

Supporting Information

A catalyst-free, facile and efficient approach to cyclic ester: synthesis of 4*H*-benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxin-4-ones

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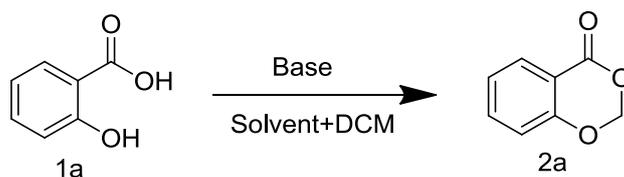
Table of Contents

I.	General remarks.	S1
II.	Screening different reaction conditions	S2-S3
III.	Experimental procedure and characterization data for products	S4-S15
IV.	¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra of products	S16-S45

I. General Remarks.

All manipulations were conducted with a reaction tube under air atmosphere. ^1H -NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AVIII-400M spectrometers. Chemical shifts (in ppm) were referenced to tetramethylsilane ($\delta = 0$ ppm) in CDCl_3 as an internal standard or calibrated with DMSO ($\delta = 2.54$ ppm). ^{13}C -NMR spectra were obtained by using the same NMR spectrometers and were calibrated with CDCl_3 ($\delta = 77.00$ ppm) and DMSO ($\delta = 40.45$ ppm). High Resolution Mass spectra were recorded using Agilent 6450 spectrometer. Unless otherwise noted, materials obtained from commercial suppliers were used without further purification.

Table S1. Screening Different Reaction Conditions For the Formation of *4H*-benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxin-4-one.^a



Entry	Base	Solvent	t(h)	T(°C)	Yield% ^b
1	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	6	60	Trace
2	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	6	80	10
3	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	6	100	>99
4	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMSO	6	100	>99
5	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	1,4-Dioxane	6	100	NR
6	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	Toluene	6	100	NR
7	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	THF	6	100	NR
8	K ₂ HPO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	6	100	15
9	KHCO ₃	DMF	6	100	NR
10	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	6	100	Trace
11	Na ₂ CO ₃	DMF	6	100	NR
12	NaHCO ₃	DMF	6	100	NR
13	Pyridine	DMF	6	100	NR
14	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DMF	6	100	Trace
15	NaOH	DMF	6	100	Trace
16	KOH	DMF	6	100	Trace
17	NaOEt	DMF	6	100	10%
18 ^c	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	6	100	NR
19 ^d	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	6	100	<5
20 ^e	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	15	125	92
21 ^g	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	15	125	71

^a Reaction conditions: Salicylic acid (0.5 mmol), Bases (1 mmol), CH₂Cl₂ (0.6 mL), Solvent (1.5 mL). ^b Isolated yield based on **1a**, NR= no reaction. ^c The reaction was carried out with no CH₂Cl₂. ^d CH₂Cl₂(0.25 mL), in sealed tube. ^e CH₂Cl₂(0.25 mL), in sealed tube. ^g CH₂Cl₂(0.1 mL), in sealed tube.

Table S2. Screening Different Reaction Conditions For the Formation of **2-Methyl-4H-benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxin-4-one**.^a



Entry	Base	Solvent	t(h)	T(°)	Yield% ^b
1	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	10	100	trace
2	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	10	130	66
3	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	10	150	67
4^c	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	10	130	<15
5^d	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	10	150	62
6^e	K ₃ PO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	DMF	10	150	45

^a Reaction conditions: Salicylic acid (0.5 mmol), Bases (1 mmol), 1,1-Dichloroethane (1,1-DCE) (1 mL), DMF (1.5 mL), reflux. ^b Isolated yields. ^c CH₃CHCl₂ (0.7 mL), in sealed tube. ^d CH₃CHCl₂ (0.7 mL), in sealed tube. ^e CH₃CHCl₂ (0.35 mL), in sealed tube.

III. Typical procedure:

Condition A:

Salicylic acid (69 mg, 0.5 mmol), $K_3PO_4 \cdot 3H_2O$ (267 mg, 1 mmol), DCM (0.6 mL), and DMF (1.5 mL) were stirred in 100 °C oil bath under air for 6 hours. After cooling to r.t., the reaction solution was extracted with EtOAc and the resulting solution was washed with saturated $NaHCO_3$ solution (20 mL), water (20 mL x3) and brine. Then the organic layer was dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$. After filtration, the solvent was removed under vacuum. At last, the reaction affords 74.25 mg of the product as a white solid.

Condition B:

5-Chlorosalicylic acid (86 mg, 0.5 mmol), $K_3PO_4 \cdot 3H_2O$ (267 mg, 1 mmol), DCM (0.6 mL), and DMF (1.5 mL) were stirred in 100 °C oil bath under air for 6 hours. After cooling to r.t., the reaction solution was extracted with EtOAc and the resulting solution was washed with saturated $NaHCO_3$ solution (20 mL), water (20 mL x3) and brine. Then the organic layer was dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$. After filtration, the solvent was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford 88.32 mg of **2h** as a white solid.

Condition C:

Salicylic acid (69 mg, 0.5 mmol), $K_3PO_4 \cdot 3H_2O$ (267 mg, 1 mmol), 1,1-Dichloroethane (1,1-DCE) (1 mL), and DMF (1.5 mL) were stirred and refluxed in 130 °C oil bath under air for 10 hours. After cooling to r.t., the reaction solution was extracted with EtOAc and the resulting solution was washed with saturated $NaHCO_3$ solution (20 mL), water (20 mL x3) and brine. Then the organic layer was dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$. After filtration, the solvent was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford 54 mg of **3a** as a white solid.

Large scale synthesis of 2a

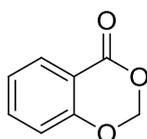
Salicylic acid (2.07 g, 15 mmol), $K_3PO_4 \cdot 3H_2O$ (6.675 g, 25 mmol), DCM (6 mL) which was charged every other 3.3h, 2 mL once, and DMF (15 mL) were stirred in

100 °C oil bath under air for 10 hours. After cooling to r.t., the reaction solution was extracted with EtOAc and the resulting solution was washed with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (20 mL), water (20 mL x3) and brine. Then the organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. After filtration, the solvent was removed under vacuum. At last, the reaction affords **2a** in 98% yield as a white solid.

Large scale synthesis of 2n

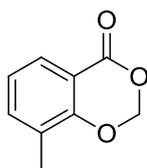
3,5-Ditert-butylsalicylic acid (3.75 g, 15 mmol), K₃PO₄·3H₂O (6.675 g, 25 mmol), DCM (10 mL) which was charged every other 3h, 2 mL once, and DMF (15 mL) were stirred in 100 °C oil bath under air and reflux condition for 15 hours. After cooling to r.t., the reaction solution was extracted with EtOAc and the resulting solution was washed with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (20 mL), water (20 mL x3) and brine. Then the organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. After filtration, the solvent was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether / DCM= 3:1) to afford **3h** in 98% yield as colorless solid.

Analytical data for compounds 2&3:



4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2a):

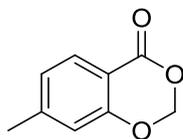
74.25 mg (>99%), white solid. Mp: 50-52 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.29, 158.39, 136.22, 130.30, 123.51, 116.63, 116.61, 116.59, 114.85, 91.05.



8-Methyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2b):

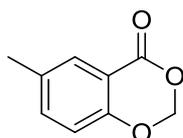
81.18 mg (99%), white solid. Mp: 45-47 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.81 (d, *J*

= 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.06 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.65 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.70, 156.73, 137.18, 127.78, 126.23, 122.93, 114.49, 90.89, 14.82; HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 165.0473, found 165.0545.



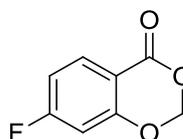
7-Methyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2c):

81 mg (99%), white solid. Mp: 64-66 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.87 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 5.63 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.47, 158.43, 148.05, 130.14, 124.76, 116.73, 112.20, 91.03, 22.01; HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 165.0473, found 165.0540.



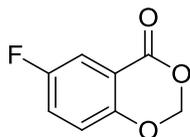
6-Methyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2d):

80.3 mg (98%), colorless oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.77 (dd, $J = 1.7, 0.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.63 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.51, 156.34, 137.13, 133.23, 129.92, 116.31, 114.46, 91.05, 20.45; HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 165.0473, found 165.0545.



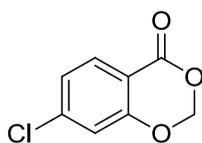
7-Fluoro-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2e):

81.48 mg (97%), white solid. Mp: 49-51 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.03 (dd, $J = 8.8, 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.92 (td, $J = 8.5, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, $J = 9.0, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.68 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 168.58, 166.01, 160.43, 160.05 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz), 132.91 (d, $J = 11.3$ Hz), 111.93 (d, $J = 22.8$ Hz), 111.34 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 104.19 (d, $J = 25.3$ Hz), 91.31; HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_6\text{FO}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 169.0223, found 169.0301.



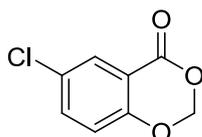
6-Fluoro-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2f):

74.8 mg (89%), white solid. Mp: 99-101 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.40 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 159.31, 156.88, 154.65 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 123.85 (d, *J* = 24.4 Hz), 118.42 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 115.79 (d, *J* = 24.6 Hz), 104.95, 91.29; HRMS calcd. for C₈H₆FO₃ [M+H]⁺ 169.0223, found 169.0299.



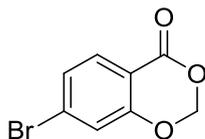
7-Chloro-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2g):

87.4 mg (95%), white solid. Mp: 99-101 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.50, 158.77, 142.35, 131.50, 124.39, 117.12, 113.32, 91.24; HRMS calcd. for C₈H₇ClO₃ [M+H]⁺ 184.9927, found 185.0007.



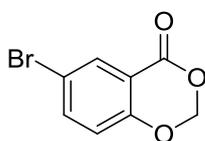
6-Chloro-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2h):

88.32 mg (96%), white solid. Mp: 101-103 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.96 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.14, 156.86, 136.29, 129.71, 129.69, 129.00, 118.34, 115.91, 91.19; HRMS calcd. for C₈H₇ClO₃ [M+H]⁺ 184.9927, found 184.9994.



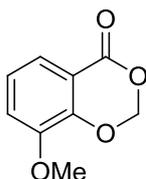
7-Bromo-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2i):

102.6 mg (90%), white solid. Mp: 120-122 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.60, 158.62, 131.48, 130.72, 127.27, 120.13, 113.73, 91.22; HRMS calcd. for C₈H₆BrO₃ [M+H]⁺ 228.9422, found 228.9503.



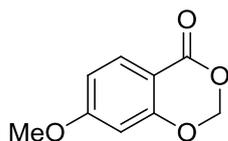
7-Bromo-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2j):

104.88 mg (92%), white solid. Mp: 106-108 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.99, 157.33, 139.10, 132.75, 118.64, 116.33, 116.03, 91.15; HRMS calcd. for C₈H₆BrO₃ [M+H]⁺ 228.9422, found 228.9485.



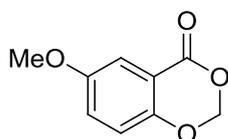
8-Methoxy-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2k):

88.2 mg (98%), white solid. Mp: 88-90 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.57 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 5.70 (s, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.08, 148.26, 147.68, 123.20, 121.21, 117.50, 115.57, 91.29, 56.31; HRMS calcd. for C₉H₉O₄ [M+H]⁺ 181.0423, found 181.0499.



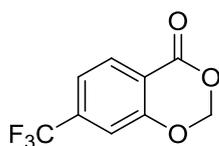
7-Methoxy-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2l):

89.1 mg (99%), white solid. Mp: 74-76 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.63 (s, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.09, 161.30, 160.30, 131.89, 111.44, 107.39, 100.35, 91.07, 55.80; HRMS calcd. for C₉H₉O₄ [M+H]⁺ 181.0423, found 181.0492.



6-Methoxy-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2m):

85.5 mg (95%), white solid. Mp: 88-90 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 5.62 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.51, 155.48, 152.74, 124.89, 117.83, 114.97, 111.29, 91.23, 55.90, 55.88, 55.86; HRMS calcd. for C₉H₉O₄ [M+H]⁺ 181.0423, found 181.0498.



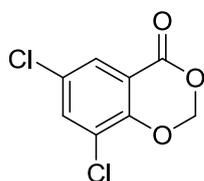
7-Trifluoromethyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2n):

81.75 mg (75%), white solid. Mp: 67-69 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 5.72 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.98, 158.36, 137.82, 137.48, 131.39, 124.08, 121.36, 120.12 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 117.65, 114.41 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz), 91.36.



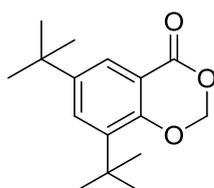
7-Amino-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2o):

74.25 mg (90%), white solid. Mp: 113-115 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.58 (s, 2H), 4.42 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.90, 160.35, 154.13, 132.13, 110.65, 104.16, 99.43, 90.81; HRMS calcd. for C₈H₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺ 166.0426, found 166.0501.



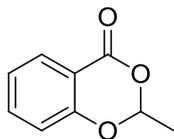
6,8-Dichloro-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2p):

76.3 mg (70%), white solid. Mp: 98-100 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.74 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.16, 153.04, 136.03, 128.81, 128.25, 123.01, 116.76, 91.42.



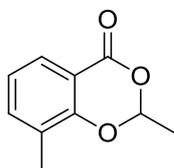
6,8-Ditert-butyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(2q):

128.4 mg (98%), white solid. Mp: 58-60 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.99 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (q, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.76 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.44, 155.30, 145.93, 137.69, 130.82, 124.43, 114.97, 90.43, 34.88, 34.70, 31.27, 29.62; HRMS calcd. for C₁₆H₂₃O₃ [M+H]⁺ 263.1569, found 263.1642.



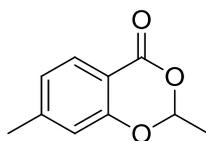
2-Methyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(3a):

54 mg (65%), light yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.99 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (ddd, $J = 8.4, 7.4, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.75 (q, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.76 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.17, 158.33, 136.14, 130.17, 123.29, 116.54, 114.31, 98.96, 19.98; HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 165.0473, found 165.0542.



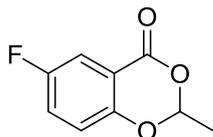
2,8-Dimethyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(3b):

43.6 mg (49%), white solid. Mp: 72-74 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.82 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.73 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.78 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.64, 156.69, 137.10, 127.68, 126.12, 122.71, 113.97, 98.74, 20.08, 14.92; HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 179.0630, found 179.0704.



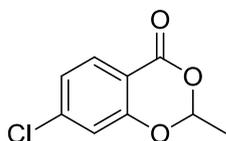
2,7-Dimethyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(3c):

47.2 mg (53%), light yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.86 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 5.72 (q, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.74 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.36, 158.39, 147.91, 129.99, 124.53, 116.66, 111.66, 98.88, 22.03, 20.02; HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 179.0630, found 179.0705.



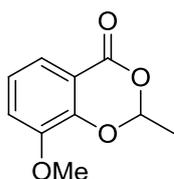
6-Fluoro-2-methyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(3d):

55 mg (55%), light yellow solid. Mp: 74-76 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.65 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.03 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 5.73 (q, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.75 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 2.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.30, 159.21, 156.79, 154.58 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 123.72 (d, *J* = 24.4 Hz), 118.29 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 115.65 (d, *J* = 24.4 Hz), 104.98, 99.38, 19.93; HRMS calcd. for C₉H₈FO₃ [M+H]⁺ 183.0379, found 183.0460.



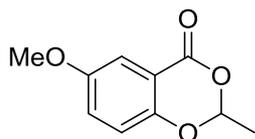
7-Chloro-2-methyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(3e):

42.57 mg (43%), white solid. Mp: 85-87 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (q, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.76 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.37, 158.74, 142.21, 131.33, 124.13, 117.04, 112.79, 99.32, 19.94; HRMS calcd. for C₉H₈ClO₃ [M+H]⁺ 199.0084, found 199.0173.



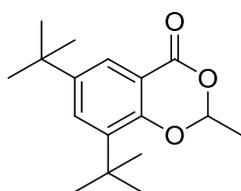
8-Methoxy-2-methyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(3f):

41.71 mg (43%), white solid. Mp: 77-79 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.56 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 5.77 (q, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 1.81 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.04, 148.23, 147.65, 122.93, 121.08, 117.41, 115.06, 99.25, 56.26, 20.02; HRMS calcd. for C₁₀H₁₁O₄ [M+H]⁺ 195.0579, found 195.0651.



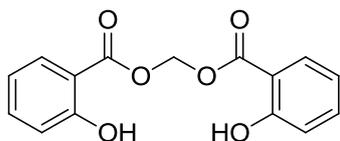
6-Methoxy-2-methyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(3g):

49.47 mg (51%), white solid. Mp: 87-89 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.40 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (q, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.74 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.36, 155.28, 152.64, 124.74, 117.70, 114.37, 111.11, 99.13, 55.83; HRMS calcd. for C₁₀H₁₁O₄ [M+H]⁺ 195.0579, found 195.0649.



6,8-Ditert-butyl-2-methyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(3h):

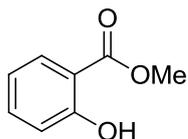
72.28 mg (52%), colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (q, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 3H), 1.39 (s, 9H), 1.32 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.31, 155.06, 145.60, 137.46, 130.64, 124.18, 114.38, 98.19, 34.77, 34.64, 31.26, 29.61, 20.21; HRMS calcd. for C₁₇H₂₅O₃ [M+H]⁺ 277.1725, found 277.1804.



Methylene bis(2-hydroxybenzoate)(4)

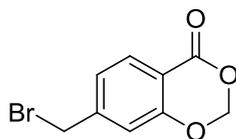
Salicylic acid (125 mg, 0.5 mmol), K₂HPO₄·3H₂O (267 mg, 0.5 mmol), 1,1-Dichloromethane (1 mL), and DMF (1.5 mL) were stirred in 100 °C oil bath under air and reflux condition for 10 hours. After cooling to r.t., the reaction solution was extracted with EtOAc and the resulting solution was washed with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (20 mL), water (20 mL x3) and brine. Then the organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. After filtration, the solvent was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford

31.9 mg (28%) of **4** as a colorless solid. Mp: 104-106 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.37 (s, 2H), 7.89 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (ddd, *J* = 8.7, 7.2, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 6.27 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.70, 162.13, 136.70, 130.26, 119.48, 117.78, 111.23, 79.57.



Methyl 2-hydroxybenzoate(**5**)

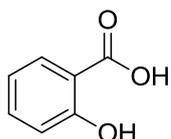
2a (75 mg, 0.5 mmol), K₂CO₃ (6.9 mg, 0.05 mmol), MeOH (2 mL) were stirred in 40 °C oil bath under air for 5 hours. After cooling to r.t., the reaction solution was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and 1N aqueous HCl, and extracted with Et₂O. The organic layer was then washed with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (20 mL), water (20 mL x 3), brine, and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. After filtration, the solvent was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford 73 mg (96%) of **5** as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.74 (s, 1H), 7.83 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.90 – 6.84 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.53, 161.56, 135.65, 129.86, 119.11, 117.53, 112.35, 52.21.



7-(Bromomethyl)-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-4-one(**6**)

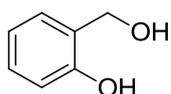
2c (82 mg, 0.5 mmol), *N*-bromosuccinimide (107 mg, 0.6 mmol), and benzoyl peroxide (12 mg, 0.05 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (3 mL) was heated at reflux for 15h. The reaction mixture was then filtered, and the filtrate was concentrated. The crude product was dissolved in EtOAc, and the organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous Mg₂SO₄, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate = 8:1) to

afford 184 mg (76%) of **6** as white solid. Mp: 70-71 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (s, 2H), 4.45 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.79, 158.48, 146.53, 130.94, 124.22, 117.06, 114.60, 91.18, 31.28.



Salicylic acid(1a)

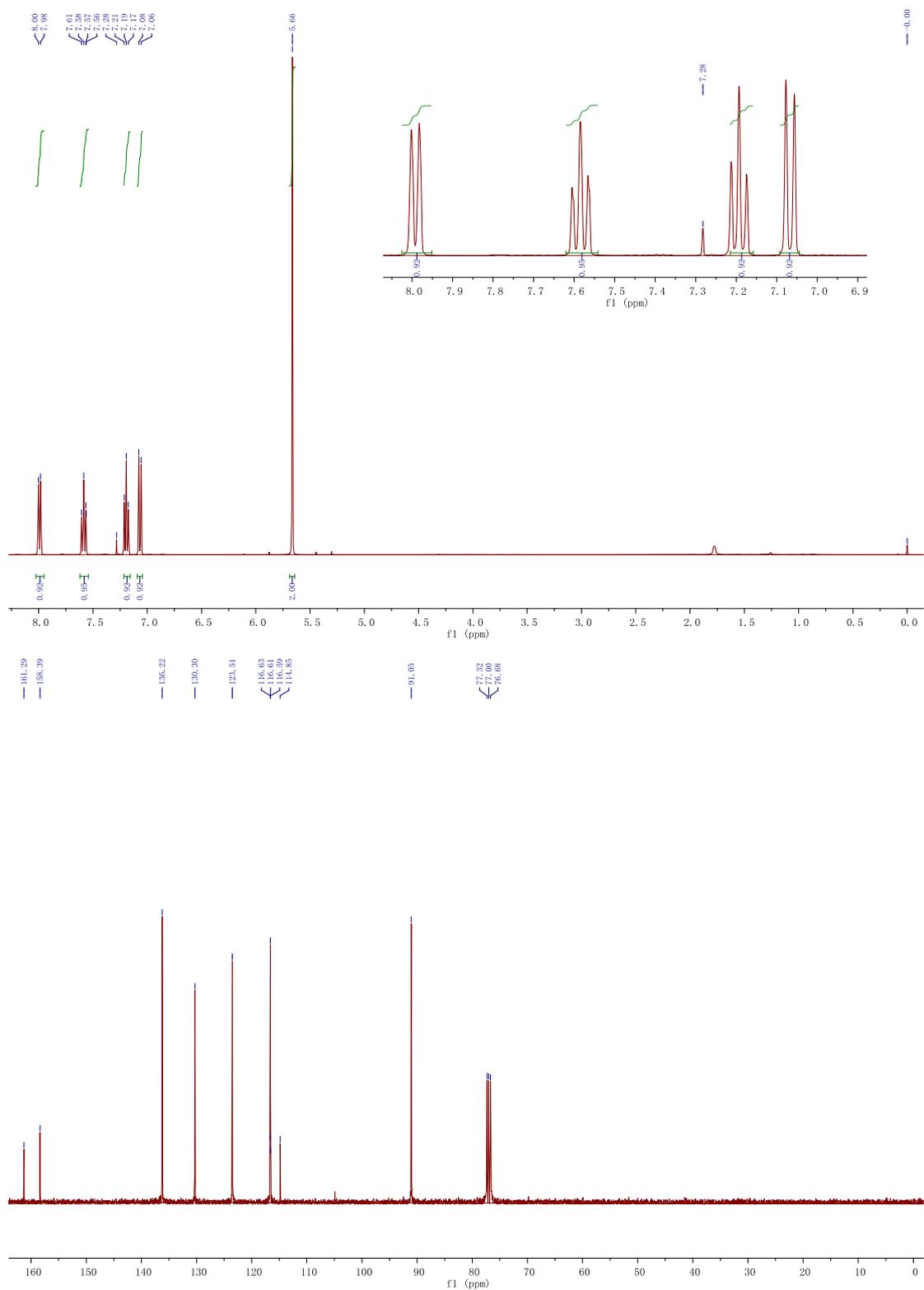
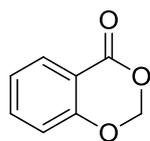
2a (75 mg, 0.5 mmol) in DMSO (3 mL) was treated with 48% aqueous KOH (0.5 mL) and the mixture was heated in 60 °C oil bath for 30 min. Upon cooling, the solution was acidified (10% HCl) and extracted three times with EtOAc, and these extracts were washed with water and brine and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. Filtration and concentration left 100 mg of the crude acid as yellow solids, purified by HPLC afterwards to provide 66 mg (95%) of **1a**. Mp: 157-159 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ 11.27 (s, 1H), 7.83 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.01 – 6.87 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ 173.01, 162.23, 136.63, 131.31, 120.16, 118.11, 113.94.

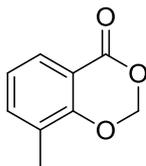


2-(Hydroxymethyl)phenol(7)

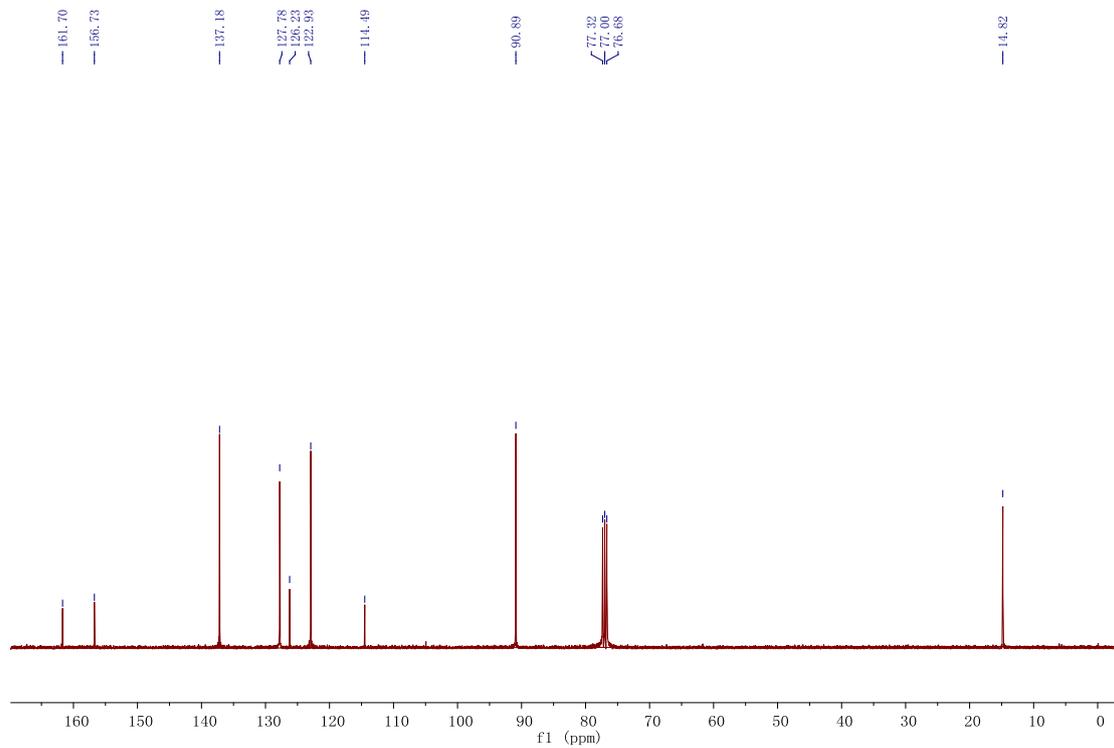
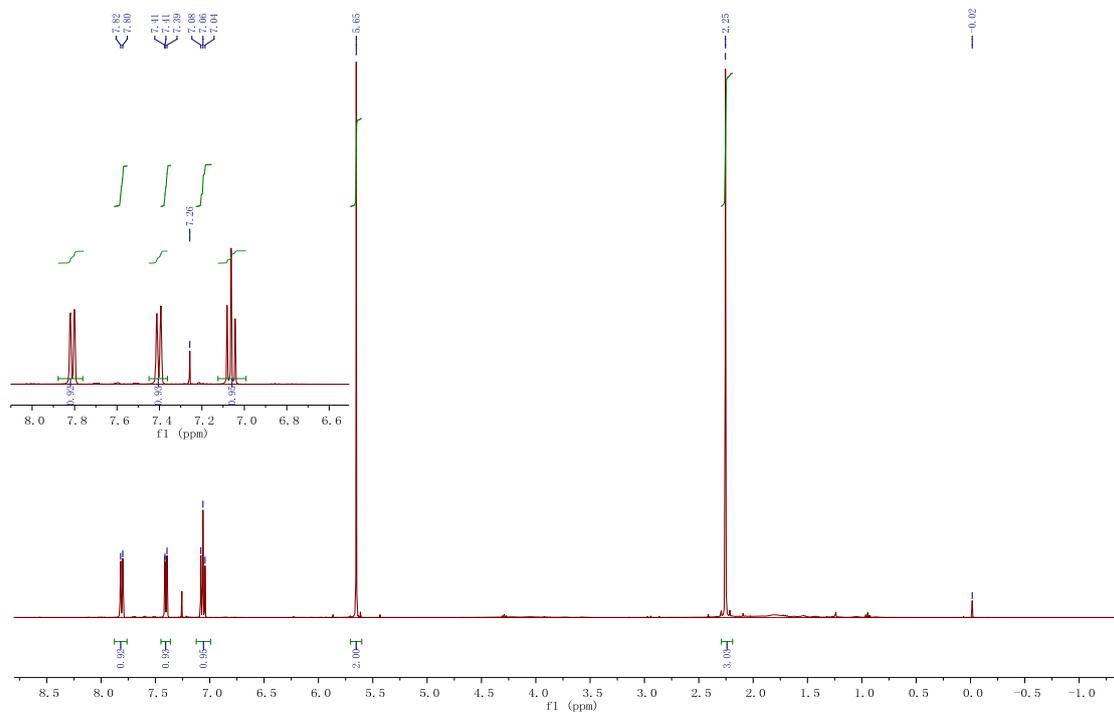
A solution of substituted **2a** (75mg, 0.5 mmol) in THF was treated with LAH (4 mmol, 152 mg). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt. until completion as determined by TLC. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with 1M HCl and MeOH followed by extraction of the aqueous layer with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with water and brine, dried with anhydrous Mg₂SO₄. After filtration, the solvent was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford 50.82 mg (82%) of **7** as a white solid. Mp: 85-86 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ 9.33 (s, 1H), 7.39 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.16 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 6.91 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 5.00 (s, 1H), 4.55 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ 155.20, 129.50, 128.39, 119.72, 115.59, 59.36.

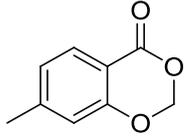
IV. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of Products



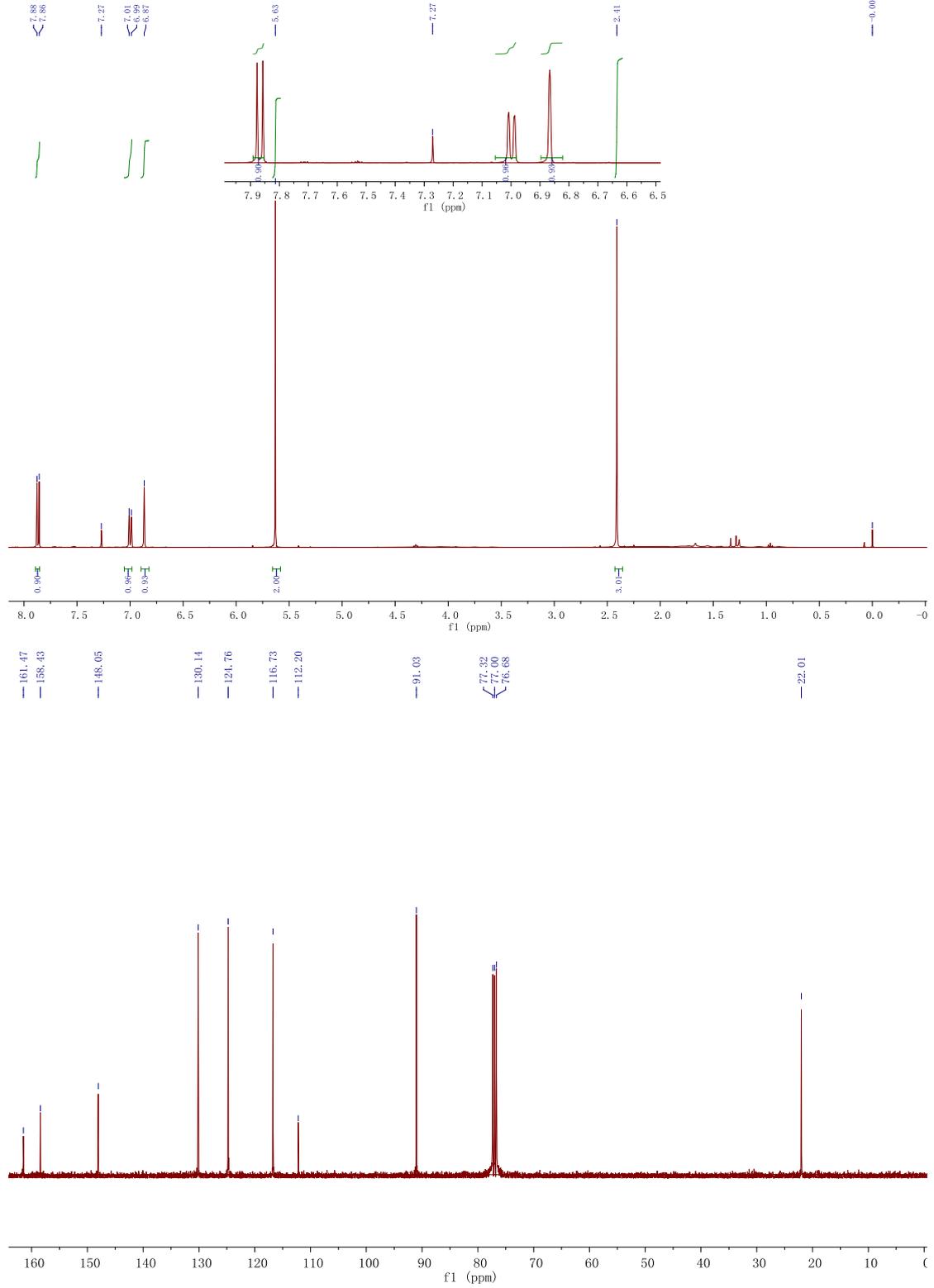


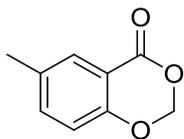
2b



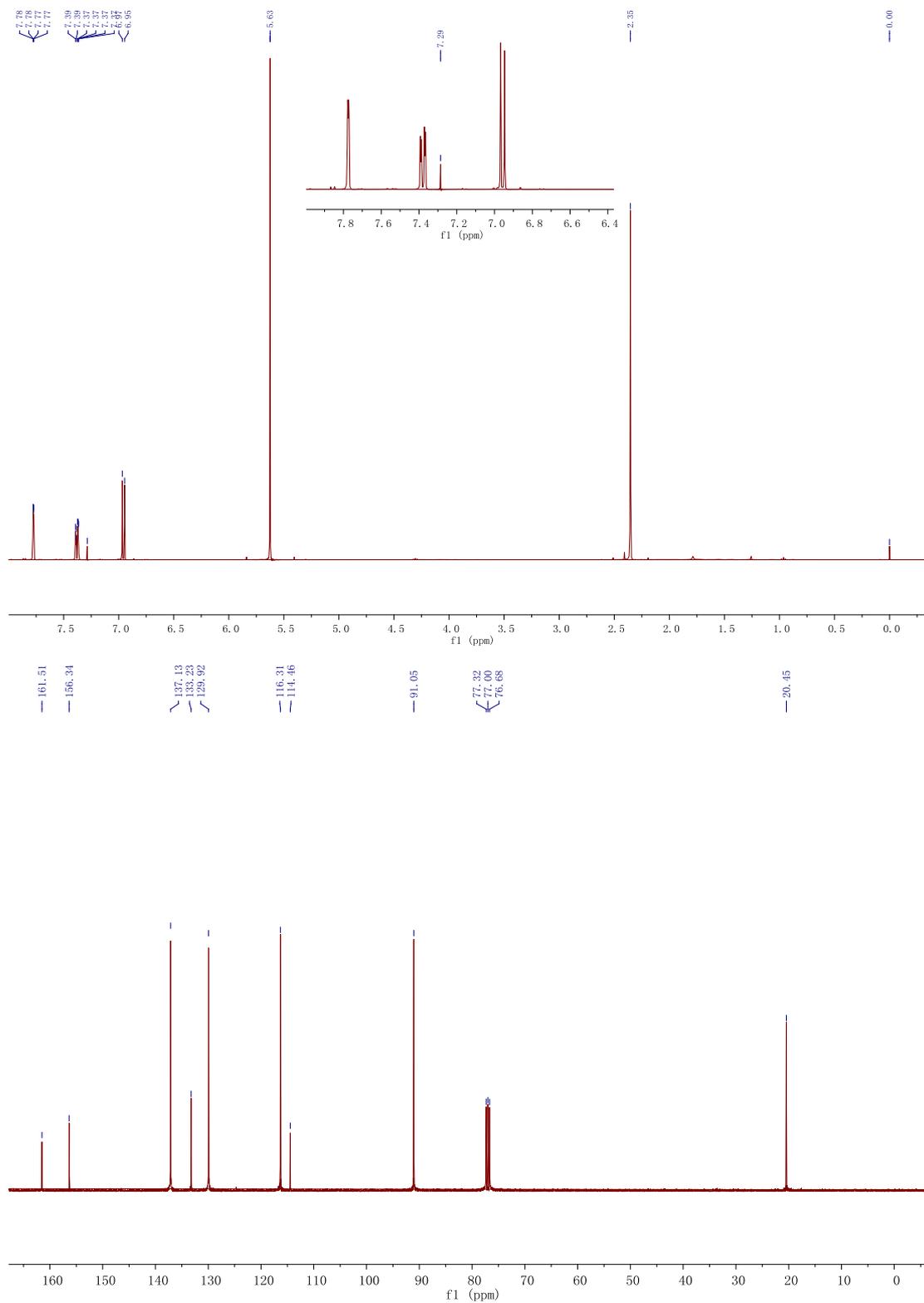


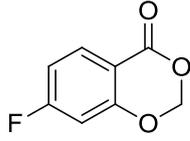
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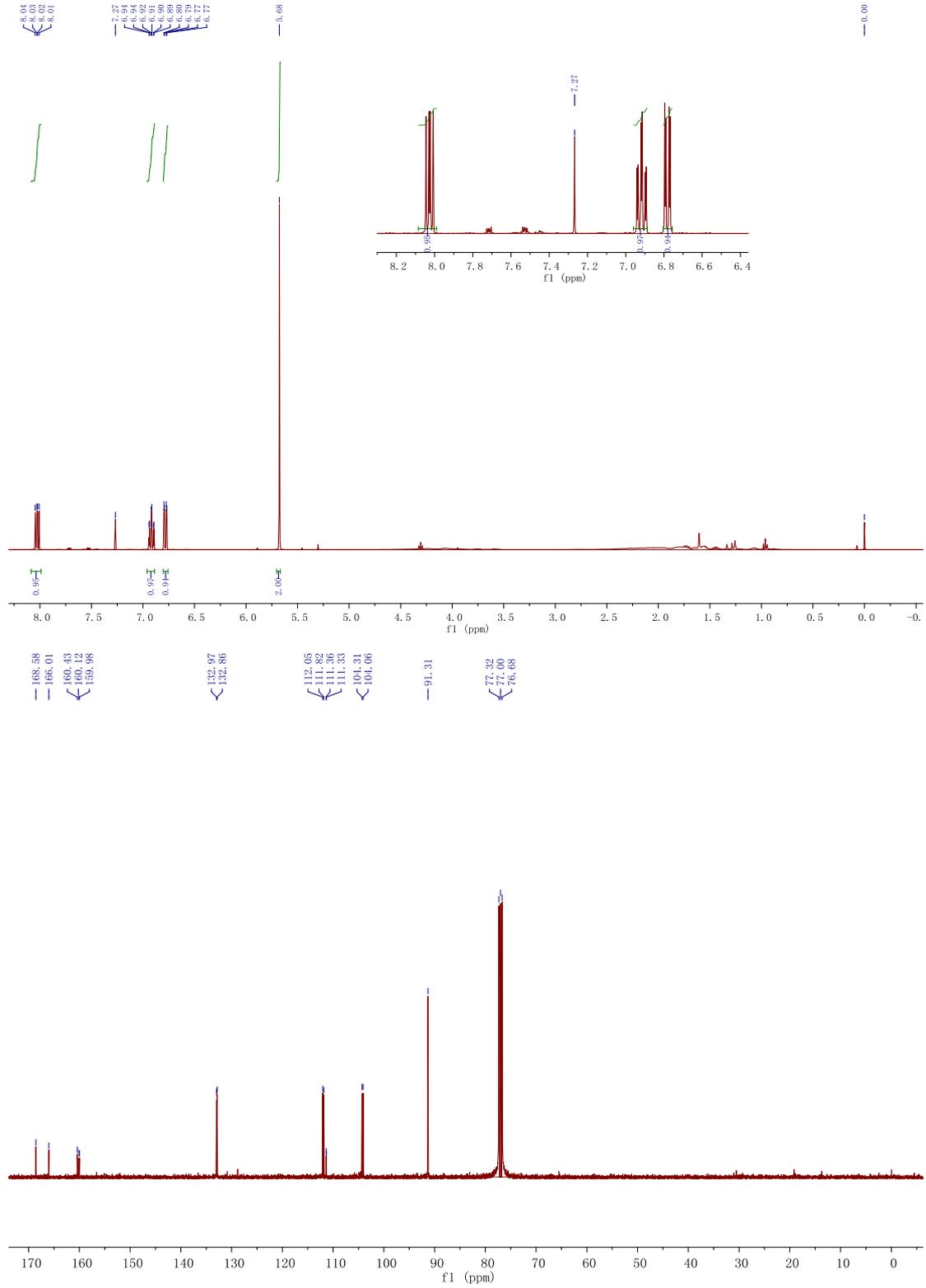


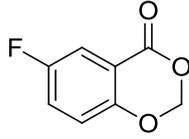
2d



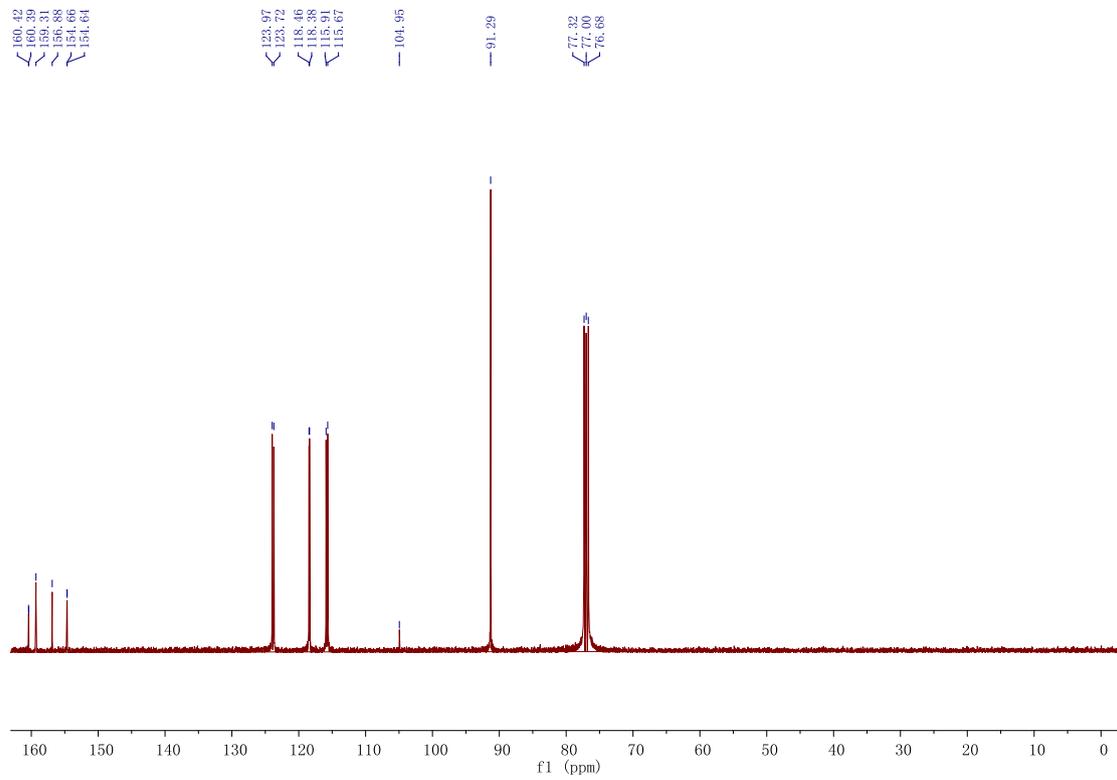
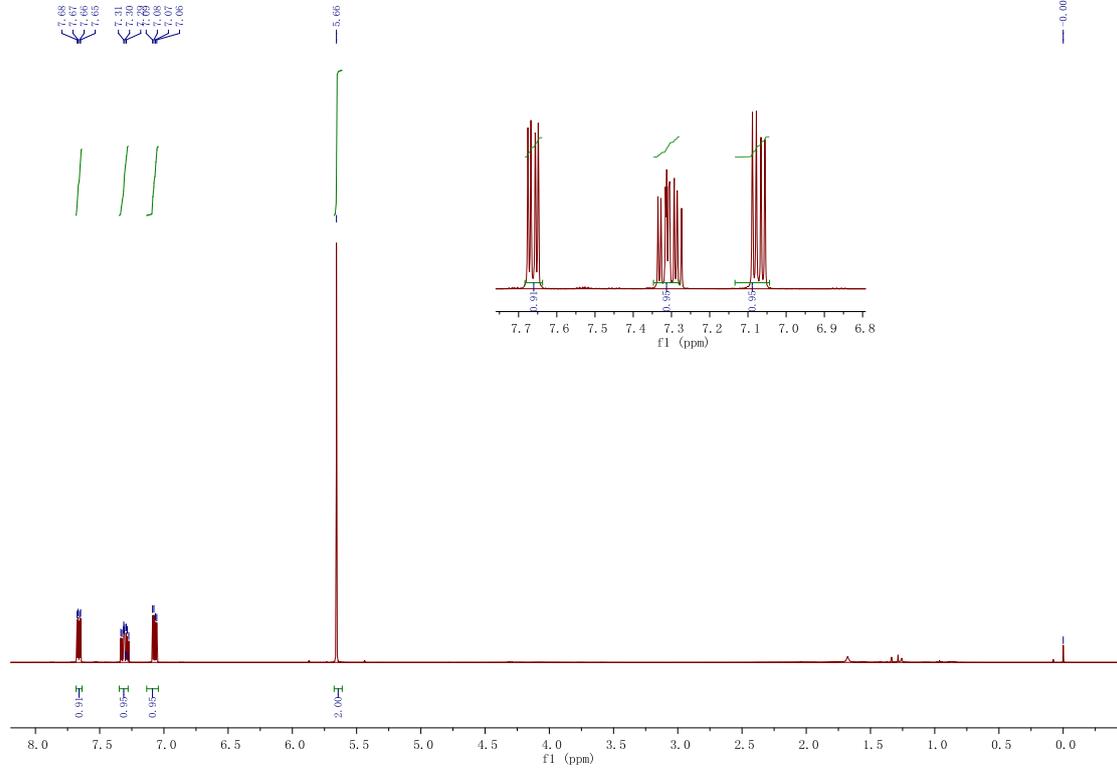


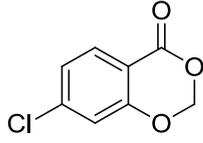
2e



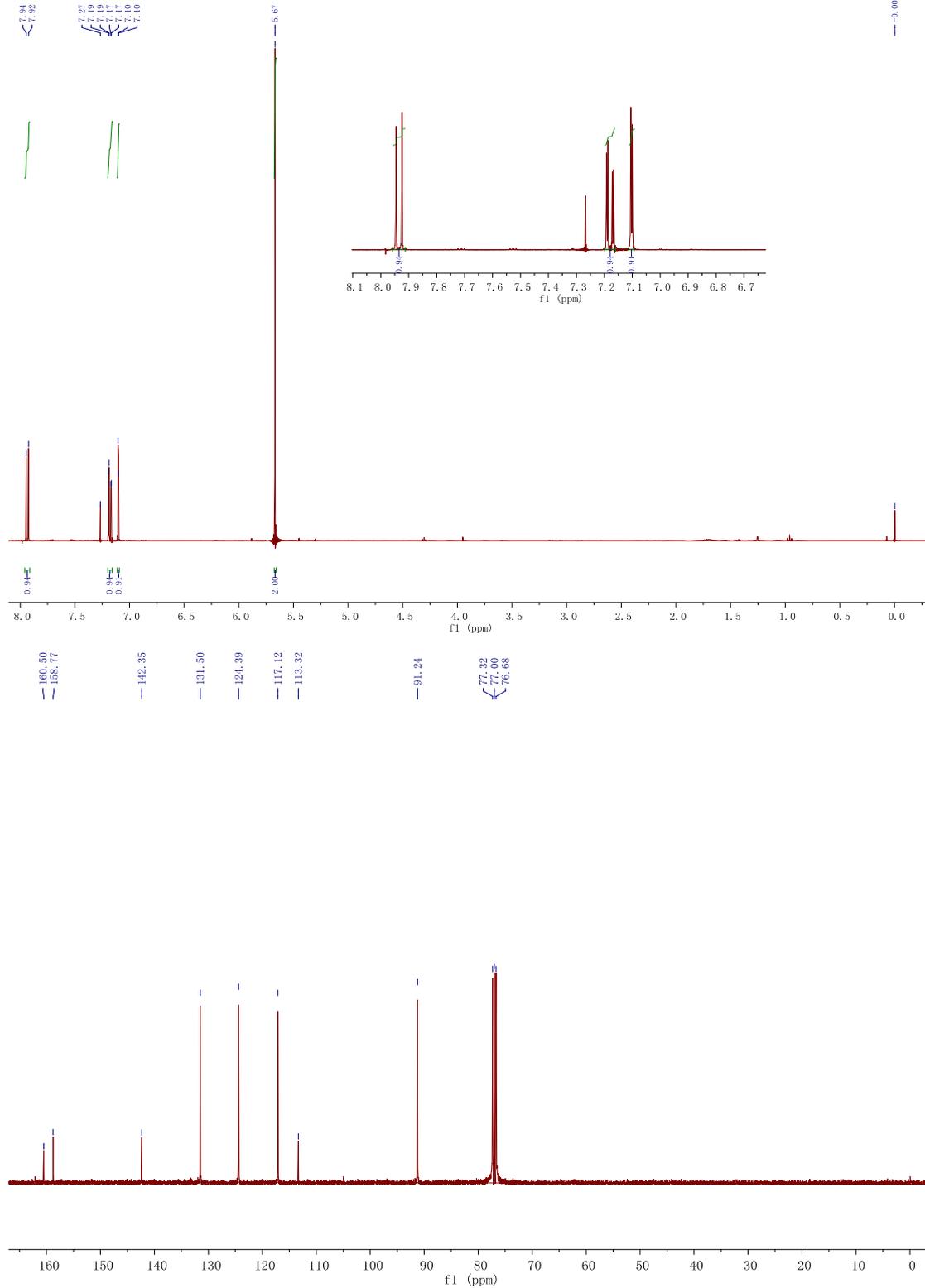


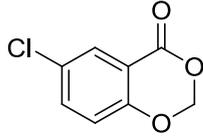
2f



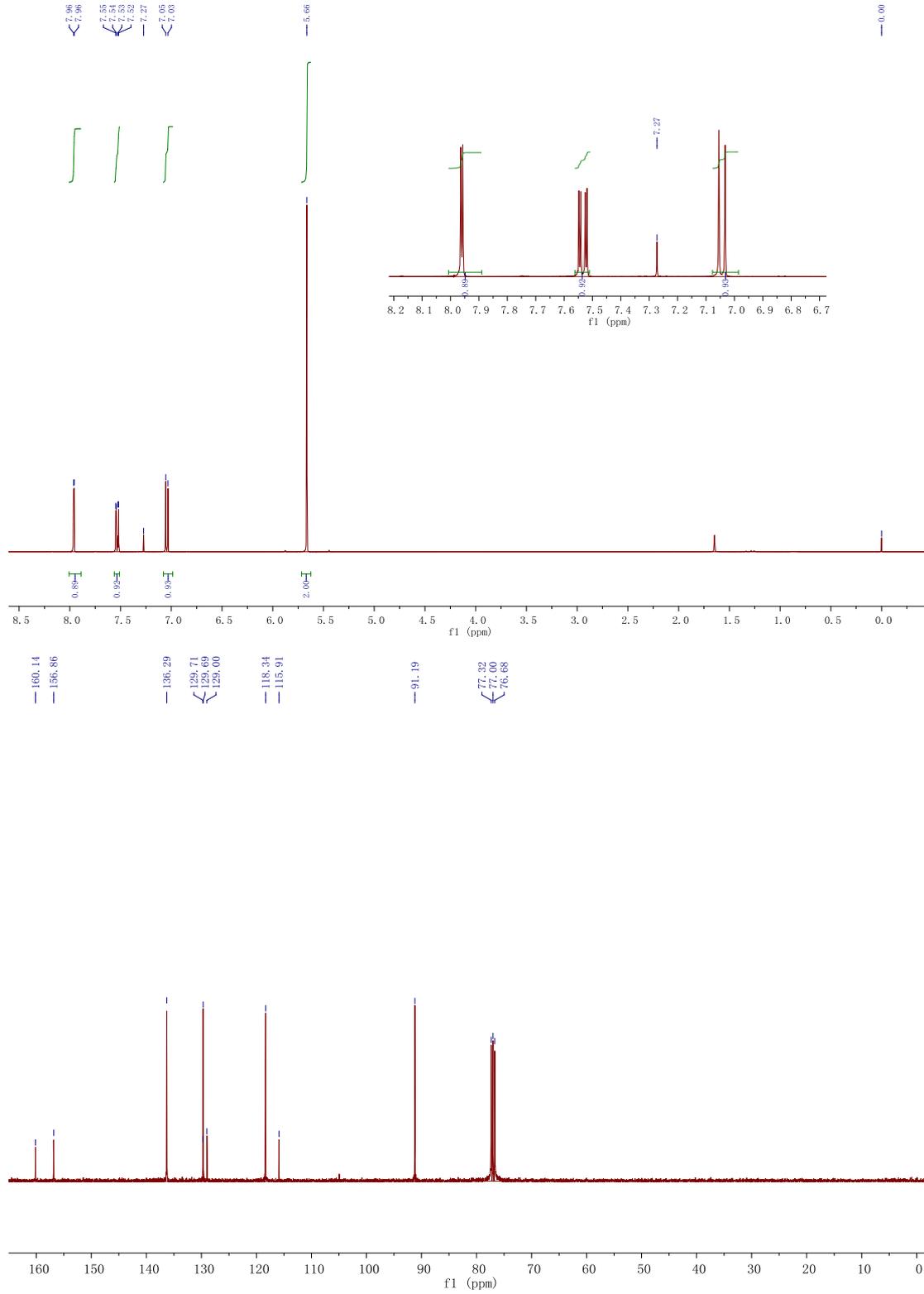


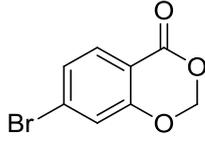
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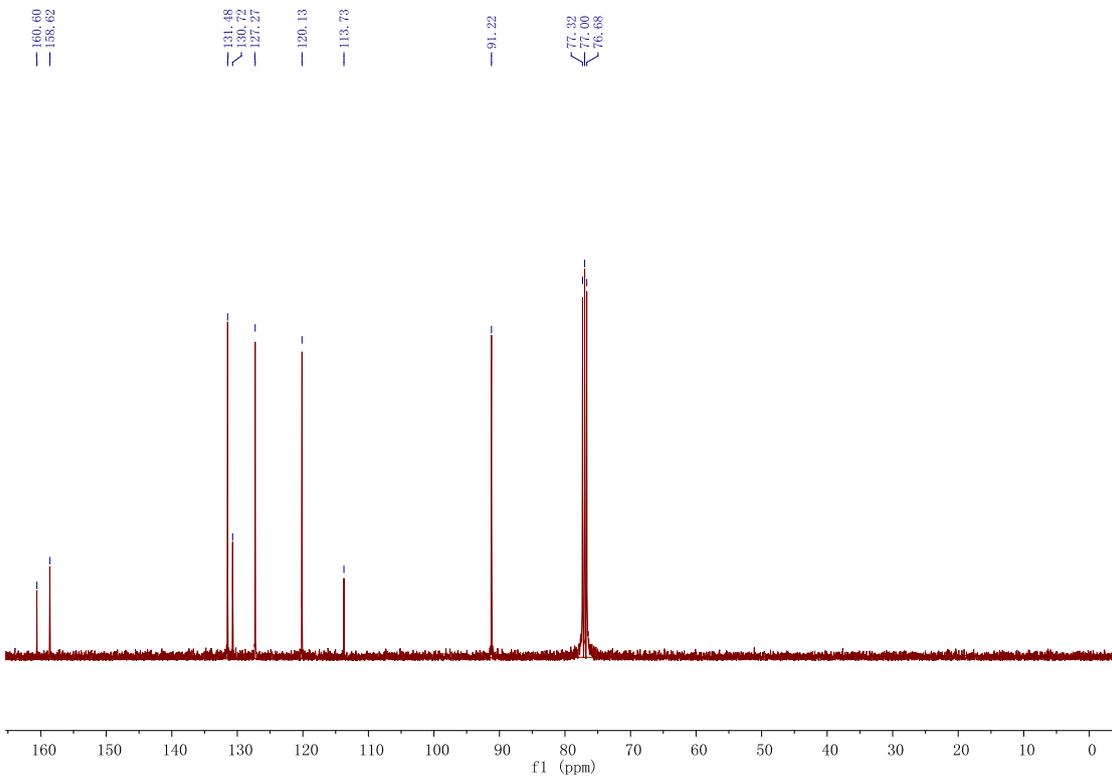
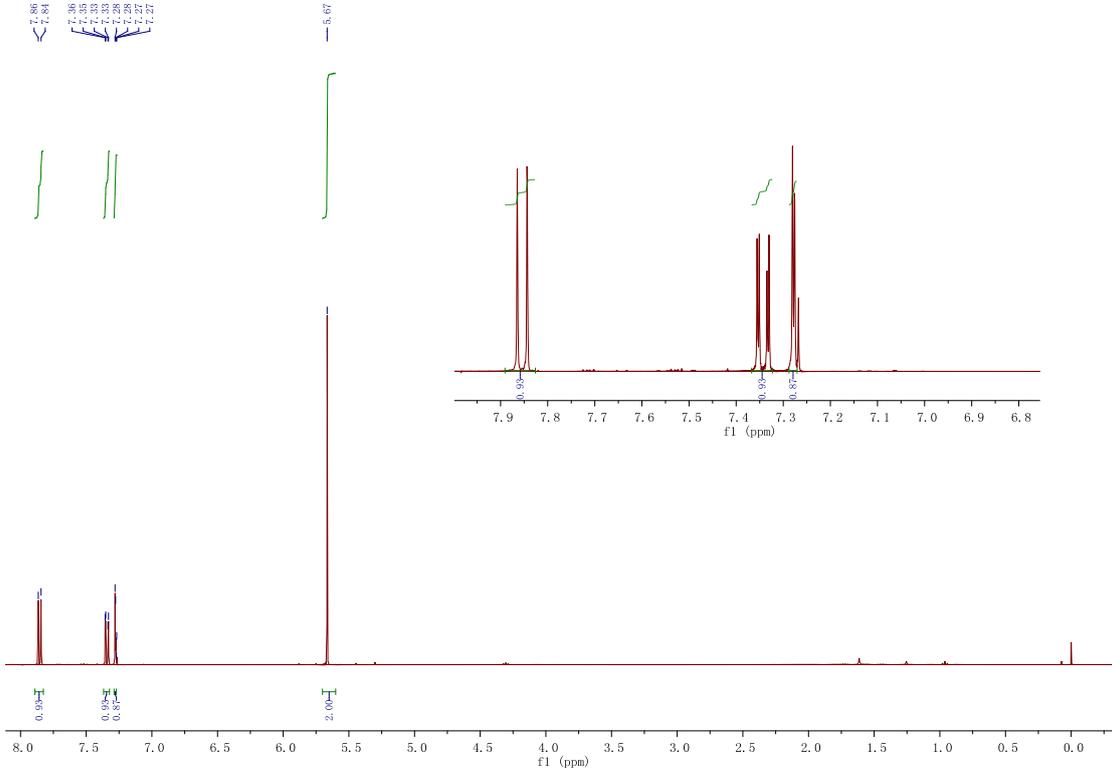


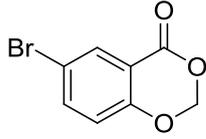
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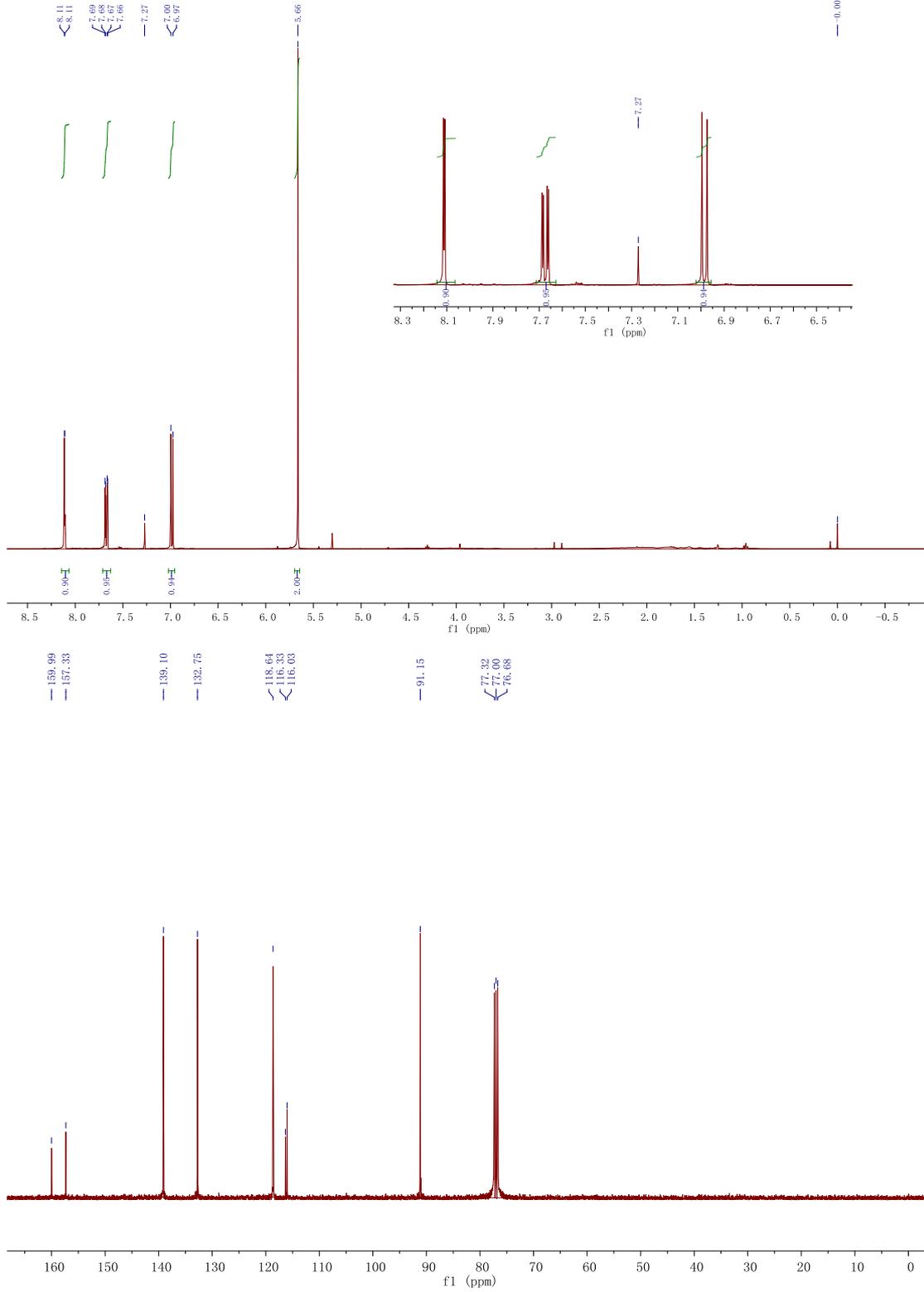


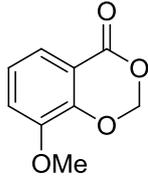
2i



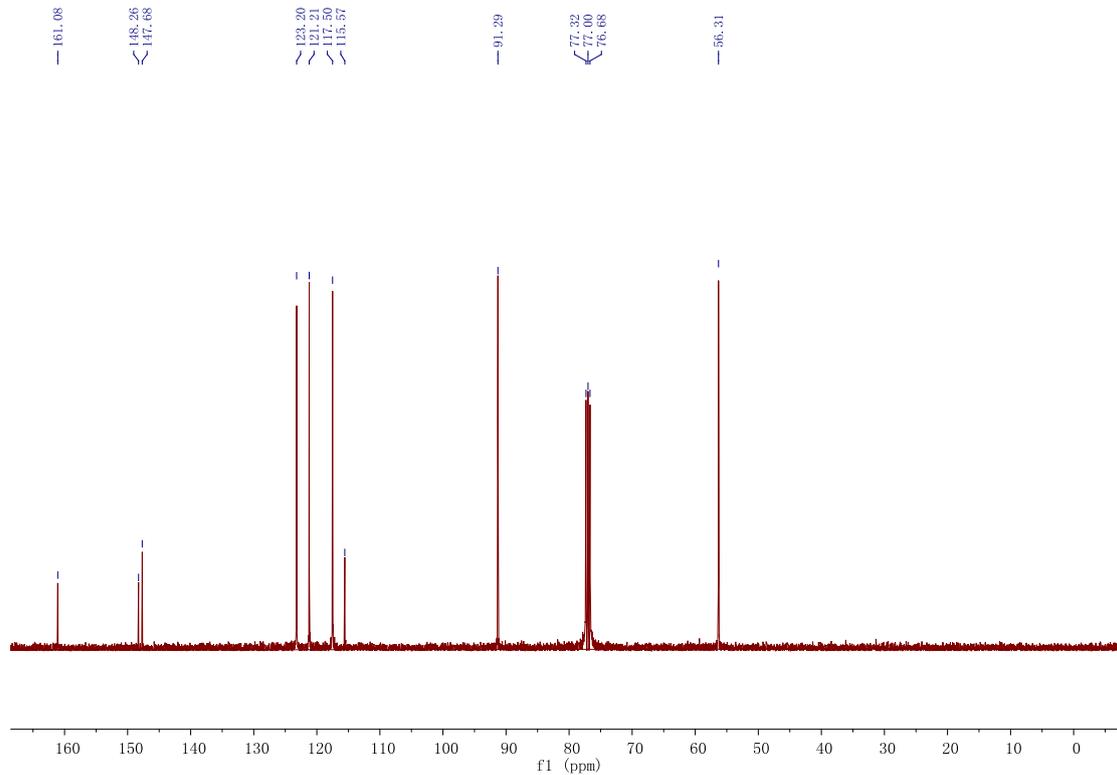
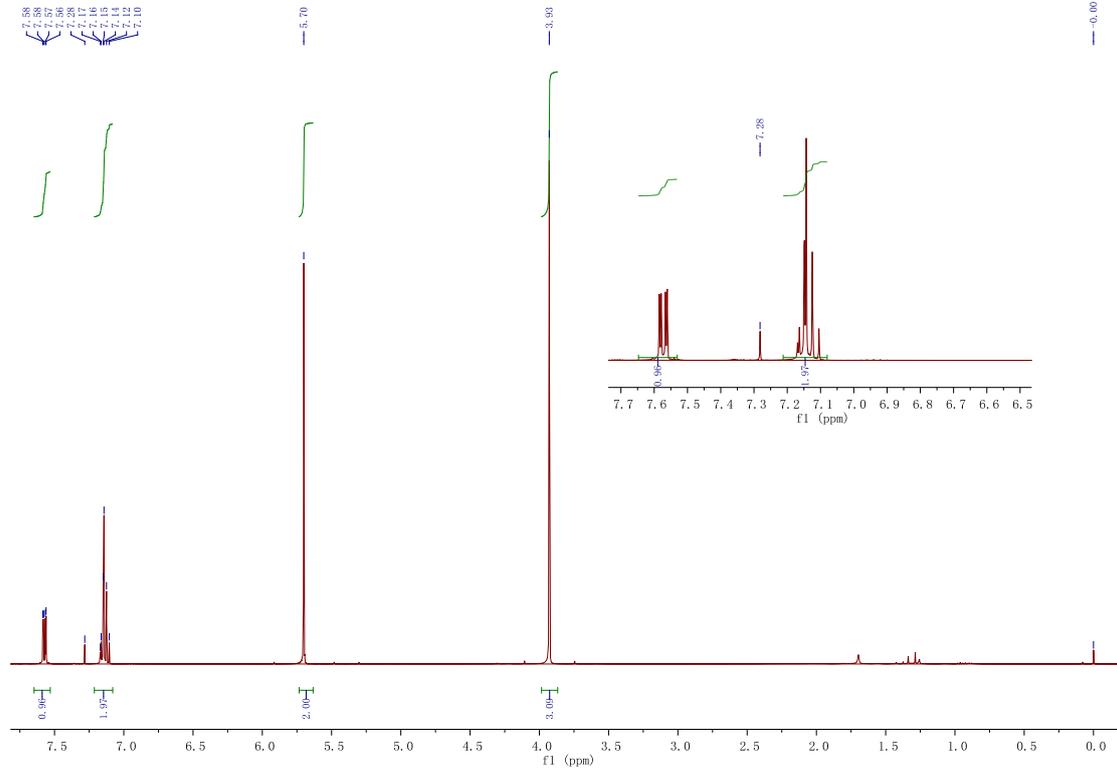


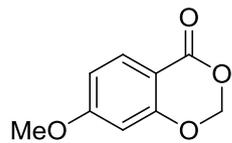
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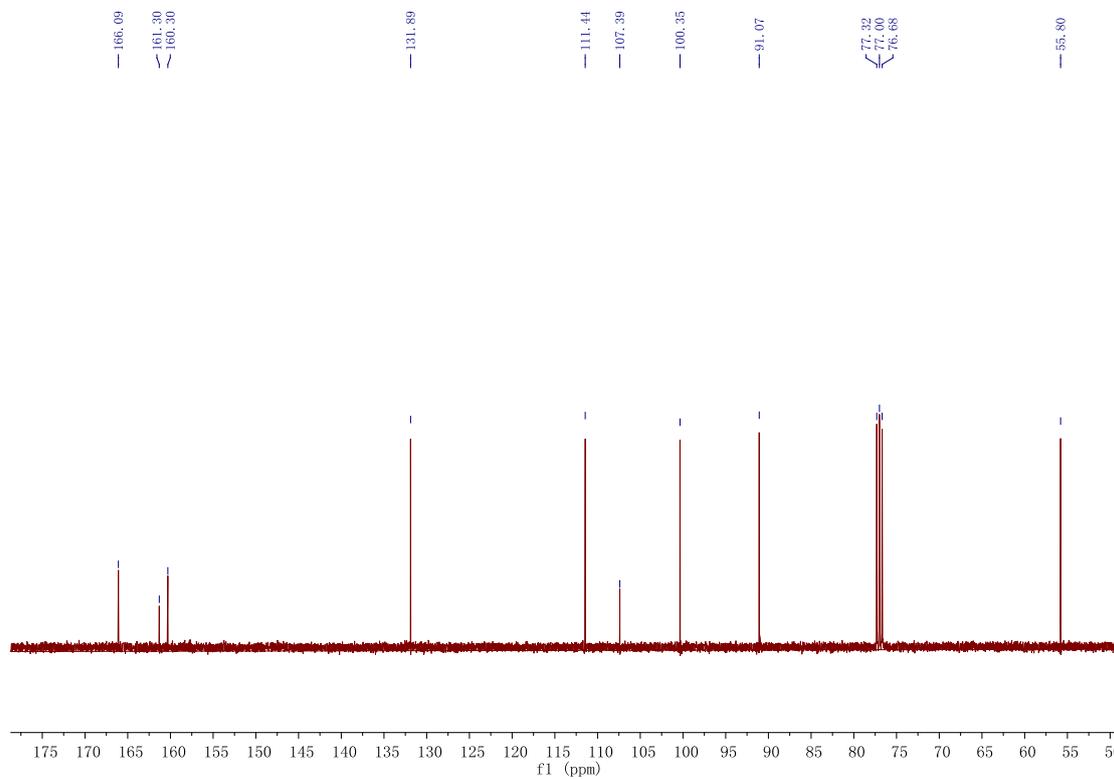
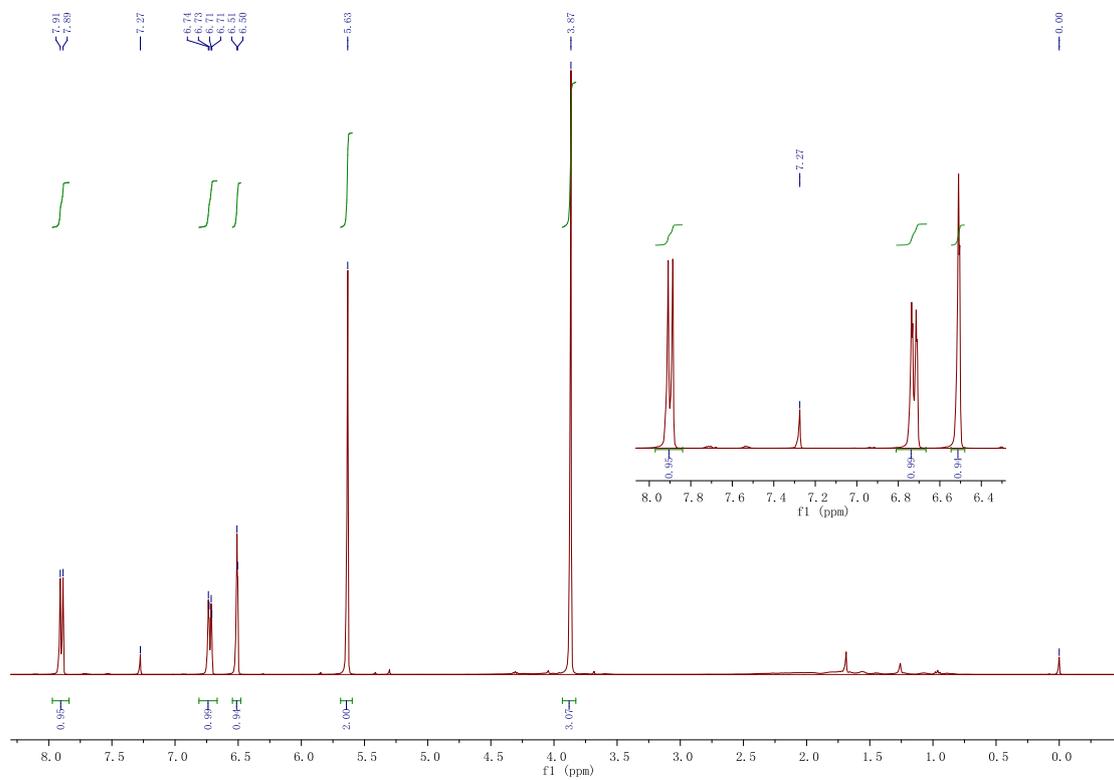


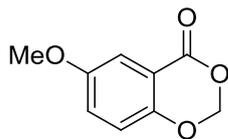
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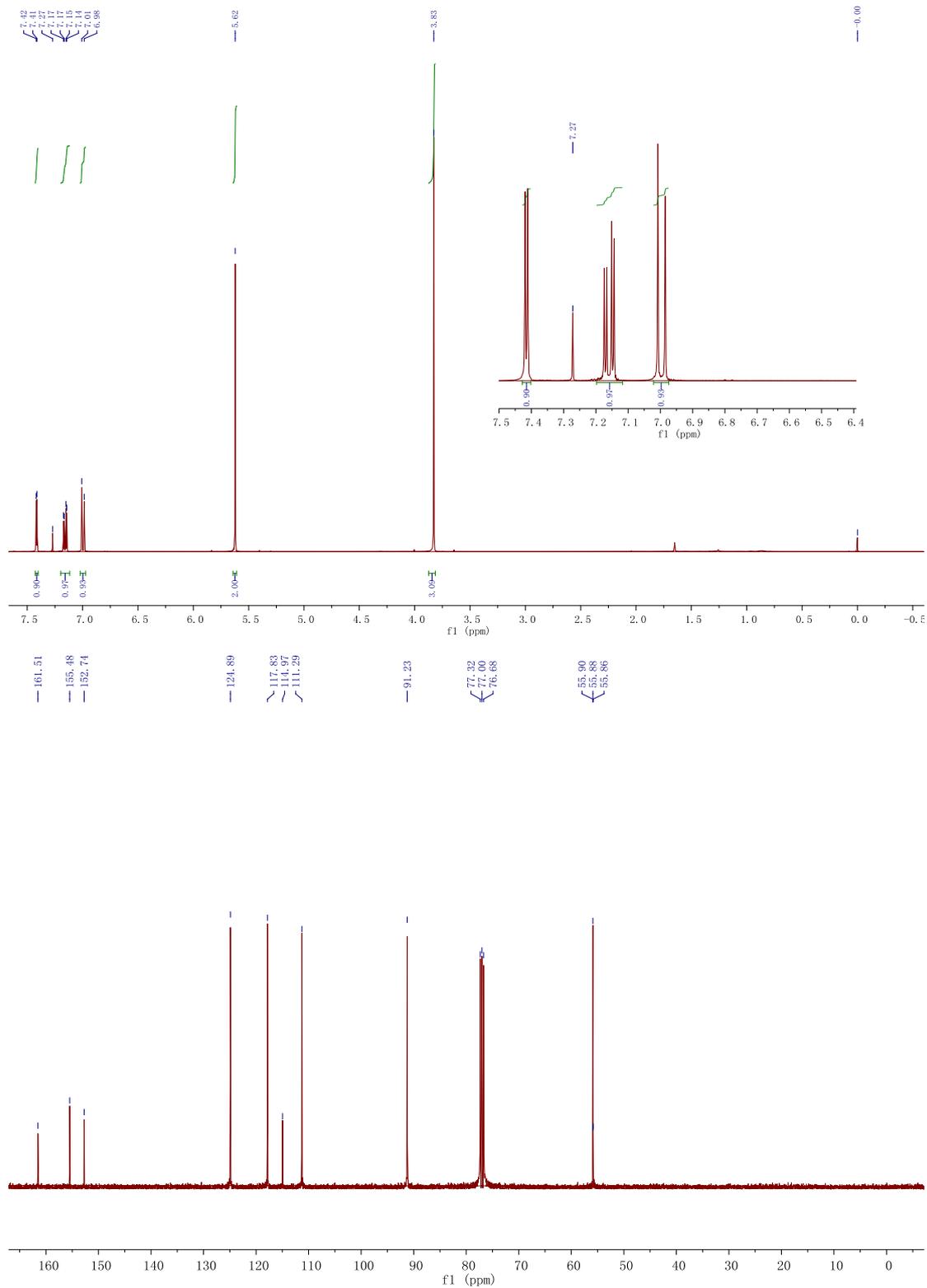


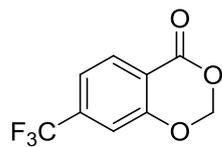
21



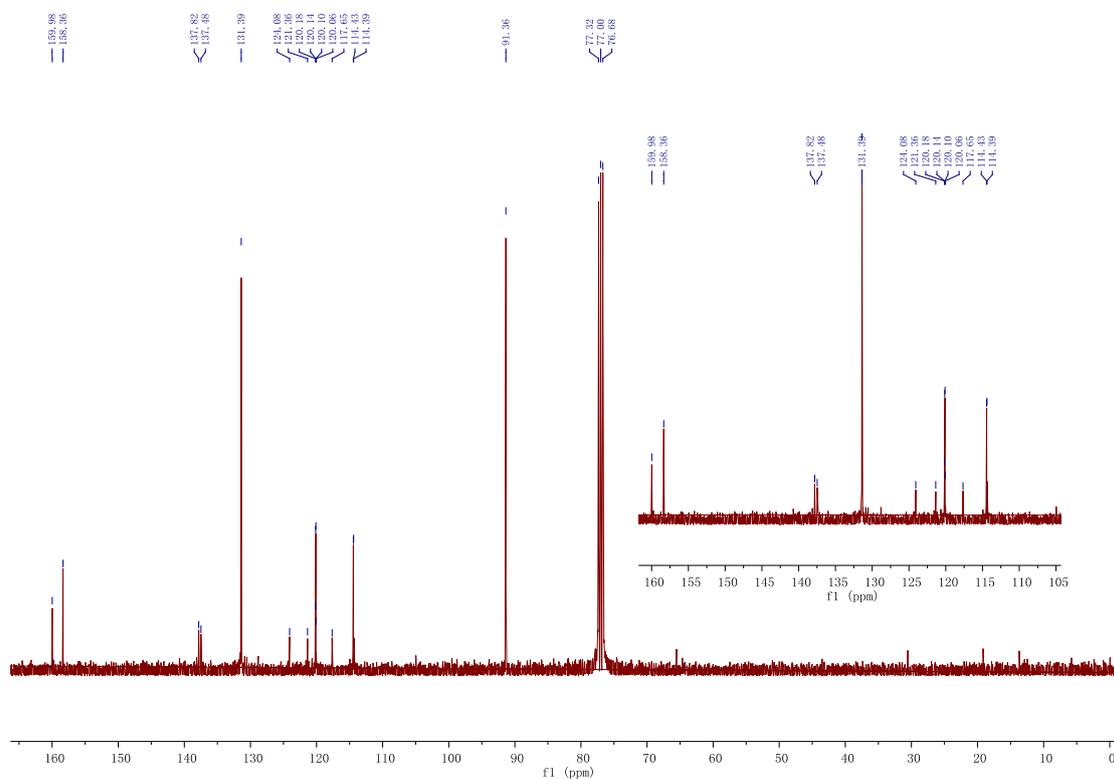
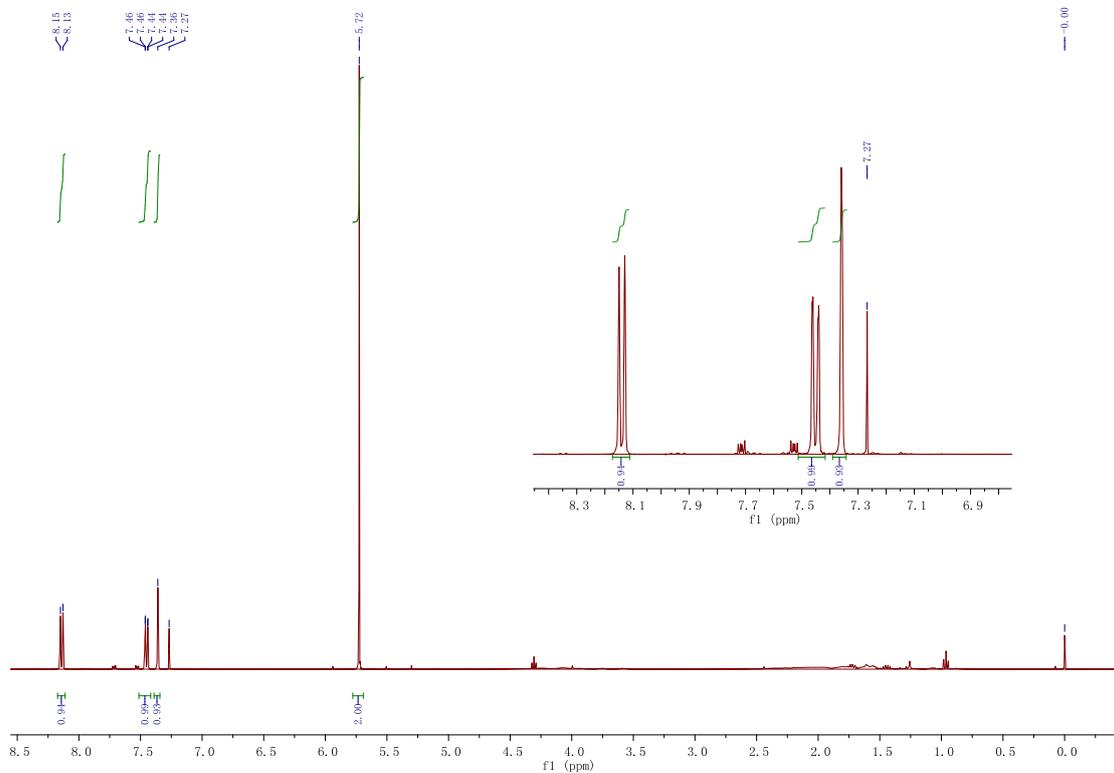


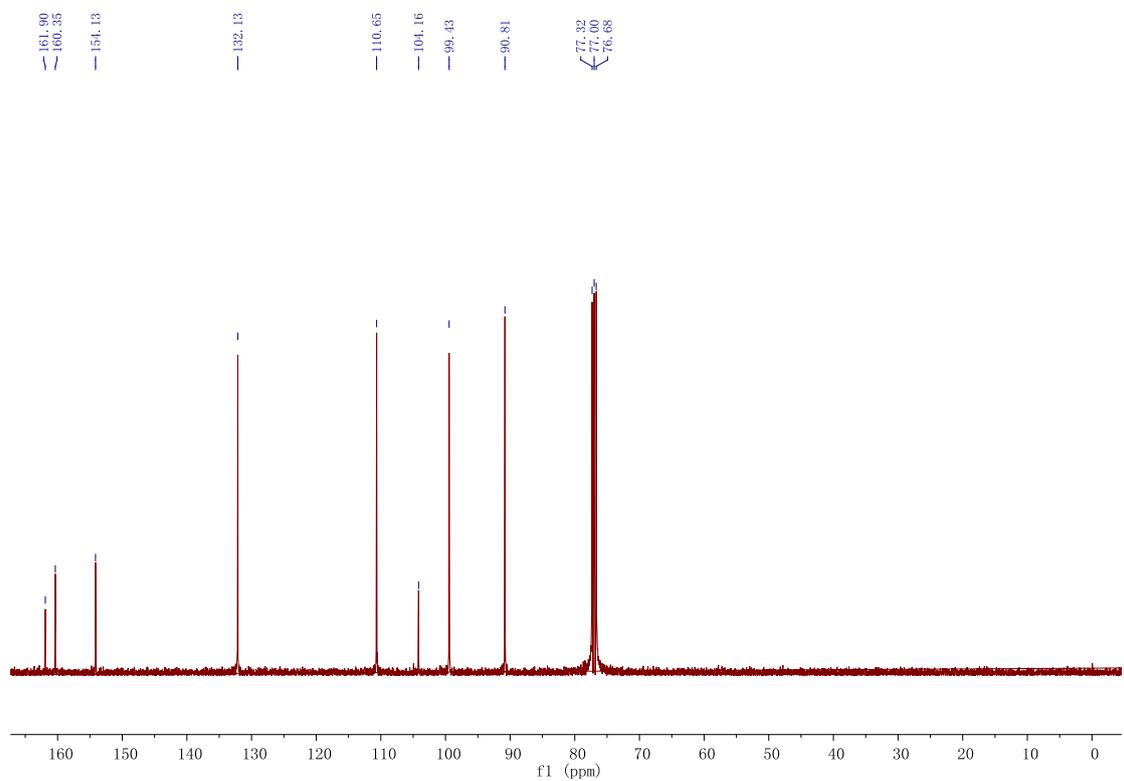
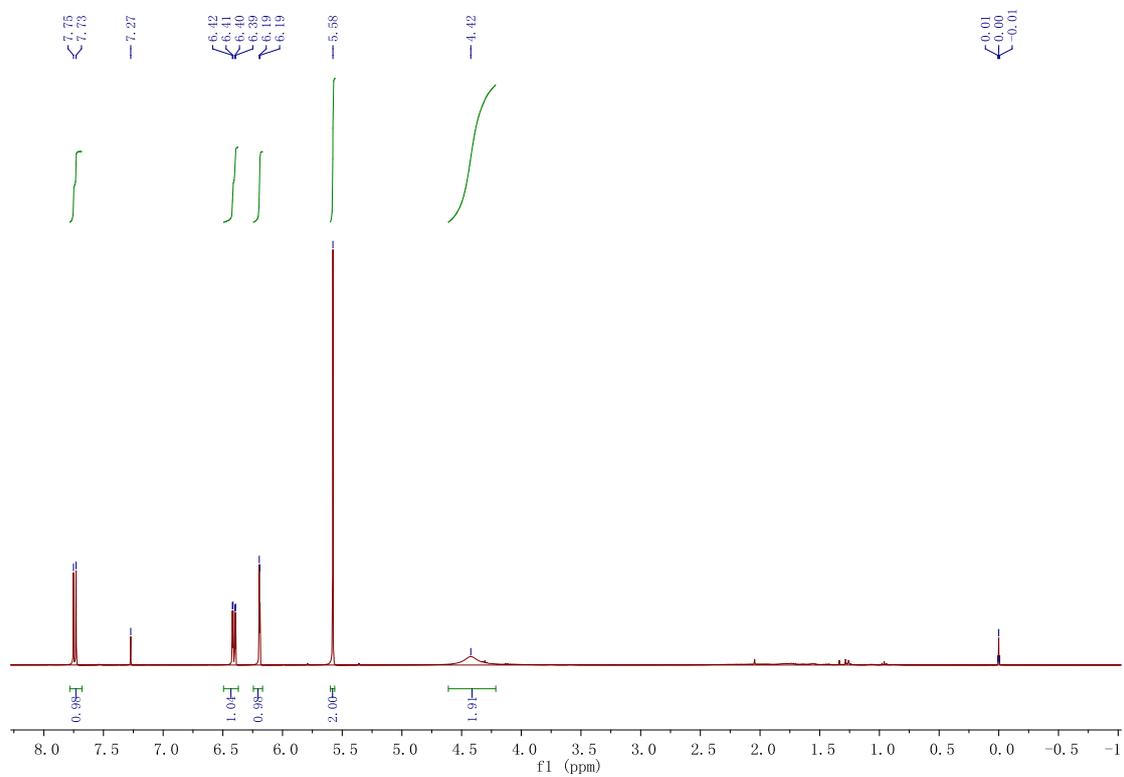
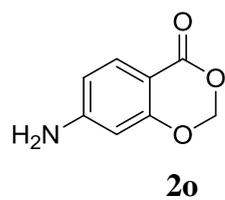
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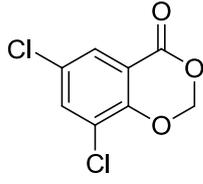




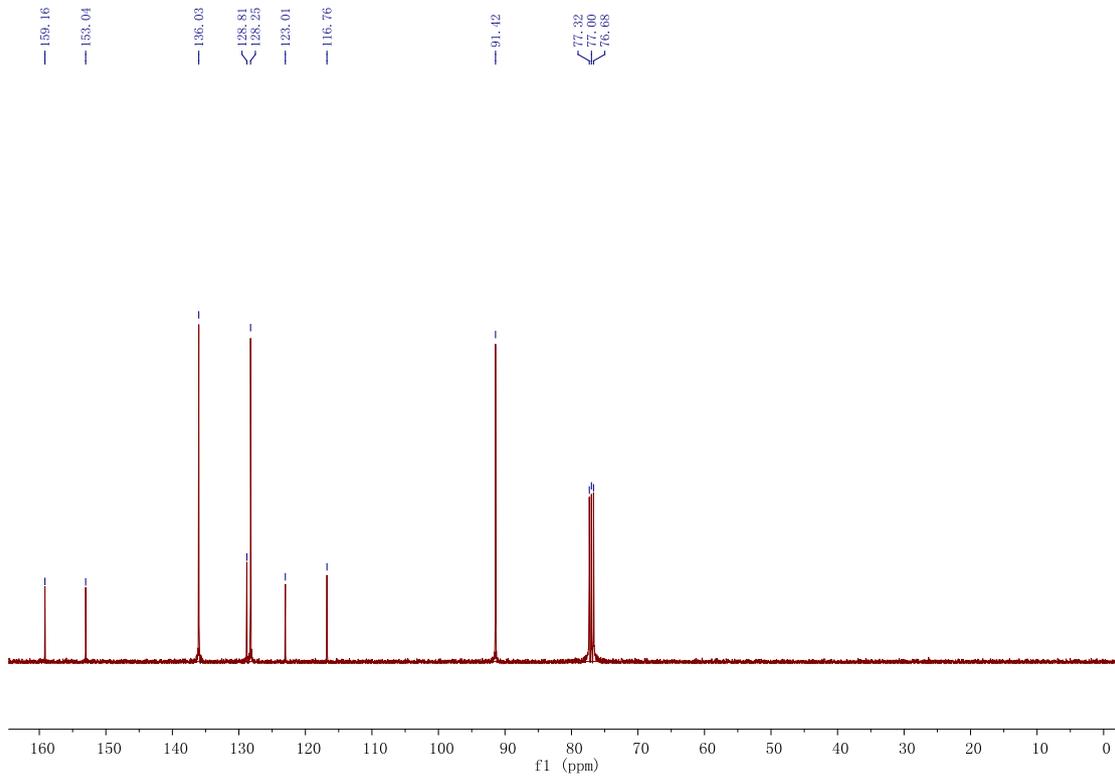
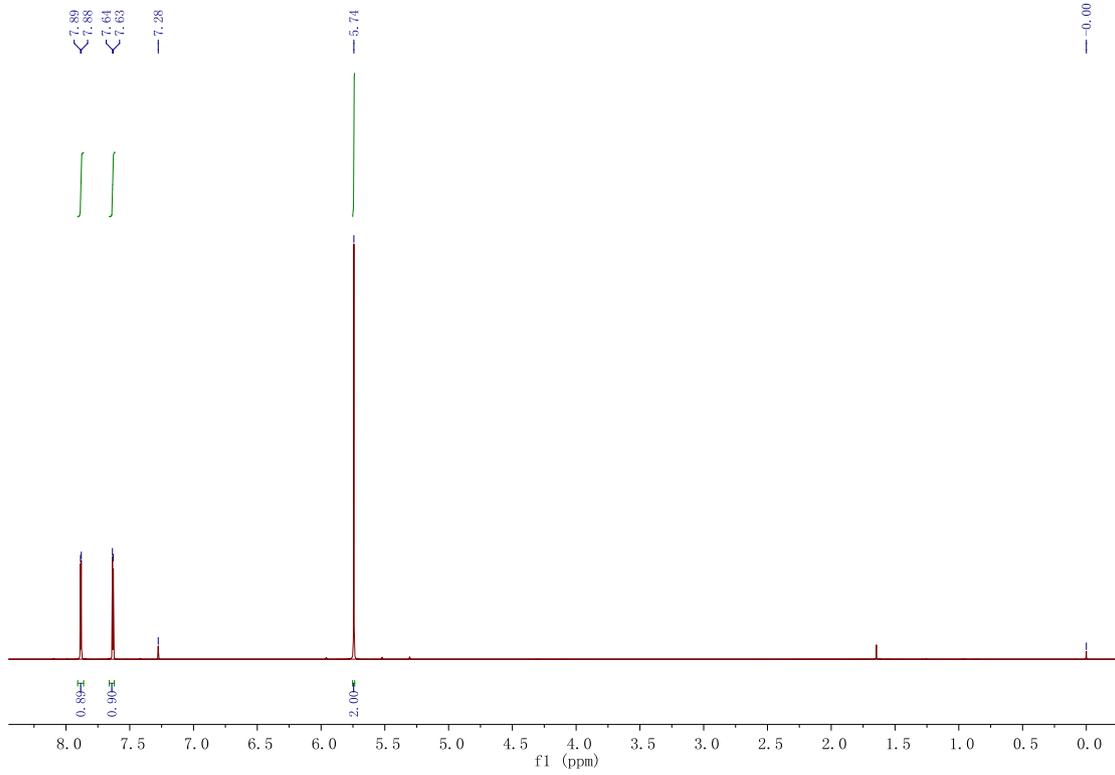
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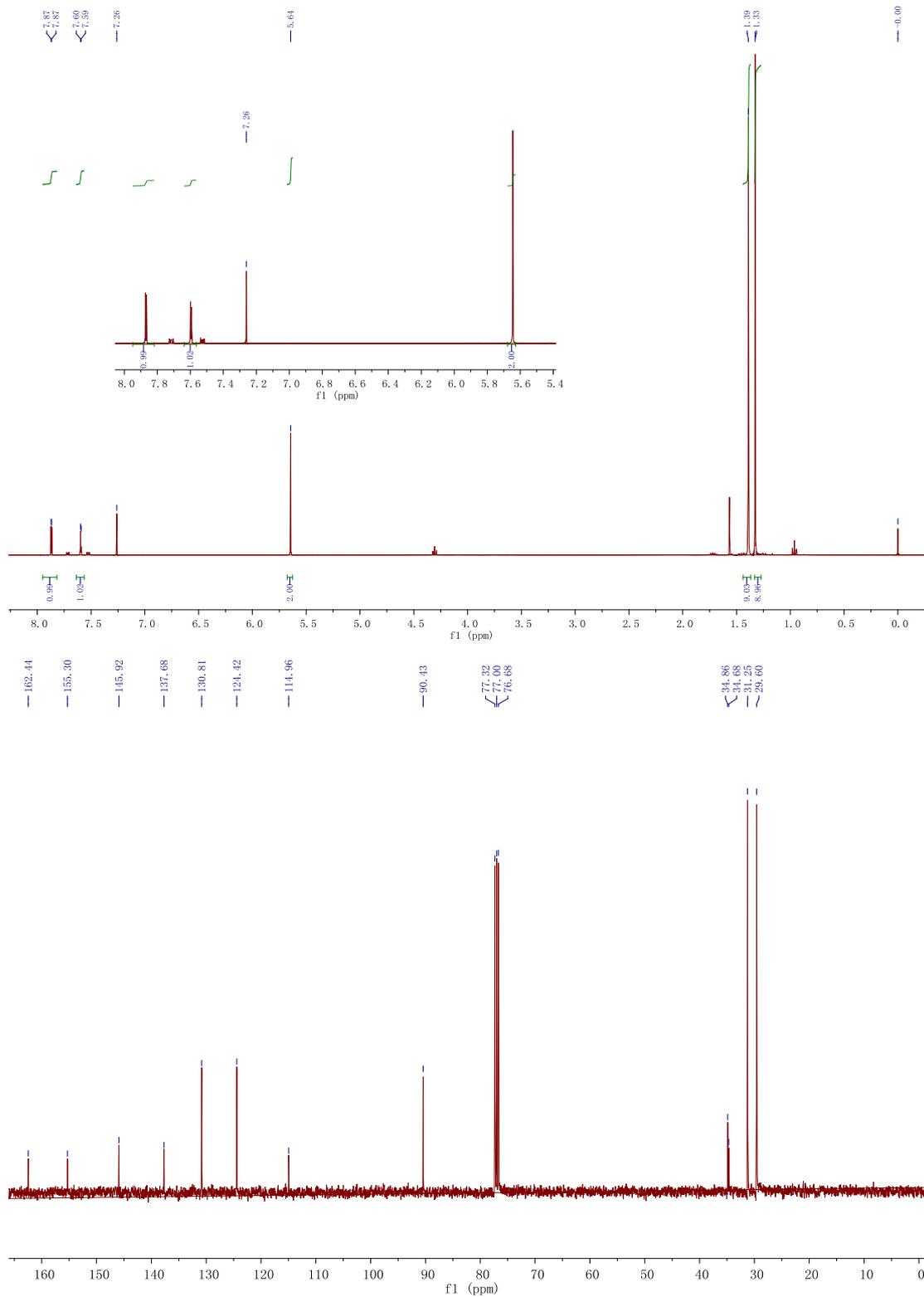
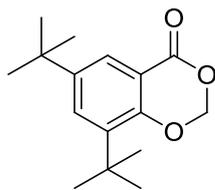


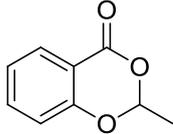




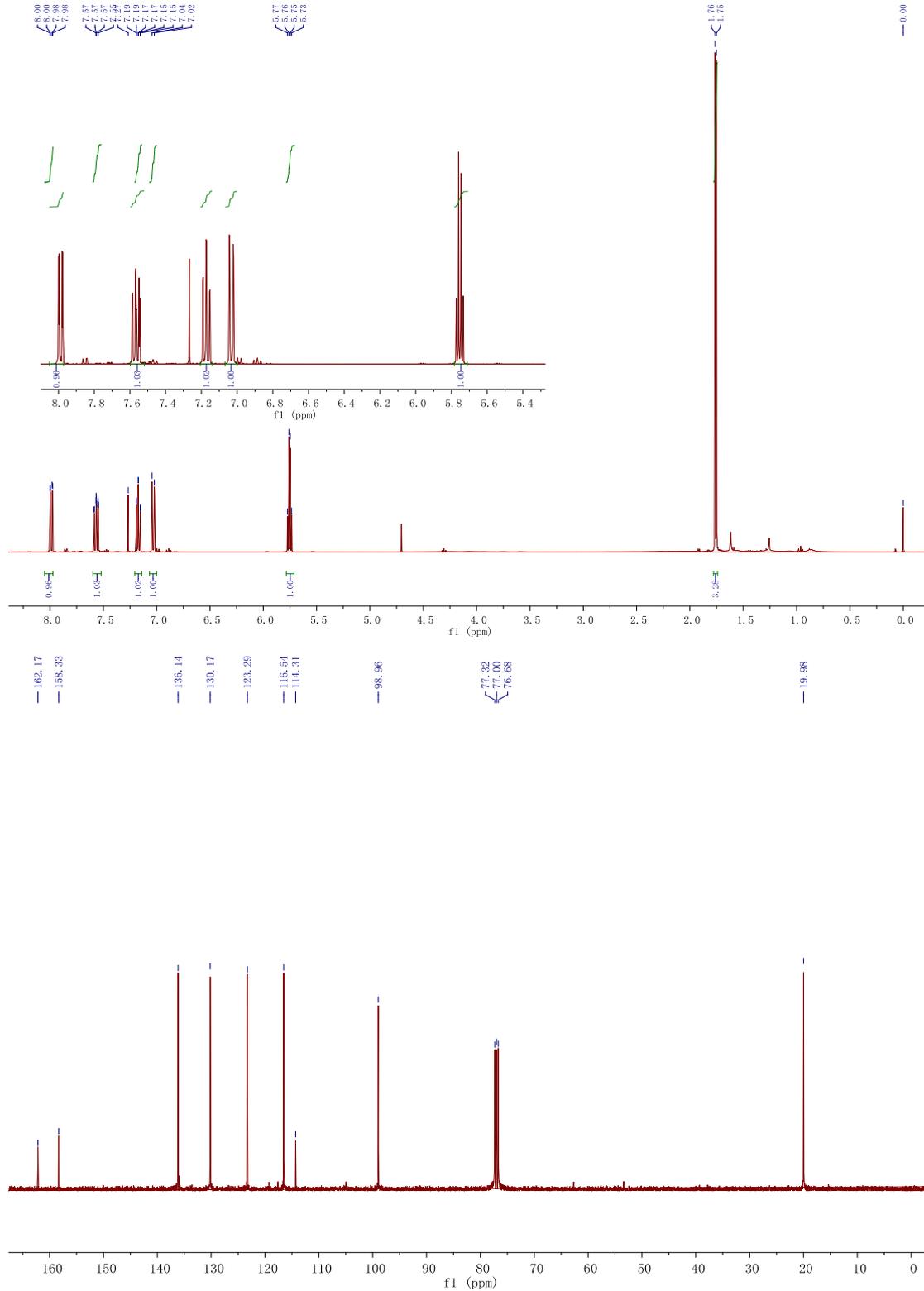
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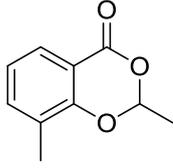




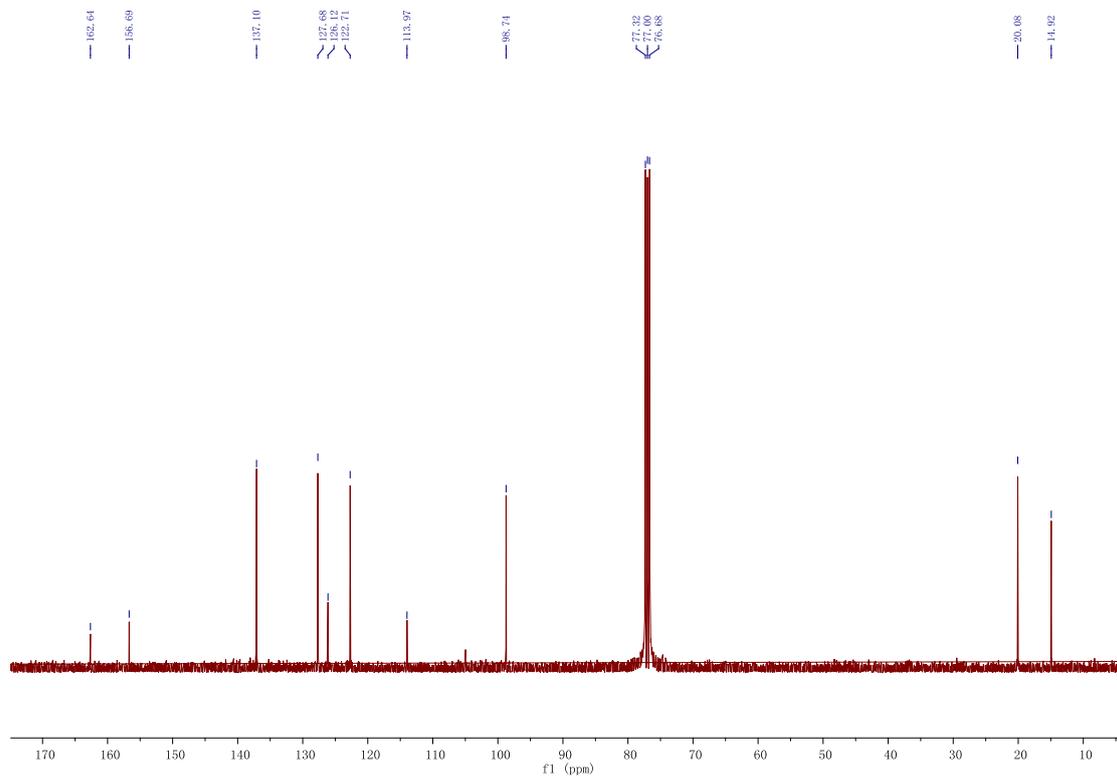
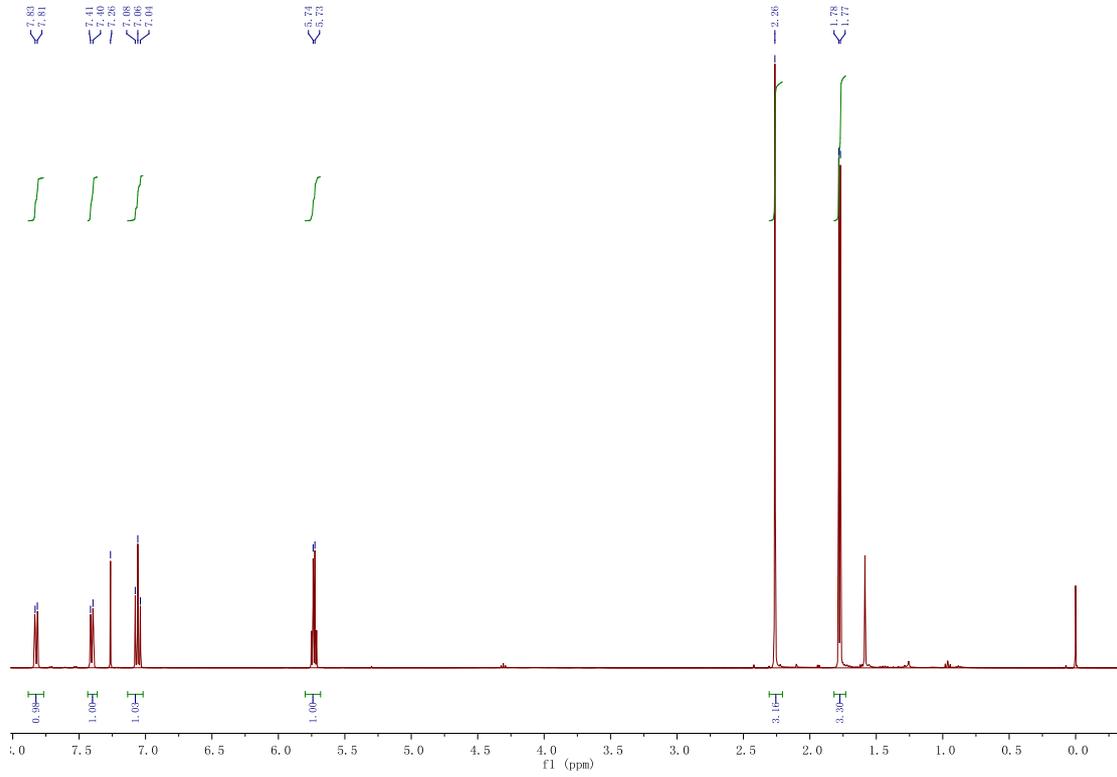


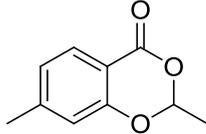
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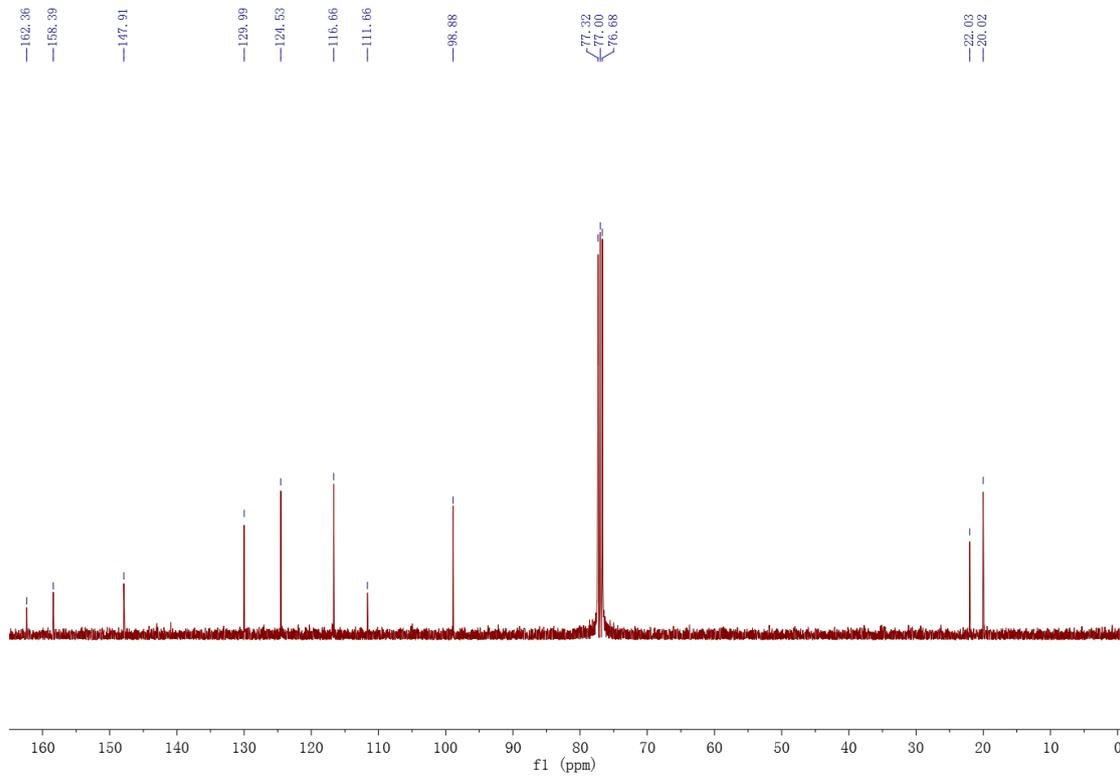
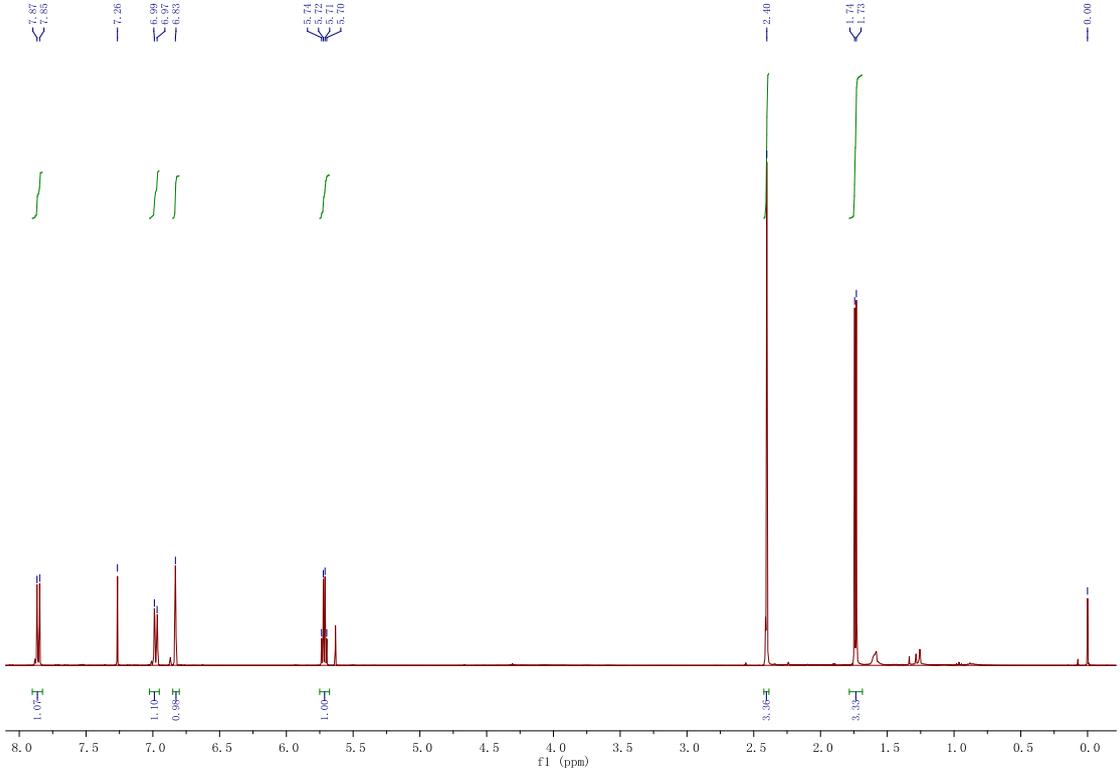


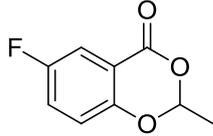
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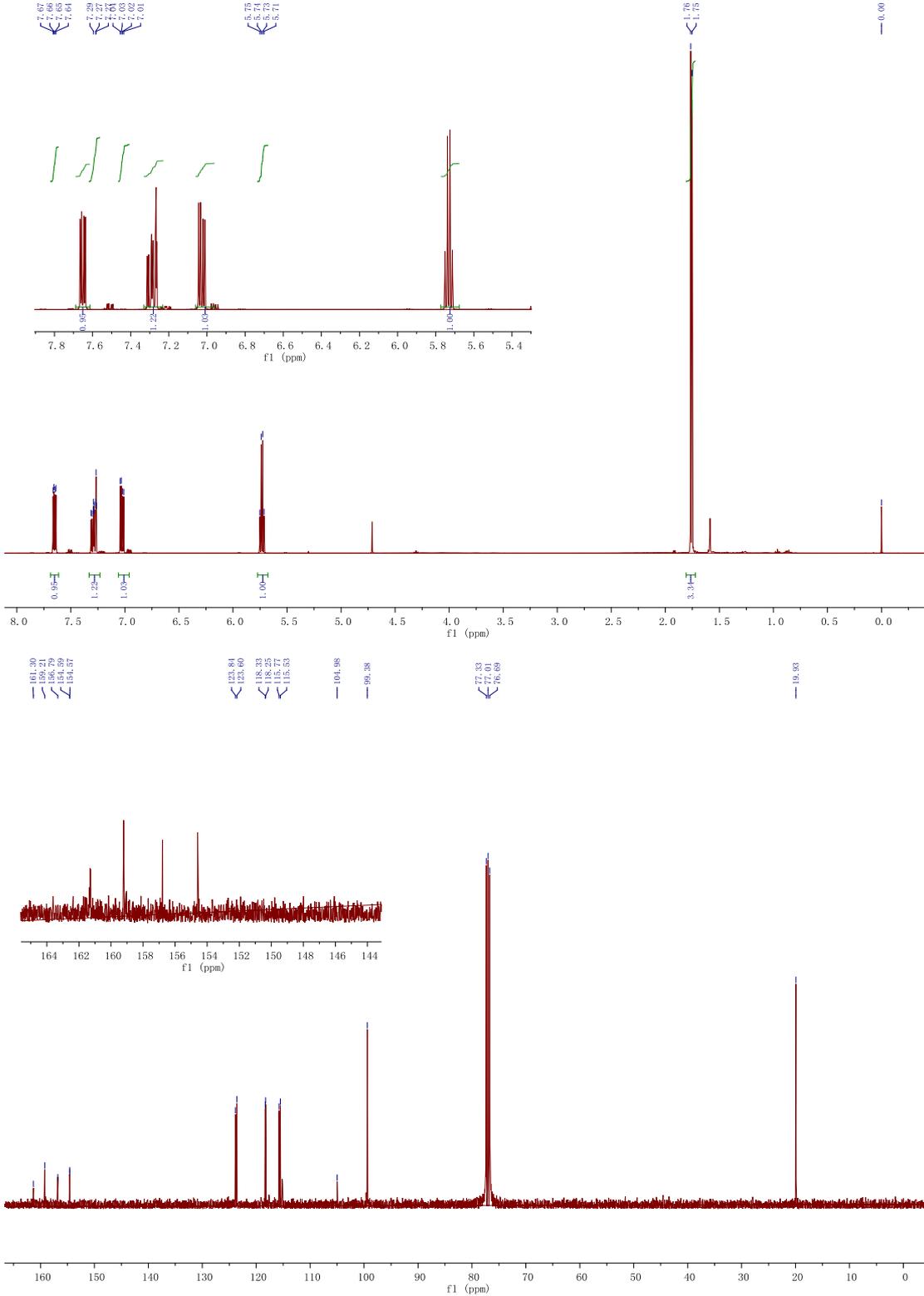


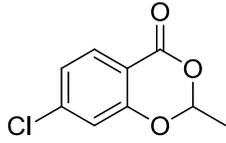
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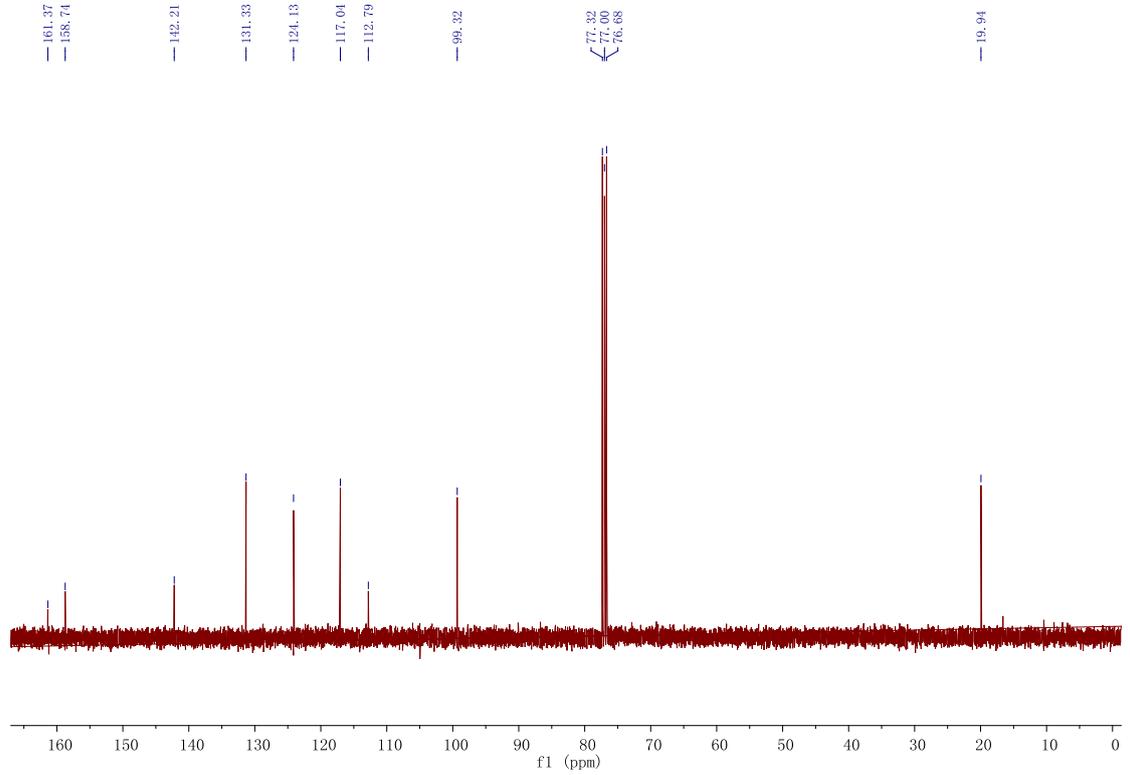
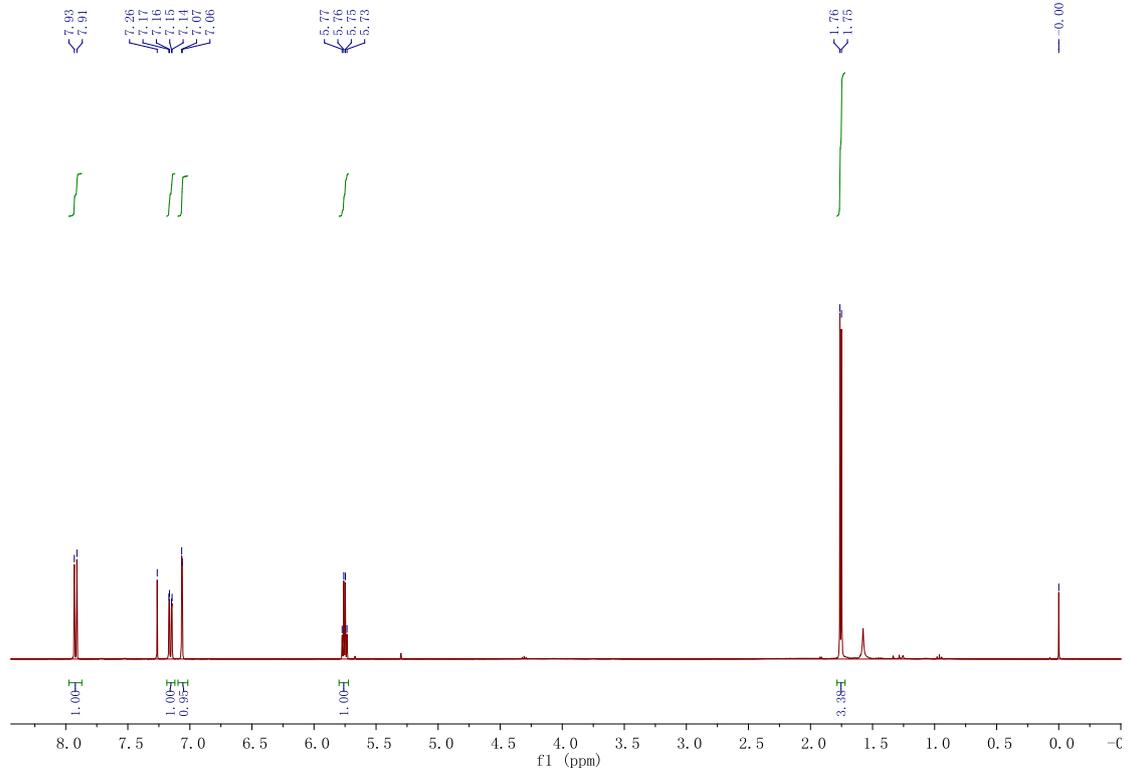


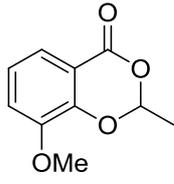
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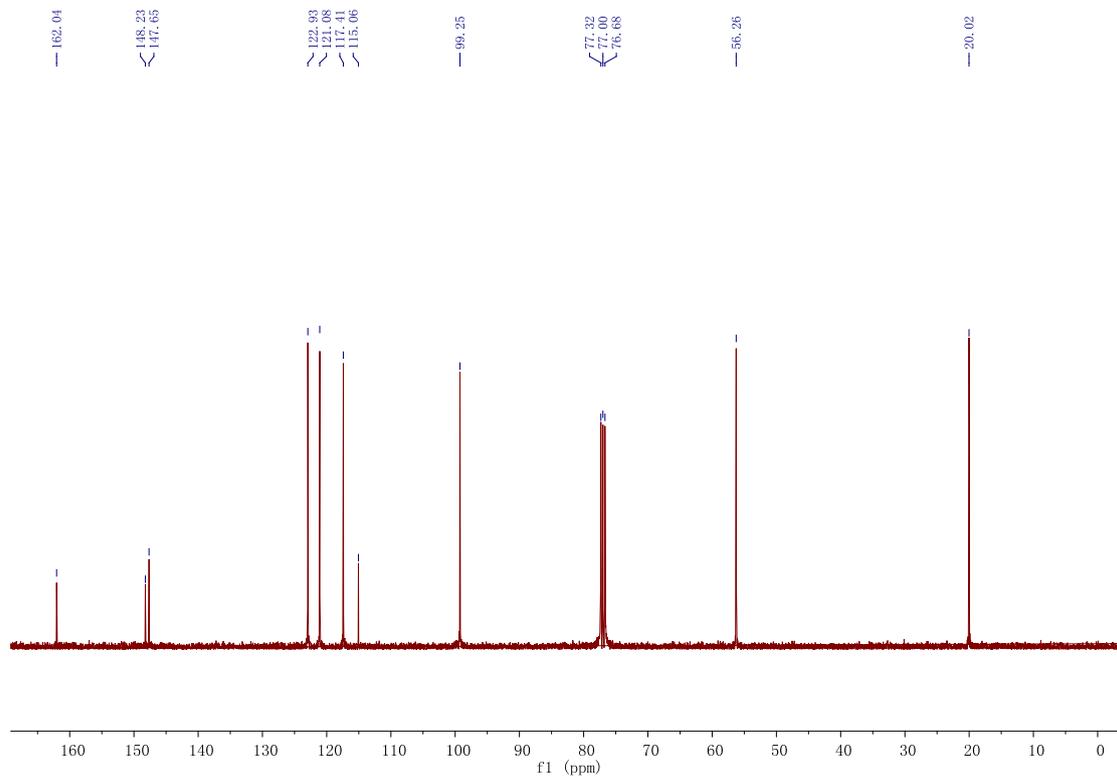
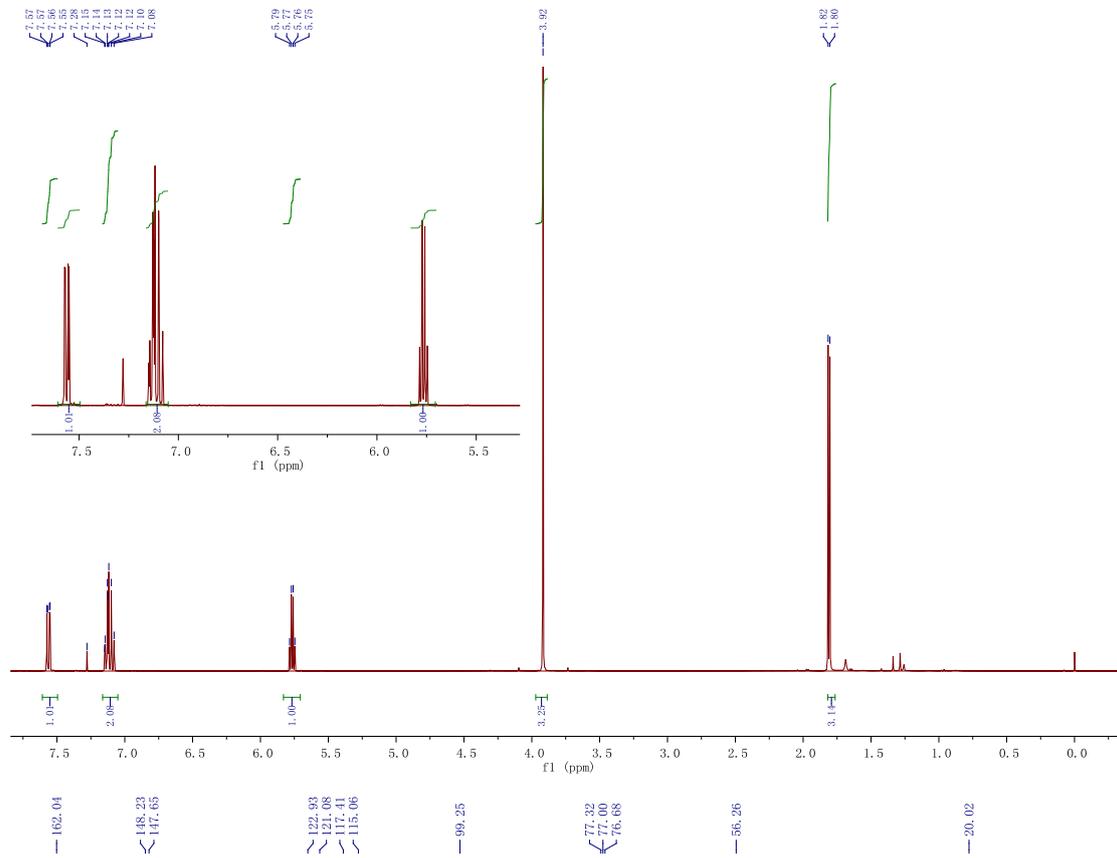


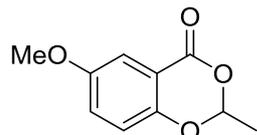
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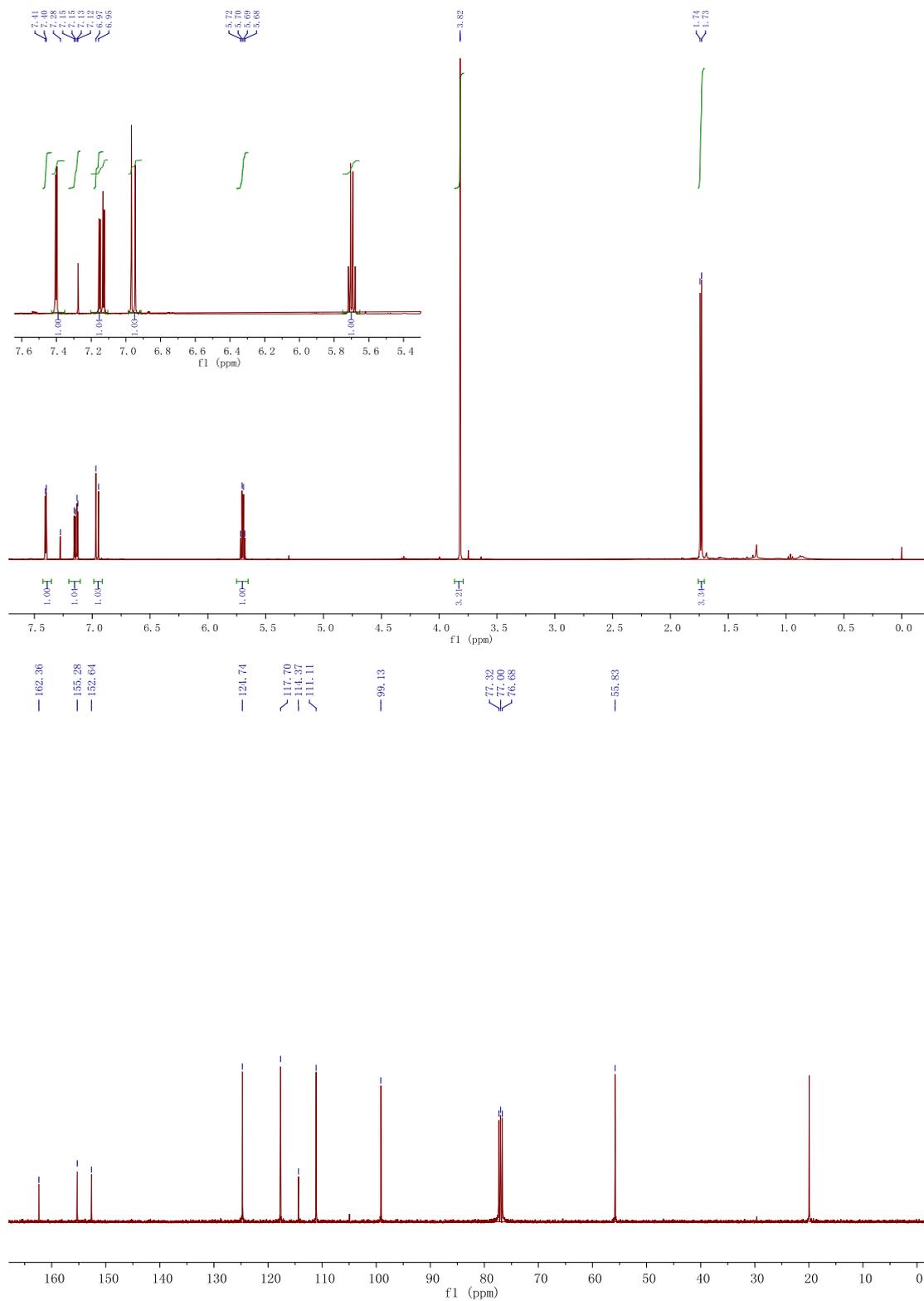


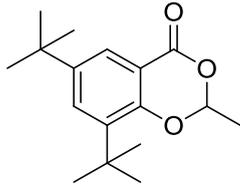
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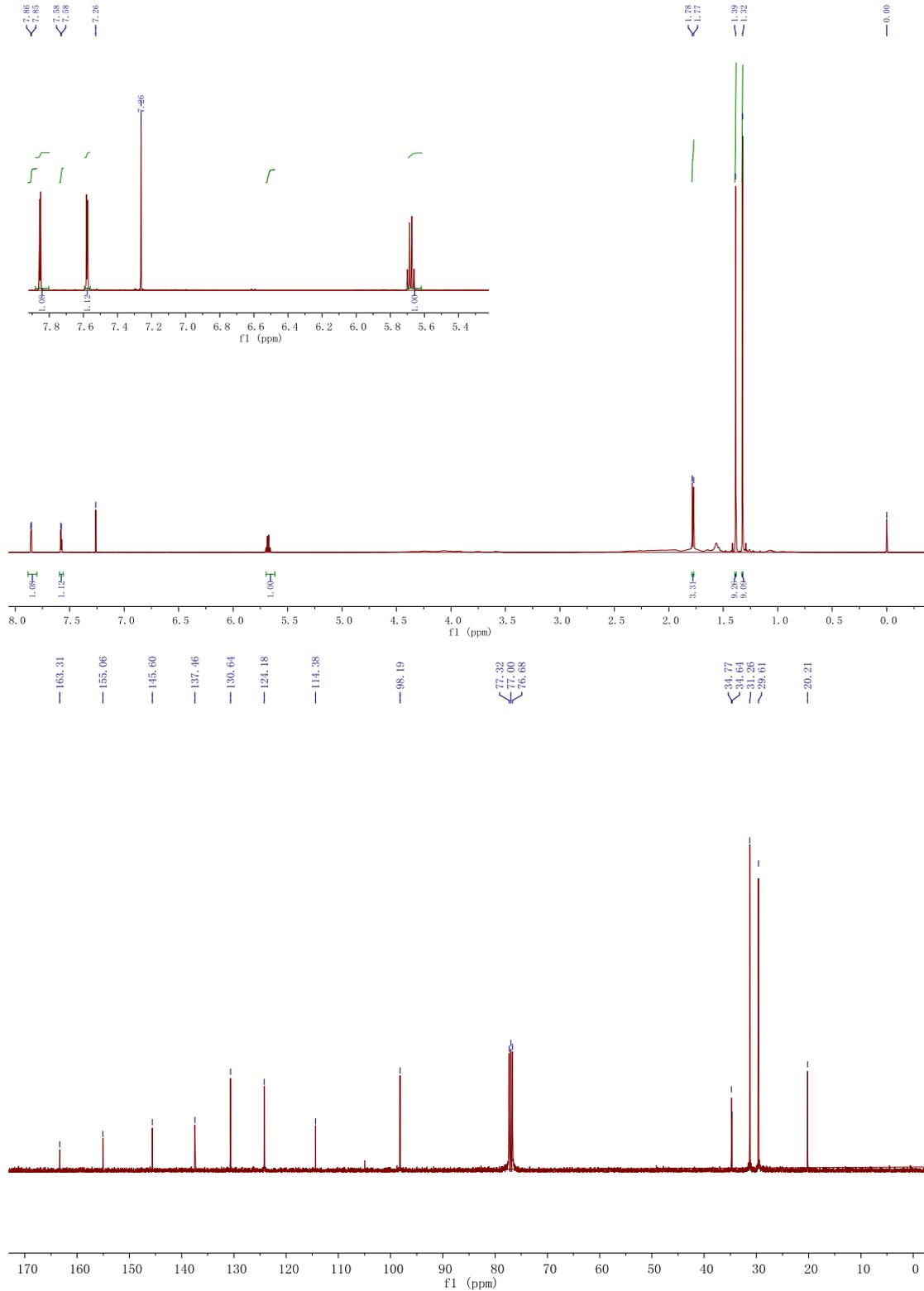


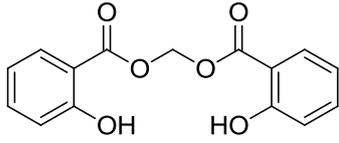
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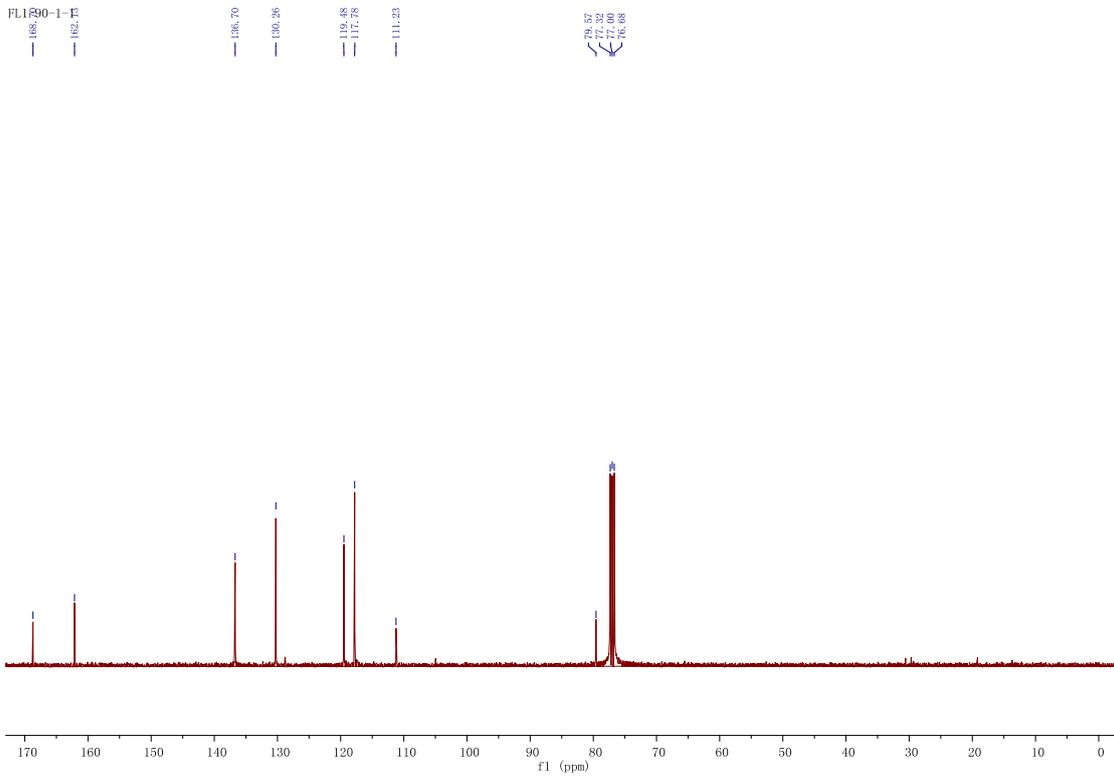
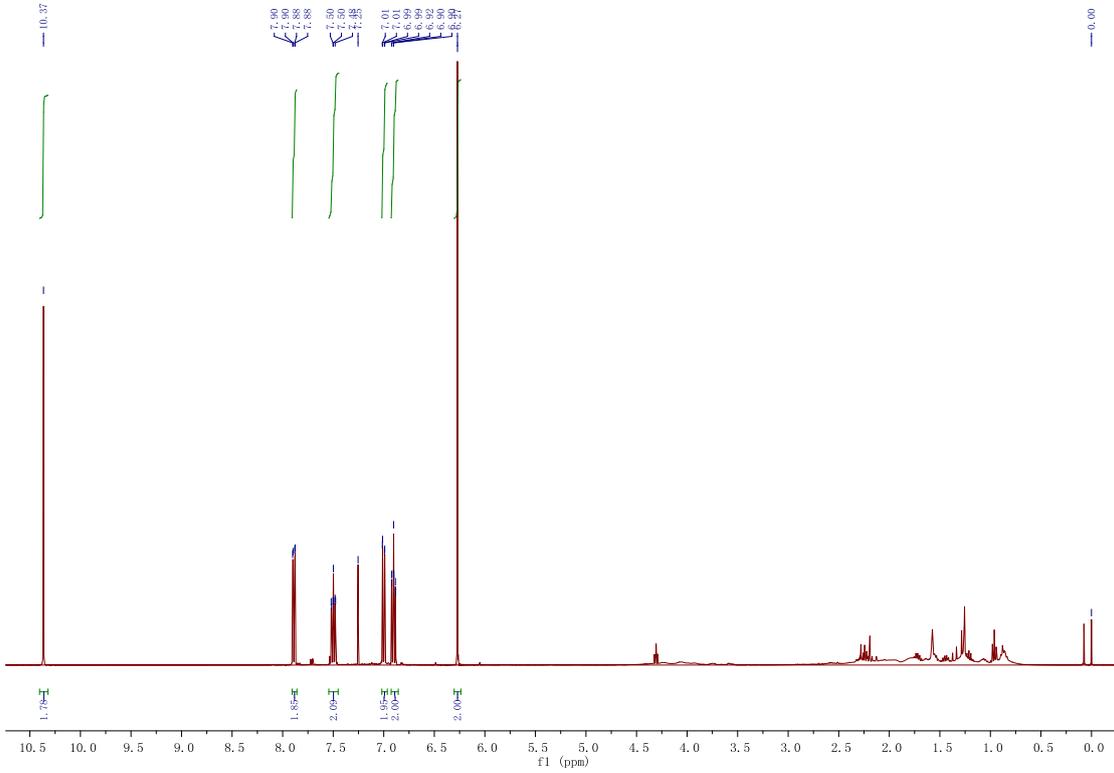


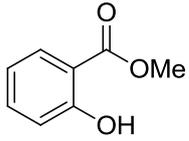
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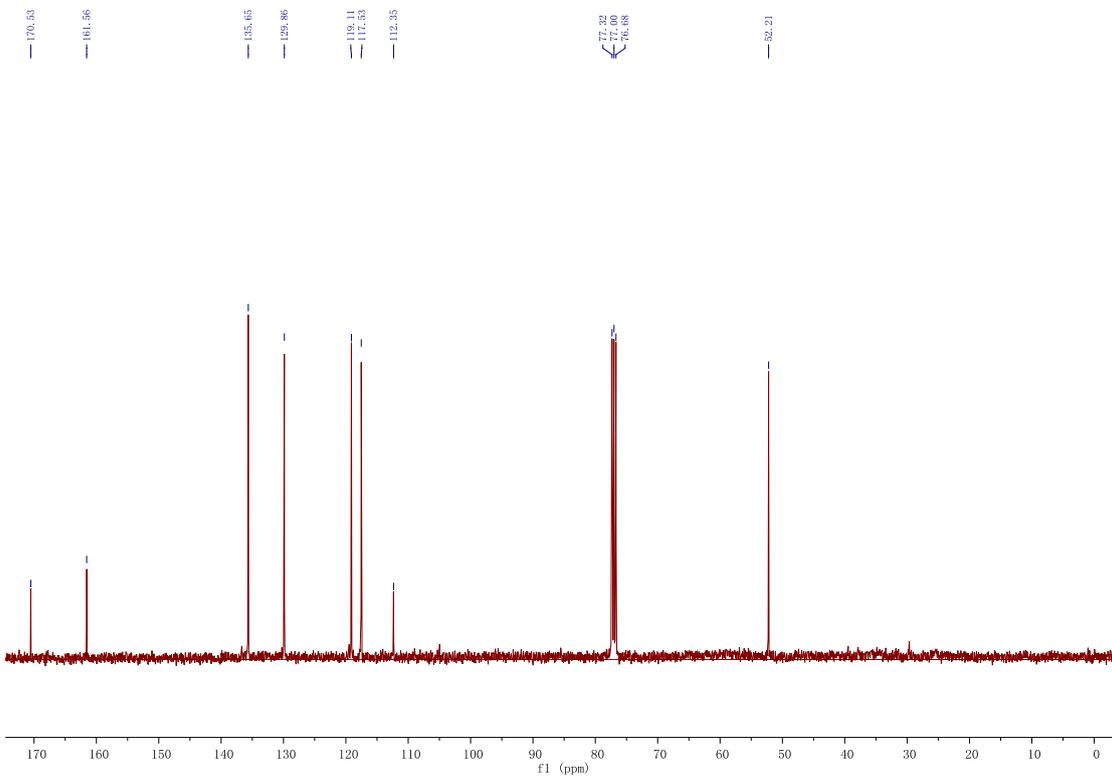
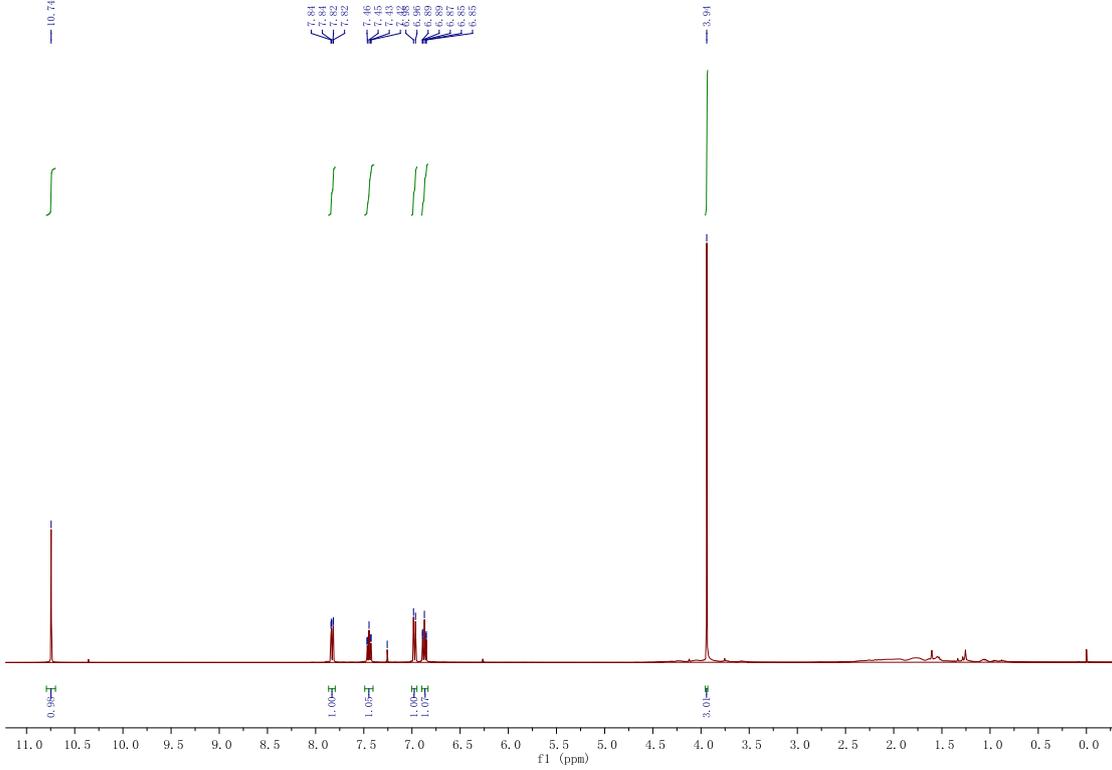


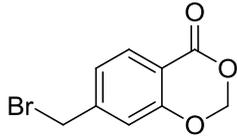
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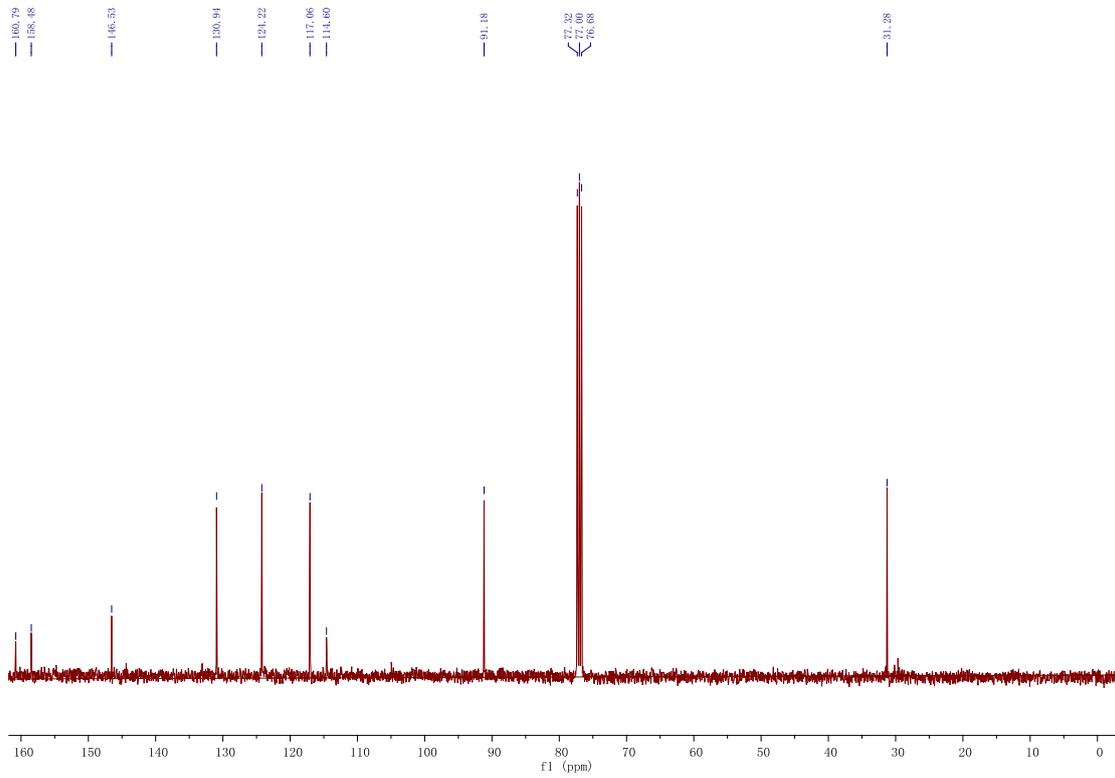
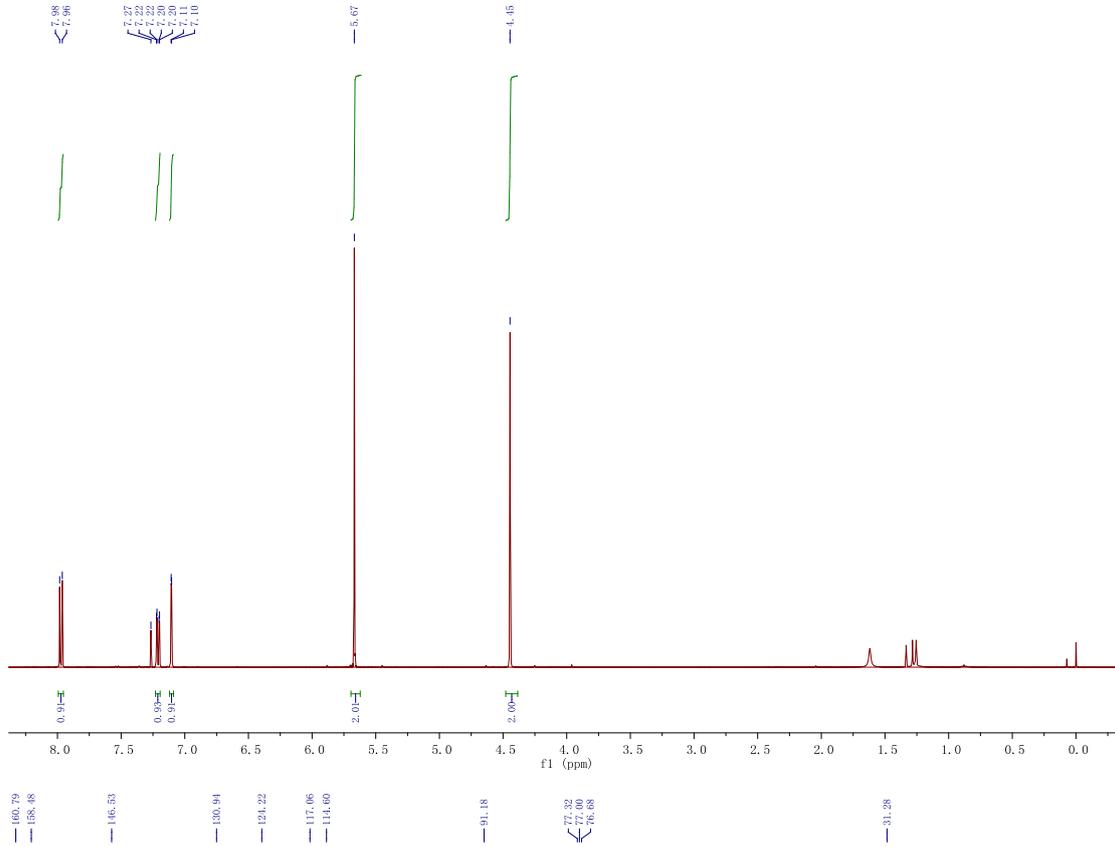


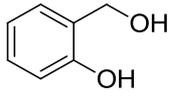
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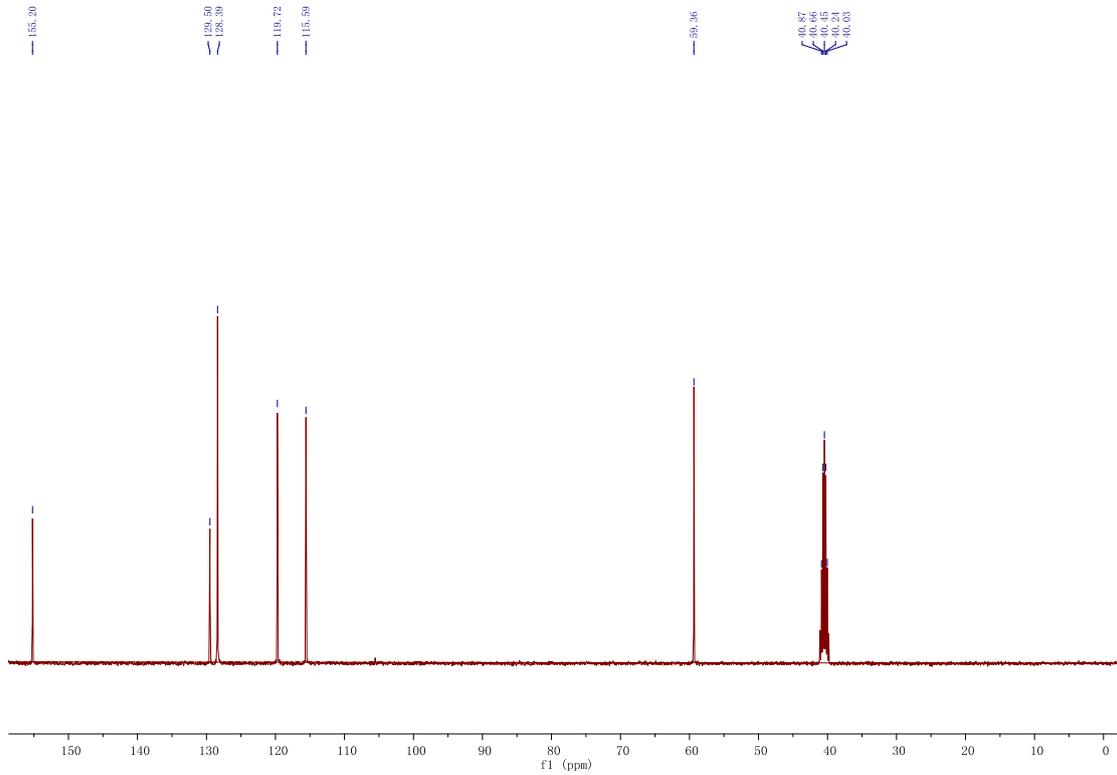
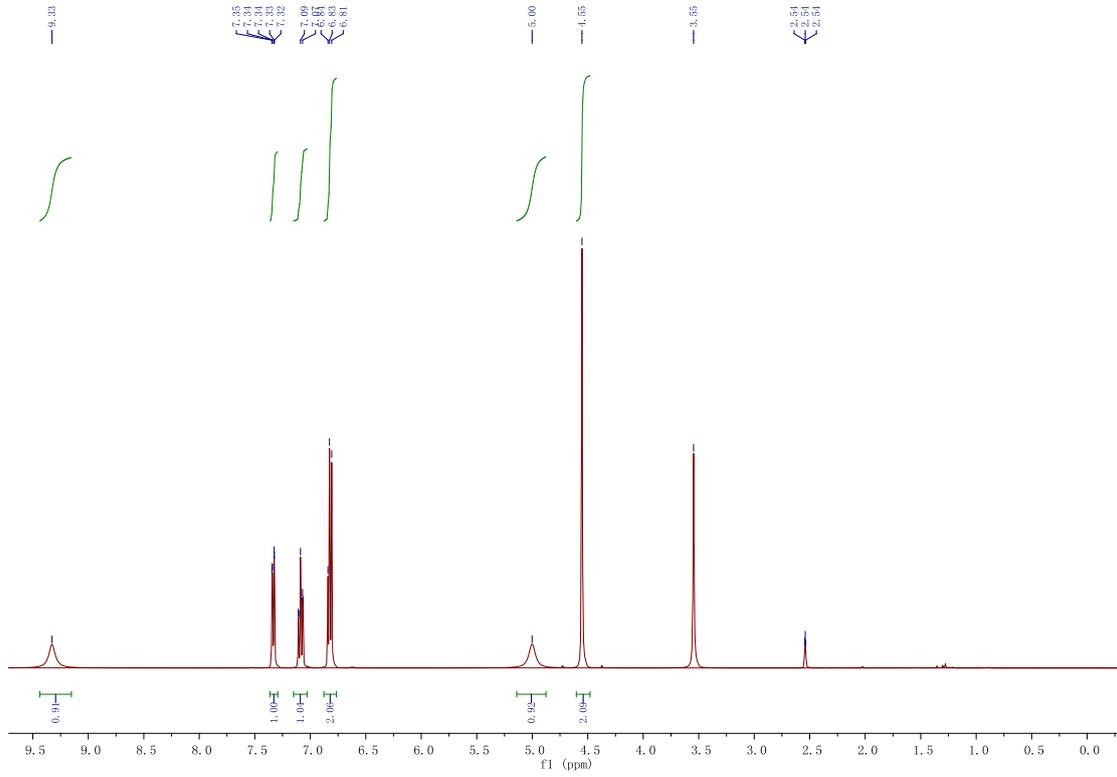


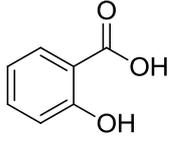
6





7





1a

