

Supporting Information

Iron(III)/Quinoxaline-Derived N, N-Ligand Catalyzed Oxygen Transfer Reaction of N-Vinyl Nitrones through Selective 4π-Electrocyclization and N-O Bond Cleavage

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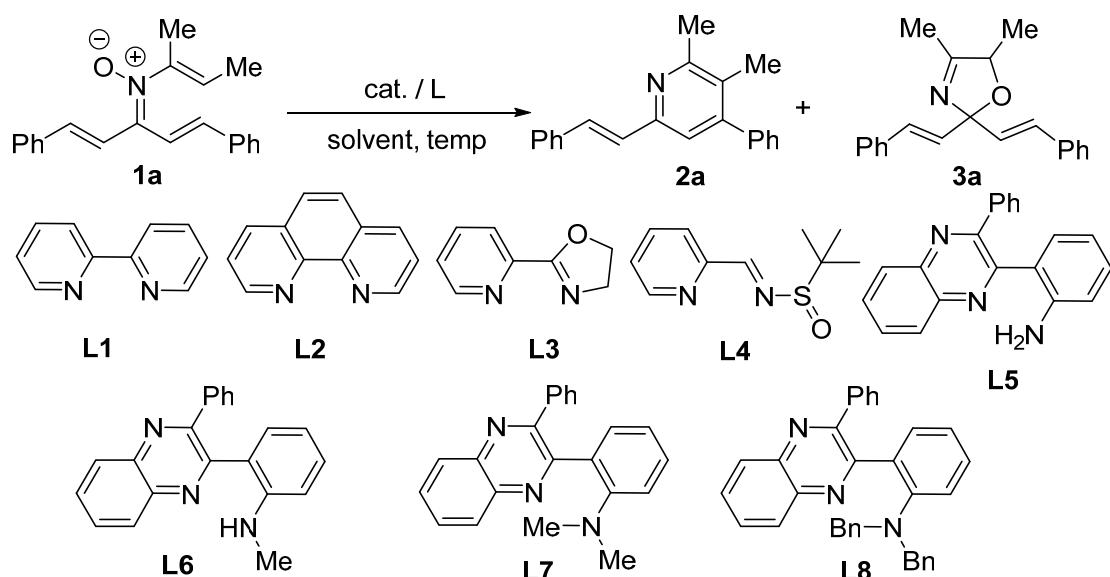
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1. General experimental information

¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded at ambient temperature using 400, 500 or 600 MHz spectrometers. The data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm from internal tetramethylsilane on the δ scale, multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), and integration. High resolution mass spectra were acquired on an LTQ FT spectrometer, and were obtained by peak matching. Melting points are reported uncorrected. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on 0.25 mm extra hard silica gel plates with UV254 fluorescent indicator. Chromatography was performed using with 300-400 mesh silica gel (SiO_2). Unless otherwise noted, all reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and, where appropriate, purified prior to use. Ligands L1-L4 were purchased from Energy Chemical. N-Vinyl nitrones 1a-1w^[1,2], 1z,^[3] 1aa,^[4] 1ab^[5] were prepared according to literature methods and their spectral data matched literature values.

2. Optimization conditions (Table S1)

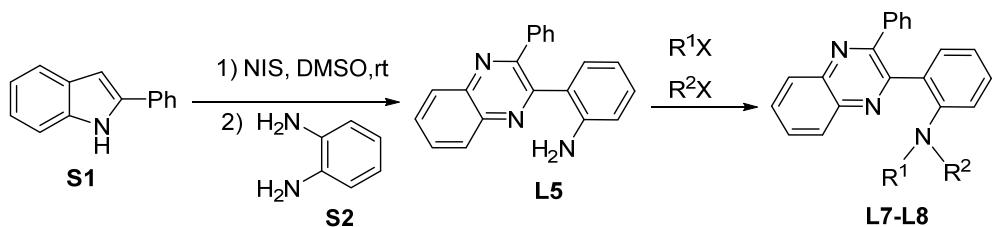


entry	Cat./L	solvent/temp	2a%/ ^b 3a%
1	FeCl ₃	dioxane/80 °C	21/16
2	FeCl ₃	Et ₂ O/80 °C	39/36
3	FeCl ₃	<i>n</i> -Bu ₂ O/80 °C	34/17

4	FeCl ₃	TBME/80 °C	29/21
5	FeCl ₃	Et ₂ O/40 °C	44/18
6	FeCl ₃ / L1	Et ₂ O/40 °C	70/-
7	FeCl ₃ / L2	Et ₂ O/40 °C	77/-
8	FeCl ₃ / L3	Et ₂ O/40 °C	60/<5
9	FeCl ₃ / L4	Et ₂ O/40 °C	38/6
10	FeCl ₃ / L5	Et ₂ O/40 °C	<5/48
11	FeCl ₃ / L6	Et ₂ O/40 °C	<5/52
12	FeCl ₃ / L7	Et ₂ O/40 °C	<5/65
13	FeCl ₃ / L8	Et ₂ O/40 °C	<5/58
14	FeCl ₂ / L7	Et ₂ O/40 °C	<5/38
15	FeBr ₃ / L7	Et ₂ O/40 °C	<5/59
16	Fe(OTf) ₃ / L7	Et ₂ O/40 °C	<5/62
17	FeF ₃ / L7	Et ₂ O/40 °C	-
18	CuSO ₄ / L7	Et ₂ O/40 °C	<5/<5
19	Pd(OAc) ₂ / L7	Et ₂ O/40 °C	<5/<5
20	FeCl ₃ / L7	Et ₂ O/40 °C	<5/60 ^c
21	-/ L7	Et ₂ O/40 °C	-

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), cat (20 mol%), ligand (24 mol%), solvent (2.0 mL), 16-48 h; ^b isolated yield. ^c 4A MS.

3. Synthesis of ligands **L5-L8**

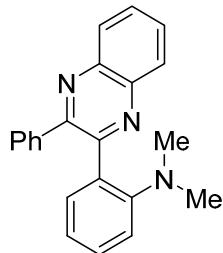


Ligands **L5-L6** were prepared according to literature method^[6], and their spectral data matched literature values.

General Procedure A: *N*-Iodosuccinimide (NIS) (0.22 g, 1 mmol) was added to a solution of 2-arylindoles **S1** (0.193 g, 1 mmol) in DMSO (10 mL) under an air atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours (complete consumption of 2- arylindole indicated by TLC). Then, 1,2-aminobenzenes **S2** (0.108

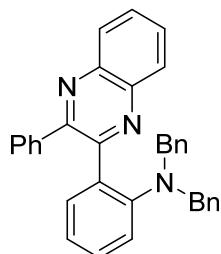
g, 1 mmol) was added into the solution, the reaction for another 4-6 hours at room temperature. The reaction mixture was poured into 30 mL saturated aqueous NaCl solutions, and extracted with ethyl acetate (2×15 mL). The combined organic phase was dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (1/10, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to afford ligand **L5**.

In a 25 mL reaction flask was charged with **L5** (0.149 g, 0.5 mmol), NaH (0.1 g, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv.) and DMF (5.0 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 0.5 h and CH₃I or BnBr (3.0 equiv.) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 12 h until the substrate **L5** disappeared (monitored by TLC). At this time, the reaction was quenched by H₂O (10 mL) and extracted with DCM (3×10 mL). Then, the combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (1/20, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to afford ligands **L7-L8**.



L7

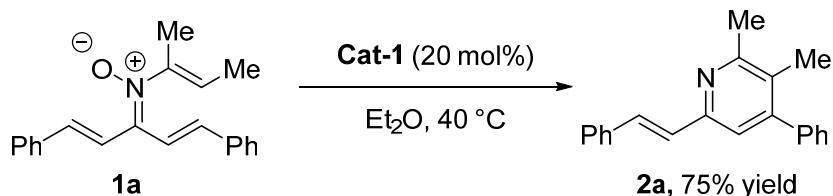
N,N-dimethyl-2-(3-phenylquinoxalin-2-yl)aniline (L7): **L5** (0.149 g, 0.5 mmol) ran for 12 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **L7**. A yellow solid (0.122 g, 75% yield); Mp: 51–52 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.12-8.10 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.62 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.10 (m, 4H), 6.71-6.69 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.97 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.9, 154.8, 151.5, 141.3, 141.0, 139.7, 133.1, 131.4, 130.1, 129.5, 129.3, 129.2, 128.9, 128.1, 128.0, 127.4, 122.7, 118.7, 43.0; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₀N₃[M + H]⁺: 326.1652, found 326.1654.



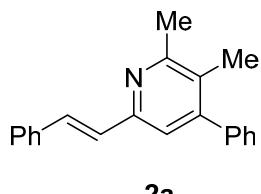
L8

N,N-dibenzyl-2-(3-phenylquinoxalin-2-yl)aniline (L8): **L5** (0.149 g, 0.5 mmol) ran for 12 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **L8**. A yellow solid (0.138 g, 58% yield); Mp: 154–155 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.69–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23–7.15 (m, 2H), 7.10–7.08 (m, 3H), 7.01–7.00 (m, 6H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.72–6.71 (m, 4H), 3.71 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.4, 153.4, 149.8, 141.3, 140.9, 138.4, 137.2, 134.6, 131.8, 129.7, 129.6, 129.5, 129.4, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 127.9, 126.8, 123.3, 122.5, 56.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₄H₂₈N₃[M + H]⁺: 478.2278, found 478.2274.

4. Synthesis of compound **2a**



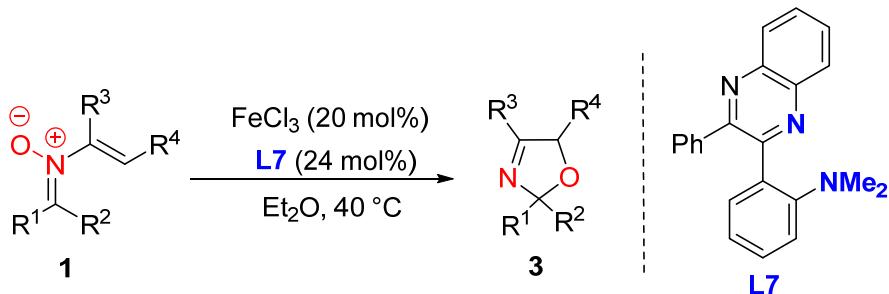
A 10 mL reaction flask was charged with N-vinyl nitrones **1a** (0.20 mmol) and **Cat-1** (0.04 mmol, 20 mol%) under N₂ atmosphere. Et₂O (2 mL) was then added via syringe and the reaction vessel was sealed with a Teflon cap. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at 40 °C in an oil bath for 20 h until **1a** was consumed completely (monitored by TLC). At this time, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (1/30, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to afford compound **2a**.



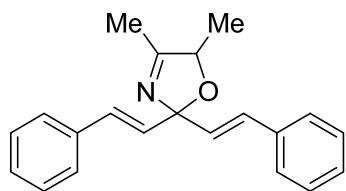
2a

(E)-2,3-dimethyl-4-phenyl-6-styrylpyridine (2a)^[1]: **1a** (0.061 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 20 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **2a**. A light yellow solid (0.043 g, 75% yield); Mp: 101–102 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.57–7.53(m, 3H), 7.48–7.41 (m, 3H), 7.37–7.26 (m, 5H), 7.20–7.17 (m, 2H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.6, 151.9, 150.0, 140.0, 136.9, 131.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.7, 127.6, 127.0, 120.4, 23.6, 16.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₀N [M + H]⁺: 286.1590, found 286.1583.

5. Synthesis of compounds 3

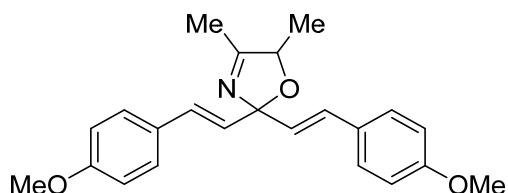


General procedure B: A 10 mL reaction flask was charged with *N*-vinyl nitrones **1** (0.20 mmol), FeCl₃ (6.4 mg, 20 mol%) and **L7** (15.6 mg, 24 mol%) under N₂ atmosphere. Et₂O (2 mL) was then added via syringe and the reaction vessel was sealed with a Teflon cap. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at 40 °C in an oil bath for 16–29 h until **1** was consumed completely (monitored by TLC). At this time, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (1/20 to 1/10, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to afford compounds **3**.



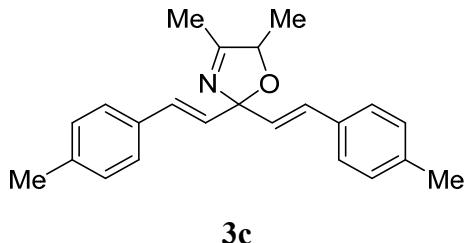
3a

4,5-dimethyl-2,2-di((E)-styryl)-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3a): **1a** (0.061 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 20 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3a**. A yellow solid (0.039 g, 65% yield); Mp: 79–80 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42–7.40 (m, 4H), 7.36–7.27 (m, 4H), 7.25–7.21 (m, 2H), 6.81–6.75 (m, 2H), 6.47–6.38 (m, 2H), 4.86 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.45 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 172.4, 137.1, 132.6, 131.4, 129.9, 129.6, 129.4, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 127.6, 127.5, 109.1, 83.5, 19.8, 15.9; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₂NO [M + H]⁺: 304.1696, found 304.1695.

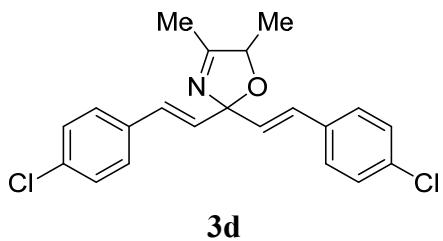


3b

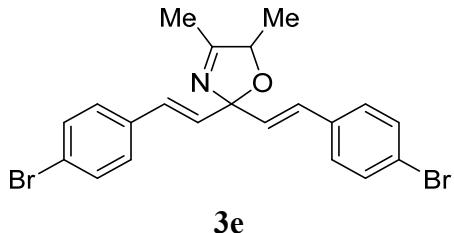
2,2-bis((E)-4-methoxystyryl)-4,5-dimethyl-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3b): **1b** (0.073 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 20 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/10) afforded **3b**. A yellow solid (0.035 g, 48% yield); Mp: 58–59 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 6.74–6.67 (m, 2H), 6.32–6.23 (m, 2H), 4.84 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.44 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.4, 159.3, 129.4, 129.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 127.6, 113.9, 113.8, 108.7, 83.0, 55.3, 19.1, 15.5; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₃H₂₆NO₃ [M + H]⁺: 364.1907, found 364.1909.



4,5-dimethyl-2,2-bis((E)-4-methylstyryl)-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3c): 1c (0.066 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 22 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/10) afforded **3c**. A yellow solid (0.040 g, 61% yield); Mp: 63–64 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.31 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 6.77–6.70 (m, 2H), 6.41–6.32 (m, 2H), 4.85 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 6H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.44 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.6, 137.6, 133.8, 133.7, 129.9, 129.6, 129.2, 129.1, 128.7, 126.7, 126.6, 108.7, 83.1, 21.2, 19.1, 15.5; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₃H₂₆NO [M + H]⁺: 332.2009, found 332.1999.

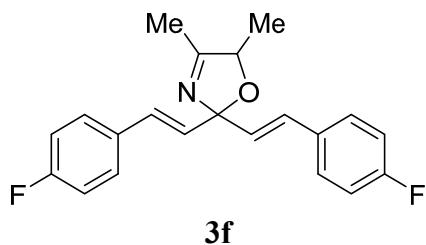


2,2-bis((E)-4-chlorostyryl)-4,5-dimethyl-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3d): 1d (0.074 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3d**. A yellow solid (0.050 g, 68% yield); Mp: 88–89 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.35–7.32 (m, 4H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 6.75–6.68 (m, 2H), 6.43–6.33 (m, 2H), 4.86 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.44 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.1, 135.0, 134.9, 133.5, 131.3, 130.1, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 108.4, 83.3, 29.7, 19.0, 15.5; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₀Cl₂NO [M + H]⁺: 372.0916, found 372.0911.

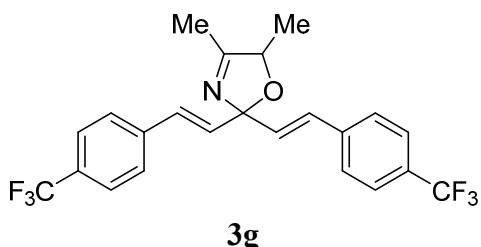


2,2-bis((E)-4-chlorostyryl)-4,5-dimethyl-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3e): 1e (0.092 g, 0.20

mmol) ran for 20 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/10) afforded **3e**. A yellow solid (0.058 g, 63% yield); Mp: 97–98 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.28–7.25 (m, 4H), 6.74–6.67 (m, 2H), 6.44–6.34 (m, 2H), 4.85 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.44 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.1, 135.4, 135.3, 131.7, 131.6, 131.4, 130.2, 128.7, 128.3, 121.7, 108.4, 83.3, 19.0, 15.5; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₀Br₂NO [M + H]⁺: 459.9906, found 459.9899.

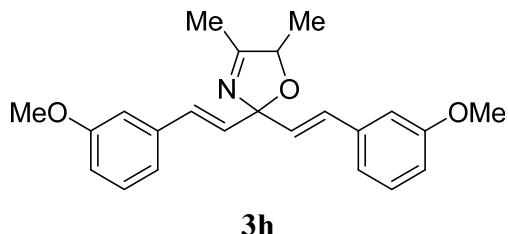


2,2-bis((E)-4-fluorostyryl)-4,5-dimethyl-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3f): **1f** (0.068 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/10) afforded **3f**. A yellow solid (0.041 g, 61% yield); Mp: 74–75 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.39–7.35 (m, 4H), 7.02–6.97 (m, 4H), 6.76–6.70 (m, 2H), 6.37–6.28 (m, 2H), 4.86 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.45 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.9, 163.7 (d, *J* = 245.8 Hz), 132.6 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 132.5 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 130.5, 129.3, 128.6, 128.3 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 128.2 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz), 128.1, 115.6 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 115.4 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 108.4, 83.2, 19.0, 15.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.0, -114.1; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₀F₂NO [M + H]⁺: 340.1507, found 340.1519.

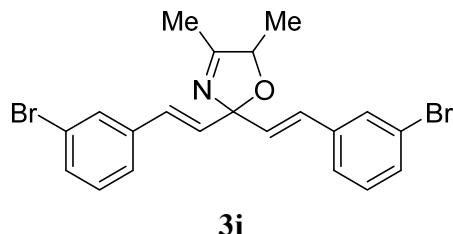


4,5-dimethyl-2,2-bis((E)-4-(trifluoromethyl)styryl)-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3g): **1g** (0.088 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 29 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/10) afforded **3g**. A yellow solid (0.060 g, 68% yield); Mp: 94–95 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.4

Hz, 4H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 4H), 6.84-6.78 (m, 2H), 6.55-6.45 (m, 2H), 4.88 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.46 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 172.4, 139.9 (q, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 133.1, 131.9, 130.2 (q, $J = 32$ Hz), 128.6, 128.3, 126.9, 125.5 (q, $J = 274.8$ Hz), 108.2, 19.0, 15.5; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_6\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: 440.1444, found 440.1457.

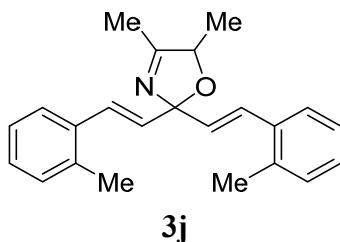


2,2-bis((E)-3-methoxystyryl)-4,5-dimethyl-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3h): **1h** (0.073 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/10) afforded **3h**. A yellow solid (0.040 g, 56% yield); Mp: 71–72 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.04 (s, 4H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.67-6.61 (m, 2H), 6.55-6.46 (m, 2H), 4.84 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 6H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.34 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 172.4, 160.5, 160.4, 138.6, 138.5, 132.8, 131.7, 130.6, 129.4, 129.1, 120.1, 114.9, 114.8, 112.4, 112.3, 109.1, 83.5, 56.0, 19.8, 15.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_3 [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: 364.1907, found 364.1909.

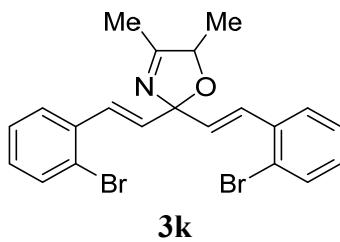


2,2-bis((E)-3-bromostyryl)-4,5-dimethyl-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3i): **1i** (0.092 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3i**. A yellow solid (0.032 g, 60% yield); Mp: 75–76 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.56 (s, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.73-6.66 (m, 2H), 6.45-6.35 (m, 2H) 4.85 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.44 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 172.1, 138.6, 138.6, 132.1, 130.1, 130.0, 129.9, 128.5, 128.1, 125.4, 122.7, 108.3, 83.4, 19.0, 15.4; HRMS

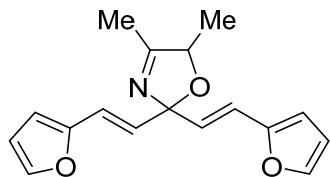
(ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{19}Br_2NO$ [M + H]⁺: 459.9906, found 459.9900.



4,5-dimethyl-2,2-bis((E)-2-methylstyryl)-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3j): **1j** (0.066 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3j**. A yellow solid (0.039 g, 60% yield); Mp: 111–112 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.48 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 6H), 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.37-6.27 (m, 2H), 4.88 (q, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 6H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.47 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.5, 135.9, 135.8, 135.7, 135.6, 132.4, 131.1, 130.2, 130.1, 127.7, 127.6, 127.3, 126.0, 125.9, 125.8, 109.0, 83.2, 19.9, 19.8, 19.1, 15.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{23}H_{26}NO$ [M + H]⁺: 332.2009, found 332.2002.

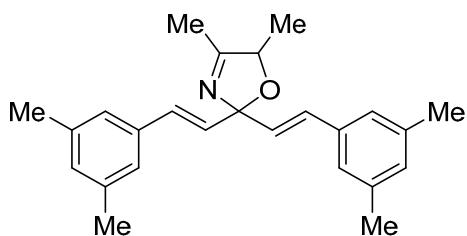


2,2-bis((E)-2-bromostyryl)-4,5-dimethyl-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3k): **1k** (0.092 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3k**. A yellow solid (0.056 g, 62% yield); Mp: 96–97 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.55-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.44-6.33 (m, 2H), 4.92 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.49 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.0, 136.6, 136.5, 133.5, 132.9, 132.8, 132.3, 129.0, 128.6, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 124.1, 124.0, 108.5, 83.6, 19.1, 15.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{20}Br_2NO$ [M + H]⁺: 459.9906, found 459.9907.



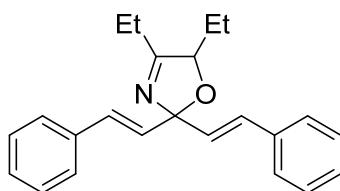
3l

2,2-bis((E)-2-(furan-2-yl)vinyl)-4,5-dimethyl-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3l): **1l** (0.057 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 22 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3l**. A yellow solid (0.028 g, 48% yield); Mp: 80–81 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.63 (s, 2H), 6.53–6.47 (m, 6H), 6.26–6.16 (m, 2H), 4.81 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.31 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 172.8, 152.5, 144.0, 130.4, 129.2, 118.3, 118.1, 112.7, 110.5, 110.4, 108.5, 83.6, 19.8, 15.8; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₈NO₃ [M + H]⁺: 284.1281, found 284.1286.



3m

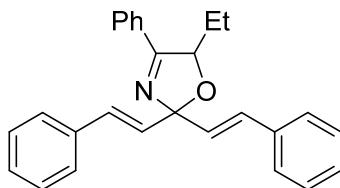
2,2-bis((E)-3,5-dimethylstyryl)-4,5-dimethyl-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3m): **1m** (0.072 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3m**. A yellow solid (0.043 g, 60% yield); Mp: 92–93 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.04 (s, 4H), 6.88 (s, 2H), 6.74–6.67 (m, 2H), 6.43–6.33 (m, 2H), 4.83 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 12H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.5, 137.9, 137.8, 136.5, 136.4, 130.6, 129.9, 129.4, 129.3, 124.7, 124.6, 108.7, 83.0, 21.2, 19.1, 15.4; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₃₀NO [M + H]⁺: 360.2322, found 360.2316.



3n

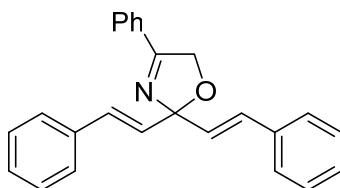
4,5-diethyl-2,2-di((E)-styryl)-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3n): **1n** (0.066 g, 0.20 mmol) ran

for 17 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3n**. A yellow solid (0.044 g, 66% yield); Mp: 85–86 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.43 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 5H), 7.33–7.29 (m, 4H), 7.26–7.21 (m, 1H), 6.81–6.74 (m, 2H), 6.48–6.41 (m, 2H), 4.78–4.75 (m, 1H), 2.38–2.29 (m, 2H), 1.92–1.89 (m, 1H), 1.87–1.84 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.88–0.86 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 175.2, 143.3, 136.7, 136.6, 134.8, 130.7, 130.0, 129.8, 129.2, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 126.8, 125.4, 108.5, 87.4, 25.6, 22.9, 10.1, 9.6; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₃H₂₆NO [M + H]⁺: 332.2009, found 332.2002.



3o

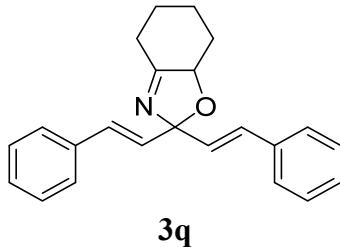
5-ethyl-4-phenyl-2,2-di((E)-styryl)-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3o): **1o** (0.076 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3o**. A yellow oil (0.052 g, 68% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.48–7.45 (m, 5H), 7.42–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.19 (m, 3H) 6.92–6.82 (m, 2H), 6.59–6.49 (m, 2H), 5.46–5.44 (m, 1H), 2.01–1.95 (m, 1H), 1.78–1.71 (m, 1H), 1.02 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.5, 136.3, 136.2, 130.4, 130.1, 129.7, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.0, 127.9, 126.8, 126.7, 110.8, 80.3, 73.6, 68.3, 32.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₇H₂₆NO [M + H]⁺: 380.2009, found 380.1993.



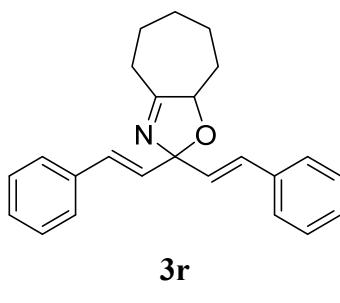
3p

4-phenyl-2,2-di((E)-styryl)-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3p): **1p** (0.070 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3p**. A yellow solid (0.041 g, 58% yield); Mp: 140–141 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.43 (m,

7H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 2H), 5.17 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 167.2, 136.4, 131.7, 130.9, 130.1, 129.3, 128.8, 128.5, 127.9, 127.8, 126.8, 111.3, 73.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: 352.1696, found 352.1684.

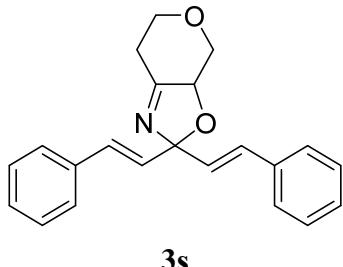


2,2-di((E)-styryl)-2,4,5,6,7,7a-hexahydrobenzo[d]oxazole (3q): **1q** (0.066 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 20 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3q**. A yellow solid (0.041 g, 62% yield); Mp: 139–140 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.46-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 2H), 6.84-6.73 (m, 2H), 6.51-6.39 (m, 2H), 4.65 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.82-2.78 (m, 1H), 2.47-2.43 (m, 1H), 2.33-2.25 (m, 1H), 2.04-2.01 (m, 1H), 1.89 -1.87 (m, 1H), 1.60-1.59 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 173.8, 136.6, 130.8, 129.9, 129.5, 129.2, 128.5, 128.4, 127.8, 126.8, 126.7, 109.3, 83.9, 35.1, 30.2, 26.4, 22.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: 330.1852, found 330.1850.



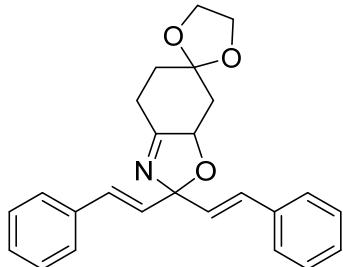
2,2-di((E)-styryl)-4,5,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-2H-cyclohepta[d]oxazole (3r): **1r** (0.069 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 21 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/10) afforded **3r**. A yellow solid (0.041 g, 60% yield); Mp: 72–73 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.42 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 6.82–6.75 (m, 2H), 6.47-6.39 (m, 2H), 4.90-4.87 (m, 1H), 2.64 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.10-2.06 (m, 1H), 1.84-1.61 (m, 5H), 1.57-1.46 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 176.2, 136.6, 136.5, 130.6, 129.8, 129.5, 129.2, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 126.8, 126.7, 108.6, 87.6, 33.5, 30.6, 30.2, 26.0, 25.3;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₄H₂₆NO [M + H]⁺: 344.2009, found 344.2011.



3s

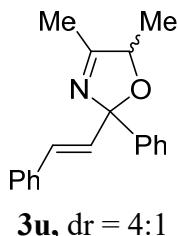
2,2-di(E-styryl)-3a,4,6,7-tetrahydro-2H-pyranolo[4,3-d]oxazole (3s): **1s** (0.066 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/10) afforded **3s**. A yellow solid (0.033 g, 50% yield); Mp: 92–93 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.44–7.41 (m, 3H), 7.33–7.31 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.24 (m, 4H), 6.82–6.73 (m, 2H), 6.47–6.39 (m, 2H), 4.73–4.70 (m, 1H), 4.48–4.46 (m, 1H), 4.30–4.26 (m, 1H), 3.44–3.40 (m, 1H), 3.25 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.78–2.70 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.5, 136.3, 136.2, 130.4, 130.1, 129.7, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.0, 127.9, 126.8, 126.7, 110.8, 80.3, 73.6, 68.3, 32.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₂H₂₂NO₂ [M + H]⁺: 332.1645 found 332.1645.



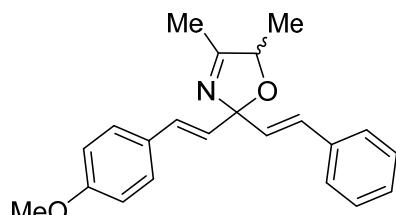
3t

2,2-di(E-styryl)-4,5,7,7a-tetrahydro-2H-spiro[benzo[d]oxazole-6,2'-1,3]dioxolane (3t): **1t** (0.077 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3t**. A yellow solid (0.044 g, 56% yield); Mp: 51–52 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.43–7.40 (m, 4H), 7.36–7.29 (m, 4H), 7.24–7.22 (m, 2H), 6.84–6.73 (m, 2H), 6.50–6.37 (m, 2H), 4.90–4.86 (m, 1H), 4.07–3.97 (m, 4H), 2.78–2.73 (m, 1H), 2.64–2.56 (m, 1H), 2.53–2.48 (m, 1H), 2.04–1.99 (m, 1H), 1.86–1.78 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.3, 136.4, 136.3, 130.4, 130.2, 129.4, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.8, 126.8, 126.7, 110.5, 108.1, 82.0, 64.8, 64.6, 42.6, 34.3, 25.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd

for C₂₅H₂₆NO₃ [M + H]⁺: 388.1907 found 388.1900.

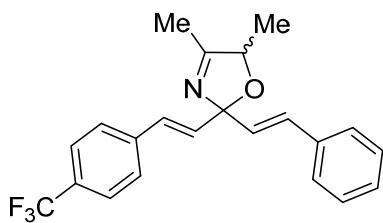


(E)-4,5-dimethyl-2-phenyl-2-styryl-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3u, dr = 4:1): **1u** (0.055 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3u**. A yellow solid (0.036 g, 66% yield); Mp: 61–62 °C; *Major isomer*: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 4H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 3H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.47 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.4, 142.8, 136.5, 132.7, 131.2, 129.0, 128.4, 128.2, 127.6, 126.8, 125.8, 109.8, 83.3, 19.0, 15.3; *Minor isomer*: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 4H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 3H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.40 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.5, 143.2, 136.4, 132.7, 131.2, 129.2, 128.6, 128.2, 127.7, 126.8, 125.8, 109.6, 83.3, 18.7, 15.3; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₀NO [M + H]⁺: 278.1539 found 278.1542.



2-((E)-4-methoxystyryl)-4,5-dimethyl-2-(E)-styryl-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3v): **1v** (0.067 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3v**. A yellow solid (0.034 g, 51% yield); Mp: 83–84 °C; *One isomer*: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.36–7.29 (m, 4H), 7.25–7.21 (m, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.81–6.69 (m, 2H), 6.48–6.38 (m, 1H), 6.33–6.24 (m, 1H), 4.86 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.45 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.6,

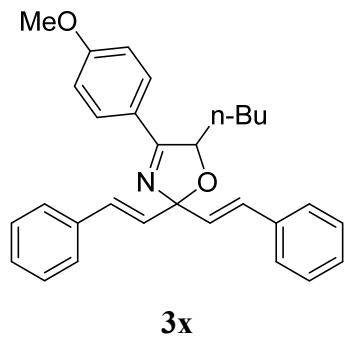
159.3, 136.6, 131.1, 129.8, 129.6, 129.3, 129.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.0, 127.7, 127.5, 126.7, 113.9, 108.7, 83.1, 55.2, 19.1, 15.4; *Another isomer:* ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.42 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 1H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.81-6.69 (m, 2H), 6.48-6.38 (m, 1H), 6.33-6.24 (m, 1H), 4.86 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.45 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.5, 159.3, 136.5, 131.1, 129.8, 129.6, 129.3, 129.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.0, 127.7, 127.5, 126.7, 113.9, 108.7, 83.0, 55.2, 19.1, 15.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: 334.1802 found 334.1795.



3w, $dr = 1:1$

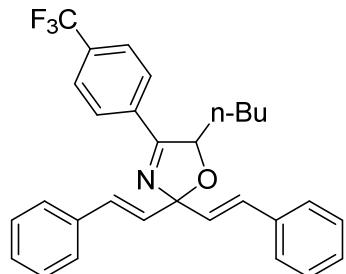
4,5-dimethyl-2-((E)-styryl)-2-((E)-4-(trifluoromethyl)styryl)-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3w):

1w (0.074 g, 0.20 mmol) ran for 16 h. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (eluents with a mixed ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/20) afforded **3w**. A yellow solid (0.045 g, 61% yield); Mp: 74–75 °C; *One isomer:* ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.57 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H), 6.84-6.75 (m, 2H), 6.56-6.37 (m, 2H), 4.87 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.46 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.1, 140.1, 136.4, 133.5, 130.4, 129.6 (q, $J = 5.1$ Hz), 129.4 (q, $J = 32.1$ Hz), 129.1, 128.6 (q, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 128.4, 128.0, 127.8, 126.9, 125.5 (q, $J = 269.1$ Hz), 108.5, 83.4, 19.1, 15.5; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.5; *Another isomer:* ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.57 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H), 6.84-6.75 (m, 2H), 6.56-6.37 (m, 2H), 4.87 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.46 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.1, 140.0, 136.3, 132.4, 130.0, 129.6 (q, $J = 5.1$ Hz), 129.3 (q, $J = 32.1$ Hz), 129.1, 128.6 (q, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 126.8, 125.4 (q, $J = 269.1$ Hz), 108.3, 83.3, 19.0, 15.5; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_3\text{NO}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: 372.1570 found 372.1563.



3x

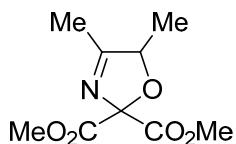
5-butyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,2-di((E)-styryl)-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3x). A colorless oil, 0.040 g, 46% yield; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 5H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.88-6.80 (m, 2H), 6.58-6.47 (m, 2H), 5.43 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.92-1.86 (m, 1H), 1.71-1.64 (m, 1H), 1.55-1.47 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.33 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.2, 161.9, 136.7, 136.6, 131.0, 130.4, 129.9, 129.8, 129.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.6, 126.8, 126.7, 124.0, 114.0, 109.1, 85.2, 55.4, 33.9, 28.0, 22.5, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_2$ [M + H] $^+$: 438.2428, found 438.2404.



3y

5-butyl-2,2-di((E)-styryl)-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2,5-dihydrooxazole (3y). A colorless oil, 0.059 g, 62% yield; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.93 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 1H), 6.90-6.81 (m, 2H), 6.57-6.47 (m, 2H), 5.48-5.46 (m, 1H), 1.91-1.84 (m, 1H), 1.71-1.64 (m, 1H), 1.52-1.44 (m, 1H), 1.43-1.28 (m, 3H), 0.90 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.8, 136.5, 136.3, 134.8, 132.9 (d, $J = 32.0$ Hz), 130.3, 130.2, 129.9, 129.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.9 (q, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 126.8, 125.7 (q, $J = 3.1$ Hz), 124.8 (q, $J = 270.4$ Hz), 109.6, 85.3, 33.5, 27.9, 22.4, 13.9; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{29}\text{F}_3\text{NO}$ [M +

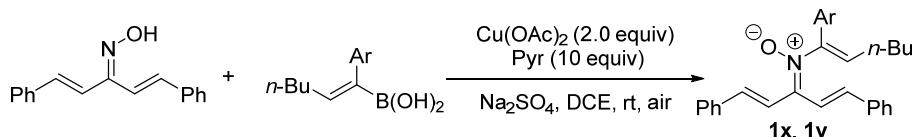
$\text{H}]^+$: 476.2196, found 476.2176.



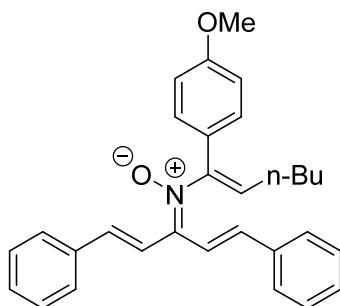
3z

dimethyl 4,5-dimethyloxazole-2,2(5H)-dicarboxylate (3z). A colorless oil, 0.009 g, 22% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.21 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.53 (s, 3H), 1.10 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.1, 169.7, 169.2, 106.7, 53.5, 53.4, 51.1, 22.5, 10.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: 216.0866, found 216.0860.

6. Synthesis of *N*-vinyl nitrones **1x** and **1y**



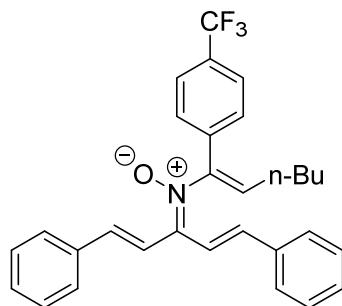
General procedure B: A scintillation vial was charged with oxime (1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), alkenyl boronic acid (3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ (2.0 equiv), and anhydrous Na_2SO_4 (8.0 equiv). These solids were diluted with DCE to form a 0.1 M solution of oxime. Pyridine (10.0 equiv) was added to the resulting slurry via syringe. The scintillation vial was then capped with a septum pierced with a ventilation needle and the reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h. DCE and pyridine were removed under reduced pressure and the crude reaction mixture was purified by medium pressure chromatography (1/6 to 1/1, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to give nitrones **1x** and **1y**.



1x

(1E,4E)-N-((E)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)hex-1-en-1-yl)-1,5-diphenylpenta-1,4-dien-3-imine oxide (1x). A yellow oil, 0.184 g, 42% yield; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62-

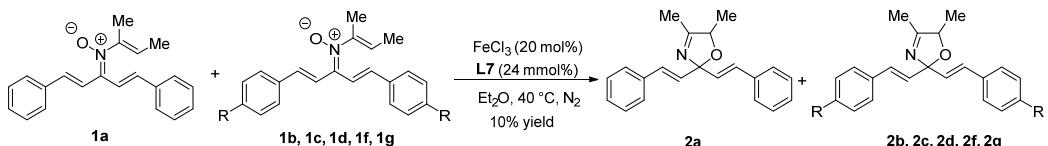
7.58 (m, 4H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.11 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.97-6.92 (m, 3H), 5.95 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.38-2.33 (m, 2H), 1.47-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.30 (m, 2H), 0.84 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.7, 146.2, 143.8, 139.8, 136.3, 136.0, 134.8, 130.0, 129.7, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 127.4, 126.7, 125.3, 120.3, 118.7, 113.9, 55.1, 31.4, 27.7, 22.3, 13.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_2$ [M + H] $^+$: 438.2428, found 438.2411.



1y

(1E,4E)-1,5-diphenyl-N-((E)-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)hex-1-en-1-yl)penta-1,4-dien-3-imine oxide (1y). A yellow oil, 0.399 g, 84% yield; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.69-7.64 (m, 5H), 7.61 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 6H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.09 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.12 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.39-2.34 (m, 2H), 1.51-1.46 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.31 (m, 2H), 0.86 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.1, 142.9, 139.9, 136.6, 136.3, 135.9, 134.9, 132.4, 131.0 (q, $J = 32.6$ Hz), 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 127.4, 127.0 (q, $J = 270.9$ Hz), 126.7, 125.5 (q, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 120.0, 118.6, 31.3, 27.7, 22.3, 13.7; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{29}\text{F}_3\text{NO}$ [M + H] $^+$: 476.2196, found 476.2179.

7. Description of Hammett study experiments

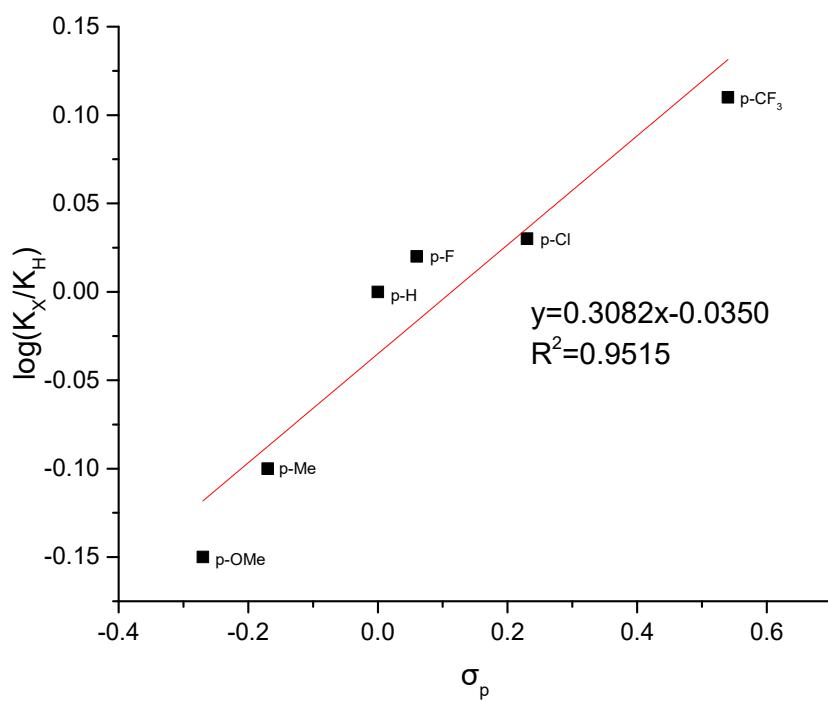


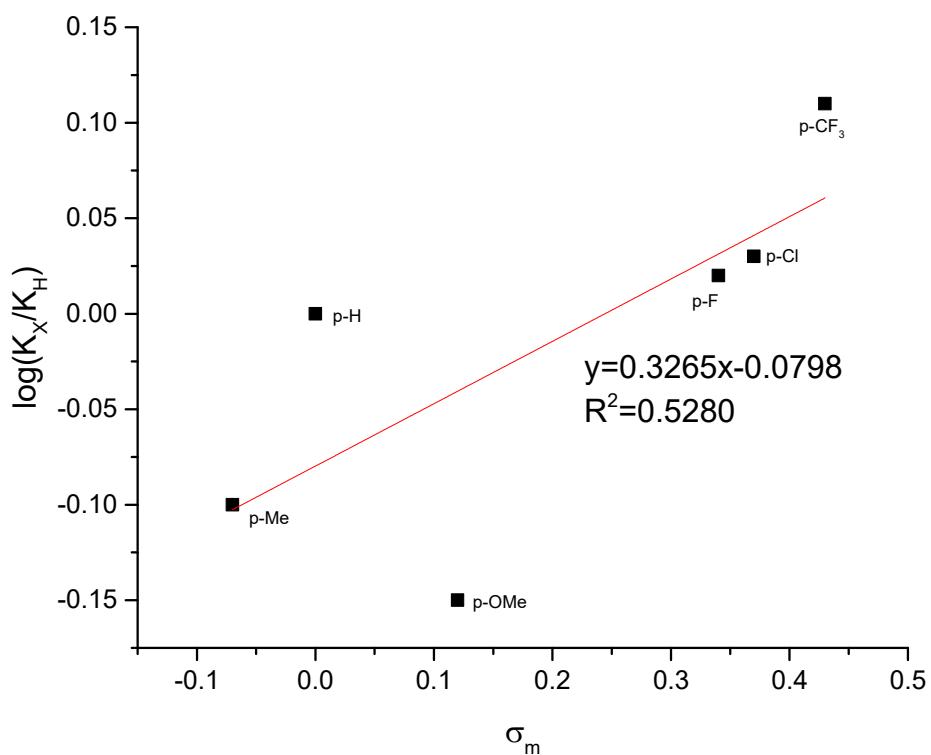
Competition experiments were set up using general procedure **B** but substituting **1**

equiv. of **1** for a 1:1 mixture of 0.5 equiv. of **1a** and 0.5 equiv. of **1b**, **1c**, **1d**, **1f**, or **1g**. Then conversion reaction was carried out for 1h. At this time, the ratio of the 2,5-dihydrooxazole resonances was recorded as an indication of the relative initial rates of the two substrates. The results were then plotted against Hammett parameters as illustrated in **Table S2**^[7]

Table S2. Hammett parameters of substituents

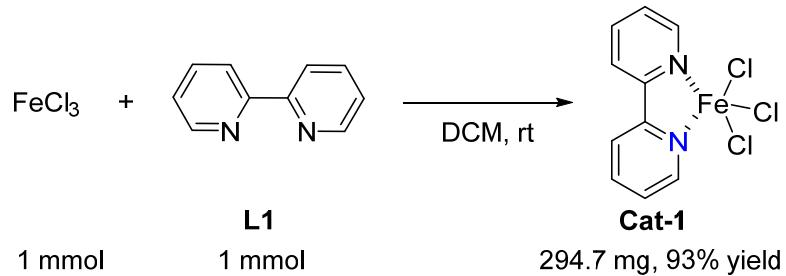
σ_p	σ_m	K_X/K_H	$\log(K_X/K_H)$
-0.27	0.12	0.70	-0.15
-0.17	-0.07	0.79	-0.10
0	0	0	0
0.06	0.34	1.05	0.02
0.23	0.37	1.08	0.03
0.54	0.43	1.29	0.11



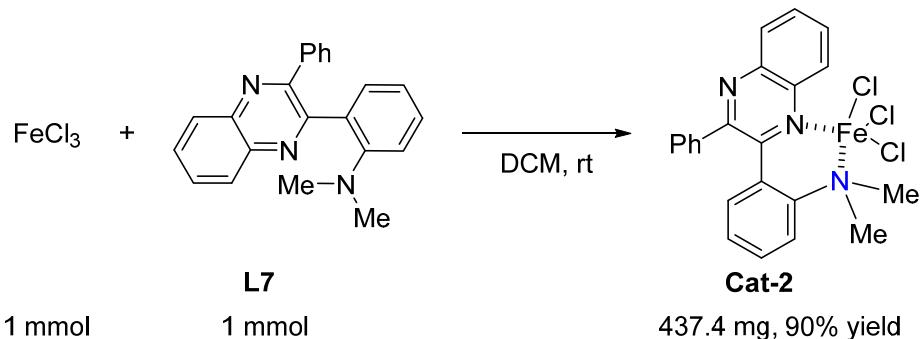
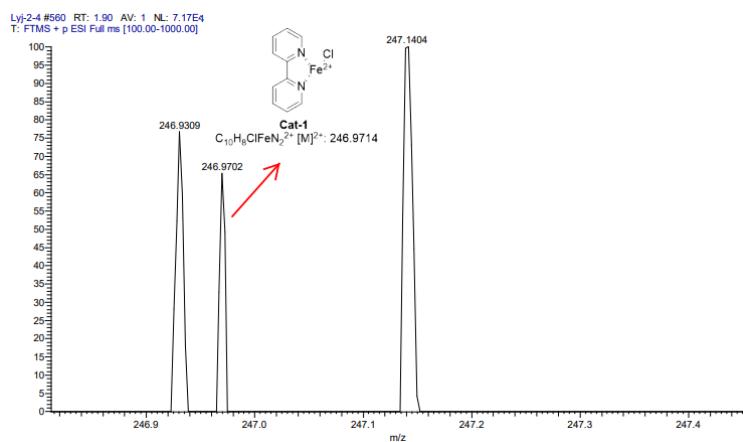


8. Studies of mechanism by HRMS (ESI)

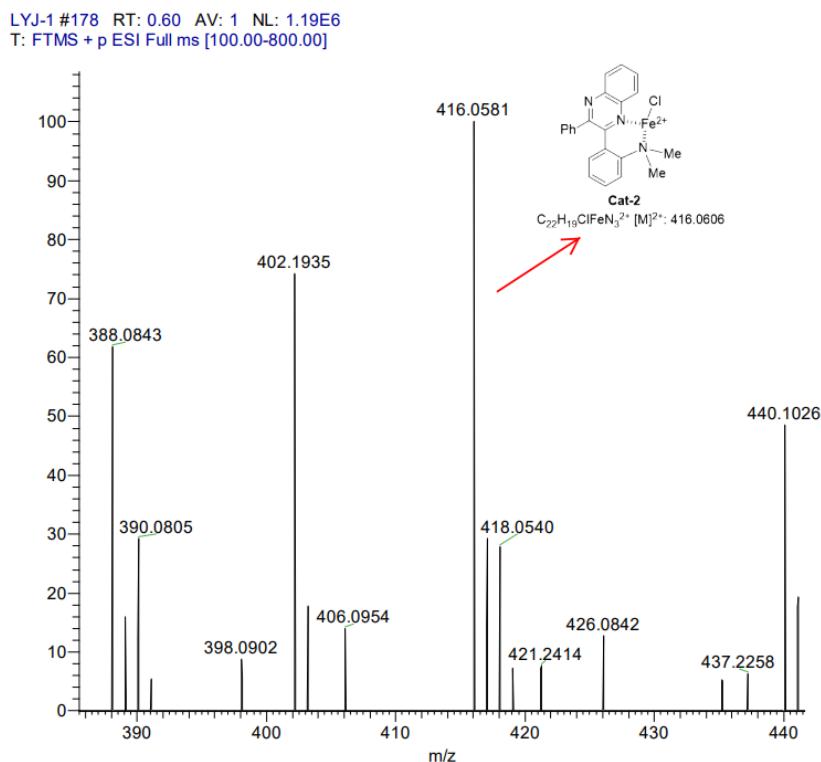
8.1 Synthesis of Cat-1. and Cat-2.



A solution of bipyridine **L1** (156 mg, 1.0 mmol) in DCM (20 mL) was added to a solution of FeCl_3 (161 mg, 1.0 mmol) in DCM (20 mL) at rt for 1 h. After stirring for 1 h, the resulting mixture was filtered off, washed with hexane (3×3 mL), and dried in vacuo to afford $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot \text{L1}$ as a yellow solid 294.7 mg (93%) yield.

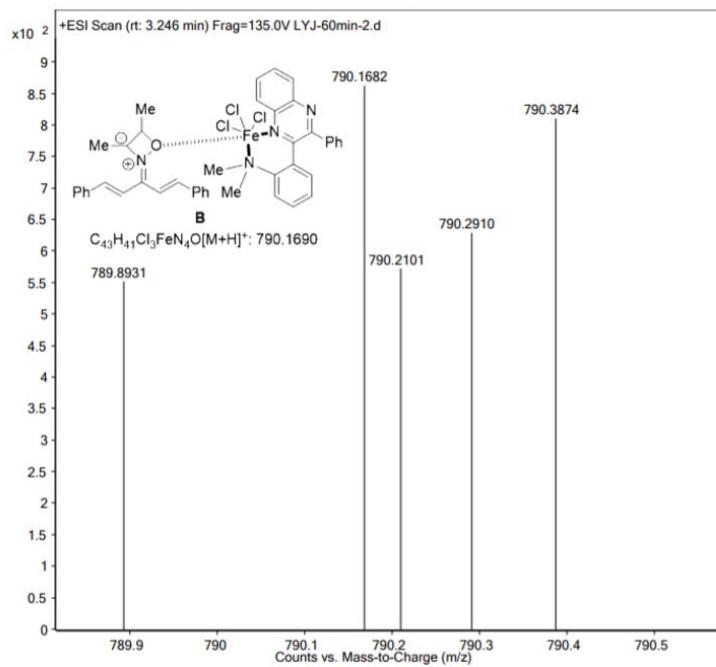
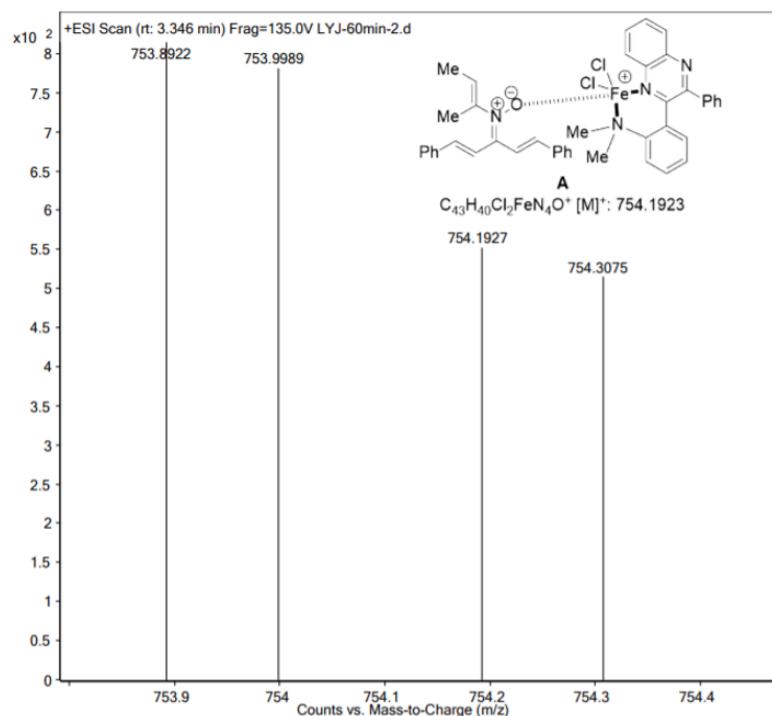


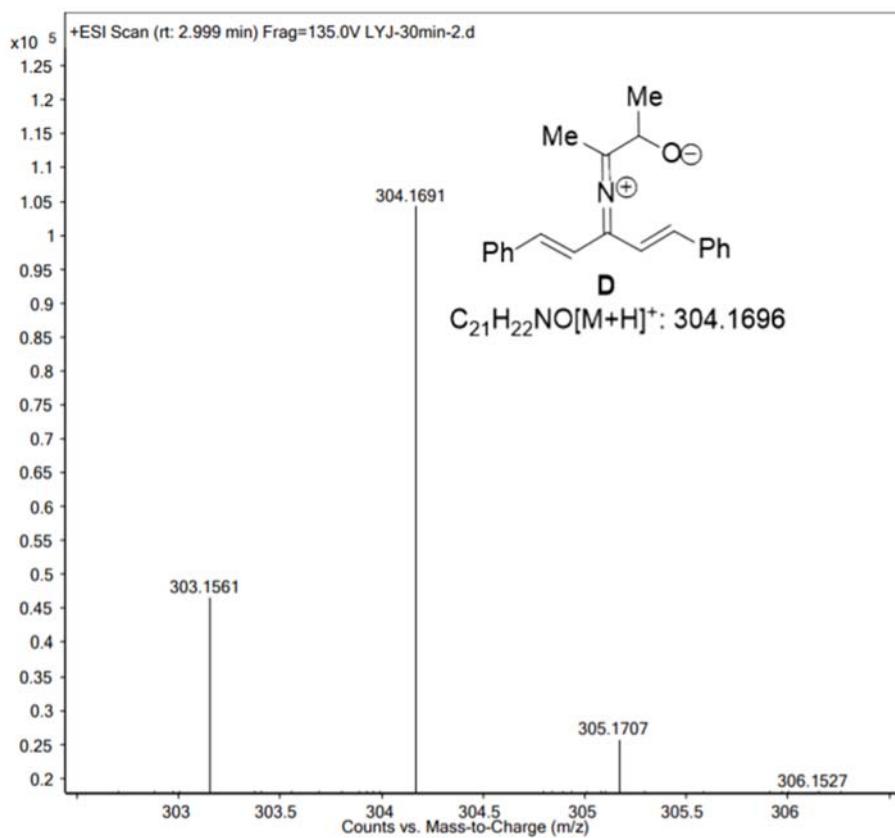
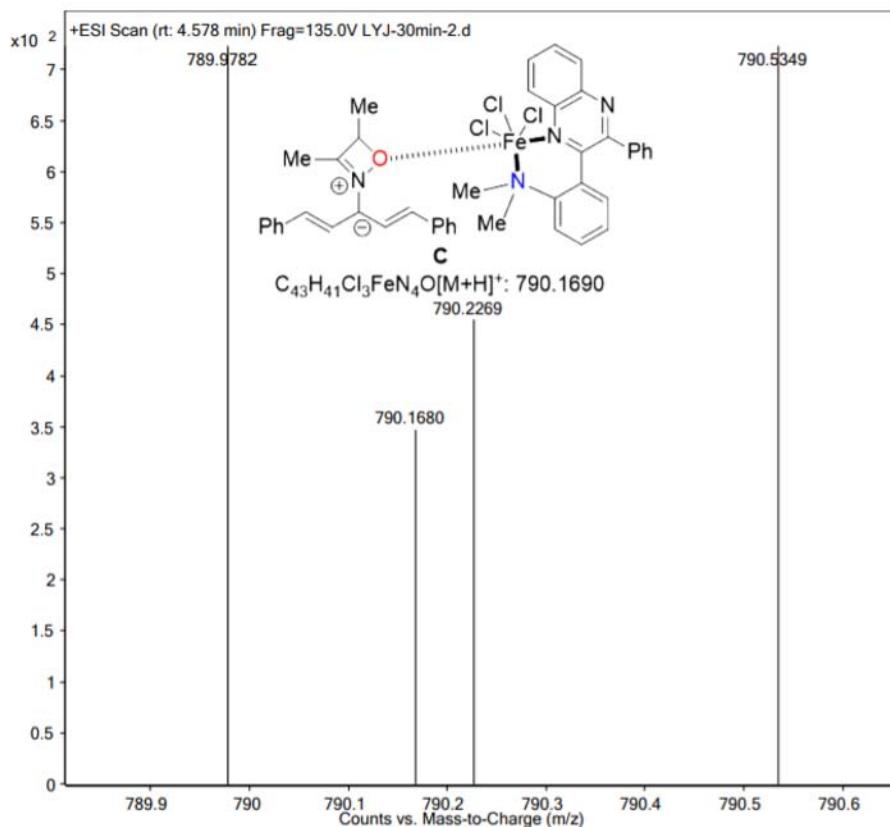
A solution of **L7** (325 mg, 1.0 mmol) in DCM (20 mL) was added to a solution of FeCl_3 (161 mg, 1.0 mmol) in DCM (20 mL) at rt for 1 h. After stirring for 1 h, the resulting mixture was filtered off, washed with hexane (3×3 mL), and dried in vacuo to afford $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot \text{L7}$ as a black solid 437.4 mg (90%) yield.



8.2 Intermediates detected by HRMS(ESI)

Nitrene **1a** was carried out under the standard conditions for 30 min, then, the reaction mixture was directly detected by HRMS (ESI). The details of intermediates peaks are as follows:





9. X-ray structure for compound 3p

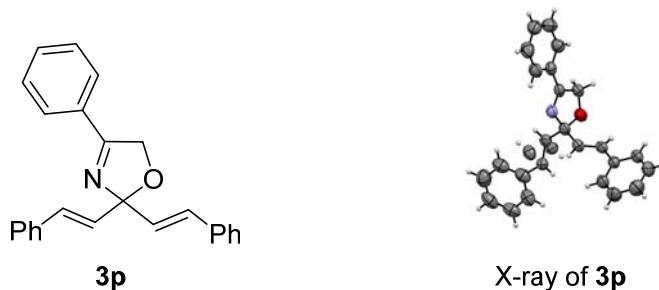


Figure S1: ORTEP diagram of **3p** at 50% ellipsoid probability

The preparation of crystal of **3p**: compound **3p** (15 mg) was dissolved in DCM (2 mL) at room temperature. n-Hexane (1.0 mL) was dropped carefully to the mixture. Then, the flask was capped with thin film. Finally, a needle crystal was obtained for 2 days.

Table S3. Crystal data and structure refinement details for compound **3p**

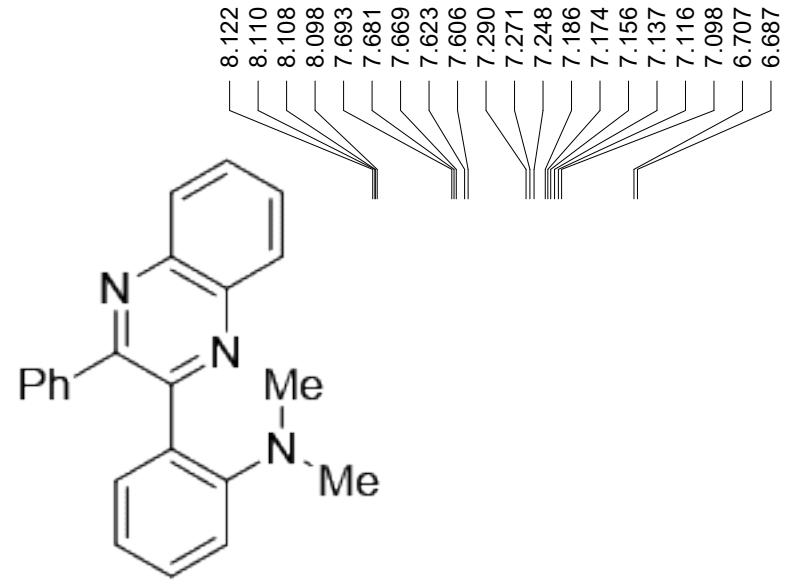
Empirical formula	C ₂₅ H ₂₁ NO
Formula weight (<i>M</i>)	351.43
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	(2)
<i>a</i> /Å	10.0700(5)
<i>b</i> /Å	10.0719(4)
<i>c</i> /Å	10.4742(5)
α /°	83.935(4)
β /°	79.110(4)
γ /°	66.858(4)
V/ Å ³	958.68(8)
Z	2
D _c (Mg cm ⁻³)	1.217
F (000)	372
2θ range for data collection (°)	8.60 to 151.41
Reflections collected	12109
Independent reflections	3755 [R(int) = 0.0504, R(sigma) =

	0.0487]
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.087
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R ₁ = 0.0630, ωR ₂ = 0.1787
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0742, ωR ₂ = 0.1873

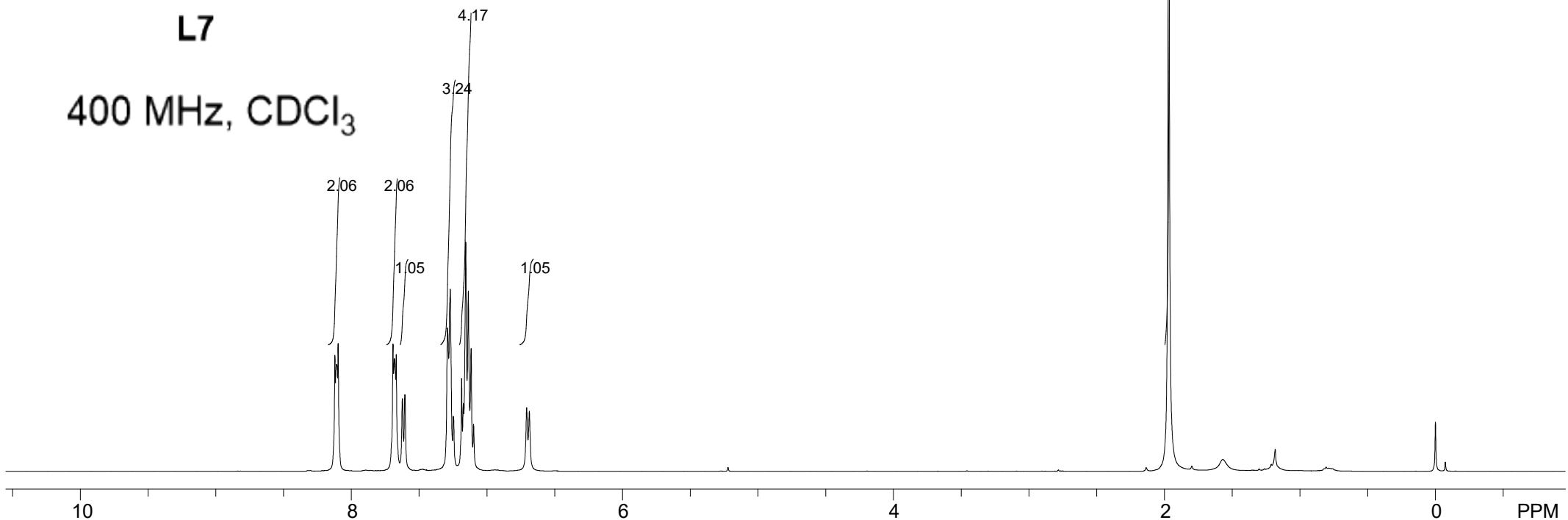
10. References

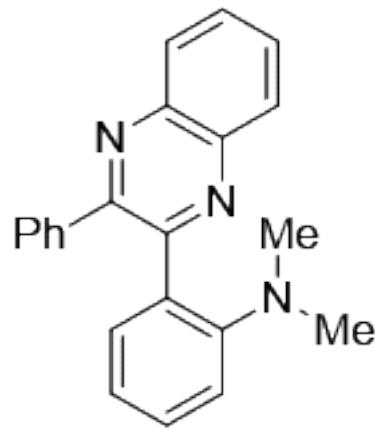
- [1] Chen, C.-H.; Wu, Q.-Y.; Wei, C.; Liang, C.; Su, G.-F.; Mo, D.-L. *Green Chem.* **2018**, *20*, 2722.
- [2] Zou, N.; Lan, J.-X.; Yan, G.-G.; Liang, C.; Su, G.-F.; Mo, D.-L. *Org. Lett.* **2020**, *22*, 8446.
- [3] Reidl, T.-W.; Son, J.; Wink, D.-J.; Anderson, L.-L. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2017**, *56*, 11579.
- [4] Michael, R. E.; Chando, K. M.; Sammakia, T. *J. Org. Chem.* **2015**, *80*, 6930
- [5] Wei, C.; Zhang, J.-Q.; Zhang, J.-J.; Liang, C.; Mo, D.-L. *Org. Chem. Front.* **2020**, *7*, 1520.
- [6] Chen, H.; Wei, C.; Pang, G.-L.; Liang, C.; Mo, D.-L.; Ma, X.-P. *Org. Lett.* **2022**, *24*, 6013.
- [7] Hansch, C.; Leo, A.; Taft, R. W. *Chem. Rev.* **1991**, *91*, 165.

11. NMR spectra for compounds L7, L8, 1x-1y, 2a, and 3



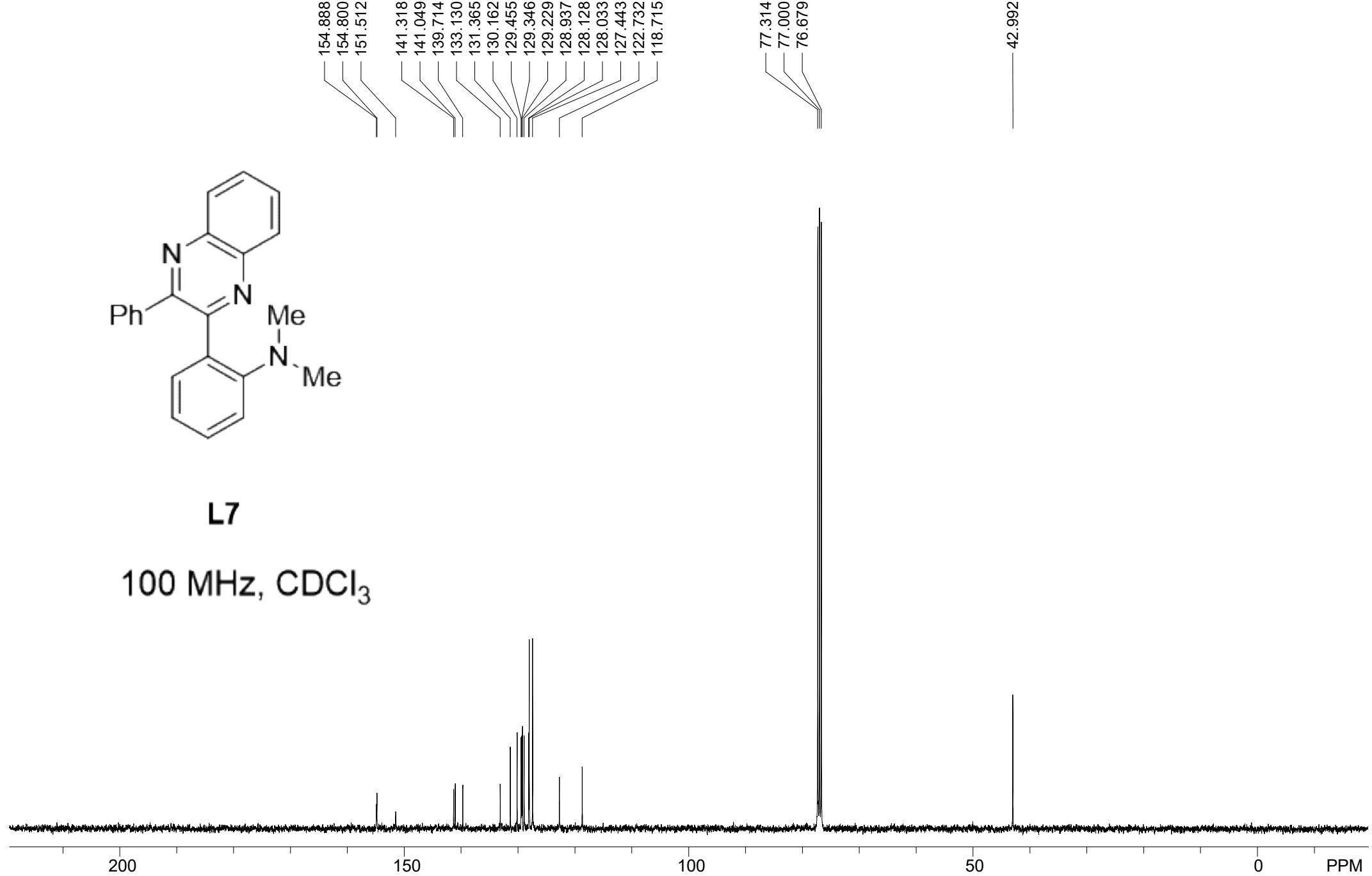
L7
400 MHz, CDCl_3

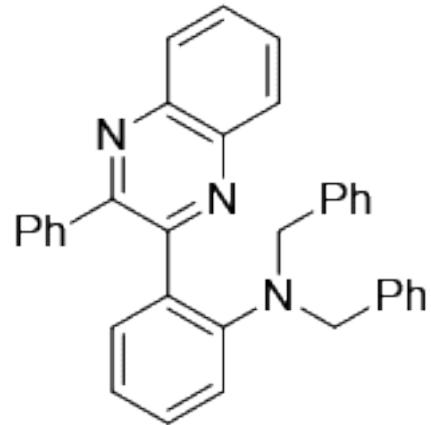
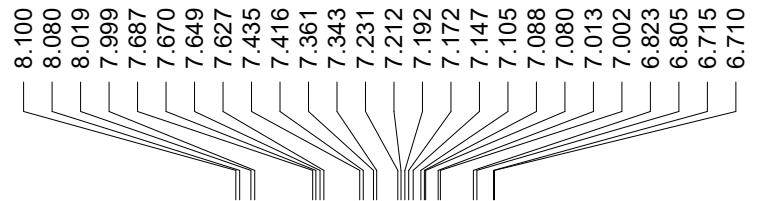




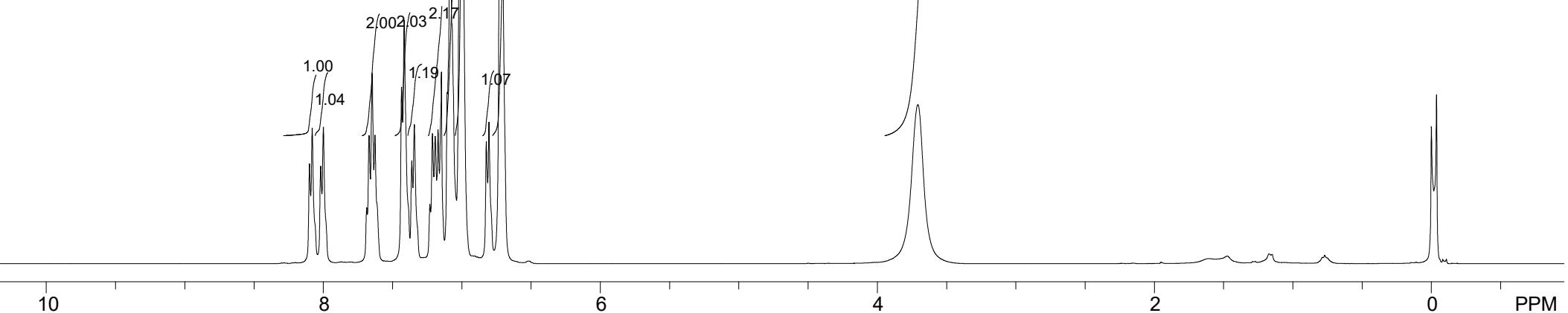
L7

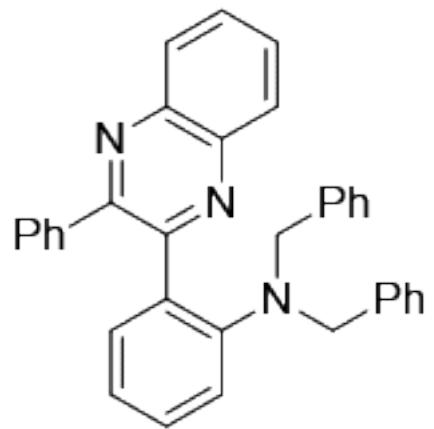
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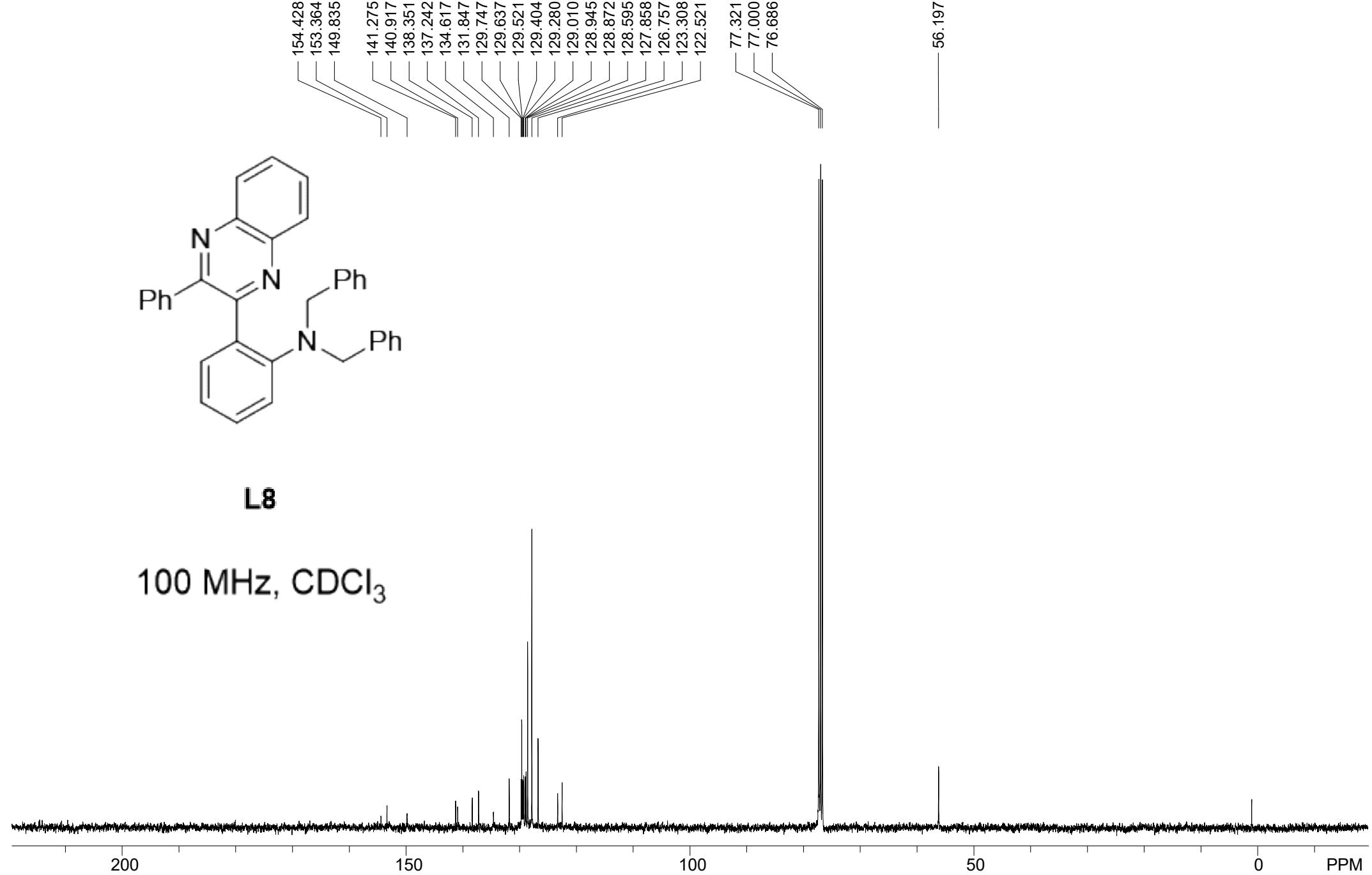
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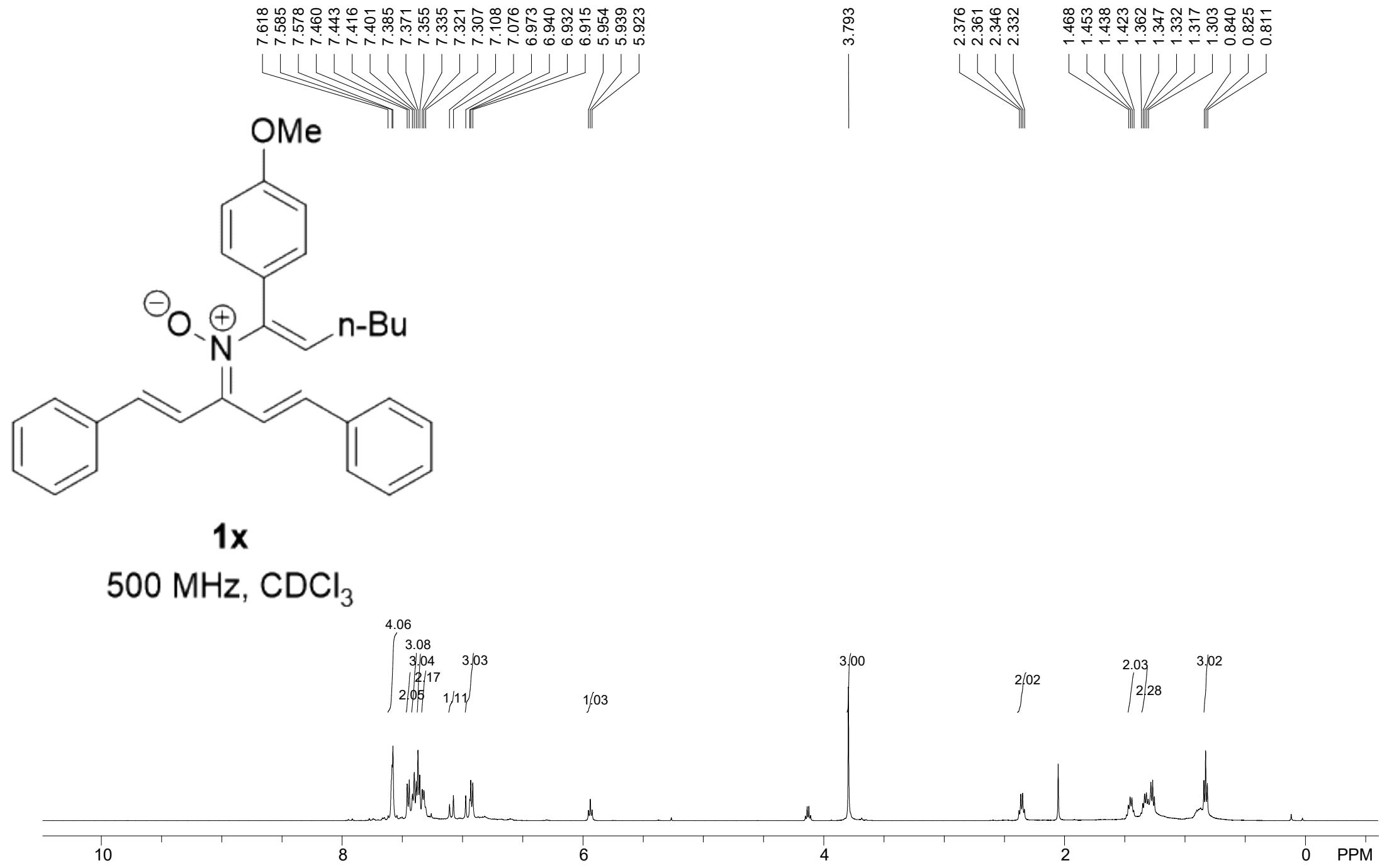


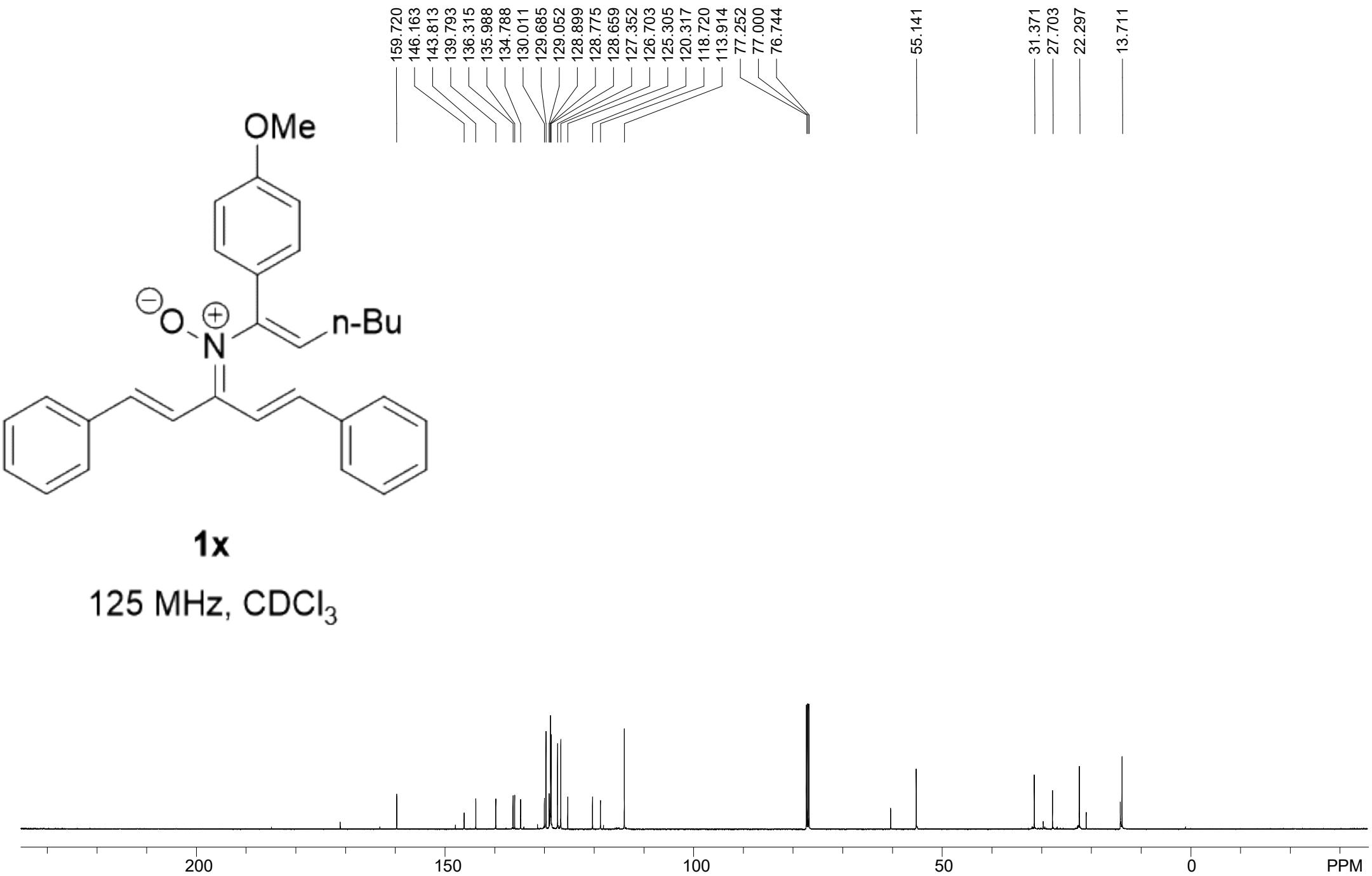


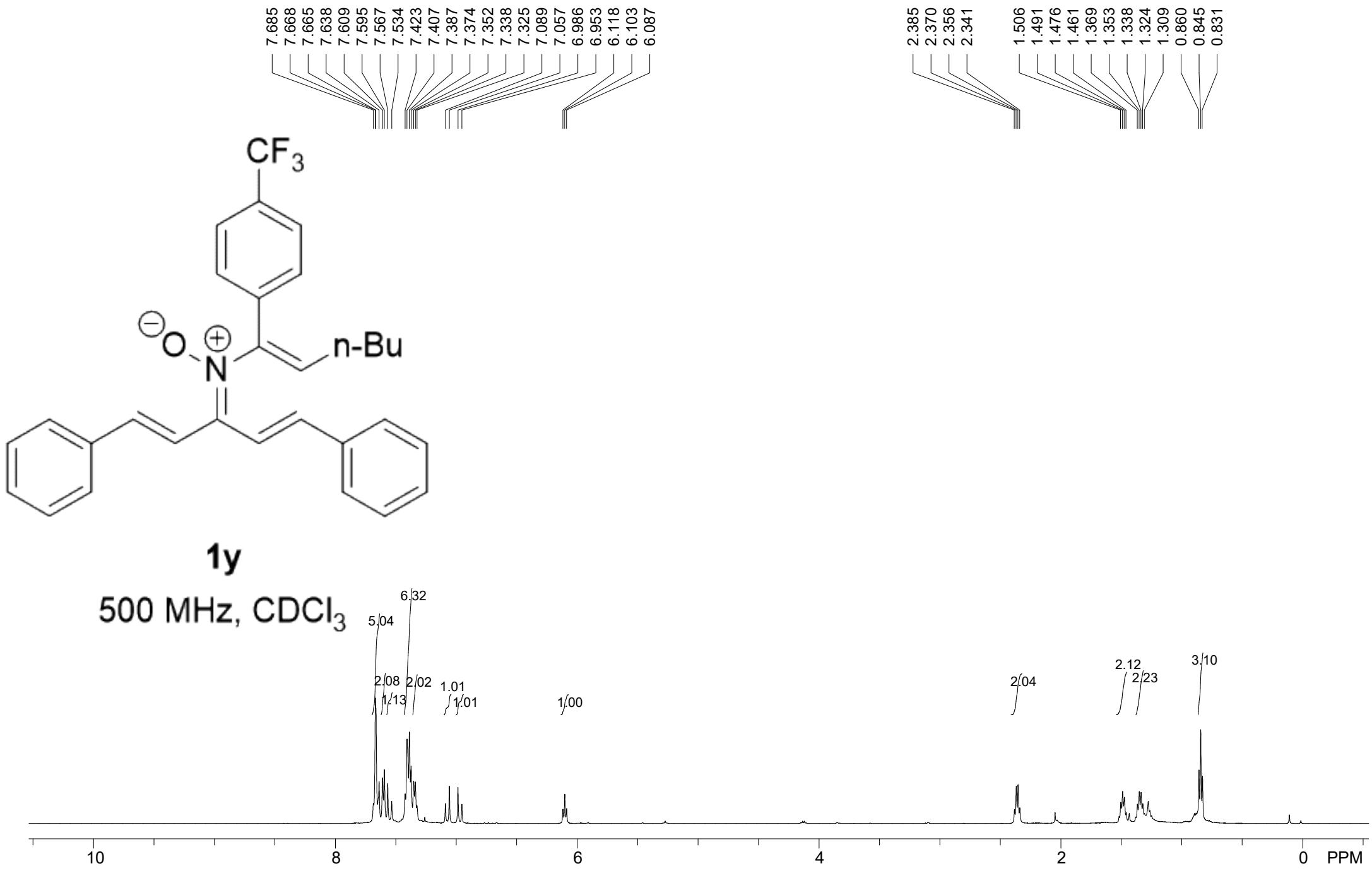
L8

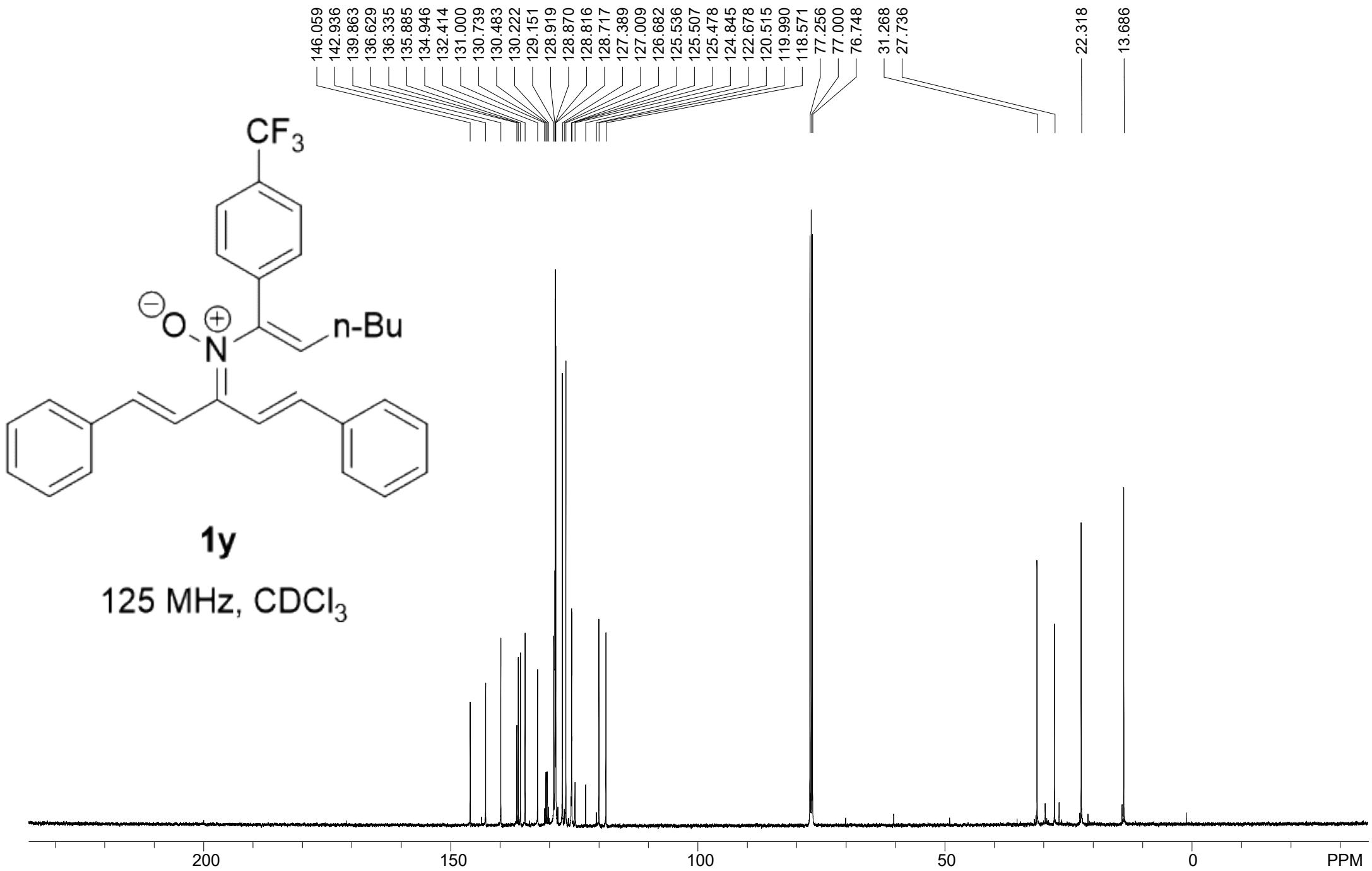
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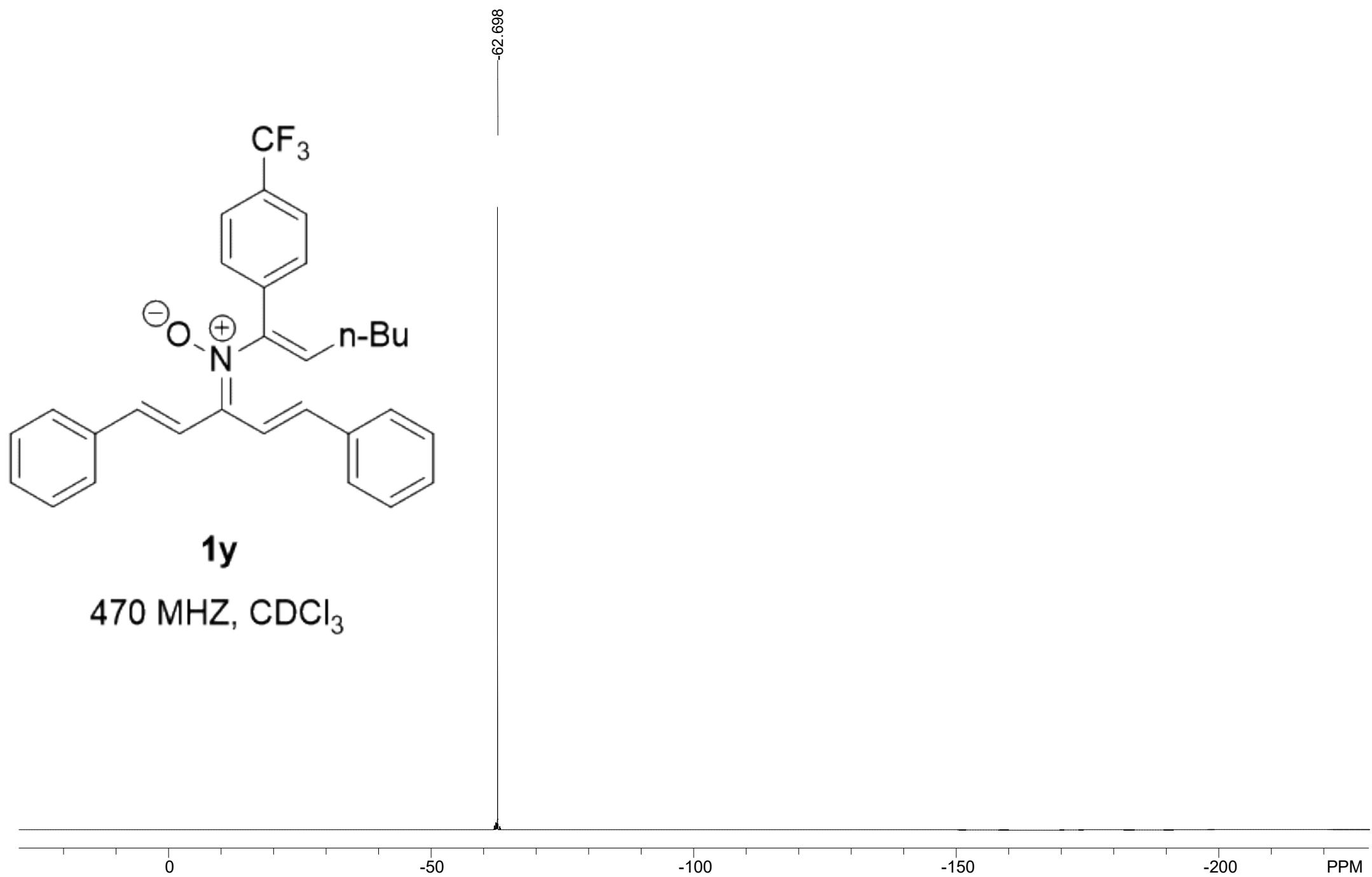


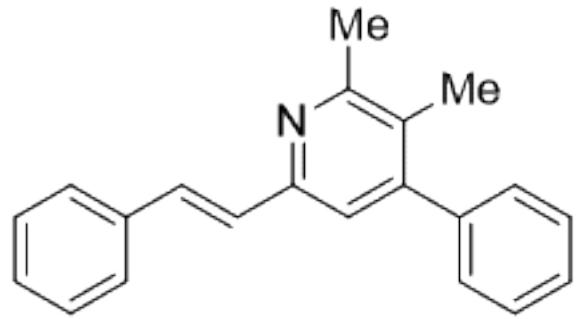
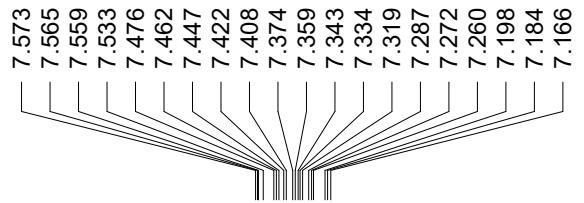






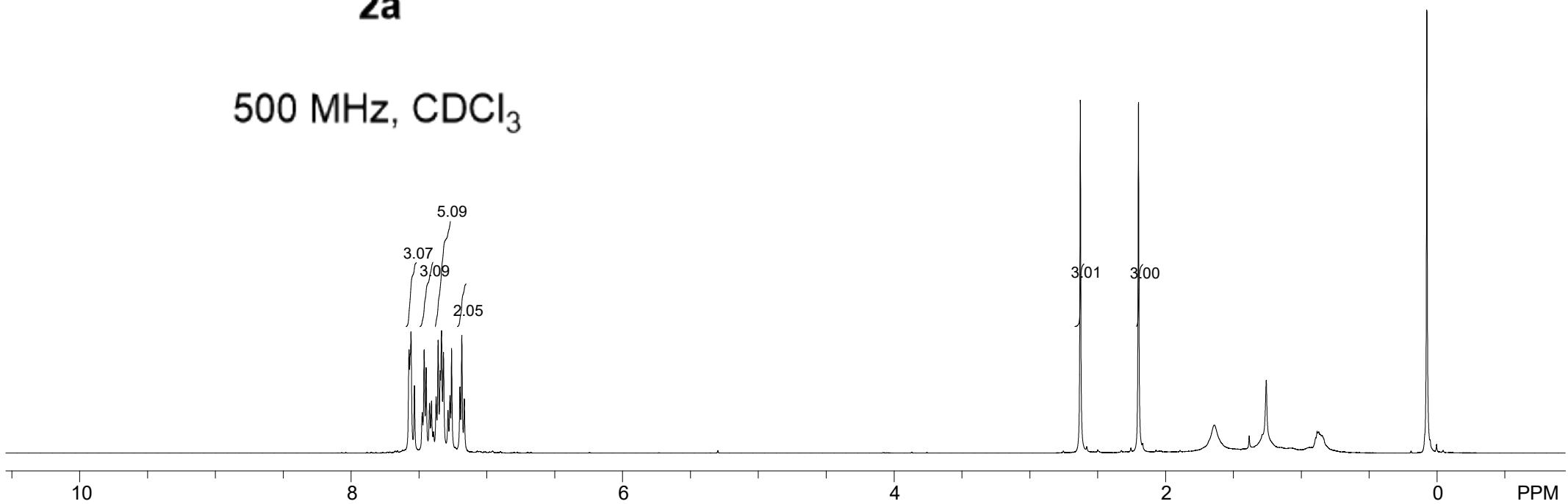


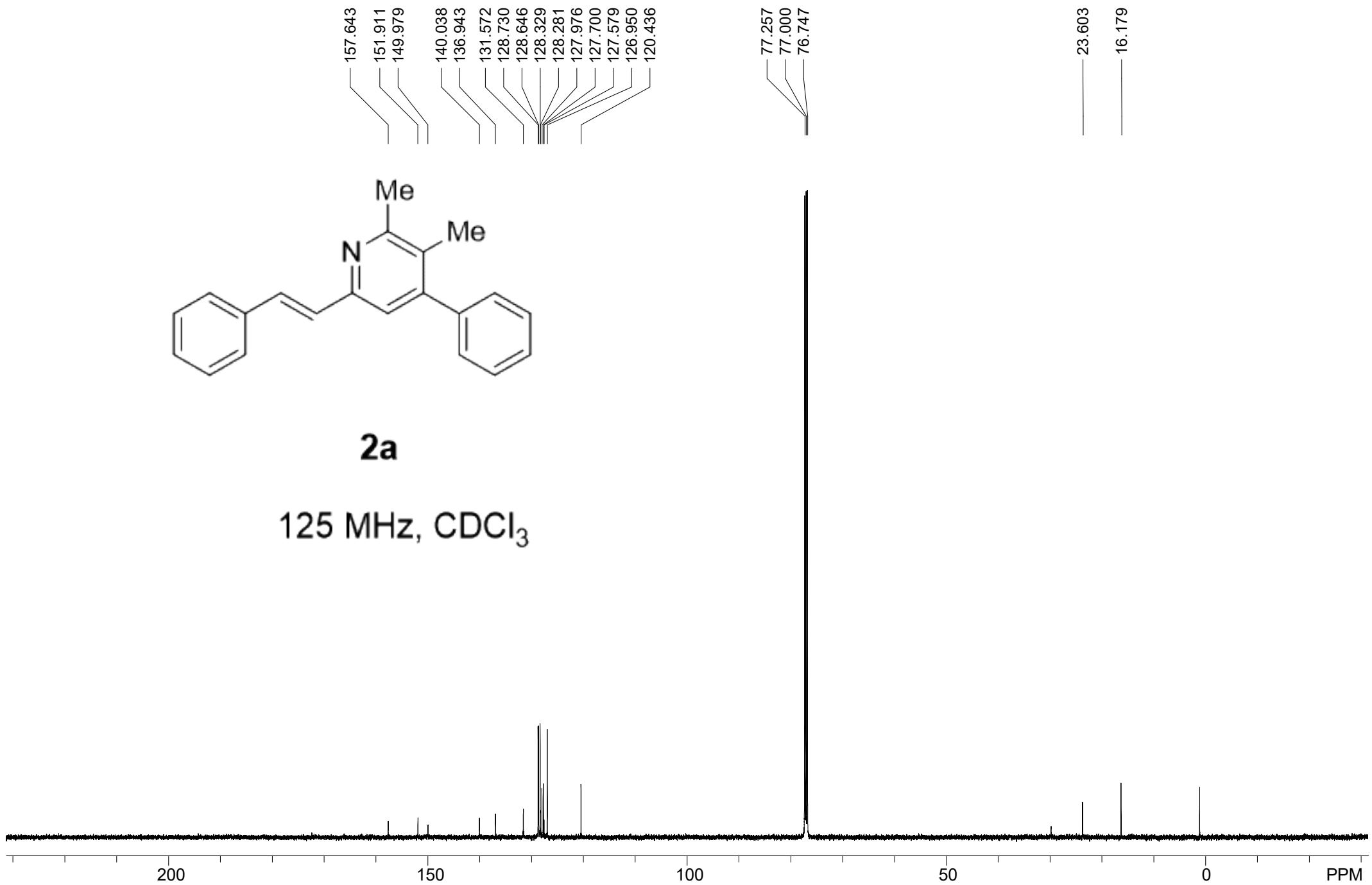


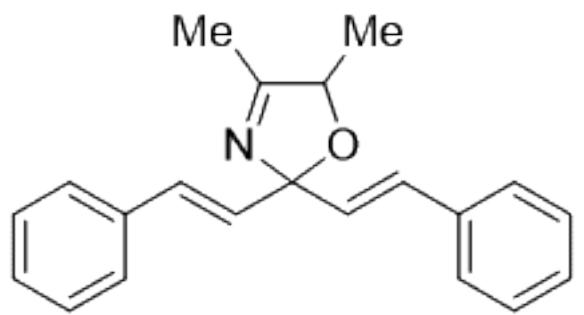
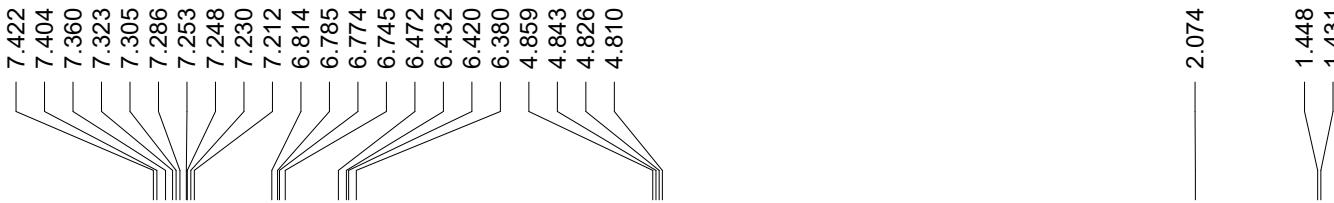


2a

500 MHz, CDCl_3

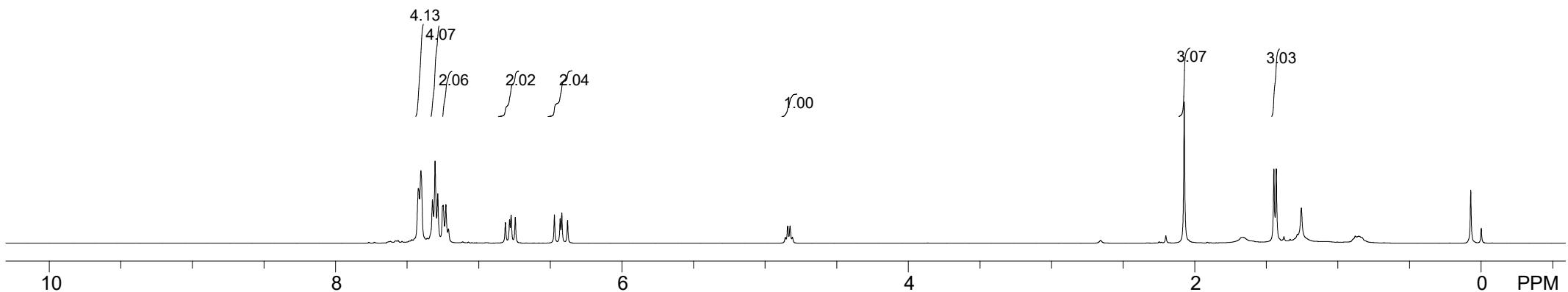


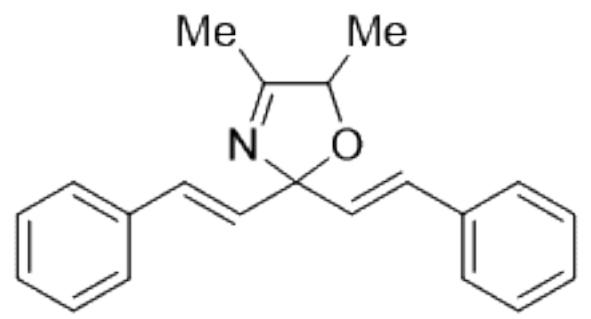




3a

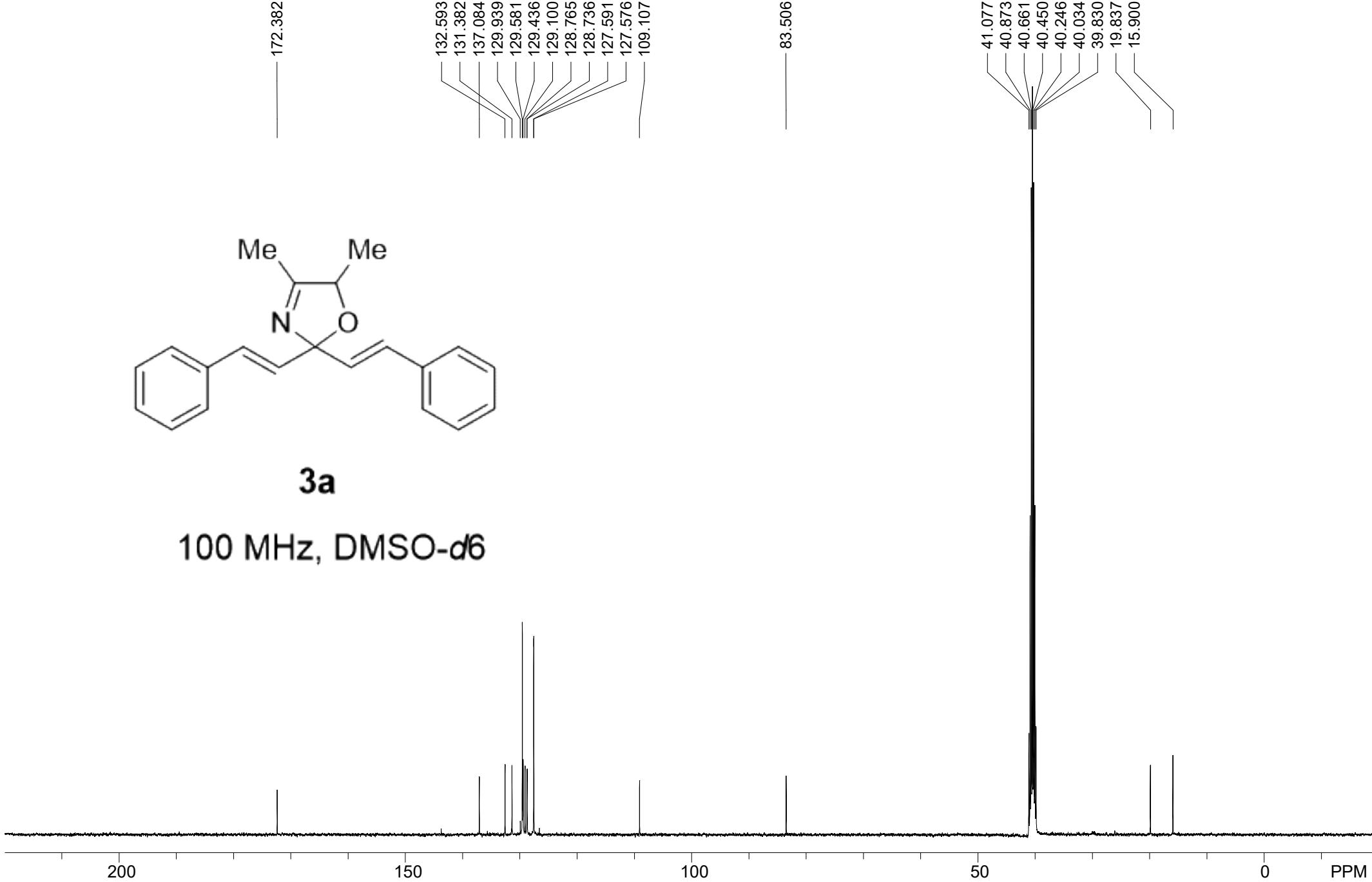
400 MHz, CDCl_3

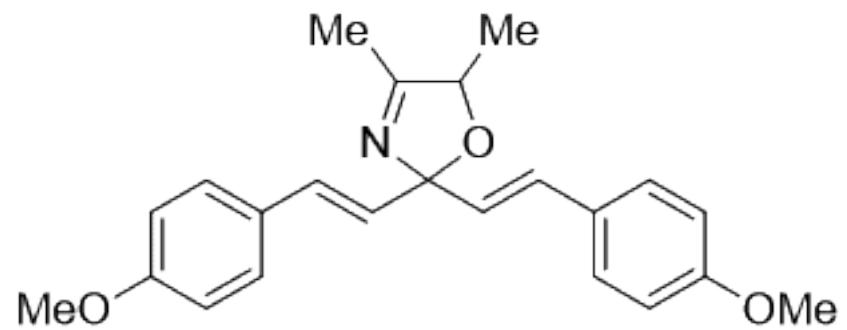
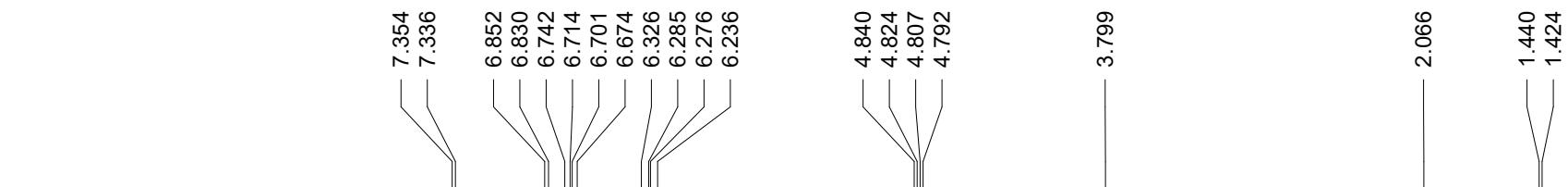




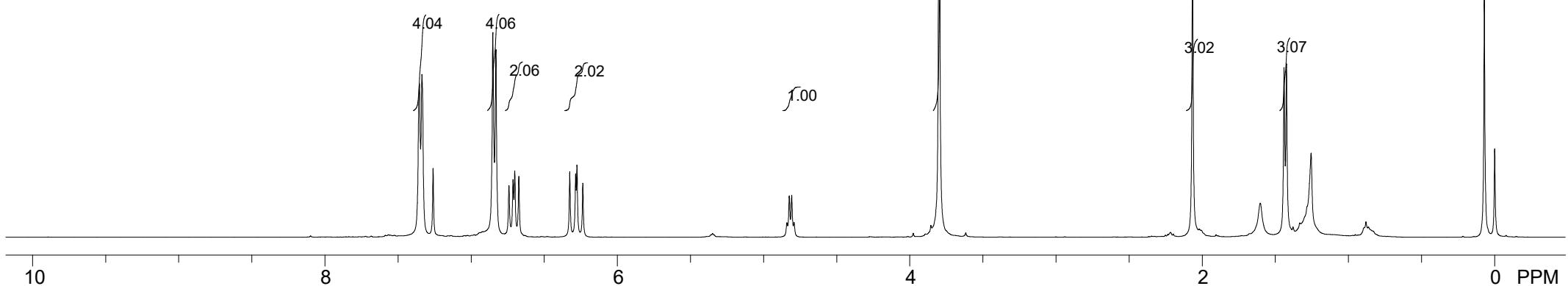
3a

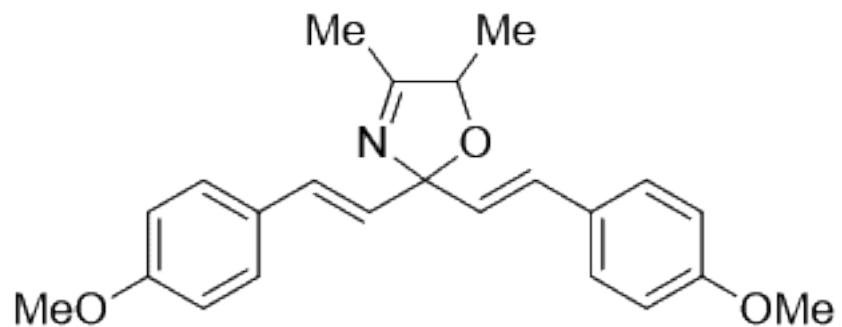
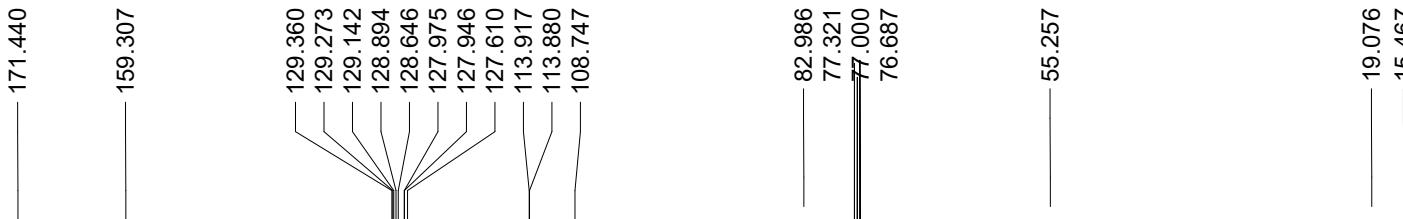
100 MHz, DMSO-*d*6



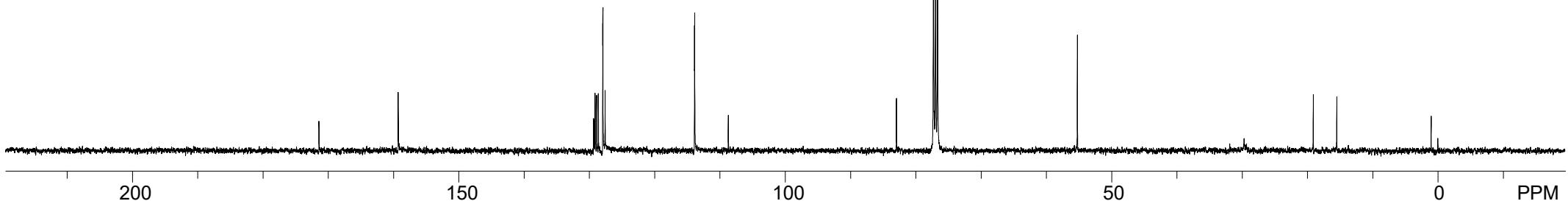


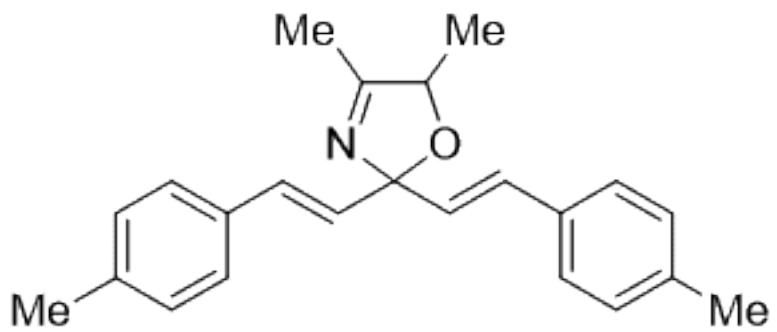
400 MHz, CDCl_3





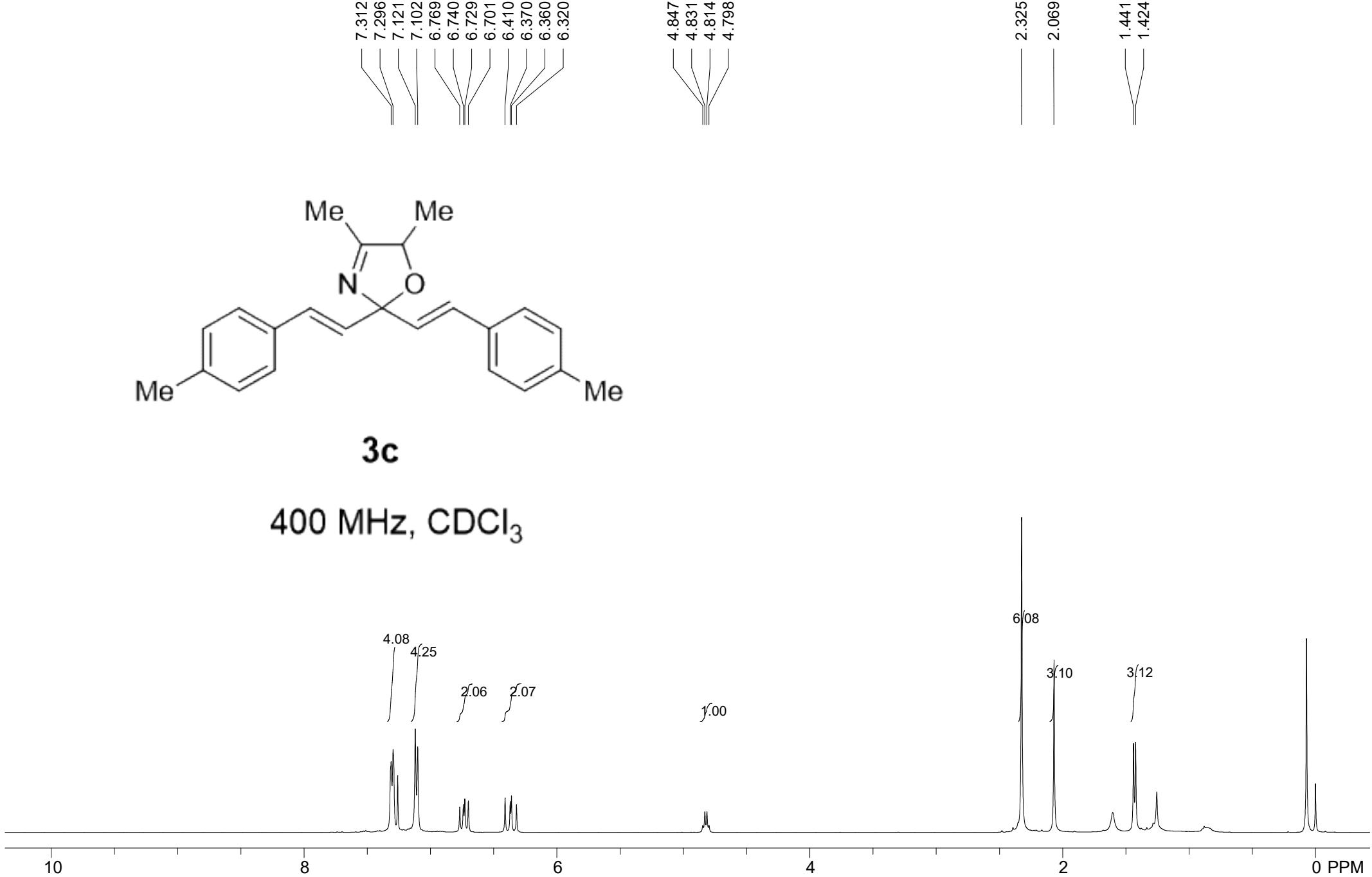
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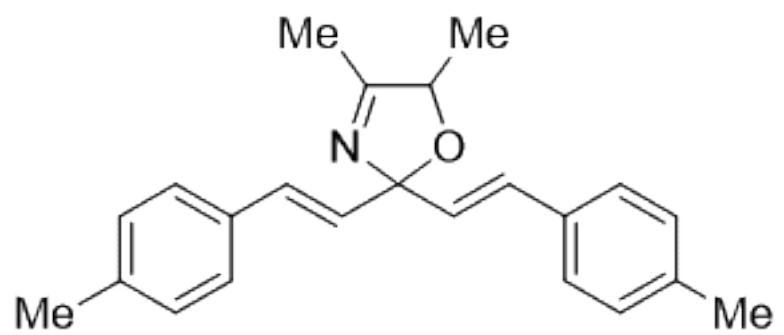




3c

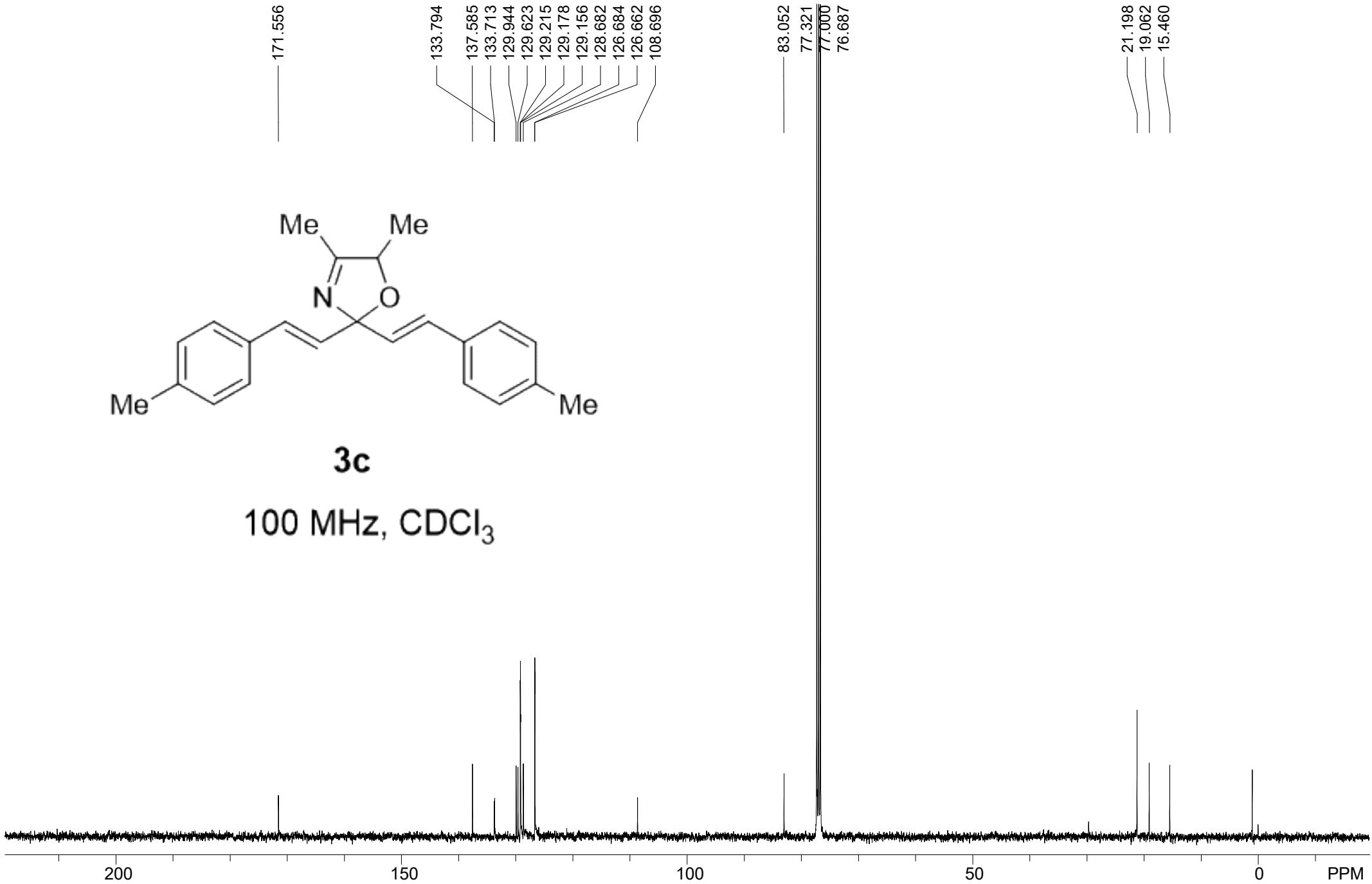
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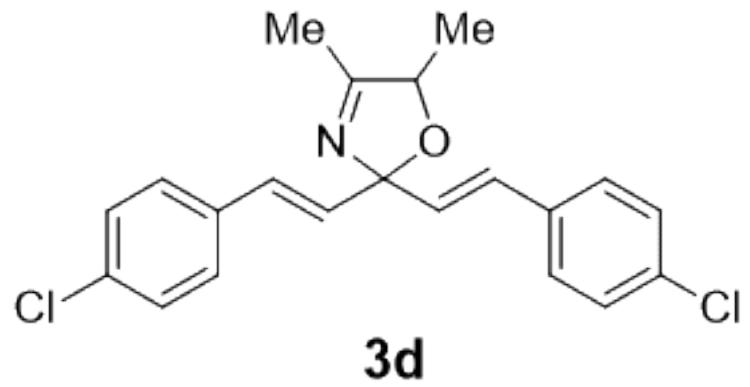




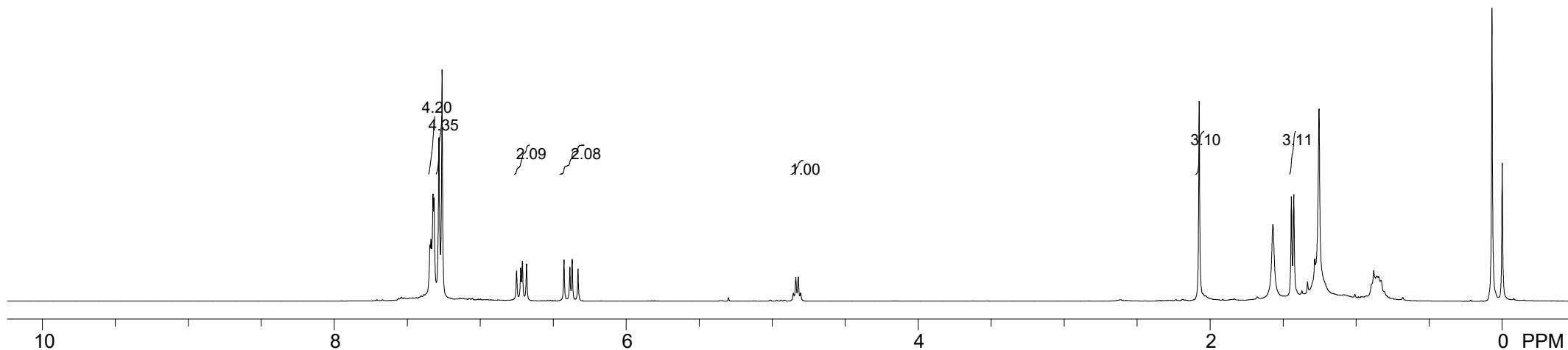
3c

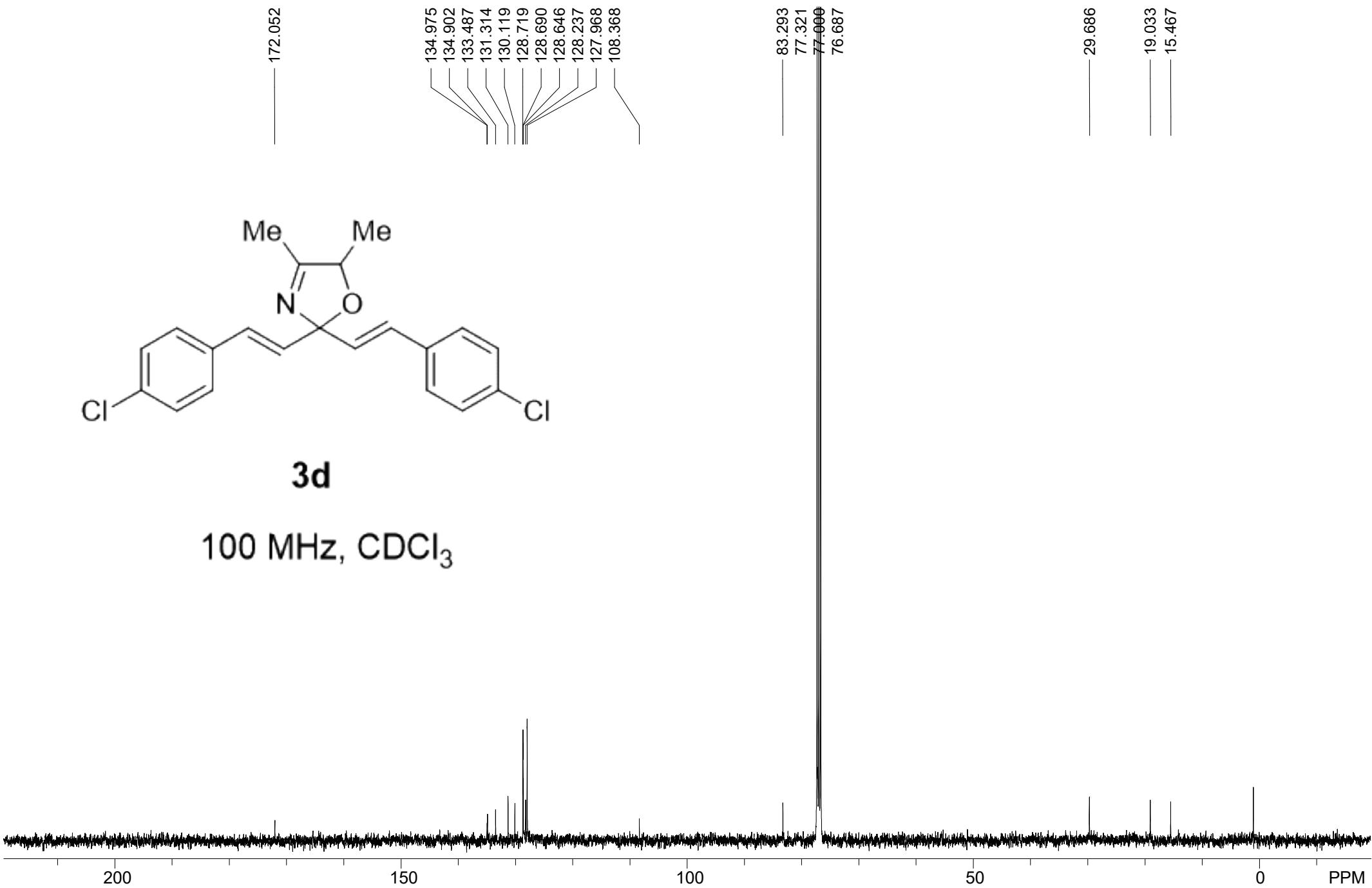
100 MHz, CDCl₃

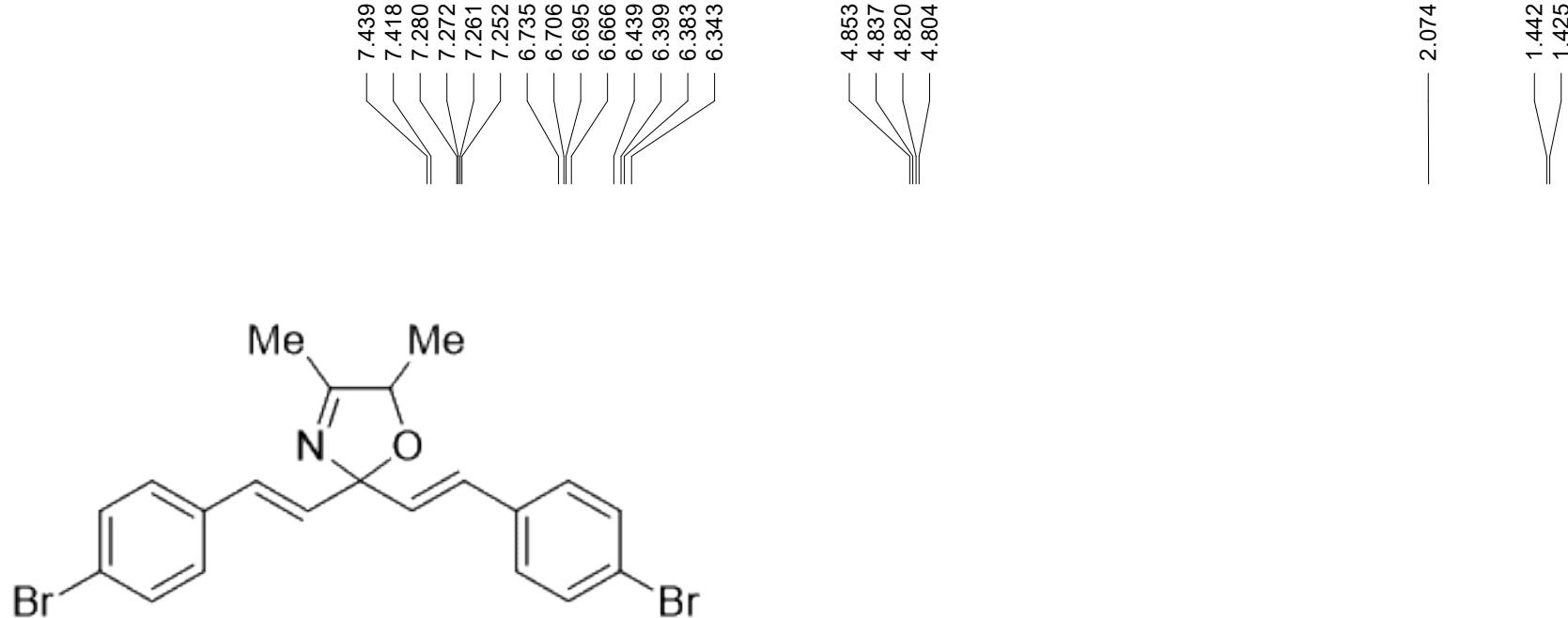




400 MHz, CDCl_3

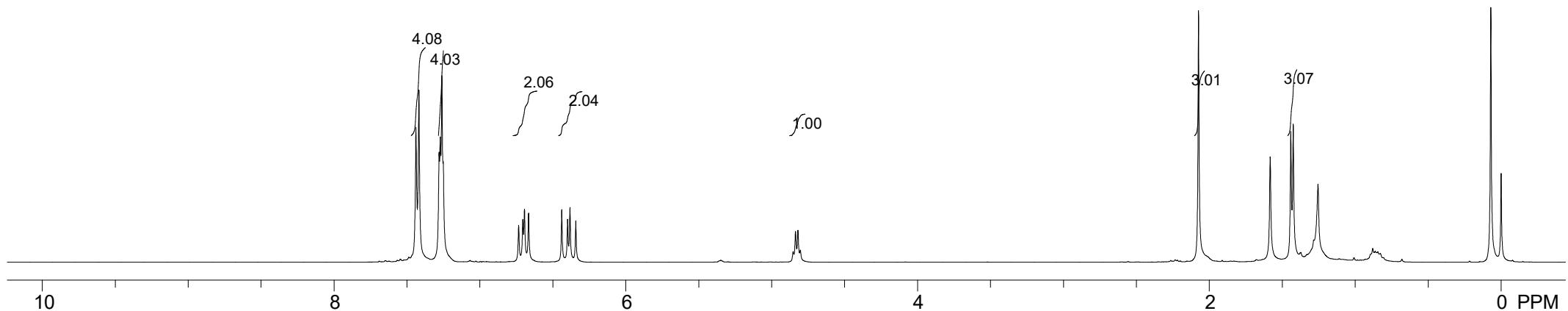


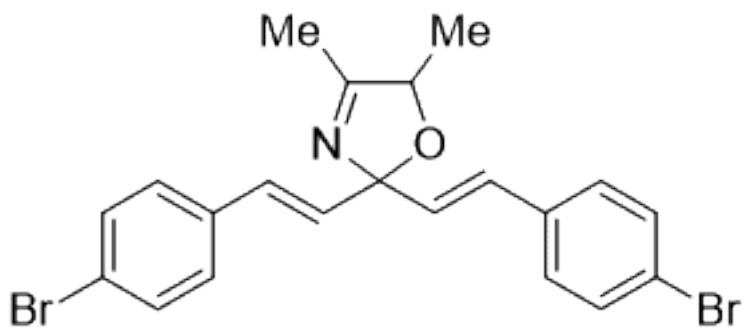
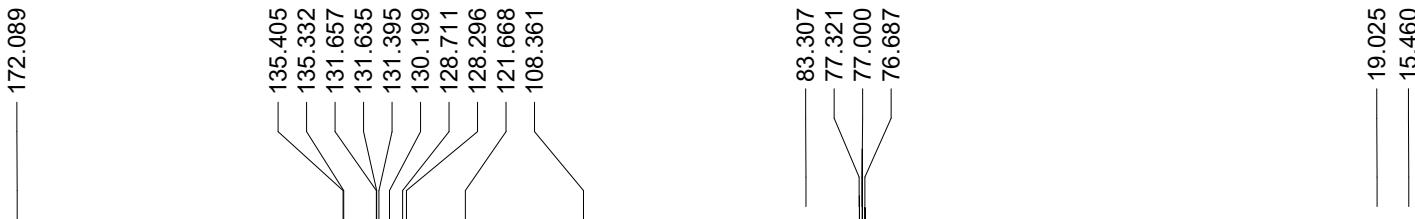




3e

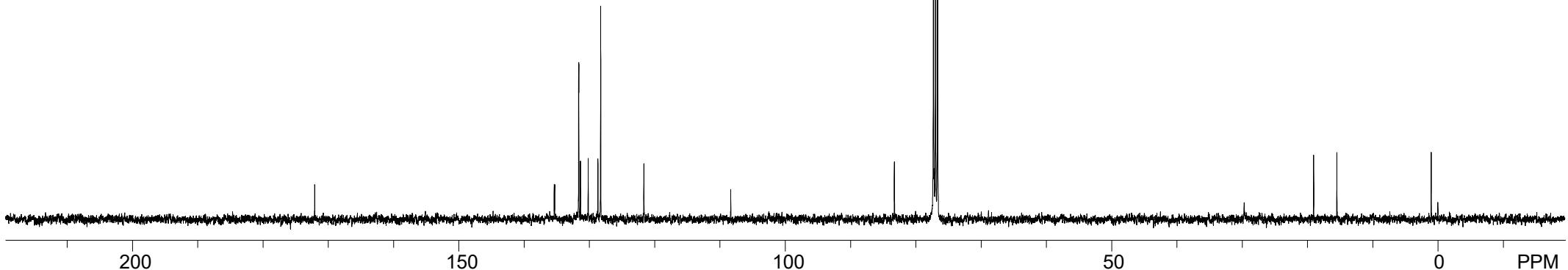
400 MHz, CDCl_3

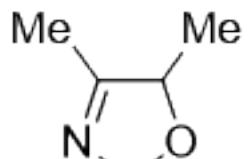
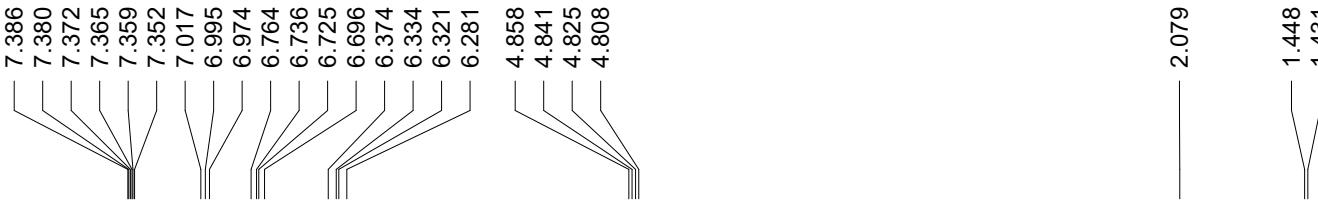




3e

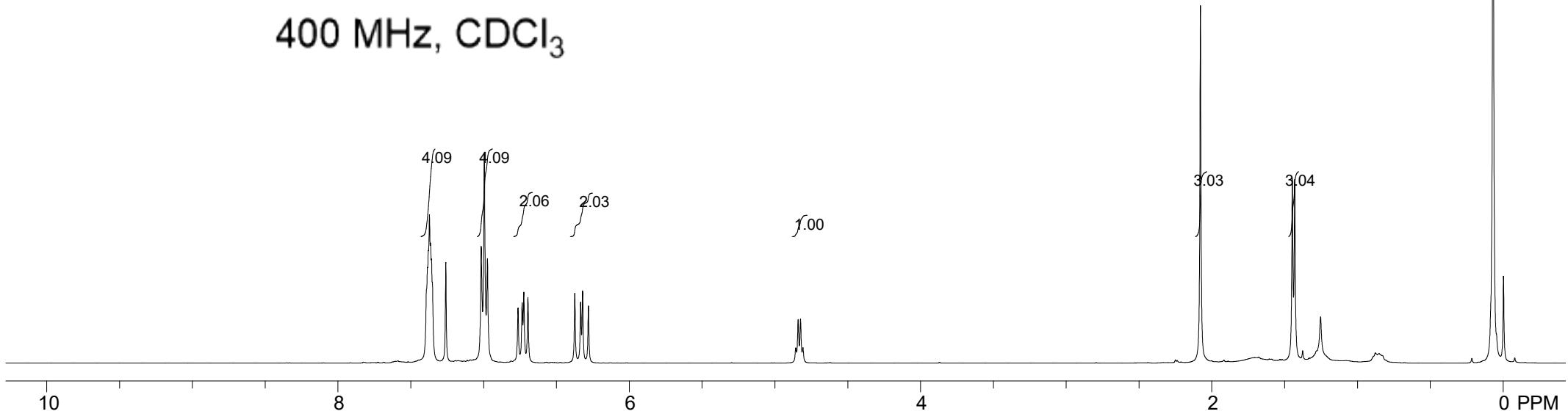
100 MHz, CDCl_3

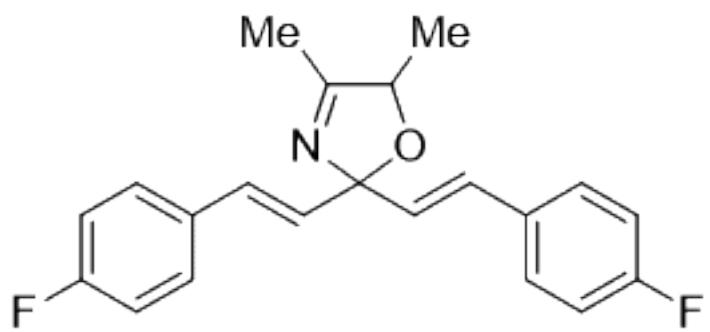




3f

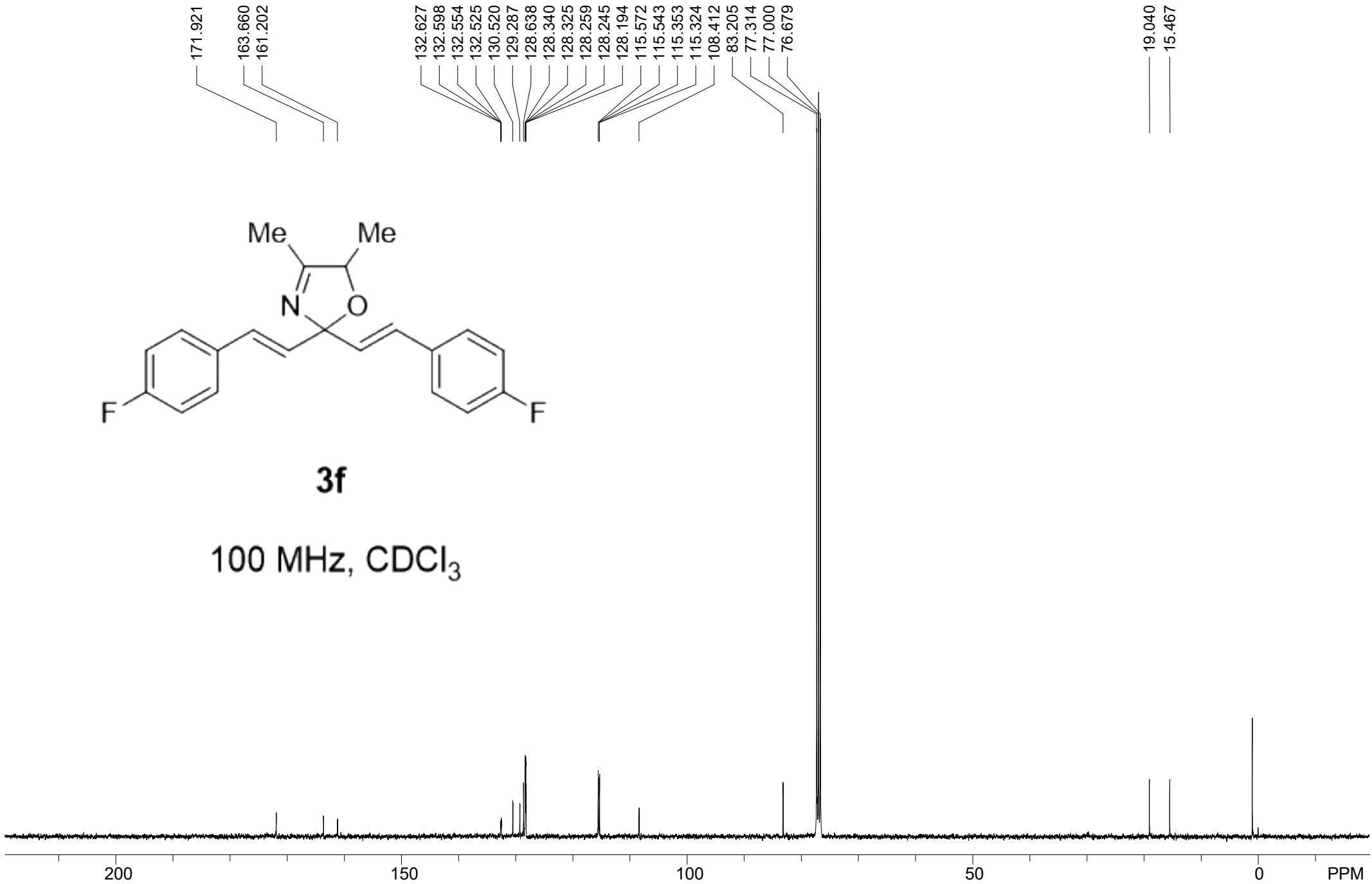
400 MHz, CDCl₃



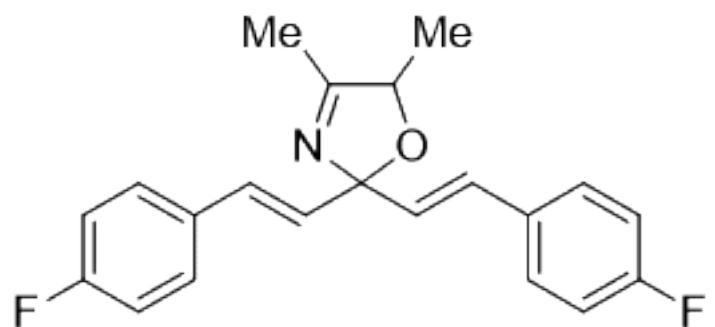


3f

100 MHz, CDCl_3

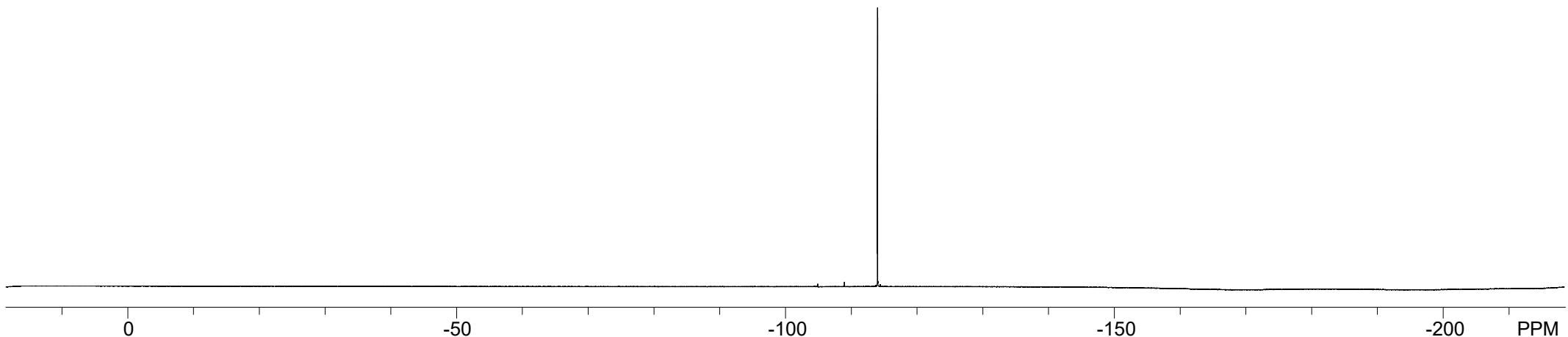


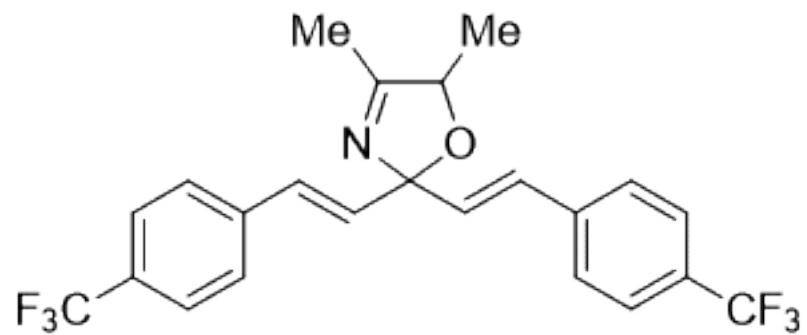
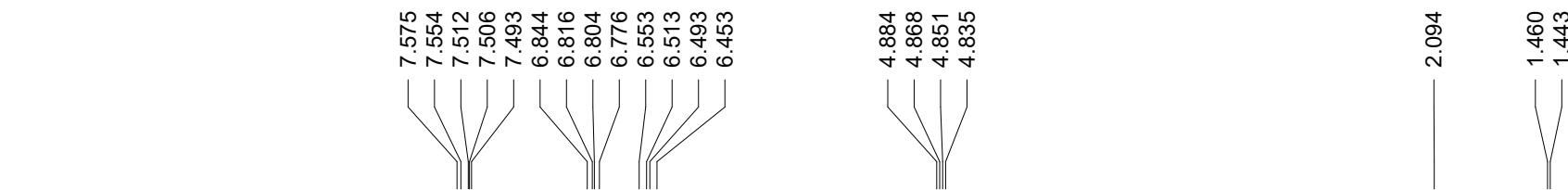
-114.030
-114.062



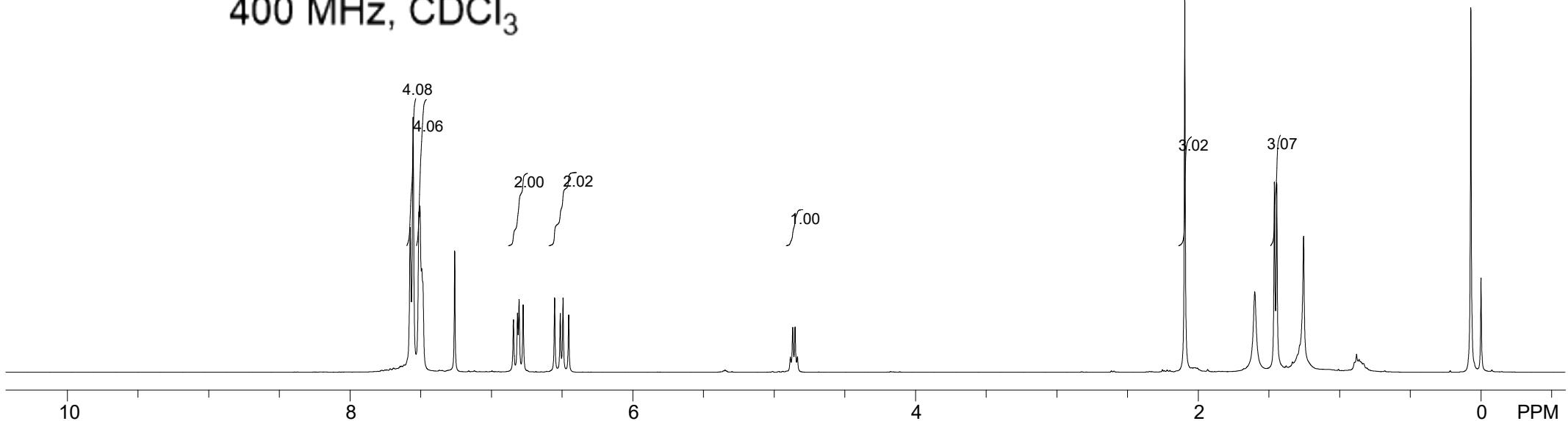
3f

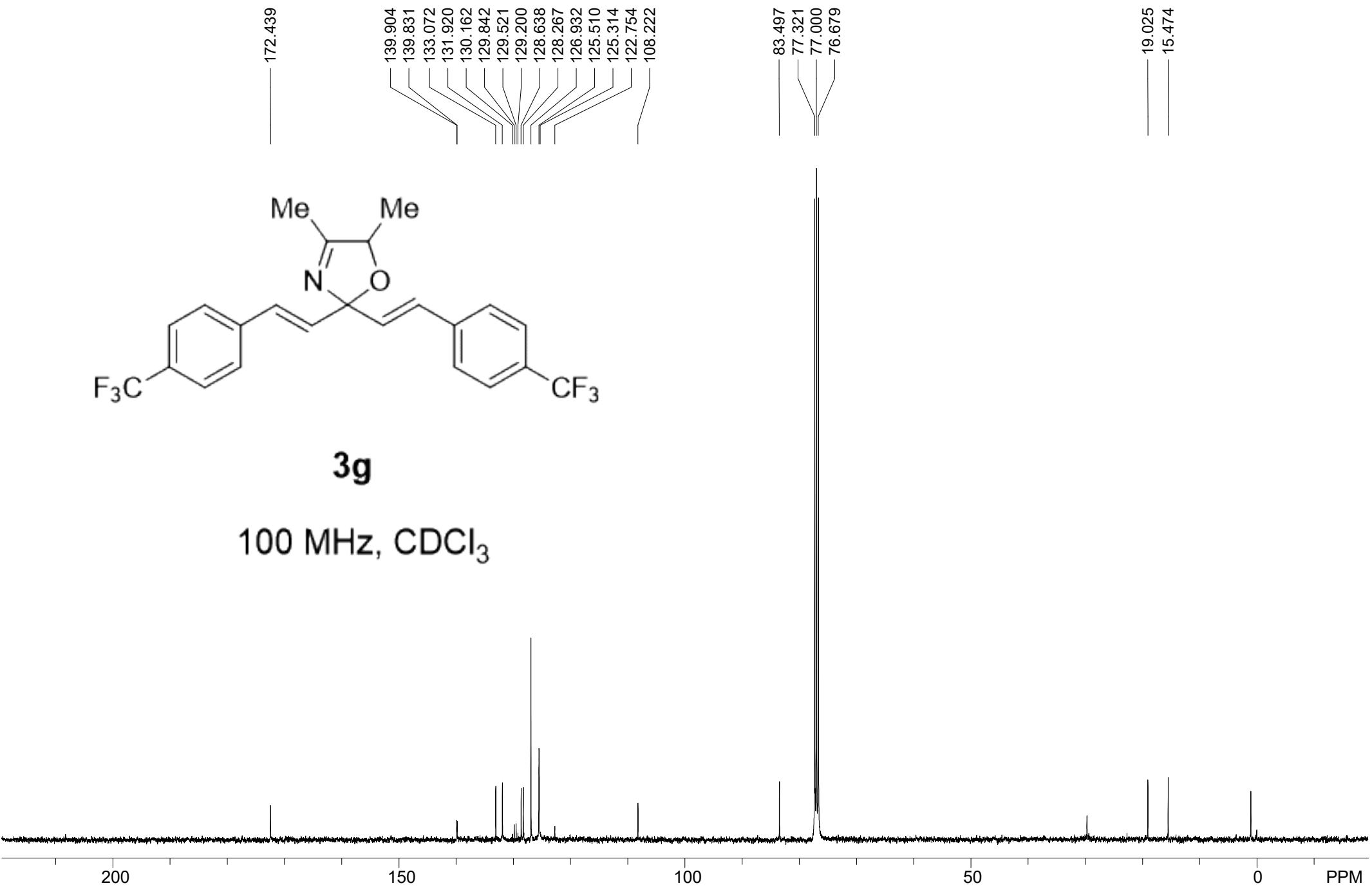
376 MHz, CDCl₃

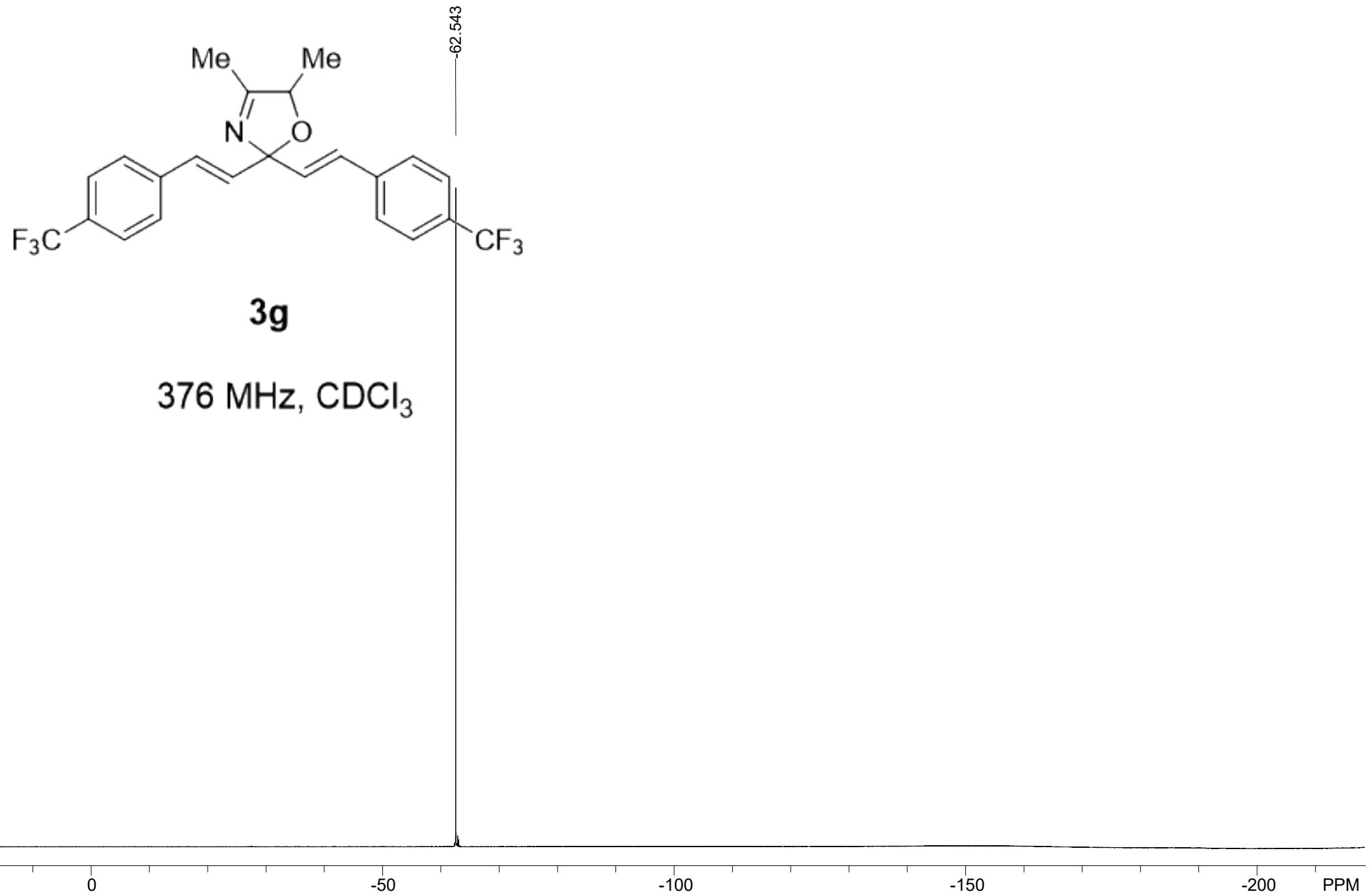


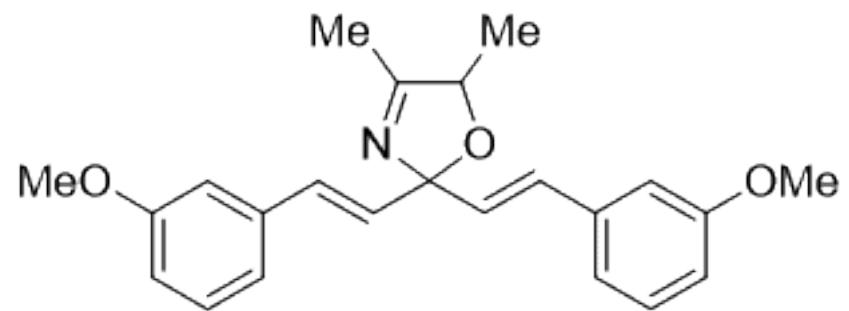
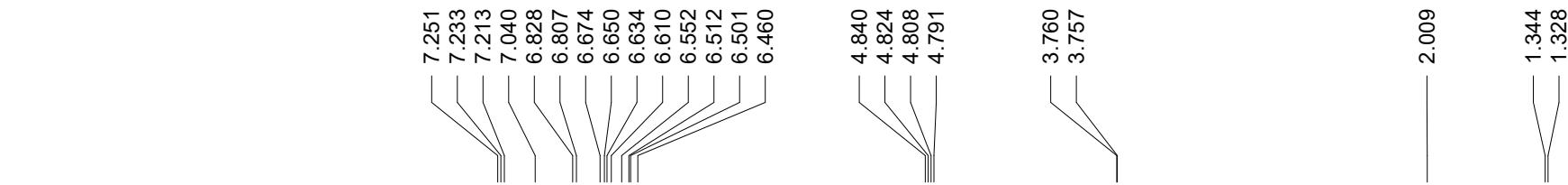


400 MHz, CDCl_3

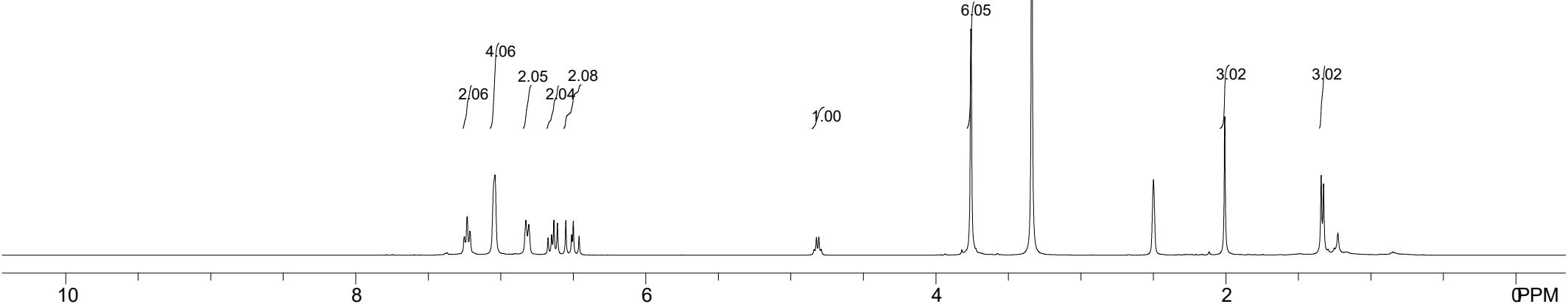


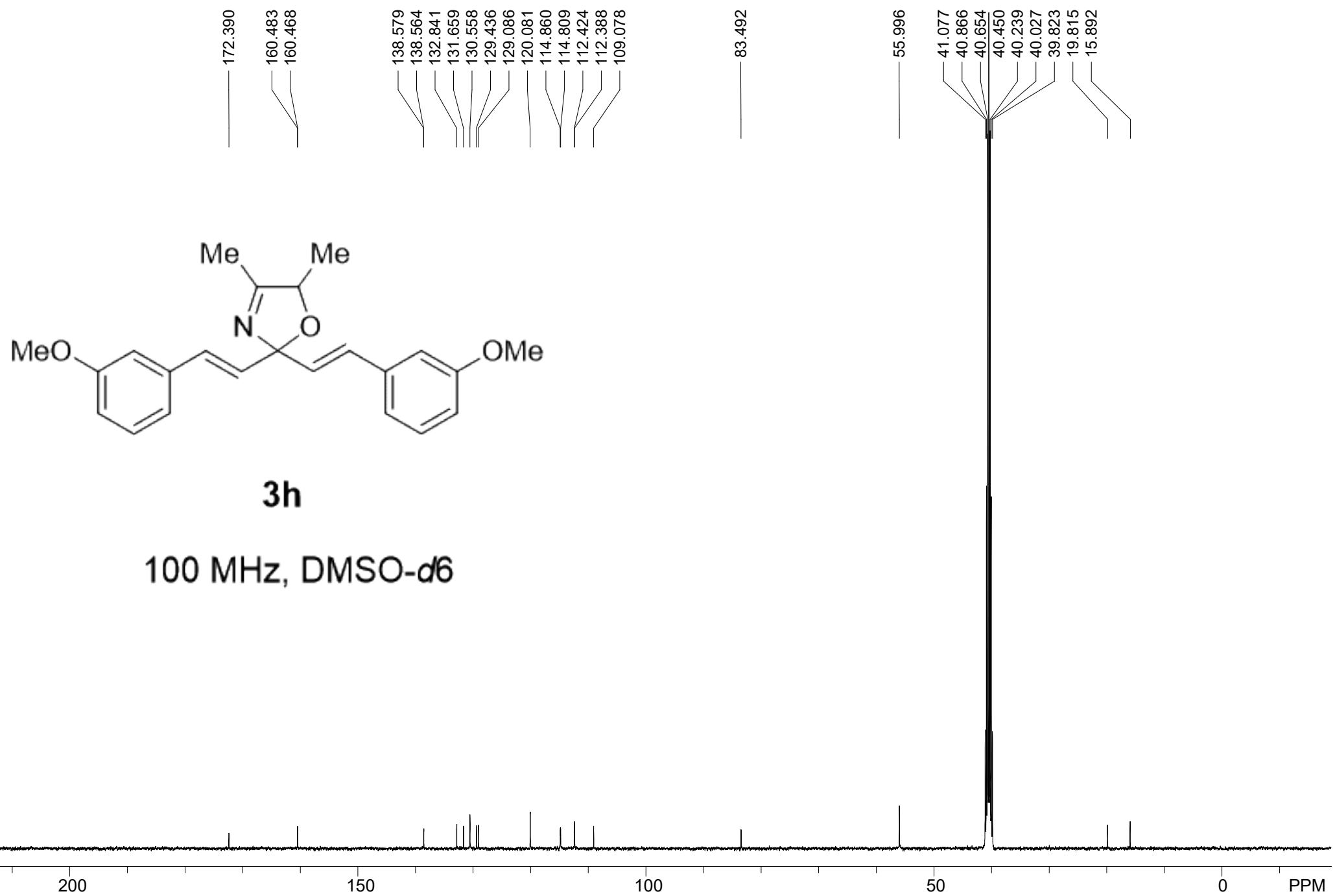


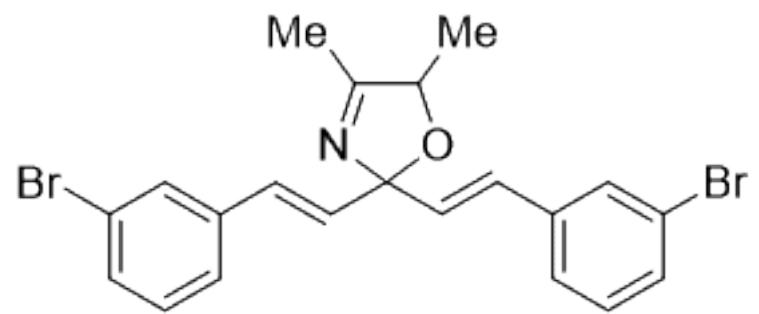
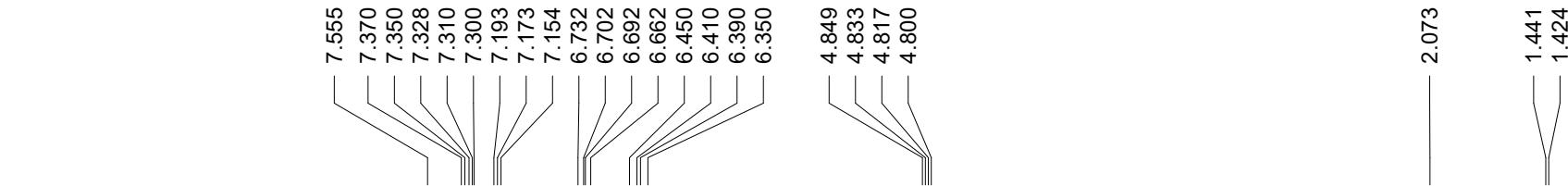




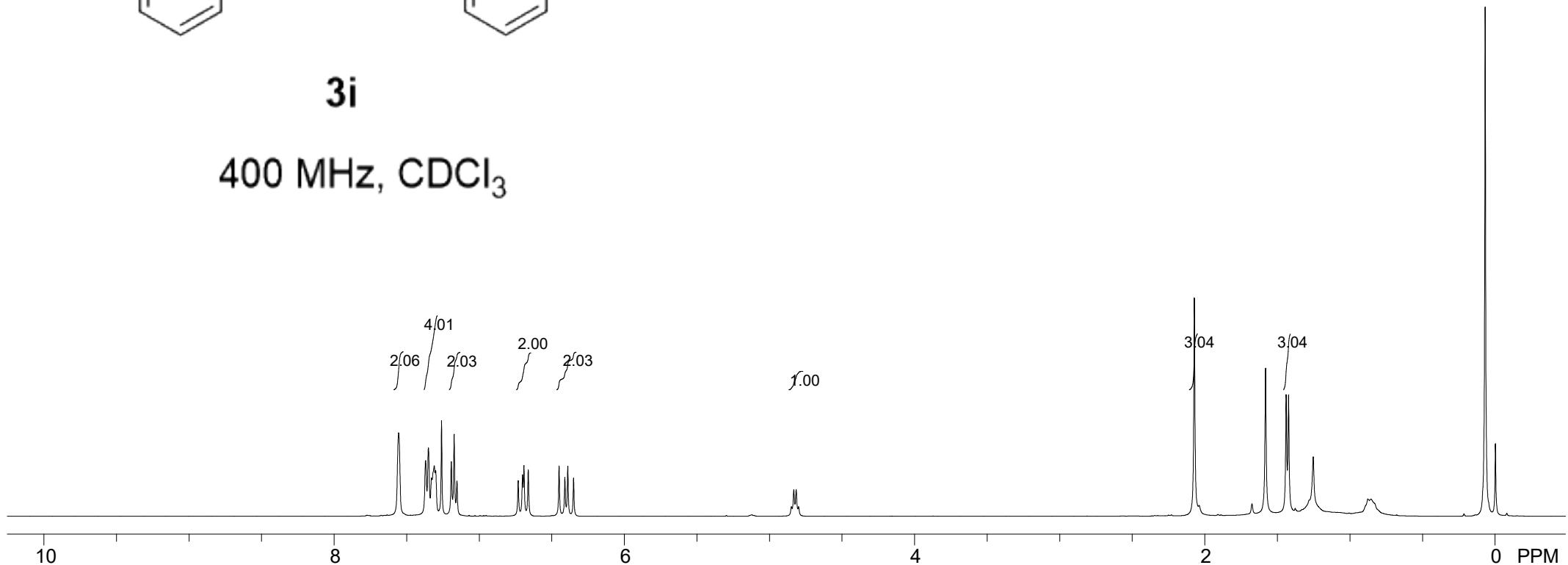
400 MHz, DMSO-*d*6

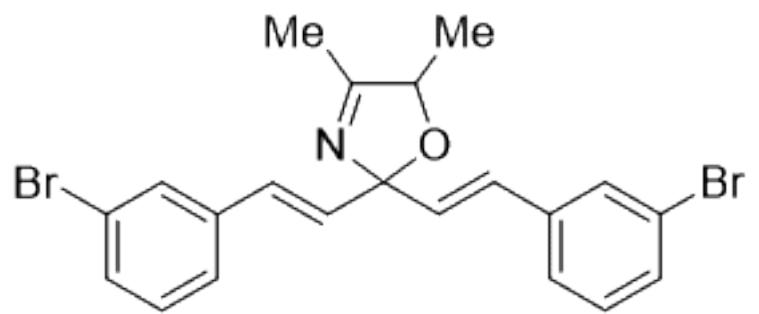






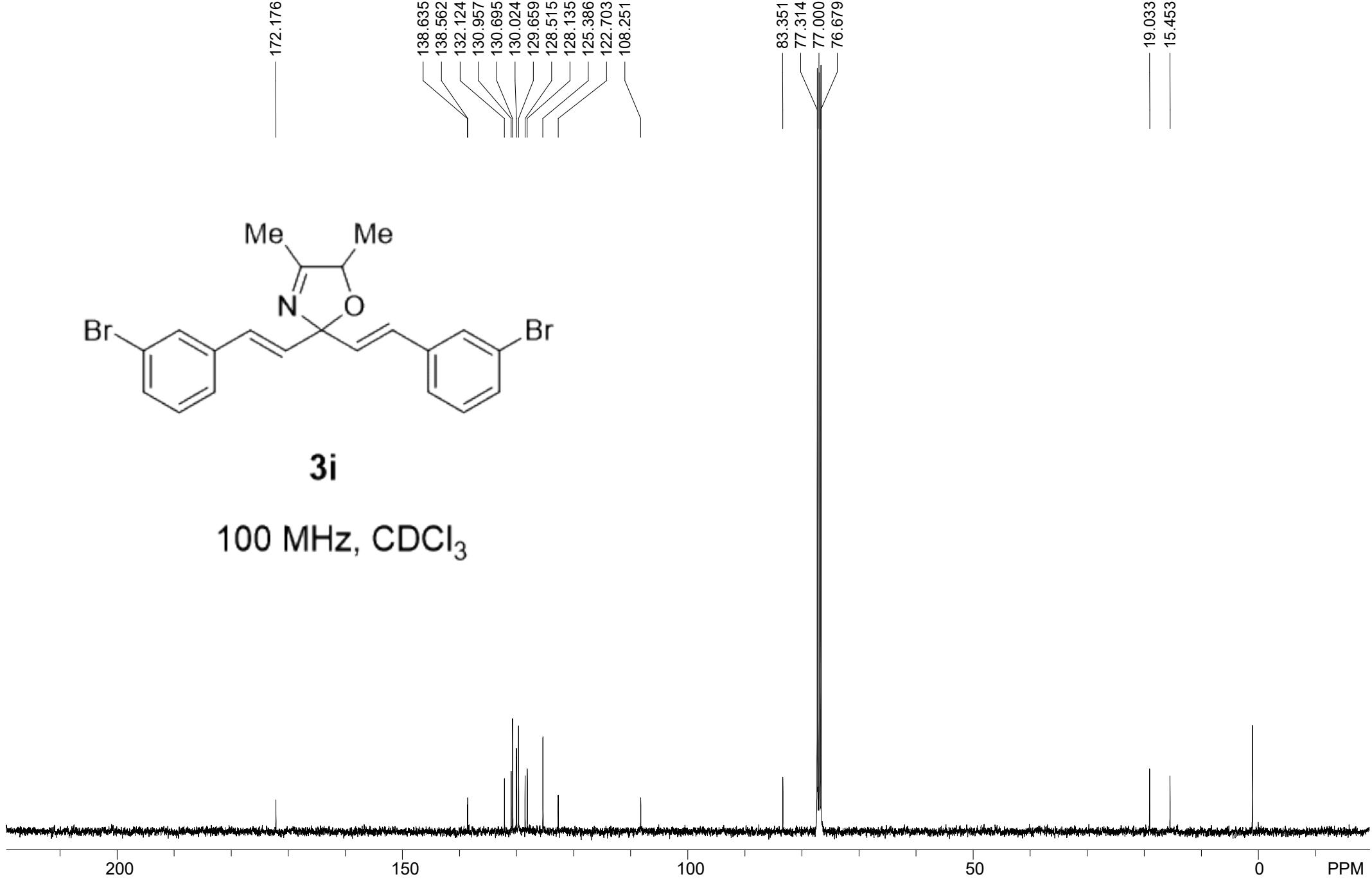
400 MHz, CDCl₃

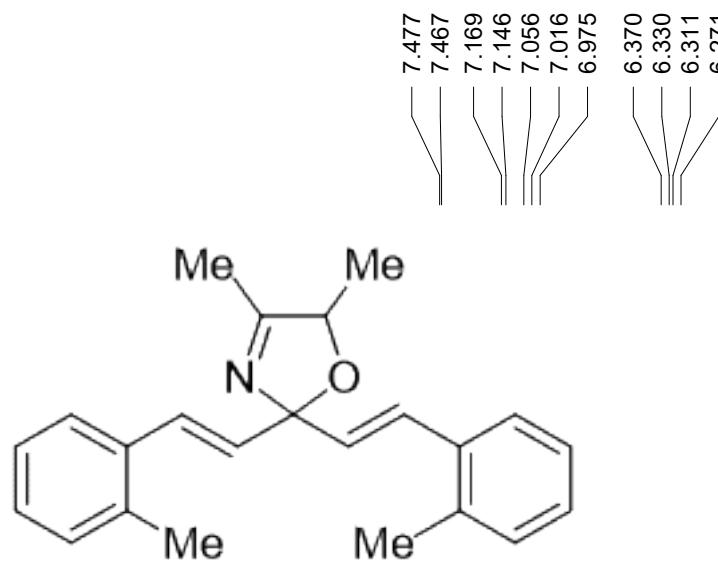




3i

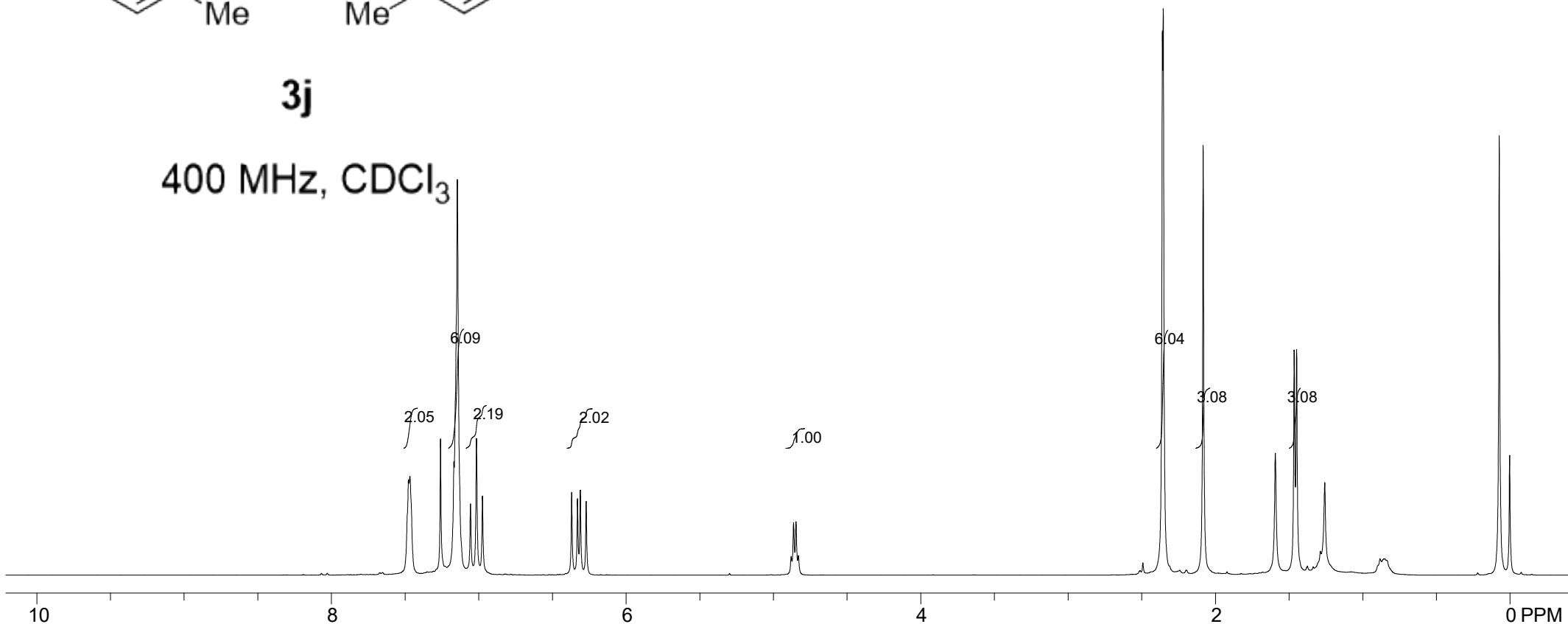
100 MHz, CDCl₃

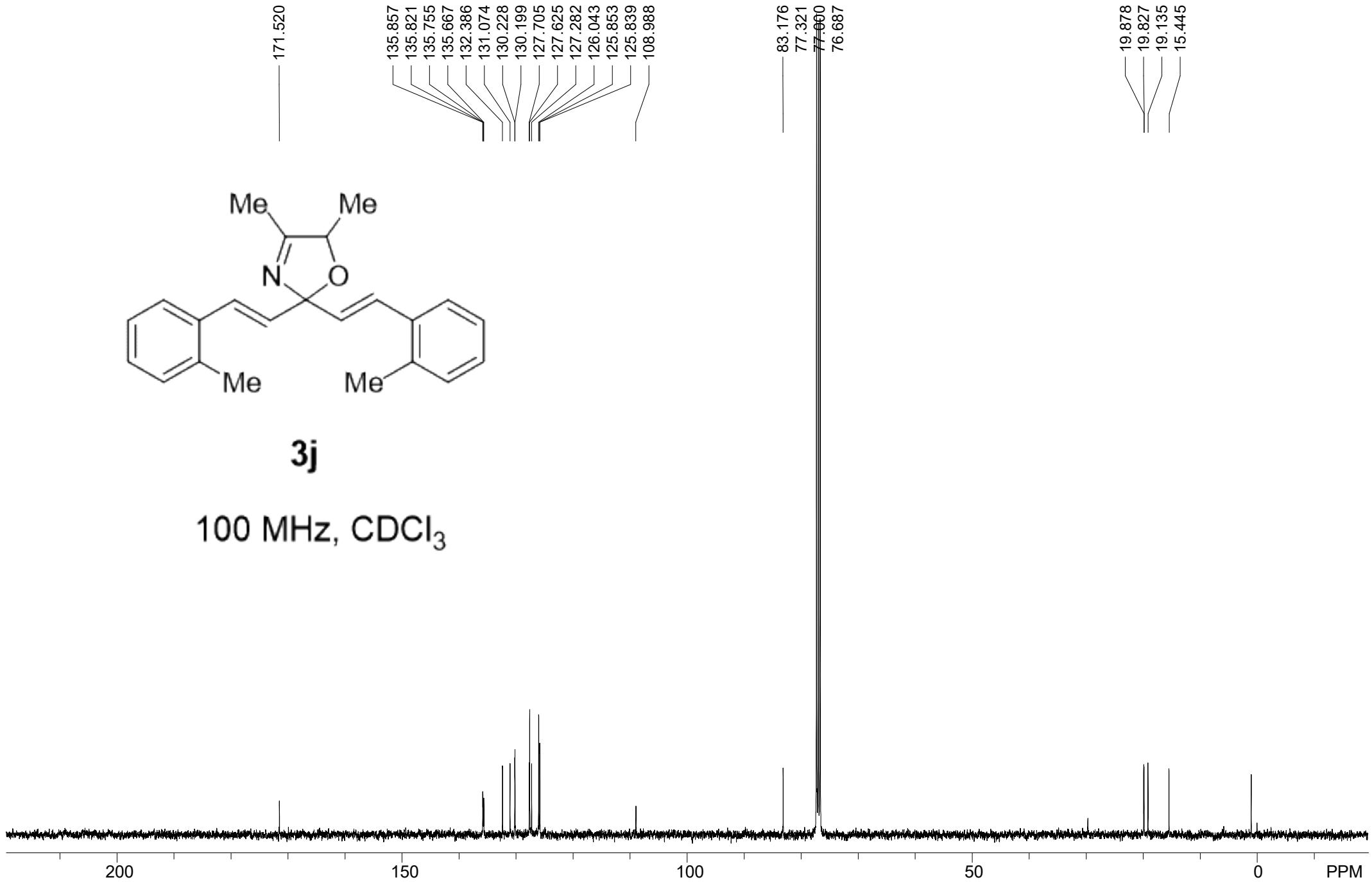


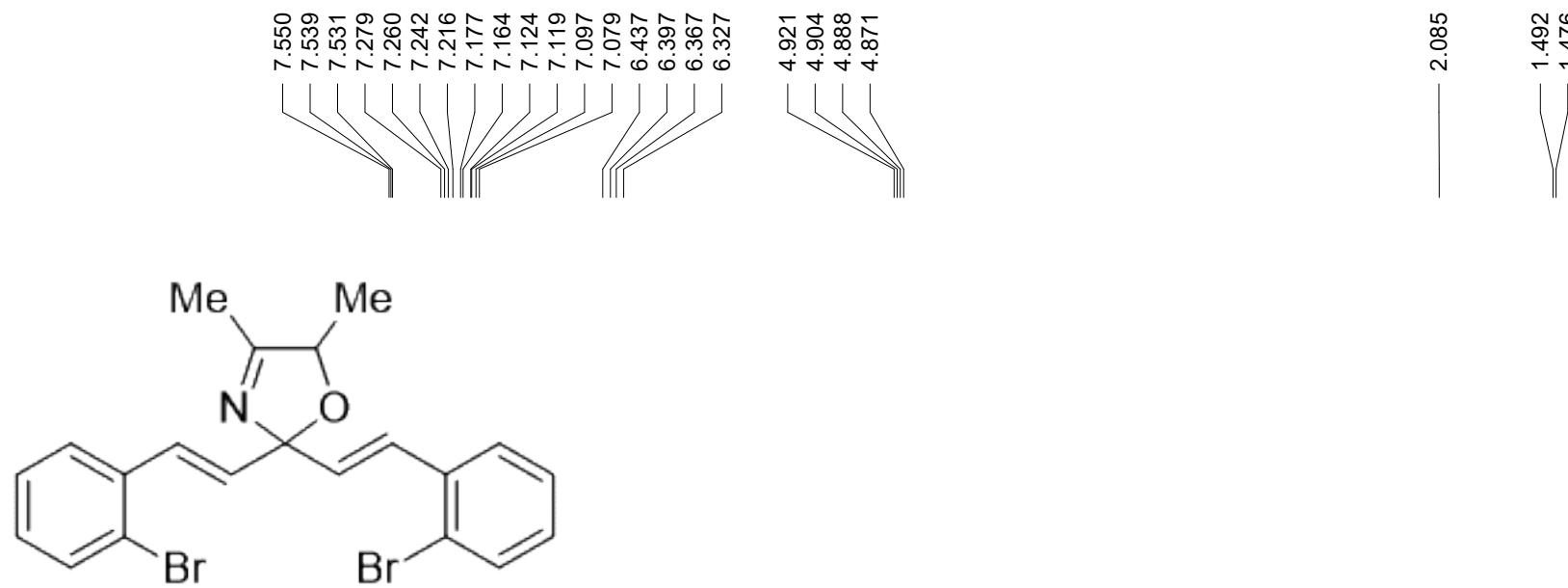


3j

400 MHz, CDCl_3

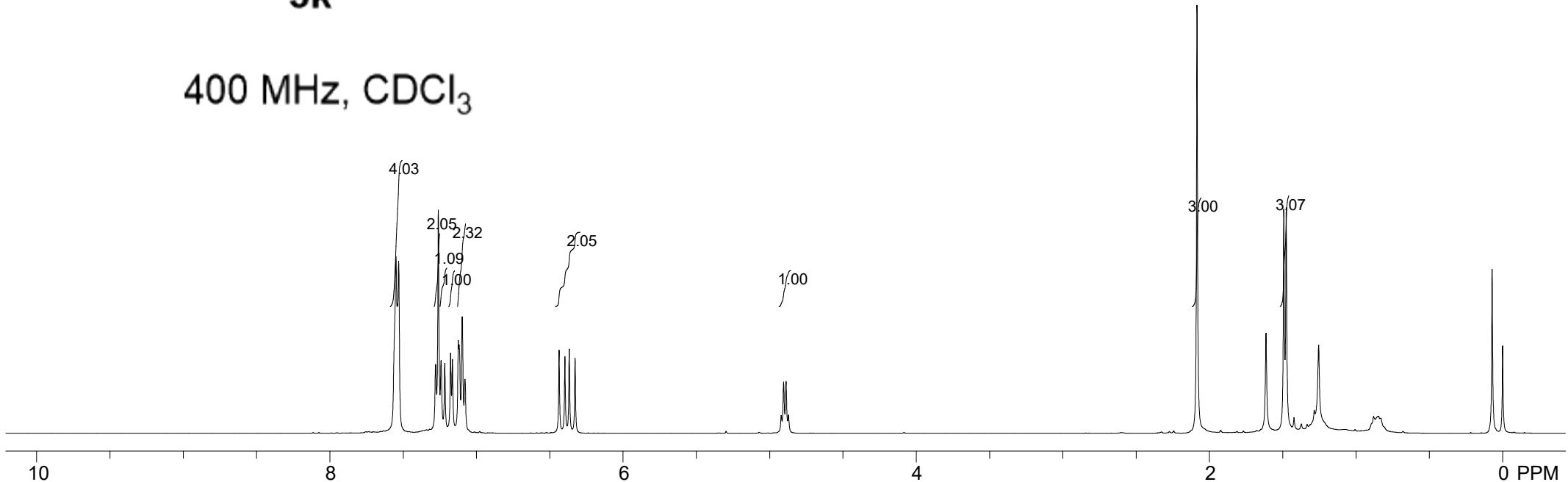


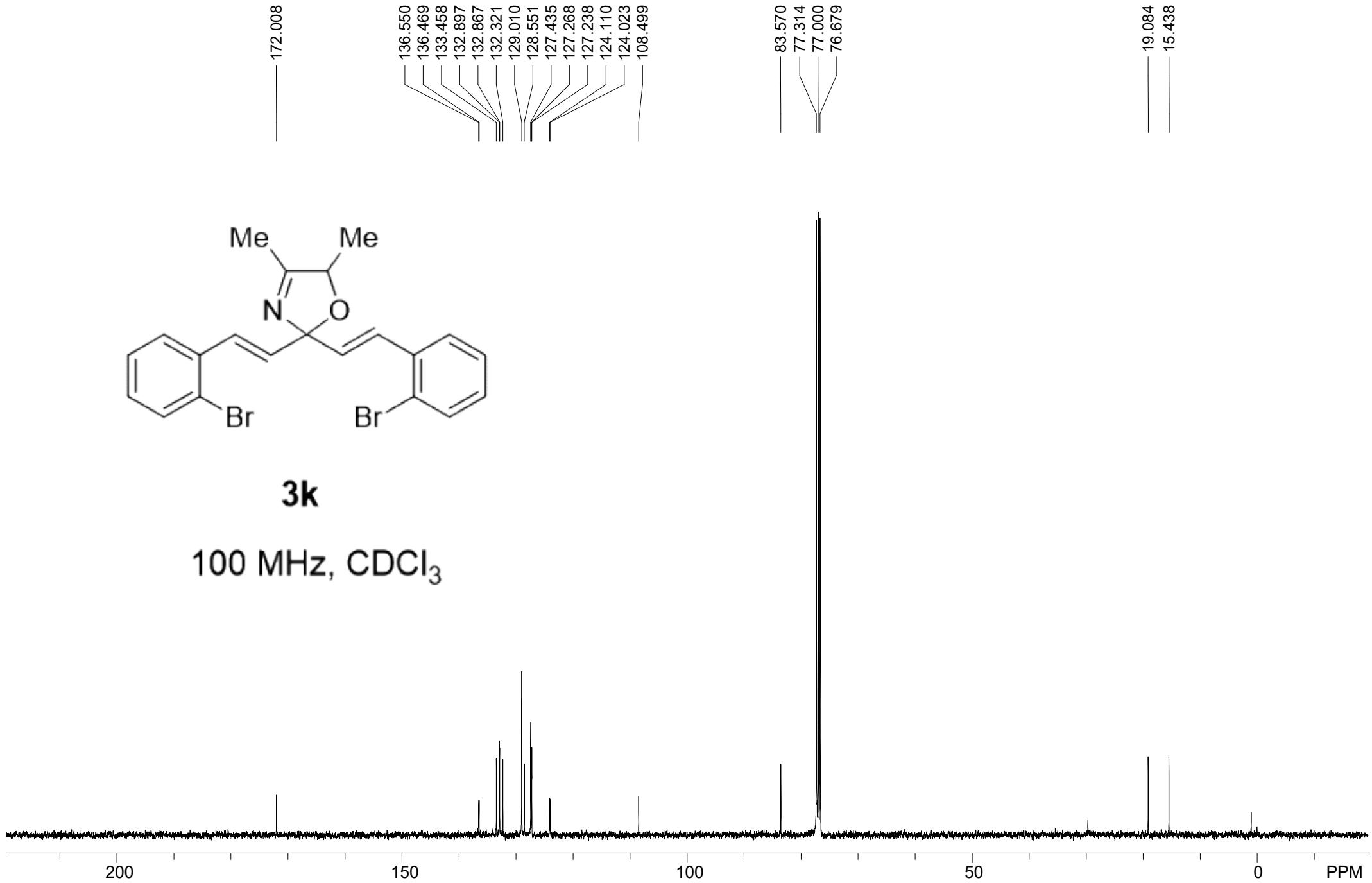


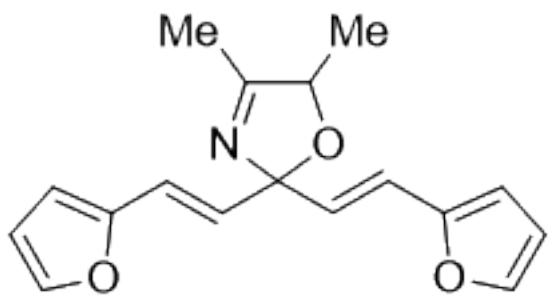


3k

400 MHz, CDCl_3

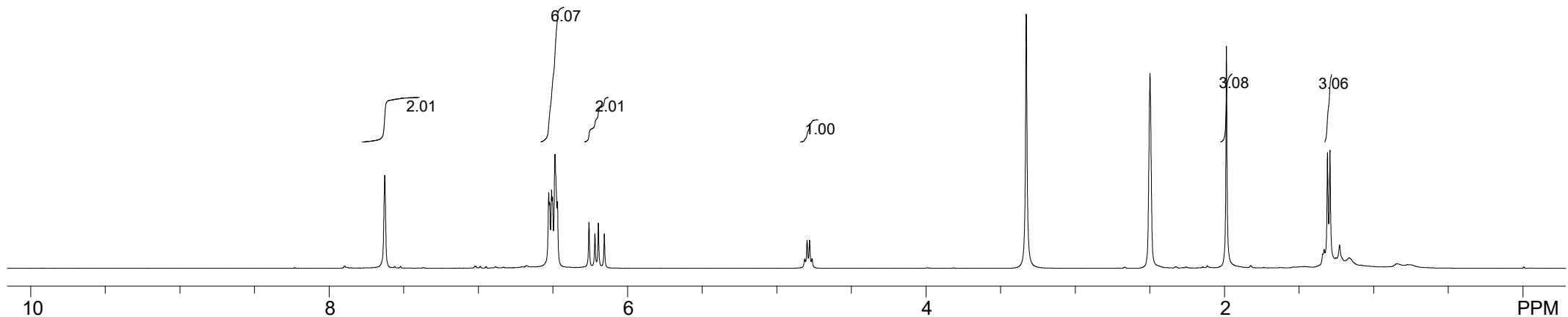


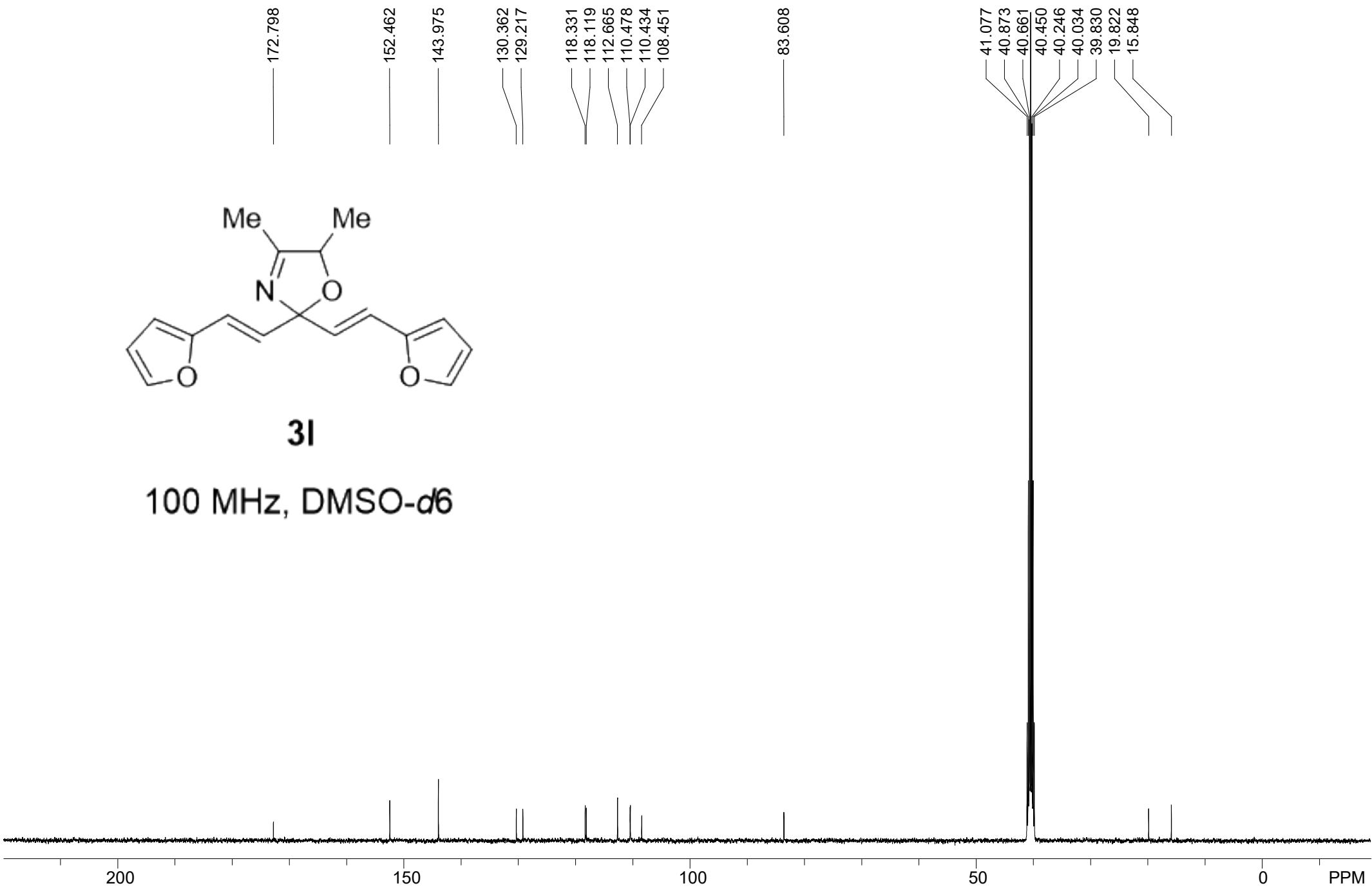


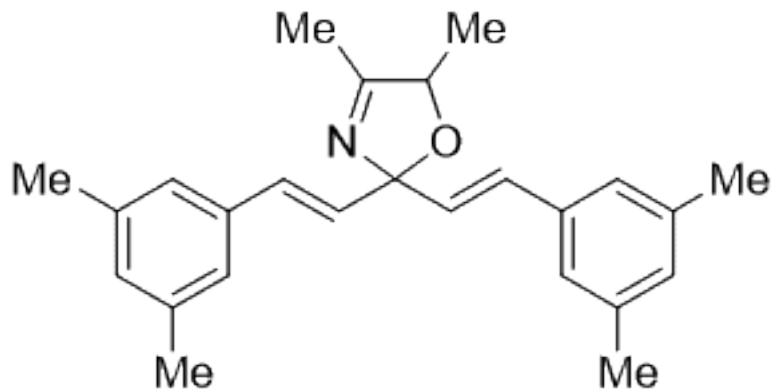


3l

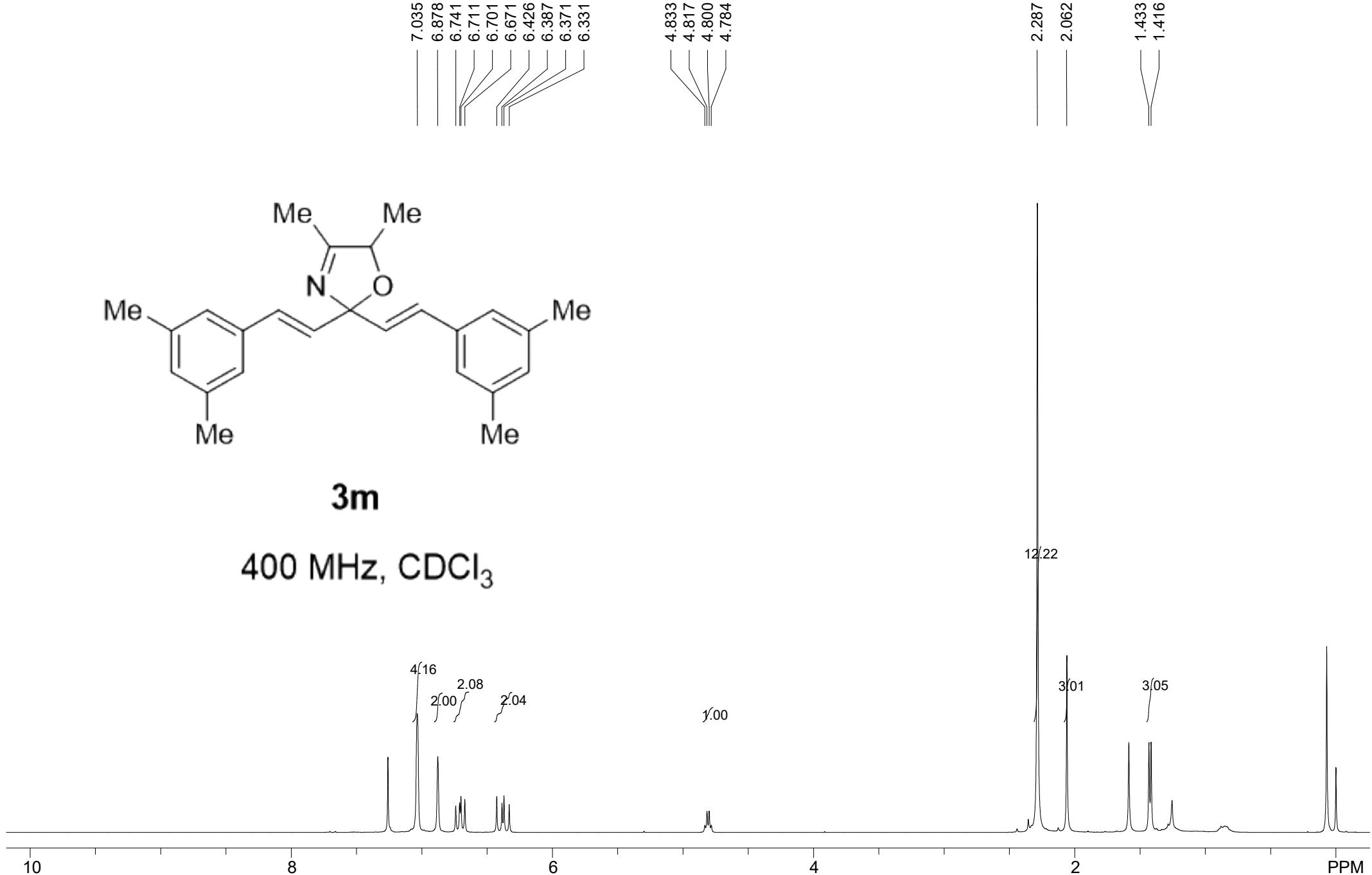
100 MHz, DMSO-*d*6

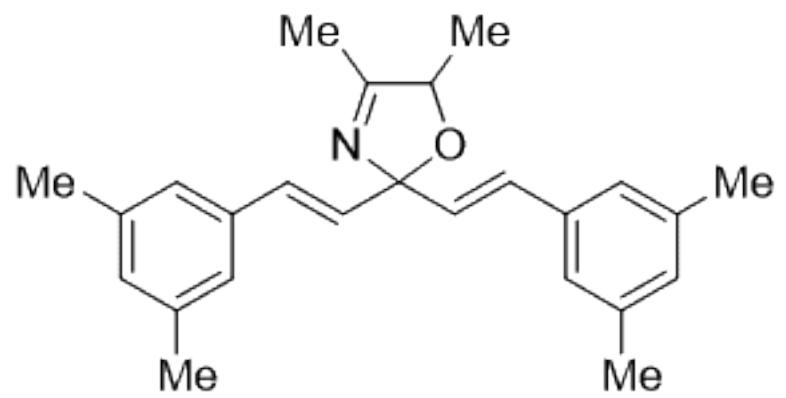






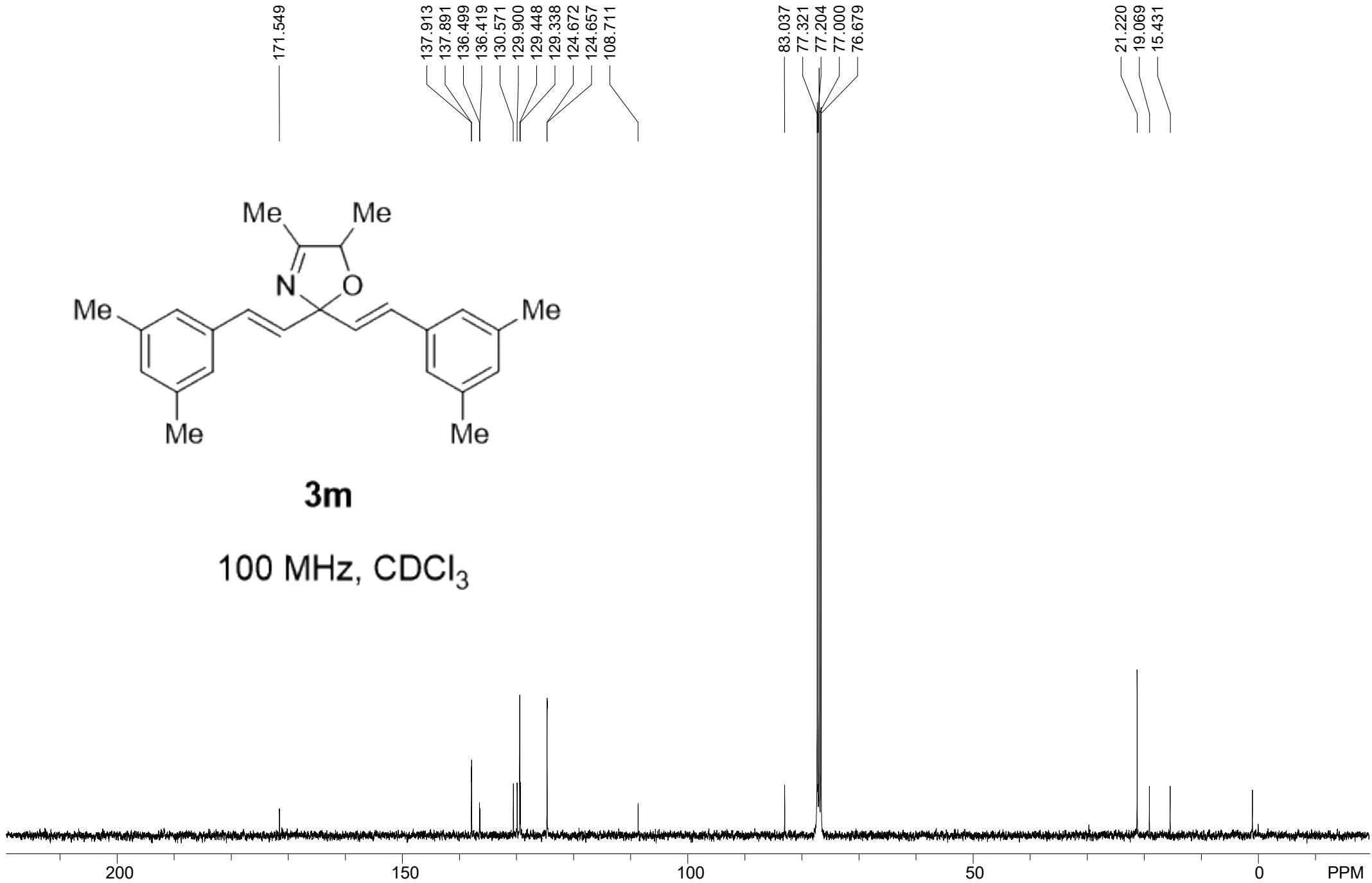
400 MHz, CDCl_3

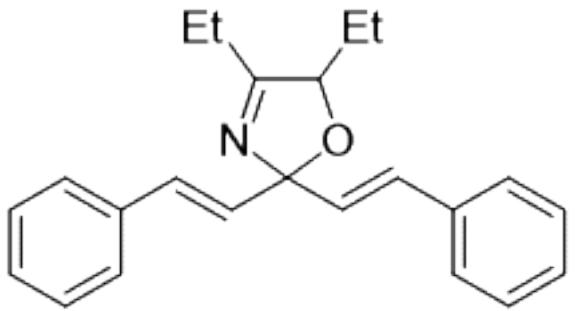




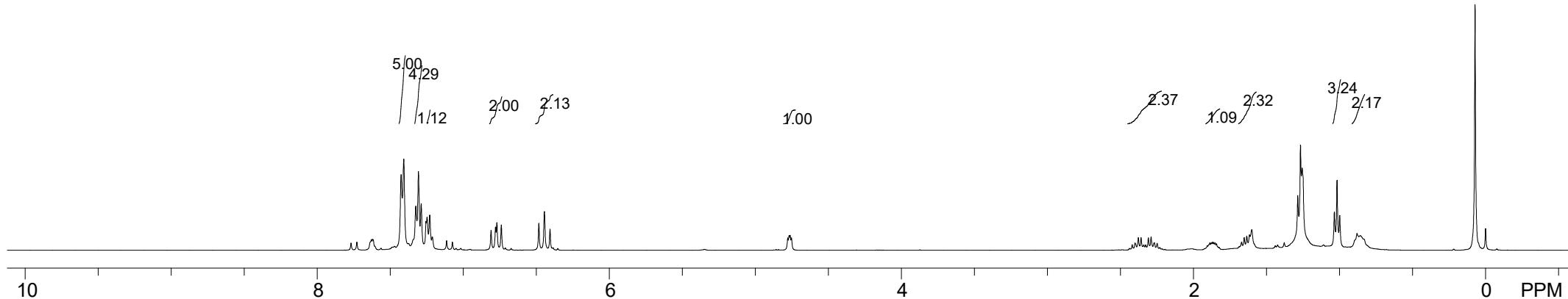
3m

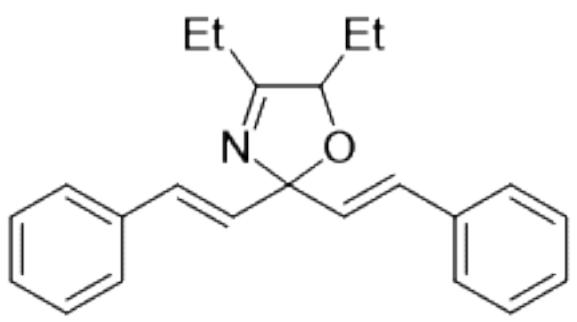
100 MHz, CDCl_3





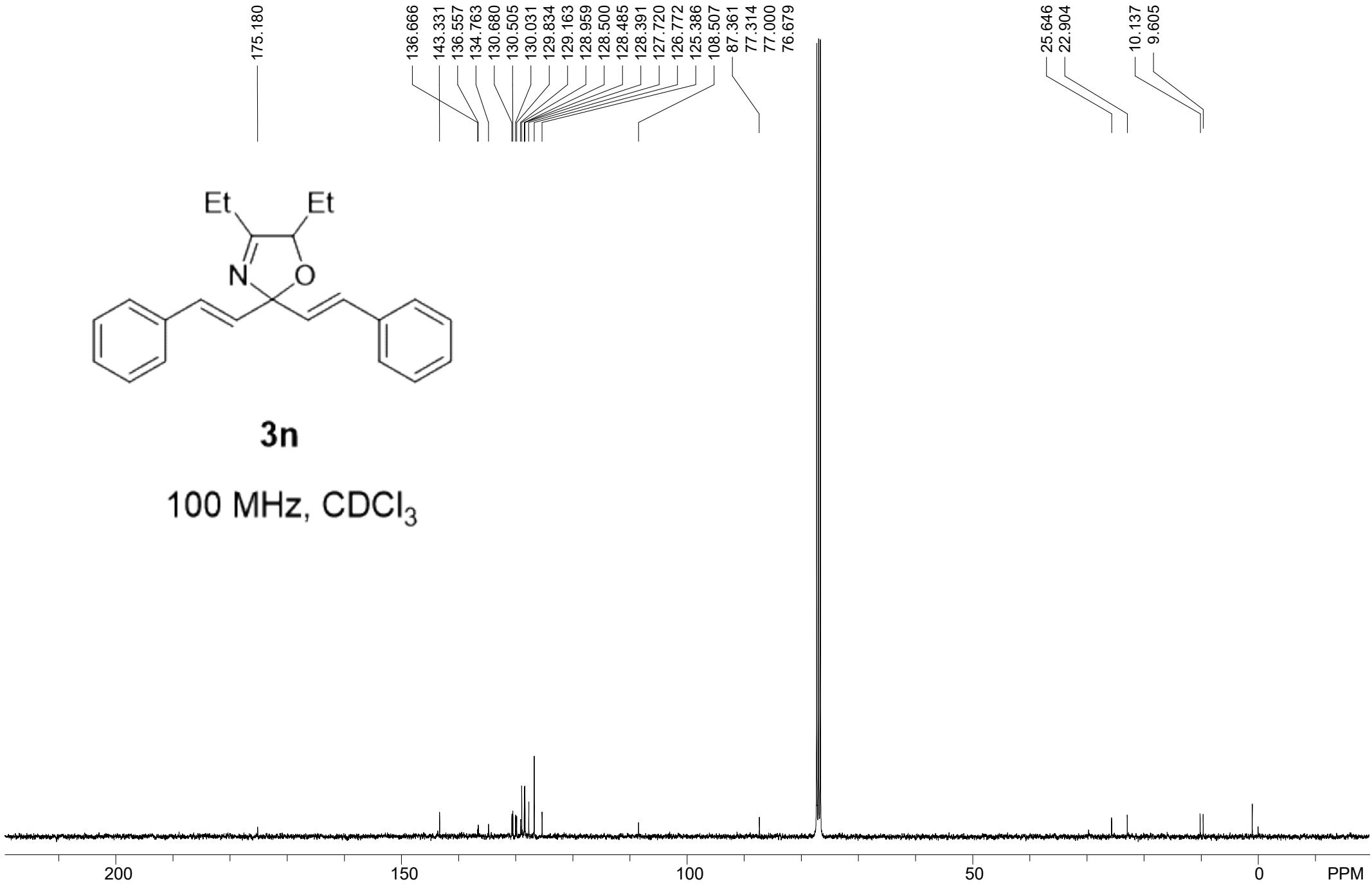
400 MHz, CDCl_3

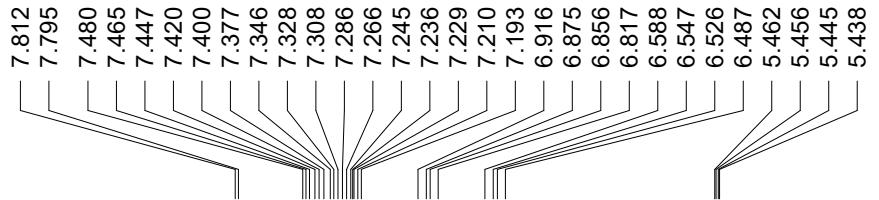




3n

100 MHz, CDCl_3



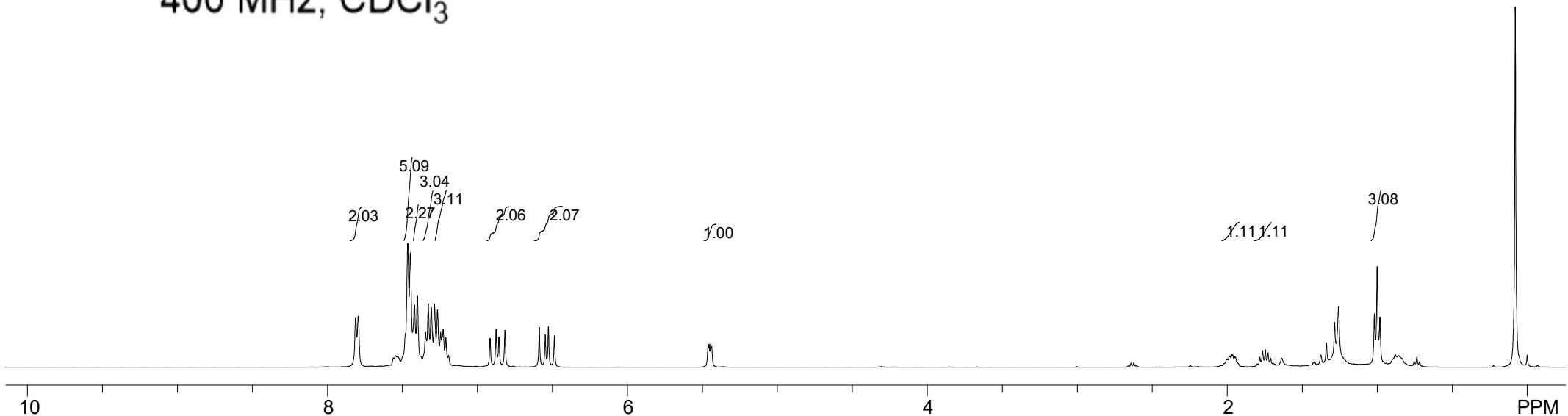


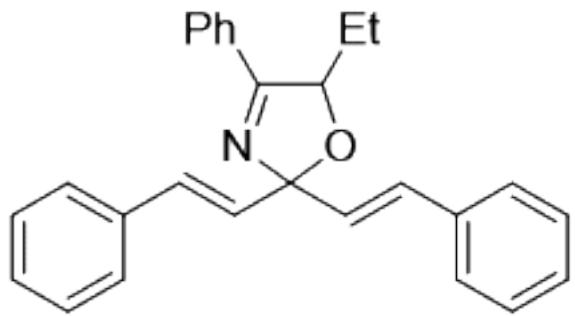
Ph

Et

3o

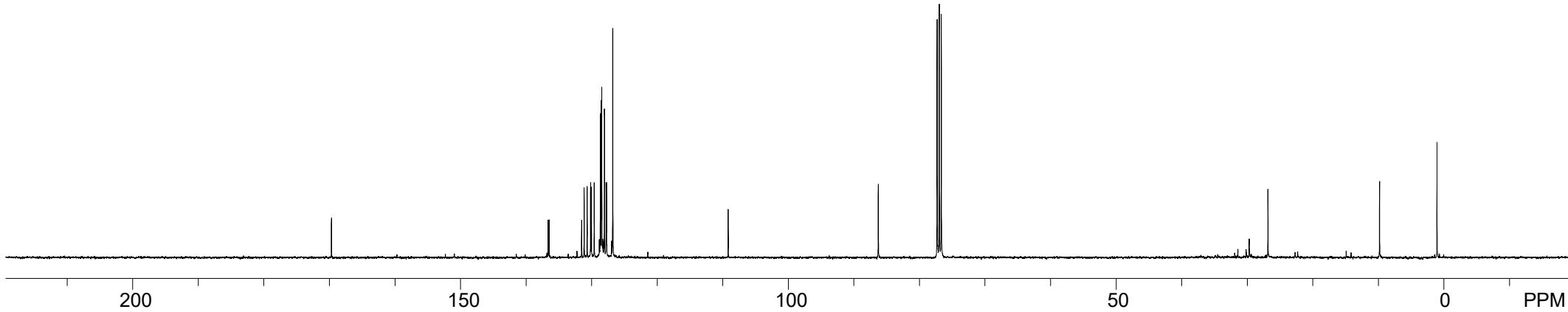
400 MHz, CDCl₃

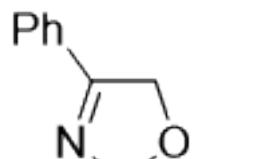
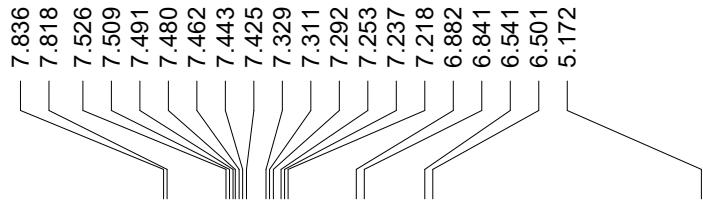




3o

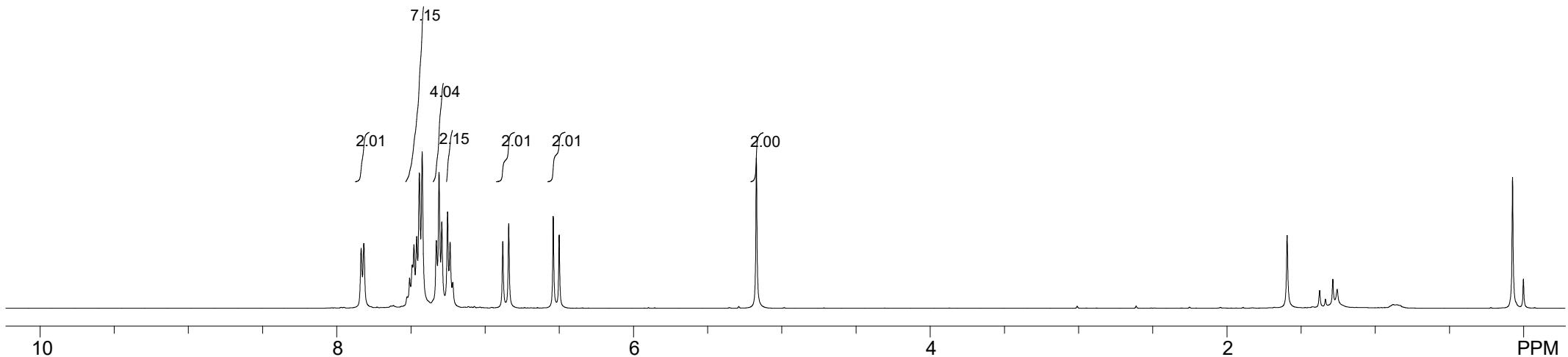
100 MHz, CDCl_3

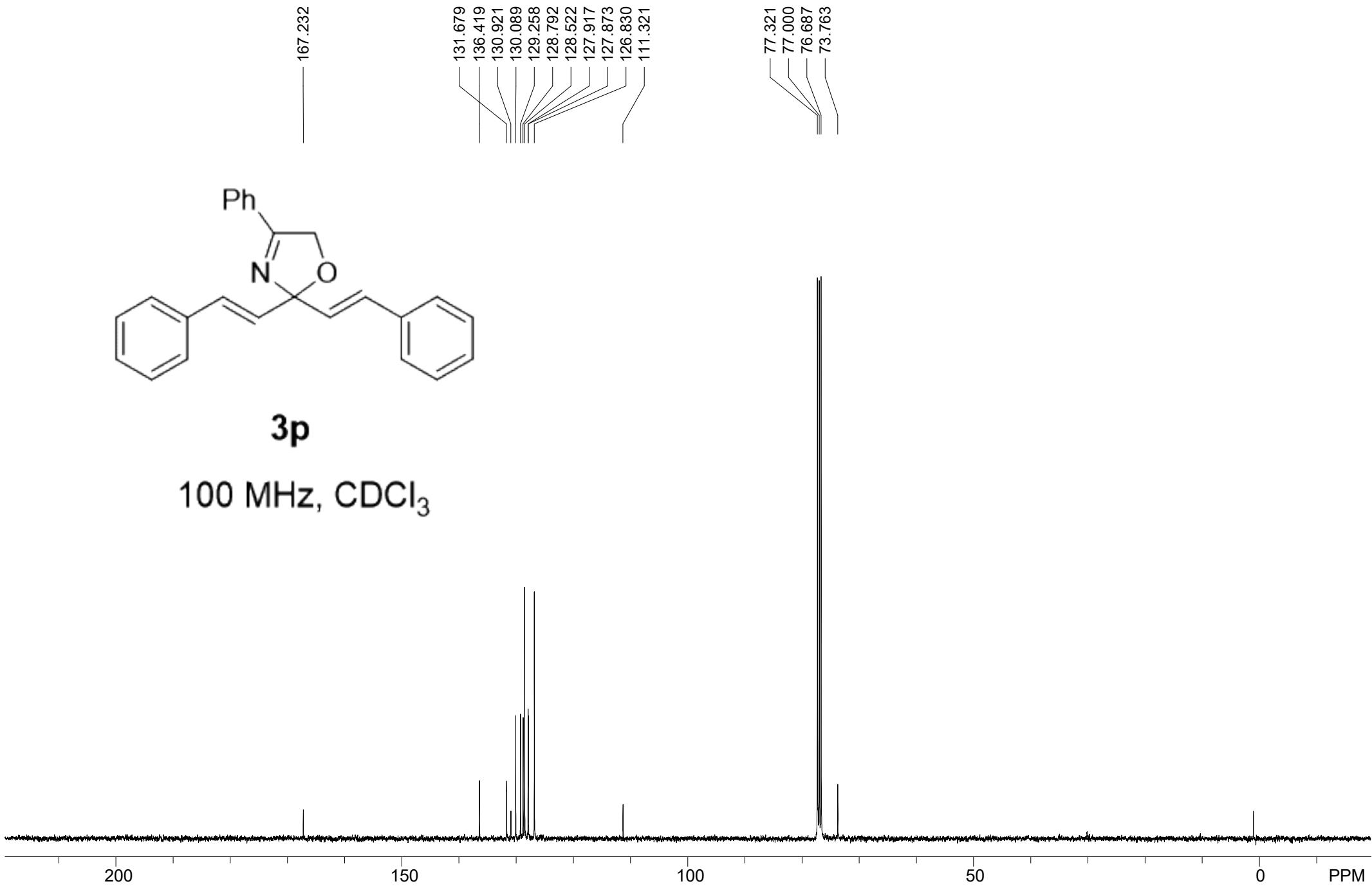




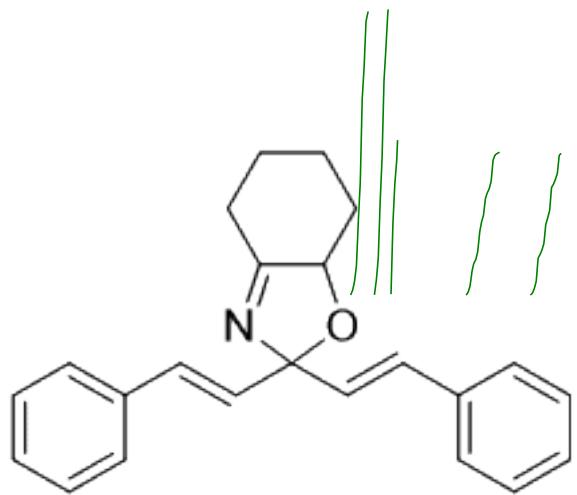
3p

400 MHz, CDCl_3



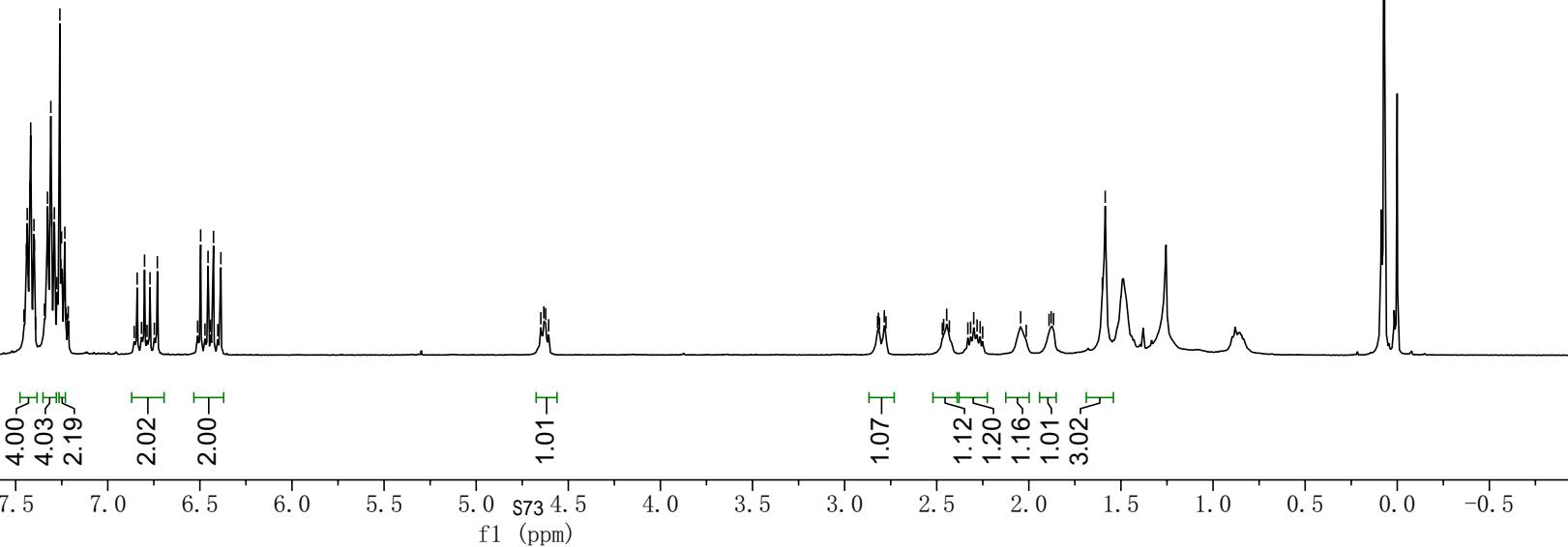


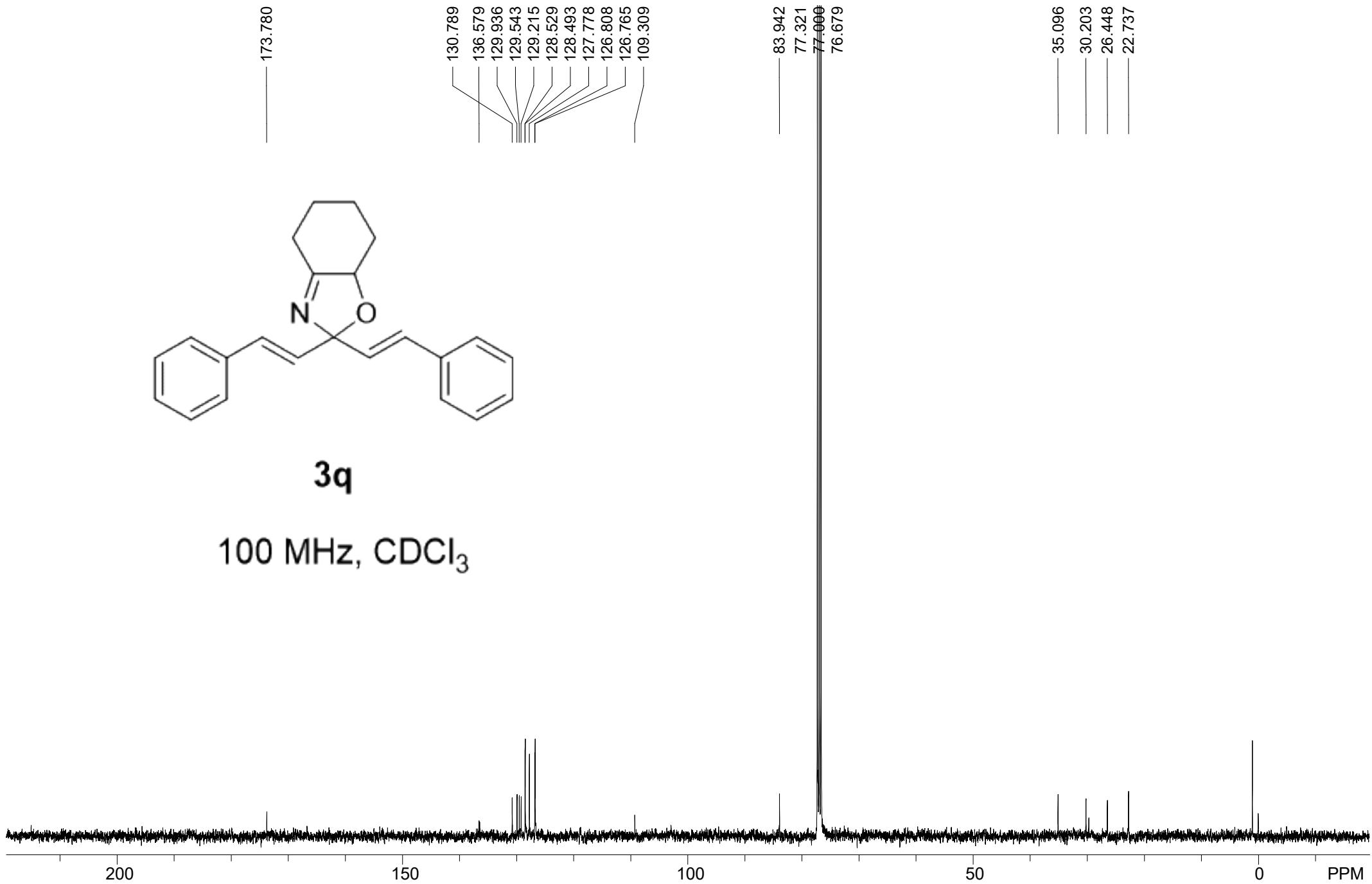
7.455
7.441
7.437
7.432
7.423
7.418
7.404
7.401
7.398
7.393
7.344
7.327
7.322
7.309
7.305
7.293
7.290
7.277
7.260
7.255
7.251
7.247
7.239
7.233
7.227
7.218
7.215
7.211
6.840
6.800
6.771
6.731
6.512
6.496
6.456
6.443
6.426
6.386
4.649
4.633
4.623
4.607
2.821
2.816
2.811
2.785
2.776
2.462
2.446
2.432
2.299
2.281
2.264
2.044
1.890
1.879
1.866
1.601
1.585

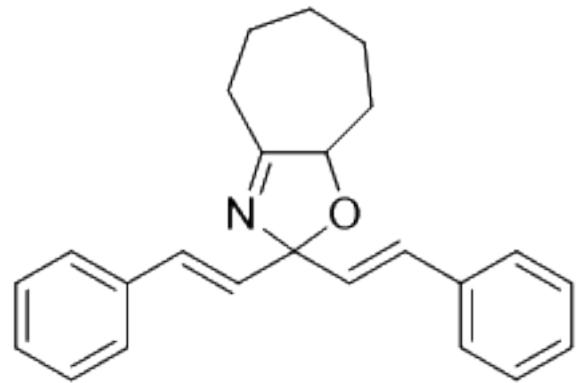


3q

400 MHz, CDCl_3

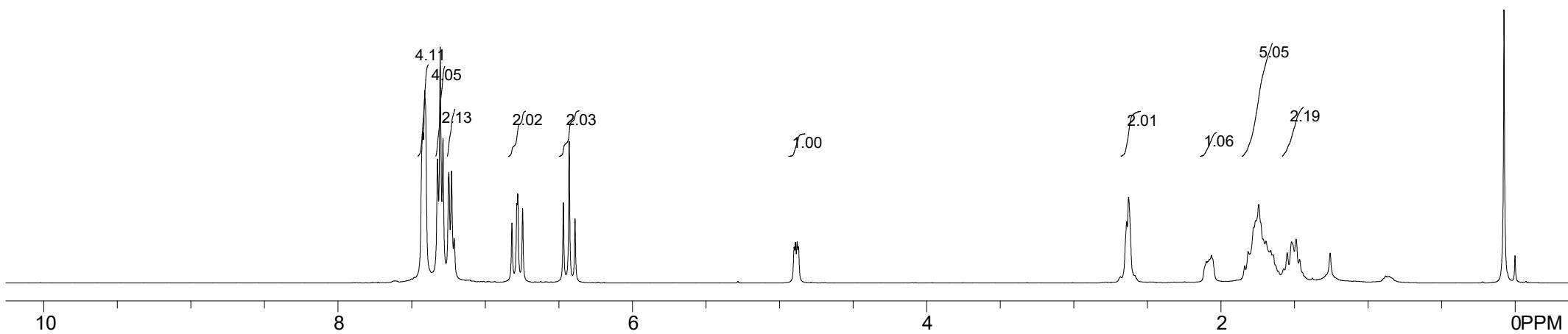


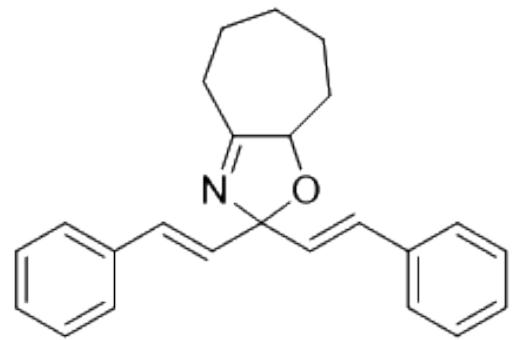




3r

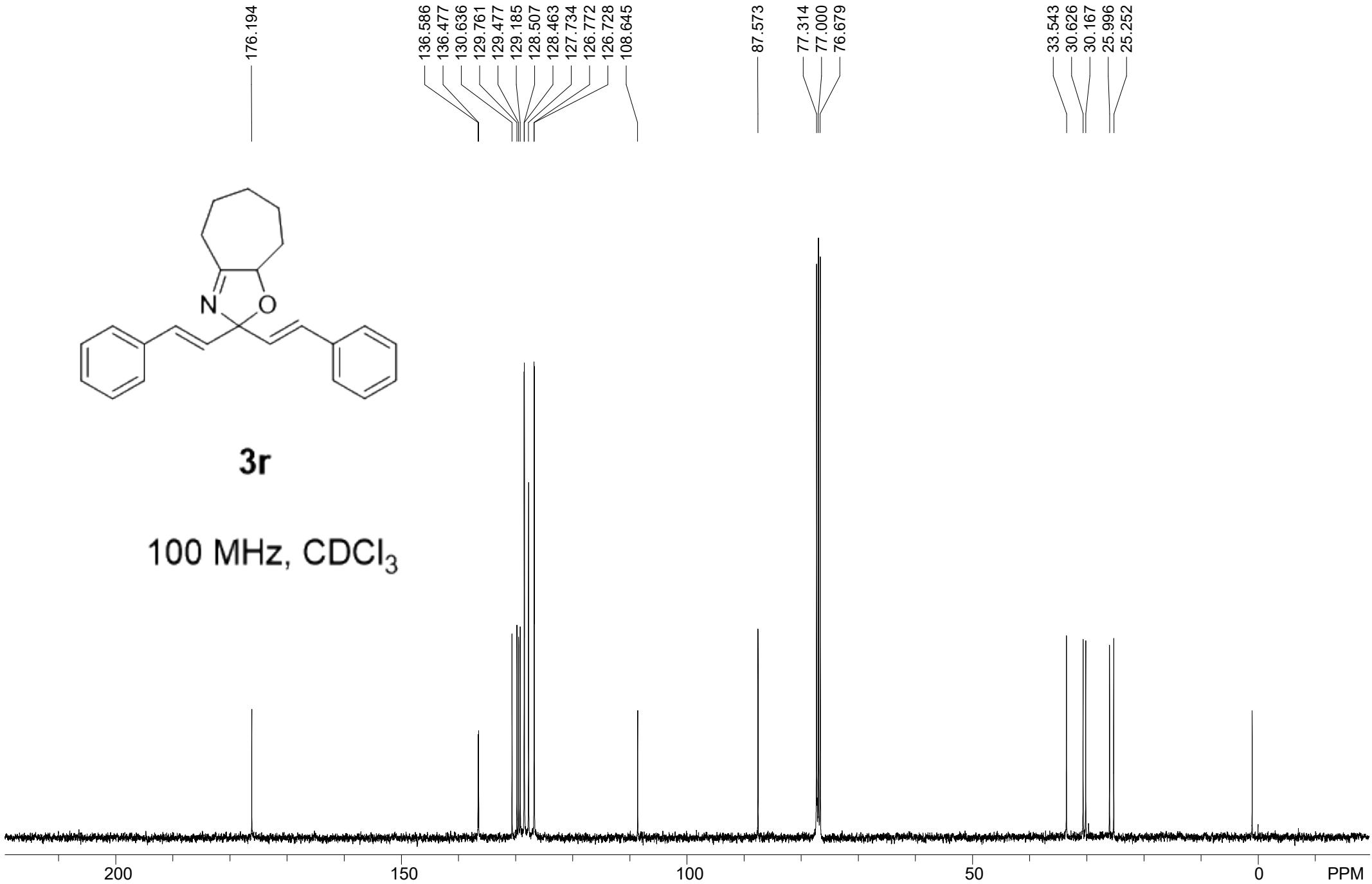
400 MHz, CDCl_3





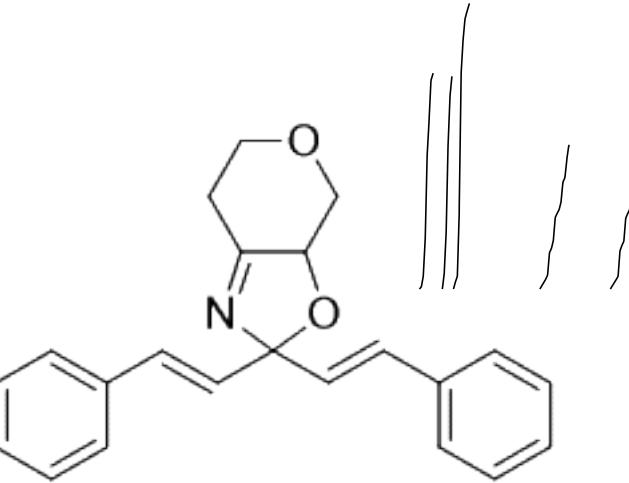
3r

100 MHz, CDCl_3



7.437
7.434
7.431
7.423
7.420
7.417
7.408
7.406
7.334
7.331
7.329
7.322
7.319
7.317
7.311
7.308
7.267
7.264
7.260
7.252
7.250

7.246
7.242
7.240
7.238
7.235
6.824
6.797
6.759
6.733
6.474
6.448
6.416
6.390



3s

600 MHz, CDCl_3

10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.

f1 (ppm)

3.05
3.01
4.04

2.04

2.09

1.00

1.01

1.00

1.06

1.04

2.00

1

2

3

4

5

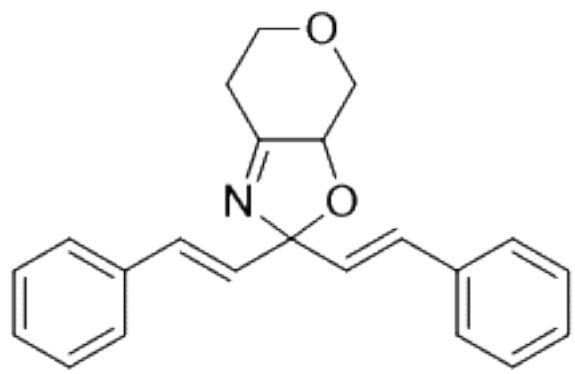
6

7

8

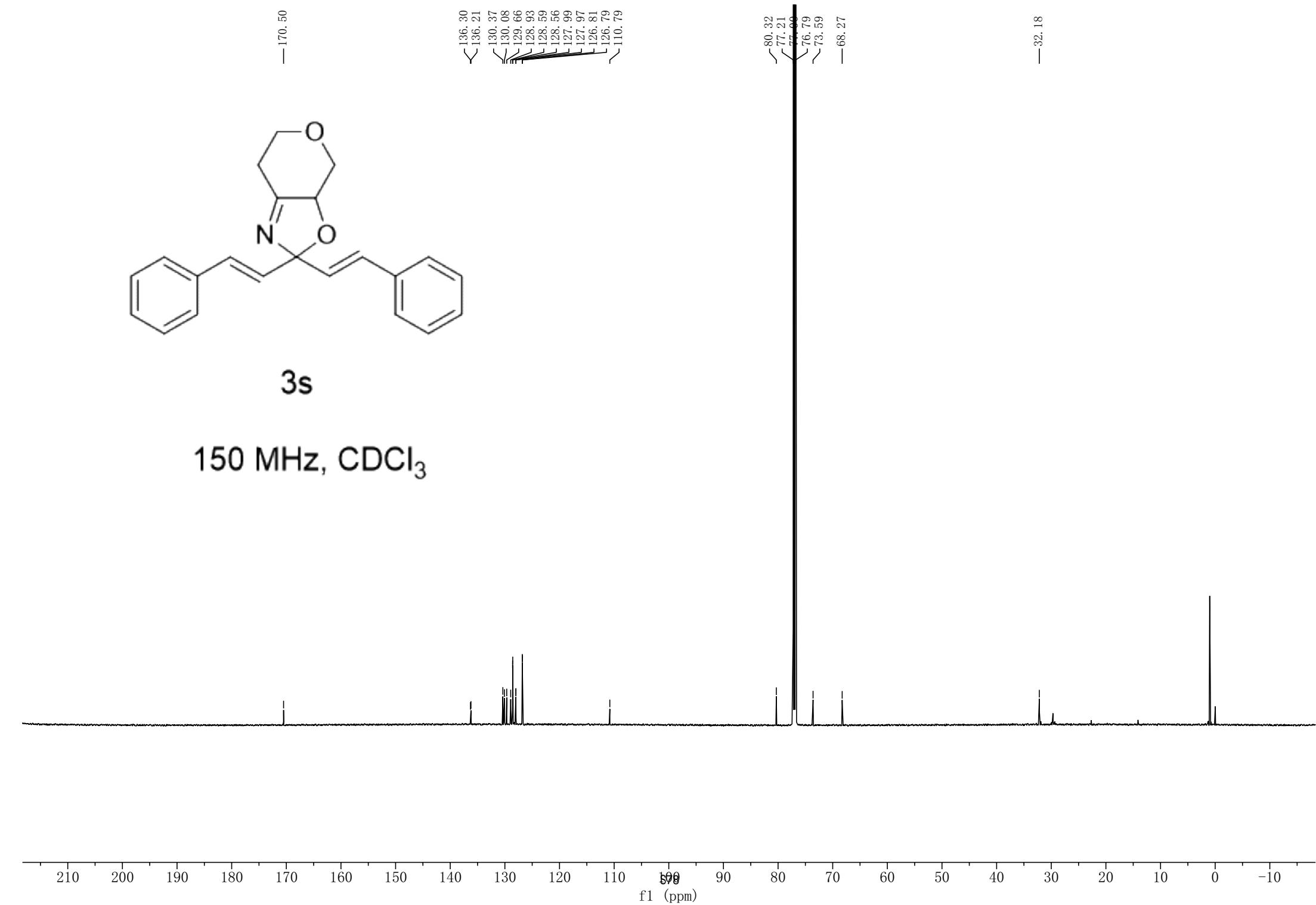
9

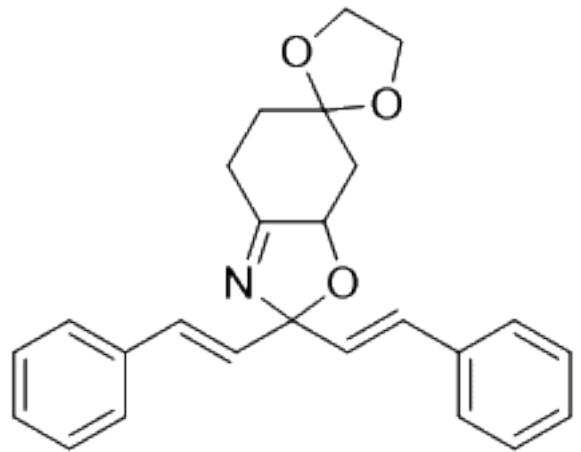
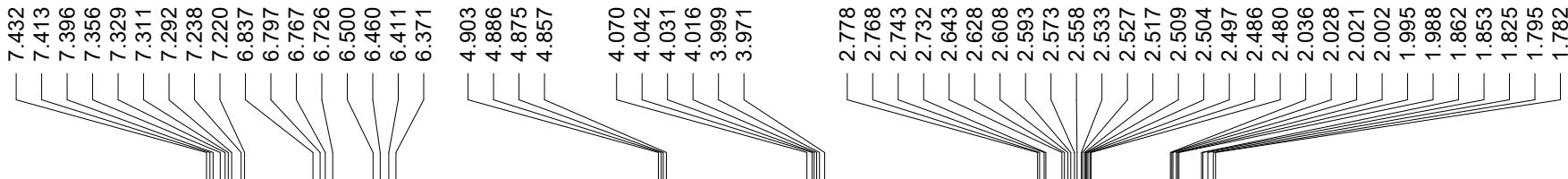
10



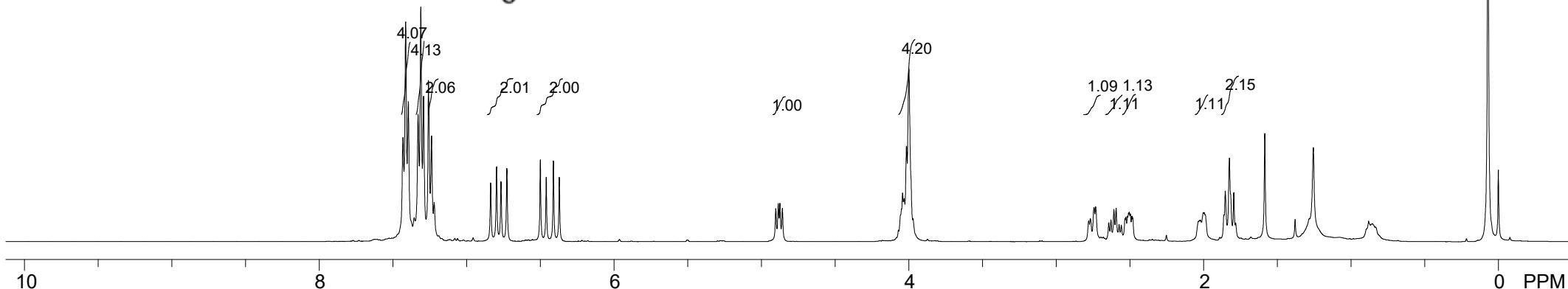
3s

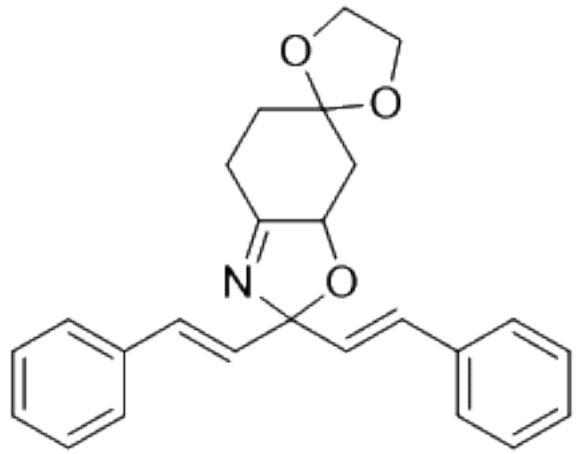
150 MHz, CDCl₃





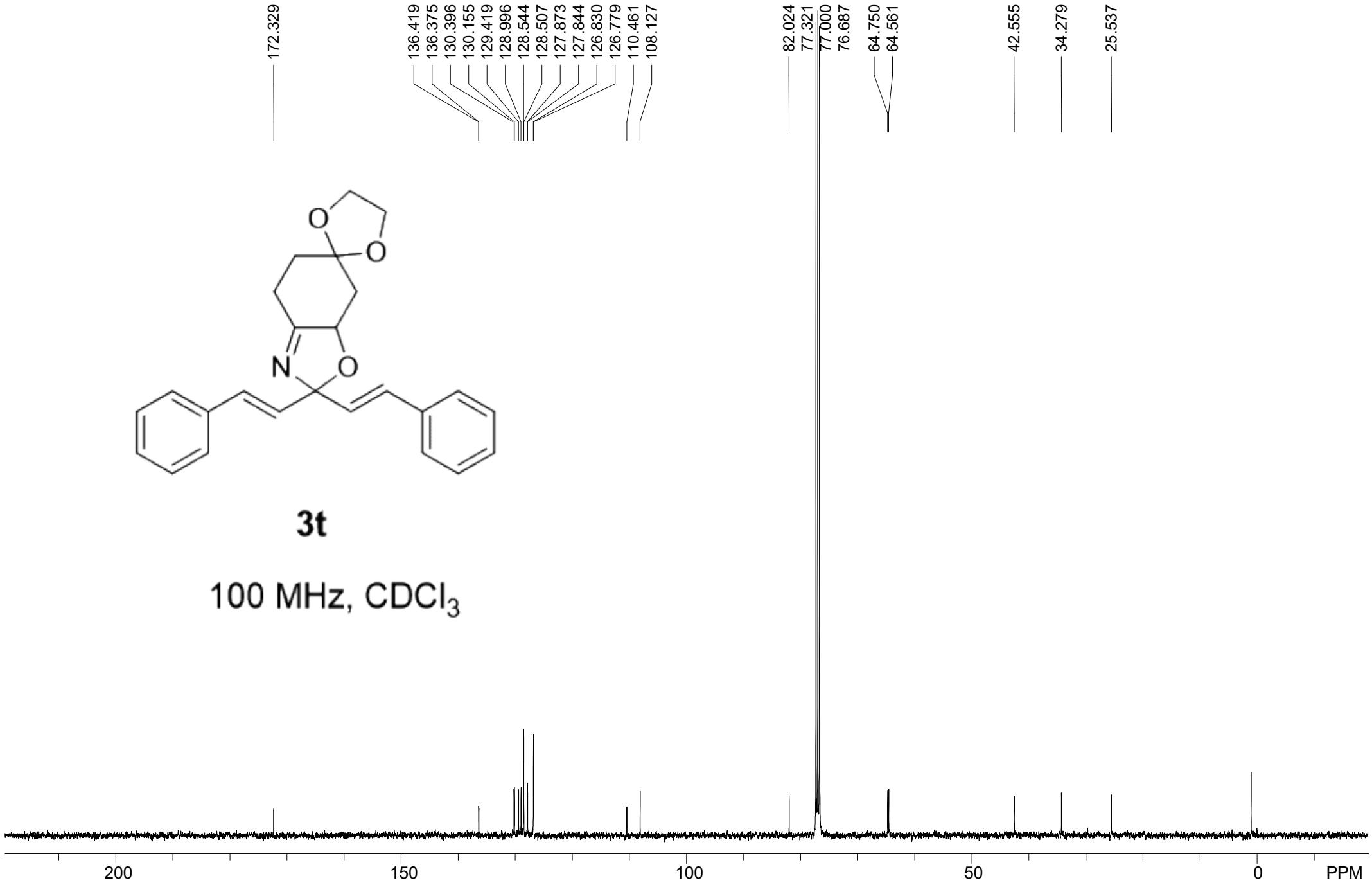
400 MHz, CDCl_3

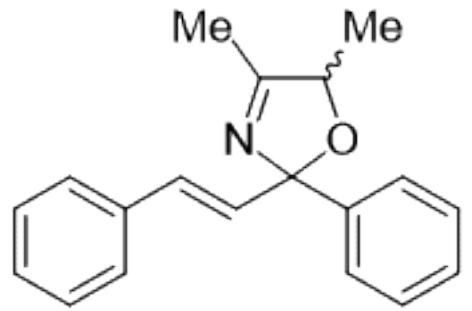
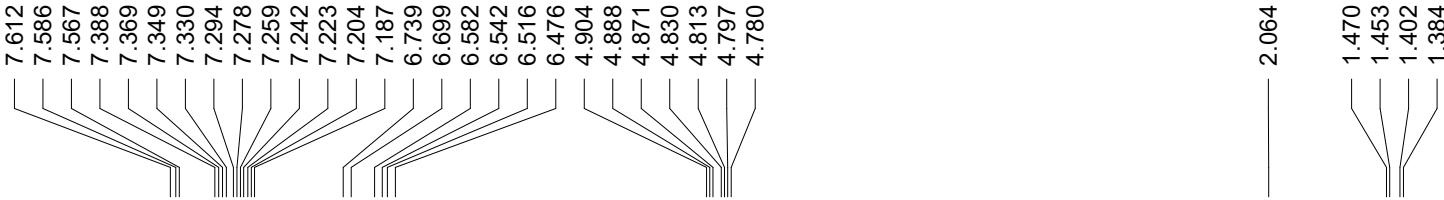




3t

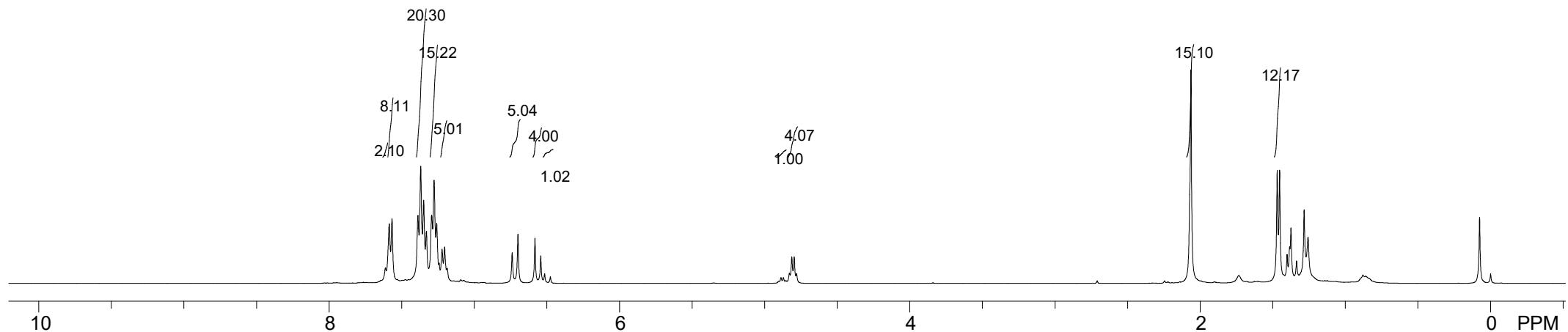
100 MHz, CDCl₃

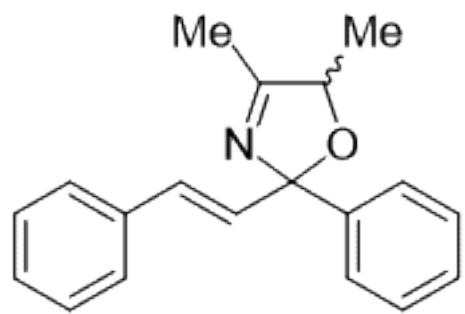
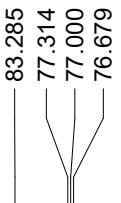
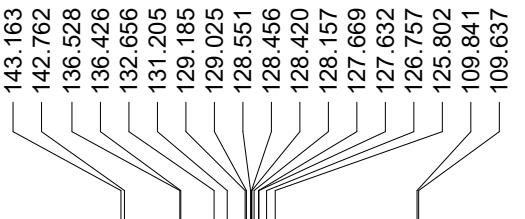
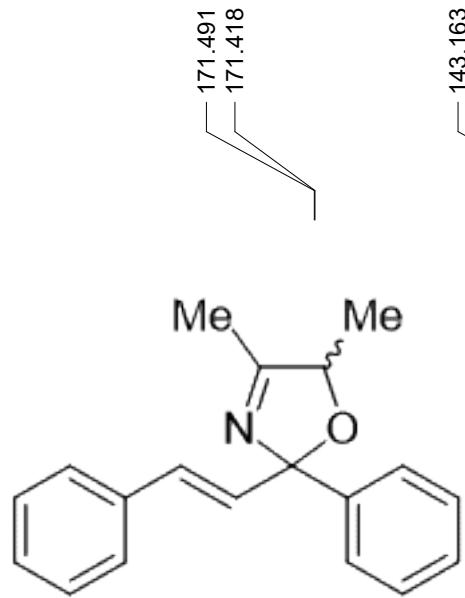




3u dr = 4:1

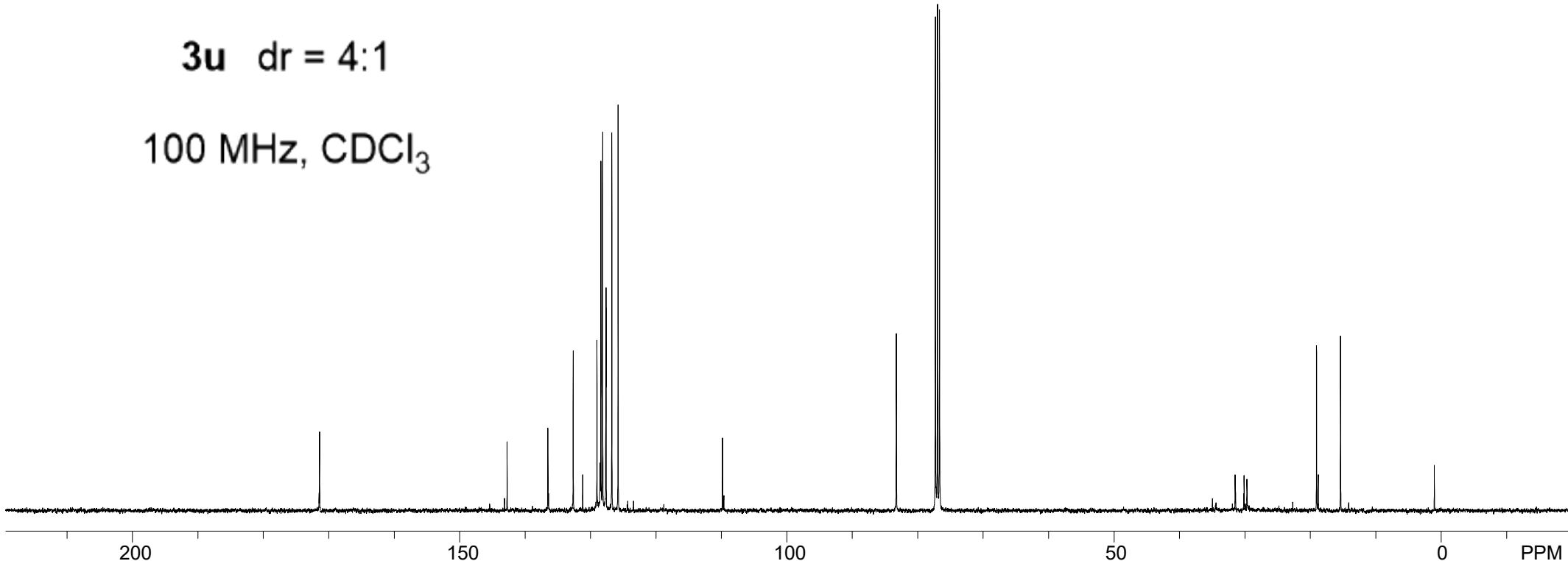
400 MHz, CDCl₃

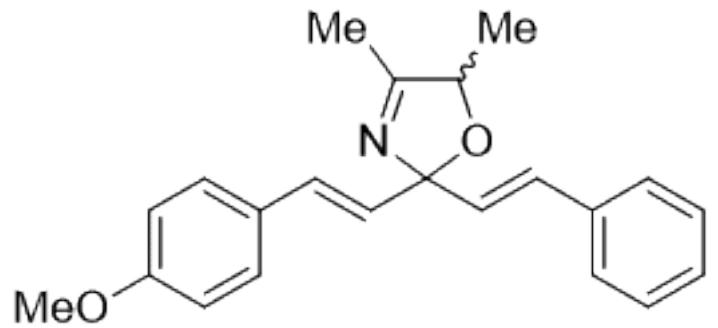
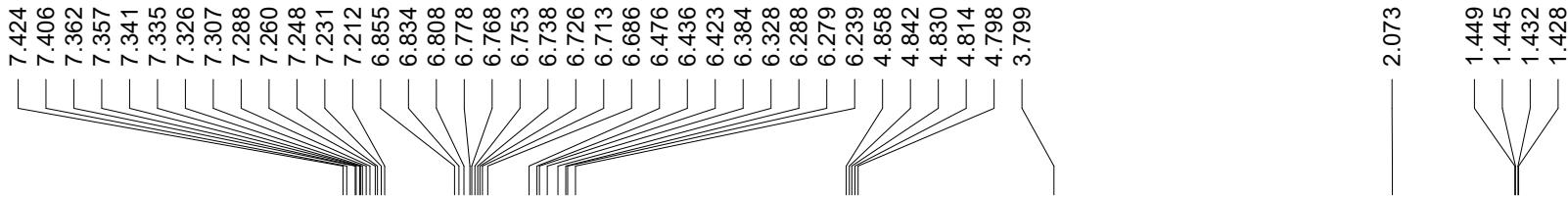




3u dr = 4:1

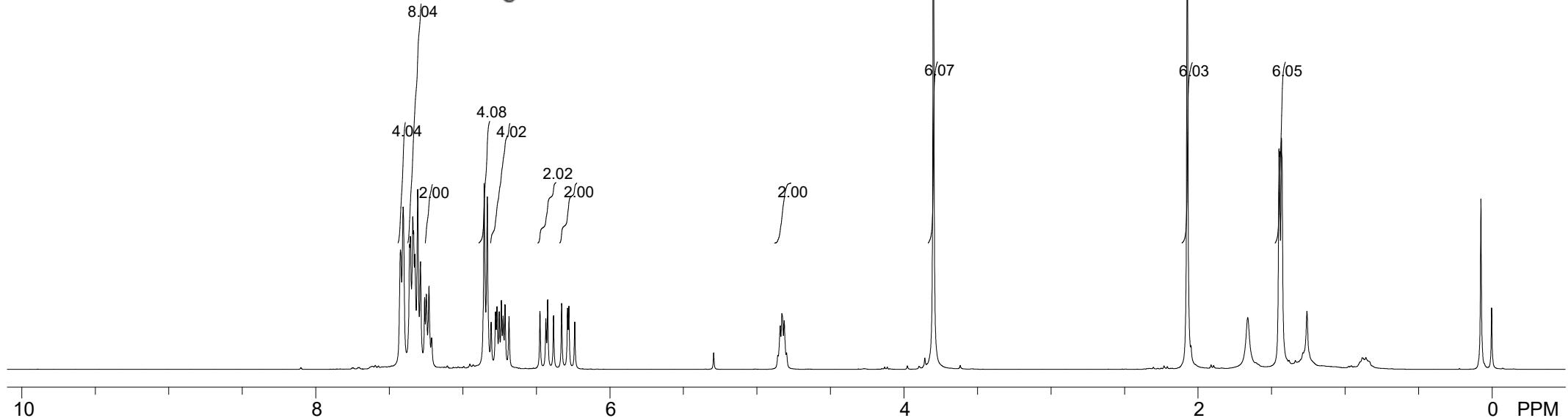
100 MHz, CDCl₃

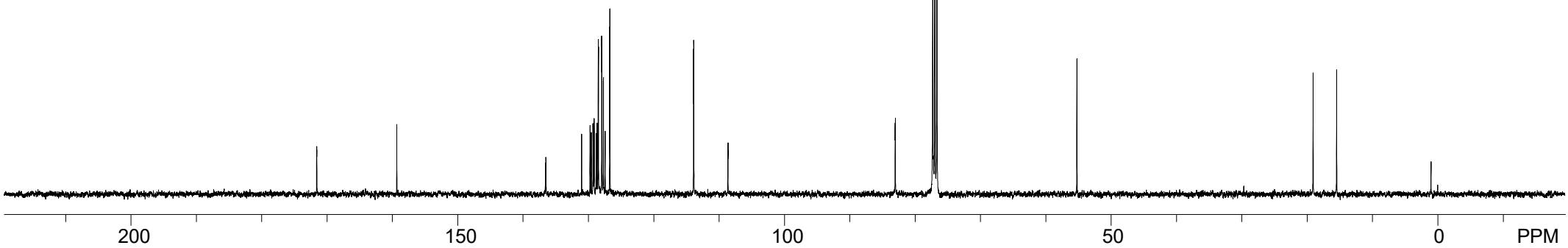
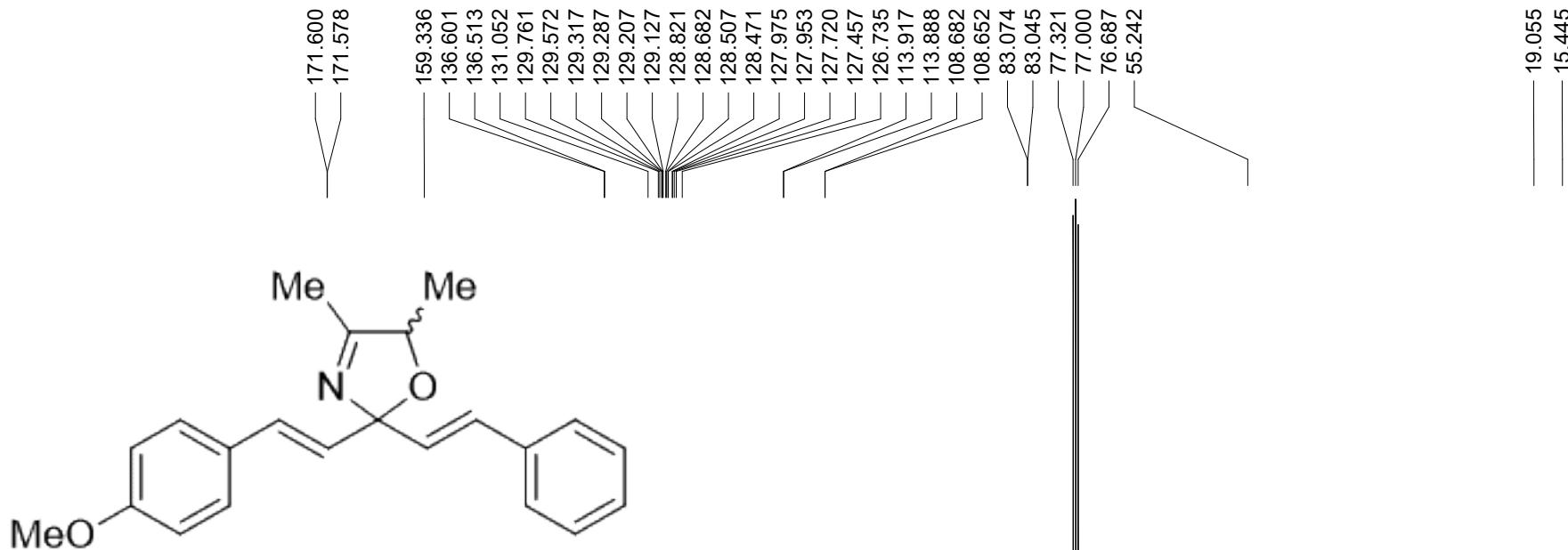


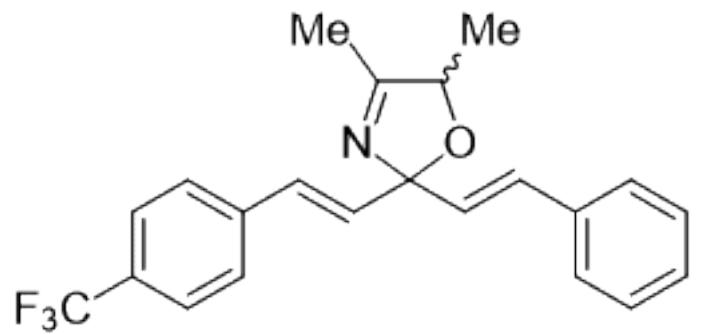
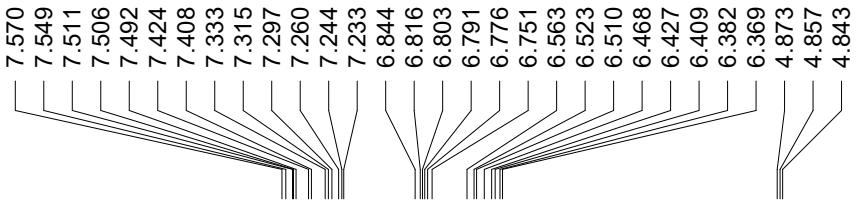


3v dr = 1:1

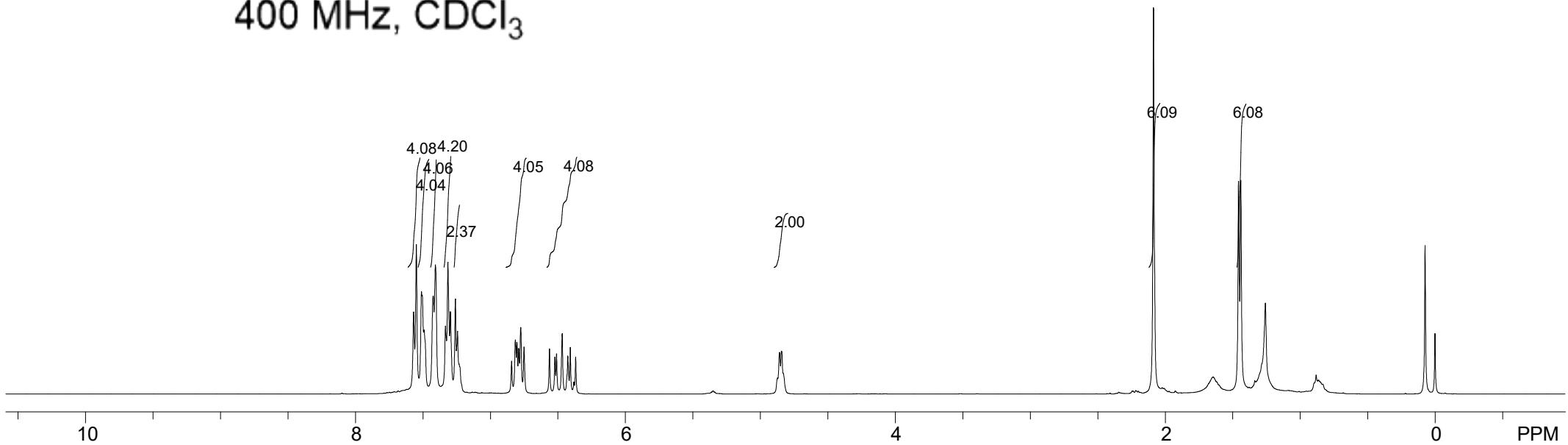
400 MHz, CDCl_3

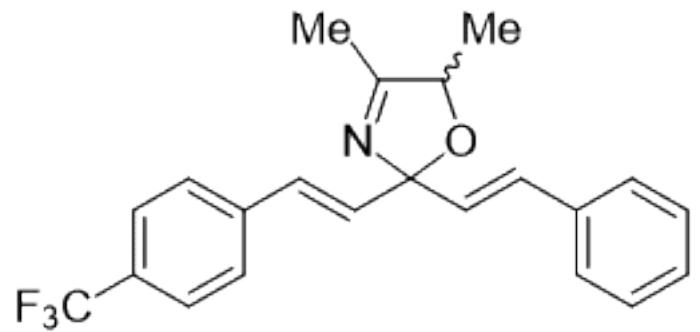
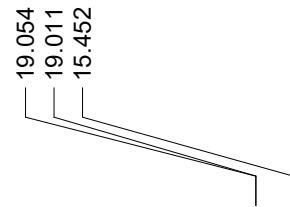
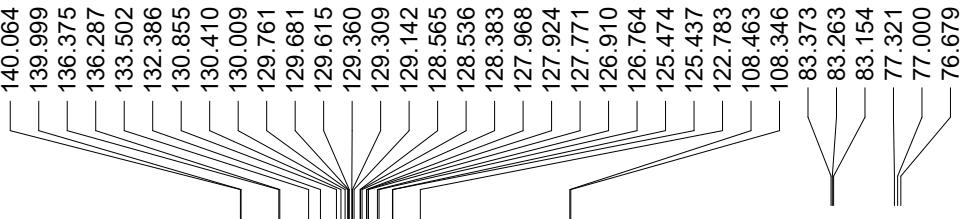
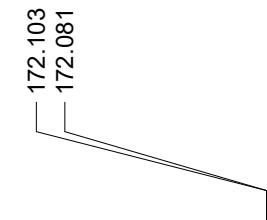






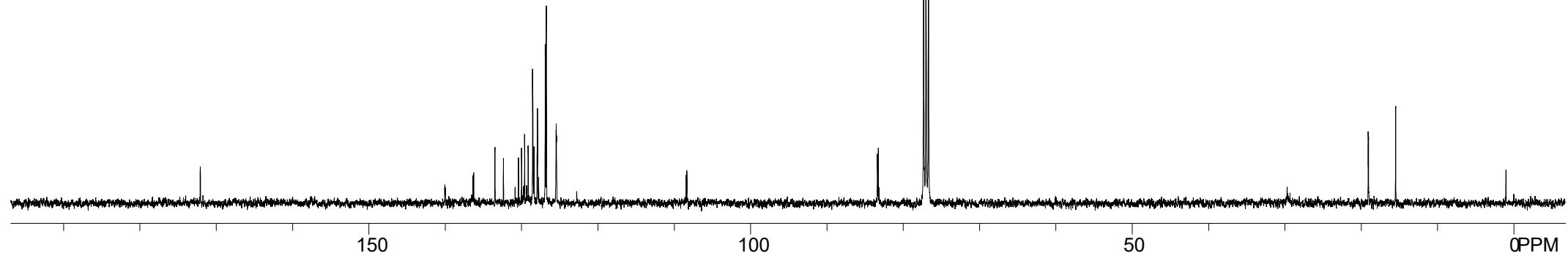
400 MHz, CDCl_3

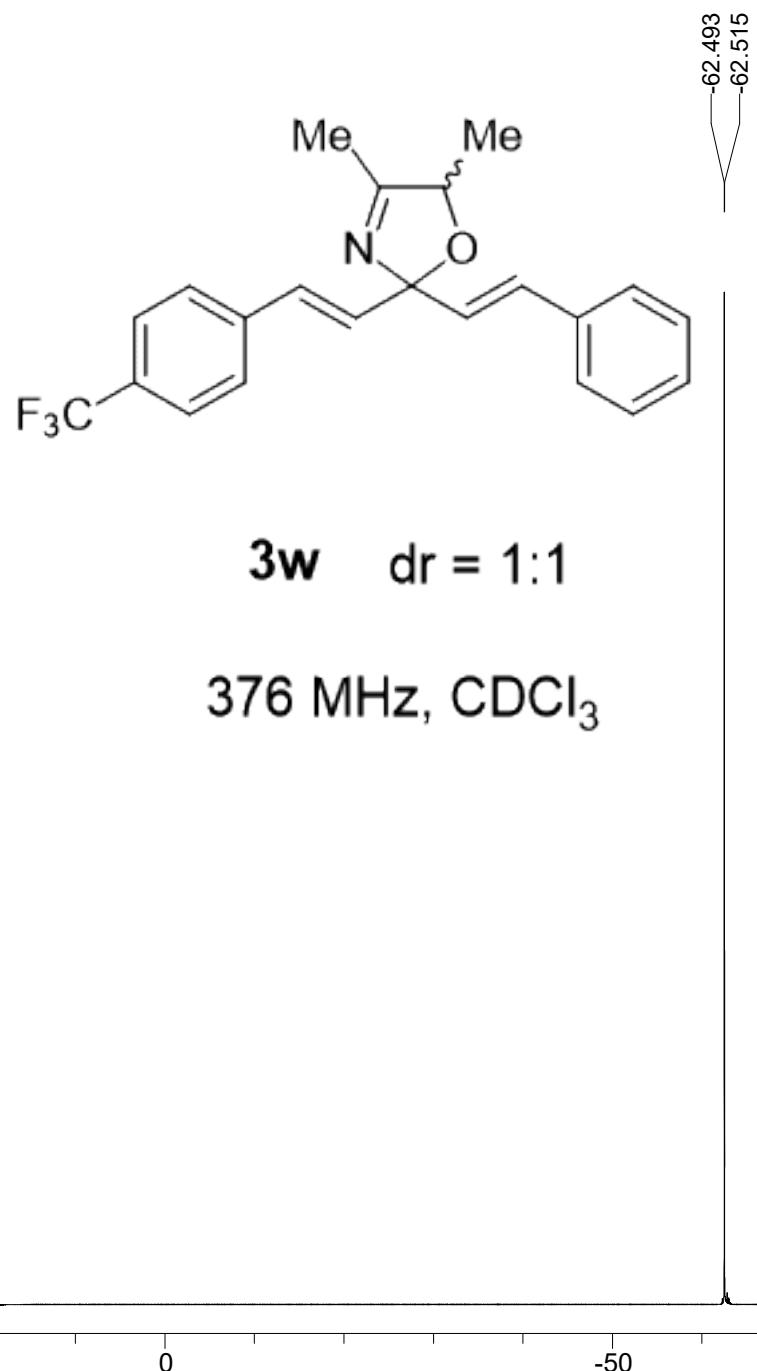


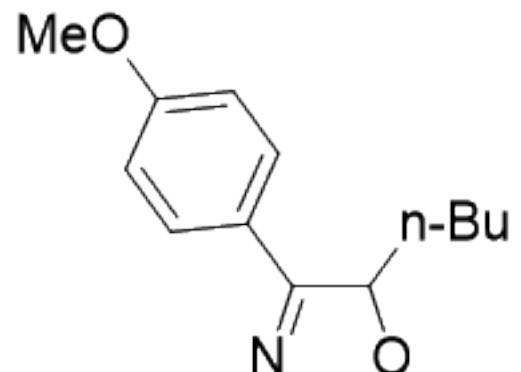
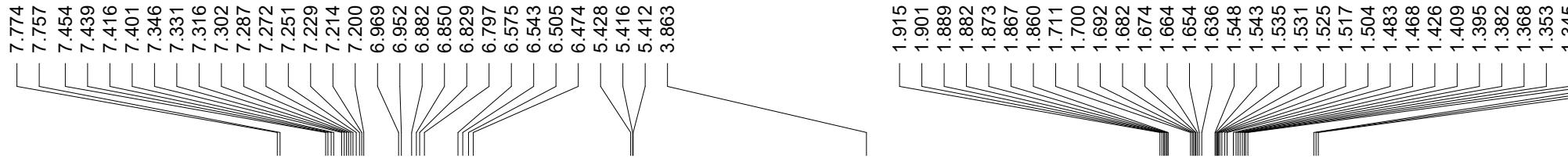


3w dr = 1:1

100 MHz, CDCl₃

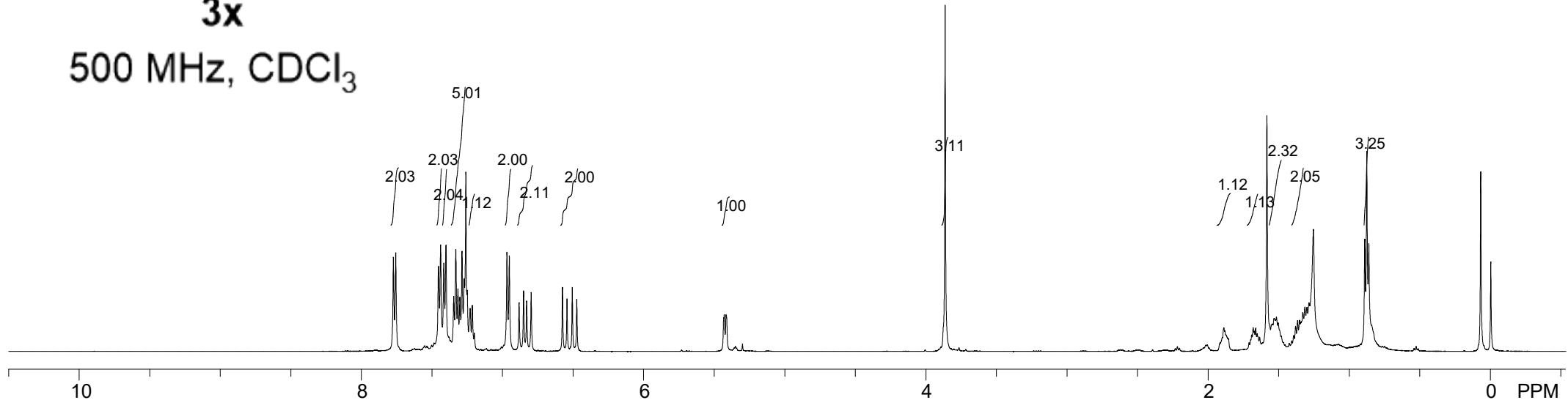


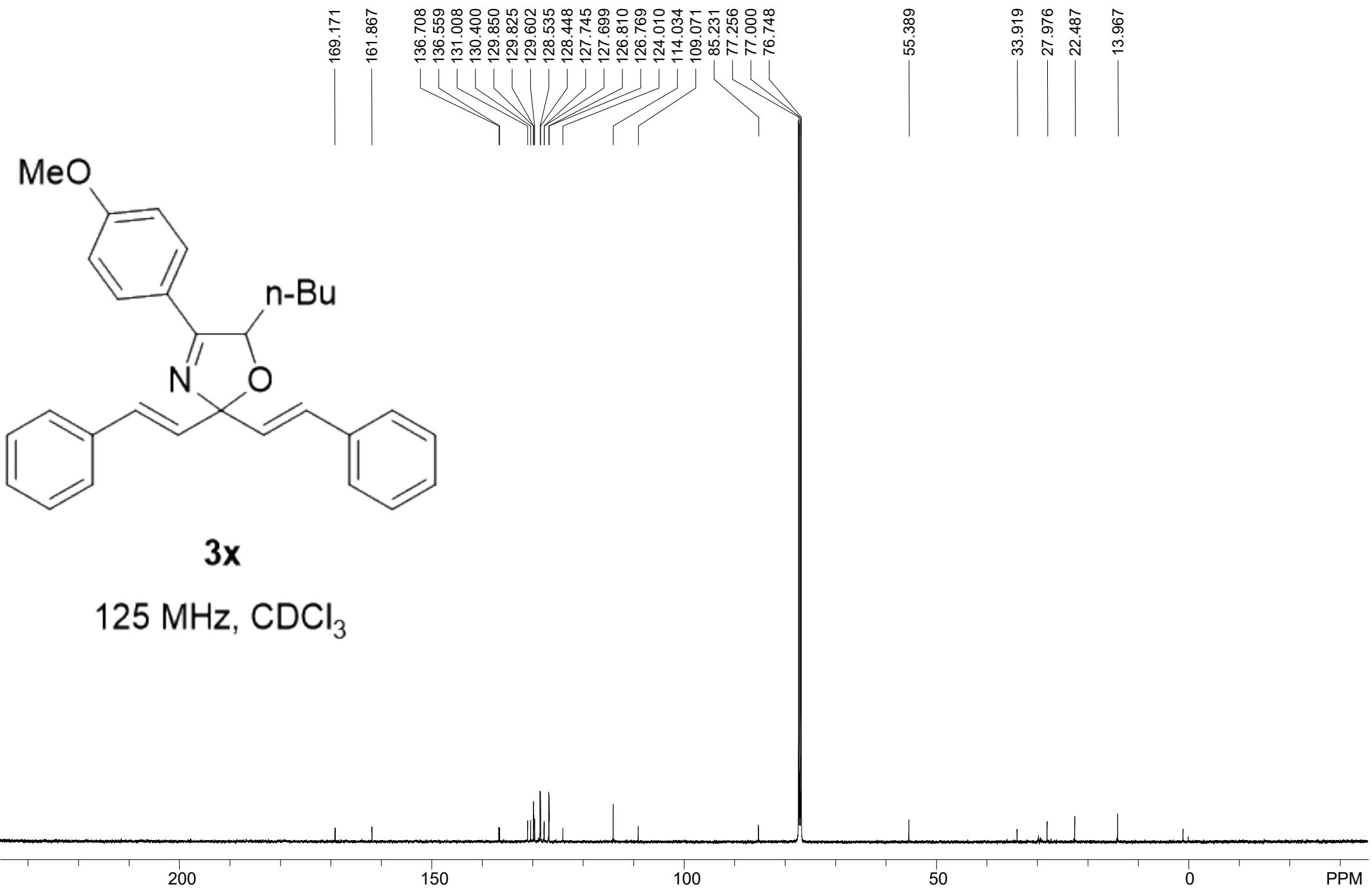


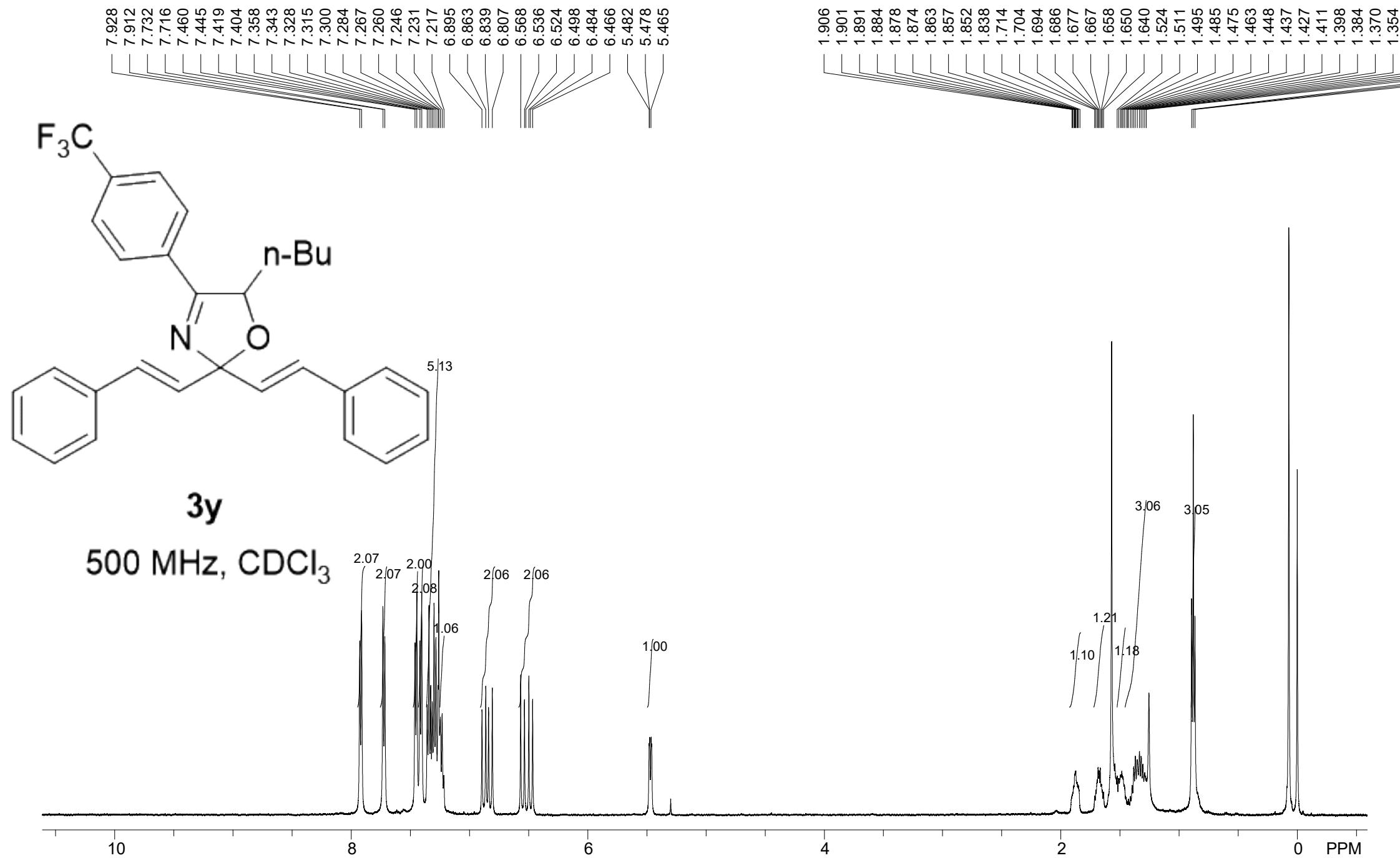


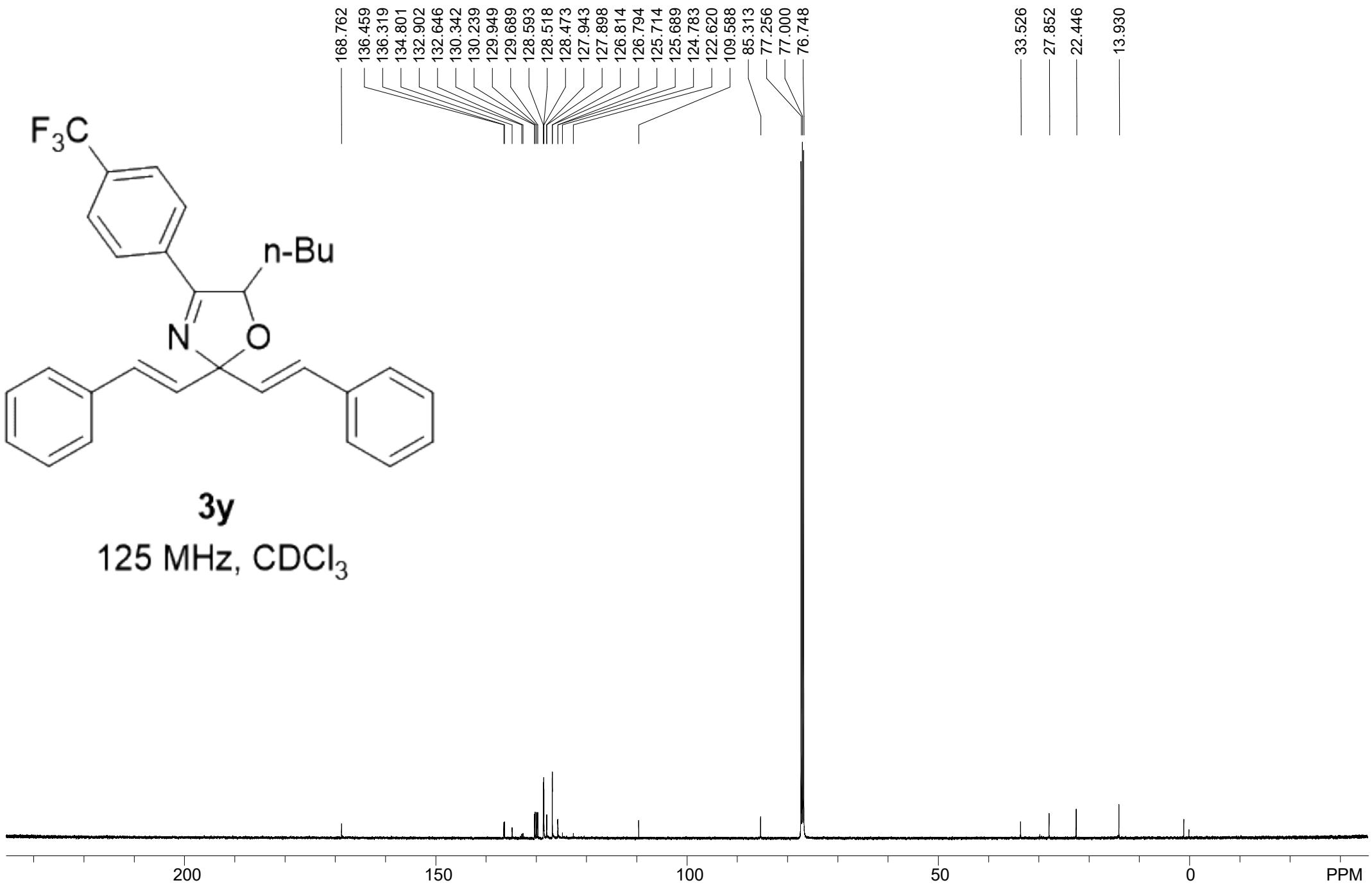
3x

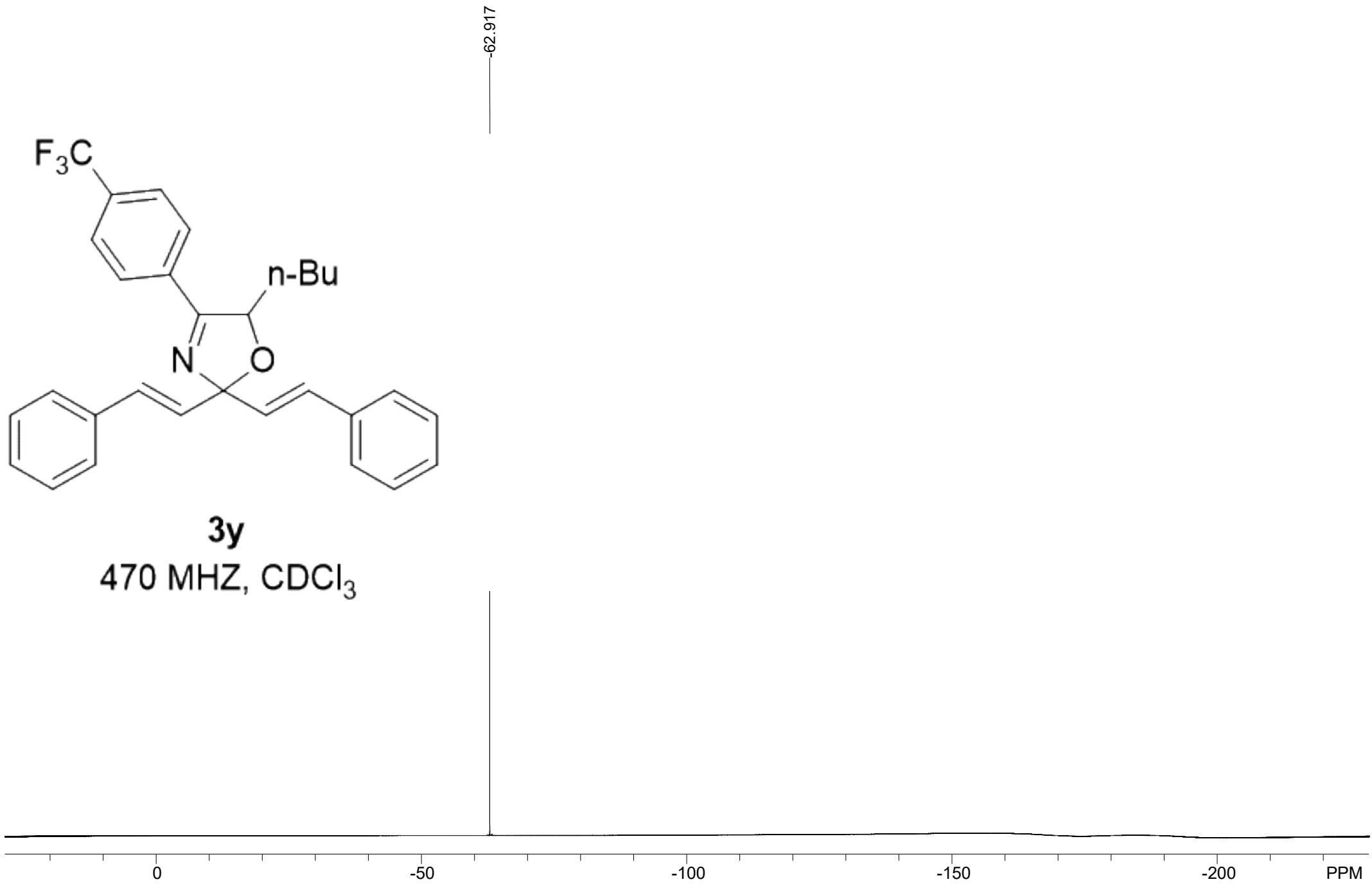
500 MHz, CDCl_3

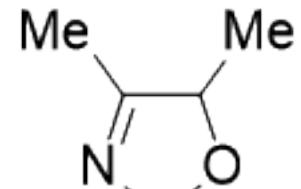




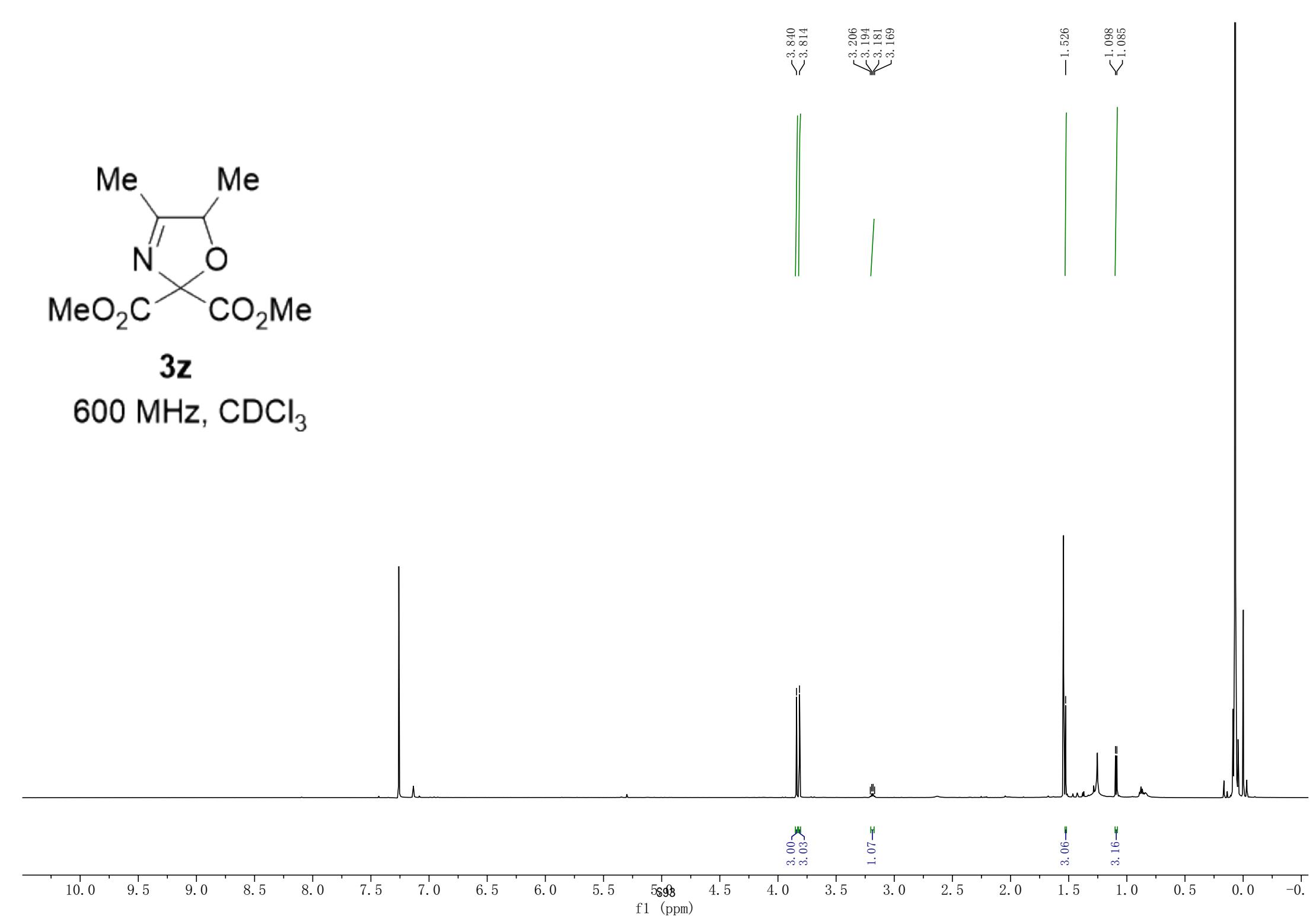


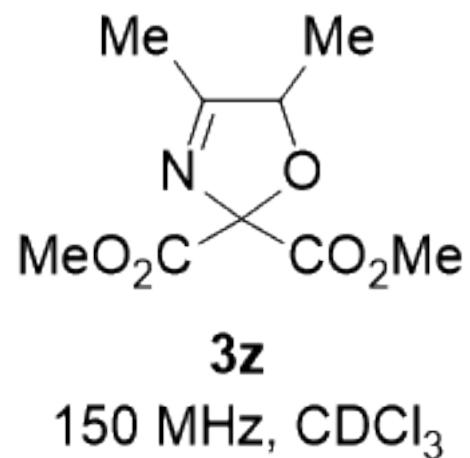






3z
600 MHz, CDCl_3





~
171.14
169.73
169.23

— 106.68

77.21
77.00
76.79

~
53.53
53.41
51.10

— 22.51

— 10.25

210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10

f1 (ppm)