
Supporting Information

Tandem Reactions of 1,2-Allenic Ketones Leading to Substituted Benzenes and α,β -Unsaturated Nitriles

Xinying Zhang,* Xuefei Jia, Liangliang Fang, Nan Liu, Jianji Wang and Xuesen Fan*

School of Chemistry and Environmental Science, Key Laboratory of Green Chemical Media and Reactions, Ministry of Education, Henan Key Laboratory for Environmental Pollution Control, Henan Normal University, Xinxiang, Henan 453007, People's Republic of China

xuesen.fan@henannu.edu.cn; xinyingzhang@henannu.edu.cn

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I. General Experimental Information

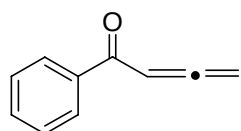
1,2-Allenic ketones and 2-substituted cyanoacetates were synthesized from commercially available reagents. Other reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz or 100 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard in CDCl_3 or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ solutions. Multiplicity was indicated as follows: s (singlet); d (doublet); t (triplet); m (multiplet); dd (doublet of doublets); td (triplet of doublets); br s (broad singlet), etc. and coupling constants were given in Hz. The conversion of starting materials were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using silica gel plates (silica gel 60 F254 0.25 mm) and components were visualized by observation under UV light (254 and 365 nm).

II. Experimental Procedures and Spectroscopic Data

1-Aryl substituted allenic ketones were prepared through oxidation of the corresponding homopropargyl alcohols,¹ which were prepared through zinc promoted propargylation of the corresponding aldehydes.² 1,4-Disubstituted allenic ketones were prepared through reactions of 1-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)-2-propanone or 2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)acetophenone with phenylacetyl chloride based on a literature procedure.³ 2-Substituted cyanoacetates were prepared through alkylation of ethyl cyanoacetate.⁴

1. Typical procedure for the preparation of 1-phenylbuta-2,3-dien-1-one

A solution of 1-phenylbut-3-yn-1-ol (1 mmol) in acetone (10 mL) was cooled to 0 °C. Jones reagent (0.42 mL, 3.0 M solution, 1.26 mmol) was added dropwise *via* syringe with stirring. Upon complete consumption of the starting material as monitored by TLC, the reaction was quenched by addition of isopropanol (0.2 mL). The mixture was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane (1:10) to give 1-phenylbuta-2,3-dien-1-one. Other 1-aryl substituted allenic ketones were obtained in a similar manner.

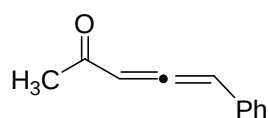


1-Phenylbuta-2,3-dien-1-one

Oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 5.27 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.90-7.92 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 79.2, 93.2, 128.3, 128.7, 132.8, 137.4, 191.0, 217.1. MS: *m/z* 145 [MH]⁺.

2. Typical procedure for the preparation of 5-phenylpenta-3,4-dien-2-one

To an ice-cooled solution of 1-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)-2-propanone (0.637 g, 2 mmol) and Et₃N (0.202 g, 2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) being stirred under nitrogen was added dropwise a solution of phenylacetyl chloride (0.309 g, 2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL). Upon completion, approximately half of the solvent were removed, and diethyl ether was added to precipitate Ph₃PO. After filtration, silica gel was added to adsorb the reaction products and the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by column chromatography eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane (1:10) yielded 5-phenylpenta-3,4-dien-2-one as light yellow syrup. Other 1,4-disubstituted allenic ketones were obtained in a similar manner.

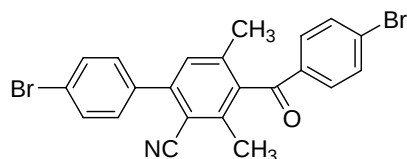


5-Phenylpenta-3,4-dien-2-one

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.26 (s, 3H), 6.14 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.38 (m, 5H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 26.8, 98.6, 101.1, 127.3, 128.3, 129.1, 130.9, 198.0, 215.9. MS: m/z 159 $[\text{MH}]^+$.

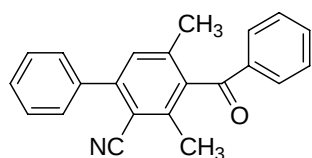
3. Typical procedure for the preparation of 1-(4-bromobenzoyl)-4-(4-bromophenyl)-3-cyano-2,6-dimethylbenzene (6a)

A mixture of 1-(4-bromophenyl)buta-2,3-dien-1-one (1 mmol), cyanoacetate (0.5 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (0.5 mmol) in acetone (5 mL) was refluxed for 15 min. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, added with water (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane (1:20) to give **6a**. Other polysubstituted benzenes (**6b-6v**) were obtained in a similar manner.



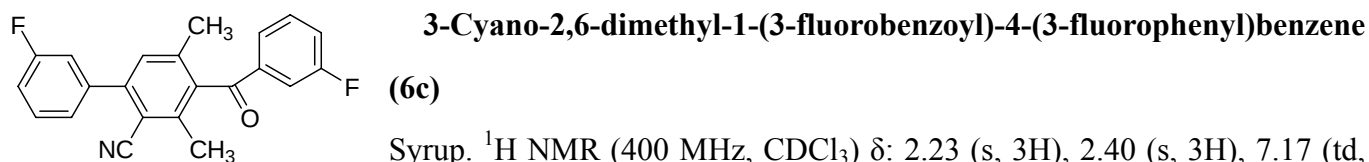
1-(4-Bromobenzoyl)-4-(4-bromophenyl)-3-cyano-2,6-dimethylbenzene (6a)

Colorless solid, m.p. 218-220 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ : 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ : 18.7, 19.7, 110.0, 117.4, 123.0, 129.7, 130.0, 131.3, 131.5, 132.1, 133.1, 135.0, 137.4, 139.0, 139.2, 139.9, 144.7, 197.0. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2951, 2215, 1665, 1580\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 468 $(\text{MH})^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{Br}_2\text{NO}$: 467.9599 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]$, found: 467.9593.

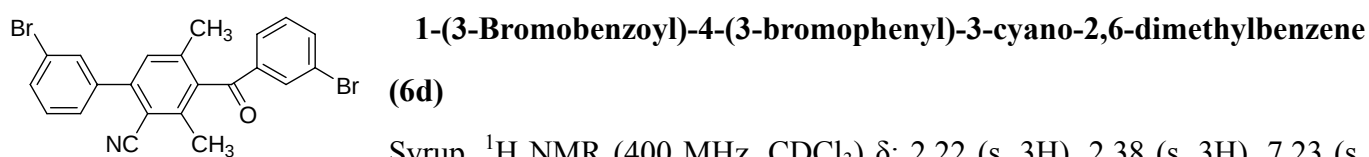


1-Benzoyl-3-cyano-2,6-dimethyl-4-phenylbenzene (6b)

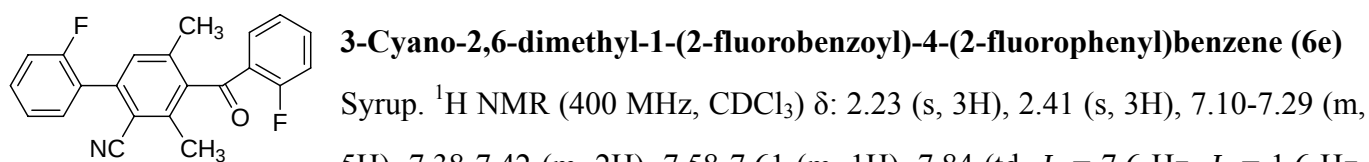
Colorless solid, m.p. 116-118 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.54 (m, 5H), 7.58 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 18.6, 19.9, 110.3, 117.4, 128.68, 128.75, 128.82, 129.2, 129.4, 129.5, 134.5, 136.2, 138.1, 139.27, 139.35, 139.5, 146.3, 198.2. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2949, 2217, 1665, 1594\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 312 $(\text{MH})^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$: 312.1389 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]$, found: 312.1391.



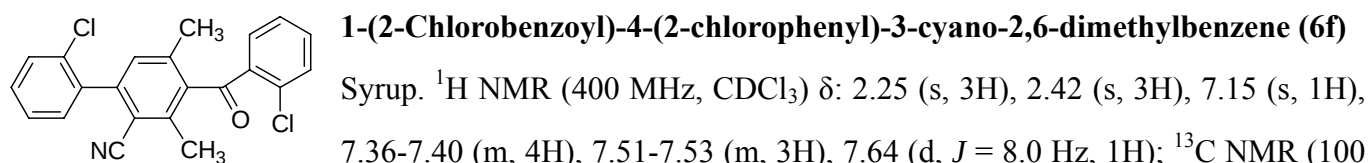
Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 7.17 (td, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 18.6, 19.9, 110.5, 115.5, 115.7, 116.0, 116.8, 121.6, 121.7, 124.6, 125.3, 129.5, 130.3, 130.4, 131.0, 131.0, 138.2, 138.3, 139.3, 139.5, 139.6, 140.0, 140.1, 145.1, 161.4, 161.9, 163.9, 164.4, 196.6. IR (KBr) $\nu = 3072, 2216, 1676, 1587\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 348 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2\text{NO}$: 348.1201 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 348.1203.



Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.36-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 18.7, 20.0, 110.5, 116.8, 122.7, 123.7, 127.5, 128.0, 129.6, 130.2, 130.8, 131.7, 131.9, 137.4, 137.8, 139.1, 139.5, 139.7, 139.9, 144.9, 196.5. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2962, 2220, 1673, 1590\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 468 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{Br}_2\text{NO}$: 467.9599 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 467.9594.

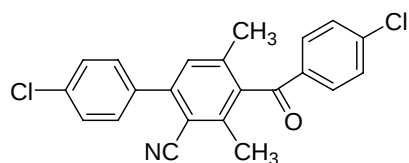


Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 7.10-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.38-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.84 (td, $J_1 = 7.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.6$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 18.4, 19.7, 111.8, 116.0, 116.2, 116.8, 117.2, 124.36, 124.39, 124.9, 125.0, 125.1, 125.8, 125.9, 130.4, 130.9, 131.22, 131.24, 131.4, 136.3, 136.4, 138.3, 138.7, 140.2, 141.7, 158.1, 160.6, 160.8, 163.4, 194.7. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2926, 2223, 1670, 1607\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 348 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2\text{NO}$: 348.1201 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 348.1202.



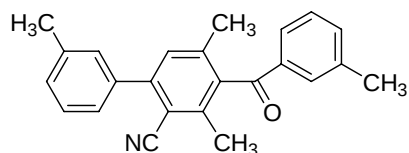
Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.36-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.51-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 18.6, 20.2, 112.2, 116.6, 126.9, 127.3, 129.9, 130.2, 130.3, 130.9, 132.0, 132.1, 132.8, 133.8, 134.0, 135.6, 136.9, 139.1, 139.5, 140.6, 144.1, 196.5. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2924, 2223, 1683, 1586\text{ cm}^{-1}$;

MS: m/z 380 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₂H₁₆Cl₂NO: 380.061 [M+H], found: 380.0615.



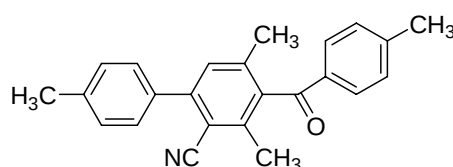
1-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyano-2,6-dimethylbenzene (6g)

Colorless solid, m.p. 189-190 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.52 (m, 6H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 18.6, 19.9, 110.5, 117.0, 129.0, 129.4, 129.6, 130.0, 130.7, 134.5, 135.2, 136.4, 139.2, 139.4, 139.6, 141.2, 145.2, 196.6. IR (KBr) ν = 2919, 2216, 1667, 1585 cm⁻¹; MS: m/z 380 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₂H₁₆Cl₂NO: 380.061 [M+H], found: 380.0619.



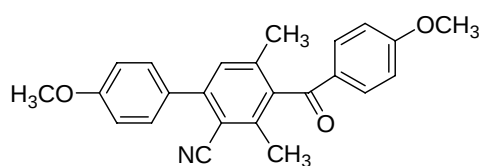
3-Cyano-2,6-dimethyl-1-(3-methylbenzoyl)-4-(3-methylphenyl)benzene (6h)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.41-2.44 (m, 9H), 7.25 (s, 2H), 7.36-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 18.6, 19.9, 21.3, 21.5, 110.3, 117.4, 125.9, 126.9, 128.5, 129.1, 129.46, 129.54, 135.3, 136.3, 138.2, 138.3, 139.1, 139.2, 139.4, 139.5, 146.4, 198.3. IR (KBr) ν = 2923, 2220, 1669, 1585 cm⁻¹; MS: m/z 340 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₄H₂₂NO: 340.1702 [M+H], found: 340.1703.



3-Cyano-2,6-dimethyl-1-(4-methylbenzoyl)-4-(4-methylphenyl)benzene (6i)

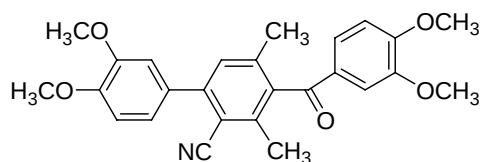
Colorless solid; m.p. 198-200 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 2.12 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 5H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 18.7, 19.7, 21.2, 21.8, 109.8, 117.7, 129.1, 129.7, 129.9, 130.5, 133.8, 135.4, 138.7, 138.8, 139.5, 139.7, 145.7, 146.0, 197.5. IR (KBr) ν = 2919, 2215, 1656, 1602 cm⁻¹; MS: m/z 340 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₄H₂₂NO: 340.1702 [M+H], found: 340.1705.



3-Cyano-2,6-dimethyl-1-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzene (6j)

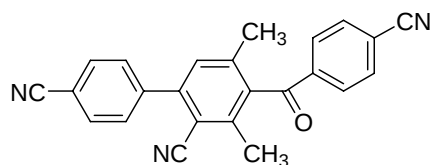
Colorless solid, m.p. 147-148 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H),

7.20 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.80 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 18.6, 19.9, 55.4, 55.6, 110.0, 114.1, 114.4, 117.8, 129.3, 129.4, 130.0, 130.5, 131.9, 139.2, 139.4, 145.8, 160.0, 164.5, 196.7. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2956, 2838, 2216, 1652, 1598\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 372 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3$: 372.16 [M+H], found: 372.1608.



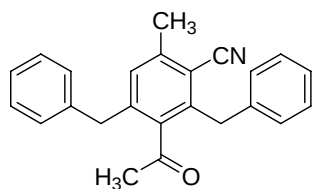
3-Cyano-1-(3,4-dimethoxybenzoyl)-4-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethylbenzene (6k)

White solid, m.p. 131-133 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 3.94-3.98 (m, 12H), 6.84 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.23 (m, 4H), 7.64 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 18.6, 19.9, 55.9, 56.0, 56.1, 56.2, 110.0, 110.2, 111.1, 111.9, 117.7, 121.4, 125.6, 129.2, 129.6, 130.7, 139.2, 139.3, 139.5, 145.8, 148.8, 149.6, 149.7, 154.5, 196.7. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2932, 2215, 1649, 1592\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 432 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_5$: 432.1812 [M+H], found: 432.1818.



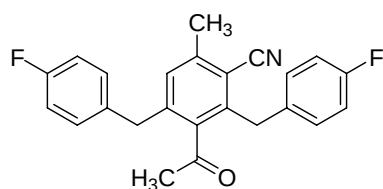
3-Cyano-1-(4-cyanobenzoyl)-4-(4-cyanophenyl)-2,6-dimethylbenzene (6l)

White solid, m.p. 190-191 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.81-7.85 (m, 4H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 18.7, 20.0, 110.6, 112.8, 116.5, 117.6, 117.7, 118.3, 129.60, 129.64, 132.5, 133.2, 138.7, 139.2, 139.7, 140.0, 142.3, 144.6, 196.3. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2962, 2231, 1673, 1596\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 362 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}$: 362.1294 [M+H], found: 362.1286.



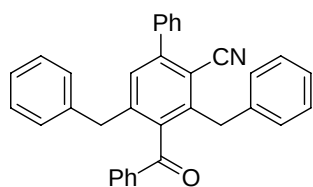
1-Acetyl-3-cyano-2,6-dibenzyl-4-methylbenzene (6m)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.96 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 2H, CH_2), 4.18 (s, 2H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.20-7.33 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 20.9, 32.7, 37.5, 38.9, 113.1, 116.8, 126.7, 126.8, 128.6, 128.77, 128.79, 129.1, 130.4, 137.9, 138.4, 139.8, 140.9, 141.3, 143.1, 206.2. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2926, 2220, 1701, 1593\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 340 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}$: 340.1702 [M+H], found: 340.1709.



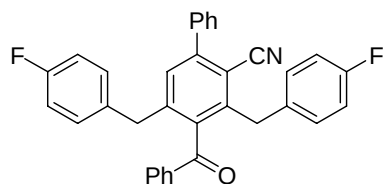
1-Acetyl-3-cyano-2,6-di-(4-fluorobenzyl)-4-methylbenzene (6n)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.04 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 2H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 6.94-7.10 (m, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 20.8, 32.8, 36.7, 38.1, 113.1, 115.3, 115.6, 115.8, 116.6, 130.2, 130.3, 130.4, 130.5, 130.6, 133.5, 134.1, 139.6, 140.8, 141.2, 143.4, 160.5, 162.9, 205.9. IR (KBr) ν = 2926, 2220, 1701, 1601 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 376 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_2\text{NO}$: 376.1514 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 376.1518.



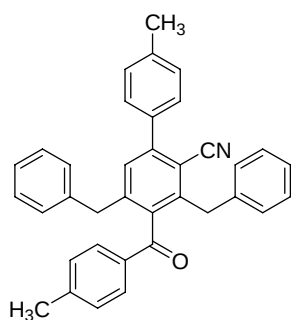
1-Benzoyl-2,6-dibenzyl-3-cyano-4-phenylbenzene (6o)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 3.88 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.10-7.22 (m, 8H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.58 (m, 6H), 7.65-7.67 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 38.1, 39.3, 111.3, 117.5, 126.5, 126.7, 128.3, 128.62, 128.68, 128.7, 128.9, 129.0, 129.2, 129.4, 129.9, 134.1, 136.7, 137.6, 138.0, 138.1, 139.6, 142.6, 143.4, 146.9, 197.6. IR (KBr) ν = 3027, 2221, 1667, 1580 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 464 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$: 464.2015 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 464.2018.



1-Benzoyl-3-cyano-2,6-di-(4-fluorobenzyl)-4-phenylbenzene (6p)

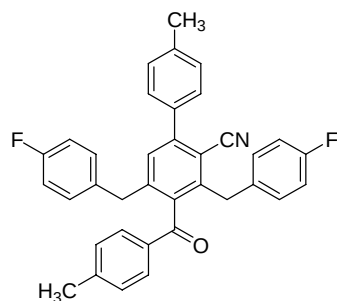
Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 3.85 (s, 2H), 4.14 (d, J = 20.0 Hz, 2H), 6.80-6.89 (m, 4H), 6.97-7.00 (m, 2H), 7.06-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.64 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 37.2, 38.5, 111.3, 115.0, 115.2, 115.3, 115.6, 117.3, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.0, 129.4, 129.9, 130.5, 130.60, 130.6, 130.7, 133.3, 133.7, 134.3, 136.6, 137.8, 139.5, 142.5, 143.2, 147.1, 160.4, 162.8, 197.6. IR (KBr) ν = 3061, 2931, 2223, 1667, 1597 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 500 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{NO}$: 500.1827 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 500.1822.



3-Cyano-2,6-dibenzyl-1-(4-methylbenzoyl)-4-(4-methylphenyl)benzene (6q)

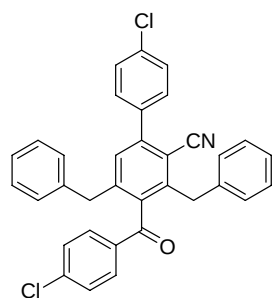
Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 3.86 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 2H), 4.16 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.22 (m, 11H), 7.26-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 21.2, 21.8, 38.0, 39.2, 111.1, 117.6, 126.4, 126.6, 128.2, 128.6,

128.8, 129.0, 129.2, 129.3, 129.5, 129.7, 134.5, 135.2, 137.8, 138.2, 138.9, 139.6, 142.4, 143.3, 145.2, 146.8, 197.2. IR (KBr) ν = 3028, 2922, 2222, 1663, 1603 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 492 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₃₆H₃₀NO: 492.2328 [M+H], found: 492.2321.



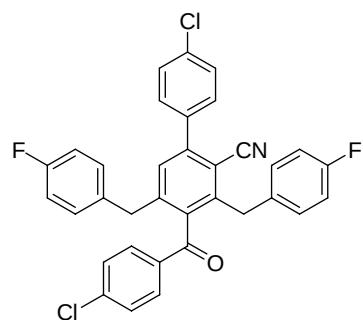
3-Cyano-2,6-di-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1-(4-methylbenzoyl)-4-(4-methylphenyl)benzene (6r)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.41 (s, 6H), 3.82 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.10 (d, J = 23.2 Hz, 2H), 6.80-6.89 (m, 4H), 6.96-7.00 (m, 2H), 7.05-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 21.2, 21.8, 37.2, 38.5, 111.1, 114.9, 115.2, 115.3, 115.5, 117.5, 128.7, 129.4, 129.5, 129.7, 130.46, 130.54, 130.6, 130.7, 133.4, 133.9, 134.3, 135.0, 139.1, 139.4, 142.4, 143.1, 145.5, 147.0, 160.4, 162.9, 197.2. IR (KBr) ν = 3032, 2923, 2223, 1662, 1604 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 528 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₃₆H₂₈F₂NO: 528.214 [M+H], found: 528.2135.



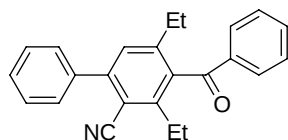
1-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-3-cyano-2,6-dibenzyl-4-(4-chlorophenyl)benzene (6s)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 3.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.14 (s, 2H), 6.98 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.01-7.03 (m, 3H), 7.08-7.24 (m, 8H), 7.44-7.49 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 38.0, 39.3, 111.3, 117.2, 126.6, 126.8, 128.4, 128.6, 128.9, 129.0, 129.1, 129.8, 130.2, 130.6, 134.9, 135.3, 136.2, 137.2, 137.7, 139.4, 140.6, 142.9, 143.5, 145.8, 196.2. IR (KBr) ν = 2927, 2223, 1670, 1587 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 532 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₃₄H₂₄Cl₂NO: 532.1236 [M+H], found: 532.1237.



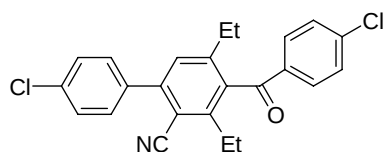
1-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-3-cyano-2,6-di-(4-fluorobenzyl)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)benzene (6t)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 3.81 (s, 2H), 4.09 (d, J = 18.0 Hz, 2H), 6.80-7.03 (m, 8H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.51 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 37.2, 38.5, 111.3, 115.1, 115.3, 115.4, 115.7, 117.0, 129.0, 129.1, 129.8, 130.1, 130.4, 130.53, 130.57, 130.6, 132.9, 133.4, 134.8, 135.5, 136.0, 139.2, 141.0, 142.7, 143.3, 146.0, 160.1, 162.8, 196.1. IR (KBr) ν = 2962, 2929, 2223, 1669, 1587 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 568 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₃₄H₂₂Cl₂F₂NO: 568.1047 [M+H], found: 568.1051.



1-Benzoyl-3-cyano-2,6-diethyl-4-phenylbenzene (6u)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.12-1.21 (m, 6H), 2.49-2.86 (m, 4H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.48-7.52 (m, 5H), 7.59-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.85 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 14.8, 15.3, 26.3, 26.6, 109.6, 117.2, 127.9, 128.6, 128.7, 128.8, 129.0, 129.5, 134.3, 136.9, 138.4, 145.6, 145.7, 146.9, 197.8. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2943, 2219, 1665, 1594\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 340 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}$: 340.1702 [M+H], found: 340.1685.

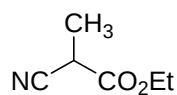


1-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyano-2,6-diethylbenzene (6v)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.14-1.18 (m, 6H), 2.48-2.84 (m, 4H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.52 (m, 6H), 7.76-7.80 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 14.8, 15.3, 26.3, 26.6, 109.7, 116.9, 127.8, 128.8, 128.9, 129.4, 130.1, 130.8, 132.4, 135.2, 136.6, 138.2, 141.1, 145.8, 145.9, 196.3. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2971, 2935, 2222, 1673, 1587\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 408 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}$: 408.0923 [M+H], found: 408.0911.

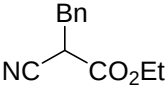
4. Typical procedure for the preparation of ethyl 2-cyanopropanoate (7a)

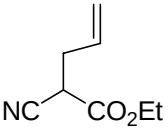
To an oven dried round bottom flask containing sodium hydride (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 19.9 mmol) was added THF (20 mL) under N_2 , and the suspension was then cooled to 0 °C. To the suspension was slowly added ethyl cyanoacetate (6.8 g, 60 mmol) in THF (10 mL). After 15 min, iodomethane (2.838 g, 20 mmol) were added dropwise via syringe to the solution. The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 0 °C for 3 h. The mixture was then quenched with H_2O (30 mL) and diluted with Et_2O . The aqueous layer was removed and the organic layer was washed twice with brine. The combined aqueous layers were then extracted three times with Et_2O . The combined organic extracts were then dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane (1:15) to give **7a**. Other 2-substituted cyanoacetates were obtained in a similar manner.



Ethyl 2-cyanopropanoate (7a)

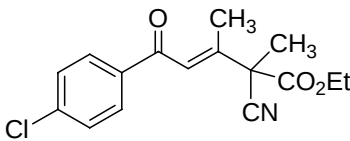
Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.32 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.58 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 3.54 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H).


Ethyl 2-cyano-3-phenylpropanoate (7b)
 Oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.16-3.22 (m, 1H), 3.25-3.30 (m, 1H), 3.70-3.74 (m, 1H), 4.20-4.26 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.37 (m, 5H).

Ethyl 2-cyanopent-4-enoate (7c)

 Oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.67-2.71 (m, 2H), 3.56 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.23-5.29 (m, 2H), 5.79-5.86 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 14.0, 33.8, 37.5, 62.9, 116.0, 120.0, 131.3, 165.5

5. Procedure for the preparation of ethyl 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-cyano-2,3-dimethyl-5-oxopent-3-enoate (8)

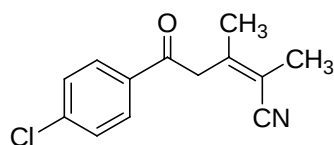
A mixture of 1-(4-chlorophenyl)buta-2,3-dien-1-one (1 mmol), ethyl 2-cyanopropanoate (**7a**, 1 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (1 mmol) in acetone (5 mL) was stirred under reflux for 1 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, added with water (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane (1:15) to give **8**.


5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-cyano-2,3-dimethyl-5-oxopent-3-enoate (8)
 Oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 4.32 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 13.8, 15.6, 21.8, 51.1, 63.6, 118.1, 123.5, 128.9, 129.8, 136.2, 139.5, 148.2, 166.3, 189.6. IR (KBr) ν = 2963, 2240, 1749, 1670 cm⁻¹; MS: *m/z* 306 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₆H₁₇ClNO₃: 306.0898 [M+H], found: 306.0891.

6. Typical procedure for the preparation of 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,3-dimethyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (9a)

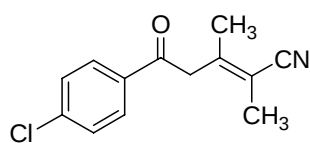
A mixture of 1-(4-chlorophenyl)buta-2,3-dien-1-one (1 mmol), ethyl 2-cyanopropanoate (**7a**, 1 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (1 mmol) in DMF (5 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 20 min. Upon completion, the reaction

mixture was cooled to room temperature, added with water (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane (1:25) to give **(Z)-9a** and **(E)-9a**. Other α,β -unsaturated nitriles (**9b-9m**) were obtained in a similar manner.



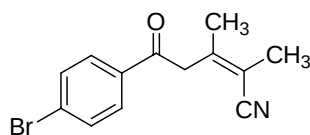
(Z)-5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,3-dimethyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (Z-9a)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 4.05 (s, 2H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 16.3, 19.1, 47.3, 107.9, 119.3, 129.1, 129.6, 134.5, 140.1, 149.0, 194.4. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2975$, 2215, 1685, 1587 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 234 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}$: 234.0686 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 234.0681.



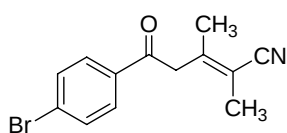
(E)-5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,3-dimethyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (E-9a)

Colorless solid, m.p. 107-108 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.87 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 2H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 16.4, 23.6, 43.0, 107.7, 119.2, 129.2, 129.5, 134.6, 140.3, 148.3, 193.5. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2962$, 2214, 1680, 1586 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 234 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}$: 234.0686 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 234.0685.



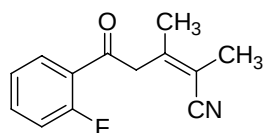
(Z)-5-(4-Bromophenyl)-2,3-dimethyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (Z-9b)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.89 (s, 3H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 4.07 (s, 2H), 7.62 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 16.3, 19.1, 47.3, 108.0, 119.4, 128.9, 129.7, 132.1, 134.9, 149.0, 194.7. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2982$, 2213, 1683, 1585 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 278 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNO}$: 278.0181 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 278.0188.



(E)-5-(4-Bromophenyl)-2,3-dimethyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (E-9b)

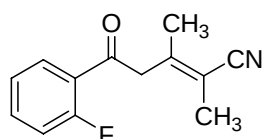
Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.87 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 2H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 16.5, 23.7, 43.0, 107.7, 119.2, 129.1, 129.6, 132.2, 134.9, 148.3, 193.7. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2959$, 2213, 1678, 1585 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 278 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNO}$: 278.0181 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 278.0186.



(Z)-5-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2,3-dimethyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (Z-9c)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.90 (s, 3H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 4.11 (s, 2H), 7.13-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.88 (td, $J_1 = 7.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.2$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C

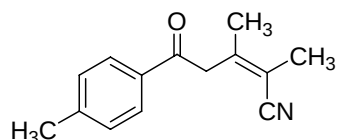
NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 16.3, 19.4, 51.86, 51.95, 107.9, 116.7, 116.9, 119.3, 124.6, 124.8, 130.6, 135.2, 135.3, 149.1, 160.8, 193.8. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2925, 2213, 1707, 1610\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 218 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{FNO}$: 218.0982 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 218.0972.



(E)-5-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2,3-dimethyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (E-9c)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.83 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 7.12-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.81-7.86 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz,

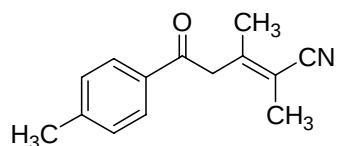
CDCl_3) δ : 16.4, 23.6, 47.7, 47.8, 107.6, 116.7, 116.9, 119.3, 124.75, 124.78, 124.85, 124.98, 130.6, 135.3, 135.4, 148.5, 160.7, 193.0. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2929, 2213, 1686, 1610\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 218 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{FNO}$: 218.0982 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 218.0986.



(Z)-2,3-Dimethyl-5-oxo-5-p-tolylpent-2-enenitrile (Z-9d)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.87 (s, 3H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 4.07 (s, 2H), 7.25 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR

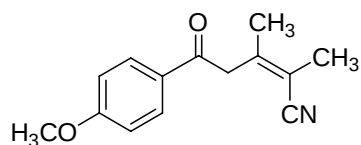
(100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 16.3, 19.1, 21.7, 47.3, 107.5, 119.5, 128.3, 129.4, 133.8, 144.6, 149.7, 195.3. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2926, 2212, 1685, 1607\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 214 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$: 214.1233 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 214.1235.



(E)-2,3-Dimethyl-5-oxo-5-p-tolylpent-2-enenitrile (E-9d)

Colorless solid, m.p. 114-116 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.88 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 2H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, $J =$

8.0 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 16.4, 21.7, 23.7, 43.0, 107.3, 119.4, 128.2, 129.5, 133.8, 144.8, 149.1, 194.4. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2919, 2209, 1679, 1605\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 214 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$: 214.1233 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 214.1236.

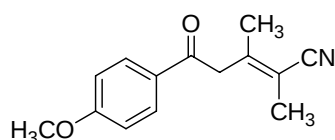


(Z)-5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dimethyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (Z-9e)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 6.88 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.90 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$

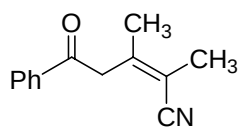
Hz, $J_2 = 1.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 16.3, 19.1, 47.0, 55.5, 107.3, 113.9, 119.5, 129.2, 130.5, 149.9, 163.8, 194.1. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2931, 2214, 1679, 1601\text{ cm}^{-1}$; MS: m/z 230 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB)

calcd for C₁₄H₁₆NO₂: 230.1182 [M+H], found: 230.1188.



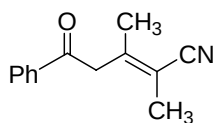
(E)-5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dimethyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (E-9e)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.83 (s, 3H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 16.4, 23.6, 42.7, 55.5, 107.1, 113.9, 119.4, 129.2, 130.4, 149.4, 163.9, 193.3. IR (KBr) ν = 2936, 2213, 1681, 1593 cm⁻¹; MS: *m/z* 230 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₄H₁₆NO₂: 230.1182 [M+H], found: 230.1184.



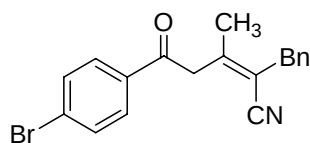
(Z)-2,3-Dimethyl-5-oxo-5-phenylpent-2-enenitrile (Z-9f)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.90 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 16.4, 19.1, 47.4, 107.8, 119.4, 128.2, 128.8, 133.7, 136.2, 149.4, 195.7. IR (KBr) ν = 2962, 2212, 1688, 1597 cm⁻¹; MS: *m/z* 200 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₃H₁₄NO: 200.1076 [M+H], found: 200.1082.



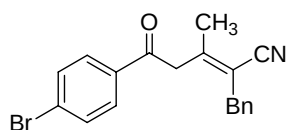
(E)-2,3-Dimethyl-5-oxo-5-phenylpent-2-enenitrile (E-9f)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.89 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 16.4, 23.7, 43.1, 107.5, 119.3, 128.1, 128.9, 133.8, 136.2, 148.8, 194.7. IR (KBr) ν = 2964, 2211, 1689, 1592 cm⁻¹; MS: *m/z* 200 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₃H₁₄NO: 200.1076 [M+H], found: 200.1077.



(Z)-2-Benzyl-5-(4-bromophenyl)-3-methyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (Z-9g)

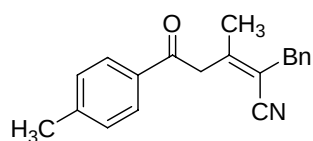
Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 2.01 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 4.13 (s, 2H), 7.24-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.61-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.82-7.84 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 19.5, 36.0, 47.6, 112.8, 118.7, 127.1, 128.3, 128.8, 129.0, 129.7, 132.1, 134.9, 136.7, 149.8, 194.5. IR (KBr) ν = 2963, 2214, 1685, 1585 cm⁻¹; MS: *m/z* 354 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₉H₁₇BrNO: 354.0494 [M+H], found: 354.0486.



(E)-2-Benzyl-5-(4-bromophenyl)-3-methyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (E-9g)

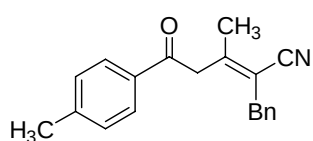
Colorless solid, m.p. 116-118 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 2.18 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 3.93 (s, 2H), 7.19-7.33 (m, 5H), 7.60-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.73-7.76 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 23.9, 36.1, 43.0, 112.4, 118.6, 127.1, 128.3, 128.8, 129.1, 129.6,

132.2, 134.8, 136.5, 149.3, 193.8. IR (KBr) ν = 2963, 2211, 1677, 1584 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 354 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₉H₁₇BrNO: 354.0494 [M+H], found: 354.0482.



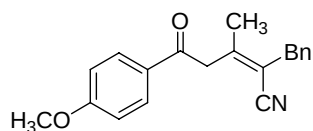
(Z)-2-Benzyl-3-methyl-5-oxo-5-p-tolylpent-2-enenitrile (Z-9h)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 4.16 (s, 2H), 7.27-7.35 (m, 7H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 19.5, 21.7, 36.0, 47.6, 112.3, 118.8, 127.0, 128.3, 128.8, 129.5, 133.8, 136.8, 144.6, 150.6, 195.1. IR (KBr) ν = 2921, 2212, 1684, 1606 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 290 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₀H₂₀NO: 290.1546 [M+H], found: 290.1541.



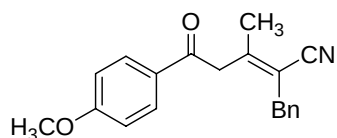
(E)-2-Benzyl-3-methyl-5-oxo-5-p-tolylpent-2-enenitrile (E-9h)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 2H), 7.21-7.34 (m, 7H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 21.7, 24.0, 36.1, 43.0, 112.1, 118.7, 127.0, 128.2, 128.4, 128.8, 129.5, 133.7, 136.7, 144.8, 149.9, 194.4. IR (KBr) ν = 2922, 2213, 1674, 1606 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 290 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₀H₂₀NO: 290.1546 [M+H], found: 290.1538.



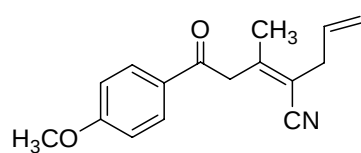
(Z)-2-Benzyl-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (Z-9i)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.01 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 4.13 (s, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 19.4, 36.0, 47.4, 55.5, 112.2, 113.9, 118.9, 127.0, 128.3, 128.8, 129.3, 130.6, 136.9, 150.7, 163.9, 193.9. IR (KBr) ν = 2935, 2212, 1676, 1600 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 306 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₀H₂₀NO₂: 306.1495 [M+H], found: 306.1501.



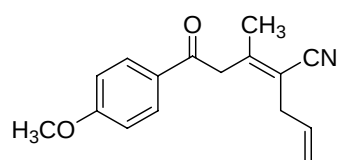
(E)-2-Benzyl-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (E-9i)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.19 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.21-7.33 (m, 5H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 23.9, 36.1, 42.8, 55.5, 112.0, 114.0, 118.7, 127.0, 128.4, 128.8, 129.3, 130.5, 136.8, 150.0, 164.0, 193.3. IR (KBr) ν = 2928, 2214, 1686, 1598 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 306 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₀H₂₀NO₂: 306.1495 [M+H], found: 306.1502.



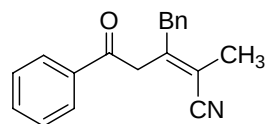
(Z)-2-Allyl-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (Z-9j)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.90 (s, 3H), 3.02-3.04 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 5.14-5.22 (m, 2H), 5.76-5.83 (m, 1H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 19.0, 34.1, 47.3, 55.5, 110.8, 113.9, 117.5, 118.7, 129.3, 130.5, 132.3, 150.8, 163.9, 193.9. IR (KBr) ν = 2925, 2214, 1681, 1583 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 256 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$: 256.1338 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 256.1341.



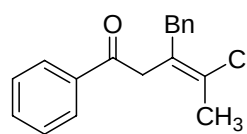
(E)-2-Allyl-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (E-9j)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.15 (s, 3H), 2.94-2.96 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 2H), 5.12-5.15 (m, 2H), 5.75-5.82 (m, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 23.9, 34.4, 42.6, 55.5, 110.6, 114.0, 117.6, 118.5, 129.3, 130.4, 132.7, 150.1, 164.0, 193.2. IR (KBr) ν = 2934, 2212, 1682, 1585 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 256 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$: 256.1338 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 256.1346.



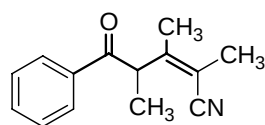
(Z)-3-Benzyl-2-methyl-5-oxo-5-phenylpent-2-enenitrile (Z-9k)

Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.15 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 7.07 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.23-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 16.6, 37.6, 44.3, 109.3, 119.3, 127.0, 128.1, 128.68, 128.72, 128.9, 133.6, 136.3, 136.6, 151.5, 195.7. IR (KBr) ν = 2926, 2212, 1724, 1686 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 276 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$: 276.1389 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 276.1387.



(E)-3-Benzyl-2-methyl-5-oxo-5-phenylpent-2-enenitrile (E-9k)

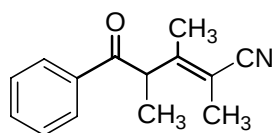
Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.94 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.22-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 16.8, 40.0, 43.0, 108.7, 119.3, 127.0, 128.0, 128.7, 128.8, 129.0, 133.6, 136.3, 136.9, 151.2, 194.6. IR (KBr) ν = 2930, 2211, 1713, 1692 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 276 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$: 276.1389 [$\text{M}+\text{H}$], found: 276.1395.



(Z)-2,3,4-trimethyl-5-oxo-5-phenylpent-2-enenitrile (Z-9l)

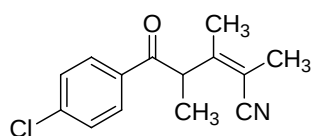
Syrup. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.29 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 4.82 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 14.1, 15.3, 16.4, 48.9, 106.3, 119.3, 128.2, 128.7, 133.4, 136.0, 154.8, 198.9. IR (KBr) ν = 2936, 2213, 1696, 1589 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z 214 (MH) $^+$. HRMS (FAB)

calcd for C₁₄H₁₆NO: 214.1233 [M+H], found: 214.1245.



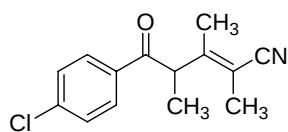
(E)-2,3,4-trimethyl-5-oxo-5-phenylpent-2-enenitrile (E-9l)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 14.2, 16.1, 18.7, 45.0, 105.7, 119.3, 127.8, 128.8, 133.5, 136.1, 154.7, 198.8. IR (KBr) ν = 2938, 2214, 1698, 1601 cm⁻¹; MS: *m/z* 214 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₄H₁₆NO: 214.1233 [M+H], found: 214.1249.



(Z)-5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,3,4-trimethyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (Z-9m)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 4.81-4.83 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.90-7.91 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 14.2, 15.3, 16.4, 49.0, 106.6, 119.3, 129.1, 129.7, 134.3, 140.0, 154.5, 197.9. IR (KBr) ν = 2929, 2213, 1686, 1583 cm⁻¹; MS: *m/z* 248 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₄H₁₅ClNO: 248.0843 [M+H], found: 248.0832.

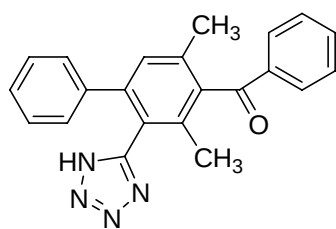


(E)-5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,3,4-trimethyl-5-oxopent-2-enenitrile (E-9m)

Syrup. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.31 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 4.35-4.37 (m, 1H), 7.74-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.90-7.91 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 14.1, 16.1, 18.7, 45.1, 105.9, 119.1, 129.2, 129.9, 134.4, 140.1, 154.3, 197.6. IR (KBr) ν = 2938, 2212, 1688, 1589 cm⁻¹; MS: *m/z* 248 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₄H₁₅ClNO: 248.0843 [M+H], found: 248.0835.

7. Procedure for the preparation of 1-benzoyl-2,6-dimethyl-4-phenyl-3-(1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)benzene (10)⁵

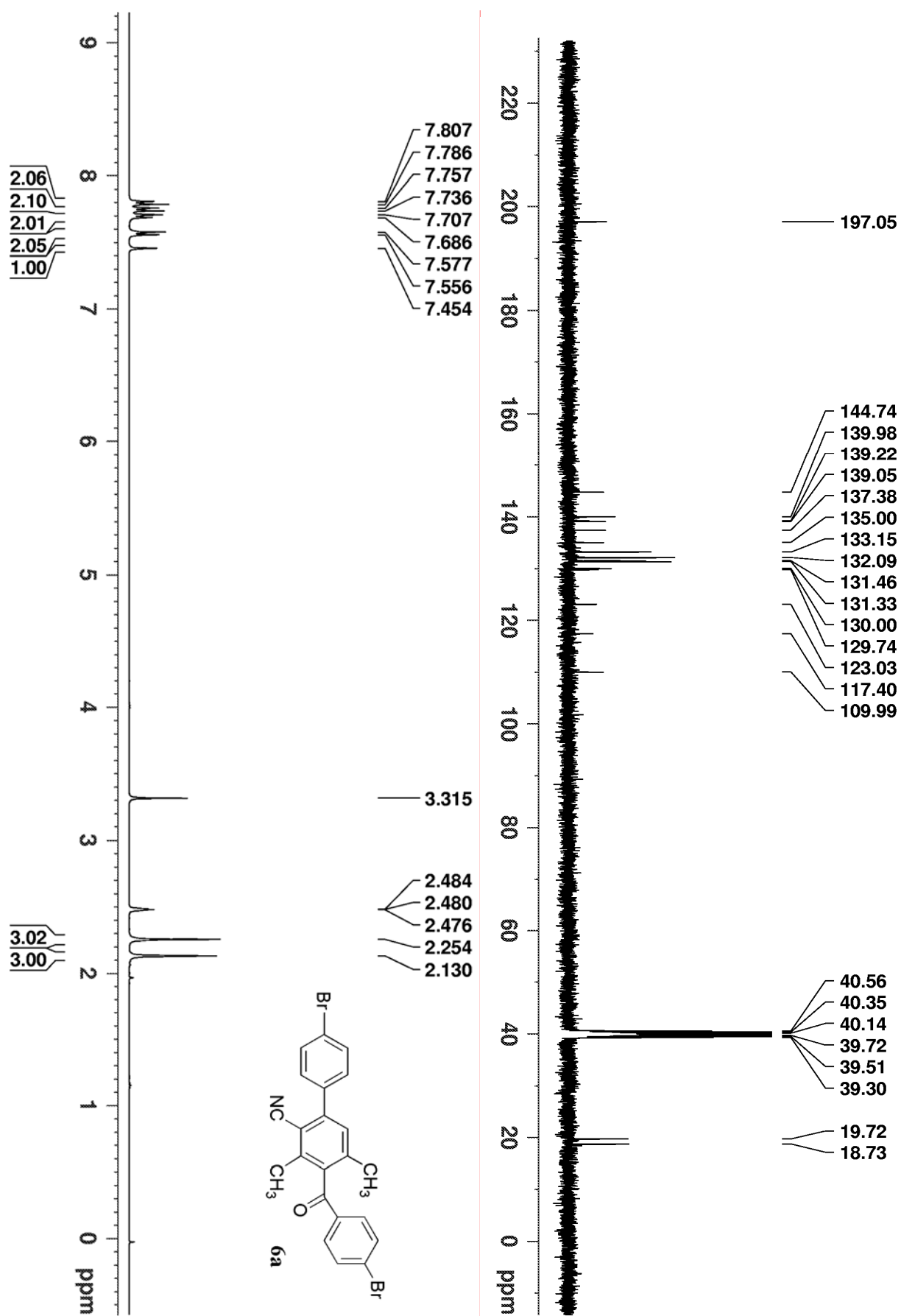
Under a nitrogen atmosphere, a mixture of 1-benzoyl-3-cyano-2,6-dimethyl-4-phenylbenzene (**6b**, 1 mmol), *n*-Bu₂SnO (0.5 mmol) and trimethylsilyl azide (5 mmol) in *o*-xylene (5 mL) was stirred at 90 °C for 50 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, added with water (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane (2:1) to give **10**.

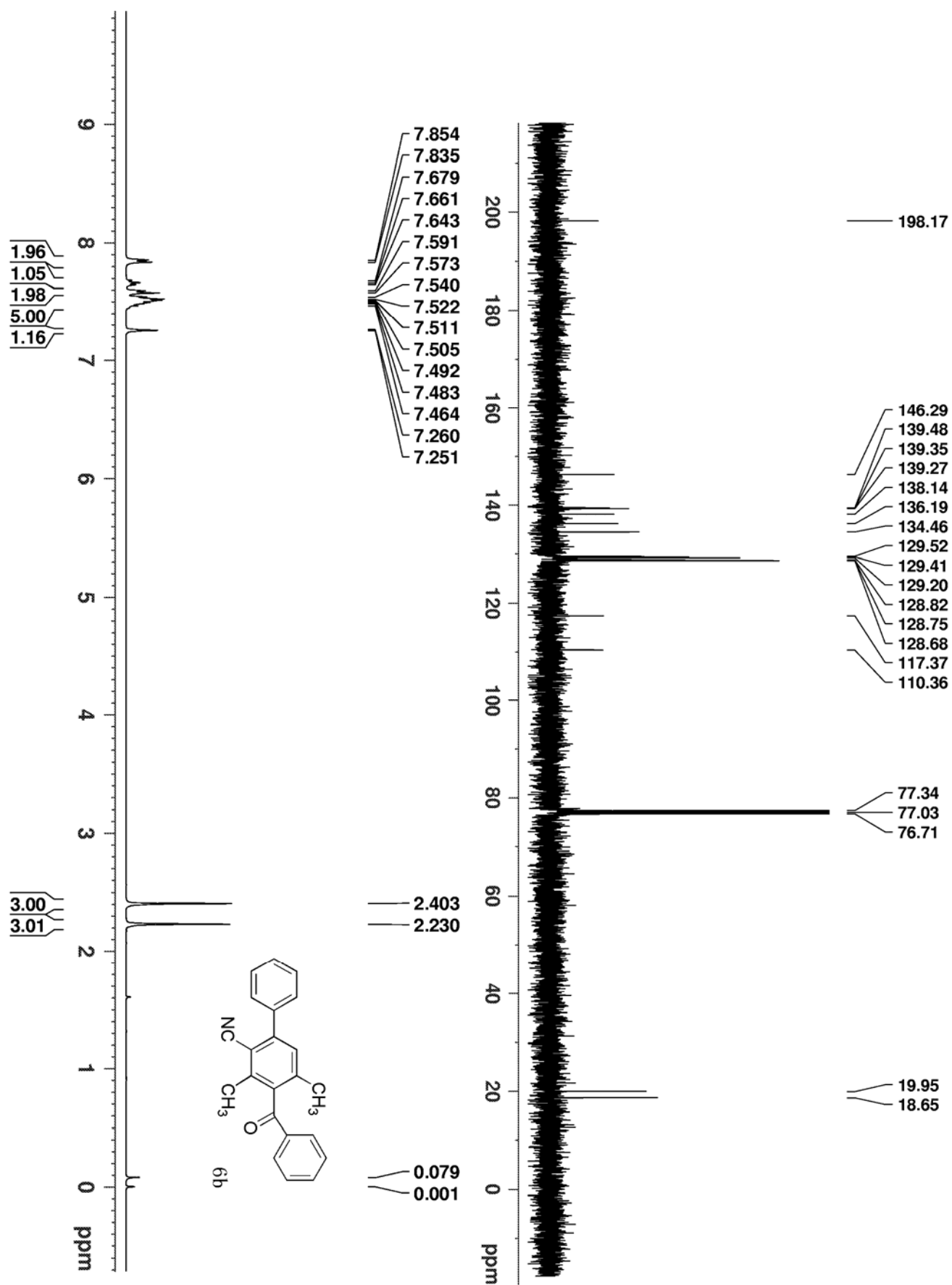


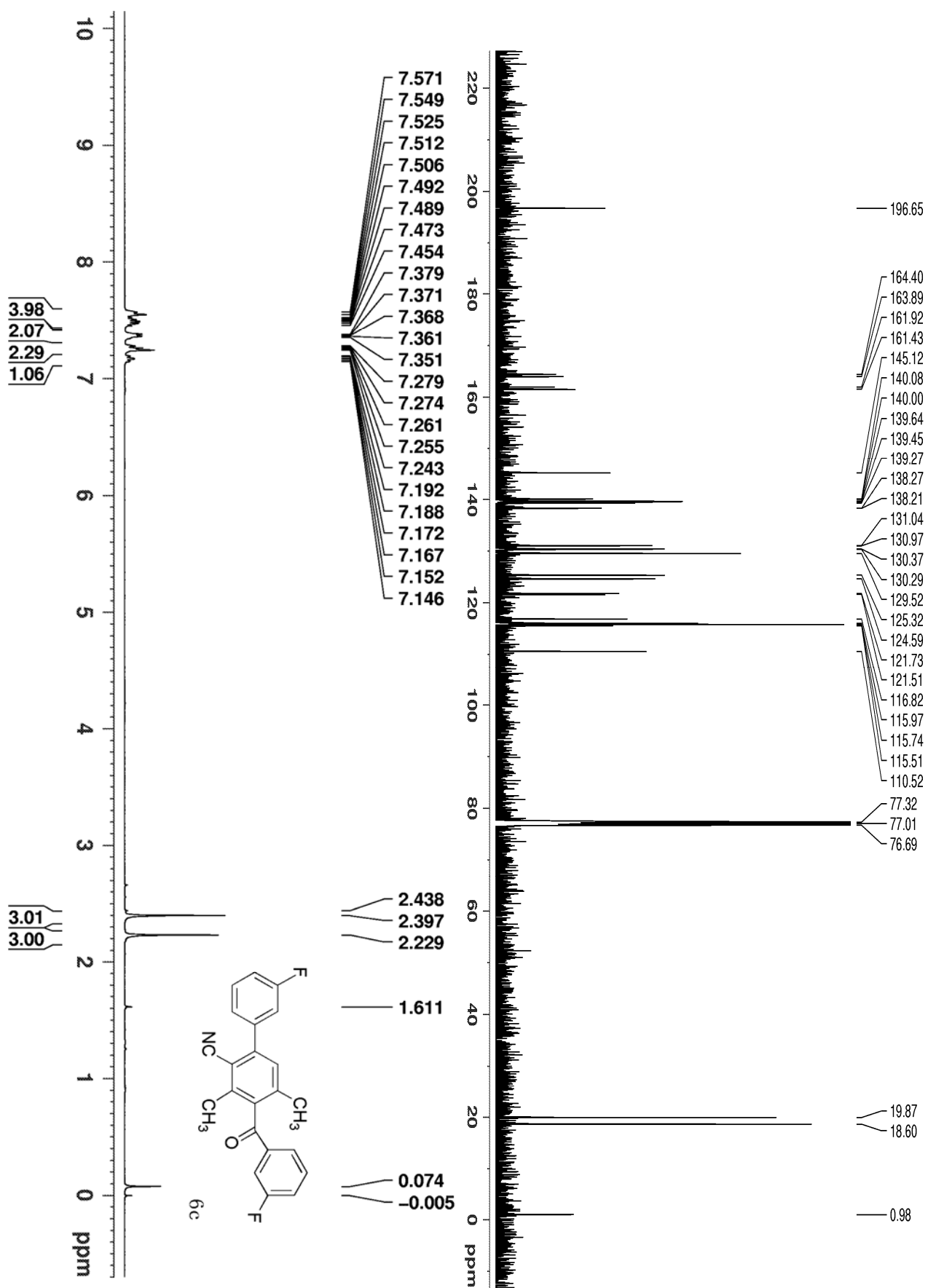
1-Benzoyl-2,6-dimethyl-4-phenyl-3-(1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)benzene (10)

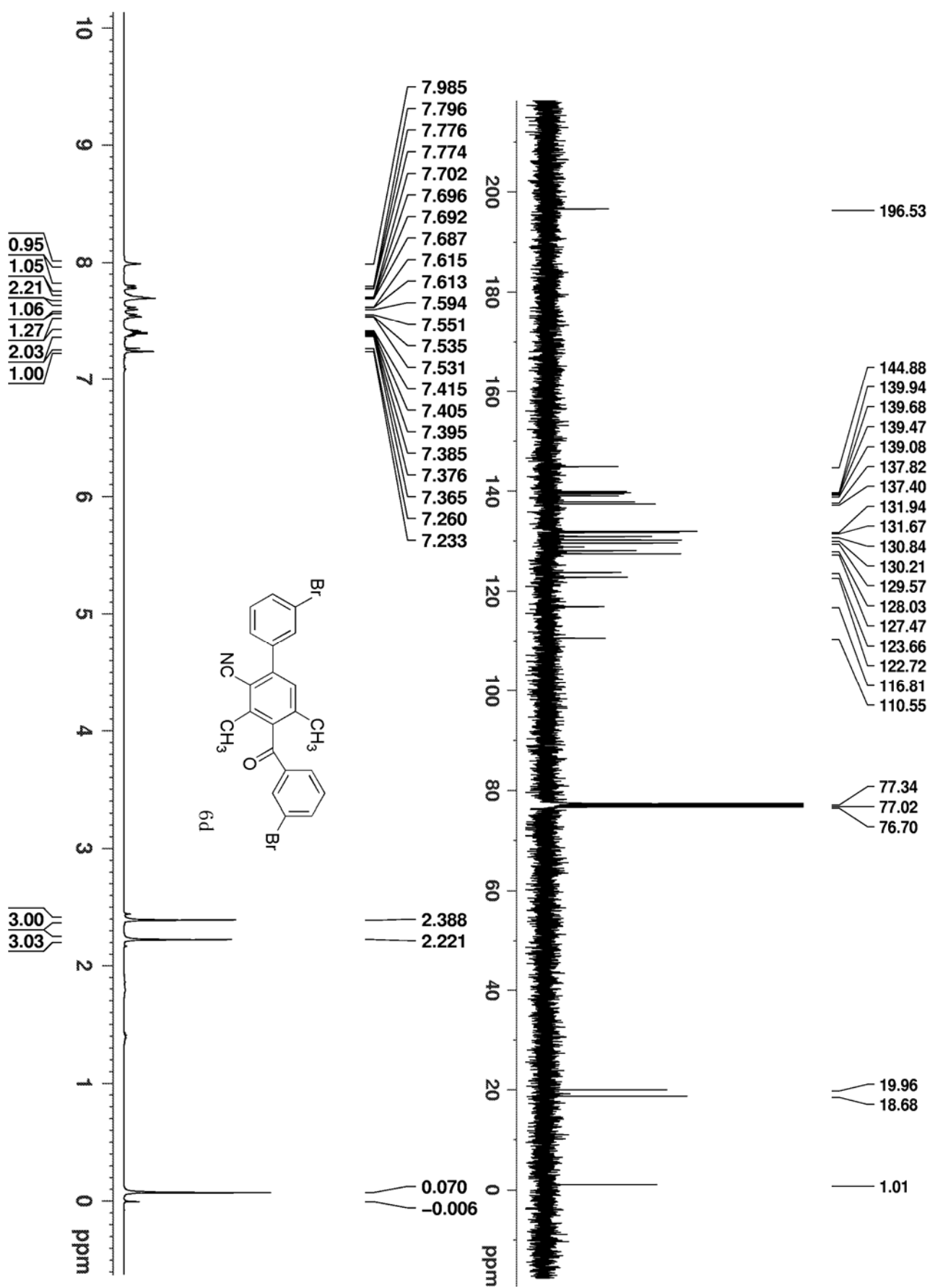
Colorless solid, m.p. 205-207 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.88 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.23 (m, 4H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 17.5, 19.5, 120.9, 127.7, 128.3, 128.6, 129.2, 129.7, 129.8, 134.6, 134.8, 136.1, 137.3, 138.9, 139.3, 143.7, 153.4, 200.3. IR (KBr) ν = 3061, 2919, 1647, 1596 cm⁻¹; MS: *m/z* 355 (MH)⁺. HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₂H₁₉N₄O: 355.156 [M+H], found: 355.1569.

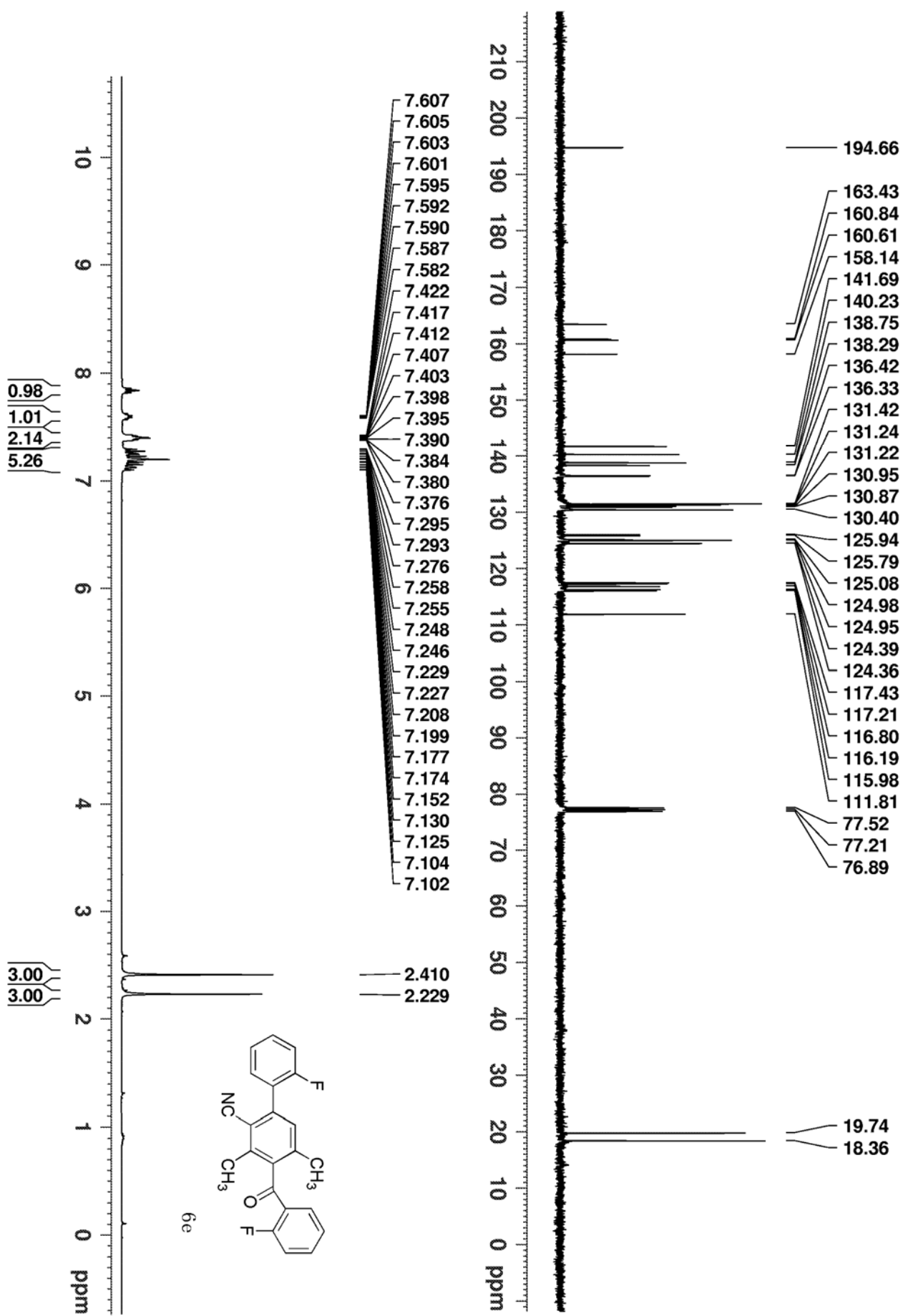
III. Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of 6a-6v, 8, 9a-9m, 10

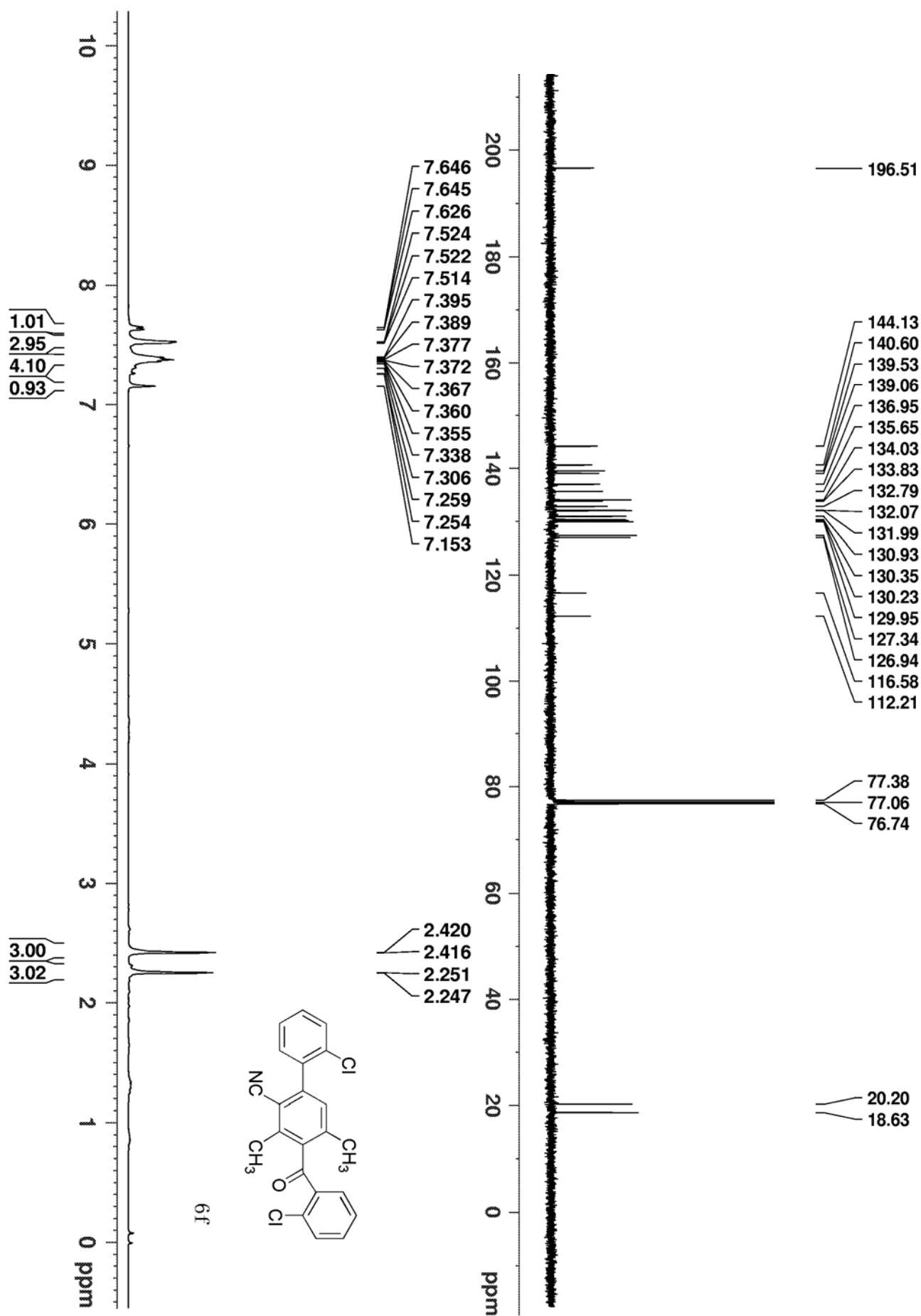


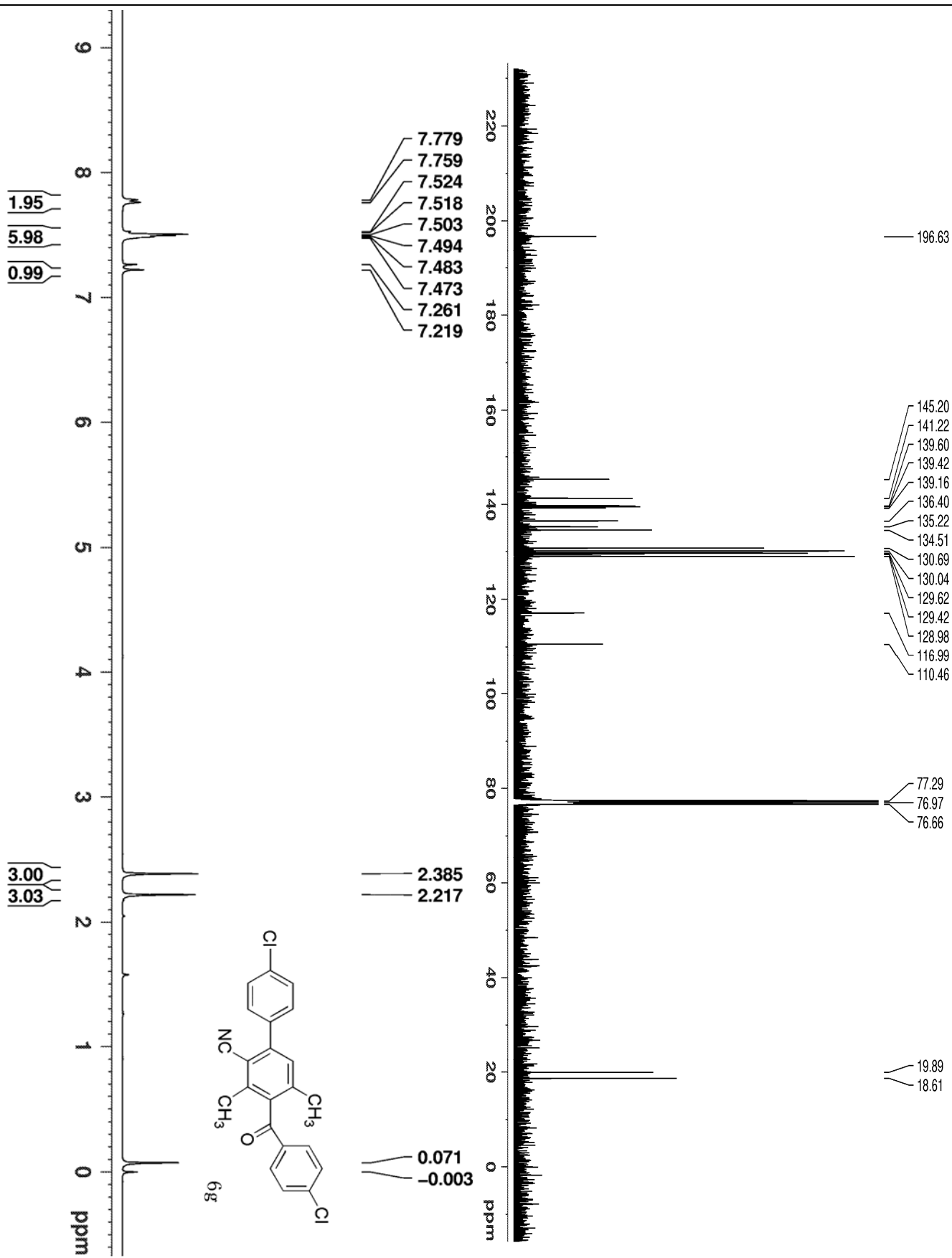


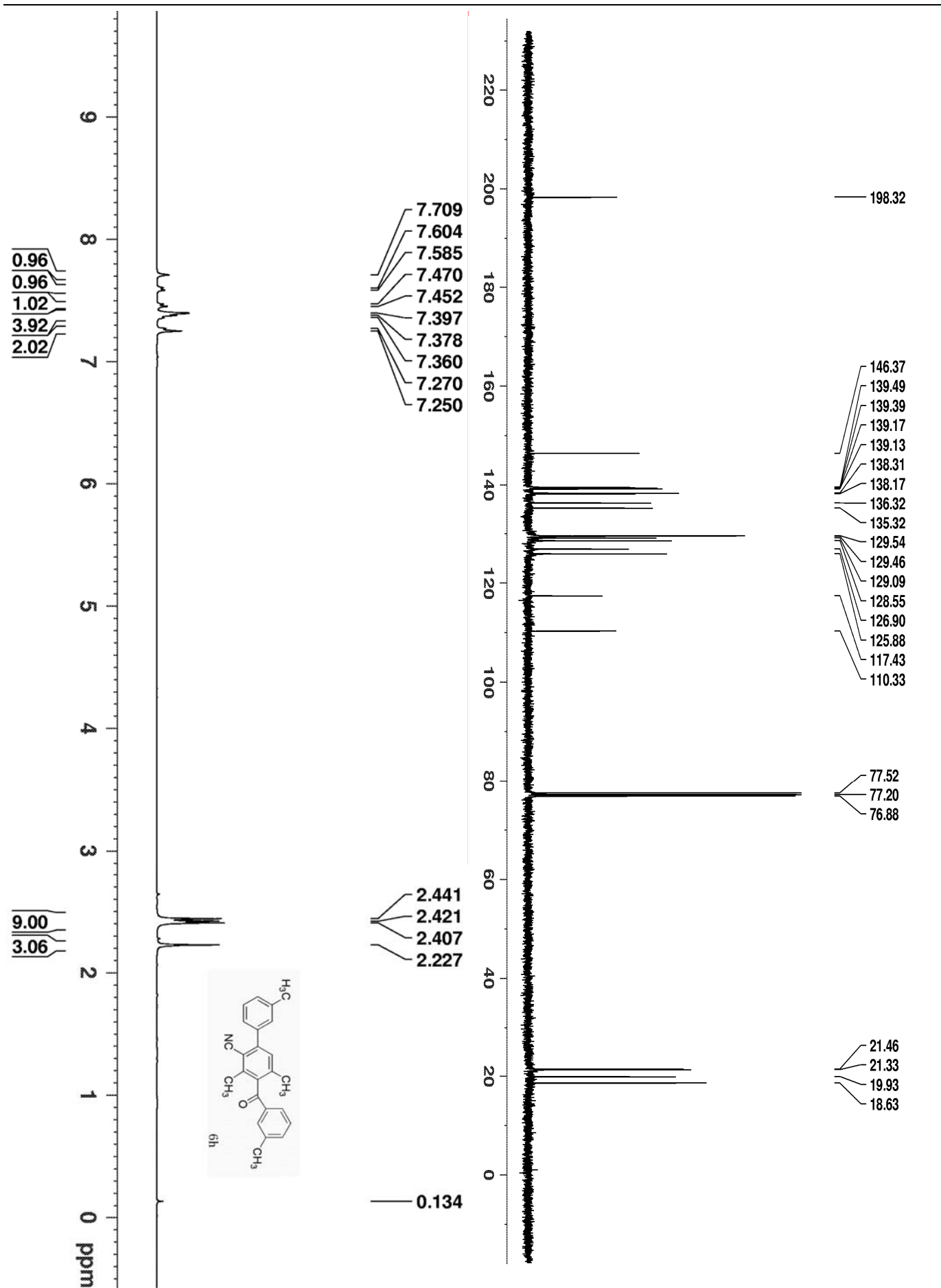


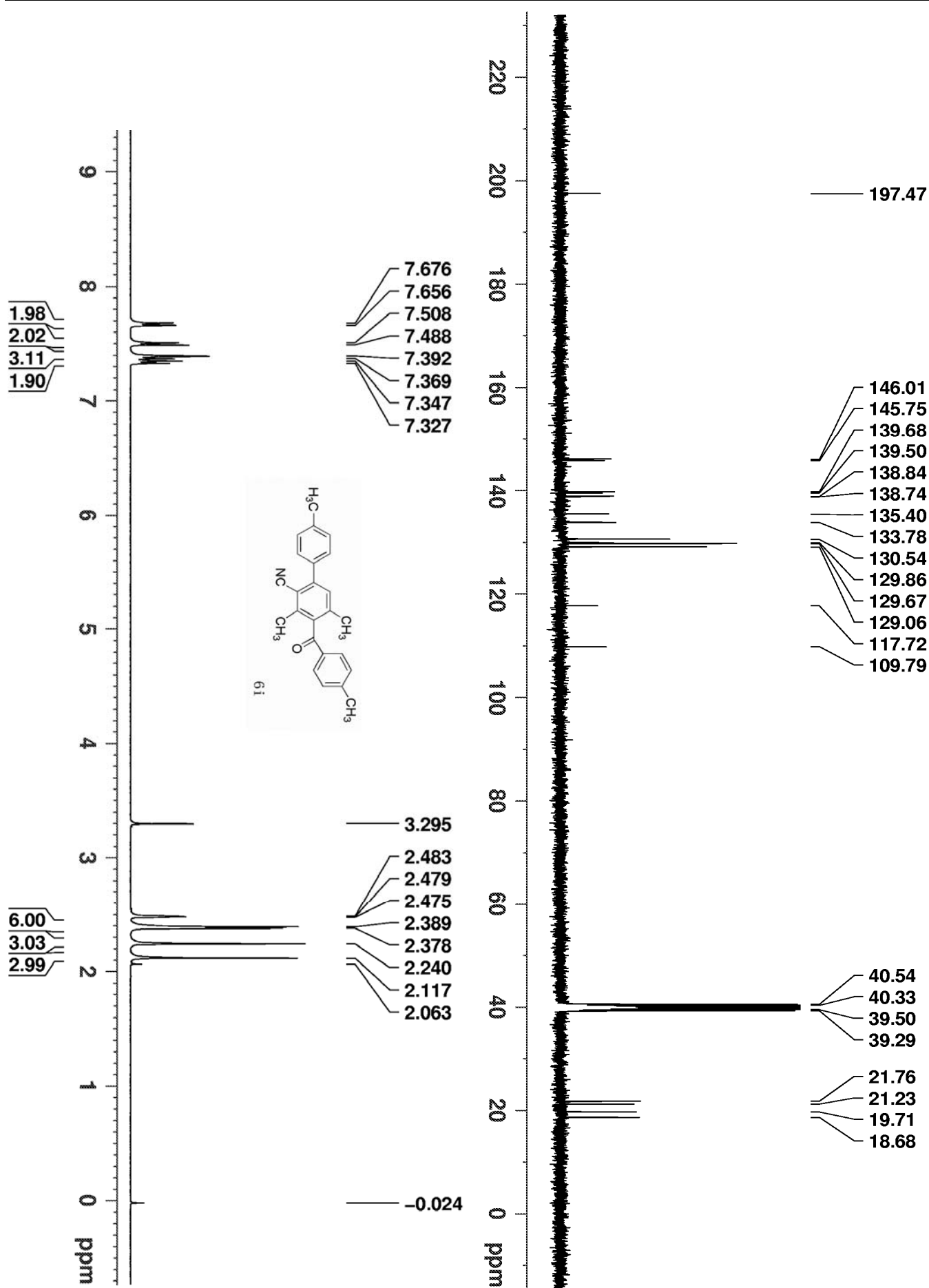


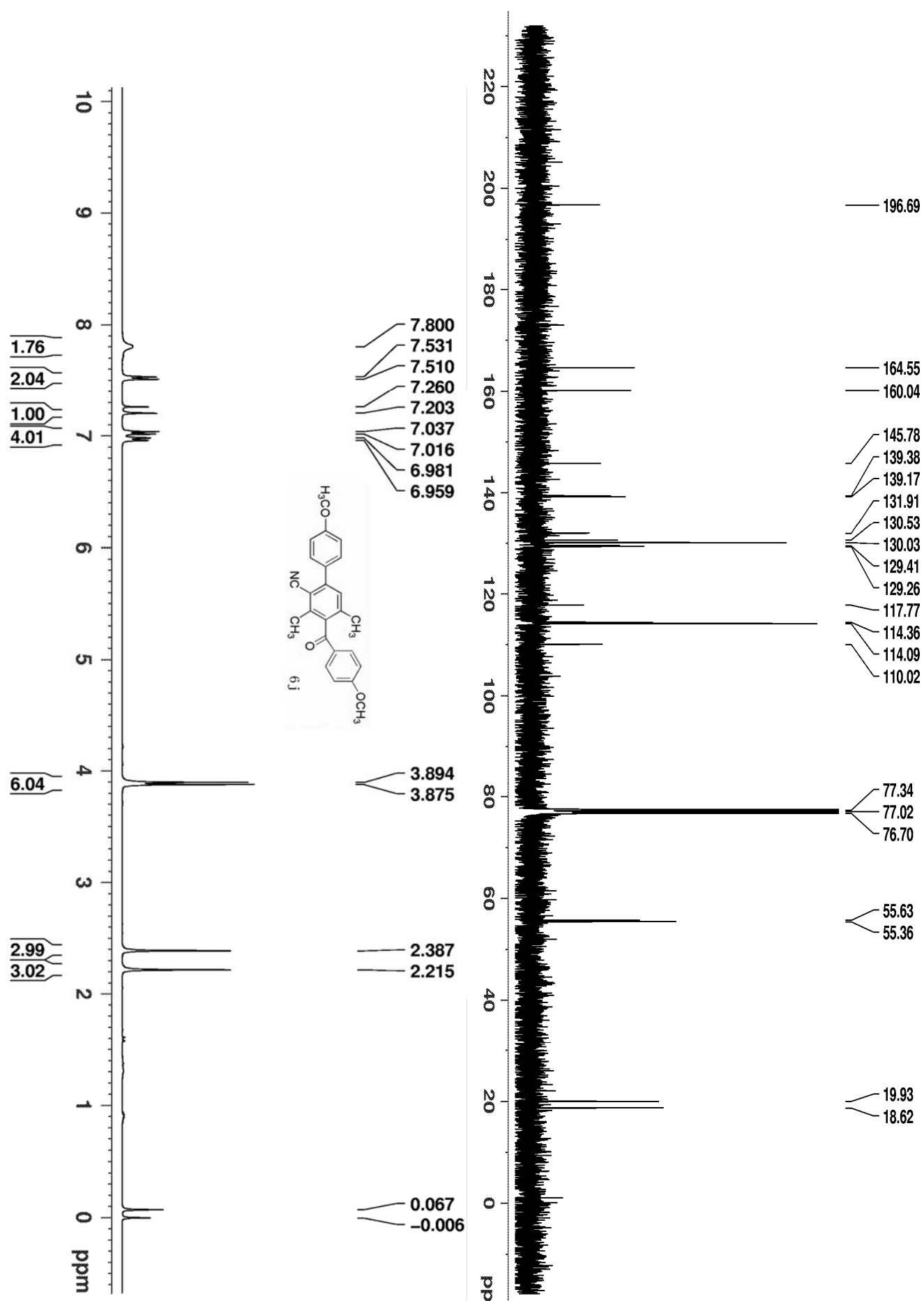


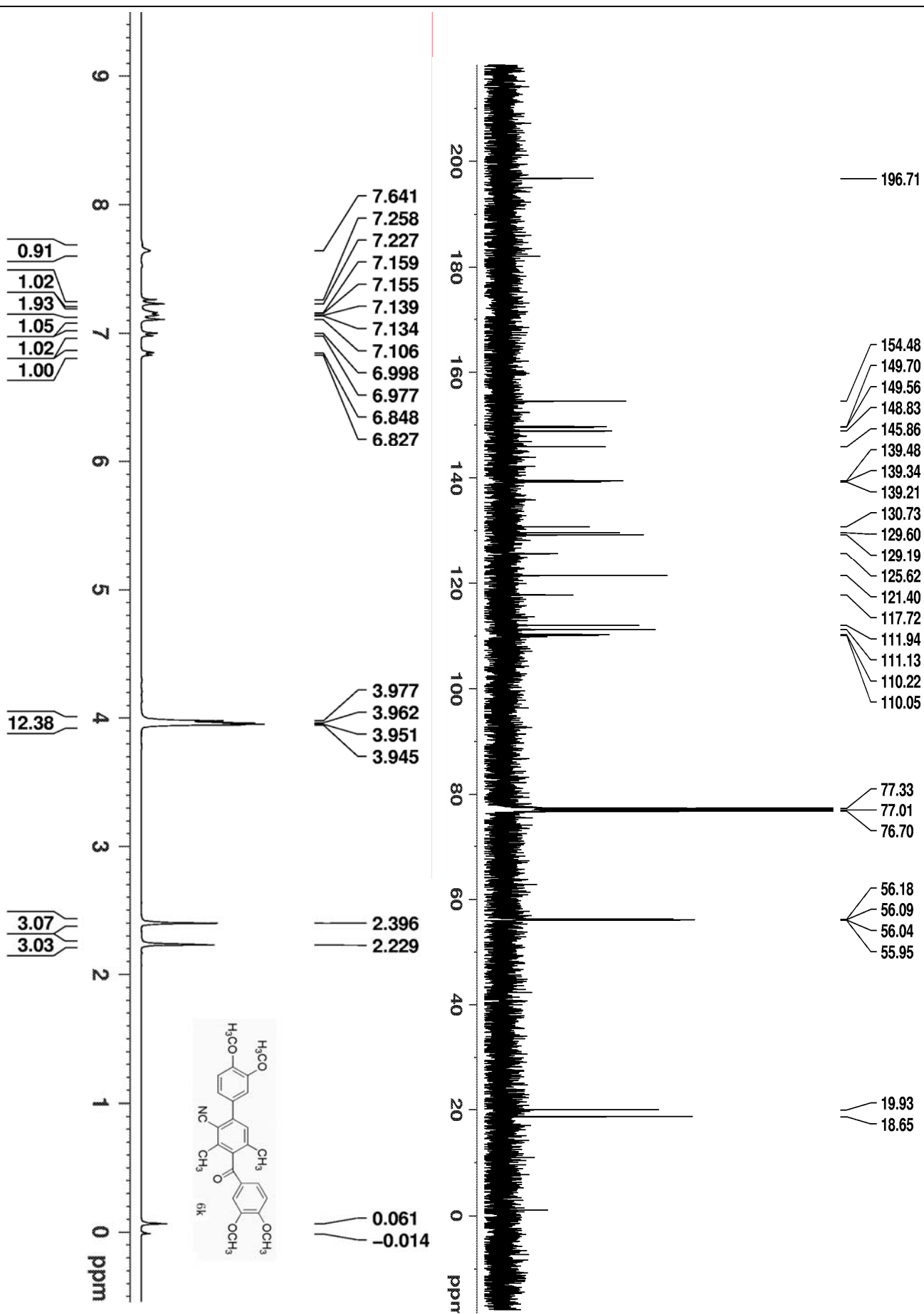


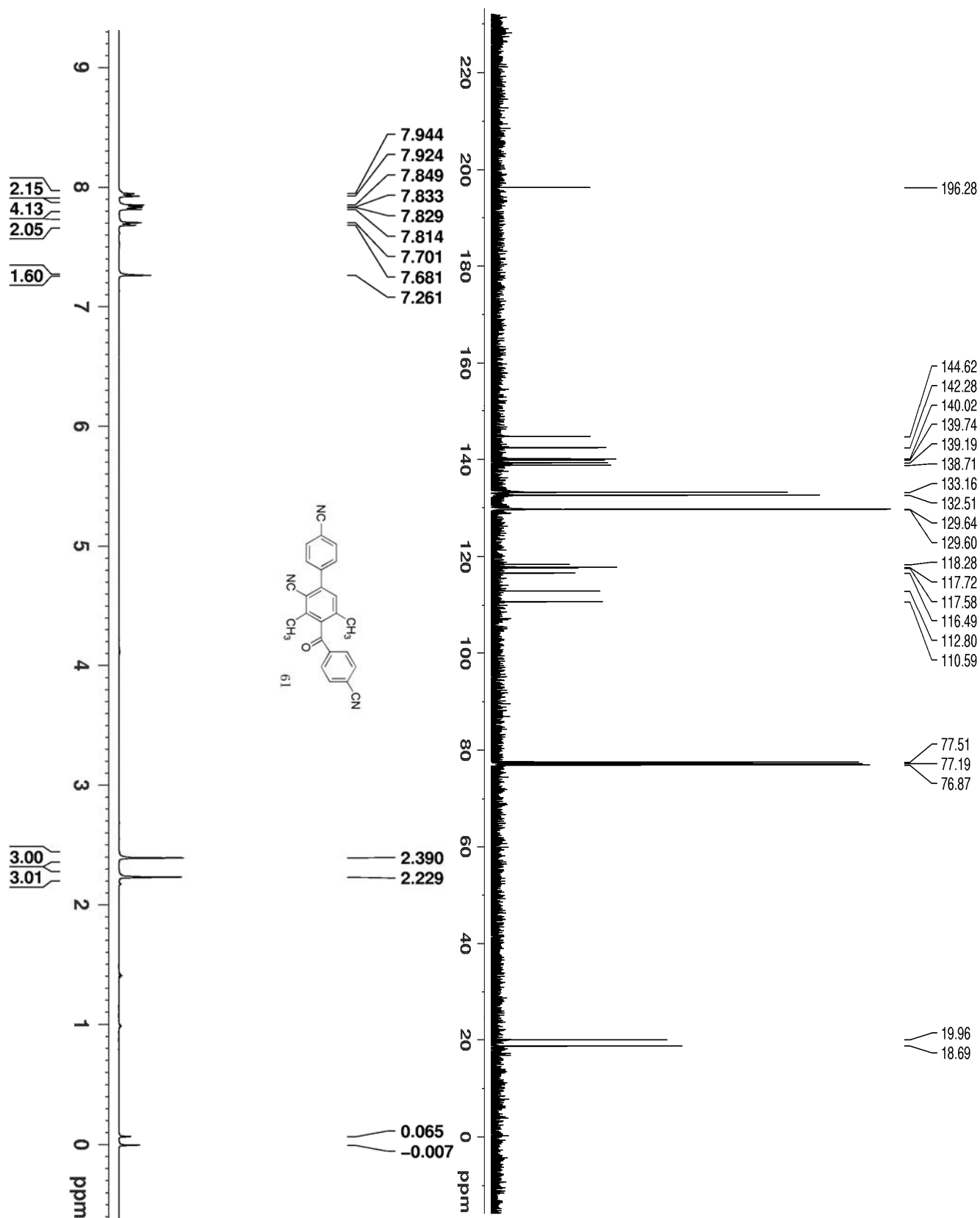


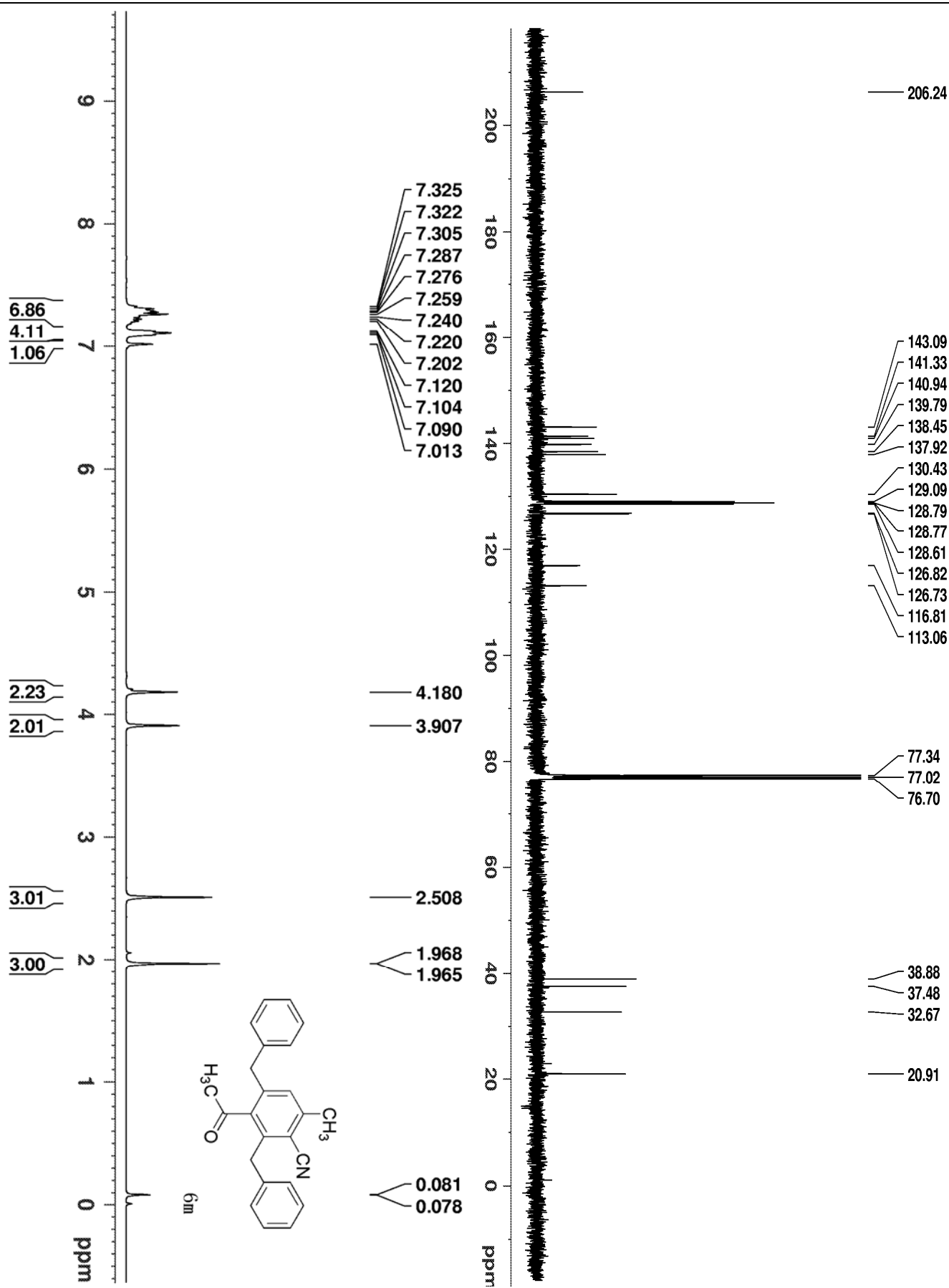


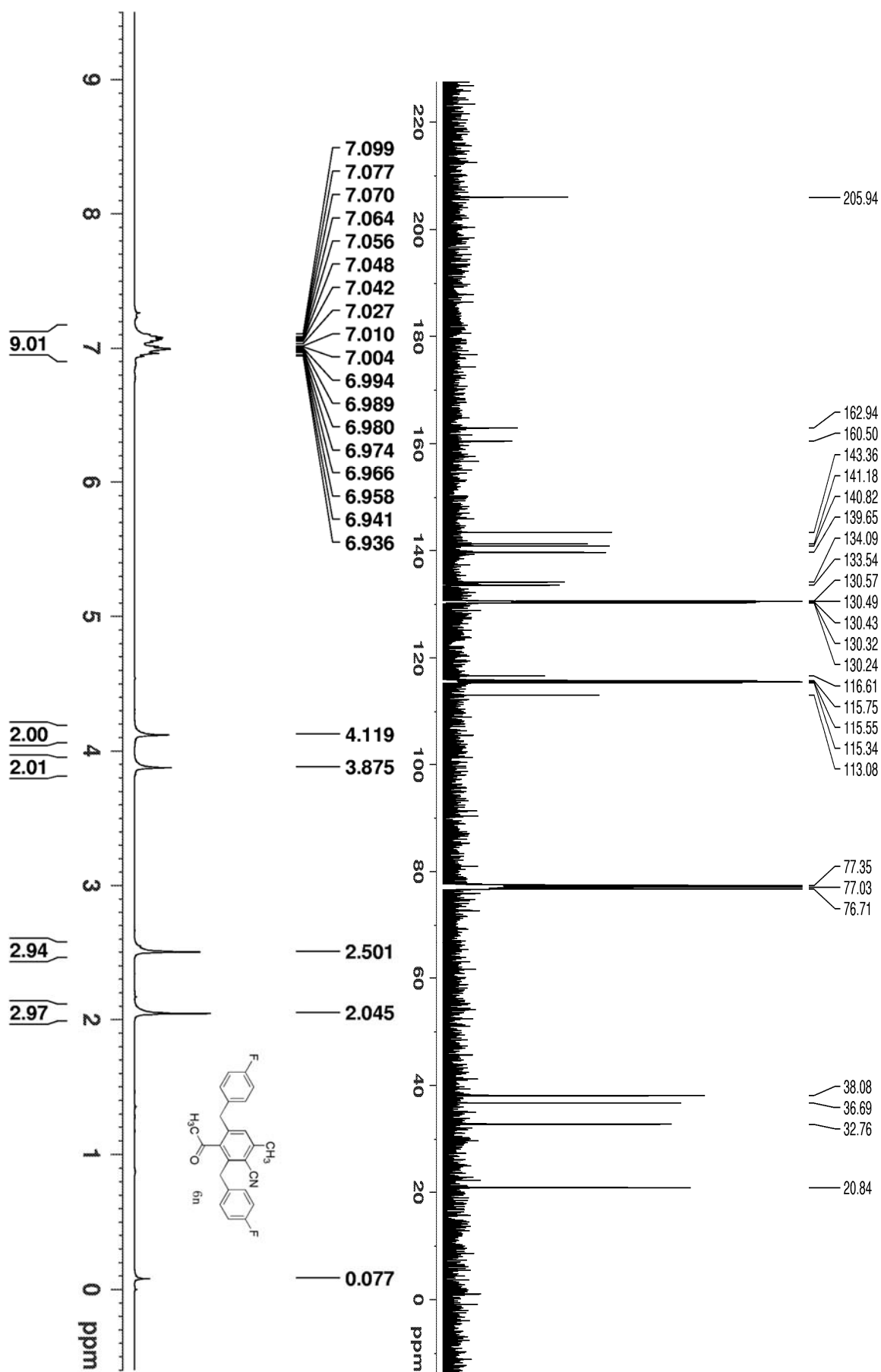


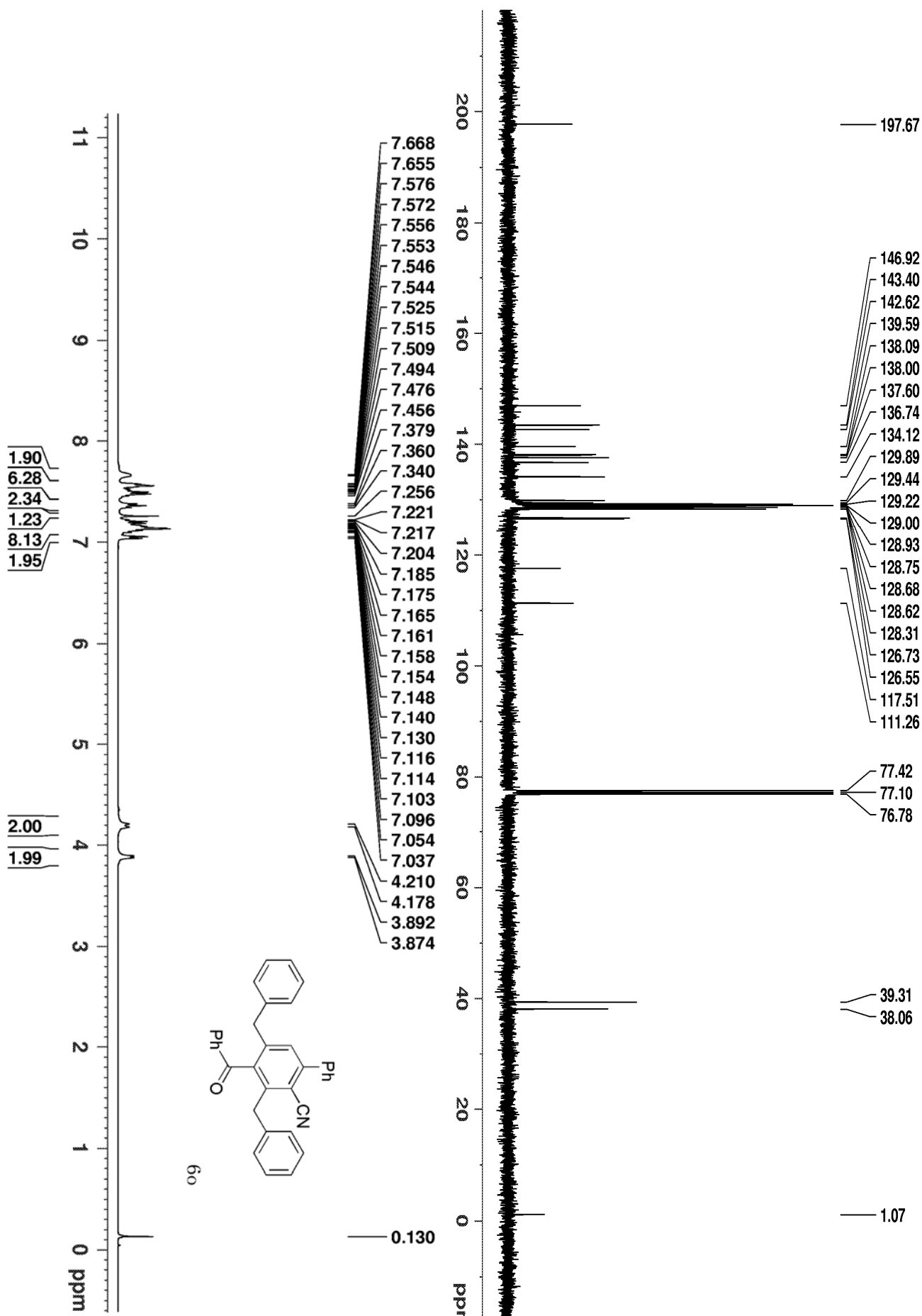


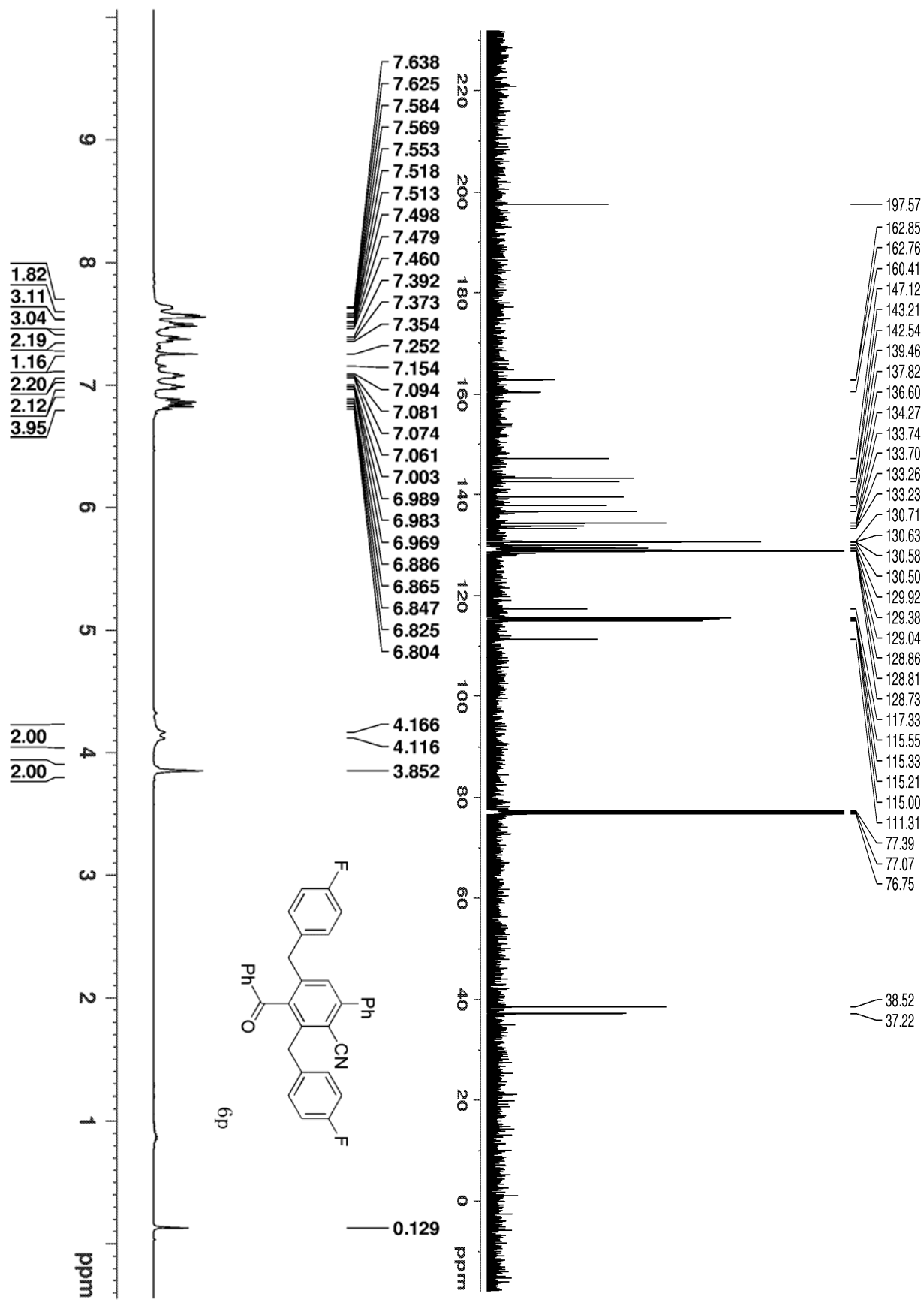


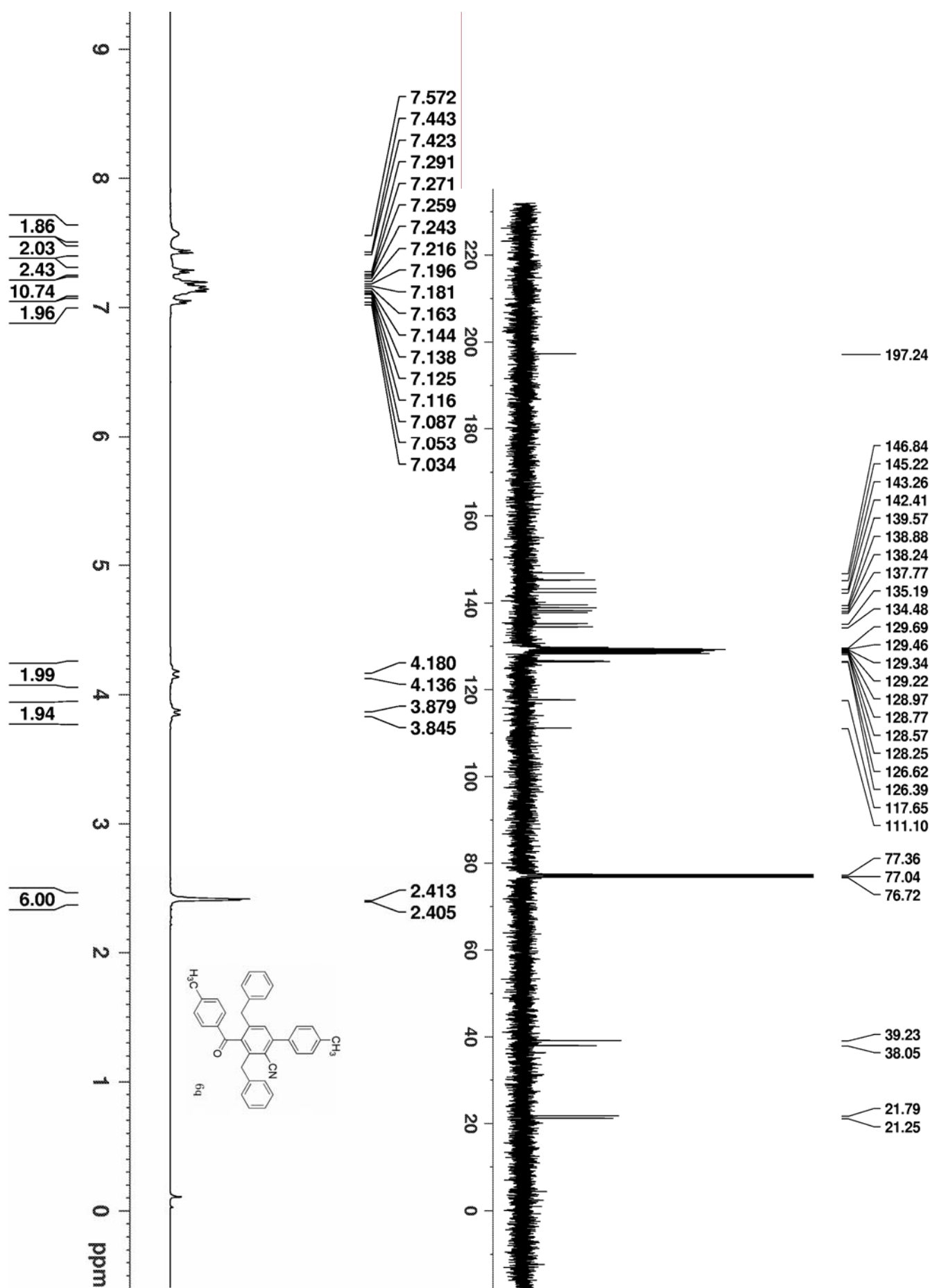


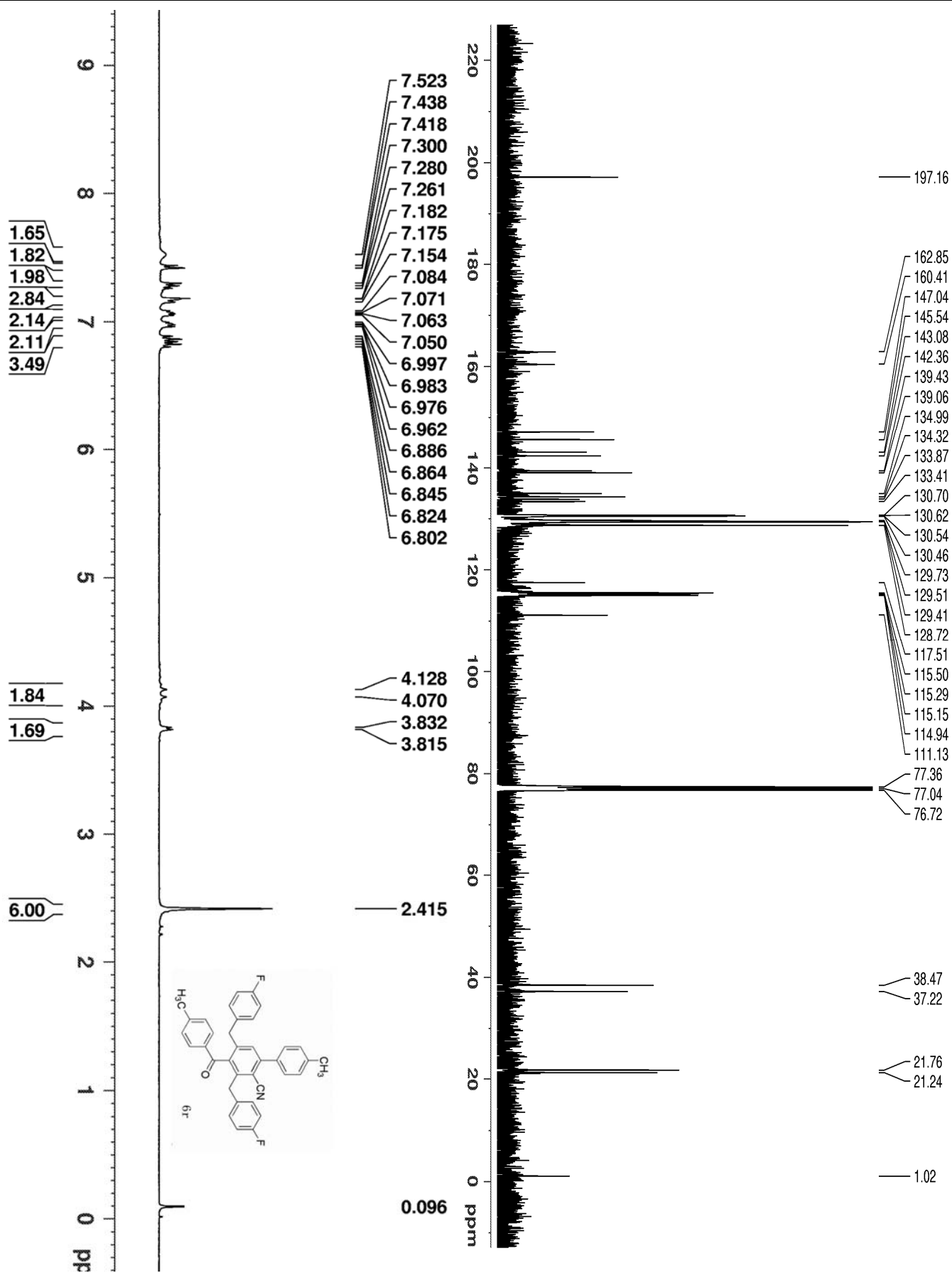


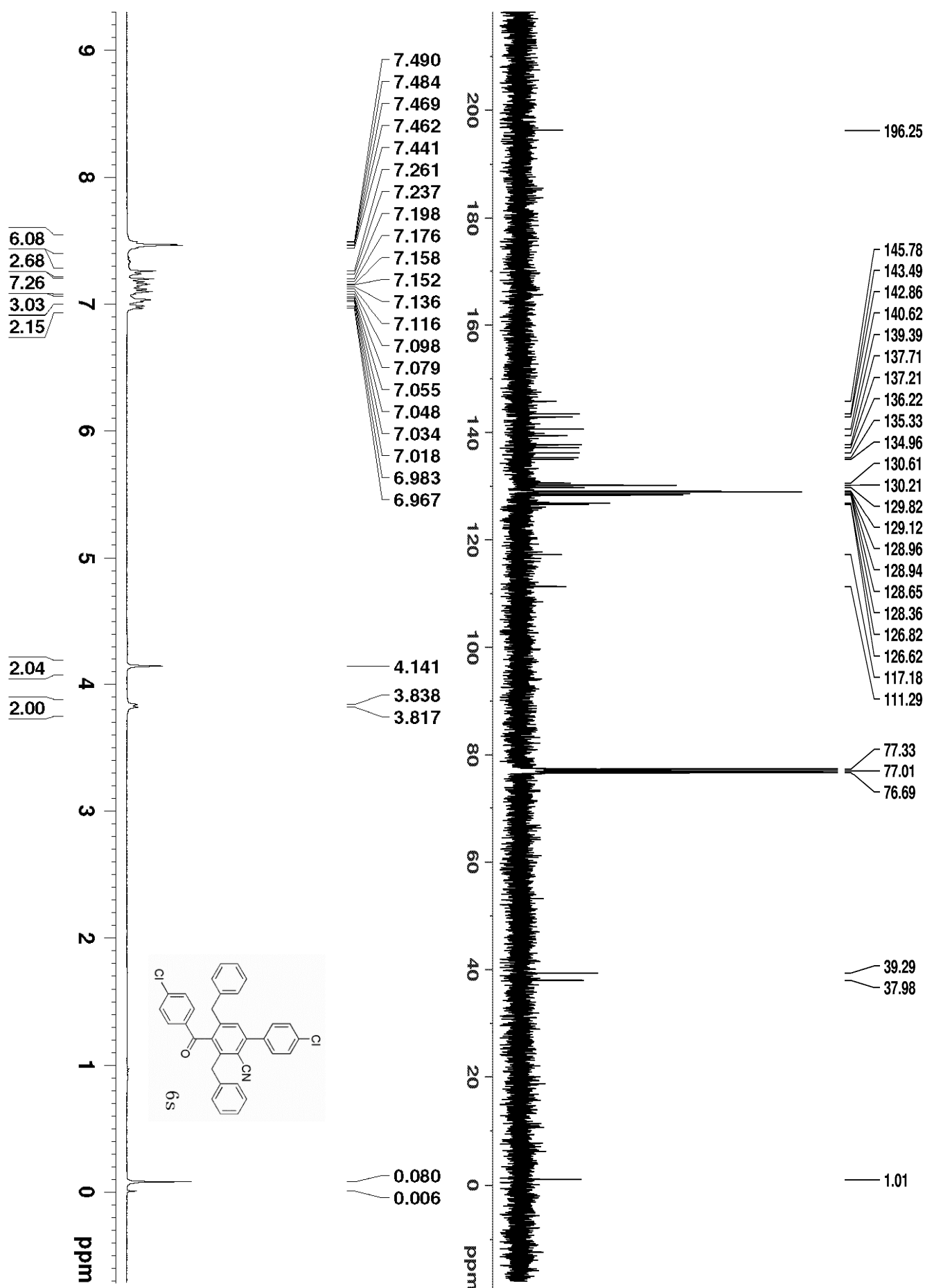


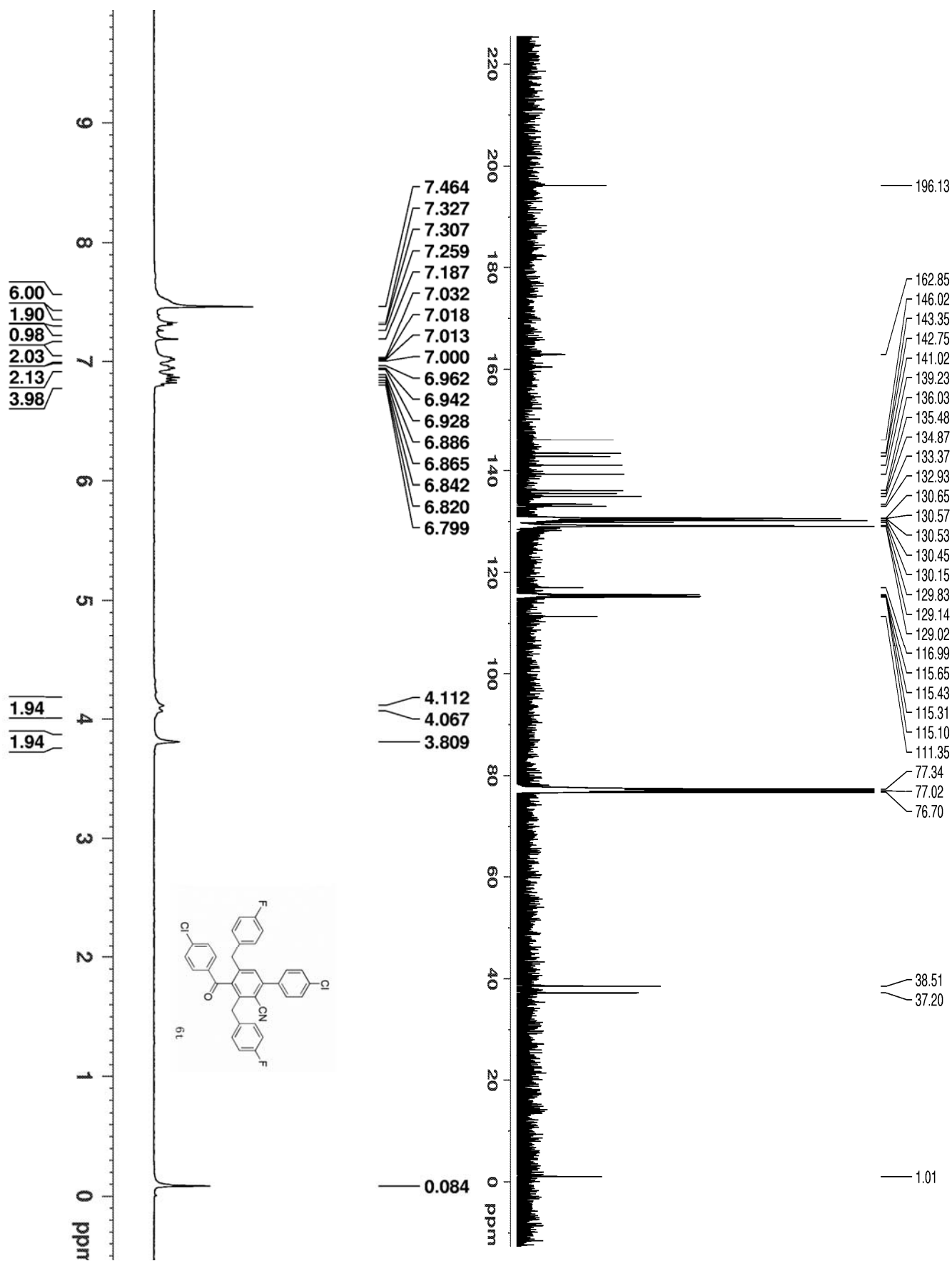


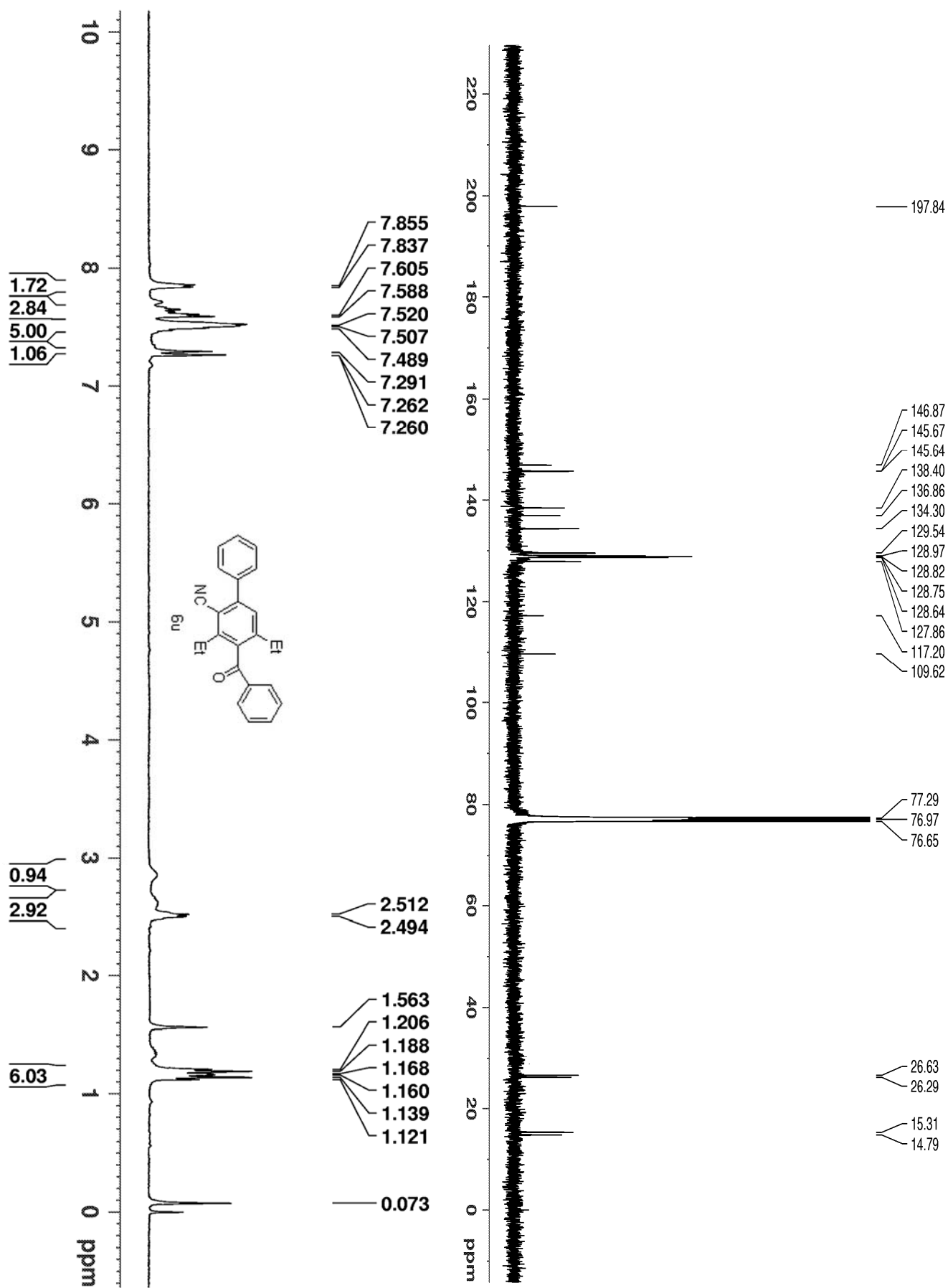


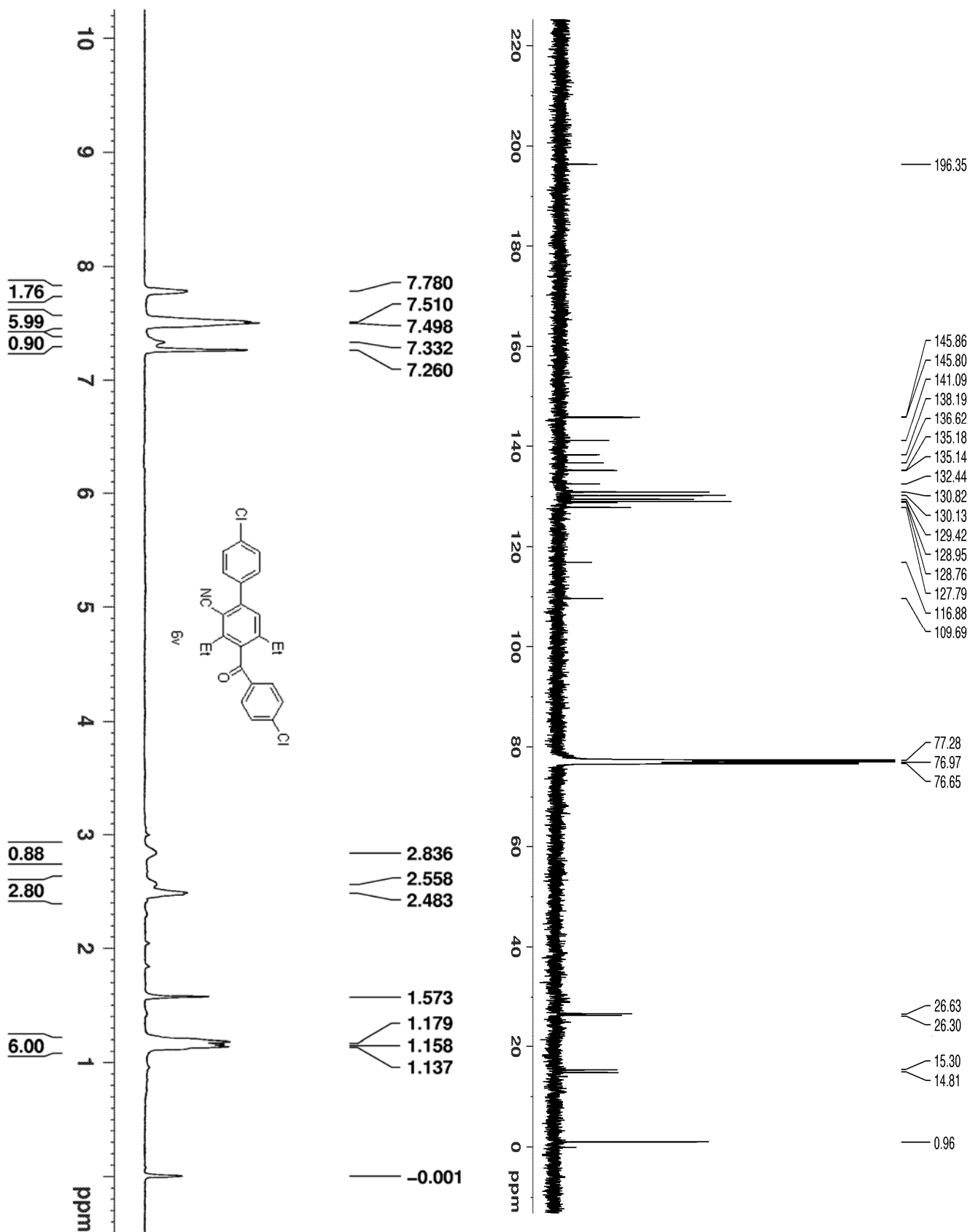


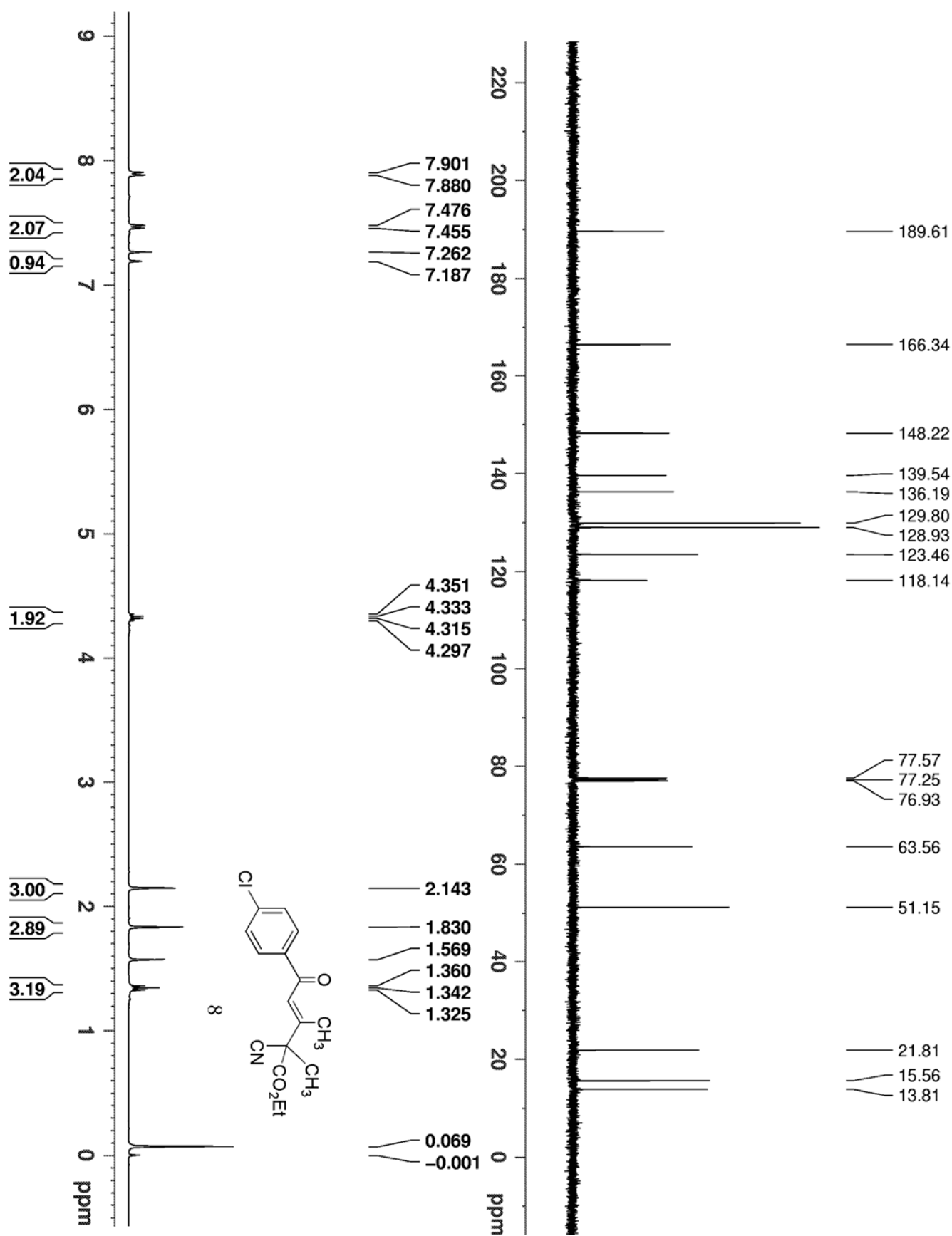


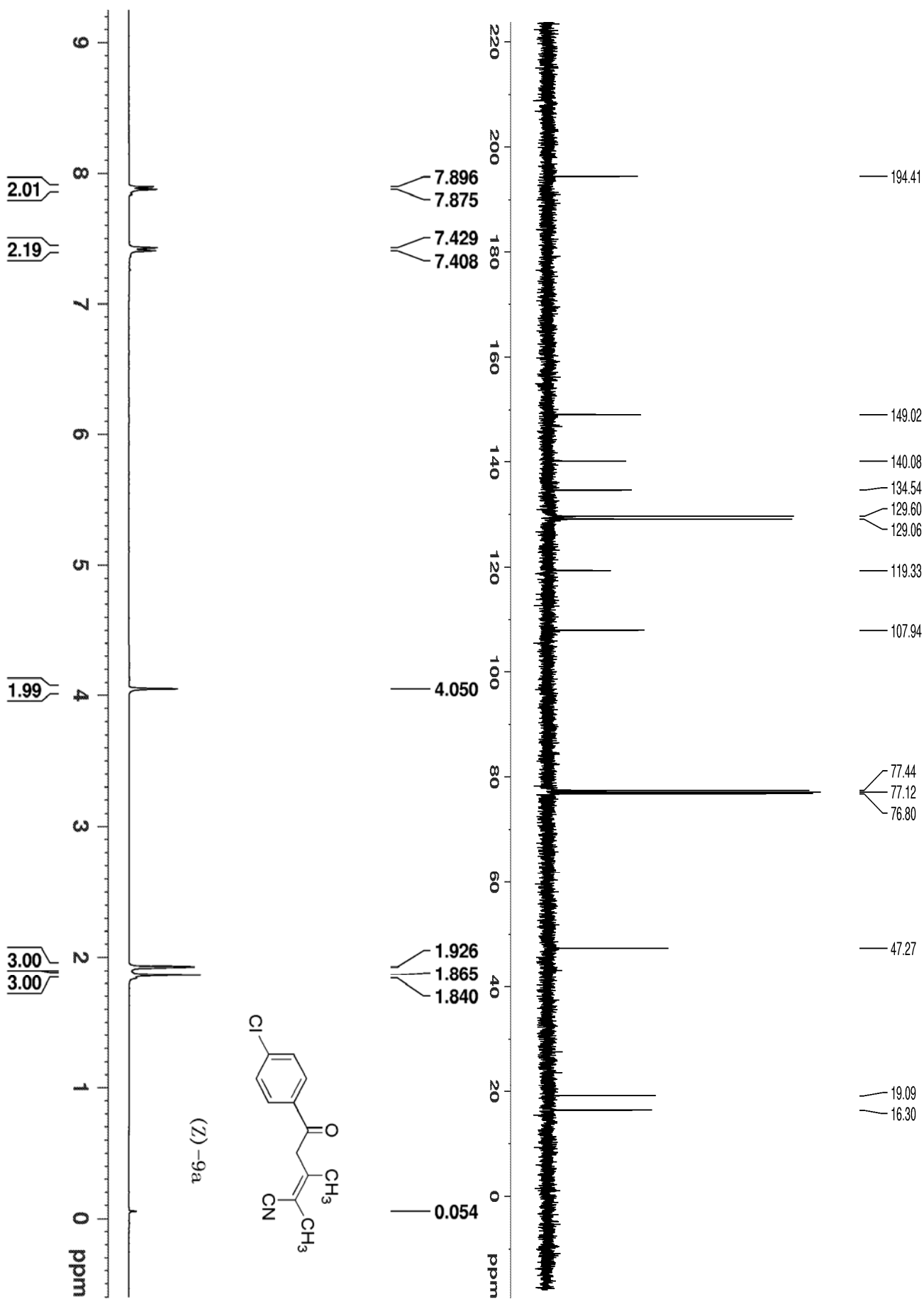


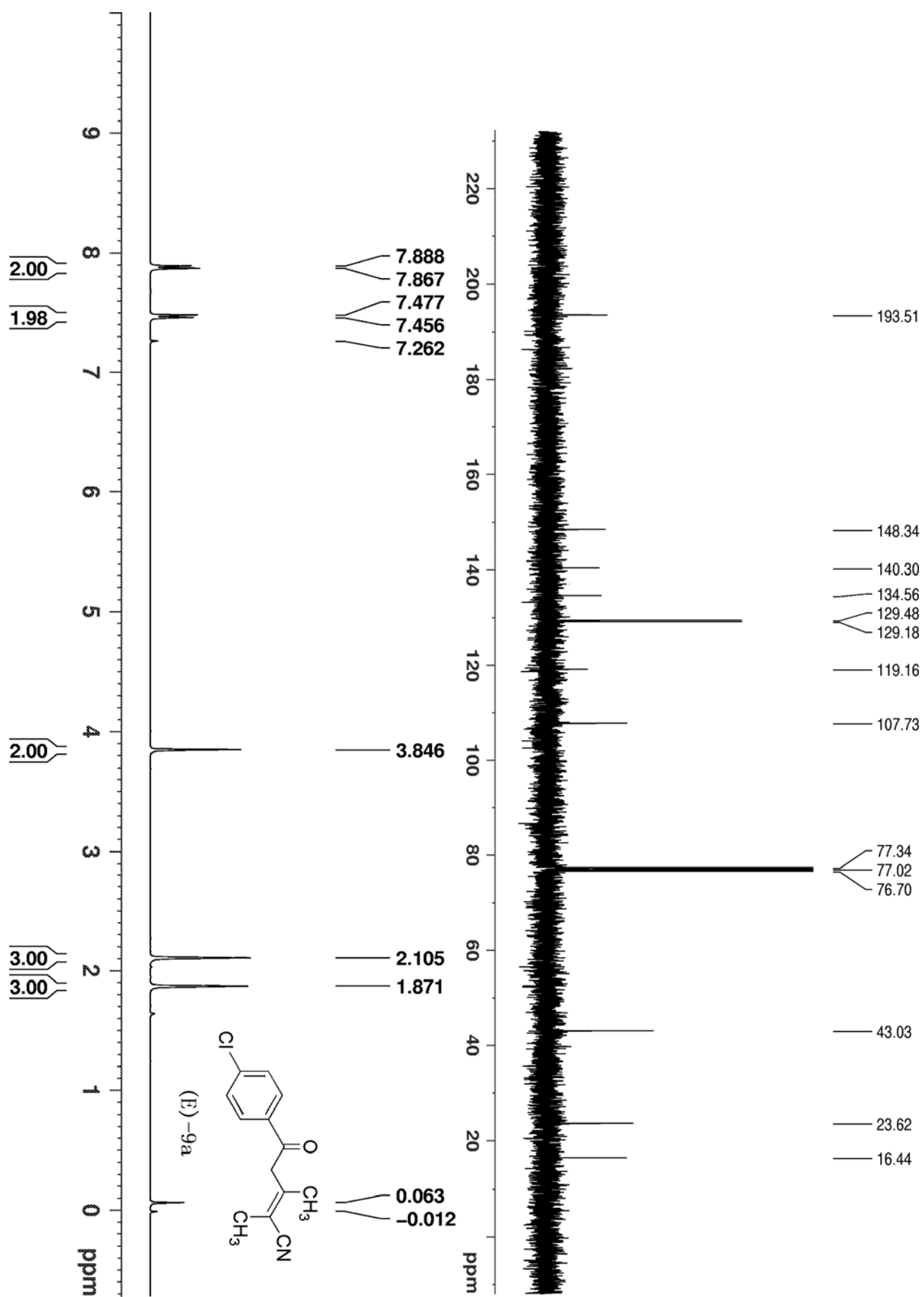


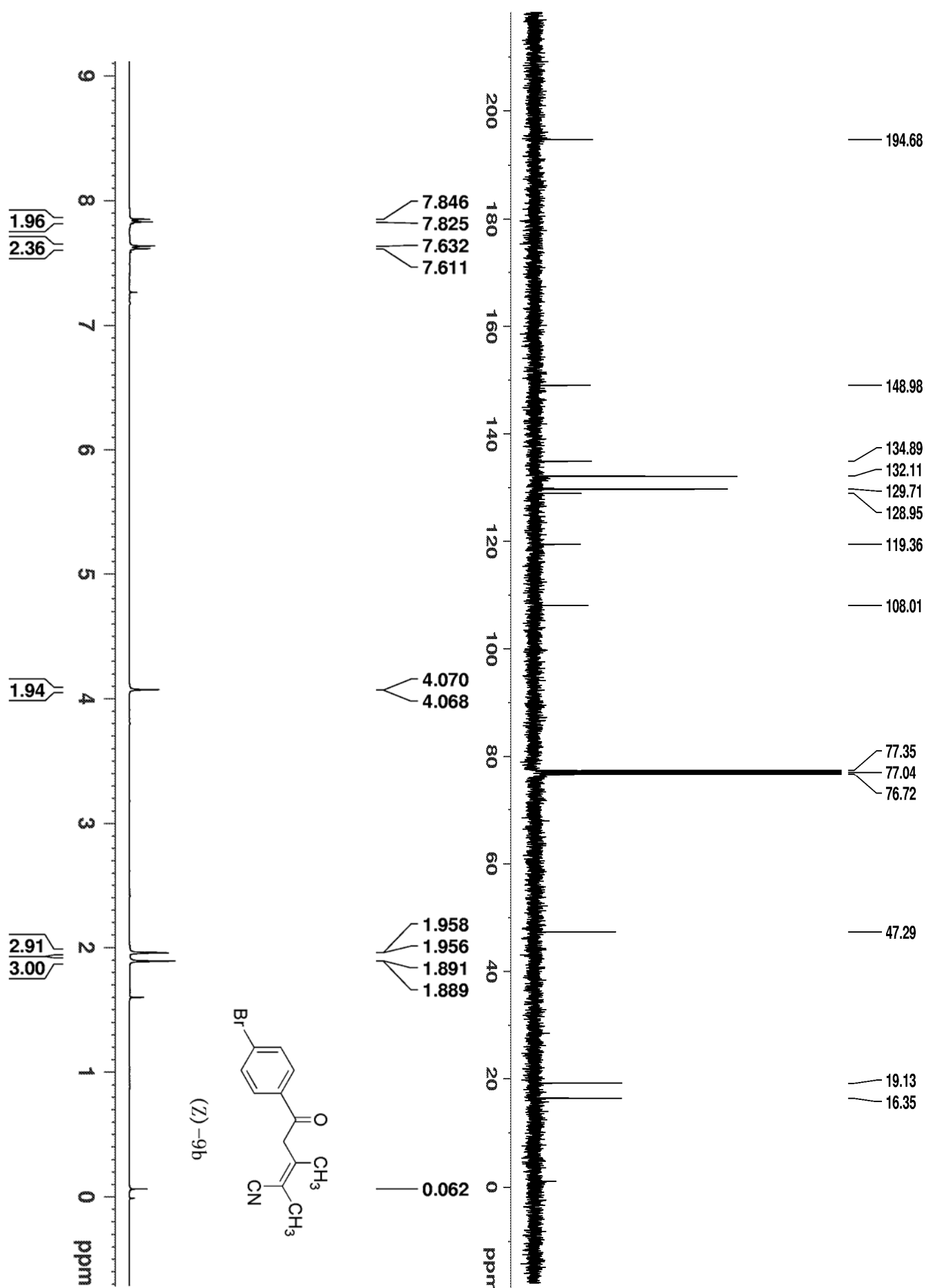


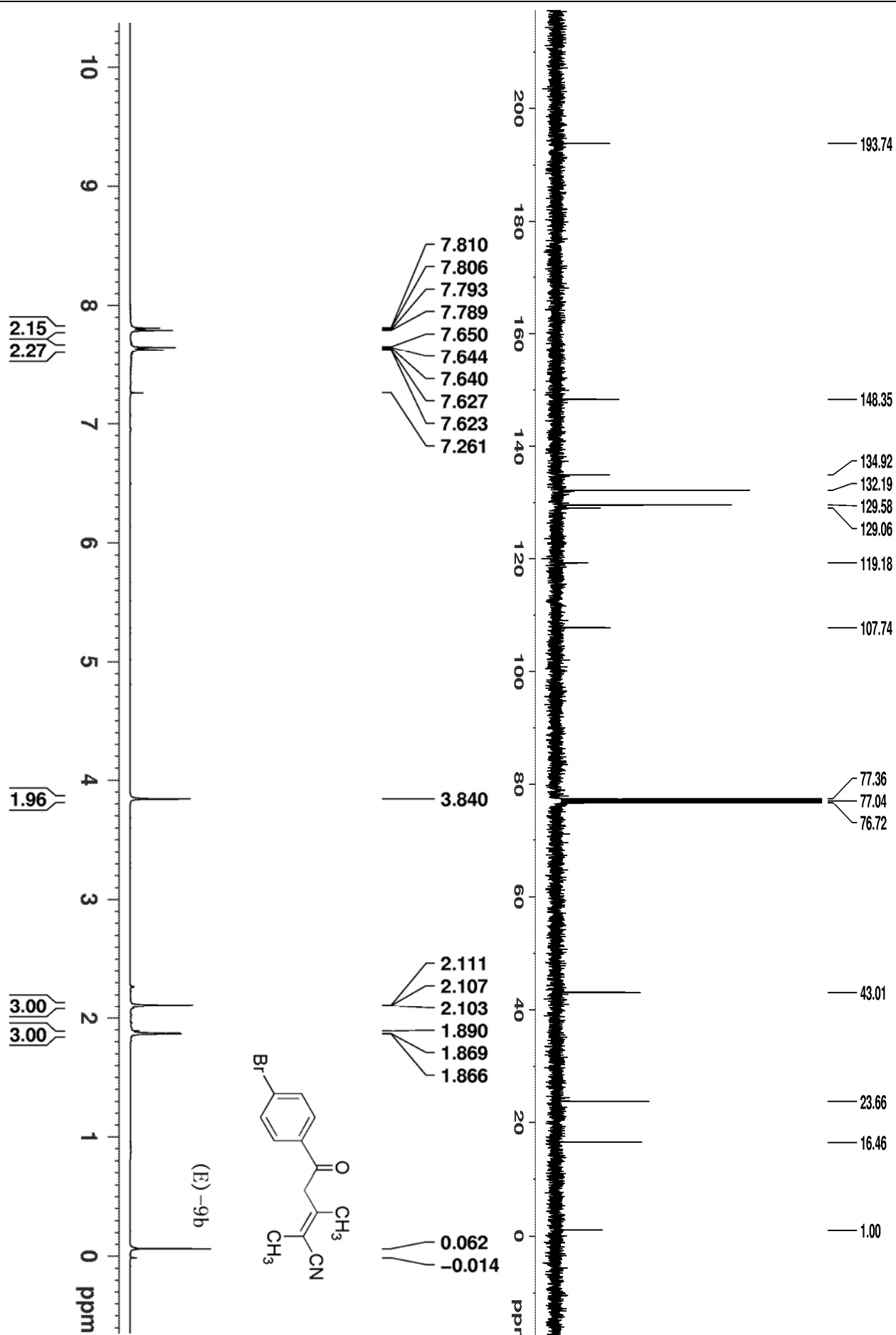


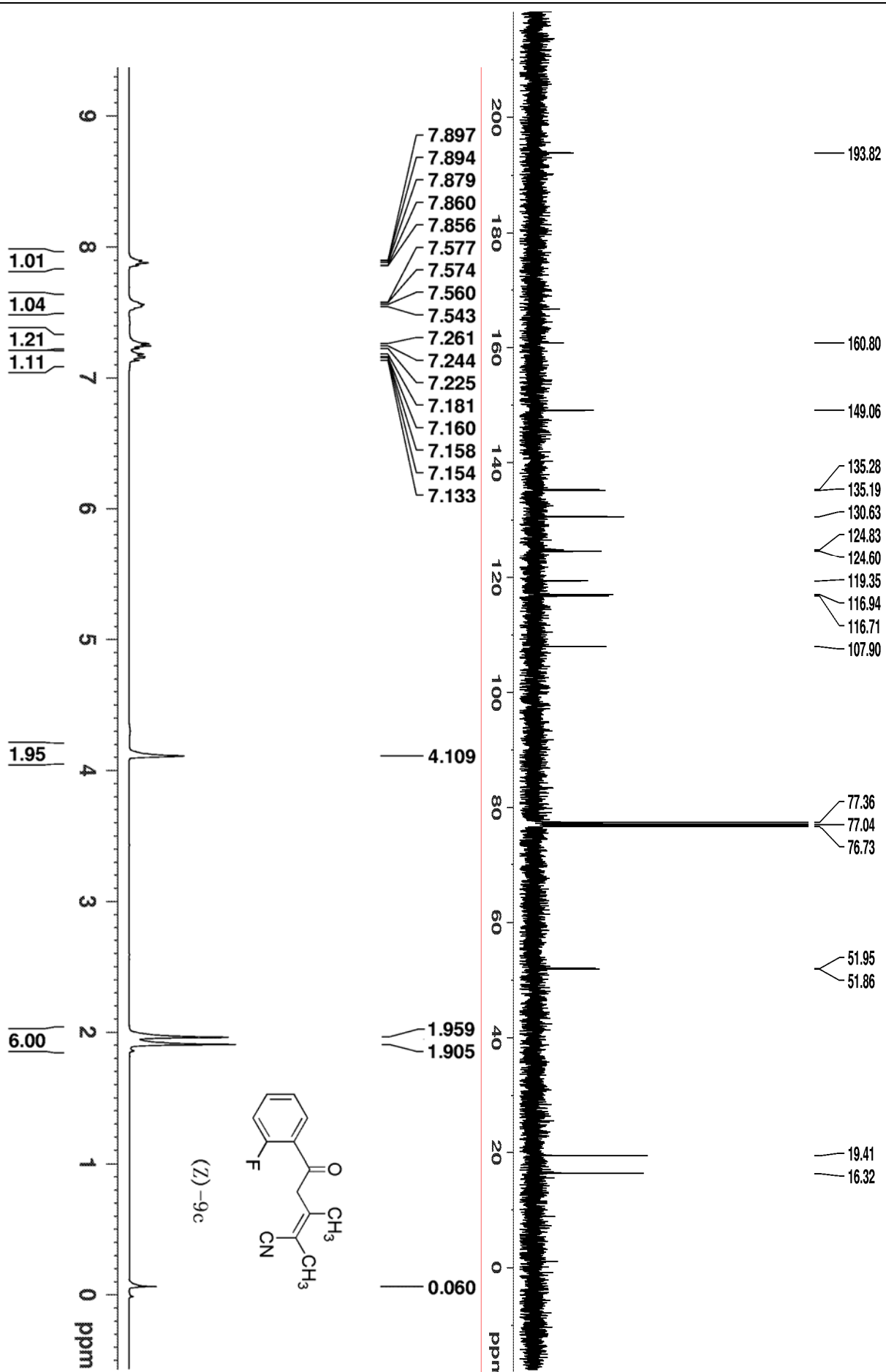


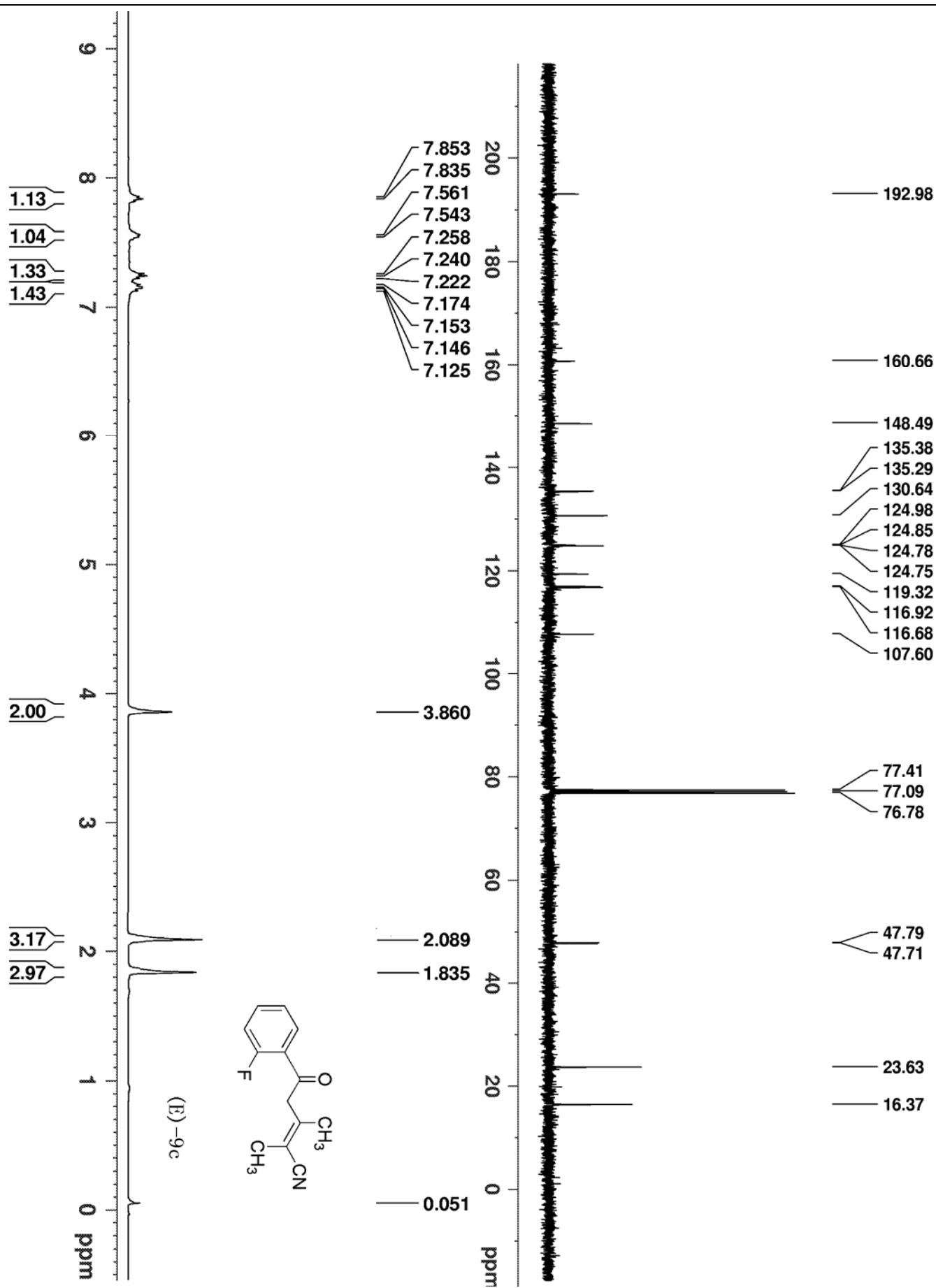


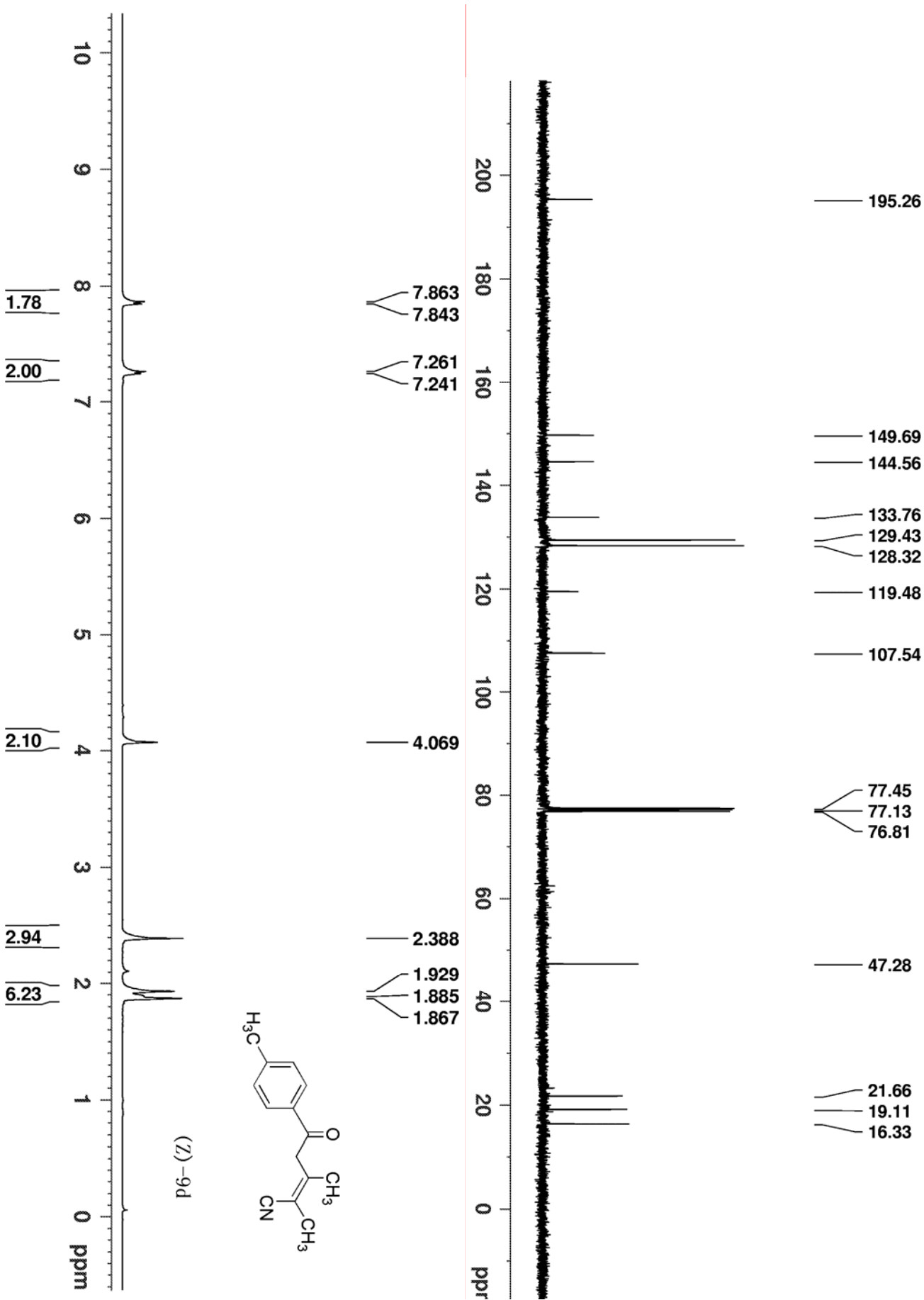


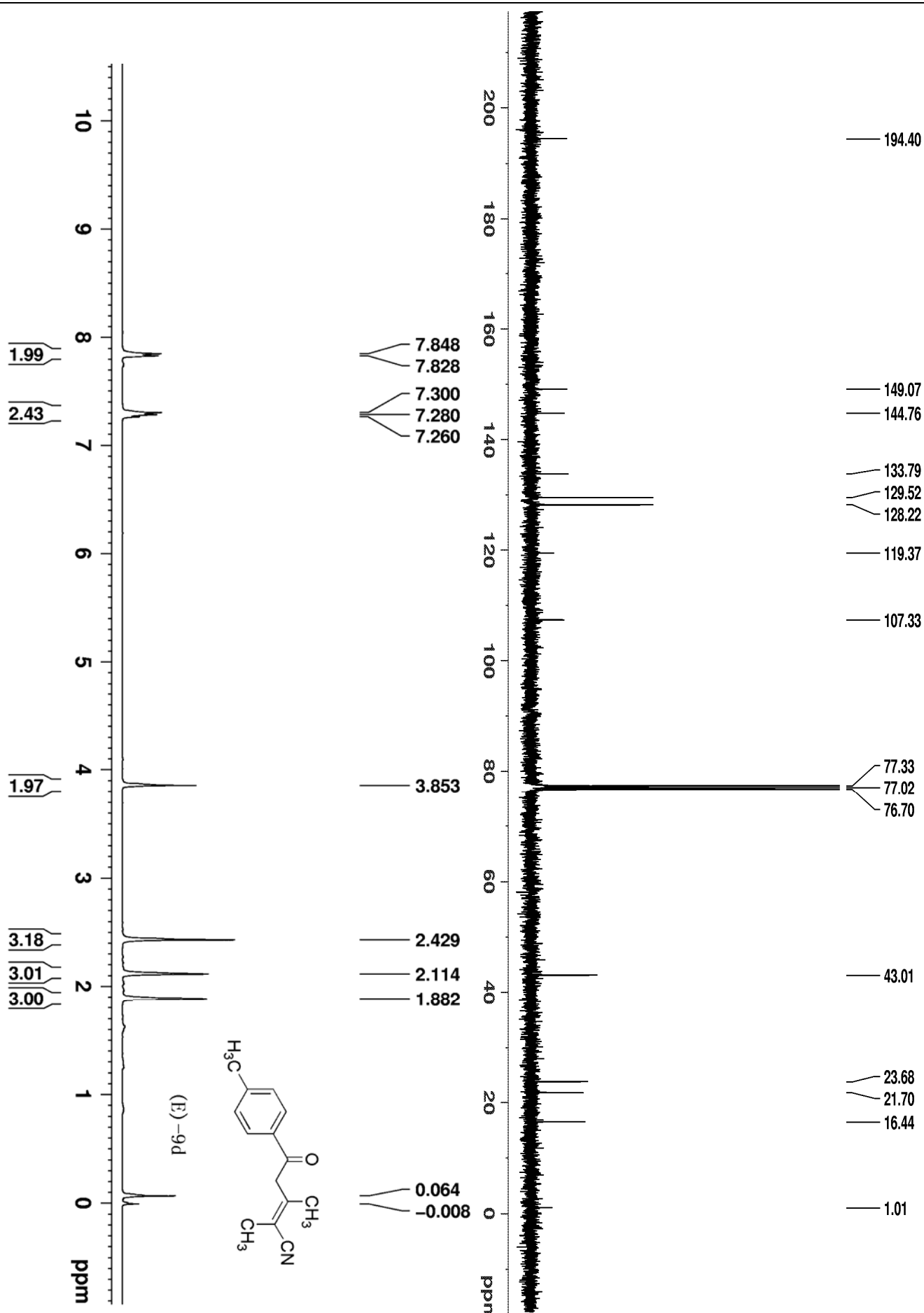


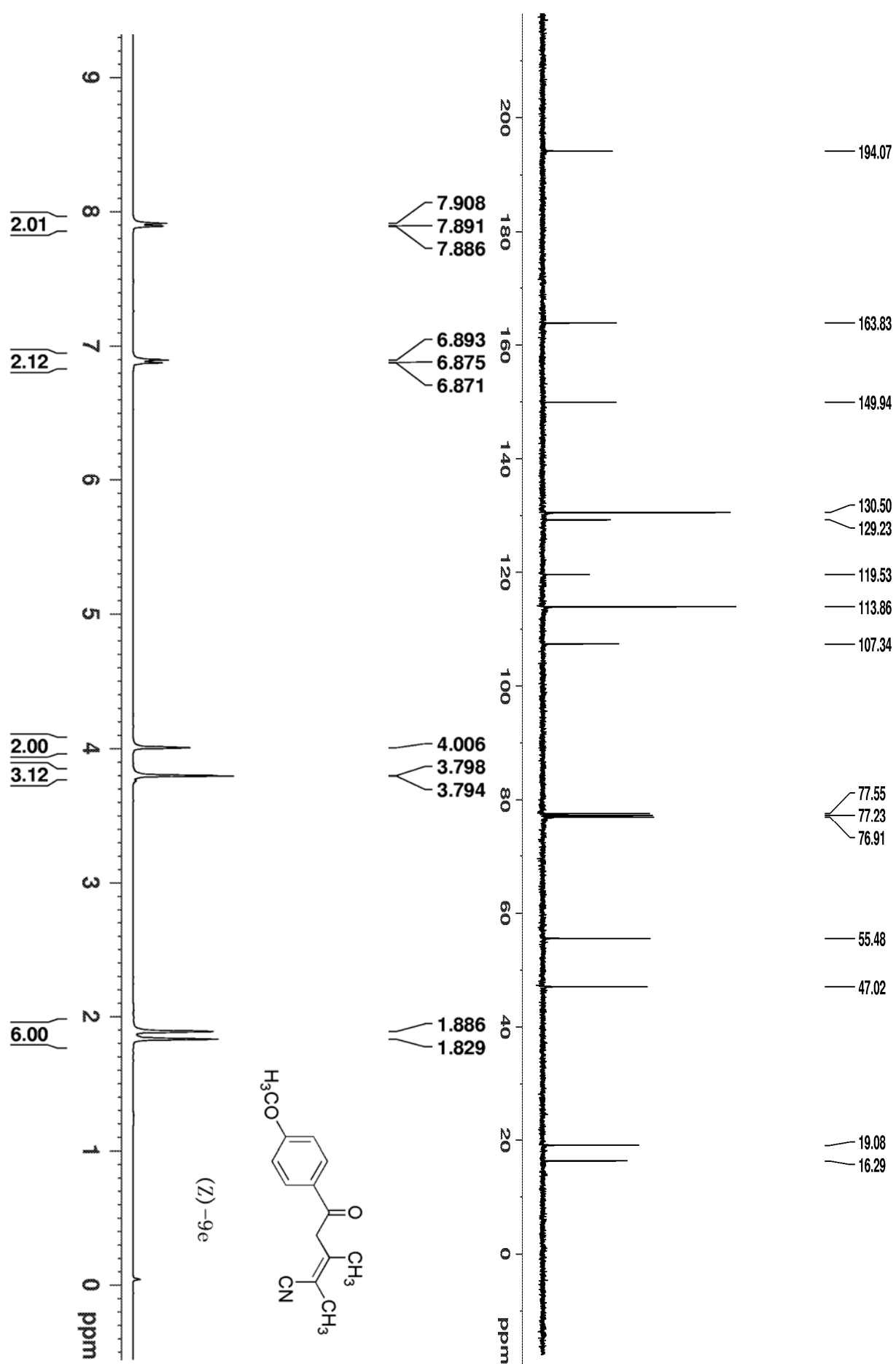


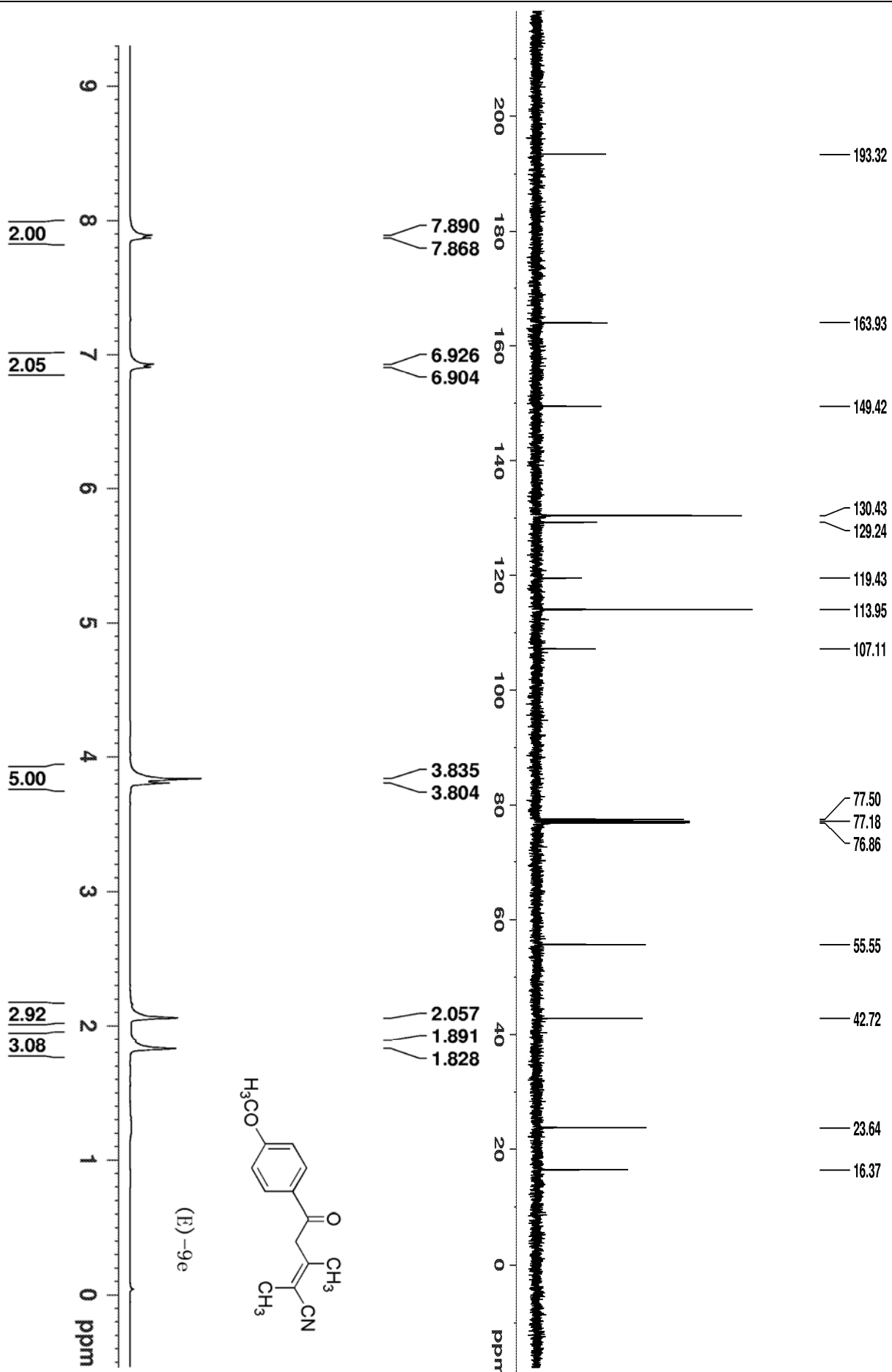


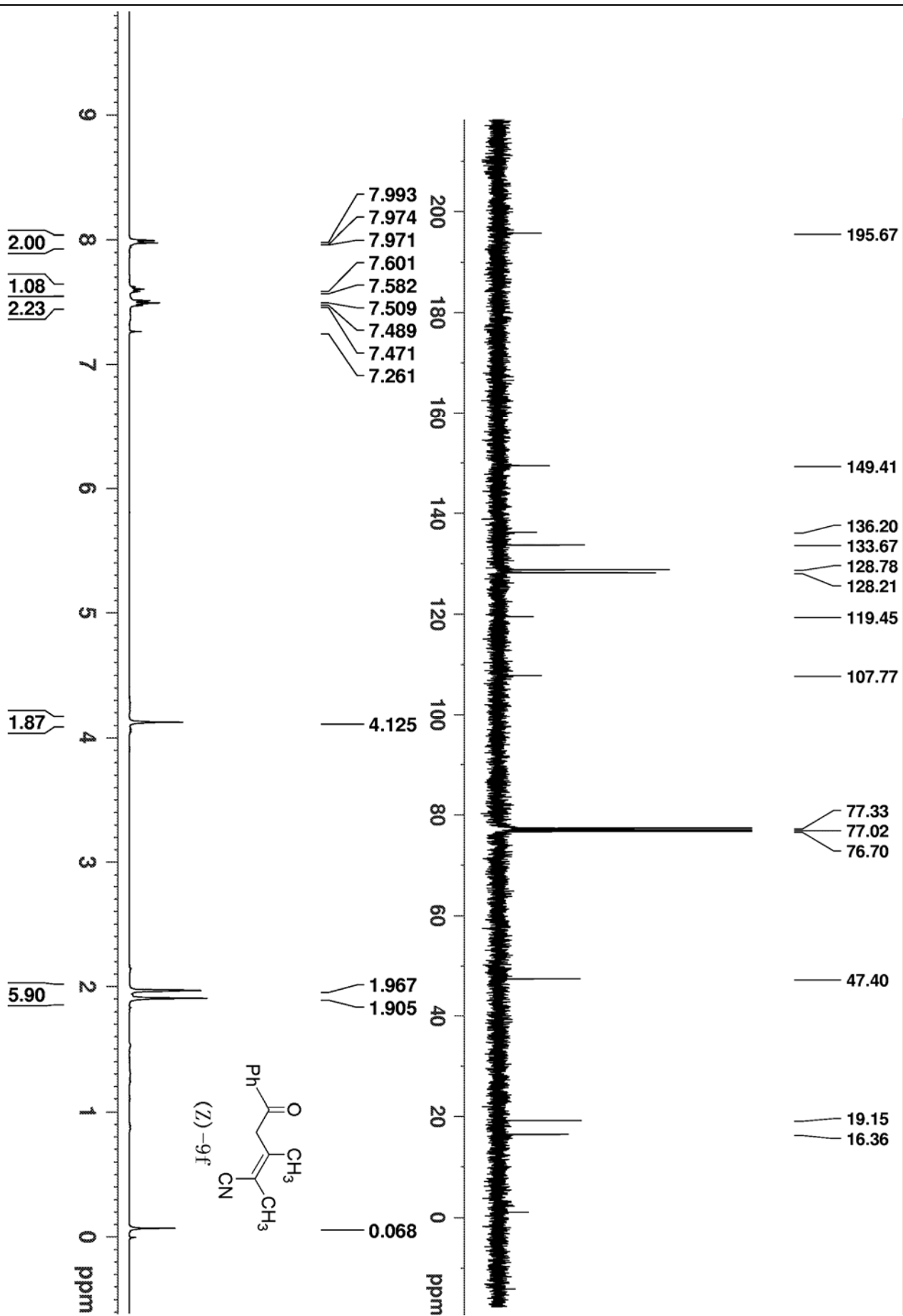


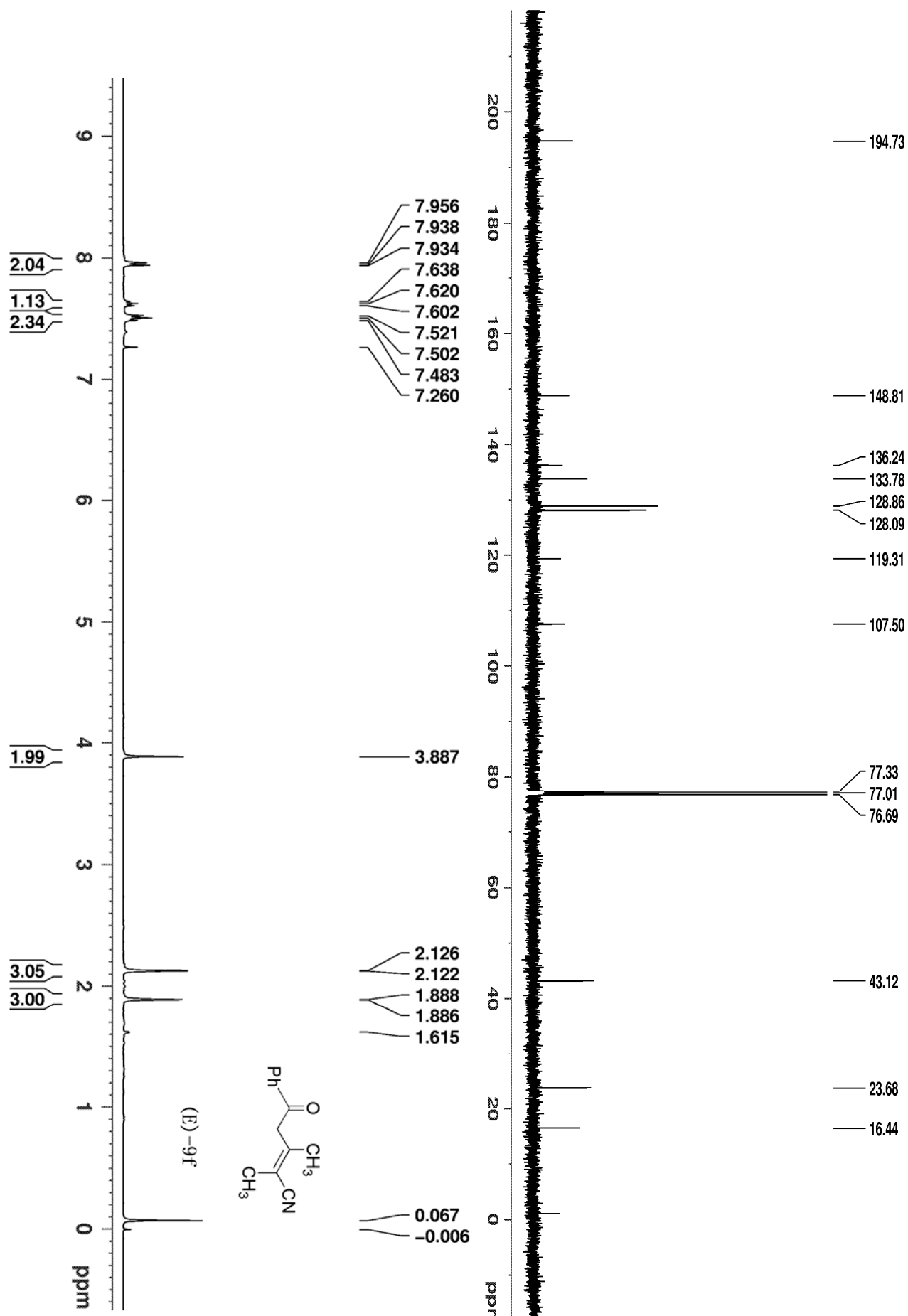


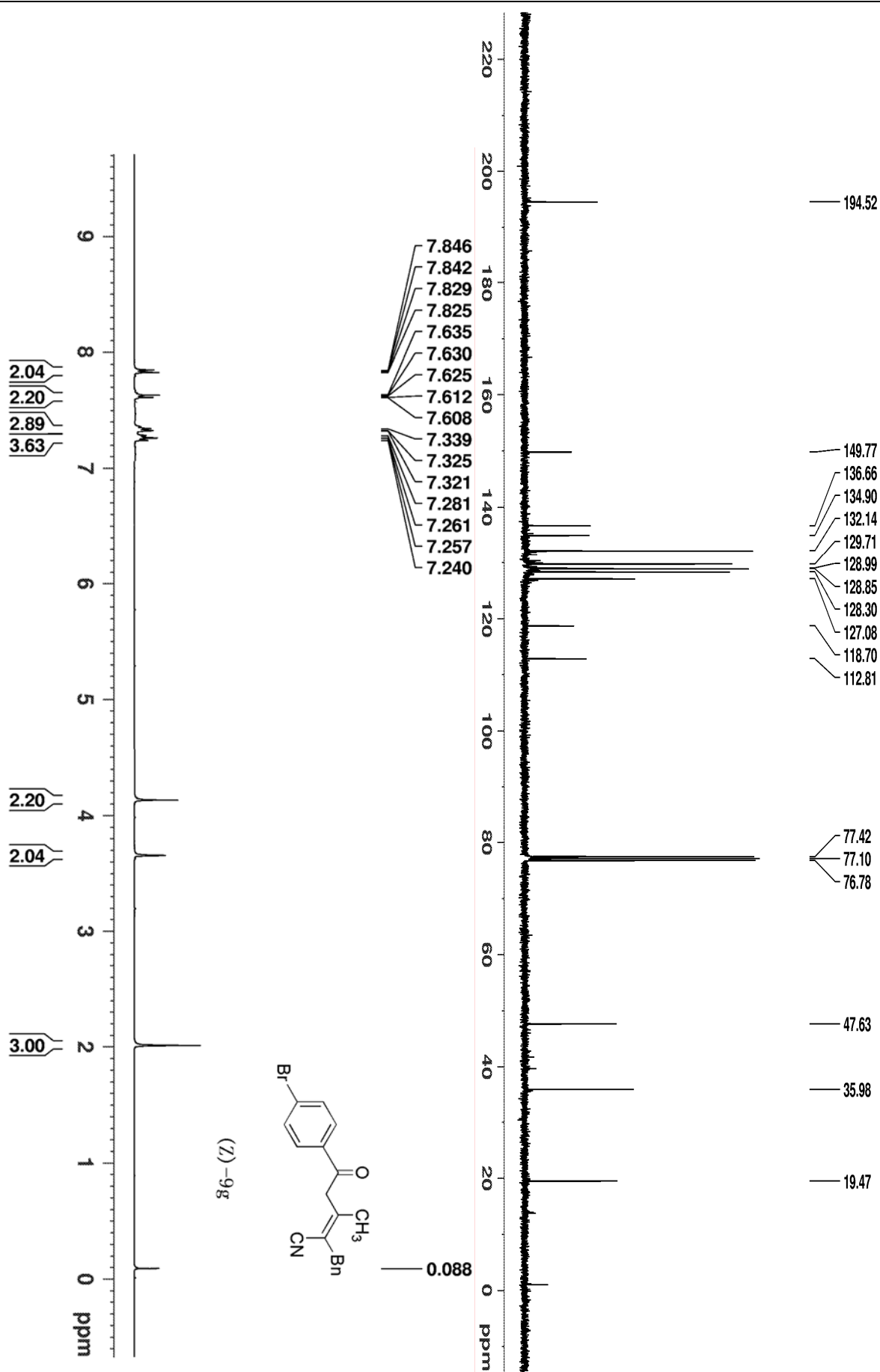


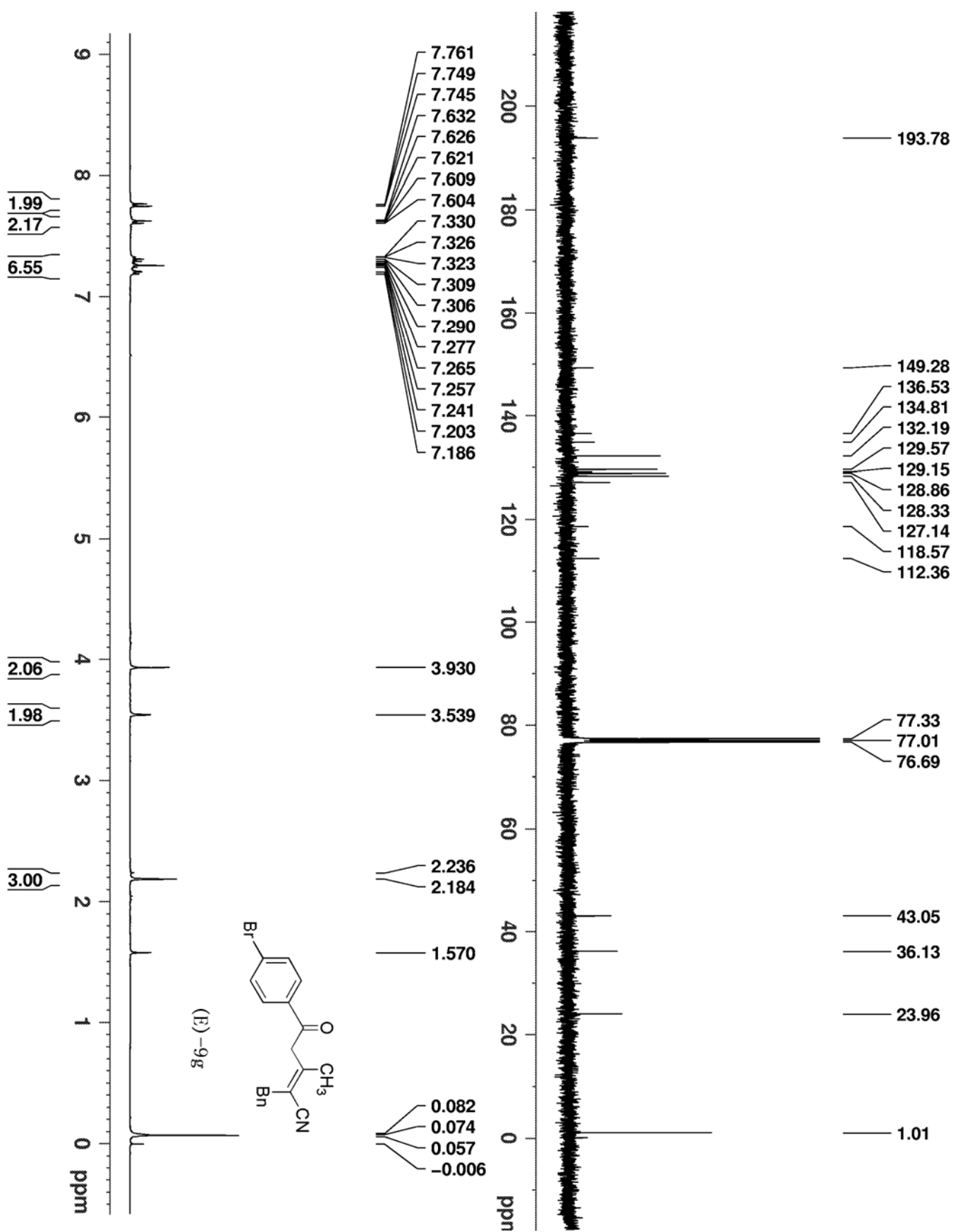


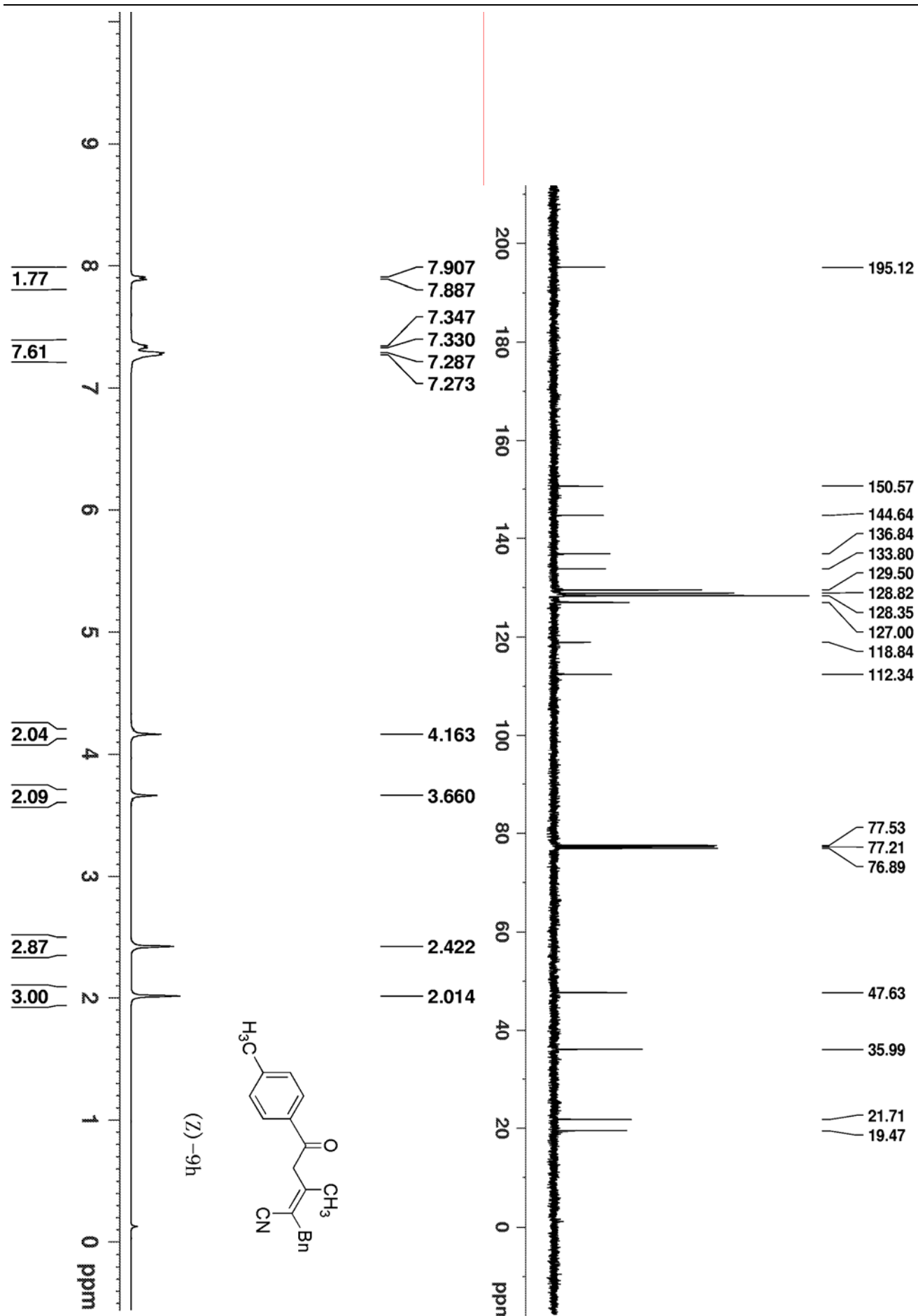


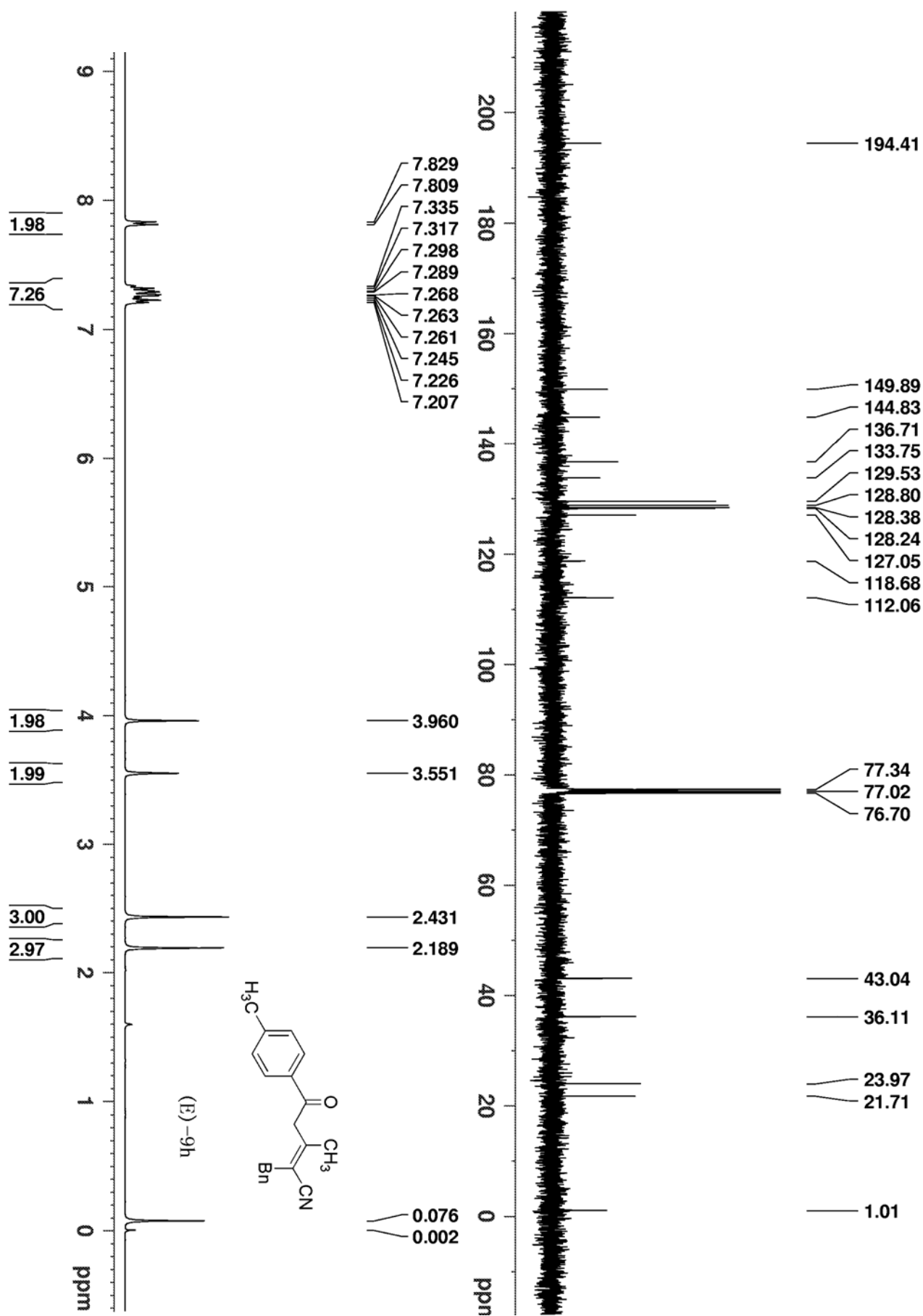


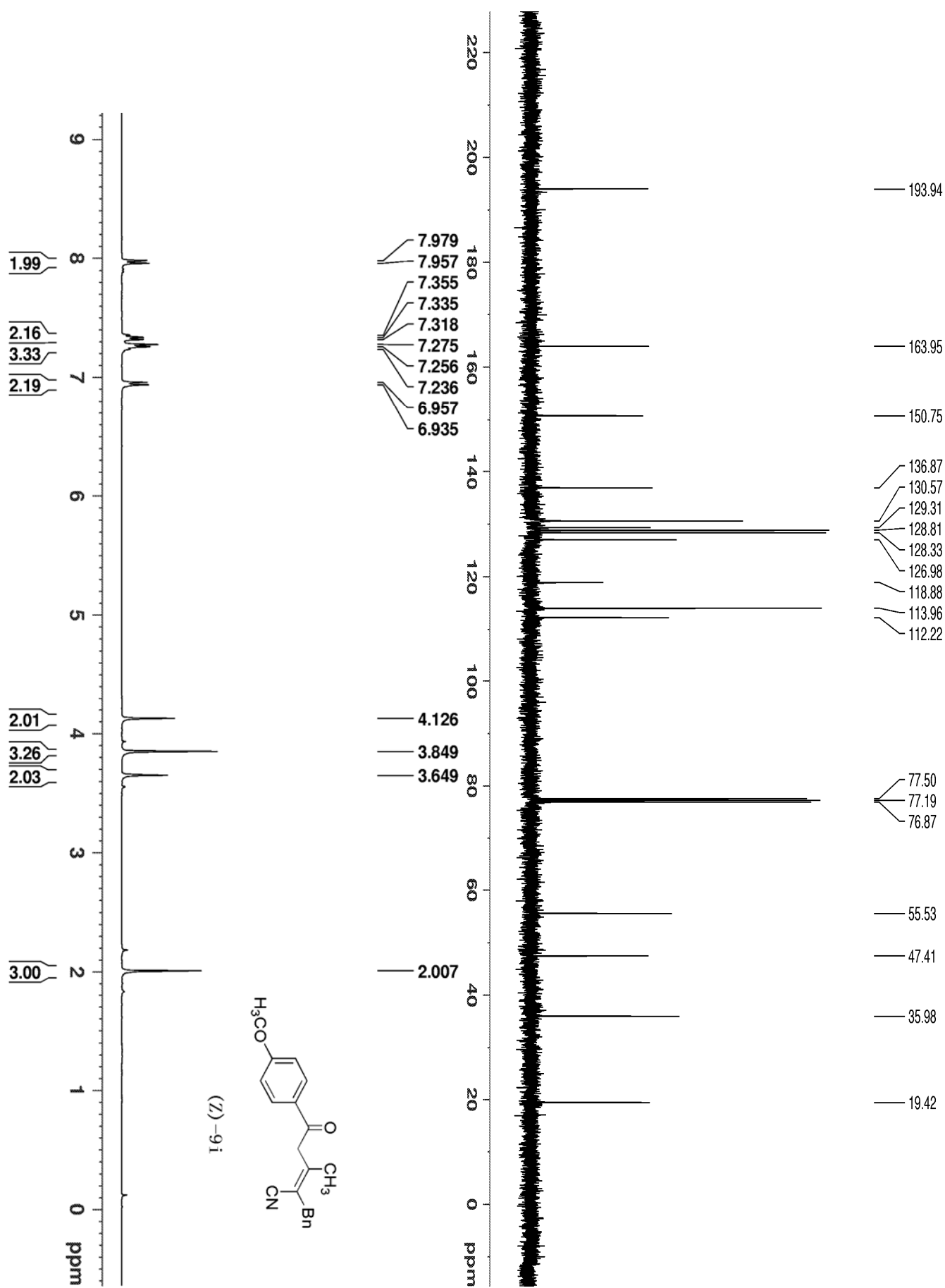


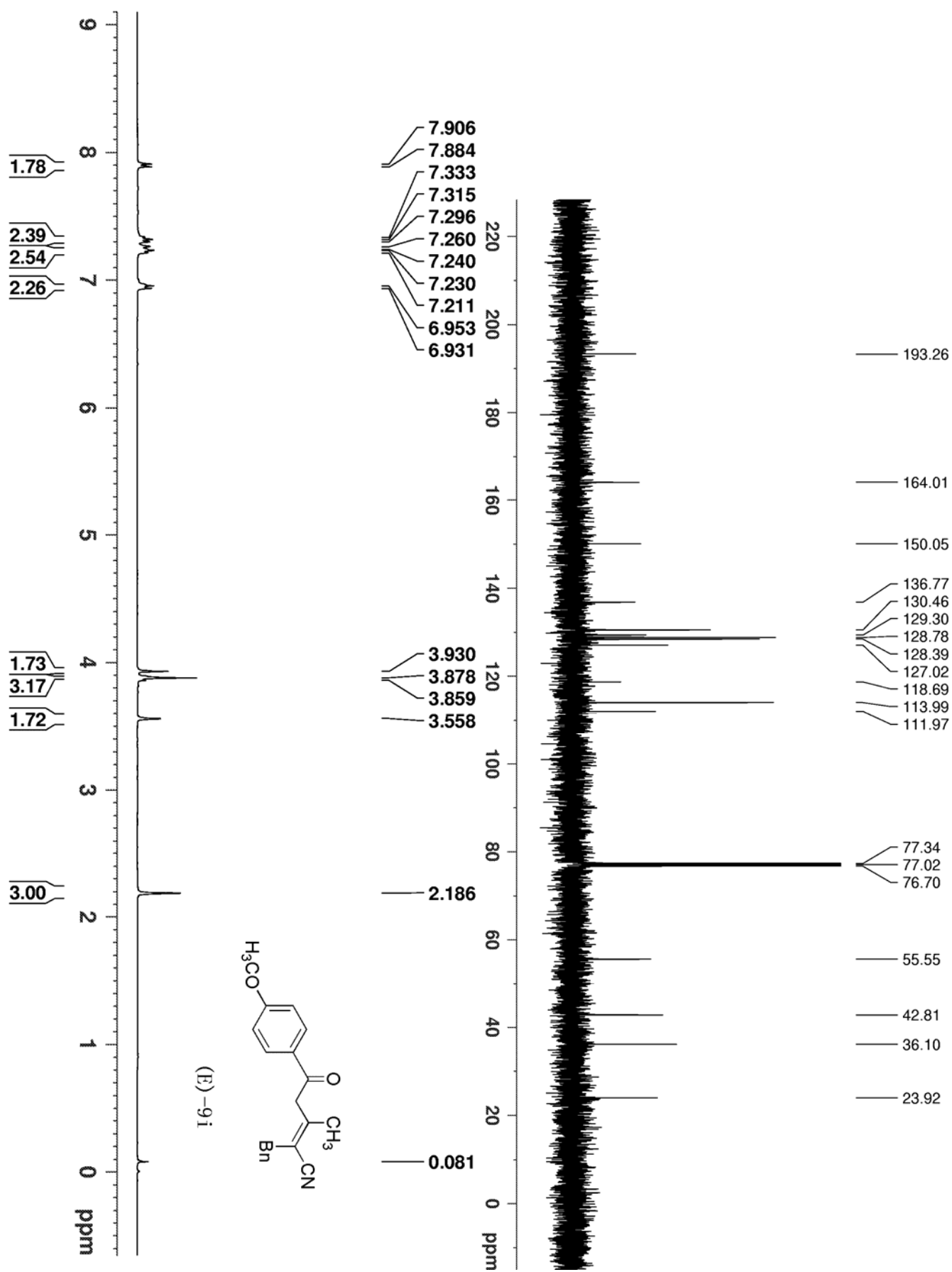


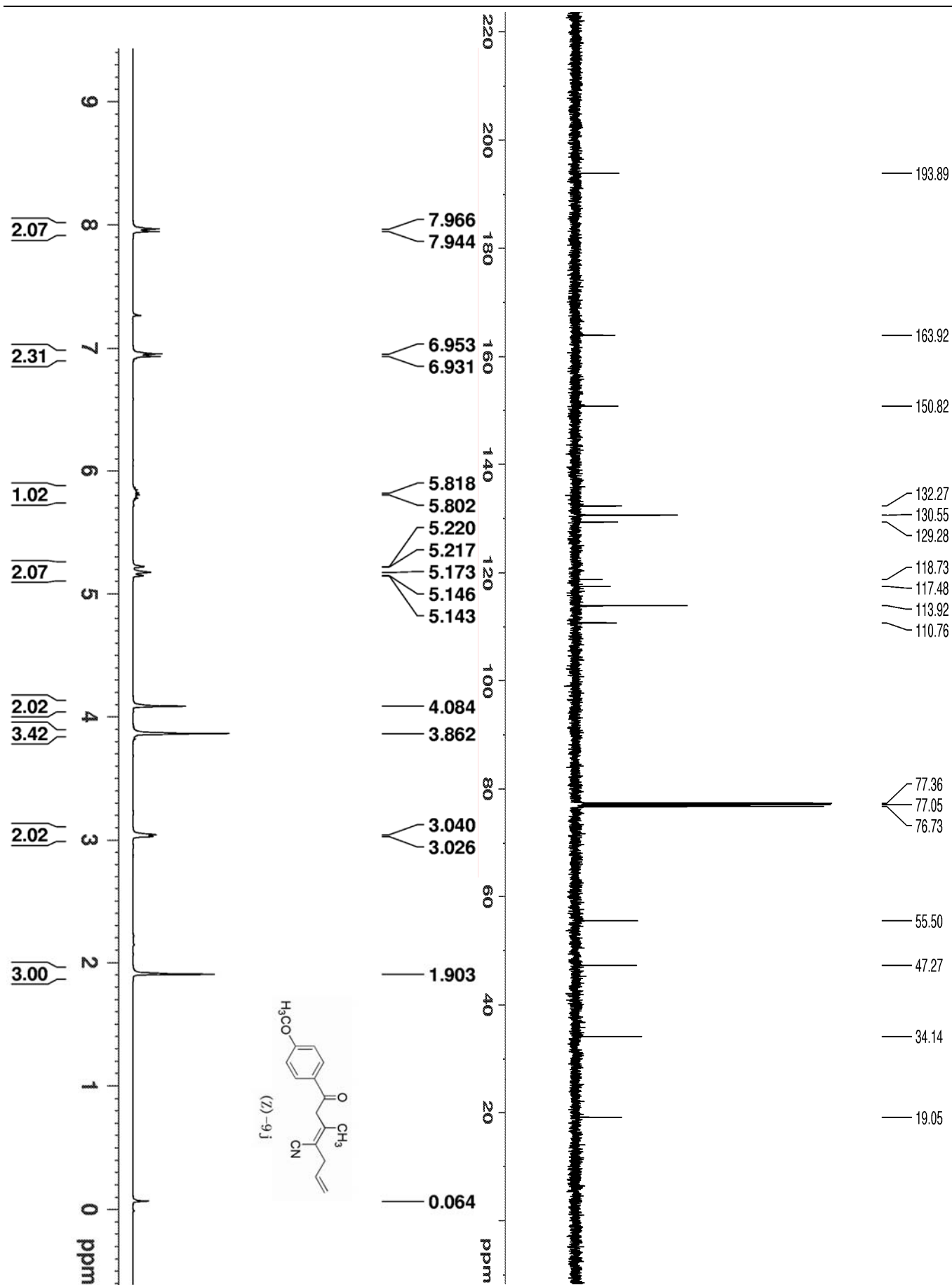


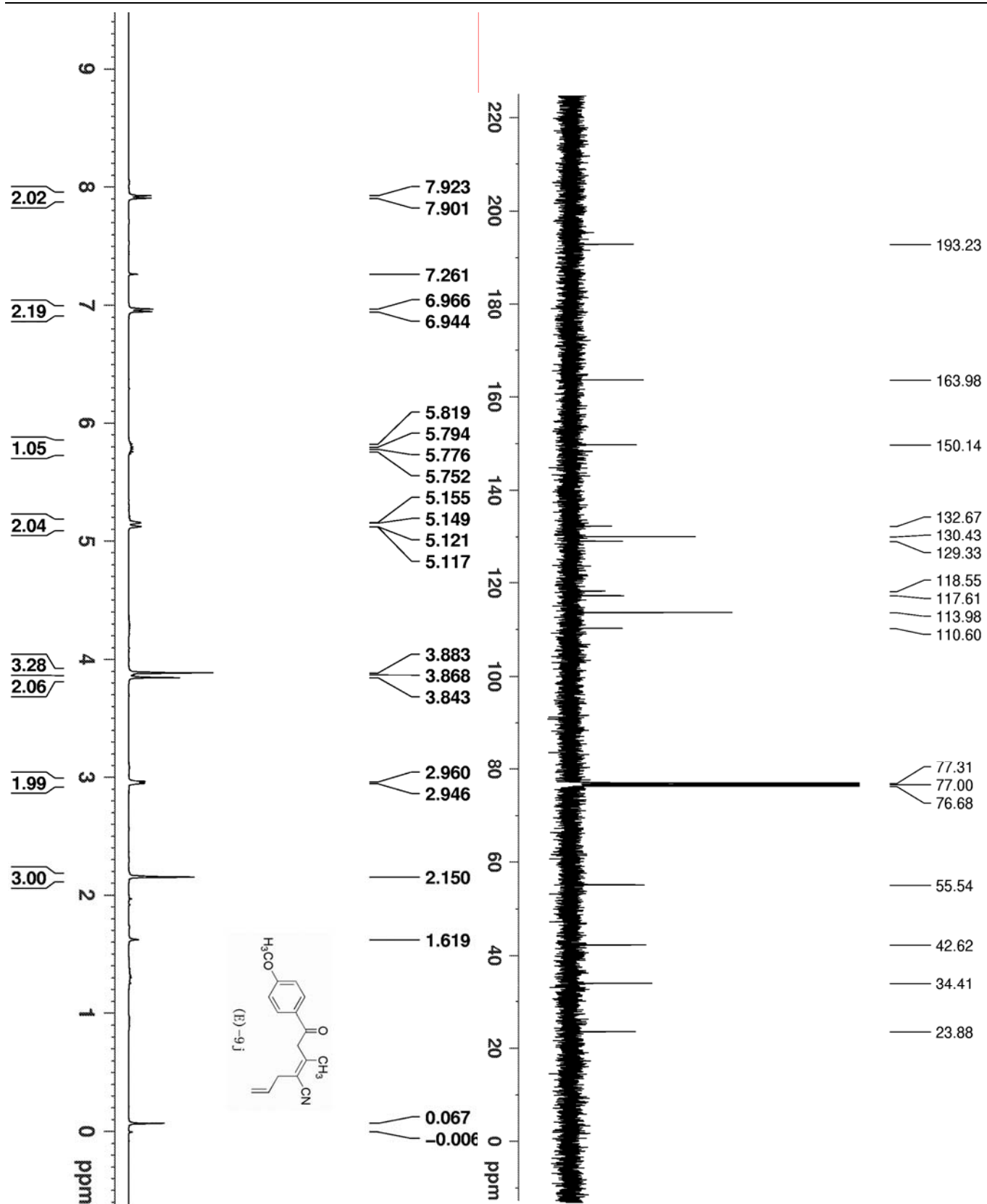


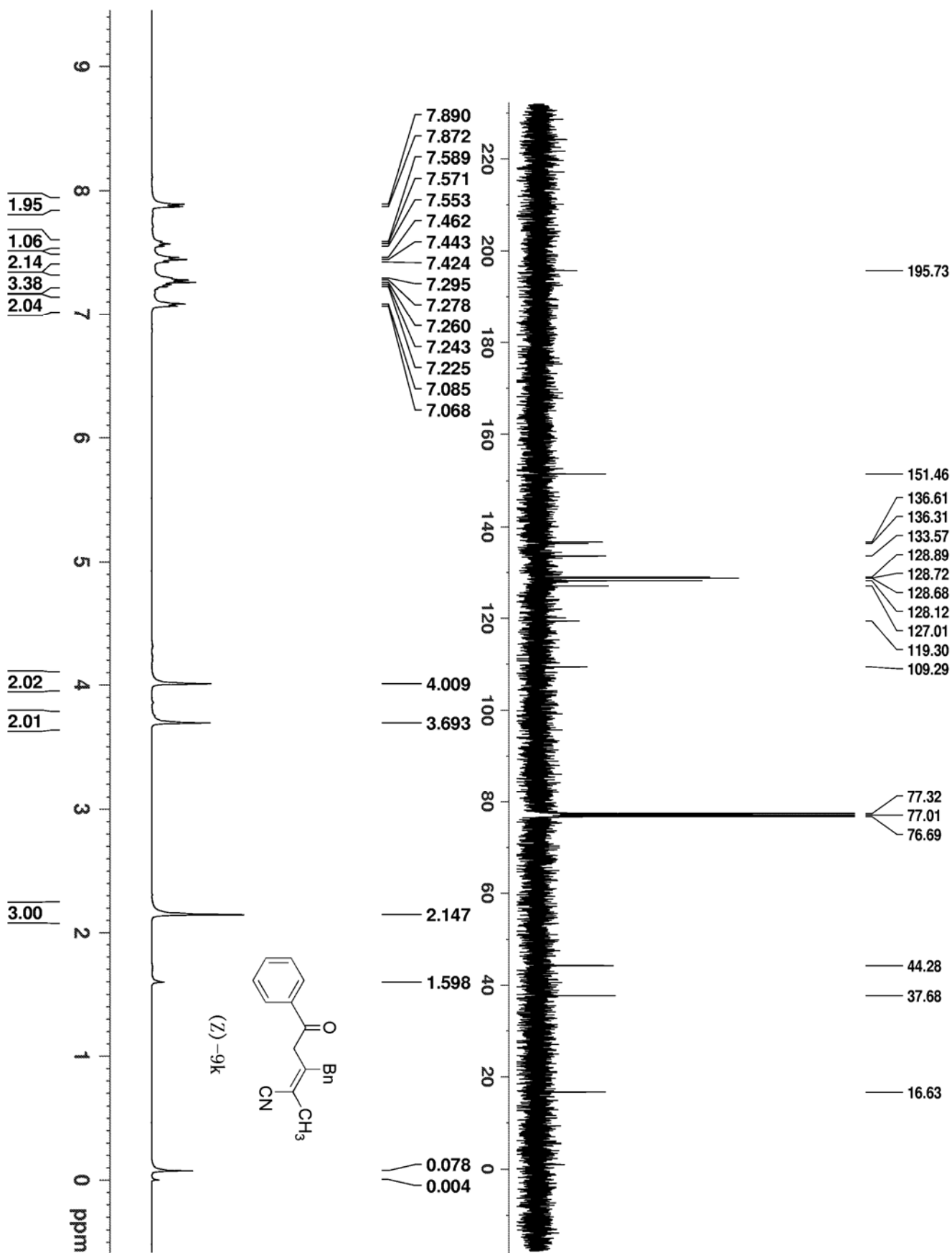


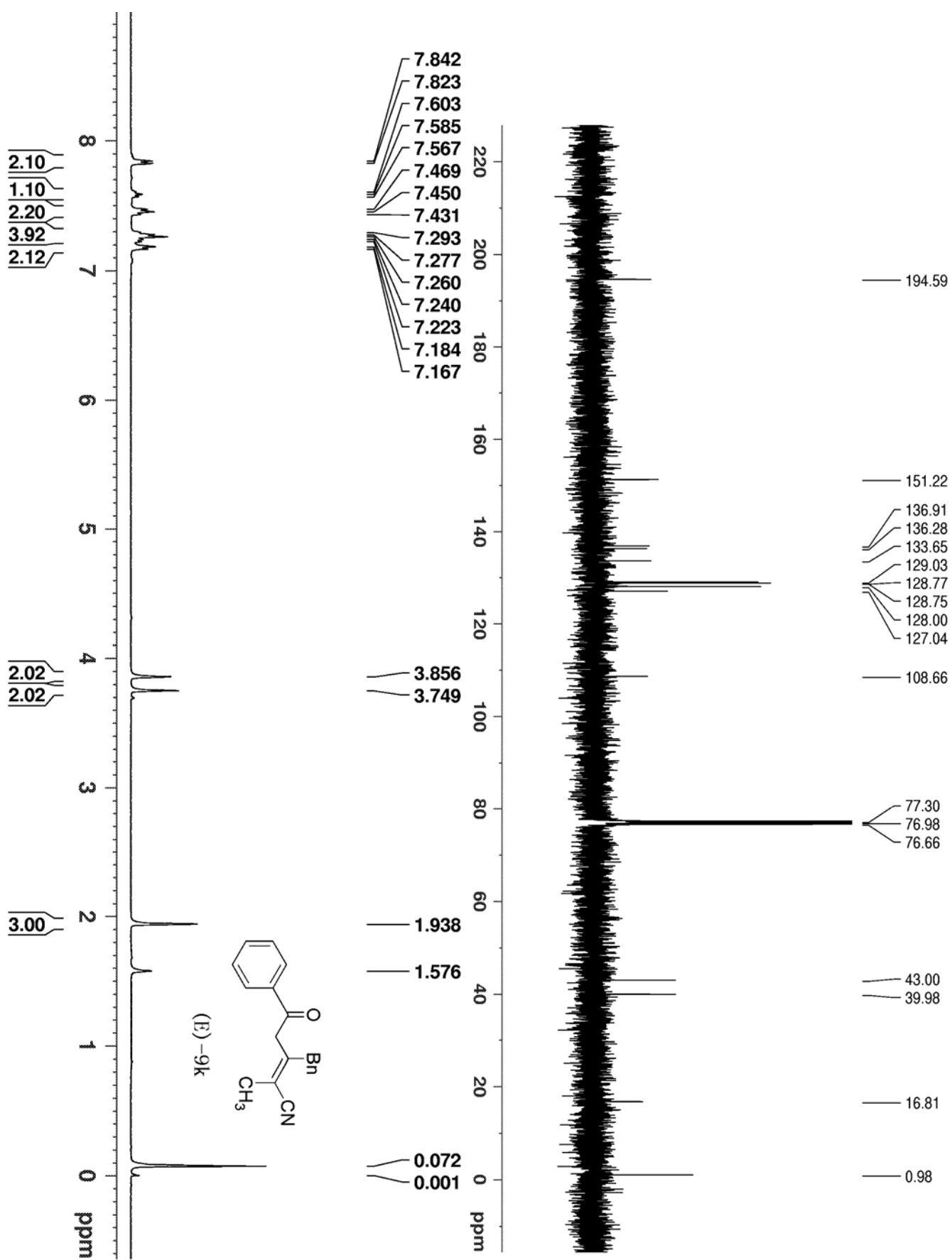


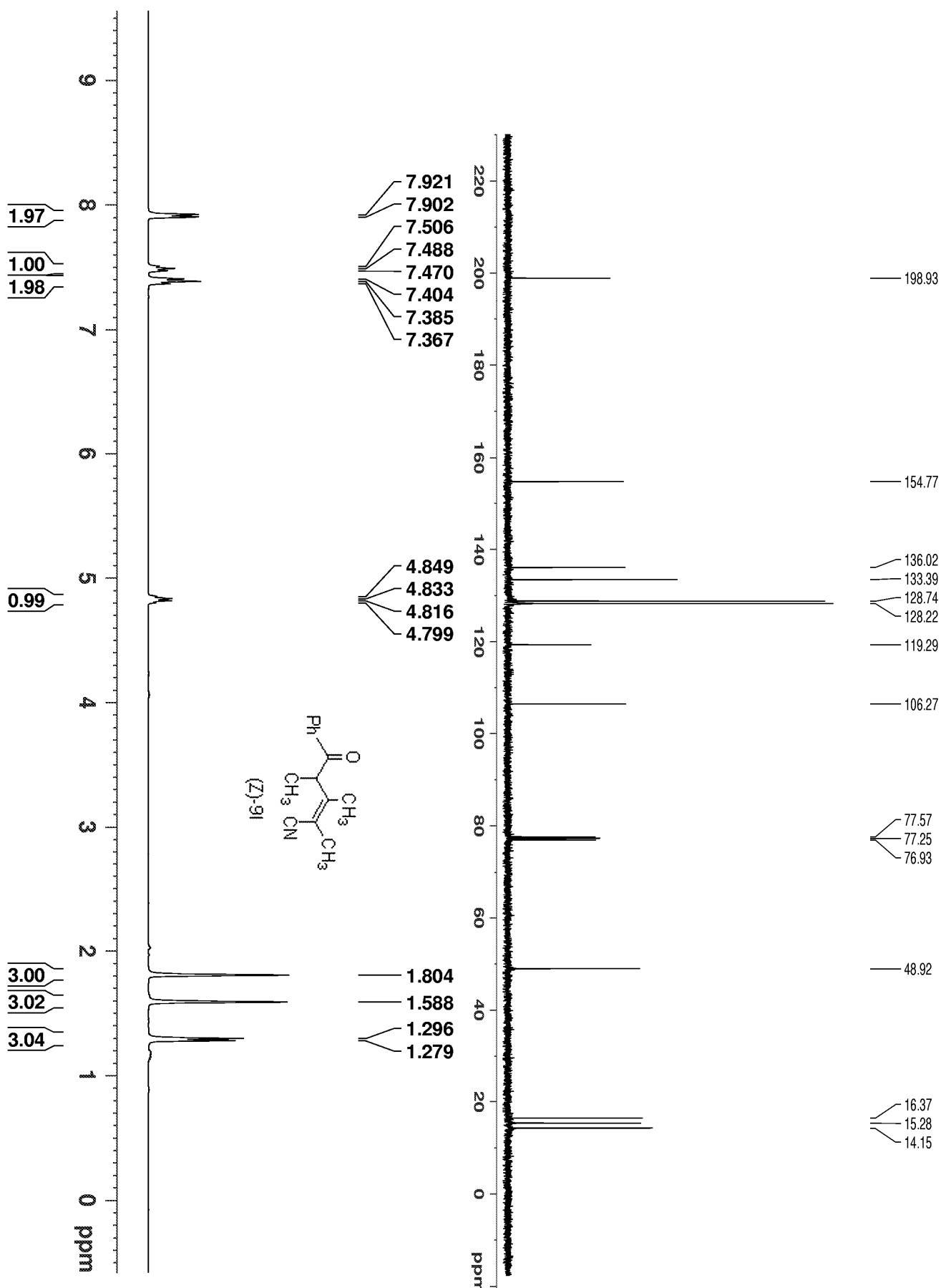


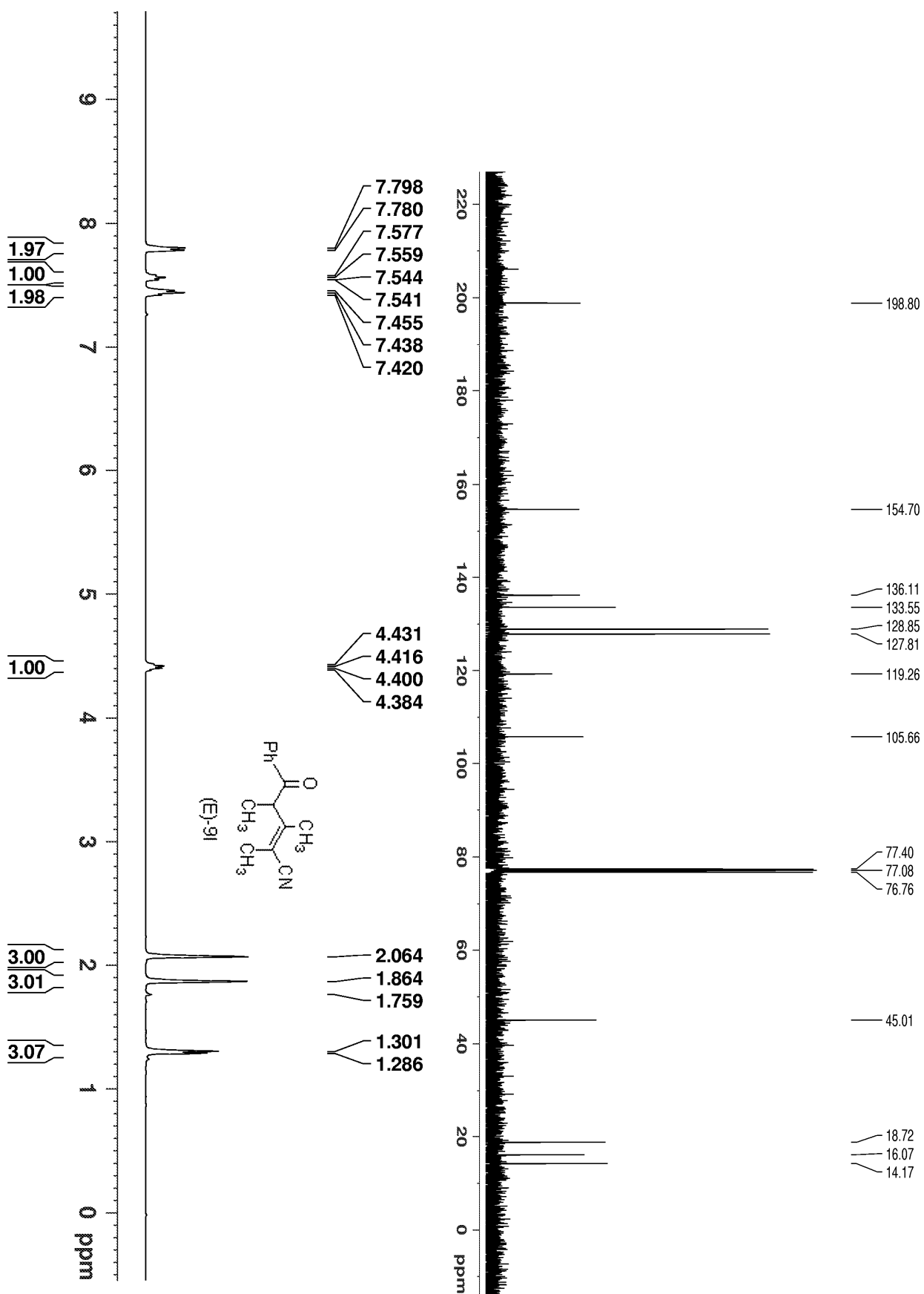


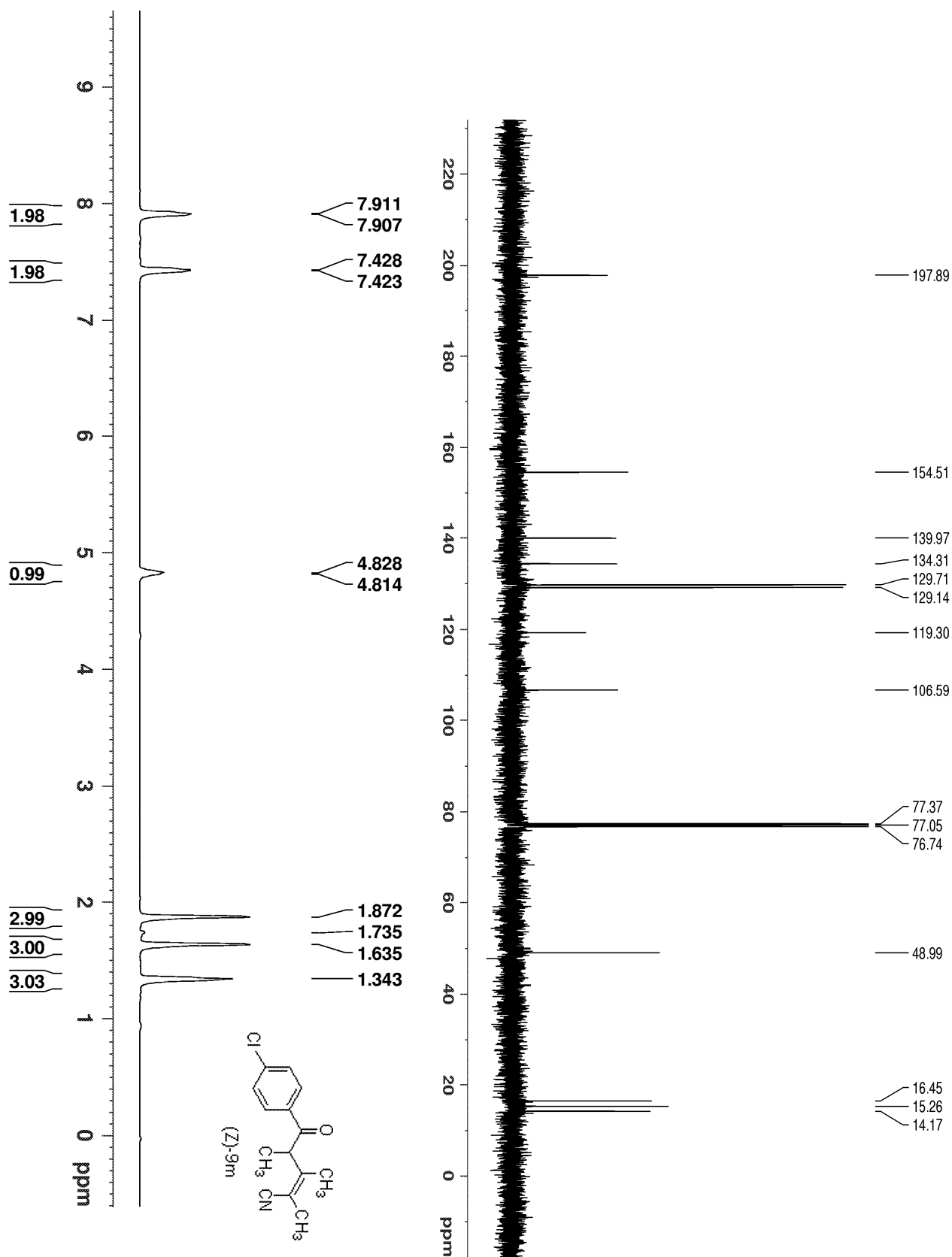


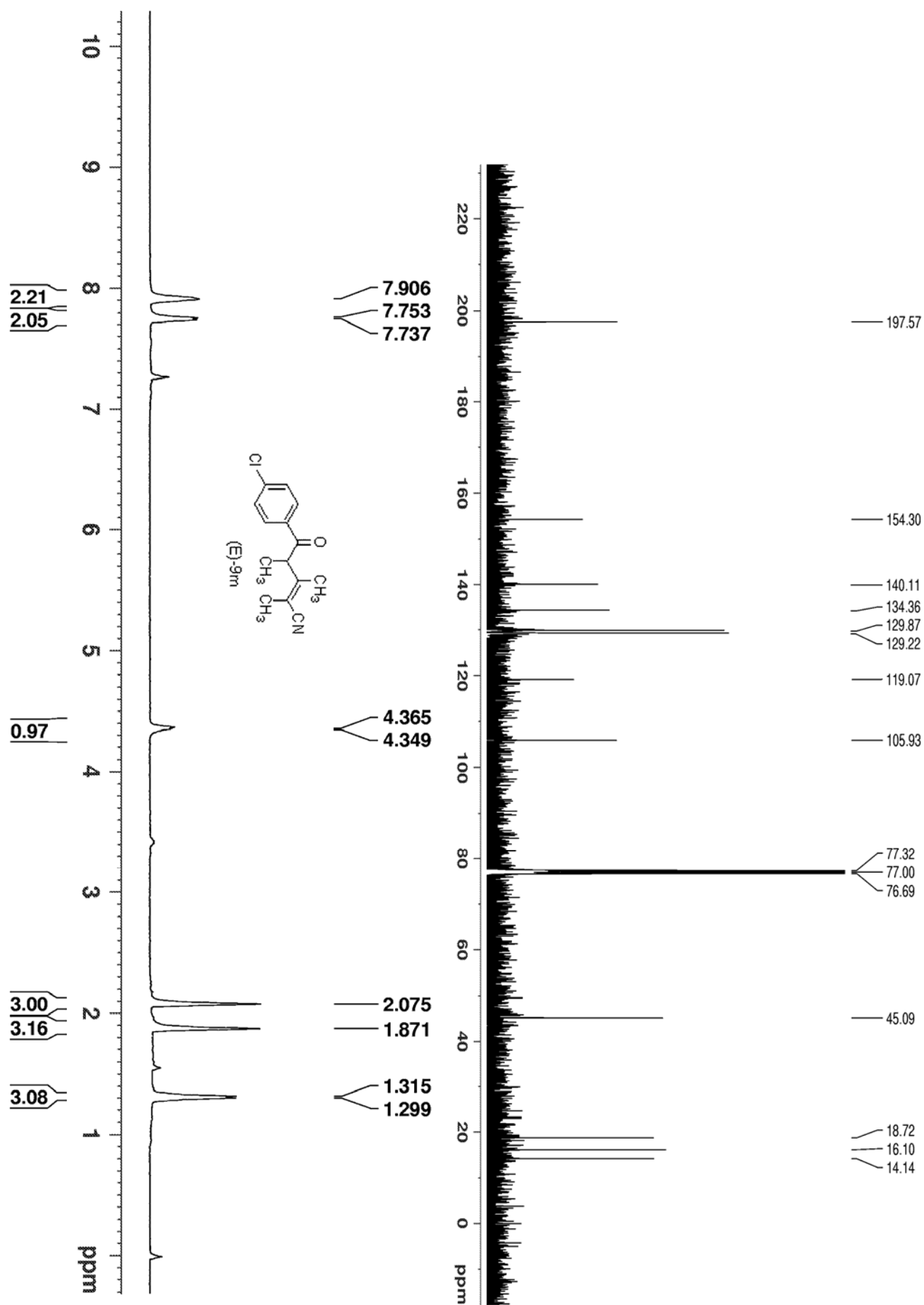


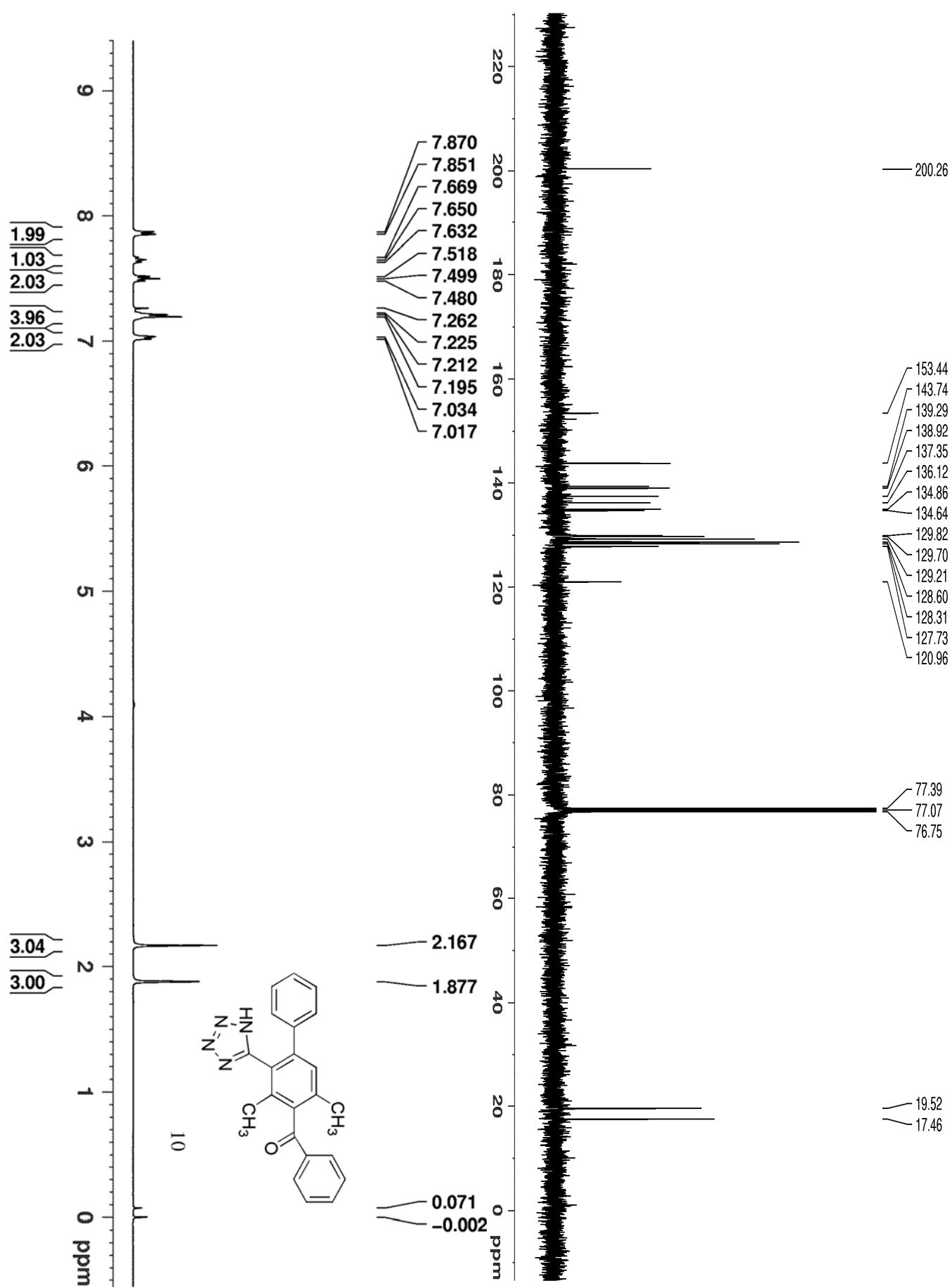












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