

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

LiCl-Promoted Pd(II)-Catalyzed *ortho* Carbonylation of *N,N*-Dimethylbenzylamines

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Contents

Table of Contents	S1.
General Methods and Physical Methods	S2.
General Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data	S2-S13.
References	S13.
NMR Spectra of Products	S14-S53.

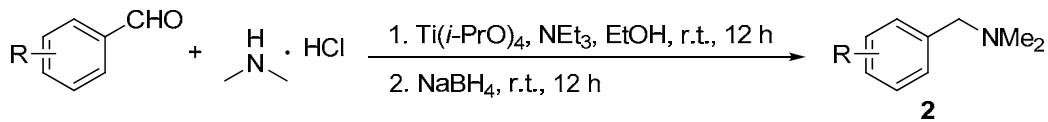
General Methods and Physical Methods

All the reactions were carried out in a stoppered Schlenk flask. All the solvents were freshly distilled before use except TFEol. TFEol, anhydrous Cu(OAc)₂ and Pd/C (5 wt% Pd) were purchased from Acros. PdCl₂ was purchased from Zealand Co. Ltd., lithium chloride monohydrate and *N,N*-dimethylbenzylamine were purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. *N,N*-Dimethylbenzylamine was distilled under reduced pressure and stored under N₂ atmosphere. LiCl and dimethylamine hydrochloride were dried in vacuo before used. Other commercially available chemicals were directly used without further purification.

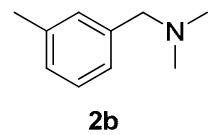
¹H NMR (300 MHz or 200 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (75 MHz or 50 MHz) were registered on Varian 300 M or 200 M spectrometers with CDCl₃ as solvent and tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. Chemical shifts were reported in units (ppm) by assigning the TMS resonance in the ¹H spectrum as 0.00 ppm and the CDCl₃ resonance in the ¹³C spectrum as 77.0 ppm. All coupling constants (*J* values) are reported in hertz (Hz). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 200-300 mesh. IR, GC, and MS were performed by the State-authorized Analytical Center in Peking University.

General Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data

General Procedure for Preparation of Functionalized *N,N*-Dimethylbenzylamines 2.

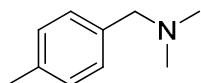


Functionalized *N,N*-dimethylbenzylamines **2** were prepared by reductive amination according to the reported procedure. To a solution of NEt₃ (4.2 mL, 30 mmol) in absolute EtOH (23 mL) was added dimethylamine hydrochloride (2.48 g, 30 mmol), Ti(i-PrO)₄ (9.0 mL, 30 mmol), and the corresponding aldehyde (15 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h, NaBH₄ (0.86 g, 22.5 mmol) was added, and the resulting mixture was further stirred for 12 h at 25 °C. The reaction was quenched by pouring the mixture into aqueous ammonia (25 mL, 2 N) and filtered through a Celite pad, and the resulting inorganic solid was washed with CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL). The filtrate was washed with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 50 mL), concentrated to about 30 mL, and washed with HCl (2 N, 3 × 10 mL). The solution was neutralized to pH = 9 with 10% aqueous NaOH and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 50 mL). Additional NaOH was added to keep the inorganic phase basic. The organic phases were combined and dried over MgSO₄ and then evaporated to give the corresponding *N,N*-dimethylbenzylamine **2** as a colorless to light yellow oil without further purification.



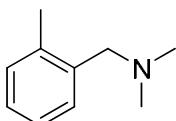
2b

N,N,3-trimethylbenzylamine (2b): 2.2 g, 63% yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.08 (m, 4H), 3.33 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 6H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 138.7, 137.7, 129.7, 128.0, 127.7, 126.0, 64.3, 45.3, 21.2 ppm; IR ν 2941, 2814, 2769, 1456, 1032, 844, 779, 696 cm⁻¹ MS: (m/z) (%): 149 (2) [M⁺], 58 (100).



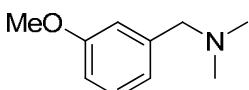
2c

N,N,4-trimethylbenzylamine (2c): 1.2 g, 52% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.19 (d, 2H, $J=7.2$), 7.12 (d, 2H, $J=7.5$), 3.37 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 136.5, 135.6, 129.0, 128.9, 64.0, 45.2, 21.0 ppm; IR ν 2943, 2858, 2766, 1456, 1031, 855, 800 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 149 (5) [M^+], 42 (100).



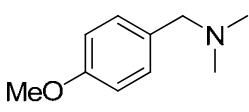
2d

N,N-dimethyl(o-tolyl)methanamine (2d): 1.4 g, 65% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.22 (m, 3H), 3.39 (s, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 137.2, 137.0, 130.2, 129.8, 126.9, 125.5, 62.0, 45.5, 19.0 ppm; IR ν 2942, 2855, 2762, 1459, 1021, 741 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 149 (6) [M^+], 42 (100).



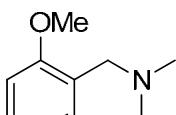
2e

N,N-dimethyl-3-methoxylbenzylamine (2e): 1.1 g, 44% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.18 (t, 1H, $J=7.8$), 6.87-6.85 (m, 2H), 6.78-6.75 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.36 (s, 2H), 2.21 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 159.4, 140.2, 128.8, 121.0, 113.9, 112.4, 64.0, 54.7, 45.0 ppm; IR ν 2941, 2815, 2776, 1601, 1586, 1489, 1456, 1361, 1267, 1150, 1043, 866, 840, 783, 745 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 166 (100) [$(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$].



2f

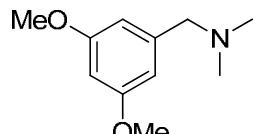
N,N-dimethyl-4-methoxylbenzylamine (2f): 0.9 g, 35% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.18 (d, 2H, $J=9$), 6.82 (d, 2H, $J=9$), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 2H), 2.18 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 158.6, 130.8, 130.2, 113.5, 63.6, 55.1, 45.1 ppm; IR ν 2942, 2813, 2768, 1511, 1243, 1028, 811 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 165 (2) [M^+], 58 (100).



2g

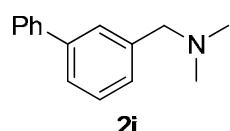
N,N-dimethyl-2-methoxylbenzylamine (2g): 1.3 g, 53% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.22 (m, 2H), 6.87 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.43 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 157.8, 130.7, 128.1,

126.7, 120.0, 110.3, 57.8, 55.3, 45.4 ppm; IR ν 2960, 2858, 1713, 1255, 1177, 1020, 788 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 165 (9) [M $^+$], 58 (100).



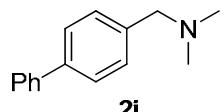
2h

N,N-dimethyl-3,5-dimethoxybenzylamine (2h): 2.6 g, 89% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 6.48 (d, 2H, $J=2.1$), 6.36 (t, 1H, $J=2.1$), 3.79 (s, 6H), 3.36 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 160.6, 141.4, 106.6, 99.1, 64.6, 55.3, 45.4 ppm; IR ν 2941, 2815, 2772, 1597, 1456, 1205, 1153, 1031 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 195 (5) [M $^+$], 152 (100).



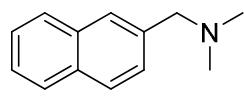
2i

N,N-dimethyl-3-phenylbenzylamine (2i): 2.5 g, 78% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.60-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.48-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 2H), 3.45 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 141.1, 140.9, 139.0, 128.4, 127.8, 127.6, 126.9, 125.6, 64.2, 45.1 ppm; IR ν 3030, 2944, 2815, 2766, 1599, 1480, 1455, 1360, 1251, 1174, 1146, 1096, 1032, 898, 841, 795, 755, 730, 699 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ 212.14338, Found: 212.14301.



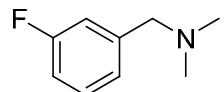
2j

N,N-dimethyl-4-phenylbenzylamine (2j): 2.2 g, 69% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.59-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.31 (m, 5H), 3.45 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 140.7, 139.7, 137.6, 129.3, 128.5, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7, 63.8, 45.2 ppm; IR ν 3028, 2940, 2814, 2768, 1599, 1487, 1456, 1363, 1253, 1174, 1146, 1097, 1032, 859, 813, 759, 736, 697 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ 212.14338, Found: 212.14308.



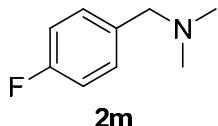
2k

N,N-dimethyl-2-naphthalenemethanamine (2k): 0.8 g, 30% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.81-7.78 (m, 3H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.48-7.41 (m, 3H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 138.3, 128.9, 128.2, 126.9, 61.8, 42.2 ppm; IR ν 3055, 2941, 2854, 2768, 1455, 1366, 1261, 1031, 894, 814, 752 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 185 (60) [M $^+$], 141 (100).

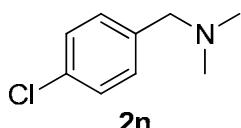


2l

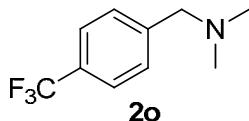
N,N-dimethyl-3-fluorobenzylamine (2l): 1.4 g, 61% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.03 (m, 2H), 6.88 (m, 1H), 3.38 (s, 2H), 2.21 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 164.5, 161.2, 141.6, 141.5, 129.6, 129.5, 124.5, 124.4, 115.8, 115.5, 114.0, 113.7, 63.8, 63.7, 45.3 ppm; IR ν 2945, 2819, 2775, 1590, 1487, 1455, 1256, 783, 687 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 153 (6) [M^+], 58 (100).



N,N-dimethyl-4-fluorobenzylamine (2m): 1.5 g, 60% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.22 (m, 2H), 6.95 (m, 2H), 3.33 (s, 2H), 2.19 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 163.5, 160.3, 134.6, 134.5, 130.5, 130.4, 130.0, 115.0, 114.8, 112.4, 63.5, 45.1 ppm; IR ν 2925, 2854, 1614, 1525, 1361, 1168, 803.6 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 153 (51) [M^+], 58 (100).

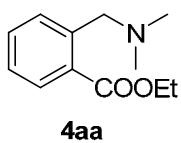
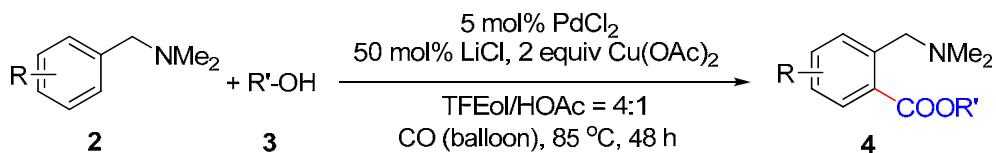


N,N-dimethyl-4-chlorobenzylamine (2n): 1.8 g, 71% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.26 (m, 4H), 3.37 (s, 2H), 2.21(s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 137.4, 132.7, 130.3, 128.3, 63.5, 45.2 ppm; IR ν 2944, 2817, 2769, 1490, 1086, 1015, 857, 801 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 169 (1) [M^+], 58 (100).



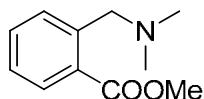
N,N-dimethyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzylamine (2o): 1.8 g, 58% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.55 (d, 2H, $J=8.1$), 7.40 (d, 2H, $J=7.8$), 3.44 (s, 2H), 2.21(s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 142.9, 129.4, 125.14, 125.09, 125.04, 124.99, 63.7, 45.3 ppm; IR ν 1329, 1171, 1129, 1069, 1020, 870, 817 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 203 (3) [M^+], 58 (100).

ortho Carbonylation of Functionalized *N,N*-Dimethylbenzylamines 2 with Alcohol Nucleophiles 3.



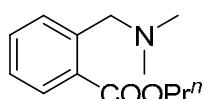
ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)benzoate (4aa): 66.4 mg, 64% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.76 (d, 1H, $J=7.5$), 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 1H), 4.33 (q, 2H, $J=7.2$), 3.72 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 6H), 1.38 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 168.3, 140.0, 131.2, 131.1, 130.0, 129.7, 126.7, 61.5, 60.8, 45.4, 14.2 ppm; IR ν

2978, 2943, 2817, 2769, 1719, 1602, 1456, 1366, 1246, 1174, 1126, 1080, 1027, 846, 743 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%): 207 (30) [M^+], 178 (100).



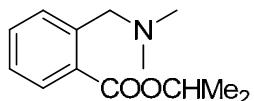
4ab

methyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)benzoate (4ab): 45.8 mg, 47% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.80-7.77 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 168.8, 140.3, 131.2, 130.1, 129.9, 126.8, 61.7, 51.9, 45.5 ppm; IR ν 2951, 2777, 1719, 1613, 1454, 1372, 1272, 1126, 1084, 956, 806, 752 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ 194.11756, Found: 194.11761.



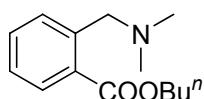
4ac

propyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)benzoate (4ac): 55.7 mg, 50% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.78-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 1H), 4.25 (t, 2H, $J=6.6$), 3.73 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 1.85-1.73 (m, 2H), 1.03 (t, 3H, $J=7.4$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 50 MHz) 168.3, 140.1, 131.4, 131.0, 130.0, 129.7, 126.7, 66.4, 61.5, 45.4, 22.0, 10.5 ppm; IR ν 2969, 2771, 1716, 1600, 1458, 1376, 1261, 1126, 1081, 939, 753 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ 222.14886, Found: 222.14858.



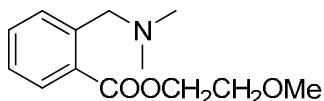
4ad

isopropyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)benzoate (4ad): 47.0 mg, 42% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.74-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 1H), 5.29-5.17 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 6H), 1.37 (d, 6H, $J=6.0$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 50 MHz) 167.8, 139.9, 131.9, 130.9, 130.0, 129.5, 126.6, 68.2, 61.4, 45.4, 21.8 ppm; IR ν 2979, 2773, 1711, 1601, 1466, 1374, 1267, 1107, 1080, 919, 846, 748 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ 222.14886, Found: 222.14822.



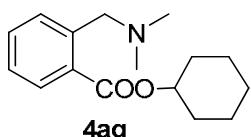
4ae

butyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)benzoate (4ae): 75.9 mg, 65% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.78-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 1H), 4.30 (t, 2H, $J=6.6$), 3.73 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 1.79-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.41 (m, 2H), 0.97 (t, 3H, $J=7.4$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 50 MHz) 168.3, 140.1, 131.3, 131.0, 130.0, 129.7, 126.7, 64.7, 61.5, 45.4, 30.7, 19.2, 13.7 ppm; IR ν 2959, 2872, 2817, 2770, 1719, 1602, 1457, 1364, 1274, 1246, 1126, 1080, 1029, 961, 844, 741 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ 236.16451, Found: 236.16459.



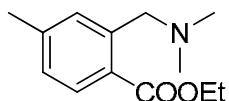
4af

2-methoxyethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)benzoate (4af): 55.1 mg, 46% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.81-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 1H), 4.46-4.42 (m, 2H), 3.74-3.70 (m, 4H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 50 MHz) 168.2, 140.2, 131.2, 130.9, 130.0, 129.9, 126.7, 70.4, 63.8, 61.5, 58.9, 45.4 ppm; IR ν 2944, 2777, 1718, 1600, 1452, 1368, 1262, 1200, 1122, 1081, 1027, 866, 752 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ 238.14377, Found: 238.14315.



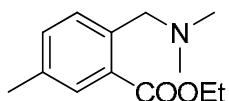
4ag

cyclohexyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)benzoate (4ag): 48.8 mg, 37% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.77-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 1H), 5.04-4.96 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 2.01-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.81-1.77 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.29 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 50 MHz) 167.6, 139.9, 130.9, 129.9, 129.6, 126.6, 73.1, 61.3, 45.5, 31.6, 25.4, 23.7 ppm; IR ν 2937, 2856, 2816, 2769, 1714, 1601, 1449, 1364, 1247, 1121, 1080, 1015, 942, 891, 842, 742 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$ 262.18016, Found: 262.17957.



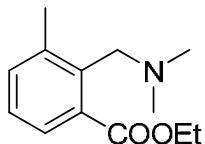
4ba

ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)-4-methylbenzoate (4ba): 75.3 mg, 68% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.71 (d, 1H, $J=7.8$), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, 1H, $J=7.8$), 4.33 (q, 2H, $J=7.2$), 3.72 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 6H), 1.38 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 168.1, 141.7, 140.3, 130.7, 130.1, 128.0, 127.3, 61.4, 60.6, 45.5, 21.4, 14.2 ppm; IR ν 2977, 2941, 2817, 2769, 1719, 1612, 1455, 1365, 1275, 1249, 1133, 1081, 1031, 836, 773 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ 222.14886, Found: 222.14861.



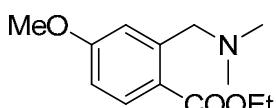
4ca

ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)-5-methylbenzoate (4ca): 80.1 mg, 72% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, 1H, $J=8.4$), 7.23 (d, 1H, $J=8.4$), 4.35 (q, 2H, $J=7.2$), 3.67 (s, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 6H), 1.39 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 168.5, 136.9, 136.4, 131.8, 131.1, 130.3, 130.2, 61.2, 60.6, 45.2, 20.8, 14.2 ppm; IR ν 2942, 2814, 2768, 1718, 1591, 1457, 1366, 1286, 1196, 1080, 1026, 951, 854, 832, 811 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ 222.14886, Found: 222.14835.



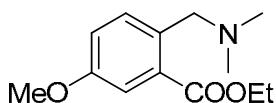
4da

ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)-3-methylbenzoate (4da): 57.3 mg, 52% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.40 (d, 1H, $J=5.7$), 7.18 (m, 2H), 4.33 (q, 2H, $J=7.5$), 3.63 (s, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 6H), 1.39 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 169.9, 137.7, 136.8, 133.8, 132.3, 126.5, 126.4, 60.7, 56.5, 45.0, 20.0, 14.2 ppm; IR ν 2968, 1719, 1610, 1577, 1458, 1365, 1281, 1129, 1034, 957, 851, 765 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ 222.14834, Found: 222.14886.



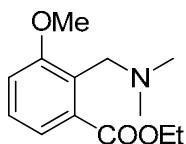
4ea

ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)-4-methoxybenzoate (4ea): 90.6 mg, 76% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.86 (d, 1H, $J=8.7$), 7.12 (s, 1H), 6.78 (d, 1H, $J=5.4$), 4.32 (q, 2H, $J=6.9$), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 6H), 1.37 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 167.2, 162.0, 143.4, 132.4, 122.5, 115.0, 111.6, 61.5, 60.3, 55.2, 45.6, 14.2 ppm; IR ν 2941, 2771, 1708, 1603, 1572, 1465, 1365, 1252, 1148, 1127, 1086, 1039, 876, 843, 777 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ 238.14377, Found: 238.14391.



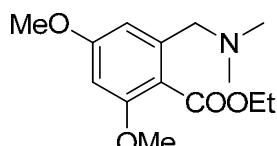
4fa

ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)-5-methoxybenzoate (4fa): 64.8 mg, 55% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz) δ 7.34-7.28 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.92 (m, 1H), 4.34 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 2H), 2.19 (s, 6H), 1.37 (t, 3H, $J=6.9$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 50 MHz) 168.1, 158.2, 132.3, 131.9, 131.4, 116.7, 114.8, 60.9, 60.8, 55.3, 45.2, 14.1 ppm; IR ν 2941, 2816, 2767, 1719, 1611, 1513, 1458, 1366, 1281, 1244, 1225, 1181, 1074, 1027, 855, 815 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ 238.14377, Found: 238.14331.



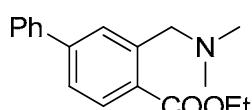
4ga

ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)-3-methoxybenzoate (4ga): 58.1 mg, 49% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.29-7.23 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.96 (m, 1H), 4.33 (q, 2H, $J=7.2$), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 2.18 (s, 6H), 1.37 (t, 3H, $J=7.1$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 168.0, 158.1, 132.2, 131.9, 130.1, 116.6, 114.7, 60.9, 58.7, 55.2, 45.2, 14.1 ppm; IR ν 2939, 1715, 1587, 1466, 1366, 1279, 1159, 1129, 1059, 951, 863, 759, 733 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ 238.14377, Found: 238.14361.



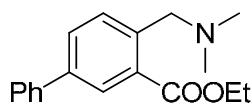
4ha

ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)-4,6-dimethoxybenzoate (4ha): 66.8 mg, 50% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 6.50 (d, 1H, $J=2.4$), 6.37 (d, 1H, $J=2.1$), 4.33 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 2H), 2.18 (s, 6H), 1.35 (t, 3H, $J=6.9$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 168.0, 161.2, 158.0, 140.0, 116.5, 105.3, 97.4, 61.9, 60.7, 55.8, 55.4, 45.2, 14.1 ppm; IR ν 2942, 2817, 2772, 1725, 1605, 1257, 1157, 1098, 861 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ 268.15433, Found: 268.15386.



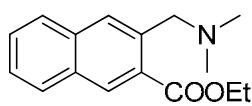
4ia

ethyl 3-((dimethylamino)methyl)biphenyl-4-carboxylate (4ia): 110.1 mg, 78% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.87 (d, 1H, $J=7.8$), 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 1H), 4.36 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$), 3.80 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 6H), 1.39 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 168.0, 143.9, 140.8, 140.1, 130.6, 130.4, 129.8, 128.8, 127.8, 127.2, 125.3, 61.7, 60.8, 45.5, 14.2 ppm; IR ν 2975, 2937, 2818, 2769, 1718, 1608, 1456, 1365, 1249, 1136, 1086, 1031, 847, 757 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ 284.16451, Found: 284.16507.



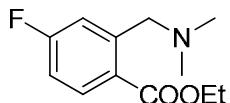
4ja

ethyl 4-((dimethylamino)methyl)biphenyl-3-carboxylate (4ja): 66.9 mg, 47% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 8.02 (d, 1H, $J=2.1$), 7.70-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 1H), 4.40 (q, 2H, $J=7.2$), 3.78 (s, 2H), 2.27 (s, 6H), 1.42 (t, 3H, $J=7.1$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 168.3, 140.0, 139.8, 139.0, 131.7, 130.6, 129.6, 128.8, 128.5, 127.5, 127.0, 61.3, 61.0, 45.5, 14.3 ppm; IR ν 2925, 2853, 2817, 2767, 1719, 1600, 1457, 1366, 1305, 1237, 1081, 1027, 860, 760 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ 284.16451, Found: 284.16497.



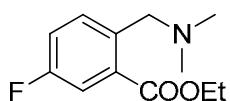
4ka

ethyl 3-((dimethylamino)methyl)-2-naphthoate (4ka): 88.7 mg, 69 % yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz) δ 8.29 (s, 1H), 7.84 (m, 3H), 7.49 (m, 2H), 4.40 (q, 2H, $J=7.0$), 3.84 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 6H), 1.42 (t, 3H, $J=7.0$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 50 MHz) 168.4, 136.0, 134.2, 131.6, 130.6, 128.6, 128.4, 127.7, 127.4, 127.3, 126.1, 62.1, 60.9, 45.4, 14.2 ppm; IR ν 2975, 2941, 2854, 2816, 2769, 1718, 1465, 1366, 1279, 1263, 1201, 1131, 1061, 897, 852, 781, 754 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ 258.14825, Found: 258.14886.



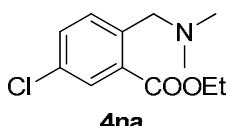
4la

ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)-4-fluorobenzoate (4la): 45.1 mg, 40% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.86-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.24 (m, 1H), 6.98-6.91 (m, 1H), 4.32 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$), 3.73 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 1.36 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 167.0, 166.3, 162.9, 155.5, 144.4, 132.6, 132.5, 130.5, 116.7, 116.4, 113.6, 113.3, 61.2, 60.9, 45.6, 14.2 ppm; IR ν 2929, 2858, 2819, 2772, 1723, 1612, 1589, 1456, 1366, 1253, 1173, 1111, 1079, 1031, 962, 837, 775 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{FNO}_2$ 226.12378, Found: 226.12345.



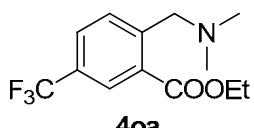
4ma

ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)-5-fluorobenzoate (4ma): 33.8 mg, 30% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.47-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.07 (m, 1H), 4.33 (q, 2H, $J=7.2$), 3.65 (s, 2H), 2.18 (s, 6H), 1.36 (t, 3H, $J=7.1$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 167.0, 162.8, 159.5, 136.0, 135.9, 132.8, 132.7, 131.8, 131.7, 118.0, 117.7, 116.9, 116.6, 61.1, 60.8, 45.3, 14.1 ppm; IR ν 2926, 2855, 1722, 1601, 1578, 1469, 1419, 1373, 1301, 1273, 1231, 1126, 1070, 935, 789 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{FNO}_2$ 226.12378, Found: 226.12334.



4na

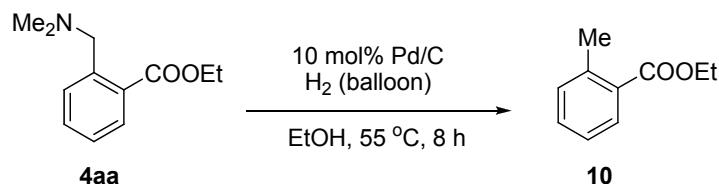
ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)-5-chlorobenzoate (4na): 43.5 mg, 36% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.40 (m, 2H), 4.35 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$), 3.68 (s, 2H), 2.21 (s, 6H), 1.38 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 166.9, 138.8, 132.6, 131.3, 131.0, 130.3, 128.3, 63.5, 60.9, 45.4, 14.1 ppm; IR ν 2928, 2854, 2818, 2771, 1725, 1594, 1563, 1457, 1366, 1286, 1240, 1137, 1107, 1077, 1027, 896, 853, 782 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}^{35}\text{ClNO}_2$ 242.09423, Found: 242.09398.



4oa

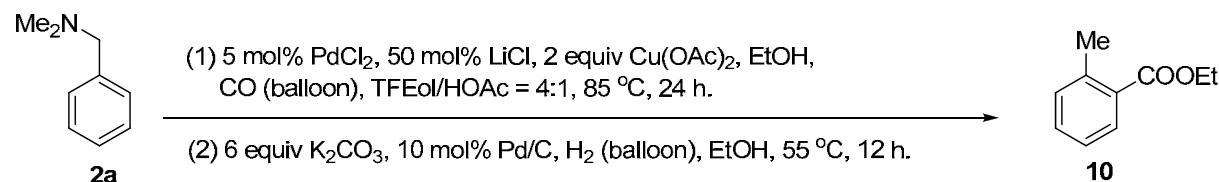
ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)-5-trifluoromethylbenzoate (4oa): 30.3 mg, 22% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.72-7.65 (m, 2H), 4.39 (q, 2H, $J=7.2$), 3.78 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 6H), 1.41 (t, 3H, $J=7.1$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 167.0, 144.5, 131.9, 130.3, 129.1, 127.6, 126.7, 125.1, 63.8, 61.3, 45.5, 14.2 ppm; IR ν 2927, 2857, 1720, 1628, 1601, 1463, 1377, 1326, 1259, 1171, 1127, 1097, 1020, 952, 833, 811, 747 cm^{-1} HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_2$ 276.12059, Found: 276.12028.

Procedures for the Hydrogenation of Functionalized *N,N*-Dimethylbenzylamine to Ethyl 2-Methylbenzoate (10**).**



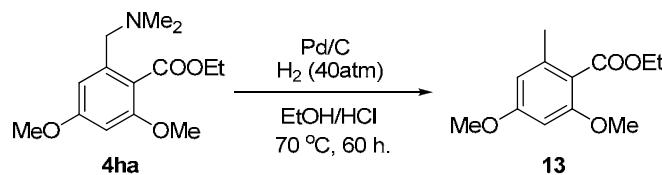
A mixture of ethyl 2-((dimethylamino)methyl)benzoate **4aa** (103.6 mg, 0.5 mmol) and Pd/C catalyst (5 wt% Pd, 106.4 mg, 0.05 mmol) in EtOH (6 mL) was stirred under H₂ at balloon pressure at 55 °C for 8 h. After the catalyst was filtered, the filtrate was evaporated to get the desired product **10** (73.6 mg, 90% yield) as a colorless oil without further purification.

Procedures for the Transformation from *N,N*-Dimethylbenzylamine to Ethyl 2-Methylbenzoate (10**) in One Pot.**



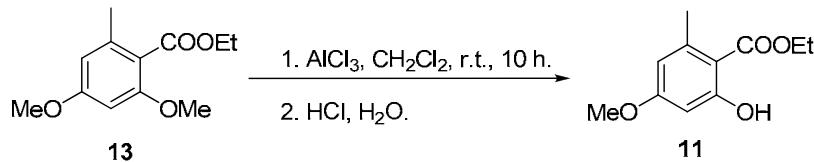
PdCl₂ (4.4 mg, 0.025 mmol), LiCl (10.6 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (181.6 mg, 1.0 mmol), and TFEol (2 mL) were added into a Schlenk tube. Then *N,N*-dimethylbenzylamine **2a** (67.6 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added, followed by ethanol (1 mL) and HOAc (0.5 mL, 8.0 mmol). The tube was stoppered and heated at 85 °C in an oil bath for 24 h. After that, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and K₂CO₃ (414.6 mg, 3.0 mmol), Pd/C (5 wt% Pd, 106.4 mg, 0.05 mmol), and additional EtOH (2 mL) were added. The mixture was stirred at 55 °C under H₂ at balloon pressure for 12 h. The mixture was neutralized and the solid (Pd/C and Cu) was filtered. The inorganic phase was extracted by CH₂Cl₂ three times. The organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, evaporated, and purified by flash chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (10:1) to give the product **10** (33.3 mg, 41% yield) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.92–7.89 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 2H), 4.34 (q, 2H, J=7.2), 2.59 (s, 3H), 1.37 (t, 3H, J=7.2) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 167.5, 139.8, 131.7, 131.5, 130.3, 129.8, 125.5, 60.5, 21.6, 14.2 ppm; MS: (m/z) (%): 165 (100) [(M+H)⁺].

Procedures for the Synthesis of Two Molecular Segments **11 and **12** of Variolaric Acid.**

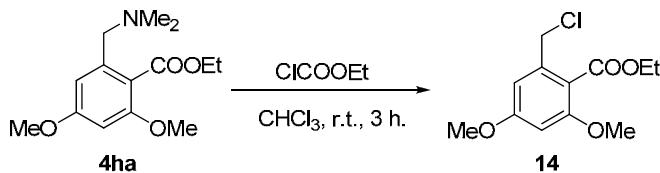


ethyl 2,4-dimethoxy-6-methylbenzoate (13**):** **4ha** (179.6 mg, 0.67 mmol) and Pd/C catalyst (5 wt% Pd, 284.0 mg, 0.13 mmol) were added to the mixture of EtOH/HCl (6 mL, 1000:1). The mixture was stirred under H₂ at 40 atm at 70 °C for 60 h. After the catalyst was filtered, the filtrate was evaporated to get the crude product. Further purification by flash chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether/EtOAc (10:1) afforded the corresponding product **13** (105.2 mg, 70% yield) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300

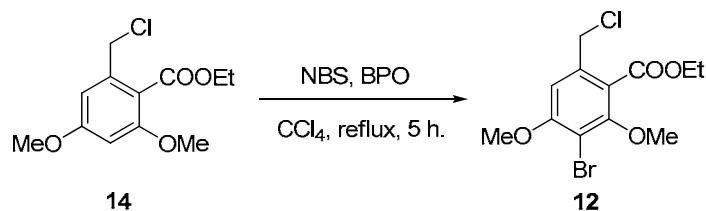
MHz) δ 6.31 (s, 2H), 4.36 (q, 2H, *J*=6.9), 3.79 (s, 6H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.36 (t, 3H, *J*=7.2) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 168.2, 161.2, 158.1, 138.0, 116.7, 106.6, 96.2, 60.9, 55.8, 55.3, 19.8, 14.2 ppm; IR ν 2942, 2842, 1724, 1605, 1265, 1159, 1097, 830 cm⁻¹ MS: (m/z) (%): 224 (36) [M⁺], 179 (100).



ethyl 2-hydroxy-4-methoxy-6-methylbenzoate (11): Under the protection of N₂, AlCl₃ (549 mg, 4.13 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube. After stirred at room temperature for 20 minutes, the mixture of **13** (309.4 mg, 1.38 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (12 mL) was added, then the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for another 10 h. The reaction was quenched by pouring the mixture into cooled HCl solution (56 mL, 1:1), followed by adding CH₂Cl₂ (55 mL). The organic phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ twice, dried over Na₂SO₄ and then evaporated in vacuo. Further purification by flash chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether/EtOAc (15:1) afforded the corresponding product **11** (223.4 mg, 77% yield) as a white solid. m.p. 75–77 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 11.86 (s, 1H), 6.33 (d, 1H, *J*=2.4), 6.28 (m, 1H), 4.39 (q, 2H, *J*=7.1), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 1.41 (t, 3H, *J*=7.1) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 171.7, 165.6, 163.8, 143.1, 111.1, 105.3, 98.7, 61.2, 55.2, 24.4, 14.2 ppm; IR ν 2925, 2855, 1652, 1261, 1163, 844 cm⁻¹ MS: (m/z) (%): 211 (5) [M⁺], 164 (100).



ethyl 2-chloromethyl-4,6-dimethoxybenzoate (14): To a solution of **4ha** (328.4 mg, 1.23 mmol) and chloroform (2 mL), ethyl chloroformate (235.0 mg, 2.17 mmol) was added dropwisely at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred for 15 minutes and then warm to room temperature for another 3 h, after that water (2 mL) was added to quench the reaction. The organic phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ three times, dried over K₂CO₃ and then evaporated in vacuo. Further purification by flash chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether/EtOAc (20:1) afforded the corresponding product **14** (200.5 mg, 63% yield) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 6.55 (d, 1H, *J*=2.4), 6.44 (d, 1H, *J*=2.4), 4.61 (s, 2H), 4.40 (q, 2H, *J*=7.2), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, 3H, *J*=7.2) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) 166.8, 161.6, 158.6, 137.6, 115.9, 106.1, 98.8, 85.2, 61.2, 56.0, 55.4, 43.7, 14.1 ppm; IR ν 2976, 2843, 1722, 1605, 1465, 1058 cm⁻¹ MS: (m/z) (%): 258 (52) [M⁺], 213 (100); HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₅O₄³⁵Cl 258.06523, Found: 258.06589.

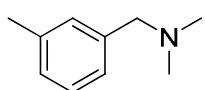


ethyl 3-bromo-6-chloromethyl-2,4-dimethoxybenzoate (12): To a Schlenk tube, **14** (42.1 mg, 0.16 mmol), carbon tetrachloride (1.6 mL), *N*-bromosuccinimide (NBS, 42.7 mg, 0.24 mmol) and benzoyl peroxide (BPO, 3.9 mg, 0.016 mmol) were added. The resulting mixture was heated to reflux at 91 °C for 5 h, and then cooled to room temperature. The suspension was filtered, and the solid was washed with carbon tetrachloride three times. The combination of filtrate was evaporated in vacuo. Further purification by flash chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether/EtOAc (10:1) afforded the corresponding product **12** (42.7 mg, 79% yield) as a white solid. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 6.48 (s, 1H), 4.77 (s, 2H), 4.42 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) 166.4, 157.9, 157.2, 135.8, 118.1, 105.8, 96.6, 61.7, 56.5, 56.3, 42.9, 14.1 ppm; IR ν 2976, 2936, 2839, 1724, 1589, 1333, 1254, 1211, 1076 cm^{-1} MS: (m/z) (%) 338 (100) [M^+]; HRMS: Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4^{35}\text{Cl}^{79}\text{Br}$ 335.97640, Found: 335.97537.

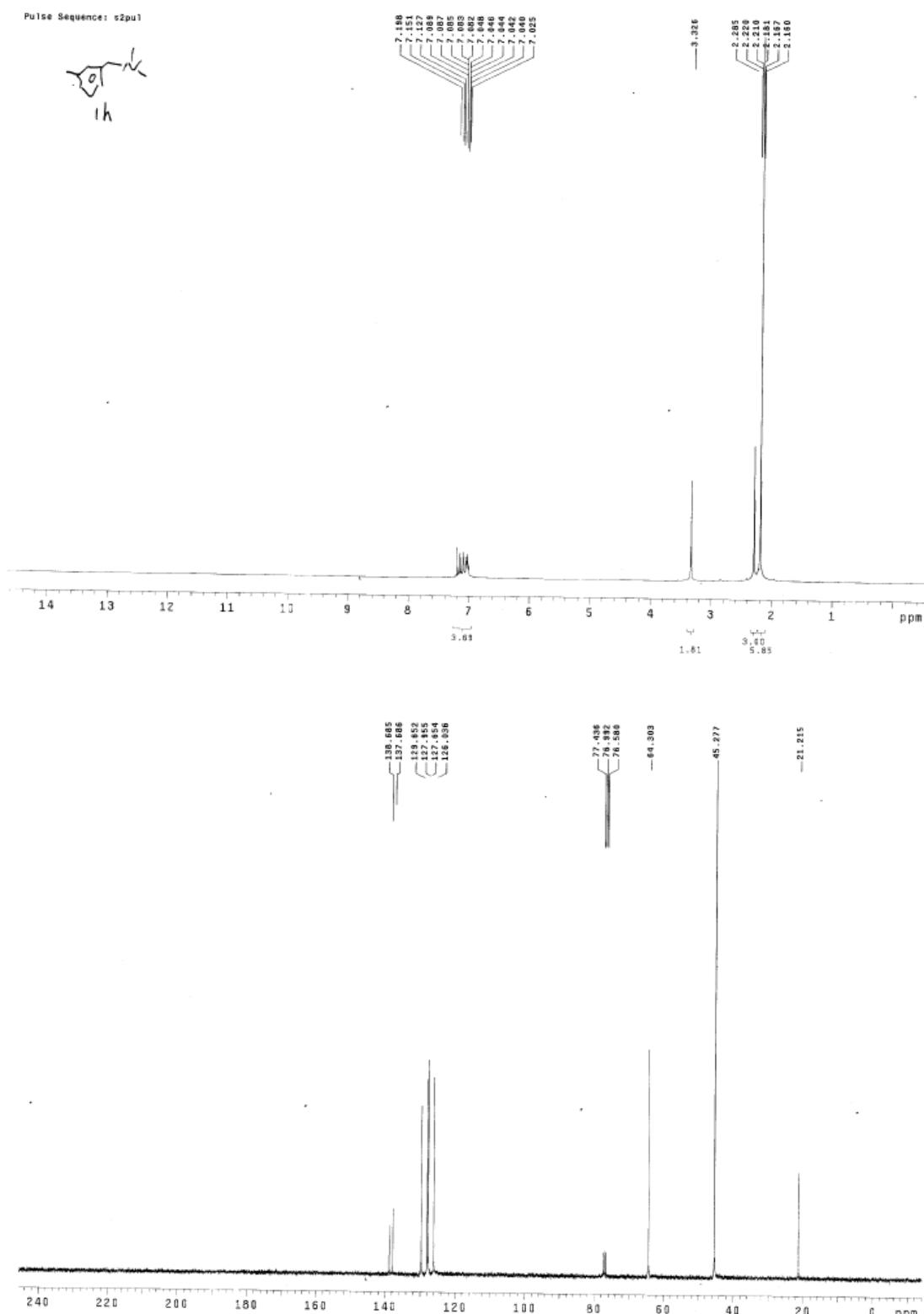
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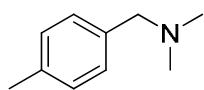
1. Cope, A. C.; Friedrich, E. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1968**, *90*, 909.
2. Jones, F. N.; Zinn, M. F.; Hauser, C. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1963**, *28*, 663.
3. Cai, G.; Fu, Y.; Li, Y.; Wan, X.; Shi, Z. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *129*, 7666.

NMR Spectra of Products

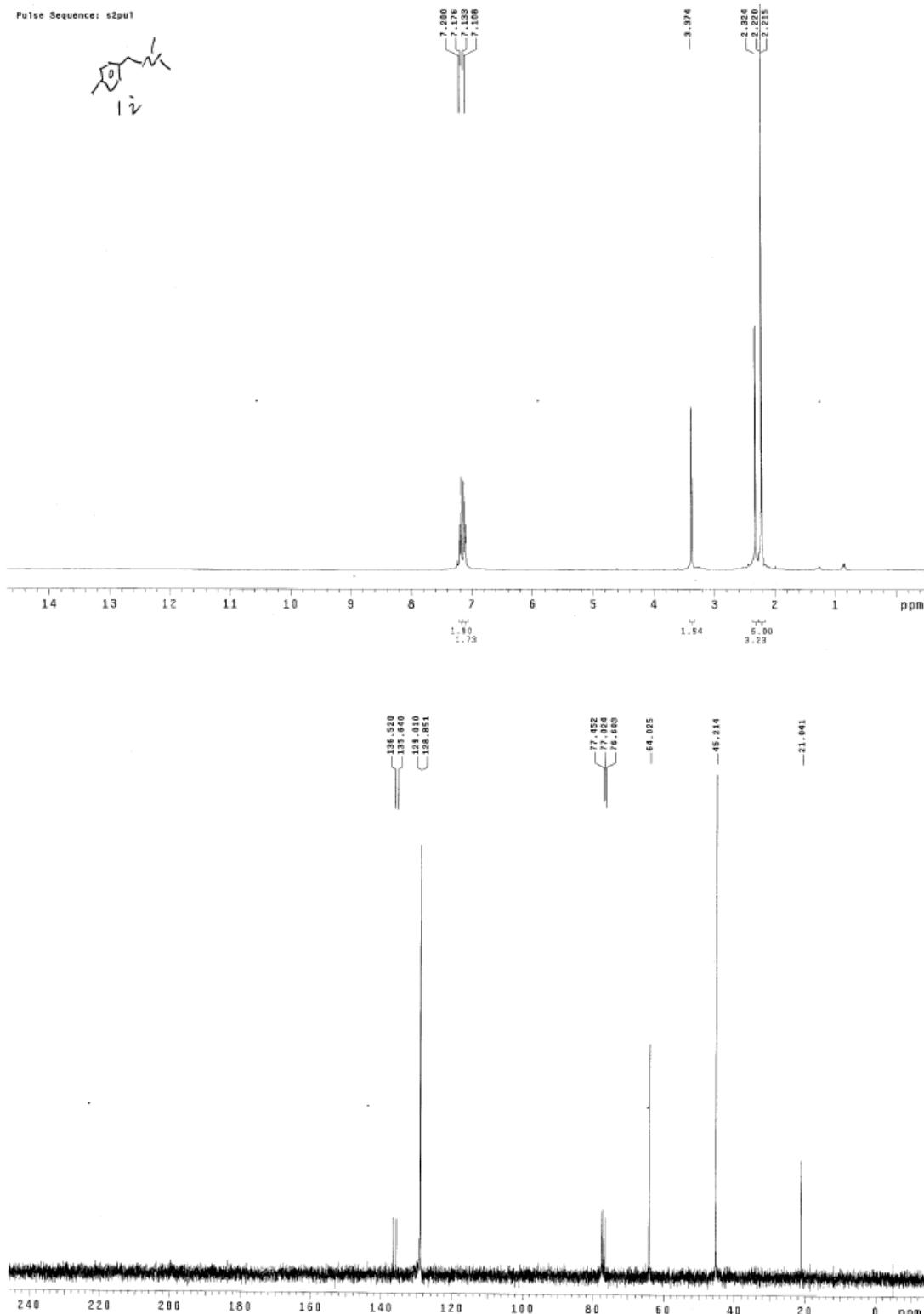


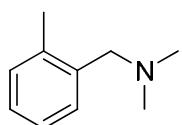
2b





2c

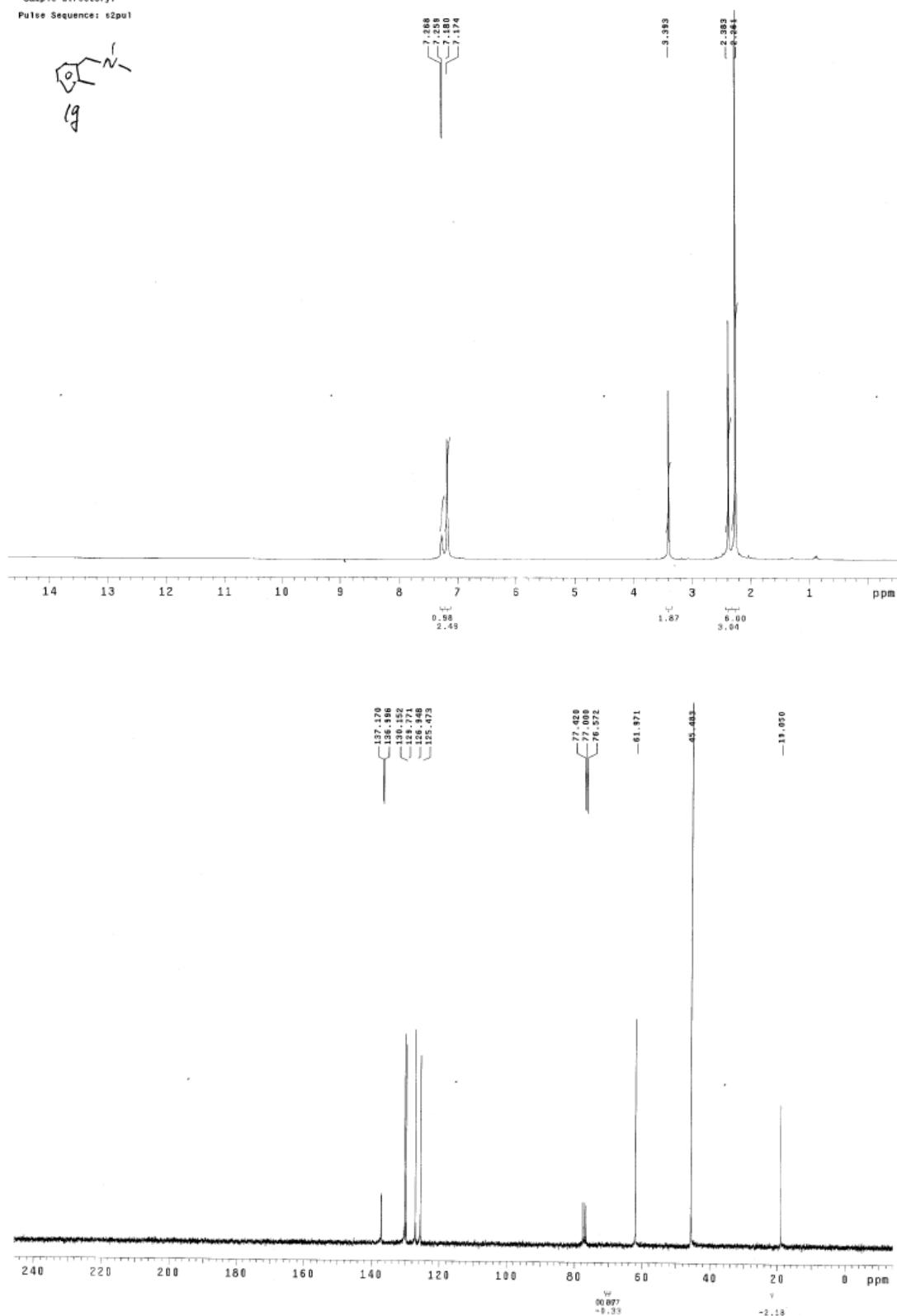


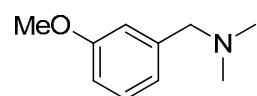


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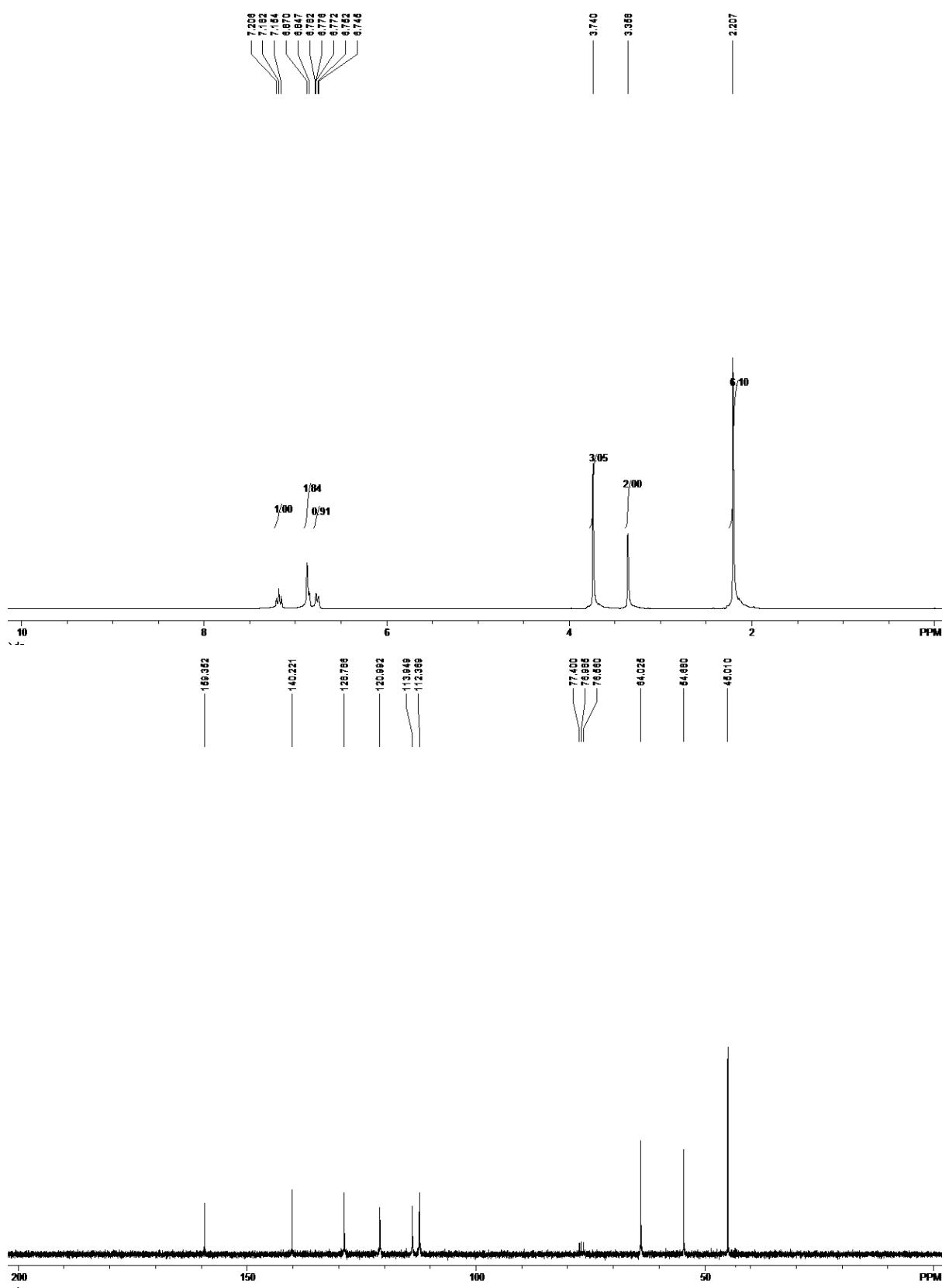
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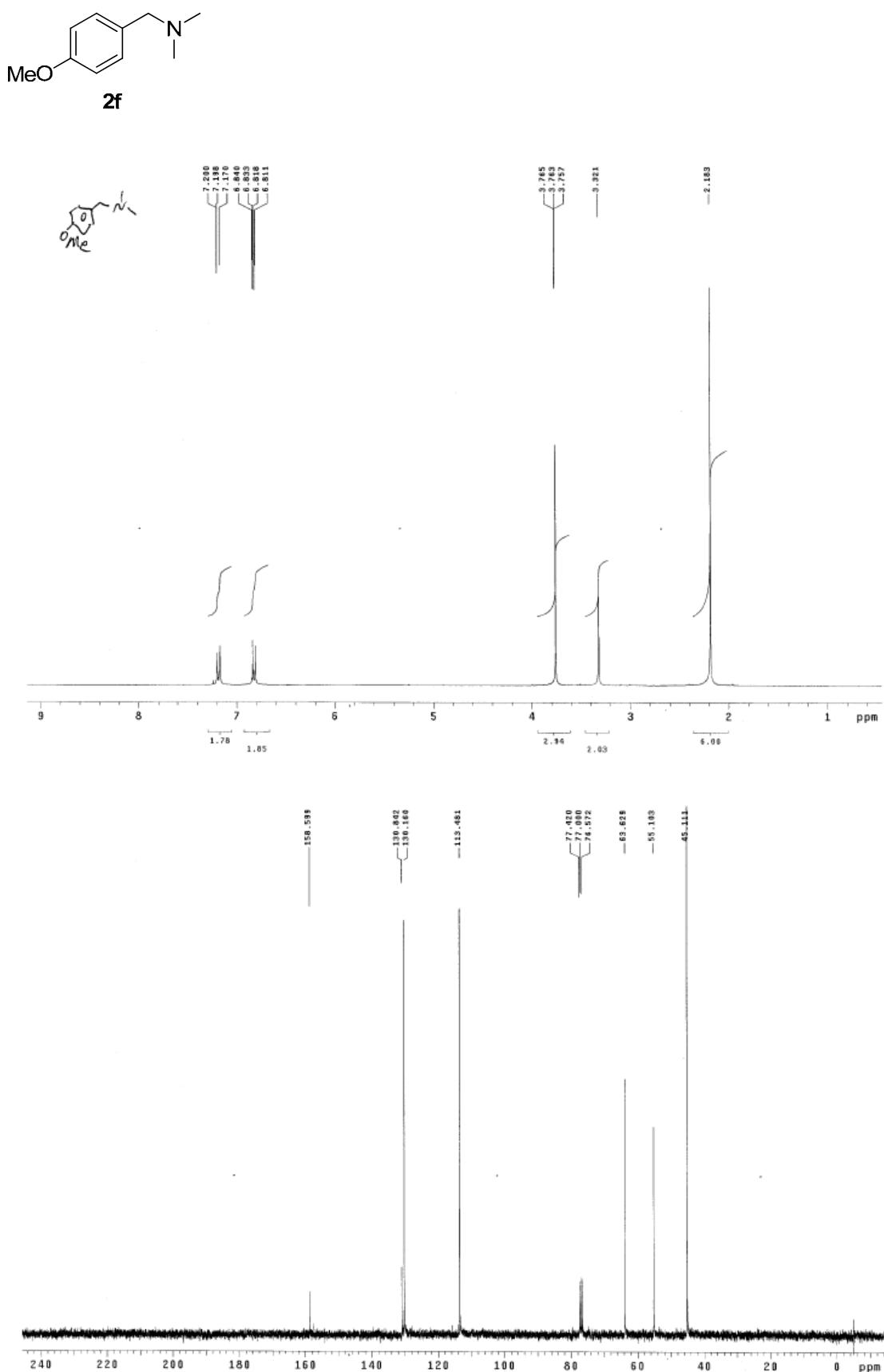
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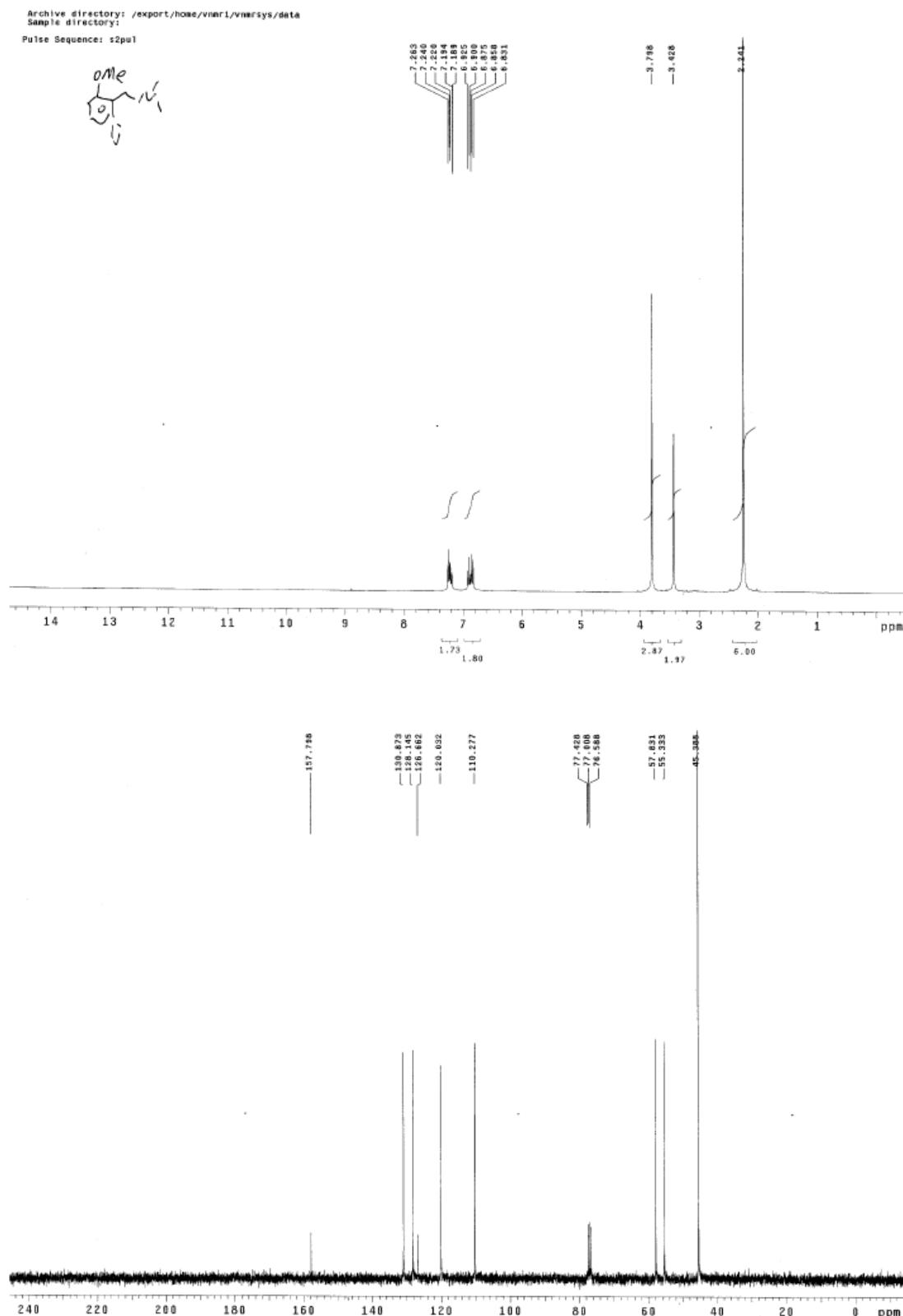


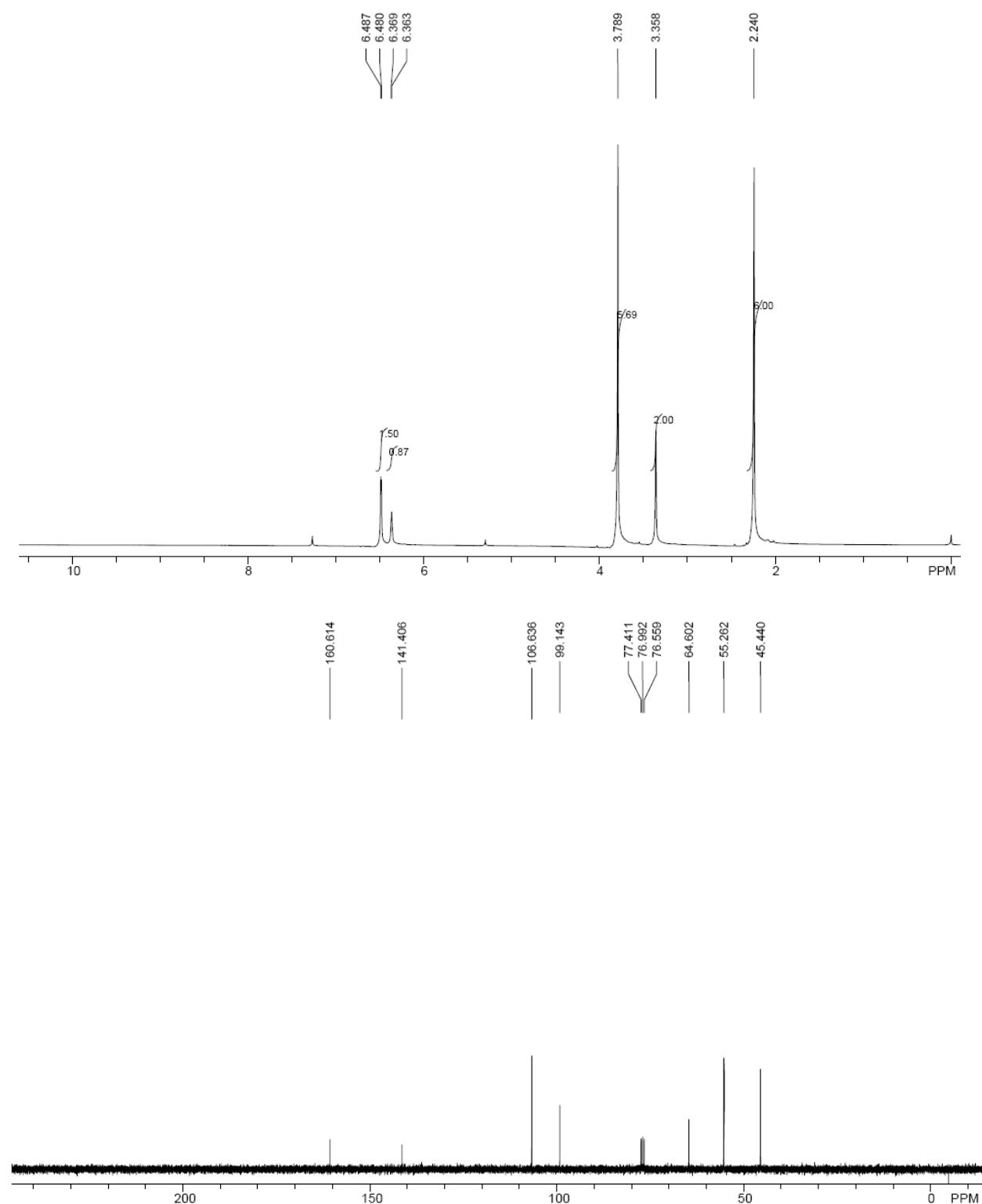
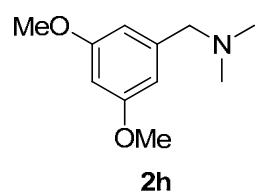


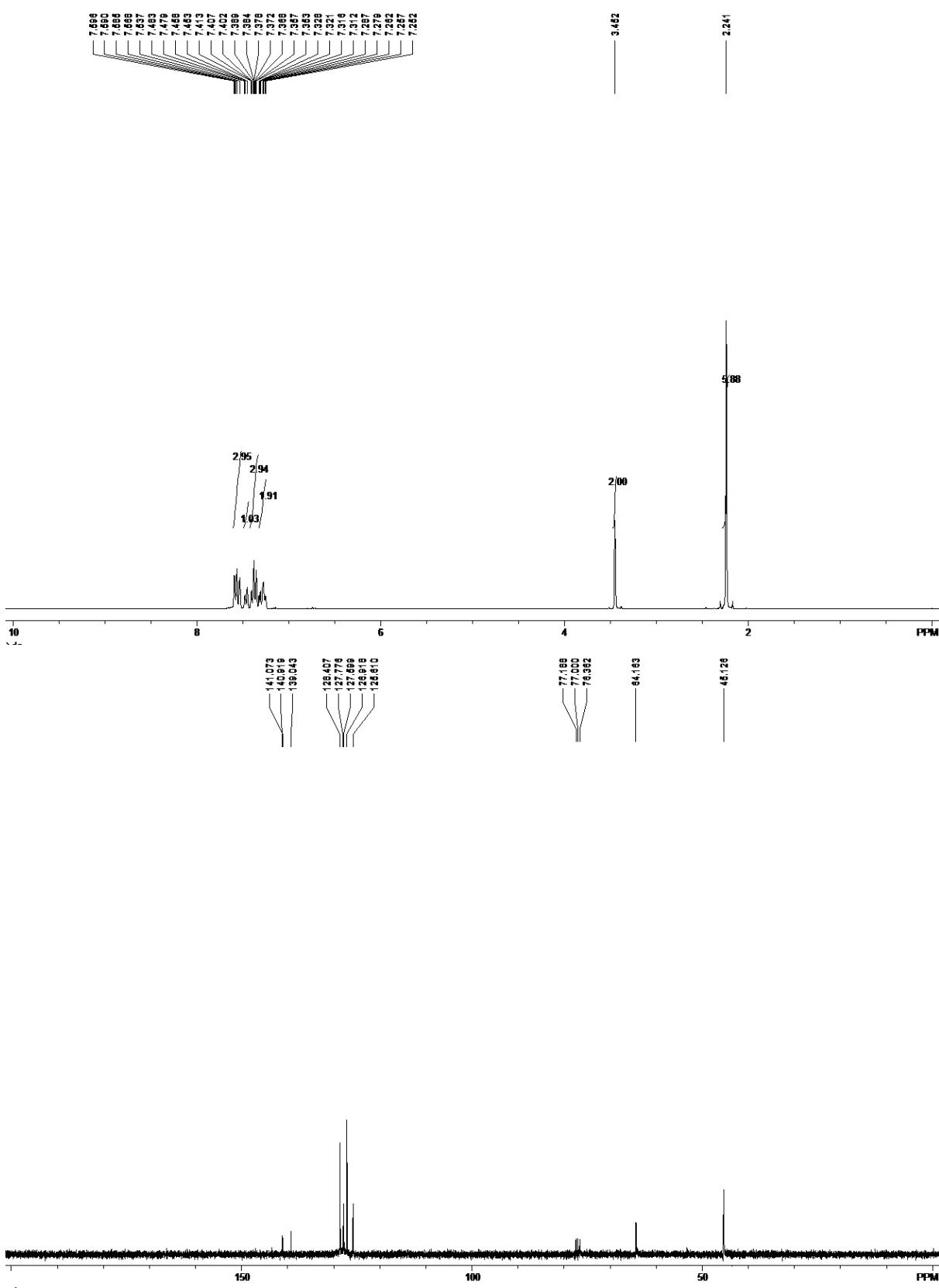
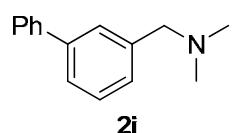
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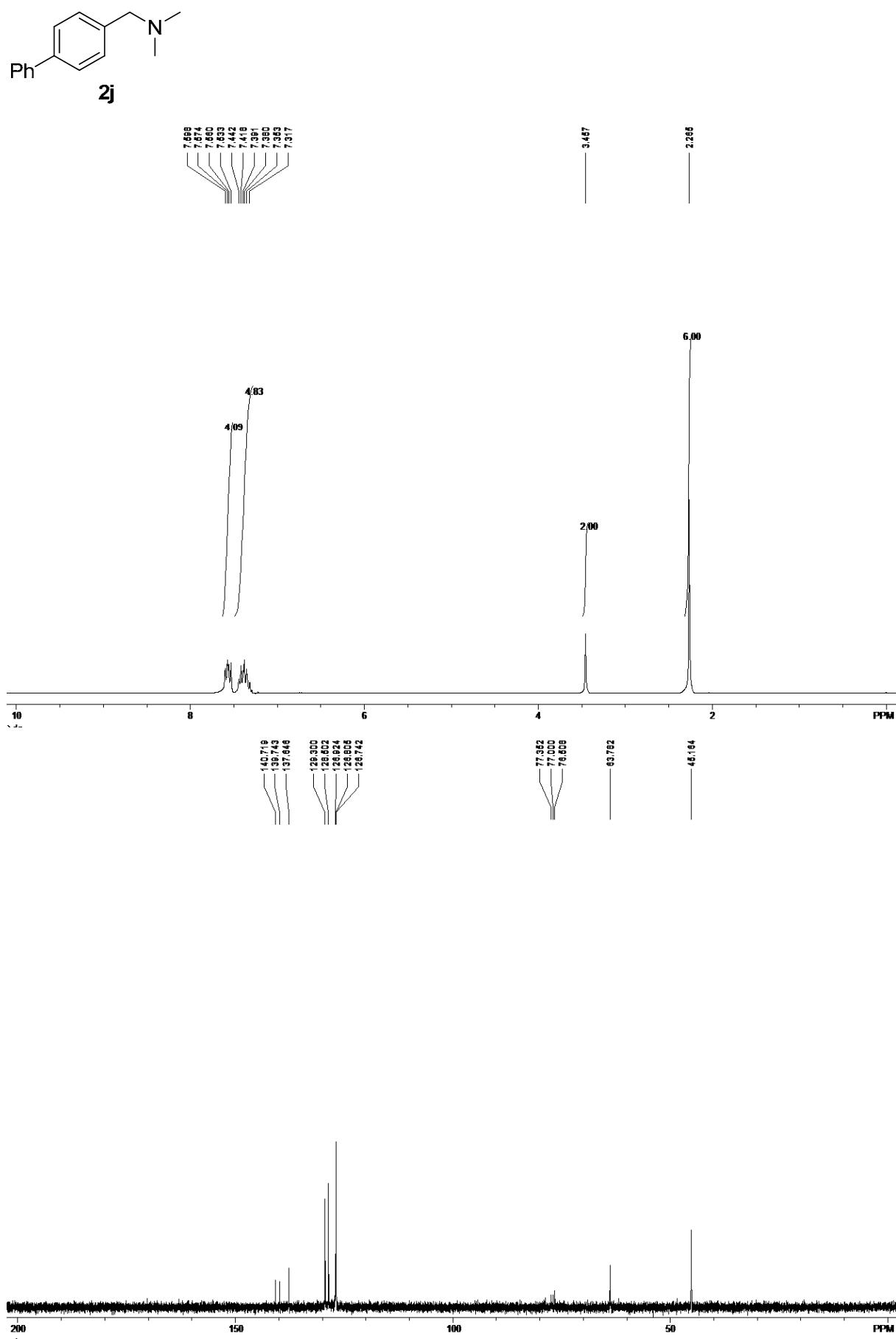


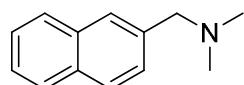






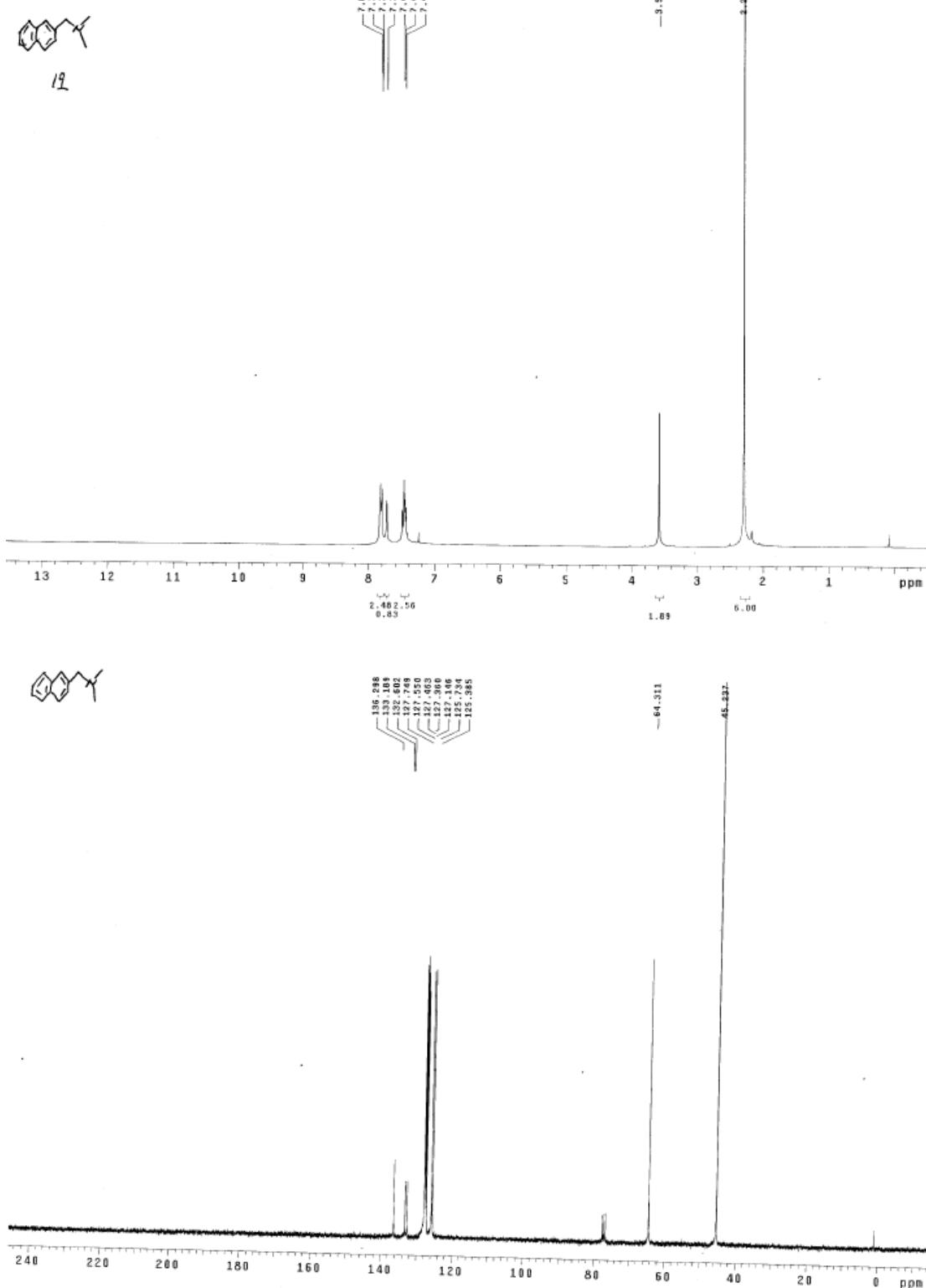


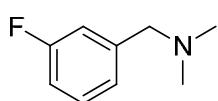




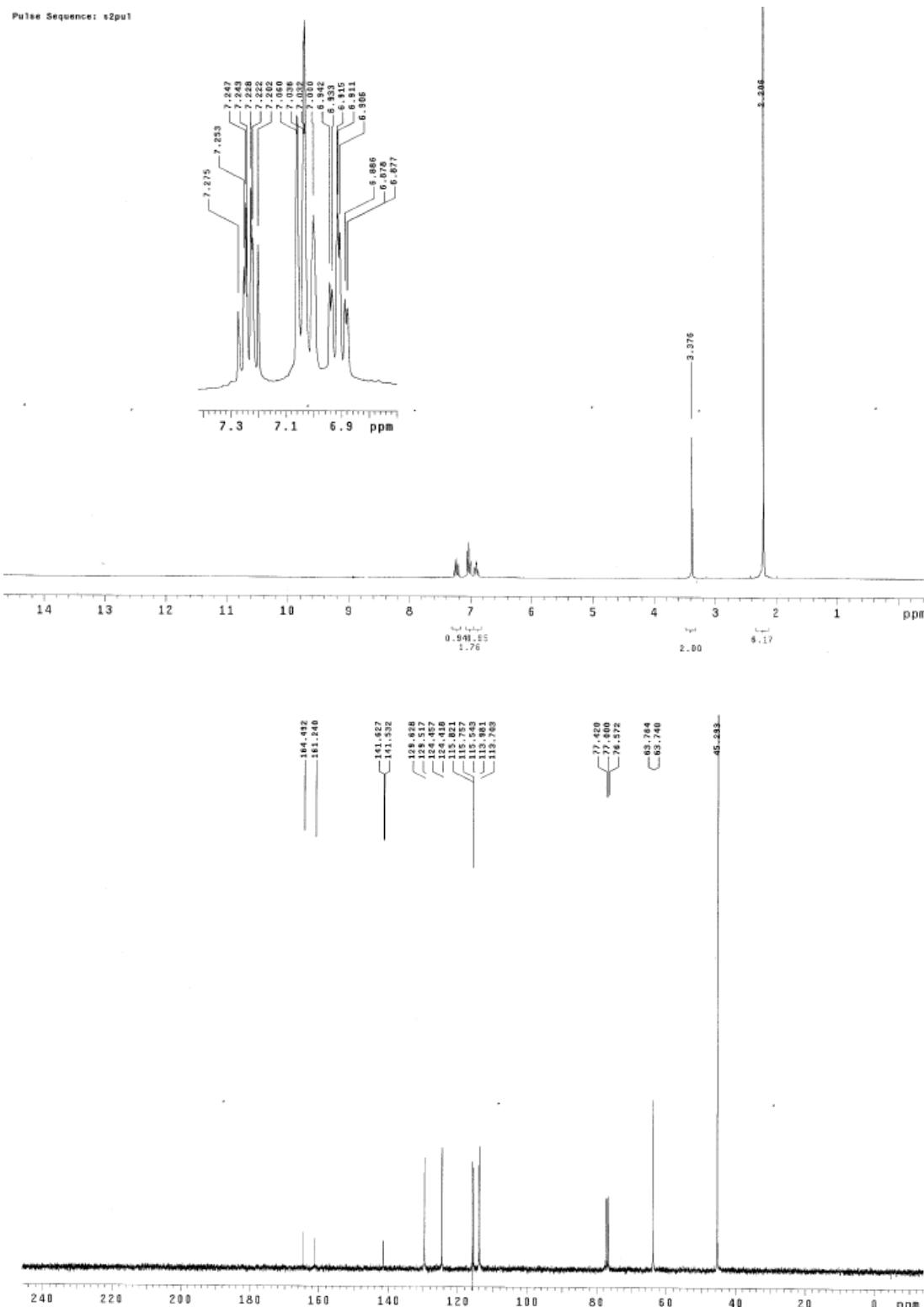
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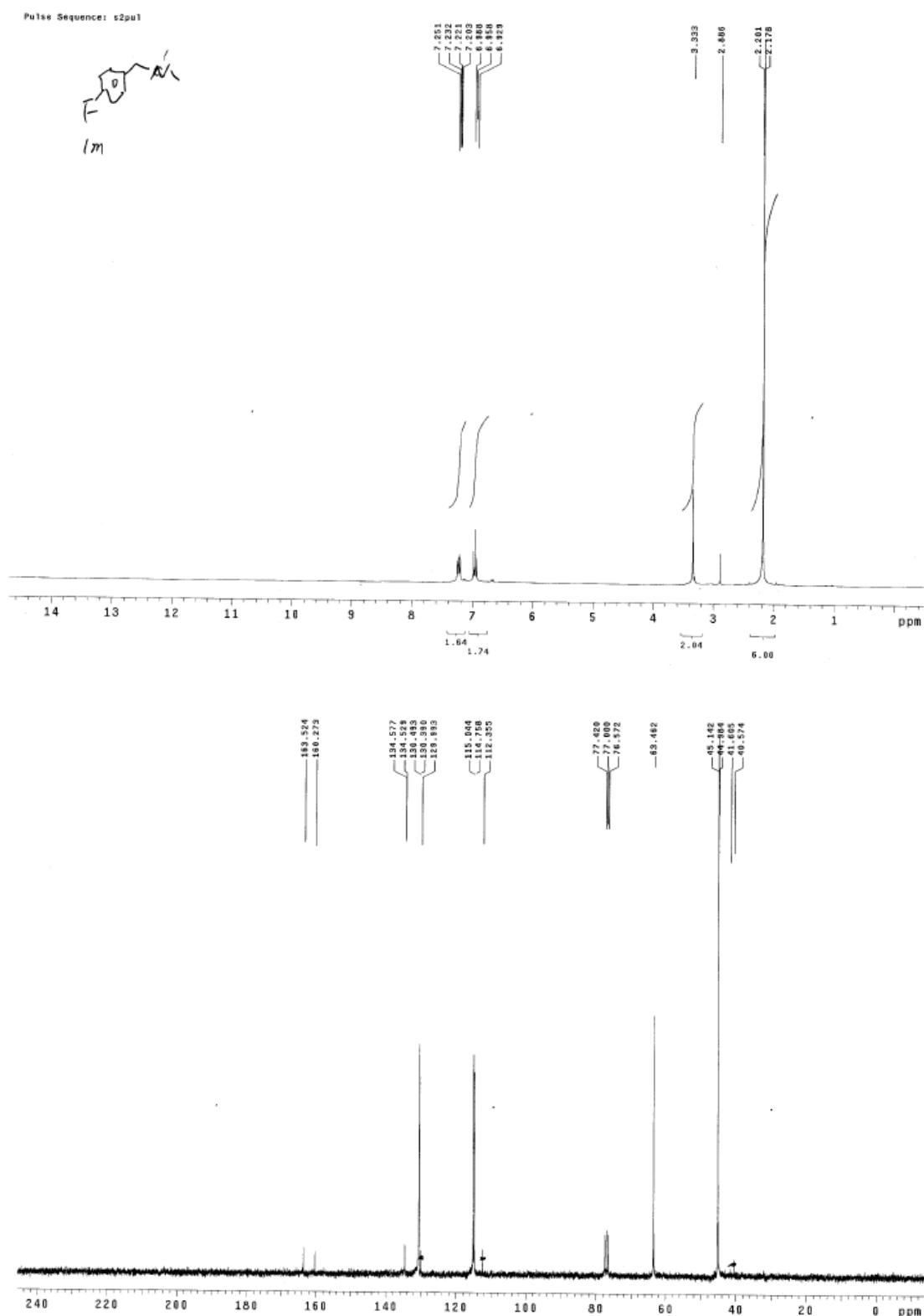
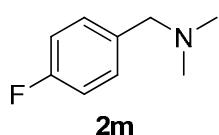
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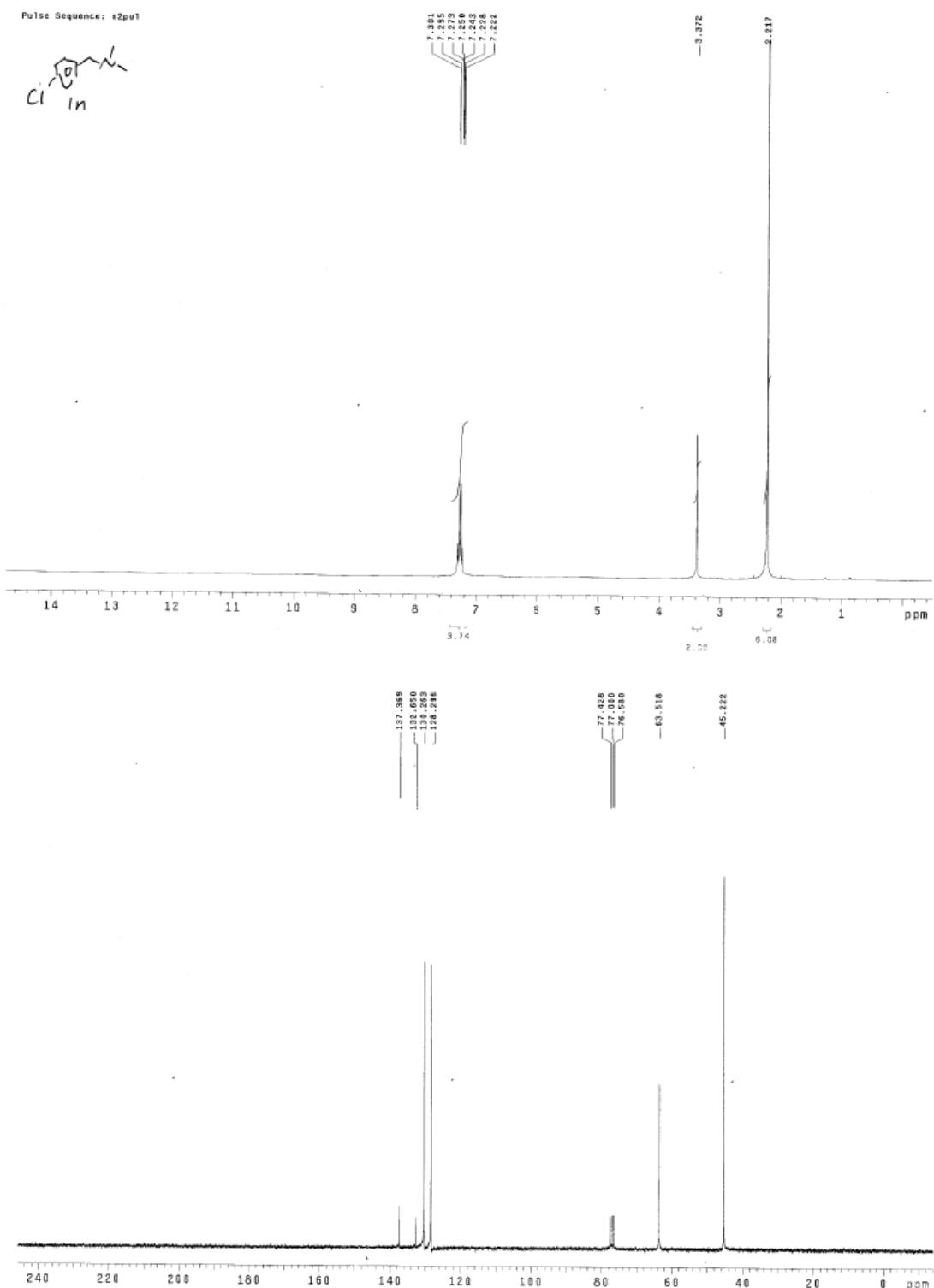
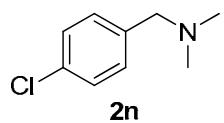


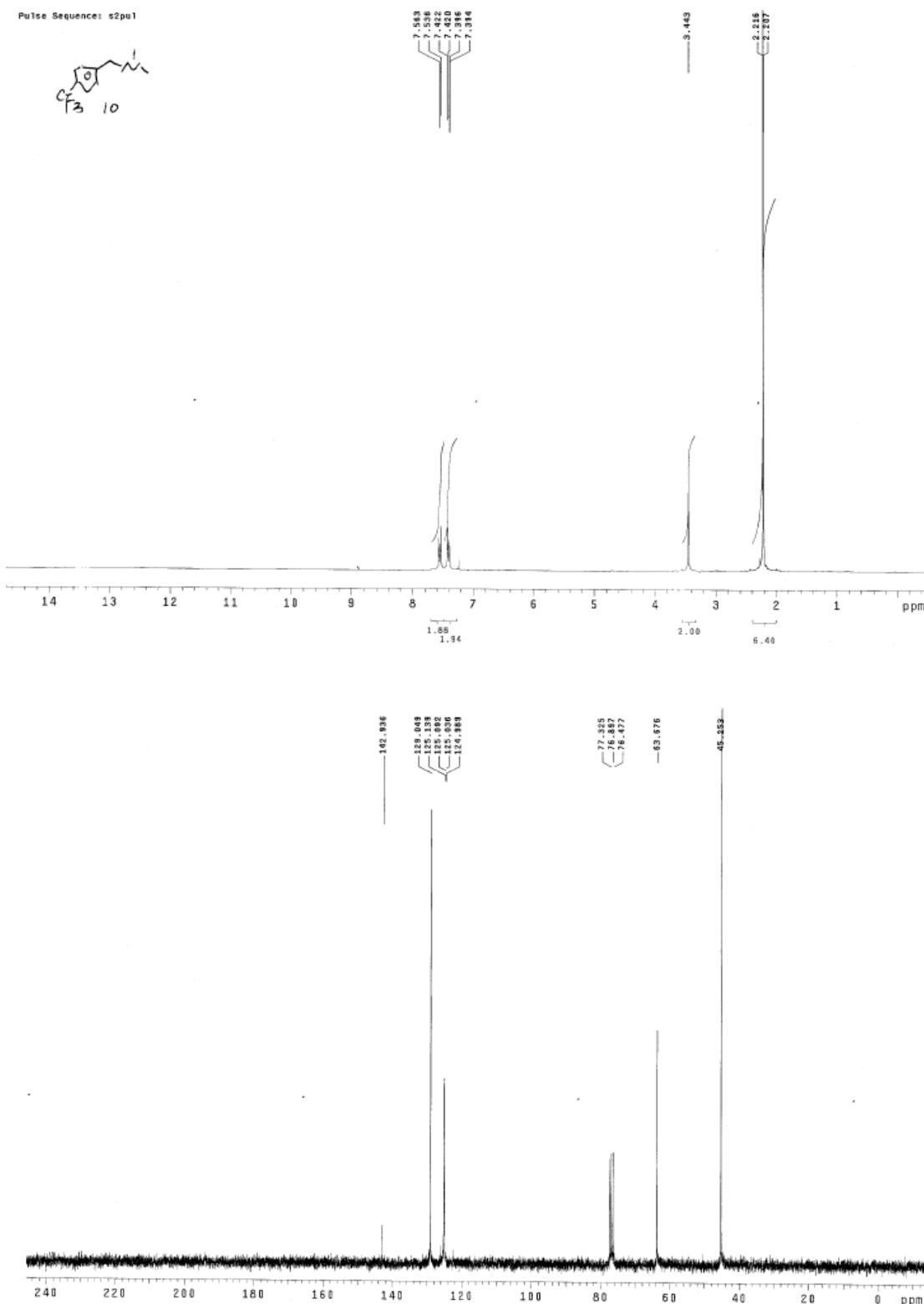
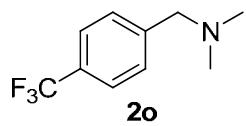


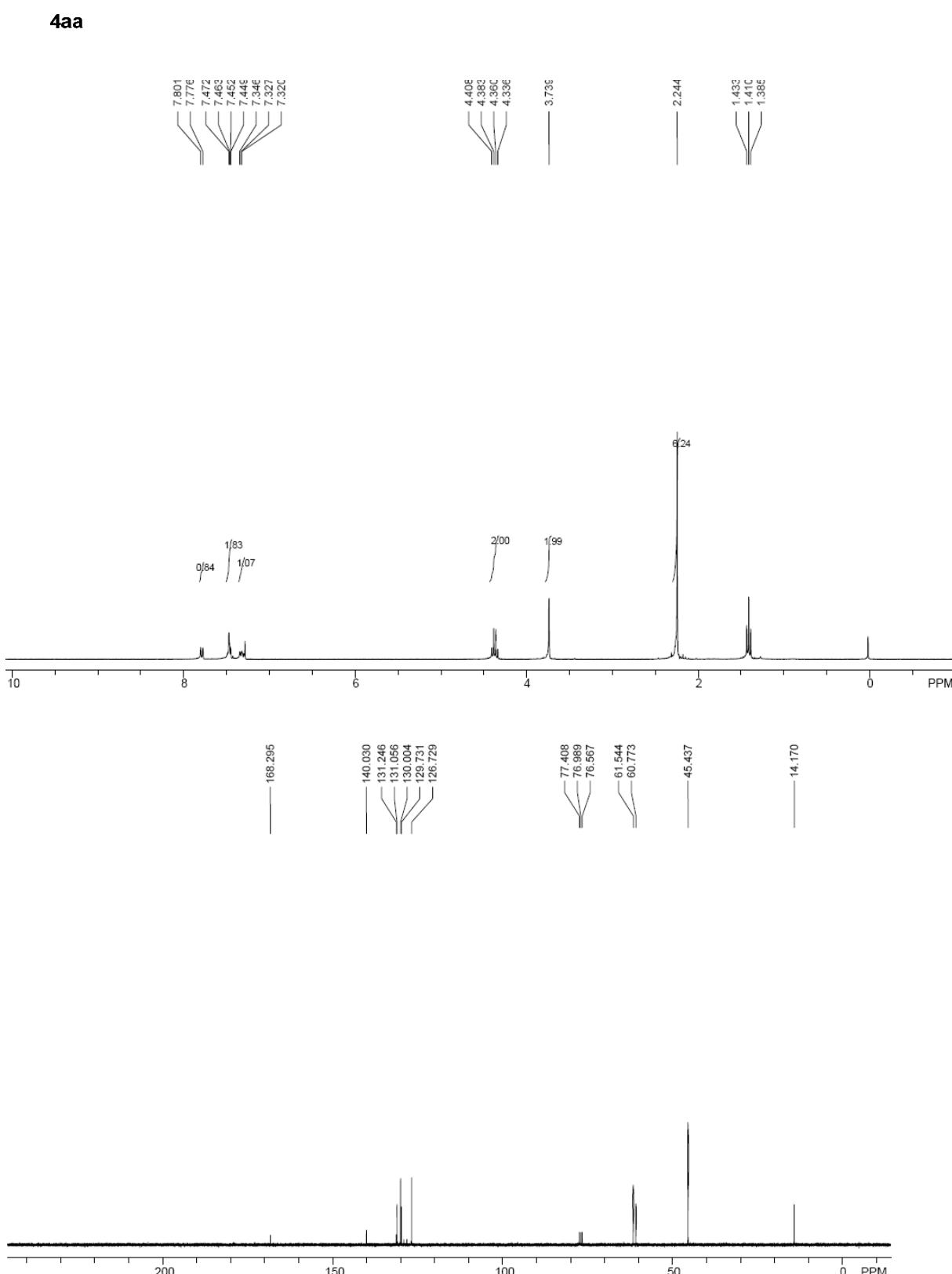
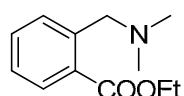
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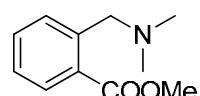




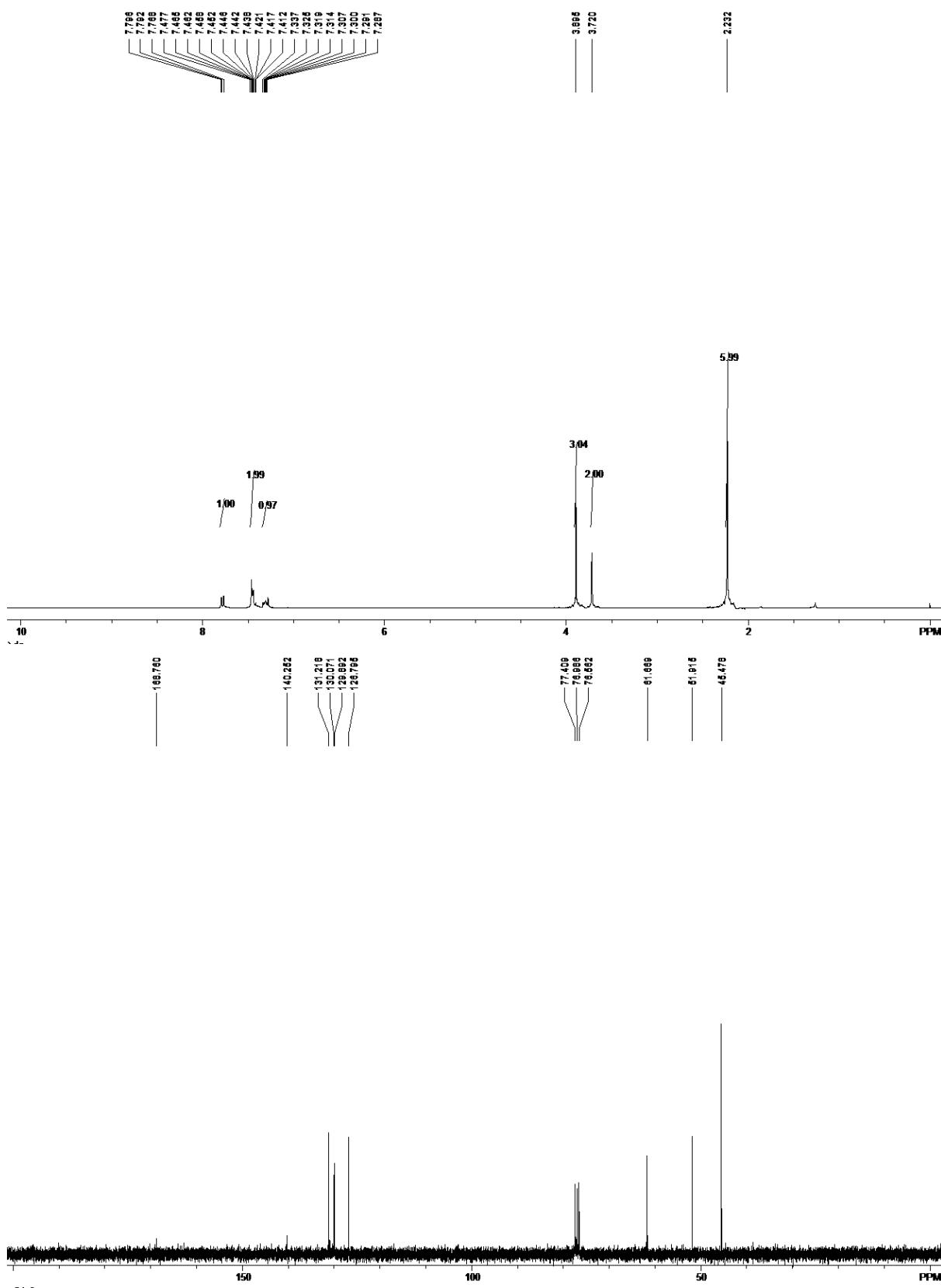


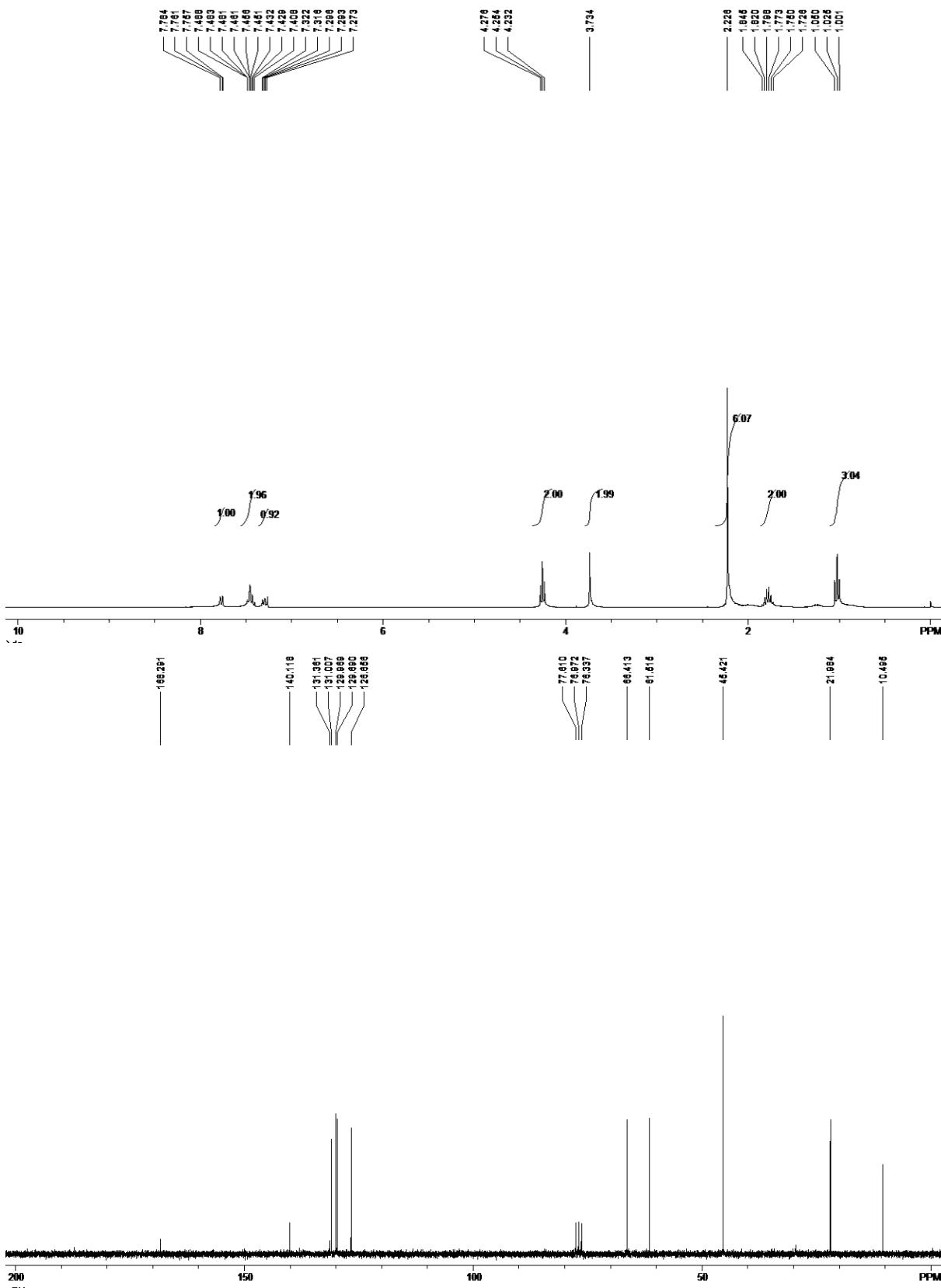
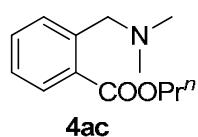


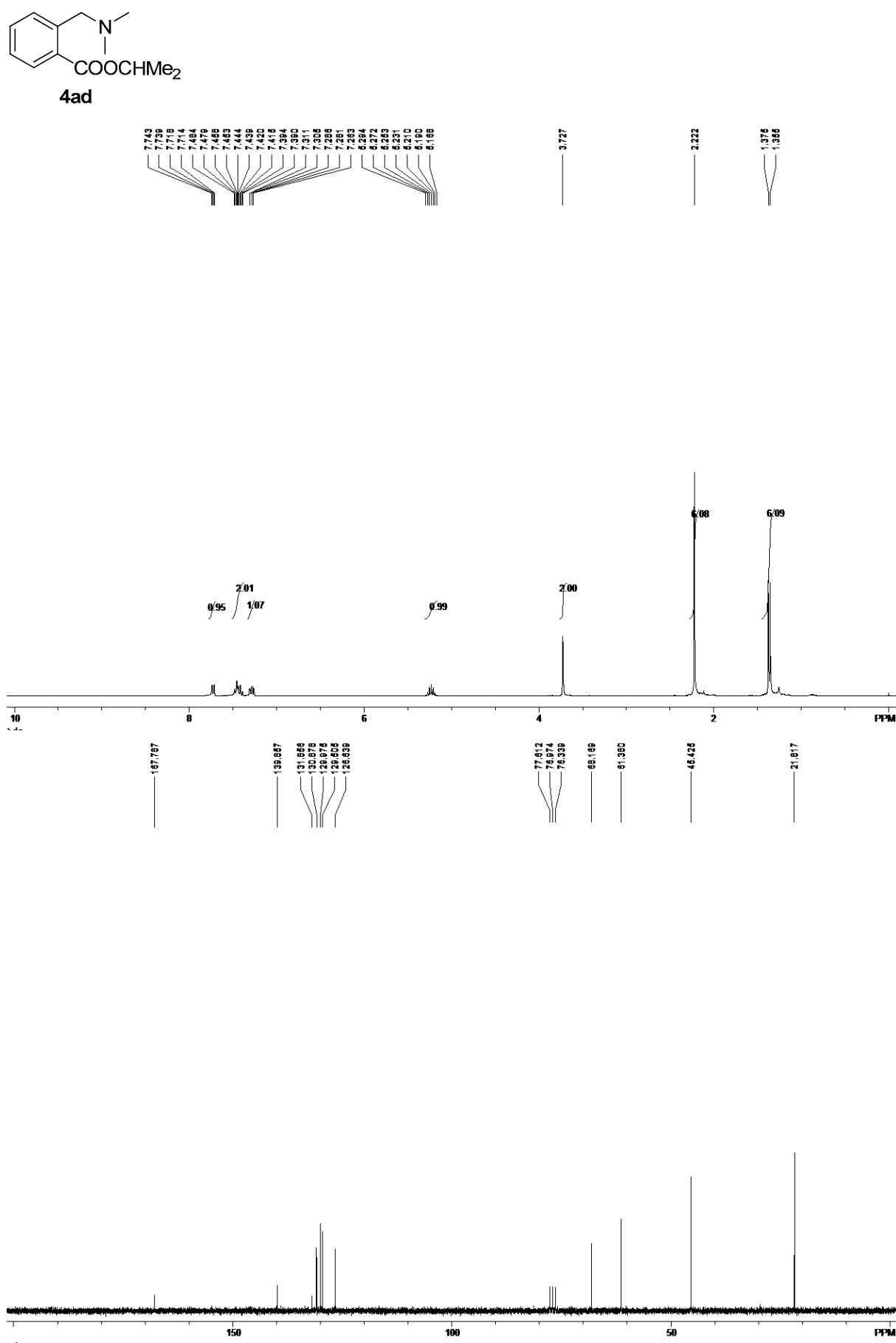


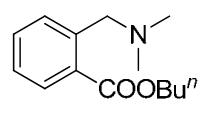


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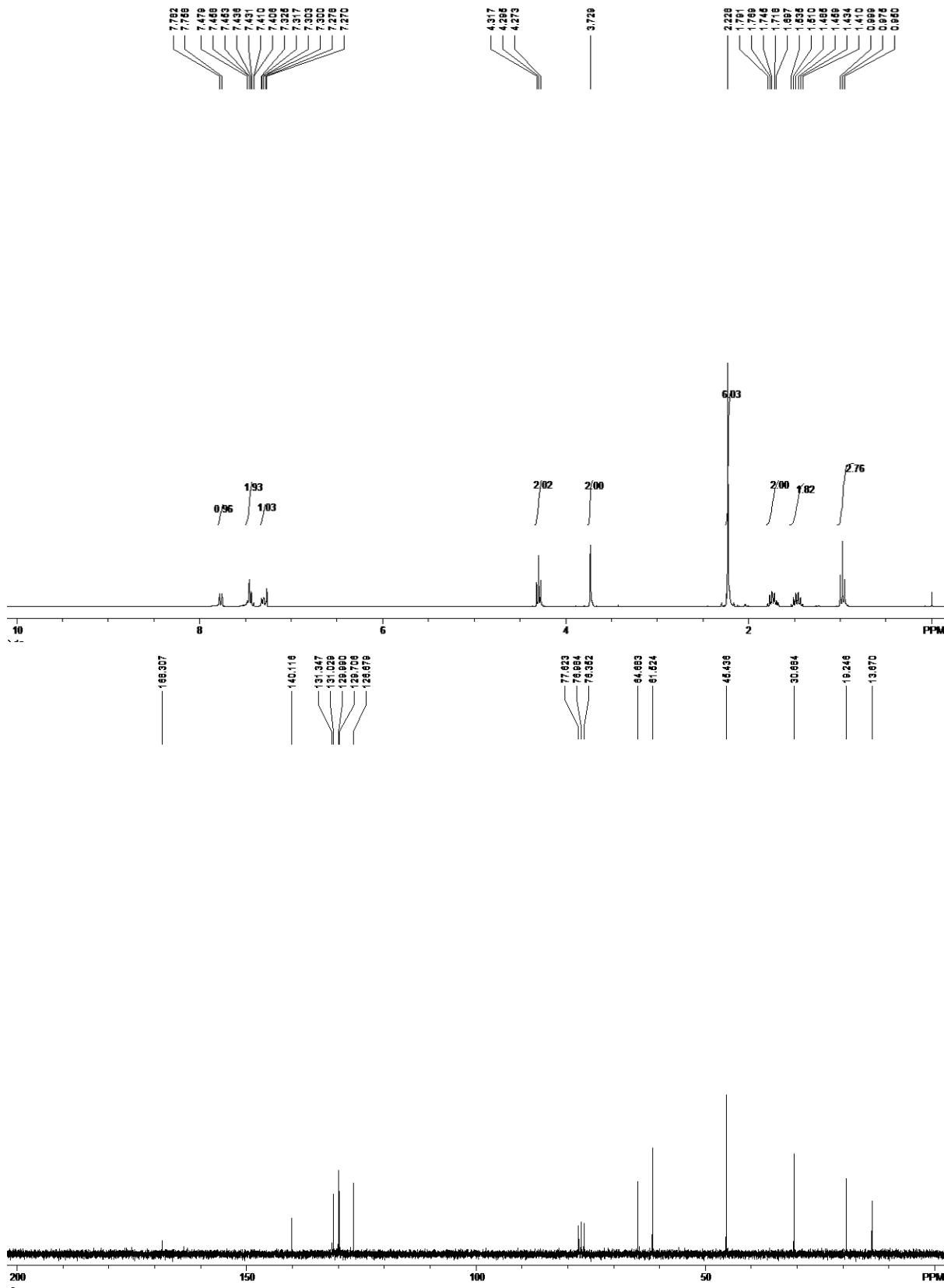


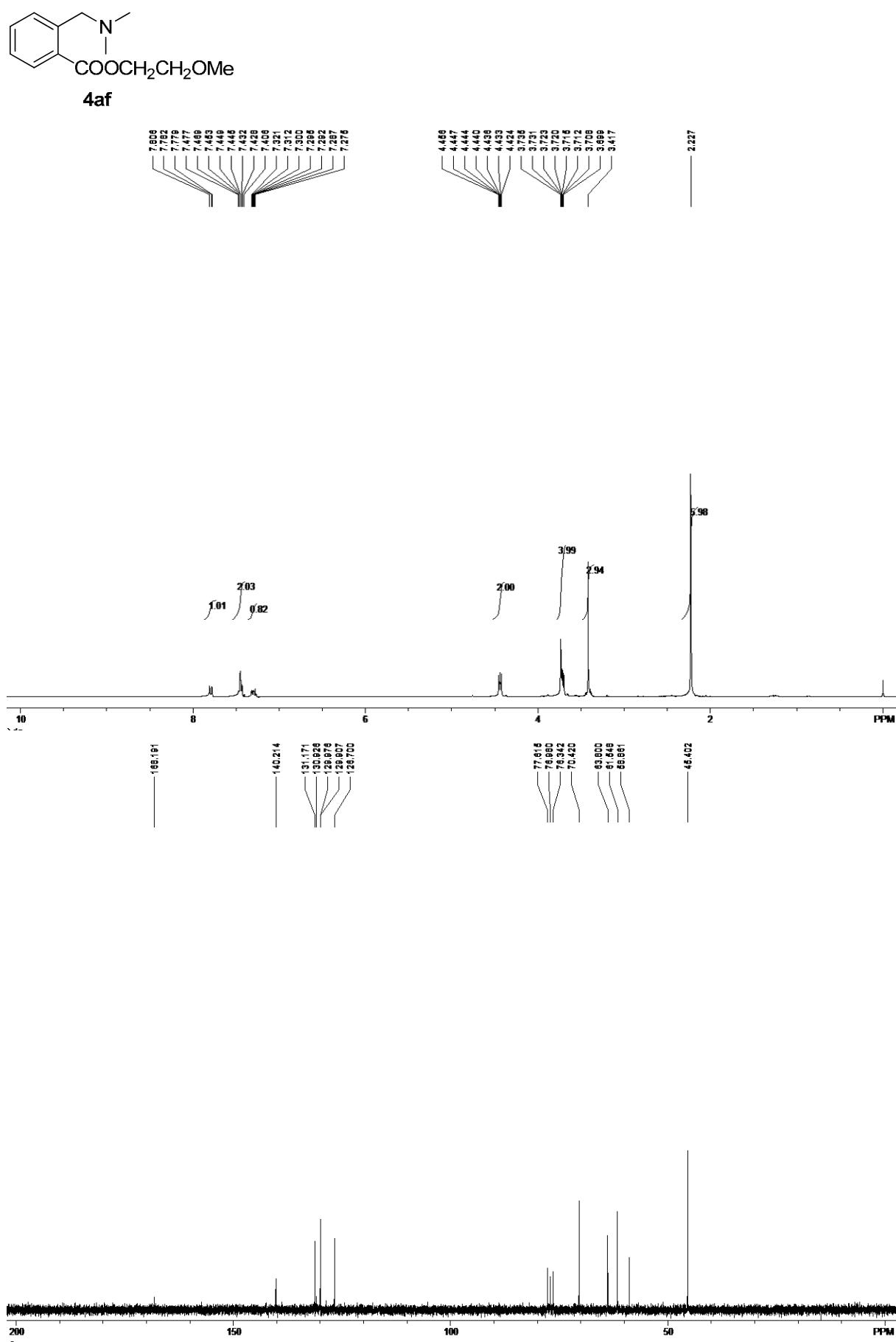


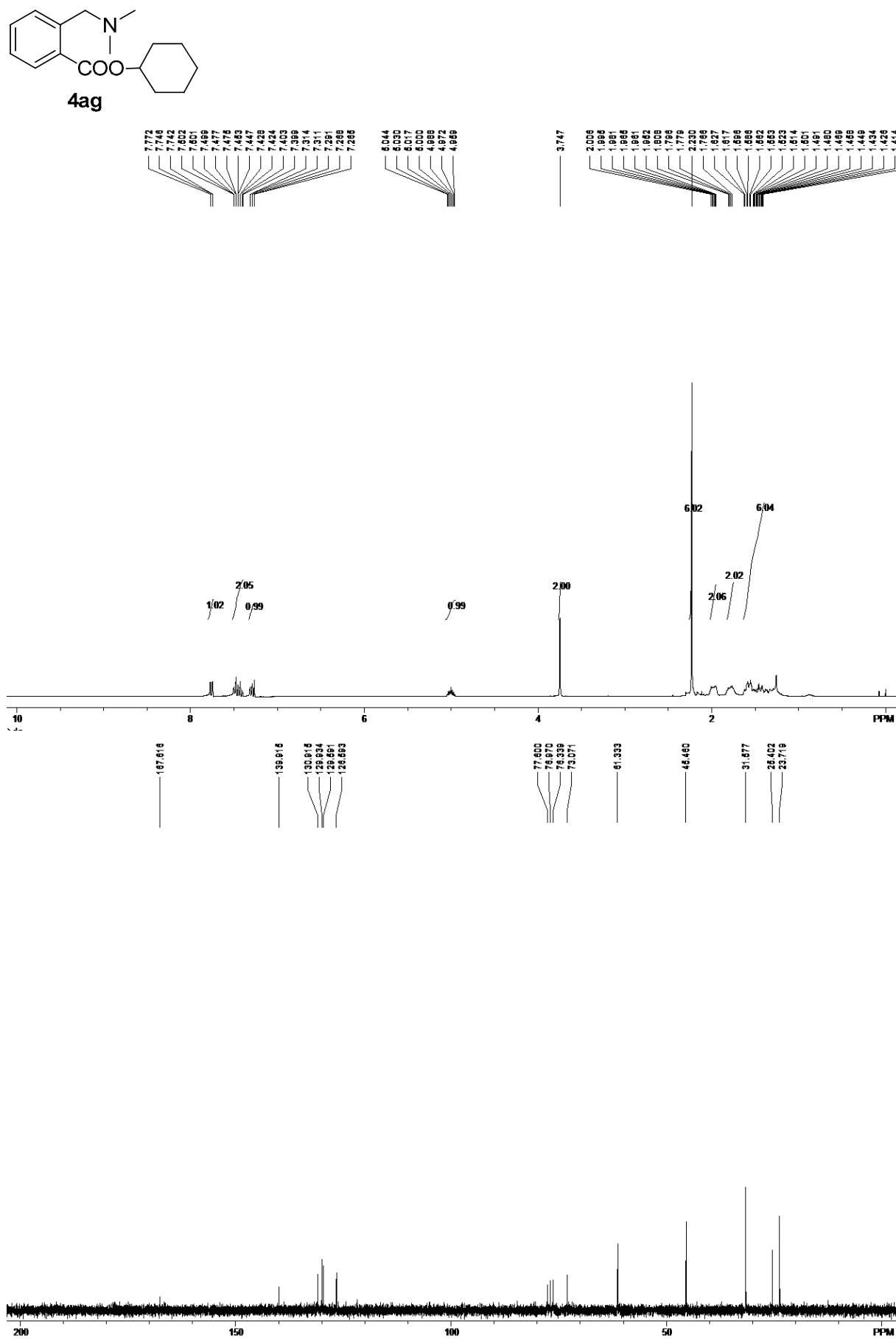


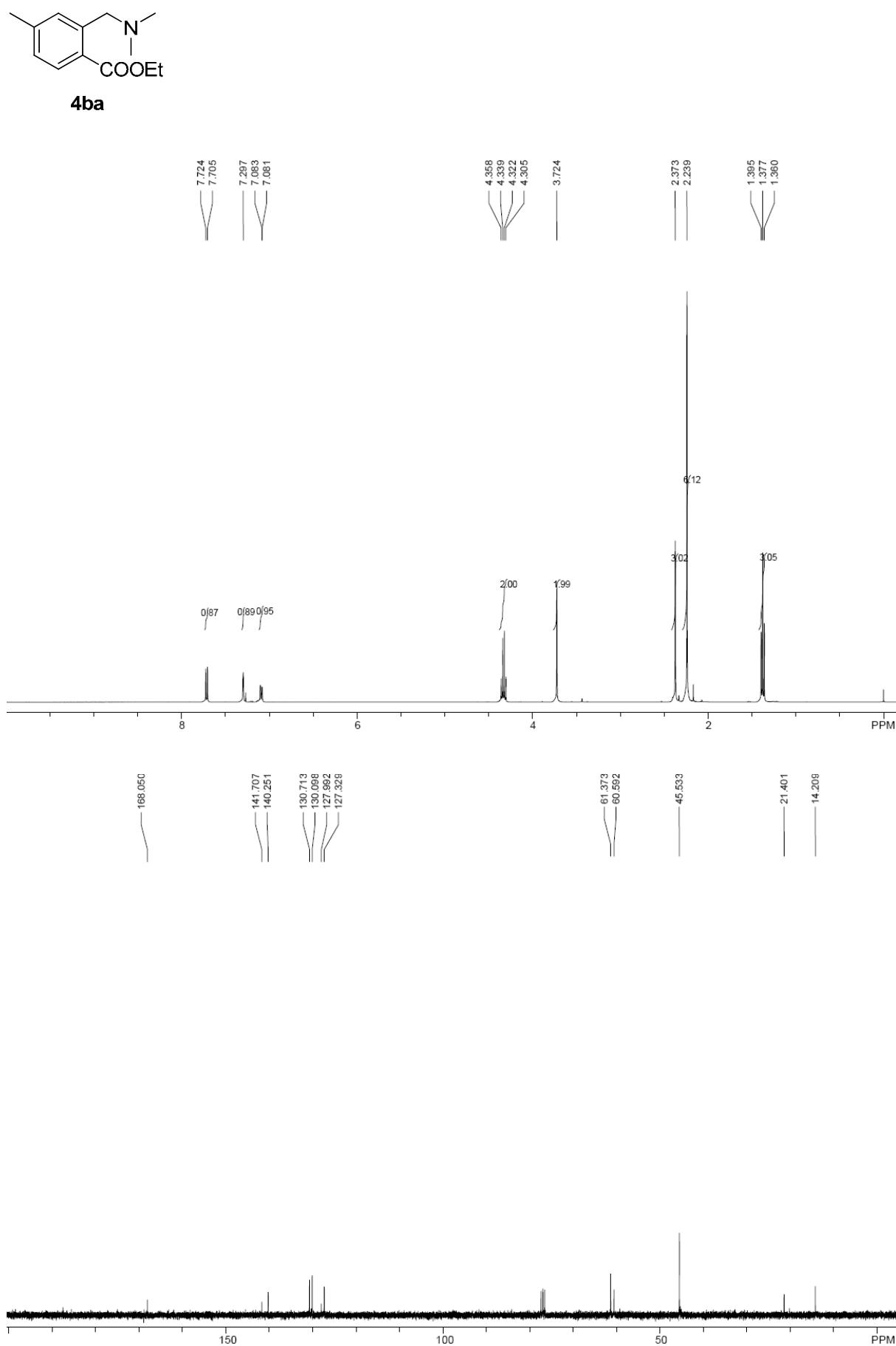


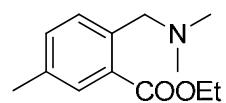
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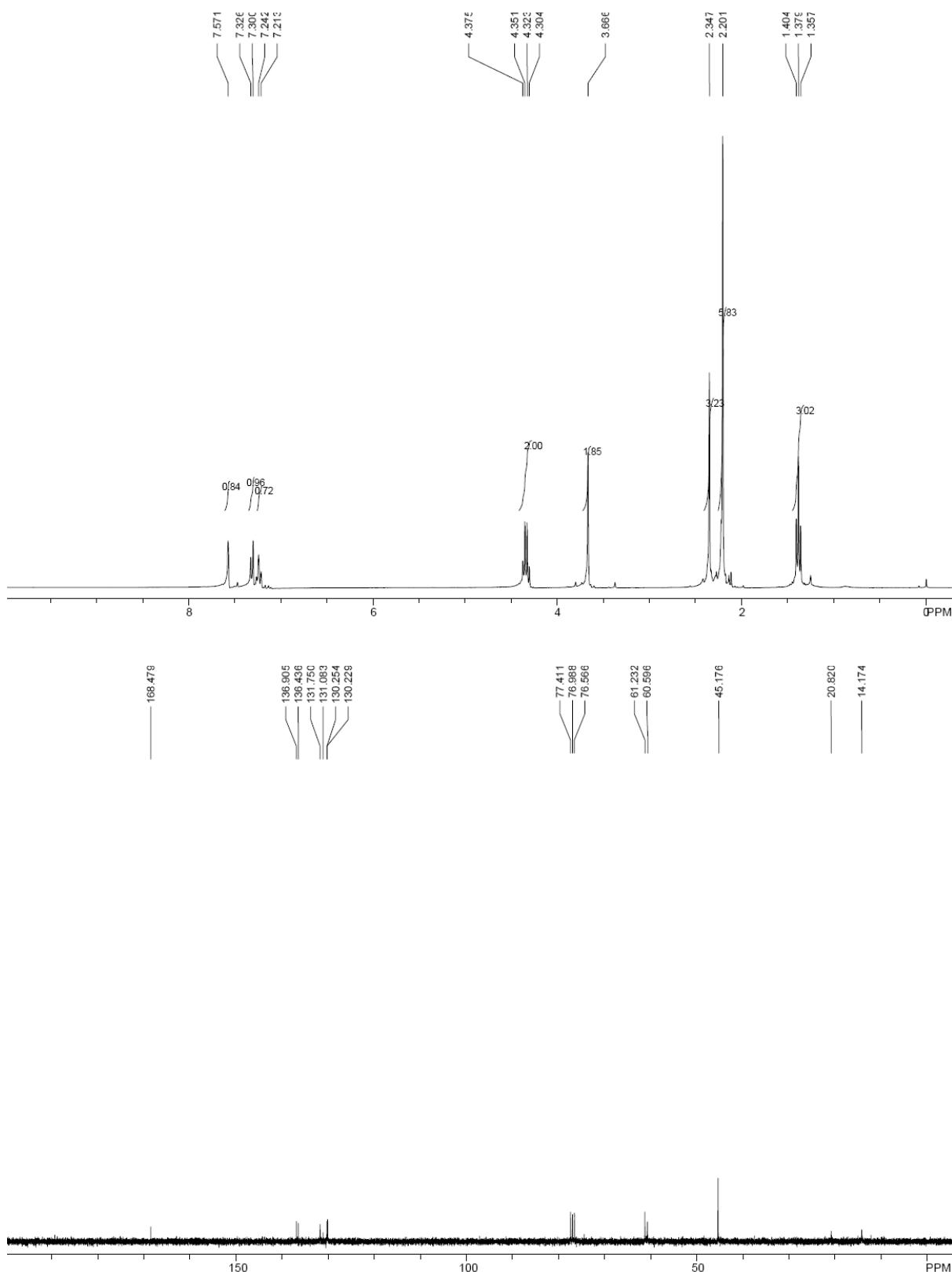


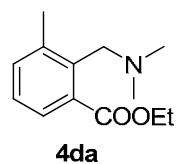




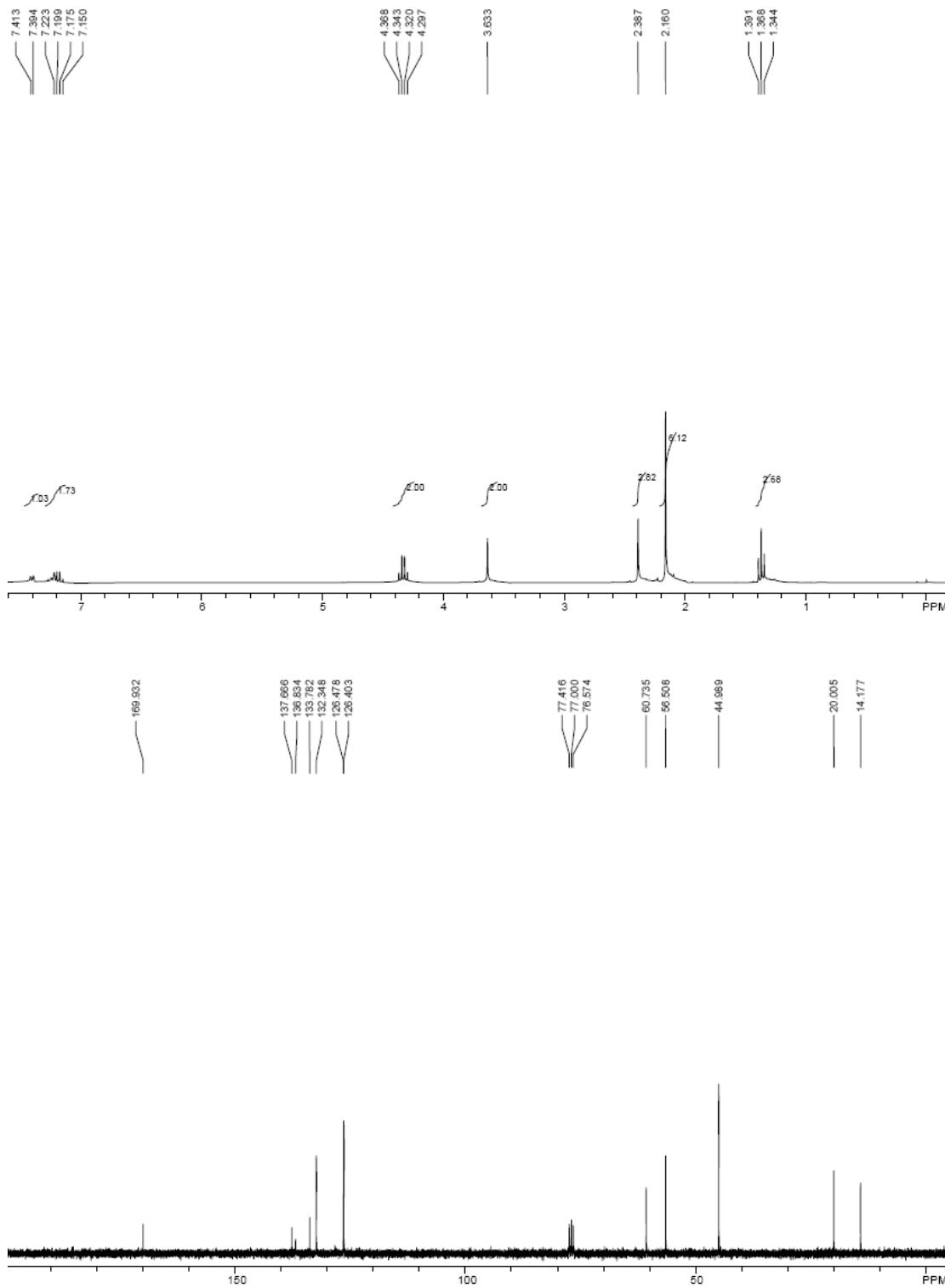


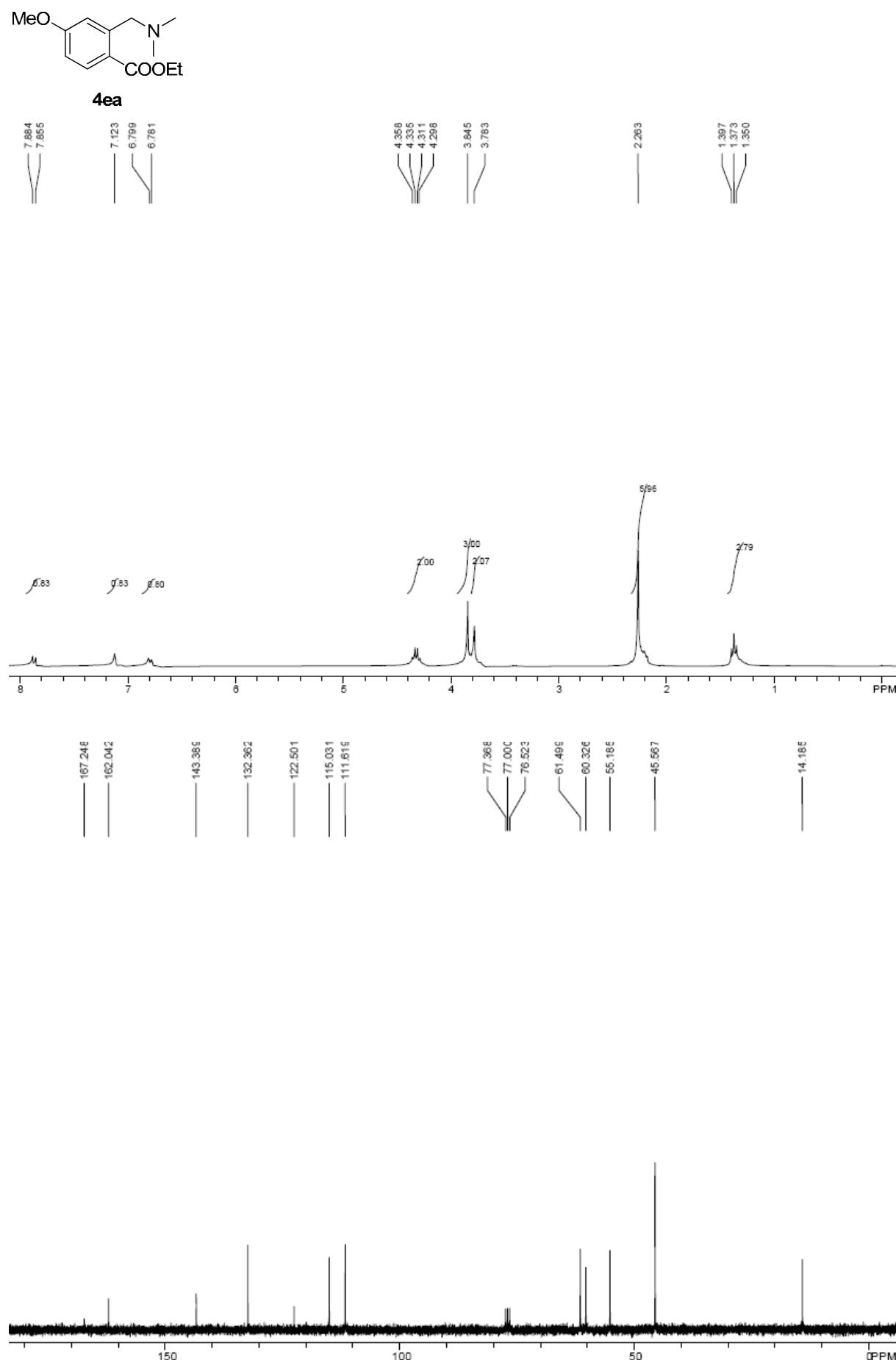
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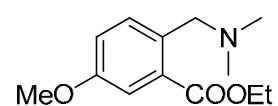




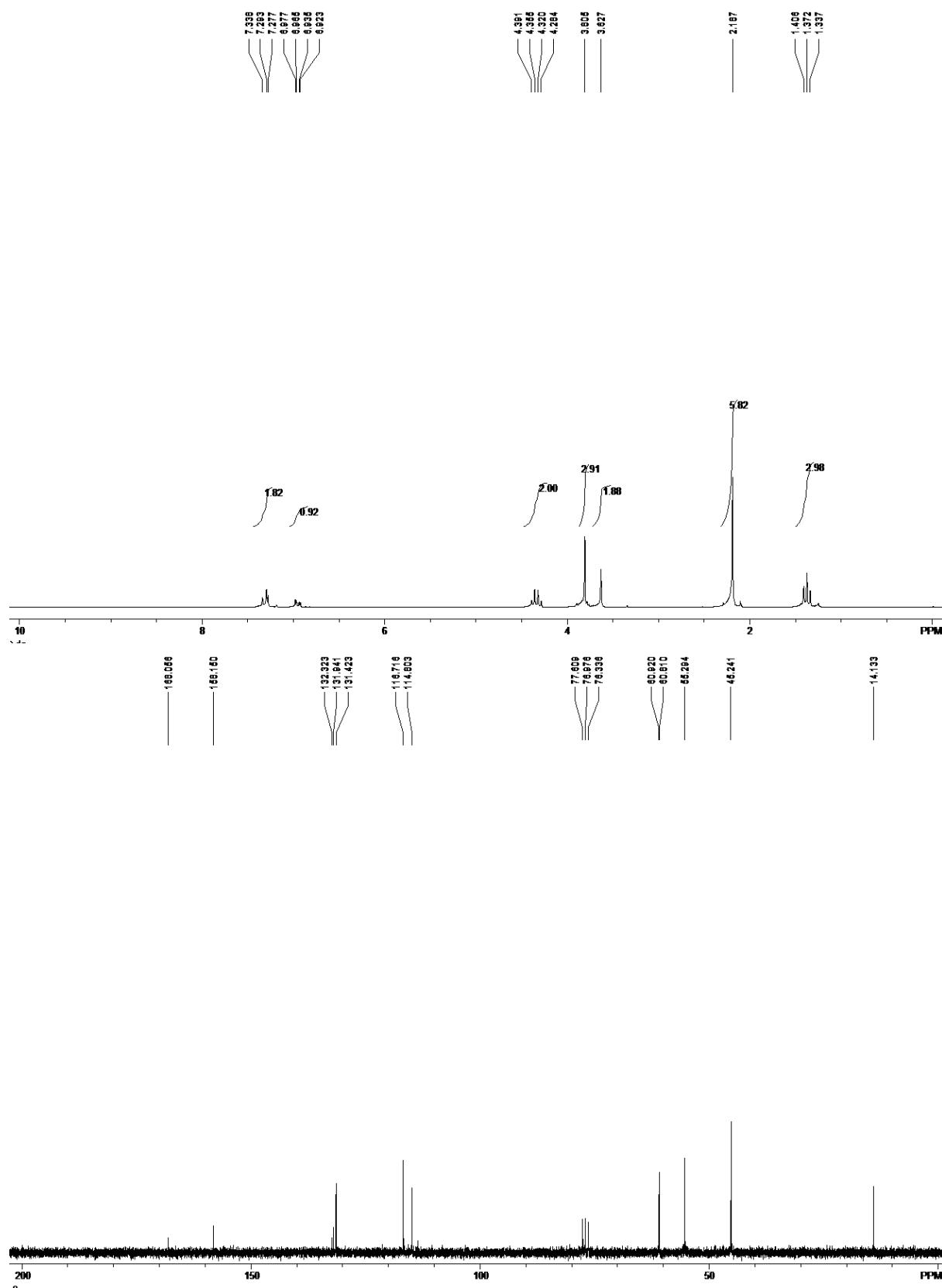
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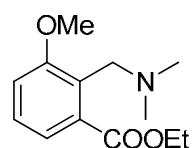




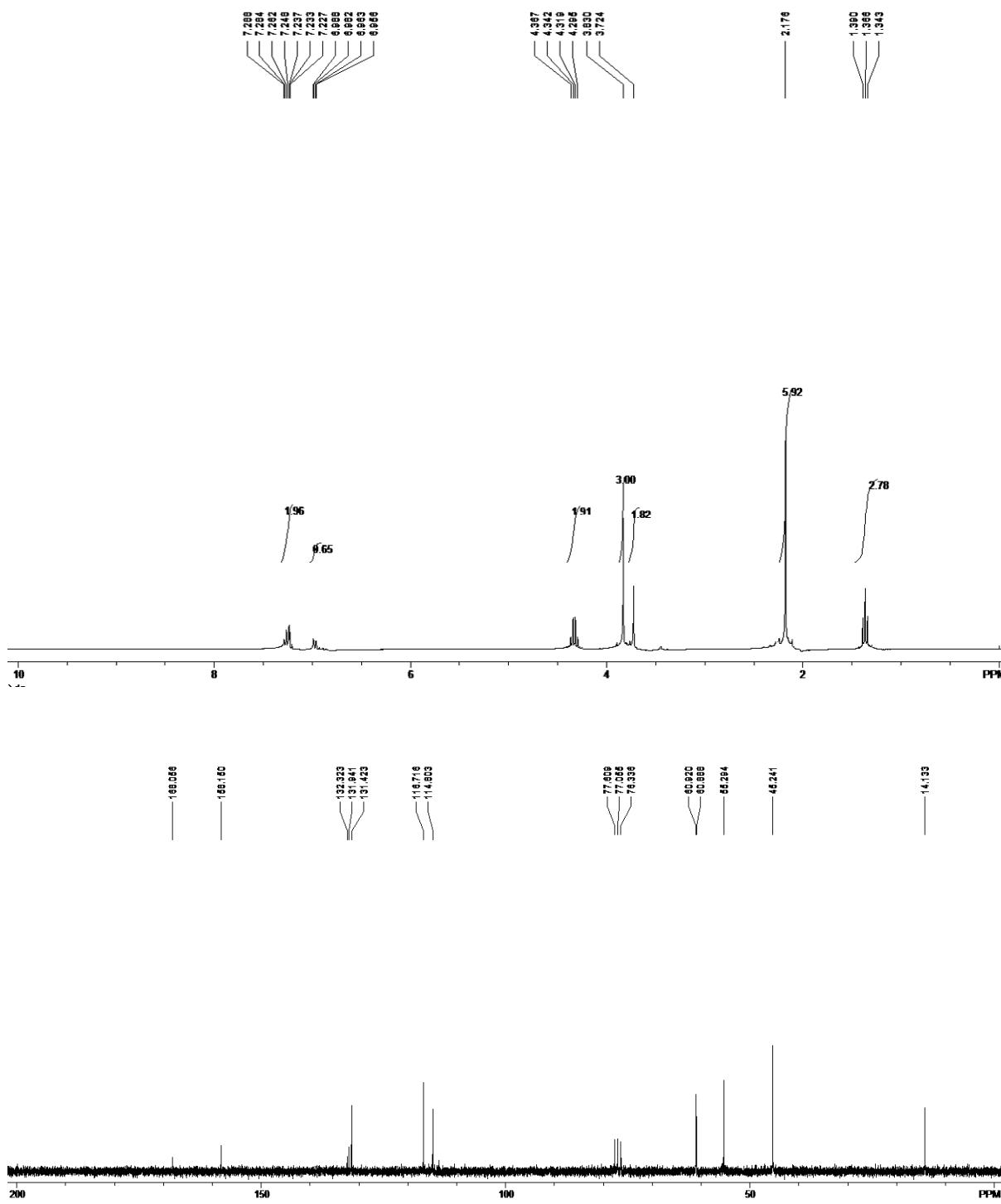


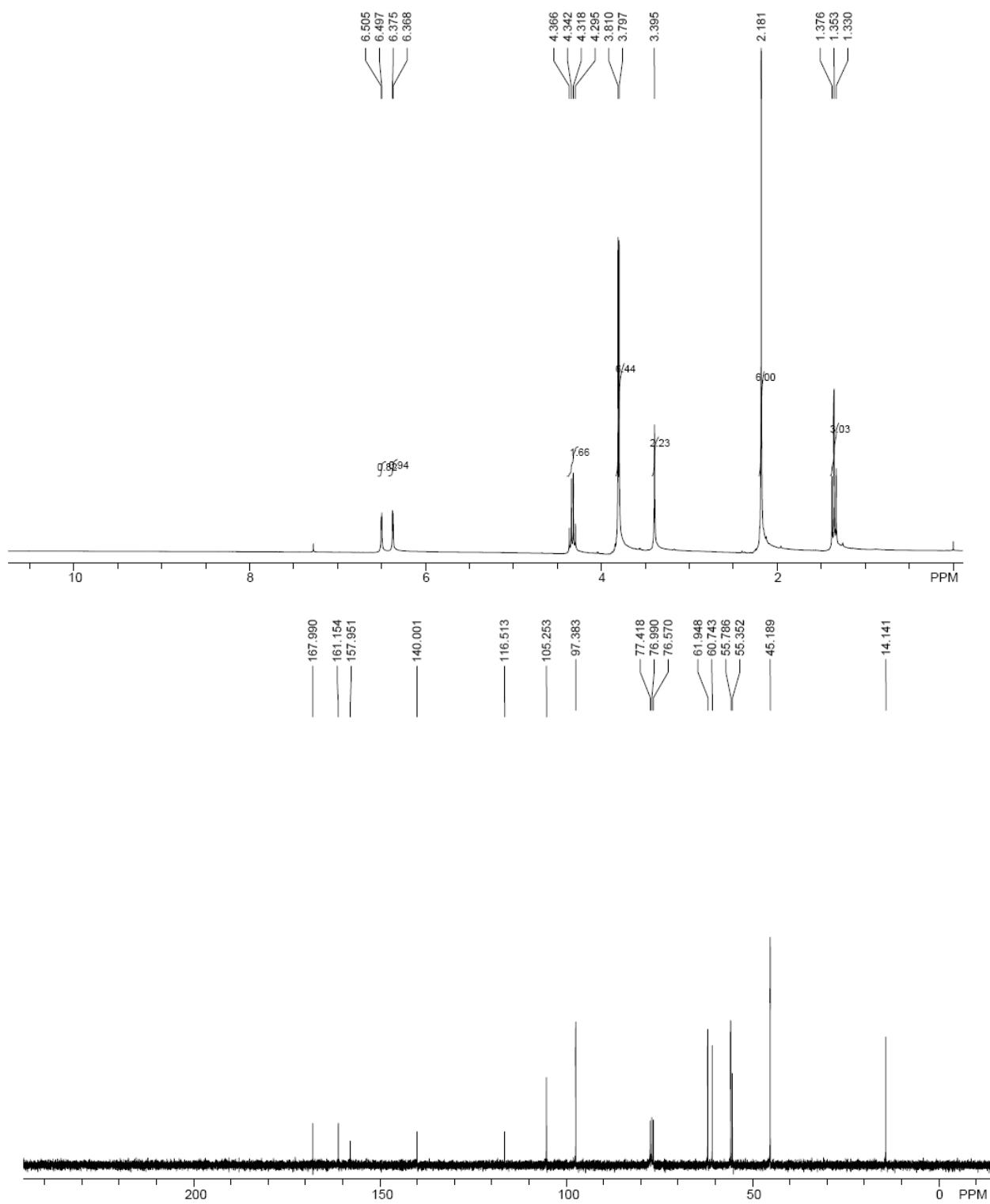
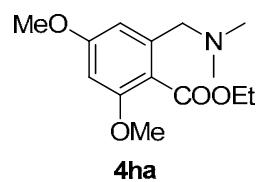
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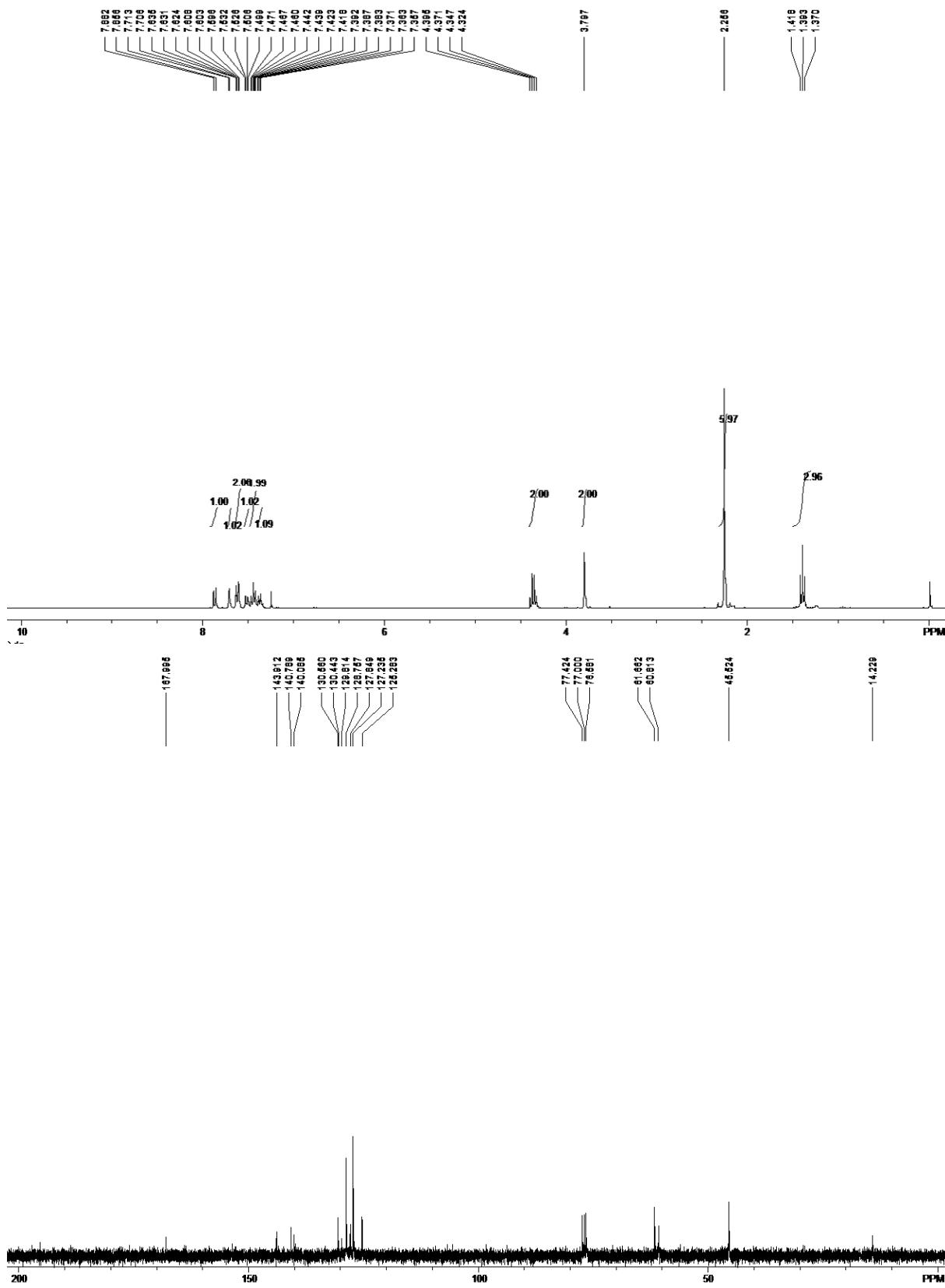
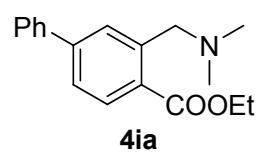


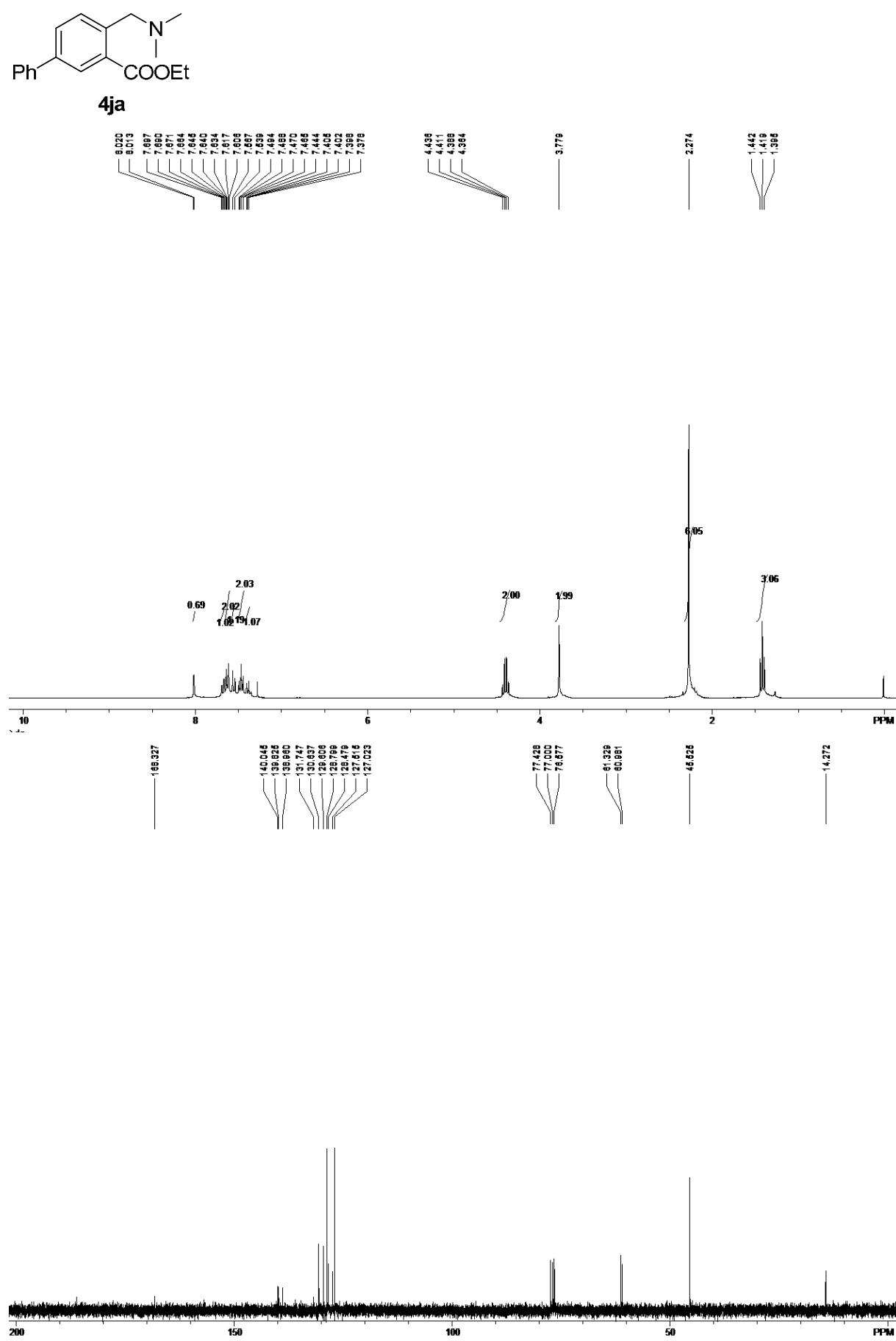


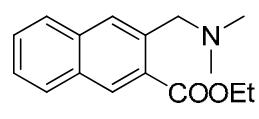
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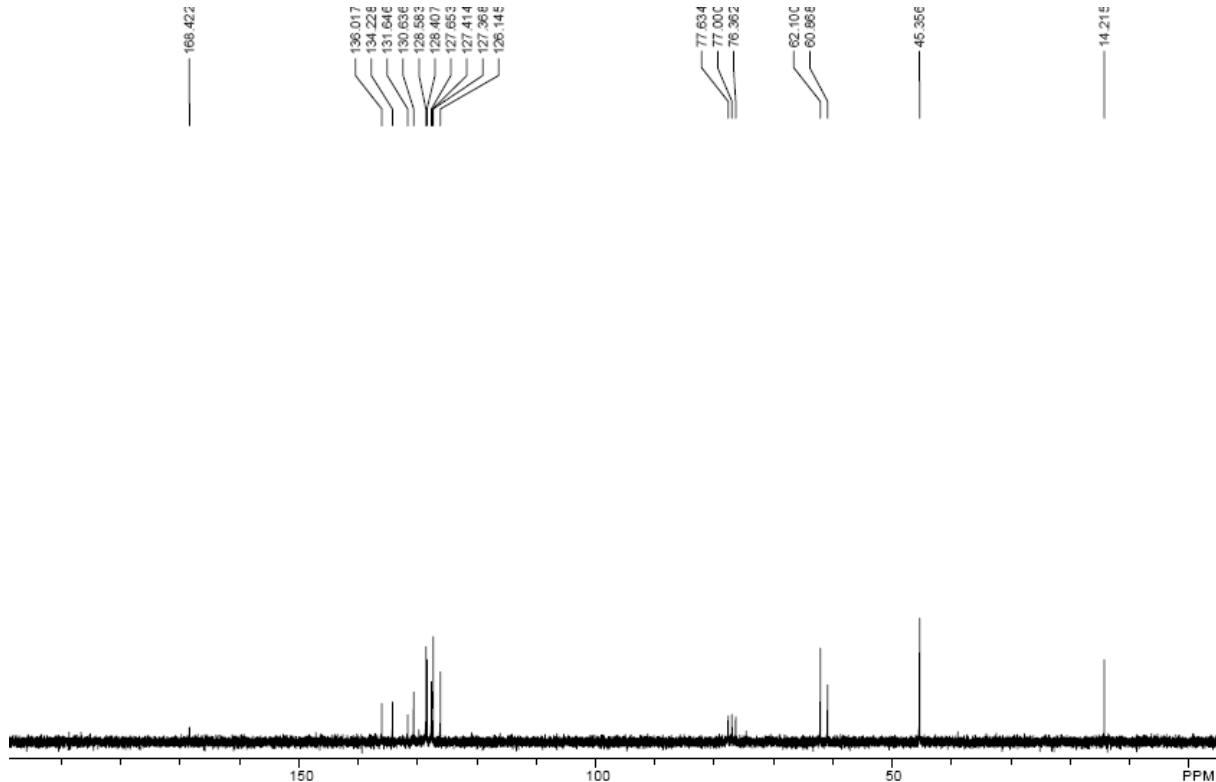
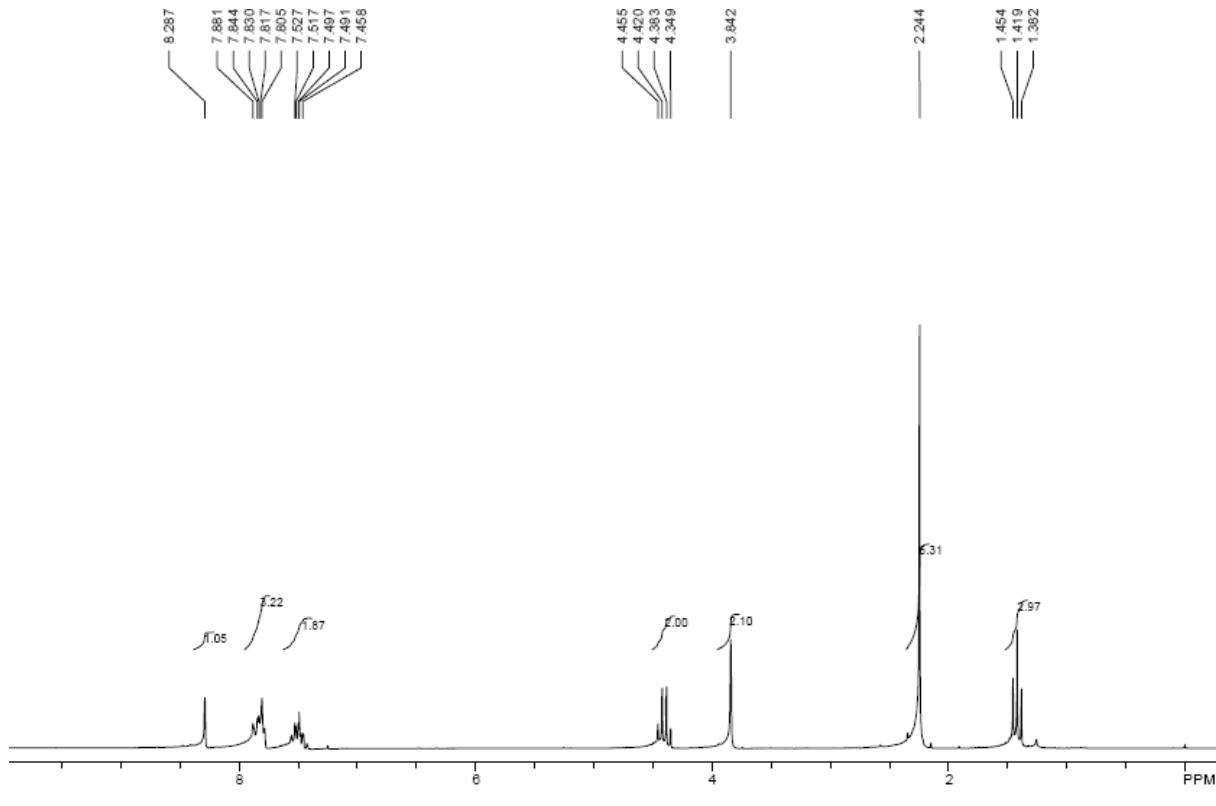


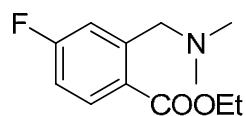




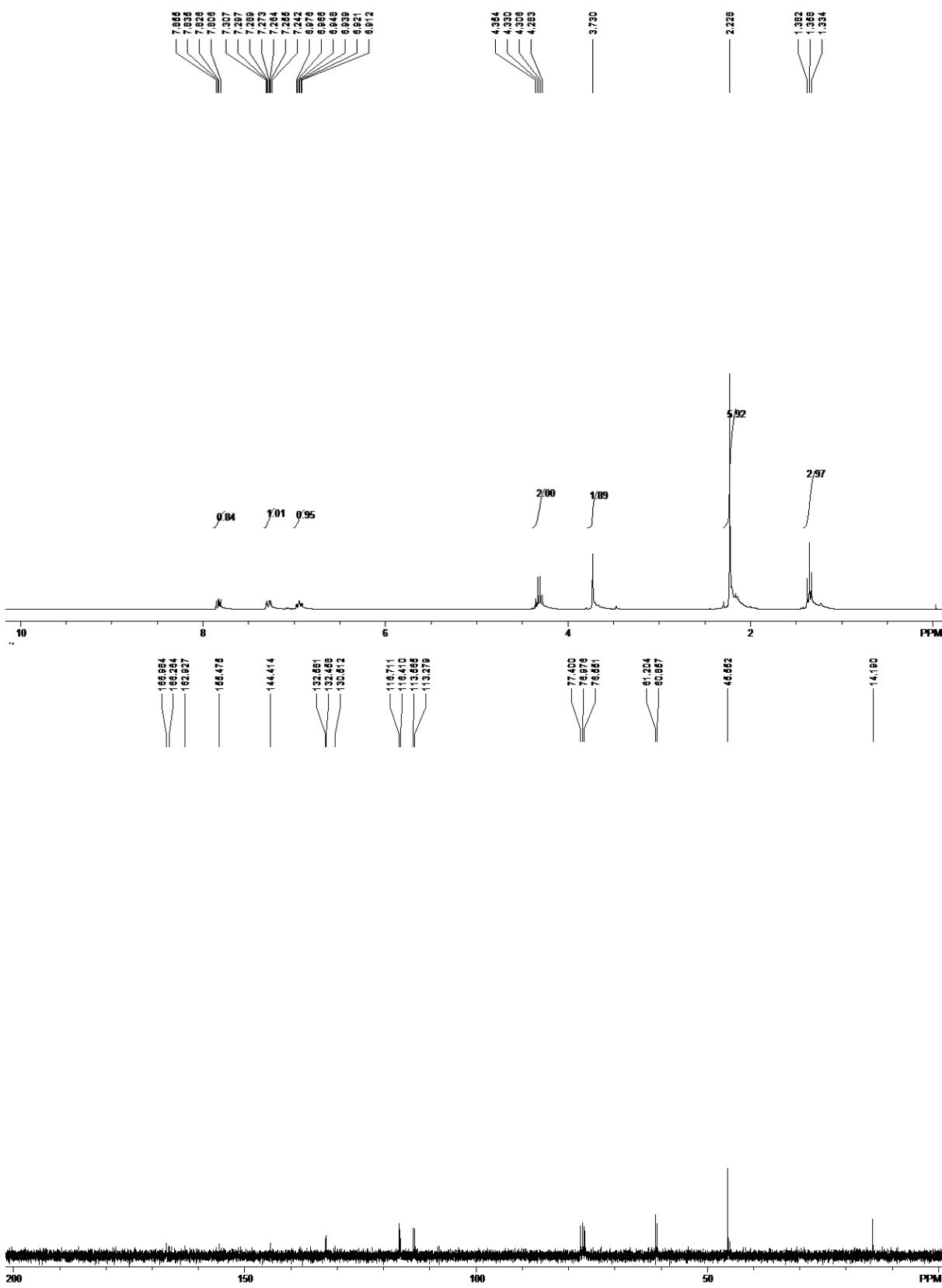


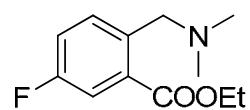
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