

Catalyst-free Hydrodefluorination of Perfluoroarenes with NaBH₄

Timothy D. Schoch, Mukulesh Mondal, and Jimmie D. Weaver*

Department of Chemistry, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078

jimmie.weaver@okstate.edu

Supporting Information

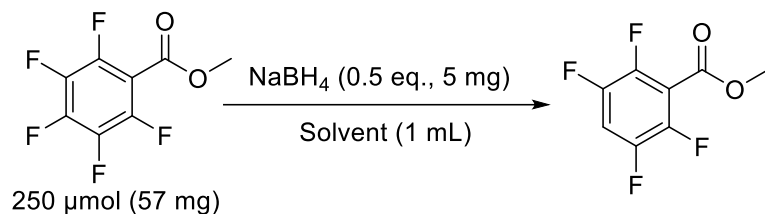
Table of Contents

- I. General Experimental – S2
- II. Initial Optimizations – S2
- III. Substrate Syntheses – S4
- IV. HDF Procedures – S7
- V. NMR Demonstration of Deprotection of N,N-(boc)₂-tetrafluoroaniline – S12
- VI. Product Stability Experiment – S13
- VII. Dye Synthesis – S14
- VIII. Contrathermodynamic Styrenoid E/Z Isomerization – S14
- IX. References – S18
- X. Spectra – S19

General Experimental : - All reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers (Aldrich, VWR, TCI chemicals, Oakwood chemicals, Alfa Aesar) and used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC), obtained from sorbent technology Silica XHL TLC Plates, w/UV254, glass backed, 250 μ m, 20 x 20 cm visualized with ultraviolet light, and GC-MS (QP 2010S, Shimadzu equipped with auto sampler), also by aliquots subjected to ^{19}F NMR described below. Contrathermodynamic isomerization was set up in a light bath equipped with a linear vertical array of 1 W 447 nm LEDs. Solvents were used as received, stored over 4 Å molecular sieves except DMSO and THF, which were first distilled from CaH_2 and Na metal respectively and stored under argon. Flash chromatography was carried out with Merck 60 Å, mesh 230-400 silica gel; all compounds that were purified by flash chromatography utilized a gradient of hexanes and ethyl acetate (or DCM) unless otherwise noted. NMR spectra were obtained on 400 MHz Bruker Avance III spectrometer or a Bruker NEO 600 MHz spectrometer equipped with BBO BBF-H-D-05 SmartProbe. ^1H , ^{19}F and ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the residual proteo solvent peak (with ^{19}F spectra referencing the residual solvent indirectly using the tabulated IUPAC standard ratio, Ξ , derived from CFCl_3).¹ Fluorescence spectroscopy was performed with a Cary Eclipse Fluorescence Spectrophotometer and UV-vis absorbance spectroscopy was performed with a Shimadzu UV-2600 UV-vis spectrophotometer. HRMS was obtained with a Thermo Scientific Orbitrap Fusion Tribrid Mass Spectrometer, utilizing the quadrupole mass analyzer.

Initial Optimizations

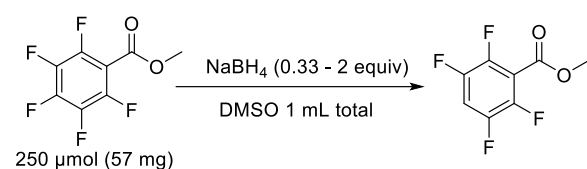
Scheme 1. Solvent Optimization



6 NMR tubes were each charged with a benzene d_6 capillary, 125 μ mol (5 mg) of NaBH_4 , and 1 mL of methanol, ethanol, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylsulfoxide, or dimethylformamide respectively. Each tube was agitated under sonication until it became a homogeneous solution of NaBH_4 ; however, tetrahydrofuran and 1,2-dimethoxyethane did not completely dissolve and remained suspensions. To each tube was then carefully added 250 μ mol (57 mg) of methyl pentafluorobenzoate (MPFB), which caused some effervescence in the samples with methanol and to a lesser degree, ethanol. The tubes were left sitting at room temperature for 10 hours before the addition to each of fluorobenzene (10 μ L, 106 μ mol) as an internal standard for subsequent ^{19}F NMR spectra to quantify residual MPFB for NMR conversion and to quantify the product methyl 2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzoate for NMR yield.

Table 1. Solvent Optimization

entry	Equiv. NaBH ₄	Solvent	Time (hours)	% NMR Yield	% Conversion MPFB
1	0.50	MeOH	10	0	~100
2	0.50	EtOH	10	6	72
3	0.50	THF	10	<2	<2
4	0.50	DME	10	46	46
5	0.50	DMSO	10	97	98
6	0.50	DMF	10	70	72

Scheme 2. NaBH₄ loading variation

4 NMR tubes were each charged with a benzene- d_6 filled capillary and 57 mg (250 μ mol) MPFB. A 0.5 M stock solution of NaBH₄ in dimethylsulfoxide was prepared by dissolving 1 mmol (38 mg) NaBH₄ in 2 mL dimethylsulfoxide. This stock solution along with pure dimethylsulfoxide was dispensed into the 4 NMR tubes according to **table 2** (below) such that each tube contained a total of 1 mL of solution. The tubes were allowed to sit at room temperature for 2 hours before being charged with 10 μ L (106 μ mol) fluorobenzene internal standard and having their ¹⁹F NMR spectra collected for methyl 2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzoate quantitation (% NMR yield).

Table 2. NaBH₄ Loading Variation

entry	Volume 0.5 M stock solution of NaBH ₄	Volume DMSO	Eq. NaBH ₄	% NMR Yield
1	165 μ L	835 μ L	0.33	23
2	330 μ L	660 μ L	0.66	43
3	500 μ L	500 μ L	1.00	99
4	1000 μ L	0 μ L	2.00	99

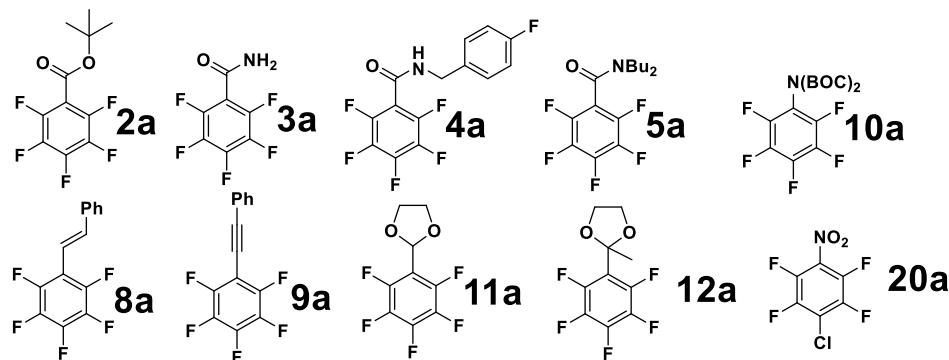
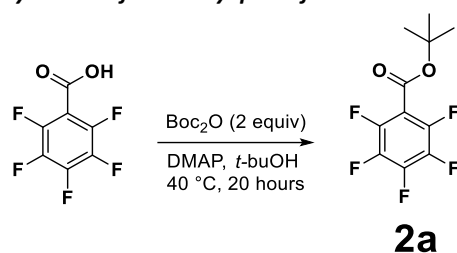


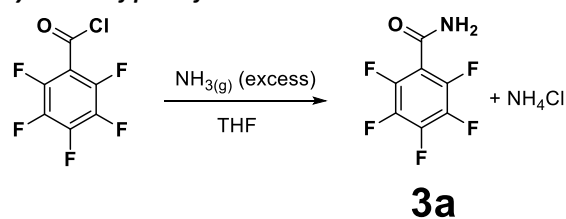
Figure 1. Substrates above were prepared for HDF.

Synthesis of *tert*-butyl pentafluorobenzoate 2a



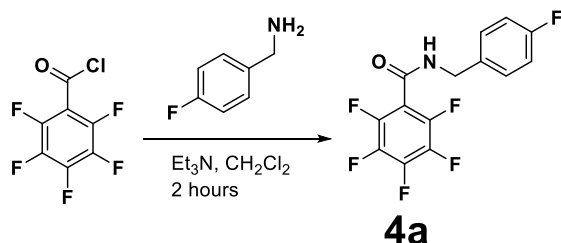
Into a 100 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was loaded pentafluorobenzoic acid (2 g, 9.4 mmol), di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (4.1 g, 18.9 mmol), 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (116 mg, 0.95 mmol), and 30 mL of *tert*-butanol. The flask was heated to 40 °C for 20 hours with stirring before being quenched with 1 M HCl (20 mL) followed by subsequent extraction with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated sodium carbonate solution and then brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using 2% EtOAc in Hexanes as eluent to afford the desired product (1.9 g, 76% yield). The ¹H NMR, ¹⁹F NMR and mass spectra match the literature.²

Synthesis of pentafluorobenzamide 3a



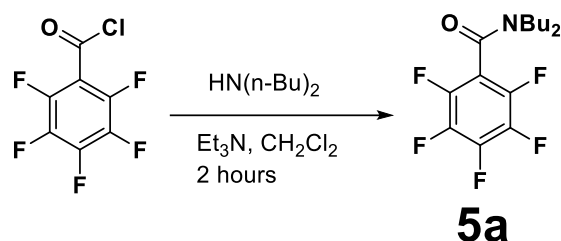
Into a dry 125 mL Erlenmeyer flask is added pentafluorobenzoyl chloride (647 mg, 2.8 mmol) in 30 mL THF. Using a glass diffuser connected by rubber tubing to a separate vessel of ammonium chloride and NaOH pellets, a large excess of ammonia gas is bubbled through the THF solution over 2 minutes, or until the exotherm subsides (determined by touching the outside of the flask). The THF solution containing the product is then eluted through a silica plug, thoroughly rinsing the precipitated ammonium chloride with more THF (2 x 20 mL). The THF filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the resulting white solid (434 mg, 73 % yield) was used without further purification. The mass spectrum was found to match the literature.³ ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -139.63 – -139.73 (m, 2F), -149.54 (tt, J = 20.1, 3.5 Hz, 1F), -159.7 – -159.84 (m, 2F). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.37 – 6.05 (brs, 1H), 6.18 – 5.84 (brs, 1H).

Synthesis of *N*-(4-fluorobenzyl)pentafluorobenzamide **4a**



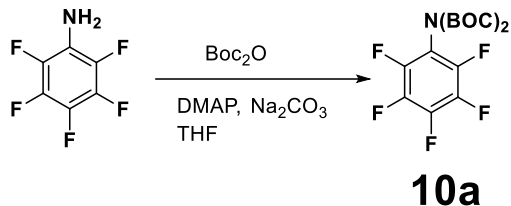
To an ice-cooled solution of parafluorobenzylamine (0.35 mL, 3.05 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) is added dropwise a solution of pentafluorobenzoyl chloride (640 mg, 2.77 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL) followed by triethylamine (1.2 mL, 8.31 mmol). The ice bath was removed after 30 minutes and the reaction was allowed to continue for 2 hours before being quenched with cold water and diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (60 mL). The organic layer was washed with water and subsequently brine, dried over MgSO_4 . Removal of solvent and purification by silica gel flash chromatography (Hexane : EtOAc ramp) afforded **4a** as pale orange-white needles (726 mg, 82% yield). The mp 156-157 °C; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, C_6D_6) δ -114.13 (tt, J = 8.6, 5.2 Hz, 1F), -140.27 – -140.41 (m, 2F), -150.26 (tt, J = 20.8, 3.2 Hz, 1F), -159.73 – -159.84 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.35-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.34 – 6.09 (brs, 1H), 4.62 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 163.8, 162.2, 157.9, 144.8 (dddt, J = 249.0, 12.6, 8.5, 4.1 Hz), 142.7 (dtt, J = 253.2, 12.9, 4.9 Hz), 138.4 (dddd, J = 250.3, 17.2, 12.4, 4.8 Hz), 135.4 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 130.4 (d, J = 8.1 Hz), 116.07 (d, J = 21.6 Hz), 43.6. Calculated HRMS(ESI) for $(\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_7\text{F}_6\text{NO})$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ is 320.0510 observed 320.0512.

Synthesis of *N,N*-di-*n*-butylpentafluorobenzamide **5a**



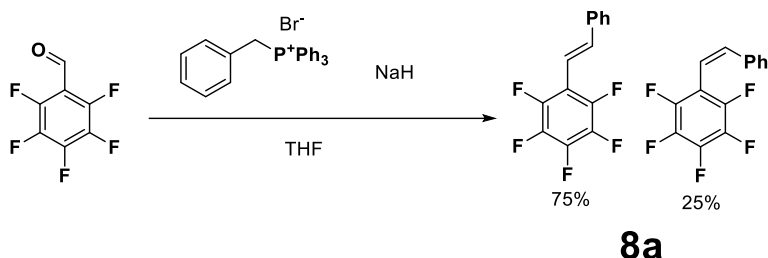
Into a stirring ice-cooled solution of *N,N*-di-*n*-butylamine (0.51 mL, 3.05 mmol) in DCM (10 mL) is added dropwise a solution of pentafluorobenzoyl chloride (640 mg 2.77 mmol) in DCM (1 mL) and then triethylamine (1.2 mL, 8.31 mmol). The cooling bath was removed after 30 minutes and the stirring continued for 2 hours before quenching with cold water. The quenched reaction was diluted with DCM (60 mL) and washed with water (20 mL) and then brine (20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo* prior to silica gel column purification using EtOAc : hexane ramp to afford the desired product (843 mg, 94 % yield). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ -140.94 – -141.10 (m, 2F), -152.64 – -152.85 (m, 1F), -159.94 – -160.17 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) 3.56 – 3.48 (m, 2H), 3.16 – 3.10 (m, 2H), 1.69 – 1.58 (m, 2H), 1.53 – 1.44 (m, 2H), 1.38 (sext, J = 7.3, 2H), 1.19 (sext, J = 7.3, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.3, 3H), 0.83 (t, J = 7.3, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 158.3, 142.8 (dddt, J = 249.4, 12.4, 8.4, 4.0 Hz), 141.7 (dtt, J = 256.3, 13.3, 4.7), 137.8 (d, J = 253.3 Hz), 112.3 (t, J = 22.1 Hz), 48.6, 45.0, 30.6, 29.4, 20.2, 19.8, 13.9, 13.7. GC/MS (m/z , relative intensity) 323 (M^+ , 10), 304 (4), 294 (5), 280 (13), 195 (100). Calculated HRMS(ESI) for $(\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_5\text{NO})$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ is 324.1387 observed 324.1379

Synthesis of di-BOC-pentafluorobenzamide 10a



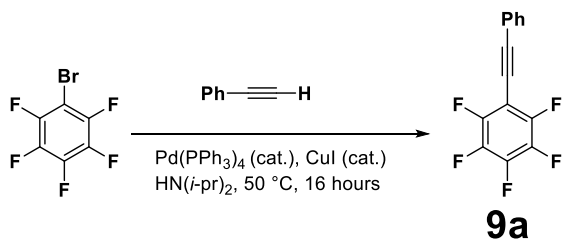
The procedure reported by Bissember et al.⁴ was followed scaled to 500 mg of pentafluoroaniline, ultimately affording a 48 % yield of **10a** as a colorless solid.

Synthesis of *E*-styrylpentafluorobenzene 8a



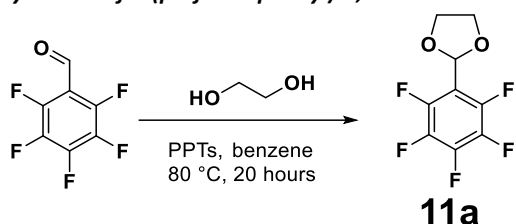
To a stirring suspension of sodium hydride (111 mg of 60 % paraffin dispersion, 2.77 mmol) in 5 mL THF at 0 °C is added benzyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (1 g, 2.315 mmol) in THF (5 mL). The solution was allowed to gradually warm to room temperature and then stir for 2 hours. To the solution is then added pentafluorobenzaldehyde (0.285 mL, 2.315 mmol) which is then allowed to continue stirring overnight prior to a quench with minimal ice water. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue diluted with EtOAc before being washed sequentially with water and then brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue is subjected to silica gel column chromatography with 100% hexane to afford the desired product as a 3:1 mixture of *E*- and *Z*-isomers (930 mg, 74% yield). ¹H NMR, ¹⁹F NMR, and mass spectra match the literature.⁵

Synthesis of pentafluoro(phenylethynyl)benzene 9a



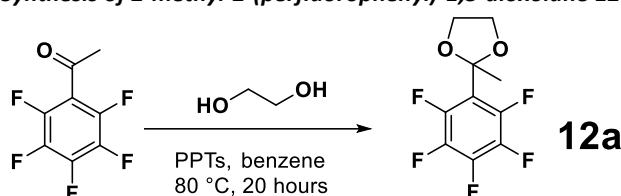
To a deaerated, stirring solution of bromopentafluorobenzene (0.88 mL, 6.82 mmol) and phenylacetylene (465 mg, 4.55 mmol) in diisopropylamine (20 mL) is added Cul (43 mg, 227 μmol) and Pd(PPh)₃ (262 mg, 227 μmol). The mixture is heated to 50 °C and left overnight under an argon atmosphere. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and diluted with diethyl ether before filtering through celite and concentrating *in vacuo*. The residue was subjected to silica column chromatography in pure hexane to afford the desired product (400 mg, 33% yield). Melting point, ¹H NMR and ¹⁹F NMR match the literature.⁶ GC/MS (*m/z*, relative intensity) 268 (*M*⁺, 5), 253 (5), 252 (40), 224 (5), 210 (100).

Synthesis of 2-(perfluorophenyl)-1,3-dioxolane 11a



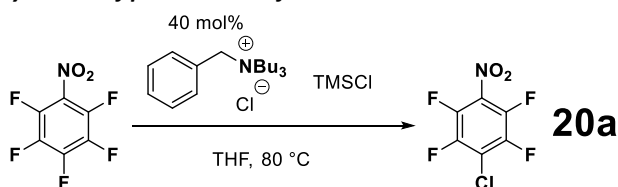
The procedure reported by Kambe et al.⁷ was followed and scaled to 500 mg (2.55 mmol) of pentafluorobenzaldehyde, affording an 83 % yield of desired product. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -143.80 – -144.06 (m, 2F), -152.56 – -152.88 (t, J = 20.9 Hz, 1F), -161.92 – -162.27 (m, 2F). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.21 – 6.18 (s, 1H), 4.25 – 4.15 (m, 2H), 4.09 – 3.99 (m, 2H).

Synthesis of 2-methyl-2-(perfluorophenyl)-1,3-dioxolane 12a



The procedure reported by Kambe et al.⁷ was followed and scaled to 500 mg (2.38 mmol) of pentafluoroacetophenone. An additional step was required at the end. Namely, the product residue was dissolved in 0 °C EtOH (6 mL) with NaBH₄ (45 mg, 1.19 mmol), and allowed to stir for 2 hours to convert residual pentafluoroacetophenone to a more easily separated alcohol. The solution was quenched with cold water, extracted with EtOAc, the organic layer washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica column chromatography using a ramp of EtOAc : hexane afforded the desired product (375 mg, 62% yield) as a colorless liquid. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -142.10 – -142.29 (m, 2F), -155.02 (tt, J = 21.4, 3.0, 1F), -161.90 – -162.08 (m, 2F). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 64.18 – 4.15 (m, 2H), 3.95-3.83 (m, 2H), 1.83 – 1.77 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 144.6 (dddd, J = 252.0, 11.8, 7.9, 4.0 Hz), 140.8 (dtt, J = 254.6, 13.5, 5.2 Hz), 137.9 (m, J_{C-F} = 252.5 Hz), 116.7 (tdt, J = 13.9, 4.6, 2.9 Hz), 107.5, 65.0, 26.7 (t, J = 1.9 Hz)

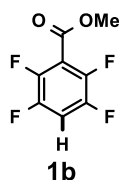
Synthesis of p-chloro-tetrafluoronitrobenzene 20a



The procedure described by Weaver et al. was followed.⁸ Pentafluoronitrobenzene (426 mg, 2 mmol), benzyltributylammonium chloride (250 mg, 0.8 mmol), TMSCl (261 mg, 2.4 mmol), and 3 mL THF are added to a microwave vial charged with a magnetic stir bar and sealed. The reaction was heated in an oil bath at 80 °C overnight before concentration *in vacuo* and subjection to silica column chromatography with hexane to afford the desired product **20a** (365 mg, 80%) yield.

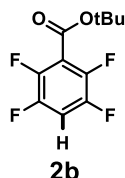
General Procedure A for HDF of Perfluoroarenes

To stirring a solution of fluoroarene in dimethylsulfoxide (0.2 M) was slowly added NaBH₄ dissolved in equal volume of DMSO. **CAUTION: some of the reactions effervesce hydrogen gas, especially when the solvent is not dry! Care should be taken to use dry DMSO and ensure that the gas can safely escape the reaction vessel!** The reactions were monitored by removing aliquots and subjecting them to ¹⁹FNMR. When complete, the mixtures were diluted with ethyl acetate (10-fold) and carefully quenched with aqueous brine solution over 10 minutes. The organic layers were washed five times with brine to remove the DMSO, dried over MgSO₄, then concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the desired products without any further purification. If NMR yields were to be obtained (for products too volatile for concentration *in vacuo*), 20 microliters (213 μmol) fluorobenzene internal standard would be added to aliquots of crude reaction mixture in lieu of dilution with ethyl acetate and workup. This procedure was used on 0.1 – 22.1 mmol scale, including 1.0 mmol. See **18b** and **19b** for details.



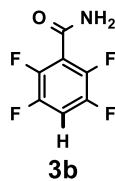
methyl 2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzoate 1b

General Procedure A was followed using methyl pentafluorobenzoate (90 mg, 400 μmol) and 1 equiv NaBH_4 (16 mg, 400 μmol) in 2 mL DMSO. The desired product **1b** was obtained as a colorless oil (72 mg, 87% yield). A known compound, characteristic NMR spectra match the literature.⁸ ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ -137.45 – -137.60 (m, 2F), -139.48 – -139.63 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.20 (tt, J = 9.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.00-3.97 (s, 3H)



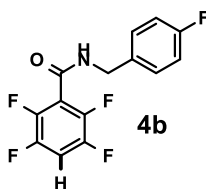
tert-butyl 2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzoate 2b

General Procedure A was followed using *tert*-butyl pentafluorobenzoate (54 mg, 200 μmol) and NaBH_4 (8 mg, 200 μmol) in 2 mL DMSO. The desired product **2b** was obtained as a colorless oil (42 mg, 85% yield). A known compound, characteristic NMR spectra match the literature.⁸ ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ -137.82 – -138.03 (m, 2F), -141.07 – -141.23 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.13 (tt, J = 9.5, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.61 – 1.58 (s, 9H).



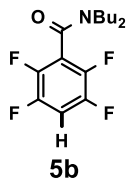
2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzamide 3b

General Procedure A was followed using pentafluorobenzamide (40 mg, 190 μmol) and NaBH_4 (5 mg, 190 μmol) in 1 mL DMSO. The desired product **3b** was obtained as a white powder (30 mg, 88% yield). A known compound, ^{19}F NMR spectrum and melting point are in accord with the literature.⁹ ^{19}F NMR (564 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ -138.51 – -138.78 (m), -142.97 – -143.12 (m). ^1H NMR (599 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.32 (s, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.96 (tt, J = 10.4, 7.5 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 159.2 (t, J = 1.8 Hz), 145.2 (dddd, J = 246.6, 14.2, 10.3, 3.7 Hz), 142.3 (dddd, J = 247.2, 15.1, 6.5, 3.9 Hz), 118.3 (t, J = 21.5 Hz), 107.4 (t, J = 23.4 Hz). GC/MS (m/z , relative intensity) 193 (M+, 95), 177 (100), 150 (36), 149 (89), 99 (80).



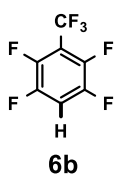
2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-N-(4-fluorobenzyl)benzamide 4b

General Procedure A was followed using pentafluoro-N-(4-fluorobenzyl)benzamide (64 mg, 200 μmol) and NaBH_4 (8 mg, 200 μmol) in 2 mL DMSO. The desired product **4b** was obtained as a white, crystalline solid (60 mg, 99% yield). The mp 135-136 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ -114.20 – -114.31 (m, 1F), -136.86 – -137.09 (m, 2F), -141.10 – -141.31 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.27 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.06 (tt, J = 9.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.01 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 6.38 – 6.20 (brs, 1H), 4.56 – 4.51 (d, J = 5.75 Hz, 2H).



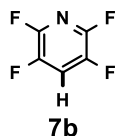
N,N-dibutyl-2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzamide 5b

General Procedure A was followed using N,N-dibutyl-pentafluorobenzamide **5a** (32 mg, 100 μmol) and NaBH_4 (8 mg, 200 μmol) in 1 mL DMSO. The desired product **5b** was obtained as a colorless oil (29 mg, 85% yield). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ -137.18 – -137.48 (m, 2F), -141.60 – -141.88 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.09 (tt, J = 9.5, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.56 – 3.50 (m, 2H), 3.16 – 3.10 (m, 2H), 1.69 – 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.53 – 1.44 (m, 2H), 1.39 (sext, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.18 (sext, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 0.81 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H) GC/MS (m/z , relative intensity) 305 (M+, 9), 287 (5), 276 (6), 262 (15), 177 (100).



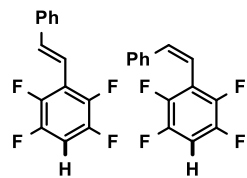
1,2,4,5-tetrafluoro-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene 6b

General Procedure A was followed using octafluorotoluene (100 mg, 466 μmol) and NaBH_4 (16 mg, 470 μmol) in 5 mL DMSO. When the reaction was complete, 500 μL of reaction mixture (10% of the total volume) was taken into an NMR tube charged with a benzene- d_6 capillary and fluorobenzene (20 μL , 213 μmol) as internal standard. The aliquot was calculated to contain 44 μmol of **6b** corresponding to a 93% yield. Mass spectrum was found consistent with literature.⁸ ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO) δ -55.15 – -55.30 (td, J = 21.6, 3.1 Hz, 3F), -136.29 – -136.47 (m, 2F), -141.12 – -141.49 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.37 – 8.24 (m, 1H).



2,3,5,6-tetrafluoropyridine 7b

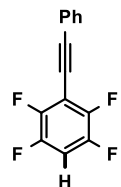
General Procedure A was followed using pentafluoropyridine (100 mg, 592 μmol) and NaBH_4 (23 mg, 600 μmol) in 5 mL DMSO. When the reaction was complete, 500 μL of reaction mixture (10% of the total volume) was taken into an NMR tube charged with a benzene- d_6 capillary and fluorobenzene (20 μL , 213 μmol) as internal standard. The aliquot was calculated to contain 54 μmol of **7b** corresponding to an 89% yield. Mass spectrum was found consistent with the literature.⁸ ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ -87.95 – -88.26 (m, 2F), -135.36 – 135.60 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.67 – 8.55 (m, 1H).



8b (3:1 E:Z)

1,2,4,5-tetrafluoro-3-styrylbenzene **8b**

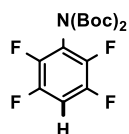
To a stirring solution of **8a** (50 mg, 185 μ mol, 3:1 E:Z isomeric mix) in THF (500 μ L) is added NaBH_4 (7 mg, 185 μ mol) in DMSO (500 μ L). The reaction mixture is left to stir 24 hours before it is quenched by dilution with EtOAc (5 mL) and 5 consecutive washes with saturated brine solution (1 mL each). The organic layer is dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the product **8b** as a white solid (40 mg, 86% yield). Melting point matches that found by Stephens et.al.¹⁰ ^{13}C NMR and mass spectra were found to match the literature.⁵ ^1H NMR (599 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ E: 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (tt, J = 9.5, 7.5 Hz, 1H). Z: 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.35 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H).



9b

1,2,4,5-tetrafluoro-3-(phenylethynyl)benzene **9b**

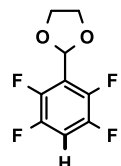
Aryl alkyne **9a** (53 mg, 197 μ mol) was added to a stirring suspension of NaBH_4 (7 mg, 200 μ mol) in 1 mL of 1,2-dimethoxyethane and left to stir overnight. The reaction was worked up by dilution with ethyl acetate (10 mL) and quenching with brine (1.5 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (3 x 1 mL) and dried over MgSO_4 before being concentrated *in vacuo* to afford **9b** as a white solid (49 mg, 99 % yield). The melting point, ^1H , ^{13}C , and ^{19}F NMR match with the literature.¹¹ ^{19}F NMR (376.48 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -136.63 – -136.77 (m, 2F), -138.96 – -139.11 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.63 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.10 – 6.99 (tt, J = 9.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 146.8 (ddt, J = 251.9, 14.3, 3.3 Hz), 145.9 (dddd, J = 248.1, 13.6, 10.8, 4.2 Hz), 132.1, 129.8, 128.7, 121.8, 106.2 (t, J = 22.8 Hz), 105.6 (tt, J = 17.6, 2.6 Hz), 102.0 (t, J = 3.8 Hz), 74.5 (t, J = 4.4 Hz). GC/MS (*m/z*, relative intensity) 250 (M^+ , 100).



10b

tert-butyl (tert-butoxycarbonyl)(2,3,5,6-tetrafluorophenyl)carbamate **10b**

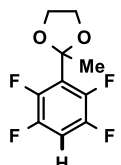
General Procedure A was followed using tert-butyl (tert-butoxycarbonyl)(pentafluorophenyl)carbamate (192 mg, 500 μ mol) and NaBH_4 (57 mg, 1.5 mmol). The starting substrate was dissolved in 1.5 mL THF rather than DMSO since it was only sparingly soluble in pure DMSO. The NaBH_4 was still added as a solution in 1.5 mL DMSO. The reaction was heated to 60 $^\circ\text{C}$ after the reagents were all mixed. The desired product **10b** was obtained as a white solid (173 mg, 95% yield). The mp 56-57 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -139.45 – -139.70 (m, 2F), -146.25 – 146.50 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.15 – 7.03 (tt, J = 9.8, 7.2, 1H), 1.45 – 1.43 (s, 18H). Mass spectrum obtained following conversion to 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoroaniline via trifluoroacetic acid (**S12**) is consistent with the literature.³



11b

2-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluorophenyl)-1,3-dioxolane **11b**

General Procedure A was followed using 2-(pentafluorophenyl)-1,3-dioxolane (46 mg, 200 μ mol) and NaBH_4 (20 mg, 530 μ mol) in 2 mL DMSO heated to 50 $^\circ\text{C}$. A known compound,¹² the desired product **11b** was obtained as a colorless oil (35 mg, 82% yield). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -138.99 – -139.15 (m, 2F), -144.43 – -144.60 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.12 – 7.03 (tt, J = 9.5, 7.2, 1H), 6.26 – 6.23 (s, 1H), 4.26 – 4.17 (m, 2H), 4.10 – 4.00 (m, 2H). GC/MS (*m/z*, relative intensity) 222 (M^+ , 55), 221 ($\text{M}-\text{H}^+$, 80), 203 (40), 177 (90), 162 (100).



12b

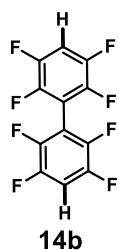
2-methyl-2-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluorophenyl)-1,3-dioxolane **12b**

General Procedure A was followed using 2-methyl-2-(pentafluorophenyl)-1,3-dioxolane (51 mg, 200 μ mol) and NaBH_4 (16 mg, 420 μ mol) in DMSO (2 mL) heated to 50 $^\circ\text{C}$. The desired product **12b** was obtained as a colorless oil (38 mg, 80% yield). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -138.75 – -138.90 (m, 2F), -142.62 – -142.77 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.06 – 6.97 (tt, J = 9.5, 7.2, 1H), 4.17 – 4.07 (m, 2H), 3.95 – 3.86 (m, 2H), 1.84 – 1.80 (s, 3H). GC/MS (*m/z*, relative intensity) 221 ($\text{M}-\text{CH}_3$, 100), 187 (11), 177 (100), 149 (23), 99 (22).



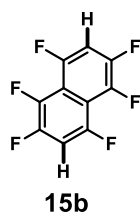
3,5-dichloro-2,6-difluoropyridine **13b**

General Procedure A was followed using 3,5-dichloro-2,4,6-trifluoropyridine (101 mg, 500 μ mol) and NaBH_4 (19 mg, 500 μ mol) in 3 mL DMSO. Product **13b** was obtained as a pale-yellow, high-vapor-pressure solid (62 mg, 75% yield – some mass was lost under high vacuum). NMR spectra collected were a match for the literature.¹³ ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -72.00 – -72.26 (d, J = 7.5, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.98 – 7.92 (t, J = 7.5, 1H).



2,2',3,3',5,5',6,6'-octafluoro-1,1'-biphenyl 14b

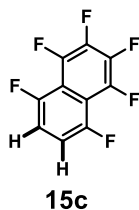
General Procedure A was followed using decafluorobiphenyl (67 mg, 200 μ mol) and NaBH_4 (23 mg, 600 μ mol) in 1 mL DMSO heated to 45 $^\circ\text{C}$. The desired product **14b** was obtained as a white powder (60 mg, 84% yield). Melting point, ^{13}C and mass spectrum matched the literature.^{14,15} ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -137.68 – -137.92 (m, 4F), -138.24 – -138.45 (m, 4F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 2H).



1,2,4,5,6,8-hexafluoronaphthalene 15b

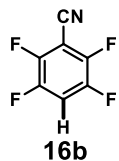
Octafluoronaphthalene (544 mg, 2 mmol) was taken into 8 mL THF and set stirring in a 50 mL round-bottom flask. To this was added NaBH_4 (182 mg, 4.8 mmol) in 12 mL of DMSO. The reaction mixture was heated to 45 $^\circ\text{C}$ and continued to stir for 2 hours. The reaction mix was diluted with 180 mL EtOAc and quenched with brine. The organic layer was separated and washed five times with brine before being dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was subjected to silica gel flash chromatography eluting with pure hexane to afford an intractable mixture of **15b** and **15c** with a relative ratio of 8:1 respectively, for a combined yield of 423 mg (90%), corresponding to an 80% yield **15b** and 10% yield **15c**.

The melting point, mass, ^{19}F NMR and ^1H NMR spectra match the literature.^{14,16,17} ^{19}F NMR (564 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -117.02 – -117.24 (m, 2F), -135.84 – -135.98 (m, 2F), -148.46 – -148.73 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (599 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 2H).



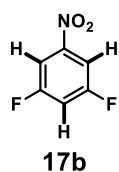
1,2,3,4,5,8-hexafluoronaphthalene 15c

See entry for **15b** for procedure. ^{19}F NMR (564 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -115.19 – -115.28 (m, 2F), -132.88 – -132.97 (m, 2F), -150.10 – -150.21 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (599 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.14 – 7.08 (m, 2H).



2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzonitrile 16b

Into a reaction vial is placed pentafluorobenzonitrile (97 mg, 500 μ mol) and NaBH_4 (19 mg, 500 μ mol) suspended in 2 mL of THF, set stirring with a magnetic stir bar. When the reaction was found to be complete by ^{19}F NMR the THF was removed under reduced pressure and the residue extracted with hexanes, affording **16b** as a colorless oil (77 mg, 88% yield). Mass spectrum matched the literature,¹⁸ as well as the ^{13}C NMR.¹⁴ ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -131.77 – -131.92 (m, 2F), -134.81 – -134.99 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.45 – 7.35 (tt, J = 9.4, 7.3, 1H).



1,3-difluoro-5-nitrobenzene 17b

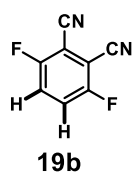
To a stirring suspension of NaBH_4 (34 mg, 900 μ mol) in 3 mL of THF, cooled to 0 $^\circ\text{C}$, is added H_2O (15 mg, 900 μ mol) and pentafluoronitrobenzene (64 mg, 300 μ mol). The reaction mixture is allowed to gradually warm to room temperature and is carefully monitored by ^{19}F NMR. When complete, the reaction is quenched by dilution with EtOAc, which precipitates the reactive salts, and the solution is decanted into a round-bottom flask. The decanted solution is dry loaded onto silica and subjected to silica gel flash chromatography to afford the product **17b** as a yellow oil (38 mg). ^1H and ^{19}F NMR suggested trace contamination of 10 mol% trifluoroaniline isomers and 3 mol% ethyl acetate, making the isolated yield 71%. ^{19}F NMR (376.48 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -105.08 (dd, J = 8.1, 6.5 Hz, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.83 – 7.77 (dd, J = 6.5, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 7.22 – 7.17 (tt, J = 8.1, 2.3, 1H). GC/MS (m/z , relative intensity) 159 (M^+ , 60), 129 (7), 113 (100), 101 (19).



3,4,6-trifluorophthalonitrile 18b

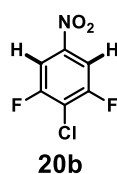
To a stirring suspension of NaBH_4 (38 mg, 1 mmol) and H_2O (20 mg, 1.1 mmol) in THF (20 mL) at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$ is added tetrafluorophthalonitrile (200 mg, 1 mmol). This mixture is stirred for 30 minutes before quenching with trifluoroacetic acid (200 μL) and concentrating under reduced pressure onto silica for flash chromatography using hexane/DCM for elution. Product **18b** was obtained as a pale-yellow oil (133 mg, 73% yield). Yield for this substrate was found to be highly time-dependent, with the product being highly prone to subsequent chemistry if left for longer than 30 minutes; moreover, it does not store well (highly moisture-

sensitive). ^{19}F NMR (564 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ -101.71 (ddd, J = 12.9, 9.3, 8.0 Hz, 1F), -117.02 (dt, J = 20.9, 9.0 Hz, 1F), -128.85 (ddd, J = 20.9, 12.9, 6.3 Hz, 1F). ^1H NMR (599 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.45 (td, J = 8.4, 6.3 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 159.7 (ddd, J = 263.4, 10.9, 3.3 Hz), 153.8 (dt, J = 266.5, 12.6 Hz), 149.4 (ddd, 264.6, 15.5, 4.0 Hz), 112.5 (dd, J = 25.6, 21.3 Hz), 109.3 (t, J = 2.4 Hz), 109.0 (t, J = 3.7 Hz), 106.7 (dt, J = 16.1, 3.4 Hz), 100.8 (dd, J = 20.2, 4.8 Hz). GC/MS (m/z , relative intensity) 182 (M^+ , 100).



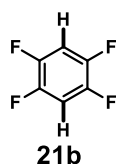
3,6-difluorophthalonitrile **19b**

To a stirring suspension of NaBH_4 (82 mg, 2.2 mmol) in THF (10 mL) cooled to 0 °C is added H_2O (40 mg, 2.2 mmol) and subsequently tetrafluorophthalonitrile (200 mg, 1 mmol) as a solution in THF (20 mL, 0 °C). The reaction mixture warmed to room temperature and is monitored by ^{19}F NMR. After 3 hours, the reaction is complete and concentrated onto silica for flash column chromatography using CH_2Cl_2 : hexane (ramp) for elution to afford **19b** (95 mg, 58% yield). Similar to **18b**, this reaction product degrades readily under ambient laboratory conditions (moisture-sensitive) and stores poorly. ^{13}C NMR was found to match the literature.¹⁴ ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ -106.57 – -106.62 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.58 – 7.54 (m, 2H). GC/MS (m/z , relative intensity) 164 (M^+ , 100).



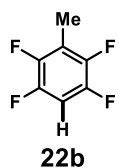
2-chloro-1,3-difluoro-5-nitrobenzene **20b**

To a stirring suspension of NaBH_4 (28 mg, 740 μmol) in 3 mL of THF is added 1-chloro-2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-nitrobenzene **20a** (92 mg, 400 μmol). When the reaction was deemed complete by ^{19}F NMR, the mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and quenched by dilution with pentane, which precipitated out insoluble species. The remaining solution was filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the product **20b** as an orange oil (65 mg, 77% yield). Product appears to be moisture sensitive. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ -107.10 – 107.16 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.94 – 7.88 (m, 2H). GC/MS (m/z , relative intensity) 195 (M^+ , 13), 193 (M^+ , 40).



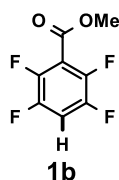
1,2,4,5-tetrafluorobenzene **21b**

General Procedure A was followed using hexafluorobenzene (100 mg, 537 μmol) and NaBH_4 (100 mg, 2.6 mmol) in 5 mL of DMSO. When the reaction was complete, 1 mL of reaction mixture (20% of the total volume) was taken into an NMR tube charged with a benzene- d_6 capillary and fluorobenzene (20 μL , 213 μmol) as internal standard. The aliquot was calculated to contain 87 μmol of **7b** corresponding to an 81% yield. Mass spectrum was found to be in accord with the literature.³ ^{19}F NMR (564 MHz, DMSO) δ -134.78 – 134.84 (t, J = 9.0, 4F).



1,2,4,5-tetrafluoro-3-methylbenzene **22b**

General Procedure A was followed using 1,2,3,4,5-pentafluoro-6-methylbenzene (100 mg, 550 μmol) and NaBH_4 (104 mg, 2.6 mmol) in 5 mL of DMSO heated to 80 °C. When the reaction was complete, 500 μL of reaction mixture was taken into an NMR tube charged with a benzene- d_6 capillary and fluorobenzene (20 μL , 213 μmol) as internal standard. The aliquot was calculated to contain 39 μmol of **22b** corresponding to a 72% yield. The mass spectrum was a match for the literature.³ ^{19}F NMR (564 MHz, DMSO) δ -140.03 (m, 2F), -143.23 (m, 2F).



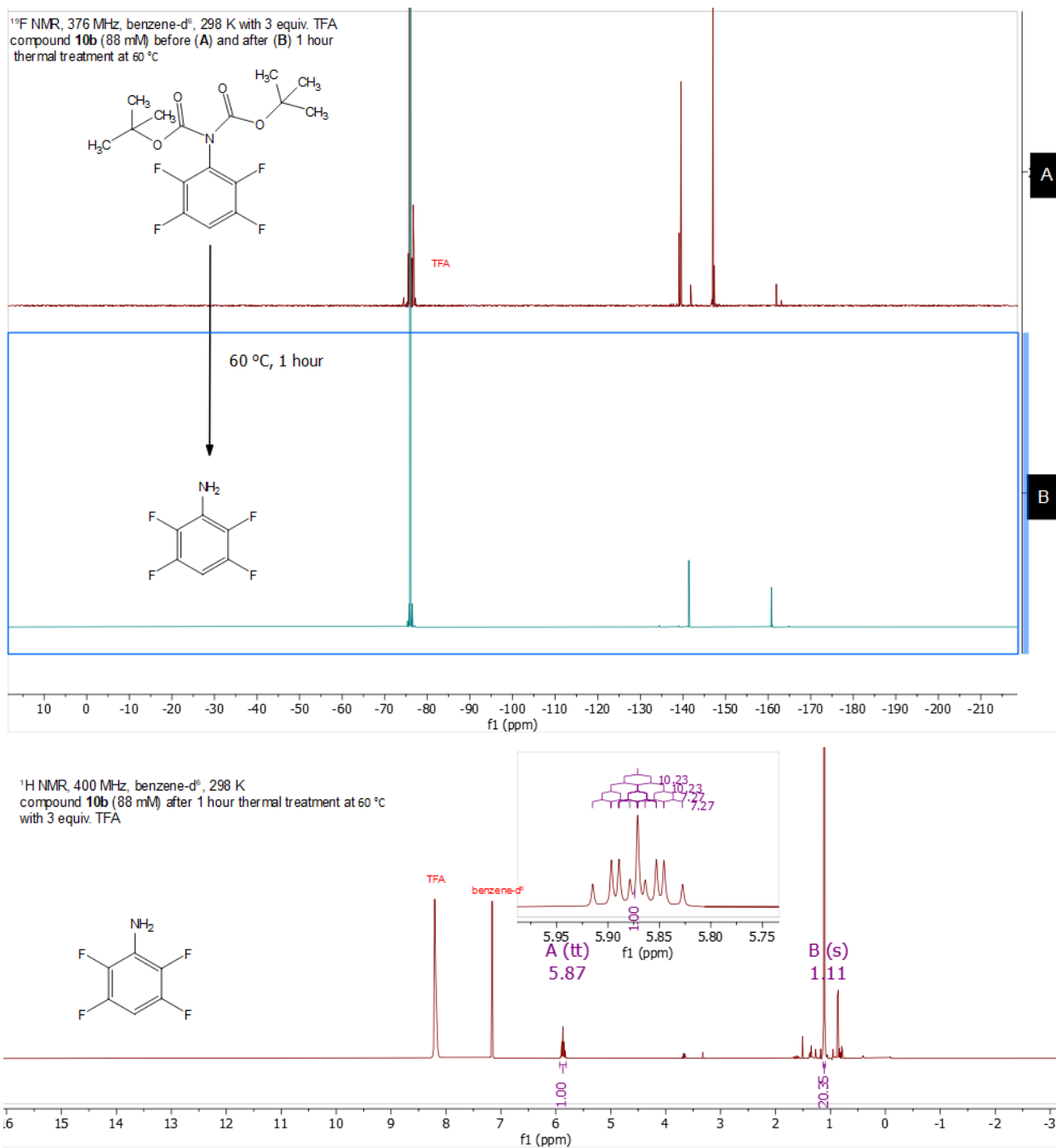
methyl 2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzoate **1b** (5 g scale)

General Procedure A was followed using methyl pentafluorobenzoate (5.00 g, 22.1 mmol) and 1 equiv NaBH_4 (837 mg, 22.1 mmol) in 75 mL DMSO. The desired product **1b** was obtained as a colorless oil (4.15 g, 90% yield). A known compound, characteristic NMR spectra match the literature.⁸ ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ -137.45 – -137.60 (m, 2F), -139.48 – -139.63 (m, 2F). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.20 (tt, J = 9.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.00-3.97 (s, 3H)

NMR Demonstration of Deprotection of N,N-(*boc*)₂-tetrafluoroaniline **10b**

To demonstrate the facility of converting **10b** to the corresponding 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoroaniline, 16 mg (44 μ mol) of **10b** were taken into an NMR tube charged with benzene-*d*⁶ (500 μ L) and trifluoroacetic acid (15 mg, 132 μ mol). NMR spectra collected prior to and following a one-hour thermal treatment at 60 °C showed complete conversion to 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoroaniline (**Figure 2**), consistent with the literature spectrum in benzene-*d*⁶.¹⁹

Figure 2. NMR Spectra of **10b Before and After Heating in TFA Solution**

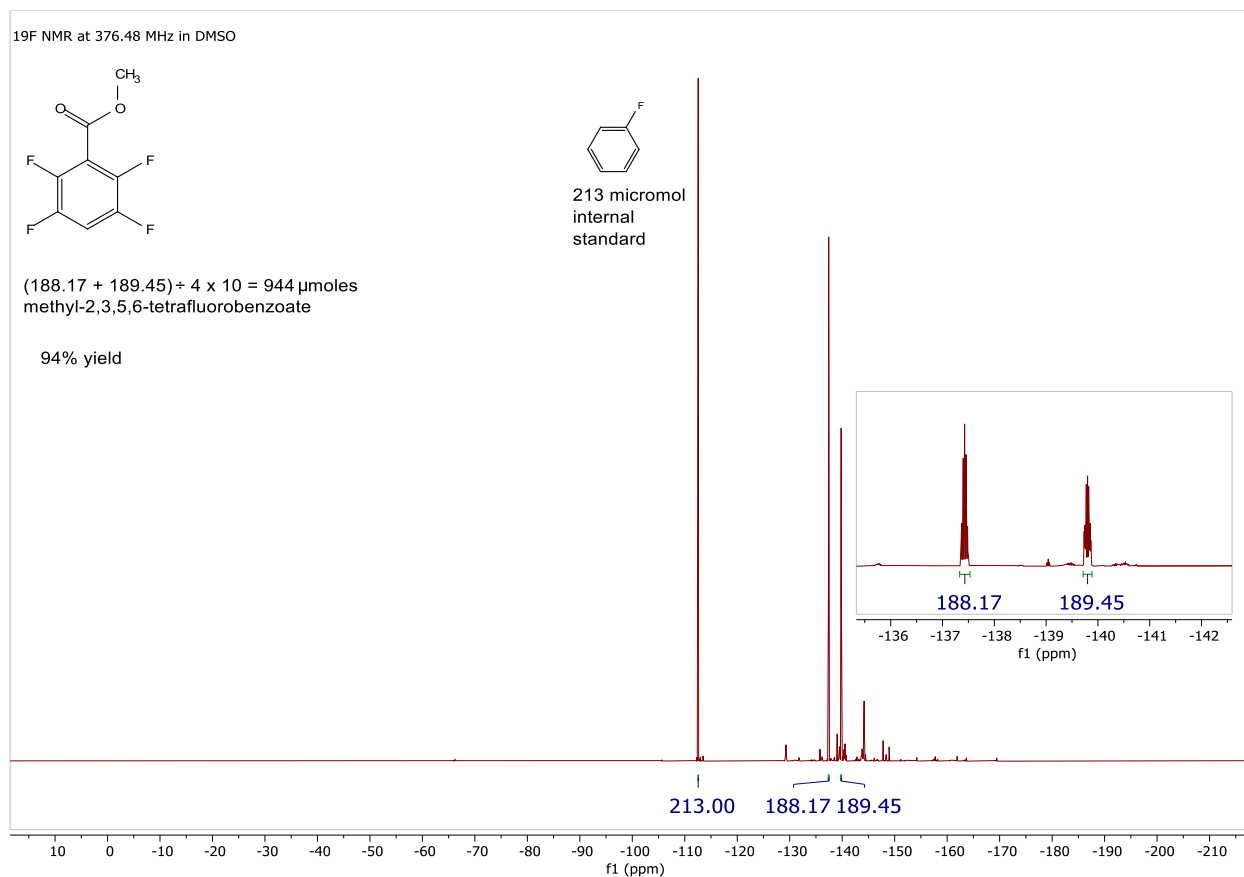


Stability Test Using Methyl Pentafluorobenzoate

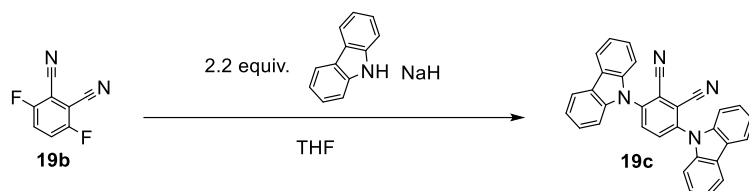
In order to make a statement regarding the stability of substrates like **1b** under reaction conditions over extended periods, a 1 mmol scale synthesis of **1b** was set up according to General Procedure A (in 5.00 mL of DMSO) and left to stir for a period of time in excess of 40 hours. Periodic monitoring of the reaction by GCMS indicated complete consumption of the starting material within 4 hours, and no evidence for the formation of undesired side-products. After approximately 40 hours, aliquots subjected to GCMS still showed primarily methyl 2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzoate.

Finally, a 1/10 volume sample from the reaction mixture was taken into an NMR tube charged with a benzene- d_6 capillary and fluorobenzene as an internal standard (20 microliters, 213 micromoles) for an expedient ^{19}F NMR yield of 94%. No attempt was made to characterize any trace side products or the fate of the remaining 3 equivalents of hydrides, although a distinct odor of dimethylsulfide suggested that the complex hydride side products preferentially react with the solvent over the methyl 1,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzoate.

It is important to note that several of the other tested substrates were very much less stable under reaction conditions, requiring careful monitoring and timely workup to mitigate subsequent functional group reduction (**17b**, **18b**, **19b**, and **20b**)

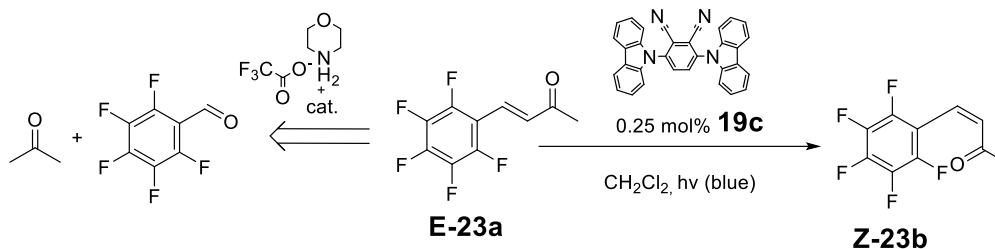


Synthesis of 3,6-di(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phthalonitrile **19c**



Following the procedure of Adachi et al.,²⁰ NaH (110 mg 60% paraffin dispersion, 2.7 mmol) was added portion-wise to a stirring solution of carbazole (450 mg, 2.7 mmol) in dry THF (3 mL) under argon. The stirring was continued until the exotherm and effervescence had entirely subsided, then the suspension was carefully transferred via syringe to another stirring 3 mL THF solution of 3,6-difluorophthalonitrile **19b** (200 mg, 1.22 mmol). The S_NAr reaction was essentially diffusion controlled but allowed to stir for 30 minutes before being quenched in ice water and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 until the extractions no longer fluoresced under 365 nm irradiation. The organic layer was dried over $MgSO_4$ and subjected to silica gel flash chromatography eluting with 60% CH_2Cl_2 40% hexane affording 455 mg of **19c** (81% yield) as a bright yellow, fluorescent powder. 1H NMR (599 MHz, Benzene- d_6) δ 7.97 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 6H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 6.72 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Benzene- d_6) δ 140.86, 140.51, 134.48, 126.89, 124.87, 122.18, 121.26, 117.81, 113.10, 110.07

Scheme 3. Contrathermodynamic Isomerization of E-23a

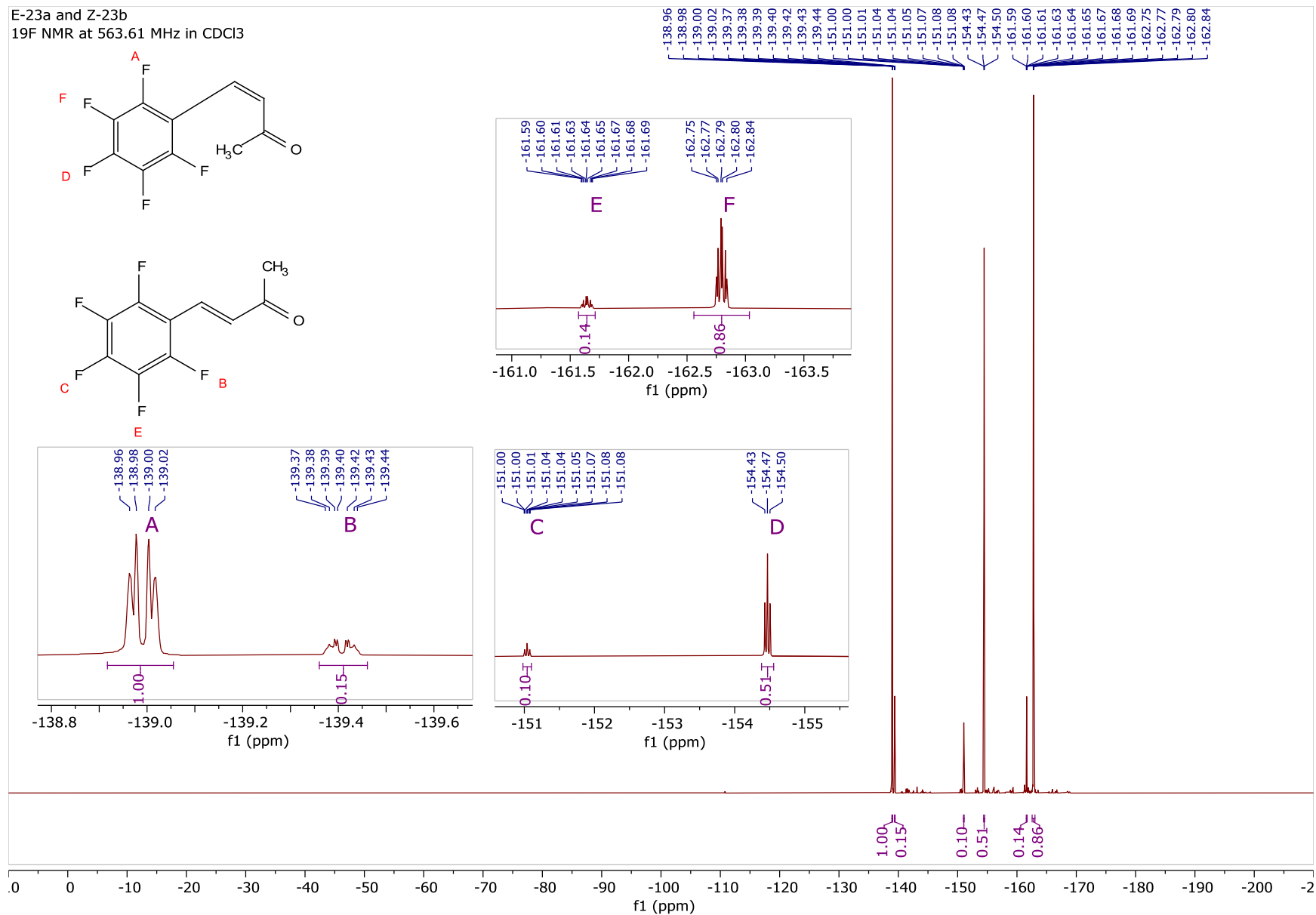


19c – Photocatalyzed Synthesis of (Z)-4-(perfluorophenyl)but-3-en-2-one (**Z-23b**)

The procedure reported by Sun et al.²¹ was followed scaled to 980 mg of pentafluorobenzaldehyde, affording **E-23a** in 80% yield. 100 mg (424 μ mol) of **E-23a** was placed into glass culture tube charged with **19c** in CH_2Cl_2 (4 mL, 280 μ M), which was subsequently placed in the 447 nm light bath described in the general experimental at 0 °C for 1 hour. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and subjected to silica gel chromatography with hexane/EtOAc to afford **Z-23b** (70 mg combined, 70% combined yield as a mixture of 8 : 1 **Z-23b** : **E-23a**). ^{19}F NMR (564 MHz, chloroform- d) δ -138.99 (m, 2F), -154.47 (t, J = 20.7 Hz, 1F), -162.78 (m, 2F). 1H NMR (599 MHz, chloroform- d) δ 6.58 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (dq, J = 11.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, chloroform- d) δ 197.72 (s), 144.12 (dddt, J = 249.0, 11.2, 7.4, 3.8 Hz), 141.22 (dtt, J = 255.6, 13.9, 5.4 Hz), 137.37 (m, J_{C-F} = 251.2 Hz), 133.96 (s, 1C), 122.65 (s), 110.98 (td, J = 17.7, 4.1 Hz), 30.63 (s).

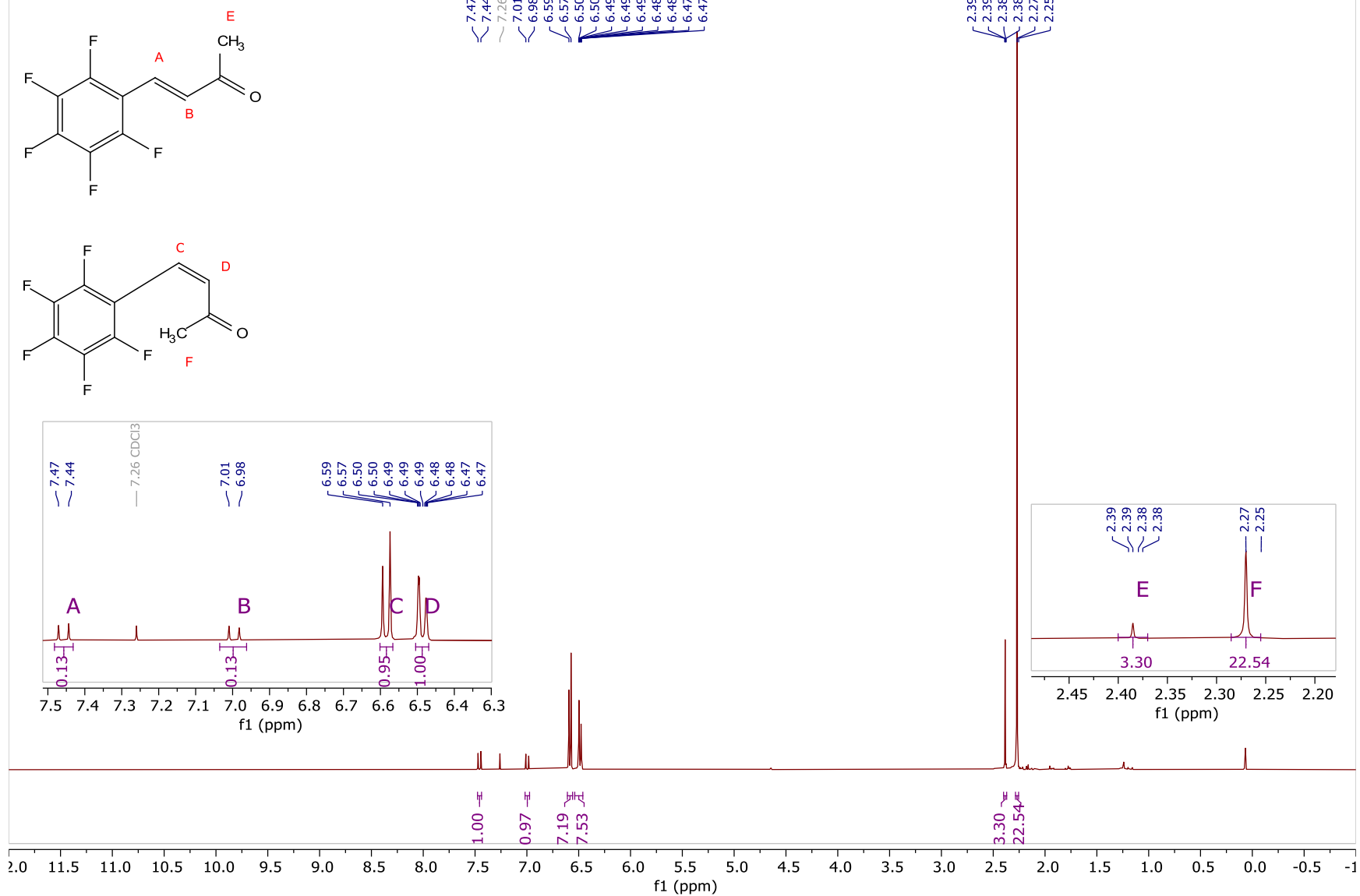
E-23a and Z-23b

¹⁹F NMR at 563.61 MHz in CDCl₃



E-23a and Z-23b

^1H NMR at 599.05 MHz in CDCl_3



¹³C NMR at 150.65 MHz in CDCl₃

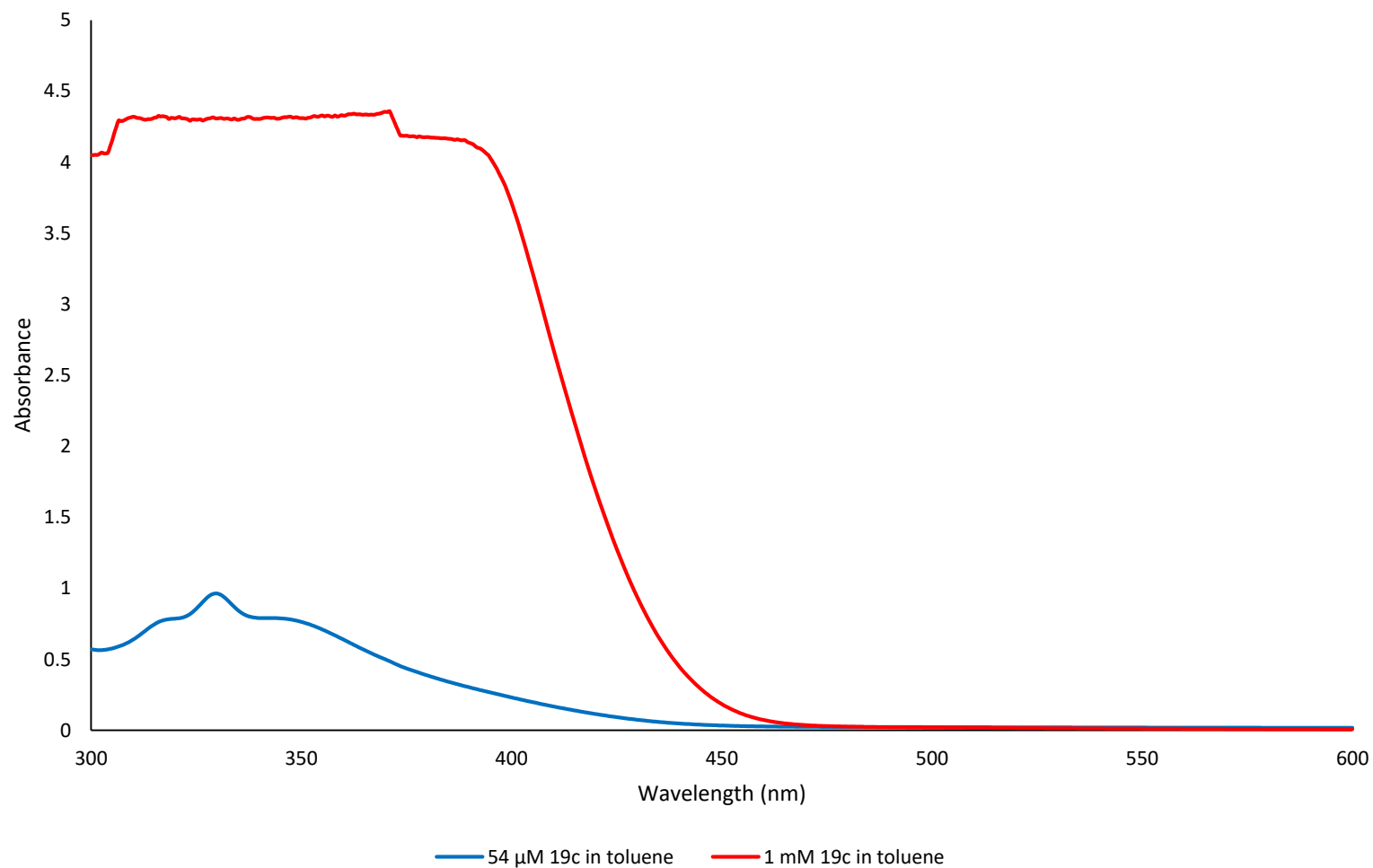


REFERENCES

- (1) Harris, R.; Becker, E. D.; Cabral de Menezes, S. M.; Goodfellow, R.; Granger, P. NMR Nomenclature. Nuclear Spin Properties and Conventions for Chemical Shifts. *Pure Appl. Chem.* **2001**, *73* (11), 1795–1818.
- (2) Davies, L. C.; Friedlos, F.; Hedley, D.; Martin, J.; Ogilvie, L. M.; Scanlon, I. J.; Springer, C. J. Novel Fluorinated Prodrugs for Activation by Carboxypeptidase G2 Showing Good in Vivo Antitumor Activity in Gene-Directed Enzyme Prodrug Therapy. *J. Med. Chem.* **2005**, *48* (16), 5321–5328. <https://doi.org/10.1021/jm0502182>.
- (3) Wallace, W. E.; NIST Mass Spectrometry Data Center. “Mass Spectra.” In *NIST Chemistry WebBook, NIST Standard Reference Database Number 69*; Linstrom, P. J., Mallard, W. G., Eds.; National Institute of Standards and Technology: Gaithersburg MD, 20899, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.18434/T4D303>.
- (4) Nicholls, T. P.; Robertson, J. C.; Gardiner, M. G.; Bissember, A. C. Identifying the Potential of Pulsed LED Irradiation in Synthesis: Copper-Photocatalysed C-F Functionalisation †. *Chem. Commun* **2018**, *54*, 4589. <https://doi.org/10.1039/c8cc02244e>.
- (5) Zhang, X.; Fan, S.; He, C.-Y.; Wan, X.; Min, Q.-Q.; Yang, J.; Jiang, Z.-X. Pd(OAc)₂ Catalyzed Olefination of Highly Electron-Deficient Perfluoroarenes. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132* (13), 4506–4507. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja908434e>.
- (6) Matsuyama, N.; Kitahara, M.; Hirano, K.; Satoh, T.; Miura, M. Nickel- and Copper-Catalyzed Direct Alkynylation of Azoles and Polyfluoroarenes with Terminal Alkynes under O₂ or Atmospheric Conditions. *Org. Lett.* **2010**, *12* (10), 2358–2361. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ol100699g>.
- (7) Iwasaki, T.; Min, X.; Fukuoka, A.; Zhu, L.; Qiu, R.; Yang, T.; Ehara, M.; Sudalai, A.; Kambe, N. Ni-Catalyzed Dimerization and Hydroperfluoroarylation of 1,3-Dienes. *J. Org. Chem.* **2018**, *83*, 9267. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.joc.8b01266>.
- (8) Senaweera, S. M.; Singh, A.; Weaver, J. D. Photocatalytic Hydrodefluorination: Facile Access to Partially Fluorinated Aromatics. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, *136*, 3002. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja500031m>.
- (9) Laev, S. S.; Shteingarts, V. D. Reductive Dehalogenation of Polyfluoroarenes by Zinc in Aqueous Ammonia. *J. Fluor. Chem.* **1999**, *96* (2), 175–185. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-1139\(99\)00082-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-1139(99)00082-2).
- (10) Aroskar, E. V.; Brown, P. J. N.; Plevey, R. G.; Stephens, R. Aromatic Polyfluoro-Compounds. PART XLI.1 Some Reactions of Pentafluorobenzaldehyde. *J. Chem. Soc. C* **1966**, 1569–1575. <https://doi.org/10.1039/J39680001569>.
- (11) Wiles, M. R.; Massey, A. G. Synthesis of 1-Phenylethynyl- 4-Substituted Tetrafluorobenzenes. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1967**, *8* (51), 5137–5138. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0040-4039\(01\)89629-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0040-4039(01)89629-5).
- (12) Krebs, F. C.; Jensen, T. Fluorinated Molecules Relevant to Conducting Polymer Research. *J. Fluor. Chem.* **2003**, *120* (1), 77–84. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-1139\(02\)00289-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-1139(02)00289-0).
- (13) Chambers, R. D.; Hall, C. W.; Hutchinson, J.; Millar, R. W. Polyhalogenated Heterocyclic Compounds. Part 42. Fluorinated Nitrogen Heterocycles with Unusual Substitution Patterns. *J. Chem. Soc. - Perkin Trans. 1* **1998**, No. 10, 1705–1713. <https://doi.org/10.1039/a709291a>.
- (14) Kikushima, K.; Grellier, M.; Ohashi, M.; Ogoshi, S. Transition-Metal-Free Catalytic Hydrodefluorination of Polyfluoroarenes by Concerted Nucleophilic Aromatic Substitution with a Hydrosilicate. *Angew. Chemie - Int. Ed.* **2017**, *56* (51), 16191–16196. <https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.201708003>.
- (15) Deacon, G. B.; Phillips, R. J. Organothallium Compounds. XIV. Thermal Decomposition of Some Polyfluorobenzoatobis(Polyfluorophenyl)-Thallium(III) Compounds. *Aust. J. Chem* **1978**, *31*, 1709–1724. <https://doi.org/10.1071/CH9781709>.
- (16) Facundo, A. A.; Aré, A.; Fundora-Galano, G.; Flores-A 'lamo, M.; Orgaz, E.; Garcí, J. J. Hydrodefluorination of Functionalized Fluoroaromatics with Triethylphosphine: A Theoretical and Experimental Study †. *New J. Chem* **2019**, *43*, 6897. <https://doi.org/10.1039/c9nj00721k>.
- (17) Yow, S.; Gates, S. J.; White, A. J. P.; Crimmin, M. R. Zirconocene Dichloride Catalyzed Hydrodefluorination of C Sp² F Bonds. *Angew. Chemie Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51* (50), 12559–12563. <https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.201207036>.
- (18) Senaweera, S. M.; Singh, A.; Weaver, J. D. *Photocatalytic Hydrodefluorination; Facile Access to Partially Fluorinated Aromatics-SI*; 2014.
- (19) Andreevskaya, O. I.; Furin, G. G.; Yakobson, G. G. AROMATIC FLUORO-SUBSTITUTED DERIVATIVES. LXXV. BENZIDINE REARRANGEMENT OF 2,2',3,3',5,5',6,6'-OCTAFLUOROHYDRAZOBENZENE AND WALLACH REARRANGEMENT OF 2,2',3,3',5,5',6,6'-OCTAFLUOROAZOXYBENZENE IN ULTRA-STRONG ACIDS. *Zhurnal Org. Khimii* **1977**, *13*, 1648–1693. <https://doi.org/10.1002/chin.197748097>.
- (20) Uoyama, H.; Goushi, K.; Shizu, K.; Nomura, H.; Adachi, C. Highly Efficient Organic Light-Emitting Diodes from Delayed Fluorescence. *Nature* **2012**, *492* (7428), 234–238. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature11687>.
- (21) Song, X.; Zhu, X.; Li, T.; Liang, C.; Zhang, M.; Shao, Y.; Tao, J.; Sun, R. Dehydrozingerone Inspired Discovery of Potential Broad-Spectrum Fungicidal Agents as Ergosterol Biosynthesis Inhibitors. *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **2019**, *67* (41), 11354–11363. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jafc.9b04231>.

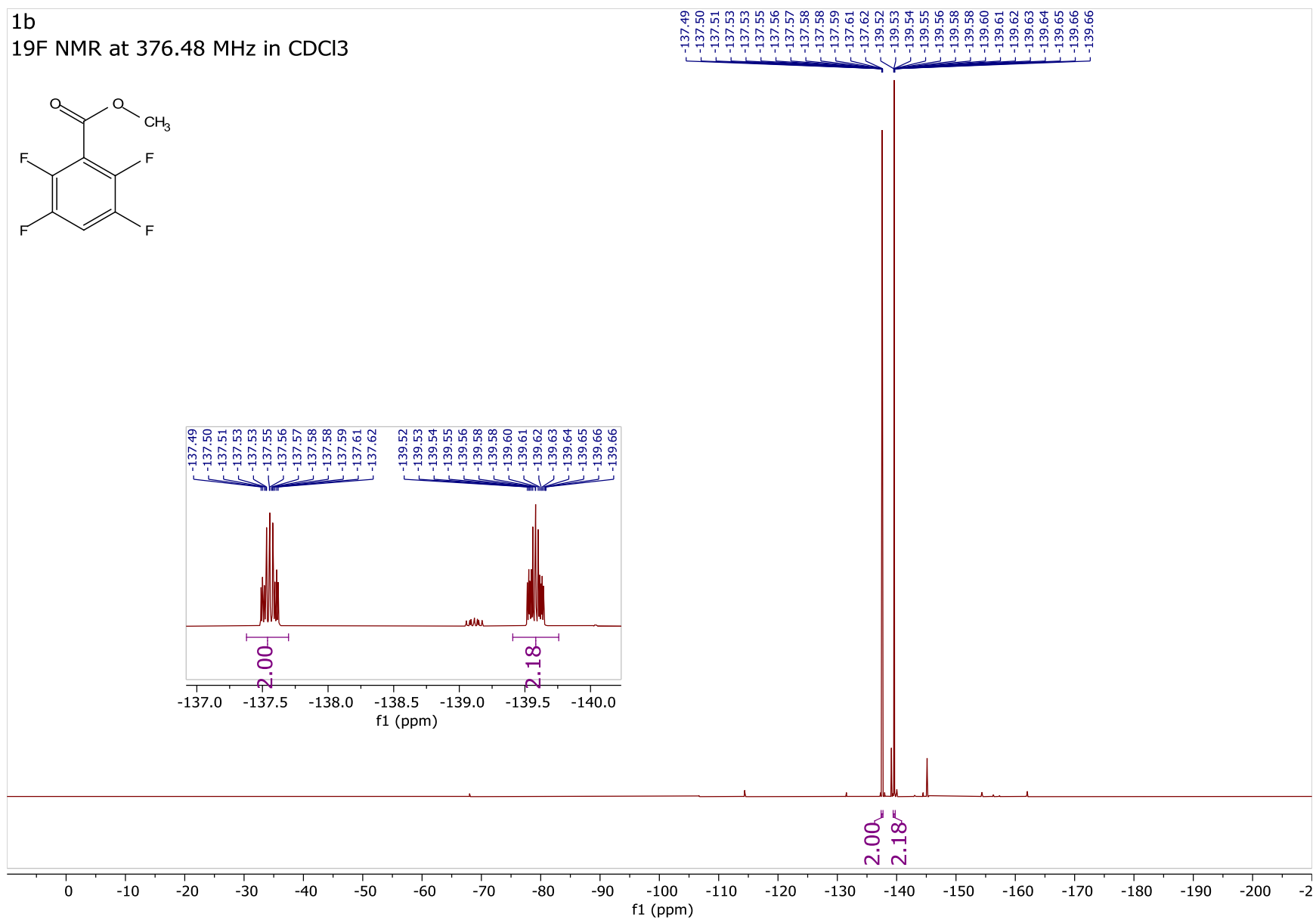
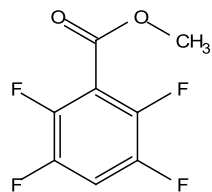
UV-Vis absorption spectra were collected at reaction concentration (approximately 1 mM) and at 54 μ M for the organodye **19c** as part of the substance characterization.

Figure 4. UV-Vis Absorption Spectrum for organodye 19c

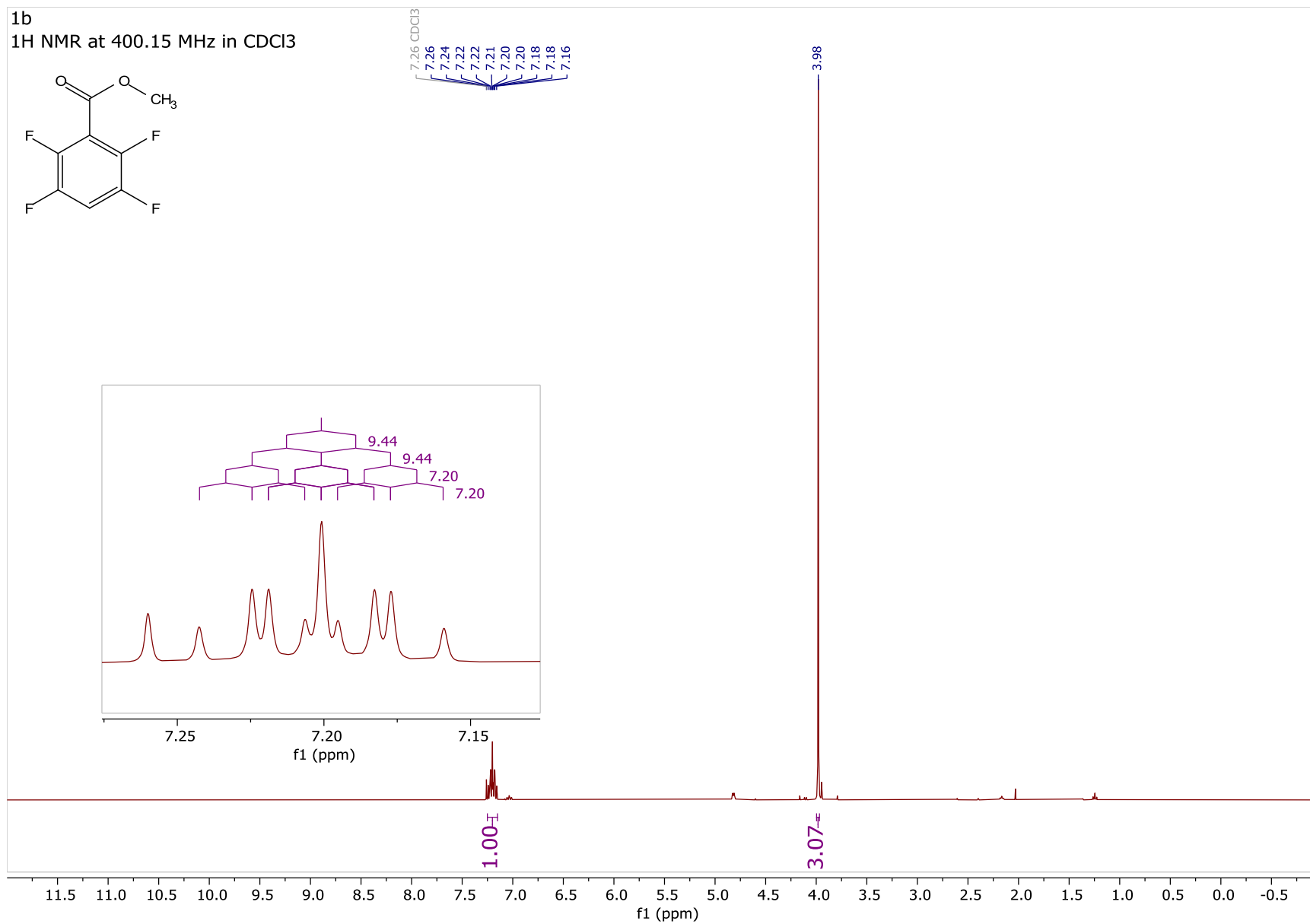
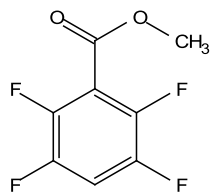


1b

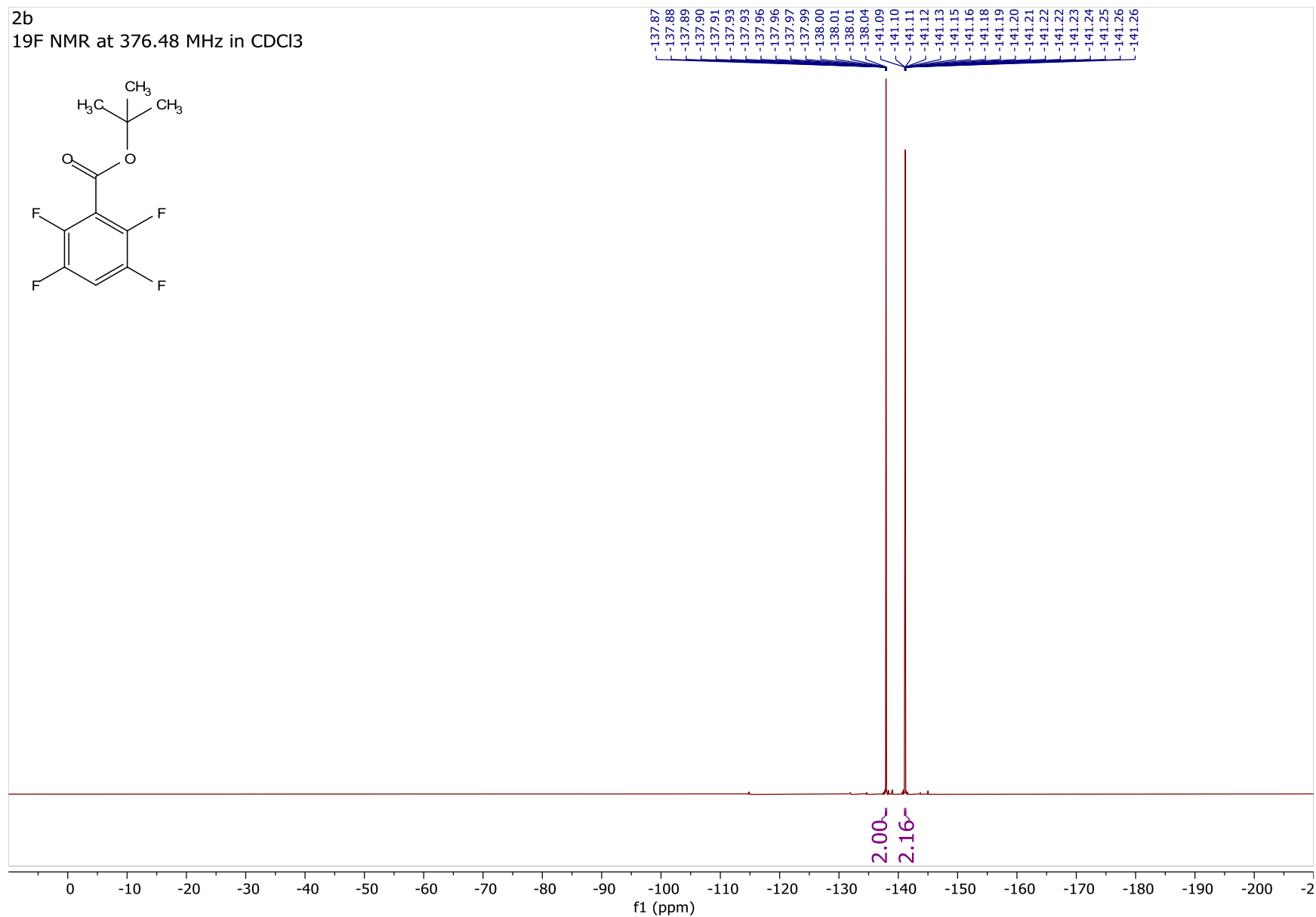
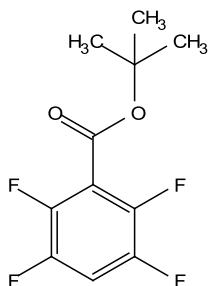
^{19}F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl_3



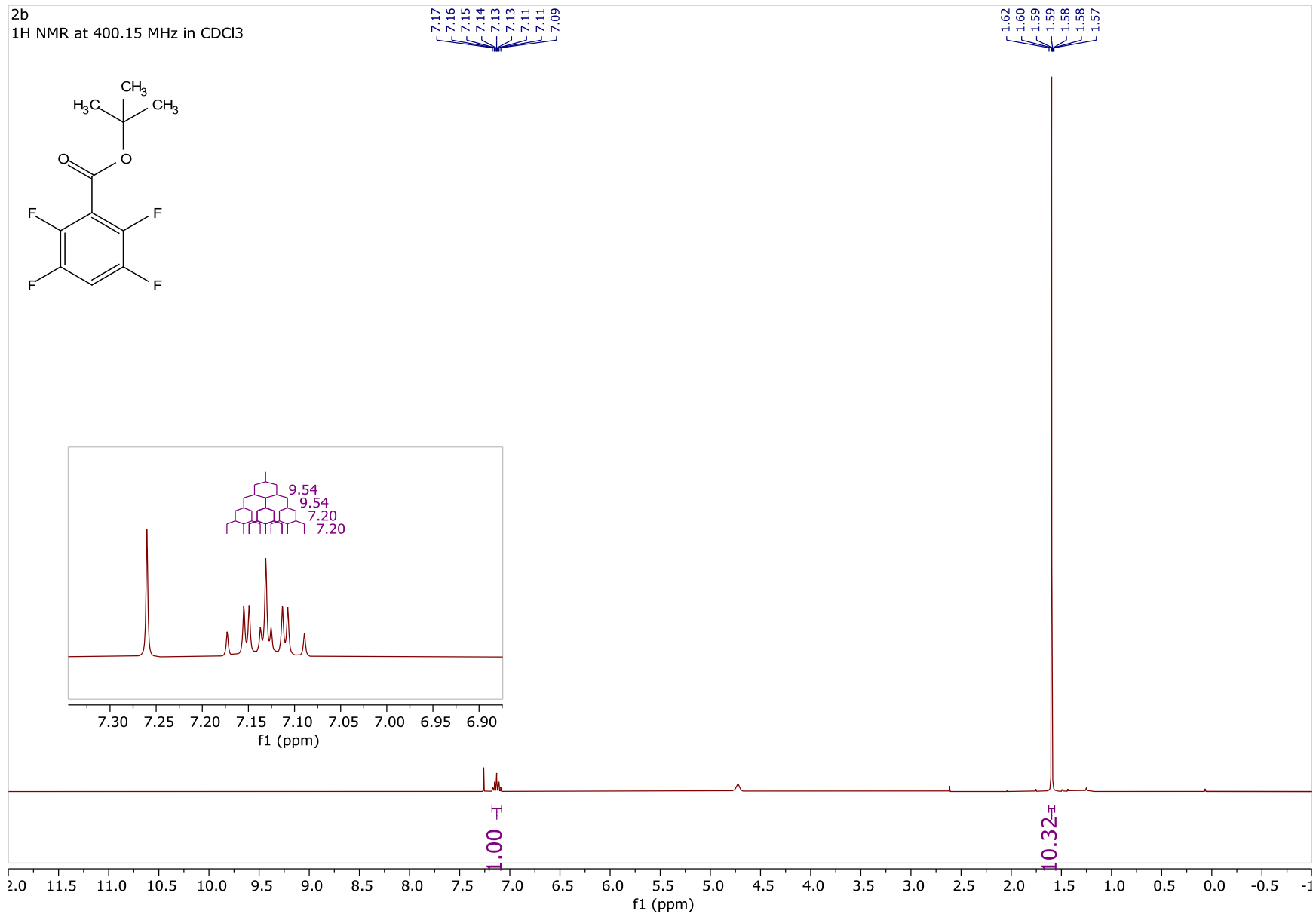
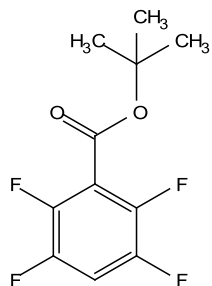
1b
1H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl3



2b
19F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl3

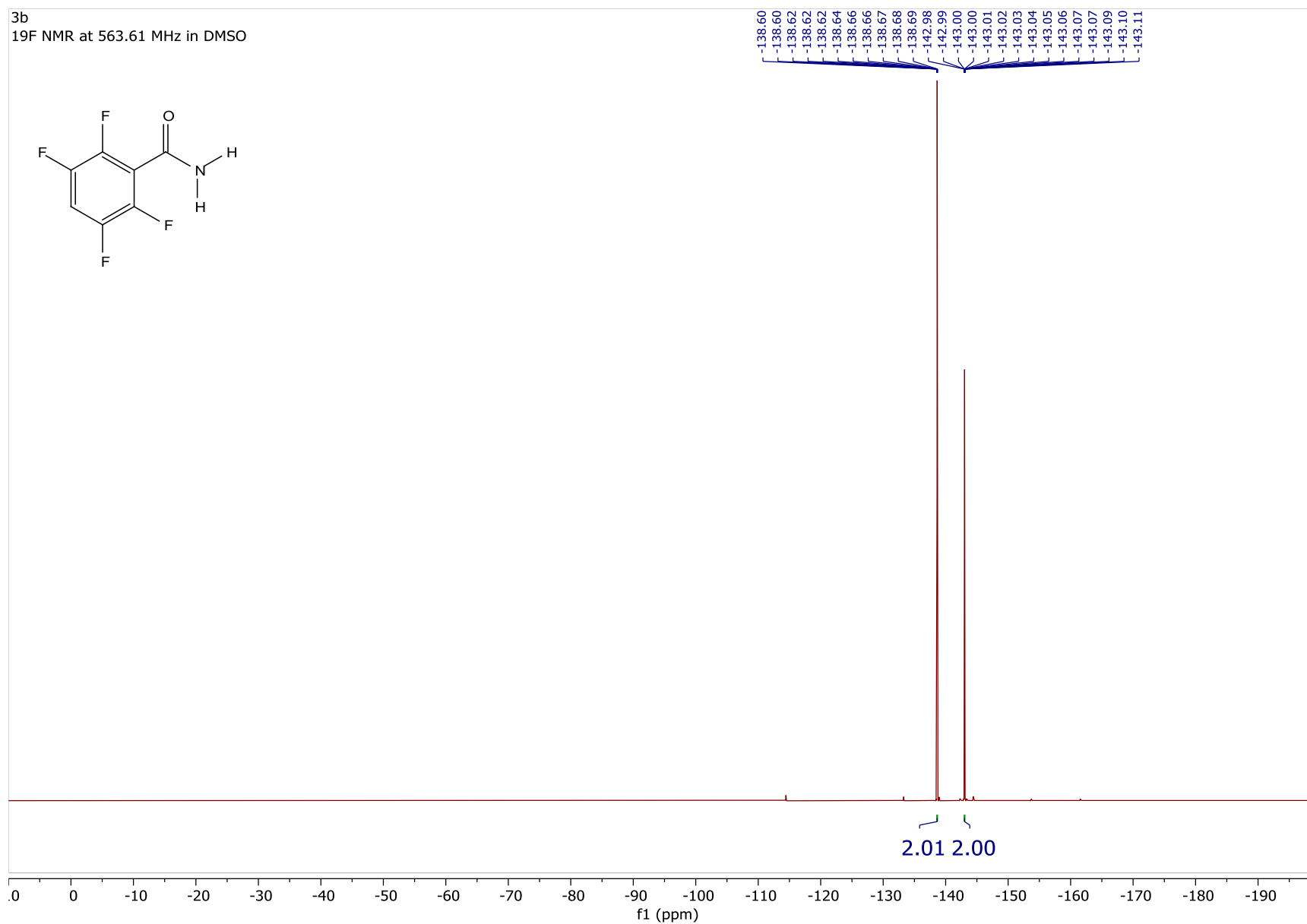
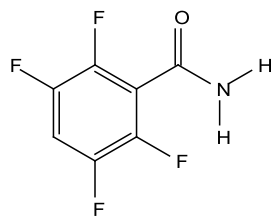


2b
1H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl3

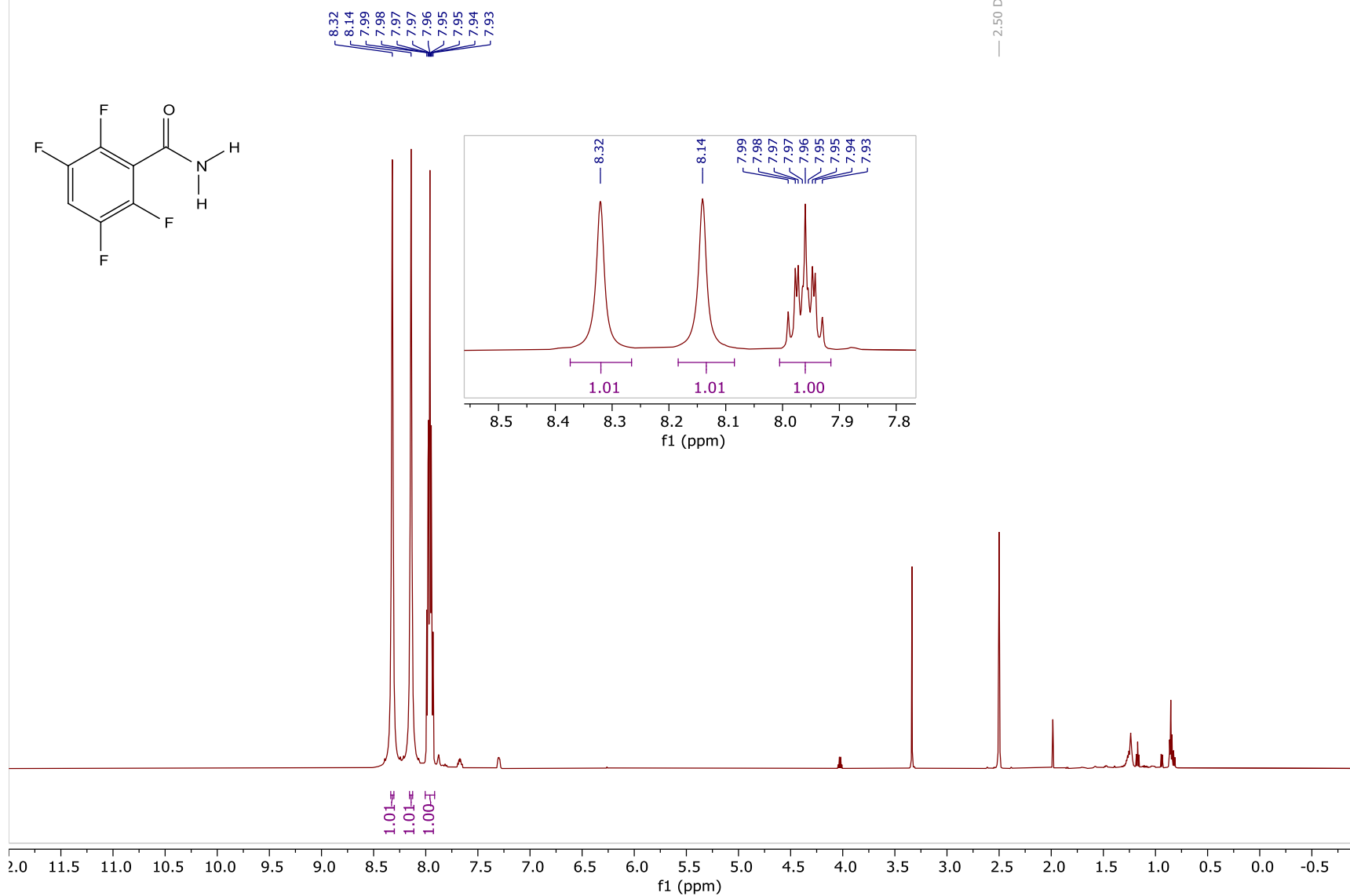


3b

¹⁹F NMR at 563.61 MHz in DMSO

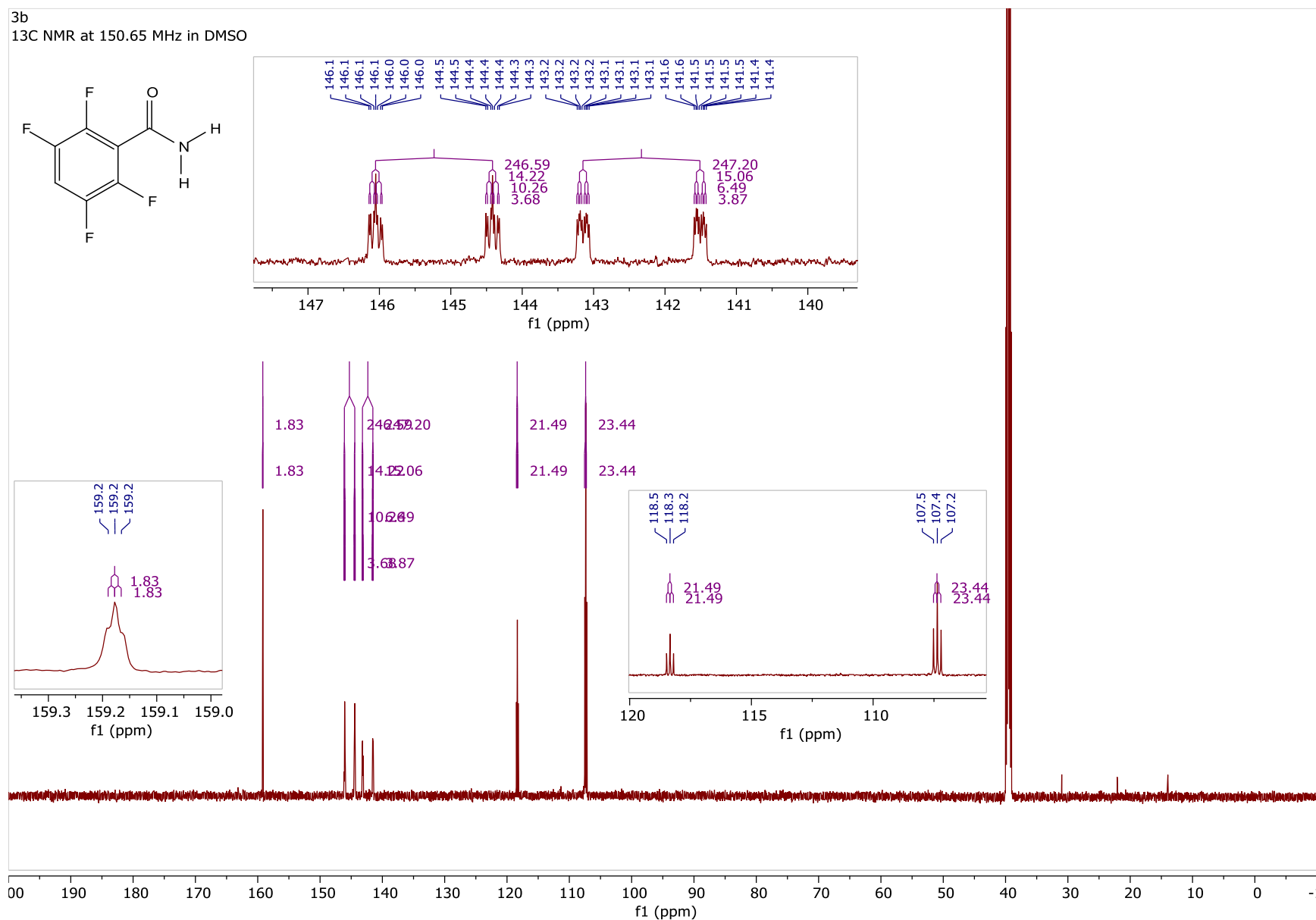


3b
1H NMR at 599.05 MHz in DMSO



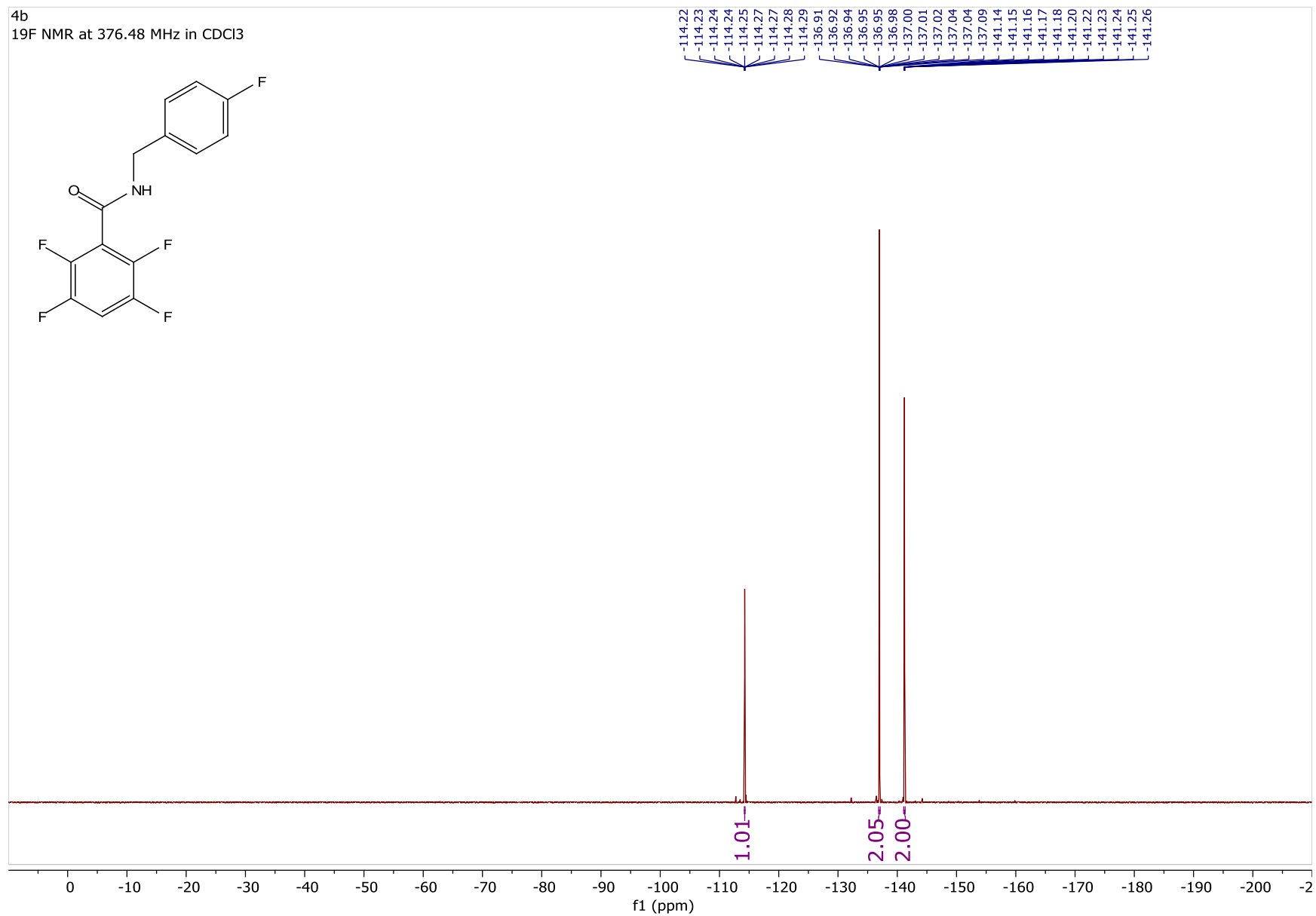
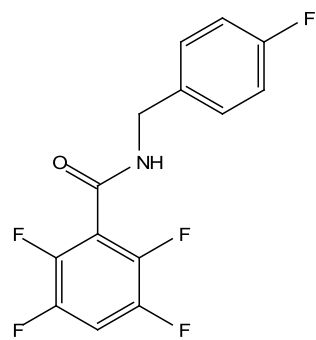
3b

¹³C NMR at 150.65 MHz in DMSO



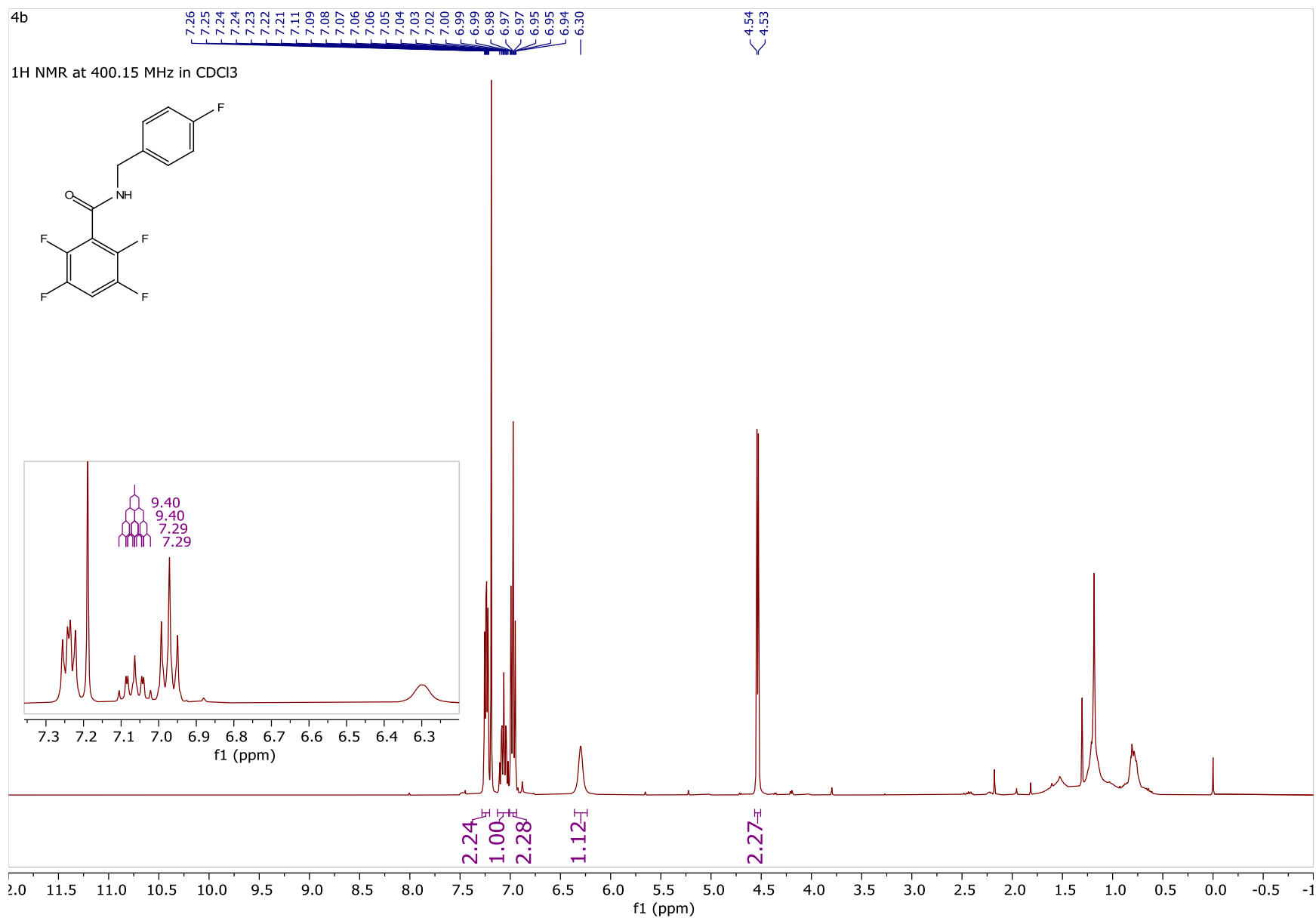
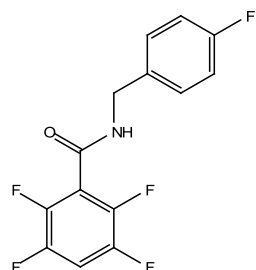
4b

¹⁹F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl₃



4b

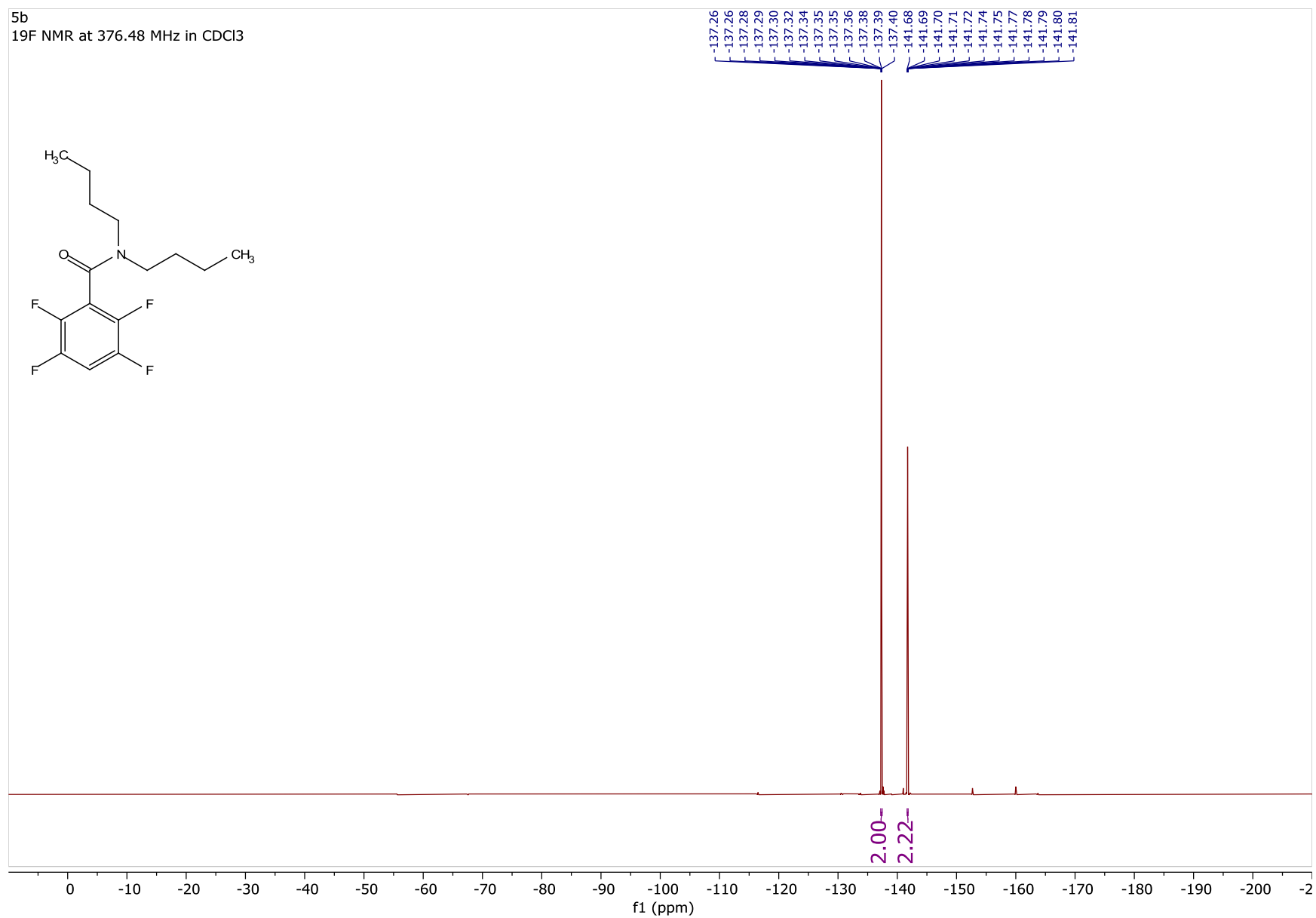
1H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl3



m

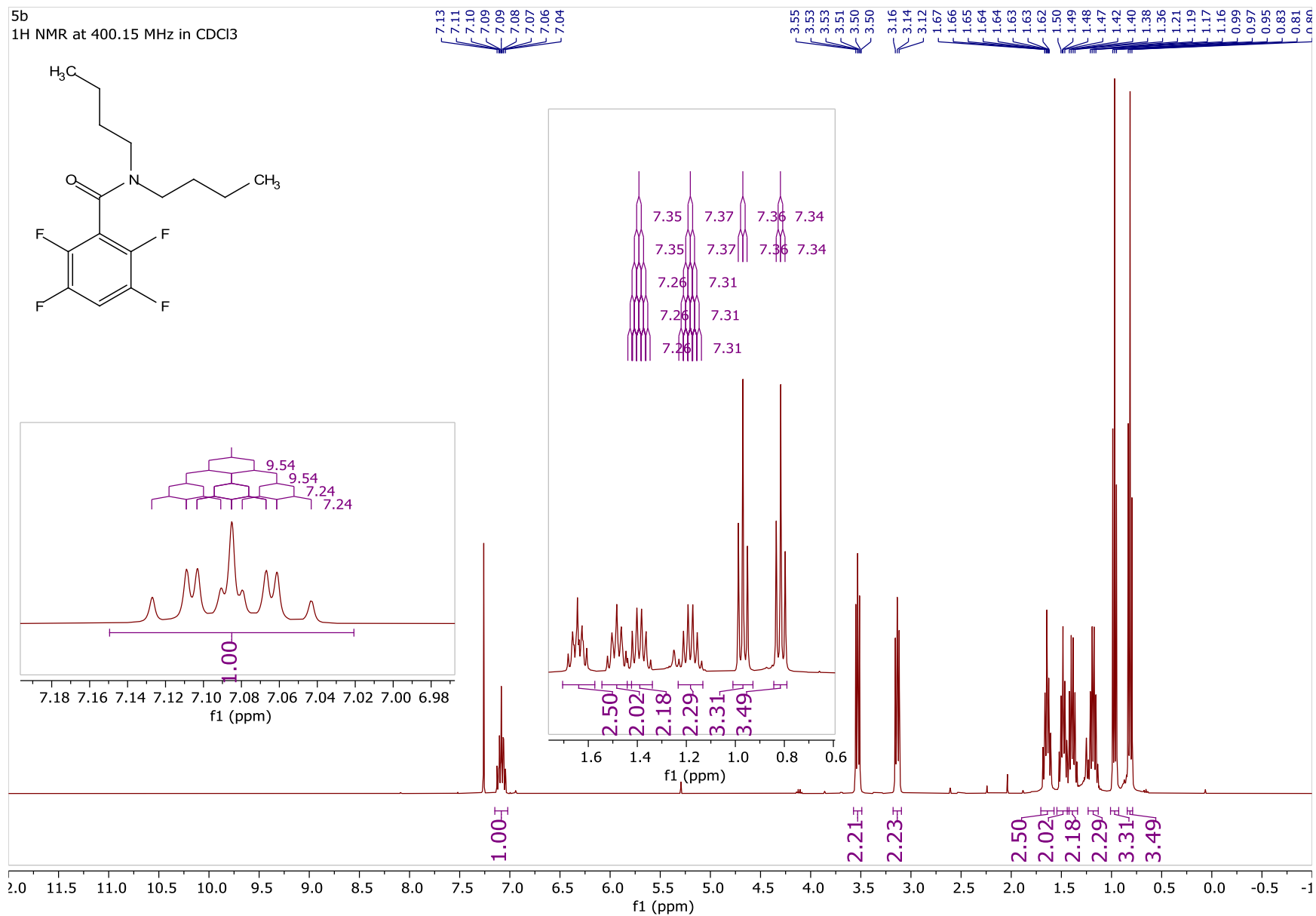
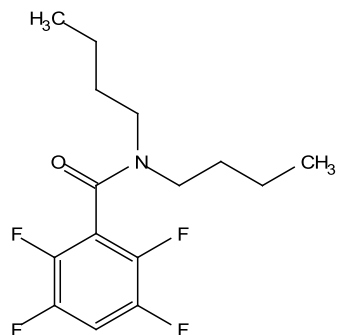
5b

¹⁹F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl₃



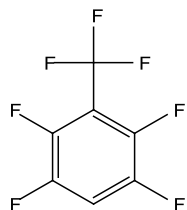
m

5b



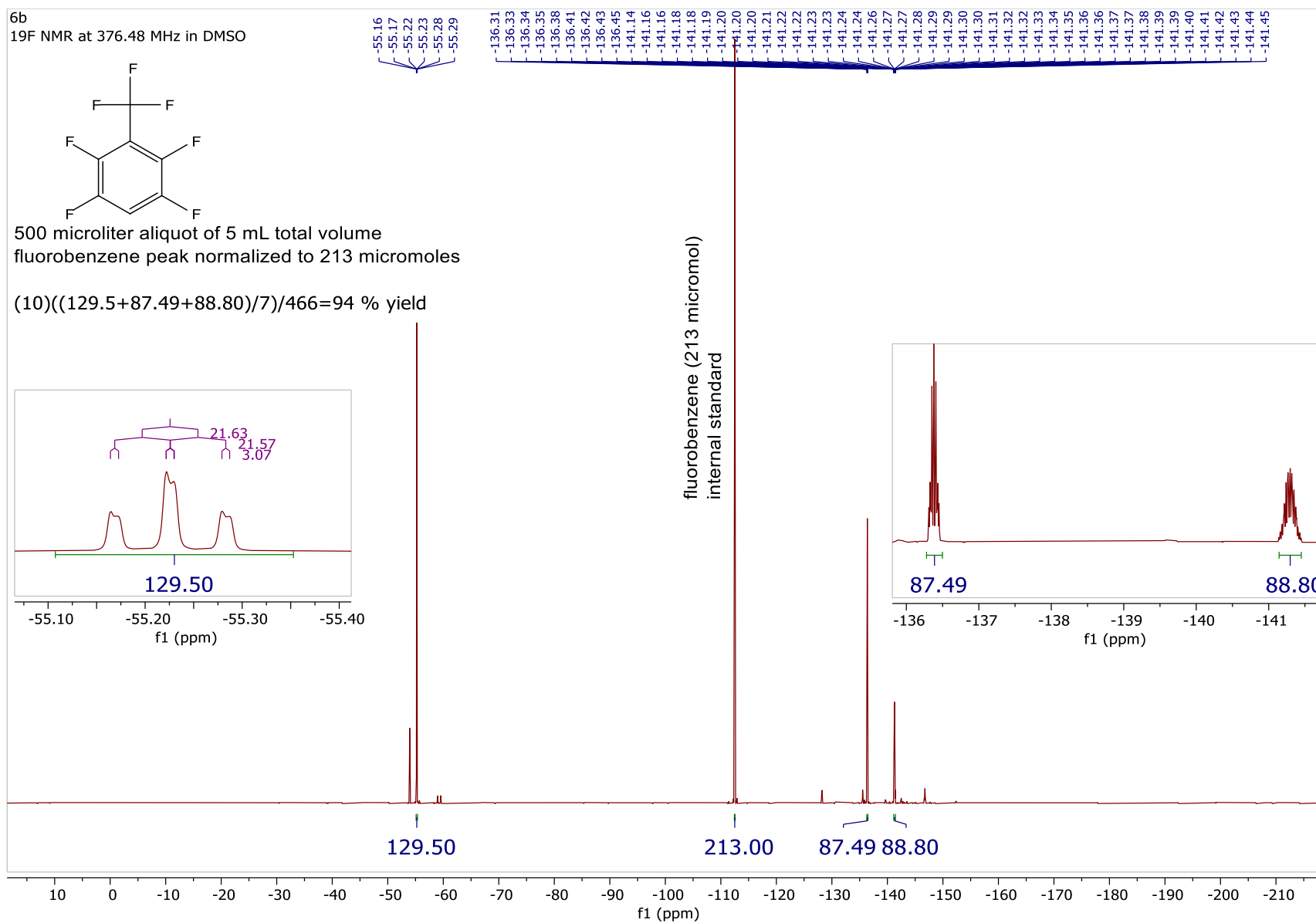
6b

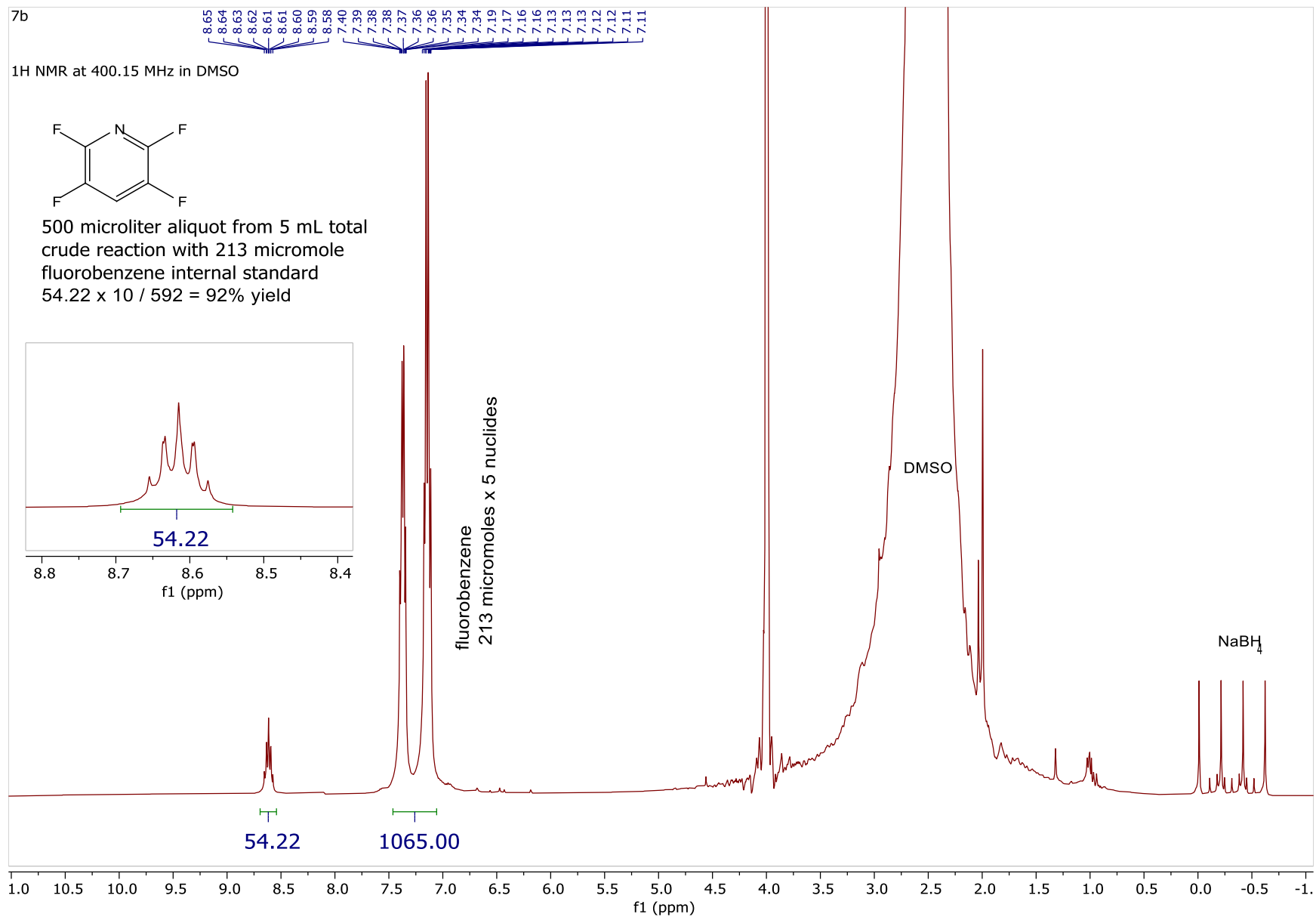
19F NMR at 376.48 MHz in DMSO



500 microliter aliquot of 5 mL total volume
fluorobenzene peak normalized to 213 micromoles

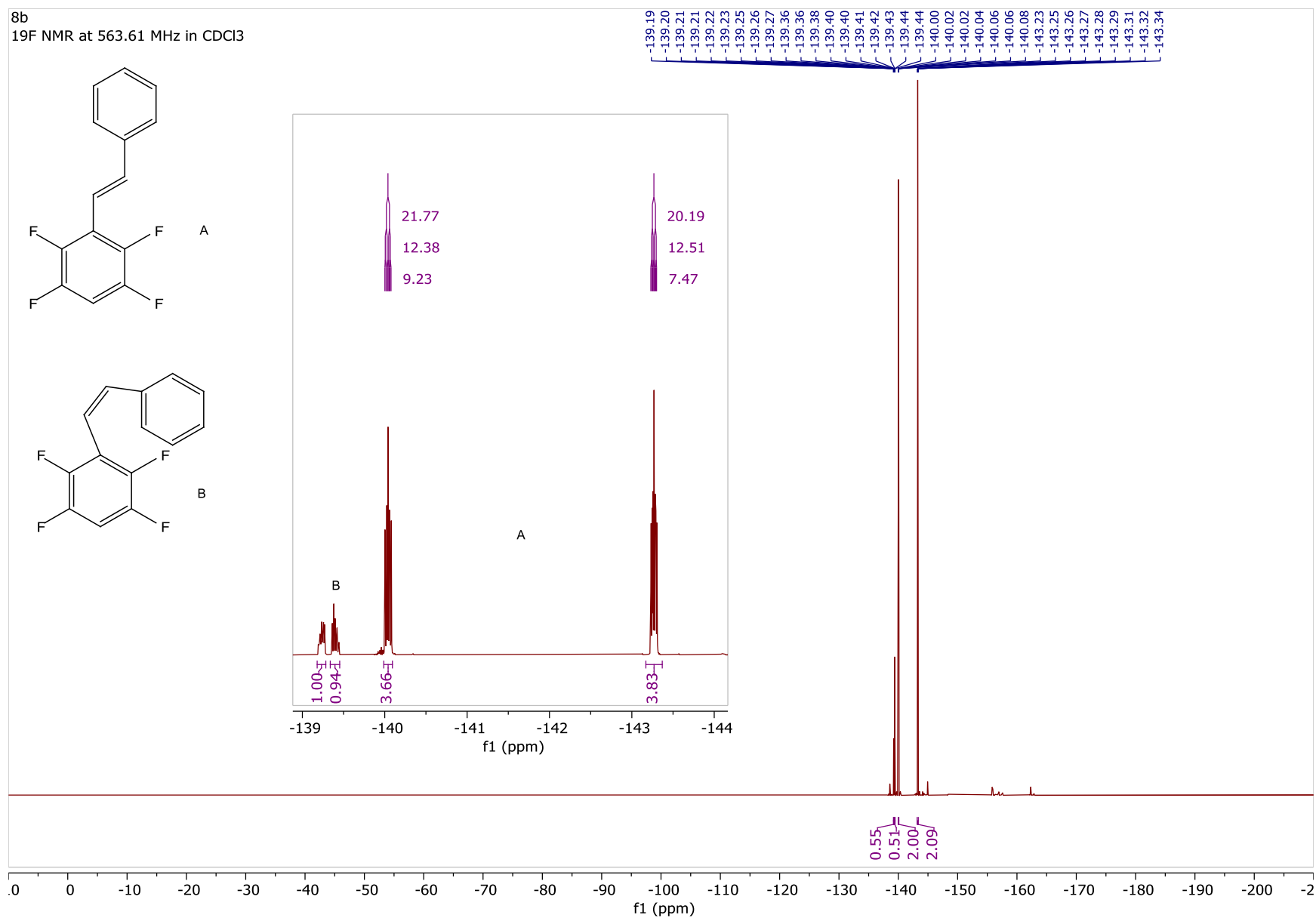
$(10)((129.5+87.49+88.80)/7)/466=94\%$ yield



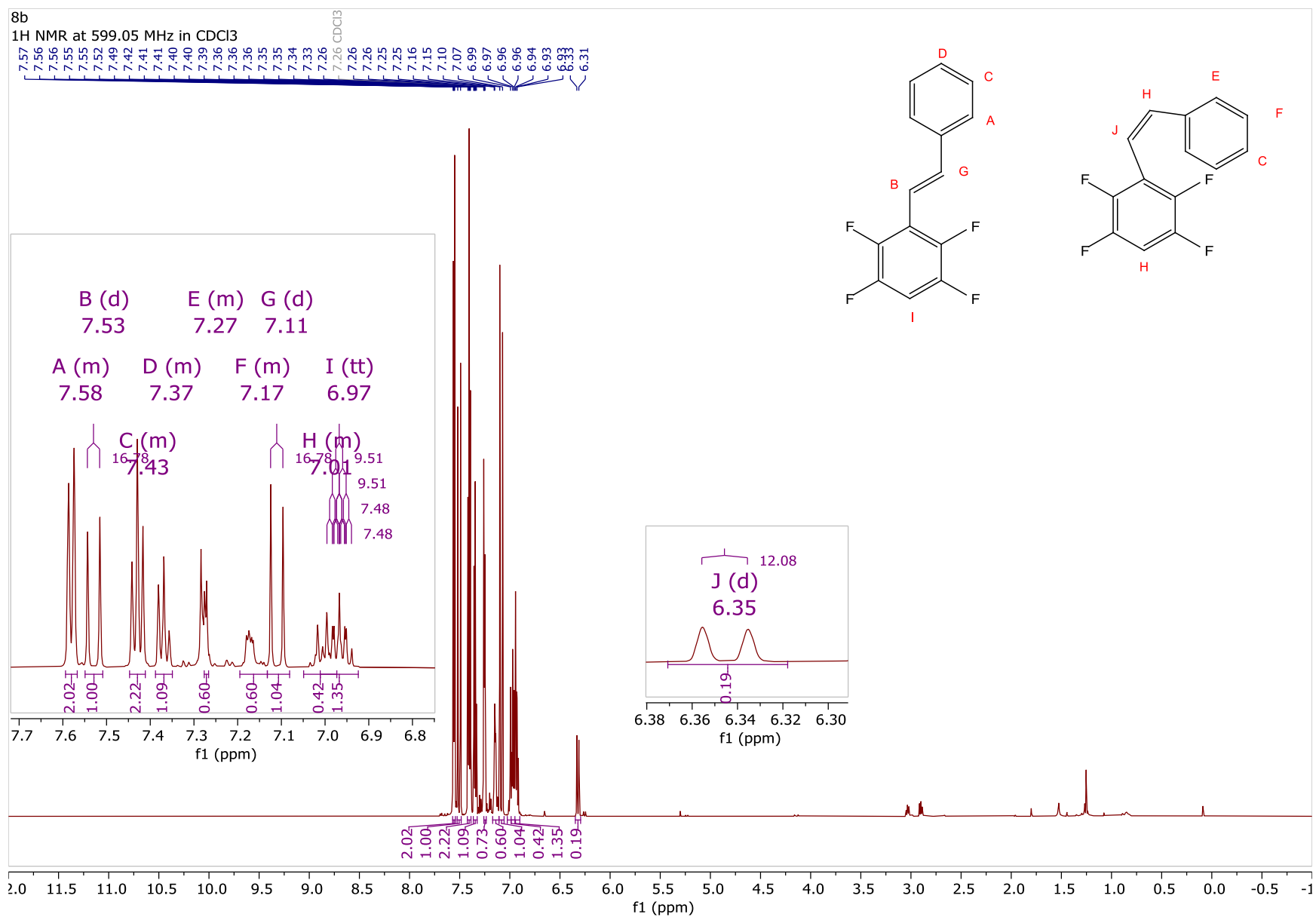


8b

¹⁹F NMR at 563.61 MHz in CDCl₃

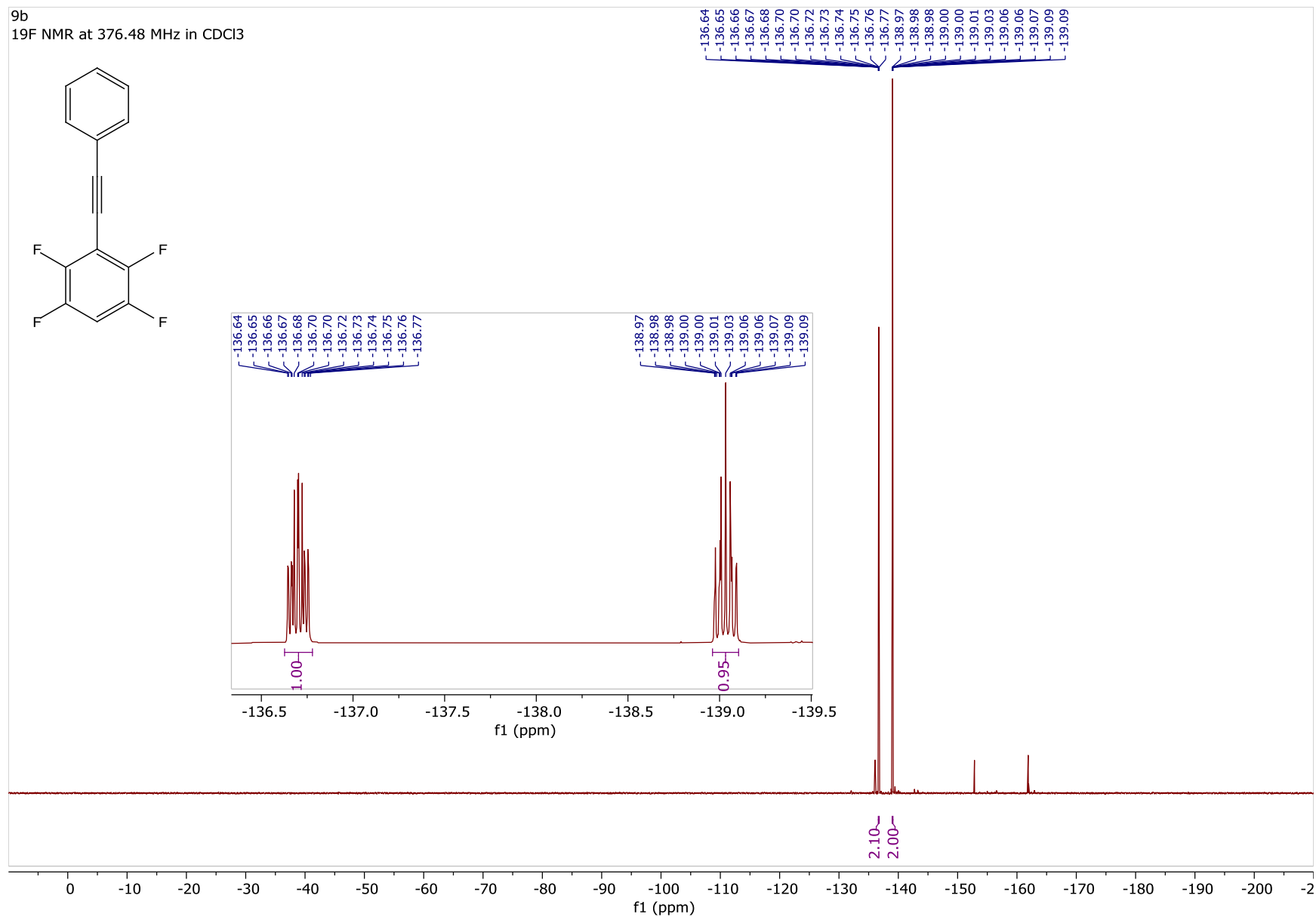
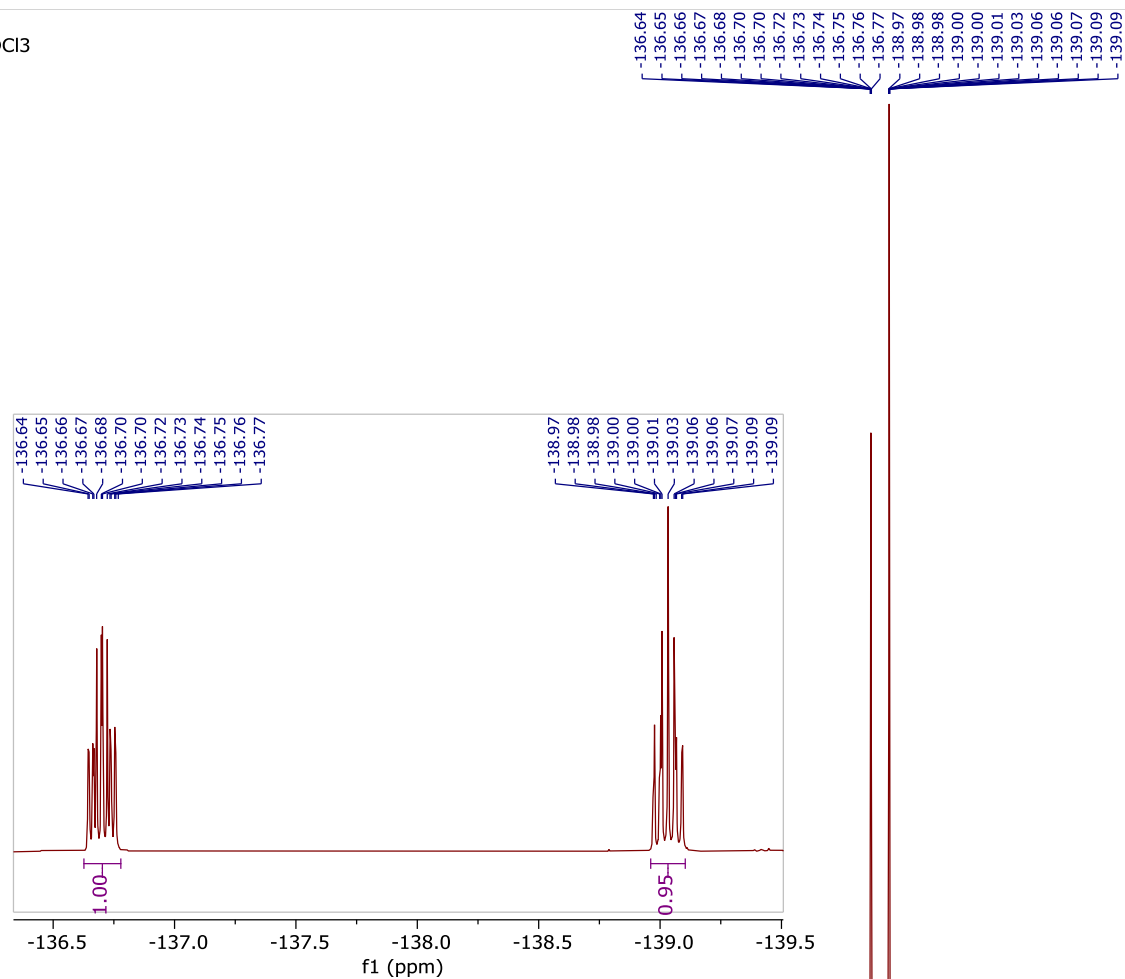
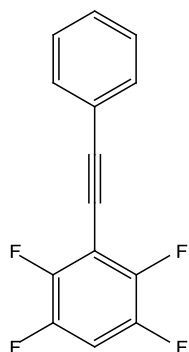


8b

¹H NMR at 599.05 MHz in CDCl₃

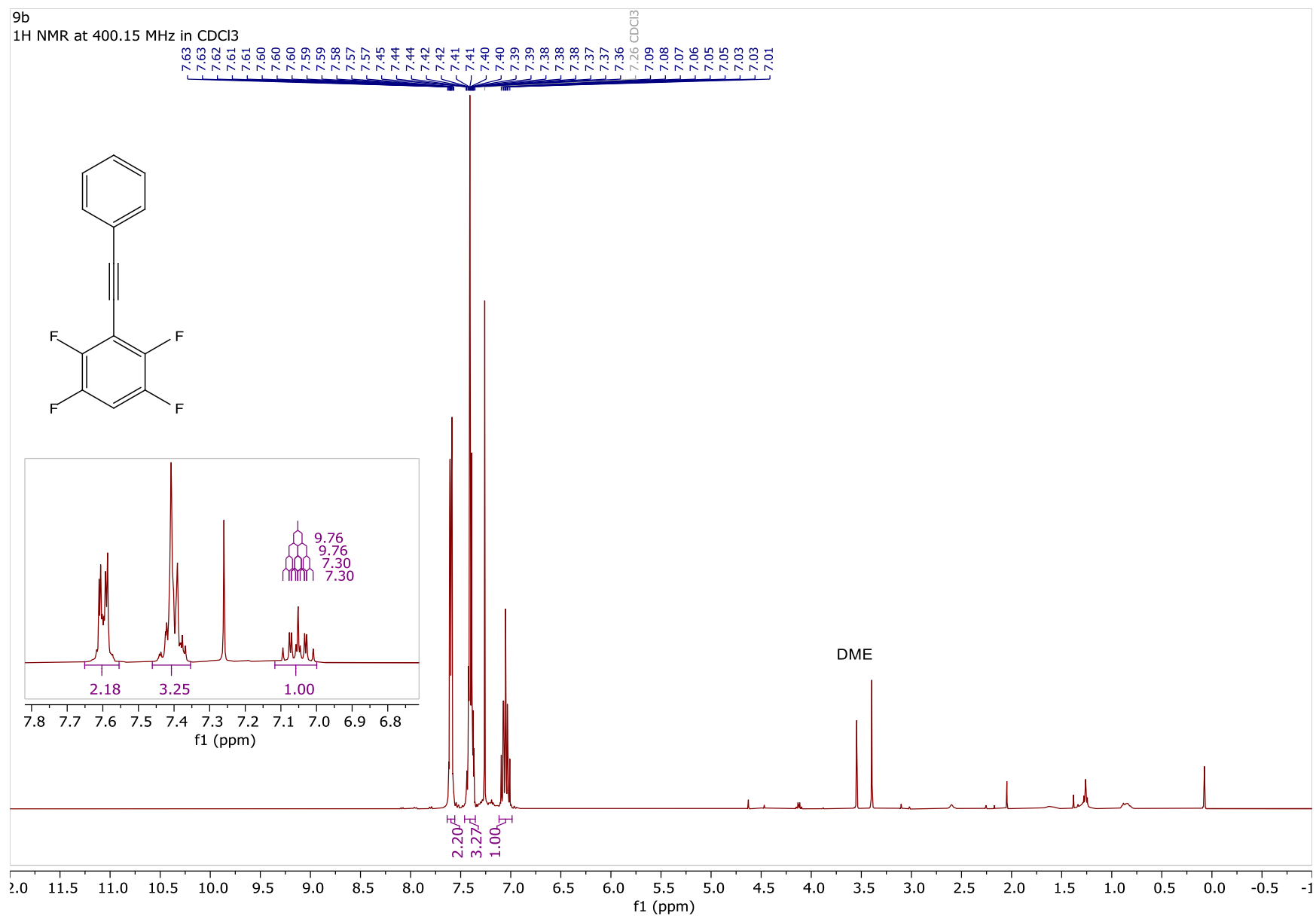
9b

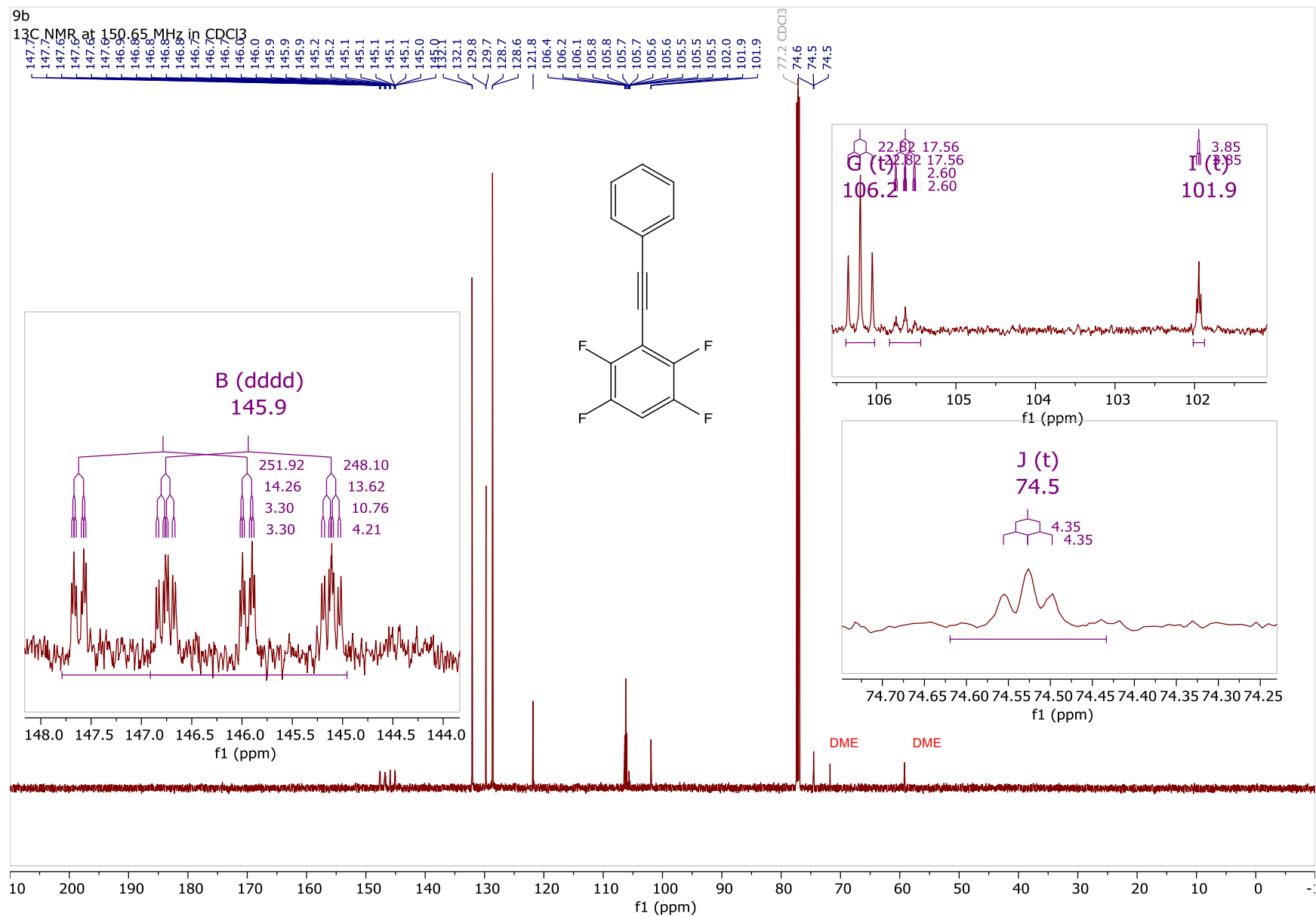
¹⁹F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl₃



9b

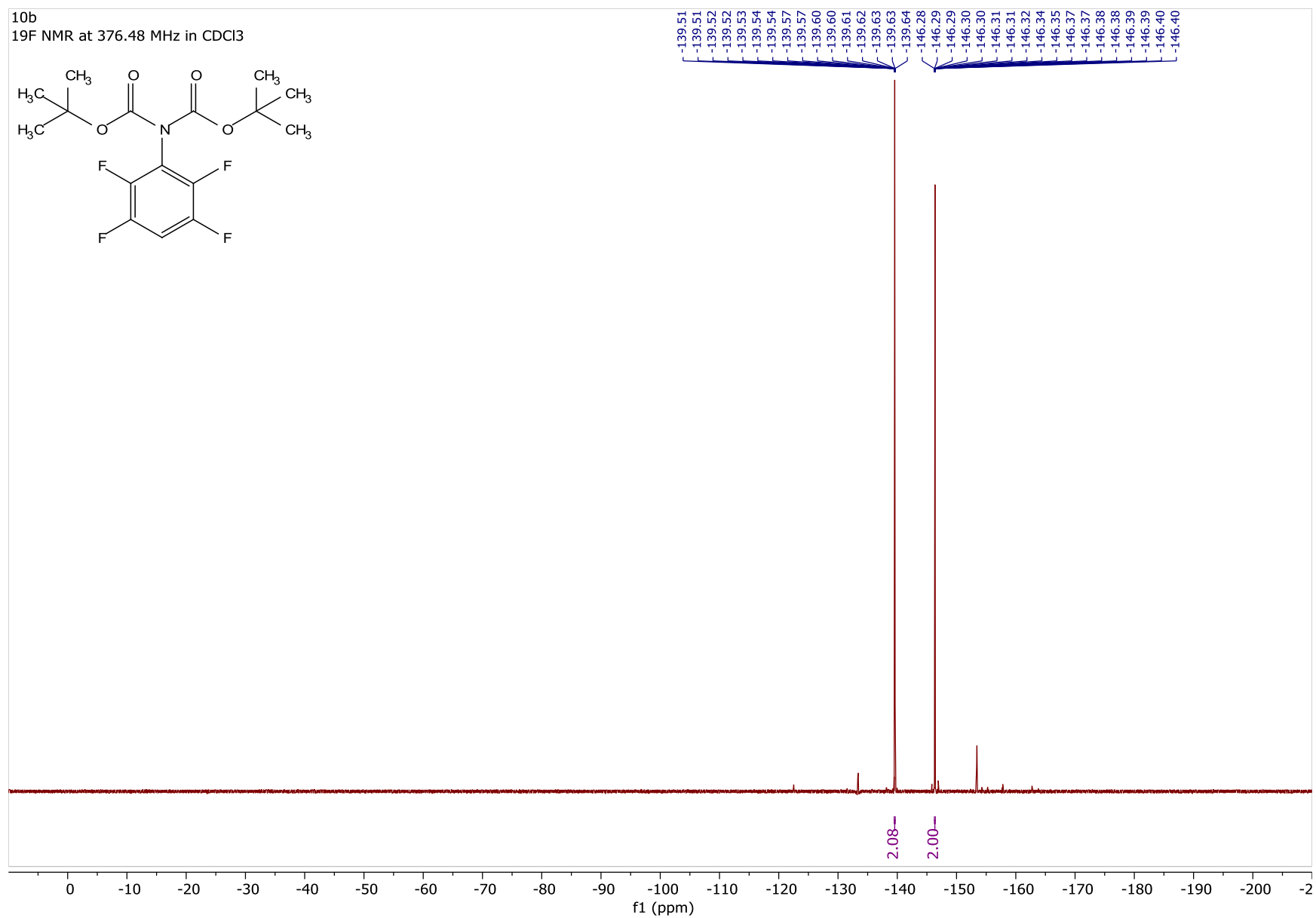
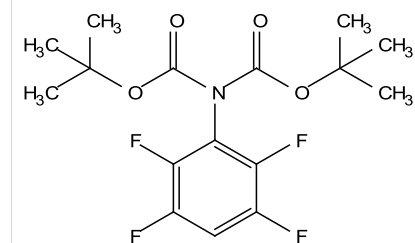
¹H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl₃





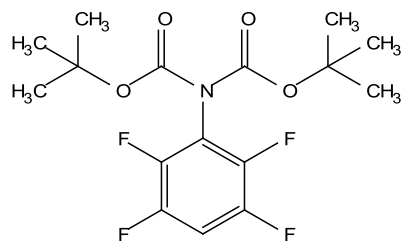
10b

¹⁹F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl₃

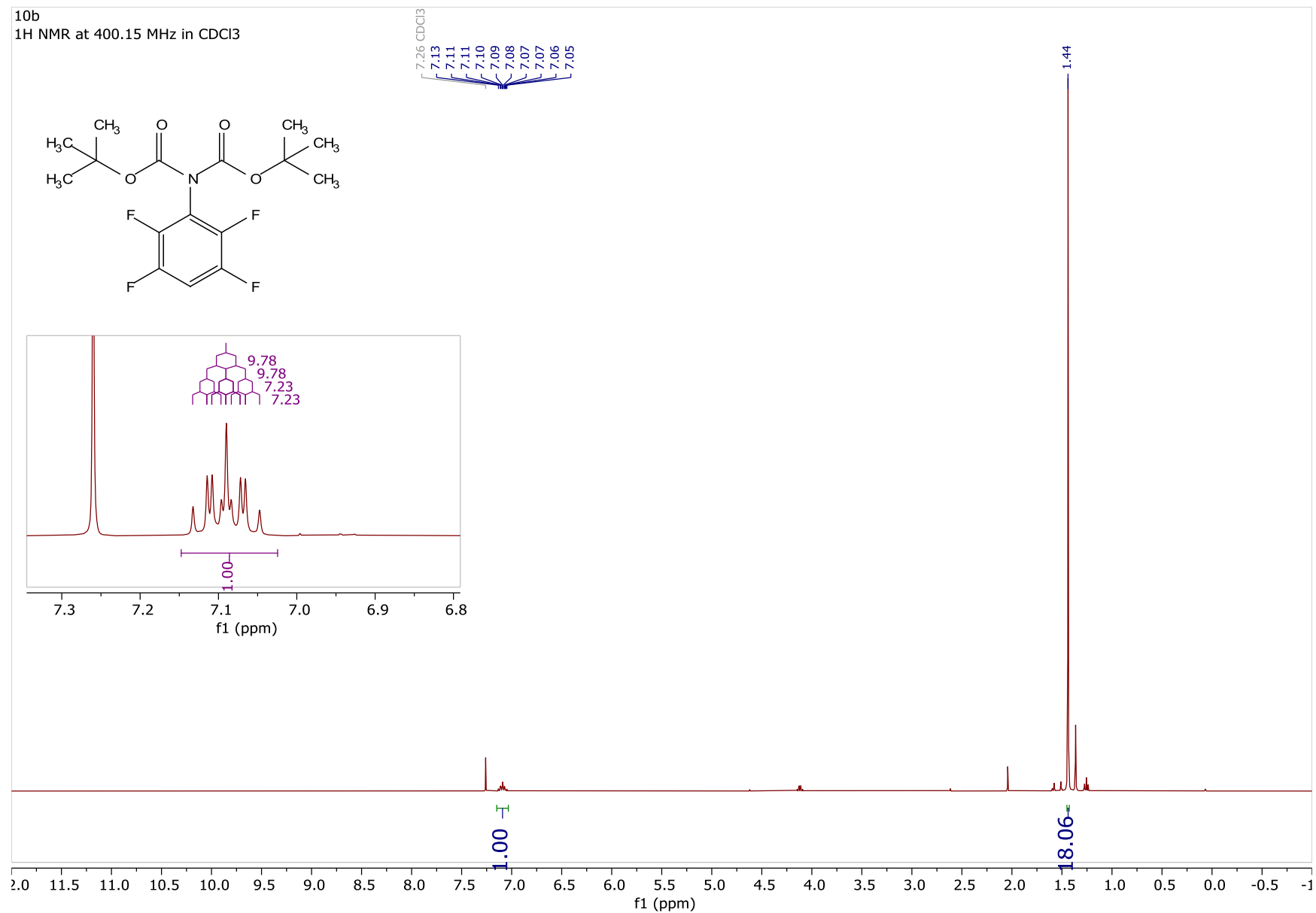
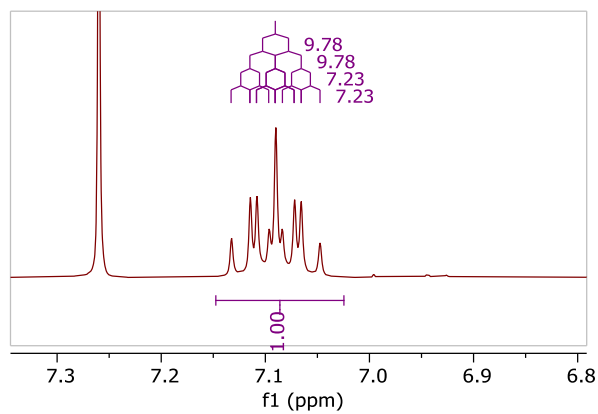


10b

¹H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl₃

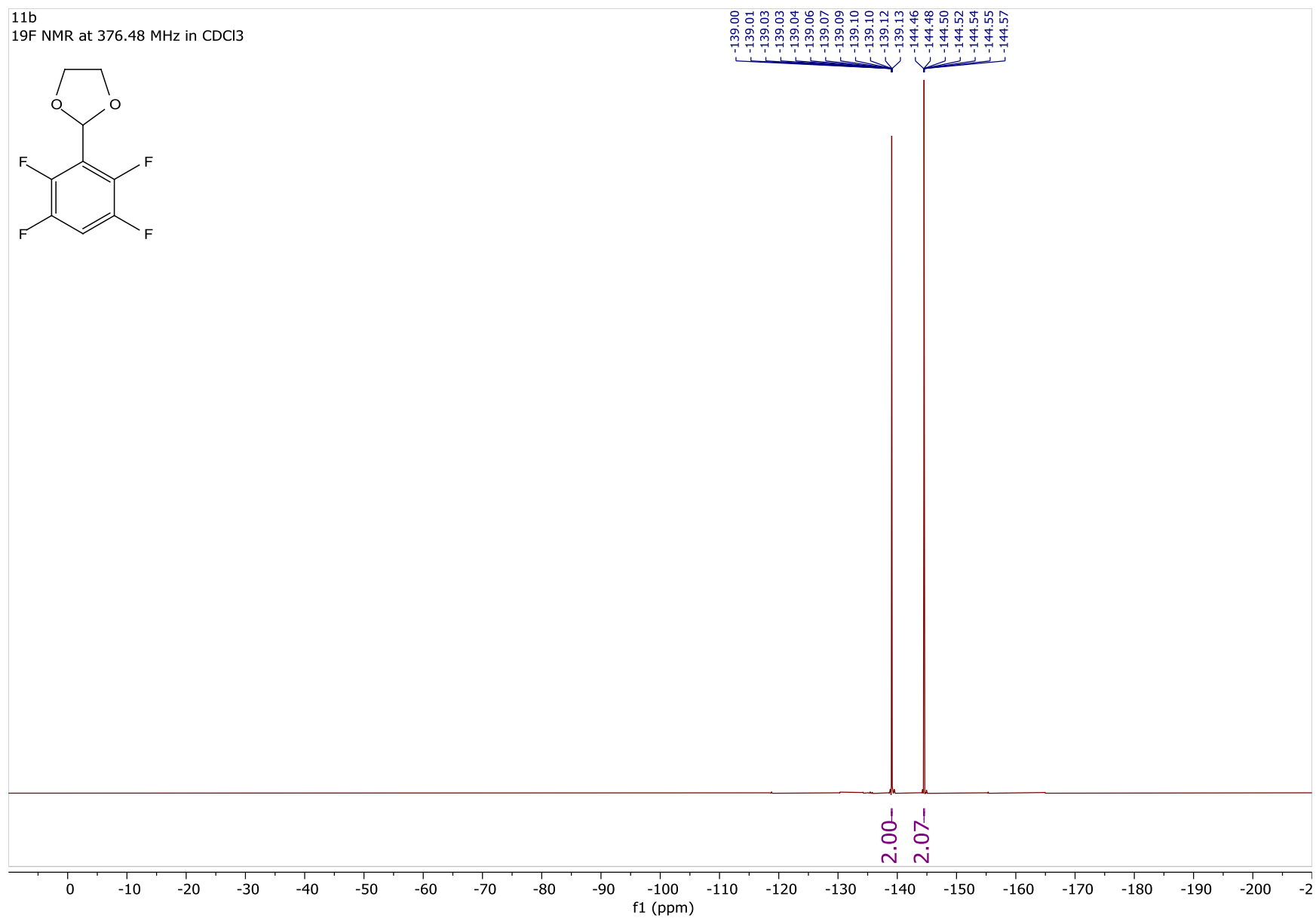
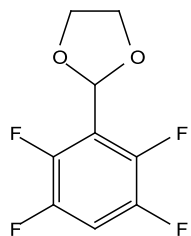


7.26 CDCl₃
7.13
7.11
7.11
7.10
7.09
7.08
7.07
7.06
7.05



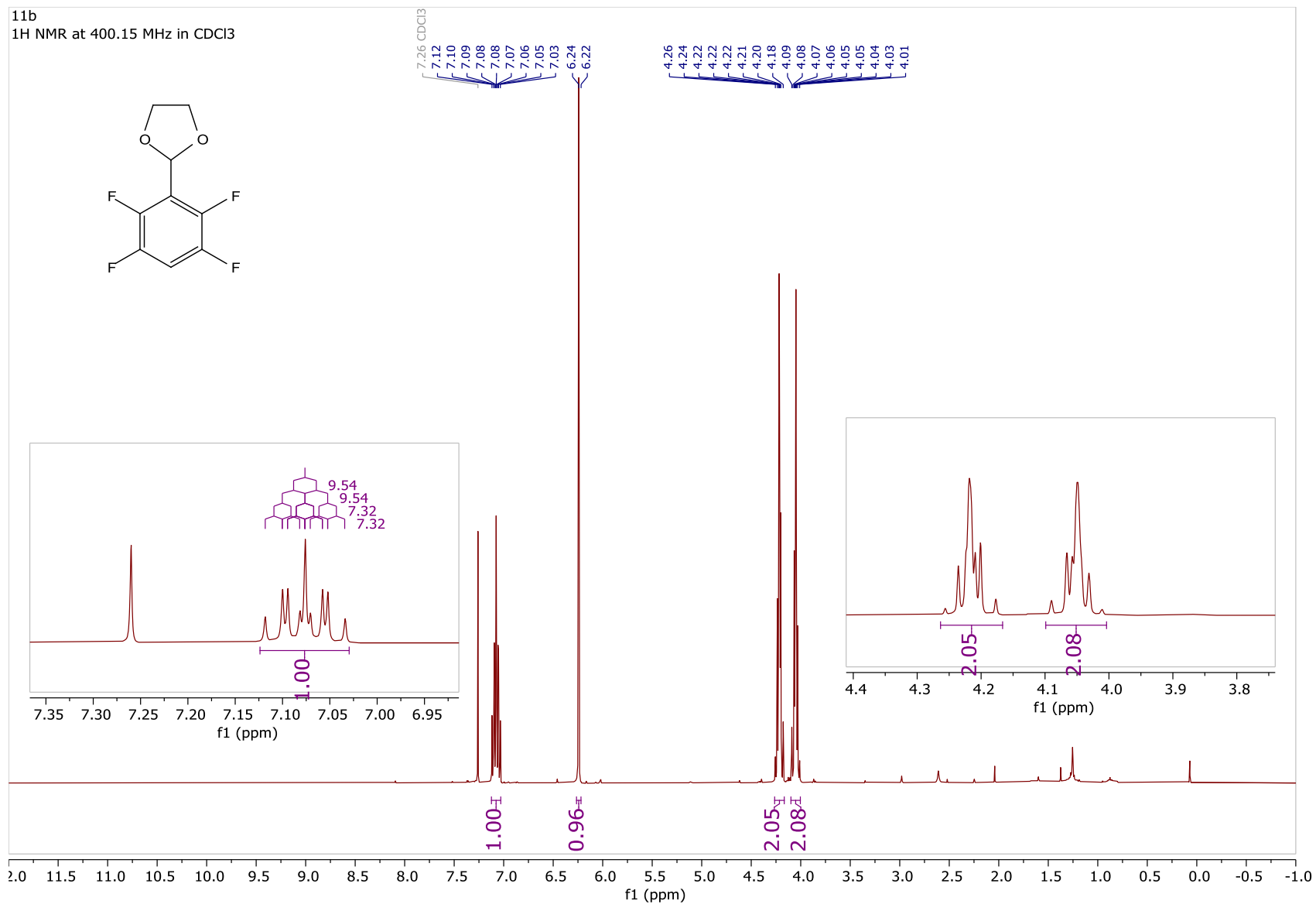
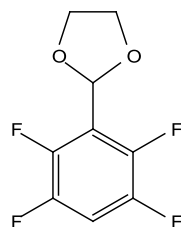
11b

¹⁹F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl₃



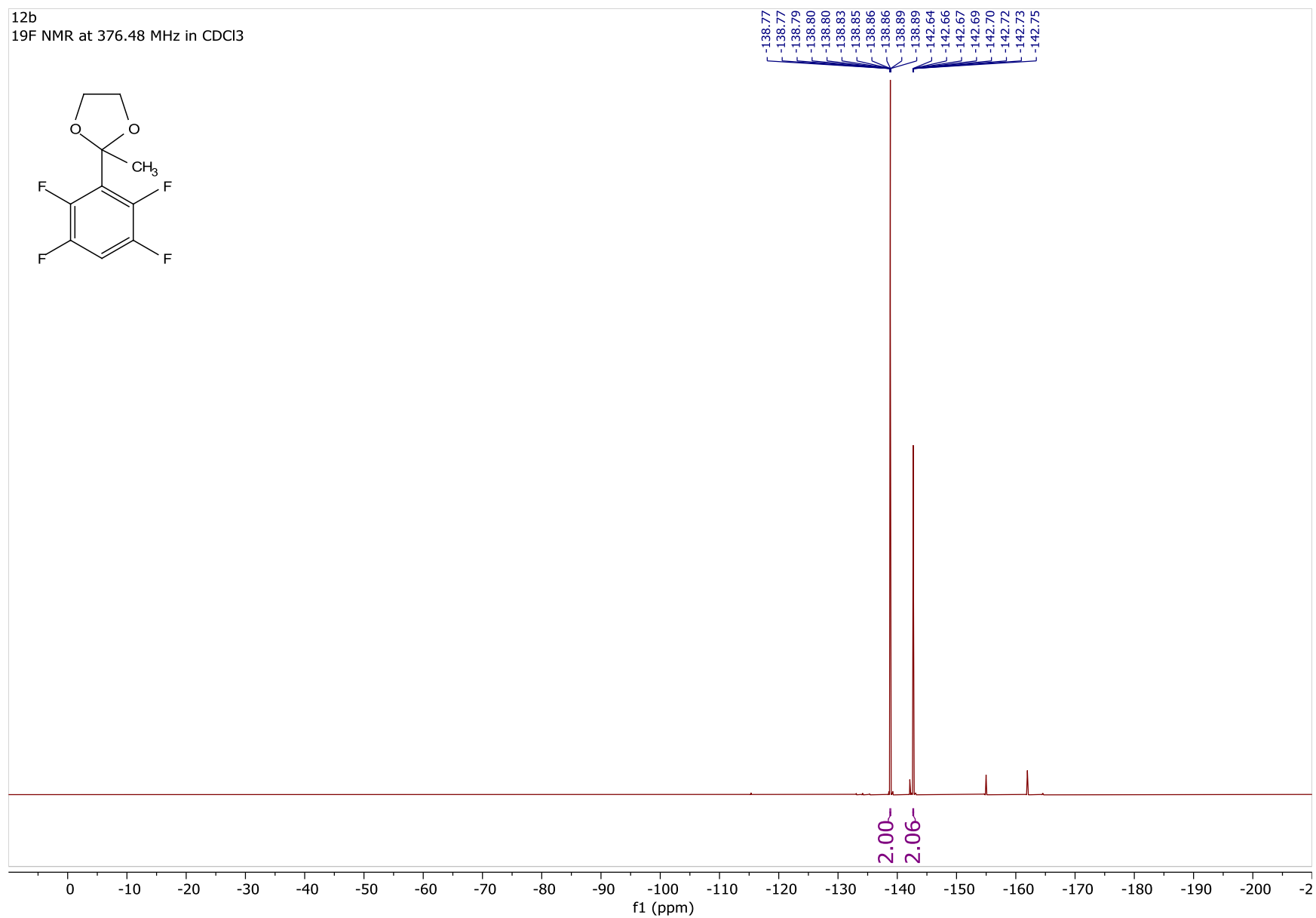
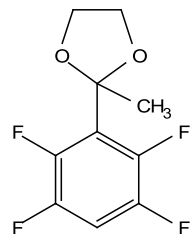
11b

¹H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl₃



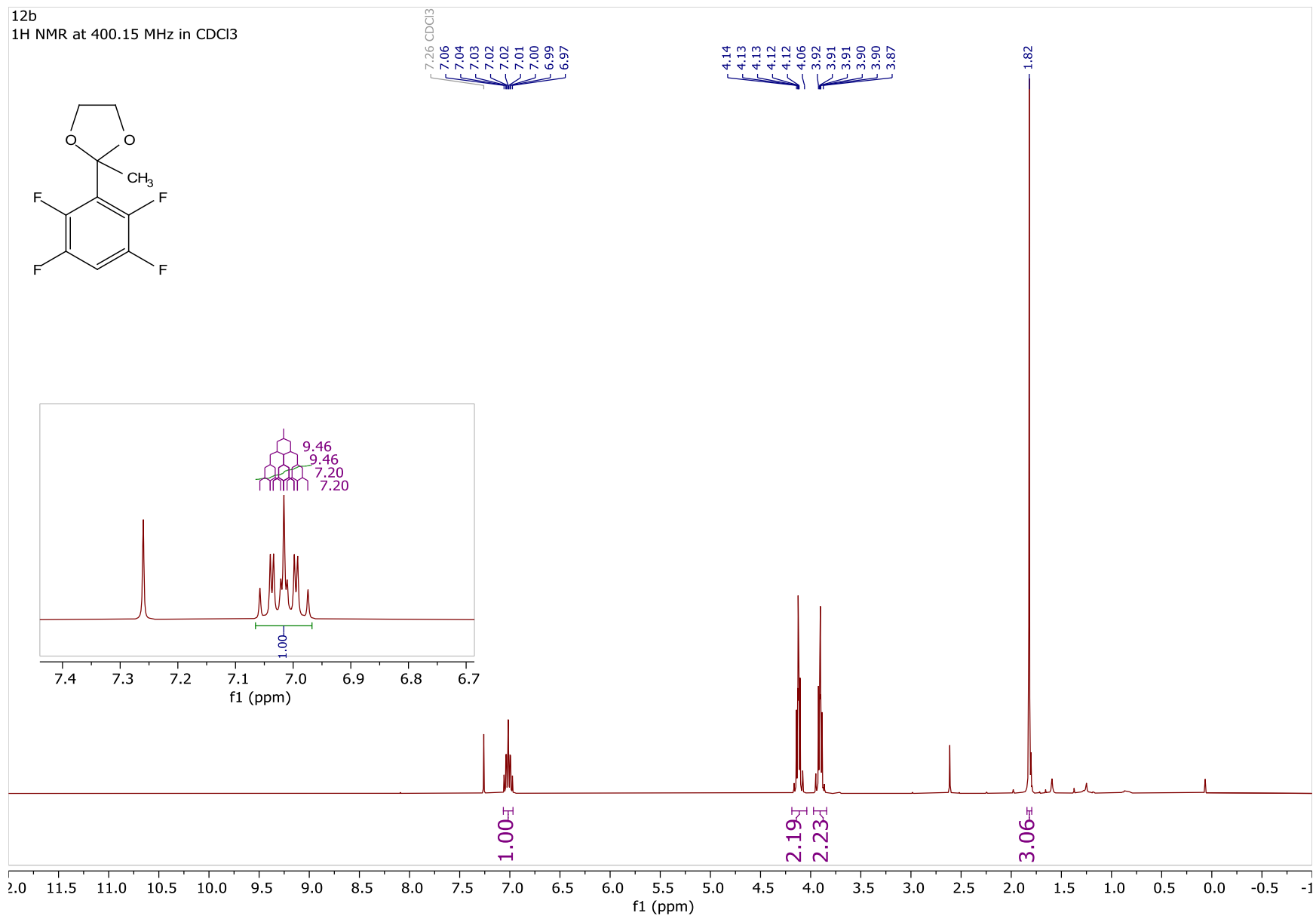
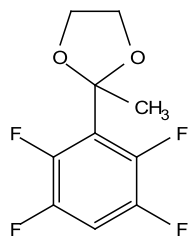
12b

¹⁹F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl₃

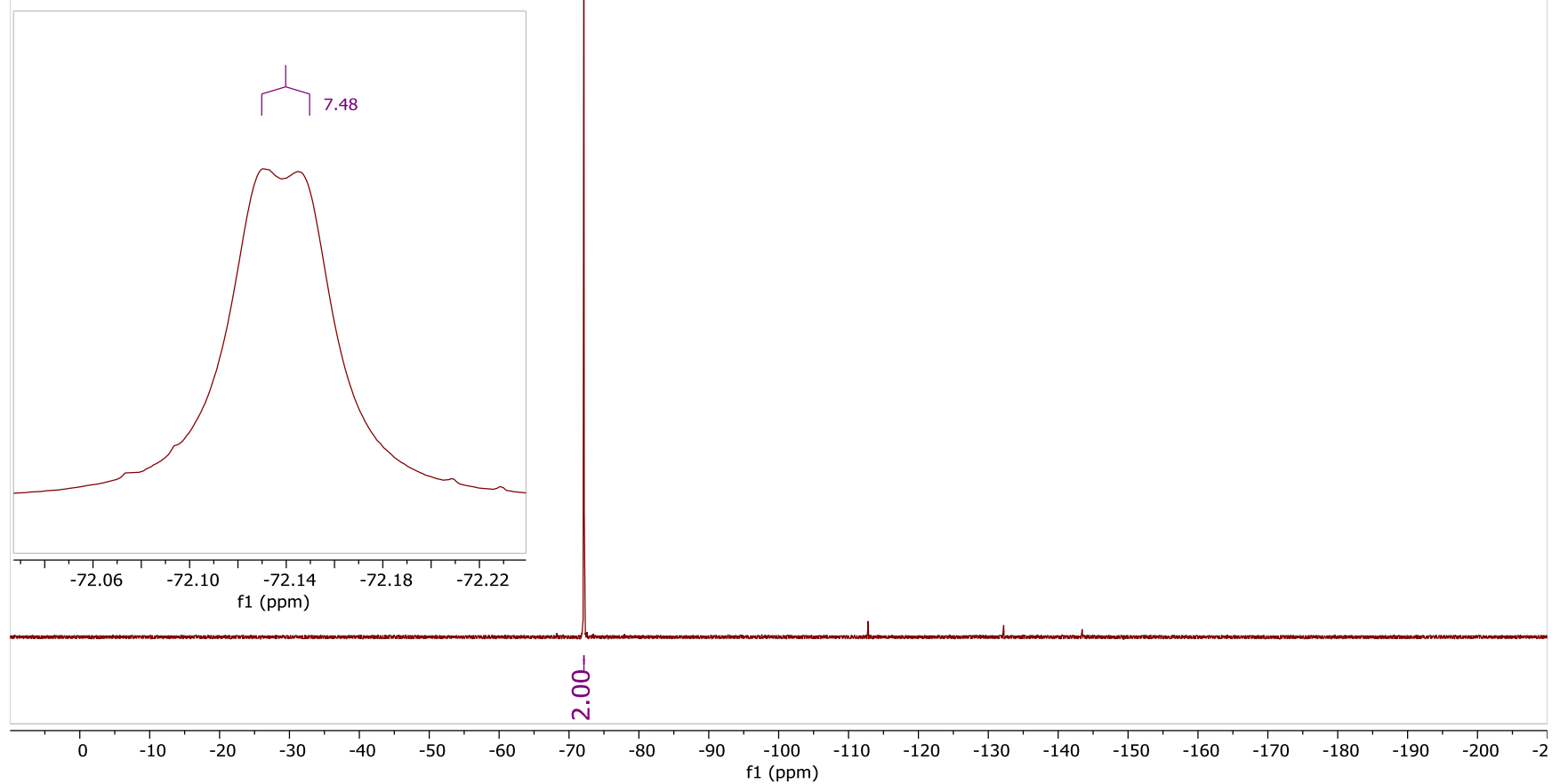
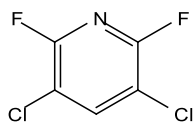


12b

¹H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl₃

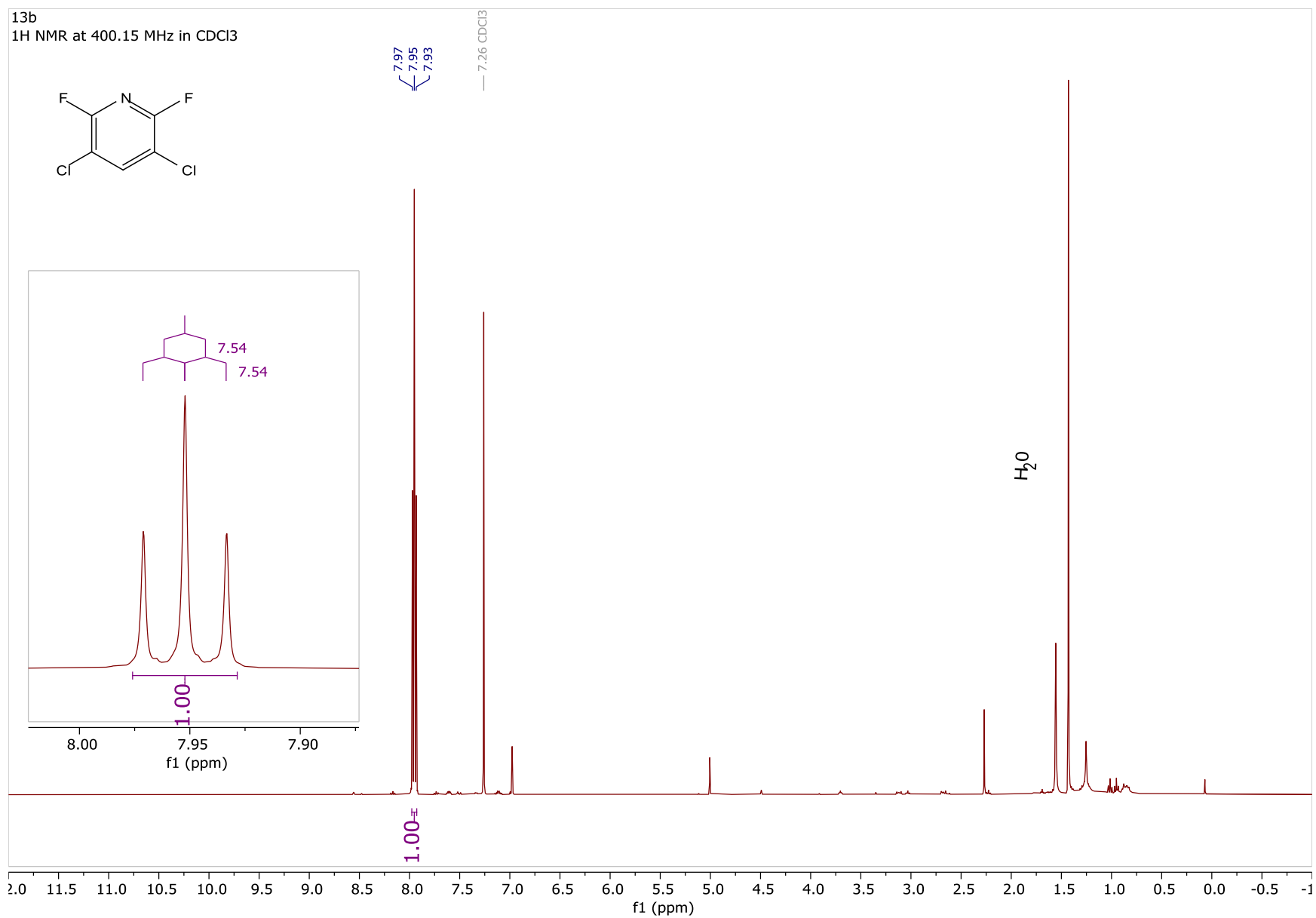
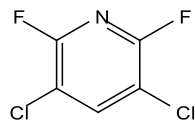


13b
19F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl3



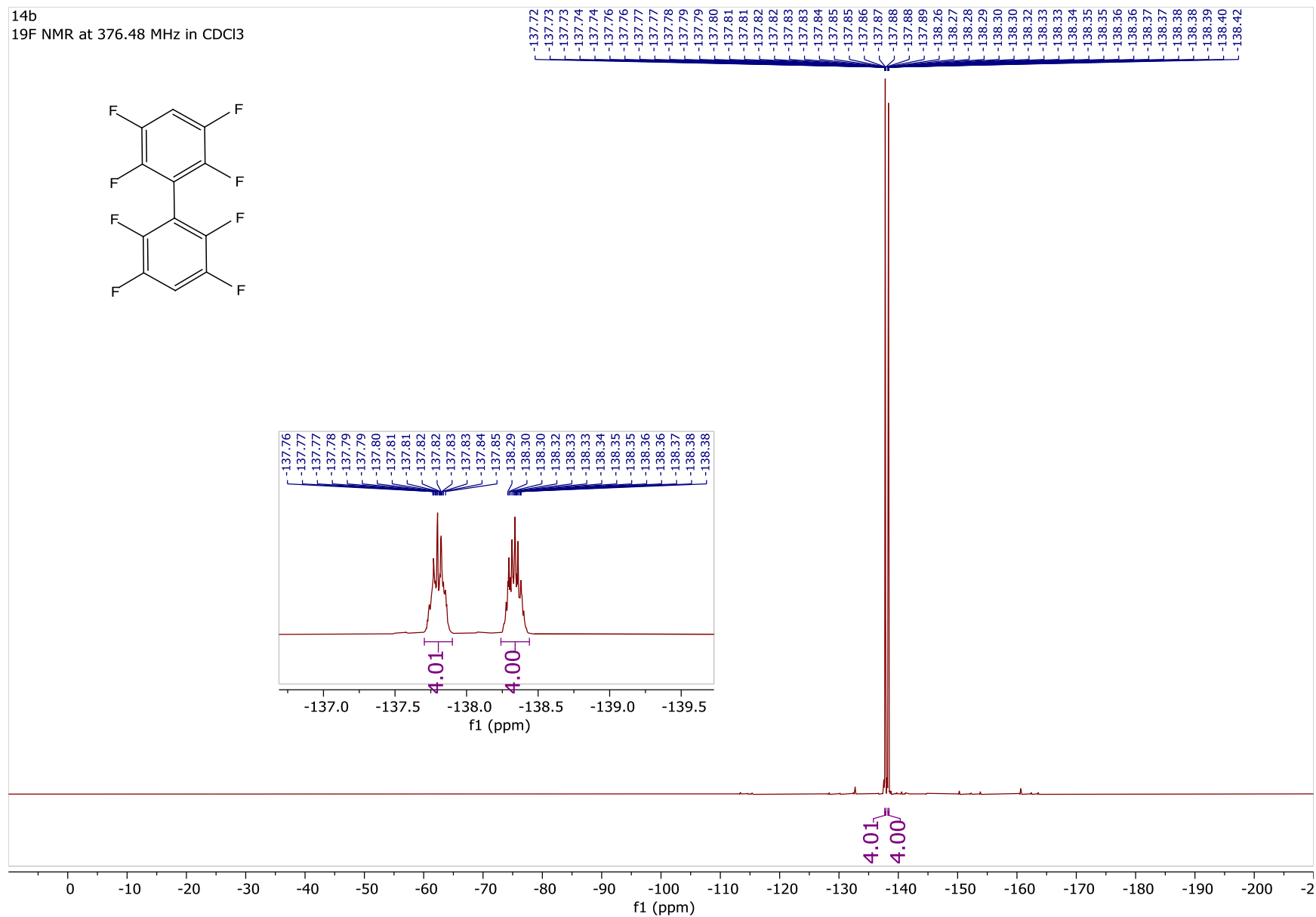
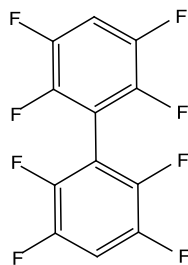
13b

¹H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl₃



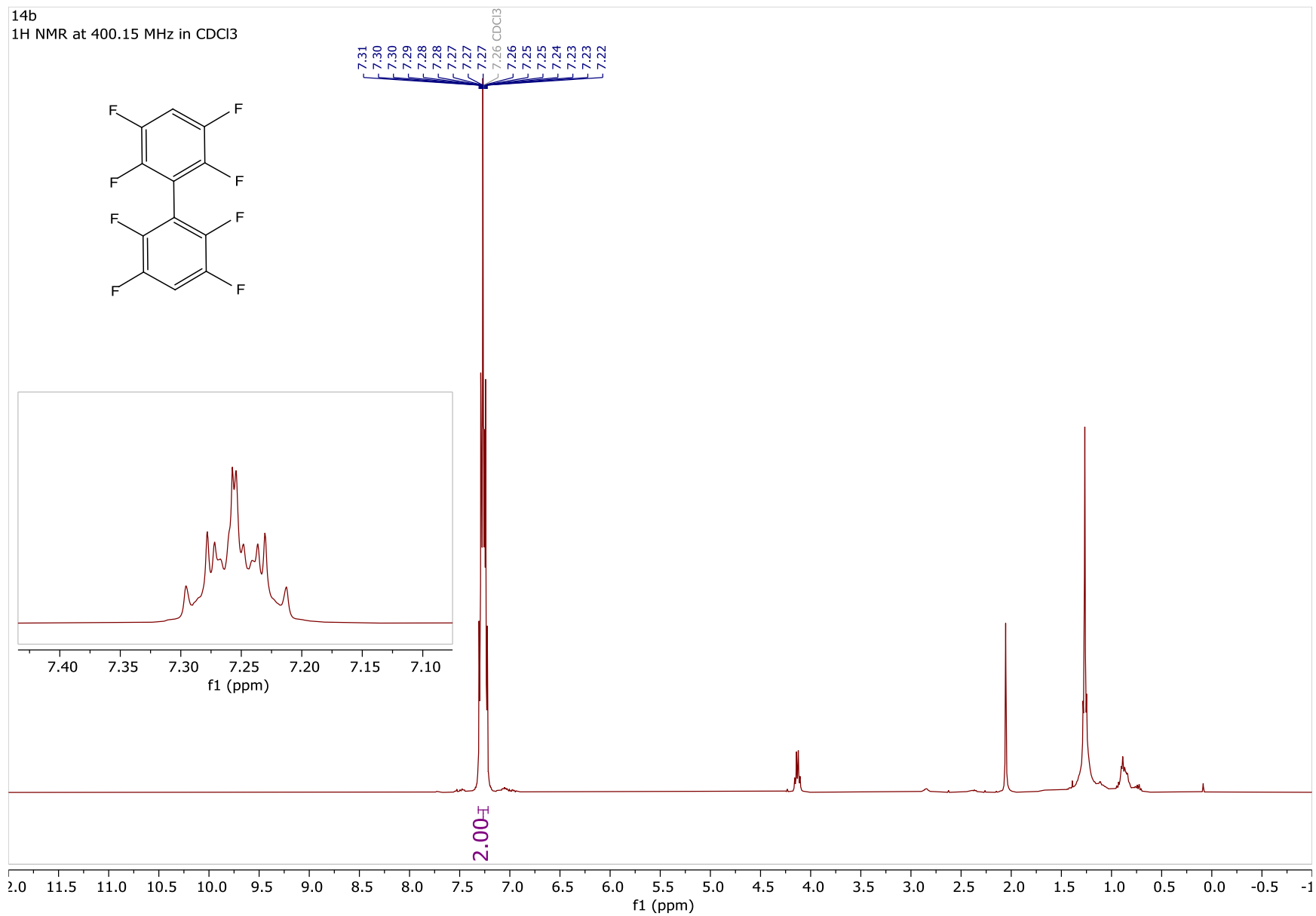
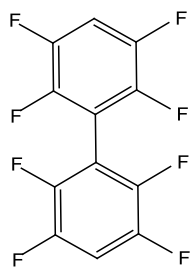
14b

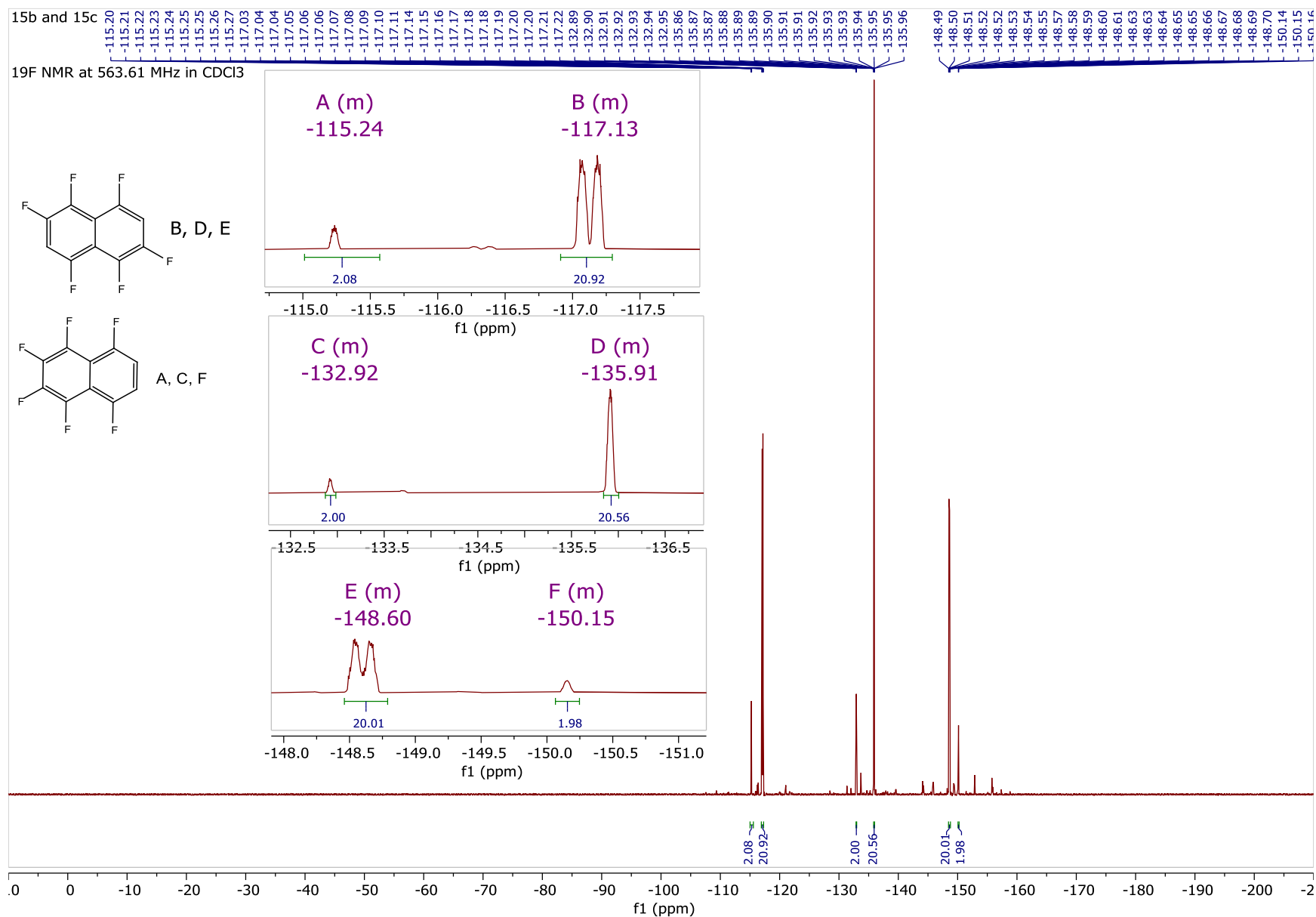
¹⁹F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl₃



14b

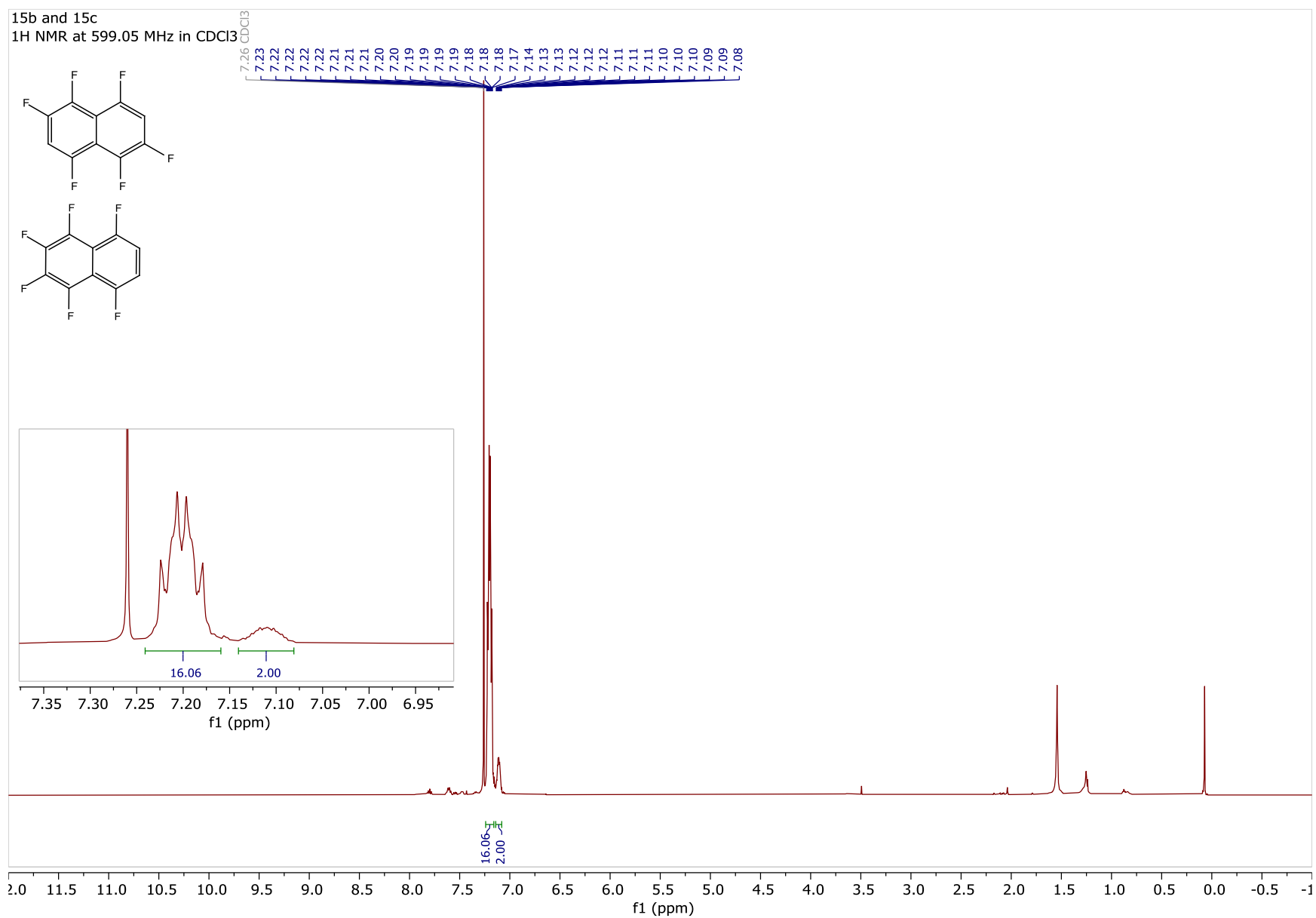
¹H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl₃





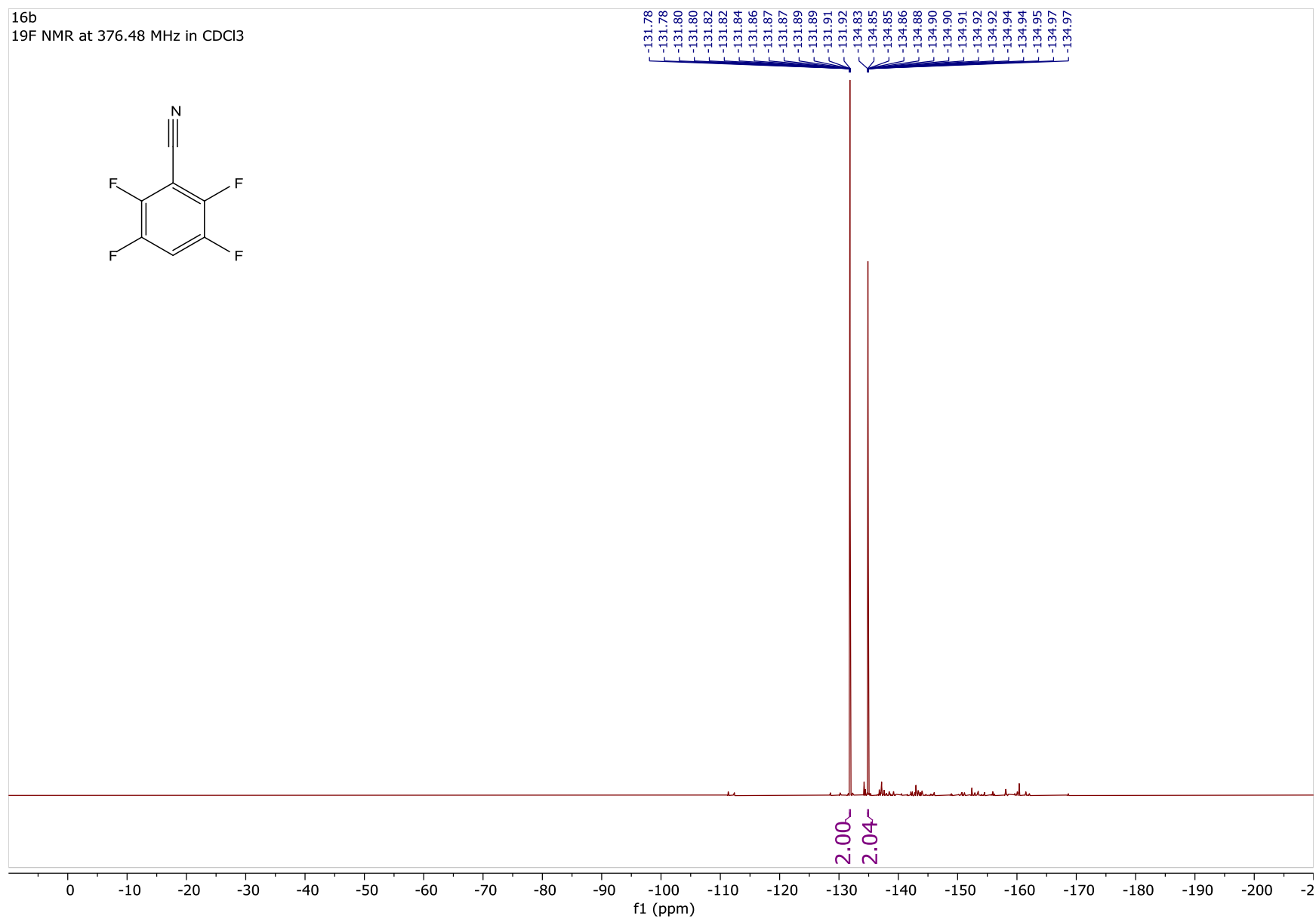
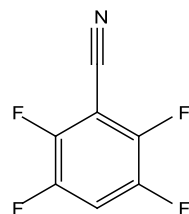
15b and 15c

¹H NMR at 599.05 MHz in CDCl₃



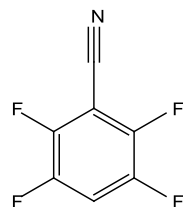
16b

¹⁹F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl₃

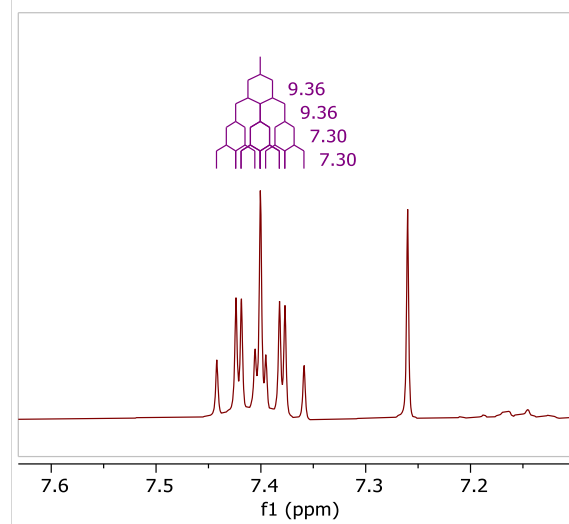


16b

¹H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl₃



Hexane + grease

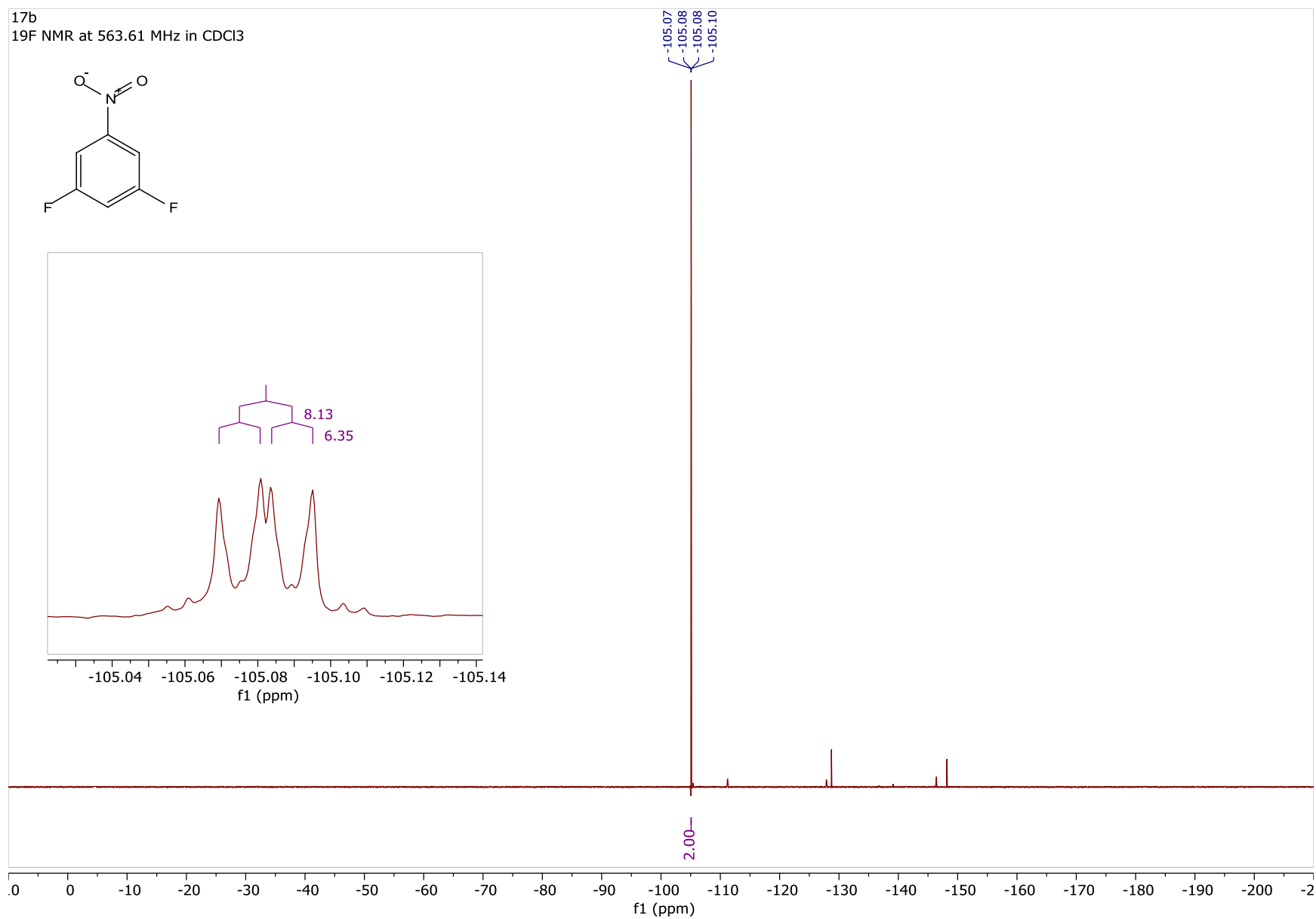
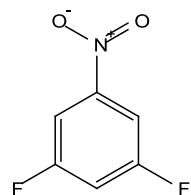


1.00

f1 (ppm)

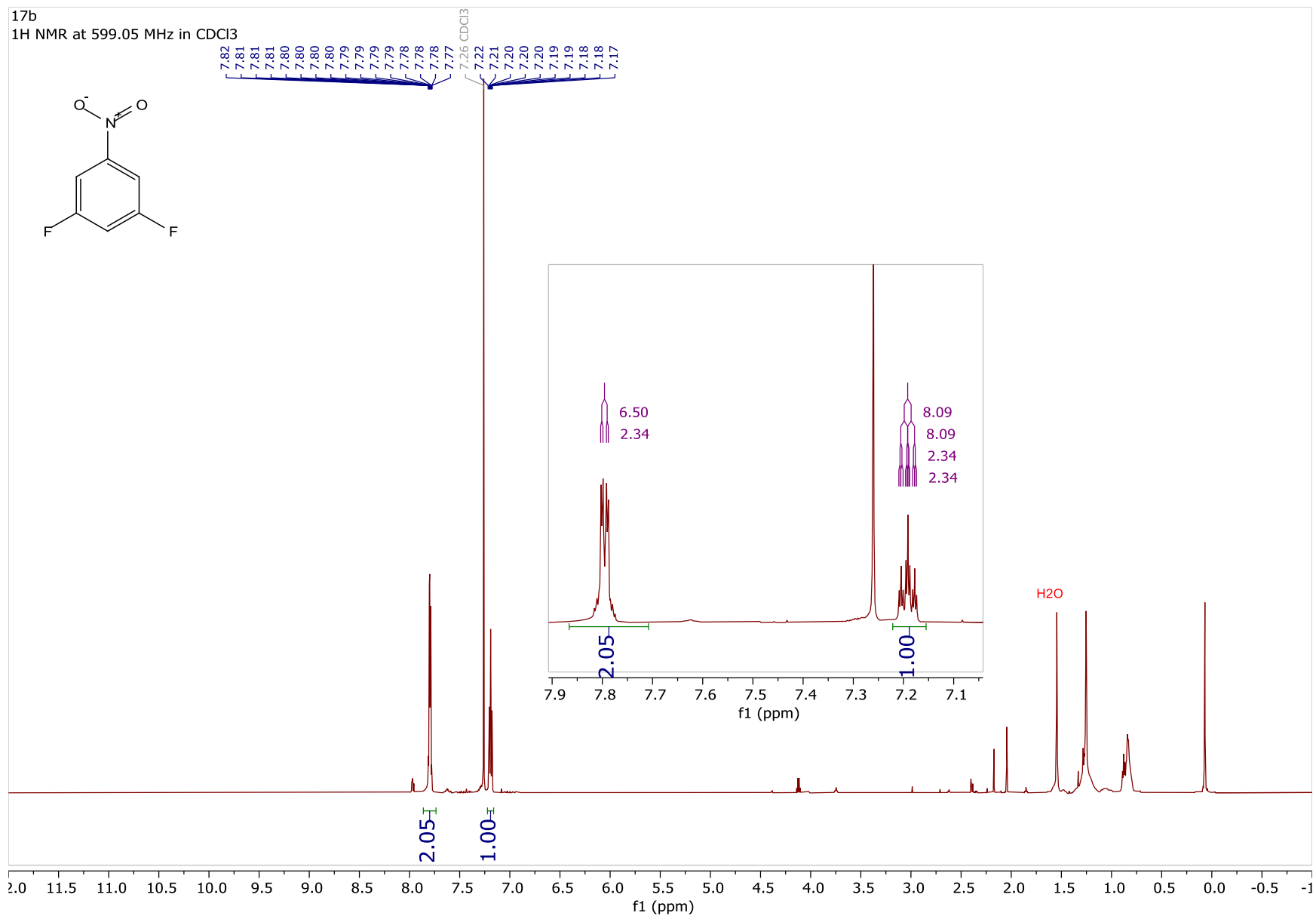
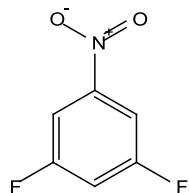
17b

¹⁹F NMR at 563.61 MHz in CDCl₃



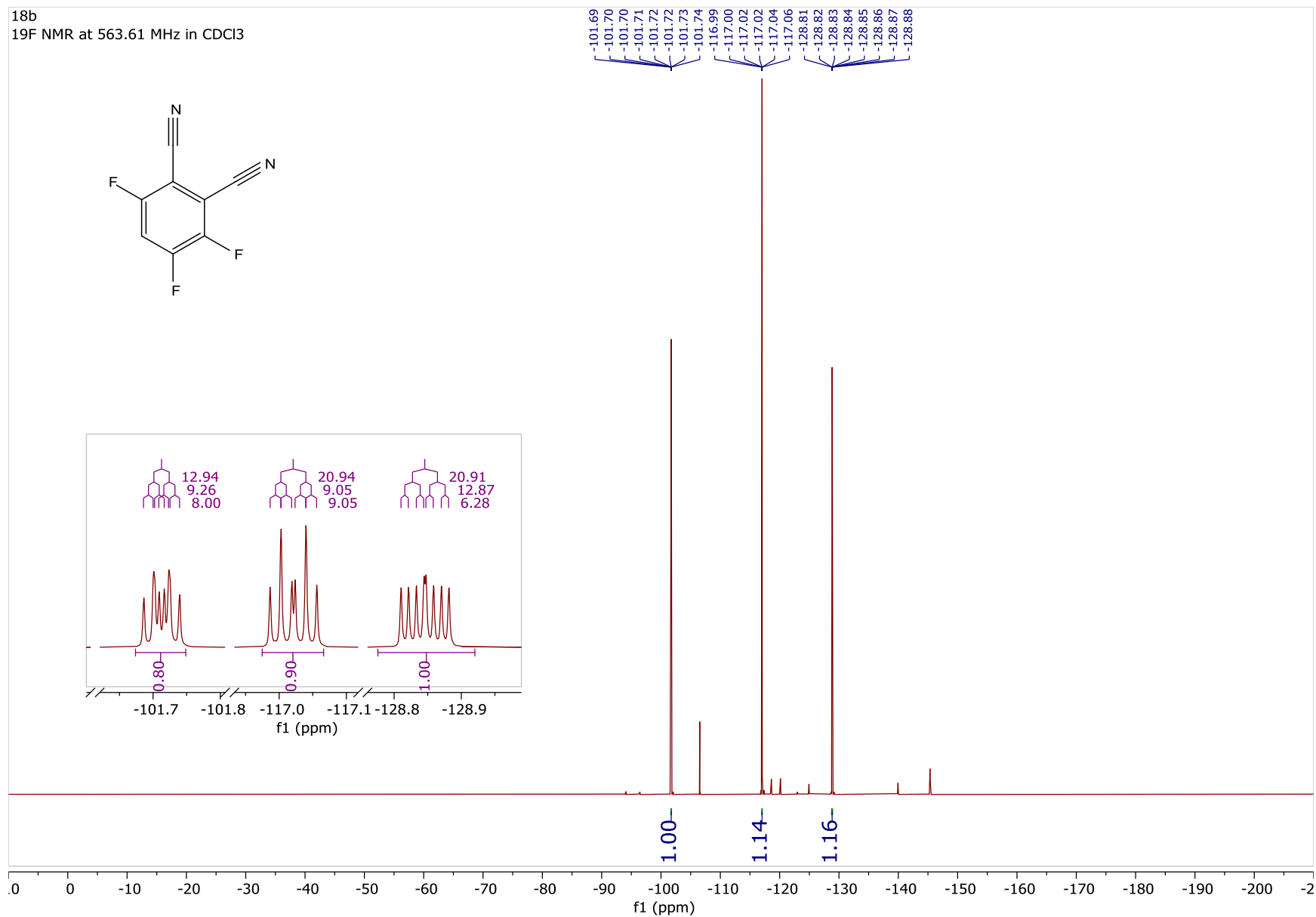
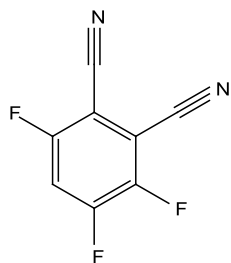
17b

¹H NMR at 599.05 MHz in CDCl₃



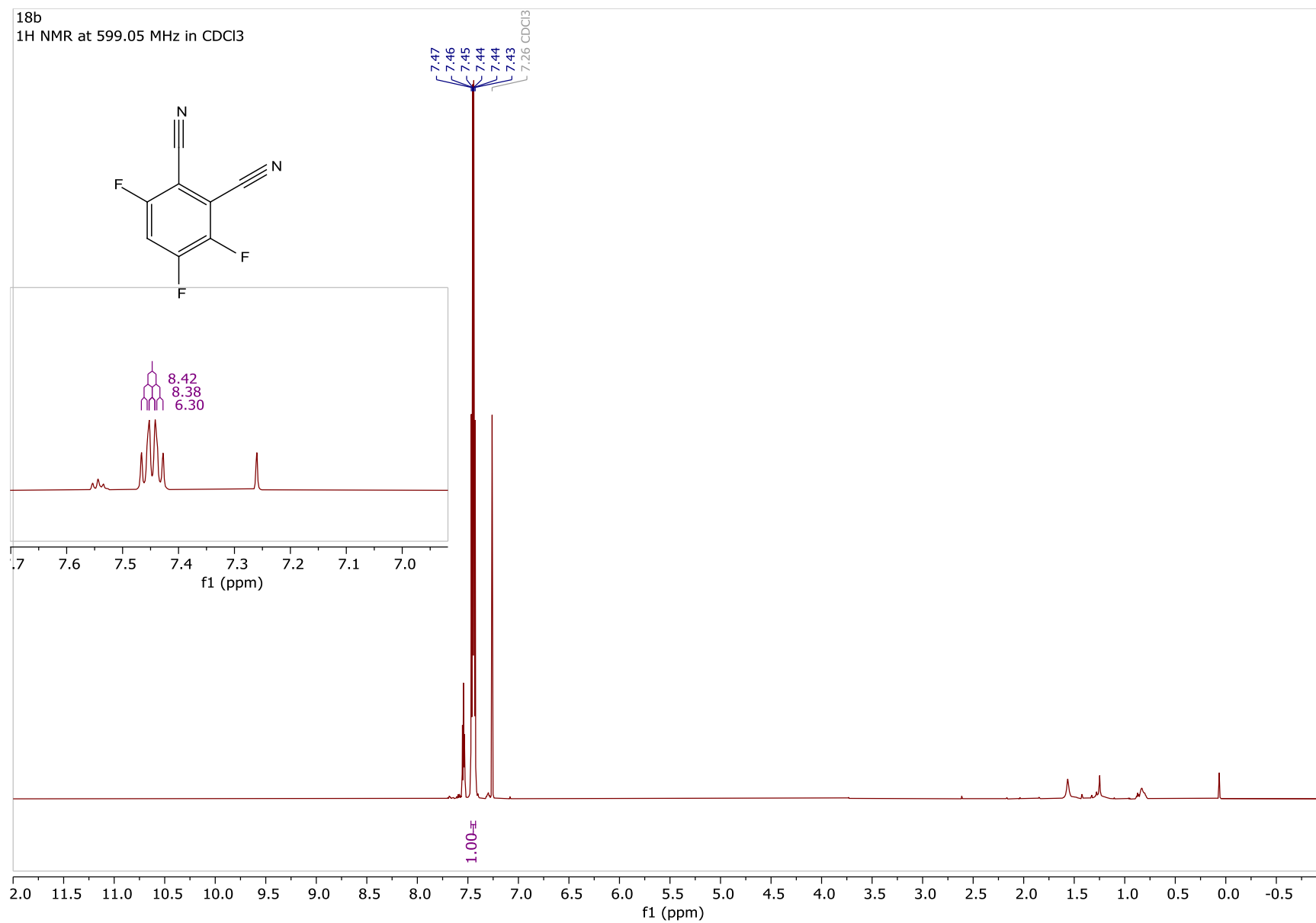
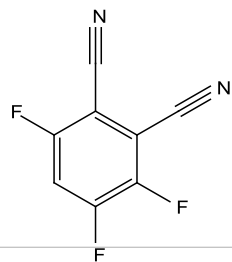
18b

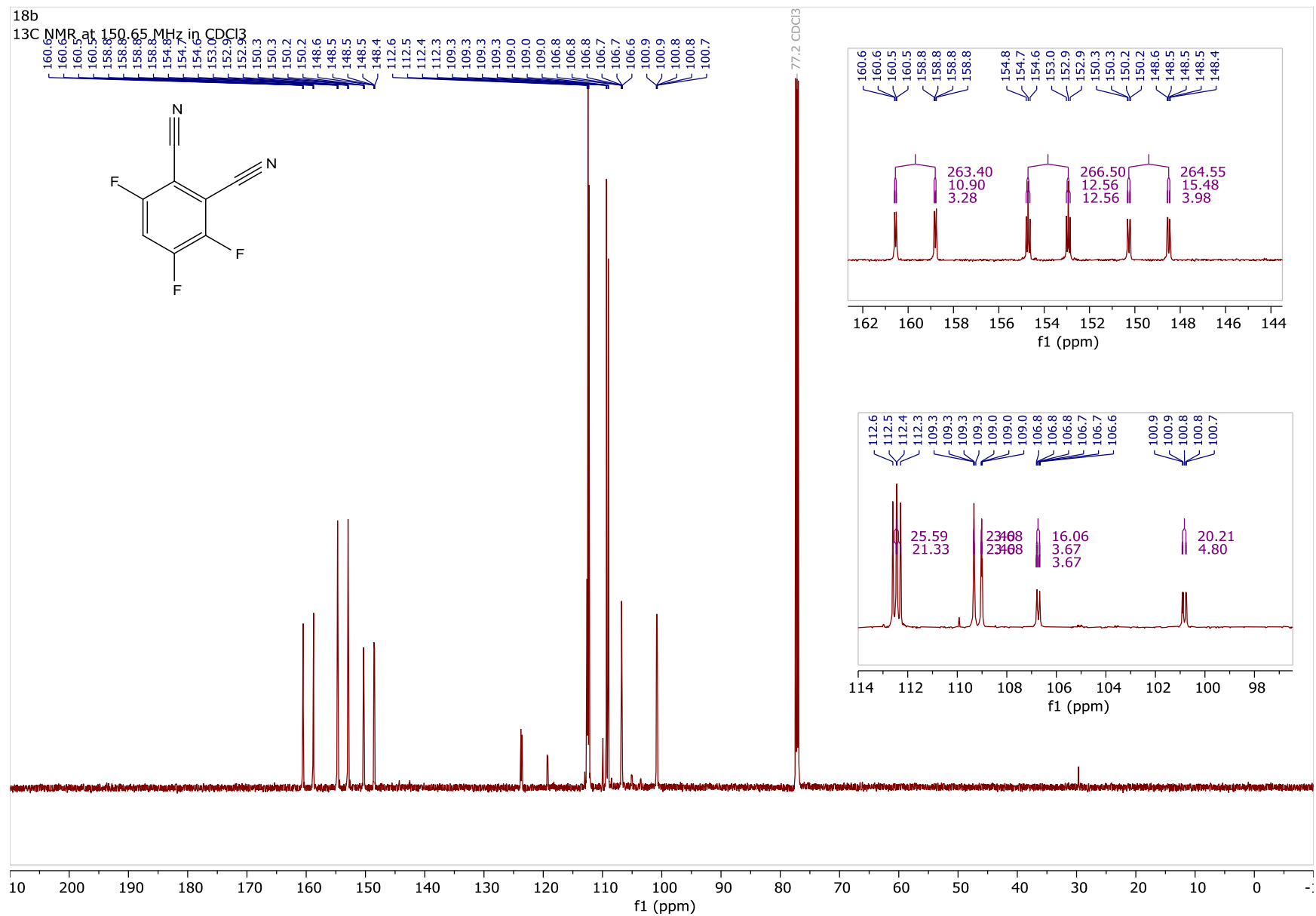
¹⁹F NMR at 563.61 MHz in CDCl₃



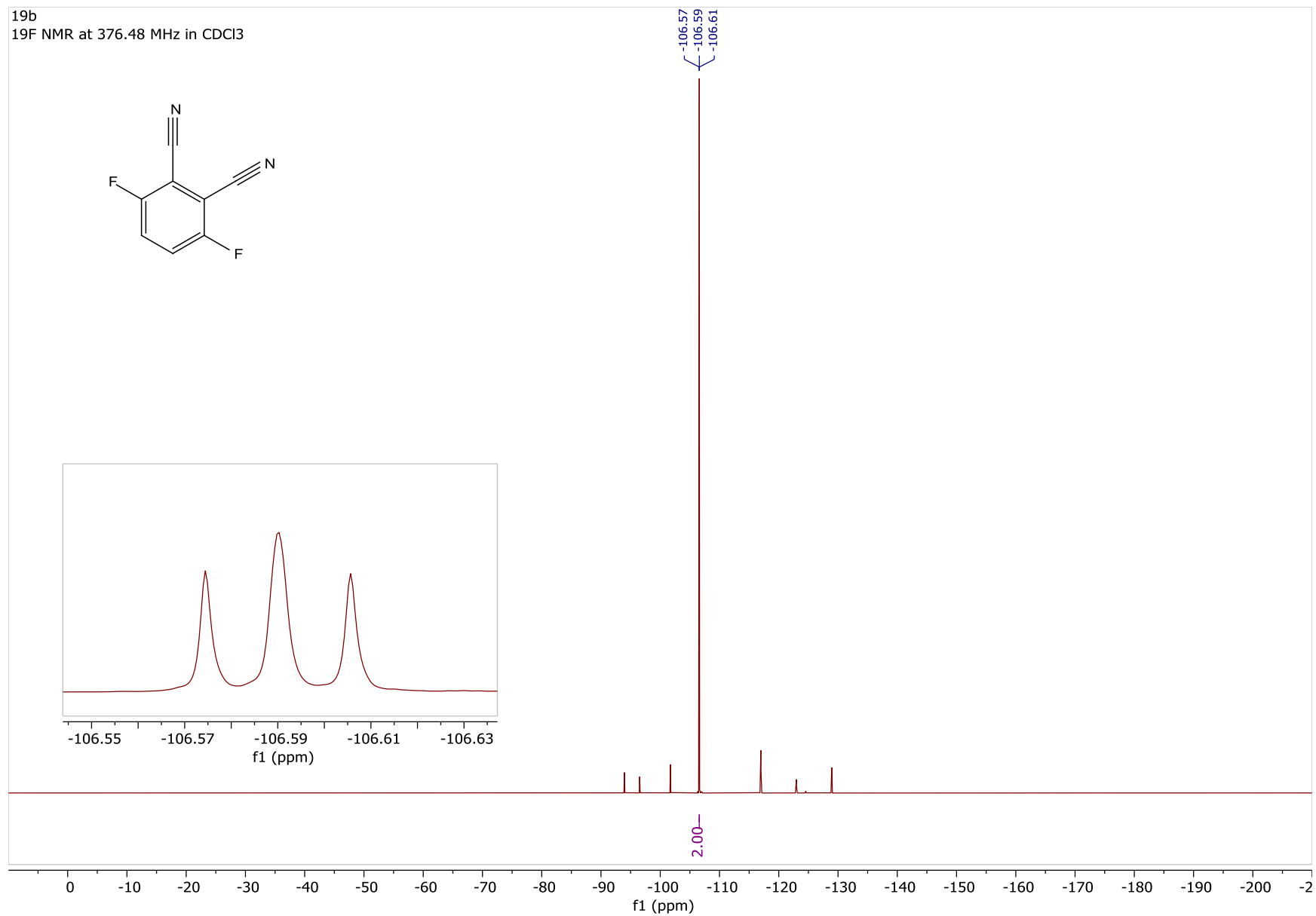
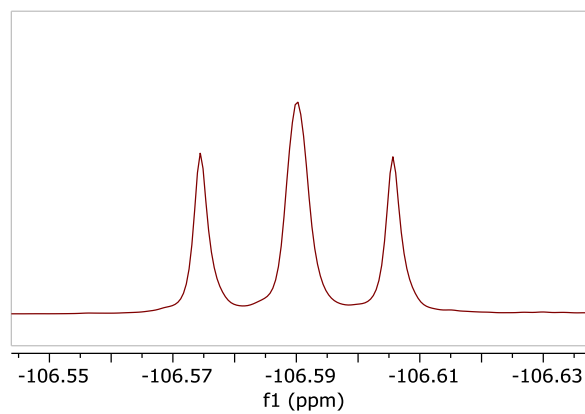
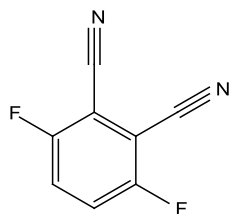
18b

¹H NMR at 599.05 MHz in CDCl₃



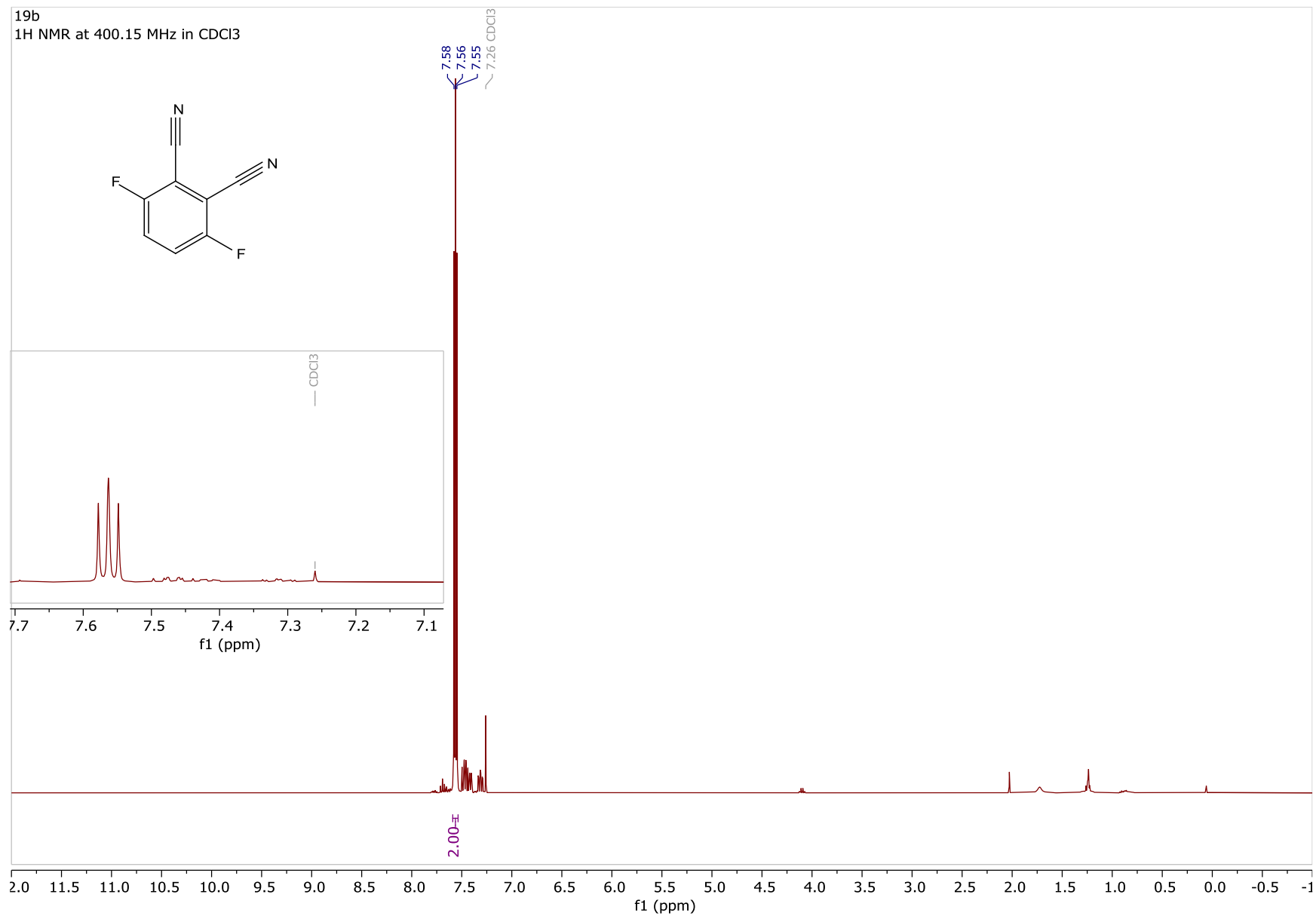
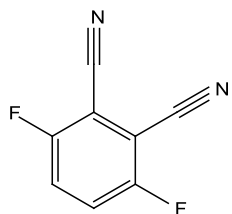


19b
19F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl3

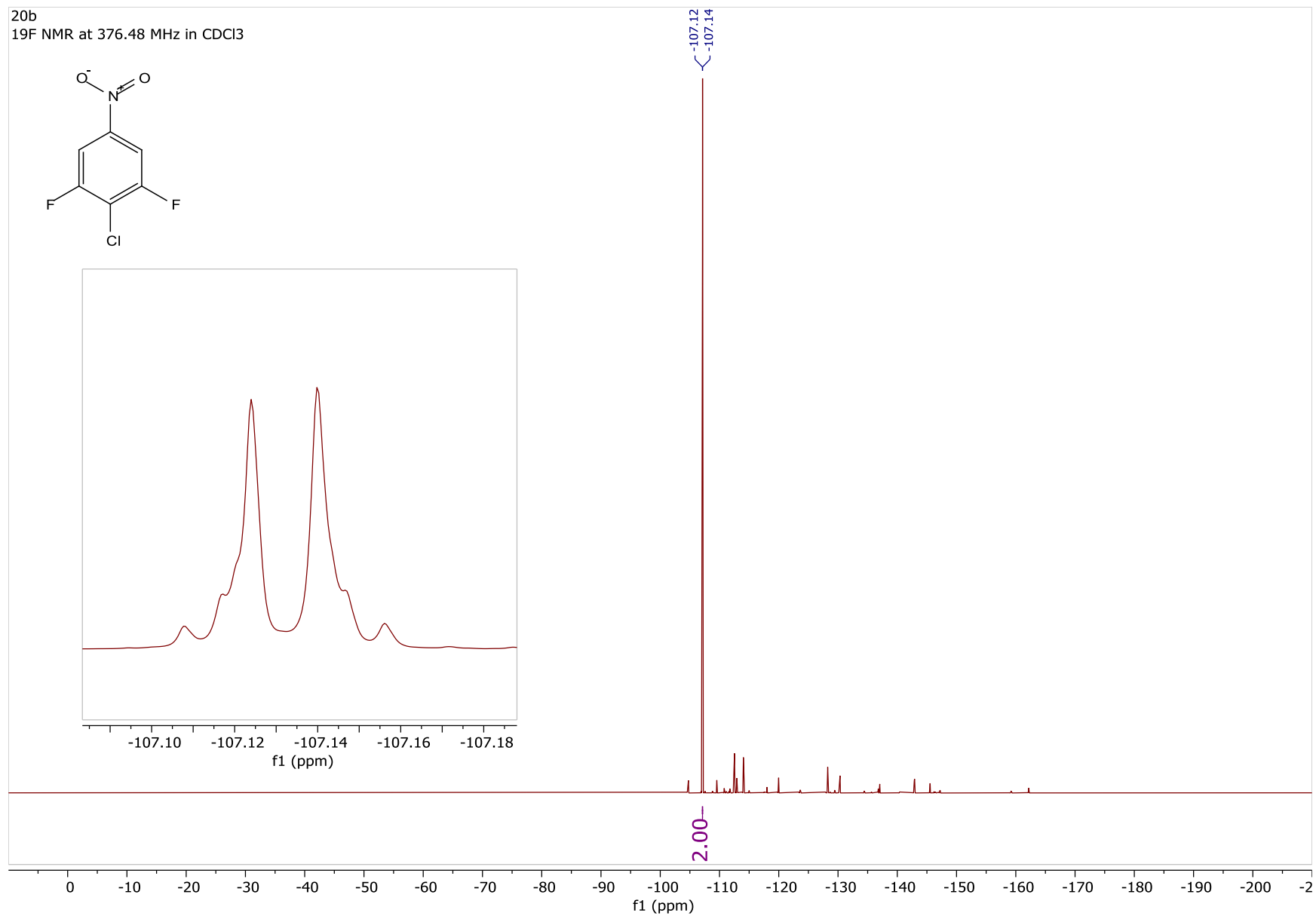
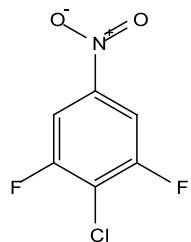


19b

¹H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl₃

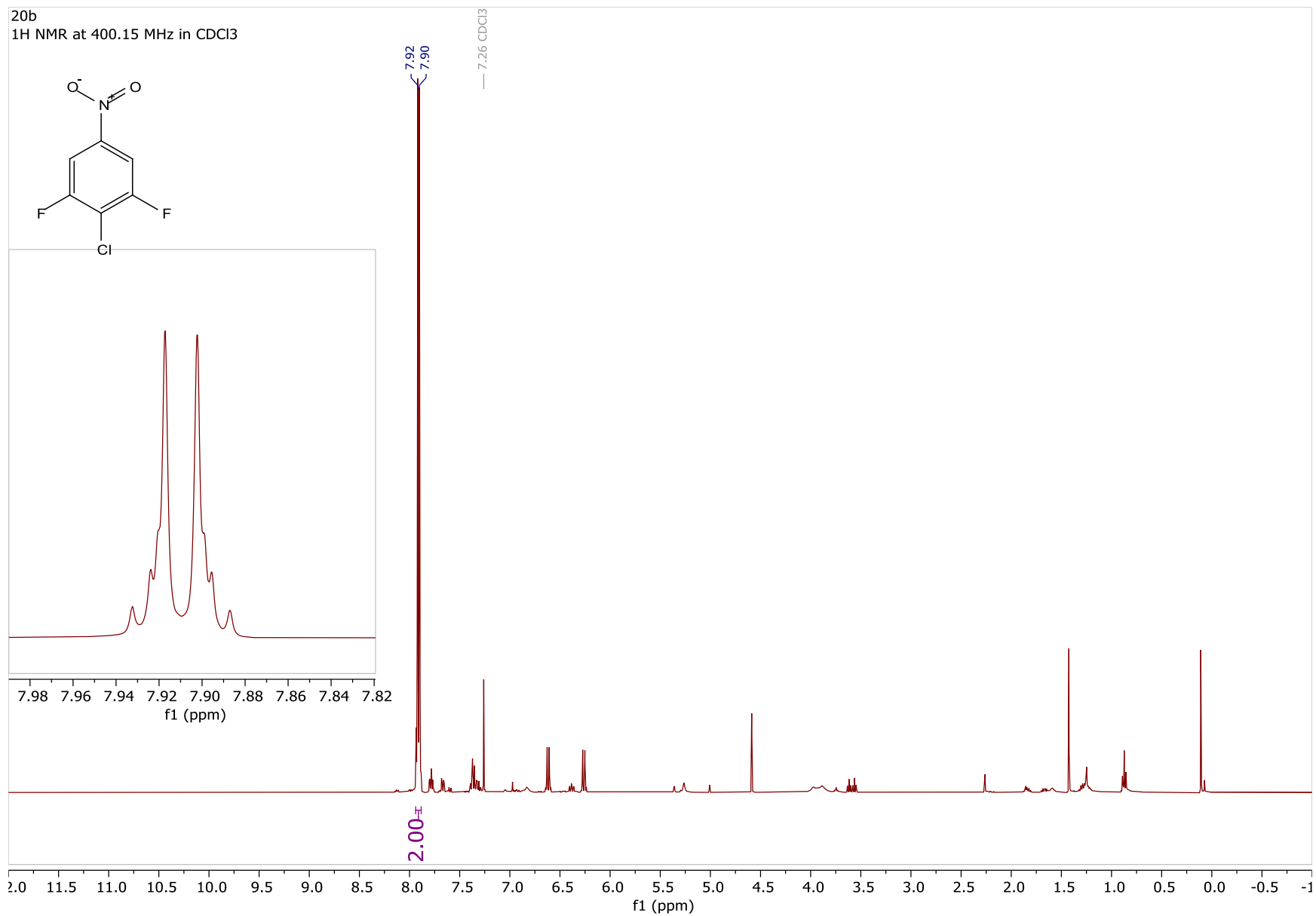
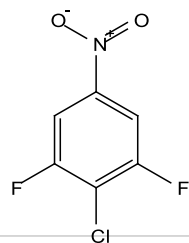


20b
19F NMR at 376.48 MHz in CDCl3



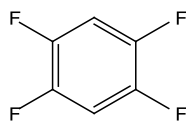
20b

¹H NMR at 400.15 MHz in CDCl₃

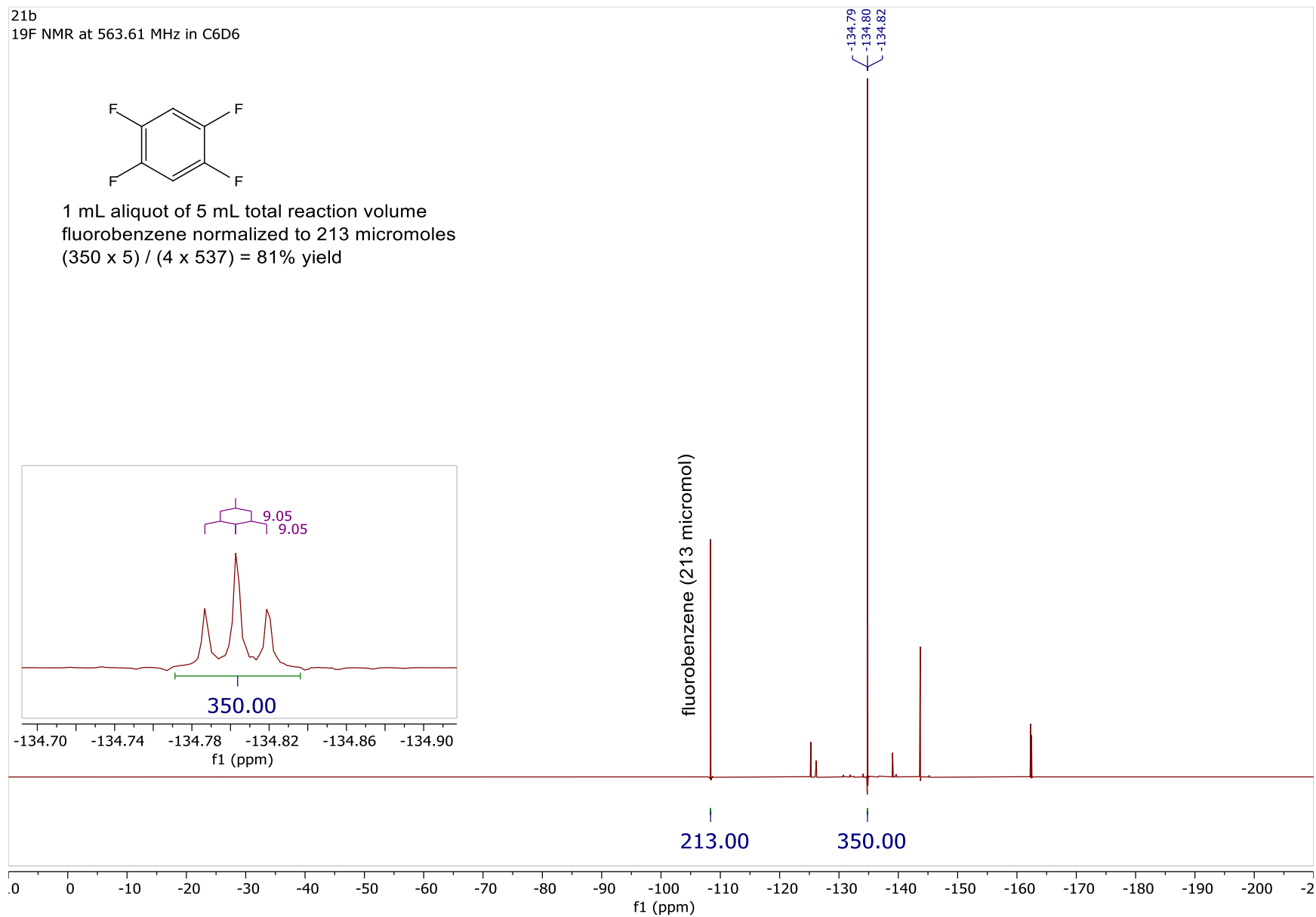


21b

^{19}F NMR at 563.61 MHz in C_6D_6

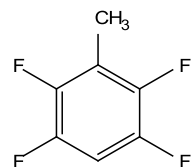


1 mL aliquot of 5 mL total reaction volume
fluorobenzene normalized to 213 micromoles
 $(350 \times 5) / (4 \times 537) = 81\%$ yield

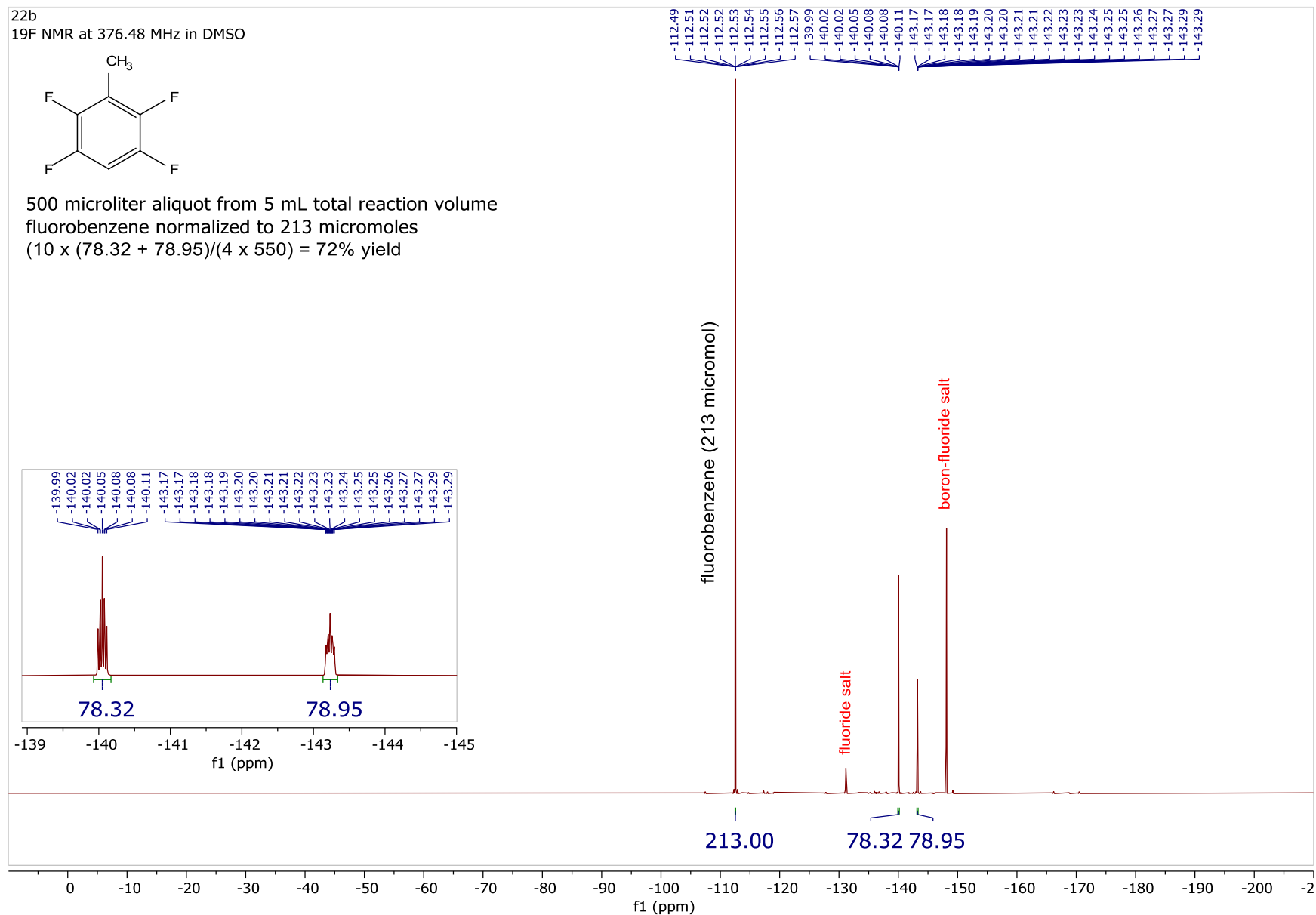


22b

¹⁹F NMR at 376.48 MHz in DMSO

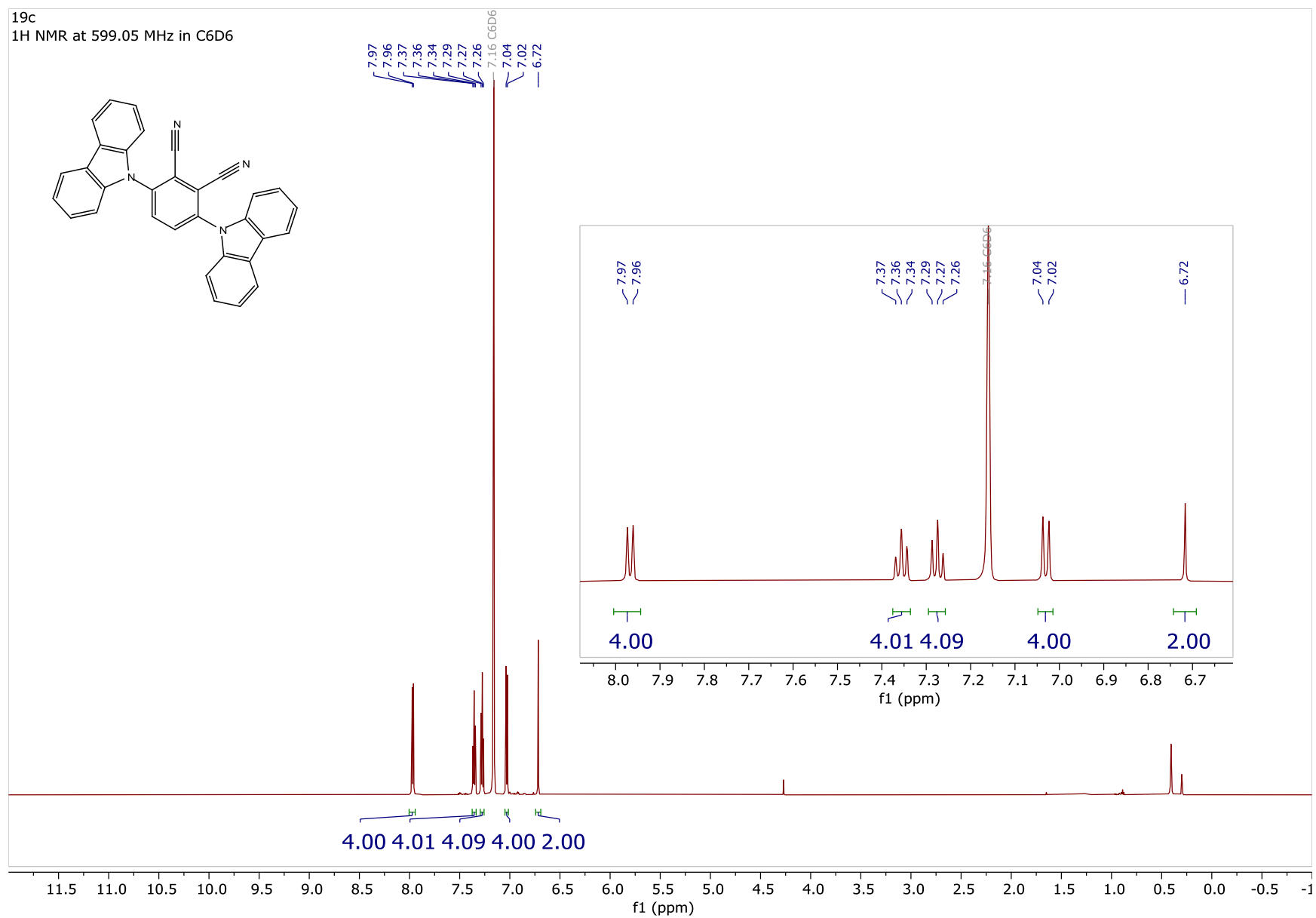
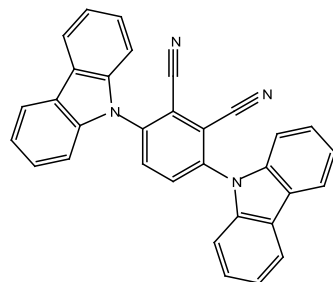


500 microliter aliquot from 5 mL total reaction volume
 fluorobenzene normalized to 213 micromoles
 $(10 \times (78.32 + 78.95)) / (4 \times 550) = 72\%$ yield



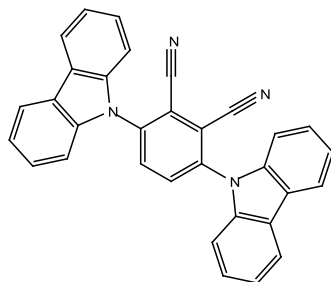
19c

¹H NMR at 599.05 MHz in C₆D₆



19c

¹³C NMR at 150.65 MHz in C₆D₆



140.9
140.5
134.5

