

## ZrCl<sub>4</sub>-promoted facile synthesis of indole derivatives

Jumreang Tummatorn,<sup>a\*</sup> M. Paul Gleeson,<sup>b</sup> Suppachai Krajangsri,<sup>a</sup> Charnsak Thongsornkleeb<sup>ac</sup>  
and Somsak Ruchirawat<sup>ac</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Chulabhorn Research Institute, 54 Kamphaeng Phet 6, Laksi, Bangkok 10210, Thailand

<sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry, Kasetsart University, 50 Phahonyothin Road, Bangkok, Thailand 10900

<sup>c</sup> Program on Chemical Biology, Chulabhorn Graduate Institute, Center of Excellence on Environmental Health and Toxicology (EHT), Ministry of Education, 54 Kamphaeng Phet 6, Laksi, Bangkok 10210

### Supporting Information

| Contents:                                                                                                                               | Pages   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. General Information                                                                                                                  | S2      |
| 2. General procedure for the synthesis of aryl azidoacrylate derivatives                                                                | S2      |
| • Characterization data of aryl azidoacrylate ( <b>1a-1q</b> )                                                                          | S2-S5   |
| 3. General procedure for the indole compounds                                                                                           | S6      |
| • Characterization data of indoles ( <b>2a-2q</b> ) and ethyl 3-chloro-2-oxo-3-phenylpropanoate derivatives ( <b>3a</b> and <b>3e</b> ) | S6-S10  |
| 4. Copies of <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C- NMR spectra for compound <b>1a-1q</b> , <b>2a-2q</b> , <b>3a</b> and <b>3e</b>         | S11-S86 |
| 5. Quantum chemical calculations                                                                                                        | S87-S90 |

## Experimental Section

**General Information.** Commercial grade reagents and solvents were used as received from the supplier except where indicated. Dichloroethane (DCE) was distilled from  $\text{CaH}_2$  prior to use.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  with 300 MHz NMR spectrometer.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) were reported in units of part per million (ppm), relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) at  $\delta$  equal to zero ppm. Coupling constants ( $J$ ) were reported in Hertz (Hz). Infrared spectra were measured using an FT-IR spectrometer and reported in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Low resolution (LRMS) mass spectra were measured using electron ionization (EI). High resolution (HRMS) mass spectra were obtained using time-of-flight (TOF) via atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI) or electrospray ionization (ESI).

**General procedure for the synthesis of aryl azidoacrylate (1a):** To a deoxygenated solution of ethyl cinnamate (0.54 g, 3.04 mmol) and  $\text{NaN}_3$  (0.30 g, 4.56 mmol) in dry  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (10 mL) was added a deoxygenated solution of CAN (4.17 g, 7.60 mmol) in dry  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (25 mL) dropwise at 0 °C for 30 min and the reaction mixture was then warmed to room temperature. The mixture was stirred overnight and quenched with water and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) and concentrated. The crude product in dry acetone (15 mL) was treated with KOAc (0.59 g, 6.08 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for overnight followed by usual work up and purified by silica gel column chromatography using 10% EtOAc/hexane as eluent to yield 367.3 mg (56%) of (Z)-ethyl 2-azido-3-phenylacrylate (**1a**) as a yellow solid: mp 37-38 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2115, 1709, 1617, 1448, 1241  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.83-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.30 (m, 3H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 4.37 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 1.40 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.5, 133.2, 130.5, 129.3, 128.4, 125.5, 125.3, 62.2, 14.2. APCI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3\text{NaO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$  240.0744, found 240.0737.

### Characterization data of aryl azidoacrylate:

(Z)-ethyl 2-azido-3-*o*-tolylacrylate (**1b**): Yield 406.1 mg (73%, yellow solid); mp 46-47 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2927, 2118, 1713, 1246  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.98-7.93 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 4.38 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$

NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.5, 137.5, 131.9, 130.2, 129.6, 129.1, 126.3, 125.8, 123.2, 62.3, 20.1, 14.2. ESI-HRMS calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> (M+Na)<sup>+</sup> 254.0900, found 254.0896.

*(E)*-ethyl 2-azido-3-(2-ethylphenyl)acrylate (**1c**): Yield 672.8 mg (57%, yellow oil); IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2985, 2109, 1710, 1228, 1079 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.93 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz), 7.25-7.17 (m, 4H), 4.35 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.68 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.37 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.19 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.3, 143.4, 131.0, 129.6, 129.2, 128.5, 126.2, 125.6, 123.0, 62.1, 26.6, 15.2, 14.0. ESI-HRMS calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> (M+Na)<sup>+</sup> 268.1057, found 268.1056.

*(Z)*-ethyl 2-azido-3-(4-tert-butylphenyl)acrylate (**1d**): Yield 675.7 mg (49%, light yellow solid); mp 42-43 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2964, 2117, 1710, 1245 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.75 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.41 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 6.91 (s, 1H), 4.36 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.40 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.33 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.6, 152.8, 130.43, 130.39, 125.4, 124.8, 62.1, 34.8, 31.1, 14.2. ESI-HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> (M+Na)<sup>+</sup> 296.1370, found 296.1375.

*(Z)*-ethyl 2-azido-3-(biphenyl-4-yl)acrylate (**1e**): Yield 522.2 mg (56%, light yellow solid); mp 95-96 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2983, 2119, 1709, 1254 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.90 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.63-7.61 (m, 4H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.34 (m, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 4.38 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.41 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.5, 141.9, 140.2, 132.2, 131.0, 128.8, 127.7, 127.0, 125.5, 124.8, 62.3, 14.2. EI-MS (rel intensity) 293 (M<sup>+</sup>, 5), 265 (30), 192 (100), 149 (66), 71 (16).

*(Z)*-ethyl 2-azido-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)acrylate (**1f**): Yield 443.9 mg (82%, white solid); mp 66-67 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2114, 1709, 1244, 778 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.09 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 8.03 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.89-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.59-7.49 (m, 3H), 4.44 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.46 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.4, 133.5, 131.6, 129.7, 129.4, 128.8, 128.1, 127.4, 126.6, 125.9, 125.1, 123.4, 122.2, 62.4, 14.2. ESI-HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> (M+Na)<sup>+</sup> 290.0900, found 290.0903.

*(Z)*-ethyl 2-azido-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylate (**1g**): Yield 573.4 mg (58%, white solid); mp 77-78 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2110, 1709, 1242, 1080, 745 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.28 (s, 1H), 7.95 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7, 1.5 Hz), 7.88-7.80 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 4.40 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.42 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.6, 133.5, 133.1,

130.9, 130.8, 128.7, 128.0, 127.6, 127.3, 127.1, 126.4, 125.6, 125.3, 62.3, 14.2. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $C_{15}H_{13}N_3NaO_2$  ( $M+Na$ )<sup>+</sup> 290.0900, found 290.0903.

*(Z)*-ethyl 2-azido-3-(4-bromophenyl)acrylate (**1h**): Yield 391.6 mg (51%, yellow solid); mp 36-37 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2983, 2121, 1714, 1248, 1075  $cm^{-1}$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.64 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz), 7.49 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz), 6.81 (s, 1H), 4.36 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.39 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  163.3, 132.1, 131.9, 131.6, 126.2, 123.6, 123.4, 62.4, 14.2. EI-MS (rel intensity) 295 ( $M^+$ , 5), 195 (100), 116 (50), 89 (47).

*(Z)*-ethyl 2-azido-3-(4-chlorophenyl)acrylate (**1i**): Yield 245.0 mg (42%, light yellow oil); IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2984, 2218, 1713, 1248  $cm^{-1}$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.77-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 4.37 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.40 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  163.3, 135.1, 131.72, 131.68, 130.9, 128.7, 126.0, 123.7, 62.4, 14.2. EI-MS (rel intensity) 251 ( $M^+$ , 5), 151 (100), 114 (26), 89 (28).

*(Z)*-ethyl 2-azido-3-(4-fluorophenyl)acrylate (**1j**): Yield 1.04 g (82%, light yellow solid); mp 37-38 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2121, 1711, 1233, 833  $cm^{-1}$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.83-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 4.36 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.39 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  164.5, 162.3 (d,  $J_{CF}$  = 656 Hz), 132.5 (d,  $J_{CF}$  = 33 Hz), 129.4 (d,  $J_{CF}$  = 13.2 Hz), 125.1 (d,  $J_{CF}$  = 10.2 Hz), 123.9, 115.5 (d,  $J_{CF}$  = 86 Hz), 62.2, 14.1. EI-MS (rel intensity) 235 ( $M^+$ , 4), 161 (12), 135 (100), 108 (42).

*(Z)*-ethyl 2-azido-3-(4-nitrophenyl)acrylate (**1k**): Yield 327.6 mg (62%, yellow solid); mp 119-120 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2122, 1716, 1518, 1266  $cm^{-1}$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.22 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 7.96 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.41 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.43 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  162.8, 147.2, 139.4, 130.9, 129.1, 123.6, 121.4, 62.8, 14.1. EI-MS (rel intensity) 262 ( $M^+$ , 1), 167 (22), 149 (87), 84 (100).

*(Z)*-ethyl 2-azido-3-(2-bromophenyl)acrylate (**1l**): Yield 282.2 mg (56%, light yellow solid); mp 54-55 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2114, 1713, 1243, 1076, 764  $cm^{-1}$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.11 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 8.1, 1.5 Hz), 7.60 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 8.1, 1.2 Hz), 7.34 (td, 1H,  $J$  = 7.8, 0.6 Hz), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.17 (td, 1H,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.5 Hz), 4.39 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.41 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  163.2, 132.9, 131.2, 130.2, 127.4, 127.1, 125.2, 123.3, 62.5, 14.1. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $C_{11}H_{10}BrN_3NaO_2$  (Br-79) ( $M+Na$ )<sup>+</sup> 317.9849, found 317.9842.

(*Z*)-ethyl 2-azido-3-(2-chlorophenyl)acrylate (**1m**): Yield 351.1 mg (65%, white solid); mp 41-42 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2115, 1713, 1243, 1079  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.19 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.8 Hz), 7.43 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 7.2, 1.2 Hz), 7.34-7.24 (m, 3H), 4.41 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.43 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.2, 134.6, 131.2, 131.0, 130.2, 129.6, 127.4, 126.6, 120.5, 62.5, 14.2 EI-MS (rel intensity) 223 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 6), 151 (100), 123 (38), 89 (37).

(*Z*)-ethyl 2-azido-3-(3-chlorophenyl)acrylate (**1n**): Yield 495.3 mg (40%, light yellow solid); mp 39-40 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2122, 1713, 1376, 1247, 1083  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.86 (s, 1H), 7.65-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 2H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 4.37 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.40 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.2, 134.9, 134.3, 130.1, 129.6, 129.2, 128.7, 126.8, 123.2, 62.5, 14.2. EI-MS (rel intensity) 251 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 5), 177 (47), 151 (100), 116 (41), 89 (26).

(*Z*)-ethyl 2-azido-3-(3-fluoro-4-methylphenyl)acrylate (**1o**): Yield 0.8700 mg (62%, yellow oil); IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2969, 2109, 1710, 1228, 1079  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.62 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 11.4, 1.2 Hz), 7.38 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.2 Hz), 7.17 (t, 1H,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz), 6.83 (s, 1H), 4.37 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 2.29 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz), 1.40 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.2, 160.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 97 Hz), 132.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 34 Hz), 131.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 22 Hz), 126.5, 126.4 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 70 Hz), 126.3 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 12 Hz), 125.6, 123.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 10 Hz), 116.2 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 95 Hz), 62.2, 14.5 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 13 Hz), 14.0. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{FN}_3\text{NaO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$  272.0806, found 272.0818.

(*Z*)-ethyl 2-azido-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)acrylate (**1p**): Yield 1.35 g (45%, light yellow solid); mp 43-44 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2983, 2106, 1708, 1227, 686  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.43 (s, 1H), 7.35-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.90-6.87 (m, 2H), 4.36 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.4, 159.4, 134.4, 129.3, 125.7, 125.1, 123.3, 115.4, 115.2, 62.2, 55.2, 14.1. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{NaO}_3$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$  270.0849, found 270.0846.

(*Z*)-ethyl 2-azido-3-(2-chloro-3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acrylate (**1q**): Yield 365.5 mg (50%, white solid); mp 85-86 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  2115, 1709, 1490, 1304, 1040  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.01 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 7.29 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 4.38 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.41 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.5,

154.2, 145.5, 129.6, 126.6, 125.8, 124.5, 120.7, 110.0, 62.3, 60.6, 56.1, 14.2. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $C_{13}H_{14}ClN_3NaO_4$  (Cl-35) ( $M+Na$ )<sup>+</sup> 334.0565, found 334.0565.

**General procedure for the synthesis of indoles:** A mixture of  $ZrCl_4$  (153.0 mg, 0.6574 mmol, 1.4 equiv) and  $AgNO_3$  (8 mg, 0.0460 mmol, 0.1 equiv) in dry DCE (1 mL) was added with aryl azidoacrylate **1a** (100.0 mg, 0.4604 mmol, 1.0 equiv) at 0 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 20 min. The reaction mixture was directly purified by silica gel column packed with 100% hexane and eluted with 10% EtOAc/hexane to yield 65.1 mg (70%) of *ethyl 1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2a)* as a white solid: mp 113-114 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{max}$  3278, 1717, 1652, 1478, 1251  $cm^{-1}$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  9.05 (br s, 1H), 7.68 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 8.1, 0.6 Hz), 7.42 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 8.4, 0.9 Hz), 7.31 (td, 1H,  $J$  = 6.9, 0.9 Hz), 7.23 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 2.1, 0.9 Hz), 7.14 (td, 1H,  $J$  = 7.8, 0.9 Hz), 4.42 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.42 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  162.2, 136.9, 127.5, 125.3, 122.5, 120.7, 111.9, 108.6, 61.0, 14.4. APCI-HRMS calcd for  $C_{11}H_{12}NO_2$  ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> 190.0863, found 190.0857.

**Characterization data of indoles:**

*ethyl 3-chloro-2-oxo-3-phenylpropanoate (3a)*: Yellow oil, IR (neat):  $\nu_{max}$  1732, 1240, 1056, 696  $cm^{-1}$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.63-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.49-7.25 (m, 5H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 4.35-4.24 (m, 2H), 1.30 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  184.8, 160.0, 142.7, 140.0, 131.8, 129.4, 128.9, 127.9, 127.1, 63.2, 61.8, 13.8. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $C_{17}H_{15}ClNaO_3$  (Cl-35) ( $M+Na$ )<sup>+</sup> 325.0602, found 325.0594.

*ethyl 4-methyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2b)*: Yield 65.7 mg (75%, white solid); mp 117-118 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{max}$  3314, 1674, 1527, 1262, 757  $cm^{-1}$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  9.06 (br s, 1H), 7.27-7.19 (m, 3H), 6.95-6.93 (m, 1H), 4.42 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 2.57 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  162.1, 136.7, 132.3, 127.7, 126.8, 125.5, 120.7, 109.4, 107.3, 61.0, 18.6, 14.4. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $C_{12}H_{14}NO_2$  ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> 204.1019, found 204.1019.

*ethyl 4-ethyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2c)*: Prepared according to general procedure with a slight modification: a solution of starting material (112.0 mg, 0.4566 mmol) in 0.5 mL DCE was added to a mixture of  $ZrCl_4$  and  $AgNO_3$  in DCE (1 mL); Yield 68.7 mg (69%, white solid); mp 102-103 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{max}$  3319, 1673, 1259, 755  $cm^{-1}$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  9.01 (br s, 1H), 7.30 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 1.8 Hz), 7.26-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.94 (m, 1H), 4.42 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 2.94 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.43 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.35 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,

CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  162.2, 138.6, 136.9, 126.9, 126.8, 125.6, 118.9, 109.5, 107.1, 61.0, 26.2, 14.8, 14.4. ESI-HRMS calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 218.1176, found 218.1184.

*ethyl 6-tert-butyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2d)*: Prepared according to general procedure with a slight modification: a solution of starting material (120.0 mg, 0.4390 mmol) in 1.0 mL DCE was added dropwise to a mixture of ZrCl<sub>4</sub> and AgNO<sub>3</sub> in DCE (1 mL); Yield 74.4 mg (69%, white solid); mp 113-114 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3327, 2958, 1690, 1230 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.93 (br s, 1H), 7.61 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.25 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.7, 1.5 Hz), 7.18 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.1, 0.9 Hz), 4.41 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.41 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.38 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  162.1, 149.0, 137.1, 127.2, 125.2, 122.0, 119.5, 108.4, 107.8, 60.9, 35.0, 31.5, 14.4. ESI-HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 246.1489, found 246.1495.

*ethyl 6-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2e)*: Yield 40.1 mg (45%, white solid); mp 116-117 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3310, 1688, 1216, 770 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.13 (br s, 1H), 7.74 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.66-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.47-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.24 (m, 1H), 4.43 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.43 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  162.0, 141.6, 138.8, 137.4, 128.8, 128.0, 127.4, 127.1, 126.8, 122.8, 120.9, 110.1, 108.5, 61.1, 14.4. ESI-HRMS calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 266.1176, found 266.1170.

*ethyl 3-(biphenyl-4-yl)-3-chloro-2-oxopropanoate (3e)*: Yield 42.9 mg (42%, Yellow oil); IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  1732, 1240, 1056, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.24-7.23 (m, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 4.40 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  161.9, 153.4, 141.8, 133.4, 126.6, 120.51, 120.47, 107.6, 92.9, 61.1, 61.0, 56.1, 14.3. ESI-HRMS calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClNO<sub>4</sub> (Cl-35) (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 284.0684, found 284.0694.

*ethyl 3H-benzo[e]indole-2-carboxylate (2f)*: Yield 67.9 mg (80%, white solid); mp 159-160 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3298, 1677, 1191, 758 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.47 (br s, 1H), 8.23 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.75 (dd, 1H, *J* = 1.8, 0.6 Hz), 7.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 7.58 (td, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 1.2 Hz), 7.50 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 7.45 (td, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 1.2 Hz), 4.46 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.45 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  162.1, 134.3, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 126.9, 126.7, 125.6, 124.2, 123.0, 122.9, 113.0, 117.8, 61.0, 14.4. ESI-HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 240.1019, found 240.1019.

*ethyl 1H-benzo[g]indole-2-carboxylate (2g)*: Yield 44.1 mg (48%, white solid); mp 158-159 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3317, 1683, 1211, 743 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.2 (br s, 1H), 8.27

(d, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 7.91 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.7, 1.5$  Hz), 7.67 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.7$  Hz), 7.57-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.35 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.1$  Hz), 4.49 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 1.46 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.3, 133.0, 132.0, 128.8, 125.8, 125.5, 123.8, 122.0, 121.9, 121.3, 120.7, 110.2, 61.1, 14.5. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$  240.1019, found 240.1014.

*ethyl 6-bromo-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2h)*: Yield 87.8 mg (79%, white solid); mp 180-181 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3319, 2983, 1695, 1316  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.16 (br s, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.26 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.4, 1.45$  Hz), 7.18 (d, 1H,  $J = 0.9$  Hz), 4.43 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 1.43 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.8, 137.4, 128.12, 126.3, 124.3, 123.8, 119.0, 114.8, 108.6, 61.3, 14.3. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrNO}_2$  ( $\text{Br}-79$ ) ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$  267.9968, found 267.9959.

*ethyl 6-chloro-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2i)*: Yield 34.5 mg (71%, white solid); mp 158-160 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3317, 1693, 1521, 1317  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.24 (br s, 1H), 7.59 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.7$  Hz), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.19 (d, 1H,  $J = 1.2$  Hz), 7.12 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.7, 1.8$  Hz), 4.43 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 1.43 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.9, 137.1, 131.2, 128.2, 126.0, 123.5, 121.8, 111.7, 108.6, 61.2, 14.3. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClNO}_2$  ( $\text{Cl}-35$ ) ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$  224.0473, found 224.0477.

*ethyl 6-fluoro-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2j)*: Yield 61.3 mg (65%, colorless crystal); mp 128-129 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3315, 1684, 1268  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.33 (br s, 1H), 7.61 (dd, 1H,  $J = 9.0, 5.4$  Hz), 7.21-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.10 (dd, 1H,  $J = 9.6, 2.1$  Hz), 6.92 (td, 1H,  $J = 9.6, 2.4$  Hz), 4.43 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 1.42 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.3, 161.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 630$  Hz), 137.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 52$  Hz), 128.0 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 15$  Hz), 124.0, 123.7 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 41$  Hz), 110.3 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 101$  Hz), 108.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 3$  Hz), 97.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 104$  Hz), 61.2, 14.3. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{FNO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$  208.0768, found 208.0778.

*ethyl 6-nitro-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2k)*: Yield 19.0 mg (22%, yellow crystal); mp 154-155 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3320, 1698, 1512, 1321, 1250  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.69 (br s, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.05 (dd, 1H,  $J = 9.0, 2.1$  Hz), 7.78 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.7$  Hz), 7.30 (d, 1H,  $J = 0.9$  Hz), 4.49 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 1.46 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.3, 145.5, 135.1, 132.4, 131.8, 122.9, 115.8, 108.8, 108.3, 61.9, 14.3. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$  235.0713, found 235.0713.



*ethyl 4-bromo-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2l)*: Yield 61.3 mg (63%, colorless crystal); mp 150-151 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3308, 1689, 1253, 1210, 763  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.55 (br s, 1H), 7.37 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz), 7.32 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.16 (t, 1H,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz), 4.45 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.44 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.0, 137.0, 128.4, 127.8, 126.0, 123.6, 116.4, 111.1, 108.7, 61.4, 14.3. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrNO}_2$  (Br-79)  $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$  267.9968, found 267.9962.

*ethyl 4-chloro-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2m)*: Yield 56.4 mg (63%, white solid); mp 139-140 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3316, 1691, 1257, 764  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.68 (br s, 1H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 2H), 4.45 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.44 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.1, 137.5, 127.8, 127.7, 126.5, 125.7, 120.3, 110.6, 107.0, 61.4, 14.3. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClNO}_2$  (Cl-35)  $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$  224.0473, found 224.0475.

*ethyl 5-chloro-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2nX)*: Yield 27.7 mg (31%, colorless crystal); mp 160-161 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3311, 1691, 1526, 1255, 770  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.01 (br s, 1H), 7.66-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.35 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 7.27 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 8.7, 2.1 Hz), 7.15 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 1.8, 0.6 Hz), 4.42 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.42 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.7, 135.0, 128.7, 128.4, 126.4, 125.8, 121.7, 113.0, 107.9, 61.3, 14.3. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClNO}_2$  (Cl-35)  $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$  224.0473, found 224.0474.

*ethyl 7-chloro-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2nY)*: Yield 27.1 mg (30%, colorless crystal); mp 98-99 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3321, 1713, 1313, 1241  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.08 (br s, 1H), 7.58 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz), 7.32 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 7.8, 0.9 Hz), 7.25 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 2.1 Hz), 7.08 (t, 1H,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz), 4.43 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.42 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.5, 134.2, 128.7, 128.2, 124.4, 121.5, 121.1, 117.2, 109.3, 62.3, 14.4. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClNO}_2$  (Cl-35)  $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$  224.0473, found 224.0472.

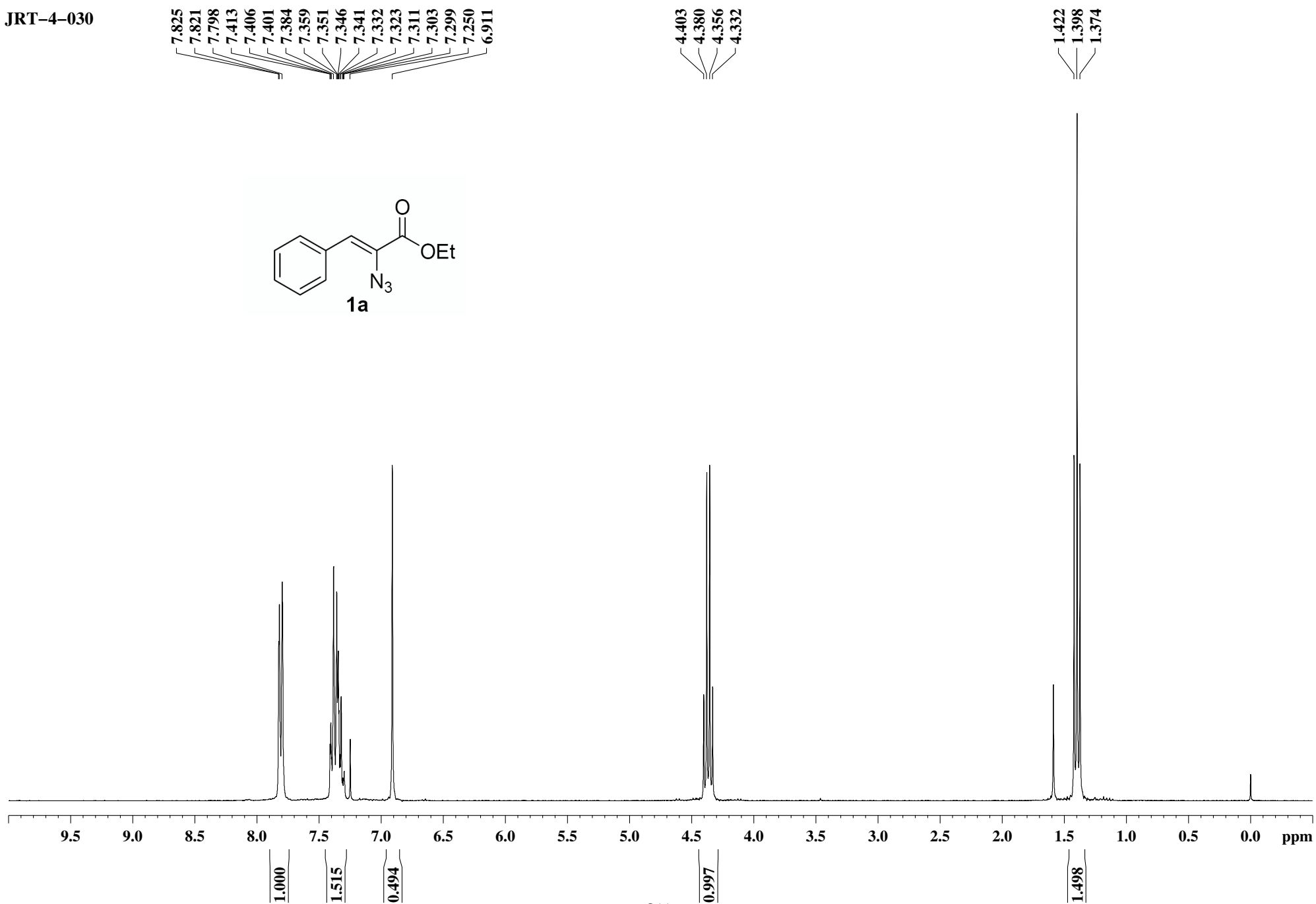
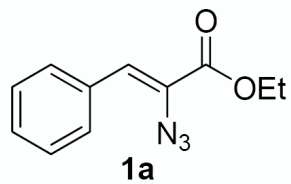
*ethyl 5-fluoro-6-methyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2oX)*: Yield 34.4 mg (38%, white solid); mp 141-142 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3319, 1690, 1248, 771  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.16 (br s, 1H), 7.25 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 9.9 Hz), 7.18 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz), 7.13 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 2.1, 0.9 Hz), 4.42 (q, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 2.38 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 1.8 Hz), 1.41 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.0, 157.3 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 942 Hz), 133.6, 128.0, 125.6, 124.4 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 88 Hz), 113.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 22 Hz), 108.4 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 22 Hz), 106.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 97 Hz), 61.0, 15.7 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 17 Hz), 14.3. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{FNO}_2$   $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$  222.0925, found 222.0931.

*ethyl 7-fluoro-6-methyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2oY)*: Yield 15.8 mg (18%, white solid); mp 114-115 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3310, 1707, 1331  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.15 (br s, 1H), 7.32 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 7.19 (dd, 1H,  $J = 3.3, 2.4$  Hz), 6.92 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.8, 6.9$  Hz), 4.42 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 2.39 (d, 3H,  $J = 2.1$  Hz), 1.42 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.7, 147.5 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 967$  Hz), 128.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 19$  Hz), 127.8, 126.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 57$  Hz), 124.0 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 13$  Hz), 119.2 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 49$  Hz), 117.5 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 17$  Hz), 109.0 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 9$  Hz), 61.1, 14.4, 14.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 15$  Hz). ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{FNO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$  222.0925, found 222.0925.

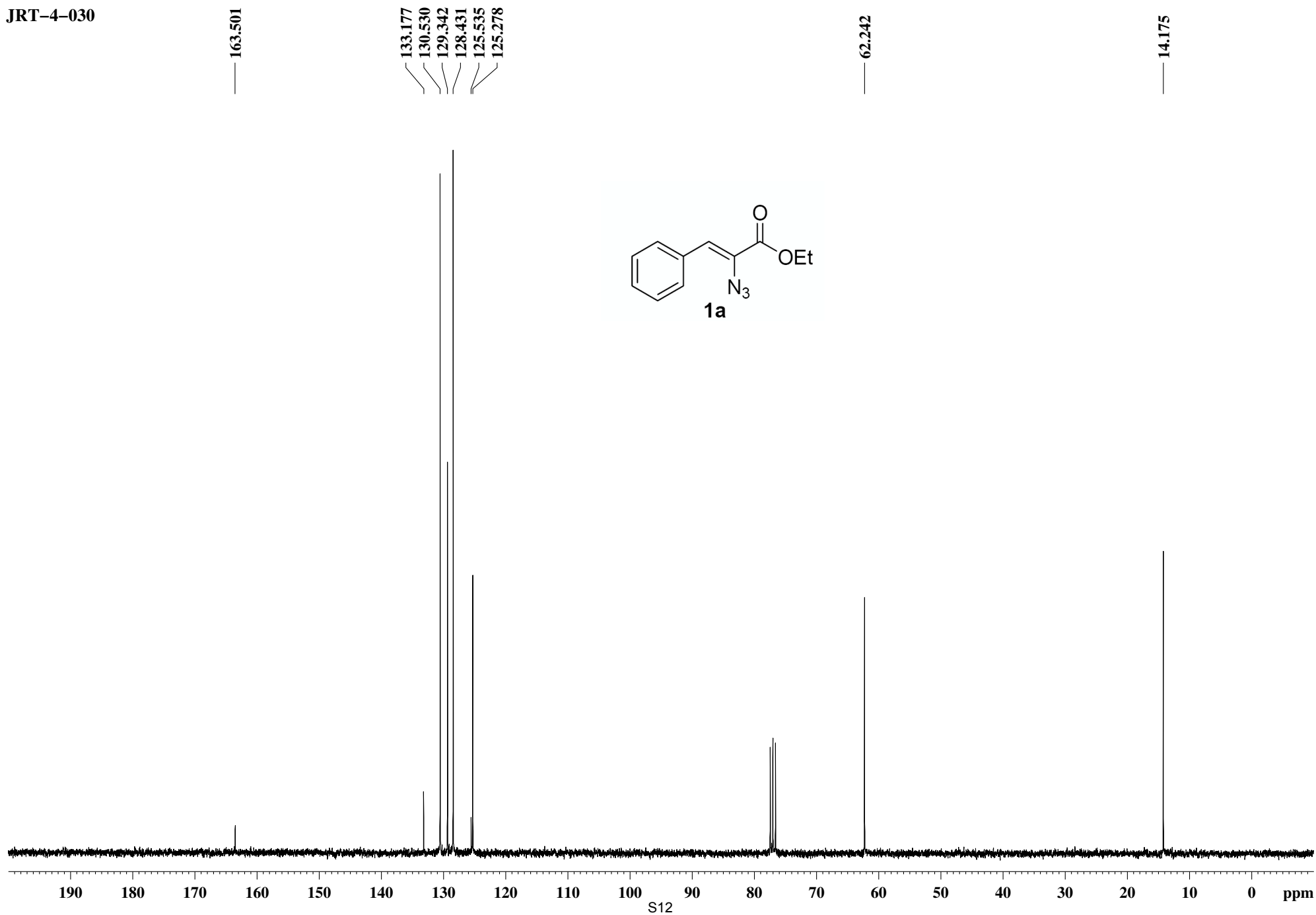
*ethyl 5-methoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2p)*: Prepared according to general procedure with a slight modification: a solution of starting material (100.0 mg, 0.4044 mmol) in 1.5 mL DCE was added dropwise to a mixture of  $\text{ZrCl}_4$  and  $\text{AgNO}_3$  in DCE (1 mL); Yield 48.1 mg (54%, colorless crystal); mp 110-111 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3327, 1682, 1527, 1217, 773  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.03 (br s, 1H), 7.31 (d, 1H,  $J = 9.0$  Hz), 7.14 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.1, 0.6$  Hz), 7.07 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.4$  Hz), 7.02 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.7, 2.4$  Hz), 4.39 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.0, 154.7, 132.2, 127.85, 127.81, 116.9, 112.8, 108.2, 102.5, 60.9, 55.6, 14.4. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$  220.0968, found 220.0974.

*ethyl 4-chloro-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2q)*: Yield 83.2 mg (88%, colorless crystal); mp 169-170 °C; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\max}$  3300, 1693, 1272, 1004, 763  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.03 (br s, 1H), 7.24-7.23 (m, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 4.40 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.9, 153.4, 141.8, 133.4, 126.6, 120.51, 120.47, 107.6, 92.9, 61.1, 61.0, 56.1, 14.3. ESI-HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNO}_4$  ( $\text{Cl}-35$ ) ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$  284.0684, found 284.0694.

JRT-4-030



JRT-4-030



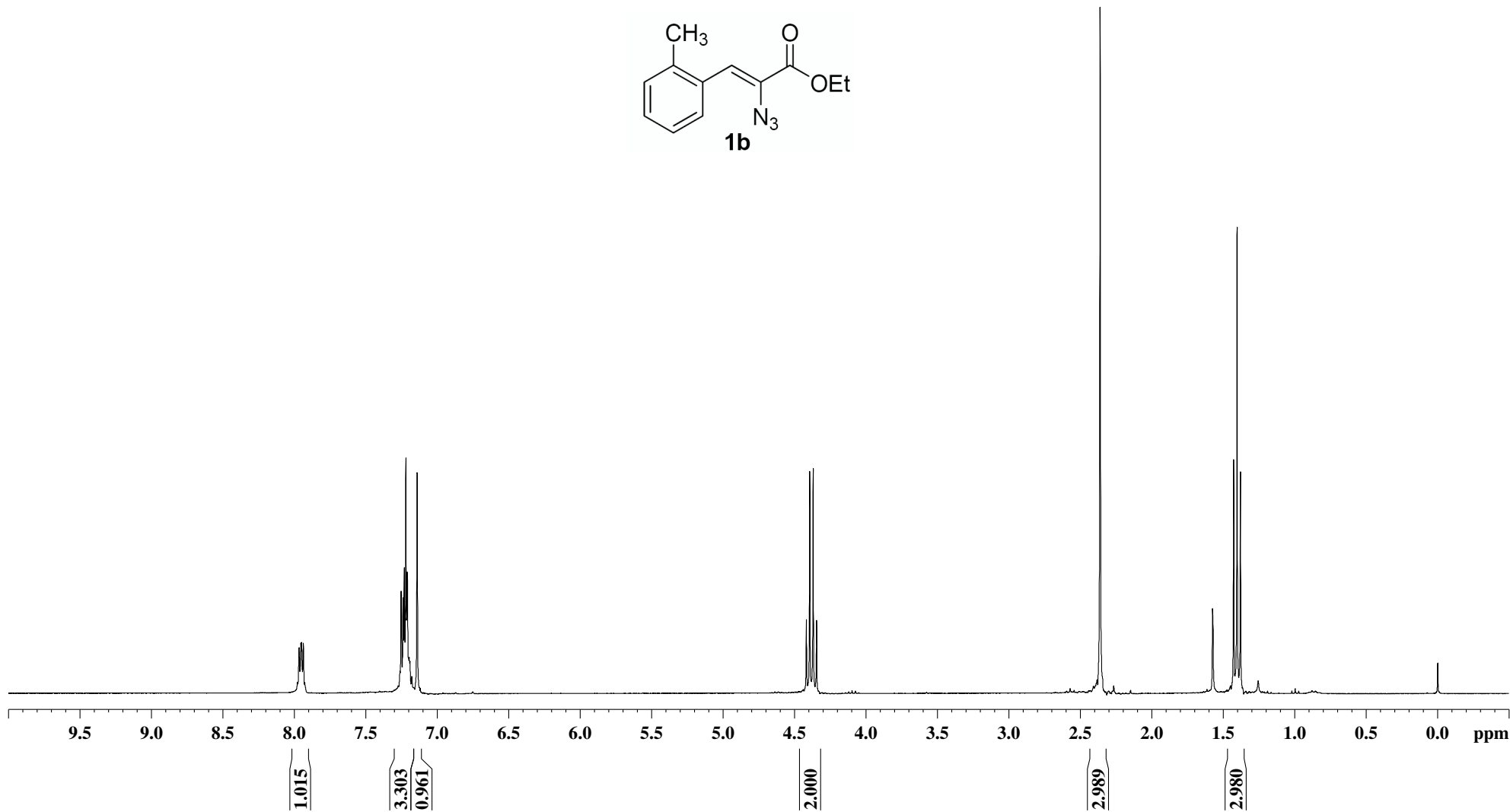
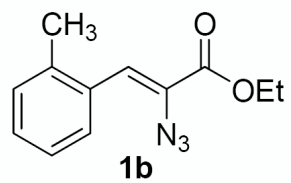
JRT-3-168A

7.976  
7.965  
7.952  
7.948  
7.935  
7.926  
7.271  
7.259  
7.252  
7.249  
7.237  
7.228  
7.218  
7.208  
7.194  
7.190  
7.176  
7.139

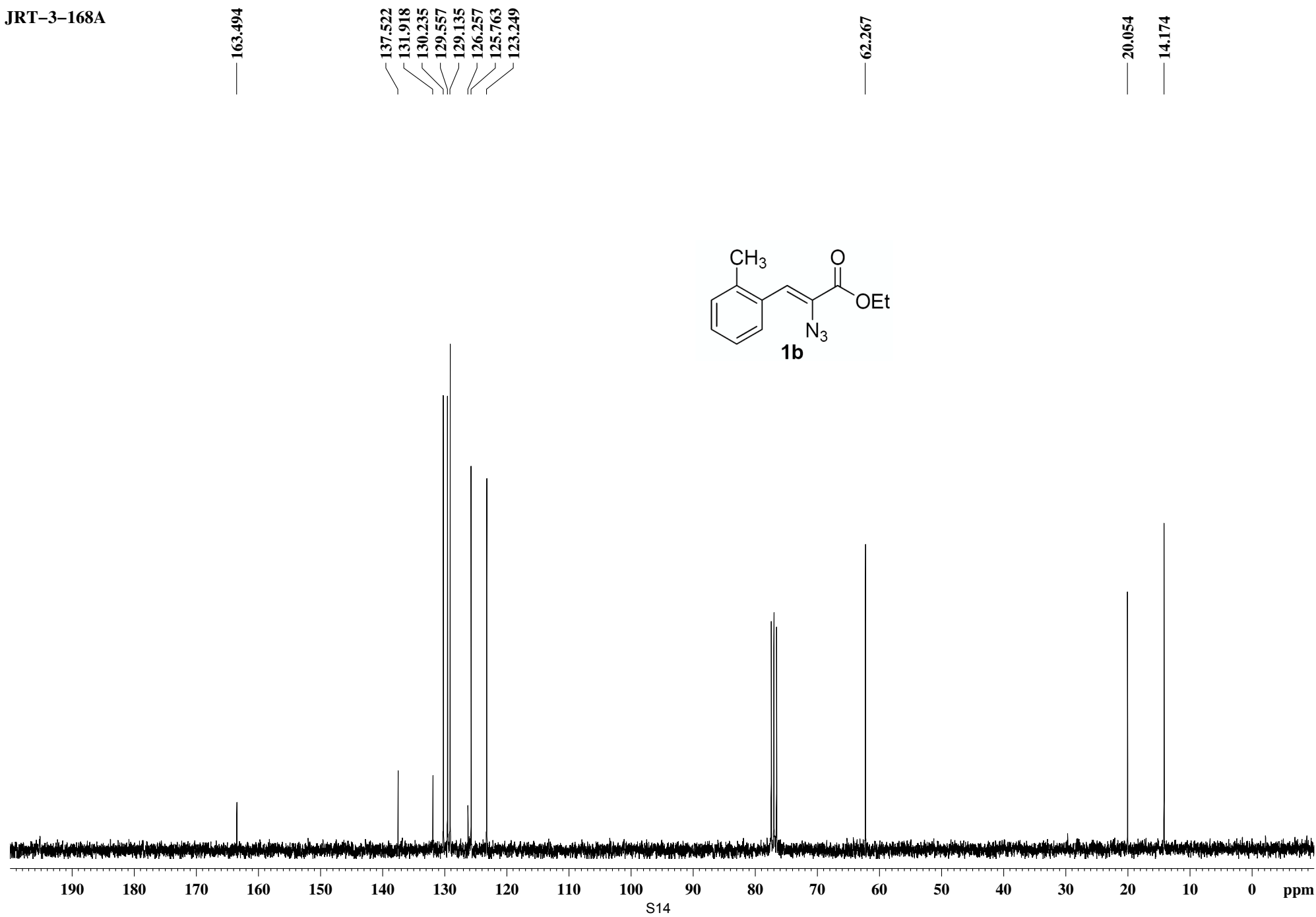
4.418  
4.394  
4.370  
4.346

2.362

1.428  
1.404  
1.380



JRT-3-168A



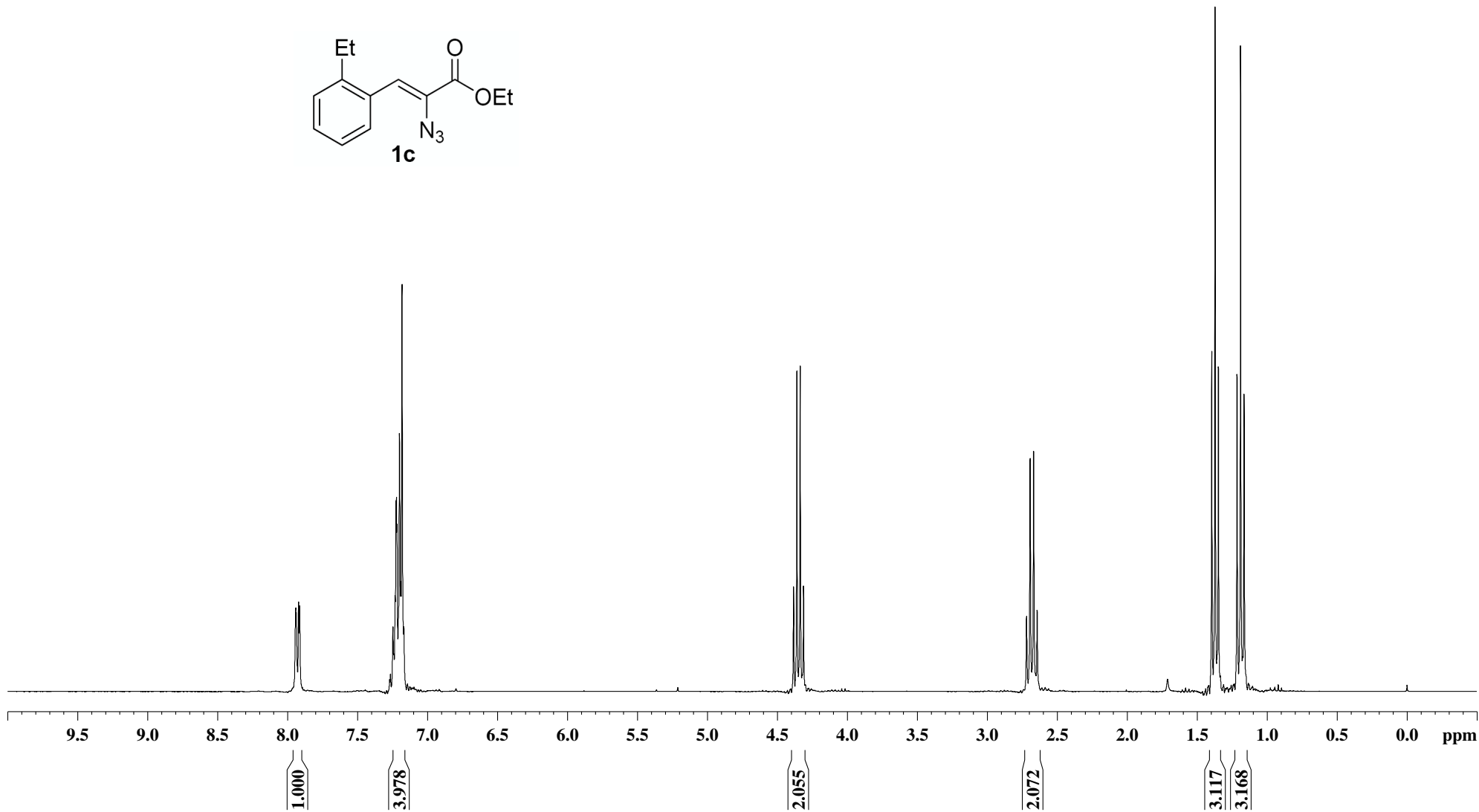
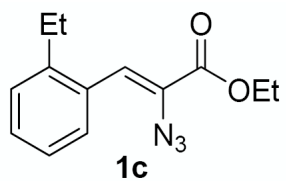
SK-1-071

7.942  
7.922  
7.914  
7.247  
7.231  
7.226  
7.222  
7.218  
7.201  
7.191  
7.183  
7.170

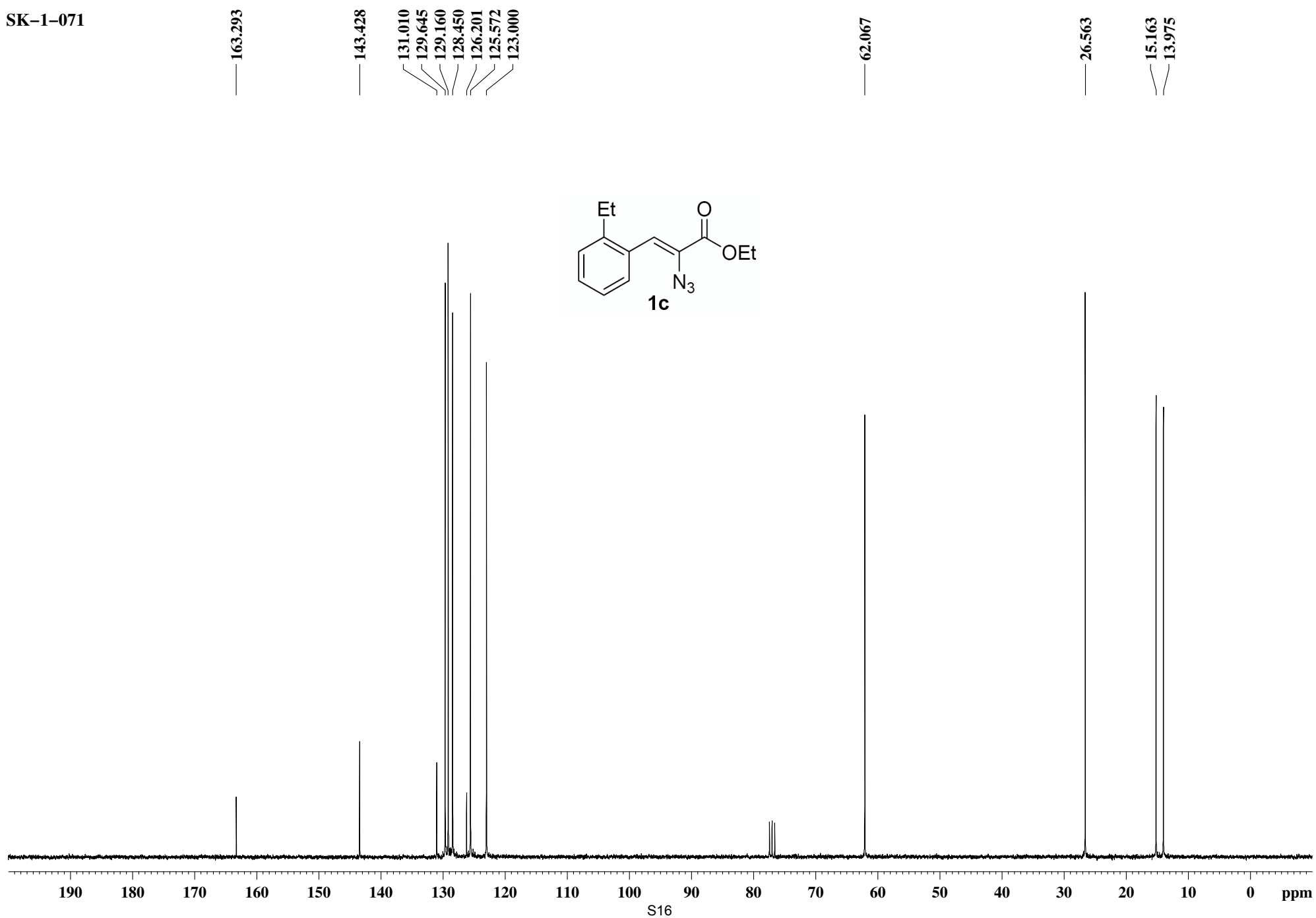
4.384  
4.360  
4.337  
4.313

2.719  
2.694  
2.668  
2.643

1.395  
1.371  
1.348  
1.215  
1.190  
1.164

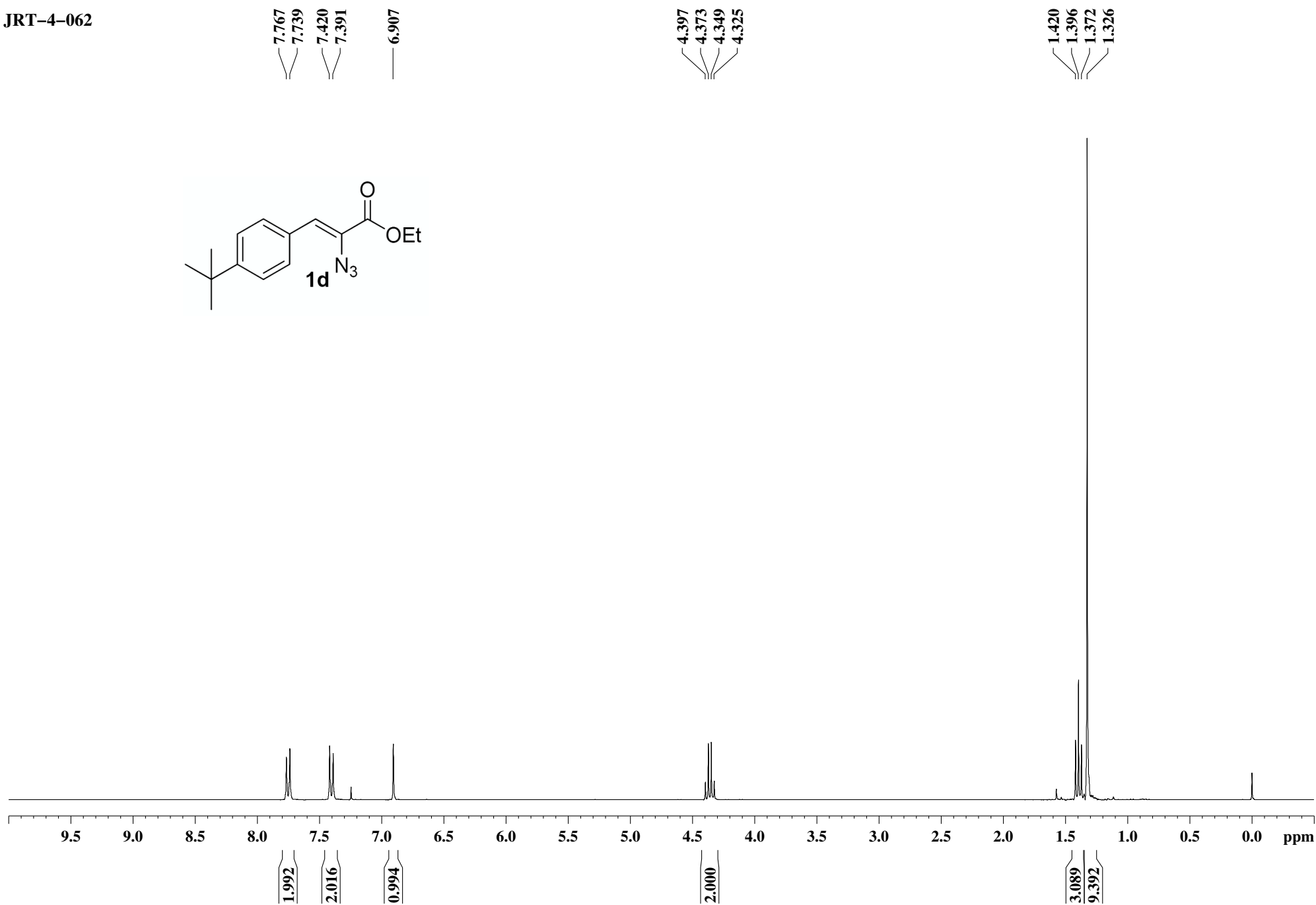
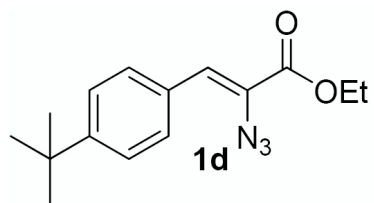


SK-1-071

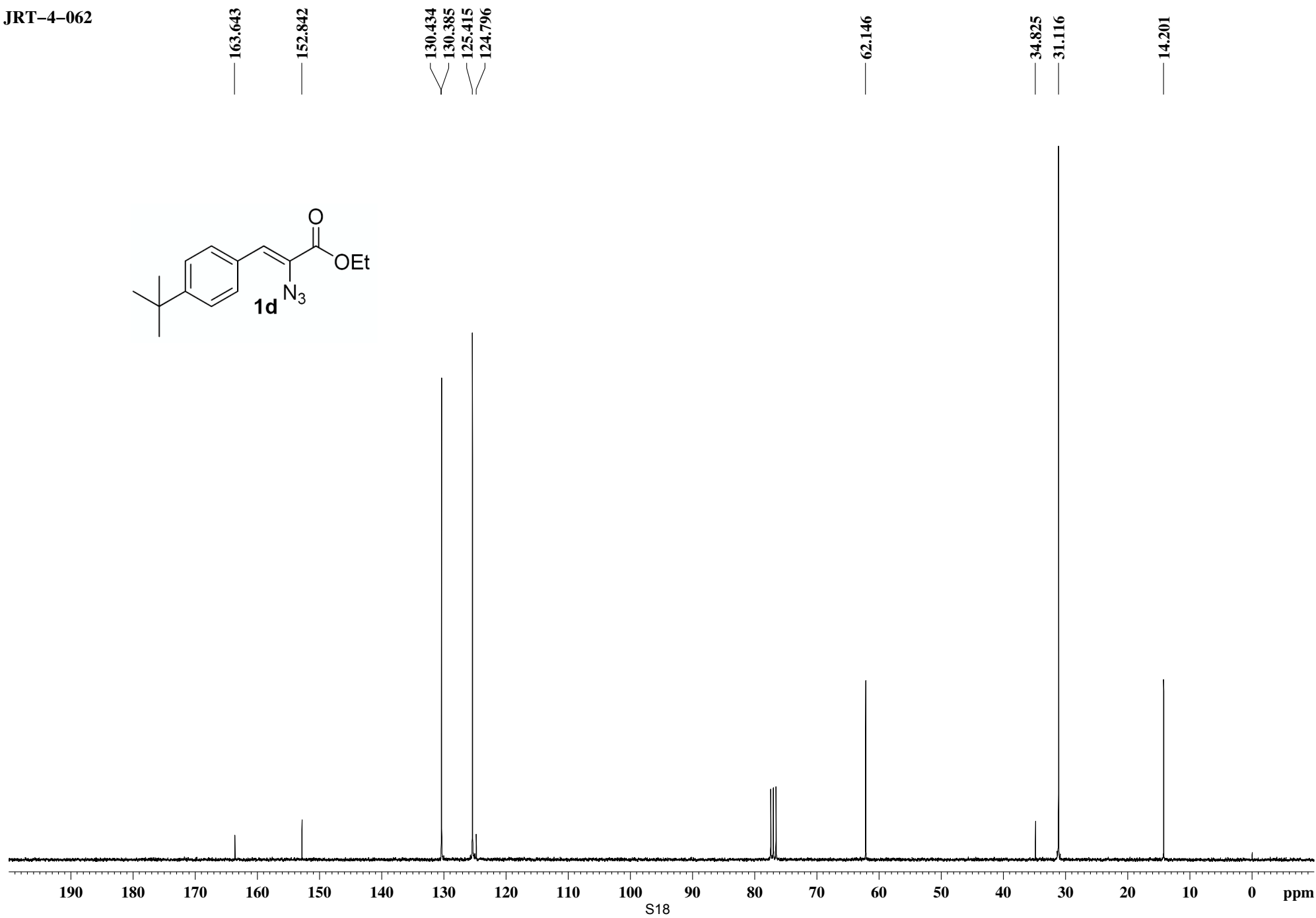




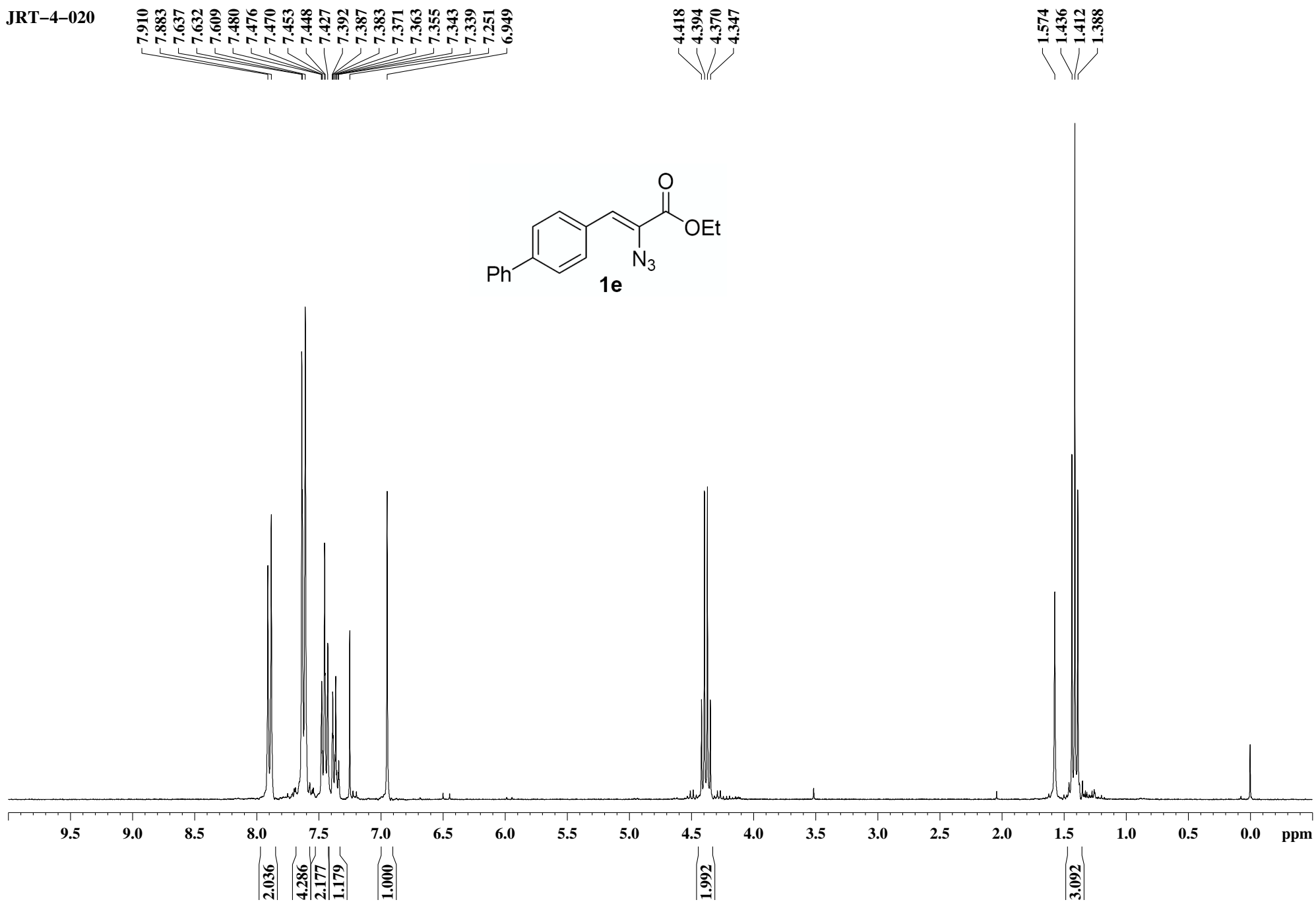
JRT-4-062



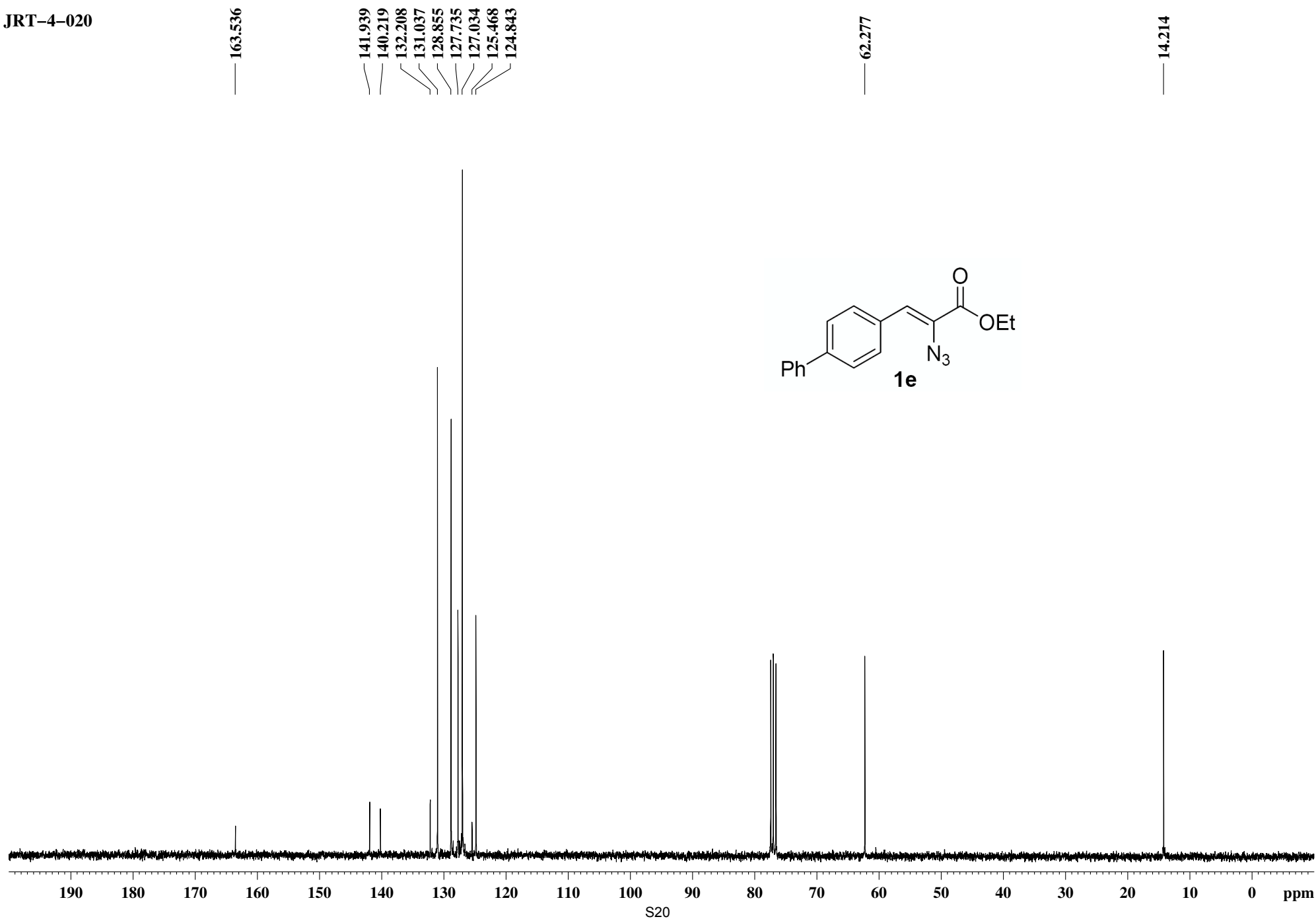
JRT-4-062



JRT-4-020



JRT-4-020

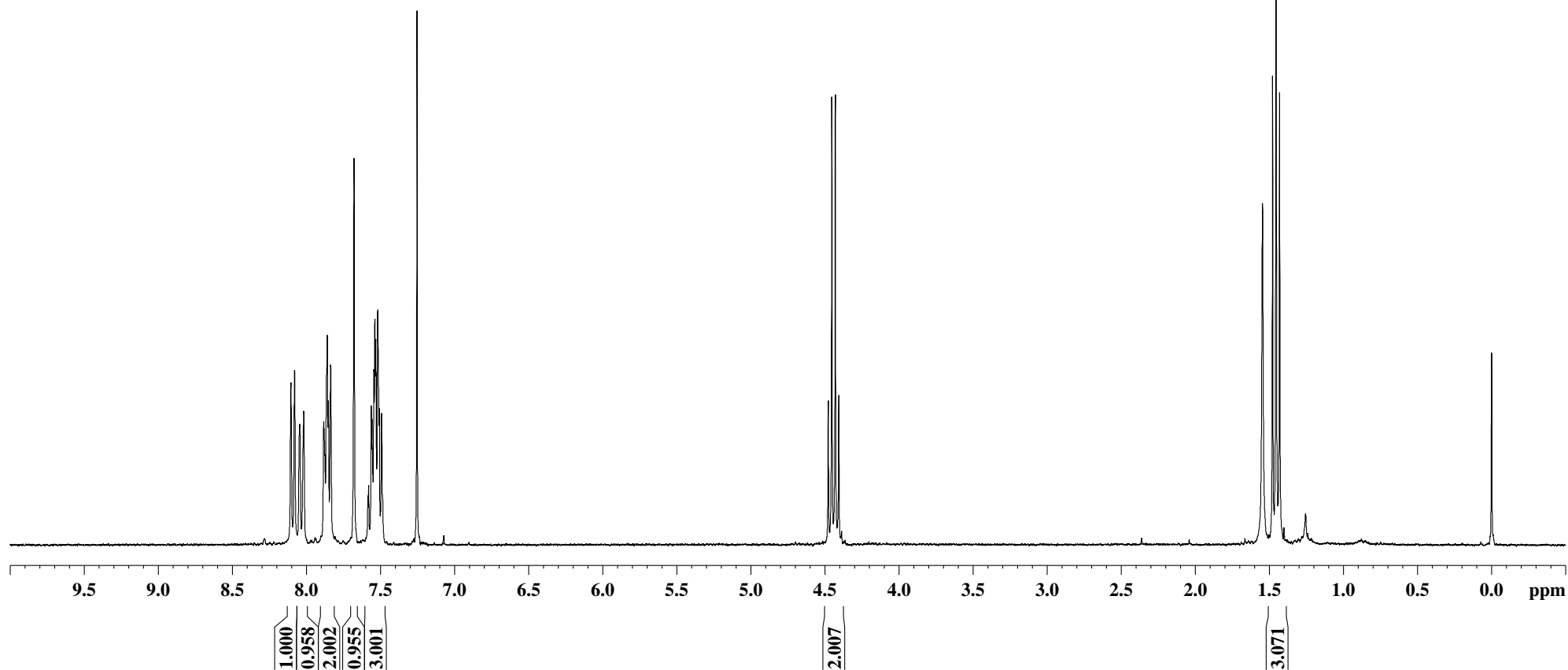
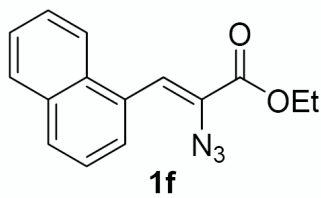


JRT-3-192A

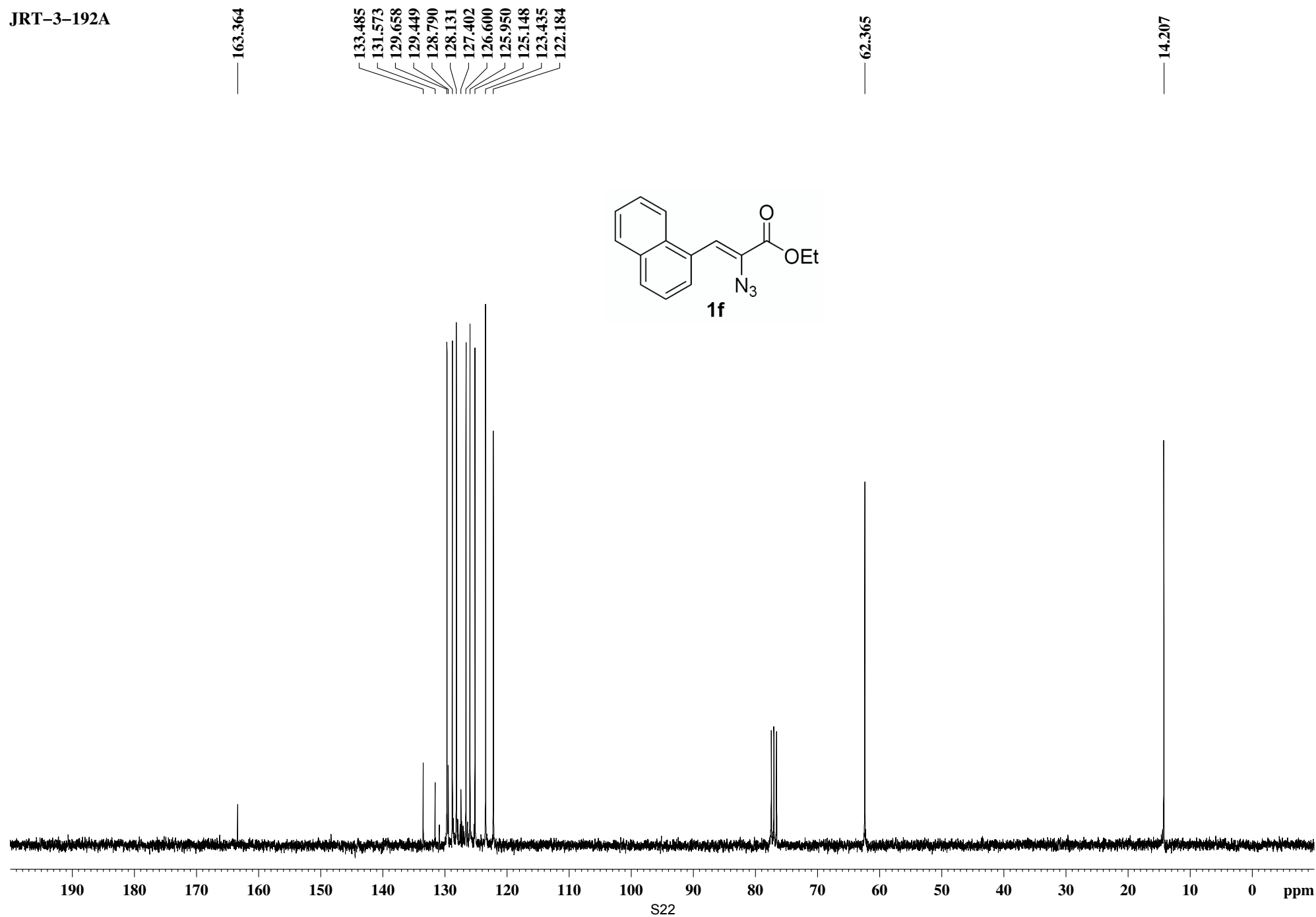
8.106  
8.082  
8.047  
8.020  
7.885  
7.861  
7.854  
7.838  
7.680  
7.587  
7.581  
7.564  
7.559  
7.554  
7.546  
7.539  
7.534  
7.520  
7.510  
7.494  
7.487

4.479  
4.455  
4.431  
4.407

1.479  
1.455  
1.431



JRT-3-192A

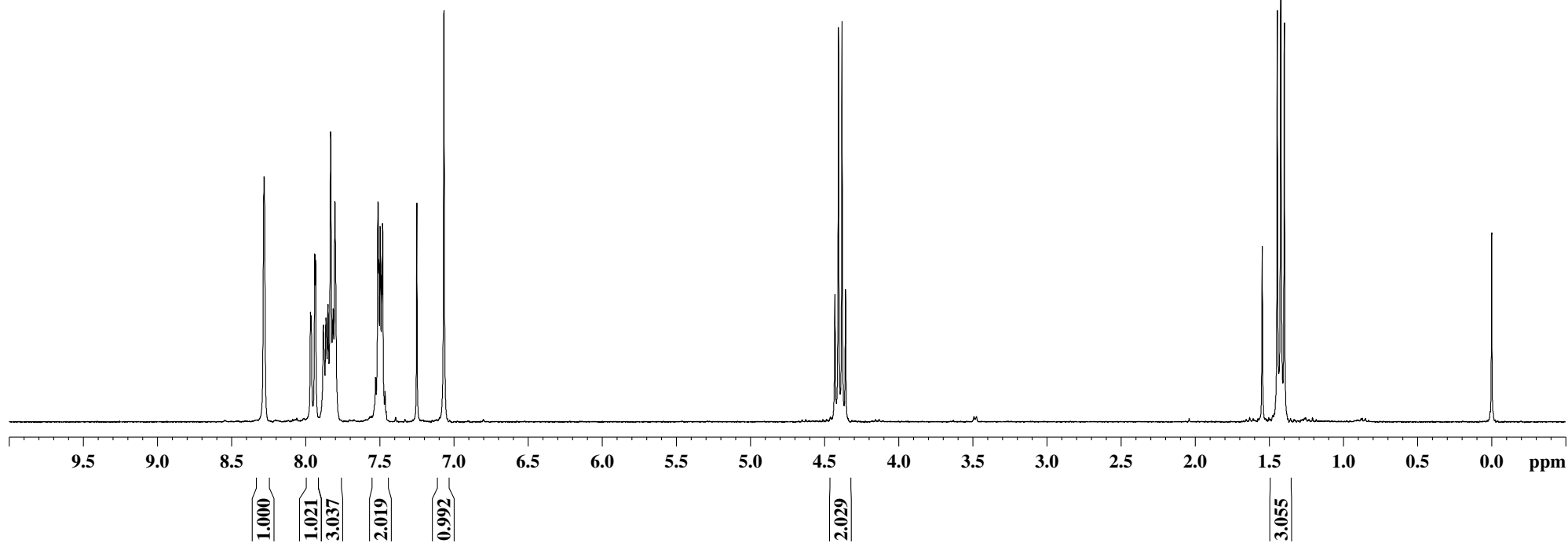
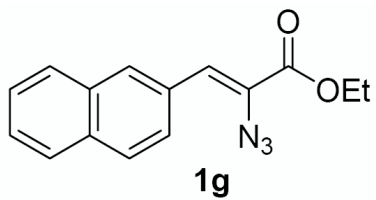


JRT-4-012

8.282  
7.969  
7.964  
7.940  
7.935  
7.882  
7.865  
7.851  
7.833  
7.816  
7.804  
7.530  
7.513  
7.508  
7.499  
7.489  
7.483  
7.466  
7.069

4.431  
4.407  
4.383  
4.359

1.446  
1.422  
1.399



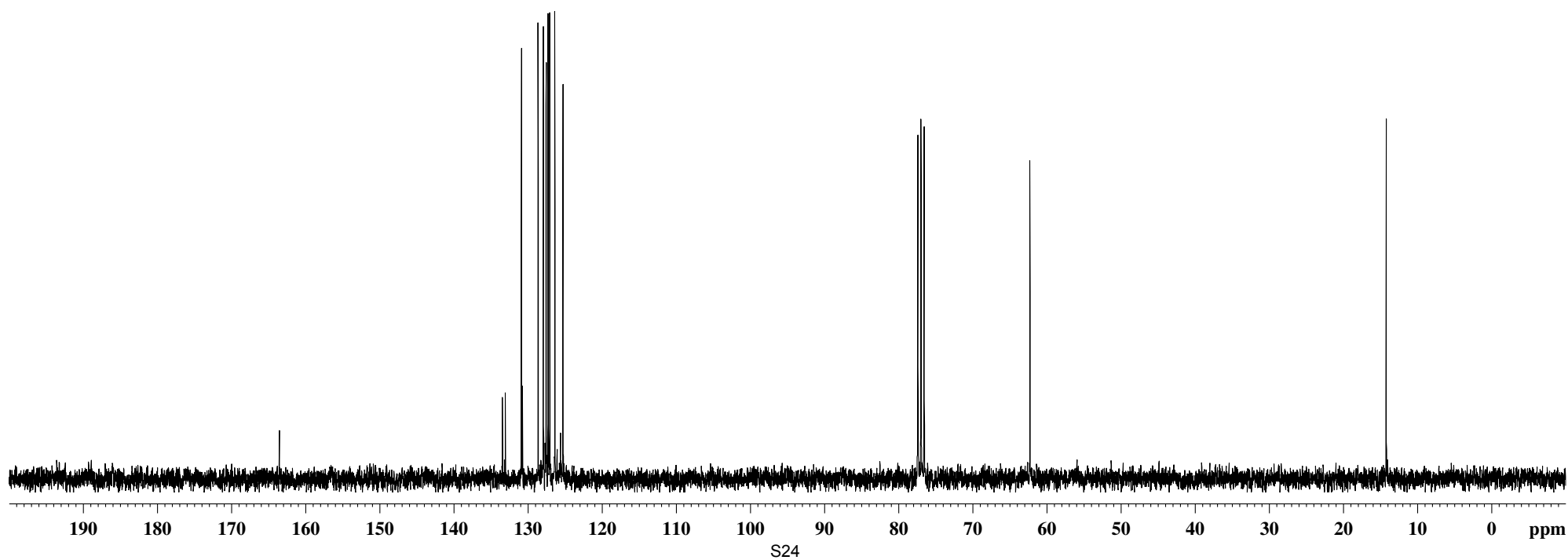
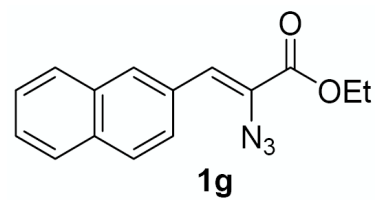
JRT-4-012

163.580

133.485  
133.096  
130.926  
130.773  
128.665  
127.965  
127.589  
127.332  
127.105  
126.406  
125.647  
125.320

62.304

14.229





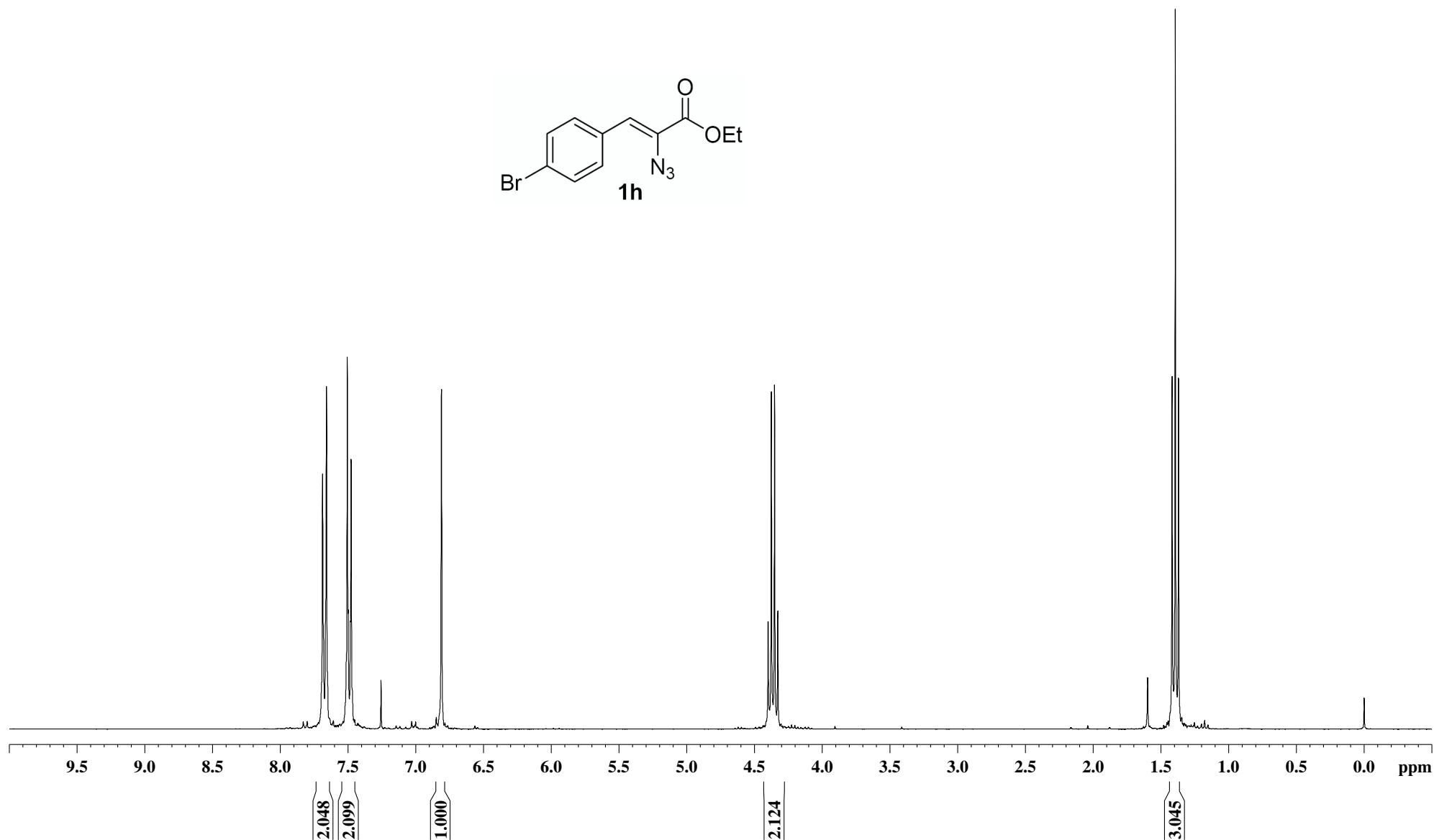
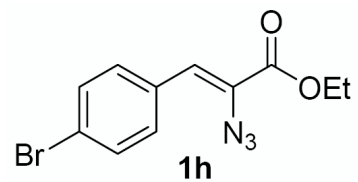
JRT-4-019

7.689  
7.660  
7.507  
7.478

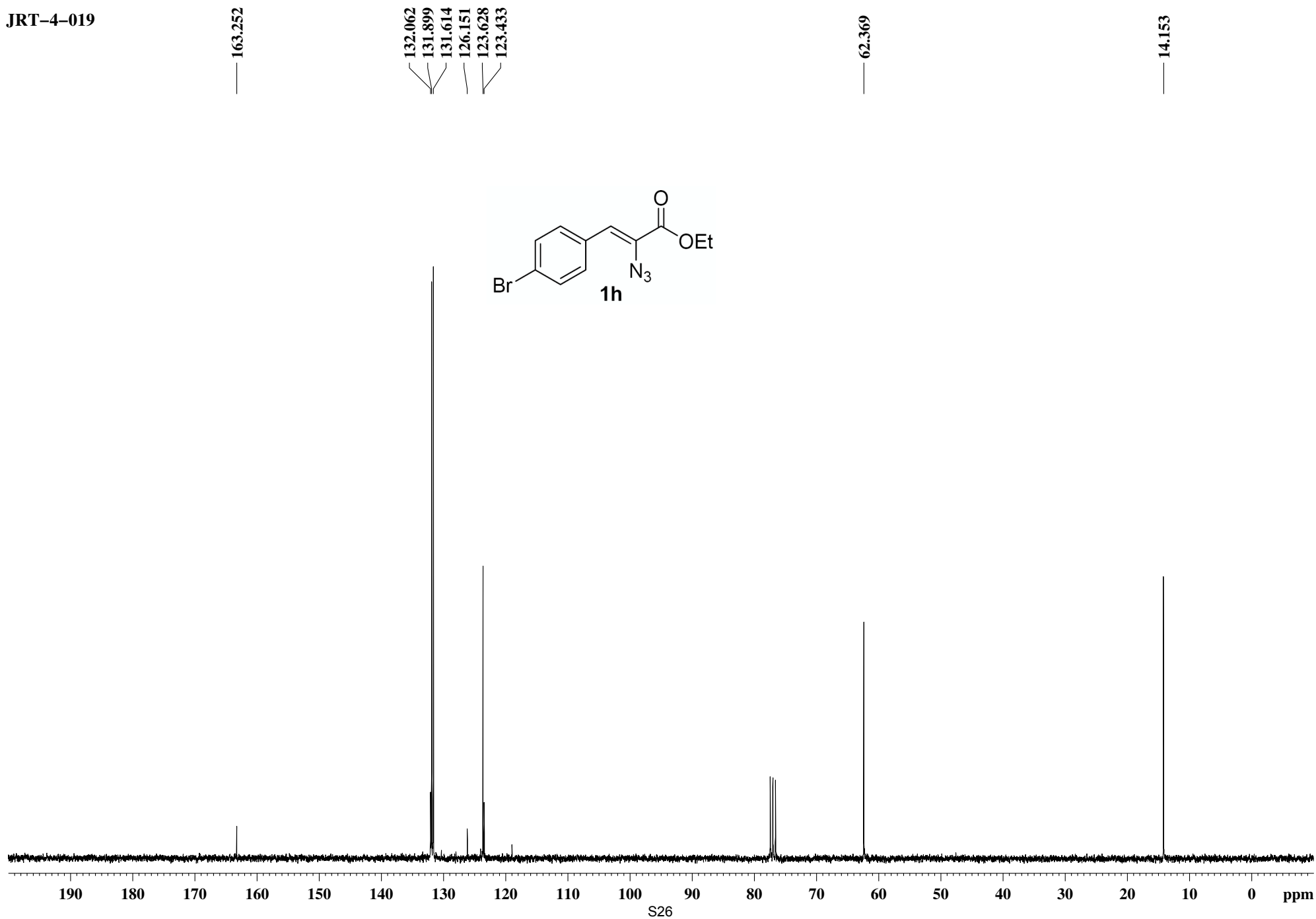
6.812

4.400  
4.376  
4.352  
4.329

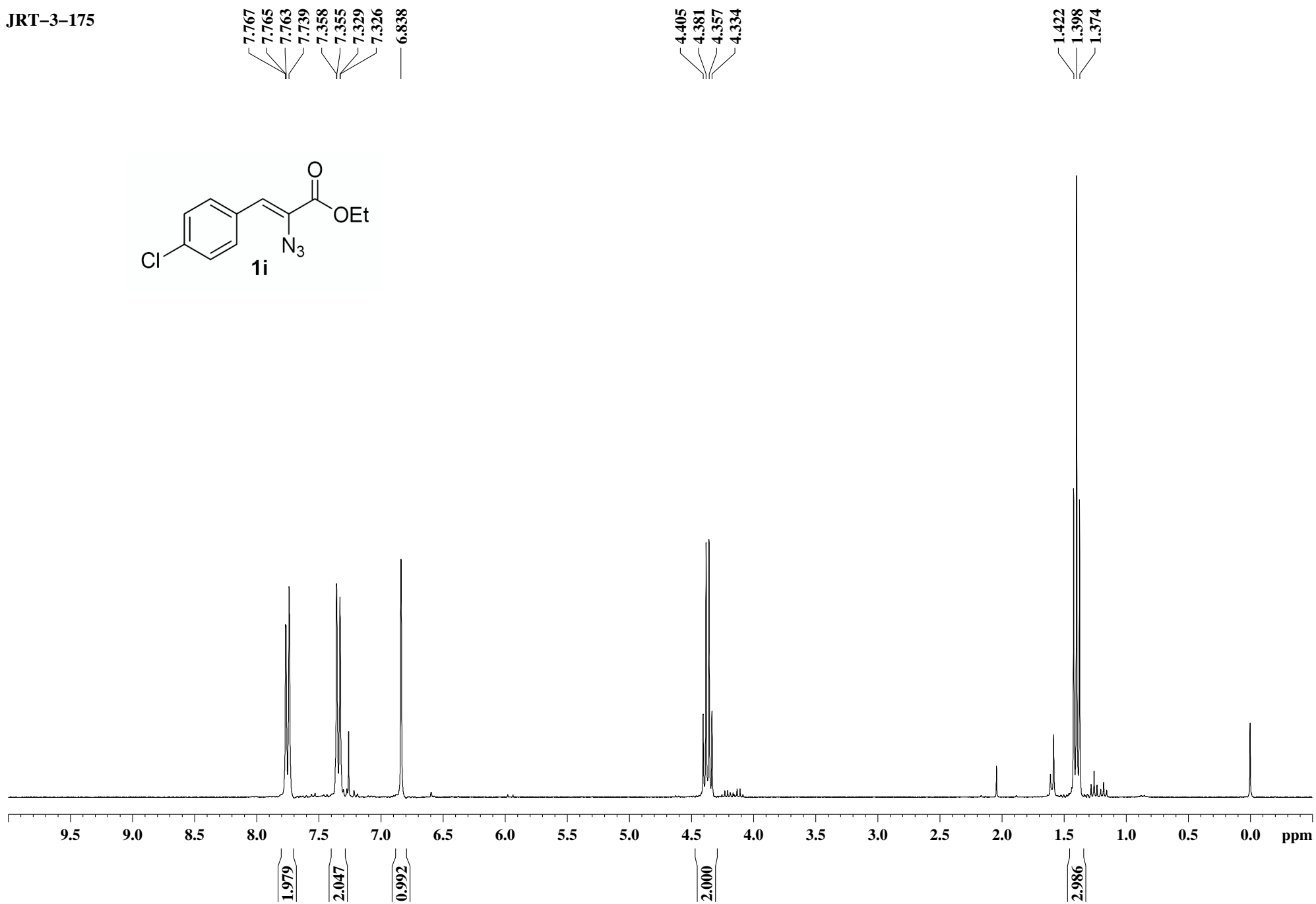
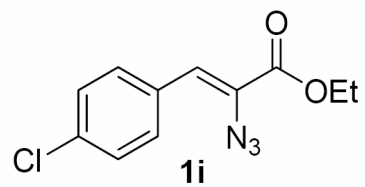
1.418  
1.394  
1.371



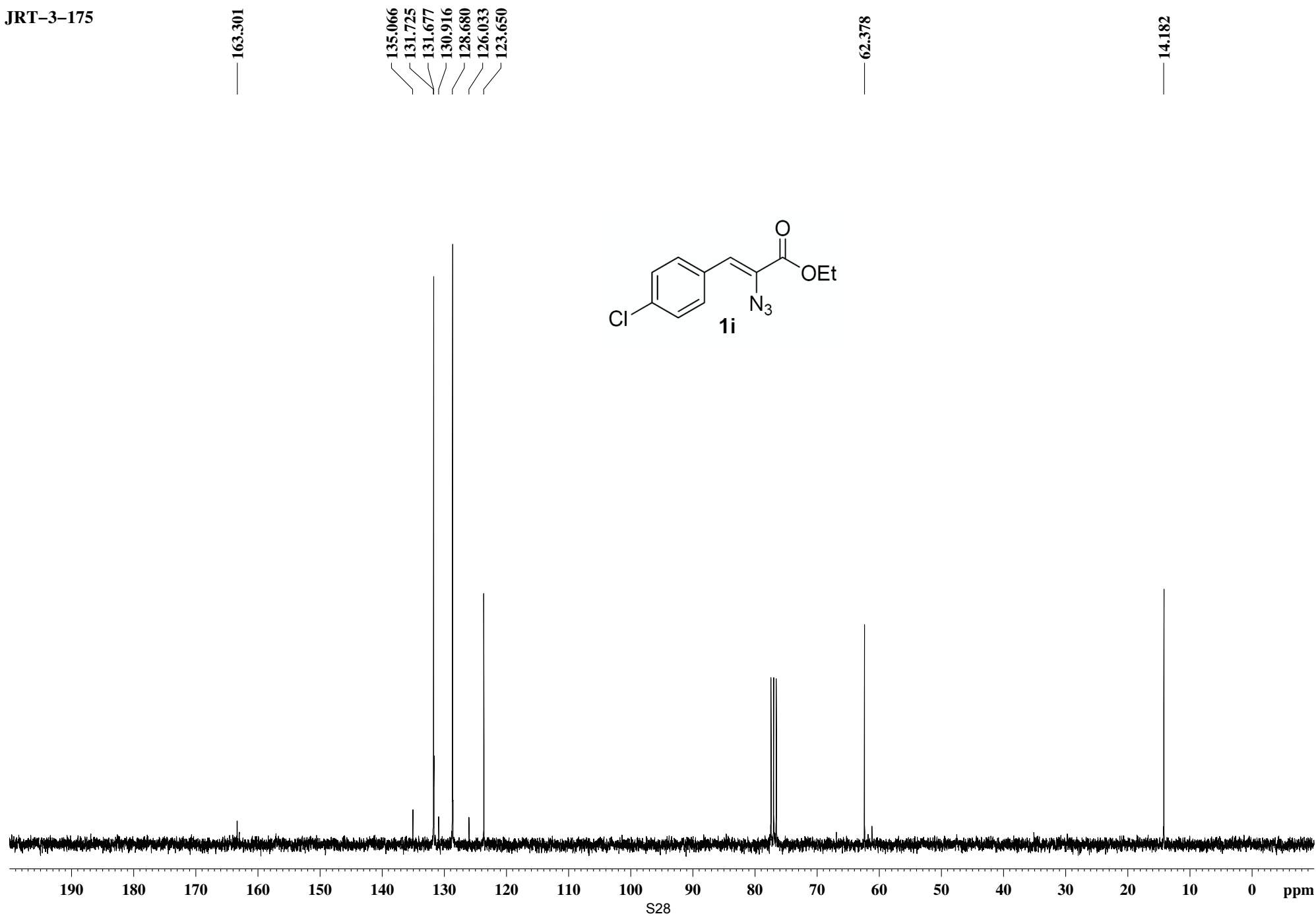
JRT-4-019



JRT-3-175



JRT-3-175

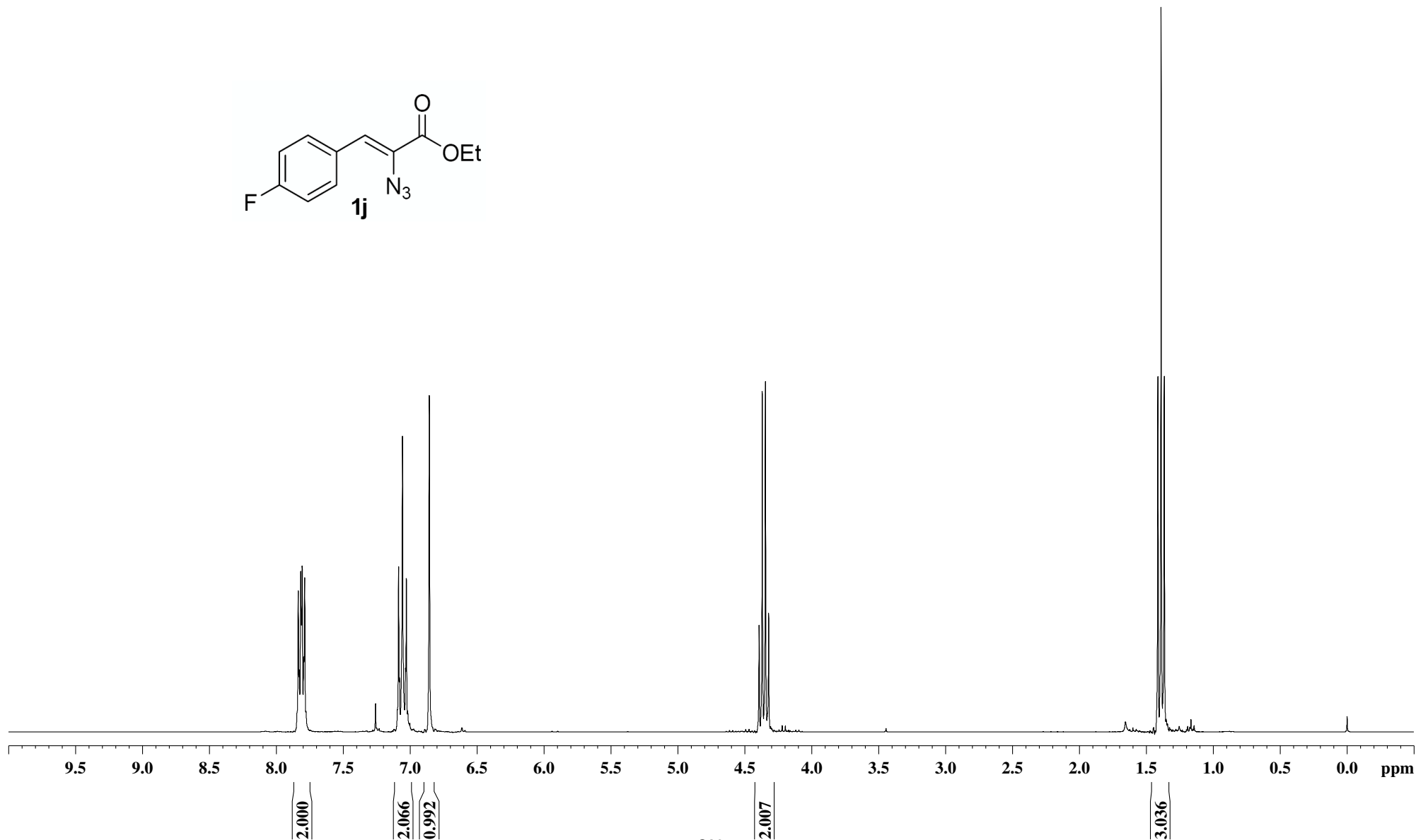
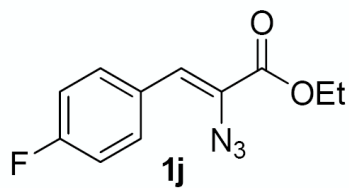


JRT-4-031B

7.833  
7.826  
7.815  
7.804  
7.792  
7.786  
7.776  
7.257  
7.093  
7.084  
7.077  
7.055  
7.032  
7.026  
7.016  
6.854

4.393  
4.370  
4.346  
4.322

1.414  
1.390  
1.366



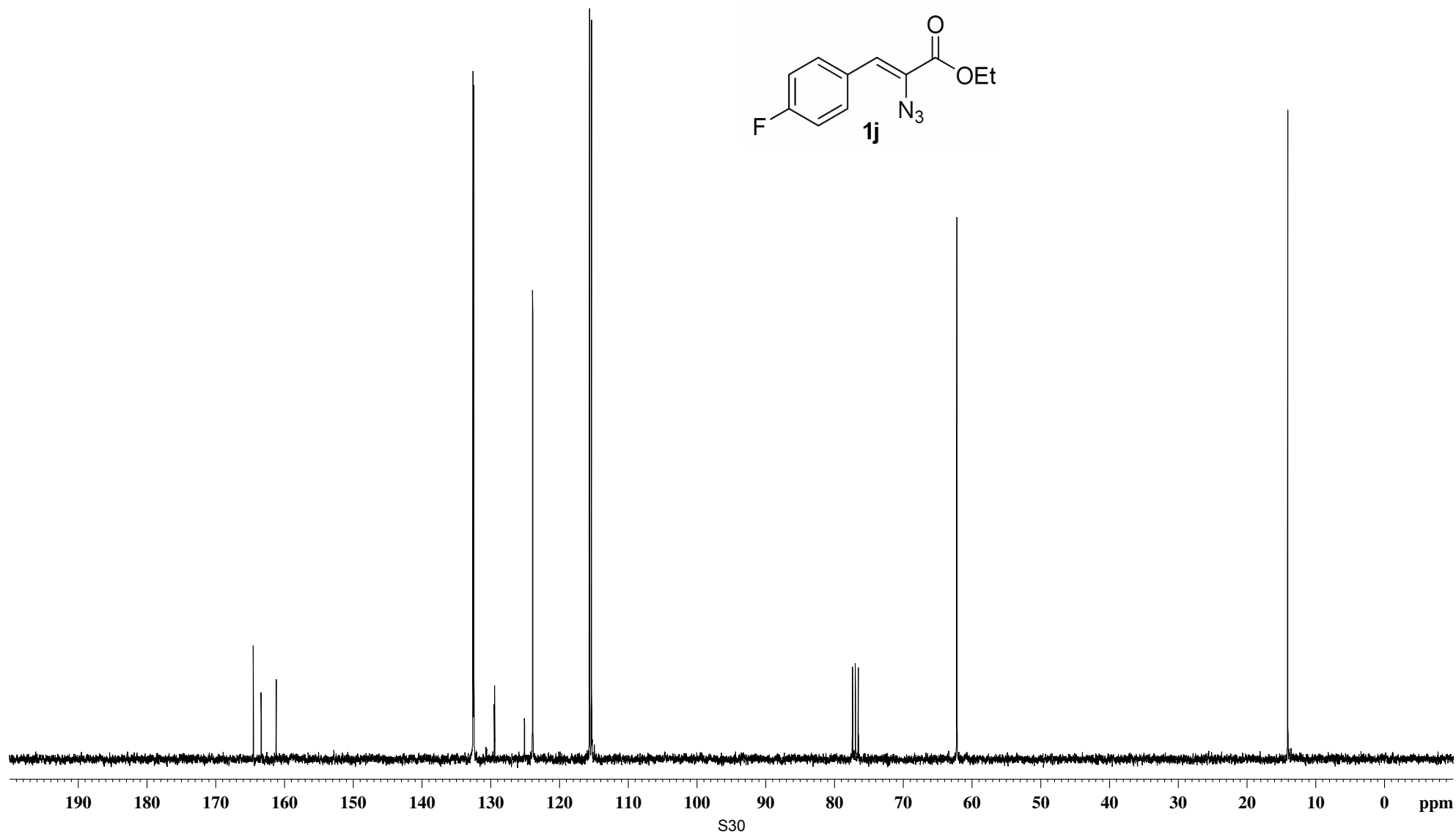
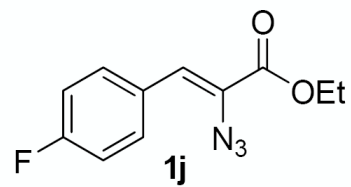
JRT-4-031B

164.508  
163.365  
161.176

132.551  
132.441  
129.449  
129.404  
125.104  
125.071  
123.876  
115.604  
115.318

62.241

14.113



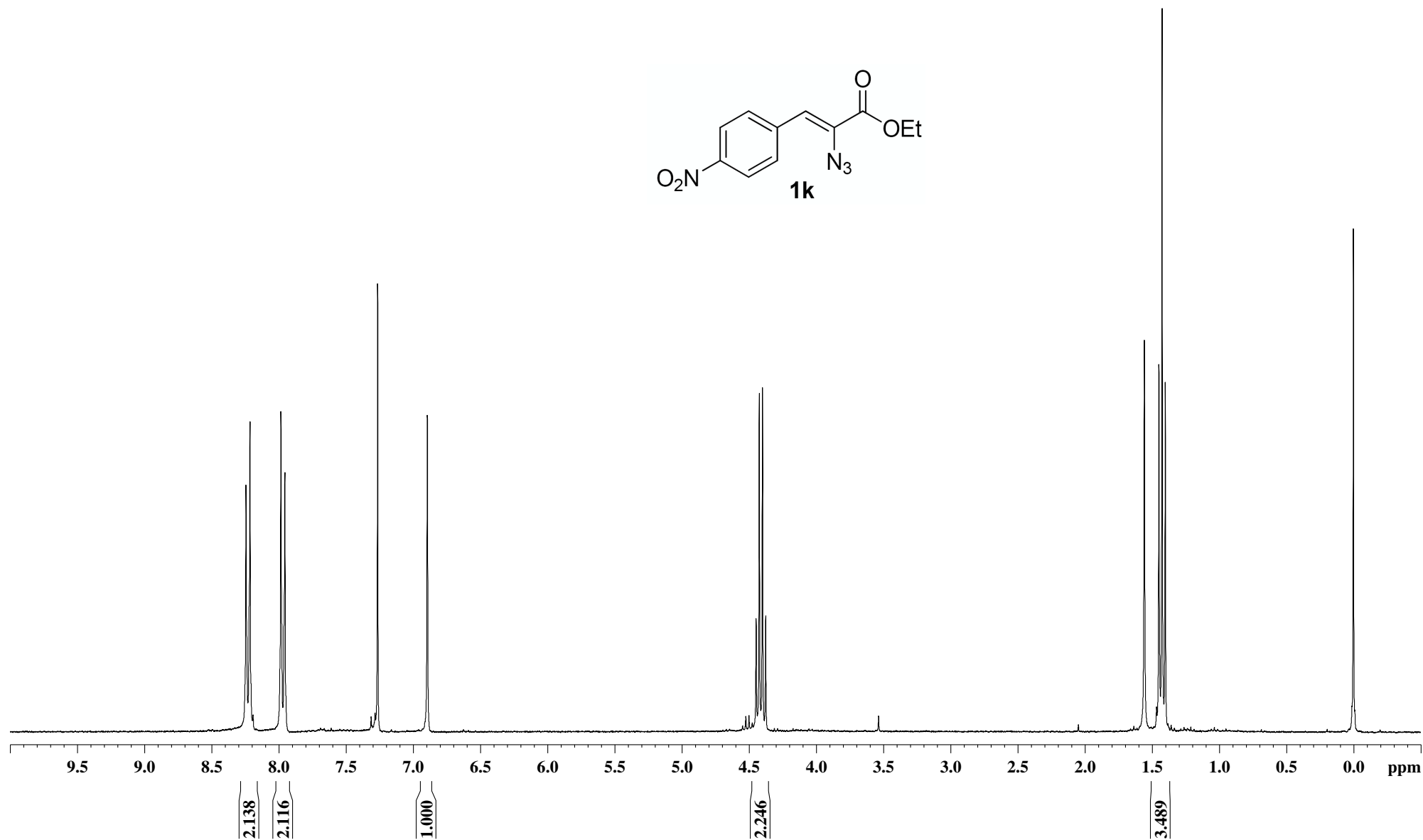
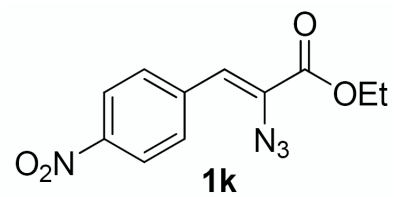
JRT-4-004

8.242  
8.213  
7.983  
7.953

6.893

4.446  
4.422  
4.398  
4.374

1.448  
1.424  
1.400



JRT-4-004

— 162.751

— 147.166

— 139.406

— 130.937

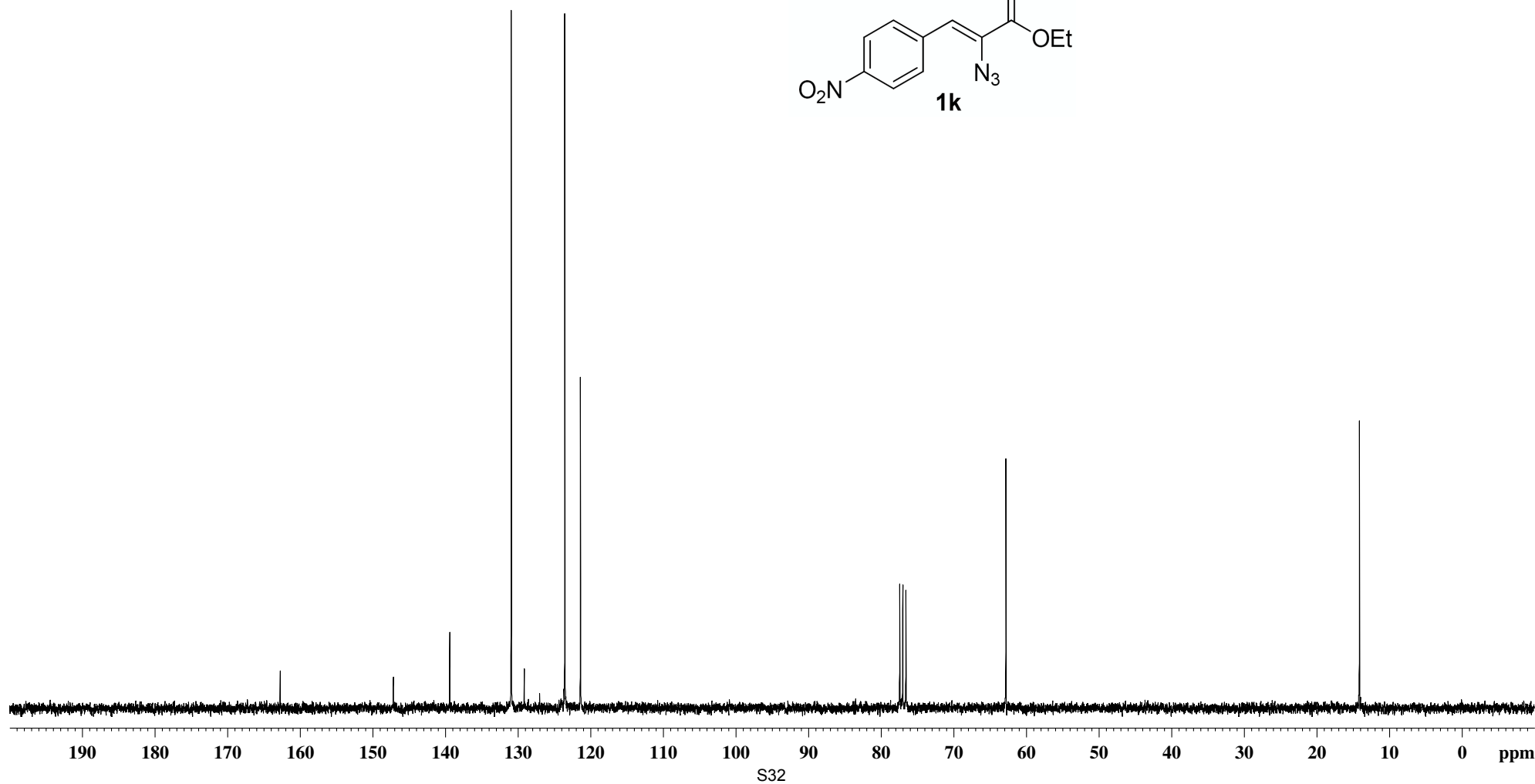
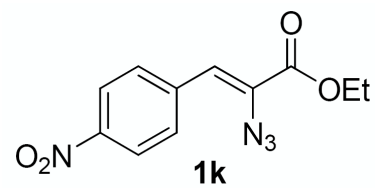
— 129.132

— 123.557

— 121.399

— 62.805

— 14.113



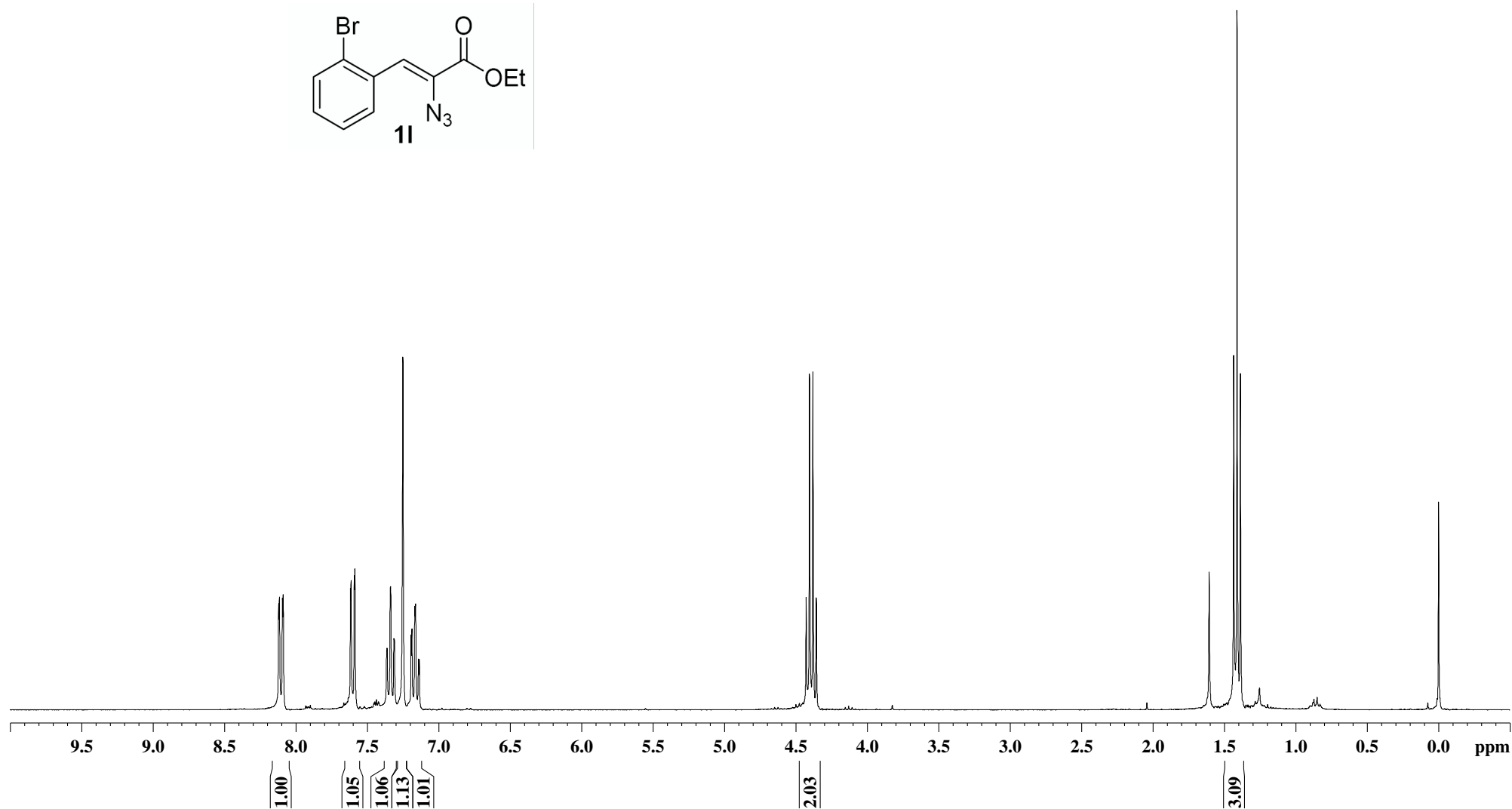
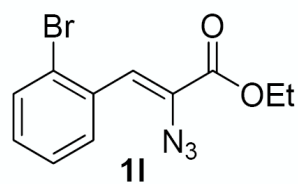


JRT-3-182A

8.122  
8.117  
8.095  
8.090  
7.619  
7.615  
7.592  
7.588  
7.365  
7.363  
7.339  
7.315  
7.312  
7.252  
7.194  
7.189  
7.168  
7.163  
7.143  
7.138

4.428  
4.405  
4.381  
4.357

1.435  
1.411  
1.387



JRT-3-182A

163.187

132.929

132.882

131.167

130.237

127.413

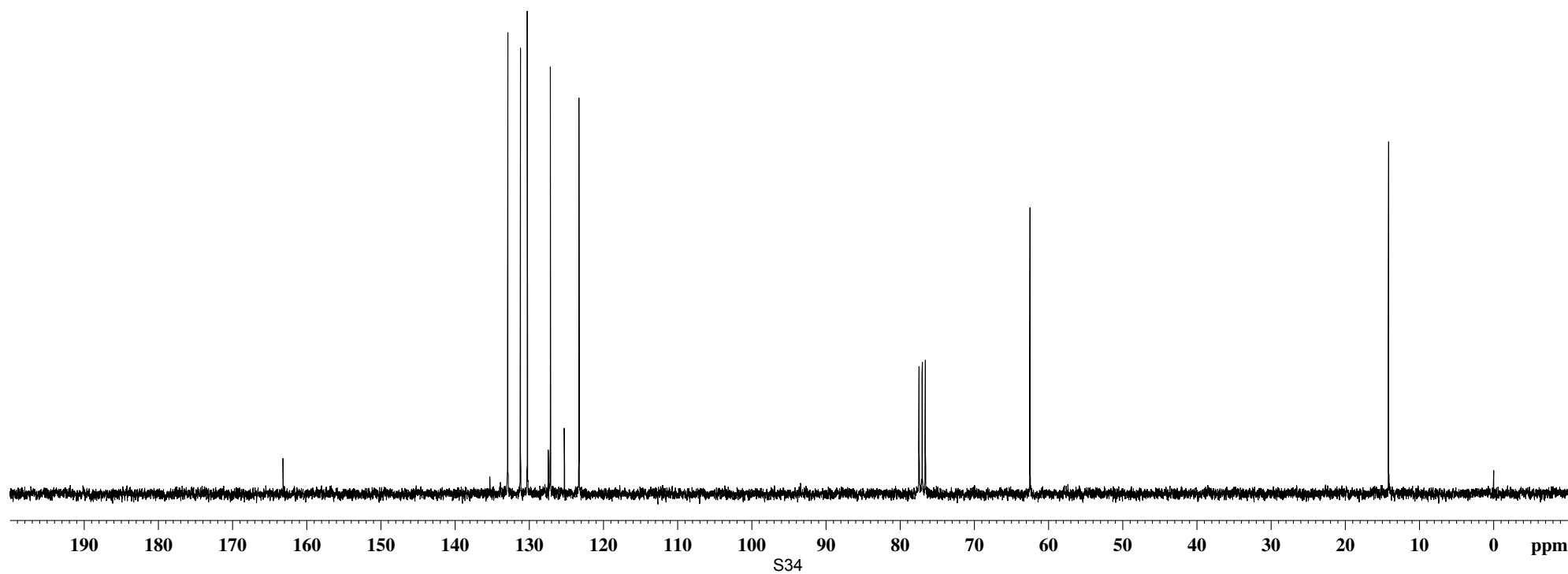
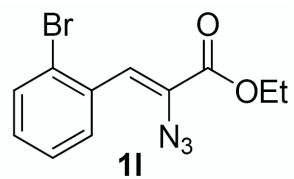
127.138

125.245

123.272

62.480

14.135

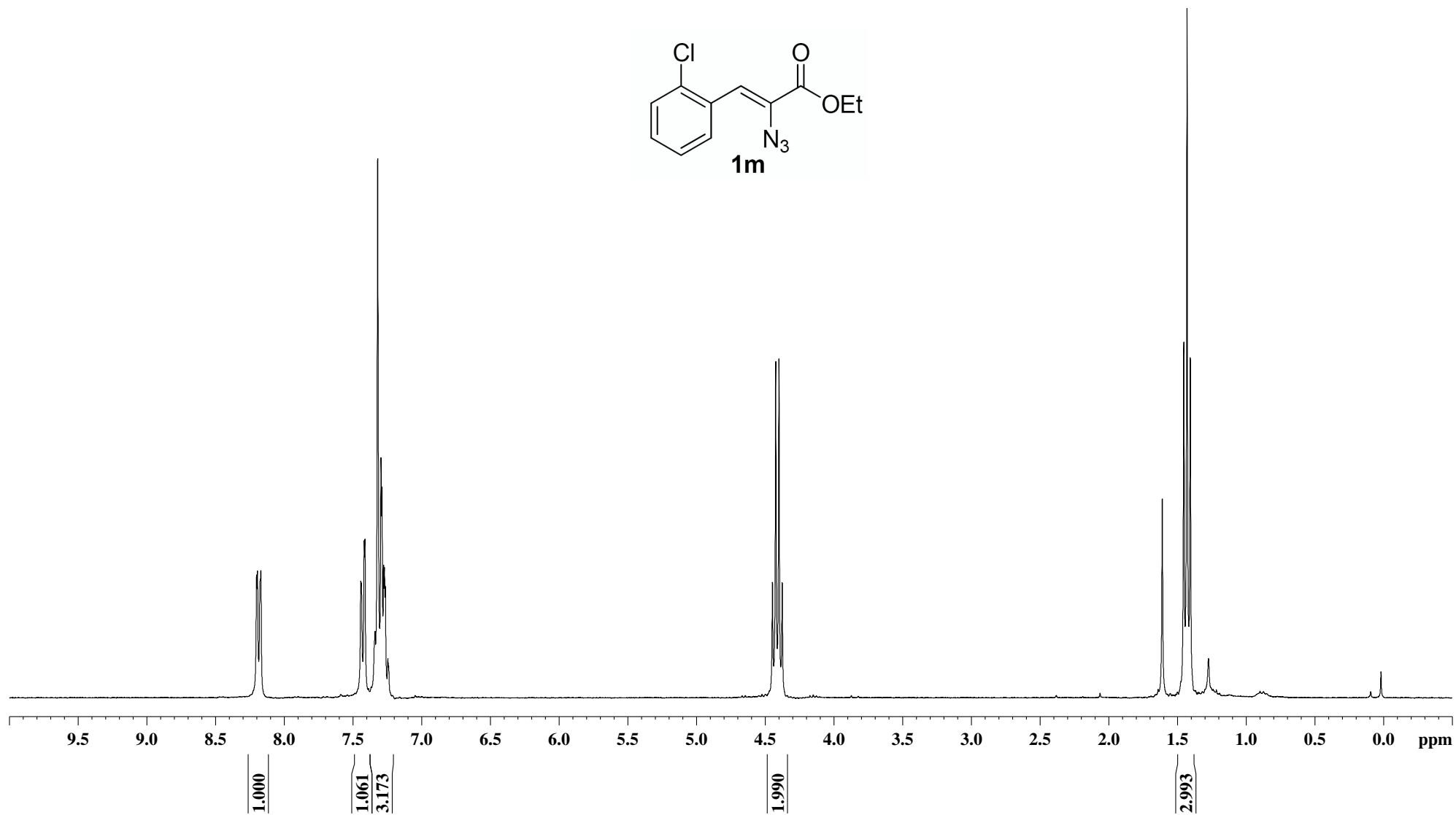
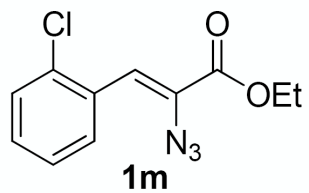


JRT-3-168B

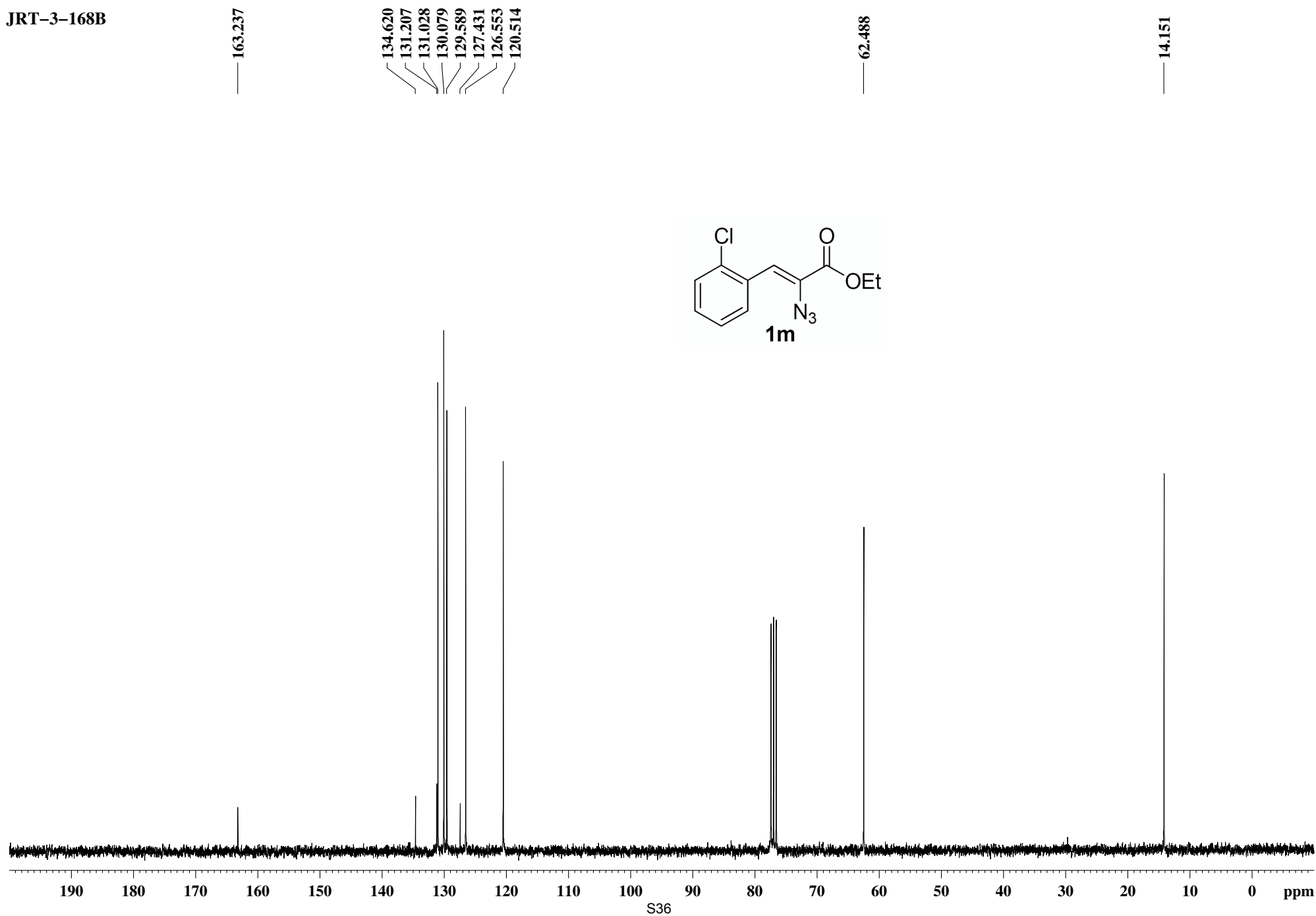
8.203  
8.197  
8.177  
8.172  
7.444  
7.440  
7.420  
7.414  
7.341  
7.322  
7.297  
7.290  
7.279  
7.272  
7.266  
7.247  
7.242

4.448  
4.425  
4.401  
4.377

1.455  
1.431  
1.407



JRT-3-168B

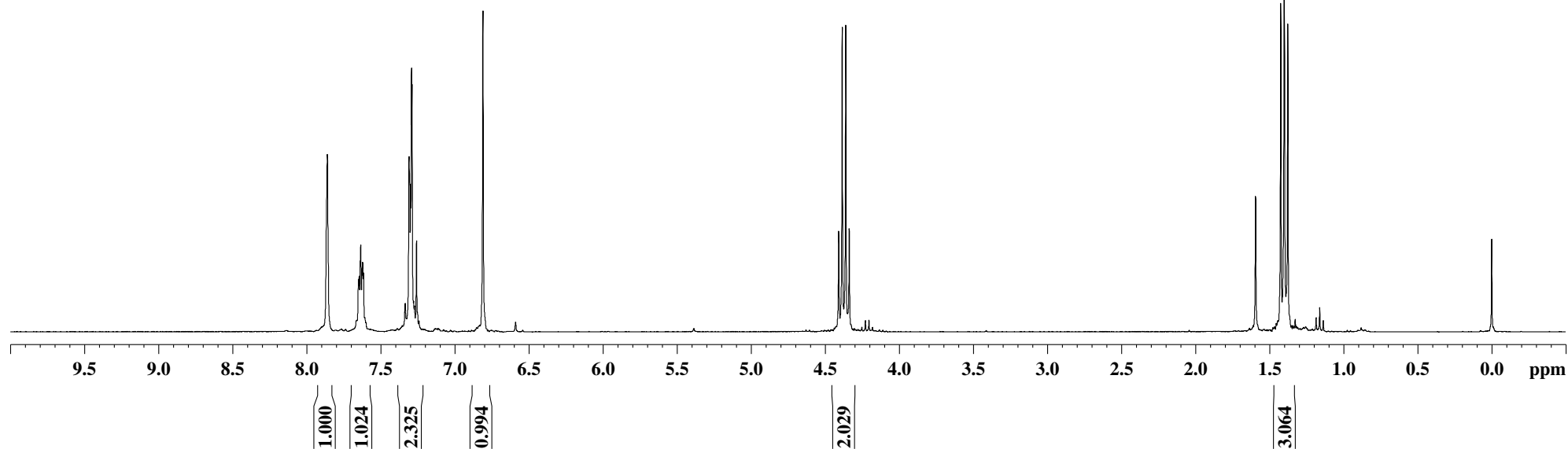
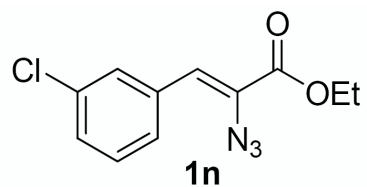


JRT-4-060

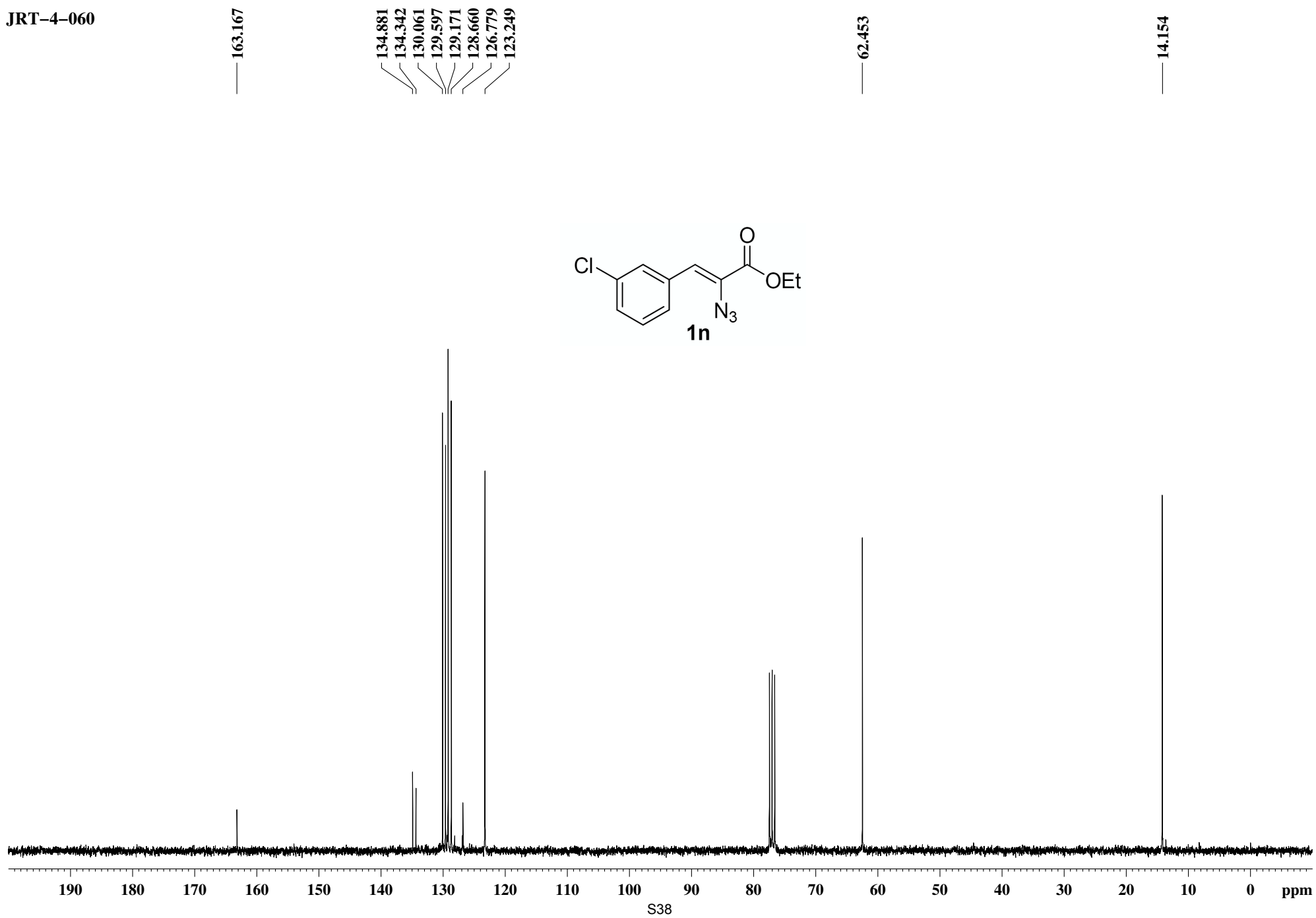
7.861  
7.651  
7.647  
7.636  
7.623  
7.617  
7.608  
7.336  
7.309  
7.305  
7.299  
7.293  
7.289  
7.279  
7.273  
7.259  
6.811

4.409  
4.385  
4.361  
4.338

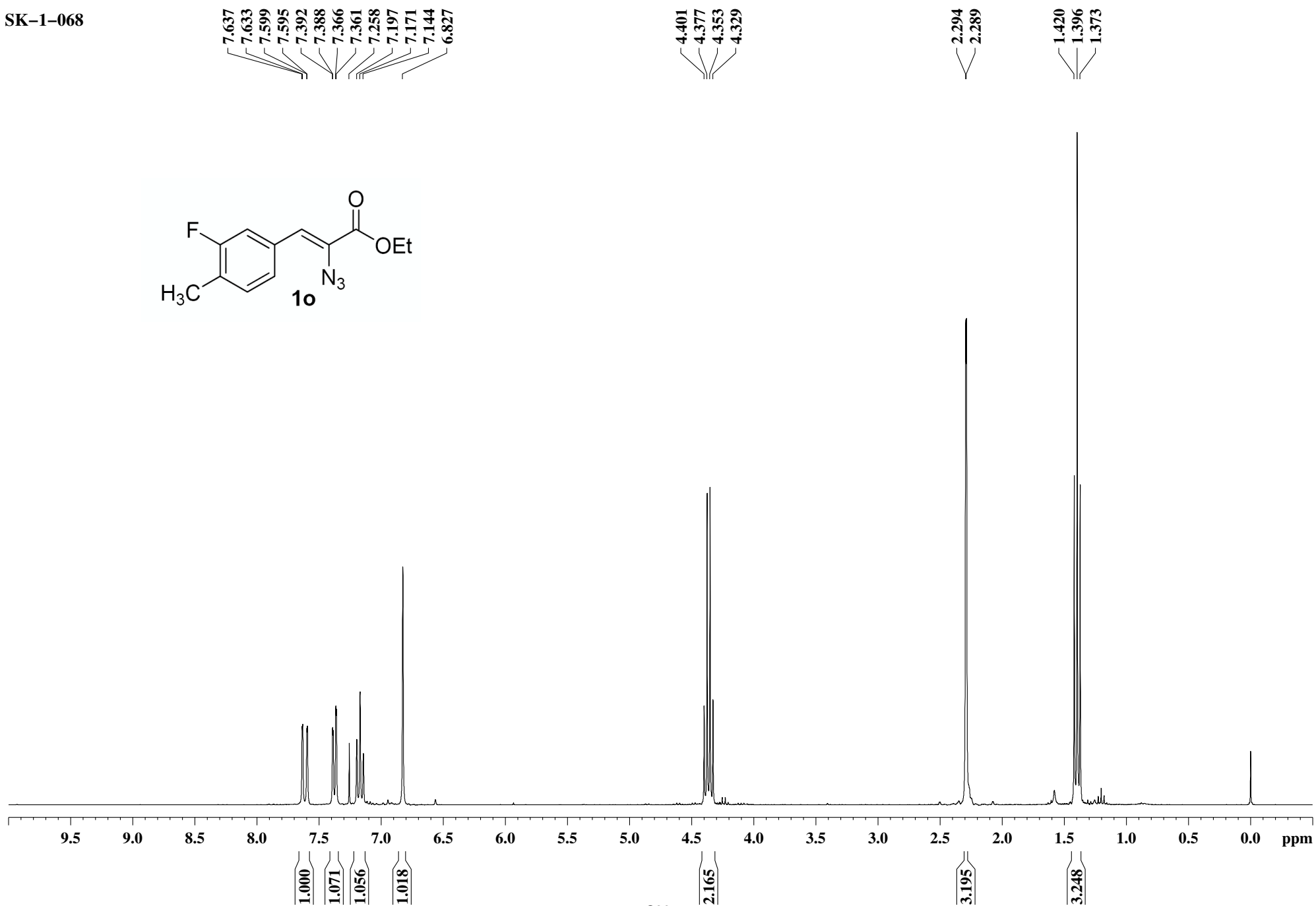
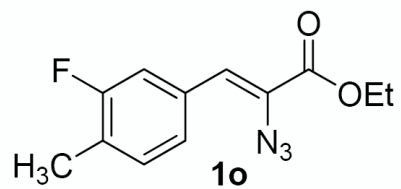
1.425  
1.401  
1.377



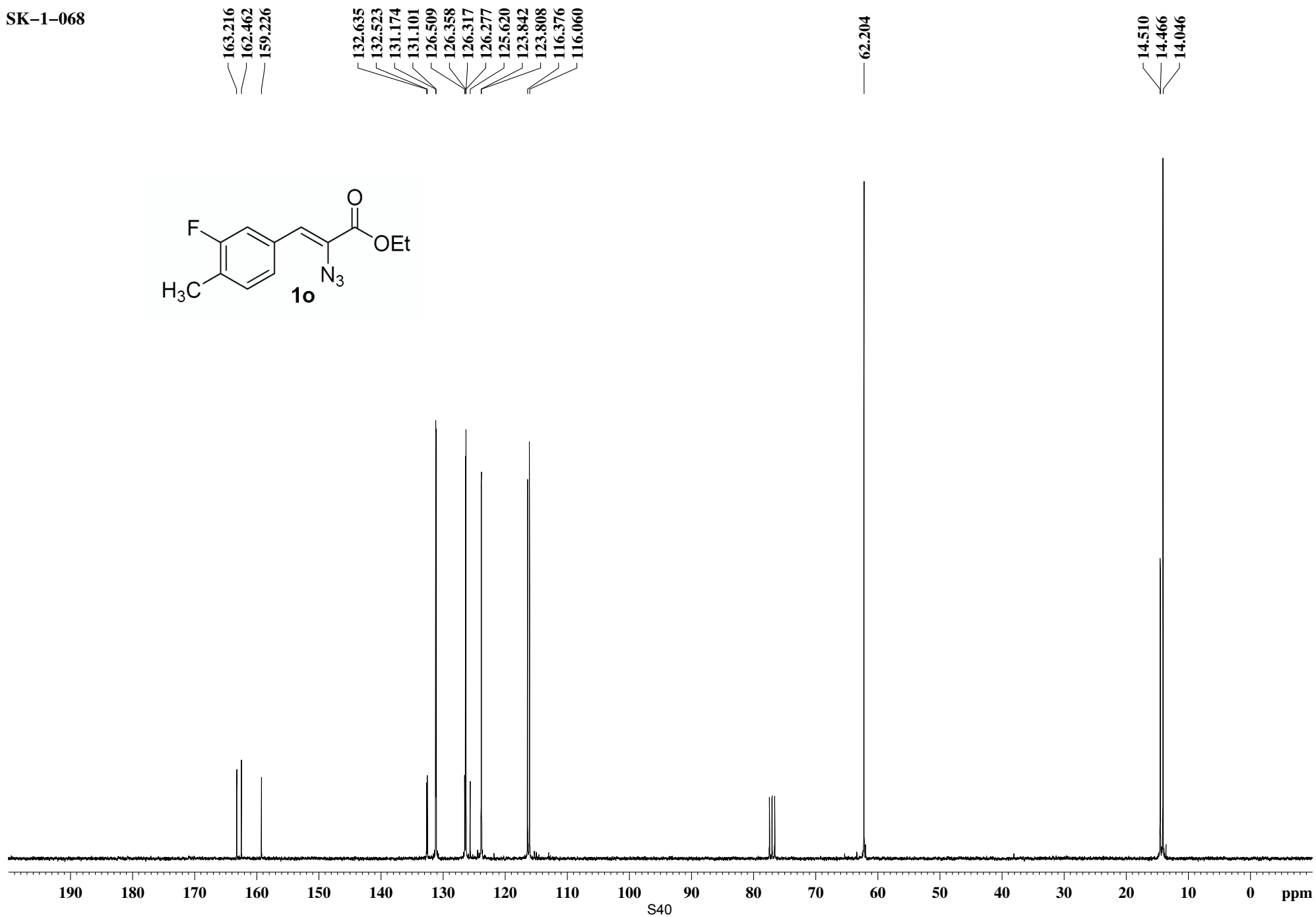
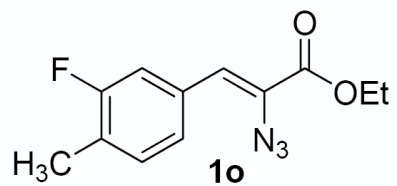
JRT-4-060



SK-1-068

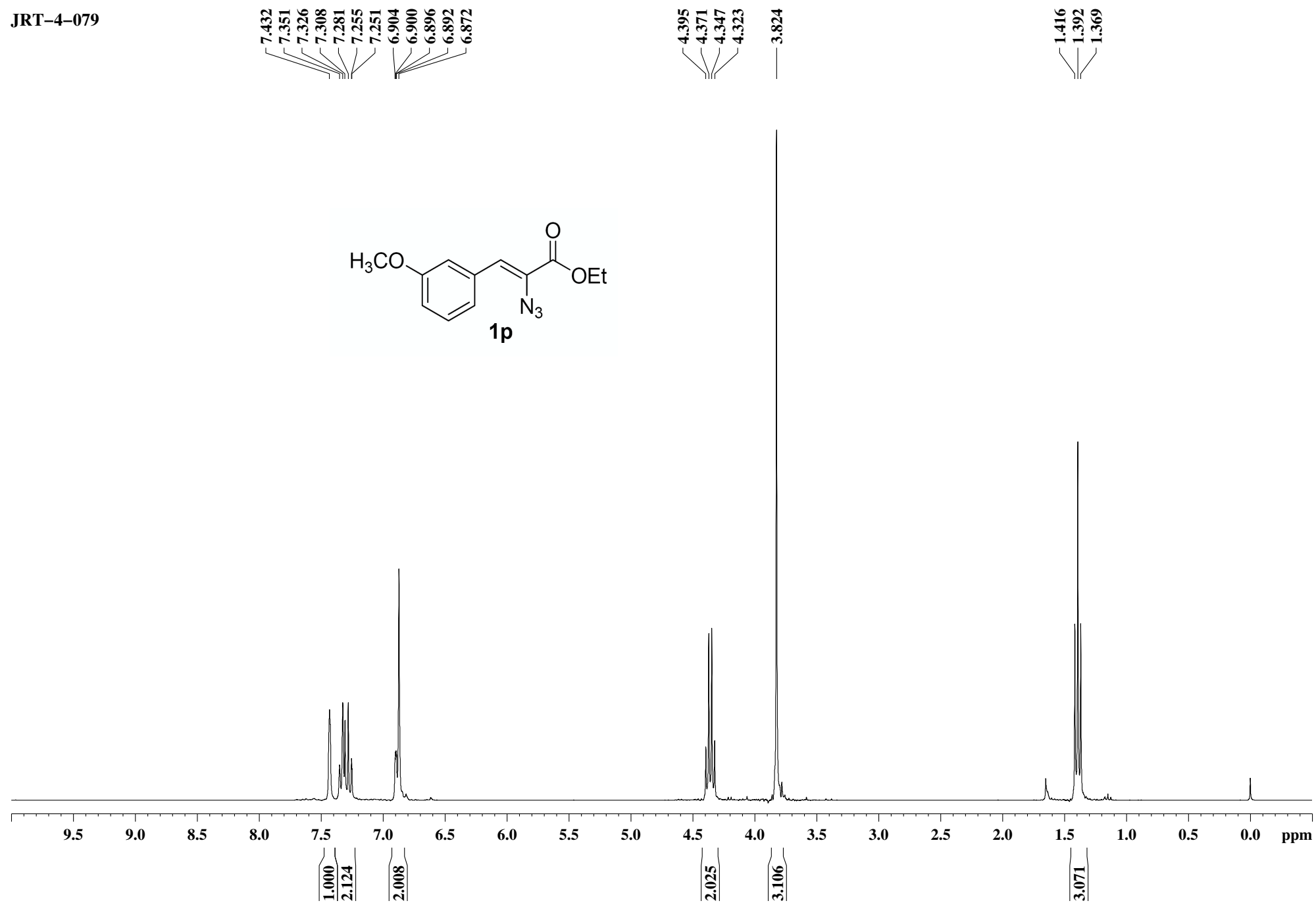


SK-1-068





JRT-4-079



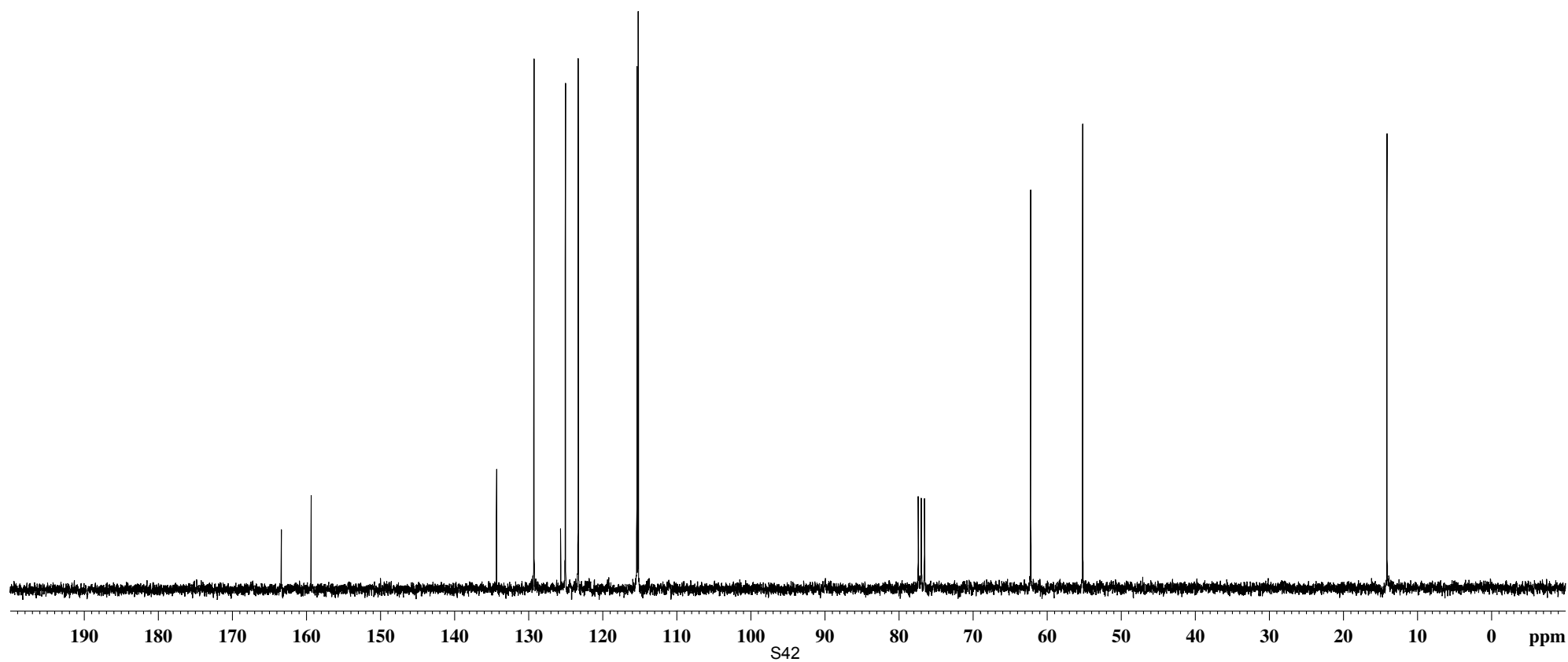
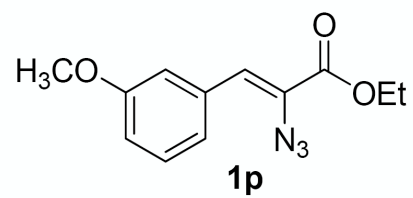
JRT-4-078

163.420  
159.390

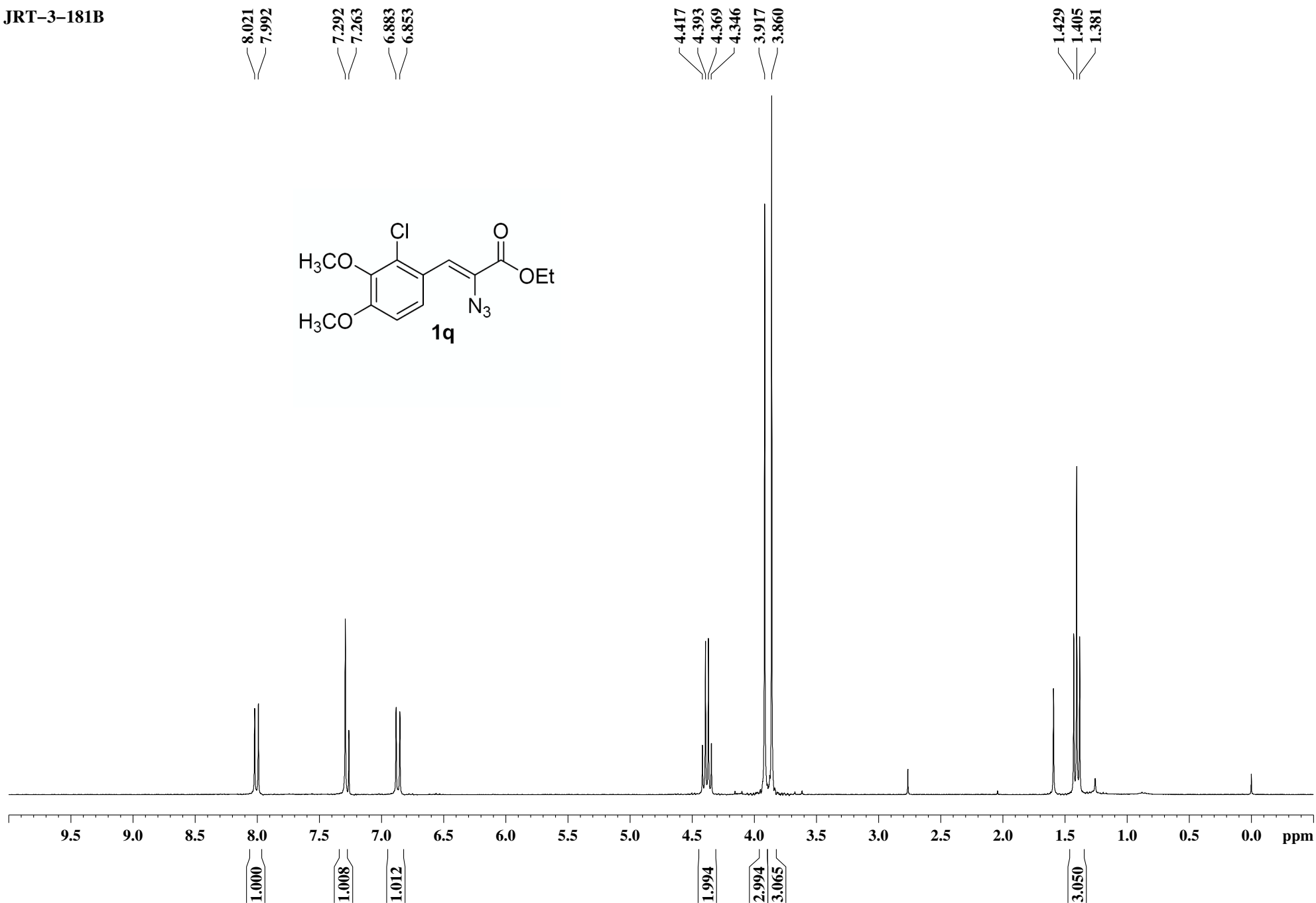
134.365  
129.311  
125.702  
125.068  
123.331  
115.403  
115.217

62.239  
55.226

14.140



JRT-3-181B



JRT-3-181B

— 163.466

— 154.226

— 145.516

— 129.558

— 126.603

— 125.753

— 124.529

— 120.696

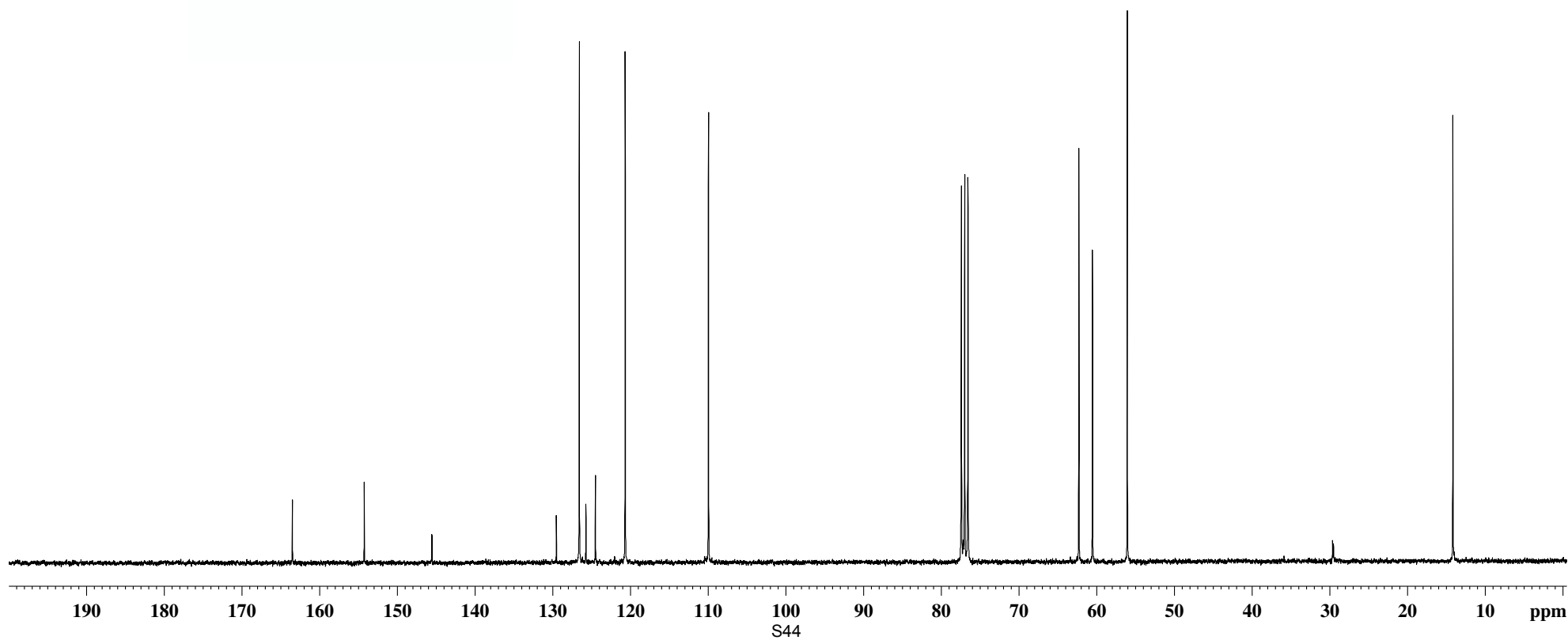
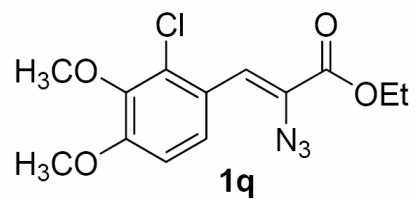
— 109.980

— 62.310

— 60.555

— 56.075

— 14.176

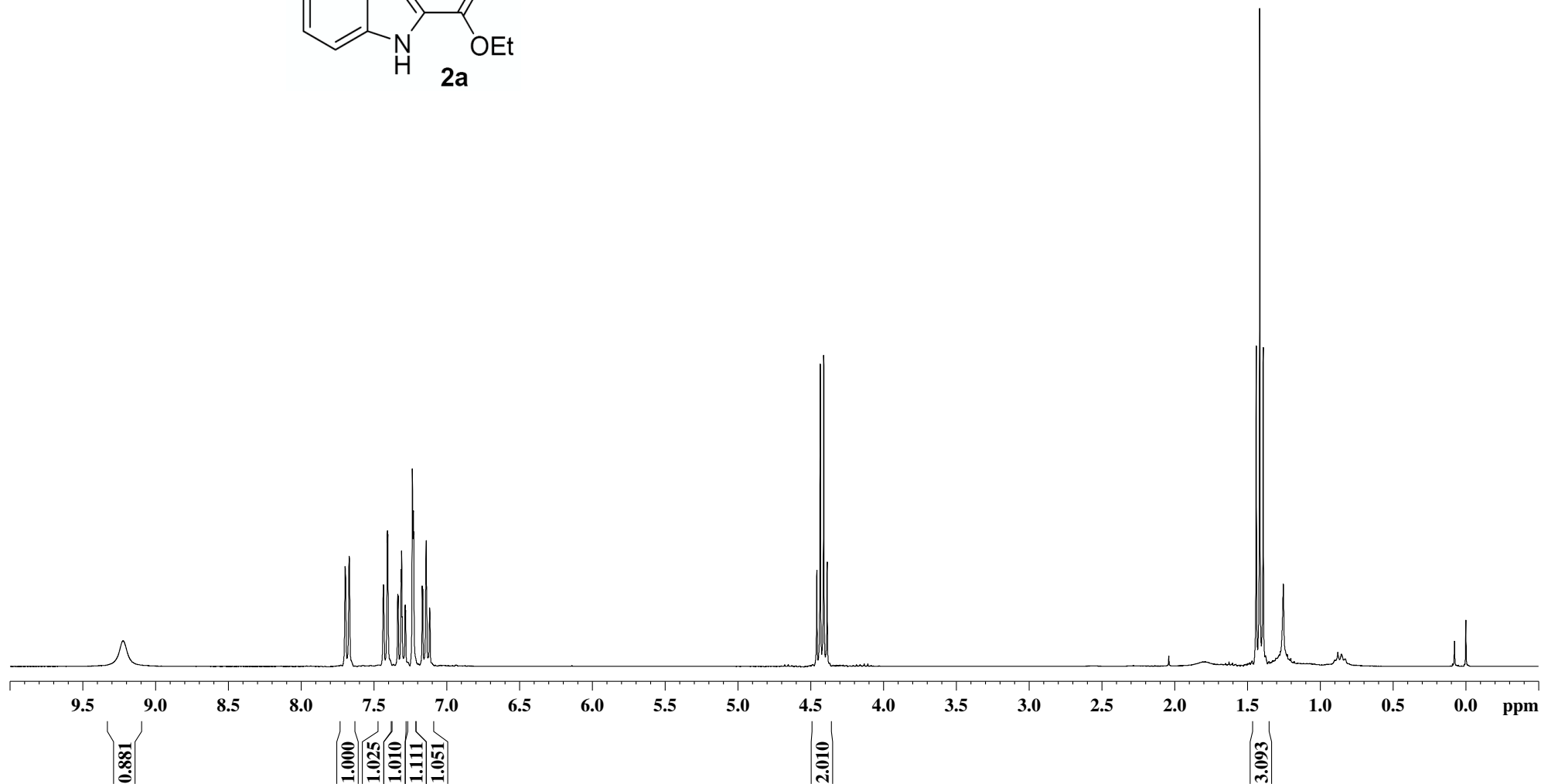
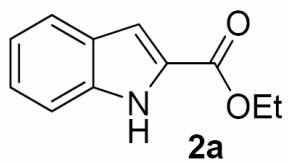


JRT-3-1471

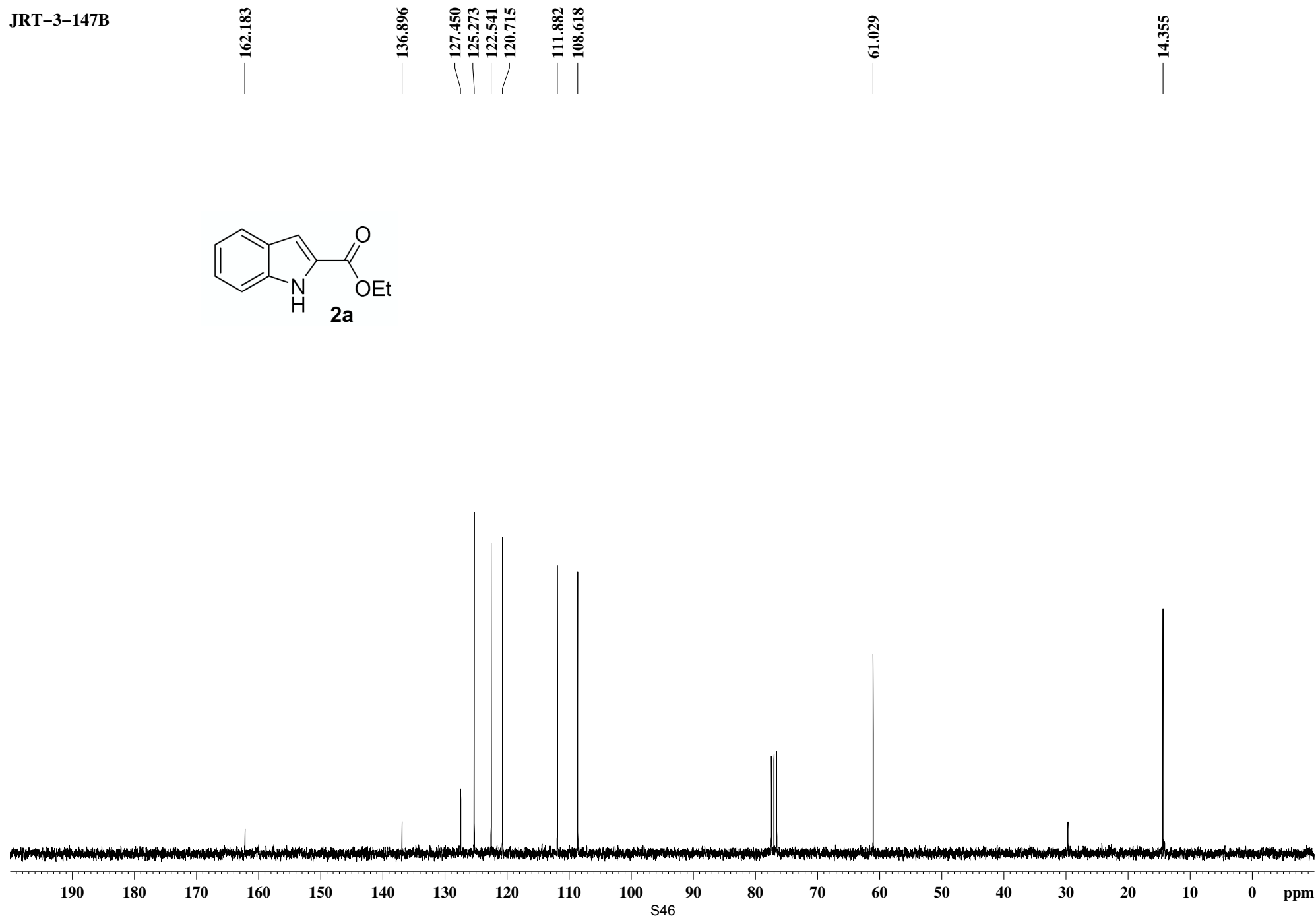
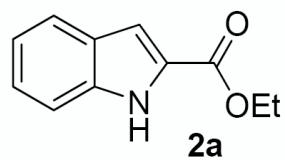
9.227  
7.699  
7.697  
7.672  
7.670  
7.437  
7.434  
7.409  
7.406  
7.338  
7.335  
7.315  
7.311  
7.287  
7.284  
7.238  
7.235  
7.231  
7.228  
7.169  
7.166  
7.143  
7.139  
7.119  
7.116

4.459  
4.435  
4.412  
4.388

1.440  
1.417  
1.393



JRT-3-147B



JRT-3-169B

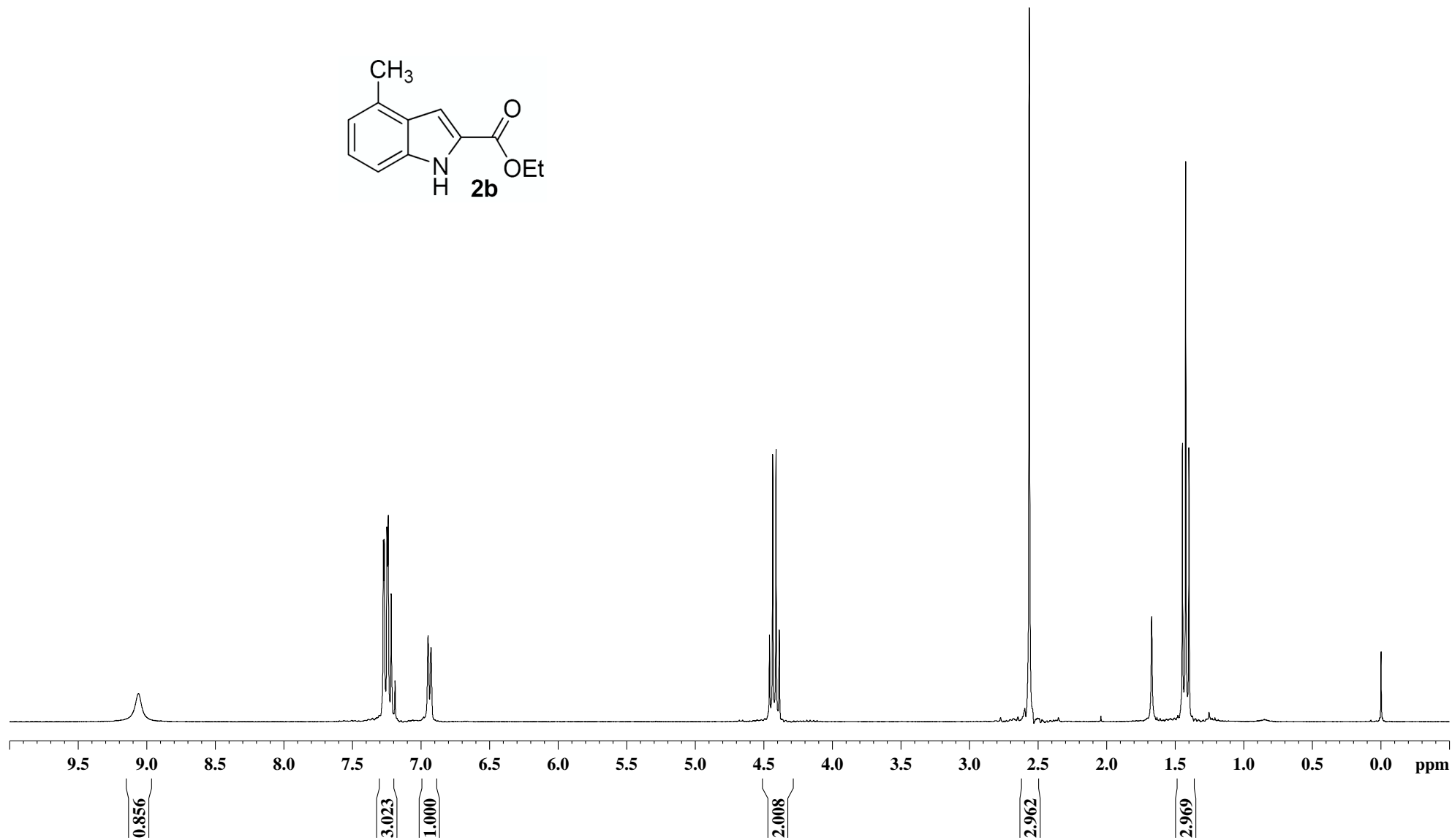
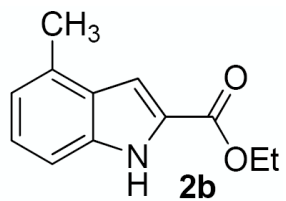
9.059

7.272  
7.267  
7.247  
7.237  
7.215  
7.188  
6.947  
6.926  
6.925

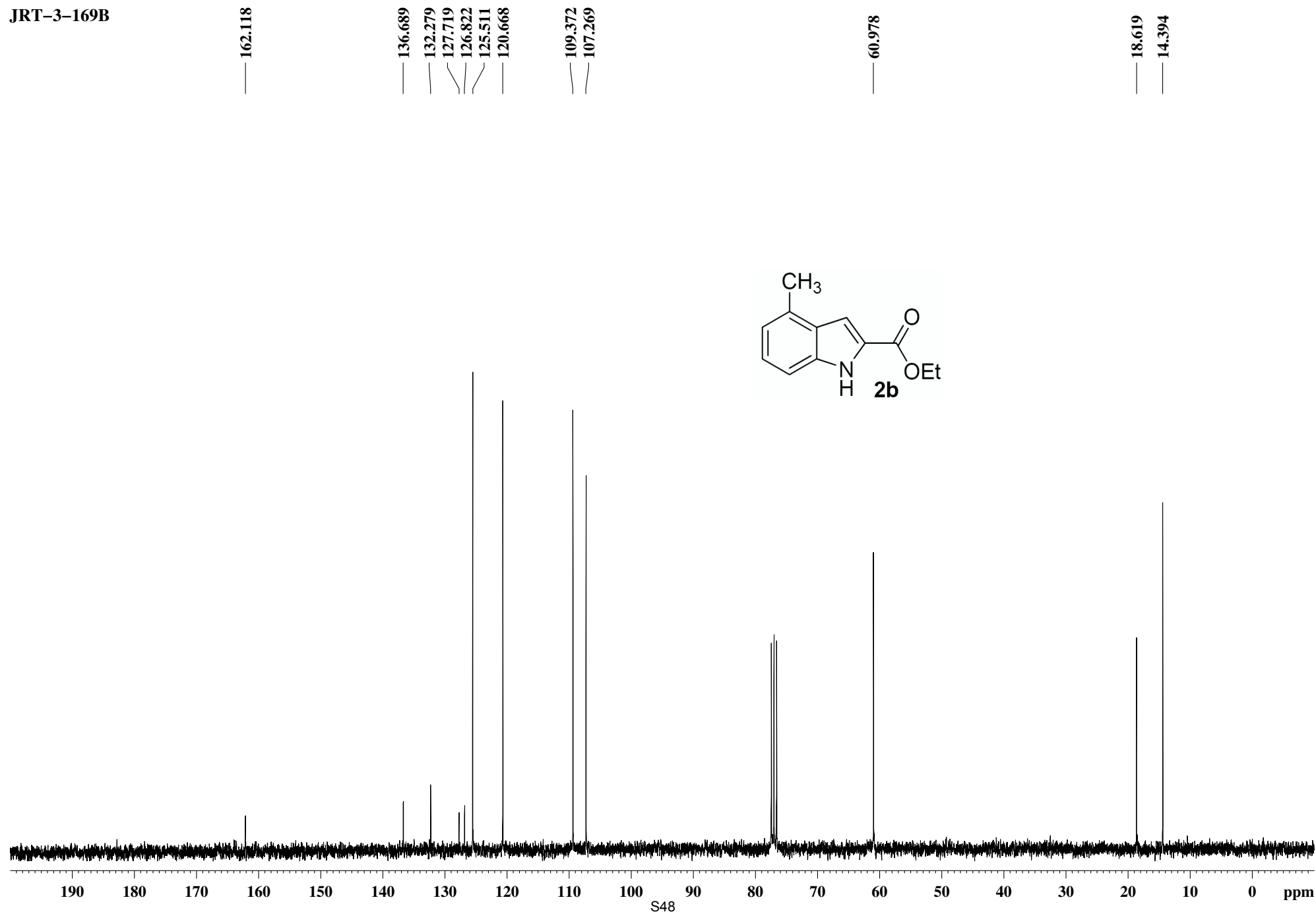
4.457  
4.433  
4.410  
4.386

2.565

1.448  
1.425  
1.401



JRT-3-169B





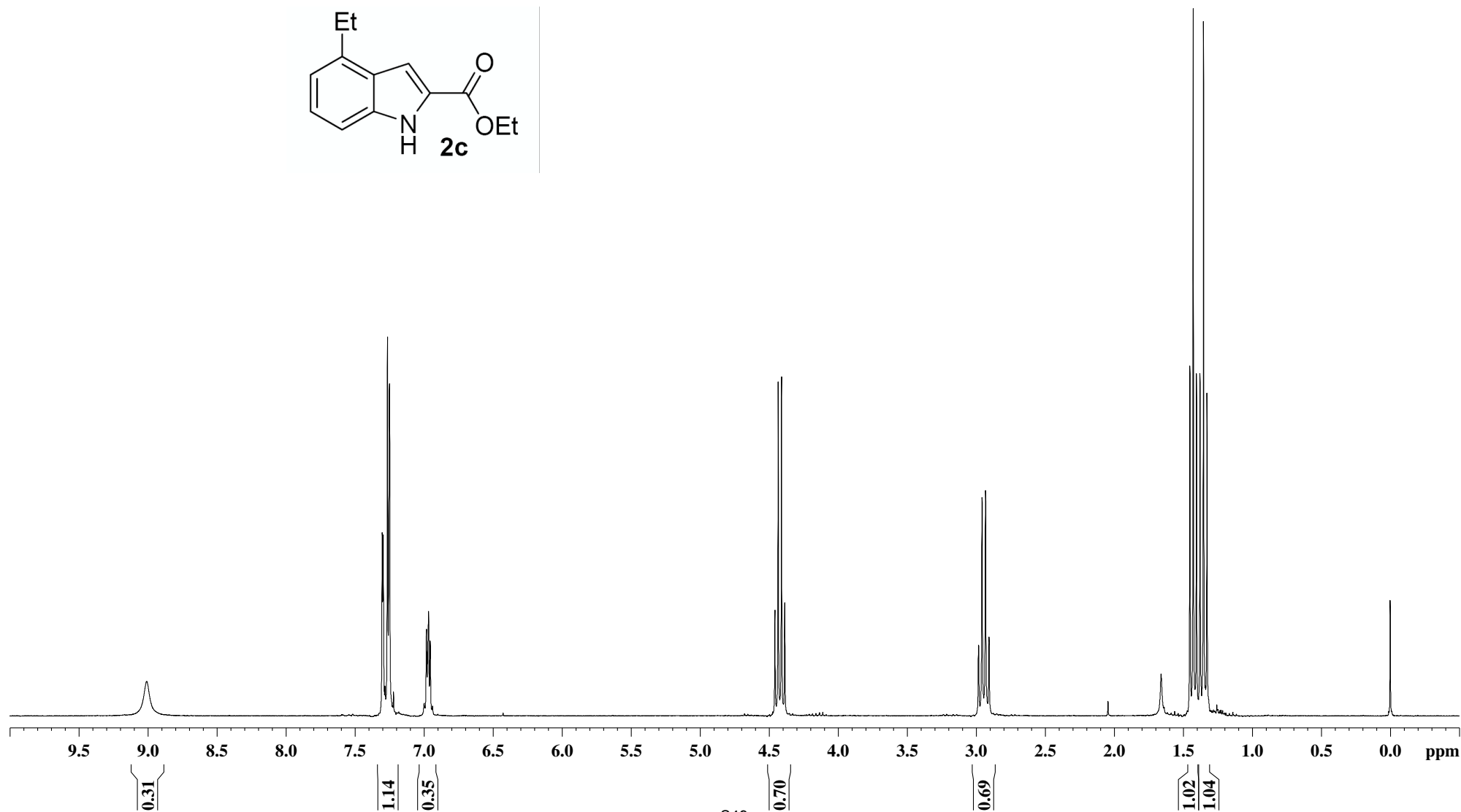
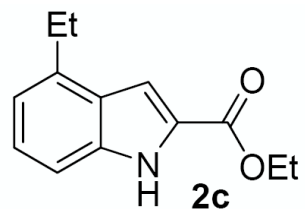
JRT-4-104  
9.009

7.301  
7.295  
7.264  
7.250  
6.998  
6.981  
6.966  
6.954  
6.938

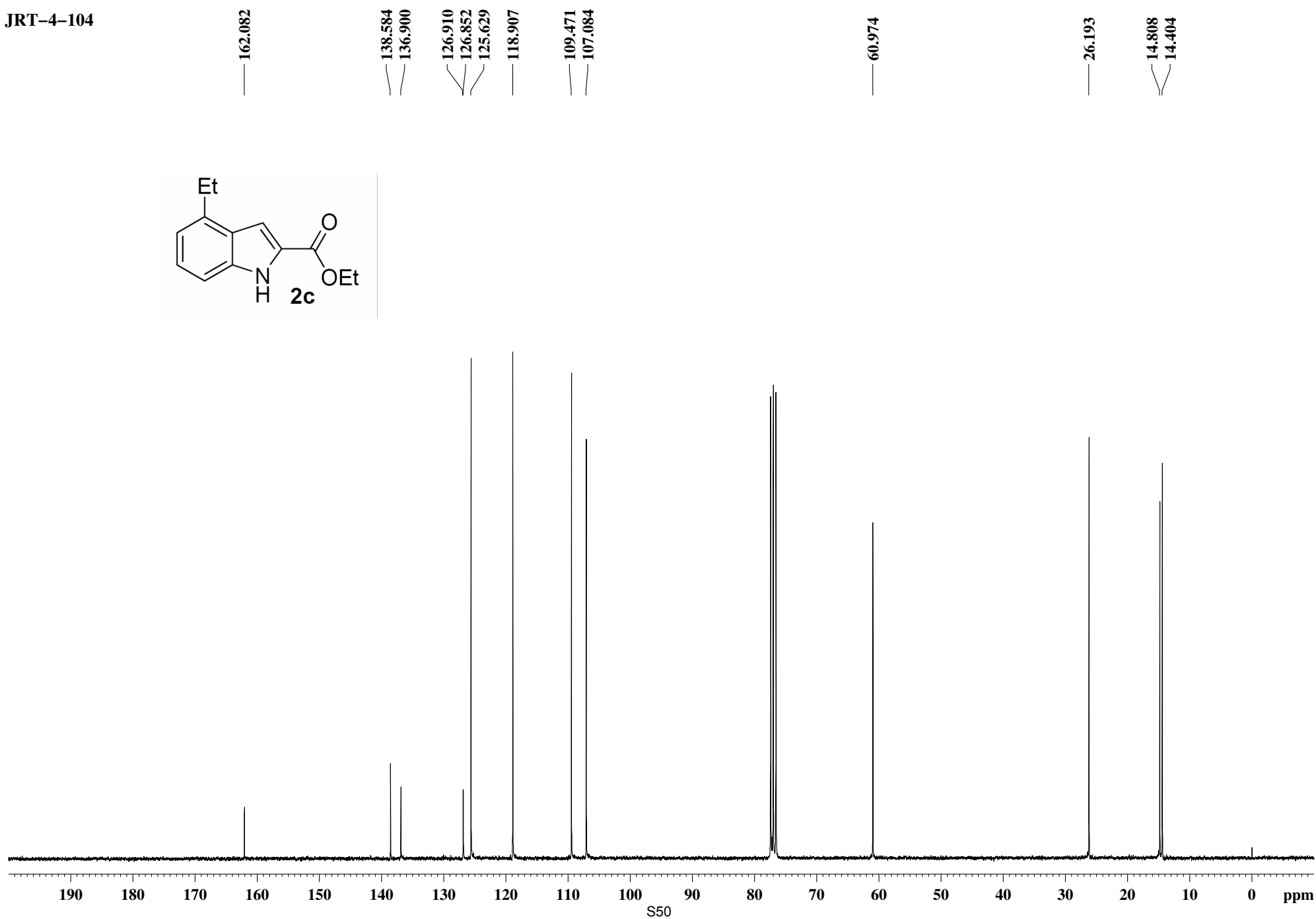
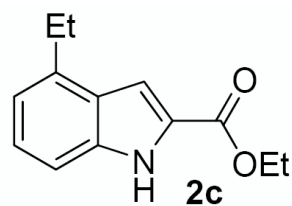
4.457  
4.433  
4.410  
4.386

2.982  
2.956  
2.931  
2.906

1.451  
1.427  
1.403  
1.378  
1.352  
1.327

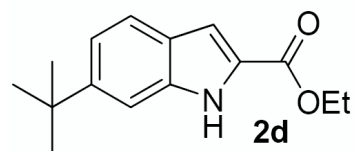


JRT-4-104



JRT-4-067

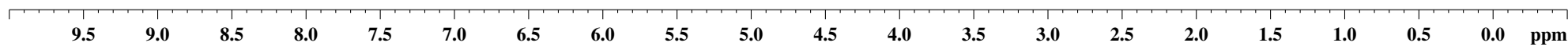
8.930



7.624  
7.595  
7.399  
7.262  
7.256  
7.253  
7.233  
7.228  
7.181  
7.177  
7.174

4.442  
4.419  
4.395  
4.371

1.437  
1.413  
1.389  
1.379



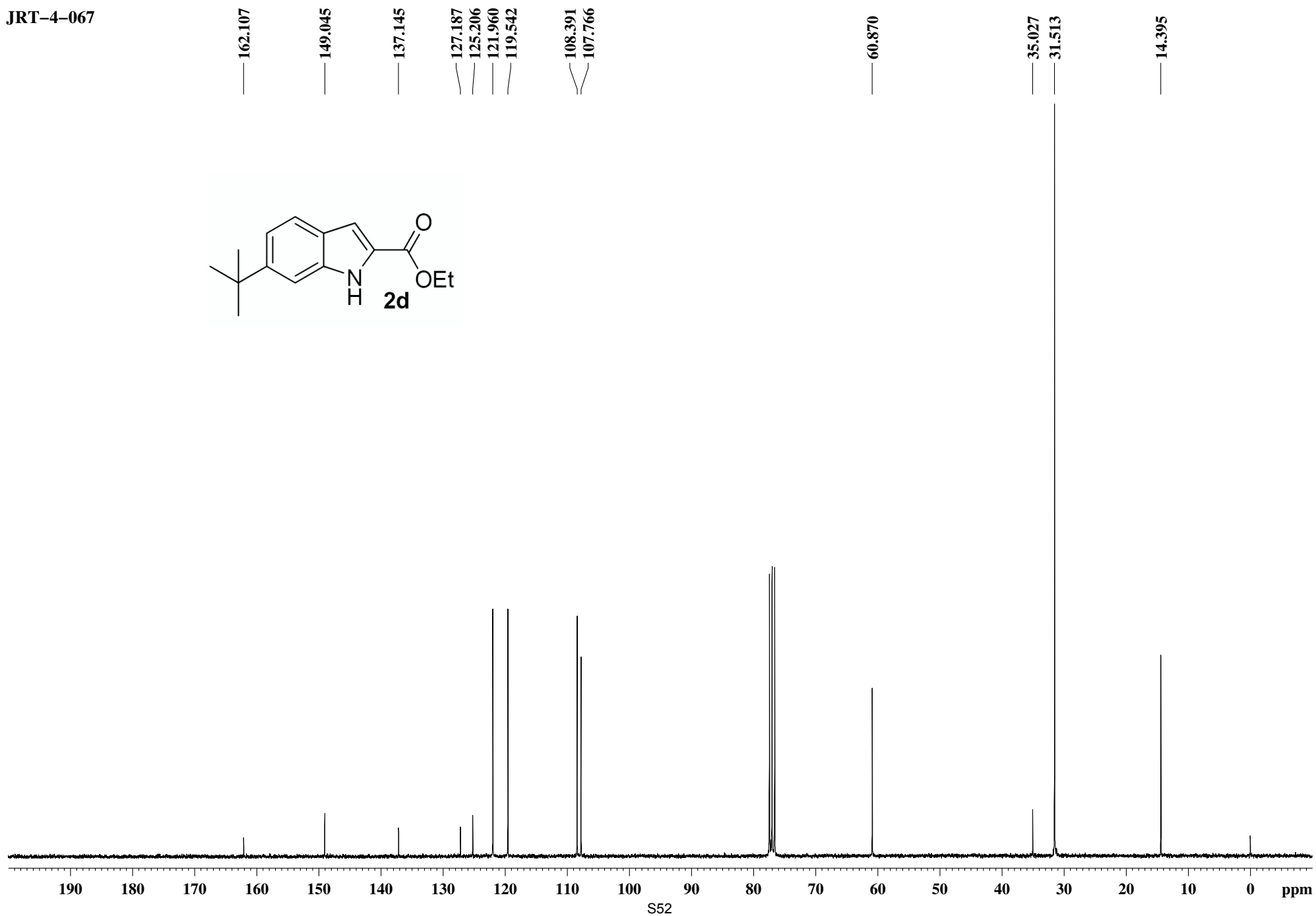
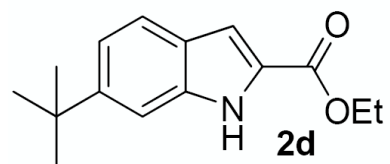
0.889

1.000  
1.018  
1.416  
1.010

1.998

12.064

JRT-4-067



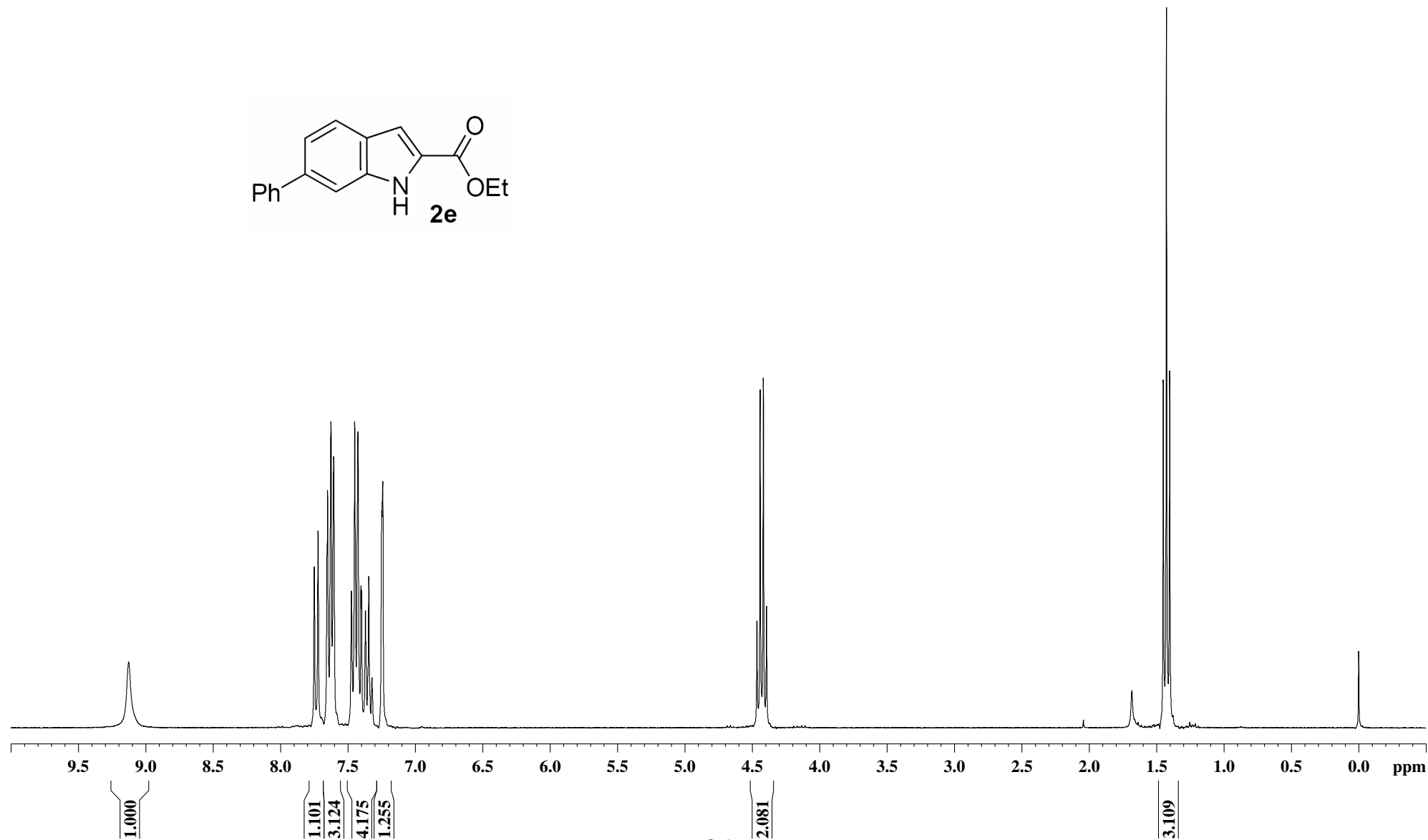
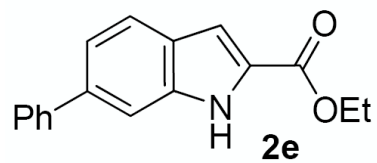
JRT-4-025

9.125

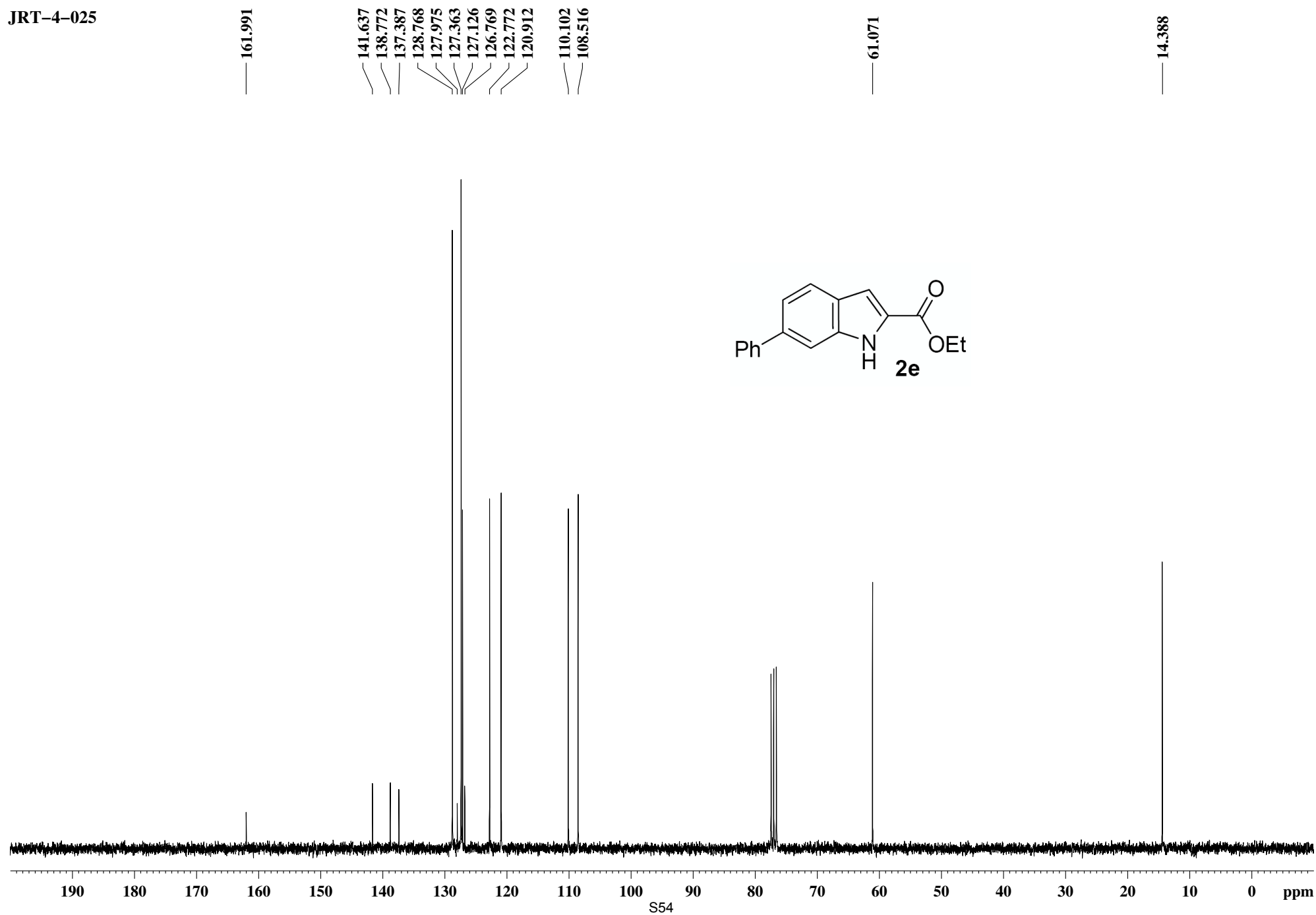
7.750  
7.722  
7.656  
7.651  
7.627  
7.606  
7.474  
7.450  
7.426  
7.404  
7.399  
7.370  
7.346  
7.321  
7.249  
7.245  
7.241

4.465  
4.442  
4.418  
4.394

1.450  
1.426  
1.402



JRT-4-025

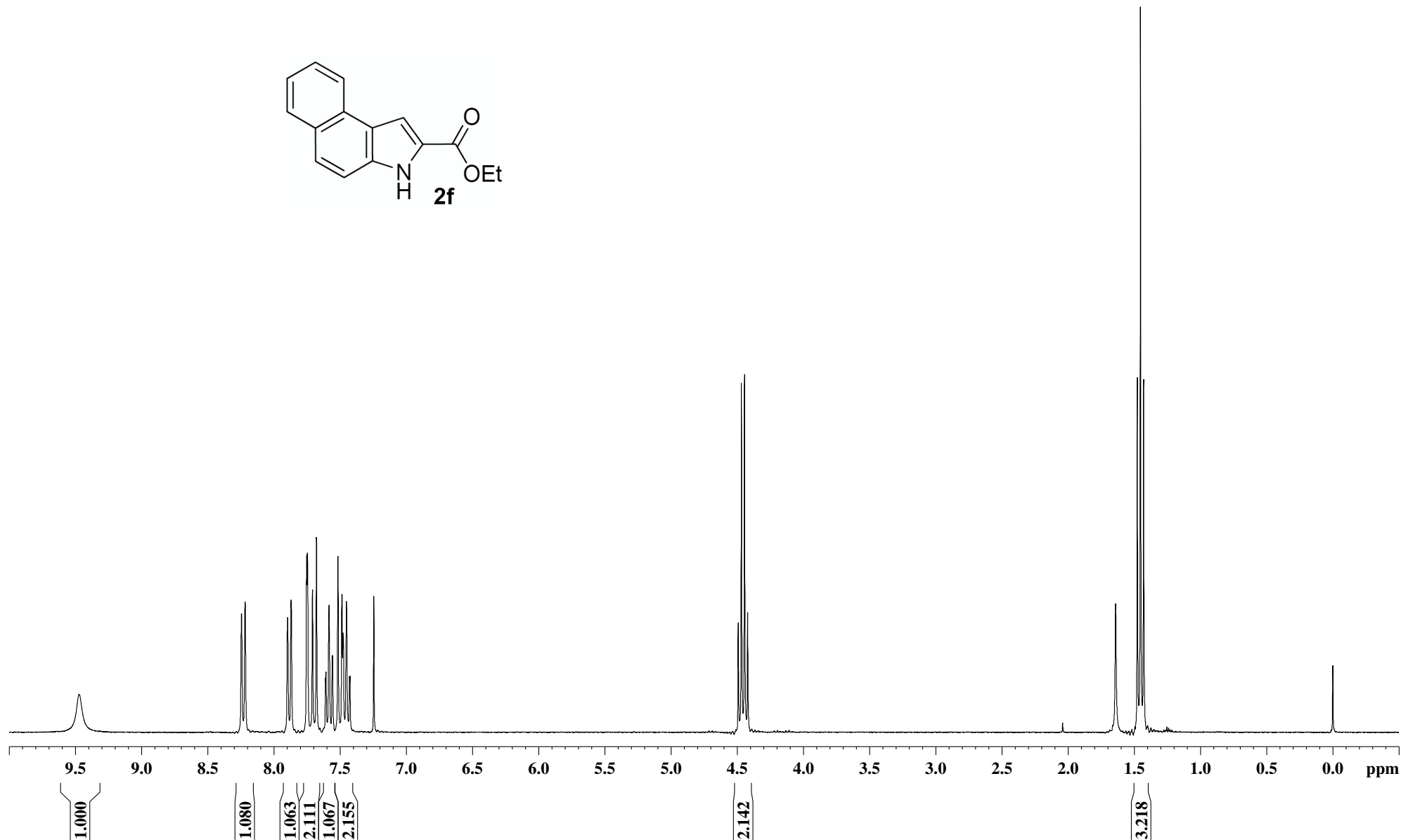
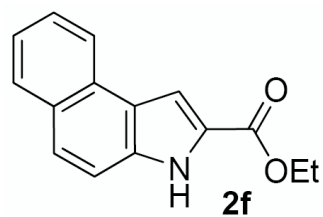


JRT-3-494A

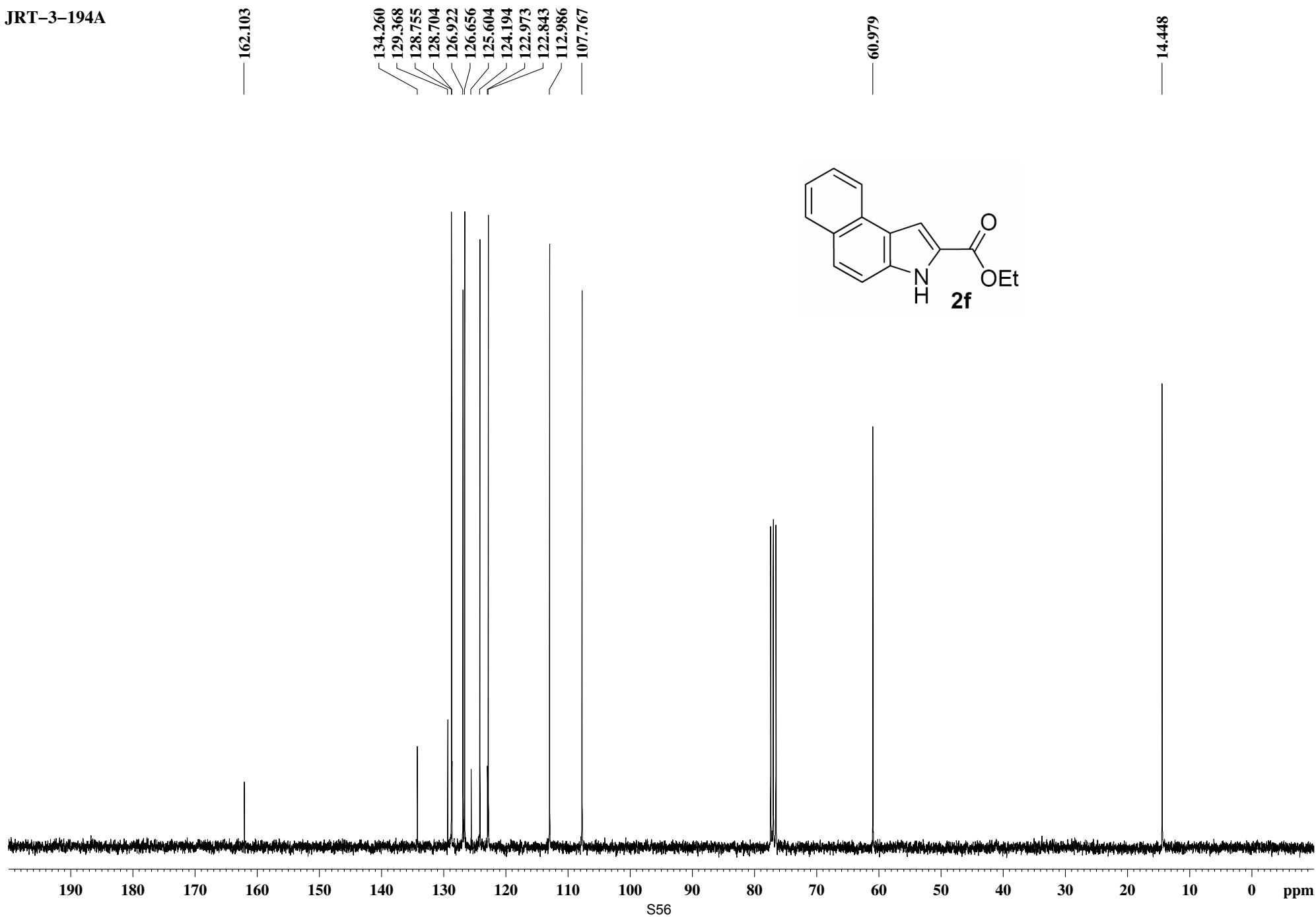
9.453  
8.246  
8.219  
7.898  
7.871  
7.752  
7.748  
7.746  
7.709  
7.679  
7.611  
7.607  
7.584  
7.561  
7.557  
7.517  
7.487  
7.480  
7.476  
7.453  
7.430  
7.426

4.493  
4.469  
4.445  
4.421

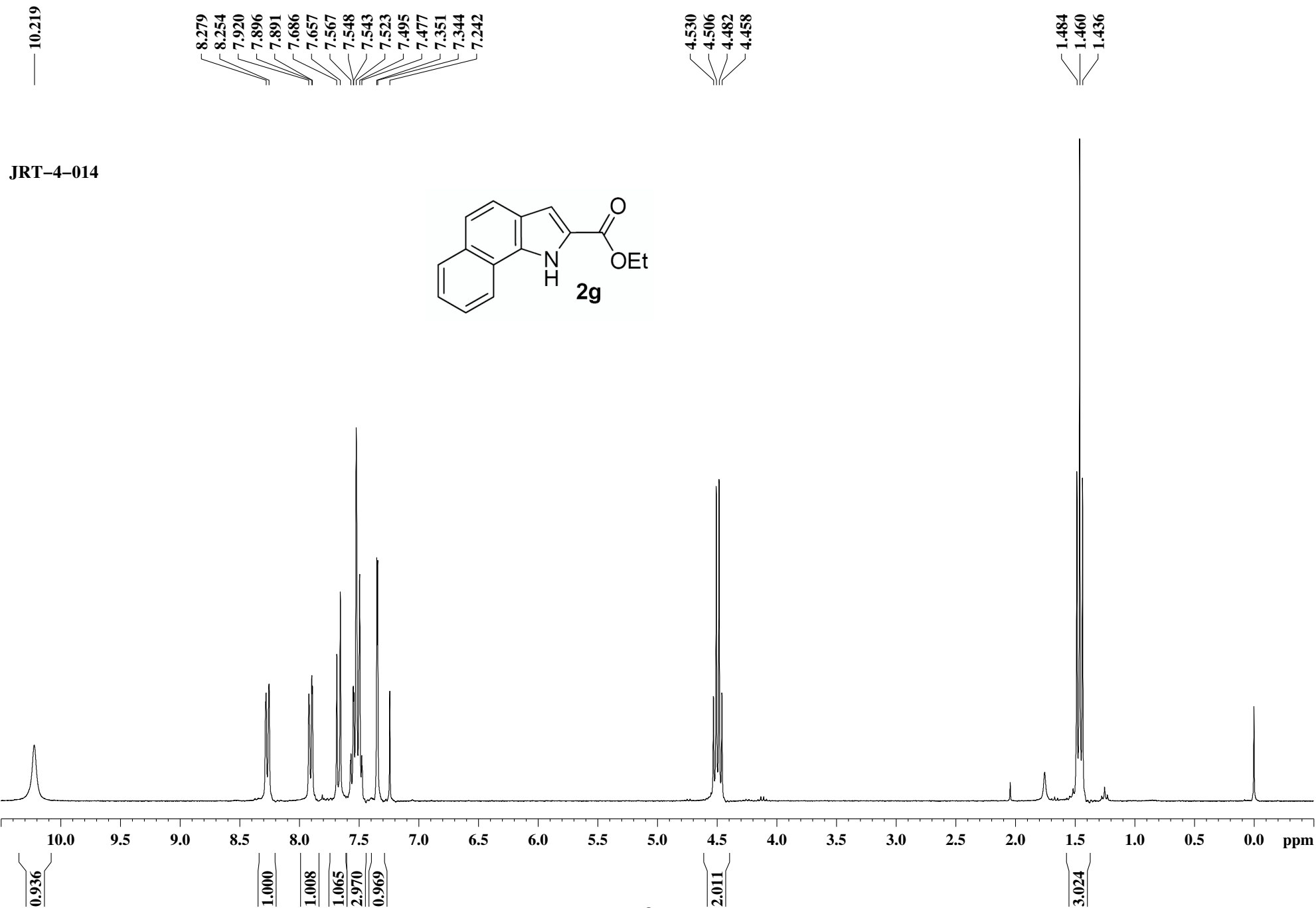
1.477  
1.454  
1.430



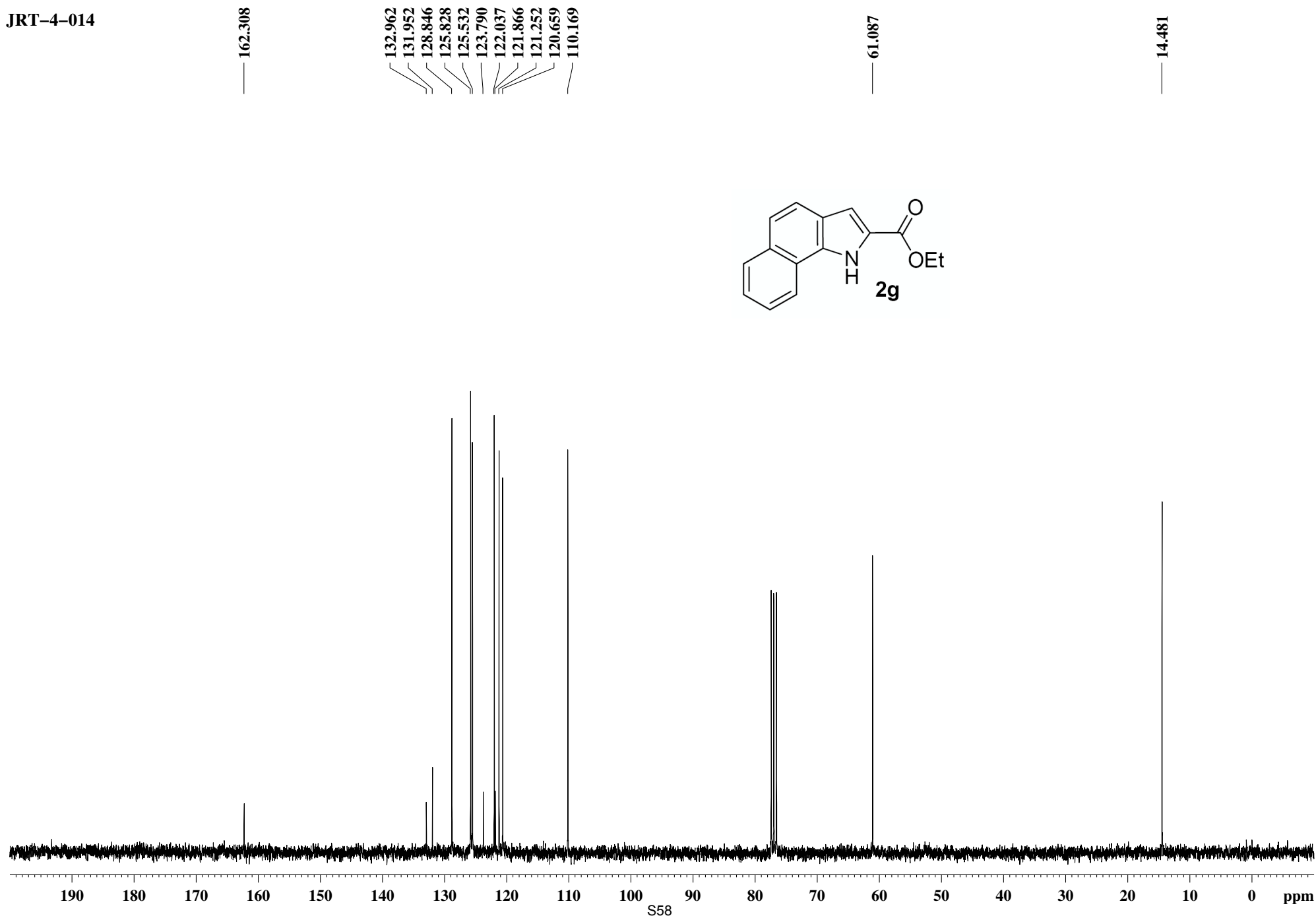
JRT-3-194A







JRT-4-014



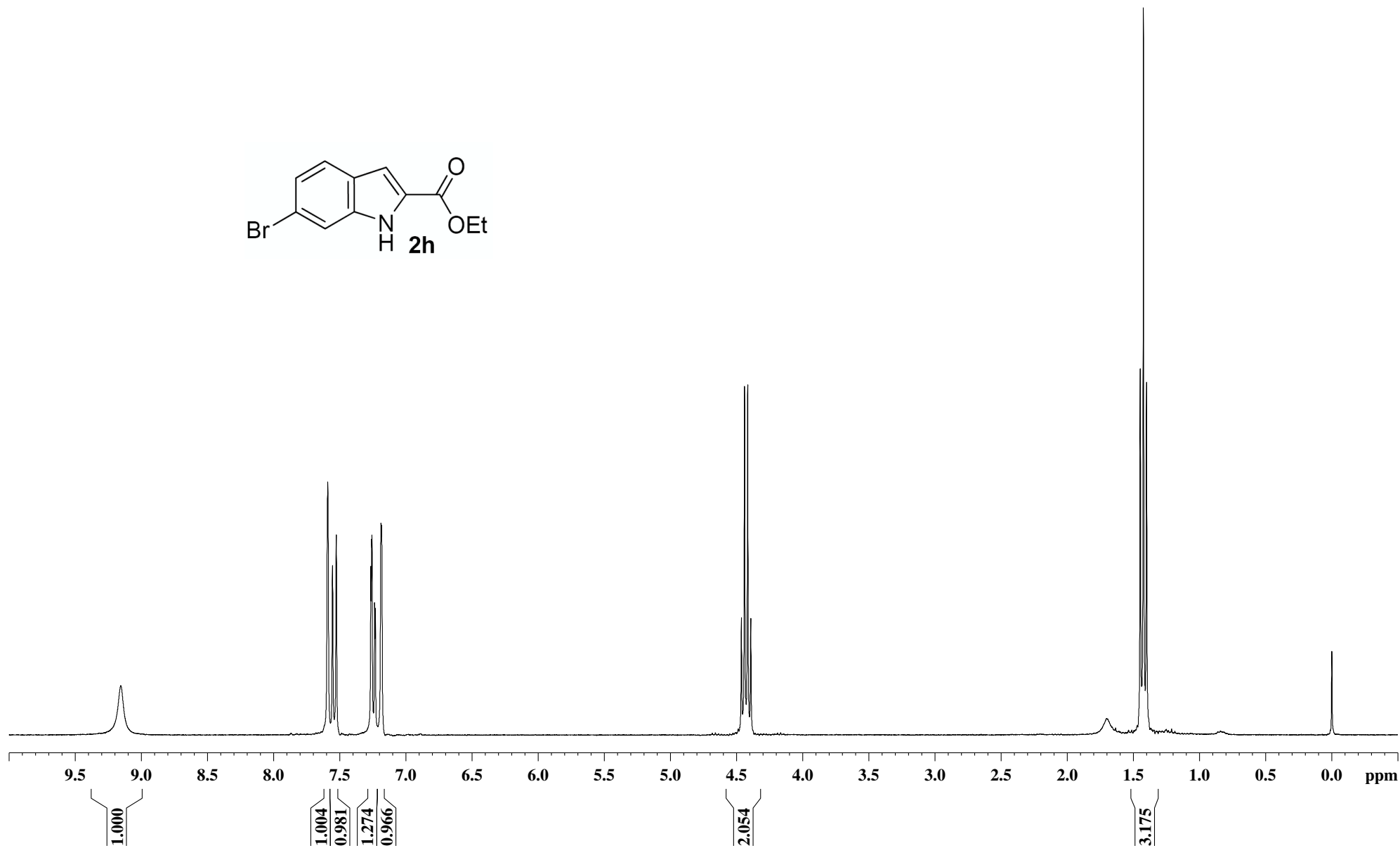
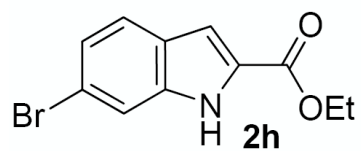
JRT-4-024

9.155

7.593  
7.556  
7.528  
7.266  
7.261  
7.258  
7.238  
7.233  
7.189  
7.186

4.464  
4.441  
4.417  
4.393

1.448  
1.425  
1.401



JRT-4-024

161.849

137.428

128.060

126.259

124.341

123.773

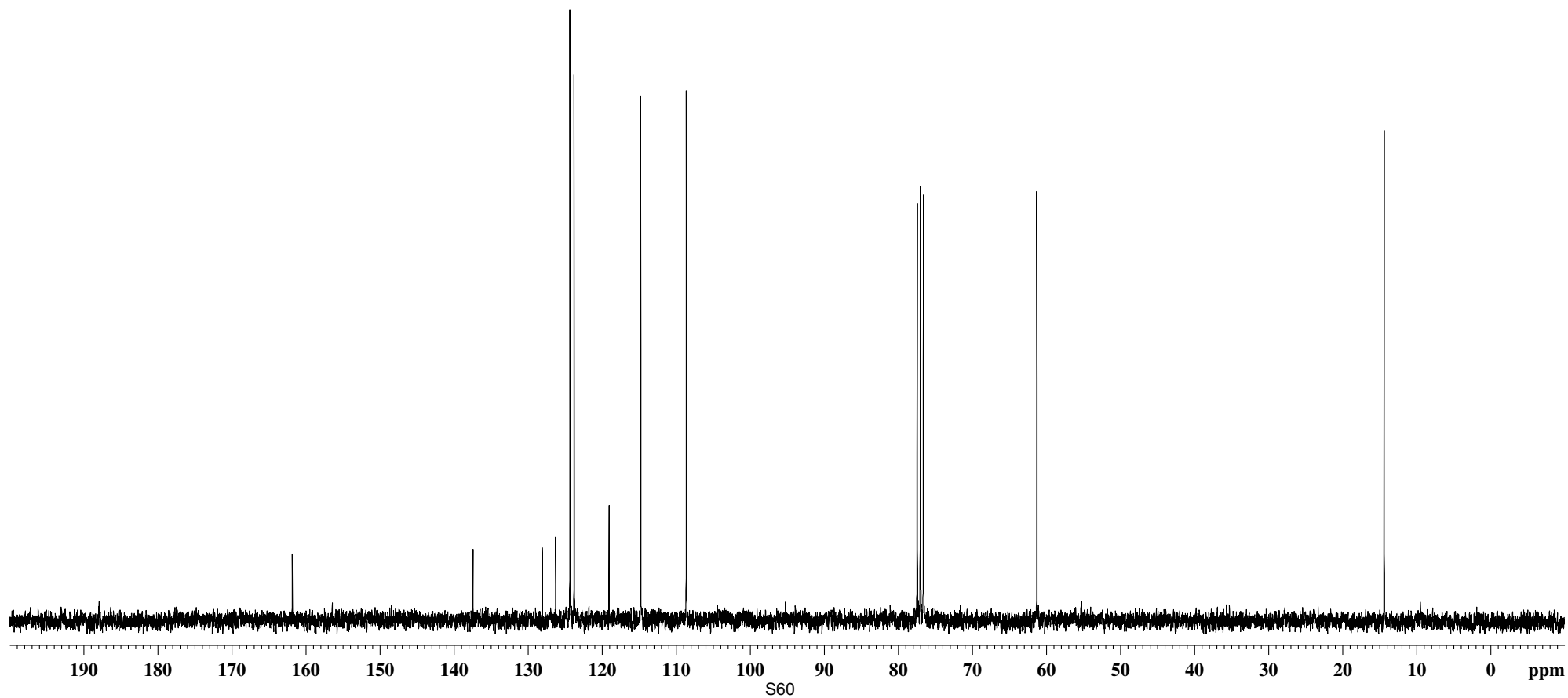
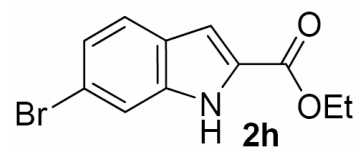
119.043

114.775

108.616

61.273

14.352



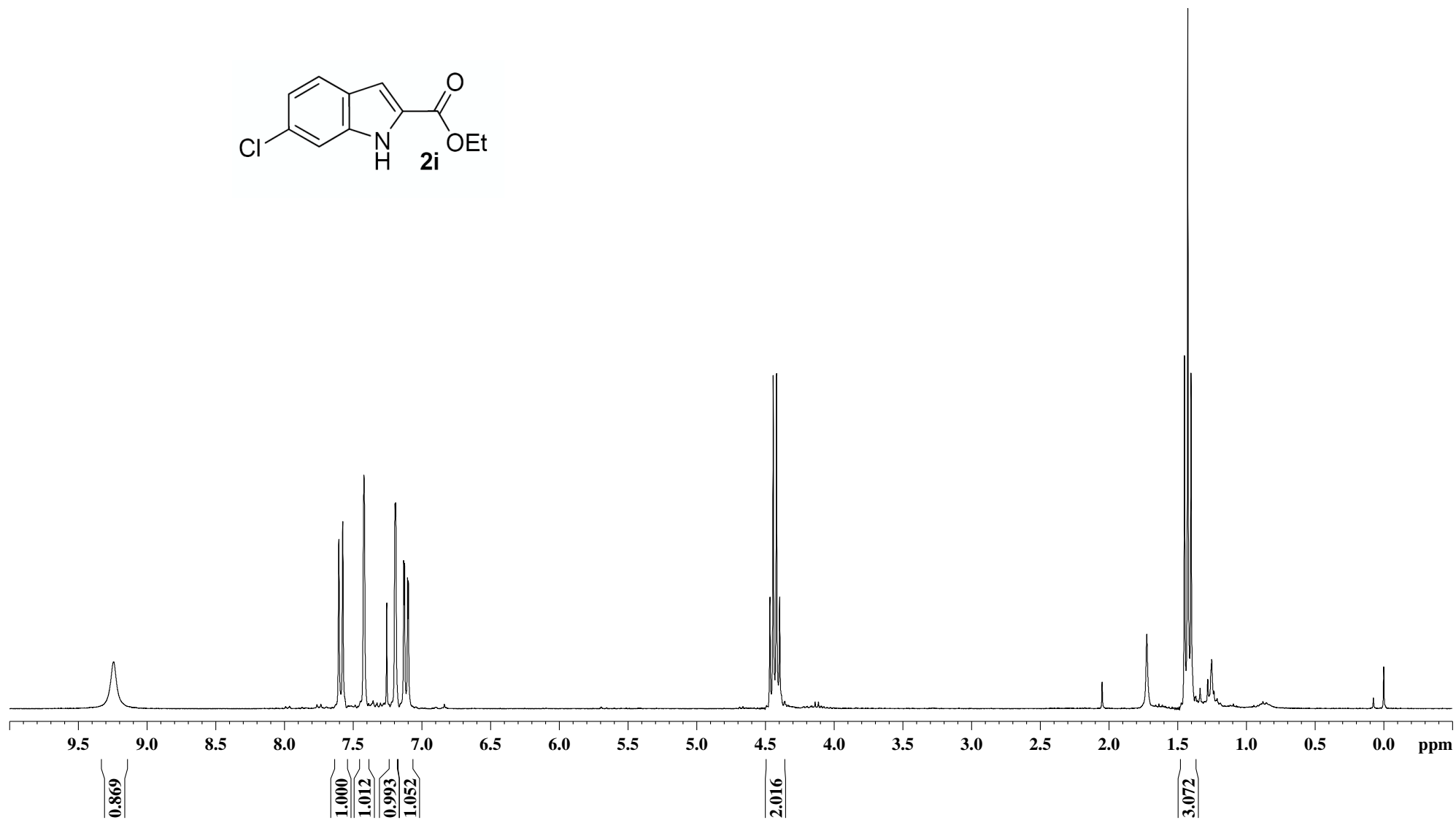
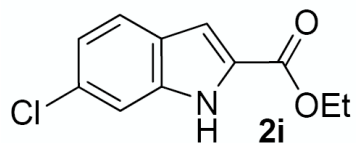
JRT-3-1663

9.24

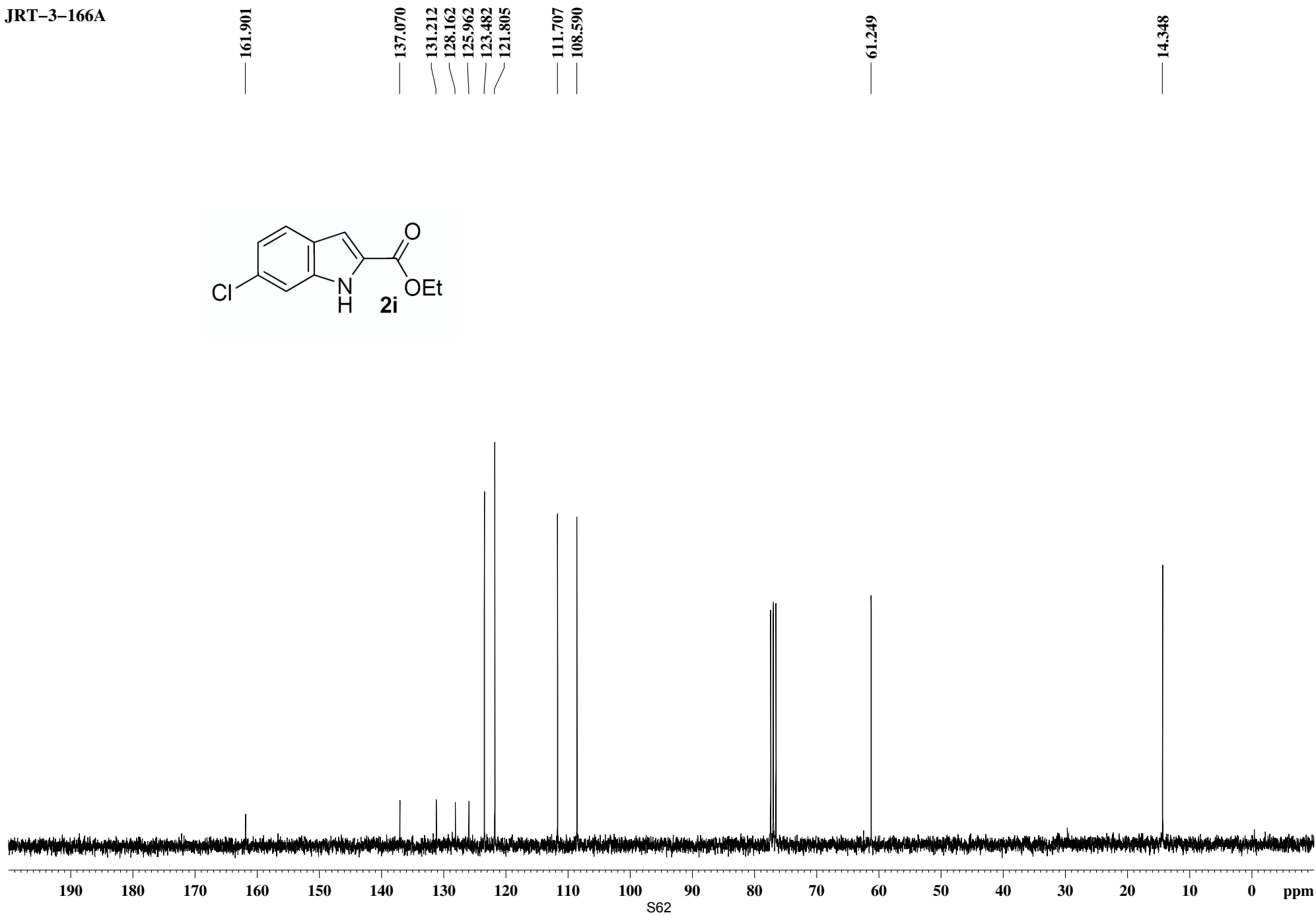
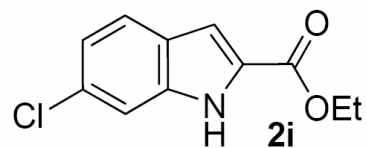
7.605  
7.576  
7.422  
7.256  
7.196  
7.192  
7.133  
7.127  
7.104  
7.098

4.467  
4.444  
4.420  
4.396

1.450  
1.426  
1.402



JRT-3-166A

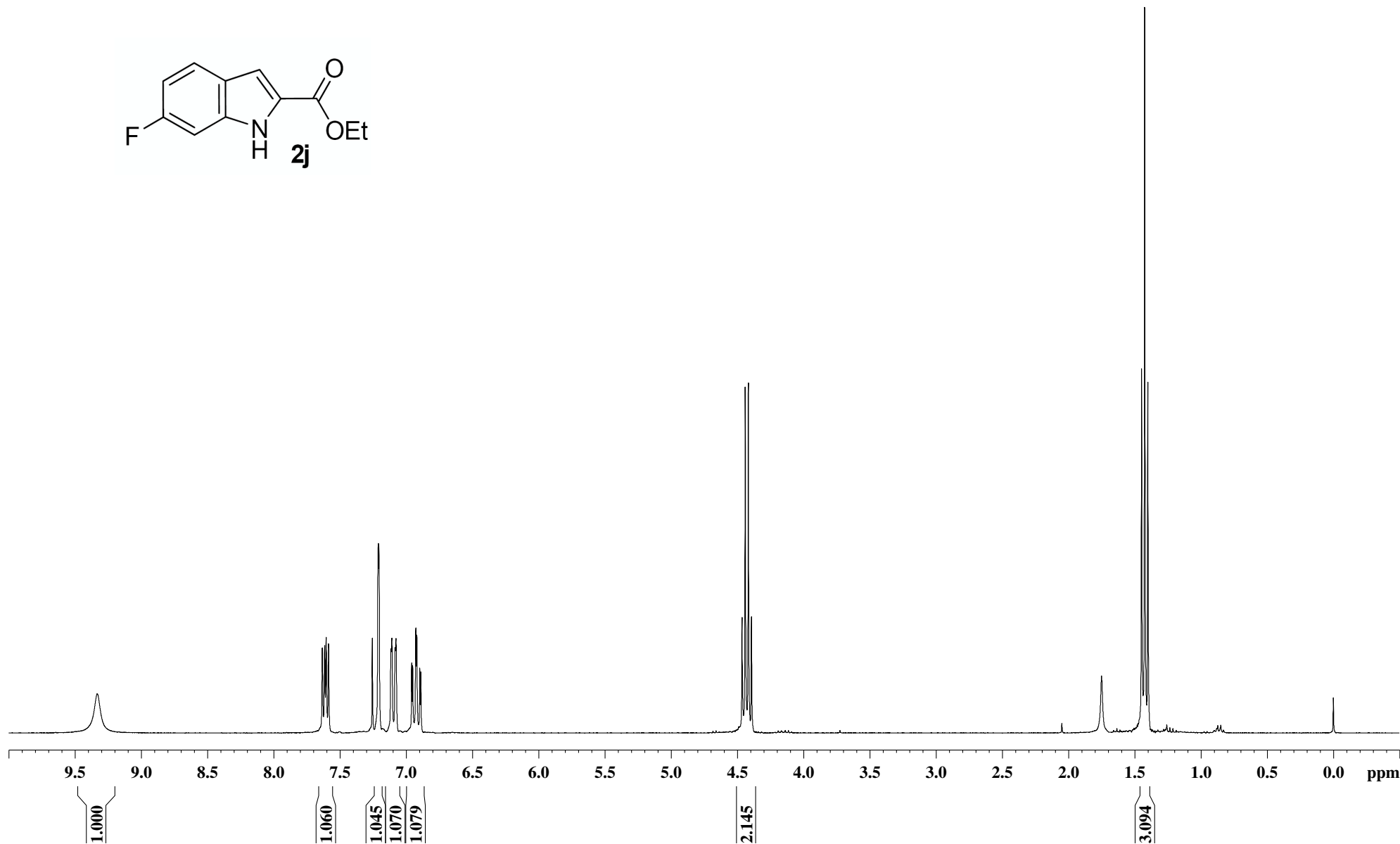
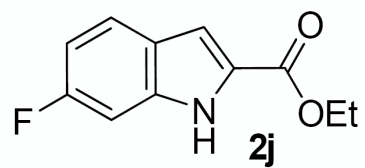


JRT-4-0330

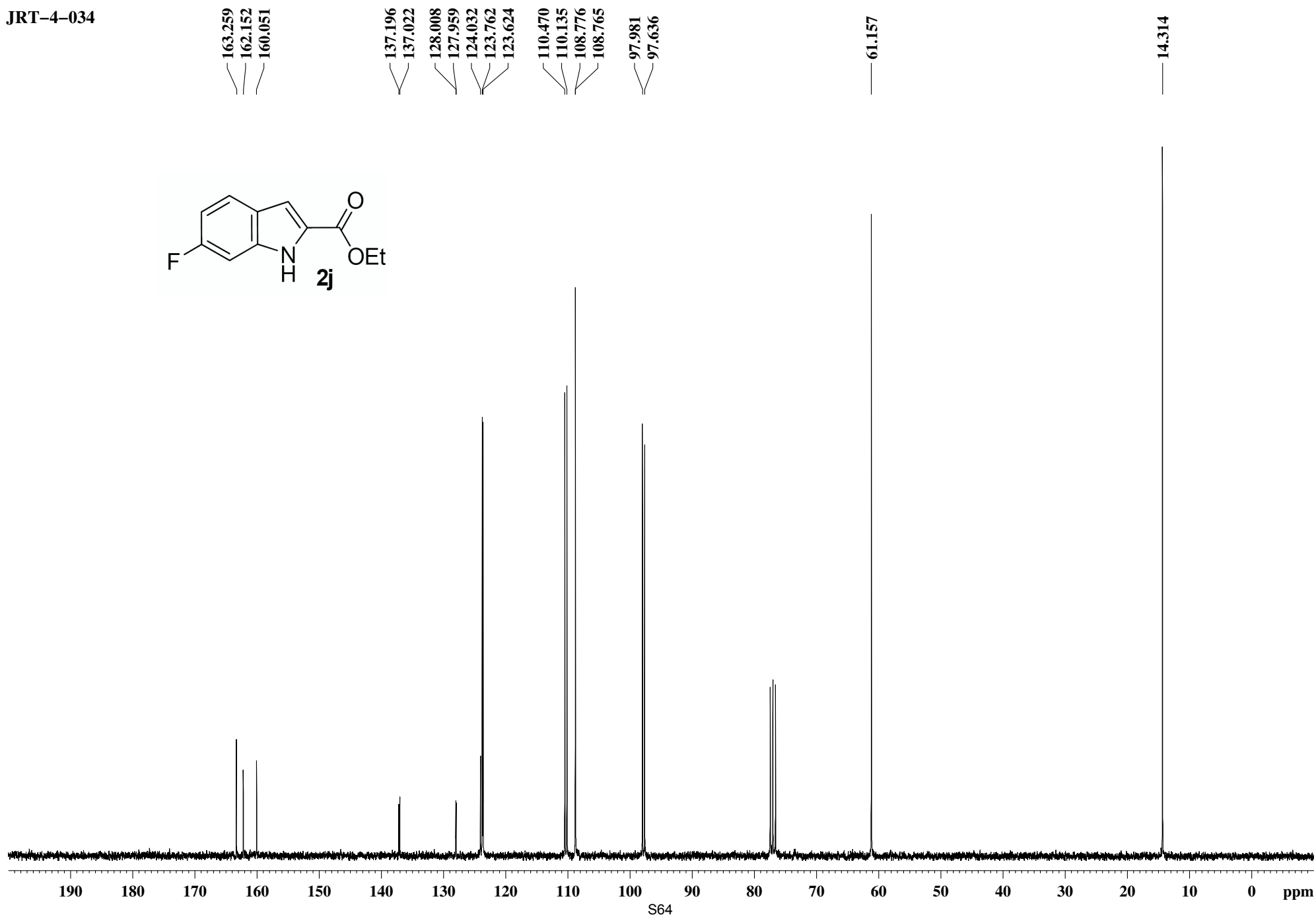
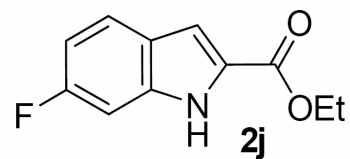
7.634  
7.616  
7.604  
7.586  
7.256  
7.211  
7.207  
7.205  
7.115  
7.108  
7.083  
7.077  
6.959  
6.951  
6.927  
6.921  
6.897  
6.890

4.464  
4.441  
4.417  
4.393

1.448  
1.424  
1.401

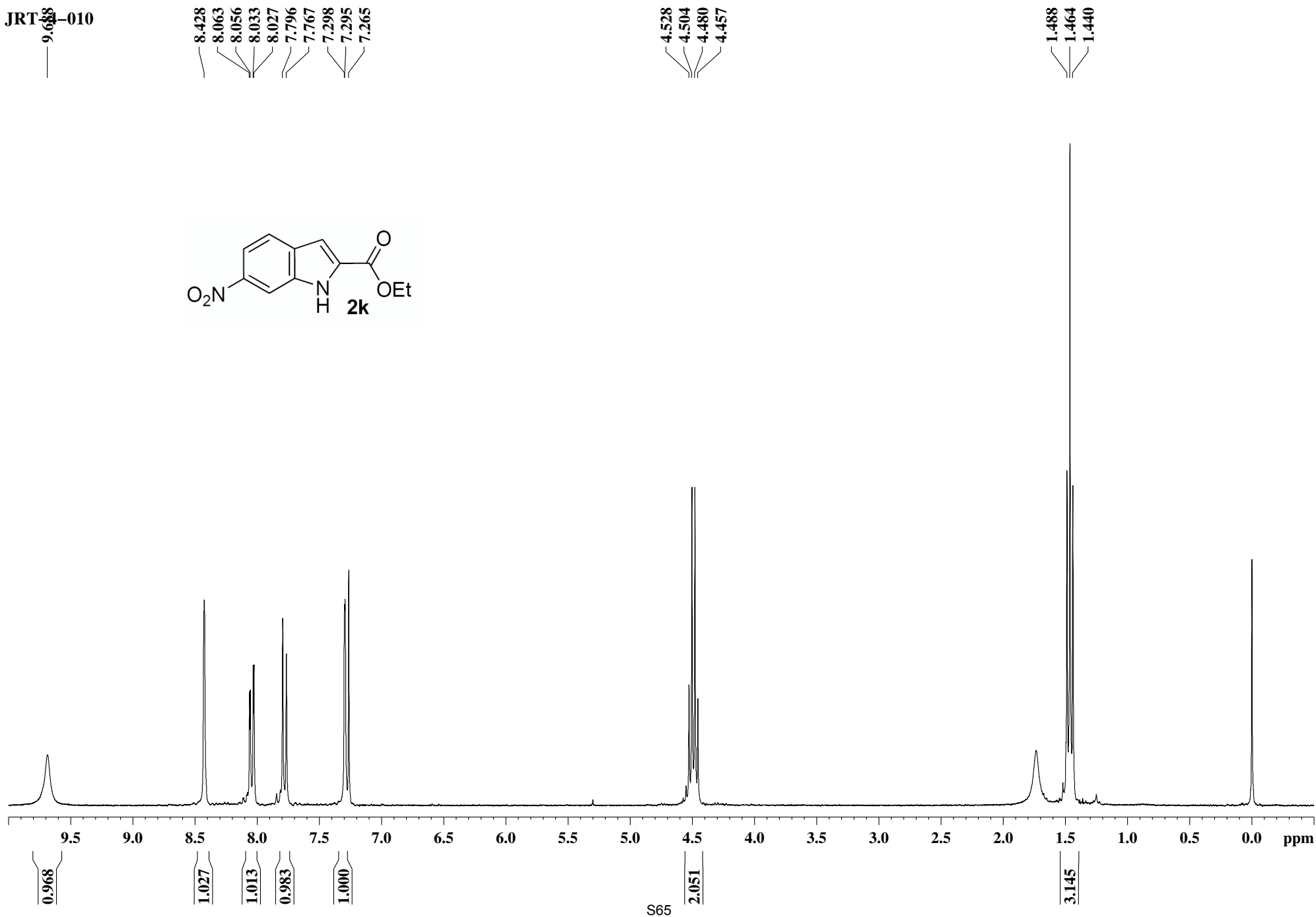


JRT-4-034

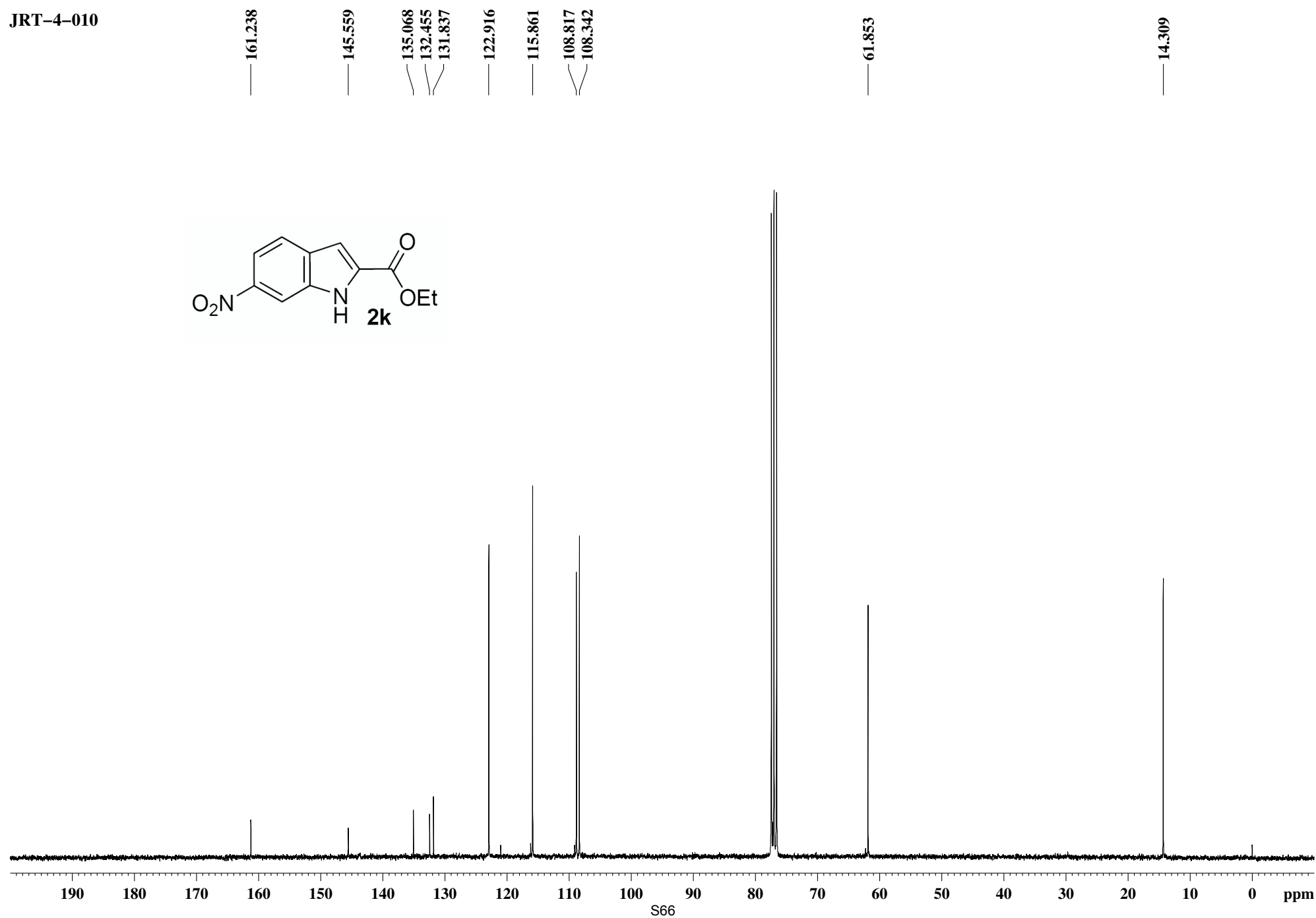
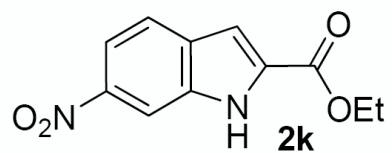




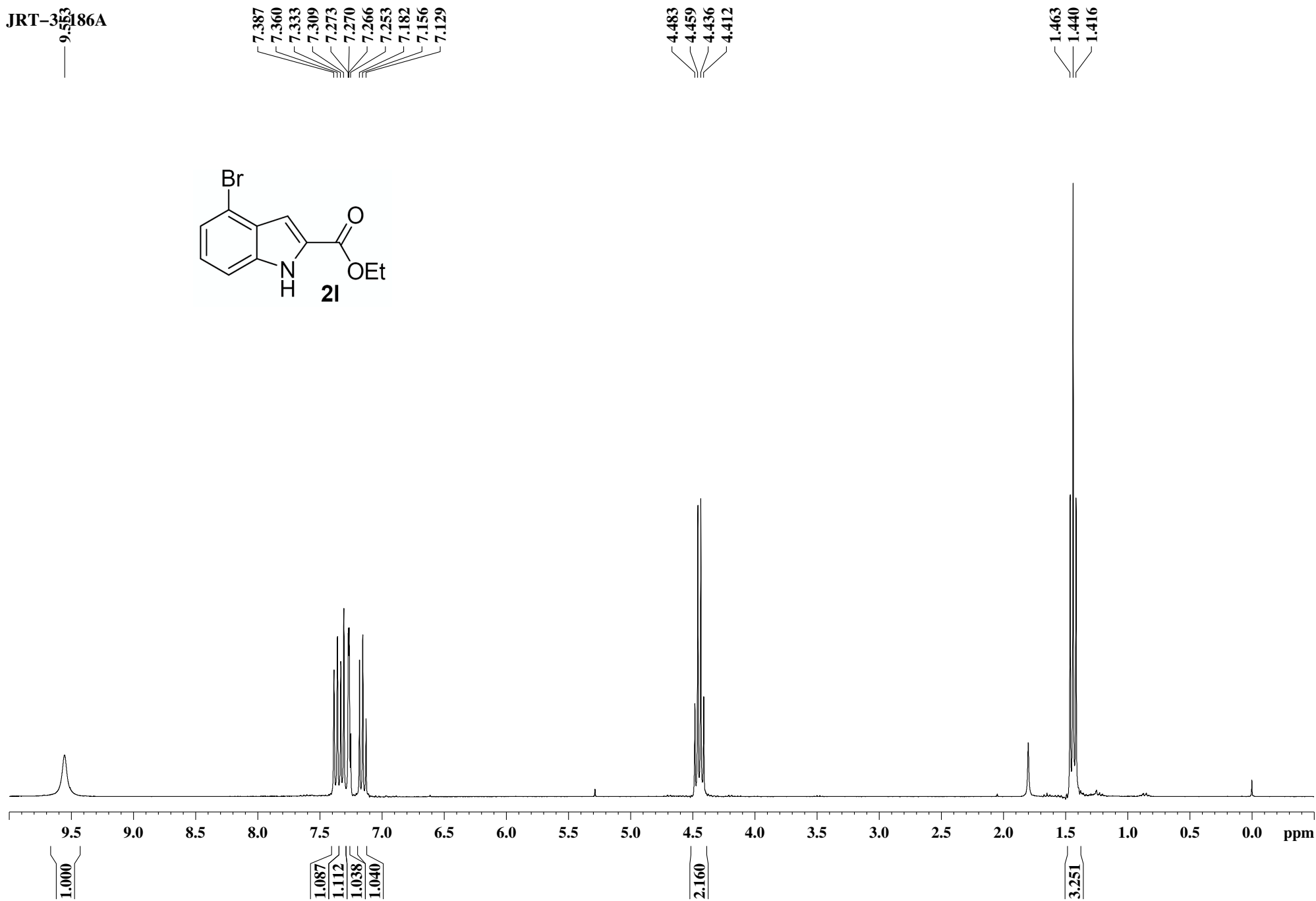
JRT-010



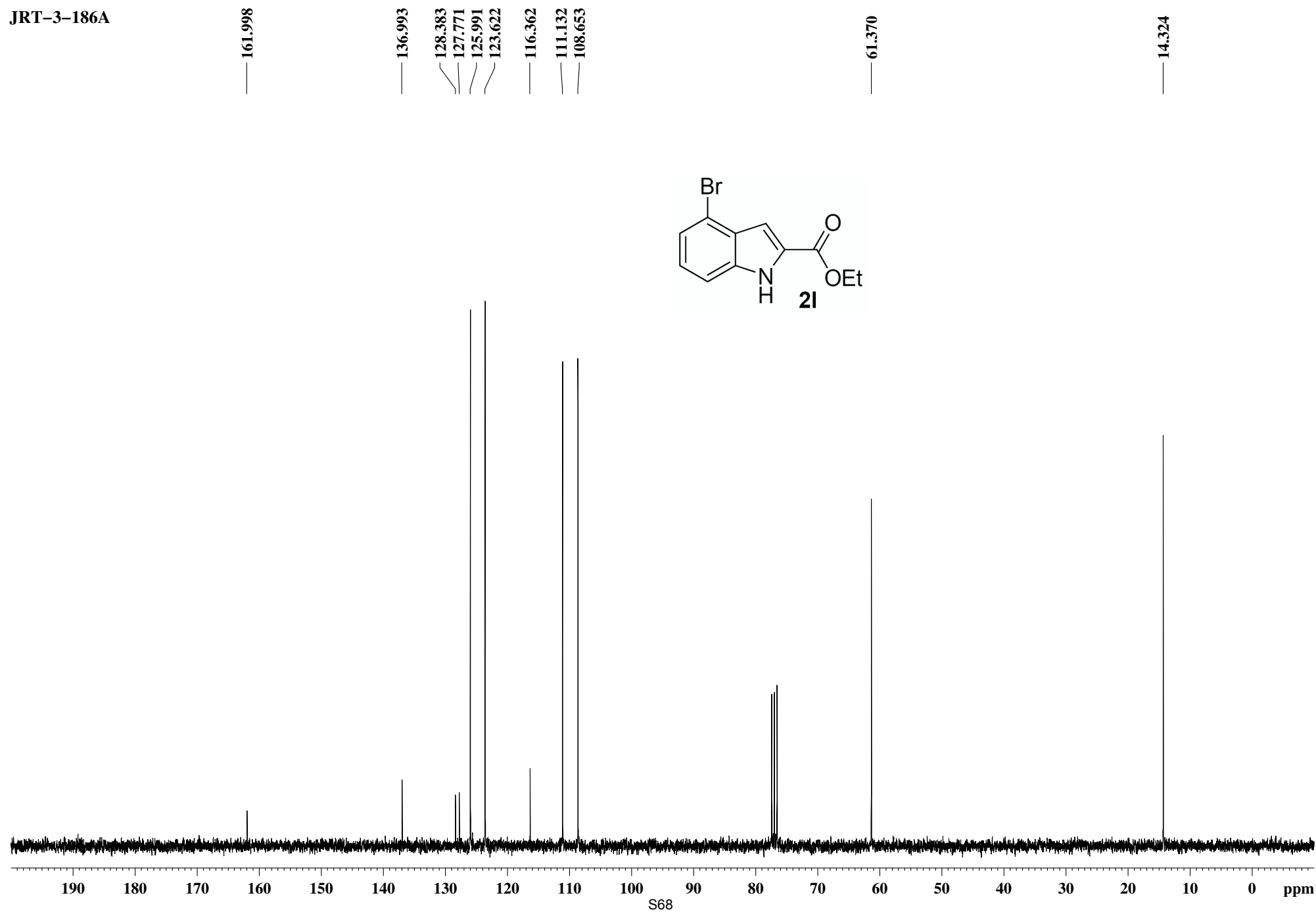
JRT-4-010



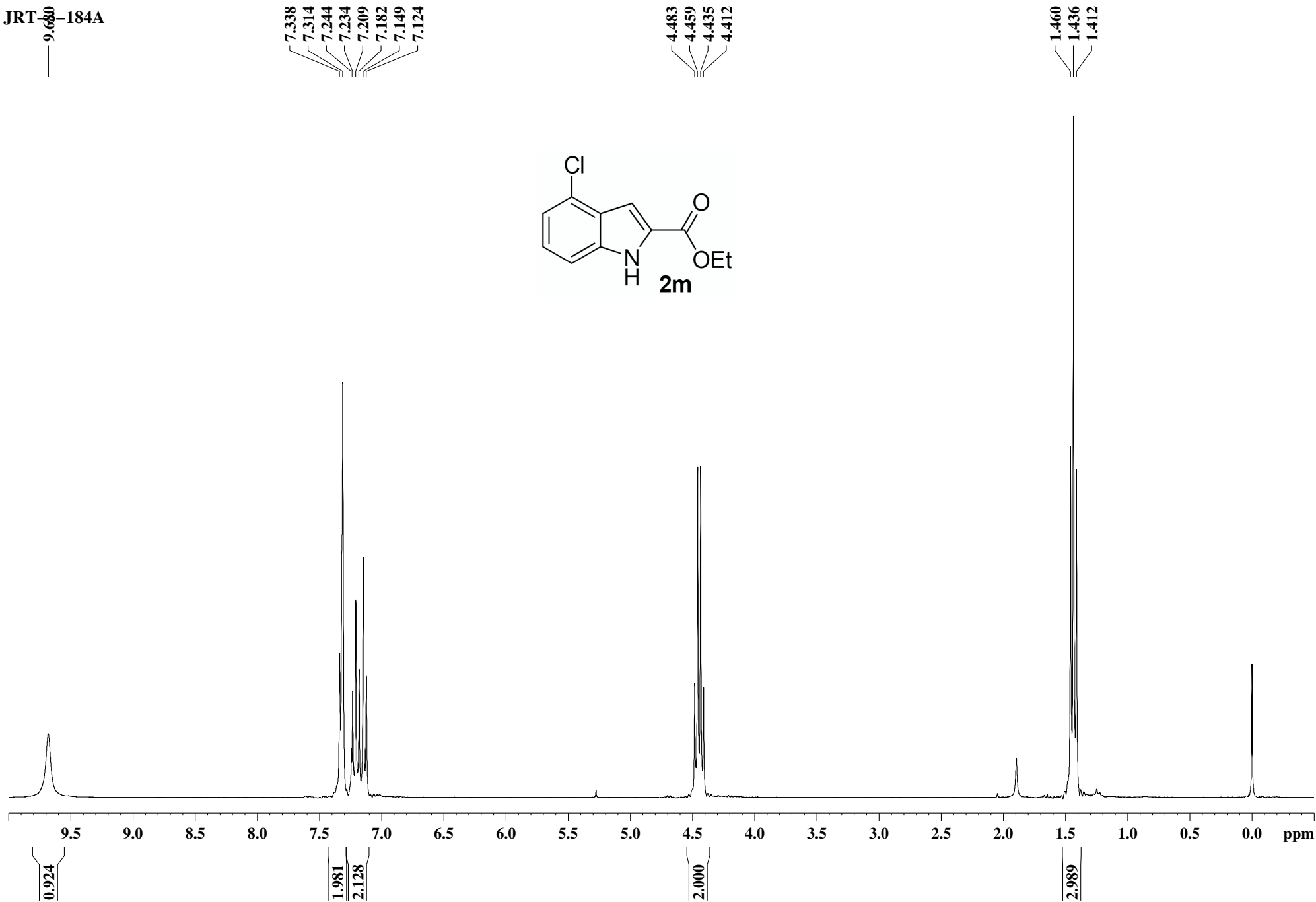
JRT-353186A



JRT-3-186A



JRT-184A



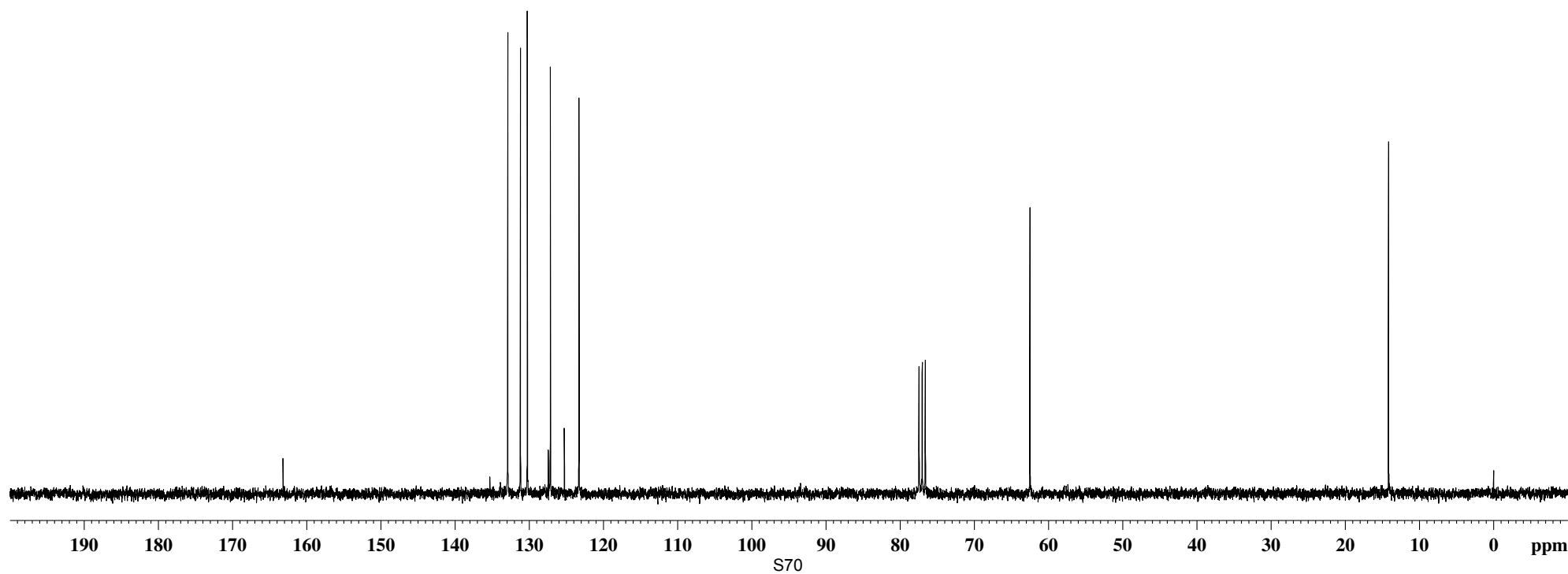
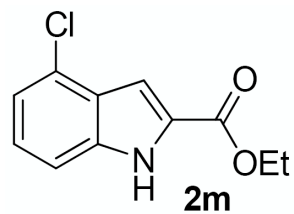
JRT-3-182A

— 163.187

132.929  
132.882  
131.167  
130.237  
127.413  
127.138  
125.245  
123.272

— 62.480

— 14.135



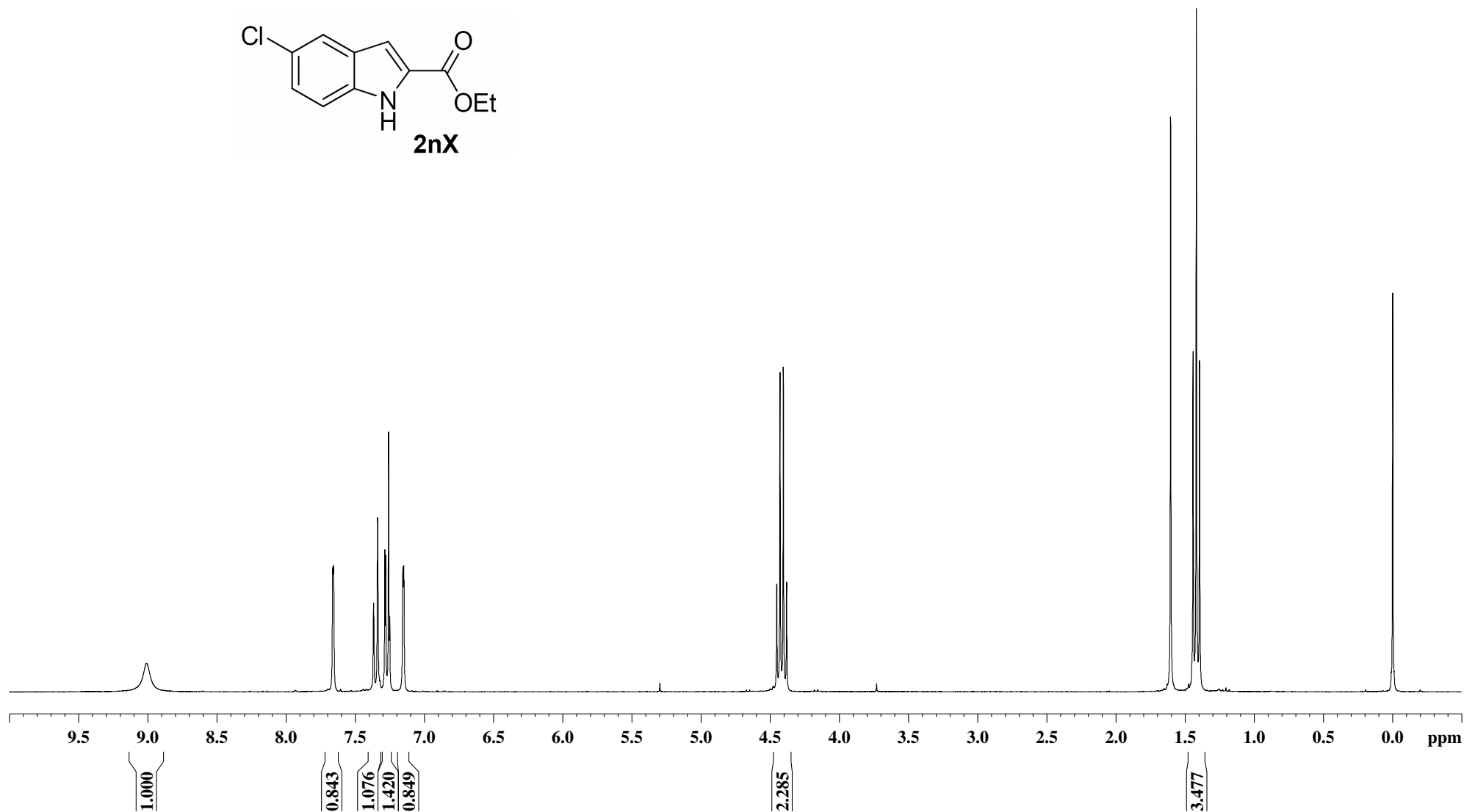
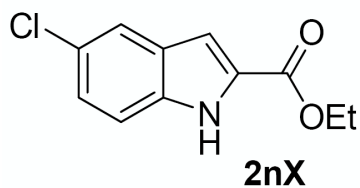
JRT-4-068A-F1

9.041

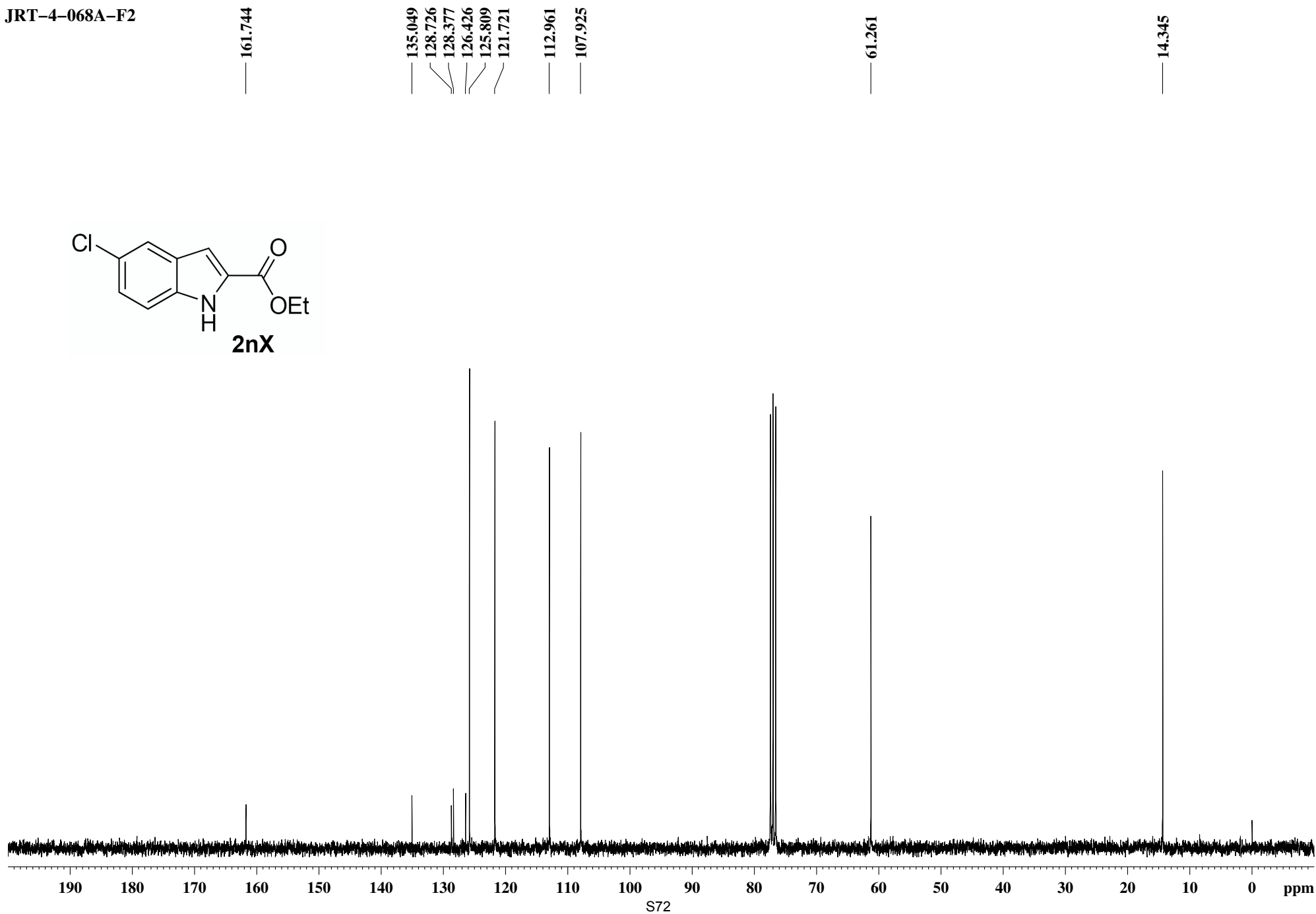
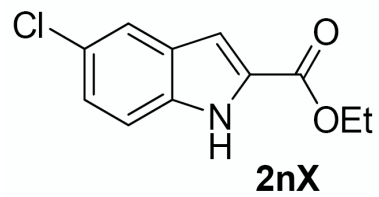
7.664  
7.661  
7.658  
7.369  
7.339  
7.288  
7.281  
7.260  
7.252  
7.158  
7.156  
7.152

4.454  
4.430  
4.406  
4.382

1.444  
1.420  
1.396



JRT-4-068A-F2





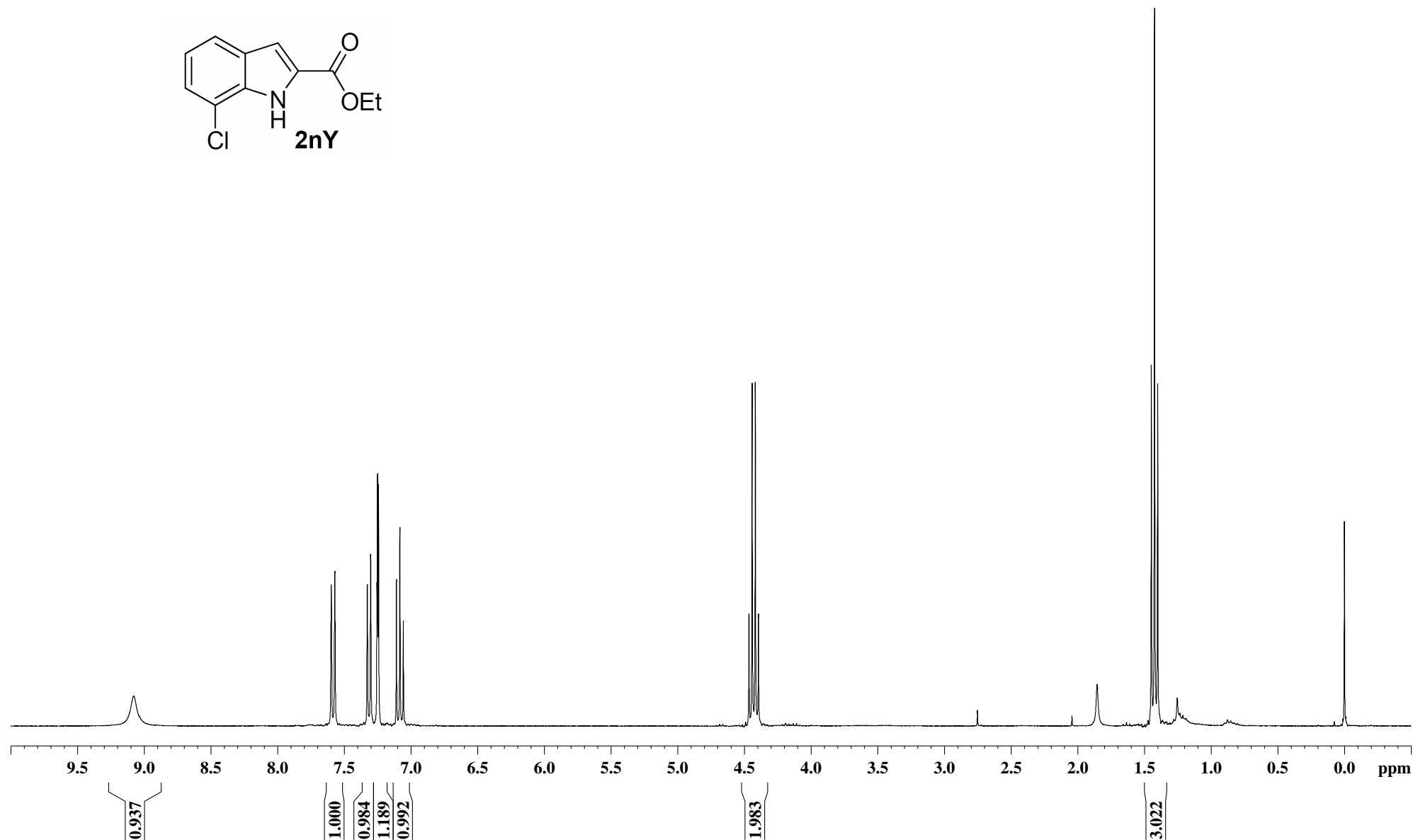
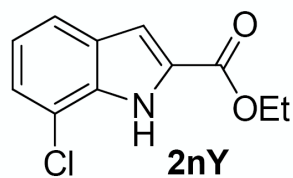
JRT-4-068A-41

9.076

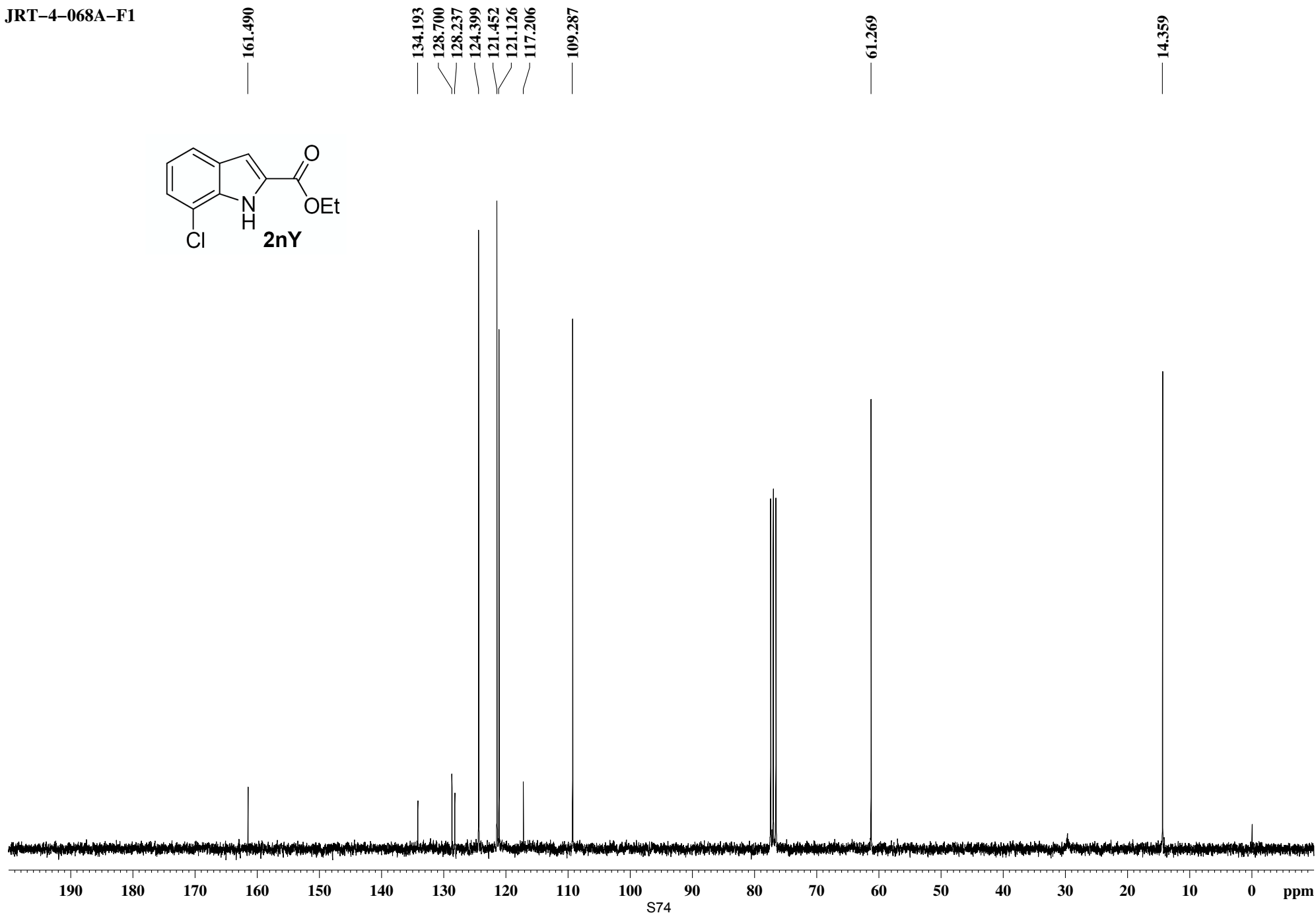
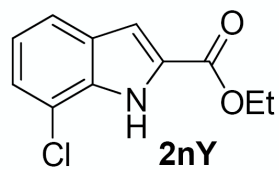
7.598  
7.571  
7.329  
7.326  
7.303  
7.301  
7.255  
7.251  
7.244  
7.109  
7.083  
7.057

4.465  
4.441  
4.418  
4.394

1.448  
1.424  
1.400



JRT-4-068A-F1



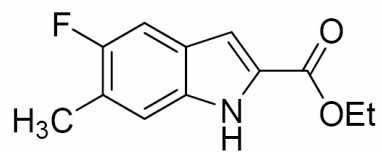
JRT-4-103B F2  
9.162

7.267  
7.249  
7.234  
7.187  
7.166  
7.139  
7.136  
7.132

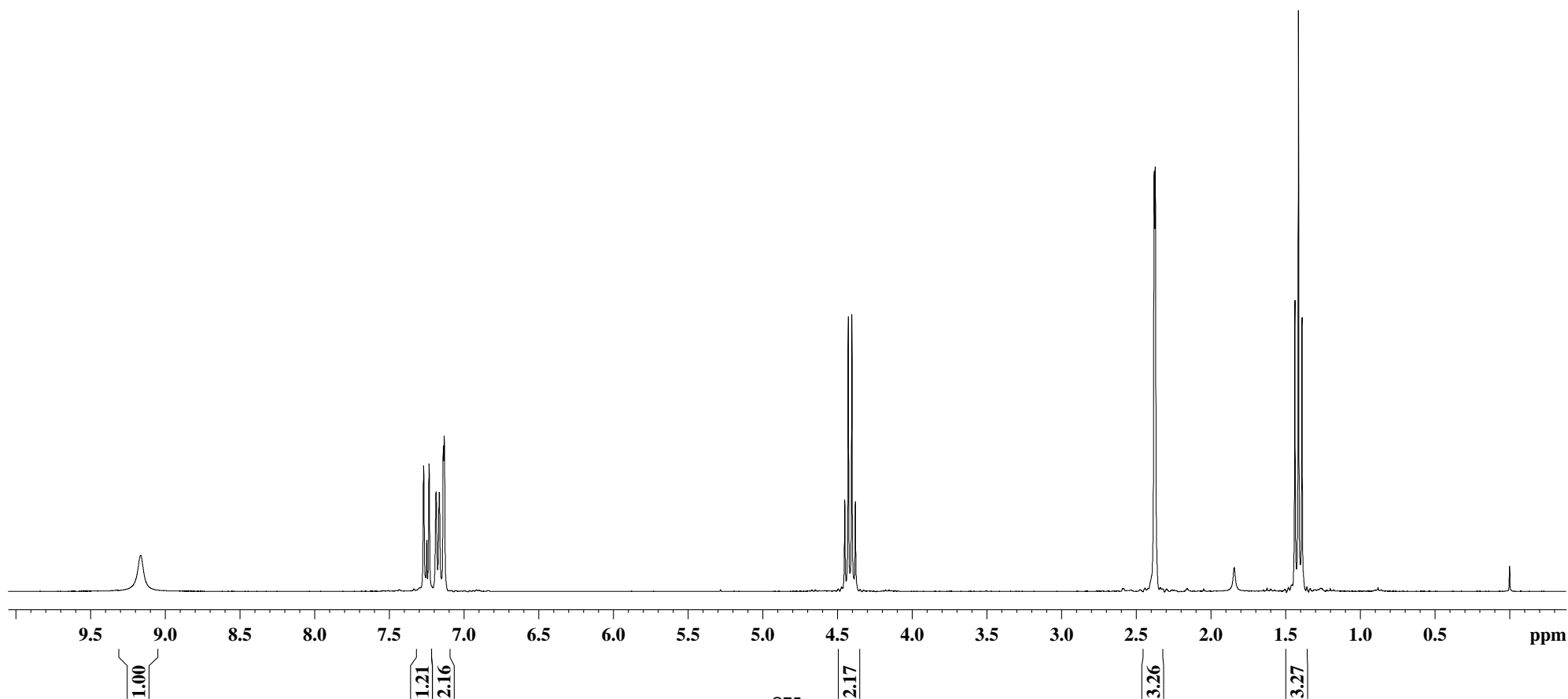
4.451  
4.427  
4.403  
4.380

2.378  
2.372

1.437  
1.413  
1.390



2oX



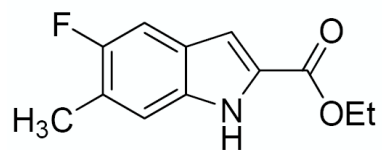
JRT-4-103B F2

162.044  
158.870  
155.730

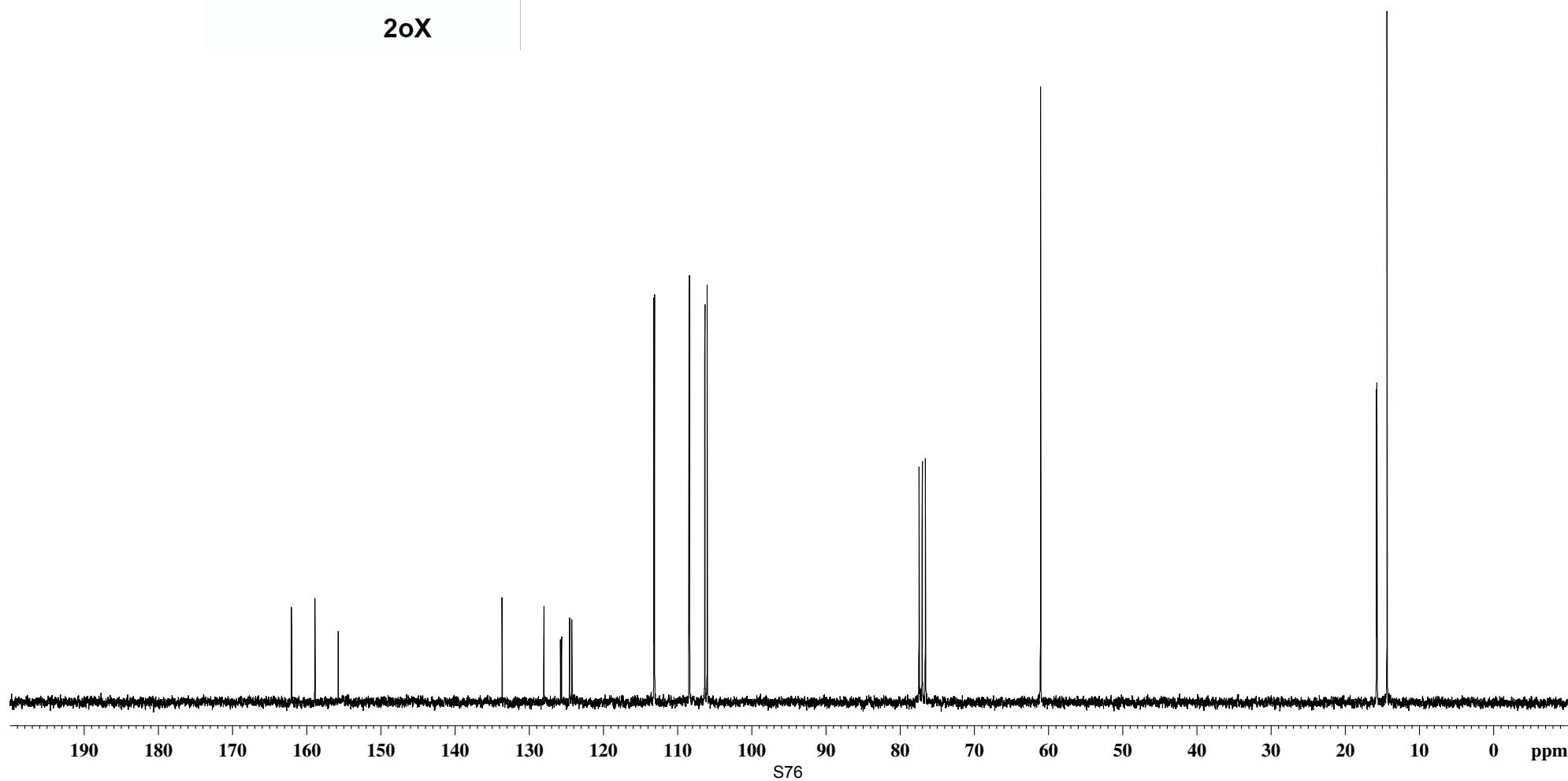
133.644  
127.995  
125.629  
124.535  
124.241  
113.174  
113.101  
108.443  
108.371  
106.309  
105.986

61.043

15.753  
15.695  
14.338



2oX



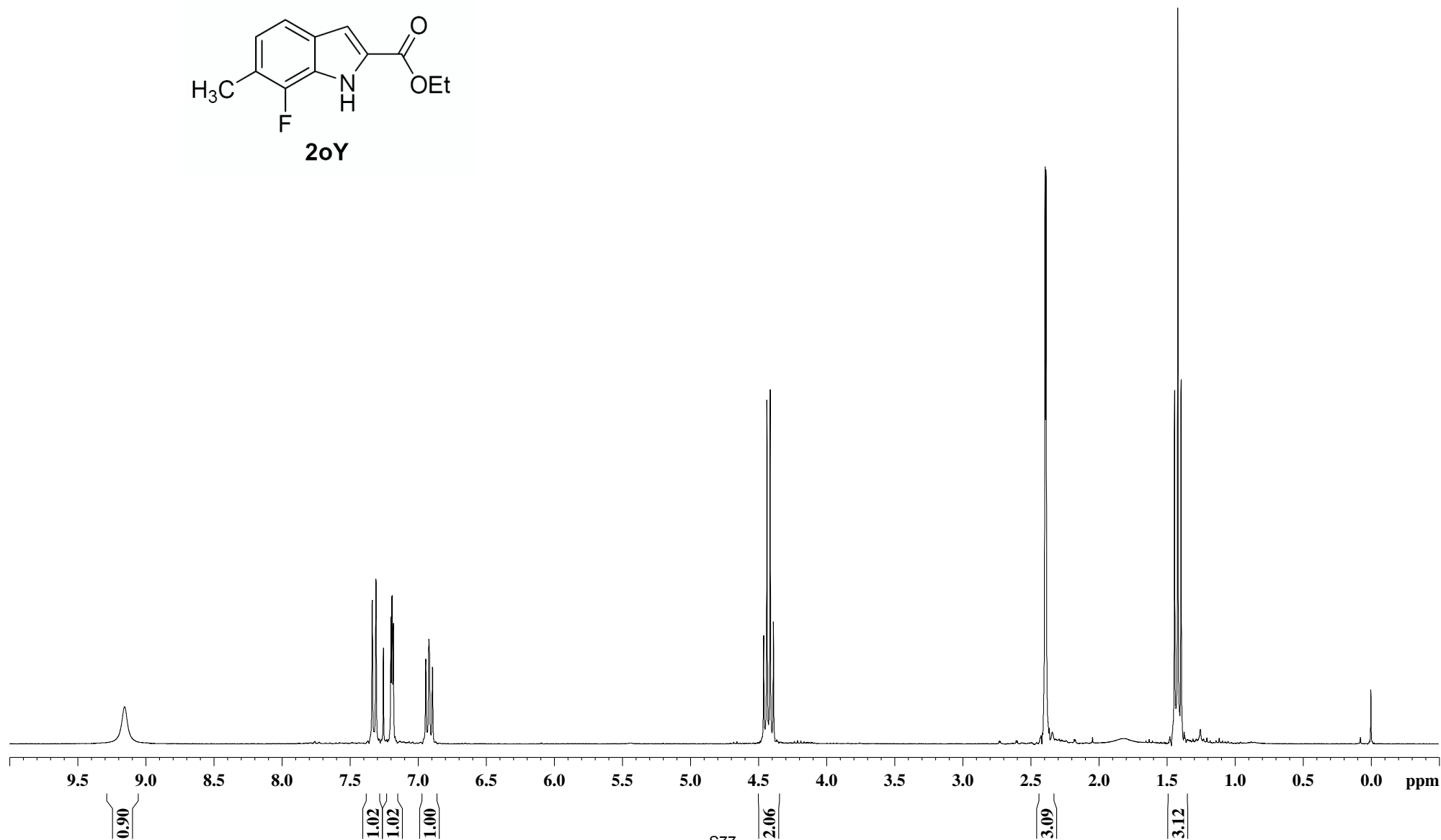
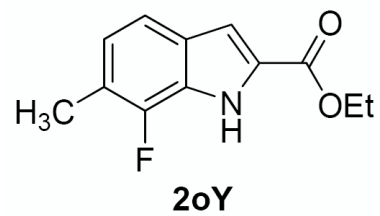
JRT-4-130BF1  
9.154

7.334  
7.307  
7.253  
7.198  
7.190  
7.187  
7.179  
6.941  
6.918  
6.915  
6.892

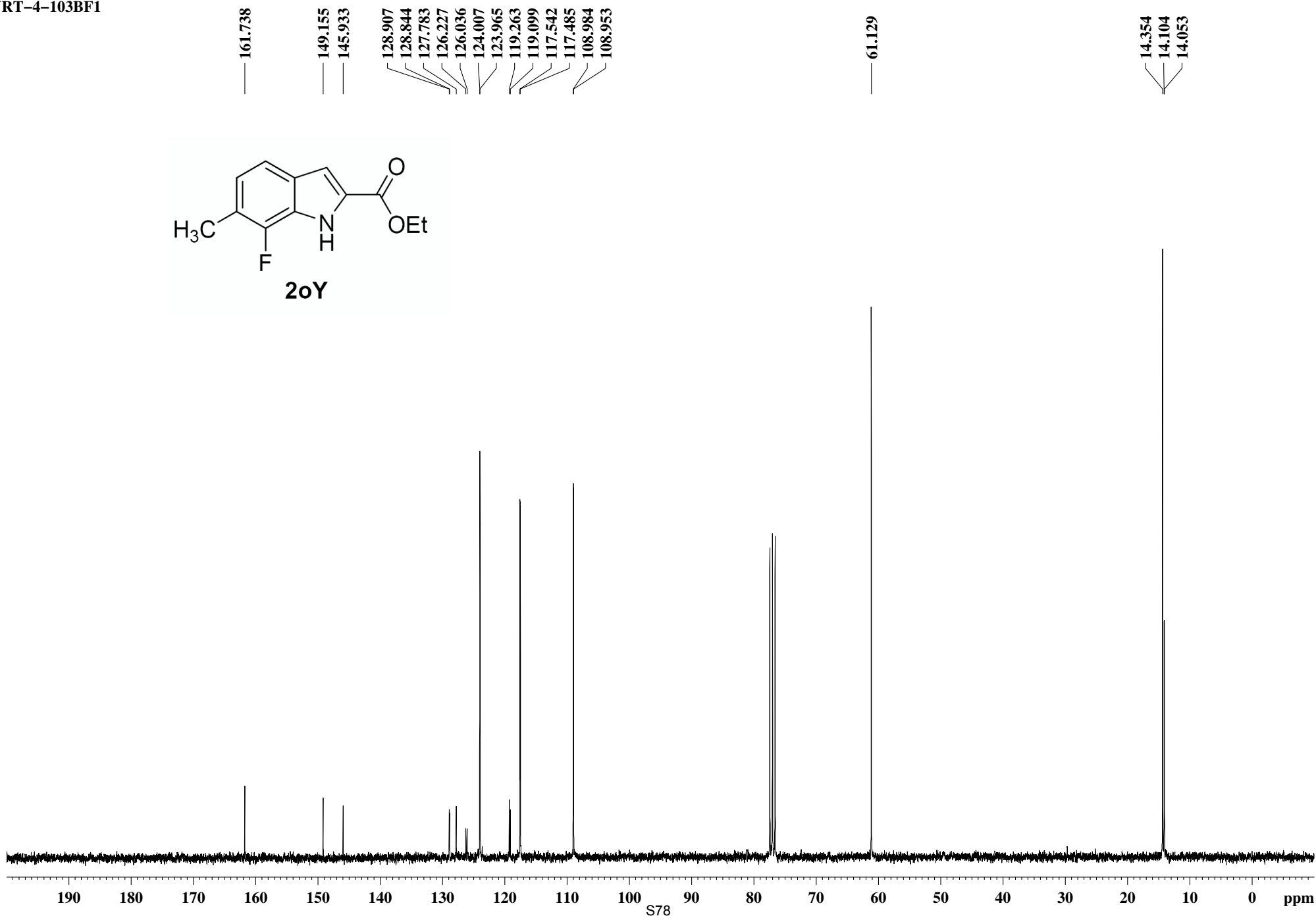
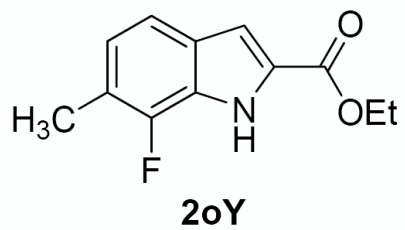
4.459  
4.436  
4.412  
4.388

2.393  
2.386

1.442  
1.418  
1.394



JRT-4-103BF1



JRT-4-081

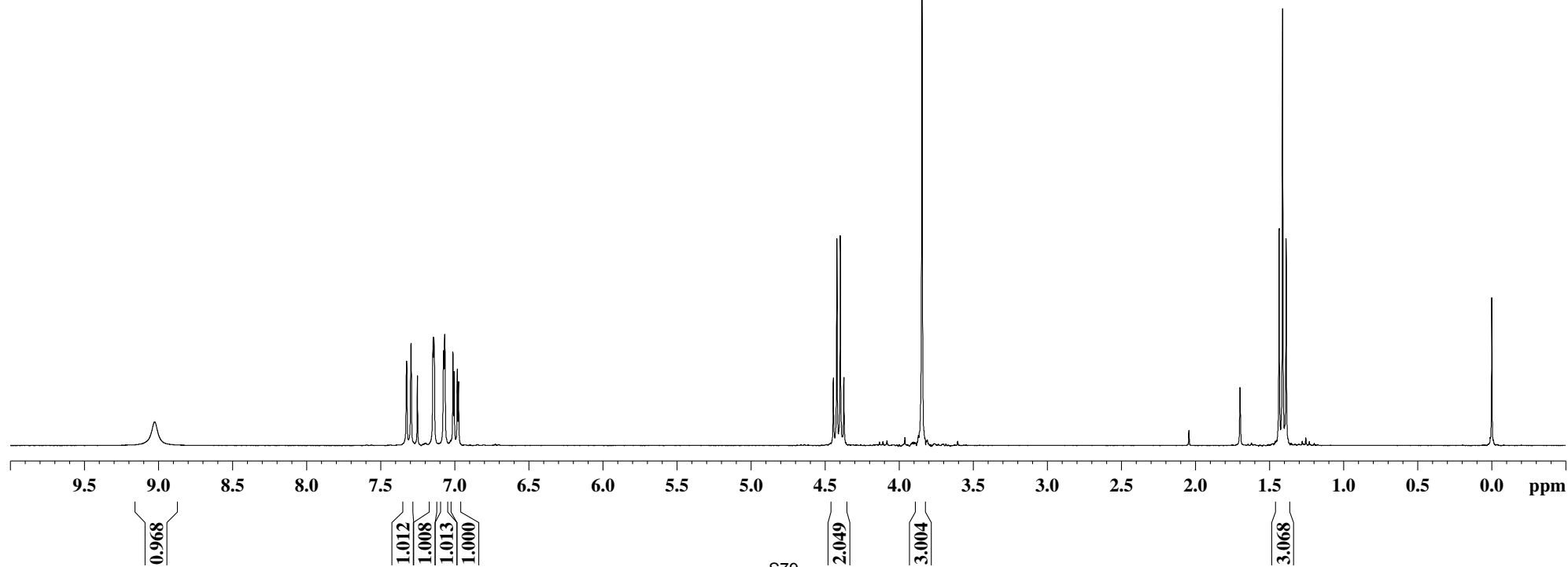
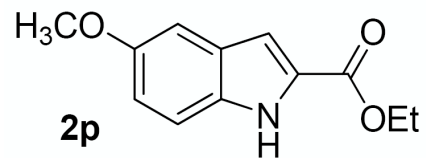
9.027

7.326  
7.296  
7.253  
7.148  
7.146  
7.141  
7.139  
7.076  
7.068  
7.013  
7.005  
6.983  
6.975

4.445  
4.421  
4.397  
4.374

3.846

1.436  
1.412  
1.388



JRT-4-081

— 162.000

— 154.662

— 132.218

— 127.847

— 127.808

— 116.923

— 112.752

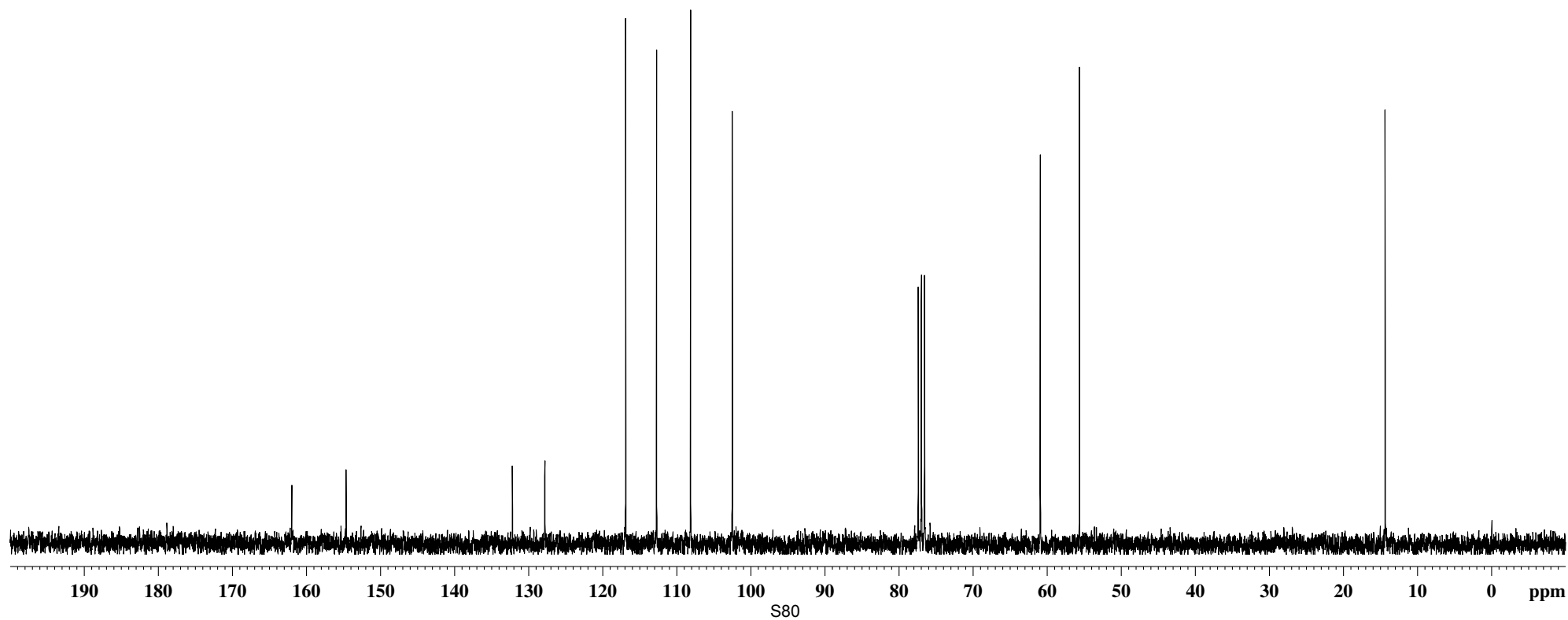
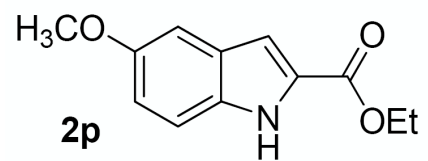
— 108.160

— 102.517

— 60.939

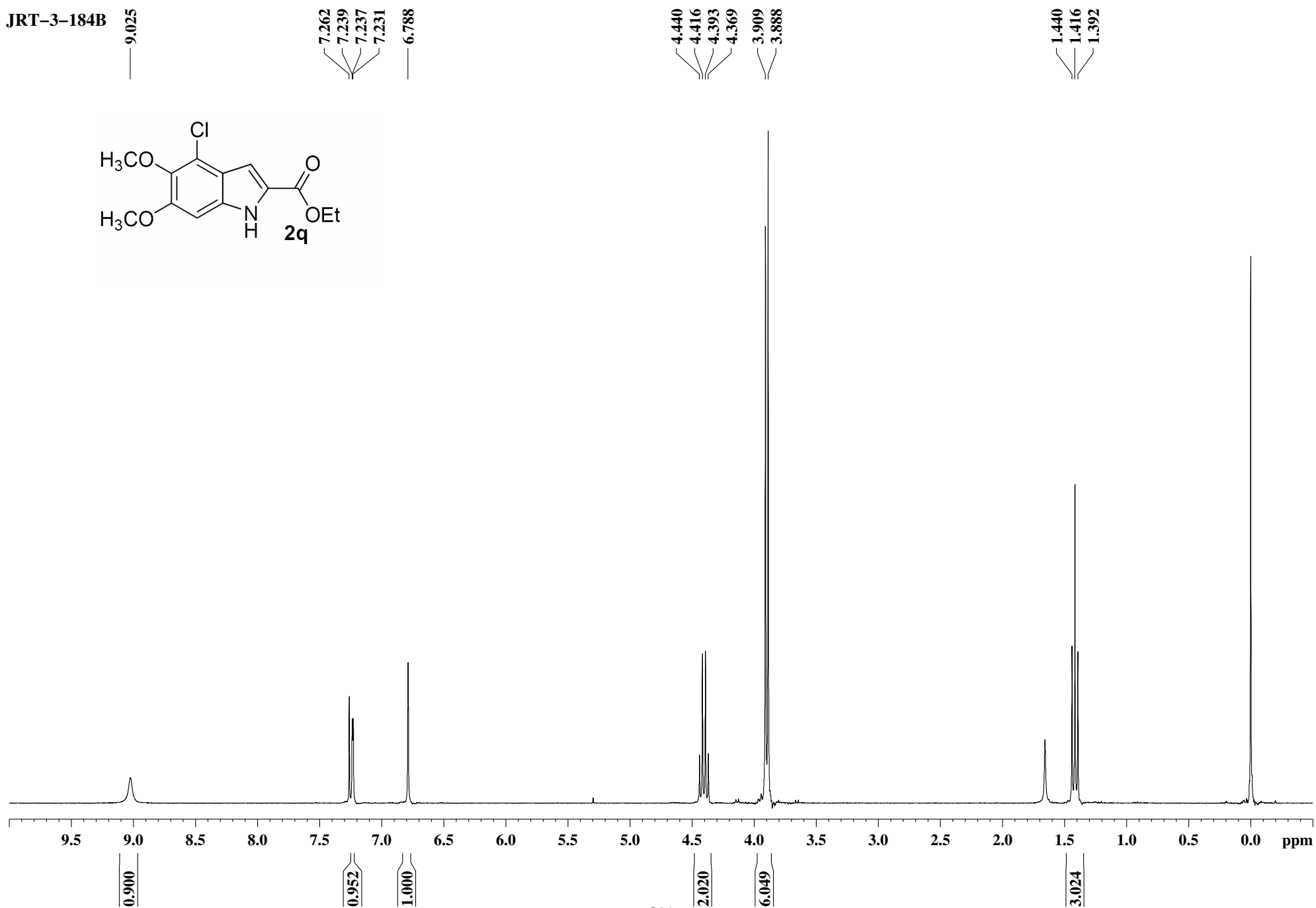
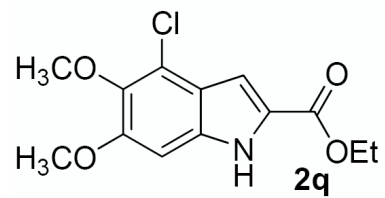
— 55.647

— 14.376





JRT-3-184B



JRT-3-184B

— 161.878

— 153.418

— 141.780

— 133.406

— 126.616

— 120.511

— 120.474

— 107.586

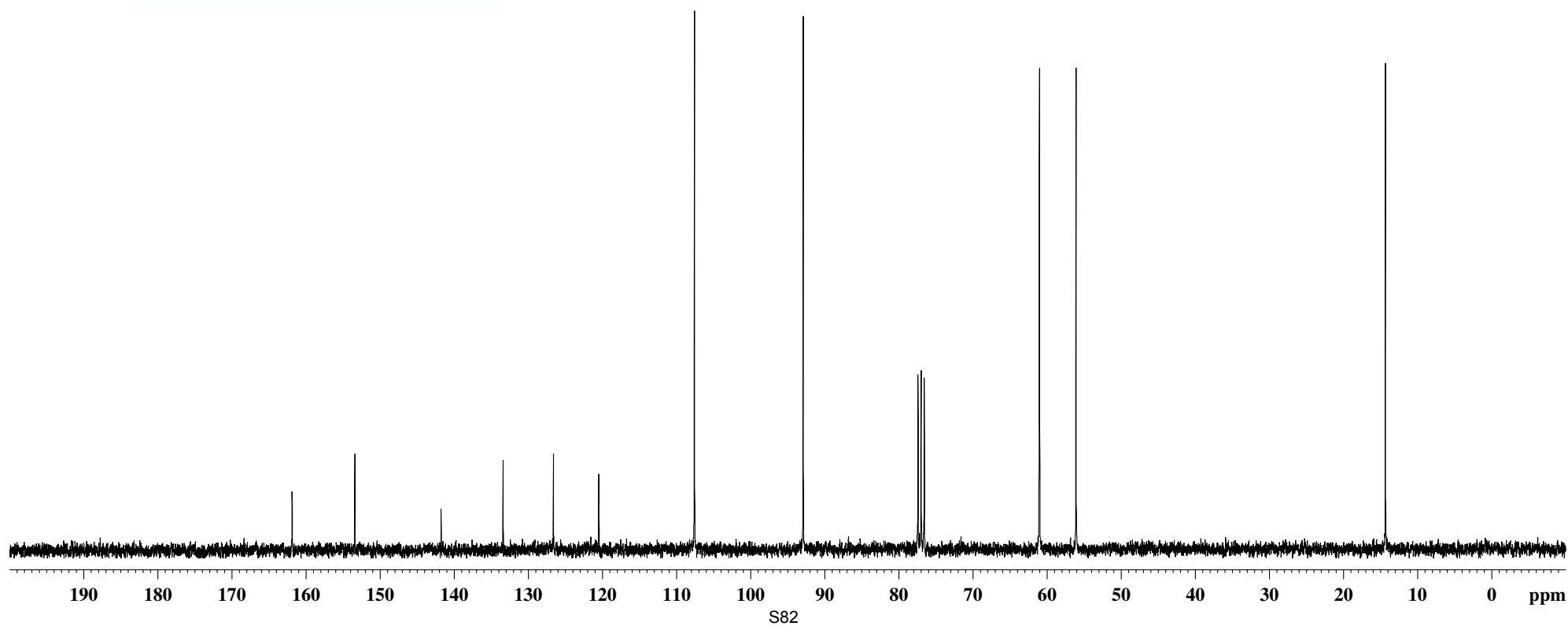
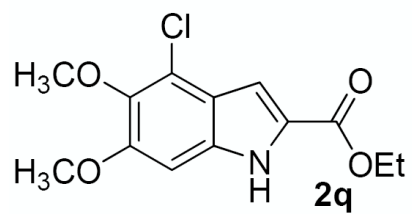
— 92.907

— 61.068

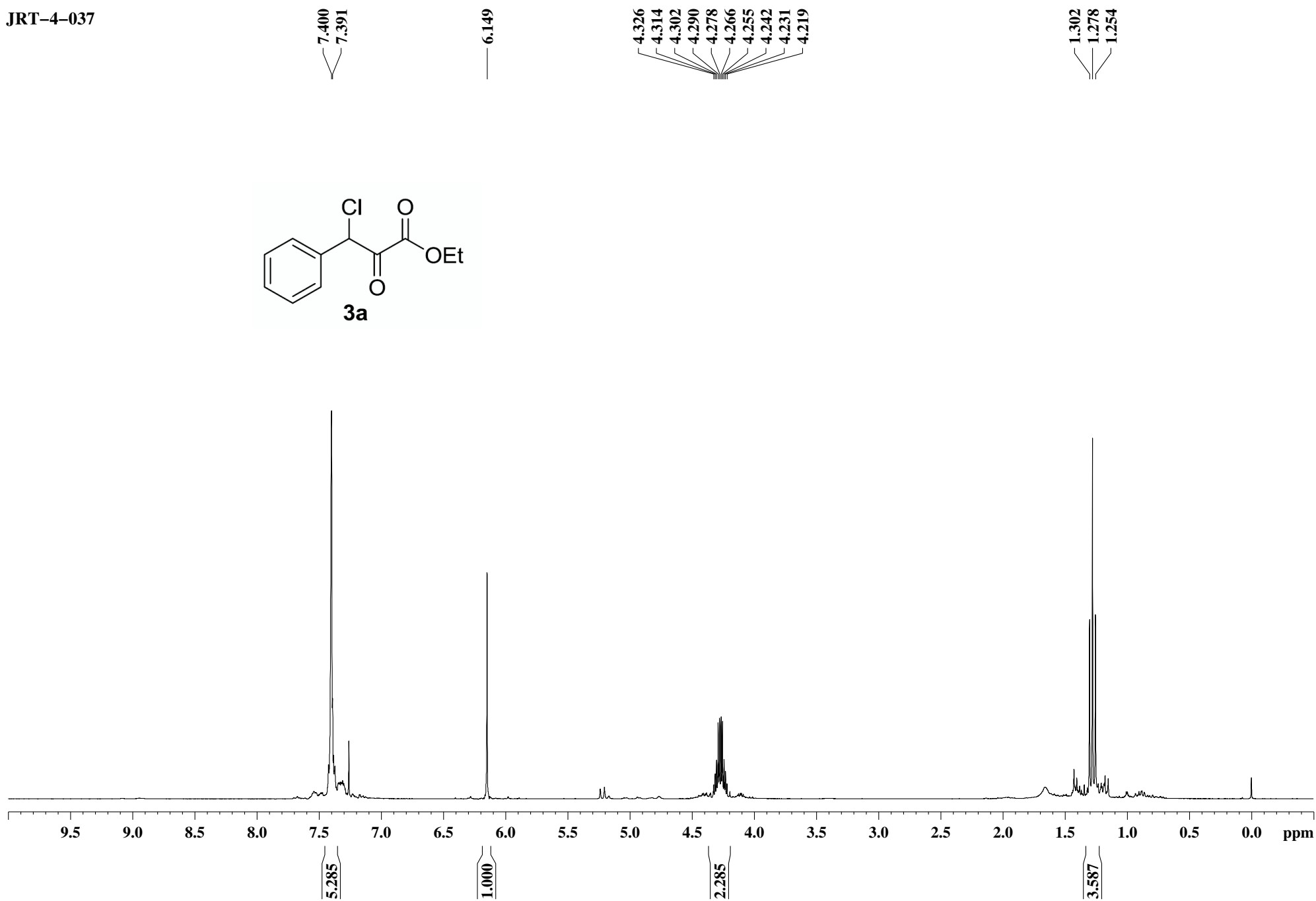
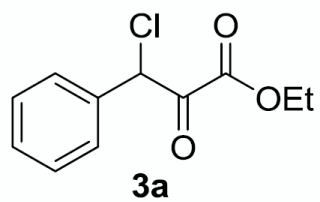
— 61.006

— 56.095

— 14.345



JRT-4-037



JRT-4-037

184.929

159.995

133.003

129.708

129.145

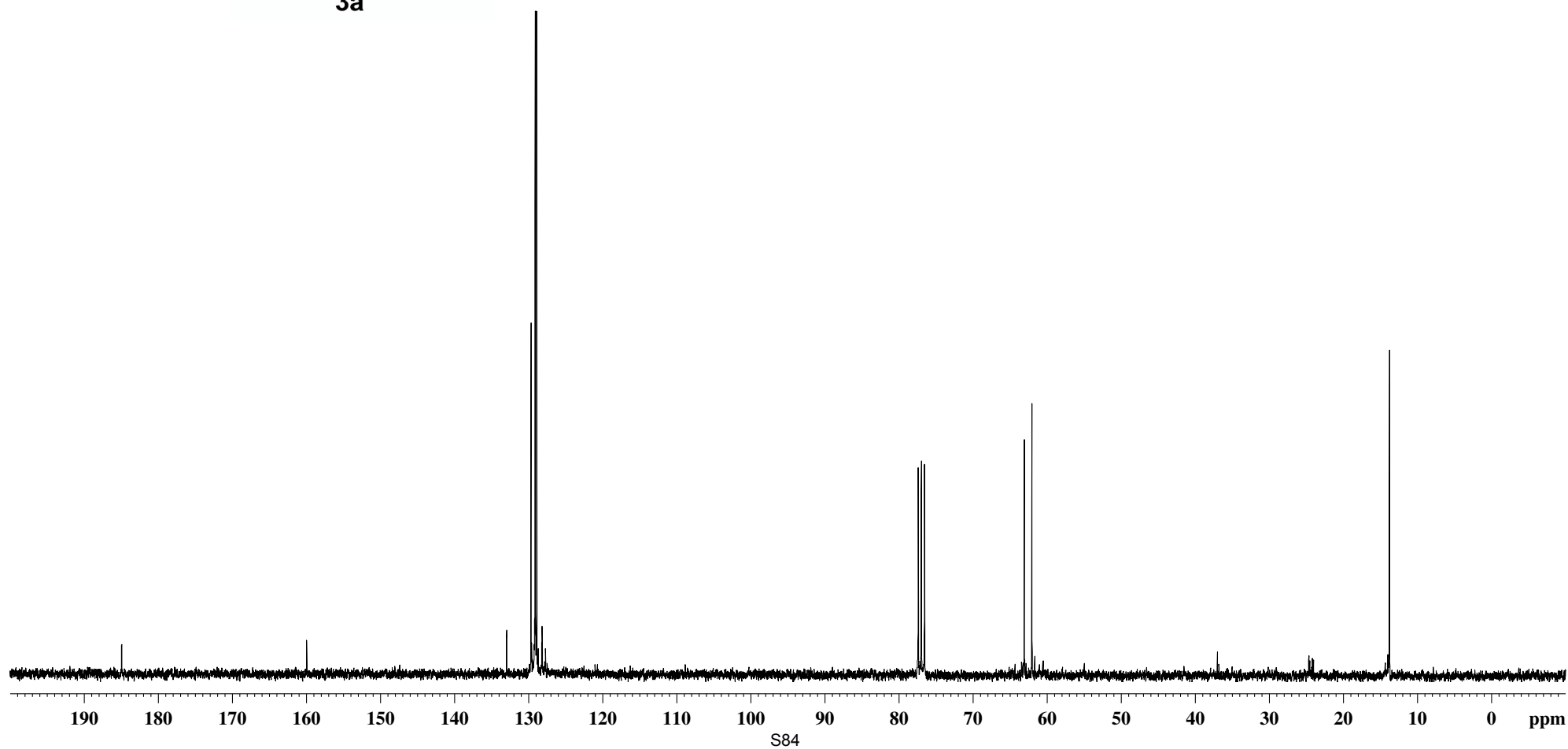
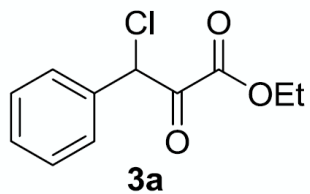
128.948

128.199

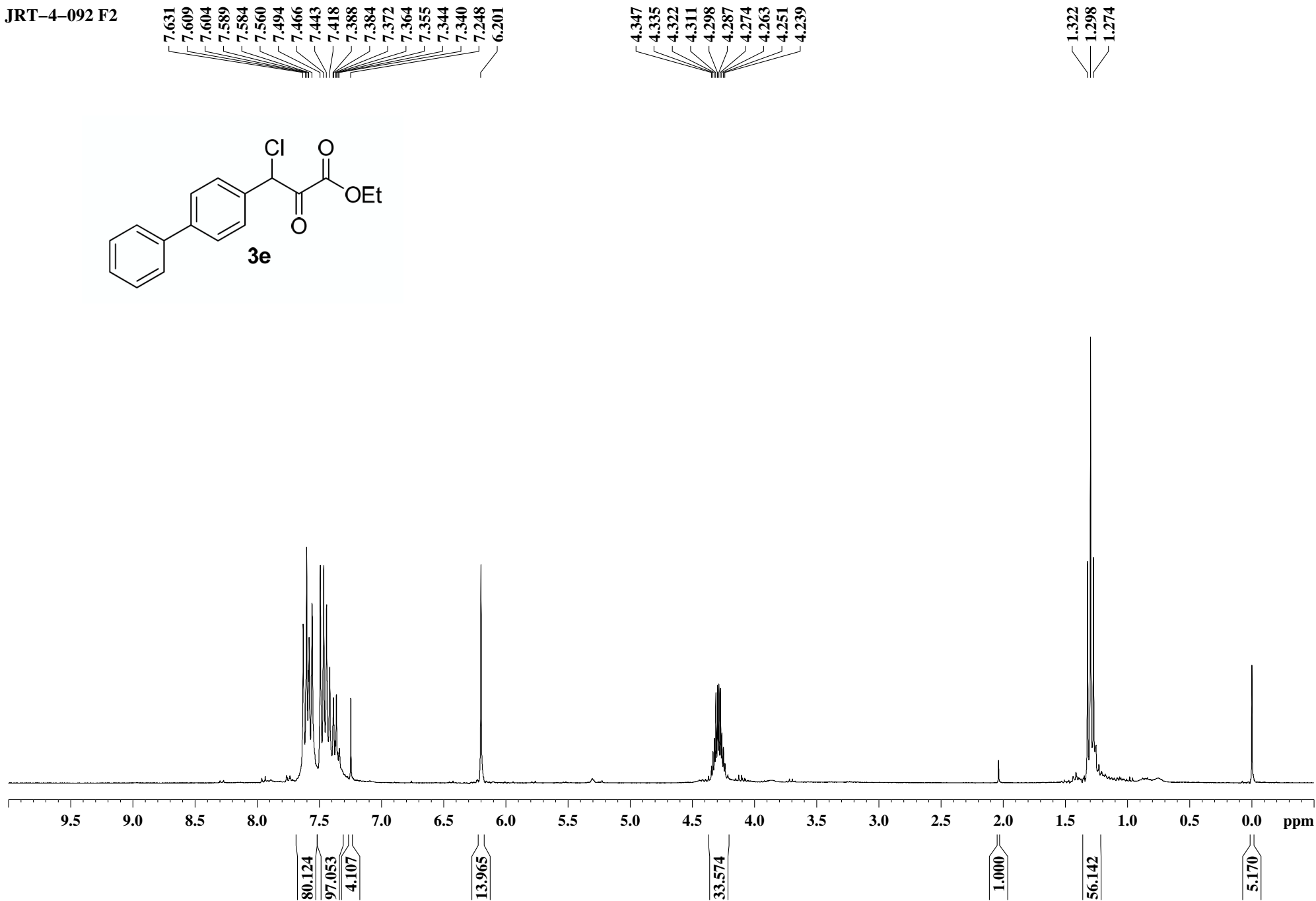
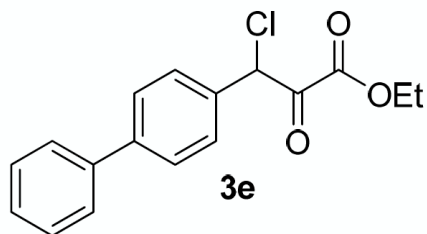
63.098

62.069

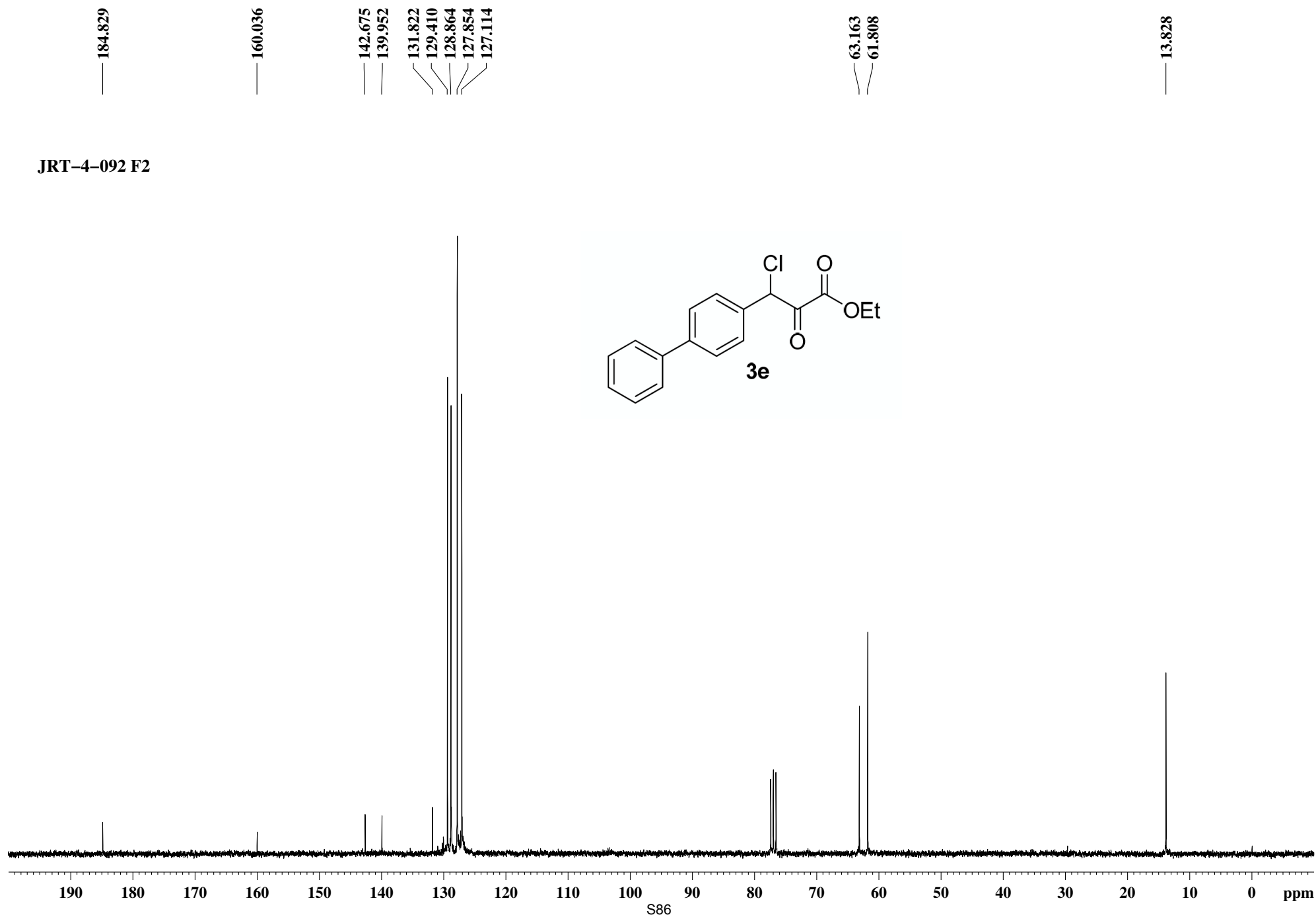
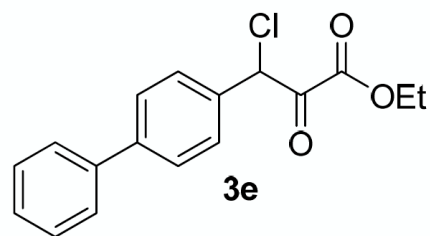
13.787



JRT-4-092 F2

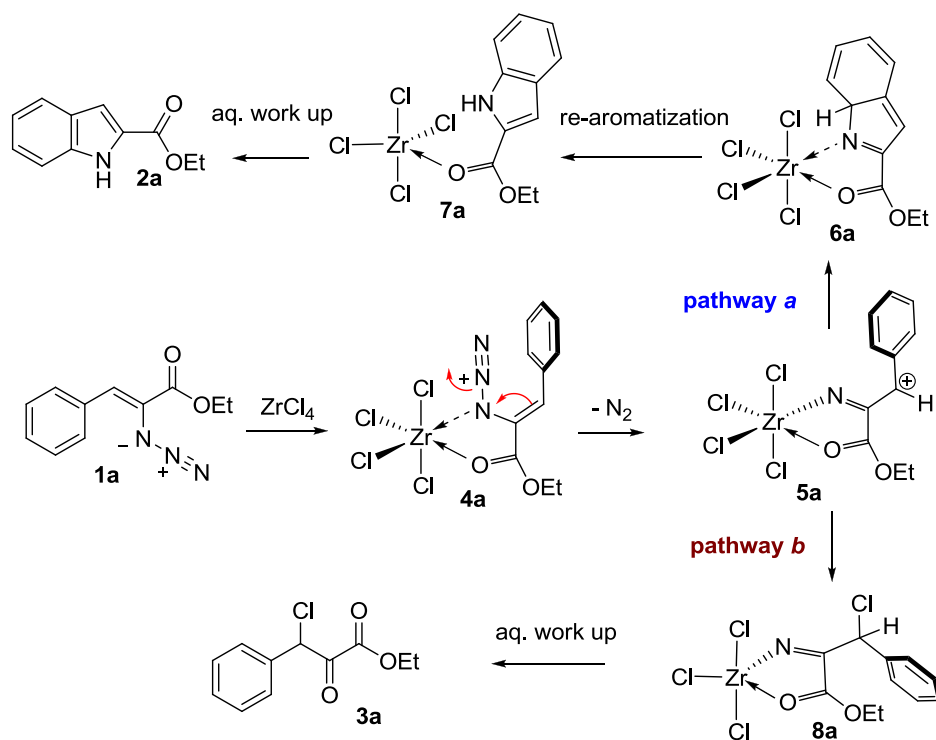


JRT-4-092 F2

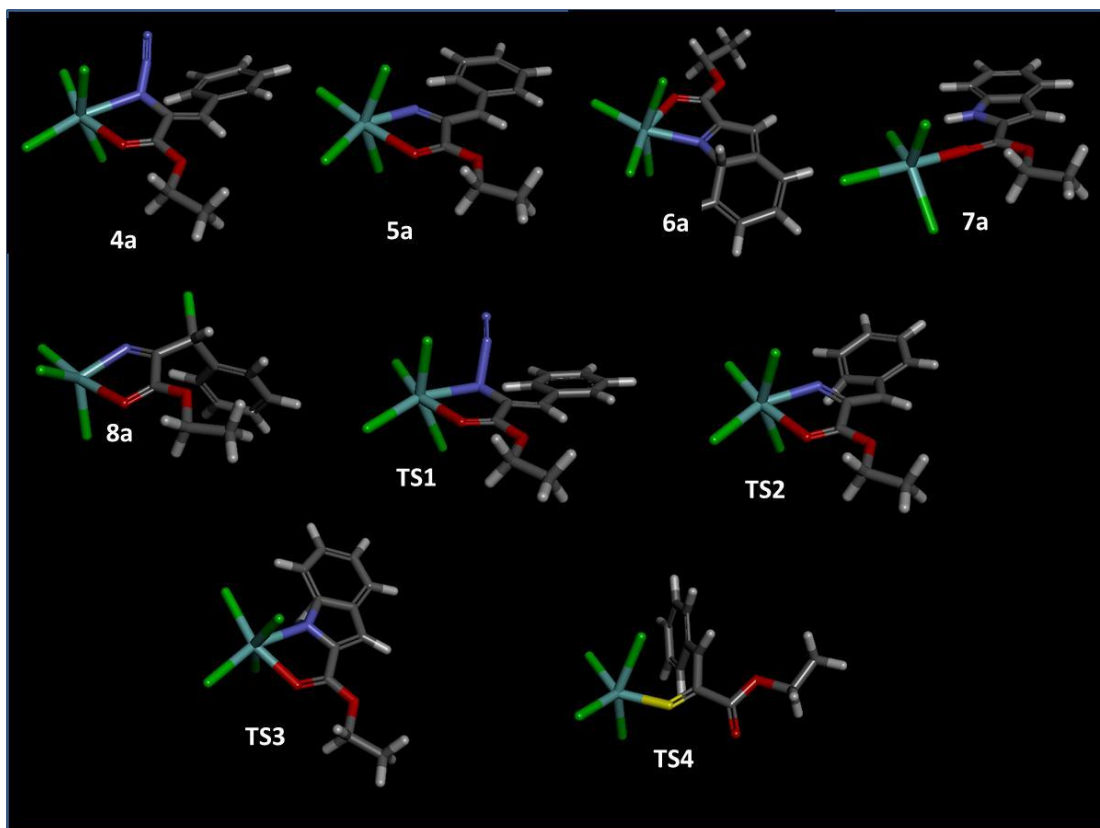


## Quantum chemical calculations<sup>1</sup>

Proposed mechanism for the formations of indole **2a** and by-product **3a**.



<sup>11</sup> Frisch, M. J., Trucks, G. W., Schlegel, H. B., Scuseria, G. E., Robb, M. A., Cheeseman, J. R., Scalmani, G., Barone, V., Mennucci, B., Petersson, G. A., Nakatsuji, H., Caricato, M., Li, X., Hratchian, H. P., Izmaylov, A. F., Bloino, J., Zheng, G., Sonnenberg, J. L., Hada, M., Ehara, M., Toyota, K., Fukuda, R., Hasegawa, J., Ishida, M., Nakajima, T., Honda, Y., Kitao, O., Nakai, H., Vreven, T., Jr., J. A. M., Peralta, J. E., Ogliaro, F., Bearpark, M., Heyd, J. J., Brothers, E., Kudin, K. N., Staroverov, V. N., Kobayashi, R., Normand, J., Raghavachari, K., Rendell, A., Burant, J. C., Iyengar, S. S., Tomasi, J., Cossi, M., Rega, N., Millam, J. M., Klene, M., Knox, J. E., Cross, J. B., Bakken, V., Adamo, C., Jaramillo, J., Gomperts, R., Stratmann, R. E., Yazyev, O., Austin, A. J., Cammi, R., Pomelli, C., Ochterski, J. W., Martin, R. L., Morokuma, K., Zakrzewski, V. G., Voth, G. A., Salvador, P., Dannenberg, J. J., Dapprich, S., Daniels, A. D., Farkas, Ö., Foresman, J. B., Ortiz, J. V., Cioslowski, J., and Fox, D. J. (2009) Gaussian 09, Revision D.01, Gaussian Inc., Wallingford CT.



### Complex 4a

| atom | X       | Y       | Z      |
|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Zr1  | 23.7569 | -2.2935 | 6.3457 |
| Cl2  | 22.2282 | -3.605  | 7.7825 |
| Cl3  | 25.3233 | -1.6362 | 8.0284 |
| Cl4  | 25.1111 | -1.7682 | 4.3576 |
| Cl5  | 22.2133 | -0.4673 | 6.0195 |
| N6   | 22.4356 | -3.456  | 4.6515 |
| C7   | 22.6302 | -4.8763 | 4.5522 |
| C8   | 23.8914 | -5.2257 | 5.2142 |
| O9   | 24.5148 | -4.3672 | 5.9008 |
| O10  | 24.3142 | -6.4763 | 5.0822 |
| C11  | 25.5611 | -6.876  | 5.7981 |
| C12  | 25.7903 | -8.3323 | 5.469  |
| C13  | 21.7906 | -5.804  | 4.0196 |
| C14  | 20.4137 | -5.6214 | 3.5791 |
| C15  | 19.5562 | -4.6746 | 4.1882 |
| C16  | 19.8967 | -6.4773 | 2.5822 |
| C17  | 18.2242 | -4.5723 | 3.7797 |
| C18  | 18.5702 | -6.3563 | 2.1629 |
| C19  | 17.7324 | -5.4005 | 2.7586 |
| H20  | 26.3628 | -6.2195 | 5.4465 |
| H21  | 25.3963 | -6.6913 | 6.864  |
| H22  | 26.6985 | -8.6807 | 5.97   |
| H23  | 25.9151 | -8.4742 | 4.392  |
| H24  | 24.9522 | -8.9463 | 5.8096 |
| H25  | 22.2044 | -6.8097 | 3.9484 |
| H26  | 19.9136 | -4.0662 | 5.0177 |
| H27  | 20.546  | -7.225  | 2.1324 |
| H28  | 17.5689 | -3.8542 | 4.2611 |
| H29  | 18.1853 | -7.007  | 1.3847 |
| H30  | 16.6988 | -5.3111 | 2.4396 |
| N31  | 21.8212 | -2.8412 | 3.7287 |
| N32  | 21.2675 | -2.1464 | 2.9907 |

### Complex 5a

| atom | X       | Y       | Z      |
|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Zr1  | 23.4456 | -2.3075 | 6.198  |
| Cl2  | 21.6012 | -3.5664 | 7.3427 |
| Cl3  | 25.0419 | -2.0576 | 7.9943 |
| Cl4  | 24.8102 | -2.0128 | 4.1566 |
| Cl5  | 22.304  | -0.1916 | 6.1069 |
| N6   | 22.3864 | -3.5323 | 4.7117 |
| C7   | 22.7263 | -4.7811 | 4.4461 |
| C8   | 23.8969 | -5.289  | 5.2449 |
| O9   | 24.4202 | -4.5234 | 6.0847 |
| O10  | 24.3099 | -6.5358 | 5.0112 |
| C11  | 25.4723 | -7.0389 | 5.7973 |
| C12  | 25.7302 | -8.4518 | 5.3283 |
| C13  | 22.095  | -5.6303 | 3.4977 |
| C14  | 20.9594 | -5.3642 | 2.6937 |
| C15  | 20.236  | -4.1329 | 2.7365 |
| C16  | 20.5271 | -6.3979 | 1.8075 |
| C17  | 19.1257 | -3.9598 | 1.9178 |
| C18  | 19.4169 | -6.2124 | 0.9946 |
| C19  | 18.7162 | -4.9913 | 1.0509 |
| H20  | 26.3093 | -6.3592 | 5.6107 |
| H21  | 25.2008 | -6.9742 | 6.8554 |
| H22  | 26.5789 | -8.8709 | 5.8773 |
| H23  | 25.9682 | -8.4713 | 4.261  |
| H24  | 24.8582 | -9.0876 | 5.506  |
| H25  | 22.555  | -6.6157 | 3.3836 |
| H26  | 20.5791 | -3.3558 | 3.4136 |
| H27  | 21.0797 | -7.3343 | 1.7774 |
| H28  | 18.5732 | -3.0276 | 1.9473 |
| H29  | 19.0889 | -6.9967 | 0.3221 |
| H30  | 17.8474 | -4.844  | 0.4165 |



**Complex 6a**

| atom | X       | Y        | Z       |
|------|---------|----------|---------|
| Zr1  | 32.7967 | -20.9188 | 8.8869  |
| Cl2  | 32.0711 | -22.0383 | 10.9763 |
| Cl3  | 34.6343 | -19.6742 | 9.8097  |
| Cl4  | 33.396  | -20.6932 | 6.5071  |
| Cl5  | 30.874  | -19.453  | 8.7919  |
| N6   | 31.5972 | -22.7151 | 7.9956  |
| C7   | 32.1808 | -23.9082 | 7.9350  |
| C8   | 33.6016 | -23.9077 | 8.3372  |
| O9   | 34.1177 | -22.8328 | 8.7348  |
| O10  | 34.248  | -25.0577 | 8.2448  |
| C11  | 35.6883 | -25.0858 | 8.6409  |
| C12  | 36.1613 | -26.5039 | 8.4262  |
| C13  | 31.3241 | -24.9727 | 7.5104  |
| C14  | 30.0914 | -24.3887 | 7.28    |
| C15  | 30.187  | -22.9412 | 7.6832  |
| C16  | 28.8776 | -24.8547 | 6.6806  |
| C17  | 29.372  | -21.9915 | 6.8649  |
| C18  | 28.0043 | -23.9184 | 6.1828  |
| C19  | 28.2852 | -22.491  | 6.2185  |
| H20  | 36.2085 | -24.3522 | 8.0171  |
| H21  | 35.7413 | -24.7603 | 9.6844  |
| H22  | 37.217  | -26.582  | 8.7027  |
| H23  | 36.0569 | -26.7953 | 7.3776  |
| H24  | 35.5905 | -27.2031 | 9.043   |
| H25  | 31.6229 | -26.0015 | 7.3753  |
| H26  | 29.7129 | -22.8701 | 8.6948  |
| H27  | 28.7051 | -25.9158 | 6.5367  |
| H28  | 29.604  | -20.9313 | 6.9141  |
| H29  | 27.0994 | -24.2465 | 5.6799  |
| H30  | 27.6164 | -21.8197 | 5.6908  |

**Complex 7a**

| atom | X       | Y       | Z      |
|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Zr1  | 25.3714 | -3.1558 | 7.4978 |
| Cl2  | 24.8171 | -4.844  | 9.1274 |
| Cl3  | 26.4086 | -1.6628 | 9.0617 |
| Cl4  | 27.3584 | -3.5117 | 6.1785 |
| Cl5  | 23.6972 | -1.5141 | 6.801  |
| N6   | 22.2157 | -3.5804 | 4.5462 |
| C7   | 22.7679 | -4.8582 | 4.4474 |
| C8   | 23.881  | -5.2454 | 5.2510 |
| O9   | 24.4221 | -4.4481 | 6.0913 |
| O10  | 24.3321 | -6.4868 | 5.0815 |
| C11  | 25.4949 | -6.9566 | 5.8881 |
| C12  | 25.7507 | -8.3838 | 5.4633 |
| C13  | 22.0693 | -5.5968 | 3.4904 |
| C14  | 21.0505 | -4.7477 | 2.9794 |
| C15  | 21.1669 | -3.4905 | 3.6598 |
| C16  | 20.0377 | -4.9211 | 2.0037 |
| C17  | 20.3009 | -2.4151 | 3.3876 |
| C18  | 19.1859 | -3.8599 | 1.7372 |
| C19  | 19.3192 | -2.6191 | 2.4251 |
| H20  | 26.3376 | -6.2888 | 5.675  |
| H21  | 25.2228 | -6.8664 | 6.9461 |
| H22  | 26.5994 | -8.7844 | 6.0257 |
| H23  | 25.9863 | -8.4365 | 4.3969 |
| H24  | 24.8774 | -9.0115 | 5.6608 |
| H25  | 22.287  | -6.6177 | 3.2134 |
| H26  | 22.5477 | -2.8498 | 5.176  |
| H27  | 19.9343 | -5.8654 | 1.4784 |
| H28  | 20.3954 | -1.4671 | 3.9066 |
| H29  | 18.4018 | -3.9662 | 0.9945 |
| H30  | 18.6325 | -1.8122 | 2.1879 |

**Complex 8a**

| atom | X       | Y        | Z      |
|------|---------|----------|--------|
| Zr1  | 23.2371 | -2.3376  | 6.0028 |
| Cl2  | 22.5591 | -2.9713  | 8.2145 |
| Cl3  | 21.9183 | -0.3654  | 5.6418 |
| Cl4  | 20.9792 | -5.1272  | 2.3071 |
| Cl5  | 25.4393 | -1.5021  | 5.5428 |
| N6   | 22.3996 | -3.6074  | 4.5936 |
| C7   | 22.7334 | -4.8321  | 4.4289 |
| C8   | 23.9297 | -5.2796  | 5.2783 |
| O9   | 24.4079 | -4.44    | 6.0824 |
| O10  | 24.3842 | -6.5077  | 5.1079 |
| C11  | 25.5221 | -6.9798  | 5.9532 |
| C12  | 25.7212 | -8.4385  | 5.6152 |
| C13  | 22.0582 | -5.9009  | 6.6091 |
| C14  | 21.2613 | -6.8134  | 4.5081 |
| C15  | 21.4194 | -8.204   | 4.4036 |
| C16  | 20.363  | -6.2768  | 5.4473 |
| C17  | 20.6836 | -9.0574  | 5.2348 |
| C18  | 19.6289 | -7.1312  | 6.277  |
| C19  | 19.7889 | -8.5214  | 6.1729 |
| H20  | 26.3844 | -6.351   | 5.7109 |
| H21  | 25.2407 | -6.8081  | 6.9967 |
| H22  | 26.539  | -8.847   | 6.2164 |
| H23  | 25.9737 | -8.5639  | 4.5588 |
| H24  | 24.8139 | -9.0105  | 5.8295 |
| H25  | 22.8082 | -6.4746  | 3.0565 |
| H26  | 22.1162 | -8.6119  | 3.674  |
| H27  | 20.2265 | -5.1985  | 5.5112 |
| H28  | 20.8017 | -10.1332 | 5.1492 |
| H29  | 18.9334 | -6.7166  | 6.9995 |
| H30  | 19.2172 | -9.1828  | 6.8166 |

**Complex TS1**

| atom | X       | Y       | Z      |
|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Zr1  | 23.602  | -2.3744 | 6.7048 |
| Cl2  | 22.2013 | -3.9199 | 8.0941 |
| Cl3  | 25.3871 | -2.03   | 8.2743 |
| Cl4  | 24.6436 | -1.6324 | 4.6117 |
| Cl5  | 22.1055 | -0.4951 | 6.8858 |
| N6   | 22.0311 | -3.5492 | 5.3744 |
| C7   | 22.4044 | -4.8512 | 5.0024 |
| C8   | 23.7957 | -5.1919 | 5.3670 |
| O9   | 24.4921 | -4.3697 | 6.0243 |
| O10  | 24.2498 | -6.3917 | 5.0154 |
| C11  | 25.629  | -6.77   | 5.4368 |
| C12  | 25.8632 | -8.1707 | 4.9212 |
| C13  | 21.5757 | -5.7794 | 4.4085 |
| C14  | 20.1719 | -5.6652 | 4.1052 |
| C15  | 19.3325 | -4.6614 | 4.6594 |
| C16  | 19.6003 | -6.6505 | 3.2595 |
| C17  | 17.972  | -4.6472 | 4.3547 |
| C18  | 18.2437 | -6.6173 | 2.9436 |
| C19  | 17.4275 | -5.6127 | 3.4908 |
| H20  | 26.3142 | -6.0303 | 5.0118 |
| H21  | 25.6678 | -6.6962 | 6.5279 |
| H22  | 26.8674 | -8.501  | 5.2034 |
| H23  | 25.7836 | -8.2037 | 3.831  |
| H24  | 25.1383 | -8.8696 | 5.3476 |
| H25  | 22.0561 | -6.7171 | 4.1223 |
| H26  | 19.7544 | -3.9368 | 5.3498 |
| H27  | 20.2368 | -7.4322 | 2.8504 |
| H28  | 17.3314 | -3.8888 | 4.7917 |
| H29  | 17.8171 | -7.3674 | 2.2864 |
| H30  | 16.3685 | -5.5886 | 3.2533 |
| N31  | 21.7528 | -2.644  | 3.9544 |
| N32  | 21.0938 | -1.8797 | 3.4301 |

**Complex TS2**

| atom | X       | Y       | Z      |
|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Zr1  | 23.418  | -2.2353 | 6.0427 |
| Cl2  | 21.634  | -3.3699 | 7.3673 |
| Cl3  | 24.9755 | -1.7497 | 7.8193 |
| Cl4  | 24.9256 | -2.0678 | 4.0925 |
| Cl5  | 22.1547 | -0.2265 | 5.6338 |
| N6   | 22.4522 | -3.5618 | 4.4998 |
| C7   | 22.7471 | -4.8396 | 4.4375 |
| C8   | 23.9162 | -5.2661 | 5.2725 |
| O9   | 24.4077 | -4.4459 | 6.0796 |
| O10  | 24.3543 | -6.5103 | 5.099  |
| C11  | 25.5296 | -6.9489 | 5.907  |
| C12  | 25.8217 | -8.3741 | 5.5005 |
| C13  | 21.9363 | -5.7503 | 3.6837 |
| C14  | 20.7006 | -5.2391 | 3.2903 |
| C15  | 20.2285 | -4.0256 | 3.9236 |
| C16  | 20.024  | -5.737  | 2.1255 |
| C17  | 19.2847 | -3.2227 | 3.2519 |
| C18  | 19.0662 | -4.9554 | 1.5173 |
| C19  | 18.7213 | -3.6826 | 2.0668 |
| H20  | 26.3487 | -6.2567 | 5.689  |
| H21  | 25.2552 | -6.8438 | 6.9612 |
| H22  | 26.6808 | -8.7471 | 6.0662 |
| H23  | 26.0587 | -8.4348 | 4.4347 |
| H24  | 24.9657 | -9.0224 | 5.7074 |
| H25  | 22.2873 | -6.7454 | 3.4217 |
| H26  | 20.3883 | -3.8705 | 4.9907 |
| H27  | 20.3471 | -6.6768 | 1.6868 |
| H28  | 18.9573 | -2.2923 | 3.7007 |
| H29  | 18.5836 | -5.2898 | 0.6056 |
| H30  | 17.9606 | -3.087  | 1.5712 |

**Complex TS4**

| atom | X       | Y       | Z      |
|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Zr1  | 20.8164 | -2.6912 | 3.1457 |
| Cl2  | 19.5593 | -2.4422 | 5.2154 |
| Cl3  | 21.6326 | -0.5263 | 2.5642 |
| Cl4  | 22.1548 | -4.1791 | 1.4523 |
| Cl5  | 18.8349 | -3.3347 | 1.9006 |
| N6   | 22.1762 | -3.7155 | 4.3891 |
| C7   | 22.7236 | -4.8695 | 4.4032 |
| C8   | 23.9038 | -5.2108 | 5.2868 |
| O9   | 24.4436 | -4.4713 | 6.0996 |
| O10  | 24.2732 | -6.512  | 5.046  |
| C11  | 25.4075 | -7.0457 | 5.826  |
| C12  | 25.5921 | -8.4867 | 5.4033 |
| C13  | 22.2835 | -5.9276 | 3.4458 |
| C14  | 20.9619 | -6.4455 | 3.4332 |
| C15  | 19.9982 | -6.0501 | 4.4072 |
| C16  | 20.5811 | -7.3377 | 2.3905 |
| C17  | 18.6946 | -6.5288 | 4.3257 |
| C18  | 19.2746 | -7.8006 | 2.3121 |
| C19  | 18.3314 | -7.3927 | 3.2771 |
| H20  | 26.284  | -6.424  | 5.6137 |
| H21  | 25.1641 | -6.9408 | 6.889  |
| H22  | 26.4243 | -8.9329 | 5.9565 |
| H23  | 25.8148 | -8.5527 | 4.3343 |
| H24  | 24.6895 | -9.0699 | 5.6081 |
| H25  | 23.0455 | -6.4036 | 2.8315 |
| H26  | 20.2788 | -5.3836 | 5.2185 |
| H27  | 21.3144 | -7.6092 | 1.6353 |
| H28  | 17.9579 | -6.2186 | 5.0576 |
| H29  | 18.9733 | -8.4588 | 1.5052 |
| H30  | 17.3074 | -7.7456 | 3.2055 |

**TS3**

| atom | X       | Y       | Z      |
|------|---------|---------|--------|
| H1   | 18.7463 | -1.7167 | 1.9696 |
| Zr2  | 23.3368 | -2.2065 | 6.2158 |
| Cl3  | 21.4735 | -3.3924 | 7.415  |
| Cl4  | 24.6218 | -1.6018 | 8.1433 |
| Cl5  | 24.9895 | -1.8042 | 4.4564 |
| Cl6  | 21.9543 | -0.2976 | 5.6717 |
| N7   | 22.3022 | -3.5161 | 4.5065 |
| C8   | 22.7723 | -4.8093 | 4.3601 |
| C9   | 23.8591 | -5.1485 | 5.2667 |
| O10  | 24.2362 | -4.3002 | 6.1262 |
| O11  | 24.402  | -6.3499 | 5.1417 |
| C12  | 25.5278 | -6.7091 | 6.0529 |
| C13  | 25.96   | -8.1032 | 5.6636 |
| C14  | 22.0429 | -5.564  | 3.441  |
| C15  | 20.9896 | -4.7414 | 2.9796 |
| C16  | 21.1072 | -3.4628 | 3.6538 |
| C17  | 19.96   | -4.9191 | 2.0198 |
| C18  | 20.3505 | -2.3219 | 3.2347 |
| C19  | 19.1653 | -3.8327 | 1.6994 |
| C20  | 19.3704 | -2.5443 | 2.2897 |
| H21  | 26.31   | -5.9562 | 5.9153 |
| H22  | 25.1504 | -6.64   | 7.0778 |
| H23  | 26.7897 | -8.4203 | 6.3025 |
| H24  | 26.2953 | -8.1303 | 4.6233 |
| H25  | 25.1388 | -8.8146 | 5.7856 |
| H26  | 22.2468 | -6.5904 | 3.1717 |
| H27  | 20.9779 | -3.589  | 4.9287 |
| H28  | 19.8248 | -5.8767 | 1.5284 |
| H29  | 20.5282 | -1.3494 | 3.6843 |
| H30  | 18.3783 | -3.9431 | 0.9601 |