

Supporting Information

Palladium-Catalyzed Aerobic Oxidative Cyclization of *N*-Aryl Imines: Indole Synthesis from Anilines and Ketones

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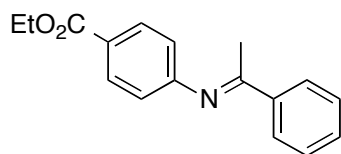
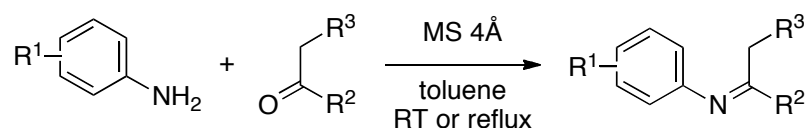
Materials and Methods

General. All reactions dealing with air- and moisture-sensitive compounds were carried out in dry reaction vessels under a nitrogen atmosphere. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck 60 F254 silica gel plates. ^1H and ^{13}C nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on Bruker AV-400 (400 MHz) NMR spectrometers. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield from an internal standard, tetramethylsilane (0 ppm) and CHCl_3 (77.0 ppm), respectively. Gas chromatographic (GC) analysis was performed on a Shimadzu GC-2010 system equipped with and FID detector and a capillary column, DB-5 (Agilent J&W, 0.25 mm i.d. x 30 m, 0.25 μm film thickness). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained with a Q-Tof Premier LC HR mass spectrometer. Melting points were determined using a capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected.

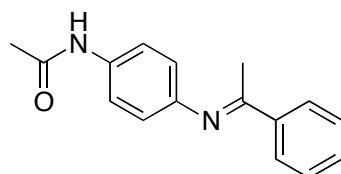
Materials. Unless otherwise noted, materials were purchased from Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, and other commercial suppliers and were used as received. Anhydrous DMSO was distilled over CaH_2 and stored under N_2 or purchased from Aldrich without further purification.

Preparation of Starting Materials

All imines were synthesized by condensation of the corresponding anilines and ketones according to the literature procedures,^{1, 2} and purified by recrystallization from EtOAc/hexane or by flash chromatography on silica gel. Below are summarized characterization data for newly synthesized imines. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data for the rest of the imines (**1a**,³ **1b**,² **1c**,⁴ **1d**,⁵ **1e**,⁴ **1f**,⁶ **1g**,⁴ **1h**,⁷ **1i**,⁸ **1j**,² **1k**,⁹ **1l**,¹⁰ **1n**,⁹ **1o**,¹¹ **1p**,¹¹ **1r**,¹² **1u**,⁶ **1v**,¹³ **1w**,¹³ **1x**,¹³ **1y**,¹⁴ **1aa**,¹ **1ab**,⁹ **1ae**,¹⁵ **1aj**,¹³ **1ak**,¹⁶ and **1ar**⁴) showed good agreement with the literature data.

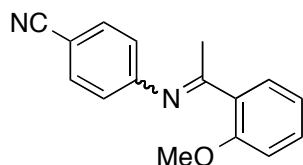


(E)-Ethyl 4-((1-phenylethylidene)amino)benzoate (1m): Yellow solid (60% yield); Mp = 89–90 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.07–8.04 (m, 2H), 7.98–7.96 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.43 (m, 3H), 6.85–6.82 (m, 2H), 4.38 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.6, 165.7, 156.0, 138.9, 130.9, 130.8, 128.5, 127.3, 125.4, 119.1, 60.7, 17.6, 14.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₁₇H₁₇NO₂ [M + H]⁺ 268.1338, found 268.1340.

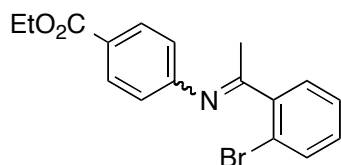


(E)-N-(4-((1-phenylethylidene)amino)phenyl)acetamide (1q): Yellow solid (71% yield); Mp = 164–165 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.43 (m, 5H),

7.37 (brs, 1H), 6.76 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.3, 166.1, 148.1, 139.5, 133.5, 130.5, 128.4, 127.2, 120.9, 120.0, 24.5, 17.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 253.1341, found 253.1340.

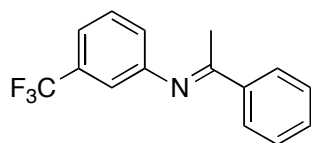


4-((1-(2-Methoxyphenyl)ethylidene)amino)benzonitrile (1s): Yellow solid (65% yield); Approx. 1.5:1 mixture of *E* and *Z* isomers; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): *Z* isomer: δ 7.35 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H); *E* isomer: δ 7.62 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.02$ Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 170.2, 169.8, 157.4, 155.3, 155.2, 154.9, 133.1, 132.3, 131.2, 130.1, 130.0, 129.3, 127.5, 127.2, 120.8, 120.7, 120.3, 120.0 (x 2), 119.2, 111.2, 110.6, 106.4, 106.1, 55.3, 55.0, 28.3, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 251.1184, found 251.1183.

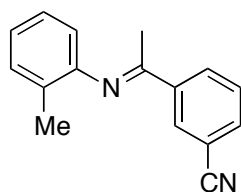


Ethyl 4-((1-(2-bromophenyl)ethylidene)amino)benzoate (1t): Approx. 1.2:1 mixture of *E* and *Z* isomers; Yellow solid (70% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): *Z* isomer: δ 7.81–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.38 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.24 (m, 2H), 7.05 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.80–6.78 (m, 2H), 4.27 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.32 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H); *E* isomer: δ 8.08–8.06 (m, 2H), 7.62 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.14 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.94–6.92 (m, 2H), 4.38 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.9, 169.7, 154.7, 154.6, 142.5, 140.1, 133.2, 132.7, 130.9, 130.2, 130.1, 129.7, 128.7, 128.2, 127.6, 127.2, 126.0, 125.5, 119.8, 119.3, 118.9, 60.8, 60.7, 28.1,

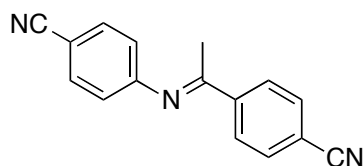
21.5, 14.4, 14.3; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $C_{17}H_{16}BrNO_2 [M + H]^+$ 346.0443, found 346.0446.



(E)-N-(1-Phenylethylidene)-3-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (1z): Yellow oil (75% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (95:5)); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.98 (dd, $J = 7.7, 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.50–7.45 (m, 4H), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 166.6, 152.1, 139.0, 131.3 (q, $^2J_{C-F} = 32$ Hz), 130.9, 129.5, 128.5, 127.3, 128.4 (q, $^1J_{C-F} = 277$ Hz), 122.8, 119.9 (q, $^3J_{C-F} = 3.8$ Hz), 116.3 (q, $^3J_{C-F} = 3.9$ Hz), 17.6; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $C_{15}H_{12}F_3N [M + H]^+$ 264.1000, found 264.1008.

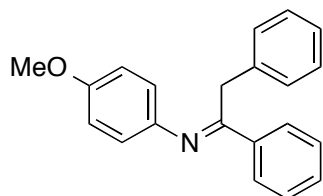


(E)-3-(1-(o-Tolylimino)ethyl)benzonitrile (1ac): Yellow solid (82% yield); Mp = 89–90 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 8.24 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.18 (m, 2H), 7.04 (td, $J = 7.5, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 162.8, 149.4, 140.4, 133.5, 131.3, 131.0, 130.5, 129.3, 127.1, 126.5, 123.8, 118.6, 118.1, 112.8, 17.8, 17.3; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $C_{16}H_{14}N_2 [M + H]^+$ 235.1235, found 235.1233.

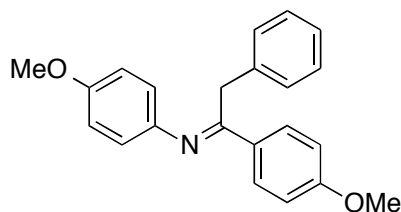


(E)-4-((1-(4-cyanophenyl)ethylidene)amino)benzonitrile (1ad): Yellow solid (75% yield); Mp = 176–177 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.10 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, $J = 8.7$

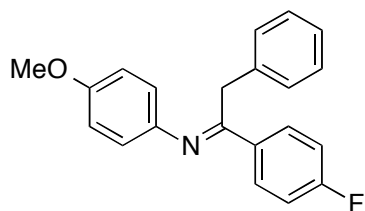
Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.7, 154.8, 142.1, 133.3, 132.2, 127.8, 119.6, 119.0, 118.2, 114.4, 107.2, 17.7; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 246.1031, found 246.1026.



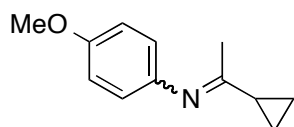
(*E*)-*N*-(1,2-Diphenylethylidene)-4-methoxyaniline (1af): Yellow solid (65% yield); Mp = 122–123 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.95–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.26–7.21 (m, 2H), 7.18–7.14 (m, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.89–6.86 (m, 2H), 6.82–6.80 (m, 2H), 4.13 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 166.5, 156.1, 144.3, 138.6, 137.3, 130.2, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 126.2, 120.5, 114.3, 55.5, 36.1; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 302.1545, found 302.1548.



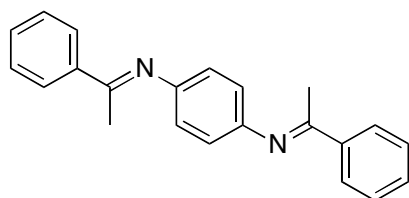
(*E*)-4-Methoxy-*N*-(1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethylidene)aniline (1ag): Yellow solid (50% yield); Mp = 114–115 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.27–7.21 (com, 2H), 7.14 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.86–6.83 (com, 4H), 6.77–6.65 (com, 2H), 4.07 (s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.4, 161.2, 155.9, 144.4, 137.6, 131.1, 129.6, 128.6, 128.3, 126.1, 120.5, 114.2, 113.6, 55.4, 55.2, 35.8; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 332.1651, found 332.1649.



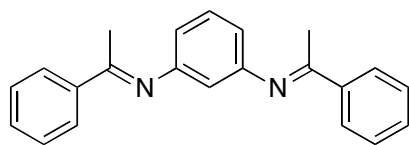
(*E*)-*N*-(1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-phenylethylidene)-4-methoxyaniline (1ah): The title compound contained small amounts of impurities (< 10%; see the attached ^1H spectrum) that could not be removed by chromatographic separation. Without further purification, it was used for the cyclization reaction; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.89 (dd, $J = 9.0, 5.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.05–6.99 (com, 4 H), 6.86 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, $J = 9$ Hz, 2H), 5.08 (s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H).



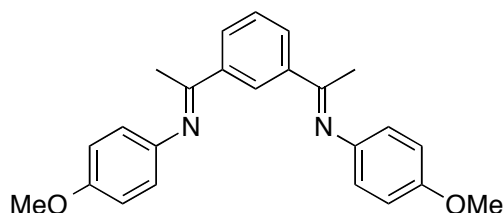
***N*-(1-cyclopropylethylidene)-4-methoxyaniline (1ai):** Yellow oil (76% yield); Approx. 3.1:1 mixture of *E* and *Z* isomers; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 6.86–6.59 (m, 4H for both isomers), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.79 (s, 3H), 1.72 (s, 3H), 0.97–0.70 (m, 5H for both isomers); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 172.6, 172.5, 155.6, 155.5, 144.8, 144.3, 121.2, 120.8, 114.1, 114.1, 55.7, 55.4, 20.5, 20.2, 18.0, 14.8, 7.8, 6.8; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 190.1232, found 190.1237.



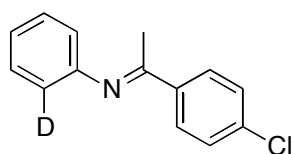
(*N*¹*E*, *N*⁴*E*)-*N*¹, *N*⁴-Bis(1-phenylethylidene)benzene-1,4-diamine (1al): Yellow solid (80% yield); Mp = 213–214 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.99–7.97 (com, 4H), 7.45 - 7.42 (com, 6H), 6.81 (s, 4H), 2.28 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.6, 147.1, 139.5, 130.3, 128.3, 127.1, 120.1, 17.3; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 313.1705, found 313.1702.



(*N*¹*E*,*N*³*E*)-*N*¹,*N*³-bis(1-phenylethylidene)benzene-1,3-diamine (1am): Pale yellow solid (70% yield); Mp = 113–114 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.97 (com, 4H), 7.45–7.41 (com, 6H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd, *J* = 5.9, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 6.24 (t, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.23, (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.6, 152.5, 139.4, 130.4, 129.5, 128.3, 127.1, 114.2, 109.9, 17.4; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₂₂H₂₀N₂ [M + H]⁺ 313.1705, found 313.1702.



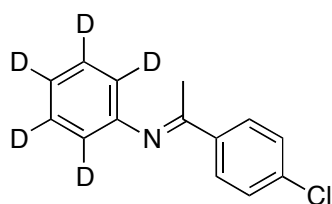
(*N,N'E*,*N,N'E*)-*N,N'*-(1,3-Phenylenebis(ethan-1-yl-1-ylidene))bis(4-methoxyaniline) (1an):** Yellow solid (70% yield); Mp = 183–184 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.54 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 2 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.93–6.90 (m, 4H), 6.79–6.75 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 6H), 2.30 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.6, 155.9, 144.6, 139.9, 128.9, 128.3, 125.8, 120.7, 114.2, 55.4; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₂[M + H]⁺ 373.1916, found 373.1916.



2-Deuterio-(*E*)-*N*-(1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethylidene)aniline: (1aq-*d*): Prepared from 2-deuterio-aniline (deuterium incorporation > 95%)¹⁷ and 4'-chloroacetophenone; Yellow solid (70% yield); Mp = 93–94 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.10 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 8.1,

0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 164.3, 151.3, 137.9, 136.6, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 123.4, 119.3, 17.3 (two signals could not be observed because of ^{13}C - ^2H coupling); HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClND}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 231.0799, found 231.0792.

Pentadeuterio-aniline: Pentadeuterio-aniline was prepared by copper-catalyzed amination of bromobenzene- d_6 with aqueous ammonia according to the method reported by Wolf et al.¹⁸ A 150 mL of Schlenk tube equipped with a stirrer bar was charged with bromobenzene- d_5 (20 mmol), Cu_2O (5 mol%), 15 mL of ammonium hydroxide solution (~25% NH_3 in H_2O , 10 equiv), and 15 mL of *N*-methyl pyrrolidinone (NMP). The tube was sealed with a Teflon screw cap, and then stirred at 80 °C for 15 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and extracted with diethyl ether and dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was directly used for the imine synthesis without further purification.



2,3,4,5,6-Pentadeuterio-(*E*)-*N*-(1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethylidene)aniline: (1aq- d_5): Prepared from pentadeuterio-aniline and 4'-chloroacetophenone; Yellow solid (58% yield); Mp = 92–93 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.94–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.40 (m, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 164.3, 151.2, 137.9, 136.6, 128.6, 17.3 (except deuterated carbons); HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_7\text{D}_5\text{ClN}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 235.1050, found 235.1046.

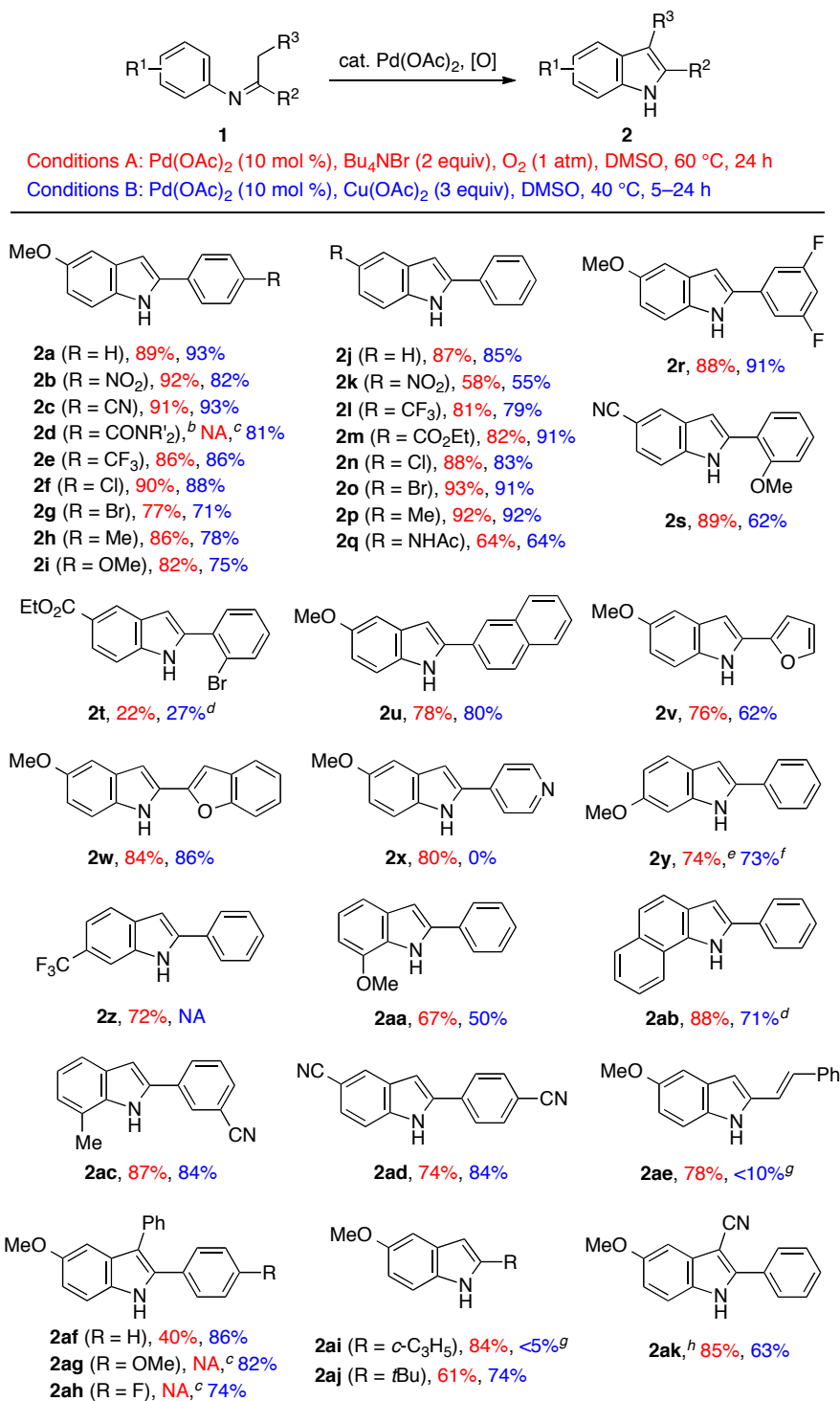
Catalytic Oxidative Cyclization of *N*-Aryl Imines

Table S1. Screening of Reaction Conditions^a

Entry	Oxidant/additive/other changes	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Yield (%) ^b
1	O ₂ (1 atm)	40	16	27
2	O ₂ (4 atm)	40	16	39
3	O ₂ (1 atm)/Bu ₄ NCl (1 equiv)	40	16	24
4	O ₂ (1 atm)/Bu ₄ NBr (1 equiv)	40	16	48
5	O ₂ (1 atm)/Bu ₄ NI (1 equiv)	40	16	31
6	O ₂ (1 atm)/Bu ₄ NOAc (1 equiv)	40	16	22
7	O ₂ (1 atm)/LiBr (2 equiv)	40	16	45
8	O ₂ (1 atm)/MS 4A	40	16	18
9	O ₂ (1 atm)/HOAc (2 equiv)	40	16	17
10	O ₂ (1 atm)/NaOAc (1 equiv)	40	16	15
11	O ₂ (1 atm)/3-nitropyridine (20 mol %)	40	16	11
12	O ₂ (1 atm)/Bu ₄ NBr (2 equiv)	25	16	76 ^c
13	O₂ (1 atm)/Bu₄NBr (2 equiv)	60	16	89^c
14	open air/Bu ₄ NBr (2 equiv)	60	16	67
15	Cu(OAc)₂ (3 equiv)	40	12	93^c
16	CuCl ₂ (3 equiv)	40	12	0
17	AgOAc (3 equiv)	40	12	0
18	BzOO <i>t</i> Bu (3 equiv)	40	12	23
19	BQ (2 equiv)	40	12	8
20	<i>t</i> BuOO <i>t</i> Bu (2 equiv)	40	12	5
21	PhI(OAc) ₂ (3 equiv)	40	12	0
22	DDQ (2 equiv)	40	12	0
23	Cu(OAc) ₂ (3 equiv)/DMF instead of DMSO	40	12	0
24	Cu(OAc) ₂ (3 equiv)/dioxane instead of DMSO	40	12	0
25	Cu(OAc) ₂ (3 equiv)/MeCN instead of DMSO	40	12	0
26 ^d	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10 mol%), Cu(OAc) ₂ (3 equiv), K ₂ CO ₃ (3 equiv) DMF (0.08 M), 80 °C			0
27 ^d	CuI (5 mol%), phen (17.5 mol%), Li ₂ CO ₃ (2 equiv) DMF, 100 °C, air			0
28 ^d	PhI(OAc) ₂ (1.3 equiv), DCE, 60 °C			0
29 ^d	FeCl ₃ (10 mol%), Cu(OAc) ₂ ·CuCl ₂ (3 equiv), K ₂ CO ₃ (3 equiv) DMF, 120 °C			0

^a Reaction was performed on a 0.2 mmol scale unless otherwise noted. ^b Determined by GC using *n*-tridecane as an internal standard. ^c Isolated yield. ^d Reaction conditions were adopted from the literature.^{16,17,19,20}

Scheme S1. Indole Synthesis from *N*-Aryl Imines: Comparison of Aerobic and Copper(II)-Mediated Systems^a



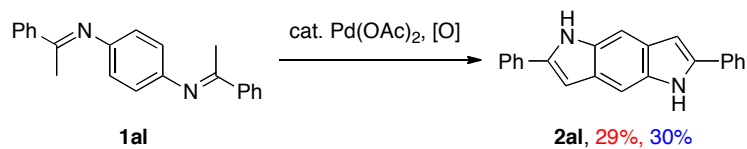
^a Reaction was performed on a 0.2 mmol scale. Isolated yields obtained under conditions A and B are shown in red and blue, respectively. ^b NR'₂ = morpholino. ^c NA = Not examined. ^d 20 mol % of Pd(OAc)₂ was used. ^e A regioisomeric product was obtained in 7% yield. ^f A regioisomeric product was obtained in 5% yield. ^g Estimated by GC analysis. ^h The starting material was in the form of enamine.

Scheme S2. Twofold Oxidative Cyclizations: Comparison of Aerobic and Copper(II)-Mediated Systems^a

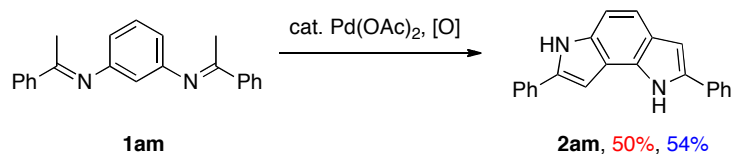
Conditions A: Pd(OAc)₂ (20 mol %), Bu₄NBr (4 equiv), O₂ (1 atm), DMSO, 60 °C, 24 h

Conditions B: Pd(OAc)₂ (20 mol %), Cu(OAc)₂ (4-6 equiv), DMSO, 40 °C, 24 h

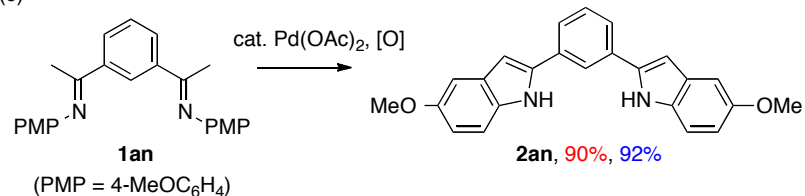
(a)



(b)



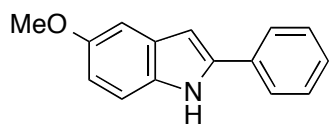
(c)



^a Reaction was performed on a 0.2 mmol scale. Isolated yields obtained with conditions A and B are shown in red and blue, respectively.

General Procedure for Pd/Bu₄NBr/O₂ System: A Schlenk tube equipped with a stirrer bar was charged with *N*-aryl imine (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol%) and Bu₄NBr (129 mg, 0.4 mmol), followed by addition of DMSO (1 mL). The Schlenk tube was quickly evacuated, closed under vacuum, and then refilled with oxygen using an oxygen balloon. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. Upon cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with 5 mL of ethyl acetate, followed by filtration through a pad of silica gel. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford the indole product.

General Procedure for Pd/Cu System: A Schlenk tube equipped with a stirrer bar was charged with *N*-aryl imine (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol%) and Cu(OAc)₂ (109 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3 equiv). The Schlenk tube was evacuated and refilled with N₂ for three times, followed by addition of DMSO (1 mL). The Schlenk tube was sealed with a Teflon screwcap and then the reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 12 h. Upon cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with 5 mL of ethyl acetate, followed by filtration through a pad of silica gel. The filtrate was washed with water (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and then concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography on silica gel was purified afforded the indole product.



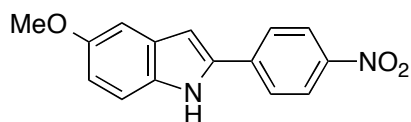
5-Methoxy-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole (2a)²¹

10 mmol-scale reaction (eq 1): A 100 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a stirrer bar was charged with (*E*)-4-methoxy-*N*-(1-phenylethylidene)aniline (10 mmol, 2.25 g), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.22 g, 1 mmol, 10 mol%) and Bu₄NBr (6.45 g, 20 mmol, 2 equiv), followed by addition of DMSO (50 mL). The flask was quickly evacuated, closed under vacuum, and then refilled with oxygen using an oxygen balloon. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60

°C for 24 h. Upon cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with 25 mL of ethyl acetate, followed by filtration through a pad of silica gel. The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum, and the residue was purified on silica gel to afford the title compound as an off-white solid (1.87 g, 84%).

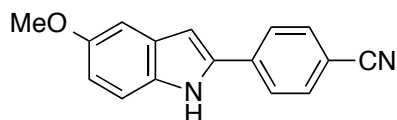
50 mmol-scale reaction (Table 1, entry 9): A 500 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a stirrer bar was charged with (*E*)-4-methoxy-*N*-(1-phenylethylidene)aniline (50 mmol, 11.3 g), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.56 g, 2.5 mmol, 5 mol%) and Cu(OAc)₂ (18.2 g, 100 mmol, 2 equiv). The flask was evacuated and refilled with N₂ for three times, followed by addition of DMSO (250 mL). The flask was sealed with a glass stopper and then the reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 48 h. Upon cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with 150 mL of ethyl acetate and filtered through a pad of silica gel using 100 mL of ethyl acetate as additional eluent. The filtrate was washed with water (3 x 250 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by recrystallization (EtOAc/hexane) to afford the title compound as an off-white solid (9.7 g, 87%). The product showed the same degree of analytical purity compared with that obtained by a small-scale reaction.

Mp = 169–170 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.26 (brs, 1H), 7.66–7.64 (m, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.5, 138.6, 132.4, 132.0, 129.7, 129.0, 127.7, 125.1, 112.6, 111.6, 102.3, 99.8, 55.8; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃ON [M + H]⁺ 224.1075, found 224.1069. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²²

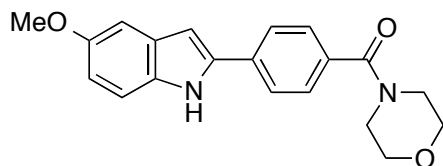


5-Methoxy-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-1*H*-indole (2b): Orange solid (92% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (85:15)); Mp = 200–201 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*₆): δ 10.8 (brs, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* =

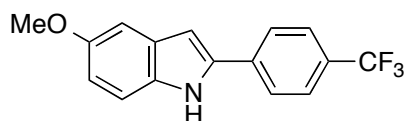
3.9 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (dd, $J = 8.7, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ 154.7, 146.3, 138.9, 135.8, 133.5, 129.5, 125.2, 124.2, 114.2, 112.3, 102.5, 101.8, 55.9; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 269.0926, found 269.0923.



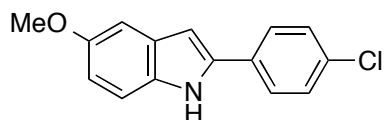
4-(5-Methoxy-1H-indol-2-yl)benzonitrile (2c): Pale yellow solid (91% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (85:15)); Mp = 195–196 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.33 (brs, 1H), 7.73–7.68 (m, 4H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.92 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.88 ($J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.8, 136.6, 136.1, 132.8, 132.7, 129.4, 125.1, 118.9, 114.4, 112.0, 110.5, 102.4, 102.3, 55.8; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 249.1028, found 249.1031.



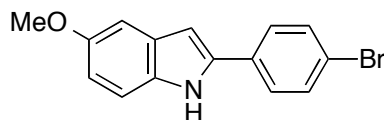
(4-(5-Methoxy-1H-indol-2-yl)phenyl)(morpholino)methanone (2d): The reaction was performed with the Pd/Cu system; Yellow solid (81% yield, eluent = hexane/acetone (60:40)); Mp = 223–224 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.79 (brs, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, $J = 8.7, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.72–3.54 (m, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 170.2, 154.6, 137.5, 134.2, 133.8, 132.4, 129.5, 128.0, 125.1, 113.2, 111.9, 102.2, 100.7, 66.9, 55.8 (signals of the carbon atoms bonded to the oxygen atom of the morpholine ring were not observed); **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 337.1552, found 337.1549.



5-Methoxy-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1*H*-indole (2e): White solid (86% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 196–197 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.26 (brs, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.7, 136.8, 135.7, 132.4, 129.5, 129.3 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 32.3 Hz), 126.0 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 3.8 Hz), 124.1 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 271.9 Hz), 125.0, 113.7, 111.9, 102.4, 101.5, 55.8; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₆H₁₂F₃ON [M + H]⁺ 292.0949, found 292.0947. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²²

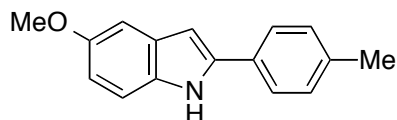


5-Methoxy-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1*H*-indole (2f): White solid (90% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 193–194 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.17 (brs, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.6, 137.4, 133.4, 132.1, 130.9, 129.7, 129.2, 126.2, 113.0, 111.7, 102.3, 100.3, 55.8; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂ONCl [M + H]⁺ 258.0686, found 258.0683. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²³

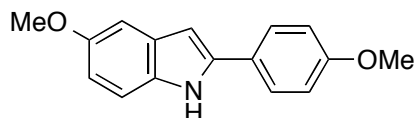


5-Methoxy-2-(4-bromophenyl)-1*H*-indole (2g): White solid (77% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 201–202 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.18 (brs, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.6, 137.4, 132.1, 131.4, 129.6, 126.5, 121.4, 113.1 (two signals are overlapped), 111.7, 102.3, 100.4, 55.8; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂ONBr [M + H]⁺

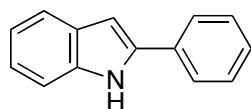
302.0181, found 302.0187.



5-Methoxy-2-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-indole (2h): White solid (86% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 186–187 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.17 (brs, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.07 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.5, 138.9, 137.6, 131.9, 129.8, 129.7, 129.6, 125.0, 112.4, 111.6, 102.2, 99.3, 55.9, 21.3; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 238.1232, found 238.1238. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²³

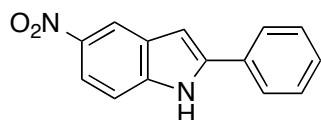


5-Methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-indole (2i): White solid (82% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (90:10)); Mp = 218–219 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.14 (brs, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.3, 154.5, 138.7, 131.8, 129.9, 126.4, 125.3, 114.5, 112.0, 111.4, 102.2, 98.7, 55.9, 55.4; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 254.1181, found 254.1188. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²⁴

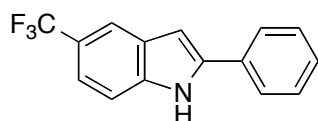


2-Phenyl-1*H*-indole (2j): White solid (87% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 189–190 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.29 (brs, 1H), 7.63 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (td, J = 7.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (td, J = 7.0, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ

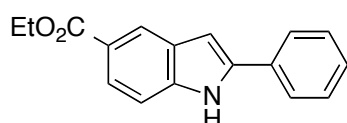
137.9, 136.8, 132.4, 129.3, 129.0, 127.7, 125.2, 122.3, 120.7, 120.3, 110.9, 100.0; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $C_{14}H_{11}N$ $[M + H]^+$ 194.0970, found 194.1974. The 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²²



5-Nitro-2-phenyl-1H-indole (2k): Yellow solid (58% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (90:10)); Mp = 199–200 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.76 (brs, 1H), 8.59 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 142.3, 141.1, 139.7, 131.1, 129.3, 128.8, 128.6, 125.4, 118.0, 117.7, 110.8, 101.7; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $C_{14}H_{10}N_2O_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 239.0821, found 239.0829. The 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²⁵

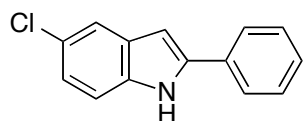


5-(Trifluoromethyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole (2l): White solid (81% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 153–154 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.46 (brs, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.47–7.42 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 139.7, 138.1, 131.6, 129.2, 128.6, 128.4, 125.3 (q, $^1J_{C-F}$ = 272 Hz), 125.3, 122.7 (q, $^2J_{C-F}$ = 32.6 Hz), 119.0 (q, $^3J_{C-F}$ = 3.6 Hz), 118.3 (q, $^3J_{C-F}$ = 4.4 Hz), 111.1, 100.6; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $C_{15}H_{10}NF_3$ $[M + H]^+$ 262.0844, found 262.0849. The 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²²

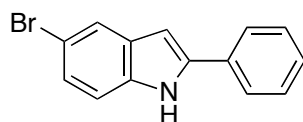


Ethyl 2-phenyl-1H-indole-5-carboxylate (2m): White solid (82% yield, eluent =

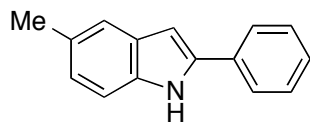
hexane/EtOAc (90:10)); Mp = 184–185 °C; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.76 (brs, 1H), 8.41 (s, 1H), 7.93 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.8, 139.4, 139.3, 131.8, 129.1, 128.8, 128.2, 125.3, 123.7, 123.5, 122.6, 110.6, 100.9, 60.7, 14.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₇H₁₅NO₂ [M + H]⁺ 266.1181, found 266.1187.



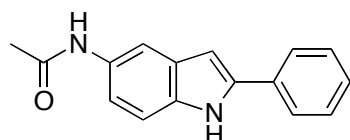
5-Chloro-2-phenyl-1H-indole (2n): White solid (88% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 196–197 °C; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.33 (br s, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.31 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.3, 135.1, 131.8, 130.3, 129.1, 128.1, 125.8, 125.2, 122.5, 119.9, 111.8, 99.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₄H₁₀ClN [M + H]⁺ 228.0580, found 228.0578. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²⁶



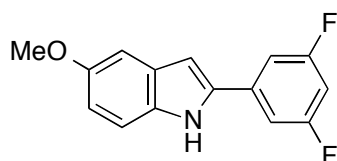
5-Bromo-2-phenyl-1H-indole (2o): White solid (93% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 196–197 °C; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.32 (brs, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1 H), 7.63–7.60 (com, 2 H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.25–7.24 (com, 2H), 6.73 (s, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.0, 135.3, 131.7, 130.9, 129.0, 128.1, 125.2, 125.1, 123.0, 113.4, 112.2, 99.4; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₄H₁₀NBr [M + H]⁺ 272.0075, found 272.0085. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²¹



5-Methyl-2-phenyl-1H-indole (2p): White solid (92% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 216–218 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.13 (brs, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33–7.31 (com, 3H), 7.23–7.14 (com, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 137.9, 135.1, 132.5, 129.5, 129.4, 128.9, 127.5, 125.0, 123.9, 120.3, 110.5, 99.5, 21.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 208.1126, found 208.1121. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²²

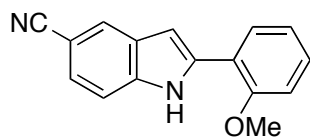


N-(2-Phenyl-1H-indol-5-yl)acetamide (2q): Pale yellow solid (64% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (20:80)); Mp = 218–219 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ 10.60 (brs, 1H), 9.01 (brs, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33–7.27 (m, 3H), 6.85 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ 167.4, 138.6, 134.3, 132.7, 132.4, 129.2, 128.9, 127.3, 125.0, 115.5, 110.9, 110.7, 99.1, 23.4; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 251.1184, found 251.1185.

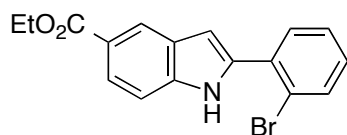


5-Methoxy-2-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-indole (2r): White solid (86% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 149–150 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.16 (brs, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.11–7.07 (m, 3H), 6.89 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.76–6.70 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.6 (dd, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 248.3 Hz, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 13.8 Hz), 154.7, 136.2 (t, $^4J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.9 Hz), 135.6 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 10.4 Hz), 132.3, 129.4, 113.9, 120.0, 107.7 (dd, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 19.0 Hz, $^4J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 7.3 Hz), 102.7 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 25.6 Hz), 102.4, 101.6, 55.8;

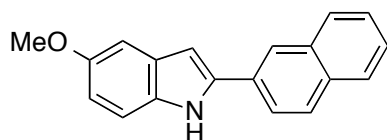
HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $C_{15}H_{11}ONF_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 260.0887, found 260.0891.



2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-1H-indole-5-carbonitrile (2s): White solid (89% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (70:30)); Mp = 145–146 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 9.99 (s, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.81 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.32 (com, 2H), 7.11–7.04 (com, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ 155.9, 138.5, 137.6, 129.6, 128.5, 127.8, 125.7, 124.6, 121.7, 121.1, 119.3, 120.0, 111.8, 102.7, 100.1, 55.9; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $C_{16}H_{13}N_2O$ $[M + H]^+$ 249.1028, found 249.1018.

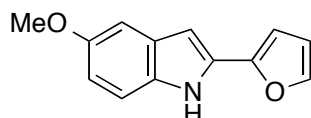


Ethyl 2-(2-bromophenyl)-1H-indole-5-carboxylate (2t): White solid (22% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (90:10)); Mp = 157–158 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.84 (brs, 1H), 8.44 (s, 1H), 7.95 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.22 (m, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 1.4, 1H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 167.6, 138.7, 137.6, 134.1, 132.9, 131.5, 129.6, 127.8, 127.7, 124.0, 123.8, 122.7, 121.3, 110.7, 104.7, 60.6, 14.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $C_{17}H_{14}BrNO_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 344.0286, found 344.0280.

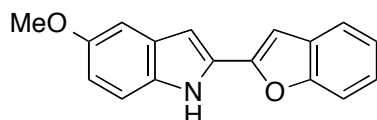


5-Methoxy-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1H-indole (2u): White solid (78% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 213–214 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.37 (brs, 1H),

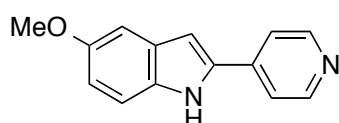
8.03 (s, 1H), 7.90–7.79 (m, 4H), 7.52–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.90–6.87 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.6, 138.6, 133.6, 132.8, 132.3, 129.9, 129.8, 128.8, 128.0, 127.8, 126.7, 126.1, 123.7, 122.9, 112.9, 111.7, 102.3, 100.5, 55.9; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 274.1232, found 274.1228.



2-(Furan-2-yl)-5-methoxy-1H-indole (2v): White solid (76% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 185–186 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.33 (brs, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.49–6.47 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.6, 147.8, 141.7, 131.3, 129.9, 129.3, 112.8, 111.8, 111.6, 105.3, 102.2, 98.7, 55.8; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 214.0868, found 214.0872.

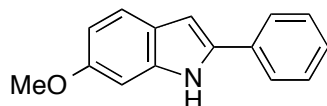


2-(Benzofuran-2-yl)-5-methoxy-1H-indole (2w): White solid (84% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 185–186 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.54 (brs, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.08 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.93–6.88 (m, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.7, 154.5, 149.4, 131.7, 129.2, 129.2, 129.1, 124.4, 123.3, 120.9, 113.7, 111.9, 111.0, 102.2, 101.3, 101.0, 55.8; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 264.1025, found 264.1025.

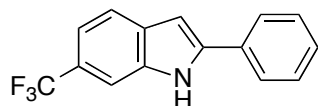


5-Methoxy-2-(pyridin-4-yl)-1H-indole (2x): Yellow solid (80% yield, eluent =

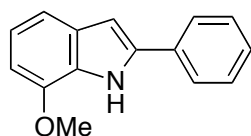
hexane/EtOAc (20:80)); Mp = 207–208 °C; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.68 (brs, 1H), 8.64 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.8, 150.4, 139.5, 135.2, 132.6, 129.3, 119.0, 114.5, 112.1, 102.6, 102.3, 55.8; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂N₂O [M + H]⁺ 225.1028, found 225.1031.



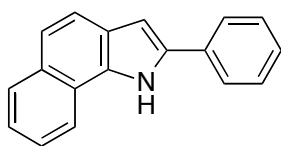
6-Methoxy-2-phenyl-1H-indole (2y): White solid (74% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 177–178 °C; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.22 (brs, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.79 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.7, 137.7, 136.8, 132.6, 129.0, 127.3, 124.7, 123.6, 121.3, 110.2, 99.9, 94.5, 55.7; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃NO [M + H]⁺ 224.1075, found 224.1085. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²²



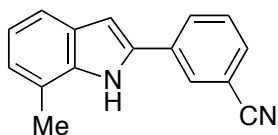
6-Trifluoromethyl-2-phenyl-1H-indole (2z): White solid (72% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (95:5)); Mp = 171–172 °C; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.52 (brs, 1H), 7.71–7.68 (m, 4H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.41–7.36 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.6, 135.6, 131.6, 129.2, 128.5, 125.2 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 271.0 Hz), 125.4, 124.2 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 31.9 Hz), 120.9, 117.1 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 3.6 Hz), 117.0, 108.4 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 4.0 Hz), 100.1; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₀F₃N [M + H]⁺ 262.0844, found 262.0847. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²²



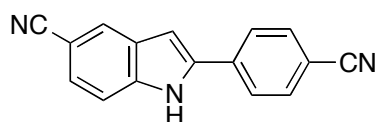
7-Methoxy-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole (2aa): White solid (67% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 94–95 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.58 (brs, 1H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31–7.27 (com, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.9, 137.5, 132.4, 130.4, 128.9, 127.5, 127.2, 125.1, 120.5, 113.3, 102.1, 100.2, 55.3; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃NO [M + H]⁺ 224.1075, found 224.1085. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²⁷



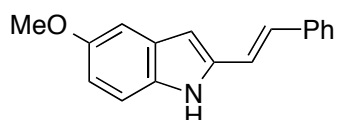
2-Phenylbenzo[*g*]indole (2ab): White solid (88% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 171–172 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.98 (brs, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.71–7.68 (m, 3H), 7.54–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 3H), 7.31 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 136.3, 132.5, 131.4, 130.6, 129.2, 129.1, 127.5, 125.6, 125.3, 125.0, 124.0, 121.6, 121.2, 120.6, 119.4, 101.7; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₈H₁₃N [M + H]⁺ 244.1126, found 244.1122. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²⁸



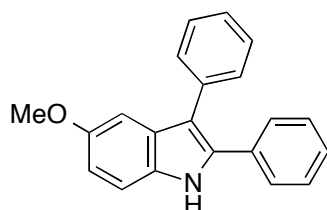
3-(7-Methyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl)benzonitrile (2ac): White solid (87% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 193–194 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.37 (brs, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.10–7.05 (m, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 136.9, 135.1, 133.9, 130.6, 129.9, 129.4, 128.5, 128.4, 123.9, 120.9, 120.5, 118.8, 118.7, 113.2, 102.2, 16.8; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₆H₁₂N₂ [M + H]⁺ 233.1079, found 233.1075.



2-(4-Cyanophenyl)-1H-indole-5-carbonitrile (2ad): White solid (74% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (90:10)); Mp = 306–307 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 12.38 (s, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 138.7, 137.7, 135.0, 132.5, 127.5, 125.8, 125.3, 124.7, 120.0, 118.3, 112.3, 109.6, 101.5, 101.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 244.0875, found 244.0882.

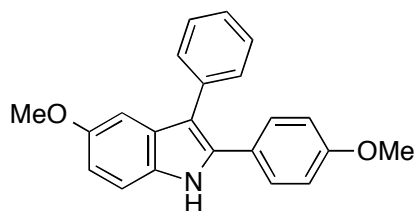


(E)-5-Methoxy-2-styryl-1H-indole (2ae): Light brown solid (78% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 150–151 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ 10.37 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.29 (com, 3H), 7.15 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ 154.9, 138.1, 138.0, 133.4, 130.1, 129.3, 127.9, 127.3, 126.7, 120.1, 113.3, 112.1, 103.7, 102.2, 55.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 250.1232, found 250.1224.

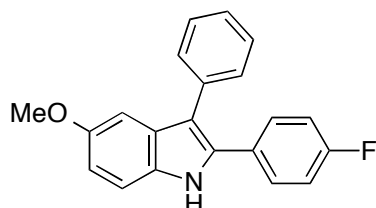


5-Methoxy-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (2af): The reaction was performed with the Pd/Cu system; White solid (86% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 159–160 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.13 (brs, 1H), 7.45–7.38 (m, 6H), 7.34–7.28 (m, 5H), 7.12 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.8, 135.2, 135.0, 132.8, 131.1, 130.1, 129.2, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 127.6, 126.2, 115.0, 113.1, 111.7, 101.3, 56.0; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 300.1388, found

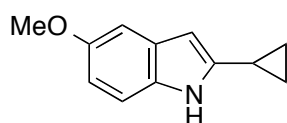
300.1386.



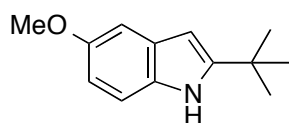
5-Methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenyl-1H-indole (2ag): The reaction was performed with the Pd/Cu system; White solid (82% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 58–59 °C; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.46–7.38 (com, 4H), 7.34–7.29 (com, 4H), 7.14 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.1 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.1, 154.7, 135.4, 135.0, 130.9, 130.0, 129.3, 129.1, 128.5, 126.0, 125.2, 114.1, 114.0, 112.5, 111.5, 101.1, 55.9, 55.2; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 330.1494, found 330.1491.



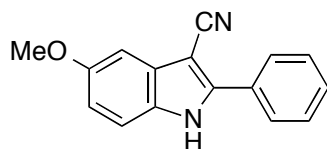
5-Methoxy-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-phenyl-1H-indole (2ah): The reaction was performed with the Pd/Cu system; White solid (74% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 140–141 °C; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.40–7.37 (com, 4H), 7.33–7.26 (com, 4H), 7.10 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.3 (d, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 248 Hz), 154.9, 135.0, 134.1, 131.1, 130.1, 129.8 (d, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 7.9 Hz), 129.1, 128.8 (d, $^4J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.2 Hz), 128.7, 126.3, 115.7 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 21.6 Hz), 115.0, 113.1, 111.8, 101.3, 56.0; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 318.1294, found 318.1292.



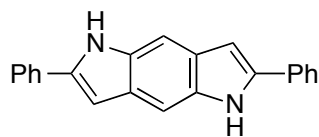
2-Cyclopropyl-5-methoxy-1*H*-indole (2ai): Yellow oil (84% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (brs, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.97–1.90 (m, 1H), 0.99–0.94 (m, 2H), 0.80–0.75 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.2, 142.6, 130.9, 129.2, 110.9, 110.8, 101.9, 97.6, 55.9, 9.0, 7.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₁₂H₁₃NO [M + H]⁺ 188.1075, found 188.1082.



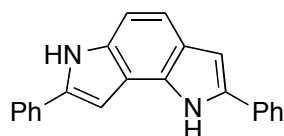
2-(*tert*-Butyl)-5-methoxy-1*H*-indole (2aj): White solid (61% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 104–105 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (brs, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.37 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.1, 149.7, 130.9, 129.0, 111.1, 111.0, 102.2, 96.9, 56.0, 31.9, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₁₃H₁₇NO [M + H]⁺ 204.1388, found 204.1391. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data are in good agreement with the literature data.²⁹



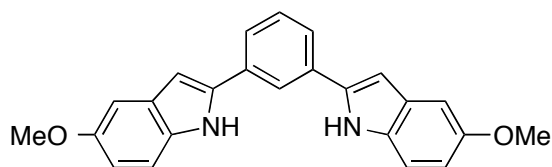
5-Methoxy-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2ak): The reaction was performed according to the general procedure with enamine as the starting material; White solid (85% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (90:10)); Mp = 251–252 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 12.49 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 156.0, 145.1, 130.9, 130.3, 130.0, 129.8, 129.7, 127.3, 117.7, 114.8, 114.1, 100.1, 81.7, 55.9; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₁₆H₁₂ON₂ [M + H]⁺ 224.1075, found 224.1069.



2,6-Diphenyl-1,5-dihydropyrrolo[2,3-*f*]indole (2al): The reaction was performed using 20 mol% of Pd(OAc)₂ and 4 equiv of Bu₄NBr; Light brown solid (29% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (90:10)); Mp = 242–243 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.45 (s, 2H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.32 Hz, 4H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (s, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 135.0, 132.5, 131.6, 128.6, 126.2, 124.1, 120.3, 106.9, 97.4; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₂₂H₁₆N₂ [M + H]⁺ 309.1392, found 309.1397.

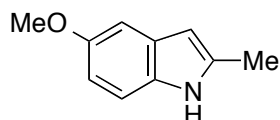


2,7-Diphenyl-1,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,3-*e*]indole (2am): The reaction was performed using 20 mol% of Pd(OAc)₂ and 4 equiv of Bu₄NBr; White solid (50% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (90:10)); Mp = 226–227 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.62 (s, 1H), 8.48 (s, 1H), 7.70–7.67 (com, 4H), 7.44–7.42 (com, 5H), 7.32–7.19 (com, 3H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 136.0, 134.7, 134.2, 133.0, 132.6, 129.6, 129.1, 129.0, 127.3, 126.8, 124.8, 124.6, 122.5, 116.2, 114.6, 105.7, 101.3, 96.1; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₂₂H₁₆N₂ [M + H]⁺ 309.1392, found 309.1390.

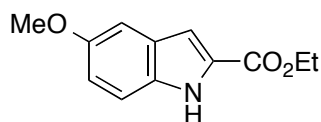


1,3-Bis(5-Methoxy-1H-indol-2-yl)benzene (2an): The reaction was performed using 20 mol % of Pd(OAc)₂ and 4 equiv of Bu₄NBr; Light brown solid (90% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (90:10)); Mp = 223–224 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*₆): δ 10.57 (s,

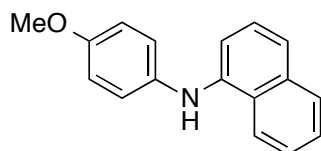
2H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 7.74 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.92 (dd, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.80 (dd, $J = 8.7, 2.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ 155.1, 138.9, 134.1, 133.3, 130.4, 130.1, 124.4, 122.1, 113.0, 112.4, 102.4, 100.1, 55.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 369.1603, found 369.1604.



5-Methoxy-2-methyl-1H-indole (2ao): The reaction was performed using 5 equiv of acetone (HPLC grade), 20 mol % of $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ and 3 equiv of $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$; Light yellow solid (55% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (92:8)); Mp = 85–86 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.72 (brs, 1H), 7.15 (dt, $J = 8.7, 0.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd, $J = 8.7, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.14–6.13 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.41 (d, $J = 0.7$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.2, 136.0, 131.2, 129.6, 110.9, 110.7, 101.9, 100.4, 56.0, 13.9; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 162.0919, found 162.0923. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra showed good agreement with the literature data.³⁰



Ethyl 5-methoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (2ap): The reaction was performed using 5 equiv of ethyl pyruvate, 20 mol % of $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ and 3 equiv of $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$; White solid (41% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (90:10)); Mp = 156–157 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.86 (brs, 1H), 7.31 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, $J = 8.9, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.40 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.41 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.9, 154.7, 132.1, 127.9, 127.8, 117.0, 112.7, 108.2, 102.6, 61.0, 55.7, 14.4; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 220.0974, found 220.0972.



***N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)naphthalen-1-amine (3, Scheme 4b):** Light brown solid (78% yield, eluent = hexane/EtOAc (98:2)); Mp = 111–112 °C; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.02–8.00 (m, 1H), 7.87–7.83 (m, 1H), 7.52–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09–7.05 (m, 2H), 6.91–6.87 (m, 2H), 5.87 (brs, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.1, 140.9, 136.9, 134.6, 128.6, 126.2, 126.0, 125.9, 125.4, 121.9, 121.1, 120.9, 114.8, 111.7, 55.6; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd for C₁₇H₁₅NO [M + H]⁺ 250.1232, found 250.1233. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra showed good agreement with the literature data.³¹

Kinetic Isotope Effect Experiments

(A) Intramolecular Competition Reaction (Scheme 3a)

The reaction of 2-deuterio-(*E*)-*N*-(1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethylidene)aniline (**1aq-d**, 0.2 mmol) was performed under the standard conditions for 12 h, followed by the standard workup and purification to afford a mixture of **2aq-d** and **2aq** in 84% yield, respectively. ^1H NMR analysis of the mixture indicated a KIE value of 5.2 (see the attached spectrum).

(B) Intermolecular Competition (Scheme 3b)

A mixture of **1aq** and **1aq-d₅** (0.2 mmol each) was subjected to the standard conditions for 3 h. Purification of the crude product on silica gel afforded a mixture of **2aq** and **2aq-d₄** in 22% combined yield, the ratio of which was determined to be 1.7:1 by ^1H NMR analysis (see the attached spectrum).

(C) Individual Reactions of **1aq** and **1aq-d₅** (Scheme 3c)

Parallel individual reactions of **1aq** and **1aq-d₅** under the standard conditions were monitored by GC analysis of periodically taken aliquots (0–360 min, Figure S1a). Comparison of the reaction progress in the early stage (0–20 min) indicated a kinetic isotope effect of 1.6 ± 0.4 (Figure S1b).

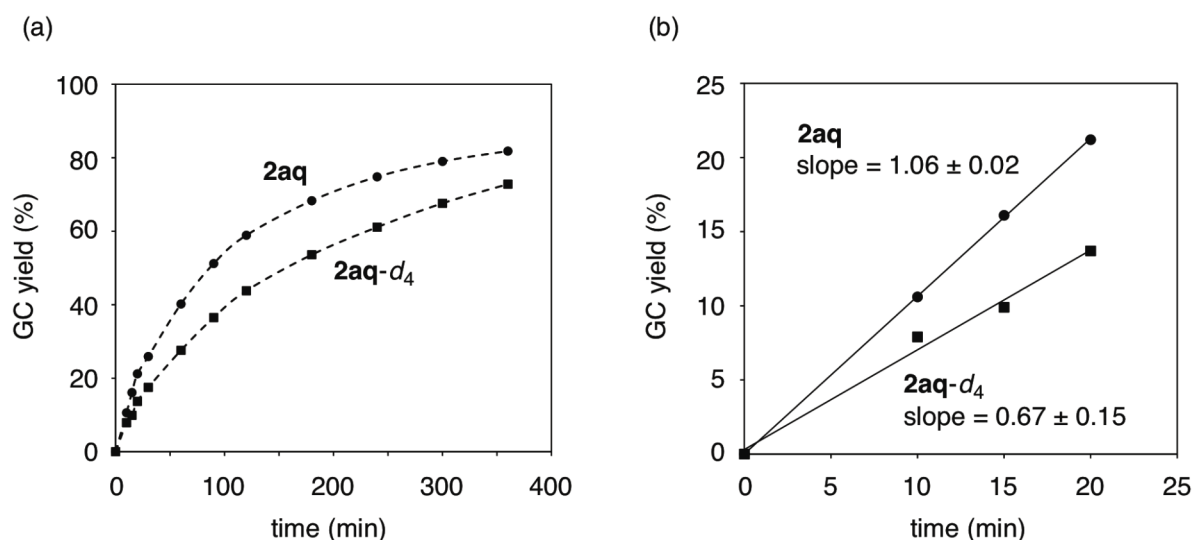


Figure S1. Progress of individual reactions of **1aq** and **1aq-d₅** as monitored by GC analysis.

Complete Reference 17

Kuduk, S. D.; Chang, R. K.; Wai, J. M. C.; Di Marco, C. N.; Cofre, V.; DiPardo, R. M.; Cook, S. P.; Cato, M. J.; Jovanovska, A.; Urban, M. O.; Leidl, M.; Spencer, R. H.; Kane, S. A.; Hartman, G. D.; Bilodeau, M. T. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2009**, *19*, 4059.

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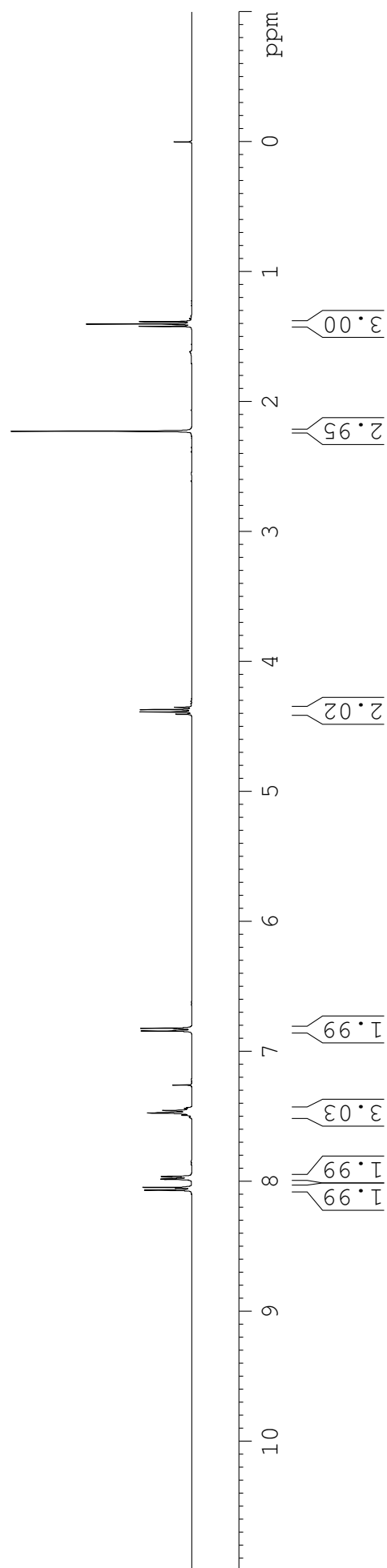
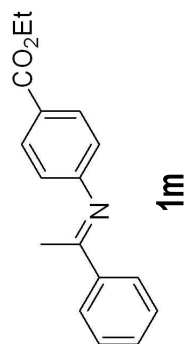
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¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of New Compounds

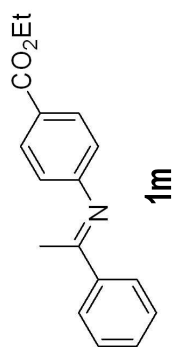
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6.849
6.844
6.839
6.827
6.822
6.817
4.406
4.388
4.370
4.352

2.228
1.421
1.403
1.385



wy-1-643 ¹³C NMR 400 MHz BBFO1 CDCl₃



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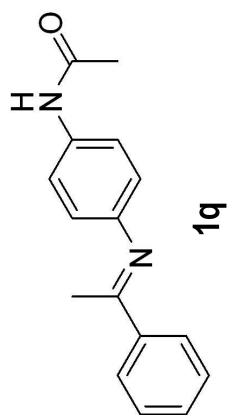
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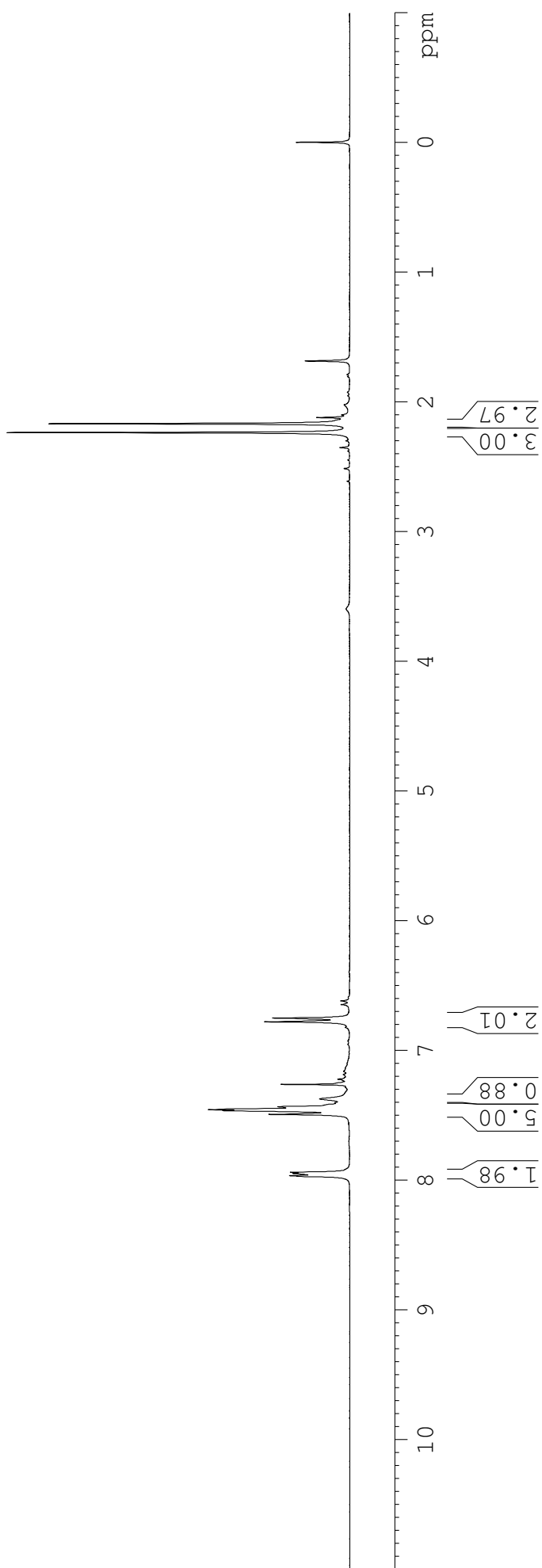
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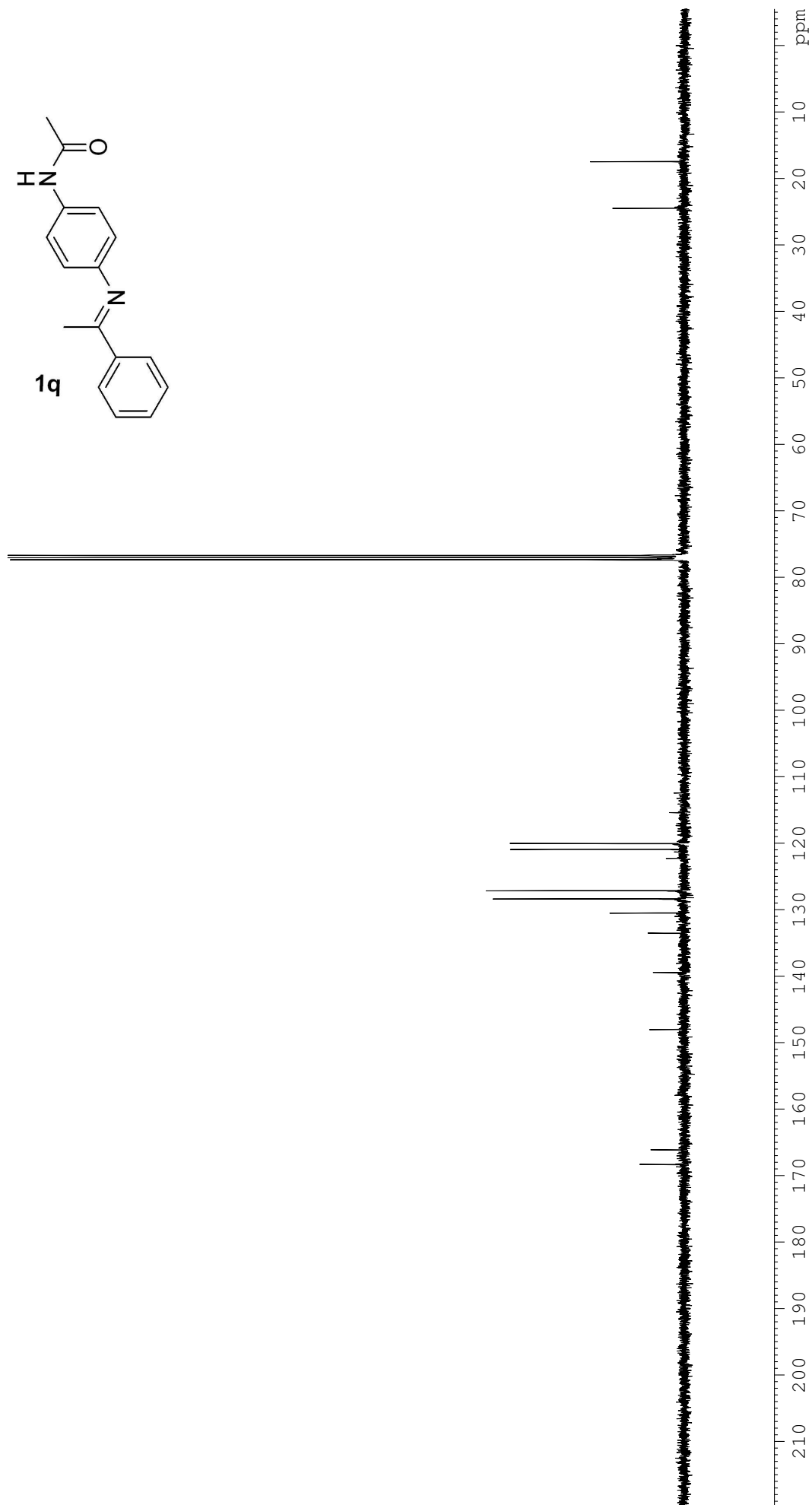
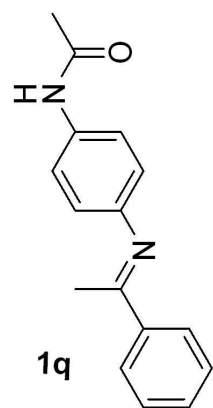
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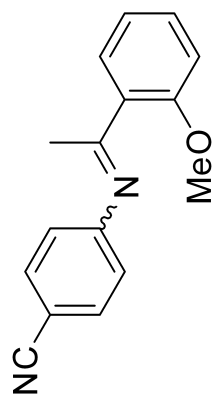


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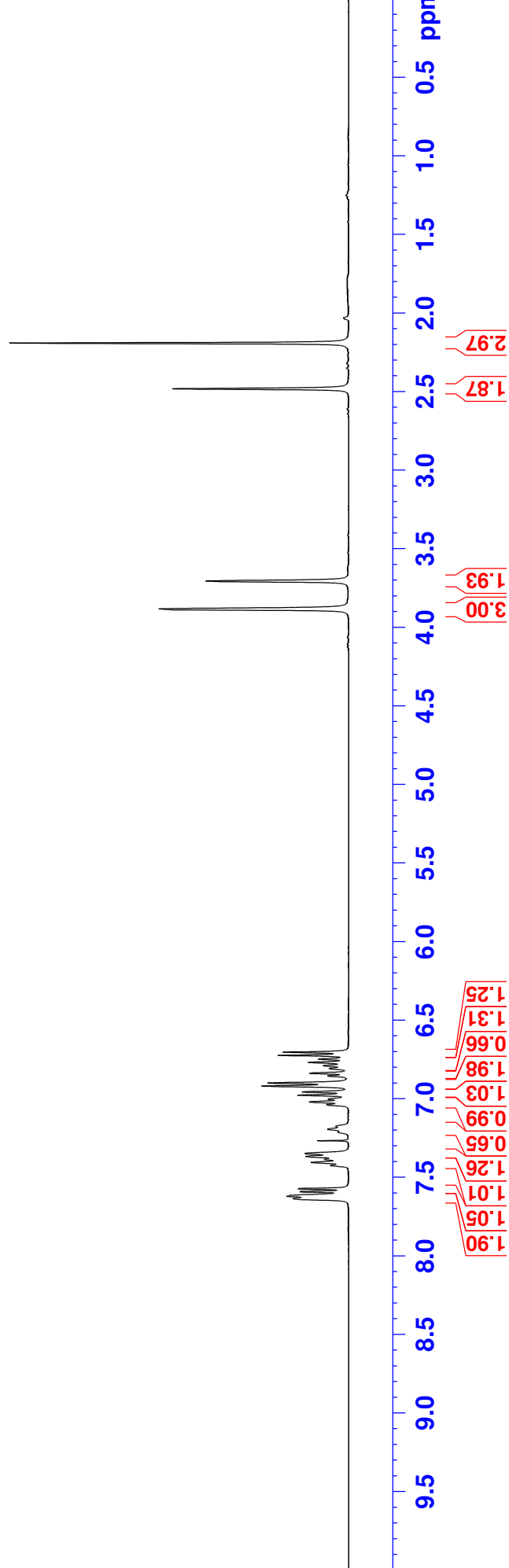
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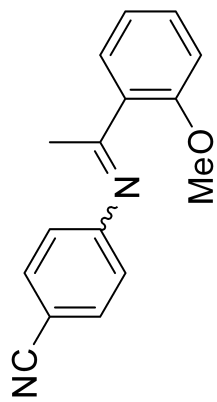
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IBD-2-34-13C, BBFO2 400MHz, 1H NMR, CDCl3



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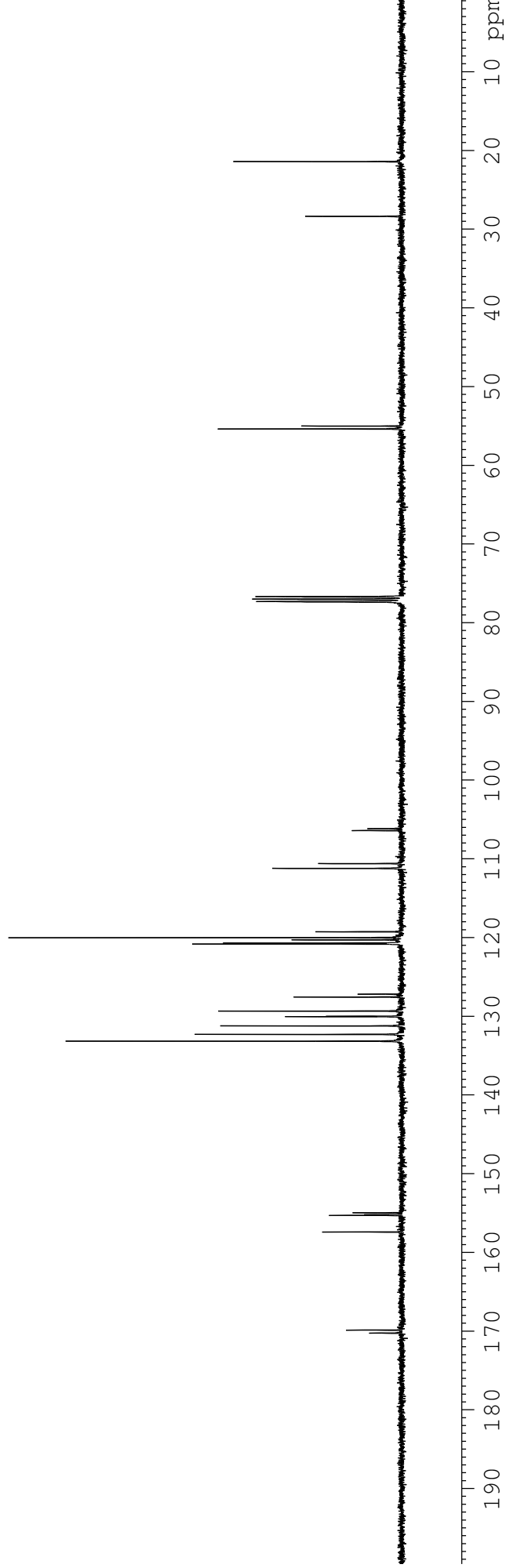
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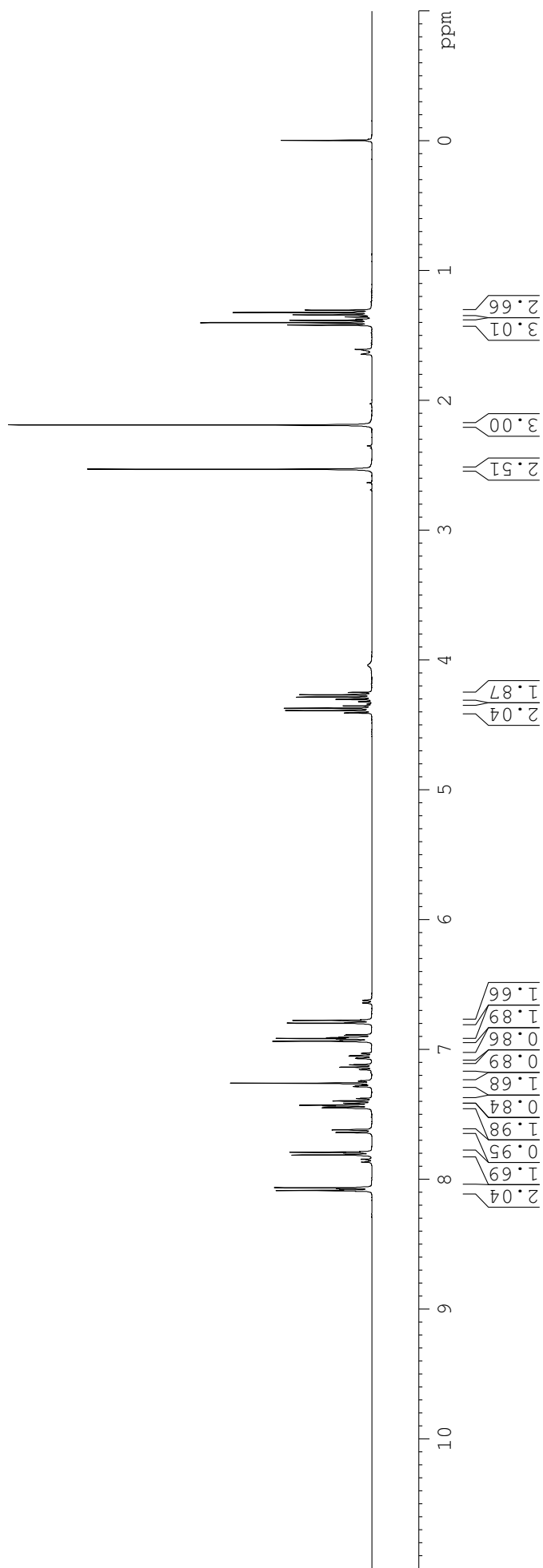
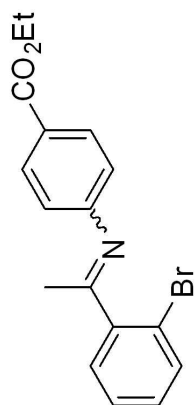
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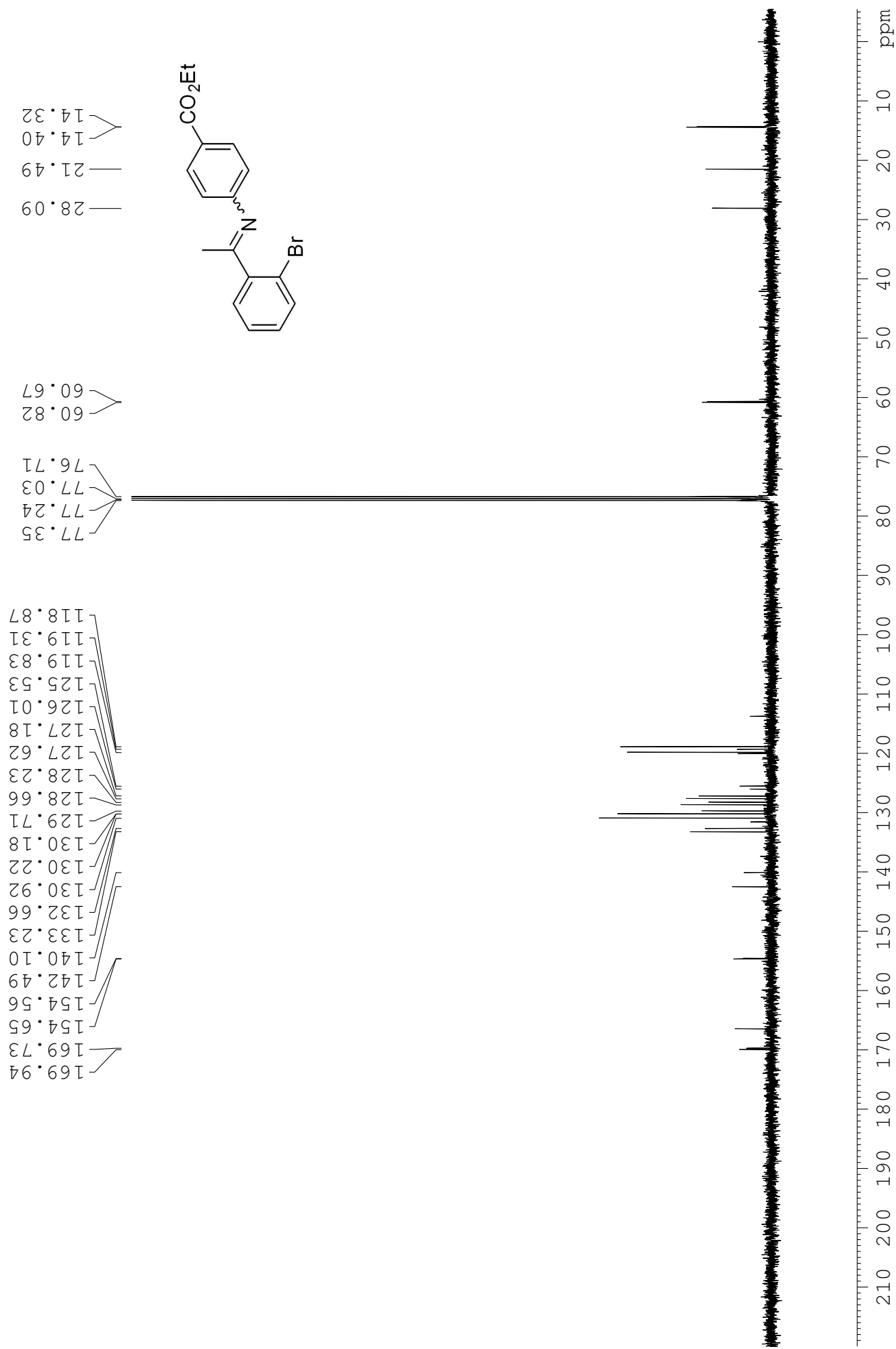
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106.17



wy-2-27, 1H NMR BBOF01, 400Hz, CDCl3

8.085, 8.080, 8.068, 8.063, 7.811, 7.806, 7.794, 7.789, 7.637, 7.617, 7.447, 7.432, 7.427, 7.413, 7.395, 7.376, 7.283, 7.279, 7.260, 7.245, 7.241, 7.156, 7.138, 7.119, 7.071, 7.067, 7.051, 7.048, 7.032, 7.028, 6.938, 6.933, 6.921, 6.916, 6.803, 6.798, 6.794, 6.782, 6.777, 6.772, 4.408, 4.390, 4.372, 4.354, 4.304, 4.286, 4.268, 4.250, 2.531, 2.190, 1.420, 1.402, 1.384, 1.341, 1.323, 1.306

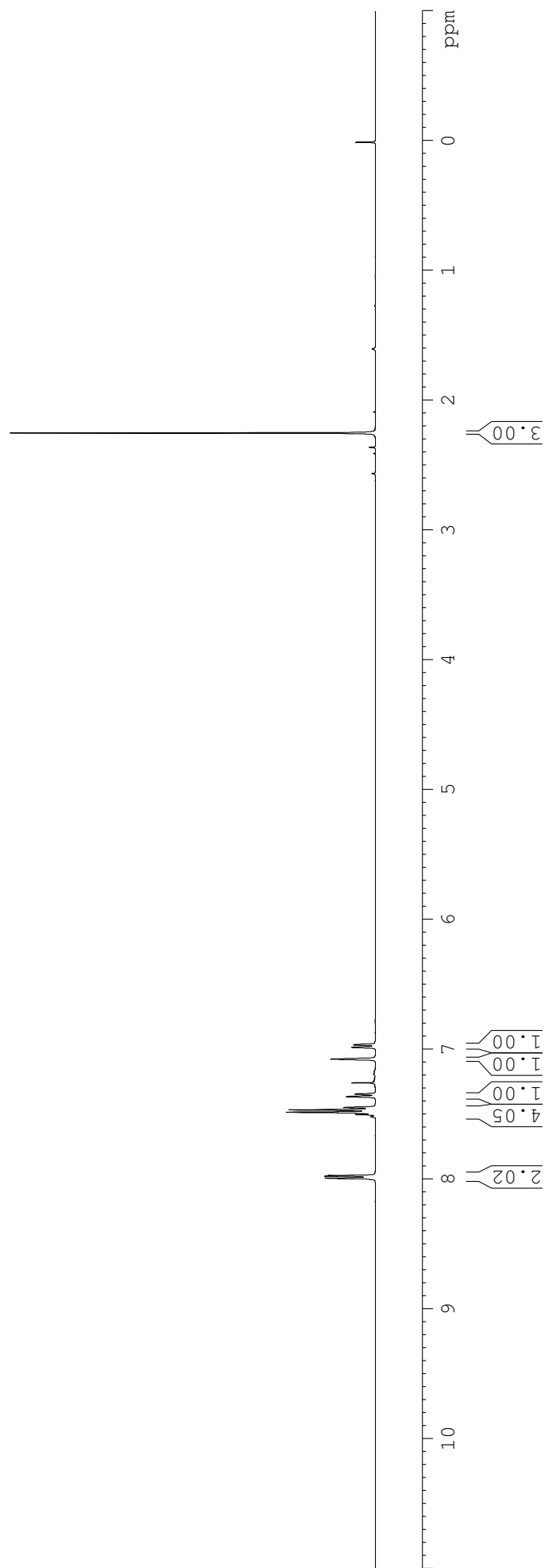
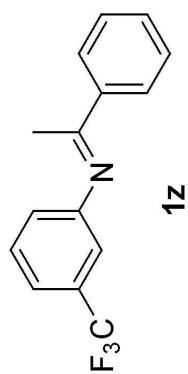




meta-CF₃ imine, ¹H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl₃

7.998
7.994
7.978
7.974
7.503
7.492
7.487
7.467
7.456
7.450
7.366
7.347
7.260
7.077
6.987
6.967

2.253

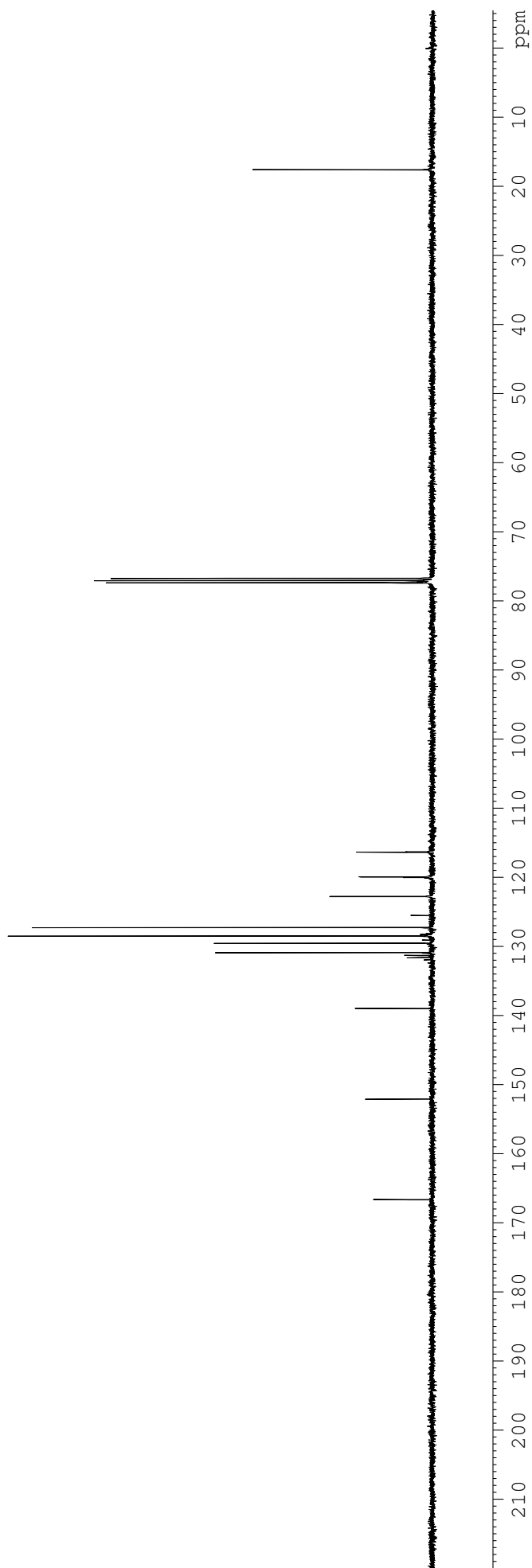
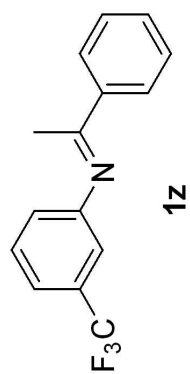


152.09
138.96
131.62
131.30
130.90
129.54
128.49
127.26
125.49
122.76
120.00
119.97
119.93
119.89
116.39
116.35
116.31

166.64

77.36
77.04
76.73

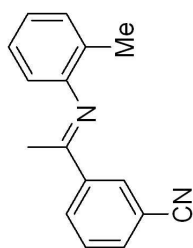
17.57



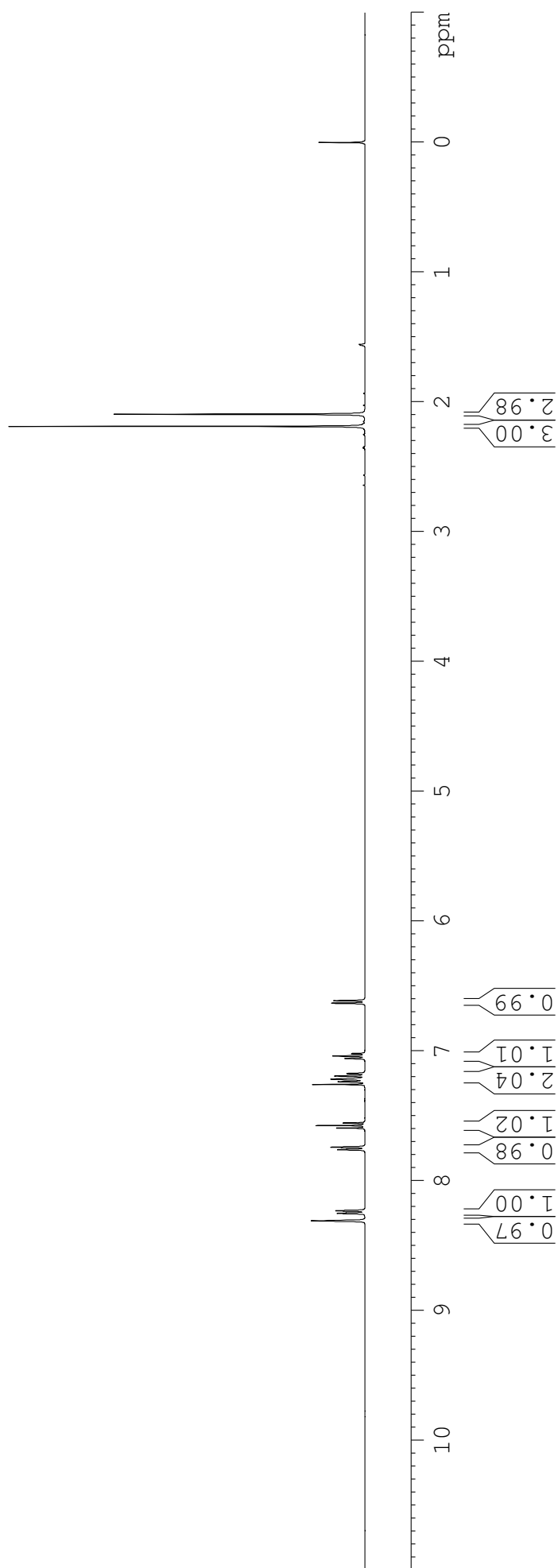
wy-2-14-2nd, ¹H NMR 400 MHz, BBFO2, CDCl₃

8.310
8.253
8.233
7.762
7.743
7.596
7.576
7.557
7.239
7.220
7.195
7.176
7.060
7.058
7.042
7.040
7.023
7.021
6.633
6.614

2.189
2.095

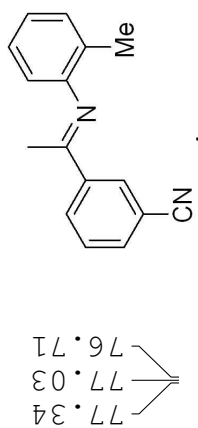


1ac

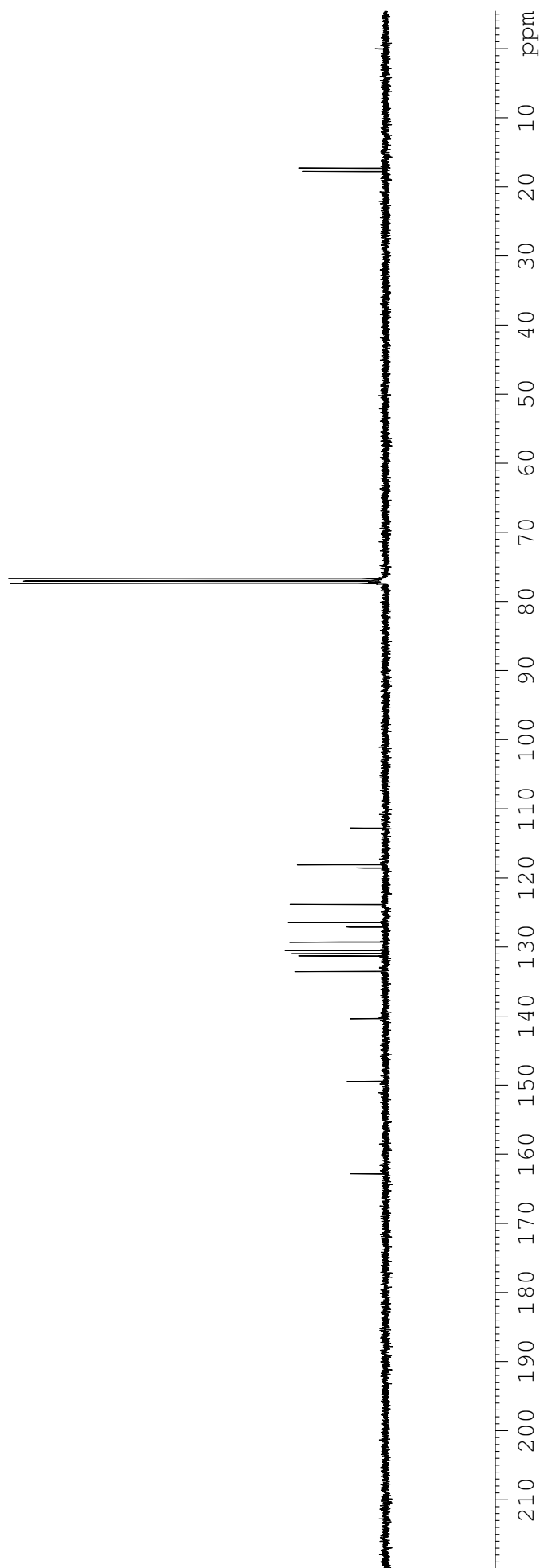


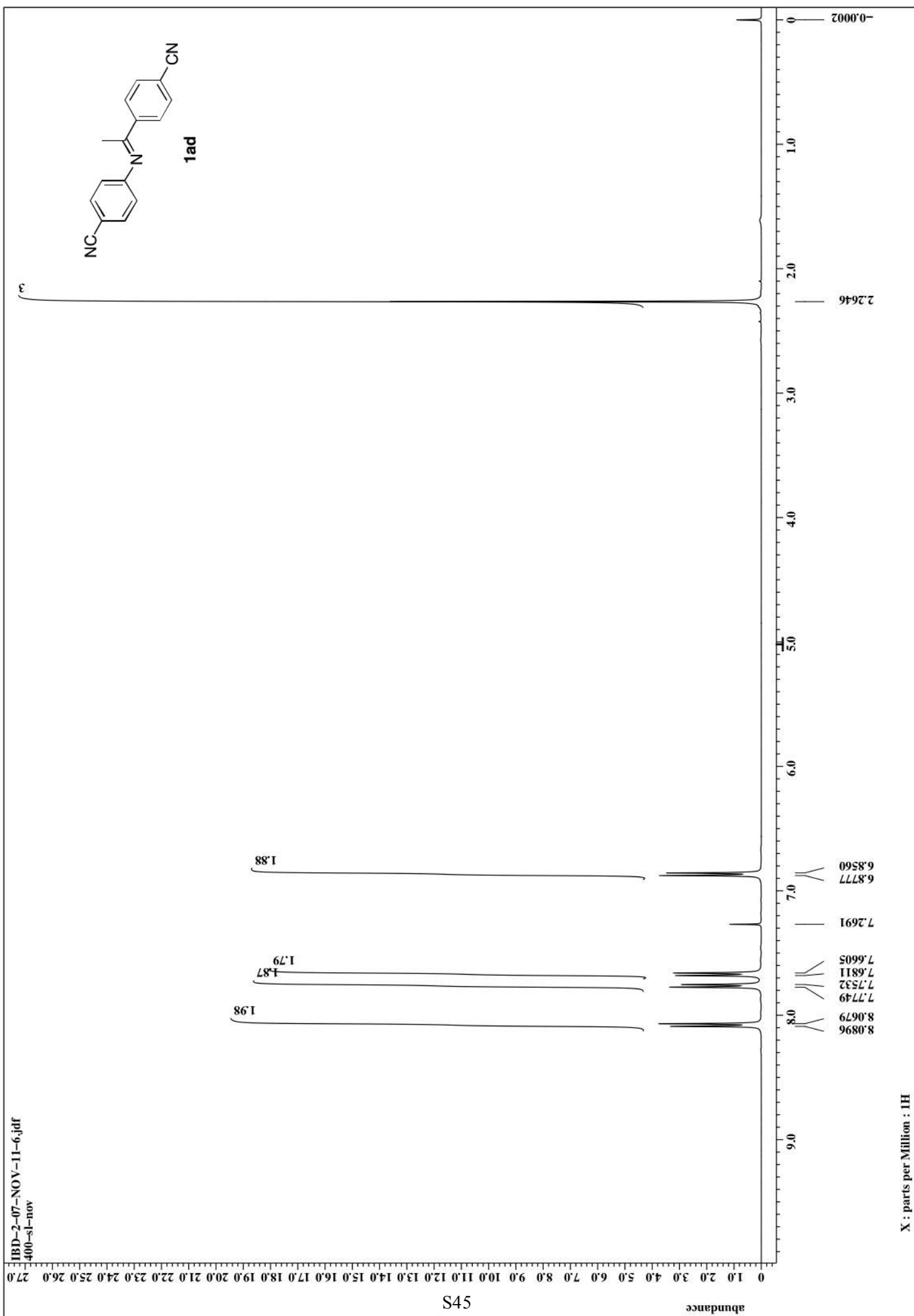
wy-2-14-2nd, ¹³C NMR 400 MHz, BBFO2, CDCl₃

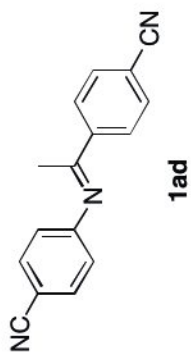
162.82
149.45
140.36
133.54
131.28
130.96
130.50
129.28
127.12
126.47
123.85
118.57
118.11
112.79



17.76
17.27







S46

abundance

17.7022

77.3205
76.9948
76.6787

107.1920

114.4634
118.2668
119.0428
119.6751

127.8854

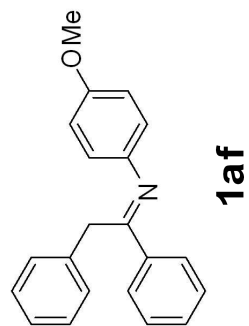
132.2636
133.3462

142.1122

154.8253

164.7122

X : parts per Million : 13C



— 36.06

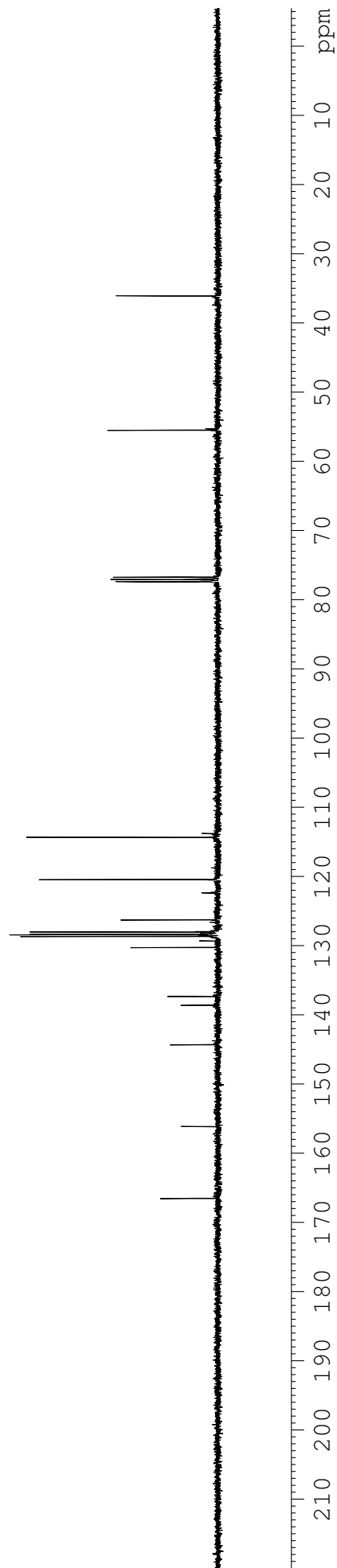
— 55.47

76.74
77.06
77.38

114.33
120.45
126.27
128.02
128.36
128.41
128.67
130.26
137.34
138.61
144.32

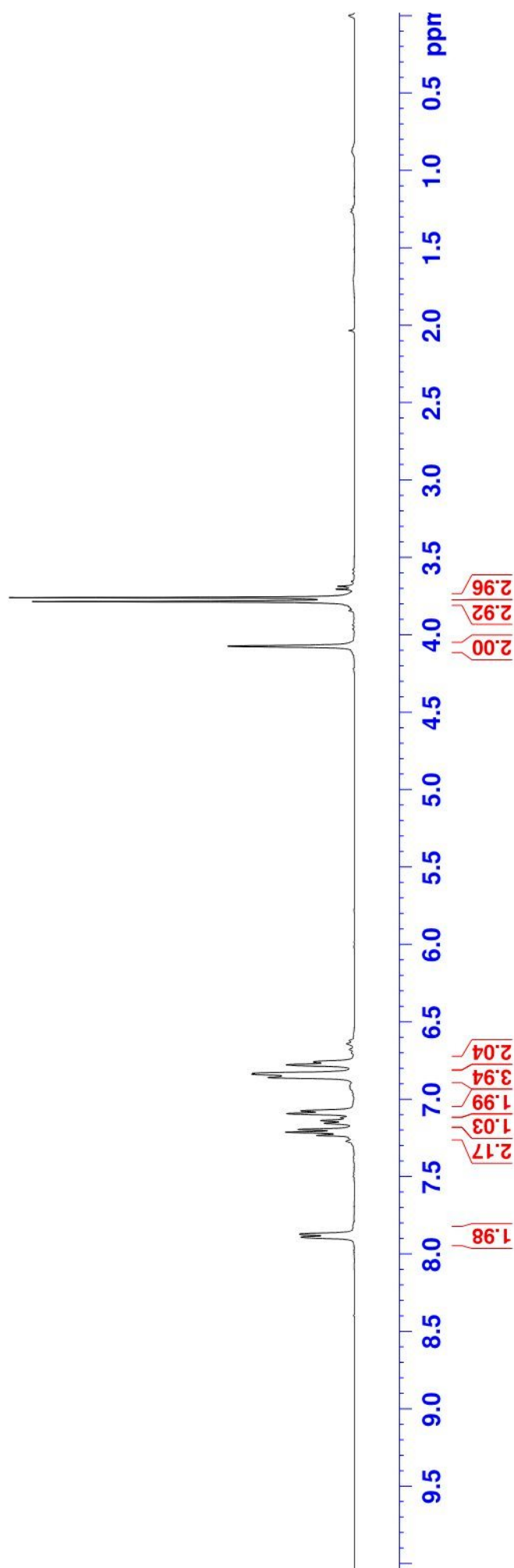
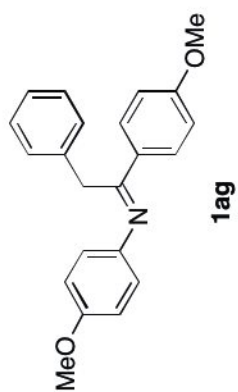
— 156.14

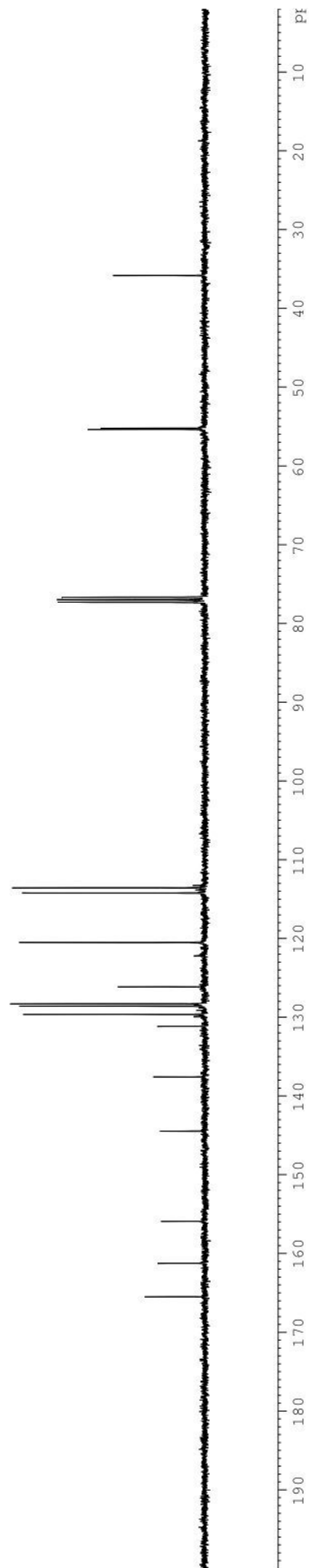
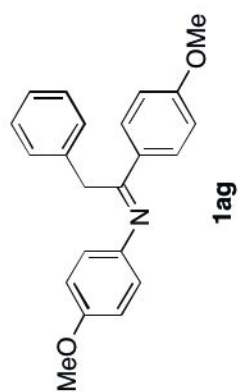
— 166.53

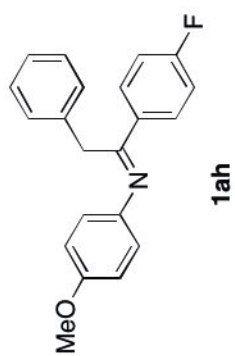


7.891
7.871
7.271
7.234
7.213
7.195
7.155
7.138
7.120
7.093
7.075
6.860
6.849
6.838
6.832
6.777
6.759

4.073
3.786
3.761

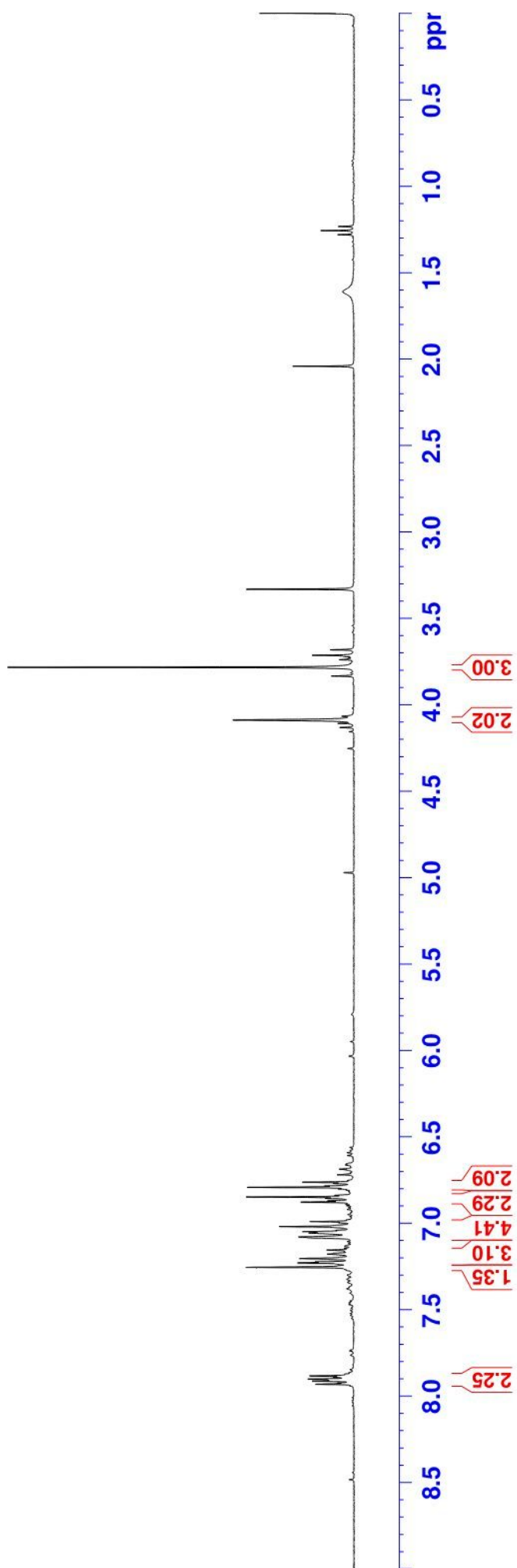






— 4.089
— 3.784
— 3.332

7.902
7.891
7.884
7.256
7.230
7.224
7.205
7.179
7.156
7.080
7.057
7.049
7.042
7.020
6.997
6.991
6.878
6.871
6.857
6.849
6.839
6.802
6.793
6.785
6.770
6.763

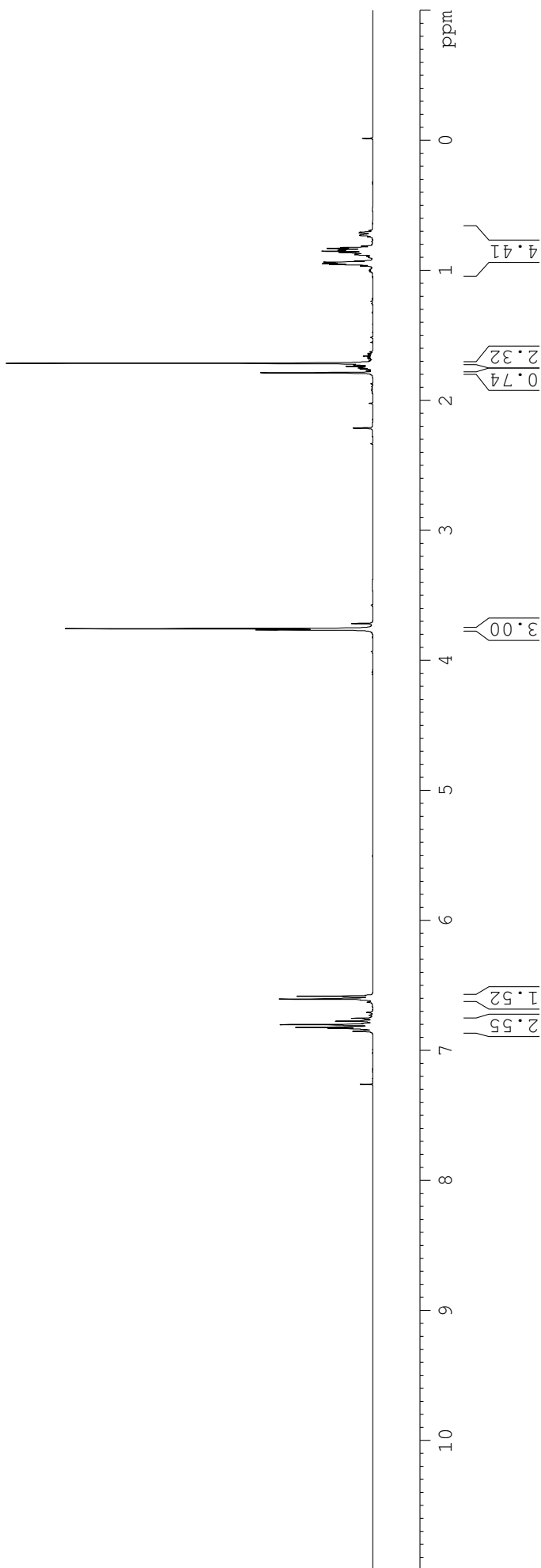
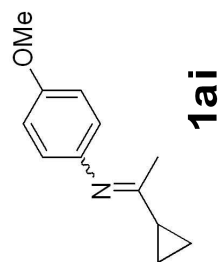


4-methoxy-1-(cyclopropylidene)benzene, ^1H NMR 400MHz in CDCl_3

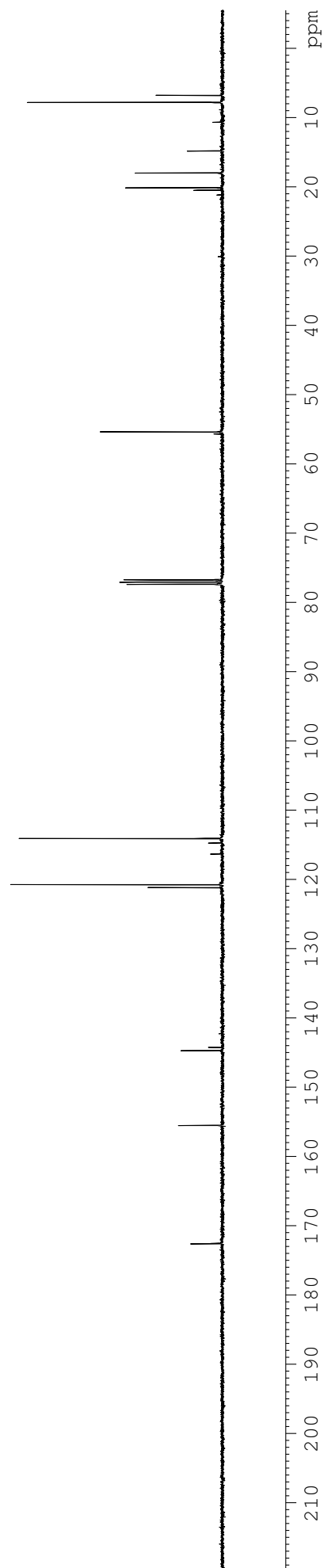
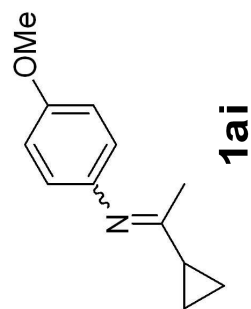
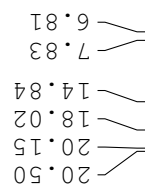
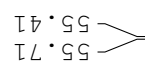
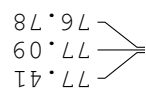
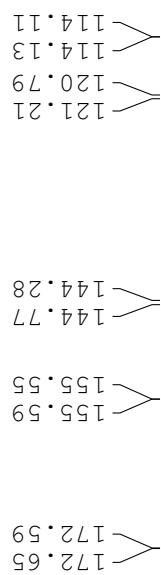
6.855
6.850
6.833
6.825
6.809
6.803
6.796
6.777
6.772
6.761
6.755
6.607
6.602
6.590
6.585

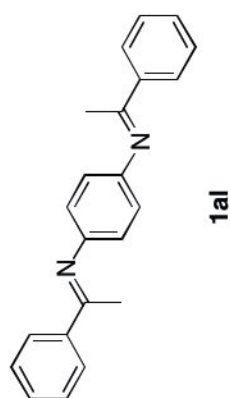
3.767
3.759

1.790
1.716
1.068
1.057
1.050
1.045
1.042
1.038
1.029
1.093
1.082
1.078
1.063
1.054
1.048
1.046
1.034
1.027
1.016
1.013
0.745
0.734
0.728
0.713



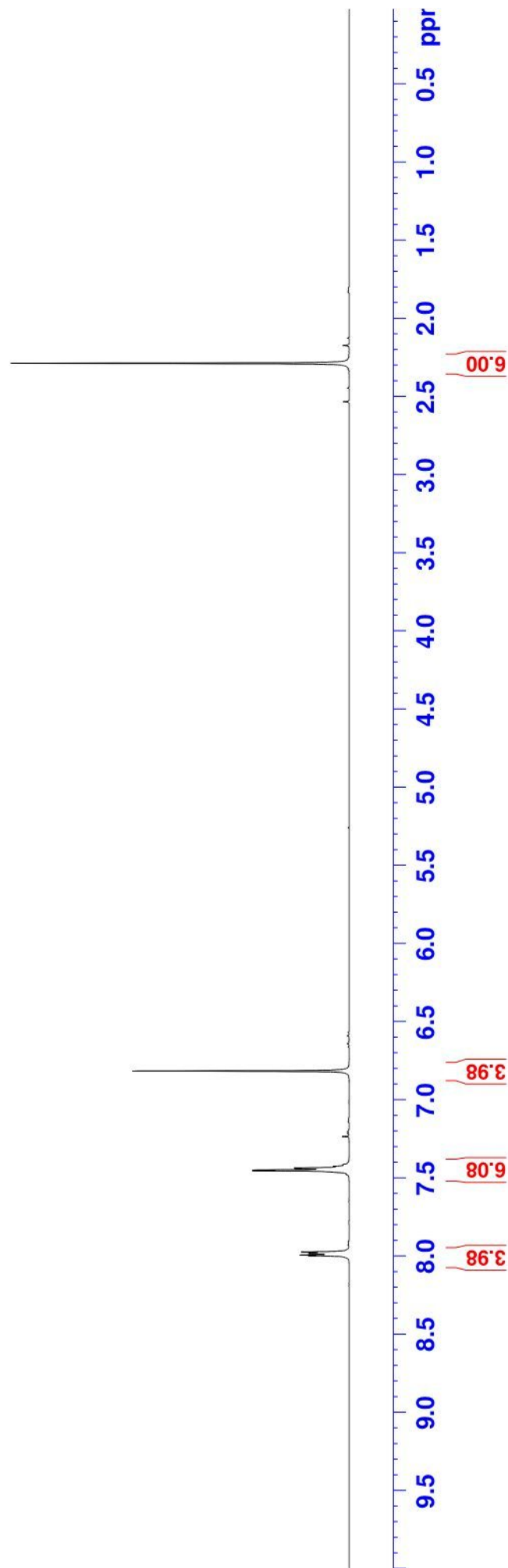
wy-cyclopropyl imine, ¹³C NMR BBFO1 400Hz in CDCl₃

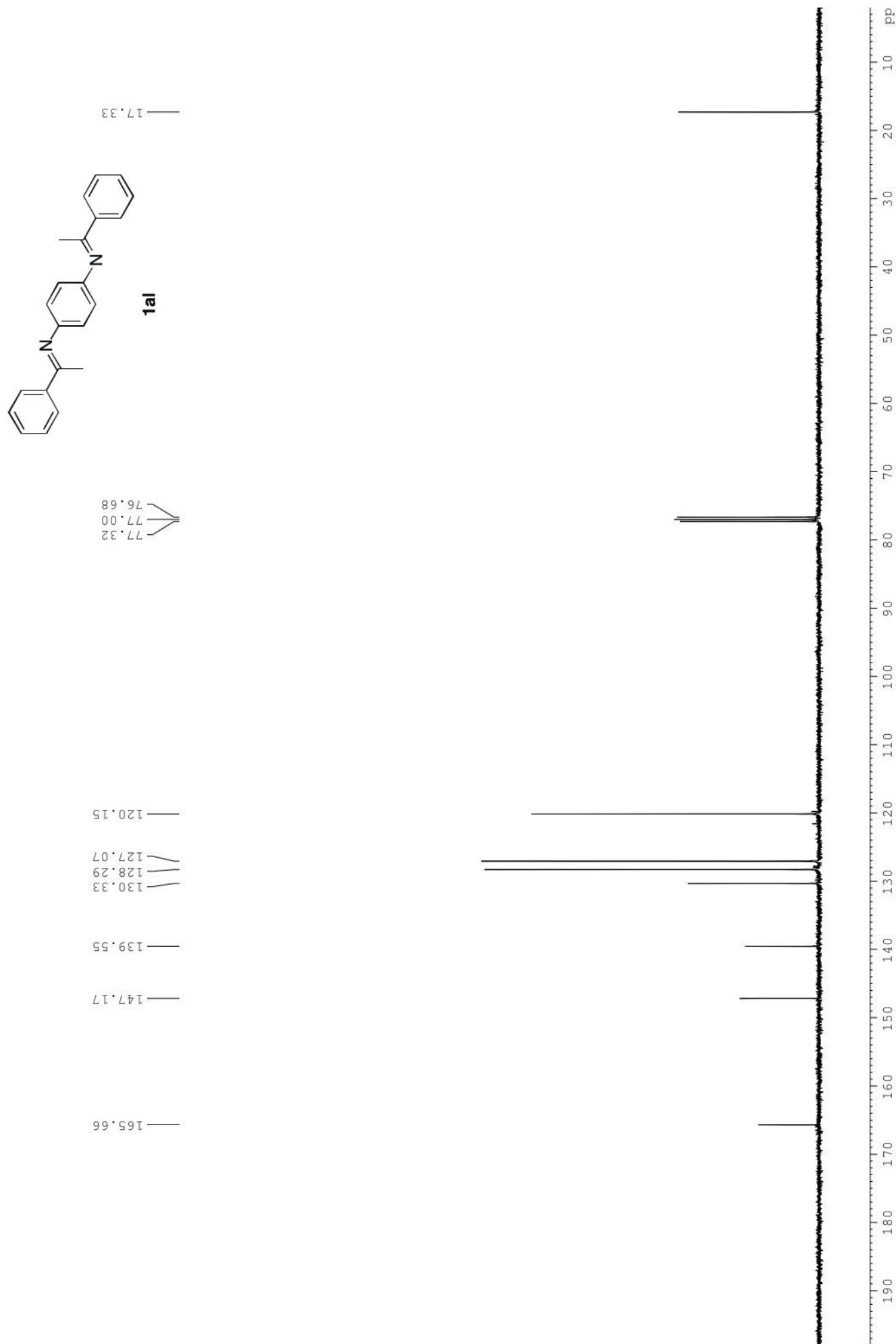


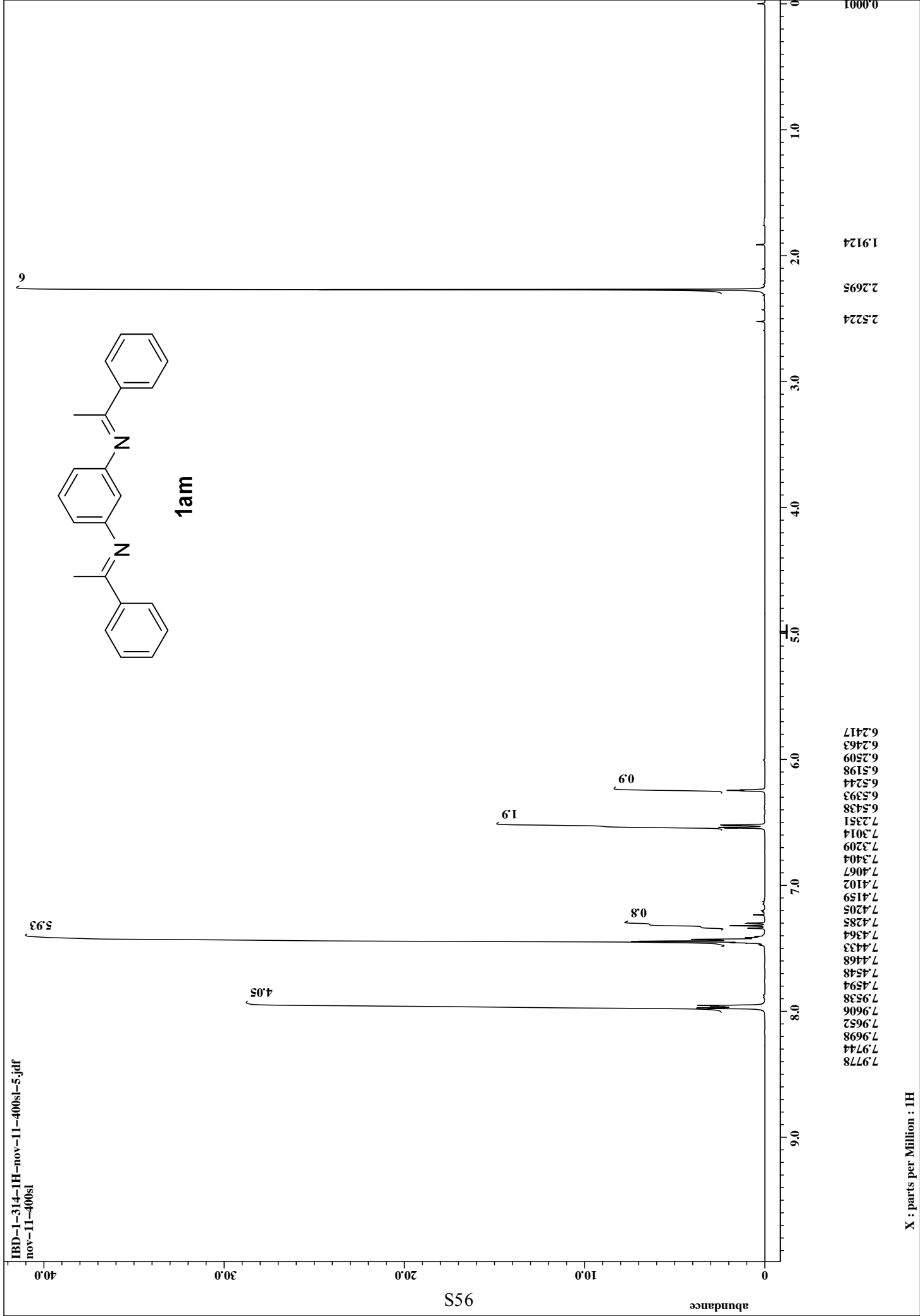


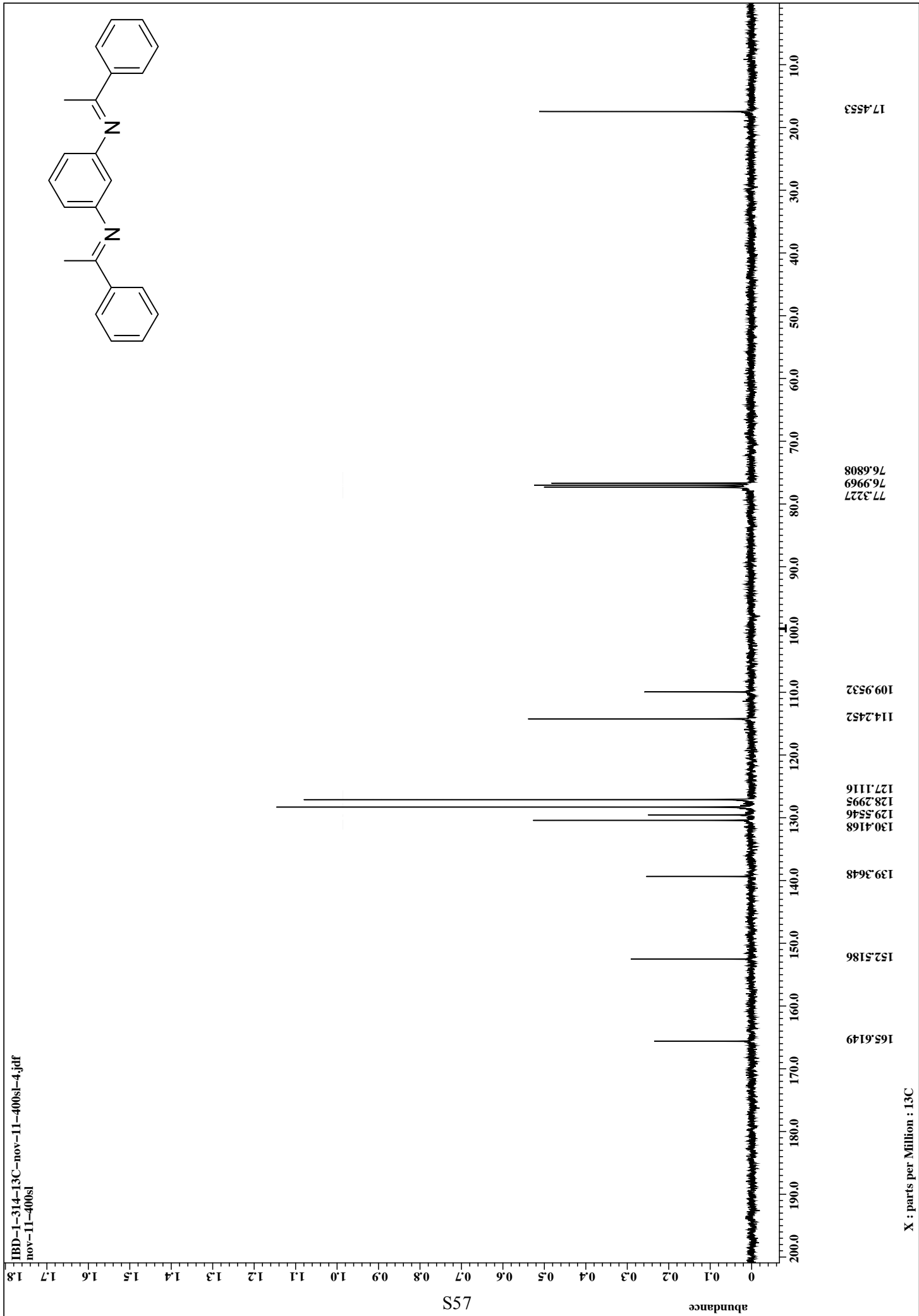
7.998
7.993
7.985
7.981
7.974
7.454
7.450
7.441
7.436
7.426
6.816

2.288







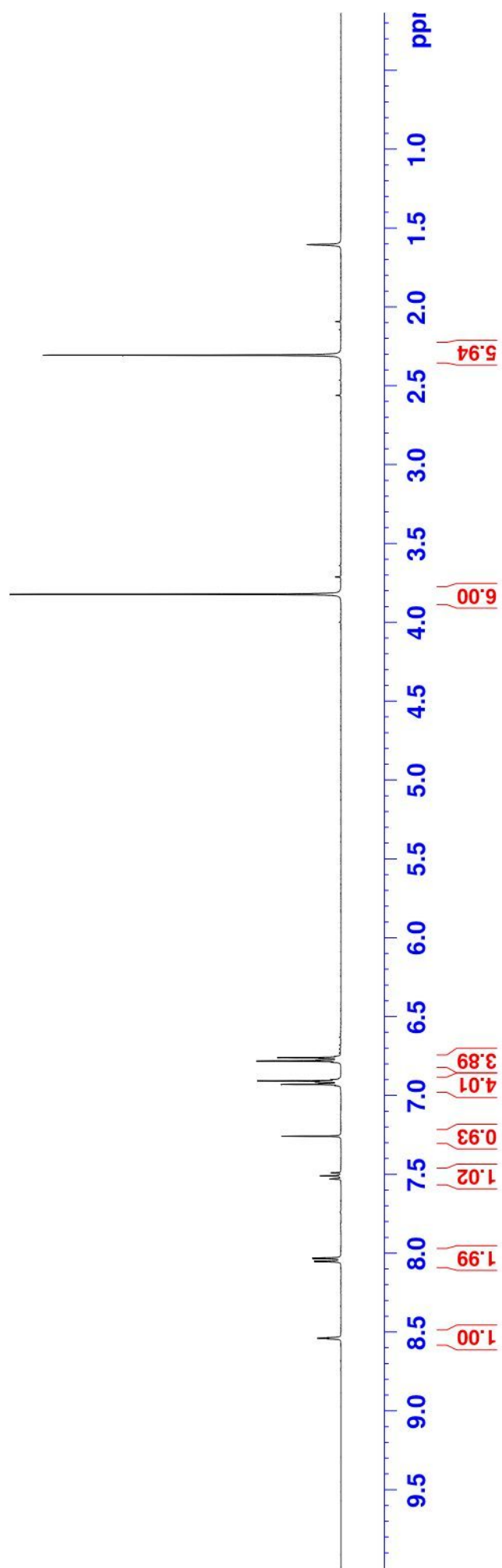
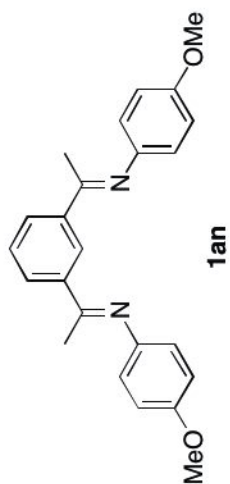


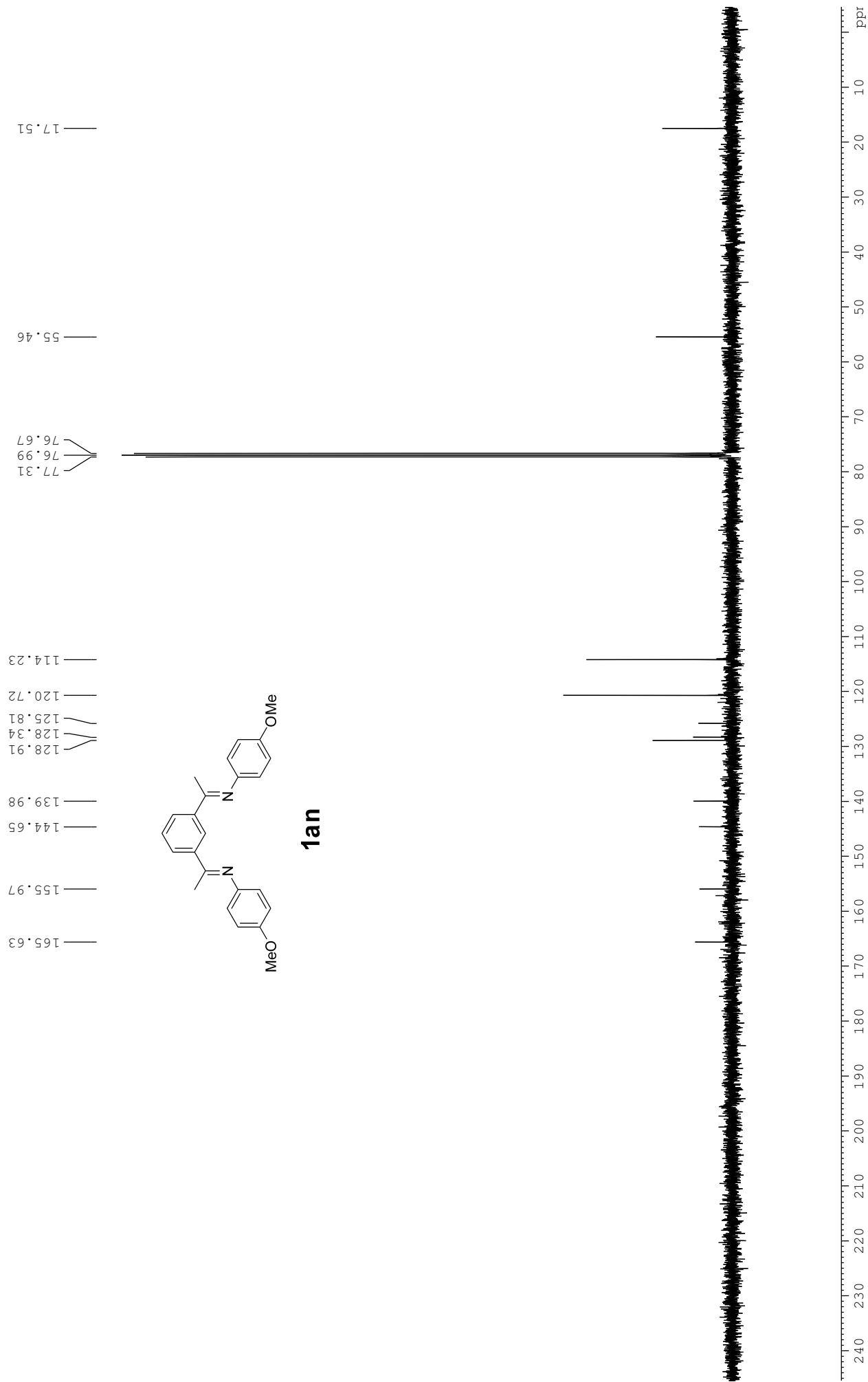
IBD-1-321-1-3imine1H NMR 400 MHz BBFO1 CDCl3

8.544
8.540
8.536
8.055
8.050
8.036
8.031
7.530
7.511
7.491
7.259
6.938
6.930
6.925
6.914
6.908
6.900
6.791
6.783
6.777
6.766
6.761
6.753

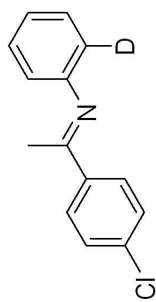
— 3.823

— 2.307



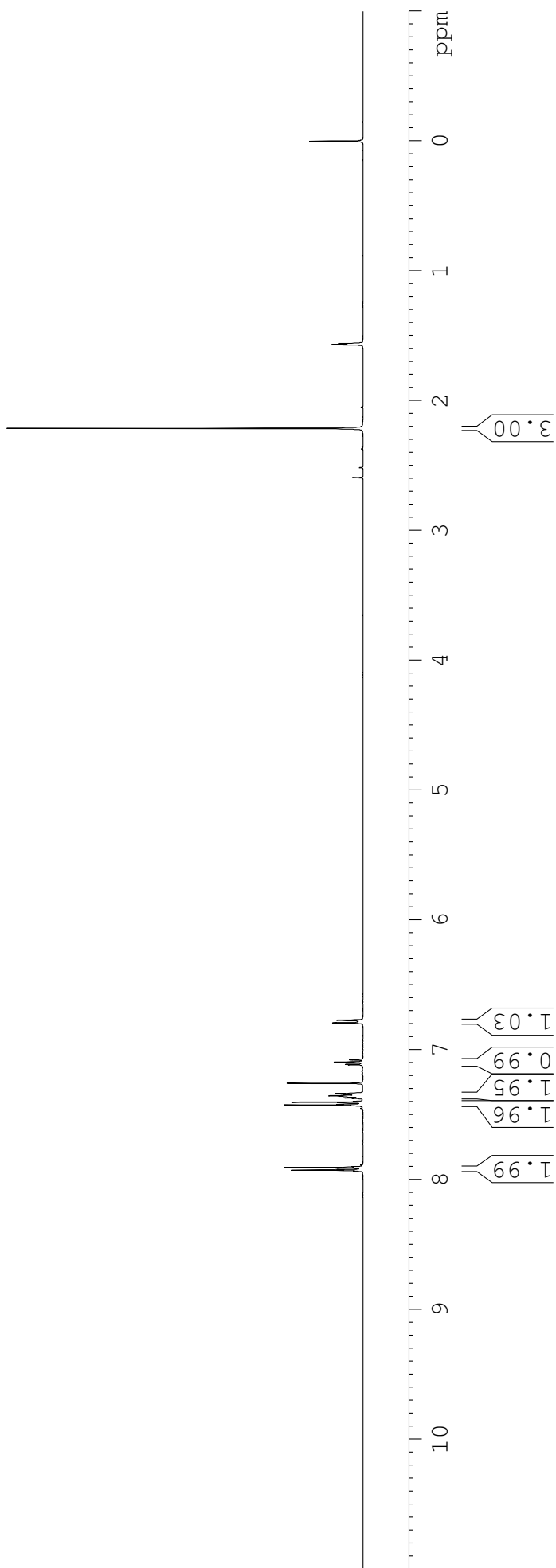


7.936
7.929
7.924
7.912
7.908
7.901
7.433
7.427
7.422
7.410
7.405
7.399
7.376
7.373
7.356
7.354
7.342
7.337
7.116
7.114
7.098
7.095
7.079
7.077
6.795
6.793
6.784
6.775
6.772



1aq-d

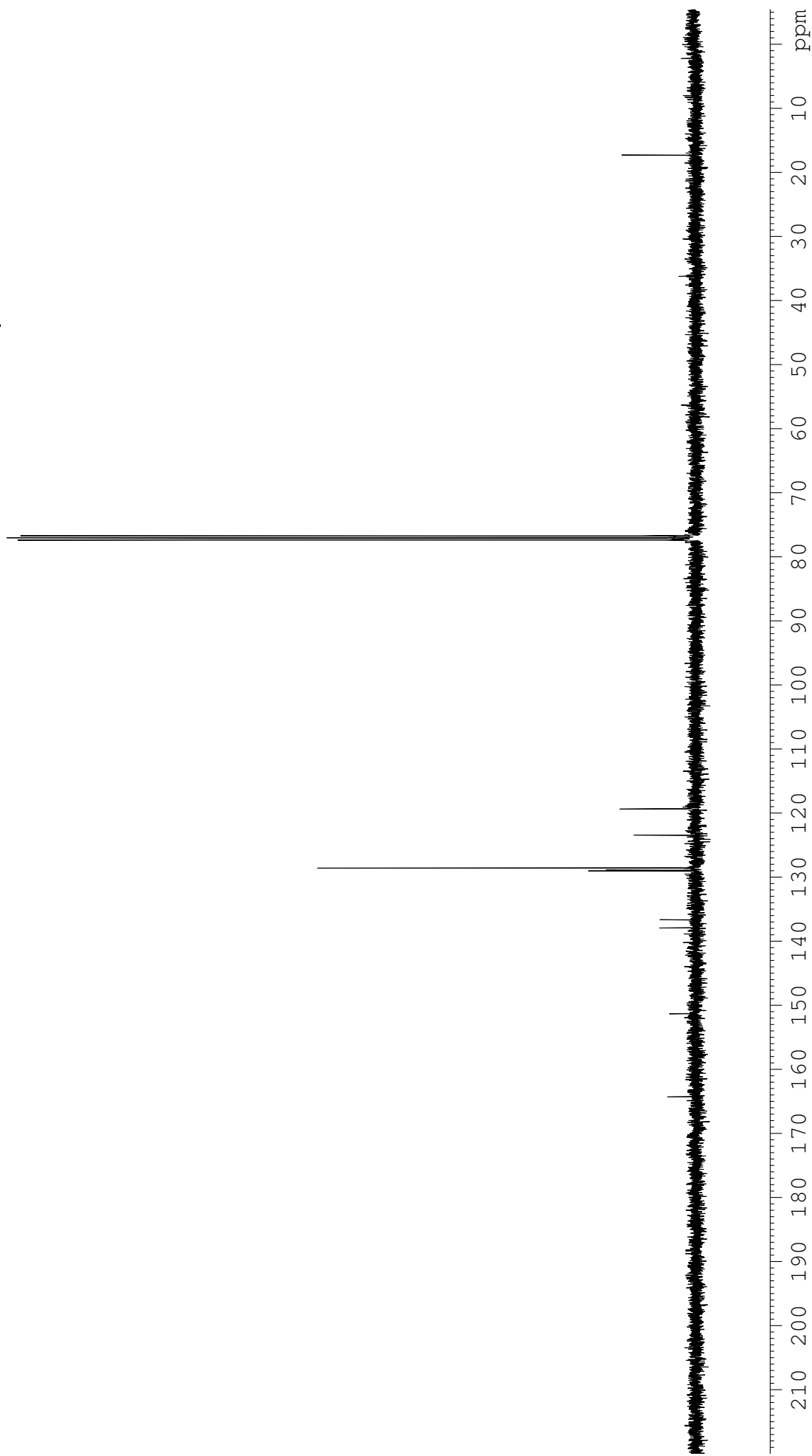
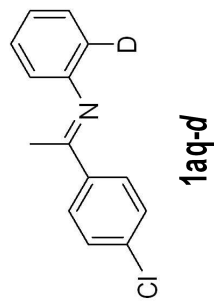
— 2.214



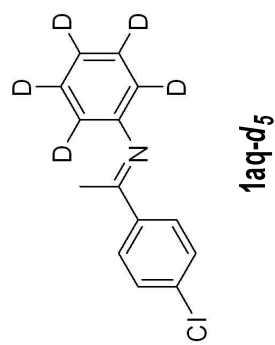
164.26
151.31
137.90
136.63
129.00
128.89
128.56
123.42
119.32

77.34
77.02
76.70

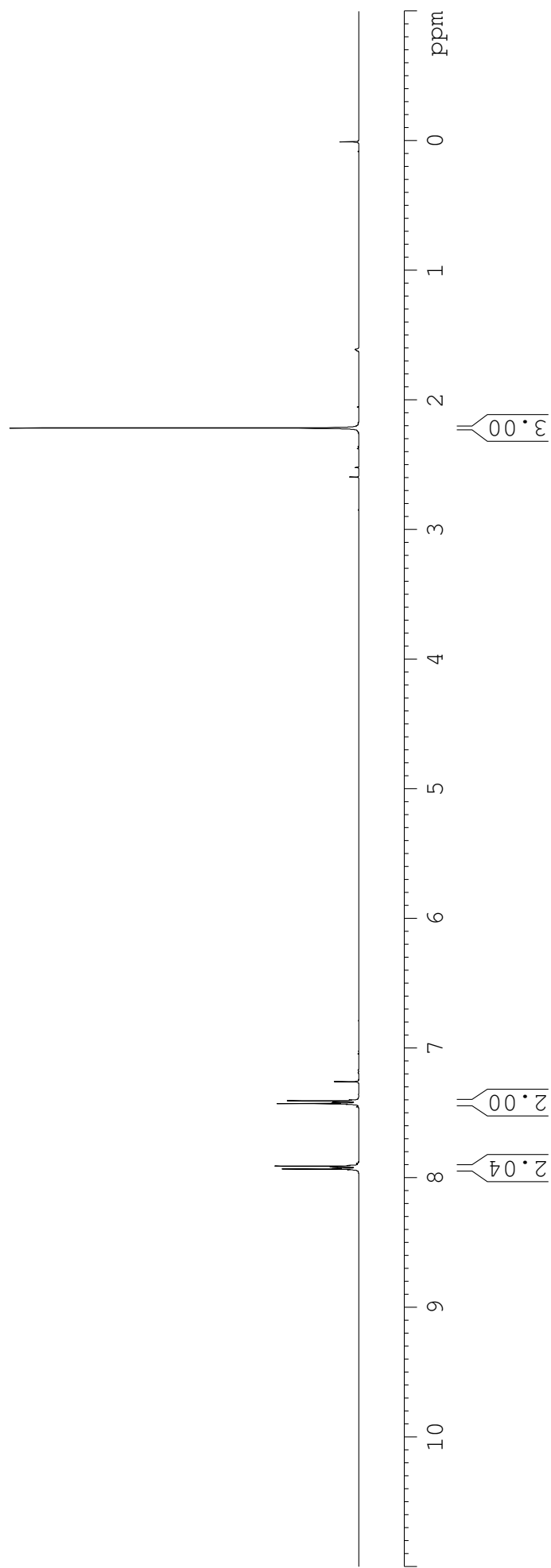
17.25

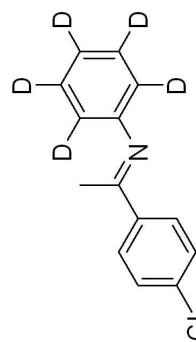


7.940
7.934
7.929
7.917
7.912
7.906
7.436
7.429
7.424
7.413
7.408
7.401



2.216



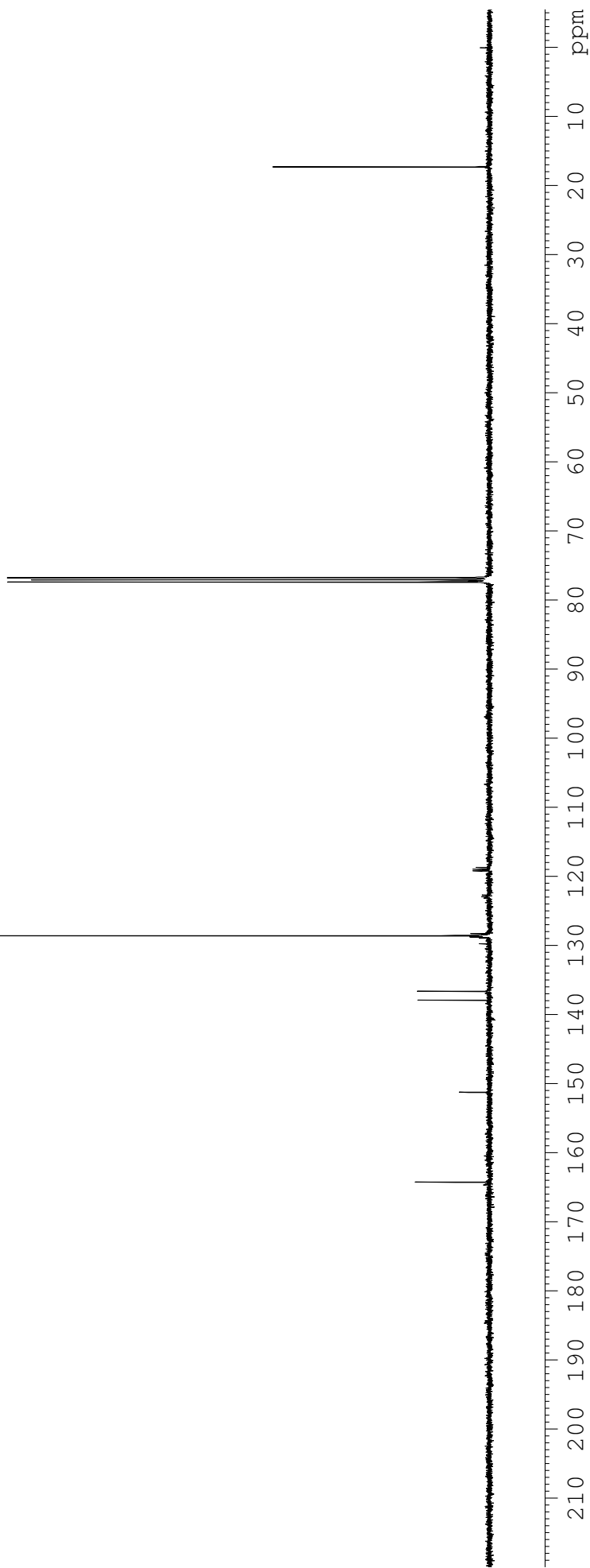


1aQ-d₅

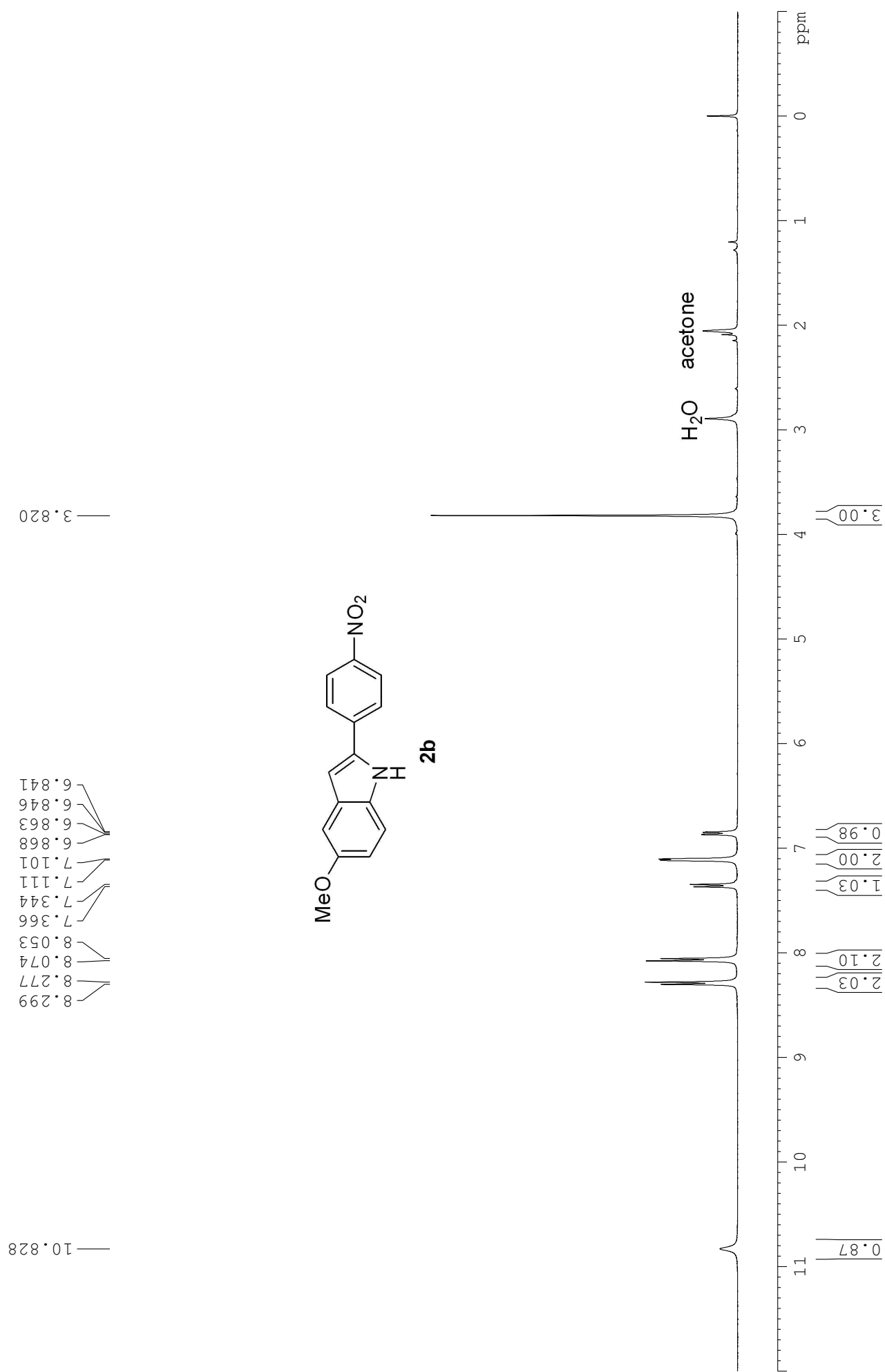
164.25
151.23
137.89
136.61
128.56
122.91
119.17
118.93
118.69

77.36
77.04
76.72

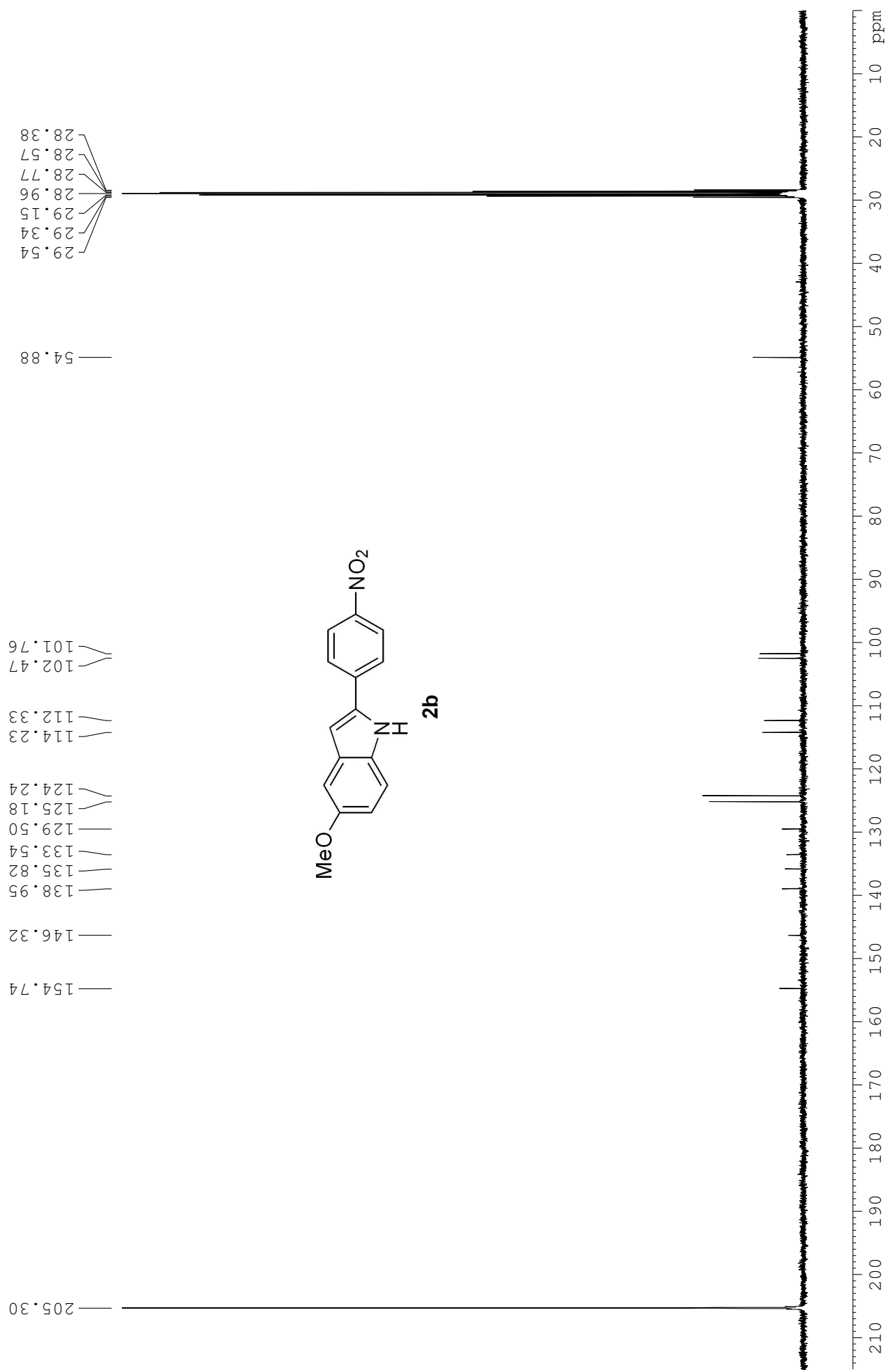
17.25



indole 2b, ¹H NMR BBFO2 400MHz d6-acetone



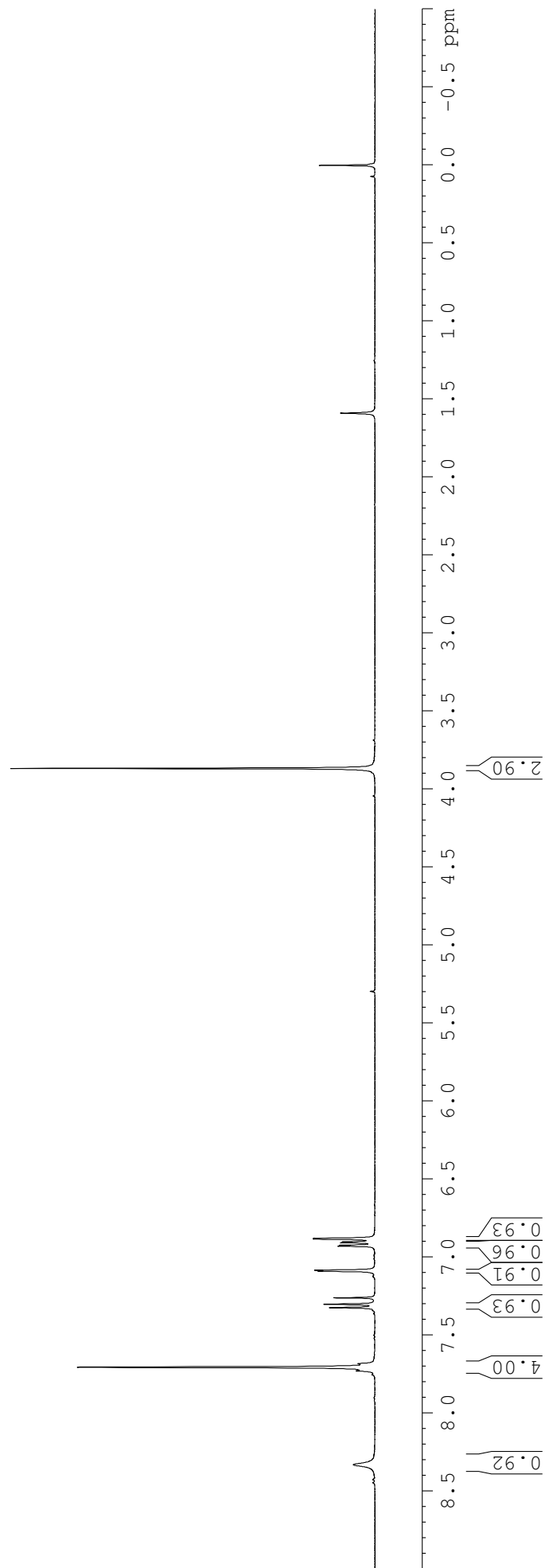
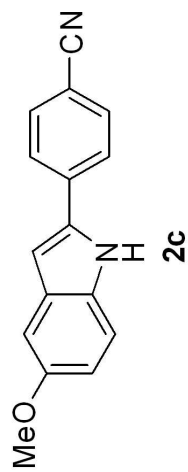
indole 2b, ¹³C NMR BBFO2 400MHz d6-acetone

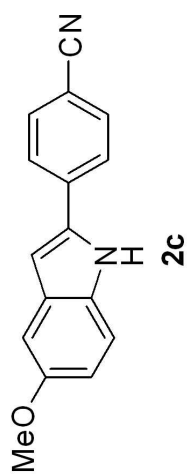
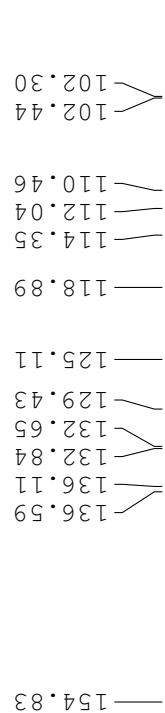


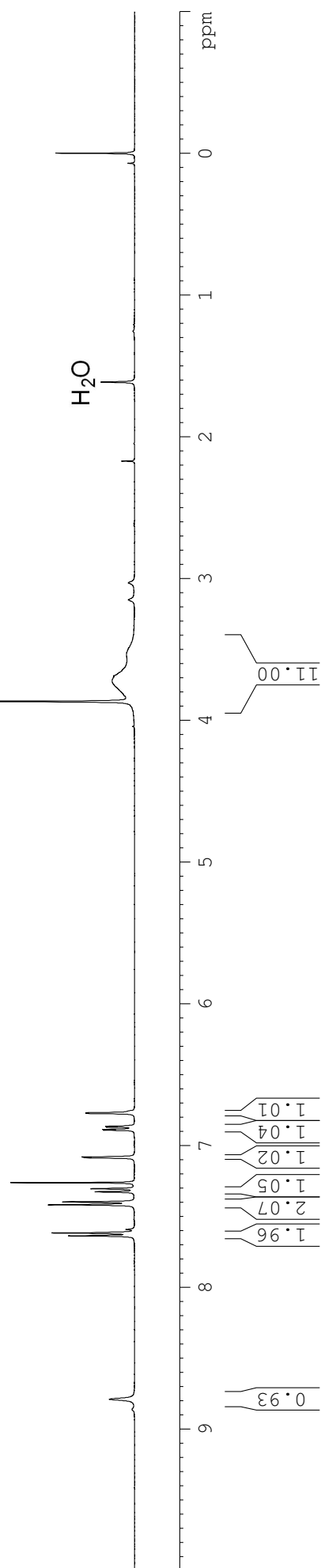
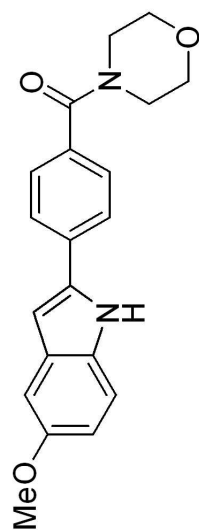
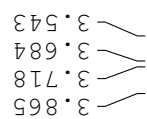
indole 2c, 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl3

8.330
7.728
7.705
7.688
7.682
7.323
7.301
7.091
7.086
6.932
6.926
6.910
6.904
6.885
6.882

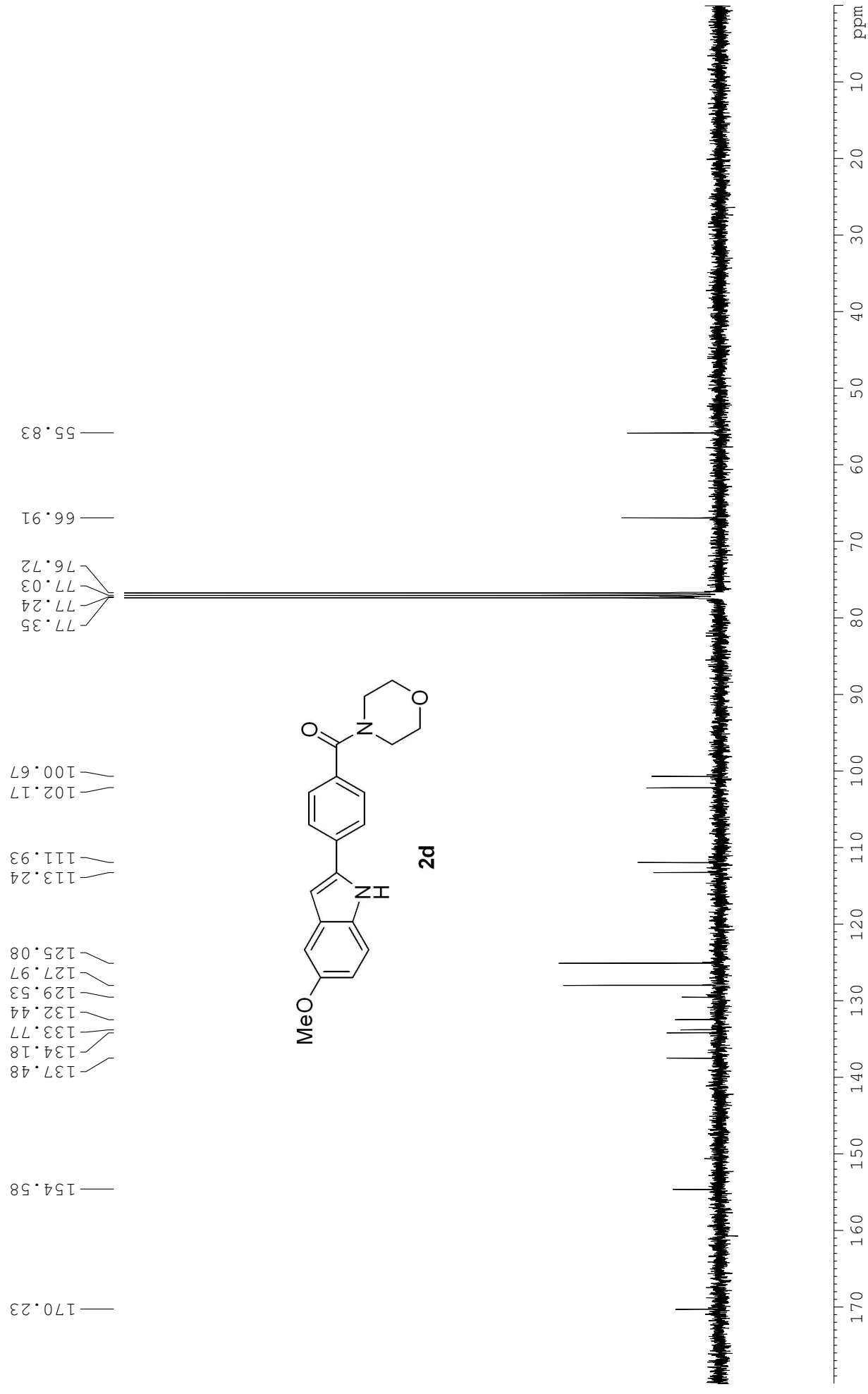
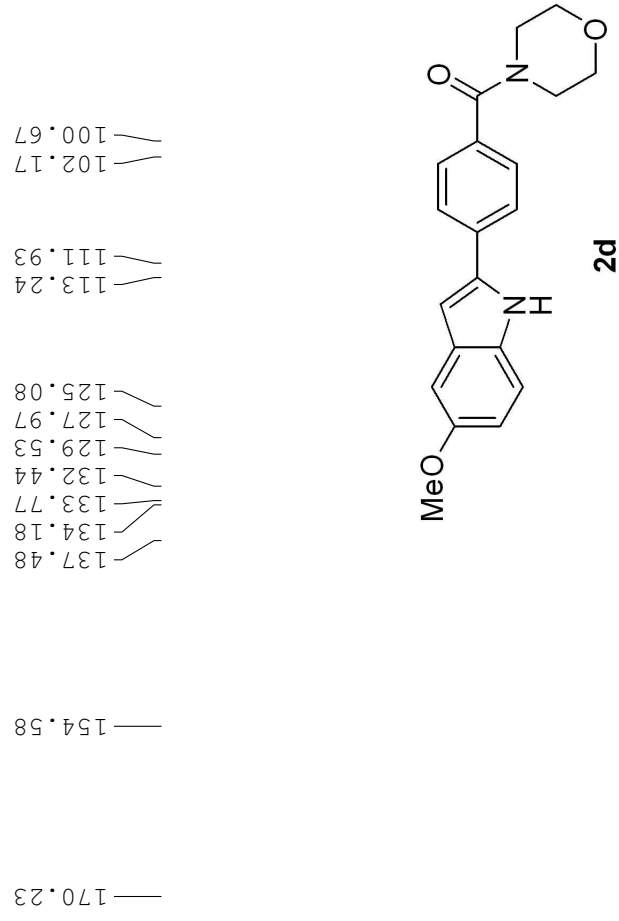
3.869





indole 2d, ¹H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl3

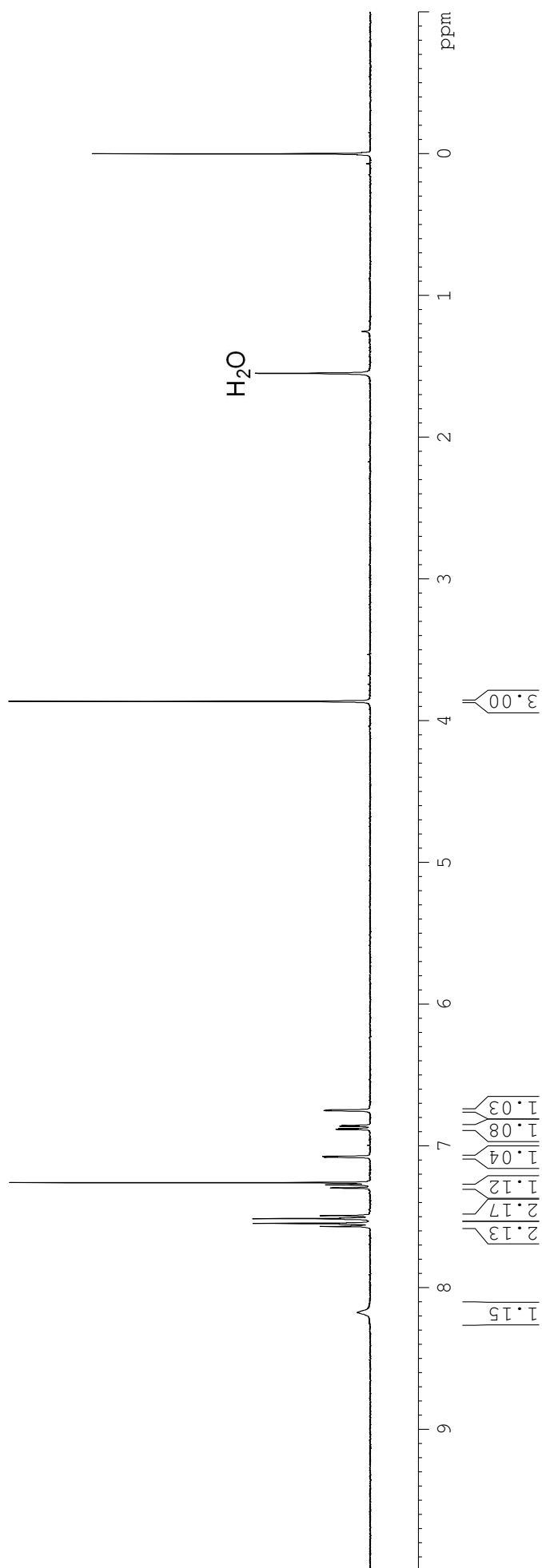
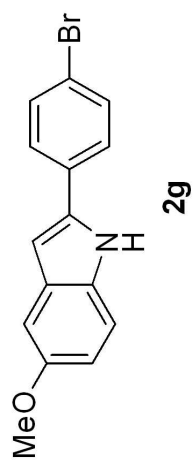
indole 2d, ¹³C NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl₃



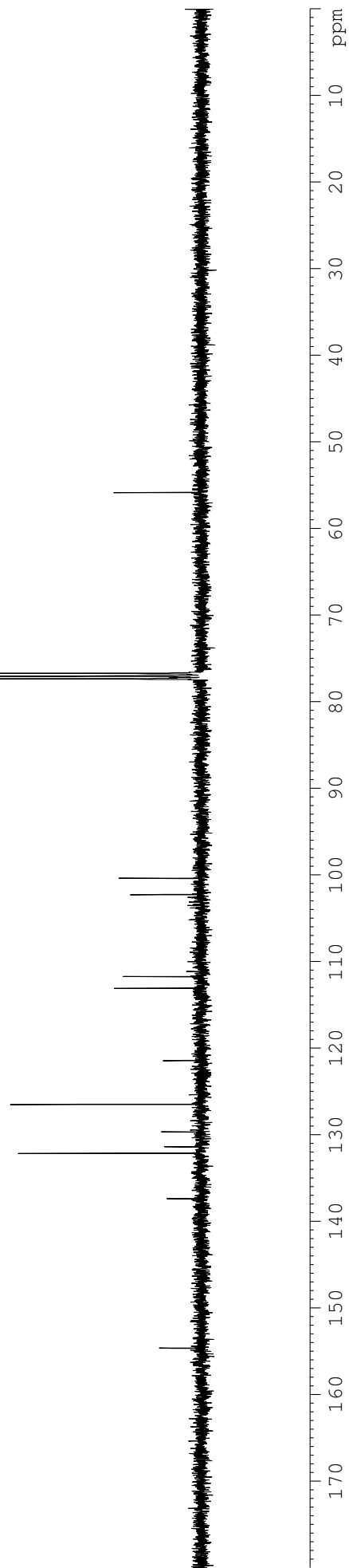
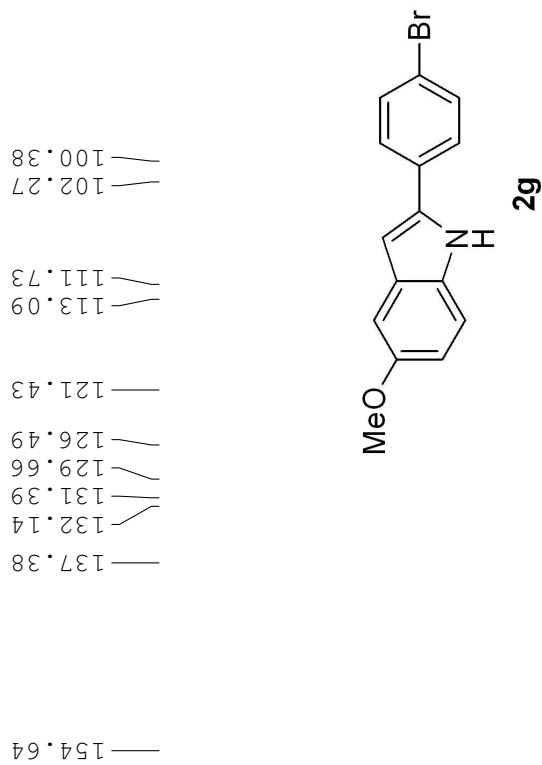
indole 2g, 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl3

8.177
7.569
7.548
7.514
7.509
7.492
7.298
7.276
7.081
7.075
6.885
6.879
6.863
6.857
6.752
6.748

3.864



indole 2g 13C NMR BBFO2 400 MHz CDCl3

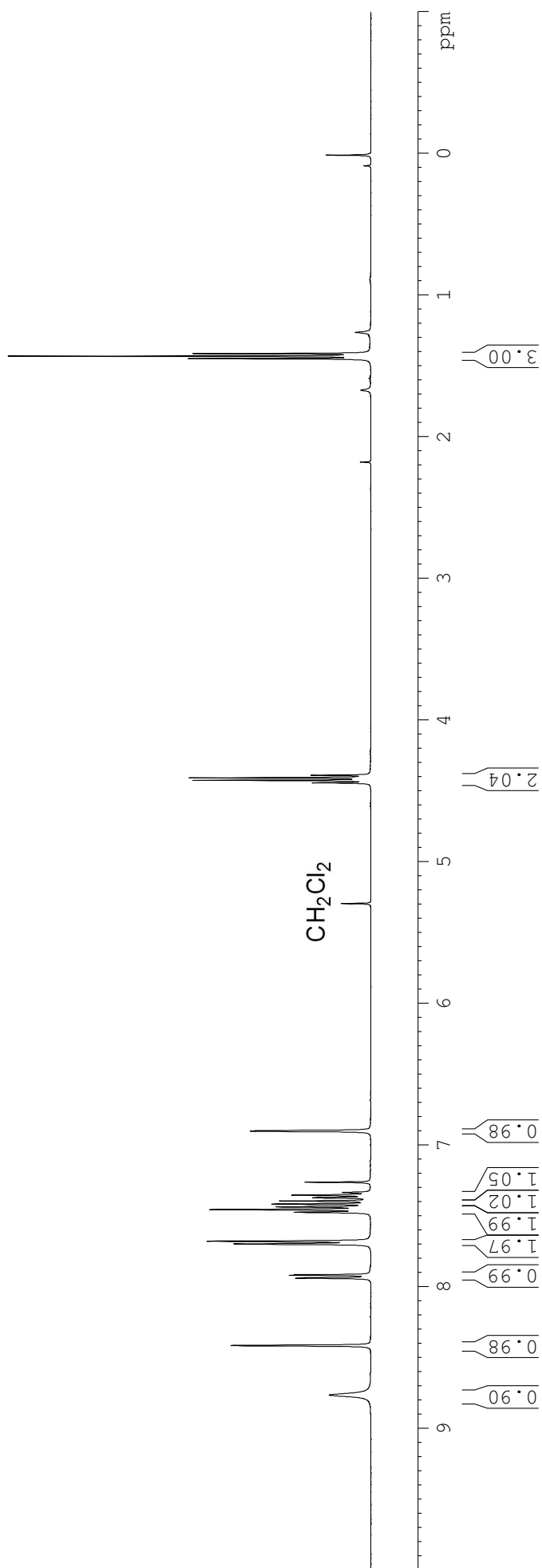
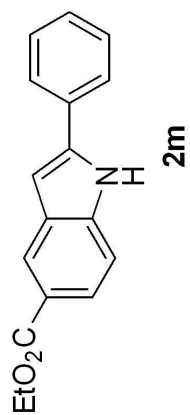


indole 2m, 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl3

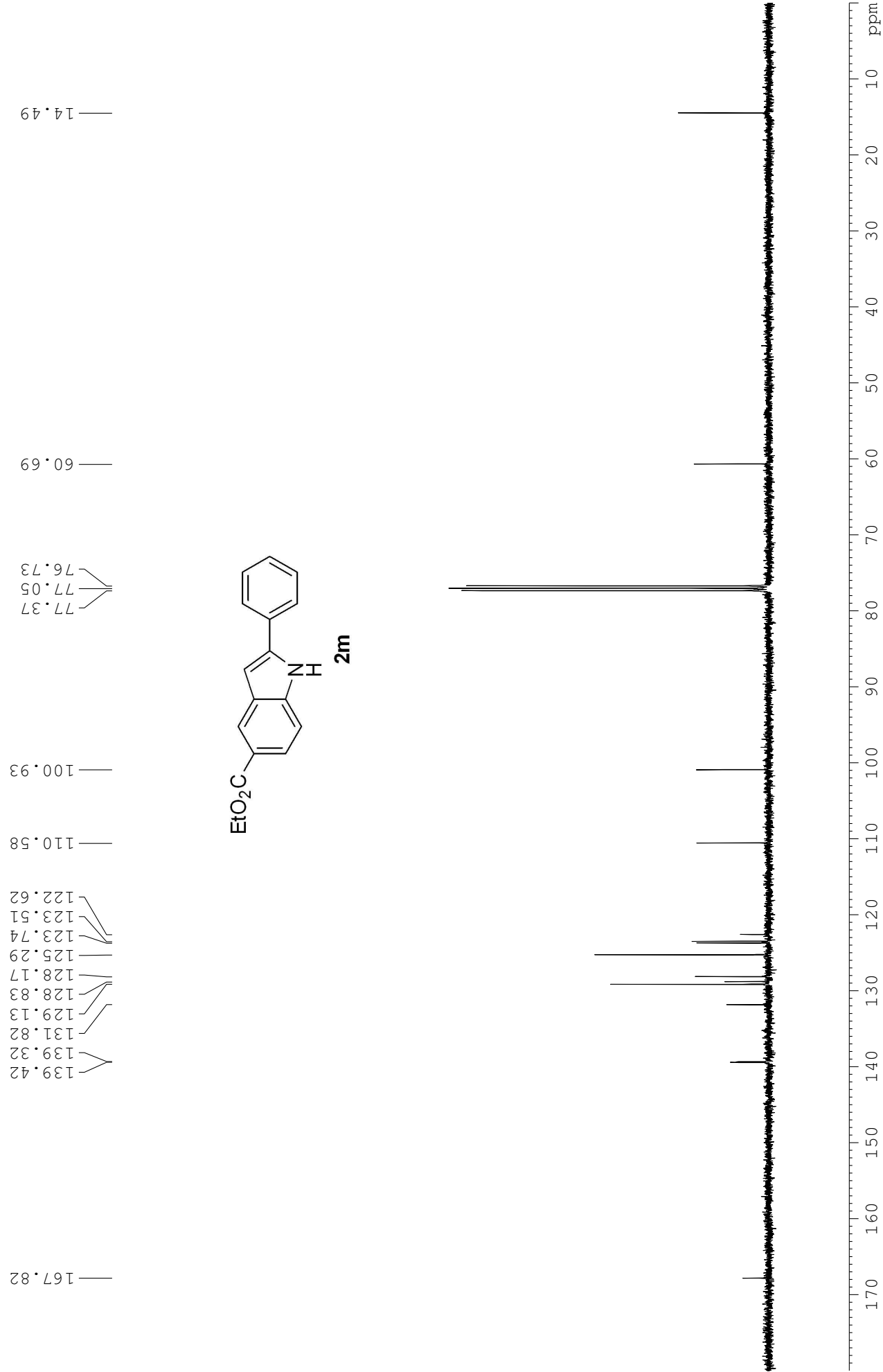
8.763
8.414
7.938
7.935
7.917
7.914
7.696
7.677
7.473
7.454
7.434
7.415
7.393
7.370
7.351
7.333
6.903
6.900

4.444
4.426
4.408
4.390

1.449
1.431
1.413

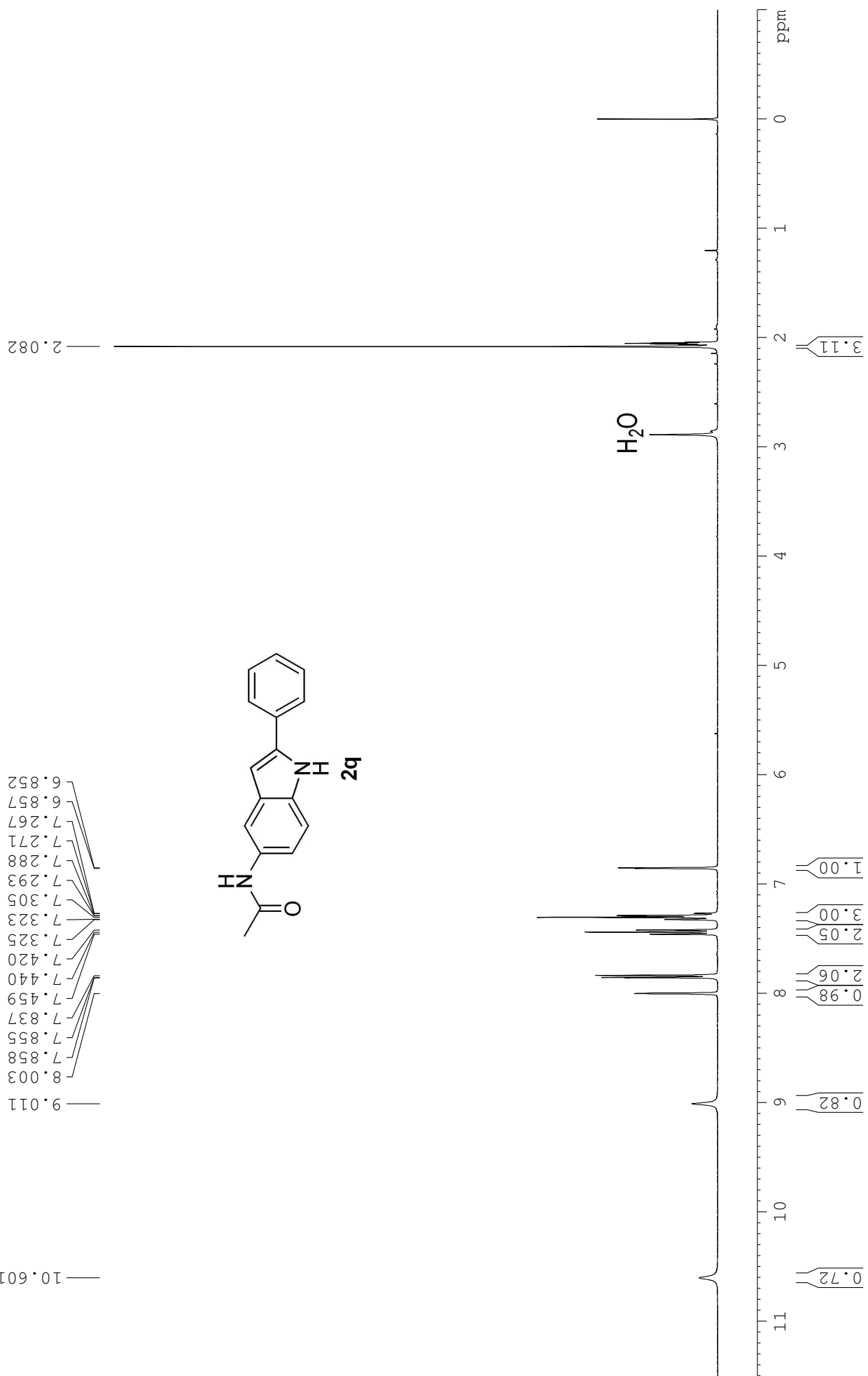
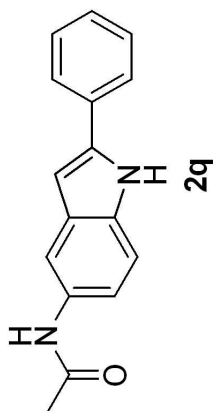


indole 2m, ¹³C NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl₃

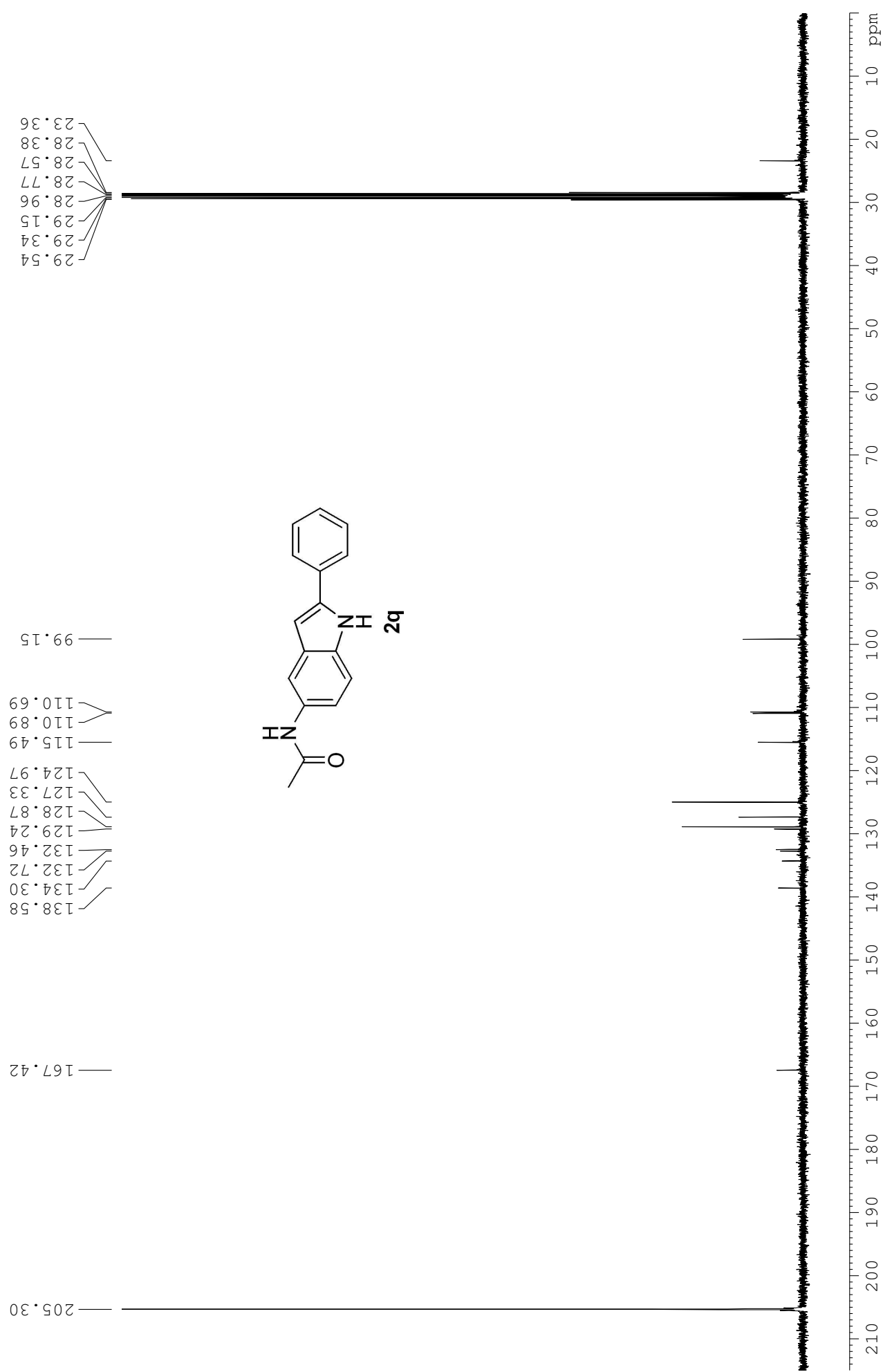


indole 2q, 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz d6-acetone

10.601
9.011
8.003
7.858
7.855
7.837
7.459
7.440
7.420
7.325
7.323
7.305
7.293
7.288
7.271
7.267
6.857
6.852



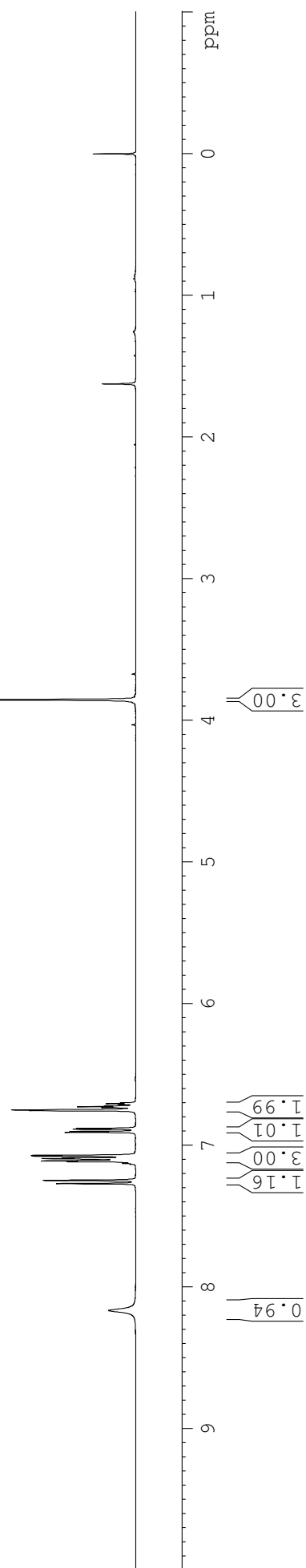
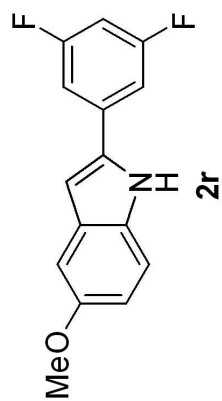
indole 2q, ¹³C NMR BBFO2 400MHz d6-acetone



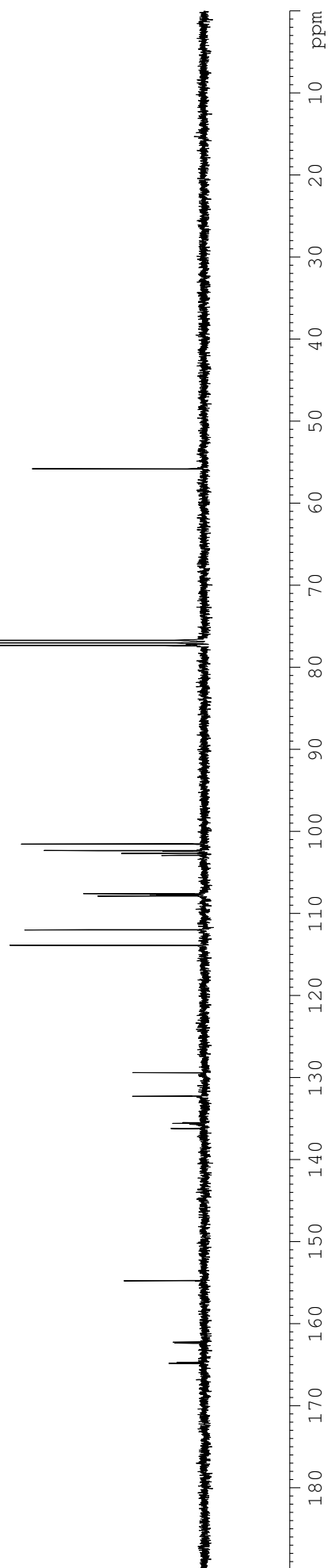
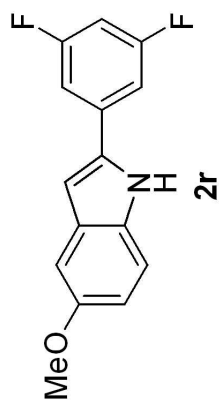
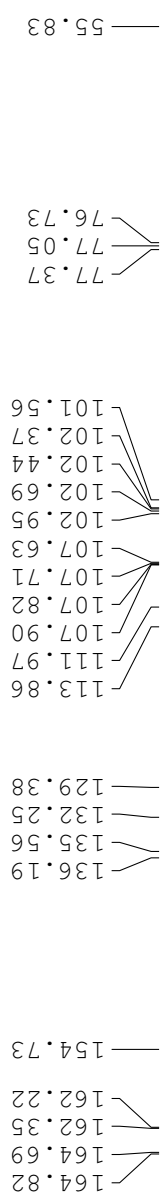
indole 2r 1H NMR BBFO2 400 MHz CDC3

8.164
7.268
7.245
7.113
7.107
7.091
7.086
7.074
7.068
6.906
6.899
6.884
6.878
6.755
6.751
6.734
6.728
6.723
6.712
6.706
6.701

3.855



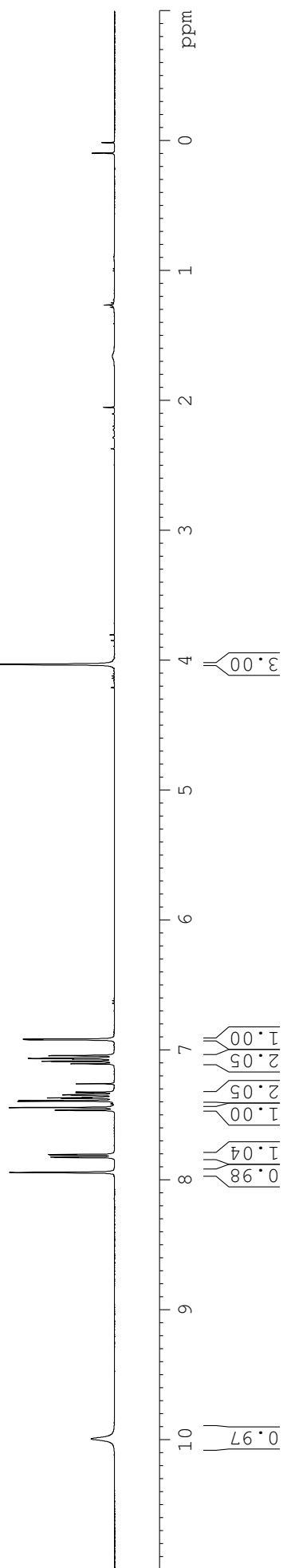
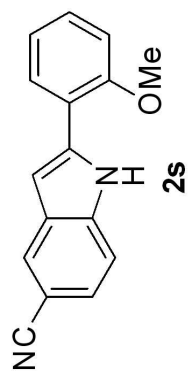
indole 2r 13C NMR BBFO2 400 MHz CDCl3



indole 2s 1H NMR BBF02 400 MHz CDCl3

7.944
7.943
7.941
7.828
7.824
7.808
7.804
7.464
7.443
7.394
7.390
7.373
7.369
7.363
7.348
7.346
7.343
7.328
7.324
7.107
7.105
7.088
7.086
7.069
7.065
7.044
6.920
6.917

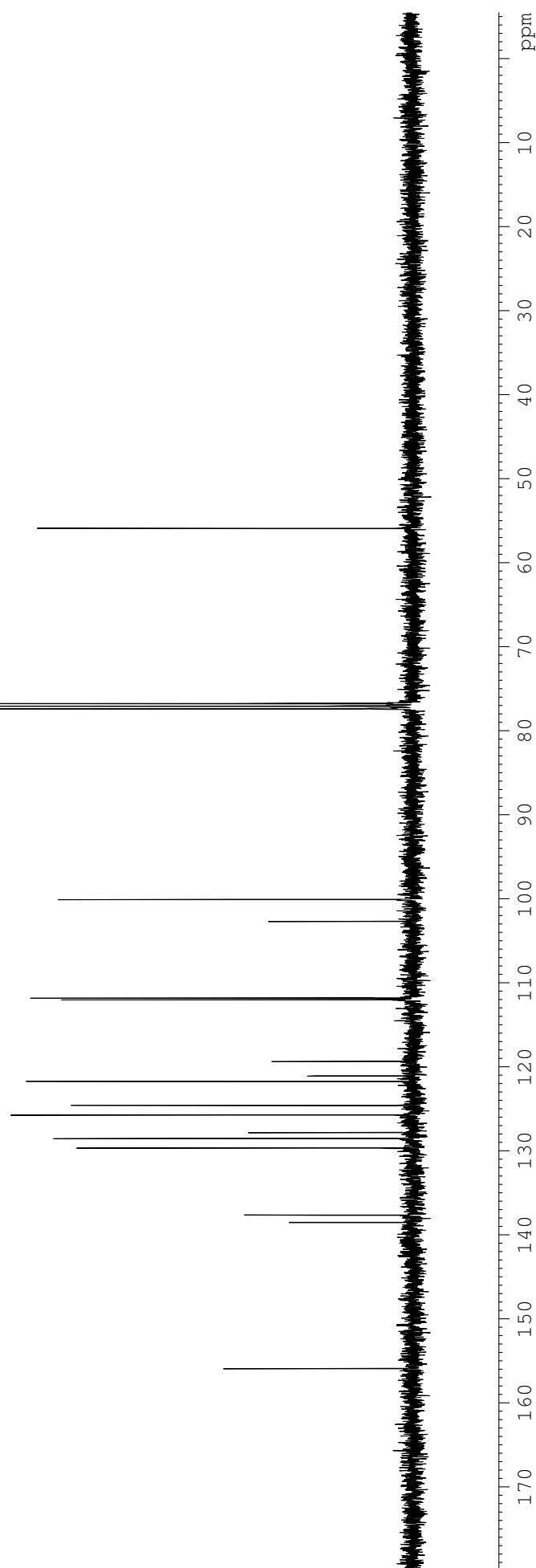
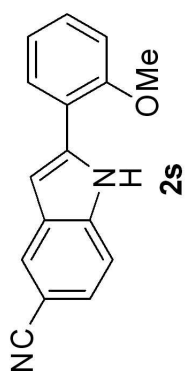
4.031



indole 2s BBFO2 400Hz 13C NMR CDCl3

155.90
138.50
137.63
129.64
128.50
127.80
125.70
124.56
121.72
121.06
119.34
111.99
111.79
102.72
100.10

77.41
77.09
76.77
55.94

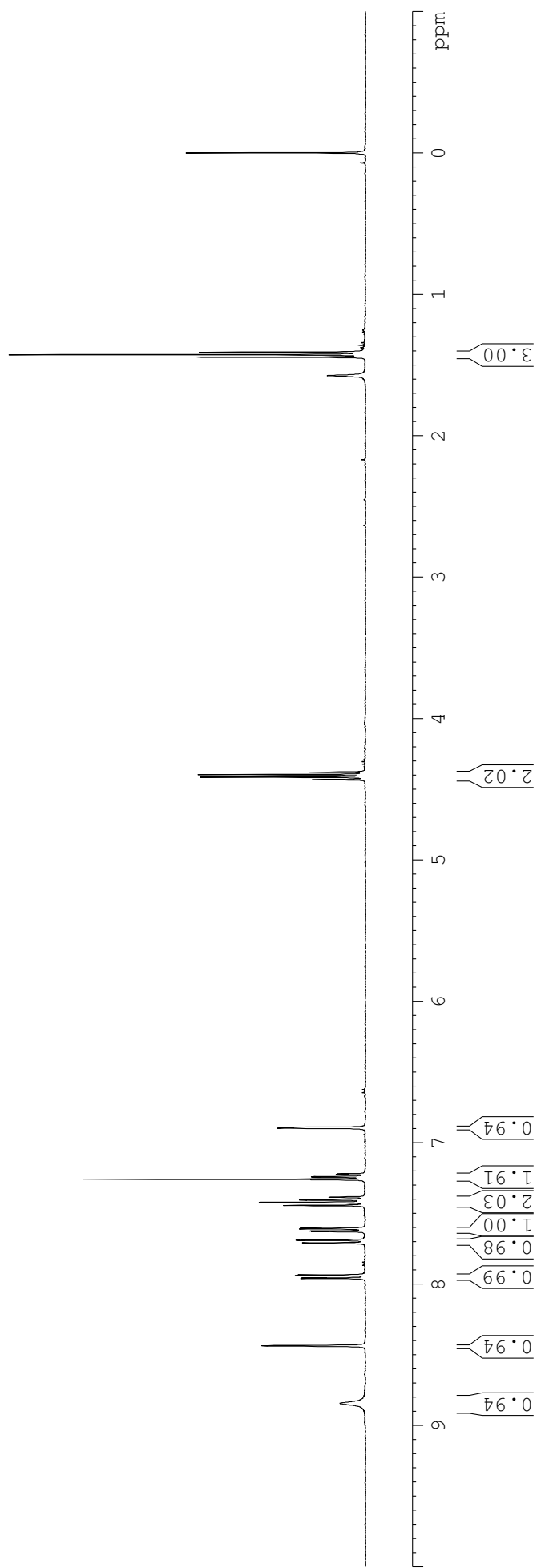
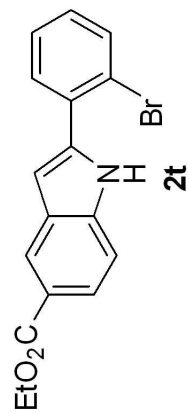


indole 2t, 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl3

8.843
8.439
8.439
7.962
7.958
7.941
7.937
7.713
7.710
7.693
7.690
7.631
7.627
7.611
7.607
7.446
7.424
7.408
7.405
7.389
7.386
7.264
7.260
7.245
7.242
7.226
7.222
6.898
6.894

4.434
4.416
4.398
4.381

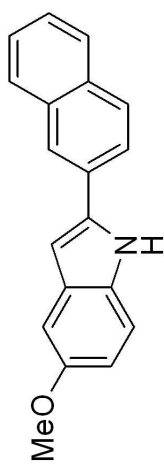
1.446
1.428
1.410



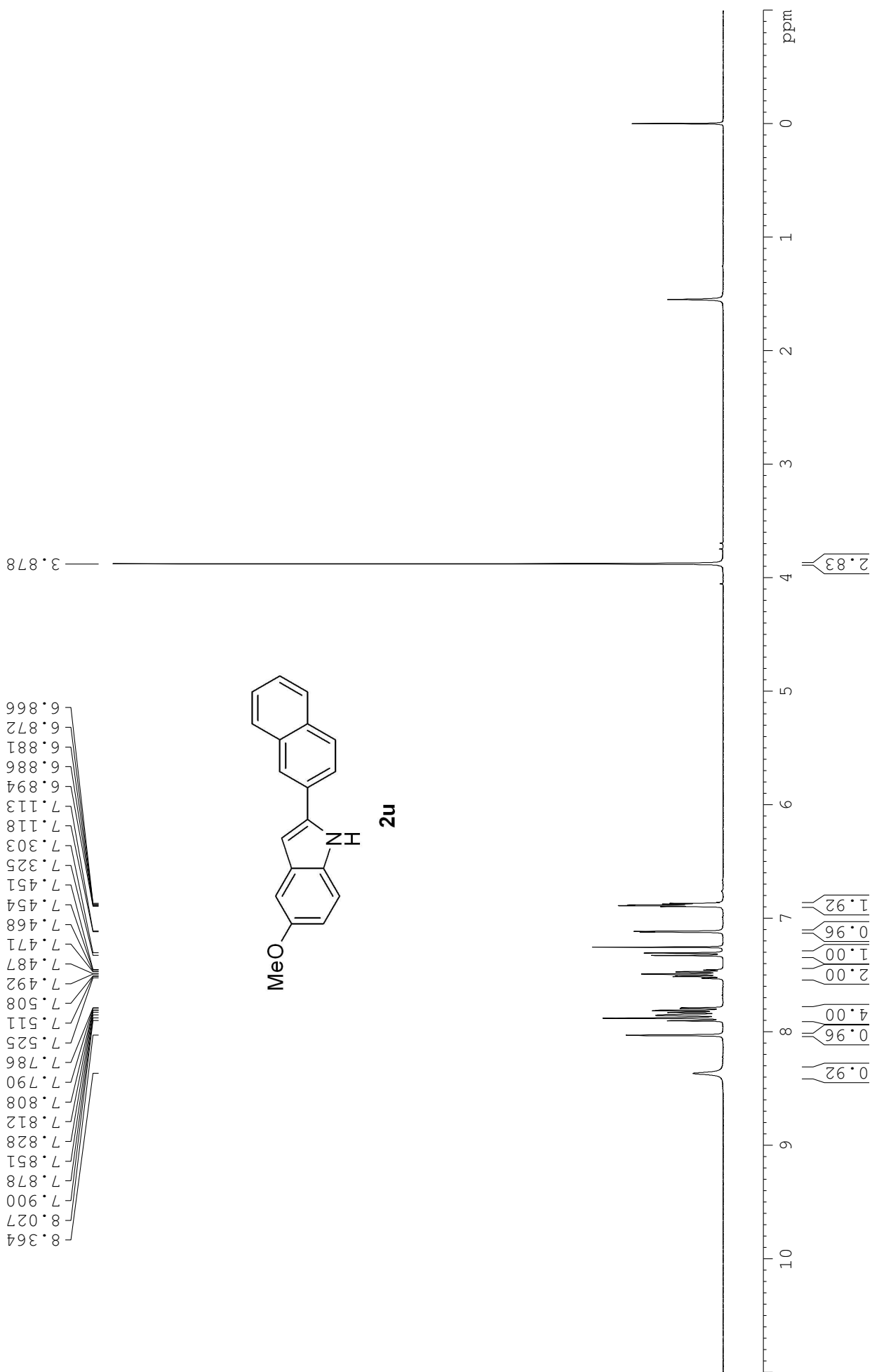


indole 2u 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDC13

8.364
8.027
7.900
7.878
7.851
7.828
7.812
7.808
7.790
7.786
7.7525
7.7511
7.7508
7.7492
7.7487
7.7471
7.7468
7.7454
7.7451
7.7325
7.7303
7.7118
7.7113
6.894
6.886
6.881
6.872
6.866



2u



indole 2u 13C NMR BBFO2 400 MHz CDCL3

154.59

138.59

133.63

132.84

132.25

129.84

129.78

128.76

127.99

127.83

126.70

126.11

123.75

122.94

112.86

111.67

102.33

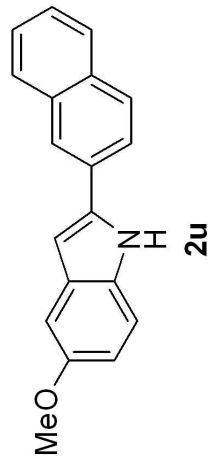
100.54

77.35

77.03

76.72

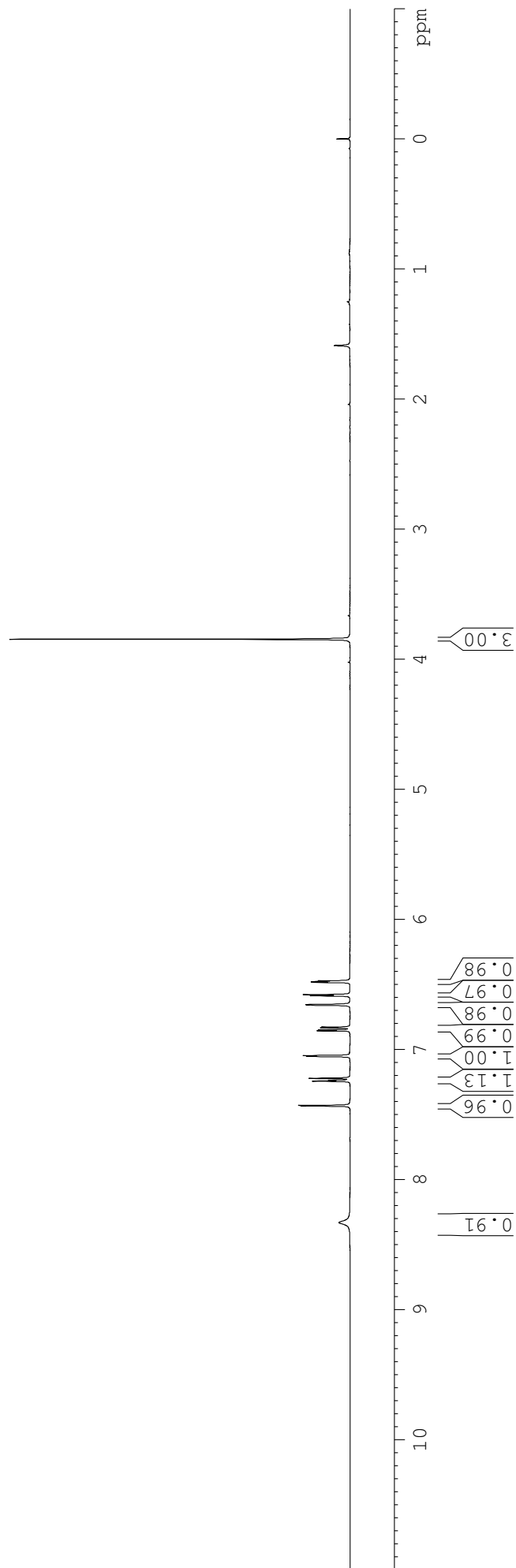
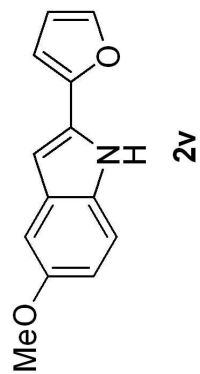
55.88



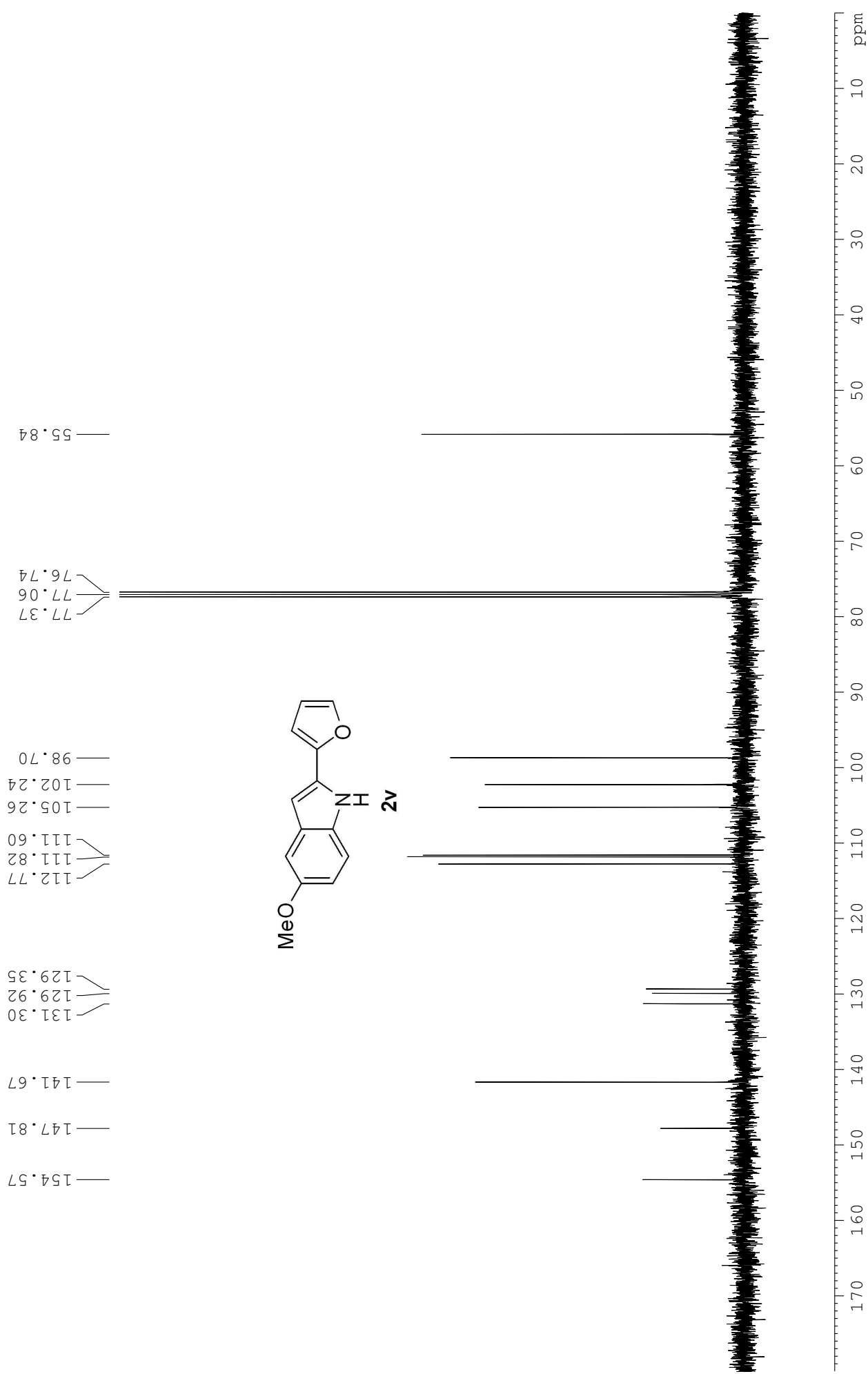
indole 2v 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl3

8.332
7.436
7.435
7.432
7.245
7.238
7.223
7.054
7.049
6.857
6.851
6.835
6.829
6.659
6.656
6.588
6.580
6.486
6.481
6.477
6.473

3.847

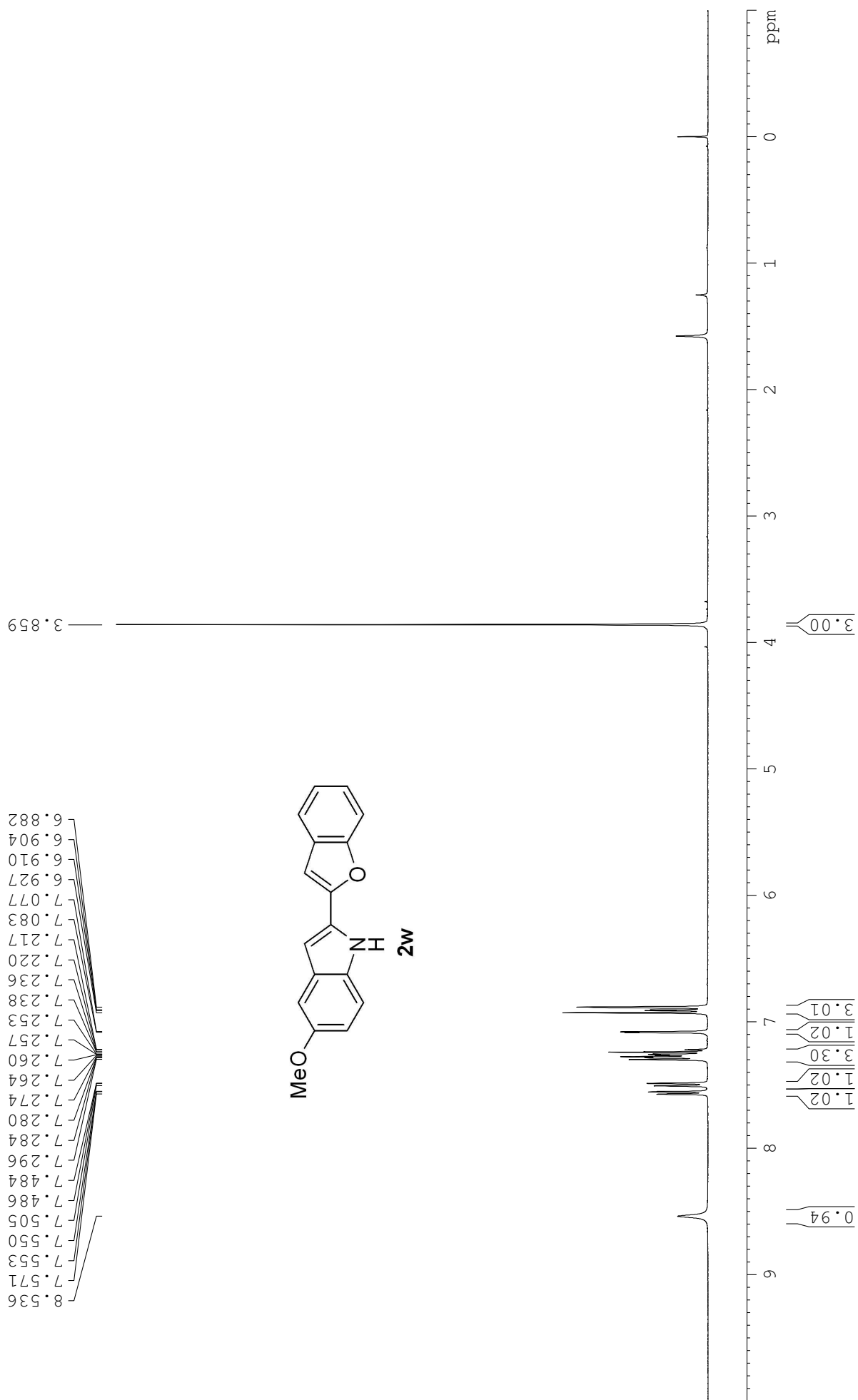
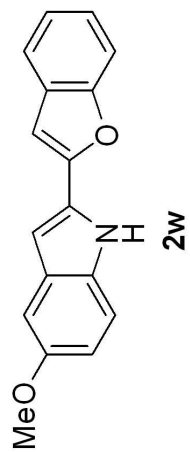


indole 2v 13C NMR BBFO2 400 MHz CDCL3



indole 2w 1H NMR BBFO2 400 MHz CDCl3

8.536
7.571
7.553
7.550
7.505
7.486
7.484
7.296
7.284
7.280
7.274
7.264
7.260
7.257
7.253
7.238
7.236
7.220
7.217
7.083
7.077
6.927
6.910
6.904
6.882



indole 2w ¹³C NMR BBFO2 400 MHz CDCl₃

154.73
154.46

149.41

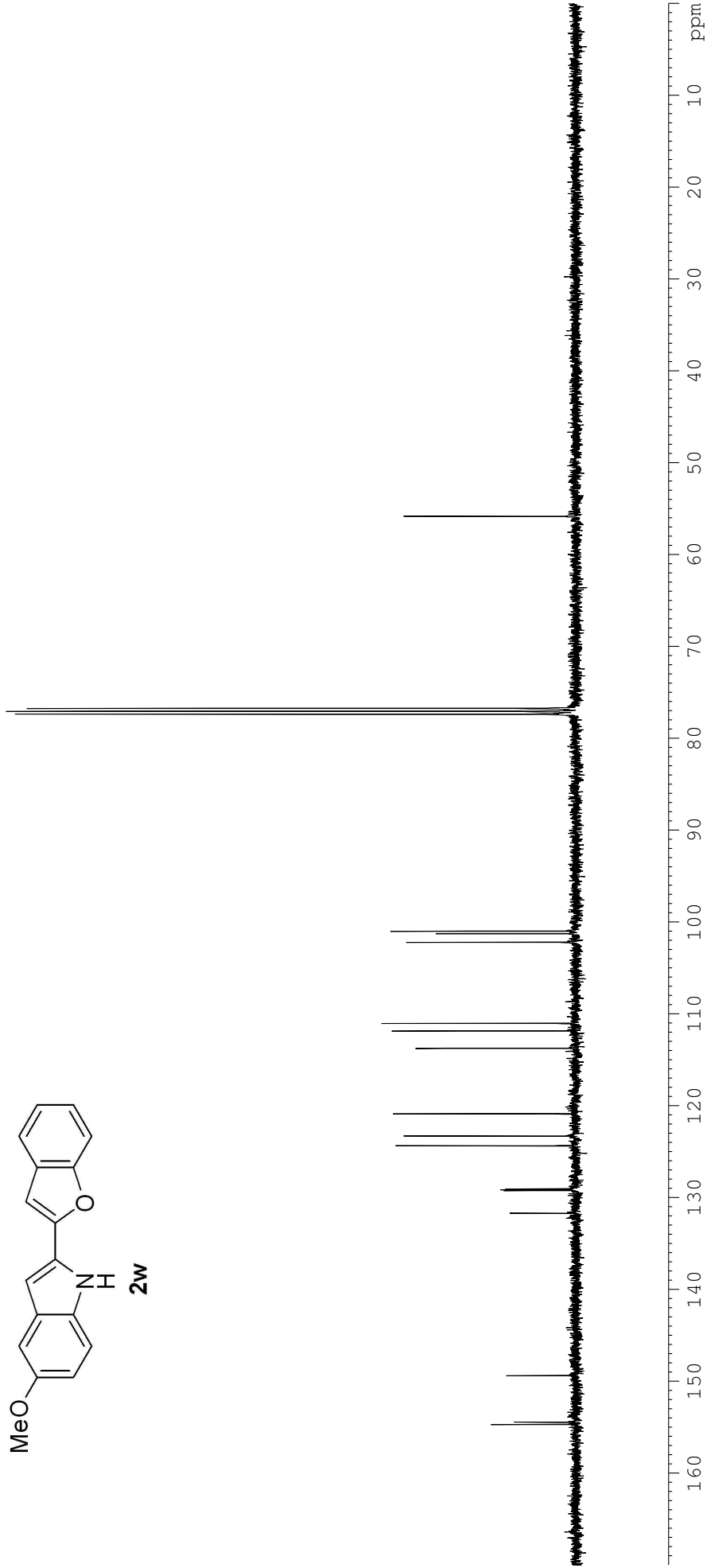
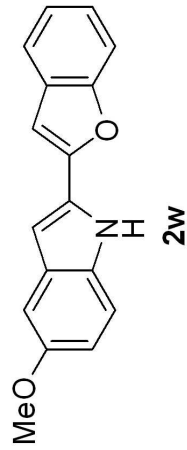
131.71
129.24
129.16
129.07
124.36
123.30
120.89

113.75
111.86
111.04

102.21
101.27
100.99

77.36
77.05
76.73

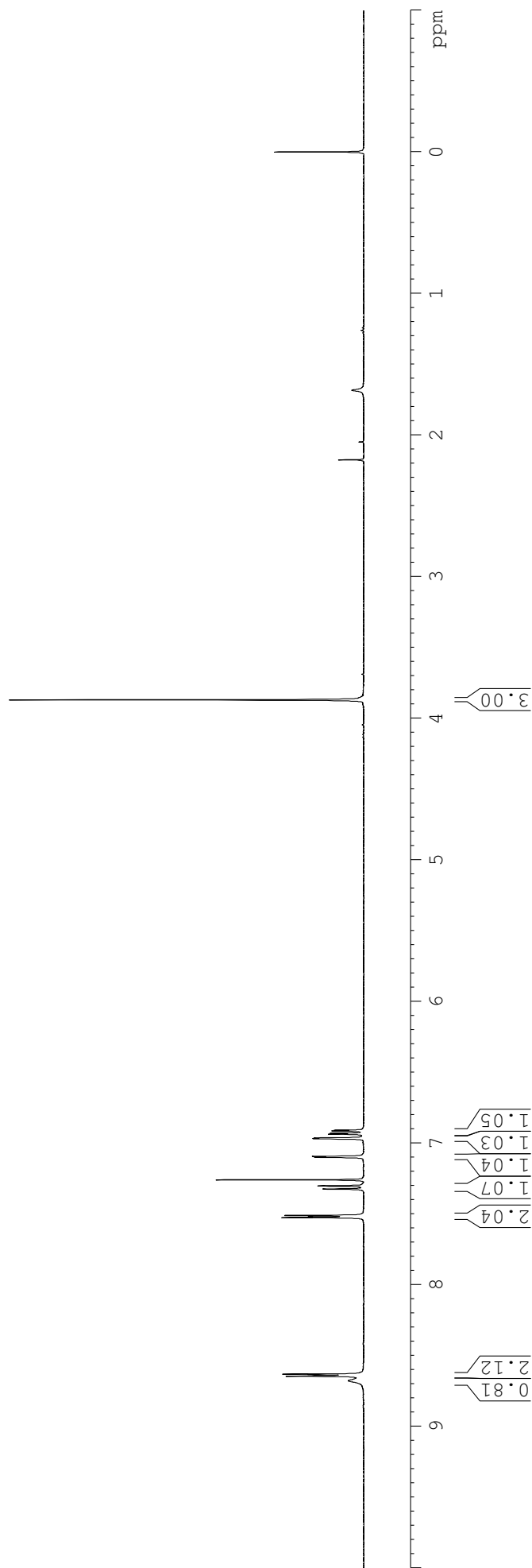
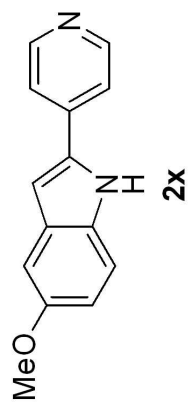
55.82



indole 2x, 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl3

8.679
8.648
8.644
8.636
8.632
7.527
7.523
7.515
7.511
7.325
7.303
7.101
7.095
6.969
6.965
6.938
6.932
6.916
6.910

3.870

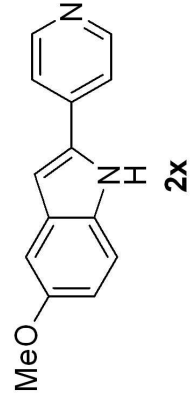


indole 2x, ¹³C NMR BBOF2 400 MHz CDCl₃

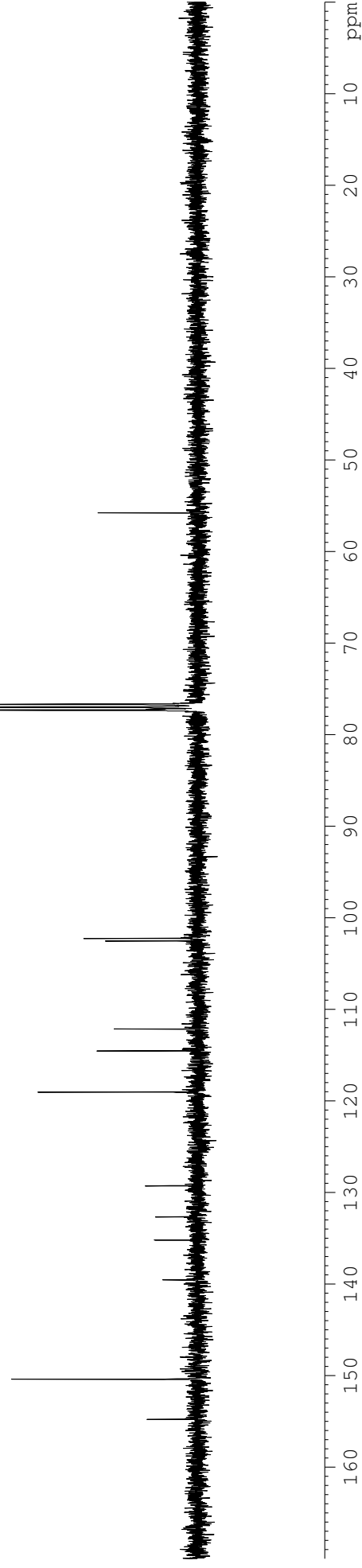
154.77
150.38
139.53
135.18
132.65
129.25
119.02
114.53
112.13
102.57
102.29

77.35
77.03
76.71

55.79

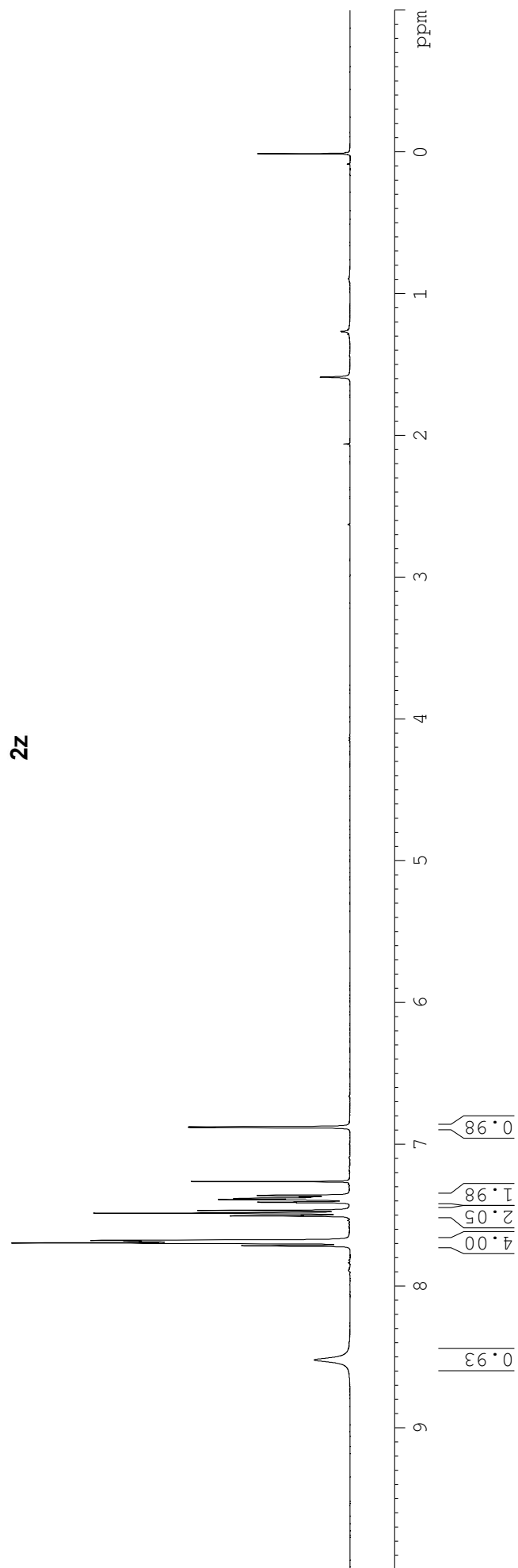
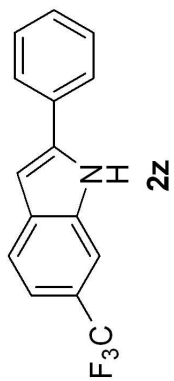


685

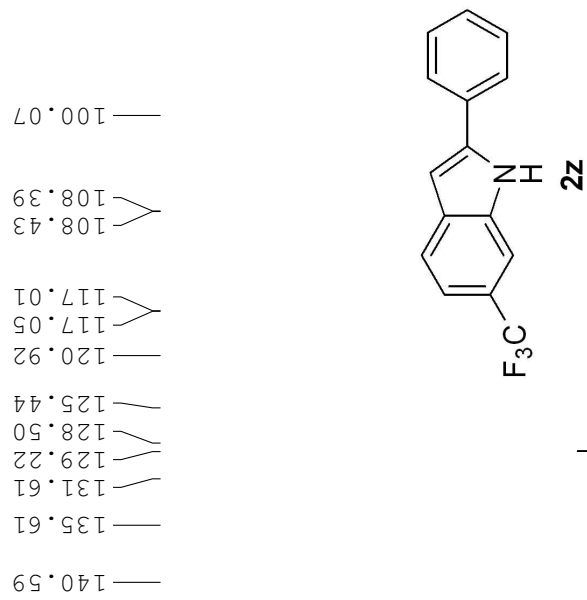


wy-2-348-indole 2z, 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl3

8.518
7.713
7.696
7.693
7.688
7.684
7.682
7.680
7.675
7.502
7.497
7.483
7.464
7.409
7.406
7.404
7.392
7.388
7.381
7.378
7.369
7.367
7.359
7.357
6.878
6.875
6.873



wy-2-348-indole 2z, ¹³C NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl₃



140.59	—
135.61	—
131.61	—
129.22	—
128.50	—
125.44	—
120.92	—
117.05	—
117.01	—
108.43	—
108.39	—
100.07	—

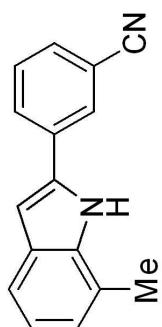
77.35	—
77.04	—
76.72	—



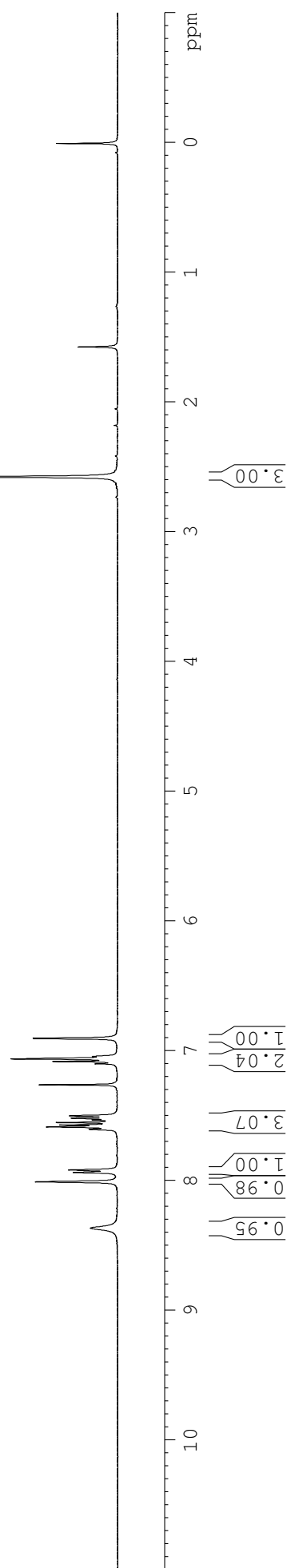
indole 2ac, 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl3

8.365
8.008
7.936
7.917
7.603
7.584
7.570
7.551
7.532
7.517
7.499
7.101
7.083
7.065
7.045
6.908
6.903

2.577



2ac

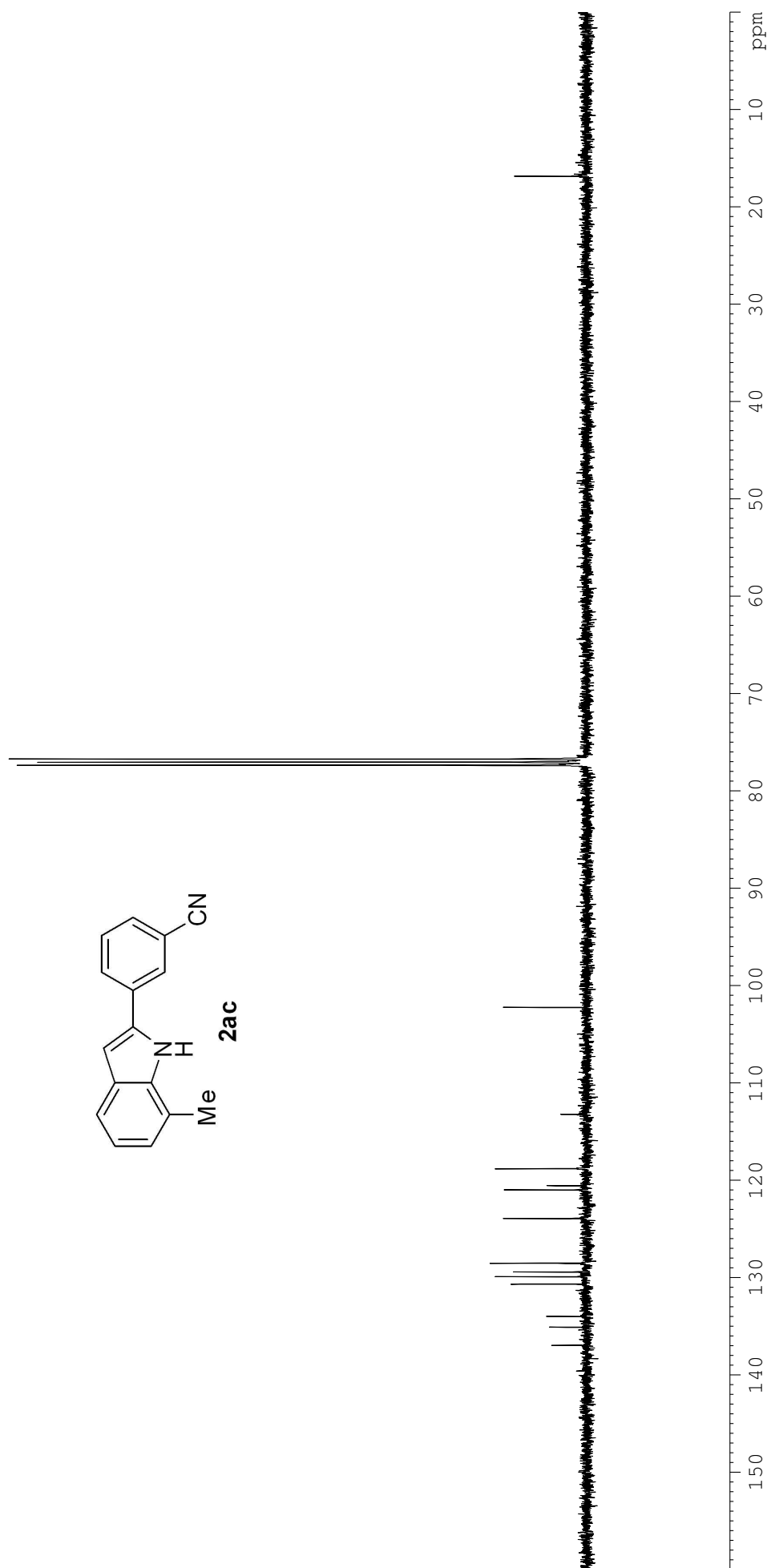
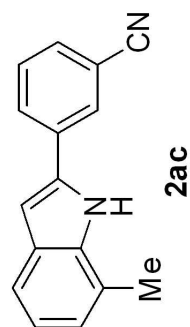


indole 2ac, ¹³C NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl₃

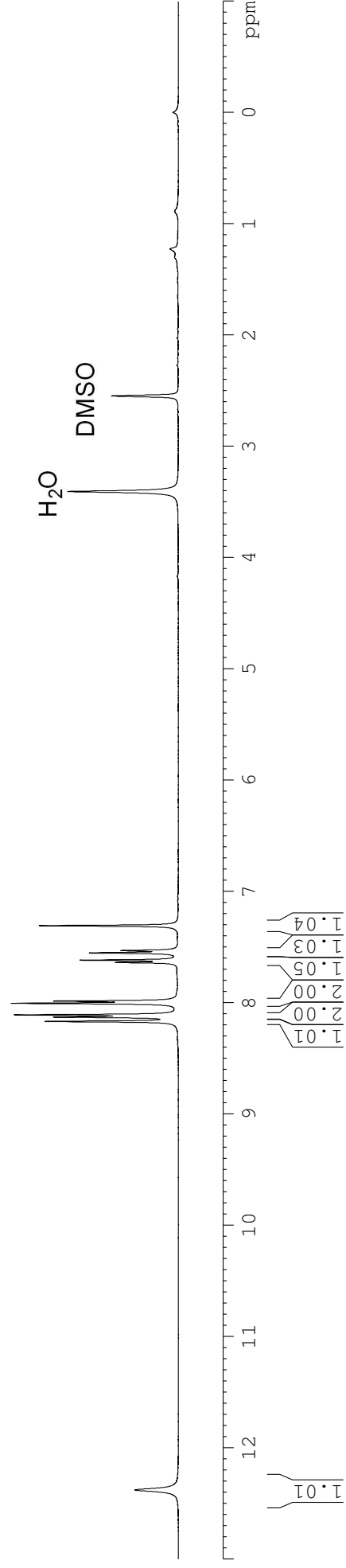
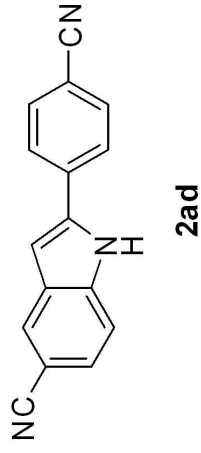
136.92
135.05
133.94
130.62
129.86
129.37
128.50
128.47
123.88
120.94
120.52
118.77
113.18
102.24

77.36
77.04
76.72

16.85

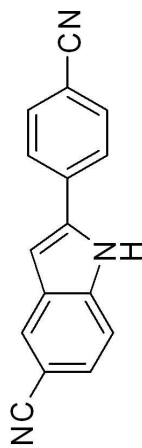


indole 2ad 1H NMR BBFO1 400 MHz DMSO-d6



indole 2ad 13C NMR BBF 01 400 MHz DMSO-d6

138.71
137.67
134.97
132.48
127.54
125.78
125.35
124.67
119.96
118.29
112.34
109.65
101.52
101.46

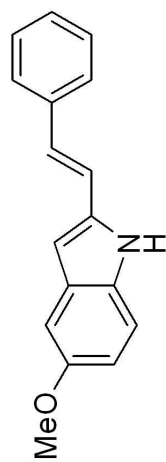
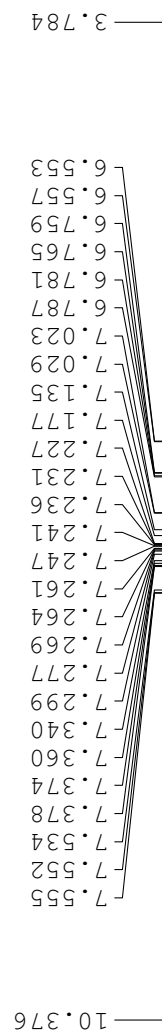


2ad

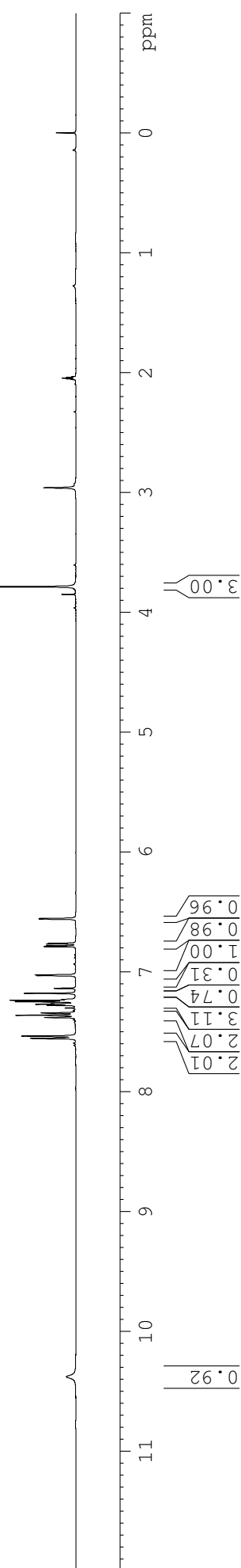
39.63
39.42
39.21
39.00
38.79
38.58
38.38

150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 ppm

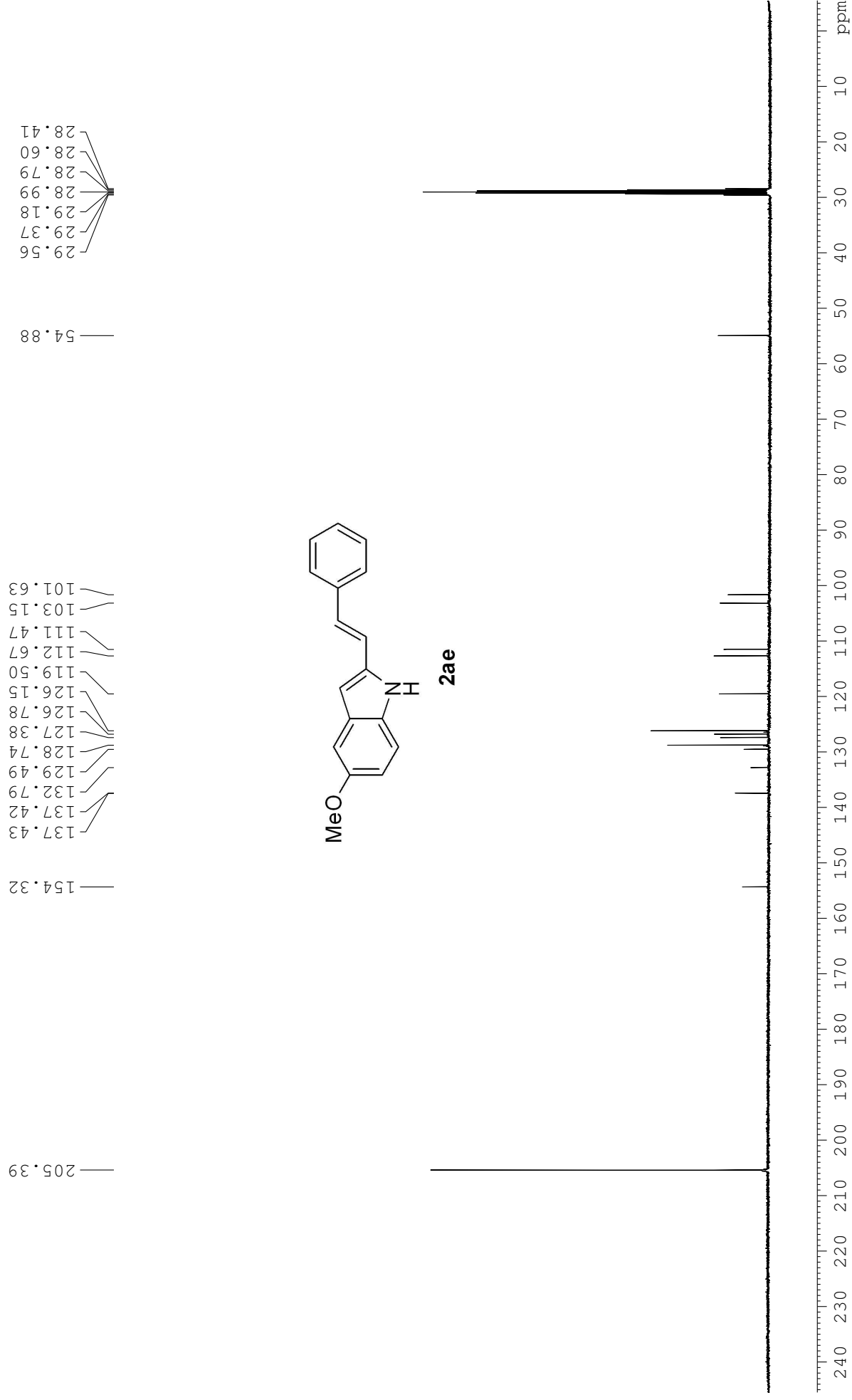
indole 2ae 1H NMR BBFO1 400Hz acetone-d6



2ae



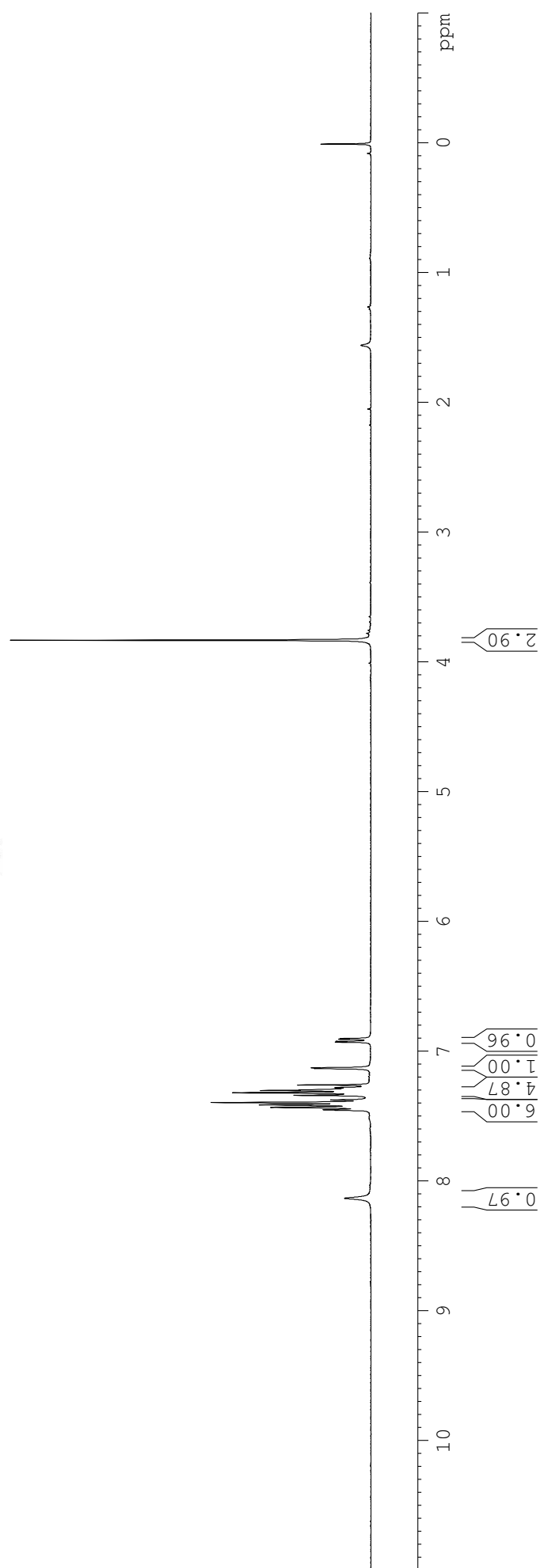
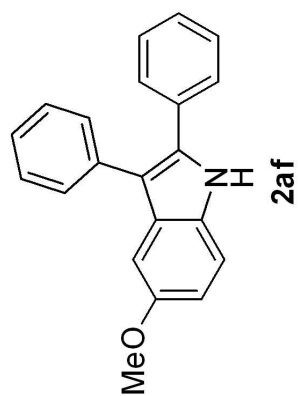
indole 2ae 13C NMR BBF01 400Hz acetone-d6



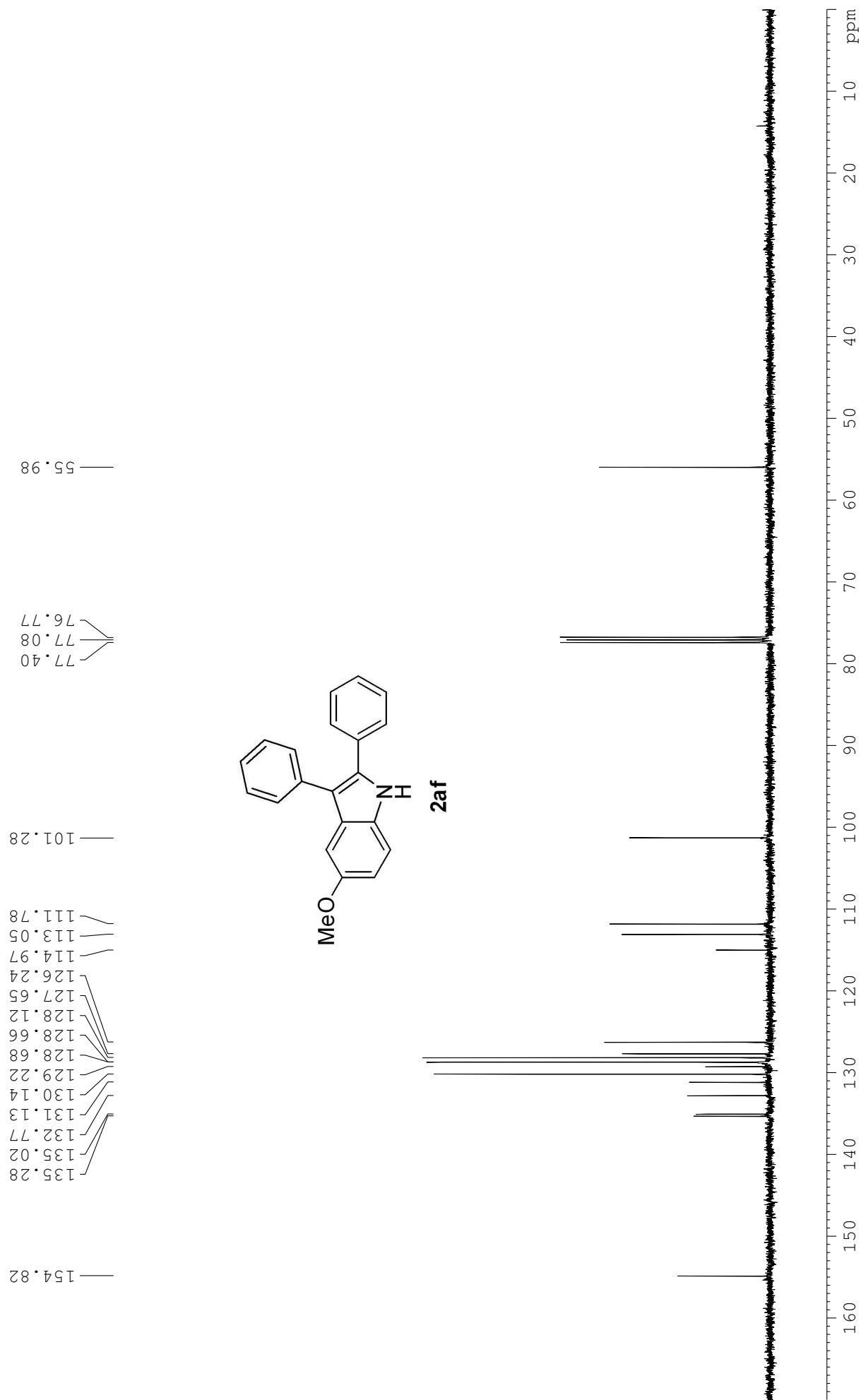
indole 2af, 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl3

8.133
7.451
7.434
7.414
7.395
7.376
7.340
7.320
7.302
7.297
7.287
7.281
7.133
7.128
6.930
6.924
6.908
6.902

3.832



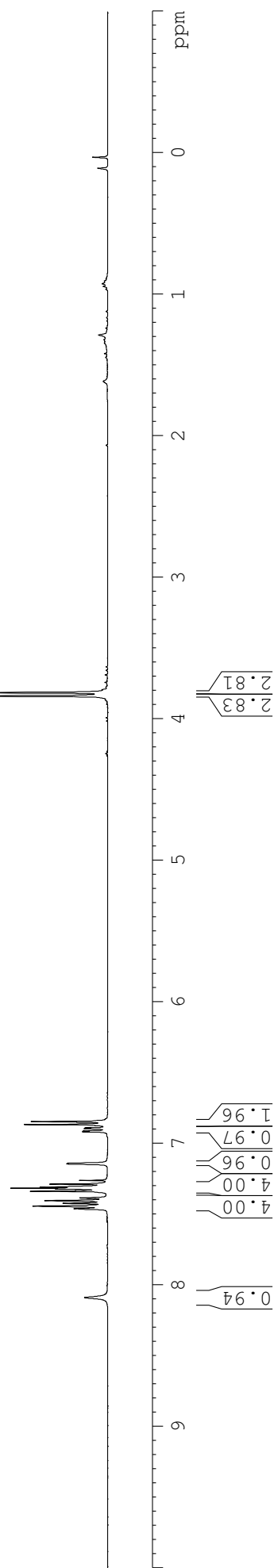
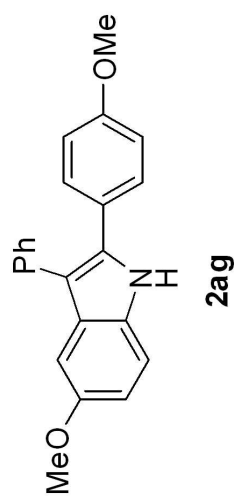
indole 2af 13C NMR BBOF01 CDCl3



ndole 2ag 1H NMR CDCl3, BBOF1 400MHz

8.088
7.460
7.442
7.422
7.404
7.384
7.338
7.333
7.321
7.316
7.309
7.287
7.144
7.140
6.917
6.911
6.895
6.889
6.866
6.862
6.844

3.838
3.814



indole 2ag 13C NMR 400 MHz BBFO1 CDCl3

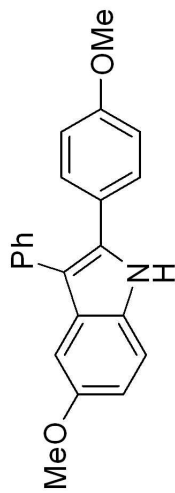
159.12
154.71

135.38
135.00
130.88
130.02
129.32
129.19
128.54
126.00
125.20
114.08
114.02
112.51
111.53

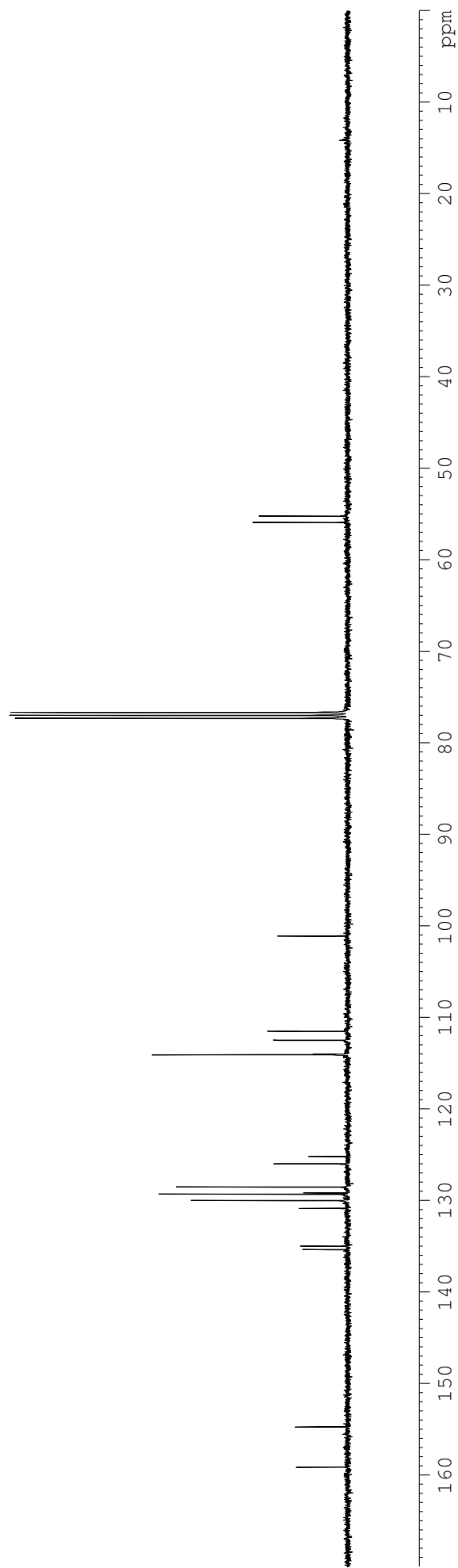
101.11

77.32
77.00
76.68

55.91
55.22



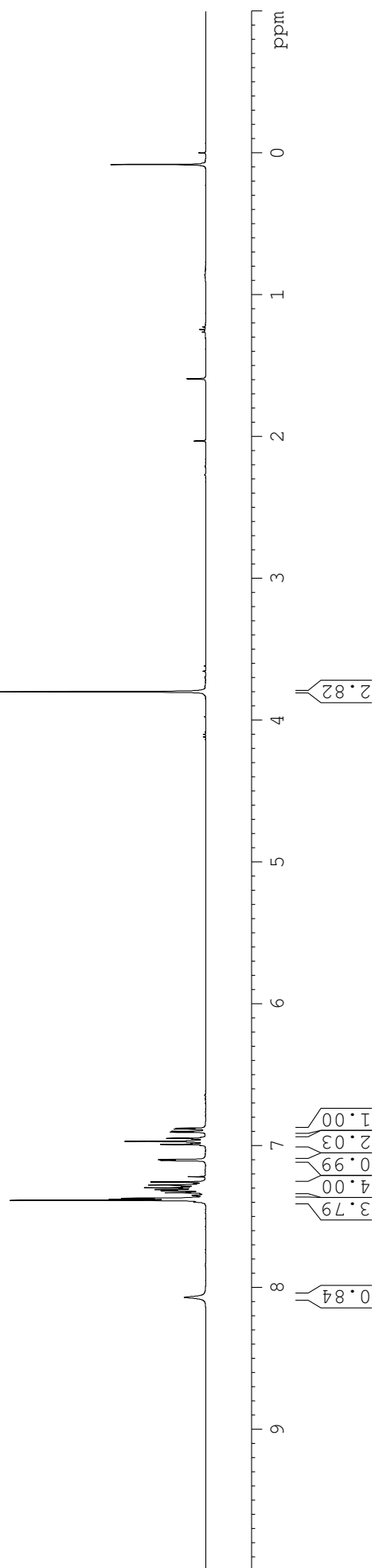
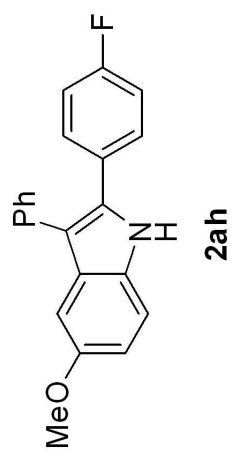
2ag



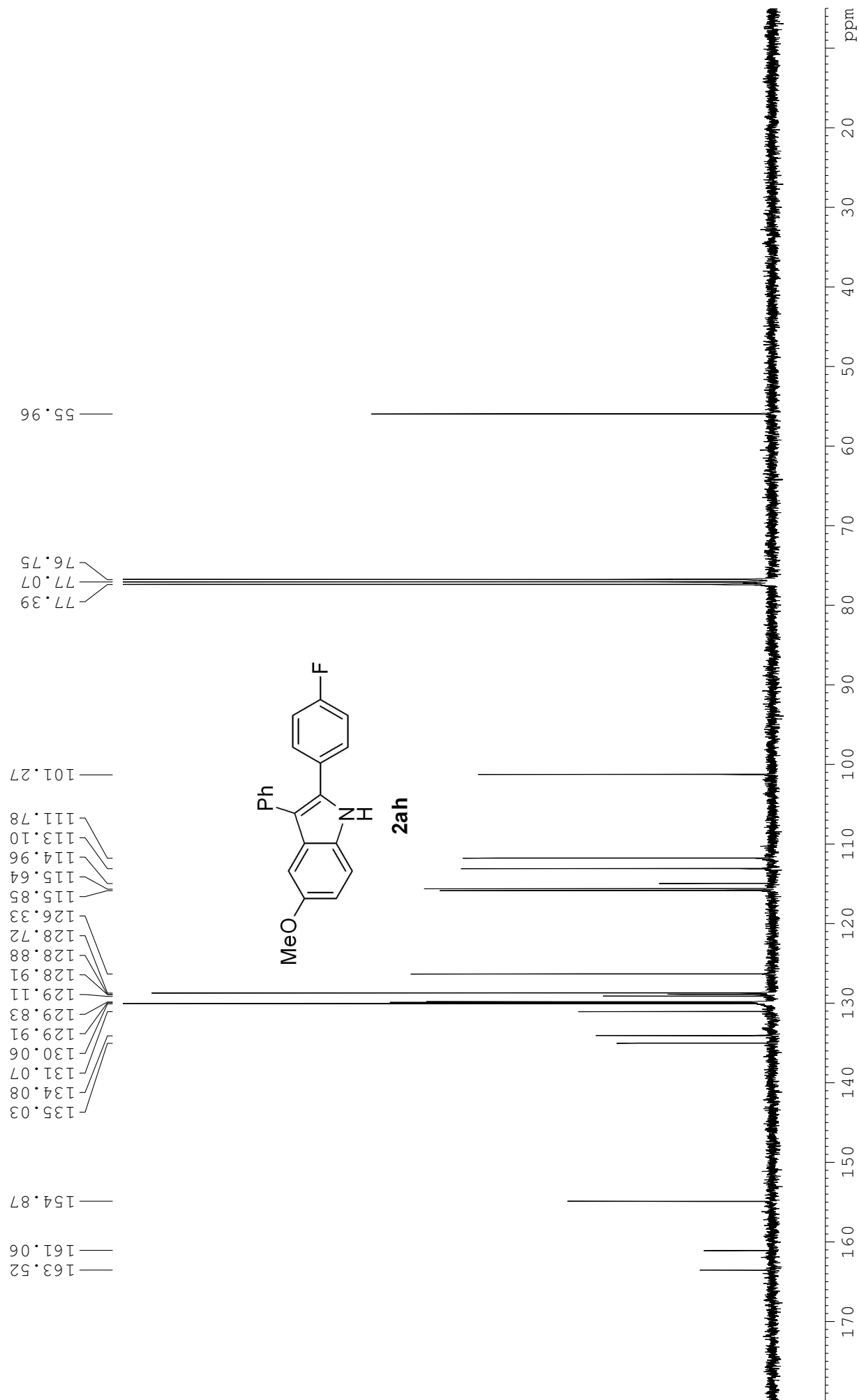
indole 2ah 1H NMR 400 MHz BBFO1 CDCl3

8.068
7.399
7.397
7.386
7.379
7.372
7.333
7.320
7.311
7.298
7.279
7.257
7.106
7.100
6.993
6.971
6.949
6.906
6.900
6.884
6.878

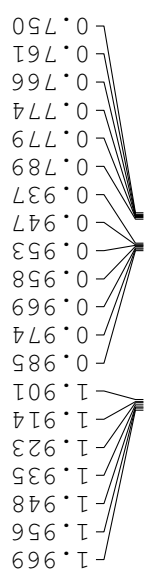
3.800



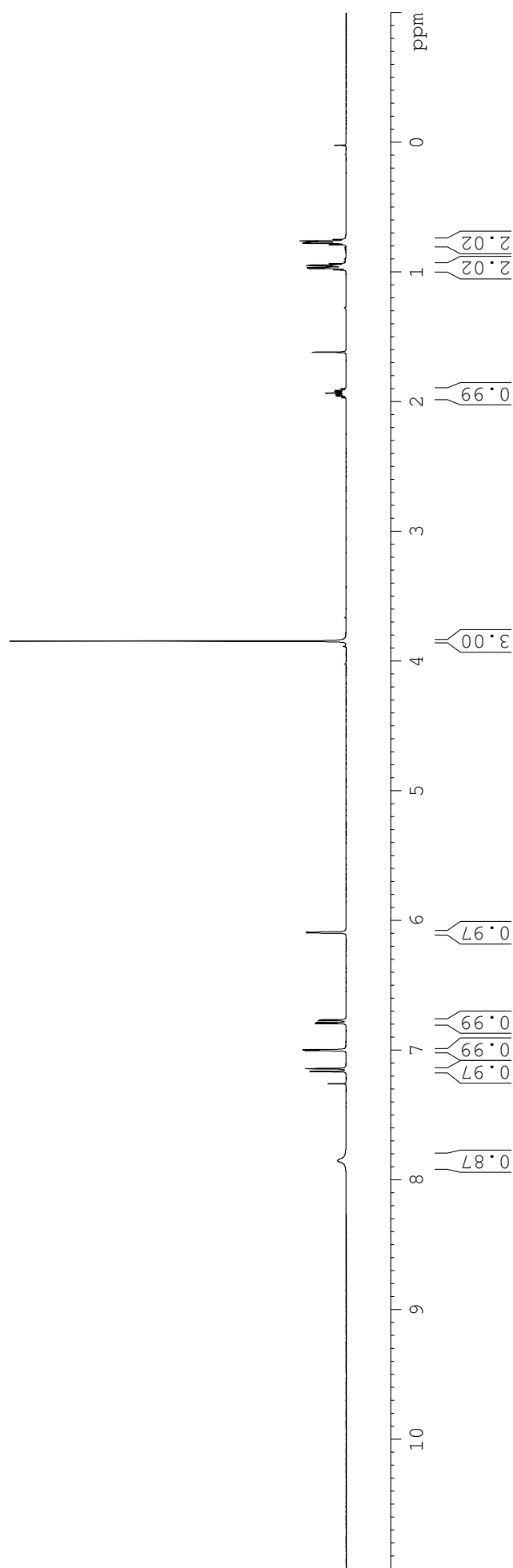
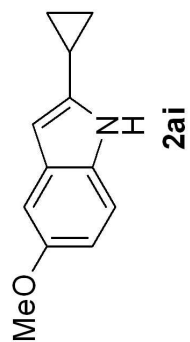
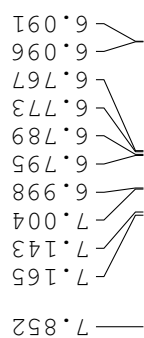
indole 2ah 13C NMR 400 MHz BBFO1 CDCl3

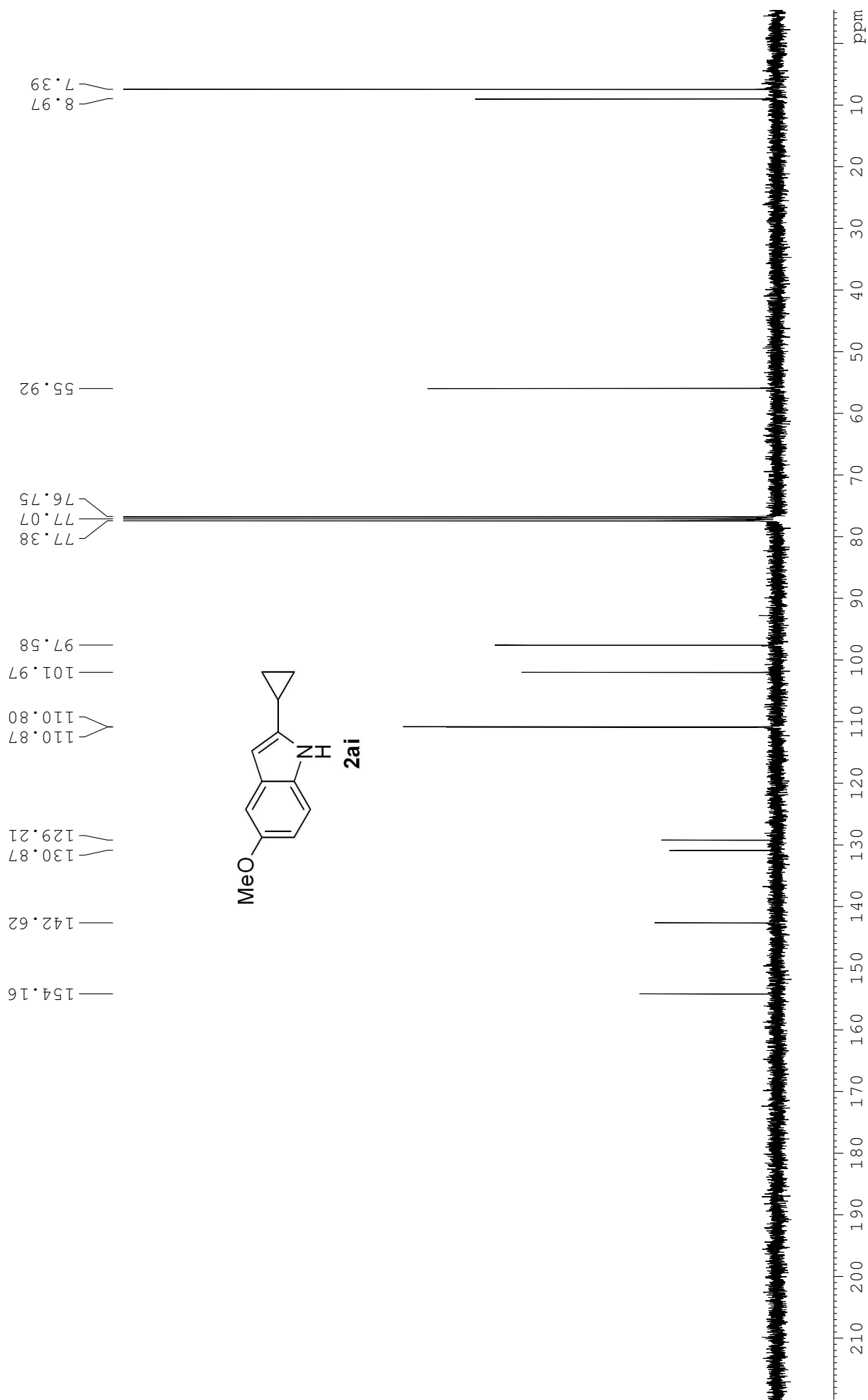


wy-2-236-indole 2ai, ¹H NMR BBFO1 400Hz in CDCl₃



3.847

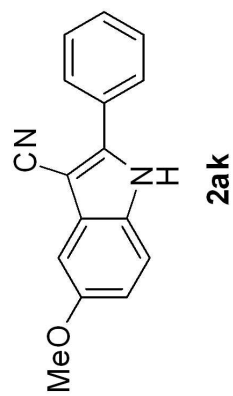




indole-2ak 1H NMR DMSO-d6 BBOF1 400MHz

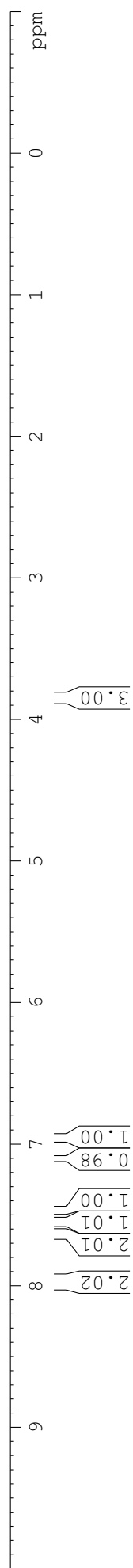
7.983
7.964
7.654
7.635
7.616
7.567
7.549
7.531
7.481
7.459
7.101
6.970
6.967
6.948
6.945

3.854

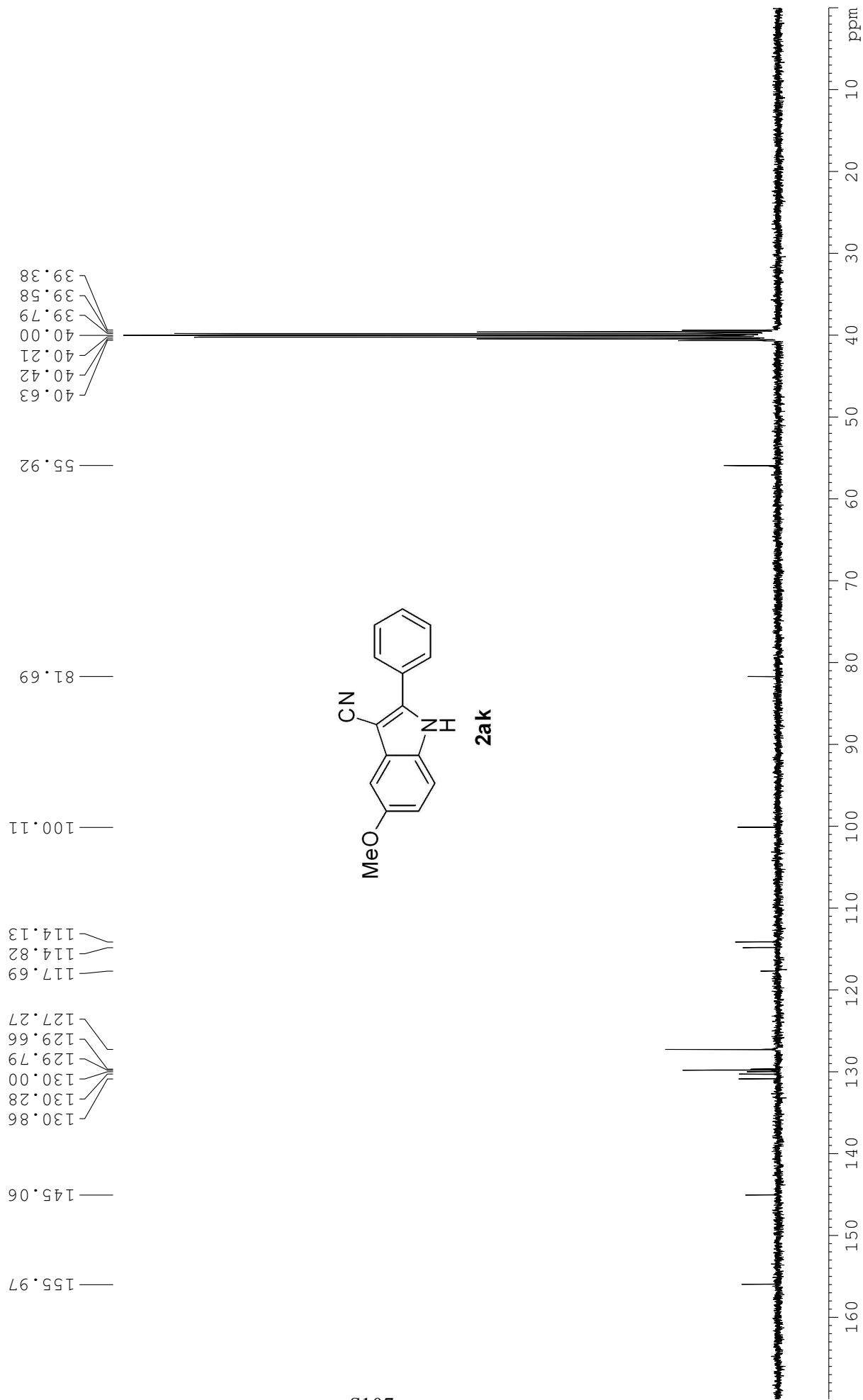


DMSO

H₂O



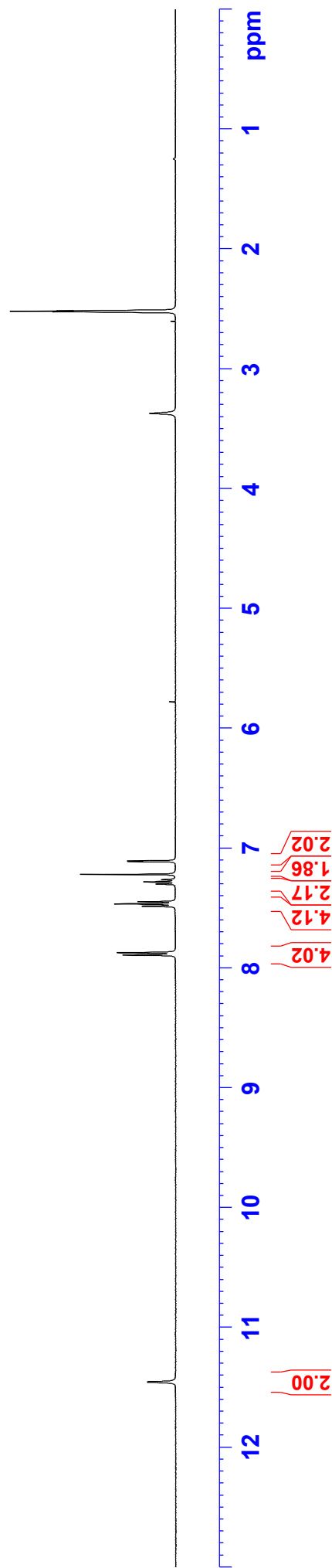
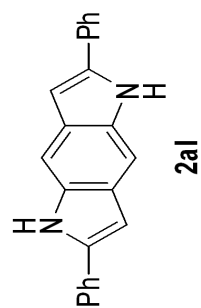
indole 2ak 13C NMR BBF 02 400 MHz DMSO-d6

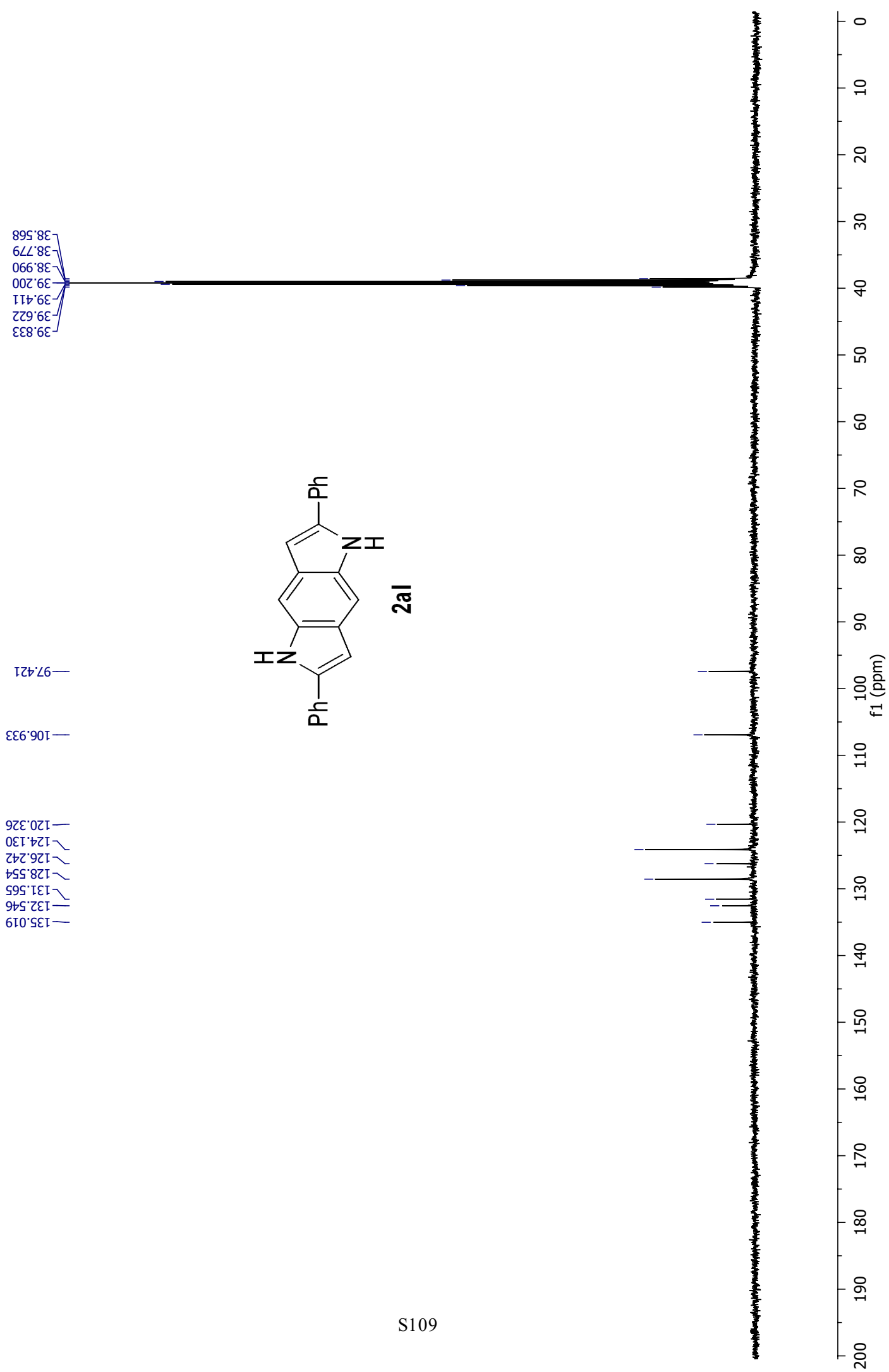


11.457
11.453

7.891
7.873
7.485
7.466
7.446
7.299
7.281
7.262
7.219
7.112
7.106

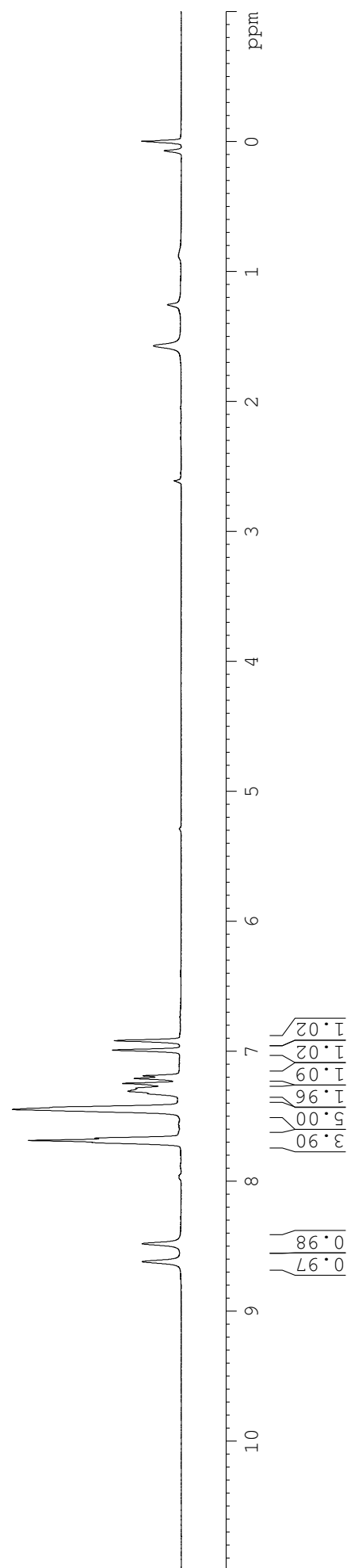
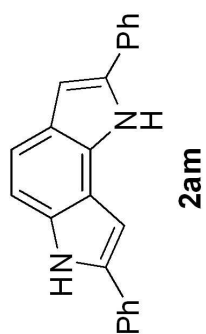
3.372
2.529
2.524
2.520
2.515
2.511





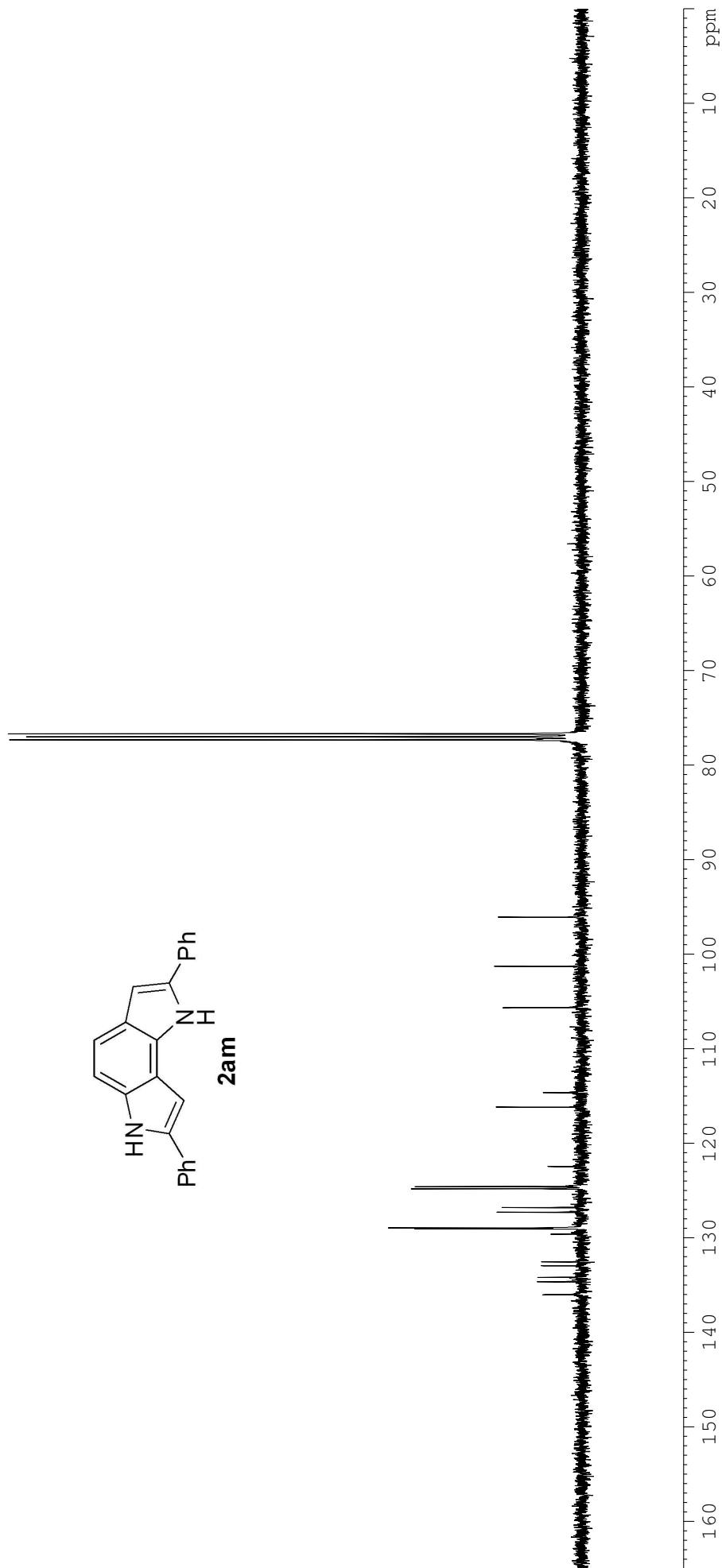
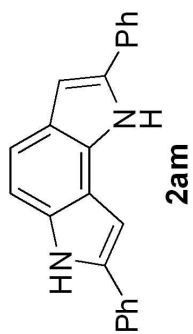
indole 2am 1H NMR BBFO2 400MHz CDCl3

8.617
8.480
7.700
7.685
7.667
7.446
7.324
7.306
7.281
7.246
7.208
7.187
6.989
6.916

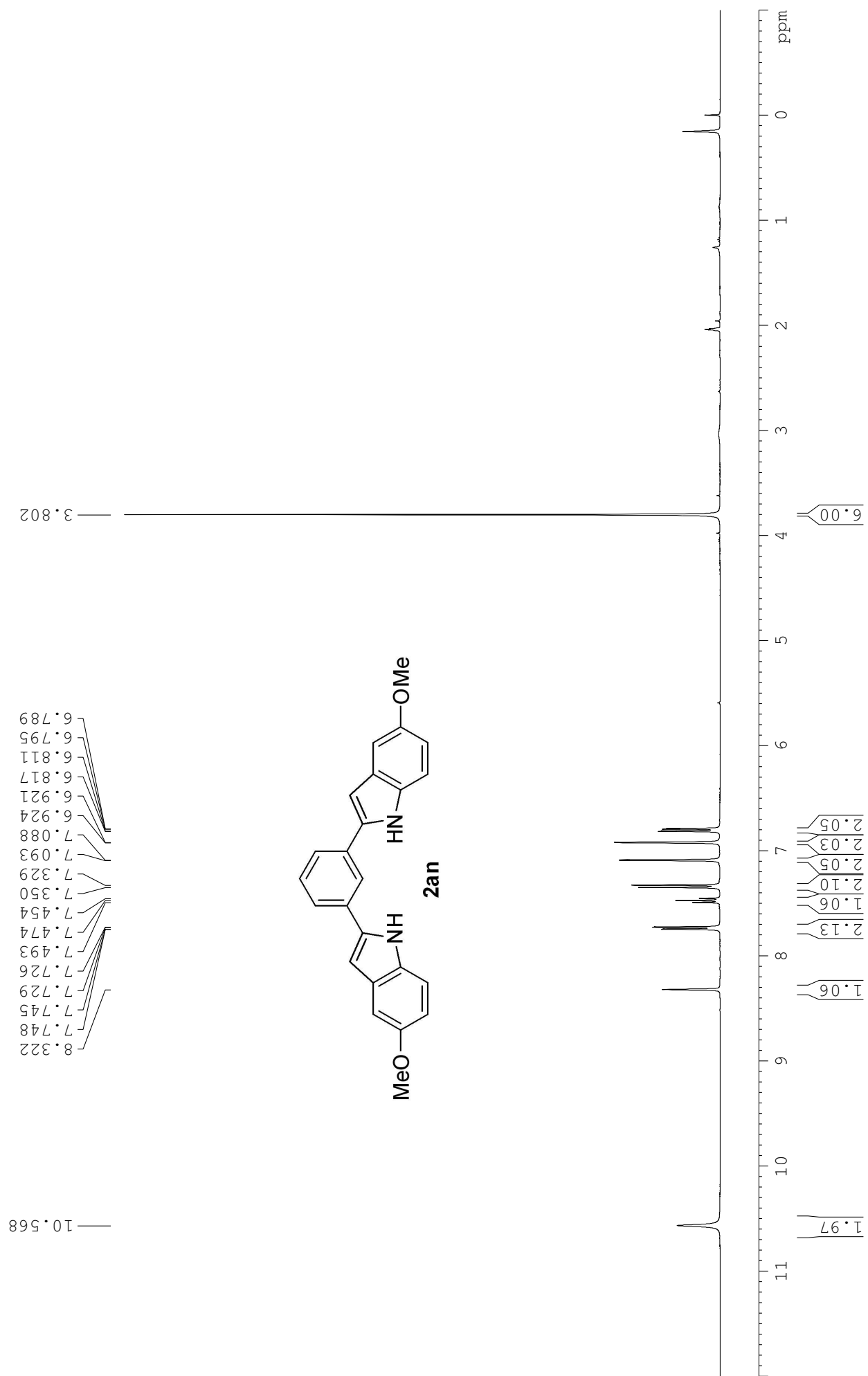


indole 2am 13C NMR 400 MHz BBFO1 CDCl3

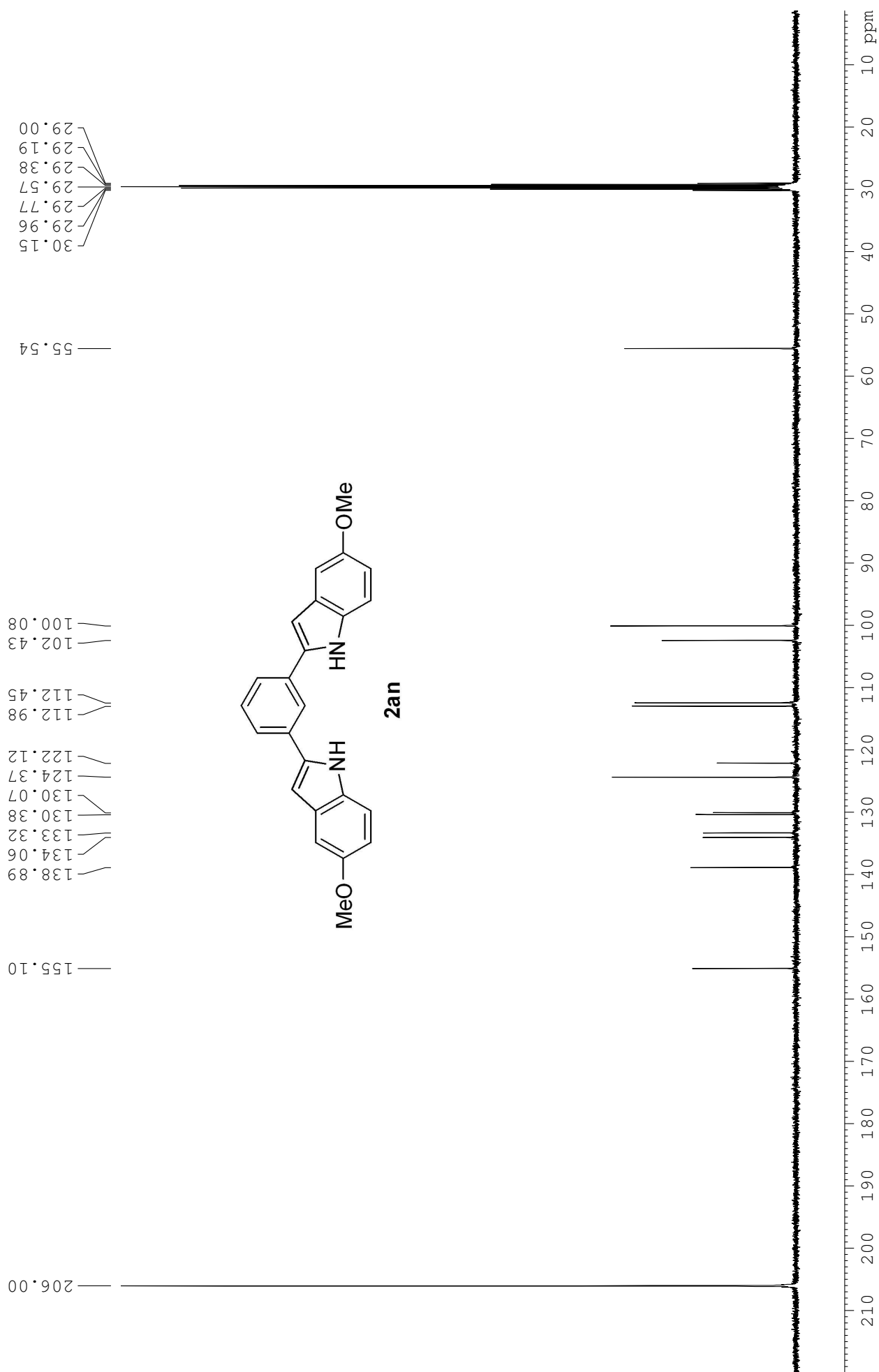
136.02
134.66
134.20
132.97
132.55
129.63
129.05
128.97
127.30
126.81
124.83
124.60
122.47
116.19
114.65
105.65
101.30
96.09
77.32
77.01
76.69

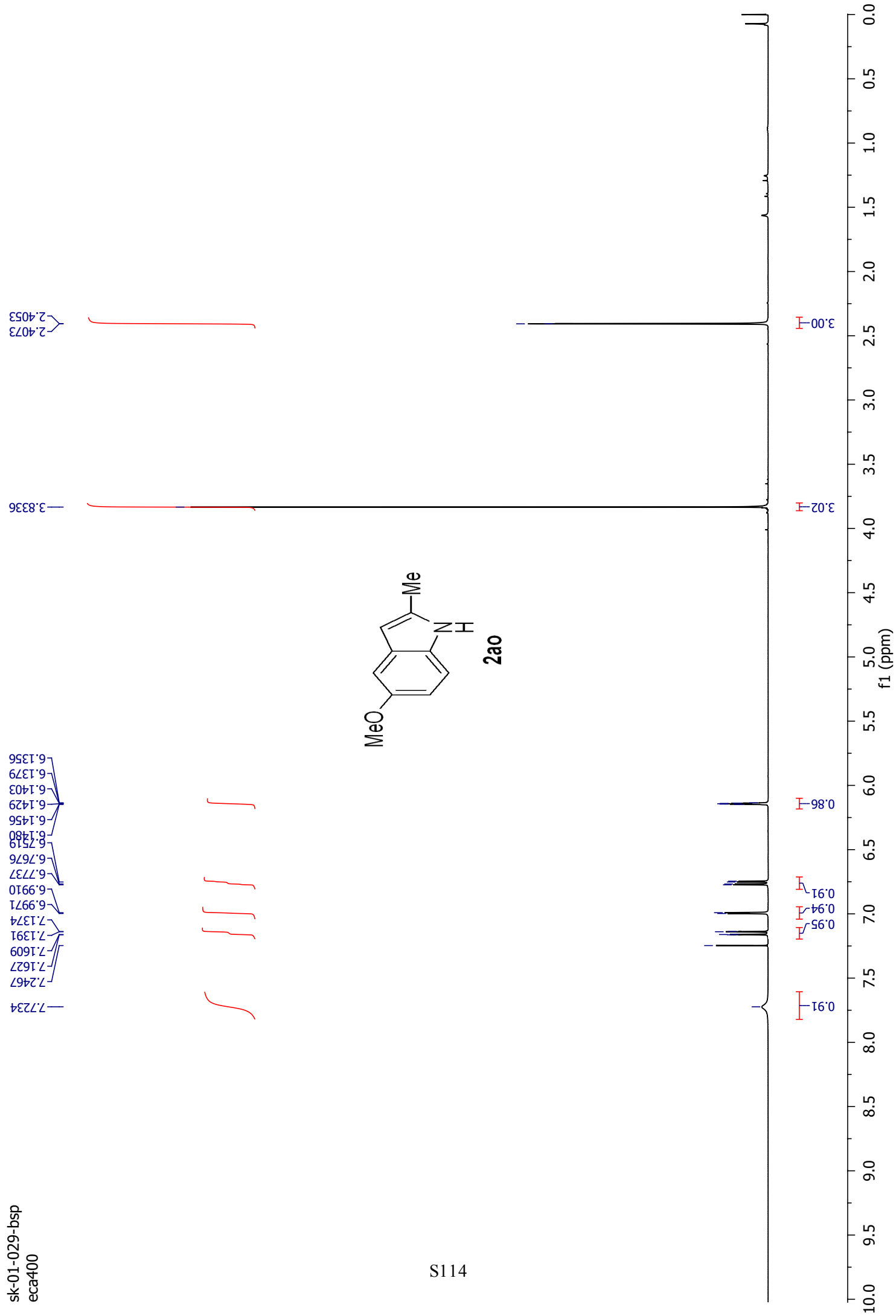


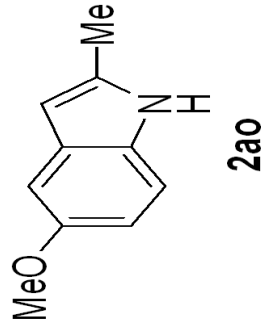
indole 2an 1H NMR 400 MHz, BBFO2, CDCl3



indole 2an 13C NMR 400 MHz BBFO2 acetone-d6







13.8775

55.9704

77.4366
77.1122
76.7974100.4007
101.9749110.7427
110.8858129.6139
131.2167
135.9774

154.1808

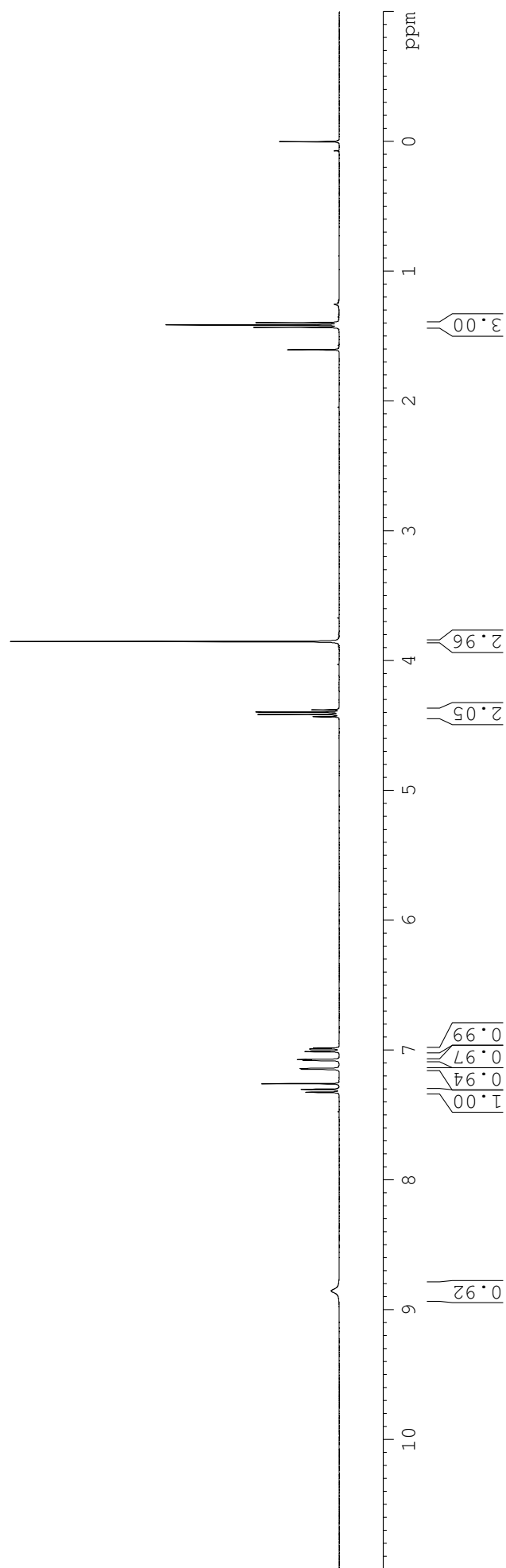
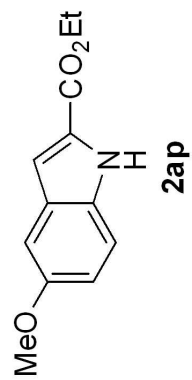
indole 2ap 1H NMR CDCl3 BBOF1 400MHz

7.326
7.303
7.149
7.147
7.144
7.080
7.074
7.013
7.007
6.991
6.985

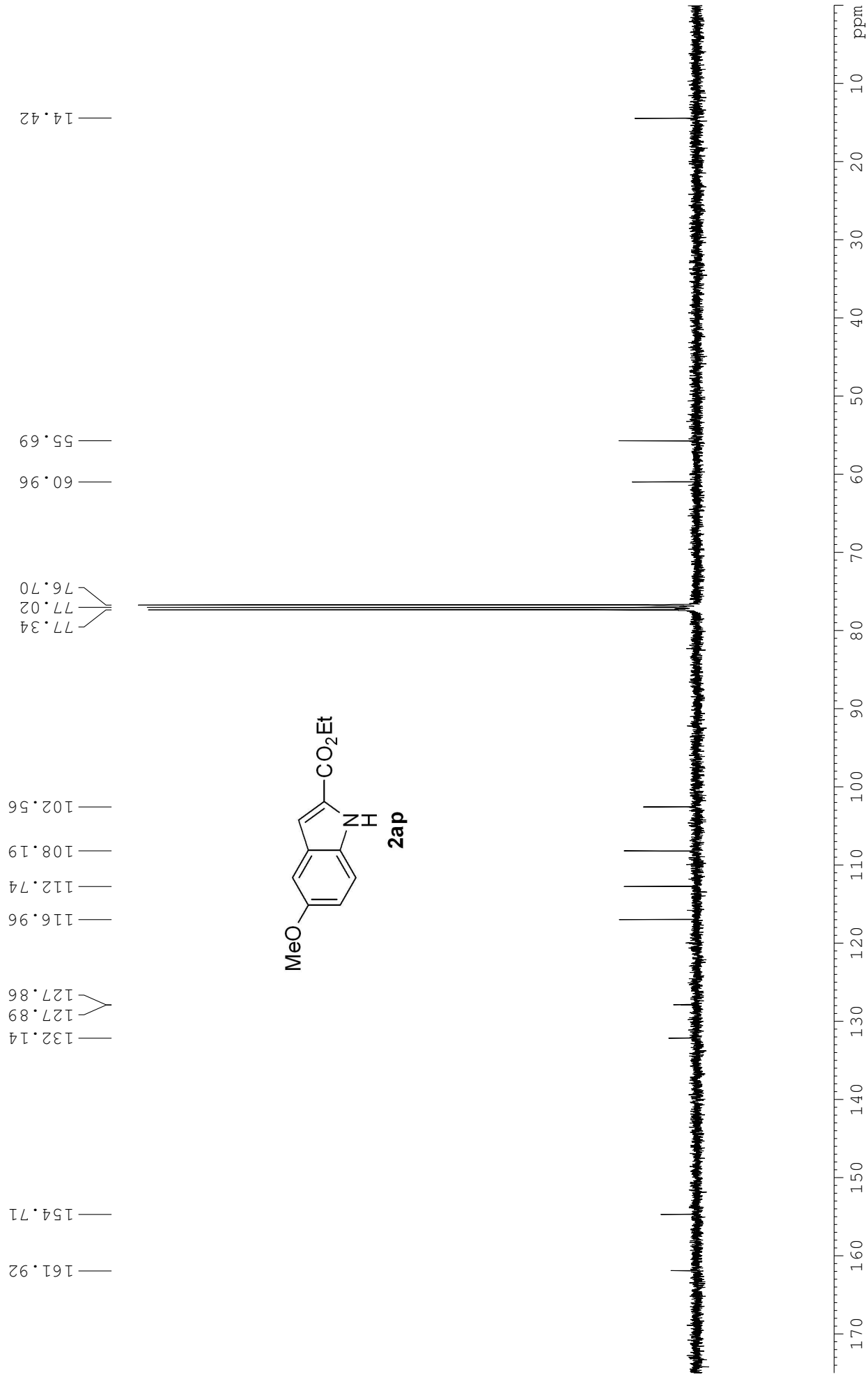
4.432
4.415
4.397
4.379

1.432
1.414
1.396

8.857

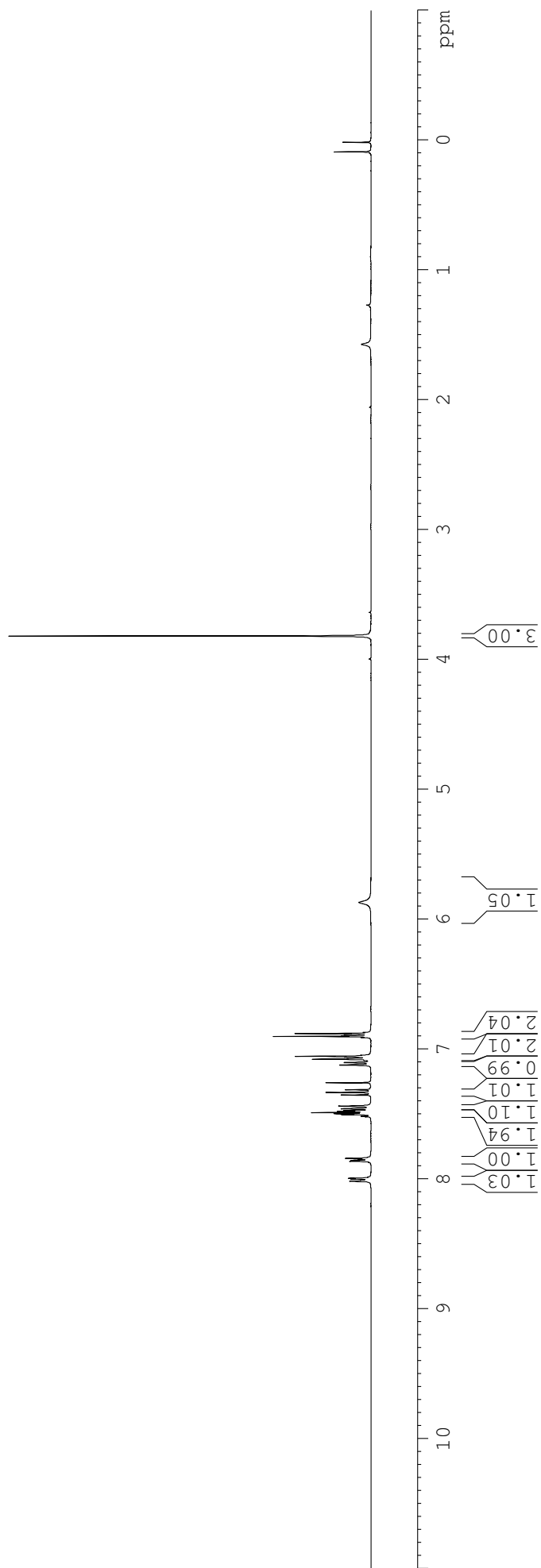
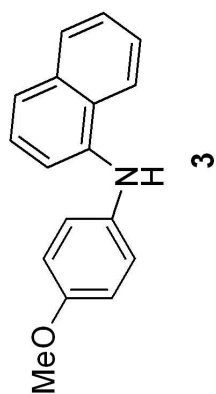


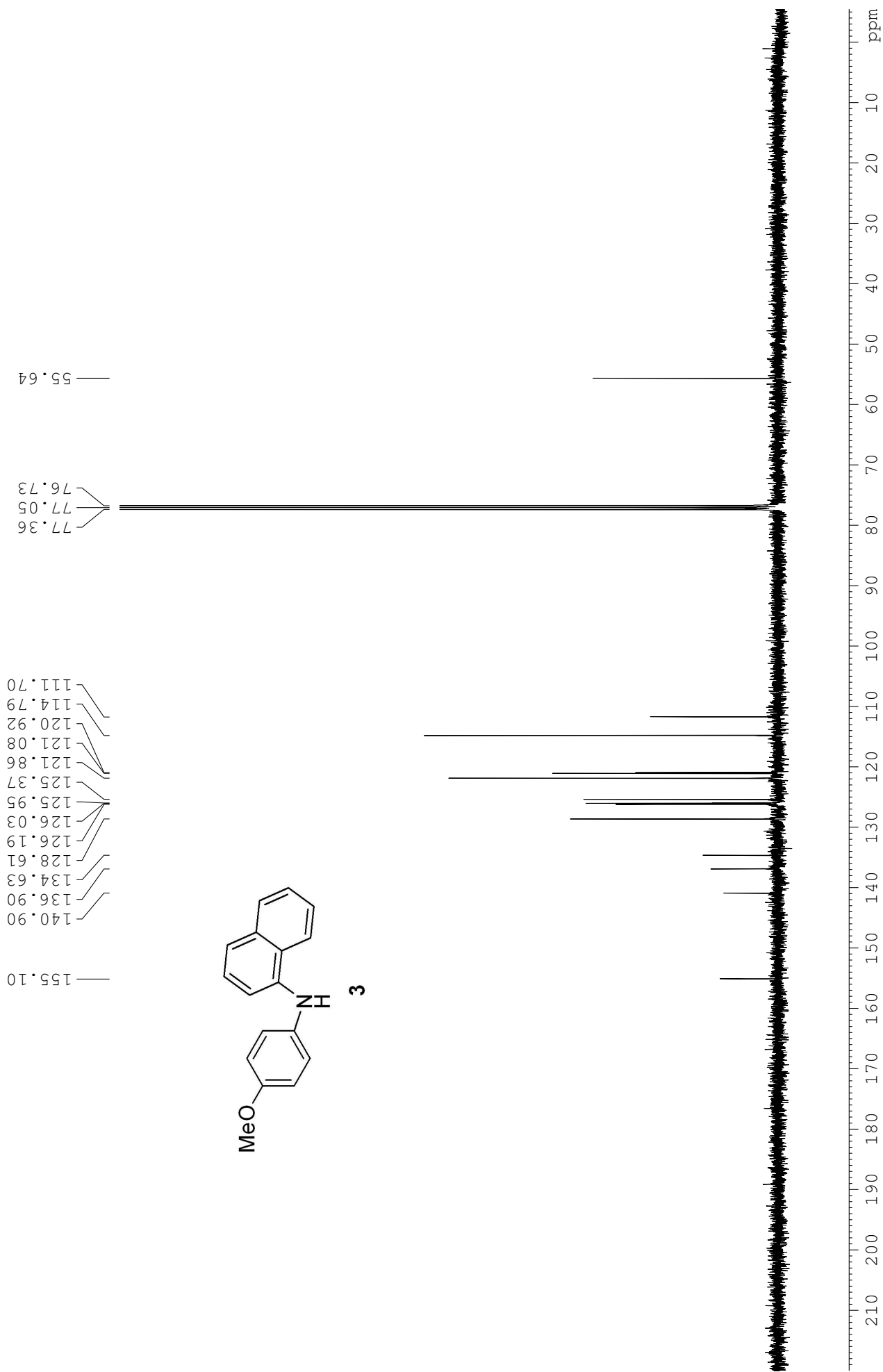
indole 2ap 13C NMR CDCl3, BBOF1 400MHz



wy-2-140, 1H NMR, 400MHz BBFO1 CDCl3

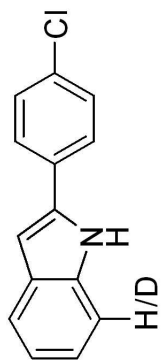
8.020
8.018
8.012
8.010
8.002
7.996
7.865
7.859
7.851
7.842
7.835
7.519
7.506
7.501
7.499
7.490
7.482
7.479
7.474
7.461
7.440
7.354
7.335
7.315
7.260
7.123
7.105
7.087
7.079
7.074
7.062
7.057
7.048
6.912
6.903
6.898
6.887
6.881
6.872
5.872
3.819



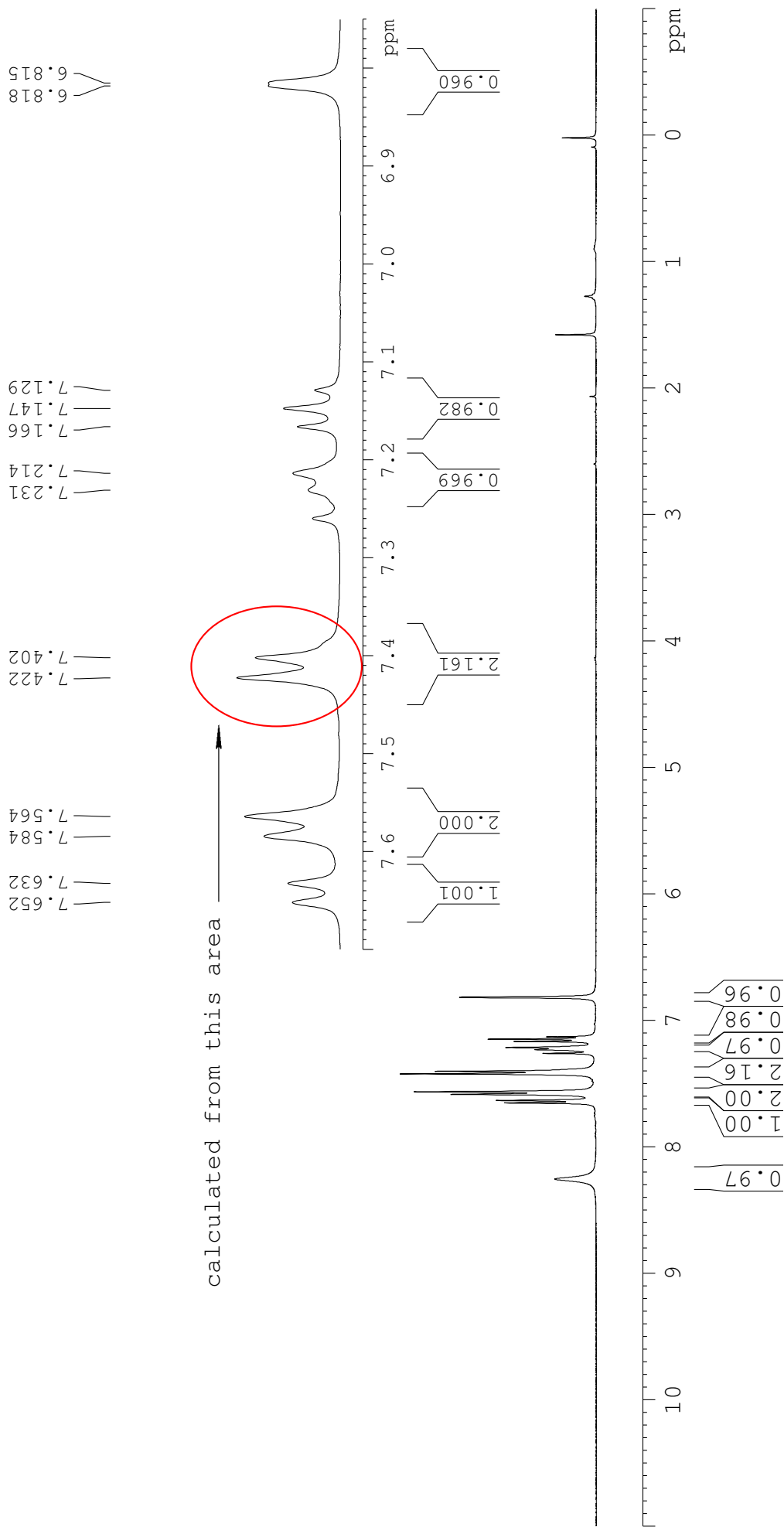


BF₃·OEt₂ in CDCl₃
400 MHz
8.25
7.65
7.63
7.58
7.56
7.42
7.40
7.23
7.21
7.16
7.14
7.12
6.81
6.81
6.81

Intramolecular Competition

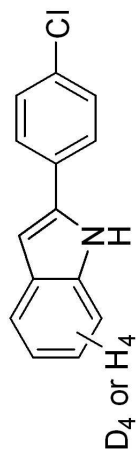


$$k_H/k_D = 0.839/0.161 = 5.2$$



wy-2-225, ¹H NMR BBFO1 400Hz in CDCl₃

Intermolecular Competition



$$k_H/k_D = 1/0.597 = 1.7$$

