

Supporting Information for

Divergent Synthesis of Oxindolylidene Acetates and Spirooxindolopyrrolidones from Arynes

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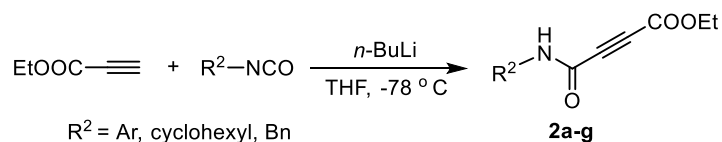
1. General Information:

All reagents and solvents were used as received from commercial sources unless and otherwise noted. THF and dimethoxy ethane (DME) was distilled over benzophenone-ketyl under an atmosphere of argon. All experiments were carried out under Argon atmosphere. *o*-Silyl aryl triflates **1** were synthesized by known procedure¹. Carbamoylpropiolates **2** were easily prepared using reported procedure². Pre-coated plates (silica gel 60 PF254, 0.25 mm or 0.5 mm) were utilized for Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC). Column chromatographic purifications were carried out on flash silica-gel (240-400 mesh) using petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluents. The ¹H, ¹³C, distortionless enhancement by polarization transfer (DEPT)-NMR spectra were recorded on 200/400/500 and 50/100/125 MHz NMR spectrometer respectively. Chemical shifts were reported as δ values from standard peaks. The multiplicities of signals are designated by the following abbreviations: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet). Coupling constants (*J*) are reported in hertz. All yields refer to isolated yields of compounds estimated to be > 95% pure as determined by ¹H-NMR. The dr ratios of the products **4a-d** were determined by ¹H NMR spectrum. High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) was performed on a TOF/Q-TOF mass spectrometer.

Note: Few compounds contain grease peak, which could not be eliminated completely. The yields for those compounds are reduced accordingly.

2. Experimental Procedure:

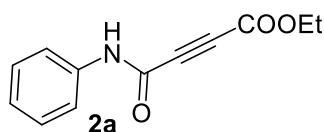
General procedure for the preparation of carbamoylpropiolates:²



Ethyl propiolate (1.0 equiv) was dissolved in THF and the solution was cooled to $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, followed by the slow addition of *n*-BuLi (1.2 equiv, 1.5 M in hexane). The mixture was stirred for 30 min and a solution of the corresponding isocyanate (300 mg, 1.0 equiv) in THF was added drop-wise. The reaction mixture was then stirred for 2 h at $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and acetic acid was added to quench the reaction. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, water was added and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extract was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and removal of solvent gave a residue that was subjected to flash column chromatography on silica-gel using ethyl acetate:petroleum ether (1:5) as eluent to afford the corresponding compounds.

Characterization data of carbamoylpropiolates:

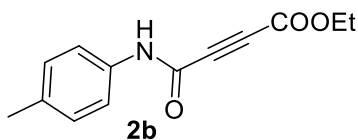
Ethyl 4-oxo-4-(phenylamino)but-2-ynoate (2a)



Reaction time: 2.0 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:4, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); yellow oil; 294 mg, 54% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (bs, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H). Known compound²

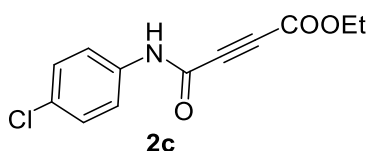
Ethyl 4-oxo-4-(p-tolylamino)but-2-ynoate (2b)



Reaction time: 2.0 h; Rf: 0.5 (1:4, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); yellow solid; mp 101–102 °C; 260 mg, 50% yield.

¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60 (bs, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H). Known compound²

Ethyl 4-((4-chlorophenyl) amino)-4-oxobut-2-ynoate (2c)



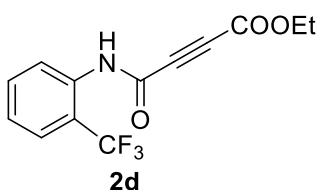
Reaction time: 2.0 h; Rf: 0.5 (1:4, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); yellow solid; mp 106–108 °C; 226 mg, 46% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (bs, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.27 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.2, 148.2, 135.1, 130.7, 129.3, 121.3, 76.9, 74.8, 63.2, 13.9.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₁₂H₁₀NO₃Cl [M+H]⁺: 252.0422, found: 252.0429.

Ethyl 4-oxo-4-((2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)amino)but-2-ynoate (2d)



Reaction time: 2.0 h; Rf: 0.5 (1:4, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); yellow solid; mp 116–118 °C; 243 mg,

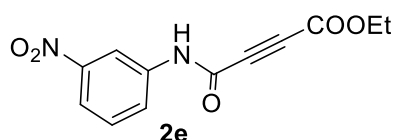
53% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (bs, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.9, 148.6, 133.3, 133.1, 126.3 (q, J^3 = 5.39 Hz), 125.9, 124.9, 123.1 (q, J^1 = 272.81 Hz), 122.3, 76.3, 75.3, 63.2, 13.9.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₁₃H₁₀NO₃F₃ [M+H]⁺: 286.0686, found: 286.0680.

Ethyl 4-((3-nitrophenyl)amino)-4-oxobut-2-ynoate (2e)



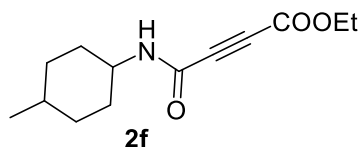
Reaction time: 2.0 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:4, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); yellow solid; mp 99–101 °C; 168 mg, 35% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 8.35 (bs, 1H), 7.94 (t, J = 9.5 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.3, 148.6, 148.5, 137.8, 130.2, 125.7, 120, 114.9, 76.5, 75.2, 63.5, 13.8.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₁₂H₁₀N₂O₅ [M+Na]⁺: 285.0482, found: 285.0480.

Ethyl 4-((4-methylcyclohexyl)amino)-4-oxobut-2-ynoate (2f)



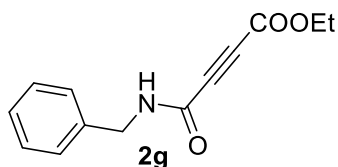
Reaction time: 2.0 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:4, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); white solid; mp 96–98 °C; 245 mg, 48% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.93 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 3.71–3.64 (m, 1H), 1.91–1.87 (m, 2H), 1.66–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.29–1.21 (m, 4H), 1.15–1.02 (m, 2H), 1.01–0.88 (m, 2H), 0.80 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.3, 149.9, 77.4, 73.5, 62.8, 49.5, 33.5, 32.5, 31.7, 22, 13.9.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₁₃H₁₉NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 238.1438 , found: 238.1440.

Ethyl 4-((4-benzylphenyl) amino)-4-oxobut-2-ynoate (2g)



Reaction time: 2.0 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:4, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); thick oil; 224 mg, 43% yield.

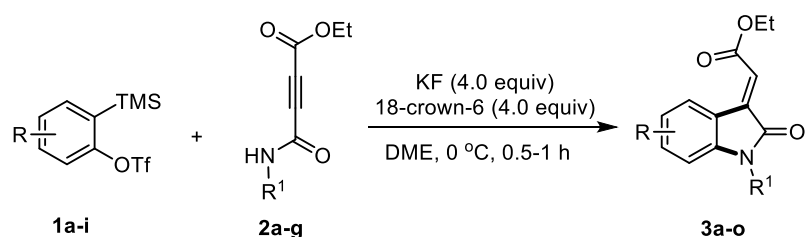
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.29–7.23 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.47 (bs, 1H), 4.41 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 4.18 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.2, 150.6, 136.4, 128.8, 127.9, 127.2, 76.9, 74.2, 62.9, 44, 13.8.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₁₃H₁₃NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 232.0968, found: 232.0970.

General experimental procedure for the preparation of compounds 3a-i and 3j-o:

All the reactions were performed on 25 mg of carbamoylpropiolates.

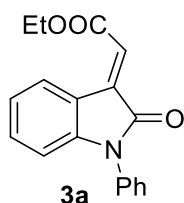


To a flame dried two-neck round-bottom flask containing KF (4.0 equiv) and 18-crown-6 ether (4.0 equiv), *o*-silyl aryl triflate **1** (3.0 equiv) in DME was added at room temperature. The solution was cooled to 0 °C and carbamoylpropiolate **2** (25 mg, 1.0 equiv) in DME was added drop-wise under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C and the progress was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, water was added. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extract was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and removal of solvent gave a residue that was subjected to flash column chromatography on silica-gel using ethyl acetate:petroleum ether to afford corresponding compounds.

Characterization data for oxindolylidene acetates:

All reactions were performed on 25 mg scale of carbamoylpropiolates.

Ethyl (E)-2-(2-oxo-1-phenylindolin-3-ylidene) acetate (**3a**)³



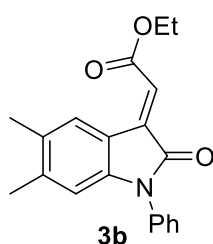
Reaction time: 0.5 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:10, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); orange solid; mp 106–108 °C; 24.6 mg, 73% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.07–7.00 (m, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.72 (d, J = 7.96 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167, 165.6, 145.9, 137.6, 133.9, 132.3, 129.7, 128.9, 128.3, 126.6, 123.3, 123.1, 119.9, 109.5, 61.2, 14.2.

LC-MS (M+H): 294. Known compound³

Ethyl (E)-2-(5,6-dimethyl-2-oxo-1-phenylindolin-3-ylidene)acetate (3b).



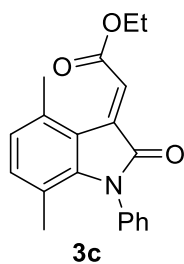
Reaction time: 0.5 h; R_f: 0.4 (1:10, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); yellow solid; mp 118–119 °C; 22.5 mg, 61% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.48–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 3H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 4.28 (q, J = 7.32 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.32 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 165.9, 144.3, 142, 138, 134.2, 131.3, 129.8, 129.6, 128.1, 126.6, 121.3, 117.6, 110.8, 61.1, 20.8, 19.5, 14.2.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 322.1438, found: 322.1440.

Ethyl (E)-2-(4,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-1-phenylindolin-3-ylidene)acetate (3c)



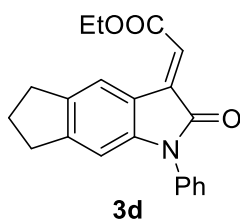
Reaction time: 1 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:10, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); yellow solid; mp 130–131 °C; 21.4 mg, 58% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.71 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167, 166.2, 141.9, 136.4, 134.3, 133.3, 132.3, 129.2, 128.7, 128.6, 125.8, 125.3, 119.2, 118.5, 61.8, 20.5, 18.6, 14.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 322.1438, found: 322.1441.

Ethyl (E)-2-(2-oxo-1-phenyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydrocyclopenta[f]indol-3(2H)-ylidene) acetate (3d)



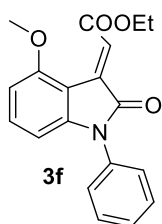
Reaction time: 1 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:10, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); yellow solid; mp 188–190 °C; 17.6 mg, 46% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.44 (s, 1H), 7.48–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 3H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 4.27 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.86–2.75 (m, 4H), 2.01 (quint, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5, 166, 149.7, 145.1, 139, 138.2, 134.2, 129.7, 128.1, 126.7, 124.8, 121.2, 118.3, 106, 61, 33.7, 32.3, 25.4, 14.2.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₂₁H₁₉NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 334.1438, found: 334.1441.

Ethyl (E)-2-(4-methoxy-2-oxo-1-phenylindolin-3-ylidene) acetate (3f)



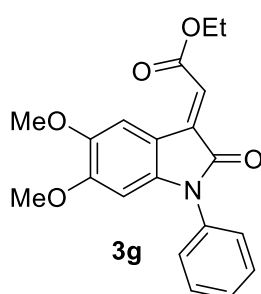
Reaction time: 1 h; R_f: 0.4 (1:10, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); thick oil; 16.7 mg, 45% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 3H), 7.15 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.53 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 167.1, 156.6, 145.9, 134.2, 132.5, 129.6, 128.9, 128.2, 126.7, 123.9, 107.9, 106.1, 102.8, 61, 55.6, 14.2.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 324.1230, found: 324.1231.

Ethyl (E)-2-(5,6-dimethoxy-2-oxo-1-phenylindolin-3-ylidene)acetate (3g)



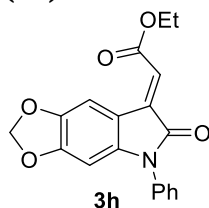
Reaction time: 1 h; R_f: 0.4 (1: 9, EtOAc:Pet.Ether); yellow solid; mp 118–119 °C; 20.7 mg, 51% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.49–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.33 (m, 3H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6, 166.2, 153, 144.9, 141.8, 138, 134.1, 129.8, 128.2, 126.5, 119.6, 112.6, 111.4, 94.2, 61, 56.5, 56.2, 14.2.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 354.1336, found: 354.1338.

Ethyl(E)-2-(6-oxo-5-phenyl-5,6-dihydro-7H-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-f]indol-7-ylidene)acetate (3h)



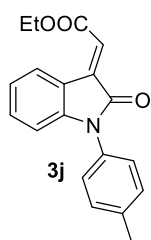
Reaction time: 0.5 h; R_f: 0.2 (1:9, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); Red solid; mp 166–168 °C; 27.2 mg, 70% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.29 (m, 3H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.27 (s, 1H), 5.90 (s, 2H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5, 166, 151.1, 143.6, 143.1, 137.7, 133.9, 129.7, 128.3, 126.6, 120, 112.4, 109.3, 101.7, 92.8, 61.1, 14.2.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₁₉H₁₅NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 338.1023, found: 338.1026.

Ethyl (E)-2-(2-oxo-1-(p-tolyl)indolin-3-ylidene)acetate (3j)



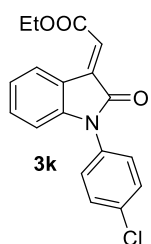
Reaction time: 0.5 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:9, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); yellow solid; mp 100–102 °C; 20.1 mg, 57% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.21–7.18 (m, 3H), 7.01 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167, 165.7, 146.2, 138.3, 137.7, 132.3, 131.2, 130.3, 128.9, 126.4, 123.1, 122.9, 119.8, 109.4, 61.2, 21.2, 14.2.

ESI HRMS: Calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₃ [M+H]⁺ : 308.1281, found: 308.1275.

Ethyl (E)-2-(1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoindolin-3-ylidene) acetate (3k)



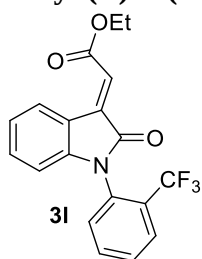
Reaction time: 0.5 h; R_f: 0.4 (1:9, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); yellow solid; mp 139–140 °C; 20.3 mg, 54% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.71 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.9, 165.5, 145.4, 137.3, 134, 132.5, 132.4, 129.9, 129.1, 127.9, 123.5, 123.4, 119.9, 109.3, 61.3, 14.2.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₁₈H₁₄NClO₃ [M+ Na]⁺: 350.0554, found: 350.0554.

Ethyl (E)-2-(2-oxo-1-(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)indolin-3-ylidene)acetate (3l)



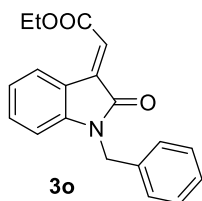
Reaction time: 0.5 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:9, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); yellow solid; mp 116–118 °C; 24.9 mg, 60% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.57 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70–7.66 (m, 1H), 7.60–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.22–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.27 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5, 165.6, 146.7, 137.2, 133.8, 132.4, 131.3, 130 (q, J^2 = 31.4 Hz), 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128 (q, J^3 = 4.7 Hz), 123.4, 123.3, 122.8 (q, J^1 = 273.4 Hz), 119.8, 109.6, 61.3, 14.2.

ESI HRMS m/z: calcd for C₁₉H₁₄NO₃F₃ [M+H]⁺: 362.0999, found: 362.0991

Ethyl (E)-2-(1-benzyl-2-oxoindolin-3-ylidene) acetate (3o).³



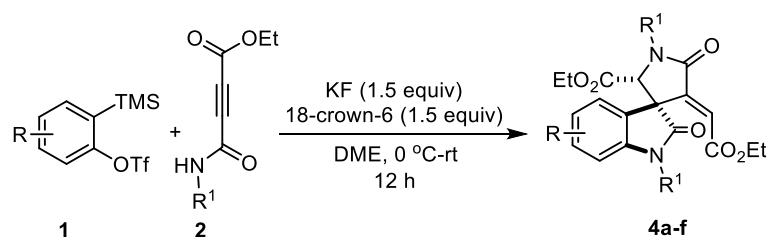
Reaction time: 1 h; R_f: 0.4 (1:9, EtOAc: Pet. Ether); thick oil; 16.2 mg, 46% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.49 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.17 (m, 6H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 4.27 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.7, 165.7, 145.1, 137.7, 135.4, 132.3, 128.8, 127.7, 127.2, 122.9, 122.8, 122.2, 120, 109.1, 61.2, 43.9, 14.2.

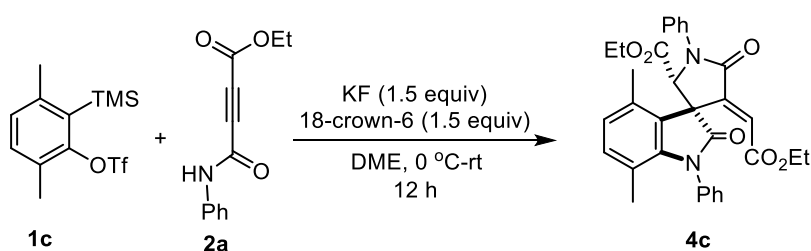
ESI HRMS: calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₃ [M+ H]⁺: 308.1281, found: 308.1275.

General experimental procedure for the synthesis of spirooxindolopyrrolidones 4a-f:



To a flame dried two-neck round-bottom flask containing KF (1.5 equiv) and 18-crown-6 ether (1.5 equiv), *o*-silyl aryl triflate **1** (1.0 equiv) in DME (0.5 mL) was added at room temperature. The solution was cooled to 0 °C and carbamoylpropiolate **2** (25 mg, 3.0 equiv) in DME (0.5 mL) was added drop-wise under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was allowed to attain room temperature and stirred until 12 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, solvent was removed on rotary evaporator and the crude product was purified by flash silica gel column using a gradient of ethyl acetate:petroleum to afford corresponding products **4a-f** in good yields.

Representative experimental procedure at 1 mmol scale for the synthesis of the compound 4c:

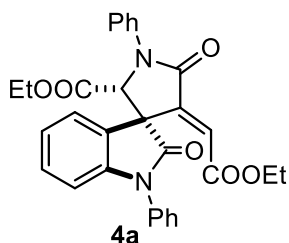


To a flame dried two-neck round-bottom flask containing KF (87 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and 18-crown-6 ether (396 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv), *o*-silyl aryl triflate **1c** (326 mg, 1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DME (10 mL) was added at room temperature. The solution was cooled to 0 °C and carbamoylpropiolate **2a** (651 mg, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) in DME (10 mL) was added drop-wise under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was allowed to attain room

temperature and stirred until 12 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, solvent was removed on rotary evaporator and the crude product was purified by flash silica gel column using a gradient of ethyl acetate:petroleum (1:10) to afford the corresponding product **4c** in 37% (200 mg) yield.

Characterization data of spirooxindolopyrrolidones:

Ethyl (E)-4'-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethylidene)-2,5'-dioxo-1,1'-diphenylspiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrolidine]-2'-carboxylate (4a).



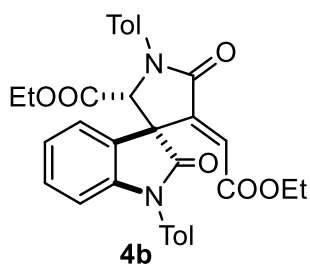
Reaction time: 12 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:4, EtOAc: Pet. Ether); yellow thick oil; 10.2 mg, 52%; dr 20:1.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53–7.48 (m, 6H), 7.41–7.40 (m, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.92 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 4.0–3.89 (m, 2H), 3.68–3.61 (m, 1H), 3.52–3.47 (m, 1H), 1.07 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.74 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.1, 166.5, 164.8, 163.8, 145.9, 145.8, 137.5, 134.5, 129.7, 129.4, 129.1, 128.5, 127.1, 126.7, 126.4, 124.5, 124.3, 122.9, 122.5, 109, 68, 61.7, 61.1, 53.9, 13.9, 13.5.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₃₀H₂₆N₂O₆ [M+ H]⁺: 511.1864, found: 511.1857.

Ethyl (E)-4'-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethylidene)-2,5'-dioxo-1,1'-di-p-tolylspiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrolidine]-2'-carboxylate (4b).



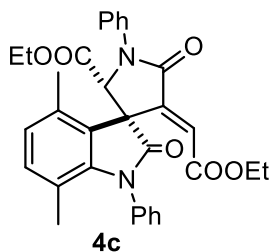
Reaction time: 12 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:4, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); thick oil; 8.1 mg, 42%; dr 17:1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41–7.35 (m, 4H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.16–7.11 (m, 4H), 7.0 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H) 5.26 (s, 1H), 4.0–3.86 (m, 2H), 3.67–3.60 (m, 1H), 3.52–3.44 (m, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 1.06 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H), 0.74 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.2, 166.6, 164.8, 163.8, 146.1, 145.9, 138.5, 136.7, 134.9, 131.8, 130.3, 129.7, 129.5, 129.3, 127.6, 126.9, 126.4, 124.3, 122.7, 122.6, 113, 109, 68, 61.6, 61, 53.9, 21.3, 21, 13.8, 13.5.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₃₂H₃₀N₂O₆ [M+ H]⁺: 539.2177, found: 539.2179.

Ethyl (E)-4'-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethylidene)-4,7-dimethyl-2,5'-dioxo 1,1'diphenylspiro [indoline-3,3'-pyrrolidine]-2'-carboxylate (4c).



Reaction time: 12 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:4, EtOAc: Pet. Ether); mp 91–93 °C; 7.2 mg, 35%; dr 7:1.

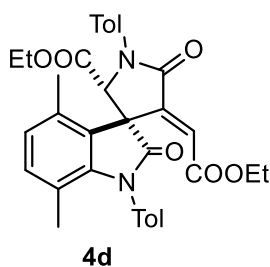
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43–7.39 (m, 3H), 7.38–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.21–7.18 (m, 2H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* =

8 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 4.07–3.93 (m, 4H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.12 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, 3H), 1.0 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.8, 168.1, 165.1, 163.9, 145.7, 142.2, 137.4, 137.1, 132.7, 130.3, 129.5, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 126.5, 125.5, 125.2, 121.5, 118.2, 68.6, 62.5, 61, 54.7, 18.7, 18.4, 13.9, 13.7.

ESI HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: 539.2177, found: 539.2177.

Ethyl (E)-4'-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethylidene)-4,7-dimethyl-2,5'-dioxo-1,1'-di-p-tolylspiro [indoline-3,3'-pyrrolidine]-2'-carboxylate (4d).



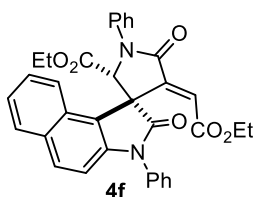
Reaction time: 12 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:4 EtOAc: Pet. Ether); thick oil; 6.6 mg, 32%; dr 7:1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.50–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.26–7.20 (m, 1H), 7.18–7.13 (m, 4H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.83 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.06–3.94 (m, 4H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.64 (s, 3H), 1.11 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, 3H), 1.02 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.8, 168.2, 165.1, 163.9, 145.9, 142.3, 138.7, 136.4, 134.8, 134.4, 132.6, 130.3, 130.3, 129.9, 129.8, 129.7, 129.5, 129.2, 128.8, 125.3, 124.9, 121.5, 118.1, 68.7, 62.4, 60.9, 54.7, 21.3, 21, 18.7, 18.3, 13.9, 13.8.

ESI HRMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{34}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: 567.2490, found: 567.2491.

Ethyl (1R,E)-4'-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethylidene)-2,5'-dioxo-1',3-diphenyl-2,3-dihydrospiro[benzo[e]indole-1,3'-pyrrolidine]-2'-carboxylate (4f).



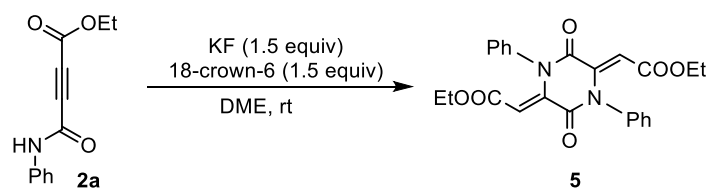
Reaction time: 12 h; R_f: 0.5 (1:4, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); thick oil; 7.9 mg, 37%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83–7.75 (m, 2 H), 7.72–7.67 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.49 (m, 10H), 7.40–7.33 (m, 7H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 7.07–7.04 (m, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (s, 1H), 4.04–3.91 (m, 4H), 3.87–3.76 (m, 1H), 3.55–3.47 (m, 1H), 3.23–3.17 (m, 1H), 1.04–0.94 (m, 6H), 0.50 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 0.39 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H)

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.9, 167.8, 165.2, 163.7, 146.2, 143.3, 137.4, 134.5, 131.1, 130.7, 130.4, 130.1, 129.8, 129.7, 129.2, 129.1, 128.6, 128.4, 127.5, 127.2, 126.9, 127.3, 127.2, 126.9, 125.7, 123.9, 122.9, 122.5, 121.1, 110.8, 68.7, 68.4, 62.4, 60.9, 55.3, 13.8, 13.7.

ESI HRMS: calcd for C₃₄H₂₈N₂O₆ [M+ H]⁺: 561.2020, found: 561.2014.

Dimerization product 5 from carbamoylpropiolate 2a:

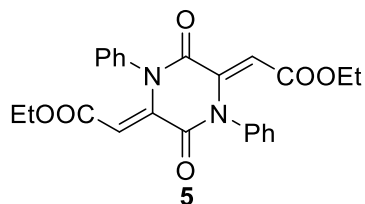


To a flame dried two-neck round-bottom flask containing KF (10.0 mg, 1.5 equiv) and 18-crown-6 ether (45 mg, 1.5 equiv), carbamoylpropiolate **2a** (25 mg, 1.0 equiv) in DME was added drop-wise under argon atmosphere at room temperature. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 minutes. After complete consumption of **2a**, the

solvent was removed on rotary evaporator and the crude product was purified by flash silica gel column using a gradient of ethyl acetate:petroleum to afford compound **5** in 25% yield.

Characterization of dimer **5**:

Diethyl 2,2'-(3,6-dioxo-1,4-diphenylpiperazine-2,5-diylidene)(2Z,2'Z)-diacetate



R_f: 0.2 (1:4, EtOAc:Pet. Ether); thick oil; 12.5 mg, 25%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.42 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.26 (m, 3H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 2H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 4.14 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 3.48 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.6, 164, 157.1, 155.3, 136.7, 136, 135.7, 135, 130.5, 129.7, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 128, 114.6, 112.4, 61.6, 61.1, 13.8, 13.7.

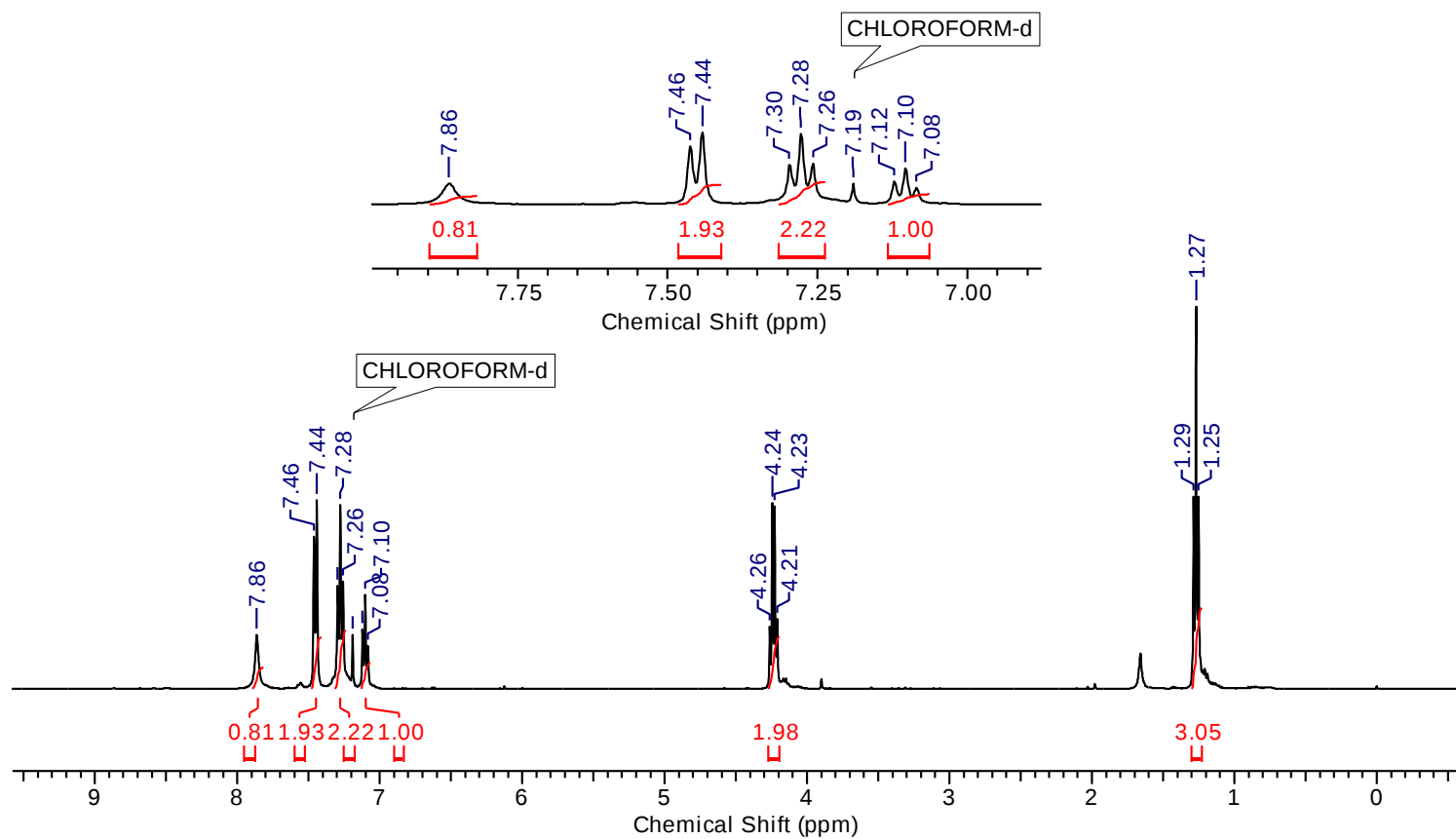
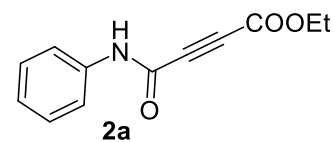
ESI HRMS: calcd for C₂₄H₂₂N₂O₆ [M⁺ Na]⁺: 457.1370, found: 457.1367.

3. References:

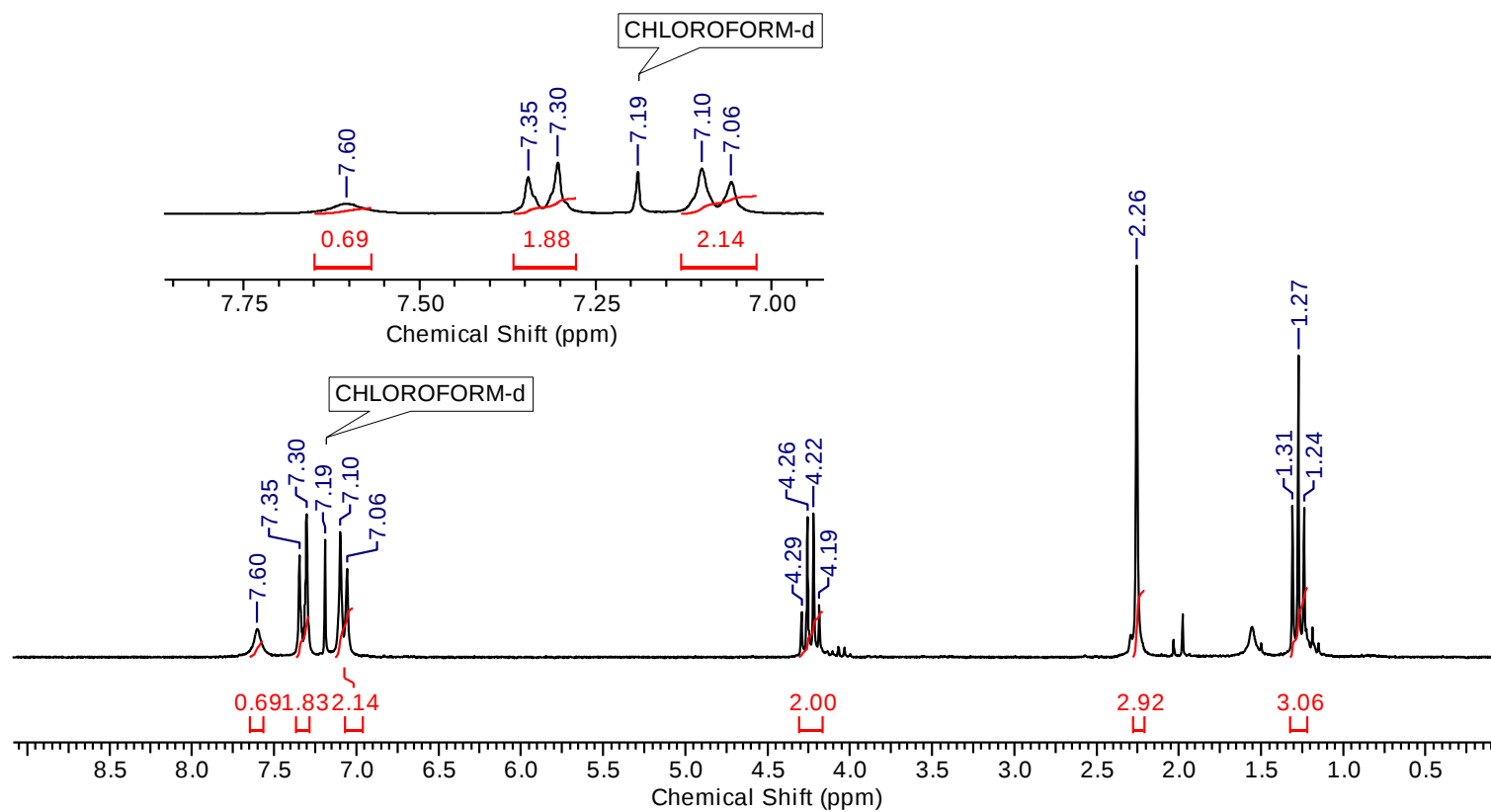
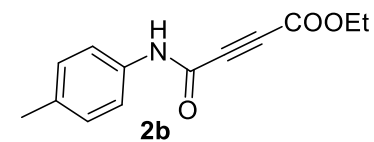
- (1) (a) Sato, Y.; Tamura, T.; Kinbara, A.; Morib, M. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2007**, 349, 647.
(b) Peña, D.; Cobas, A.; Pérez, D.; Guitián, E. *Synthesis* **2002**, 10, 1454.
- (2) Katritzky, A. R.; Zhang, Y.; Singh, S. K.; Steel, P. J. *ARKIVOC* **2003**, xv, 47.
- (3) Palumbo, C.; Mazzeo, G.; Mazziotta, A.; Gambacorta, A.; Loreto, M. A.; Migliorini, A.; Superchi, S.; Tofani, D.; Gasperi, T. *Org. Lett.* **2011**, 13, 6248.

4. Copies of ^1H , ^{13}C and HRMS:

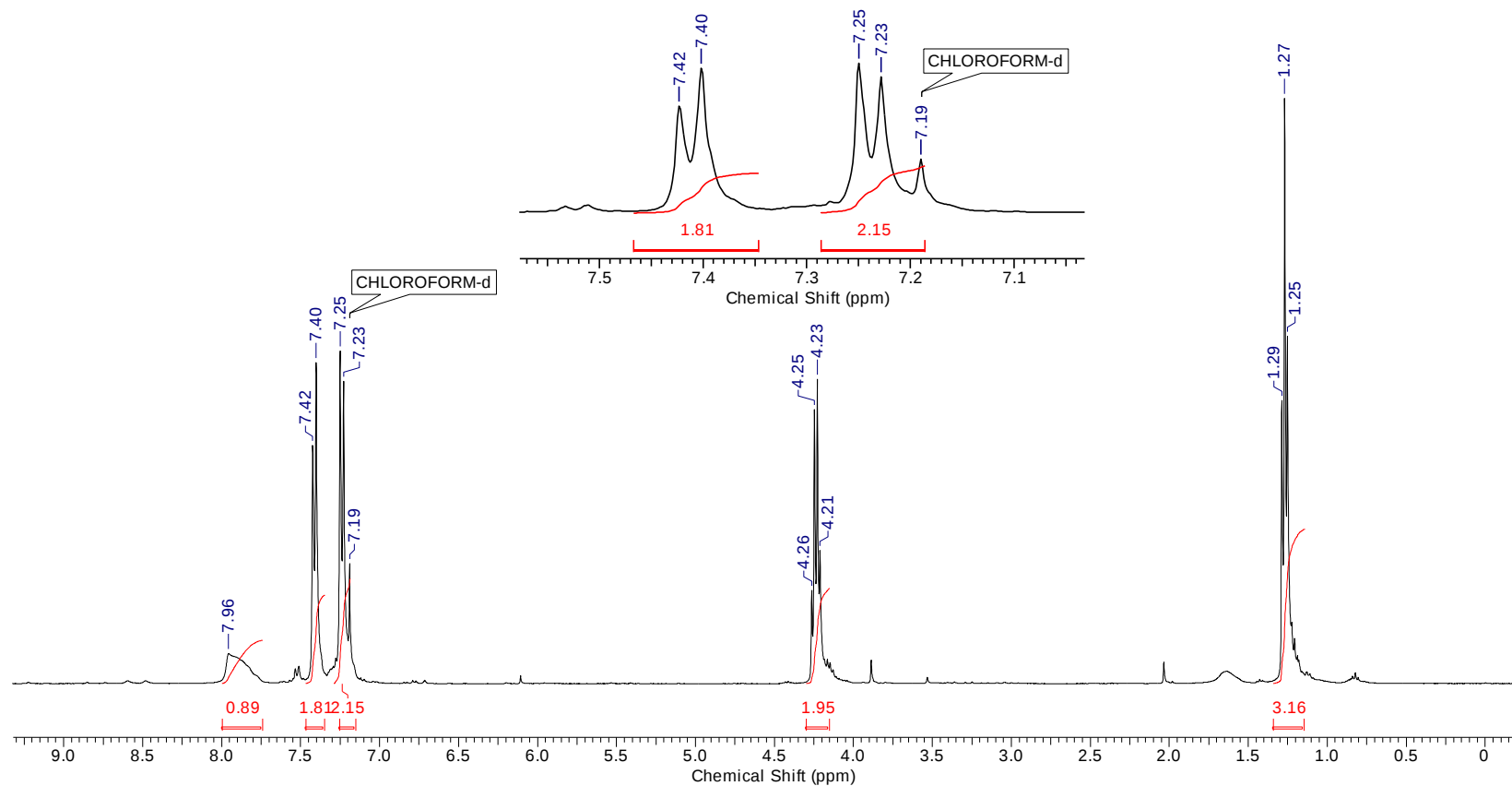
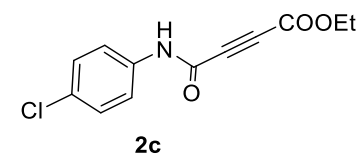
^1H NMR 400 MHz



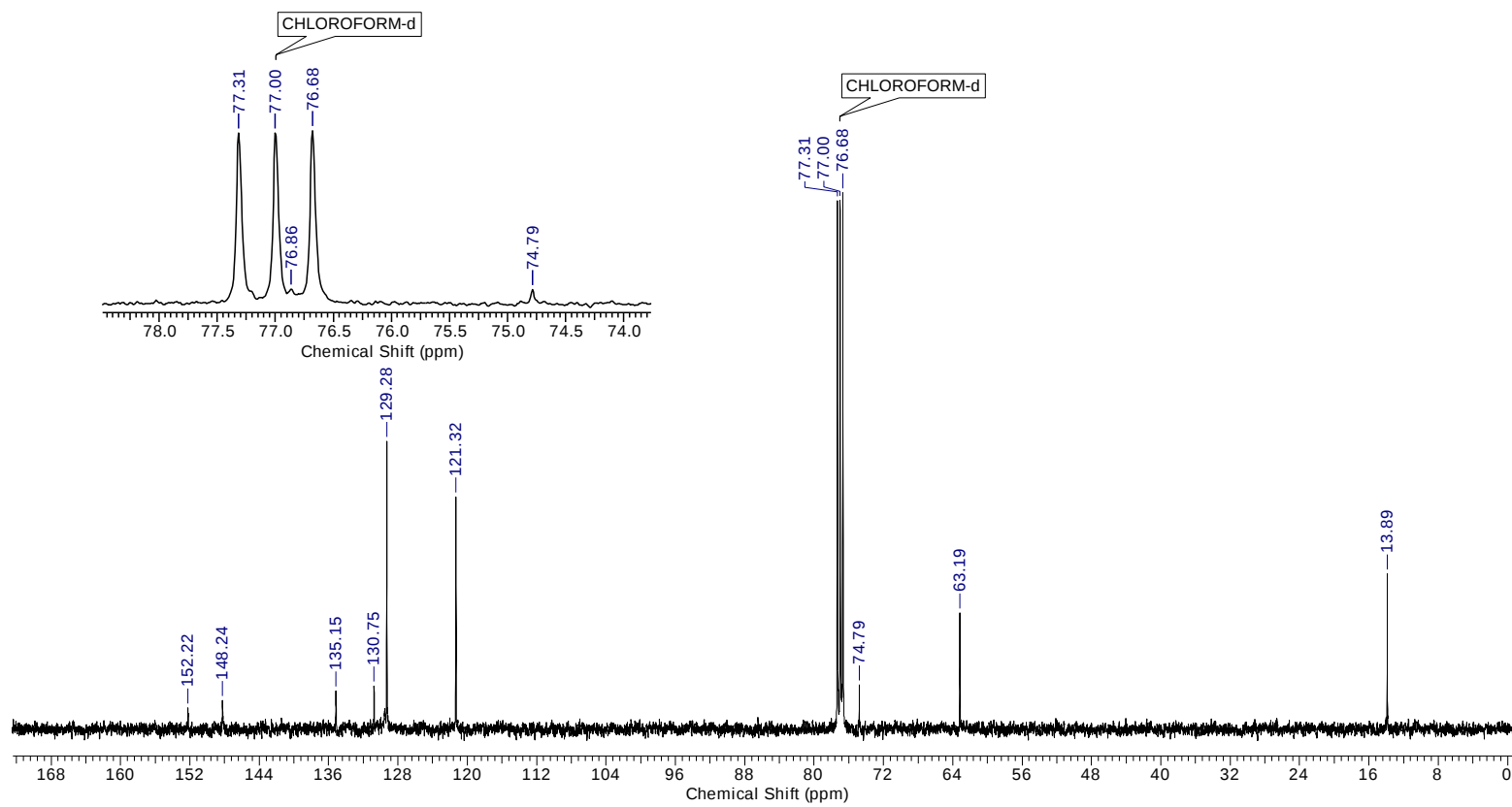
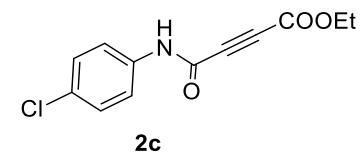
^1H NMR 200 MHz



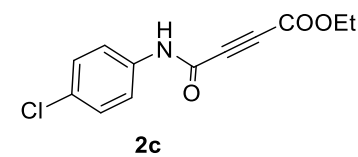
^1H NMR 400 MHz



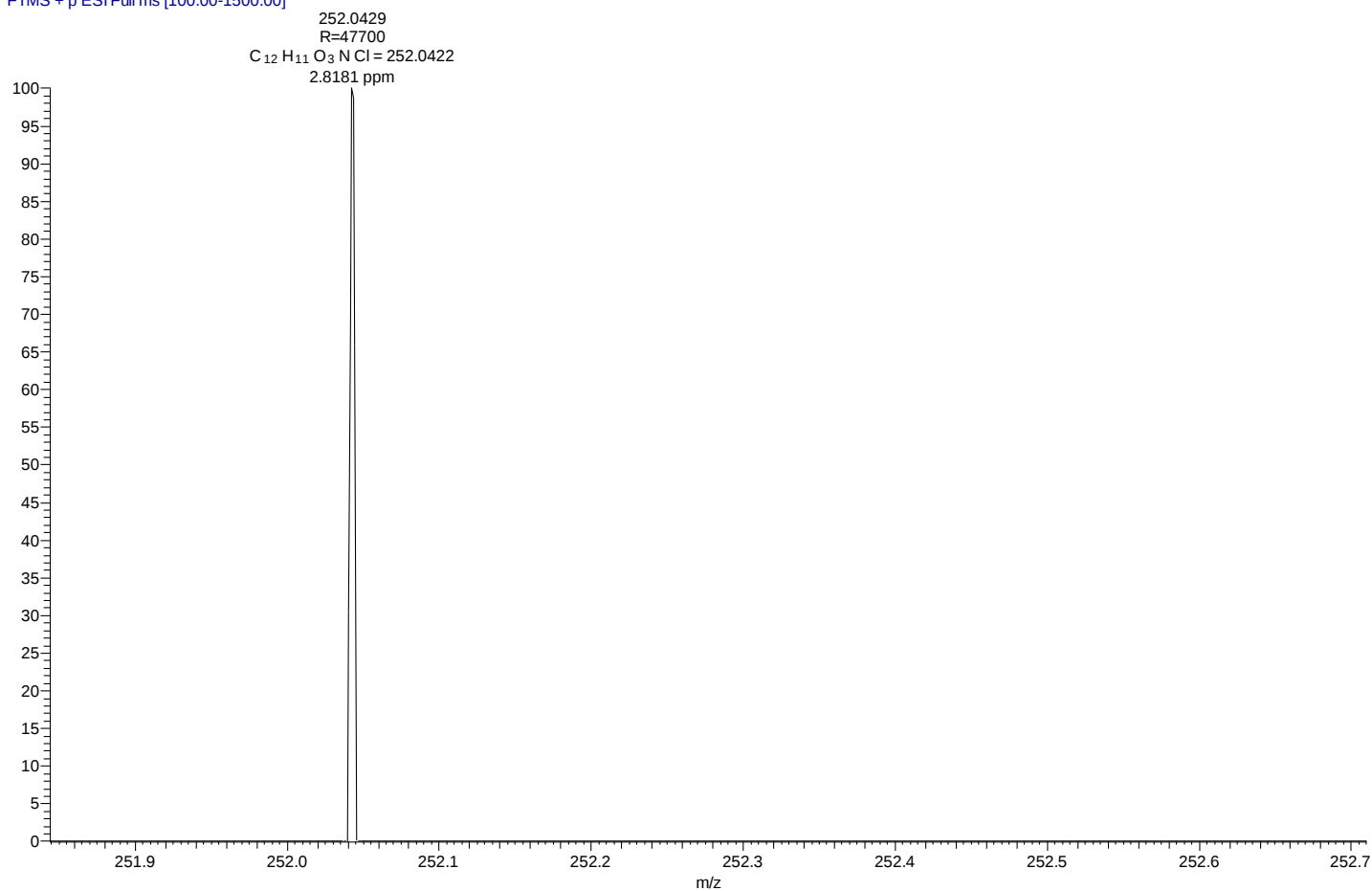
^{13}C NMR 100MHz



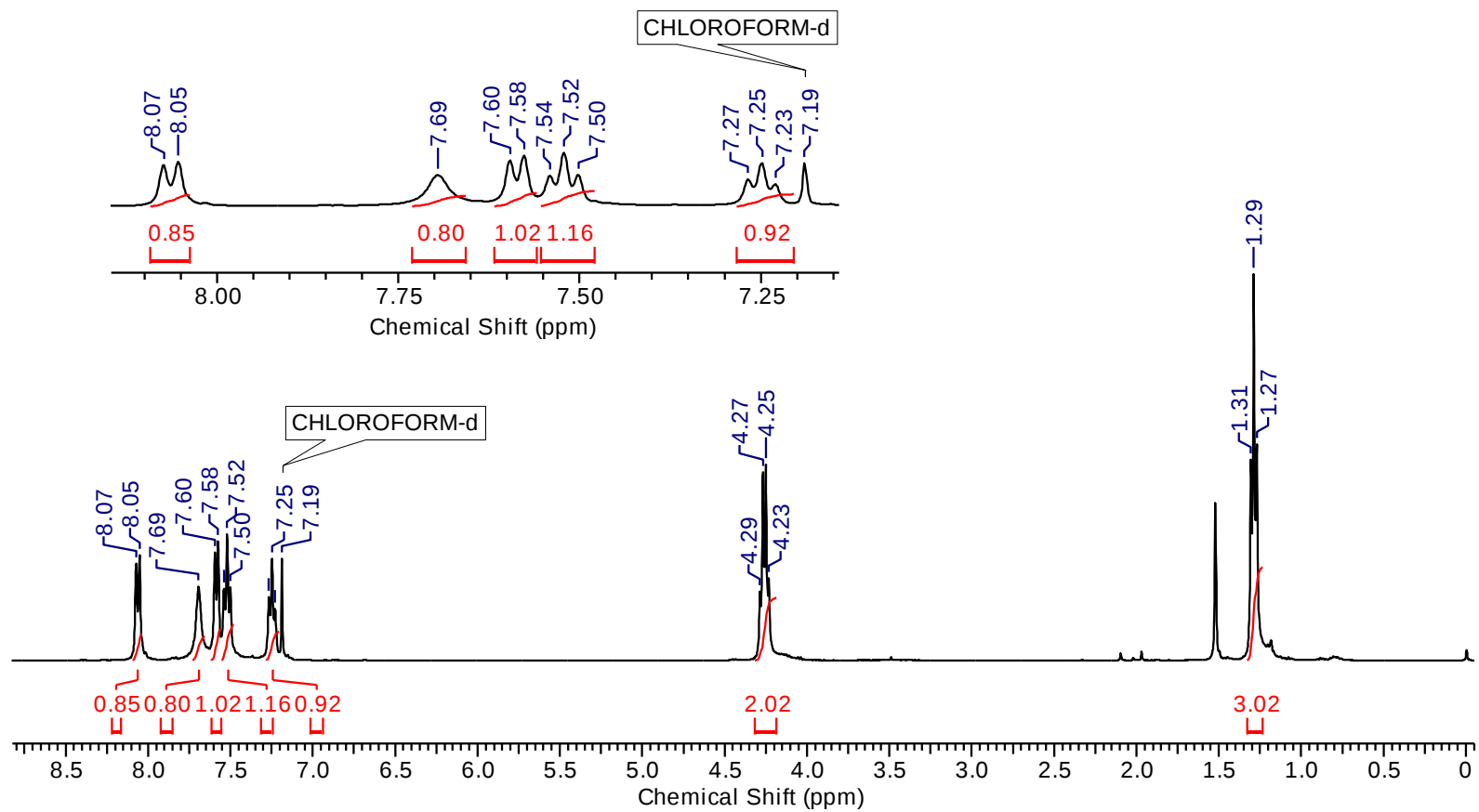
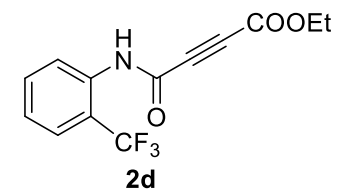
HRMS (ESI-TOF)



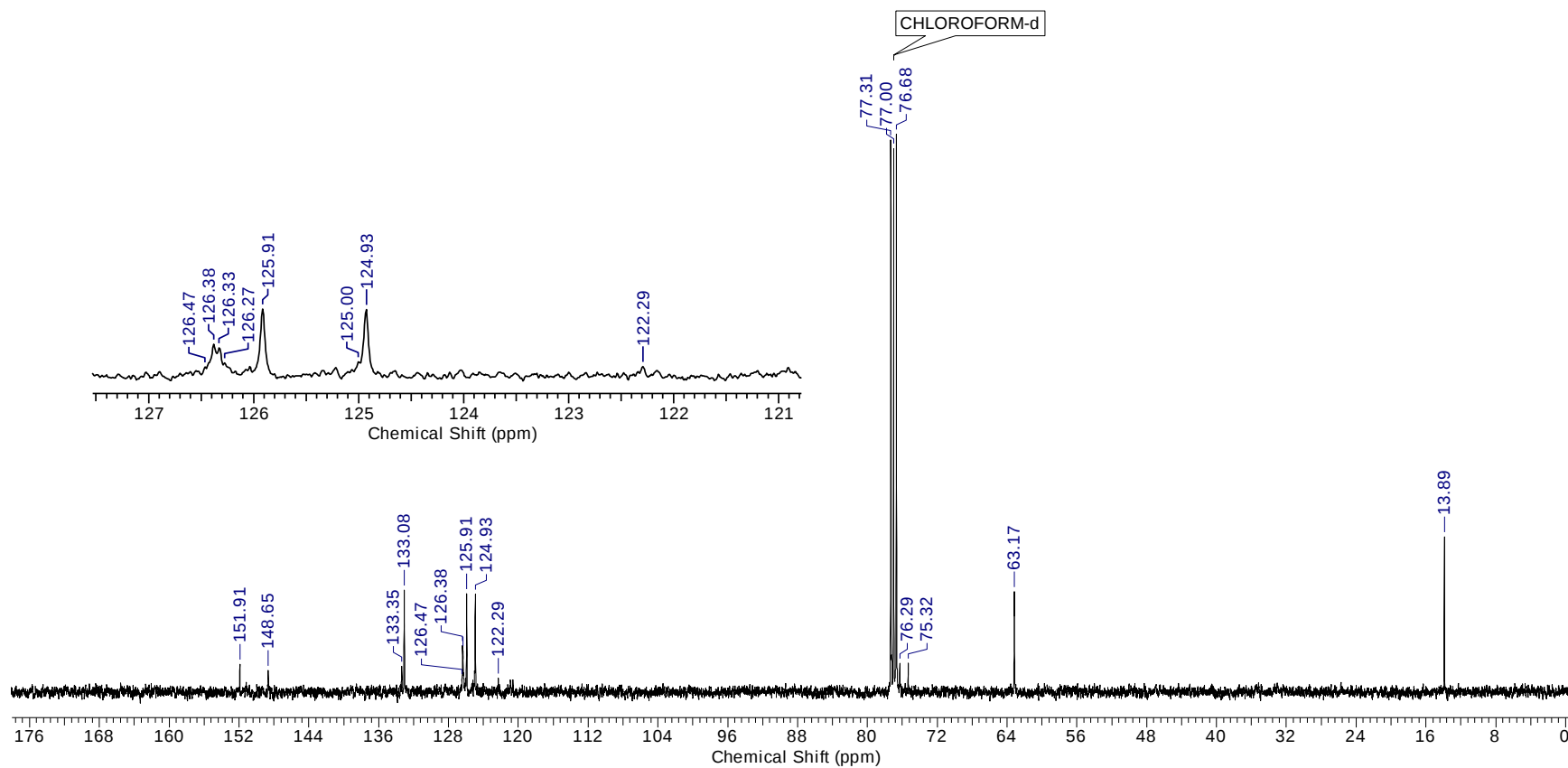
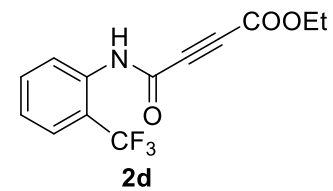
VP-3_170215145624 #153 RT: 0.68 AV: 1 NL: 4.49E4
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



^1H NMR 400 MHz

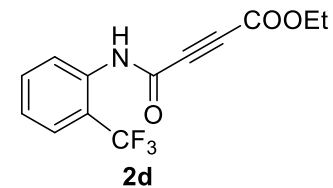
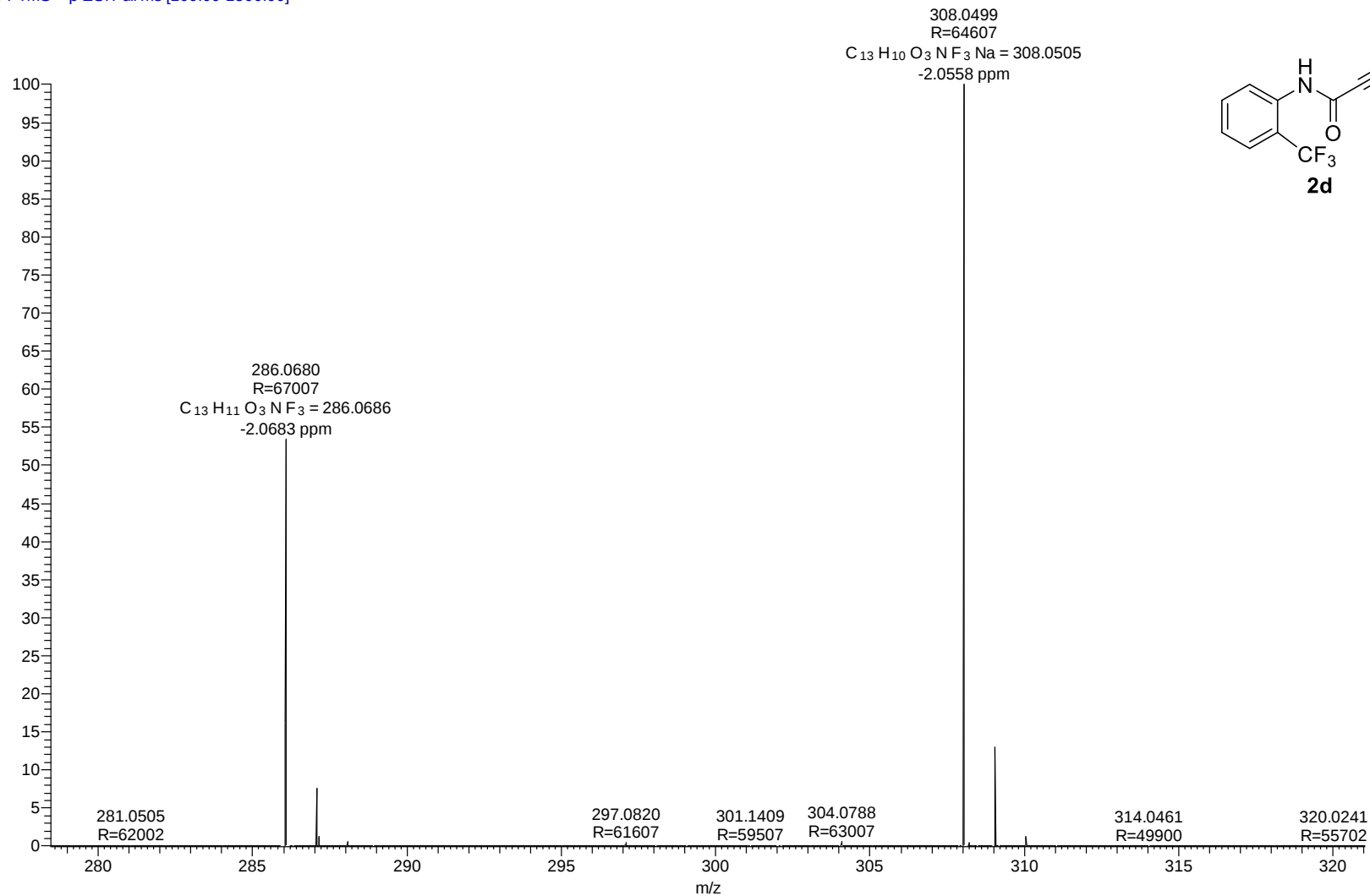


^{13}C NMR 100MHz

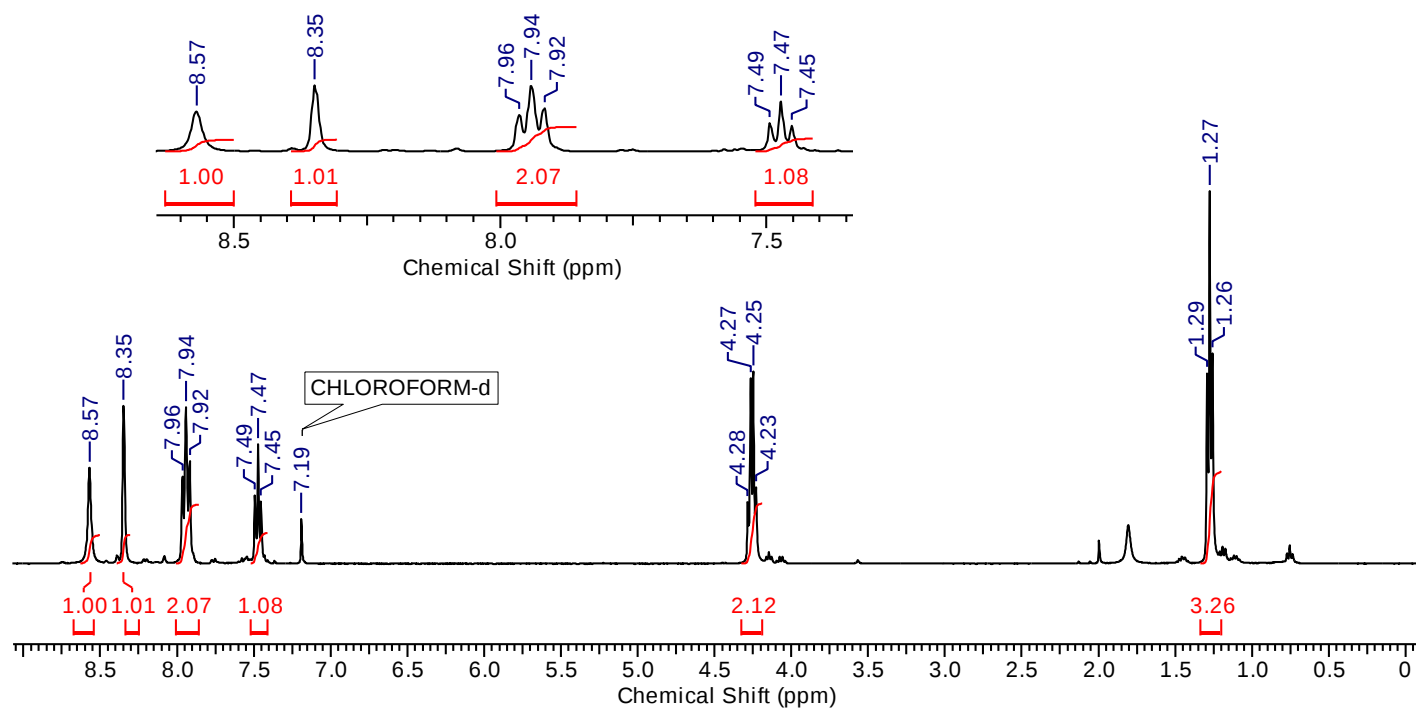
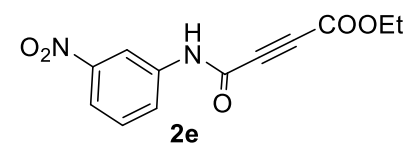


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

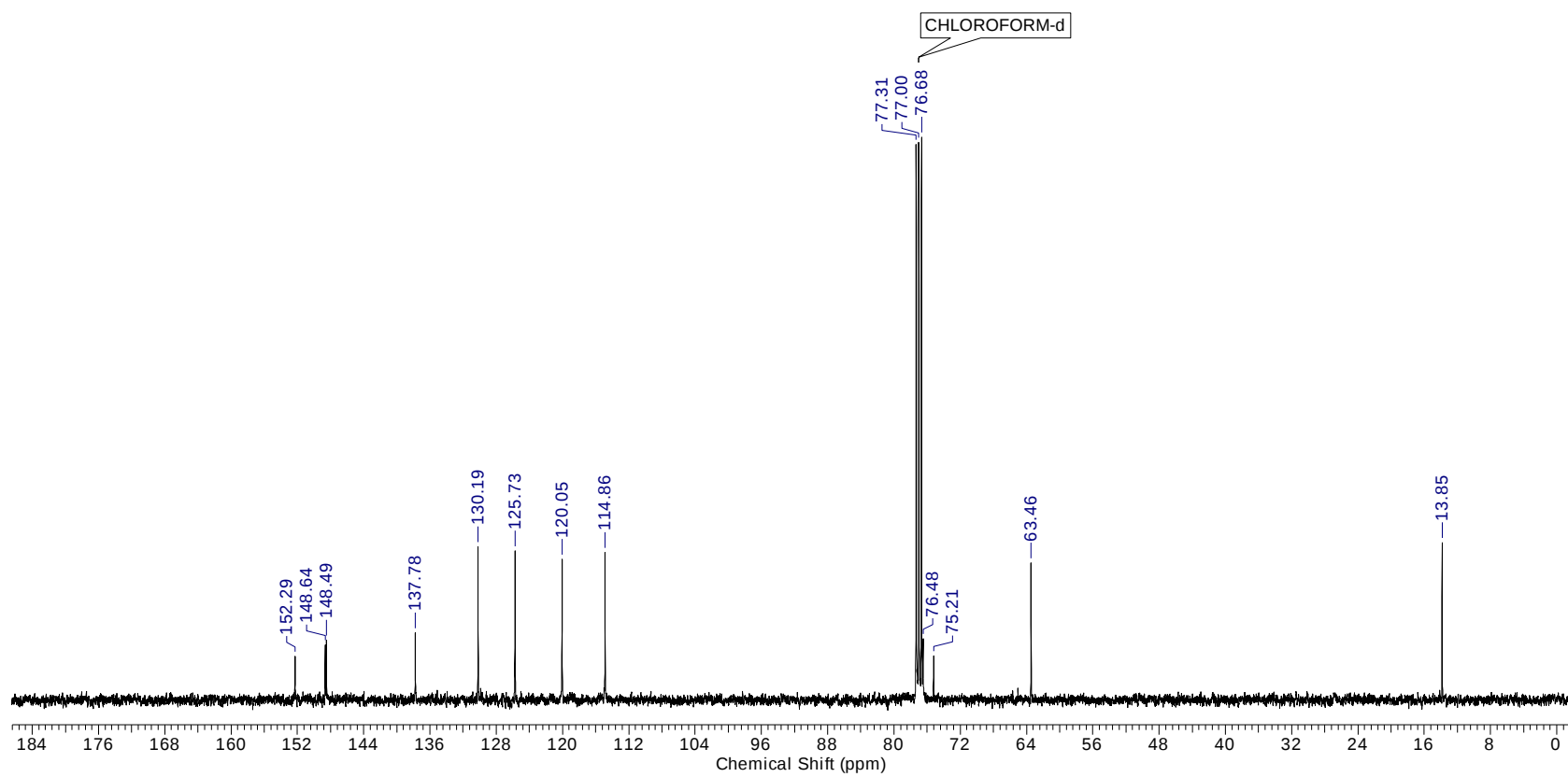
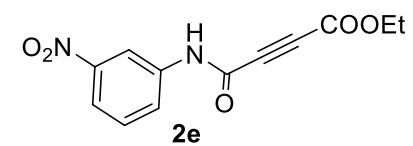
VS-CF3 #108 RT: 0.48 AV: 1 NL: 1.50E9
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^1H NMR 400 MHz

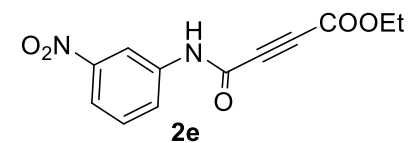
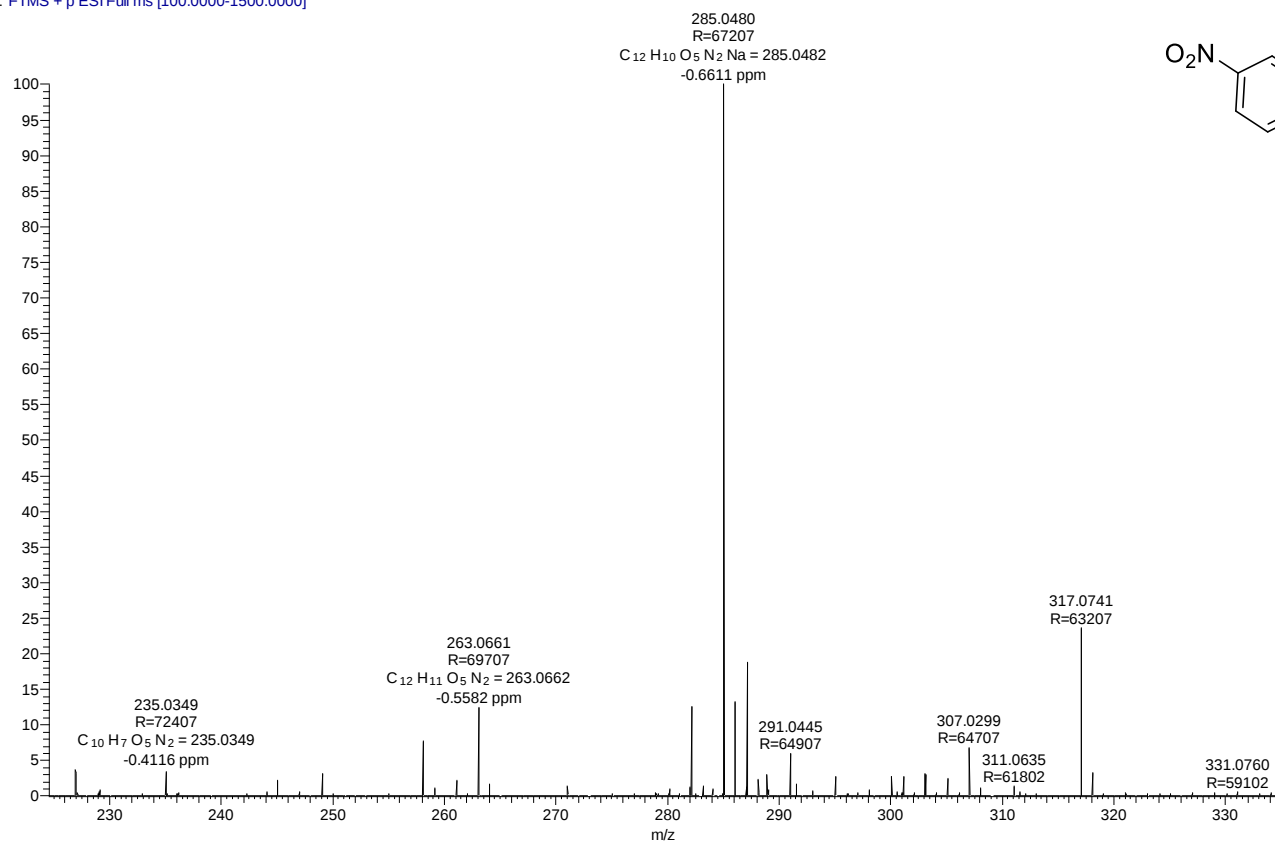


^{13}C NMR 100MHz

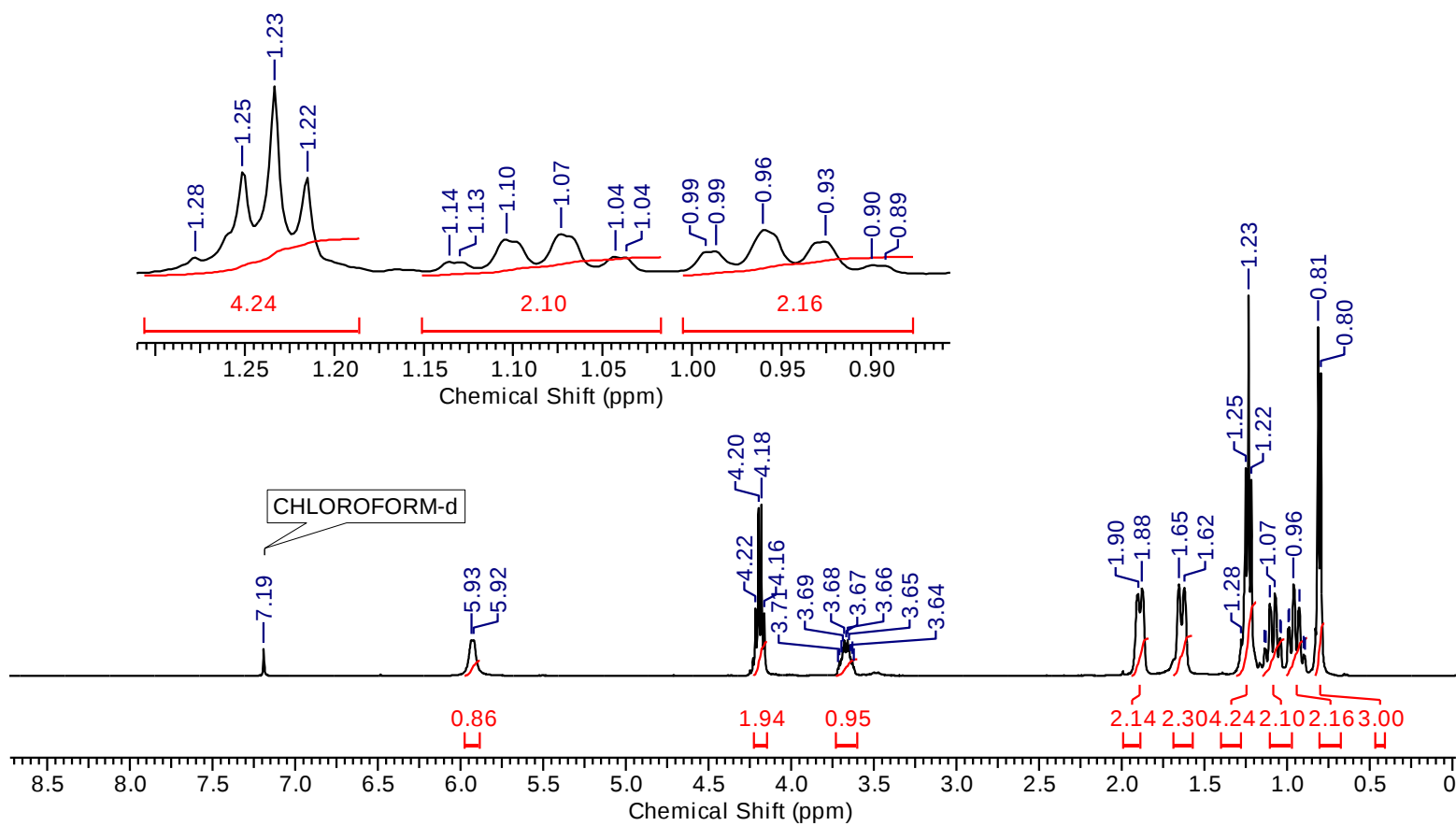
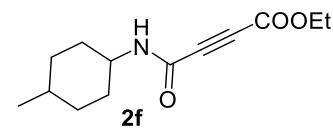


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

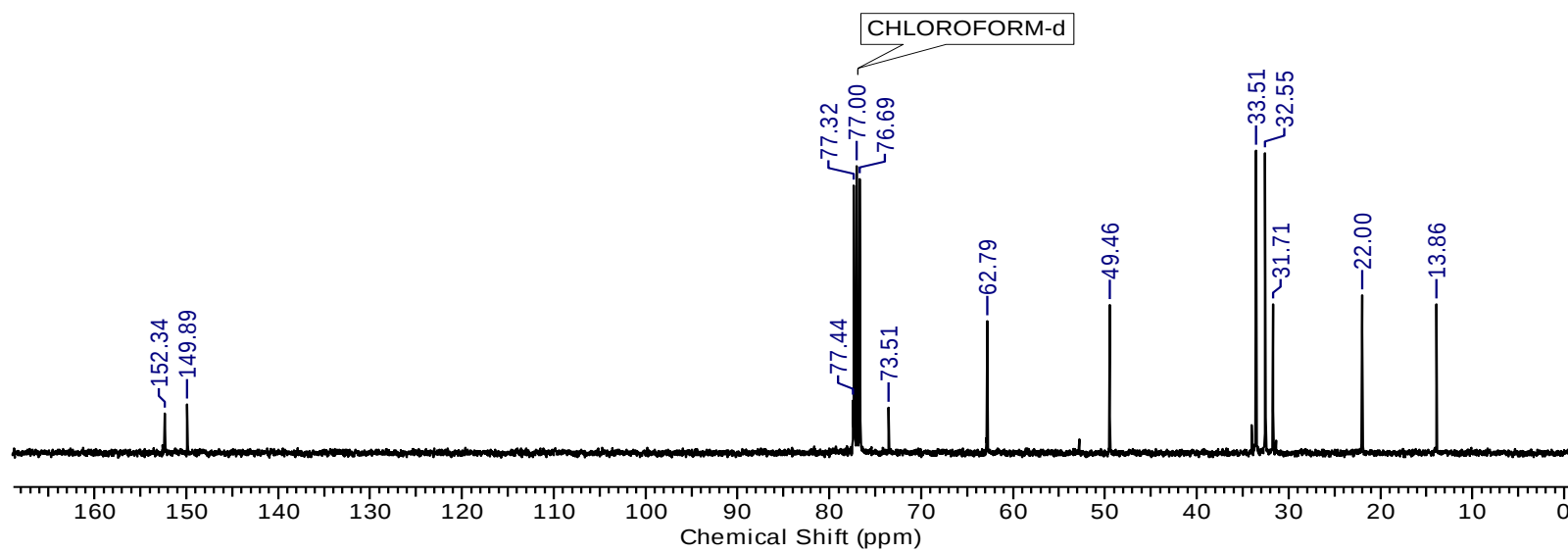
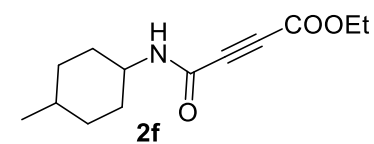
MA-6F #260 RT: 1.16 AV: 1 NL: 2.00E8
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.0000-1500.0000]



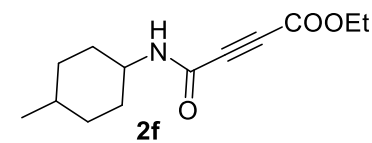
^1H NMR 400 MHz



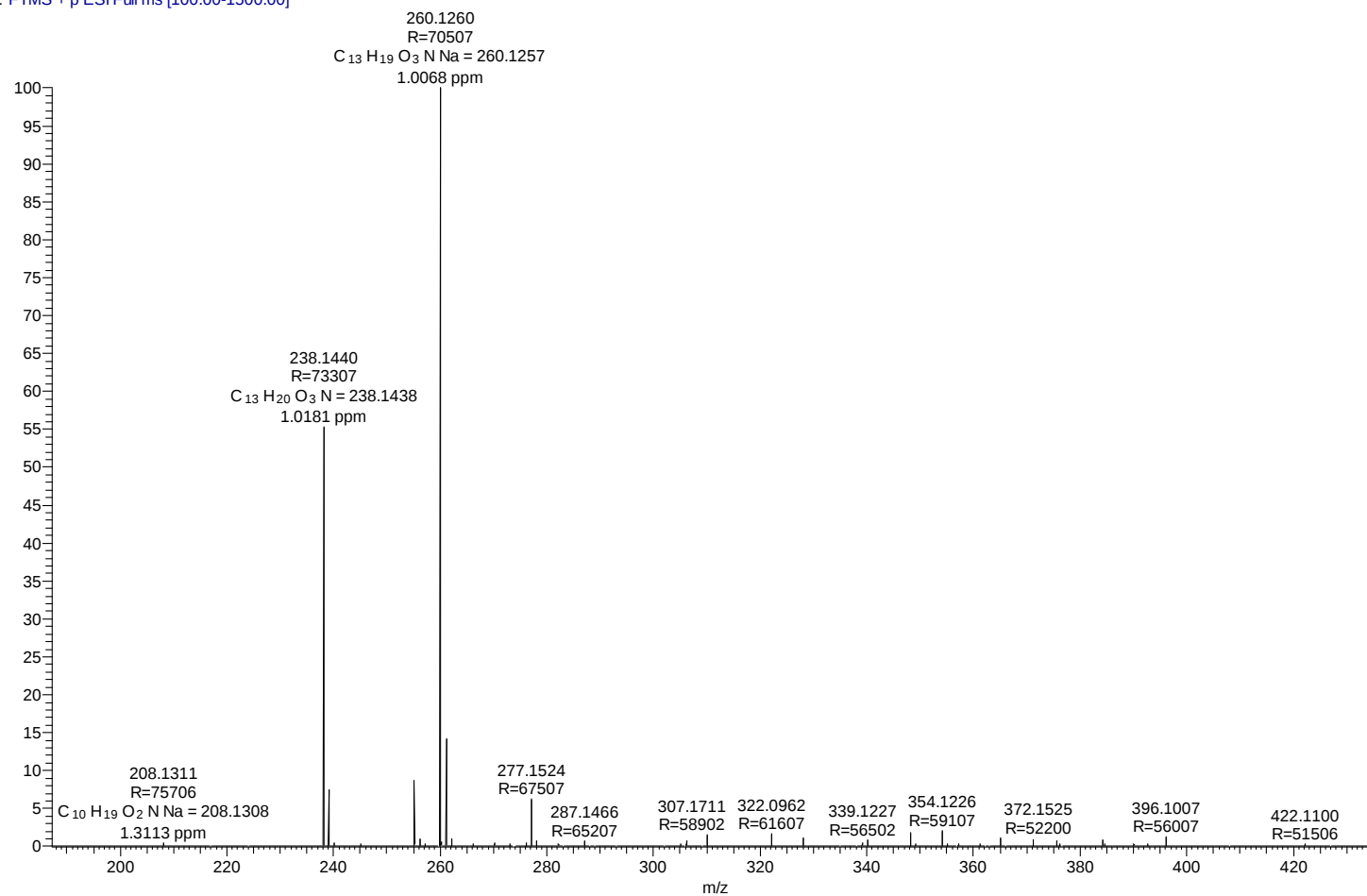
^{13}C NMR 100MHz



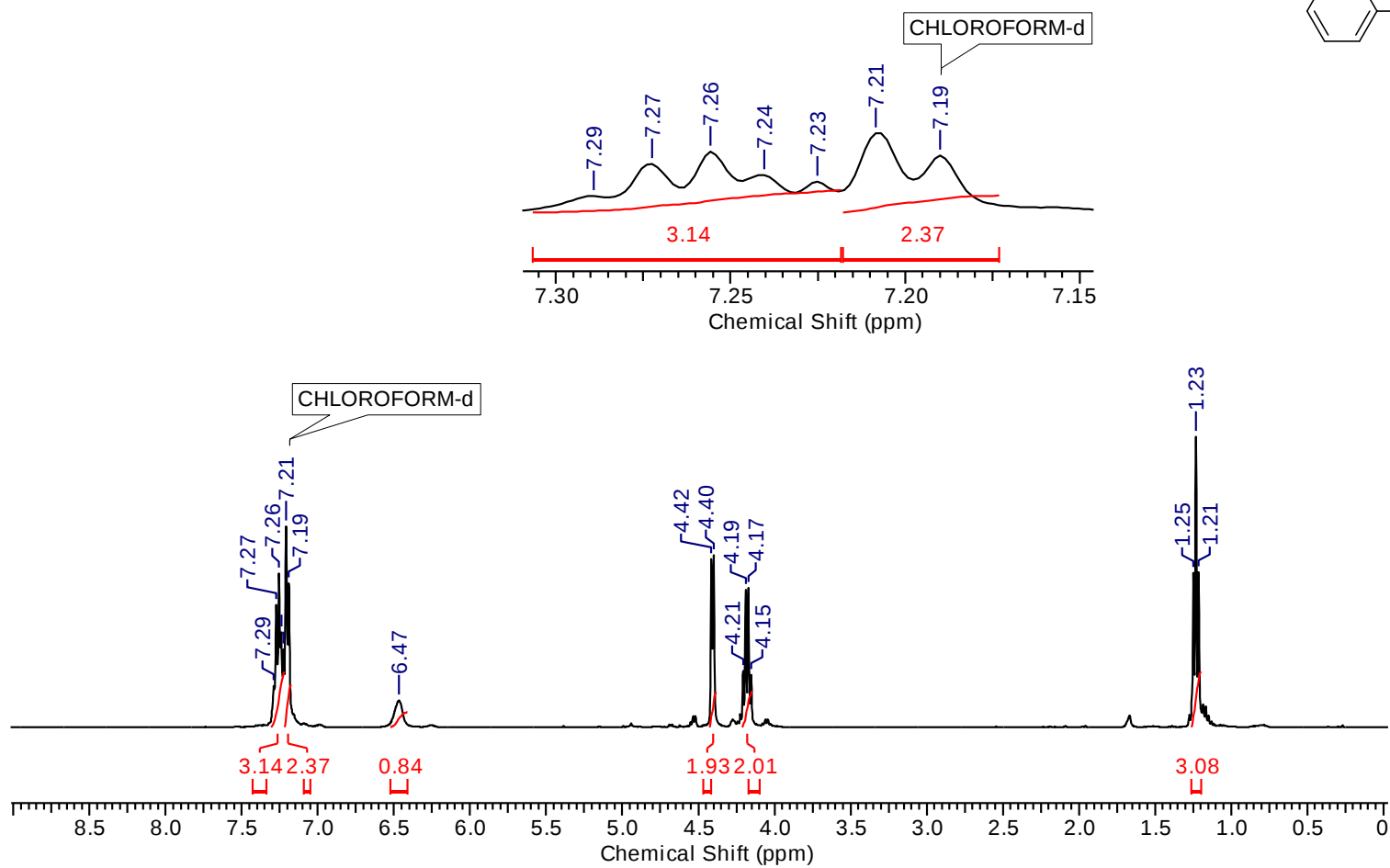
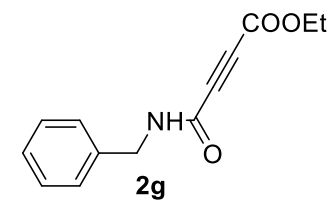
HRMS (ESI-TOF)



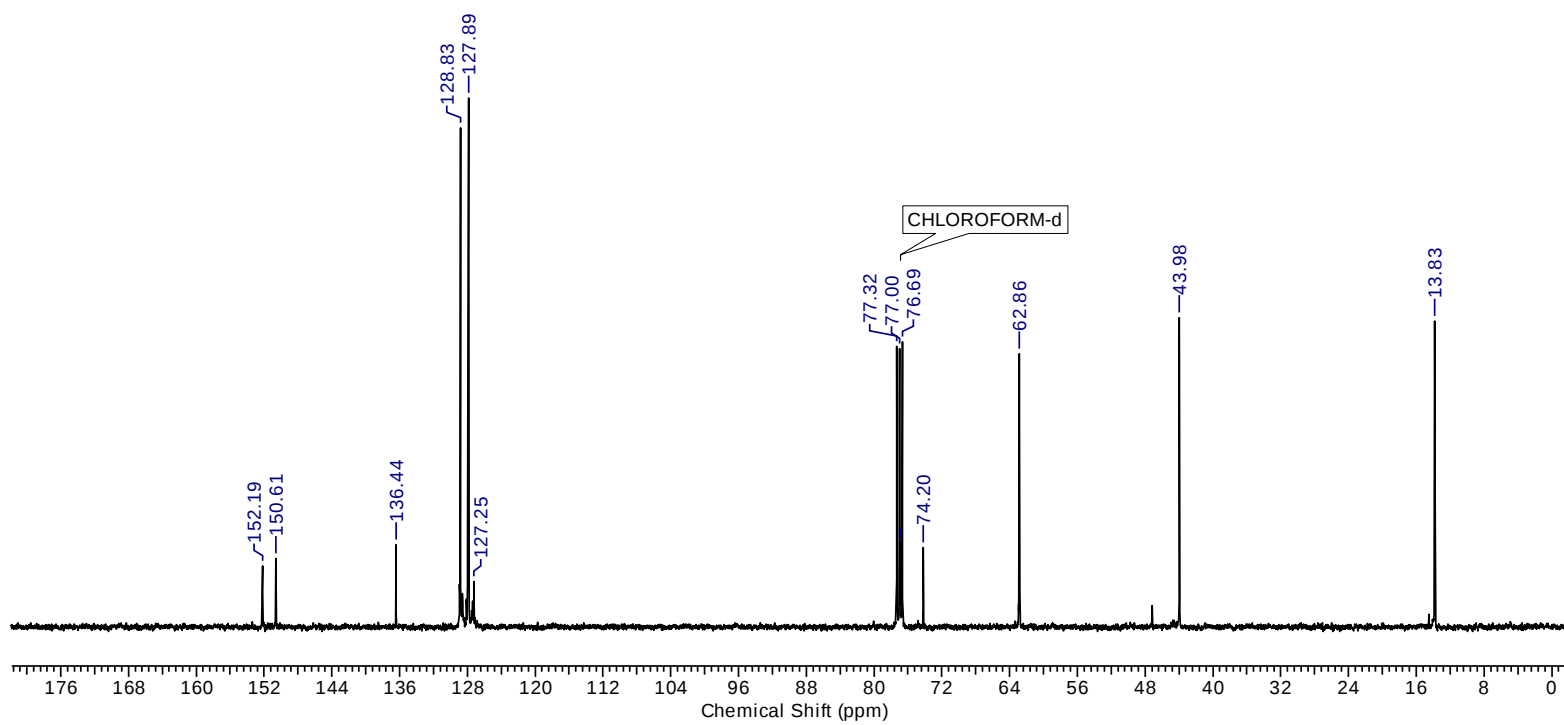
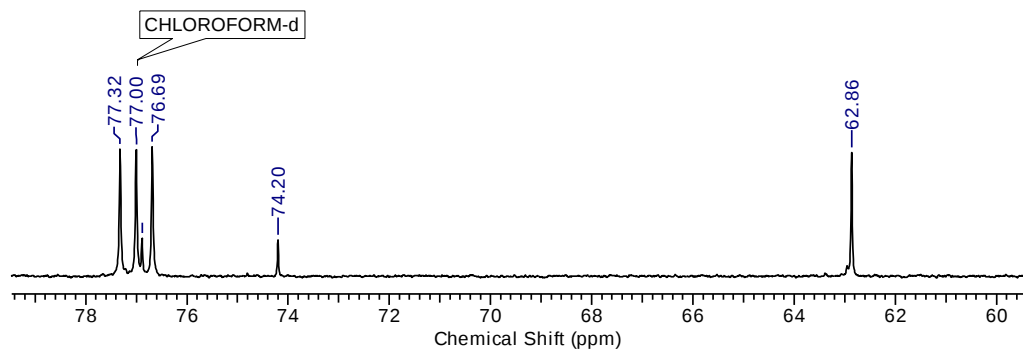
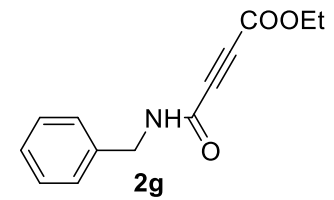
VP-5 #113 RT: 0.50 AV: 1 NL: 2.01E9
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



^1H NMR 400 MHz

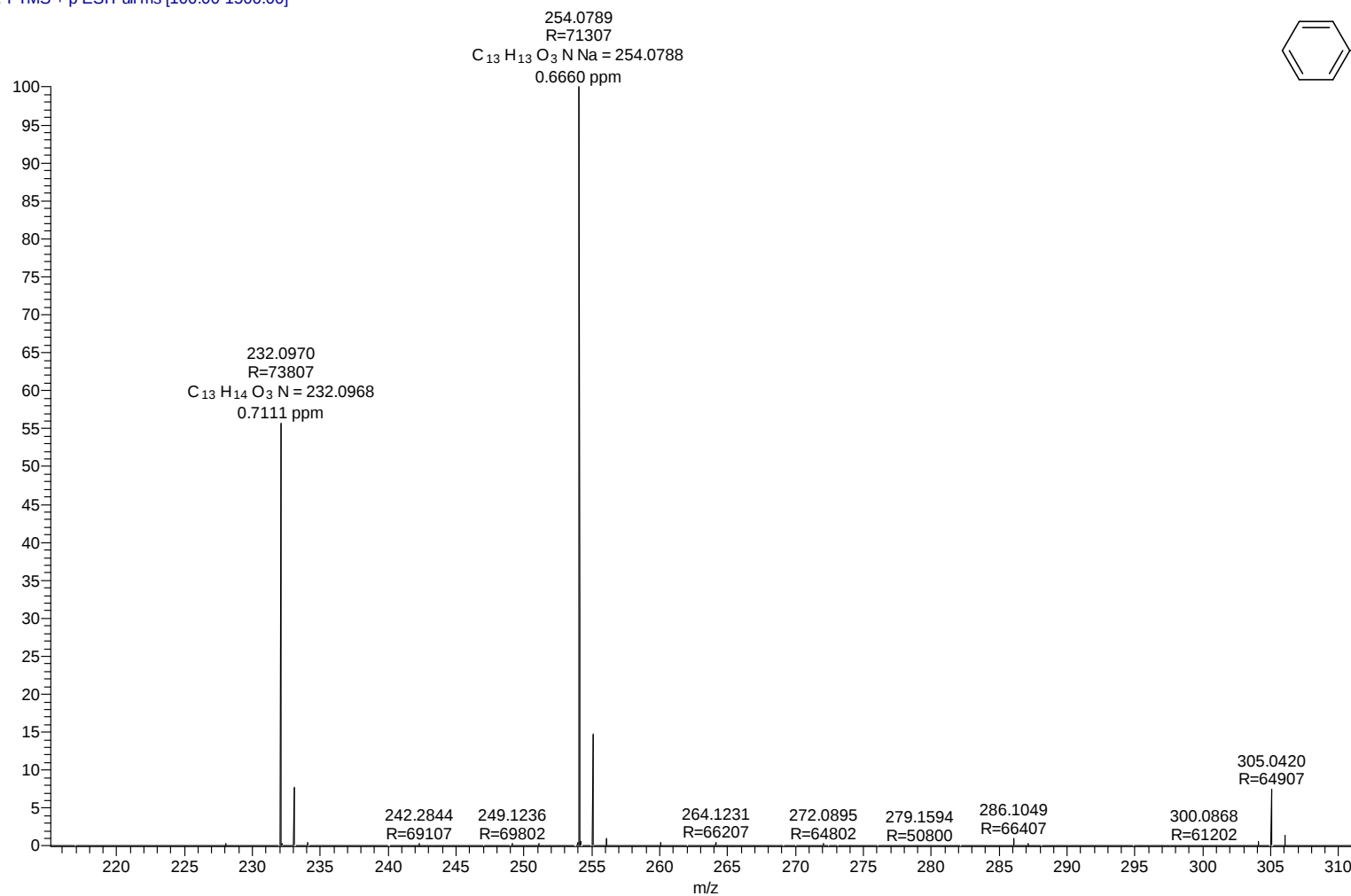
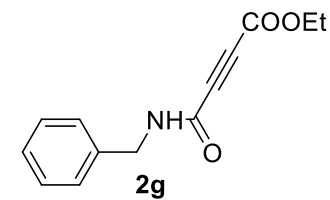


^{13}C NMR 100MHz

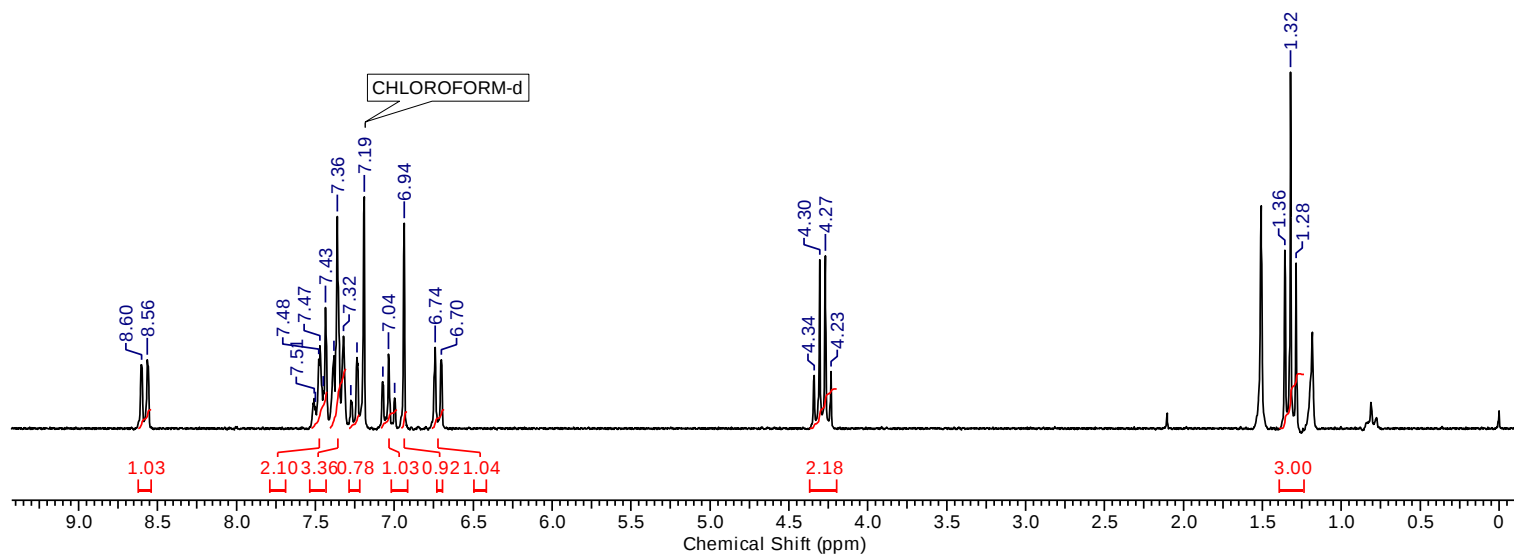
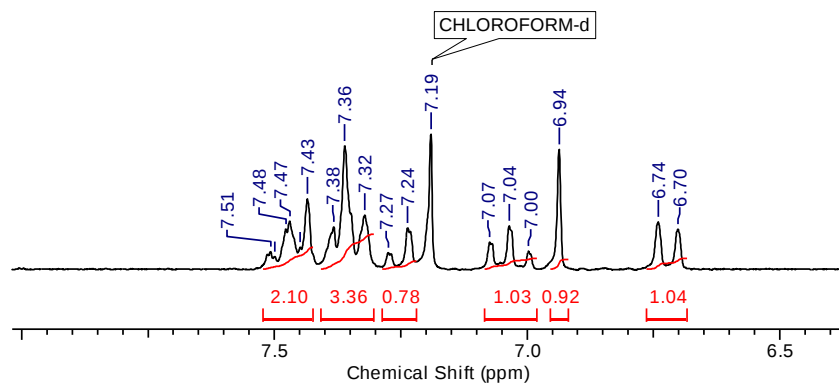
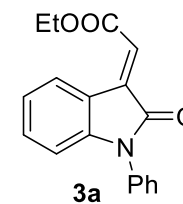


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

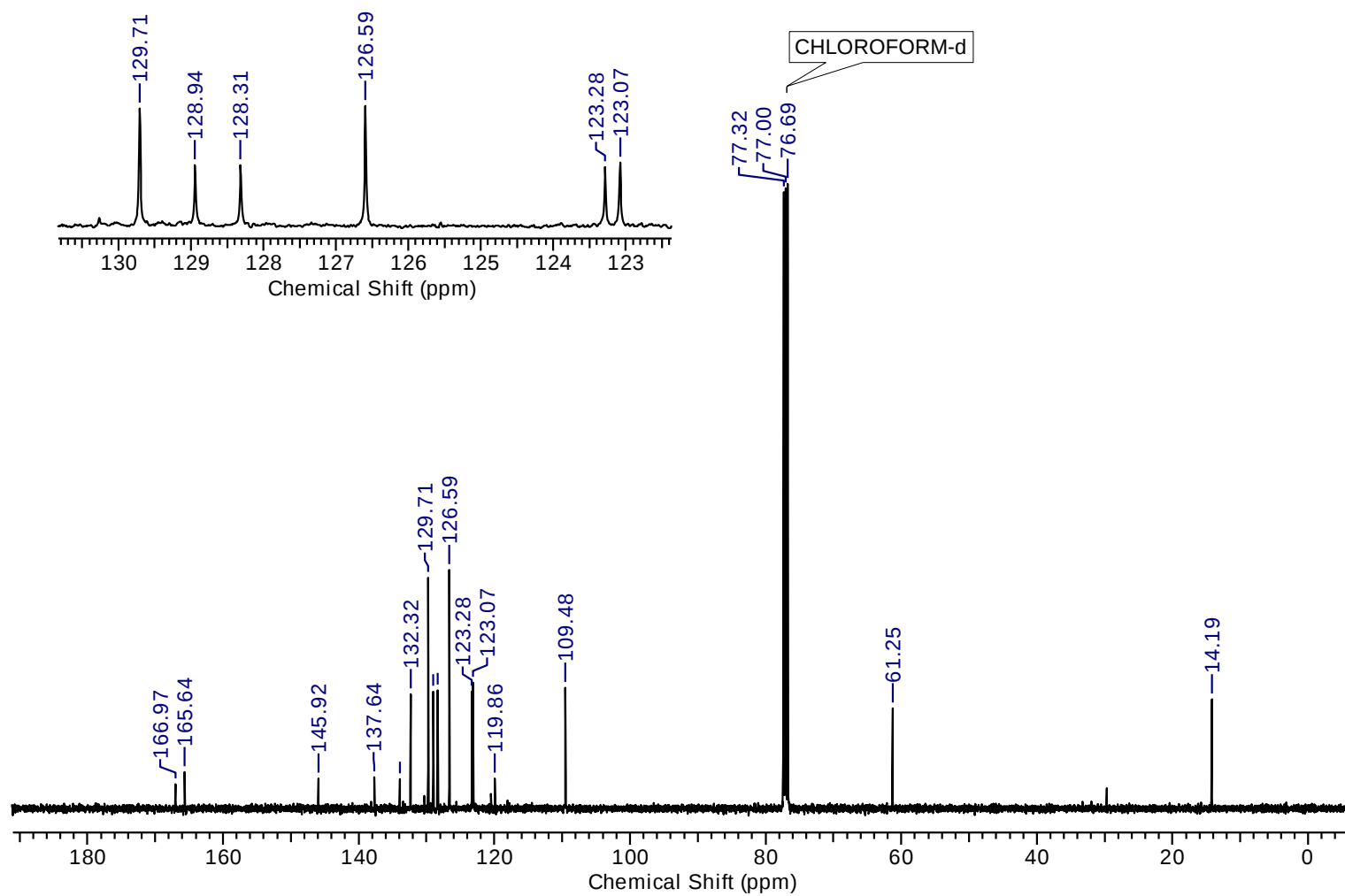
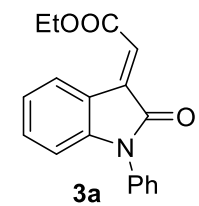
VP-2_170215145313 #91 RT: 0.40 AV: 1 NL: 3.59E9
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



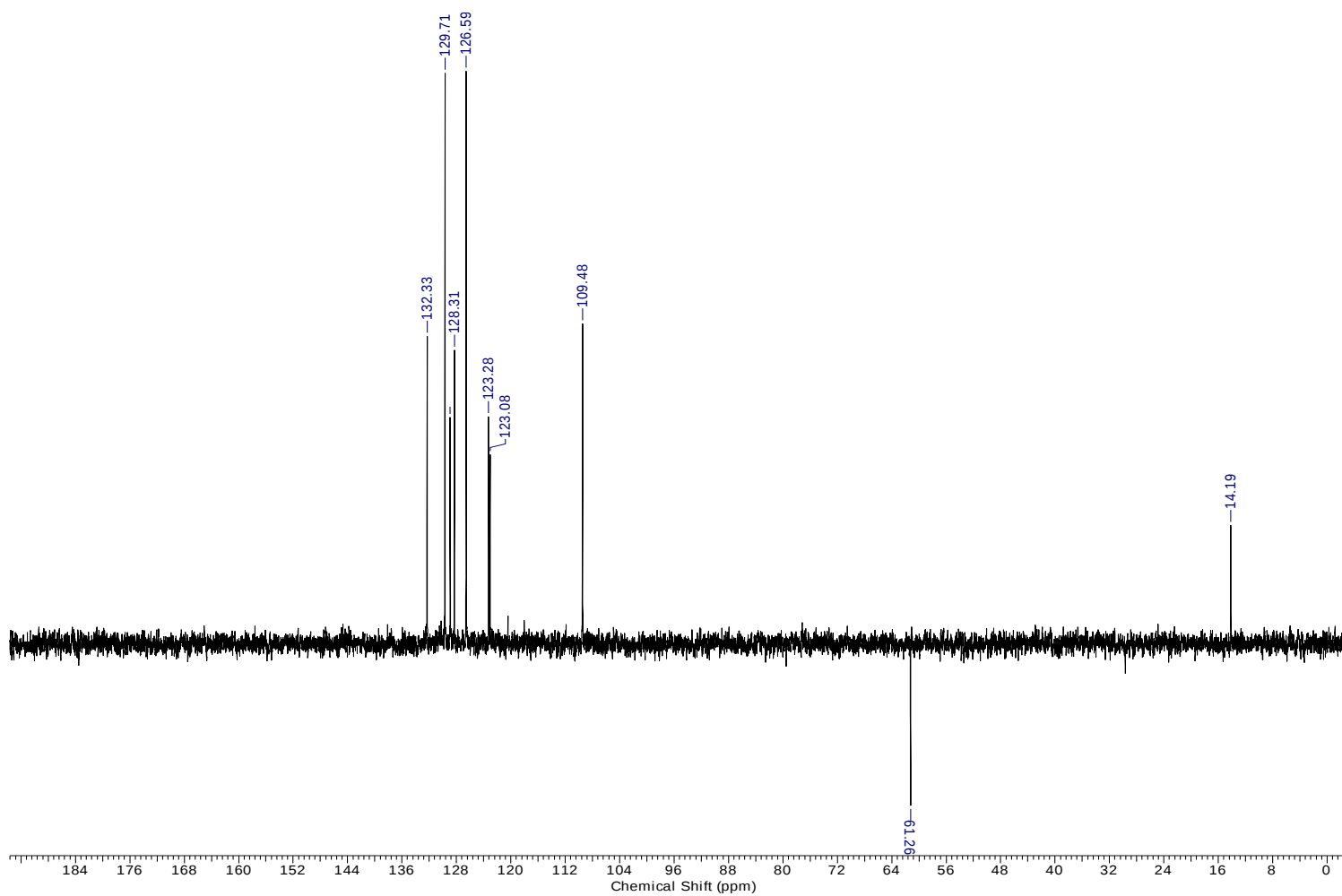
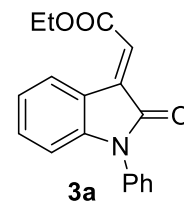
^1H NMR 400 MHz



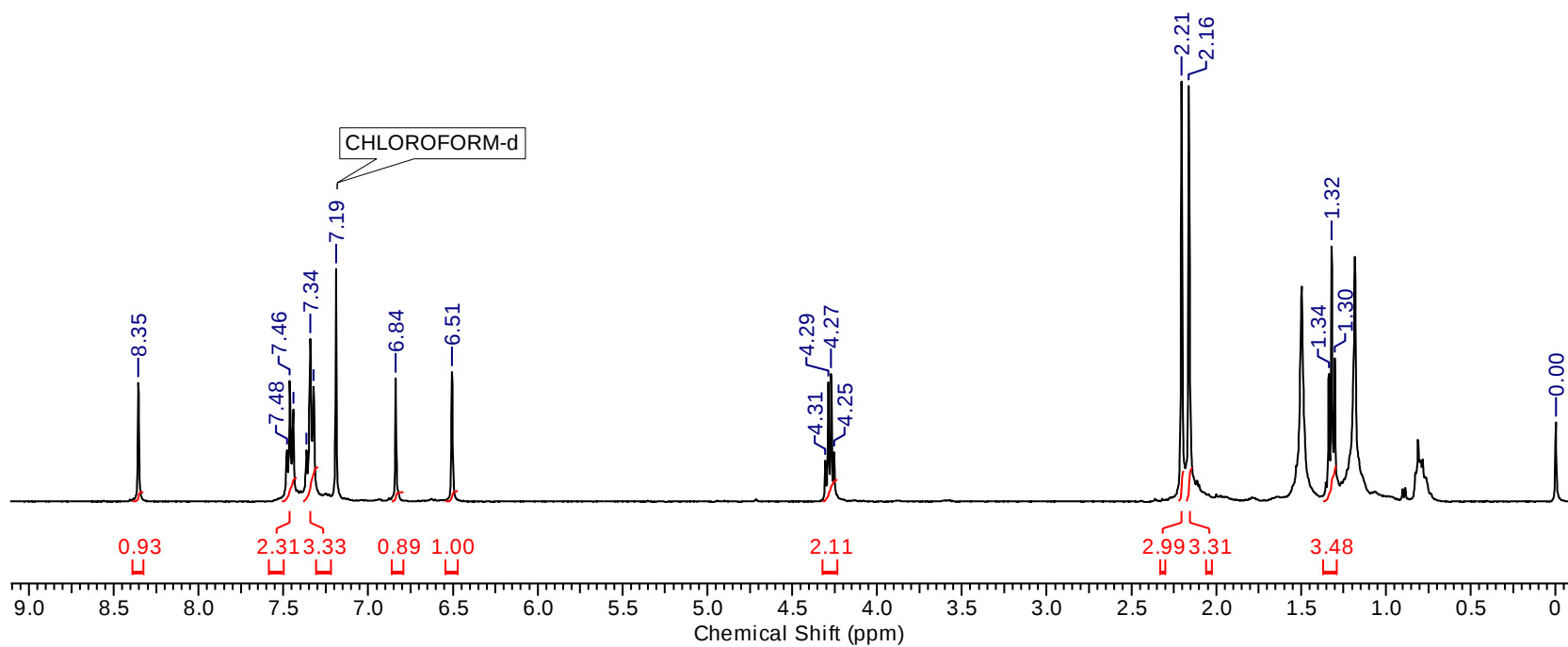
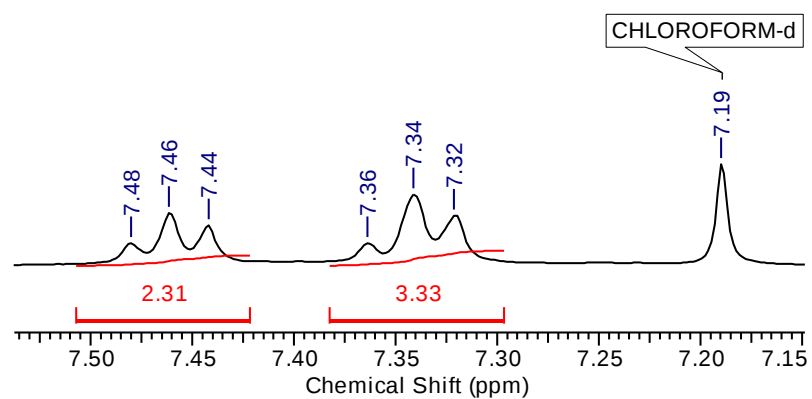
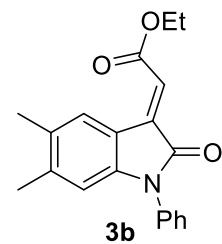
^{13}C NMR 100 MHz



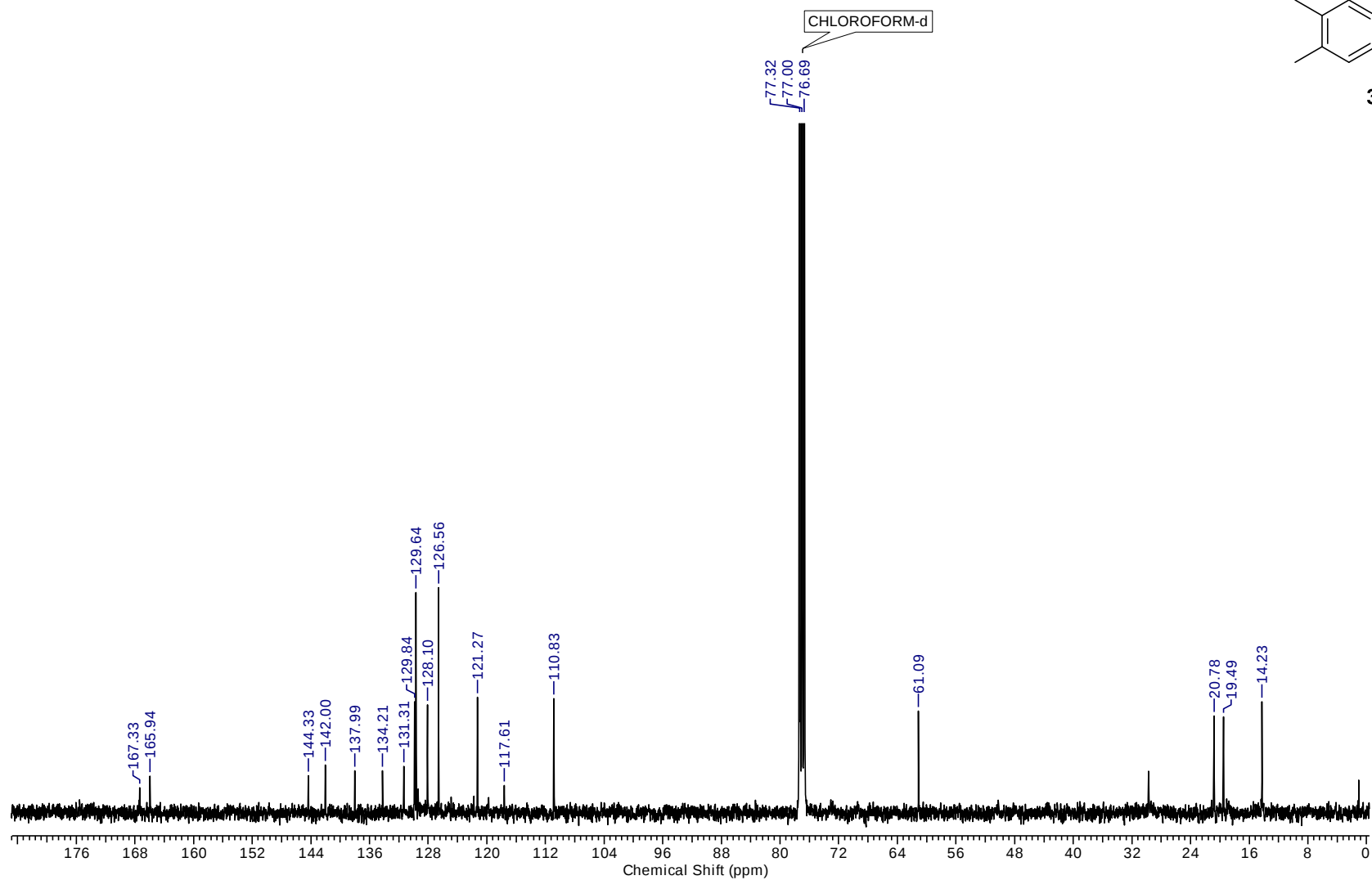
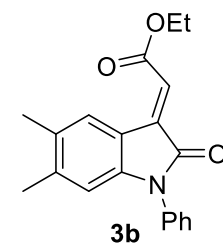
DEPT NMR 100 MHz



^1H NMR 400 MHz

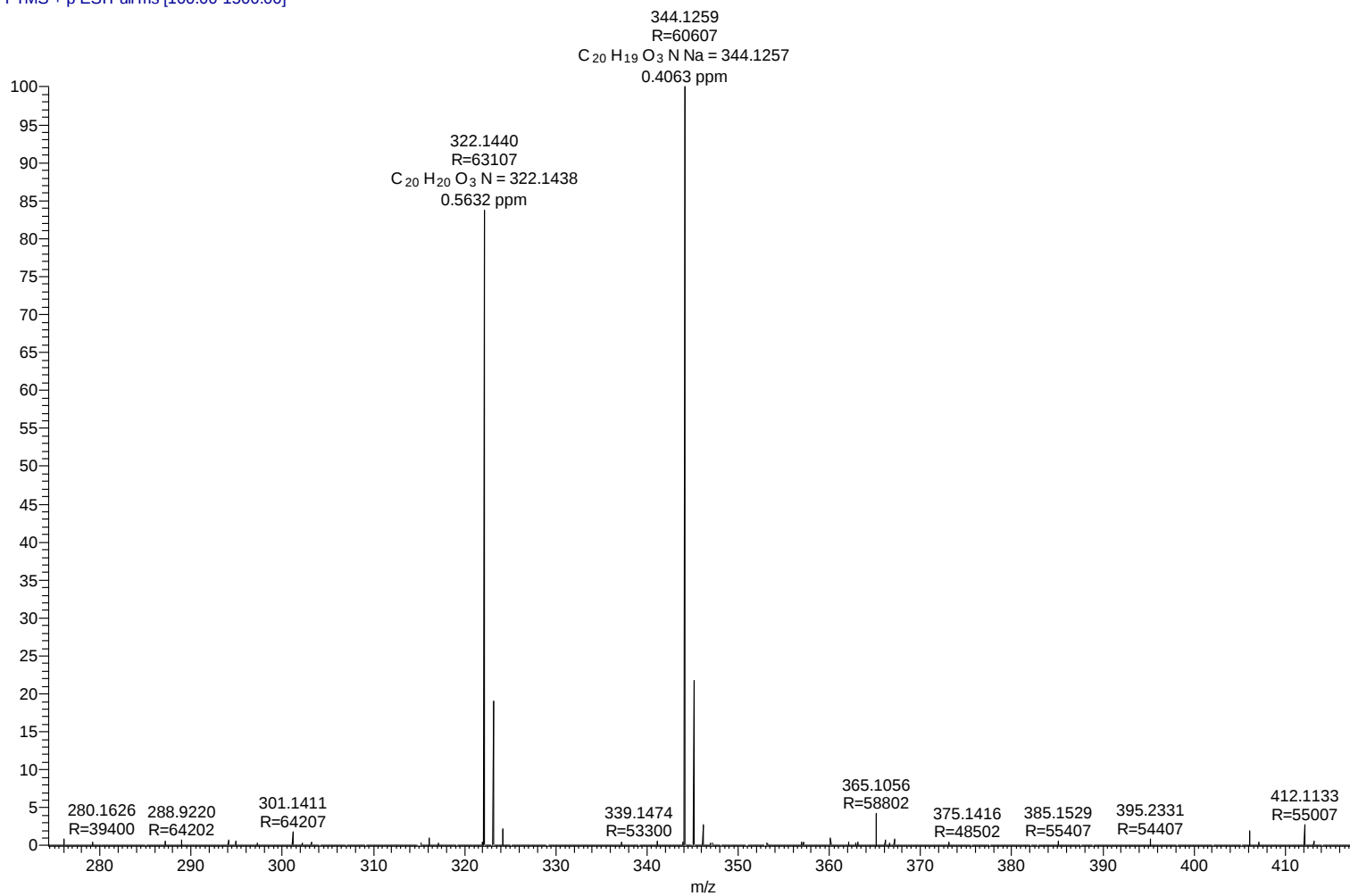
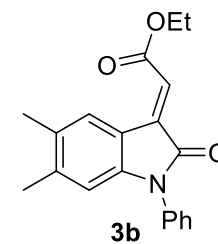


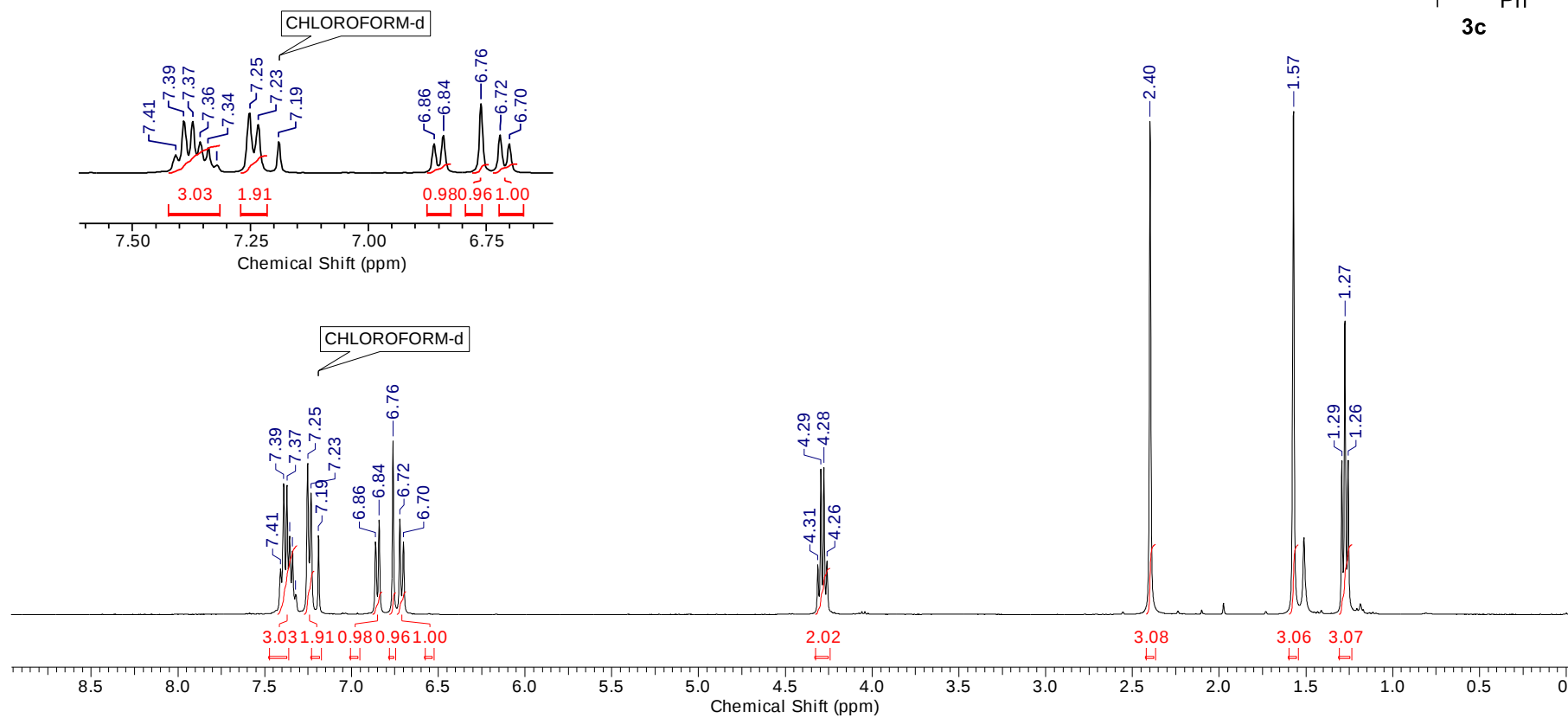
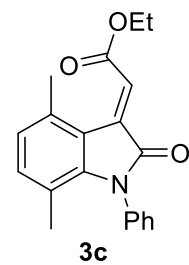
^{13}C NMR 100 MHz



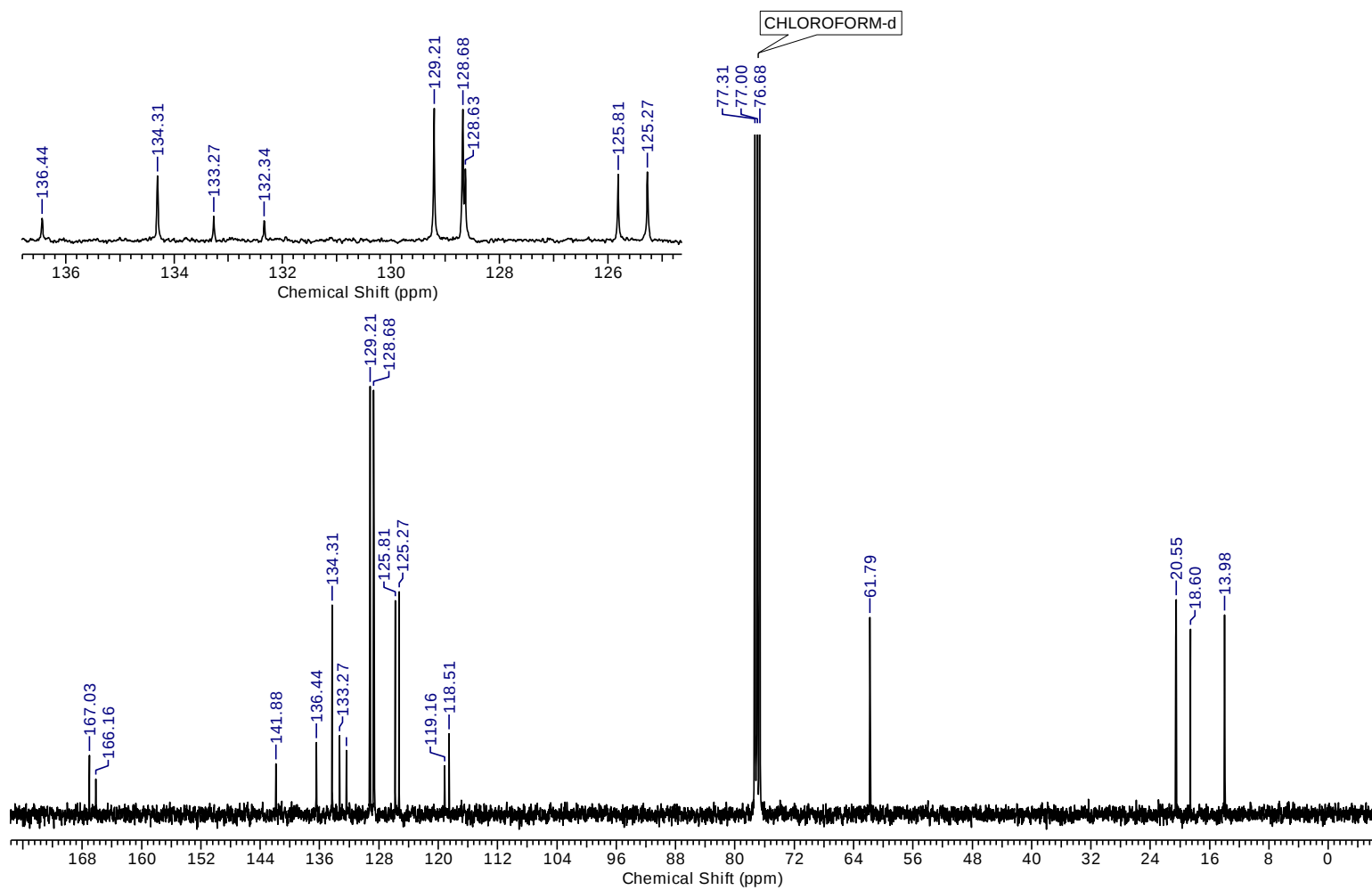
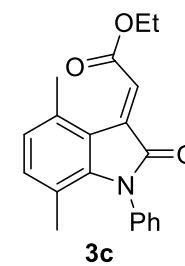
HRMS (ESI-TOF)

VP-6 #167 RT: 0.74 AV: 1 NL: 4.09E8
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



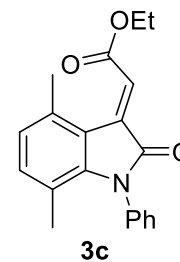
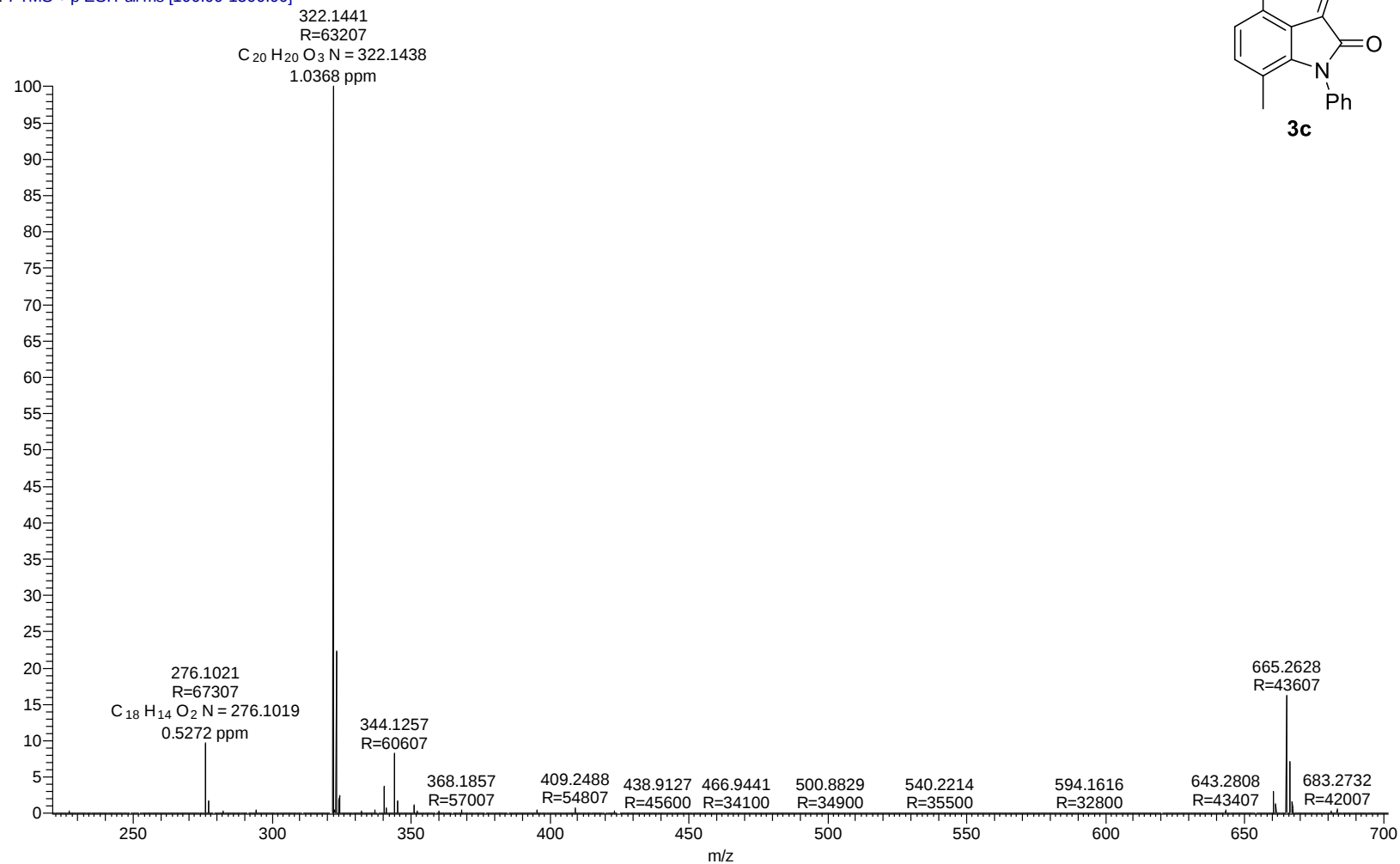
¹H NMR 400 MHz

^{13}C NMR 100 MHz

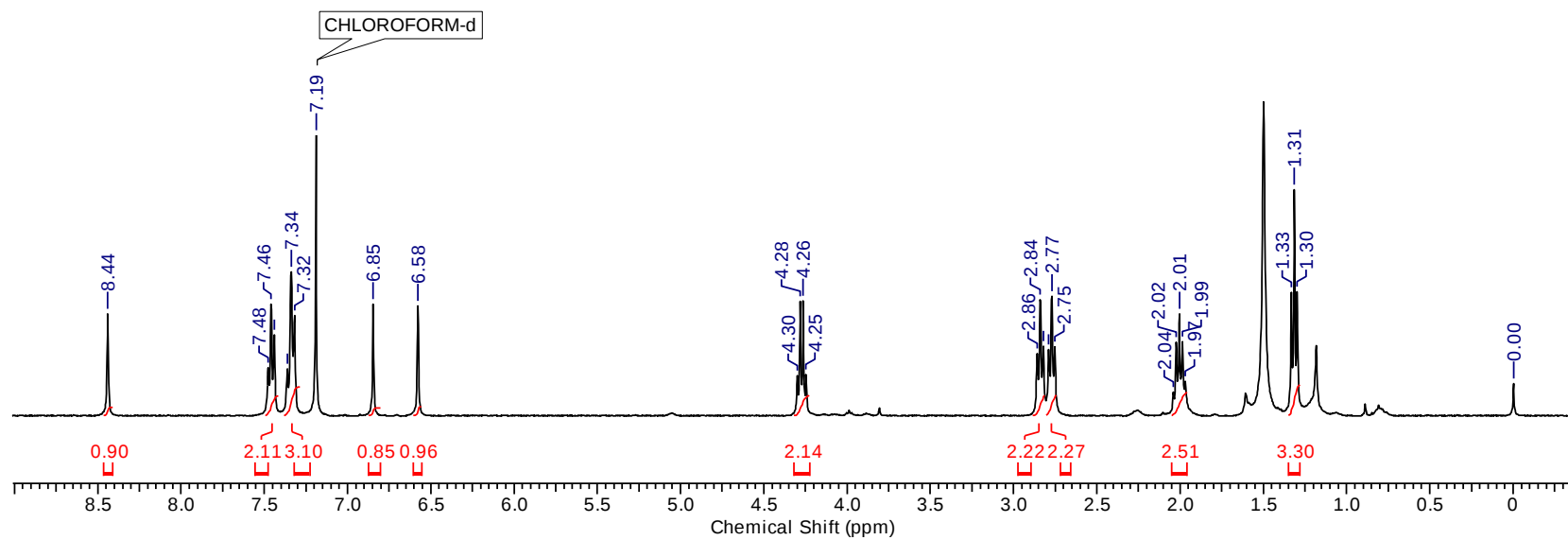
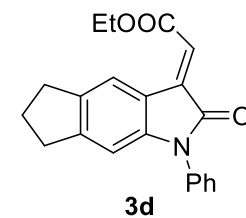
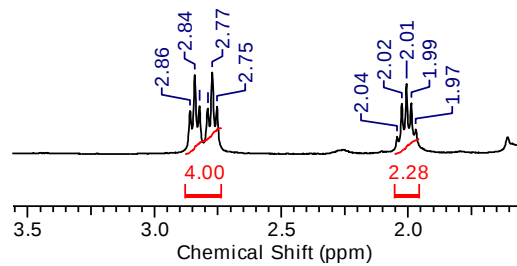
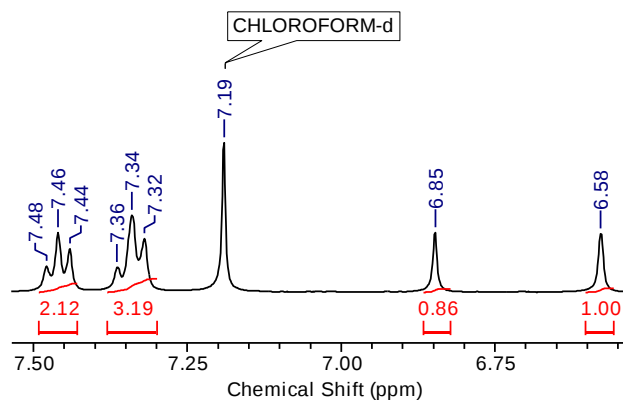


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

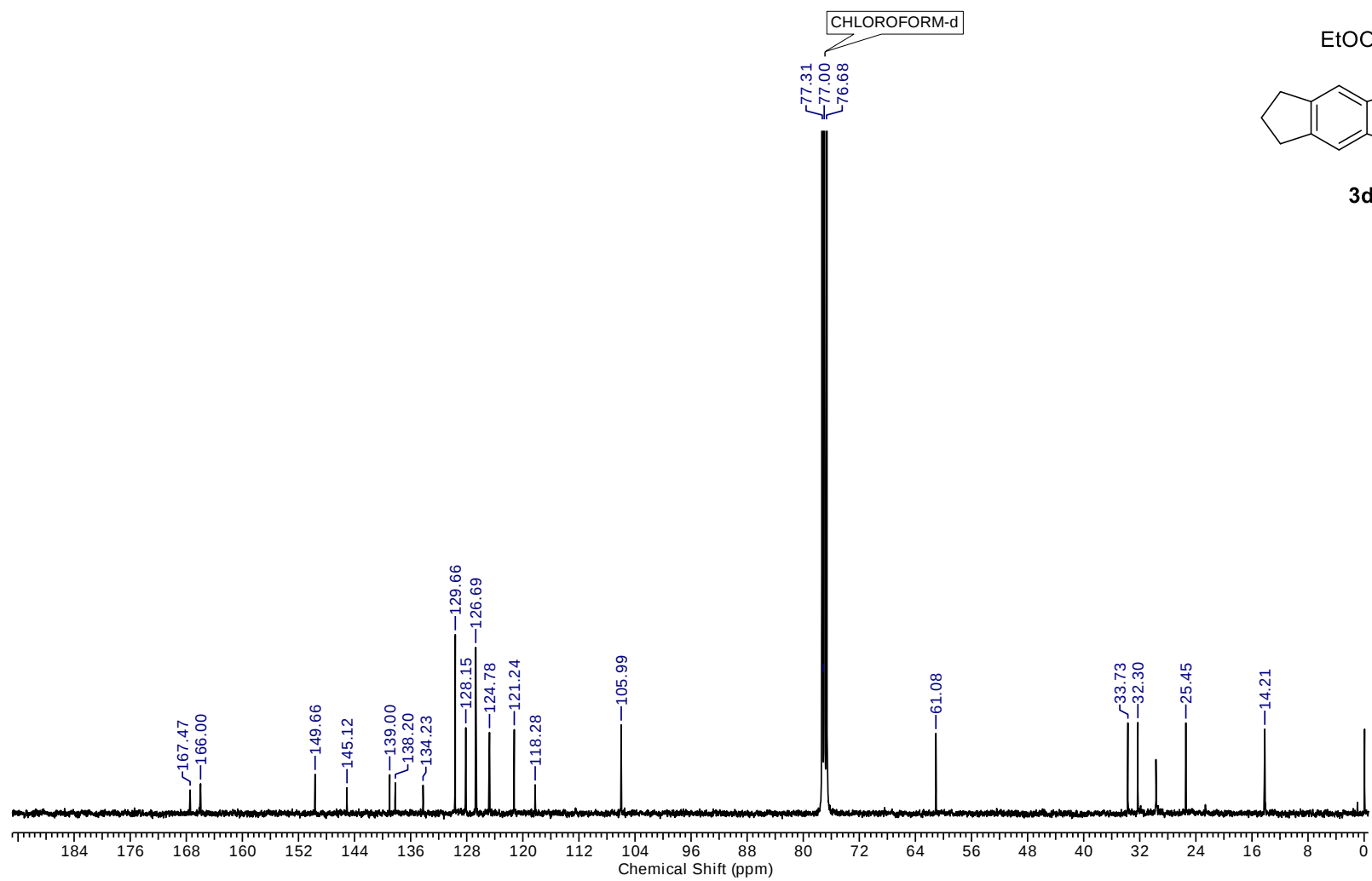
VP-3 #126 RT: 0.56 AV: 1 NL: 1.84E9
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



^1H NMR 400 MHz

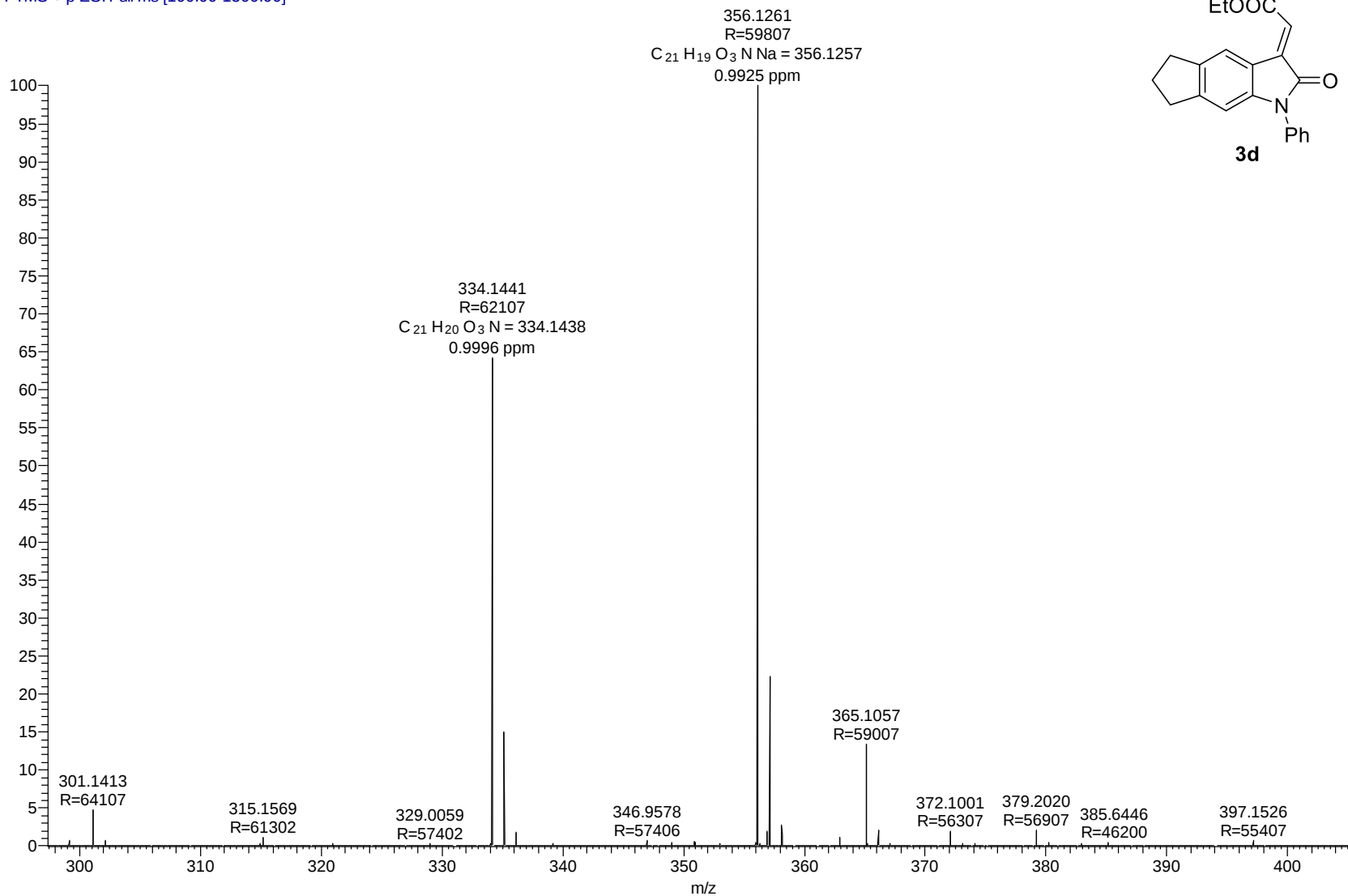
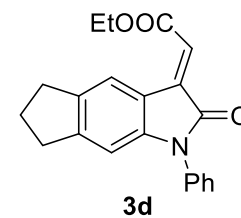


^{13}C NMR 100 MHz

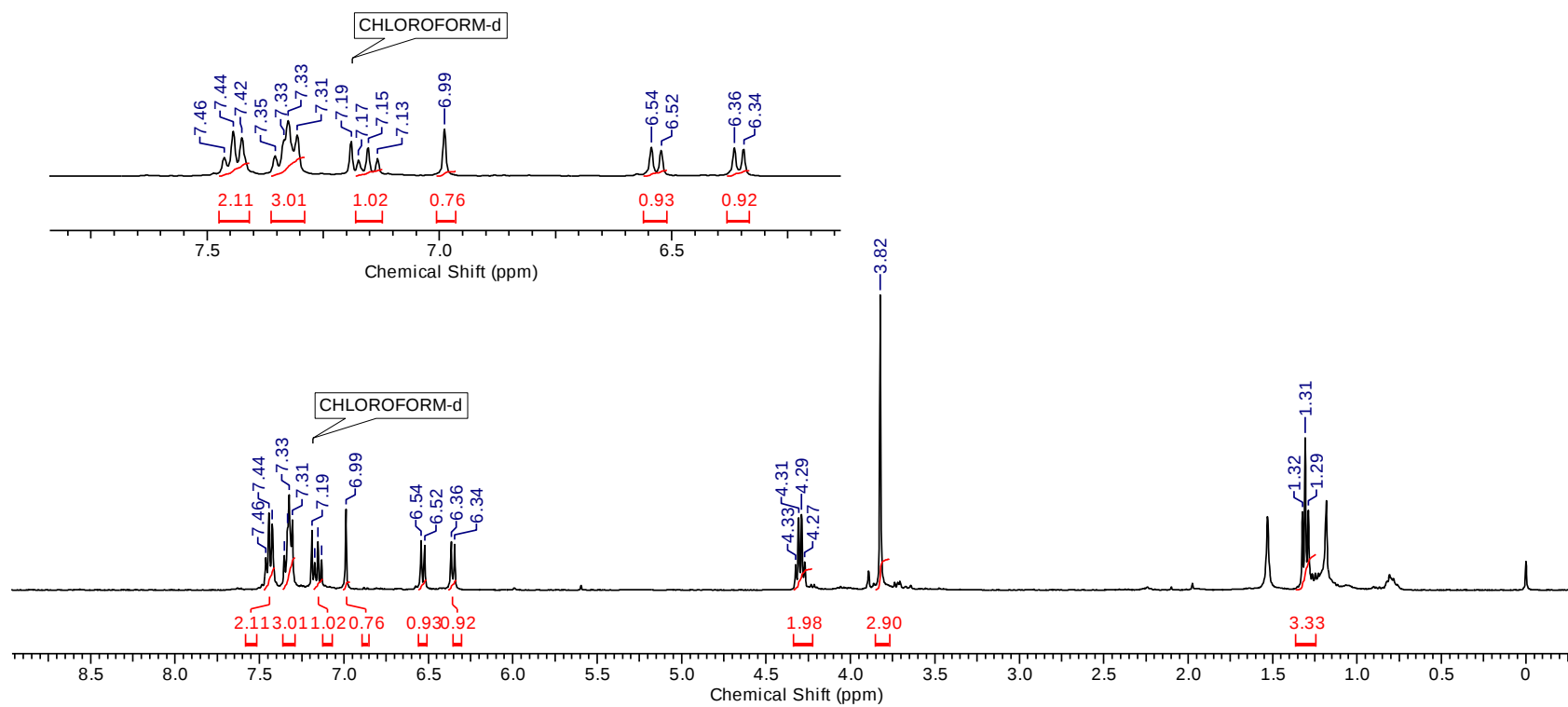
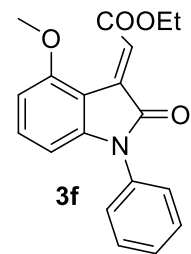


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

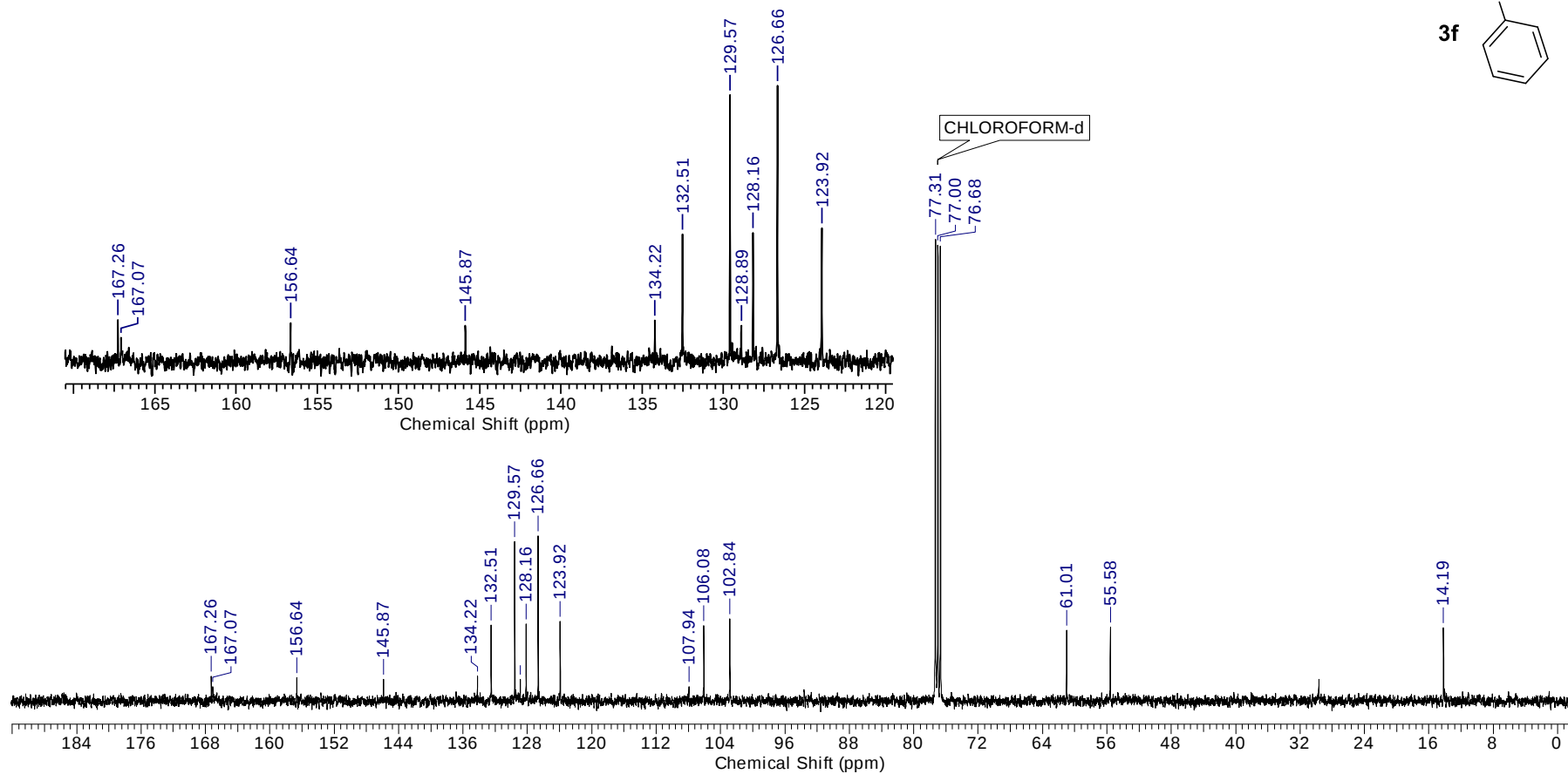
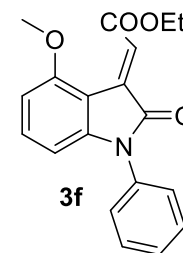
VP-3 170215143725 #202 RT: 0.90 AV: 1 NL: 1.58E8
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



^1H NMR 400 MHz

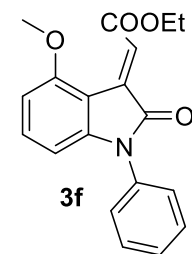
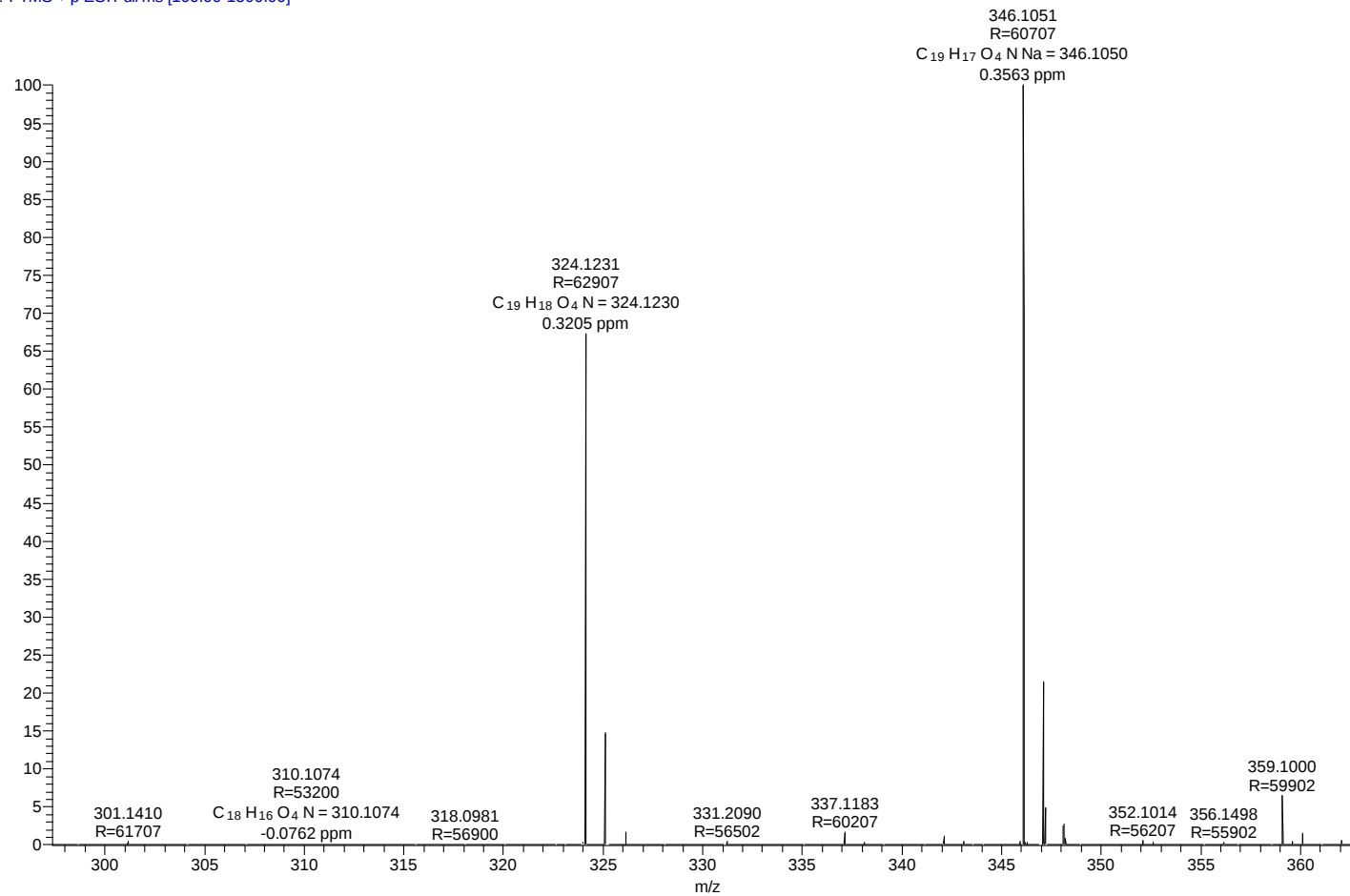


^{13}C NMR 100 MHz

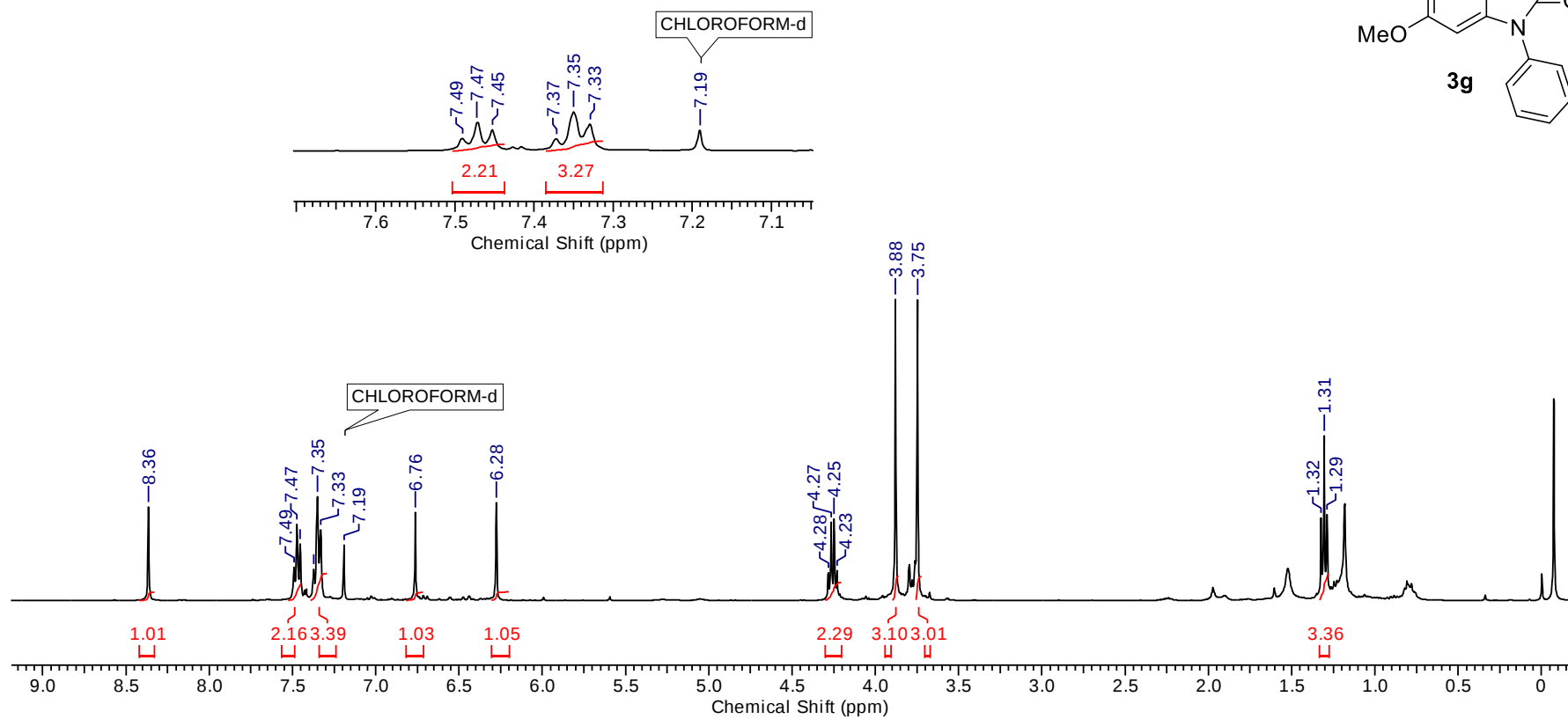
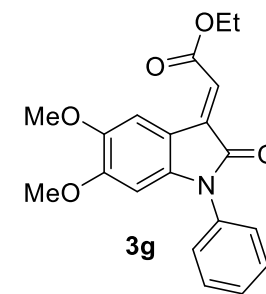


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

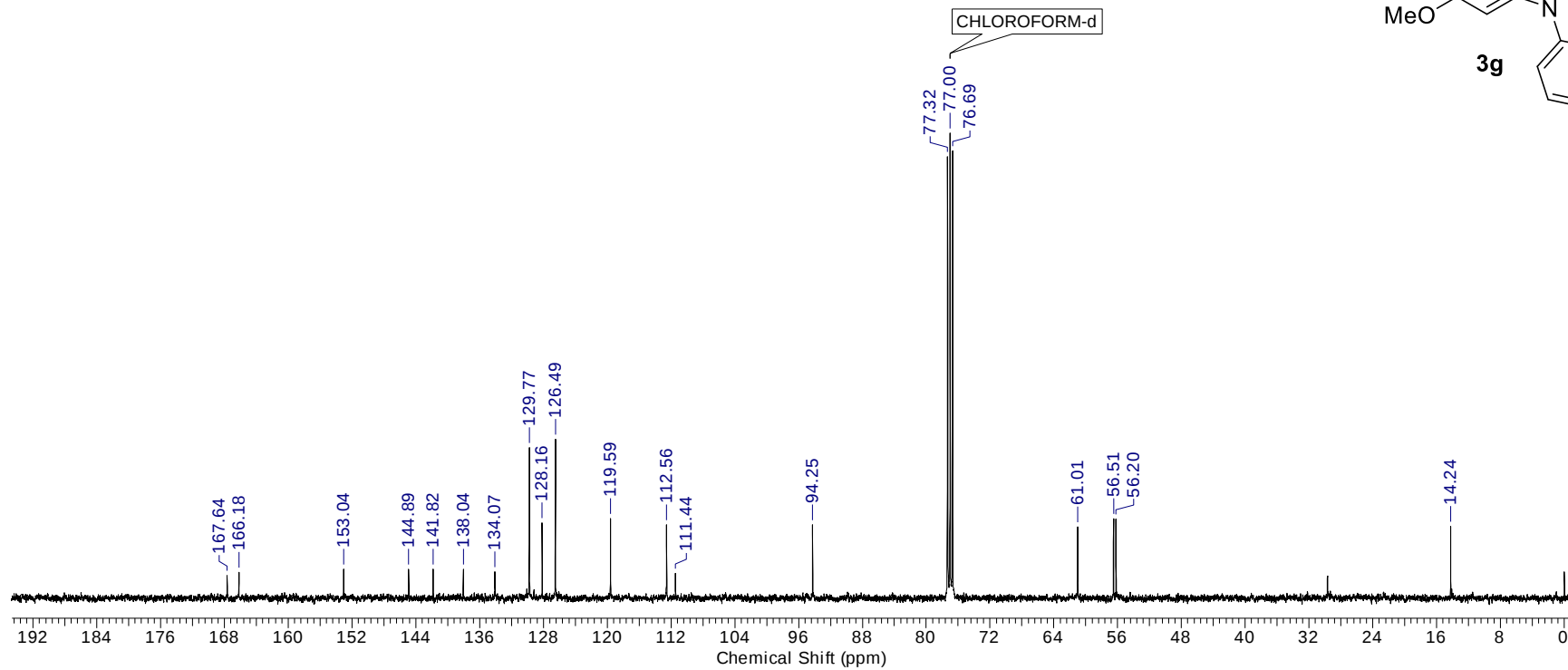
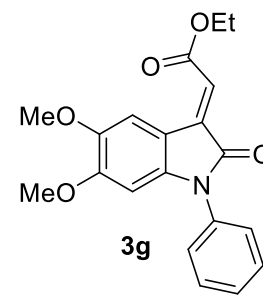
VP-8 #108 RT: 0.48 AV: 1 NL: 7.25E8
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



^1H NMR 400 MHz

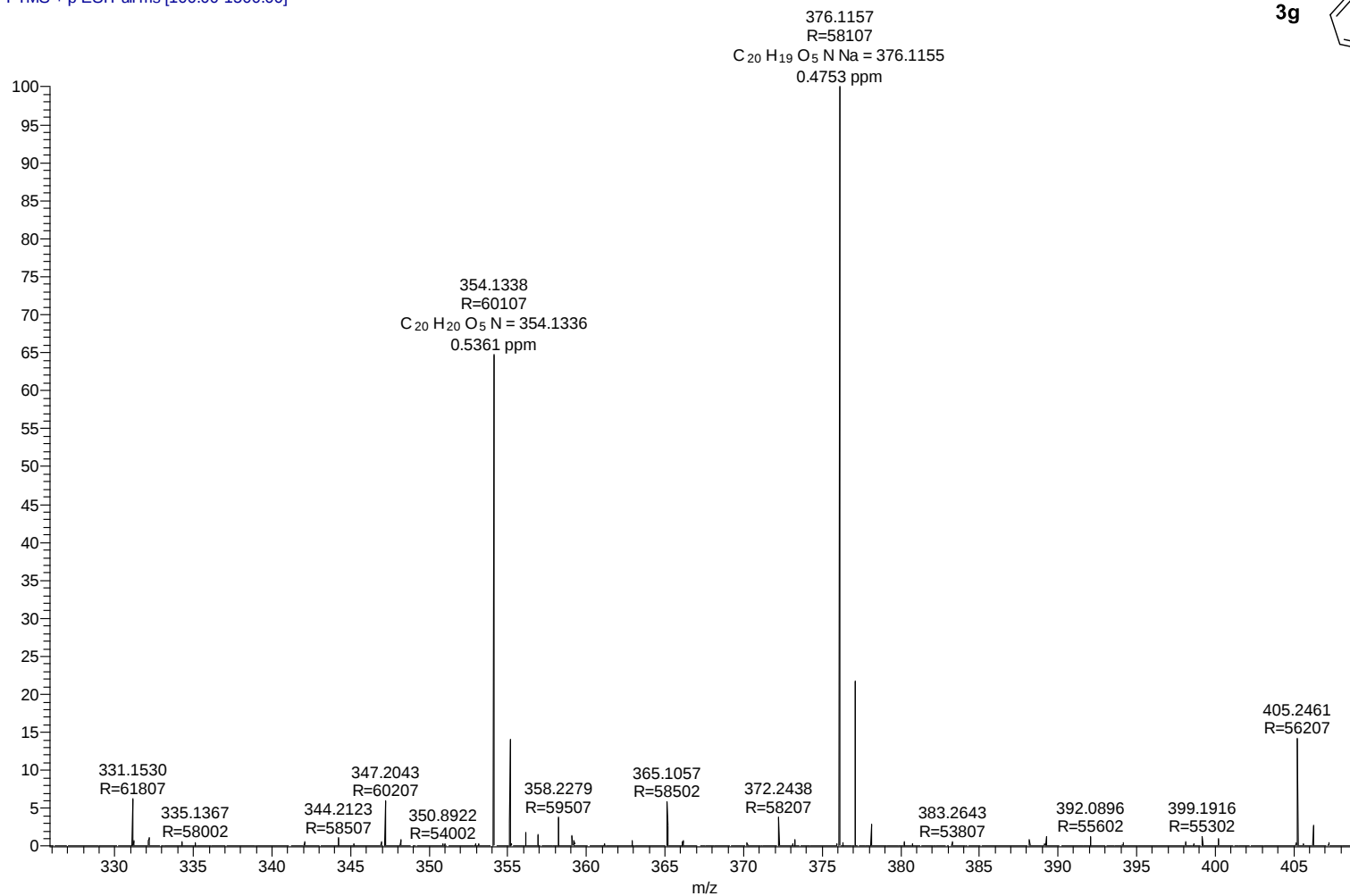
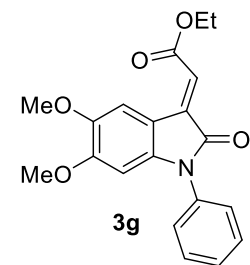


^{13}C NMR 100 MHz

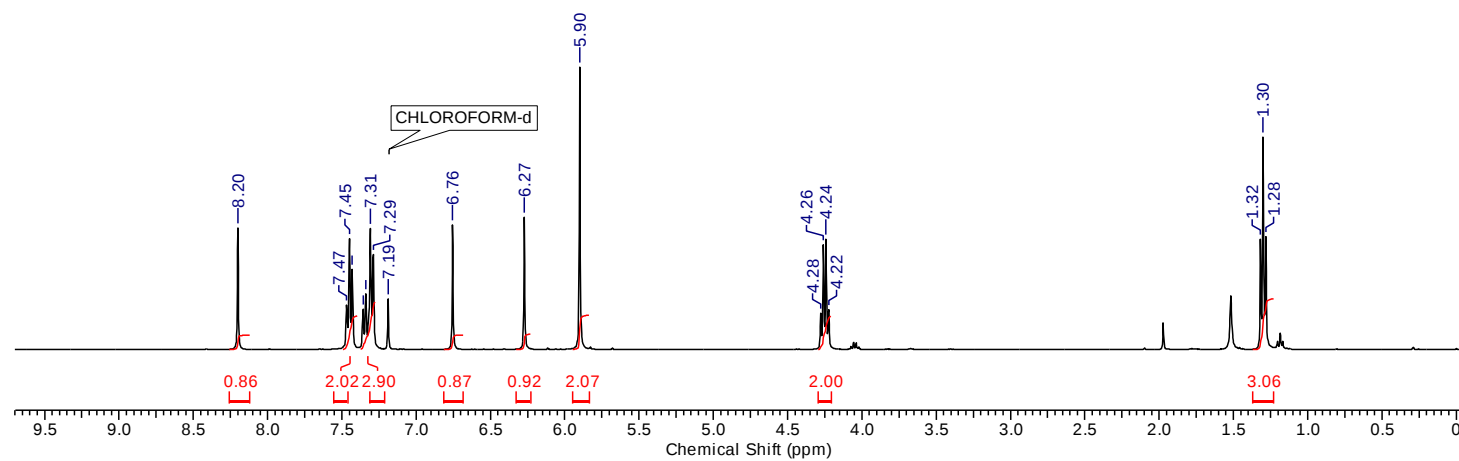
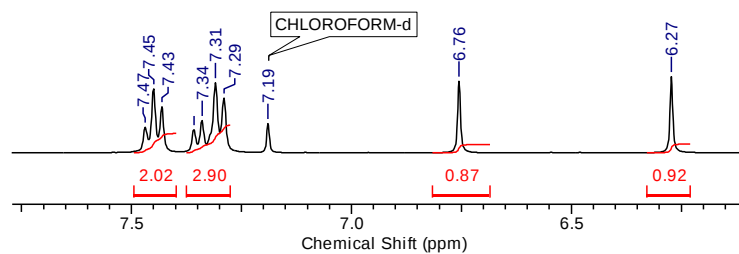
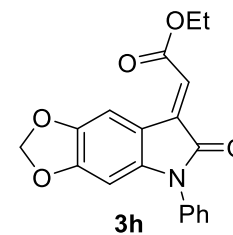


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

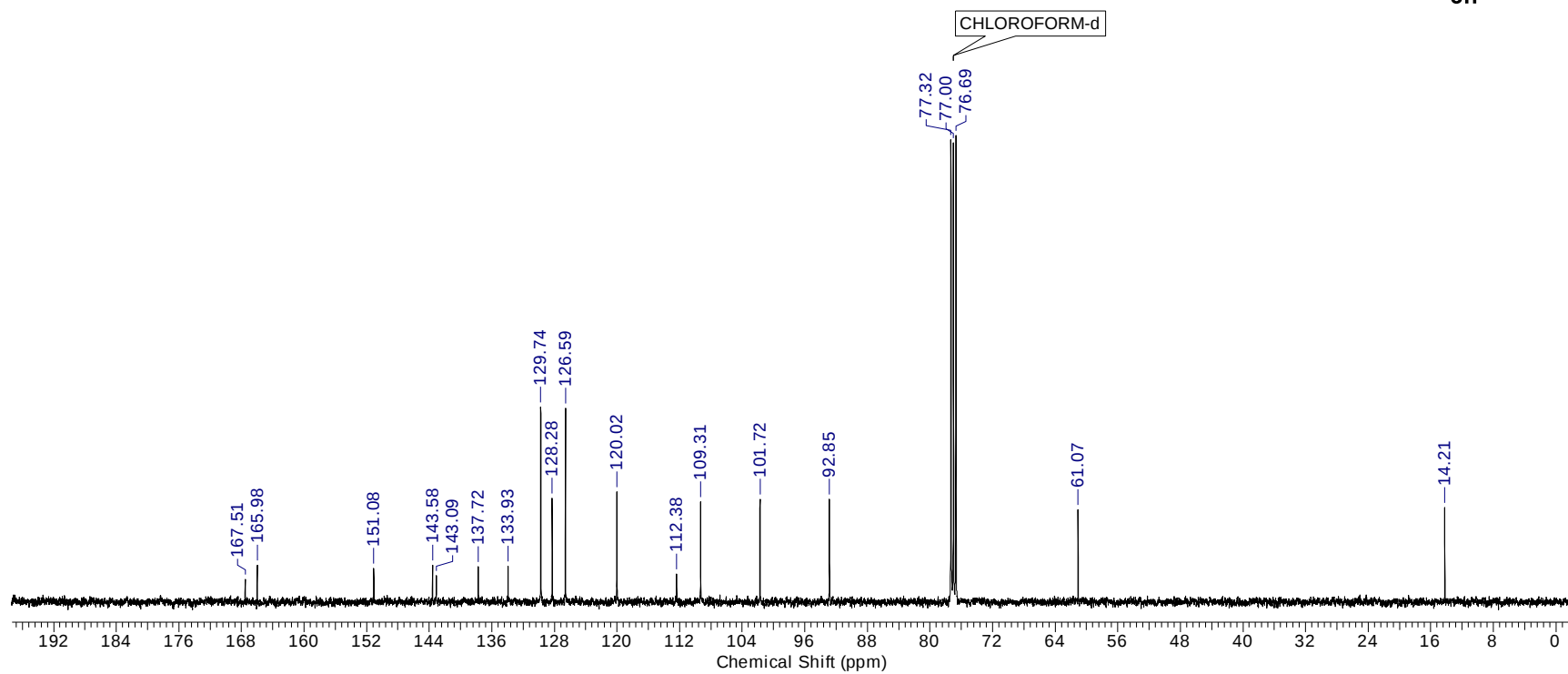
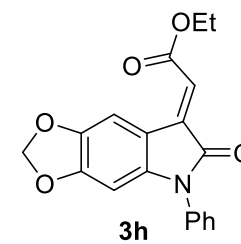
VP-7 #121 RT: 0.54 AV: 1 NL: 2.00E8
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



^1H NMR 400 MHz

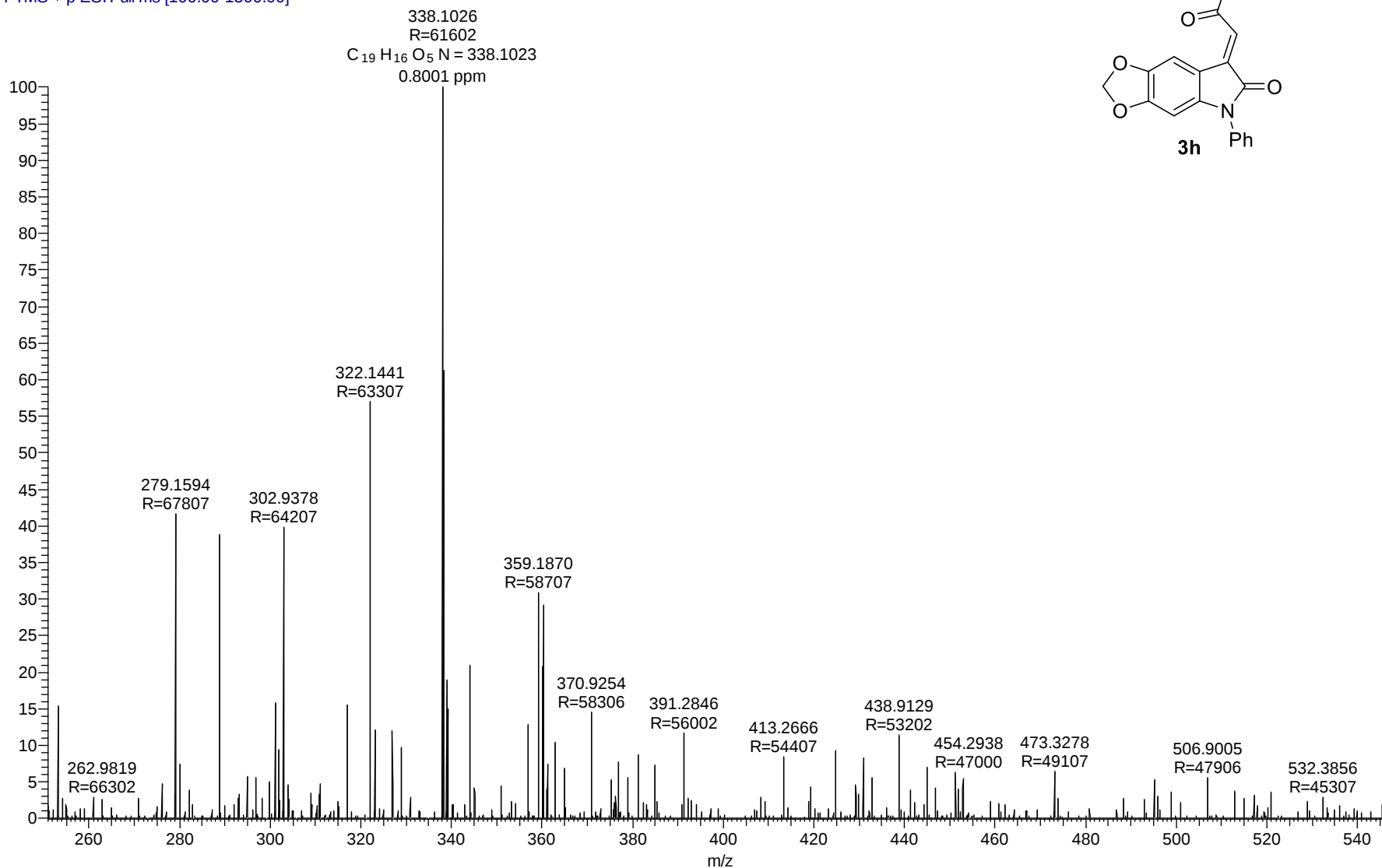
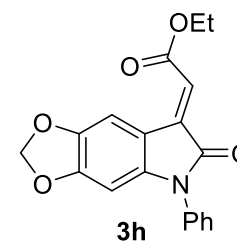


¹³C NMR 100 MHz



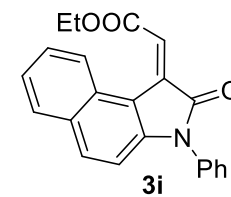
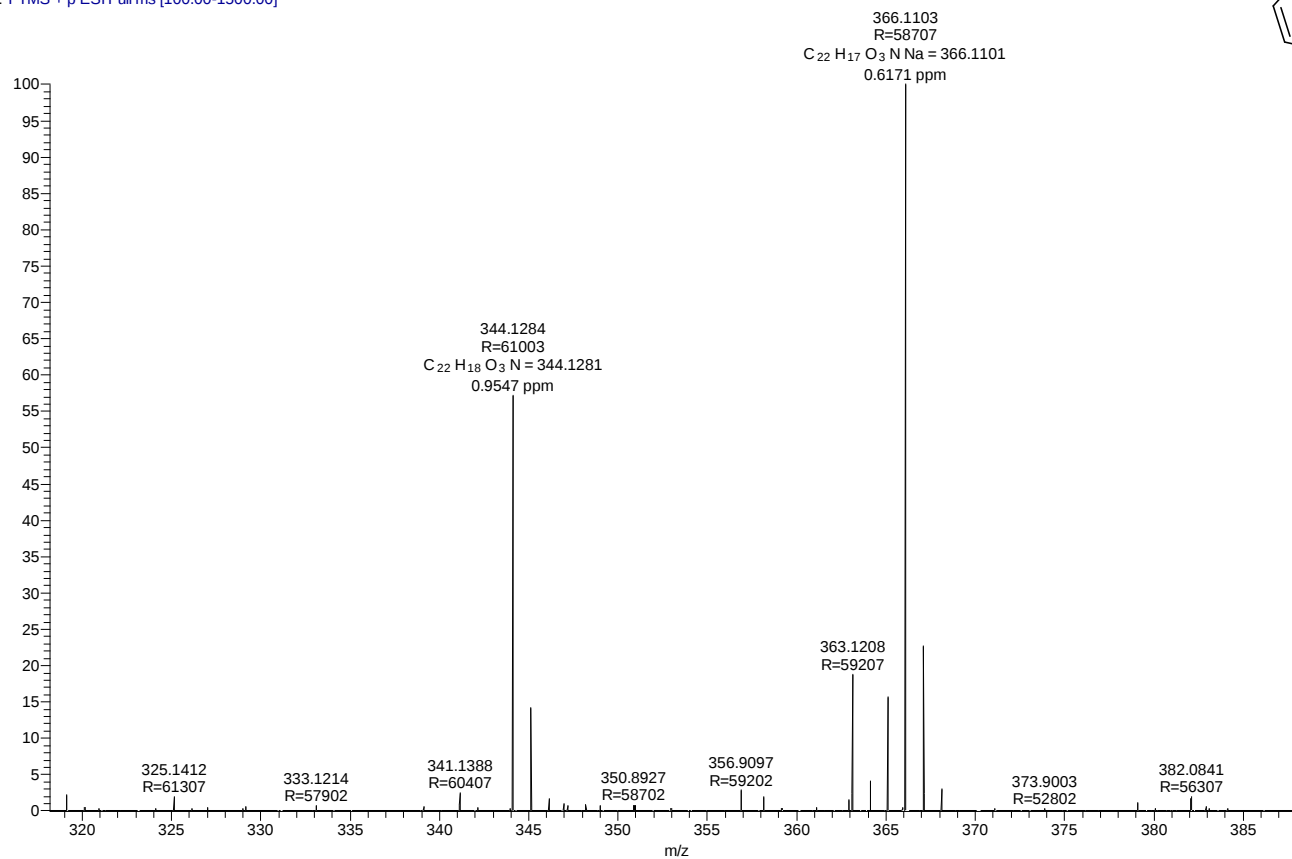
HRMS (ESI-TOF)

VP-2 #142 RT: 0.63 AV: 1 NL: 8.67E6
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]

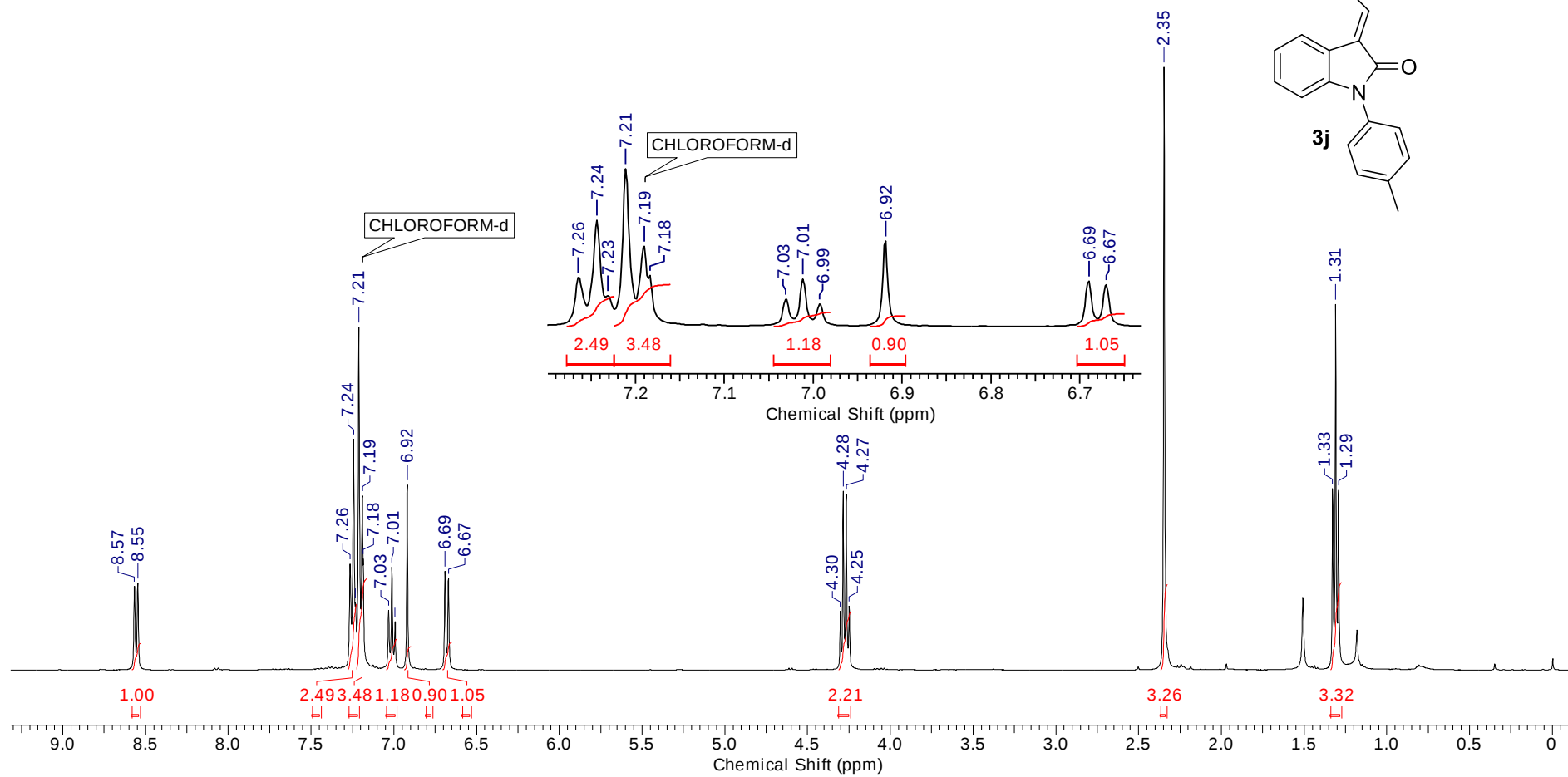
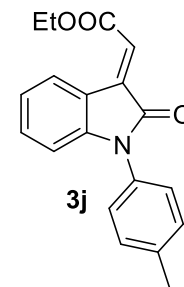


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

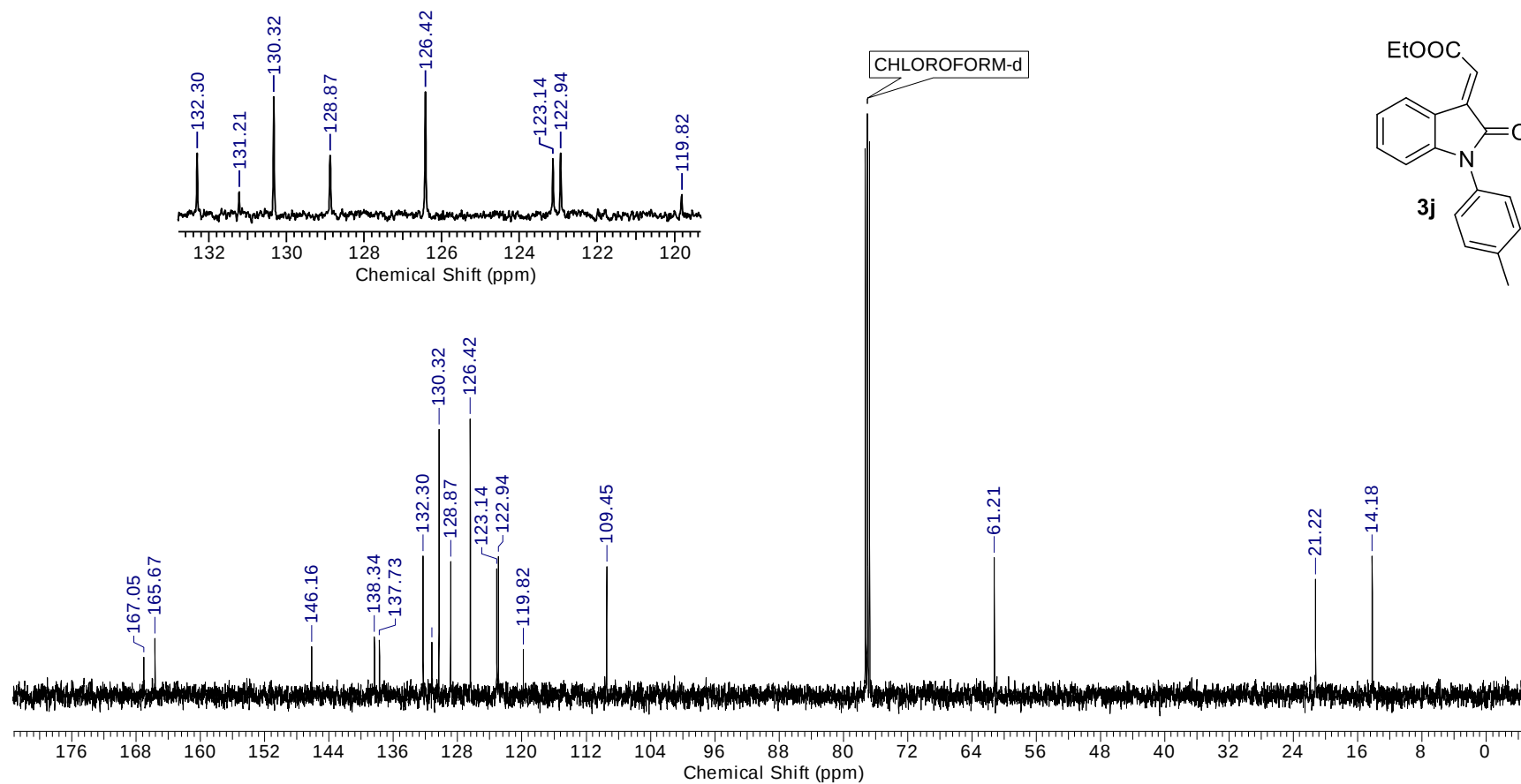
VP-9 #158 RT: 0.70 AV: 1 NL: 1.20E8
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



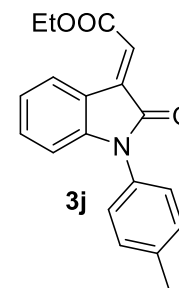
^1H NMR 400 MHz



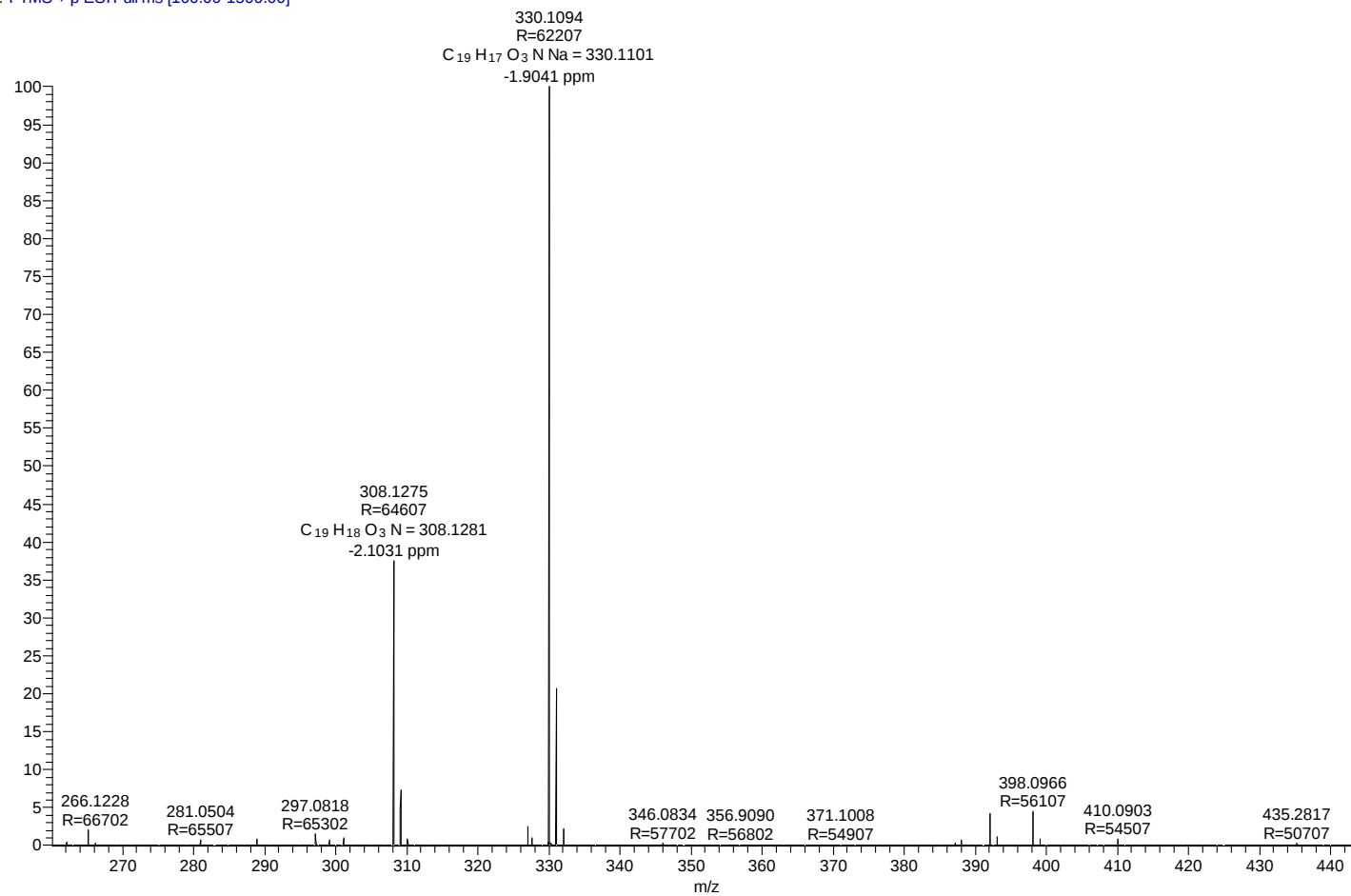
^{13}C NMR 125 MHz



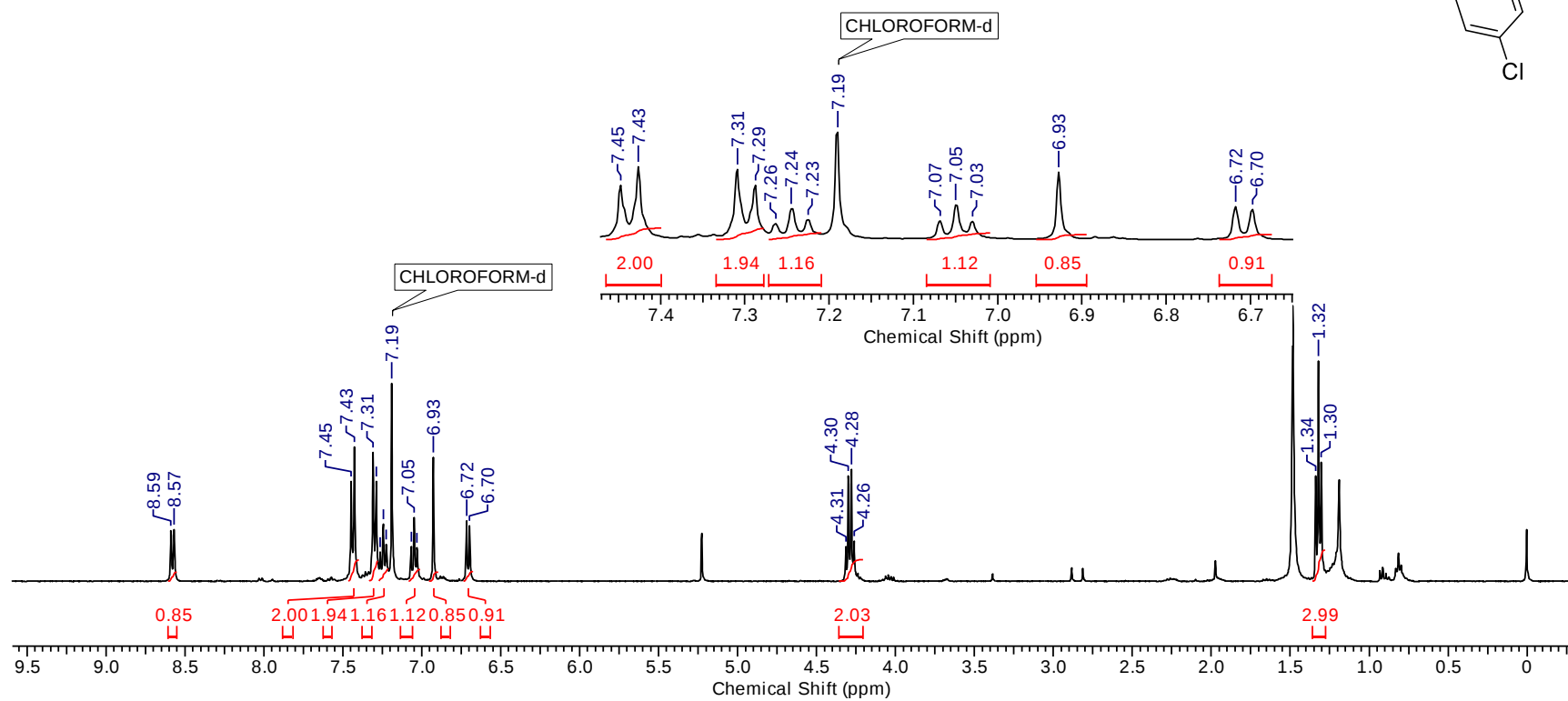
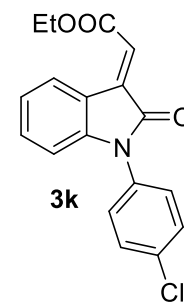
HRMS (ESI-TOF)



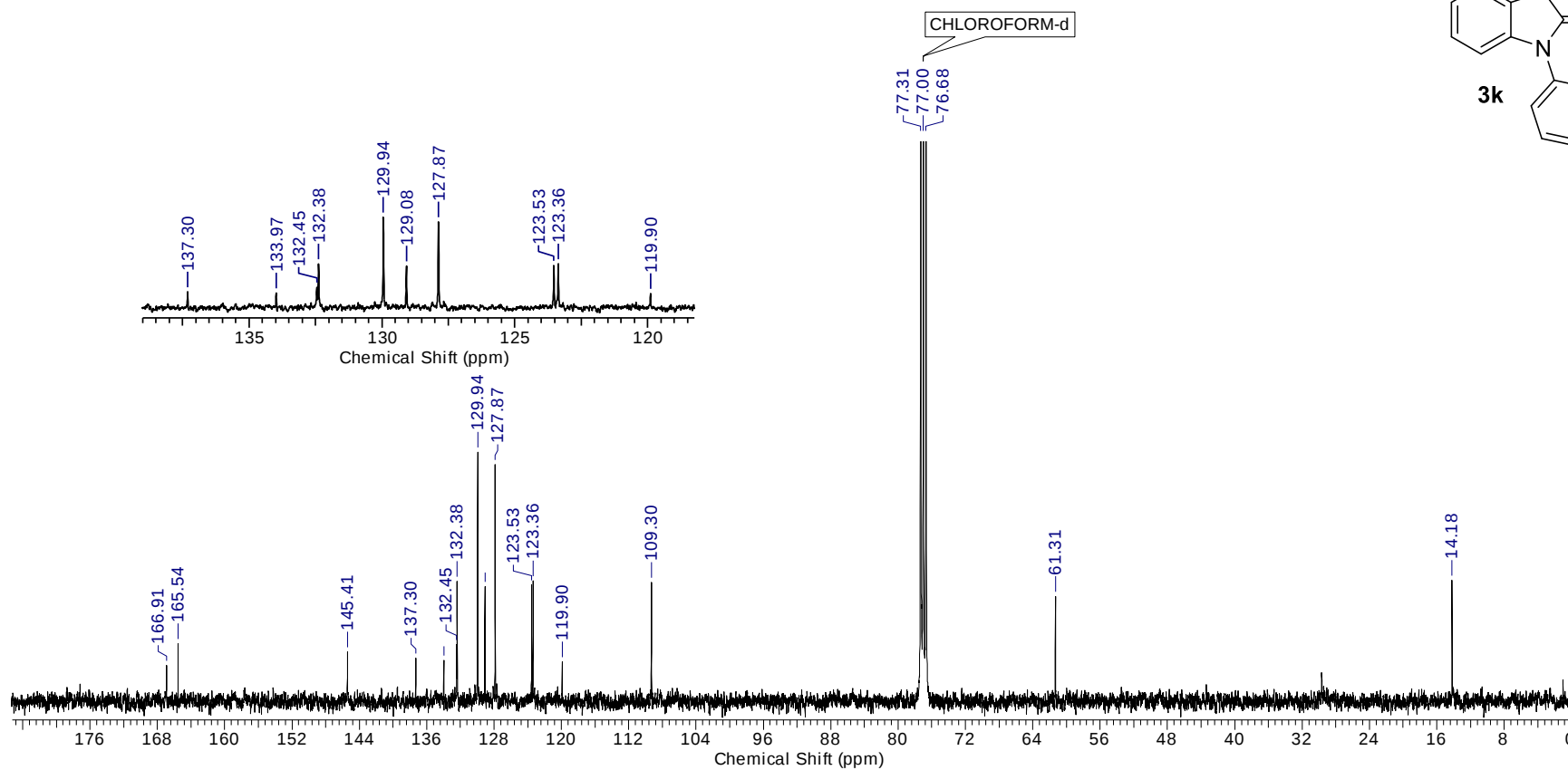
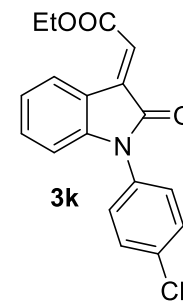
VPP-2 #139 RT: 0.62 AV: 1 NL: 4.71E8
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



¹H NMR 400 MHz

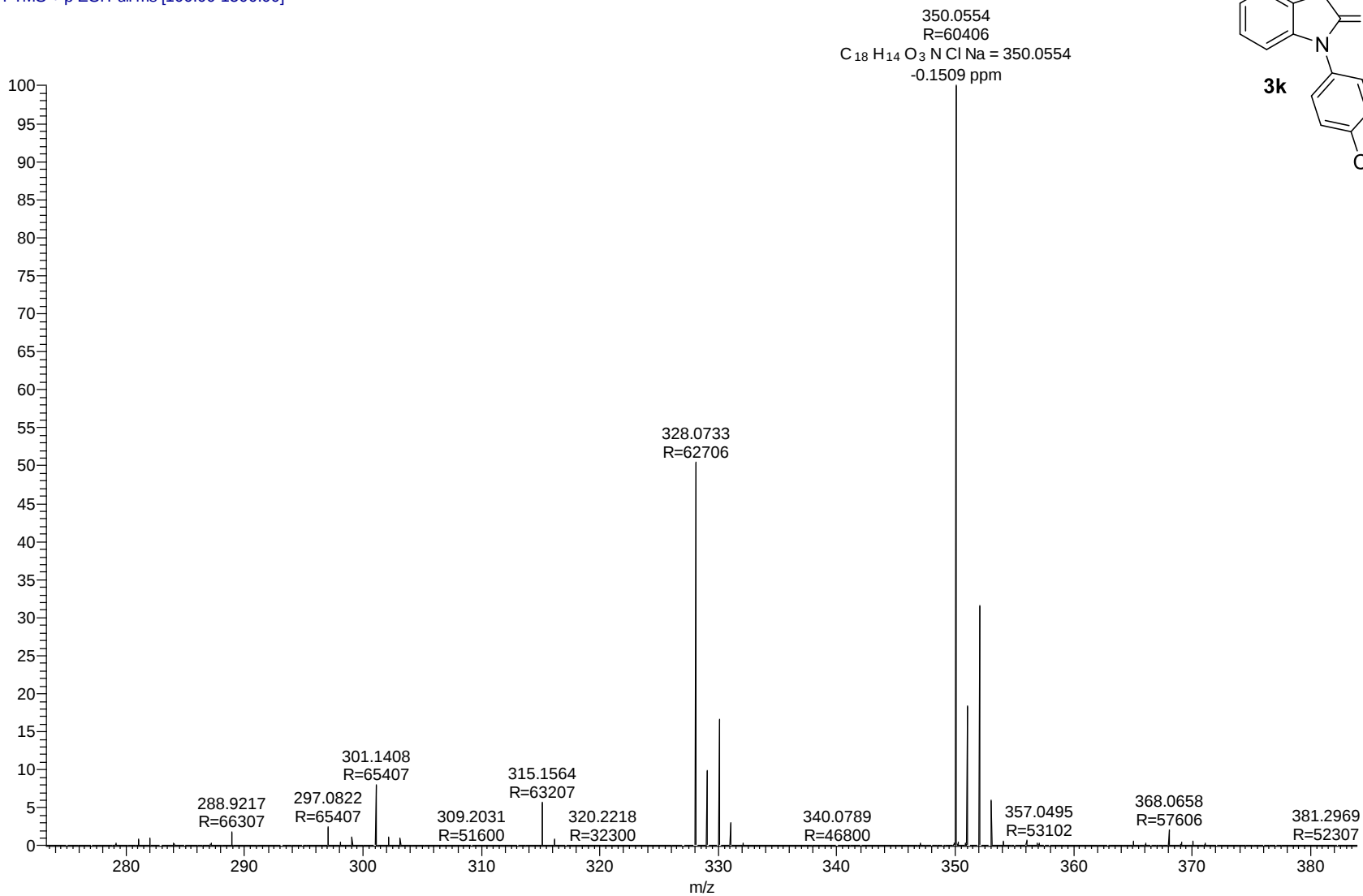
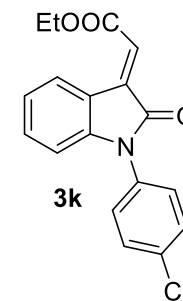


^{13}C NMR 100 MHz

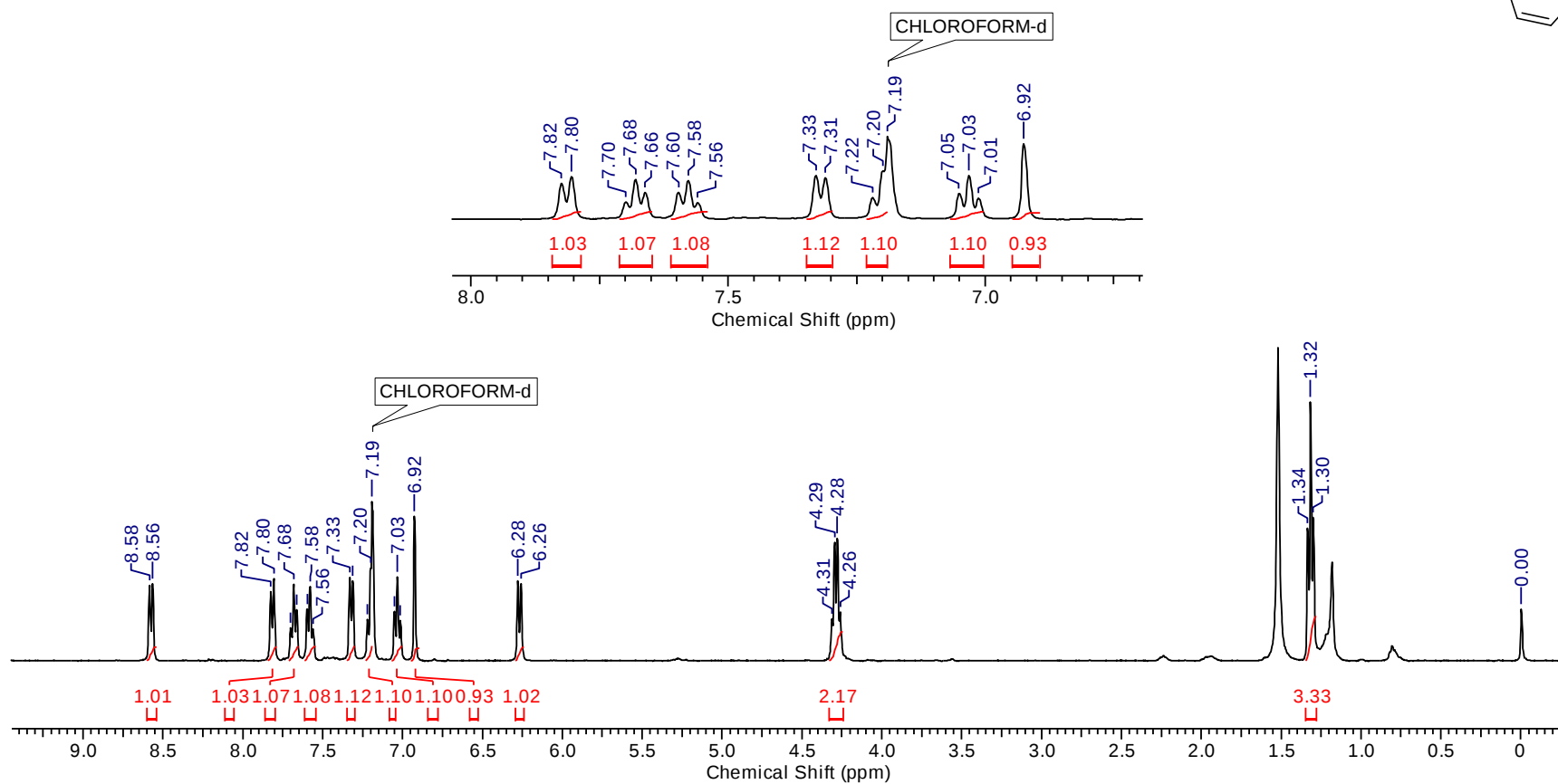
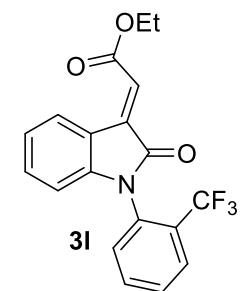


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

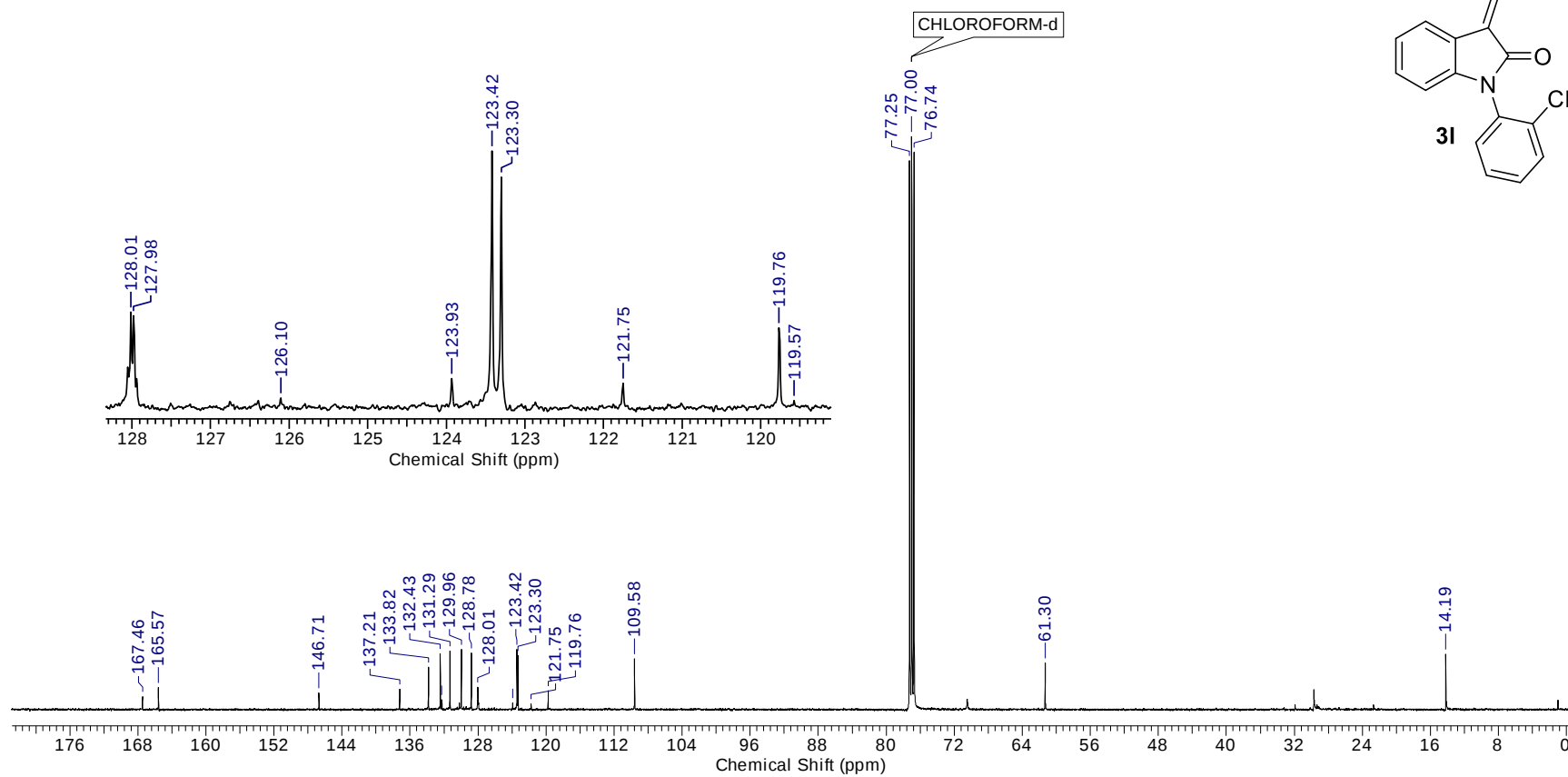
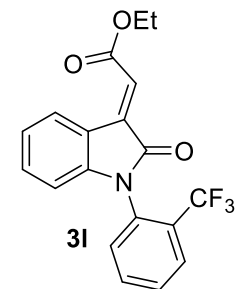
VPP-4_170712162636 #157 RT: 0.70 AV: 1 NL: 2.71E8
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



^1H NMR 400 MHz

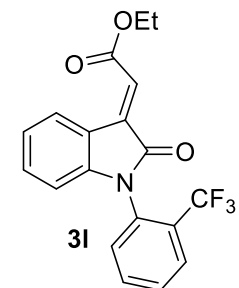
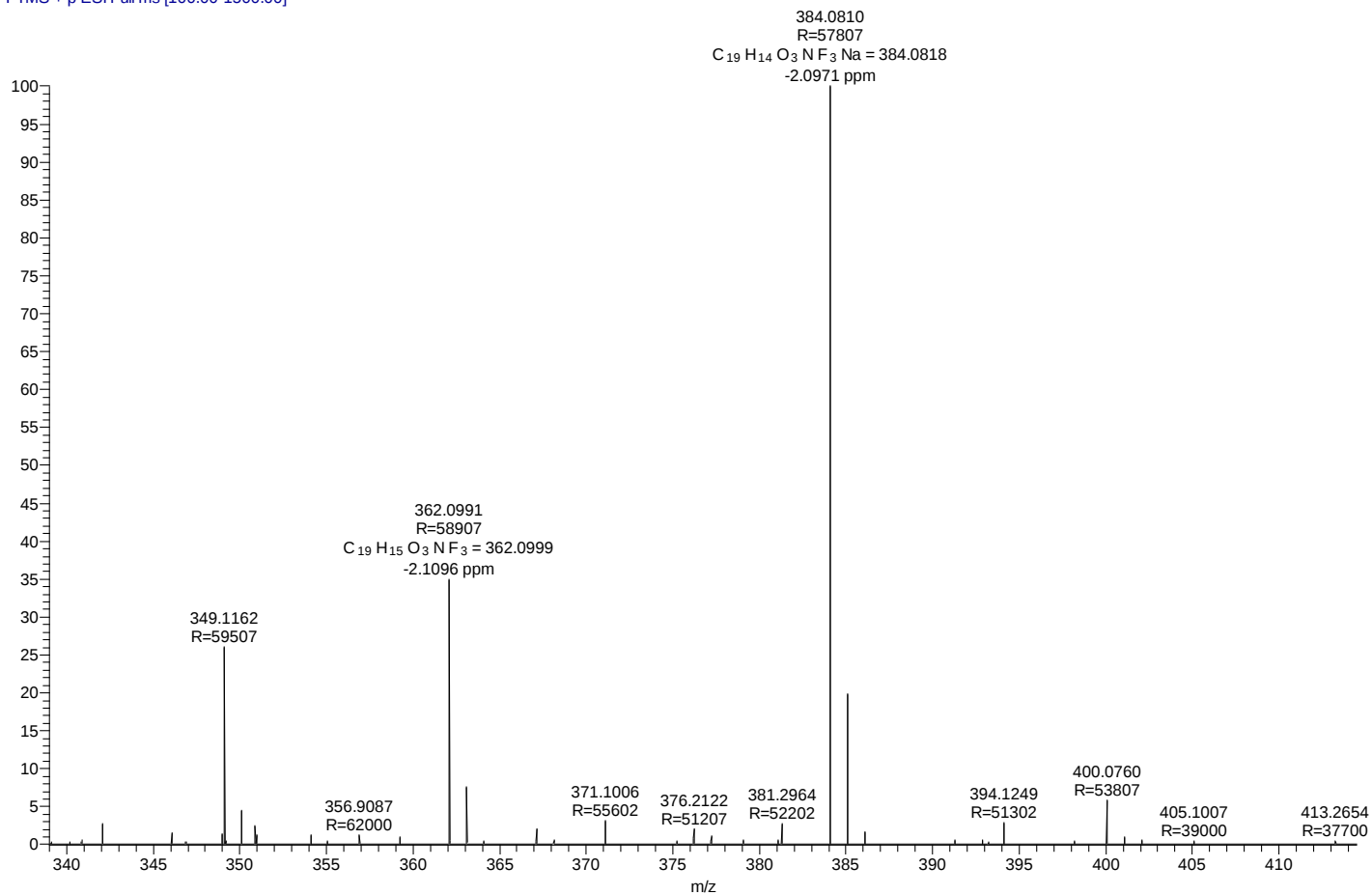


^{13}C NMR 125 MHz

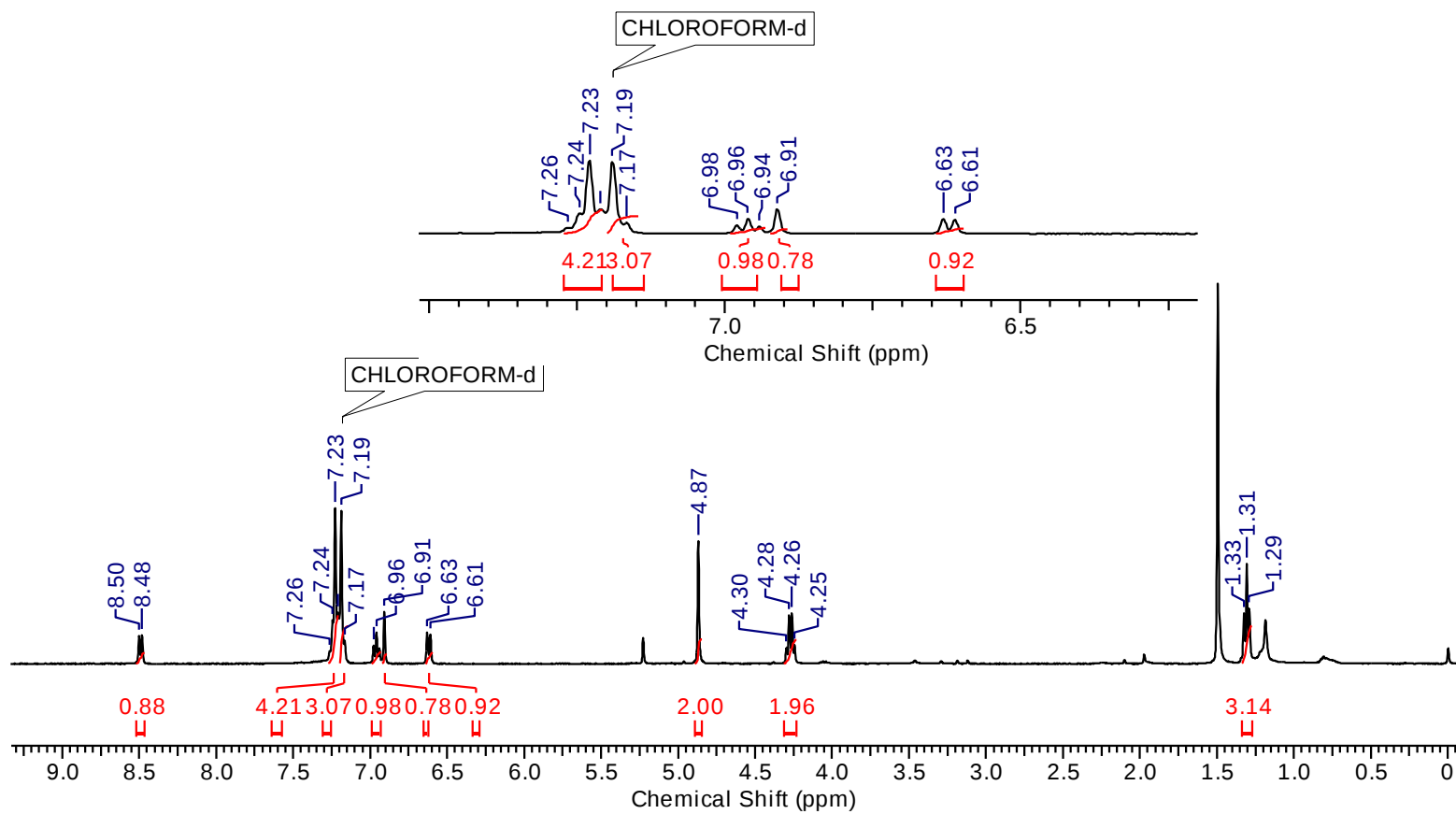
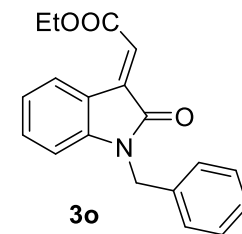


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

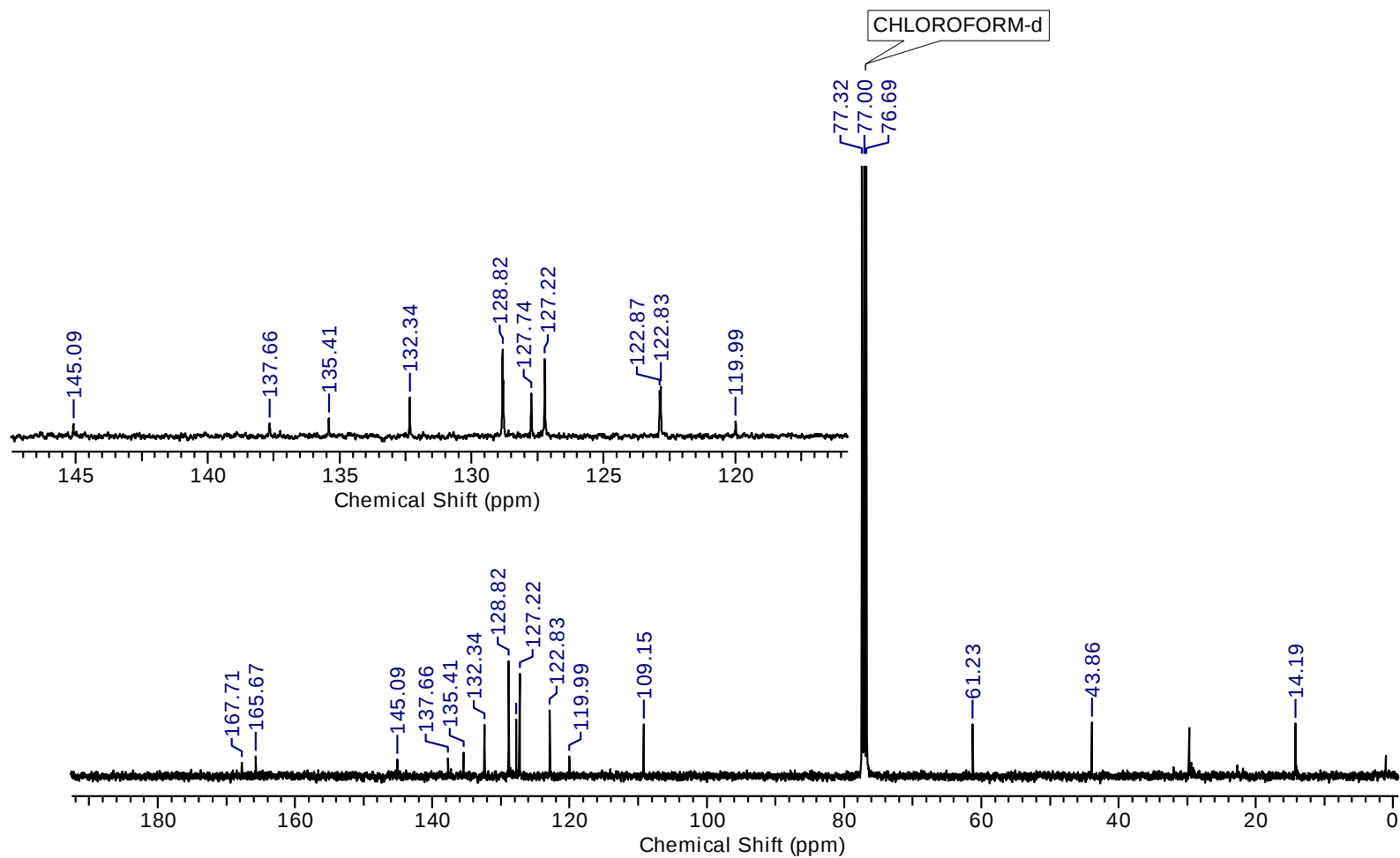
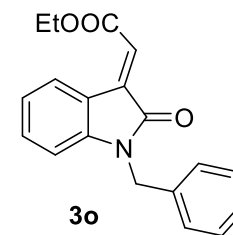
VPP-5 #116 RT: 0.52 AV: 1 NL: 2.51E7
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



^1H NMR 400 MHz

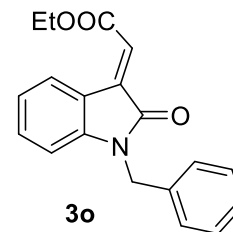
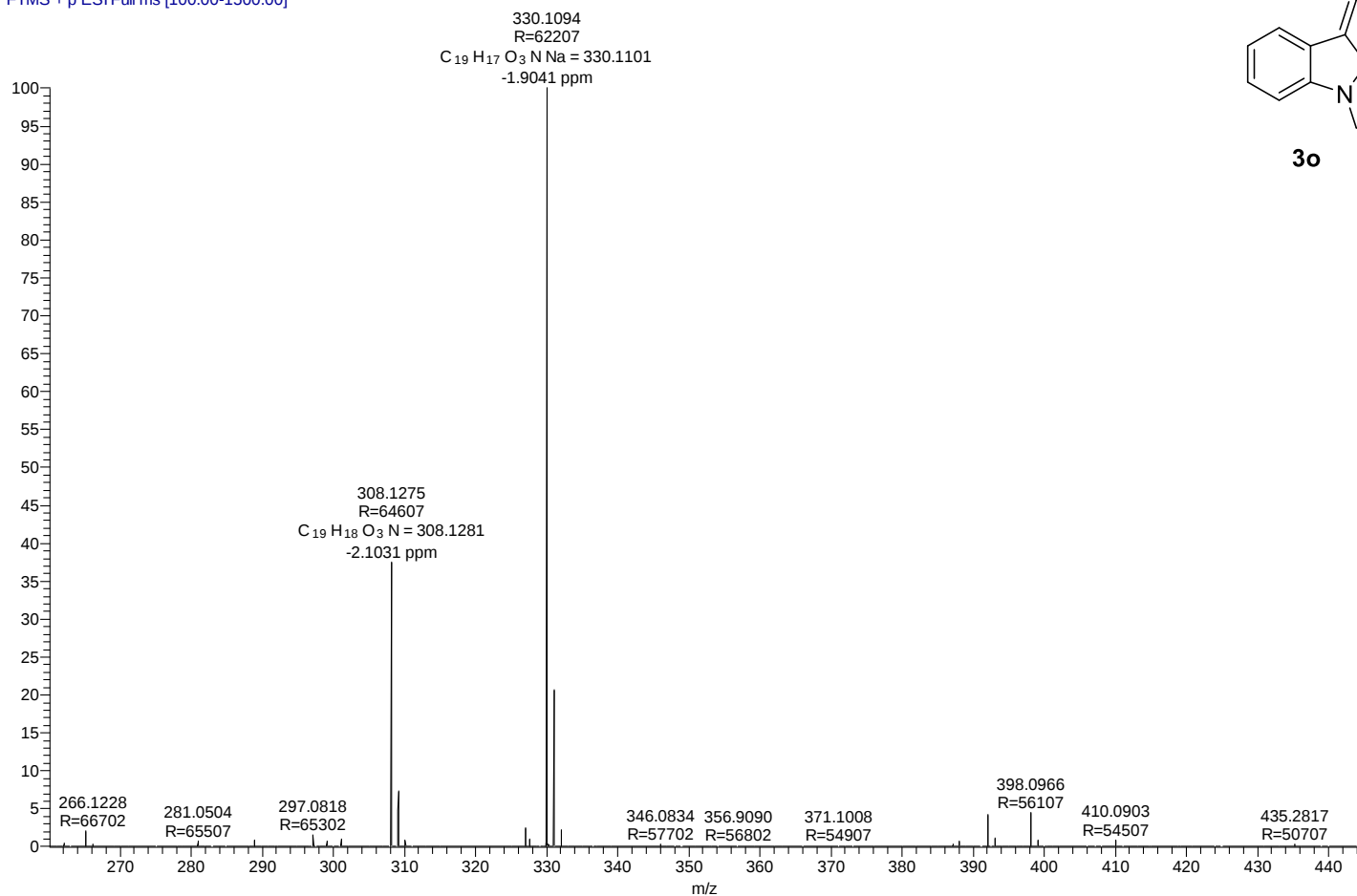


^{13}C NMR 100 MHz

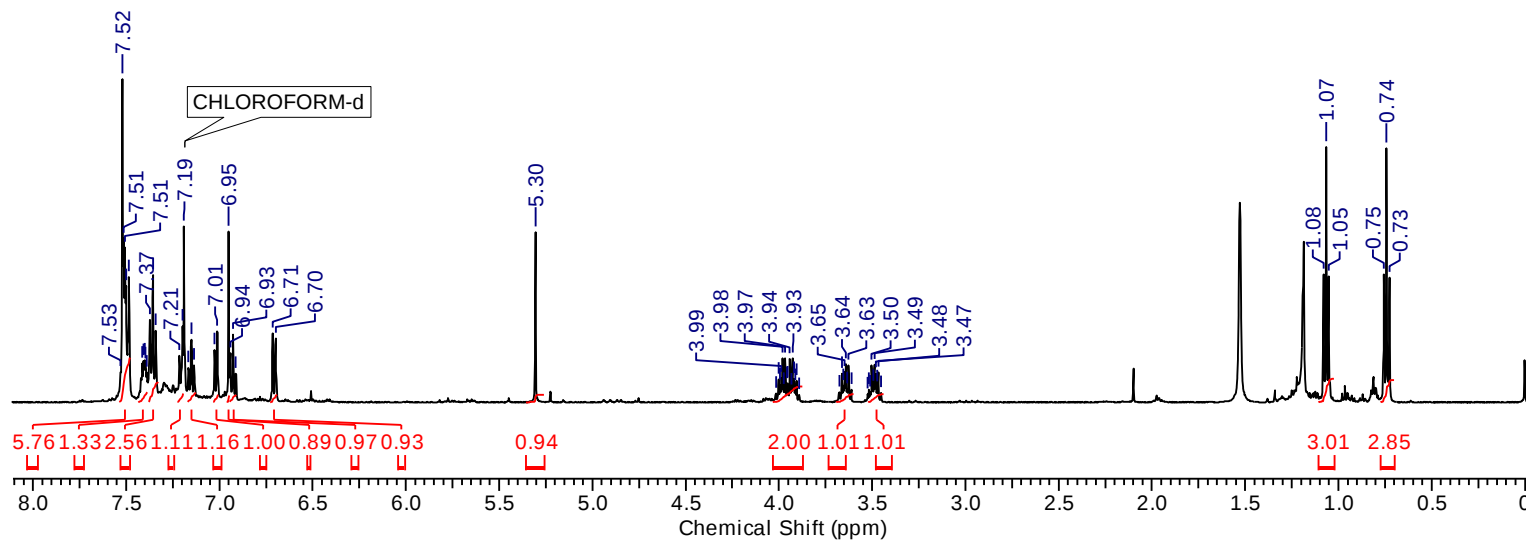
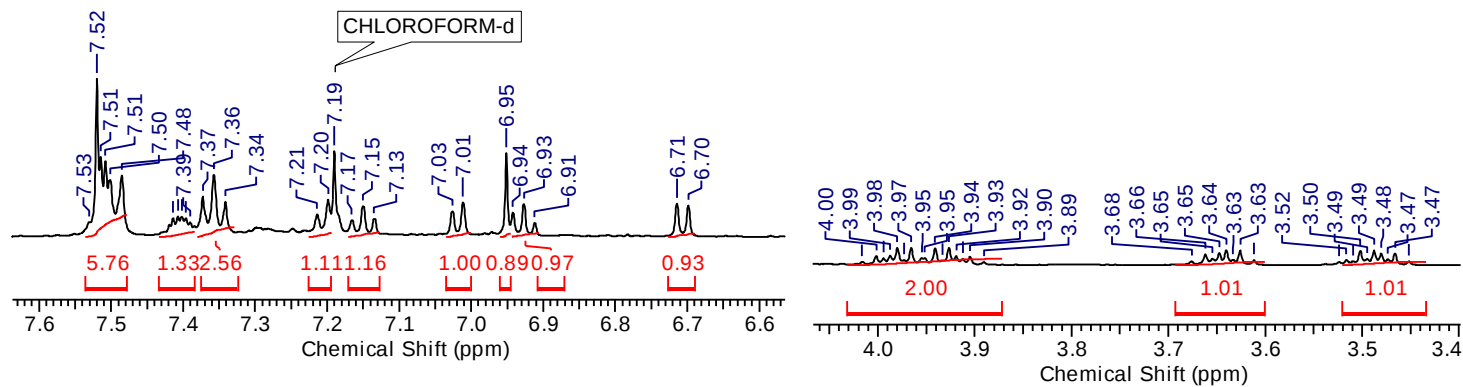
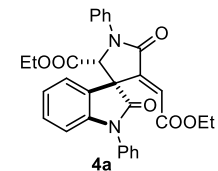


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

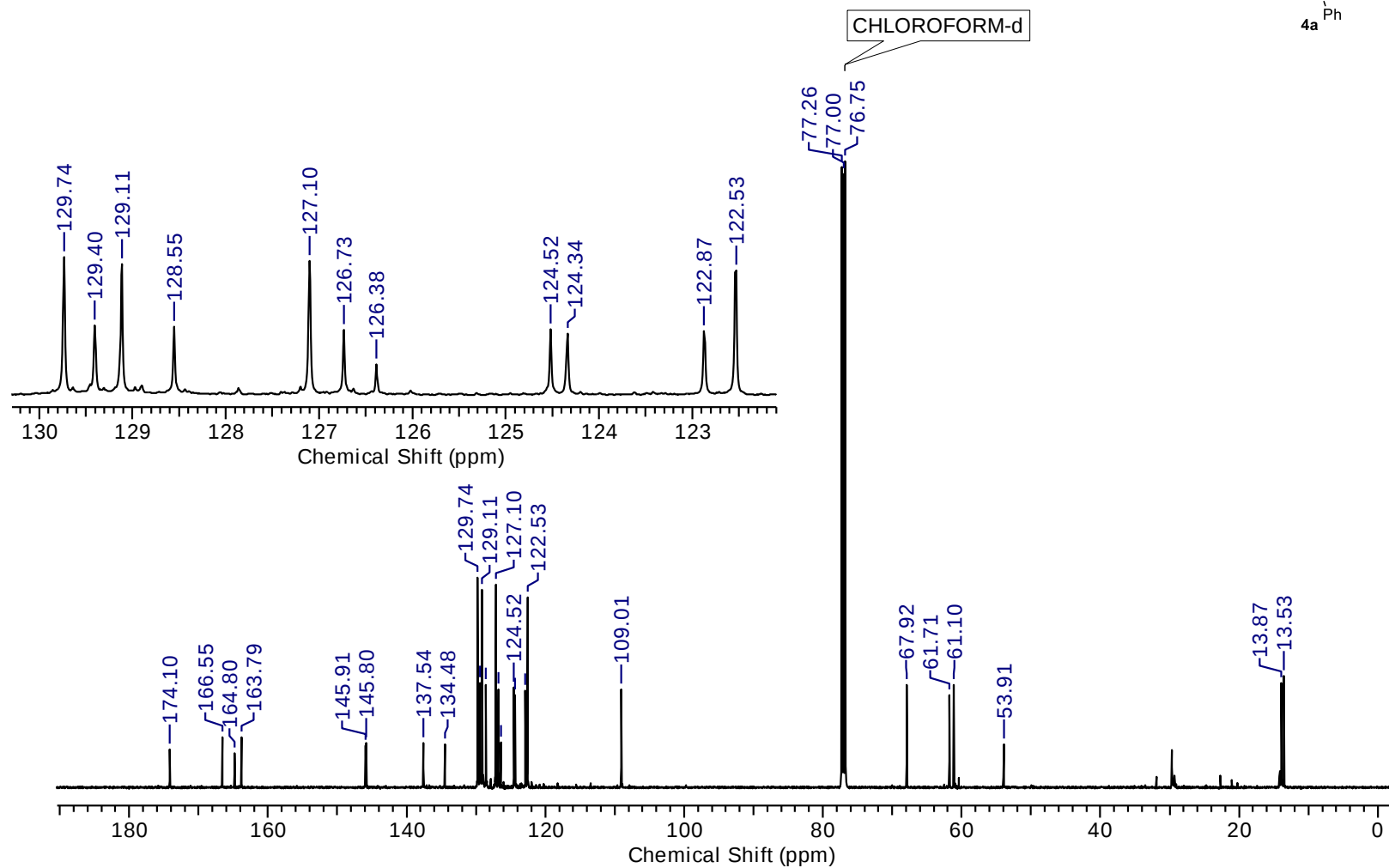
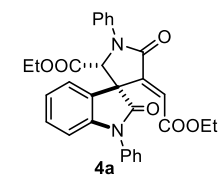
VPP-2 #139 RT: 0.62 AV: 1 NL: 4.71E8
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



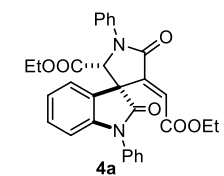
^1H NMR 500 MHz



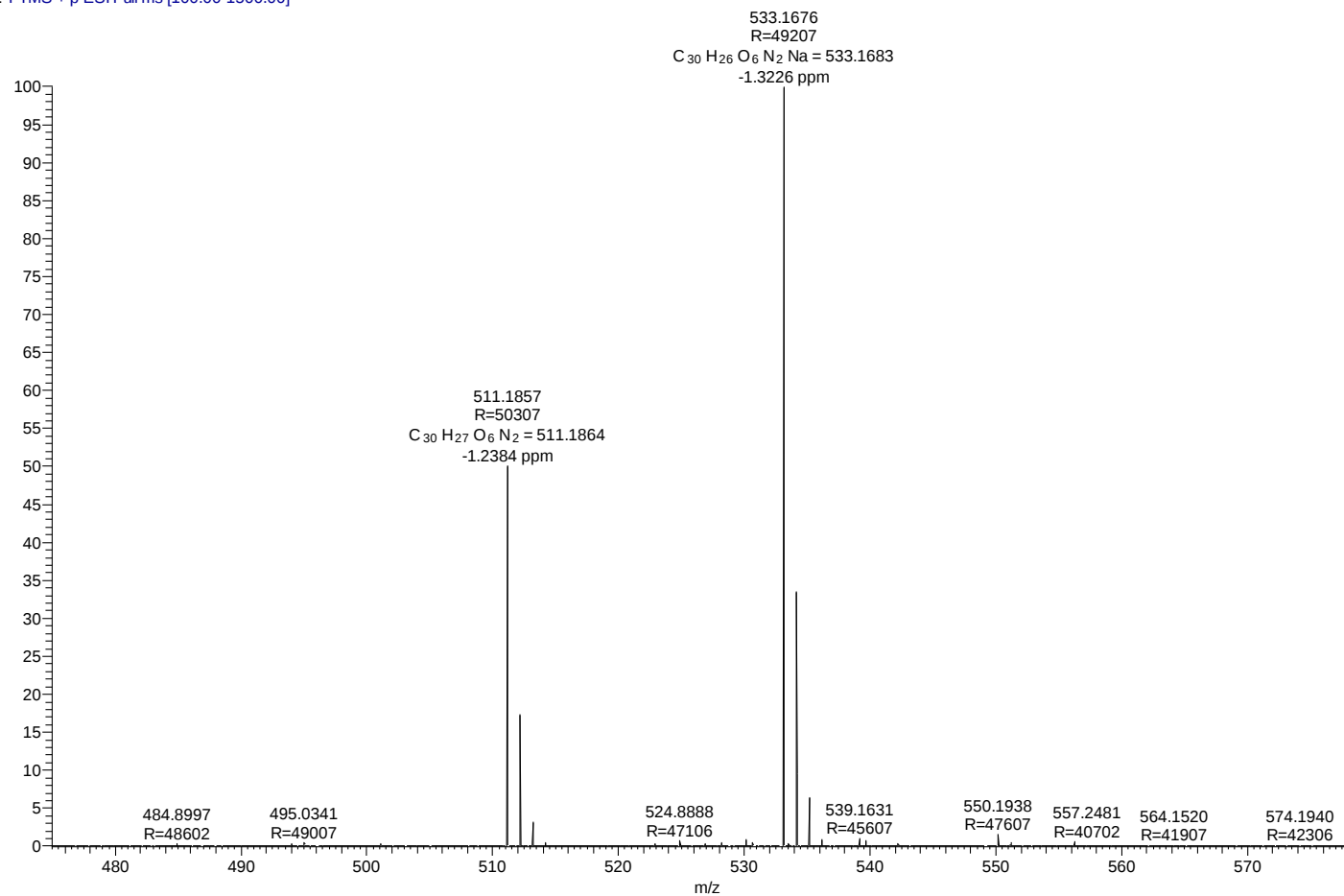
^{13}C NMR 125 MHz



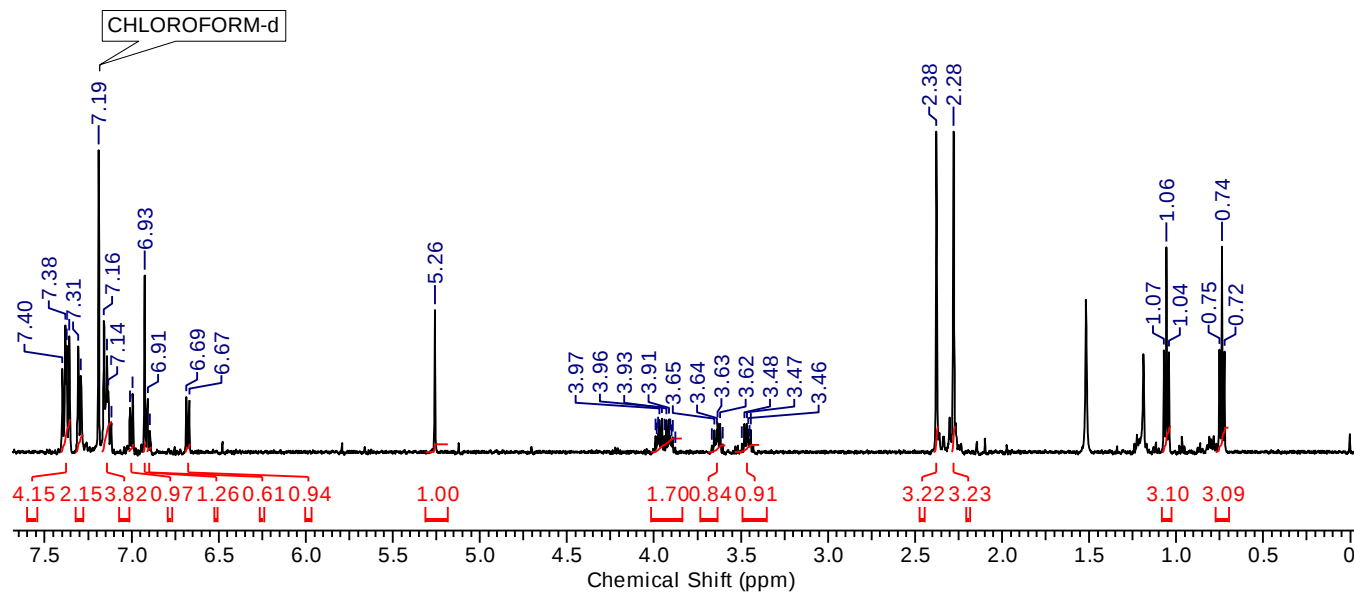
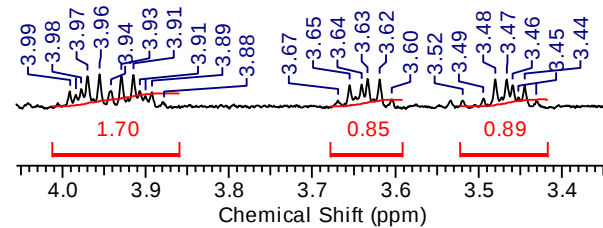
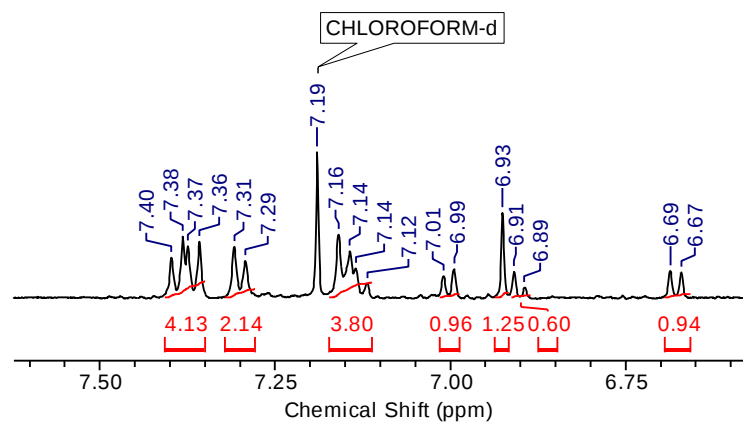
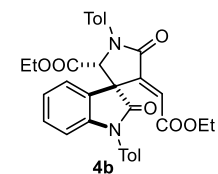
ESI HRMS



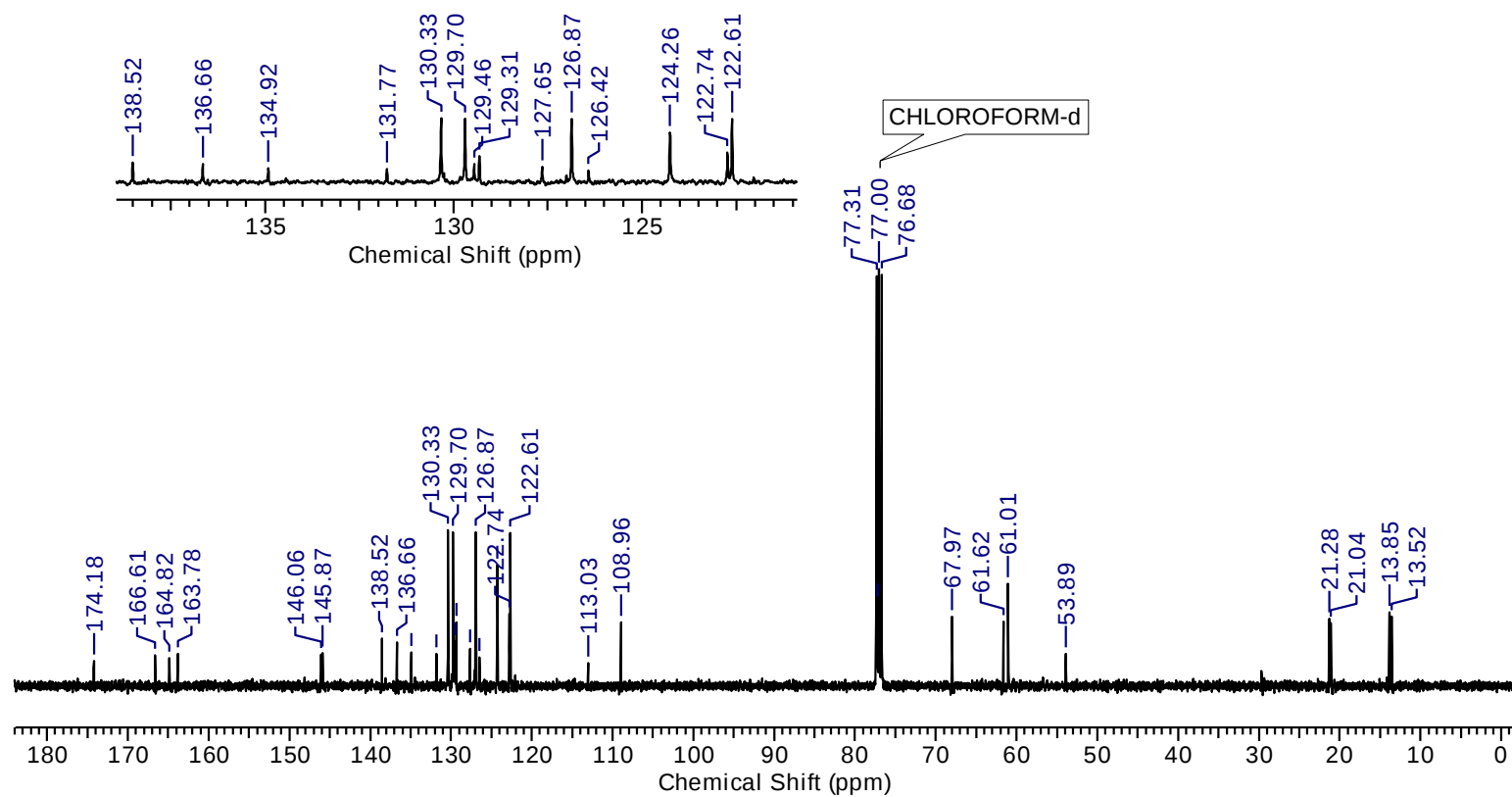
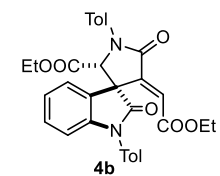
VP1-PYR #115 RT: 0.51 AV: 1 NL: 5.67E8
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



^1H NMR 400 MHz

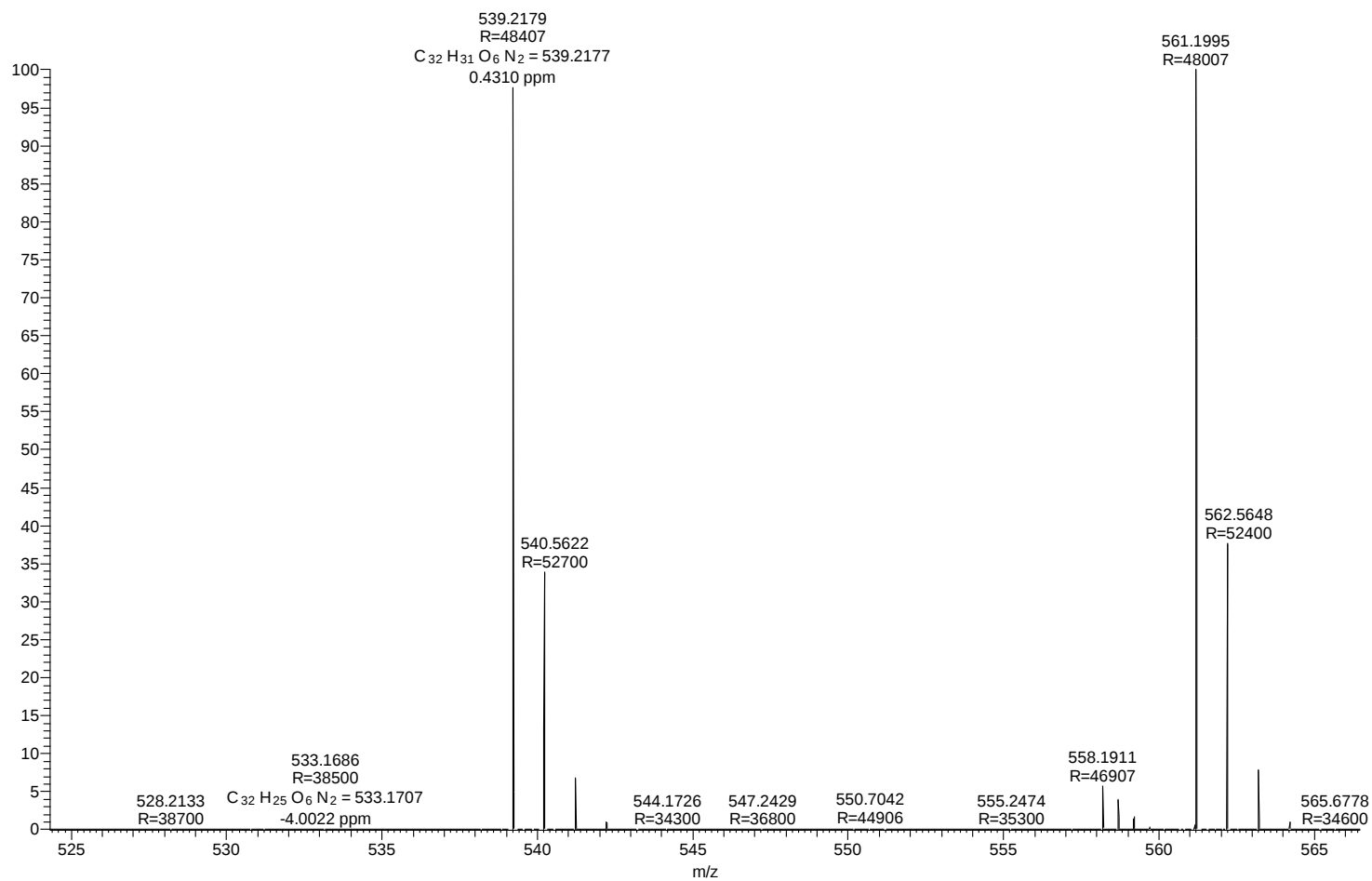
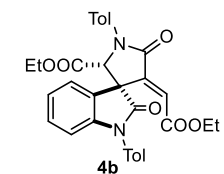


^{13}C NMR 100 MHz

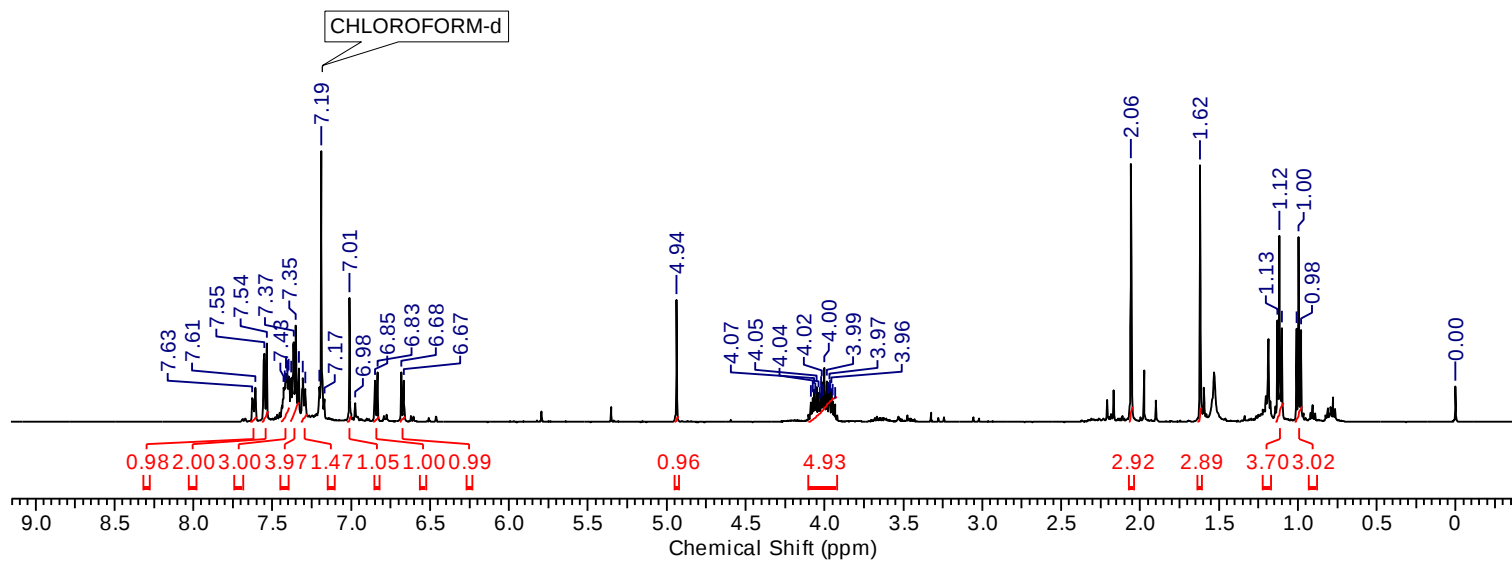
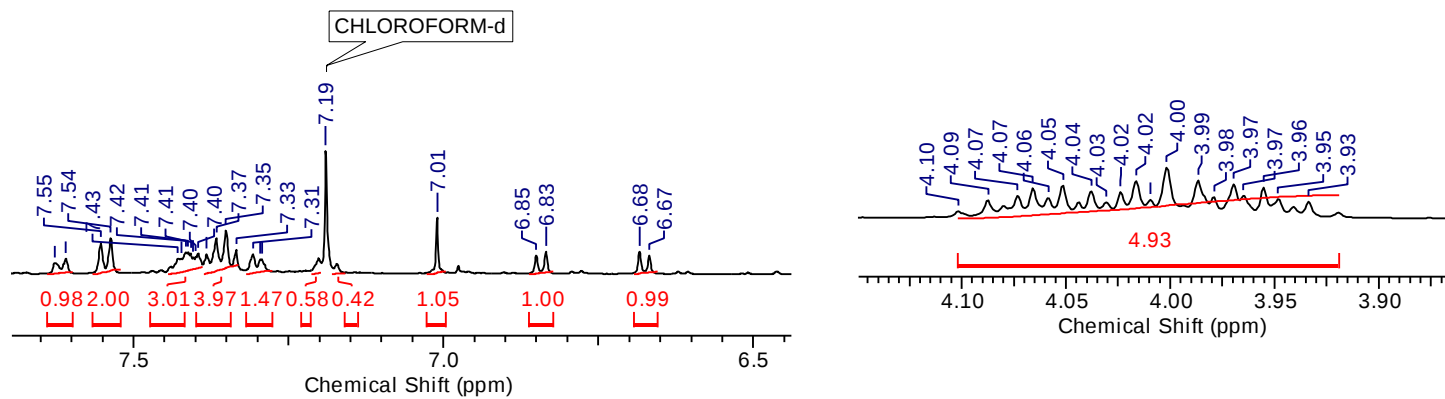
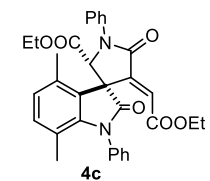


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

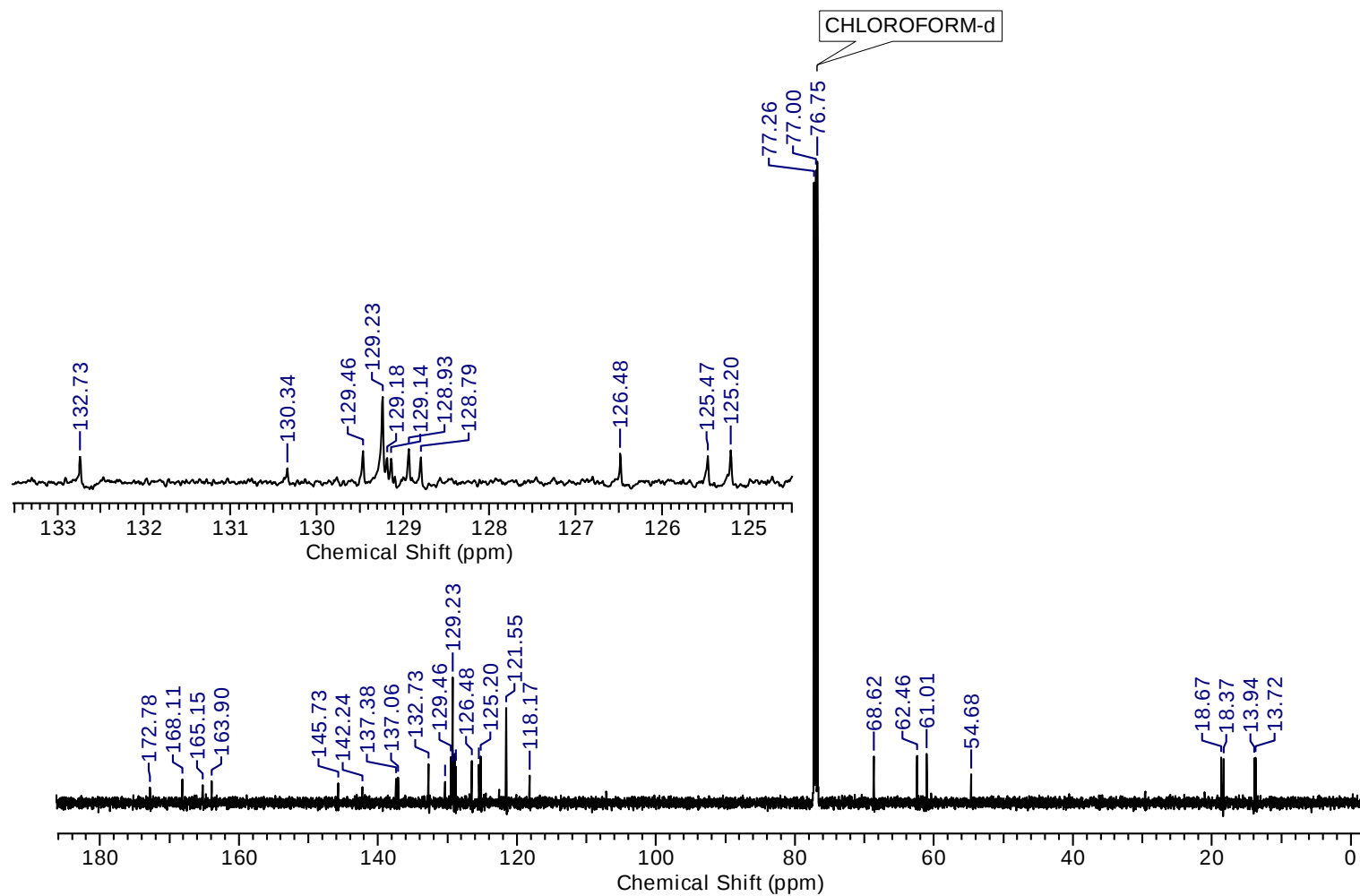
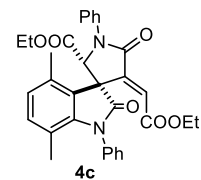
VP-4-B #135 RT: 0.60 AV: 1 NL: 1.26E9
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



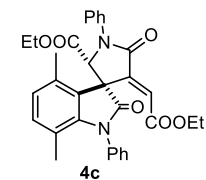
^1H NMR 400 MHz



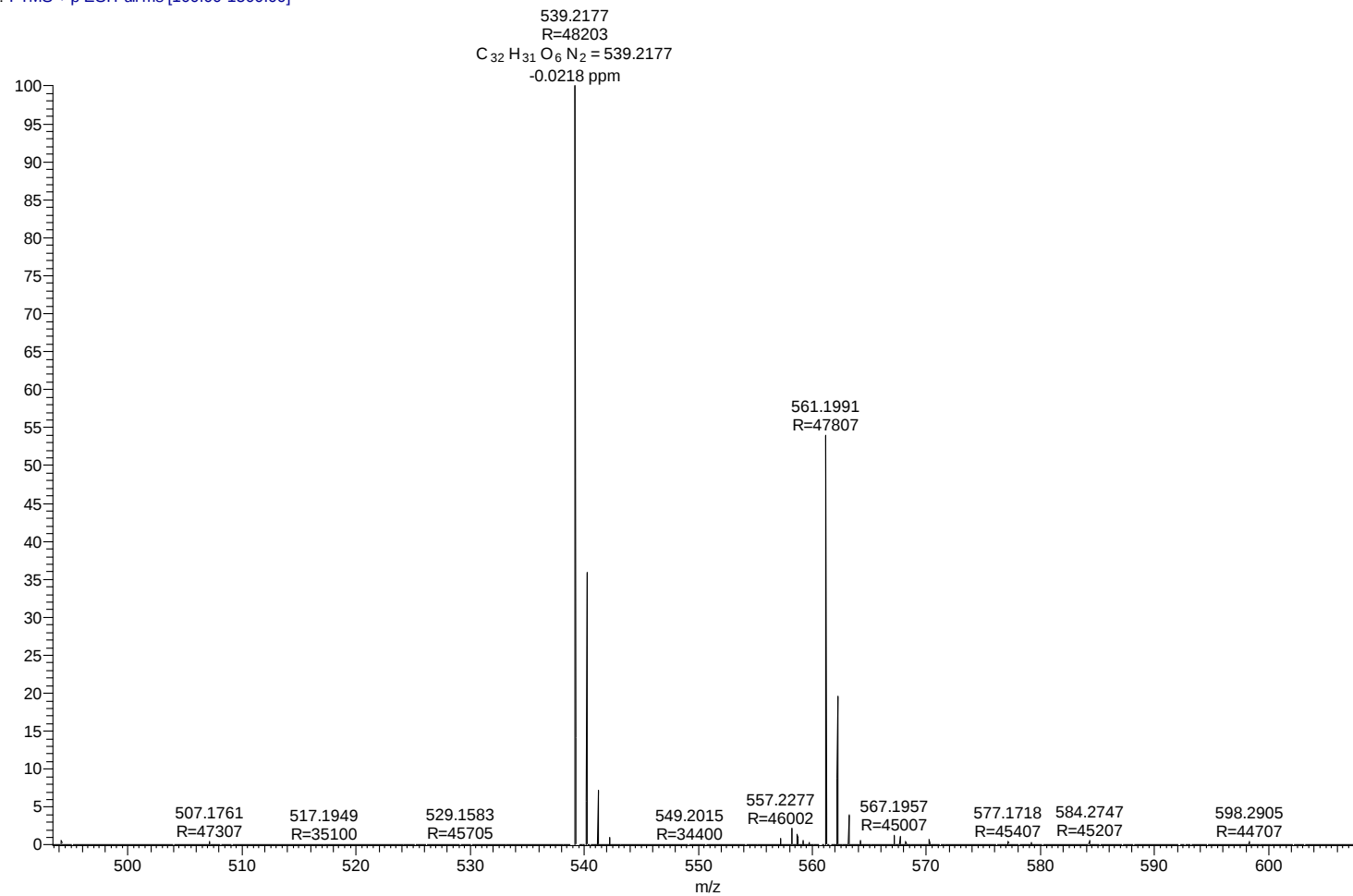
^{13}C NMR 100 MHz



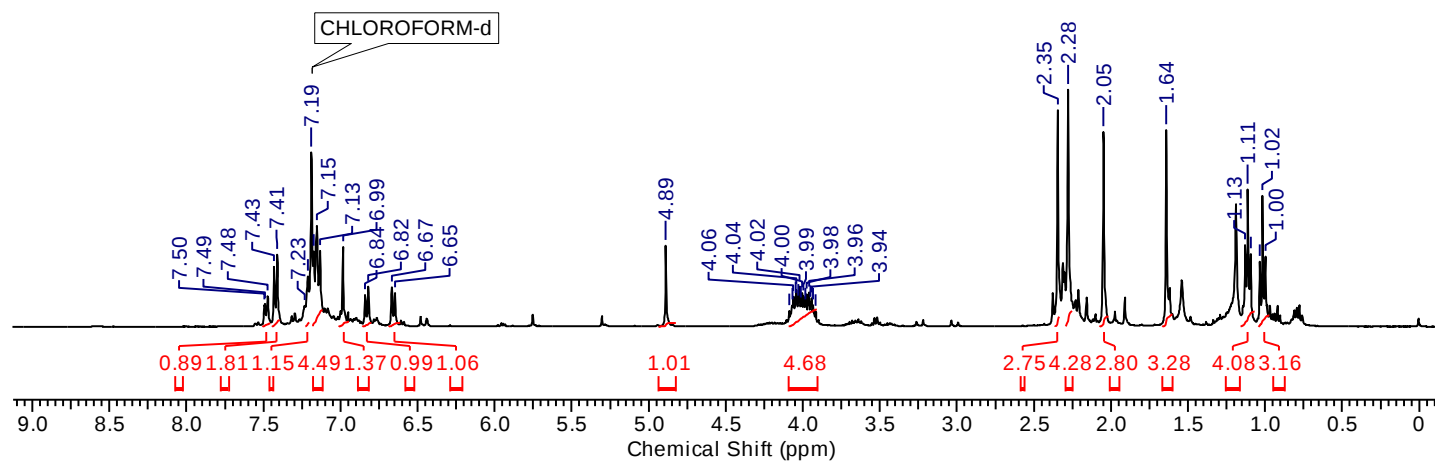
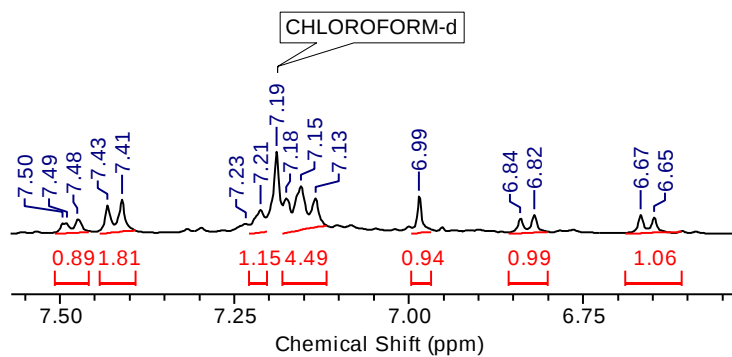
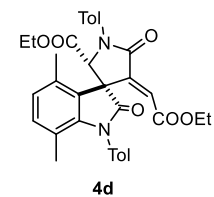
HRMS (ESI-TOF)



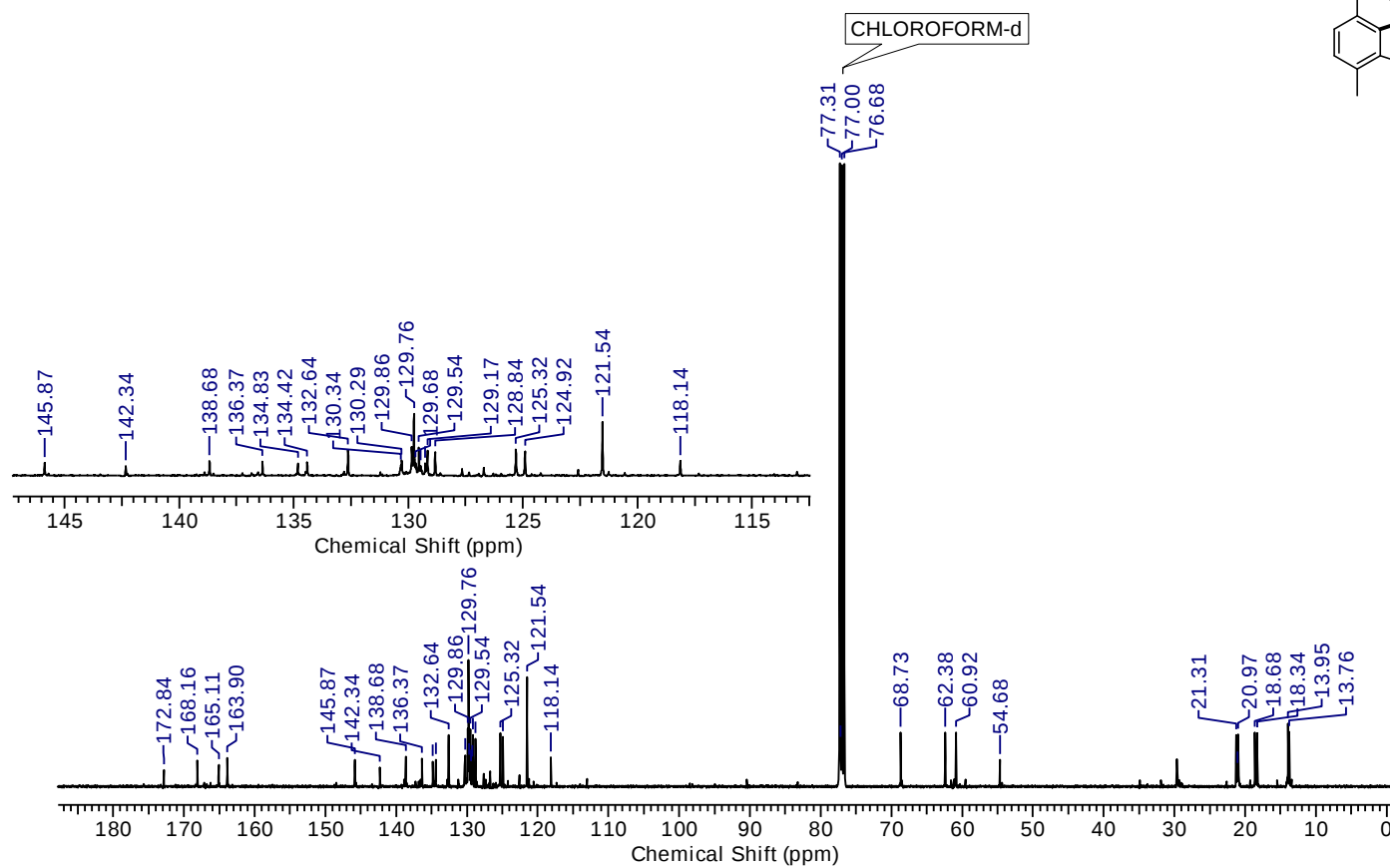
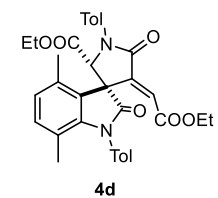
VP-4-C #136 RT: 0.60 AV: 1 NL: 1.54E9
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]



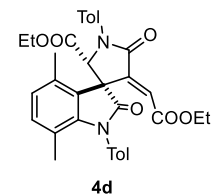
^1H NMR 400 MHz



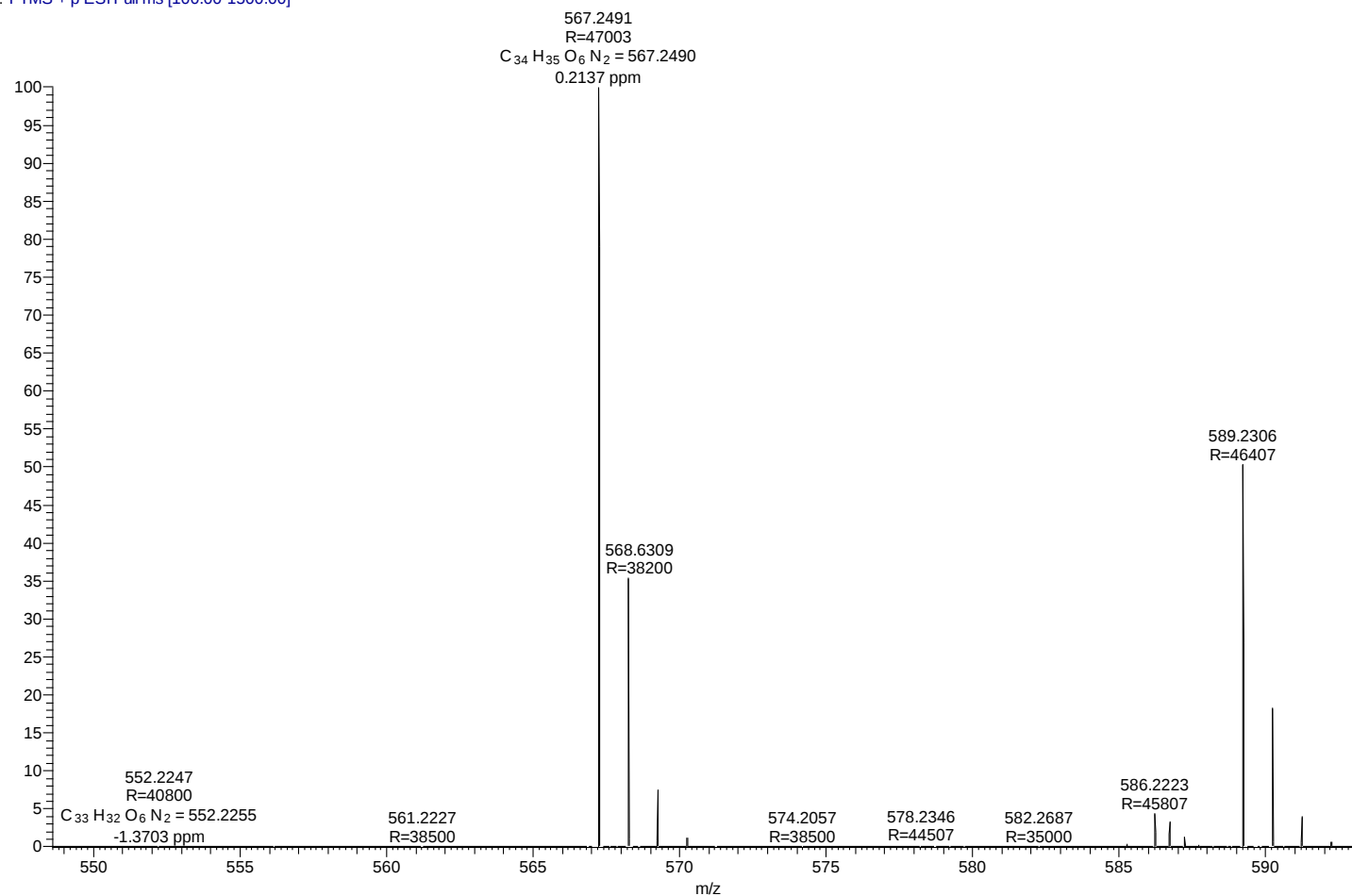
¹³C NMR 100 MHz



HRMS (ESI-TOF)

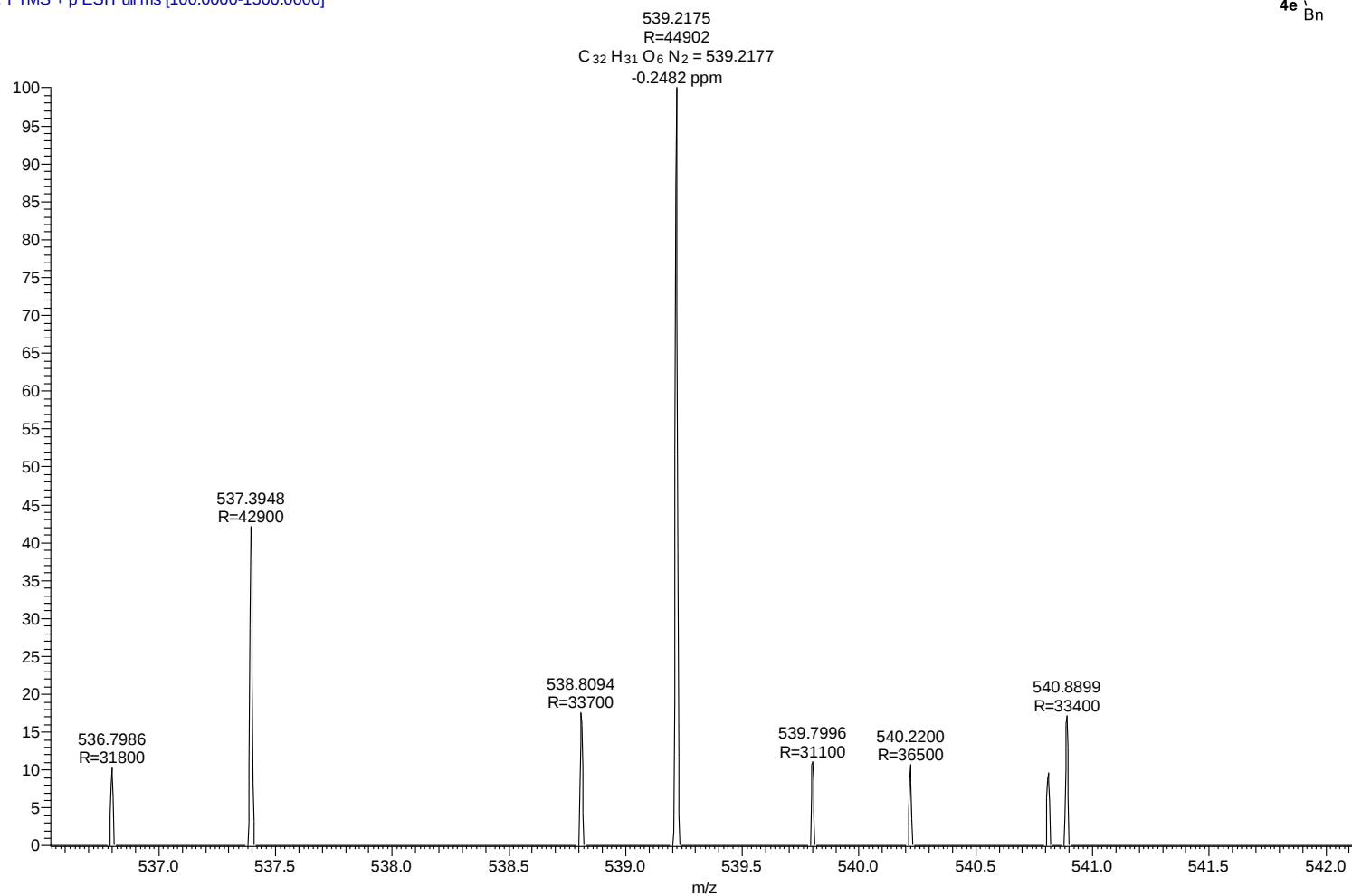
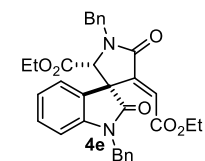


VP-4-D #158 RT: 0.70 AV: 1 NL: 2.11E9
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.00-1500.00]

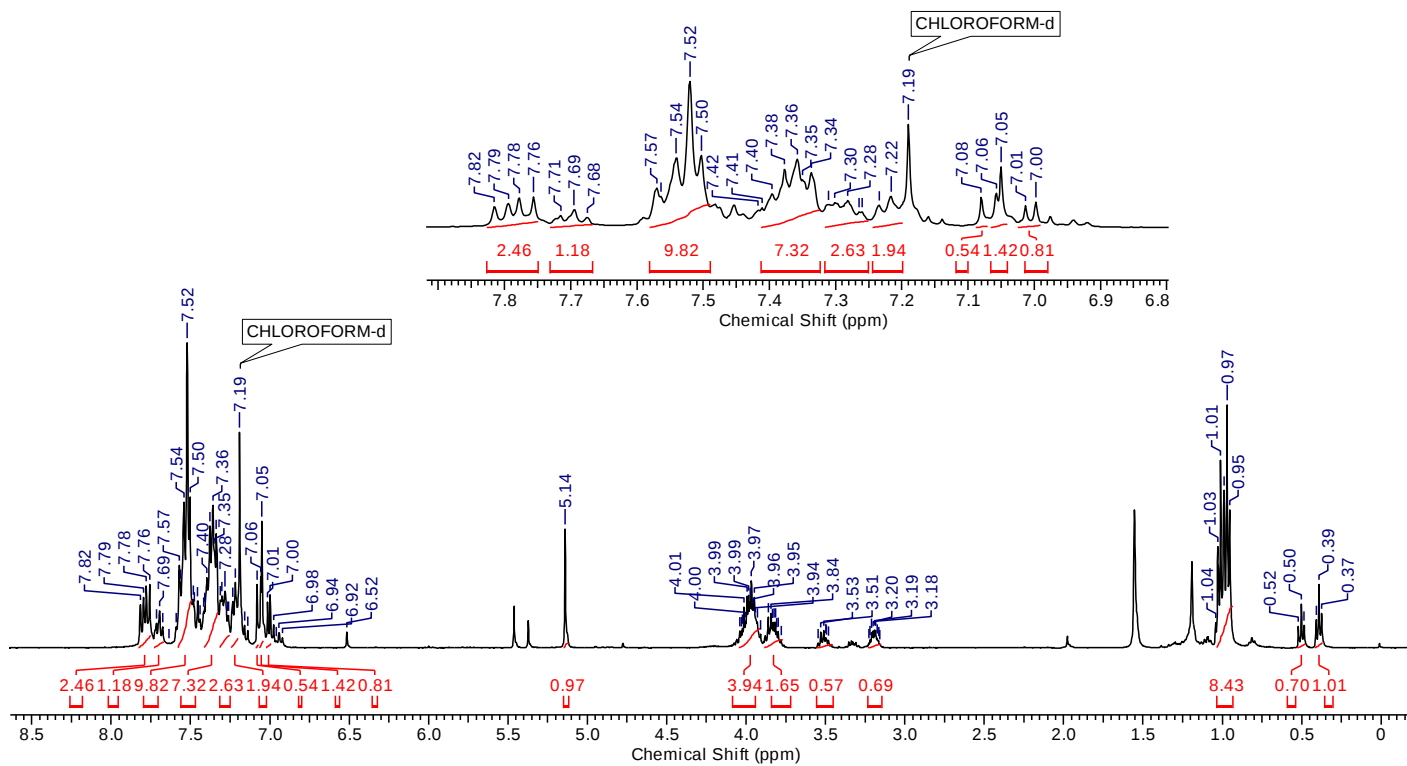
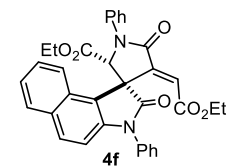


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

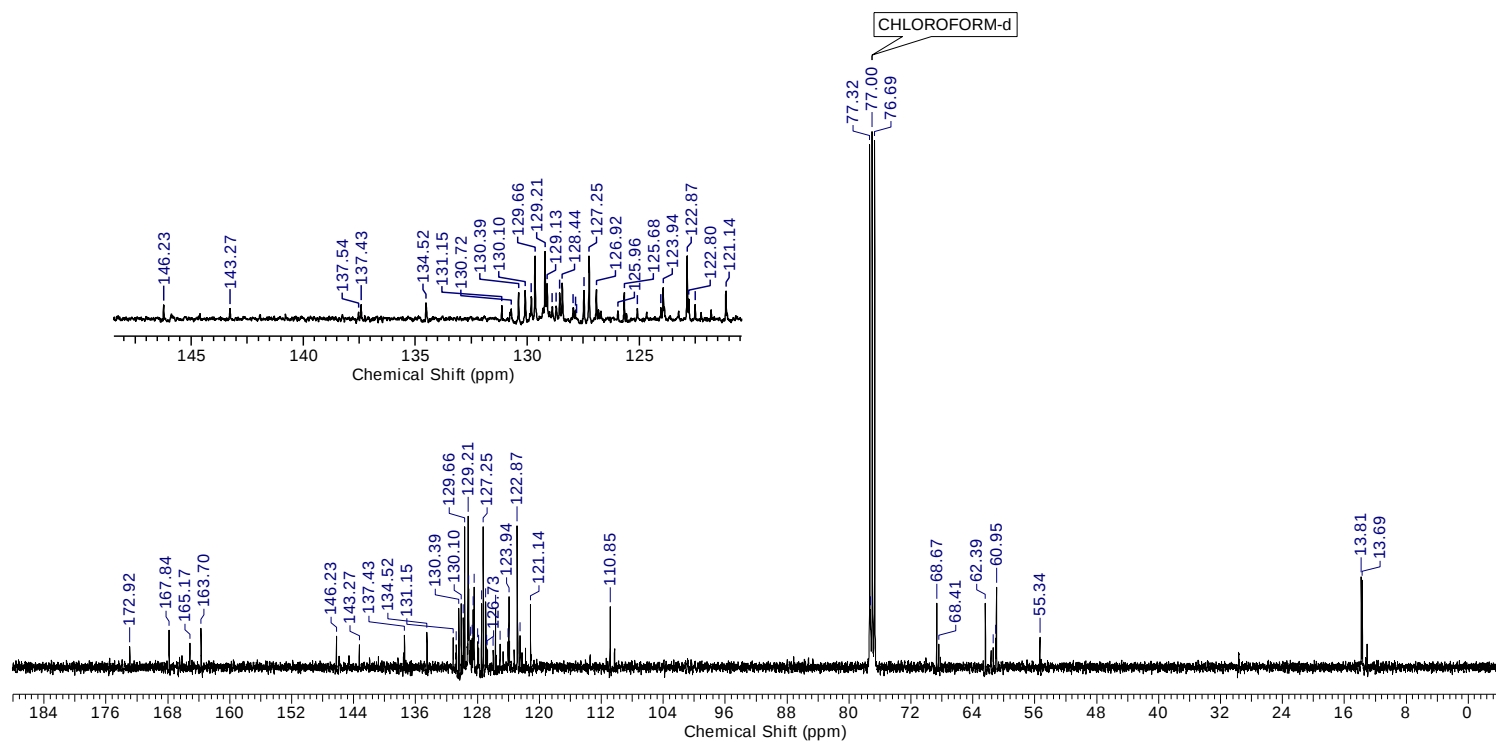
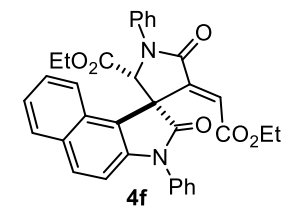
VP-E #280 RT: 1.25 AV: 1 NL: 6.62E4
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.0000-1500.0000]



^1H NMR 400 MHz

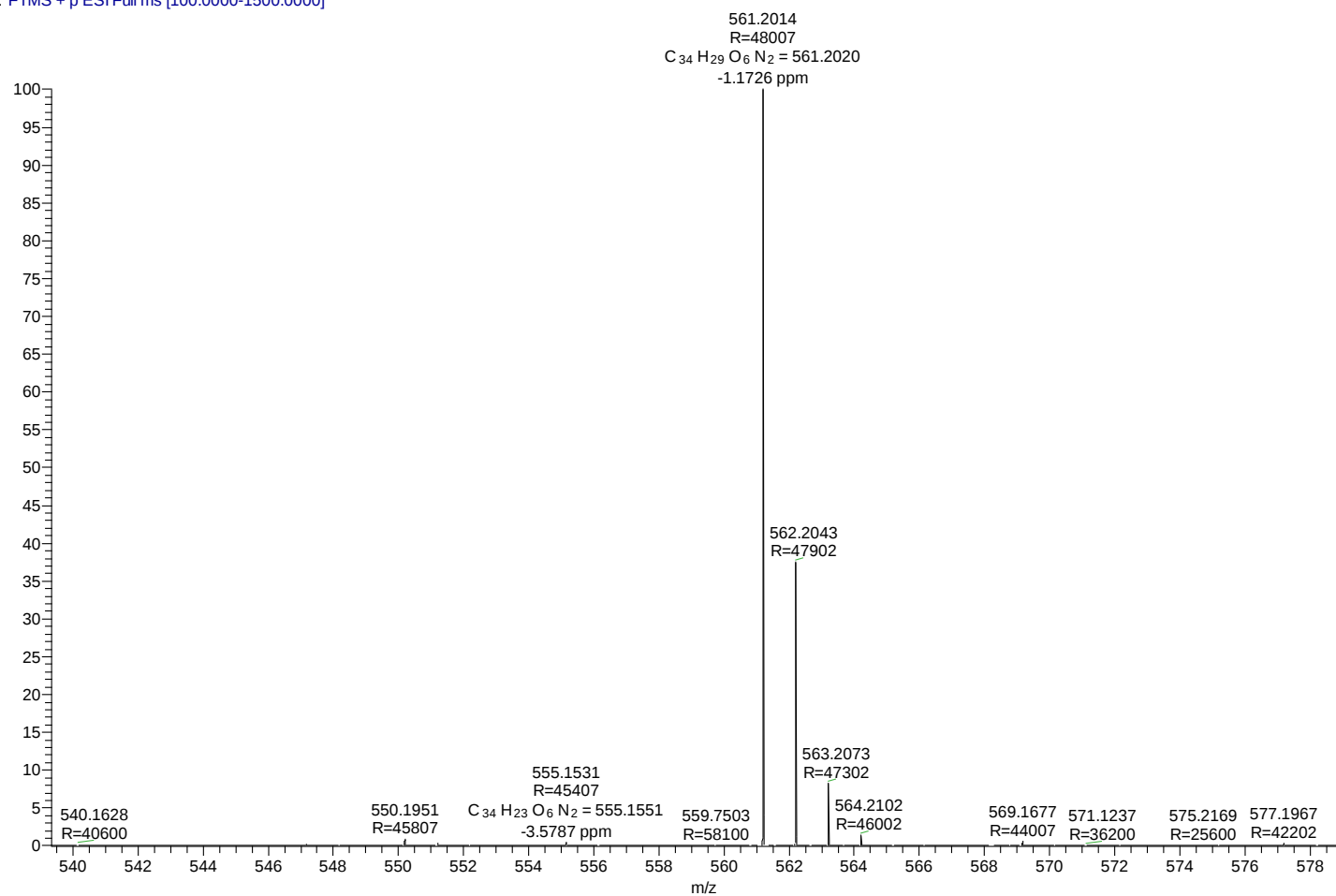
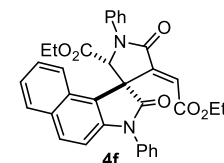


^{13}C NMR 100 MHz

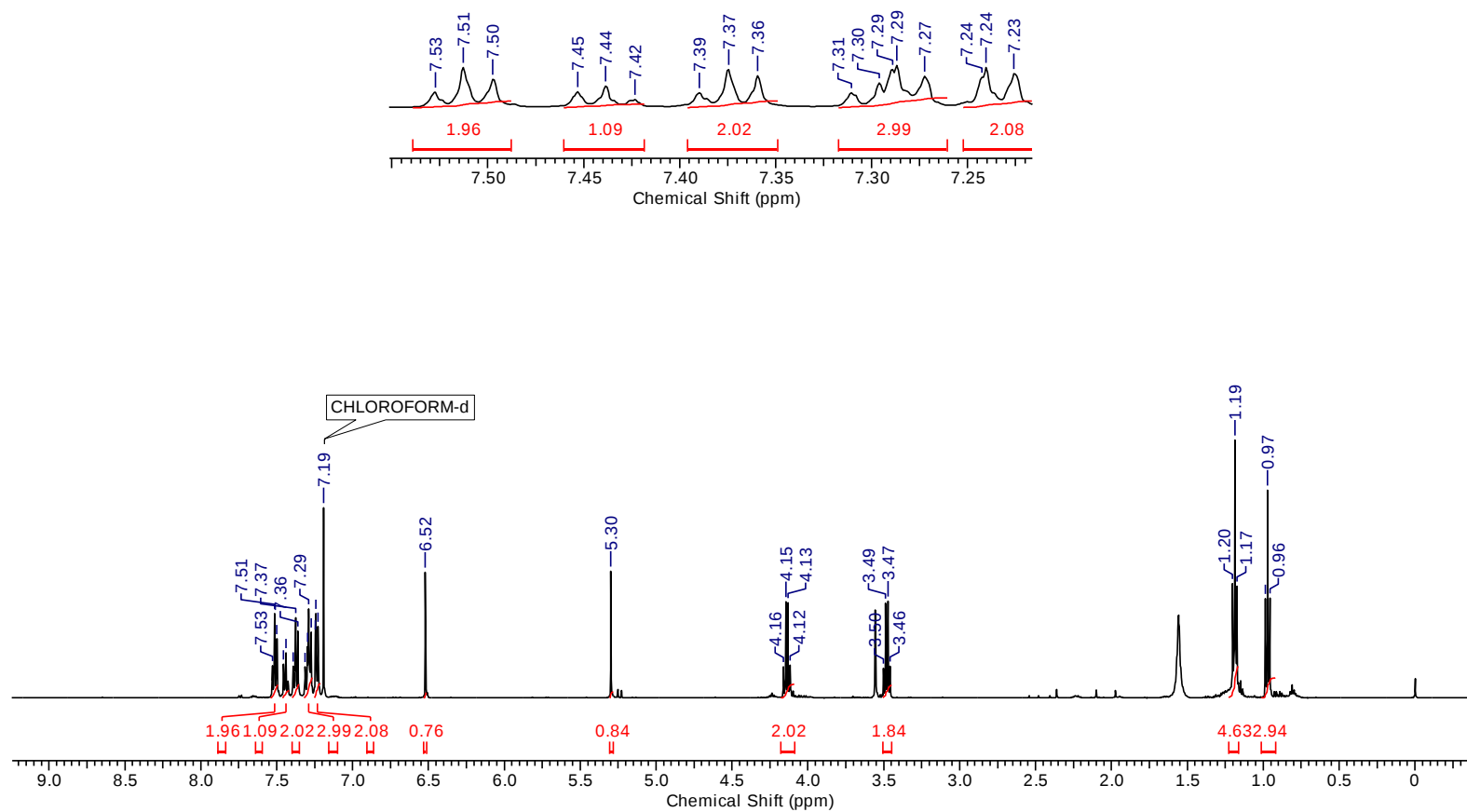
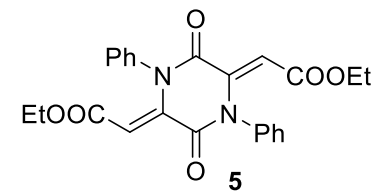


HRMS (ESI-TOF)

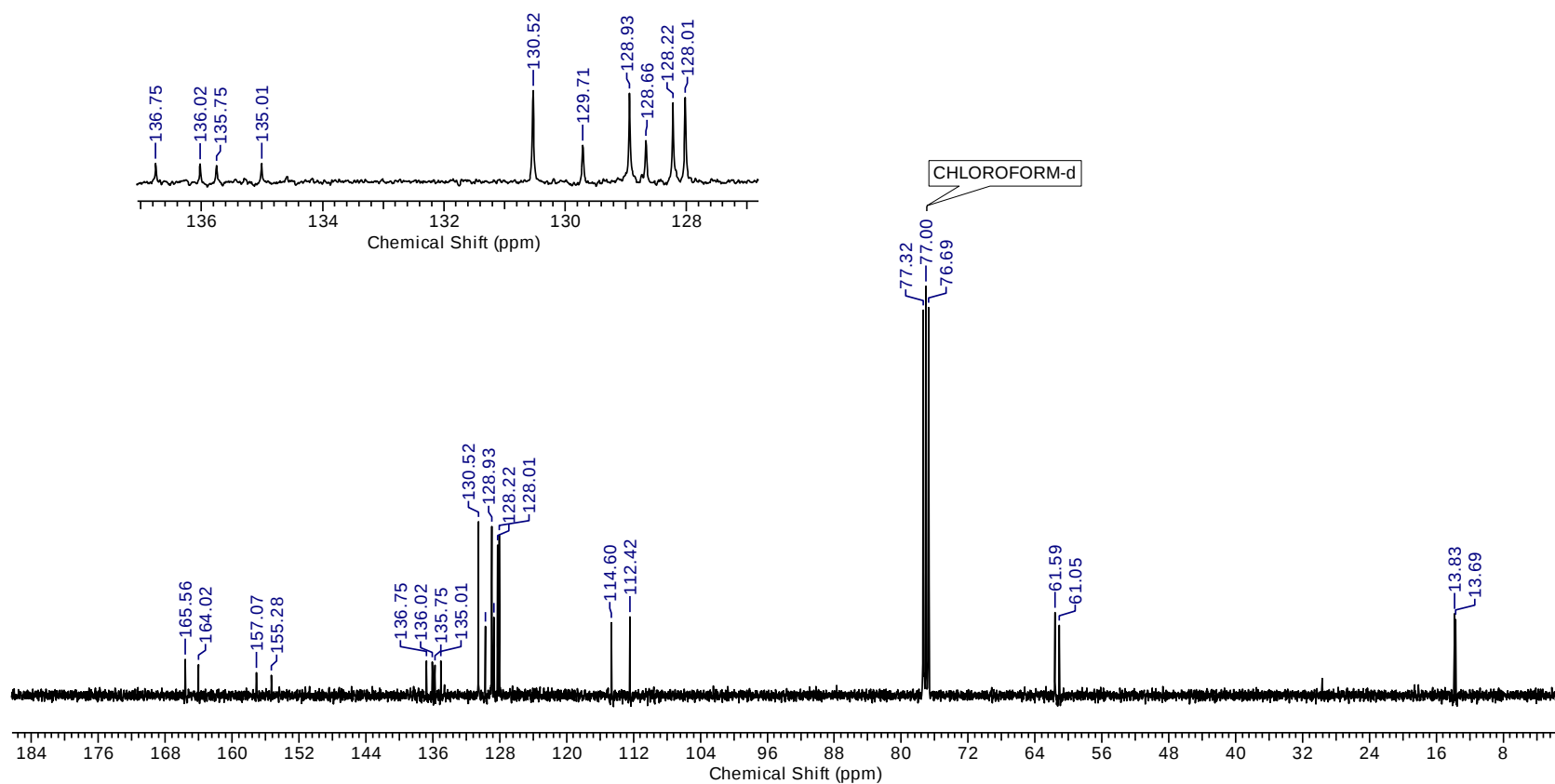
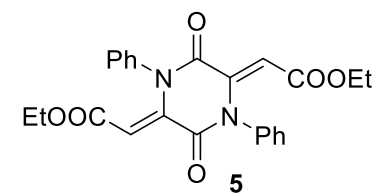
4F-V #267 RT: 1.19 AV: 1 NL: 3.77E8
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.0000-1500.0000]



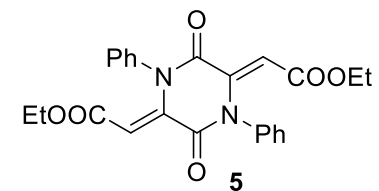
^1H NMR 400 MHz



^{13}C NMR 100 MHz



HRMS (ESI-TOF)



VPD #263 RT: 1.17 AV: 1 NL: 4.94E5
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [100.0000-1500.0000]

