

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

An Iterative *In Silico* and Modular Synthetic Approach to Tercyclic α -Helix Mimetics with Measured Aqueous Solubility

Zelong Lim,^{a,b} Peter J. Duggan,^{b,c} Adam G. Meyer,^{*b} Kellie L. Tuck^{*a}

^a School of Chemistry, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria 3800, Australia.

^b CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering, Bag 10, Clayton South MDC, Victoria 3169, Australia.

^c School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, Flinders University, South Australia 5042, Australia

Email: Kellie.Tuck@monash.edu

Email: Adam.Meyer@csiro.au

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S1: X-Ray Crystallography Data

Crystal data and structure refinement for compound 7:

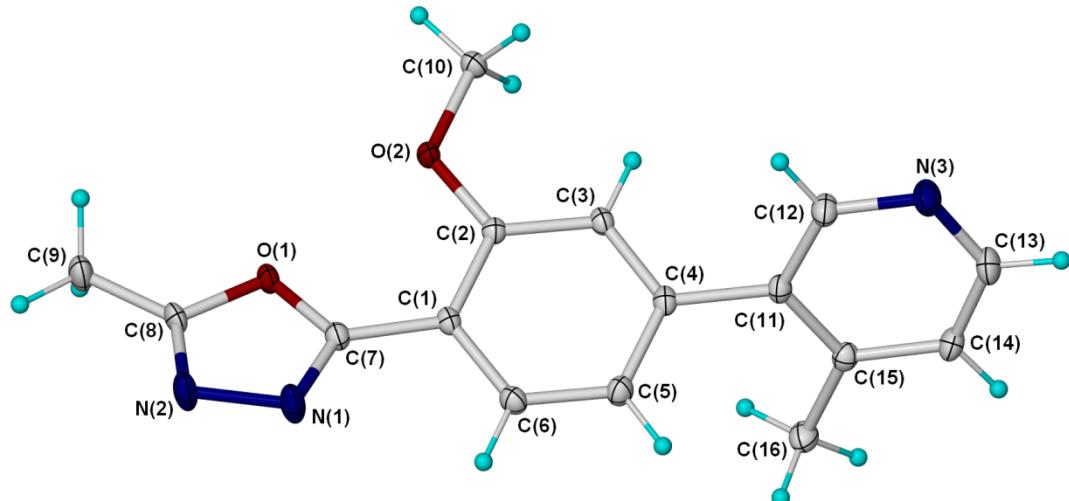


Figure S1.1: Molecular diagram of the X-ray crystal structure of 7, shown with 50% thermal ellipsoids and hydrogen atoms as spheres of arbitrary size.

Empirical formula	$C_{16}H_{15}N_3O_2$	
Formula weight	281.31	
Temperature	123(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P 21/n	
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 12.9066(5)$ Å	$\alpha = 90^\circ$
	$b = 7.1171(2)$ Å	$\beta = 101.461(2)^\circ$
	$c = 15.1189(6)$ Å	$\gamma = 90^\circ$
Volume	$1361.09(8)$ Å ³	
Z, Calculated density	4, 1.373 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.093 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	592	

Crystal size	0.25 x 0.13 x 0.10 mm
Theta range for data collection	3.22 to 30.0°
Limiting indices	-16<=h<=18, -10<=k<=5, -21<=l<=20
Reflections collected / unique	11823 / 3961 [R(int) = 0.0178]
Completeness to theta = 27.50	99.8 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.7460 and 0.7059
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	3961 / 0 / 193
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.036
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R ₁ = 0.0386, wR ₂ = 0.1048
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0471, wR ₂ = 0.1118
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.391 and -0.273 e·Å ⁻³

Crystal data and structure refinement for compound **11**:

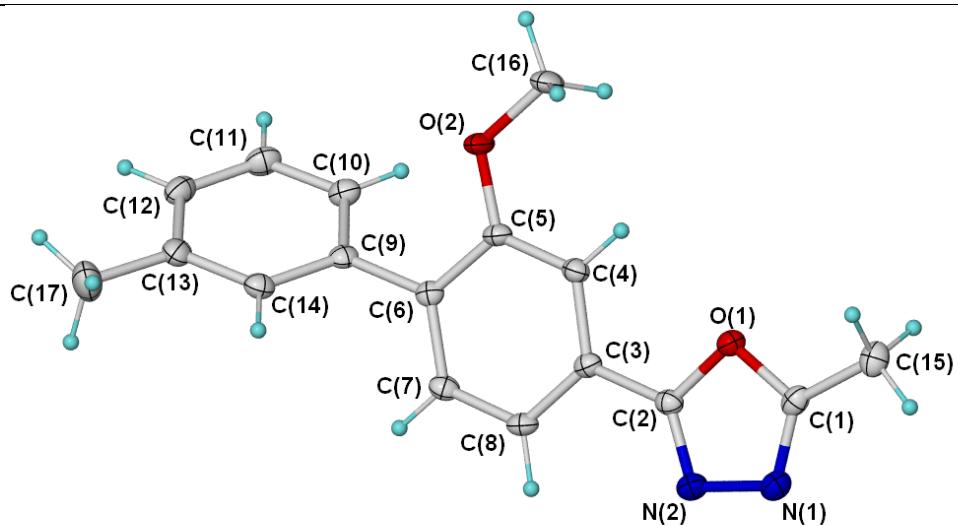


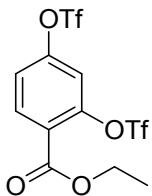
Figure S1.2: Molecular diagram of the X-ray crystal structure of **11**, shown with 50% thermal ellipsoids and hydrogen atoms as spheres of arbitrary size.

Empirical formula	$C_{17}H_{16}N_2O_2$	
Formula weight	280.32	
Temperature	123(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P 21/c	
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 10.8379(25)$ Å	$\alpha = 90^\circ$
	$b = 7.0007(1)$ Å	$\beta = 92.548(1)^\circ$
	$c = 18.8456(3)$ Å	$\gamma = 90^\circ$
Volume	$1428.46(4)$ Å ³	
Z, Calculated density	4, 1.303 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.087 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	592	
Crystal size	0.25 x 0.25 x 0.20 mm	
Theta range for data collection	1.88 to 30.0°	
Limiting indices	$-14 \leq h \leq 14, -9 \leq k \leq 9, -24 \leq l \leq 23$	

Reflections collected / unique	14965 / 3264 [R(int) = 0.0183]
Completeness to theta = 27.50	99.9 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	1.22222 and 0.95108
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	3264 / 0 / 193
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.042
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R ₁ = 0.0369, wR ₂ = 0.0964
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0418, wR ₂ = 0.1000
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.320 and -0.194 e·Å ⁻³

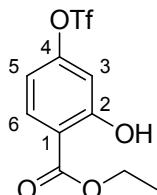
S2: Experimental

Ethyl 2,4-bis(((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)oxy)benzoate (29).



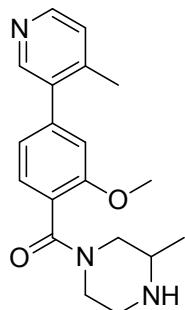
Trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (2.00 mL, 11.9 mmol) was added slowly to a stirring mixture of ethyl 2,4-dihydroxybenzoate **16** (2.00 g, 11.0 mmol), triethylamine (2.30 mL, 16.5 mmol) and dry DCM (25 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, stirred for 18 h, then washed with 1 M HCl (2 x 20 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified *via* silica gel chromatography (9:1 hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford the title compound **29** (2.16 g, 44%) as a white crystalline solid. m.p.: 34.2 – 35.6 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 162.6, 151.8, 148.7, 134.6, 125.4, 121.6, 118.84 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 318.9 Hz), 118.79 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 319.4 Hz), 116.9, 62.9, 14.1. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ -72.4, -73.0. LRMS (EI+): *m/z* 446.0 [M]⁺ (14%), 417.9 [M-C₂H₄]⁺ (86%), 400.9 [M-C₂H₅O⁻]⁺ (88%), 268.0, [M-C₂H₅O-CF₃O₂S⁻]⁺ (100%). IR (neat): ν_{max} 1732m, 1608m, 1430s, 1203s, 1133s, 1073s, 963s, 866s, 845s, 795s, 754s cm⁻¹.

Ethyl 2-hydroxy-4-(trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy)benzoate (17).



A mixture of *N*-phenyl-bis(trifluoromethanesulfonimide) (1.16 g, 3.26 mmol), ethyl 2,4-dihydroxybenzoate **16** (0.54 g, 2.96 mmol) and pyridine (0.26 mL, 3.26 mmol) in dry DCM (20 mL) was stirred at rt for 24 h. The reaction mixture then washed with 1 M HCl (3 x 10 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified *via* silica gel chromatography (9:1 hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford the title compound **17** (0.37 g, 40%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 11.11 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

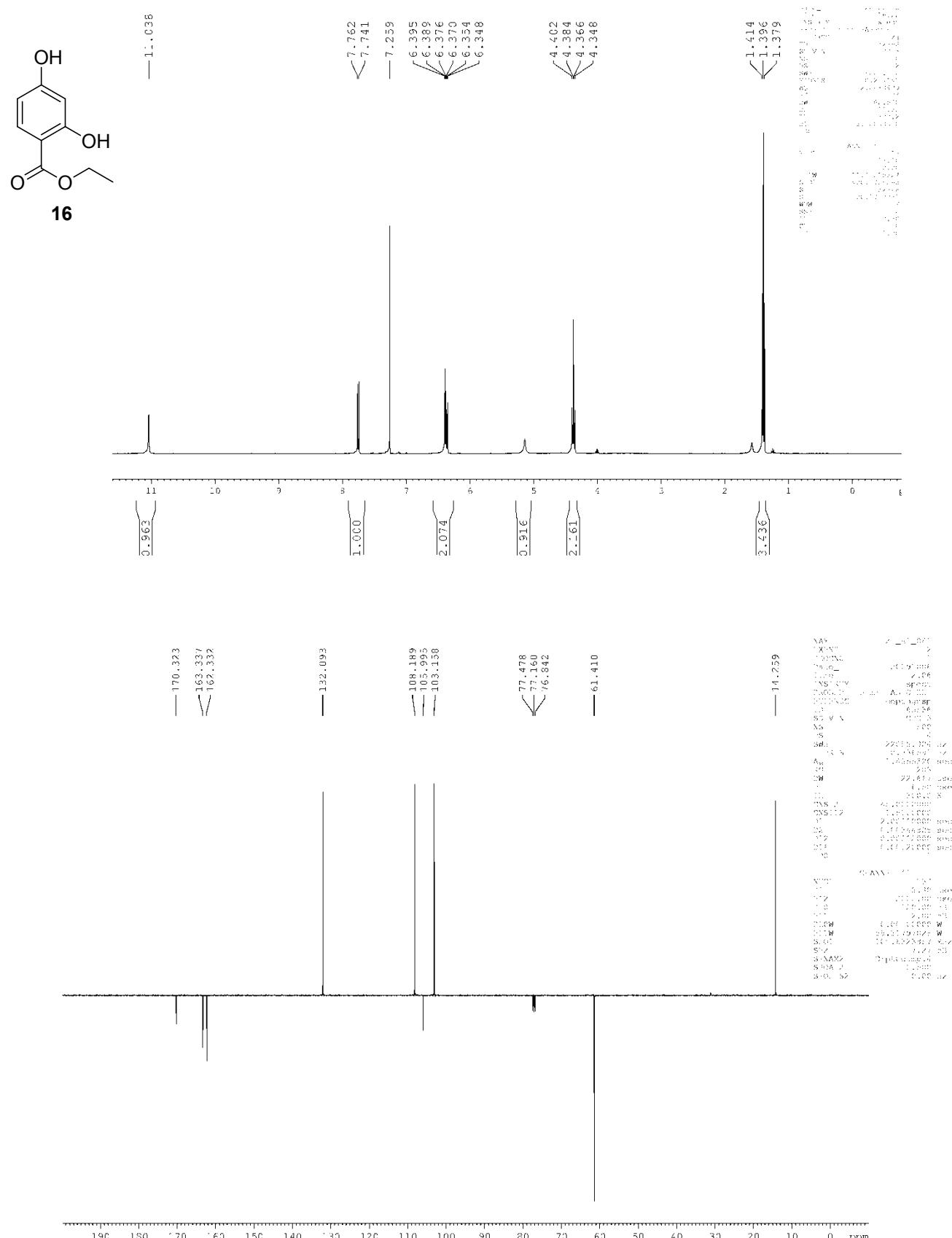
(2-Methoxy-4-(4-methylpyridin-3-yl)phenyl)(3-methylpiperazin-1-yl)methanone (5).

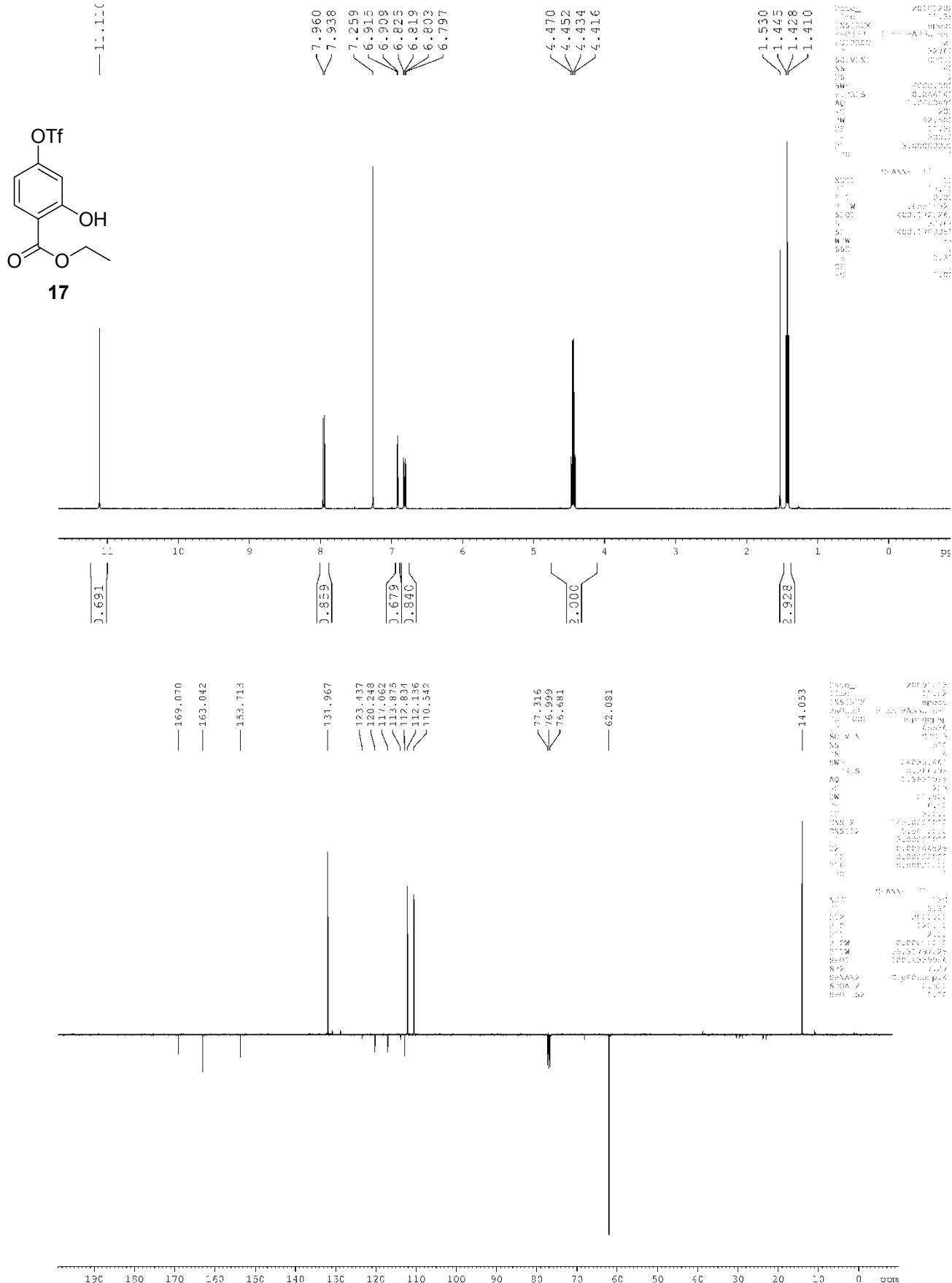


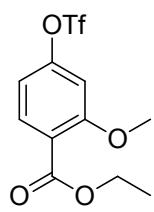
A solution of 2-methoxy-4-(4-methylpyridin-3-yl)benzoic acid **22** (90 mg, 0.37 mmol) in thionyl chloride (3 mL) was heated at reflux for 1 h. After 1 h the reaction mixture turned red, and excess thionyl chloride was removed under a flow of nitrogen and volatiles removed *in vacuo*. The reaction vessel was then charged with (\pm)-2-methylpiperazine (37 mg, 0.37 mmol) and dissolved with dry dichloromethane (10 mL), before cooling to 0 °C. A 1.8 M solution of diethylaluminium chloride in toluene (0.21 mL, 0.37 mmol) was then added and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 5 h. The reaction mixture was then diluted with 1 M HCl_(aq) (5 mL) and washed with DCM (3 x 15 mL). The aqueous layer was concentrated *in vacuo* before it was purified *via* reverse phase (C₁₈) HPLC with a gradient elution of H₂O/ACN (100/0% to 10/90%) to afford the title compound **5**, a yellow oil (30 mg, 25%), as a mixture of conformers.

¹H NMR (D₂O): δ 8.68 (m, 2H), 8.04 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.82 – 3.30 (m, 7H), 2.62 (s, 1H), 2.61 (s, 1H), 1.50 – 1.48 (m, 2H), 1.15 – 1.12 (m, 1H).

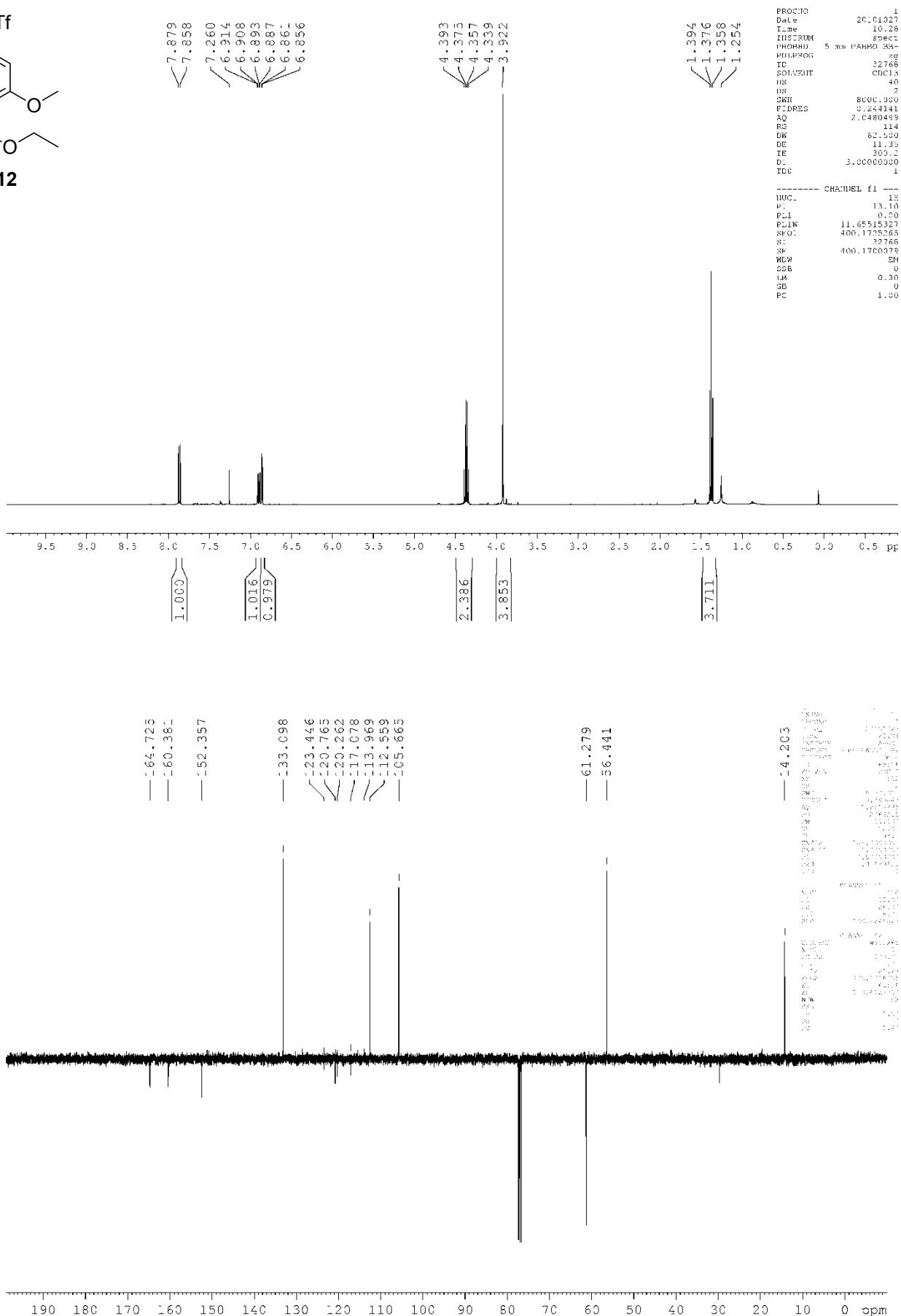
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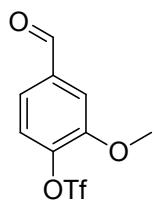




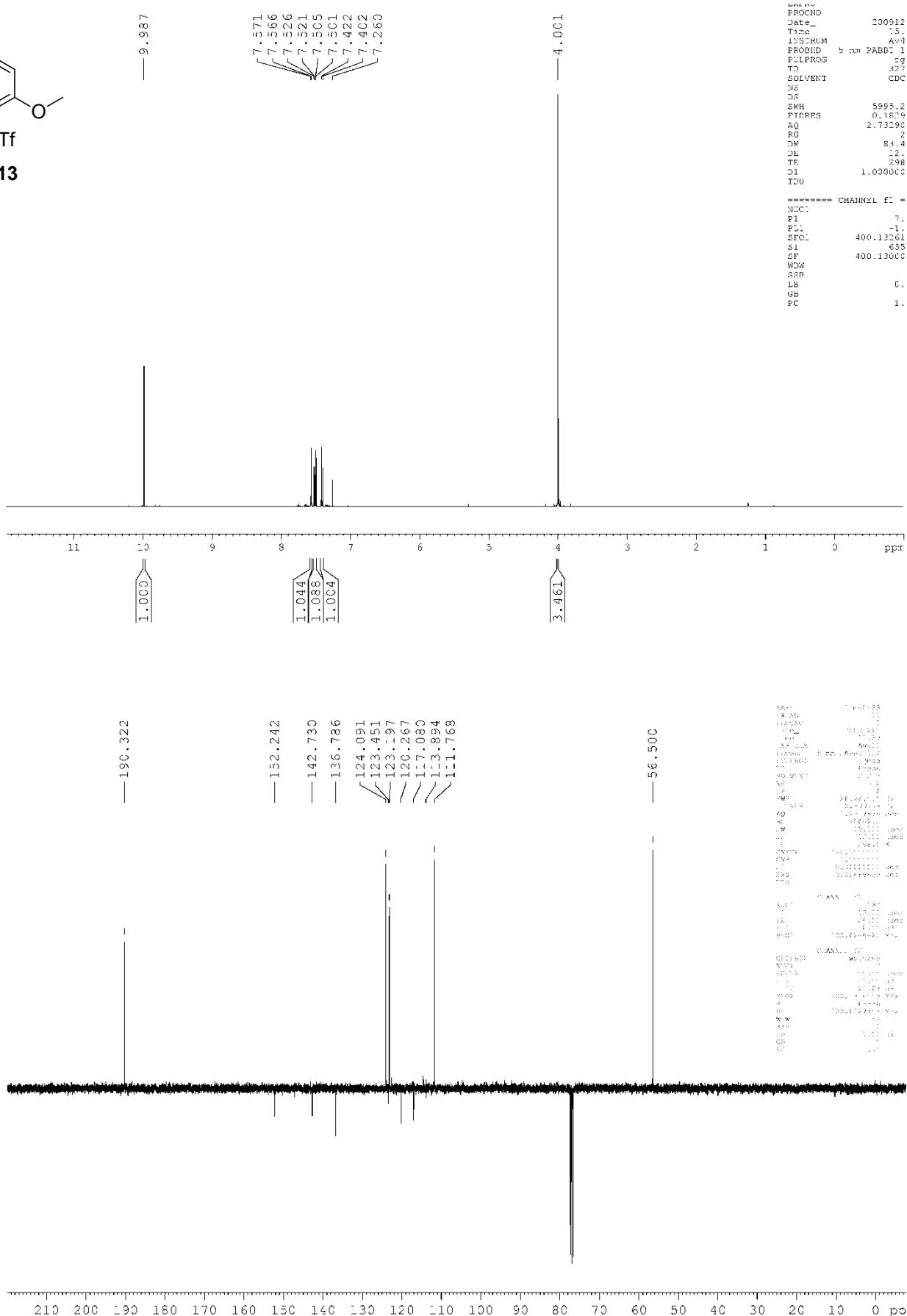


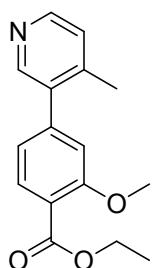
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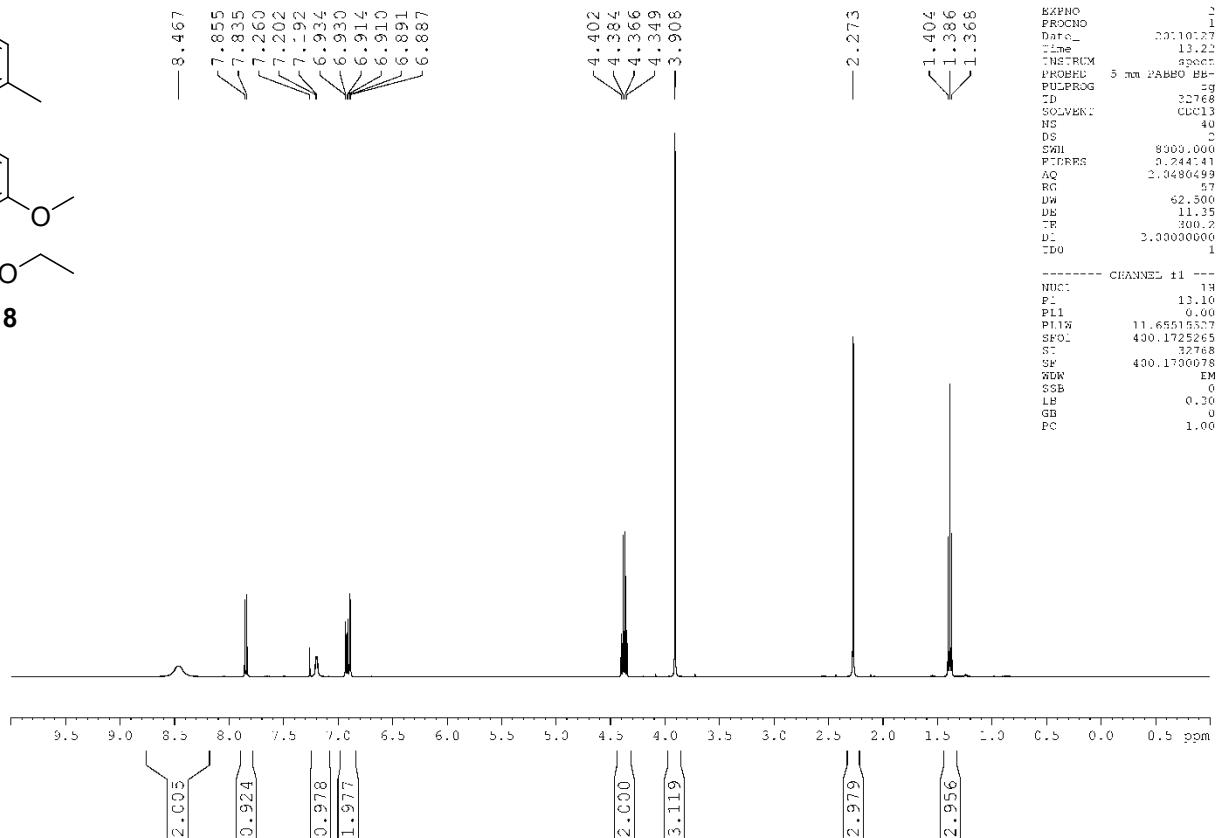


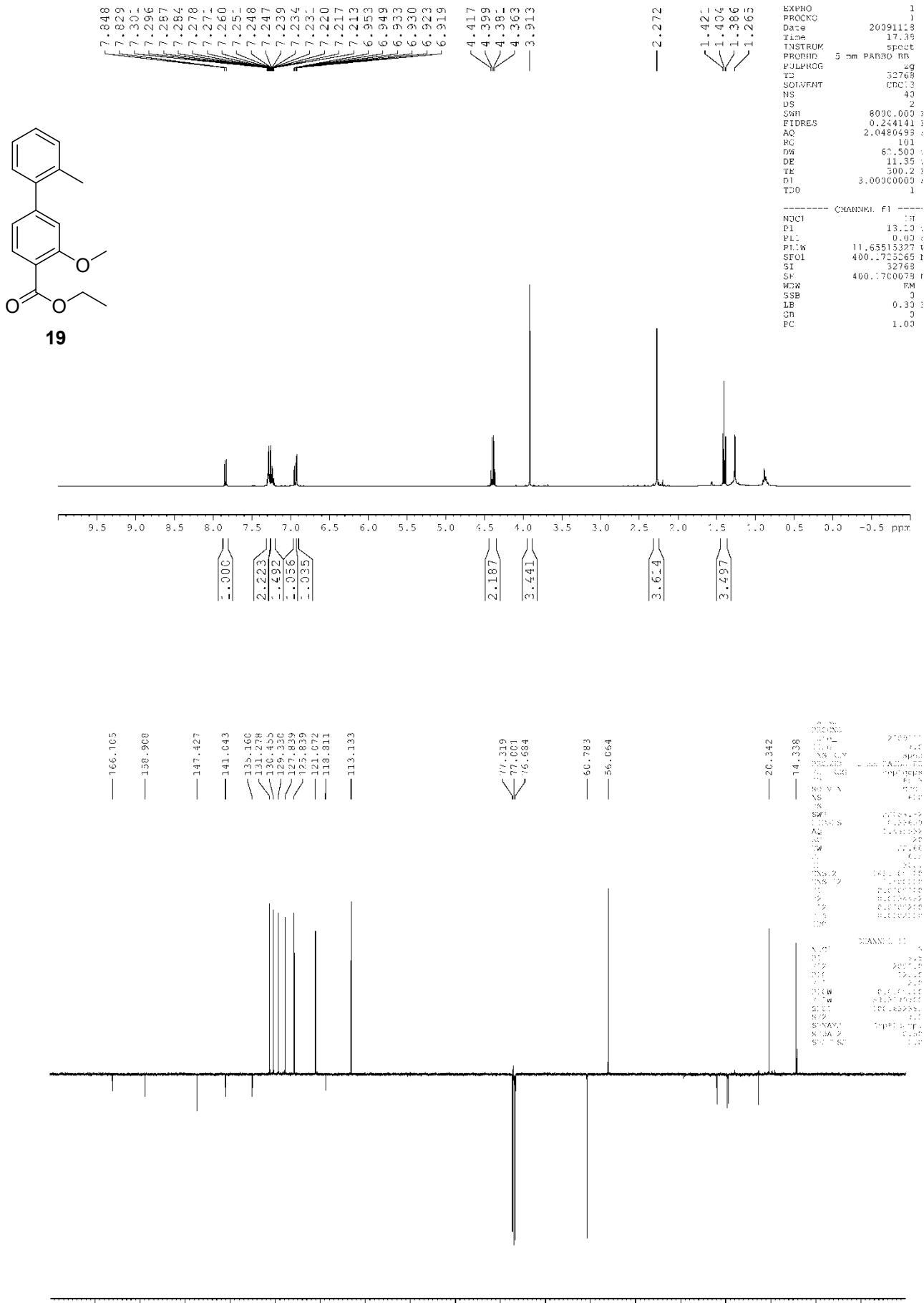
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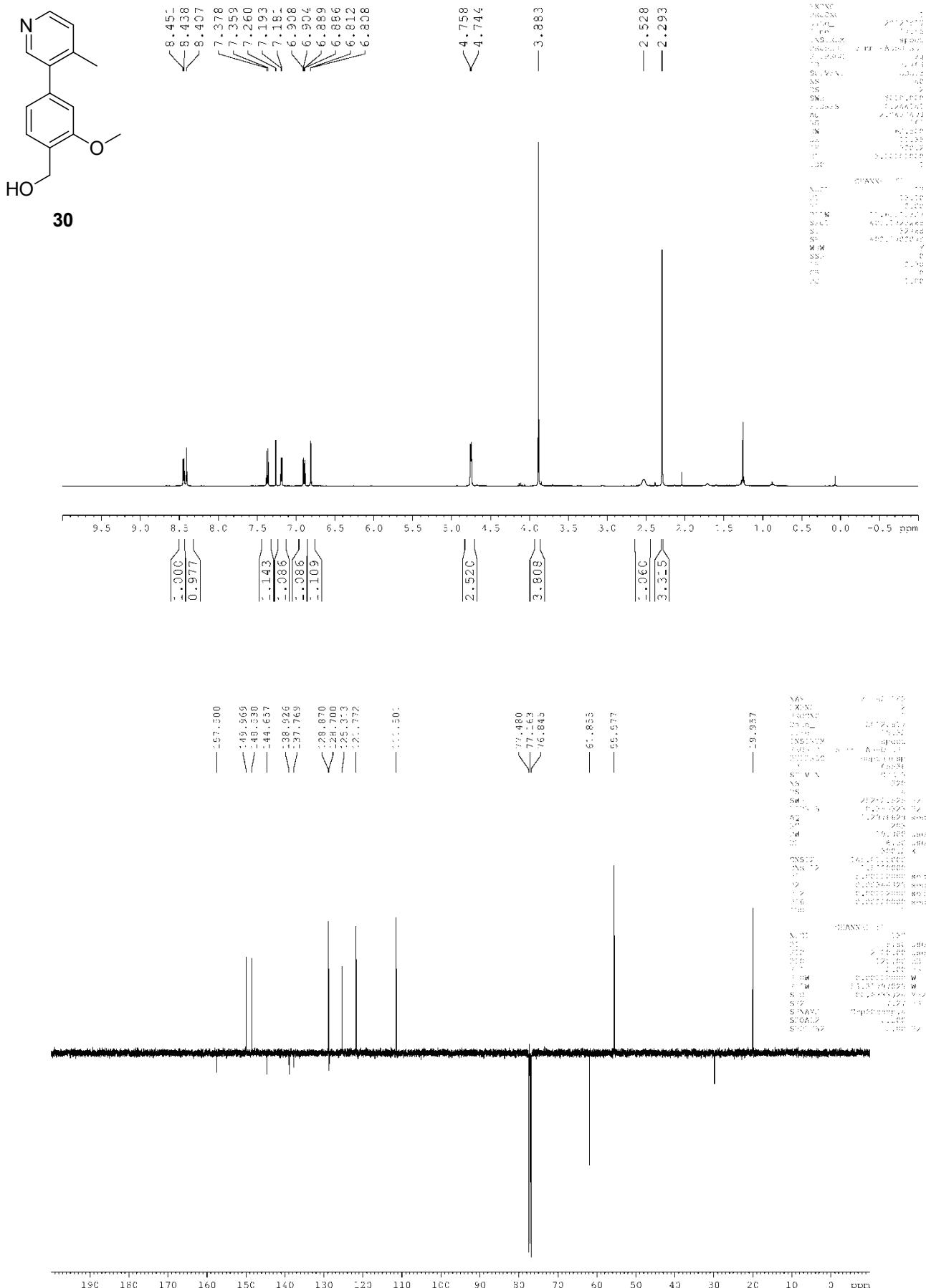


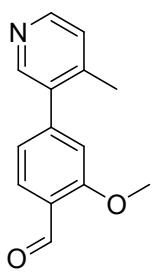


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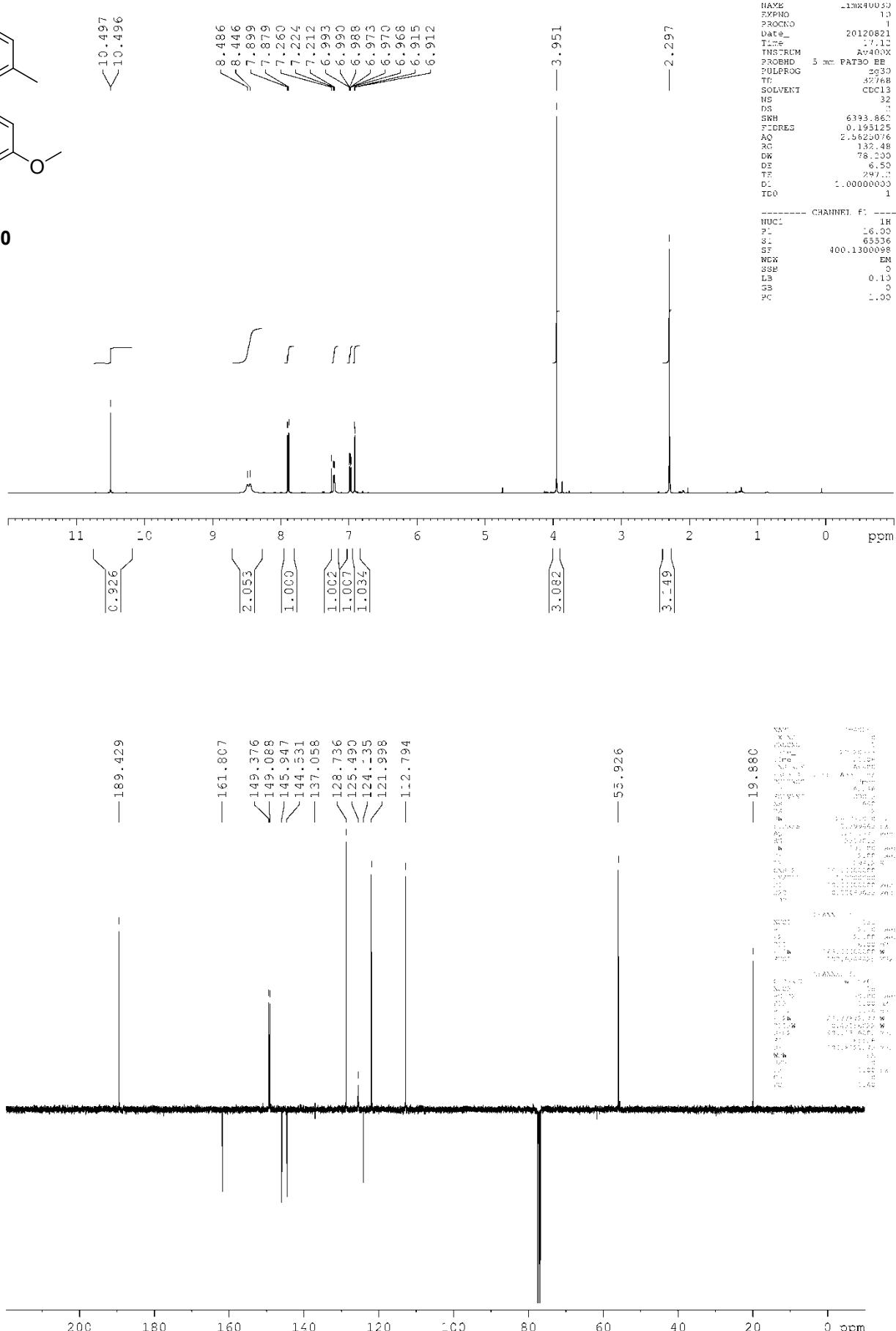


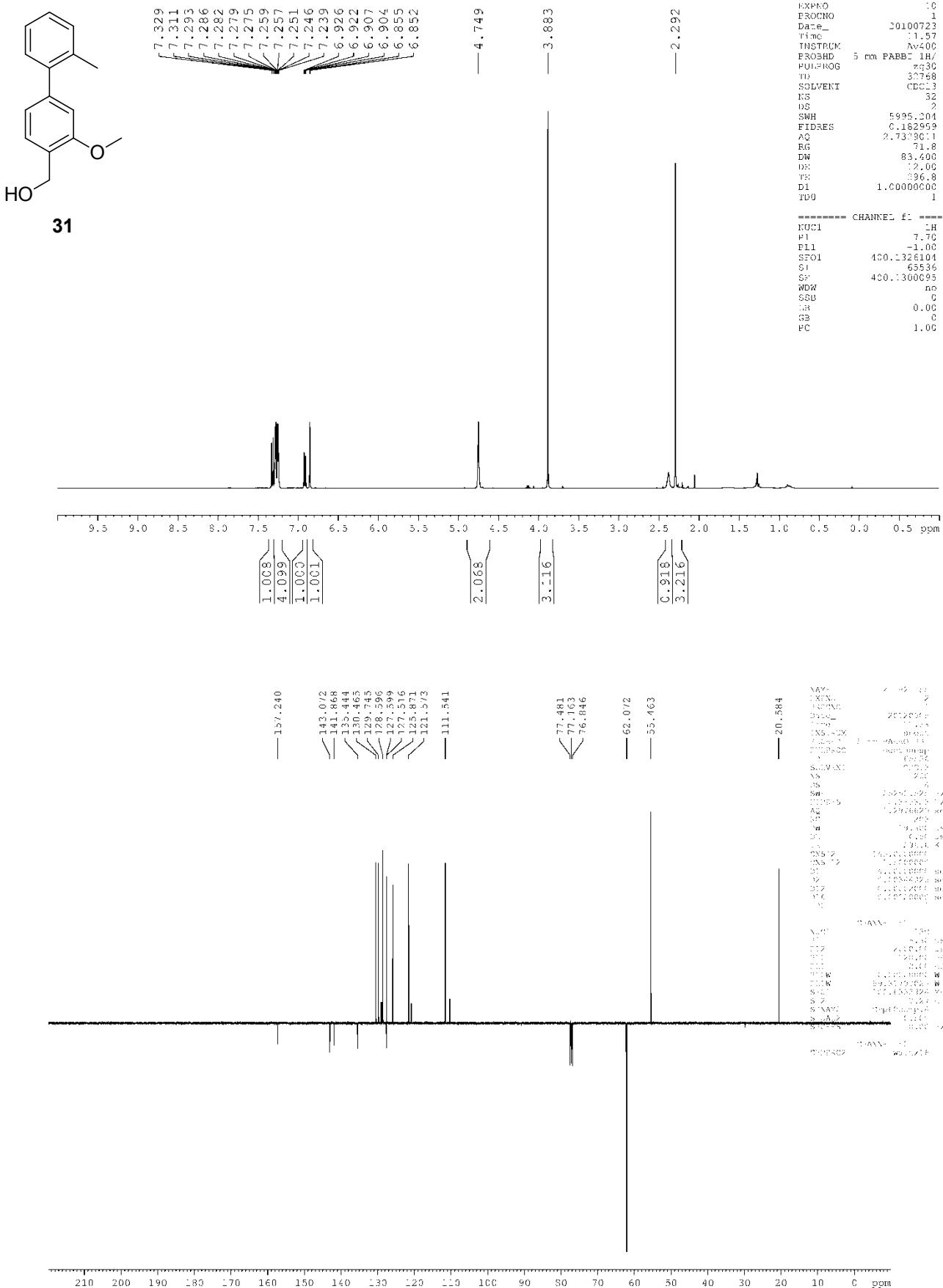


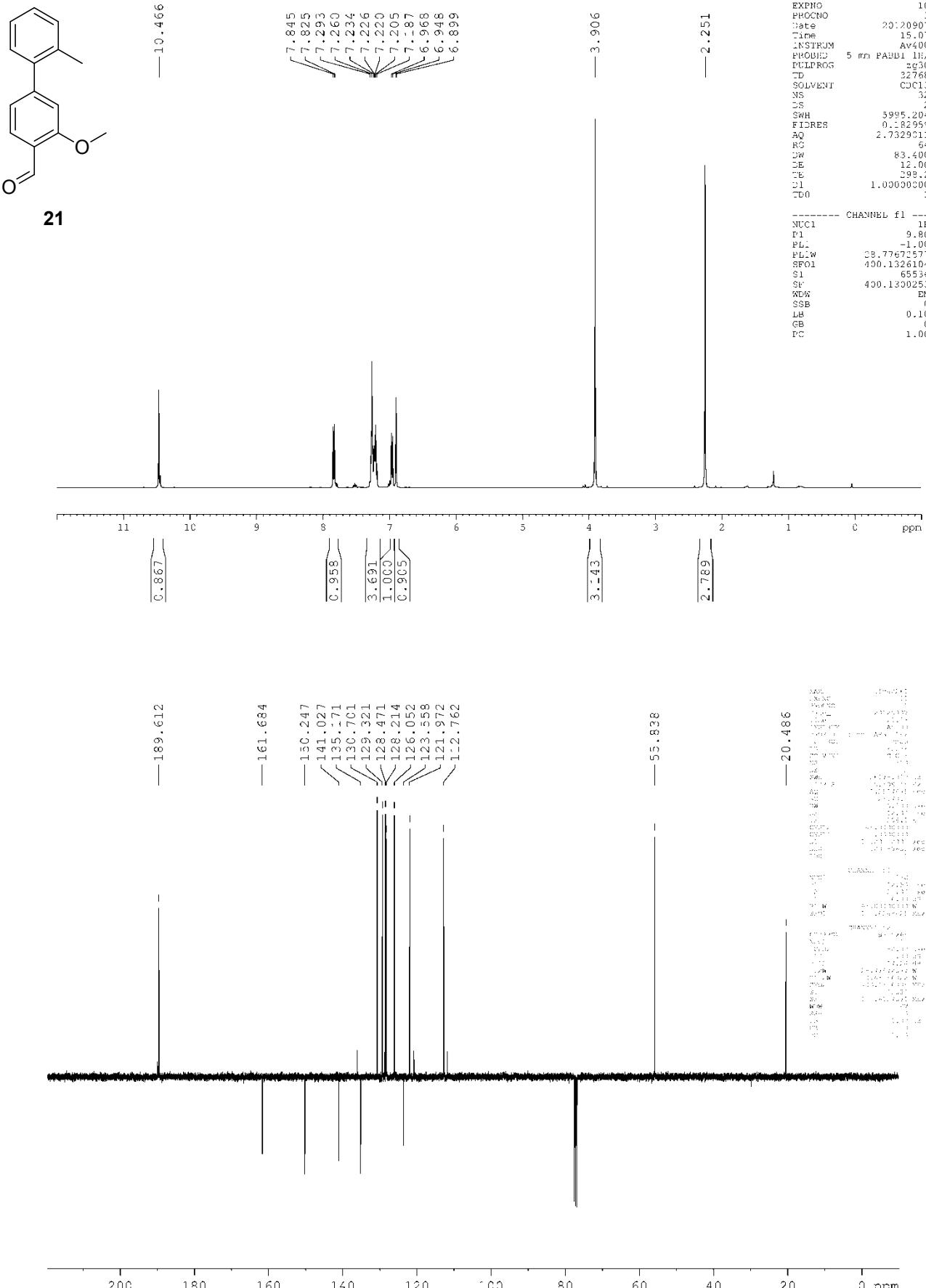




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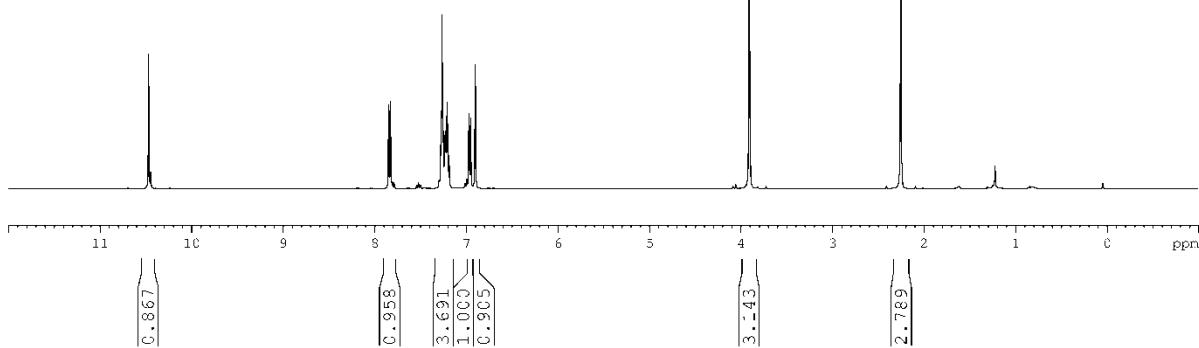
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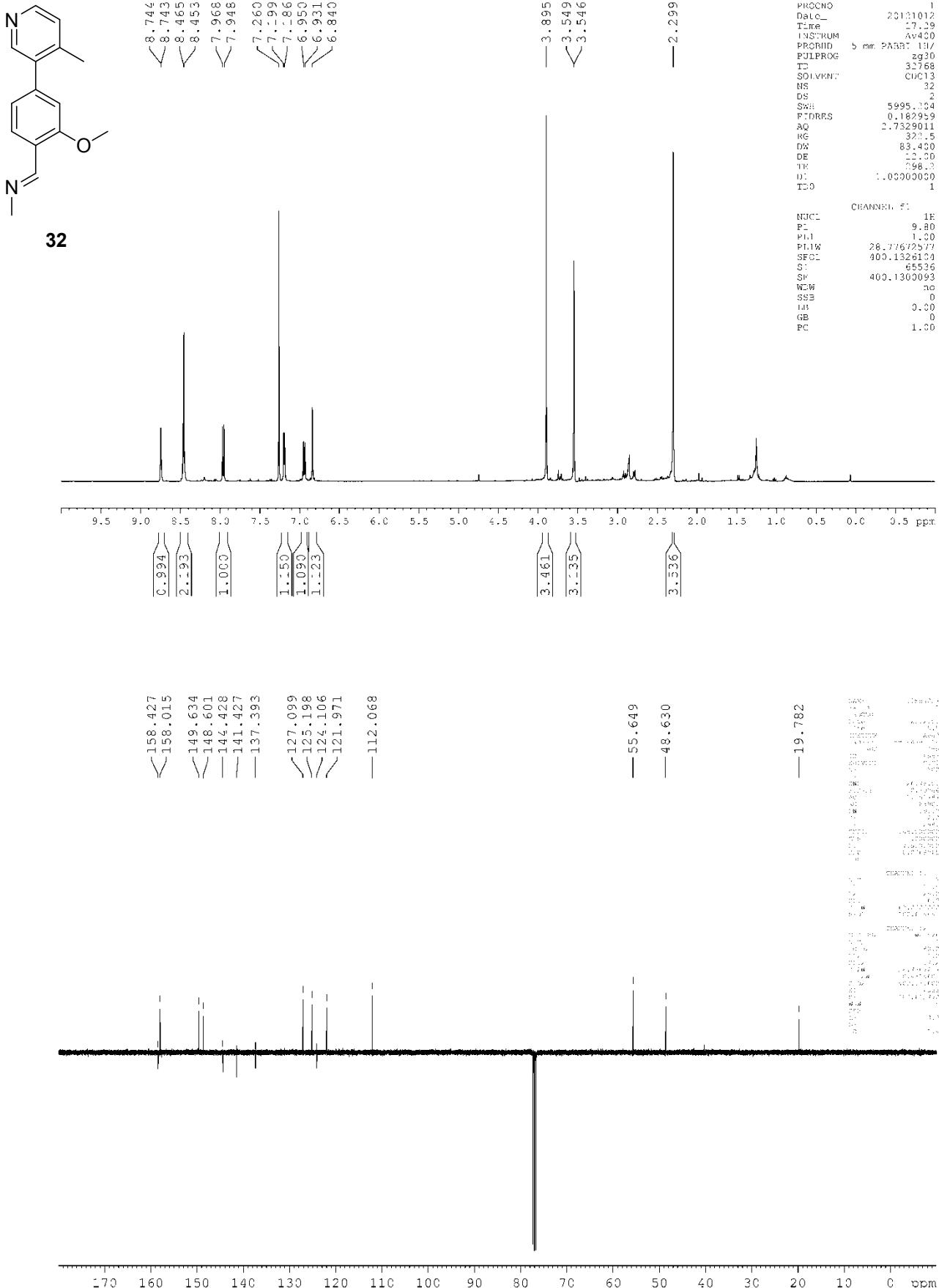
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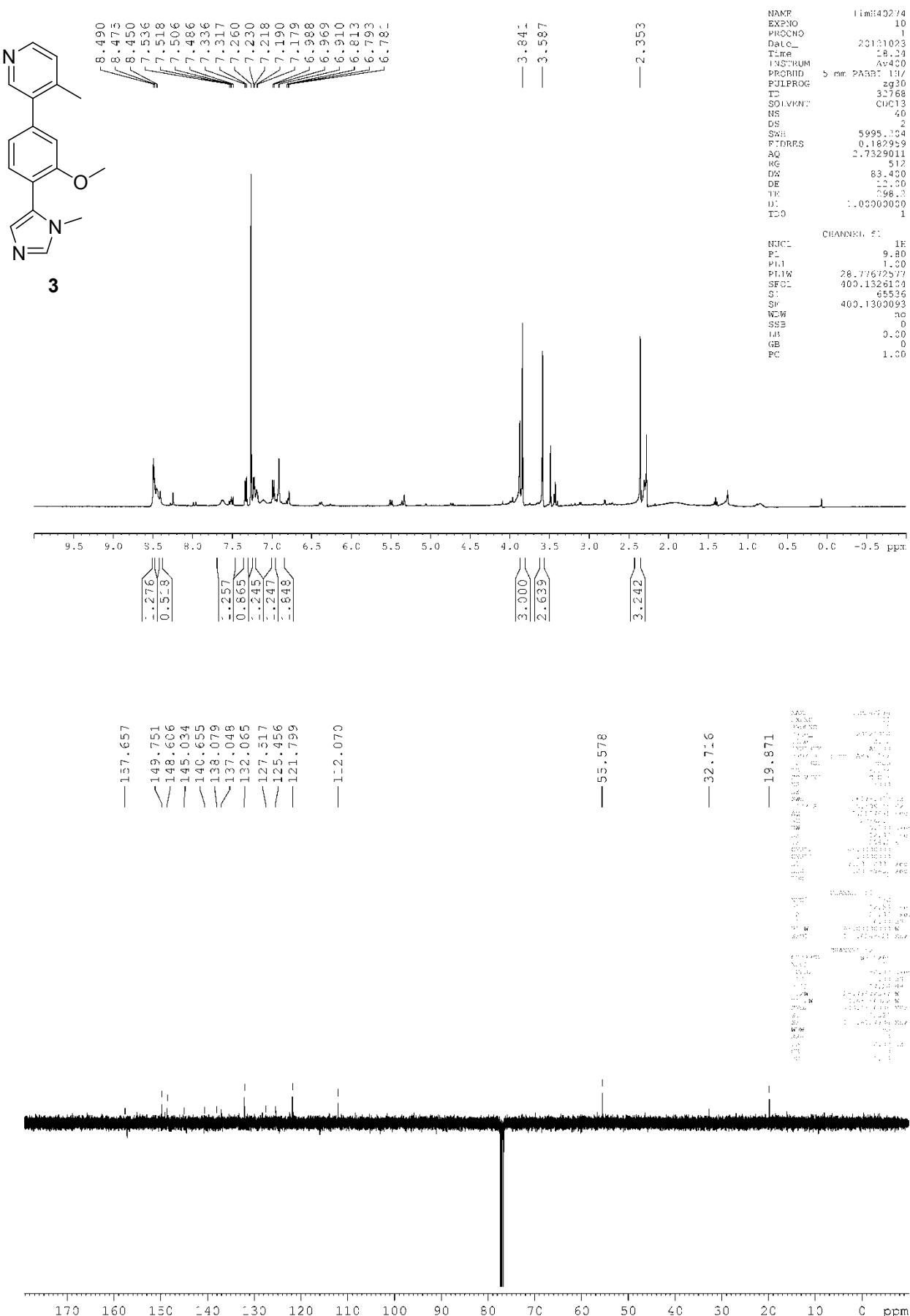
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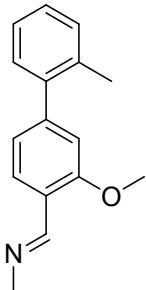
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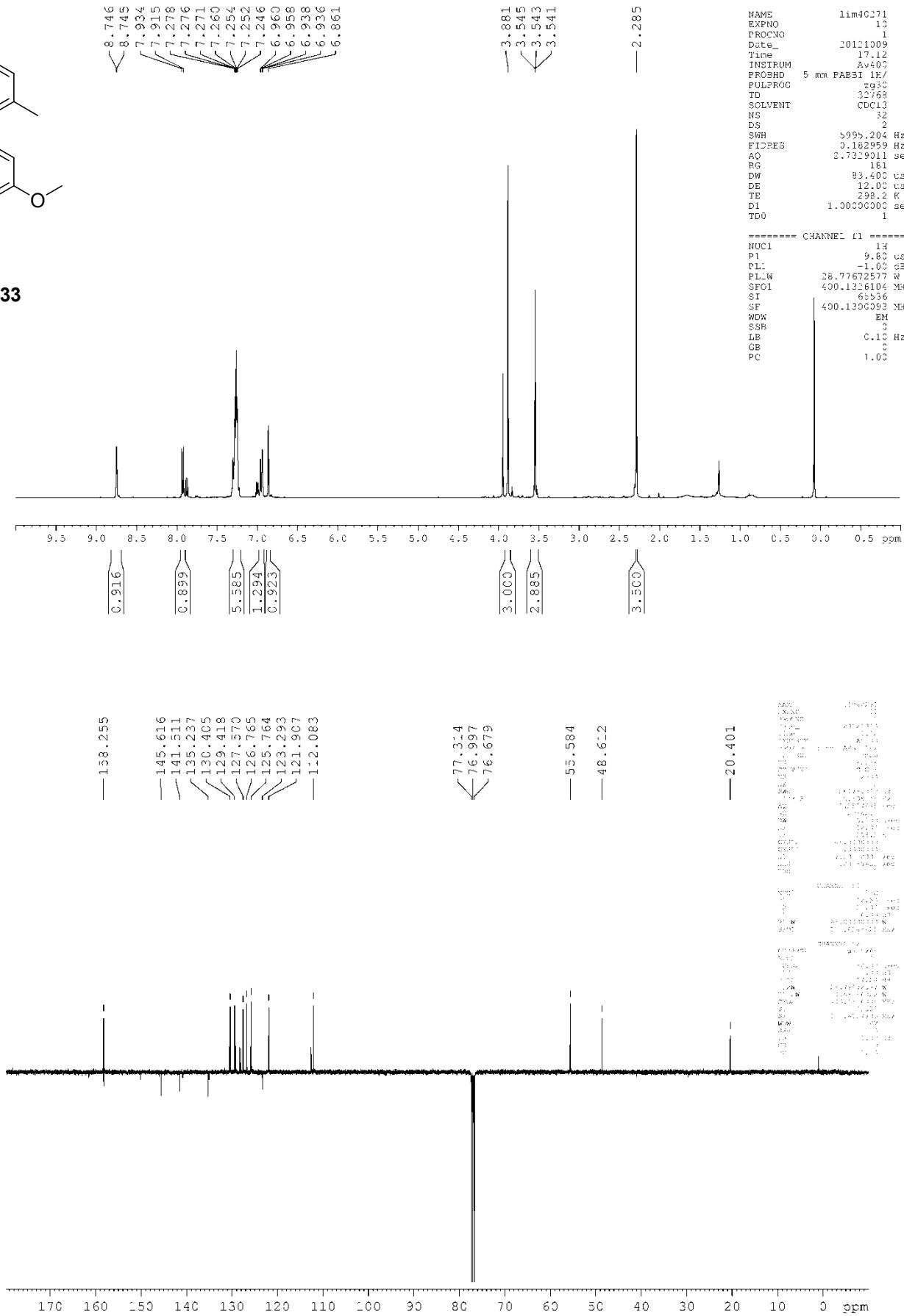
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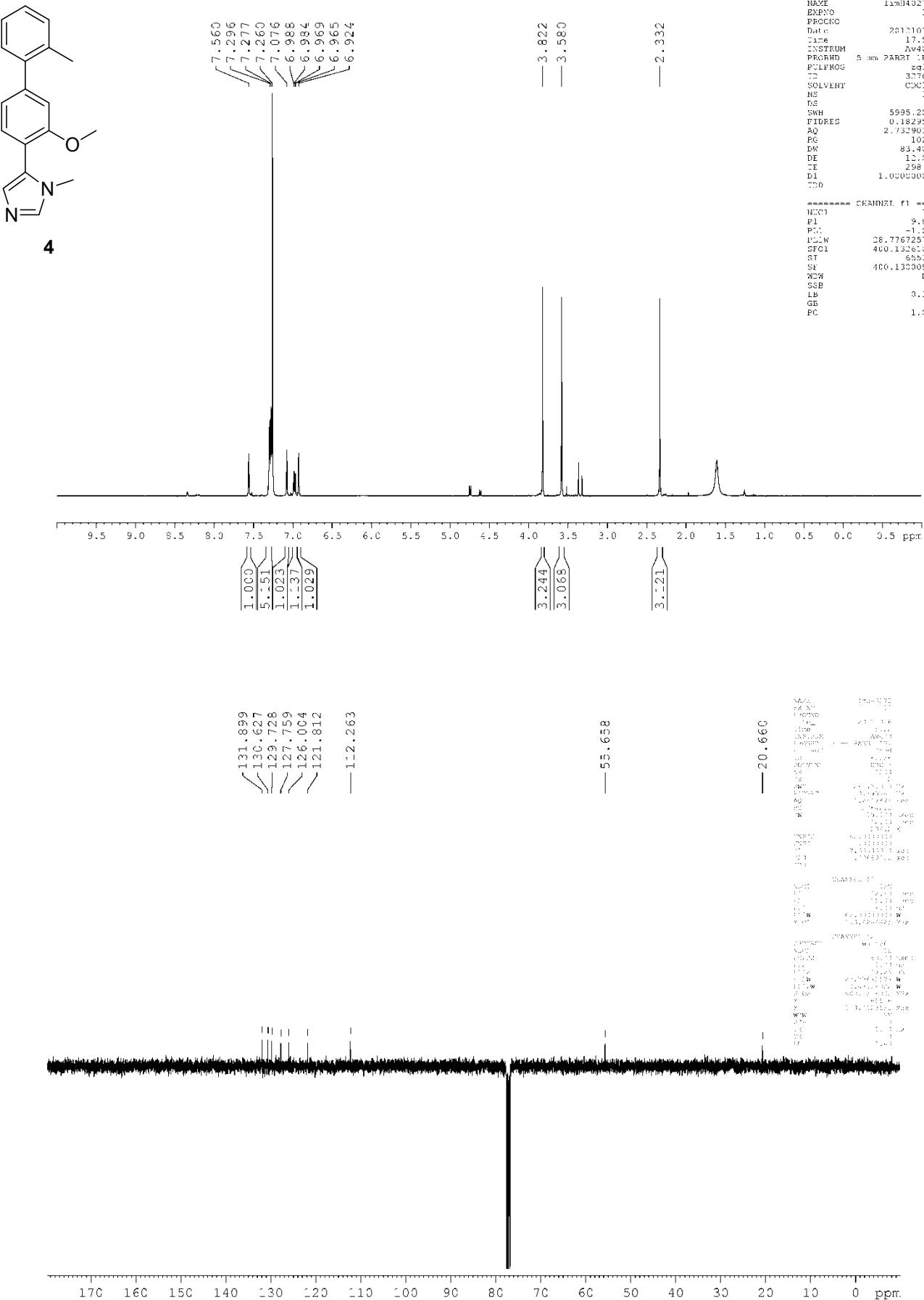


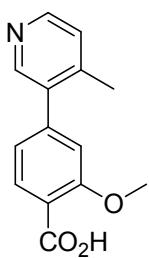




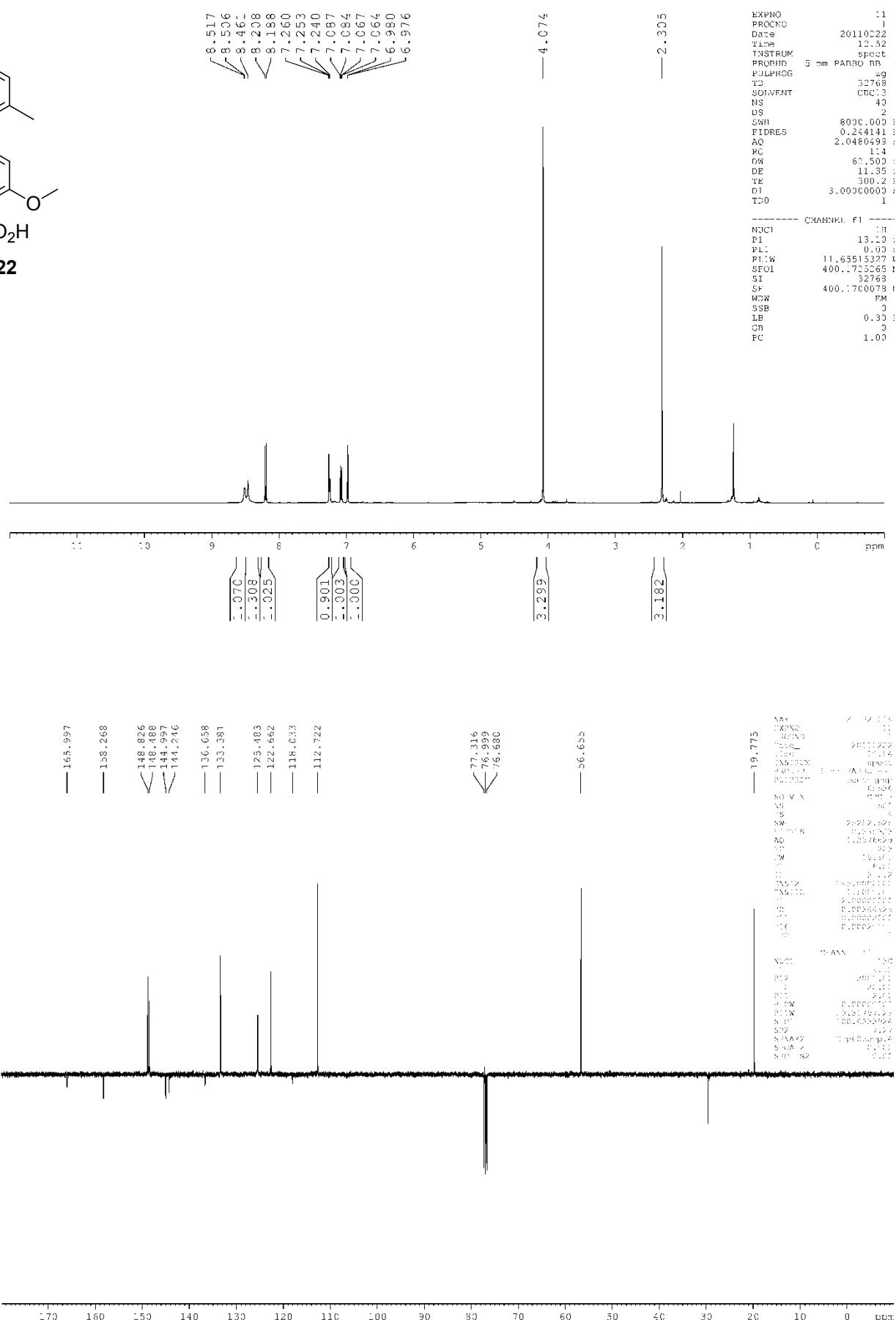
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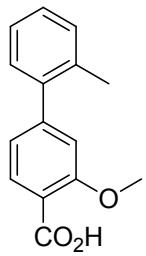




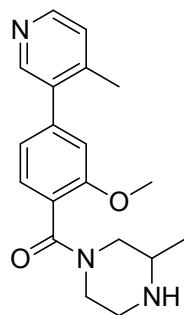
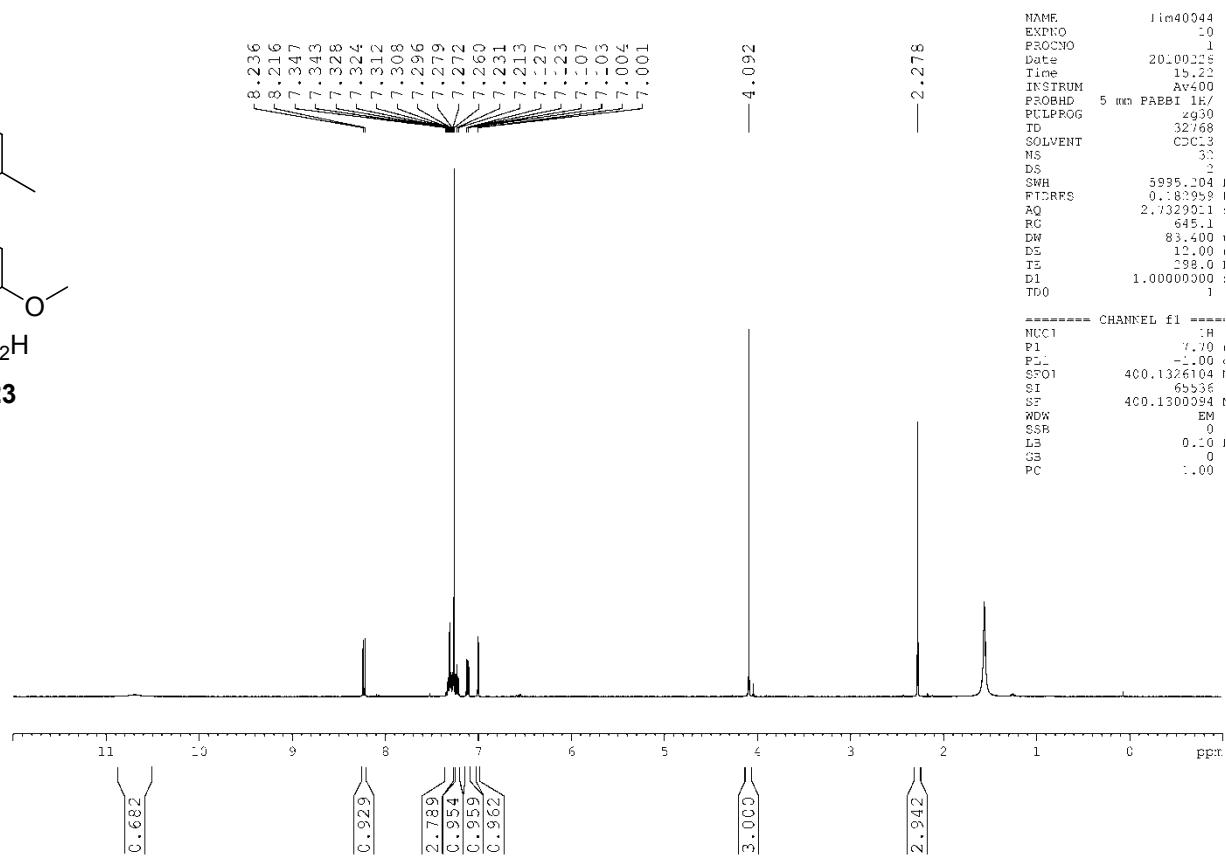


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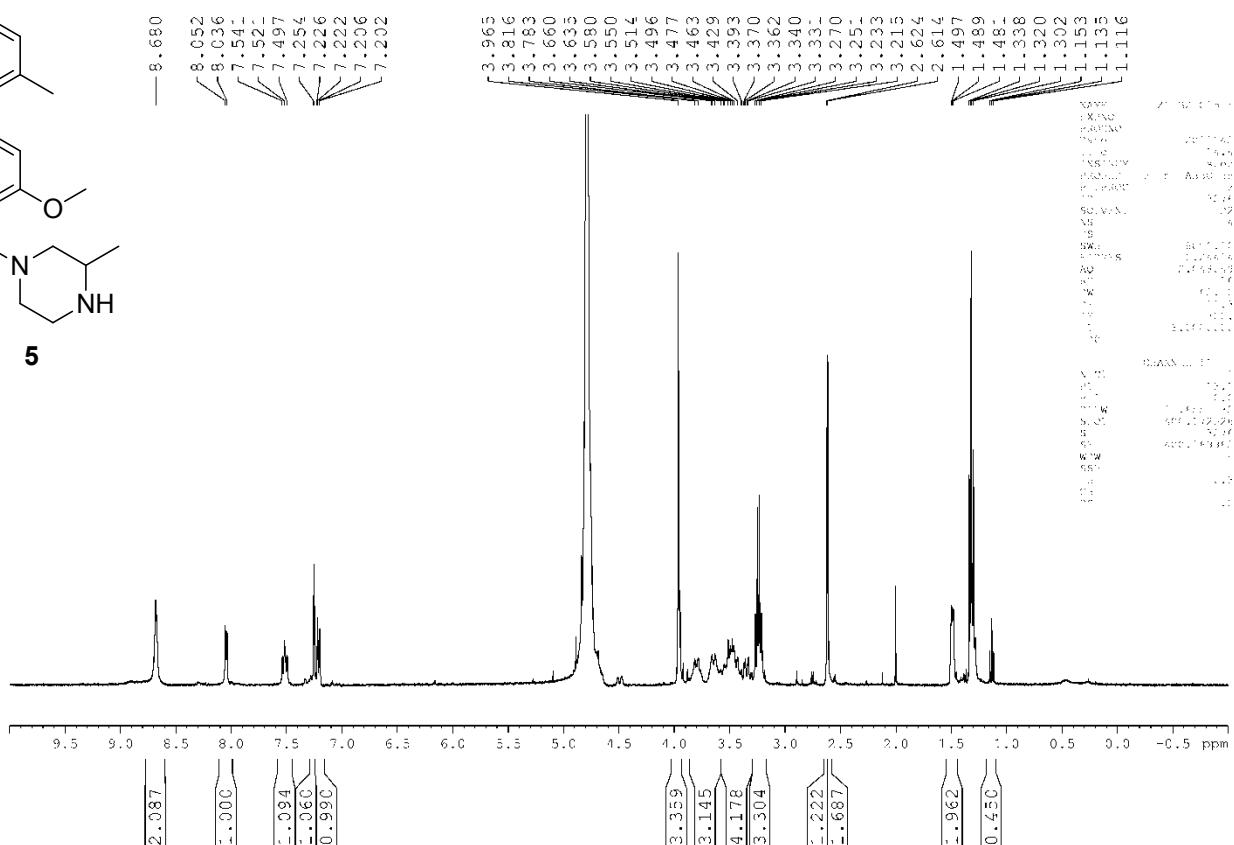




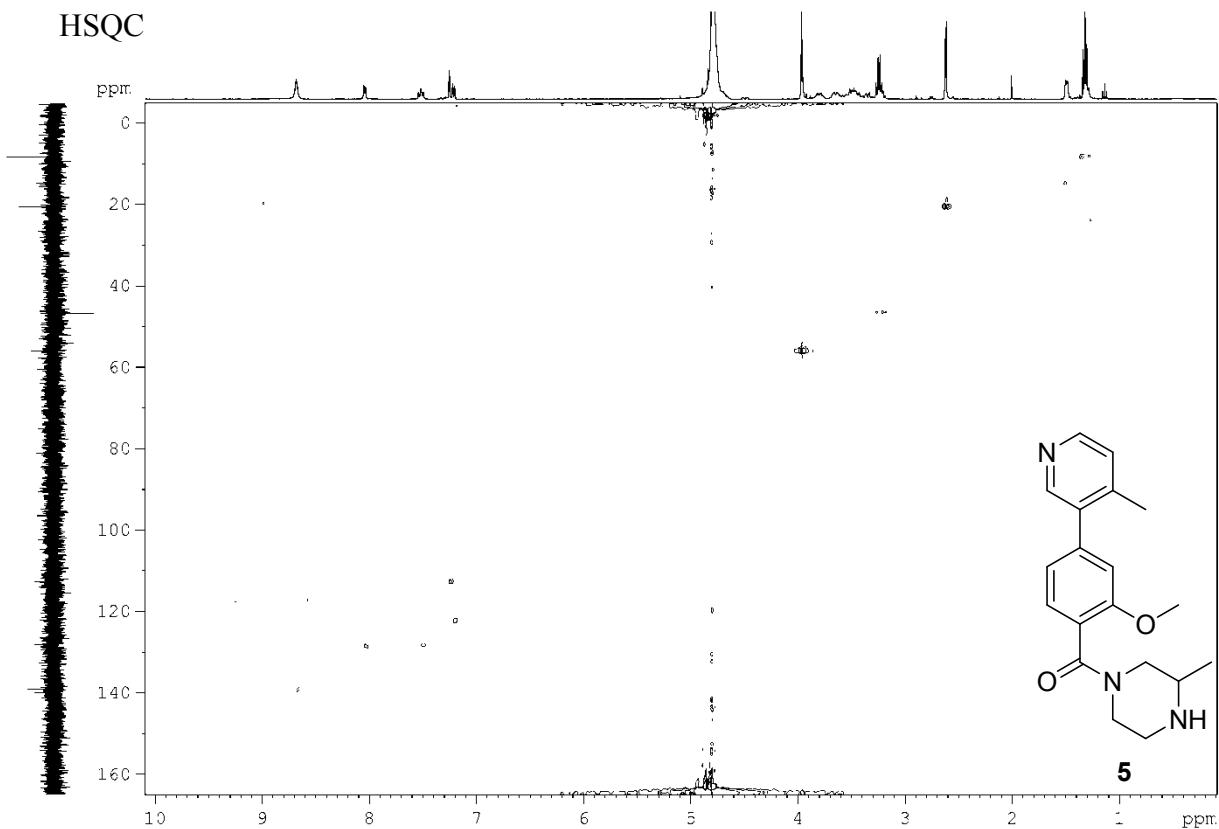
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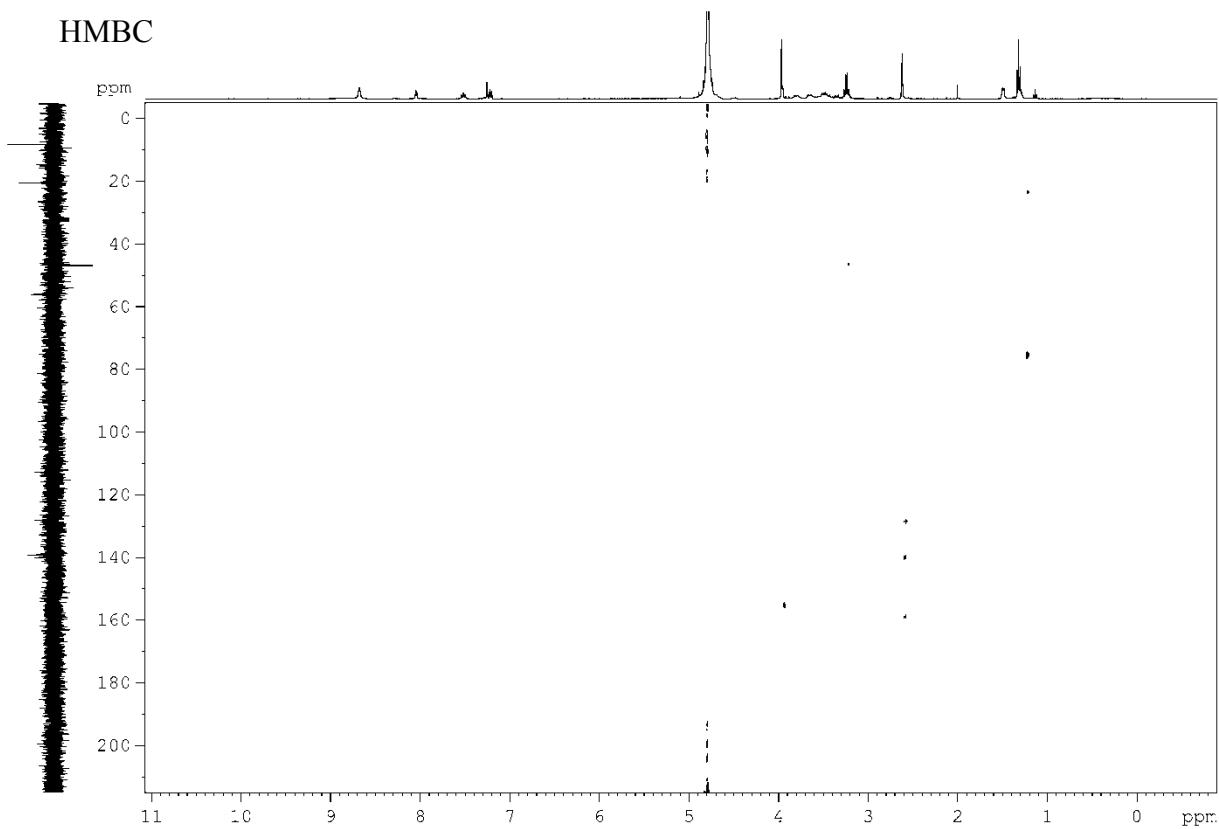
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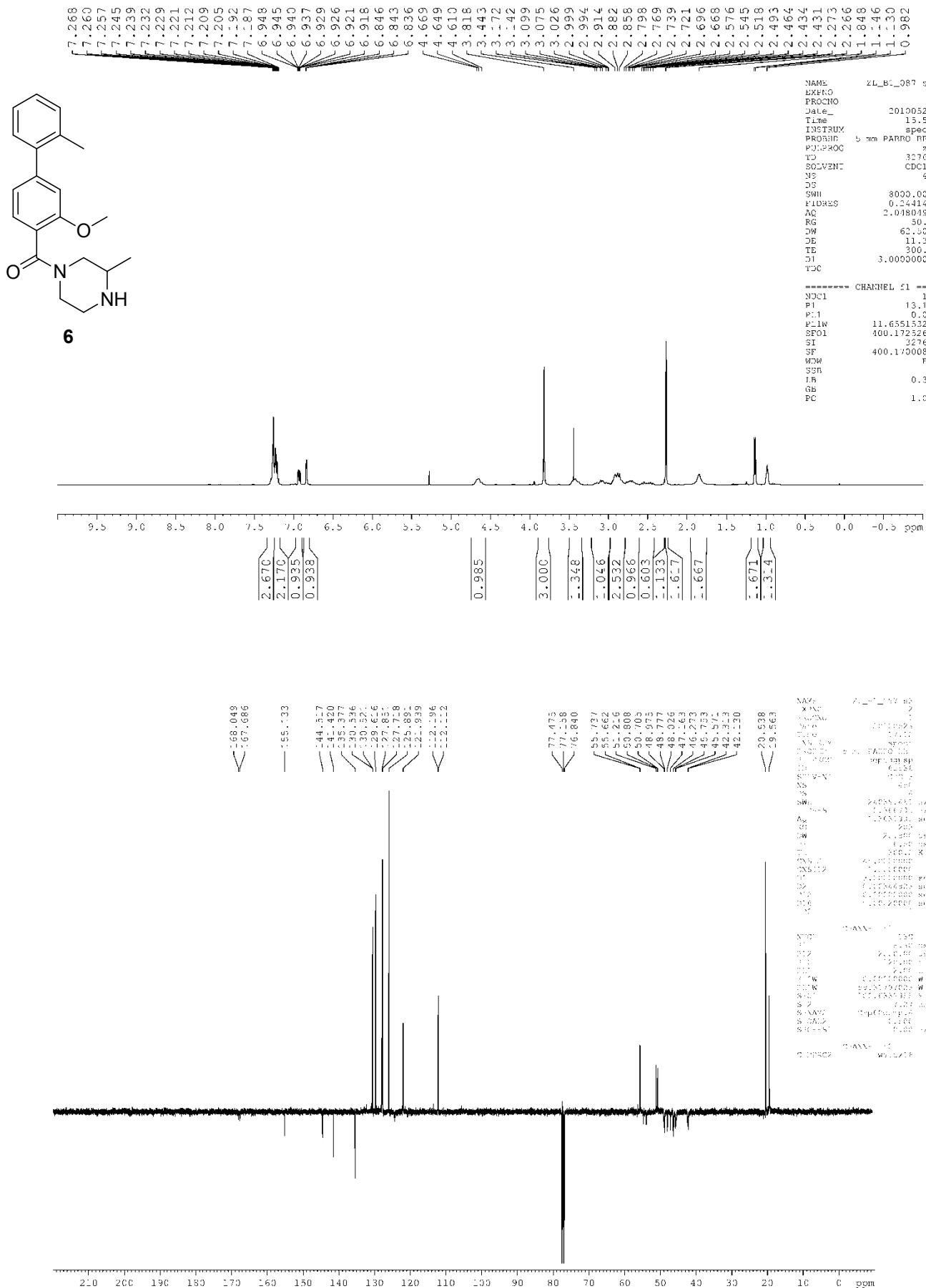


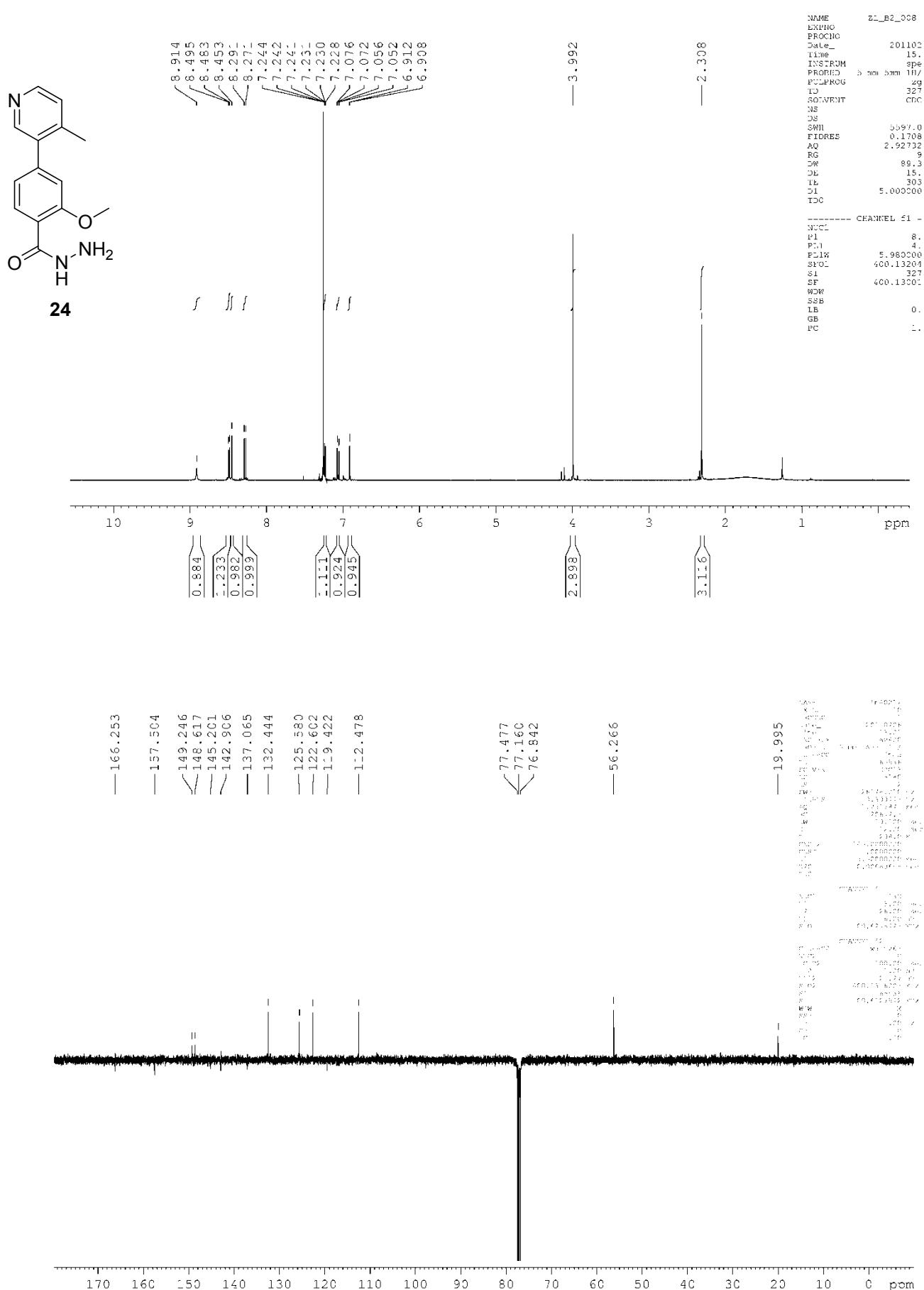
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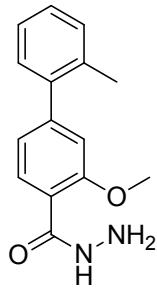


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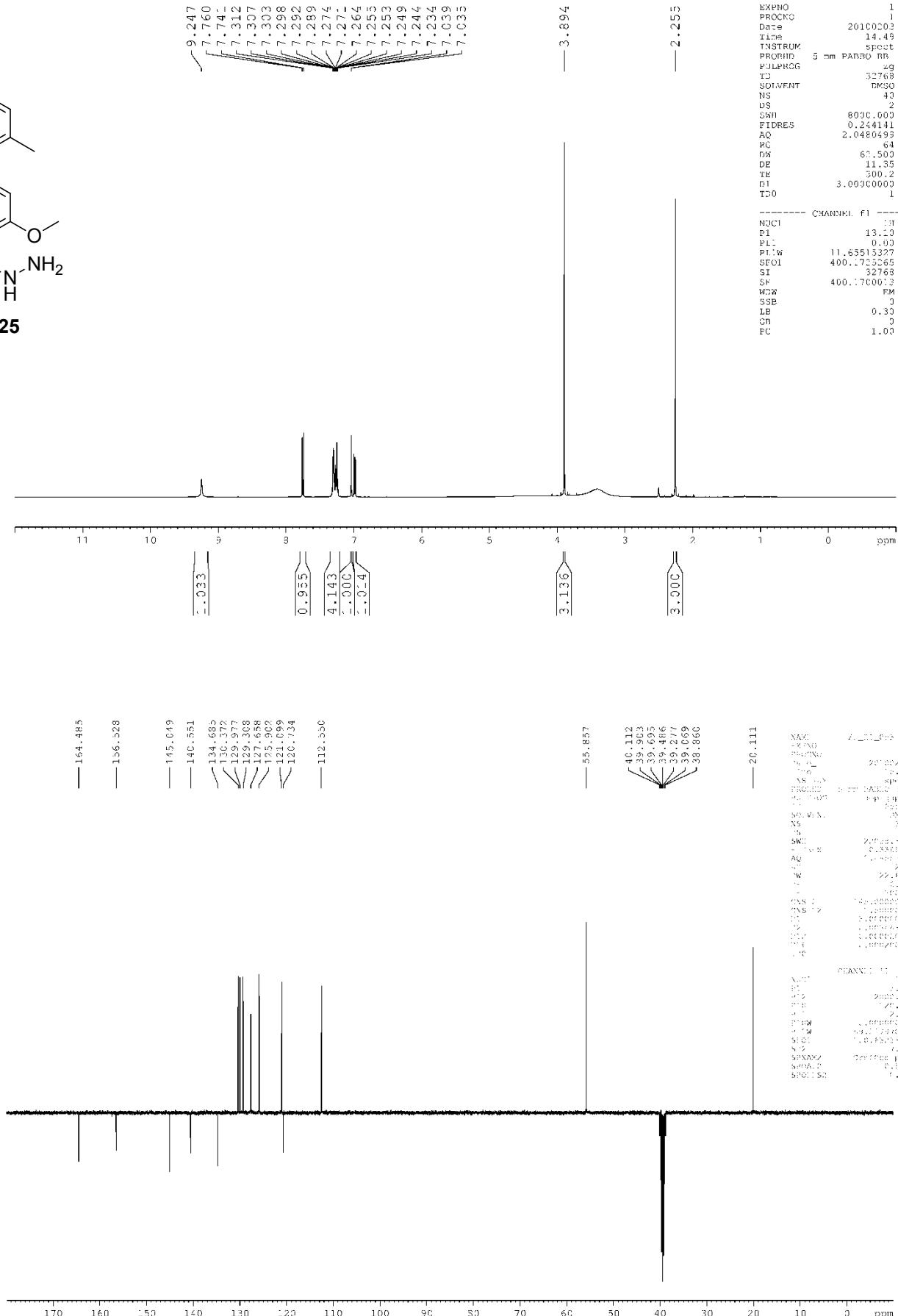


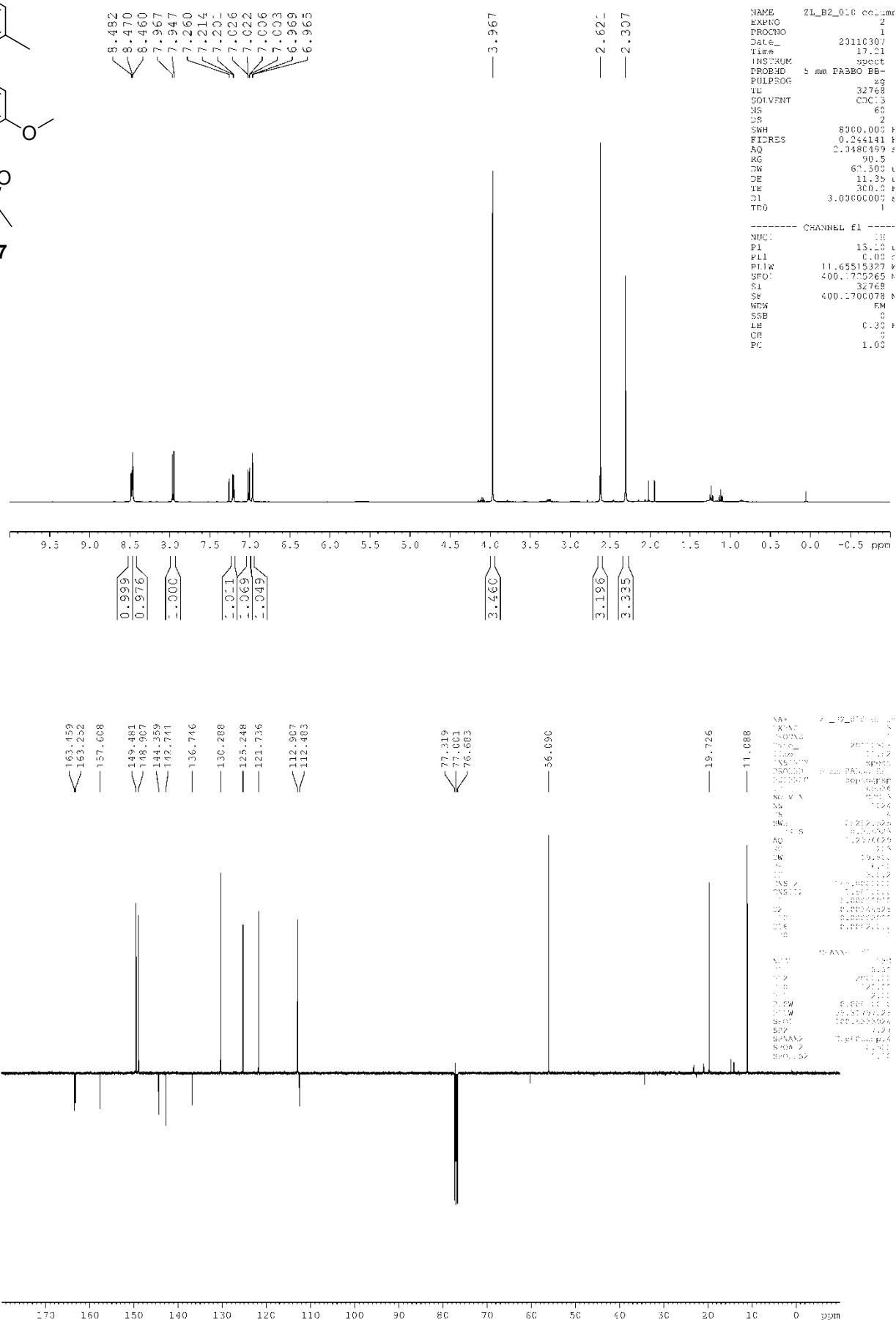
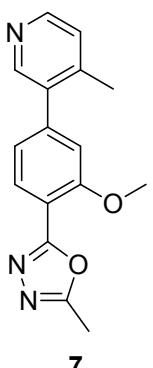


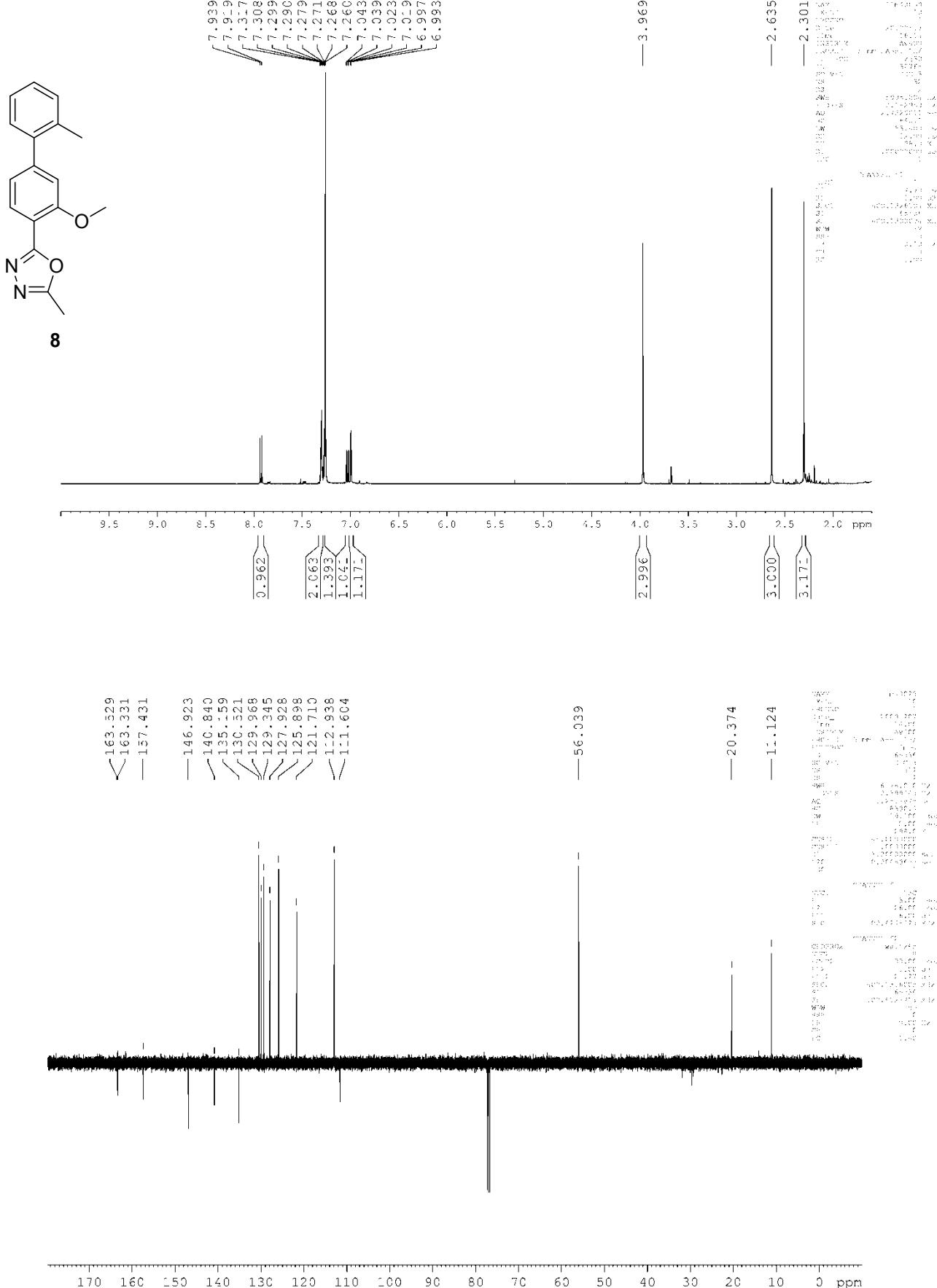


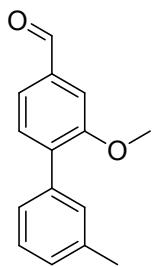


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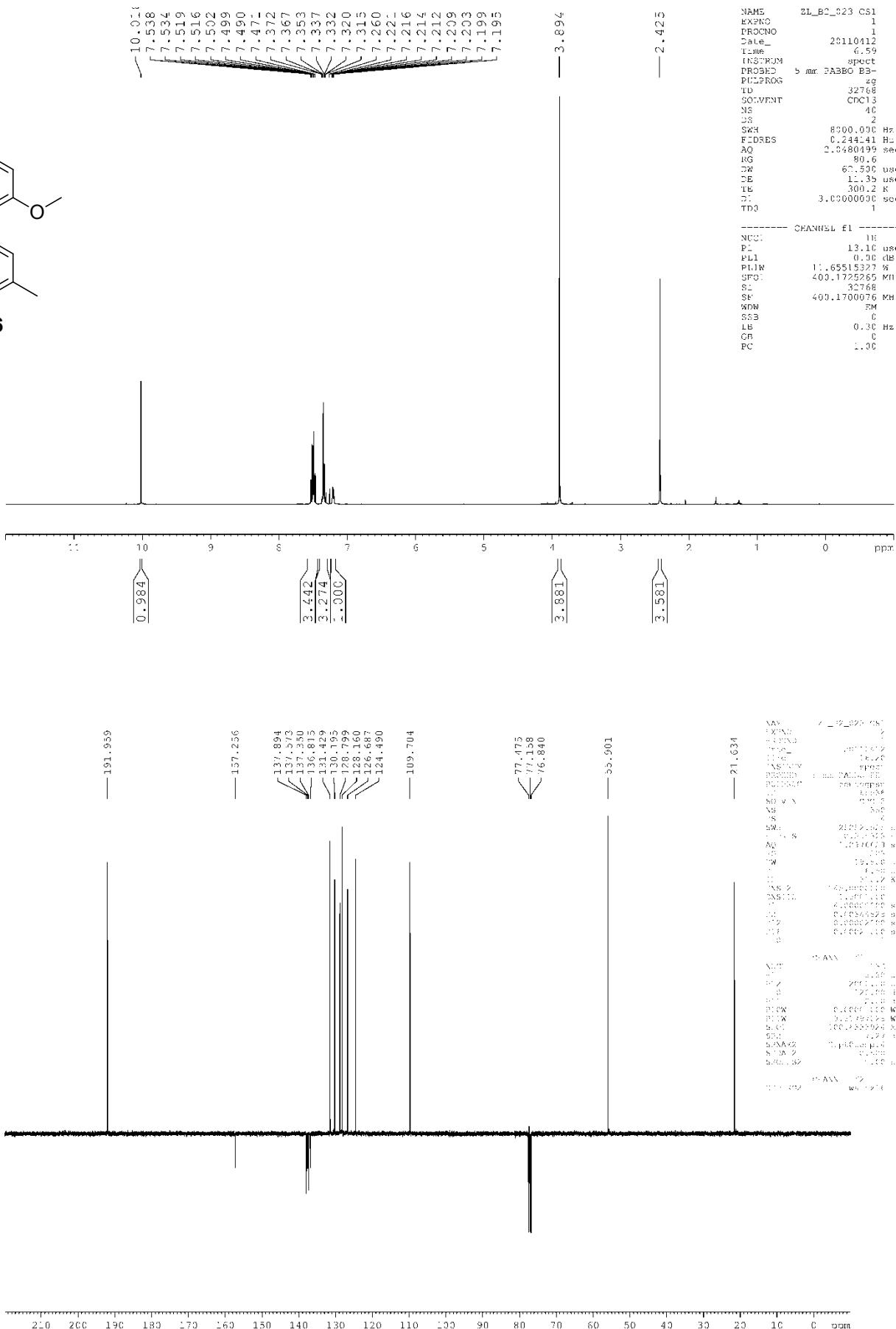


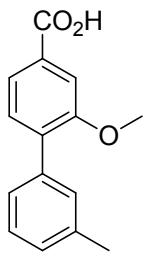




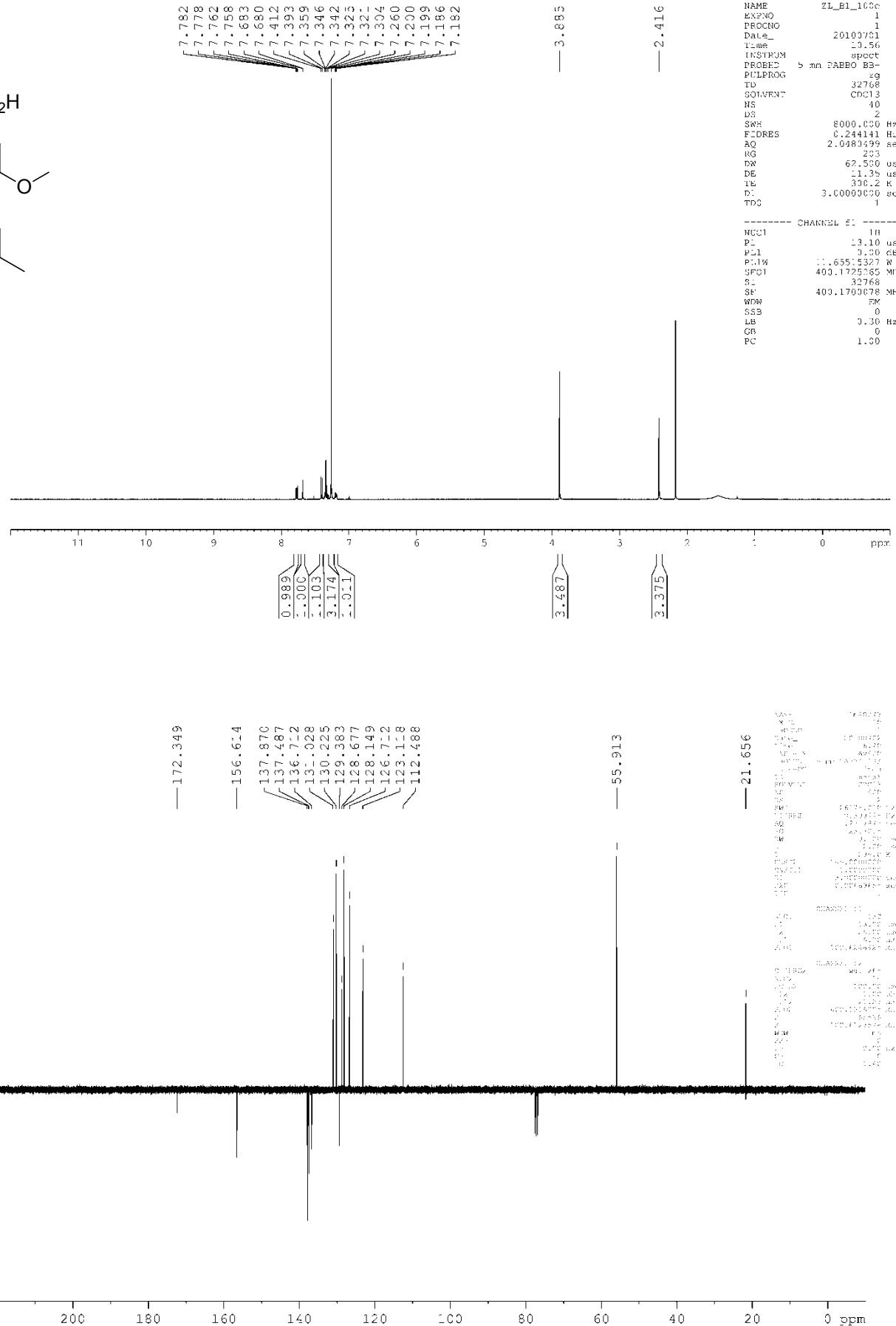


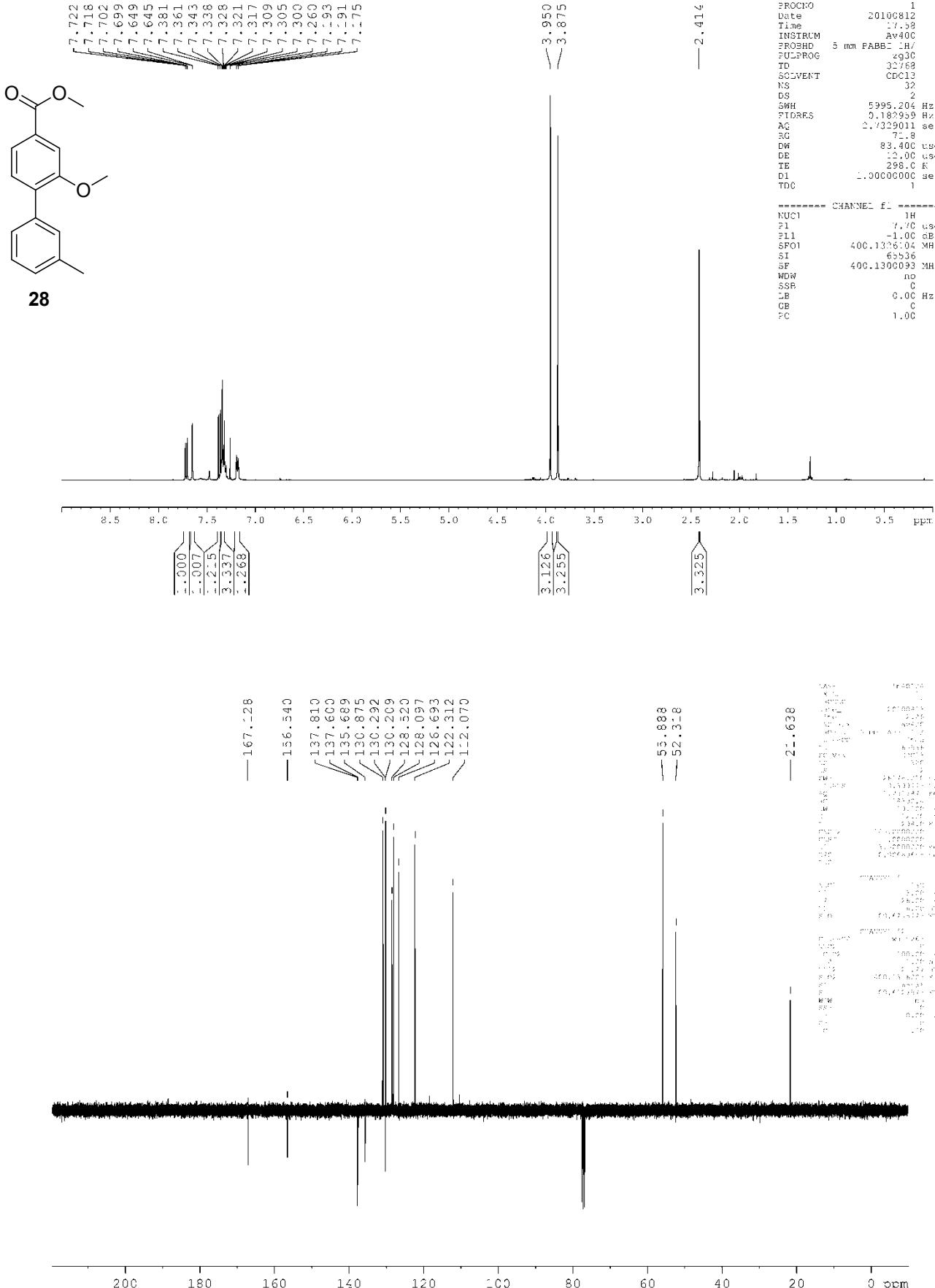
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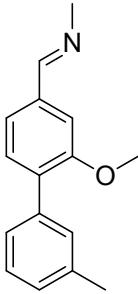




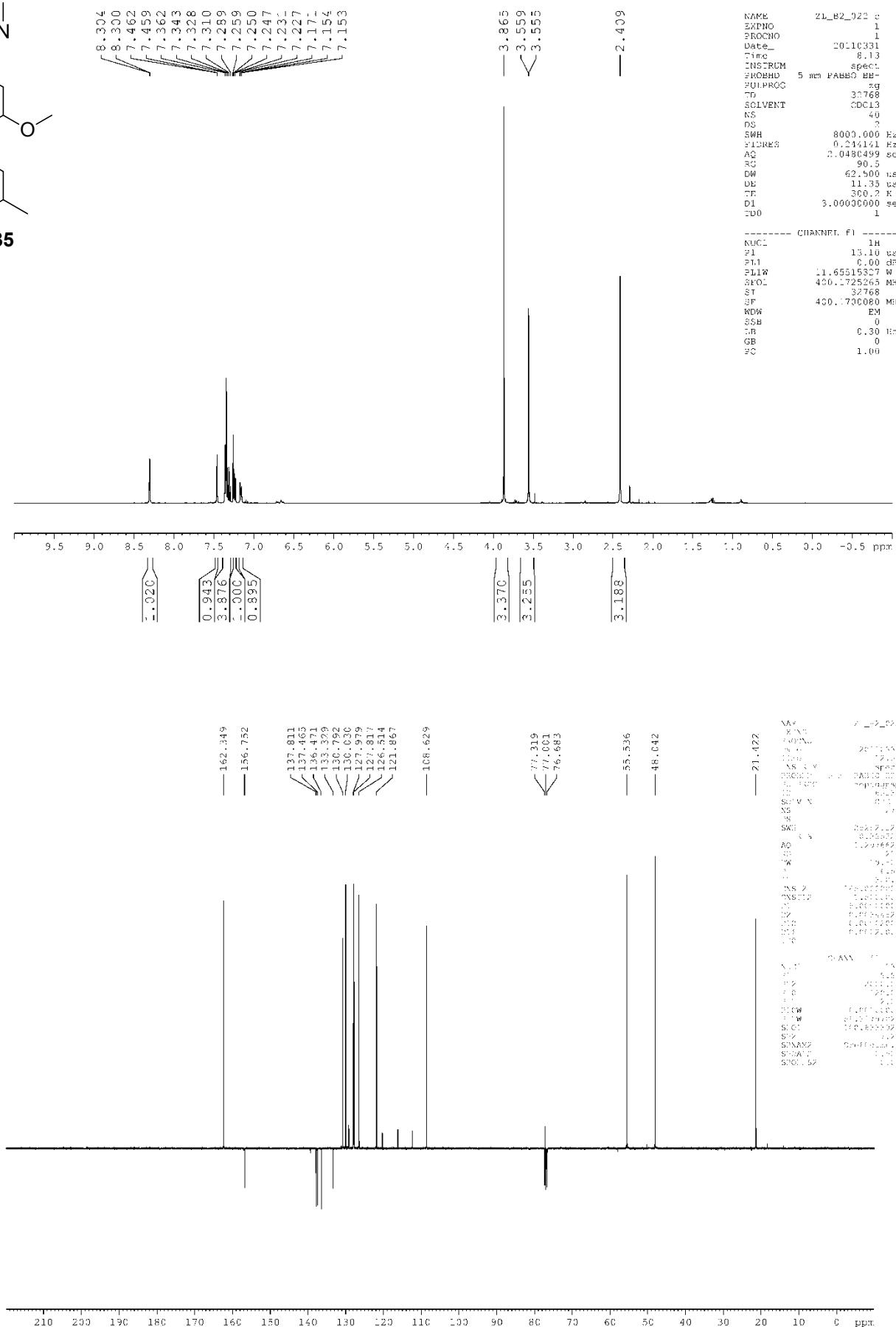
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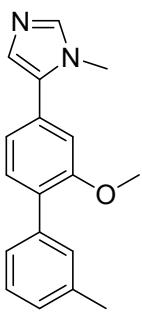




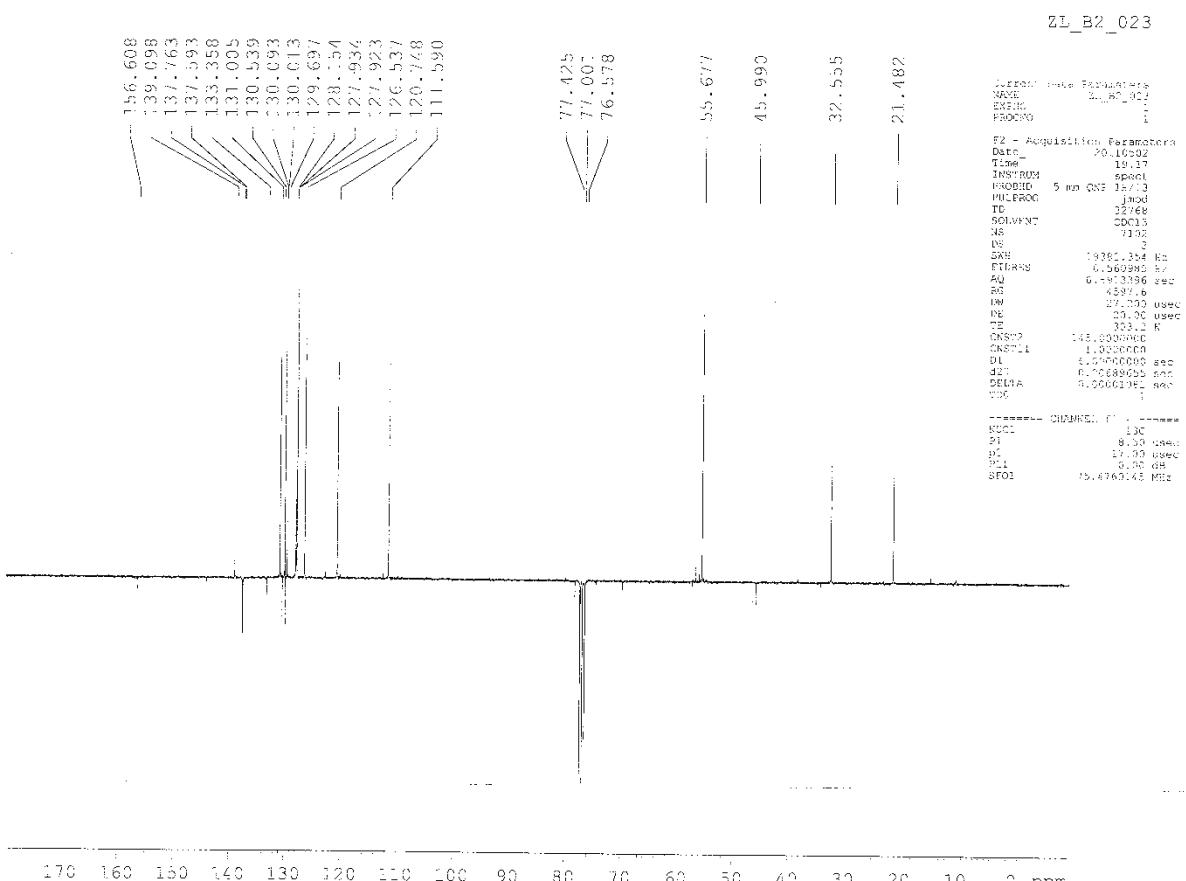
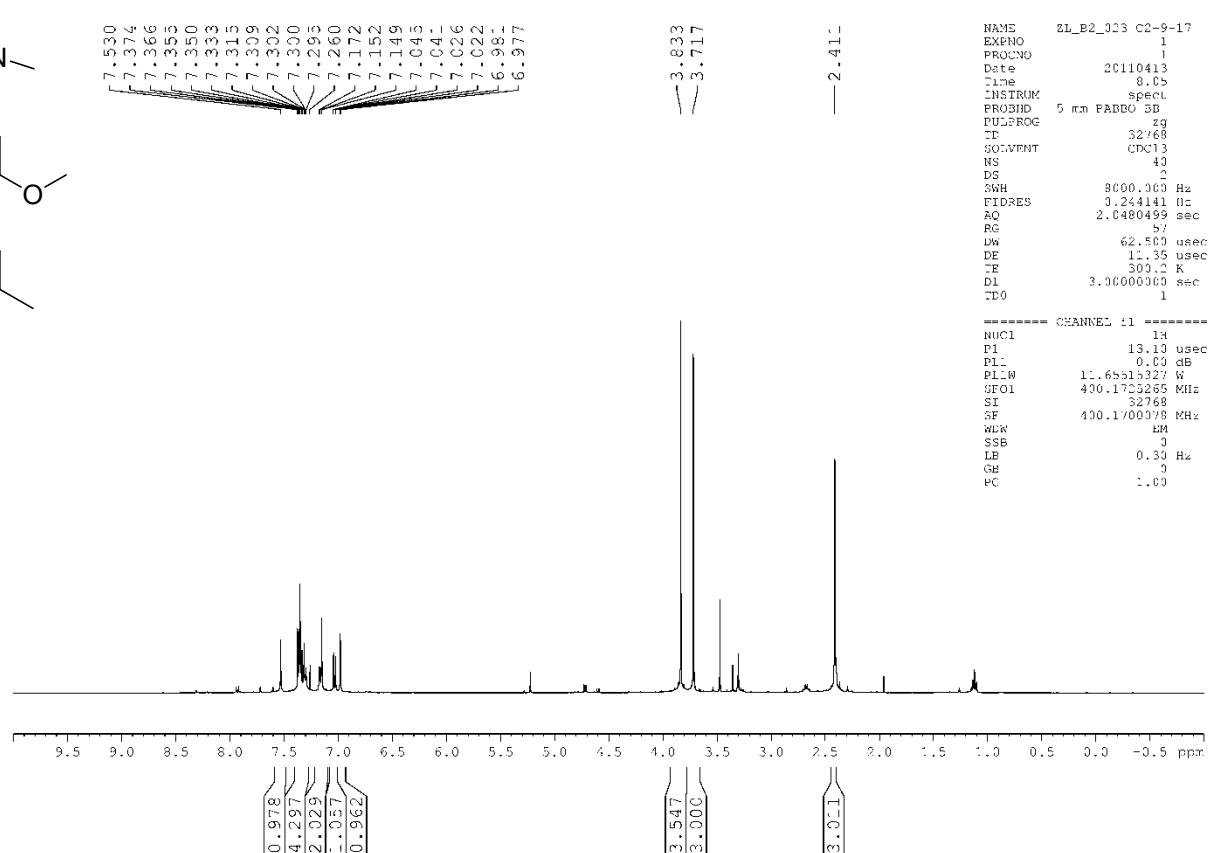


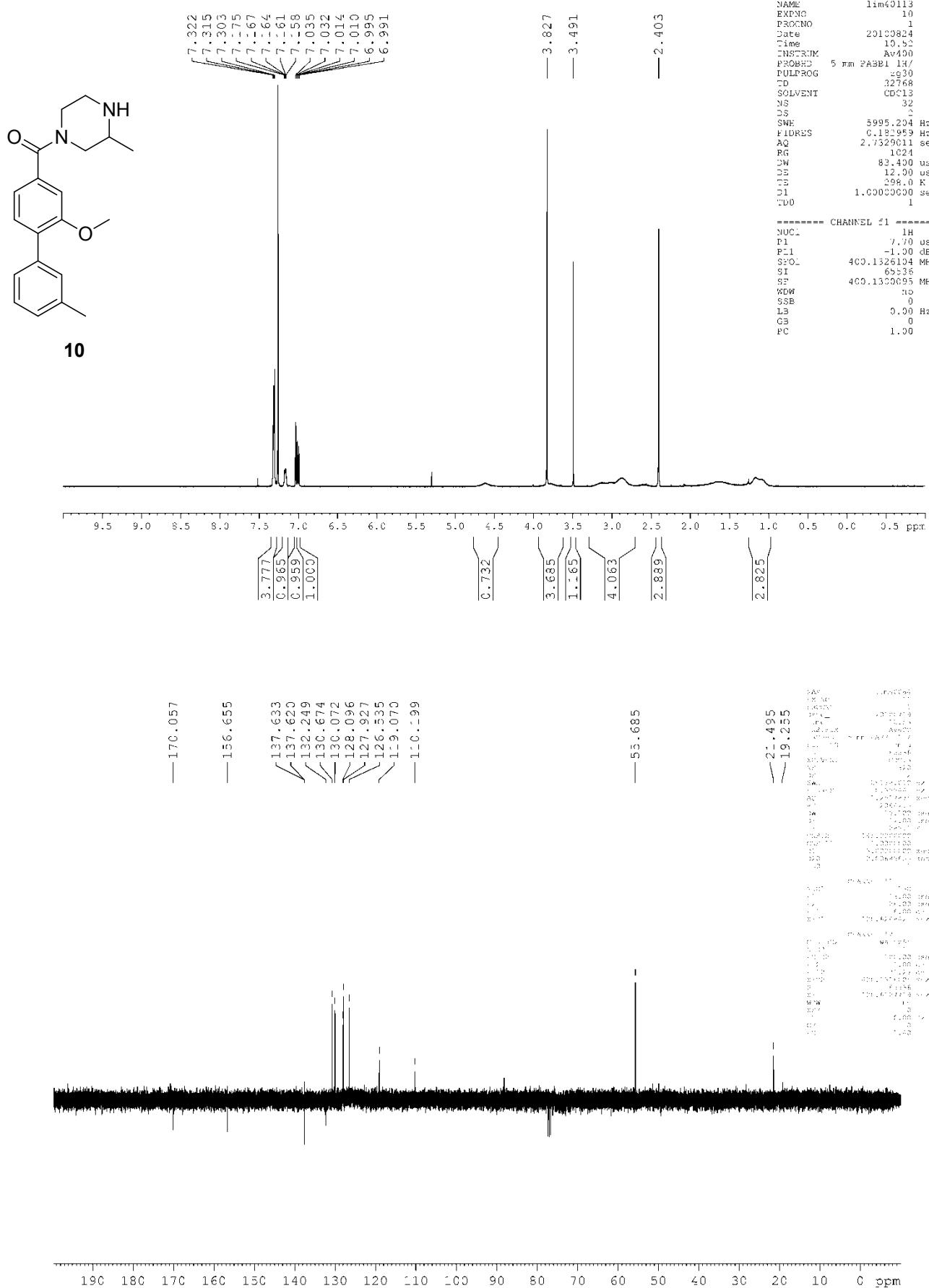
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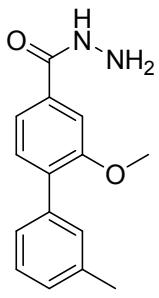




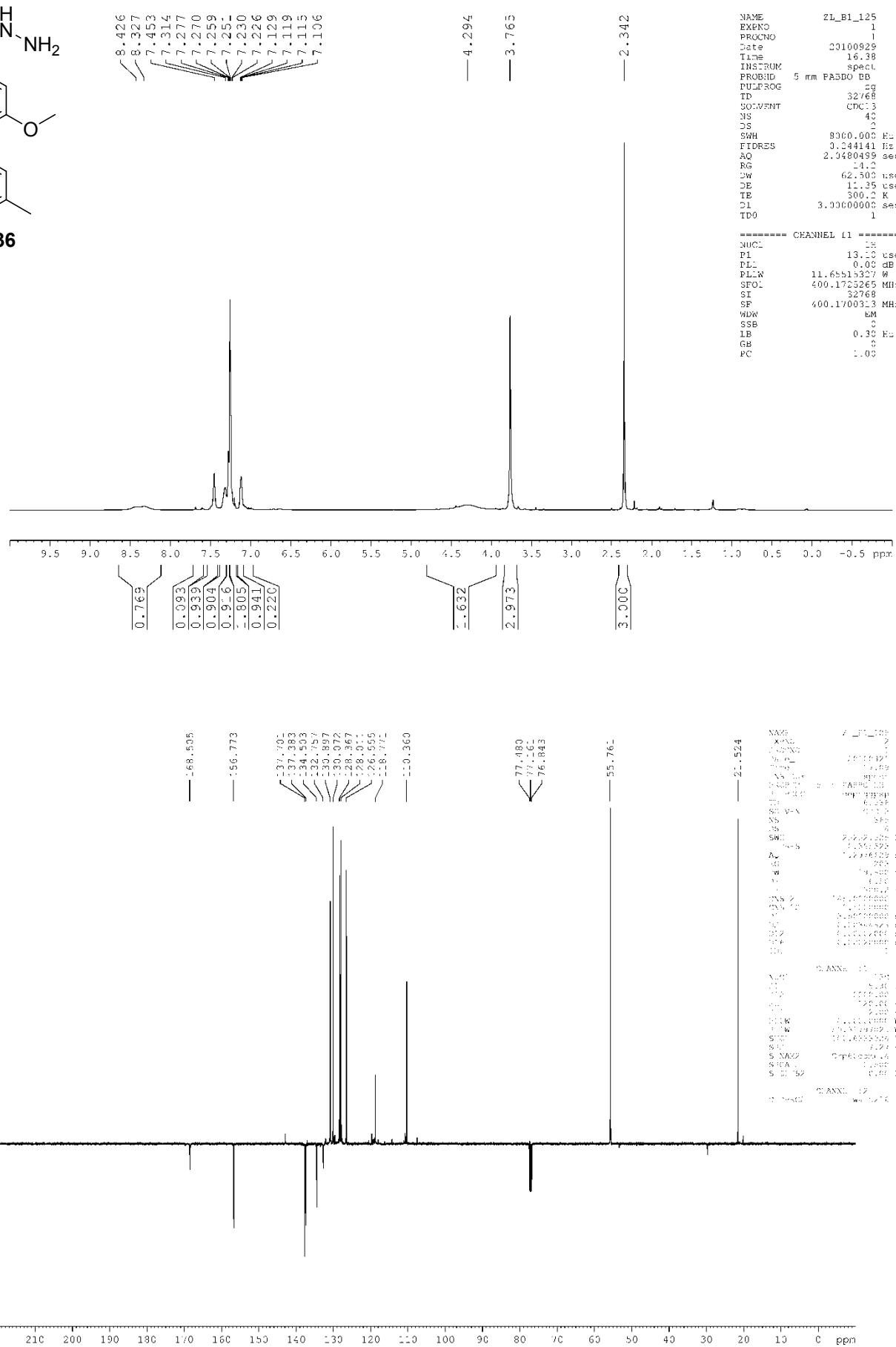
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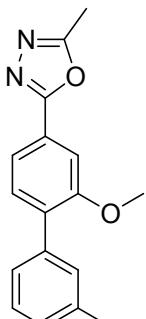




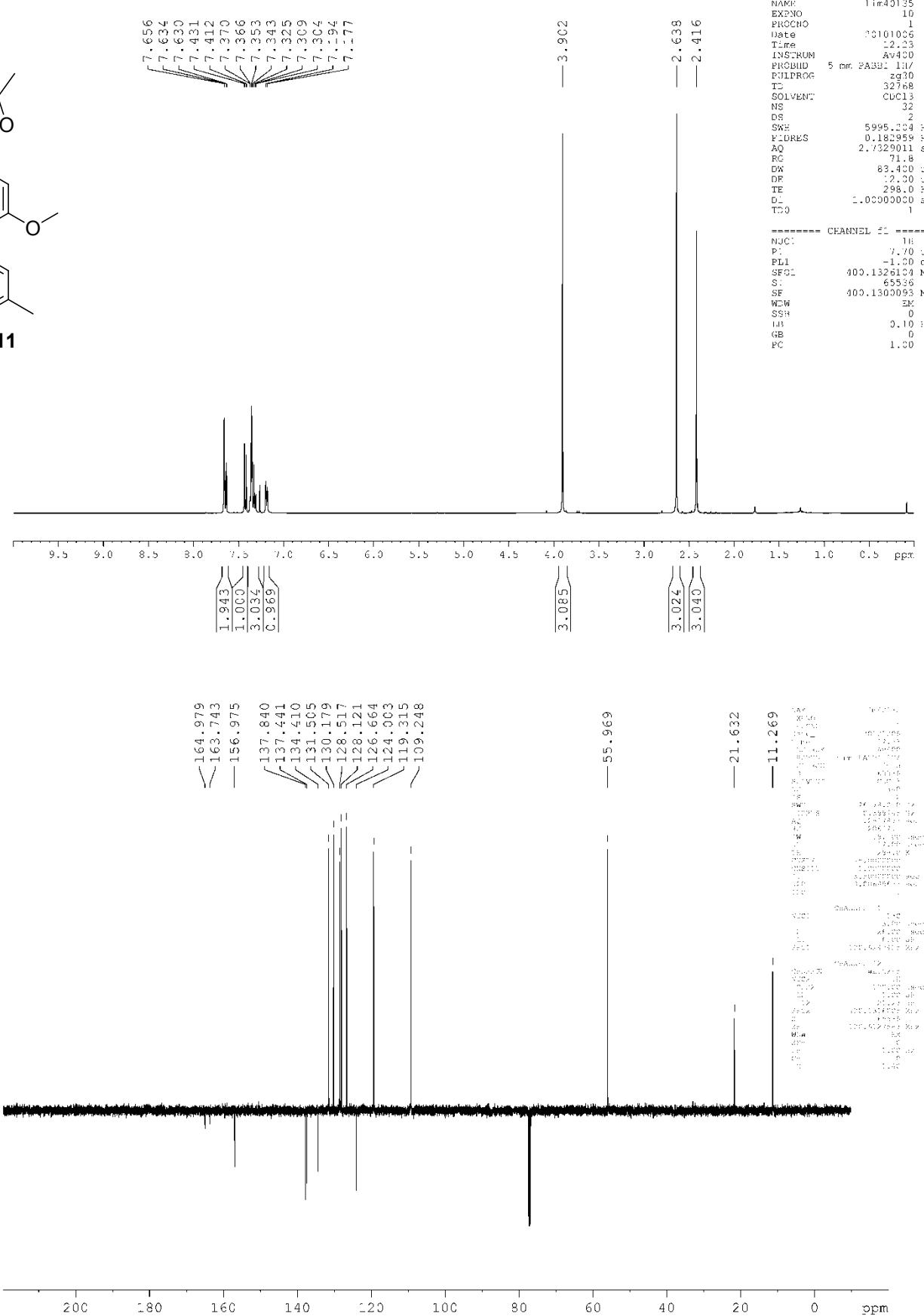


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S4: NOESY NMR Spectra

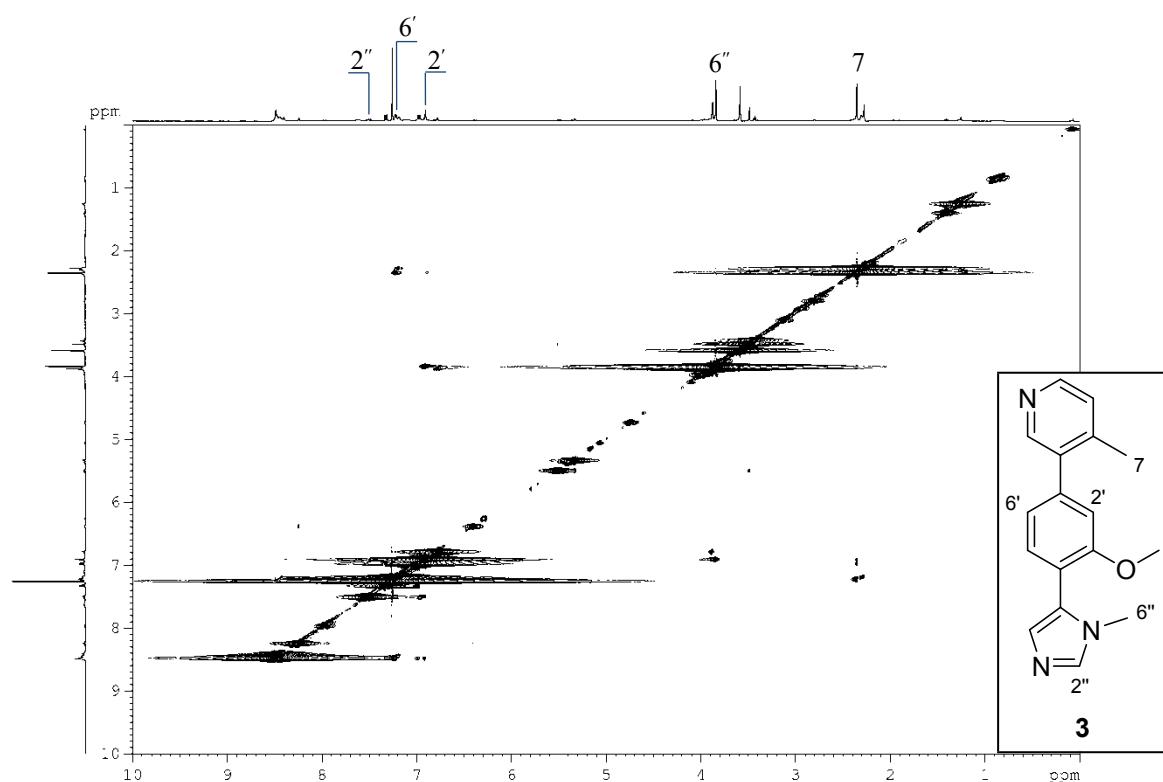


Figure S4.1: NOESY NMR spectrum of the pyridyl-phenyl-imidazole **3**.

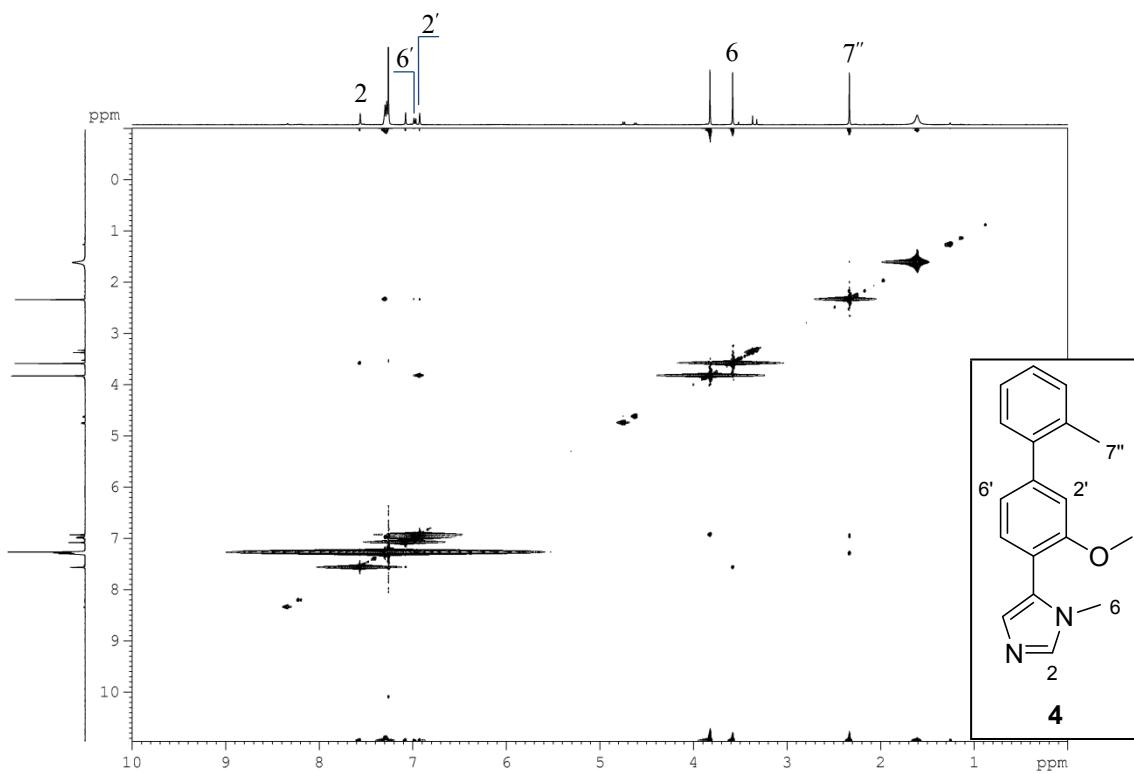


Figure S4.2: NOESY NMR spectrum of the phenyl-phenyl-imidazole **4**.

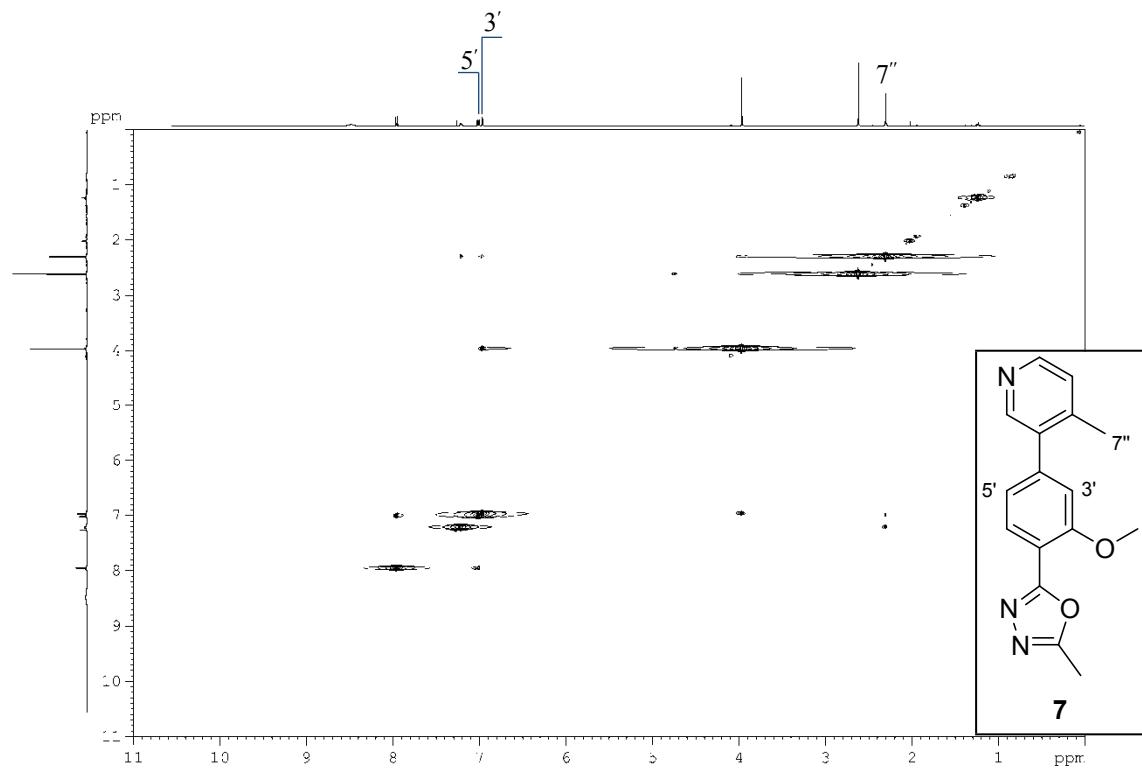


Figure S4.3: NOESY NMR spectrum of the pyridyl-phenyl-oxadiazole **7**.

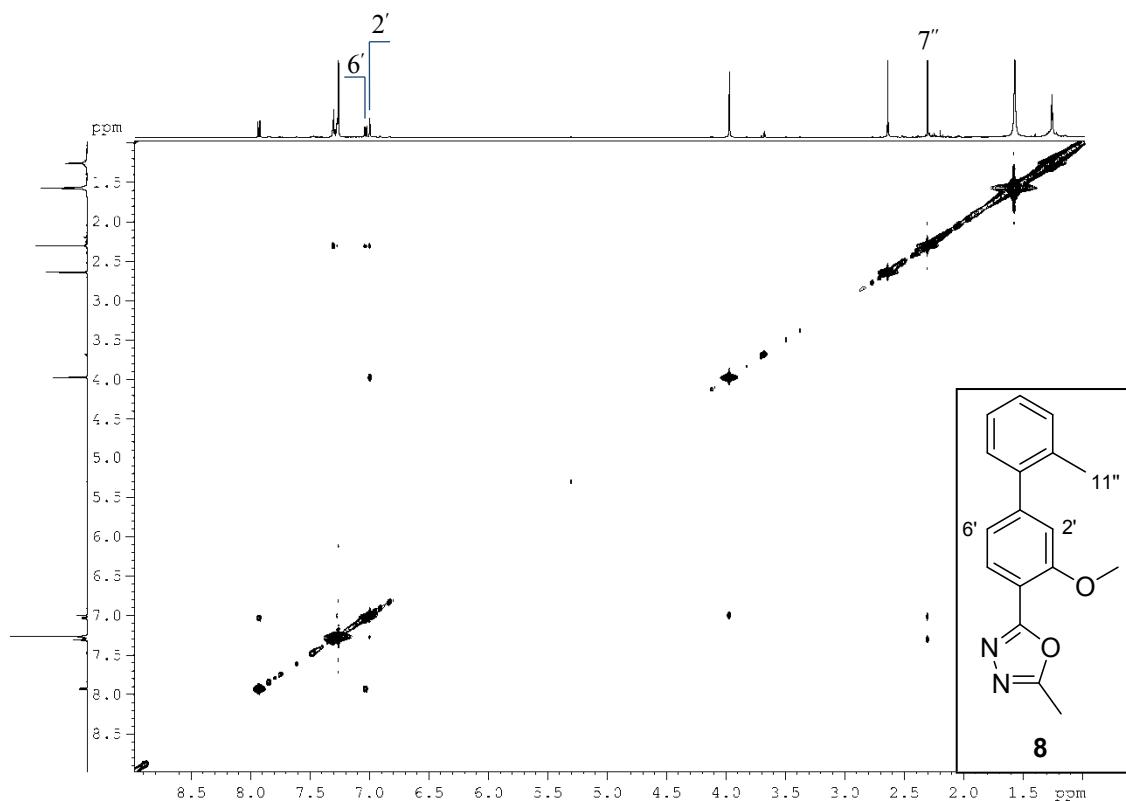


Figure S4.4: NOESY NMR spectrum of the phenyl-phenyl-oxadiazole **8**.

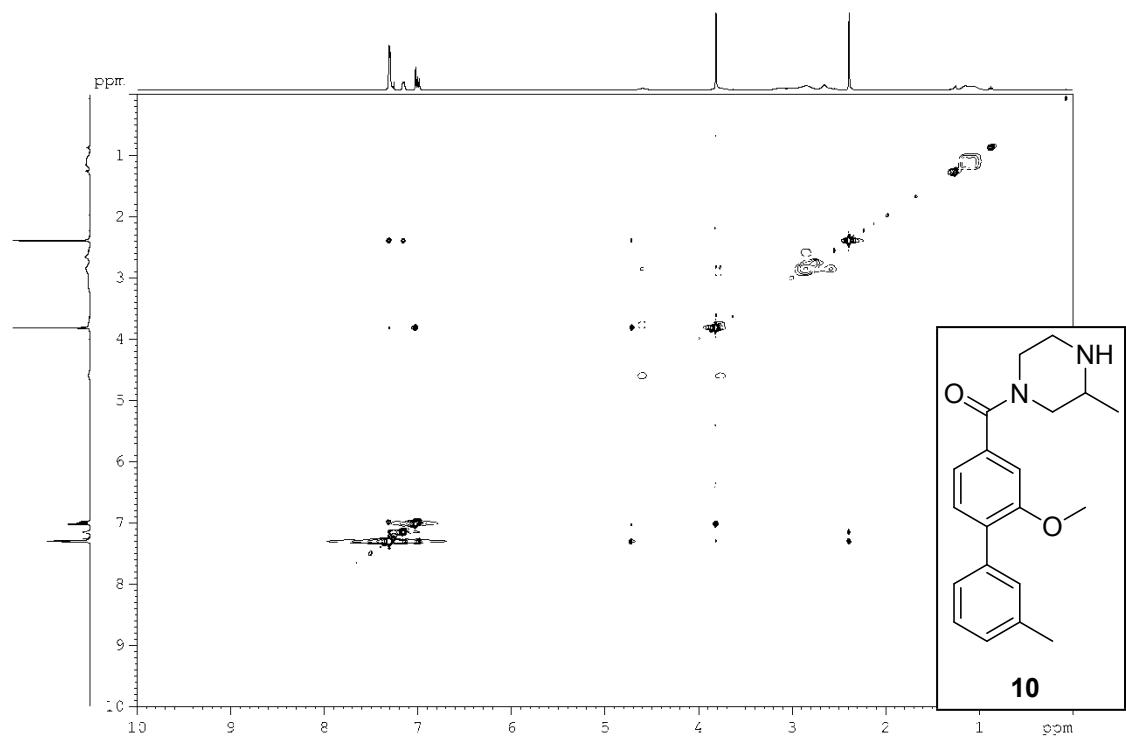


Figure S4.5: NOESY NMR spectrum of the piperazine-phenyl-phenyl **10**.

S5: Aqueous Solubility Summary

Table S5: Aqueous Solubility Summary.

Compound	Structure	Solubility	Compound	Structure	Solubility
3		> 500 µg/mL (1.8 mM)	4		169 µg/mL (0.6 mM)
5		> 500 µg/mL (1.5 mM)	6		> 500 µg/mL (1.8 mM)
7		> 500 µg/mL (1.8 mM)	8		> 500 µg/mL (1.8 mM)
9		104 µg/mL (0.4 mM)	10		> 500 µg/mL (1.5 mM)
11		> 500 µg/mL (1.8 mM)	Reference Standard		146 µg/mL (0.8 mM)

S6: Computational Chemistry

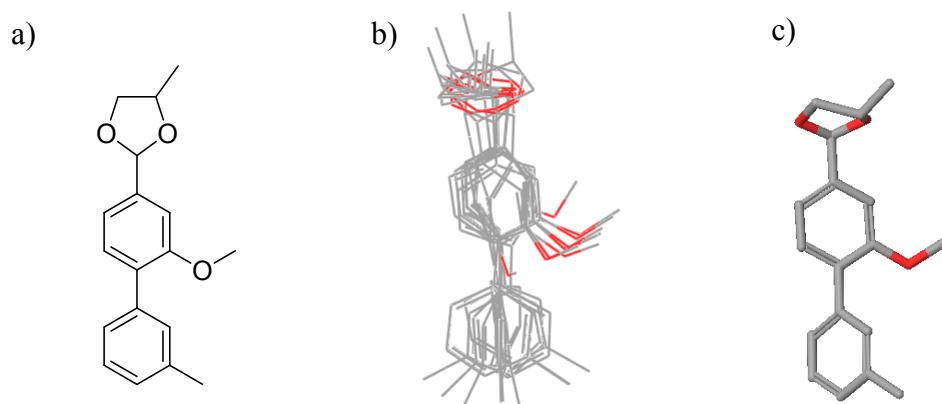


Figure S1.1: Unsuitable dioxolane-phenyl-phenyl structure: a) Schematic of the dioxolane-phenyl-phenyl scaffold; b) low energy conformers determined by MM conformational search; c) *ab initio* optimised low energy conformer.

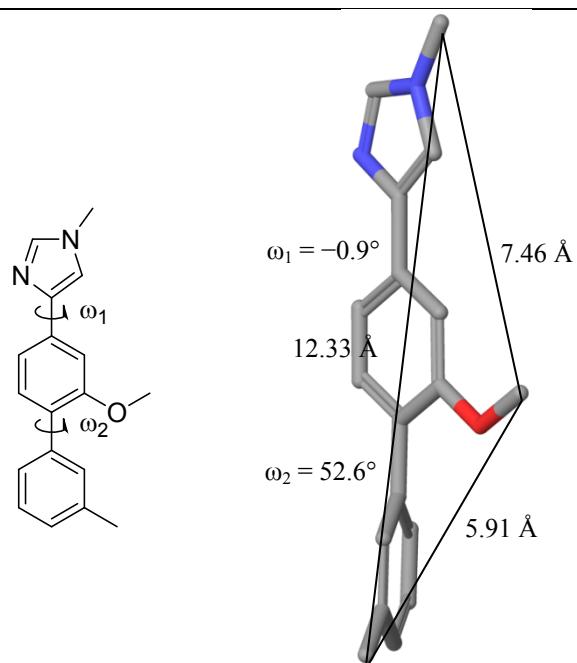


Figure S1.4: Unsuitable 1,3-imidazole-phenyl-phenyl structure.

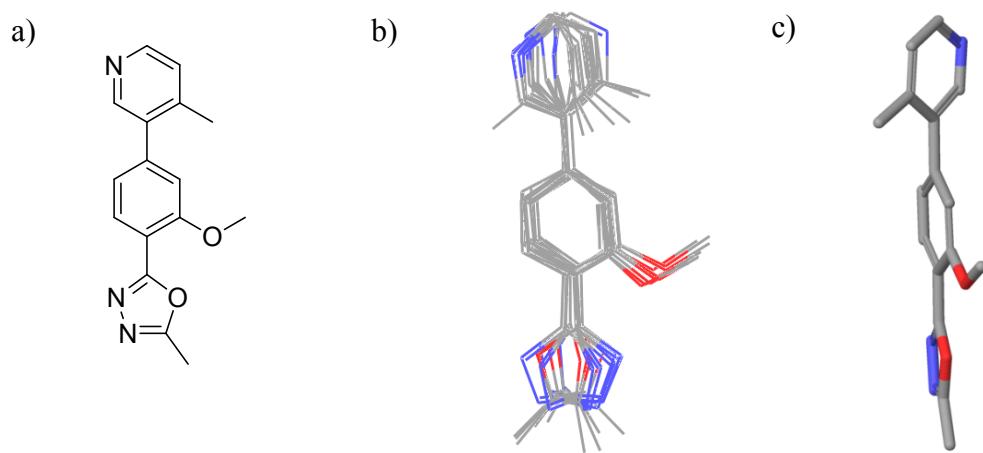


Figure S1.5: Suitable pyridyl-phenyl-oxadiazole structure: a) Schematic of the pyridyl-phenyl-oxadiazole scaffold; b) low energy conformers determined by MM conformational search; c) *ab initio* optimised low energy conformer.

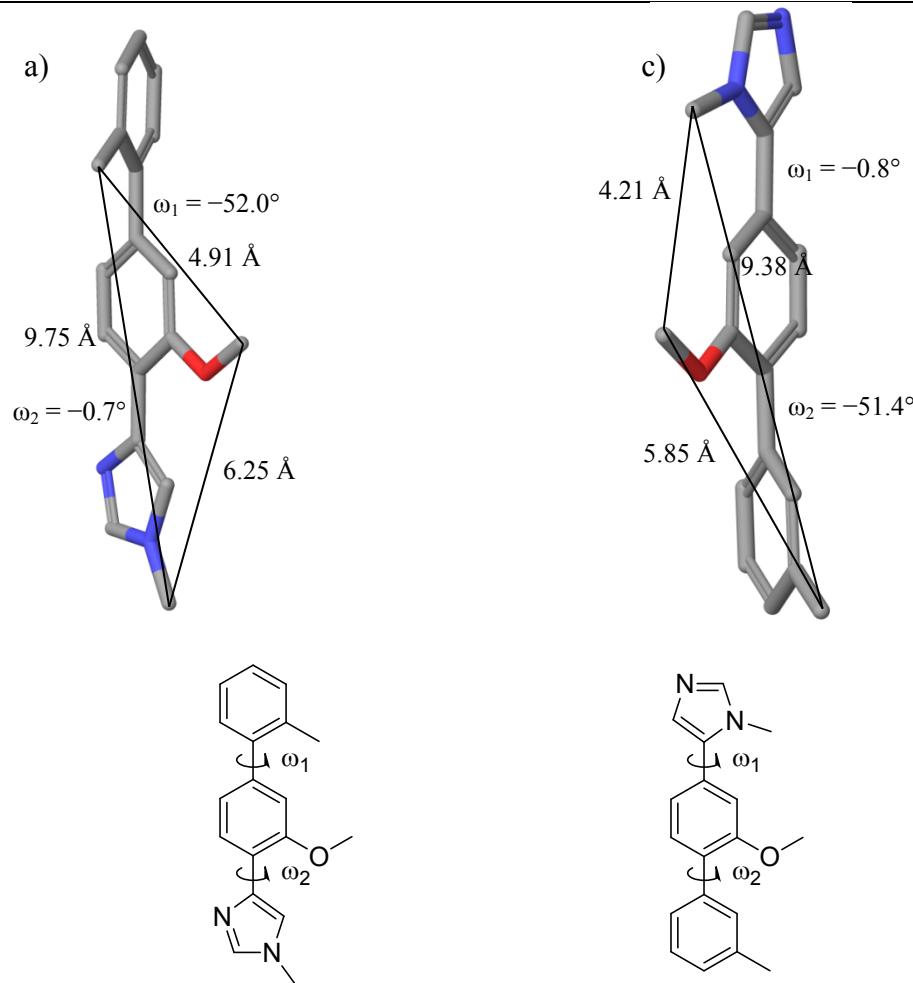


Figure S1.6: Suitable phenyl imidazole structures: a) phenyl-phenyl-1,4-imidazole scaffold; b) 1,5-imidazolo-phenyl-phenyl scaffold.
