

Metal-Free N-Arylation of Secondary Amides at Room Temperature

Supporting Information

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1. General Experimental Procedure.....	2
2. Synthesis of Diaryliodonium Salts	2
2.1. One-Pot Procedures.....	2
2.2. Other Methods	5
3. Synthesis of Secondary Amides.....	5
4. Optimization Study for the Phenylation of Acetanilide.....	7
5. General Method for the Arylation of Secondary Amides.....	8
6. Larger Scale Phenylation of Acetanilide	8
7. Chemoselectivity Study of the Electrophile	8
8. Chemoselectivity Study of the Nucleophile (N- Vs. O-arylation)	10
9. Reaction Profiles	10
10. Metal Analysis of the Crude Reaction Mixture	11
11. Rotamers in NMR.....	12
12. Analytical Data for the Arylated Amides	15
13. References.....	23
14. Copies of ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR.....	24

1. General Experimental Procedure

All reactions were performed in oven-dried vials or round bottom flasks under nitrogen atmosphere, unless otherwise is stated. THF, acetonitrile and toluene were dried using VAC purification system and stored over activated 4Å molecular sieves. Commercial anhydrous DMF was dried over activated 4Å molecular sieves twice. Isohexane, *o*-xylene, *m*-xylene and *p*-xylene were dried over activated 4Å molecular sieves. All chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received unless otherwise is stated. NaH (60% in mineral oil), NaOH, Cs₂CO₃ and K₃PO₄ were stored in a desiccator. *t*BuONa and *t*BuOK were stored under argon atmosphere in a desiccator. The diaryliodonium salts were synthesized according to procedures described below. For experimental details, see the reference for each method used. *m*CPBA used in the synthesis of the diaryliodonium salts was purchased from commercial supplier and then dried under vacuum at rt for 1h and subsequently the percentage of active oxidizing reagent was determined by iodometric titration.¹ TLC analysis were performed on pre-coated silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ plates using either UV light or Seebach's "magic" stain (a mixture of phosphormolybdic acid and Ce(SO₄)₂) together with heat as developing agent.² The crude products were purified by flash column chromatography either manually using 40-60 µm, 60A silica gel as stationary phase or on an automated flash system Teledyne ISCO CombiFlash R_f 200 with RediSep R_f columns. Mixtures of EtOAc and pentane or petroleum ether were used as eluents. Melting points were measured using a STUART SMP3 and are reported uncorrected. All NMR spectra were recorded using a 400 or 500 MHz Bruker AVANCE II with a BBO probe at 263 K, 298 K, 323 K or 383 K using CDCl₃, MeOH-*d*₄ or DMSO-*d*₆ as solvents. Chemical shifts are given in ppm relative to the residual solvent peak (¹H NMR: CDCl₃ δ 7.26; MeOH-*d*₄ 3.31; DMSO-*d*₆ 2.50; ¹³C NMR: CDCl₃ δ 77.16; MeOH-*d*₄ 49.00 DMSO-*d*₆ 39.52) with multiplicity (br=broad, s=singlet, d=doublet, t=triplet, q=quartet, quin=quintet, sex=sextet, sep=septet, m=multiplet, app=apparent), coupling constants (in Hz) and integration. Chemical shifts for ¹⁹F-NMR are given in ppm relative to monofluorobenzene (-113.15 ppm) used as internal standard. Due to the restricted rotation around the C-N bond peak splitting and peak broadening was observed in ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR for many of the compounds. Therefore, ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR were conducted at different temperatures (263 K, 298 K, 323 K or 383 K) in order to either get a spectra with two distinguishable rotamers or a spectra in which the peaks for the two rotamers had coalesced. However, for all compounds, the ¹H-NMR at 298 K is attached as well. Due to difficulties to interpret NMR-data in some cases and due to the lack of full characterization in reported data, some compounds have been fully characterized even though they have been reported previously. High-resolution mass analyses were obtained using a Bruker microTOF ESI.

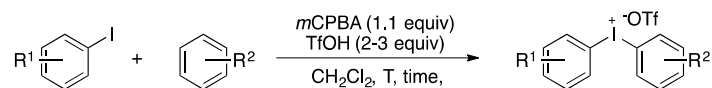
2. Synthesis of Diaryliodonium Salts

2.1. One-Pot Procedures

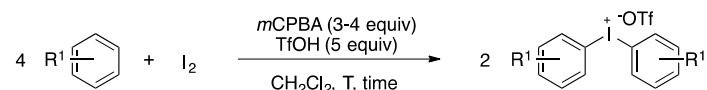
Even though many diaryliodonium salts are commercially available, the majority of the salts used in this investigation were synthesized according to one-pot procedures developed within the Olofsson group. These reactions were run without precautions

to avoid air or moisture. For experimental details, see the references for each method. Diphenyliodonium hexafluorophosphate **2d** was purchased from Alfa Aesar.

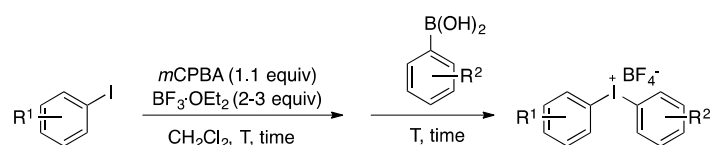
Method I)³



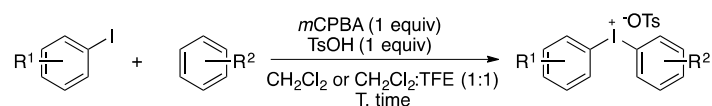
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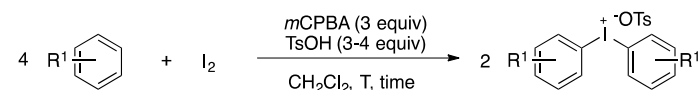
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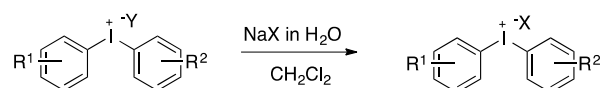
Method IV)⁵



Method V)⁵

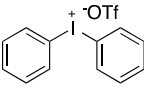
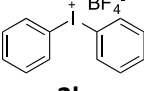
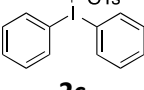
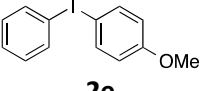
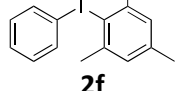
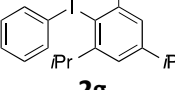
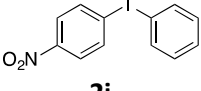
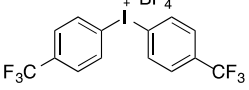
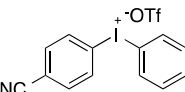
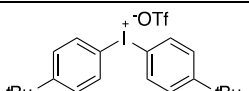
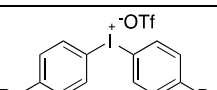
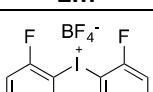


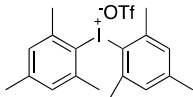
Anion exchange)⁶



NaX (85 mmol) was dissolved in H₂O (100 mL). Diaryliodonium salt (3.4 mmol) was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and washed 5 x 20 mL with the aqueous solution. The organic layer was concentrated without drying. Et₂O was added and mixture was stirred at rt for 30 min. The solid was filtered, washed with Et₂O and dried under vacuum. The method was used to exchange BF₄ to OTs using NaOTs and to exchange OTs to OTf using NaOTf.

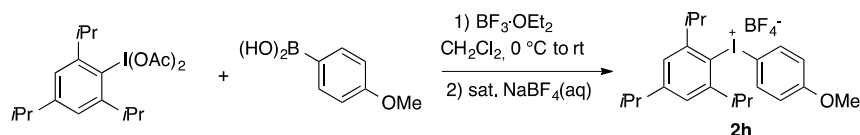
Table S1. Details for the synthesis of diaryliodonium salts **2**.^a

2	Method	Acid (equiv)	T (°C)	time	Yield (%)^b	Ref.
 2a	I	3.0	rt	30 min	95	7
 2b	III	2.5	rt	30 + 15 min	82	4
 2c	III ^c	2.5	rt	30 + 30min	24	8
 2e	IV ^c	1.0	rt	6 h	64	3, 9
 2f	I	2.0	rt	1 h	78	3b, 9
 2g	I	1.5	rt	16 h	59	10
 2i	I	2.0	80	15 h	85	7
 2j	III	2.5	rt	60 min + 15 min	56	4
 2k	I	2.0	rt	15 h	69	11
 2l	II	5.0	rt	20 min	78	3b
 2m	I	3.0	0	1 h	91	3b
 2n	III	2.5	rt	30 min + 15 min	85	4

	II	4.0	rt	1 h	25	^{3b}
2o						

^a In the cases where one aryl originates from an aryl iodide that aryl is consistently drawn the left in the structure ^b Isolated yield. ^c Anion exchange was performed

2.2. Other Methods

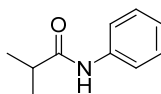


Salt **2h** was synthesized according to a published procedure¹⁰ from 1-diacetoxyiodo-2,4,6-triisopropylbenzene and 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid to give the product as a white solid in 75% yield. All spectral data is in agreement with published data.

3. Synthesis of Secondary Amides

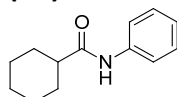
The majority of the secondary amides used in the investigation are commercially available and the following substrates were synthesized.

N-phenylisobutyramide (**1c**)¹²



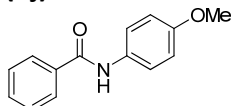
Isobutyryl chloride (10 mmol, 1.05 mL) was slowly added to a stirred solution of aniline (12 mmol, 1.1 mL) and triethylamine (12 mmol, 1.6 mL) in DCM (20 mL) at rt. The reaction was stirred for 24 hours and then extracted with 50 mL HCl (1 M) x 3 followed by 50 mL KOH (2 M) x 3. The organic phase was dried with sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford compound **1c** as an off-white solid in 85% yield (1.387 g). Spectral data at 298 K is in agreement with published data.

N-phenylcyclohexanecarboxamide (**1d**)¹²



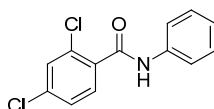
Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (30 mmol, 3.85g) was refluxed in Thionyl chloride (25 mL) together with DMF (5 drops) for 3 h. The residual Thionyl chloride was evaporated and the crude reaction was dissolved in DCM (10 mL) and added dropwise to a stirred solution of Aniline (36 mmol, 3.3 mL) and Et₃N (36 mmol, 5.0 mL) in 50 mL DCM at rt. The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 and then then extracted with 50 mL HCl (1 M) x 3 followed by 50 mL KOH (2 M) x 3. The organic phase was dried with sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford compound **1d** as a white solid in 71% yield (4.33 g). Spectral data at 298 K is in agreement with published data.

***N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzamide (**1j**)¹³**



Benzoyl chloride (30 mmol, 3.49 mL) was added to a stirred solution of p-Anisidine (36 mmol, 4.43 g) and Et₃N (45 mmol, 6.27 mL) in DCM (50 mL) at rt. The reaction was stirred for 6 h and then then extracted with 50 mL HCl (1 M) x 3 followed by 50 mL KOH (2 M) x 3. The organic phase was dried with sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford compound **1j** as a white/pale blue solid in 82% yield (5.6 g). Spectral data at 298 K is in agreement with published data.

2,4-dichloro-*N*-phenylbenzamide (1r**)**



2,4-dichlorobenzoyl chloride (20 mmol, 2.8 mL) was slowly added to a stirred solution of aniline (30 mmol, 2.74 mL) and triethylamine (30 mmol, 4.2 mL) in DCM (50 mL) at rt. The reaction was stirred for 24 hours and then extracted with 50 mL HCl (1 M) x 3 followed by 50 mL KOH (2 M) x 3. The organic phase was dried with sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford compound **1r** as an off-white solid in 85% yield (4.52 g). mp = 152-153 °C. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ 8.14-7.91 (bs, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.26 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.72 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.43 Hz, 1H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ 163.8, 137.5, 137.2, 133.7, 131.6, 131.3, 130.2, 129.2, 127.7, 125.2, 120.4. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₉Cl₂NONa [M + Na]⁺: 287.9953; found: 287.9941.

4. Optimization Study for the Phenylation of Acetanilide

Acetanilide **1a** (34 mg, 0.25 mmol), diaryliodonium salt **2a-d** and base were added to a dry 5 mL microwave vial, which was capped. The vial was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen three times. The stirring was started and the anhydrous solvent (5 mL) was added. *NB: gas evolved*. The solution was stirred at the indicated temperature and time. *NB: it is important that the stirring is vigorous*.

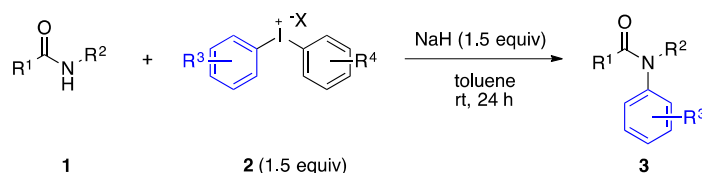
Table S2. Expanded optimisation table for the phenylation of acetanilide.

Reaction scheme: Acetanilide (**1a**) + Diaryliodonium salt (**2a-d**) $\xrightarrow[\text{solvent, rt, Time}]{\text{base}}$ N-phenylacetanilide (**3**)

Entry	2 (equiv)	X	Base (equiv)	Solvent	Temperature (°C)	time (h)	Yield (%) ^b
1	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaH (2.0)	THF	rt	24	n.r.
2	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaH (2.0)	DMF	rt	24	11
3	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaH (2.0)	CH ₃ CN	rt	24	3
4	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaH (2.0)	Iso-hexane	rt	24	37
5	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaH (2.0)	<i>o</i> -xylene	rt	24	81
6	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaH (2.0)	<i>m</i> -xylene	rt	24	70
7	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaH (2.0)	<i>p</i> -xylene	rt	24	75
8	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaH (2.0)	Toluene	rt	24	76
9	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaOH (2.0)	Toluene	rt	24	64
10	2a (2.0)	OTf	<i>t</i> BuONa (2.0)	Toluene	rt	24	44
11	2a (2.0)	OTf	<i>t</i> BuOK (2.0)	Toluene	rt	24	32
12	2a (2.0)	OTf	K ₃ PO ₄ (2.0)	Toluene	rt	24	20
13	2a (2.0)	OTf	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	Toluene	rt	24	6
14 ^c	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaH (2.0)	Toluene	rt	24	71
15	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaH (1.5)	Toluene	rt	24	80
16	2a (1.5)	OTf	NaH (1.5)	Toluene	rt	24	76
17	2a (1.5)	OTf	NaH (2.0)	Toluene	rt	24	60
18	2a (2.0)	OTf	NaH (2.0)	Toluene	rt	24	72 ^d
19	2a (1.5)	OTf	NaH (1.5)	Toluene	rt	24	75 ^d
20 ^e	2a (1.5)	OTf	NaH (1.5)	Toluene	rt	24	70 ^d
21	2a (1.1)	OTf	NaH (1.1)	Toluene	rt	24	51 ^d
22	2a (1.5)	OTf	NaH (1.5)	Toluene	rt	6	60 ^d
23	2a (1.5)	OTf	NaH (1.5)	Toluene	60	2	75 ^d
24	2a (1.5)	OTf	NaH (1.5)	Toluene	80	1	70 ^d
25 ^f	2a (1.5)	OTf	NaH (1.5)	Toluene	rt	24	64 ^d
26	2b (1.5)	BF ₄	NaH (1.5)	Toluene	rt	24	81 ^d
27	2c (1.5)	OTs	NaH (1.5)	Toluene	rt	24	75 ^d
28	2d (1.5)	PF ₆	NaH (1.5)	Toluene	rt	24	59 ^d

^aReaction conditions: Acetanilide **1a** (0.25 mmol), diaryliodonium salt **2a-d** and base were stirred in the anhydrous solvent (5 mL) at the indicated temperature for the indicated time. ^b ¹H-NMR yield using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. ^c With 1 equiv DPE as radical scavenger. ^d Isolated yield. ^e 1 mmol scale, see section 6 for details. ^f In 2.5 mL solvent.

5. General Method for the Arylation of Secondary Amides



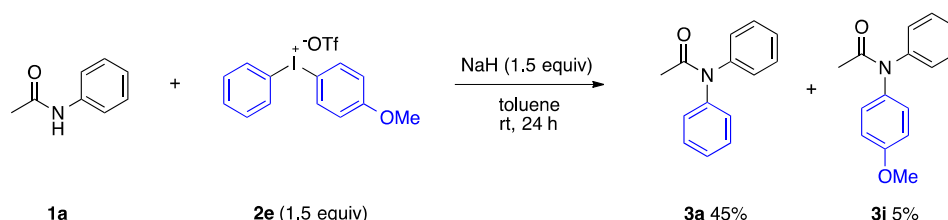
The secondary amide **1** (0.25 mmol), diaryliodonium salt **2** (0.37 mmol) and NaH (60%, 0.38 mmol) were added to a dry 5 mL microwave vial, which was capped. The vial was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen three times. The stirring was started and anhydrous toluene (5 mL) was added. *NB: gas is evolved.* The solution was stirred at ambient temperature for 24 h. *NB: it is important that the stirring is vigorous.* The crude reaction mixture was then transferred to a round flask using ethyl acetate. The solvent was evaporated and then the crude reaction was loaded onto silica without any work-up. The crude was purified using either manual flash column chromatography or on an ISCO Combiflash using EtOAc in pentane or petroleum ether as eluent to yield product **3**.

6. Larger Scale Phenylation of Acetanilide

Acetanilide (**1a**, 1.0 mmol, 0.135 g) and **2a** (1.5 mmol, 0.645 g) were added to a dried 25 mL round-flask. The flask was equipped with a rubber septa, evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen three times. The stirring was started and dry toluene (20 mL) was added. The secondary amide and the iodonium salt were stirred for 30 min and then NaH (1.5 equiv.) was added through a funnel filled with argon. The round-bottom flask was quickly closed with the septa and fitted with a nitrogen balloon, and the stirred at rt for 24 h. The toluene was evaporated and the crude solid was dissolved in ethyl acetate and loaded onto silica. Purification was performed using ISCO Combiflash with pentane:EtOAc gradient to yield compound **3a** as a yellow solid in 70% yield (0.147 g).

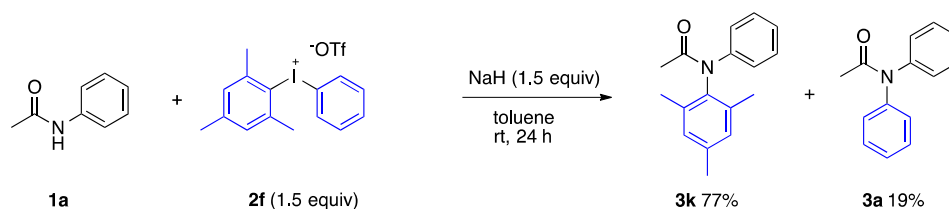
7. Chemoselectivity Study of the Electrophile

The chemoselectivity was investigated in the following reactions. The ratio between the products could not be obtained from the crude NMR due to overlapping peaks, so the chemoselectivity was determined by isolation of the two products.

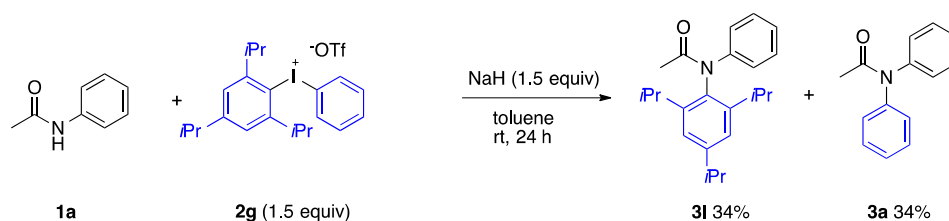


The tertiary amides **3a** and **3i** were synthesized according to the general procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (**1a**, 34 mg, 0.25 mmol), **2e** (173 mg, 0.38 mmol) and NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol). The mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel, gradient 20-100% EtOAc in

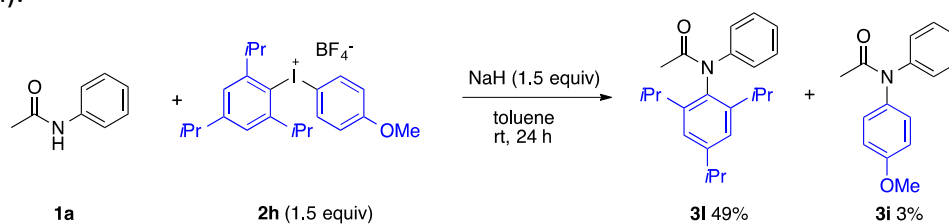
pentane) to yield **3a** in 45% yield (24 mg, 0.11 mmol). Product **3i** was obtained as mixture with acetanilide and the yield was calculated to 5%.



The tertiary amides **3k** and **3a** were synthesized according to the general procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (**1a**, 34 mg, 0.25 mmol), **2f** (177 mg, 0.37 mmol) and NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol). The mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel, gradient 10-50% EtOAc in pentane) to yield **3k** in 77% (49 mg, 0.19 mmol) and **3a** in 19% yield (10 mg, 0.05 mmol).

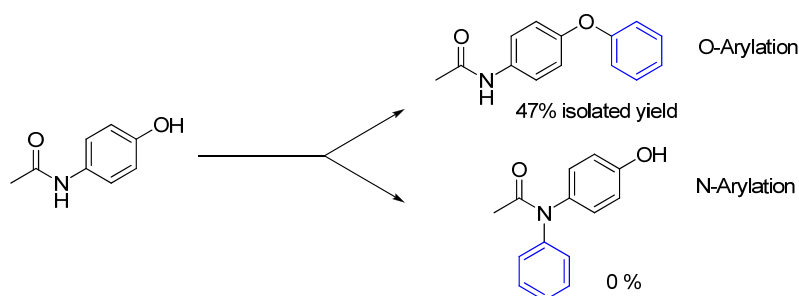


The tertiary amides **3l** and **3a** were synthesized according to general procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (**1a**, 34 mg, 0.25 mmol), **2g** (209 mg, 0.38 mmol) and NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol). The mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel, gradient 5-50% EtOAc in pentane) to yield **3l** in 34% yield (29 mg, 0.09 mmol) and **3a** in 34% yield (18 mg, 0.09 mmol).



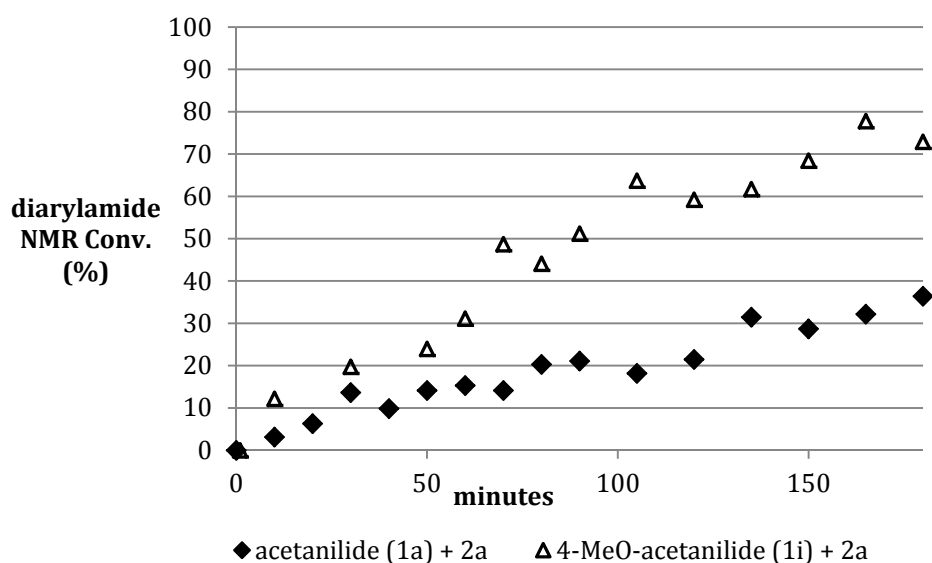
The tertiary amides **3l** and **3i** were synthesized according to general procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (**1a**, 34 mg, 0.25 mmol), **2h** (197 mg, 0.38 mmol) and NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol). The mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The products were purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel, gradient 5-50% EtOAc in pentane) to yield **3l** in 49% yield (42 mg, 0.12 mmol). **3i** was obtained as mixture with acetanilide and the yield was calculated to 3%.

8. Chemoselectivity Study of the Nucleophile (N- Vs. O- arylation)

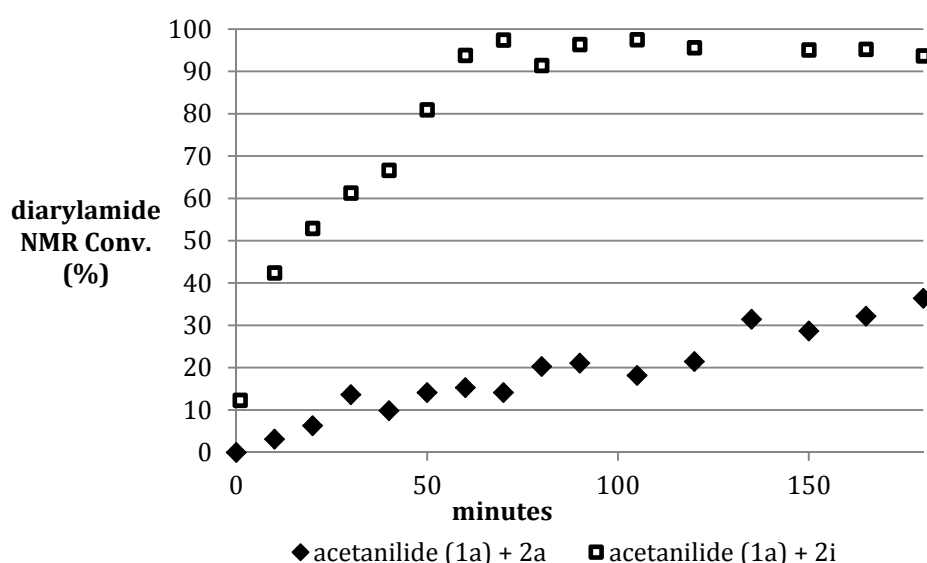


Synthesized according to the general procedure given in section 5 from *N*-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetamide (38 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH 60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2a** (161 mg, 0.37 mmol). The mixture was stirred in toluene at 60 °C for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 10-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash). The *N*-arylated product was not formed in the reaction, instead a moderate yield of 47% of the *O*-arylated product (*N*-(4-phenoxyphenyl)acetamide) was obtained. The spectral data are in agreement with previous published data.¹⁴

9. Reaction Profiles



Reaction conditions: Anilide (0.25 mmol) and diphenyliodonium triflate **2a** (161.3 mg, 0.375 mmol) were placed in a vial equipped with a teflon-coated magnetic stirring bar. Sodium hydride (15 mg, 0.375 mmol) was added, and the vial was quickly sealed with a crimp-on cap equipped with septum. The atmosphere was exchanged for nitrogen gas and 5 mL dry toluene was added to the reaction mixture under vigorous stirring (1500 rpm) at room temperature. Samples of approximately 50 microliter were removed and injected into deuterated methanol at certain time intervals, and subjected to ¹H-NMR analysis.



Reaction conditions: Acetanilide **1a** (33.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) and diaryliodonium triflate (0.375 mmol) were placed in a vial equipped with a teflon-coated magnetic stirring bar. Sodium hydride (15 mg, 0.375 mmol) was added, and the vial was quickly sealed with a crimp-on cap equipped with septum. The atmosphere was exchanged for nitrogen gas and 5 mL dry toluene was added to the reaction mixture under vigorous stirring (1500 rpm) at room temperature. Samples of approximately 50 microliter were removed and injected into deuterated methanol at certain time intervals, and subjected to ^1H -NMR analysis. The *N*-phenyl-4-nitroacetanilide **3f** was isolated after 70 minutes in 86% yield after column chromatography.

10. Metal Analysis of the Crude Reaction Mixture

A sample for ICP-OES was prepared as follows:

The up-scaled version of the reaction was performed as described in section 6. A small sample was withdrawn after 24 h and analyzed by ^1H NMR to confirm product formation. The solvent was then evaporated and a small amount of purified water obtained from Purelab Ultra/Elga was added to quench residual sodium hydride. The water was evaporated and a 260 mg solid sample was sent to Medac Ltd. for ICP-OES analysis.

Results:

Element	Results	Units
Cu	1.3	ppm
Pd	<0.1	ppm

The amount of copper detected in the crude mixture corresponds to 0.0021 mol% in the reaction. Literature reports on copper-catalyzed *N*-arylations with diaryliodonium salts typically employ 10-20 mol% copper and elevated temperatures.¹⁵ Previous reports on arylation of amides use stoichiometric copper in

refluxing MeOH,¹⁶ 10 mol% in toluene at 100 °C,¹⁷ 10 mol% in DMF at 40 °C,¹⁸ or 5 mol% CuI at 50 °C.¹⁹ Unsymmetric diaryliodonium salts were used in one report with the mesityl group as a dummy,¹⁷ which is common in metal-catalyzed reactions. We observe the opposite chemoselectivity, which further supports that the reaction is not metal-catalyzed.

11. Rotamers in NMR

Due to the restricted rotation around the C–N bond the tertiary amides exist as rotamers. For some substrates, this caused peak splitting and peak broadening at ambient temperature. To support that this was due to rotamers, the ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR for compound **3k** were recorded at 263 K, 298 K and 323 K in CDCl₃. At 263 K the two rotamers can be distinguished in a 1:6 ratio. At 298 K the peaks for the two rotamers have started to merge and at 323 K they have coalesced.

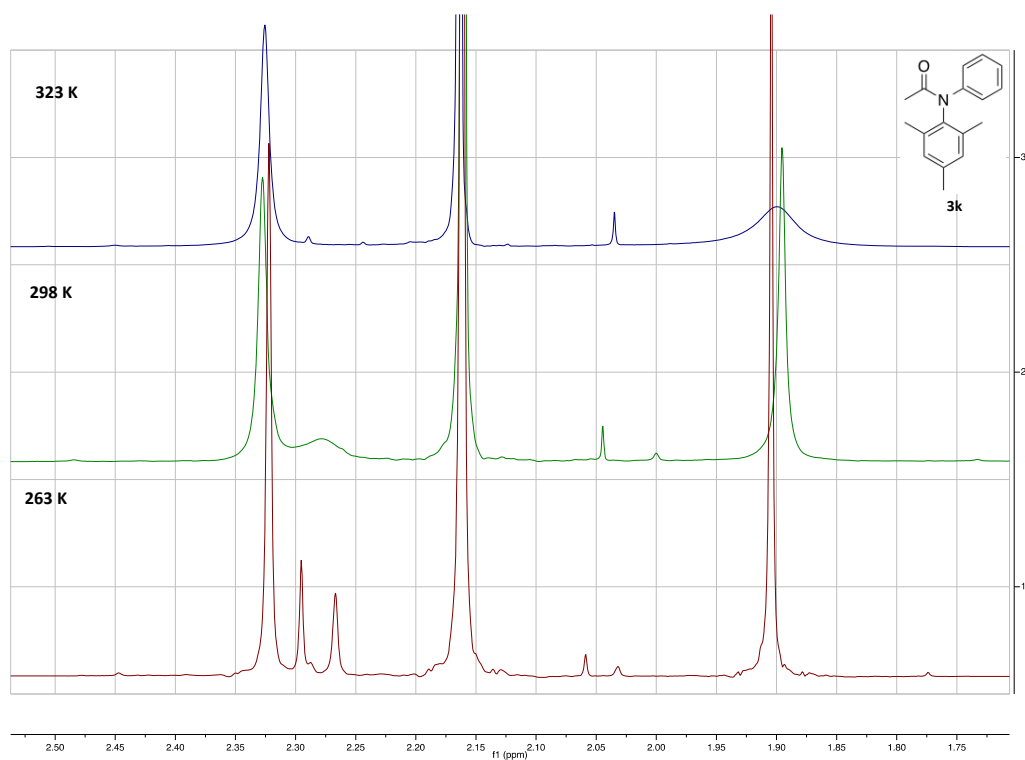
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz):



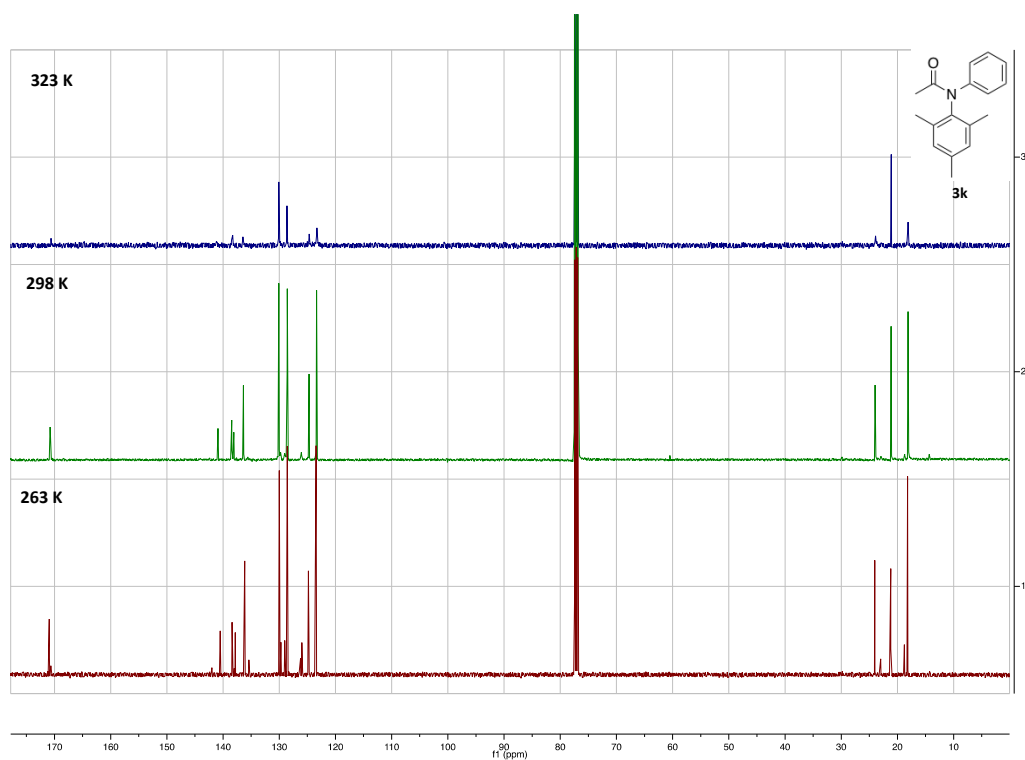
^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) enlarged aromatic region:



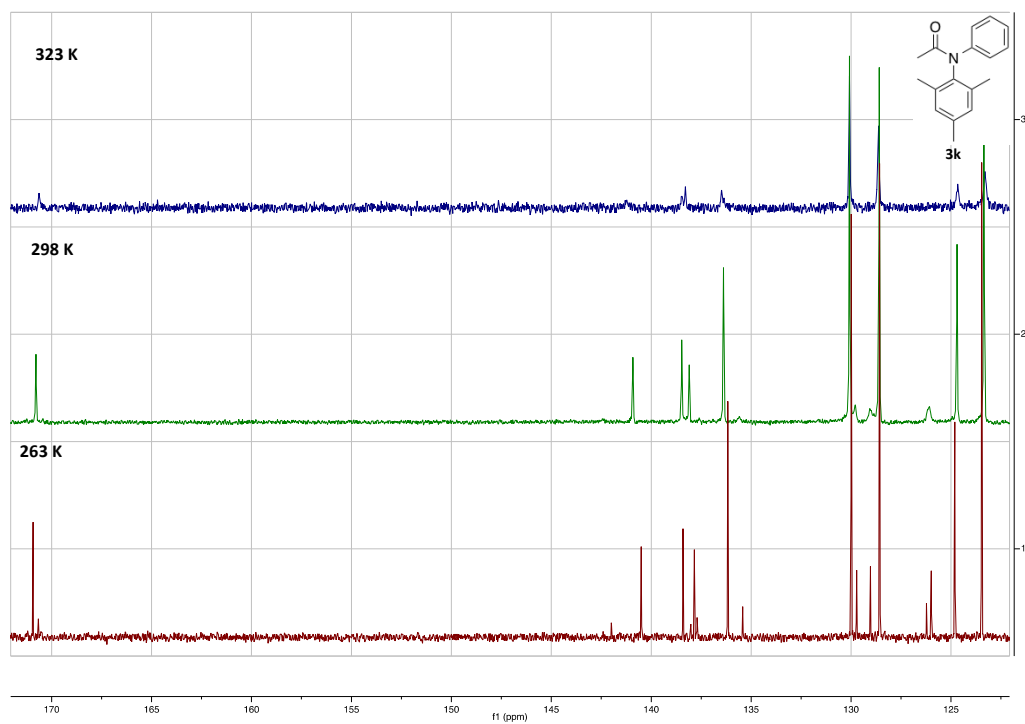
^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) enlarged aliphatic region:



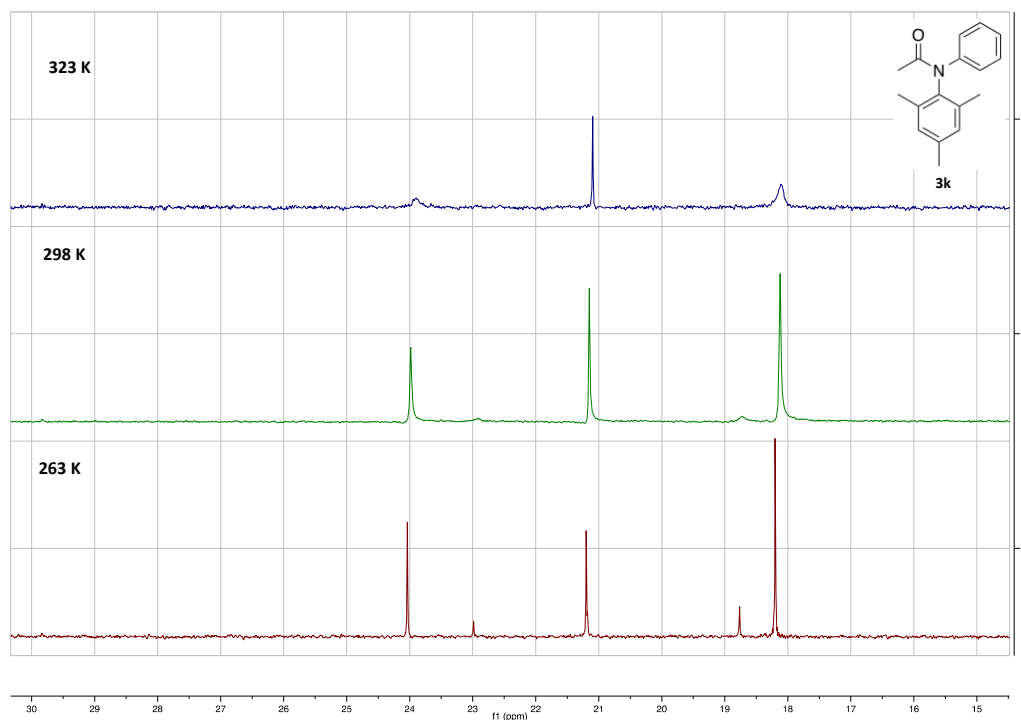
^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz):



^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) enlarged aromatic region:

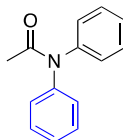


¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) enlarged aliphatic region:



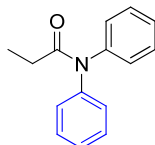
12. Analytical Data for the Arylated Amides

N,N-Diphenylacetamide (**3a**)²⁰



Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (34 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2a** (161 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3a** as a yellow solid (41 mg, 0.19 mmol and 39 mg, 0.18 mmol) in 75% average yield over two runs. Spectral data at both 298 K and 263 K are in agreement with published data.

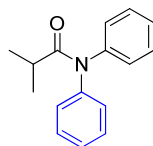
N,N-Diphenylpropionamide (**3b**)²¹



Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from *N*-phenylpropionamide **1b** (37 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2a** (161 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO

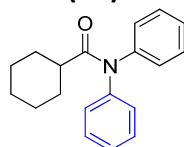
CombiFlash) to give **3b** as a pale yellow solid (41 mg, 0.18 mmol) in 72% yield. Spectral data at 298 K is in agreement with published data.

***N,N*-Diphenylisobutyramide (**3c**)²²**



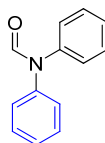
Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from *N*-phenylisobutyramide **1c** (41 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2a** (161 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3c** as an off white solid (44 mg, 0.18 mmol) in 73% yield. Spectral data at 298 K is in agreement with published data.

***N,N*-Diphenylcyclohexanecarboxamide (**3d**)**



Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from *N*-phenylcyclohexanecarboxamide **1d** (51 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2a** (161 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3d** as a off white solid (58 mg, 0.21 mmol) in 82% yield. mp = 120-122 °C. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ 7.53-7.03 (m, 10H), 2.39 (tt, *J* = 3.57, 11.49 Hz, 1H), 1.86-1.50 (qt, *J* = 3.58, 12.88 Hz, 1H), 1.10-0.94 (qt, *J* = 3.60, 12.90 Hz, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ 176.7, 143.2, 129.3, 127.1 (br), 42.4, 29.5, 25.7, 25.6. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NONa [M + Na]⁺: 302.1515; found: 302.1497.

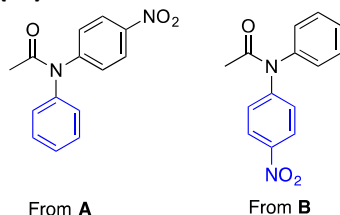
***N,N*-Diphenylformamide (**3e**)²³**



N-phenylformamide **1e** (30 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2a** (161 mg, 0.37 mmol) were stirred in dry toluene (5 mL) for 3 h at 60 °C. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3e** as a pale brown solid (30 mg, 0.15 mmol) in 61% yield. Spectral data at 298 K is in agreement with published data.

Additional information: A large amount of starting material was recovered by performing the reaction according to the general procedure dictated in section 5. The reactivity of the substrate was increased when performing the reaction at 60 °C; however, at this temperature two unidentified by-products were formed which limited the isolated yield of the desired product to the moderate 61%.

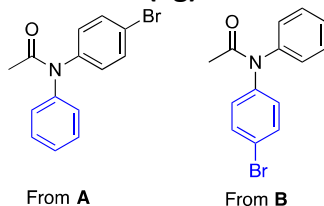
***N*-Phenyl-4-nitroacetanilide (**3f**)²⁴**



A: *N*-(4-nitrophenyl)acetamide **1f** (45 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2a** (161 mg, 0.37 mmol) were stirred in dry toluene (5 mL) for 5 h at 60 °C. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3f** as a pale yellow solid (50 mg, 0.19 mmol) in 77% yield.

B: Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (34 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2i** (178 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 20% EtOAc in pentane) to give **3f** as a pale yellow solid in 99% yield (64 mg, 0.25 mmol). mp = 84-87 °C (lit. 99.5-100 °C)²⁴ ¹H-NMR is in agreement with published data, but ¹³C-NMR has not been reported. ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ 170.7, 148.3, 144.7, 142.1, 130.4, 128.8, 128.8, 125.7, 124.4, 24.6. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₄H₁₂N₂O₃Na [M + Na]⁺: 279.0740; found: 279.0742.

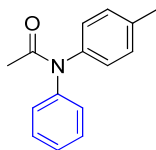
***N*-(4-Bromophenyl)-*N*-phenylacetamide (**3g**)^{20a, 25}**



A: Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from *N*-(4-bromophenyl)acetamide **1g** (54 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2a** (161 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3g** as of white solid (63 mg, 0.22 mmol) in 87% yield.

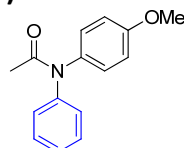
B: Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (34 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2m** (220 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 20-50% EtOAc in pentane) to give **3g** as a colorless oil, that slowly crystalized upon scratching to a white solid, in 40% yield (29 mg, 0.10 mmol). mp = 74-76 °C (lit. 77 °C)²⁵ . ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR at 298 K is in agreement with published data. For clarity, ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR at 263 K are also attached, in which a 1:2 ratio of rotamers could be seen. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₄H₁₂BrNONa [M + Na]⁺: 311.9994; found: 311.9983.

***N*-Phenyl-*N*-(*p*-tolyl)acetamide (**3h**)^{20a}**



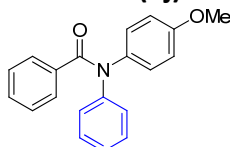
Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from *N*-*p*-tolylacetamide **1h** (37 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2a** (161 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3h** as a pale yellow solid (45 mg, 0.20 mmol) in 80% yield. Spectral data at 298 K is in agreement with published data.

***N*-Phenyl-4-methoxyacetanilide (**3i**)²⁶**



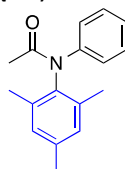
Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from *N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetamide **1i** (41 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2a** (161 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3i** as a pale yellow oil (51 mg, 0.21 mmol) in 85% yield. Spectral data at 298 K is in agreement with published data.

***N*-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-*N*-phenylbenzamide (**3j**)²⁶**



Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from *N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzamide **1j** (57 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2a** (161 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3j** as a pale yellow solid (55 mg, 0.18 mmol) in 73% yield. Spectral data at 298 K is in agreement with published data.

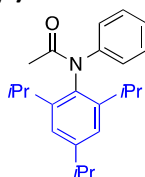
***N*-Phenyl-2,4,6-trimethylacetanilide (**3k**)²⁷**



Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (34 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2o** (193 mg, 0.38 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 20% EtOAc in pentane) to give **3k** as a white solid (63 mg, 0.25 mmol) in 99% yield. mp = 106-108 °C (lit. 106-108 °C)²⁷. ¹H-NMR at 298 K is in agreement with published data. No ¹³C-NMR has been reported and therefore a full

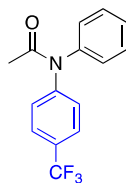
characterization was performed. The product was characterized as a mixture of rotamers in a 1:6 ratio at 263 K. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 263 K) *major rotamer*: δ 7.30-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.14-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.98 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 6H), 1.90 (s, 3H). *minor rotamer*: δ 7.33 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.05 (m, 2H), 6.92 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , 263 K) *major rotamer*: δ 170.9, 140.5, 138.4, 137.8, 136.2, 130.0, 128.6, 124.8, 123.5, 24.0, 21.2, 18.2. *minor rotamer*: δ 170.7, 142.0, 138.0, 137.7, 135.4, 129.7, 129.0, 126.2, 126.0, 23.0, 21.2, 18.8. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NONa}$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 276.1359; found: 276.1356.

***N*-Phenyl-*N*-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)acetamide (3l)**



Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (34 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2h** (197 mg, 0.38 mmol) in *o*-xylene (5mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 5-50% EtOAc in pentane) to give **3l** as a colorless oil in 55% yield (47 mg, 0.14 mmol). The product was characterized as a mixture of rotamers in a 1:5 ratio at 263 K. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 263 K) *major rotamer*: δ 7.36-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.07 (s, 2H), 7.09-7.03 (m, 1H), 3.09-2.98 (m, 2H), 2.98-2.83 (m, 1H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.28 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 1.21 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 0.93 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 6H). *minor rotamer*: δ 7.36-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.18 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.02 (s, 2H), 3.09-2.98 (m, 2H), 2.98-2.93 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.24 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 1.21 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 0.97 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , 263 K) *major rotamer*: δ 171.7, 149.8, 146.0, 142.2, 134.9, 128.4, 124.4, 123.2, 123.0, 34.2, 28.2, 24.9, 24.7, 24.2, 24.1. *minor rotamer*: δ 171.4, 148.6, 145.3, 143.3, 135.0, 129.0, 125.8, 125.7, 122.5, 34.1, 28.9, 24.3, 24.1, 23.3. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{31}\text{NONa}$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 360.2298; found: 360.2290.

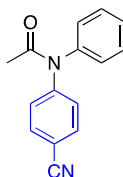
***N*-Phenyl-4-trifluoromethylacetanilide (3m)**



Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (34 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2j** (189 mg, 0.38 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 20% EtOAc in pentane) to give **3m** as a white solid in >99% yield (70 mg, 0.25 mmol). mp = 72-74 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 323 K) δ 7.58 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 2H), 2.07 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , 323 K) δ 170.4, 146.2, 142.9, 130.0, 128.5, 128.1, 126.7, 126.3, 126.3, 124.1 (q, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 271.9$ Hz), 24.1. ^{19}F -

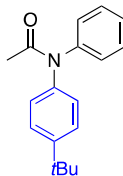
NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ -62.52. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₅H₁₂F₃NONa [M + Na]⁺: 302.0763; found: 302.0760.

***N*-Phenyl-4-cyanoacetanilide (3n)^{24, 28}**



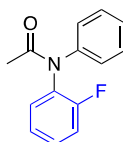
Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (34 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2k** (171 mg, 0.38 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 30-50% EtOAc in pentane) to give **3n** as a white solid in 98% yield (58 mg, 0.25 mmol). mp = 95-97 °C (lit. 96-97 °C)²⁴ ¹H-NMR at 298 K is in agreement with published data. ¹³C-NMR has two more peaks compared to reported data.²⁸ ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ 170.6, 146.7, 142.2, 132.9, 130.3, 128.7, 128.6, 126.2, 118.6, 109.1, 24.5. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₅H₁₂N₂ONa [M + Na]⁺: 259.0842; found: 259.0845.

***N*-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)-*N*-phenylacetamide (3o)²⁹**



Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (34 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2l** (203 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 20-50% EtOAc in pentane) to give **3o** as a white solid in 64% yield (43 mg, 0.16 mmol). mp = 106-108 °C (lit. 108 °C)²⁹. ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR at 298 K is agreement with published data. For clarity, ¹H-NMR at ¹³C-NMR at 263 K are also attached, in which a 1:1 ratio of rotamers could be seen. The reported data lacks HRMS or elemental analysis. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₈H₂₁NONa [M + Na]⁺: 290.1515; found: 290.1509.

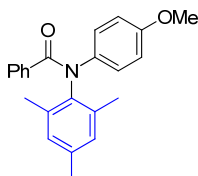
***N*-Phenyl-2-fluoroacetanilide (3p)²⁴**



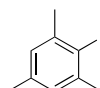
Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from acetanilide (34 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2n** (151 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 30% EtOAc in pentane) to give **3p** as a white solid in >99% yield (58 mg, 0.25 mmol). mp = 121-123 °C. (lit. 121-121.5 °C)²⁴. ¹H-NMR in CDCl₃ at 298 K is in agreement with published data, but ¹³C-NMR was not reported.

Therefore, the compound was fully characterized. ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$, 383 K) δ 7.49-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.32 (m, 5H), 7.32-7.20 (m, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$, 383 K) δ 168.5, 157.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 248.4$ Hz), 142.1, 130.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 12.9$ Hz), 129.9, 129.0 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 7.6$ Hz), 128.5, 126.4, 126.3 (*should be a doublet due to C-F coupling, but overlaps with other peak*), 124.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.7$ Hz), 115.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 20.3$ Hz), 21.6. ^{19}F -NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ -119.49, -120.99. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{FNONa}$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 252.0795; found: 252.0784.

***N*-Mesityl-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzamide (**3q**)**

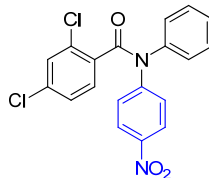


Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from *N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzamide **1j** (57 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2o** (193 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3q** as a white solid (72 mg, 0.21 mmol) in 84% yield. mp = 128-120 °C. The product was characterized as a mixture of rotamers in almost 1:1 ratio at 298 K. ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ 7.57-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.09 (m, 4H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.90-6.70 (m, 3H), 6.69-6.55 (m, 1H), 3.79 and 3.70 (two s, total 3H), 2.36-2.06 (m, 9H). ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ . 170.4, 169.6, 156.9, 156.8, 138.7, 138.4, 137.8, 137.6, 136.8, 136.1, 135.8, 135.5, 134.9, 130.3, 130.2, 129.9, 129.3, 128.3, 128.1, 127.6, 126.9, 125.9, 113.93, 113.87, 55.5, 55.4, 21.1, 21.0, 18.8, 18.6. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_2\text{Na}$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 368.1621; found: 368.1612.



2-Iodo-1,3,5-trimethylbenzene was recovered from the synthesis of **3q** in 81 % isolated yield (50 mg, 0.20 mmol)

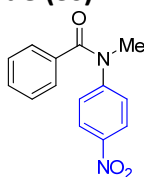
2,4-Dichloro-*N*-(4-nitrophenyl)-*N*-phenylbenzamide (3r**)**



Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from 2,4-dichloro-*N*-phenylbenzamide **1k** (67 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2i** (178 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3r** as a pale yellow solid (92 mg, 0.24 mmol) in 95% yield. mp = 134-136 °C. ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ 8.31-8.06 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.36 (bs, 2H), 7.36-7.23 (m, 5H), 7.23-7.08 (m, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ 167.3, 147.9, 145.3, 141.0, 136.2, 134.5, 131.6, 130.1, 129.8, 129.7, 128.4, 128.3

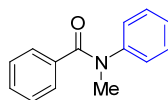
(br), 127.2, 126.5 (br), 124.5. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{19}H_{12}Cl_2N_2O_3Na$ $[M + Na]^+$: 409.0117; found: 409.0109.

***N*-Methyl-*N*-(4-nitrophenyl)benzamide (**3s**)²⁸**



Synthesized according to procedure given in section 5 from *N*-methylbenzamide **1l** (35 mg, 0.25 mmol), NaH (60%, 15 mg, 0.38 mmol) and **2i** (178 mg, 0.37 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 0-100% EtOAc in petroleum ether using ISCO CombiFlash) to give **3s** as a pale yellow solid (33 mg, 0.14 mmol) in 52% yield. Spectral data at 298 K is in agreement with published data.

***N*-methyl-*N*-phenylbenzamide**



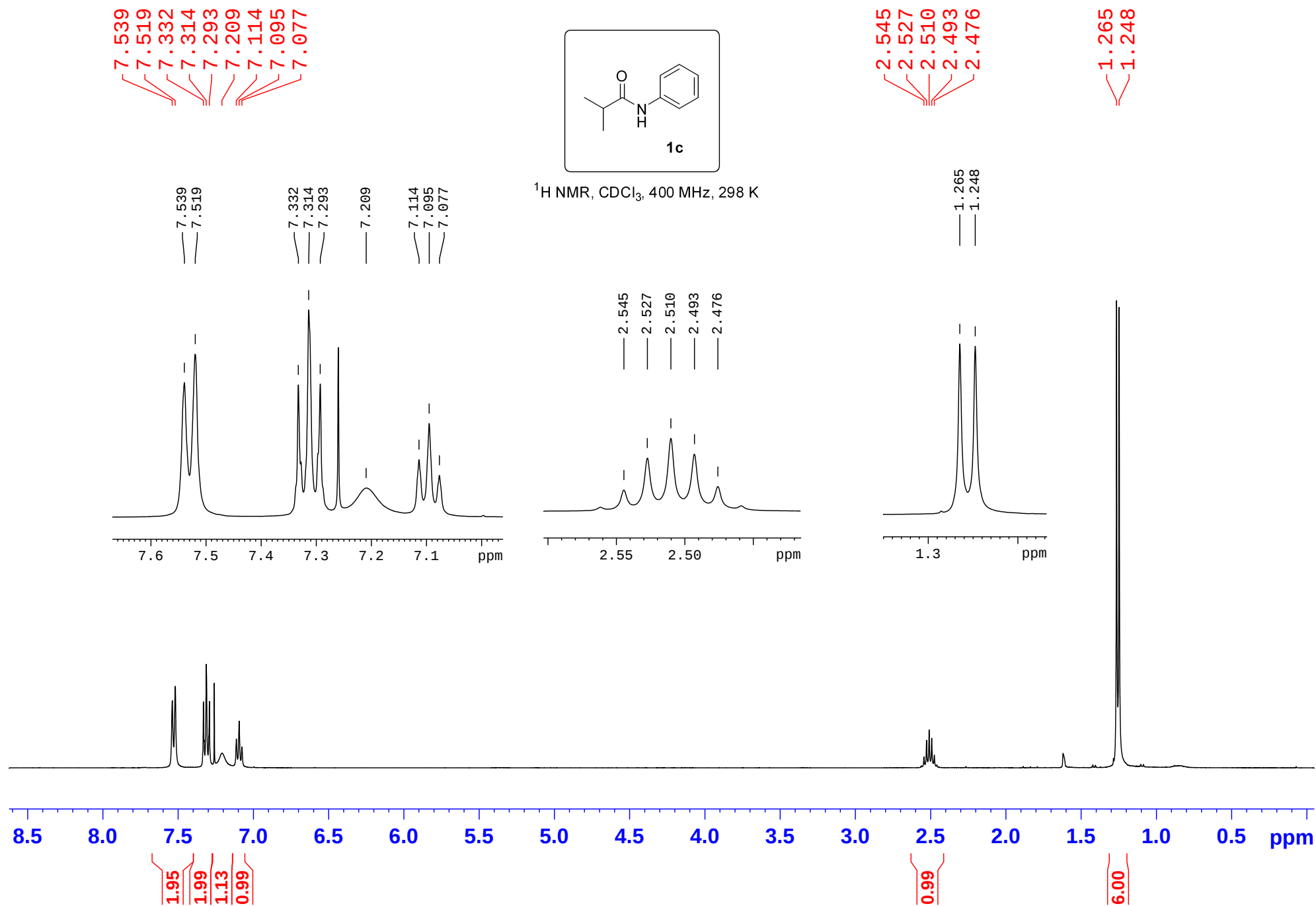
The substrate with aliphatic *N*-substituent (*N*-Methylbenzamide) reacted poorly when performing the reaction under the general reaction conditions given in section 5. Increasing the reaction temperature to 60 °C unfortunately only gave the desired product in less than 30 % according to crude 1H NMR. Unreacted starting material was recovered and the *N*-methyl-*N*-phenylbenzamide was difficult to isolate due to the formation of multiple byproducts.

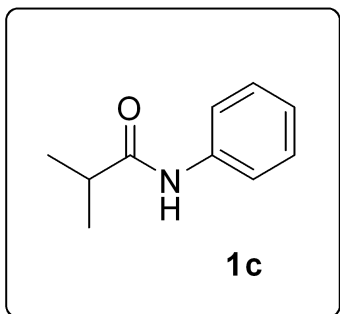
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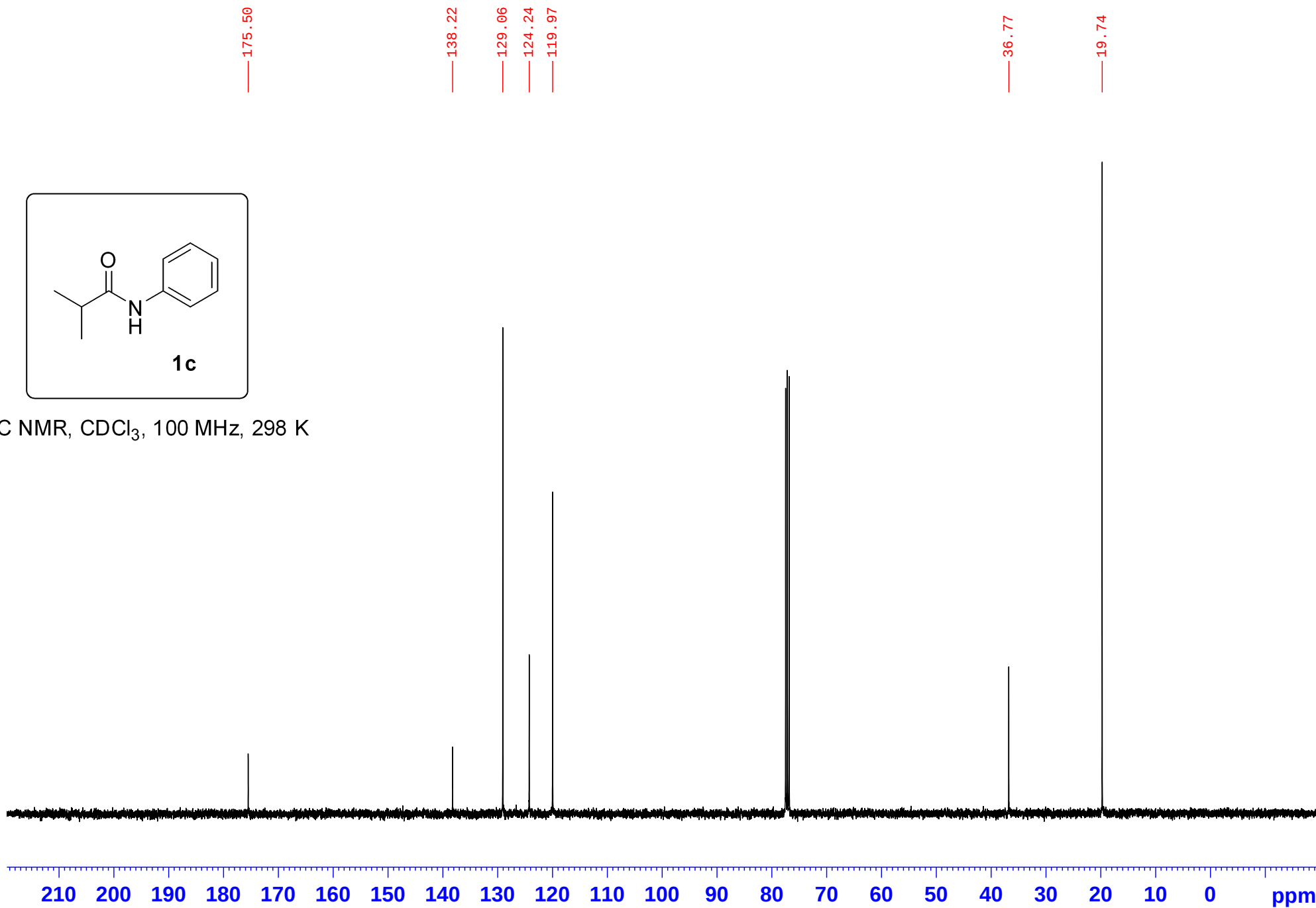
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14. Copies of ^1H -NMR and ^{13}C -NMR

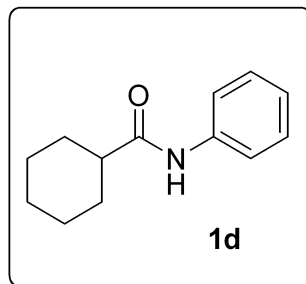




^{13}C NMR, CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, 298 K

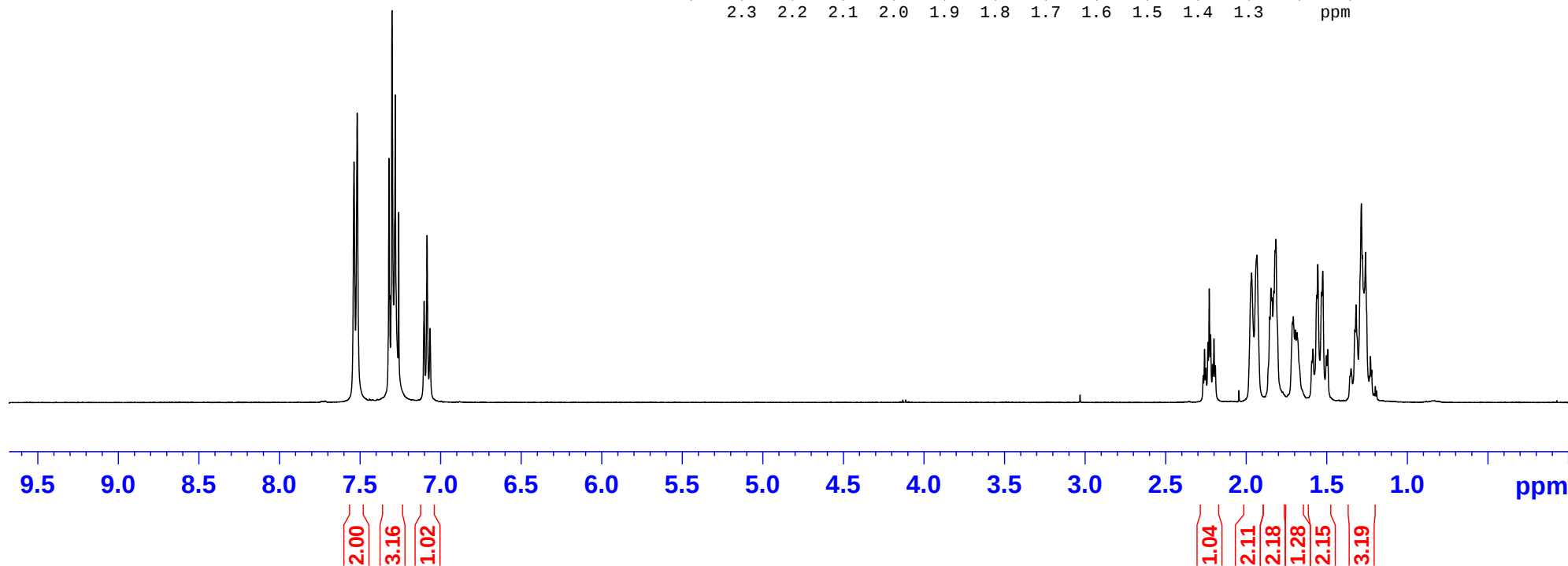
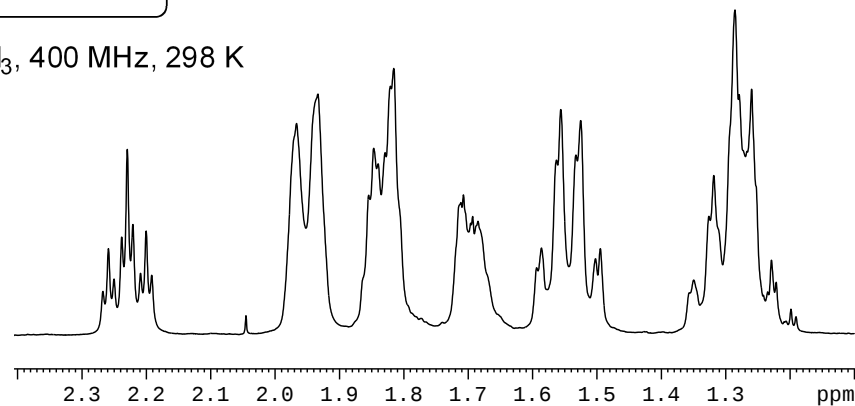
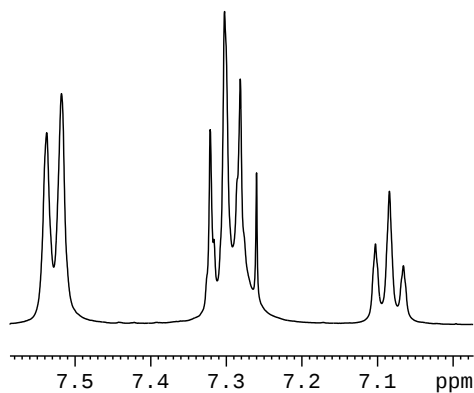


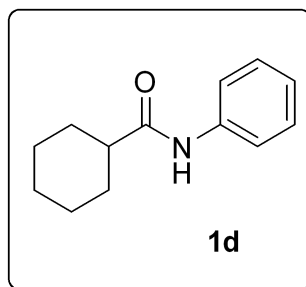
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7.084
7.066



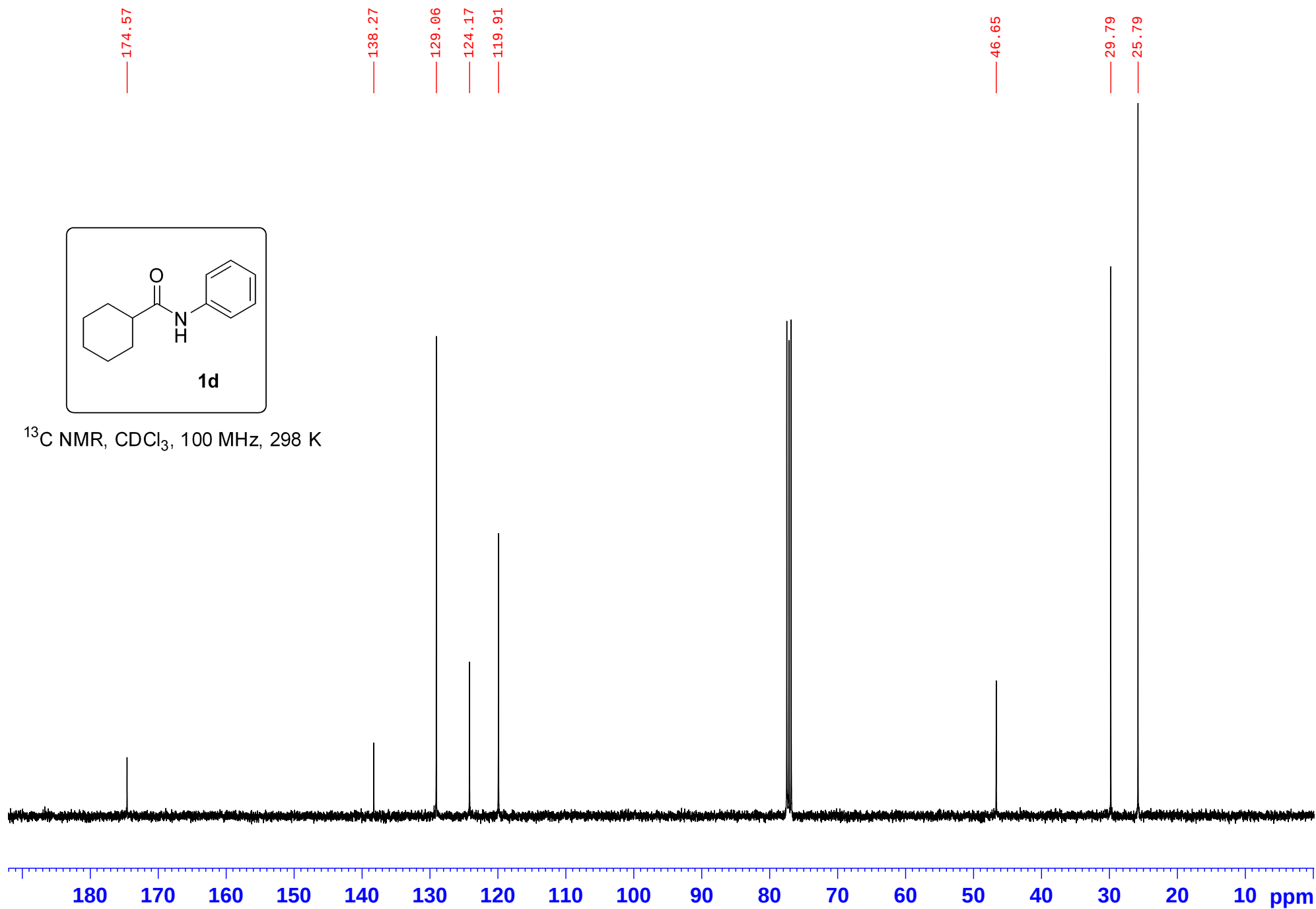
¹H NMR, CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K

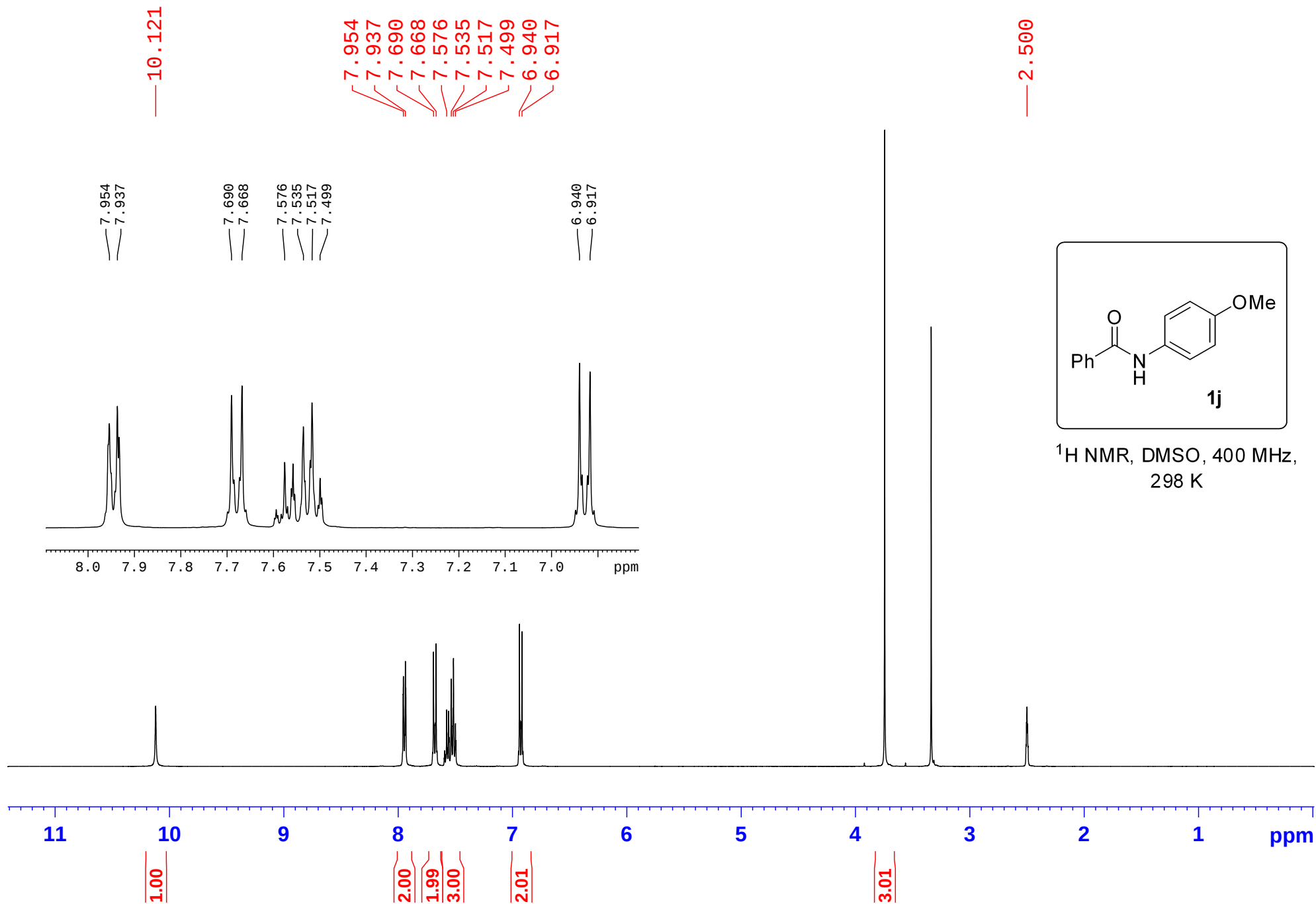
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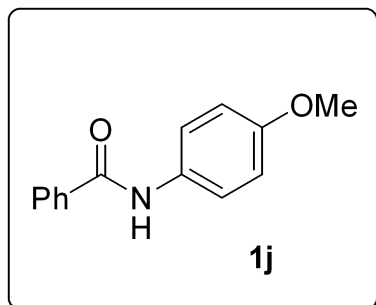




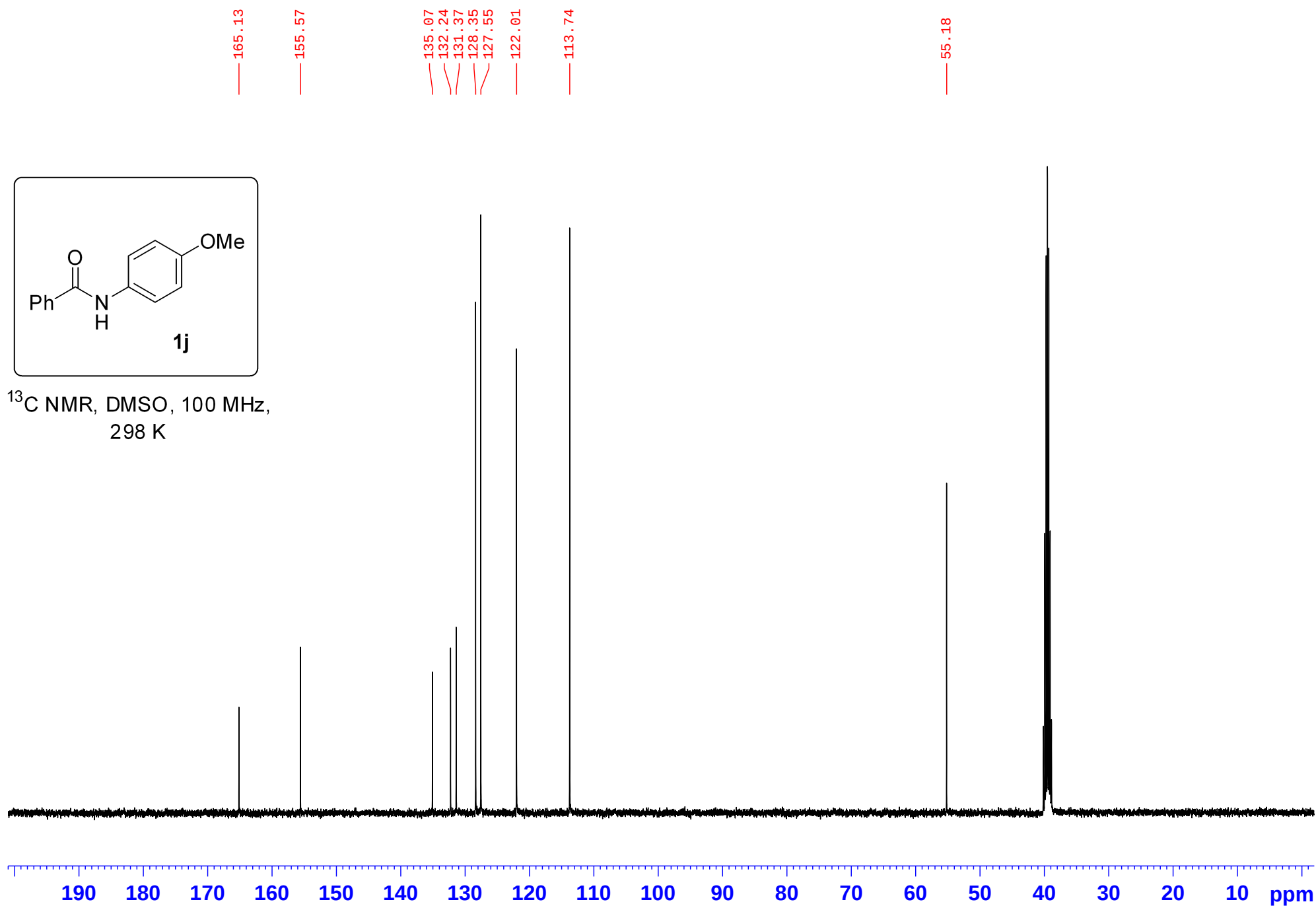
^{13}C NMR, CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, 298 K

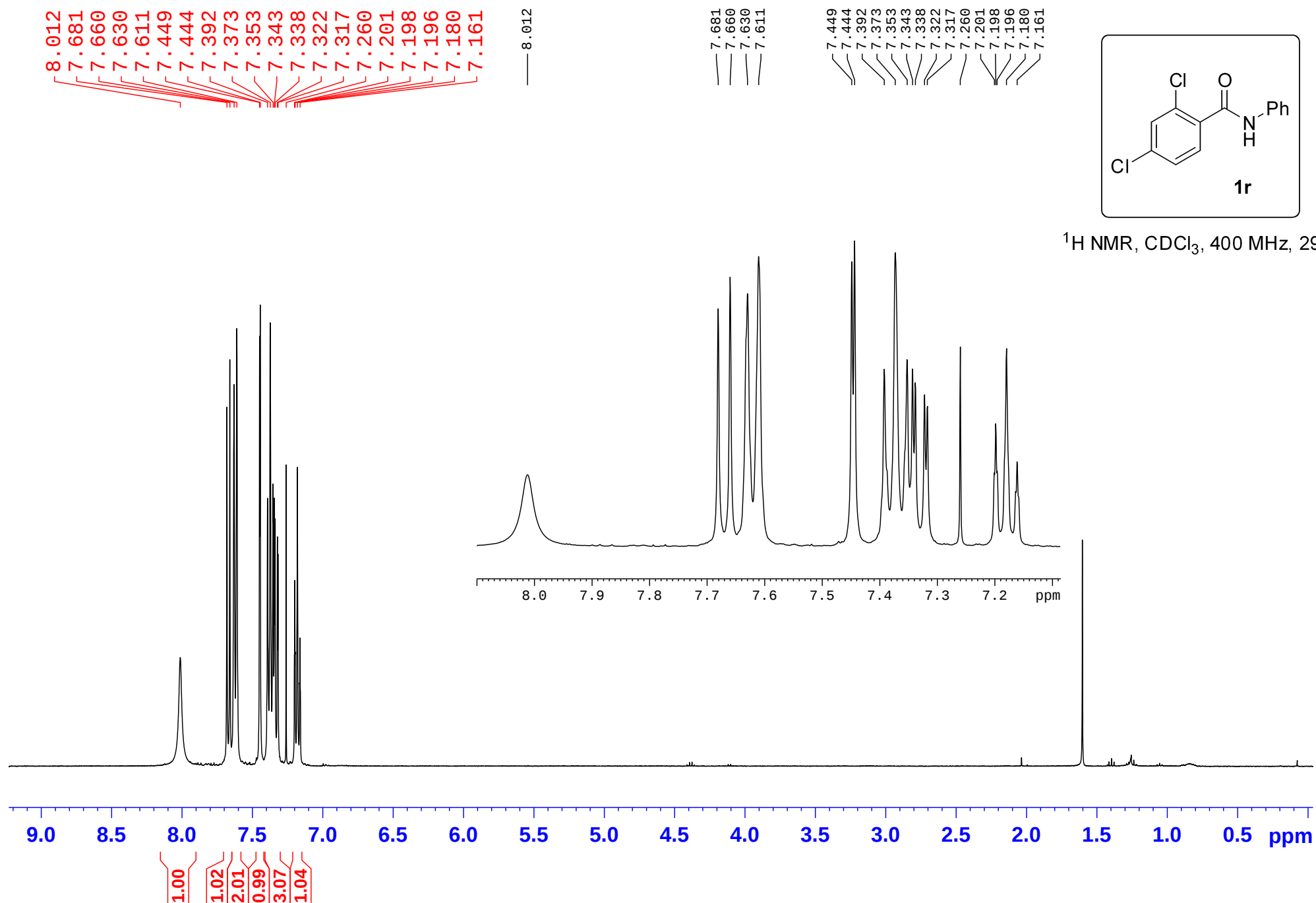


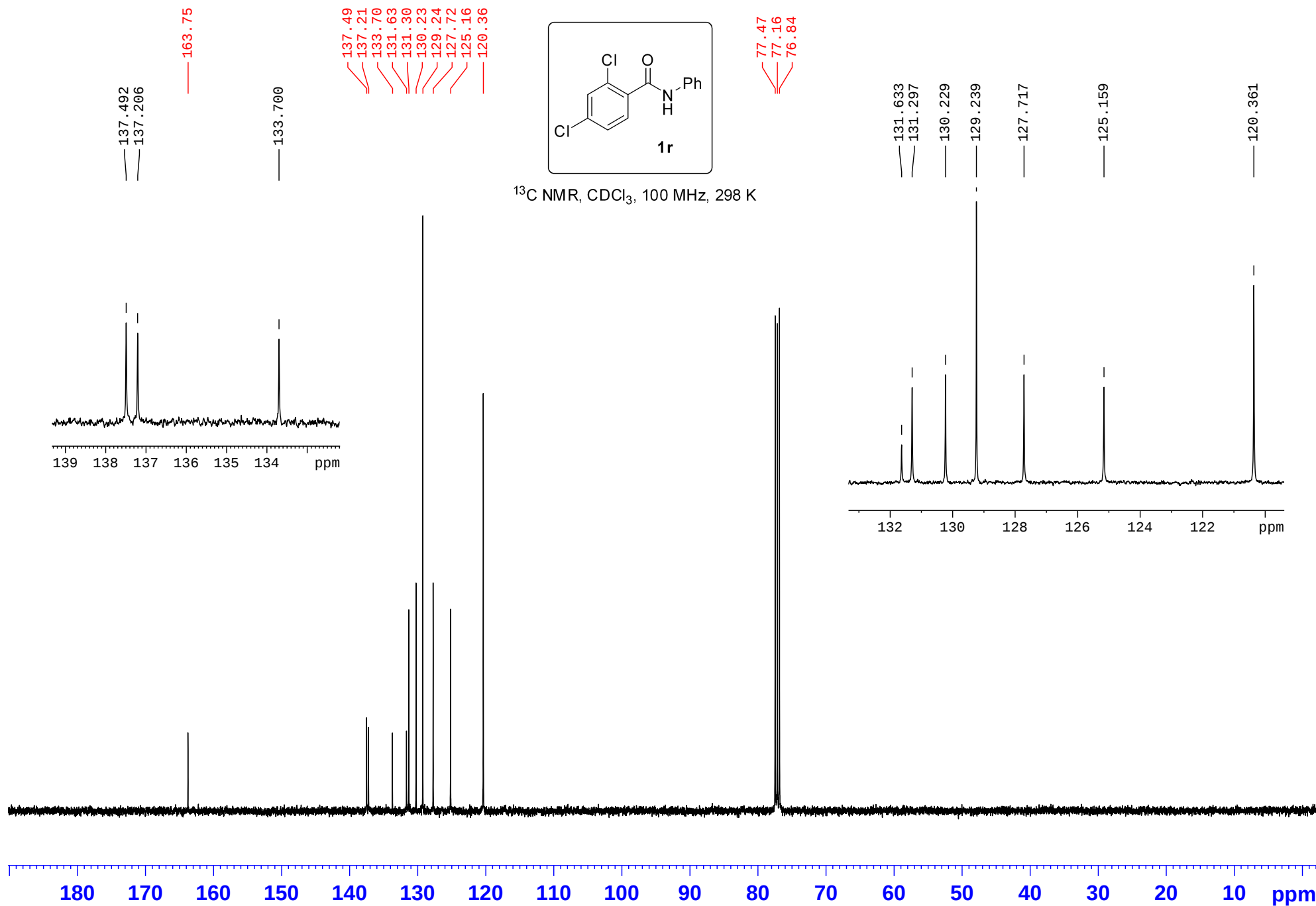


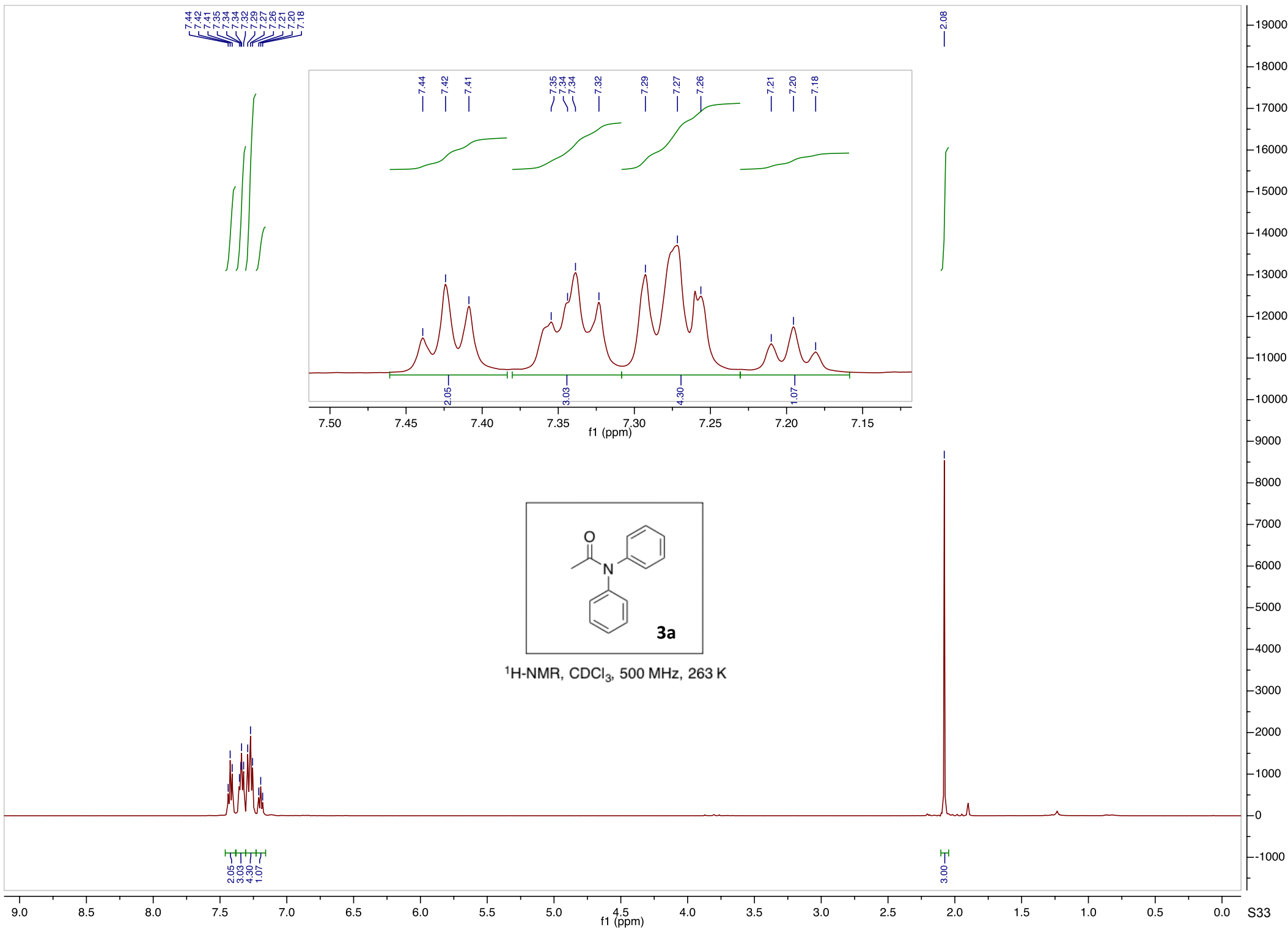


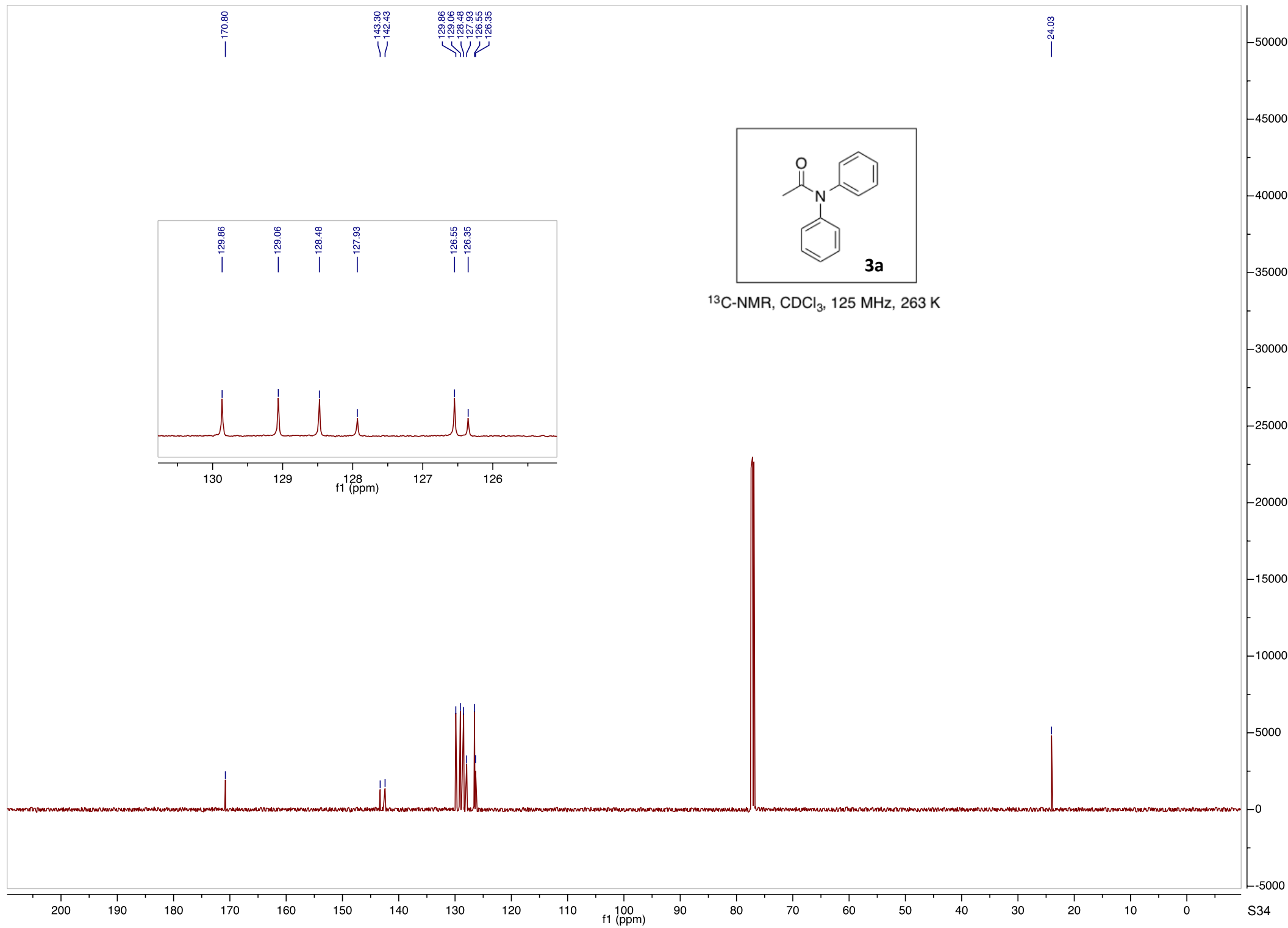
^{13}C NMR, DMSO, 100 MHz,
298 K

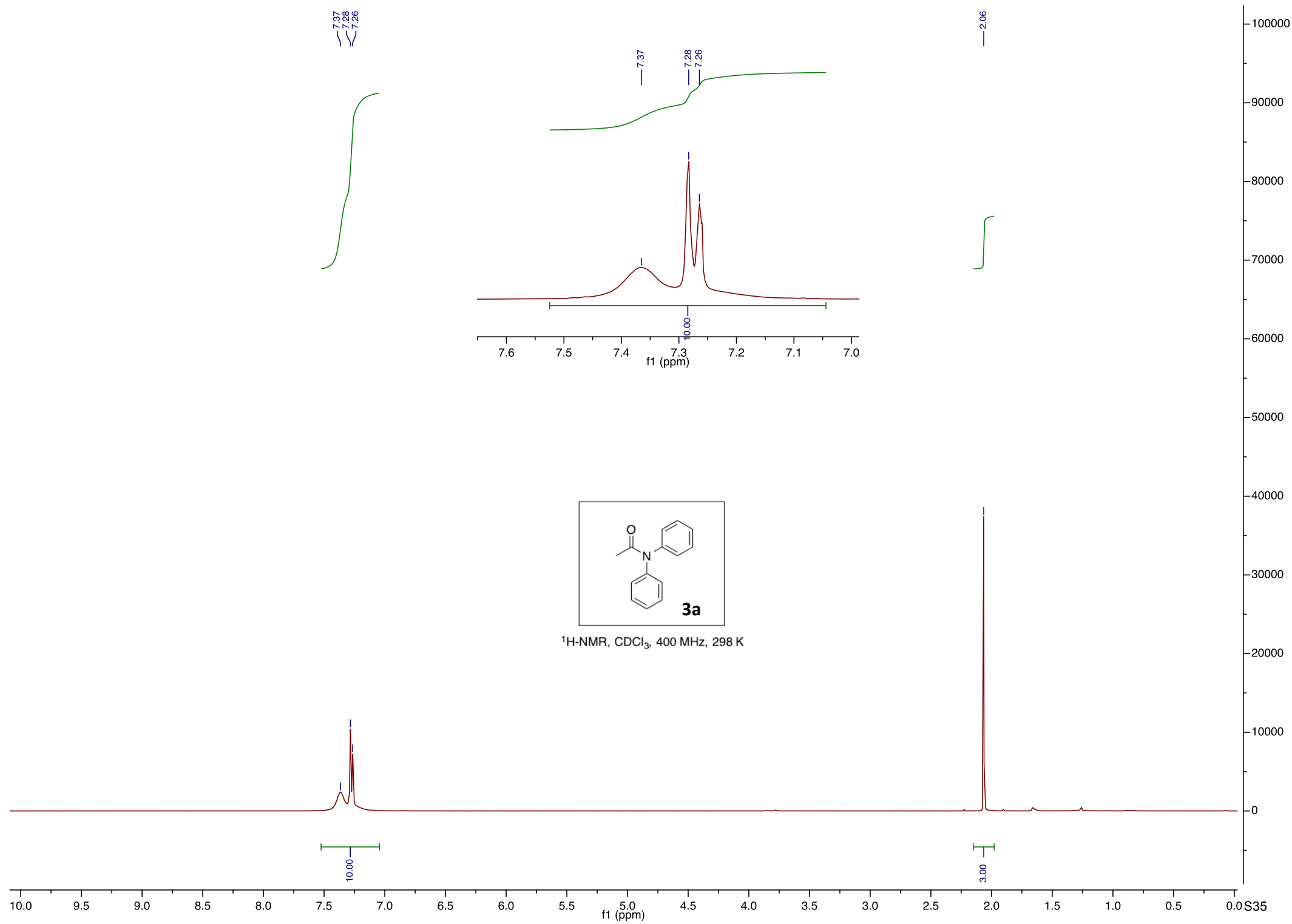


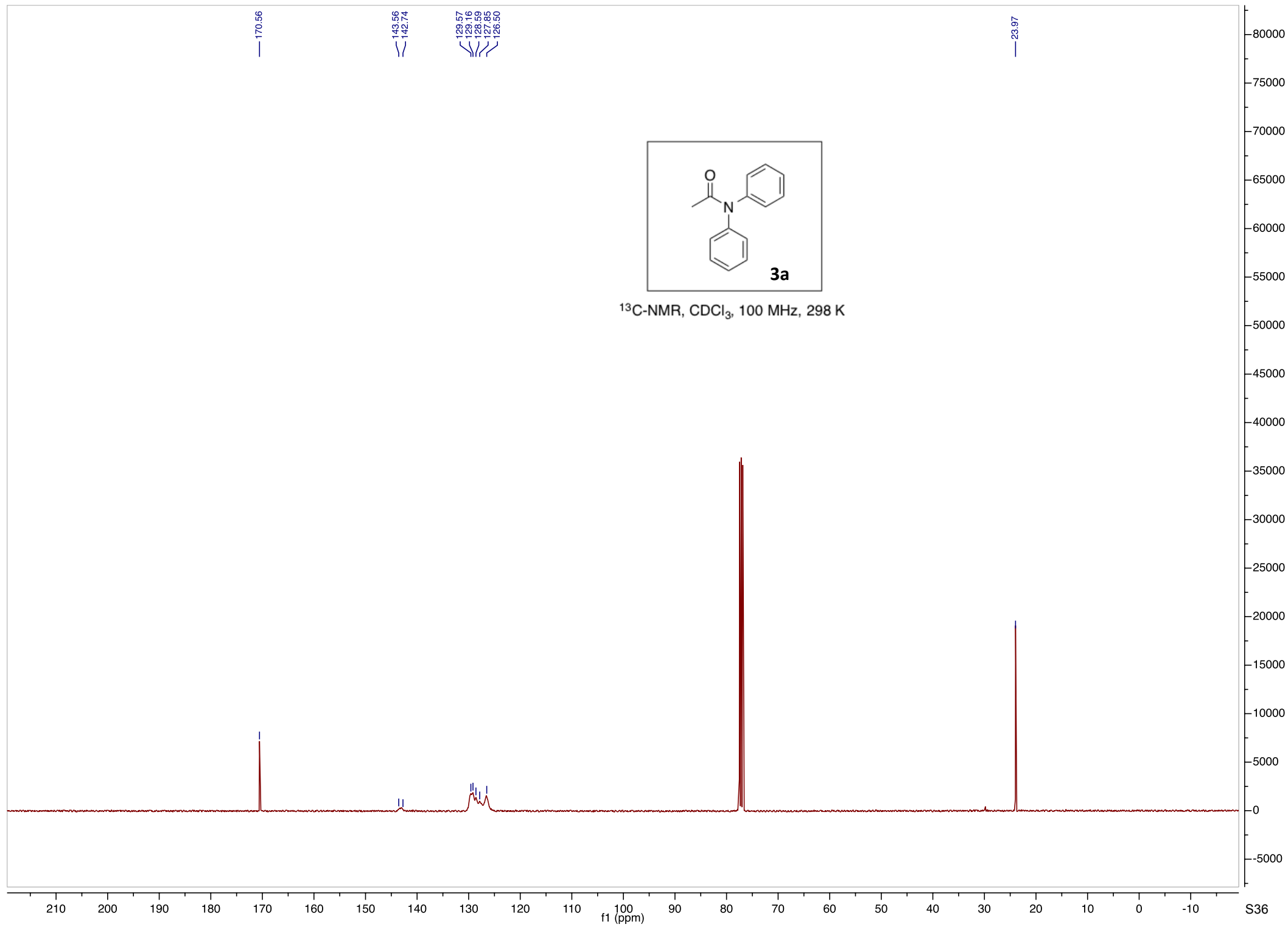


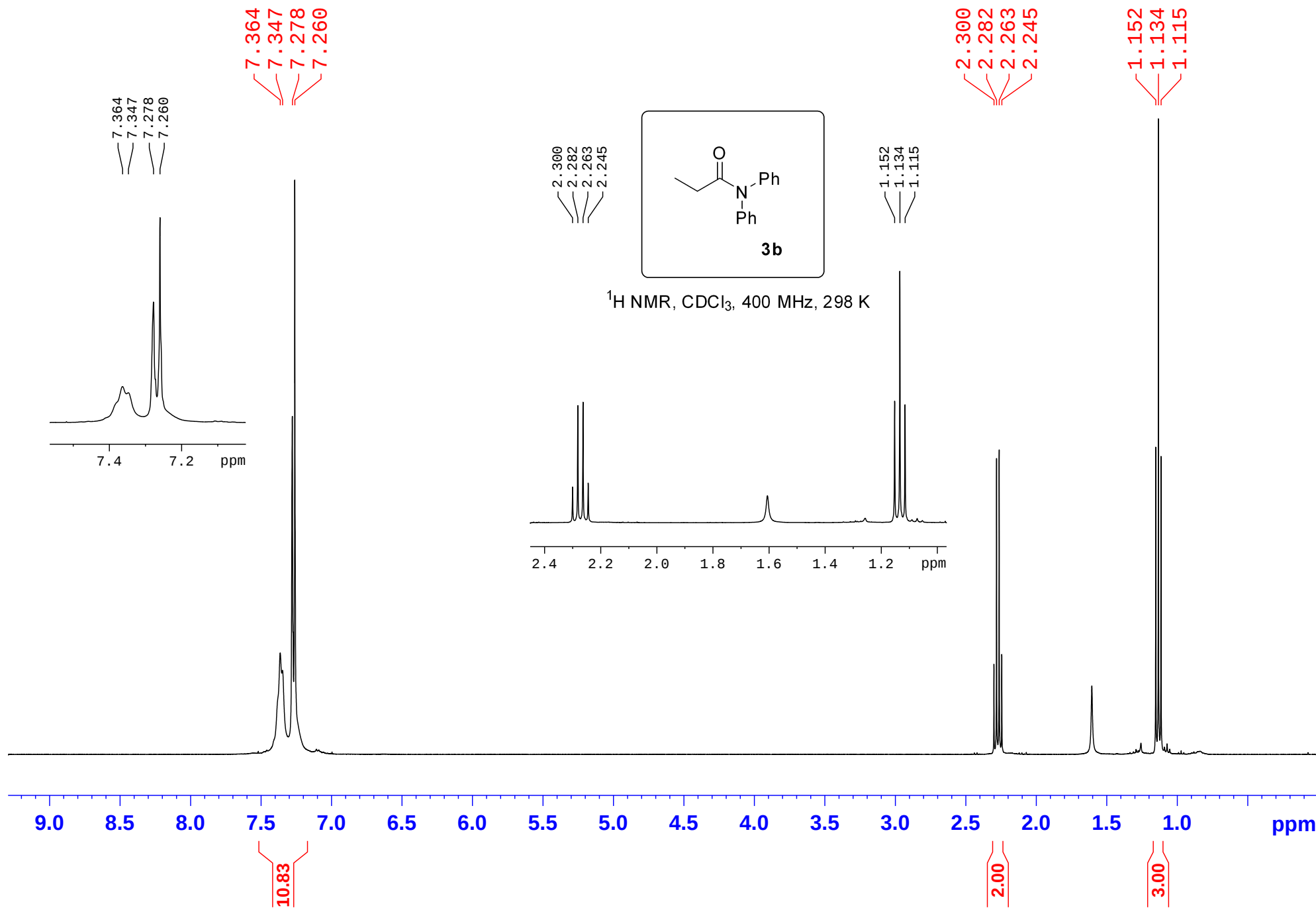


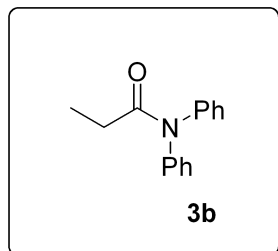




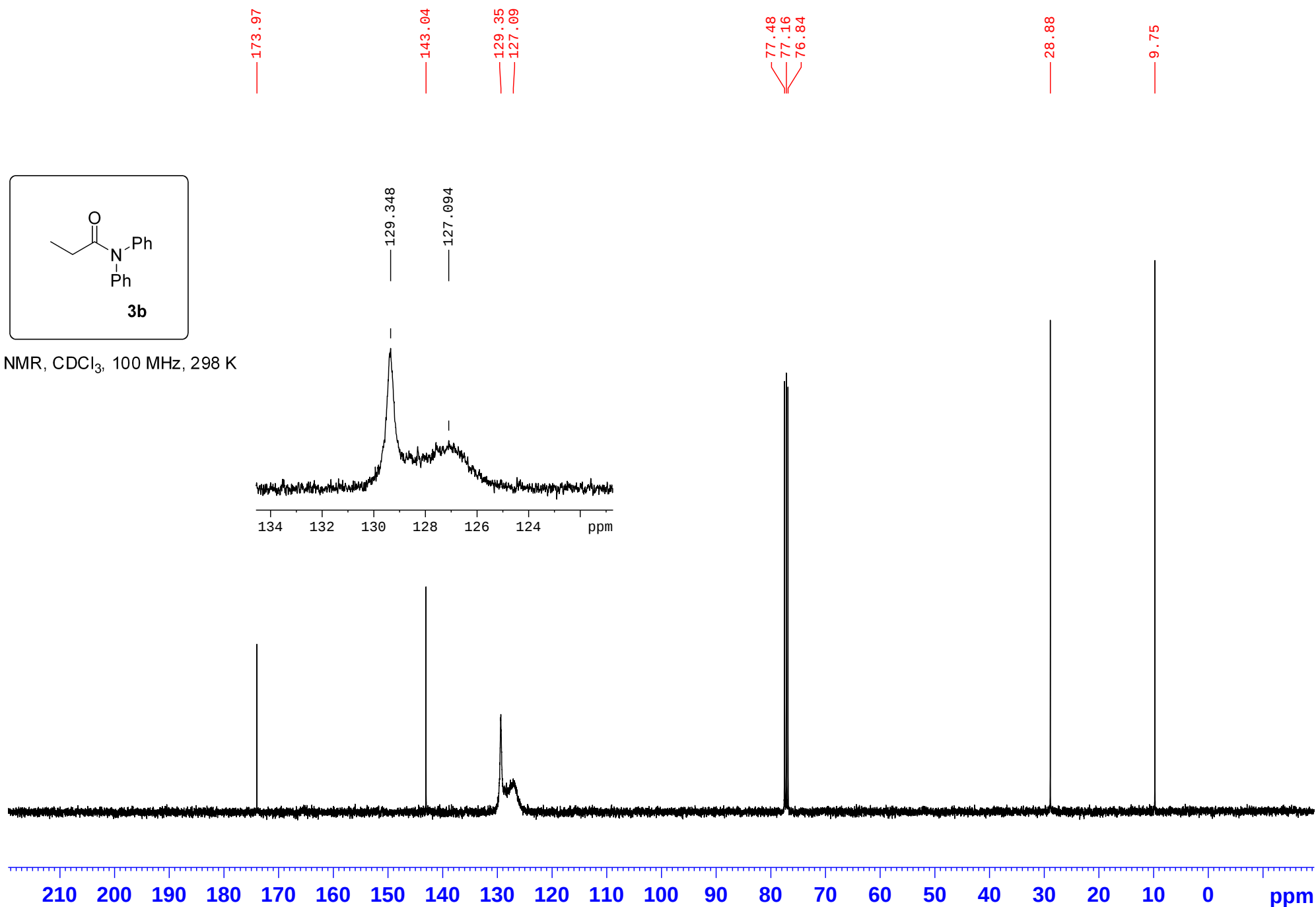




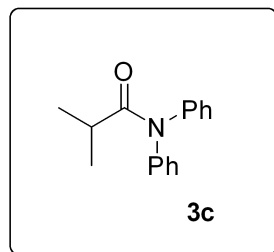




^{13}C NMR, CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, 298 K



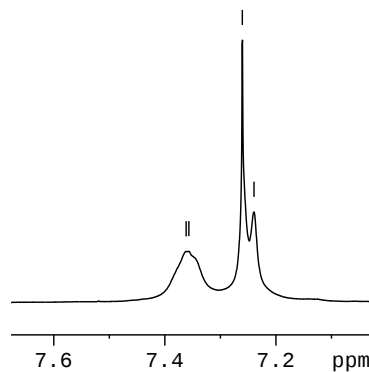
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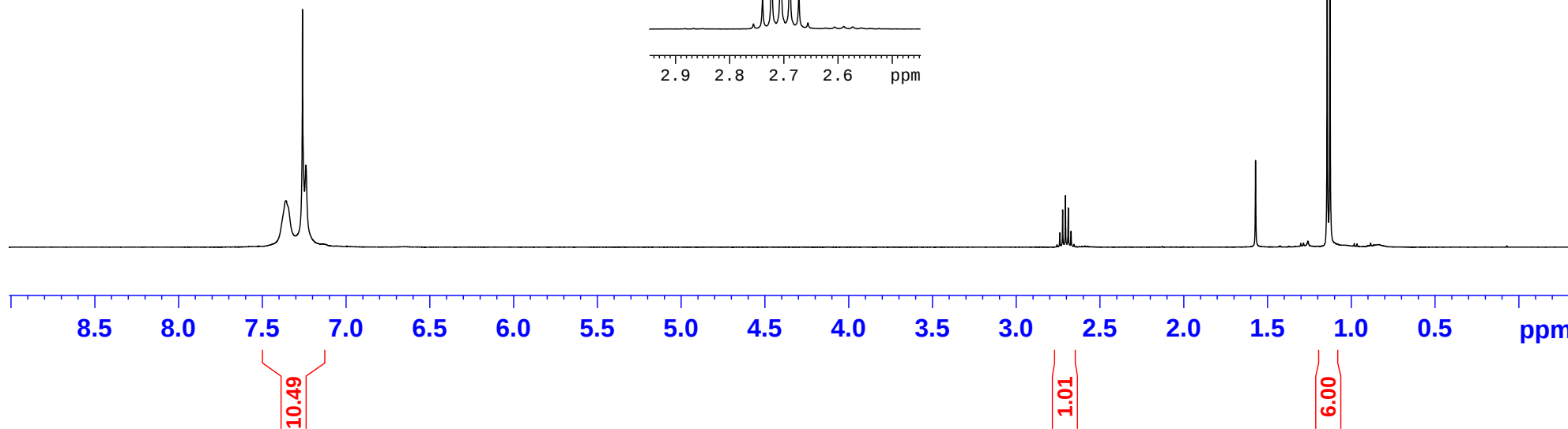
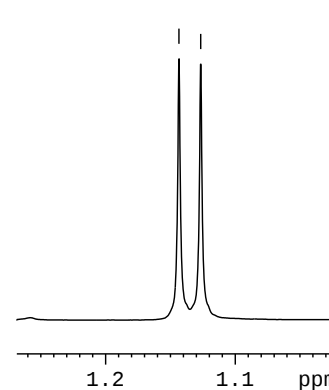
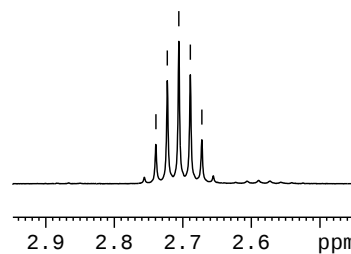
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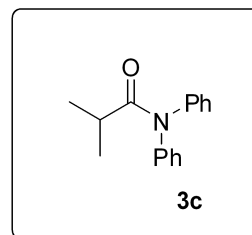
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1.127

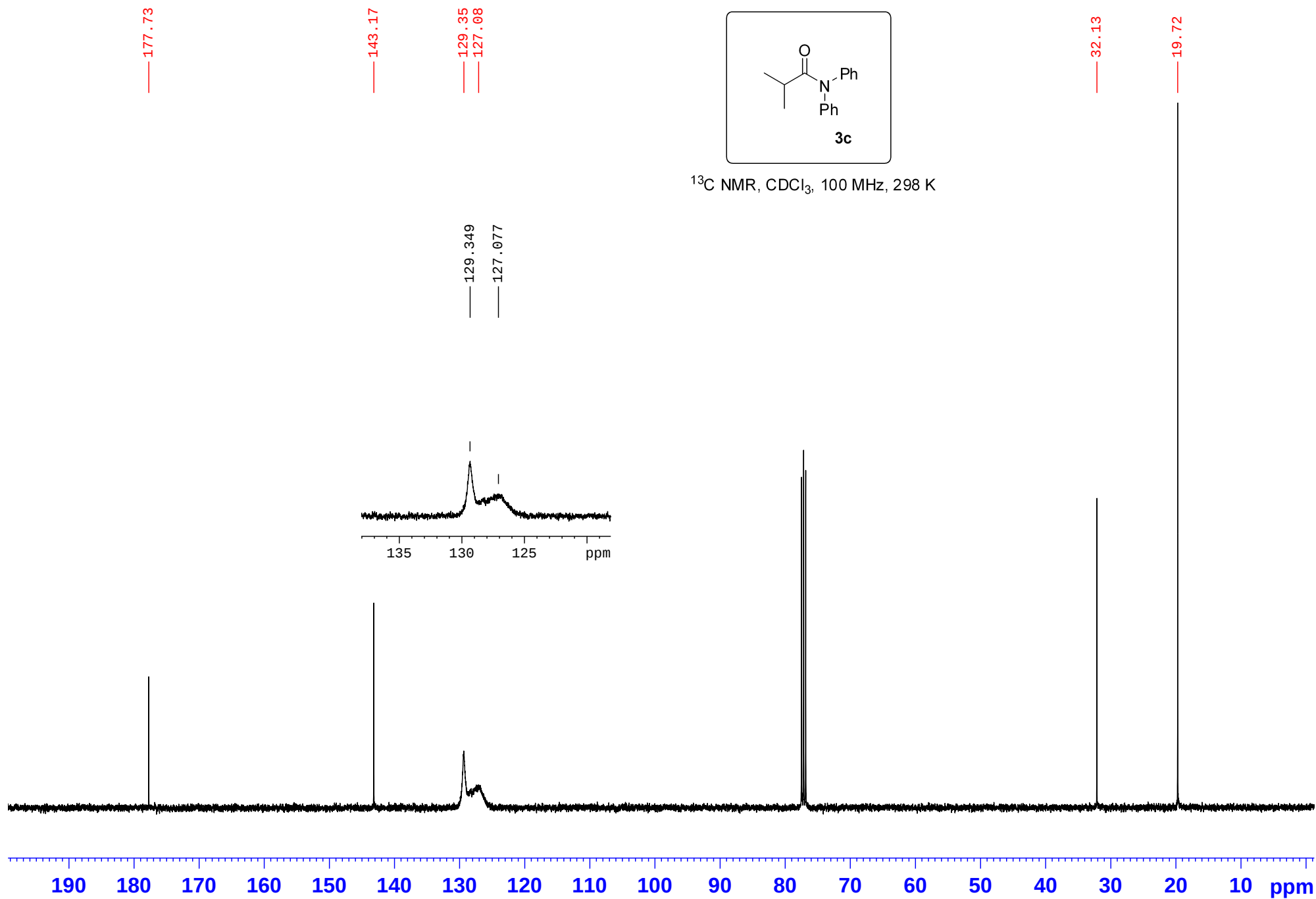


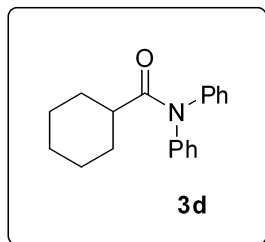
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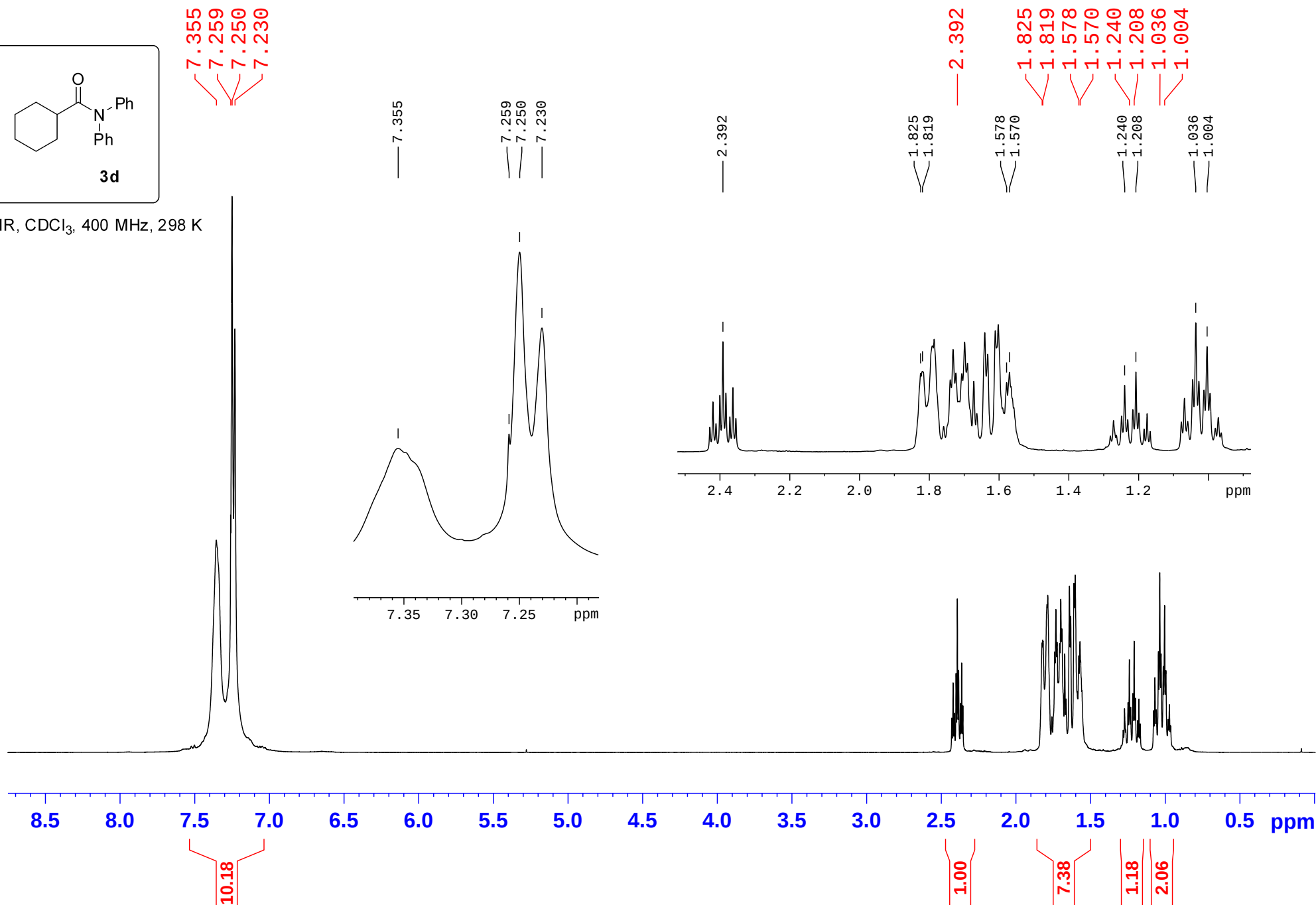


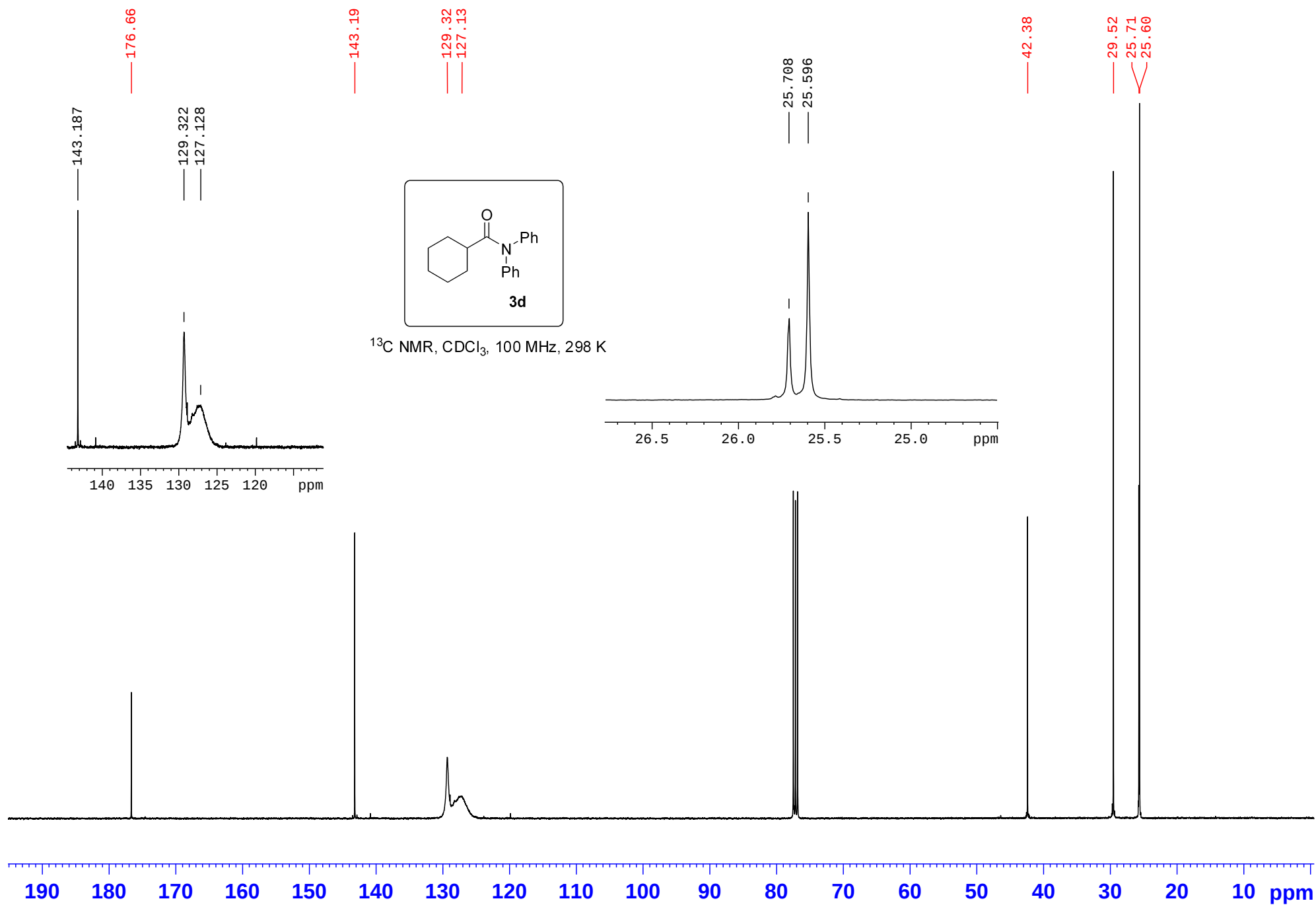
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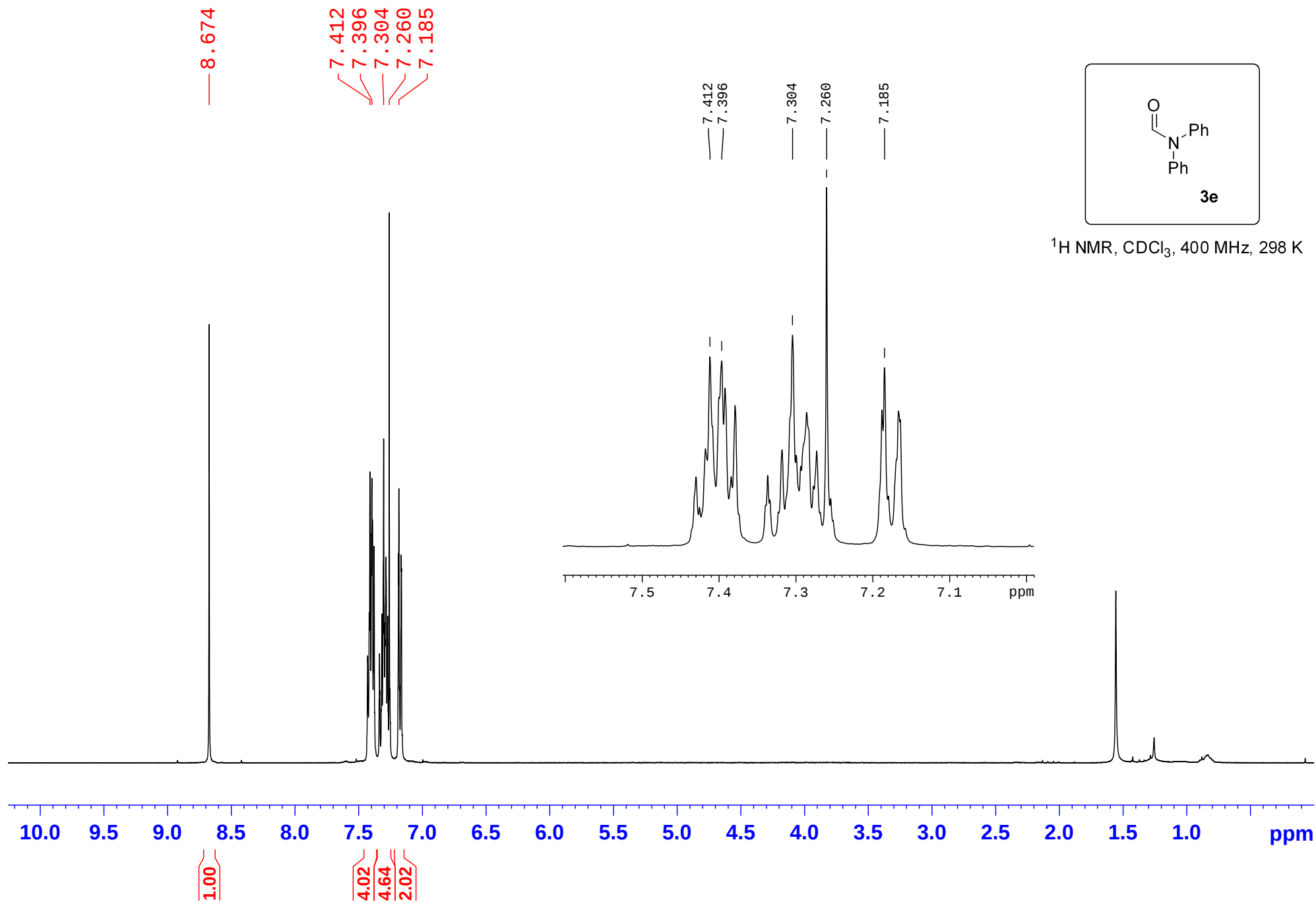


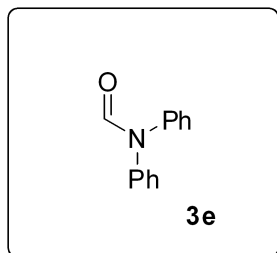


^1H NMR, CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K

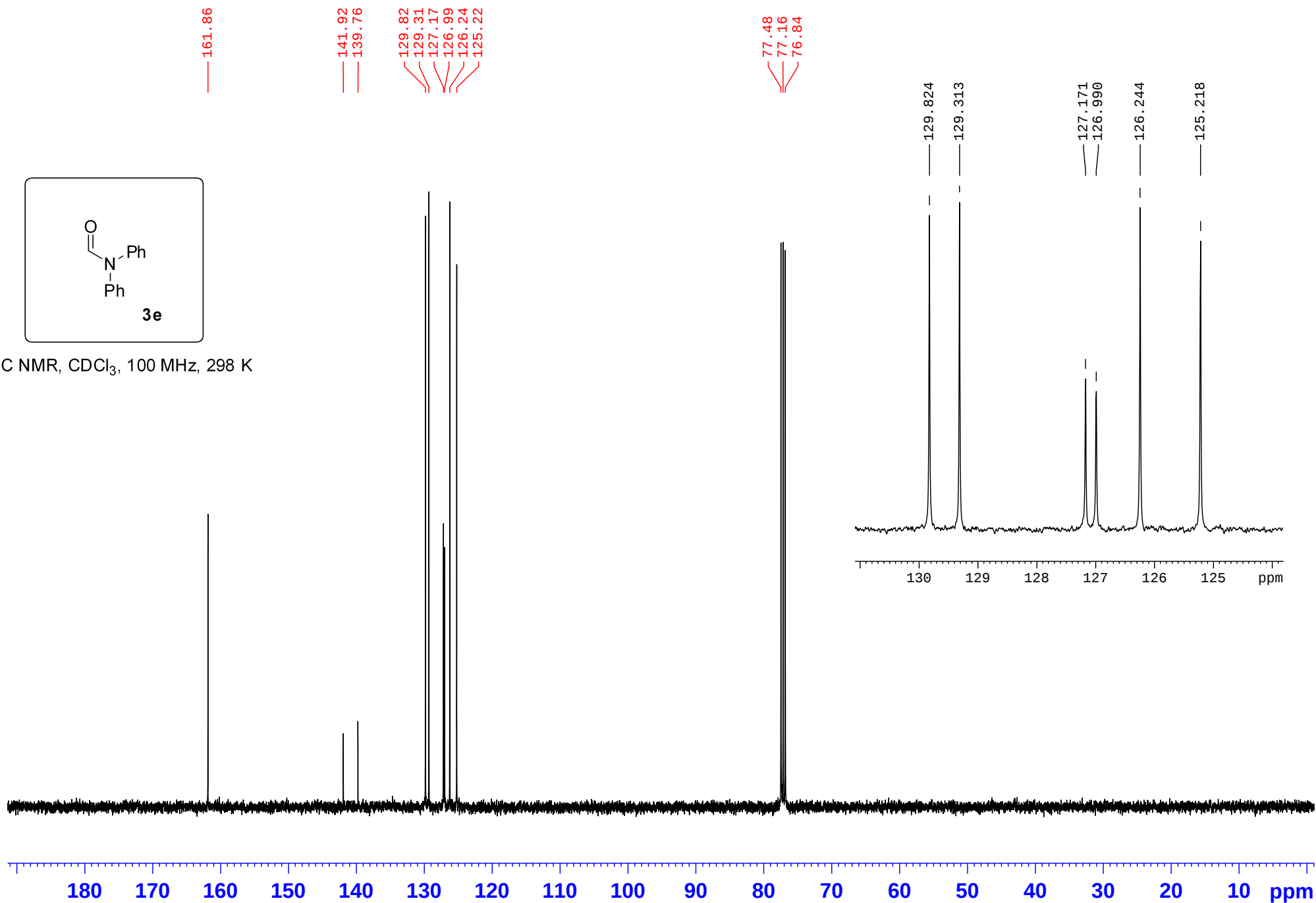


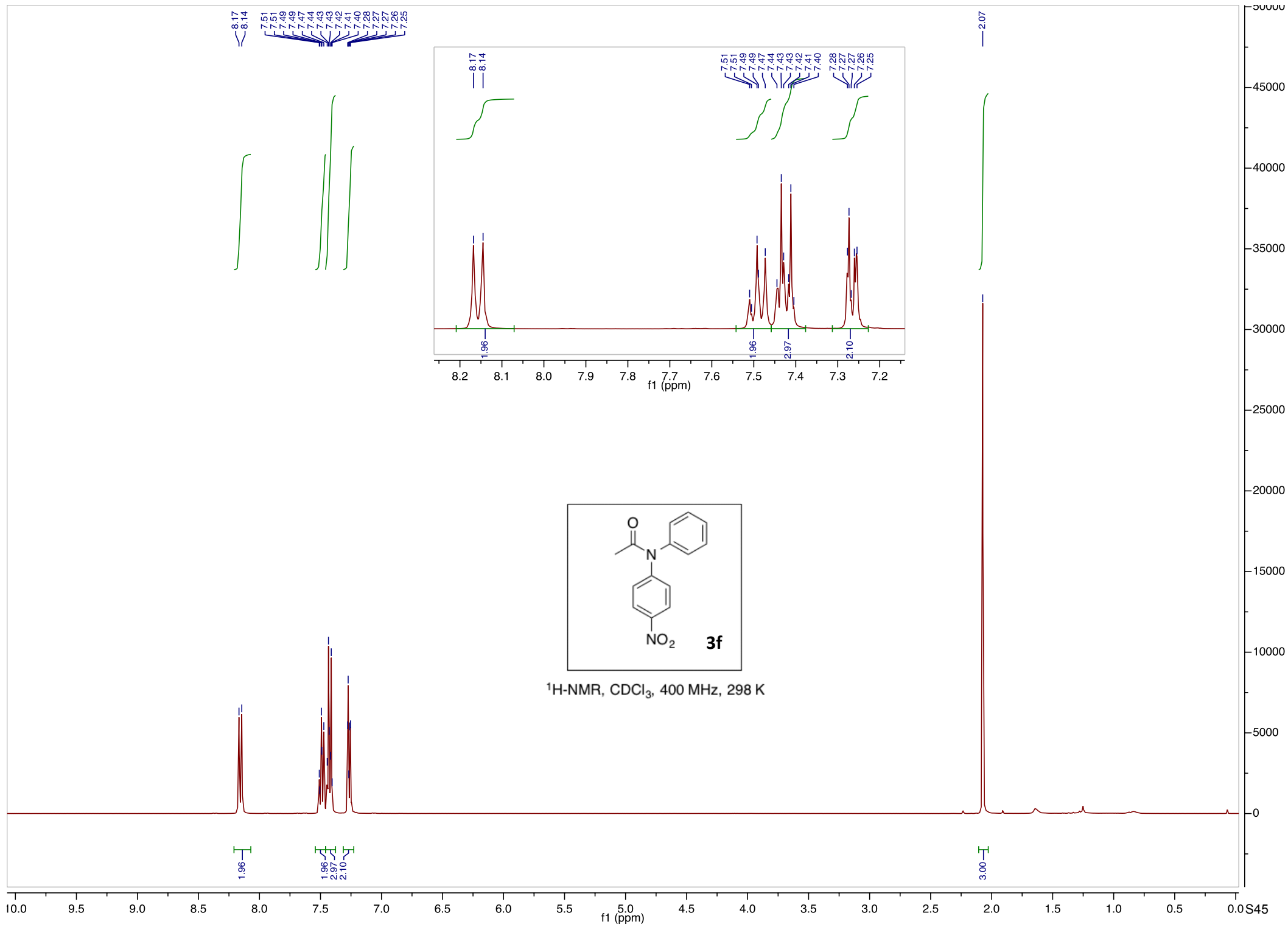


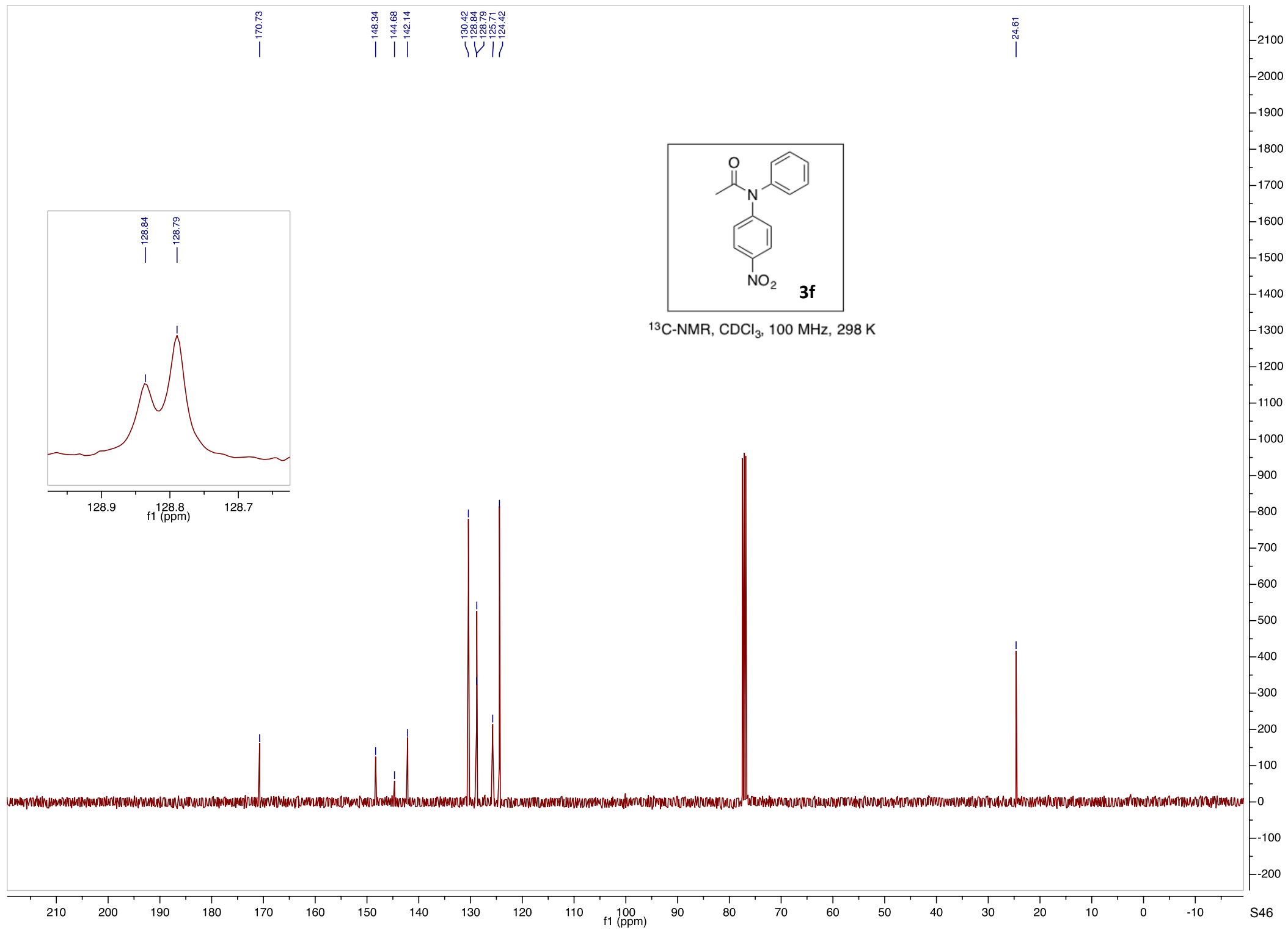


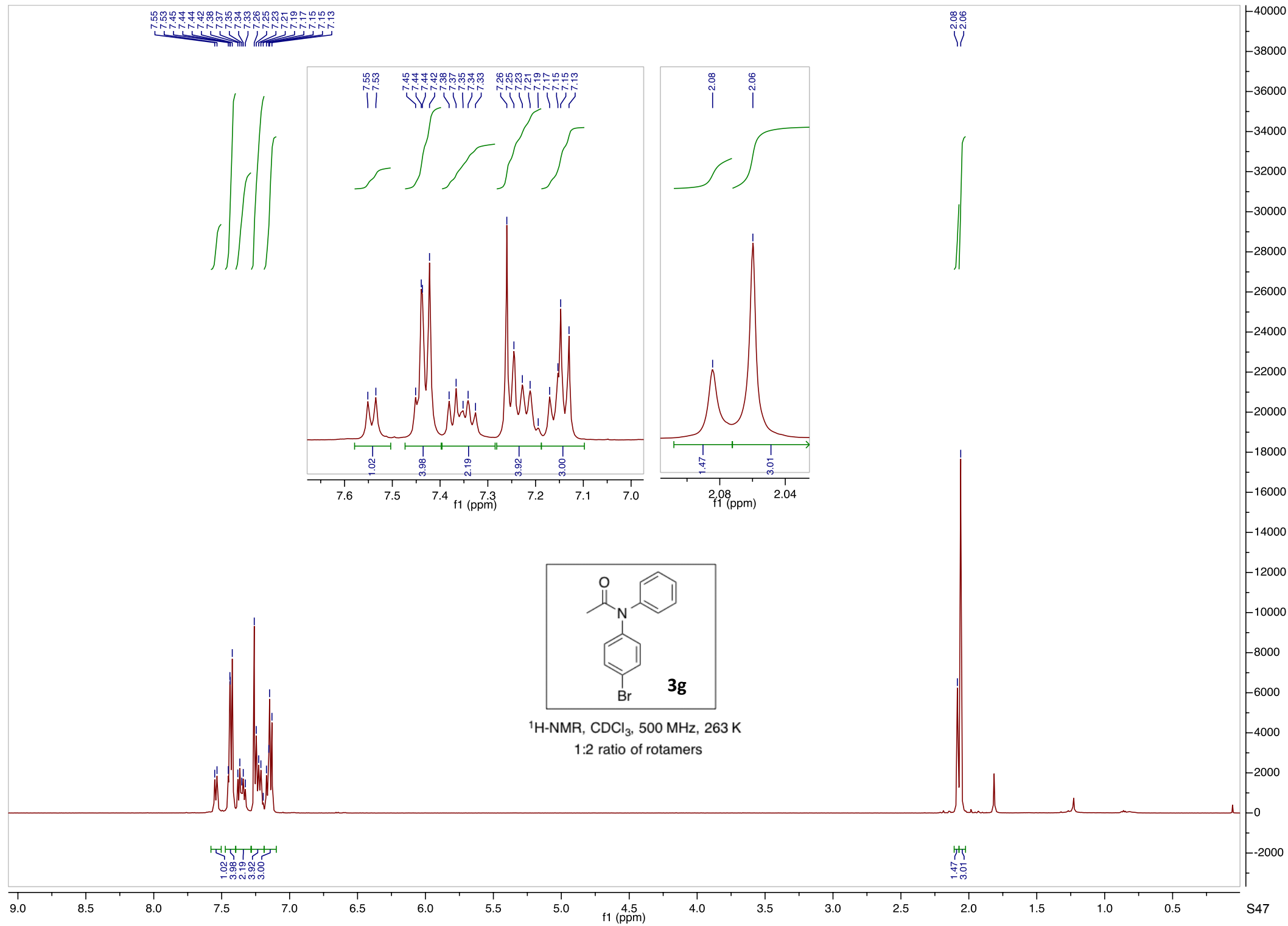


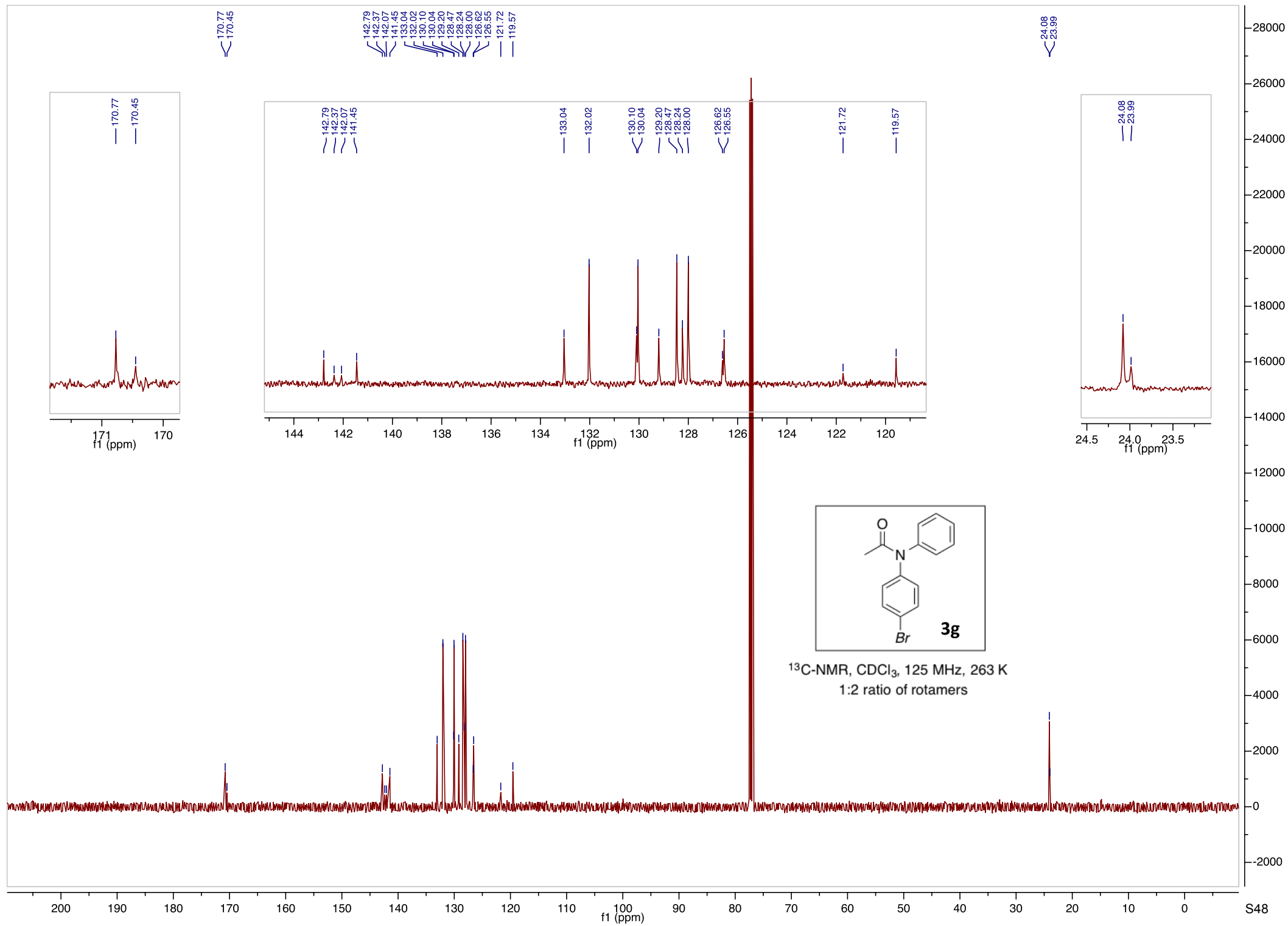
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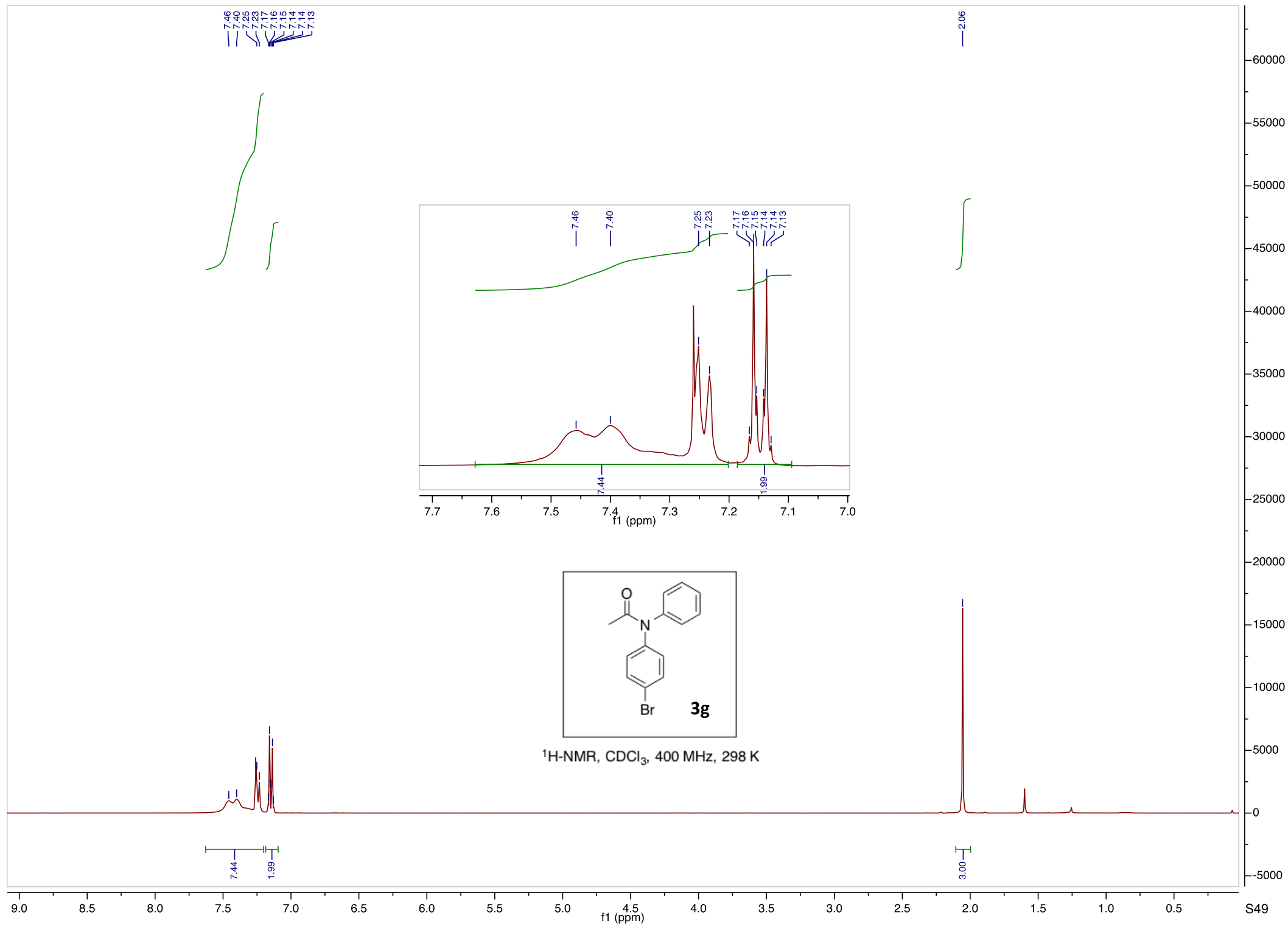


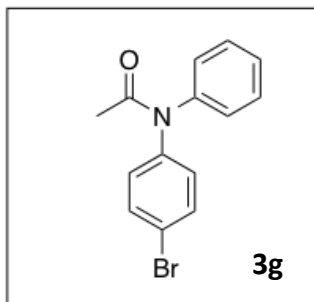




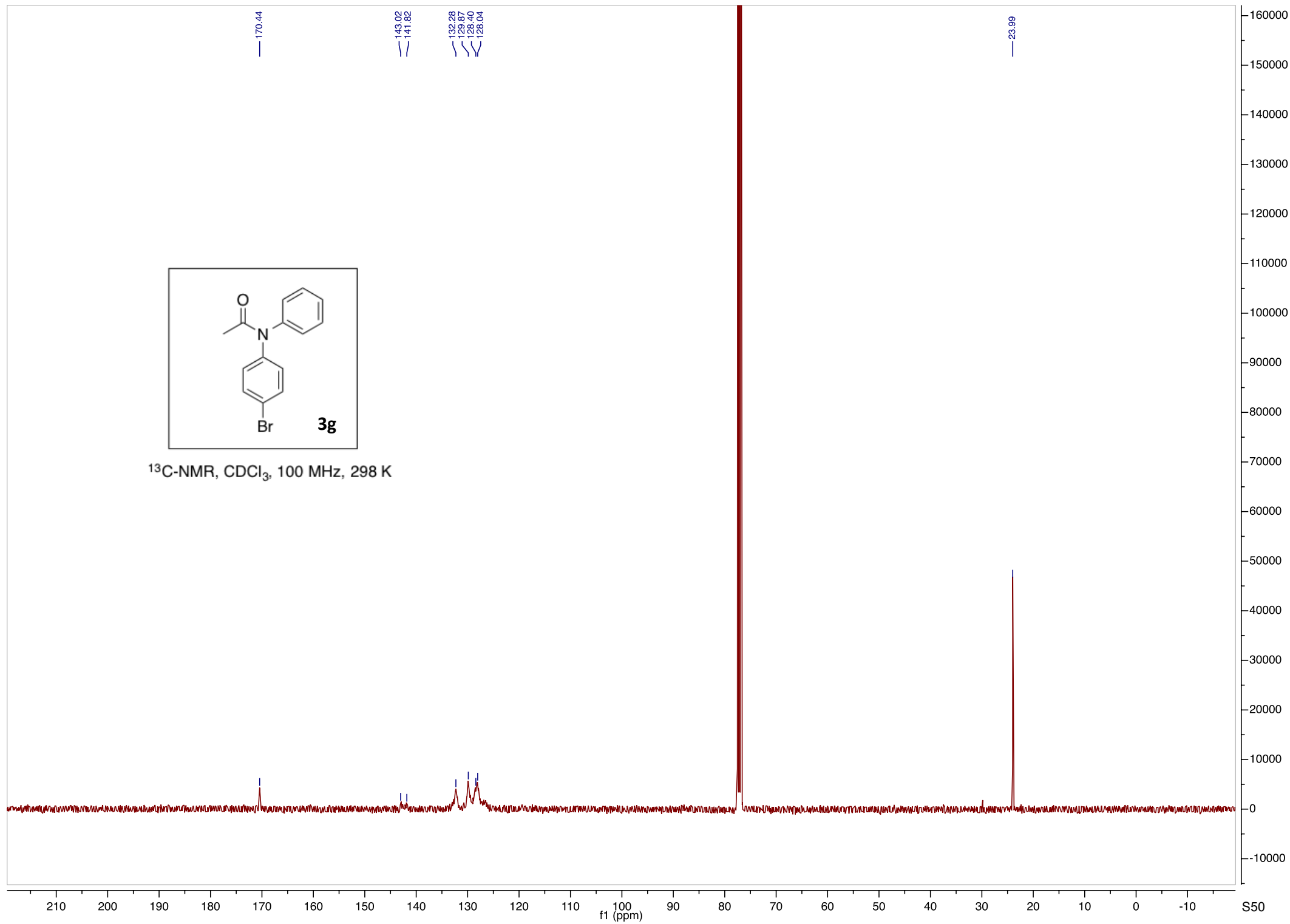






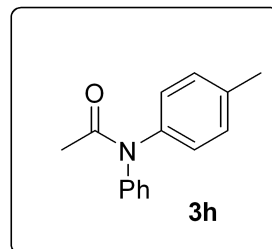


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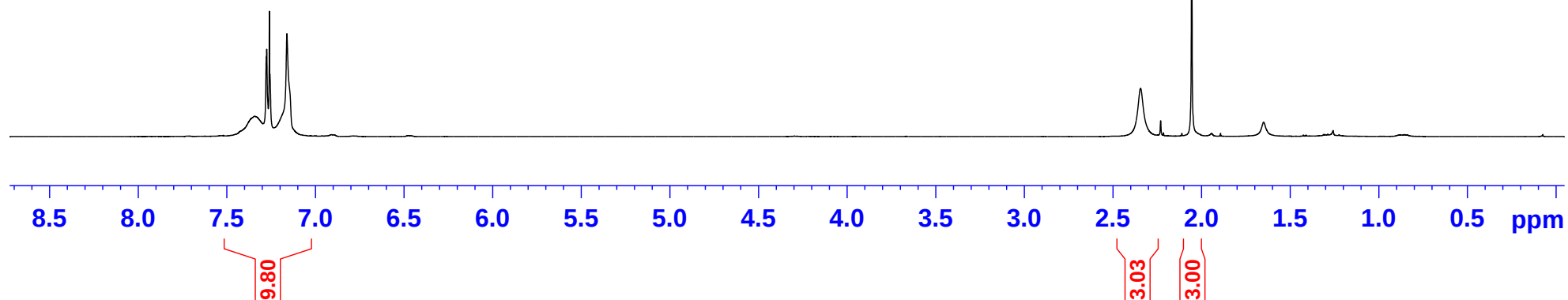


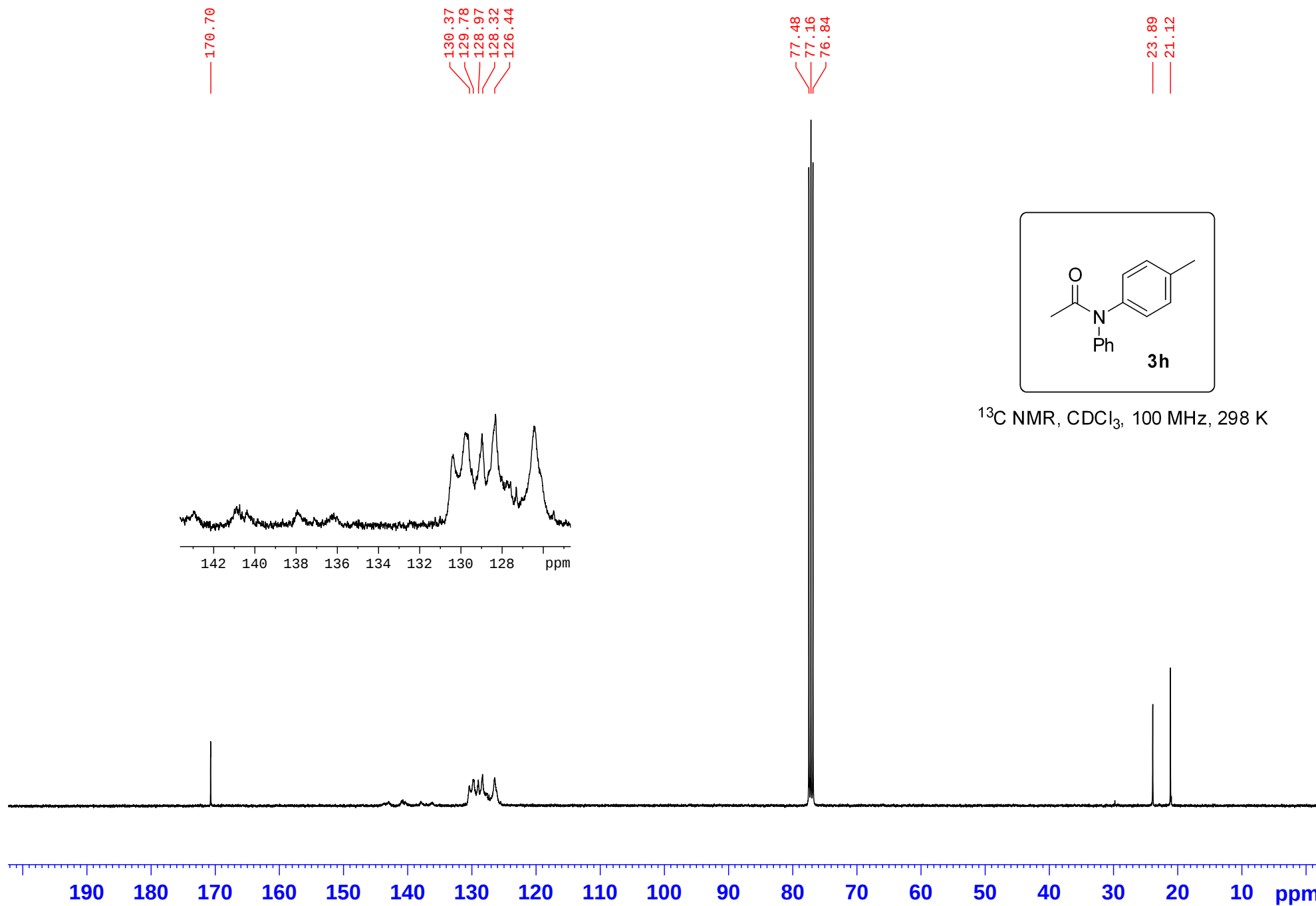
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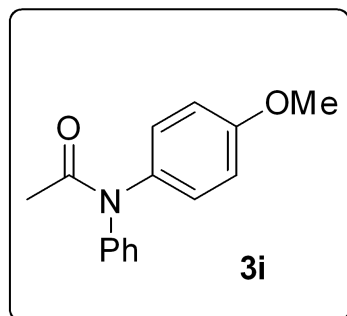
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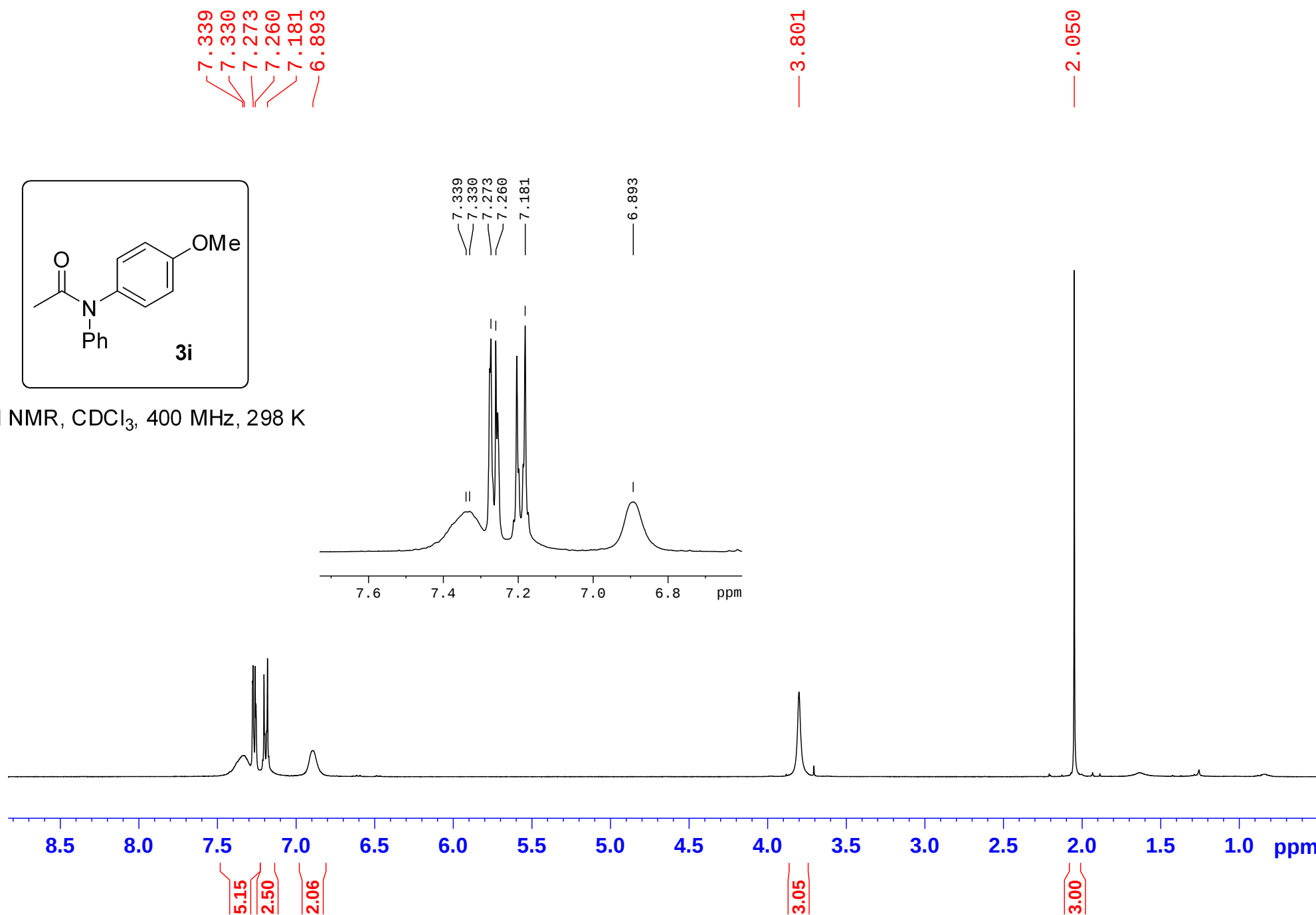
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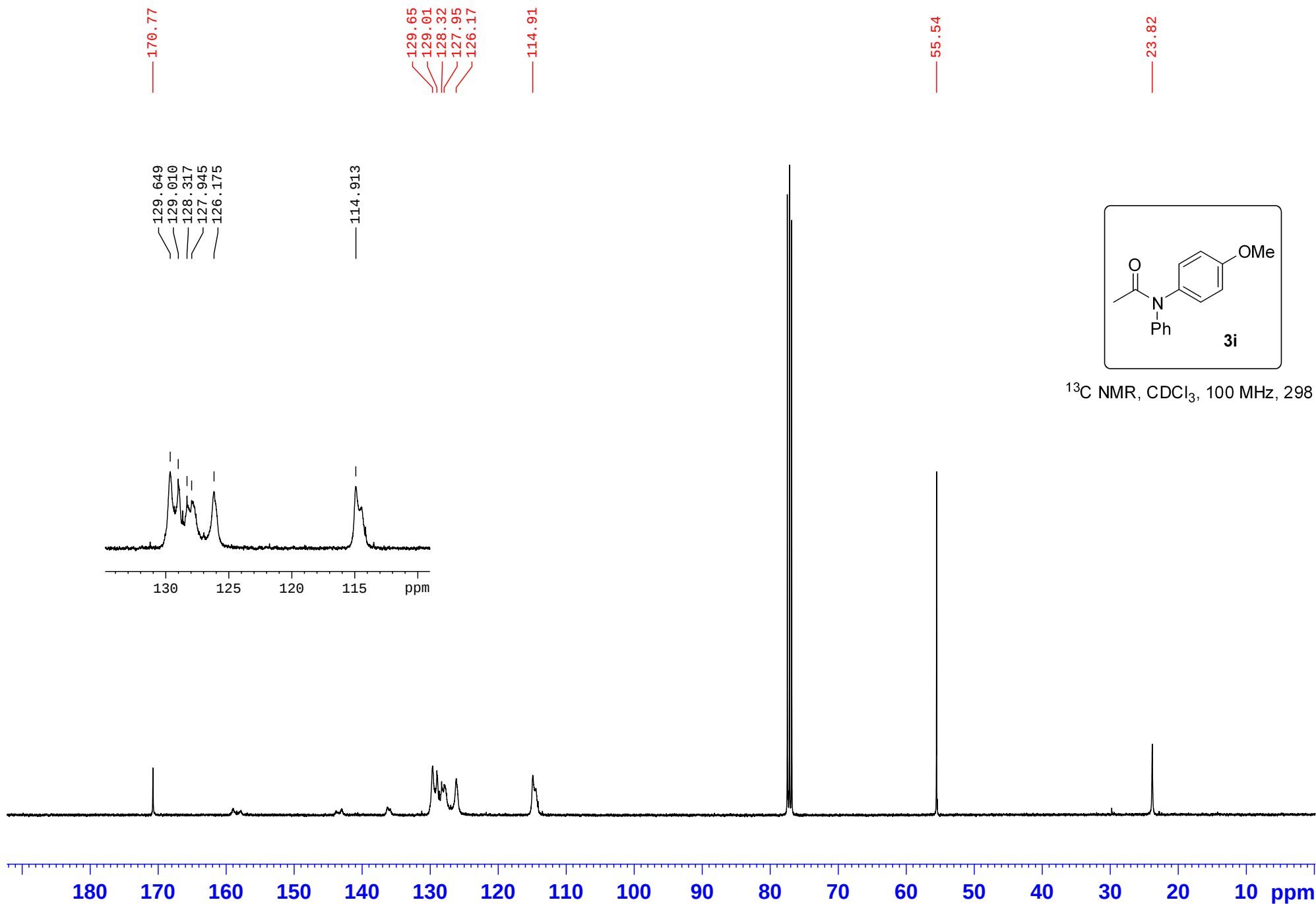


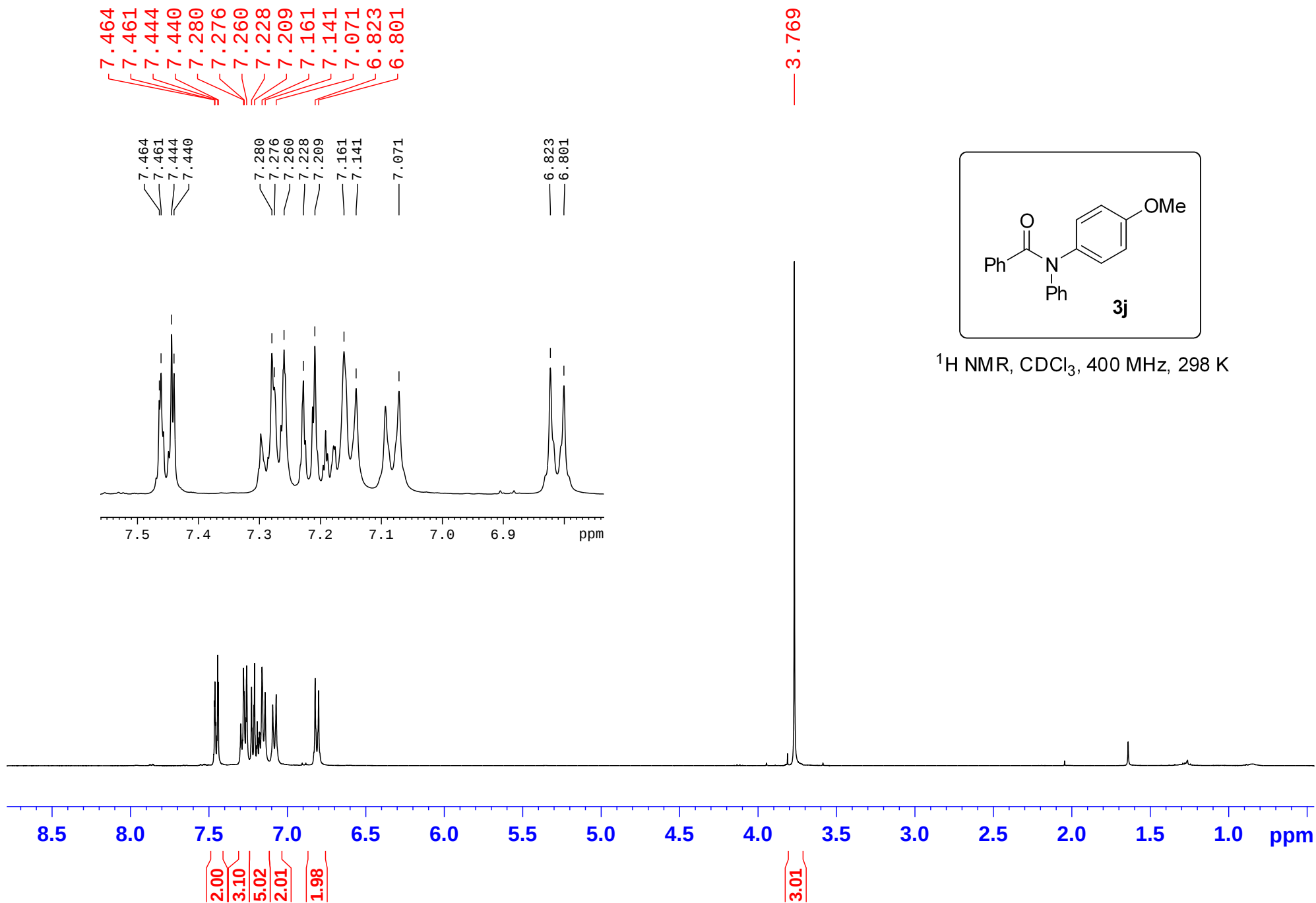


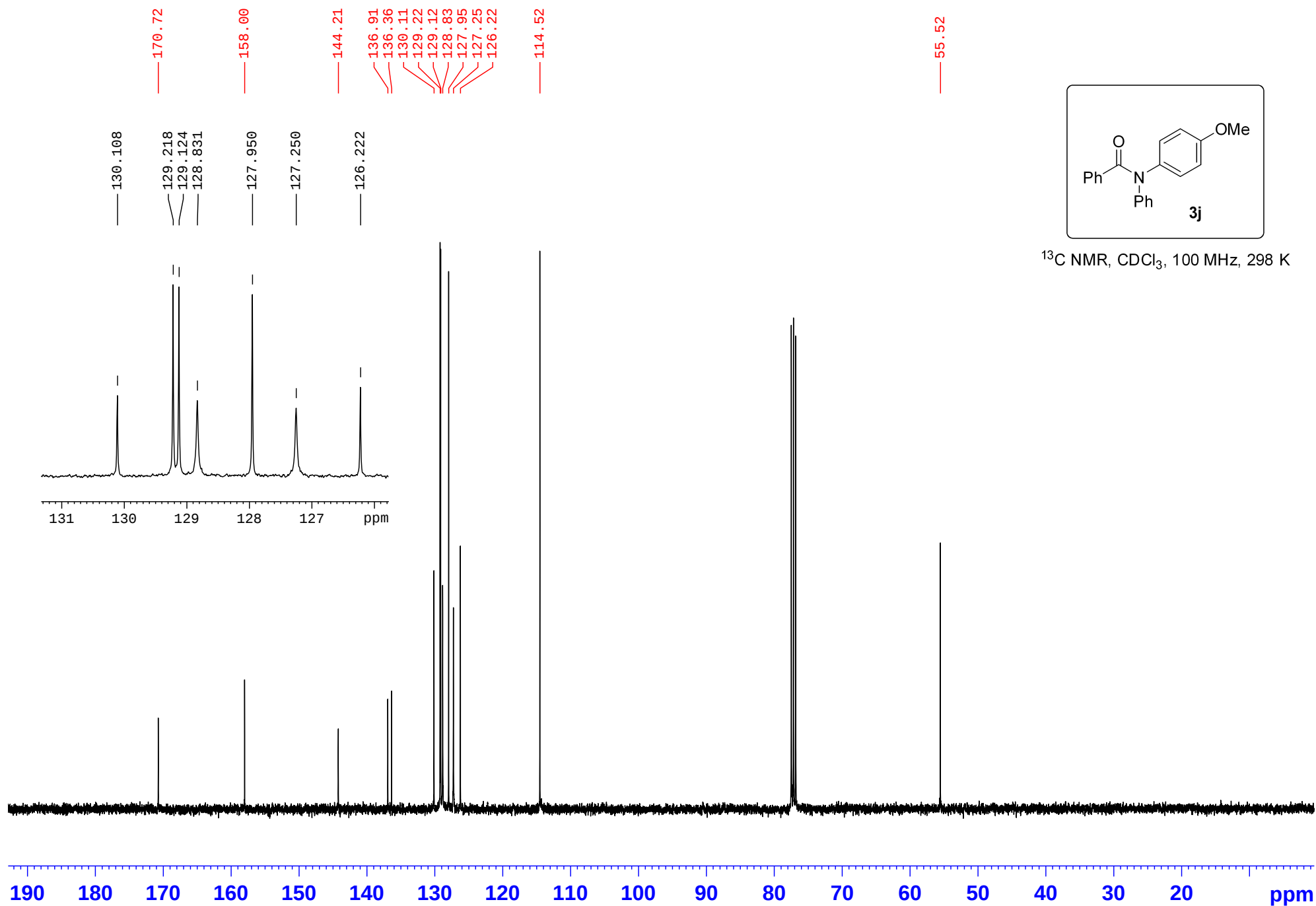


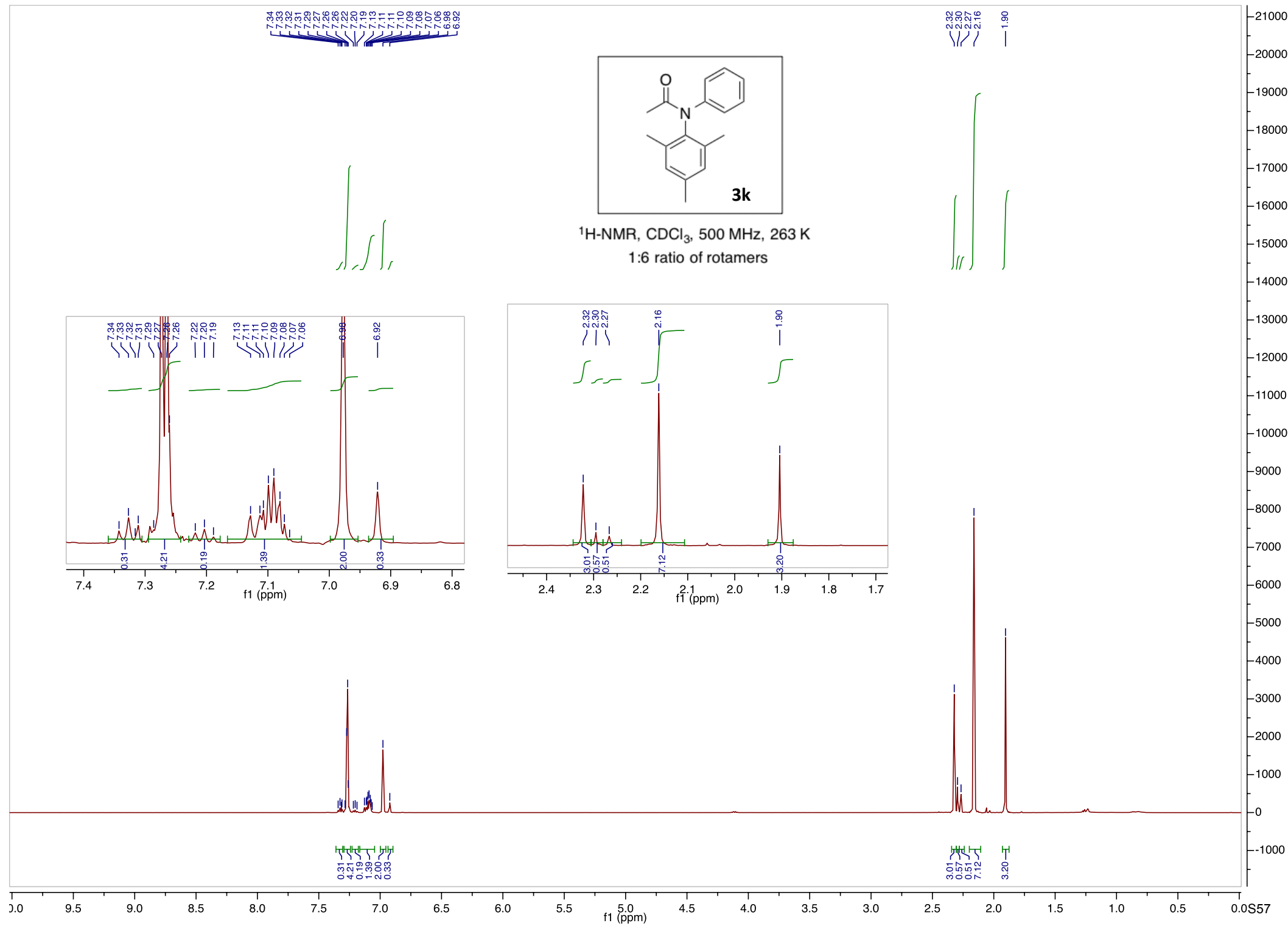
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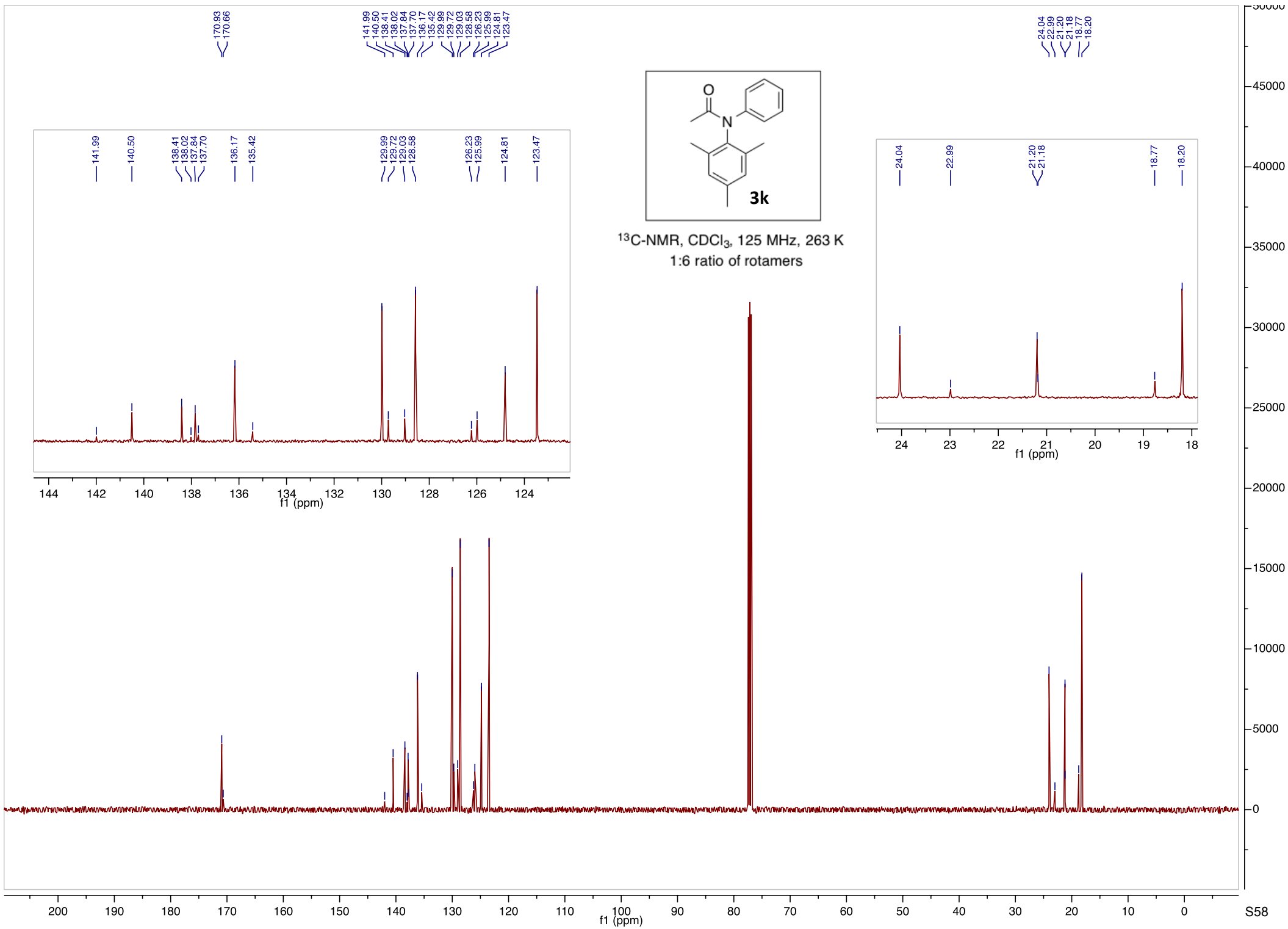


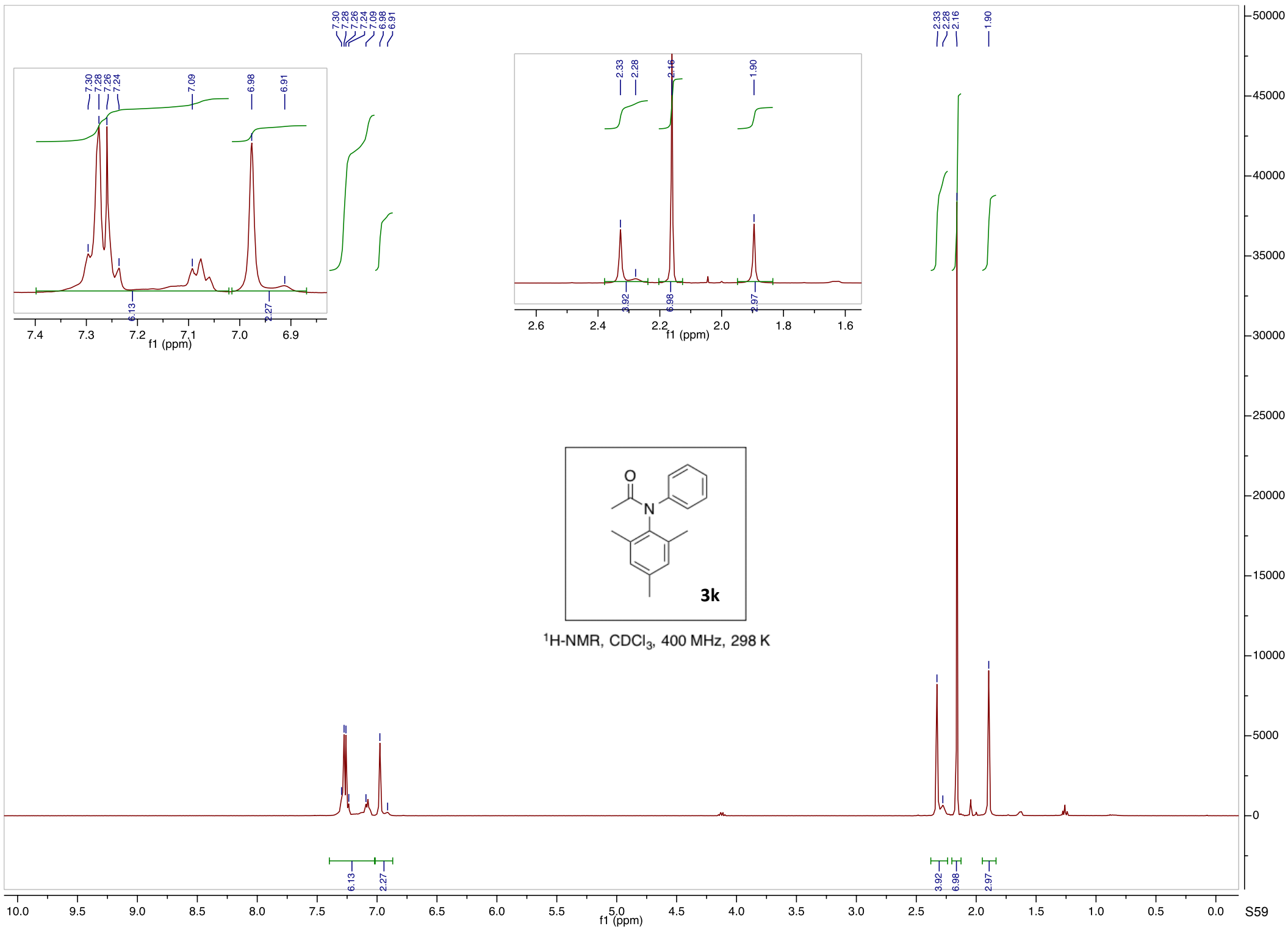


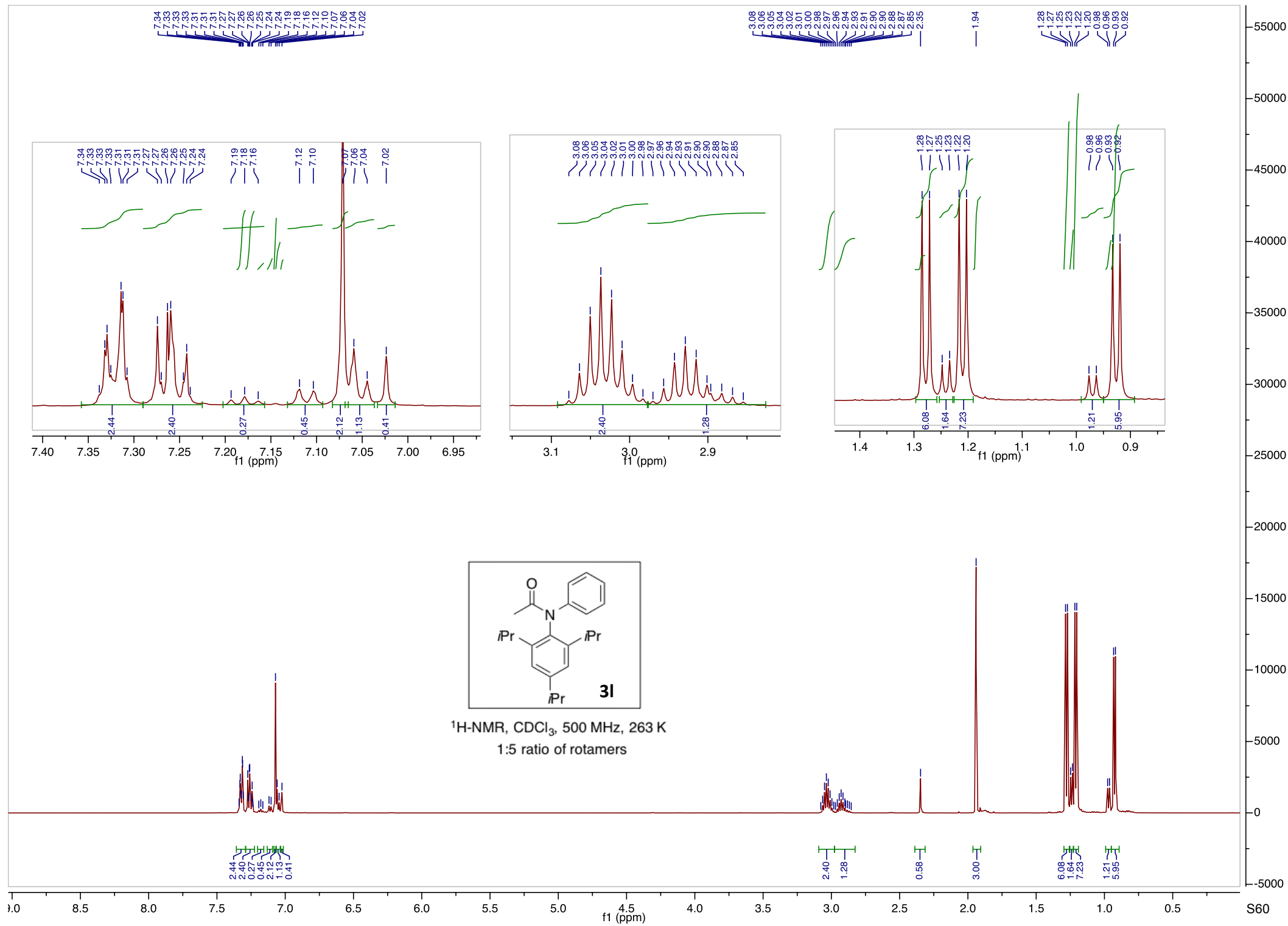


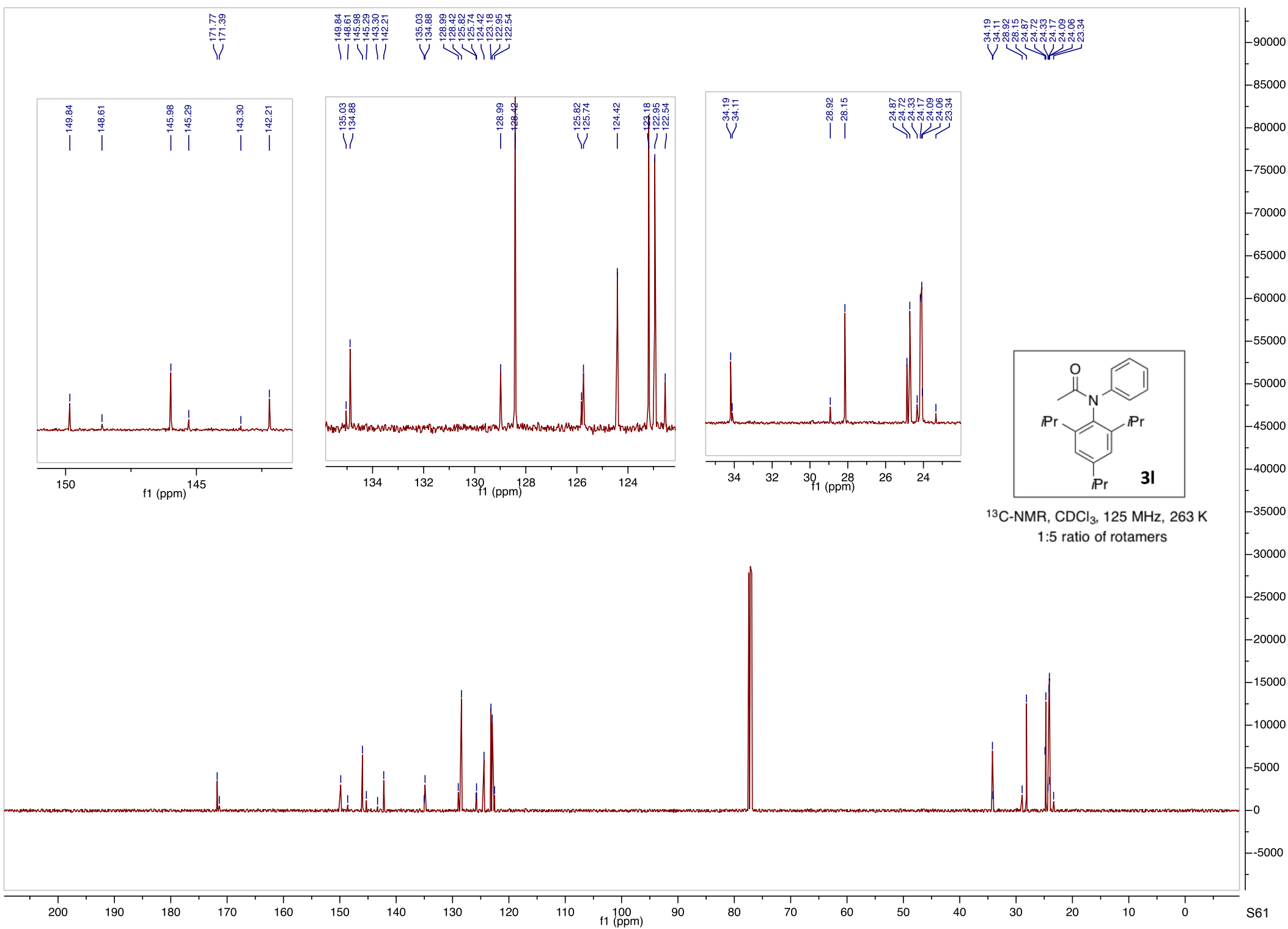


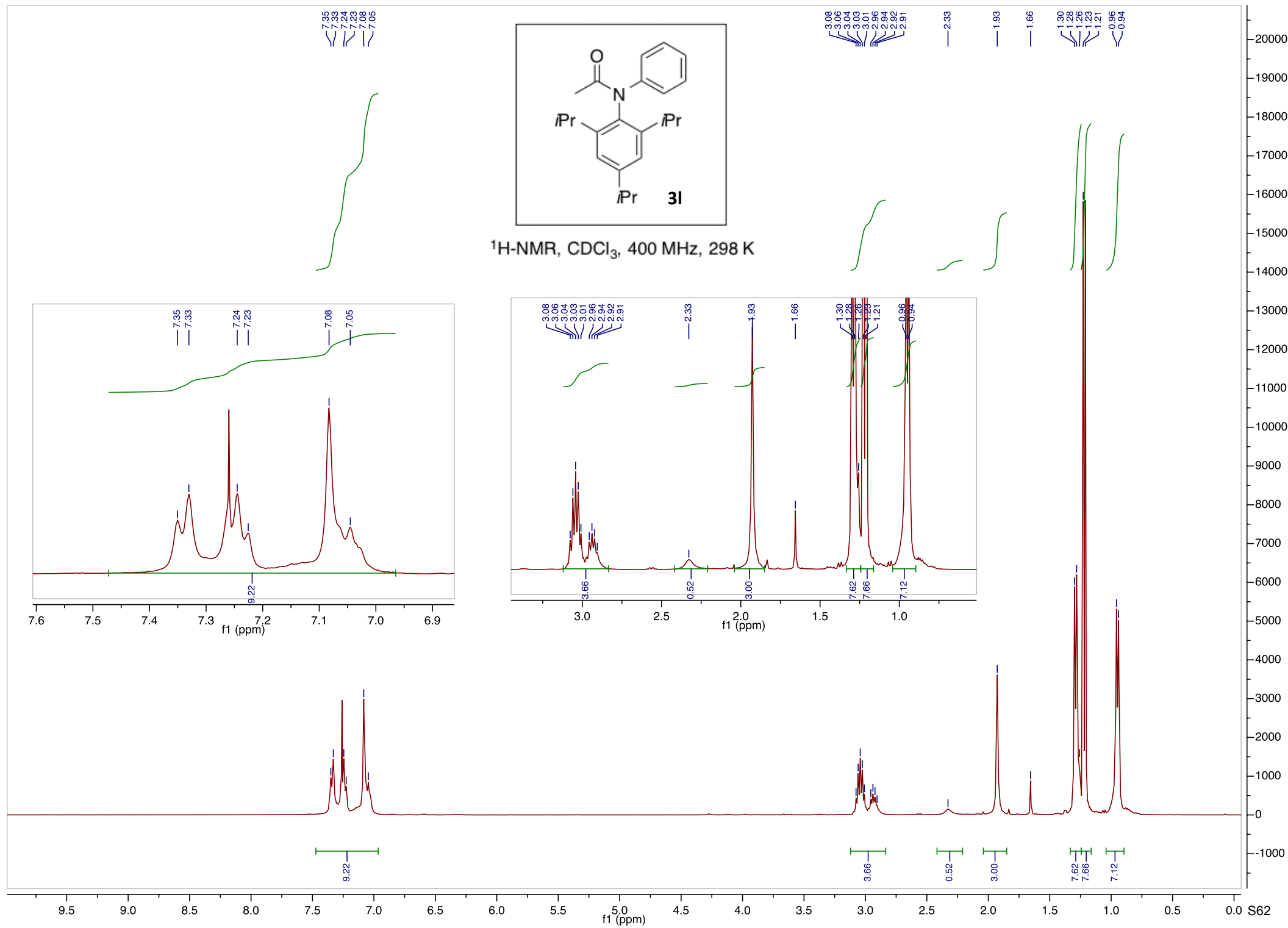


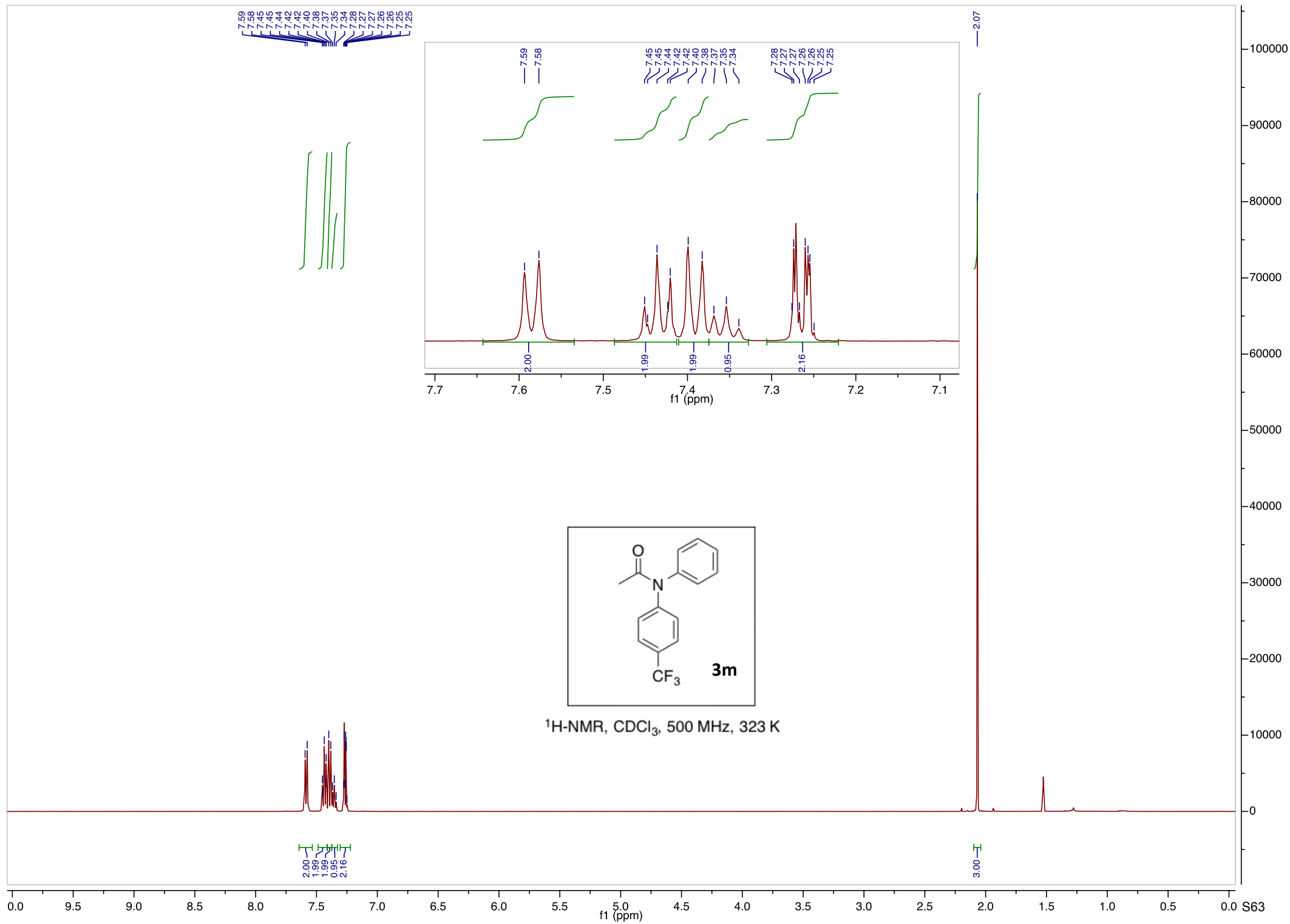


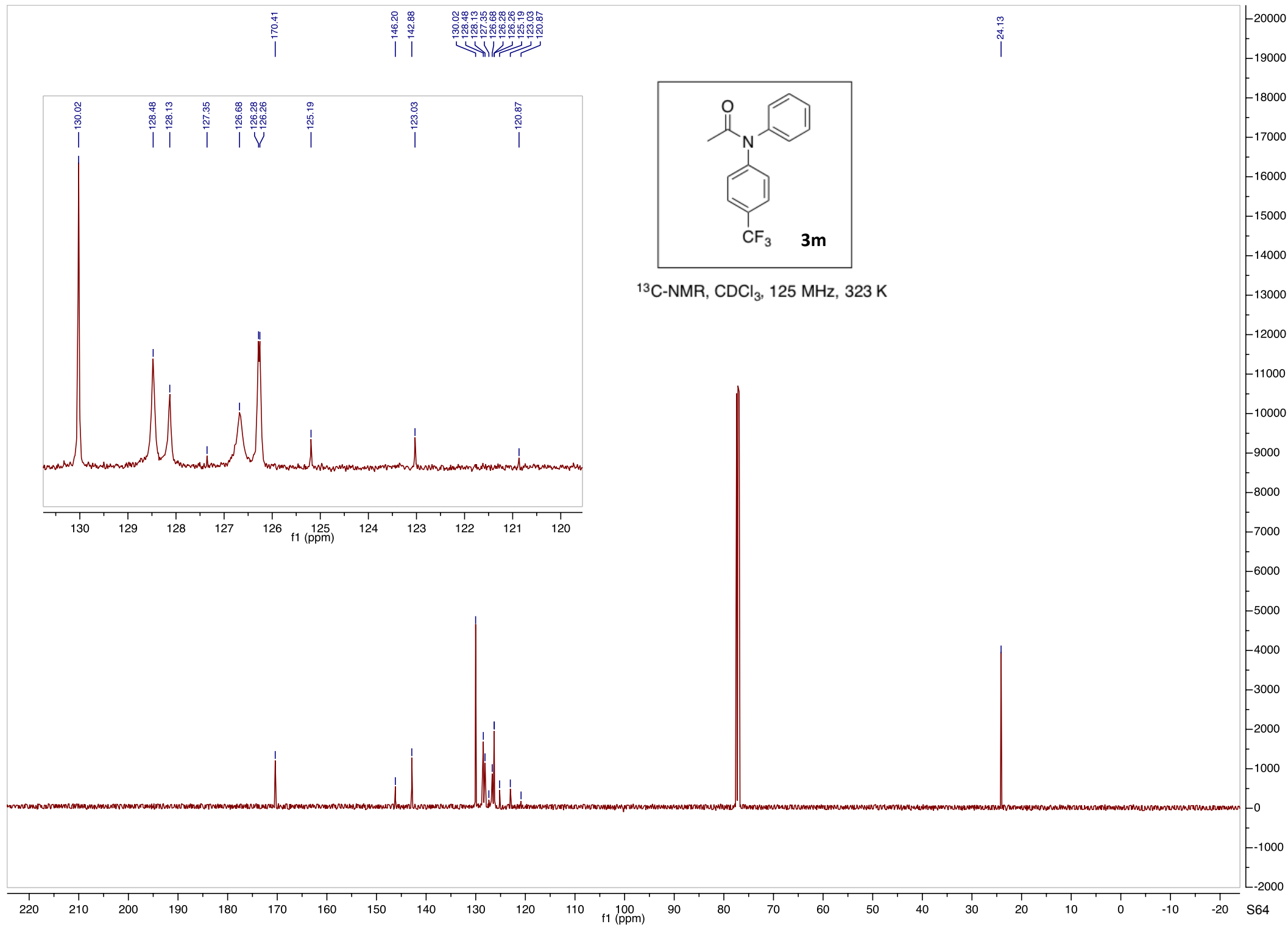


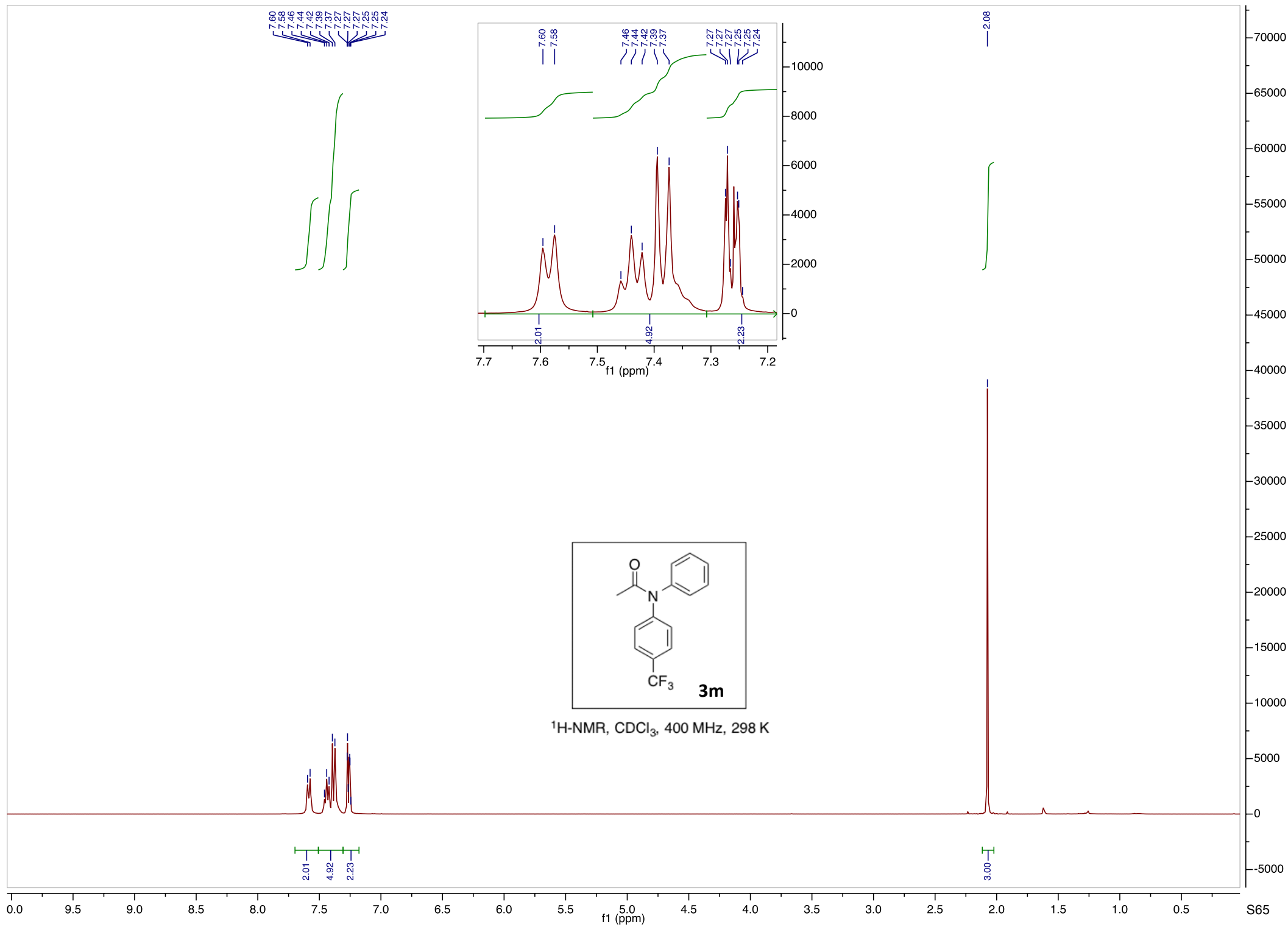


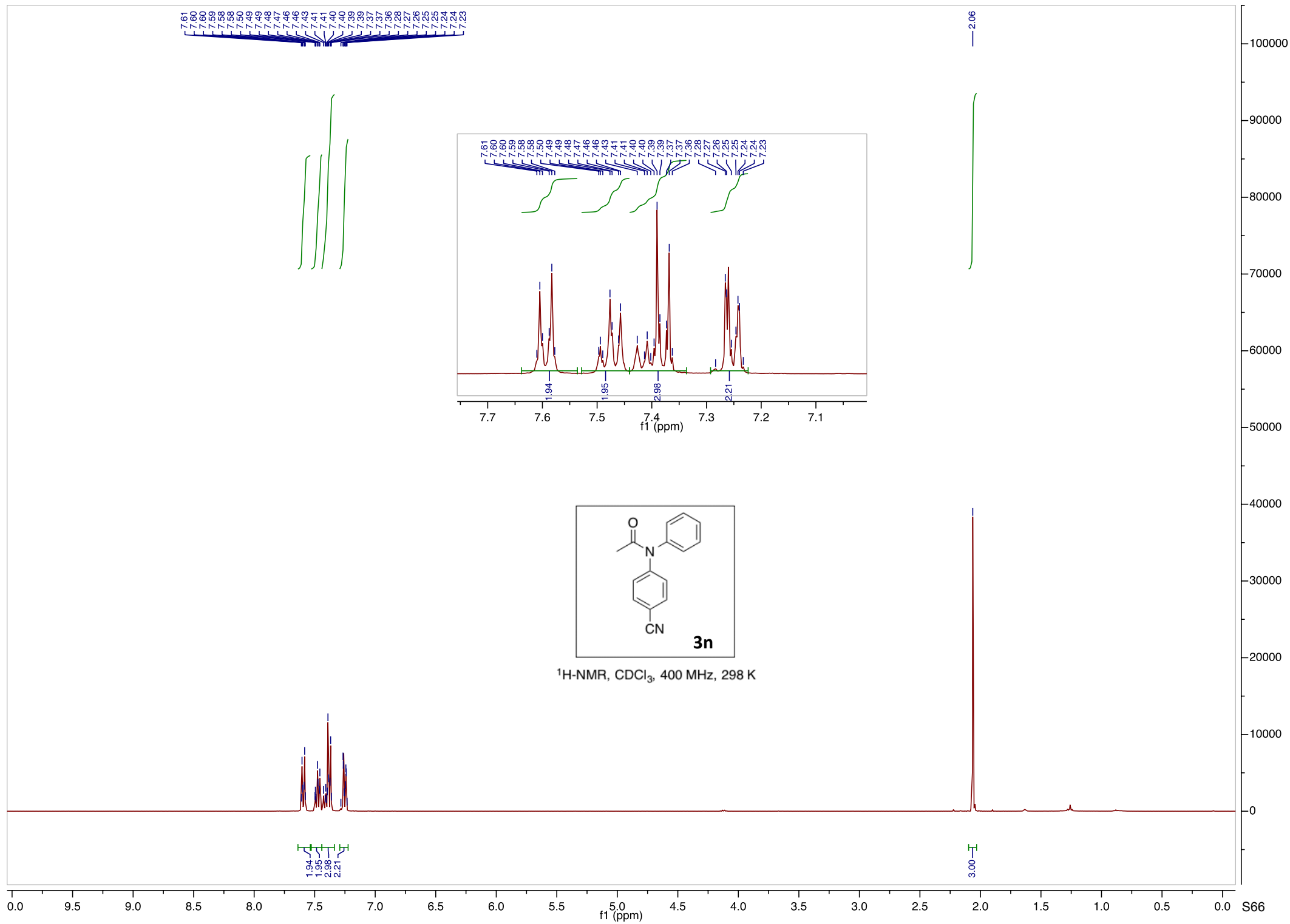


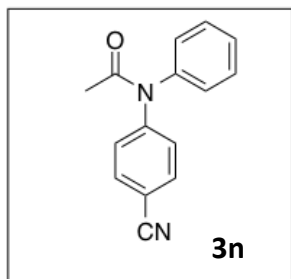




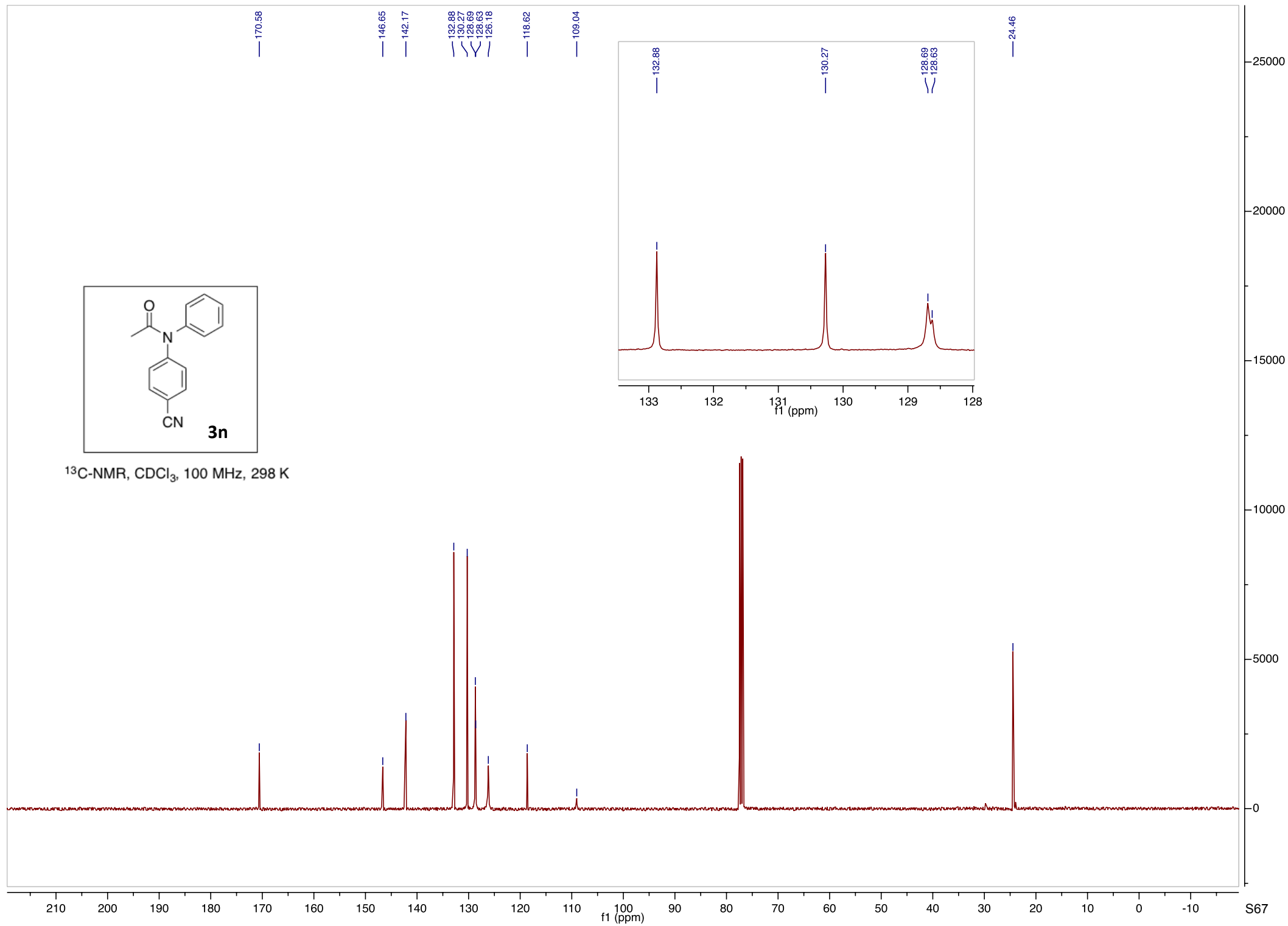


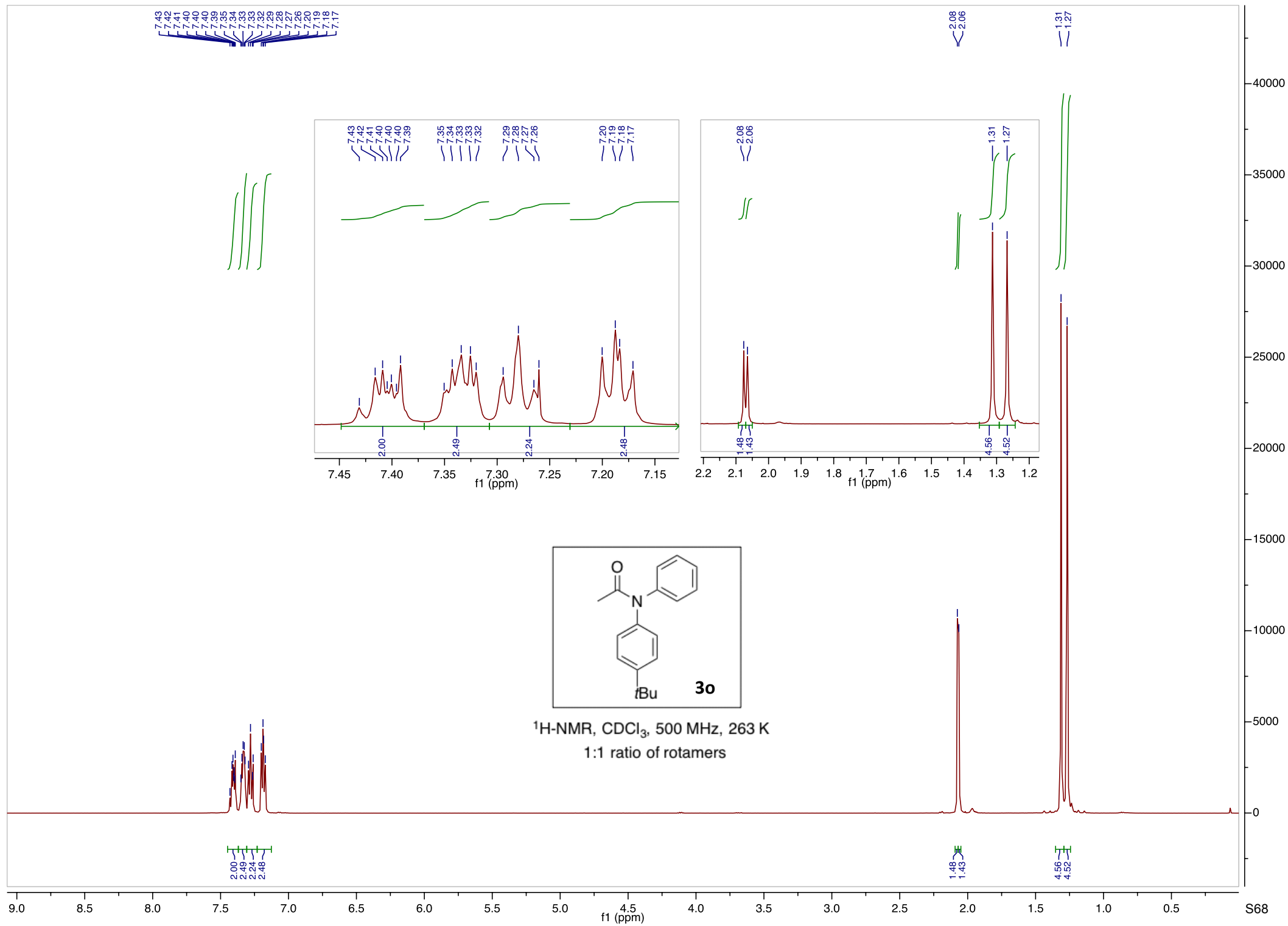


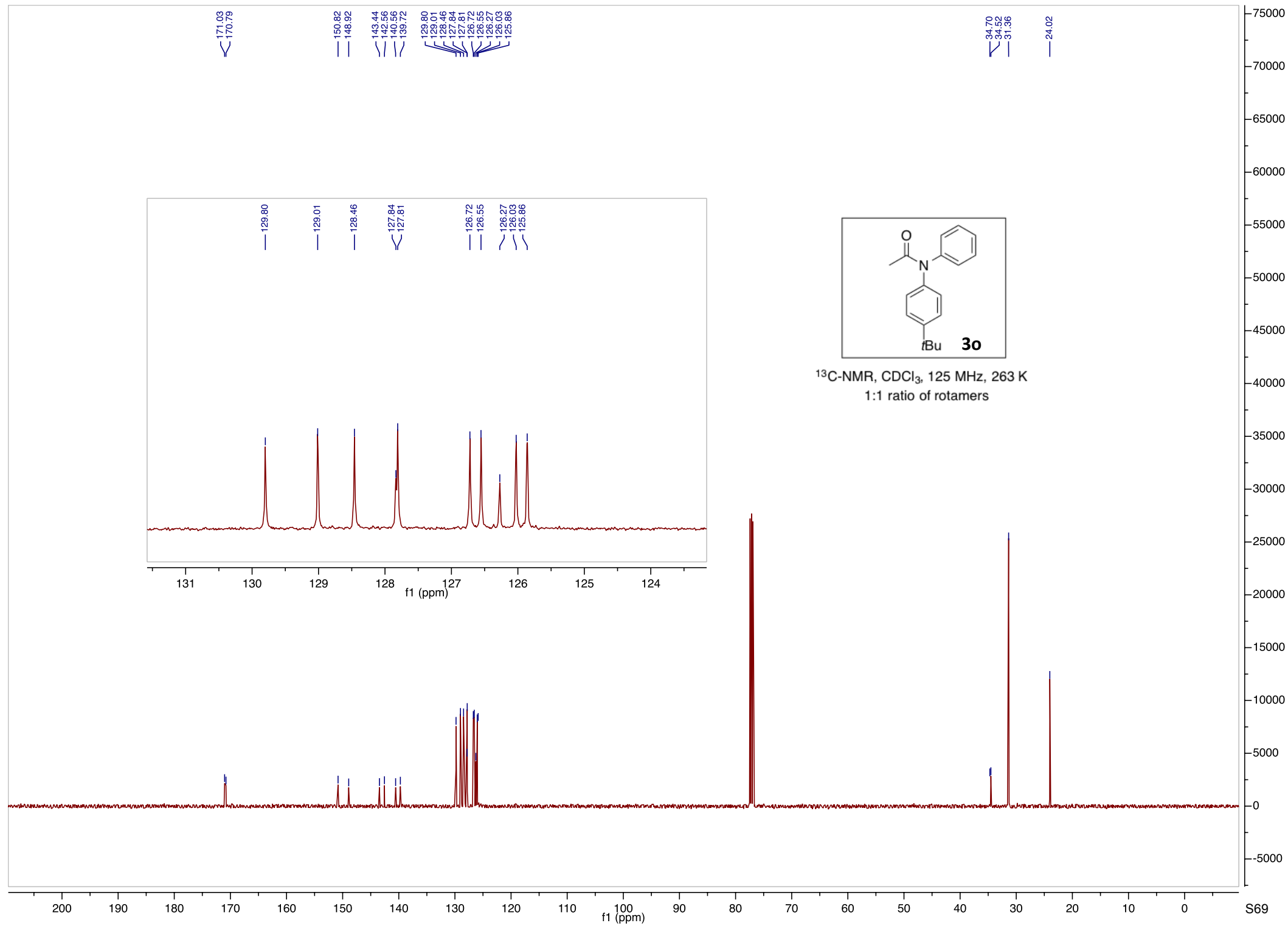


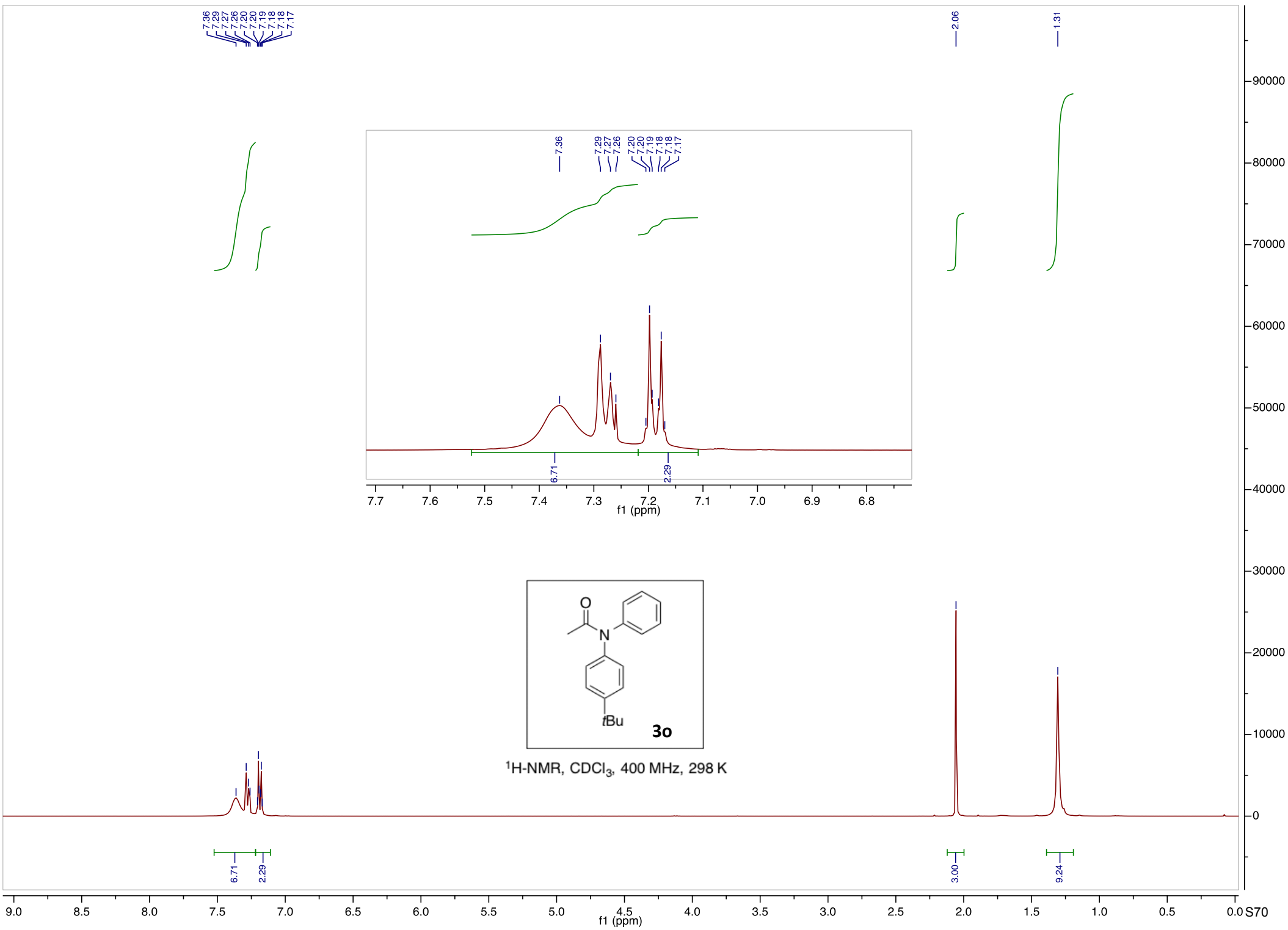


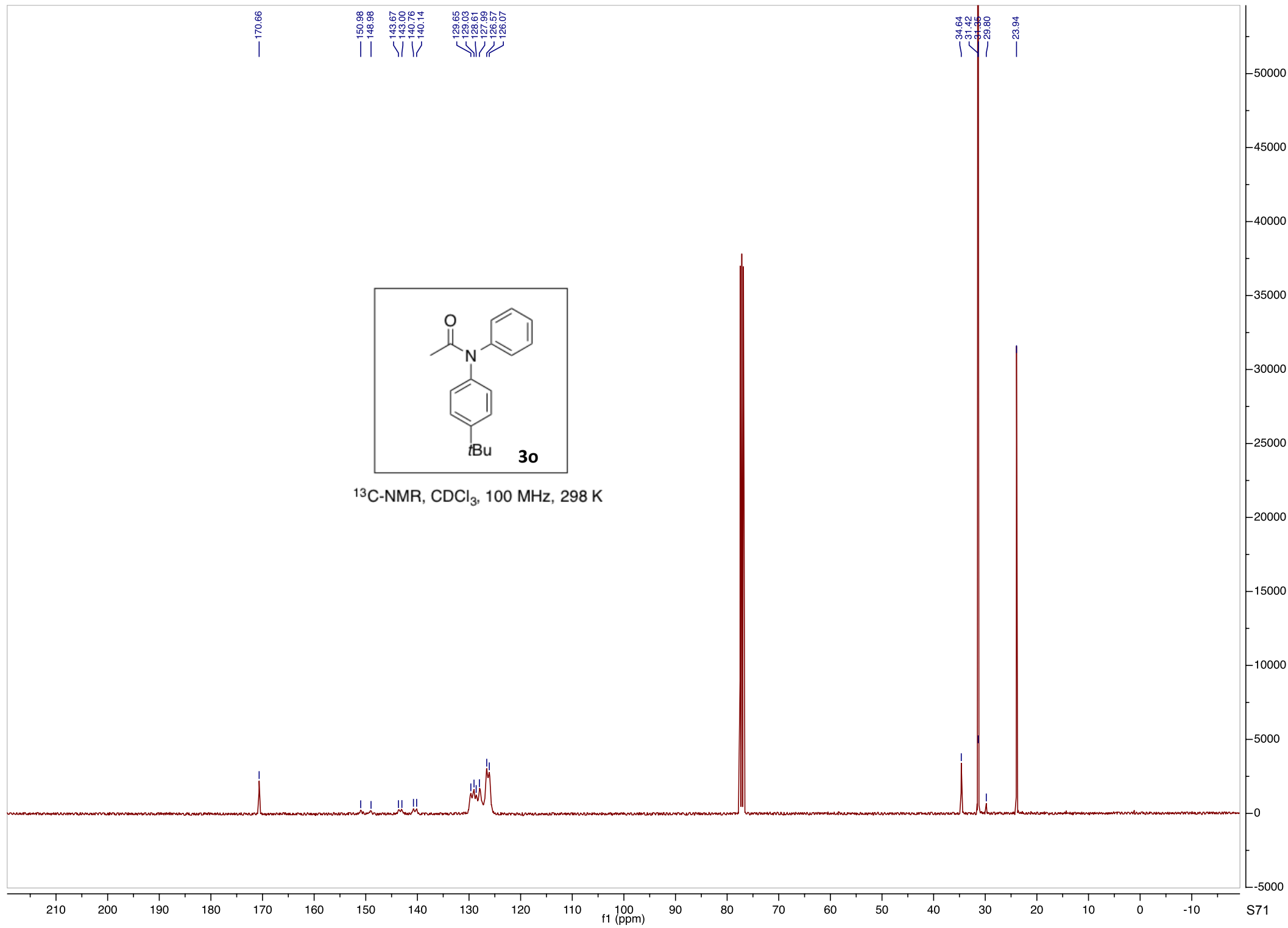
^{13}C -NMR, CDCl_3 , 100 MHz, 298 K

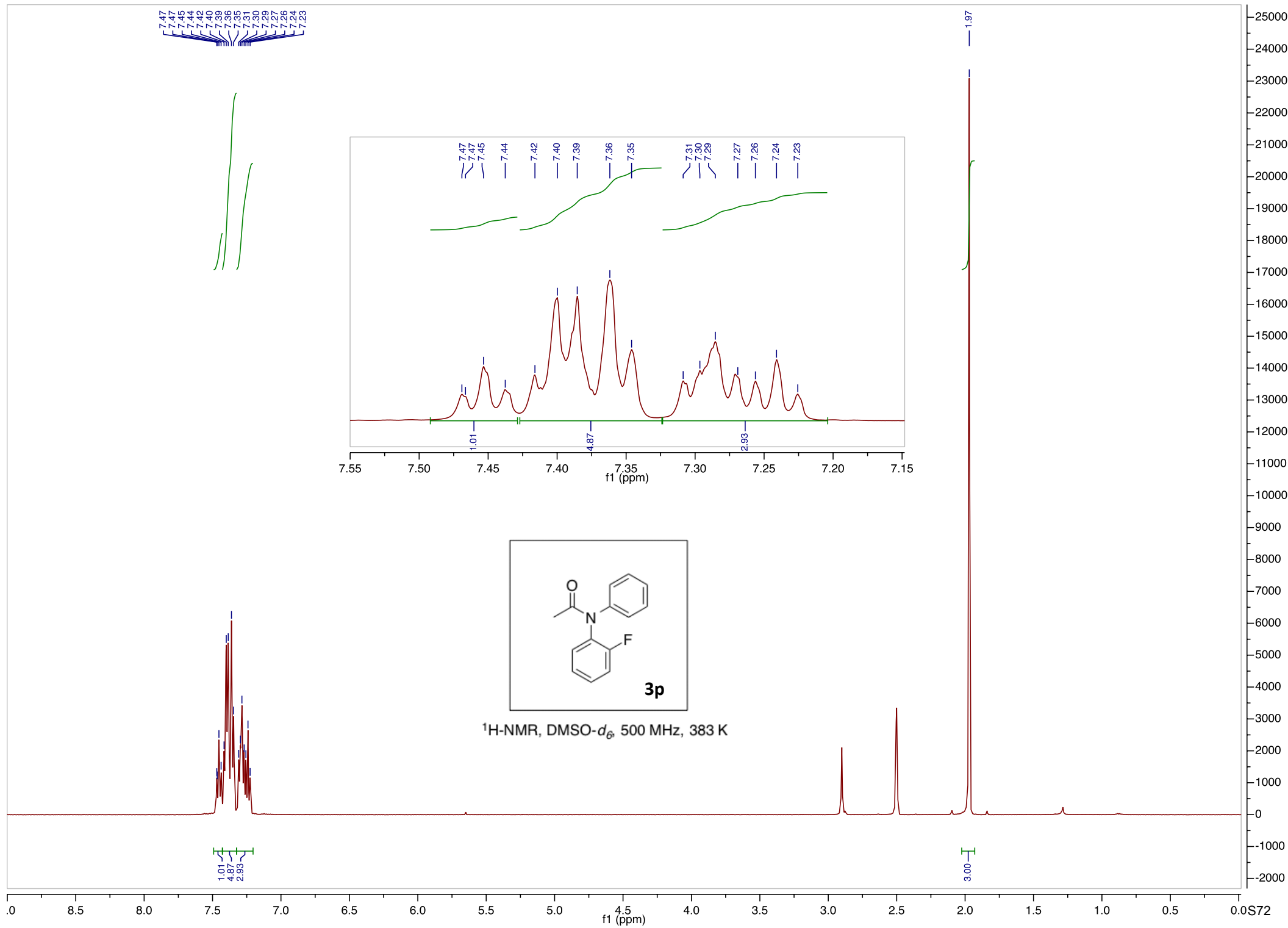


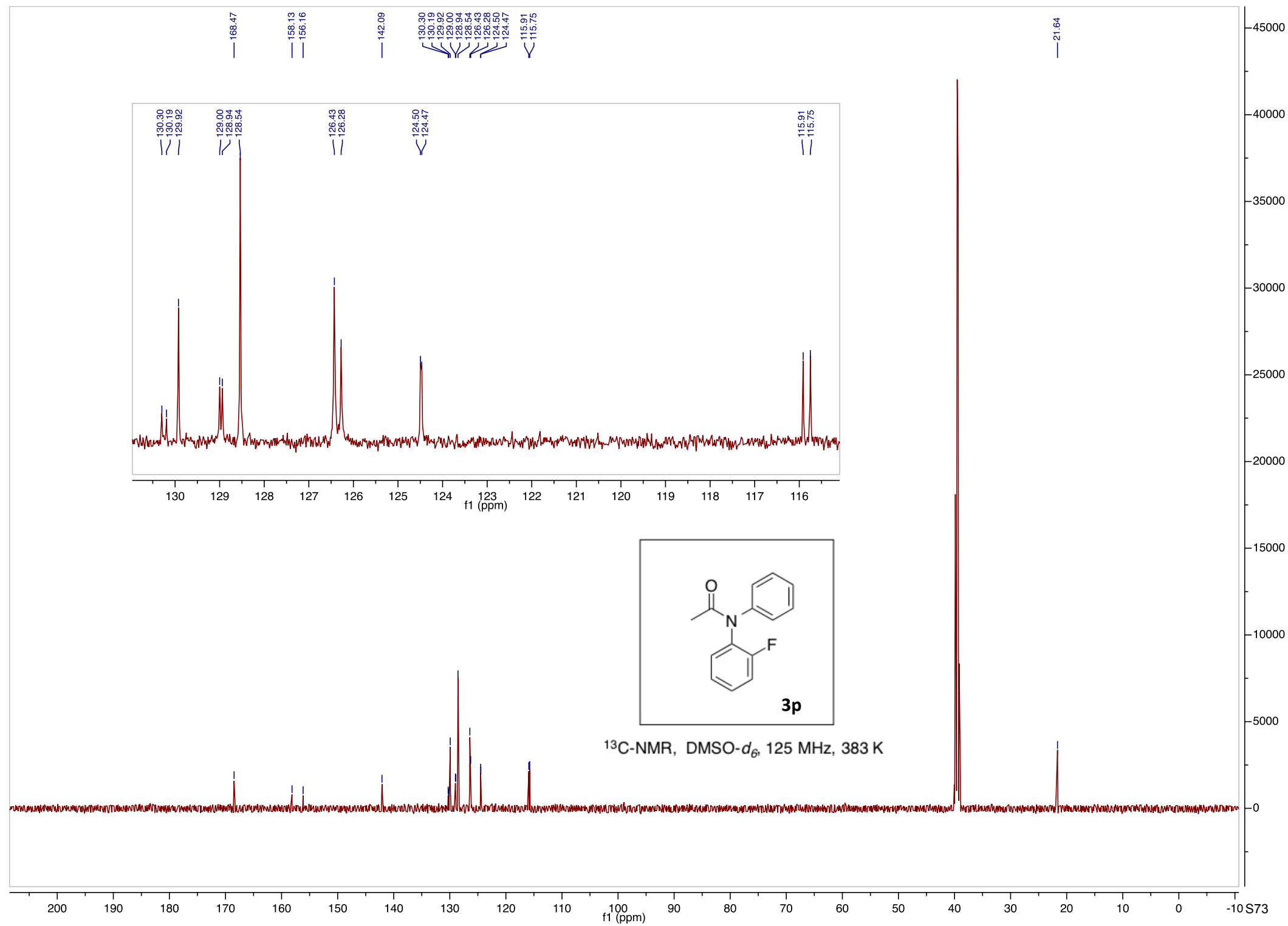


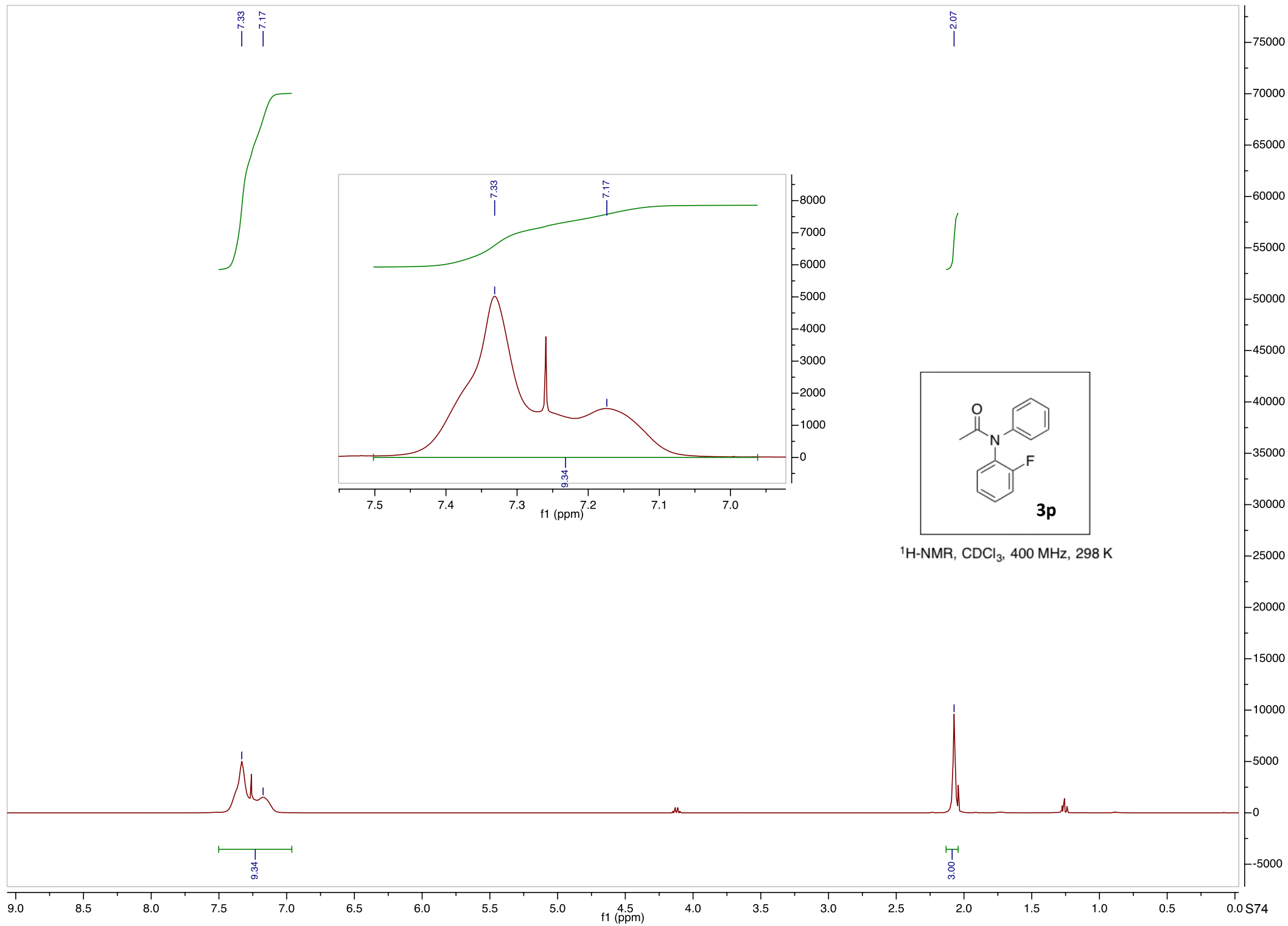


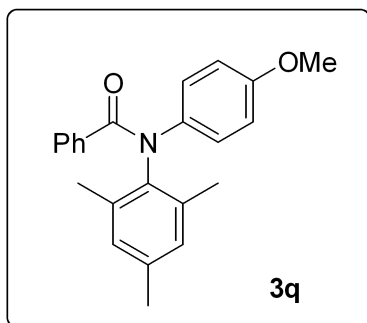




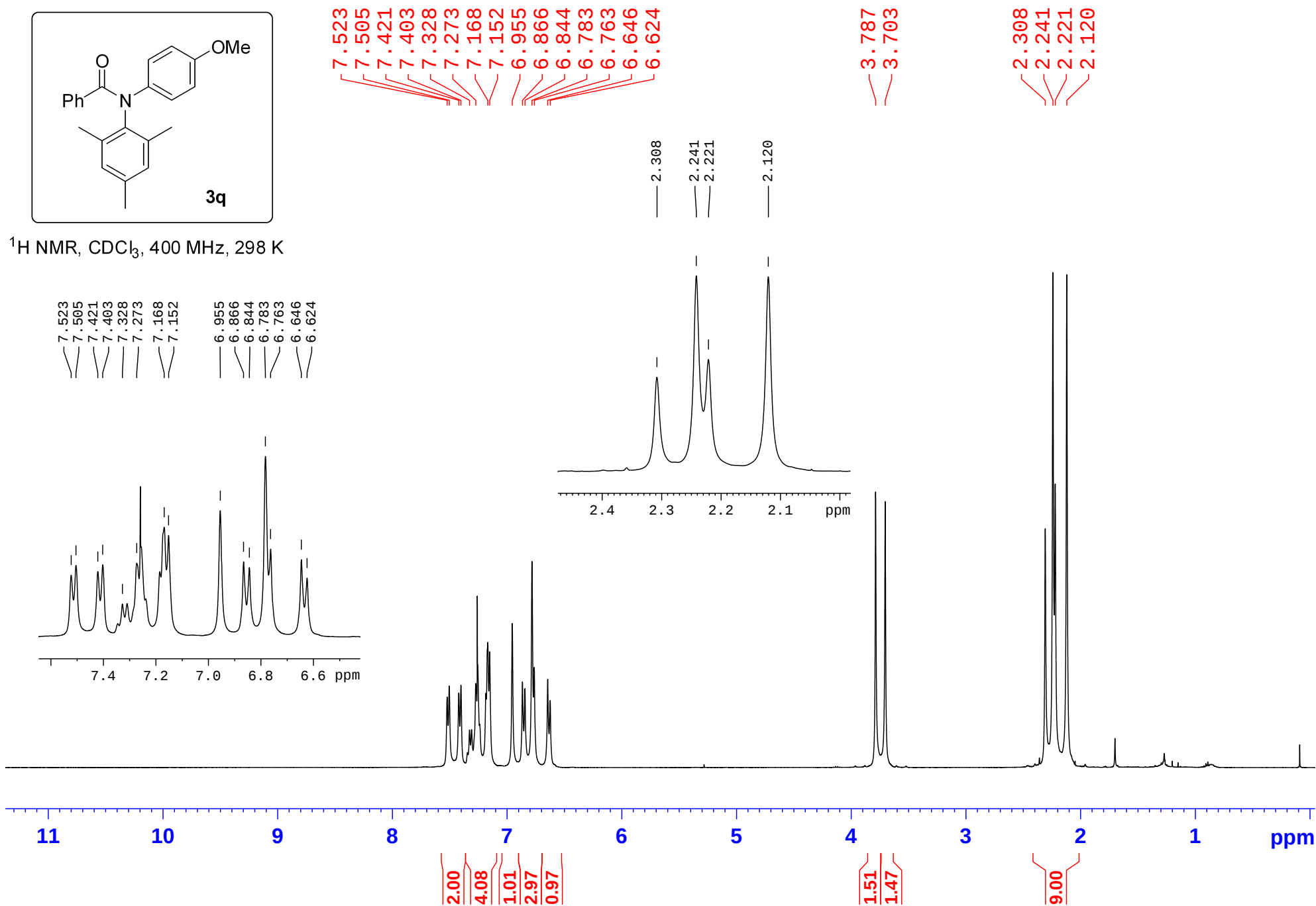


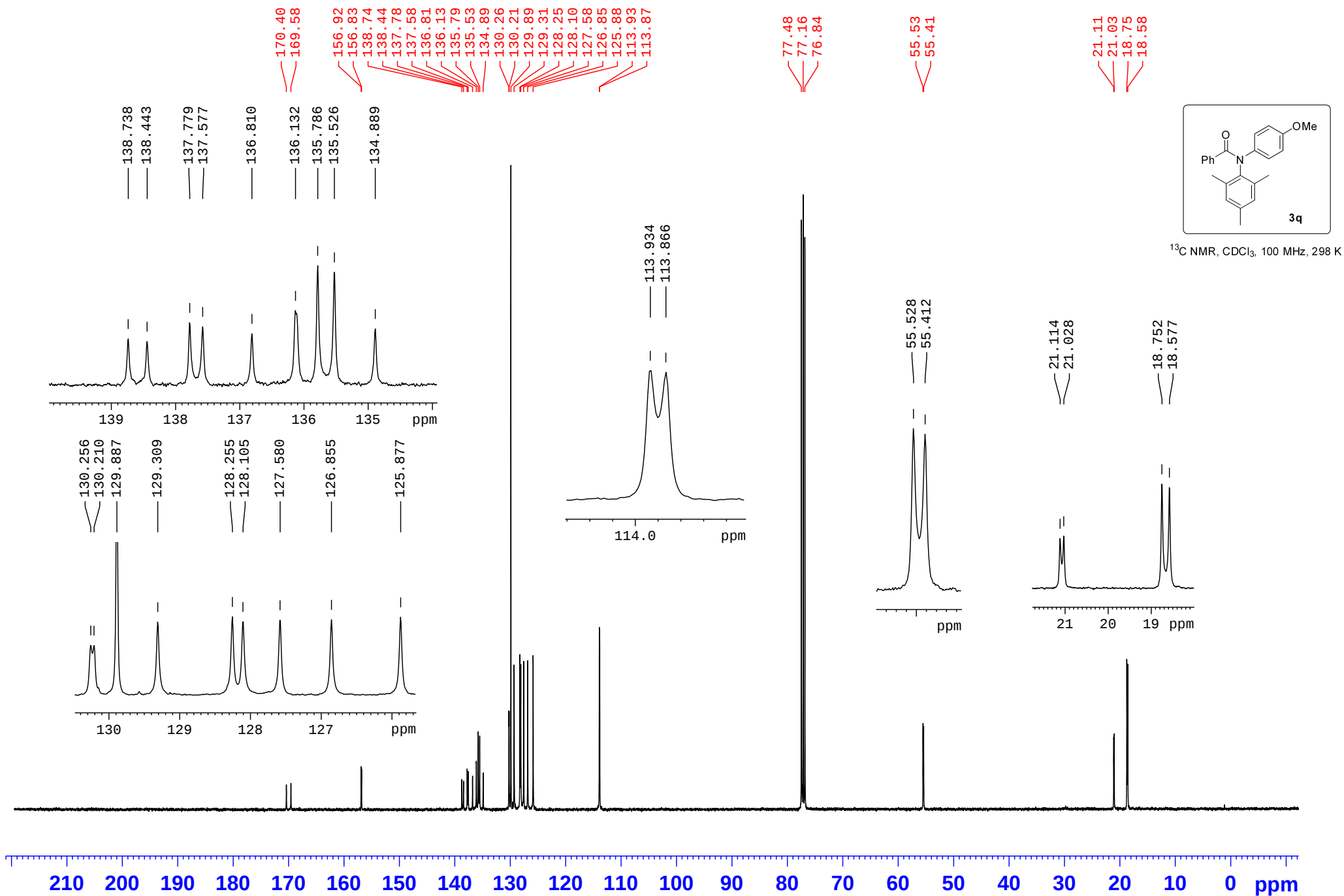






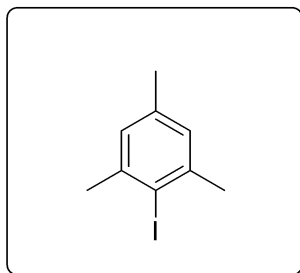
^1H NMR, CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K



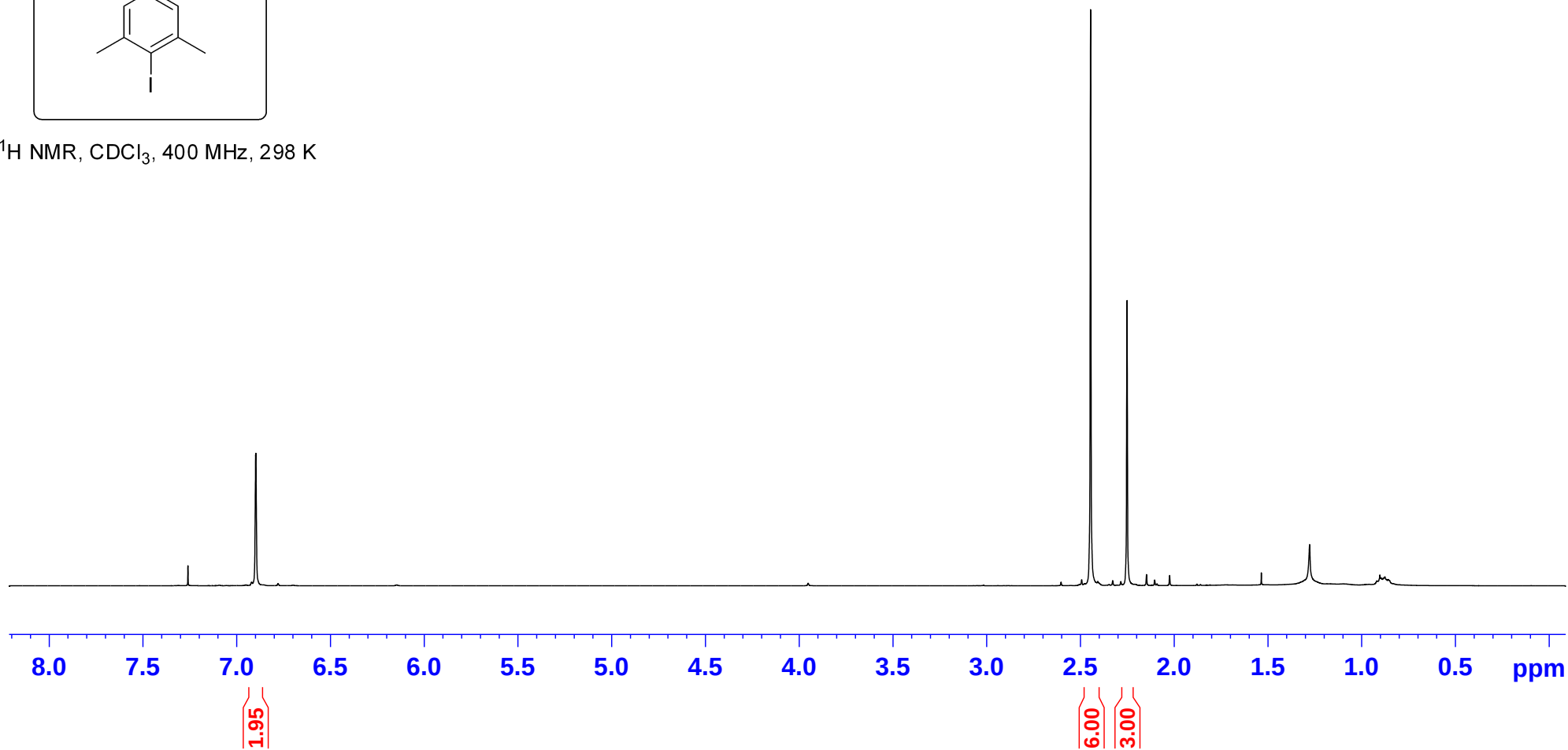


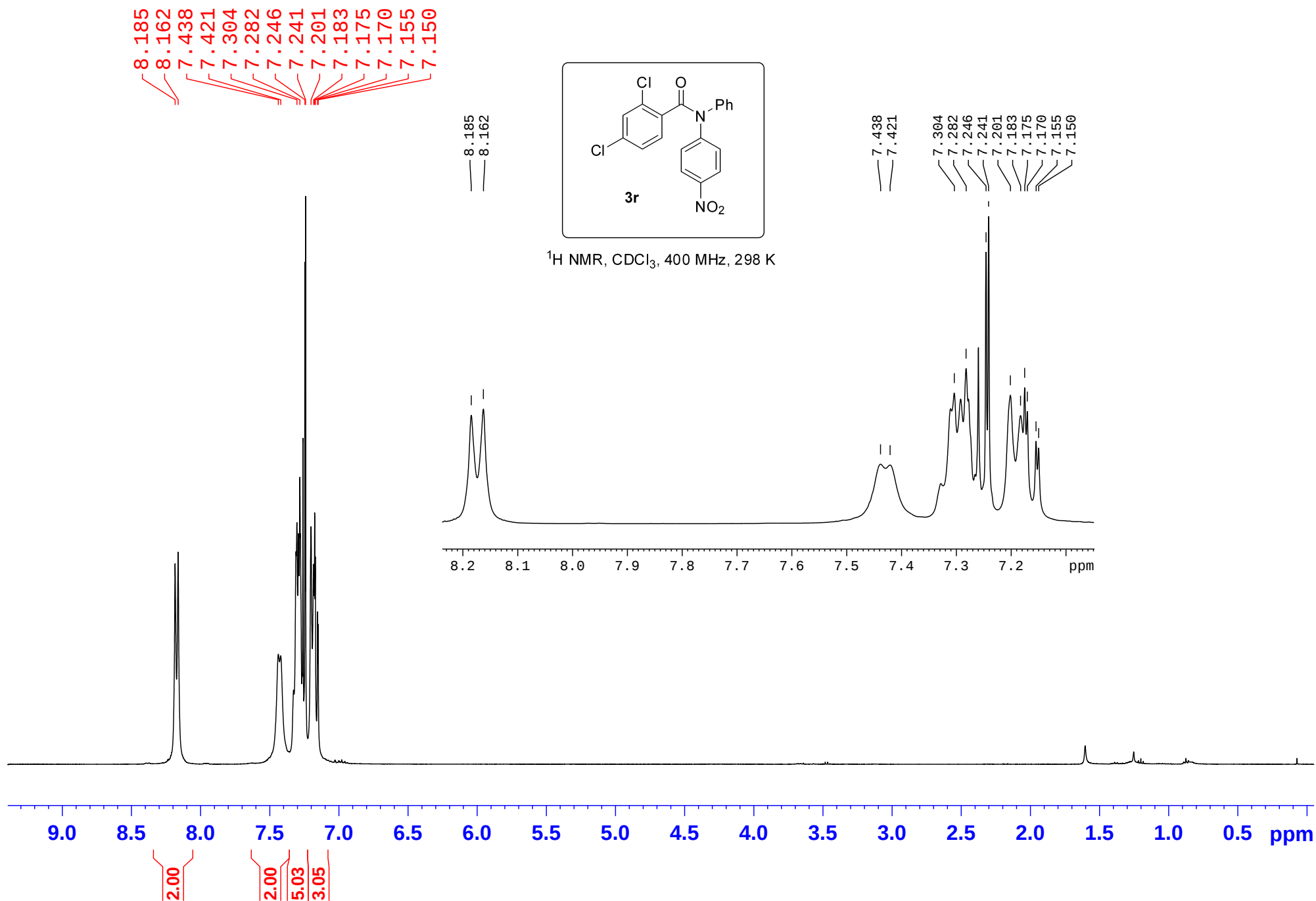
7.260
6.899
6.897

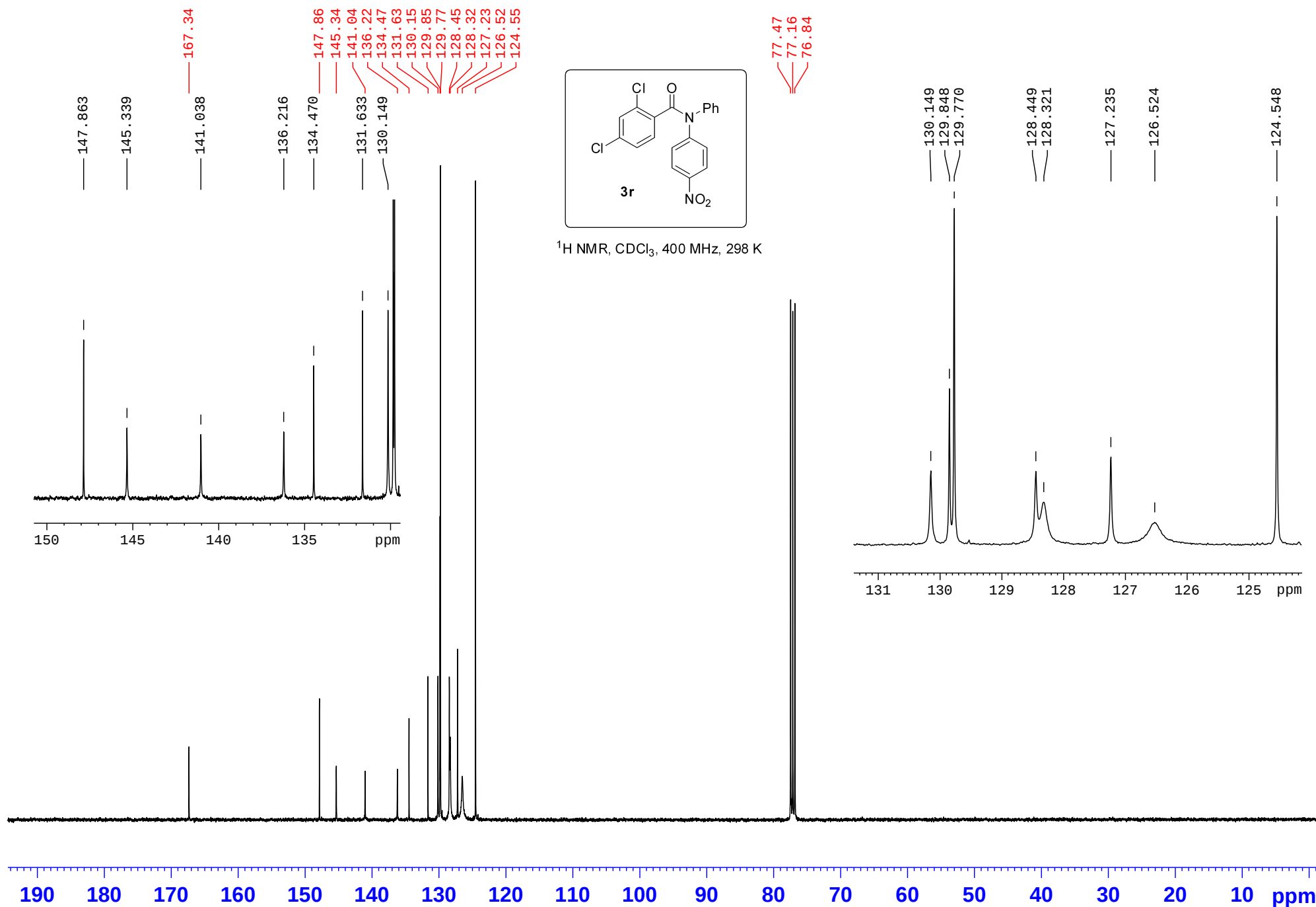
2.446
2.252

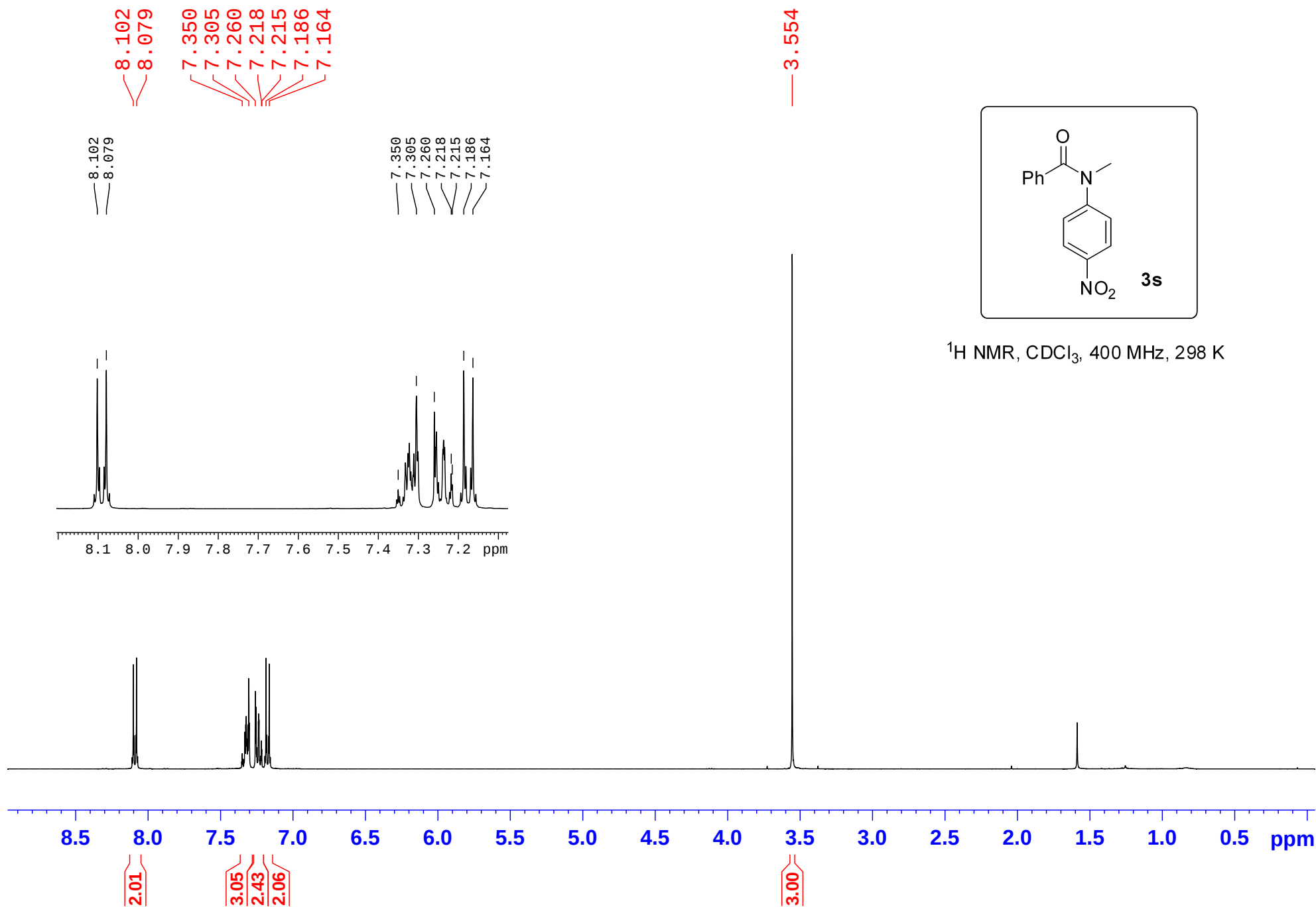


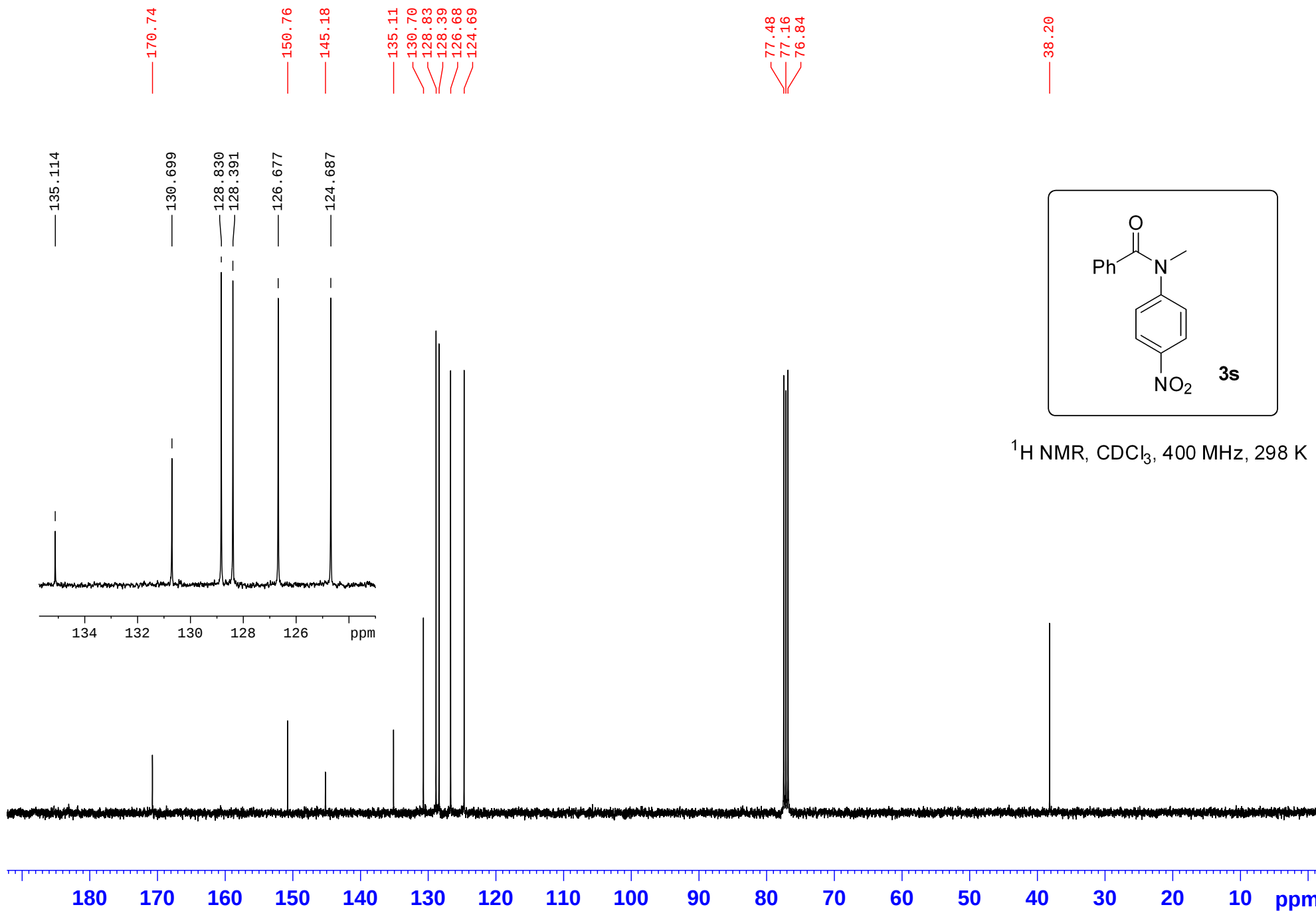
^1H NMR, CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K











¹H NMR, CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K