

Novel combretastatin–2–aminoimidazole analogues as potent tubulin assembly inhibitors:

Exploration of unique pharmacophoric impact of bridging skeleton and aryl moiety

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Experimental

Chemistry:

Spectral Data of intermediates and compounds (1-15)

2-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyrimidine (Intermediate)

Light yellow solid; mp >200 °C; 157 mg, 55% yield; IR (neat) ν_{max} = 2945, 2912, 1634, 1585, 1124 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 8.94 (dd, J = 6.7 Hz, 1.2, 1H), 8.52-8.51 (m, 1H), 8.41 (s, 1H), 7.32 (s, 2H), 7.06-7.03 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 6H), 3.70 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 153.7, 150.7, 148.3, 145.8, 138.2, 135.3, 129.4, 109.3, 108.0, 103.5, 60.6, 56.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 286.1193 found m/z 286.1185.

3-Bromo-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyrimidine (Intermediate)

Light yellow solid; mp >200 °C; 327 mg, 90% yield; IR (neat) ν_{max} = 2948, 2920, 1643, 1580, 1128 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.59 (dd, J = 4.1 Hz, 1.9, 1H), 8.47 (dd, J = 6.8 Hz, 1.9, 1H), 7.53 (s, 2H), 7.02 (dd, J = 4.1 Hz, 1.9, 1H), 3.98 (s, 6H), 3.92 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100

MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 153.3, 150.2, 148.0, 143.9, 138.8, 131.4, 127.6, 109.4, 105.3, 89.9, 60.9, 56.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₅⁸¹BrN₃O₃: [M + H]⁺ 364.0299 found m/z 364.0299.

4,5-Diphenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-amine (1)

Greenish yellow solid; mp 130-132 °C; 94 mg, 40% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3416, 3363, 2934, 1634, 1581, 1122 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 7.28 (dd, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 7.7, 4H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 7.2, 2H), 5.36 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 150.1, 134.1, 128.2, 126.8, 125.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄N₃: [M + H]⁺ 236.1189 found m/z 236.1159.

5-Phenyl-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1*H*-imidazol-2-amine (2)

Light yellow solid; mp 140-142 °C; 117 mg, 36% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3318, 1634, 1590, 1508, 1124 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 7.5, 2H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 7.1, 1H), 6.67 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 171.1, 153.1, 149.2, 136.5, 132.7, 128.8, 128.4, 127.7, 127.0, 126.5, 104.2, 60.9, 55.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C₁₈H₂₀N₃O₃: [M + H]⁺ 326.1506 found m/z 326.1496

4,5-Bis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1*H*-imidazol-2-amine (3)

Light yellow solid; mp >200 °C; 145 mg, 35% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3444, 3359, 1614, 1500, 1171, 1044 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 6.73 (s, 4H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 3.65 (s, 12H), 3.64 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 171.0, 168.3, 153.1, 148.7, 136.8, 128.7, 104.6, 60.9, 55.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C₂₁H₂₆N₃O₆: [M + H]⁺ 416.1823 found m/z 416.1822.

5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1*H*-imidazol-2-amine (4)

Light yellow solid; mp 170-172 °C; 115 mg, 32% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3327, 1624, 1587, 1126, 749 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.37 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.64 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 171.0, 153.2, 149.2, 136.8, 132.4, 131.6, 128.7, 128.5, 104.5, 60.9, 55.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 360.1117 found m/z 360.1112 and for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}^{35}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_3$ 362.1087 found m/z 362.1088.

5-(4-Fluorophenyl)-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-amine (5)

Light yellow solid; mp 145-147 °C; 106 mg, 31% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3325, 2924, 1686, 1580, 1502, 1225, 1123, cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.42-7.38 (m, 2H), 6.96 (dd, J = 8.7 Hz, 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 168.9, 161.8 ($^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 245 Hz), 153.1, 148.9, 136.7, 129.4 ($^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 8 Hz), 129.1 ($^4J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 1 Hz), 128.3, 126.9, 126.4, 115.3 ($^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22 Hz), 104.2, 60.9, 55.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 344.1412 found m/z 344.1414.

5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-amine (6)

Light yellow solid; mp 176-178 °C; 124 mg, 35% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3319, 1662, 1591, 1125 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.33 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 170.2, 168.9, 157.7, 152.0, 148.2, 135.3, 128.2, 124.4, 112.9, 103.0, 59.9, 54.8, 54.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 356.1612 found m/z 356.1611.

3-(2-Amino-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenol (7)

Pale yellow solid; mp 185-187 °C; 95 mg, 28% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3360, 2932, 1556, 1658, 1412, 1122 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.42 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (dd, J = 7.1 Hz, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (dd, J = 7.2 Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 171.2, 152.9, 149.2, 136.3, 132.8, 128.9, 128.4, 127.9, 127.7, 126.9, 126.6, 104.1, 60.9, 55.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 342.1456 found m/z 342.1446.

5-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-amine (8)

Light yellow solid; mp 180-182 °C; 114 mg, 32% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3315, 2936, 1664, 1581, 1231, 1123 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.15 (dd, J = 8.1 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 180.1, 159.6, 153.1, 148.7, 137.0, 132.7, 129.5, 127.1, 126.3, 120.0, 113.2, 112.9, 104.4, 60.9, 55.9, 55.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 356.1612 found m/z 356.1610.

5-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-amine (9)

Yellow solid; mp >200 °C; 115 mg, 30% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3377, 2935, 1650, 1582, 1122 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.00 (s, 2H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 153.0, 148.7, 148.5, 148.1, 136.6, 128.8, 126.9, 125.5, 120.1, 111.1, 111.0, 104.3, 60.9, 55.9, 55.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 386.1718 found m/z 386.1699.

5-(2-Amino-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)pyridin-2-amine (10)

Yellow solid; mp 165-167 °C; 130 mg, 38% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3353, 2925, 1632, 1585, 1413, 1126 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , MeOD): δ = 8.01 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, J = 2.3 Hz, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (s, 2H), 6.47 (dd, J = 0.6 Hz, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , MeOD): δ = 157.3, 153.0, 149.2, 145.8, 138.0, 136.3, 128.7, 119.3, 108.6, 105.7, 103.9, 60.8, 55.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 342.1568 found m/z 342.1562.

5-(Pyridin-3-yl)-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-amine (11)

Yellow solid; mp 115-117 °C; 121 mg, 37% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3327, 2951, 1632, 1585, 1505, 1120 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.69 (s, 1H), 8.33 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.57 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 153.3, 149.6, 147.9, 147.2, 137.2, 134.7, 129.2, 127.7, 127.3, 123.2, 115.8, 104.5, 60.9, 55.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 327.1459 found m/z 327.1449.

5-(Quinolin-3-yl)-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-amine (12)

Yellow solid; mp 120-122 °C; 150 mg, 40% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3338, 2935, 1636, 1590, 1508, 1125 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 9.02 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (ddd, J = 1.3 Hz, 7.0 Hz, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (ddd, J = 0.9 Hz, 7.9 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 3H), 6.67 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 171.1, 168.7, 153.4, 150.0, 149.9, 146.3, 137.2, 132.4, 129.0, 128.8, 127.9, 127.6, 127.2, 126.9, 104.6, 60.9, 55.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 377.1615 found m/z 377.1606.

5-(1H-Indol-5-yl)-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-amine (13)

Light yellow solid; mp 125-127 °C; 73 mg, 20% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3333, 2926, 1590, 1508, 1124, 905 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.42-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.26 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 4H), 6.64 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 180.0, 153.3, 148.4, 137.6, 129.6, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 127.8, 124.9, 123.6, 122.9, 106.1, 104.3, 60.9, 55.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 365.1615 found m/z 365.1604.

5-(3-Aminophenyl)-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-amine (14)

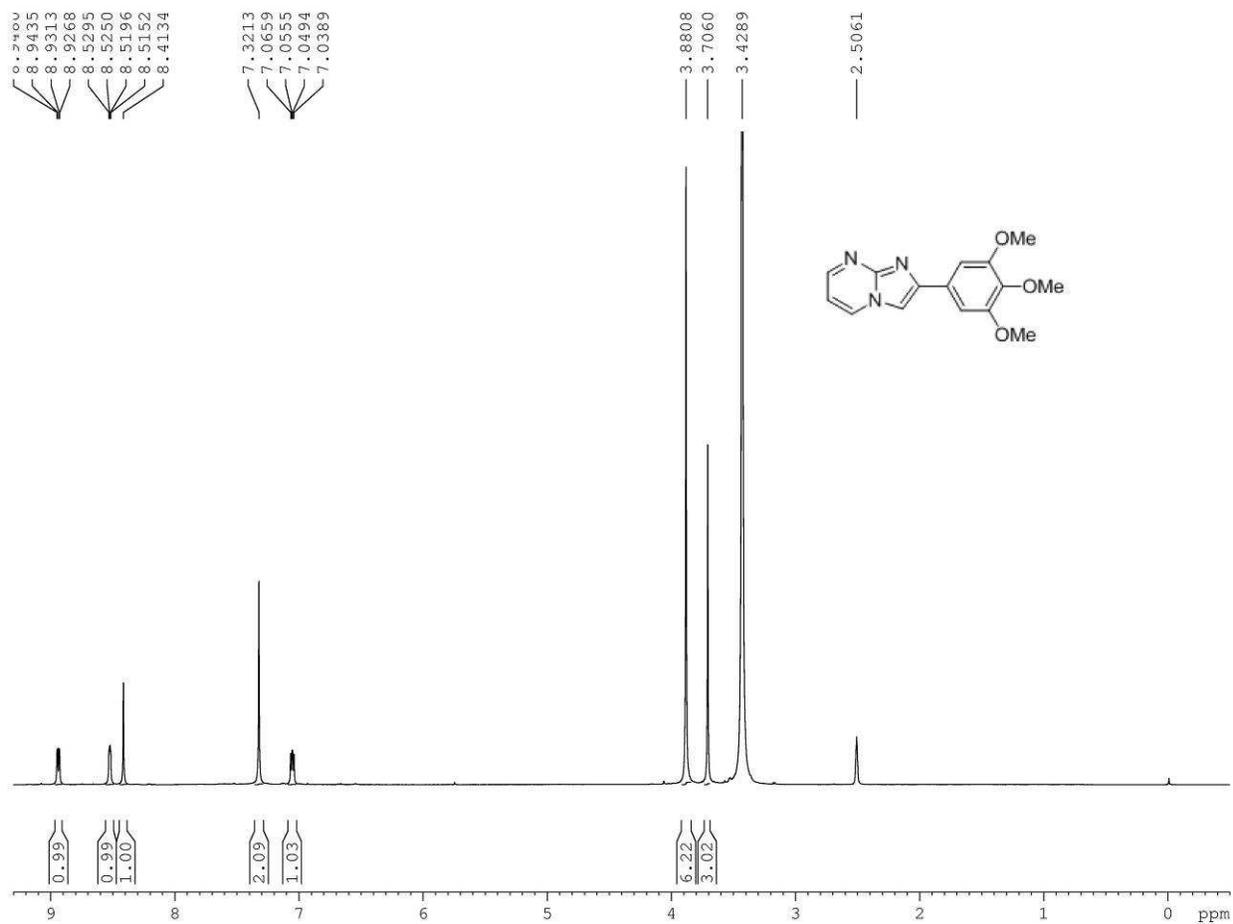
Pale yellow solid; mp 135-137 °C; 119 mg, 35% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3433, 3285, 3175, 1640, 1566, 1414, 1124 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 7.07 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (s, 2H), 6.58 (dd, J = 1.6 Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.55 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 153.1, 148.3, 146.9, 137.0, 131.7, 129.4, 126.7, 125.5, 124.6, 118.0, 114.5, 114.1, 104.3, 60.9, 55.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 341.1615 found m/z 341.1608.

5-(2-Amino-4-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)-2-methoxyphenol (15)

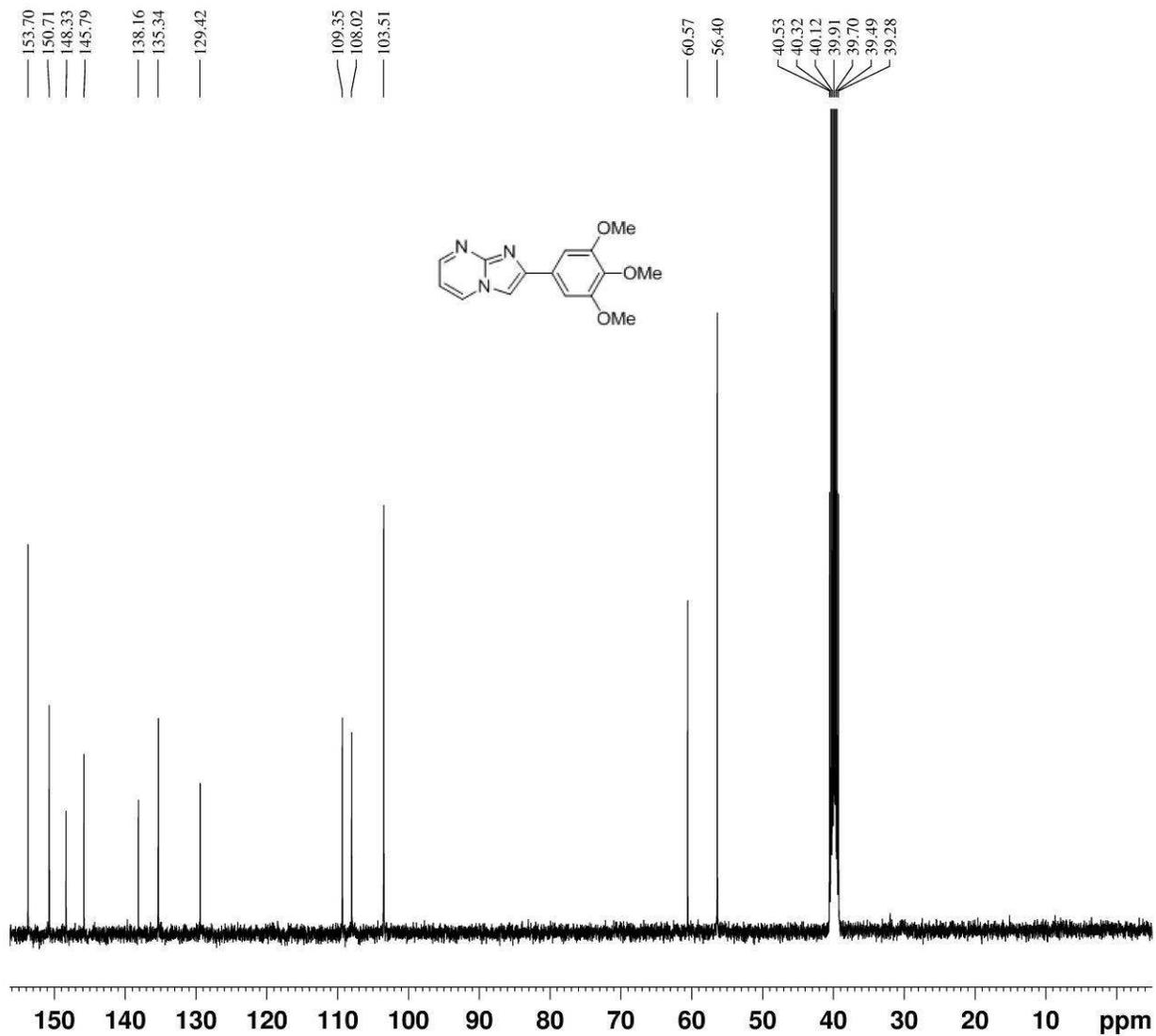
Pale yellow solid; mp 95-97 °C; 78 mg, 21% yield; IR (neat) ν_{\max} = 3339, 2934, 1635, 1510, 1416, 1126 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.62 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 152.9, 147.8, 147.1, 146.2, 136.9, 126.7, 124.1, 123.5, 119.8, 114.6, 111.1, 104.2, 60.9, 55.9, 55.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 372.1561 found m/z 372.1565.

NMR spectra of intermediates and compounds 1-15 are given below.

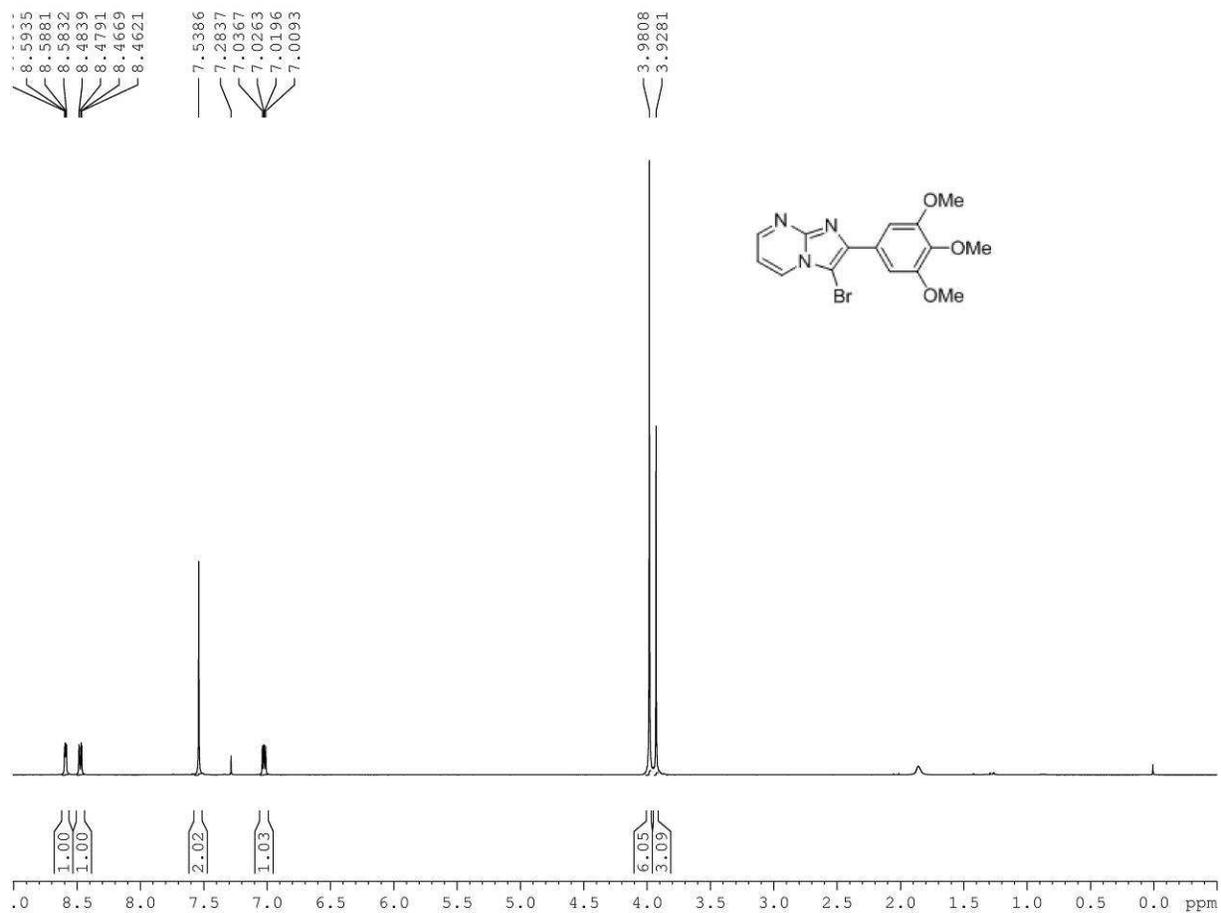
2-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidine : ¹H NMR



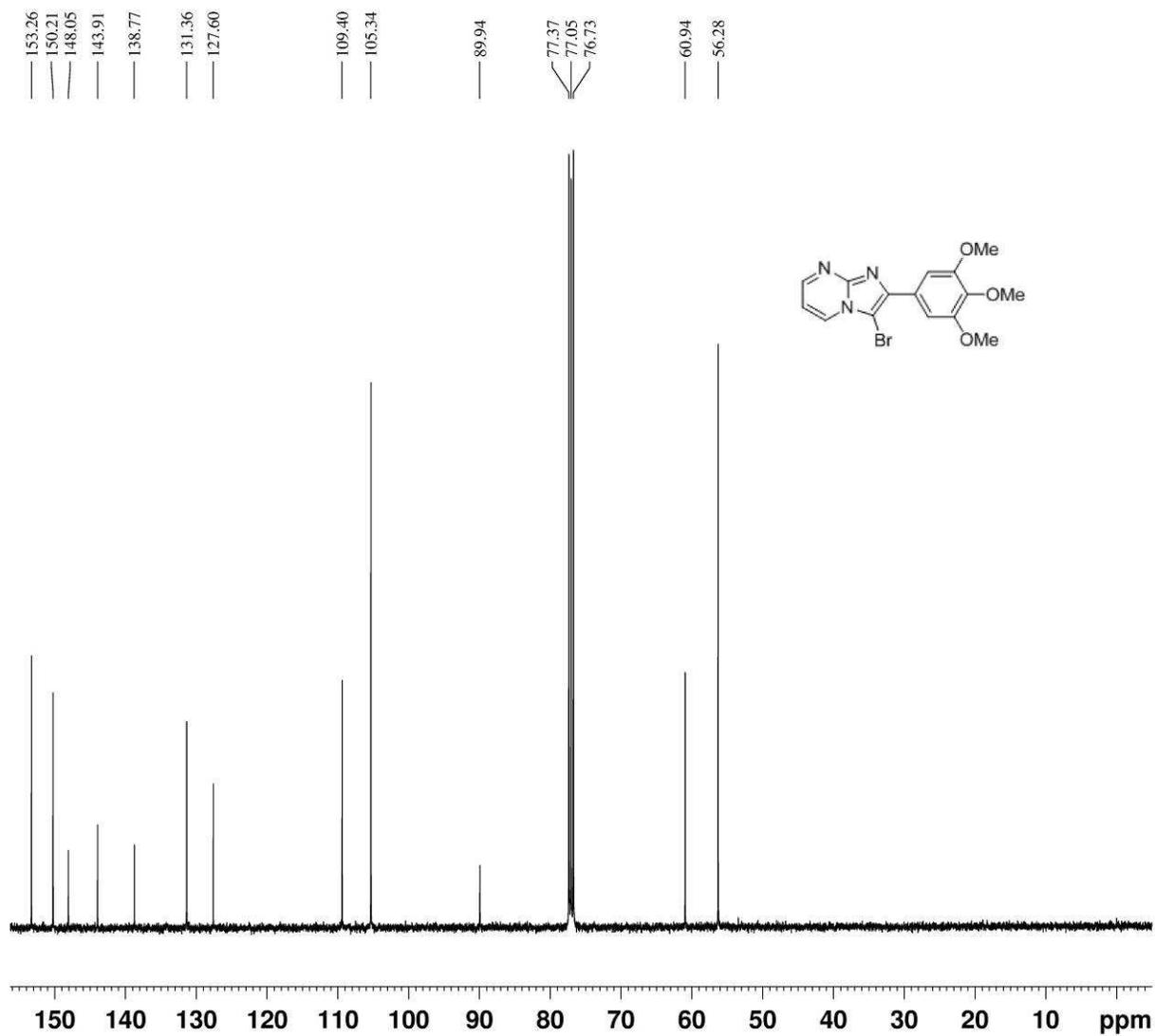
2-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidine : ^{13}C NMR



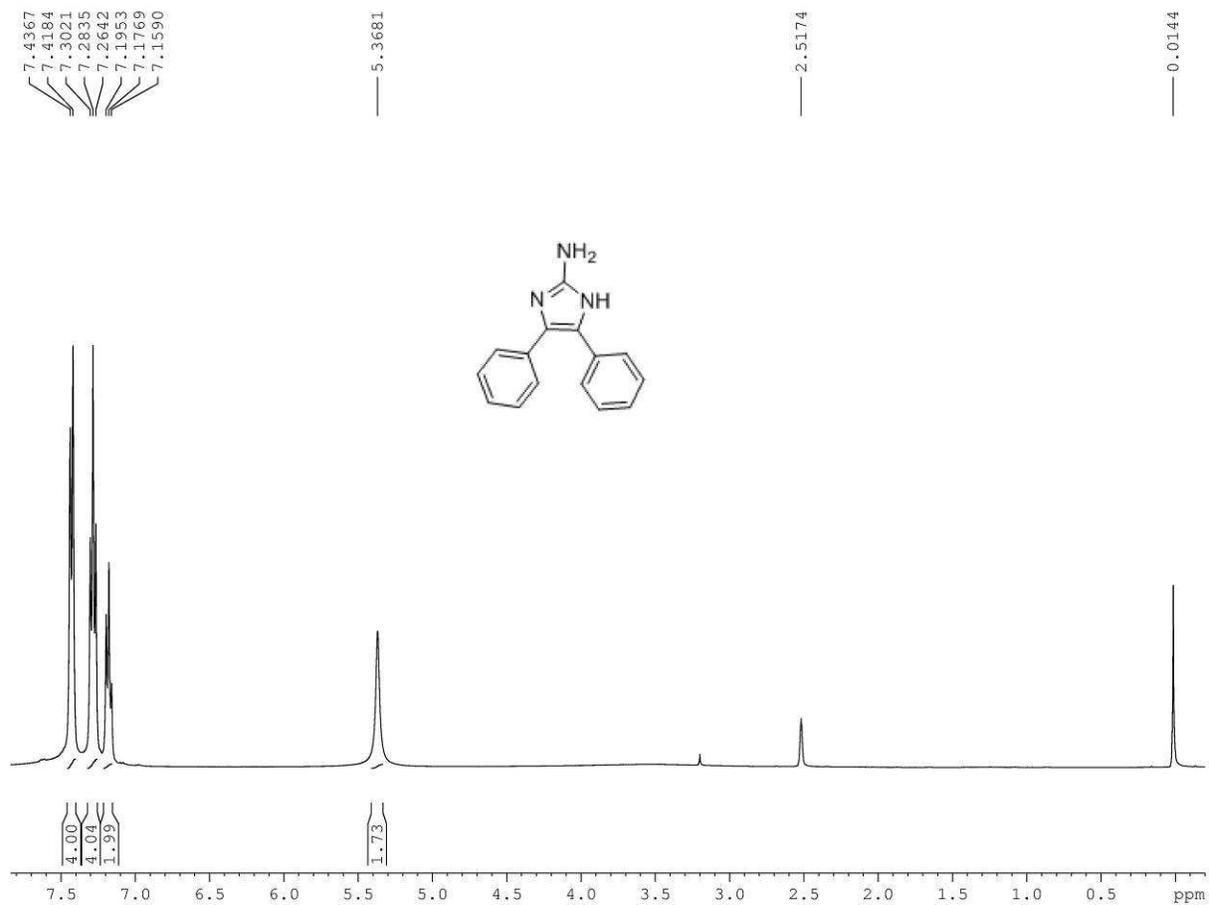
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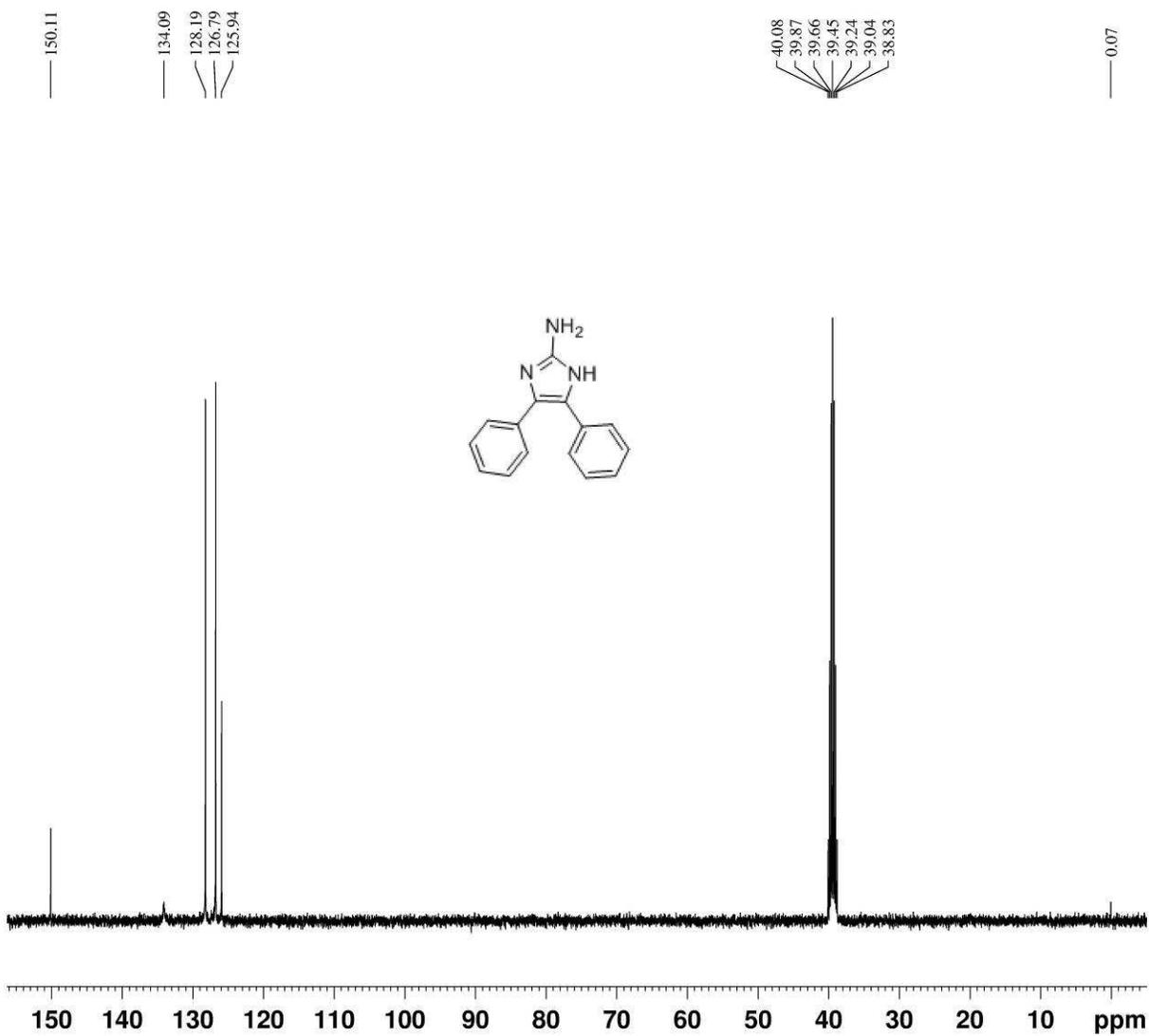
3-Bromo-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidine : ^{13}C NMR



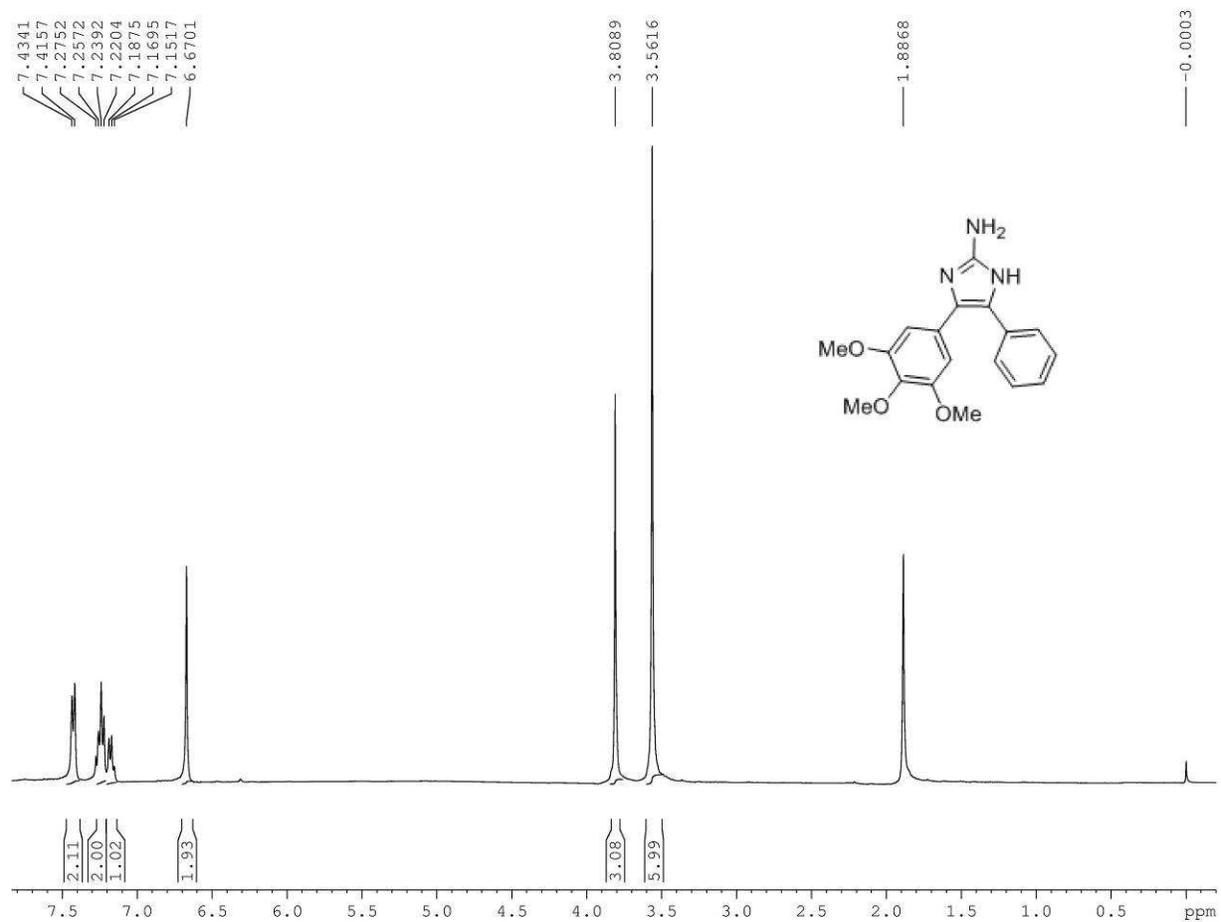
1: ^1H NMR



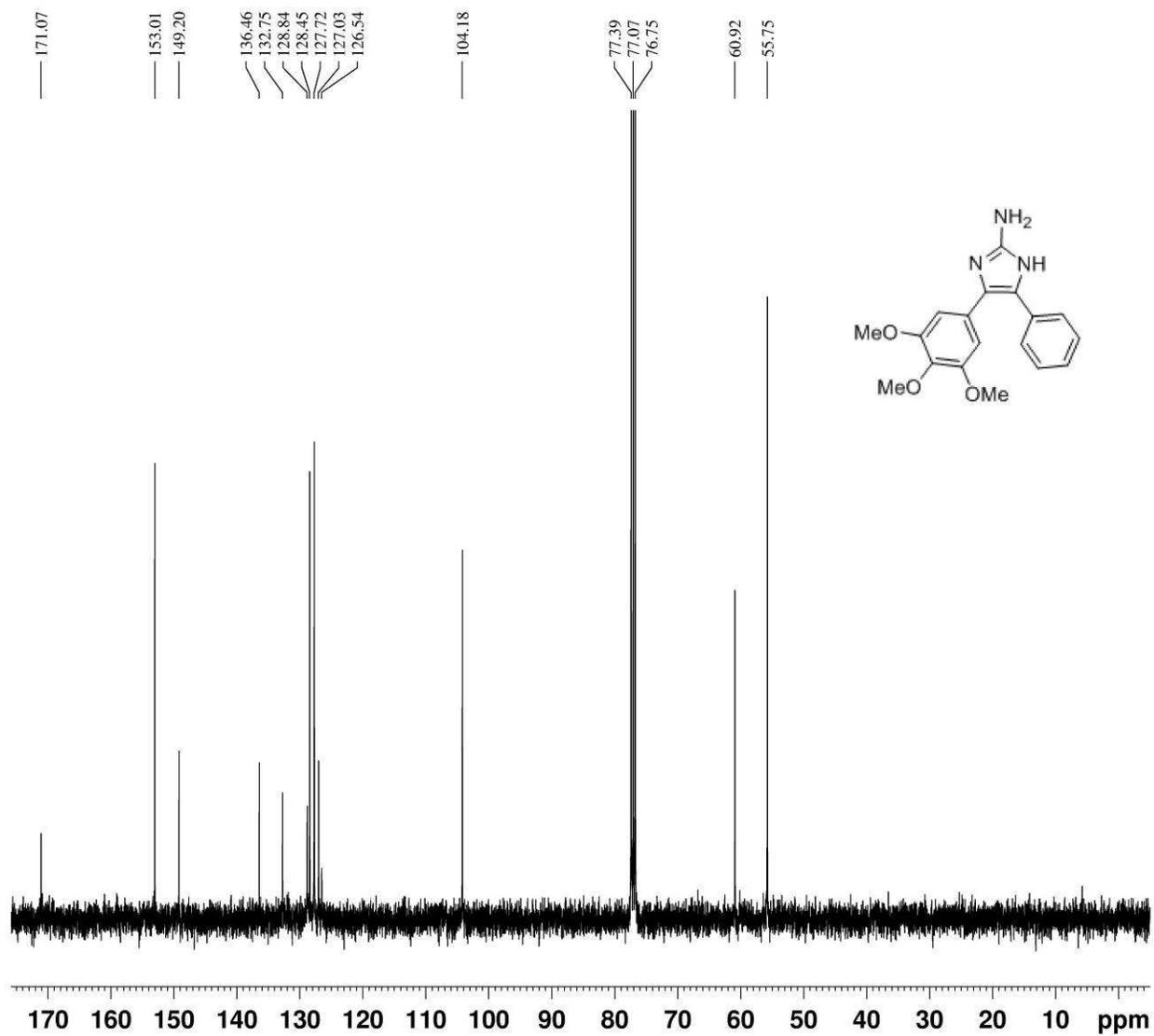
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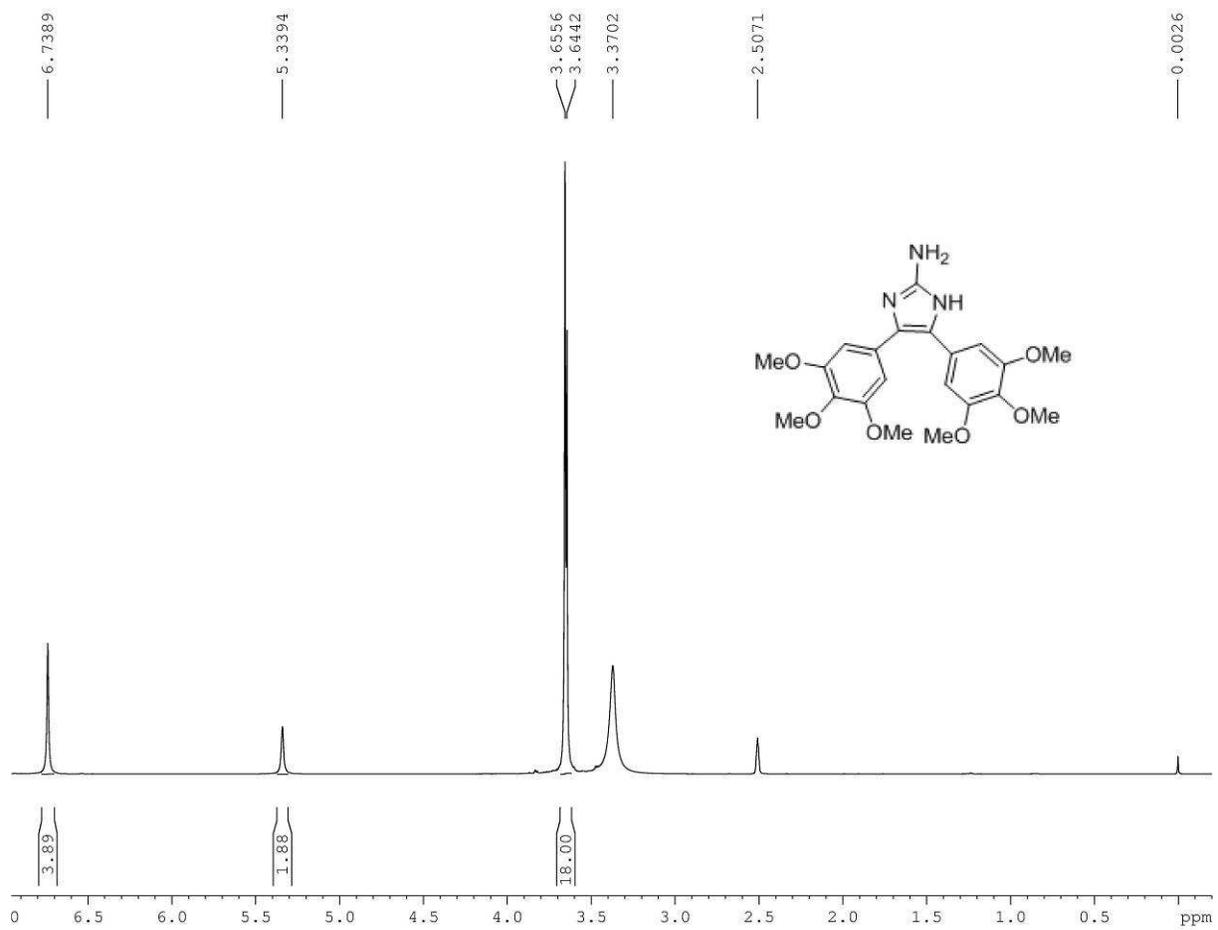
2: ¹H NMR



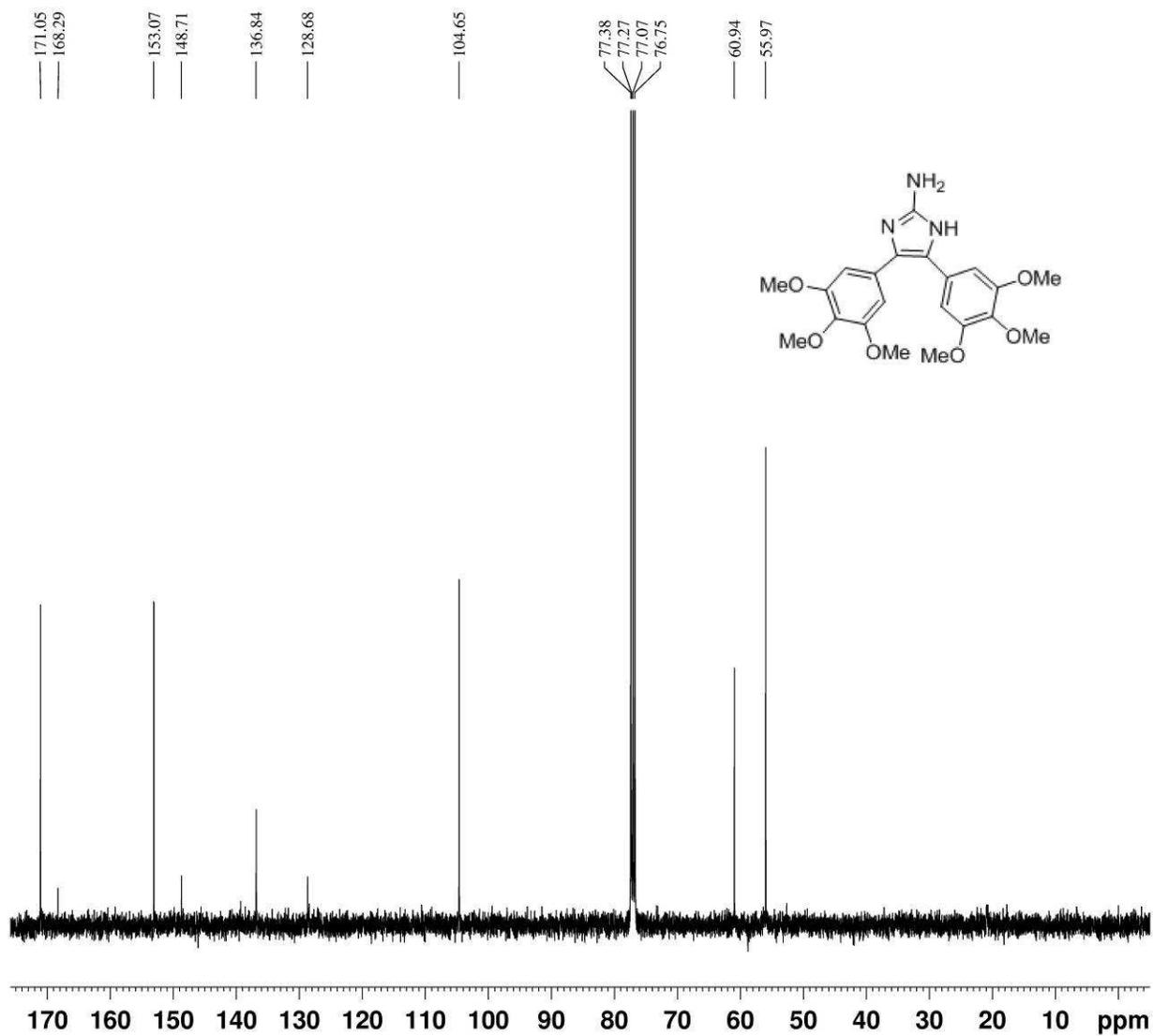
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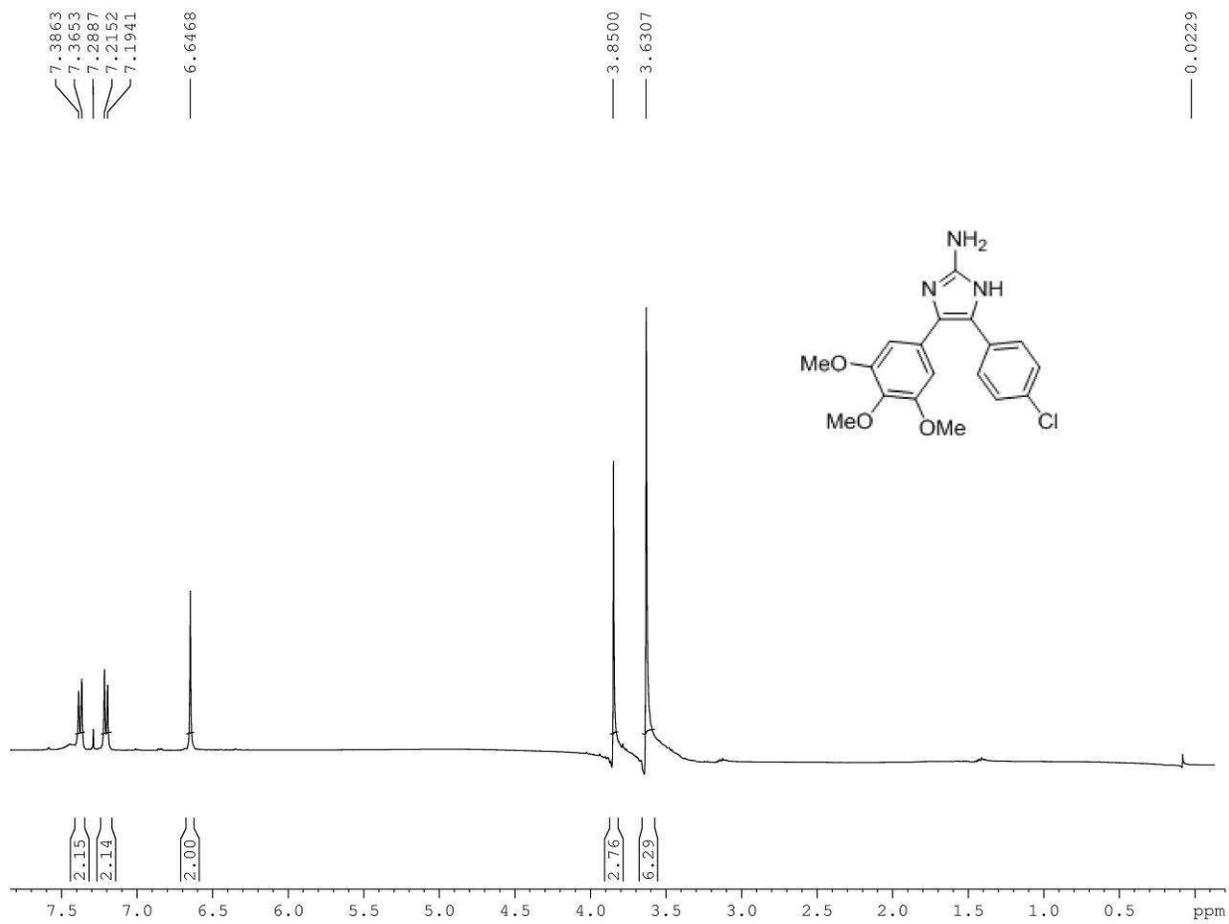
3: ^1H NMR



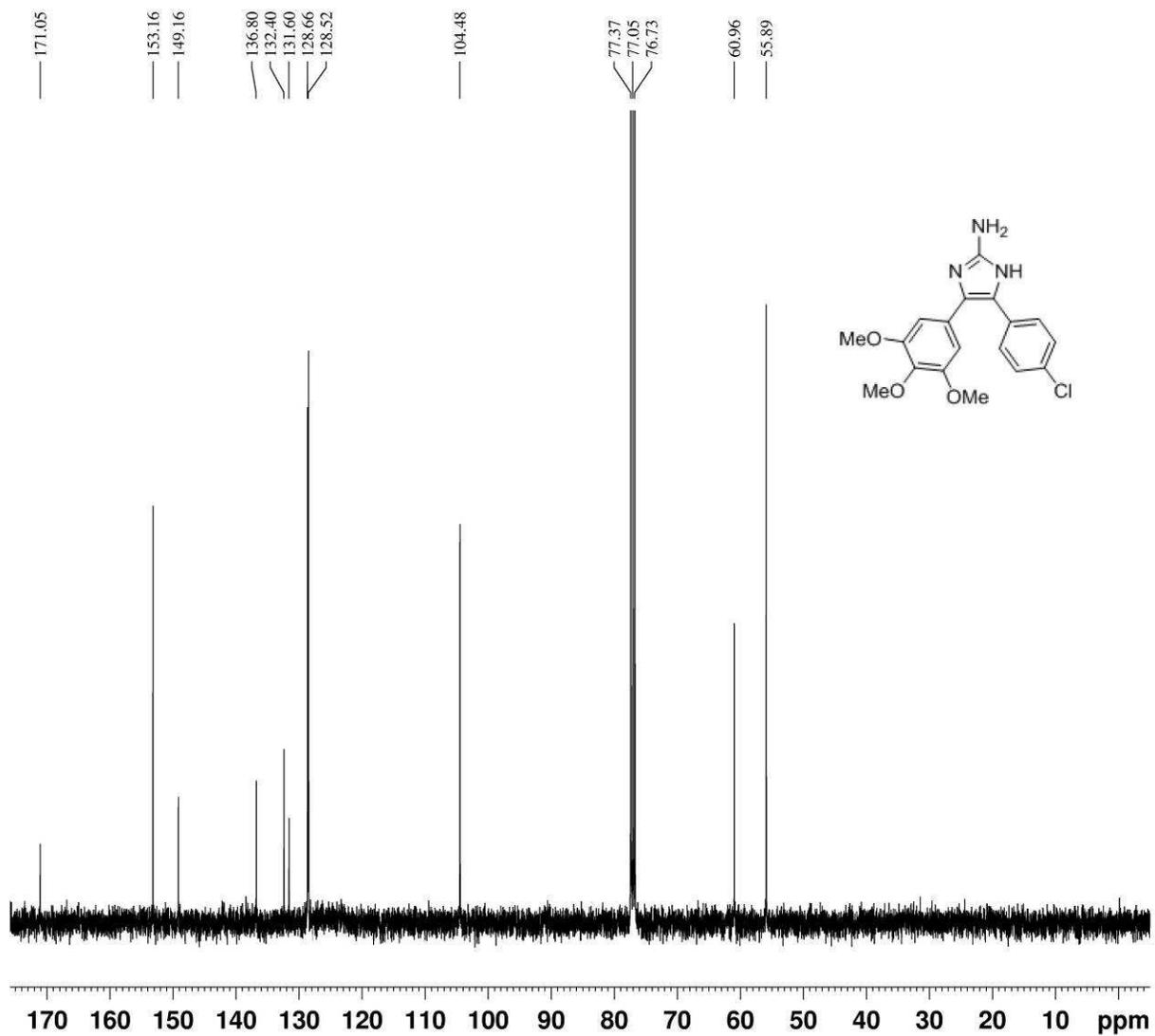
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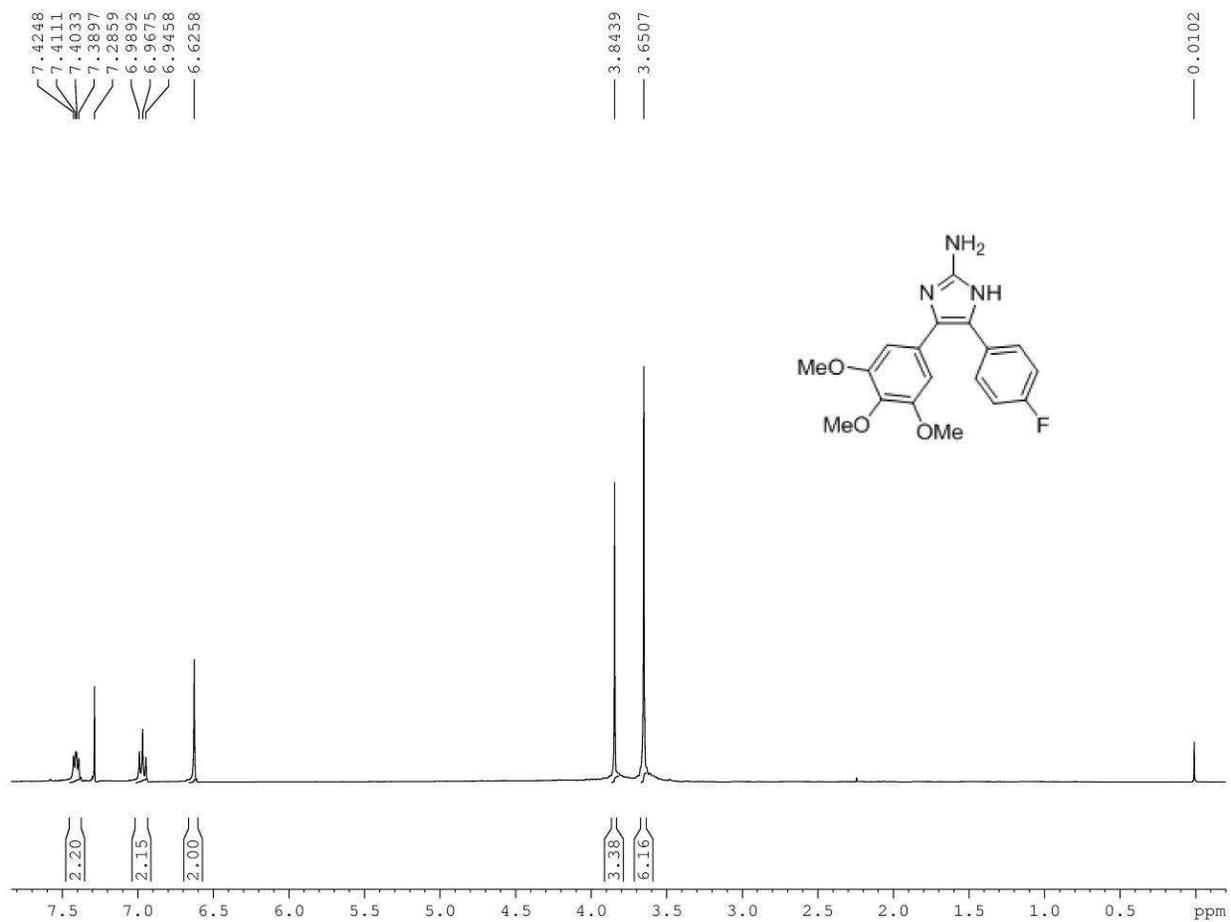
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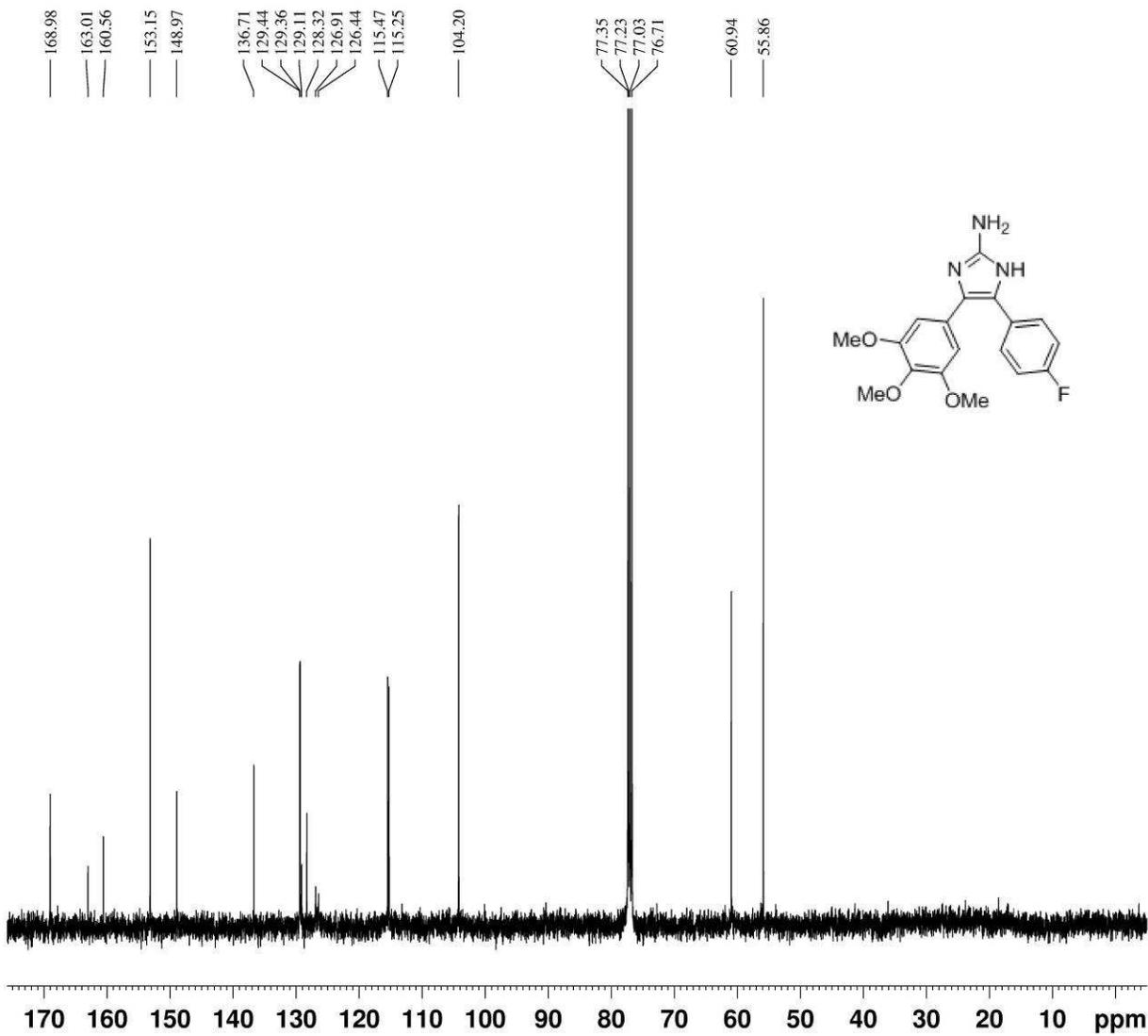
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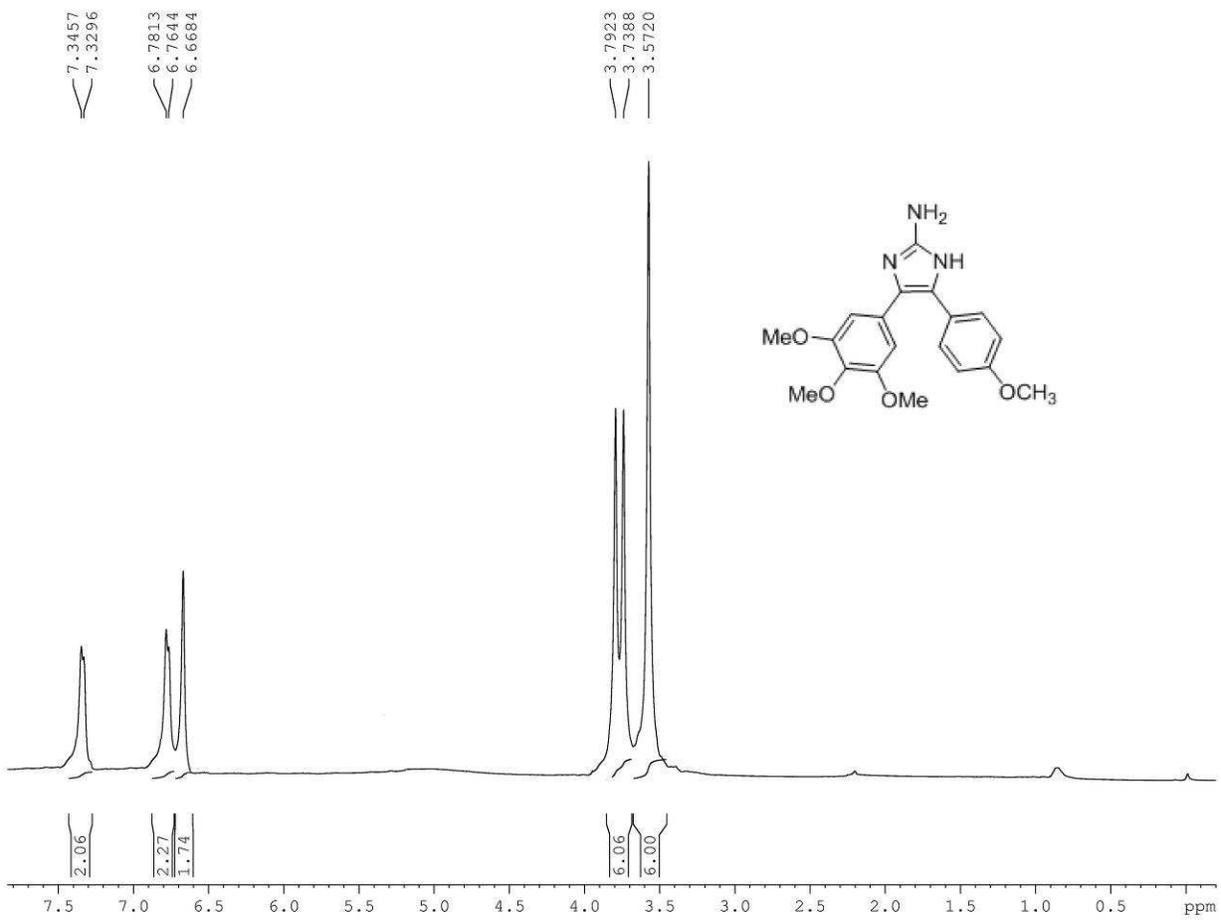
5: ¹H NMR



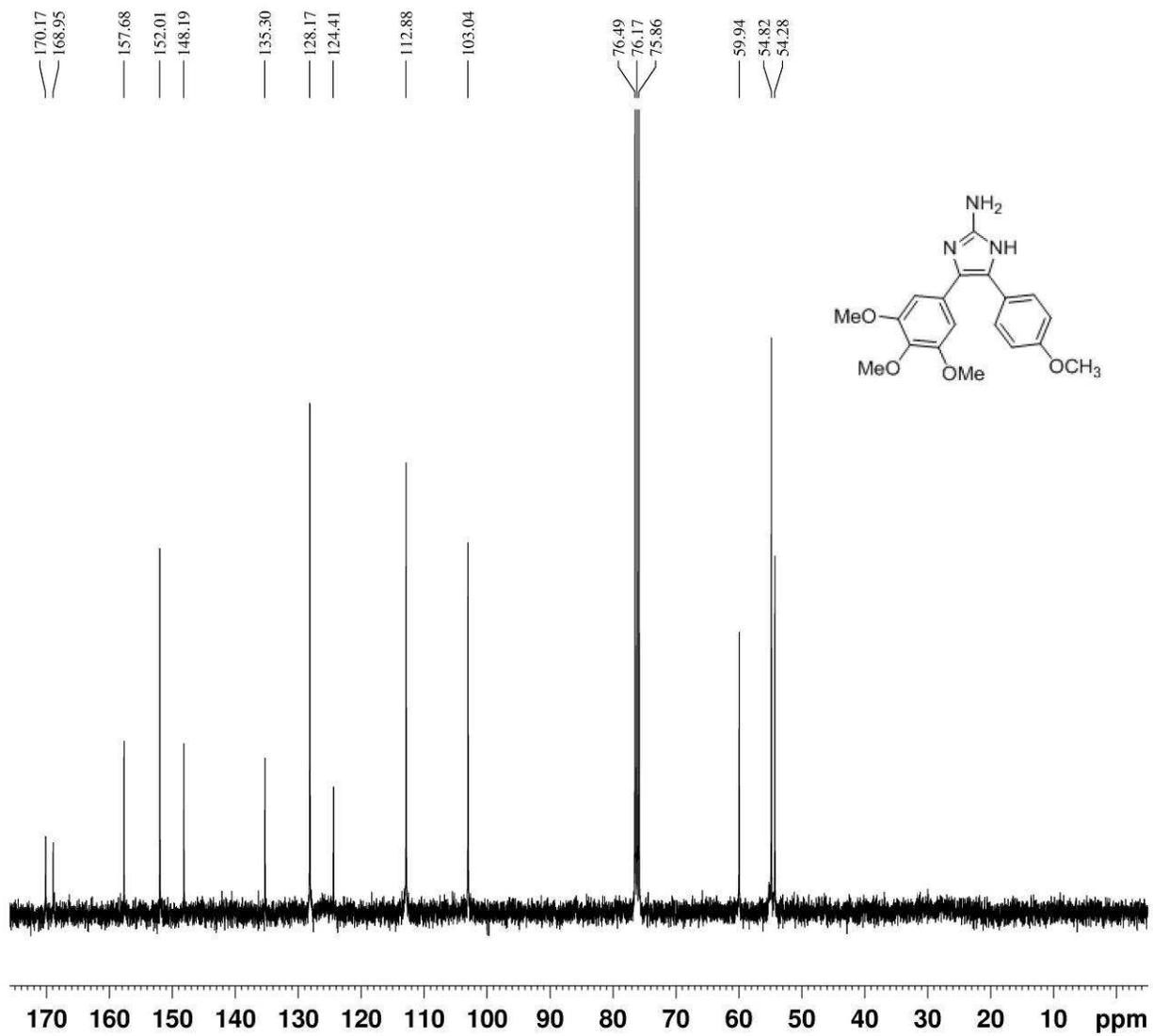
5: ^{13}C NMR



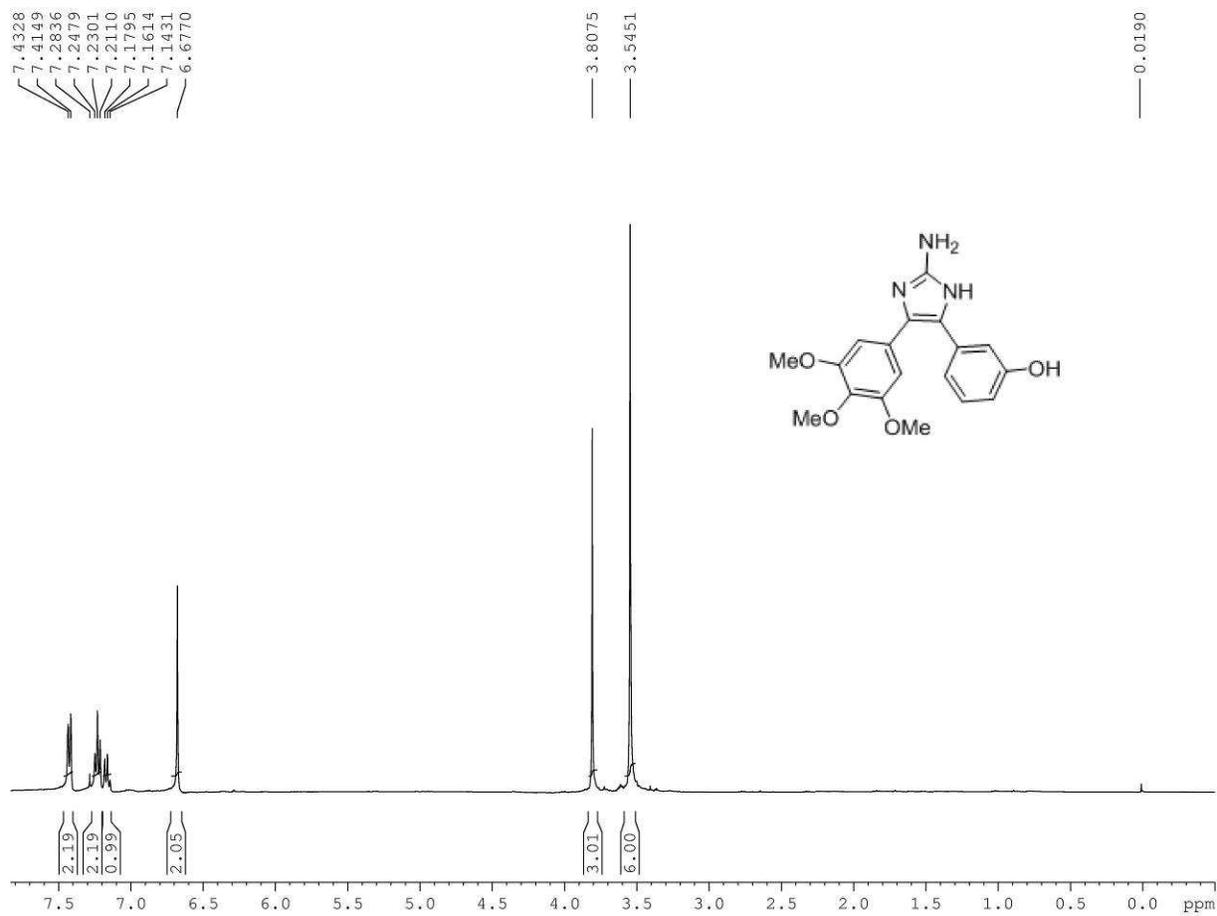
6: ¹H NMR



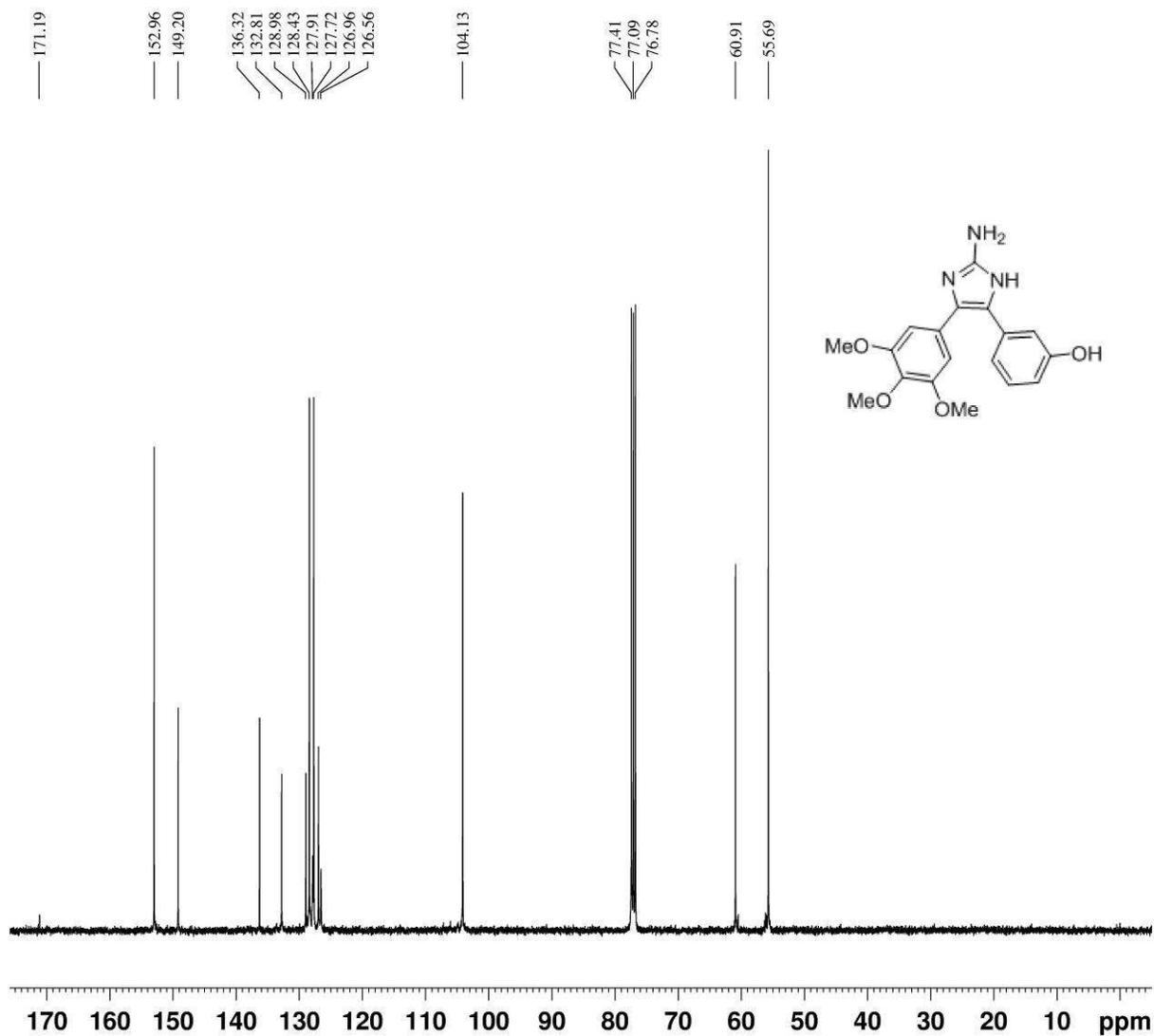
6: ^{13}C NMR



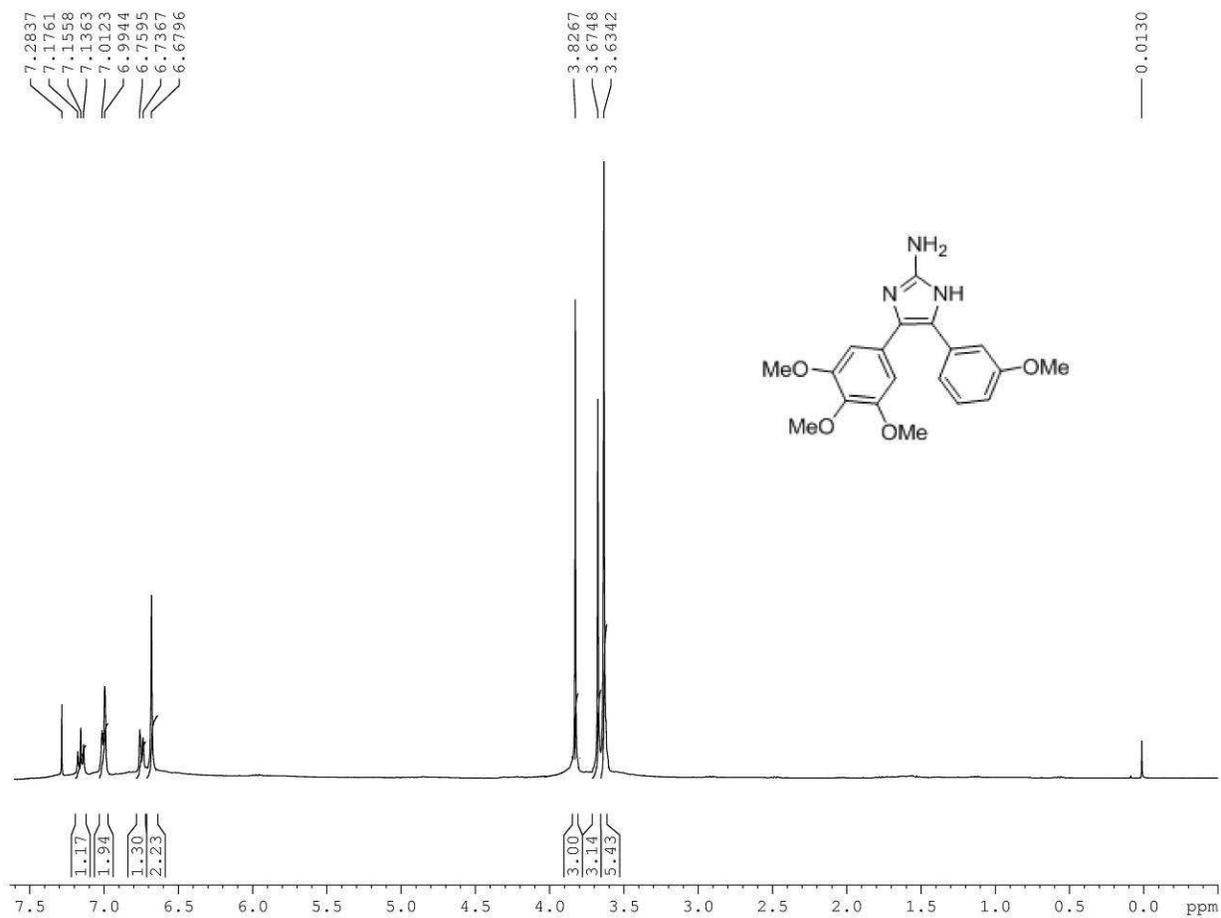
7: ¹H NMR



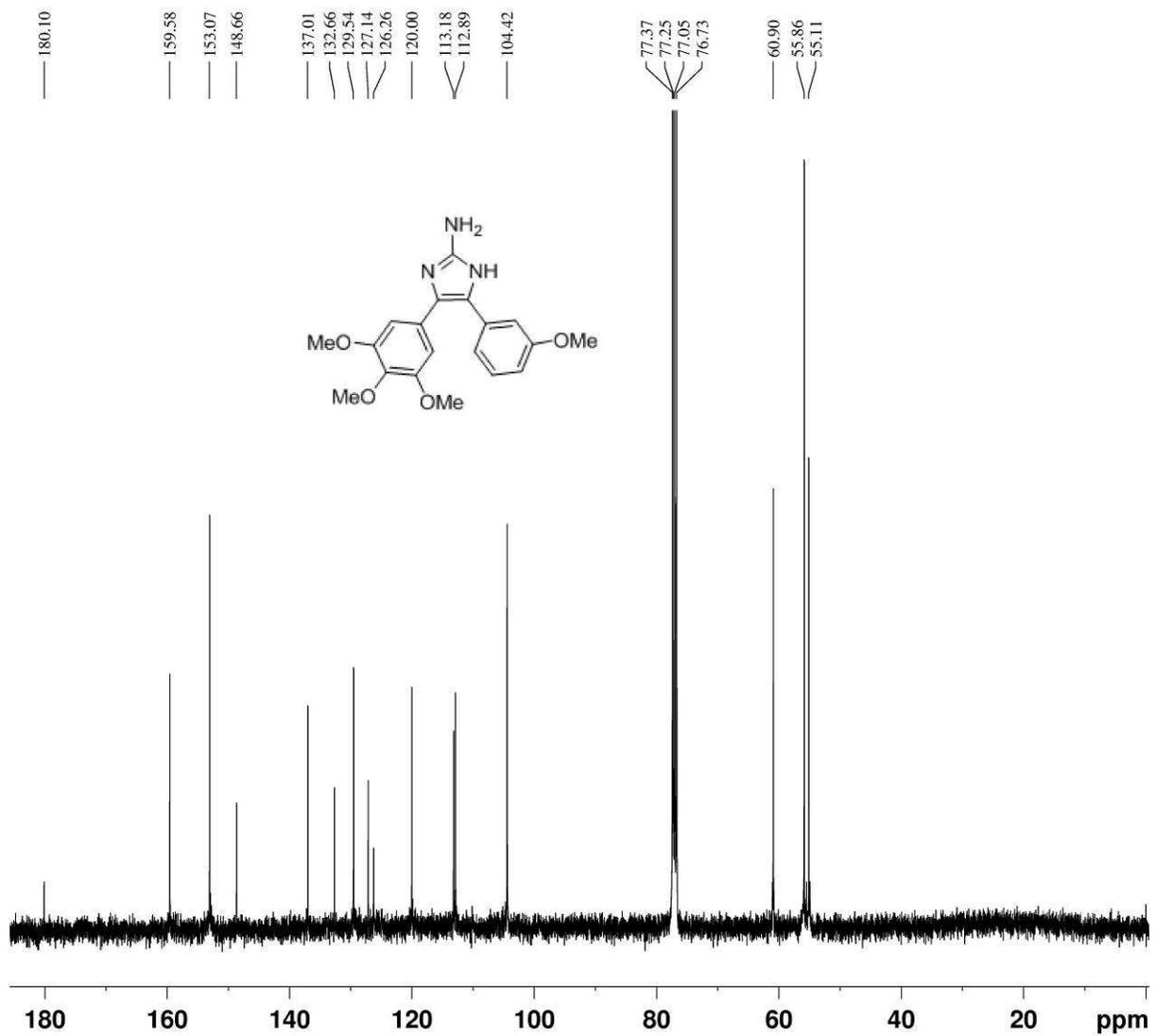
7: ¹³C NMR



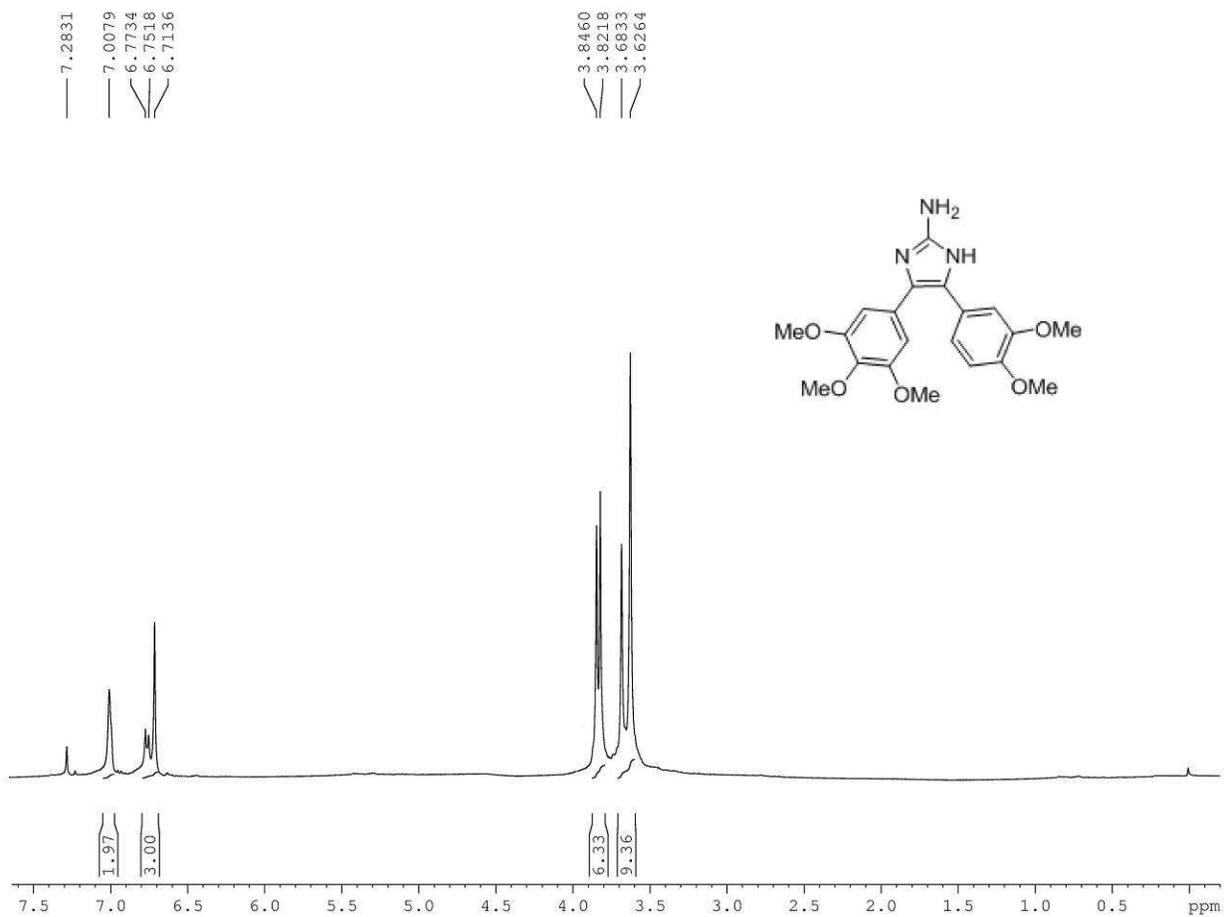
8: ¹H NMR



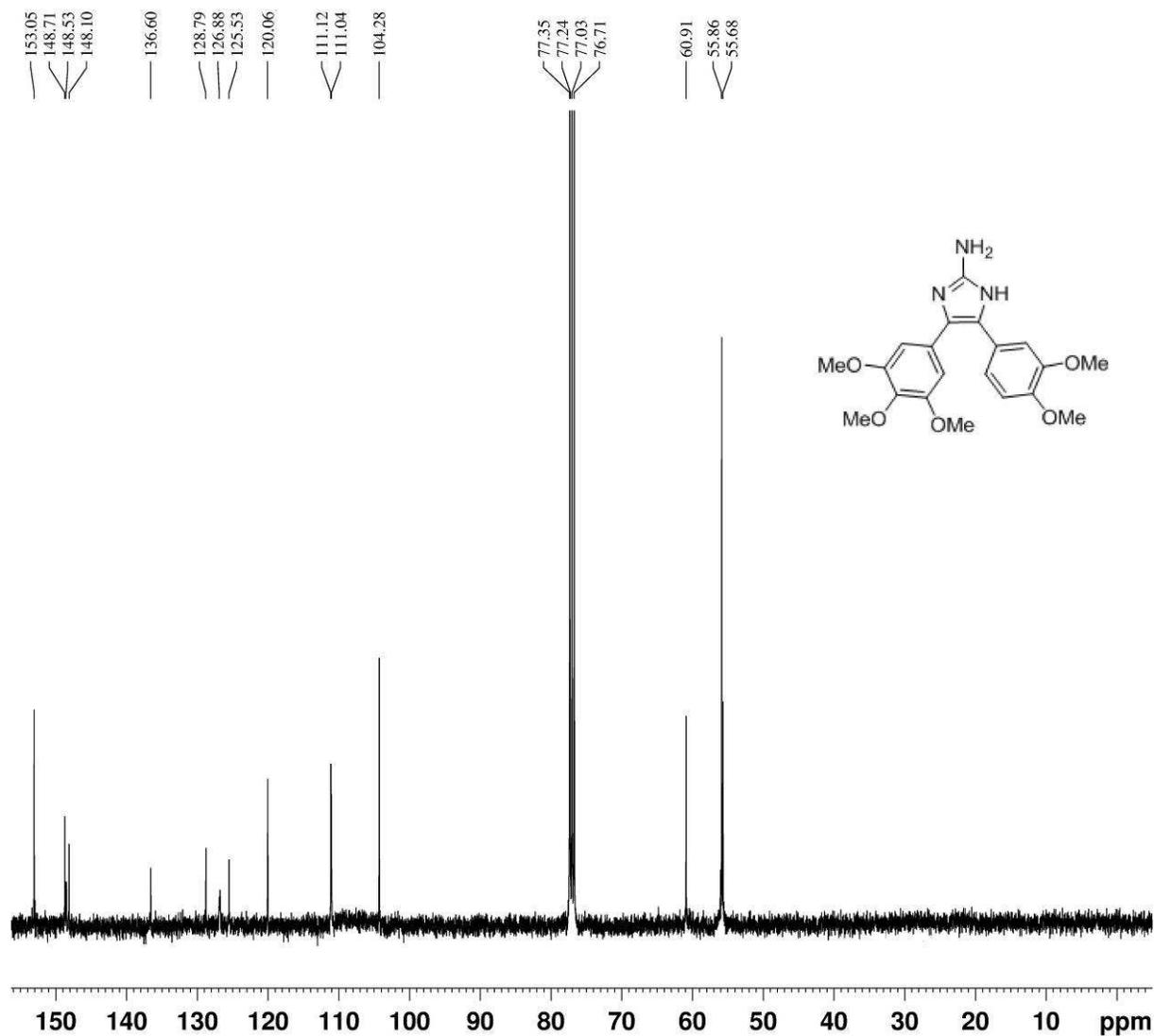
8: ¹³C NMR



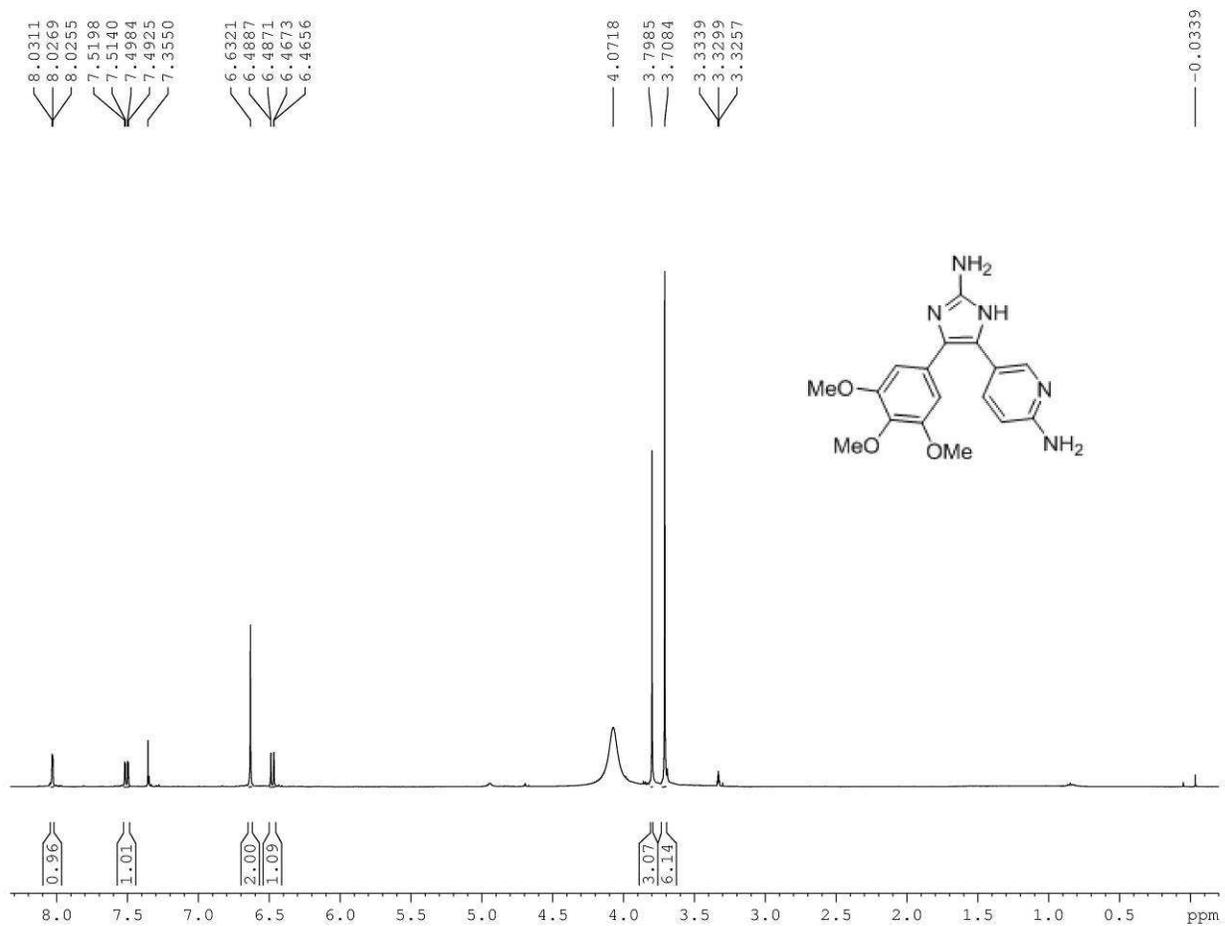
9: ¹H NMR



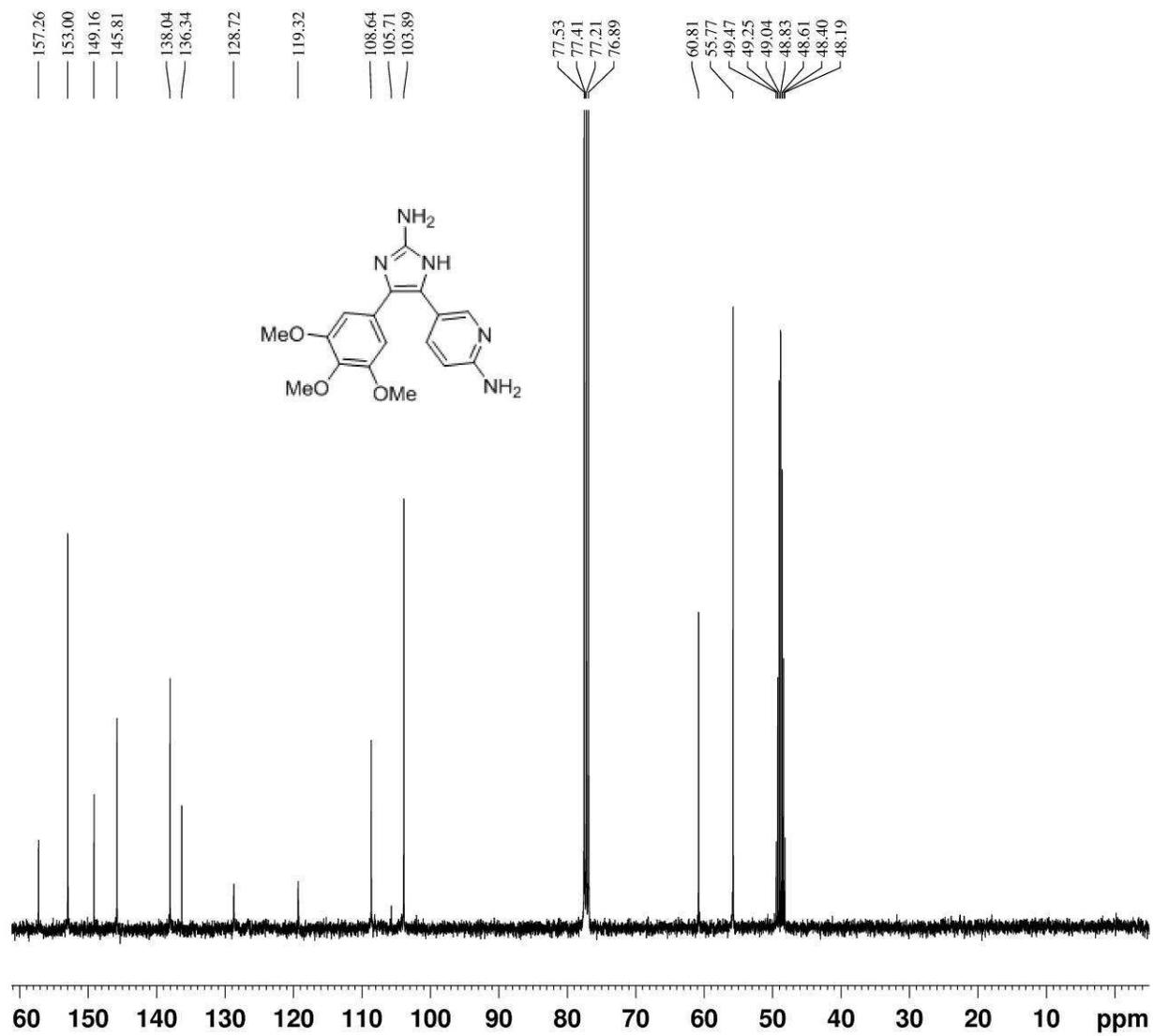
9: ¹³C NMR



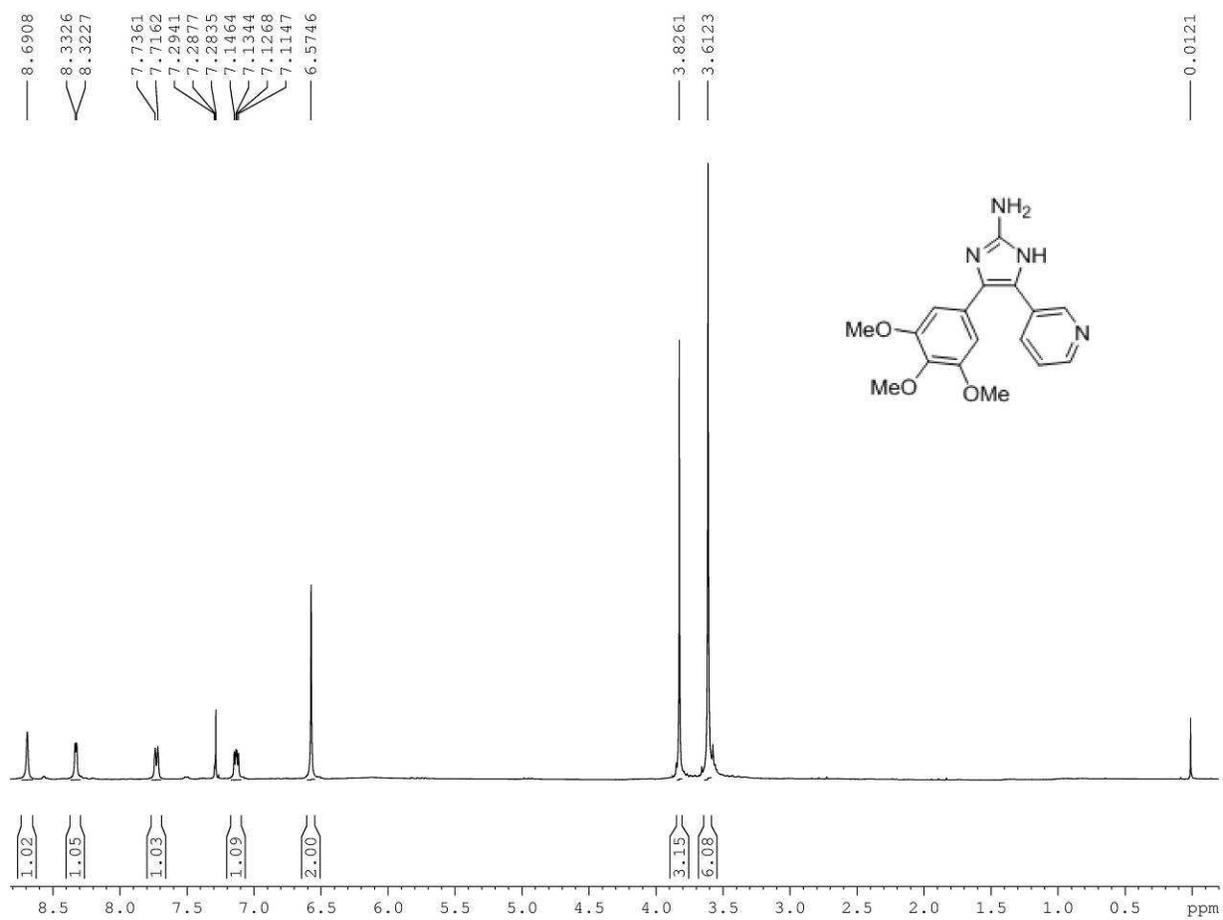
10: ^1H NMR



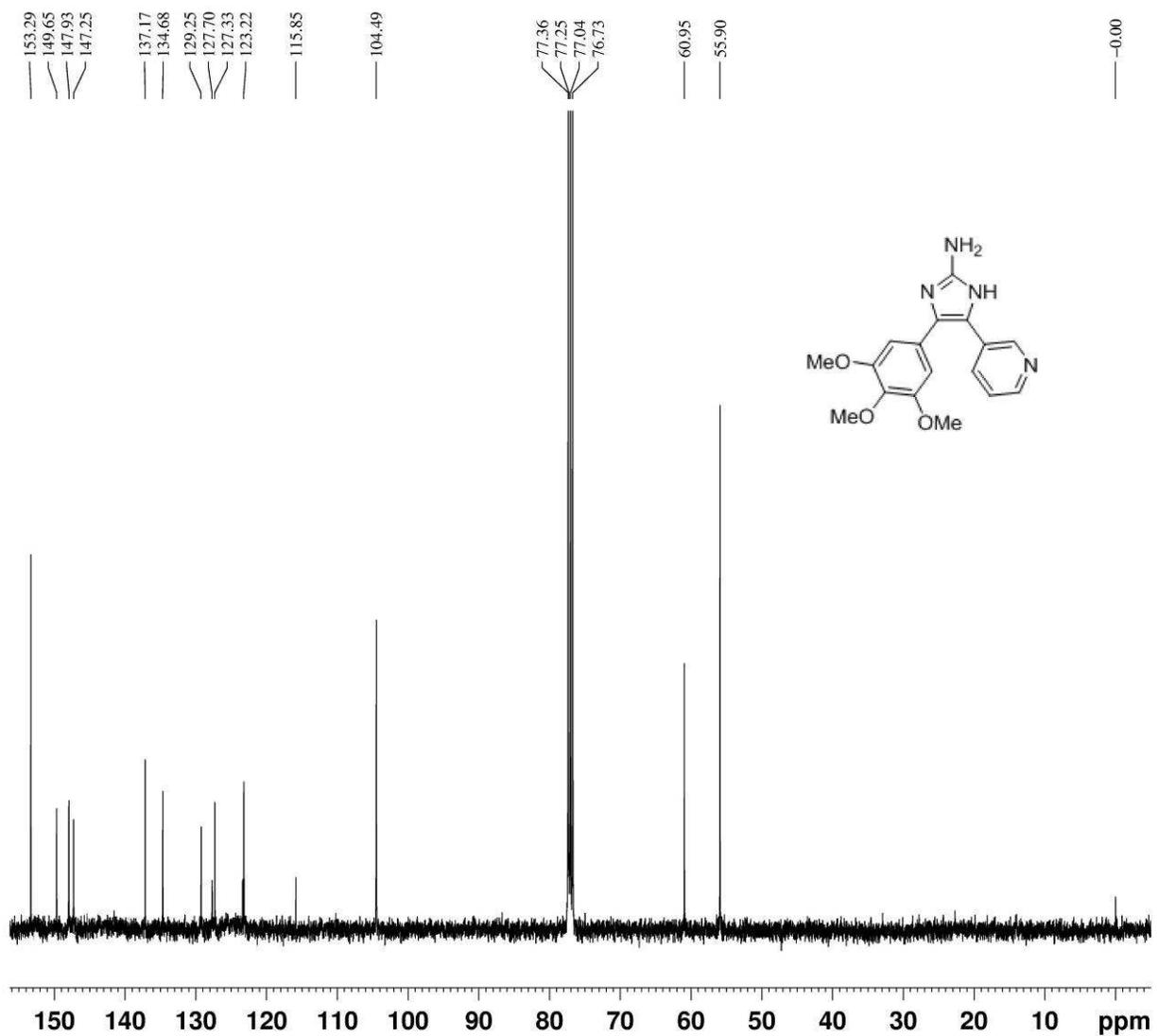
10: ^{13}C NMR



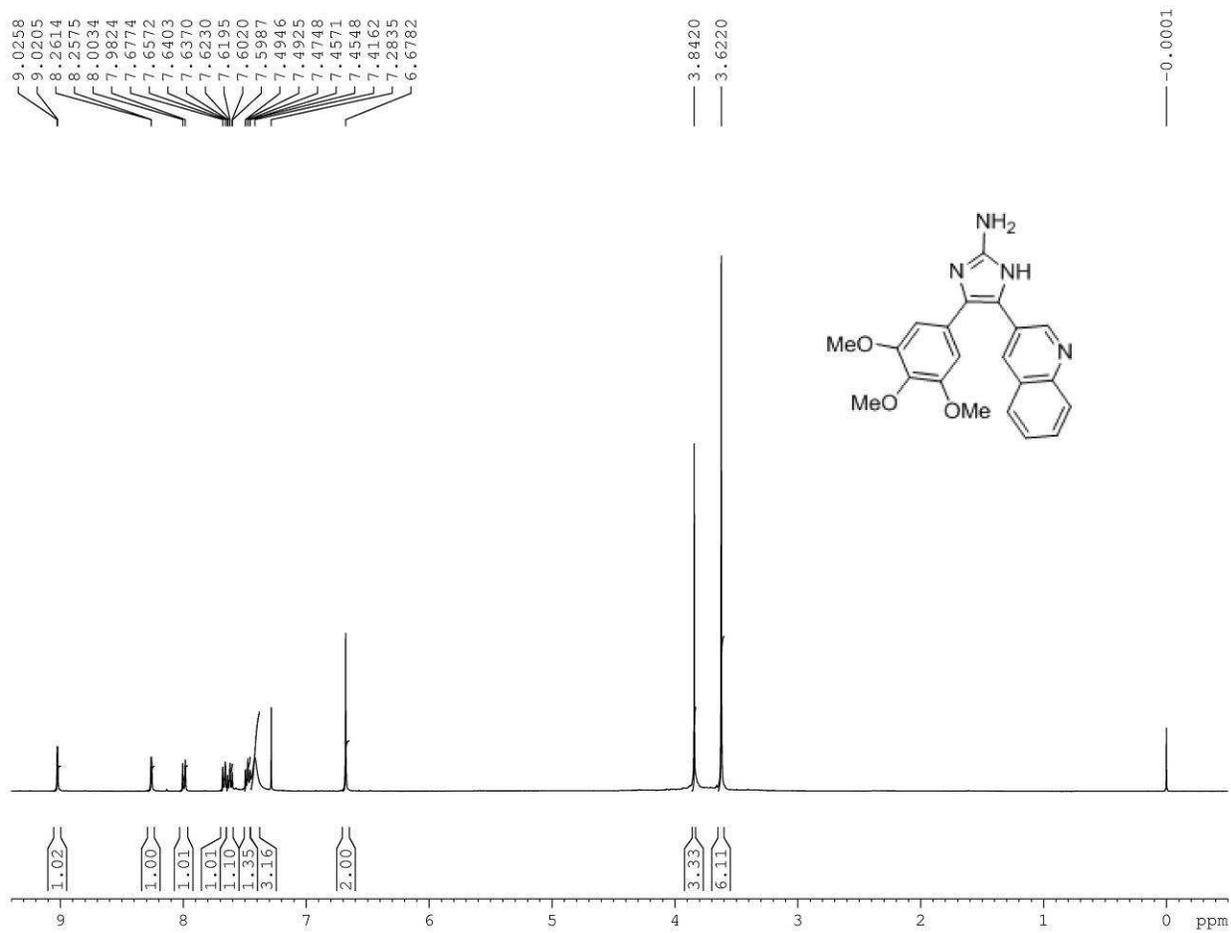
11: ^1H NMR



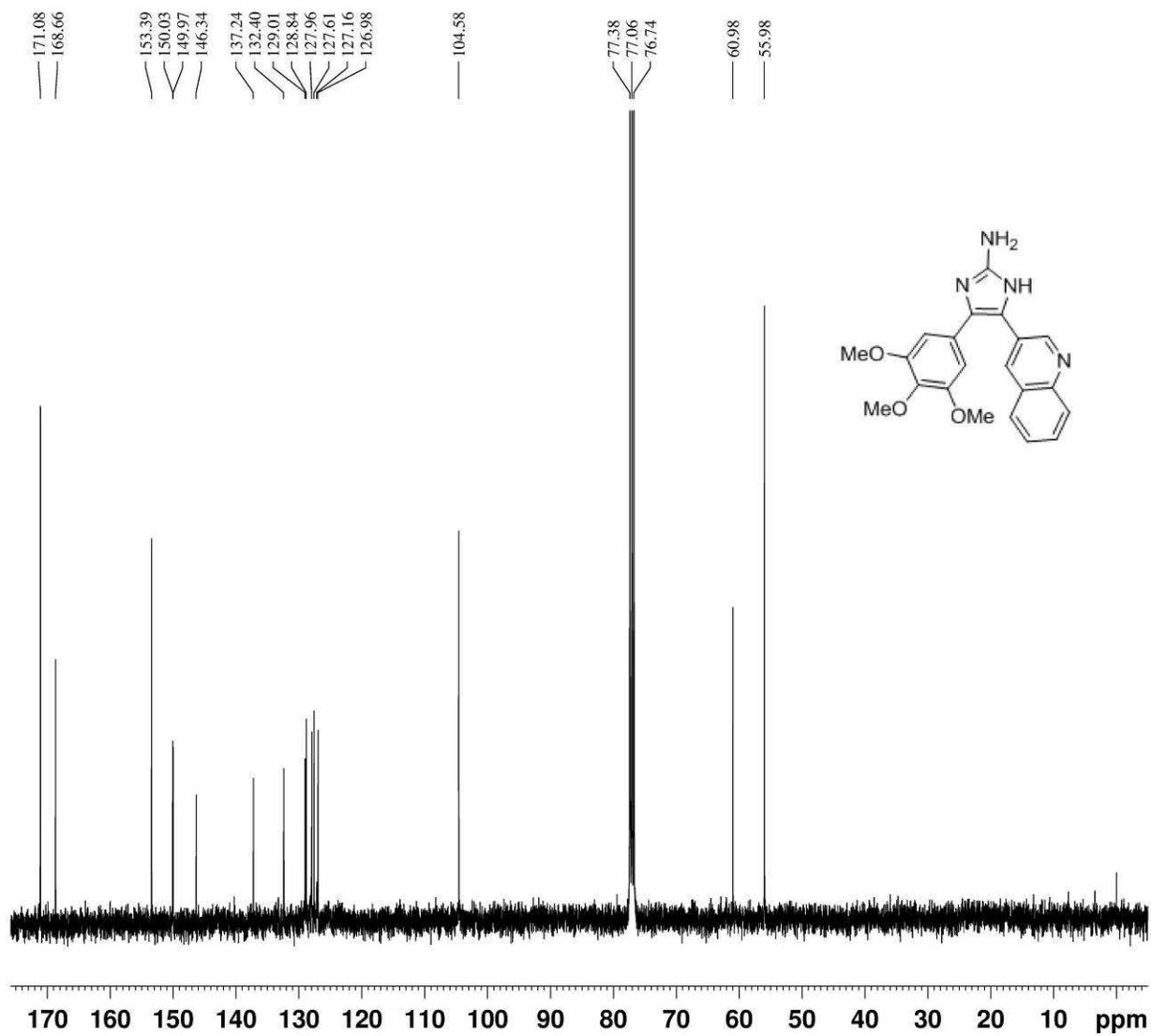
11: ^{13}C NMR



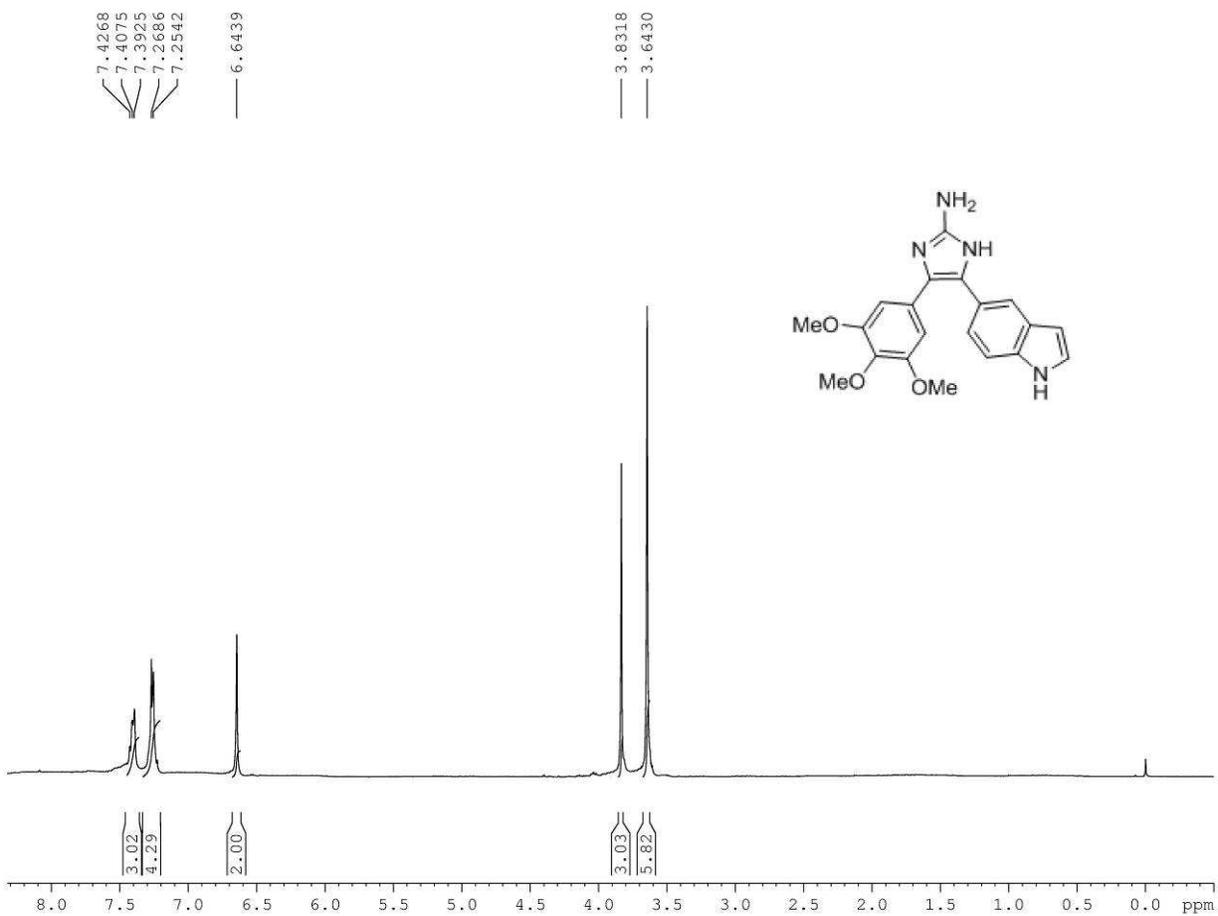
12: ¹H NMR



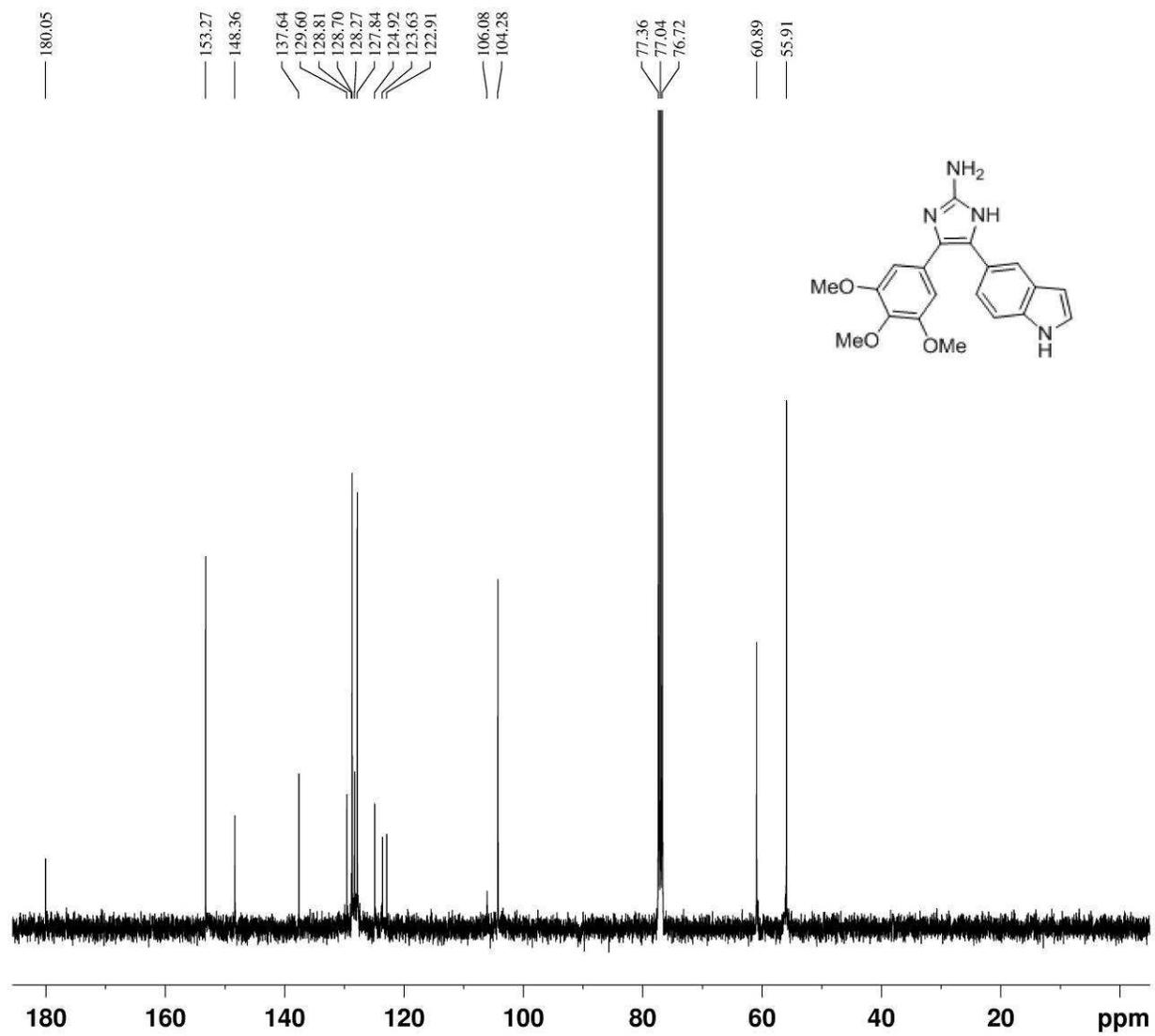
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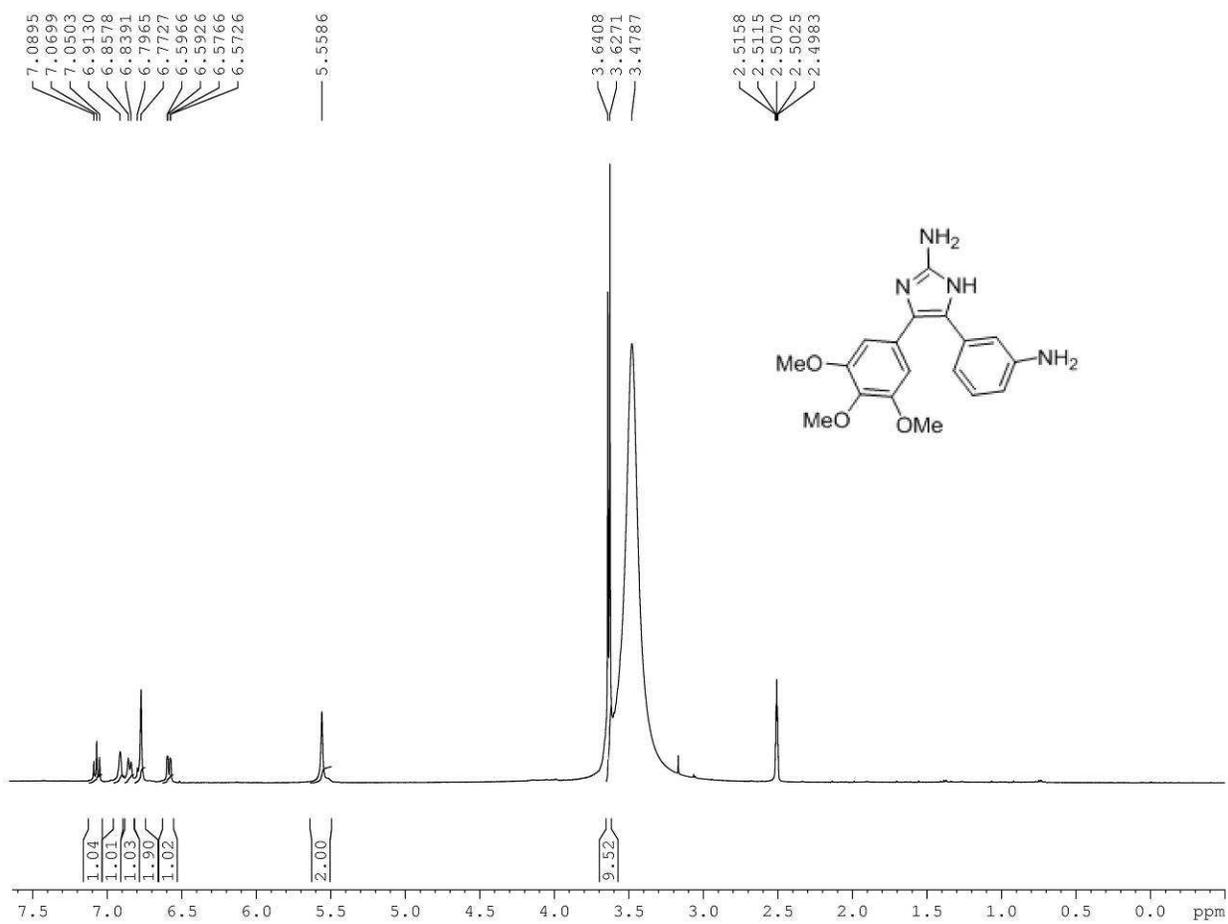
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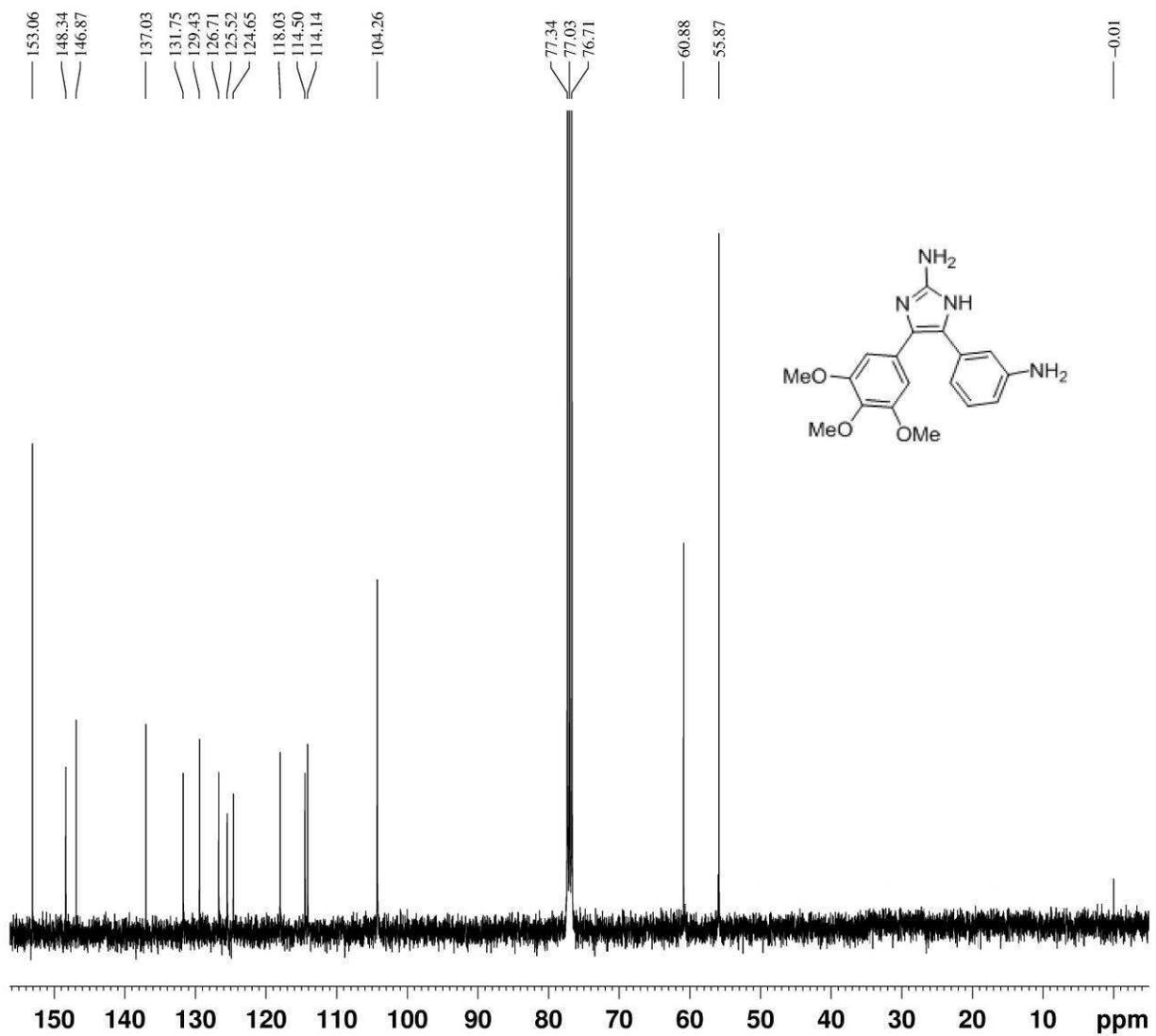
13: ¹³C NMR



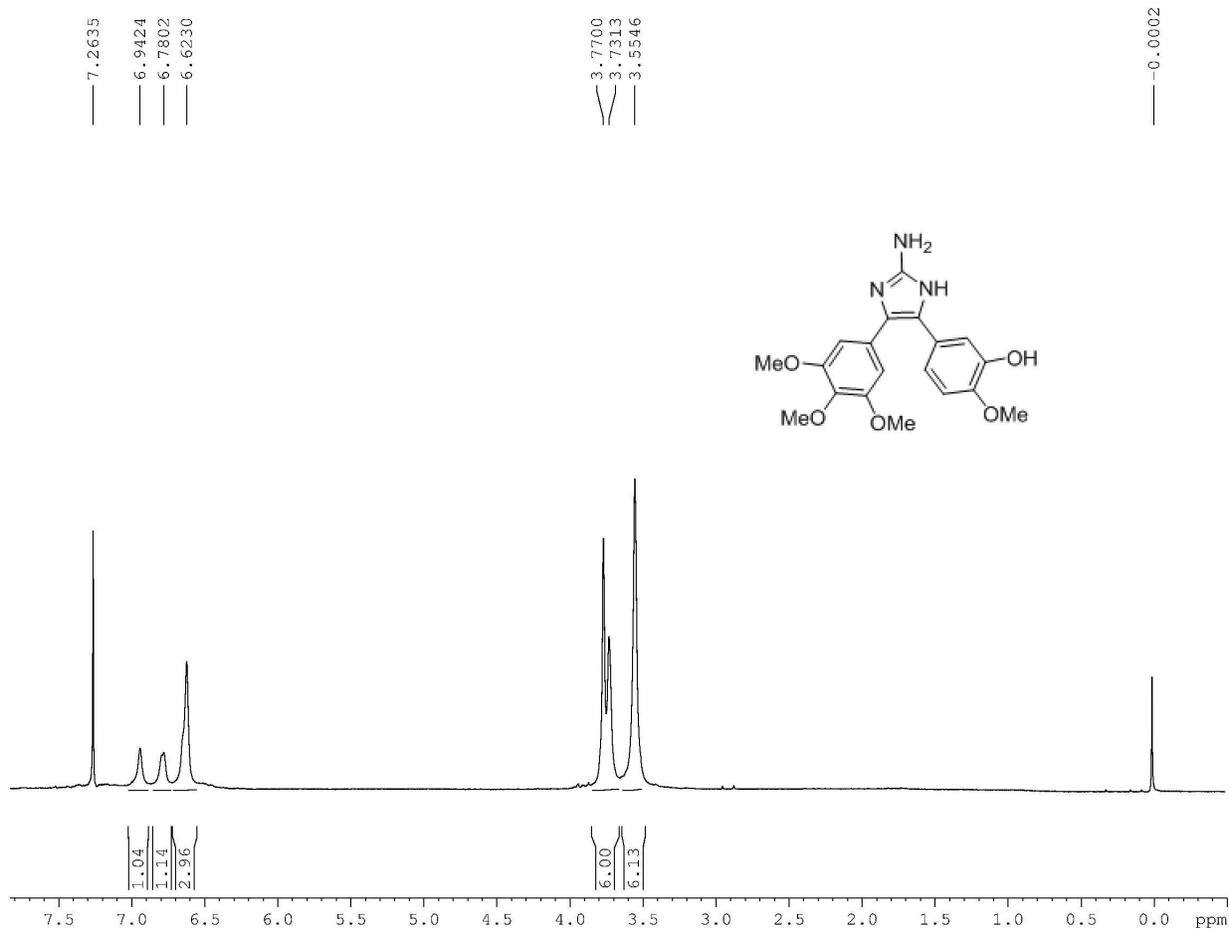
14: ¹H NMR



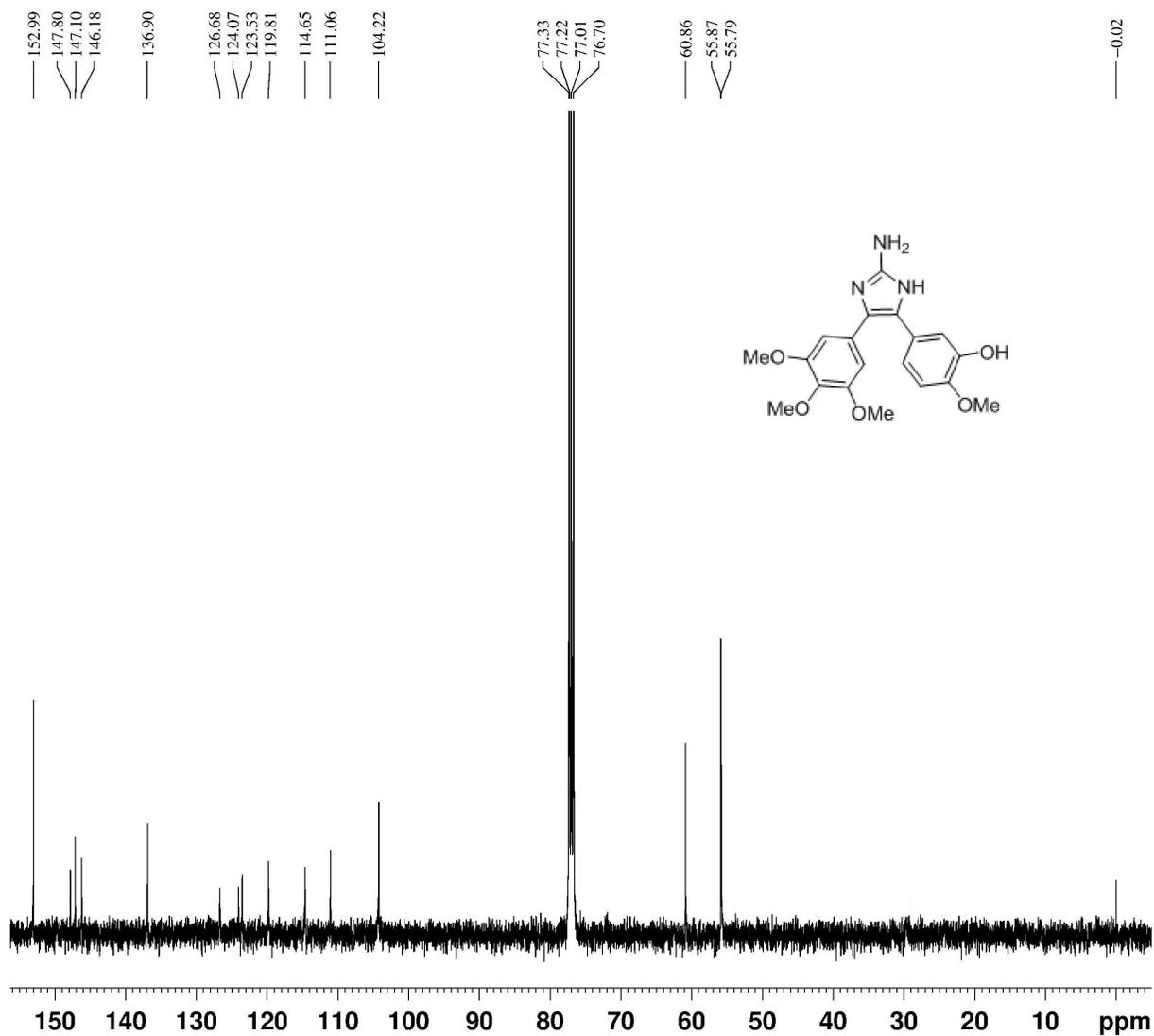
14: ^{13}C NMR

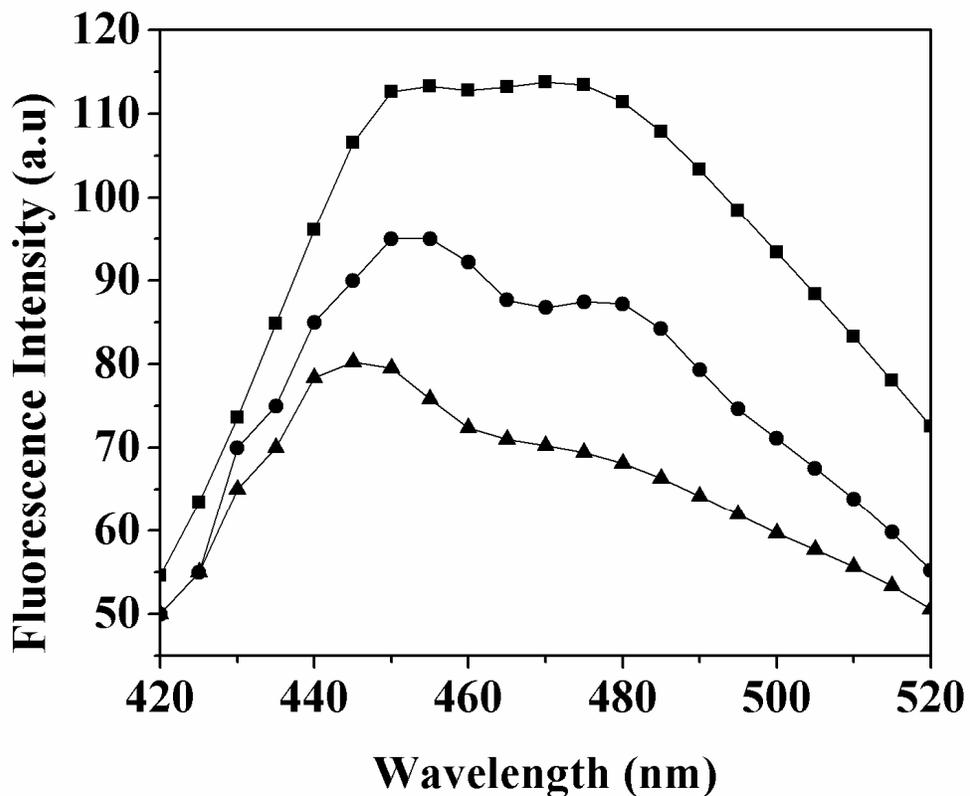


15: ^1H NMR

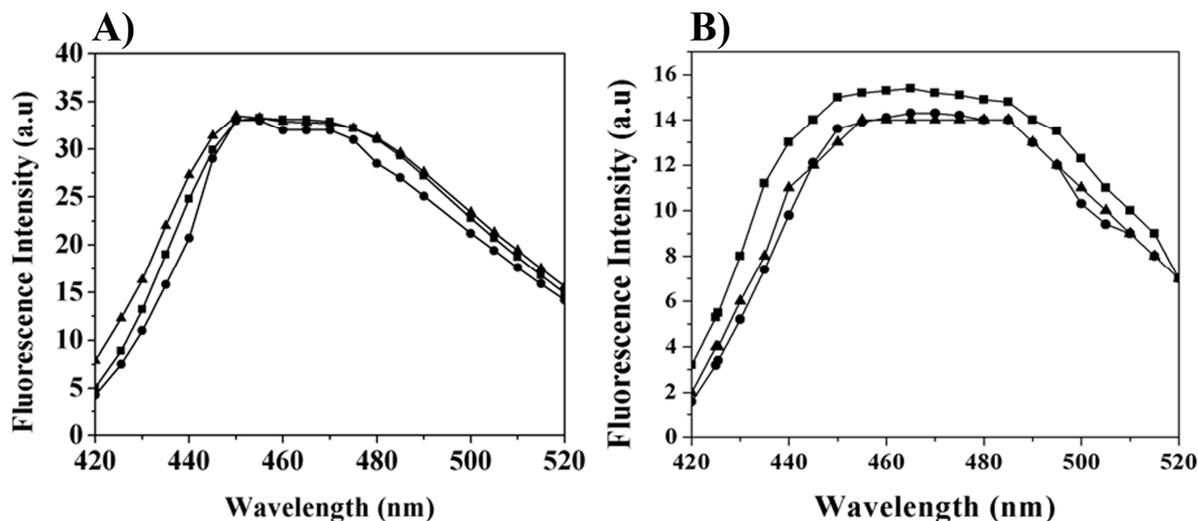


15: ^{13}C NMR





S1. Compound 12 binds to tubulin in a reversible manner. Tubulin (5 μM) was incubated with 10 μM Compound 12 (■) for 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was then incubated without or with 50 μM of CA-4 (●) and 50 μM of podophyllotoxin (▲) for further 30 minutes in 25 mM PIPES at 25 °C. The spectra of all the reaction mixtures are shown. Three sets of experiments were performed. One of the sets is shown.



S2. Effects of vinblastine and paclitaxel on the binding of compound 12 to tubulin. (A). Tubulin (3 μM) was incubated without (\blacktriangle) or with different concentrations of 10 μM (\bullet) and 30 μM (\blacksquare) of vinblastine in 25 mM PIPES for 10 min at 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Subsequently, the reaction mixtures were incubated with 6 μM compound 12 for another 10 min at 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. An appropriate blank spectrum of 6 μM compound 12 was subtracted from all spectra. Three sets of experiments were performed. One of the sets is shown. (B). Tubulin (3 μM) was incubated without (\blacksquare) or with different concentrations of 10 μM (\bullet) and 30 μM (\blacktriangle) of paclitaxel in 25 mM PIPES for 10 min at 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Subsequently, the reaction mixtures were incubated with 6 μM compound 12 for another 10 min at 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.