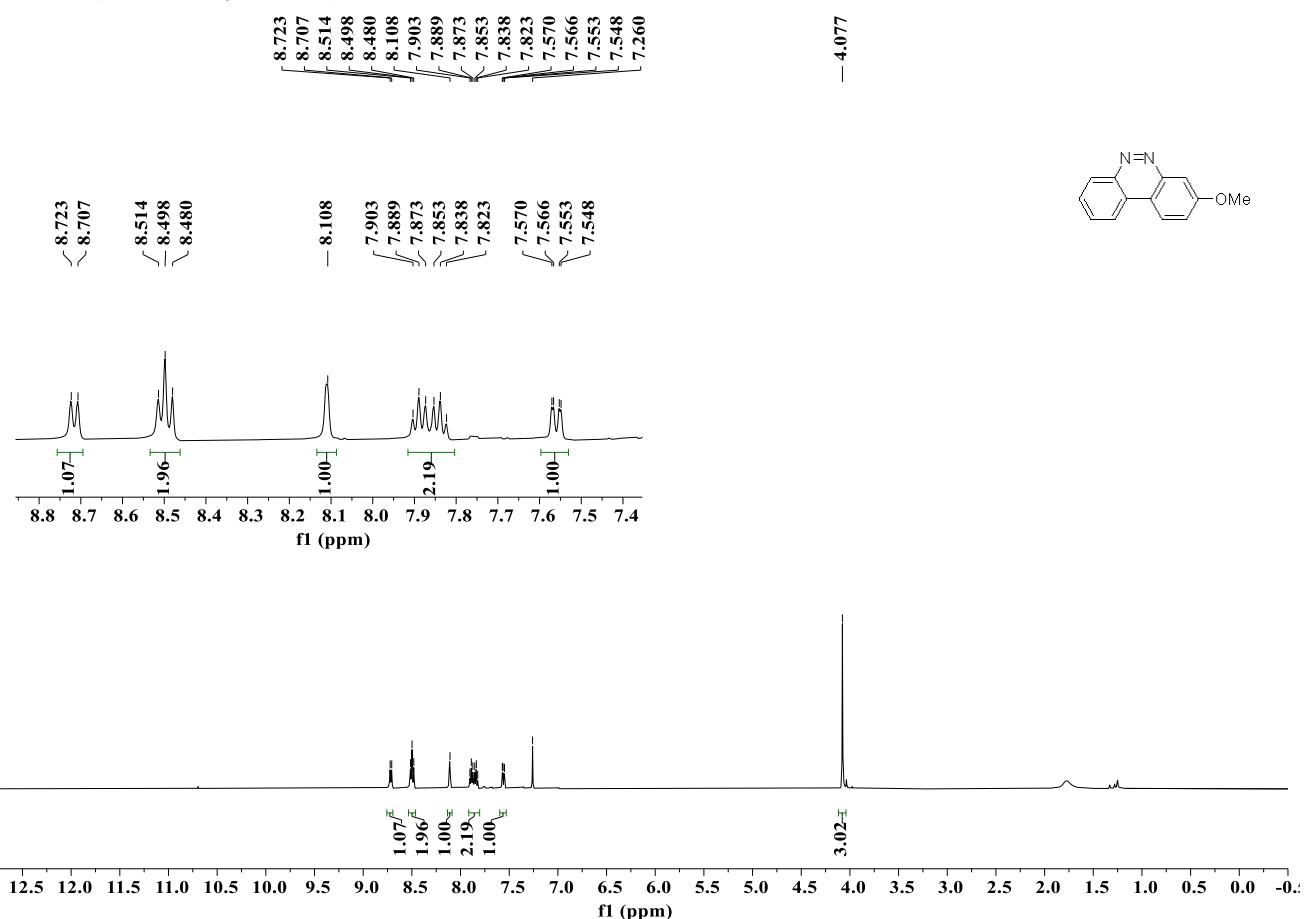
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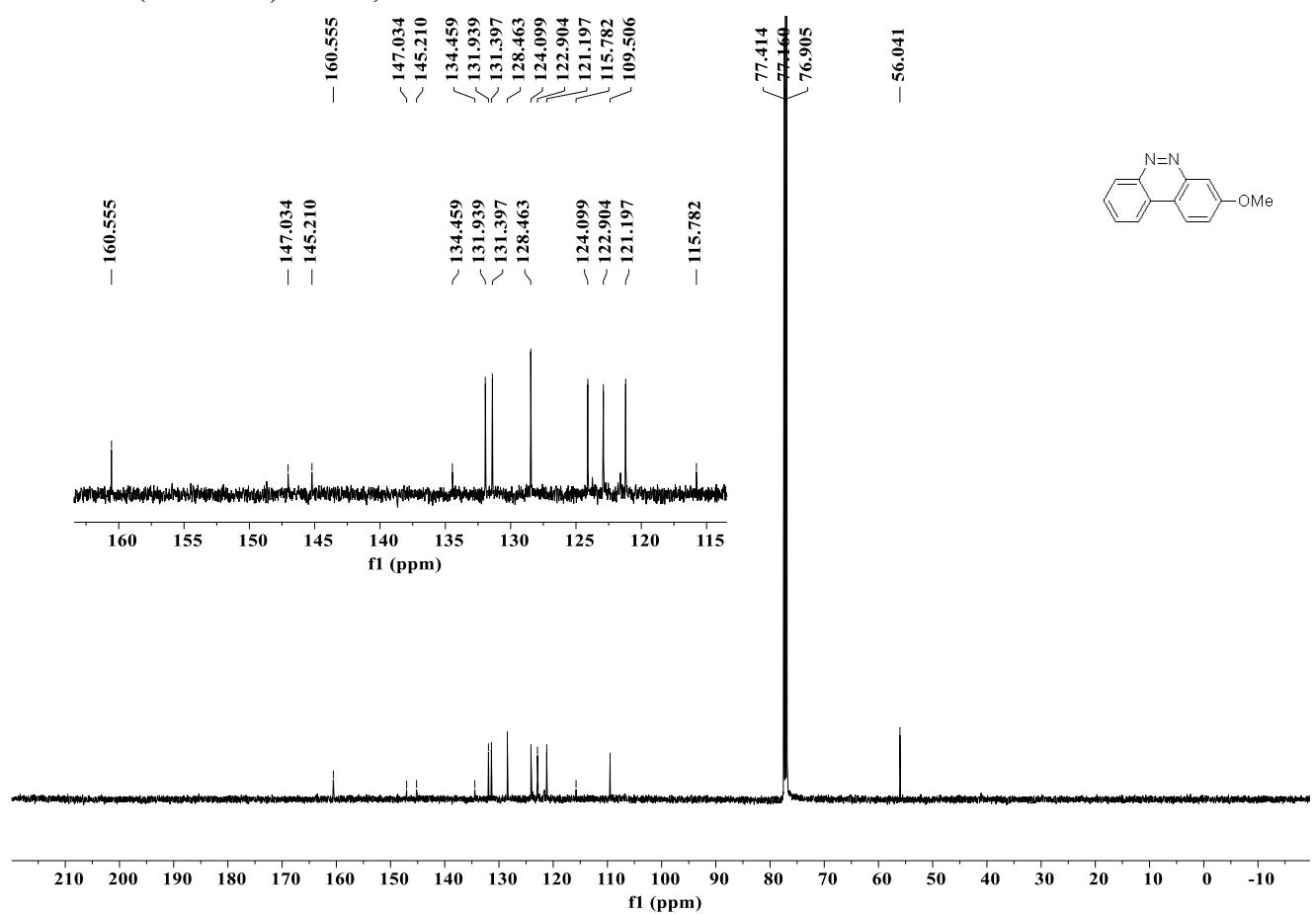
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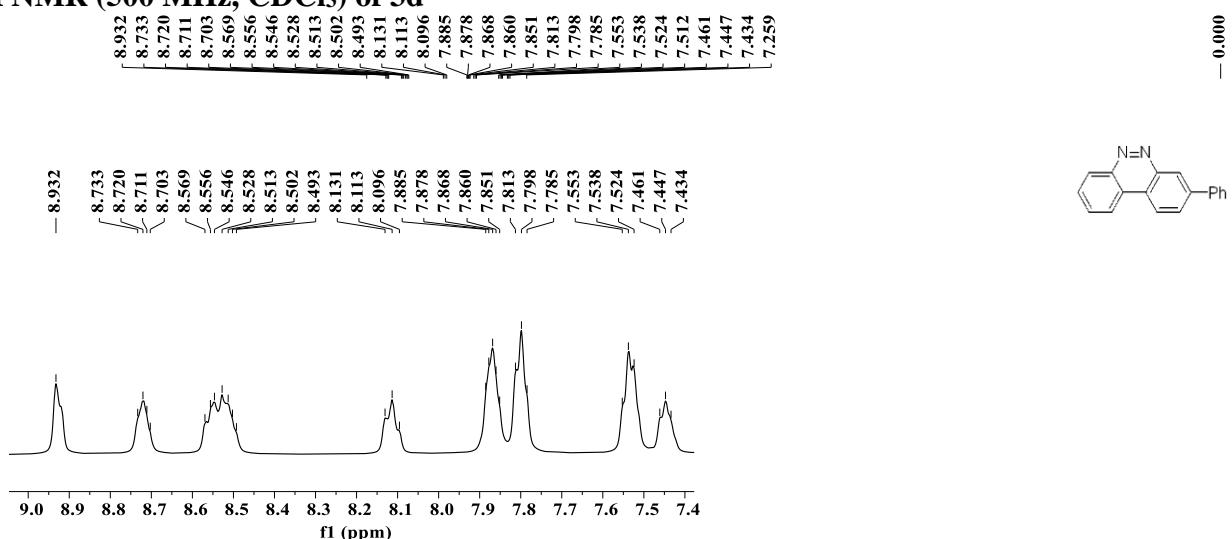
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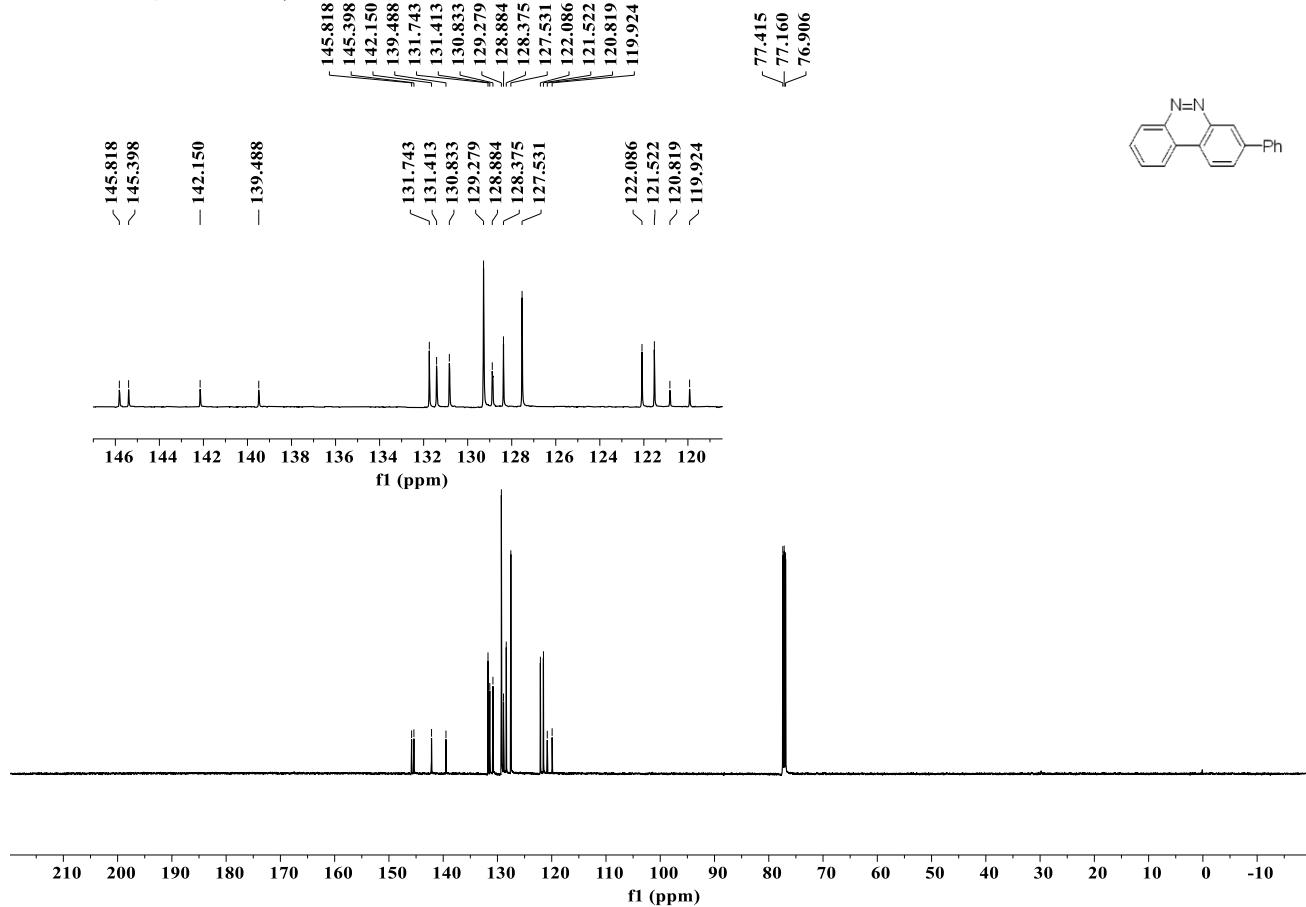
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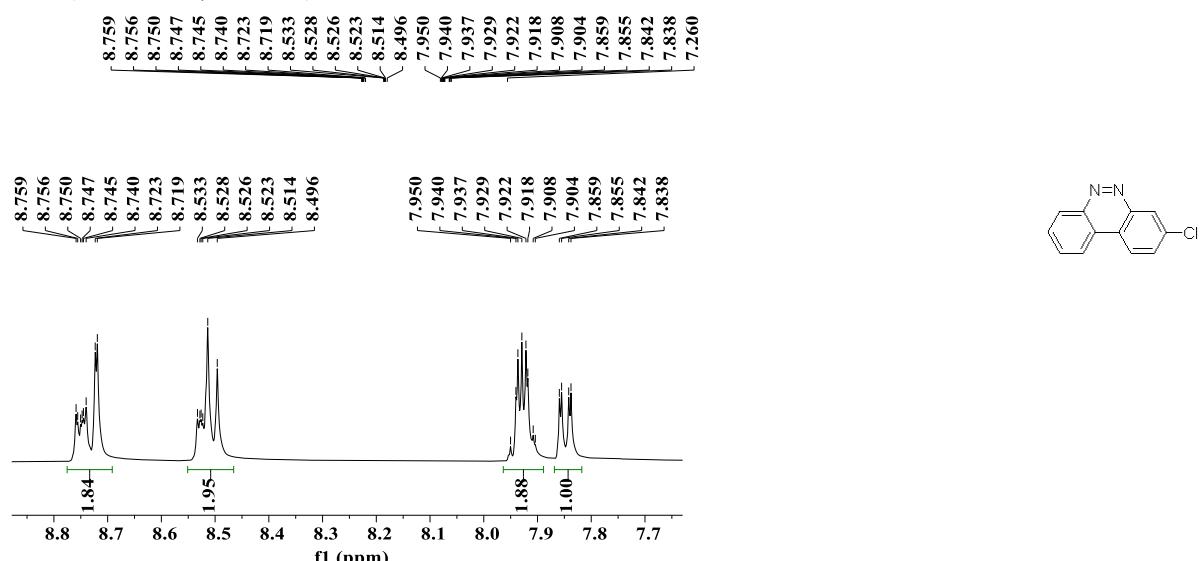
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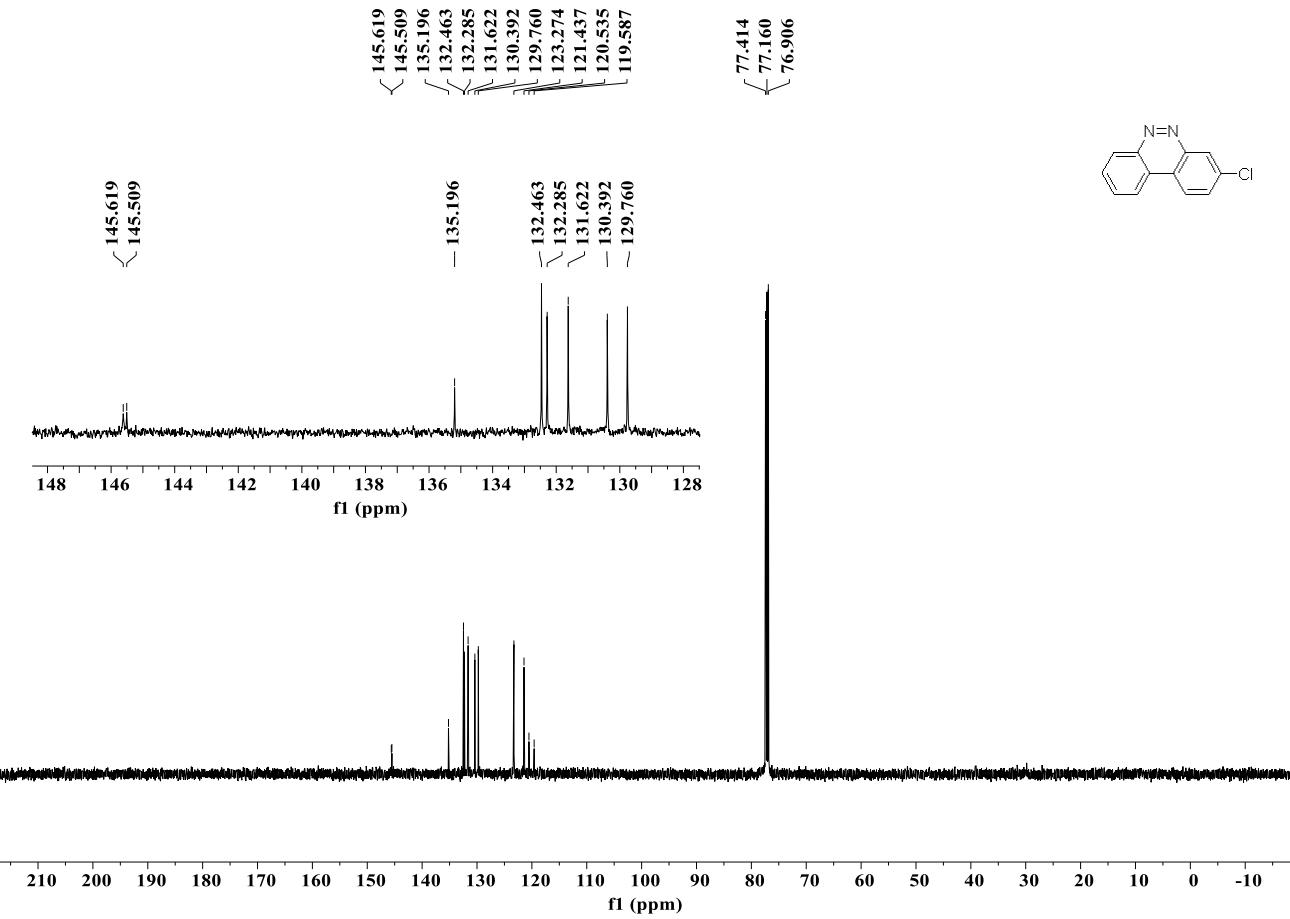
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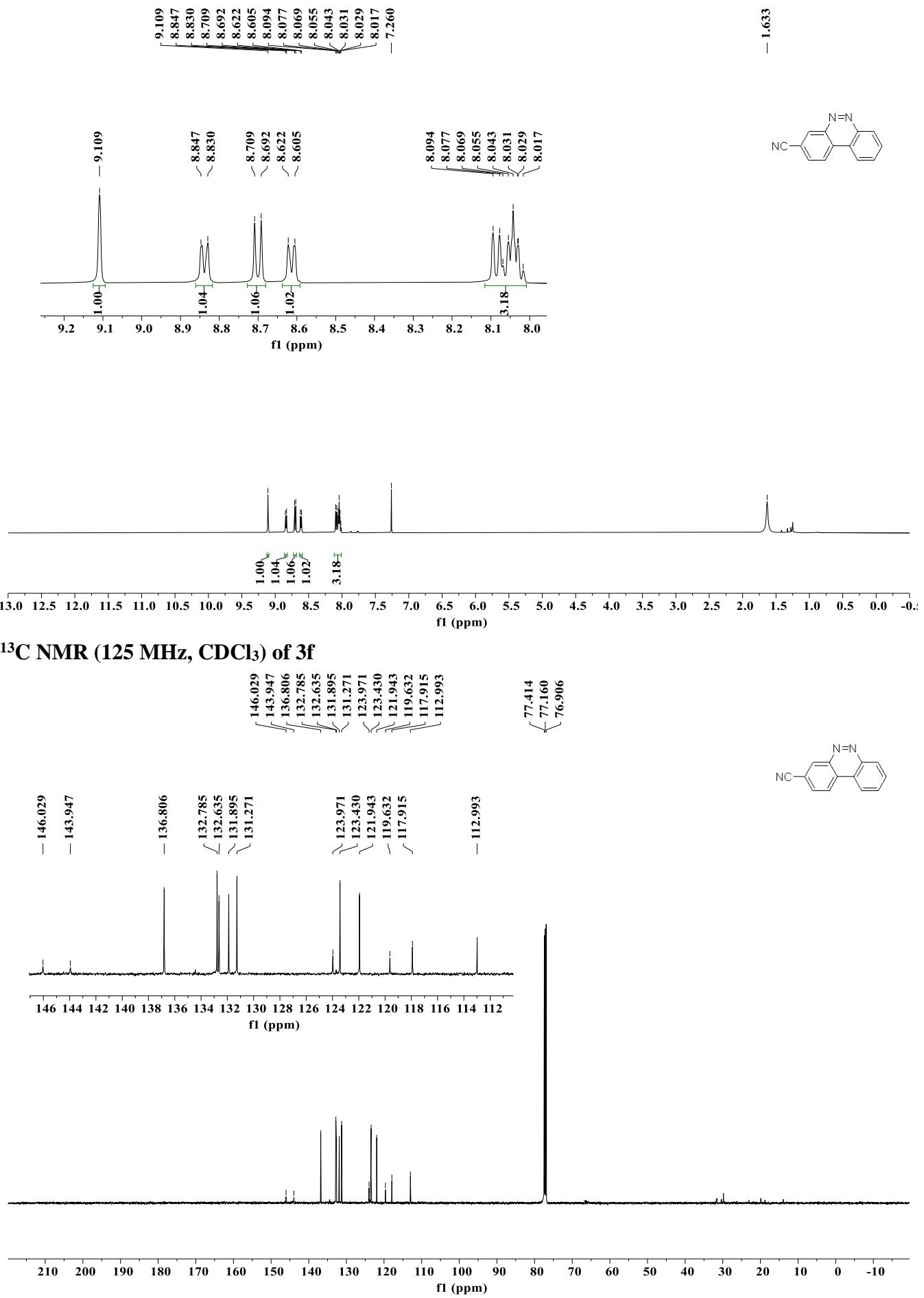
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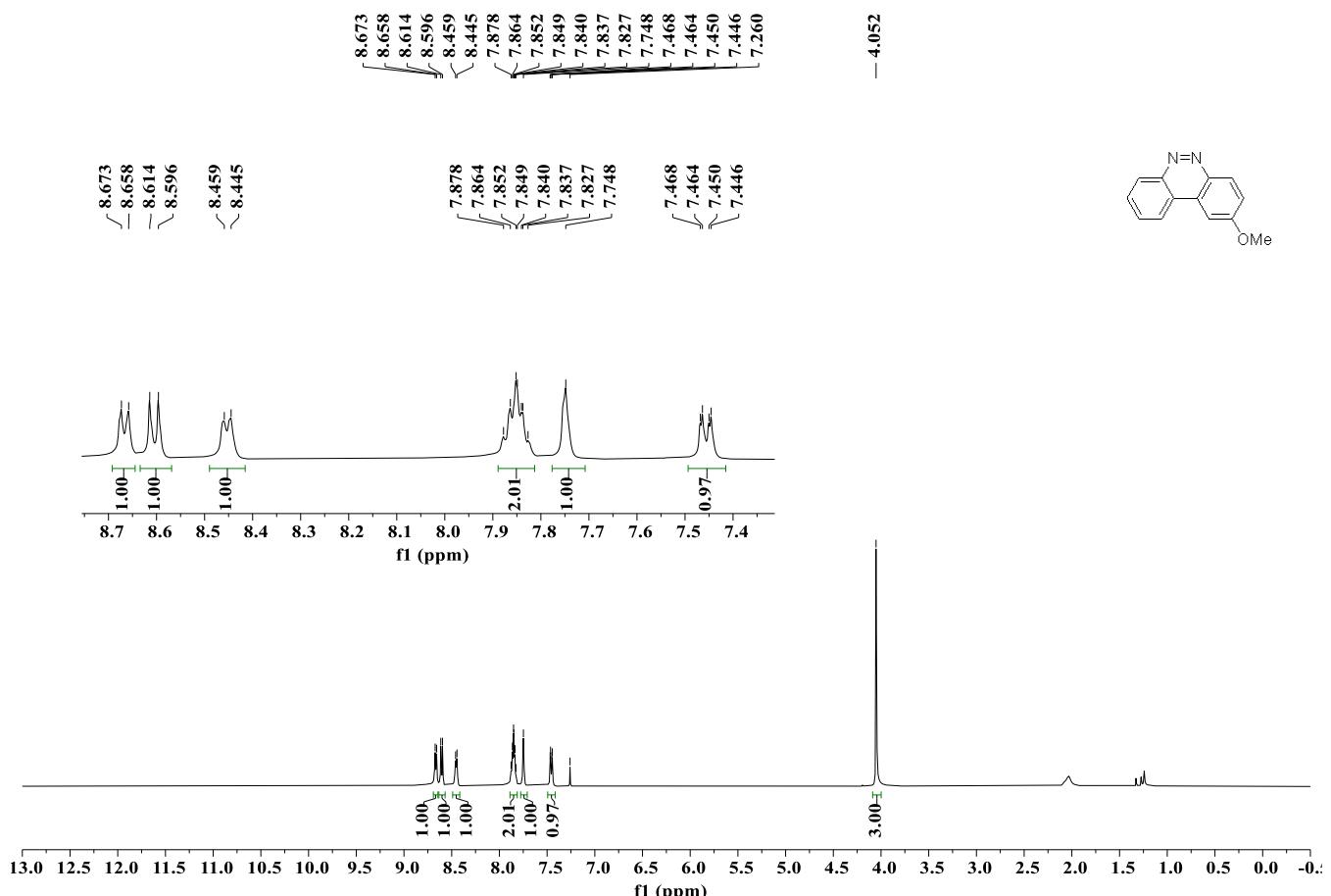
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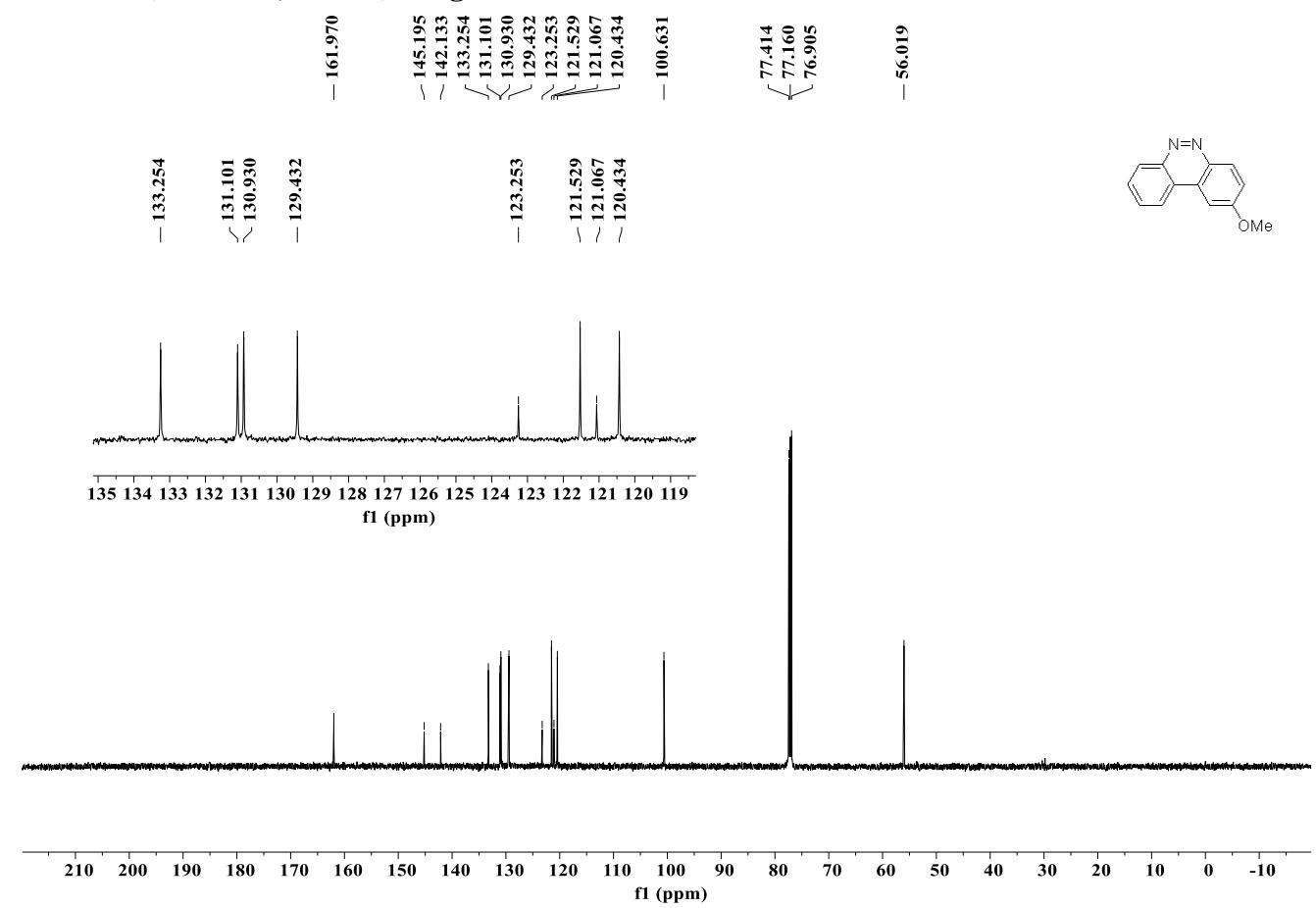
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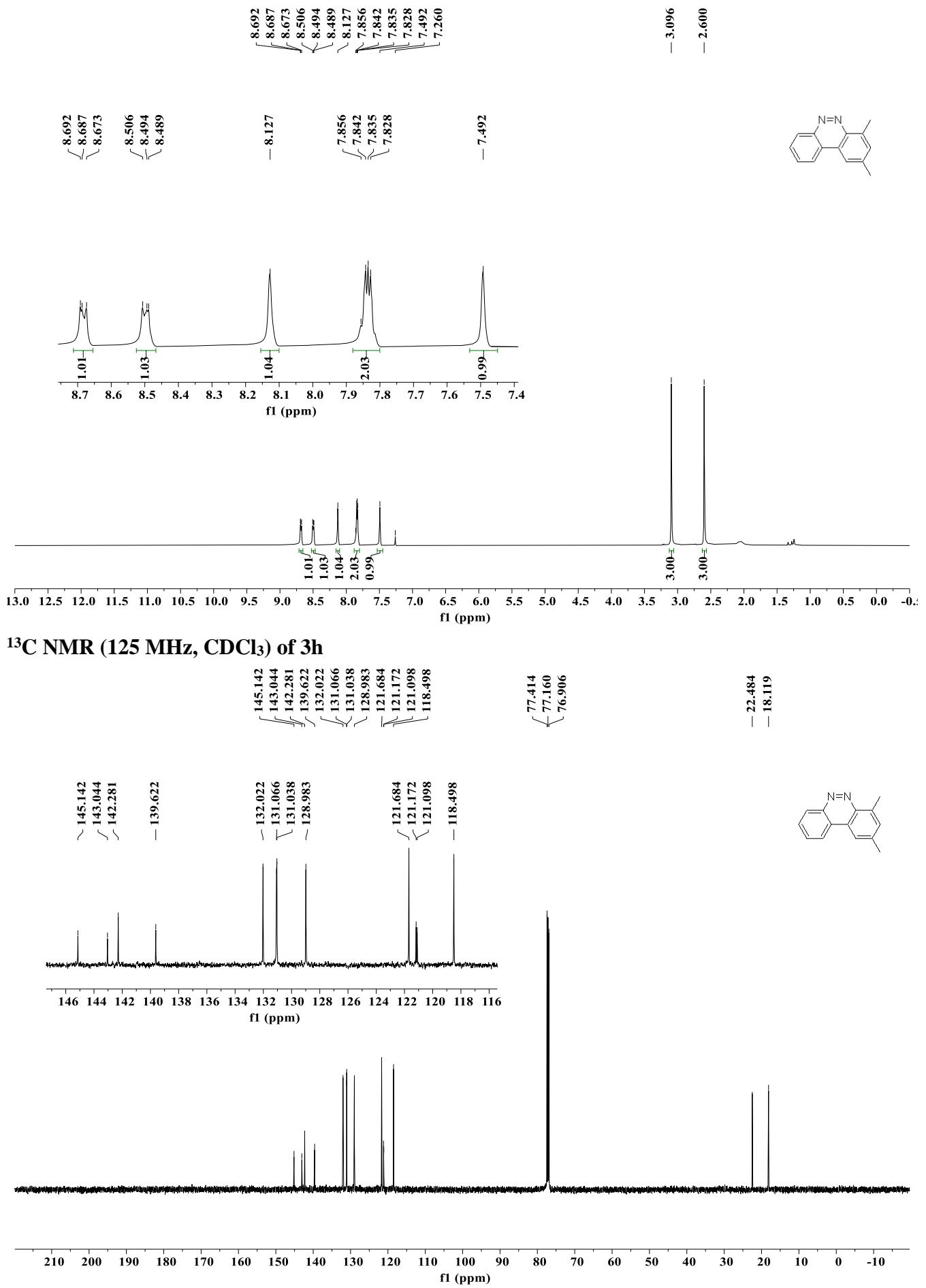
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3g**



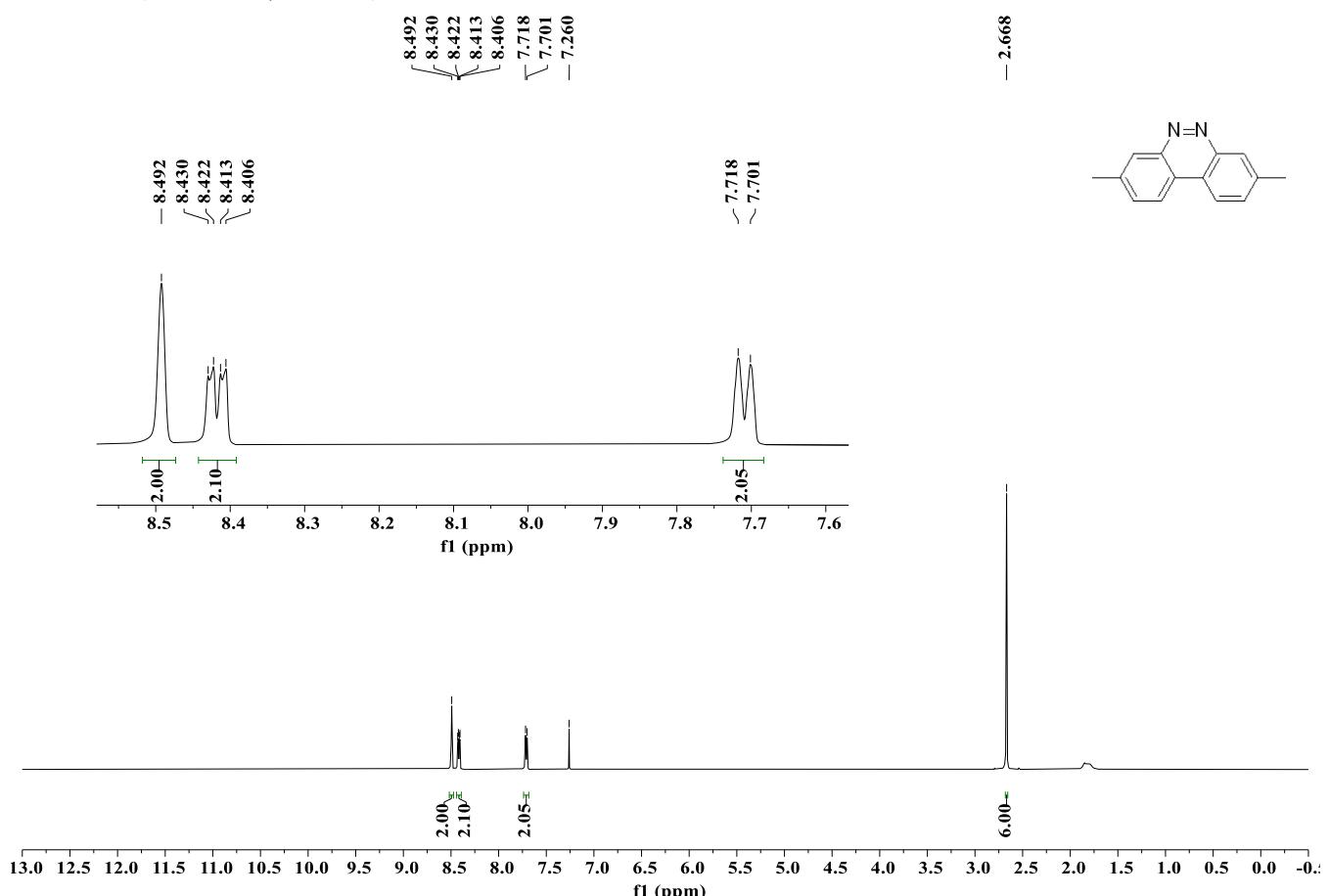
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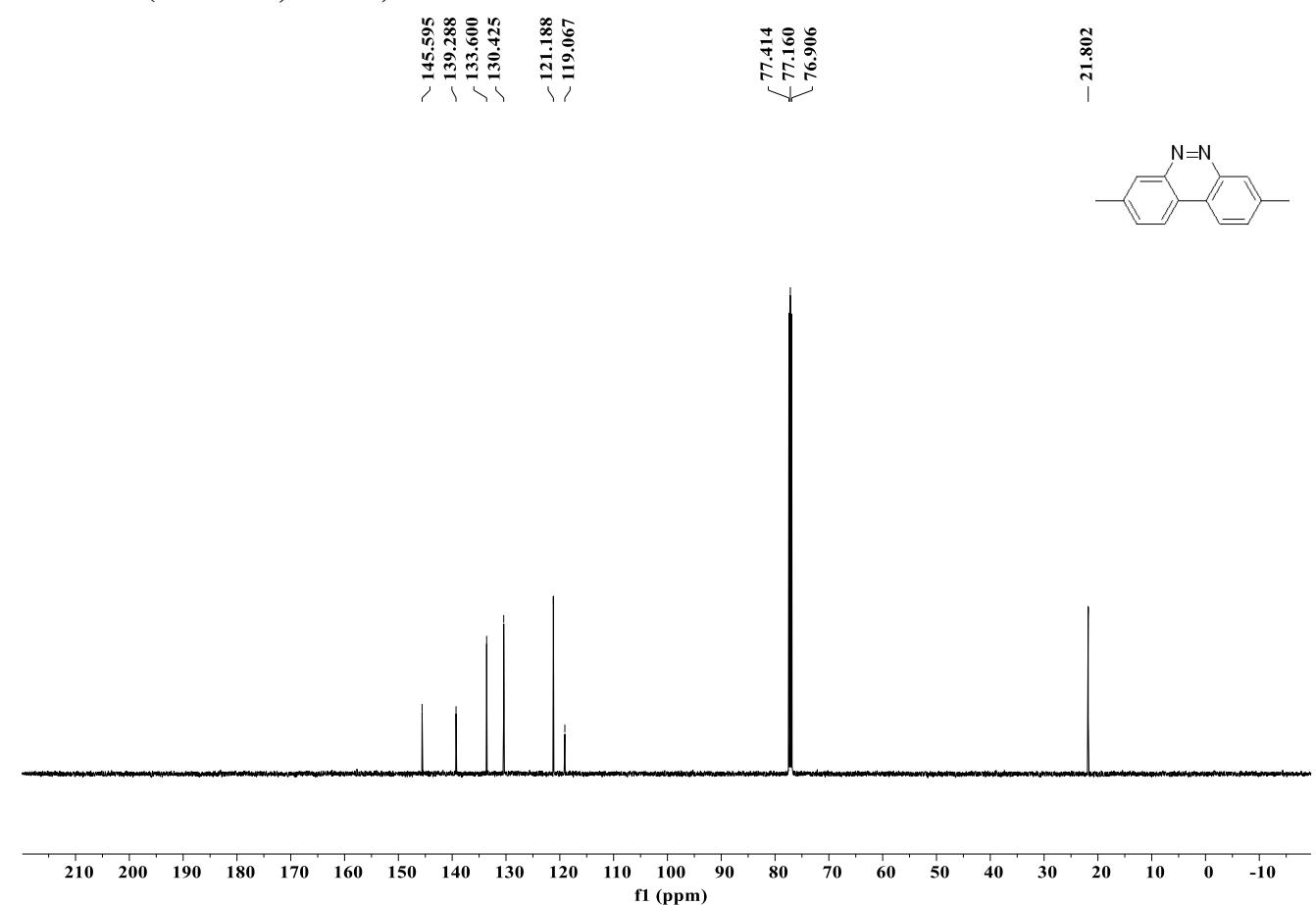
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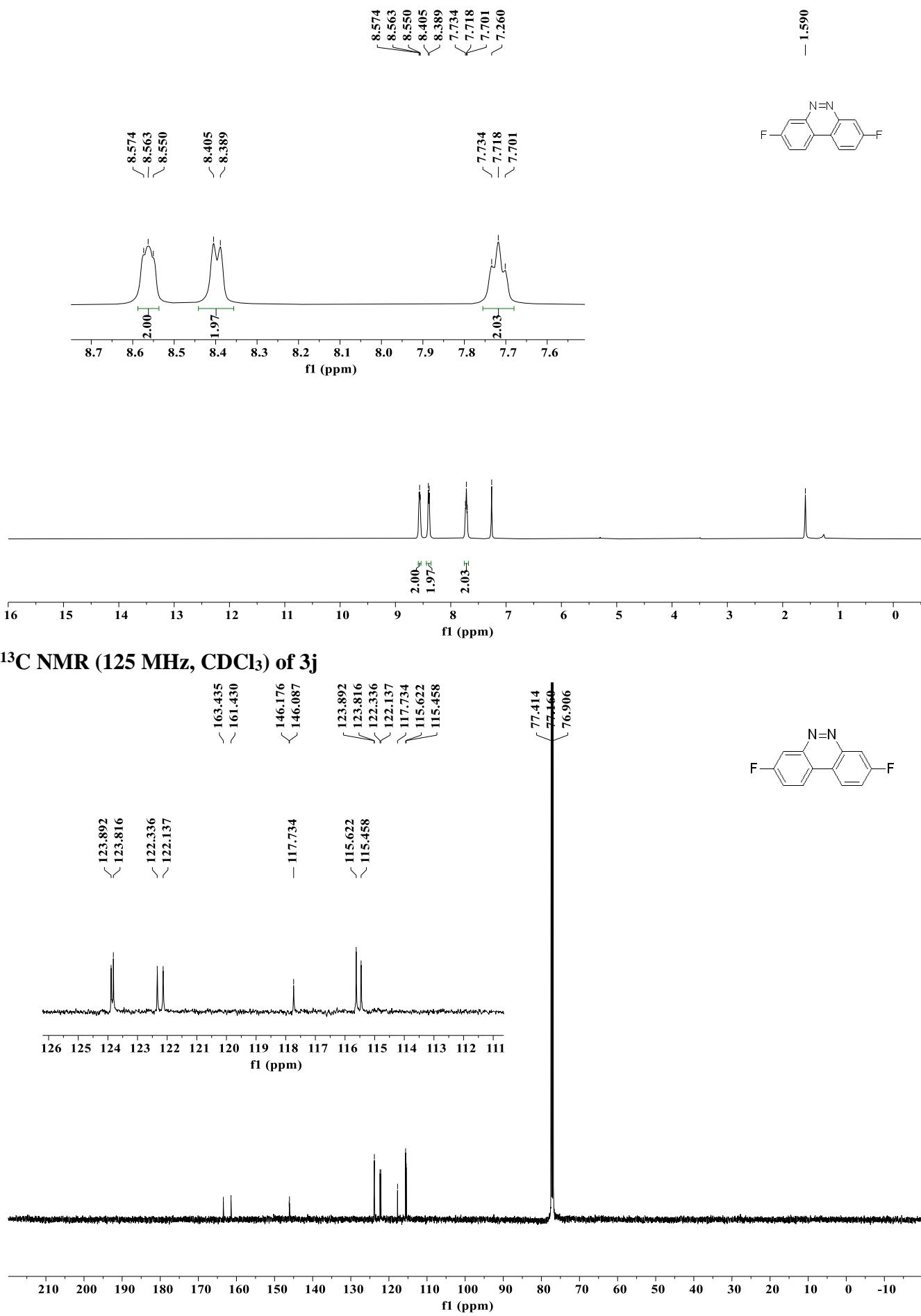
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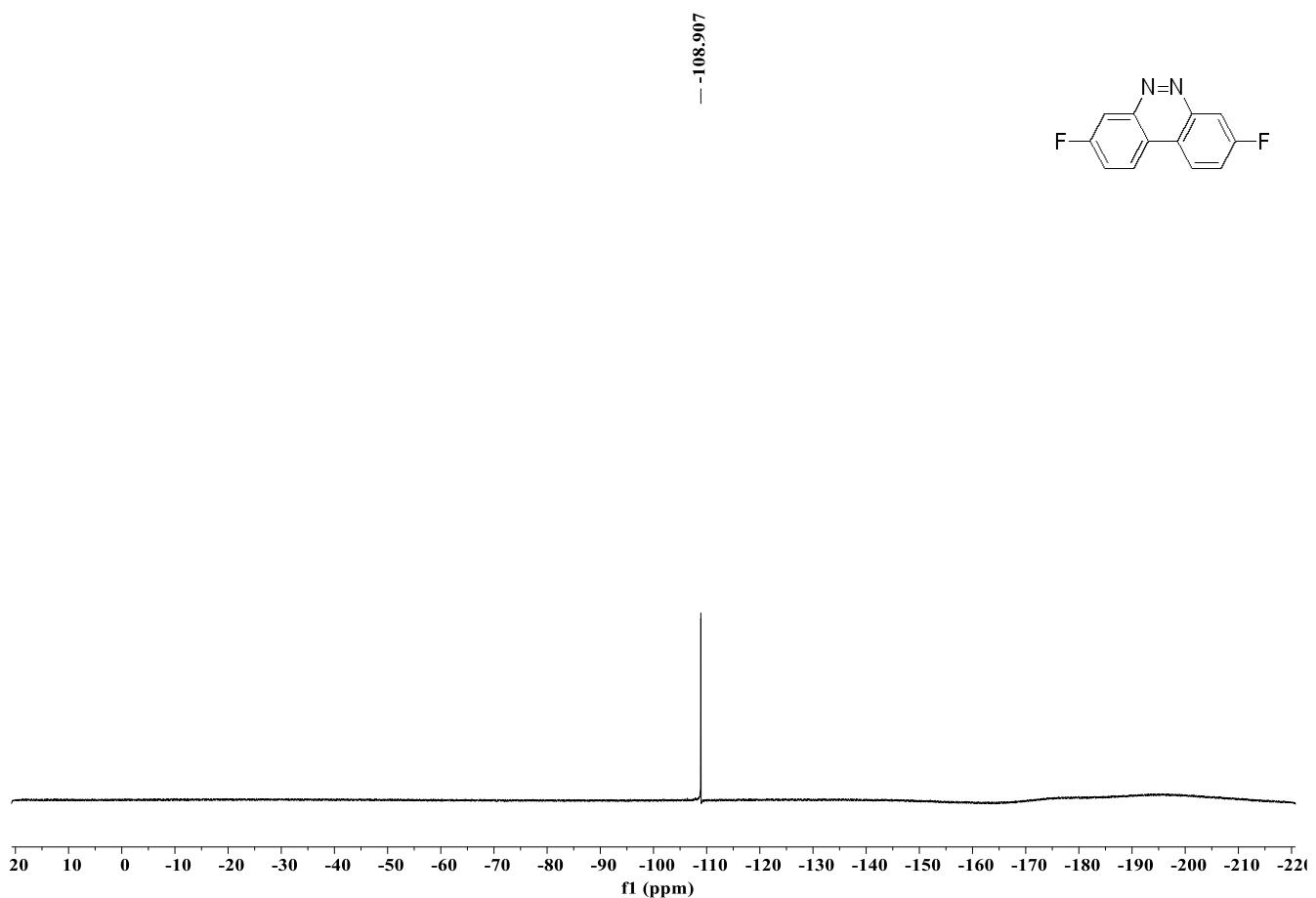
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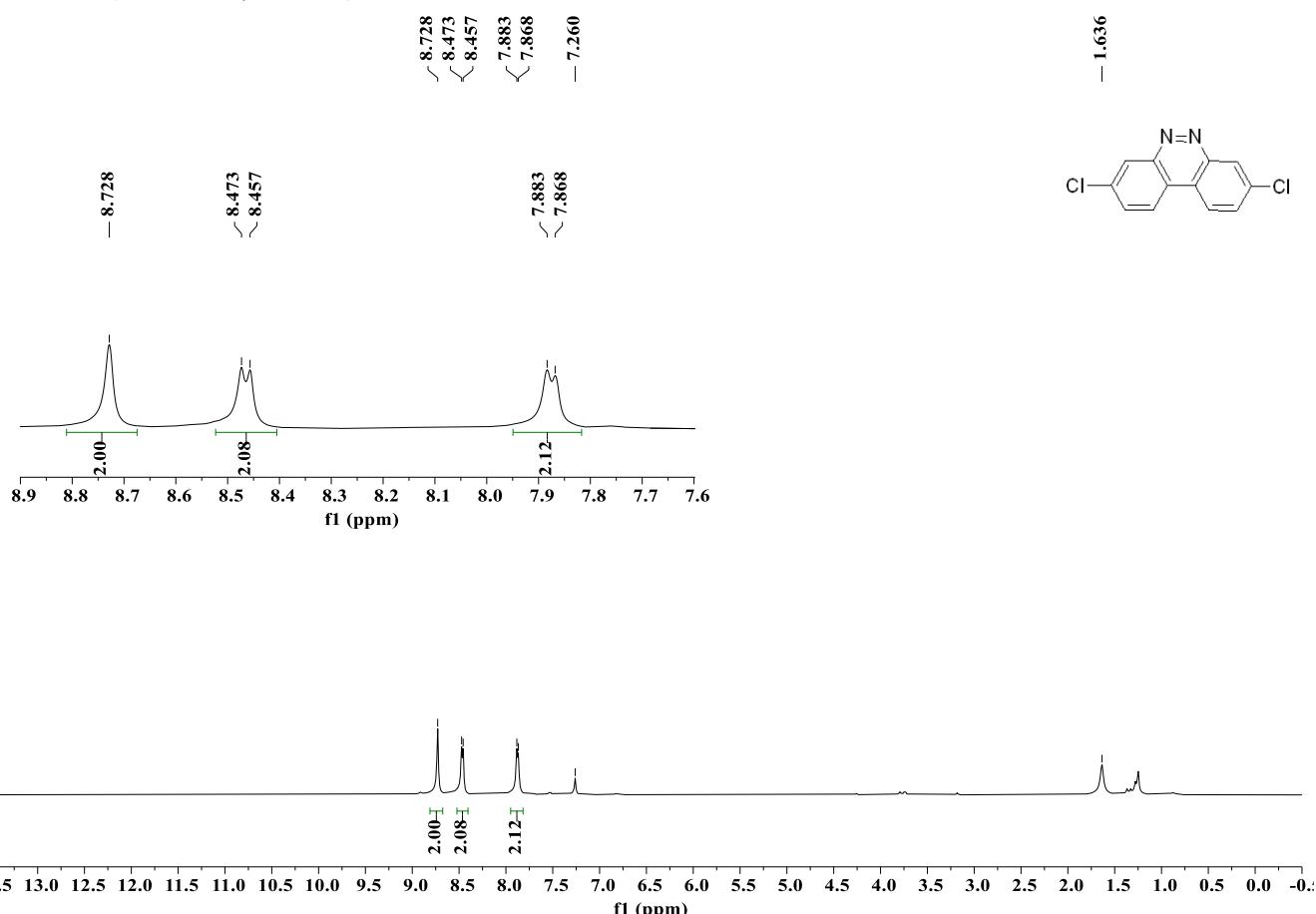
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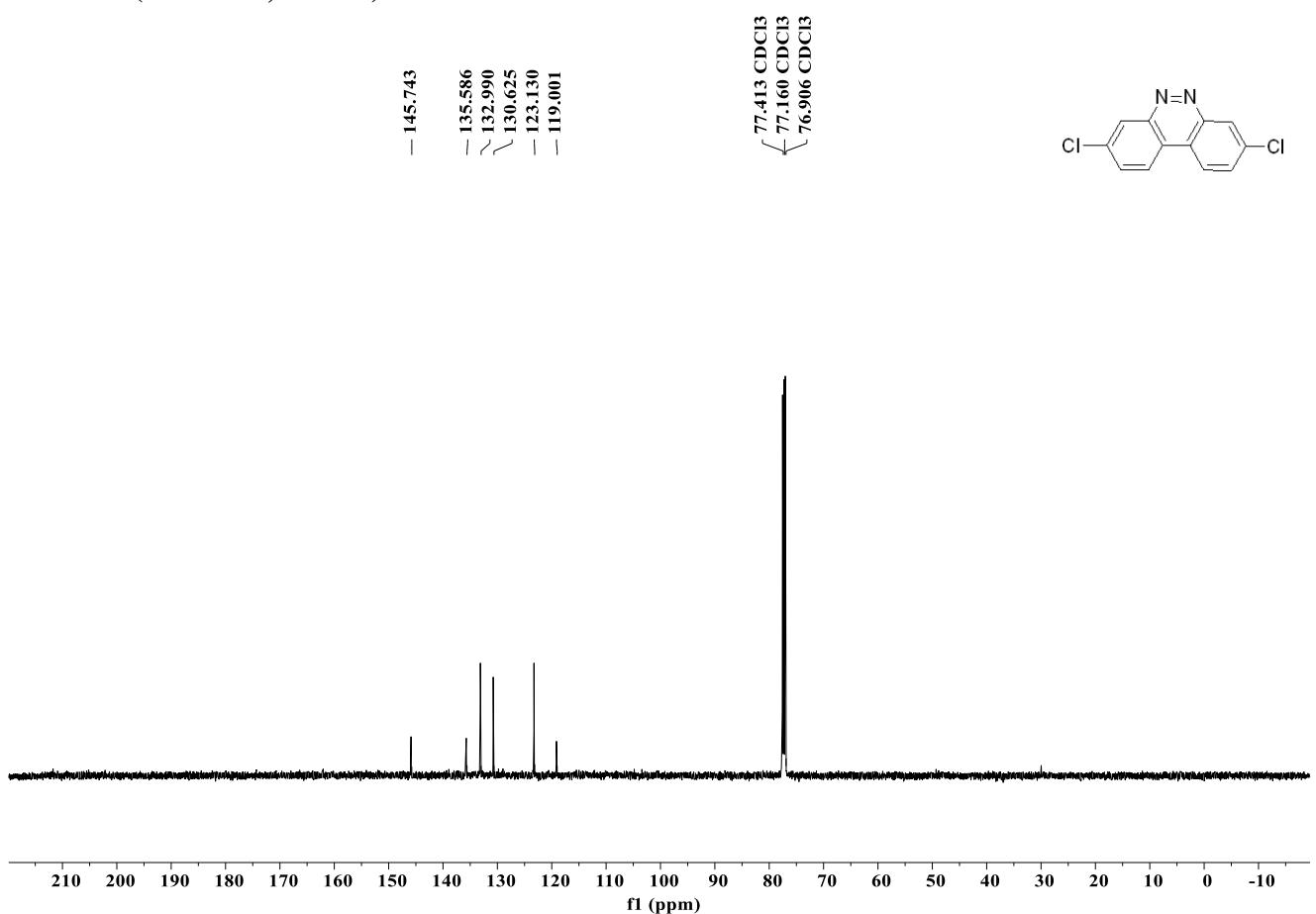
**<sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3j**



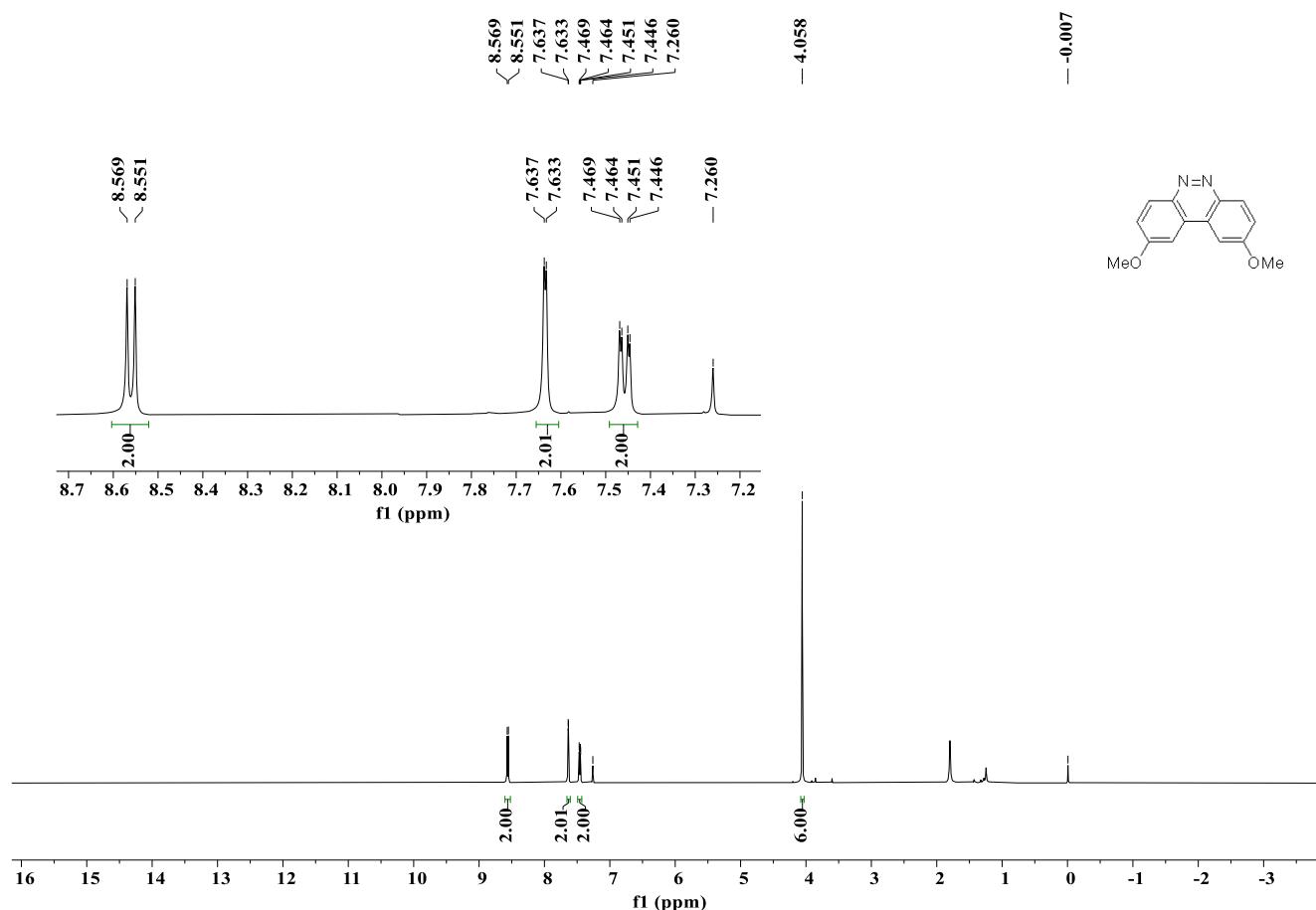
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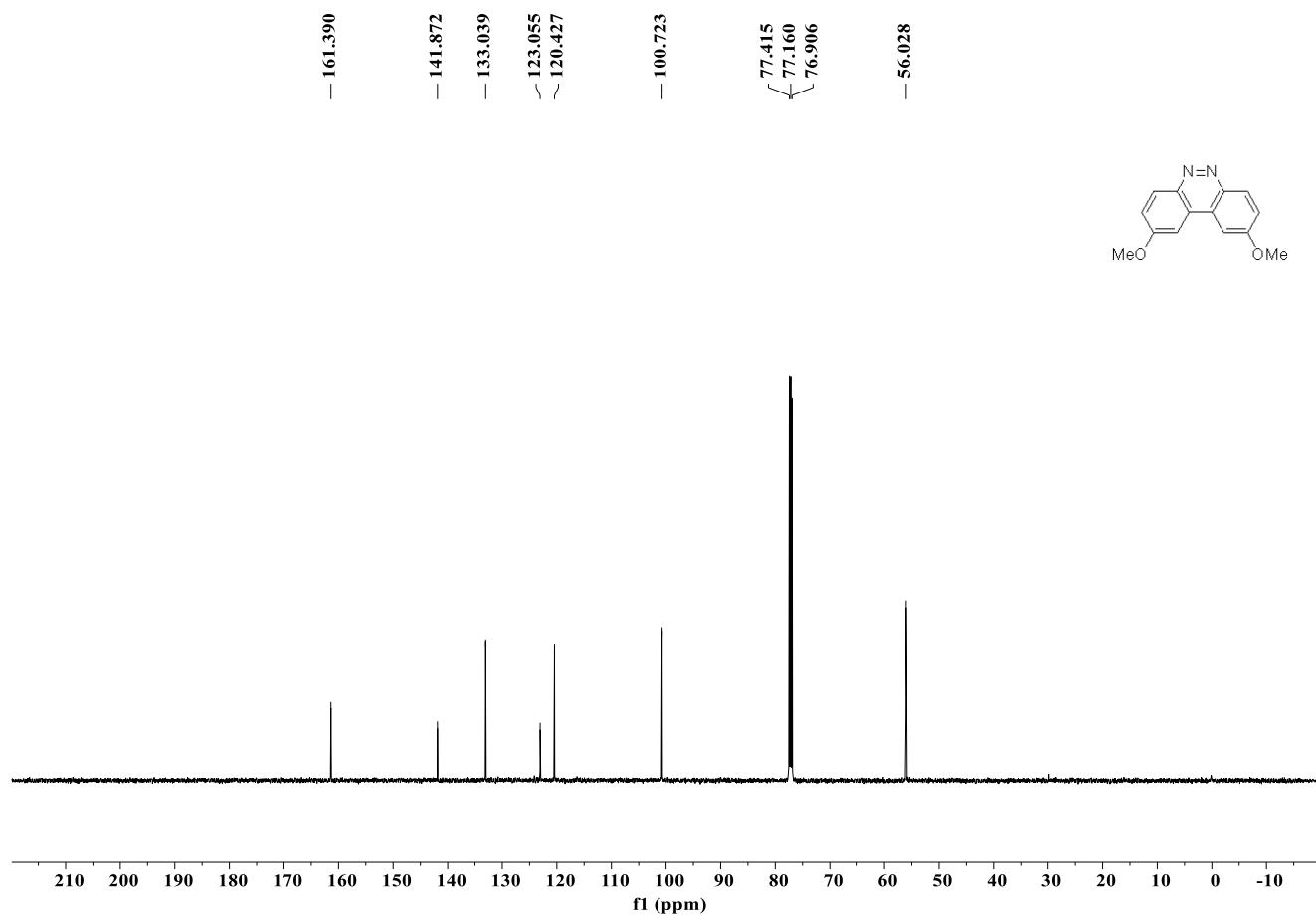
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3k**



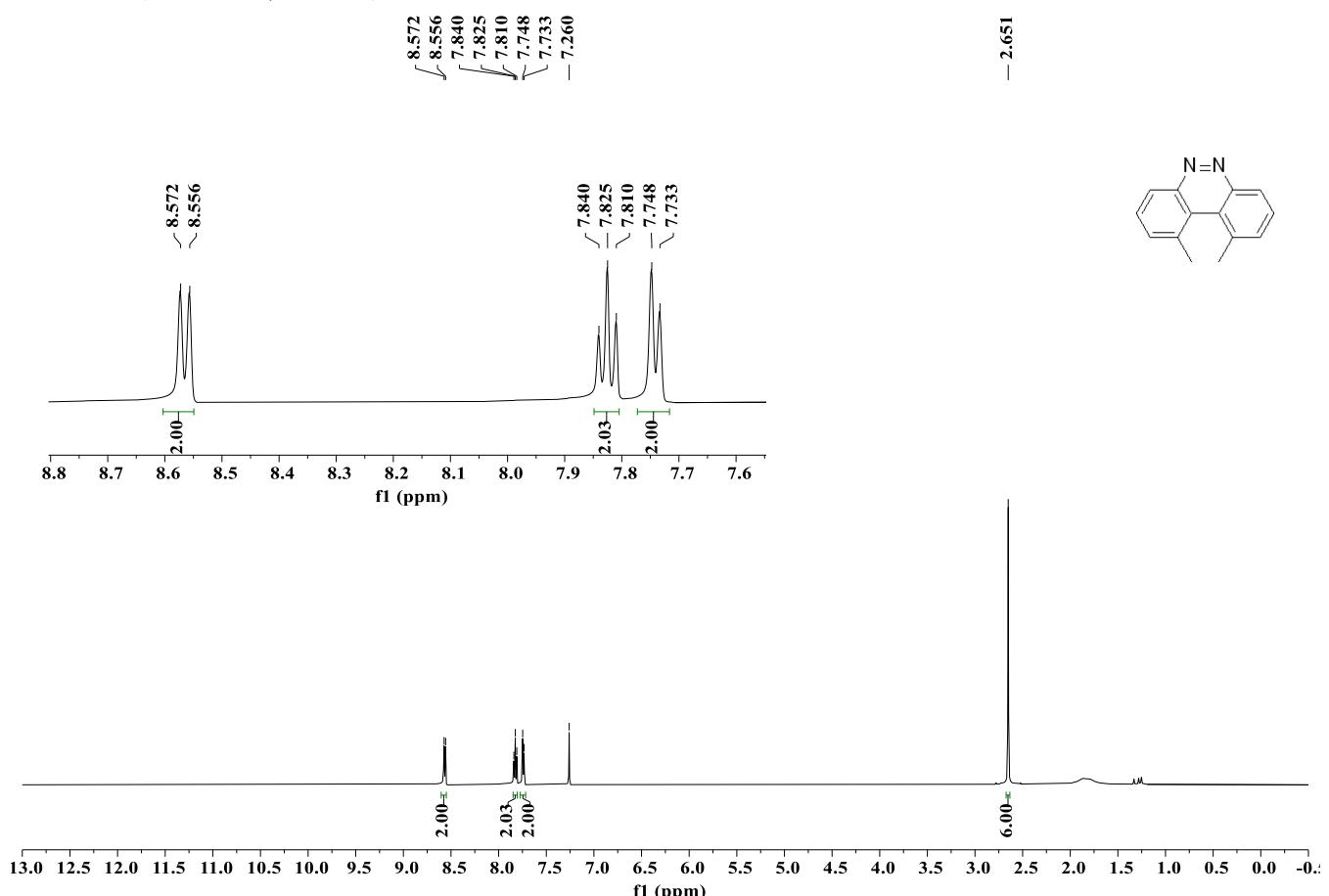
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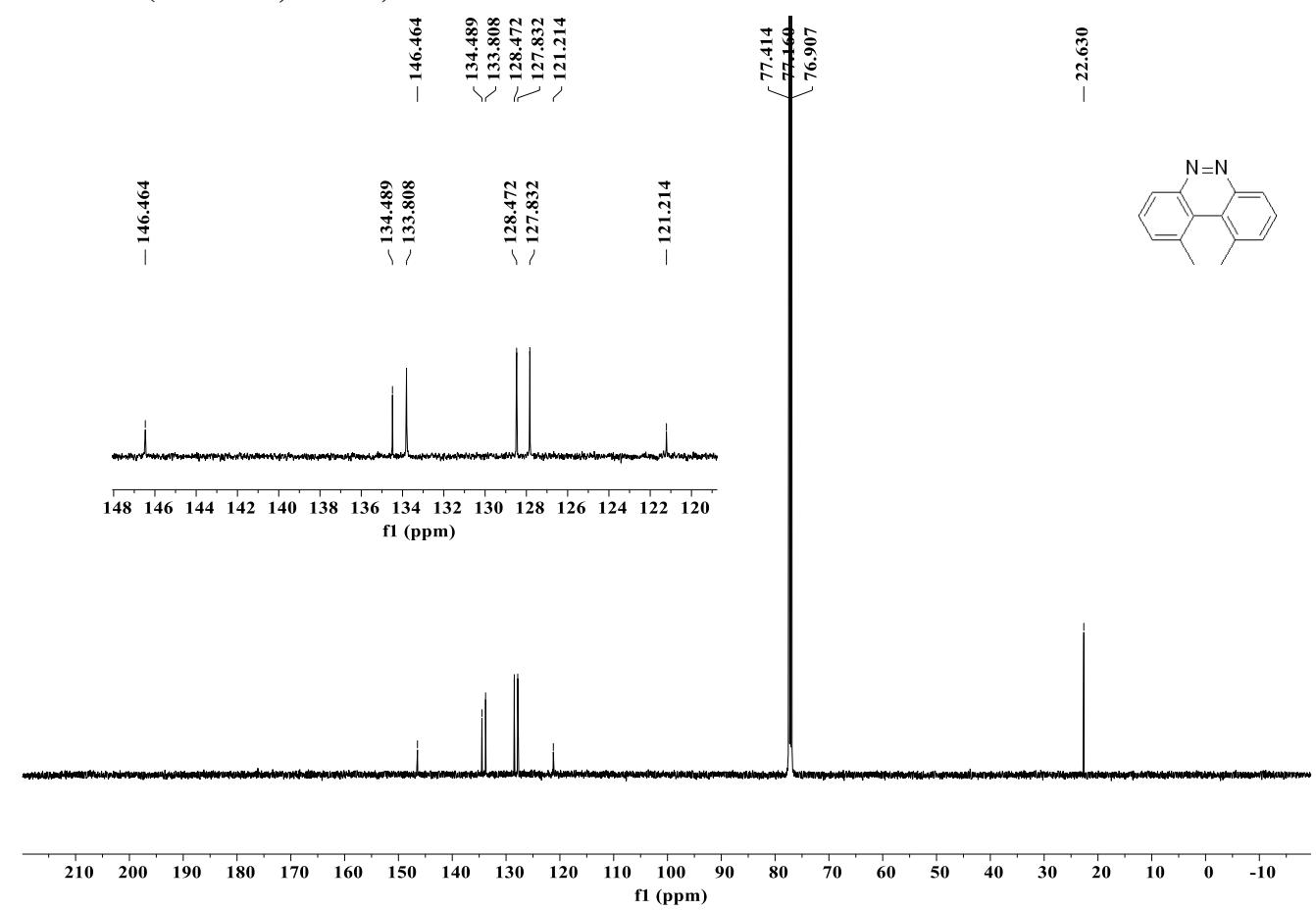
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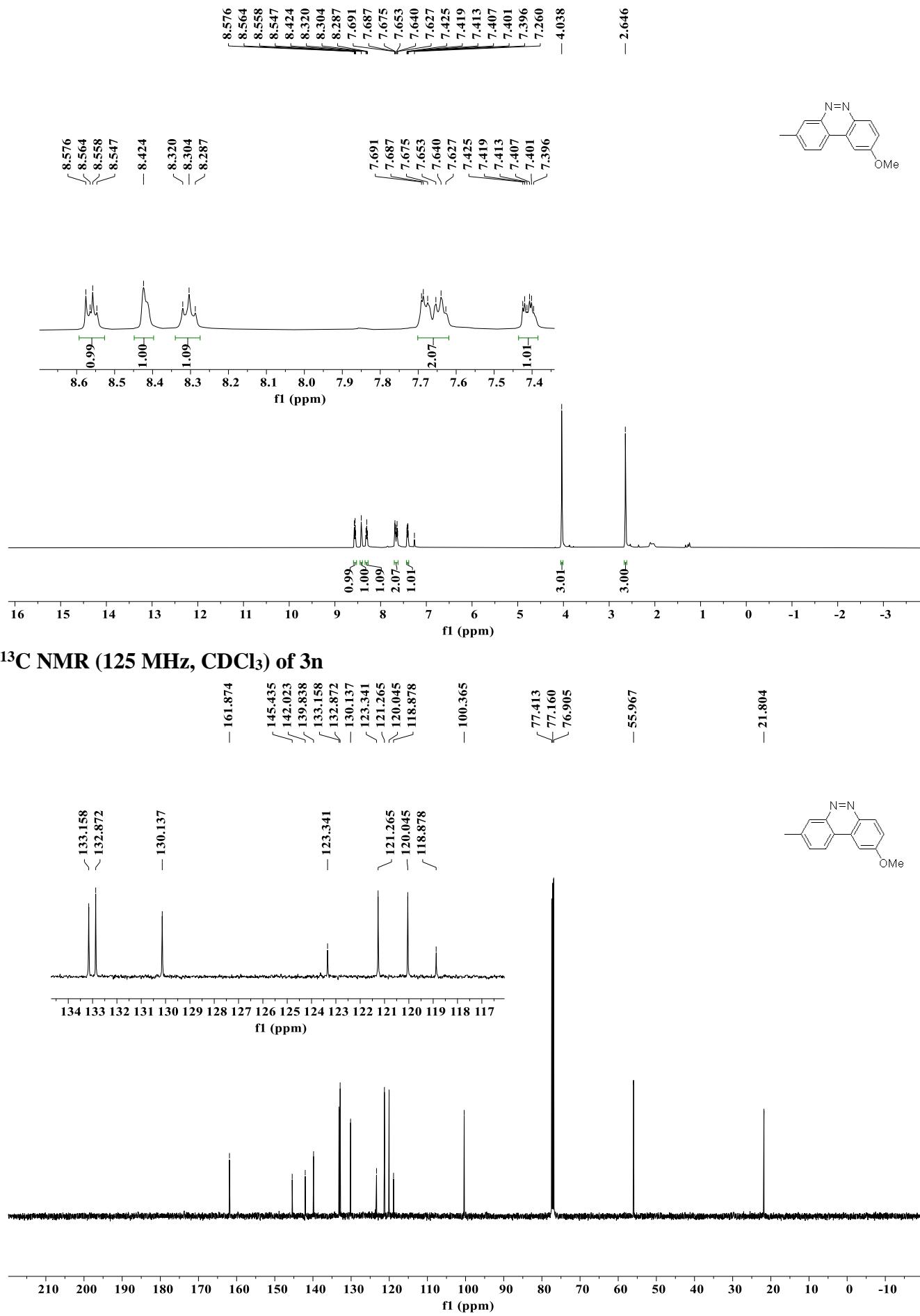
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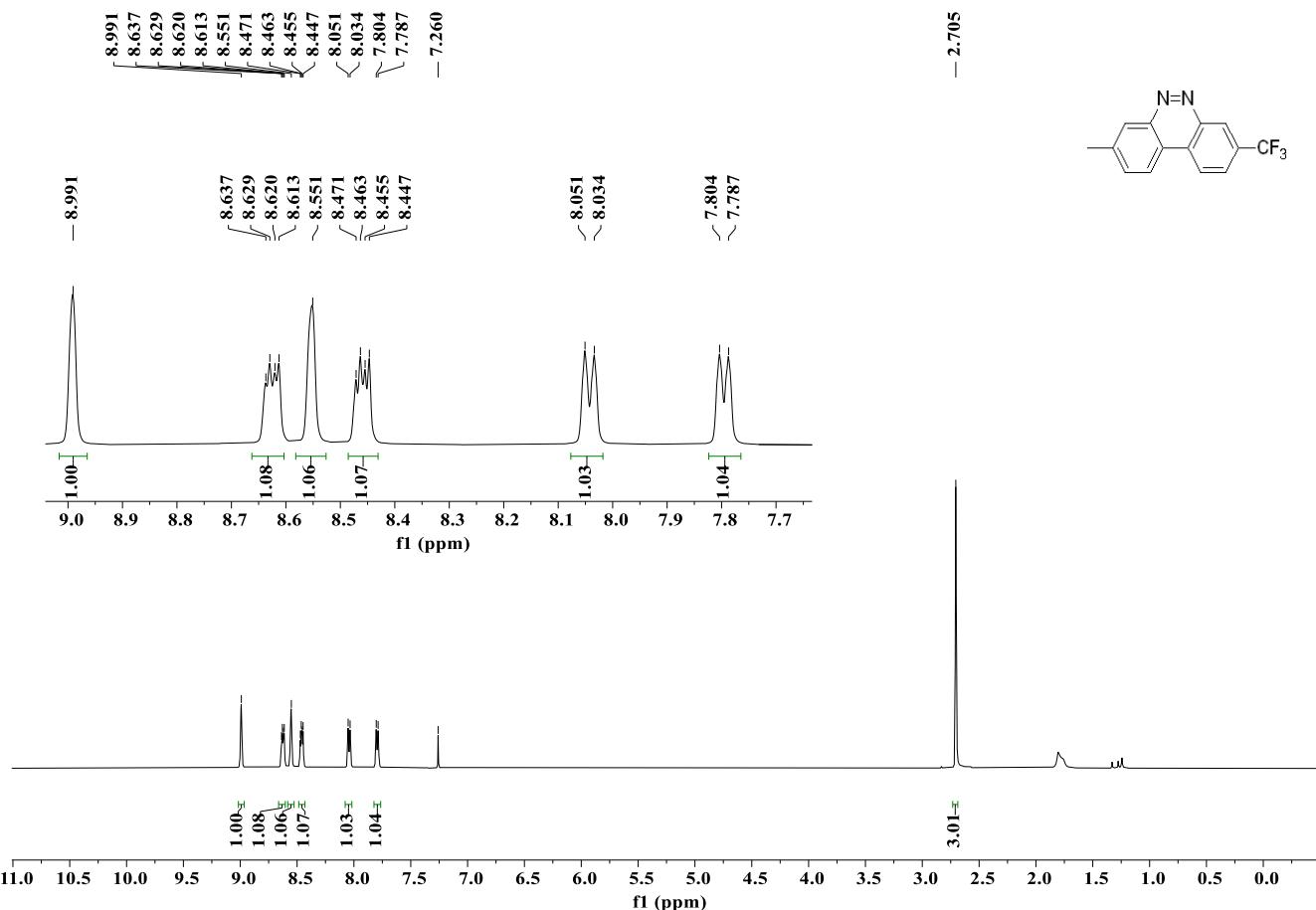
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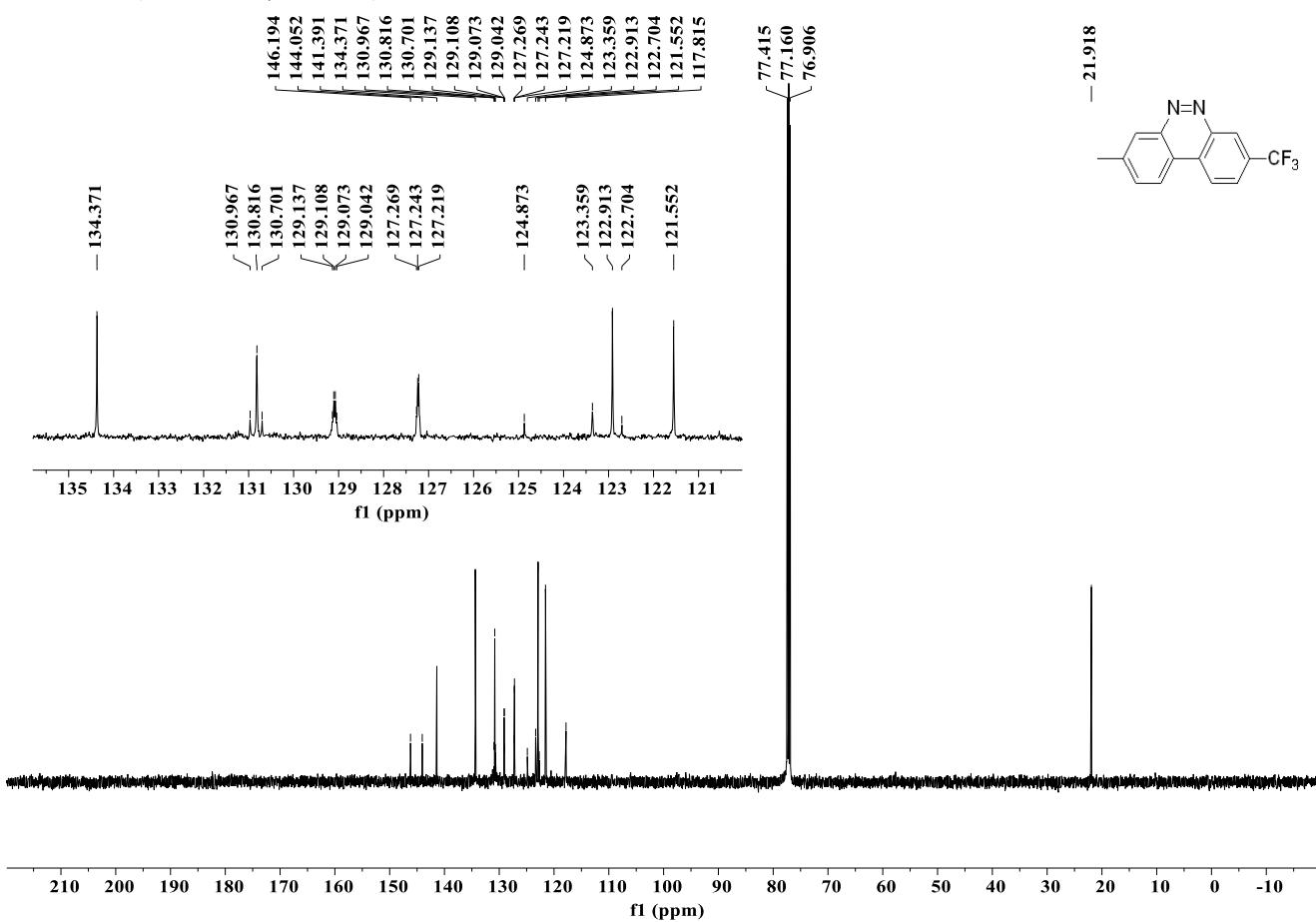
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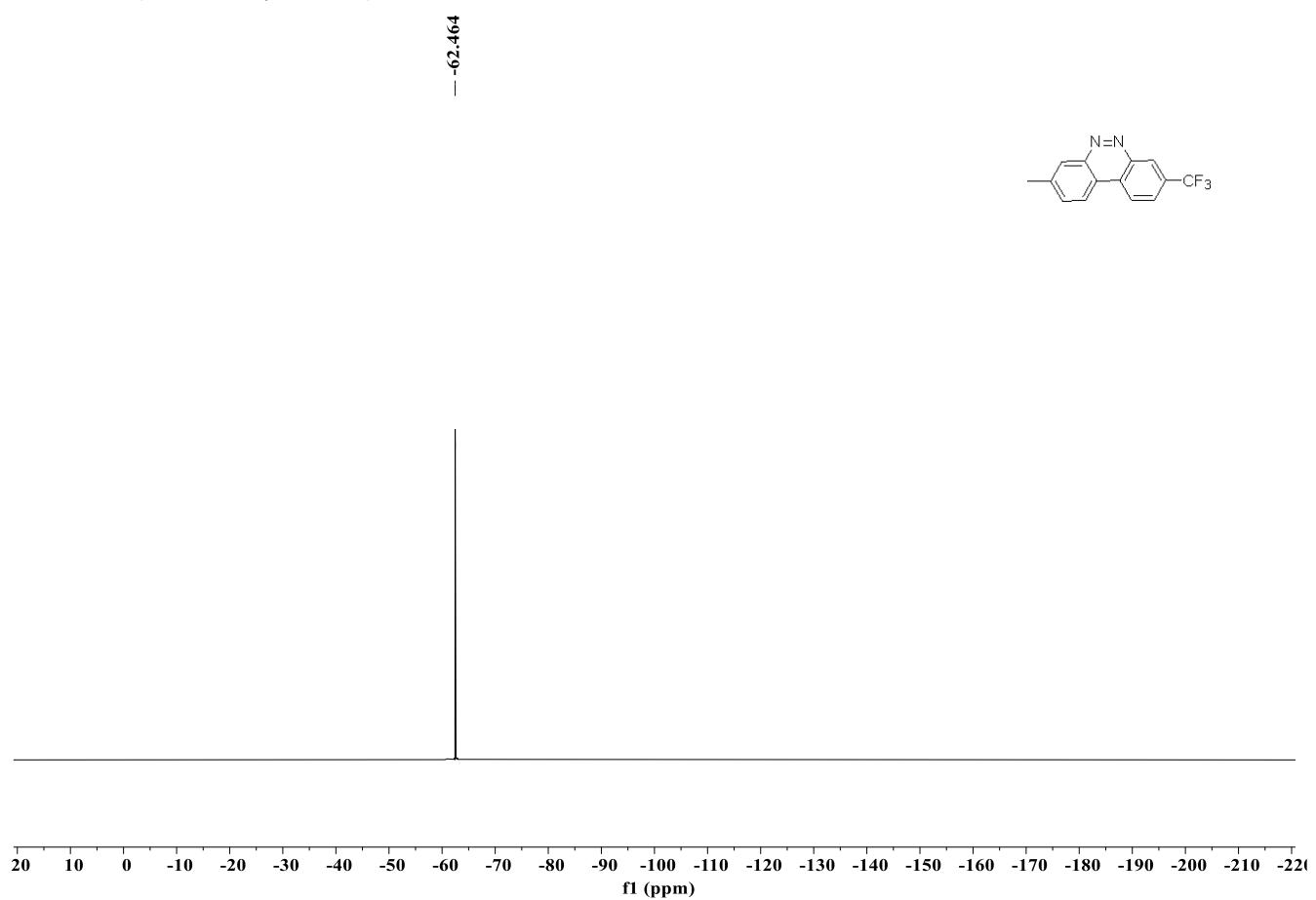
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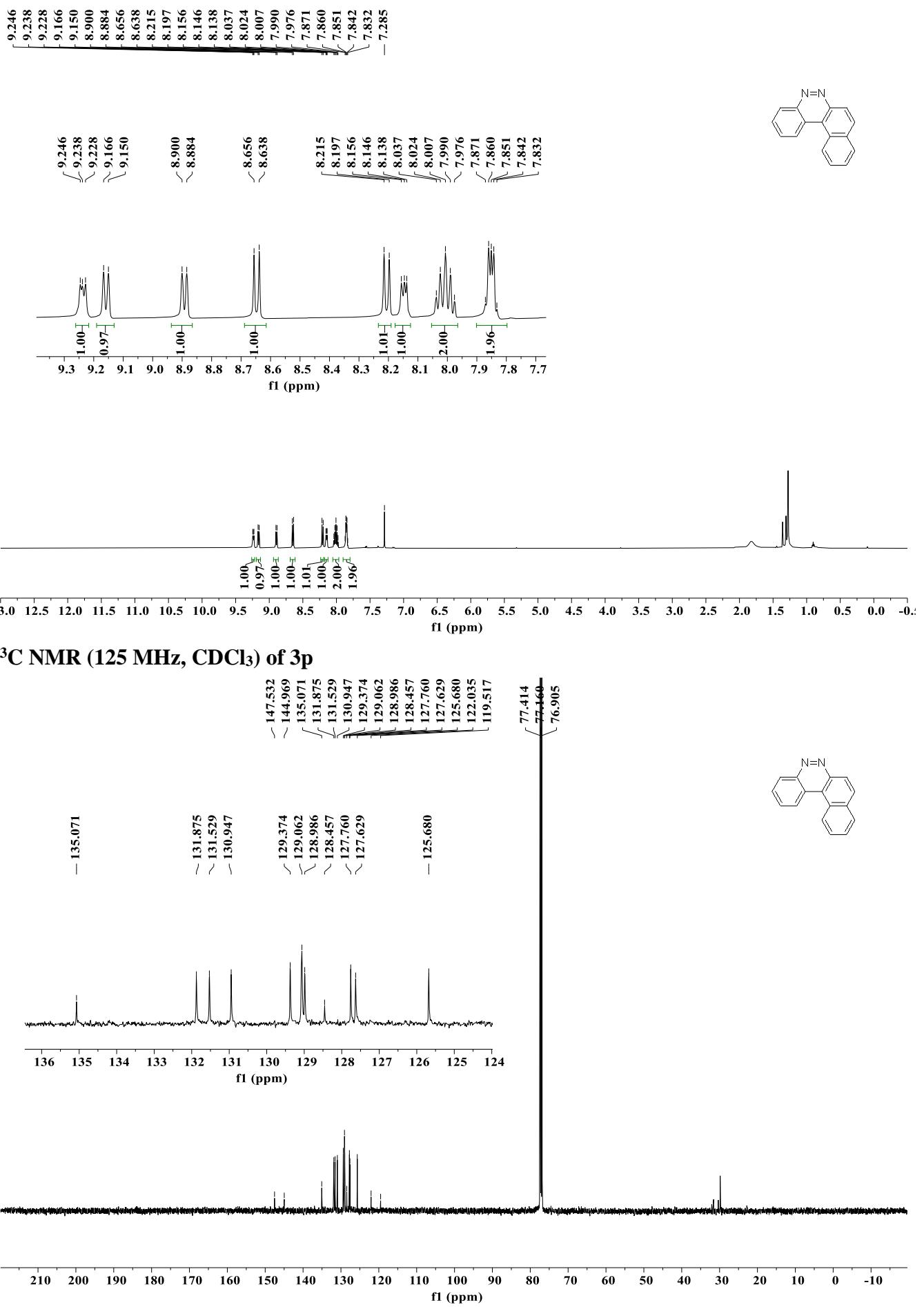
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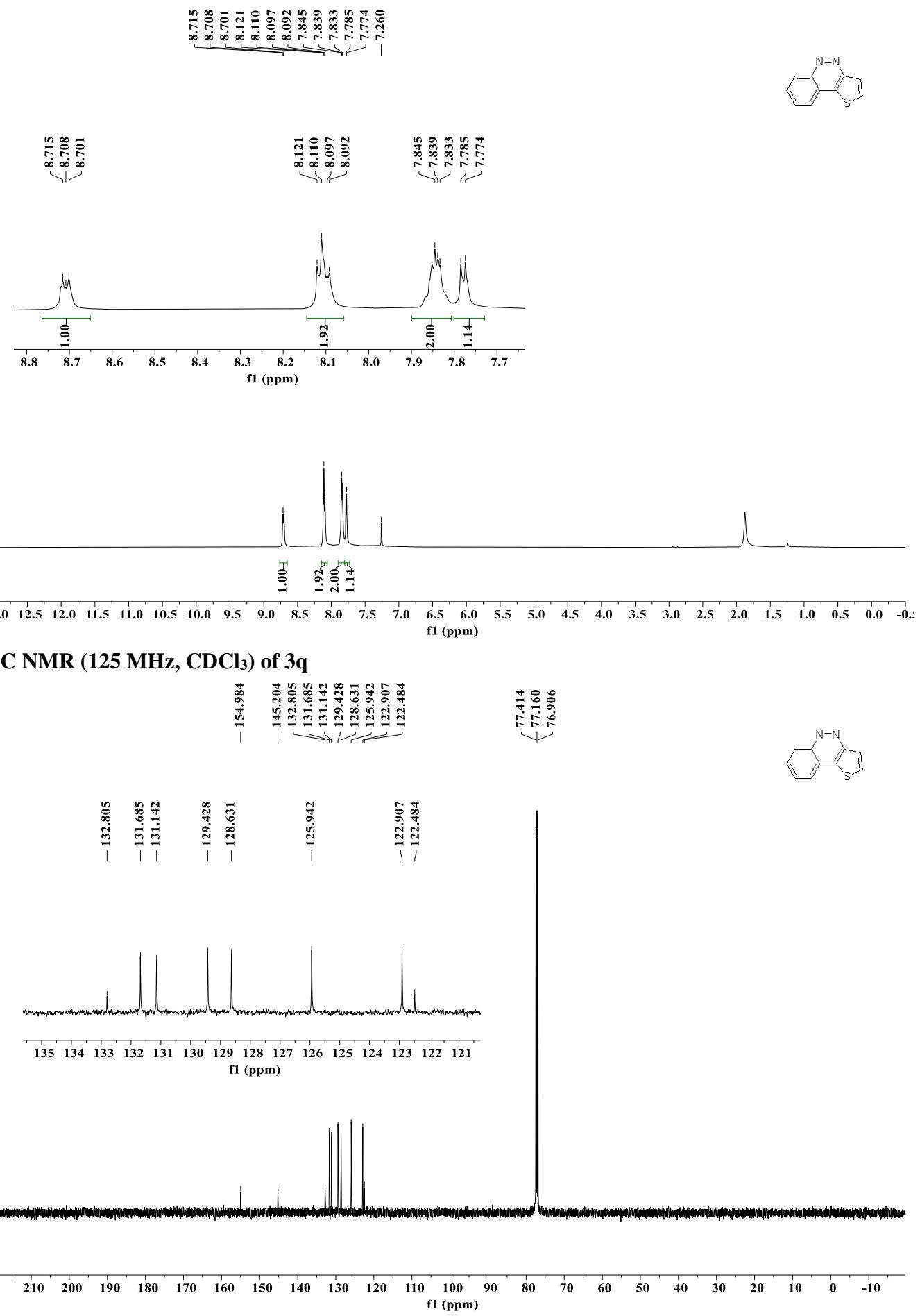
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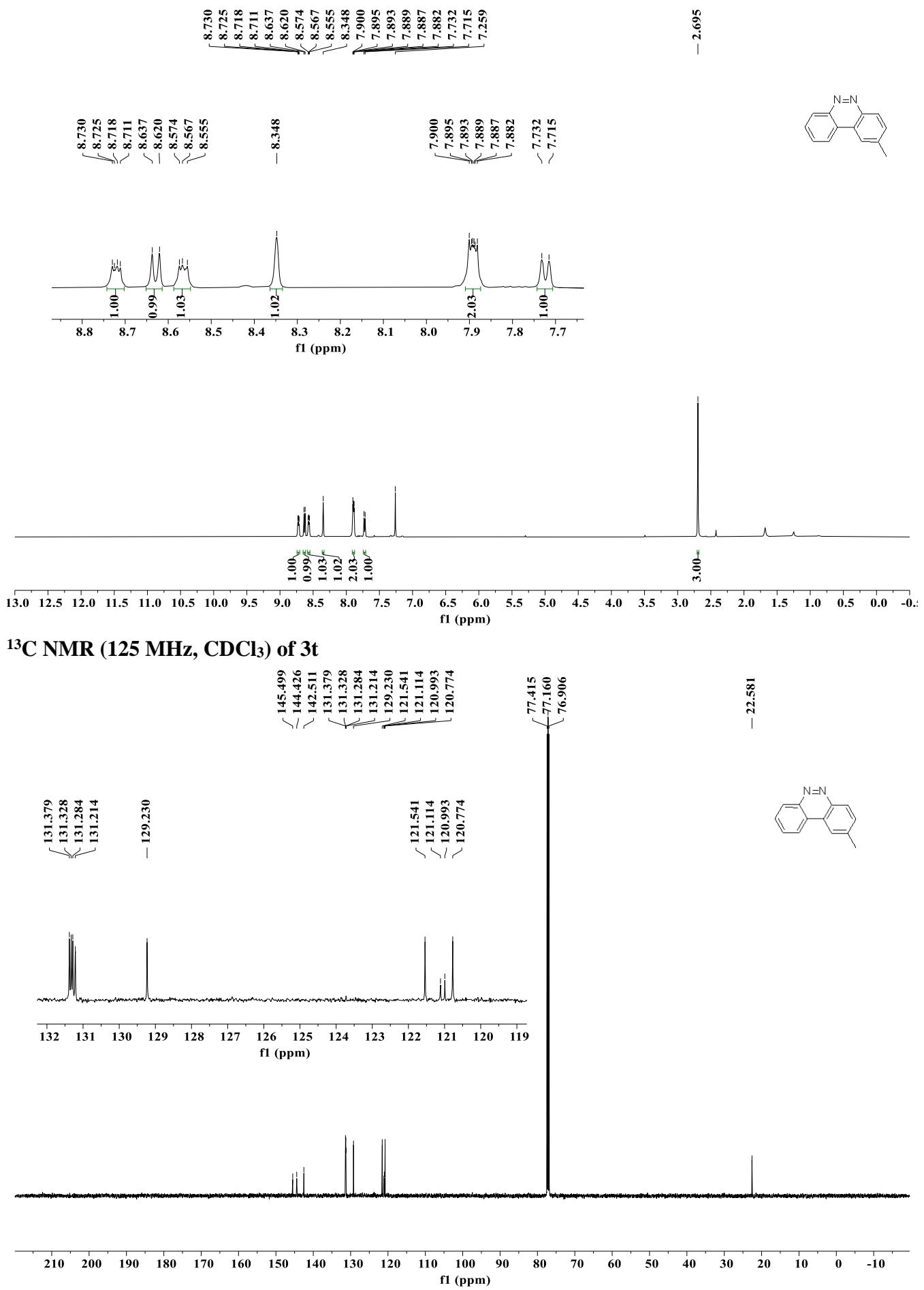
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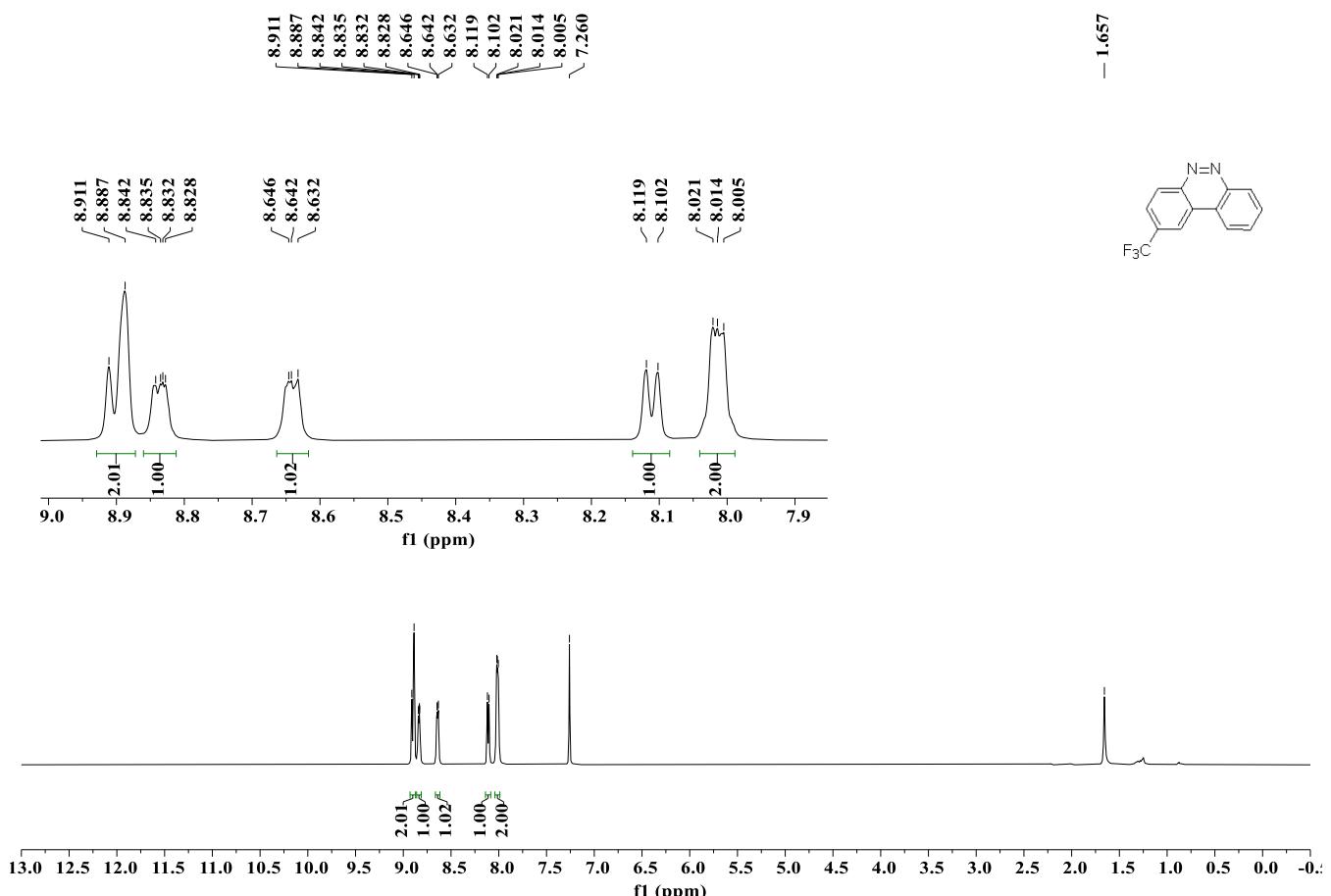
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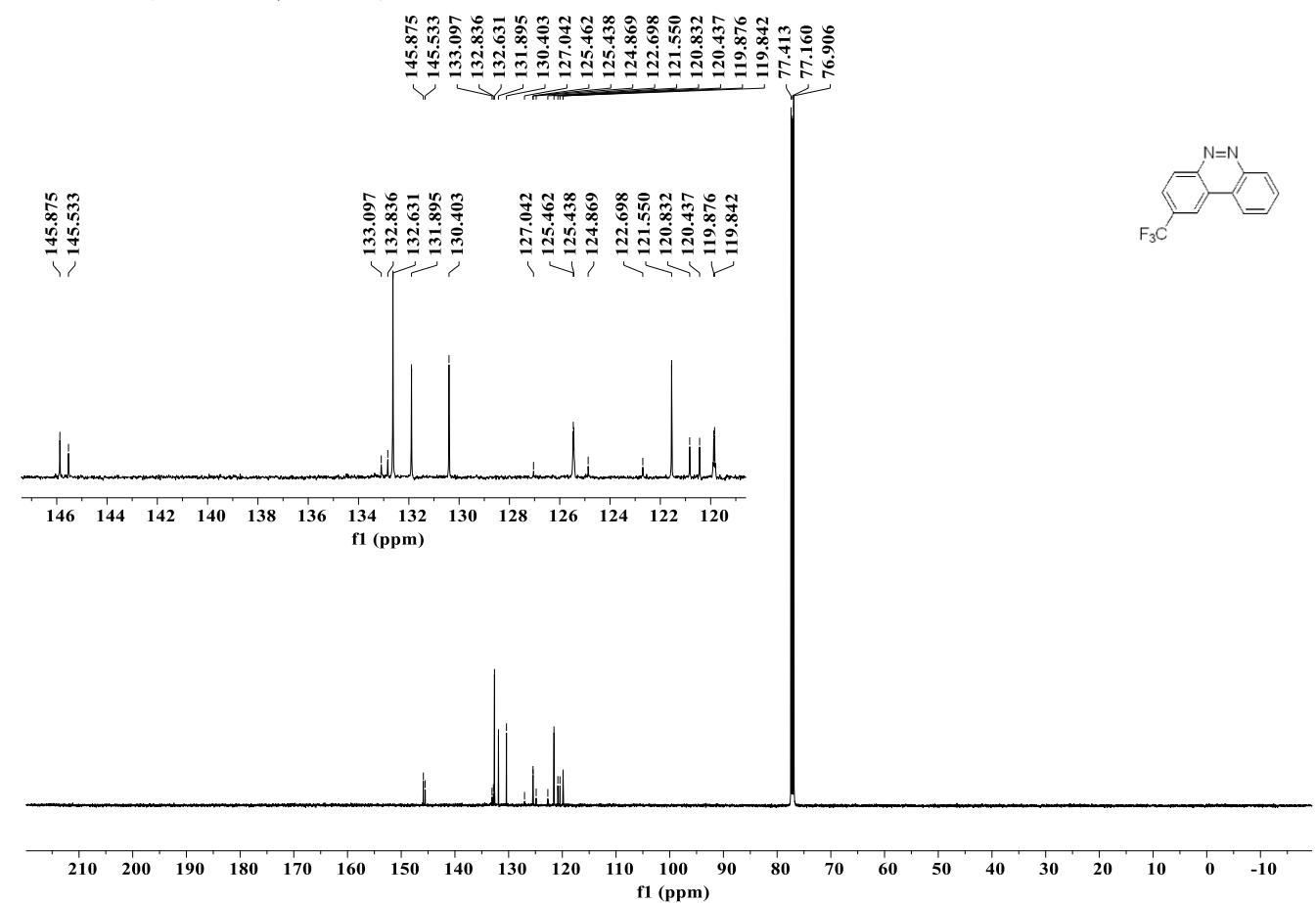
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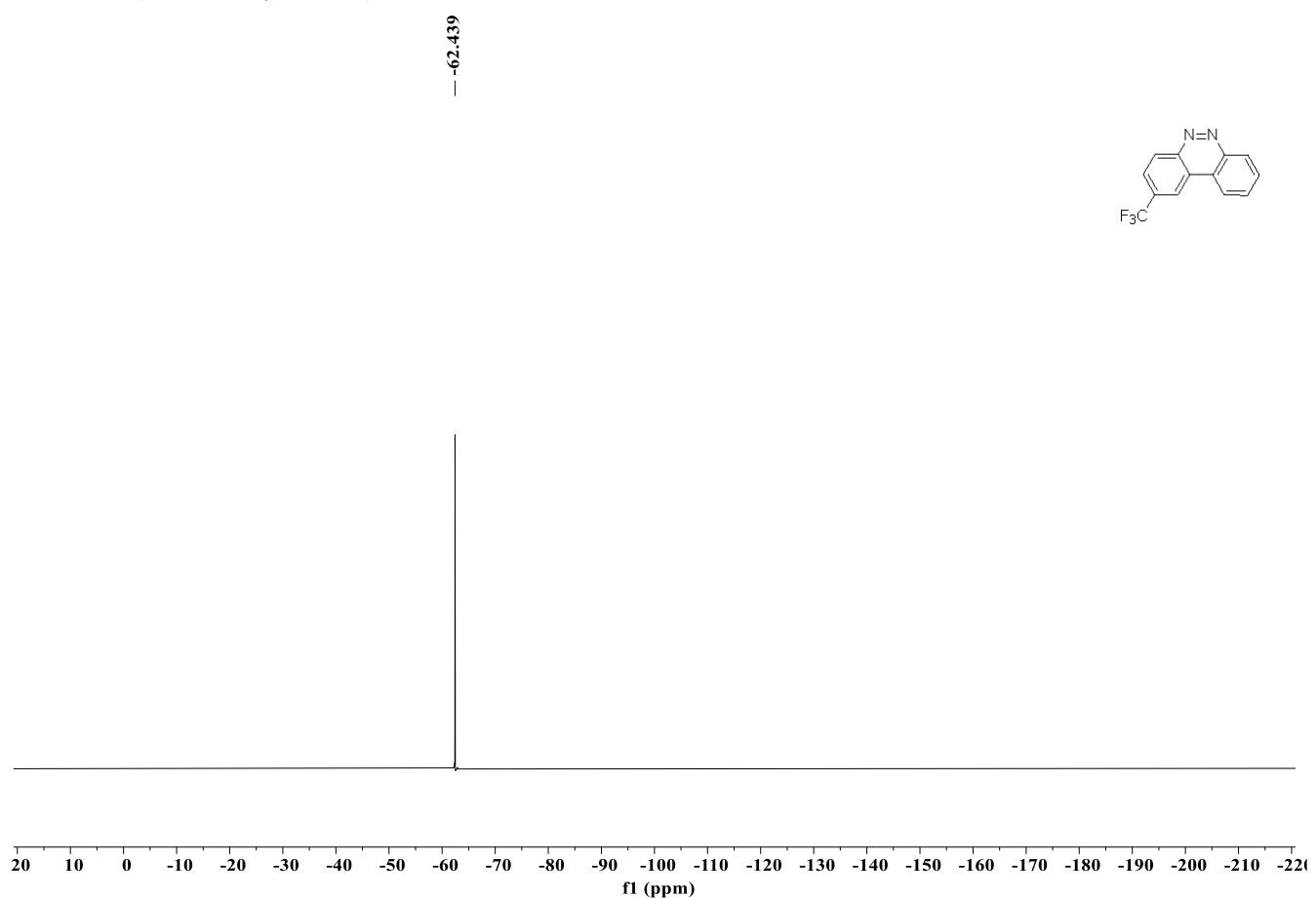
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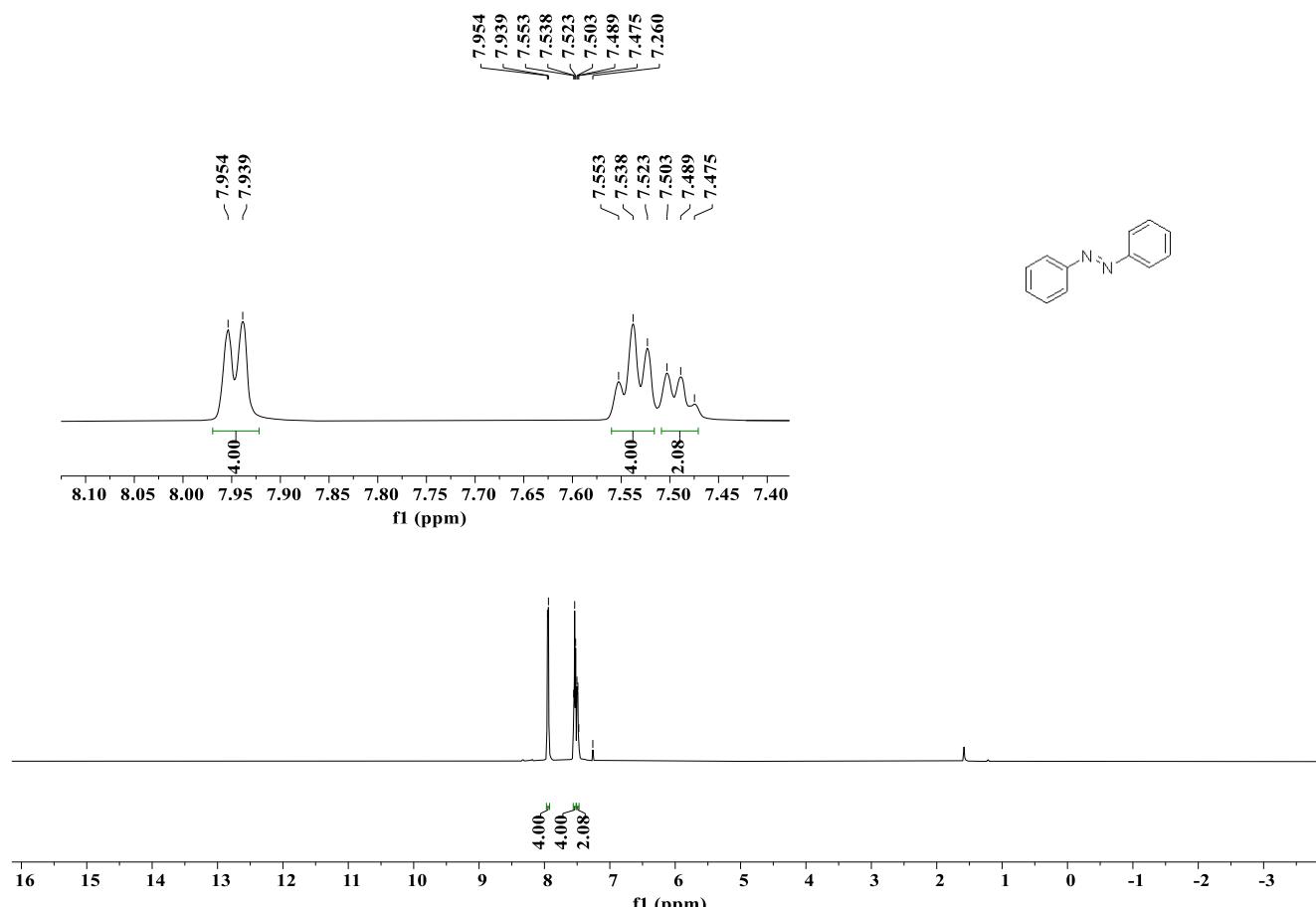
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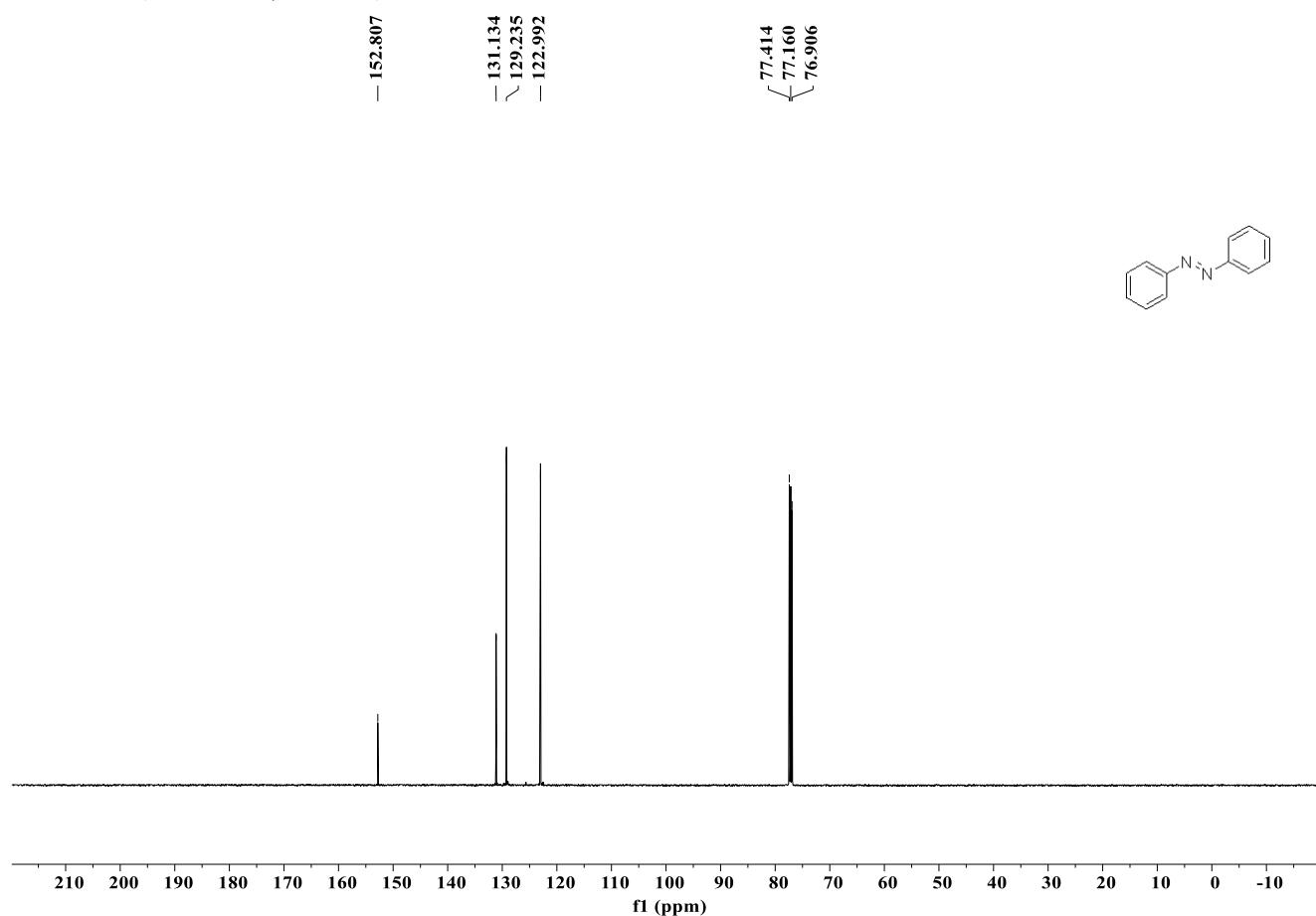
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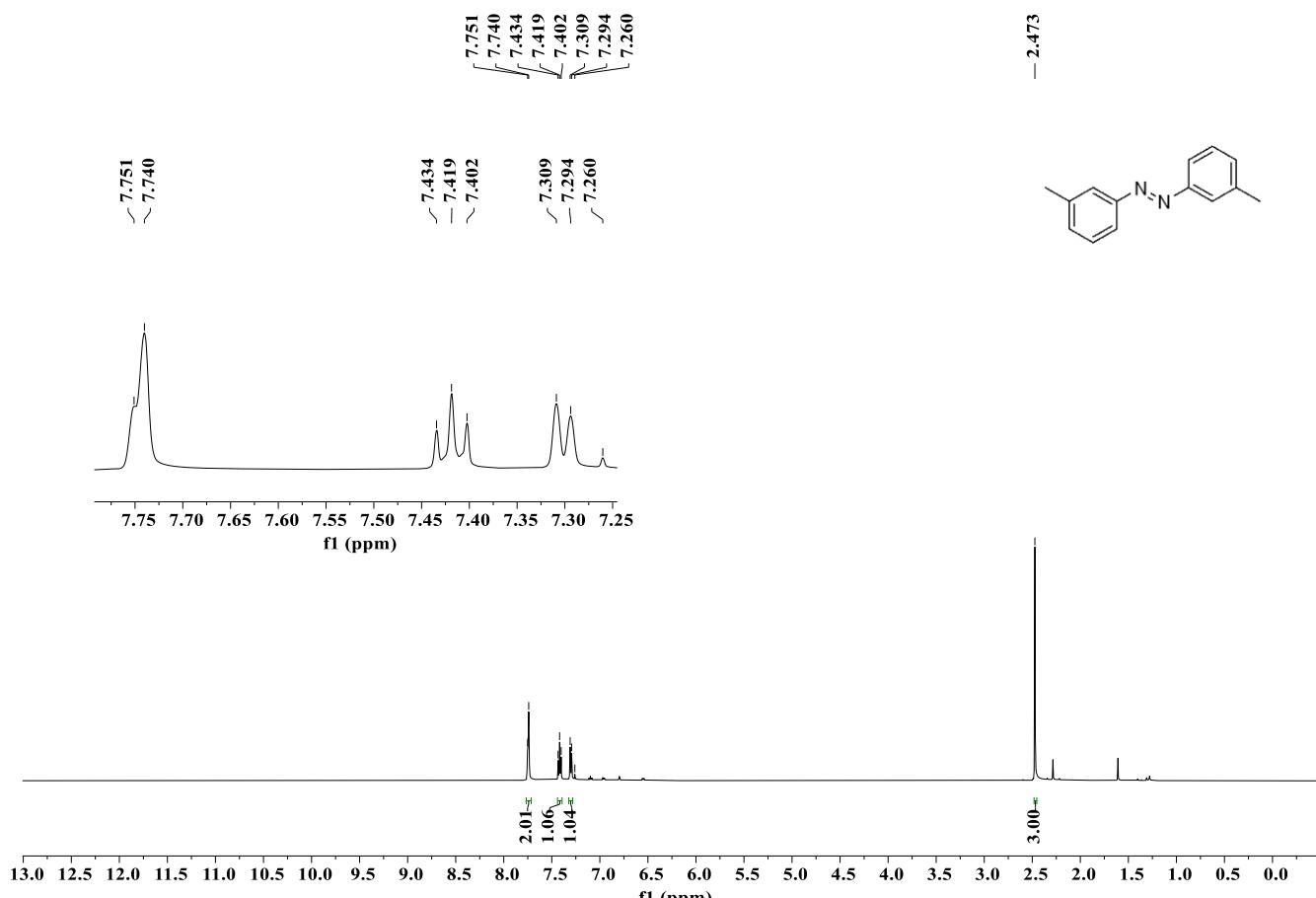
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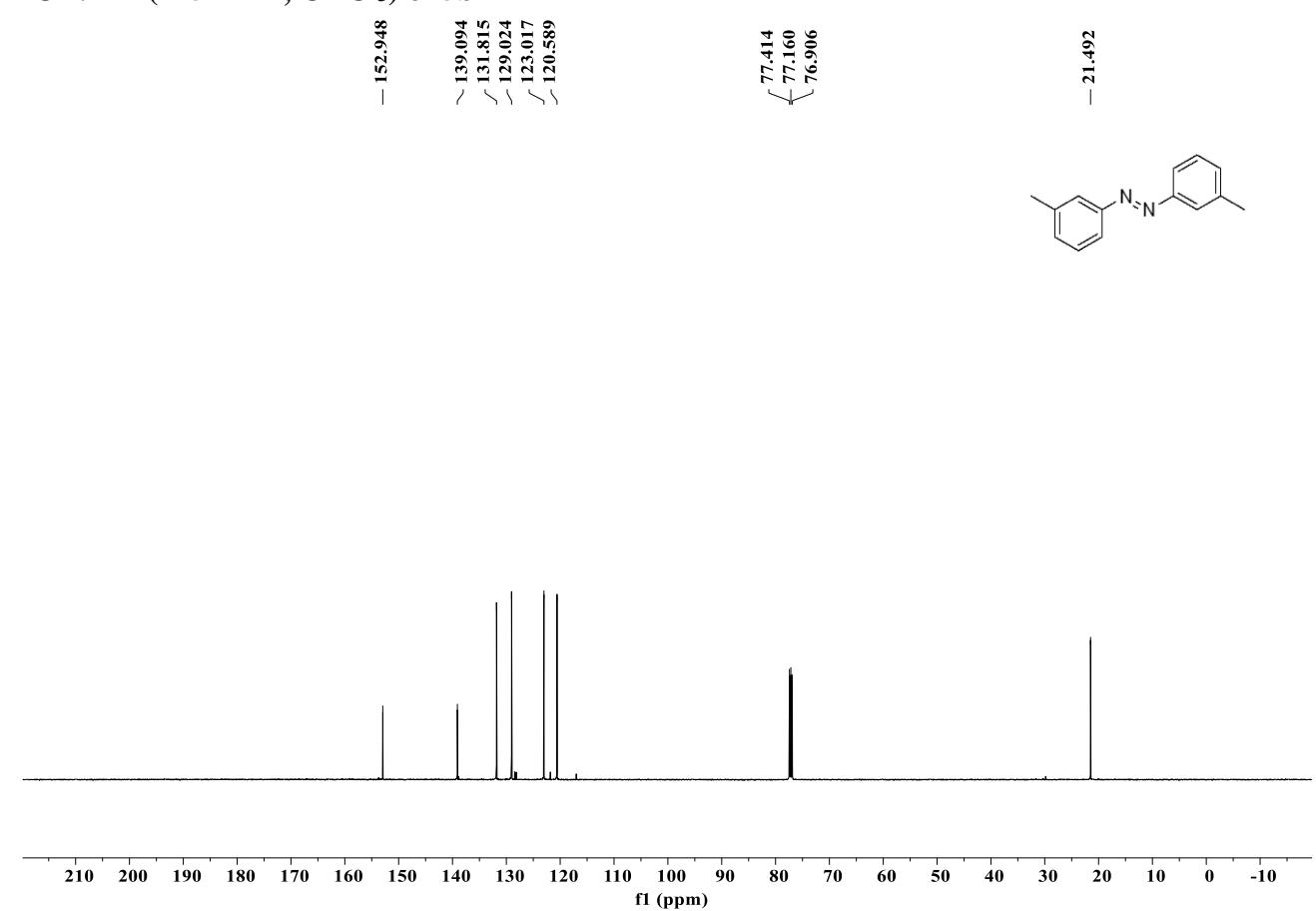
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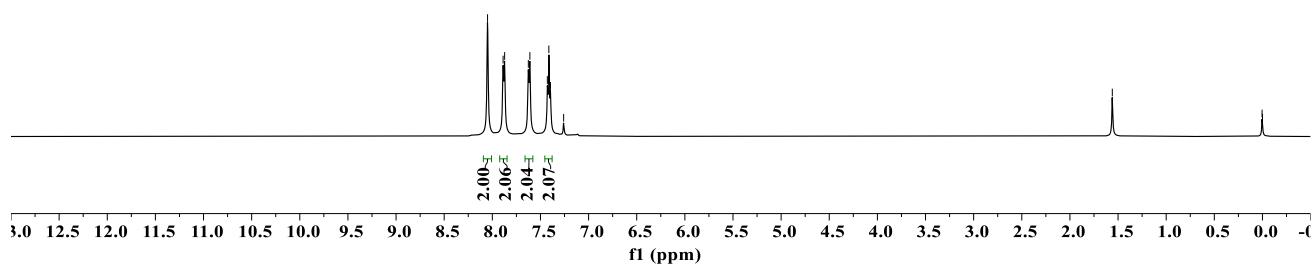
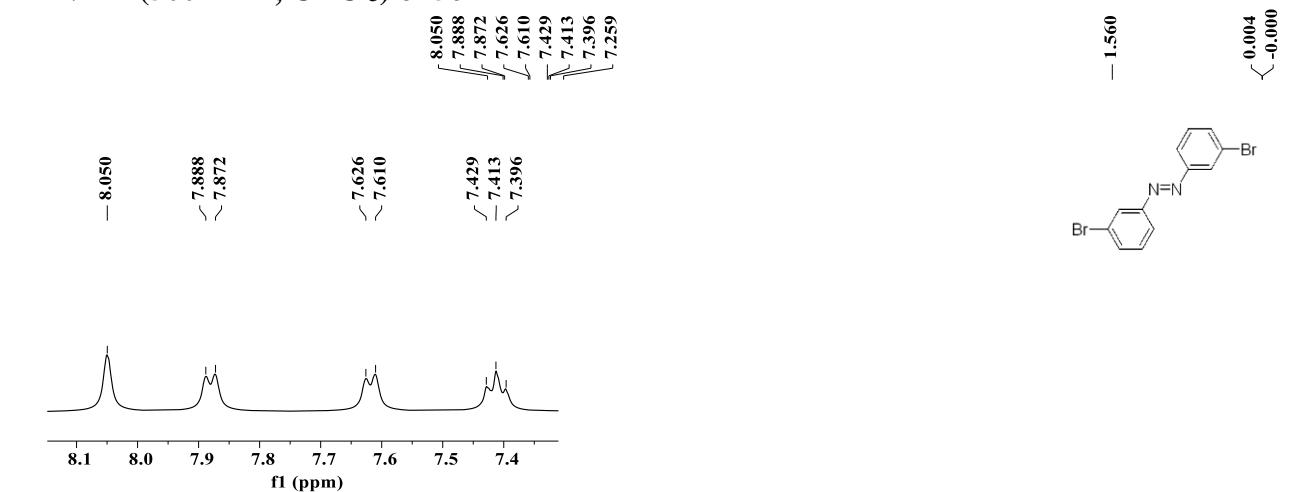
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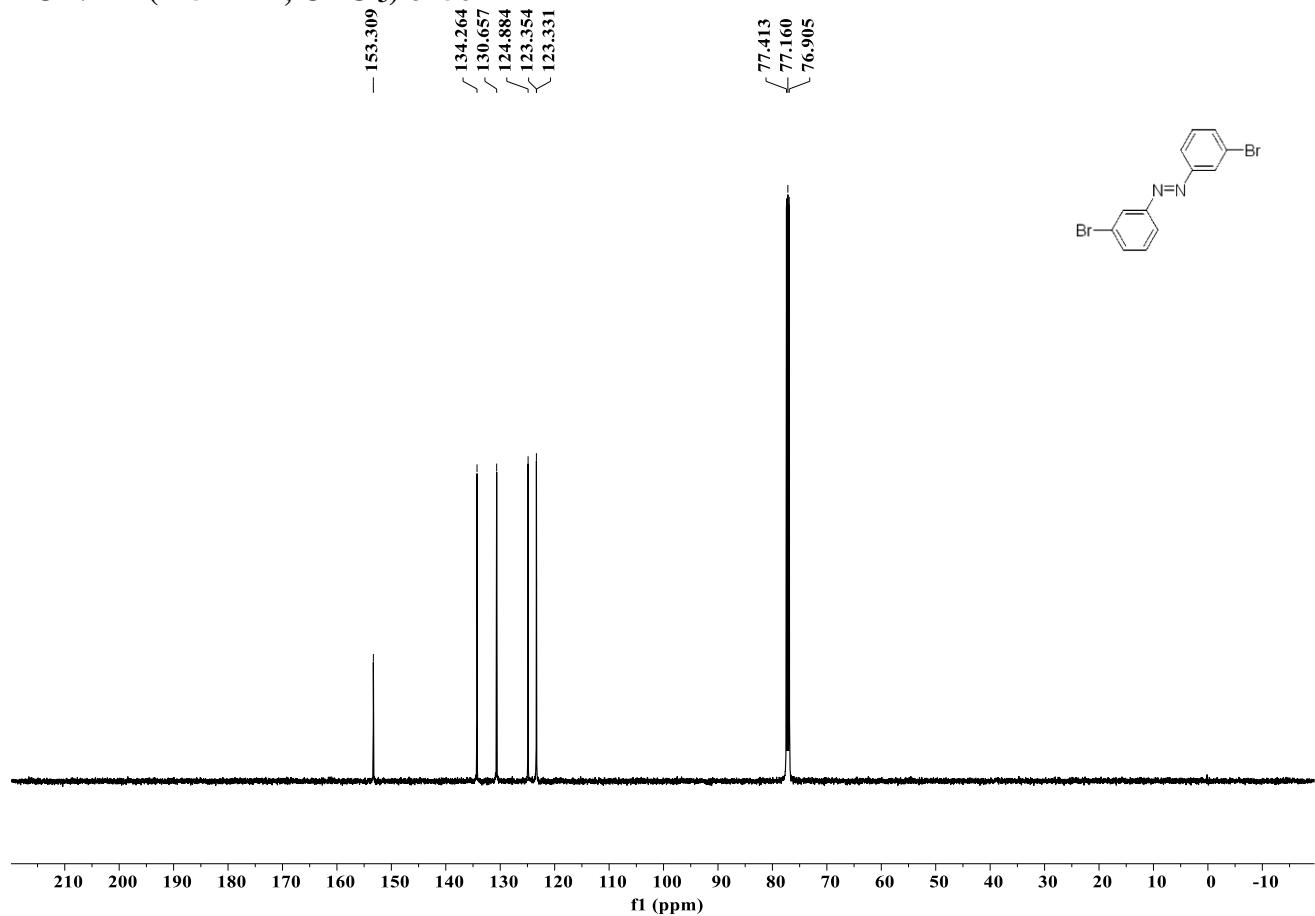
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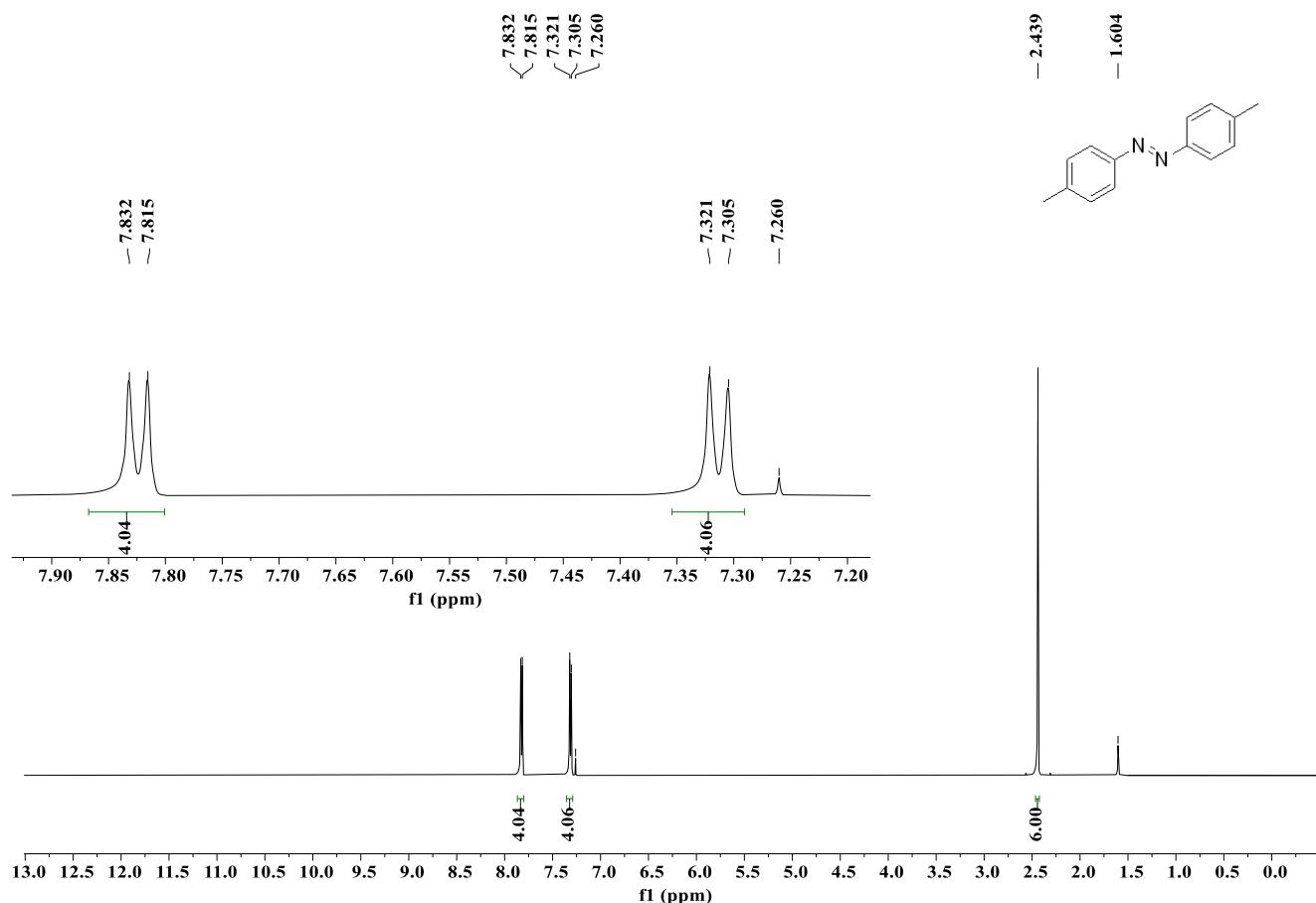
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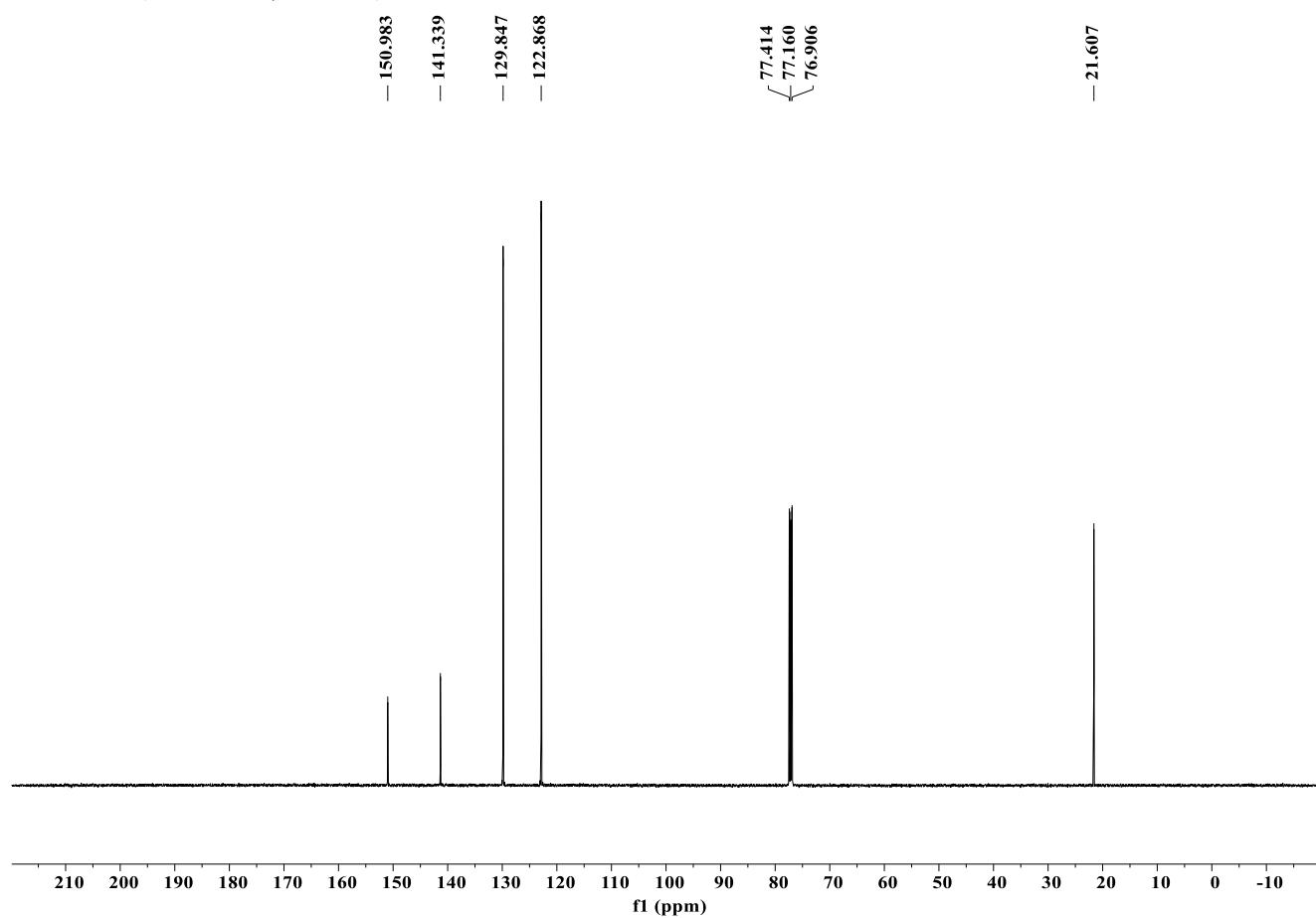
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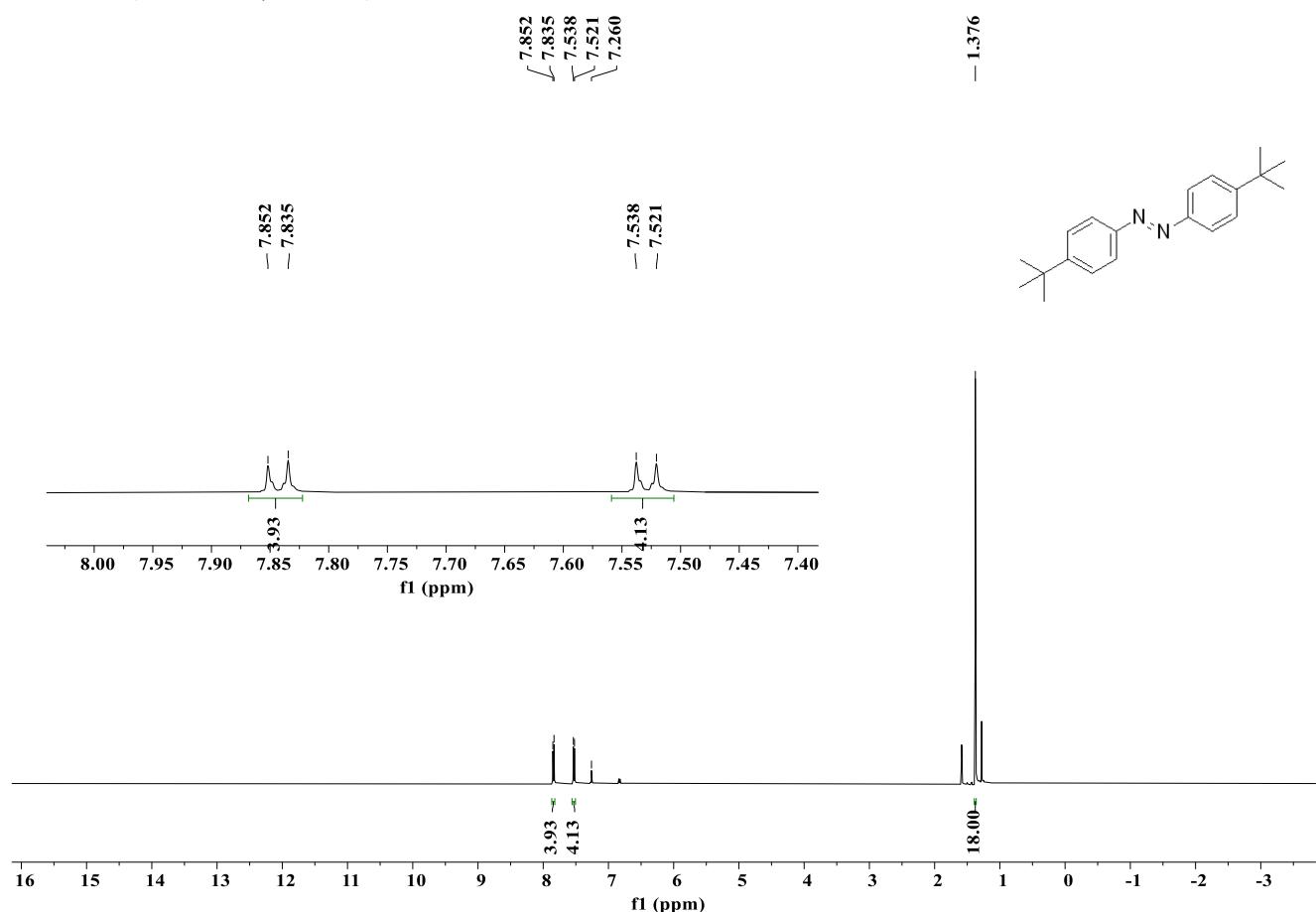
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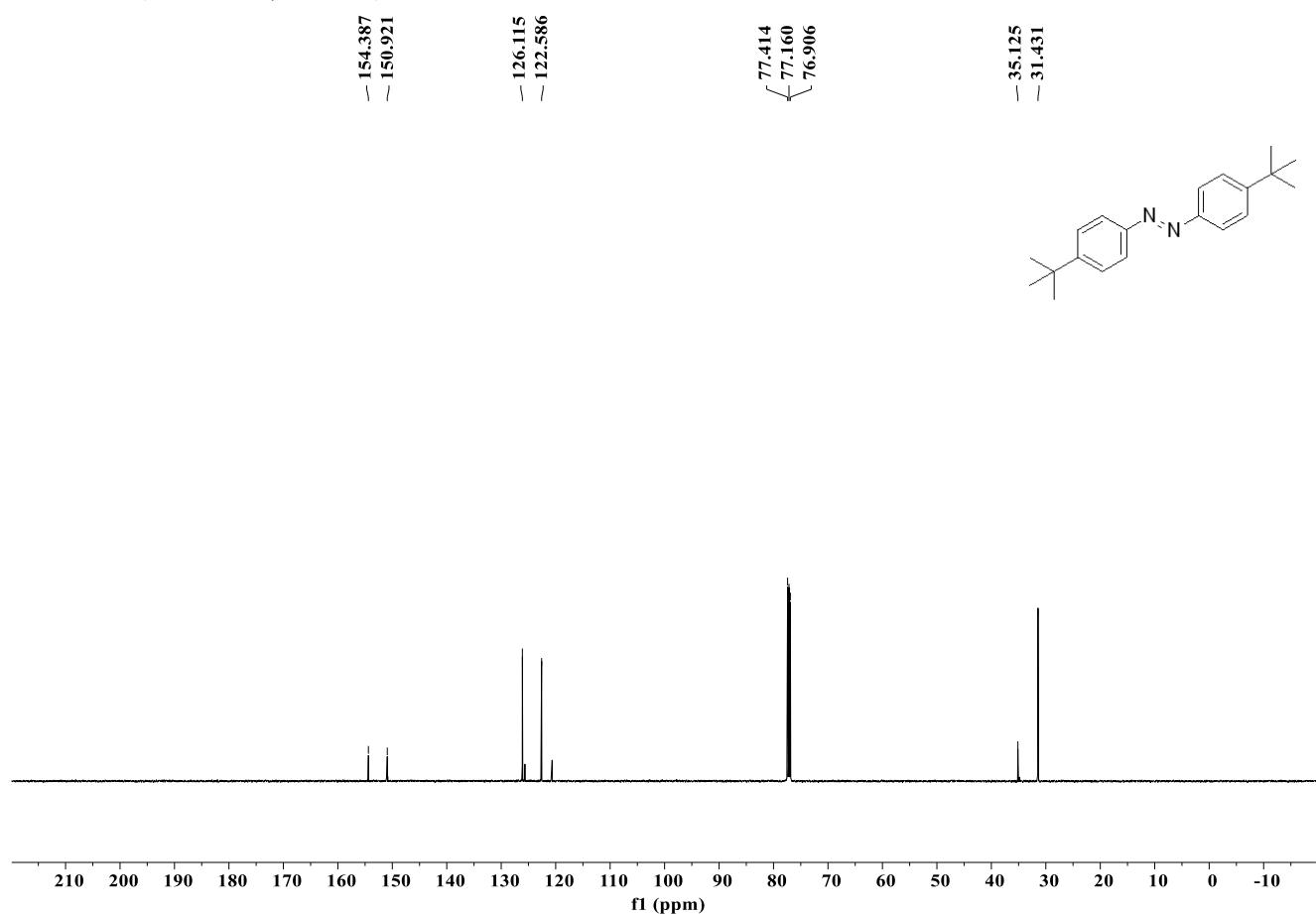
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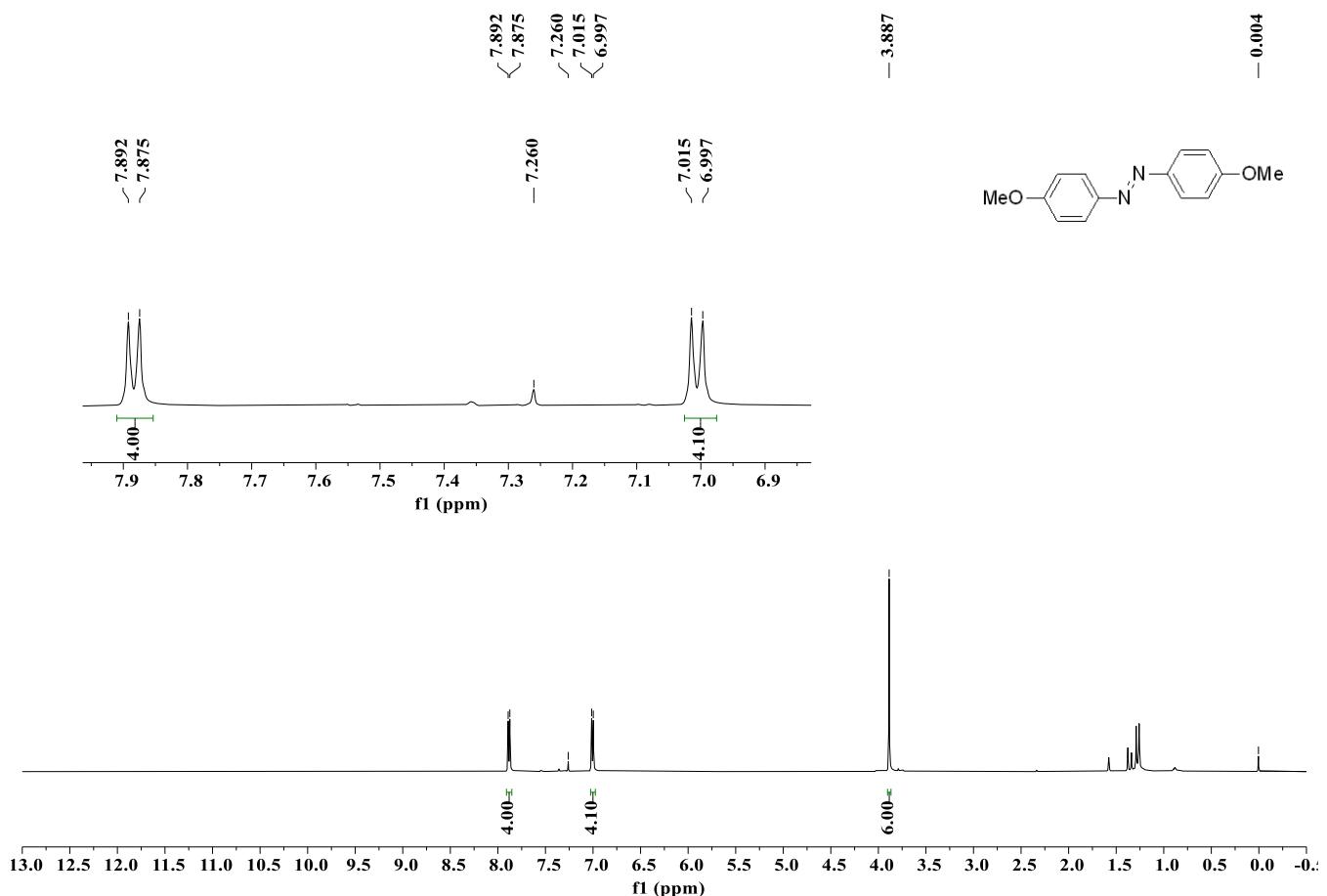
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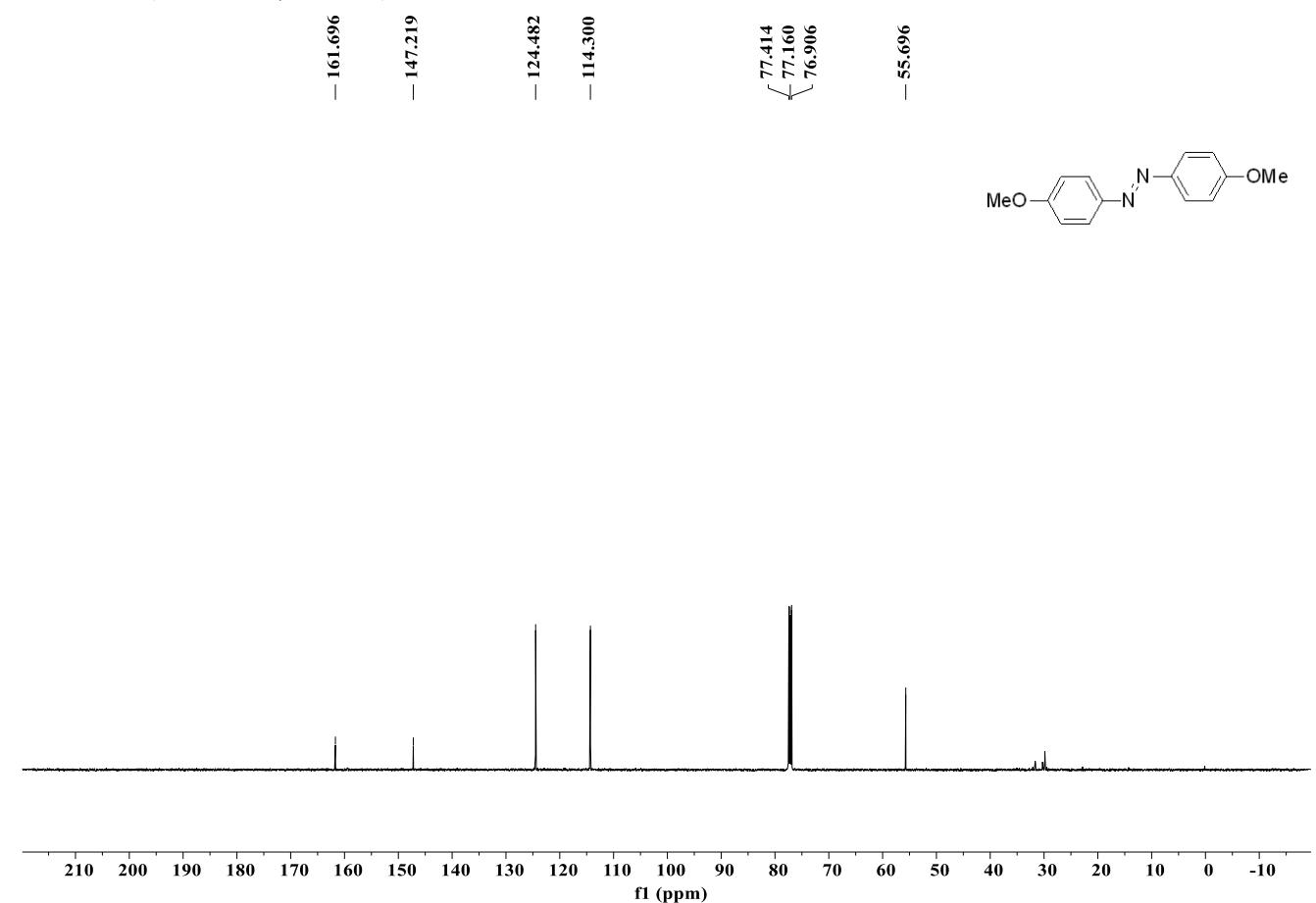
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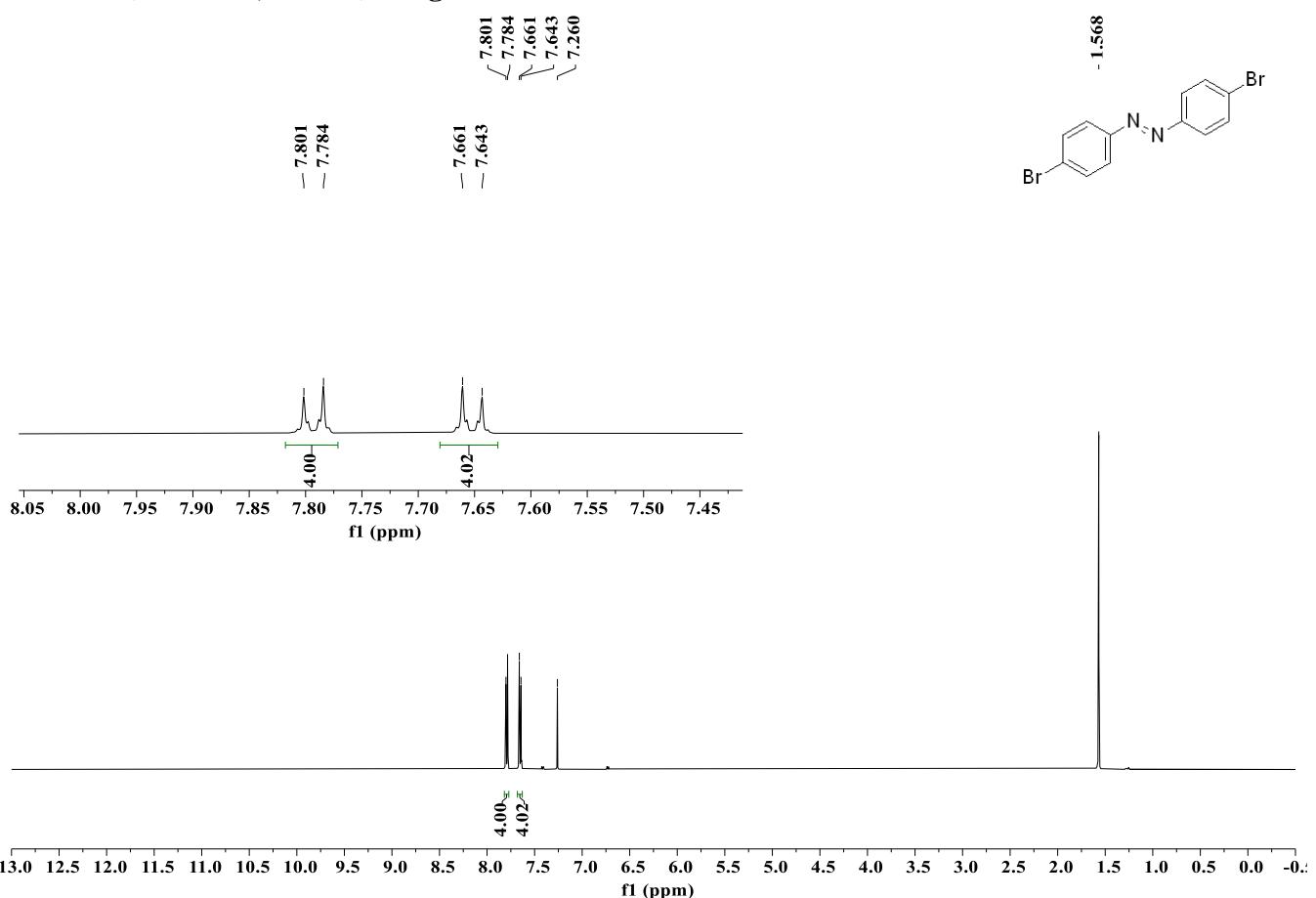
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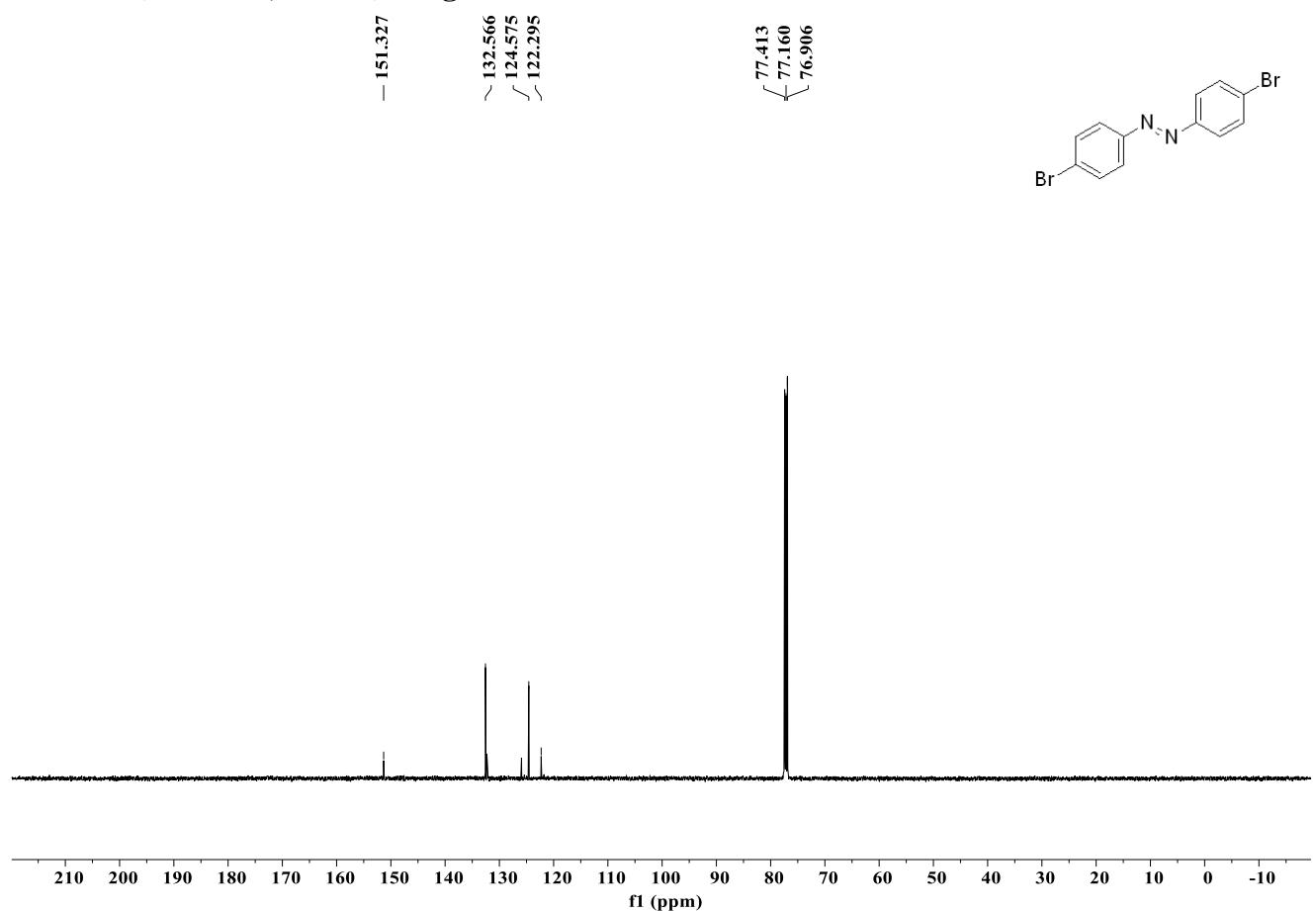
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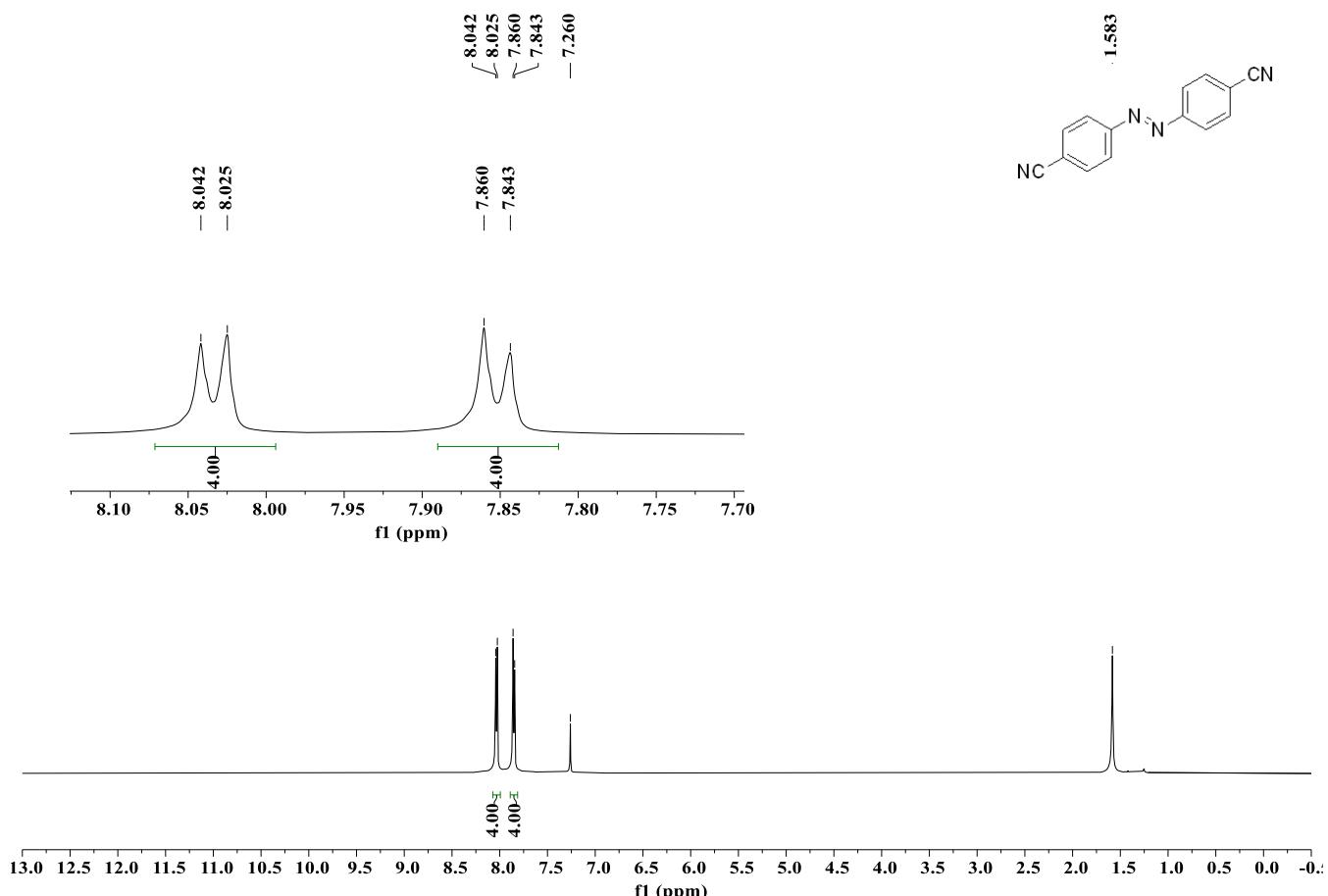
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 5g**



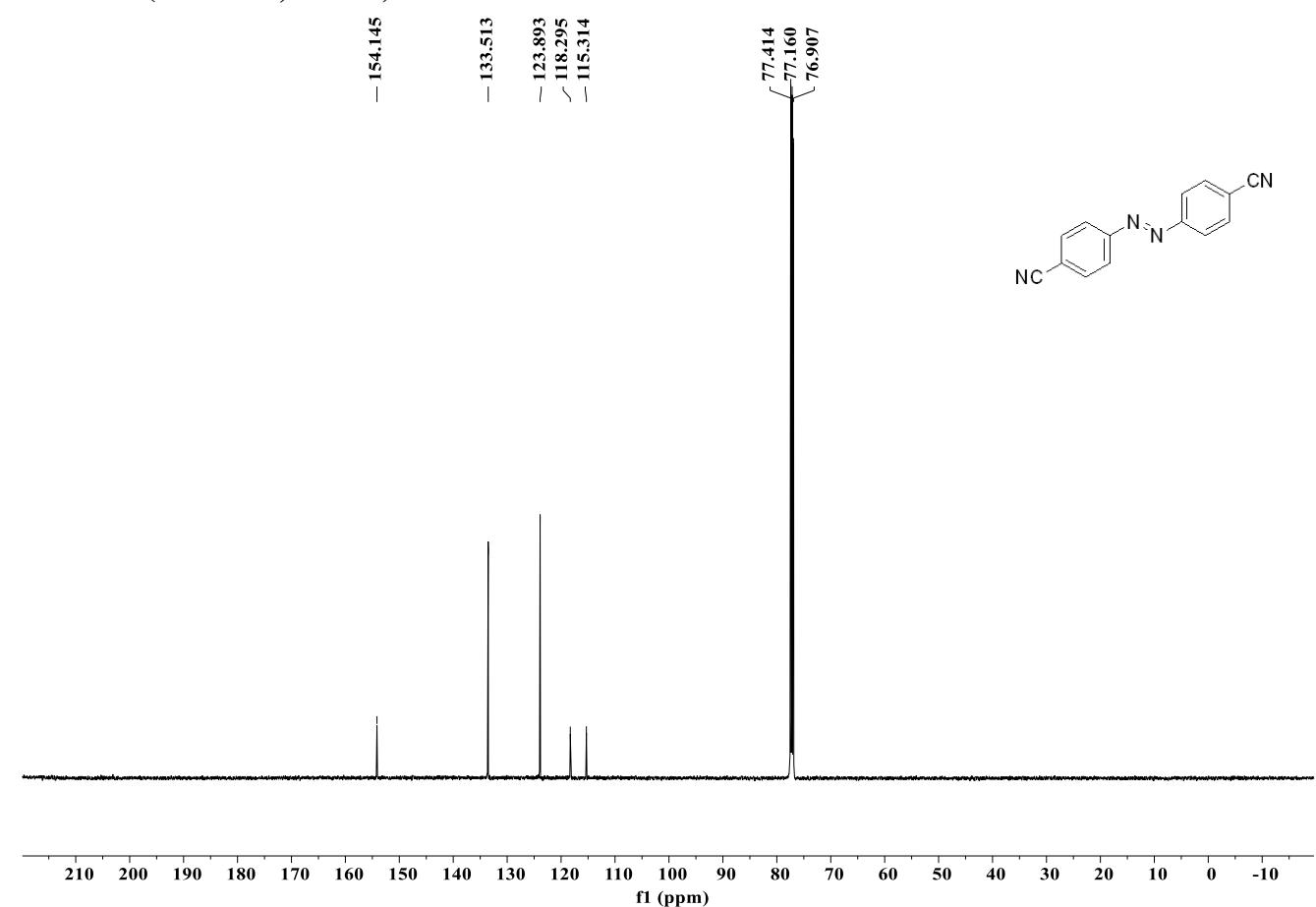
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 5g**



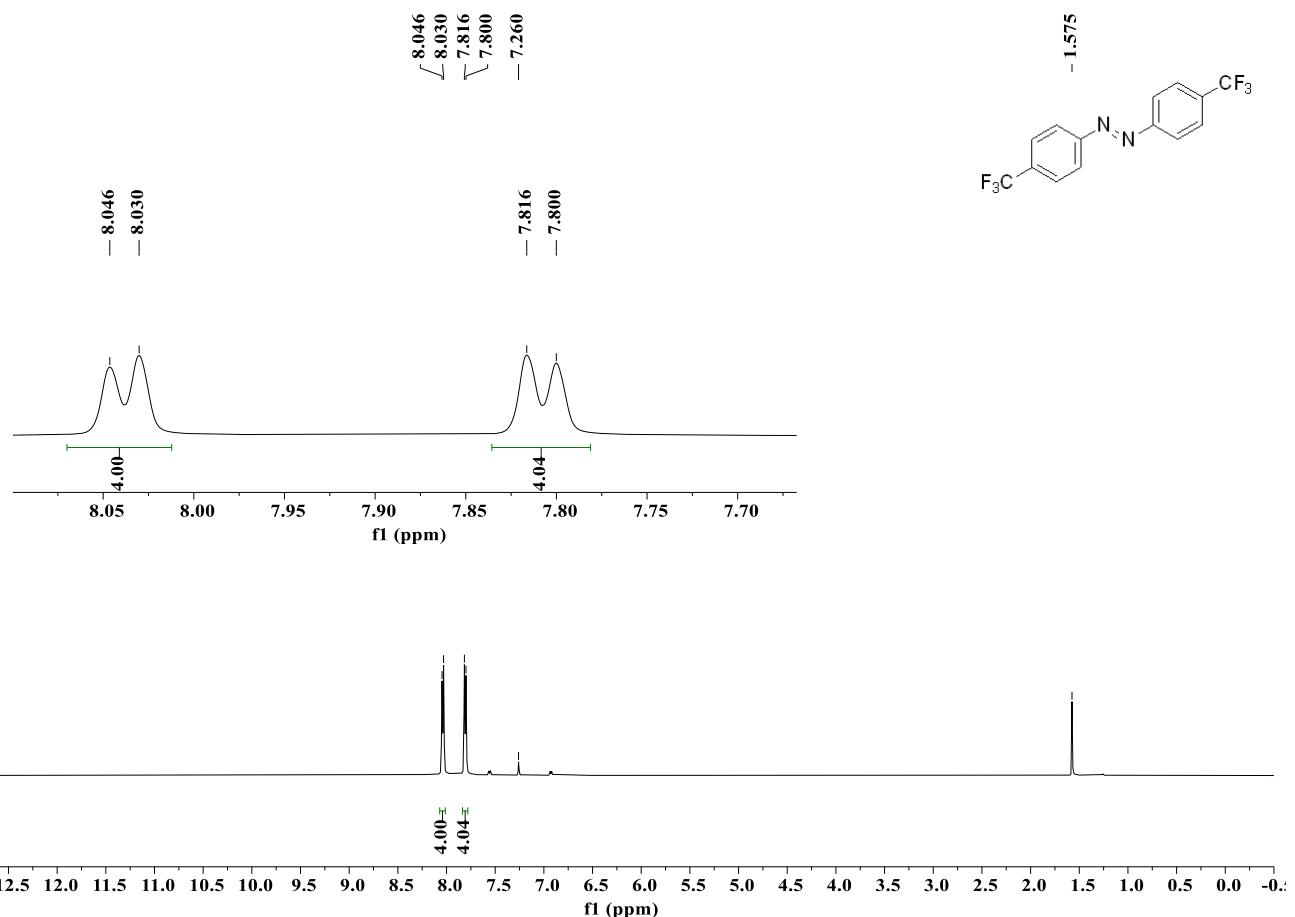
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 5h**



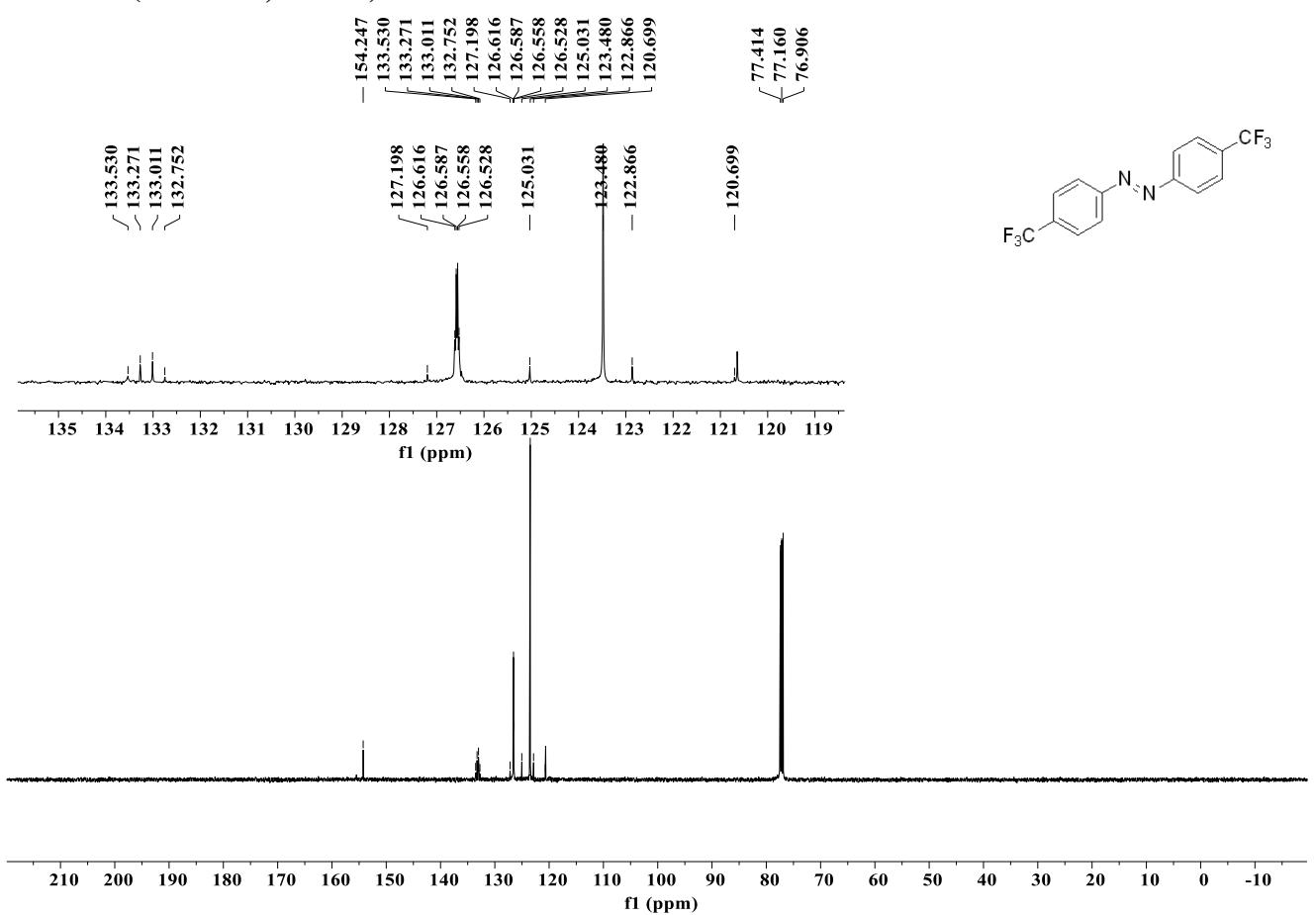
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 5h**



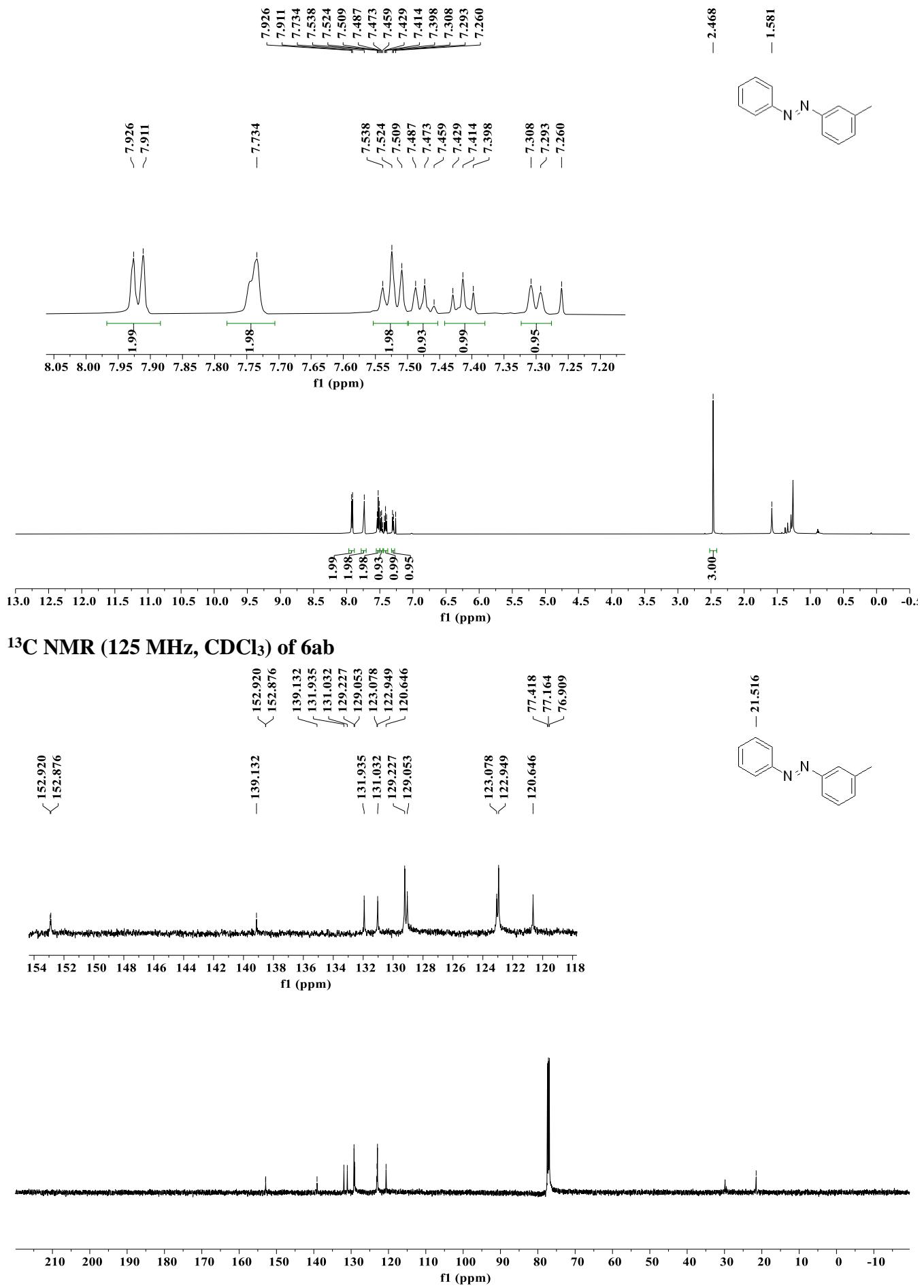
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 5i**



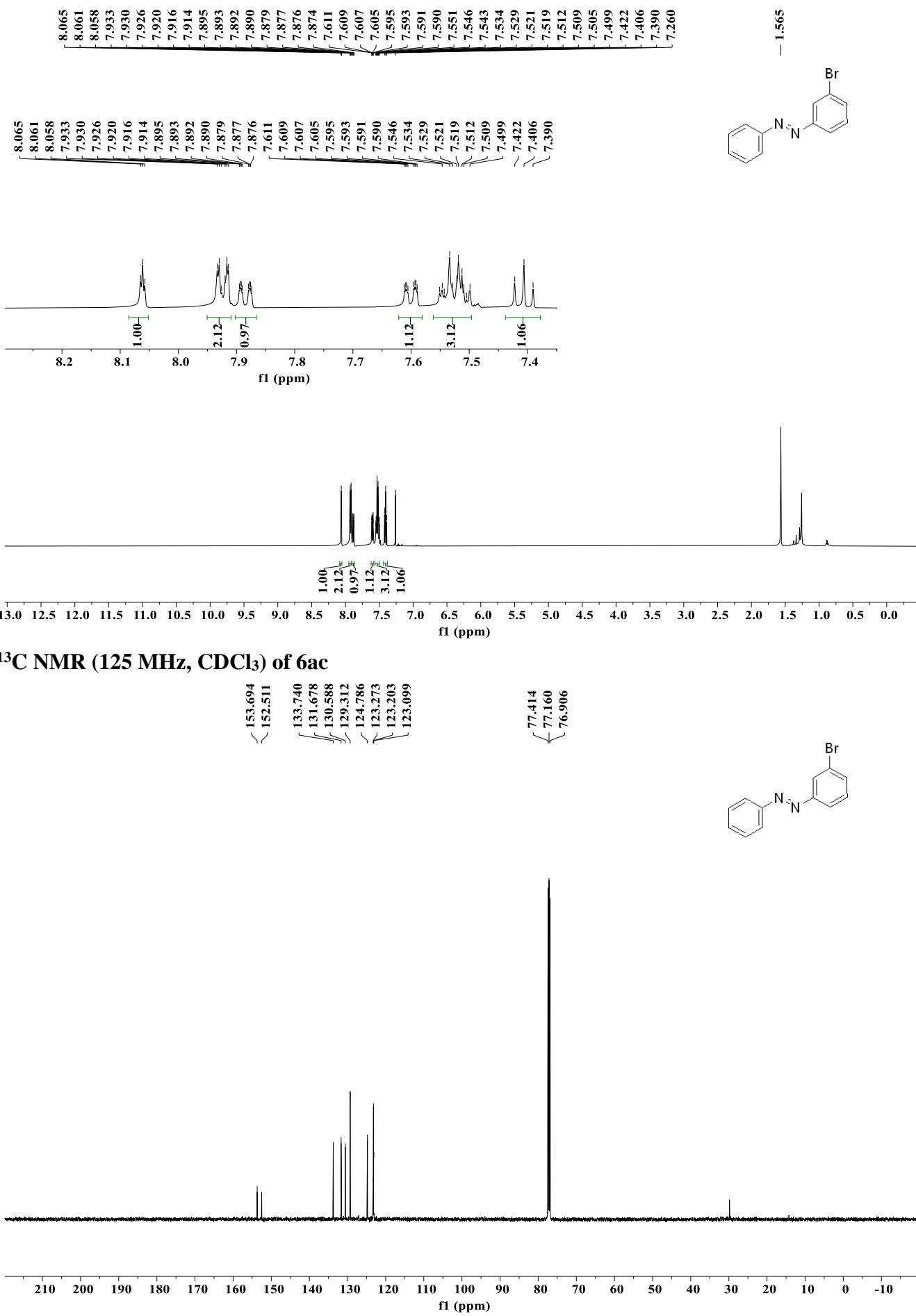
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 5i**



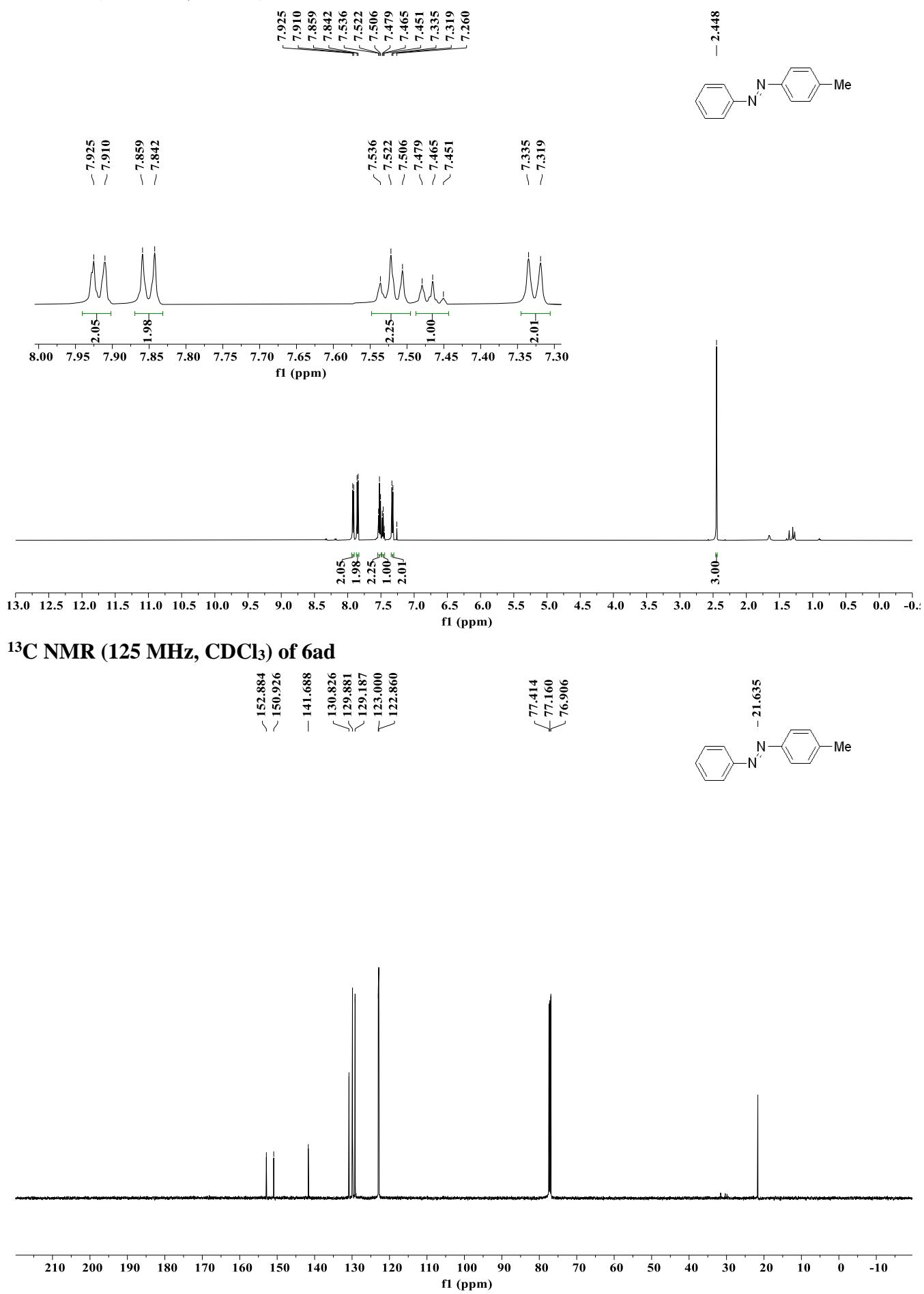
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6ab**



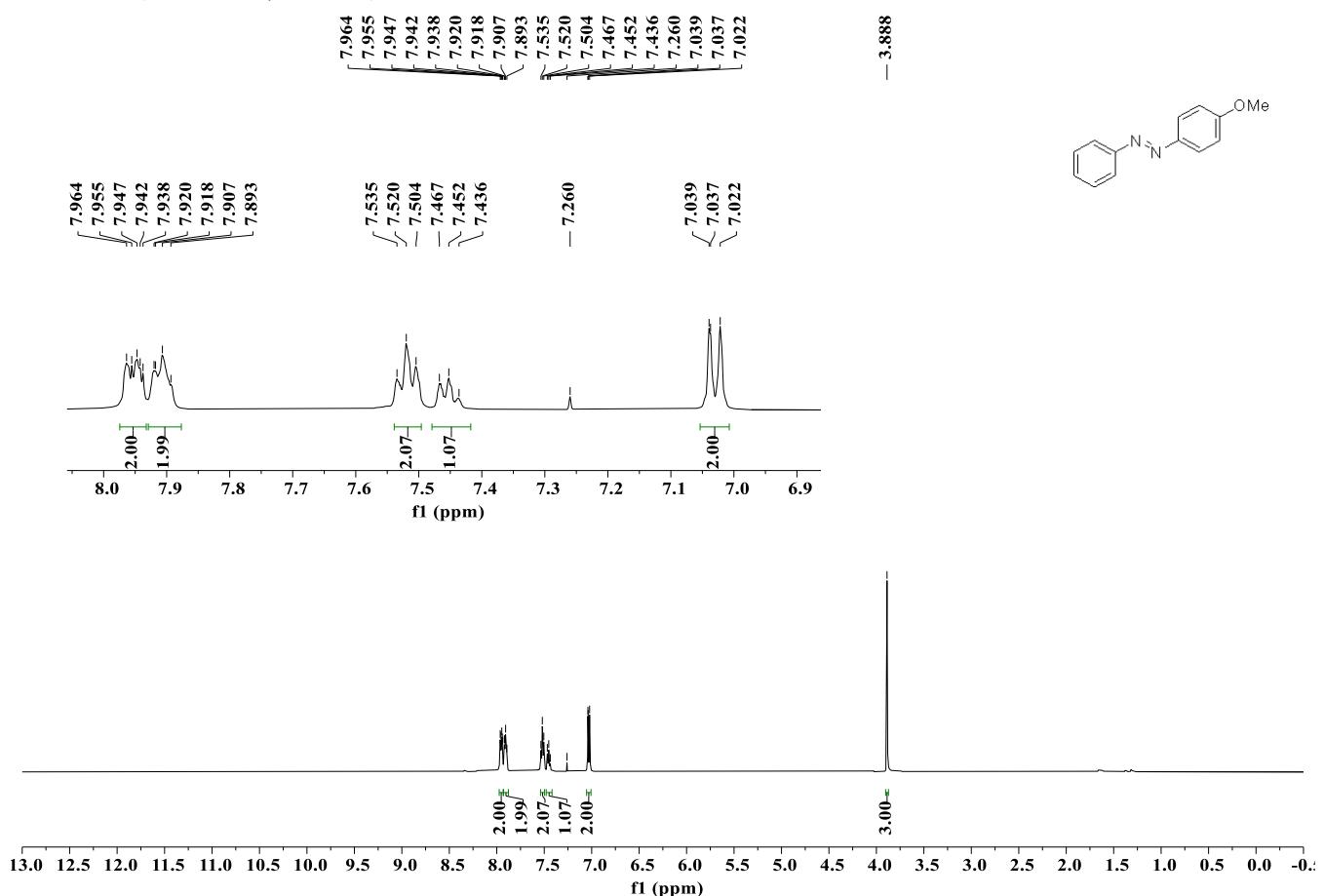
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6ac**



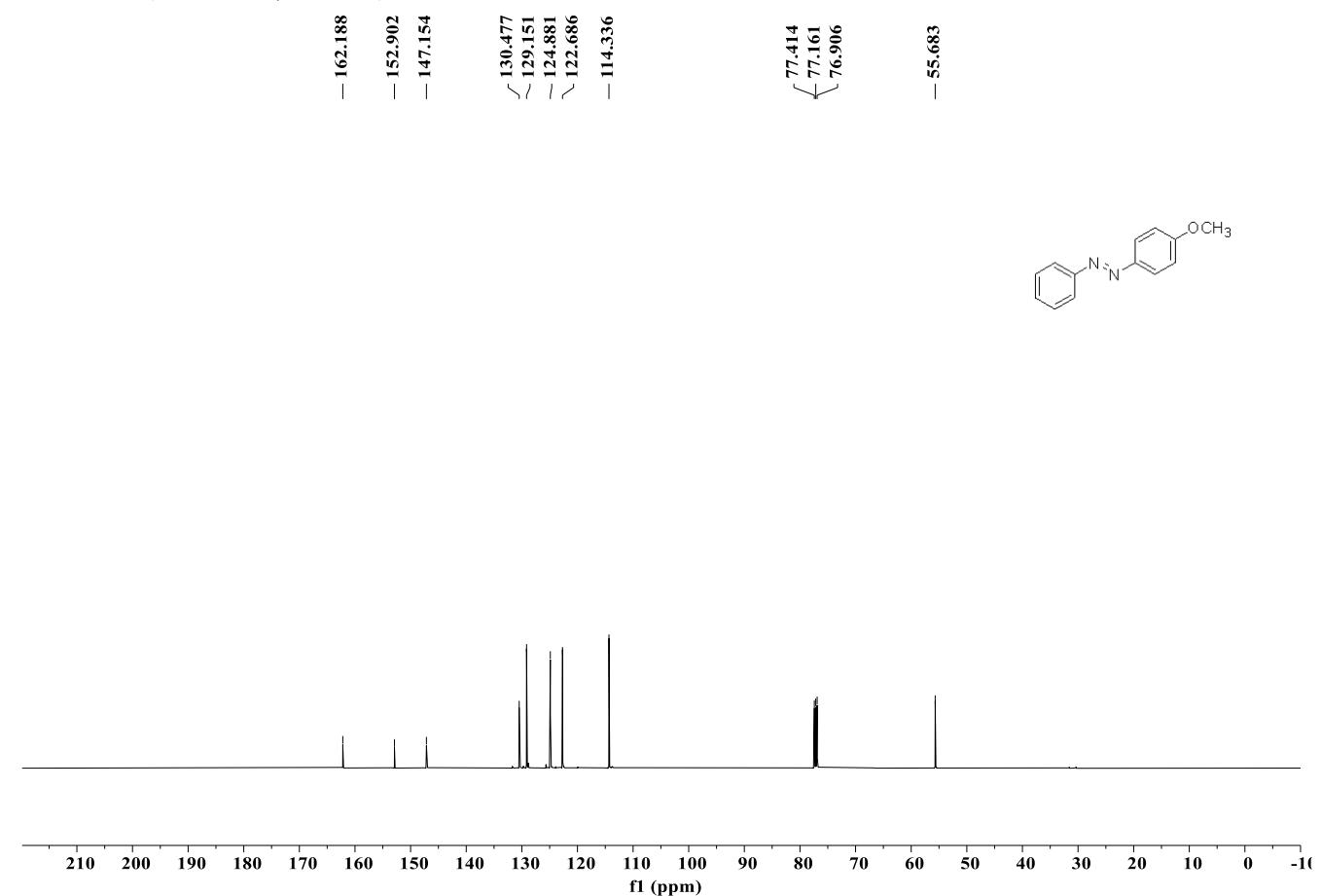
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6ad**



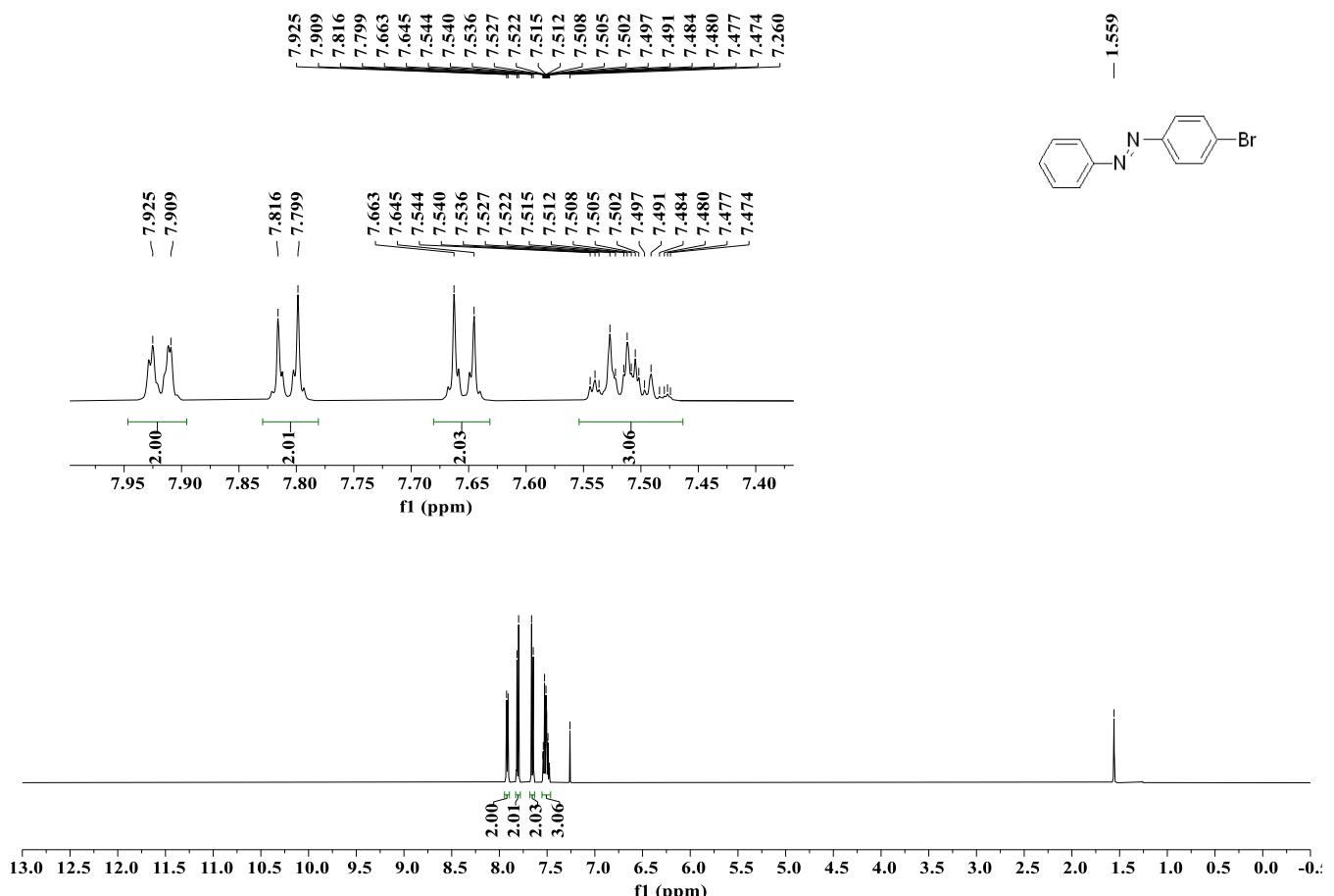
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6af**



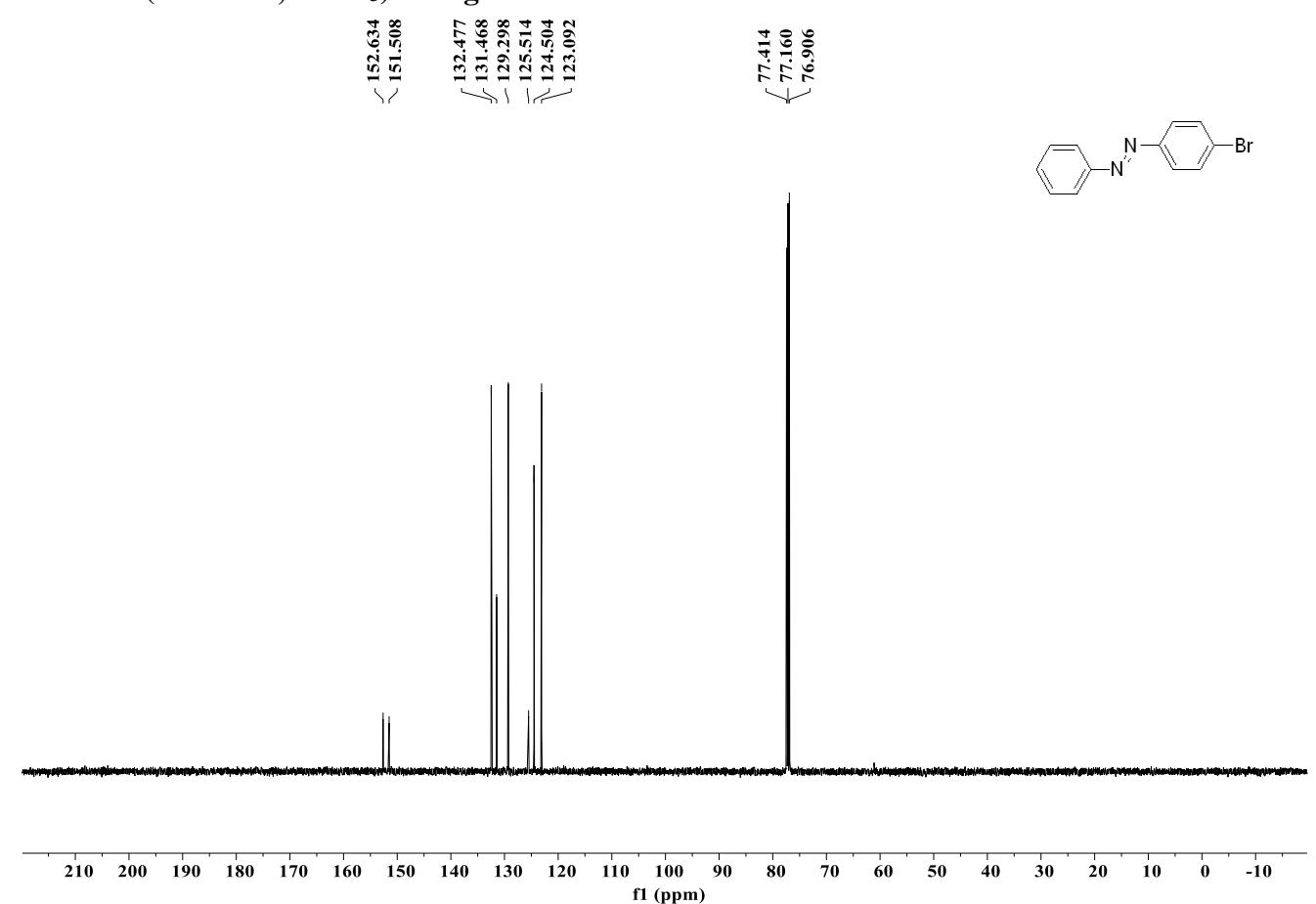
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6af**



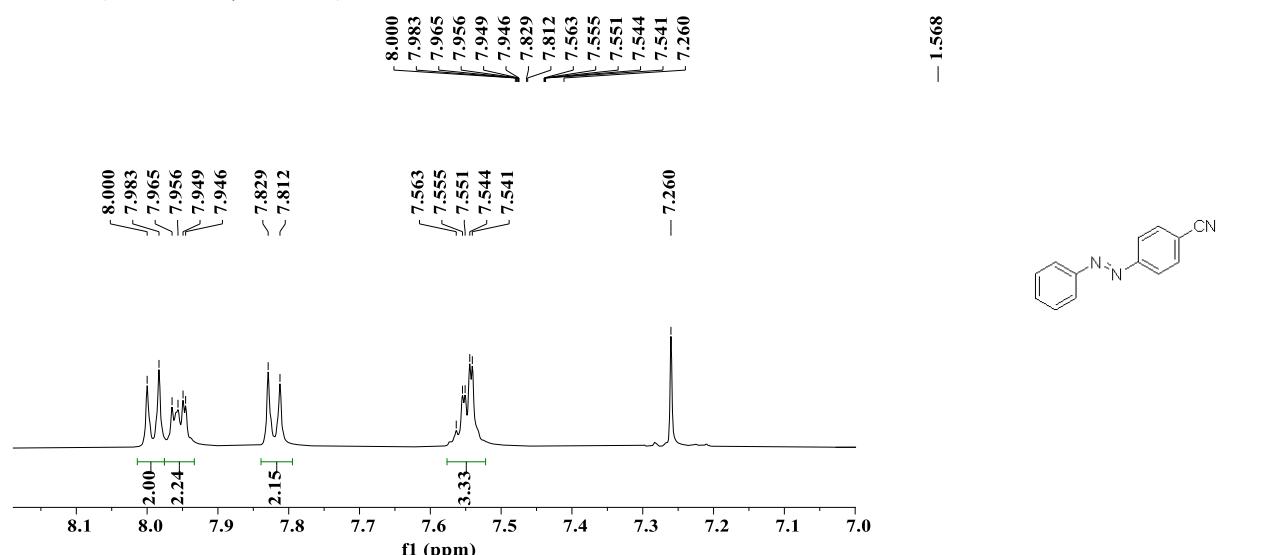
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6ag



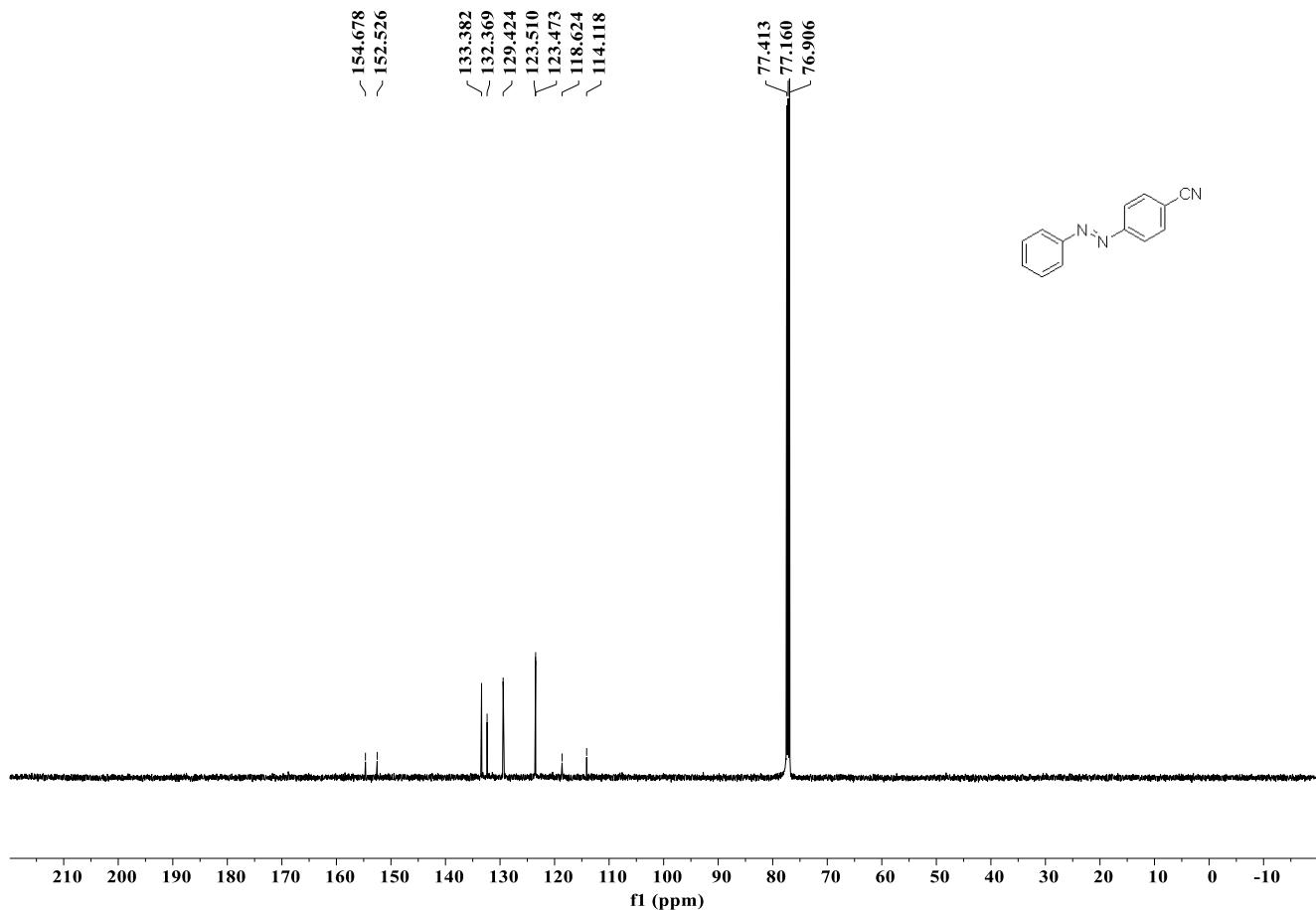
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6ag



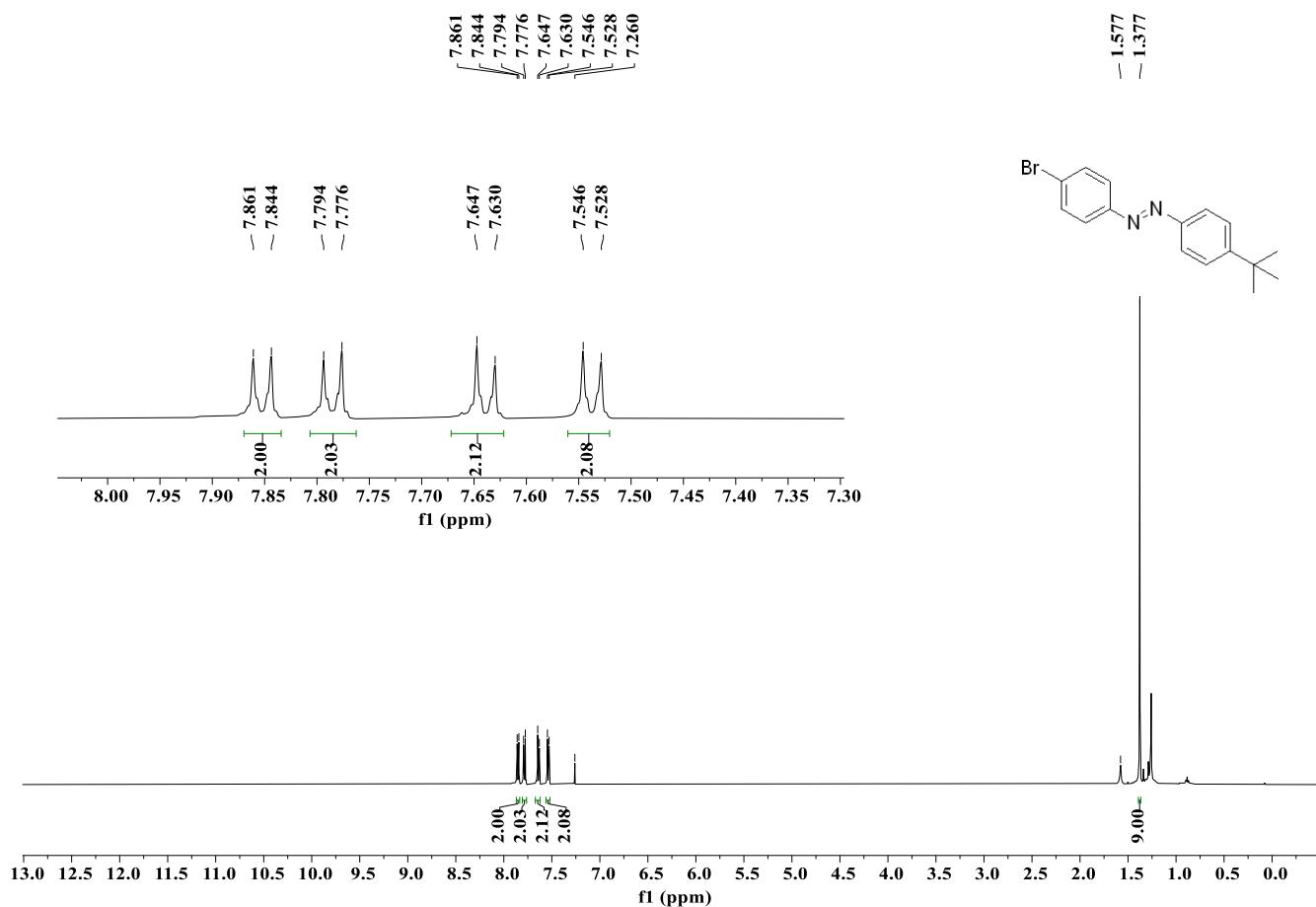
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6ah



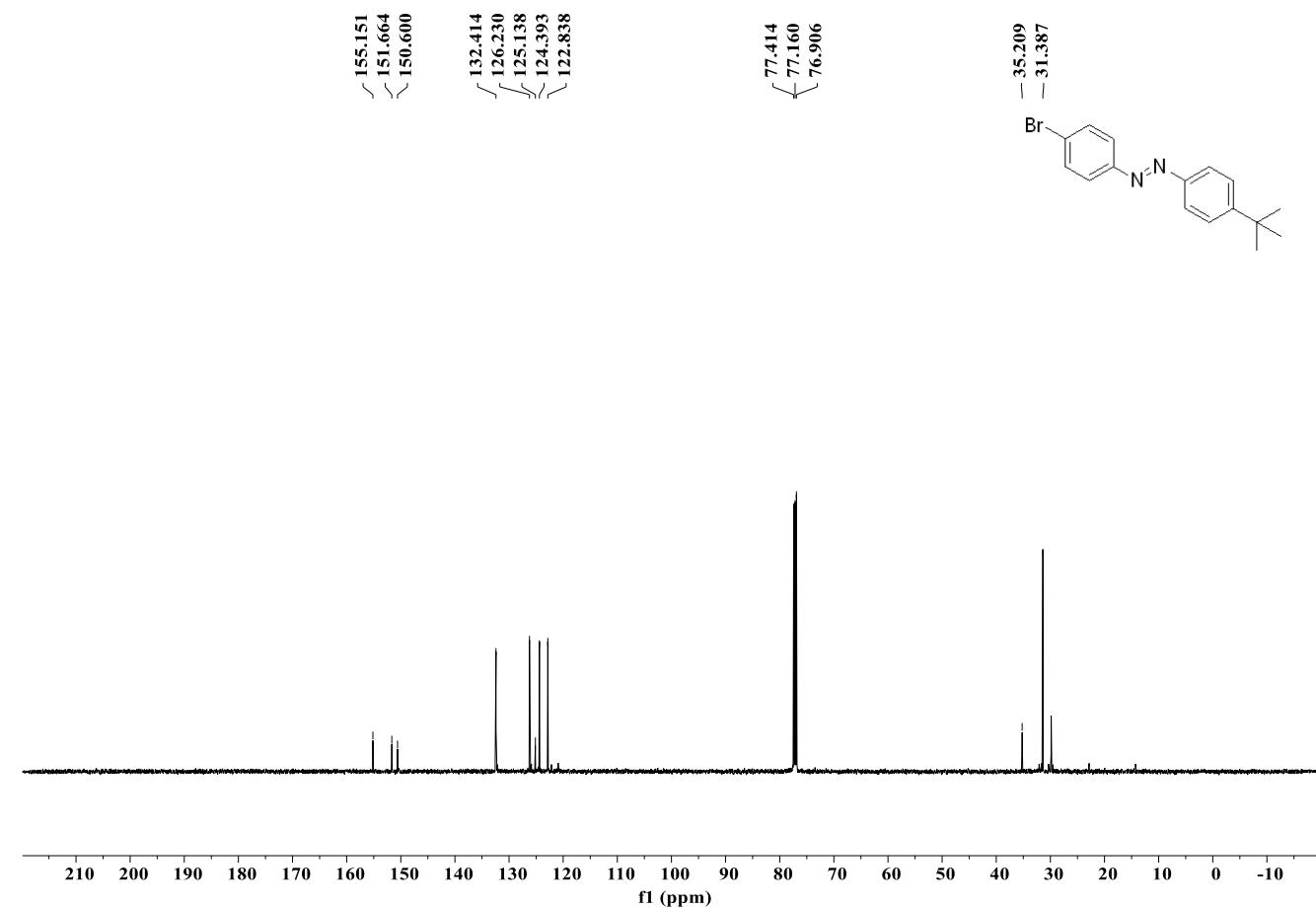
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6ah



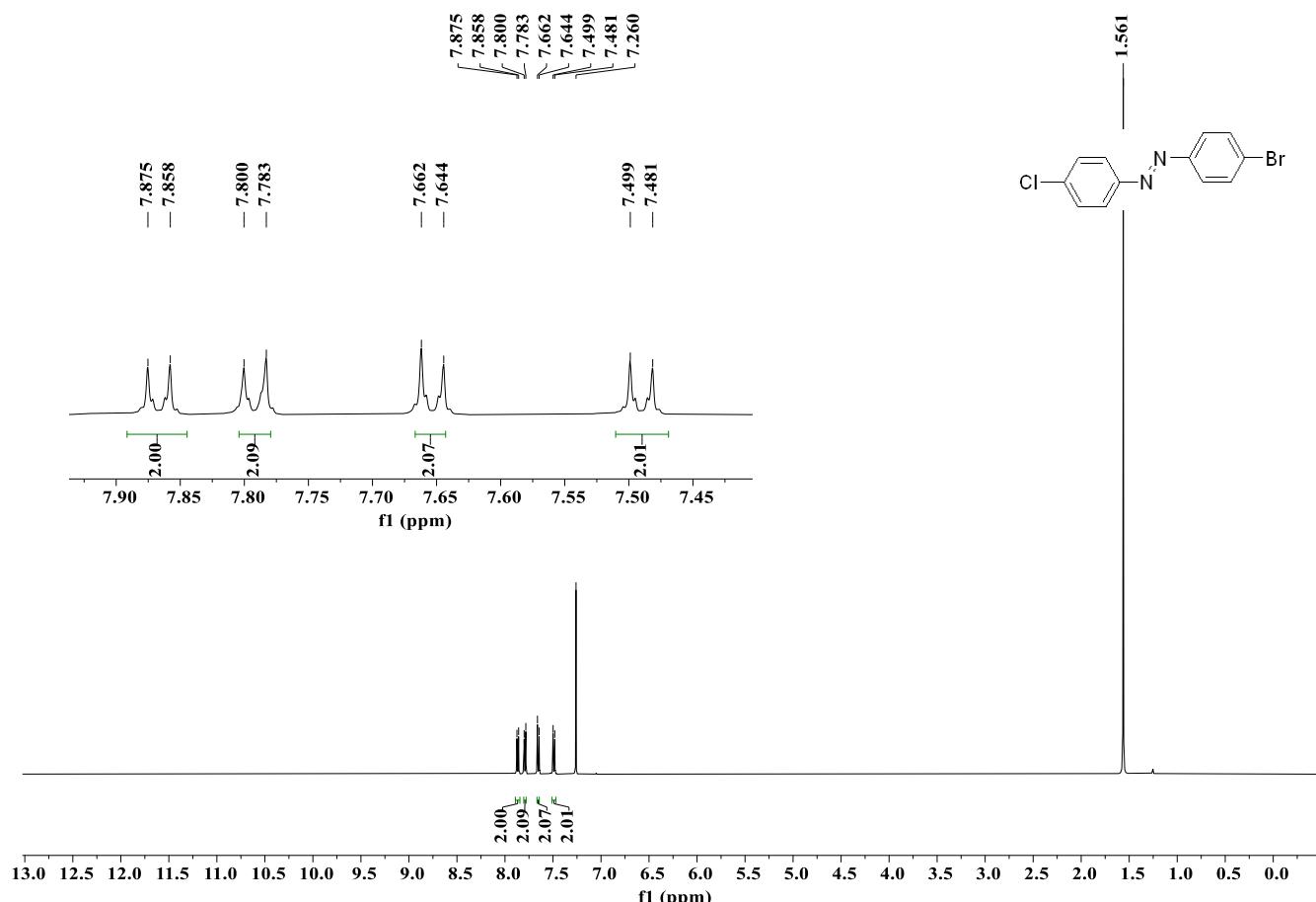
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6ge**



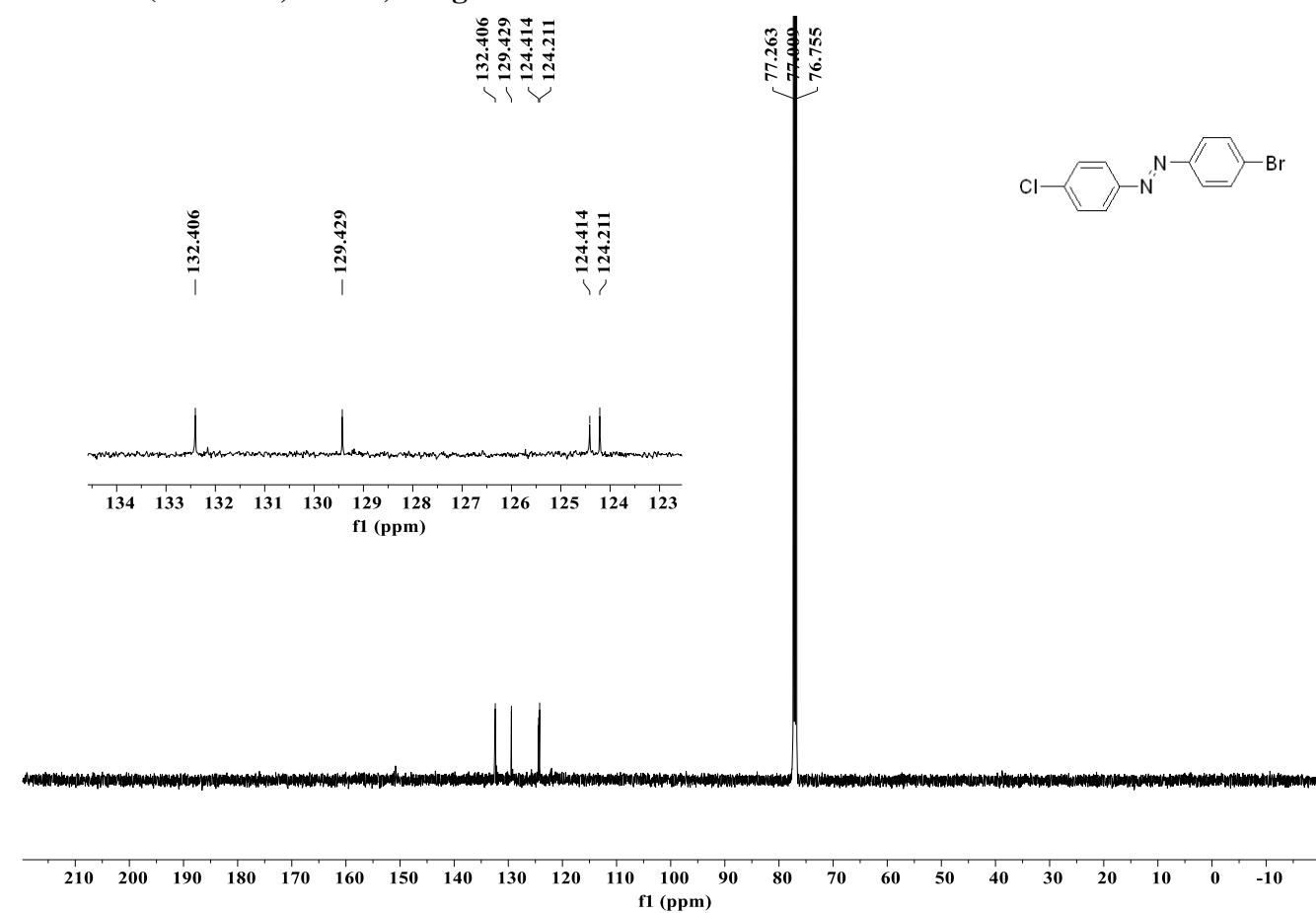
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6ge**



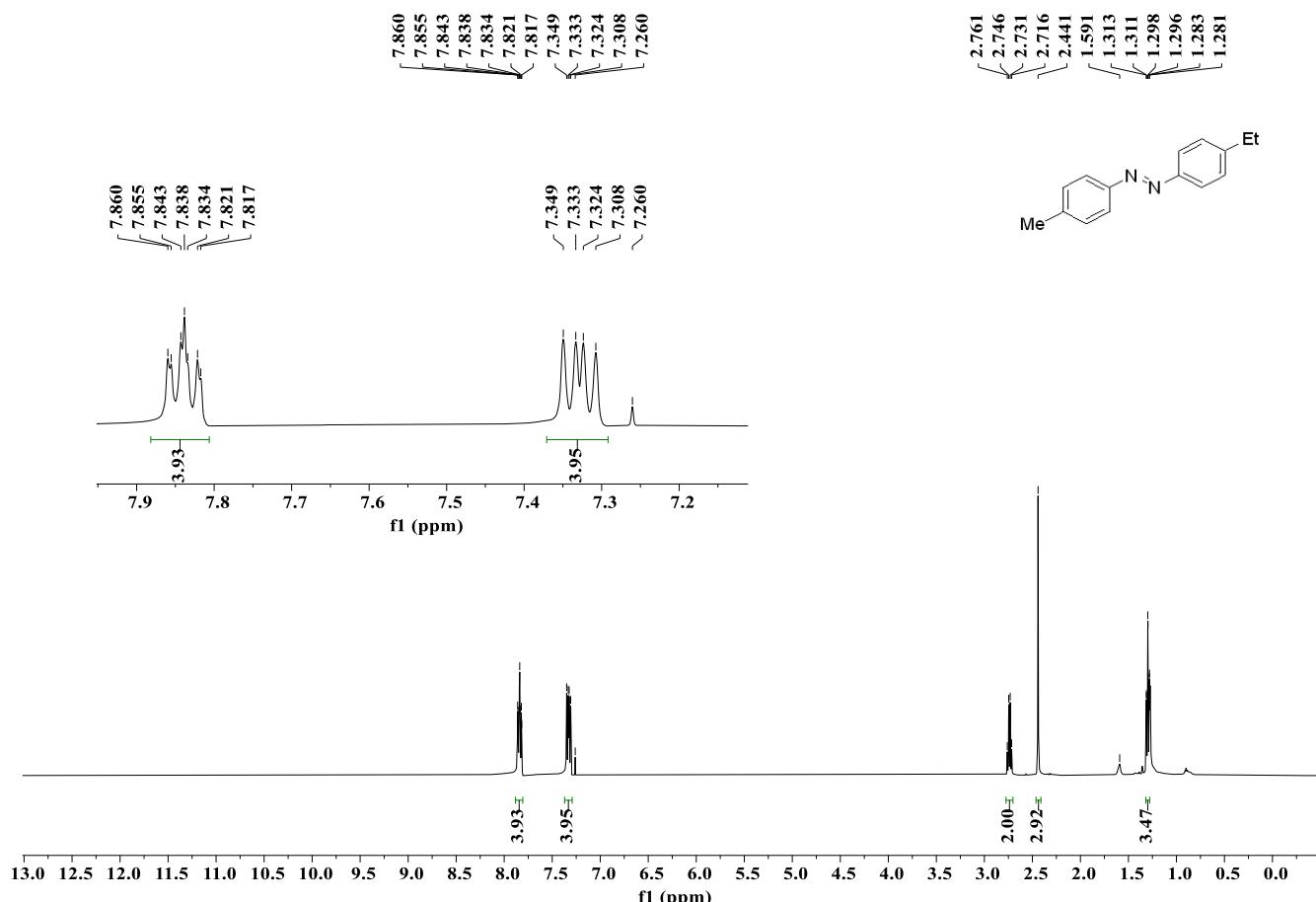
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6gi**



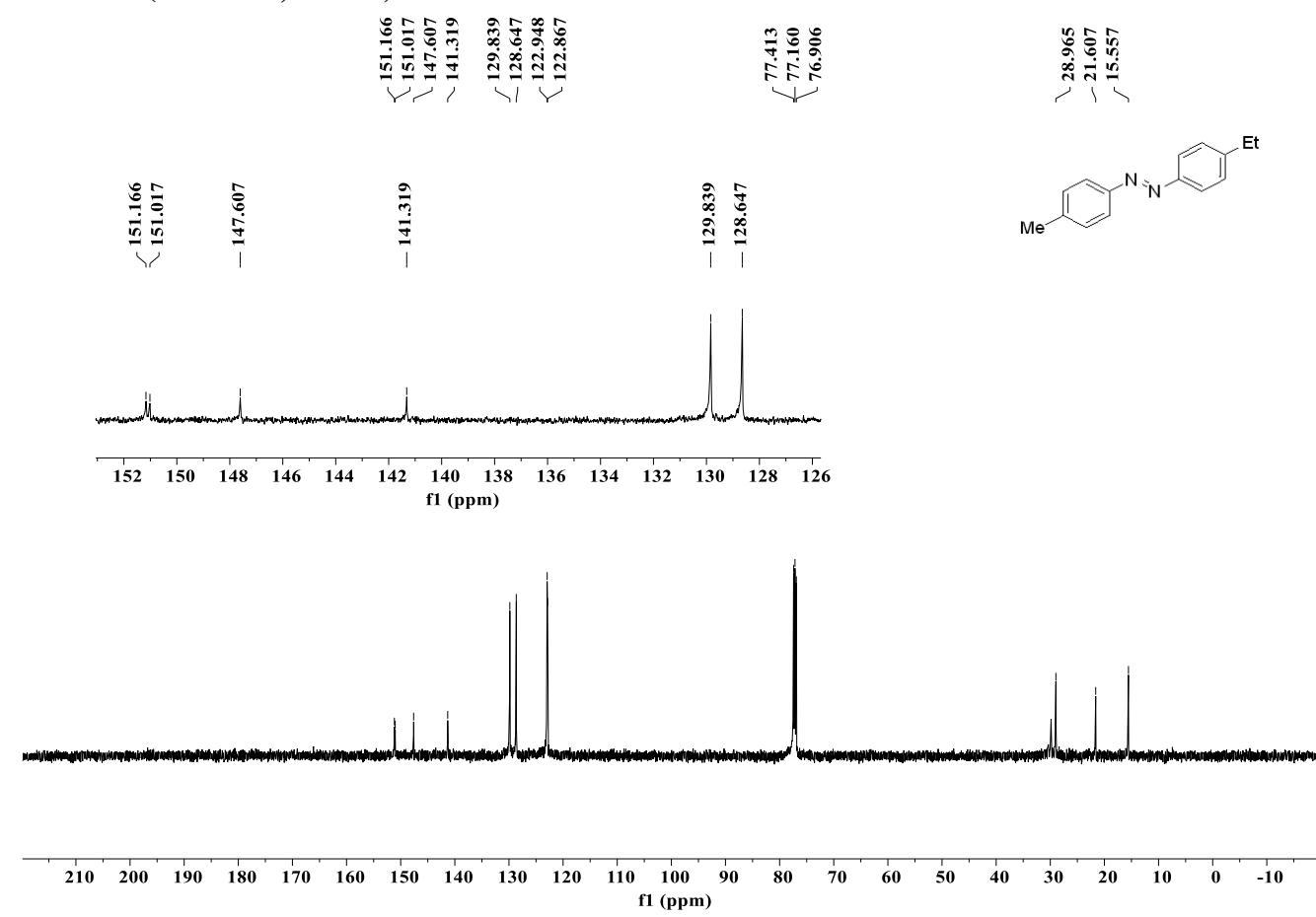
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6gi**



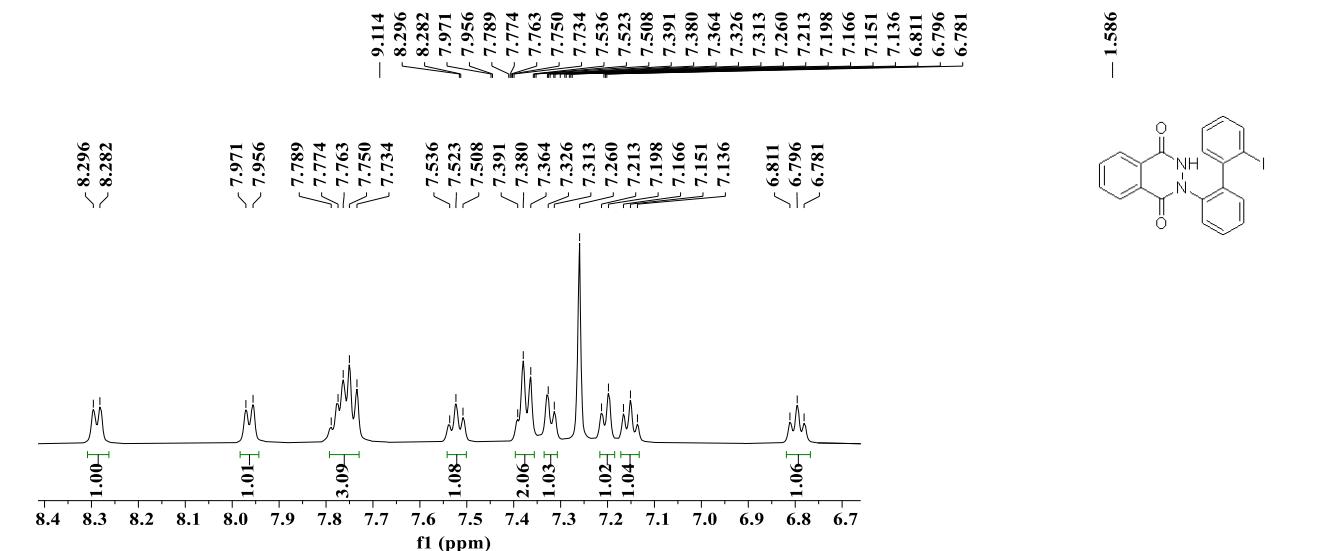
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6kd**



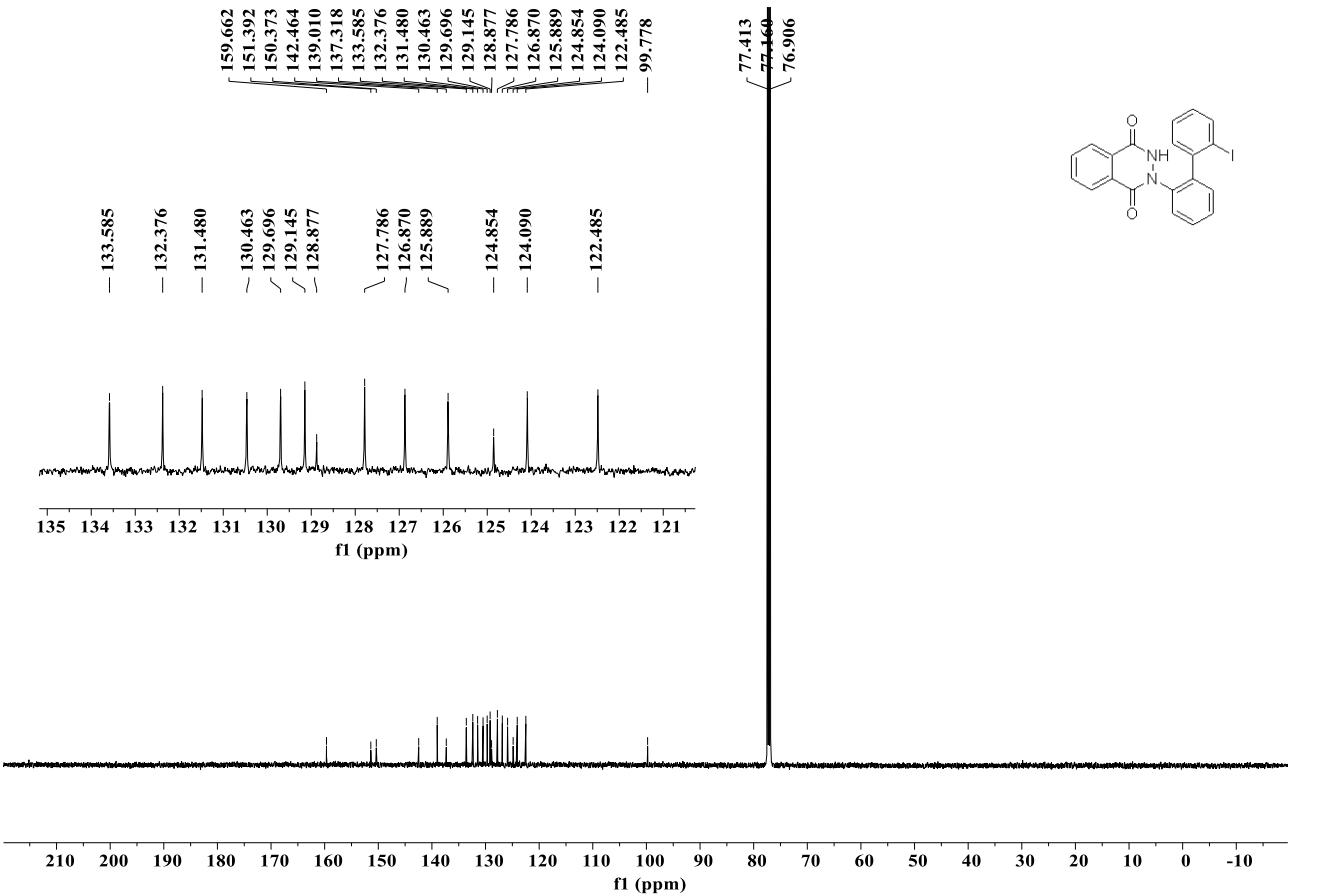
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6kd**



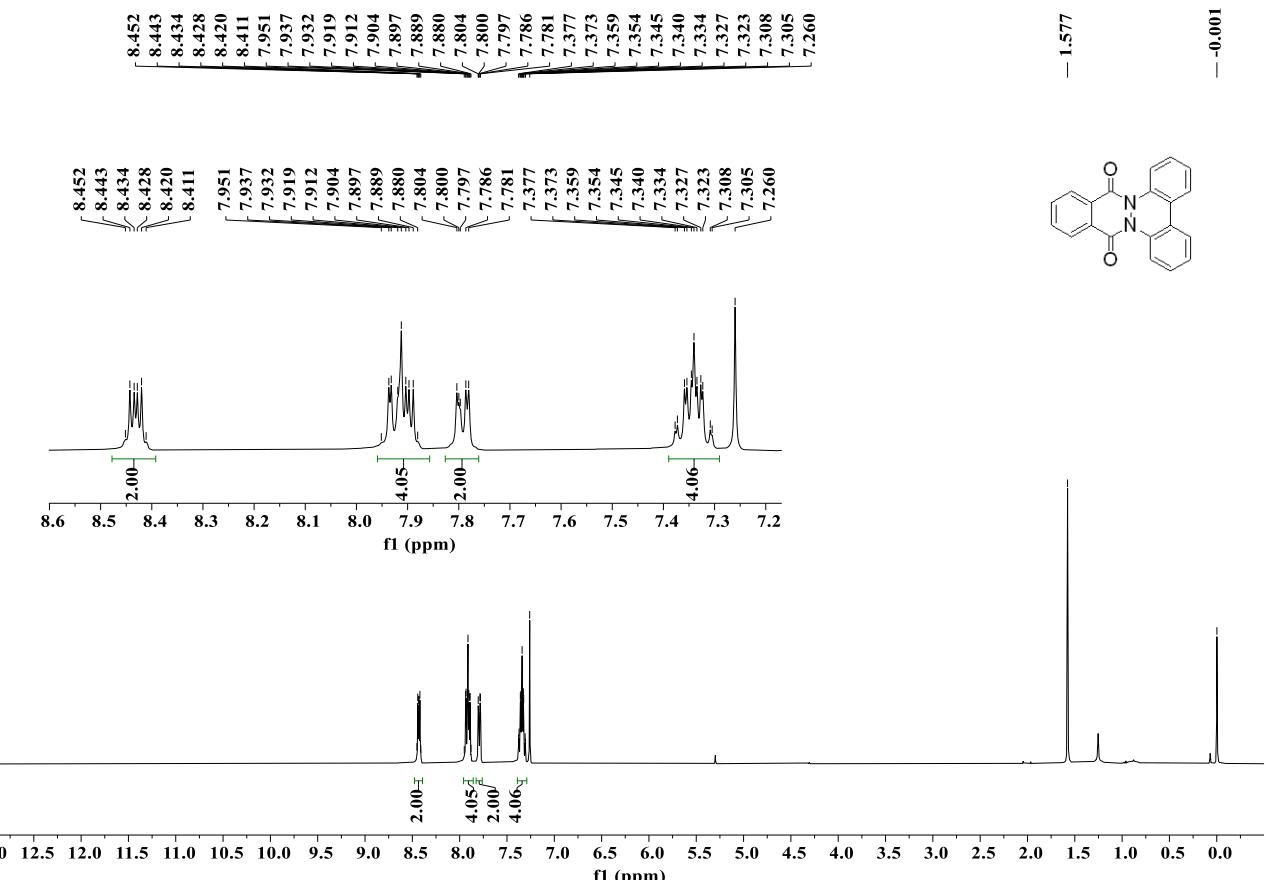
### **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of IM1**



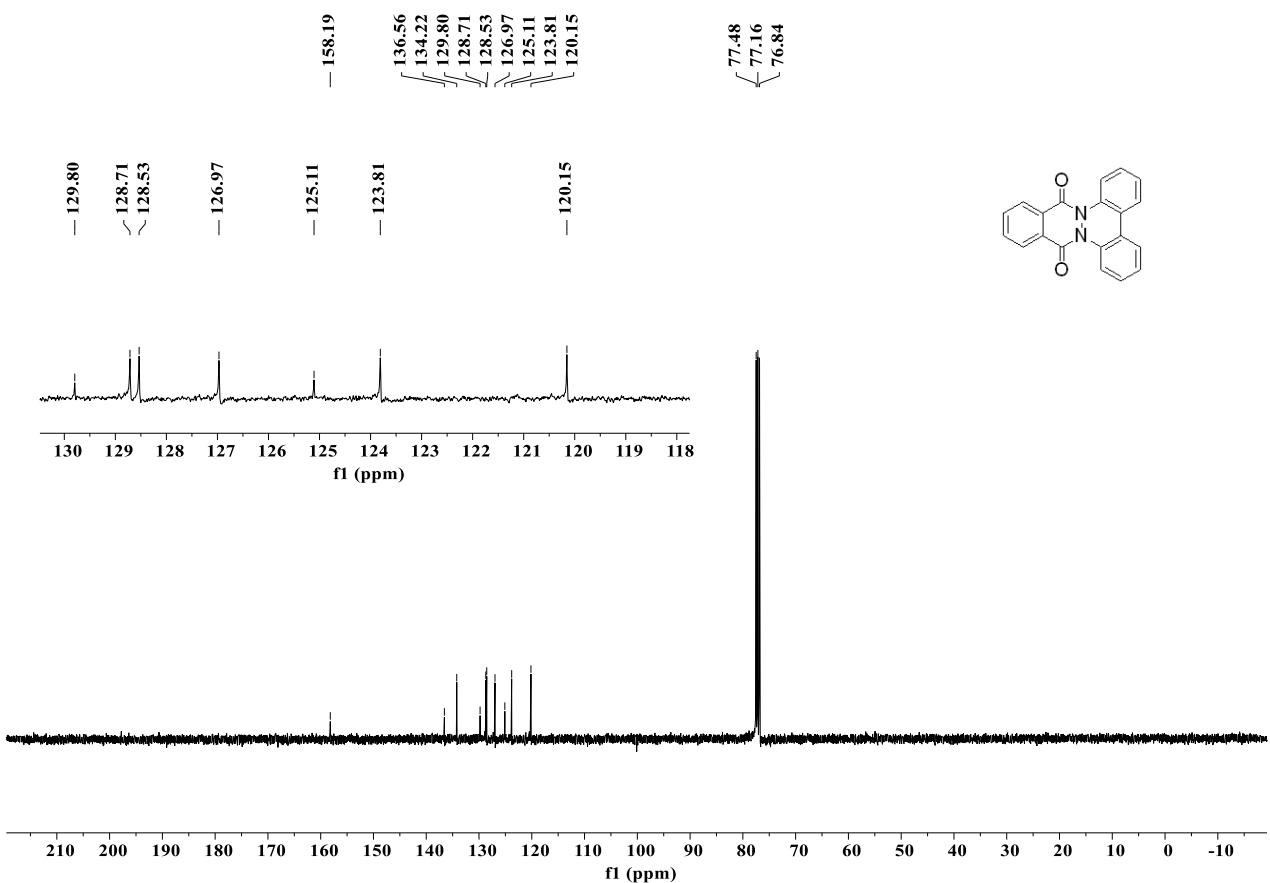
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of IM 1**



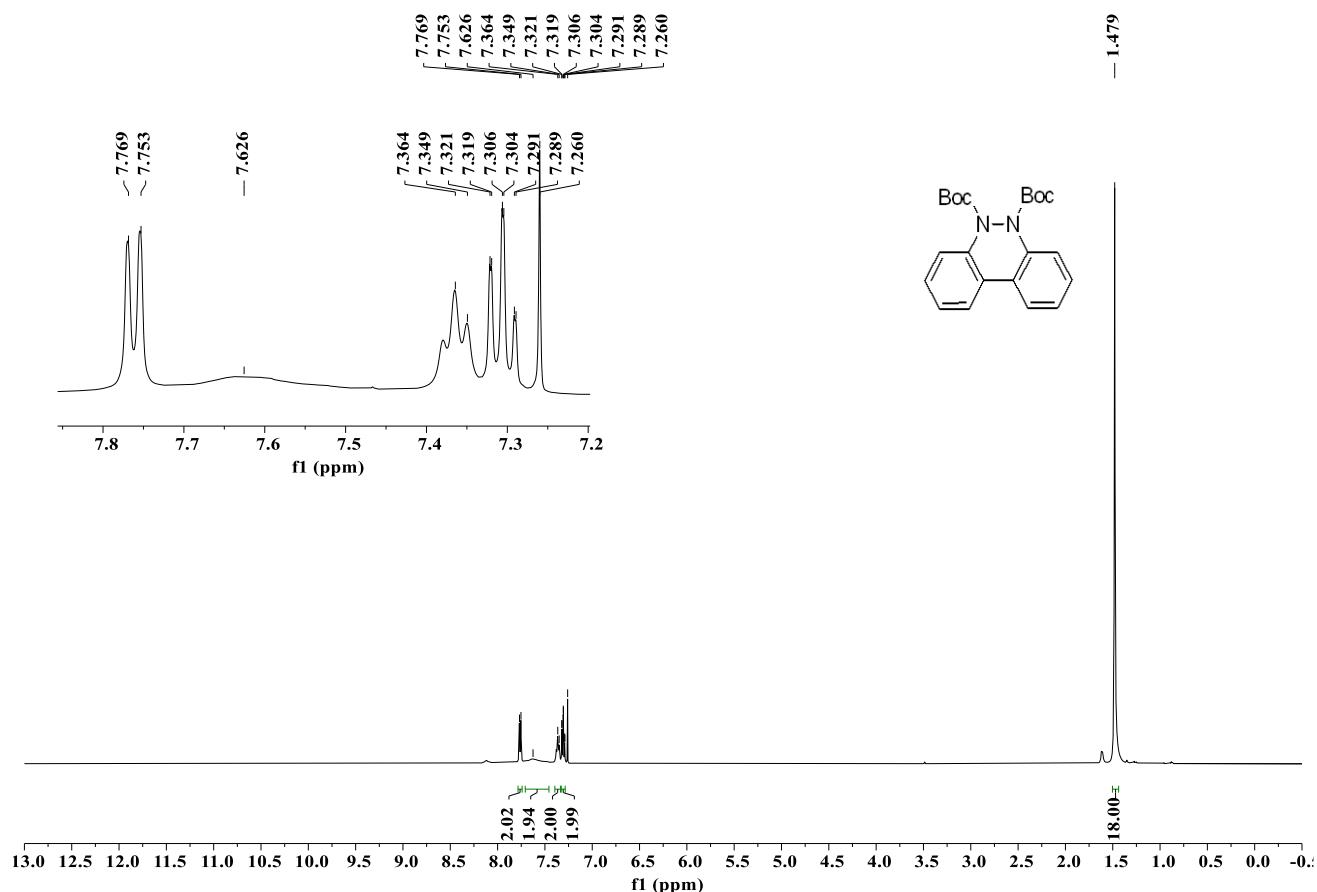
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of IM2**



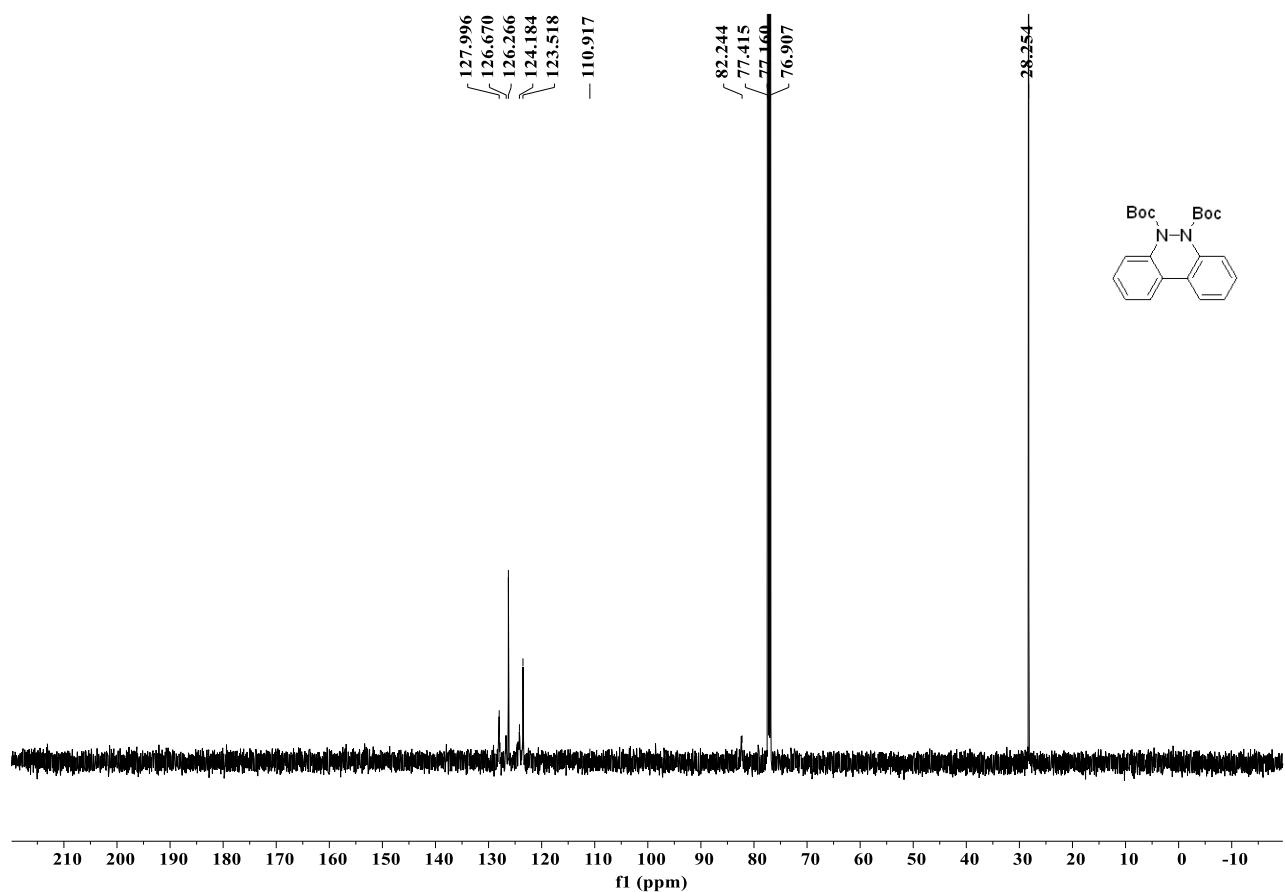
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of IM 2**



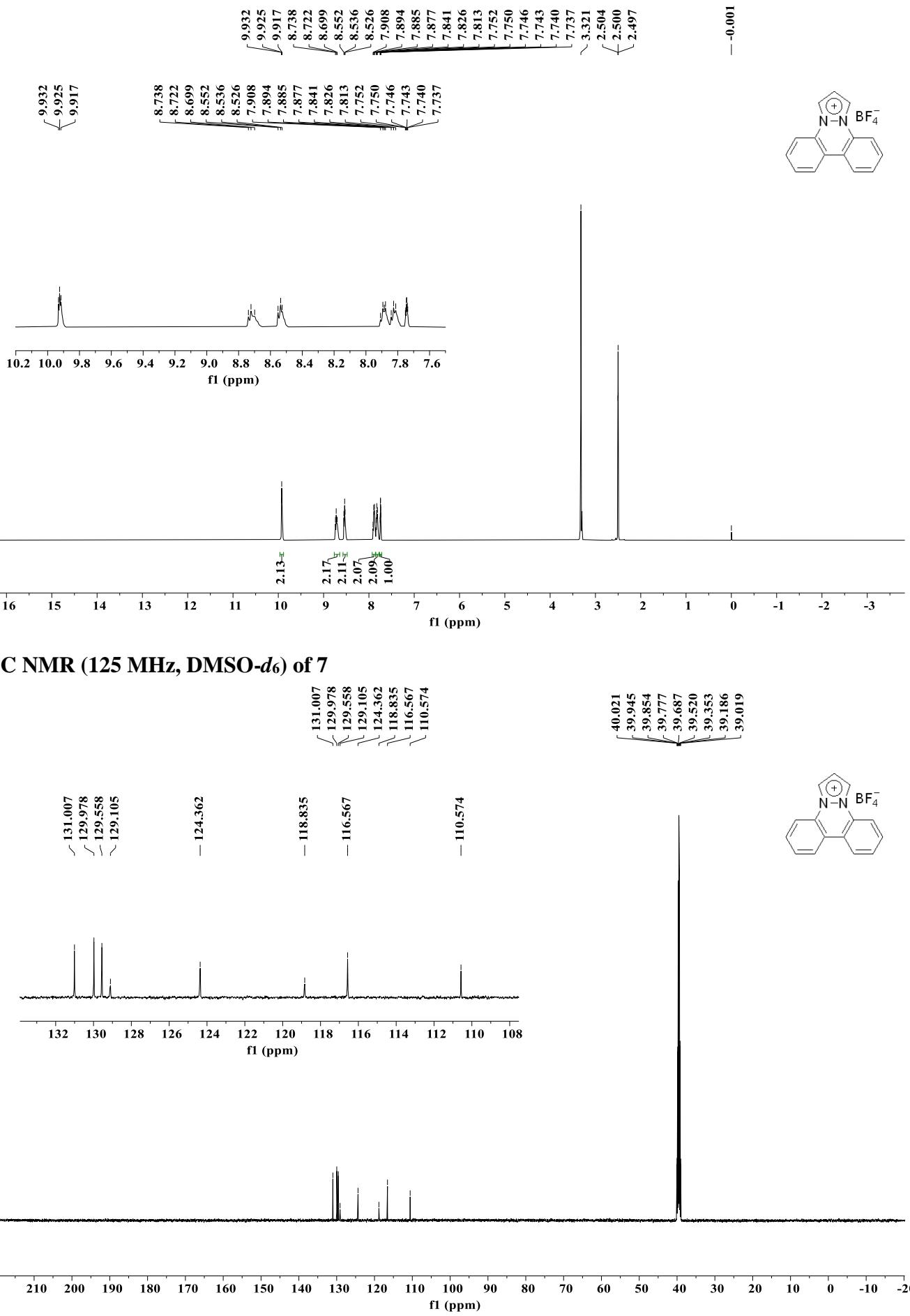
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3a-bisBoc**



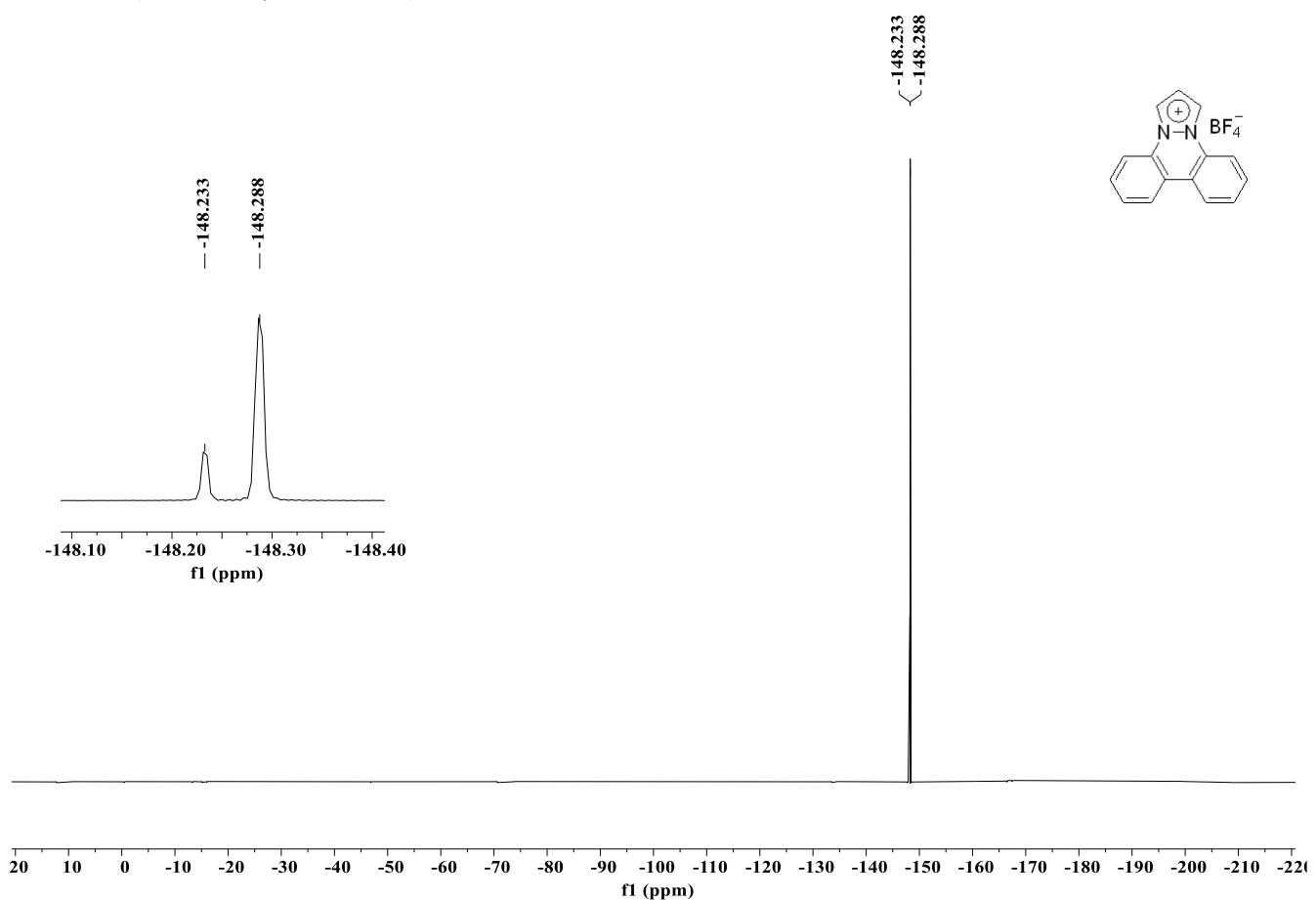
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3a-bisBoc**



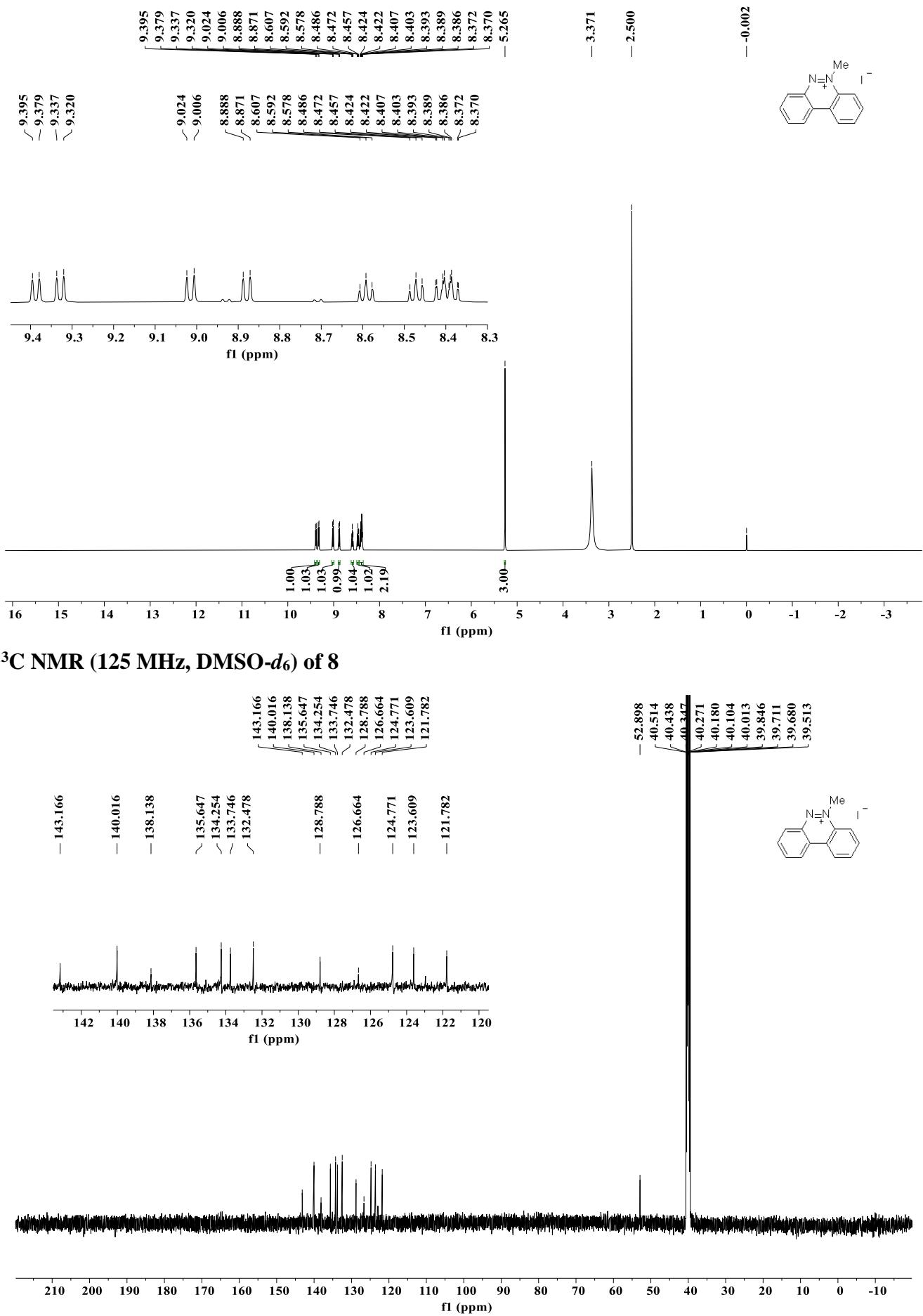
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) of 7**



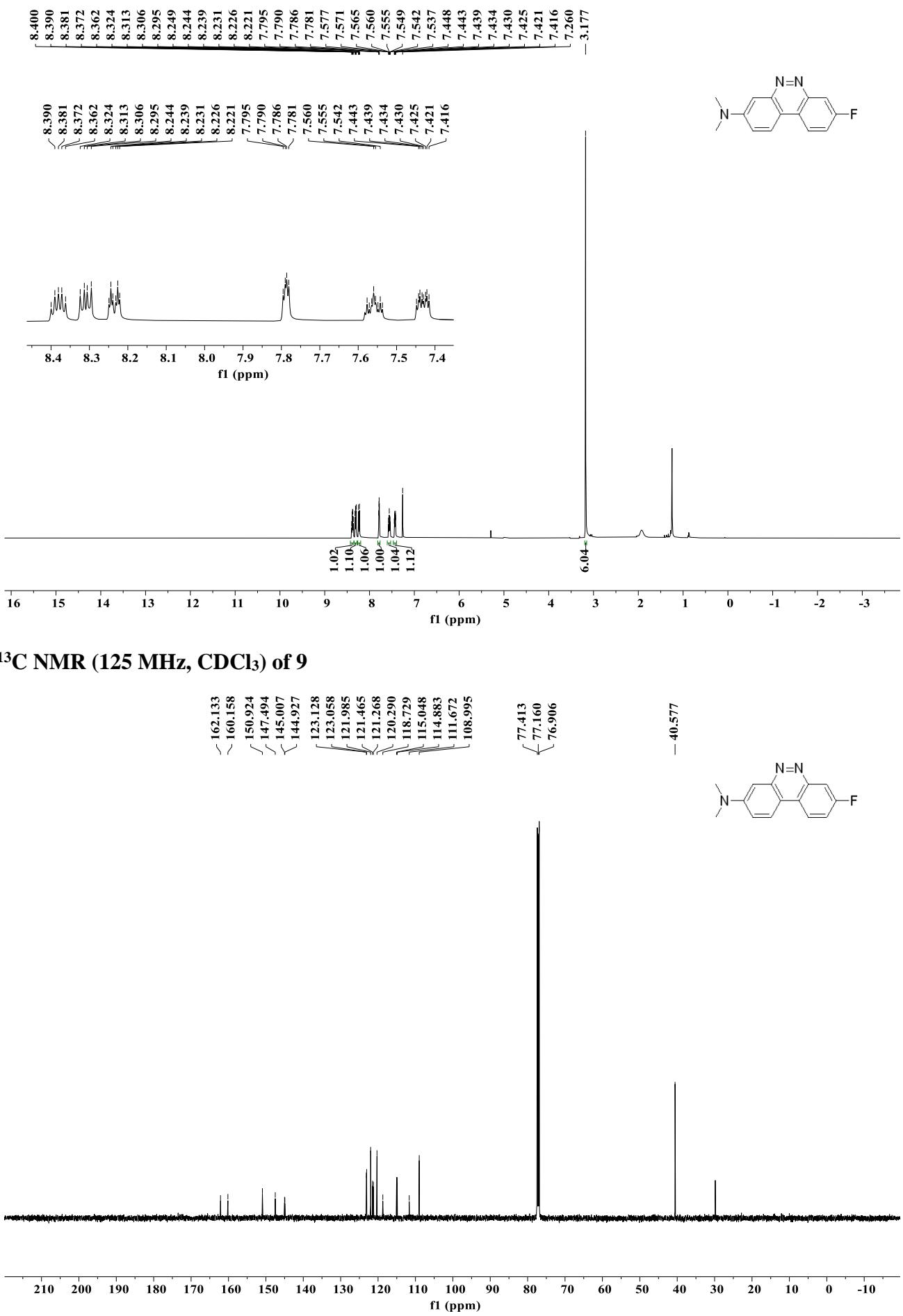
**<sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) of 7**



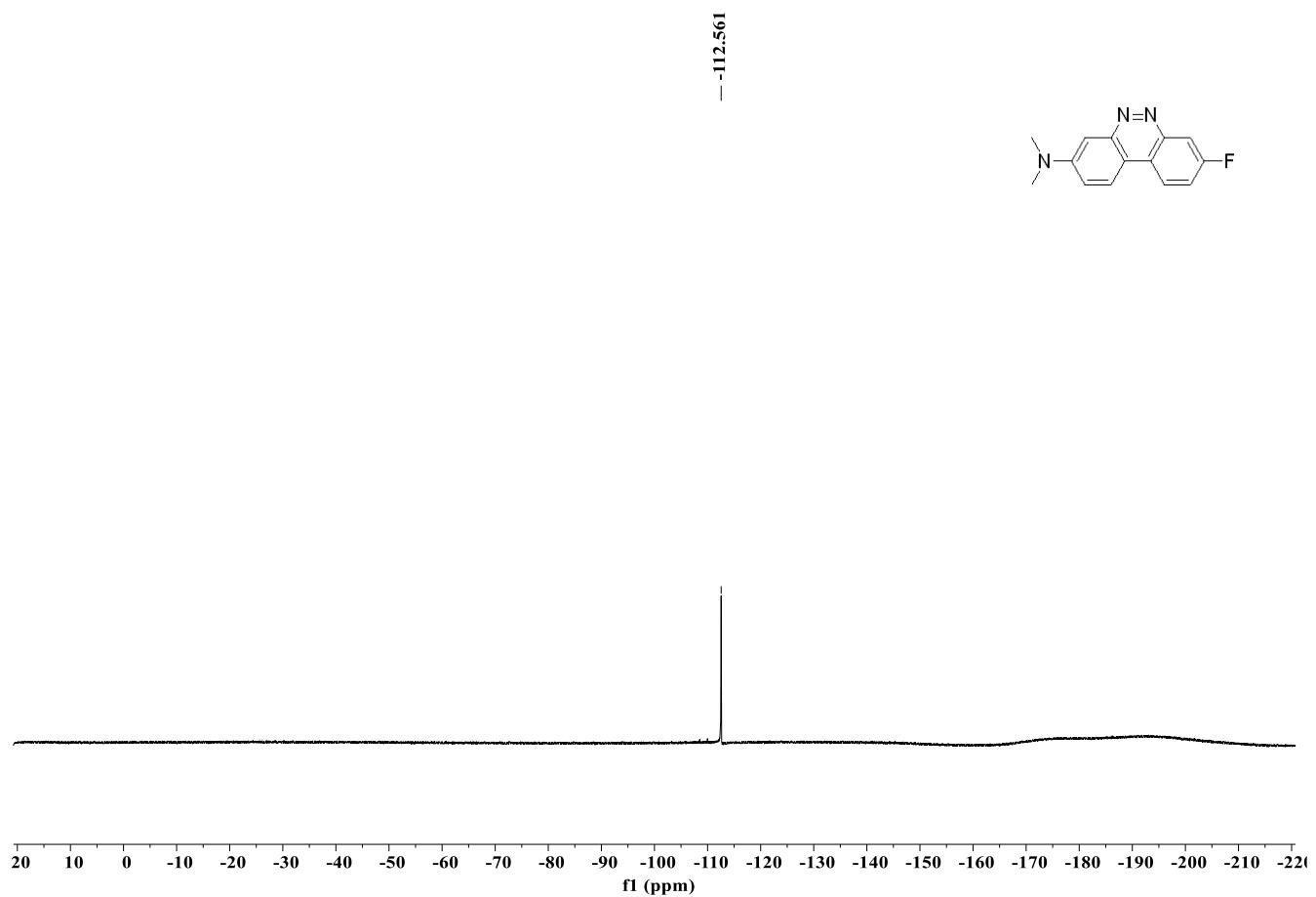
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) of 8**



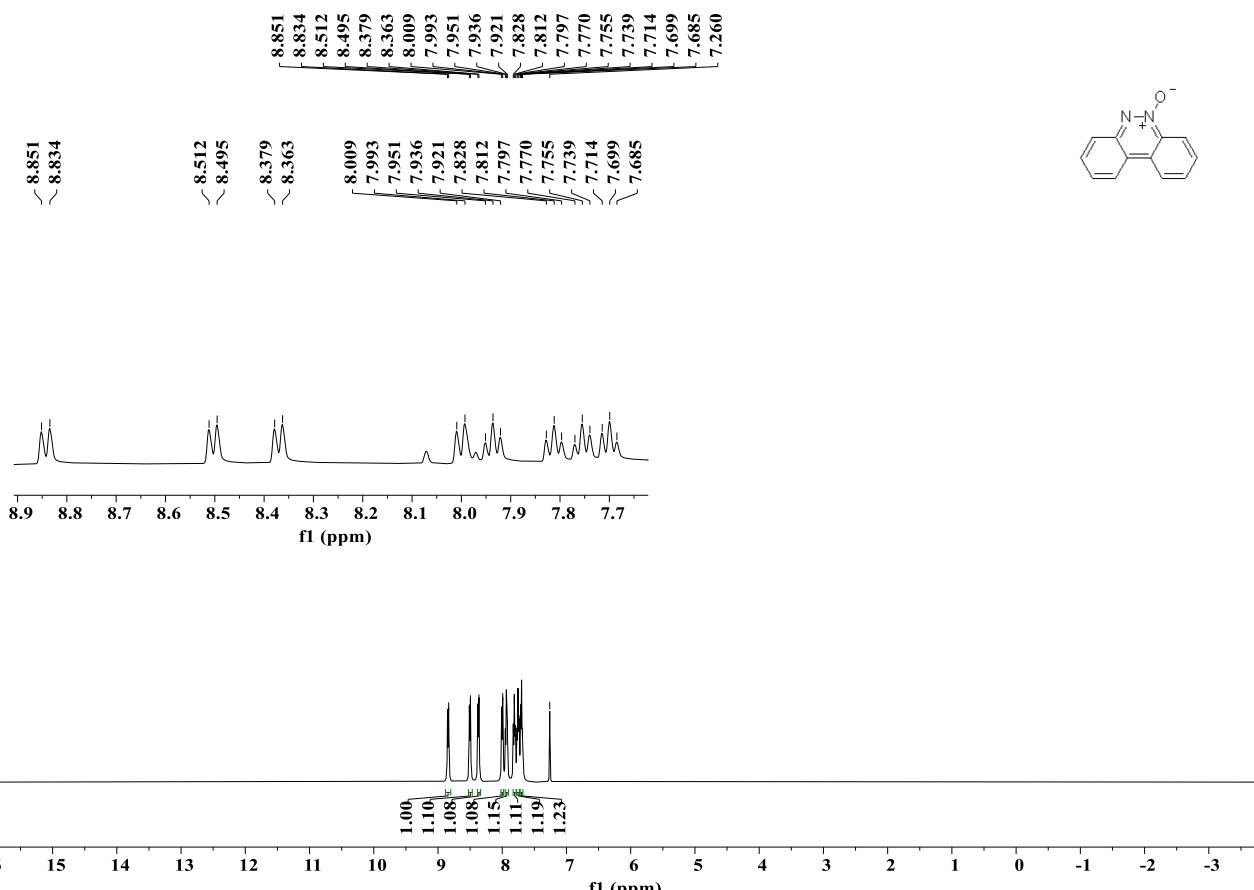
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 9**



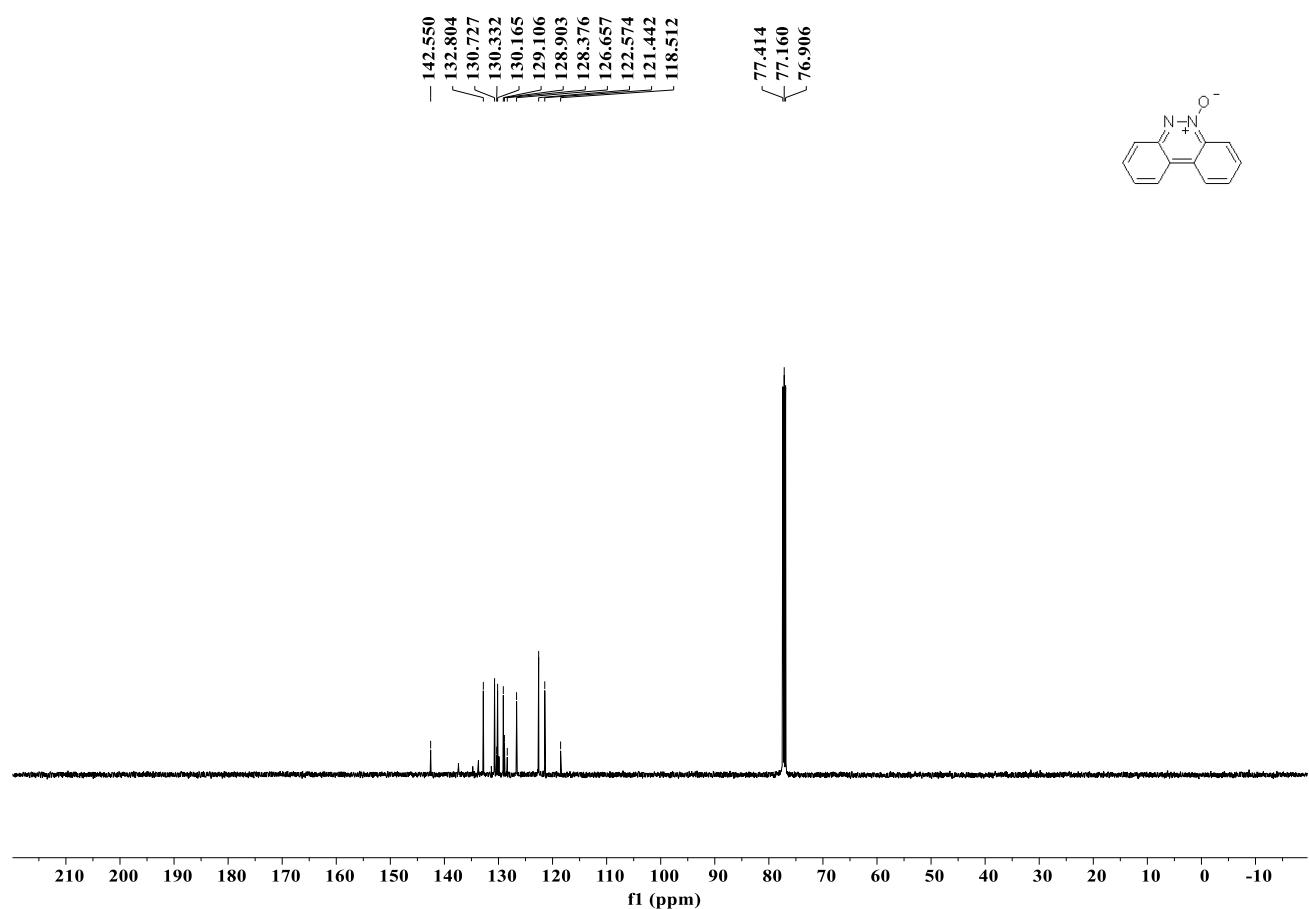
**<sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 9**



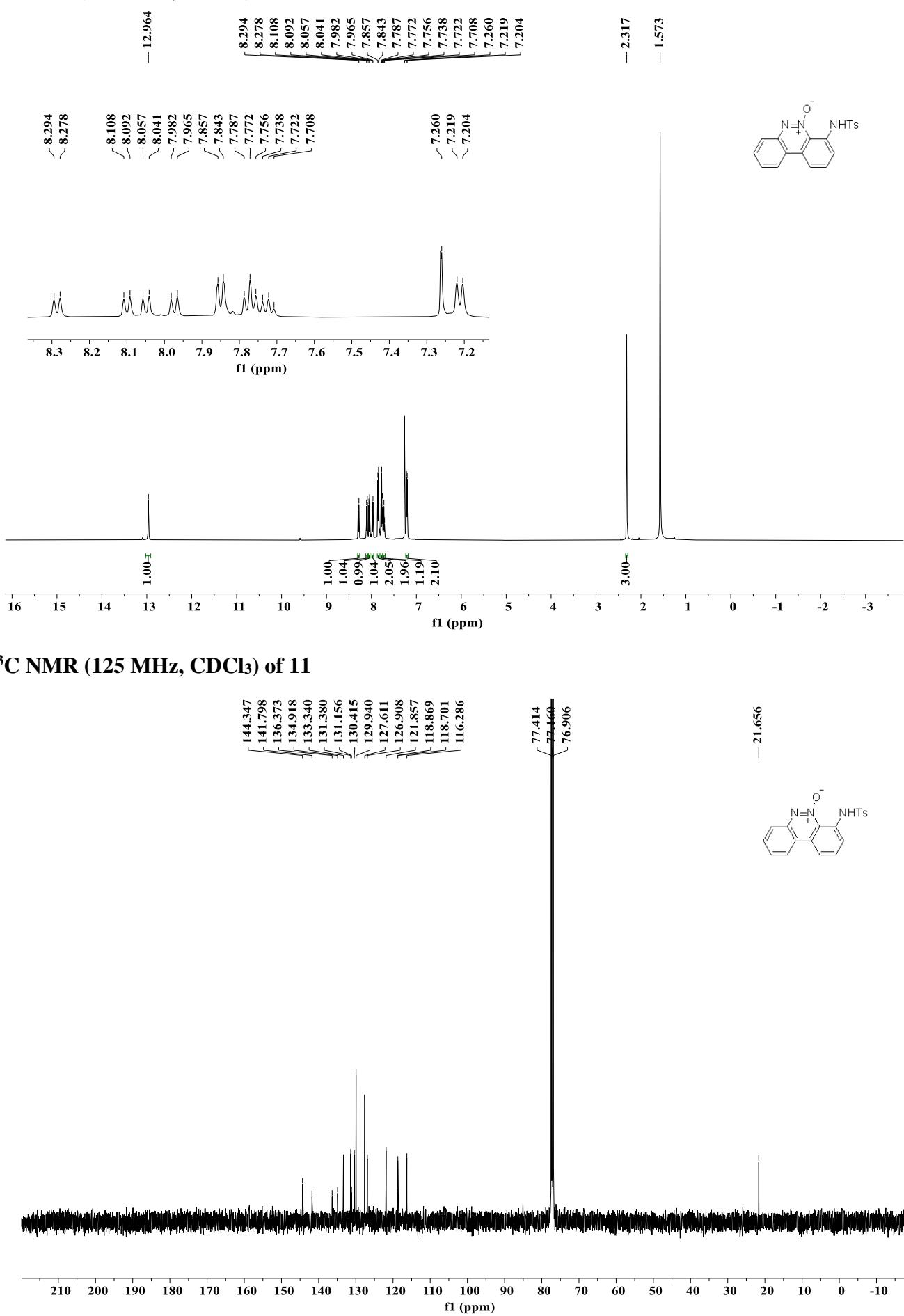
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 10**



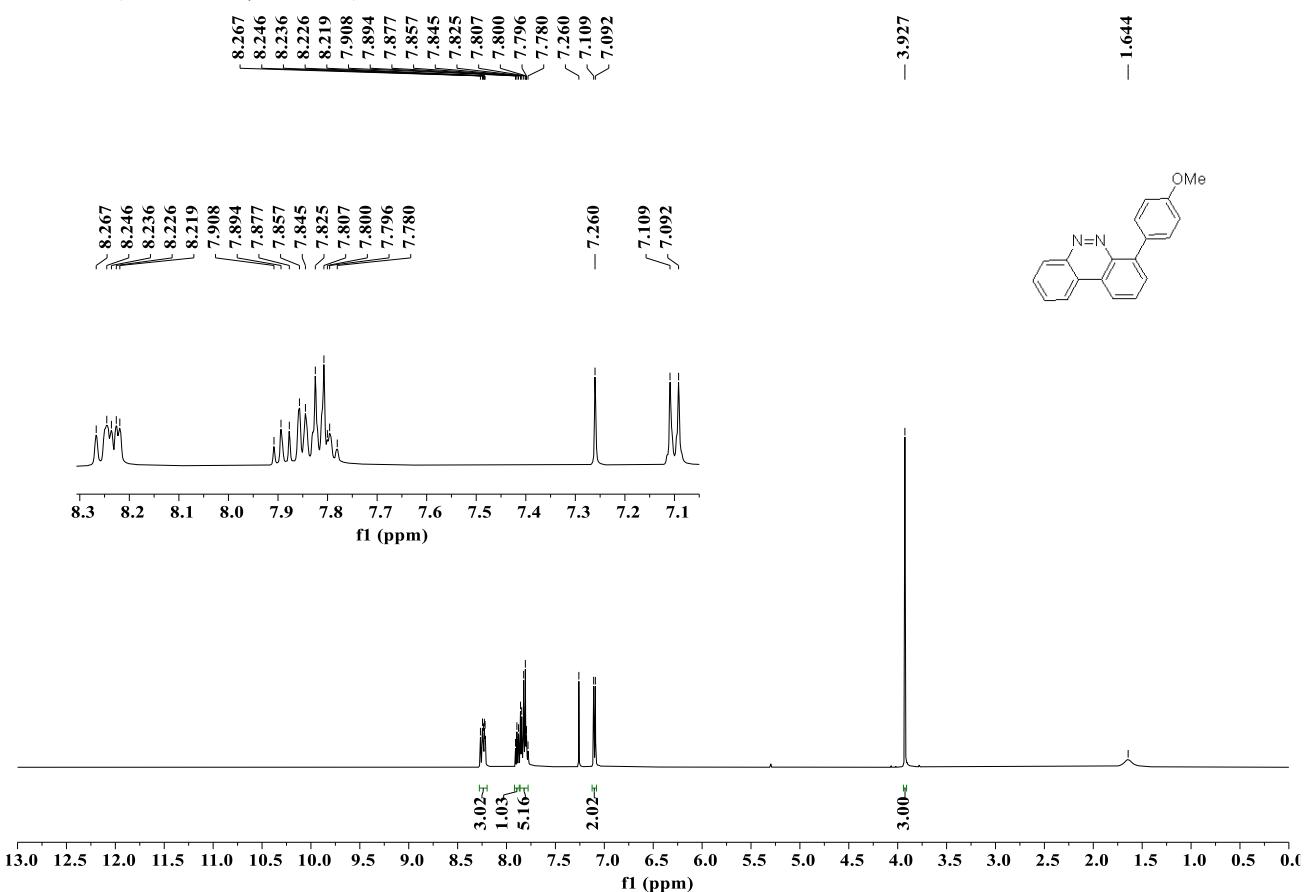
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 10**



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 11**



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 12**



**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 12**

