

## Supporting Information

### Ruthenium-Catalyzed Conversion of $sp^3$ C–O Bonds in Ethers to C–C Bonds Using Triarylboroxins

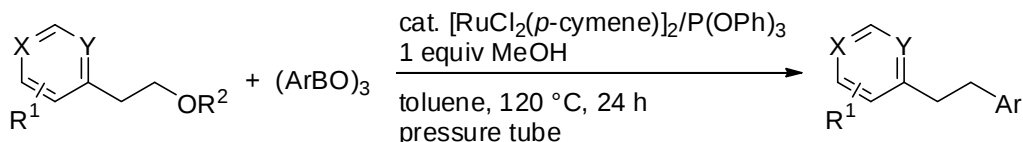
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#### General Information

$^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ , and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL ECX-400 spectrometer. Chemical shifts in  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra were reported in ppm relative to residual solvent peaks such as chloroform ( $\delta$  7.26 for  $^1\text{H}$ , and  $\delta$  77.00 for  $^{13}\text{C}$ ), toluene ( $\delta$  2.09 for  $^1\text{H}$ ), and DMSO ( $\delta$  2.50 for  $^1\text{H}$ , and  $\delta$  39.52 for  $^{13}\text{C}$ ), or internal reference, tetramethylsilane ( $\delta$  0.00 for  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ ). Chemical shifts in  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra were reported in ppm relative to an external reference,  $\text{CFCl}_3$ . IR spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT/IR-410 or FT/IR-4200 infrared spectrometer. GC analyses were performed using a CBP-10 capillary column ( $25\text{ m} \times 0.22\text{ mm}$ , film thickness  $0.25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ). ESI- and APCI-MS were performed on a JEOL JMS-T100LCS. Flash chromatography was carried out with Kanto Chemical silica gel 60N. Toluene and  $\text{P}(\text{OPh})_3$  were distilled from Na/benzophenone ketyl and Drierite<sup>®</sup>, respectively. Triarylboroxins were prepared in similar ways to the method used for **5e** described below. Dry THF and MeOH was purchased from Kanto Chemical Co., Inc. and Nacalai Tesque, Inc., respectively and used without further purification.  $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$  was prepared by a literature method.<sup>1</sup>

### General Procedure A for the Ruthenium-Catalyzed Arylation

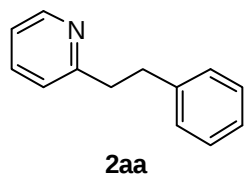


In a glove box,  $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$  (15.3 mg, 0.025 mmol),  $(\text{ArBO})_3$  (0.33 mmol), and a magnetic stirring bar were placed in a 20 mL pressure-tube, and then toluene (0.5 mL),  $\text{P(OPh)}_3$  (13.0  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.05 mmol), alkyl ether (0.5 mmol), and MeOH (20.2  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.5 mmol) were added in this order. The mixture was heated in an oil bath at 120 °C for 24 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (2 mL) and methanol (2 mL), and analyzed by GC and GC-MS. After removal of the volatile materials by rotary evaporation, the arylation product was isolated by silica gel column chromatography, followed by Kugelrohr distillation in some cases.

### General Procedure B for the Ruthenium-Catalyzed Arylation

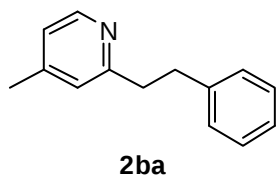
General Procedure B is the same as General Procedure A except that 0.05 mmol of  $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$  and 0.10 mmol of  $\text{P(OPh)}_3$  were used for the reaction.

#### 2-Methyl-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyridine (**2aa**)



General procedure B was followed with 2-(2-methoxyethyl)pyridine (**1a**, 68.6 mg) and triphenylboroxin (**5a**, 103 mg). Column chromatography (4:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2aa** as a pale yellow oil (55.0 mg, 60%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopic data are in good agreement with those reported in literature.<sup>2</sup>

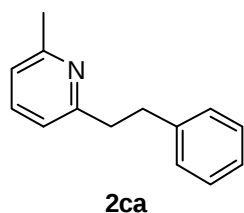
### 2-Methyl-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyridine (**2ba**)



General procedure B was followed with 2-(2-methoxyethyl)-4-methylpyridine (**1b**, 75.6 mg) and triphenylboroxin (**5a**, 103 mg). Column chromatography (4:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2ba** as a pale yellow oil (52.9 mg, 54%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic data are in good agreement with those reported in literature.<sup>3</sup>

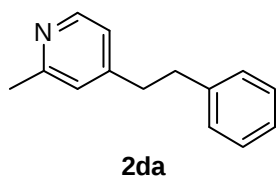
### 2-Methyl-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyridine (**2ca**)



General procedure B was followed with 2-(2-methoxyethyl)-6-methylpyridine (**1c**, 75.6 mg) and triphenylboroxin (**5a**, 103 mg). Column chromatography (4:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2ca** as a pale yellow oil (37.9 mg, 38%). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopic data are in good agreement with those

reported in literature.<sup>4</sup>

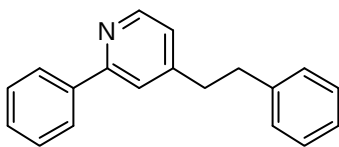
### 2-Methyl-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyridine (**2da**)



General procedure A was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**, 75.6 mg) and triphenylboroxin (**5a**, 103 mg). Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2da** as a colorless oil (93.5 mg, 95%); <sup>1</sup>H

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.49 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.81-2.92 (m, 4H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>–), 6.86 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.93 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.12-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 8.34 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 24.3, 36.6, 37.1, 121.0, 123.4, 126.2, 128.4, 128.5, 140.9, 149.0, 150.8, 158.3; IR (neat) 3027 w, 2925 m, 2859, 1604 s, 1561 m, 1496 w, 1453 m, 1408 w, 819 w, 751 w, 699 m cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N) *m/z* 198.12827. Found 198.12847.

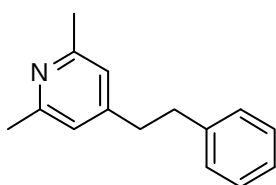
### 2-Phenyl- 4-(2-phenylethyl)pyridine (**2ea**)



**2ea**

General procedure B was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-phenylpyridine (**1e**, 107 mg) and triphenylboroxin (**5a**, 103 mg). Column chromatography (9:1 hexane/EtOAc) and Kugelrohr distillation afforded **2ea** as a pale yellow oil (68.3 mg, 52%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.99 (s, 4H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>–), 7.04 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.16–7.33 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.38–7.51 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.92–7.96 (m, 2H, ArH), 8.57 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 36.7, 37.3, 120.9, 122.4, 126.3, 126.9, 128.5, 128.5, 128.7, 128.8, 139.5, 140.7, 149.6, 151.2, 157.5; IR (neat) 3085 w, 3061 m, 3027 m, 2927 m, 2859 w, 1599 s, 1555 s, 1494 m, 1475 m, 1446 s, 1405 m, 1300 w, 1188 m, 1162 w, 1075 w, 1028 w, 961 m, 839 w, 779 w, 752 m, 741 m, 697 s, 669 w, 637 w, 589 w cm<sup>–1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N) *m/z* 260.14392. Found 260.14317.

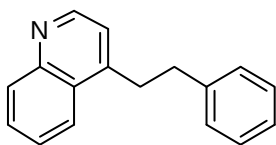
### 2,6-Dimethyl-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyridine (**2fa**)



**2fa**

General procedure B was followed with 2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-methoxyethyl)pyridine (**1f**, 82.6 mg) and triphenylboroxin (**5a**, 103 mg). Column chromatography (4:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2fa** as a pale yellow oil (46.7 mg, 44%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic data are in good agreement with those reported in literature.<sup>4</sup>

### 4-(2-Phenylethyl)quinoline (**2ga**)

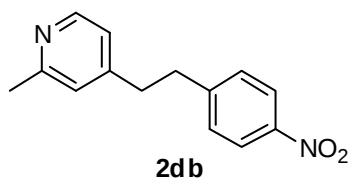


**2ga**

General procedure B was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)quinoline (**1g**, 93.6 mg) and triphenylboroxin (**5a**, 103 mg). Column chromatography (4:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2ga** as a colorless powder (49.9 mg, 43%). M.p. 96–97 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.05–3.12 (m, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>–), 3.36–3.44 (m, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>–), 7.18–7.33 (m, 6H, ArH), 7.56–7.74 (m, 2H, ArH), 8.07–8.15 (m, 2H, ArH), 8.79 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 34.1, 36.2, 120.9, 123.4, 126.3, 126.4, 127.4, 128.4, 128.5, 129.1, 130.3, 141.0, 147.4, 148.3, 150.2; IR (KBr) 3025 w, 2955 w, 2928 w, 1593 s, 1509 w, 1491

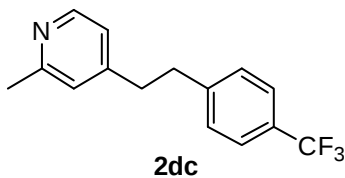
w, 1455 w, 1426 w, 1414 w, 1160 w, 865 w, 848 s, 772 m, 754 s, 742 s, 704 s  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}$ )  $m/z$  234.12827. Found 234.12945.

### 2-Methyl-4-[2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl]pyridine (2db)



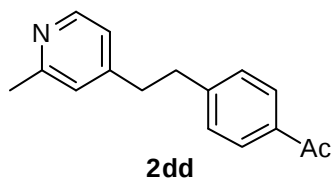
General procedure A was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**, 75.6 mg) and tris(4-nitrophenyl)boroxin (**5b**, 147 mg). Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2db** as a yellow oil (107 mg, 88%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.52 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.89-2.93 (m, 2H,  $\text{ArCH}_2-$ ), 3.02-3.06 (m, 2H,  $\text{ArCH}_2-$ ), 6.87 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.94 (s, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.30 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.14 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.39 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  24.4, 36.3, 36.4, 120.9, 123.3, 123.8, 129.3, 146.6, 148.5, 149.2, 149.6, 158.6; IR (neat) 3387 w br, 3077 m, 3055 m, 3012 m, 2928 m, 2859 m, 2451 w, 1926 w, 1605 s, 1562 s, 1514 s, 1450 m, 1407 m, 1345 s, 1180 w, 1110 s, 1038 w, 1016 m, 997 w, 929 w, 884 w, 856 s, 767 w, 750 m, 698 m, 658 w  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ )  $m/z$  243.11335. Found 243.11372.

### 2-Methyl-4-[2-{4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl}ethyl]pyridine (2dc)



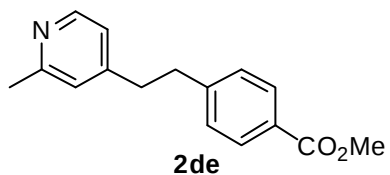
General procedure A was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**, 75.6 mg) and tris(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)boroxin (**5c**, 170 mg). Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2dc** as a yellow oil (123 mg, 93%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.52 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.86-3.00 (m, 4H,  $\text{ArCH}_2-$ ), 6.87-6.89 (m, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.94 (s, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.25 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.54 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.38 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  24.4, 36.4, 36.6, 120.9, 123.4, 125.4, 125.4, 128.7, 144.9, 149.2, 150.1, 158.5;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -62.3; IR (neat) 2928 w, 1605 s, 1562 w, 1417 w, 1325 s, 1164 s, 1124 s, 1067 s, 1019 m, 836 m  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{NF}_3$ )  $m/z$  266.11566. Found 266.11794.

#### 4-[2-(4-Acetylphenyl)ethyl]-2-methylpyridine (**2dd**)



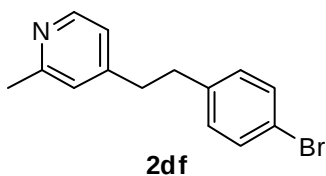
General procedure A was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**, 75.6 mg) and tris(4-acetylphenyl)boroxin (**5d**, 145 mg). Column chromatography (4:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2dd** as a pale yellow oil (114 mg, 95%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.52 (s, 3H,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.59 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.87-3.03 (m, 4H,  $\text{ArCH}_2$ ), 6.88 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.95 (s, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.24 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.88 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.38 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  24.3, 26.6, 36.5, 36.5, 120.9, 123.4, 128.6, 128.6, 135.4, 146.5, 149.1, 150.1, 158.4, 197.8; IR (neat) 3346 w br, 3006 m, 2926 m, 2862 w, 1677 s, 1605 s, 1562 s, 1480 w, 1412 s, 1358 s, 1302 m, 1269 s, 1183 s, 1114 w, 1018 m, 997 w, 957 m, 929 w, 883 w, 832 s, 694 w, 665 w, 614 m, 595 s, 567 m  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$ )  $m/z$  240.13884. Found 240.13859.

#### Methyl 4-[2-(2-methyl-4-pyridinyl)ethyl]benzoate (**2de**)



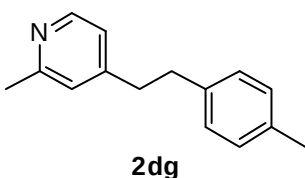
General procedure A was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**, 75.6 mg) and tris(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)boroxin (**5e**, 242 mg, 0.5 mmol). Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) and Kugelrohr distillation afforded **2de** as a yellow solid (90.6 mg, 71%): M.p. 59-60  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.50 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.85-2.98 (m, 4H,  $\text{ArCH}_2$ ), 3.89 (s, 3H,  $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{OCH}_3$ ), 6.86 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.93 (s, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.20 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.94 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.35 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  24.4, 36.6, 36.6, 52.1, 120.9, 123.4, 128.3, 128.5, 129.8, 146.2, 149.1, 150.2, 158.4, 167.0; IR (KBr) 3038 w, 3006 w, 2951 w, 2927 w, 2863 w, 1717 s, 1606 s, 1556 w, 1487 w, 1434 m, 1414 m, 1286 s, 1175 m, 1109 s, 1098 m, 1021 m, 995 w, 958 w, 928 w, 848 m, 830 m, 805 w, 767 m, 735 w, 702 m, 657 w, 584 w, 561 w, 543 w  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$ )  $m/z$  256.13375. Found 256.13354.

#### 4-[2-(4-Bromophenyl)ethyl]-2-methylpyridine (**2df**)



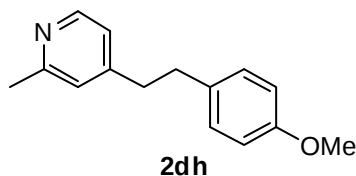
General procedure A was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**, 75.6 mg) and tris(4-bromophenyl)boroxin (**5f**, 181 mg). Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2df** as a pale yellow oil (125 mg, 91%):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.52 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.80-2.90 (m, 4H,  $\text{ArCH}_2$ ), 6.87 (d,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.94 (s, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.99-7.03 (m, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.38-7.41 (m, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.37 (d,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  24.4, 36.0, 36.8, 120.0, 121.0, 123.4, 130.1, 131.5, 139.7, 149.1, 150.2, 158.4; IR (neat) 3011 w, 2925 m, 2861 w, 1605 s, 1562 m, 1488 s, 1452 m, 1444 m, 1403 m, 1296 w, 1190 w, 1098 w, 1072 m, 1011 s, 928 w, 881 w, 828 m, 770 w, 651 w  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{NBr}$ )  $m/z$  276.03879. Found 276.03728.

#### 2-Methyl-4-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethyl]pyridine (**2dg**)



General procedure A was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**, 75.6 mg) and tris(4-methylphenyl)boroxin (**5g**, 117 mg). Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2dg** as a colorless oil (102 mg, 97%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.33 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.52 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.82-2.91 (m, 4H,  $\text{ArCH}_2$ ), 6.89-6.91 (m, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.97 (s, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.04-7.11 (m, 4H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.37 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  21.0, 24.3, 36.2, 37.2, 121.0, 123.5, 128.3, 129.1, 135.7, 137.8, 149.0, 151.0, 158.2; IR (neat) 3048 w, 3009 w, 2923 m, 2859 w, 1604 s, 1562 w, 1515 m, 1450 w, 1444 w, 1408 w, 1296 w, 828 m, 808 m  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ )  $m/z$  212.14392. Found 212.14449.

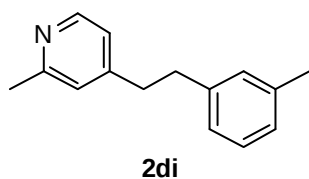
#### 4-[2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-2-methylpyridine (**2dh**)



General procedure A was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**, 75.6 mg) and tris(4-methoxyphenyl)boroxin (**5h**, 133 mg). Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2dh** as a pale

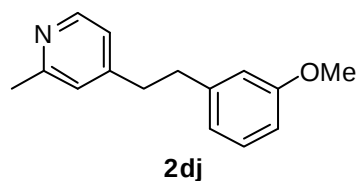
yellow oil (58.3 mg, 51%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.51 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.80-2.89 (m, 4H,  $\text{ArCH}_2$ ), 3.79 (s, 3H,  $-\text{OCH}_3$ ), 6.80-6.84 (m, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.88 (d,  $J = 4.7$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.95 (s, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.04-7.08 (m, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.36 (d,  $J = 5.1$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  24.3, 35.8, 37.3, 55.3, 113.8, 121.1, 123.5, 129.3, 133.0, 149.0, 150.9, 158.0, 158.2; IR (neat) 3006 m, 2931 m, 2858 w, 2835 w, 1605 s, 1562 m, 1513 s, 1453 m, 1408 w, 1300 m, 1247 s, 1178 m, 1105 w, 1037 s, 997 w, 880 w, 831 s, 743 w, 697 w  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$ )  $m/z$  228.13884. Found 228.13921.

## 2-Methyl-4-[2-(3-methylphenyl)ethyl]pyridine (2di)



General procedure A was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**, 75.6 mg) and tris(3-methylphenyl)boroxin (**5i**, 117 mg). Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2di** as a colorless oil (101 mg, 96%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.33 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.52 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.87 (s, 4H,  $\text{ArCH}_2$ ), 6.90-7.04 (m, 5H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.18 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.37 (d,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  21.4, 24.3, 36.6, 37.1, 121.0, 123.5, 125.3, 126.9, 128.3, 129.2, 138.0, 140.8, 148.9, 151.0, 168.2; IR (neat) 3012 m, 2923 n, 2860 m, 1606 s, 1562 m, 1485 m, 1452 m, 1408 m, 1296 w, 1038 w, 997 w, 883 w, 832 m, 792 m, 778 m, 699 m  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ )  $m/z$  212.14392. Found 212.14414.

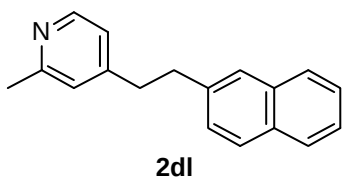
## 4-[2-(3-Methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-2-methylpyridine (2dj)



General procedure A was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**, 75.6 mg) and tris(3-methoxyphenyl)boroxin (**5j**, 133 mg). Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) and Kugelrohr distillation afforded **2dj** as a pale yellow oil (98.9 mg, 87%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.52 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.84-2.92 (m, 4H,  $\text{ArCH}_2$ ), 3.78 (s, 3H,  $-\text{OCH}_3$ ), 6.70-6.77 (m, 3H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.89-6.91 (m, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.97 (s, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.20 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.37 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  24.4, 36.6, 36.9, 55.1, 111.4, 114.2, 120.8, 121.0, 123.4, 129.4, 142.5, 149.0, 150.7, 158.3, 159.7; IR (neat) 3388 w, 3006 m, 2938 m, 2860 w, 2835

m, 1604 s, 1585 s, 1561 m, 1490 s, 1454 s, 1440 s, 1408 m, 1260 s, 1190 w, 1153 s, 1152 m, 996 w, 920 w, 874 w, 833 w, 788 m, 696 m  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$ )  $m/z$  228.13884. Found 228.13890.

### 2-Methyl-4-[2-(2-naphthyl)ethyl]pyridine (2dl)

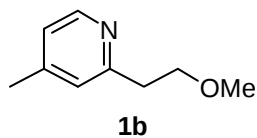


General procedure A was followed with 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**, 75.6 mg) and tris(2-naphthyl)boroxin (**5l**, 152 mg). Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded **2dl** as a yellow solid (113 mg, 91%). M.p. 61-62 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.52 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 2.94-2.98 (m, 2H,  $\text{ArCH}_2-$ ), 3.06-3.10 (m, 2H,  $\text{ArCH}_2-$ ), 6.91-6.93 (m, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 6.99 (s, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.31 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.4, 1.7$  Hz,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.41-7.49 (m, 2H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.59 (s, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.76-7.84 (m, 3H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.37 (d,  $J = 4.7$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  24.3, 36.8, 36.9, 121.0, 123.5, 125.4, 126.0, 126.5, 127.1, 127.4, 127.6, 128.0, 132.1, 133.5, 138.4, 149.0, 150.7, 158.3; IR (neat) 3386 w br, 3051 m, 3013 m, 2925 m, 2858 m, 1605 s, 1561 m, 1508 m, 1453 m, 1408 m, 1371 w, 1296 w, 1271 w, 1168 w, 1125 w, 1017 w, 997 w, 960 w, 928 w, 892 m, 855 m, 819 s, 747 s, 650 w, 625 w,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ )  $m/z$  248.14392. Found 248.14442.

### General Procedure C for Synthesis of 2-(2-Methoxyethyl)pyridines

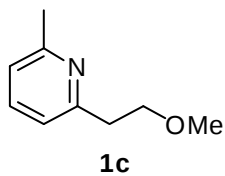
A THF solution of a pyridine derivative in a three-necked flask was cooled to  $-78$  °C, and a hexane solution of 1.1 equiv of BuLi was added dropwise through a dropping funnel. After the completion of the addition, the mixture was stirred for 1 h at  $-78$  °C. Then, a THF solution of 1.5 equiv of MOMCl was added dropwise to the resulting mixture through the dropping funnel. The mixture was gradually warmed to rt and stirred for 12 h. A saturated aqueous solution of  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  was added to the reaction mixture, which was then extracted three times with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . After removal of volatile materials by rotary evaporation, the crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography and Kugelrohr distillation.

### 2-(2-Methoxyethyl)-4-methylpyridine (**1b**)



General Procedure C was followed with 2,4-dimethylpyridine (3.21 g). Column chromatography (1:1 hexane/EtOAc) and Kugelrohr distillation afforded **1b** as a colorless oil (1.99 g, 44%):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.32 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 3.01 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArCH}_2-$ ), 3.35 (s, 3H,  $-\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.76 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ), 6.94 (d,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.02 (s, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 8.39 (d,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  21.0, 38.4, 58.7, 72.0, 122.4, 124.4, 147.4, 149.1, 158.9; IR (neat) 2925 m, 2876 w, 2824 w, 1606 s, 1563 w, 1480 w, 1449 w, 1379 w, 1191 w, 1118 s, 820  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (APCI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$ )  $m/z$  152.10754. Found 152.10752.

### 2-(2-Methoxyethyl)-6-methylpyridine (**1c**)



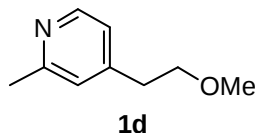
General Procedure C was followed with 2,6-dimethylpyridine (3.21 g). Silica gel column chromatography (4:1 hexane/EtOAc), and Kugelrohr distillation afforded **1c** as a colorless oil (903 mg, 20%):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.53 (s, 3H,  $\text{ArCH}_3$ ), 3.02 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArCH}_2-$ ), 3.35 (s, 3H,  $-\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.75 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ), 6.98 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.01 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.48 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{ArH}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  24.5, 38.7, 58.7, 72.2, 120.3, 120.9, 136.5, 157.9, 158.5; IR (neat) 2925 m, 2875 m, 1592 s, 1579 s, 1459 s, 1376 w, 1190 w, 1154 w, 1117 s, 780  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (APCI) calcd for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$ )  $m/z$  152.10754. Found 152.10730.

### General Procedure D for Synthesis of 4-(2-Alkoxyethyl)pyridines

A THF solution of a pyridine derivative in a three-necked flask was cooled to  $-78$   $^\circ\text{C}$ , and a THF solution of 1.1 equiv of LDA, prepared separately, was added dropwise through a cannula. After the completion of the addition, the mixture was stirred for 1 h at  $-78$   $^\circ\text{C}$ . Then, the resulting mixture was added dropwise to a THF solution of 1.5 equiv of MOMCl (or ethoxymethyl chloride) at  $-78$   $^\circ\text{C}$  through a cannula. The mixture was gradually warmed to rt and stirred for 3-24 h. A saturated aqueous solution of  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  was added to the reaction mixture, which was then extracted three times with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The combined

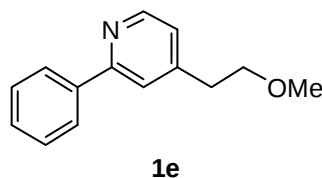
organic layers were washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of volatile materials by rotary evaporation, the crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography and Kugelrohr distillation.

#### 4-(2-Methoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**1d**)



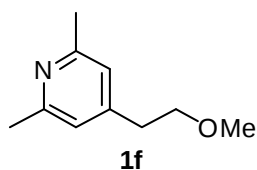
General Procedure D was followed with 2,4-dimethylpyridine (3.21 g). Column chromatography (2:1 hexane/EtOAc) and Kugelrohr distillation afforded **1d** as a colorless oil (1.42 g, 31%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.52 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.83 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>–), 3.35 (s, 3H, –OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.61 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>–), 6.96 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.02 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.38 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 24.4, 35.5, 58.8, 72.3, 121.3, 123.8, 148.4, 149.1, 158.3; IR (neat) 3395 m br, 2983 w, 2926 m, 2875 m, 2827 w, 1607 s, 1562 m, 1481 w, 1450 w, 1409 w, 1383 w, 1214 w, 1190 w, 1116 s, 999 w, 970 w, 841 w, 620 w cm<sup>–1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO) *m/z* 152.10754. Found 152.10708.

#### 4-(2-Methoxyethyl)-2-phenylpyridine (**1e**)



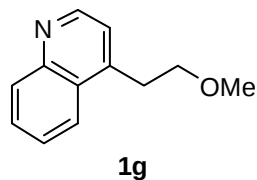
General Procedure D was followed with 4-methyl-2-phenylpyridine (1.69 g). Column chromatography (9:1 hexane/EtOAc) and Kugelrohr distillation afforded **1e** as a pale yellow oil (977 mg, 46%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.94 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>–), 3.37 (s, 3H, –OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.68 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>–), 7.11-7.12 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.38-7.49 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.59-7.60 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.96-7.99 (m, 2H, ArH), 8.58-8.60 (m, ArH, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 35.8, 58.8, 72.3, 121.2, 122.7, 127.0, 128.7, 128.9, 139.5, 148.9, 149.6, 157.6; IR (neat) 3051 w, 2984 w, 2925 m, 2873 m, 2826 m, 1603 s, 1581 m, 1556 s, 1476 s, 1446 s, 1405 s, 1382 m, 1214 w, 1192 w, 1115 s, 1074 w, 1028 w, 991 w, 970 w, 843 w, 777 s, 735 m, 696 s, 637 m cm<sup>–1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO) *m/z* 214.12319. Found 214.12344.

#### 2,6-Dimethyl-4-(2-methoxyethyl)pyridine (**1f**)



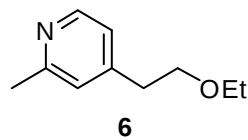
General Procedure D was followed with 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine (3.64 g). Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) and Kugelrohr distillation afforded **1f** as a colorless oil (187 mg, 4%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.49 (s, 6H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.78 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>–), 3.35 (s, 3H, –OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.60 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>–), 6.82 (s, 2H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 24.3, 35.4, 58.7, 72.3, 120.7, 148.5, 157.6; IR (neat) 3402 w br, 2986 w, 2925 m, 2873 m, 2827 w, 1610 s, 1569 s, 1437 m, 1383 m, 1220 w, 1192 w, 1116 s, 1032 w, 1003 w, 969 w, 858 w cm<sup>–1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO) *m/z* 166.12319. Found 166.12351.

#### 4-(2-Methoxyethyl)quinoline (**1g**)



General Procedure D was followed with 4-methylquinoline (4.30 g). Column chromatography (2:1 hexane/EtOAc) and Kugelrohr distillation afforded **1g** as a pale yellow oil (1.15 g, 20%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.36 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>–), 3.38 (s, 3H, –OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.77 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>–), 7.29 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.57 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 6.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.71 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 6.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.04–8.07 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.10–8.13 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.82 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 32.3, 58.8, 71.8, 121.4, 123.4, 126.4, 127.7, 129.1, 130.3, 144.9, 148.3, 150.1; IR (neat) 3394 w br, 3035 w, 2980 m, 2927 m, 2875 m, 2827 m, 1615 w, 1593 s, 1570 m, 1510 s, 1463 m, 1425 w, 1393 w, 1310 w, 1240 w, 1191 w, 1114 s, 1069 w, 1019 w, 996 w, 965 w, 848 m, 814 m, 762 s, 604 w cm<sup>–1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO) *m/z* 188.10754. Found 188.10843.

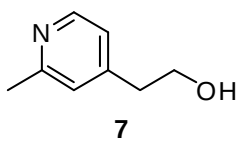
#### 4-(2-Ethoxyethyl)-2-methylpyridine (**6**)



General Procedure D was followed with 2,4-dimethylpyridine (1.07 g) and (chloromethoxy)ethane as an electrophile. Column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) and Kugelrohr distillation afforded **6** as a colorless oil (376 mg, 23%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.91 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H,

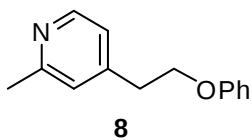
–OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.52 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.83 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>–), 3.49 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, –OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.64 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>–), 6.96 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H, Ar*H*), 7.02 (s, 1H, Ar*H*), 8.38 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H, Ar*H*); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 15.1, 24.3, 35.6, 66.4, 70.2, 121.3, 123.8, 148.5, 149.0, 158.2; IR (neat): 2976 m, 2935 m, 2866 m, 1606 s, 1561 w, 1483 w, 1445 w, 1406 w, 1377 w, 1354 w, 1110 s, 837 w, 620 w cm<sup>–1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): Calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO) *m/z* 166.12319. Found 166.12306.

### 2-(2-Methyl-4-pyridinyl)ethanol (7)



A 500 mL three-necked flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a dropping funnel was charged with LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (0.95g, 25 mmol) and Et<sub>2</sub>O (150 mL). A solution of methyl (2-methyl-4-pyridinyl)acetate (4.13 g, 25 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) was added dropwise through the dropping funnel at 0 °C. The mixture was warmed to rt and stirred for 3 h. Water (100 mL) was poured into the reaction mixture, and the resulting mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite<sup>®</sup>. The filtrate was extracted three times with Et<sub>2</sub>O and three times with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of volatile materials by rotary evaporation, the crude material was purified by Kugelrohr distillation to afford **7** as an orange oil (2.36 g, 69%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.47 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.79 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>–), 3.87 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>–), 6.93-6.95 (m, 1H, Ar*H*), 7.00 (s, 1H, Ar*H*), 8.26 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H, Ar*H*); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 24.1, 38.6, 62.3, 121.5, 124.1, 148.7, 148.8, 158.1; IR (neat) 3238 s br, 2925 s, 2870 s, 1610 s, 1561 m, 1444 m, 1410 m, 1297 w, 1168 w, 1056 s, 1006 m, 831 m, 621 w cm<sup>–1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO) *m/z* 138.09189. Found 138.09213.

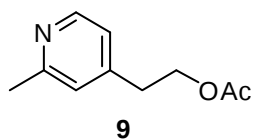
### 2-Methyl-4-(2-phenoxyethyl)pyridine (8)



A 100 mL Schlenk flask was charged with 2-(2-methyl-4-pyridinyl)ethanol (**7**, 0.69 g, 5 mmol), phenol (0.52 g, 5.5 mmol), PPh<sub>3</sub> (1.57 g, 6 mmol), and THF (15 mL). A toluene solution of DEAD (ca. 2.2 mol/L, 2.95 mL, 6.5 mmol) was added at 0 °C and stirred for 3 h at rt. The resulting mixture was concentrated and purified by silica gel column

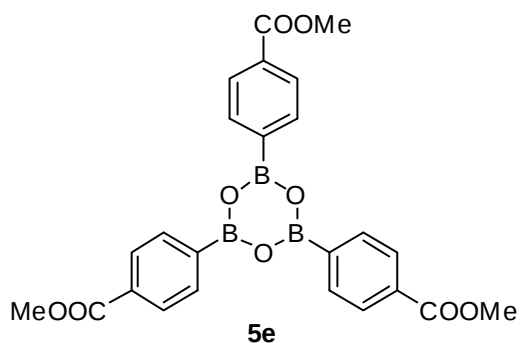
chromatography (9:1 hexane/EtOAc) and Kugelrohr distillation to afford **8** as a colorless oil (469 mg, 44%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.54 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.05 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>–), 4.19 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>–), 6.87–7.30 (m, 7H, ArH), 8.41 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 24.4, 35.0, 67.2, 114.5, 121.0, 121.4, 123.8, 129.5, 147.6, 149.2, 158.4, 158.5; IR (neat) 3063 w, 3040 w, 3013 w, 2951 w, 2926 w, 2873 w, 1599 s, 1587 m, 1562 w, 1498 s, 1474 m, 1410 w, 1388 w, 1292 w, 1244 s, 1173 w, 1080 w, 1039 m, 837 w, 757 s, 692 m cm<sup>–1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO) *m/z* 214.12319. Found 214.12273.

### 2-(2-Methyl-4-pyridinyl)ethyl acetate (**9**)



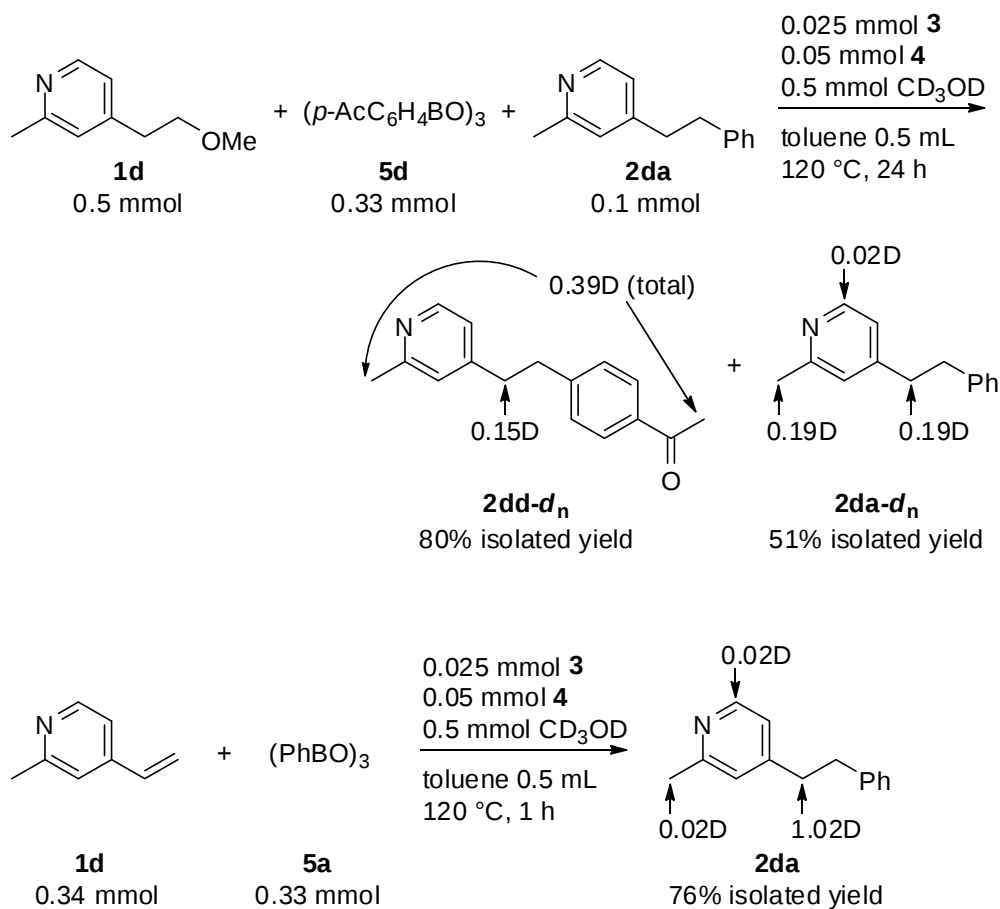
To a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30 mL) solution of 2-(2-methyl-4-pyridinyl)ethanol (**7**, 0.69 g, 5 mmol) in a 100 mL round bottom flask was added Ac<sub>2</sub>O (0.94 mL, 10 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (2.08 mL, 15 mmol), and DMAP (61.1 mg, 0.5 mmol) at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. A saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> was poured into the resulting mixture, and extracted three times with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of volatile materials by rotary evaporation, the crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography (1:1 hexane/EtOAc), and Kugelrohr distillation to afford **9** as a colorless oil (372 mg, 41%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.04 (s, 3H, –C(=O)CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.54 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.89 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>–), 4.29 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>–), 6.94–6.96 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.01 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.41 (d, *J* = 5.16 Hz, 1H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 20.9, 24.4, 34.3, 63.6, 121.2, 123.6, 147.1, 149.2, 158.5, 170.9; IR (neat) 2960 w, 1738 s, 1607 s, 1563 w, 1441 w, 1410 w, 1384 m, 1365 m, 1235 s, 1038 s, 836 w, 669 w, 606 w cm<sup>–1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>) *m/z* 180.10245. Found 180.10280.

### Tris(4-carbomethoxyphenyl)boroxin (**5e**)

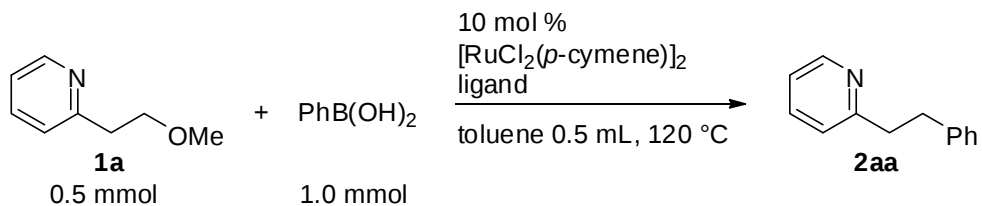


A 100 mL Schlenk flask connected to a trap filled with conc.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (10 mL) was charged with (4-carbomethoxyphenyl)boronic acid (3.0 g, 16.7 mmol) and heated under vacuum (0.5 mmHg) at 100 °C for 10 h to afford **5e** as a colorless powder (2.3 g, 85%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ )  $\delta$  3.86 (s, 9H,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OCH}_3$ ), 7.97-8.03 (m, 12H, ArH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ )  $\delta$  52.1, 128.2, 130.5, 133.7, 143.8, 166.6.

### Additional Deuterium-Labeling Experiments



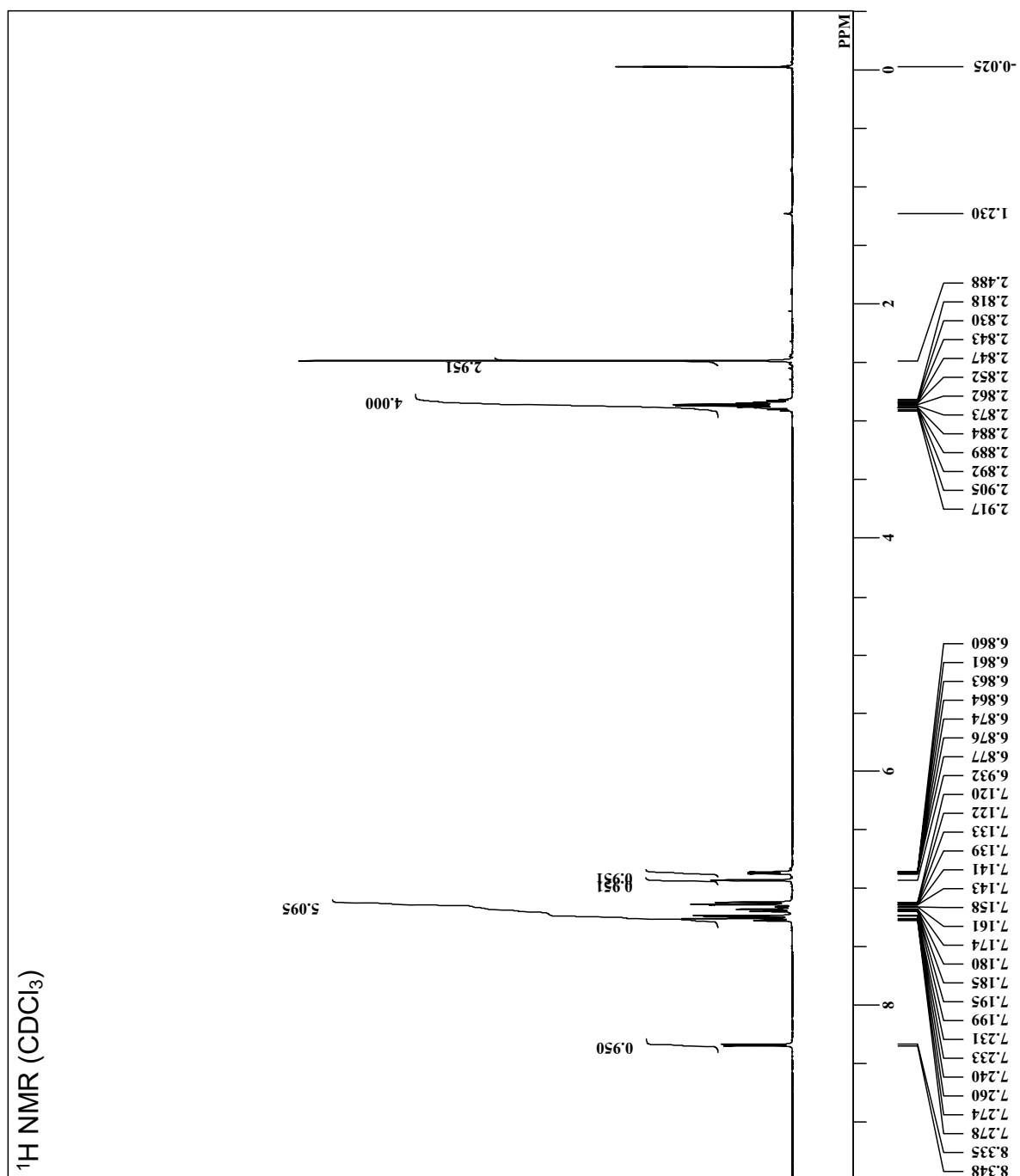
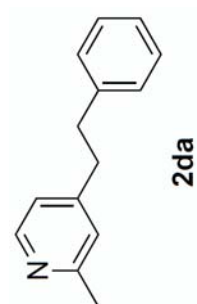
**Table S1. Screening of Phosphorus Ligands.**

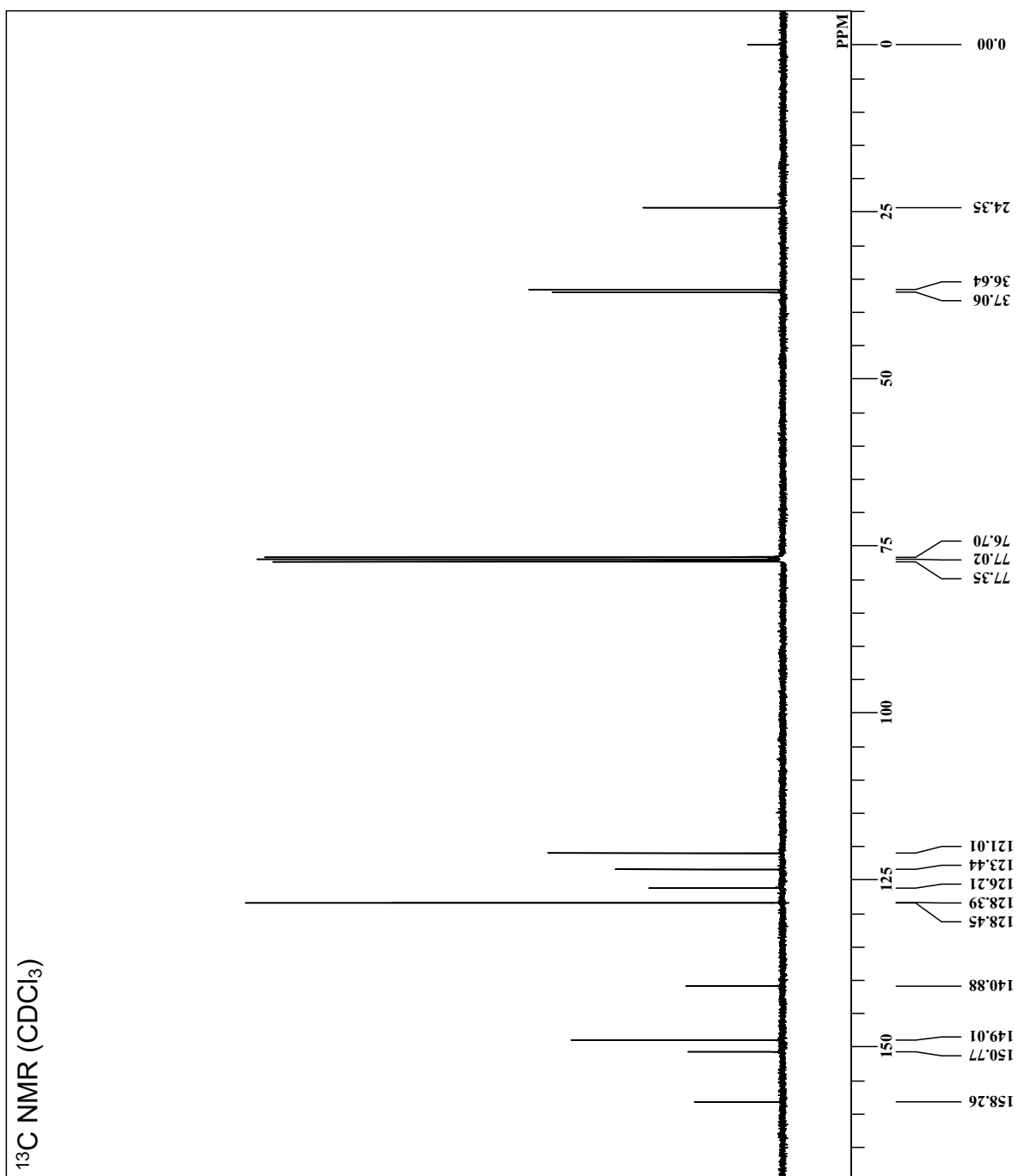
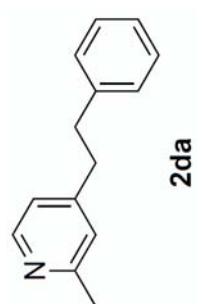


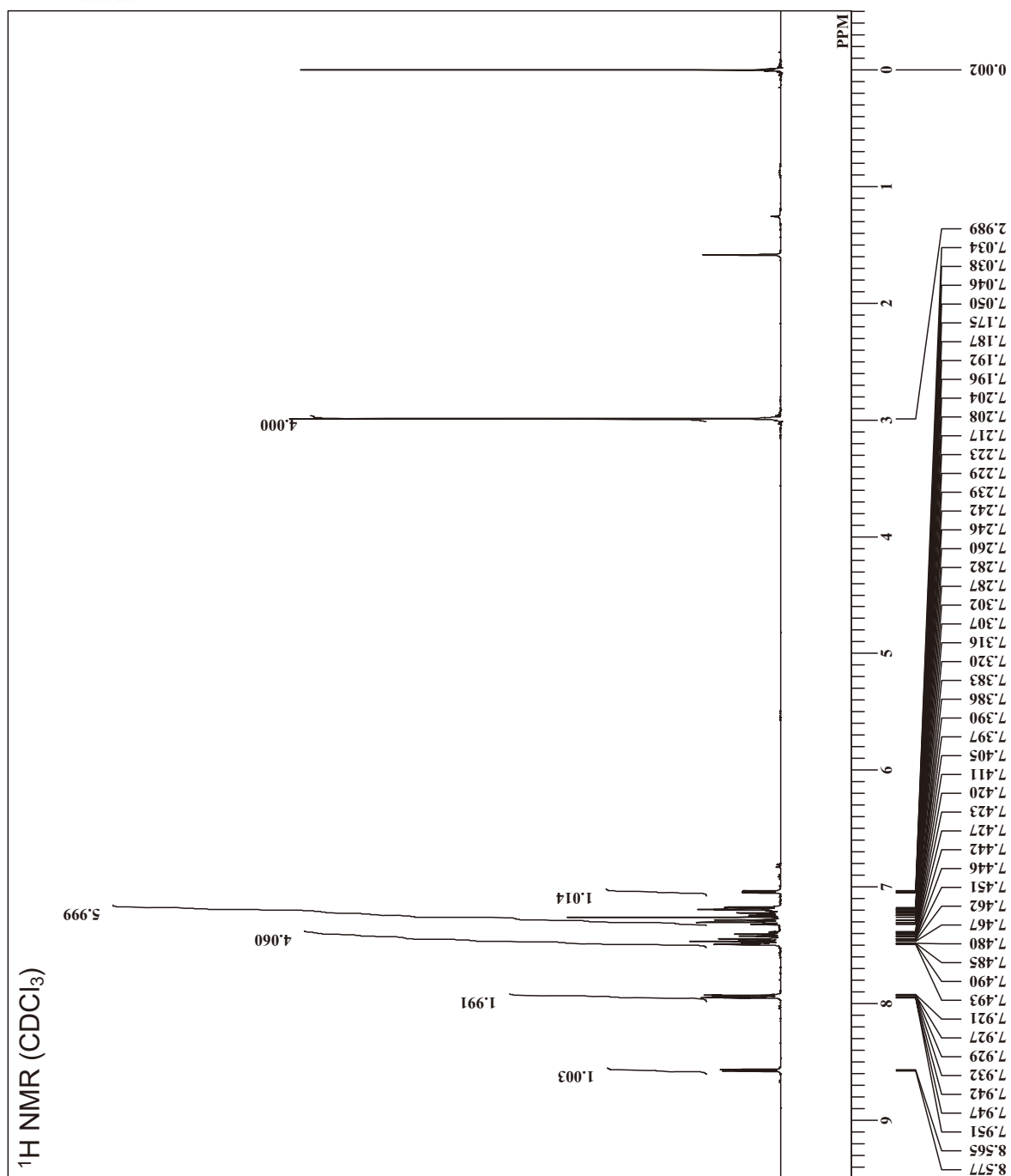
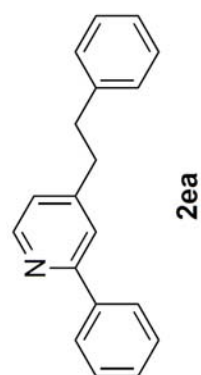
| entry | ligand                                  | mol % | GC yield |
|-------|-----------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| 1     | $\text{PPh}_3$                          | 20    | 16%      |
| 2     | $\text{P}(o\text{-MeC}_6\text{H}_4)_3$  | 20    | 2%       |
| 3     | $\text{P}(m\text{-MeC}_6\text{H}_4)_3$  | 20    | 9%       |
| 4     | $\text{P}(p\text{-MeC}_6\text{H}_4)_3$  | 20    | 7%       |
| 5     | $\text{P}(p\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4)_3$ | 20    | 8%       |
| 6     | $\text{PPh}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_2$    | 20    | 4%       |
| 7     | $\text{PPhCy}_2$                        | 20    | 1%       |
| 8     | $\text{PCy}_3$                          | 20    | 2%       |
| 9     | $\text{PEt}_3$                          | 20    | nd       |
| 10    | $\text{P}(2\text{-furyl})_3$            | 20    | 15%      |
| 11    | $\text{P(OMe)}_3$                       | 20    | 3%       |
| 12    | $\text{P(OEt)}_3$                       | 20    | 2%       |
| 13    | $\text{P(OPh)}_3$                       | 20    | 25%      |
| 14    | $\text{P(OPh)}_3$                       | 40    | 4%       |
| 15    | $\text{P(OPh)}_3$                       | 60    | 2%       |

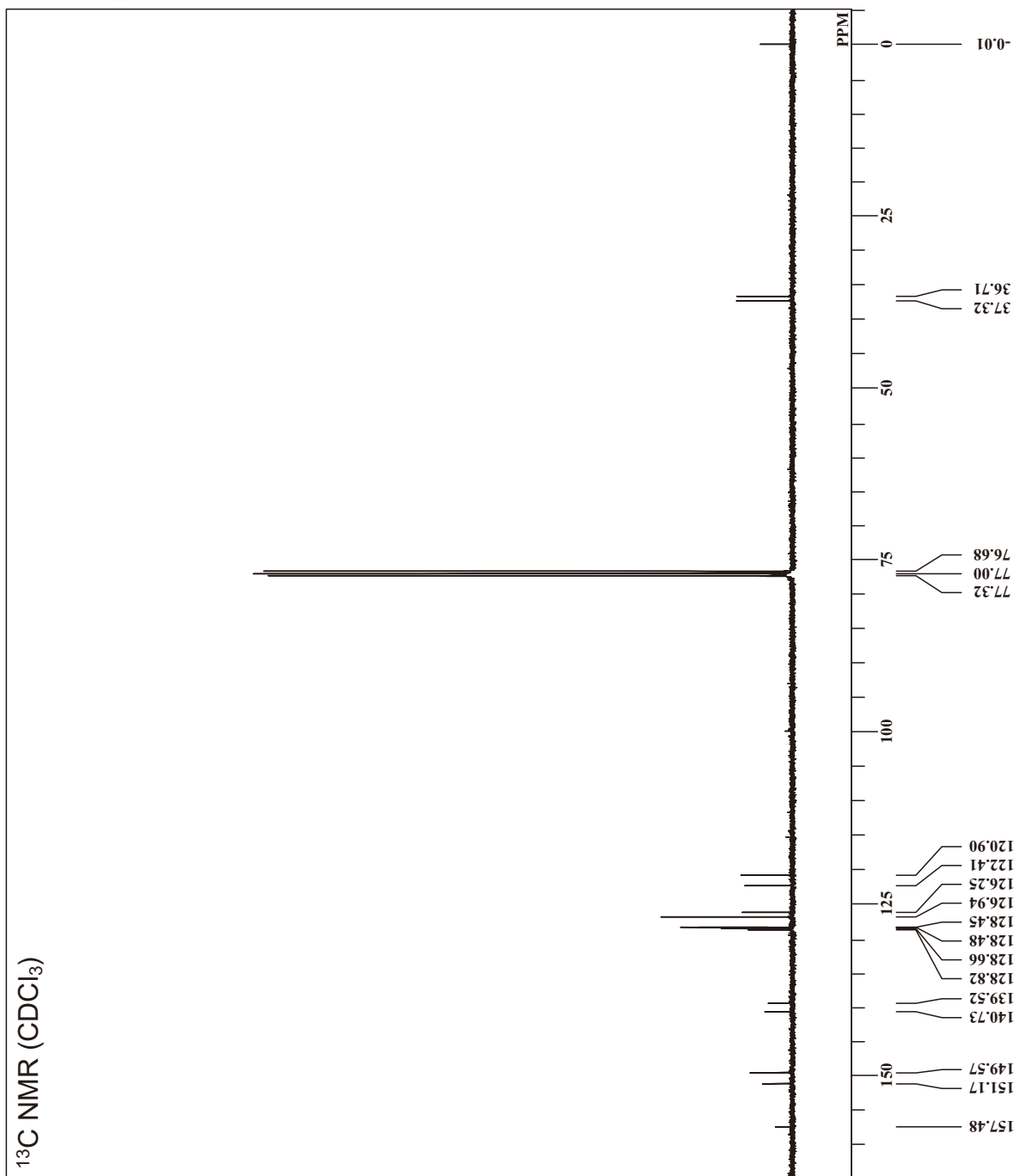
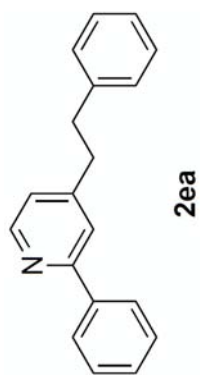
## References

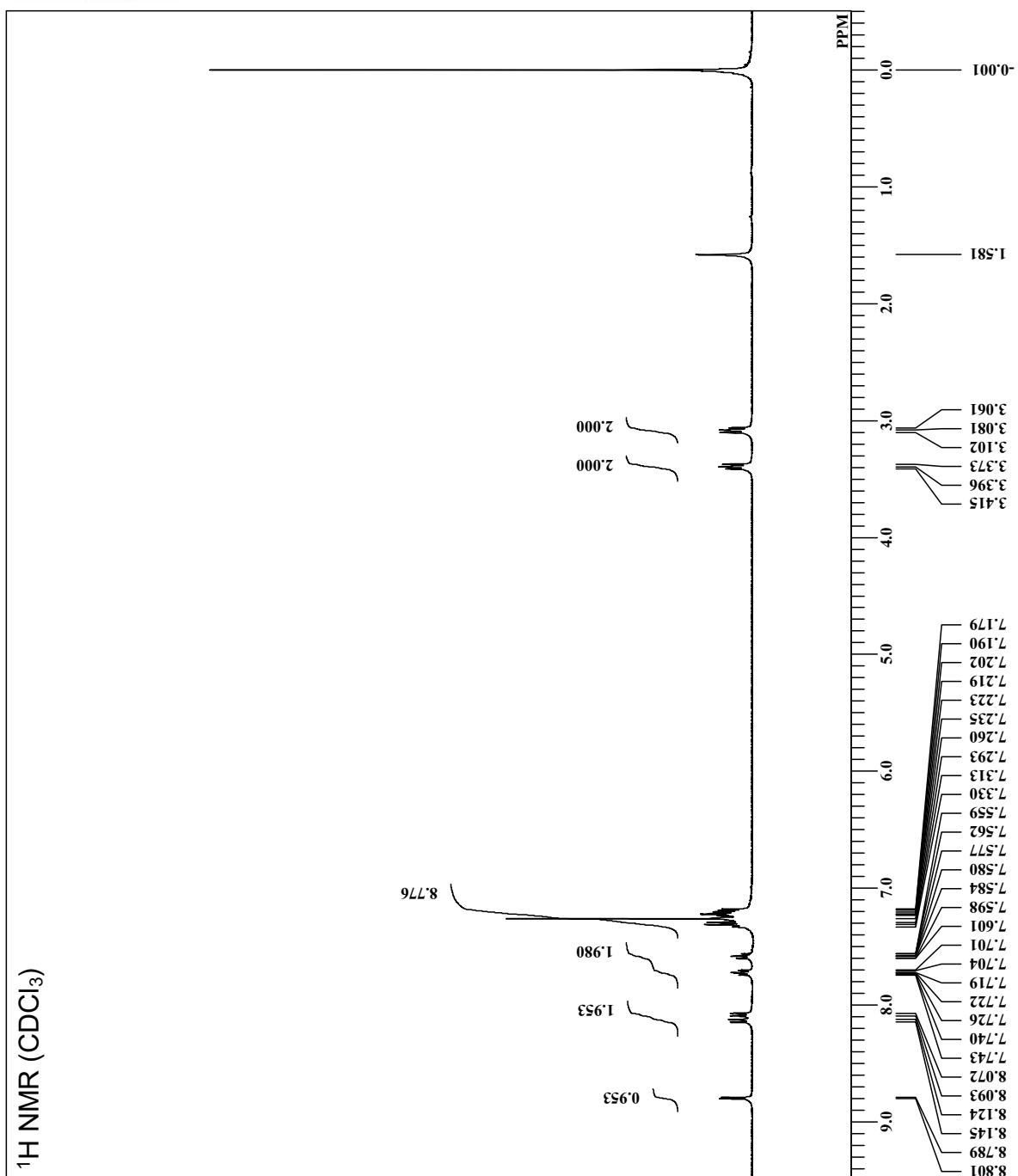
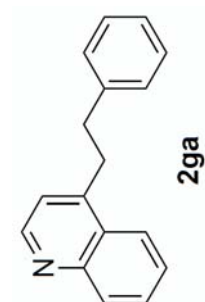
- 1) Bennett, M. A.; Smith, A. K. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1974**, 233.
- 2) Lautens, M.; Roy, A.; Fukuoka, K.; Fagnou, K.; Martin-Matute, B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 5358.
- 3) Kawasuji, T.; Yoshinaga, T.; Sato, A.; Yodo, M.; Fujiwara, T.; Kiyama, R. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2006**, *14*, 8430.
- 4) Compagnon, P.-L.; Kimny, T.; Gasquez, F. *Bull. Soc. Chim. Belg.* **1981**, *90*, 803.

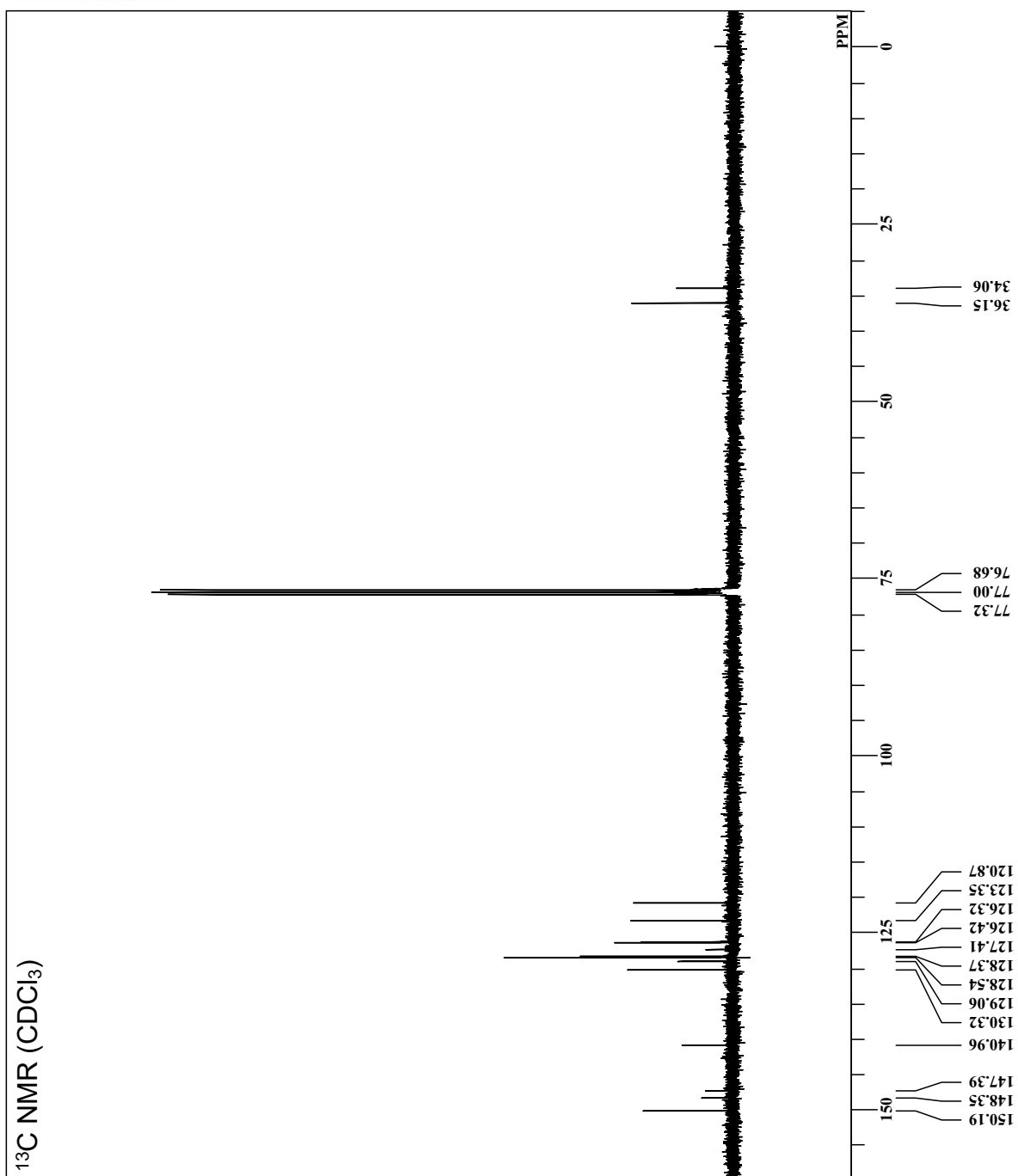
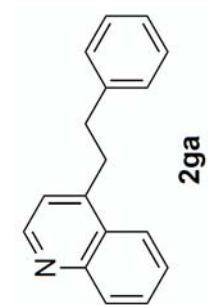


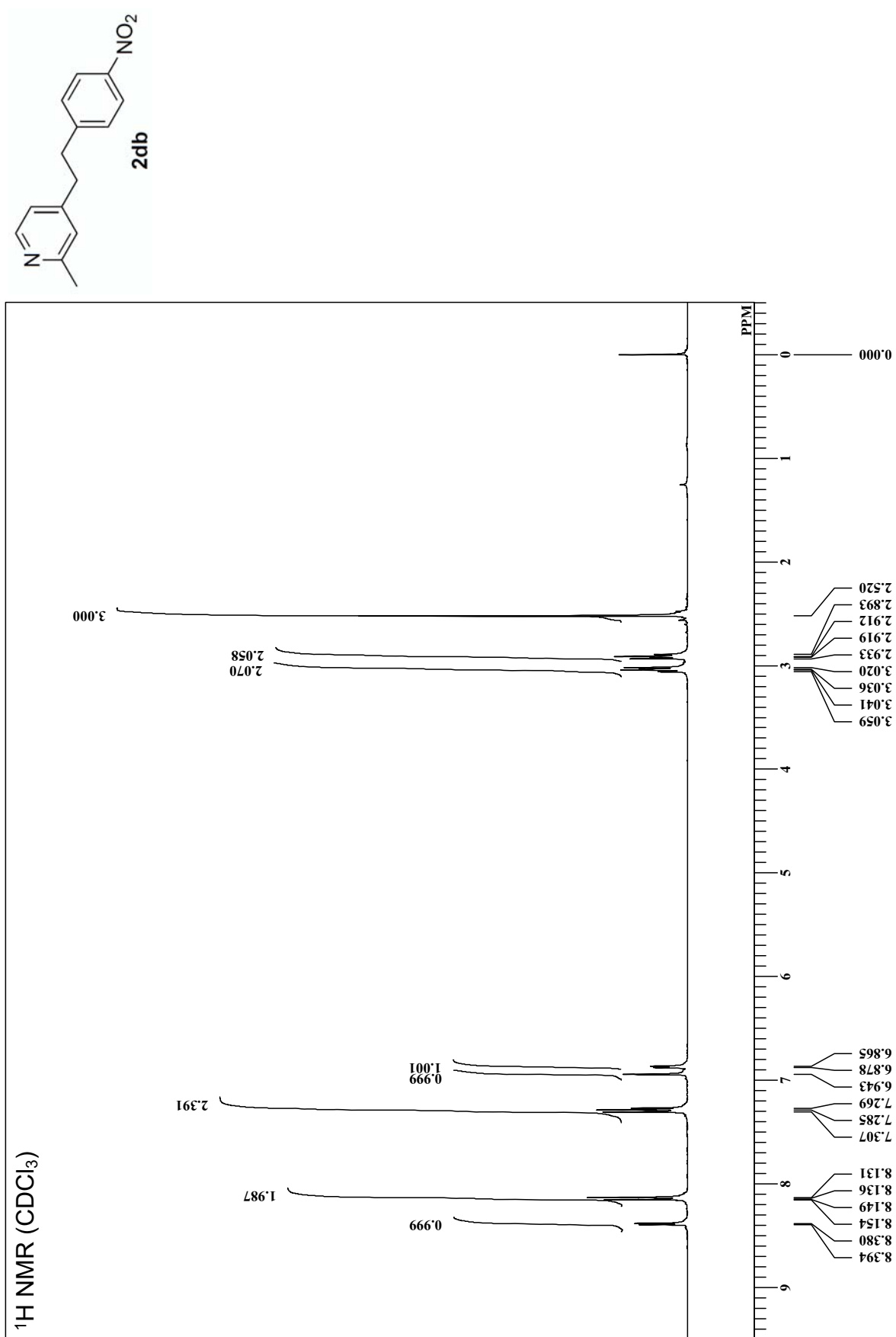


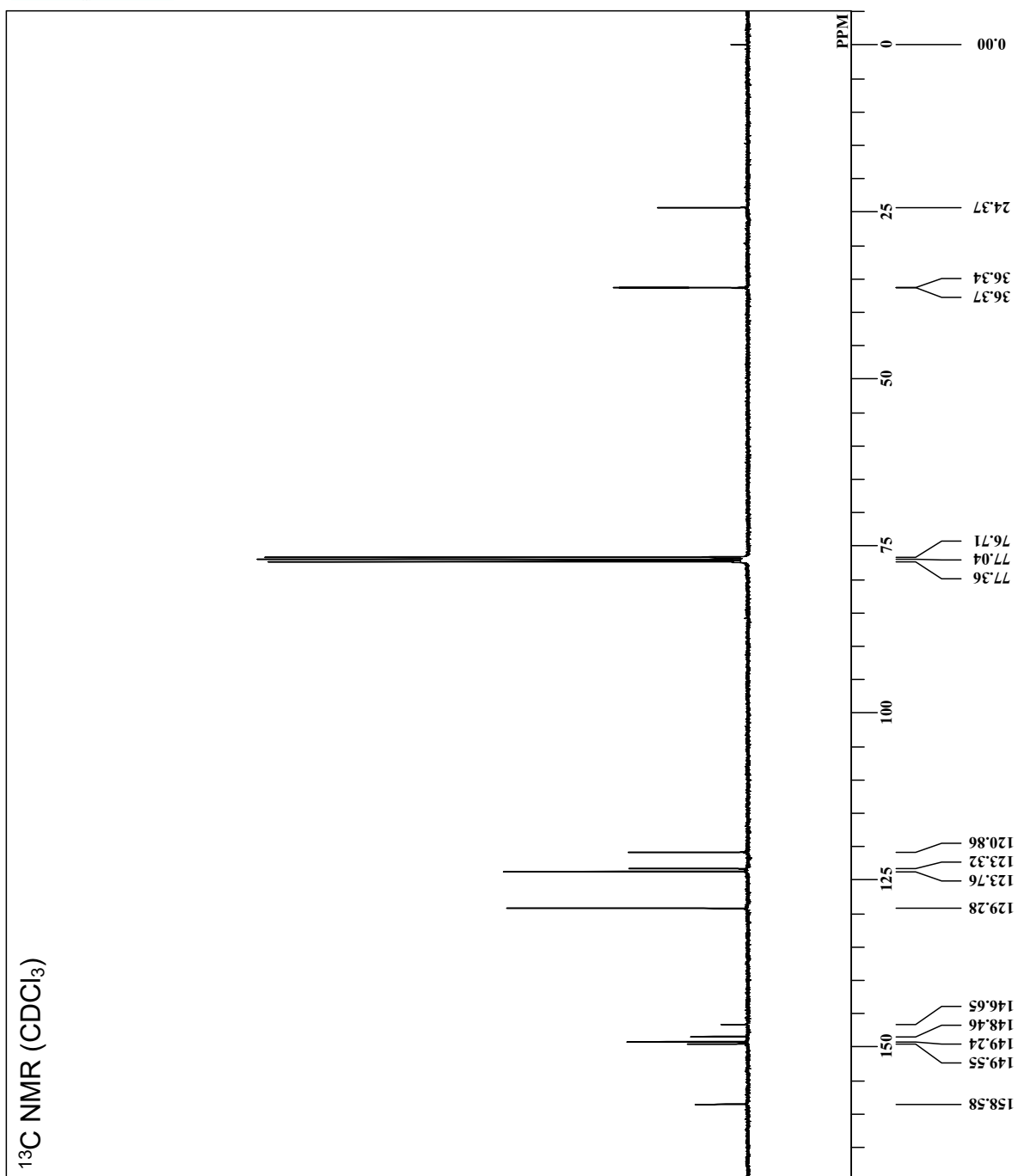
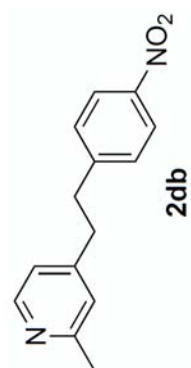


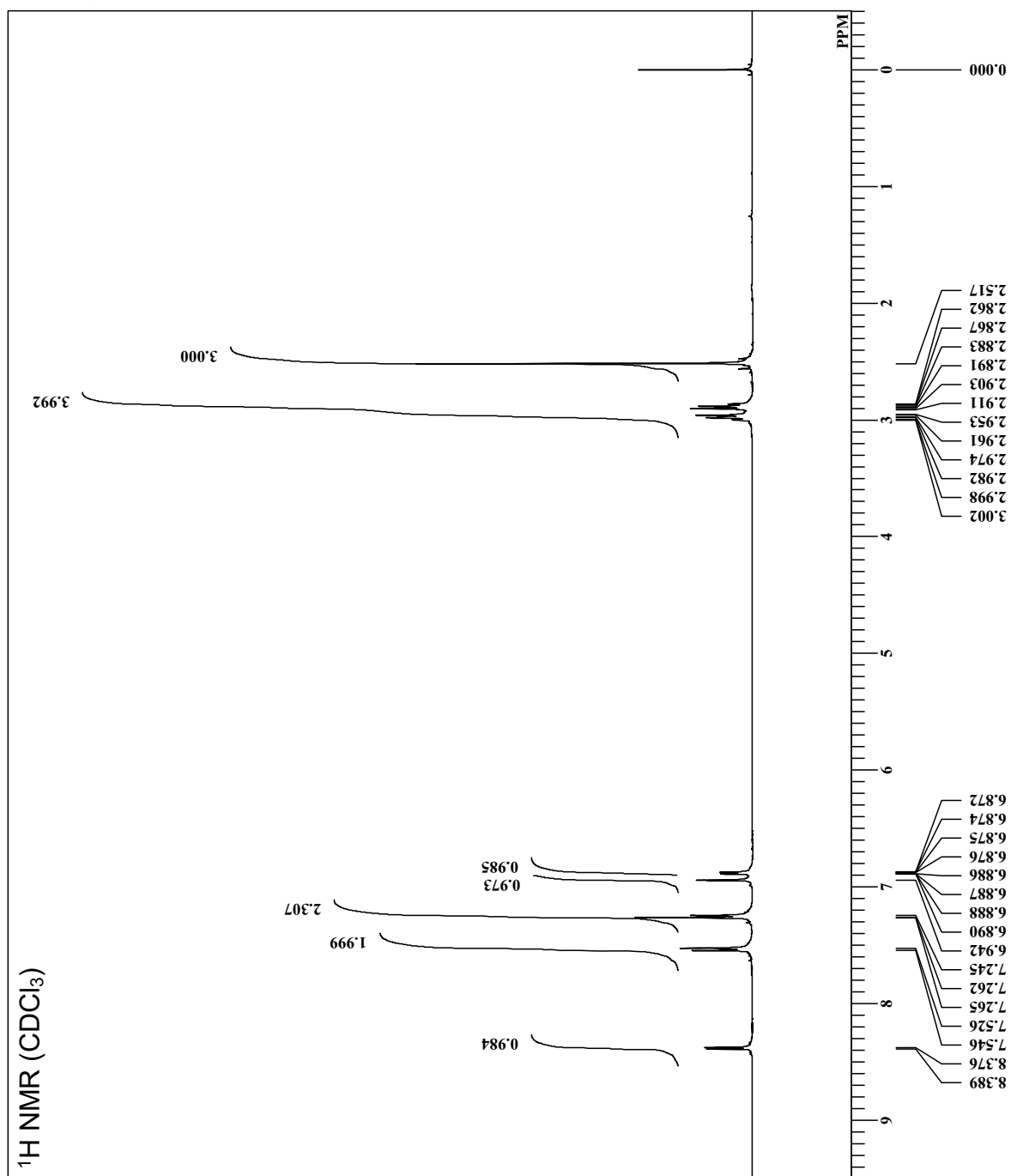
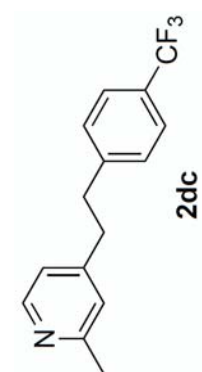


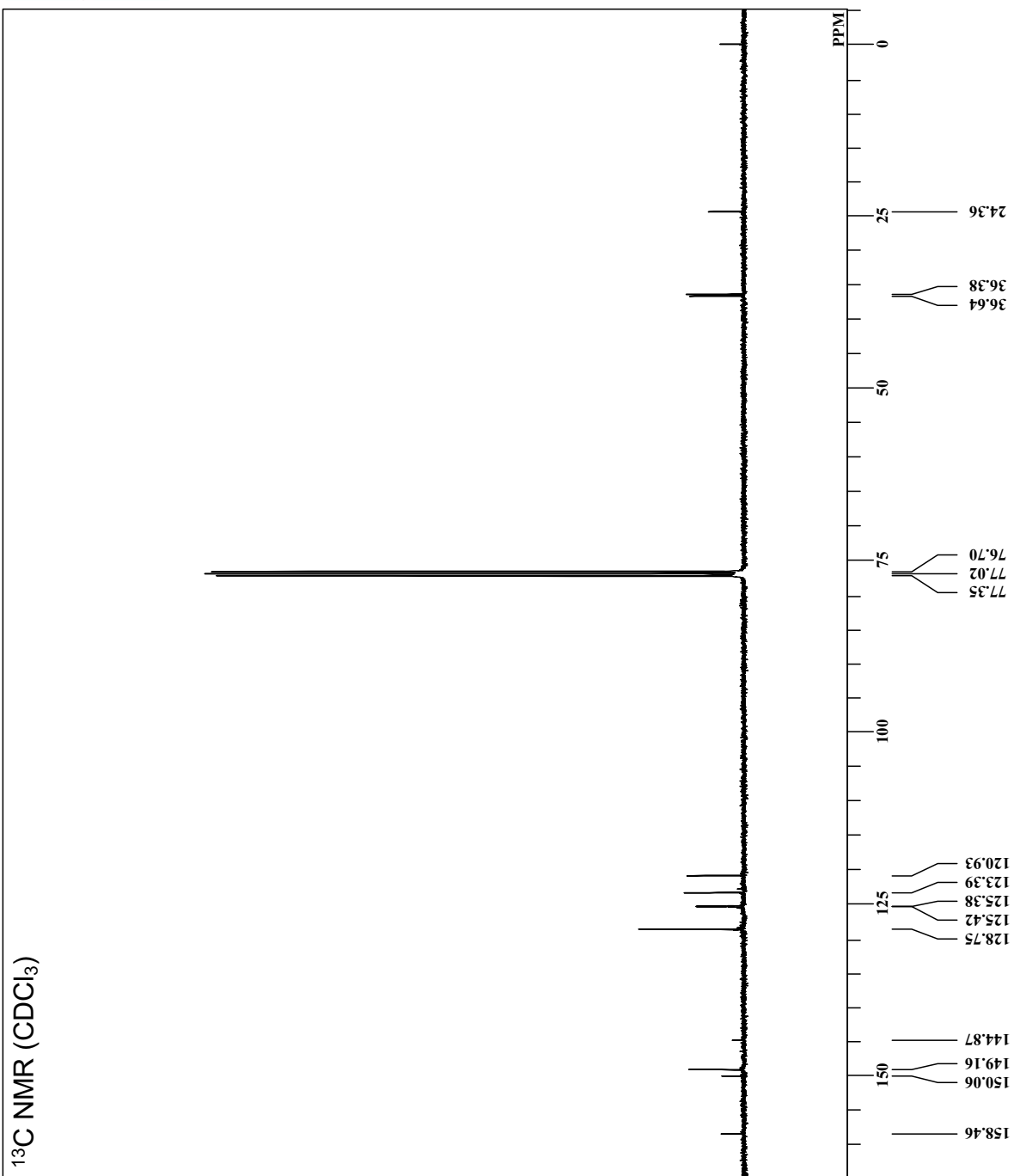
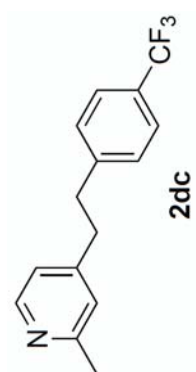


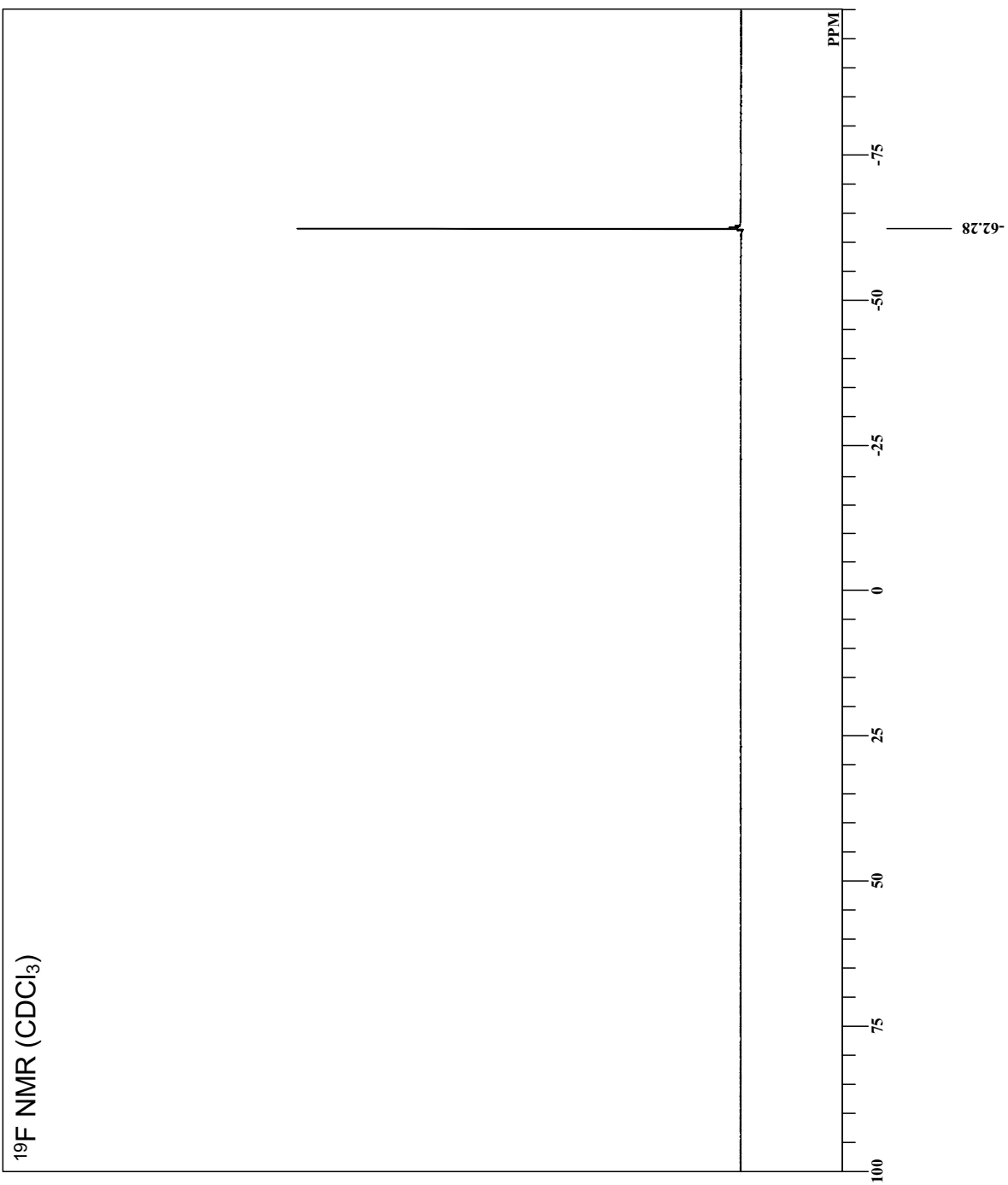
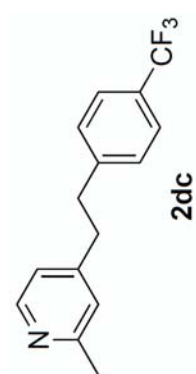


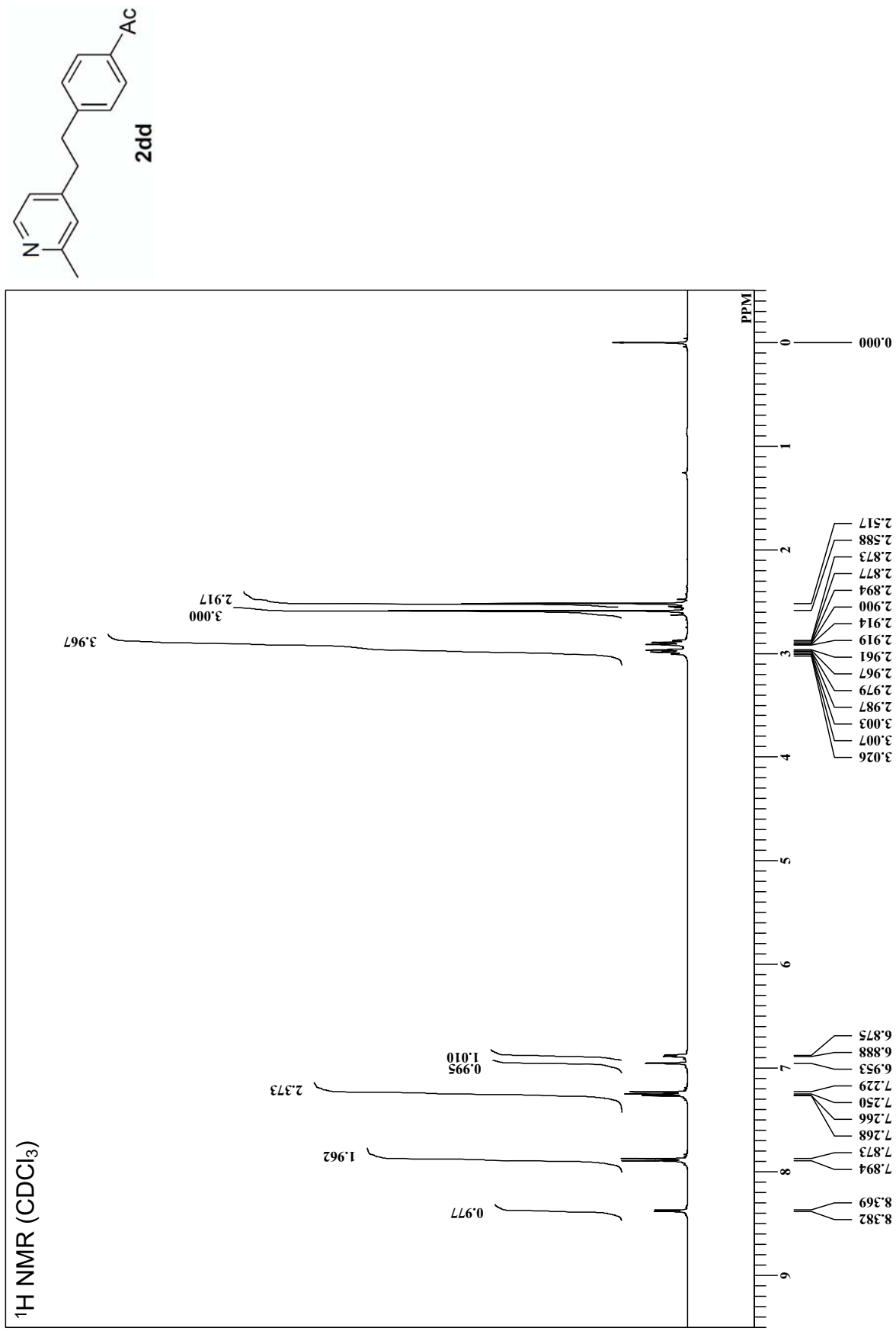


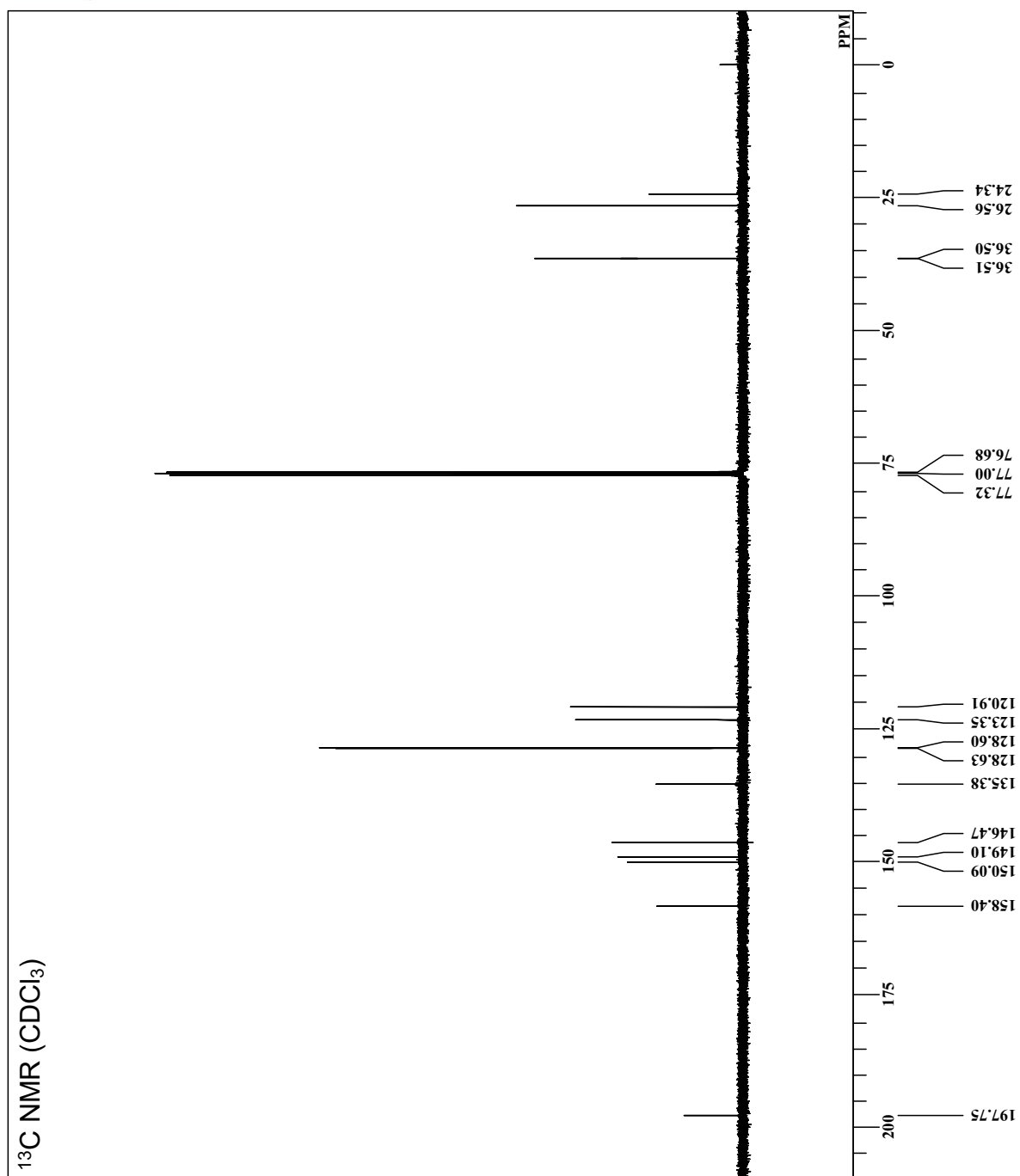
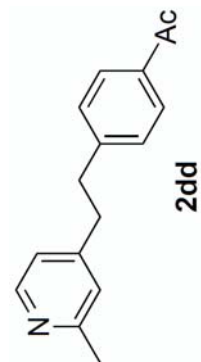


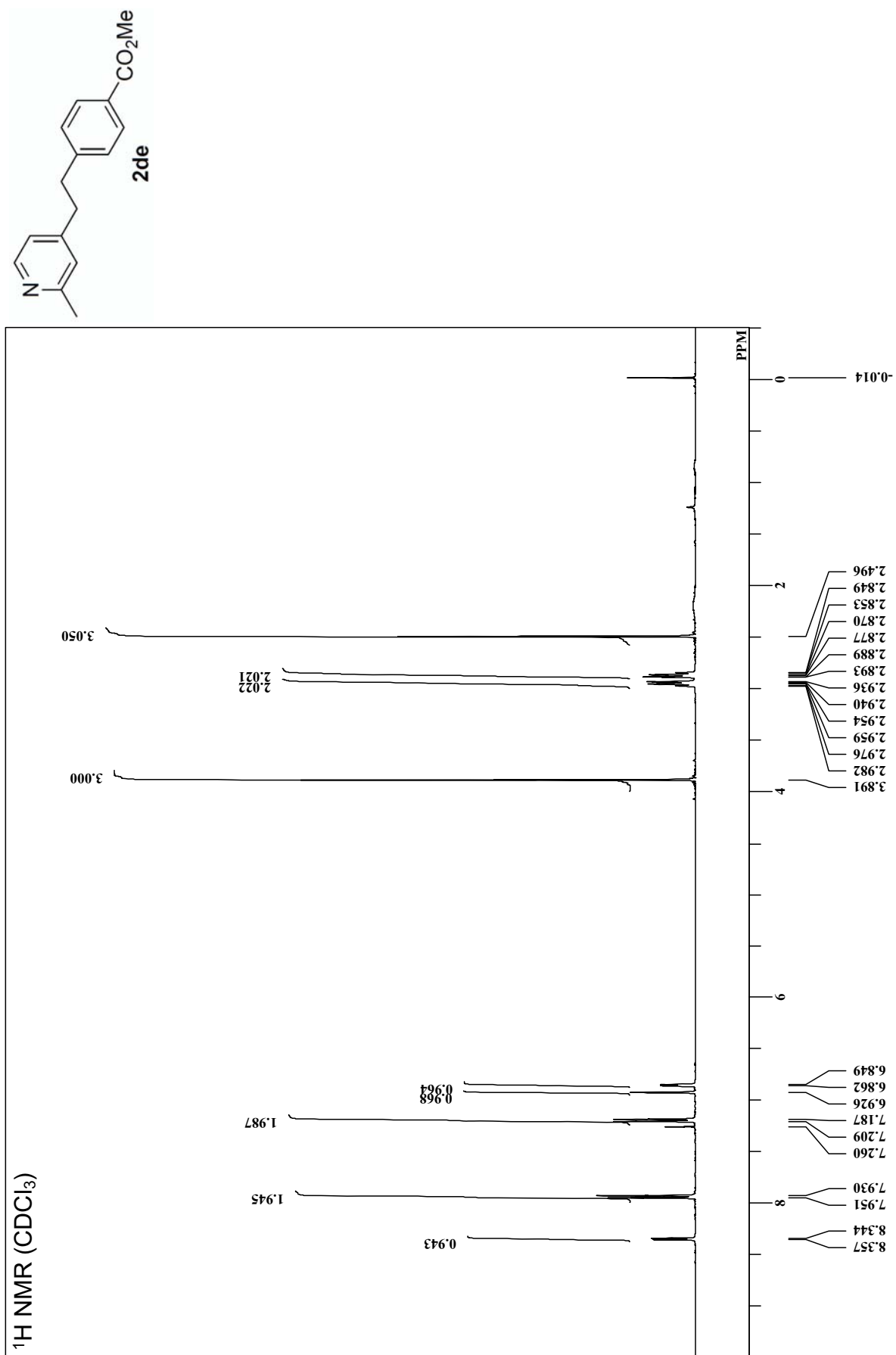


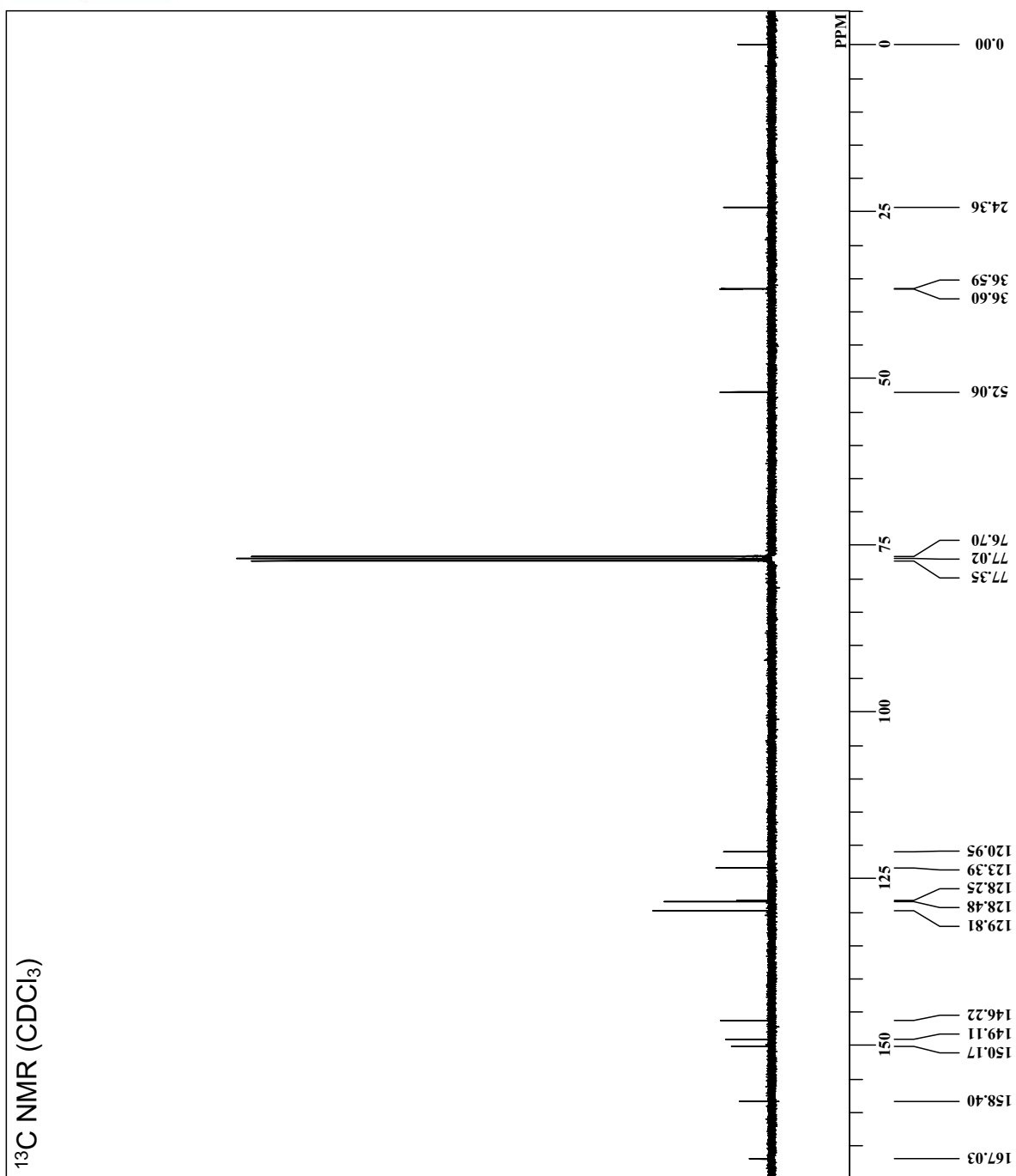
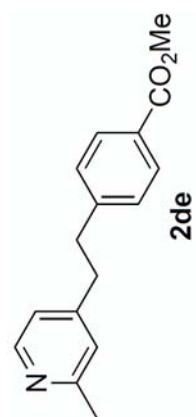


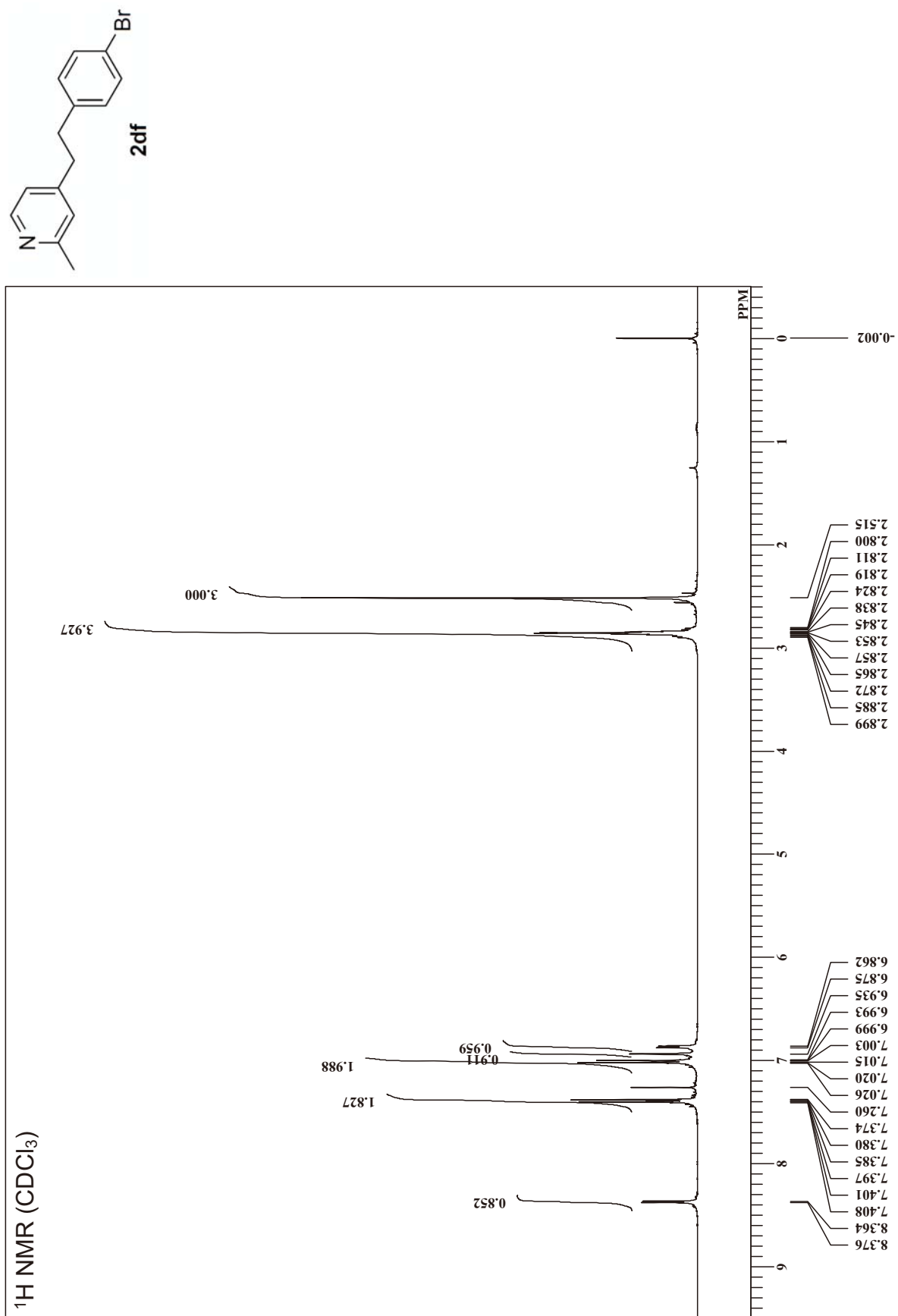


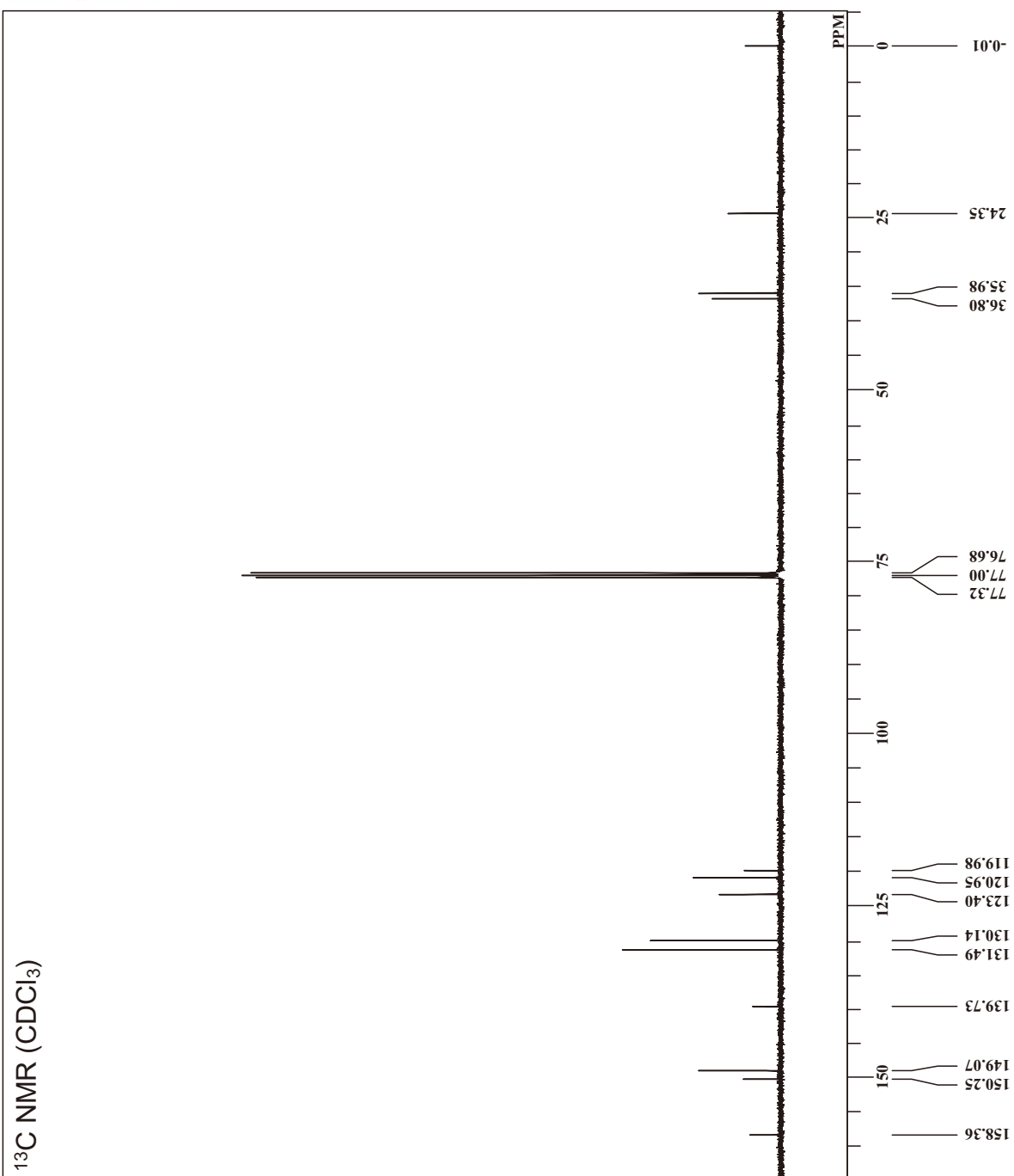
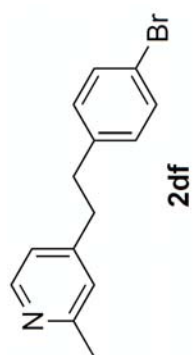












Cc1ccc(cc1)CCc2cc(C)nc(C)c2

**2dg**

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

Chemical structure of **2dg** is shown above the spectrum.

Peak list (ppm):

- 8.376, 8.363
- 7.260, 7.108, 7.088, 7.061, 7.041, 6.969, 6.908, 6.905, 6.895, 6.892
- 3.960 (quartet, integration 0.940)
- 2.988, 2.986, 2.893, 2.881, 2.872, 2.862, 2.856, 2.846, 2.834, 2.827, 2.819, 2.820, 2.825
- 3.782 (triplet, integration 0.838)

