

Supporting Information

Fe/S-catalyzed decarboxylative redox condensation of arylacetic acids with nitro arenes

Thanh Binh Nguyen,* Ludmila Ermolenko, Mathilde Corbin and Ali Al-Mourabit*

General information

Reagents were obtained from commercial supplier and used without further purification. Analytical thinlayer chromatography (TLC) was purchased from Merck KGaA (silica gel 60 F254). Visualization of the chromatogram was performed by UV light (254 nm) or phosphomolybdic acid or vanilline stains. Flash column chromatography was carried out using kieselgel 35-70 μm particle sized silica gel (230-400 mesh). NMR Chemical shifts are reported in (δ) ppm relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) with the residual solvent as internal reference (CDCl_3 , δ 7.26 ppm for ^1H and δ 77.0 ppm for ^{13}C ; DMSO-d_6 , δ 2.50 ppm for ^1H and δ 39.5 ppm for ^{13}C ; CD_3OD , δ 3.31 ppm for ^1H and δ 49.0 ppm for ^{13}C). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. We note that some quaternary carbon signals in some cases of NH-benzimidazoles are difficult to observe due to tautomerism.

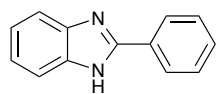
General procedure

Metal-catalyzed redox condensation reaction

A mixture of *o*-substituted nitrobenzene **1** (2.5 mmol) or **4** (1.25 mmol), aryl acetic acid **2** (3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), elemental sulfur (32 mg, 1 mmol, 40 mol %), $\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (5 mol %, 0.125 mmol) and *N*-methylpiperidine (40 mol %, 1 mmol, 99 mg) was stirred in a 20-mL tube under an argon atmosphere for 20 h at 130 °C. The crude mixture cooled to room temperature was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (heptane : ethyl acetate) to afford the desired benzazoles.

Characterizations of Products

2-Phenylbenzimidazole (3a)¹

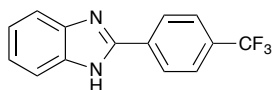


Grayish solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.09-8.07 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.22 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 151.2, 143.8, 135.0, 130.2, 129.8, 128.9, 126.4, 122.5, 121.7, 118.9, 111.3.

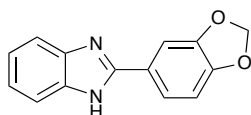
2-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3b)²



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.25 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (s, 2H), 7.30 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 151.7, 144.8 (broad peak), 136.5 (broad peak), 134.8, 132.9 (q, J_{C-F} = 321 Hz), 128.5, 127.2 (q, J_{C-F} = 3.7 Hz), 126.7, 124.5, 122.3, 119.8 (broad peak), 113.2 (broad peak).

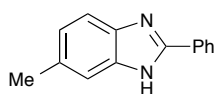
2-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3c)²



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.57 (m, 4H), 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.03 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 152.0, 149.5, 148.5, 123.5, 122.5, 121.0, 114.2, 108.3, 106.5, 101.7.

6-Methyl-2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3d)¹



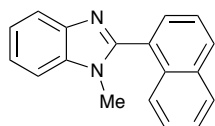
¹ T. B. Nguyen, J. Le Bescont, L. Ermolenko, and A. Al-Mourabit, *Org. Lett.* **2013**, *15*, 6218.

² A. J. Blacker, M. M. Farah, M. I. Hall, S. P. Marsden, O. Saidi, J. M. J. Williams, *Org. Lett.* **2009**, *11*, 2039.

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 8.06 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (m, 4H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.08 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 151.6, 138.9, 137.5, 132.5, 129.8, 128.8, 126.4, 124.2, 114.5, 114.0, 20.2.

1-Methyl-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3e)

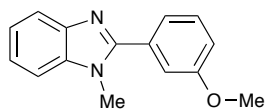


^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 8.12 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (m, 3H), 7.58 (m, 4H), 7.40 (m, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 154.2, 143.4, 137.0, 135.1, 133.4, 131.2, 130.1, 129.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.7, 126.2, 126.1, 124.4, 123.9, 119.7, 111.5, 31.4.

HRMS-ESI⁺: m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$: 259.1235; found: 259.1266.

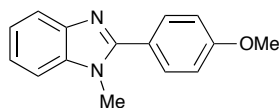
2-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3f)³



^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 7.87 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.07 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.92, 3.90 (2s, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 160.0, 153.8, 142.8, 136.7, 131.4, 129.8, 123.0, 122.7, 121.9, 120.0, 116.2, 114.8, 109.8, 55.6, 32.0.

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3g)⁴



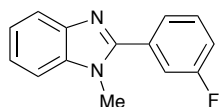
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 7.83 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.05 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.88, 3.85 (2s, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 160.8, 153.7, 142.8, 136.5, 130.9, 122.5, 122.4 (two carbons), 119.5, 114.1, 109.6, 55.4, 31.7.

³ Z. Gu, W. Chen, L. Shao, *J. Org. Chem.* **2014**, *79*, 5806.

⁴ W. Zhang, Q. Zeng, X. Zhang, Y. Tian, Y. Yue, Y. Guo, Z. Wang, *J. Org. Chem.* **2011**, *76*, 4741.

2-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3h)

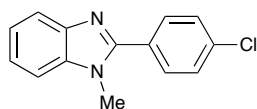


^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 7.91 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (m, 2H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 160.8, 158.9, 148.8, 138.7, 132.6, 127.6, 127.5, 122.3, 119.0, 118.7, 115.8, 112.1, 111.9, 105.8, 27.7.

HRMS-ESI+: m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{FN}_2$: 227.0985; found: 227.0966.

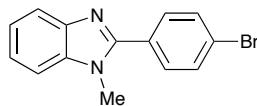
2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3i)⁵



^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 7.84 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.35 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 152.6, 142.6, 136.5, 136.2, 130.7, 129.1, 128.6, 123.2, 122.8, 119.9, 109.7, 31.7.

2-(4-Bromophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3j)

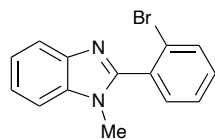


^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 7.84 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.69 (m, 5H), 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.36 (m, 2H), 3.87 (1s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 152.5, 142.5, 136.5, 132.0, 131.0, 128.9, 124.5, 123.2, 122.8, 120.0, 110.0, 32.0.

HRMS-ESI+: m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}^{79}\text{BrN}_2$: 287.0184; found: 287.0196.

2-(2-Bromophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3k)⁶



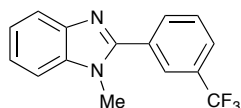
⁵ L. Tang, X. Guo, Y. Yang, Z. Zha, Z. Wang, *Chem. Commun.* **2014**, 50, 6145.

⁶ A. J. Blatch, O. V. Chetina, J. A. K. Howard, L. G. F. Patrick, C. A. Smethurstb, A. Whiting, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2006**, 4, 3297.

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.37 (m, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.5, 142.6, 135.4, 132.9, 132.5, 132.1, 131.5, 127.6, 123.9, 123.1, 122.6, 120.1, 109.8, 31.1.

1-Methyl-2-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3l)

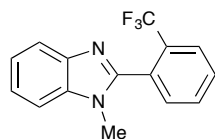


^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (m, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.0, 142.7, 136.6, 132.6, 131.2, 126.5 (two carbons, q), 126.4, 126.3, 123.4, 122.9, 120.0, 109.8, 31.7.

HRMS-ESI+: m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2$: 277.0953; found: 277.0925.

1-Methyl-2-(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3m)

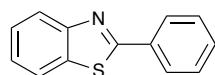


^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.69 (t, $J = 3.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, $J = 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (m, 3H), 3.58 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.5, 142.6, 135.4, 132.2, 131.7, 130.4, 129.0, 126.7, 126.6 (q, $J = 4.4$ Hz), 125.3, 123.1, 122.5, 120.1, 109.5, 30.6.

HRMS-ESI+: m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2$: 277.0953; found: 277.0978.

2-Phenylbenzo[d]thiazole (5a)⁷

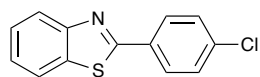


^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.06 (m, 2H), 7.98 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (m, 4H), 7.41 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.1, 156.2, 137.2, 135.7, 133.5, 131.5, 129.6, 128.8, 127.9, 124.9, 124.0.

⁷ T. B. Nguyen, L. Ermolenko, W. A. Dean, A. Al-Mourabit, *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 5948.

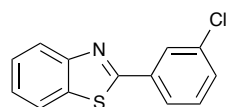
2-(4-Chlorophenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5b)⁸



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.4, 2H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.6, 154.1, 137.0, 135.1, 132.1, 129.2, 128.8, 126.6, 125.5, 123.3, 121.7.

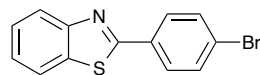
2-(3-Chlorophenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5c)⁹



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.36 (m, 5H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4, 154.1, 135.4, 135.3, 135.2, 131.0, 130.4, 127.5, 126.7, 125.8, 125.7, 123.6, 121.8.

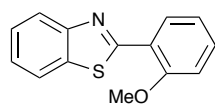
2-(4-Bromophenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5d)¹⁰



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.95-7.90 (m, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.35 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.8, 154.2, 135.2, 132.7, 132.4, 129.1, 126.7, 125.6, 123.5, 121.8.

2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5e)⁹



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 3H).

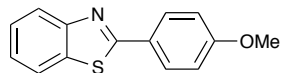
⁸ Y. Liao, H. Qi, S. Chen, P. Jiang, W. Zhou, G. Deng, *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 6004.

⁹ Z. Yang, X. Chen, S. Wang, J. Liu, K. Xie, A. Wang, Z. Tan, *J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, *77*, 7086.

¹⁰ S. Liu, R. Chen, X. Guo, H. Yang, G. Deng, Chao-Jun Li, *Green Chem.* **2012**, *14*, 1577.

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.2, 157.4, 152.2, 136.2, 131.9, 129.5, 125.9, 124.7, 122.9, 122.3, 121.2 (two carbons), 111.8, 55.8.

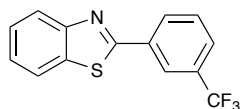
2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5f)¹¹



^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.04 (m, 3H), 7.87 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.9, 162.0, 154.3, 134.9, 133.9, 129.1, 126.3, 124.9, 123.0, 121.6, 114.5, 55.5.

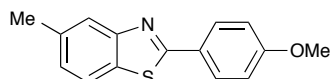
2-(3-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5g)⁸



^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.27 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.3, 154.1, 135.3, 134.6, 131.8 (q, $J = 32.3$ Hz), 130.9, 129.8, 127.6 (q, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 126.9, 125.9, 124.5 (q, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 124.0 (q, $J = 274$ Hz), 123.7, 122.0.

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5-methylbenzo[d]thiazole (5h)



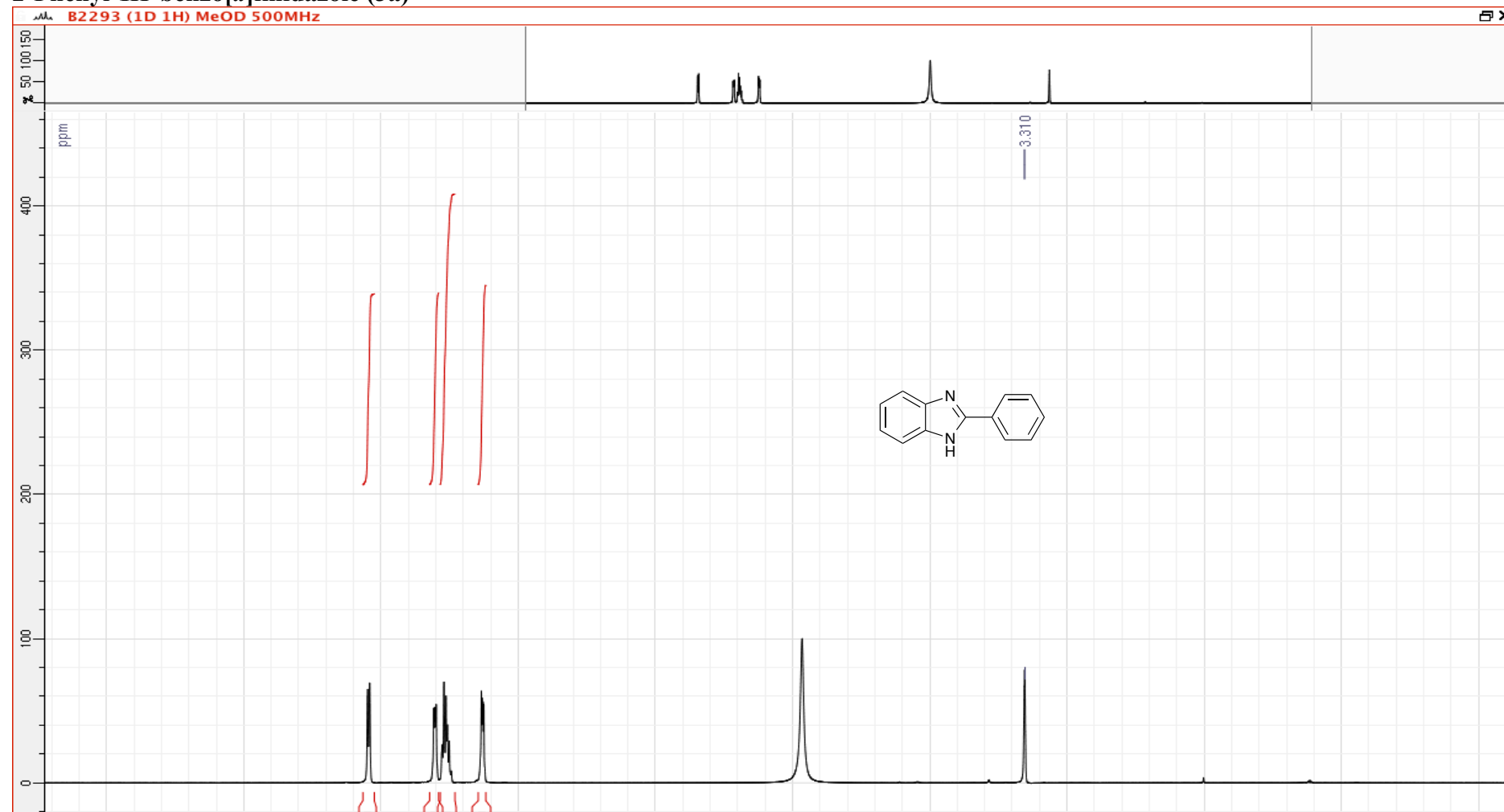
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.03 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H).

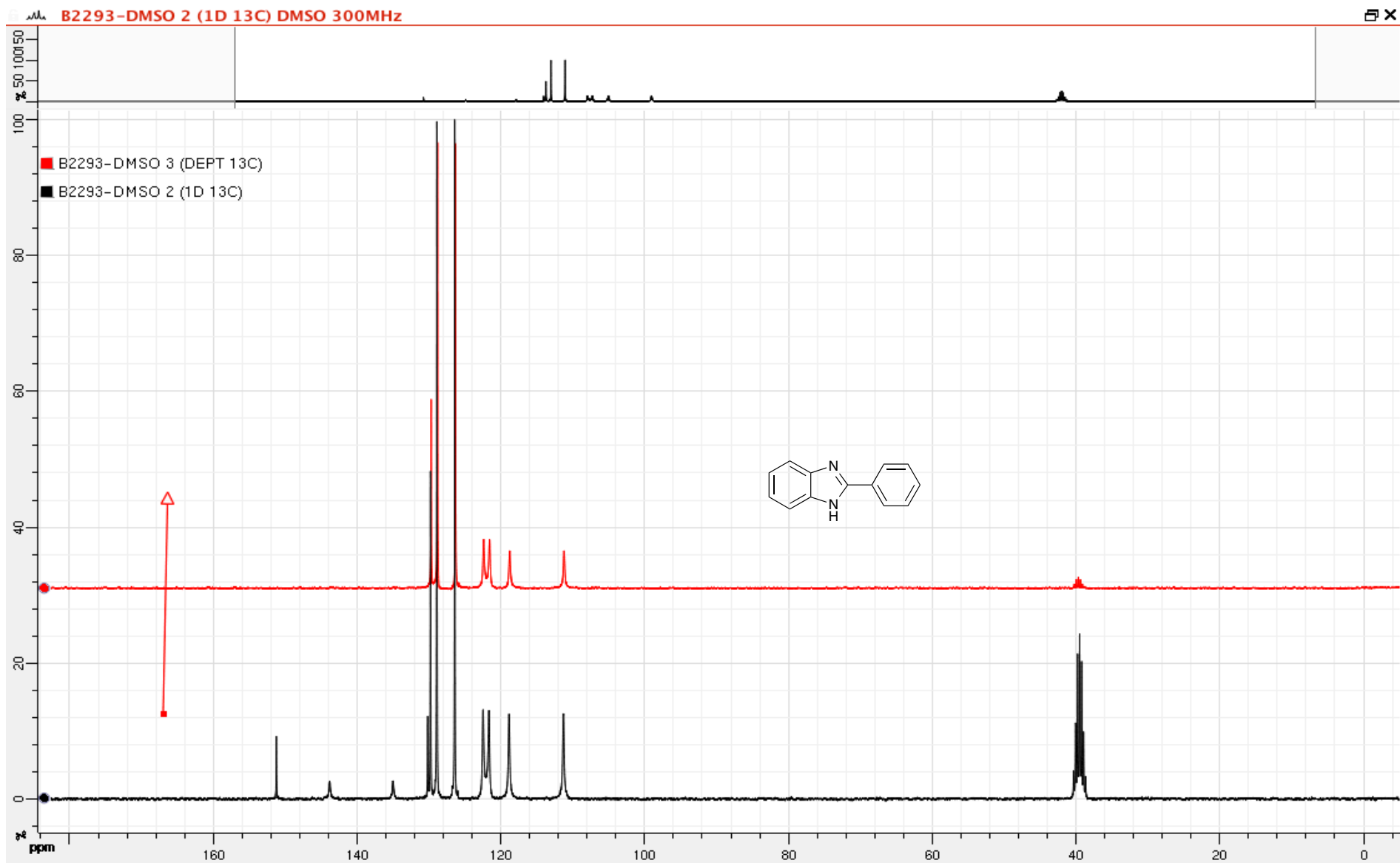
^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.0, 161.8, 154.5, 136.3, 131.8, 129.1, 126.5, 126.4, 122.9, 121.0, 114.5, 55.5, 21.4.

HRMS-ESI⁺: m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NOS}$: 256.0796; found: 277.0753.

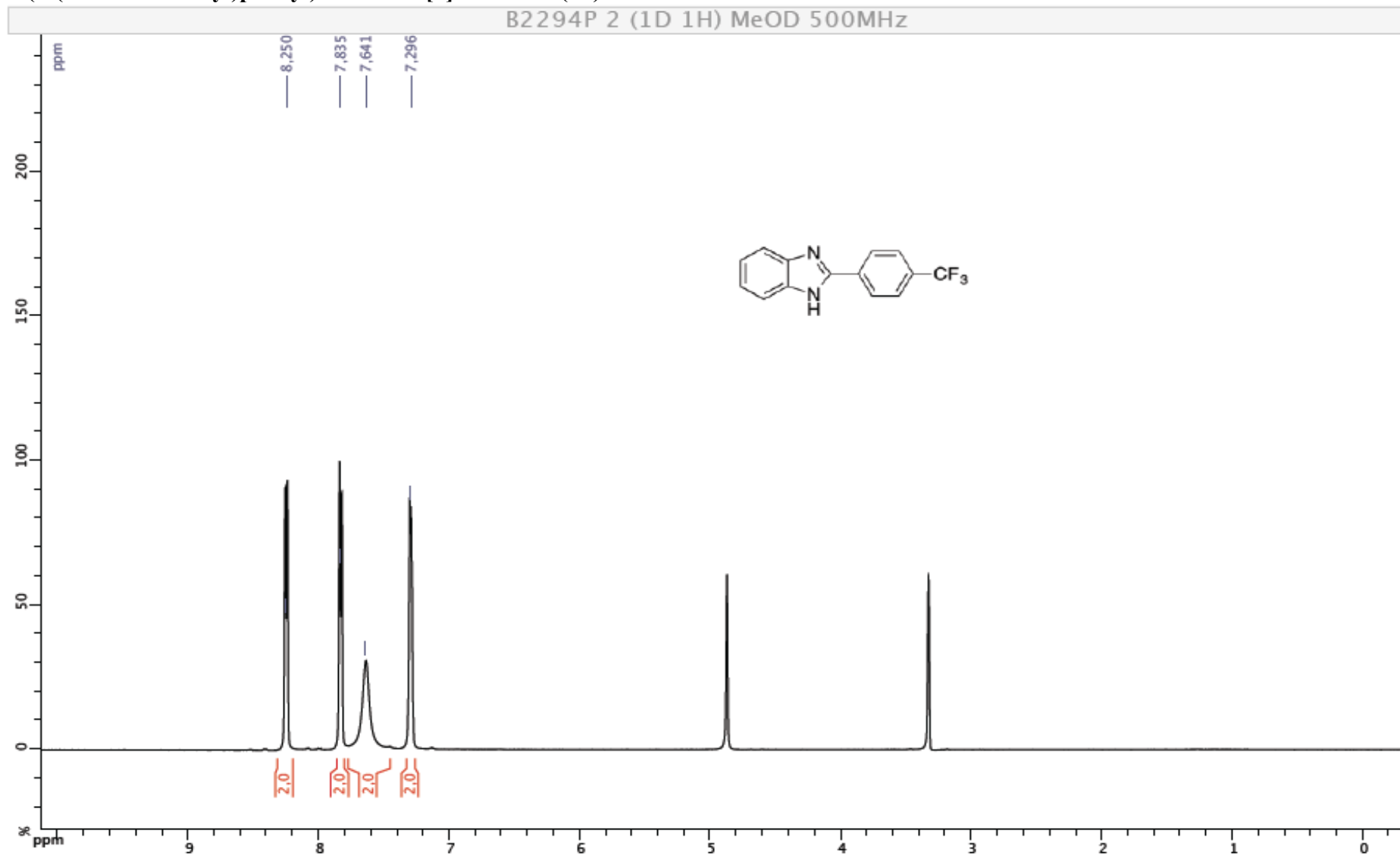
¹¹ T. B. Nguyen, L. Ermolenko, A. Al-Mourabit, *Green Chem.* **2013**, *15*, 2713.

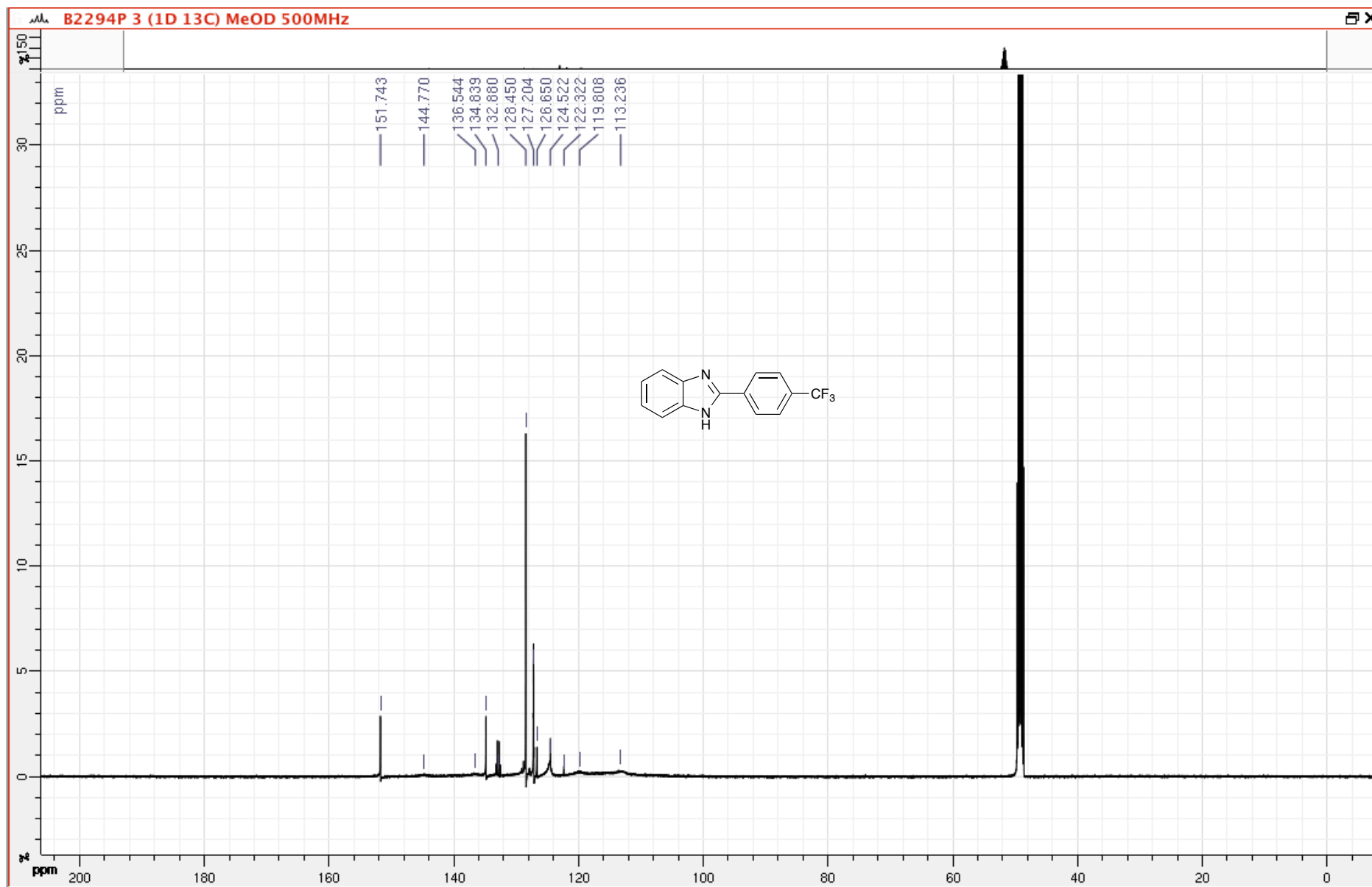
2-Phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3a)



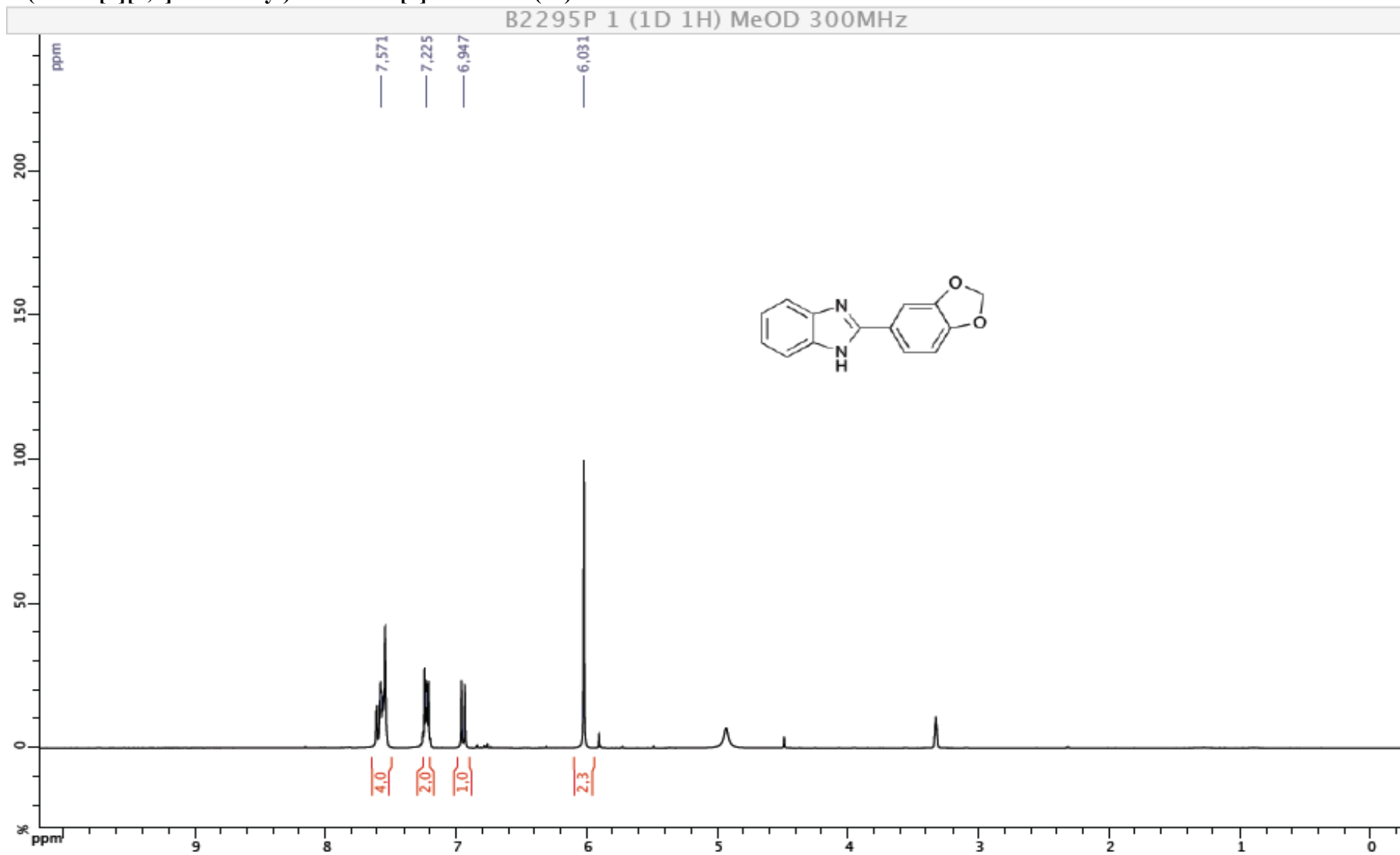


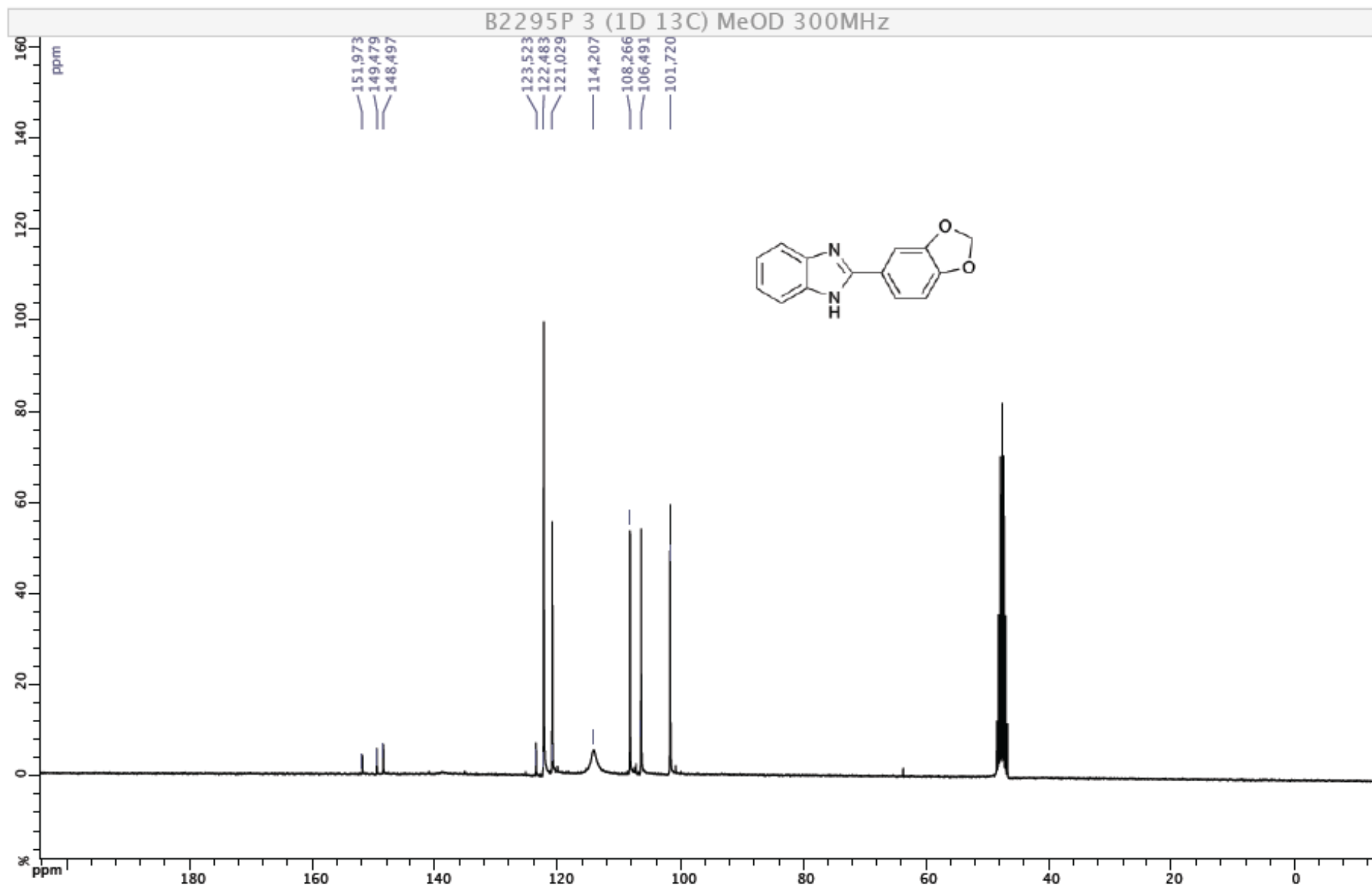
2-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3b)



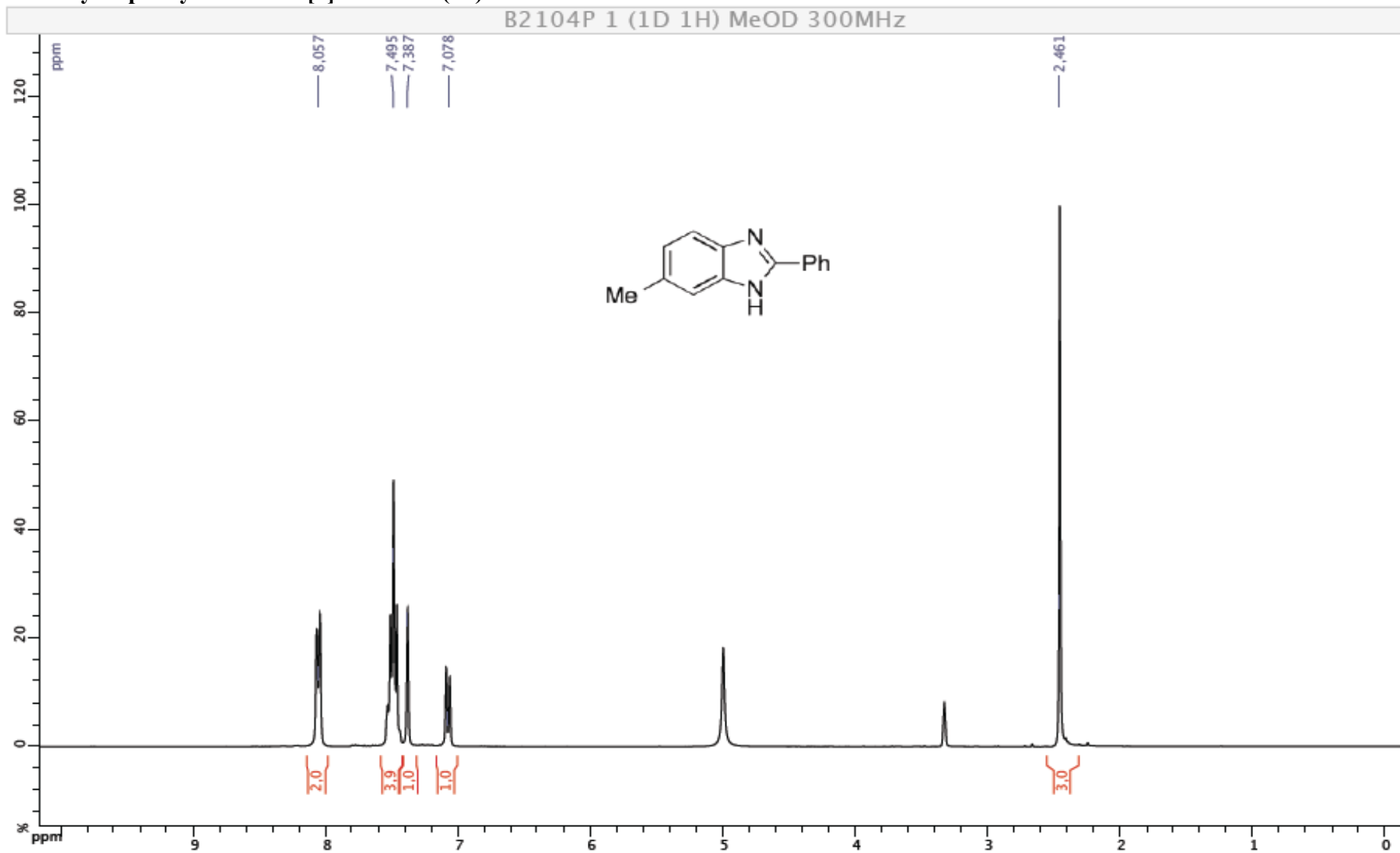


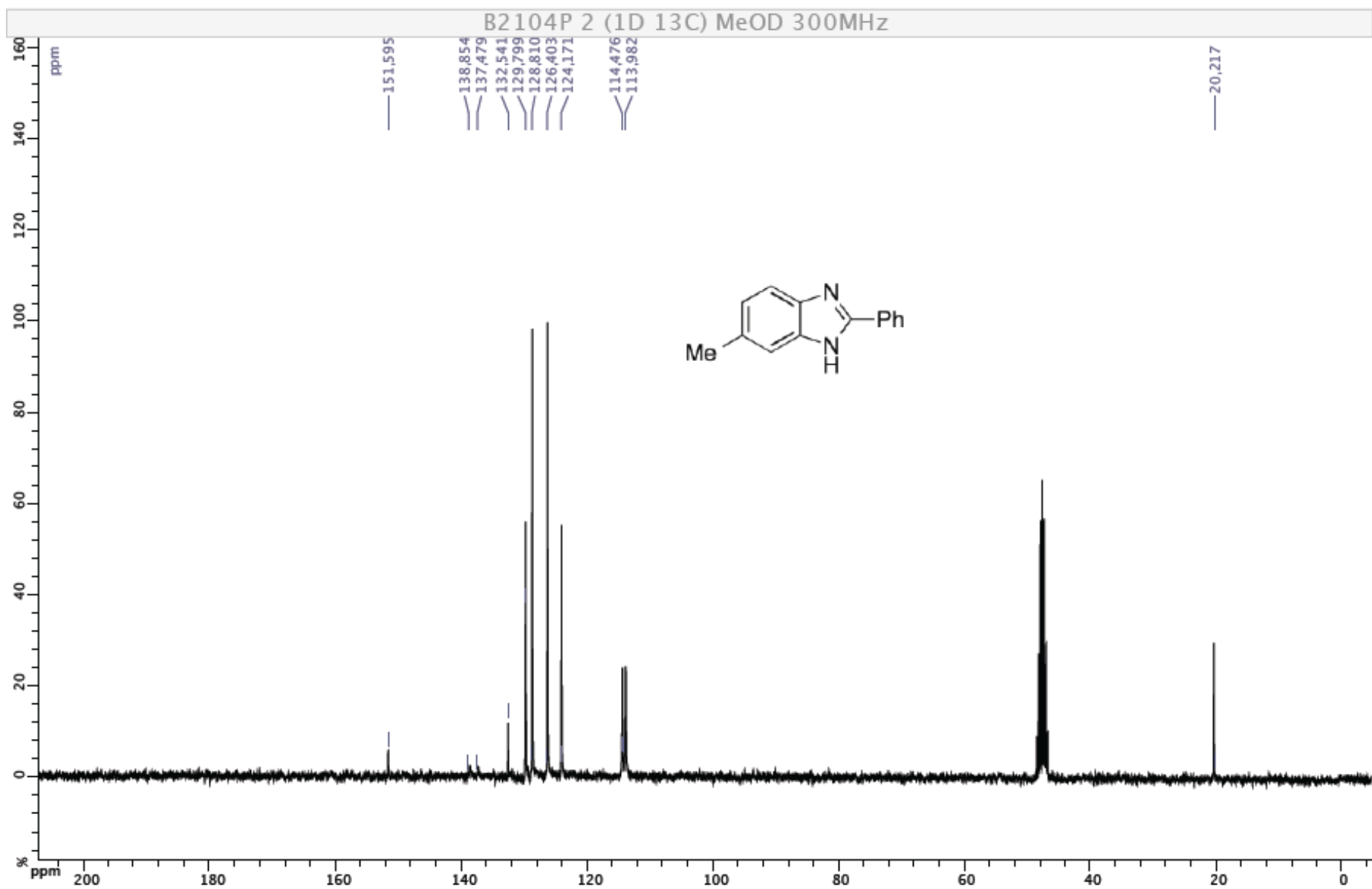
2-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3c)



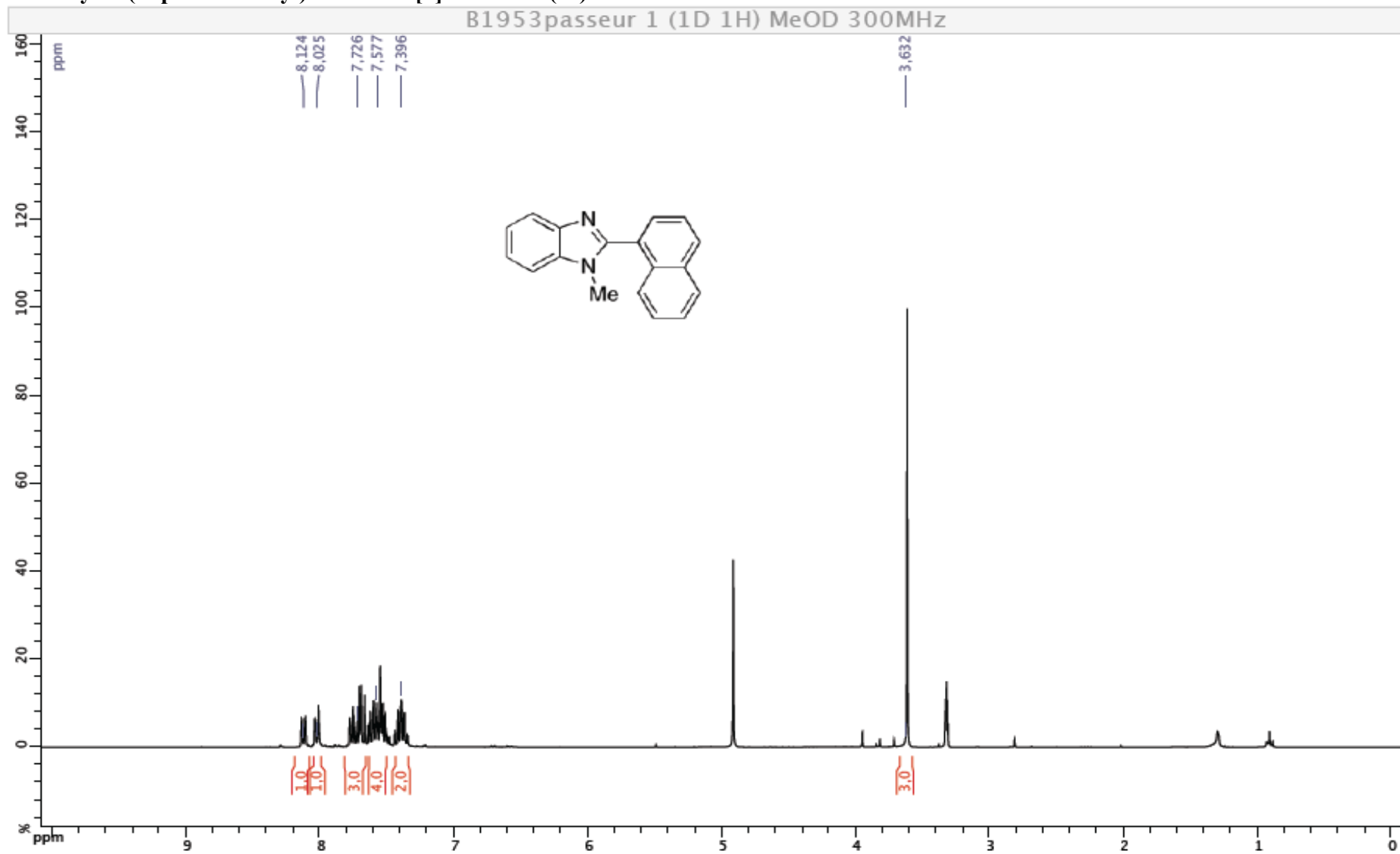


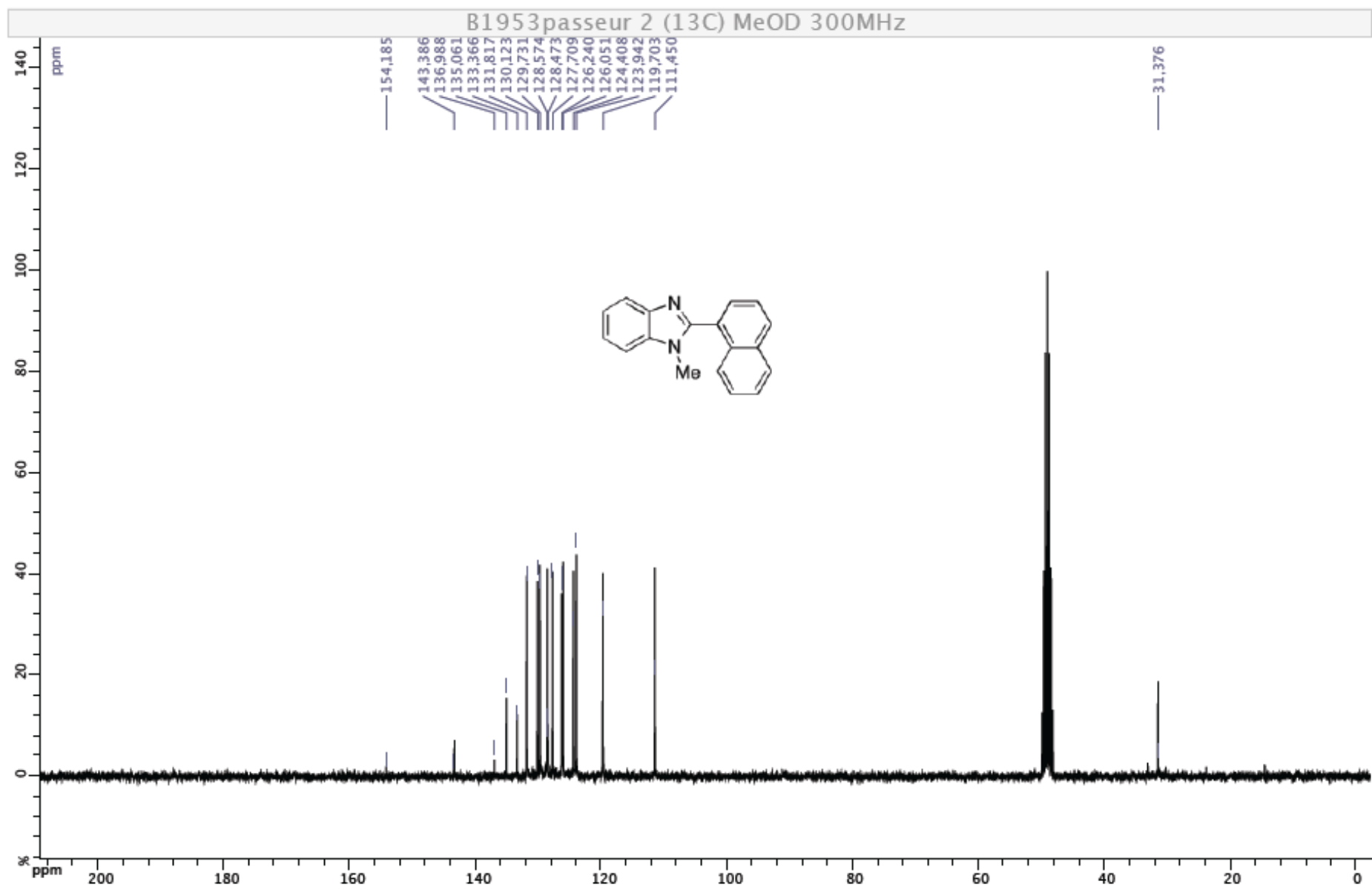
6-Methyl-2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3d)



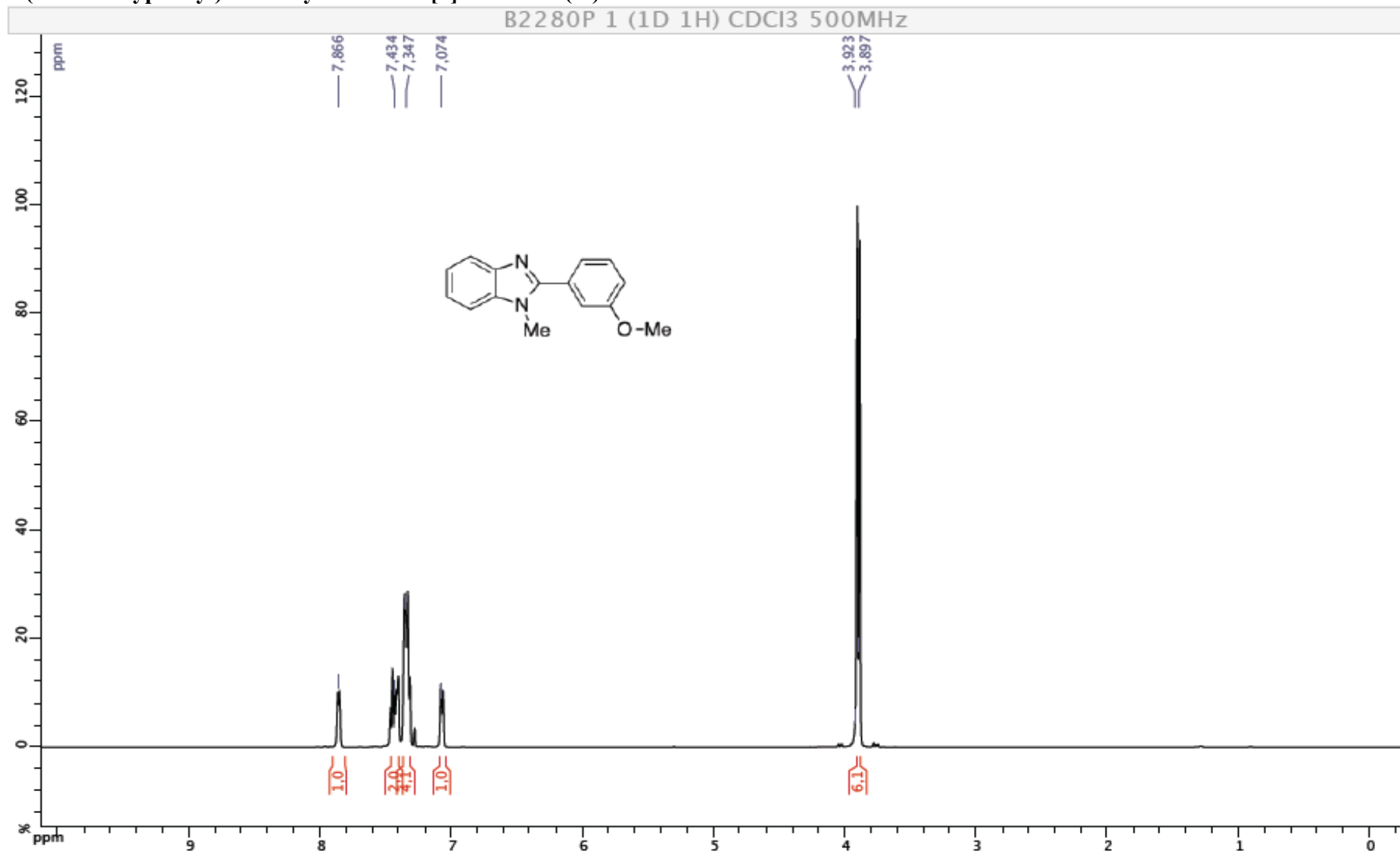


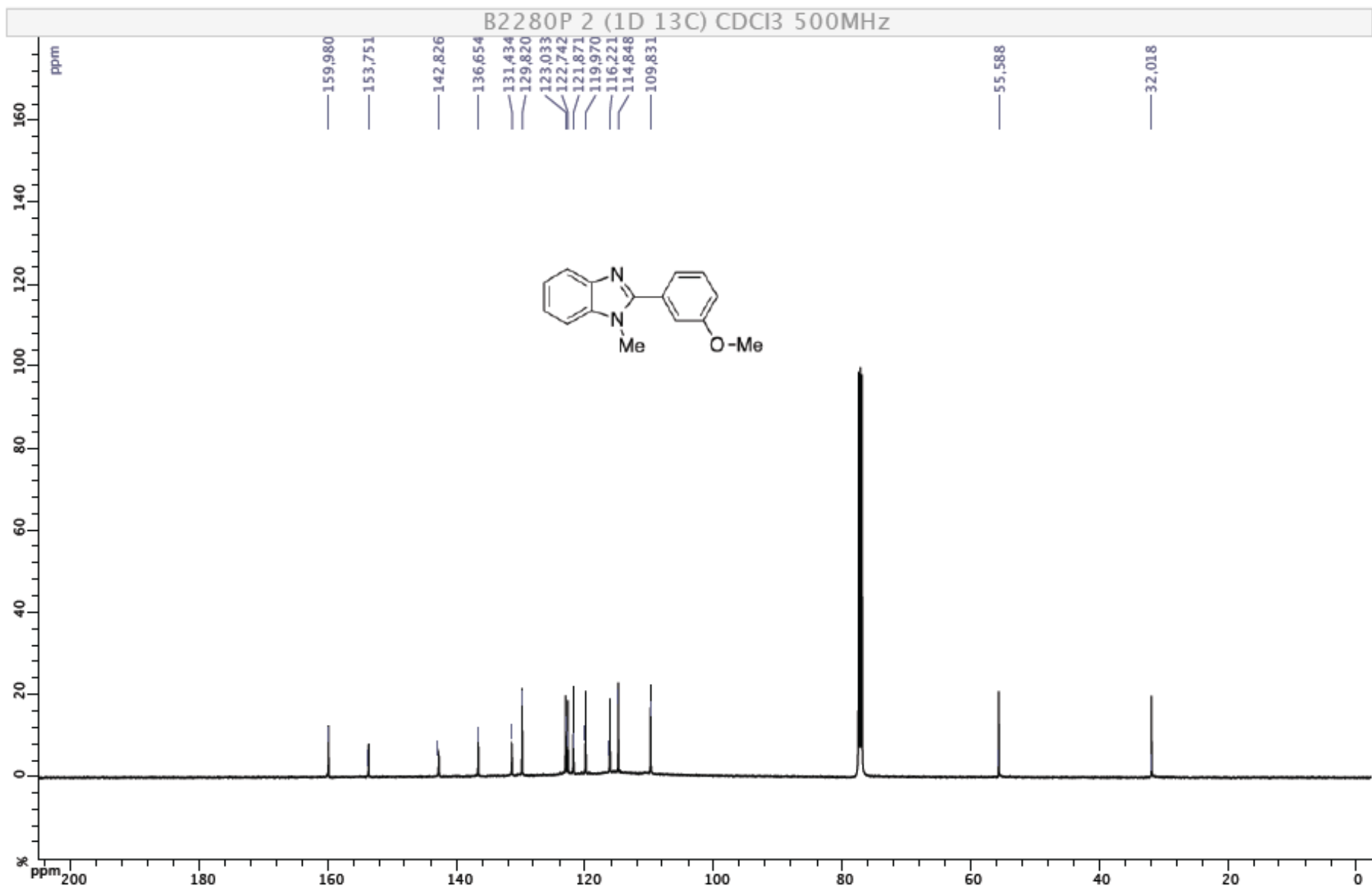
1-Methyl-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3e)



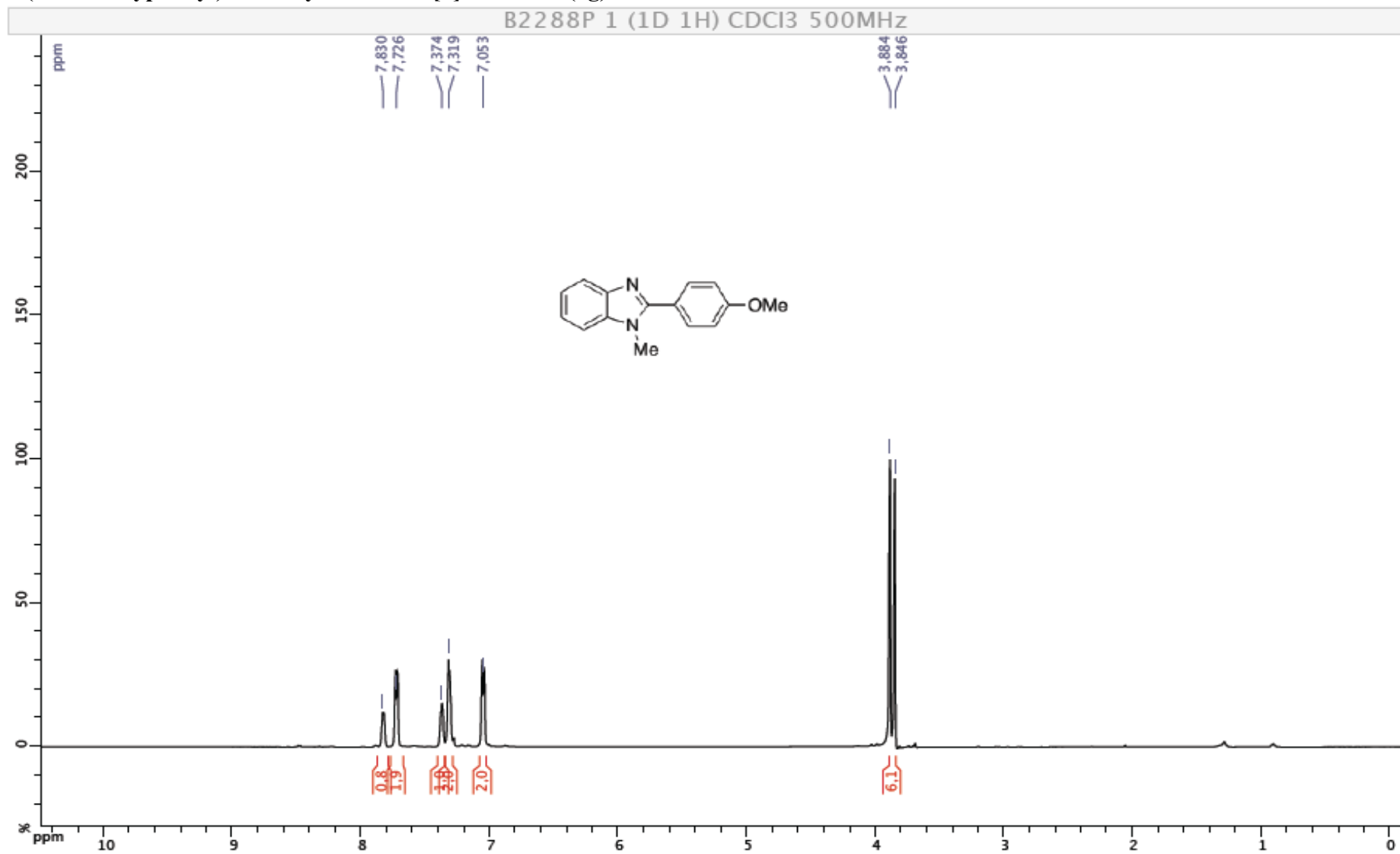


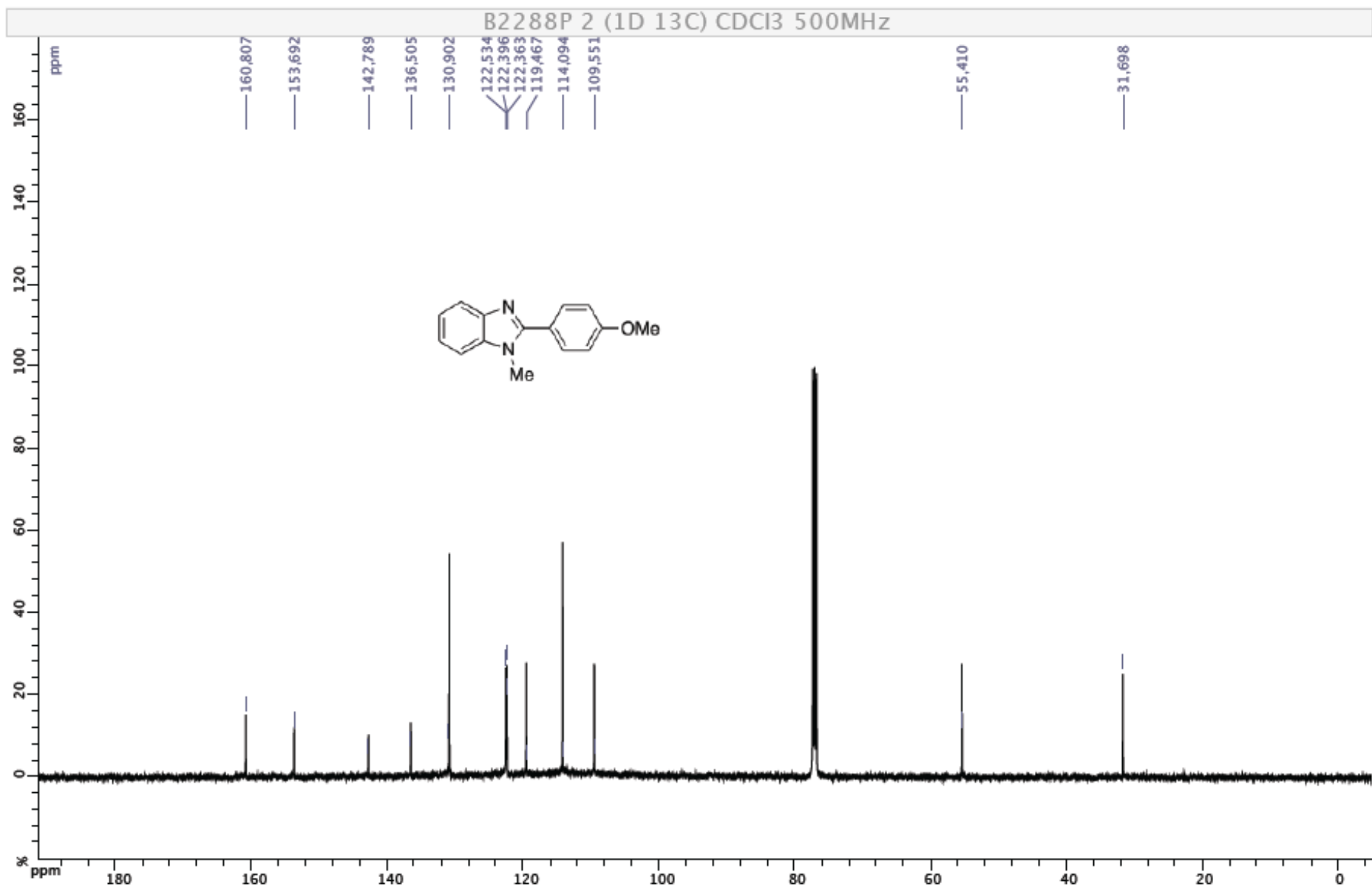
2-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3f)



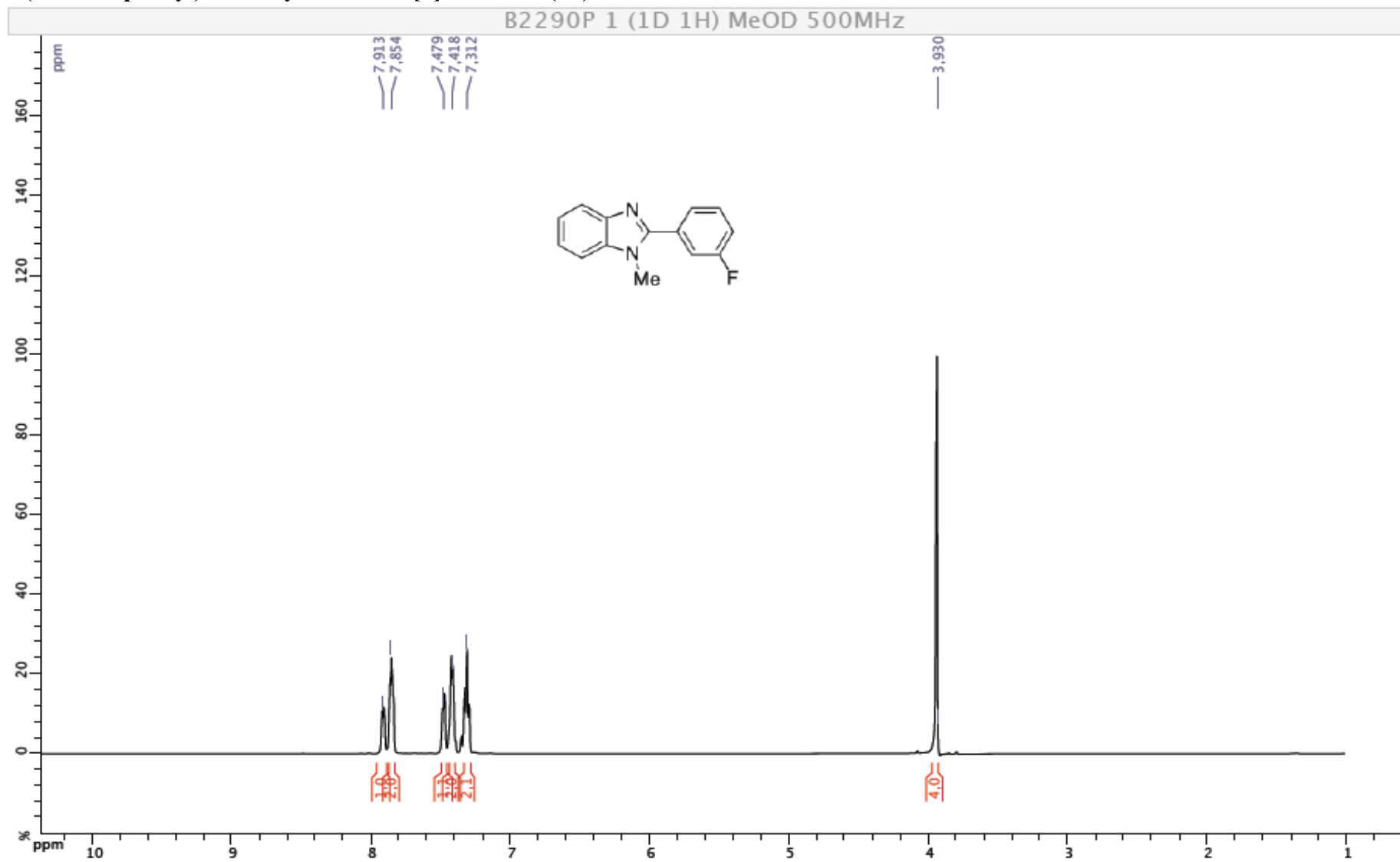


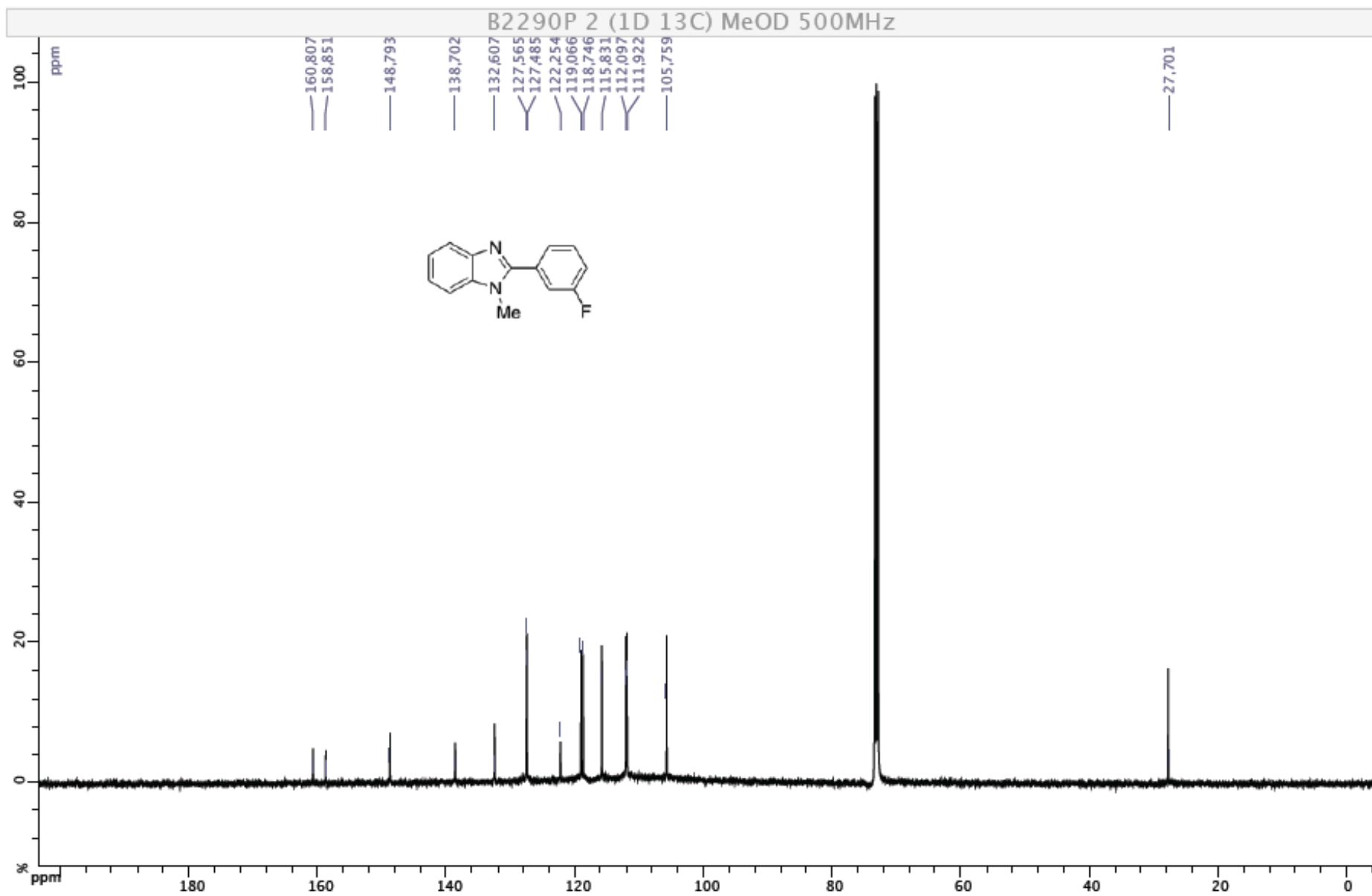
2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3g)



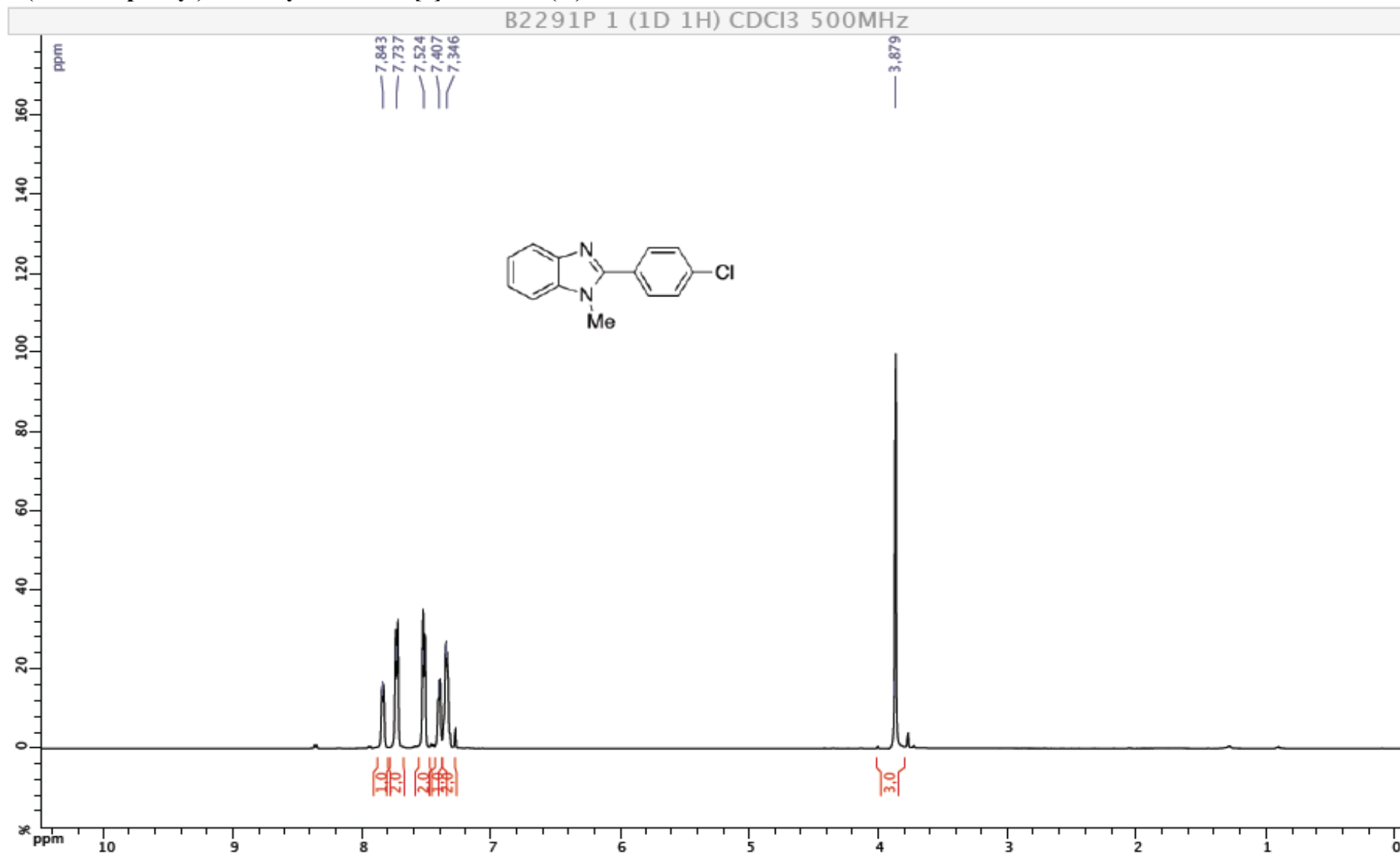


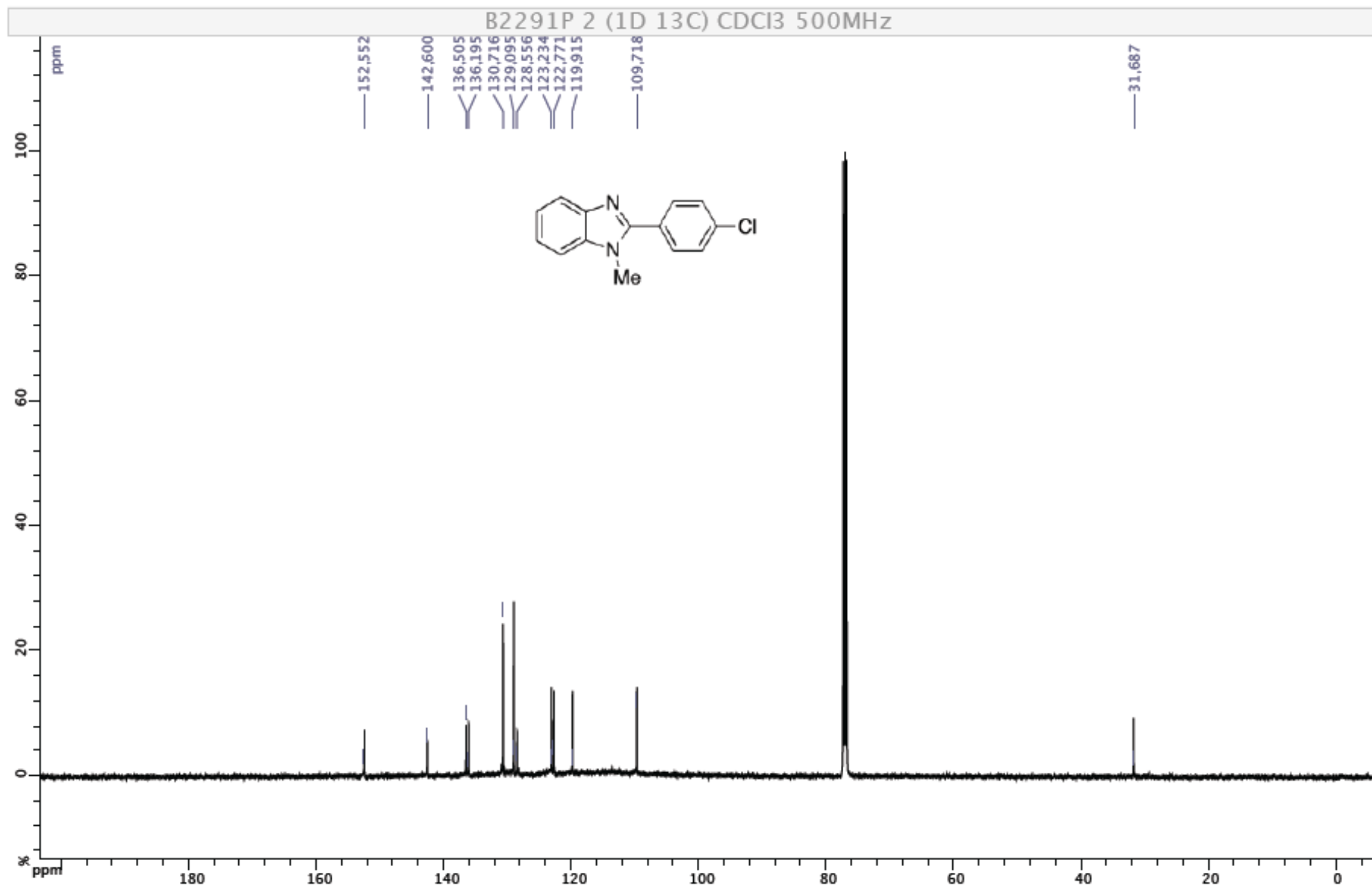
2-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3h)





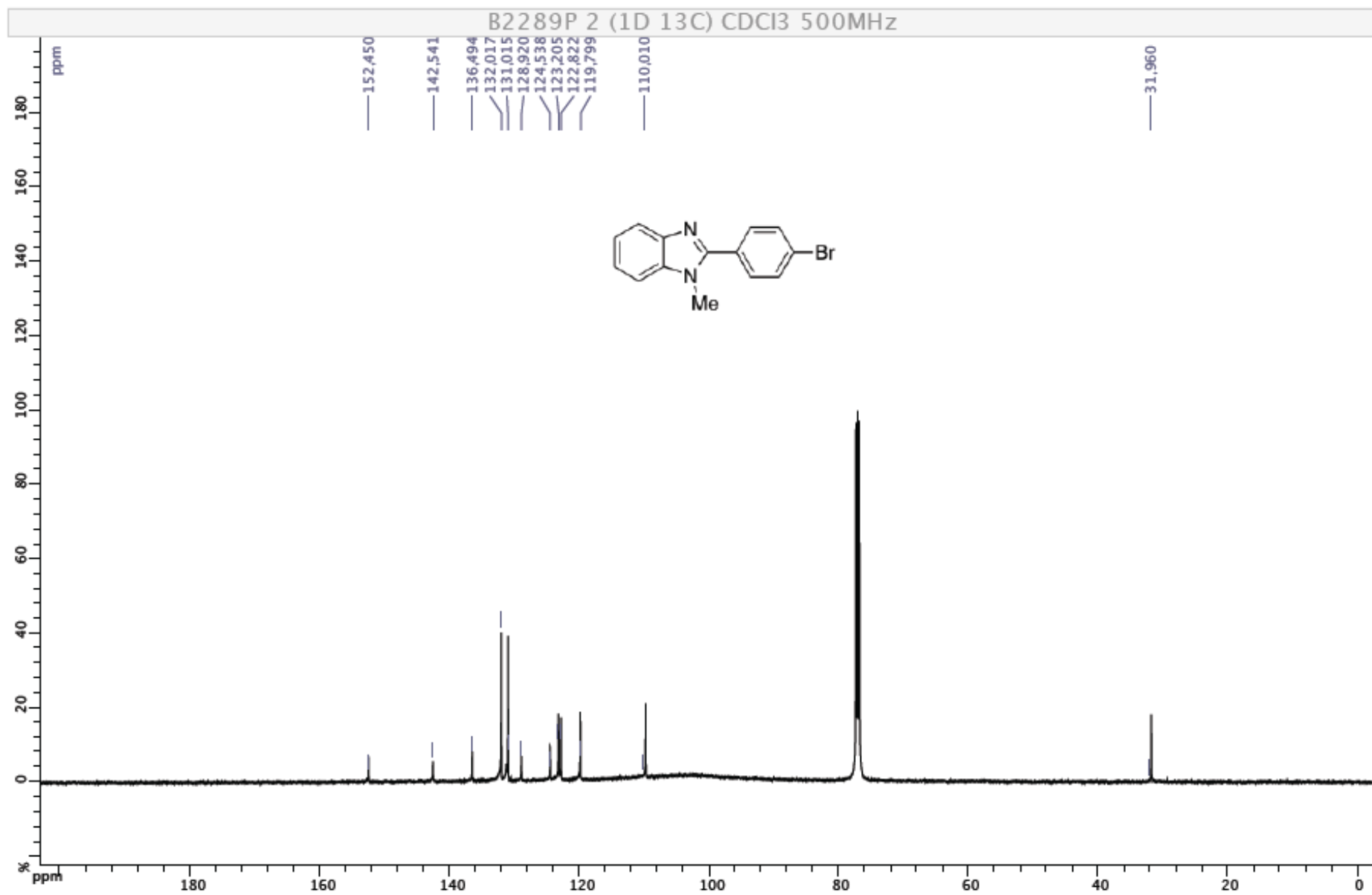
2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3i)



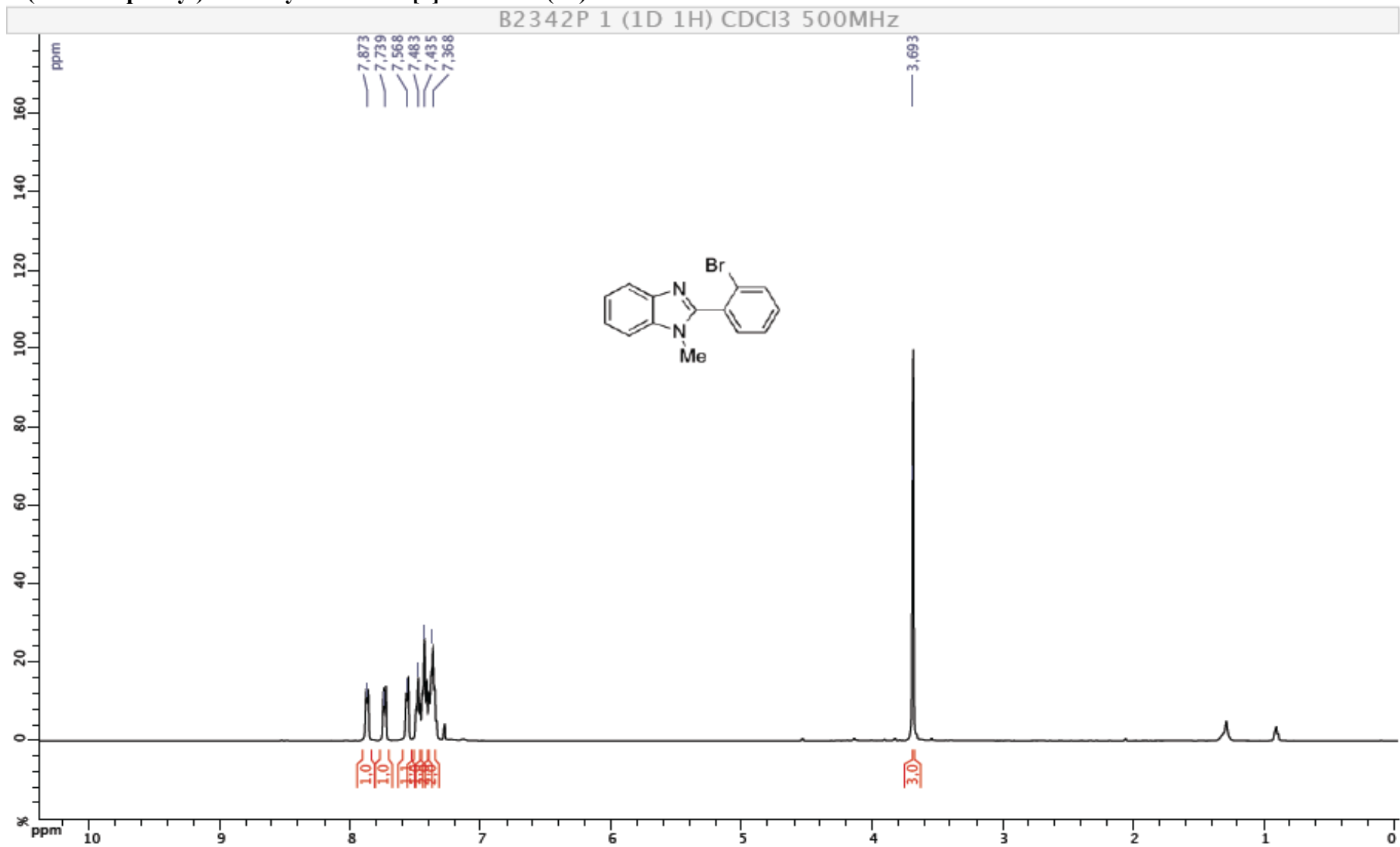


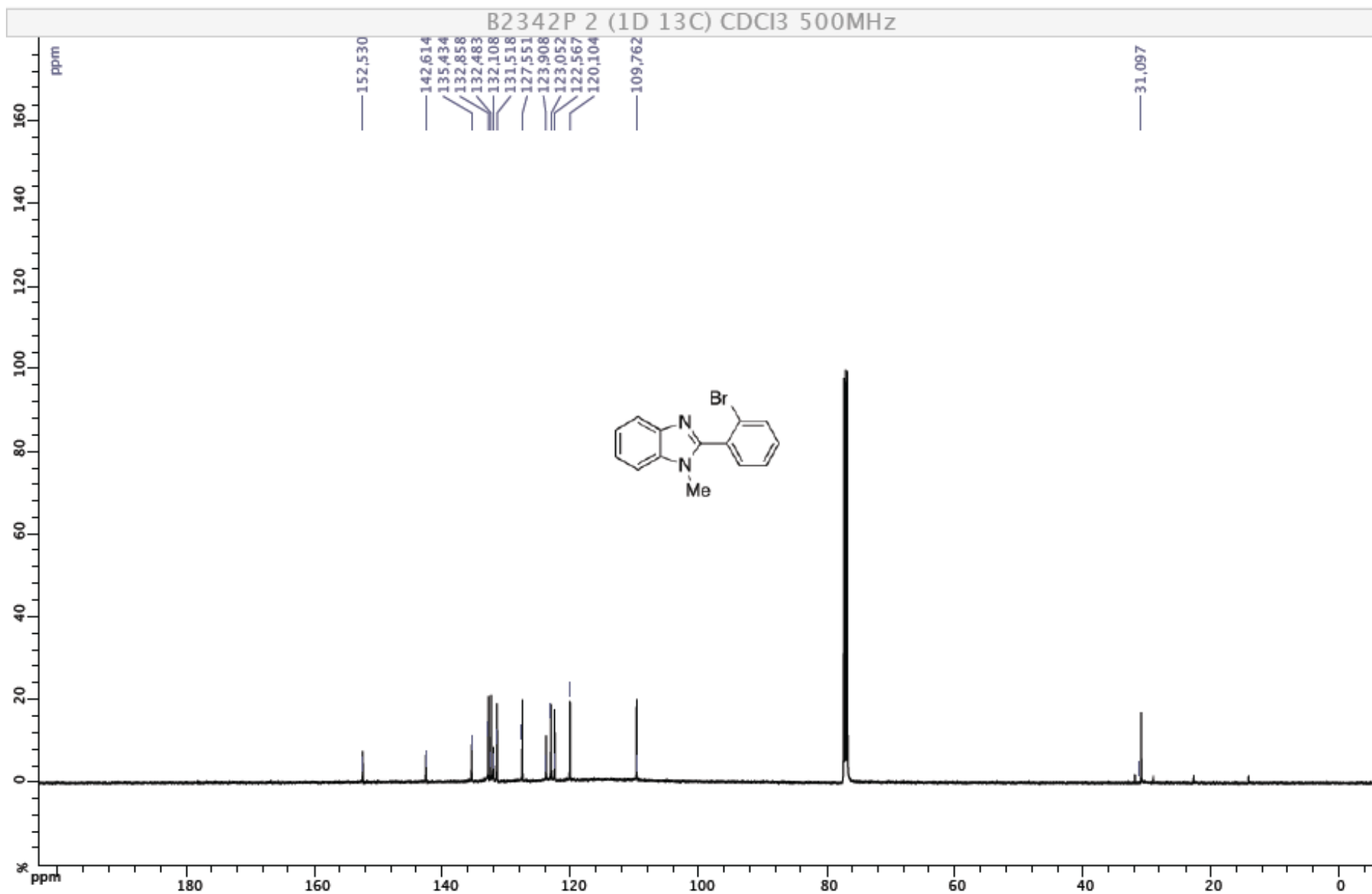
2-(4-Bromophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3j)



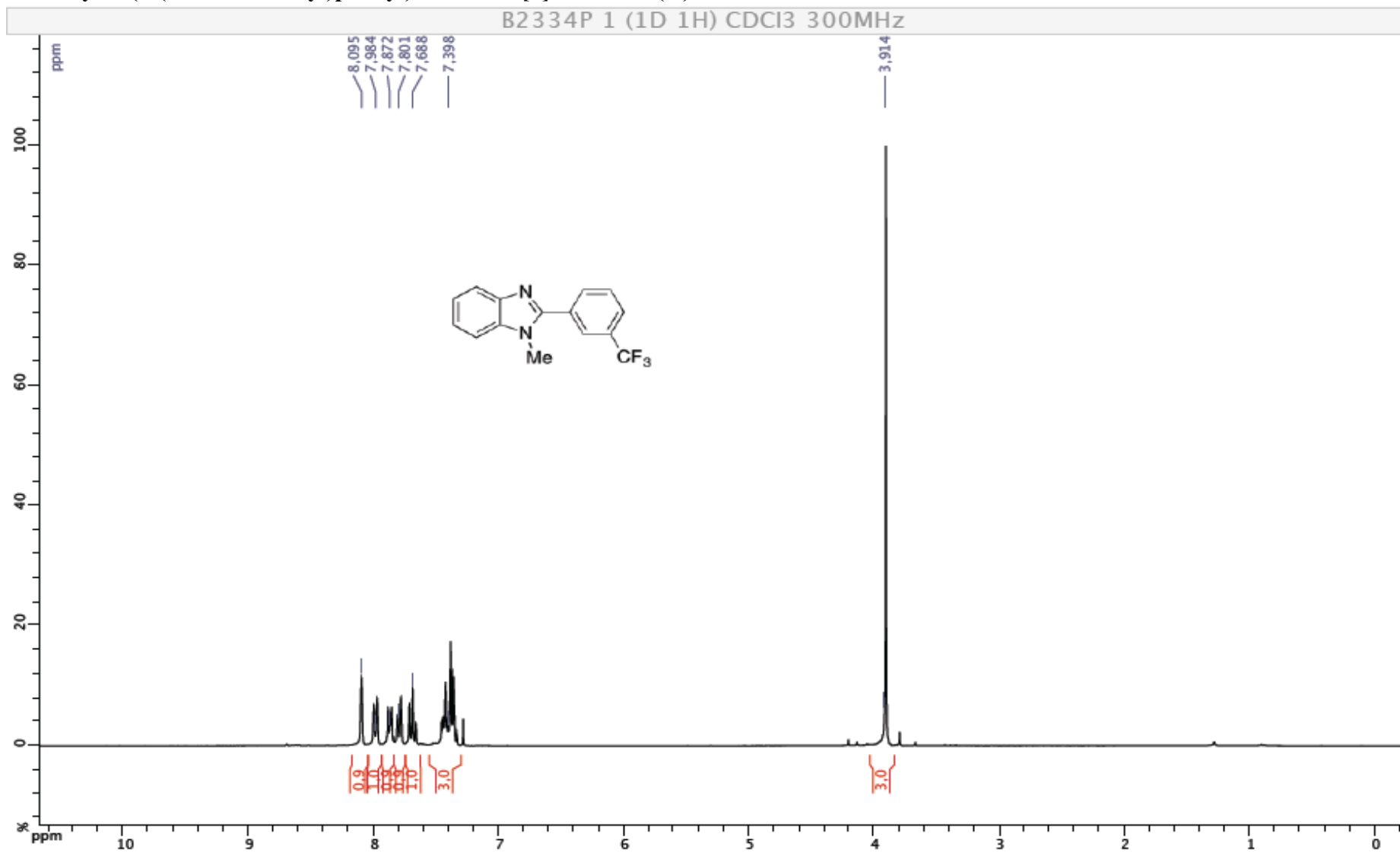


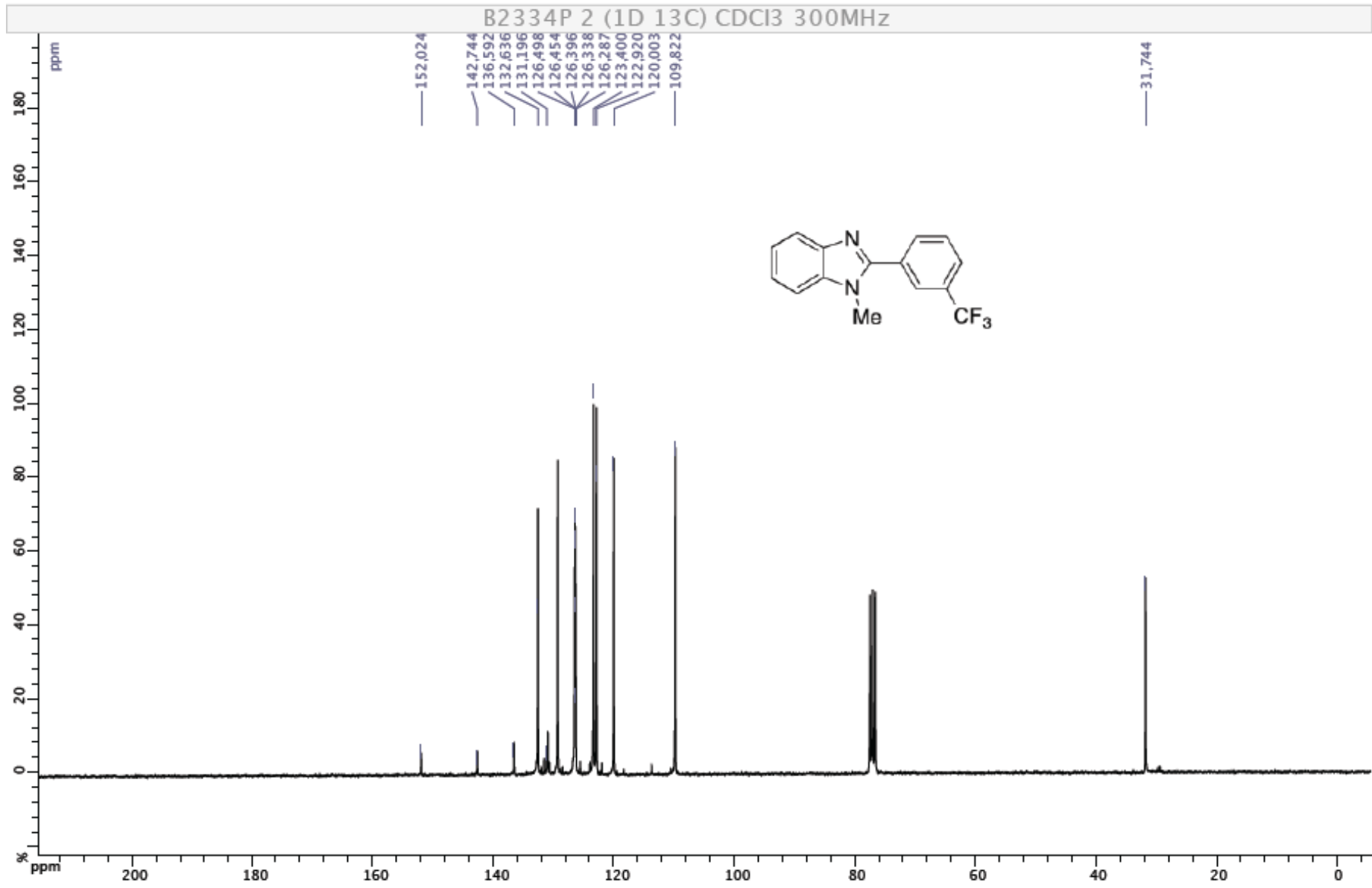
2-(2-Bromophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3k)



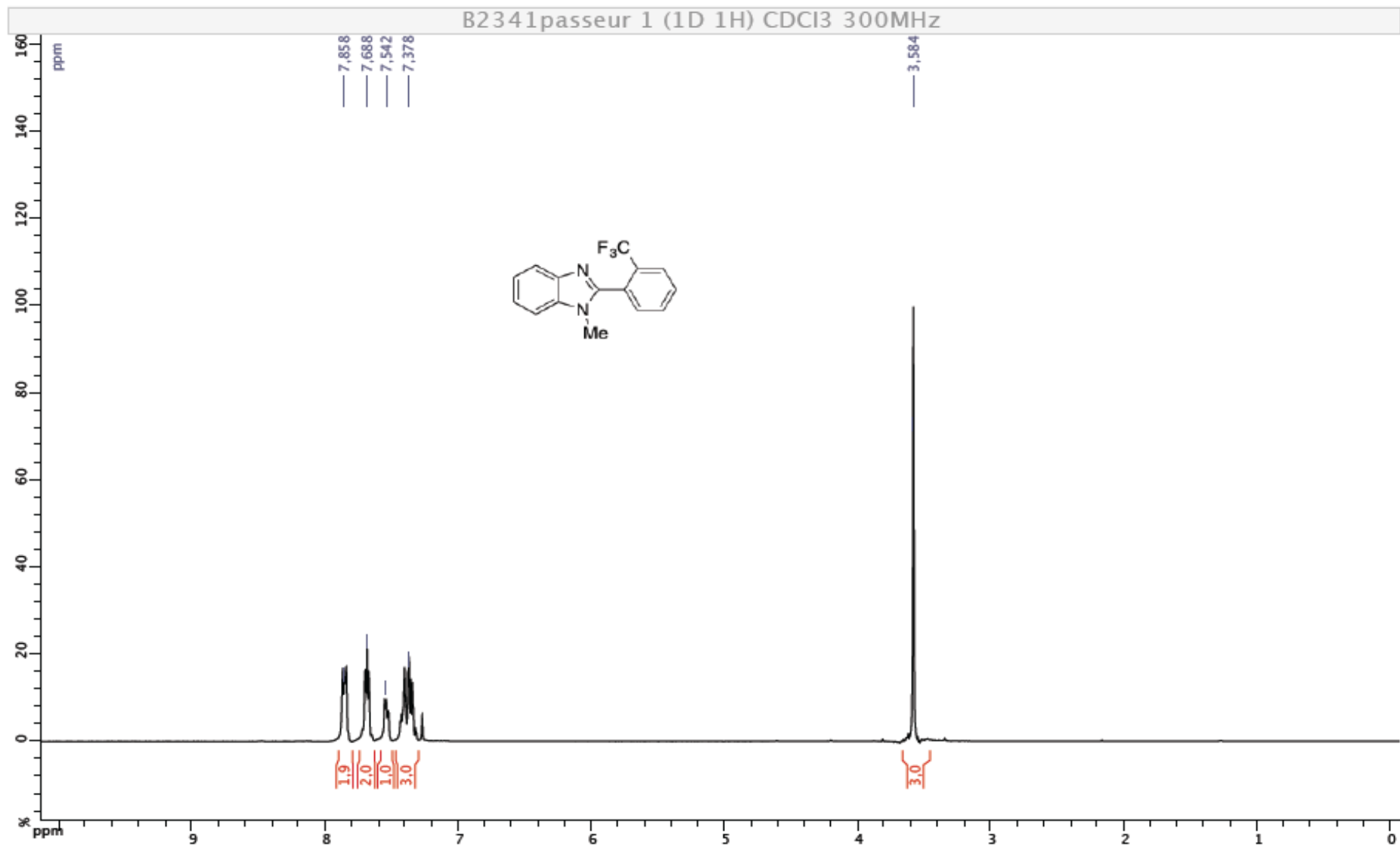


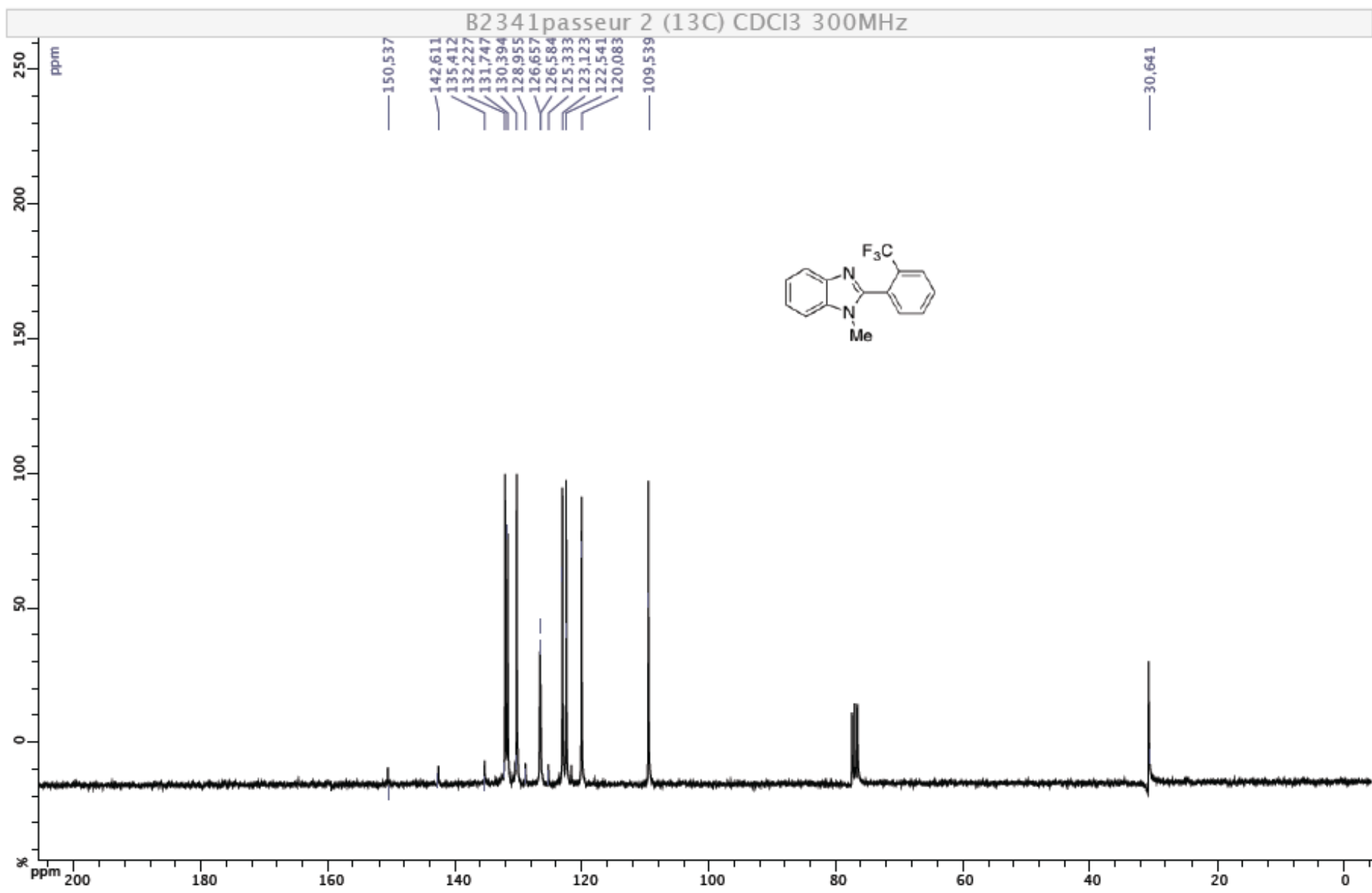
1-Methyl-2-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3I)



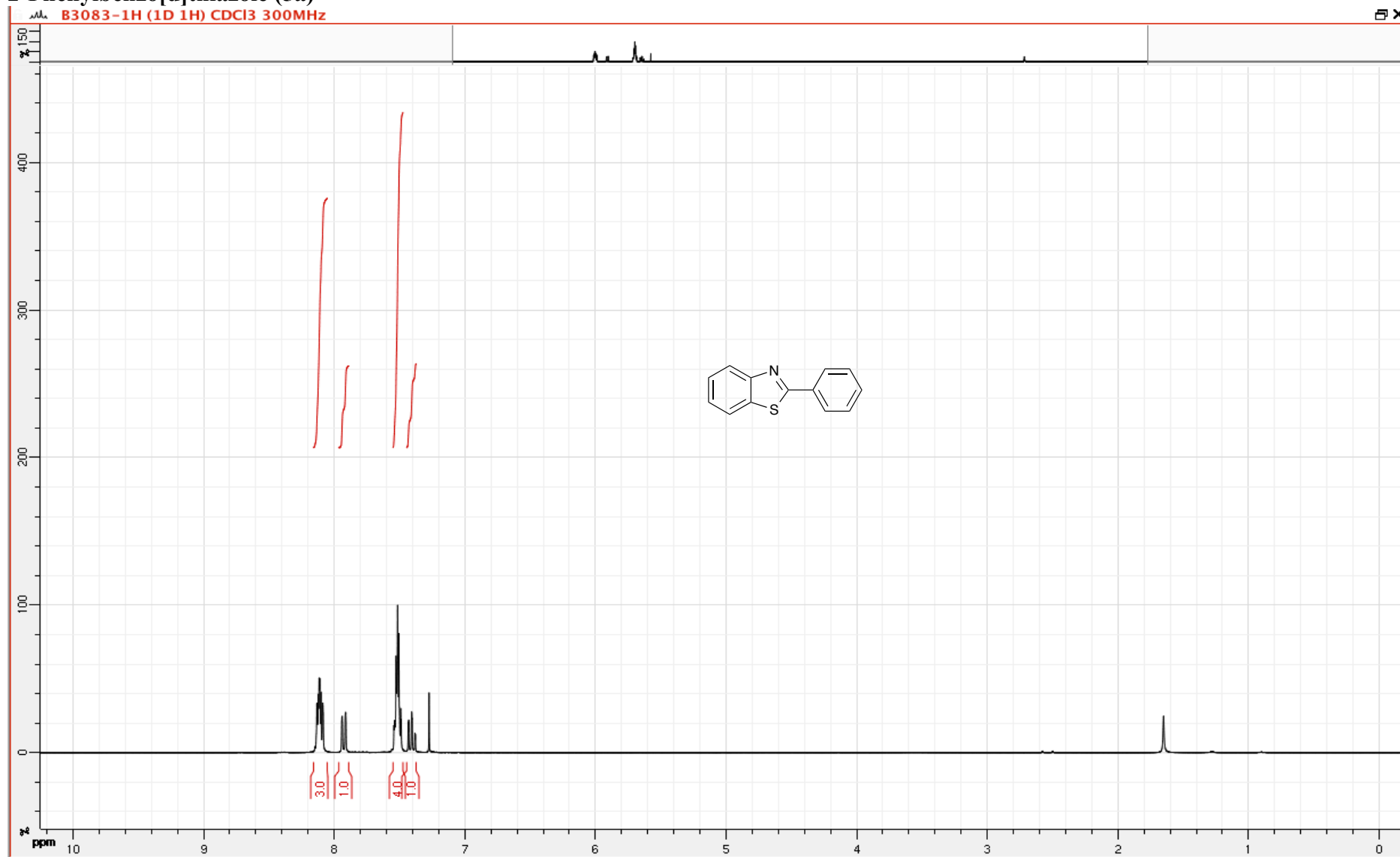


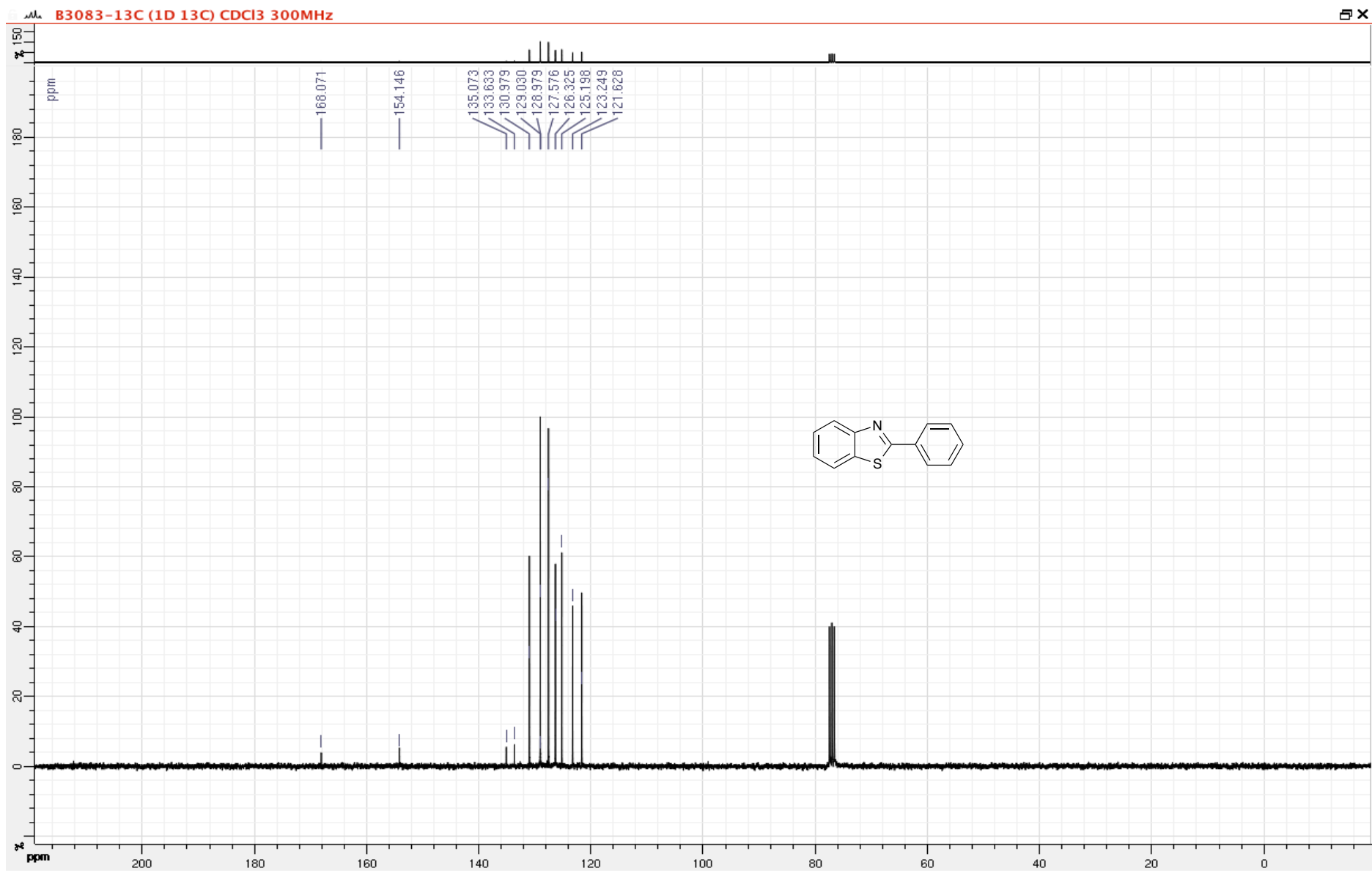
1-Methyl-2-(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3m)



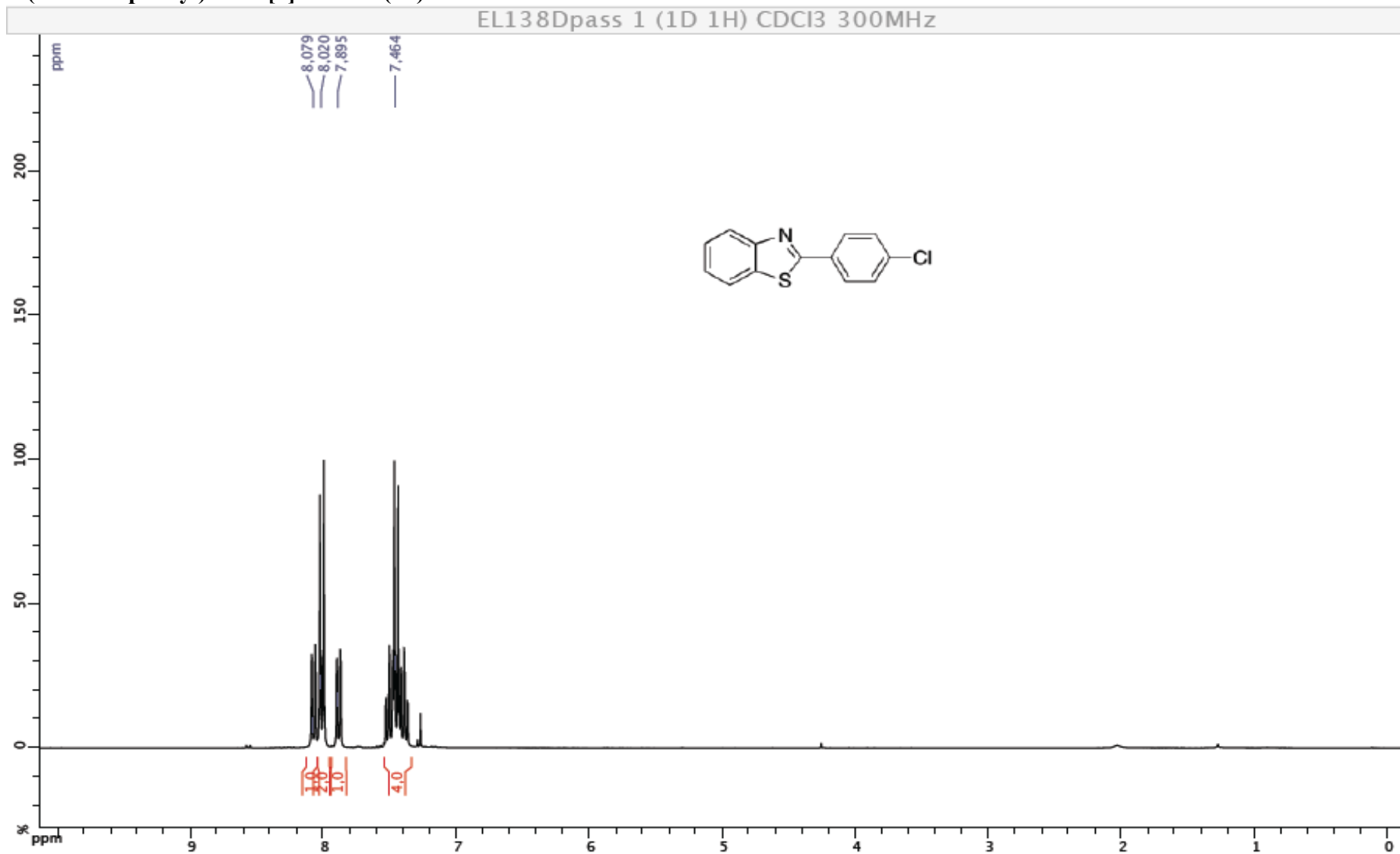


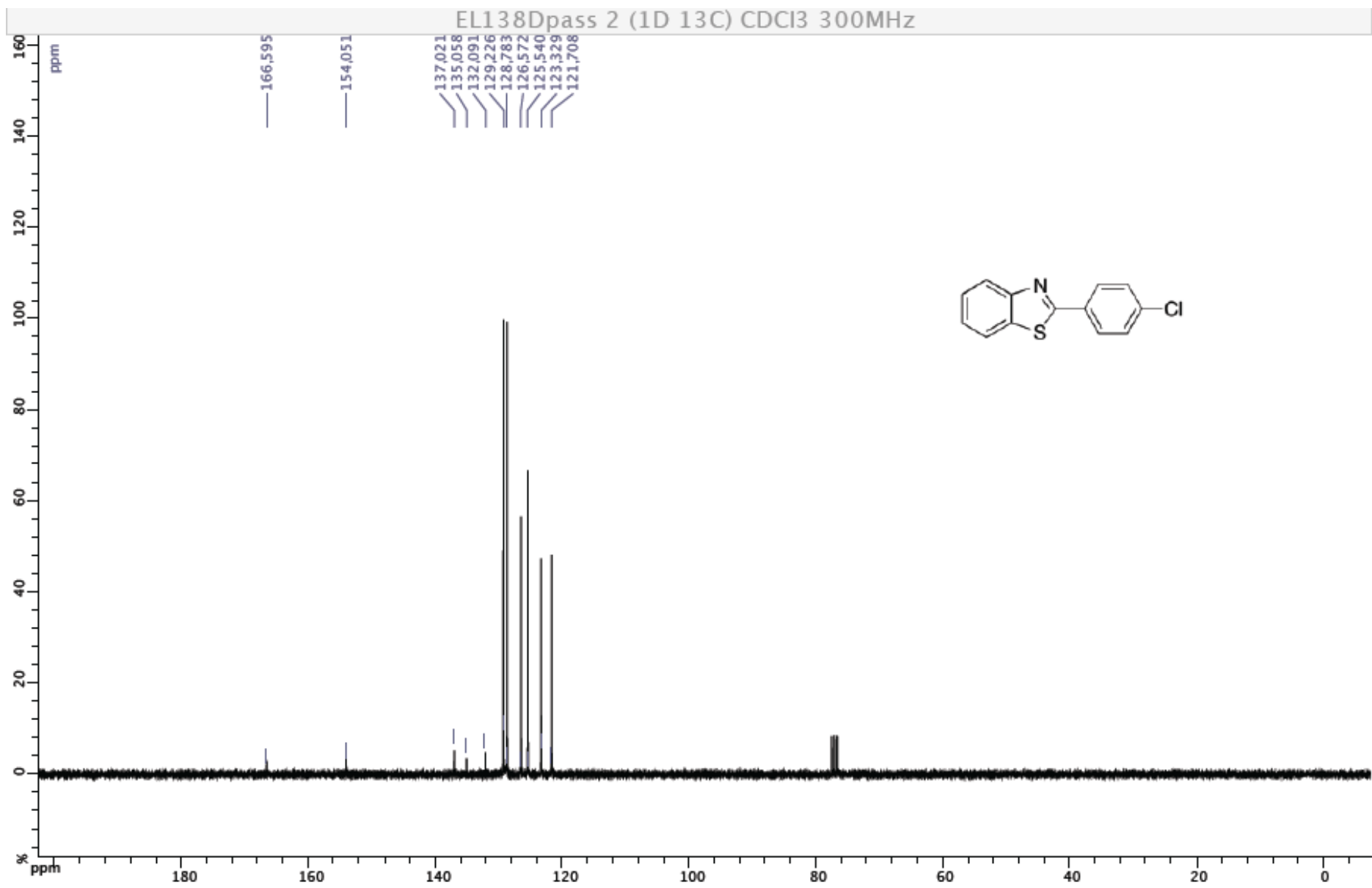
2-Phenylbenzo[d]thiazole (5a)



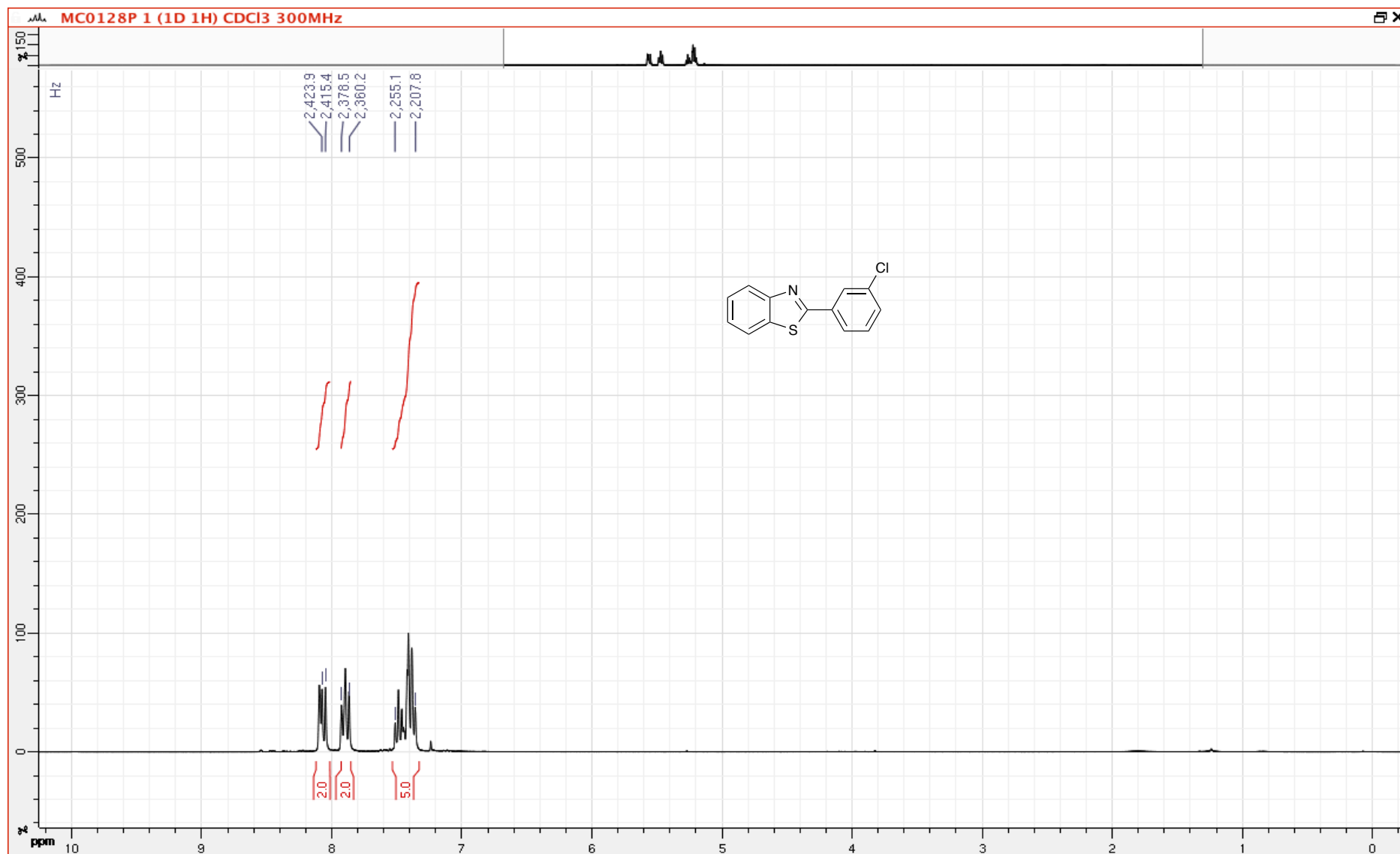


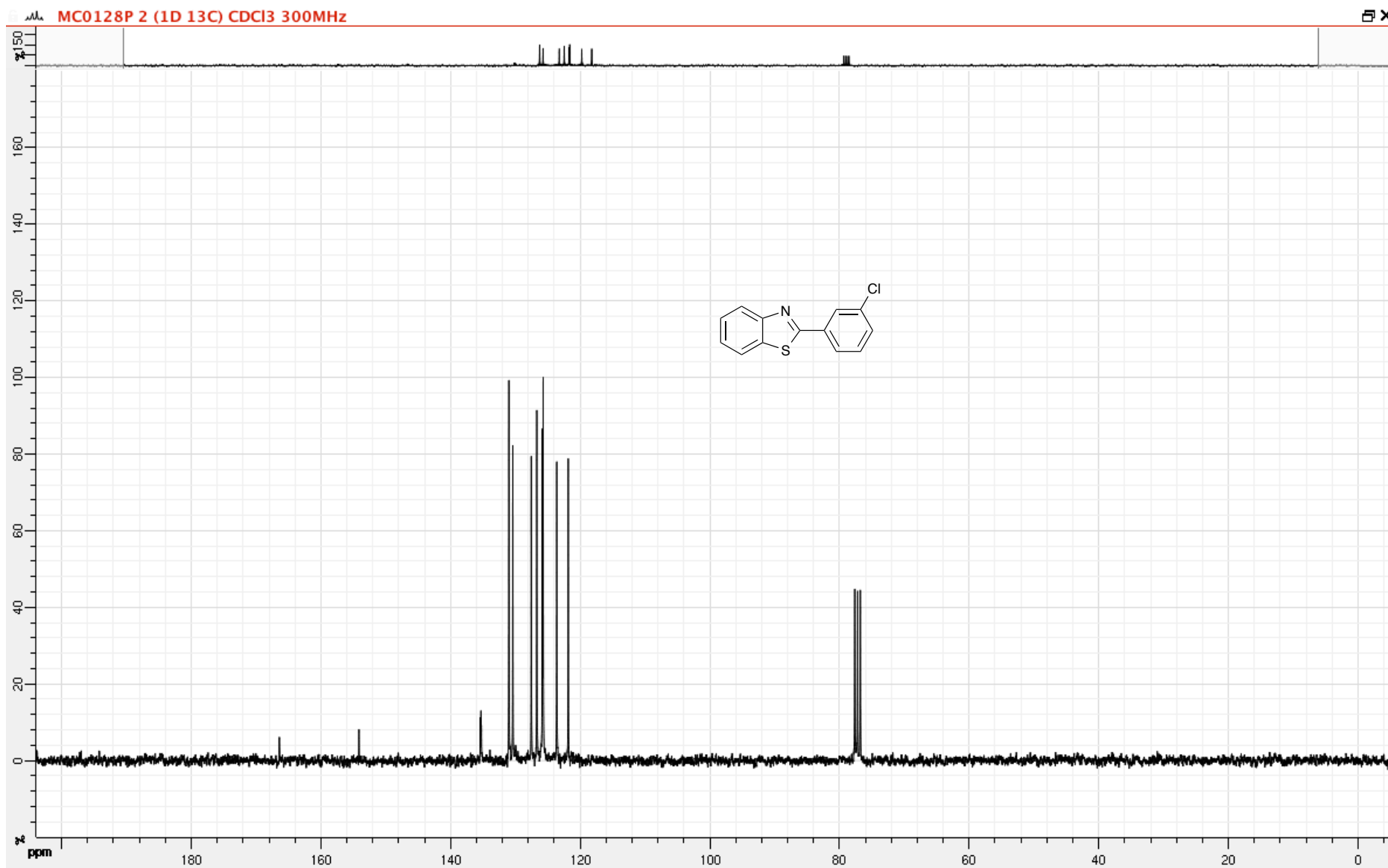
2-(4-Chlorophenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5b)



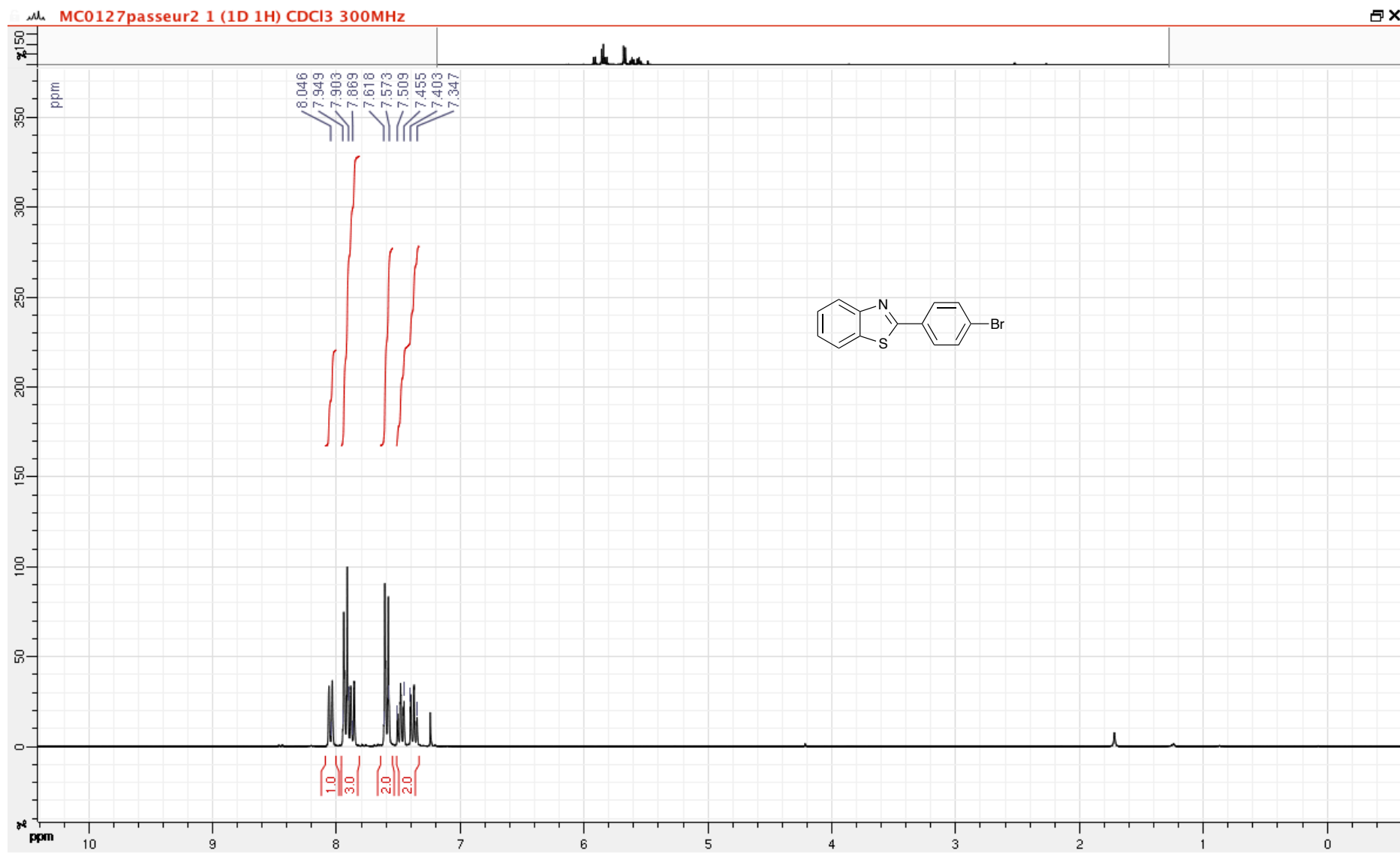


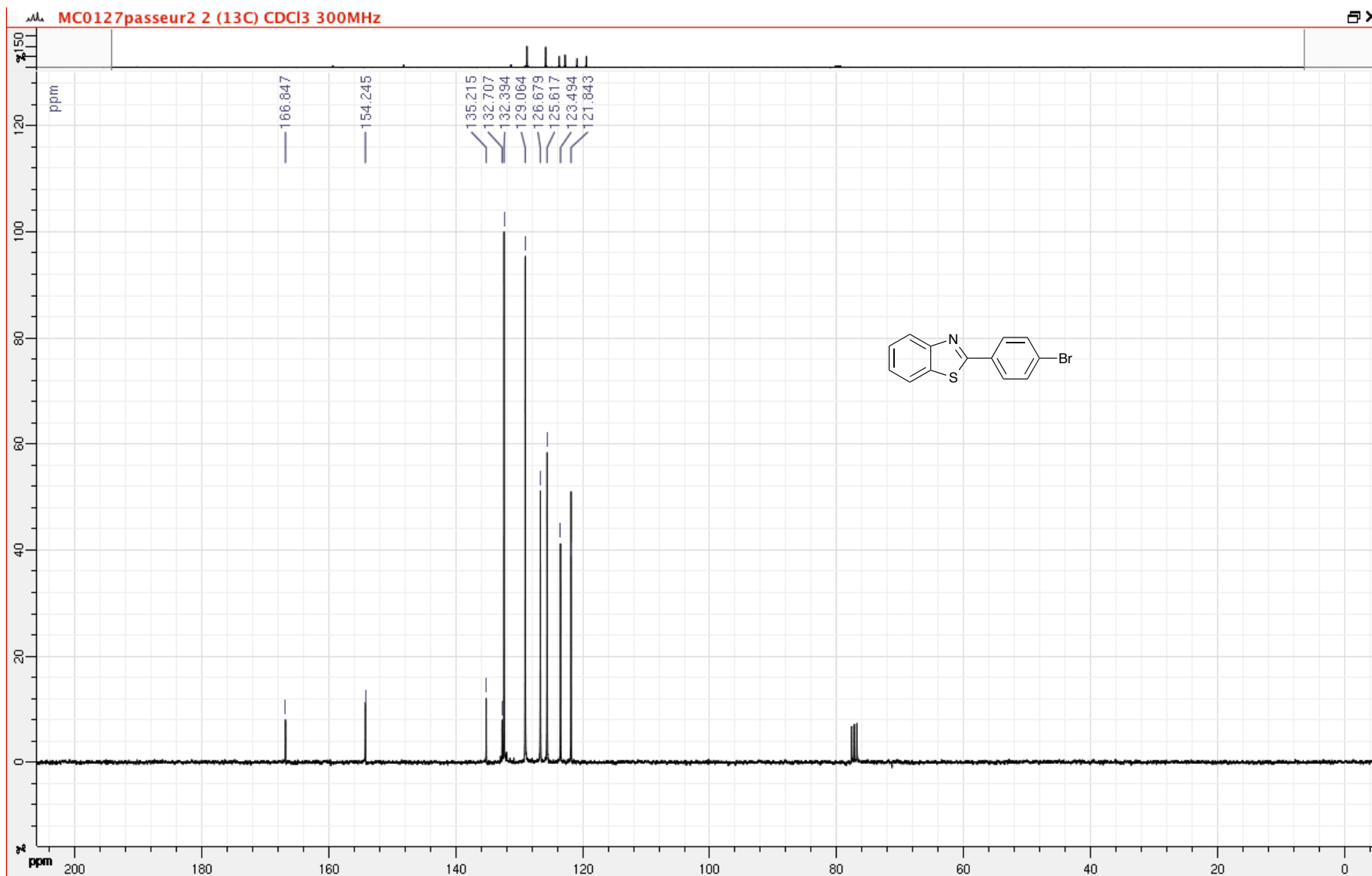
2-(3-Chlorophenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5c)



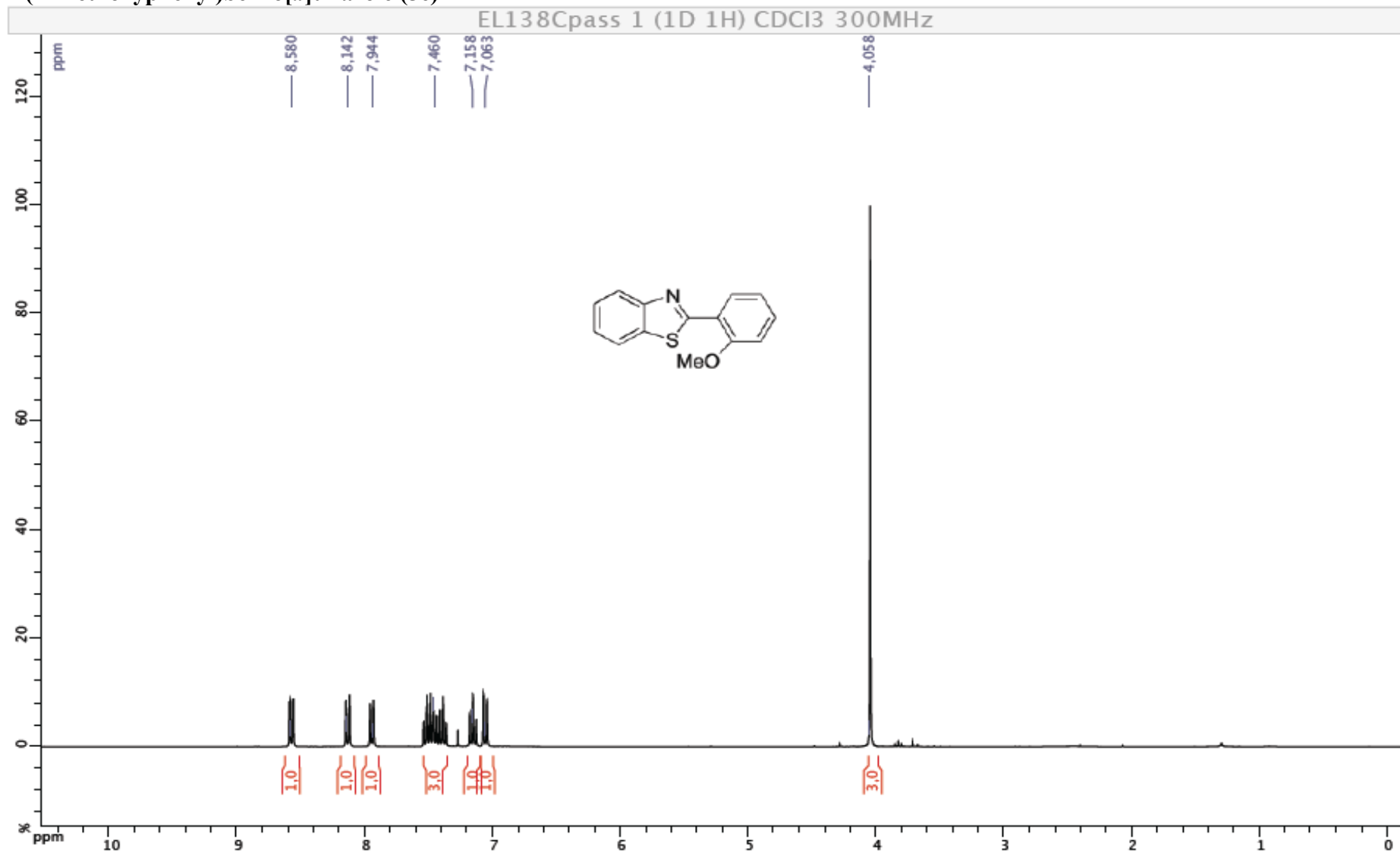


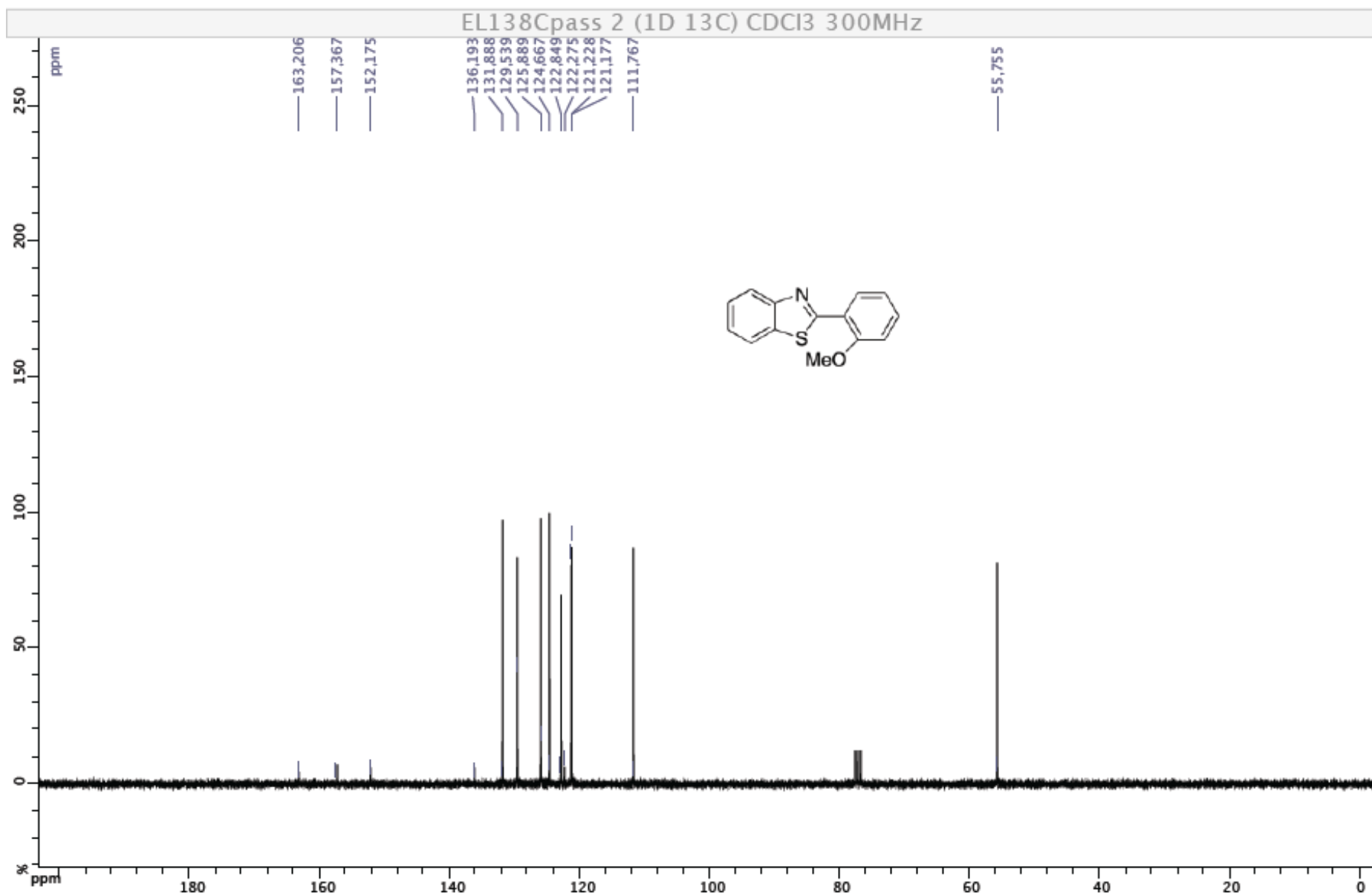
2-(4-Bromophenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5d)



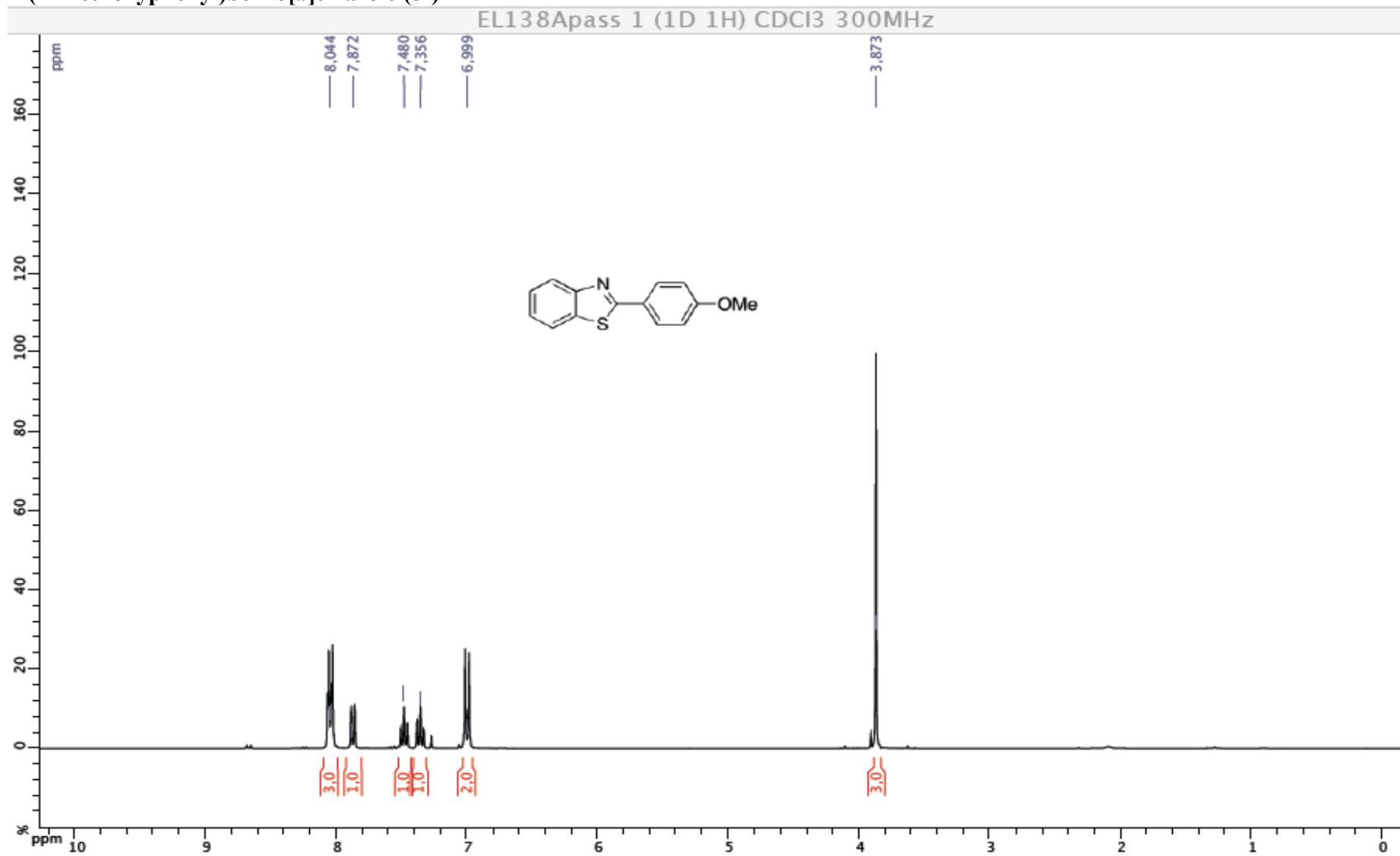


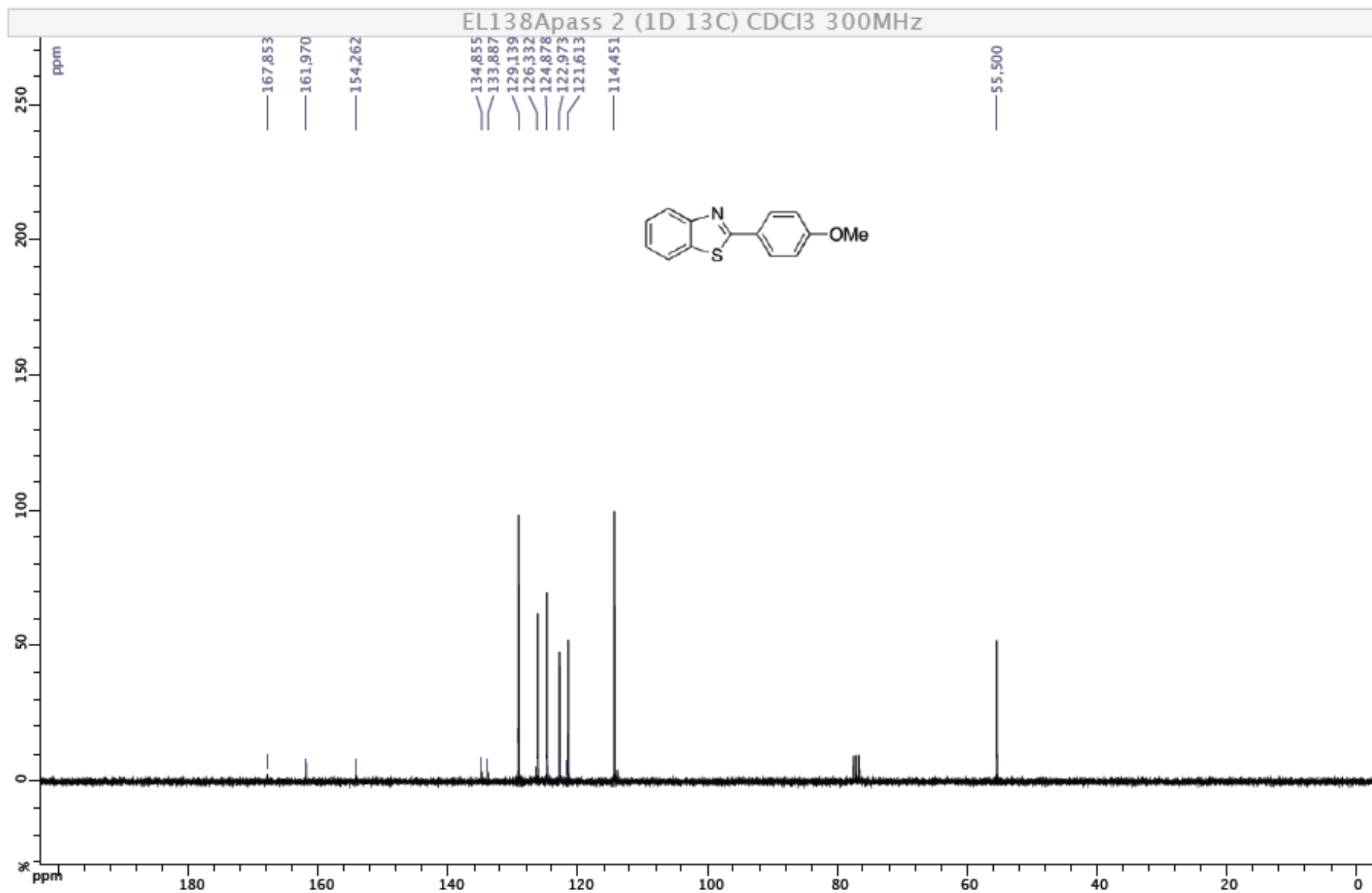
2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5e)



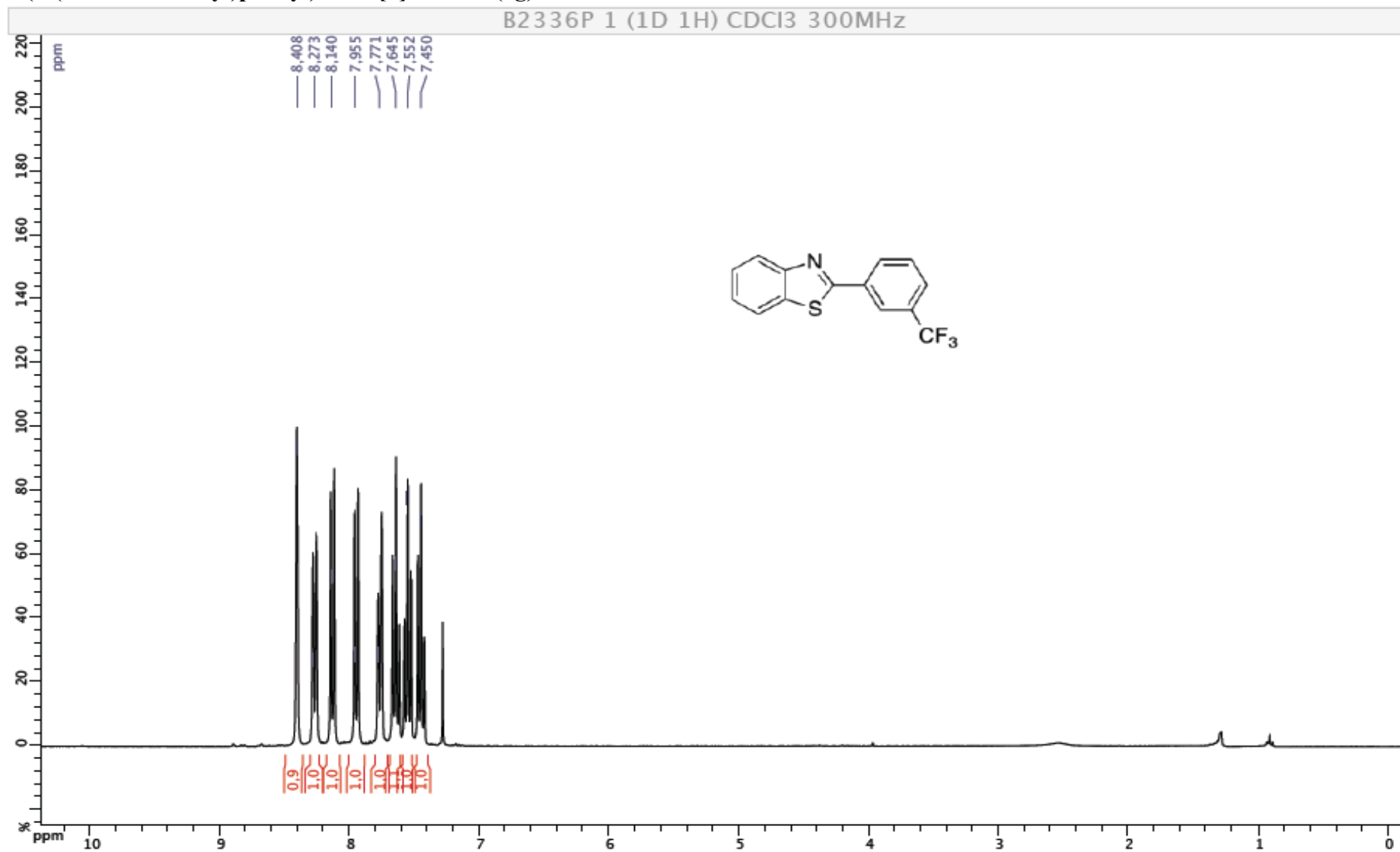


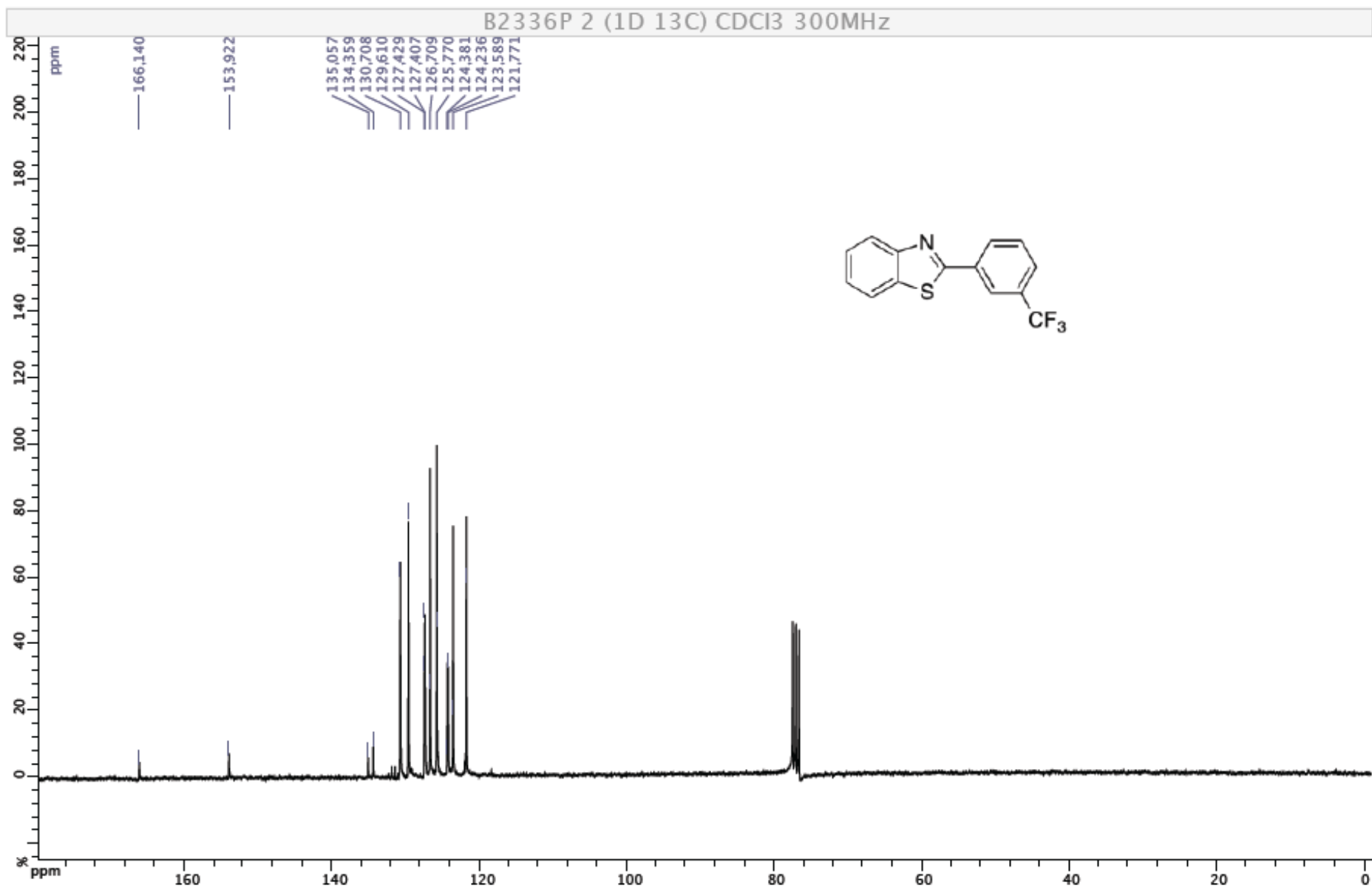
2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5f)



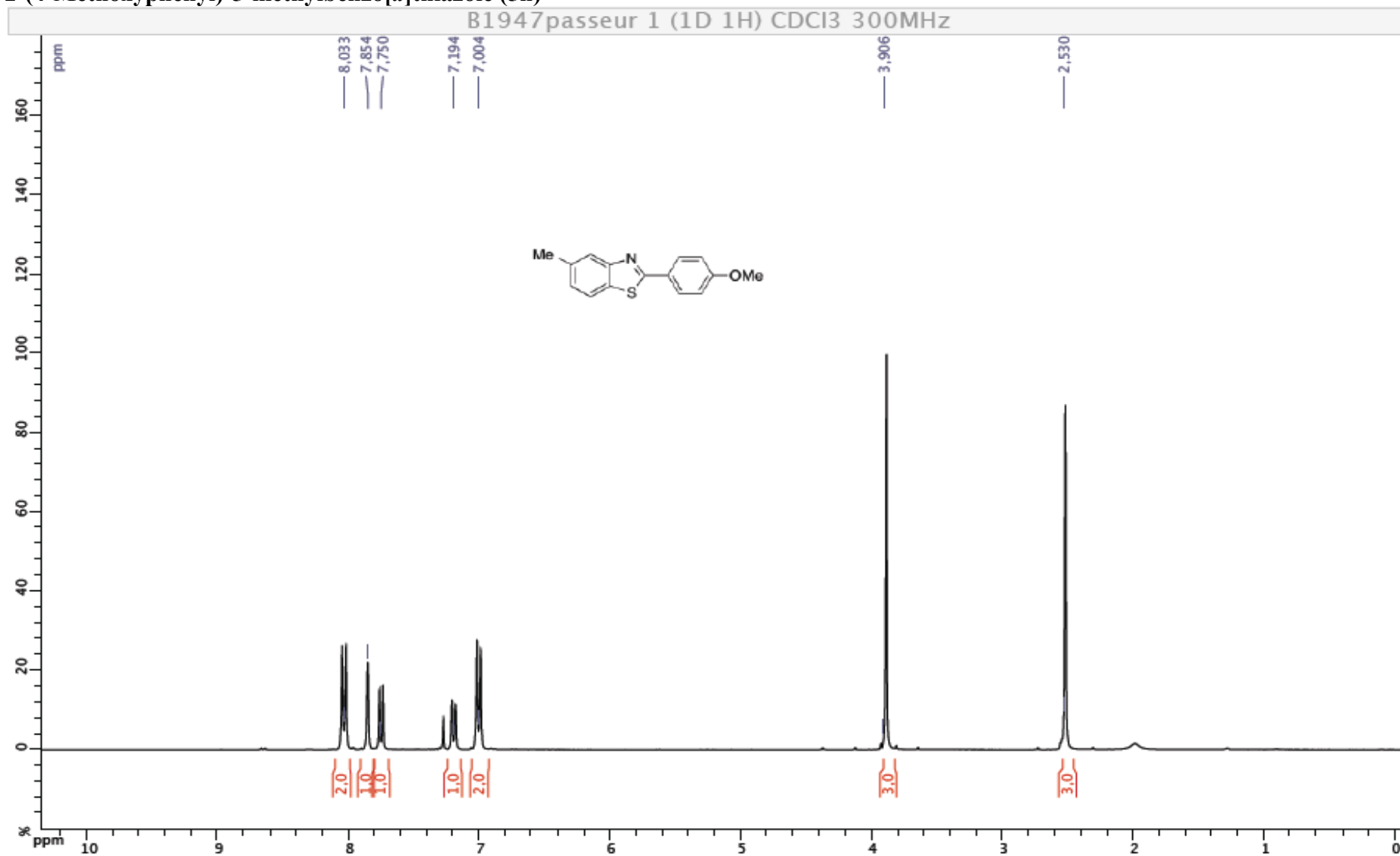


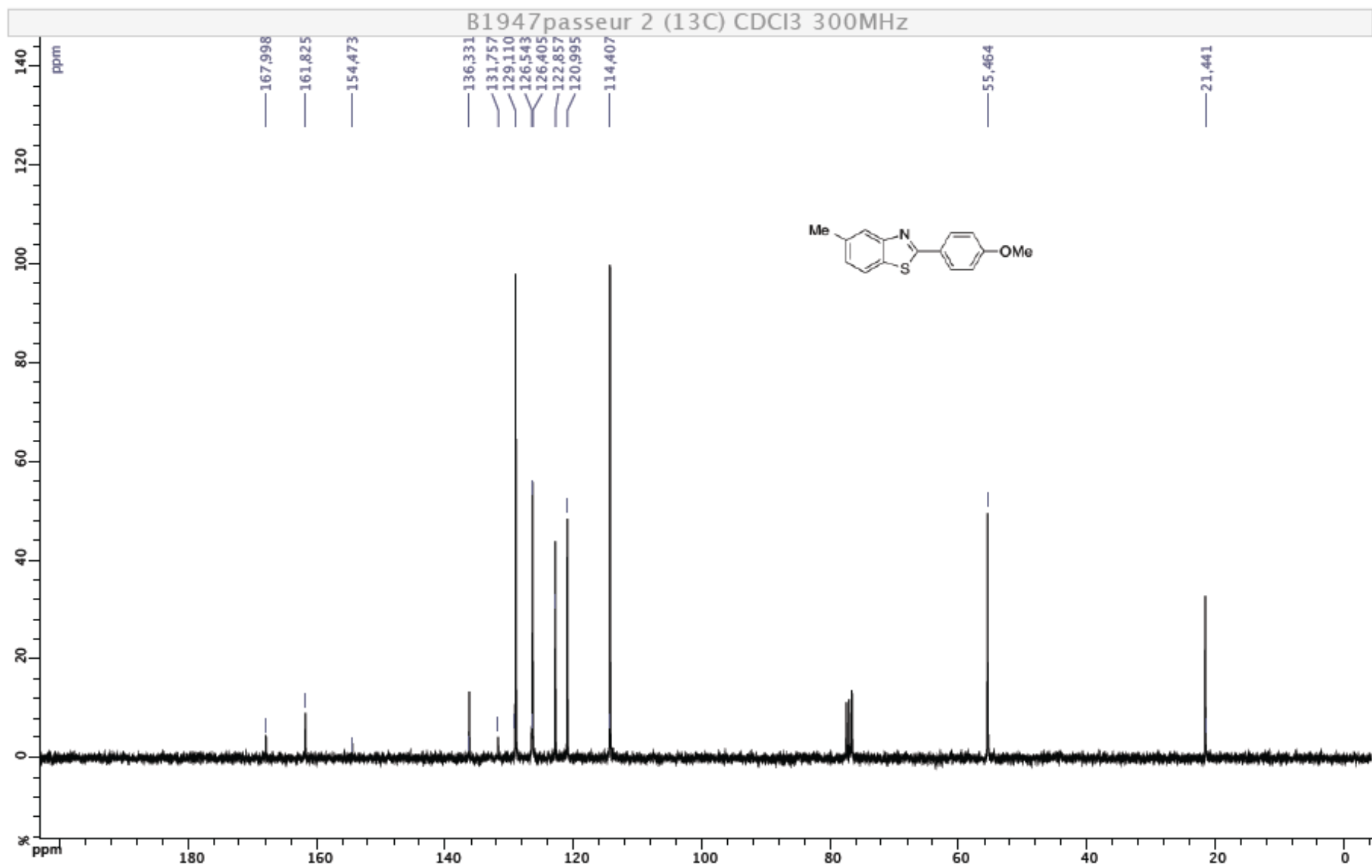
2-(3-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5g)



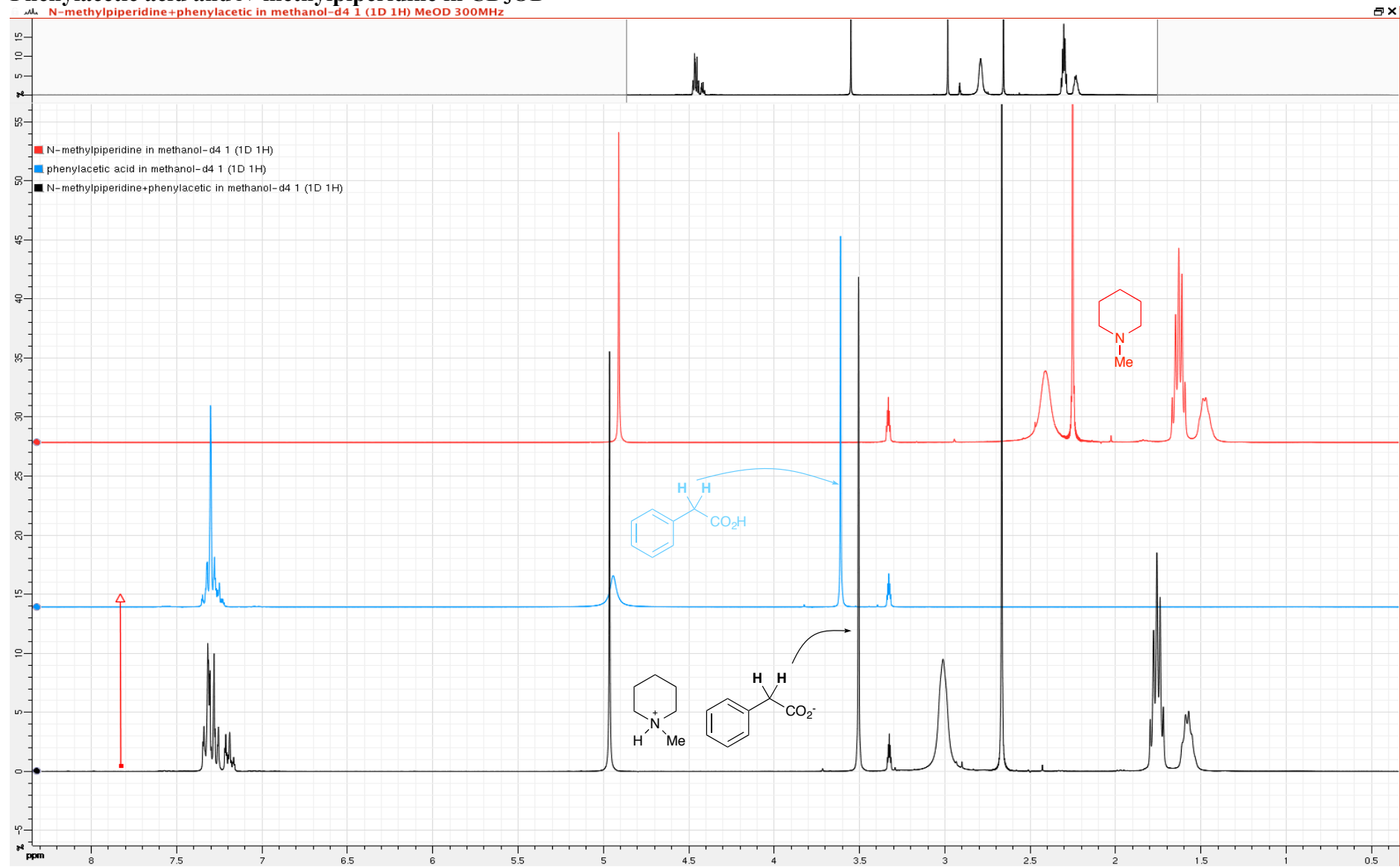


2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5-methylbenzo[d]thiazole (5h)





Phenylacetic acid and *N*-methylpiperidine in CD₃OD



Phenylacetic acid and 3-picoline in CD₃OD

