

Supporting Information

Lipophilic anilino squaraine dye as a new superfluorescent probe with efficient two photon transition and high photostability

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1. Structures and gels of previously reported dyes.

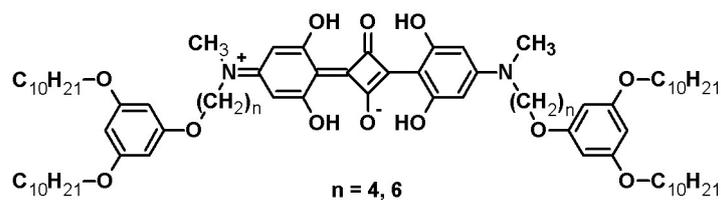


Figure S1. Previously reported by us dyes **P1** (n = 4) and **P2** (n = 6).



Figure S2. Dye **P2** (10 mg) solution and gels (T = 15°C): 1 – solution in benzene (0.3 ml), 2 – gel in hexane (1 ml), 3 – gel in cyclohexane (1 ml).

2. Materials, instruments and methods

Reagents and solvents. 2,6-Di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylphenol (DBPC), 1,4-dibromobutane, 1,6-dibromohexane, 1-bromodecane, 7-(bromomethyl)pentadecane and squaric acid were obtained from UOS Lab (Ukraine), phloroglucinol from Merck (Germany), triphenyl phosphine from Fluka (Switzerland), inorganic salts, acids and all solvents for synthesis were purchased from Macrochim (Ukraine). Benzene was dried by distillation over P₂O₅. Butanol was dried by distillation collecting the fractions with boiling point in the range 117-117.5°C.

Analytical methods and instruments. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on Alugram Xtra Sil G/UV₂₅₄ plates (Macherey-Nagel, Germany) in following solvent systems: CHCl₃-*n*-hexane 1:1 (A), CHCl₃-*n*-hexane 2:1 (B), CHCl₃-MeOH 98:2 (C), CHCl₃-MeOH 96:4 (D), CHCl₃-MeOH 85:15 (E), EtOAc-*n*-hexane 15:85 (F). Column chromatography was performed on Silica 60M (0.04-0.063 mm, Macherey-Nagel, Germany).

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Agilent VNMRS instrument (400 and 100 MHz, respectively) with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard; chemical shifts are given in ppm. Mass-spectrometric analysis was carried out on Agilent 6224 Accurate-Mass TOF LC/MS (G6224A) instrument (Agilent Technologies, USA) using electrospray ionization (ESI) in positive ion detection mode. Compounds were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and the aliquots were injected in the flow of acetonitrile containing formic acid (0.1%). MALDI-TOF mass spectra were recorded on Autoflex II mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics Inc, Germany) equipped with a nitrogen laser. 9,10-Diphenylanthracene was used as a matrix.

3. Synthesis of the anilino squaraine dye

3-Decoxy-5-(2-hexyldecoxy)phenol (3). 5-Decoxybenzene-1,3-diol (**2**) (1.74 g, 6.54 mmol), 7-(bromomethyl)pentadecane (2.0 g, 6.56 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (1.37 g, 9.93 mmol) were suspended in DMF (30 ml). The reaction mixture was heated in inert atmosphere at 70-80°C (silicon oil bath). After ~5 hours, the mixture was diluted with water, acidified with HCl (10-15 %) and extracted with EtOAc. Organic phase was washed with brine (5×), dried with Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to obtain a dark-brown oil (~3.21 g). It was dissolved in CHCl₃-*n*-hexane mixture (1:2, v/v) and purified by silica gel column chromatography. Compound **3** and unreacted **2** were isolated by step gradient elution with CHCl₃ in *n*-hexane (50–100%) and EtOAc in CHCl₃ (0.0–20%), respectively. Phenol **3** was obtained as a light-brown oil (0.92 g, yield 28%), whereas **2** was recovered as an oil that crystallized in a few hours to form a light-brown solid (0.78 g, unreacted 45%).

R_f 0.67 (C). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.06 (1H, m, 4-H), 5.99 (2H, m, 2-H, 6-H), 4.78 (1H, br s, OH), 3.89 (2H, t, J = 6.6 Hz, OCH₂), 3.76 (2H, d, J = 5.62 Hz, OCH₂CH), 1.75 (3H, m, OCH₂CH₂),

OCH₂CH), 1.48-1.20 (38H, m, (CH₂)₇CH₃, (CH₂)₅CH₃), 0.88 (9H, t, J = 6.72 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃) δ 161.5, 161.2, 157.2, 94.7, 94.5, 94.3, 71.1, 68.2, 38.0, 32.01, 32.00, 31.95, 31.47, 31.46, 30.1, 29.8, 29.69, 29.68, 29.66, 29.5, 29.43, 29.42, 29.3, 26.92, 26.89, 26.1, 22.8, 14.2. HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF): *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₂H₅₉O₃ 491.4459; Found 491.4463.

1-(4-Bromobutoxy)-3-decoxy-5-(2-hexyldecoxy)benzene (4). Compound **3** (2.36 g, 4.82 mmol), 1,4-dibromobutane (5.25 g, 24.3 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (2.1 g, 15.2 mmol) were suspended in DMF (40 ml). The reaction mixture was heated in a silicon oil bath at 80-90°C in argon atmosphere. After ~2.5 hours, the mixture was diluted with water, neutralized with HCl (10-15%) and extracted with *n*-hexane. Organic phase was washed with brine (5×) and dried with Na₂SO₄. Then the hexane solution was purified by silica gel column chromatography. The product was eluted with CHCl₃-*n*-hexane mixture (0-20% of CHCl₃). Transperrent colourless oil was obtained (1.64 g, yield 54%).

R_f 0.51 (A), 0.7 (B). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.07 (1H, m, 4-H), 6.04 (2H, m, 2-H, 6-H), 3.95 (2H, t, J = 5.99 Hz, OCH₂(CH₂)₃Br), 3.90 (2H, t, J = 6.60 Hz, OCH₂), 3.77 (2H, d, J = 5.62 Hz, OCH₂CH), 3.48 (2H, t, J = 6.60 Hz, CH₂Br), 2.09-2.02 (2H, m, CH₂CH₂CH₂Br or CH₂CH₂CH₂Br), 1.95-1.88 (2H, m, CH₂CH₂CH₂Br or CH₂CH₂CH₂Br), 1.79-1.72 (3H, m, OCH₂CH₂, OCH₂CH), 1.46-1.20 (38H, m, (CH₂)₇CH₃, (CH₂)₅CH₃), 0.88 (9H, t, J = 6.48 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃) δ 161.4, 161.1, 160.7, 94.1, 93.9, 93.8, 71.0, 68.1, 66.9, 38.0, 33.5, 32.01, 32.00, 31.96, 31.49, 31.48, 30.1, 29.8, 29.69, 29.68, 29.66, 29.5, 29.43, 29.42, 29.36, 28.0, 26.92, 26.90, 26.2, 22.8, 14.2. HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF): *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₆H₆₆BrO₃ 625.4190; Found 625.4197.

1-(6-azidohexoxy)-3,5-didecoxy-benzene (6). Compound **5** (1.21 g, 2.13 mmol) and NaN₃ (0.72 g, 10.6 mmol) were suspended in DMF (10 ml). The reaction mixture was heated in a silicon oil bath at ~80°C in argon atmosphere. After ~3 hours, the mixture was diluted with water and extracted with *n*-hexane. Organic phase was washed with brine (4×) and dried with Na₂SO₄. Then hexane solution was purified by silica gel column chromatography. The product was eluted with CHCl₃-*n*-hexane mixture (20-50% of CHCl₃). Colourless oil was obtained (1.03 g, yield 91%).

R_f 0.38 (B), ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.05 (3H, m, 2-H, 4-H, 6-H), 3.92-3.88 (6H, m, OCH₂, OCH₂(CH₂)₅N₃), 3.27 (2H, t, J = 6.85 Hz, CH₂N₃), 1.80-1.71 (6H, m, OCH₂CH₂, OCH₂CH₂(CH₂)₄N₃), 1.66-1.59 (2H, quint, J = 7.09 Hz, CH₂CH₂N₃), 1.52-1.39 (8H, m, O(CH₂)₂CH₂, (CH₂)₂(CH₂)₂N₃), 1.38-1.20 (24H, m, (CH₂)₆CH₃), 0.88 (6H, t, J = 6.85 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃) δ 161.0, 160.9, 93.9, 93.8, 68.0, 67.7, 51.4, 31.9, 29.60, 29.58, 29.4, 29.34, 29.28, 29.1, 28.8, 26.5, 26.1, 25.7, 22.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF): *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₂H₅₈N₃O₃ 532.4473; Found 532.4451.

6-(3,5-Didecoxyphenoxy)hexan-1-amine (7). Azide derivative **6** (0.86 g, 1.62 mmol) was dissolved in dioxane (7 ml). Then triphenyl phosphine (0.52 g, 1.98 mmol) was added. The reaction proceeded at room temperature for 3 hours and then a few drops of water were added. Next day, solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel. Product was eluted with MeOH in CHCl₃ (30%). After drying in high vacuum over P₂O₅ a light-yellow oil was obtained (0.57 g, yield 70%).

R_f 0.14 (E). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.05 (3H, m, 2-H, 4-H, 6-H), 3.89 (6H, m, OCH₂, OCH₂(CH₂)₅N), 2.72 (2H, t, J = 6.97 Hz, CH₂N), 2.03 (2H, br. s, NH₂), 1.80-1.71 (6H, m, OCH₂CH₂, OCH₂CH₂(CH₂)₄N), 1.53-1.20 (34H, m, (CH₂)₃CH₂N, (CH₂)₇CH₃), 0.88 (6H, t, J = 6.6 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃) δ 161.0, 160.9, 93.84, 93.80, 68.0, 67.8, 42.0, 33.3, 31.9, 29.60, 29.58, 29.4, 29.34, 29.28, 29.2, 26.7, 26.1, 26.0, 22.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF): *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₂H₆₀NO₃ 506.4568; Found 506.4583.

N-[4-[3-decoxy-5-(2-hexyldecoxy)phenoxy]butyl]-6-(3,5-didecoxyphenoxy)hexan-1-amine (8).

Amine derivative **7** (0.71g, 1.41 mmol), compound **4** (1.05 g, 1.68 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (0.39 g, 2.83 mmol) were suspended in dry benzene-DMSO mixture (5.6 and 4.2 ml, respectively). The reaction mixture was heated in a silicon oil bath at 35-45°C for ~22 hours with stirring. Then it was diluted with EtOAc, washed with aq. NaHCO₃ and NaCl (5×) solutions, dried with Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. Light-green oil was obtained (~1.8 g). Three amines (**7-9**) were separated and purified by silica gel column chromatography. *tert*-Amine **9** was eluted with EtOAc in CHCl₃ (4-7%), target product **8** was eluted with EtOAc in CHCl₃ (7-13%) and then with MeOH (2-4%) in EtOAc-CHCl₃ (13% EtOAc) mixture, and unreacted **7** was eluted with MeOH in CHCl₃ (30%). Compounds **7-9** were dried for a few days in high vacuum over P₂O₅. Amine **9** was obtained as a colourless oil (0.24 g, yield 11%), product **8** was obtained as a light-yellow oil (0.87 g, yield 60%), while **7** was recovered as a yellow oil (70 mg, unreacted 10%).

R_f 0.32 (D). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.05 (6H, m, 2-H, 4-H, 6-H, 2'-H, 4'-H, 6'-H), 3.94-3.88 (10H, m, OCH₂, OCH₂CH, OCH₂(CH₂)₅N, OCH₂(CH₂)₃N), 3.77 (2H, d, J = 5.87 Hz, OCH₂CH), 2.72 (2H, t, J = 7.34 Hz, O(CH₂)₃CH₂N*), 2.67 (2H, t, J = 7.34 Hz, O(CH₂)₅CH₂N*), 1.84-1.68 (13H, m, OCH₂CH₂, OCH₂CH, OCH₂CH₂(CH₂)₄N, OCH₂(CH₂)₂CH₂N, NH), 1.58 (2H, quint, J = 7.09 Hz, O(CH₂)₄CH₂CH₂N), 1.50-1.20 (70H, m, (CH₂)₇CH₃, (CH₂)₅CH₃, O(CH₂)₂(CH₂)₂(CH₂)₂N), 0.88 (15H, t, J = 6.8 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃) δ 161.3, 161.0, 160.9, 160.7, 93.9, 93.81, 93.76, 93.7, 70.9, 68.0, 67.8, 67.6, 49.6, 49.4, 37.9, 31.93, 31.92, 31.88, 31.4 (br), 30.0, 29.7, 29.60, 29.58, 29.5 (br), 29.4, 29.35, 29.34, 29.29, 29.27, 29.2, 27.11, 27.08, 26.84, 26.81, 26.2 (br), 26.1, 26.0, 22.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF): *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₆₈H₁₂₄NO₆ 1050.9423; Found. 1050.9420.

* – assignment of signals are based on integral intensities of corresponding signals of compound **9**.

N,N-bis[4-[3-decoxy-5-(2-hexyldecoxy)phenoxy]butyl]-6-(3,5-didecoxyphenoxy)hexan-1-amine (9). *tert*-Amine **9** was obtained as a side product during the synthesis of *sec*-amine **8** as described above.

R_f 0.43 (C), 0.8 (D). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 6.05 (9H, m, 2-H, 4-H, 6-H, 2'-H, 4'-H, 6'-H), 3.93-3.87 (14H, m, OCH_2 , $\text{OCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{N}$, $\text{OCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{N}$), 3.76 (4H, d, $J = 5.67$ Hz, OCH_2CH), 2.46 (4H, t, $J = 7.34$ Hz, $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{CH}_2\text{N}$), 2.41 (2H, t, $J = 7.34$ Hz, $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{CH}_2\text{N}$), 1.74 (16H, m, OCH_2CH_2 , OCH_2CH_2 , $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{N}$, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{N}$), 1.58 (4H, m, $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$, H_2O), 1.50-1.20 (110H, m, $(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{CH}_3$, $(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{CH}_3$, $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_2(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{CH}_2\text{N}$), 0.88 (24H, m, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CDCl_3) δ 161.3, 161.04, 161.00, 160.94 (br), 93.90 (br), 93.88 (br), 93.85 (br), 93.75, 71.0, 68.1, 68.0 (br), 54.1 (br), 53.9 (br), 38.0, 32.00, 31.99, 31.95, 31.47, 31.45, 30.1, 29.8, 29.69, 29.67, 29.66, 29.50, 29.49, 29.42, 29.41, 29.37, 29.35, 27.4 (br), 27.2 (br), 26.91, 26.88, 26.16, 26.15, 23.8 (br), 22.8, 14.2. HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF): m/z $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd for $\text{C}_{104}\text{H}_{188}\text{NO}_9$ 1595.4279; Found. 1595.4264.

2,4-Bis[4-[3-decoxy-5-(2-hexyldecoxy)phenoxy]butyl]-[6-(3,5-didecoxyphenoxy)hexyl]amino]-2,6-dihydroxy-phenyl]squaraine (1).

5-[4-[3-decoxy-5-(2-hexyldecoxy)phenoxy]butyl]-[6-(3,5-didecoxyphenoxy)hexyl]amino]benzene-1,3-diol (10). *sec*-Amine **8** (0.7 g, 0.666 mmol), phloroglucinol (0.17 g, 1.35 mmol), DBPC (59 mg, 0.268 mmol) and DIPEA (103 μl , 0.664 mmol) were dissolved in *n*-BuOH (2 ml) and heated in argon atmosphere in a silicon oil bath at 90-95°C. After ~ 24 h, dark-red oil was obtained after solvent coevaporation with cyclohexane. Then it was purified by silica gel column chromatography. Product was eluted with EtOAc in CHCl_3 (4–13%). Compound **10** was obtained as a dark-brown oil (0.54 g, yield 71%).

R_f 0.51 (D). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 6.09-6.03 (6H, m, 2-H, 4-H, 6-H, 2'-H, 4'-H, 6'-H), 5.71 (2H, d, $J = 1.71$ Hz, 4-H, 5-H (phloramine)), 5.66 (1H, m, 2-H (phloramine)), 4.94 (2H, br., OH), 3.96-3.88 (10H, m, OCH_2 , $\text{OCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{N}$, $\text{OCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{N}$), 3.77 (2H, d, $J = 5.62$ Hz, OCH_2CH), 3.26 (2H, m, $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{CH}_2\text{N}^*$), 3.20 (2H, m, $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{CH}_2\text{N}^*$), 1.78-1.71 (13H, m, OCH_2CH_2 , OCH_2CH_2 , $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{N}$, $\text{OCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$), 1.62-1.55 (2H, m, $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}$), 1.52-1.20 (70H, m, $(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{CH}_3$, $(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{CH}_3$, $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_2(\text{CH}_2)_2(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{N}$), 0.88 (15H, t, $J = 6.36$ Hz, CH_3).

* – assignment of signals are based on integral intensities of corresponding signals of compound **9**.

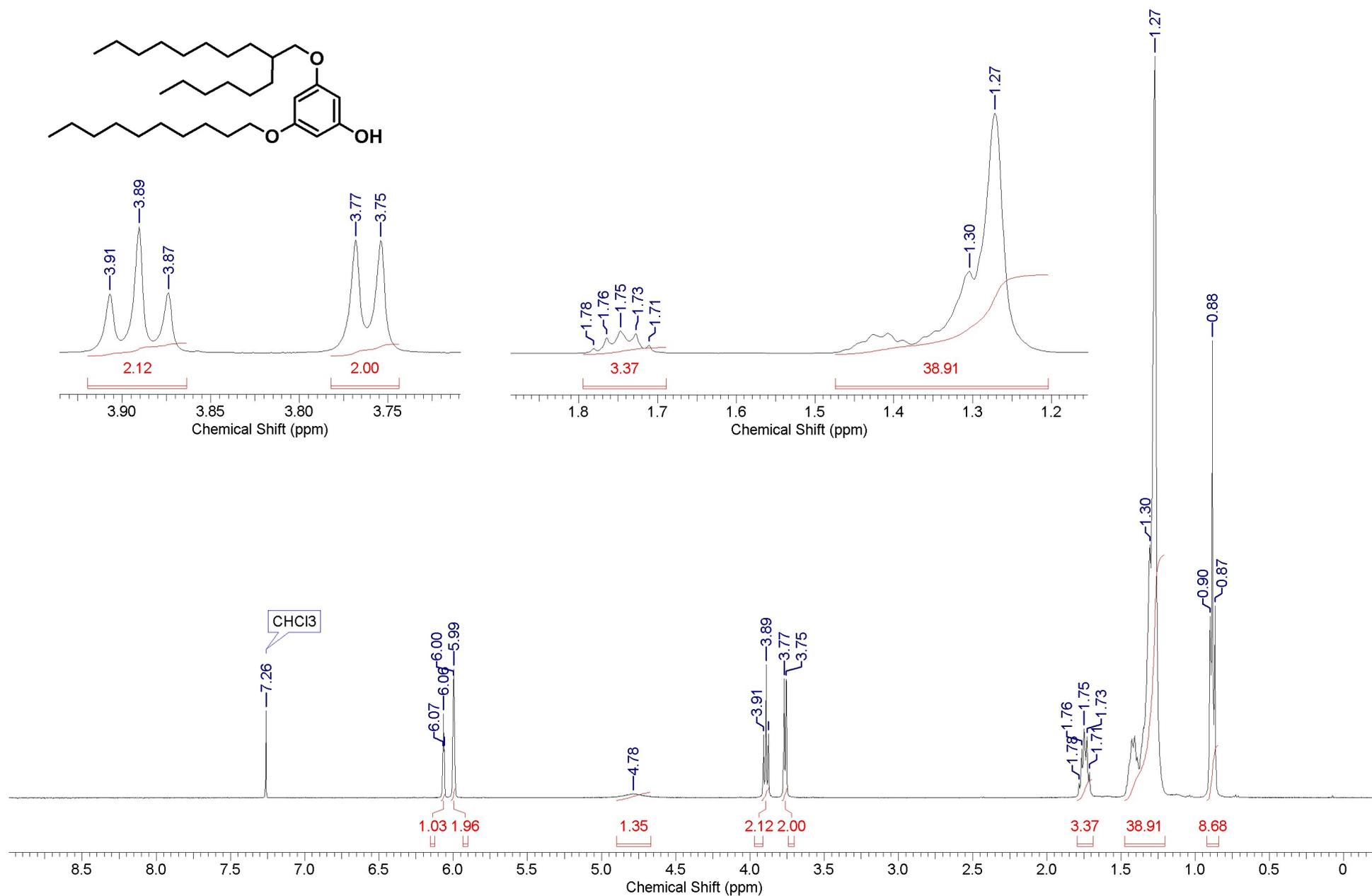
2,4-Bis[4-[3-decoxy-5-(2-hexyldecoxy)phenoxy]butyl]-[6-(3,5-didecoxyphenoxy)hexyl]amino]-2,6-dihydroxy-phenyl]squaraine (1). Compound **10** (0.25 g, 0.216 mmol) and squaric acid (12 mg, 0.105 mmol) were suspended in dry BuOH–benzene mixture (1:3, 45 ml) and heated in a silicon oil bath at 80-90°C for ~4 h in argon atmosphere. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* with

cyclohexane addition. The residue, a dark blue oil (~0.28 g), was purified by silica gel column chromatography. It was eluted with *n*-hexane-CHCl₃ mixture (3:7). Appropriate fractions were evaporated and then coevaporated three times with CHCl₃ and three times with CH₂Cl₂. Then the product was dried at room temperature in high vacuum over P₂O₅ for several days. Dark violet highly viscous oil was obtained (161 mg, yield 62%).

R_f 0.55 (F). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 11.0 (4H, s, OH), 6.08-6.05 (12H, m, 2-H, 4-H, 6-H, 2'-H, 4'-H, 6'-H), 5.80 (4H, s, squaraine core), 3.95 (4H, m, OCH₂(CH₂)₃N), 3.92-3.88 (16H, m, OCH₂, OCH₂(CH₂)₅N), 3.77 (4H, d, J = 5.87 Hz, OCH₂CH), 3.42 (4H, m, O(CH₂)₃CH₂N*), 3.36 (4H, m, O(CH₂)₅CH₂N*), 1.87-1.61 (30H, m, OCH₂CH₂, OCH₂CH, OCH₂CH₂(CH₂)₂CH₂CH₂N, OCH₂(CH₂)₂CH₂N), 1.55-1.20 (140H, m, O(CH₂)₂(CH₂)₂(CH₂)₂N, (CH₂)₅CH₃, (CH₂)₇CH₃), 0.88 (30H, m, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃) δ 181.4, 163.0, 161.5, 161.4, 161.09, 161.06, 160.9, 160.6, 157.9, 102.6, 94.2, 93.9, 93.8, 93.75, 93.70, 71.0, 68.13, 68.11, 67.7, 67.3, 51.6, 51.3, 38.0, 32.00, 31.99, 31.95, 31.46, 31.45, 30.1, 29.8, 29.69, 29.67, 29.65, 29.5, 29.42, 29.41, 29.36, 29.35, 29.3, 28.1, 26.91, 26.89, 26.8, 26.7, 26.16, 26.15, 26.0, 25.0, 22.8, 14.20. MS (MALDI-TOF): *m/z* [M]⁺ Calcd for C₁₅₂H₂₅₂N₂O₁₈ 2393.886; Found. 2394.017.

* – assignment of signals are based on integral intensities of corresponding signals of compound **9**.

4. NMR spectra of compounds

Figure S3. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound 3 in CDCl_3 .

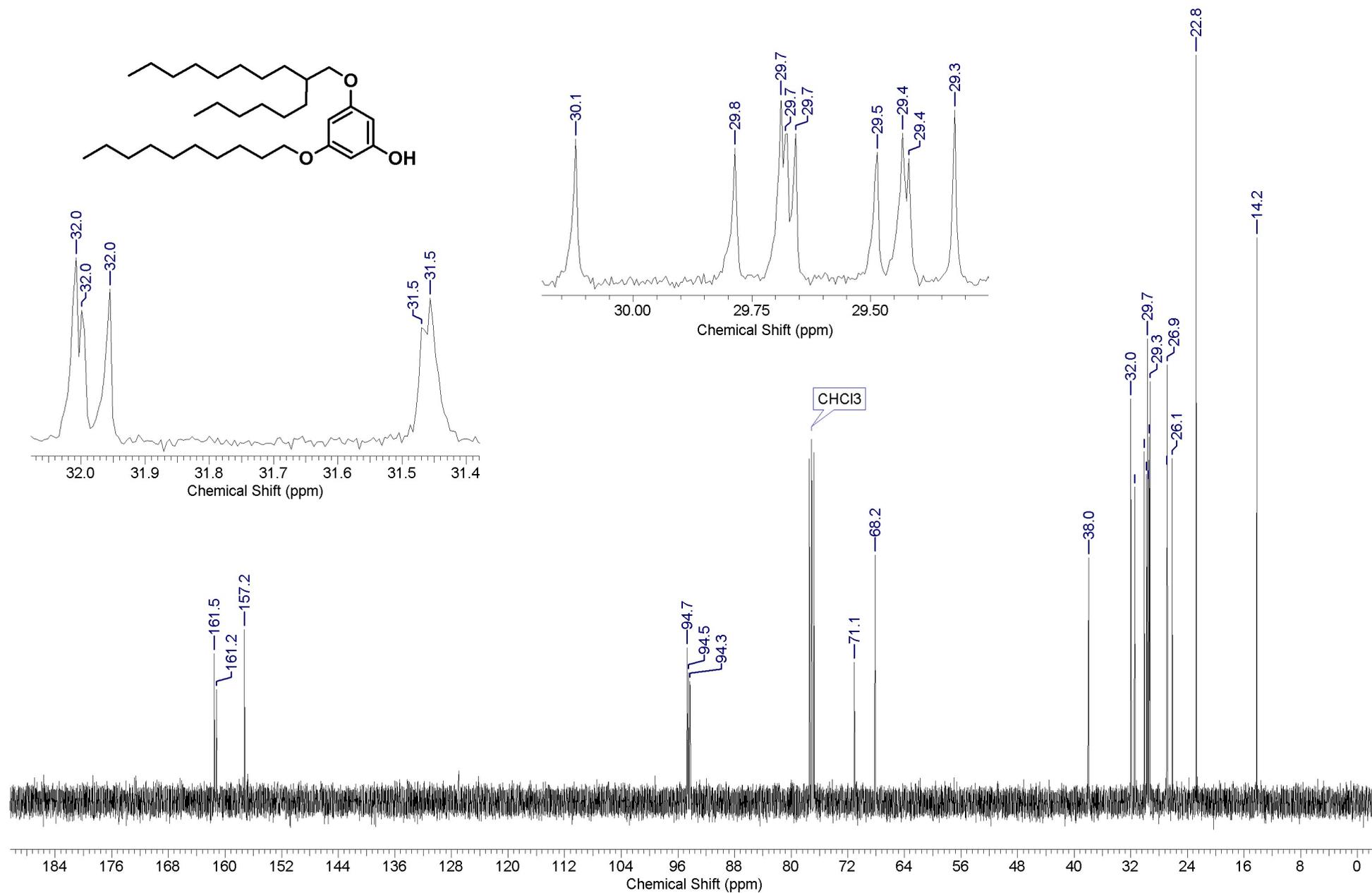


Figure S4. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of compound **3** in CDCl_3 .

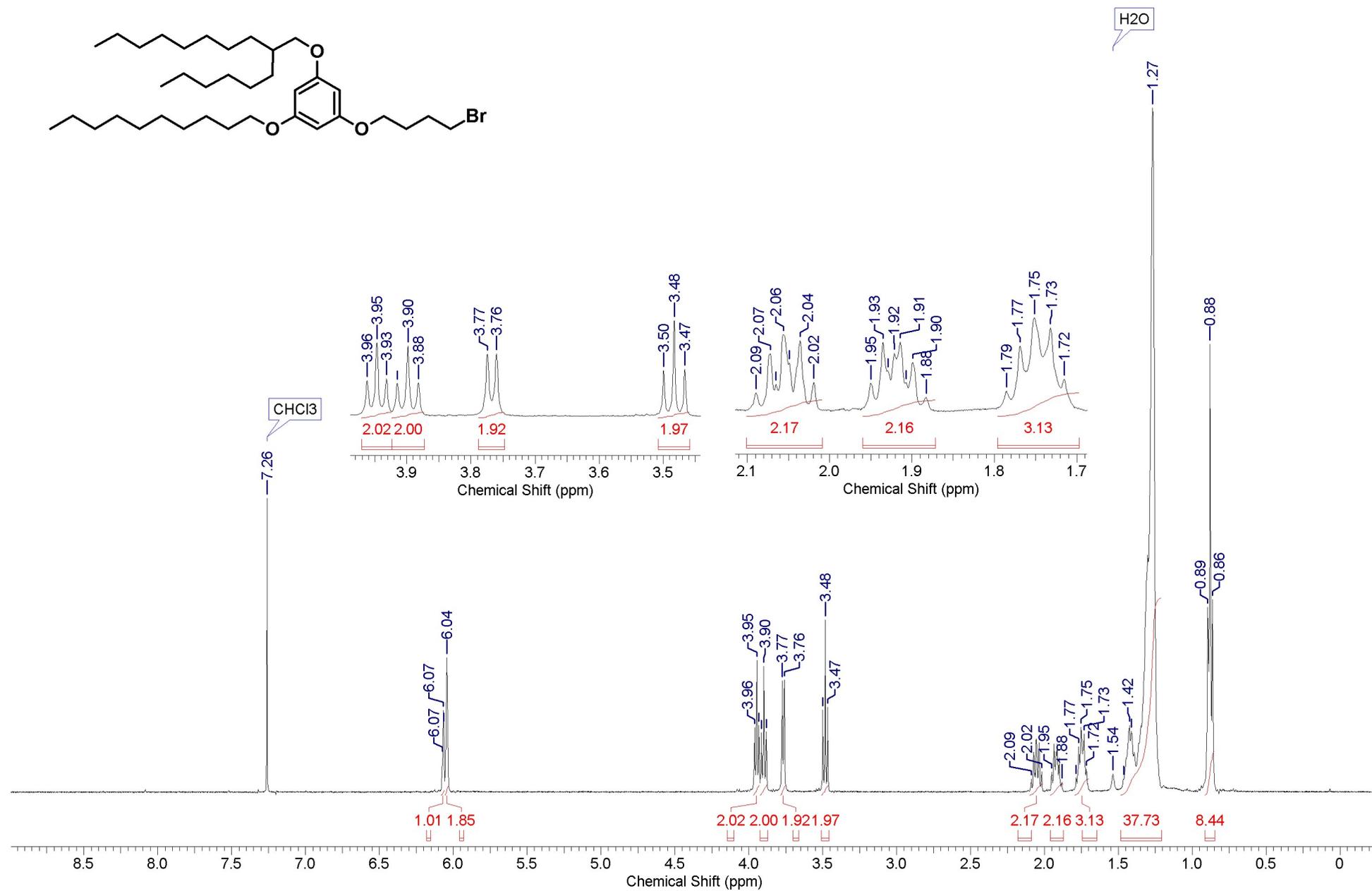


Figure S5. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound 4 in CDCl_3 .

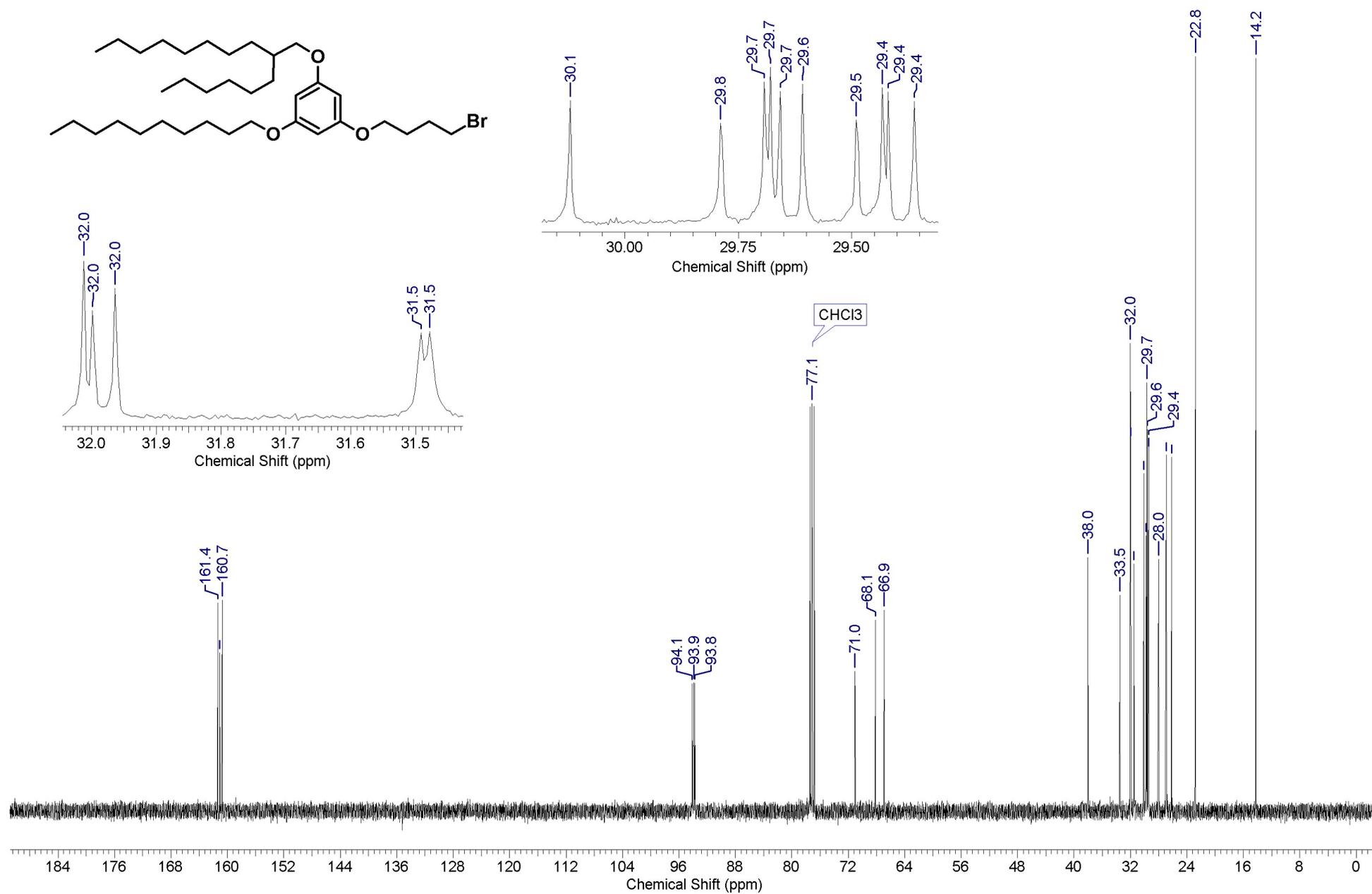


Figure S6. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of compound **4** in CDCl_3 .

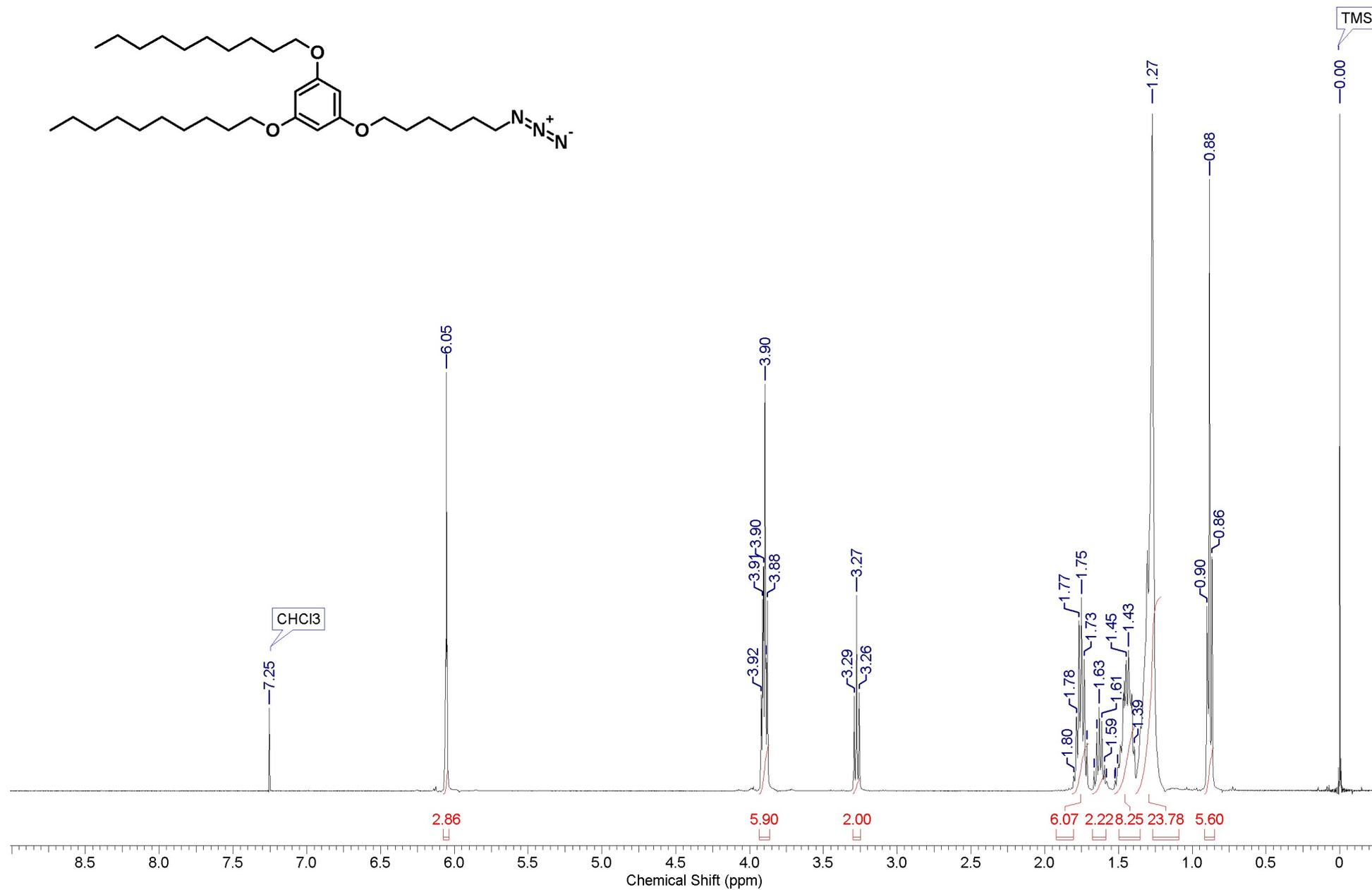


Figure S7. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **6** in CDCl_3 .

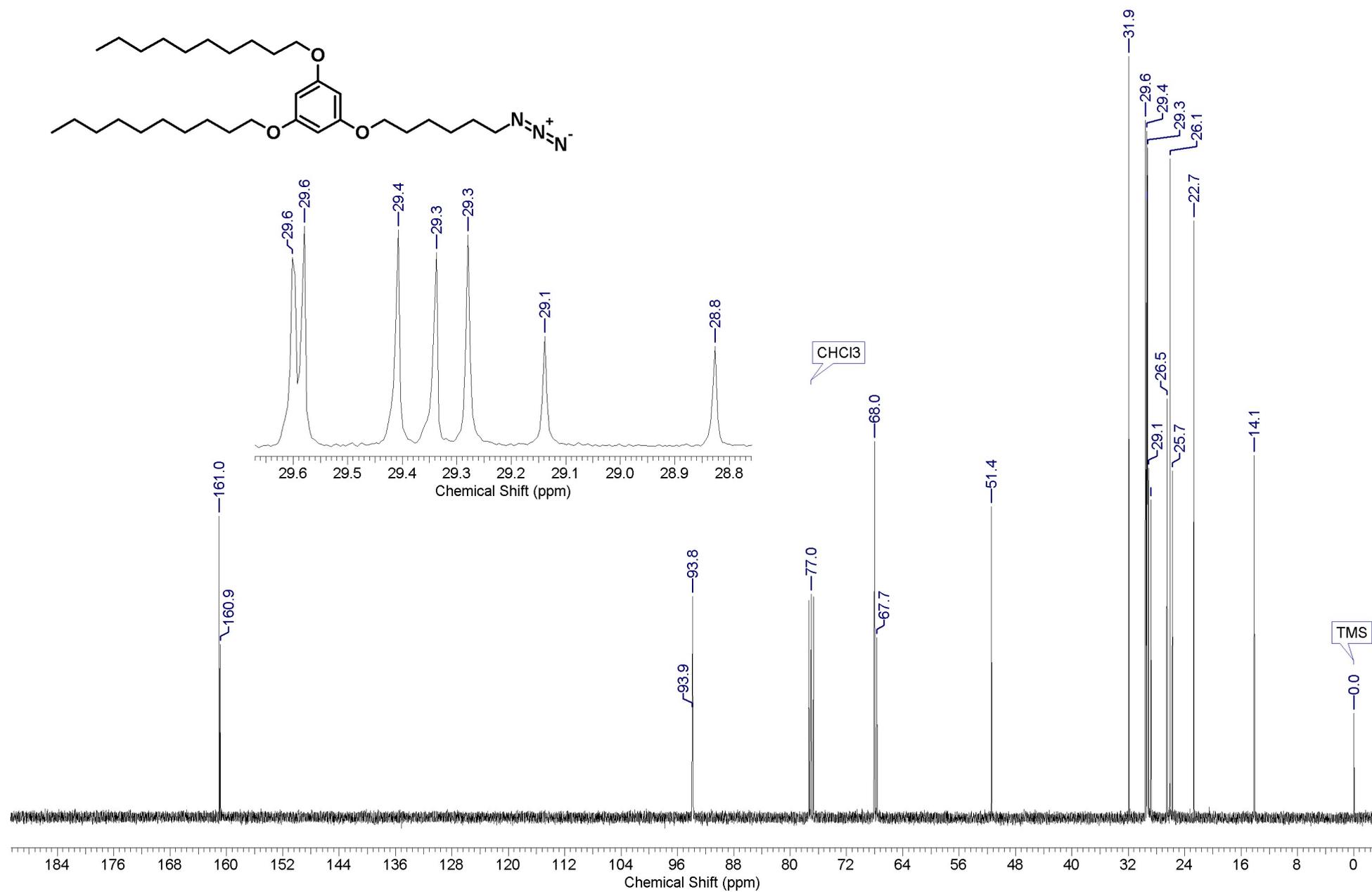


Figure S8. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of compound **6** in CDCl_3 .

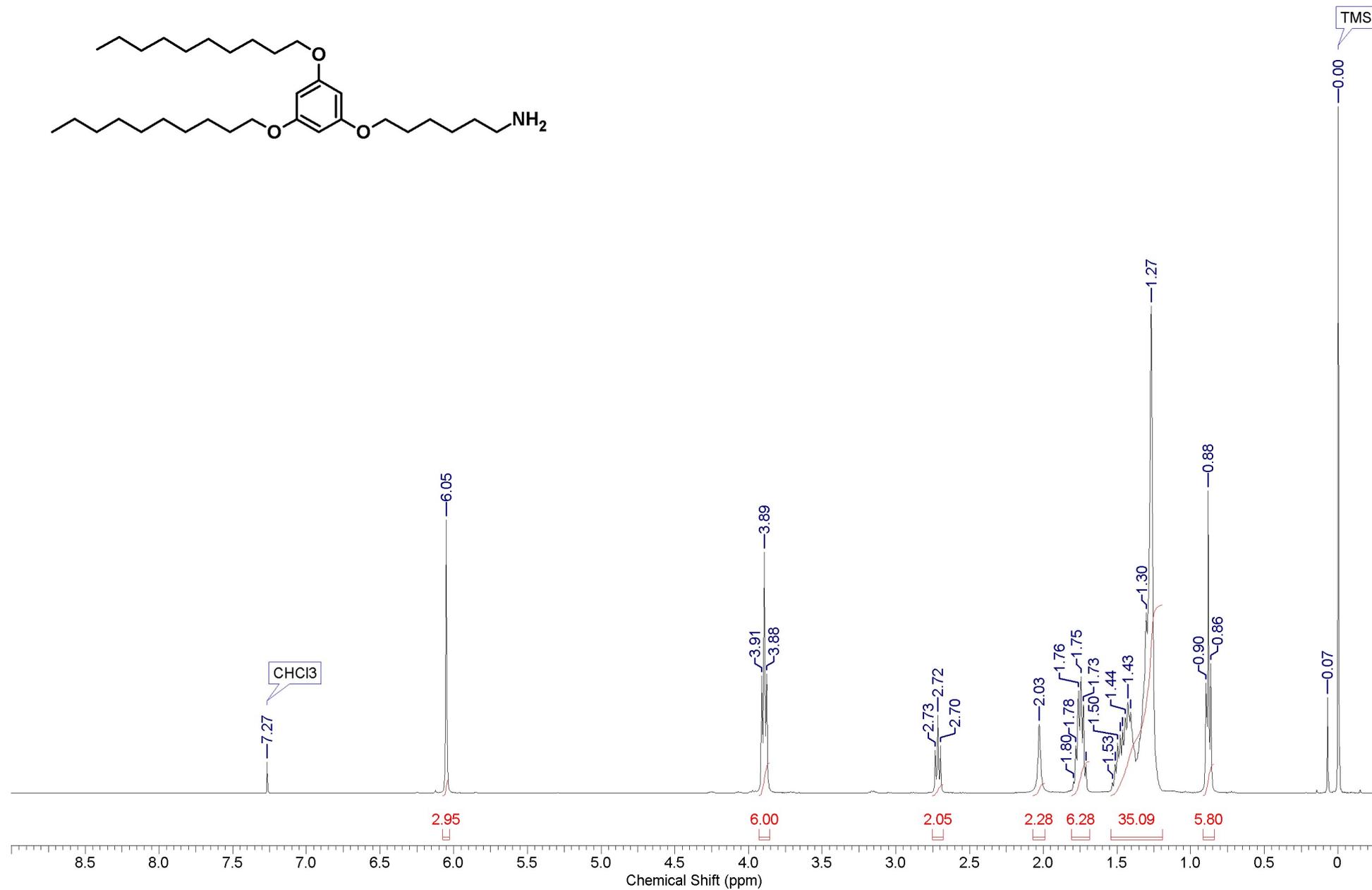


Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 7 in CDCl₃.

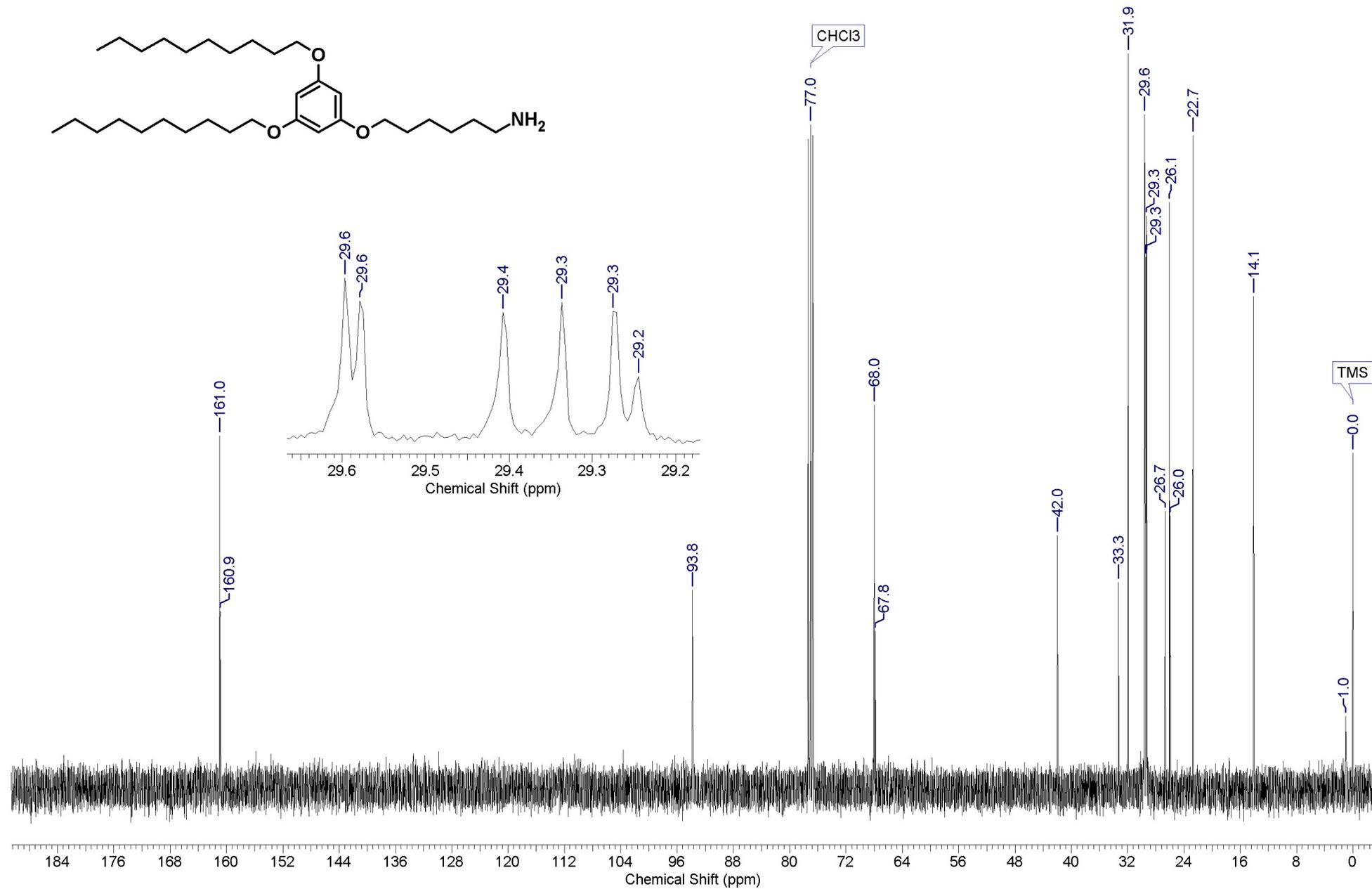


Figure S10. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of compound 7 in CDCl_3

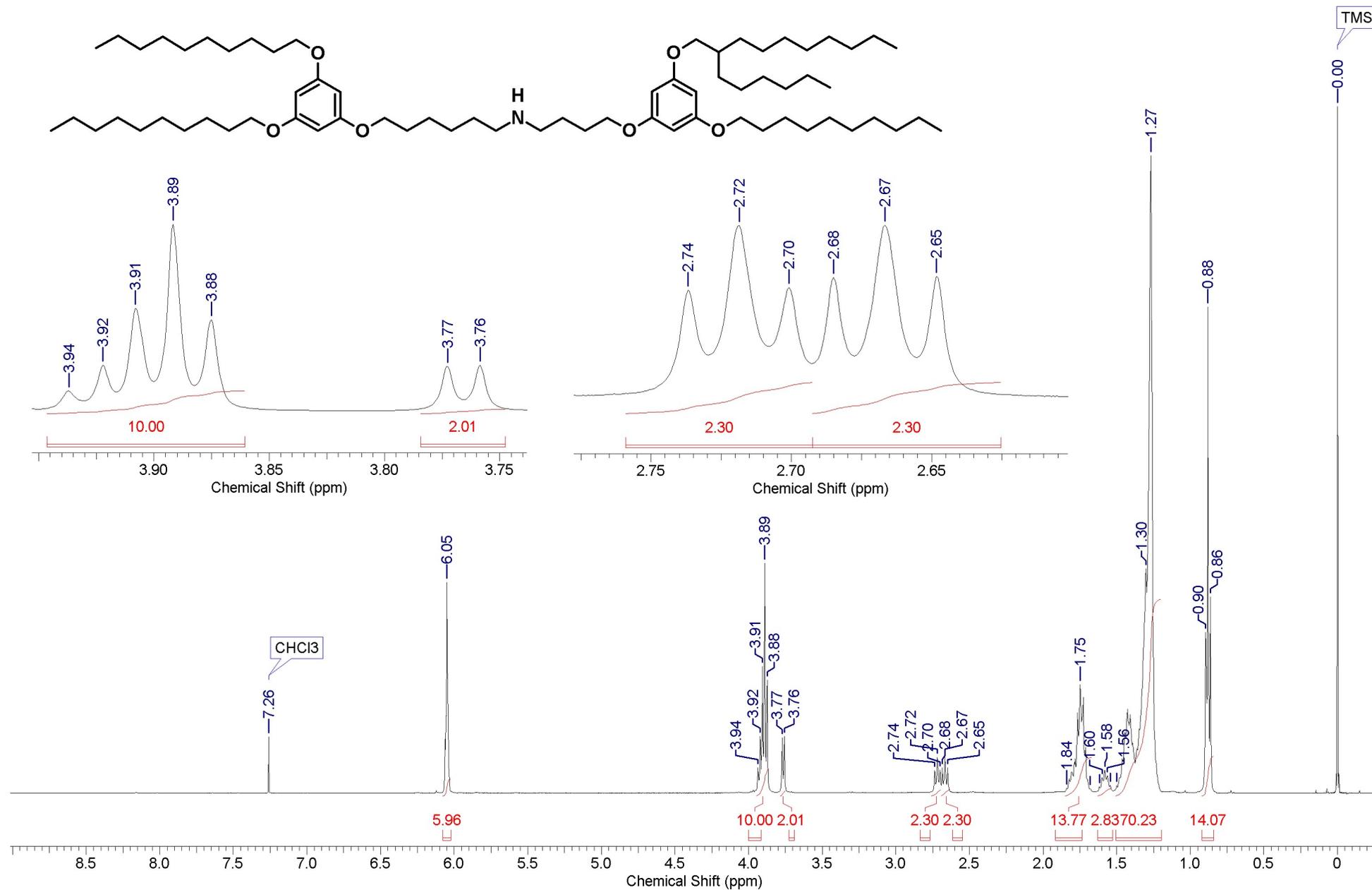


Figure S11. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **8** in CDCl_3 .

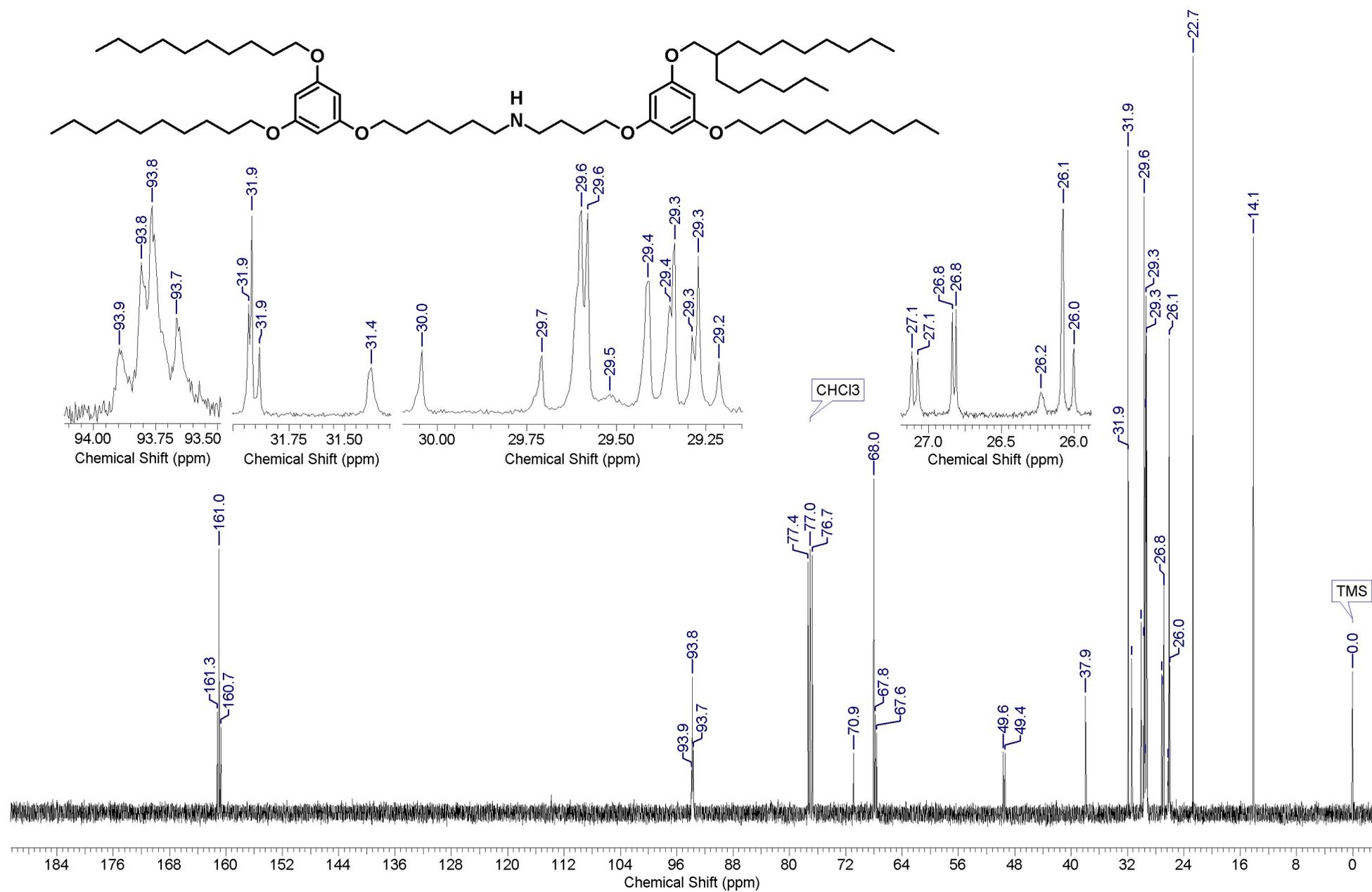


Figure S12. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of compound **8** in CDCl_3 .

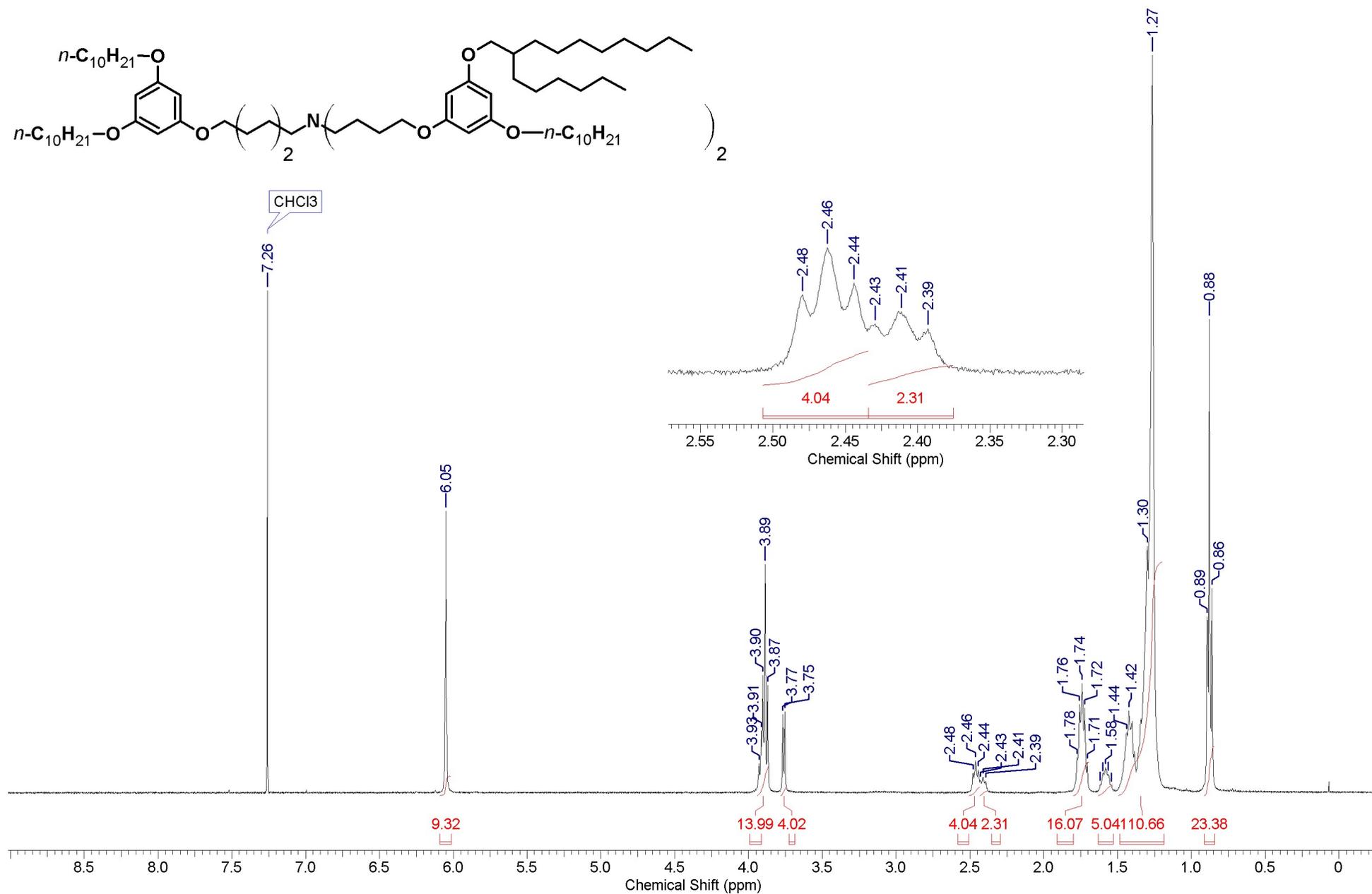
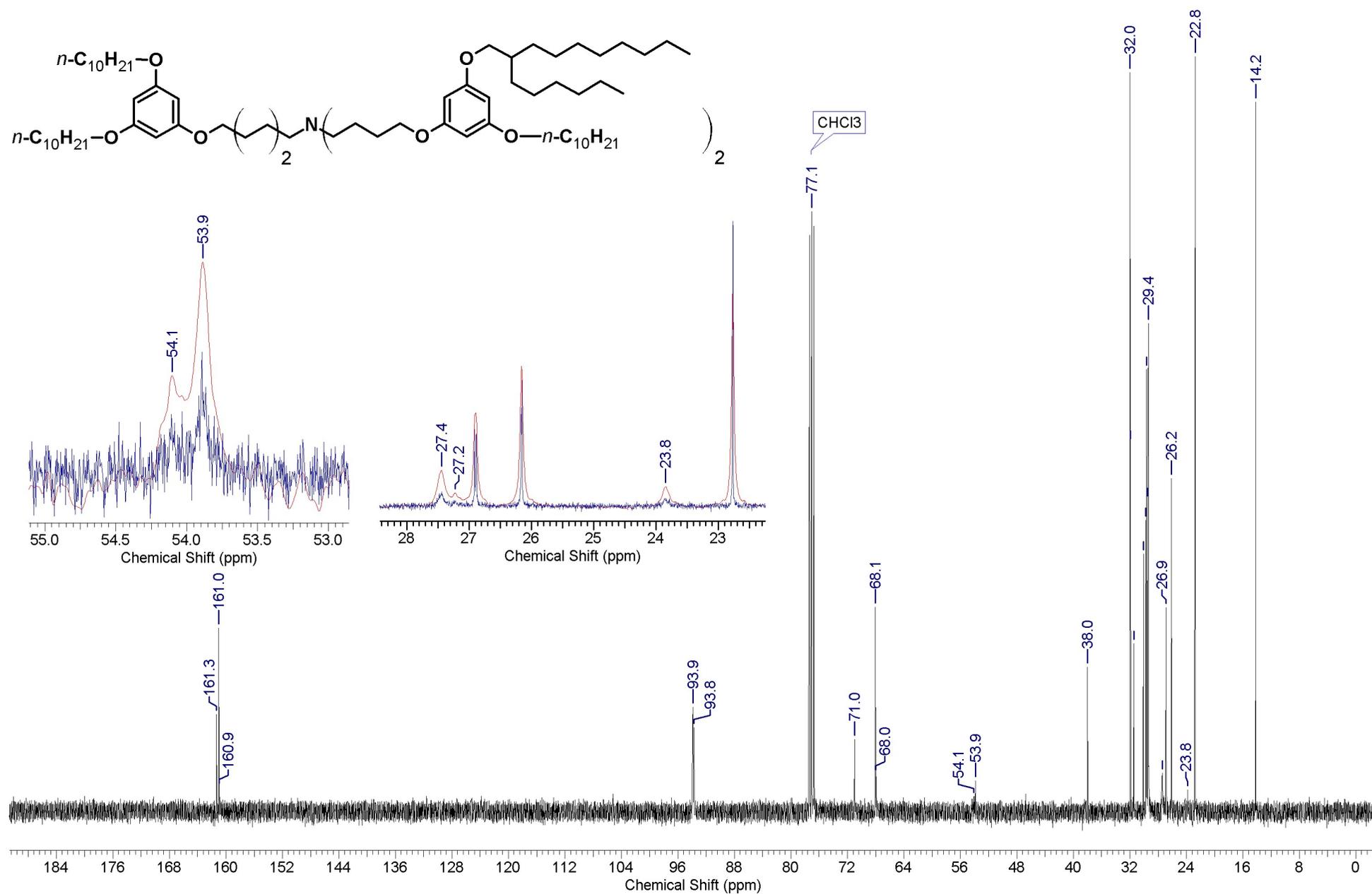


Figure S13. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound 9 in CDCl_3 .



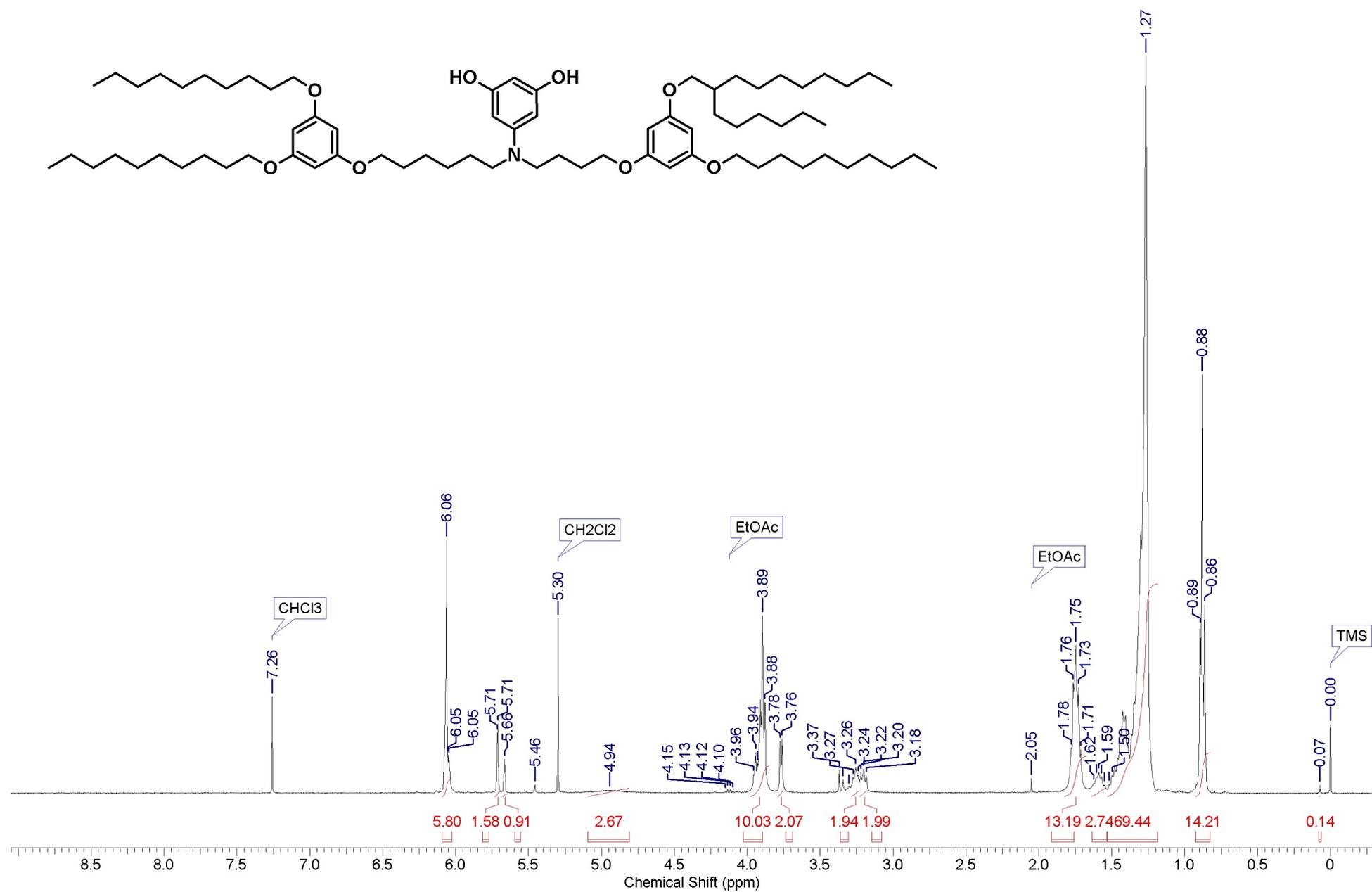


Figure S15. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **10** in CDCl₃.

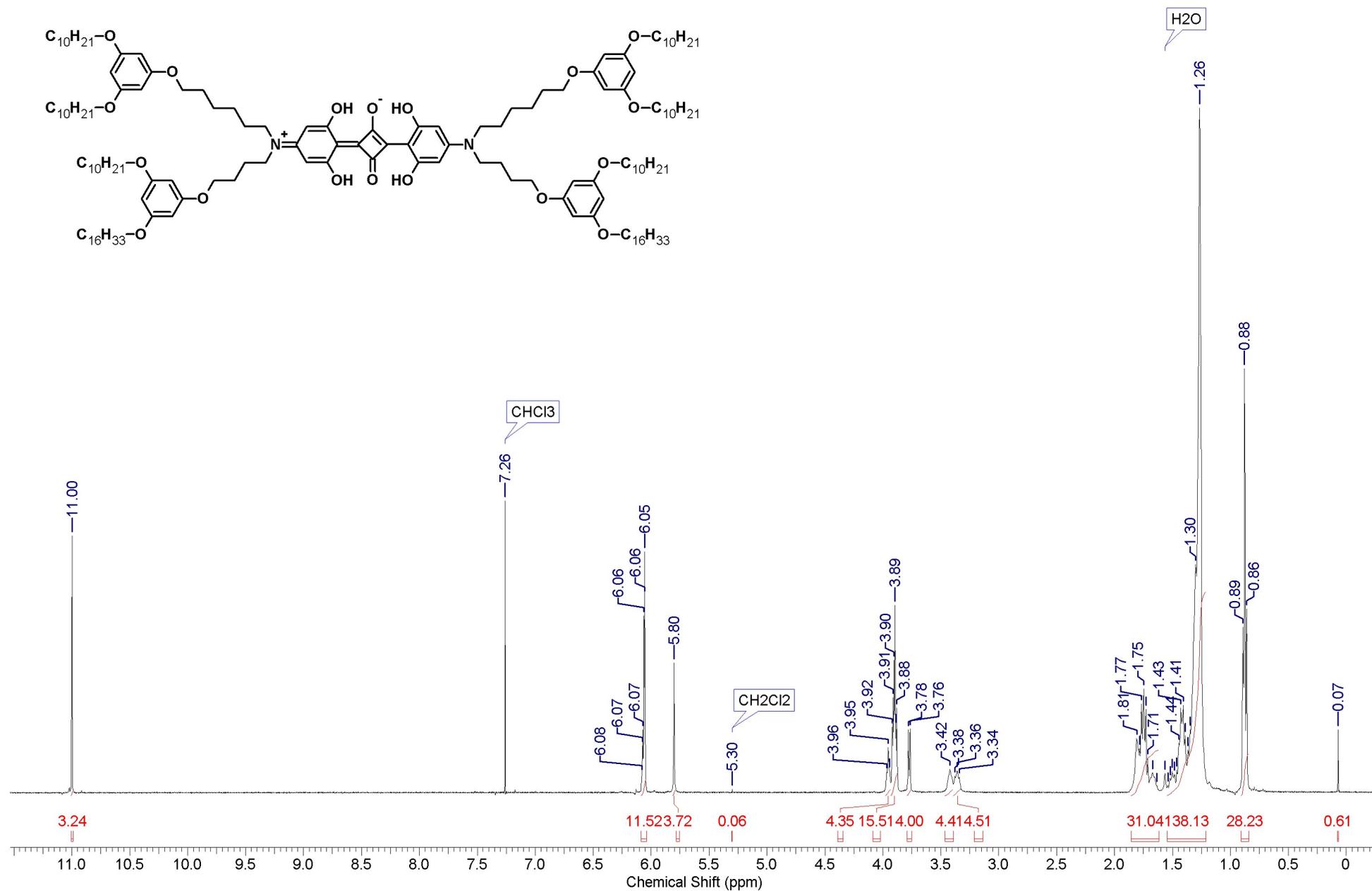


Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 1 in CDCl₃.

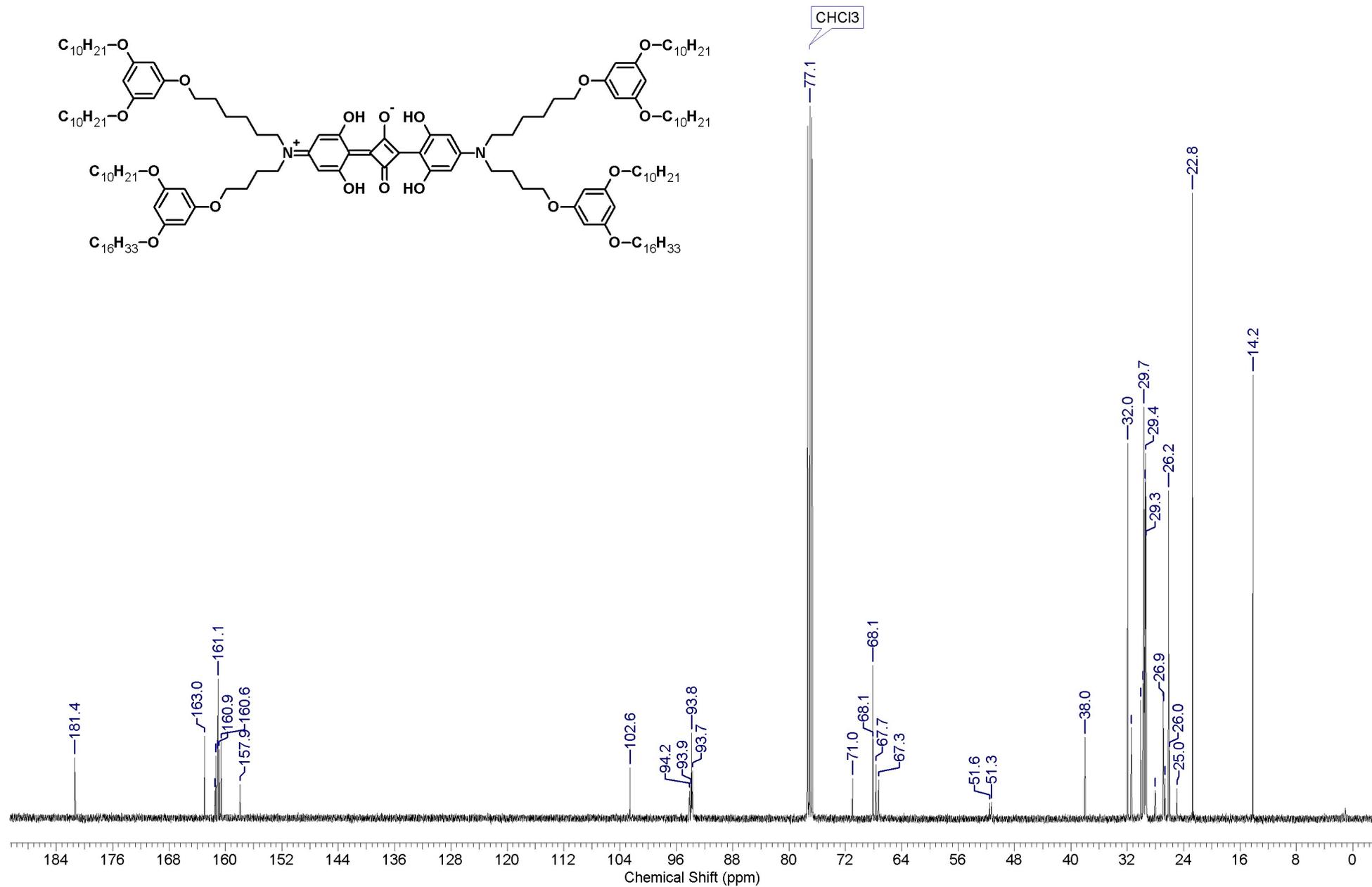


Figure S17. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR spectrum of compound 1 in $CDCl_3$.