

Supporting Information

Pd-Catalyzed Cascade Reaction of N-H Insertion and Oxidative Dehydrogenative Aromatization: A New Entry to 2-Amino-phenols

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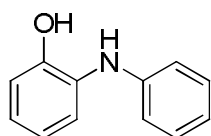
1. General procedures and characterizing data
2. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra

General Information

All experiments were conducted under air unless otherwise noted. Flasks were flame dried and cooled under nitrogen before use. All solvents were dried appropriately. 1,4-dioxane was dried by refluxing from sodium under nitrogen. For column chromatography, 200-300 mesh silica gel was employed. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR were recorded on 400MHz or 500 MHz spectrometer in CDCl_3 or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ solution and the chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (δ) relative to internal standard TMS(0 ppm). HRMS were performed using atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI) with a ion-trap analyzer or electron impact mode (EI) with a TOF mass analyzer. IR spectra were recorded on a FTIR-8400S FTIR spectrometer. Melting points were not corrected. Unless otherwise noted, materials obtained from commercial suppliers were used without further purification. All the diazo compounds were prepared according to the references.^{[1],[2]}

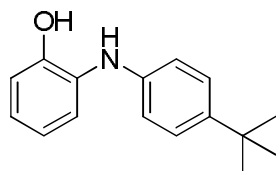
Typical procedure for Pd-catalyzed cascade reaction of N-H insertion and oxidative dehydrogenative aromatization

A reaction tube was charged with palladium(II) catalyst (10 mol%), aniline (0.5 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (3 mL), then 6-diazo-2cyclohexenone (0.75 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 3 h under air. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, solvents were removed under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the desired product.



2-(phenylamino)phenol (3a)^[3]

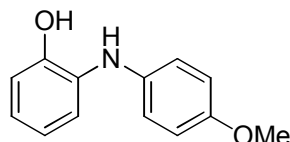
The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as dark brown oil (yield 90%, 83.3 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.25-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.10 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.79 (s, 1H), 5.26 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.1, 145.5, 129.5, 129.1, 126.1, 124.7, 121.0, 120.3, 115.9, 115.4. MS (ESI) 186.2 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺.



2-((4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)amino)phenol (3b)

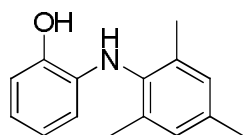
The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as brown oil (yield 83%, 100.2 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.24 (s, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 1.29 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.8, 143.4, 142.8, 129.7, 126.2, 125.7, 124.3, 121.0, 115.9, 115.3, 77.3, 77.0, 76.8, 34.1, 31.5. HRMS

(EI) calcd for $C_{16}H_{19}NO$ 241.1467, found: 241.1470. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 2960, 1607, 1516, 827, 746.



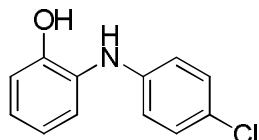
2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)phenol (3c) ^[4]

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as brown oil (yield 85%, 91.5 mg); 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.39 (s, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.97-6.95 (m, 1H), 6.82-6.77 (m, 4H), 6.64-6.61 (m, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.7, 149.6, 139.5, 132.1, 124.8, 122.4, 121.1, 119.1, 115.5, 114.9, 55.7. MS (ESI) 216.2 (M+H)⁺



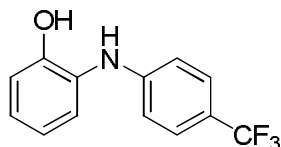
2-(mesitylamino)phenol (3d) ^[5]

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as brown oil (yield 80%, 90.9 mg); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 6.93 (s, 2H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 2H), 6.27 (s, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 144.7, 134.5, 129.3, 121.4, 114.8, 77.3, 77.0, 76.8, 20.9, 18.1. MS (ESI) 228.2 (M+H)⁺



2-((4-chlorophenyl)amino)phenol (3e)

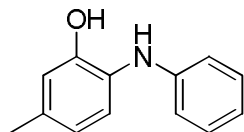
The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as a brown solid (yield 74%, 81.3 mg); Mp: 79-81 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.16 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.10 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 5.30 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 150.8, 144.0, 129.3, 128.8, 126.2, 125.1, 124.4, 121.2, 117.1, 115.5. HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{12}H_{11}ClNO$ (M+H)⁺ 220.0524, found: 220.0531. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 2924, 1591, 1456, 1091, 820, 748.



2-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)amino)phenol (3f)

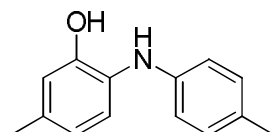
The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/dichloromethane = 3/1) to afford pure product as a brown solid (yield 46%, 58.2 mg); Mp: 100-102 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.45 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H),

7.21-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.93 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 5.53 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.2, 148.5, 127.5, 127.1, 126.8, 125.9, 125.4, 123.2, 121.3, 115.8, 114.7. HRMS (APCI) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{NO}(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 254.0787, found: 254.0789. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 2926, 1620, 1458, 1327, 1113, 1067, 831, 750.



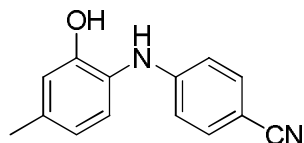
5-methyl-2-(phenylamino)phenol (3g) ^[6]

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as a brown solid (yield 88%, 87.7 mg); mp: 63-65 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.86-6.83 (m, 2H), 6.70 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 3H), 5.84 (s, 1H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.1, 146.4, 137.4, 129.5, 126.1, 125.8, 121.7, 121.7, 119.8, 115.7, 115.1. MS (ESI) 200.2 ($\text{M}+\text{H})^+$



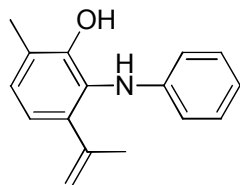
5-methyl-2-(p-tolylamino)phenol (3h) ^[7]

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as a brown solid (yield 85%, 90.6 mg); mp: 63-65 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.01 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 6.69 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.89 (s, 1H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.8, 143.7, 136.9, 129.8, 129.3, 126.4, 125.4, 121.4, 115.7, 115.5, 21.1, 20.4. MS (ESI) 214.2 ($\text{M}+\text{H})^+$.



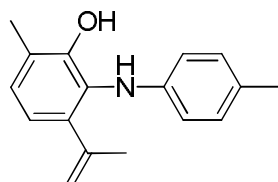
4-((2-hydroxy-4-methylphenyl)amino)benzonitrile (3i)

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20/1) to afford pure product as a grey solid (yield 53%, 59.4 mg); mp: 139-141 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.46 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 6.77 – 6.72 (m, 3H), 5.58 (s, 1H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.9, 133.7, 133.6, 125.2, 120.9, 120.4, 117.4, 117.3, 114.1, 114.0, 21.1. HRMS (EI) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ 224.0950, found: 224.0948. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 2924, 1595, 1458, 1377, 752.

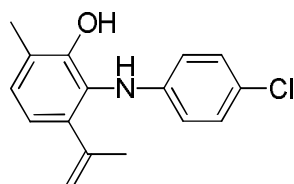


6-methyl-2-(phenylamino)-3-(prop-1-en-2-yl)phenol (3j)

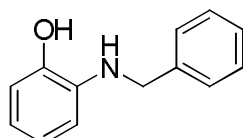
The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100/1) to afford pure product as a yellow solid (yield 70%, 83.8 mg); mp: 54-56 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.2, 146.3, 143.2, 139.2, 129.6, 128.4, 124.2, 123.2, 119.9, 119.3, 115.3, 114.5, 24.4, 15.8. HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₇NO 239.1310, found: 239.1311. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3337, 2920, 1601, 1495, 1418, 1306, 1209, 1036, 908, 743, 689.

**6-methyl-3-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-2-(p-tolylamino)phenol (3k)**

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100/1) to afford pure product as brown oil (yield 73%, 92.5 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 3H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 5.28 (s, 1H), 5.08 (s, 2H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 1.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.1, 143.8, 143.3, 138.9, 130.0, 129.2, 128.1, 124.5, 123.1, 119.3, 115.3, 114.7, 77.3, 77.0, 76.8, 24.2, 20.5, 15.9. HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₉NO 253.1467, found: 253.1469. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3379, 2920, 1614, 1514, 1427, 1219, 1036, 895, 812.

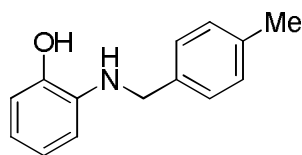
**2-((4-chlorophenyl)amino)-6-methyl-3-(prop-1-en-2-yl)phenol (3l)**

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100/1) to afford pure product as brown oil (yield 60%, 82.1 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.1, 145.0, 143.0, 139.2, 129.3, 128.7, 124.7, 123.7, 123.4, 119.5, 115.8, 115.5, 77.3, 77.0, 76.8, 24.2, 15.9. HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₆ClNO 273.0920, found: 273.0925. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3370, 2920, 1608, 1504, 1210, 1036, 899.

**2-(benzylamino)phenol (5a) ^[8]**

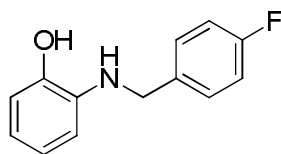
The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum

ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as light green solid (yield 80%, 79.7 mg). Mp: 69-71 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.68-6.63 (m, 2H), 4.59 (s, 1H), 4.35 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.4, 139.3, 136.9, 128.6, 127.6, 127.2, 121.8, 117.8, 114.3, 112.5, 48.6. MS (ESI) 200.2 (M+H)⁺.



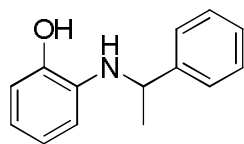
2-((4-methylbenzyl)amino)phenol (5b)

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as light green solid (yield 82%, 87.4 mg). Mp: 71-73 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.74-6.62 (m, 3H), 4.61 (s, 1H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.5, 137.1, 136.8, 136.4, 129.3, 127.6, 121.7, 117.7, 114.3, 112.5, 48.3, 21.1. HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₅NO 213.1154, found: 213.1156. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2922, 1610, 1514, 1487, 1250, 1111, 802, 741. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2924, 1622, 1529, 1454, 1242, 1126, 798, 689.



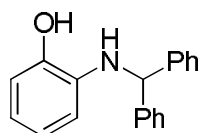
2-((4-fluorobenzyl)amino)phenol (5c)

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as light green solid (yield 75%, 81.5 mg). Mp: 75-77 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.60 (s, 1H), 4.32 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.0, 161.1, 143.3, 136.8, 129.1, 129.0, 121.7, 117.8, 115.5, 115.3, 114.3, 112.3, 47.8. HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₂FNO 217.0903, found: 217.0907. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2926, 1603, 1510, 1223, 1155, 822, 743.



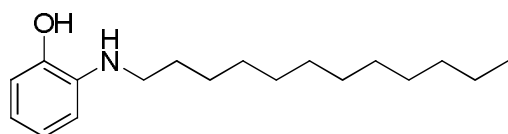
2-((1-phenylethyl)amino)phenol (5d) ^[9]

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as light green solid (yield 71%, 75.7 mg). Mp: 122-124 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 1H), 6.69 (s, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 1.53 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.2, 143.5, 135.9, 128.6, 126.9, 125.9, 121.5, 117.7, 114.1, 113.7, 53.9, 24.9. MS (ESI) 214.2 (M+H)⁺.



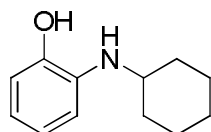
2-(benzhydrylamino)phenol (5e) ^[10]

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as light green solid (yield 66%, 90.9 mg). Mp: 128-130 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.59 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (s, 1H), 4.68 (s, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.1, 143.0, 136.3, 128.7, 127.5, 127.3, 121.7, 117.6, 114.2, 113.2, 63.1. MS (ESI) 276.2 (M+H)⁺.



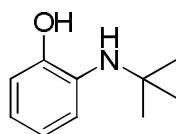
2-(dodecylamino)phenol (5f)

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as light green solid (yield 79%, 109.6 mg). Mp: 70-72 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 4.38 (s, 2H), 3.10 (s, 2H), 1.64 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.27 (s, 16H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.7, 137.3, 121.6, 117.4, 114.3, 112.4, 44.5, 31.9, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 27.2, 22.7, 14.1. HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₈H₃₁NO 277.2406, found: 277.2403. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2920, 1605, 1512, 1230, 825, 749.



2-(cyclohexylamino)phenol (5g) ^[11]

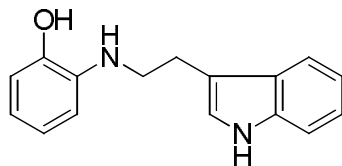
The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as a brown solid (yield 84%, 80.3 mg). Mp: 65-67 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.19 (s, 1H), 6.61 (dd, *J* = 16.7, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (s, 1H), 3.17 (s, 1H), 1.91 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 2H), 1.67 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.57 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (dd, *J* = 24.4, 12.2 Hz, 2H), 1.21-1.09 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0, 135.5, 128.4, 121.3, 118.4, 114.9, 52.8, 33.4, 26.0, 25.0. MS (ESI) 192.2 (M+H)⁺.



2-(tert-butylamino)phenol (5h) ^[12]

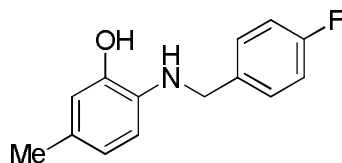
The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum

ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as a yellow solid (yield 60%, 49.6 mg). Mp: 80-82 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.05-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.21 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.1, 131.0, 126.9, 125.6, 119.4, 113.9, 53.3, 29.7. MS (ESI) 166.2 (M+H)⁺.



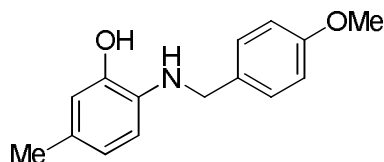
2-((2-(1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl)amino)phenol (5i)

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as a white solid (yield 77%, 97.1 mg). Mp: 84-86 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.87 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 3.47 (s, 2H), 3.12 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.9, 136.4, 127.4, 122.1, 122.0, 119.4, 118.8, 117.9, 114.4, 113.5, 112.8, 111.2, 44.5, 25.3. HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₆N₂O 252.1263, found: 252.1269. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3396, 2912, 1599, 1510, 1456, 1231, 1128, 750, 739.



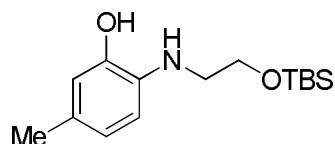
2-((4-fluorobenzyl)amino)-5-methylphenol (5j)

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as a yellow solid (yield 70%, 80.9 mg). Mp: 117-119 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.61-6.55 (m, 3H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.4, 160.9, 144.4, 136.2, 134.0, 129.1, 121.8, 115.5, 115.3, 113.7, 48.5, 20.6. HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₄FO 231.1059, found: 231.1062. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3039, 1614, 1522, 1244, 1126, 818.



2-((4-methoxybenzyl)amino)-5-methylphenol (5k)

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as a yellow solid (yield 78%, 94.9 mg). Mp: 100-102 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.3, 160.8, 144.1, 129.2, 129.1, 121.7, 115.5, 115.3, 113.6, 102.1. HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₅H₁₇NO₂ 243.1259, found: 243.1255. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3390, 1620, 1529, 1512, 1236, 1128, 1018, 825, 798.

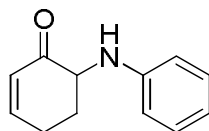


2-((2-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)ethyl)amino)-5-methylphenol (5l)

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as a white solid (yield 88%, 123.8 mg). Mp: 83-85 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.69-6.59 (m, 3H), 3.80 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 3.16 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 9H), 0.09 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.1, 133.9, 129.7, 121.2, 115.8, 115.6, 61.9, 48.0, 25.9, 20.7, 18.3, -5.34. HRMS (EI) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_2\text{Si}$ 281.1811, found: 281.1812. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3033, 2161, 1624, 1510, 1210, 1110, 815, 780.

Procedure for the synthesis of 3a' (the controlled experiment)

Under a nitrogen atmosphere, a reaction tube was charged with palladium(II) catalyst (10 mol%), aniline (0.5 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (3 mL), then 6-diazo-2cyclohexenone (0.75 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 3 h. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, solvents were removed under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the desired product.



6-(phenylamino)cyclohex-2-enone (3a')

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford pure product as brown oil (yield 93%, 87.1 mg, Scheme 3); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.03 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.74 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.14 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (s, 1H), 4.01 (dd, J = 13.6, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.69-2.49 (m, 3H), 1.89-1.78 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.6, 150.2, 147.0, 129.8, 128.2, 118.1, 112.9, 59.5, 30.4, 26.0. HRMS (EI) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ 187.0997, found: 187.0995.

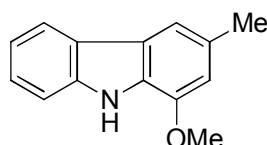
Procedure for the reaction of 1a with phenol

A reaction tube was charged with palladium(II) catalyst (10 mol%), phenol (0.5 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (3 mL), then 6-diazo-2cyclohexenone (0.75 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 12 h under air.

Procedure for the synthesis of Murrayafoline A^{[6], [13]}

A reaction tube was charged with palladium(II) chloride (1 mmol), aniline (**2a**) (10 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (20 mL), then 6-diazo-2cyclohexenone (15 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 5 h under air. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, solvents were removed under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the desired product. A

mixture of the purified product (**3g**), MeI (3 equiv.) and K₂CO₃ (5 equiv.) in anhydrous acetone (35 mL) was heated to 60 °C for 2.5 h. After cooling to room temperature, the resulting mixture was filtered through a pad of celite, eluting with ethyl acetate. The solvent was removed under vacuum to give the methylation intermediates in quantitative yield. Then the methylation intermediates, K₂CO₃ (0.1 equiv.), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.05 equiv.) and pivalic acid were added to a reaction tube. The tube was placed in an oil bath (110 °C) and the mixture was stirred under air for 14h. The solution is then cooled to rt, diluted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with a saturated aqueous solution of Na₂CO₃, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and evaporated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100/1) to give the desired product.

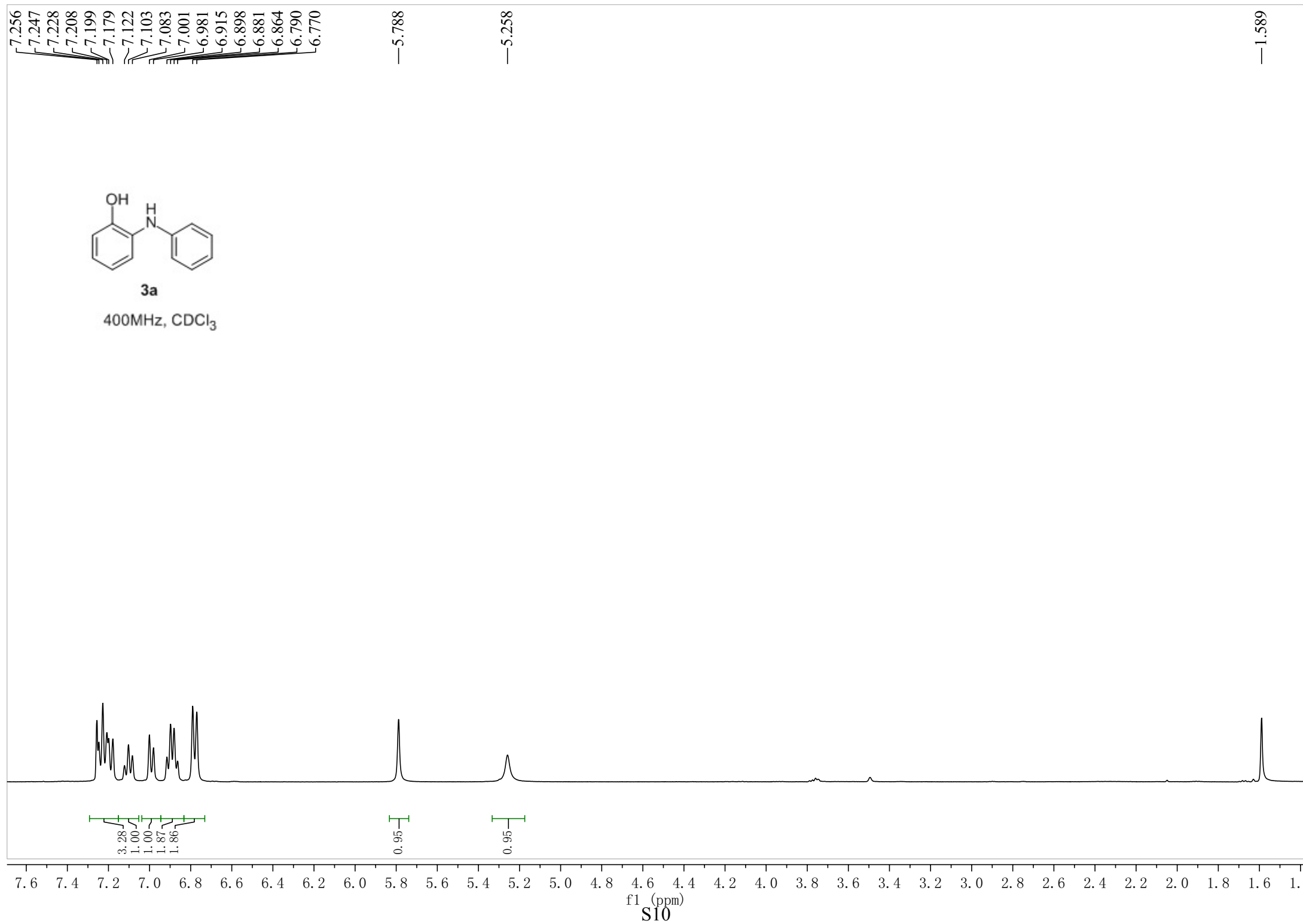


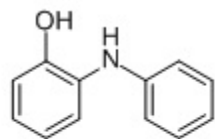
1-methoxy-3-methyl-9H-carbazole^{[6],[13]}

The title compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100/1) to afford pure product as yellow oil (yield 57%, 1.2 g); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.5, 139.5, 129.4, 128.1, 125.6, 124.3, 123.6, 120.4, 119.1, 112.5, 110.8, 107.6, 55.4, 21.7.

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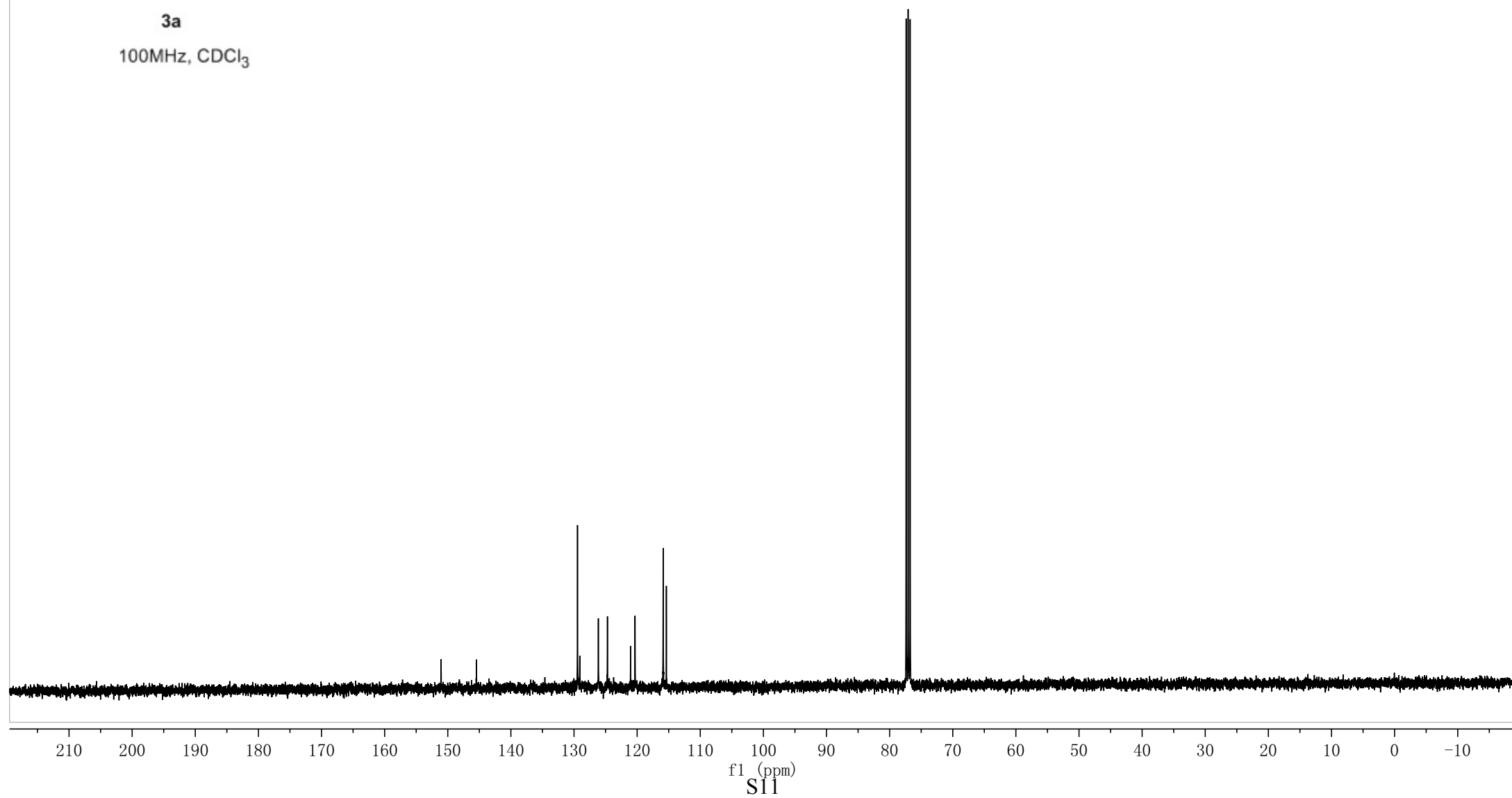


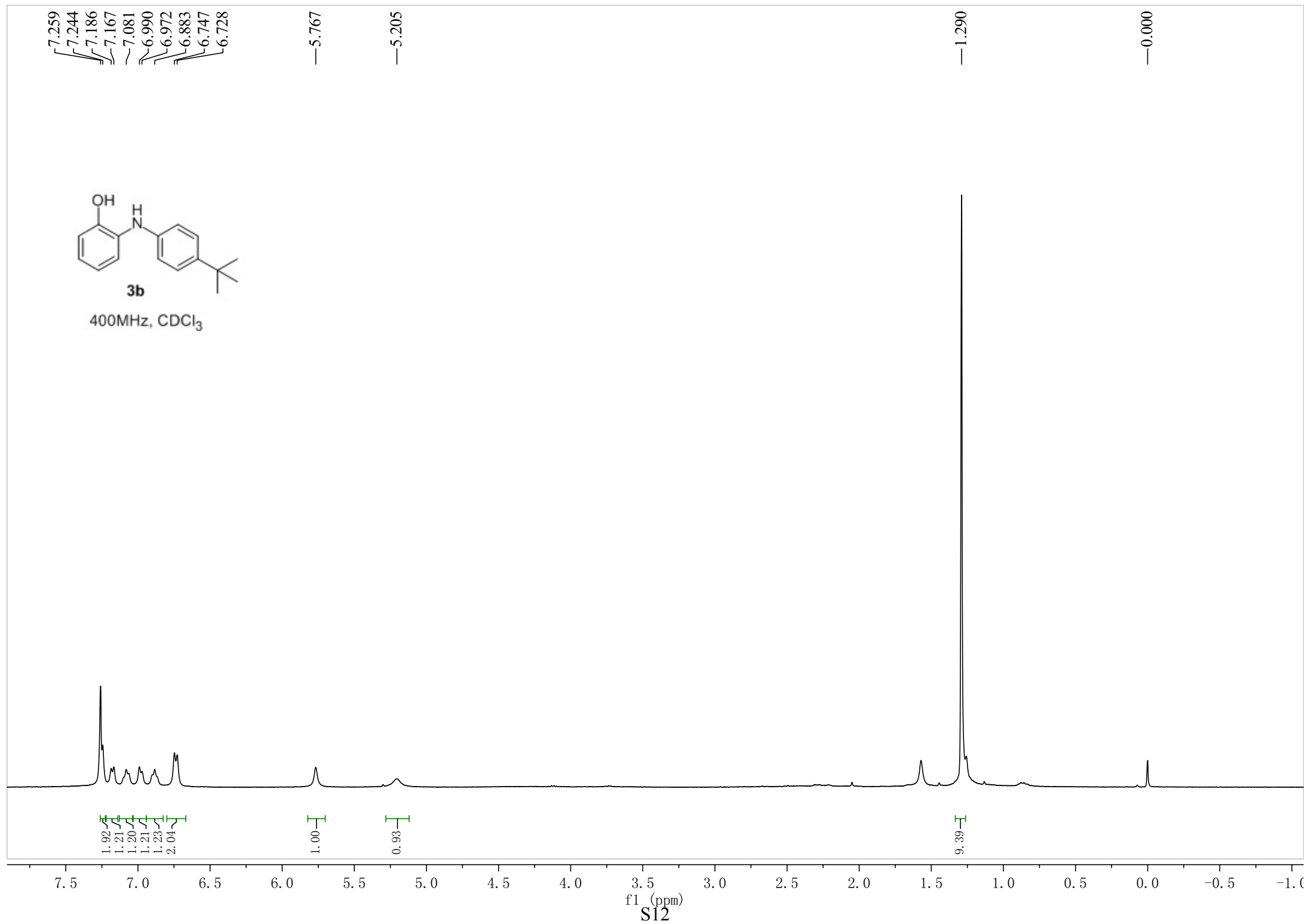


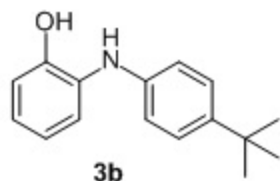
3a

100MHz, CDCl₃

— 151.069
— 145.458
└─ 129.450
└─ 129.084
└─ 126.146
└─ 124.704
└─ 121.041
└─ 120.336
└─ 115.876
└─ 115.368

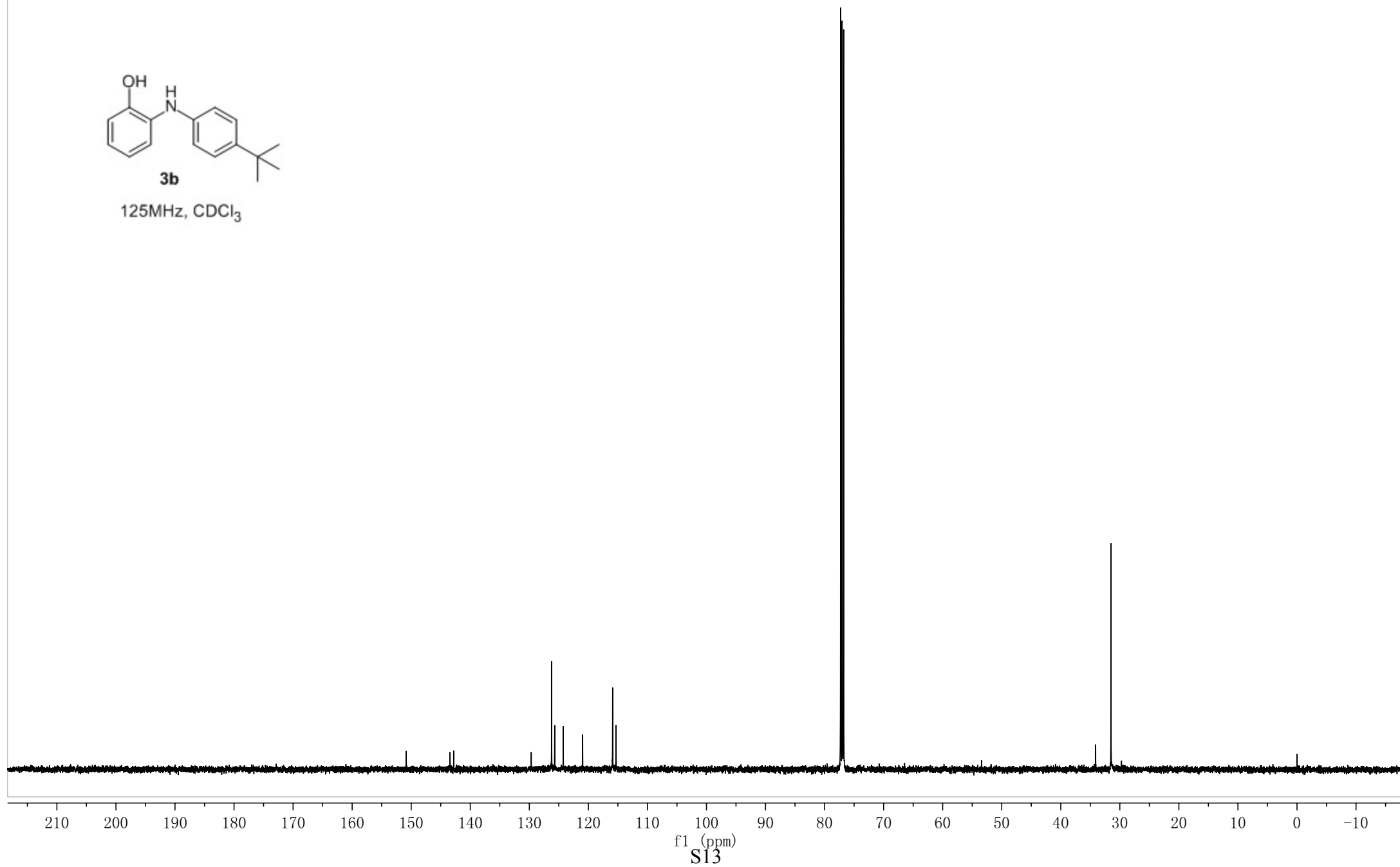


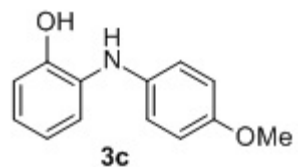




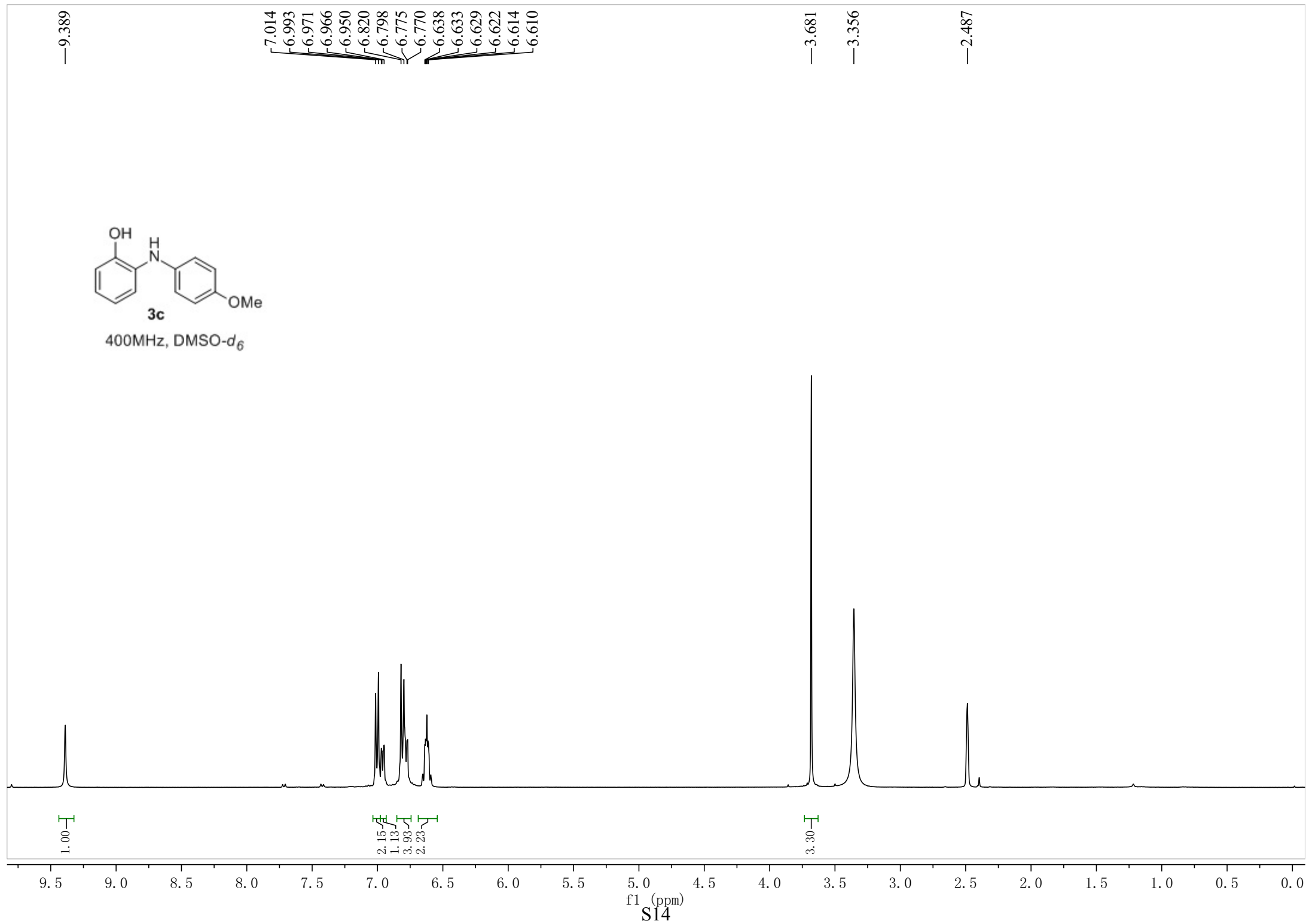
125MHz, CDCl₃

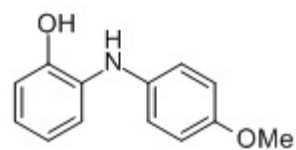
— 150.841
~ 143.425
~ 142.810
/ 129.670
/ 126.222
/ 125.699
~ 124.251
~ 120.968
~ 115.889
~ 115.313
/ 77.281
/ 77.027
/ 76.773
~ 34.091
~ 31.502





400MHz, DMSO-*d*₆



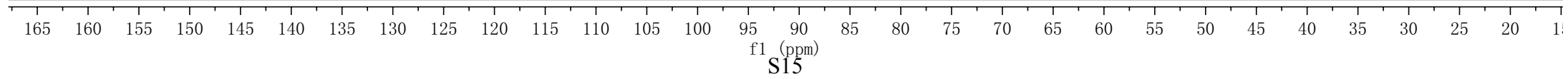


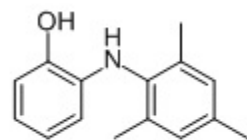
3c

125MHz, CDCl₃

— 154.750
— 149.617
— 139.542
— 132.092
~ 124.787
~ 122.496
~ 121.054
~ 119.117
~ 115.534
~ 114.886

— 55.710





3d

400MHz, CDCl₃

—7.258

~6.929

~6.837

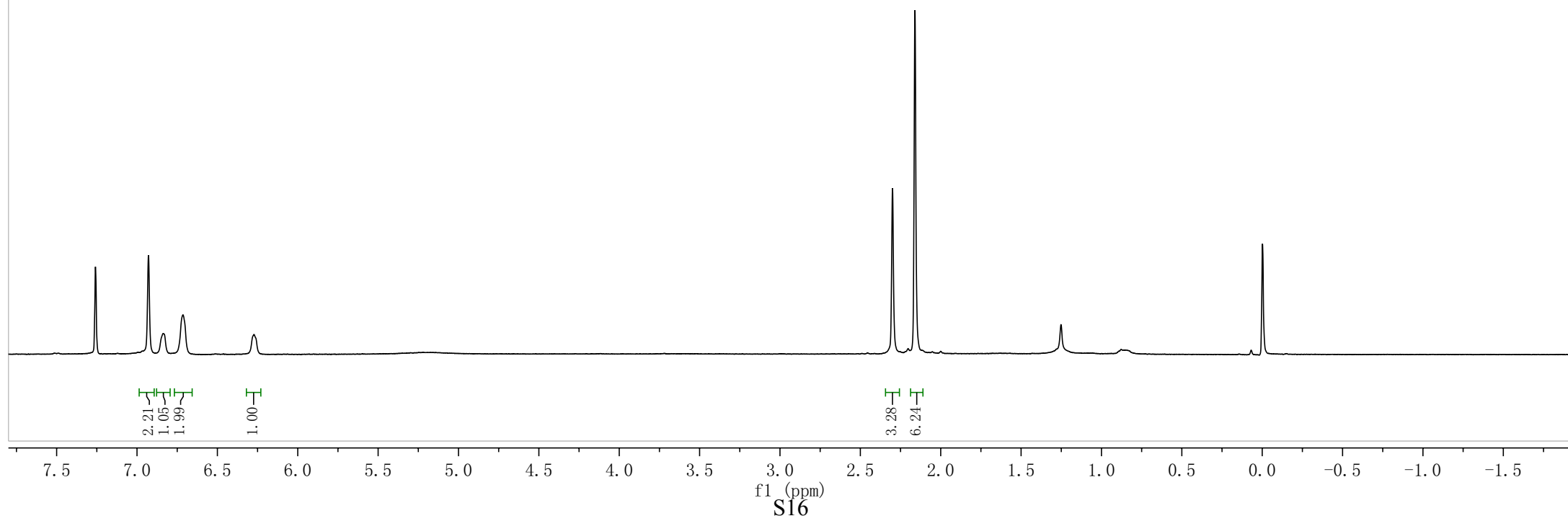
~6.714

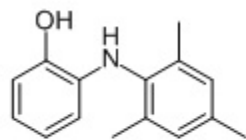
—6.272

—2.300

—2.160

—0.002

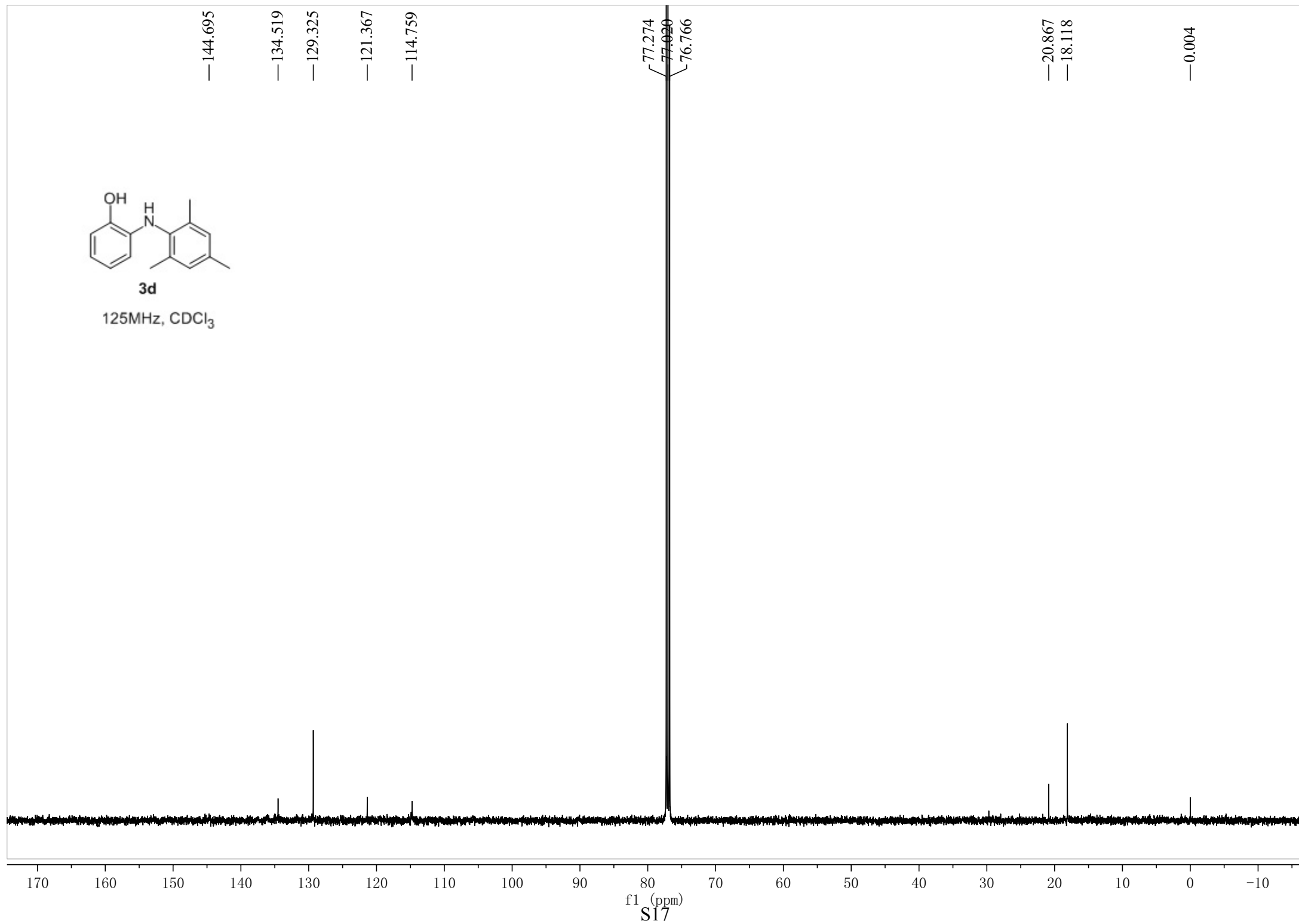


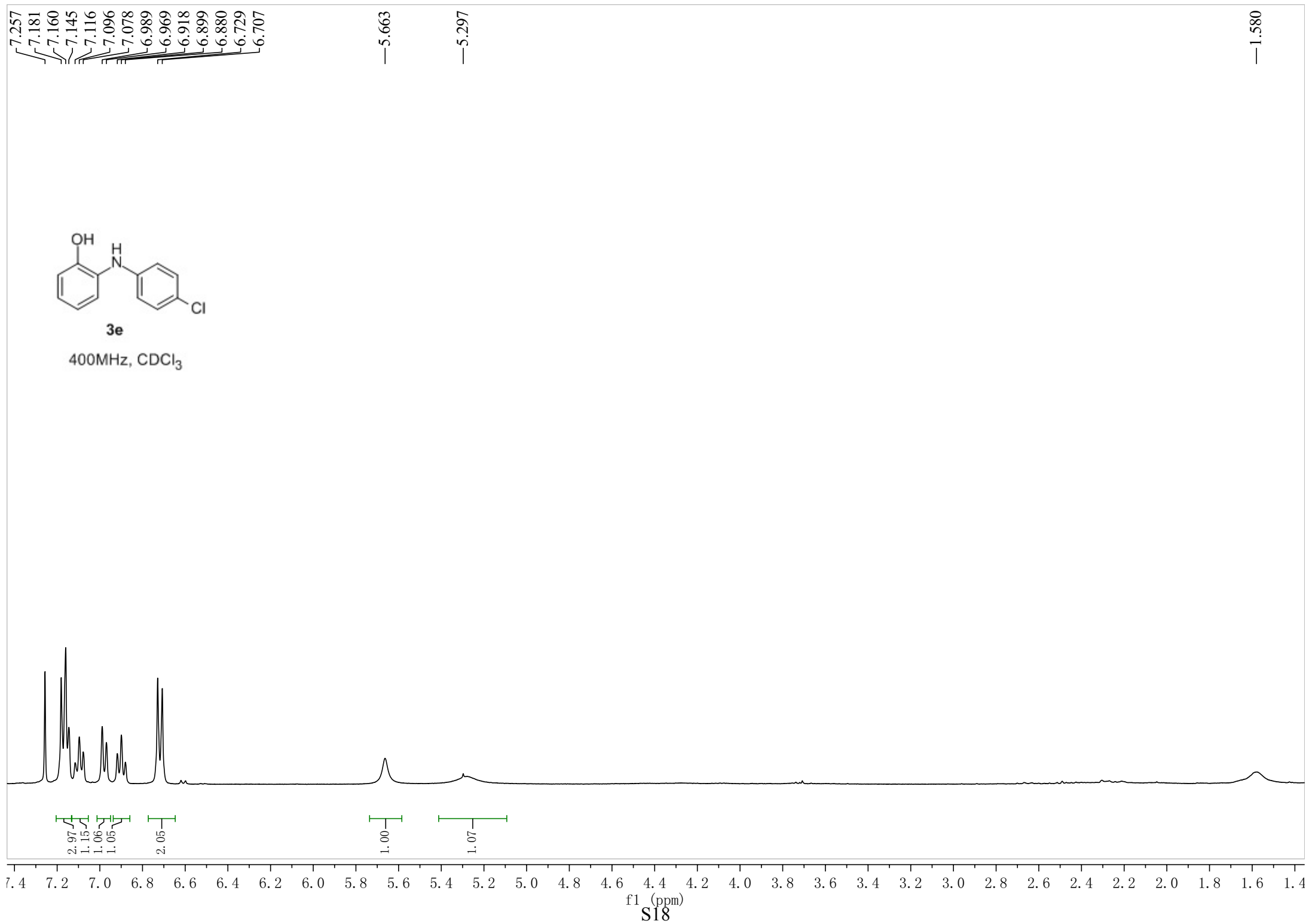


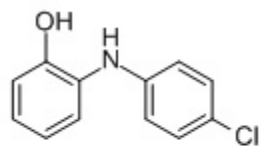
3d

125MHz, CDCl₃

—144.695
—134.519
—129.325
—121.367
—114.759
77.274
77.030
76.766
—20.867
—18.118
—0.004



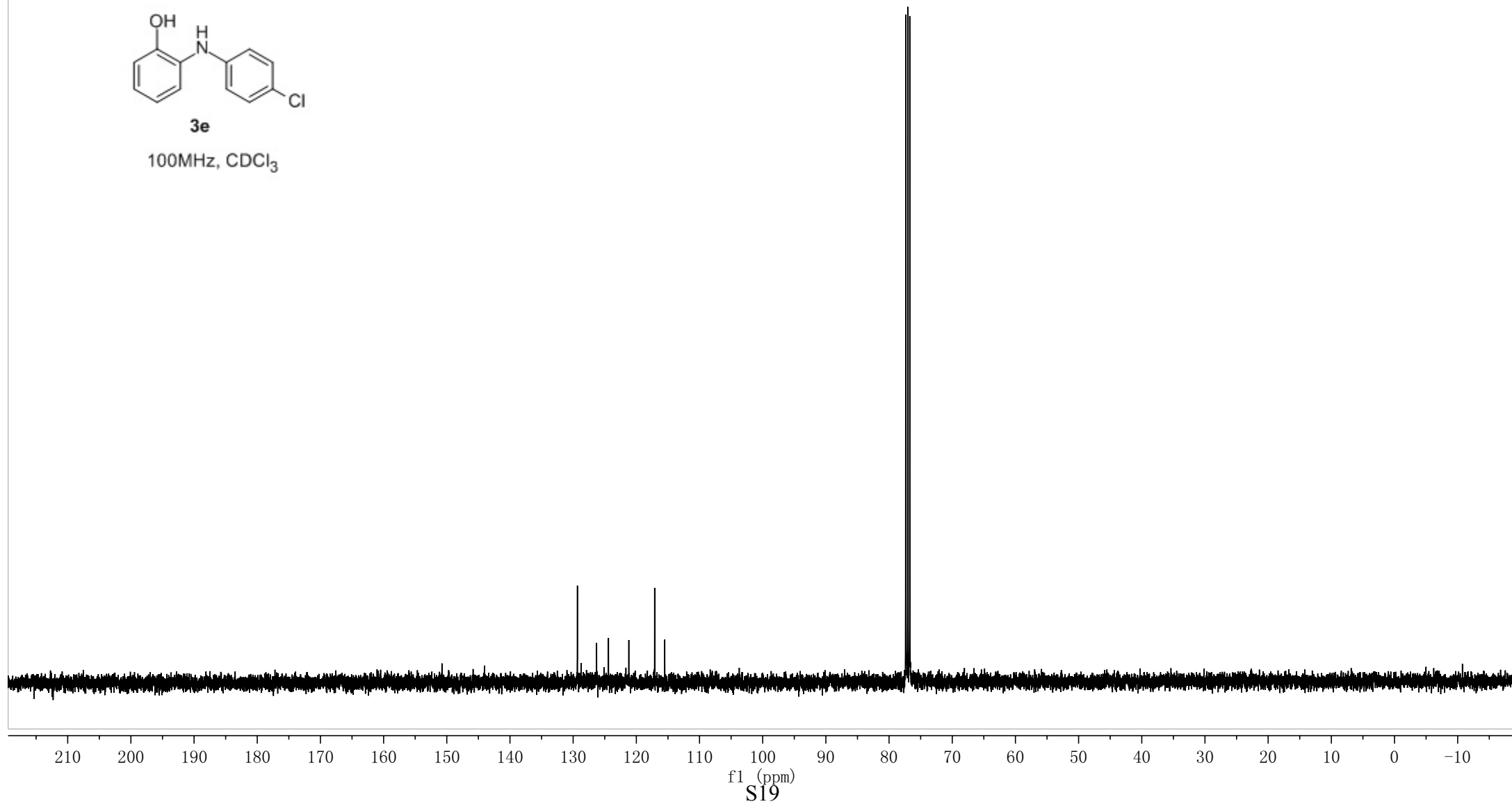


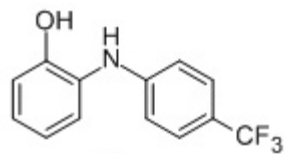


3e

100MHz, CDCl₃

— 150.795
— 144.000
129.323
128.750
126.188
125.131
124.408
121.187
117.099
115.479





3f

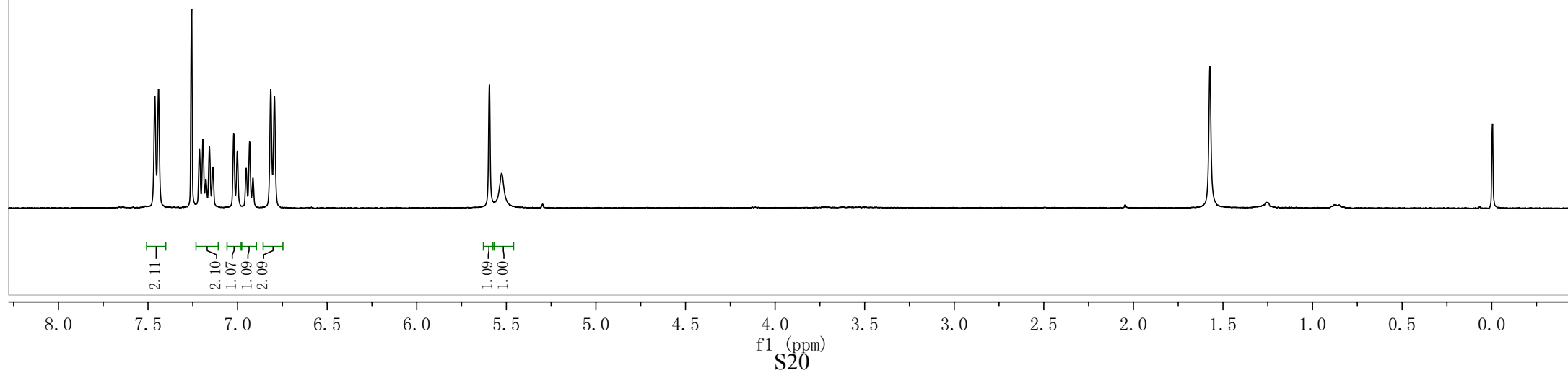
400MHz, CDCl₃

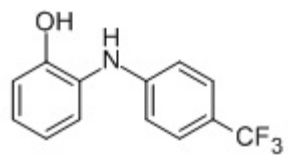
7.462
7.441
7.256
7.213
7.194
7.177
7.157
7.138
7.022
7.002
6.952
6.933
6.914
6.815
6.794

5.595
5.527

1.573

-0.005

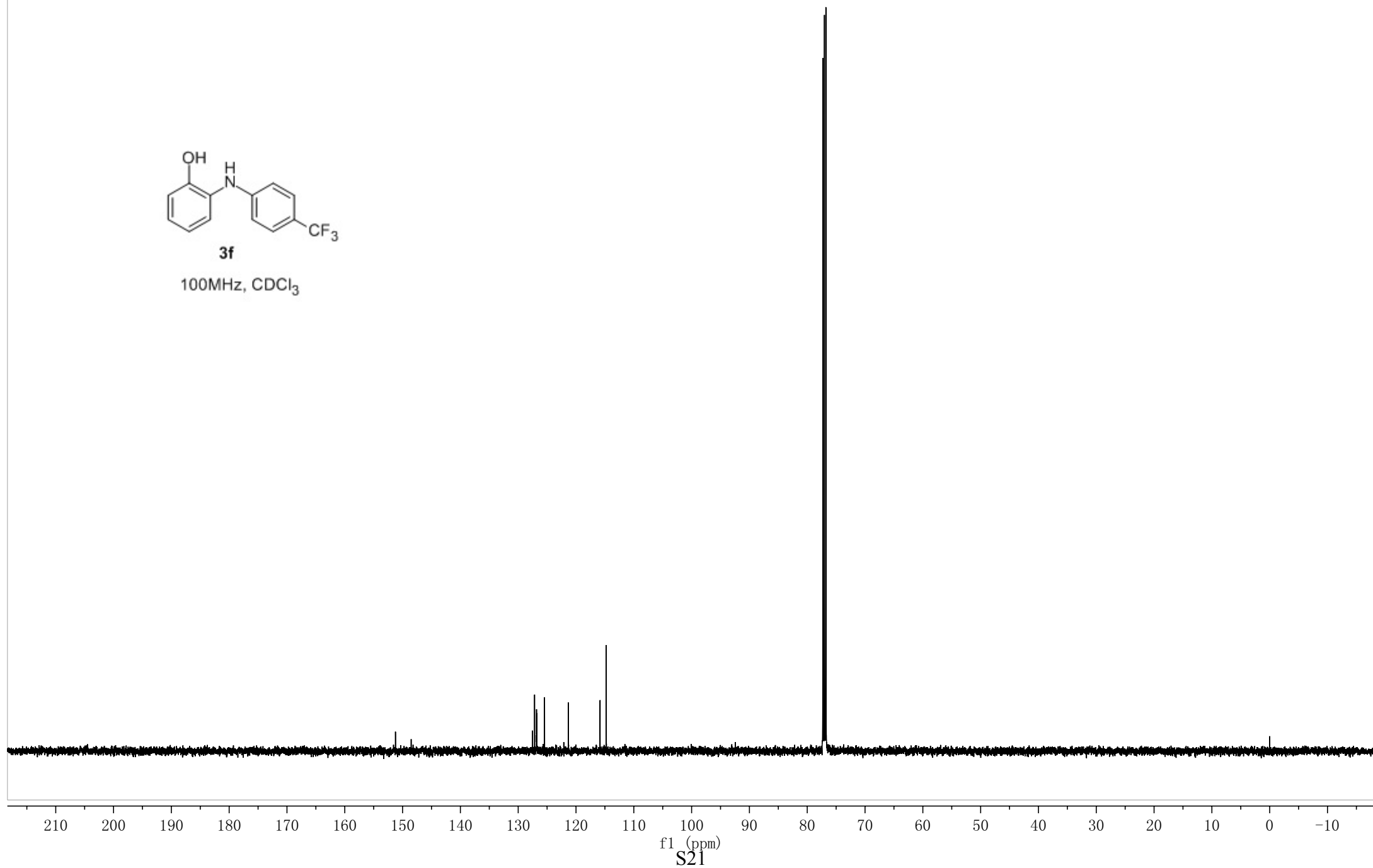


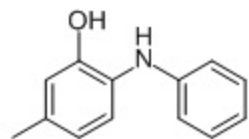


3f

100MHz, CDCl₃

151.231
148.515
127.543
127.168
126.827
125.441
121.313
115.838
114.781





3g

400MHz, CDCl₃

7.243
7.215
7.195
7.176
7.047
7.027
6.861
6.842
6.828
6.710
6.690

—5.842

—5.058

—2.322

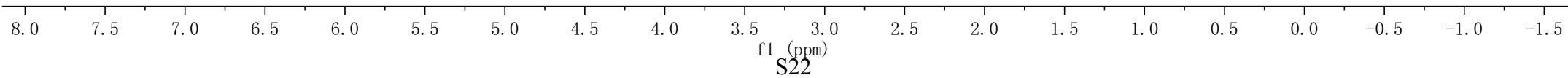
—0.000

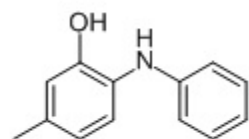
2.01
1.00
1.98
2.93

0.91

0.91

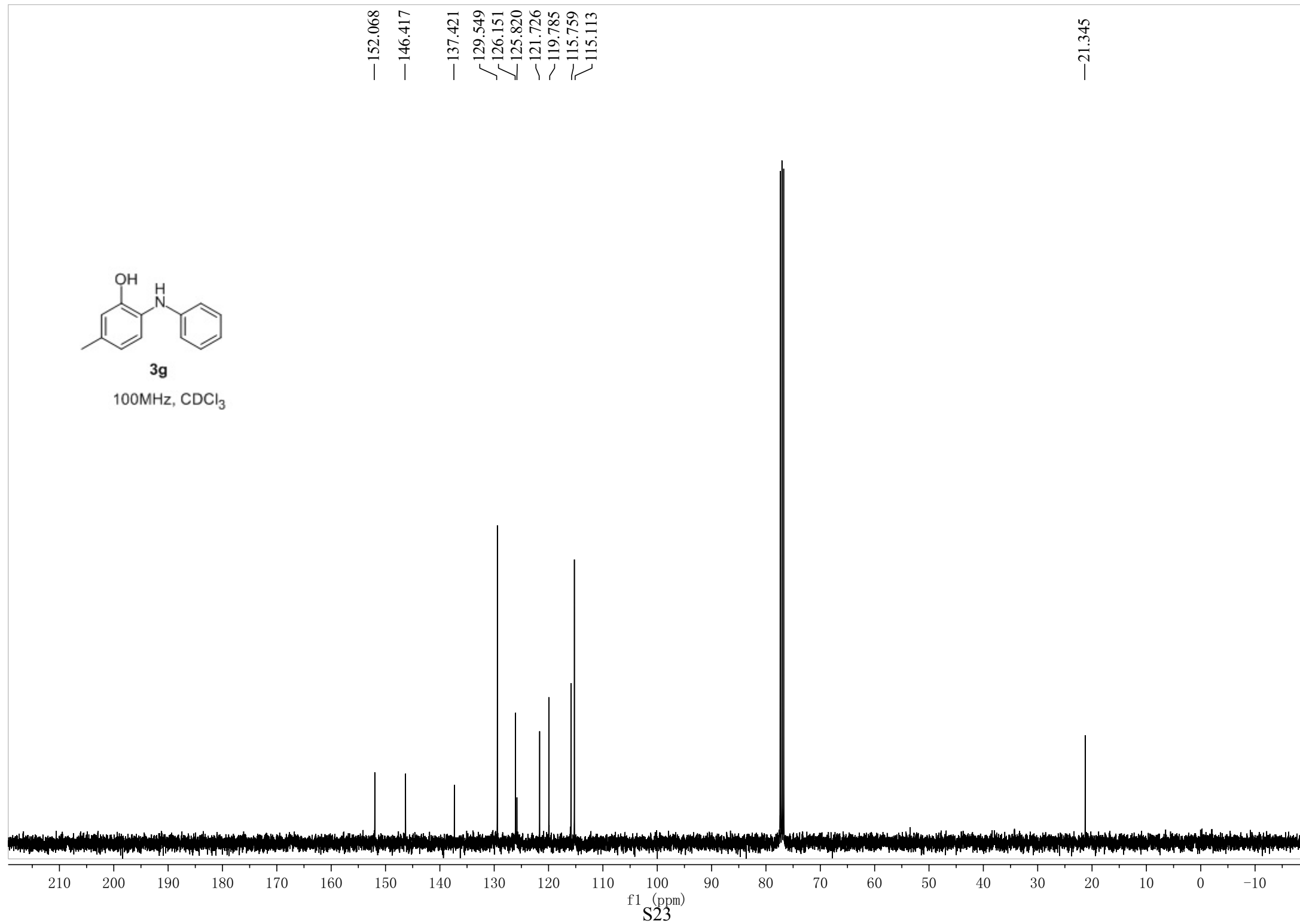
3.02

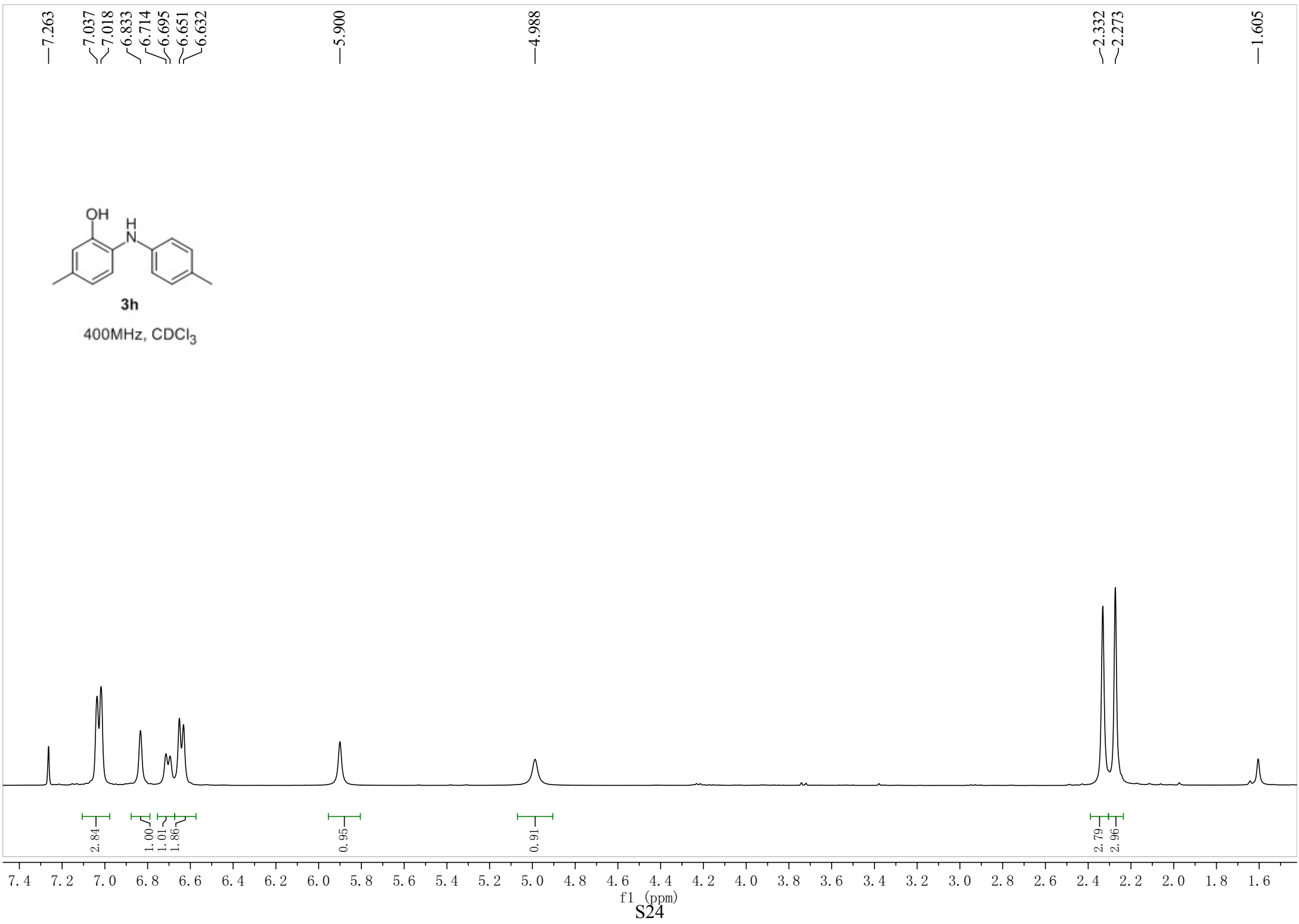


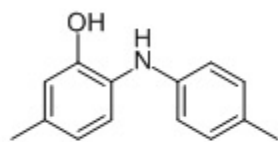


3g

100MHz, CDCl₃





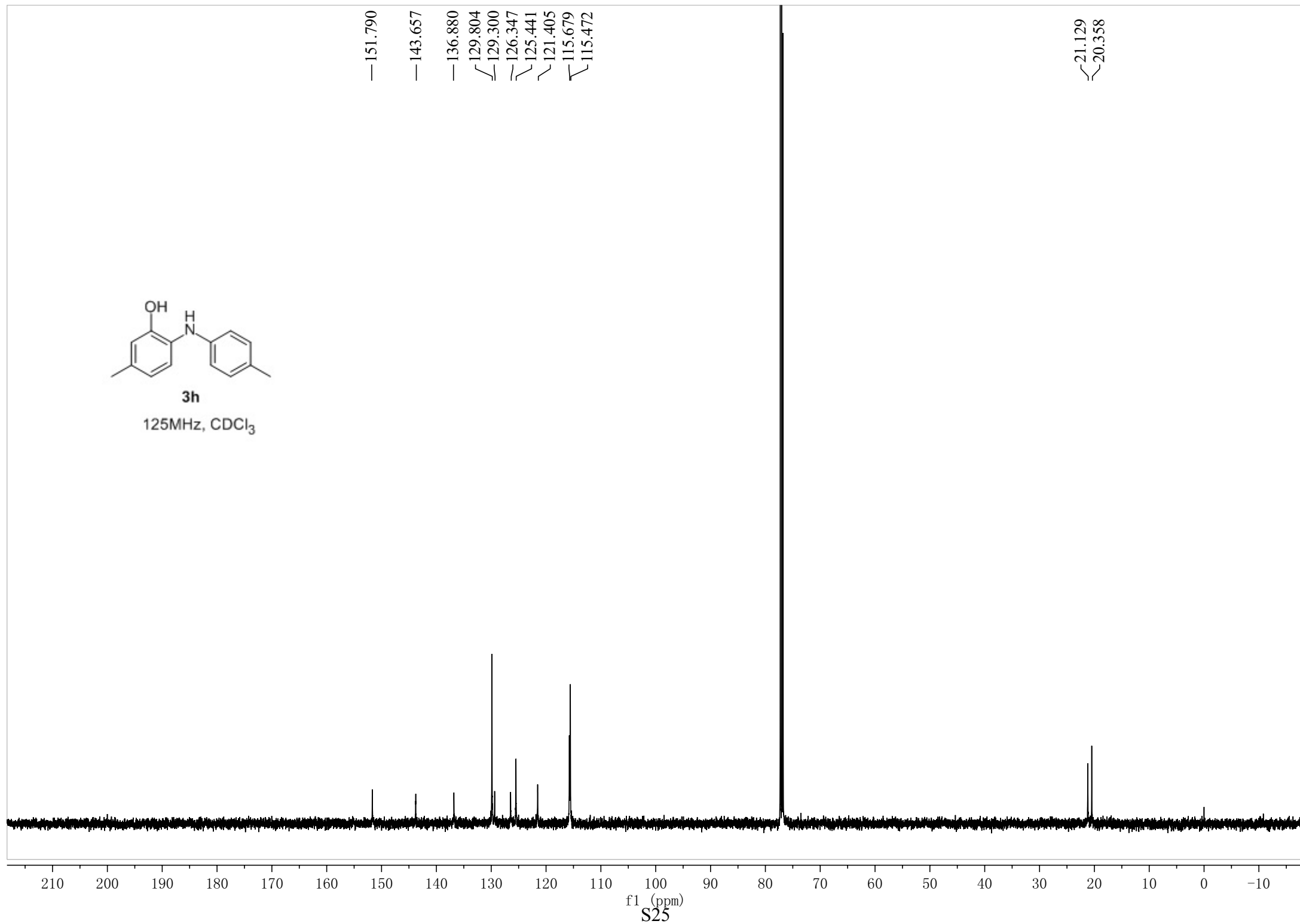


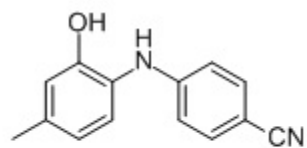
3h

125MHz, CDCl₃

— 151.790
— 143.657
— 136.880
└ 129.804
└ 129.300
└ 126.347
└ 125.441
└ 121.405
└ 115.679
└ 115.472

└ 21.129
└ 20.358





3i

400MHz, CDCl₃

7.471
7.450
7.266
7.073
7.053
6.850
6.770
6.738
6.717

5.578
5.490

2.344

1.582

1.97

1.00

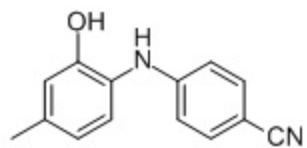
1.05

2.97

1.09
1.07

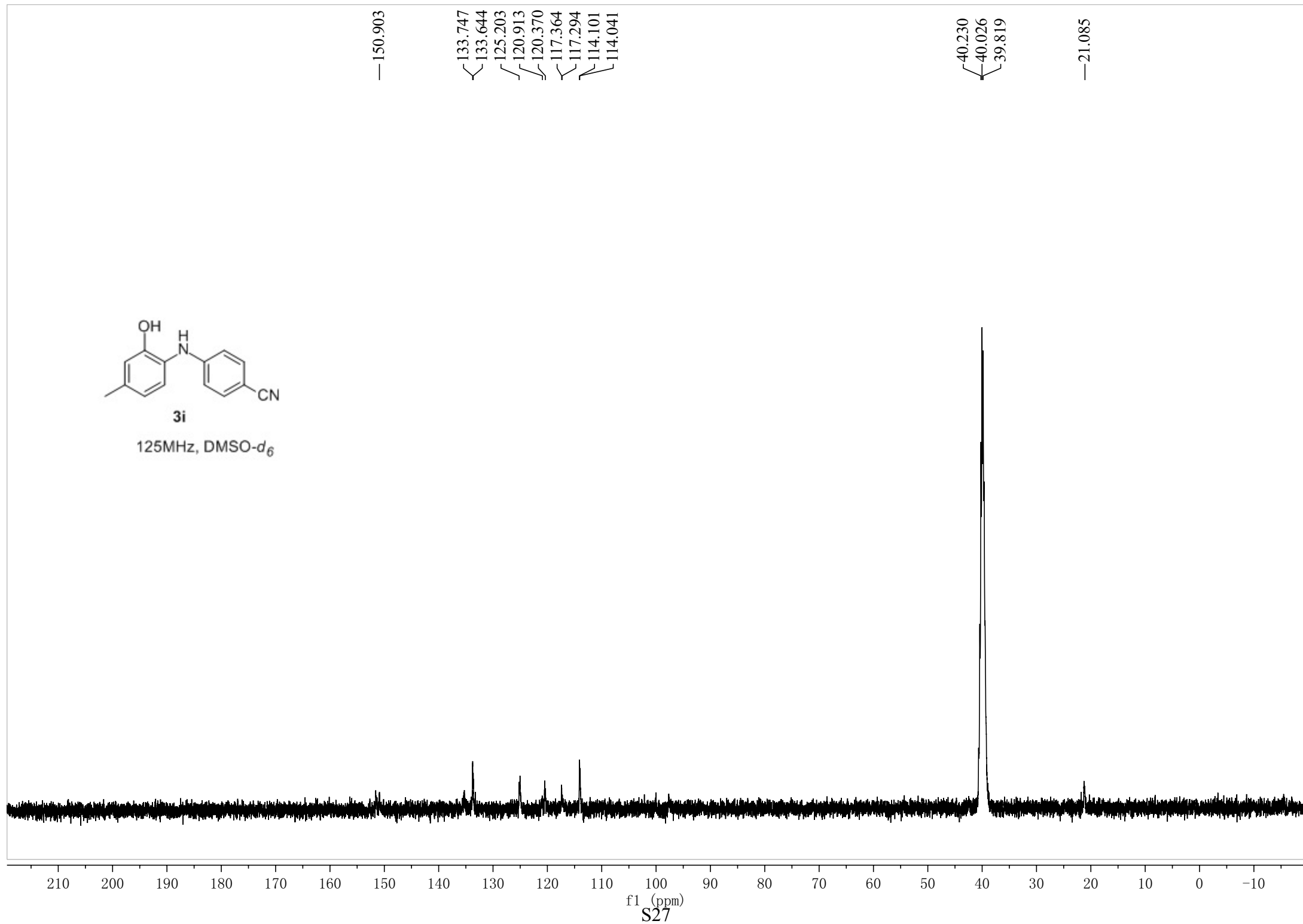
3.08

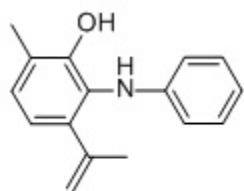
f1 (ppm)
S26



3i

125MHz, DMSO-*d*₆





3j

400MHz, CDCl₃

7.257
7.212
7.194
7.174
7.041
7.021
6.858
6.840
6.822
6.734
6.714
6.625
6.606
—6.076

~5.162
~5.091
—4.808

—2.305
—1.861
—1.559

1.90
0.98
0.99
0.94
1.91

0.94

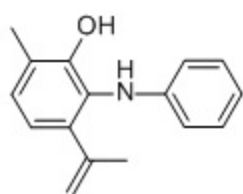
0.93
1.01
1.00

2.93

2.93

7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5

f1 (ppm)
S28



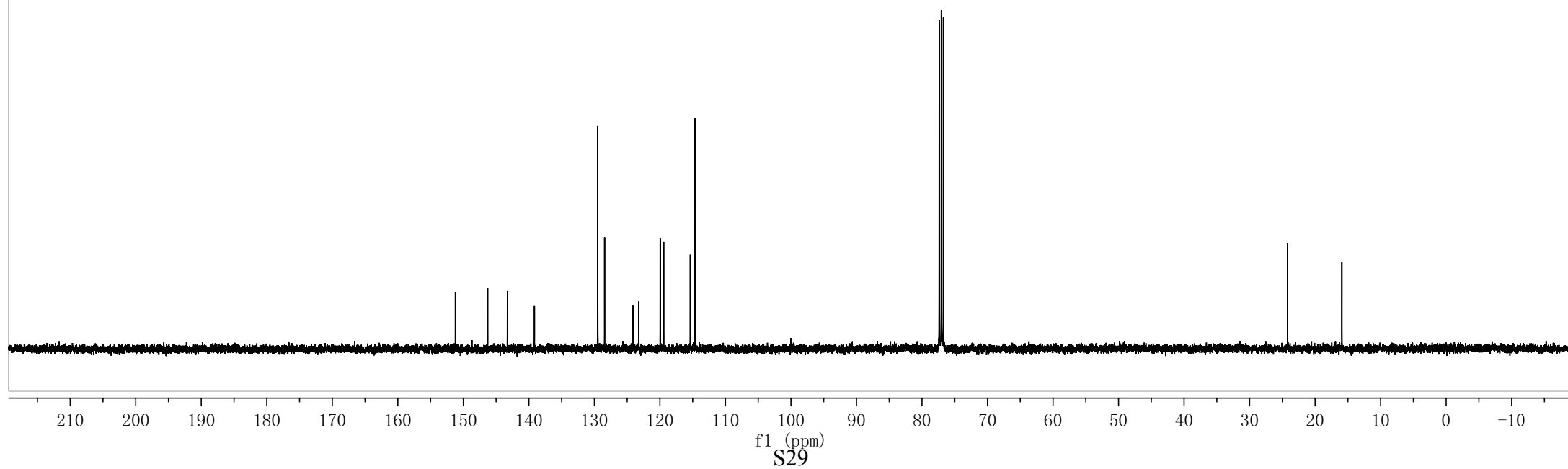
3j

100MHz, CDCl₃

~151.167
~146.313
~143.178
~139.199
129.577
128.345
124.205
123.176
119.864
119.335
115.306
114.510

—24.374

—15.811





$\begin{matrix} \diagup & \diagdown \\ 7.235 & 7.017 \\ \diagdown & \diagup \end{matrix}$
 $\begin{matrix} \diagup & \diagdown \\ 6.998 & 6.979 \\ \diagdown & \diagup \end{matrix}$
 $\begin{matrix} \diagup & \diagdown \\ 6.721 & 6.702 \\ \diagdown & \diagup \end{matrix}$
 $\begin{matrix} \diagup & \diagdown \\ 6.530 & 6.511 \\ \diagdown & \diagup \end{matrix}$

—6.077

—5.280

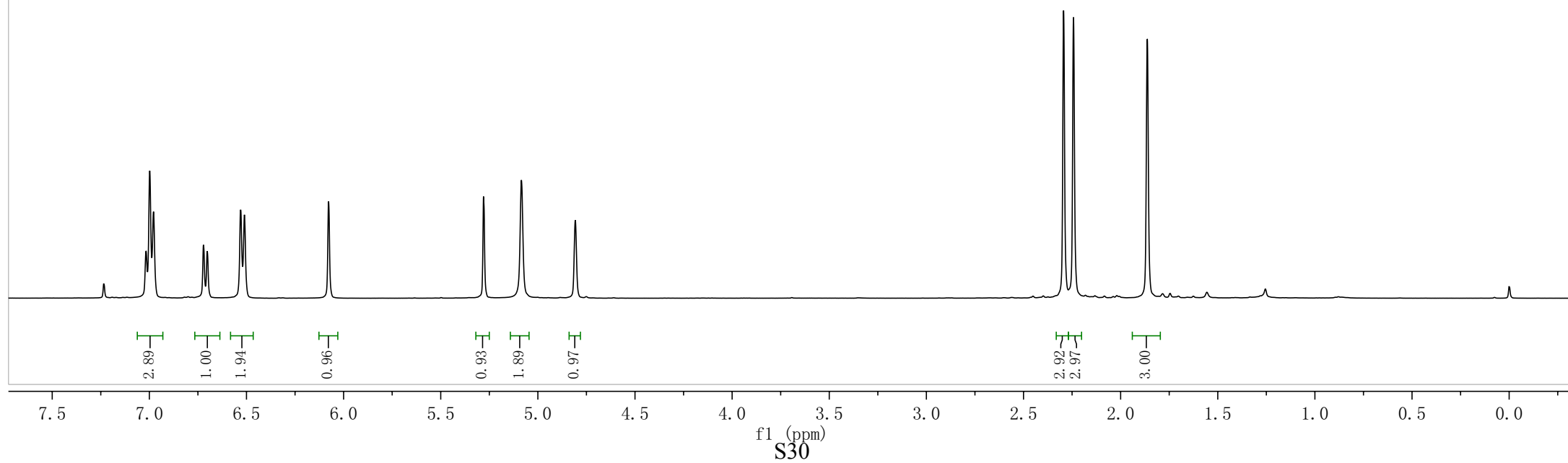
—5.085

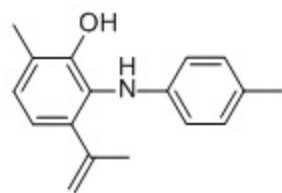
—4.807

2.294
2.243

—1.863

—0.000





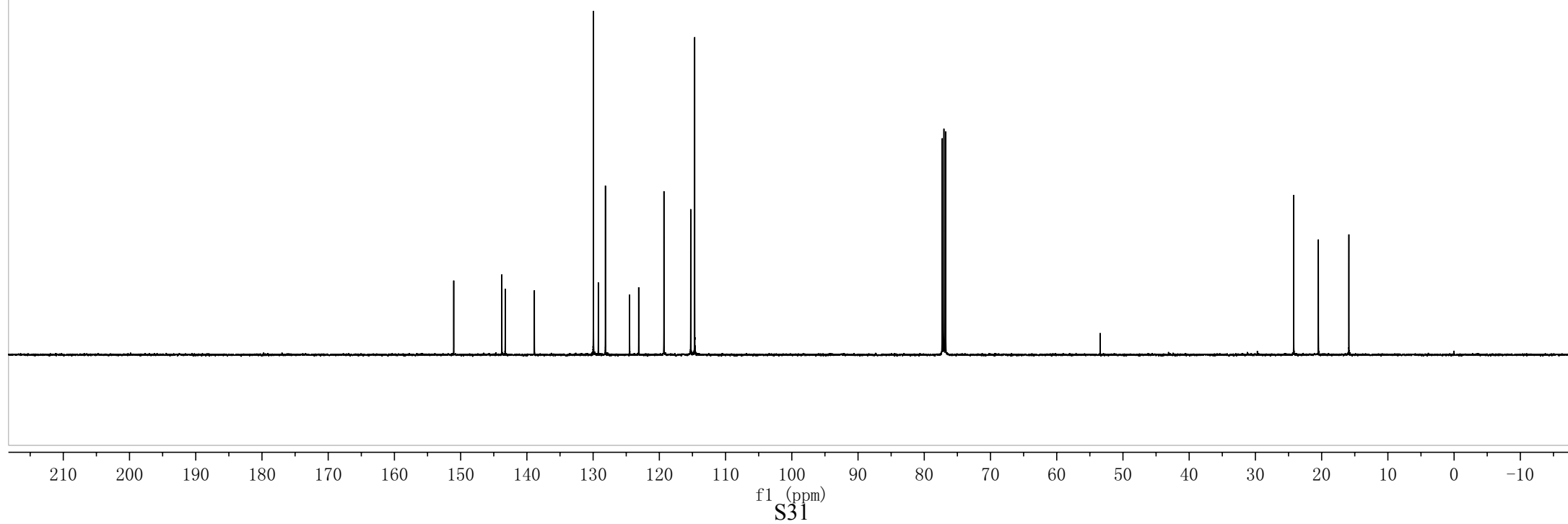
3k

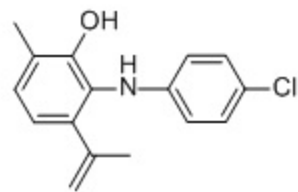
125MHz, CDCl₃

— 151.045
 ~ 143.778
 ~ 143.271
 ~ 138.868
 ~ 129.956
 ~ 129.217
 ~ 128.143
 ~ 124.494
 ~ 123.122
 ~ 119.309
 ~ 115.263
 ~ 114.665

 ~ 77.285
 ~ 77.031
 ~ 76.777

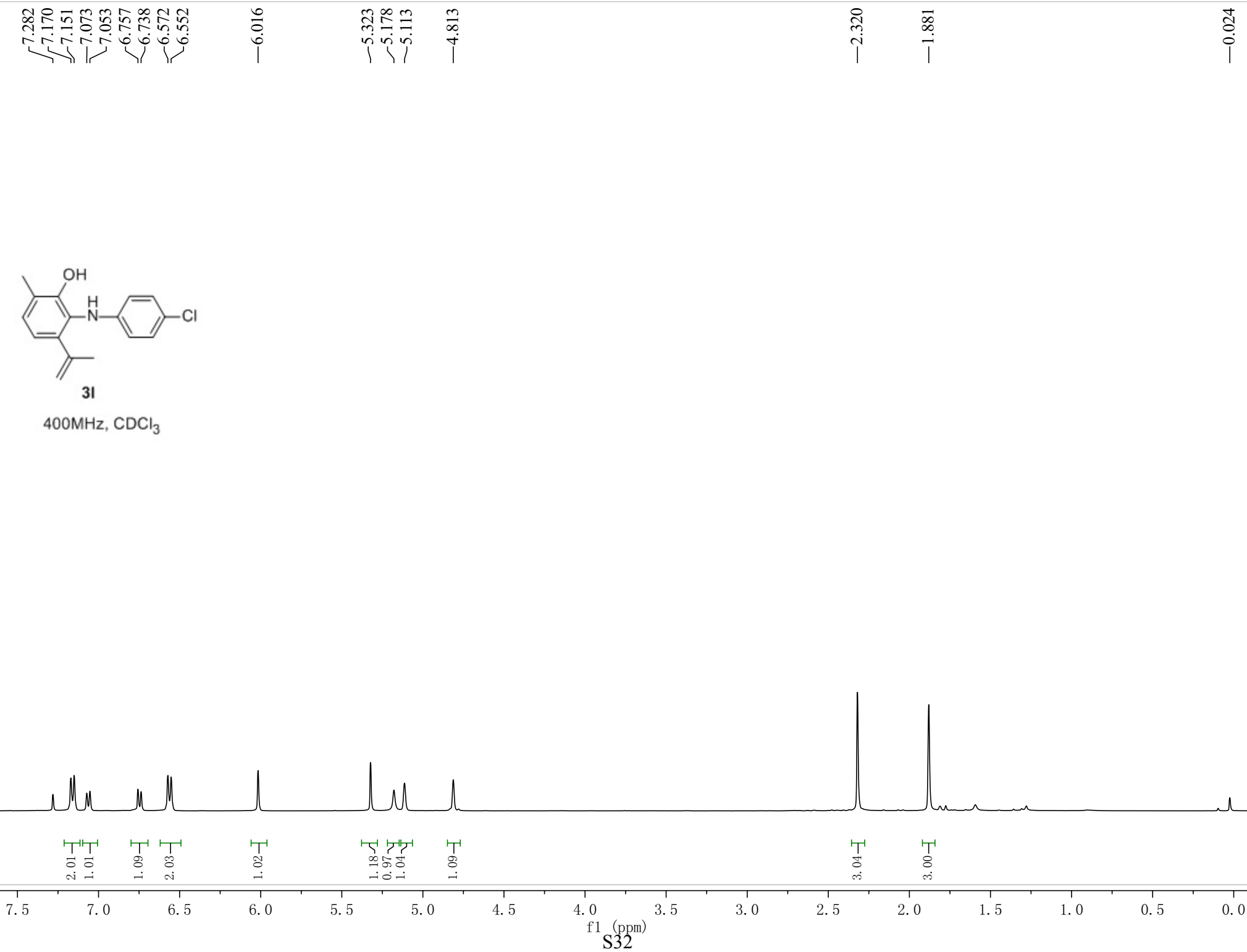
 ~ 24.221
 ~ 20.493
 ~ 15.888

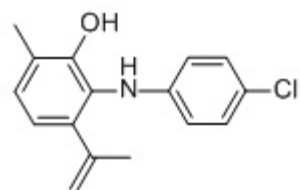




3l

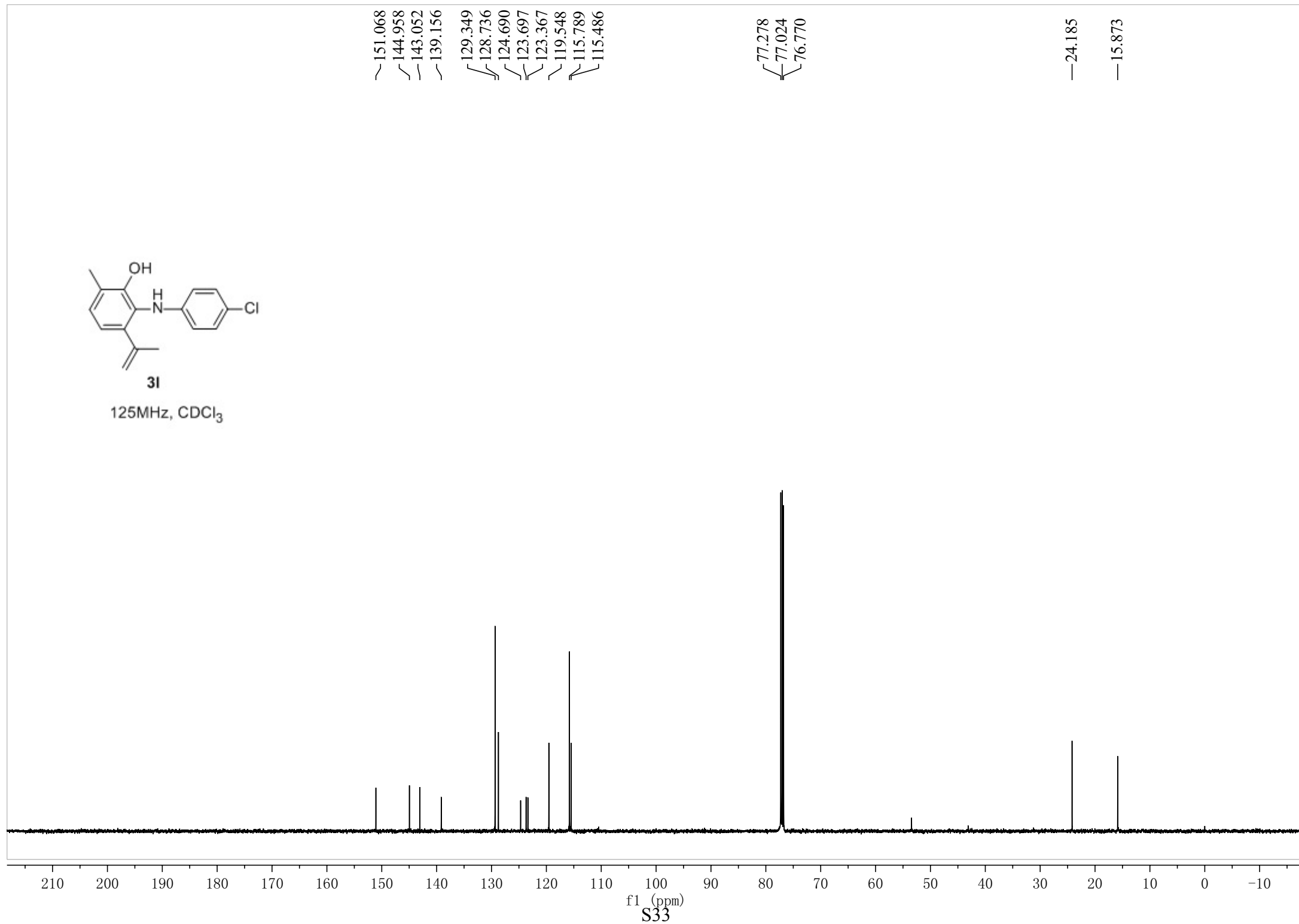
400MHz, CDCl₃

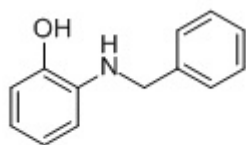




3I

125MHz, CDCl₃





5a

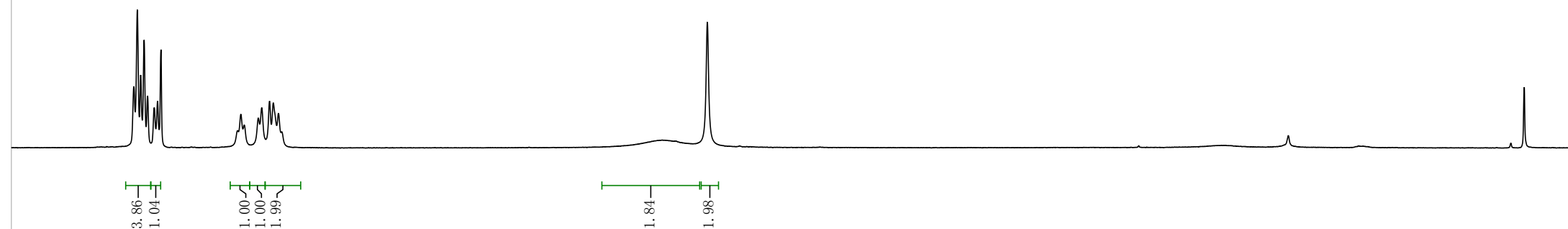
400MHz, CDCl₃

7.398
7.379
7.362
7.343
7.325
7.289
7.272
7.253
6.846
6.829
6.811
6.736
6.718
6.676
6.656
6.628

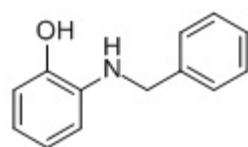
—4.592

—4.346

—0.000



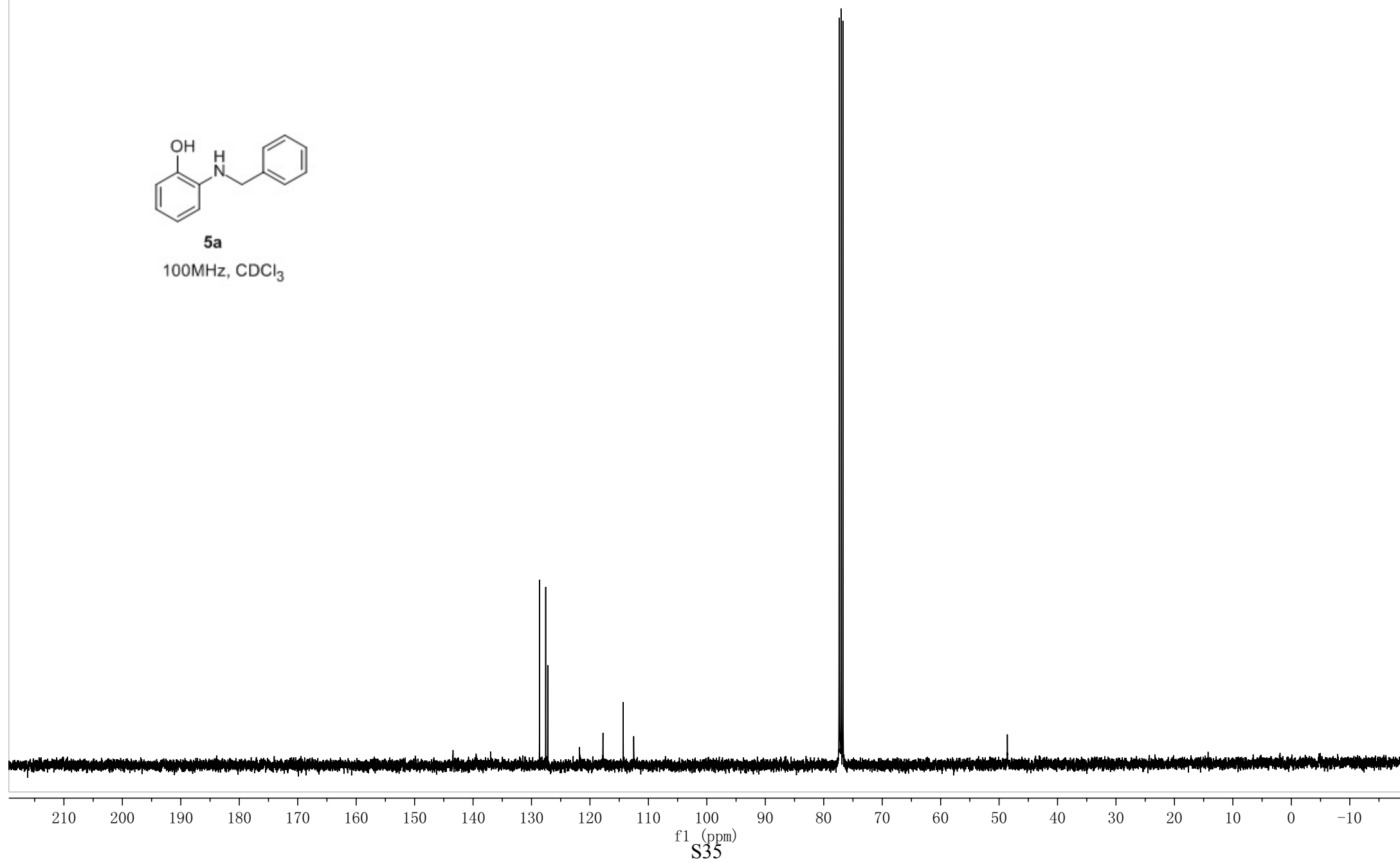
3.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0



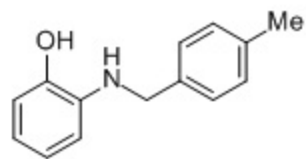
5a

100MHz, CDCl₃

143.424
139.307
136.947
128.628
127.575
127.223
121.781
117.769
114.310
112.516
77.361
77.043
76.726
48.586



S35



5b

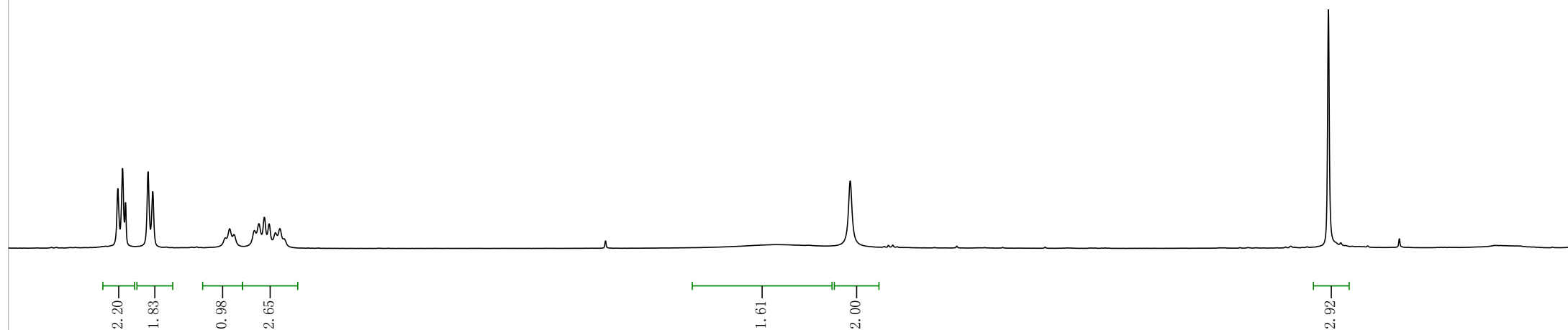
400MHz, CDCl₃

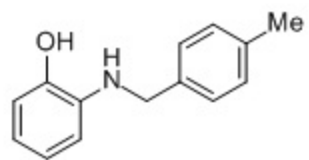
7.294
7.275
7.263
7.171
7.152
6.855
6.838
6.820
6.737
6.719
6.696
6.677
6.651
6.633
6.616

4.607

4.306

2.354





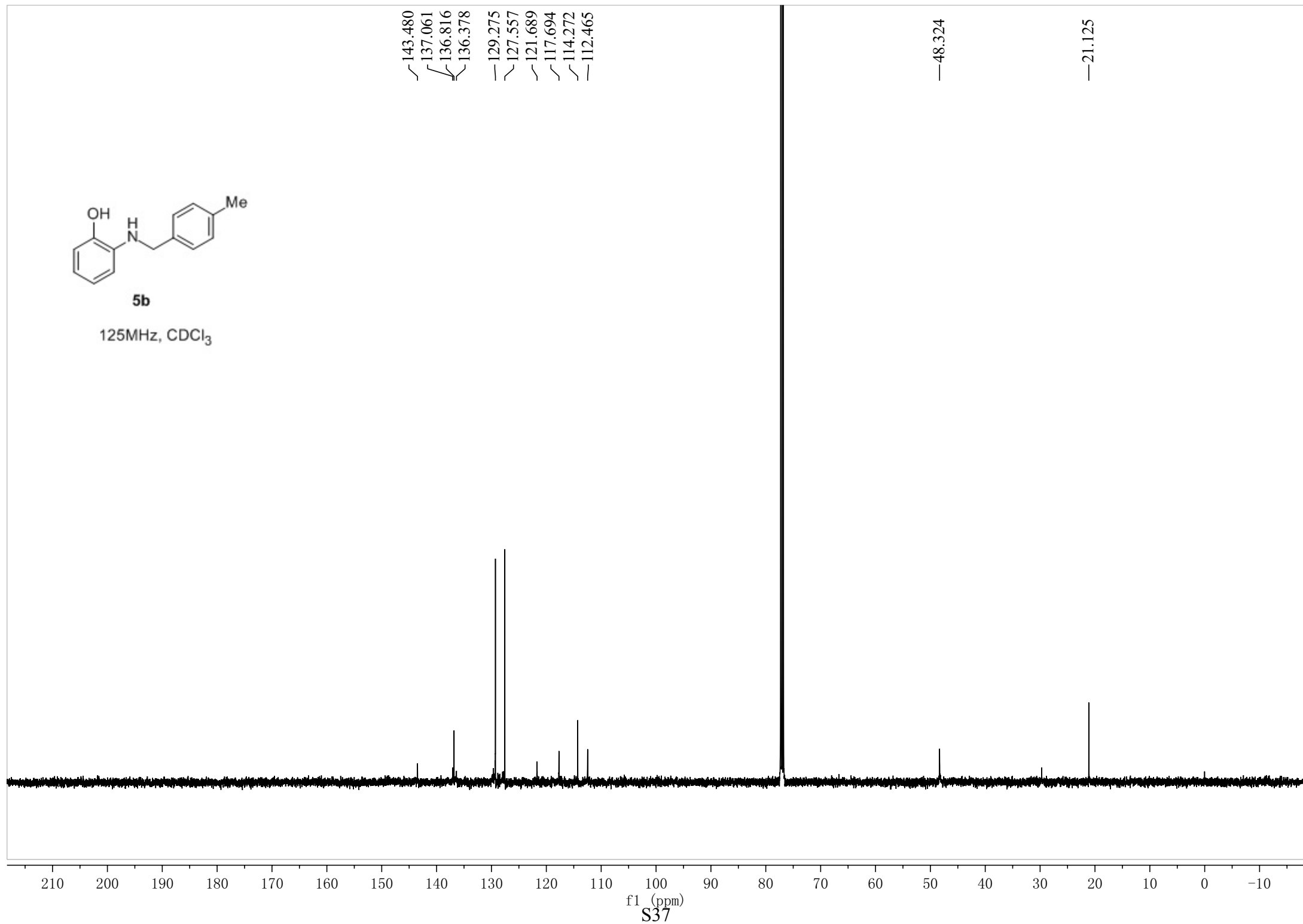
5b

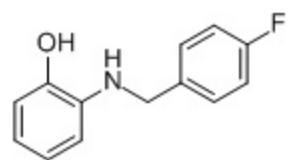
125MHz, CDCl₃

143.480
137.061
136.816
136.378
129.275
127.557
121.689
117.694
114.272
112.465

48.324

21.125





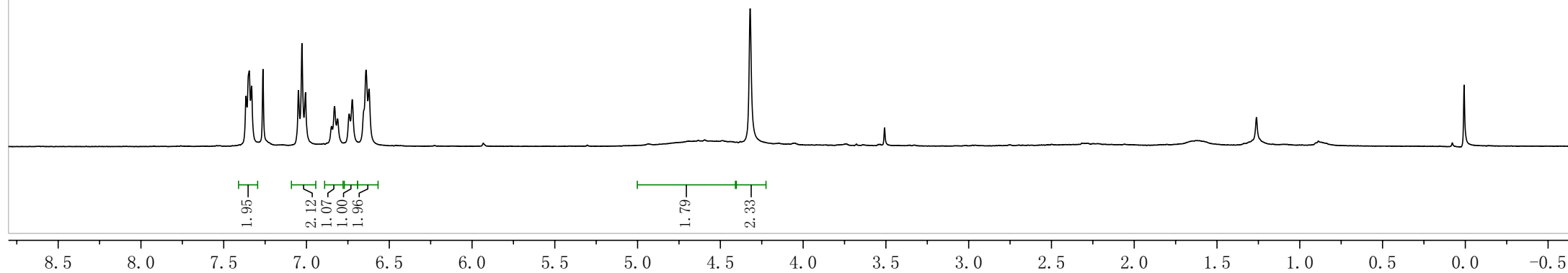
5c

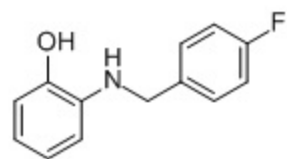
400MHz, CDCl₃

7.365
7.346
7.332
7.263
7.049
7.027
7.006
6.849
6.831
6.812
6.742
6.724
6.640
6.623

—4.595

—4.320





5c

125MHz, CDCl₃

~163.009
~161.061

—143.349

—136.766

129.083

129.019

121.718

117.817

115.494

115.325

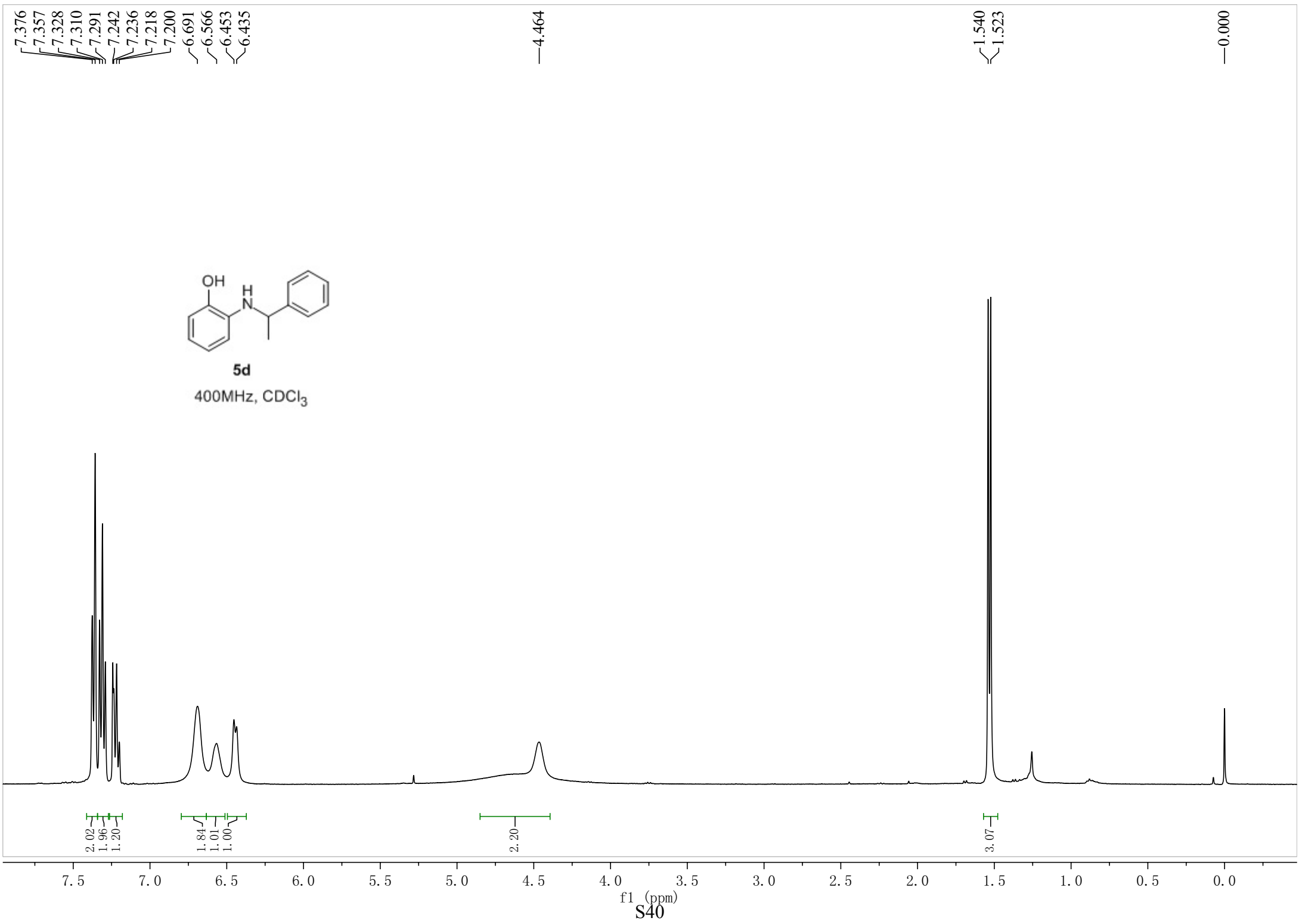
114.294

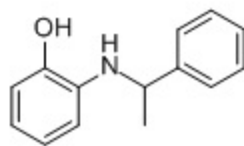
112.333

—47.795

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

f1 (ppm)
S39





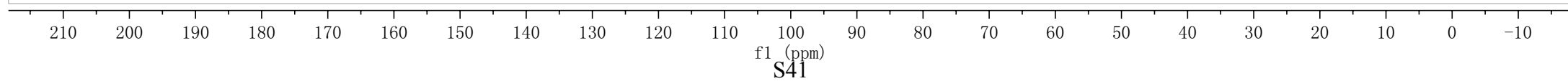
5d

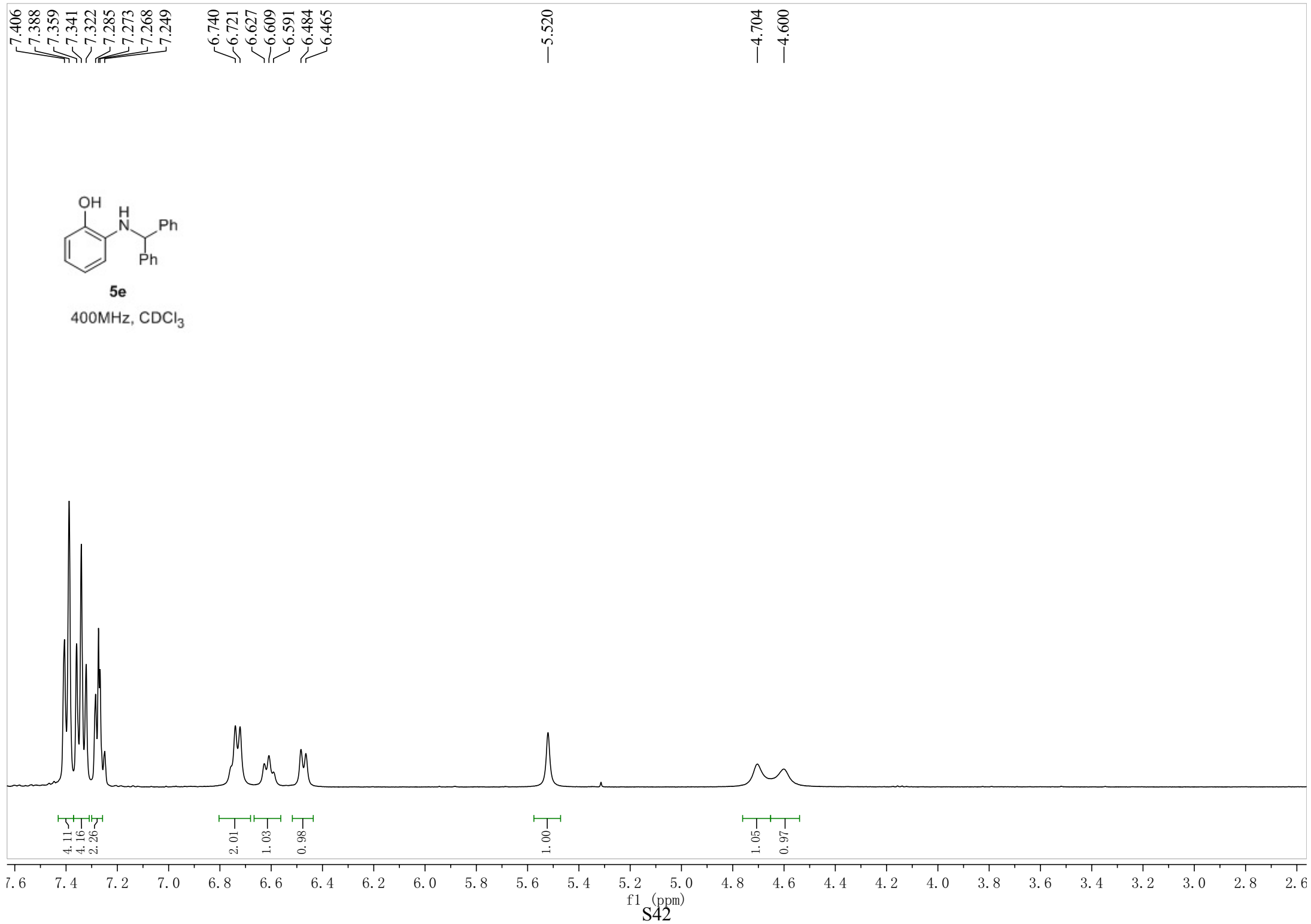
125MHz, CDCl₃

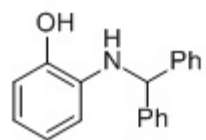
~145.208
~143.532
—135.934
~128.603
~126.880
~125.896
~121.529
—117.674
~114.125
~113.744

—53.885

—24.917





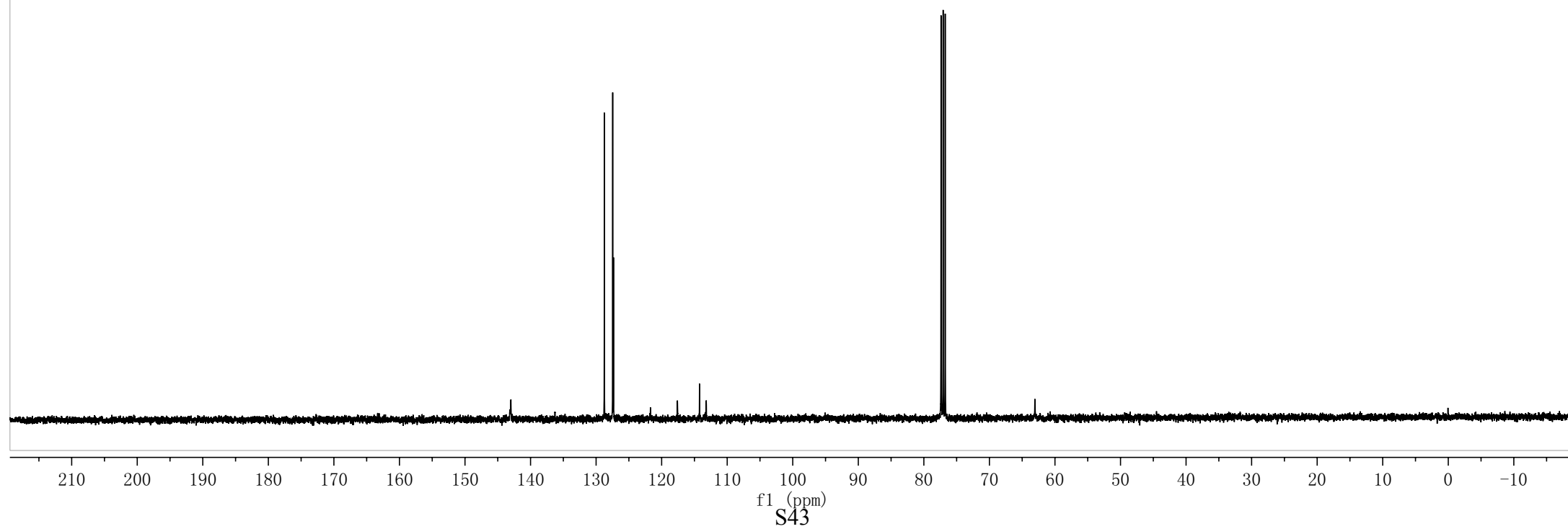


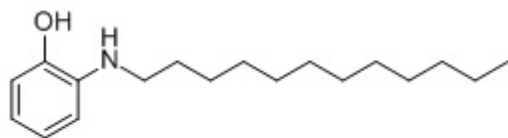
5e

100MHz, CDCl₃

143.135
143.003
136.260
128.746
127.467
127.344
121.706
117.596
114.222
113.202

63.053





5f

400MHz, CDCl₃

7.256
6.857
6.701
6.683
6.615

4.382

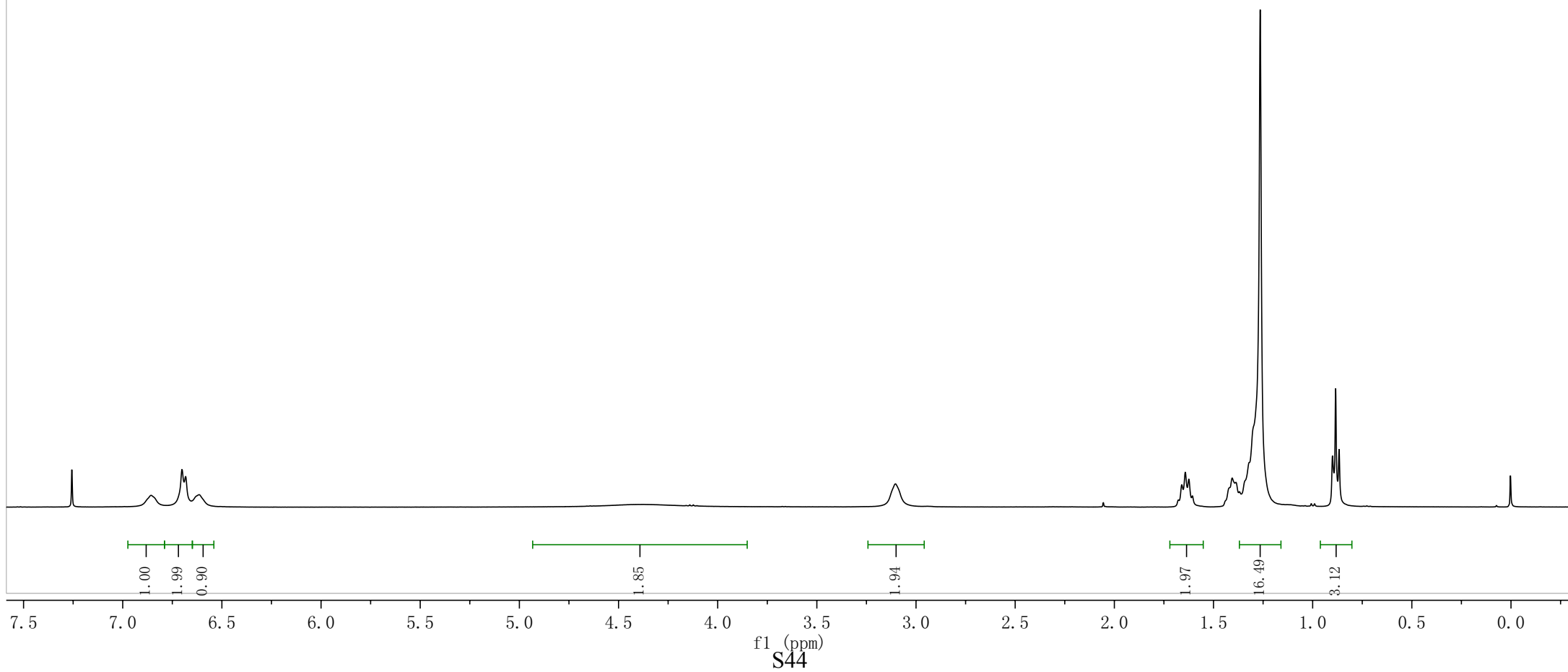
3.104

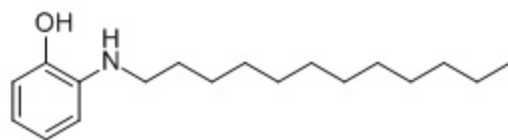
1.660
1.642
1.624

1.265

0.900
0.884
0.867

0.003





5f

125MHz, CDCl₃

— 143.691

— 137.314

~ 121.582

~ 117.435

~ 114.312

~ 112.402

— 44.464

31.932

29.681

29.635

29.498

29.366

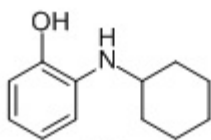
27.228

22.706

— 14.140

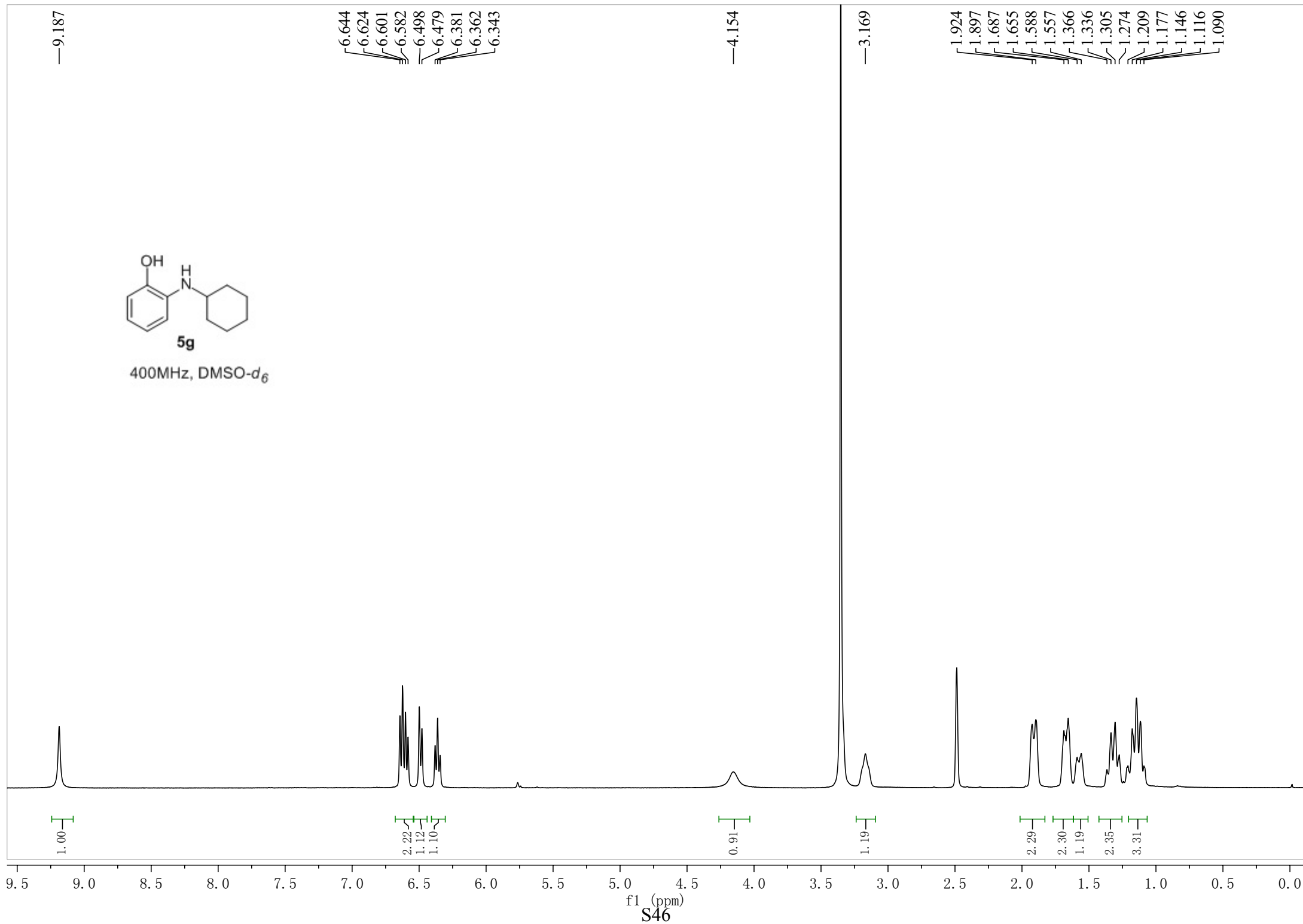
210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10

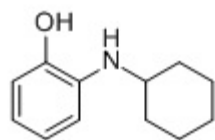
f1 (ppm)
S45



5g

400MHz, DMSO-*d*₆

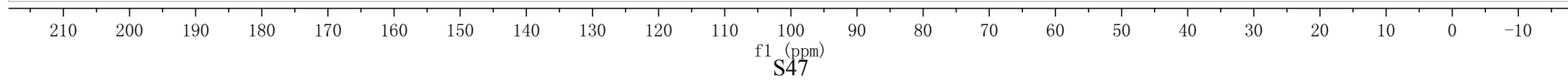


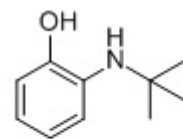


5g

125MHz, CDCl₃

— 144.979
— 135.499
— 128.368
— 121.272
— 118.446
— 114.872
77.279
77.025
76.771
— 52.804
— 33.437
25.964
25.007





5h

400MHz, CDCl₃

7.256
7.046
7.028
7.018
6.998
6.901
6.881
6.799
6.780
6.762

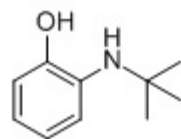
—1.211

—0.000

1.93
1.00
0.98

9.10

f1 (ppm)
S48



5h

125MHz, CDCl₃

—153.121

~130.985

~126.857

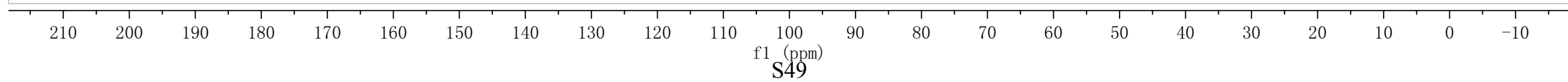
~125.620

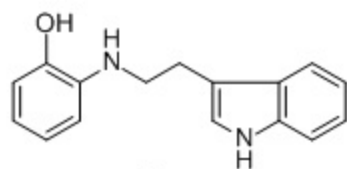
~119.373

~113.898

—53.293

—29.651





5i

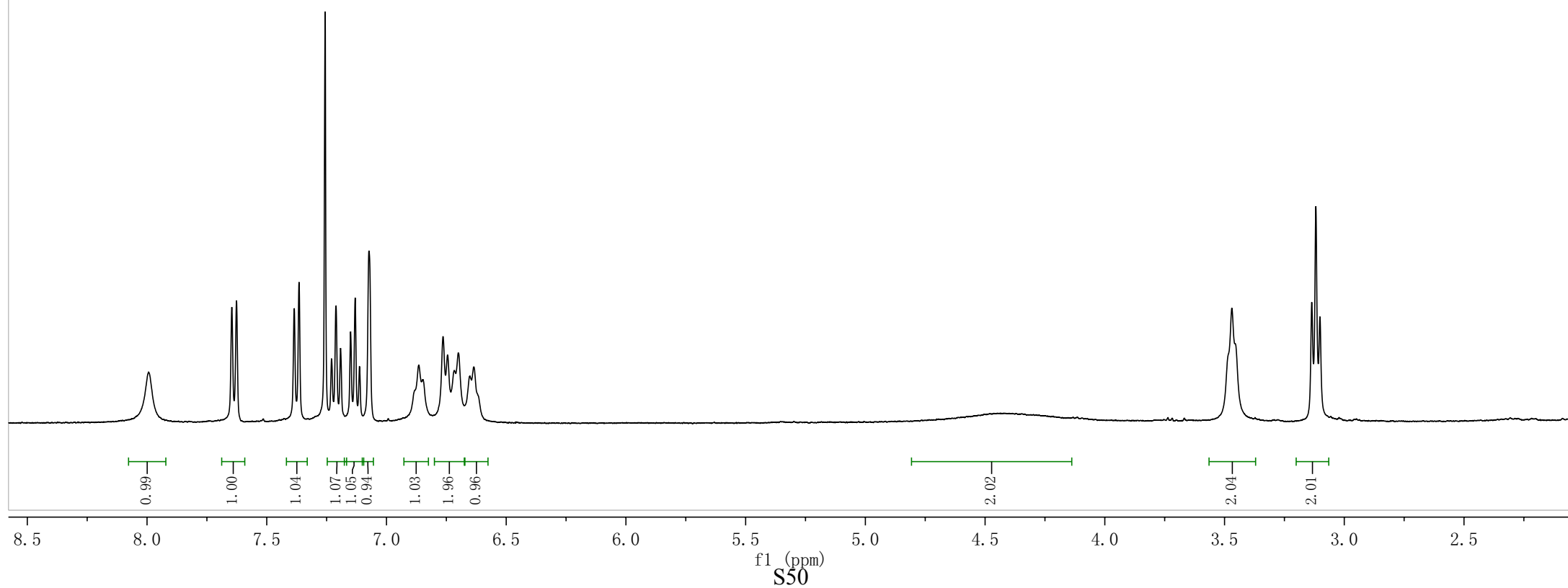
400MHz, CDCl₃

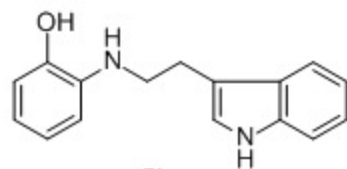
7.993
7.646
7.626
7.385
7.365
7.256
7.211
7.131
7.073
6.880
6.865
6.848
6.764
6.745
6.717
6.700
6.653
6.635

4.420

3.469

3.136
3.119
3.102





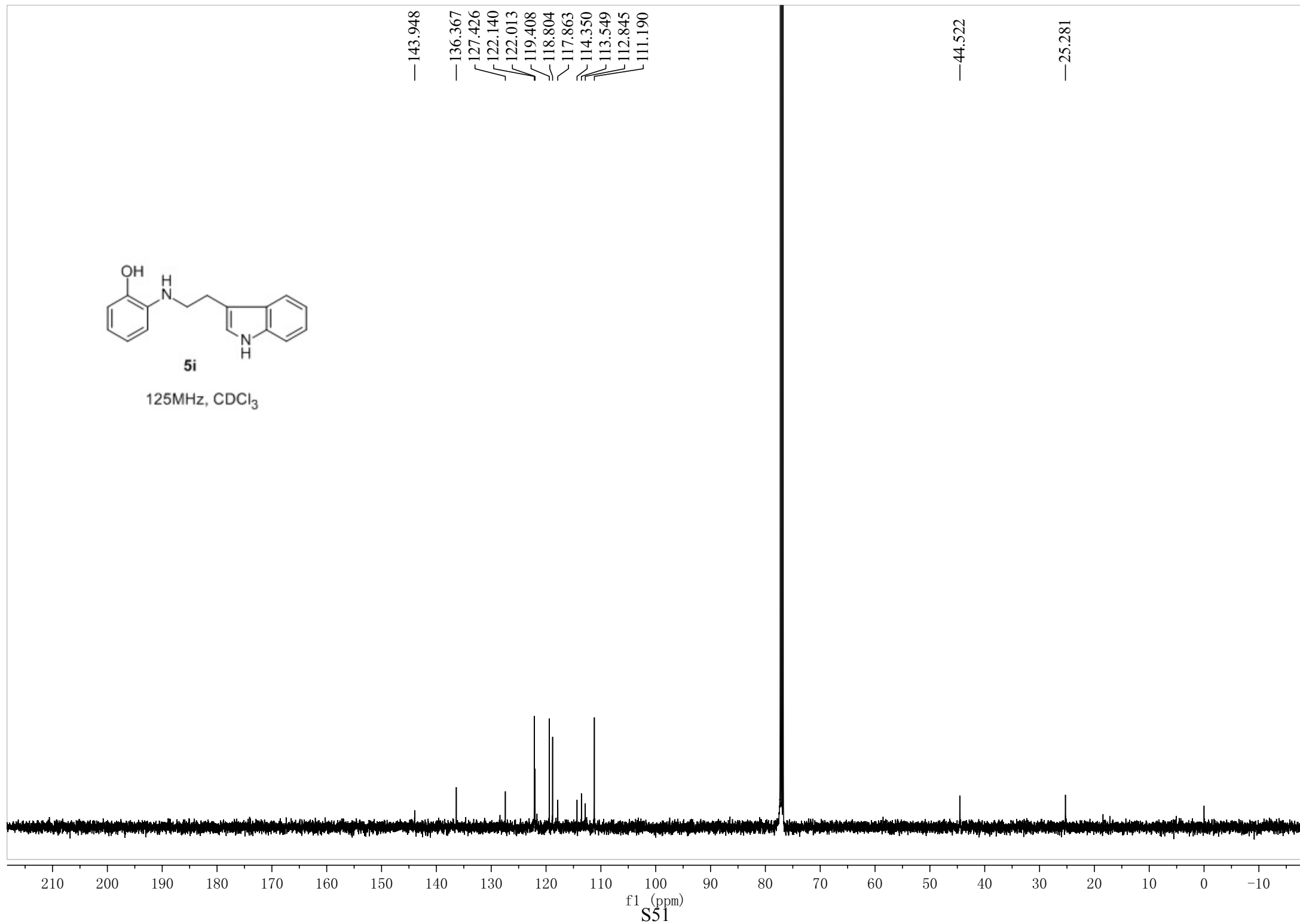
5i

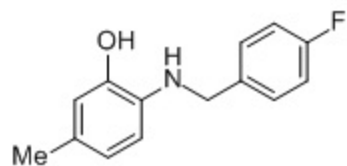
125MHz, CDCl₃

— 143.948
— 136.367
127.426
122.140
122.013
119.408
118.804
117.863
114.350
113.549
112.845
111.190

— 44.522

— 25.281





5j

400MHz, CDCl₃

7.341
7.322
7.308
7.250
7.029
7.008
6.987
6.613
6.572
6.554

4.261

2.207

-0.000

1.97

1.93

2.87

2.30

3.00

8.0

7.5

7.0

6.5

6.0

5.5

5.0

4.5

f1 (ppm)
S52

4.0

3.5

3.0

2.5

2.0

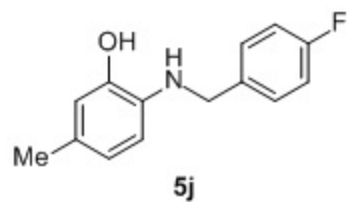
1.5

1.0

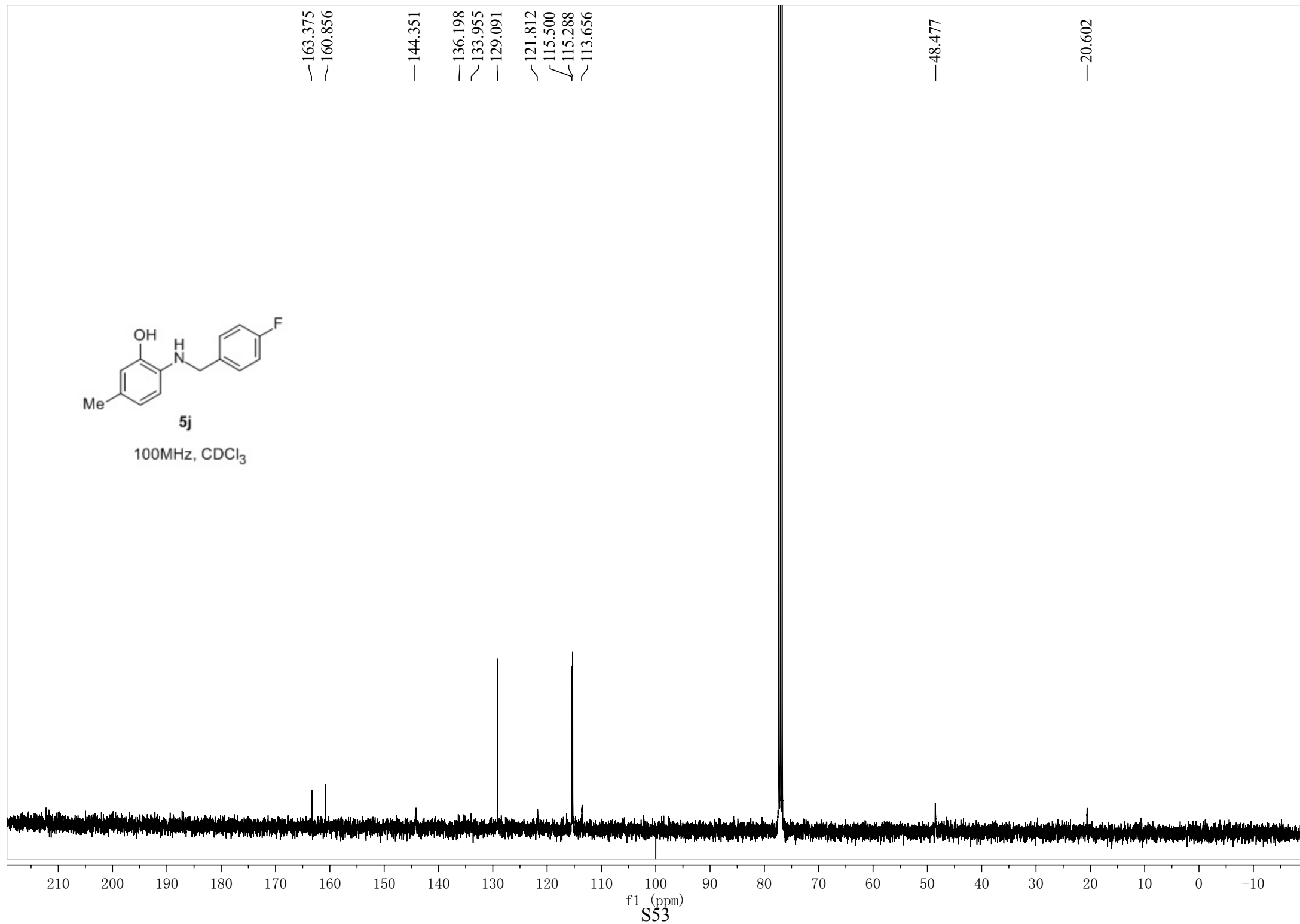
0.5

0.0

-0.5



100MHz, CDCl₃



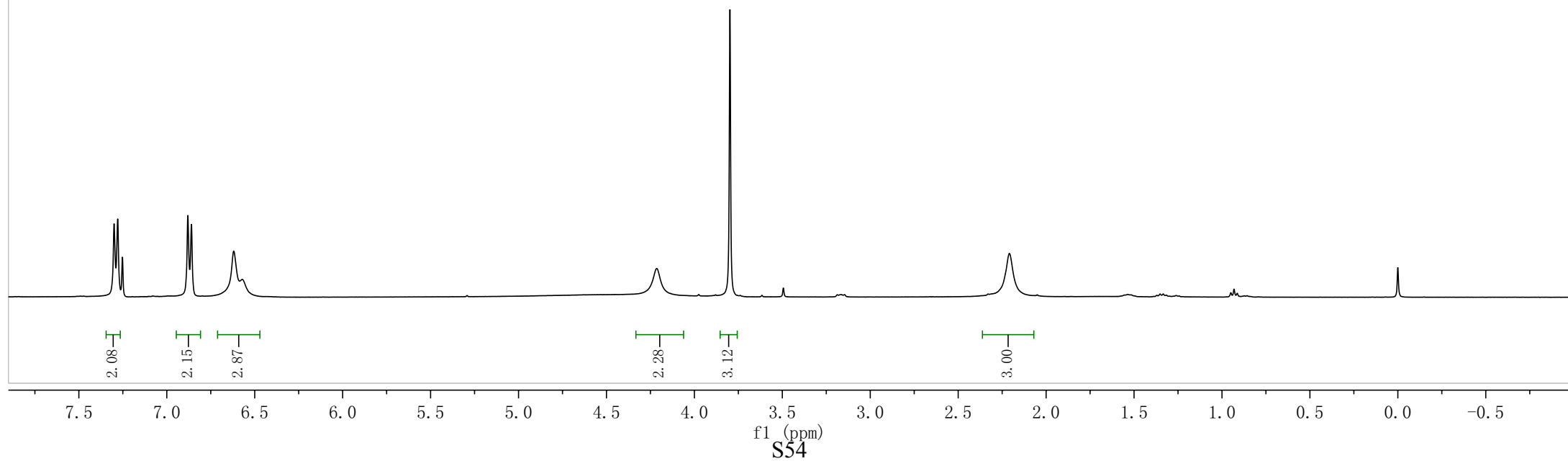
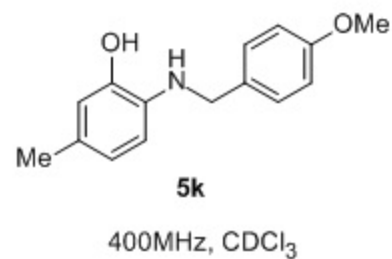
7.300
7.279
7.252

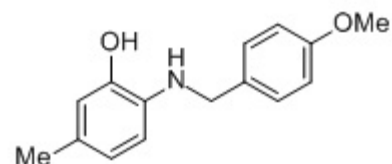
6.880
6.860
6.619
6.571

4.215

3.798

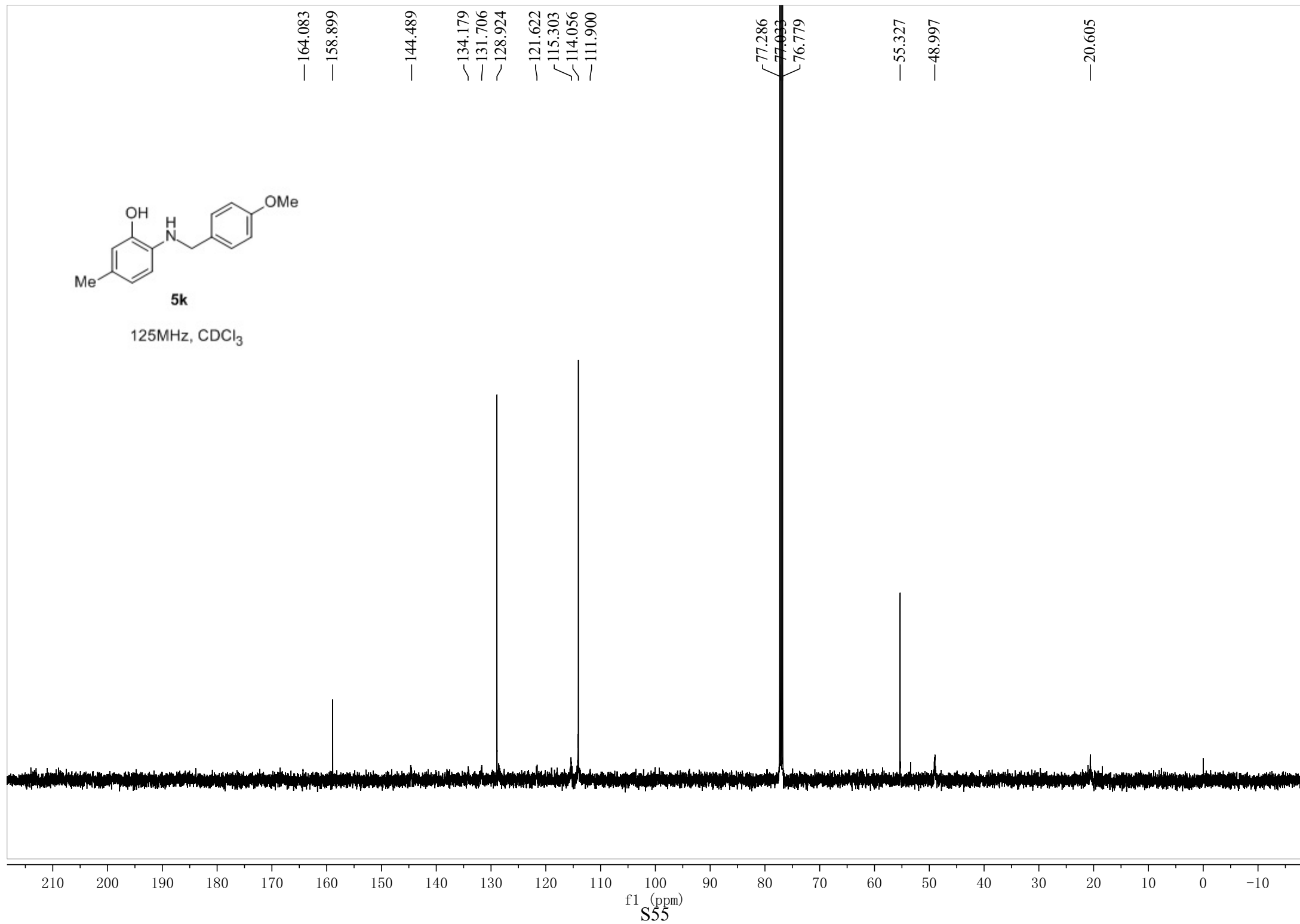
2.209

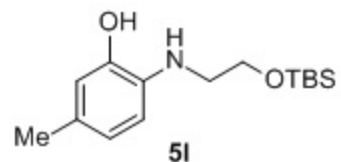




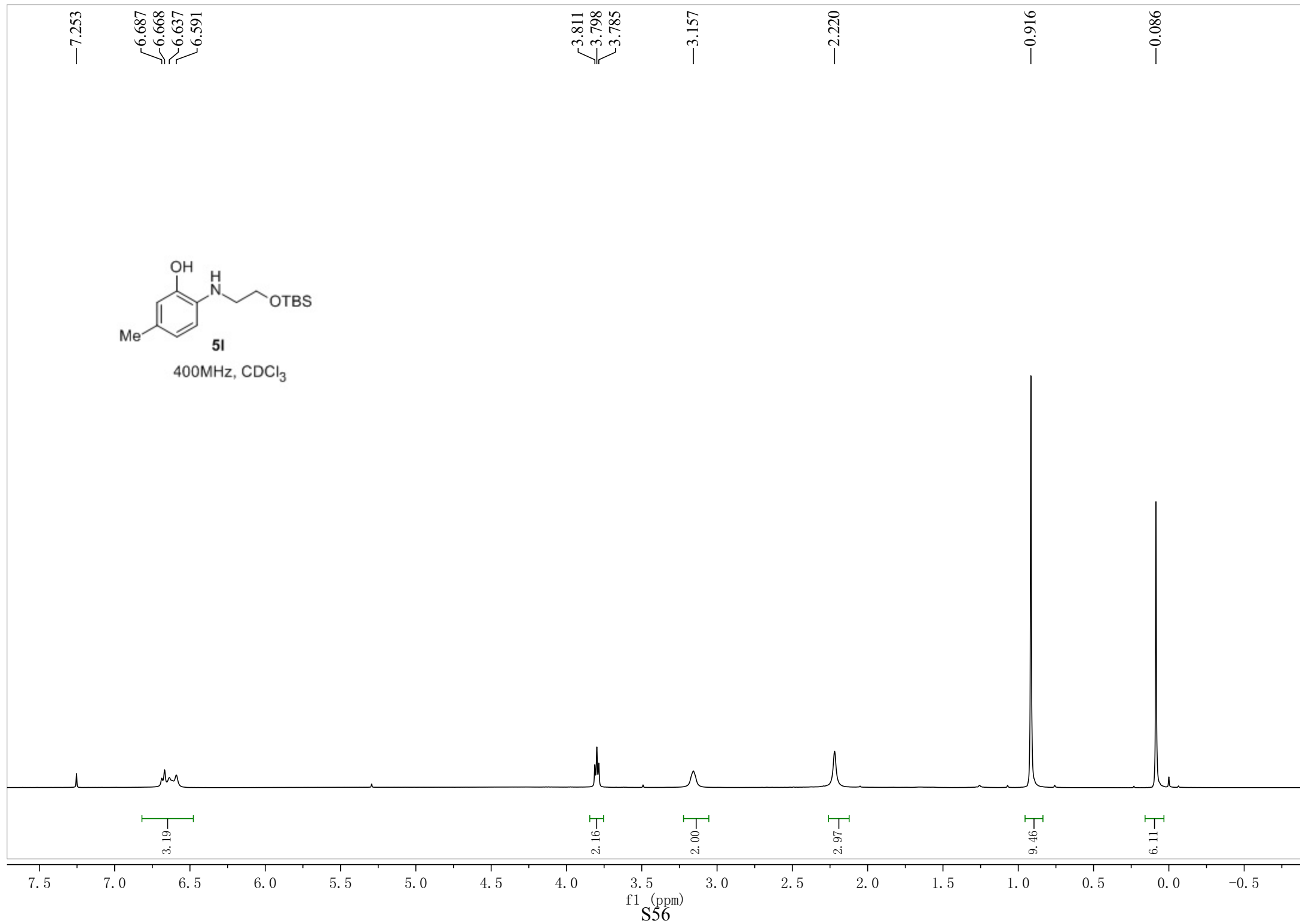
5k

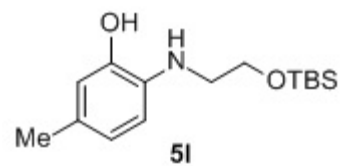
125MHz, CDCl₃





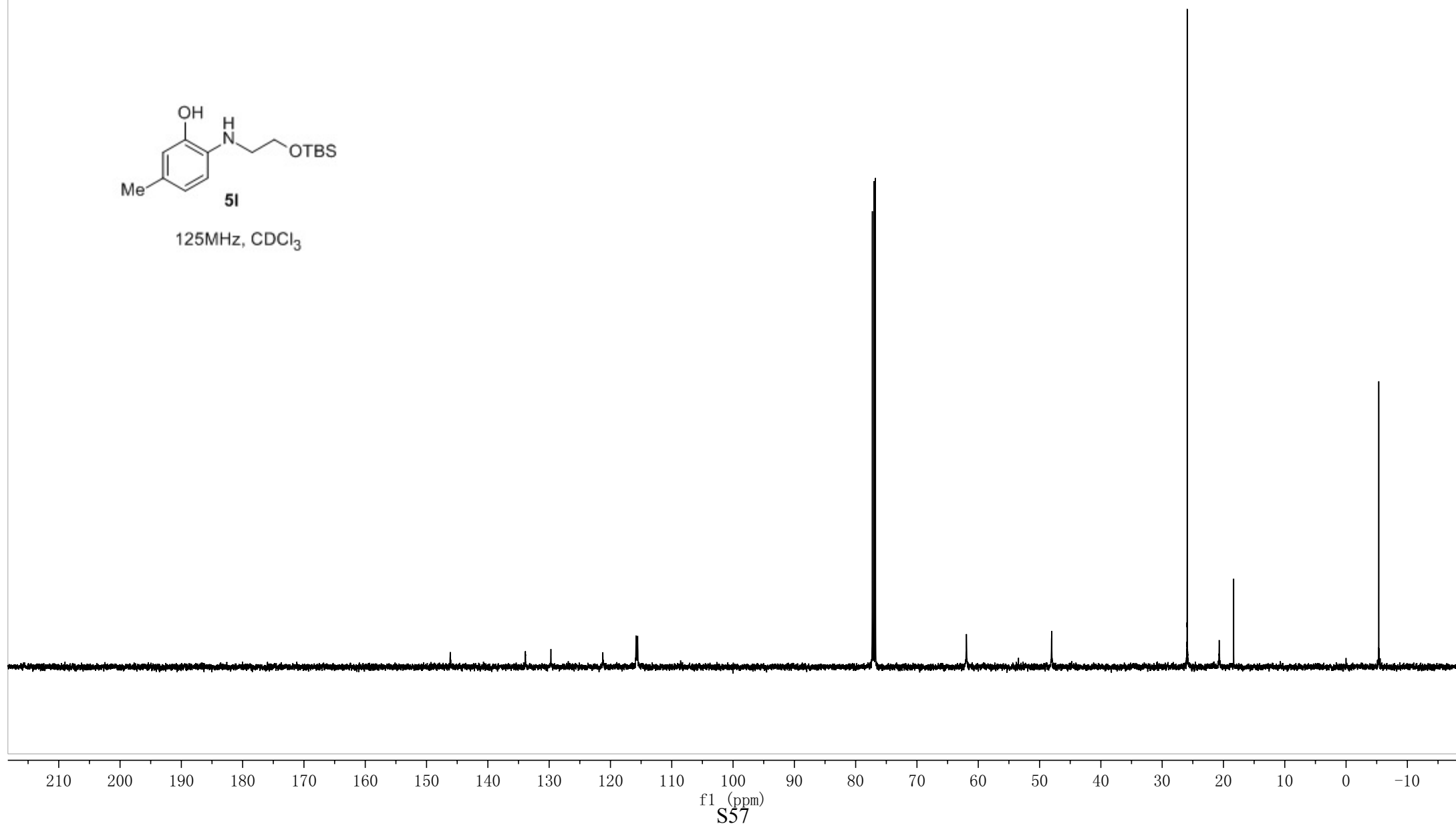
400MHz, CDCl₃

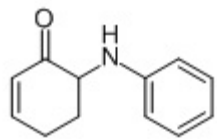




125MHz, CDCl₃

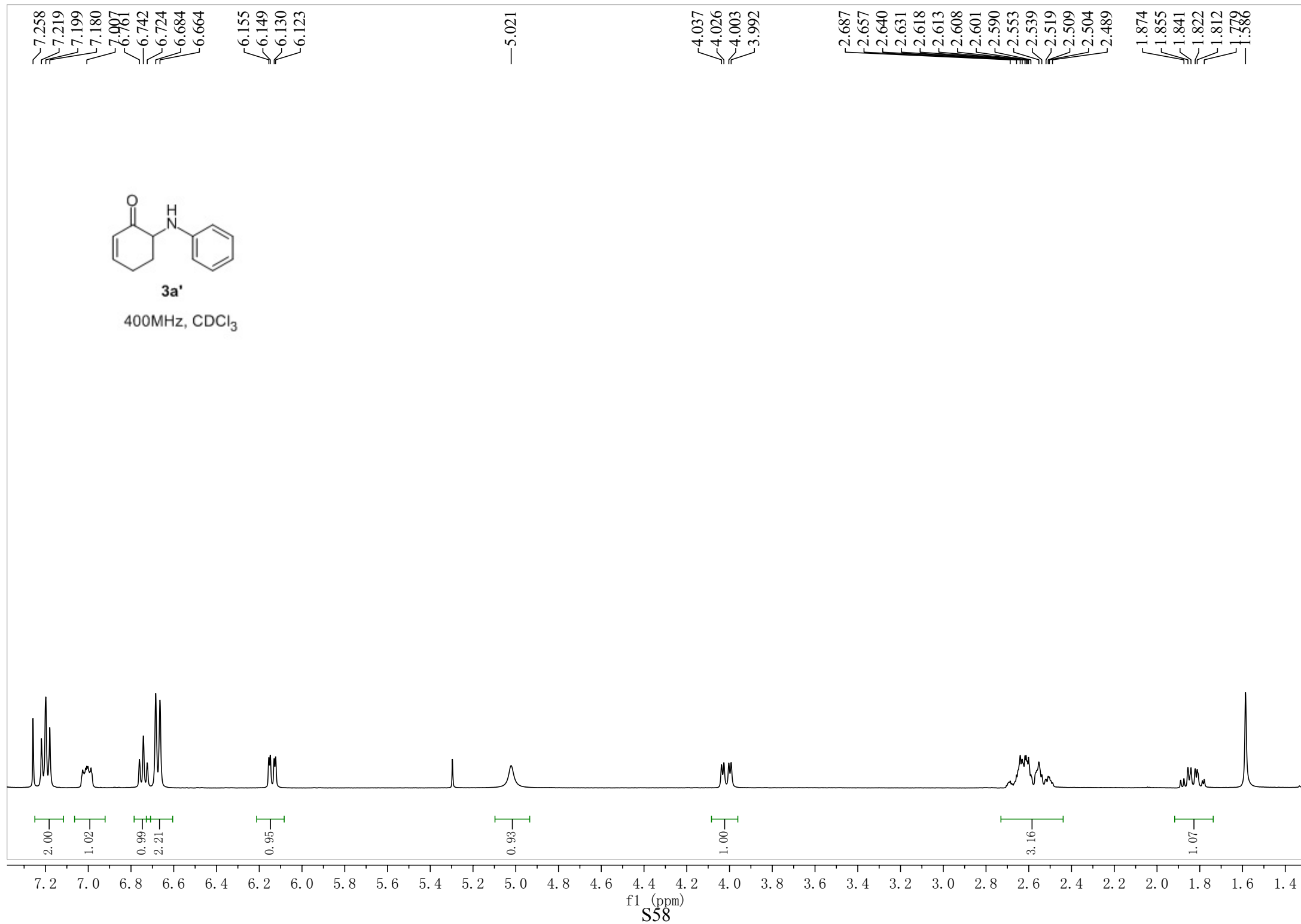
— 146.131
— 133.875
— 129.714
~ 121.239
~ 115.816
~ 115.560
— 61.932
— 48.030
~ 25.918
~ 20.697
~ 18.334
— -5.336

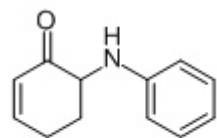




3a'

400MHz, CDCl₃





3a'

100MHz, CDCl₃

— 197.620

— 150.174

— 147.057

— 129.835

— 128.160

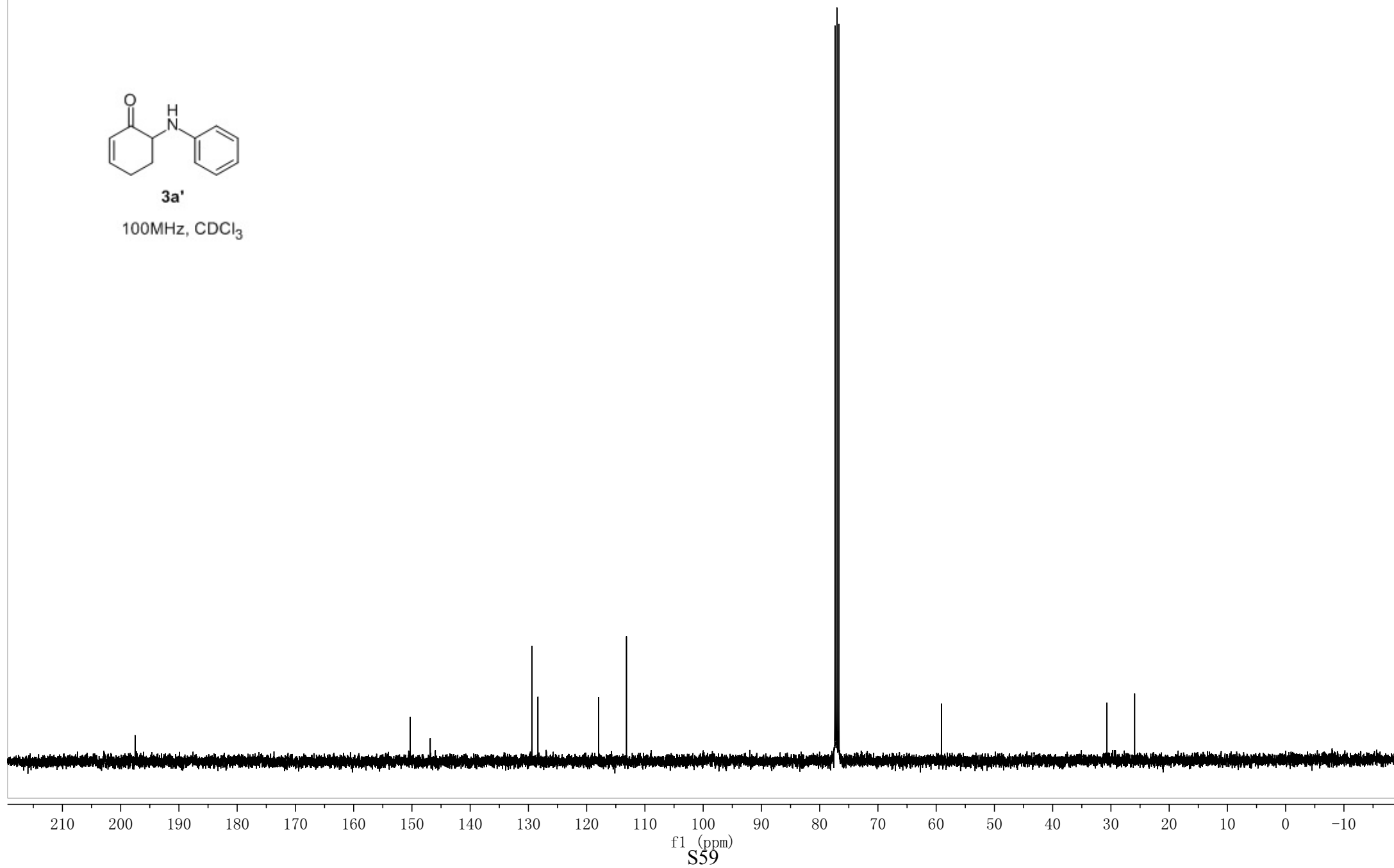
— 118.144

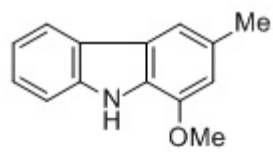
— 112.949

— 59.473

— 30.402

— 25.992





400MHz, CDCl₃

8.146
8.018
7.999
7.472
7.427
7.407
7.395
7.378
7.376
7.239
7.212
7.209
7.192
6.726

3.983

2.528

0.94

1.00

1.07

2.05

1.12

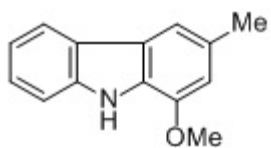
1.07

3.09

3.08

8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0

f1 (ppm)
S60



100MHz, CDCl₃

—145.492
—139.455
129.443
128.058
125.566
124.286
123.627
120.415
119.084
112.468
110.835
107.579
—55.362
—21.648

