

Supporting Information:

Hexafluoroisopropanol: a powerful solvent for the hydrogenation of indole derivatives. Selective access to tetrahydroindoles or *cis*-fused octahydroindoles.

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Part1 : Experimental part

General Informations: NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC300, 400 or a Bruker Avance III 500 MHz. Chemical shifts δ are given in ppm, coupling constant J are in Hz. The chemical shifts are reported in ppm on scale upfield from TMS as an internal standard and signal patterns are indicated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, doublet of doublet; dt, doublet of triplet; t, triplet; m, multiplet, br, broad singlet. High resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) analyses were conducted using a ThermoFinnigan-MAT 95 XL instrument. IR spectra (neat) were recorded on a Nicolet IS 100. Melting points were measured with a B-540 Büchi. Rf were calculated using TLC silicagel 60 F254 Merck and were visualized with UV light, phosphomolybdic acid or *p*-anisaldehyde solution. Column chromatographies were performed on silica gel (40-63 μ m) using technical grade ethyl acetate (EtOAc) and petroleum ether (EP). When appropriate, solvents and reagents were dried by distillation over appropriate drying agent prior to use. Diethyl ether and tetrahydrofuran (THF) were distilled from Na/benzophenone and used fresh. Dichloromethane was distilled from CaH₂. All the reactions were performed under an atmosphere of nitrogen in flame or oven-dried glassware with magnetic stirring.

NMR Assignment Method

Sometimes, several further NMR analyses performed on a Bruker Avance III 500 MHz spectrometer were necessary to identify the different isomers. The first step of the analysis consisted in the attribution of all protons and carbons with a HSQC-TOCSY 2D experiments acquired with high resolution and good signal to noise. We used a homemade HSQC-TOCSY IPAP¹ experiment which suppress line distortion after addition/subtraction of the normal and the edited spectra, where TOCSY relays appear negative. This technique allowed the complete attribution of all protons including the CH₂ of the ring packed in a very crowded region and affected by second order effects. However, if H₂ and H_{7a} appear at low field and generally exhibit a good spectral separation, H_{3a} is often superposed with H₃, and solvent and temperature adjustments were often necessary to get a good spreading.

The configuration determination of each diastereoisomer was based on the interactions between H₂, H₃, H_{3a} and H_{7a}. The analysis of coupling constants between those protons should theoretically allow fixing some relative configurations. However, very complex coupling pattern for H_{3a} and H_{7a} alleviate the possibility to measure all coupling constants.

So, the configuration was determined with internuclear distances driven from dipolar interactions NOESY experiments. It can be shown^{2,3} that in rigid molecule, the integrated NOESY matrix can easily be converted into a distance matrix calculating each r_{ij} , where a_{ii} are the integral volumes of the diagonal, and a_{ij} the cross peaks.

$$r_{ij} = r_{ij}^{ref} \left(\frac{\ln \left[\frac{a_{ii}^{ref} + a_{ij}^{ref}}{a_{ii}^{ref} - a_{ij}^{ref}} \right]}{\ln \left[\frac{a_{ii} + a_{ij}}{a_{ii} - a_{ij}} \right]} \right)^{1/6}$$

After the selection of n diagonal peaks of interest, a C program integrates the $n \times n$ integration region matrix, calculates distances and creates an Excel file for visualizing. An excel view with conditional formatted cells with colors sensible to cells values gave a nice color array, which allowed a straightforward interpretation.

Synthesis of starting materials

1-*tert*-butyl 2-methyl 6-methoxy-1H-indole-1,2-dicarboxylate **12f**

To a solution of 1H-indole **8a** (2 mmol, 410 mg) in THF (5 mL) were added DMAP (3 mmol, 367 mg) and di-*t*-butyl dicarbonate (4 mmol, 873 mg). After 2 hours of stirring, the reaction mixture was concentrated, the residue taken up in dichloromethane and the organic phase washed successively with a 1N HCl solution in water, washed until pH 7, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/ petroleum ether 20/80) to afford product **12f** with 96% isolated yield.

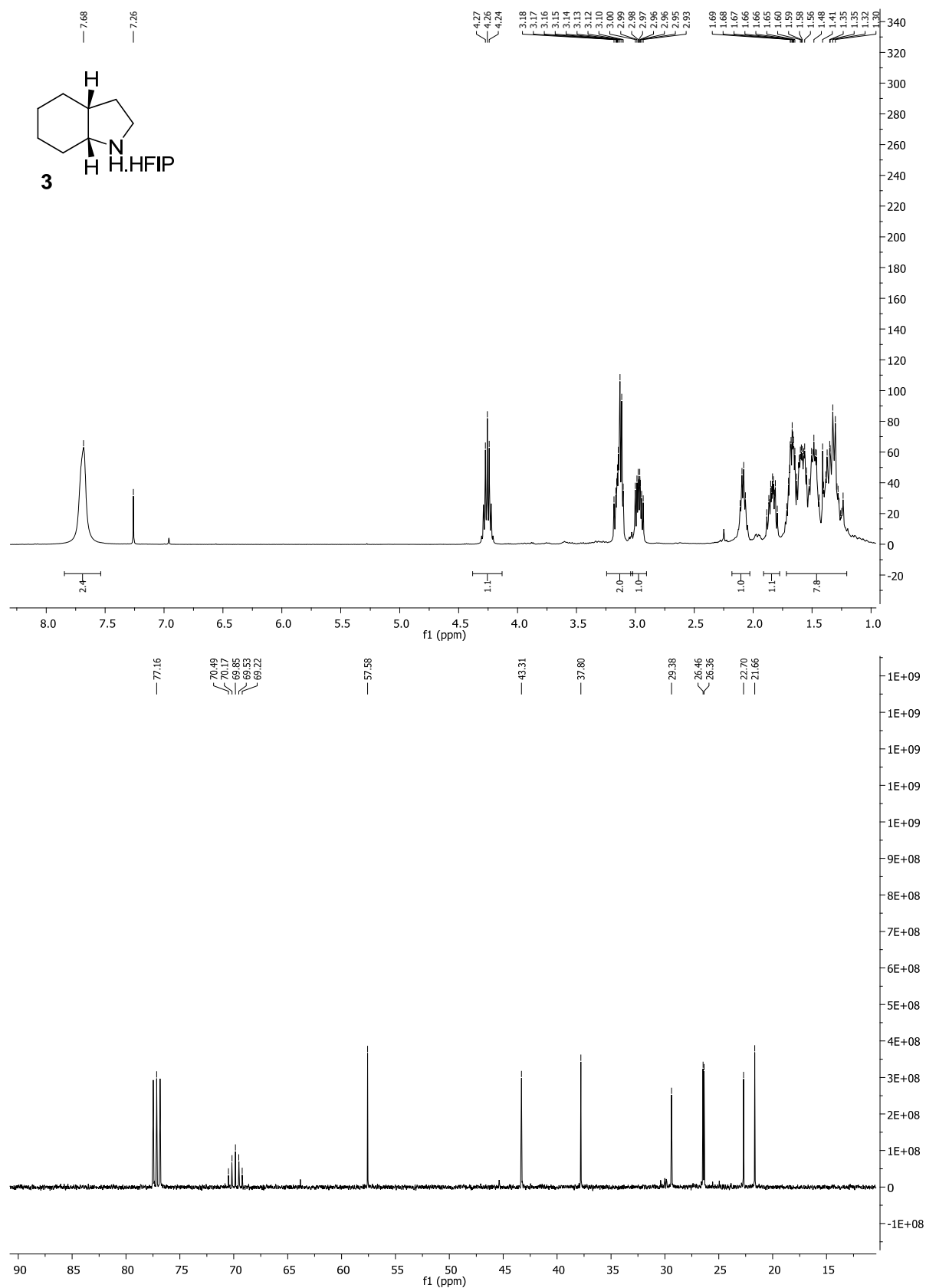
Colorless oil; R_f = 0.78 (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether 30/70); **¹H NMR:** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 (1H, d, J = 2.3 Hz), 7.44 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 7.06 (1H, d, J = 0.6 Hz), 6.88 (1H, dd, J = 8.7, 2.3 Hz), 3.88 (3H, s), 3.87 (3H, s), 1.61 (9H, s); **¹³C NMR:** (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.2, 159.9, 149.6, 139.6, 129.1, 122.9, 121.1, 115.9, 113.6, 98.1, 84.5, 55.6, 52.2, 27.8; **IR:** ν 3057, 2982, 2952, 2938, 1733, 1618, 1491, 1439, 1069, 1029, 845, 737 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (ESI): calculated for C₁₆H₁₉NO₅Na [M+Na]⁺: 328.1155 found 328.1157.

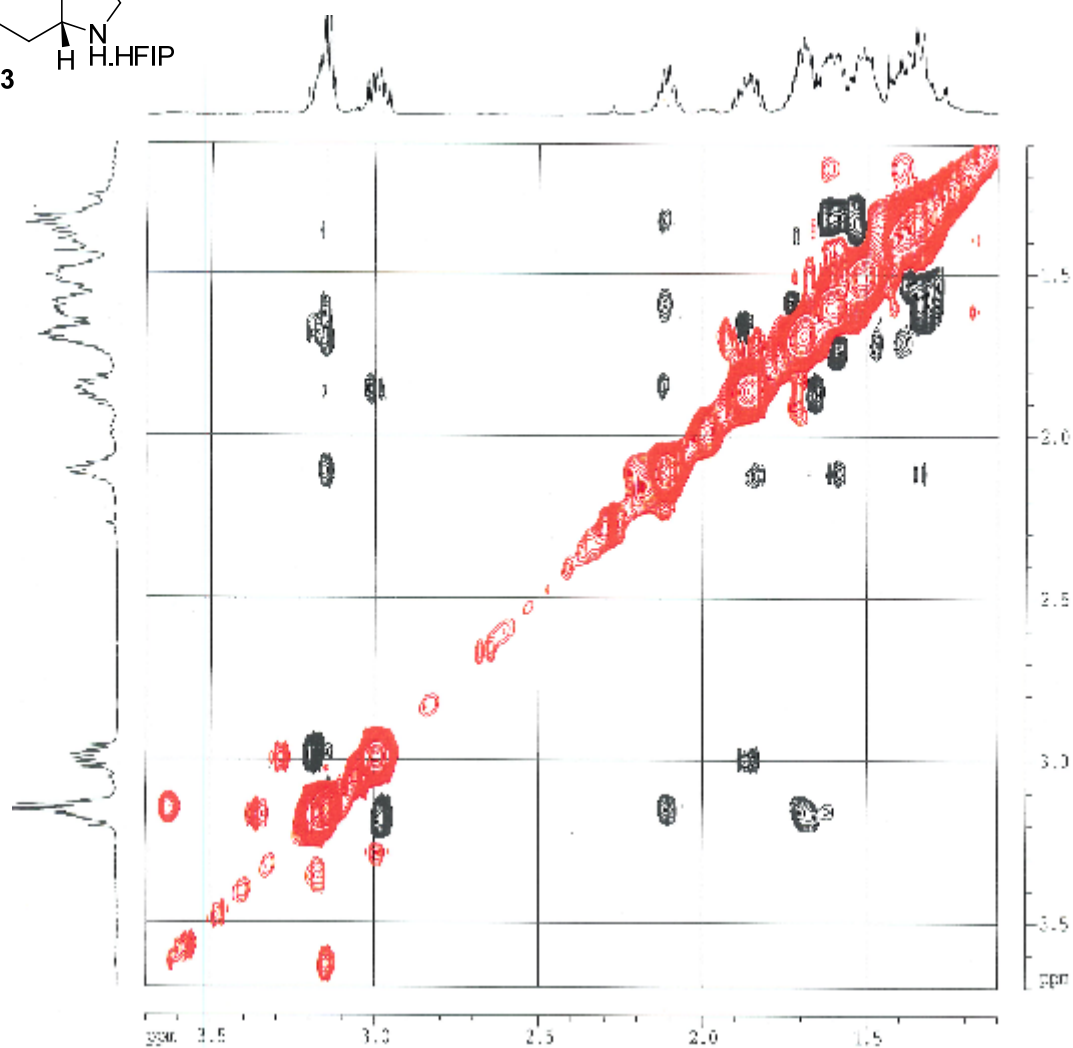
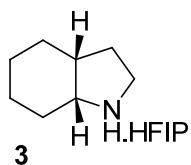
Synthesis of products **16c** and **16d**

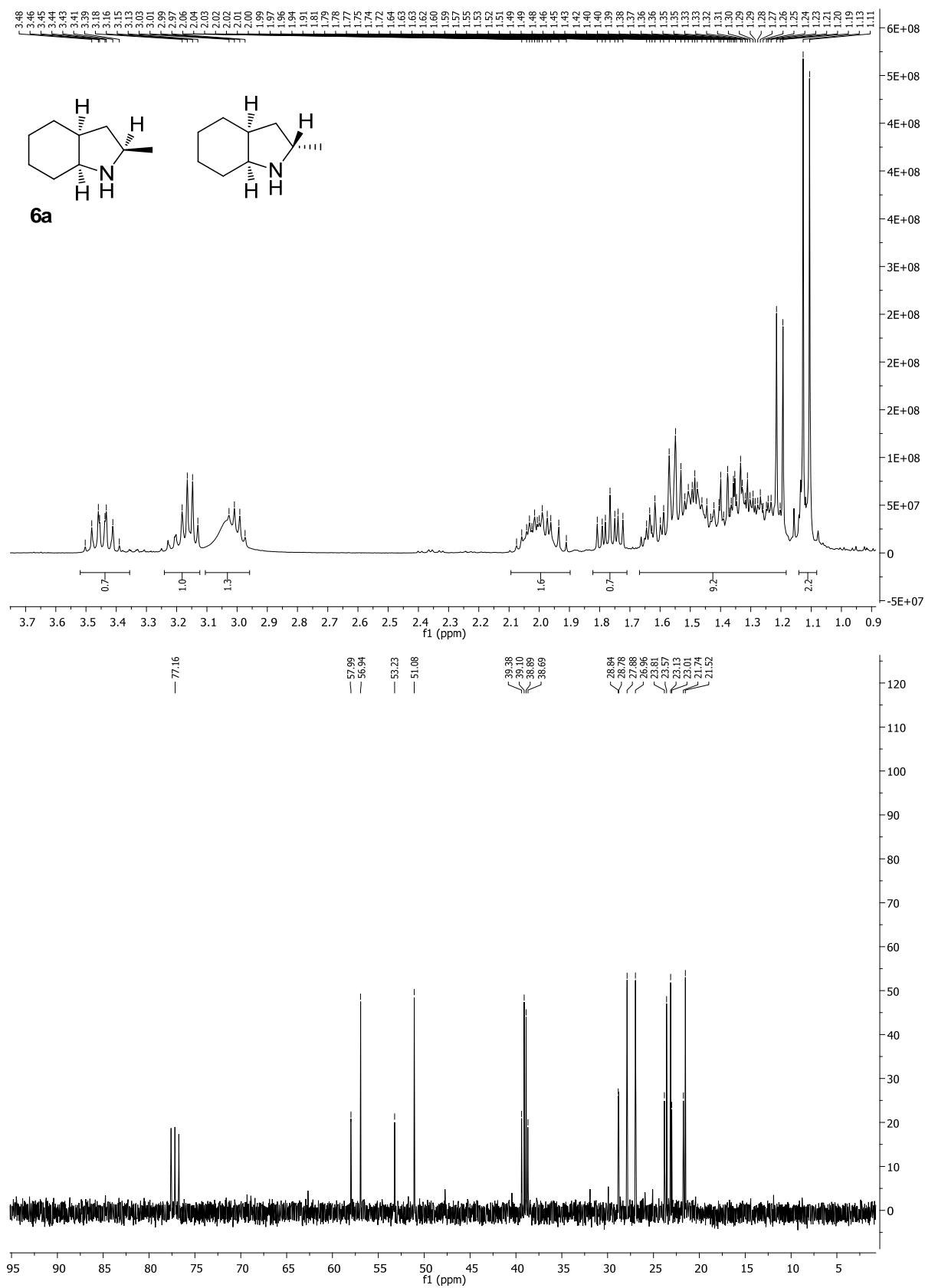
To a solution of indole-2-carboxylic acid (10 mmol, 1.61 g) and oxalyl chloride (30 mmol, 2.58 mL) in dichloromethane (40 mL), was added dropwise dimethylformamide (7 mmol, 536 μ L). After 1.5 hours of stirring under reflux, the reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was taken up in 50 mL of dichloromethane. The amine was then added dropwise at 0 °C and the solution was stirred for 1.5 hours at room temperature. The organic phase was washed 3 times with a 1N HCl solution, washed until pH7, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether 30/70) to afford the desired product.

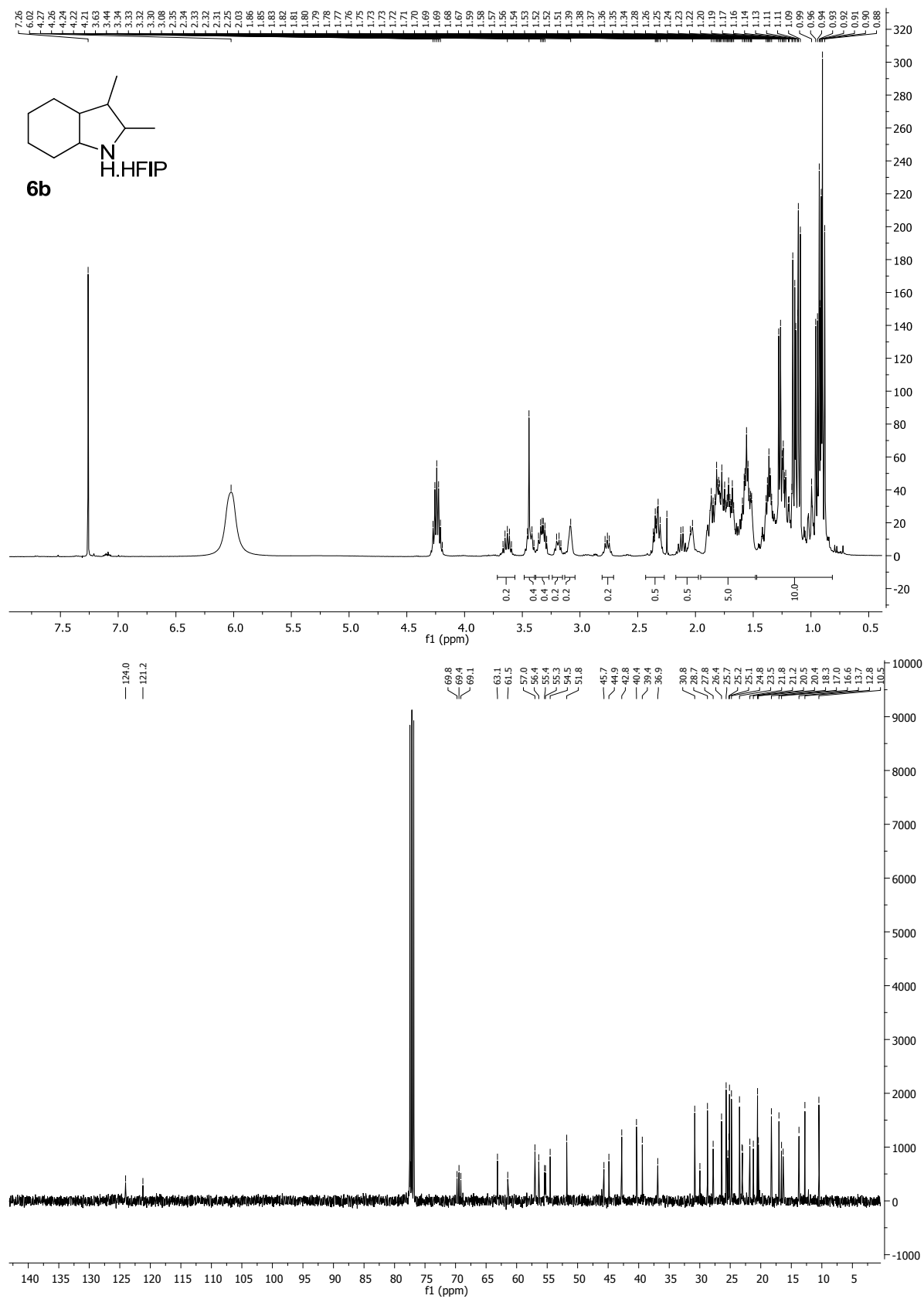
N,N*-diethyl-1H-indole-2-carboxamide **16c* 63% isolated yield; white solid; R_f = 0.25 (ethyl acetate/ petroleum ether 30/70); **Mp:** 163-164°C; **¹H NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO, 50°C) δ 11.33 (1H, br s), 7.61 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.44 (1H, dd, J = 8.2, 1.0 Hz), 7.17 (1H, t, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.06 – 7.00 (1H, m), 6.76 (1H, d, J = 1.0 Hz), 3.59 (4H, q, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.23 (6H, t, J = 7.0 Hz); **¹³C NMR:** (100 MHz, DMSO, 50°C) δ 162.0, 135.5, 130.4, 127.0, 122.8, 121.1, 119.4, 111.7, 102.5, 41.1, 13.4; **IR:** ν 3247, 3061, 2931, 1600, 1525, 1383, 737 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (ESI): calculated for C₁₃H₁₆N₂ONa [M+Na]⁺: 239.1155 found 239.1148.

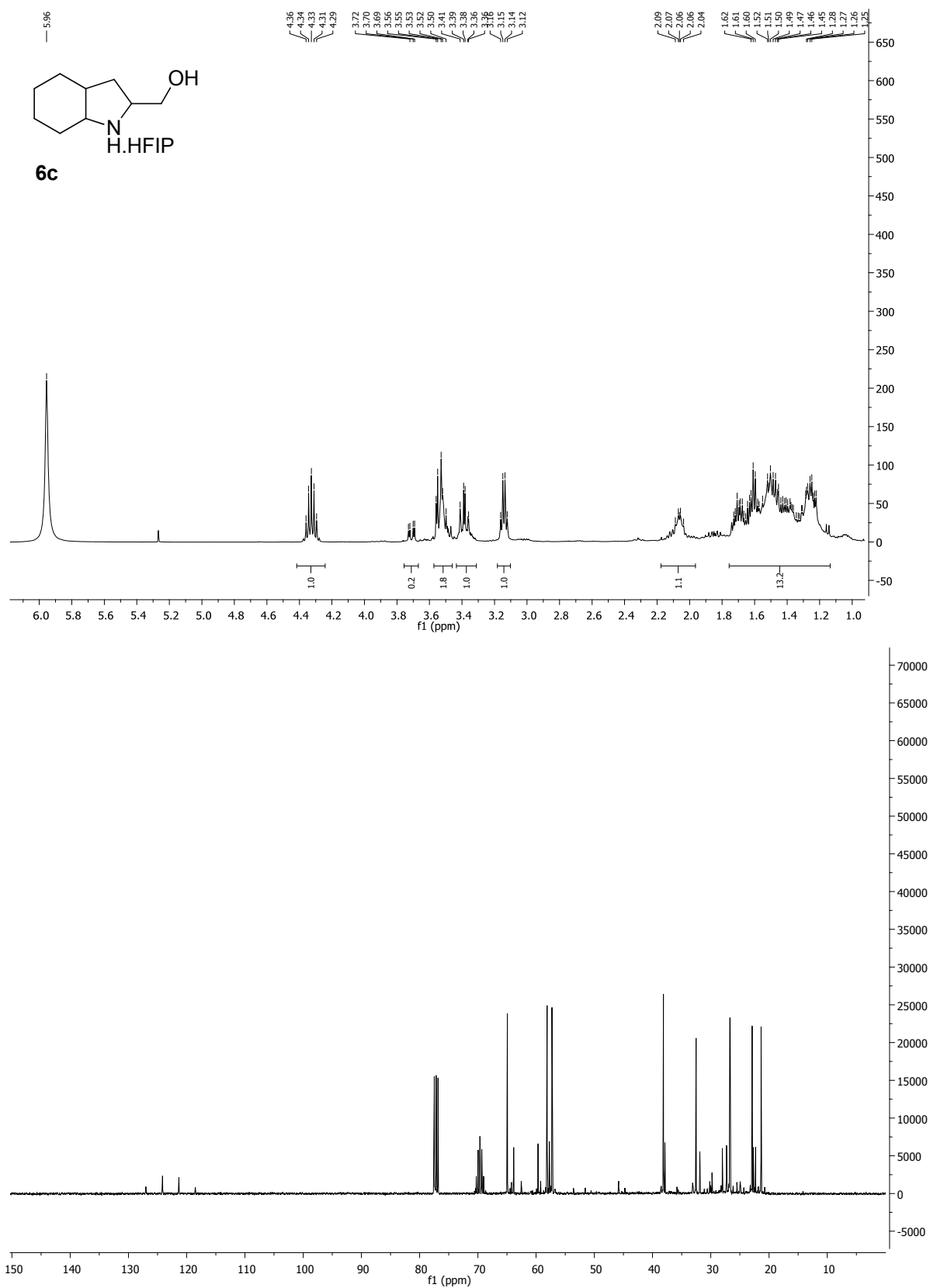
(S)*-*N*-(1-cyclohexylethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxamide **16d* 37% isolated yield; white solid; R_f 0.38 (ethyl acetate/ petroleum ether 30/70); $[\alpha_D]^{20}$ = 57.0 (c = 0.34, CHCl₃); **Mp:** 167-169°C; **¹H NMR:** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.35 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.23 – 7.12 (1H, m), 7.03 (1H, t, J = 7.7 Hz), 6.93 (1H, s), 3.96 (1H, q, J = 6.6 Hz), 3.81 (2H, br s), 1.83 – 1.47 (5H, m), 1.46 – 1.28 (1H, m), 1.27 – 0.83 (8H, m); **¹³C NMR:** (75 MHz, CDCl₃/ MeOD 9/1) δ 161.6, 136.5, 130.8, 127.4, 124.1, 121.7, 120.2, 111.9, 102.9, 49.8, 43.1, 29.2, 29.1, 26.2, 26.1, 17.6; **IR:** ν 3382, 3304, 3001, 2945, 2918, 2848, 1636, 1589, 1548, 1188 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (ESI): calculated for C₁₇H₂₃N₂O [M+H]⁺: 271.1805 found 271.1809.

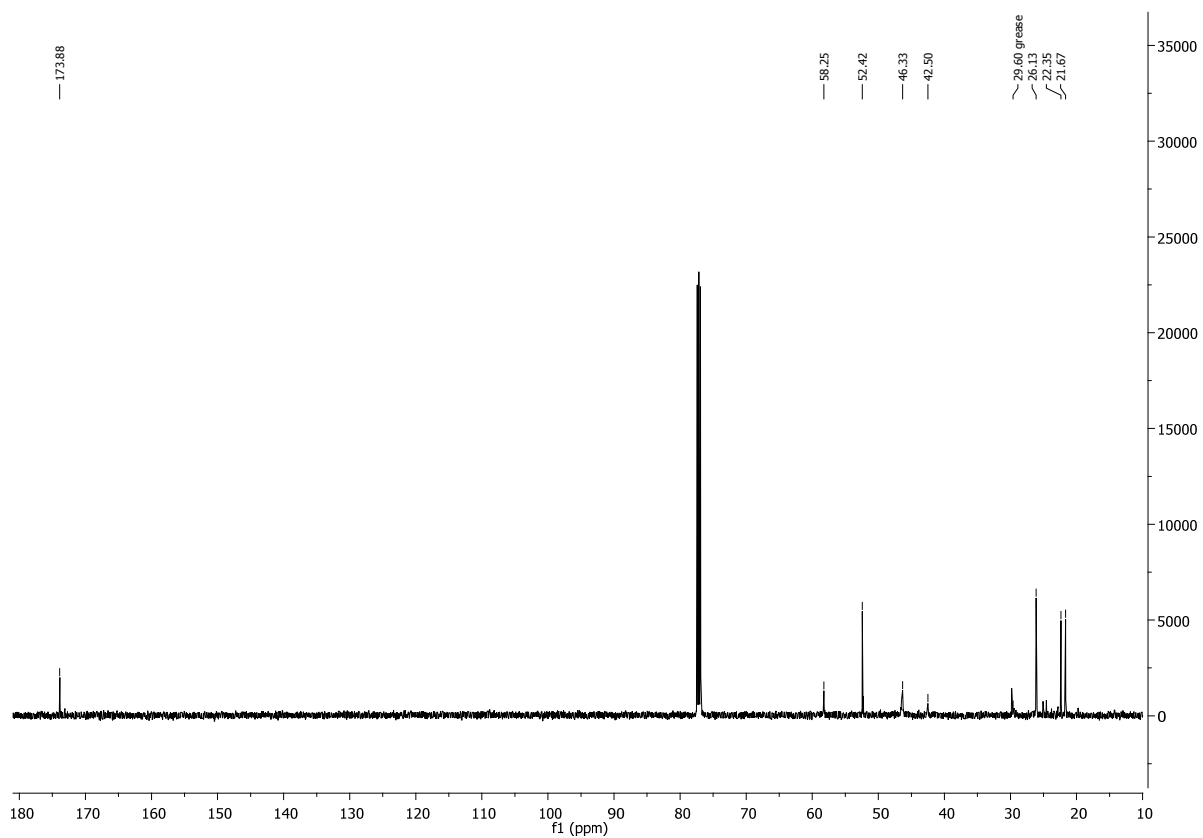
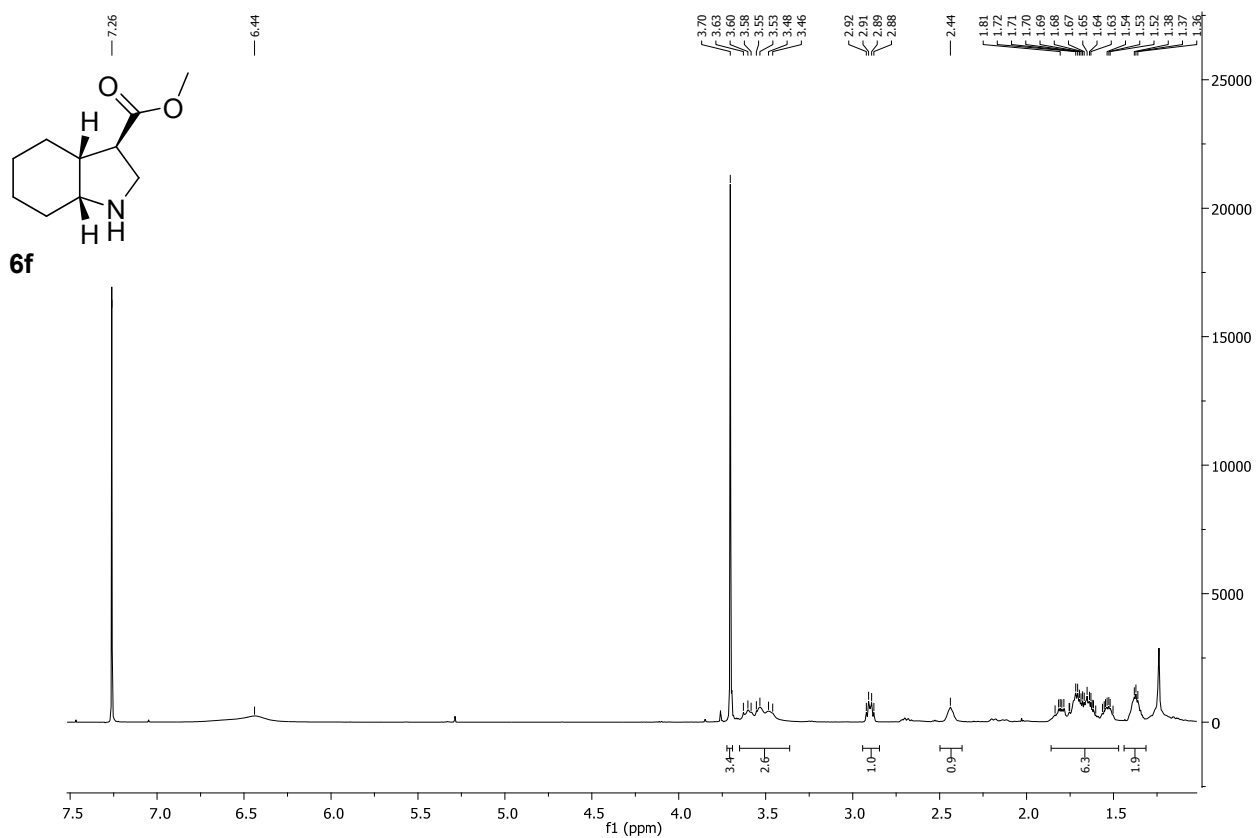


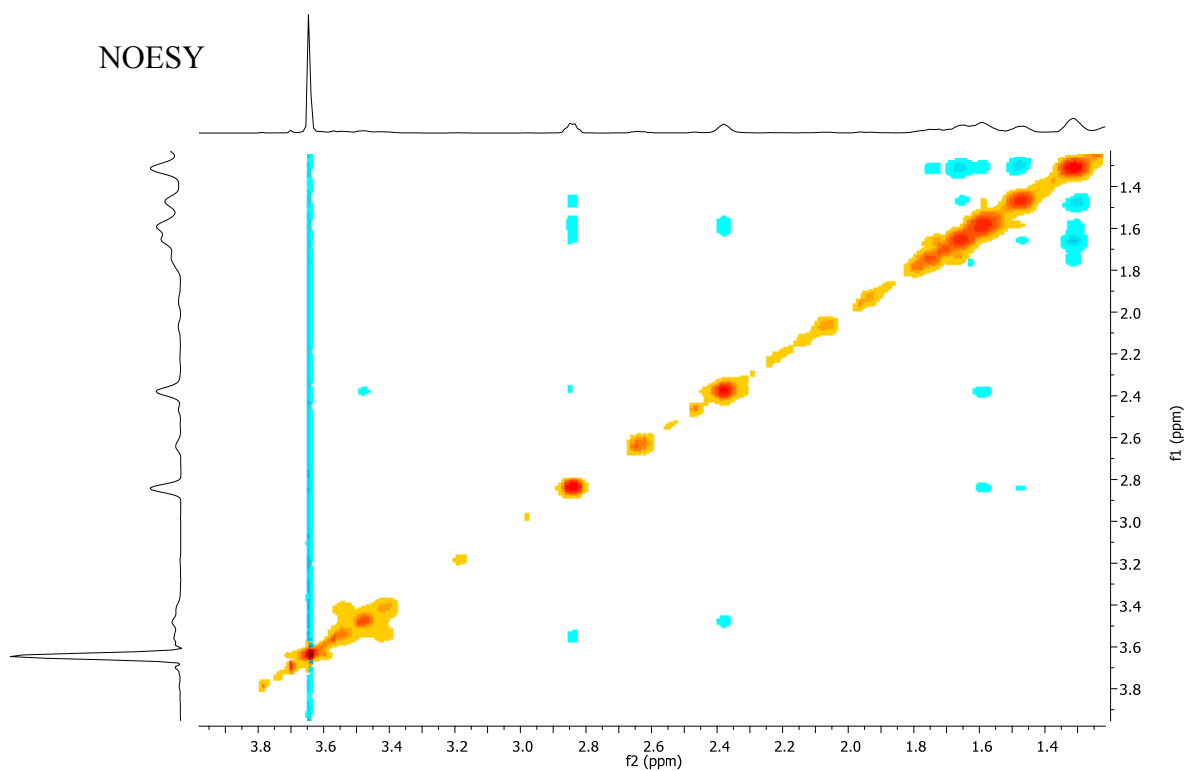
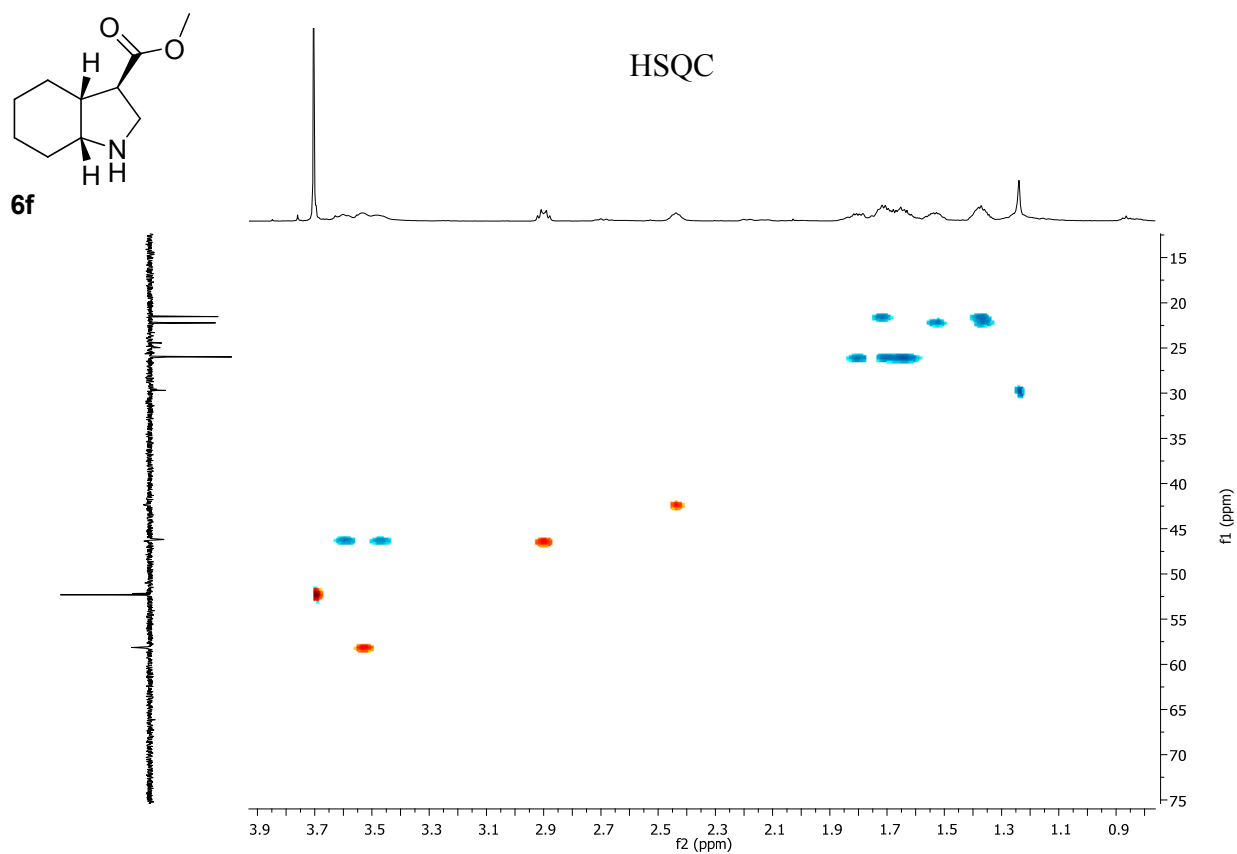










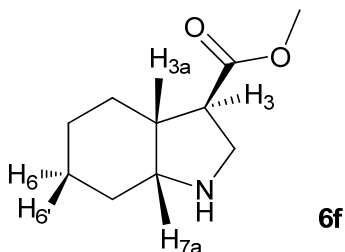


Internuclear distances driven from dipolar interactions NOESY experiments

Fixed value for $H_6-H_{6'}$ = 1.8 Å (measured by molecular modelisation)

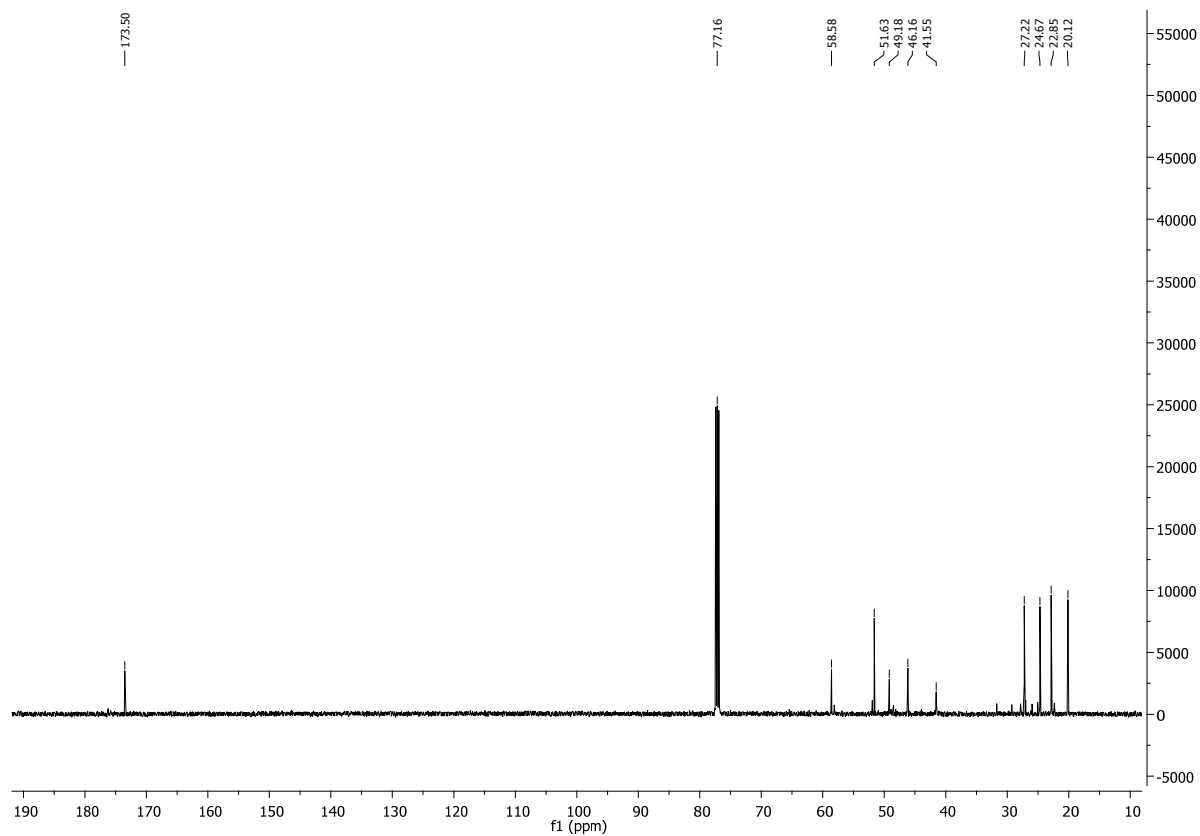
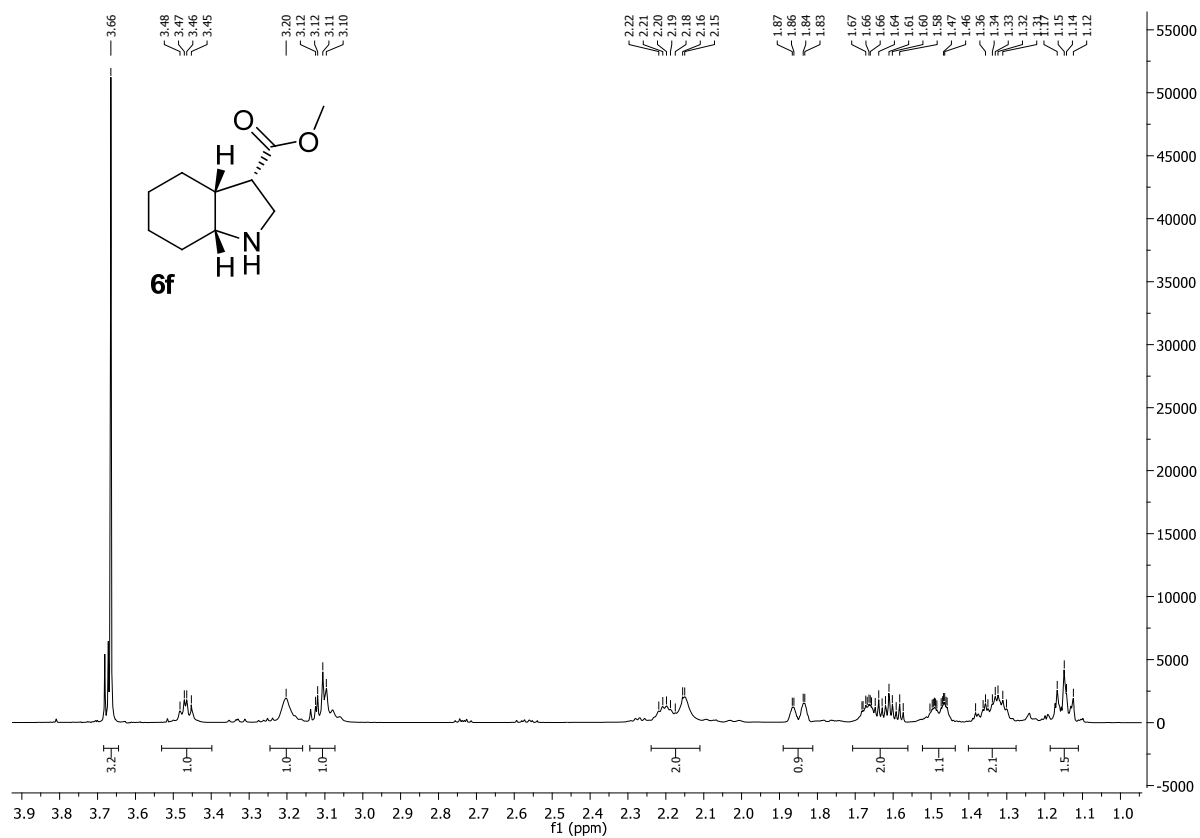
- Grey values: outliers due to superposition of signals.

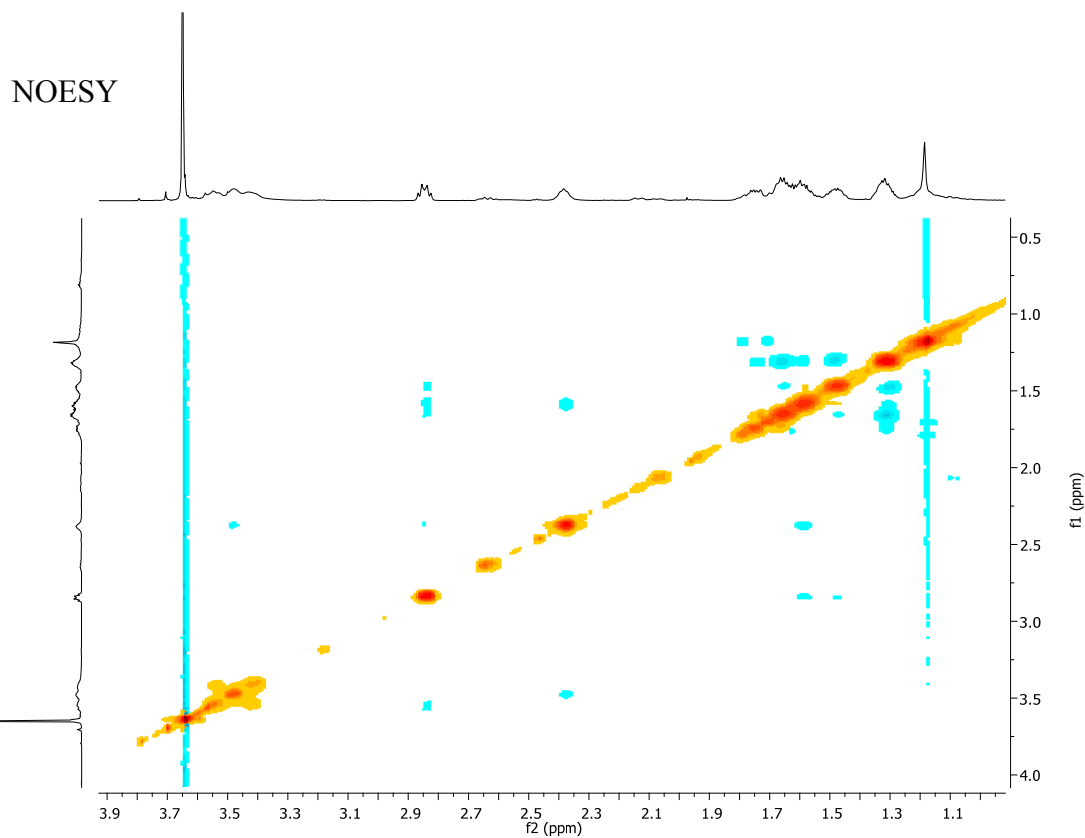
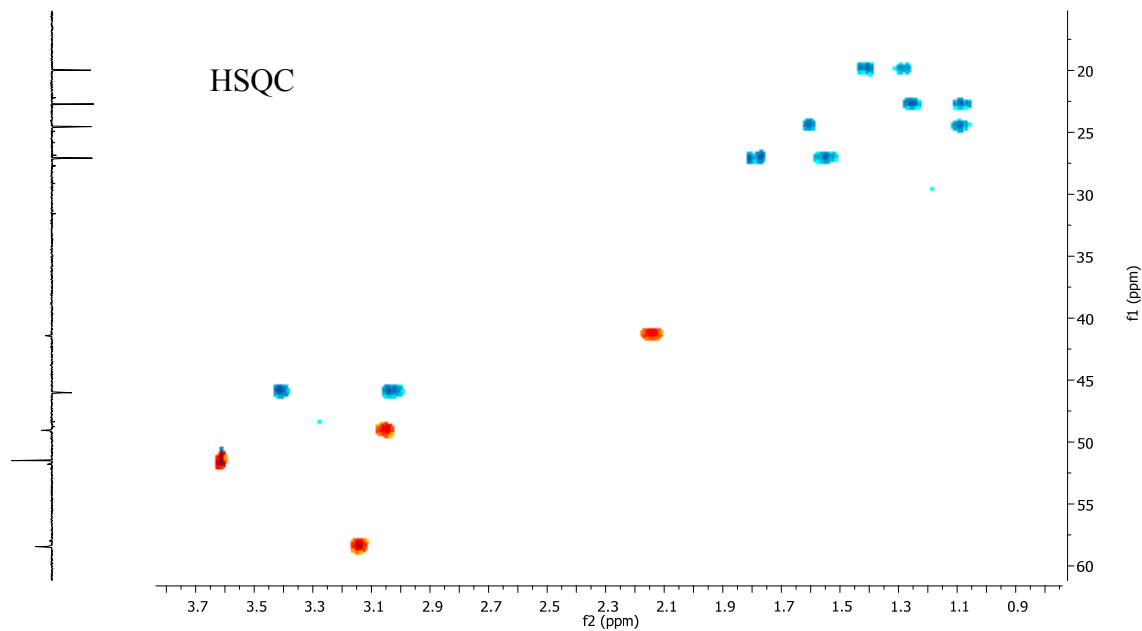
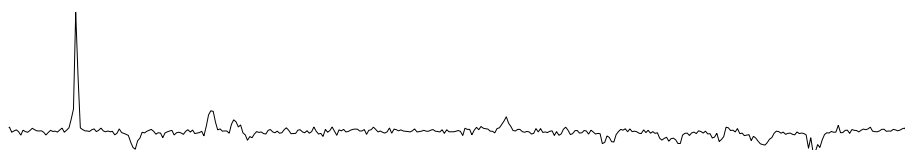
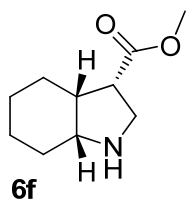
- The smaller the value, the darker the color is.



(3S*,3aS*,7aS*)

protons	H _{7a}	H ₃	H _{3a}	H ₆	H _{6'}
H _{6'}	3,2	-	2,8	1,8	H _{6'}
H ₆	2,8	2,6	2,8	H ₆	1,8
H _{3a}	2,4	3,1	H _{3a}	2,7	2,7
H ₃	3,3	H ₃	3,2	2,6	-
H _{7a}	H _{7a}	2,7	2,0	2,4	2,7

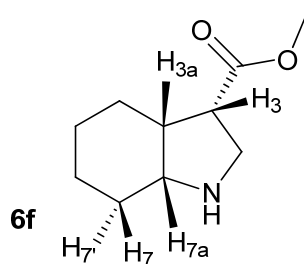




Internuclear distances driven from dipolar interactions NOESY experiments

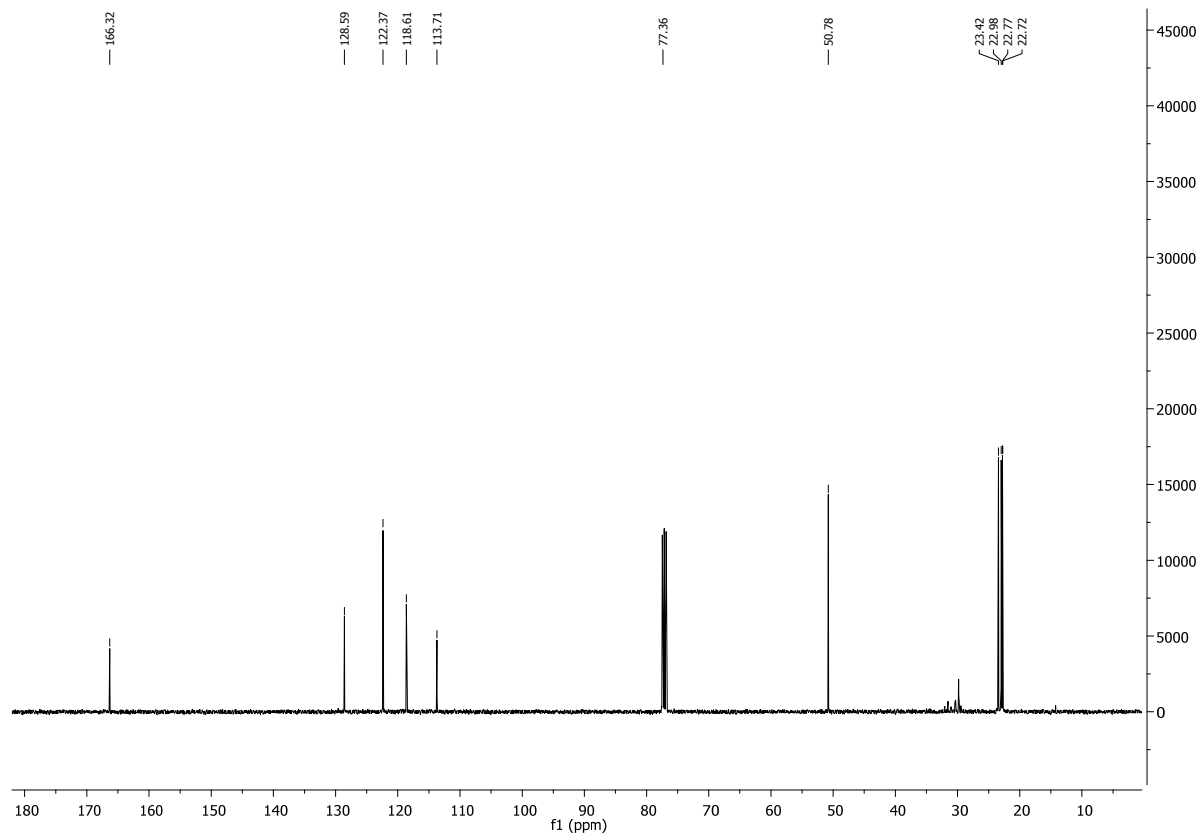
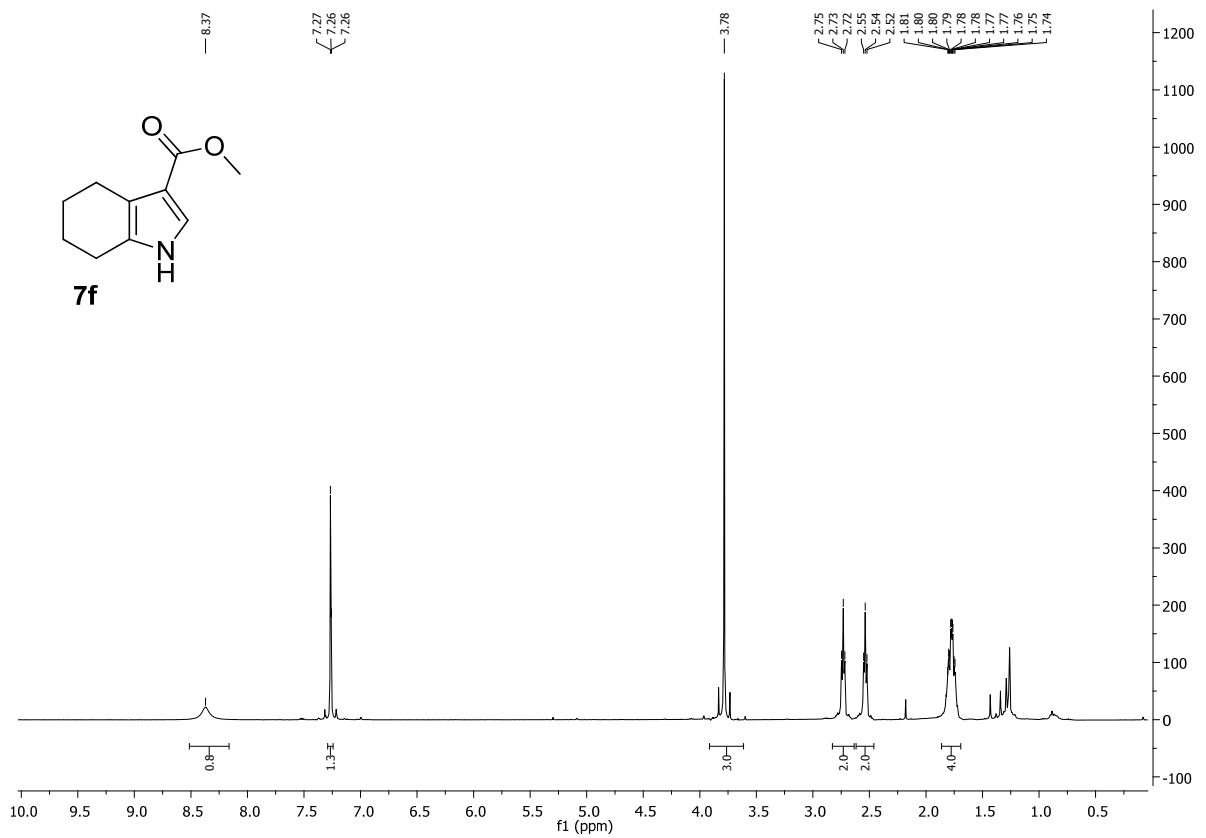
Fixed value for $H_7-H_{7'}$ = 1.8 Å (measured by molecular modelisation)

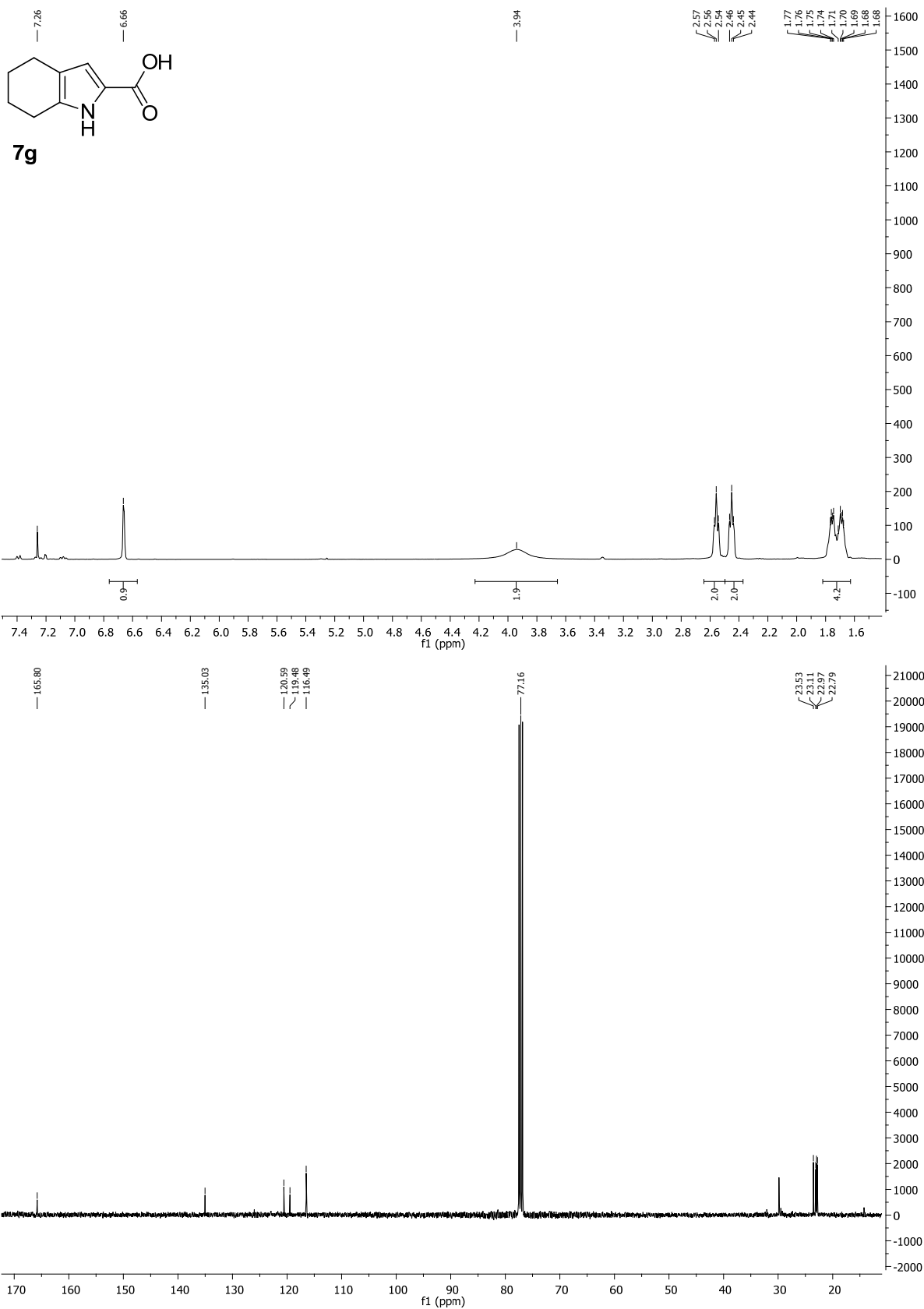
- Grey values: outliers due to superposition of signals.
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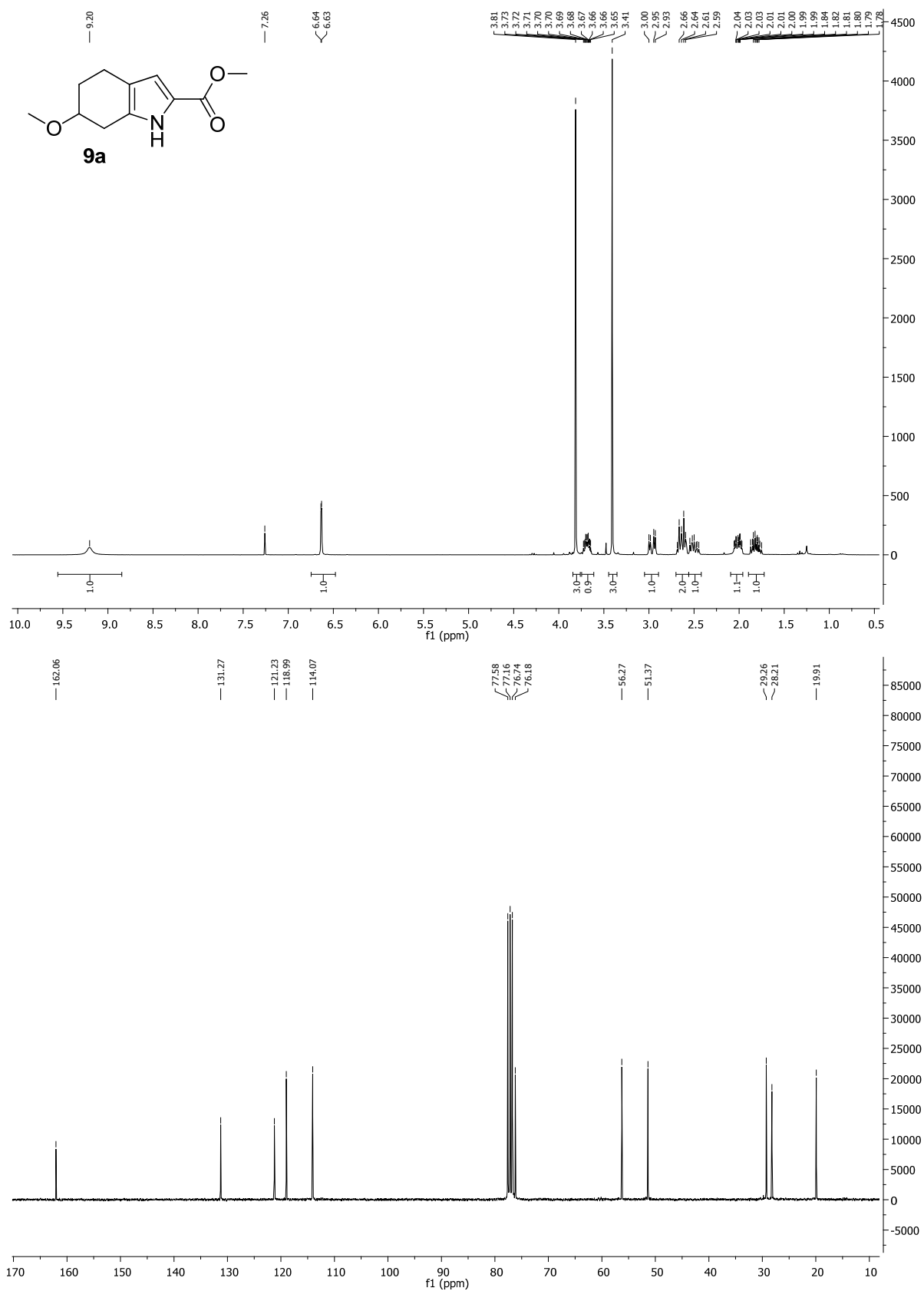


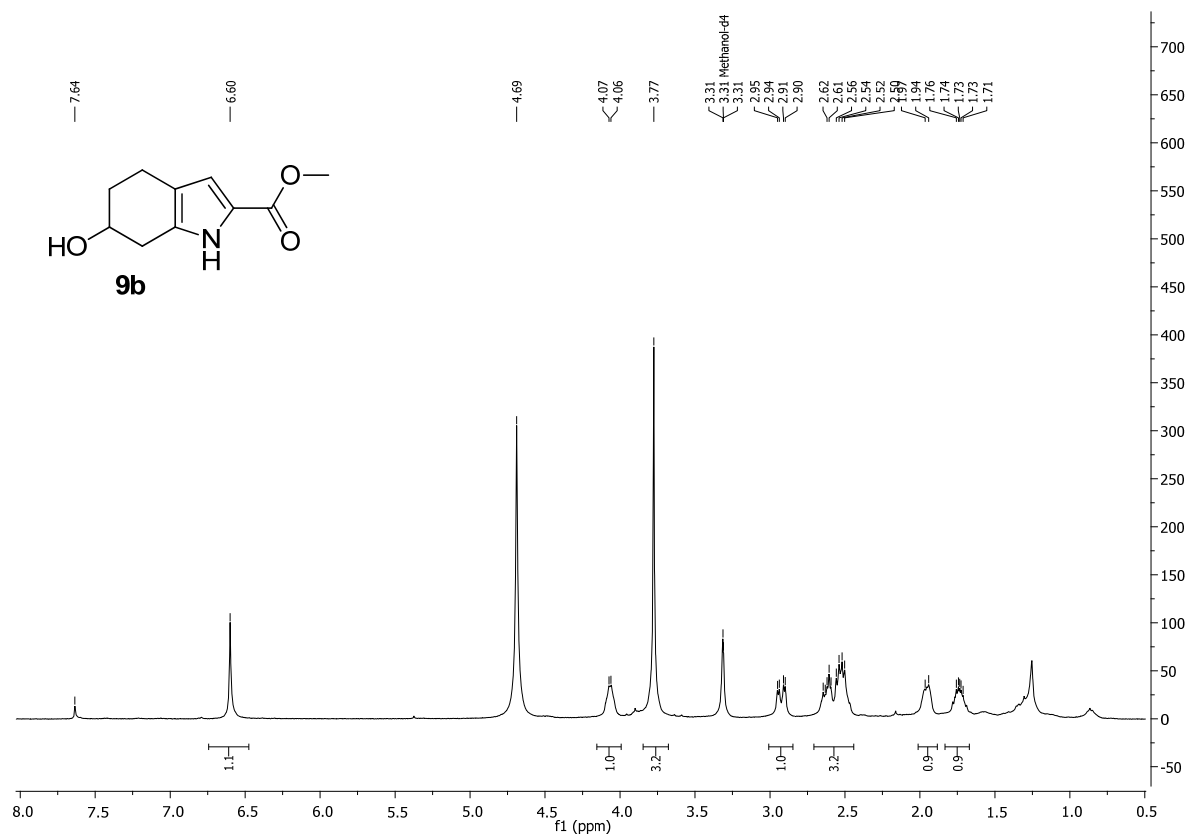
(3*R**,3*aS**,7*aS**)

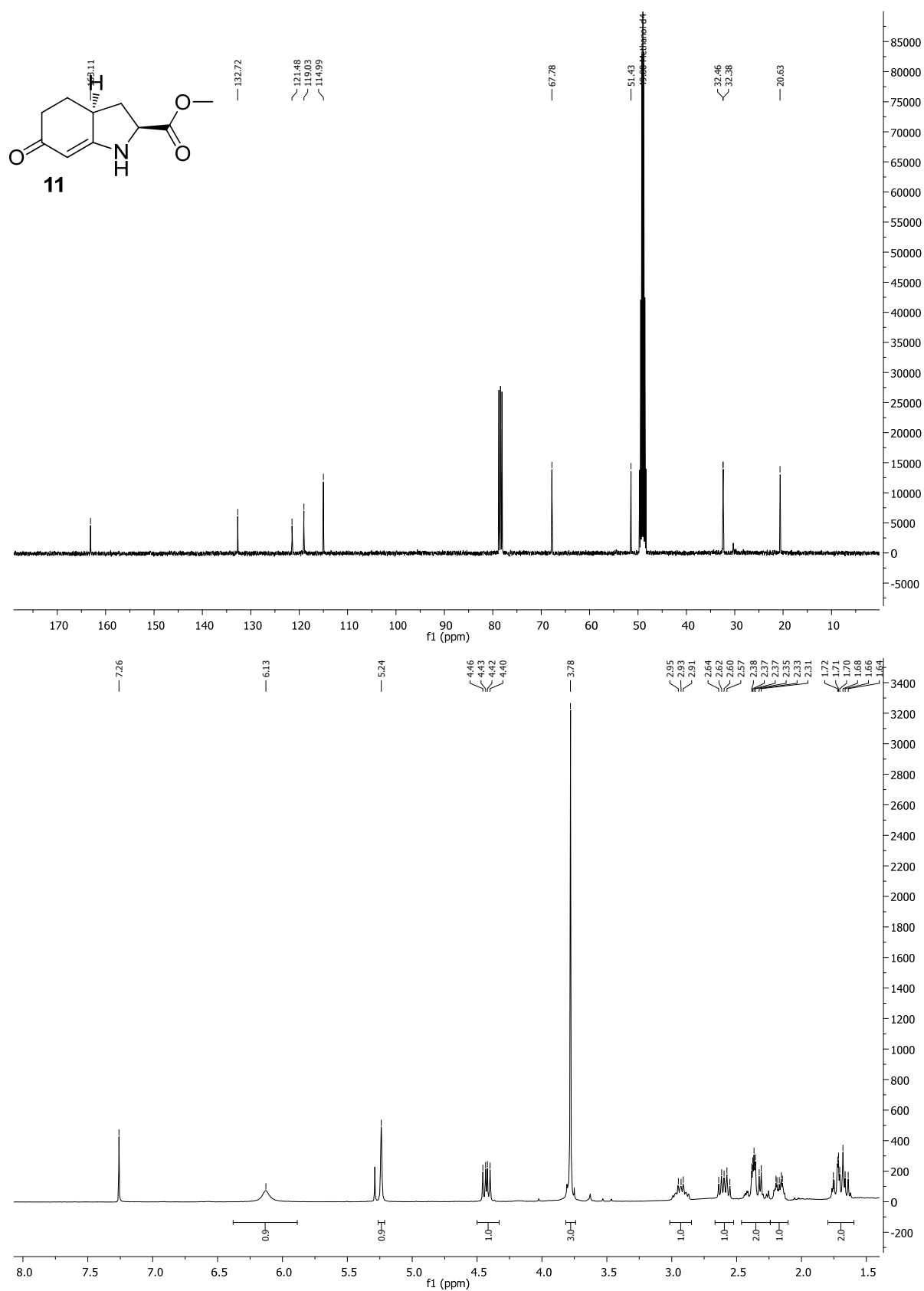
protons	H_{7a}	H_3	H_{3a}	H_7	$H_{7'}$
$H_{7'}$	2,3	-	2,7	1,8	$H_{7'}$
H_7	2,4	4,5	2,9	H_7	1,8
H_{3a}	2,5	2,5	H_{3a}	3,1	2,9
H_3	-	H_3	2,4	4,8	-
H_{7a}	H_{7a}	-	2,3	2,4	2,3

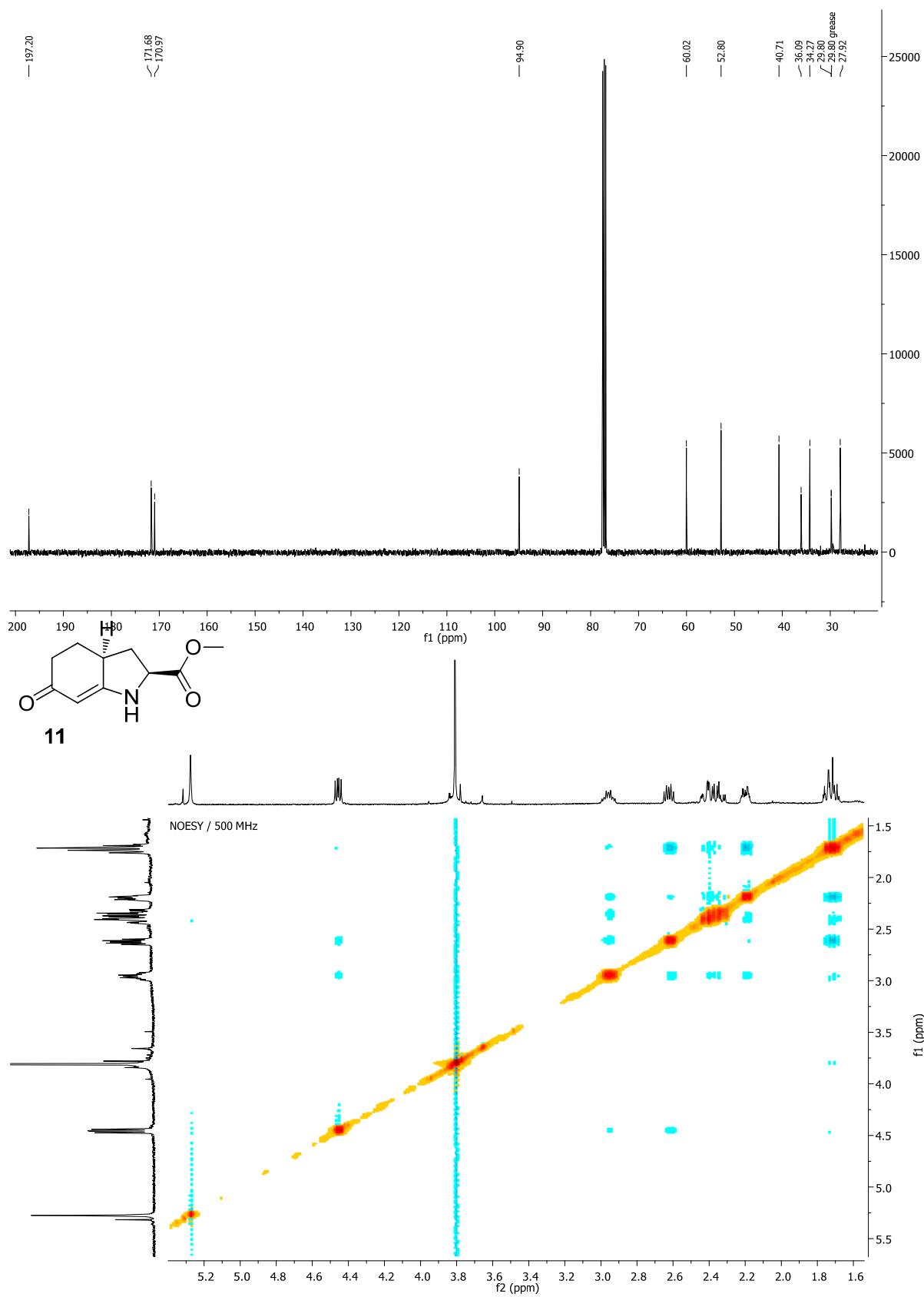


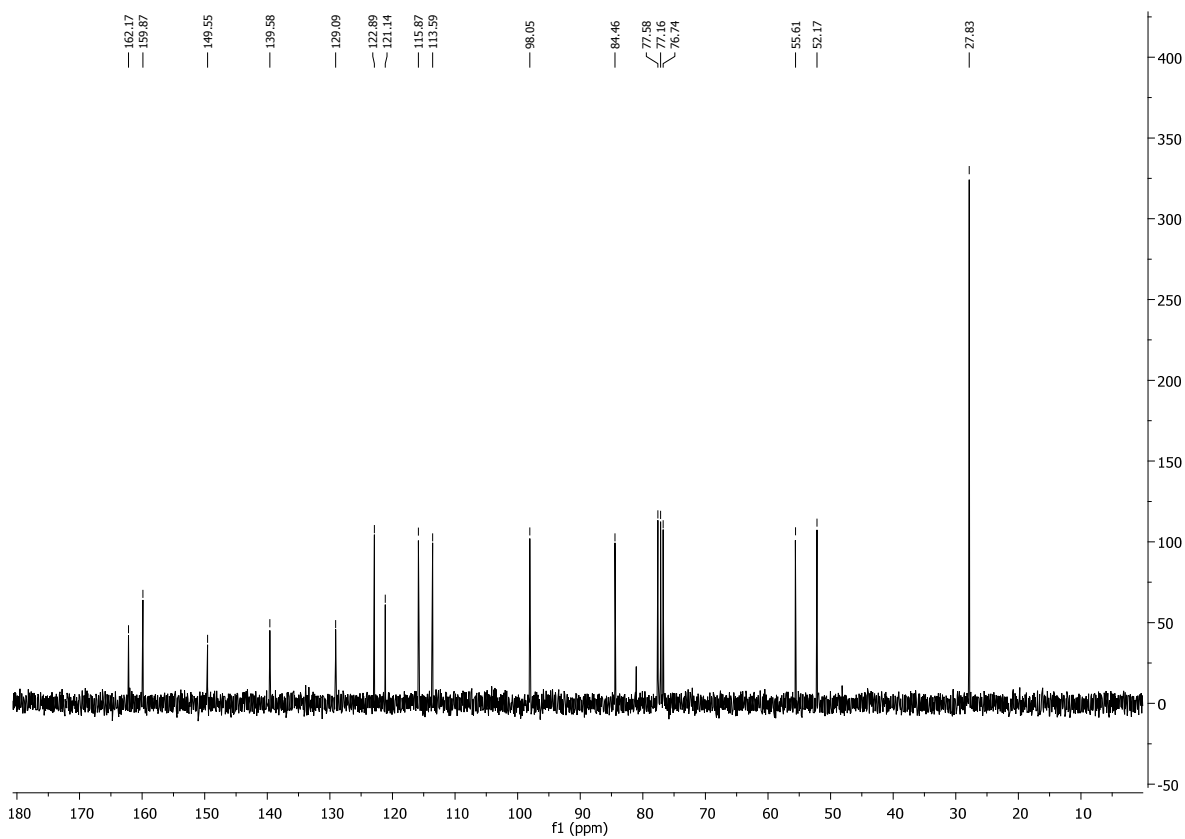
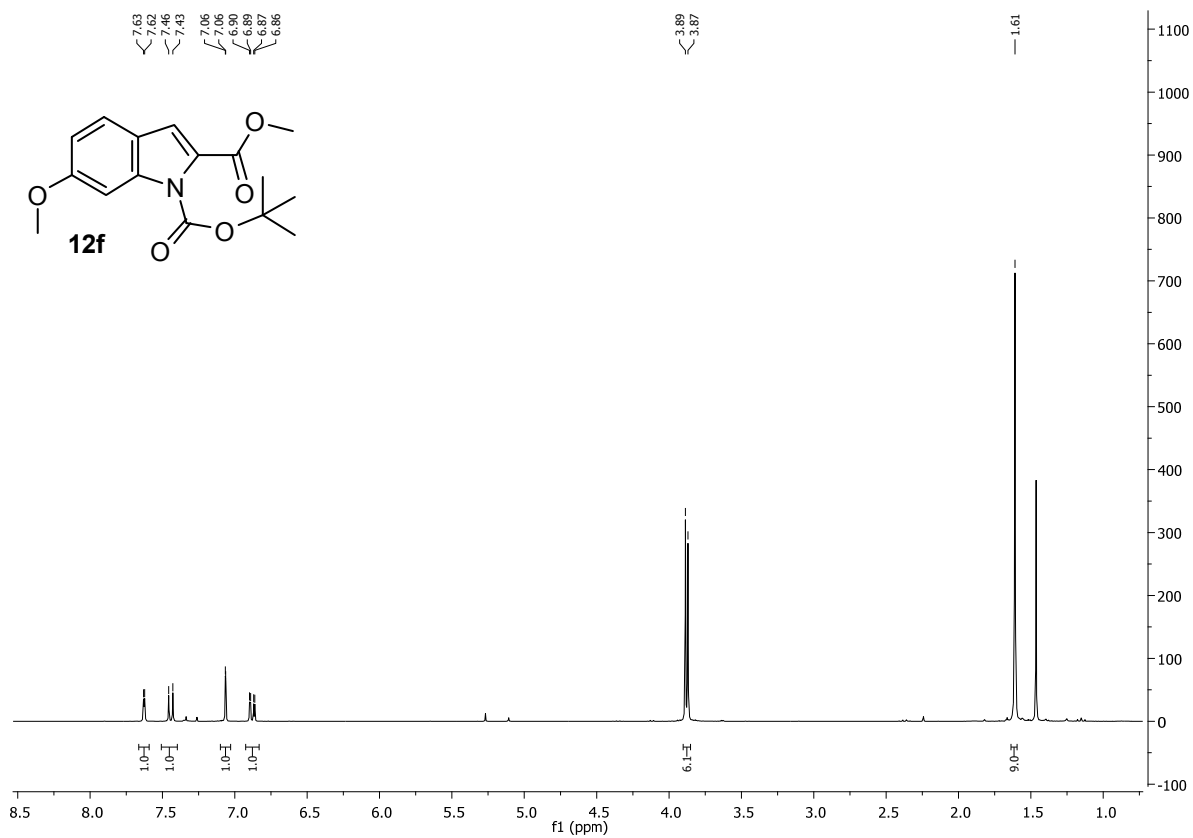


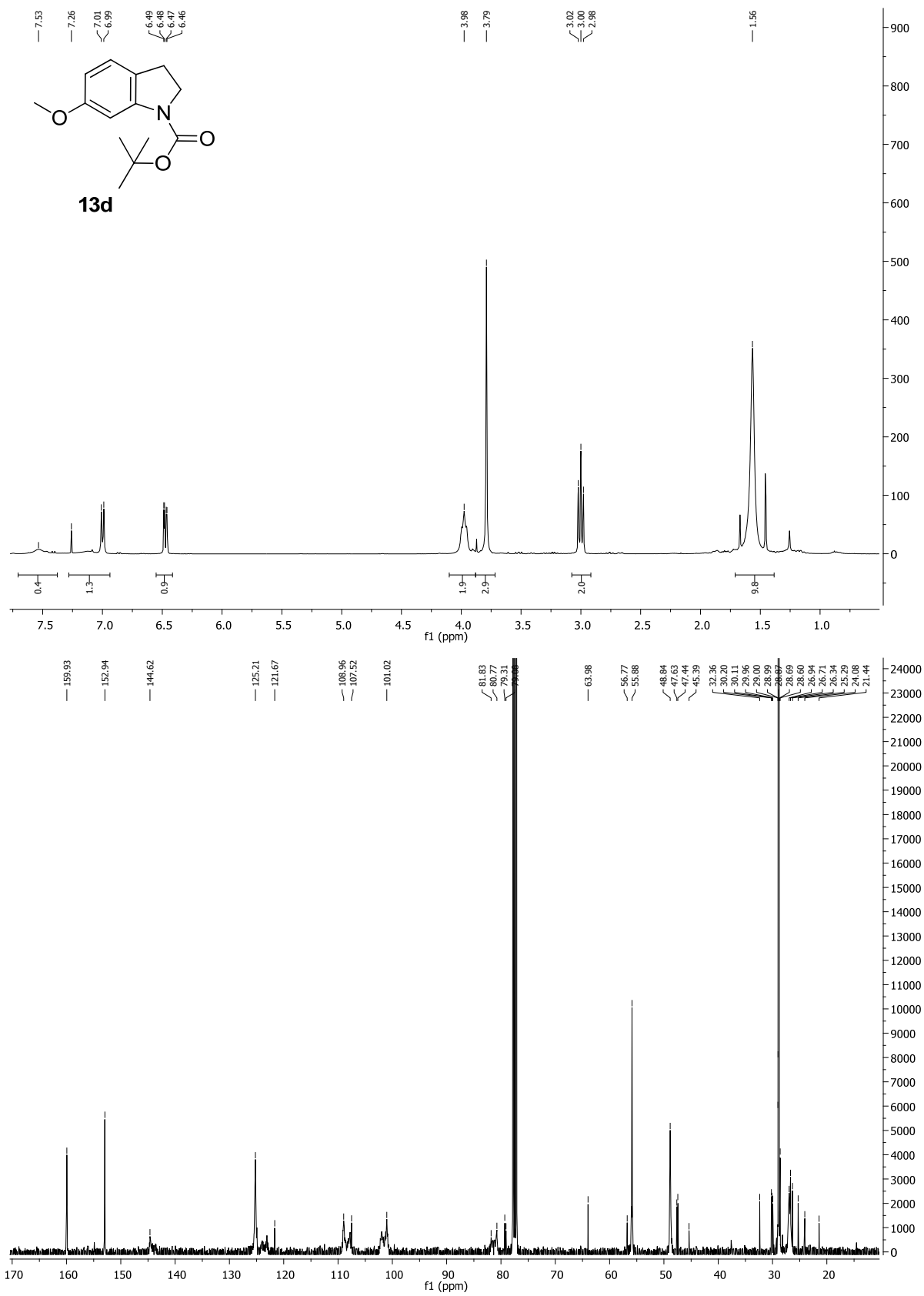


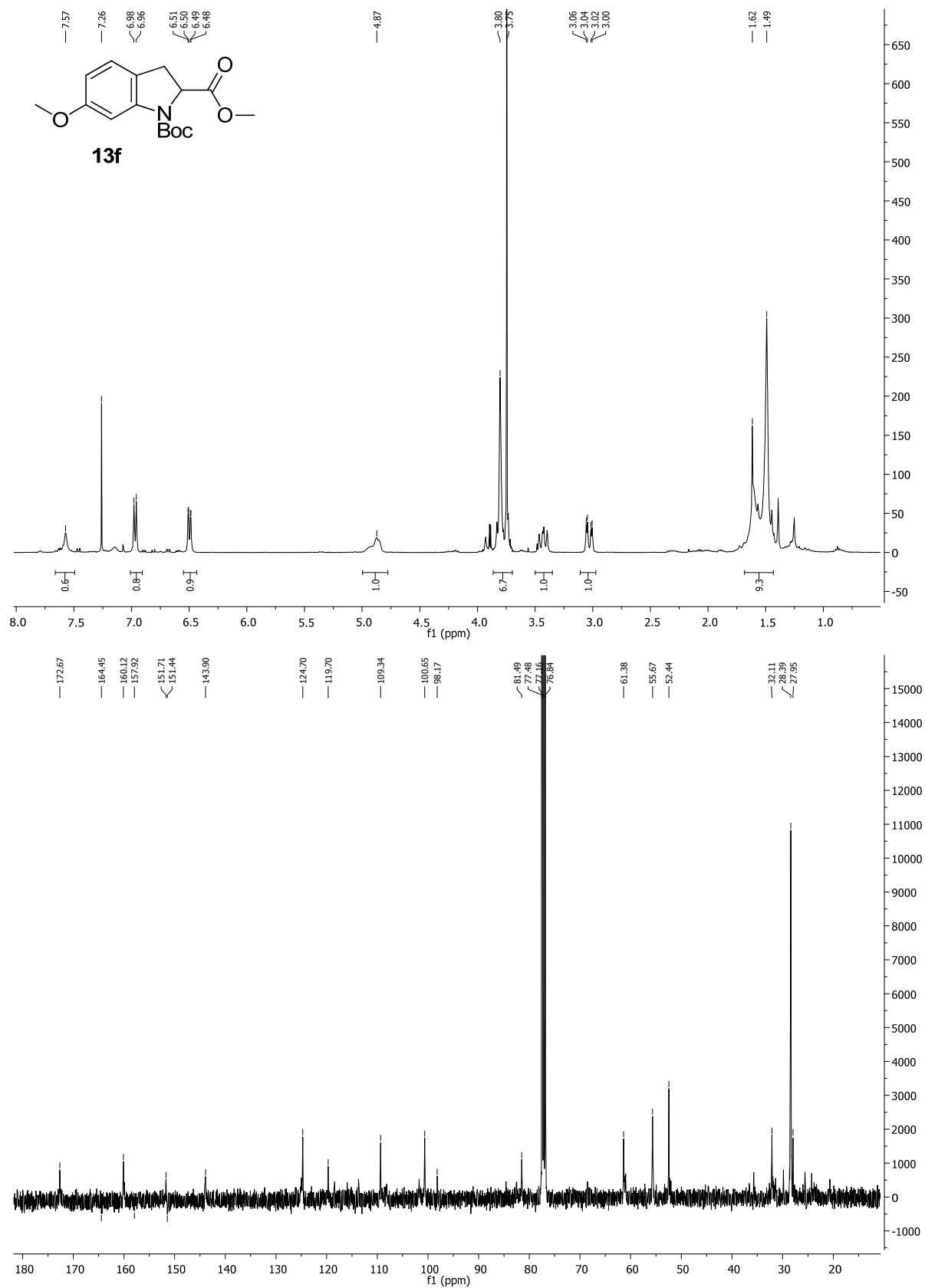


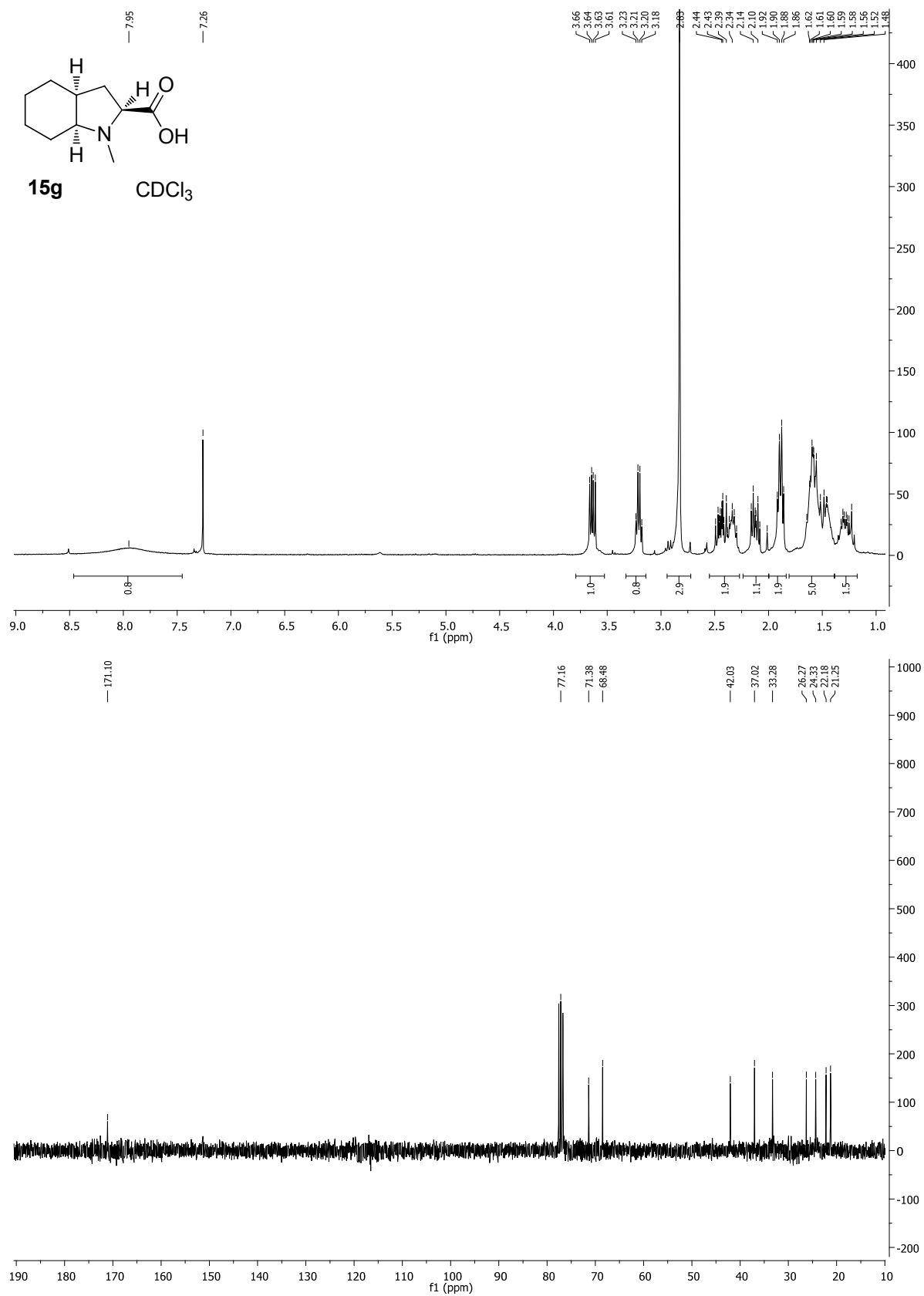


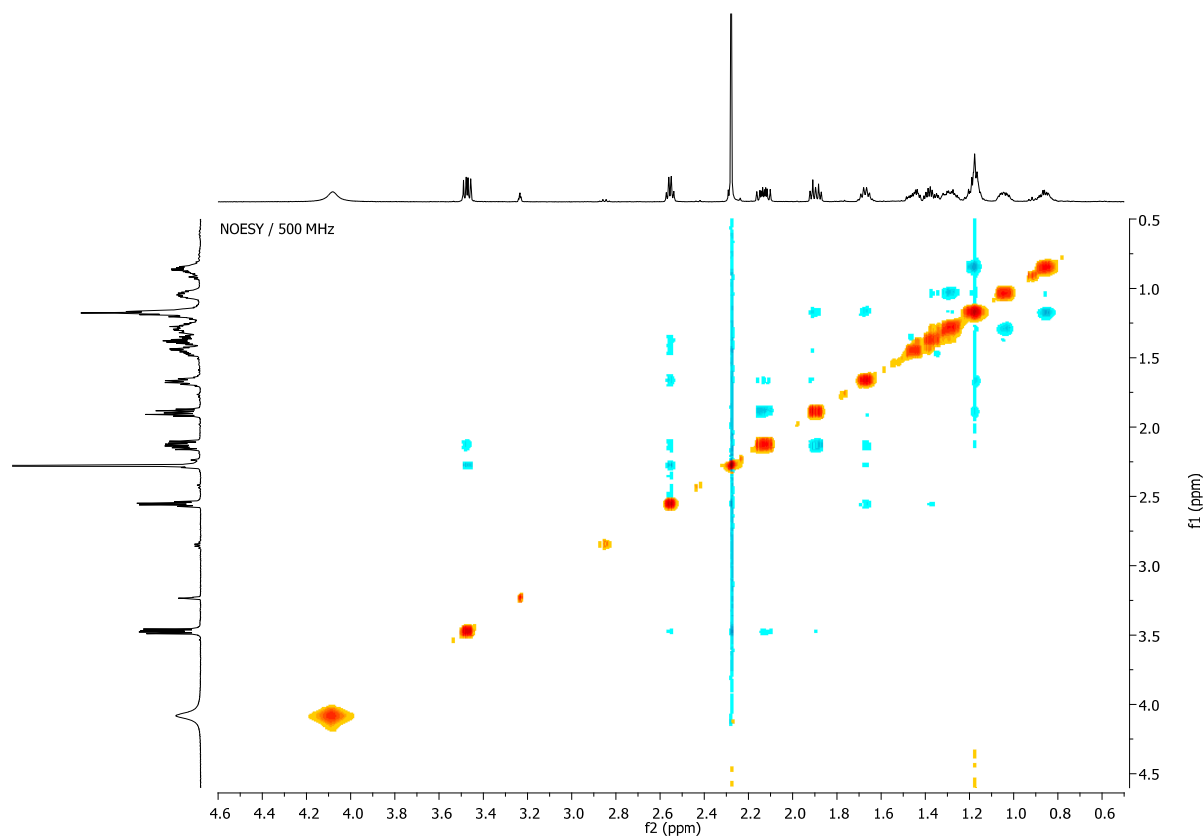
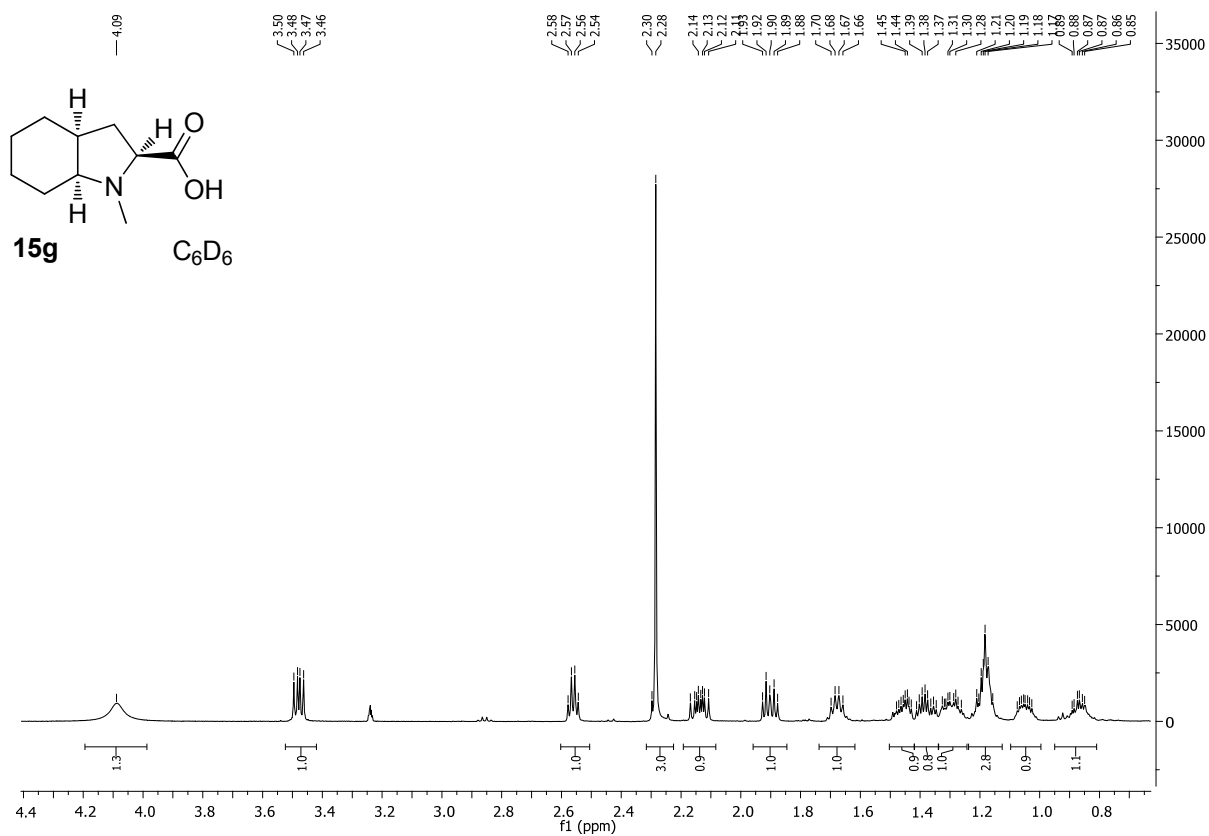










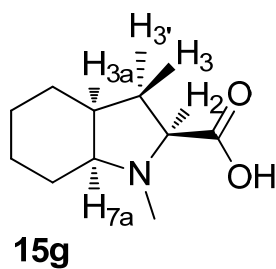


Internuclear distances driven from dipolar interactions NOESY experiments

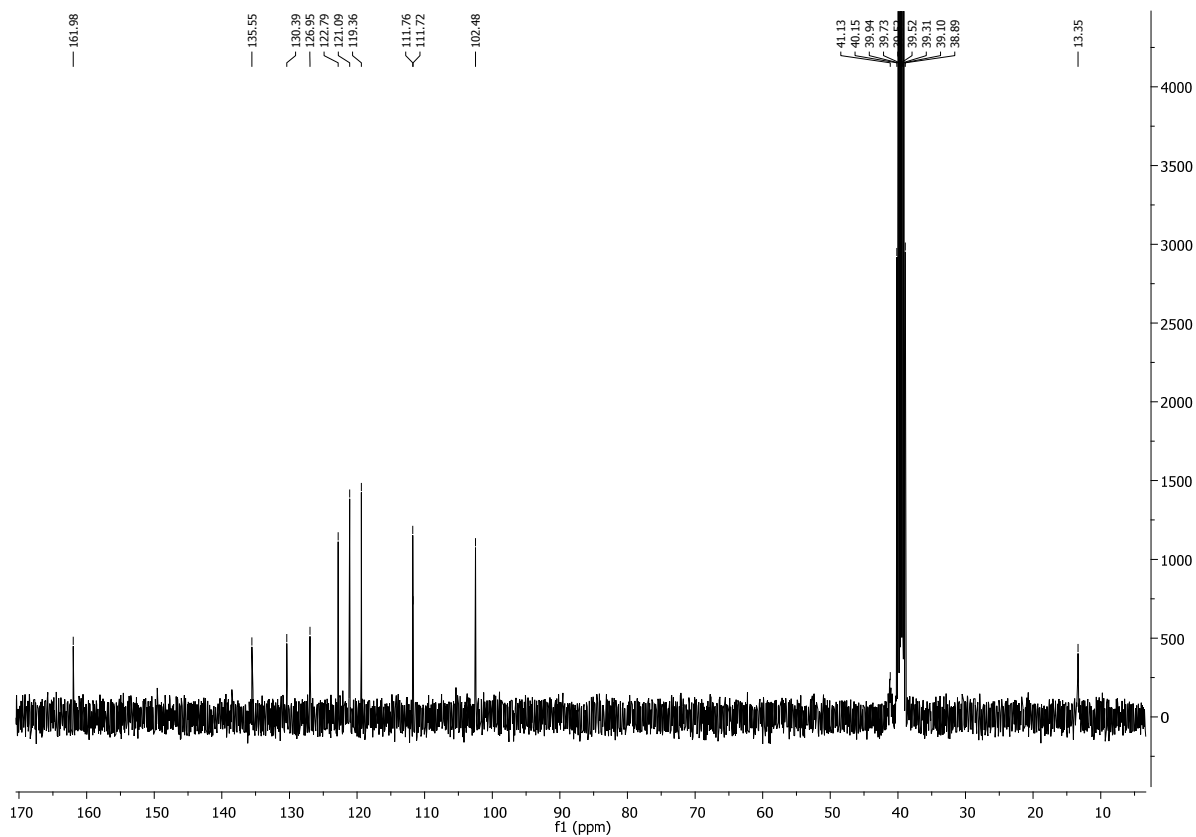
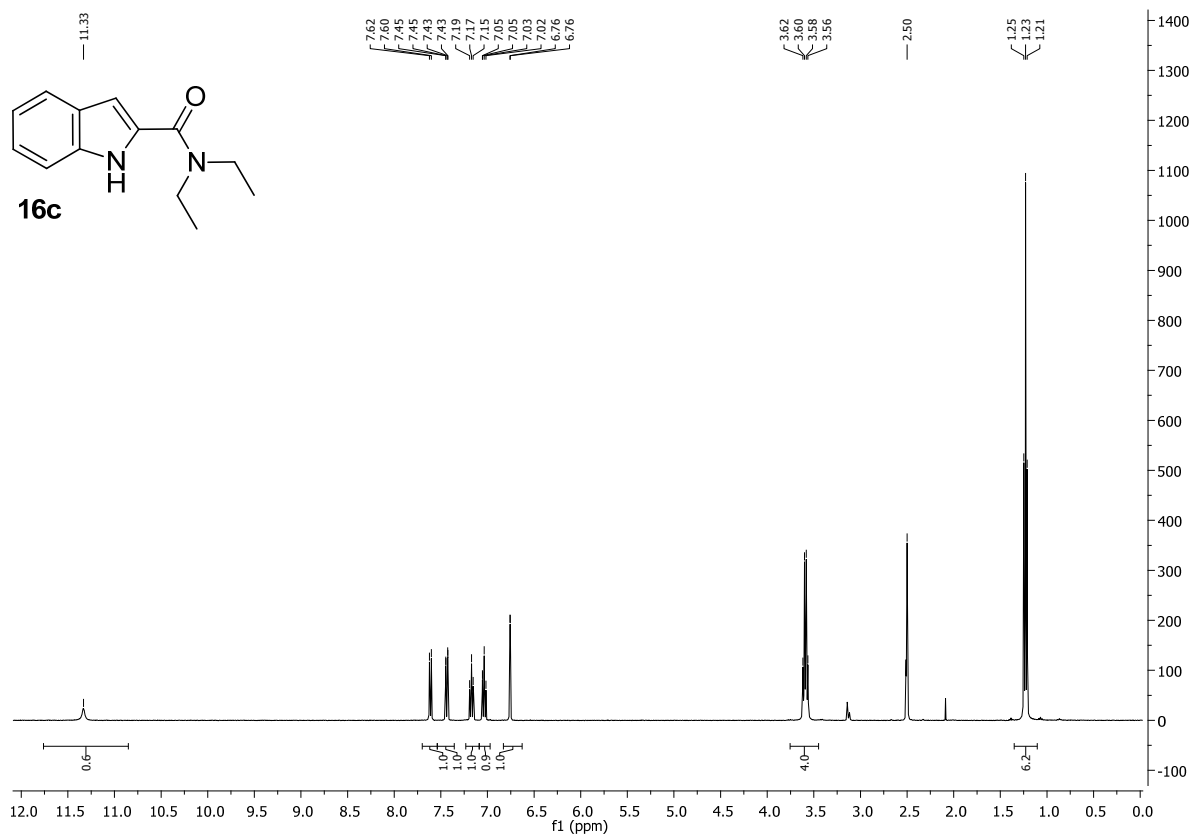
Fixed value for H_{3a} - H_{7a} = 2.2 Å (measured by molecular modelisation)

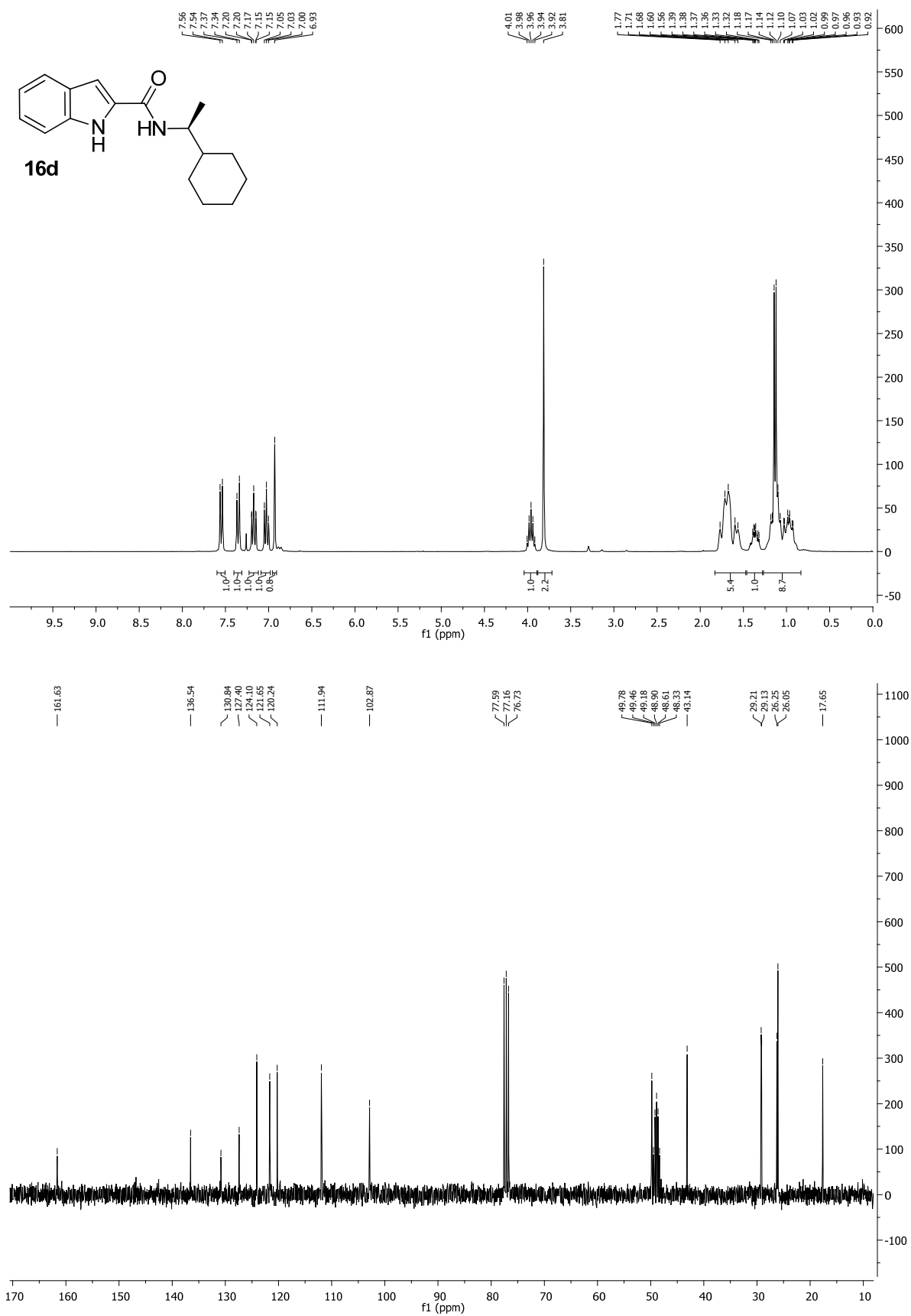
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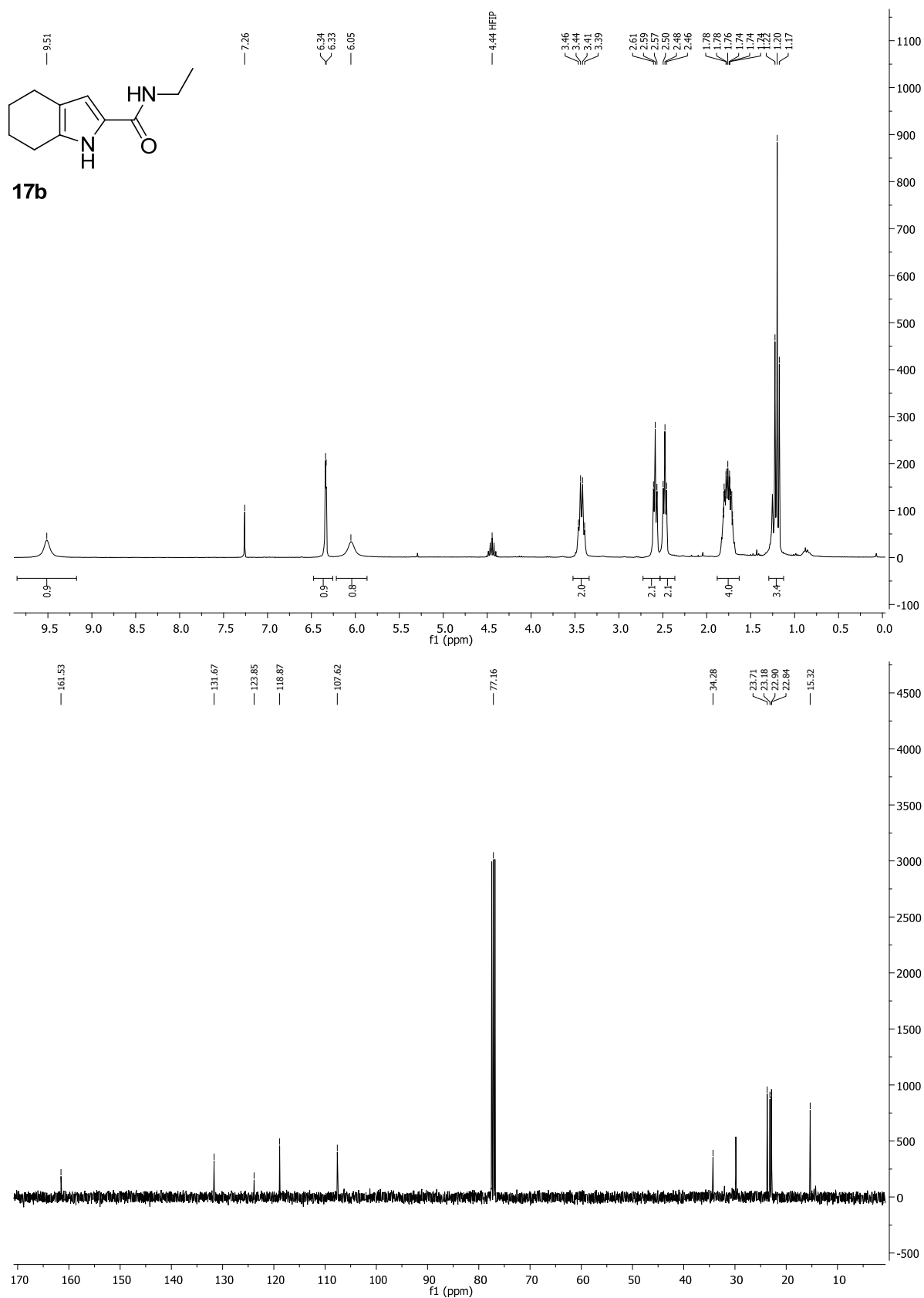
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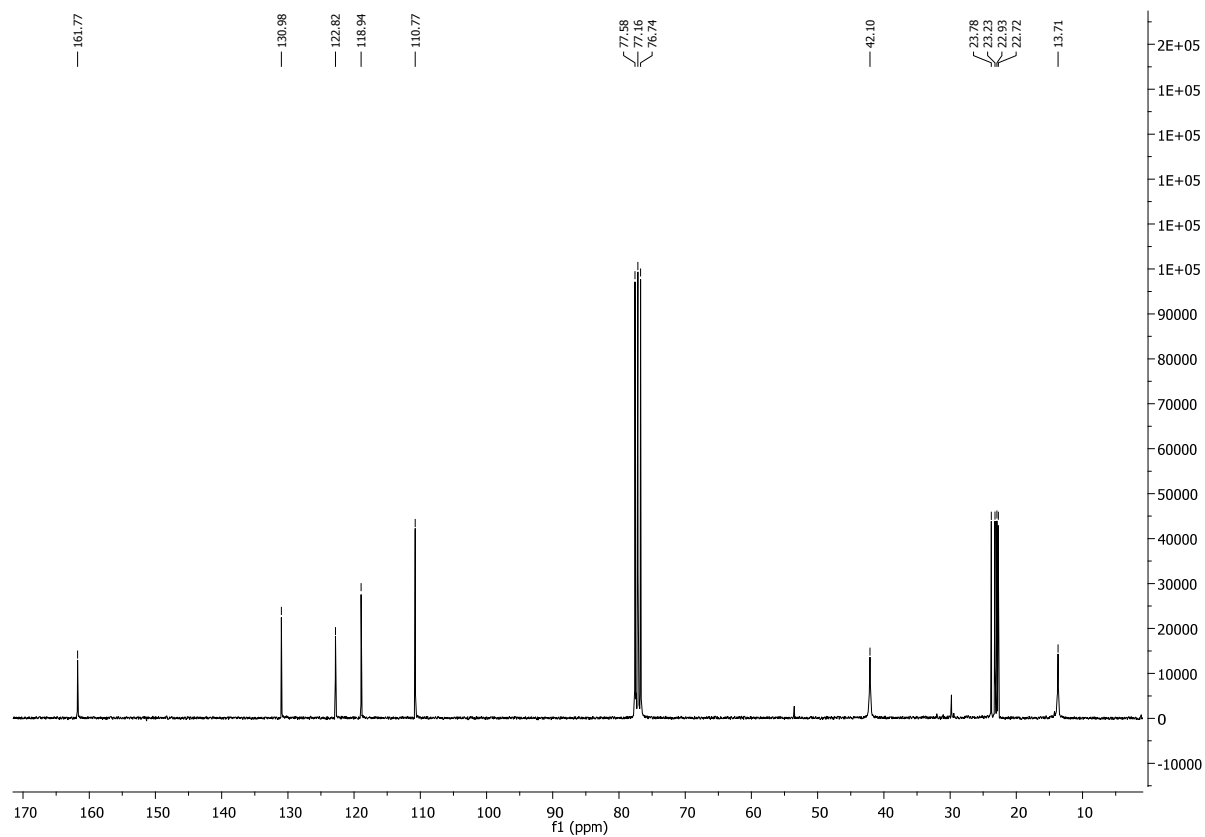
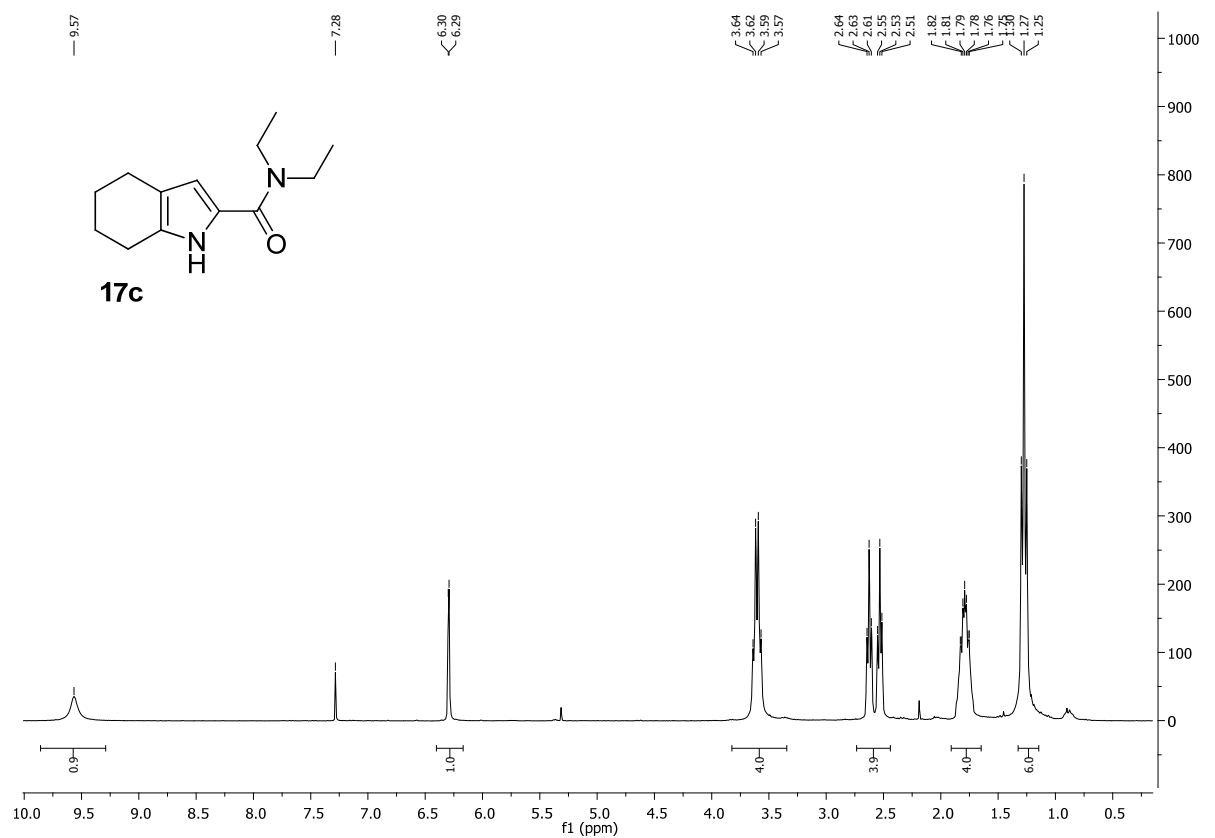


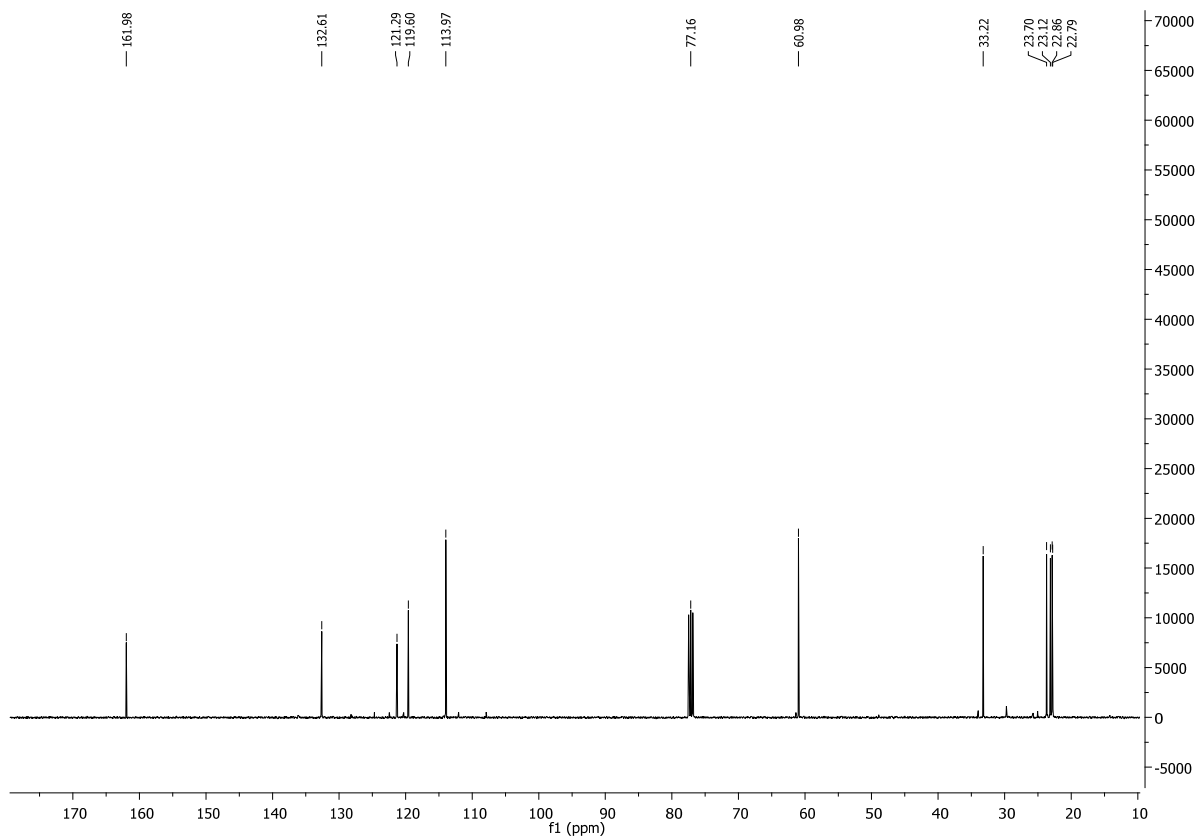
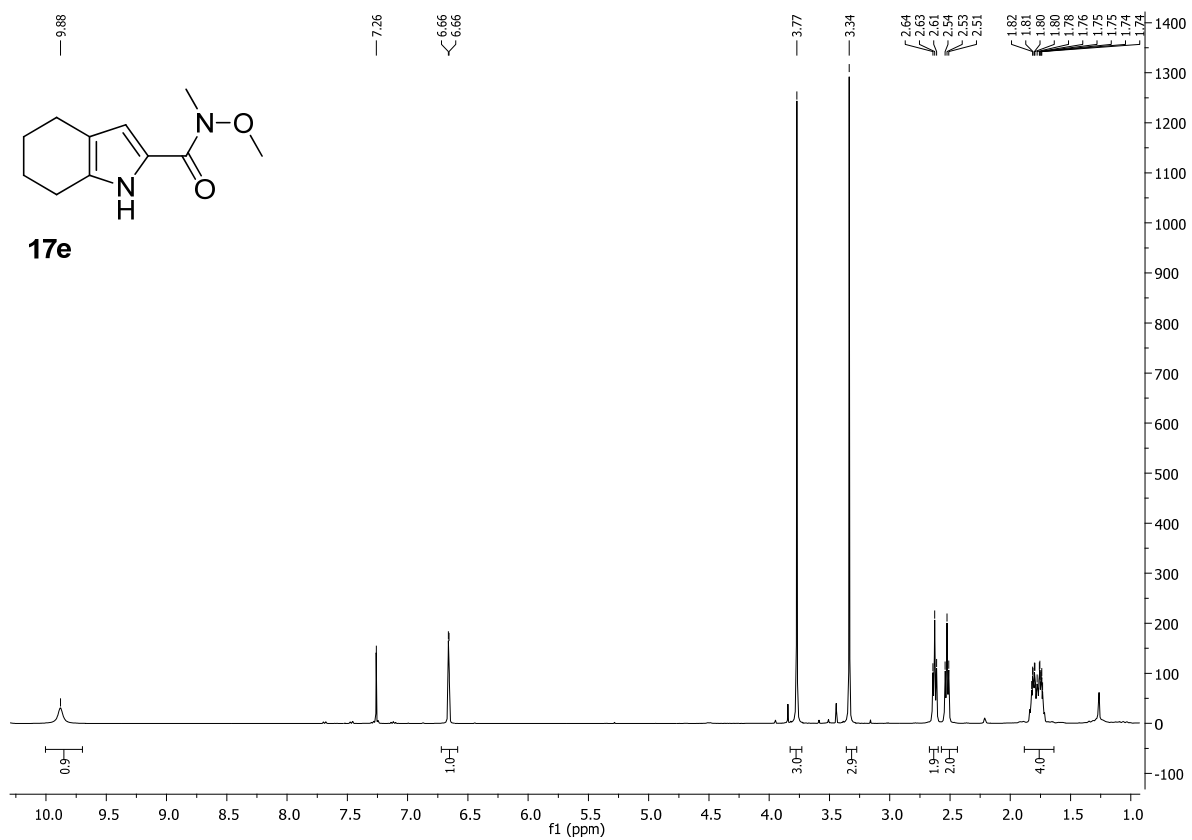
protons	H ₂	H _{7a}	H _{3'}	H ₃	H _{3a}
H _{3a}	2,9	2,2	2,1	-	H _{3a}
H ₃	3,0	-	1,6	H ₃	-
H _{3'}	2,1	2,7	H _{3'}	1,7	2,2
H _{7a}	3,1	H _{7a}	3,2	-	2,2
H ₂	H ₂	2,8	2,3	3,2	3,0

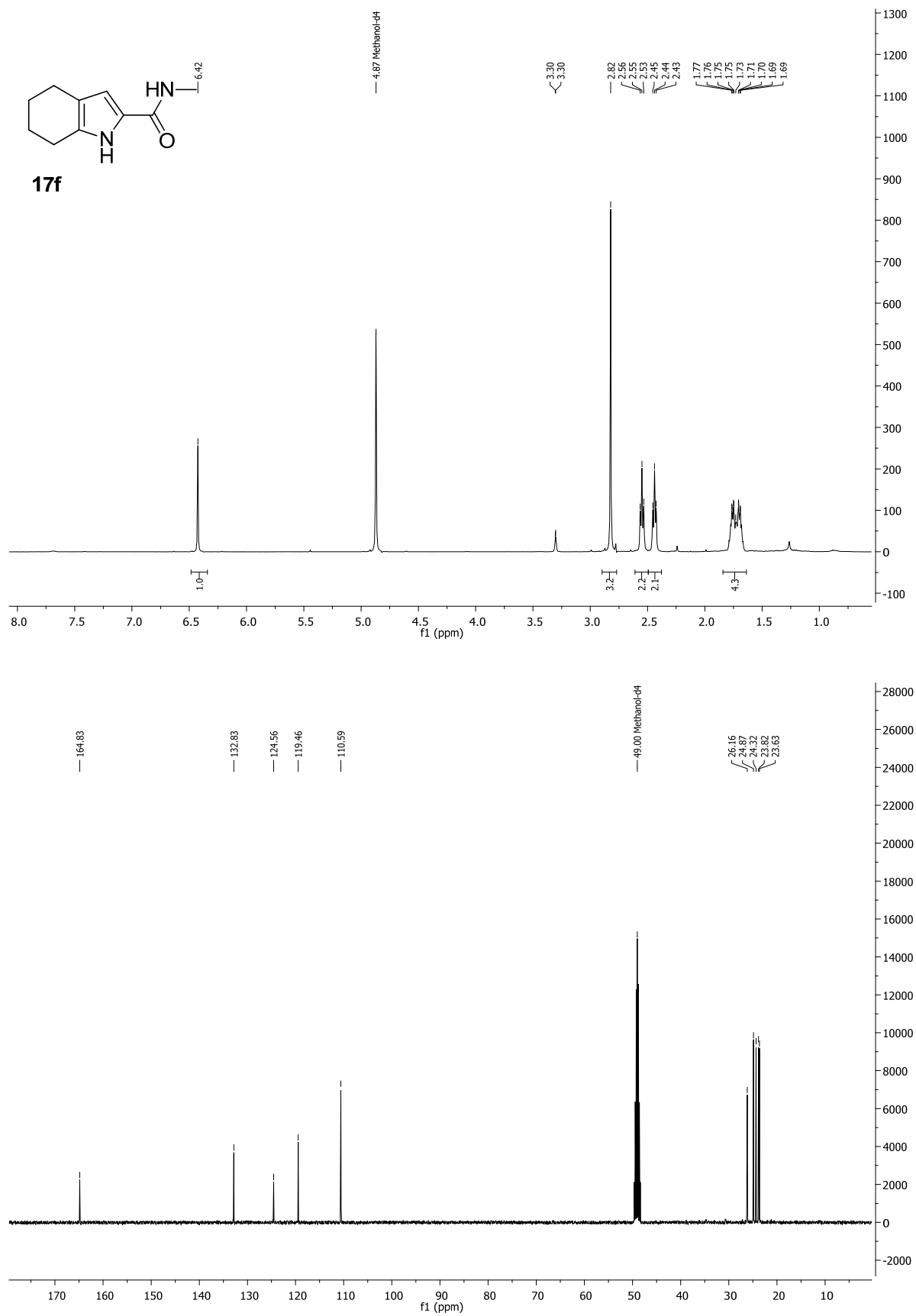


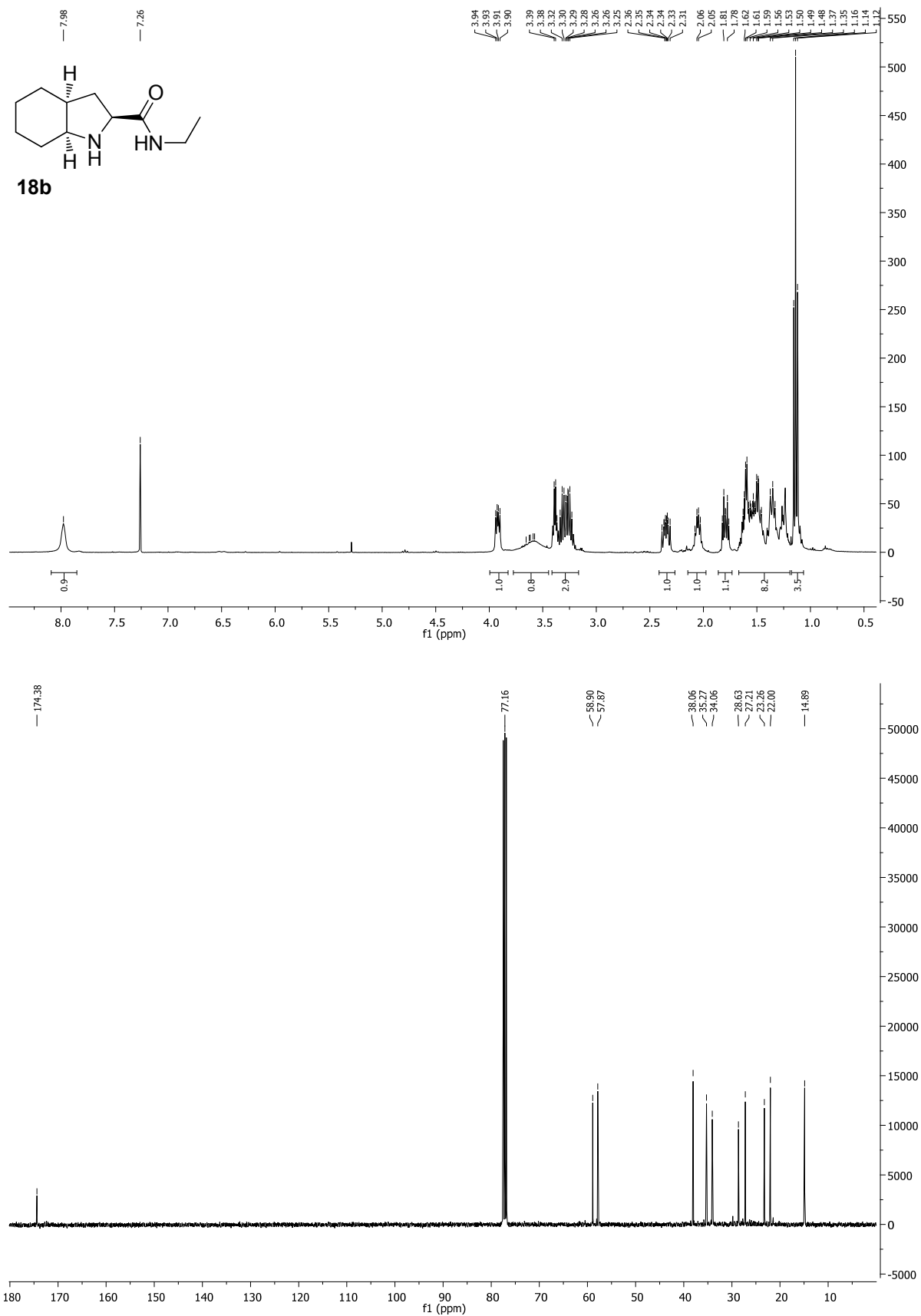


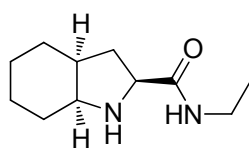




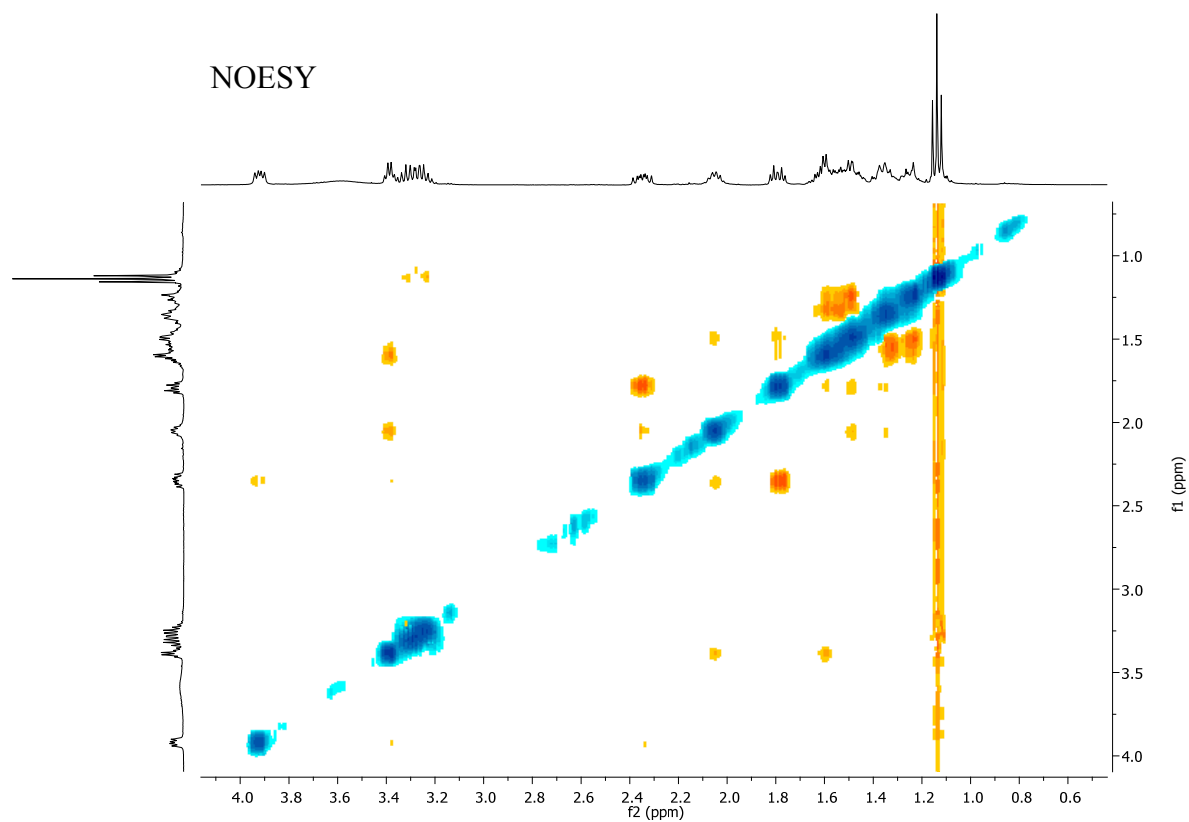
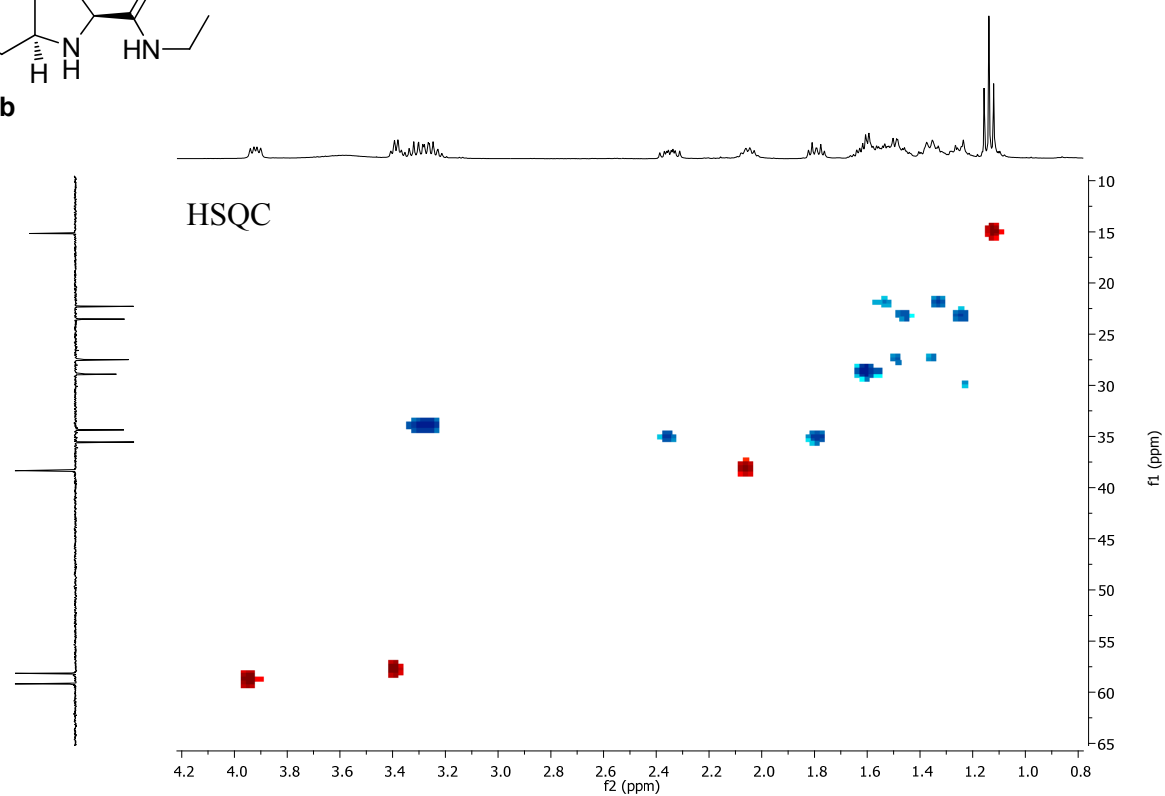


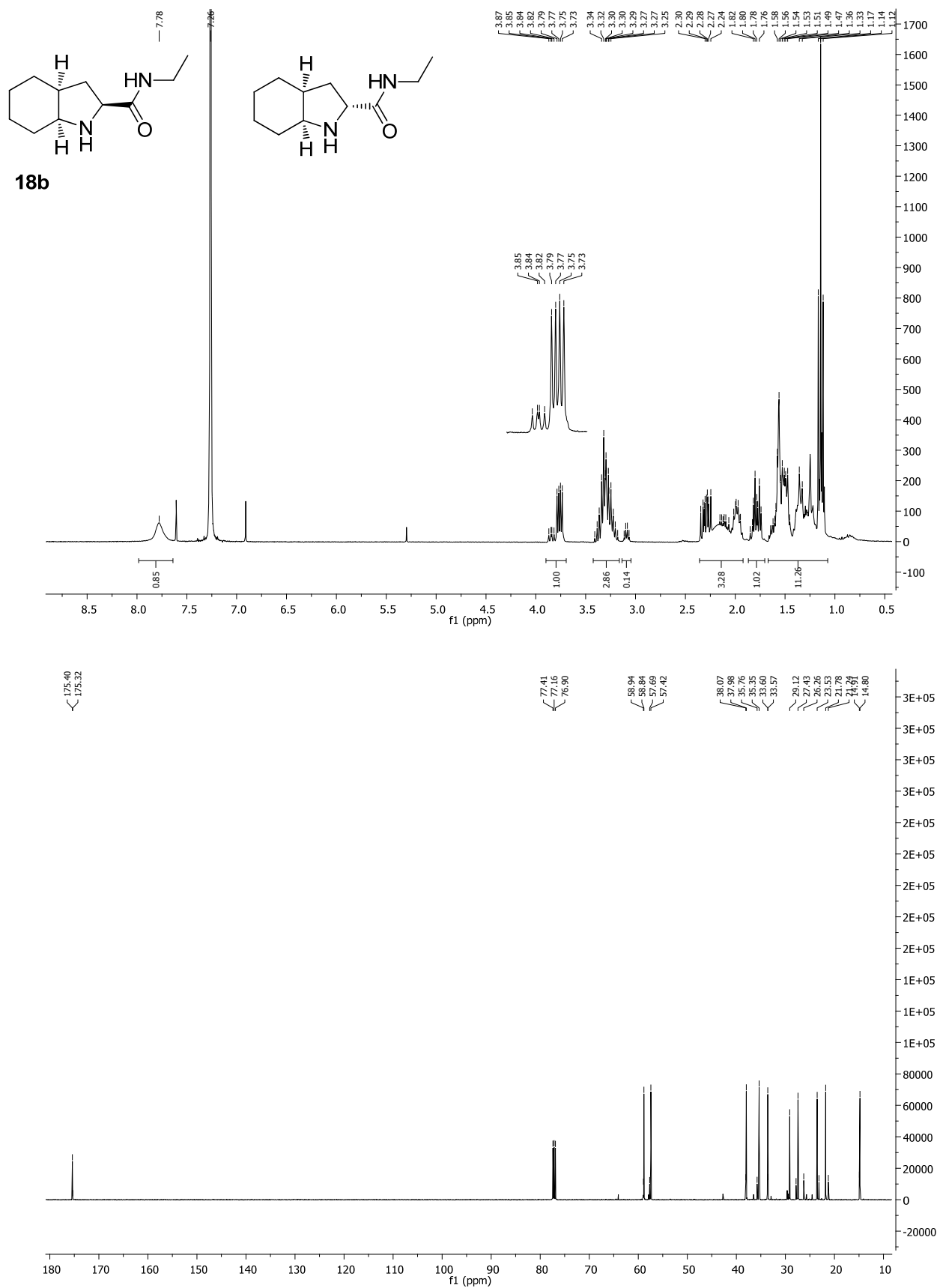


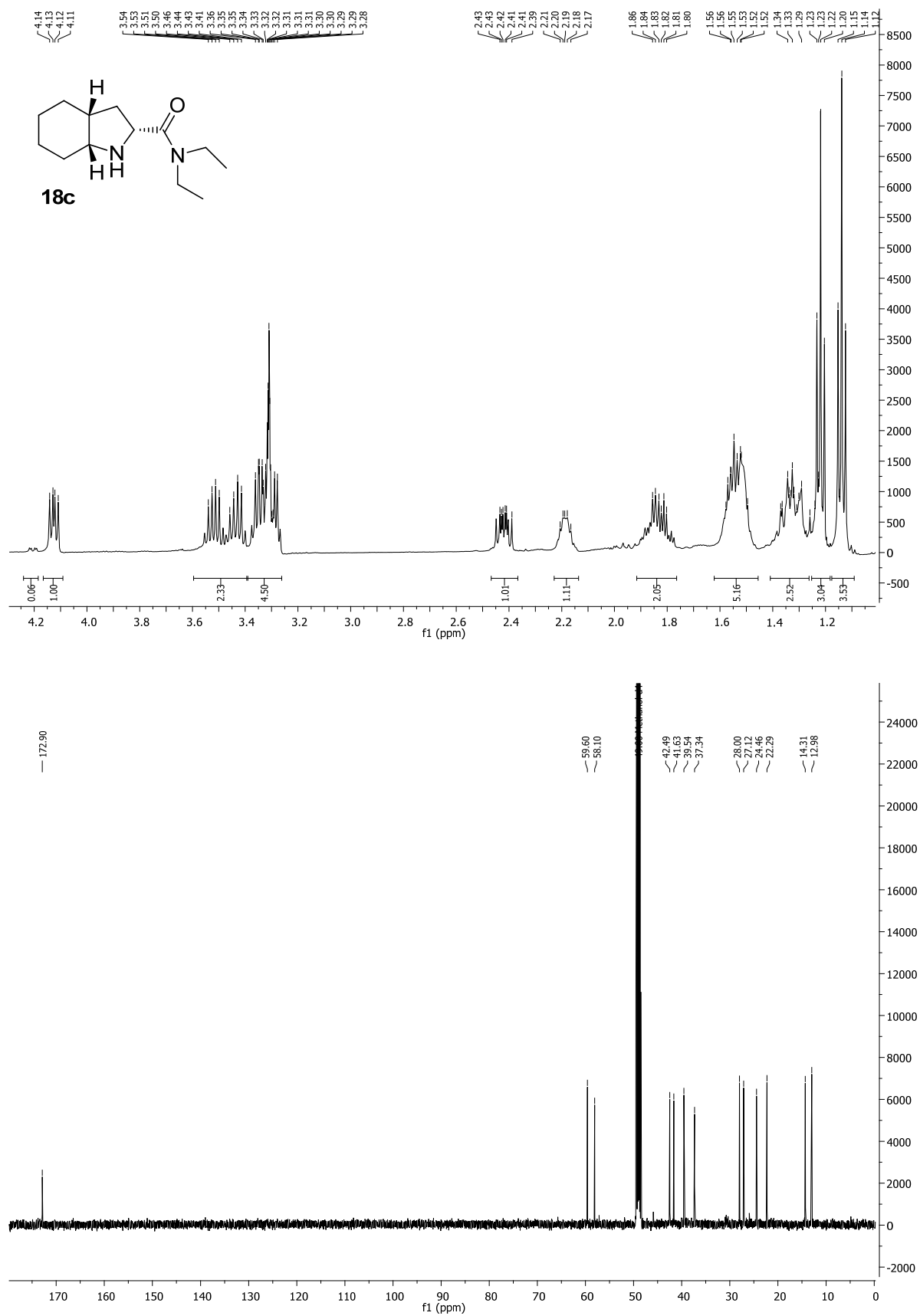


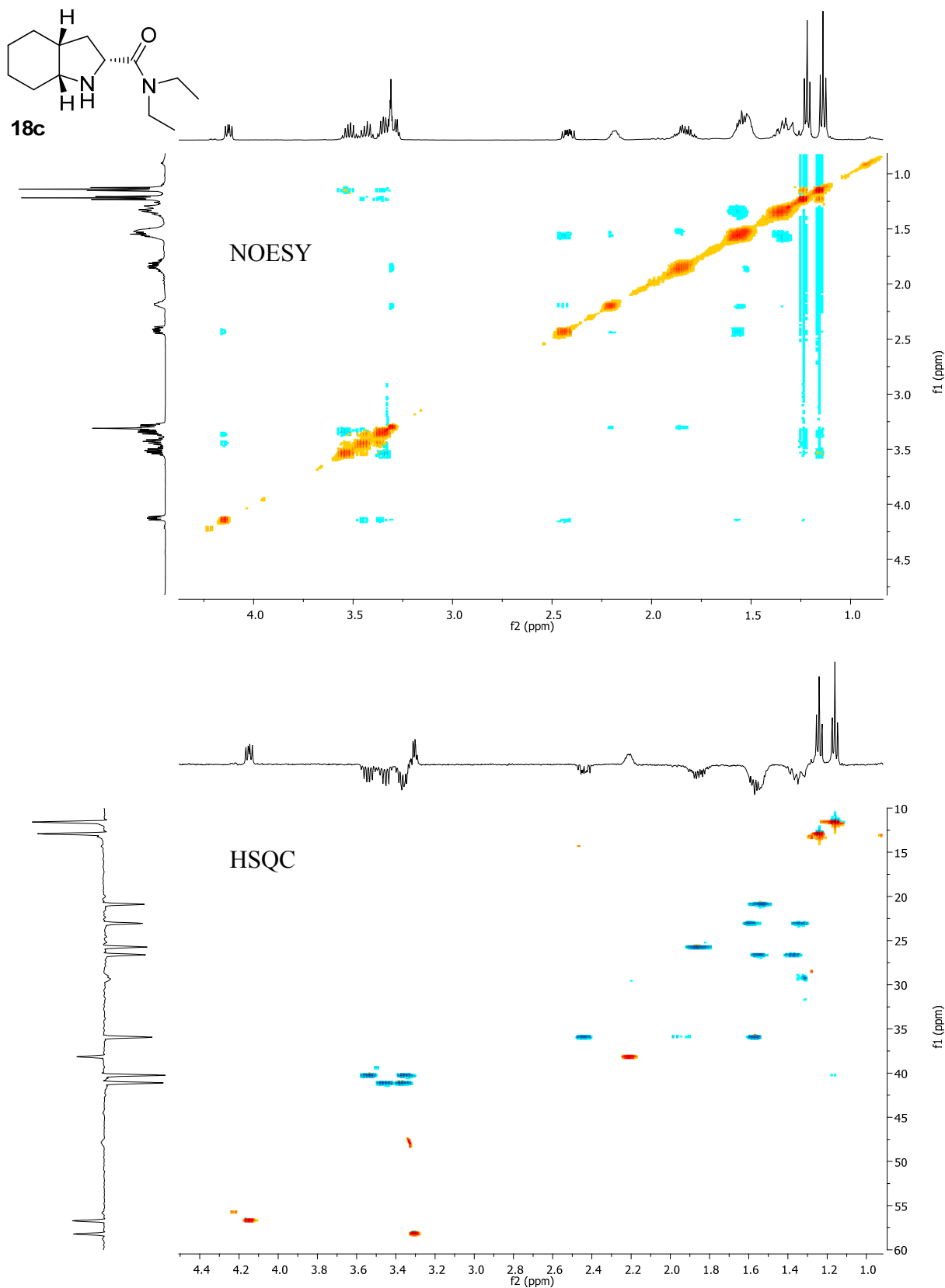


18b





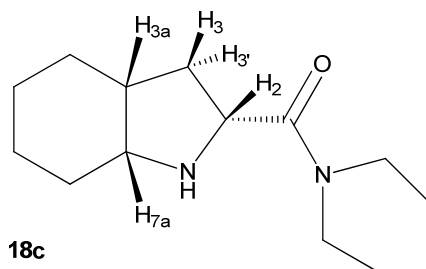




Internuclear distances driven from dipolar interactions NOESY experiments

Fixed value for H_{3a} - H_{7a} = 2.2 Å (measured by molecular modelisation)

- Grey values: outliers due to superposition of signals.
- The smaller the value, the darker the color is.



protons	H ₂	H _{7a}	H ₃	H _{3a}	H _{3'}
H _{3'}	3,4	3,2	1,9	-	H _{3'}
H _{3a}	3,0	2,2	2,3	H _{3a}	-
H ₃	2,1	2,6	H ₃	2,2	1,5
H _{7a}	2,8	H _{7a}	2,8	2,2	2,8
H ₂	H ₂	2,3	2,0	2,7	2,7

References

- 1 P. Chen, B. Fenet, S. Michaud, N. Tomczyk, E. Véricel, M. Lagarde, M. Guichardant, *FEBS Letters*, 2009, **583**, 3478.
- 2 Esposito and A. Pastore, *J. Magn. Reson.*, 1988, **76**, 331.
- 3 E. Ámmälathi, M. Bardet, D. Molko, and J. Cadet, *J. Magn. Reson.*, 1996, **122**, 230.