

# Direct Formation of Oxocarbenium Ions under Weakly Acidic Conditions: Catalytic Enantioselective Oxa-Pictet–Spengler Reactions

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## Supporting Information

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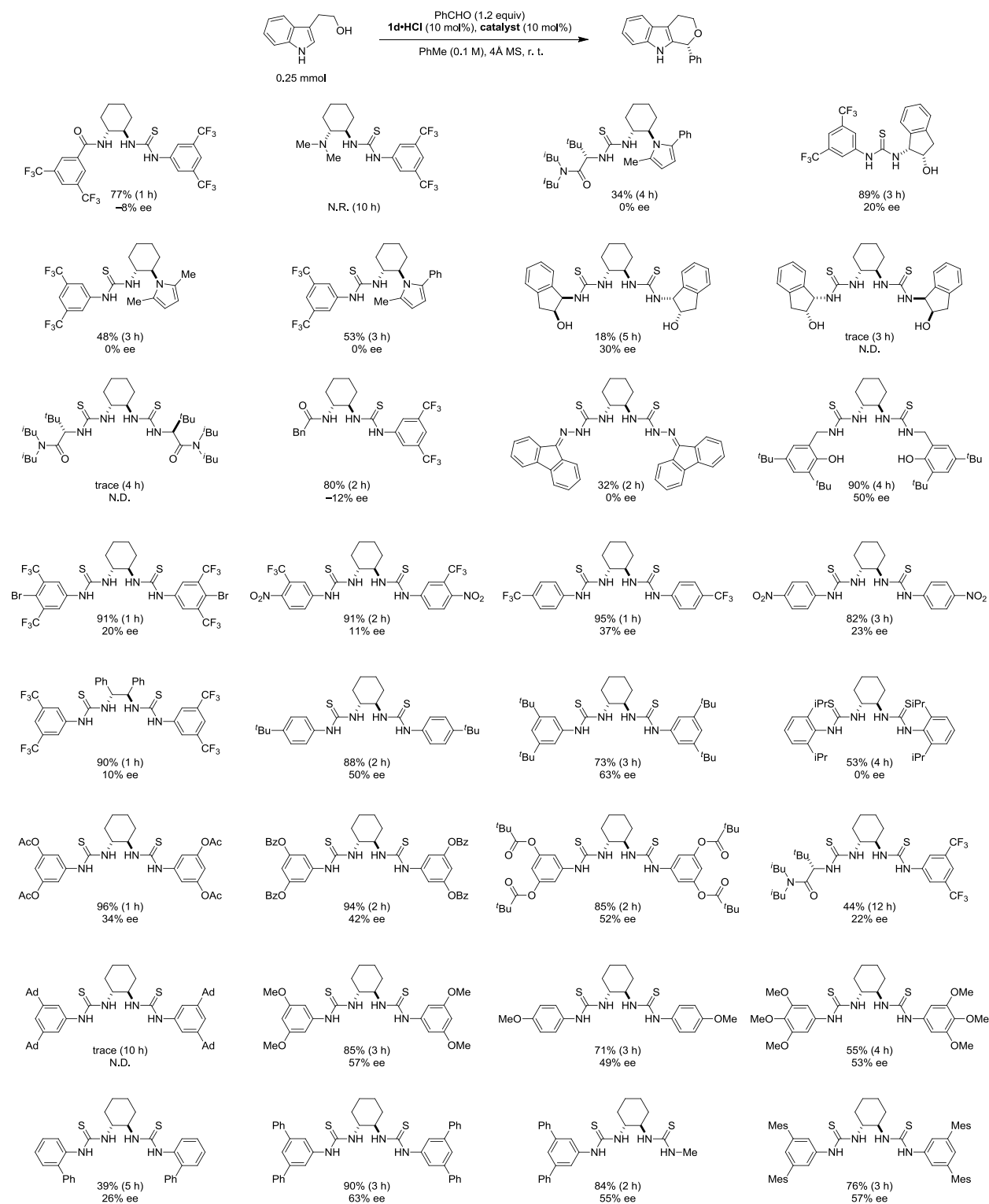
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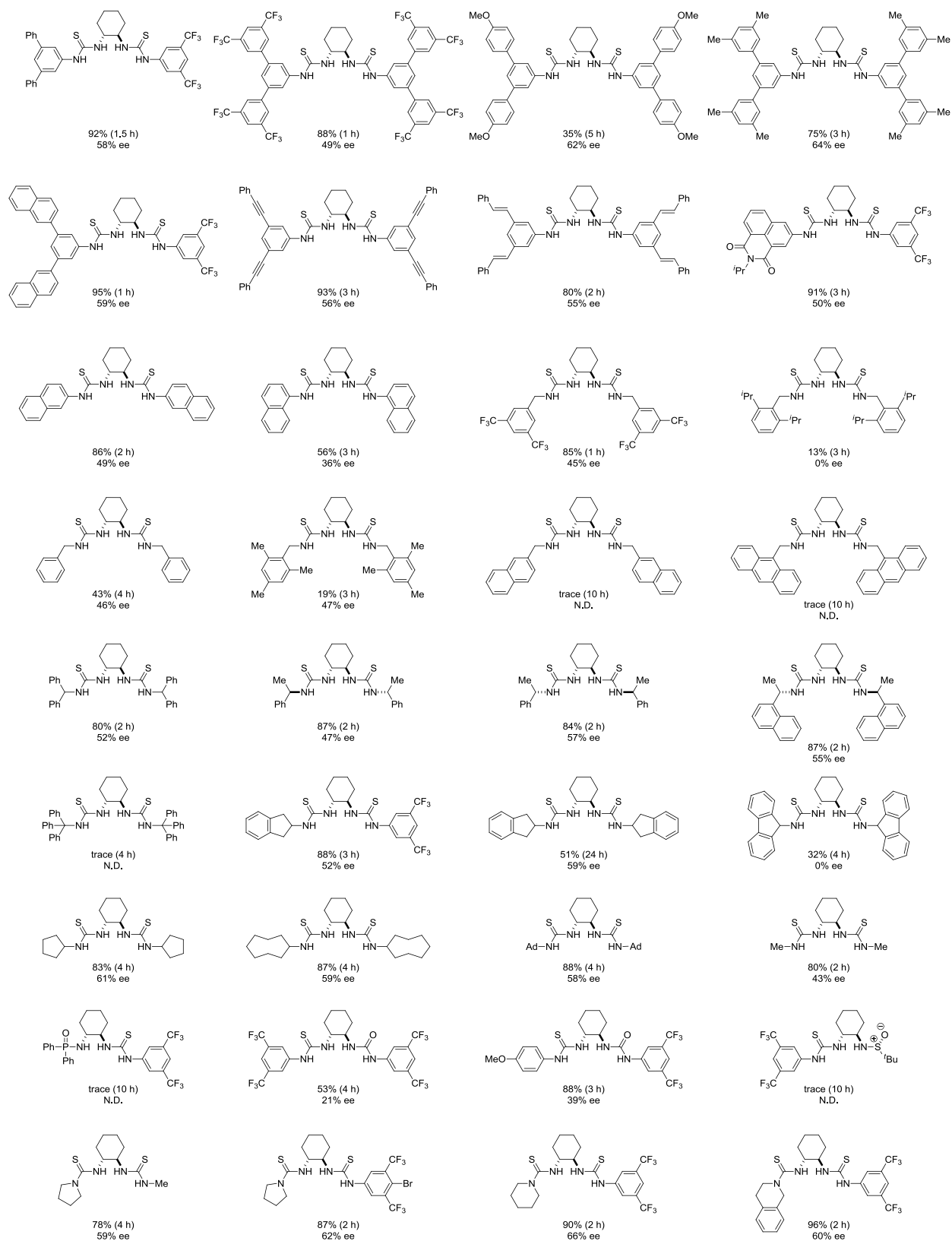
## I. General information:

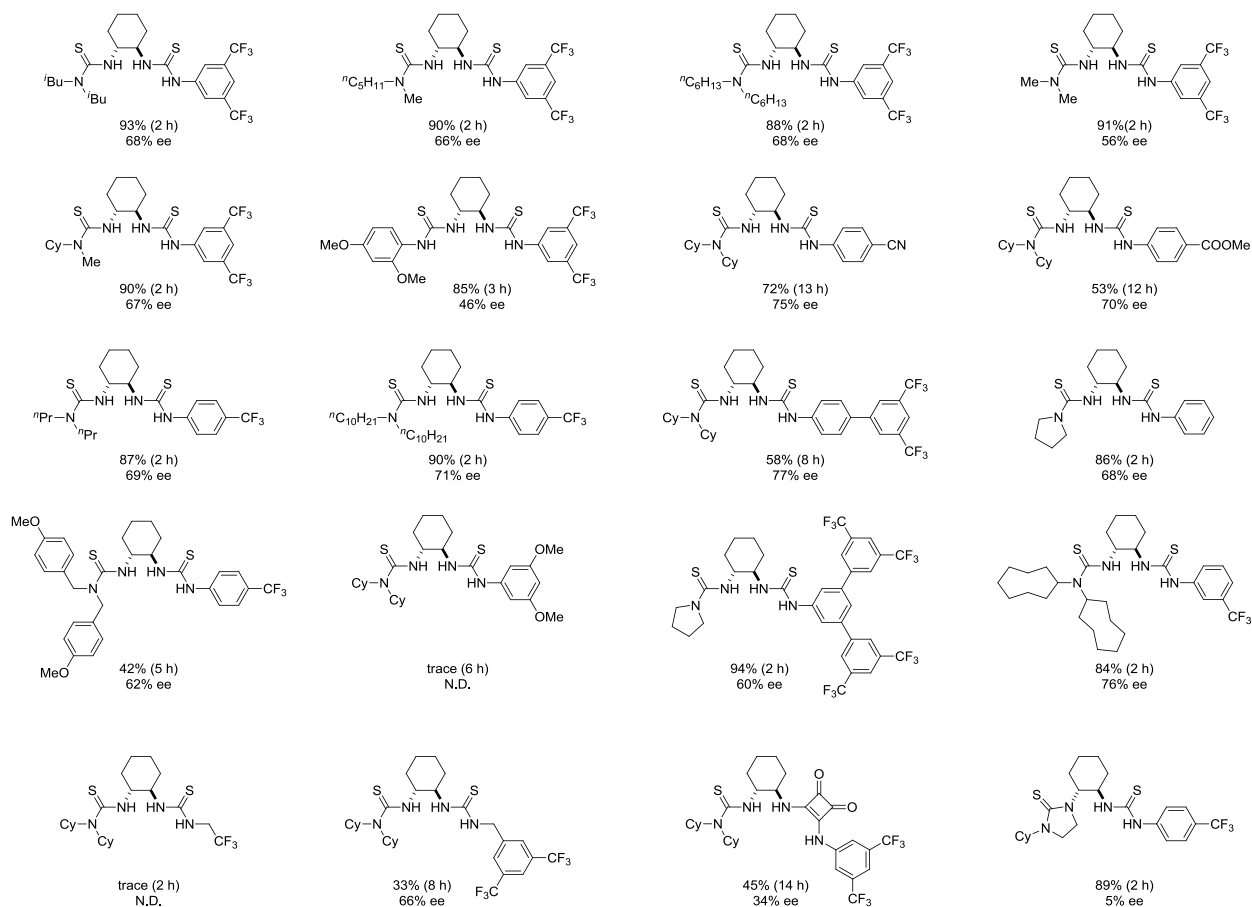
Reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and were purified by distillation or recrystallization prior to use. Toluene was freshly distilled from sodium under nitrogen prior to use. Reactions were run under a nitrogen atmosphere. Purification of reaction products was carried out by flash column chromatography using EM Reagent silica gel 60 (230–400 mesh). Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on EM Reagent 0.25 mm silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> plates. Visualization was accomplished with UV light, and potassium permanganate or Dragendorff-Munier stains, followed by heating. Melting points were recorded on a Thomas Hoover capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Infrared spectra were recorded on an ATI Mattson Genesis Series FT-Infrared spectrophotometer. Proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (<sup>1</sup>H-NMR) were recorded on a Varian VNMRS-500 MHz instrument and are reported in ppm using solvent as an internal standard (CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 7.26 ppm, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO at 2.50 ppm, CD<sub>3</sub>OD at 3.31 ppm). Data are reported as app = apparent, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = doublet of doublets, ddd = doublet of doublet of doublets, dddd = doublet of doublet of doublet of doublets, m = multiplet, comp = complex; integration; coupling constant(s) in Hz. Proton-decoupled carbon nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (<sup>13</sup>C-NMR) were recorded on a Varian VNMRS-500 MHz instrument and are reported in ppm using solvent as an internal standard (CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 77.16 ppm, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO at 39.52 ppm, CD<sub>3</sub>OD at 49.00 ppm). Mass spectra were recorded on a Finnigan LCQ-DUO mass spectrometer. HPLC analysis was carried out on an Agilent 1100 series instrument with auto sampler and multiple wavelength detectors. Optical rotations were measured using a 1 mL cell with a 1 dm path length on a Jasco P-2000 polarimeter at 589 nm and at 20 °C. Compounds **1c**,<sup>1</sup> **1d**,<sup>2</sup> **1i**,<sup>3</sup> **2a**,<sup>4</sup> **2b**,<sup>5</sup> **2c**,<sup>6</sup> **2d**,<sup>7</sup> **2e**<sup>8</sup> were prepared according to reported procedures.

## II. Reaction optimization

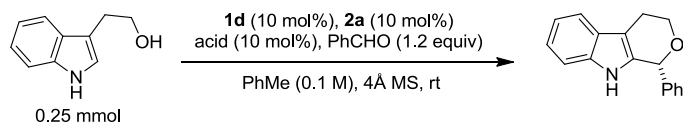
### Evaluation of other anion binding catalysts



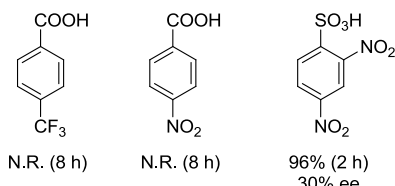




## Evaluation of other amine salts



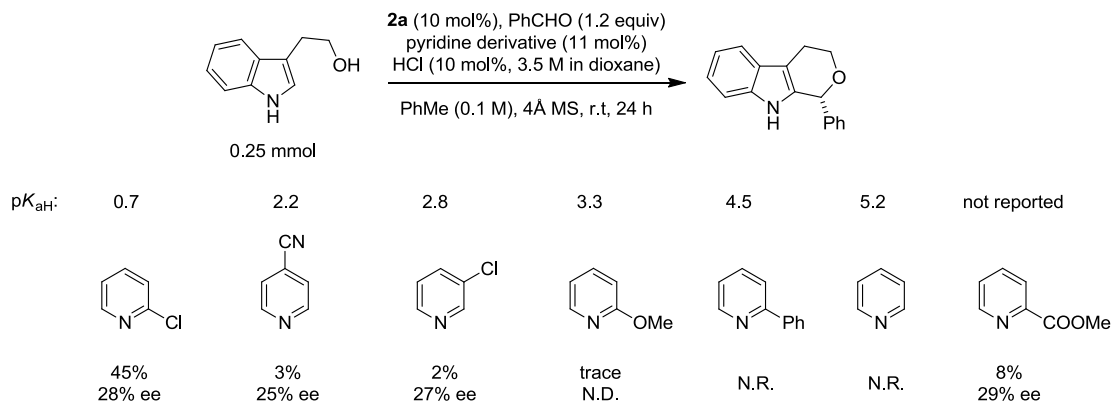
<i>p</i> -TSA	CHCl <sub>2</sub> COOH	CH <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> H	CBr <sub>3</sub> COOH
82% (1 h) 27% ee	6% (24 h) 36% ee	11% (16 h) 28% ee	63% (16 h) 34% ee



### III. Mechanistic studies

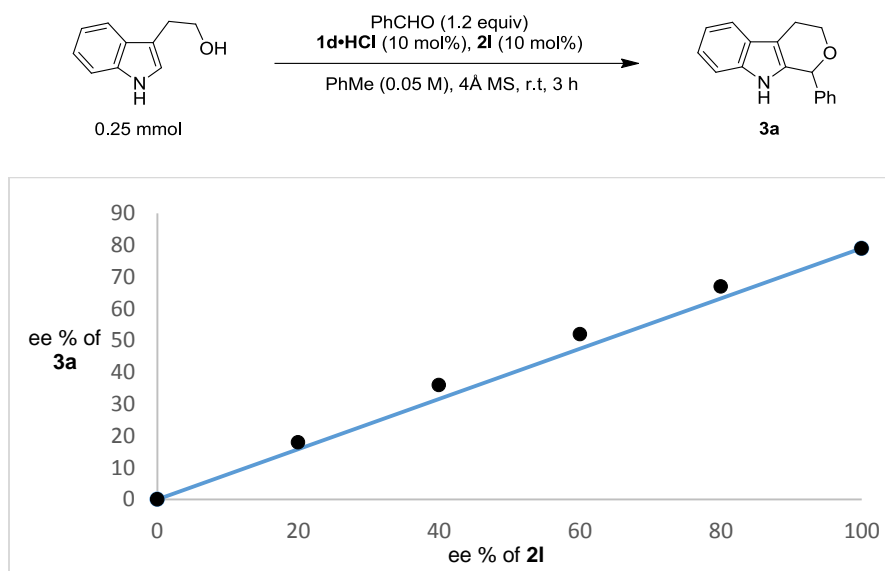
#### Evaluation of pyridinium salts with different $pK_a$ values<sup>9-12</sup>

To a flame dried vial was added the pyridine derivative (0.0275 mmol, 11 mol %), thiourea catalyst **2a** (16 mg, 0.025 mmol, 10 mol %), tryptophol (40 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1 equiv), 4Å MS (100 mg) and dry toluene (2.5 mL, 0.1 M). The resulting mixture was stirred under nitrogen and HCl (10 mol%, 3.5 M in dioxane) was added followed by benzaldehyde (30 µL, 0.3 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 24 hours before being quenched with triethylamine (40 µL). The resulting mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel topped with Celite.



#### Nonlinear effects study

Following general procedure **C** for the enantioselective oxa-Pictet–Spengler reaction (see below), the reaction was set up using catalyst **2l** with 0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, > 99% ee at room temperature.



## IV. Synthesis of catalysts

### General procedure A for the synthesis of amine salts

To a solution of the corresponding amine (5.33 mmol, 1 equiv) in diethyl ether (10.7 mL, 0.5 M) was added HCl (4 M in dioxane, 1.33 mL, 5.33 mmol, 1 equiv) and the resulting mixture was stirred vigorously for 10 min. After filtration, the solid was washed with cold ( $\sim 0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) diethyl ether (3 $\times$ 5 mL) and dried under vacuum to afford the amine salt.

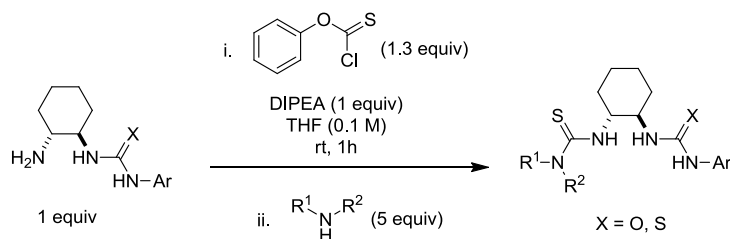
**(S)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)indolin-1-ium chloride (1d $\cdot$ HCl):** Following general procedure A, **1d $\cdot$ HCl** was obtained as a white solid in 95% yield; mp = 161–163  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} -73.2$  (c 0.5,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ); IR (KBr) 3119, 3054, 2957, 2359, 1741, 1506, 1391, 1236, 1143, 1021, 860, 758, 420  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ )  $\delta$  10.61 (br s, 3H, contains water), 7.28 (app d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.22 (app td,  $J = 7.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.17–7.05 (comp, 2H), 4.78 (dd,  $J = 9.8, 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.44 (dd,  $J = 16.2, 9.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd,  $J = 16.2, 6.9$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ )  $\delta$  170.56, 141.63, 131.11, 127.96, 125.25, 125.02, 115.68, 58.98, 52.78, 32.73;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 178.1  $[\text{M} - \text{Cl}]^+$ .

**(2S)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-1-methylindolin-1-ium chloride (1i $\cdot$ HCl):** Following general procedure A, **1i $\cdot$ HCl** was obtained as a white solid in 70% yield; mp = 101–103  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} -58.3$  (c 0.5, MeOH); IR (KBr) 3400, 2904, 1738, 1486, 1428, 1368, 1343, 1251, 1128, 995, 825, 803, 763, 605, 513, 428  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ )  $\delta$  9.83 (br s, 2H, contains water), 7.07–6.93 (comp, 2H), 6.60 (app td,  $J = 7.4, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.49 (app d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.14 (dd,  $J = 10.1, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.30 (dd,  $J = 16.0, 10.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd,  $J = 15.9, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.75 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ )  $\delta$  172.52, 151.98, 127.57, 126.89, 123.89, 117.67, 106.67, 66.72, 51.90, 34.39, 32.75;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 192.1  $[\text{M} - \text{Cl}]^+$ .

**(S)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)indolin-1-ium bromide (1d $\cdot$ HBr):** Following general procedure A, except for using HBr (48% in water), **1d $\cdot$ HBr** was obtained as a white solid in 77% yield; mp = 172–174  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} -50.7$  (c 0.5, MeOH); IR (KBr) 3092, 3054, 2997, 2954, 2587, 2514, 1738, 1503, 1378, 1348, 1231, 1020, 860, 753  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ) 7.54–7.49 (comp, 3H), 7.49–7.44 (m, 1H), 5.13 (dd,  $J = 9.5, 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.73 (dd,  $J = 16.5, 9.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.54 (dd,  $J = 16.3, 7.3$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  169.91, 136.81, 134.85, 131.27, 130.04, 127.32, 120.19, 61.28, 54.18, 33.93;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 178.2  $[\text{M} - \text{Br}]^+$ .

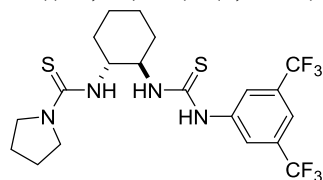
**(S)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)indolin-1-ium iodide (1d $\cdot$ HI):** Following general procedure A, except for using HI (57% in water), **1d $\cdot$ HI** was obtained as a yellow solid in 87% yield; mp = 145–147  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} -39.8$  (c 0.5, MeOH); IR (KBr) 3417, 3379, 2942, 2914, 2464, 1756, 1428, 1351, 1283, 1246, 1208, 1161, 1001, 763  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ )  $\delta$  7.14 (app d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.07 (app td,  $J = 7.8, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.86–6.78 (comp, 2H), 6.50 (br s, 4H, contains water), 4.60 (dd,  $J = 10.2, 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.37 (dd,  $J = 16.2, 10.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dd,  $J = 16.2, 6.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ )  $\delta$  172.51, 146.54, 128.44, 127.62, 124.66, 121.03, 111.73, 59.18, 52.34, 32.99;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 178.4  $[\text{M} - \text{I}]^+$ .

## General procedure B for the synthesis of thiourea catalysts



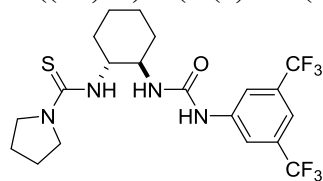
To a solution of amino(thio)urea<sup>13,14</sup> (0.39 mmol, 1 equiv) in dry THF (3.9 mL, 0.1 M) was added *o*-phenyl chlorothionoformate (70  $\mu$ L, 0.51 mmol, 1.3 equiv) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (68  $\mu$ L, 0.39 mmol, 1 equiv). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, followed by addition of the amine (1.95 mmol, 5 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for the indicated time. Subsequently, saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 $\times$ 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The resulting solution was then concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel.

### *N*-((1*R*,2*R*)-2-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thioureido)cyclohexyl)pyrrolidine-1-carbothioamide (**2f**):



Following general procedure **B**, the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours and **2f** was isolated as a white solid in 88% yield; mp = 171–173 °C; *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.30 (Hexanes/EtOAc 70:30 v/v); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> +68.2 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr) 3246, 3048, 2938, 2861, 1545, 1385, 1277, 1178, 1132, 971, 885, 681 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.56 (s, 1H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (s, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.73–4.60 (m, 1H), 4.07–3.82 (comp, 2H), 3.65–3.42 (comp, 2H), 3.42–3.25 (m, 1H), 2.72–2.58 (m, 1H), 2.28–2.16 (m, 1H), 2.13–1.72 (comp, 6H), 1.73–1.61 (m, 1H), 1.51–1.37 (m, 1H), 1.37–1.17 (comp, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  181.42, 175.90, 140.77, 131.79 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 33.5 Hz), 123.23 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 272.8 Hz), 122.25, 117.62, 62.38, 56.43, 52.58, 48.57, 32.77, 32.74, 26.03, 25.07, 24.77, 24.54; *m/z* (ESI-MS) 497.1 [M – H]<sup>–</sup>.

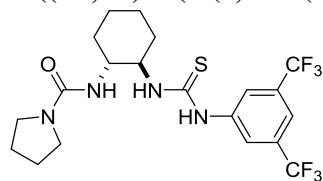
### *N*-((1*R*,2*R*)-2-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ureido)cyclohexyl)pyrrolidine-1-carbothioamide (**2g**):



Following general procedure **B**, the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours and **2g** was isolated as a white solid in 66% yield; mp > 200 °C; *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.28 (Hexanes/EtOAc 70:30 v/v); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> +31.9 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr) 3349, 3307, 3282, 3207, 3087, 2938, 1697, 1571, 1474, 1391, 1275, 1186, 1130, 1023, 895, 870, 703, 673 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.56 (s, 1H), 8.00 (s, 2H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.14–3.92 (m, 1H), 3.91–3.71 (comp, 2H), 3.66–3.50 (m, 1H), 3.49–3.28 (comp, 2H), 2.69–2.58 (m, 1H), 2.21–2.14 (m, 1H), 2.14–1.96 (m, 1H), 1.95–1.75 (comp, 5H), 1.64–1.52 (m, 1H), 1.47–1.37 (m, 1H), 1.37–1.24 (m, 1H), 1.23–1.10 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  176.22, 156.72, 141.52, 132.25 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 33.2 Hz), 123.39 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 272.7 Hz), 117.48, 115.03, 62.88, 53.01, 52.36, 47.42, 32.74, 32.63, 25.77, 25.31, 24.79, 24.58; *m/z* (ESI-MS) 481.2 [M – H]<sup>–</sup>.

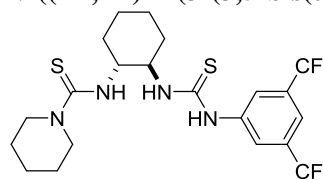


***N*-((1*R*,2*R*)-2-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thioureido)cyclohexyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxamide**



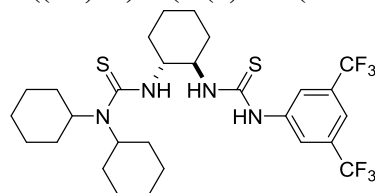
**(2h):** Following general procedure **B**, except for using phenyl chloroformate, the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 days and **2h** was isolated as a white solid in 44% yield; mp = 188–190 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.18 (Hexanes/EtOAc 40:60 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  +41.7 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr) 3300, 3097, 2938, 2859, 1618, 1535, 1474, 1396, 1278, 1181, 1131, 968, 880, 678 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.74 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d,  $J$  = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (s, 2H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 5.00 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.69–4.54 (m, 1H), 3.68–3.58 (m, 1H), 3.46–3.30 (comp, 2H), 3.21–3.02 (comp, 2H), 2.28–2.18 (m, 1H), 2.14–2.05 (m, 1H), 1.98–1.67 (comp, 6H), 1.55–1.28 (comp, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  182.08, 157.40, 141.11, 131.53 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 33.4 Hz), 124.27, 123.26 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 271.3 Hz), 117.87, 57.39, 56.25, 46.33, 33.77, 32.65, 25.34, 24.94;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 481.2 [M – H]<sup>-</sup>.

***N*-((1*R*,2*R*)-2-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thioureido)cyclohexyl)piperidine-1-carbothioamide**



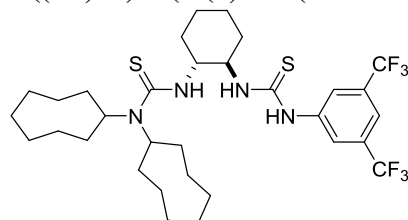
**(2i):** Following general procedure **B**, the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 5 hours and **2i** was isolated as a white solid in 69% yield; mp = 96–98 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.21 (Hexanes/EtOAc 80:20 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  +93.1 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr) 3266, 3042, 2939, 2859, 1541, 1474, 1385, 1333, 1277, 1178, 1132, 968, 885, 681 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.42 (s, 1H), 8.31 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (s, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d,  $J$  = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.71–4.59 (m, 1H), 4.18–4.06 (m, 1H), 3.94–3.78 (comp, 2H), 3.78–3.66 (comp, 2H), 2.69–2.57 (m, 1H), 2.27–2.17 (m, 1H), 1.97–1.79 (comp, 2H), 1.76–1.38 (comp, 8H), 1.38–1.18 (comp, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  181.49, 177.86, 140.65, 131.82 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 33.5 Hz), 123.22 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 272.9 Hz), 122.53, 117.81, 62.76, 56.63, 49.61, 32.63, 32.51, 25.54, 25.07, 24.76, 24.17;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 511.1 [M – H]<sup>-</sup>.

**3-((1*R*,2*R*)-2-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thioureido)cyclohexyl)-1,1-dicyclohexylthiourea (**2j**):**



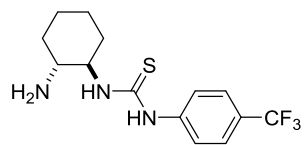
Following general procedure **B**, the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours and **2j** was isolated as a white solid in 66% yield; mp = 98–100 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.36 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –27.1 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr) 3442, 3247, 2935, 2857, 1534, 1473, 1383, 1323, 1278, 1178, 1135, 968, 885, 675 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.40–8.17 (comp, 2H), 7.91 (s, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 5.61 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.72–4.58 (m, 1H), 4.49–3.94 (comp, 3H), 2.43–2.28 (m, 1H), 2.25–2.13 (m, 1H), 1.95–1.46 (comp, 16H), 1.46–1.15 (comp, 8H), 1.12–1.00 (comp, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  180.72, 180.50, 140.24, 132.05 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 36.6 Hz), 123.58, 123.18 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 272.7 Hz), 118.33, 61.17, 59.75, 57.86, 32.76, 32.05, 31.55, 30.94, 26.16, 25.50, 25.05, 24.48;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 607.1 [M – H]<sup>-</sup>.

**3-((1*R*,2*R*)-2-(3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thioureido)cyclohexyl)-1,1-dicyclooctylthiourea (**2k**):**

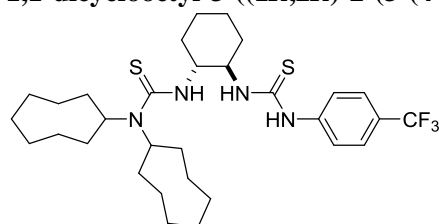


Following general procedure **B** (using 2.5 equivalents of dicyclooctylamine<sup>15</sup>), the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 days to afford **2k** as a white solid in 61% yield; mp = 105–108 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.33 (Hexanes/EtOAc 85:15 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –31.4 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr) 3437, 3247, 2926, 2855, 1534, 1473, 1384, 1323, 1277, 1178, 1135, 973, 880, 680 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.44 (s, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.93 (s, 2H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 5.20–5.06 (m, 1H), 4.70–4.56 (m, 1H), 4.33–4.19 (m, 1H), 3.66–3.50 (m, 1H), 2.44–2.28 (m, 1H), 2.16–2.07 (m, 1H), 2.05–1.05 (comp, 34H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  180.38, 178.22, 140.41, 131.99 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 33.4 Hz), 123.33, 123.20 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 272.9 Hz), 118.09, 62.07, 61.65, 57.59, 56.82, 34.42, 33.79, 32.83, 32.69, 32.28, 32.02, 26.48, 26.23, 26.04, 25.05, 24.80, 24.45;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 663.2 [M – H]<sup>-</sup>.

**1-((1*R*,2*R*)-2-thioureidocyclohexyl)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thiourea:** Following a procedure for a closely related product,<sup>16</sup> (1*R*,2*R*)-cyclohexane-1,2-diamine (2.24 g, 19.6 mmol, 1.5 equiv), dissolved in a minimum amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (ca. 1 mL), was cooled to 0 °C. 1-Isothiocyanato-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (2.66 g, 13.1 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in 262 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, was added dropwise over 1 hour. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel afforded the desired product as a white solid in 87% yield; mp = 144–146 °C; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.10 (MeOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Et<sub>3</sub>N 10:89:1 v/v/v); [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> +125.5 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr) 3259, 2937, 2854, 1613, 1523, 1341, 1161, 1111, 1068, 1008, 825, 708 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) δ 7.79 (app d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (app d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.08–3.75 (m, 1H), 2.62–2.52 (m, 1H), 2.23–1.99 (m, 1H), 1.92–1.78 (m, 1H), 1.73–1.50 (comp, 2H), 1.34–0.98 (comp, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) δ 180.31, 143.76, 125.36, 124.46 (q, J<sub>C-F</sub> = 271.3 Hz), 123.25 (q, J<sub>C-F</sub> = 31.9 Hz), 121.57, 60.08, 54.02, 35.05, 31.05, 24.62.; m/z (ESI-MS) 318.1 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.



**1,1-dicyclooctyl-3-((1*R*,2*R*)-2-(3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thioureido)cyclohexyl)thiourea (2l):** Following general procedure **B** (using 2.5 equivalents of dicyclooctylamine<sup>15</sup>), the reaction was stirred at 50 °C for 24 hours to afford **2l** as a white solid in 65% yield; mp = 110–112 °C; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.31 (Hexanes/EtOAc 85:15 v/v); [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> –25.1 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr) 3432, 3222, 2924, 2847, 1614, 1522, 1441, 1324, 1124, 1067, 1011, 948, 828 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.59 (app d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (app d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.65 (s, 1H), 5.18–5.05 (m, 1H), 4.81–4.68 (m, 1H), 4.35–4.22 (m, 1H), 3.67–3.50 (m, 1H), 2.44–2.31 (m, 1H), 2.15–2.06 (m, 1H), 2.05–1.23 (m, 34H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 179.85, 178.51, 140.74, 127.17 (q, J<sub>C-F</sub> = 33.3 Hz), 126.56, 124.06 (q, J<sub>C-F</sub> = 270 Hz), 123.36, 61.71, 61.48, 57.33, 56.60, 34.33, 33.82, 32.94, 32.66, 32.36, 32.07, 26.59, 26.27, 25.05, 24.90, 24.52; m/z (ESI-MS) 595.3 [M – H]<sup>–</sup>.



## V Preparation and characterization data of products:

### General procedure C for the enantioselective oxa-Pictet–Spengler reaction

To a flame dried vial was added amine salt **1d**·HCl (5.3 mg, 0.025 mmol, 10 mol %), thiourea catalyst **2l** (15 mg, 0.025 mmol, 10 mol %), tryptophol (40 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1 equiv), 4Å MS (100 mg) and dry toluene (5 mL, 0.05 M). The resulting mixture was stirred under nitrogen and cooled to –30 °C over 15 minutes. Aldehyde (0.3 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was then added and the reaction was stirred for the indicated time before being quenched with triethylamine (40 µL). The resulting mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel topped with Celite.

**(R)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3a):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 2 days and **3a** was obtained as a white solid in 90% yield; mp = 153–155 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.32 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –15.7 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 91% ee); IR (KBr) 3397, 3032, 2909, 2837, 1446, 1311, 1273, 1251, 1136, 1083, 1048, 978, 738, 693, 470 cm<sup>–1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.57 (app dd,  $J$  = 7.0, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (br s, 1H), 7.42–7.36 (comp, 5H), 7.25–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.11 (comp, 2H), 5.80 (app t,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.2, 5.4, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 9.6, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.2, 9.7, 5.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.4, 4.1, 3.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.59, 136.16, 133.74, 129.06, 128.94, 128.57, 127.14, 122.08, 119.78, 118.47, 111.13, 108.91, 76.28, 65.00, 22.44;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 250.2 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 14.7 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 19.6 min (major).

The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(R)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3b):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 2 days and **3b** was obtained as a white solid in 82% yield; mp = 116–118 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.21 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –8.1 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 90% ee); IR (KBr) 3389, 3292, 3047, 2957, 2914, 2847, 1713, 1606, 1509, 1446, 1224, 1153, 1071, 1043, 830, 743 cm<sup>–1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.59–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.44 (br s, 1H), 7.38–7.32 (comp, 2H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 1H), 7.21–7.12 (comp, 2H), 7.11–7.04 (comp, 2H), 5.78 (t,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 5.4, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 9.6, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.2, 9.6, 5.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.4, 4.0, 3.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 163.03 (d,  $J_{C-F}$  = 247.7 Hz), 136.05, 135.37 (d,  $J_{C-F}$  = 3.2 Hz), 133.28, 130.28 (d,  $J_{C-F}$  = 8.3 Hz), 126.96, 122.11, 119.76, 118.39, 115.71 (d,  $J_{C-F}$  = 21.6 Hz), 111.01, 109.01, 75.37, 64.82, 22.26;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 268.2 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 15.7 min (major) and  $t_R$  = 18.2 min (minor).

The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

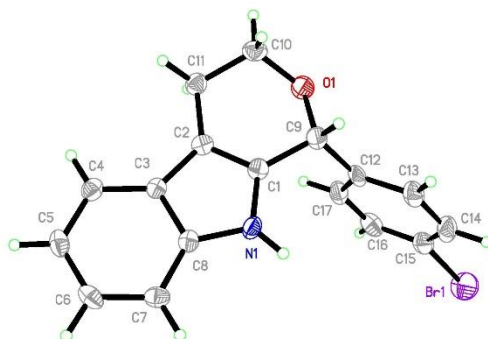
**(R)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3c):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 2 days and **3c** was obtained as a white solid in 91% yield; mp = 101–103 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.28 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –9.3 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 94% ee); IR (KBr) 3393, 3307, 3052, 2919, 2834, 1713, 1611, 1490, 1451, 1246, 1087, 1015, 815, 743, 510 cm<sup>–1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.57 (app dd,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (br s, 1H), 7.38–7.34 (comp, 2H), 7.33–7.29 (comp, 2H), 7.26–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.20–7.13 (comp, 2H), 5.76 (app t,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 5.4, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.4, 9.5, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.0, 9.5, 5.3, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.90–2.79 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.14, 136.20, 134.91, 133.14, 129.93, 129.11, 127.06, 122.29, 119.92, 118.54, 111.16, 109.13, 75.47, 64.90, 22.37;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 284.2 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak

AS-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 93/7, Flow rate = 0.2 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 66.4 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 69.8 min (major).

The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(*R*)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-*b*]indole (3d):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 2 days and **3d** was obtained as a white solid in 91% yield; mp = 116–118 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.25 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –7.2 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 93% ee); IR (KBr) 3394, 3312, 3062, 2962, 2914, 2852, 2369, 2341, 1716, 1506, 1481, 1451, 1253, 1073, 1043, 1011, 810, 735, 508 cm<sup>–1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.59–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.49 (comp, 2H), 7.44 (br s, 1H), 7.26–7.23 (comp, 3H), 7.20–7.12 (comp, 2H), 5.75 (app t,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 5.4, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 9.5, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.4, 9.5, 5.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.5, 4.1, 3.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  138.65, 136.20, 133.07, 132.08, 130.23, 127.05, 123.11, 122.31, 119.92, 118.55, 111.16, 109.13, 75.53, 64.91, 22.37;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 328.3 (<sup>79</sup>Br) [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 330.3 (<sup>81</sup>Br) [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AS-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 0.2 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 55.0 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 59.5 min (major).

The absolute configuration of **3d** was assigned by X-ray crystallography:

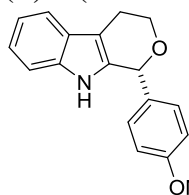


Compound **3d** was crystallized from MeOH through slow evaporation at room temperature. The requisite CIF has been submitted to the journal.

**(*R*)-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-*b*]indole (3e):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 2 days and **3e** was obtained as a white solid in 90% yield; mp = 179–180 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.24 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –2.4 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 95% ee); IR (KBr) 3394, 2947, 2909, 2859, 2819, 1446, 1298, 1081, 1041, 808, 740, 455 cm<sup>–1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.59 (app d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (br s, 1H), 7.33–7.24 (comp, 2H), 7.24–7.19 (comp, 3H), 7.19–7.13 (comp, 2H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 4.32 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.4, 5.5, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 9.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.16–3.06 (m, 1H), 2.89–2.81 (m, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  138.86, 136.61, 136.11, 133.90, 129.53, 128.55, 127.13, 121.96, 119.69, 118.40, 111.10, 108.82, 75.98, 64.78, 22.42, 21.35;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 264.1 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 11.9 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 18.3 min (major).

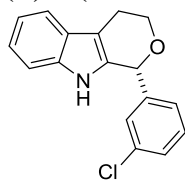
The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(R)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3f):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 3 days and **3f** was obtained as a white solid in 84% yield; mp = 115–117 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.26 (Hexanes/EtOAc 80:20 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +0.6$  (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 84% ee); IR (KBr) 3392, 2949, 2907, 2837, 1611, 1448, 1301, 1243, 1173, 1078, 1033, 968, 830, 735, 465, 508, 473 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.59–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.46 (br s, 1H), 7.32–7.27 (comp, 2H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.11 (comp, 2H), 6.92–6.88 (comp, 2H), 5.76 (app t,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.2, 5.3, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.2, 9.4, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.09 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.0, 9.5, 5.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.842 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.4, 4.0, 3.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 160.17, 136.11, 133.98, 131.75, 129.99, 127.14, 121.99, 119.71, 118.41, 114.22, 111.10, 108.94, 75.73, 64.79, 55.45, 22.44;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 280.1 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 20.8 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 31.3 min (major).



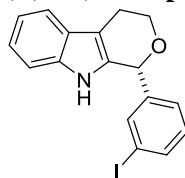
The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(R)-1-(3-chlorophenyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3g):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 2 days and **3g** was obtained as a white solid in 73% yield; mp = 157–160 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.18 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} -3.6$  (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 82% ee); IR (KBr) 3394, 3052, 2957, 2922, 2837, 1718, 1621, 1596, 1571, 1461, 1433, 1296, 1253, 1078, 1041, 855, 790, 740, 705, 690 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.57 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.4, 1.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (br s, 1H), 7.39–7.34 (comp, 2H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.29–7.23 (comp, 2H), 7.21–7.11 (comp, 2H), 5.77 (app t,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 5.4, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 9.5, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.1, 9.5, 5.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.89–2.78 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.75, 136.29, 134.95, 132.94, 130.22, 129.23, 128.59, 127.10, 126.62, 122.36, 119.96, 118.58, 111.21, 109.19, 75.61, 65.00, 22.38;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 284.1 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AS-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 8.3 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 10.6 min (major).



The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(R)-1-(3-iodophenyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3h):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 3 days and **3h** was obtained as a white solid in 78% yield; mp = 158–160 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.17 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +3.1$  (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 85% ee); IR (KBr) 3399, 2957, 2914, 2864, 2822, 1568, 1468, 1296, 1076, 1056, 800, 745, 675, 465 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.78–7.67 (comp, 2H), 7.58 (app d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (br s, 1H), 7.34 (app d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (app d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22–7.14 (comp, 2H), 7.12 (app t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.71 (app t,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 5.3, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 9.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.2, 9.7, 5.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.89–2.79 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.94, 138.11, 137.32, 136.22, 132.87, 130.62, 127.77, 127.01, 122.30, 119.90, 118.54, 111.21, 109.10, 94.86, 75.46, 64.99, 22.33;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 376.0 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 14.2 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 17.1 min (major).



The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(R)-1-(m-tolyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3i):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 2 days and **3i** was obtained as a white solid in 86% yield; mp = 126–128 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.17 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –4.9 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 86% ee); IR (KBr) 3399, 3024, 2962, 2917, 2832, 1611, 1466, 1443, 1368, 1291, 1276, 1138, 1076, 1043, 748, 690 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.61–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.47 (br s, 1H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.27–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.22–7.12 (comp, 5H), 5.76 (app t,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.5, 5.5, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.05–3.93 (m, 1H), 3.19–3.05 (m, 1H), 2.84 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.5, 3.9, 2.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.48, 138.76, 136.14, 133.91, 129.84, 129.10, 128.78, 127.17, 125.67, 122.02, 119.75, 118.45, 111.14, 108.79, 76.37, 65.10, 22.44, 21.51;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 264.2 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 254.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 11.4 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 19.7 min (major).

The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(R)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3j):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 2 days and **3j** was obtained as a white solid in 82% yield; mp = 107–109 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.14 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –2.6 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 86% ee); IR (KBr) 3284, 3049, 2939, 2894, 2844, 1606, 1581, 1491, 1448, 1276, 1228, 1151, 1041, 875, 805, 763, 690 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.56 (app dd,  $J$  = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (br s, 1H), 7.34–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.24 (app dd,  $J$  = 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.19–7.11 (comp, 2H), 6.98 (app dt,  $J$  = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.95–6.89 (comp, 2H), 5.77 (app t,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 5.5, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 9.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.12 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.3, 9.8, 5.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.4, 4.3, 2.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 160.19, 141.19, 136.20, 133.72, 129.95, 127.22, 122.09, 120.70, 119.78, 118.46, 114.78, 113.67, 111.16, 108.76, 76.27, 65.12, 55.44, 22.43;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 280.3 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 15.8 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 30.7 min (major).

The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(R)-1-(3-(benzyloxy)phenyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3k):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 3 days and **3k** was obtained as a white solid in 87% yield; mp = 154–156 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.15 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –9.0 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 90% ee); IR (KBr) 3439, 3059, 3032, 2959, 2917, 2857, 1586, 1491, 1446, 1256, 1153, 1071, 1038, 735, 693 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.57–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.37 (comp, 3H), 7.37–7.33 (comp, 2H), 7.33–7.28 (comp, 2H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.11 (comp, 2H), 7.03–6.94 (comp, 3H), 5.77 (app t,  $J$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (d,  $J$  = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (d,  $J$  = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.4, 5.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.02–3.95 (m, 1H), 3.15–3.04 (m, 1H), 2.87–2.76 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.31, 141.19, 136.90, 136.17, 133.65, 130.04, 128.70, 128.14, 127.70, 127.19, 122.10, 120.95, 119.80, 118.48, 115.61, 114.61, 111.19, 108.78, 76.21, 70.15, 65.13, 22.43;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 356.3 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AS-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 254.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 12.0 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 15.8 min (major).

The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(R)-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3l):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 2 days and **3l** was obtained as a white solid in 86% yield; mp = 185–187 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.21 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –104.6 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 88% ee); IR (KBr) 3378, 3042, 2961, 2889, 2839, 1506, 1466, 1449, 1370, 1293, 1253, 1141, 1073, 1048, 863, 824, 739, 484 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.90–7.81 (comp, 4H), 7.64–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.56–7.50 (comp, 2H), 7.49–7.44 (comp, 2H), 7.23–7.14 (comp, 3H), 5.94 (app t,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 5.4, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.2, 9.5, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.2, 9.5, 5.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.95–2.79 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 137.02, 136.21, 133.73, 133.28, 128.94, 128.22, 127.89, 127.72, 127.18, 126.61, 126.50, 125.99, 122.11, 119.80, 118.50, 111.18, 108.94, 76.36, 64.95, 22.47;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 300.1 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 20.0 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 25.0 min (major).

The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(R)-1-(o-tolyl)-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3m):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 2 days and **3m** was obtained as a white solid in 91% yield; mp = 98–100 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.26 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –4.5 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 48% ee); IR (KBr) 3397, 3289, 3052, 2954, 2909, 2847, 1453, 1303, 1256, 1076, 1041, 740 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.60–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.47 (br s, 1H), 7.30–7.22 (comp, 3H), 7.20–7.10 (comp, 4H), 6.02 (app t,  $J$  = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 5.2, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.4, 9.0, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dddd,  $J$  = 16.1, 9.0, 5.3, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (app dtd,  $J$  = 15.4, 4.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 137.83, 137.15, 136.09, 133.58, 131.26, 129.49, 128.95, 127.15, 126.17, 121.99, 119.77, 118.39, 111.11, 109.21, 73.98, 64.70, 22.47, 19.14;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 264.2 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 10.5 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 16.6 min (major).

The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(R)-7-chloro-1-phenyl-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3n):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 4 days and **3n** was obtained as a white solid in 89% yield; mp = 106–108 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.18 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  +25.2 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 94% ee); IR (KBr) 3414, 3279, 2964, 2917, 2837, 1451, 1301, 1241, 1146, 1051, 903, 850, 803, 755, 690 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) δ 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.44 (br s, 1H), 7.41–7.33 (comp, 5H), 7.22–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.11–7.08 (m, 1H), 5.76 (app t,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.4, 5.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 9.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.15–3.00 (m, 1H), 2.85–2.72 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 139.27, 136.48, 134.47, 129.20, 129.03, 128.51, 127.82, 125.79, 120.46, 119.28, 111.14, 109.02, 76.14, 64.89, 22.30;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 284.2 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 254.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 9.9 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 14.1 min (major).

The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(R)-6-bromo-1-phenyl-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-b]indole (3o):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 4 days and **3o** was obtained as a white solid in 91% yield; mp = 100–102 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.21 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –62.5 (c 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 92% ee); IR (KBr) 3414, 3282, 2954, 2917, 2842, 1451, 1296, 1078, 1043, 986, 793, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) δ 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.46 (br s, 1H), 7.43–7.33 (comp, 5H), 7.25–7.21 (m, 1H), 7.12–7.08 (m, 1H), 5.78 (app t,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.5, 5.5, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.02–3.94 (m, 1H), 3.06 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.5, 9.6, 5.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.81–2.74 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.25, 135.24, 134.78, 129.21, 129.06, 128.98, 128.47, 124.88, 121.22, 113.04, 112.52, 108.66,

76.20, 65.00, 22.29;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 328.1 ( $^{79}\text{Br}$ )  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ , 330.1 ( $^{81}\text{Br}$ )  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ ; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 13.9 min (minor) and  $t_R$  = 21.1 min (major).

The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

**(*R*)-5-methyl-1-phenyl-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-*b*]indole (3p):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run for 4 days and **3p** was obtained as a white solid in 75% yield; mp = 155–158 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.20 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –45.9 (c 0.5,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 81% ee); IR (KBr) 3294, 2979, 2937, 2849, 1443, 1373, 1333, 1141, 1073, 1041, 976, 750, 698  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.47–7.32 (comp, 6H), 7.08–6.98 (comp, 2H), 6.87–6.82 (m, 1H), 5.80 (app t,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.4, 5.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.3, 9.7, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (dddd,  $J$  = 15.3, 9.8, 5.5, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.14–3.06 (m, 1H), 2.69 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  139.69, 136.10, 133.29, 130.74, 129.06, 128.96, 128.58, 126.21, 122.09, 120.93, 109.15, 108.86, 76.44, 65.24, 24.95, 19.71;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 264.1  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ ; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 19.1 min (major) and  $t_R$  = 26.7 min (minor).

The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy.

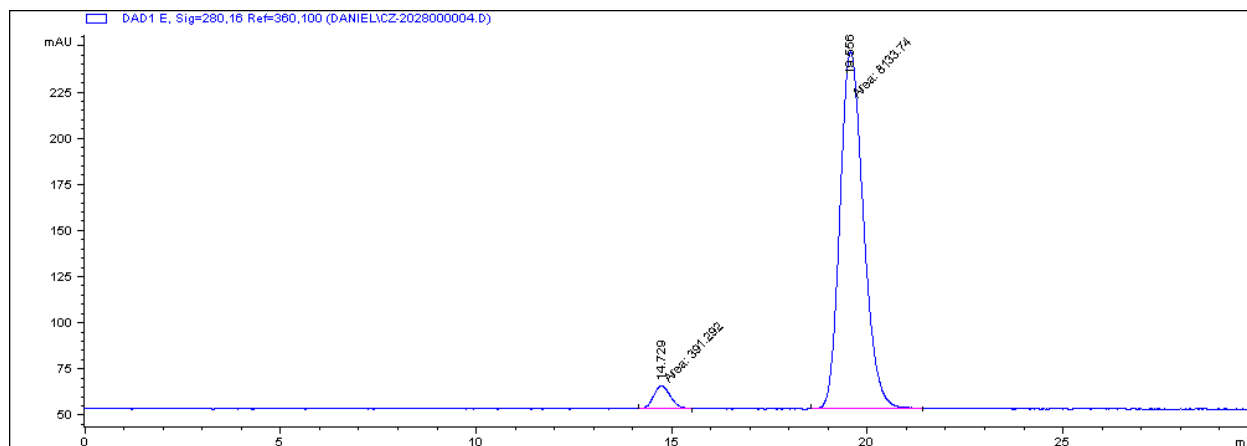
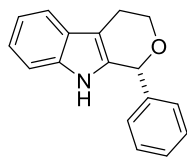
**9-methyl-1-phenyl-1,3,4,9-tetrahydropyrano[3,4-*b*]indole (3q):** Following general procedure C, the reaction was run at room temperature for 24 hours and **3q** was obtained as a white solid in 62 % yield; mp = 103–105 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.36 (Hexanes/EtOAc 90:10 v/v); IR (KBr) 3029, 2977, 2917, 2854, 1466, 1378, 1258, 1183, 1056, 898, 735, 698, 615, 503  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.63–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.35 (comp, 3H), 7.34–7.29 (comp, 2H), 7.29–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 1H), 7.20–7.15 (m, 1H), 5.92 (app t,  $J$  = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (app dt,  $J$  = 11.4, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (app dt,  $J$  = 11.3, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.99–2.95 (comp, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  139.65, 137.30, 134.09, 129.09, 128.85, 128.78, 126.60, 121.61, 119.26, 118.43, 109.00, 108.59, 74.66, 62.13, 30.29, 22.50;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 264.2  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ ; HPLC: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, Flow rate = 1 mL/min, UV = 280.16 nm,  $t_R$  = 9.8 min and 13.3 min.

**3-(2-(methoxy(phenyl)methoxy)ethyl)-1H-indole (4):** To a solution of tryptophol (0.5 g, 3.1 mmol, 1 equiv) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (62 mL, 0.05 M) was added benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal (0.70 mL, 4.65 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (39 mg, 0.16 mmol, 5 mol%). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour before being quenched with trimethylamine (0.1 mL). The resulting mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford **4** as a colorless oil in 16% yield.  $R_f$  = 0.31 (Hexanes/EtOAc 85:15 v/v); IR (film) 3409, 3054, 2927, 2872, 2361, 1453, 1418, 1353, 1203, 1098, 1043, 740, 703  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.97 (br s, 1H), 7.63–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.46 (comp, 2H), 7.41–7.30 (comp, 4H), 7.20 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.05–7.03 (m, 1H), 5.52 (s, 1H), 3.90 (app dt,  $J$  = 9.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (app dt,  $J$  = 9.5, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.15–3.10 (comp, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  138.55, 136.24, 128.51, 128.30, 127.65, 126.82, 122.14, 122.00, 119.33, 118.92, 113.01, 111.17, 102.69, 66.08, 52.80, 25.93;  $m/z$  (ESI-MS) 250.1  $[\text{M} - \text{OMe}]^+$ .

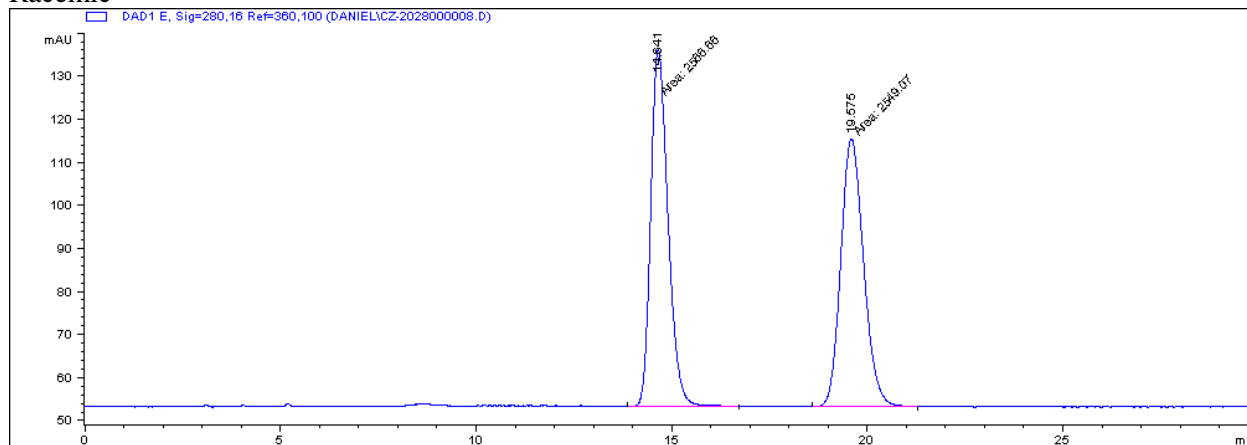


## VI. HPLC profiles of products

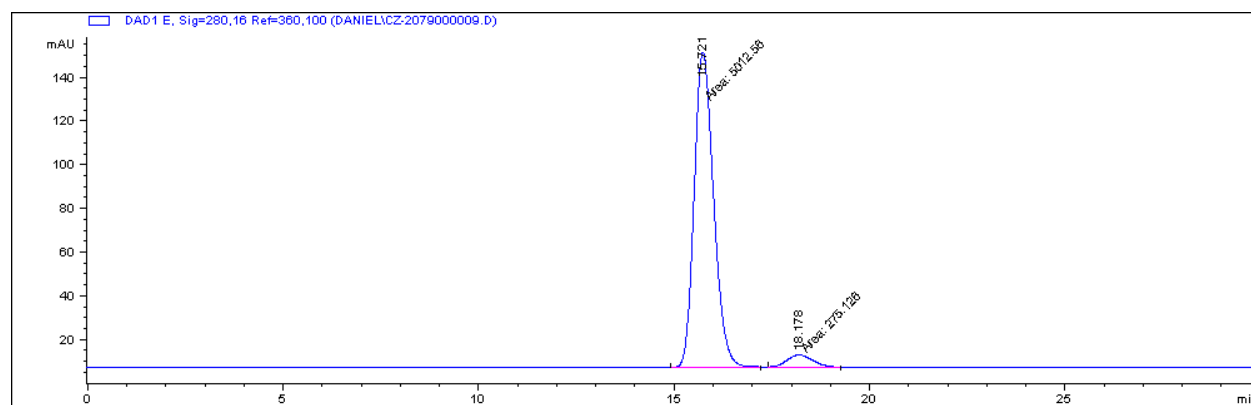
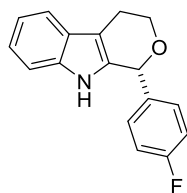
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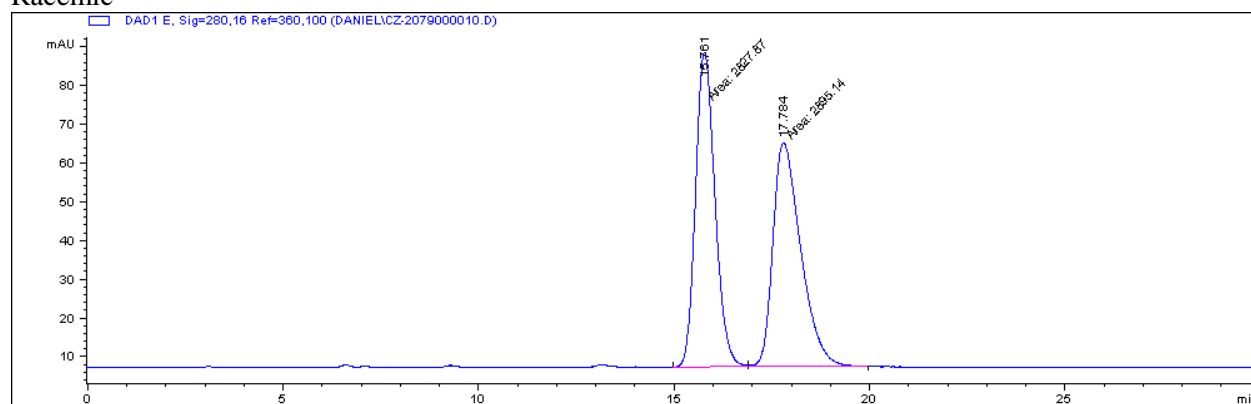
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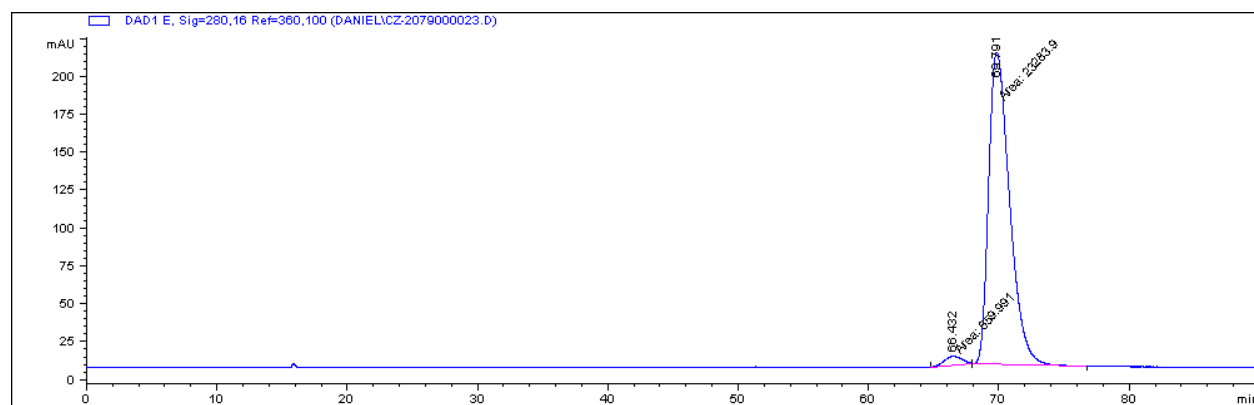
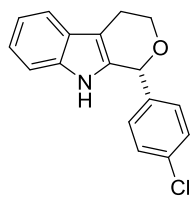
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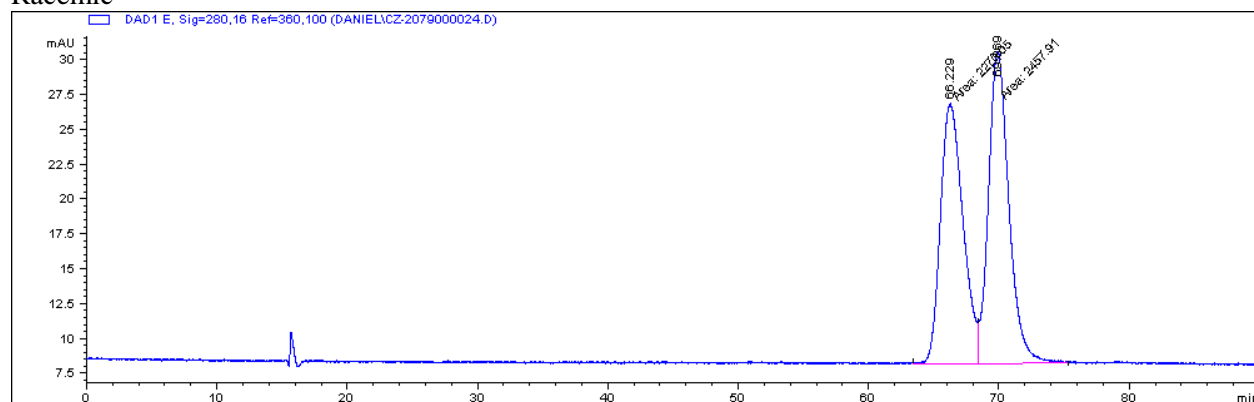
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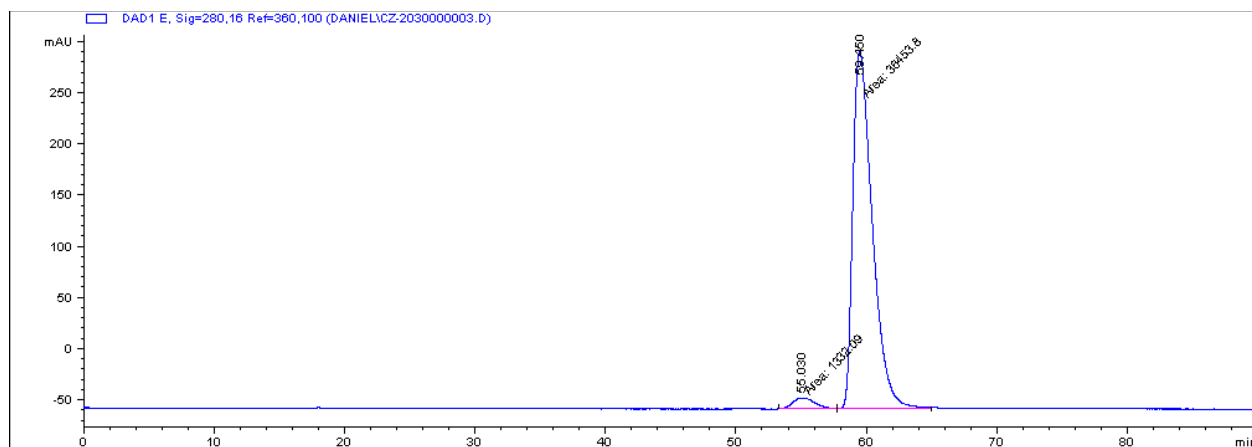
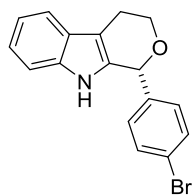
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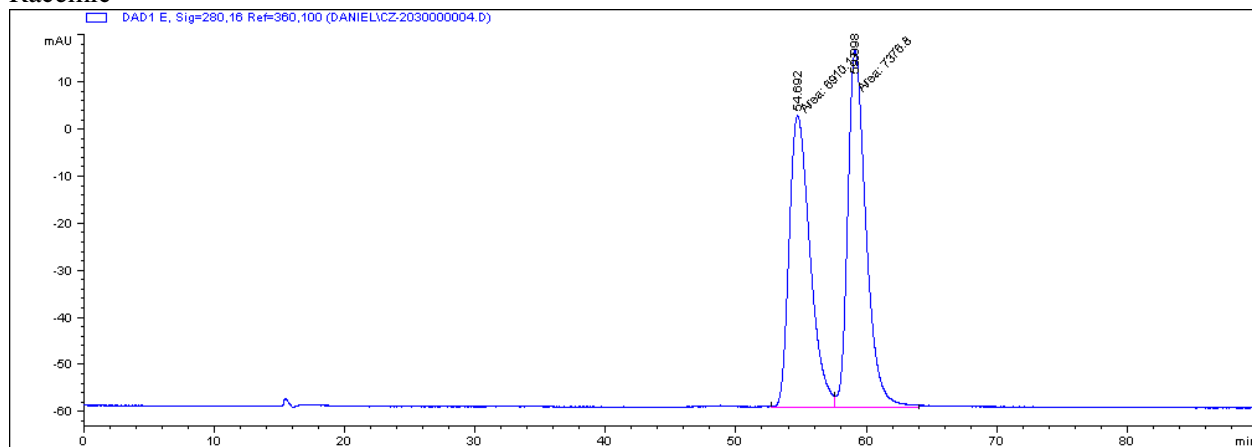
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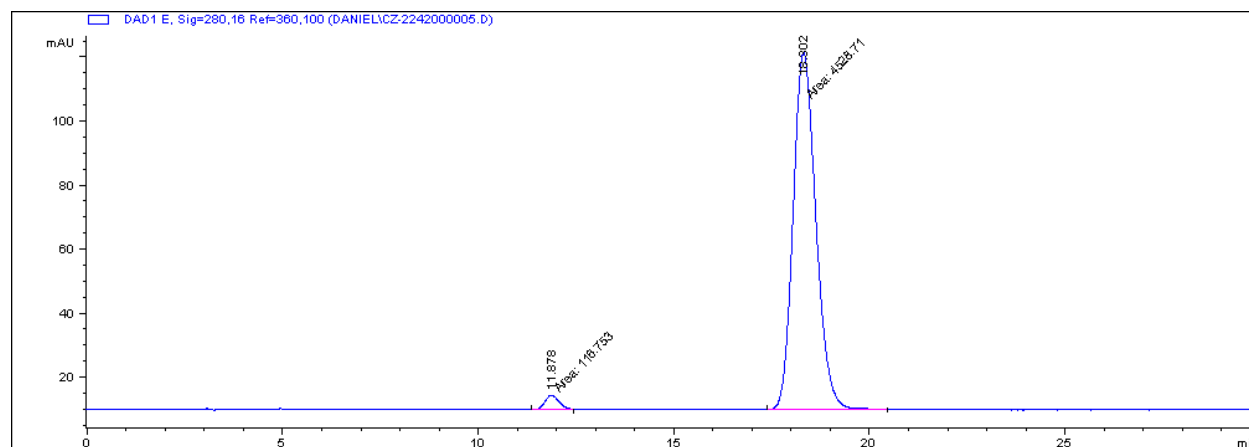
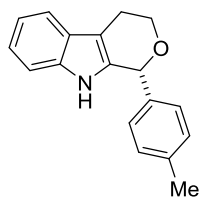
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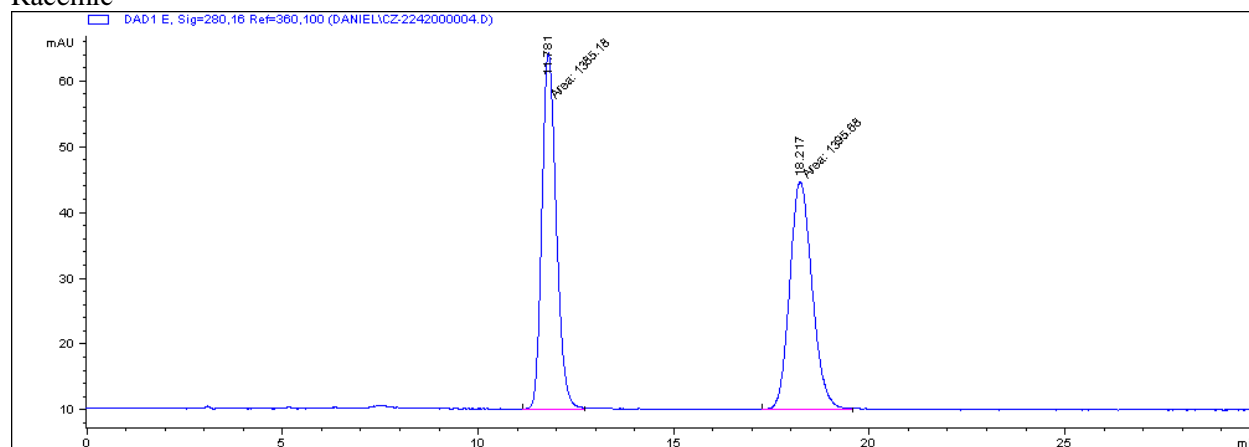
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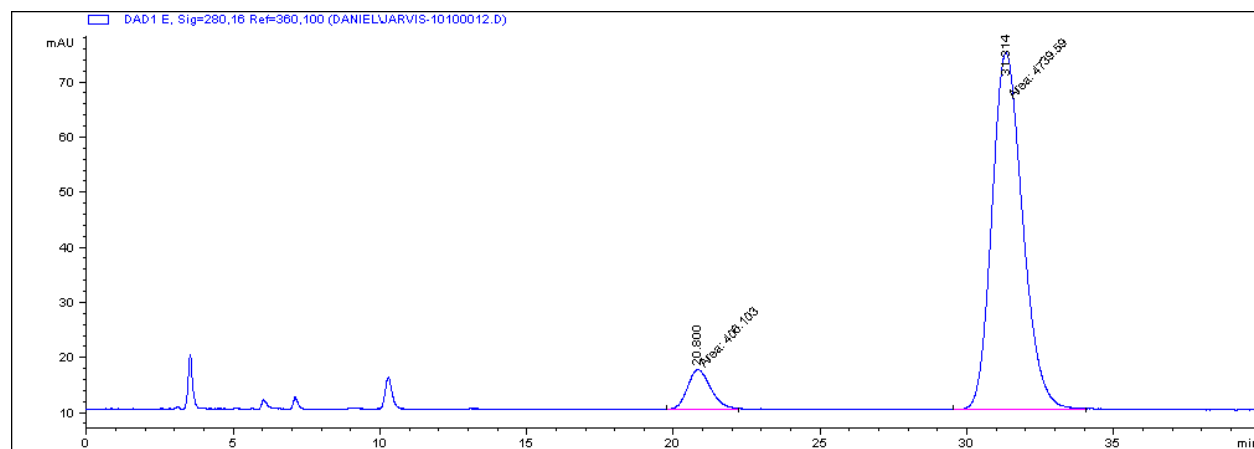
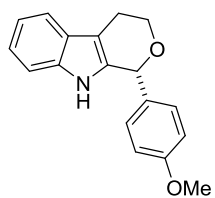
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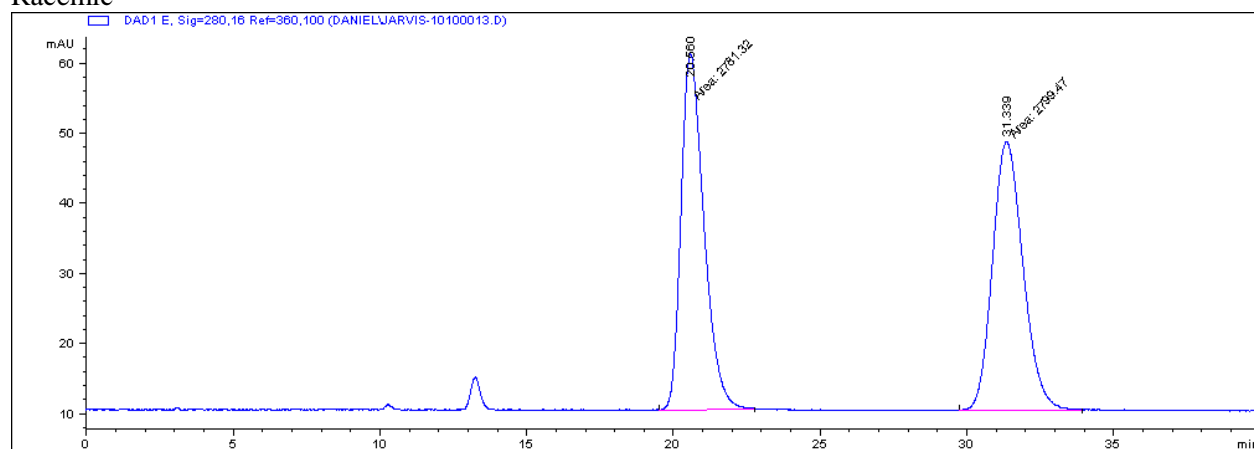
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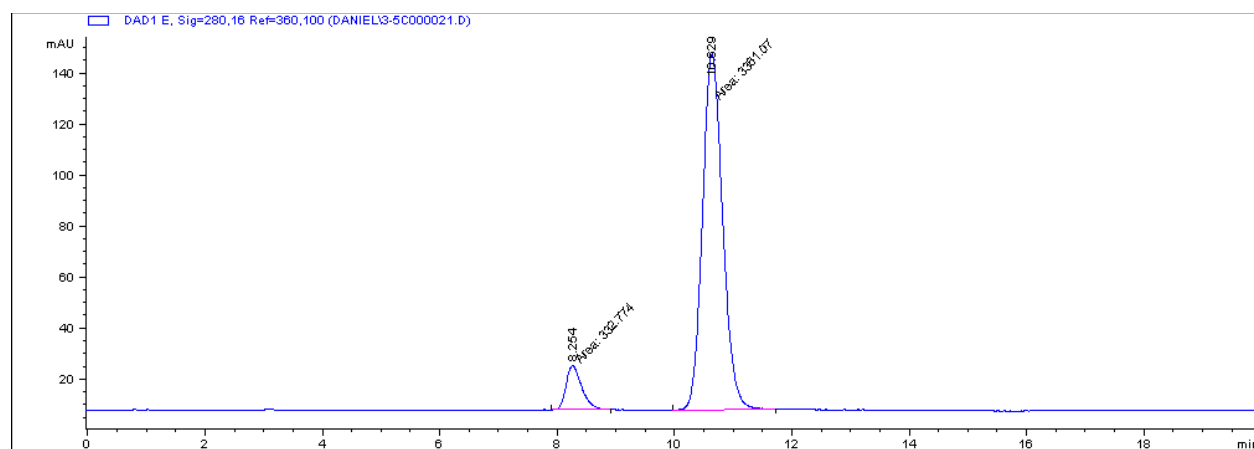
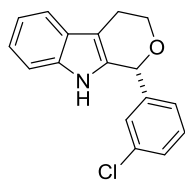
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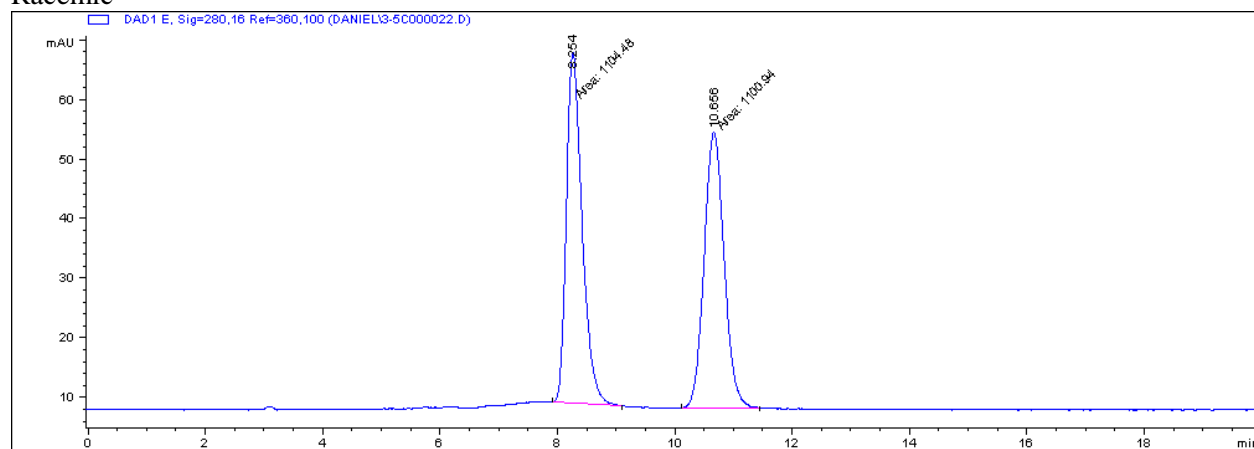
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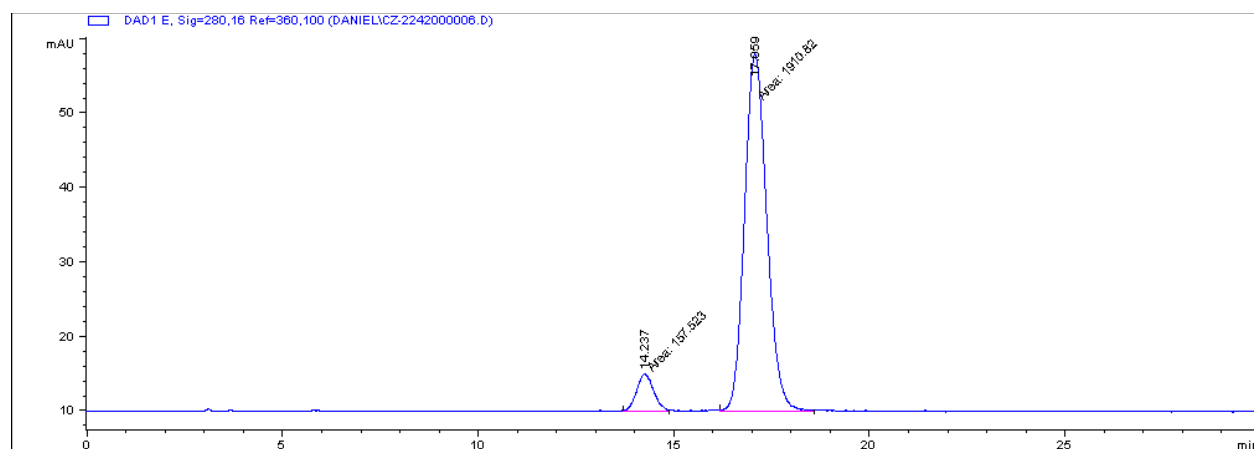
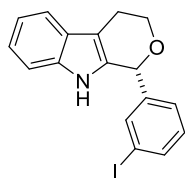
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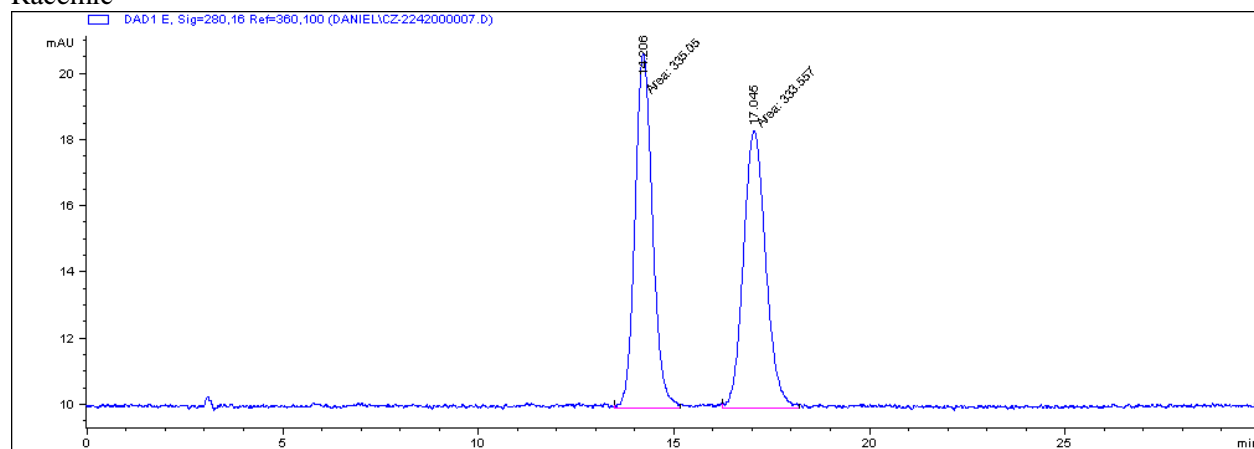
## Racemic



## HPLC Profile of **3h**

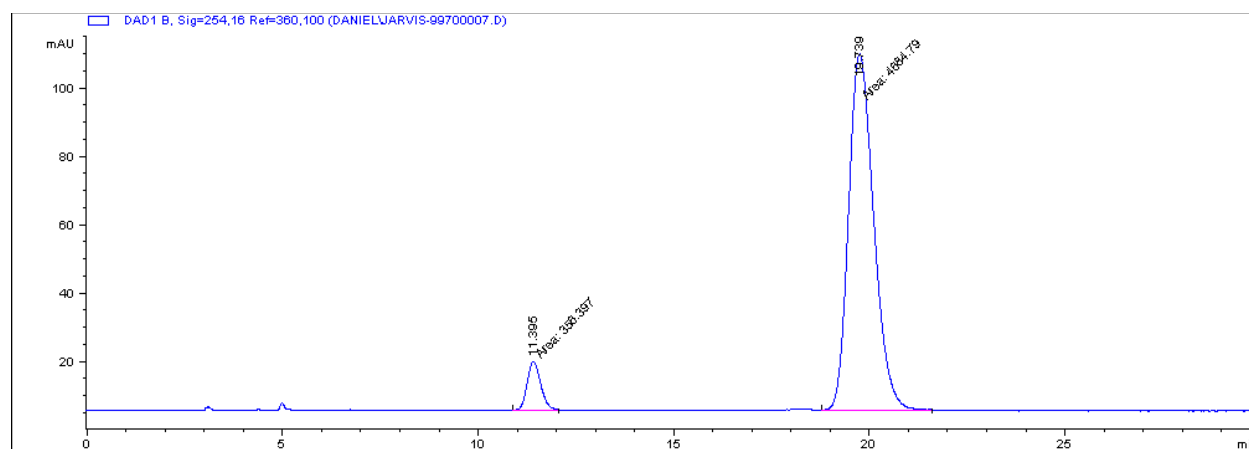
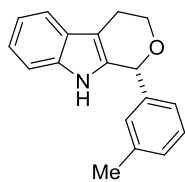


## Racemic

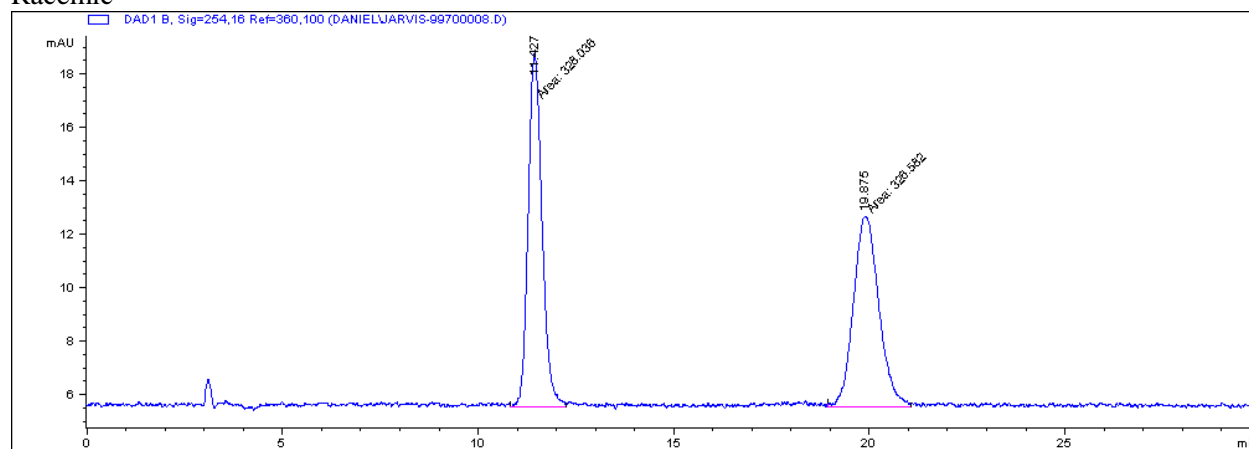




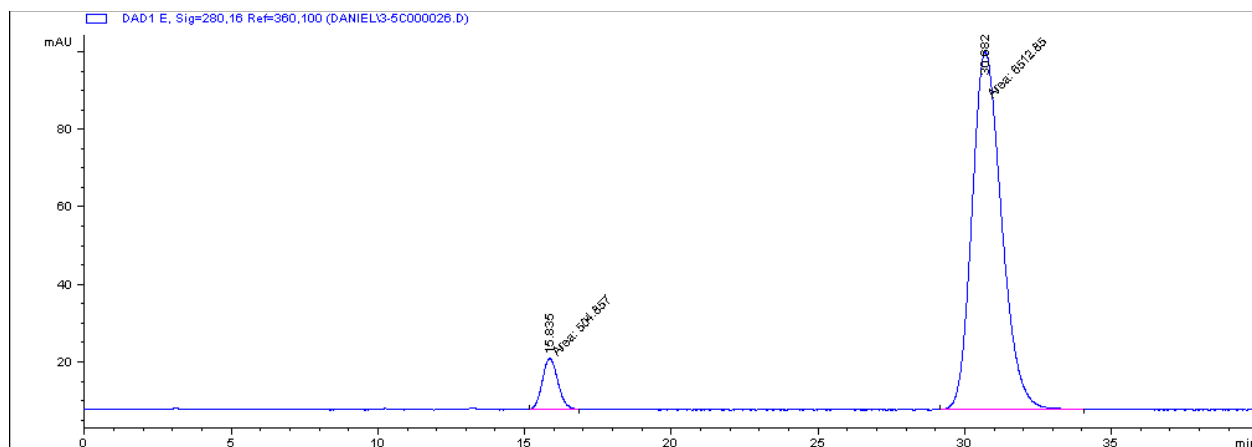
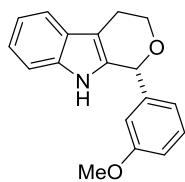
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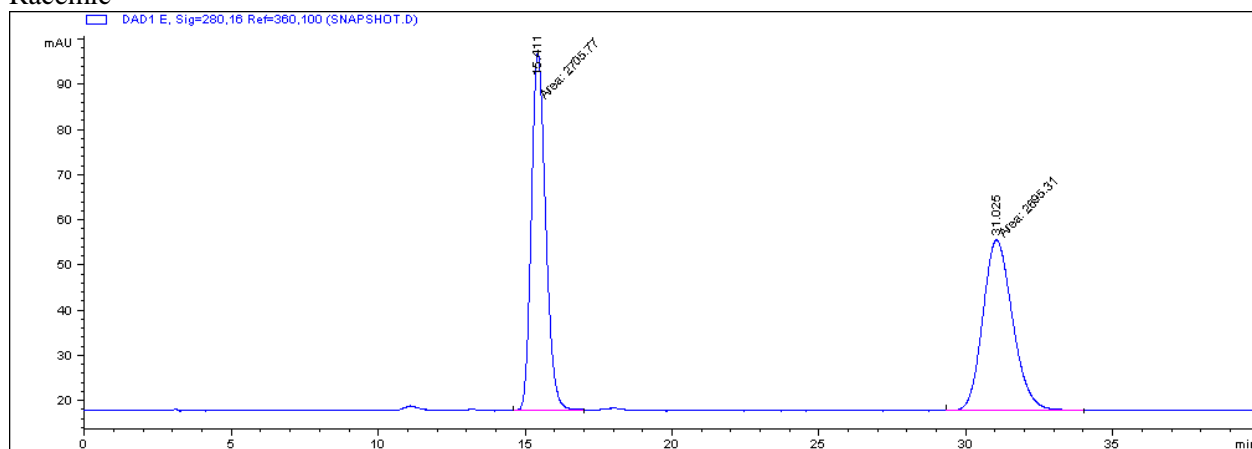
## Racemic



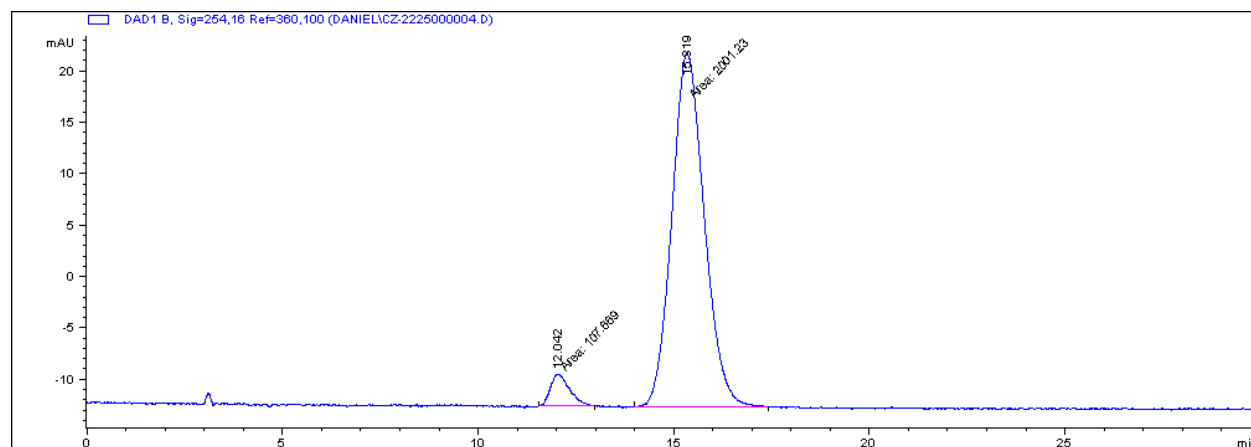
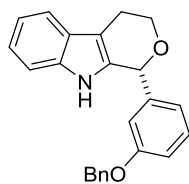
## HPLC Profile of **3j**



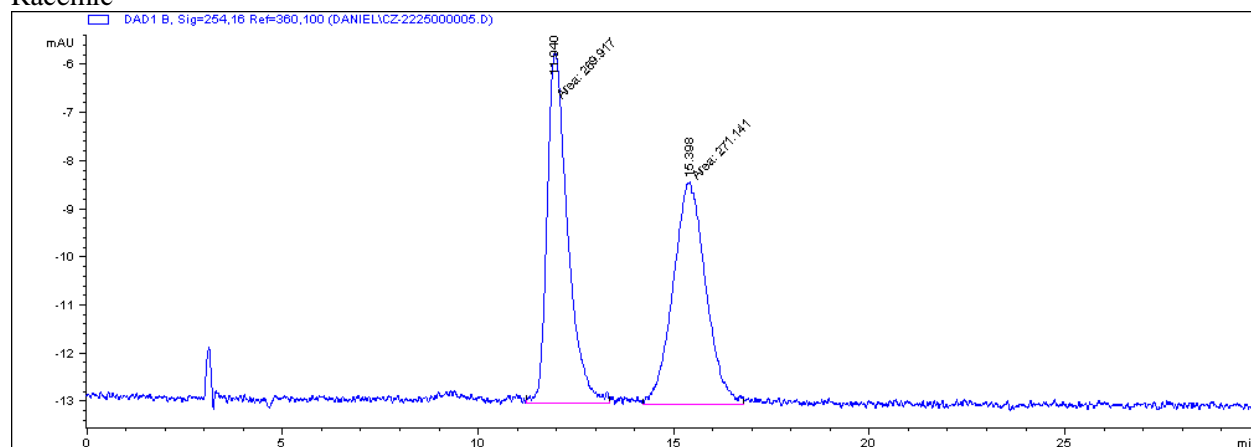
## Racemic



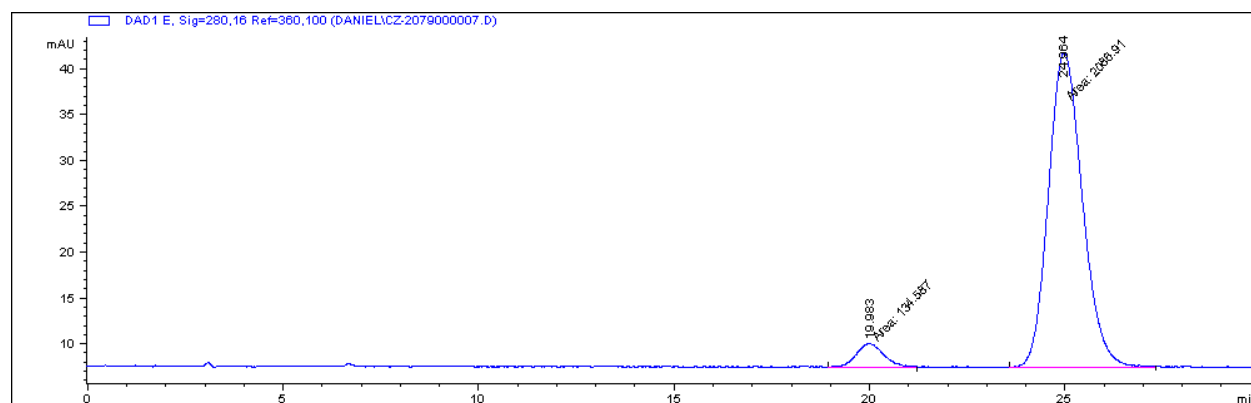
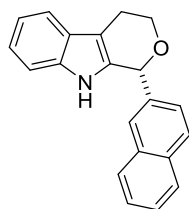
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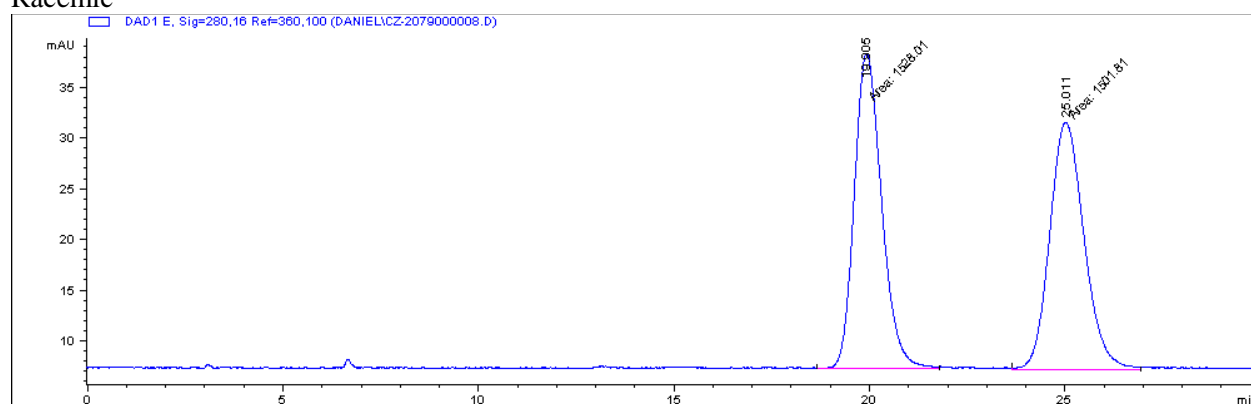
## Racemic



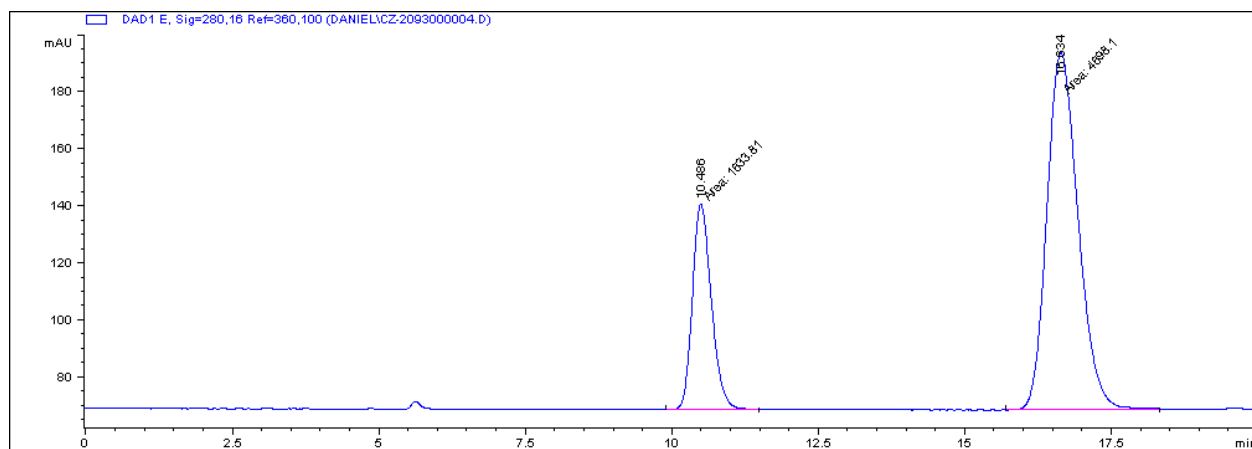
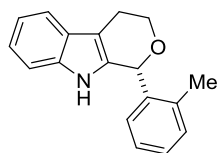
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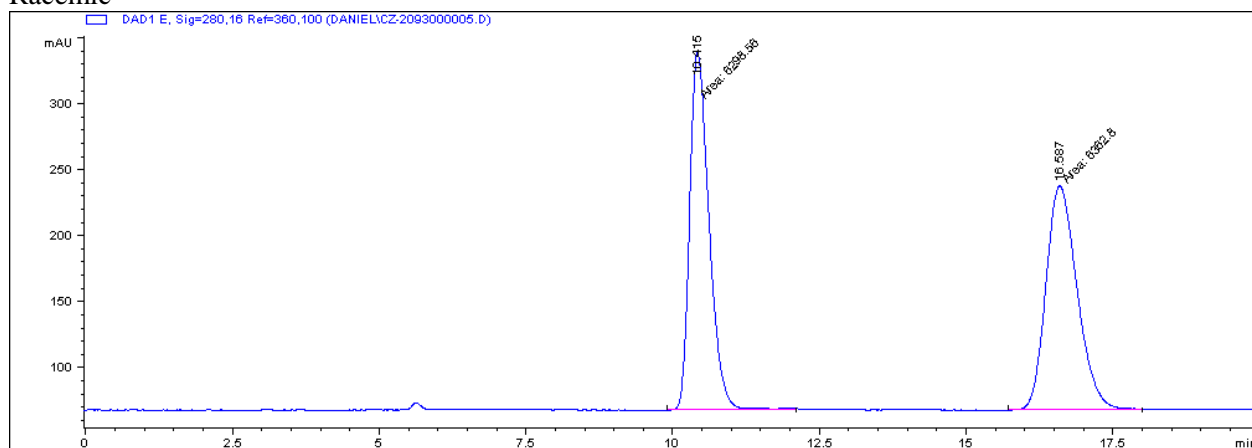
## Racemic



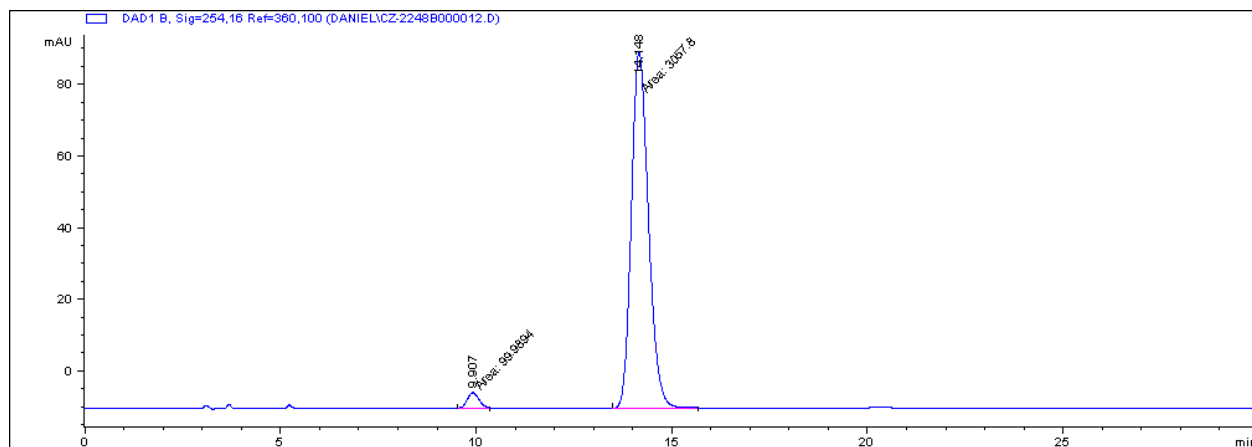
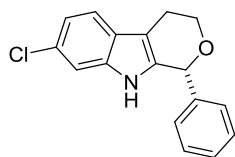
## HPLC Profile of **3m**



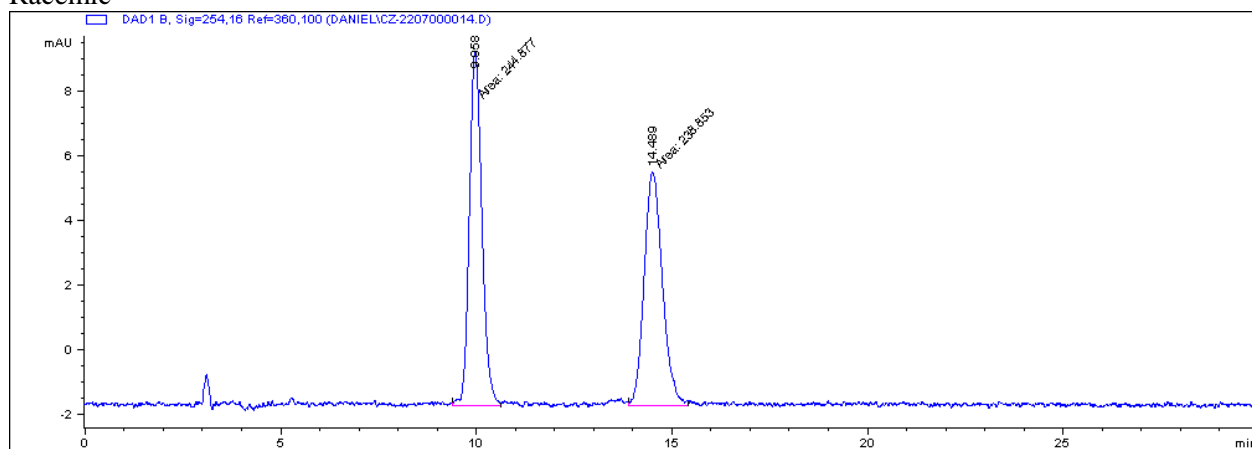
## Racemic



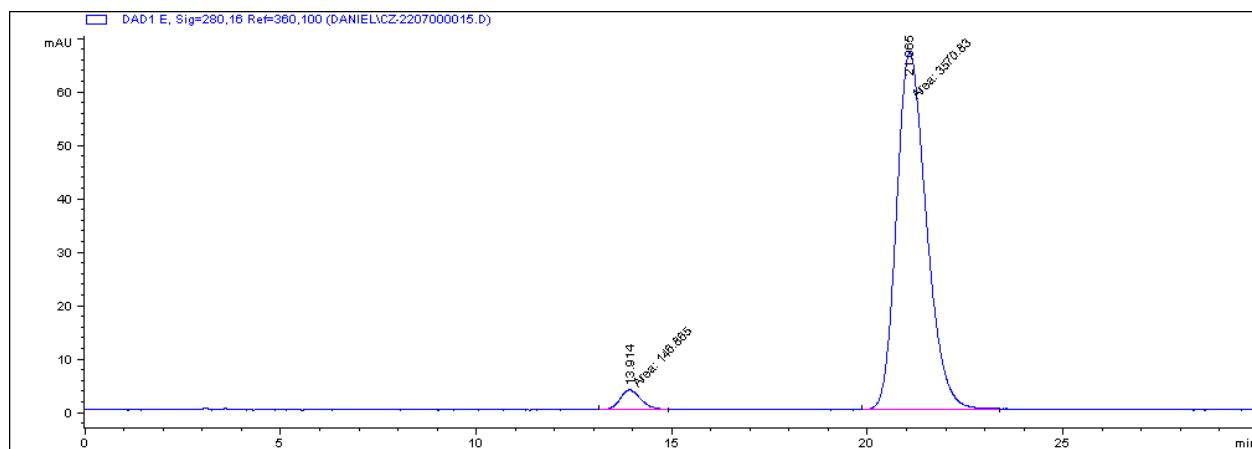
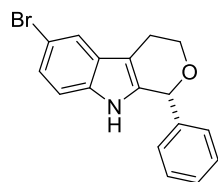
## HPLC Profile of **3n**



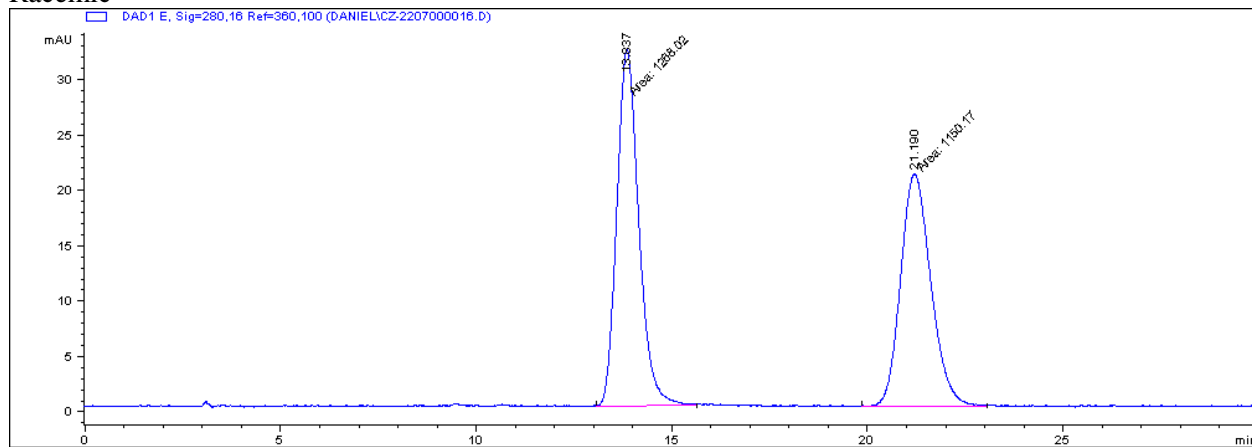
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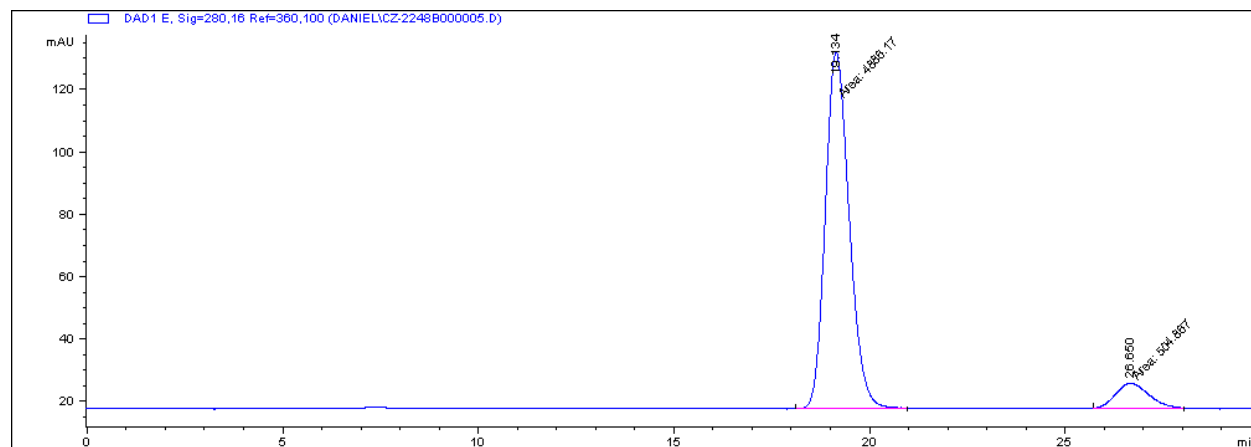
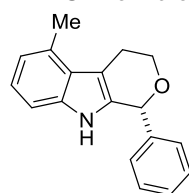
## HPLC Profile of **3o**



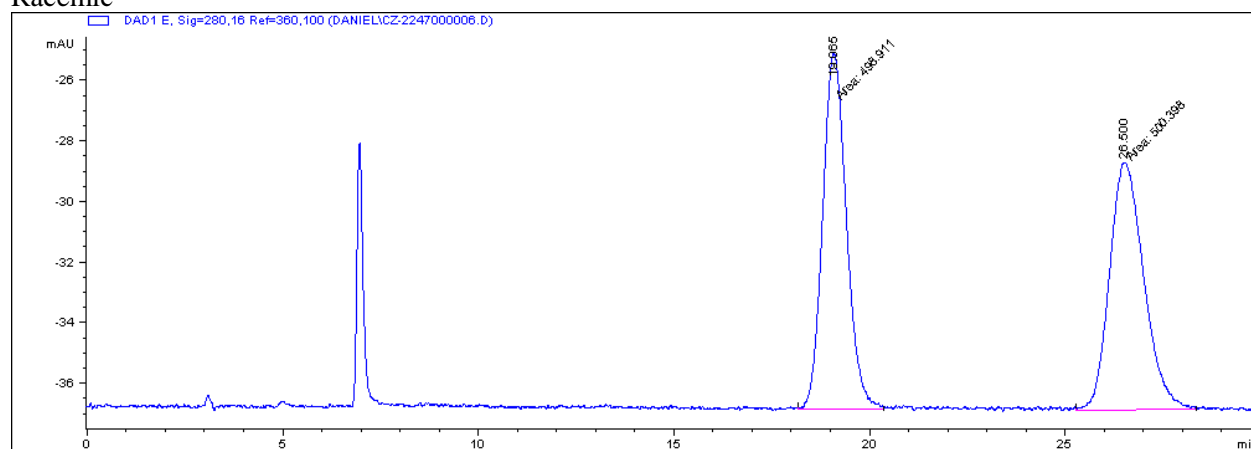
## Racemic



# HPLC Profile of **3p**

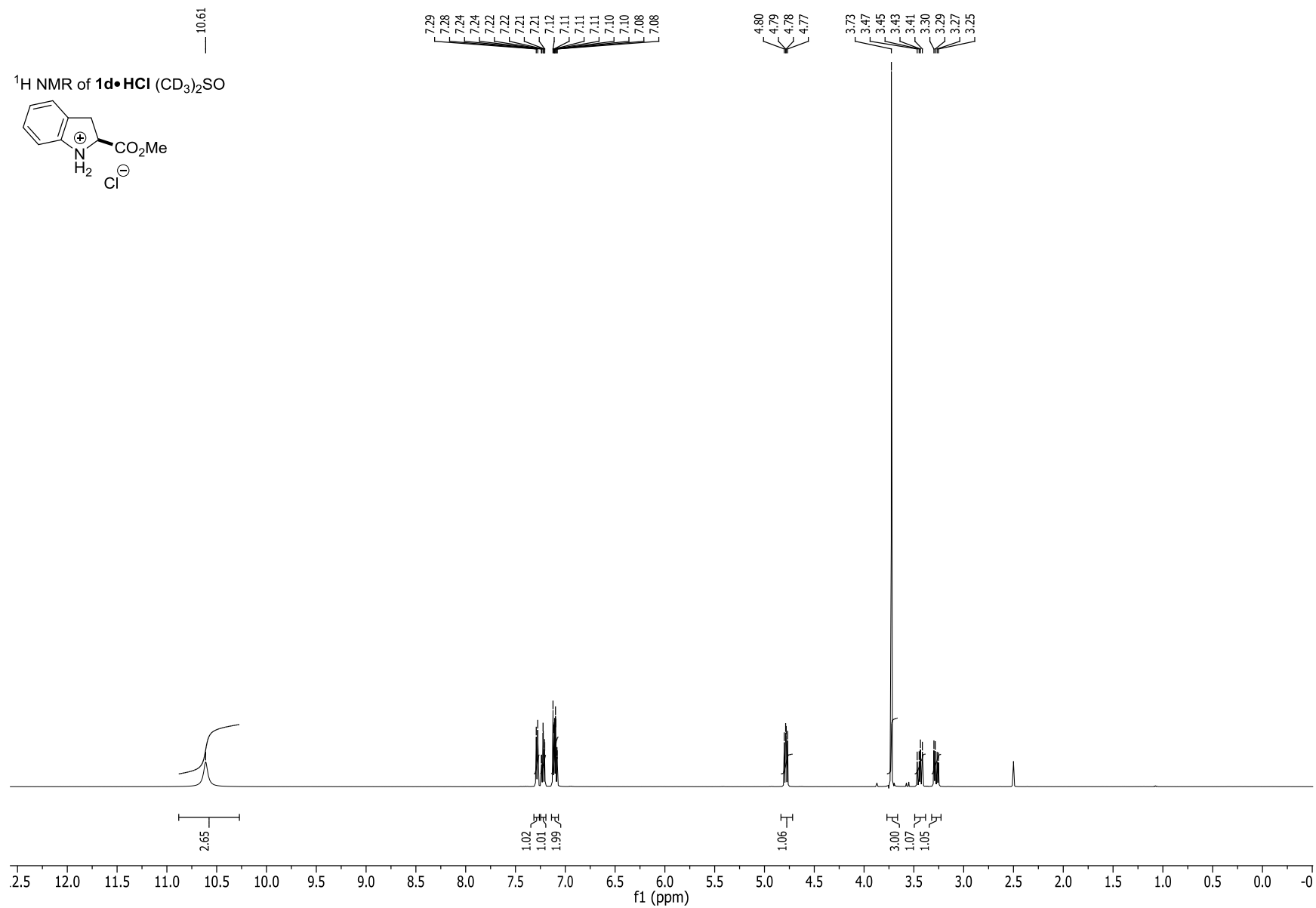


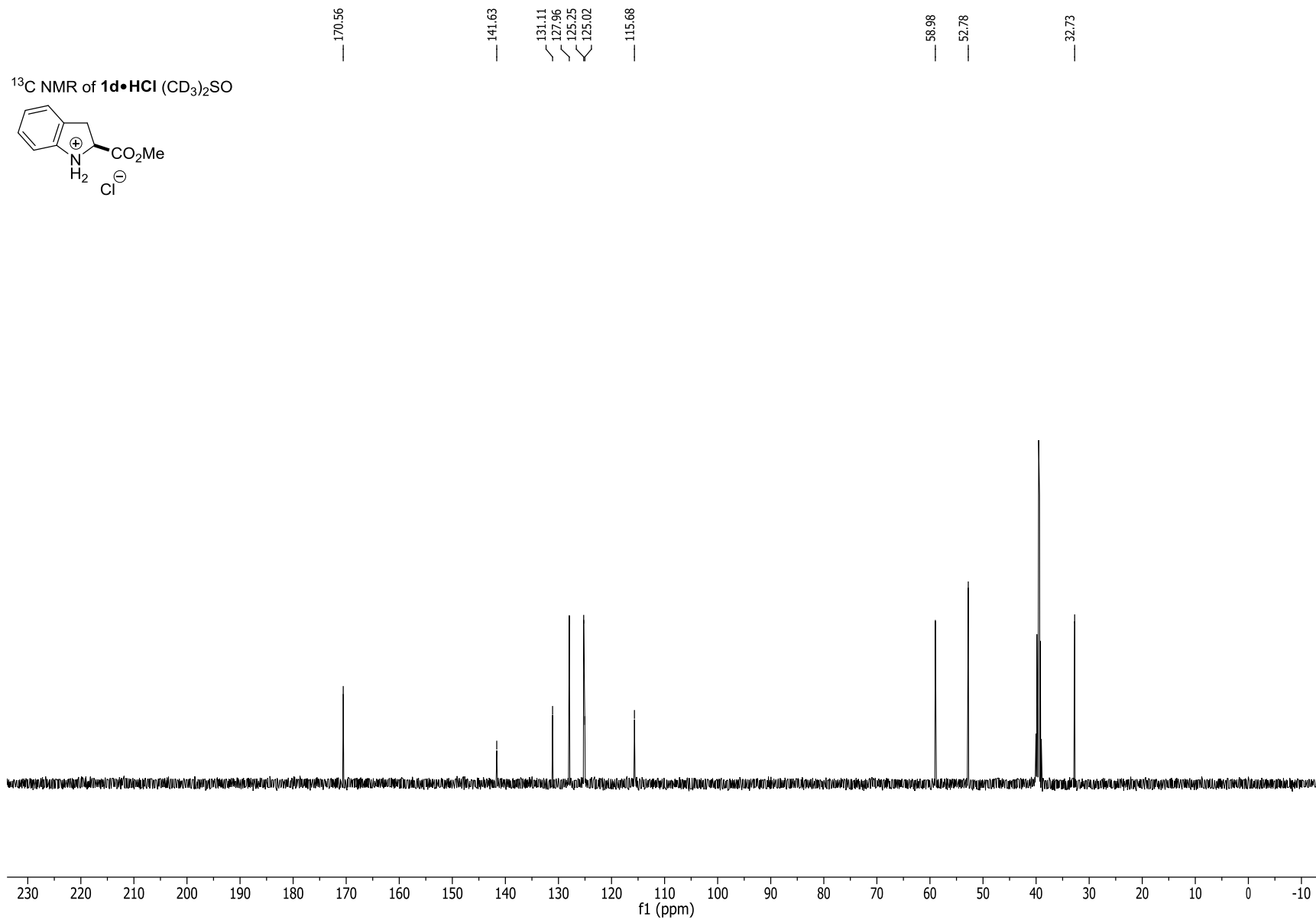
## Racemic



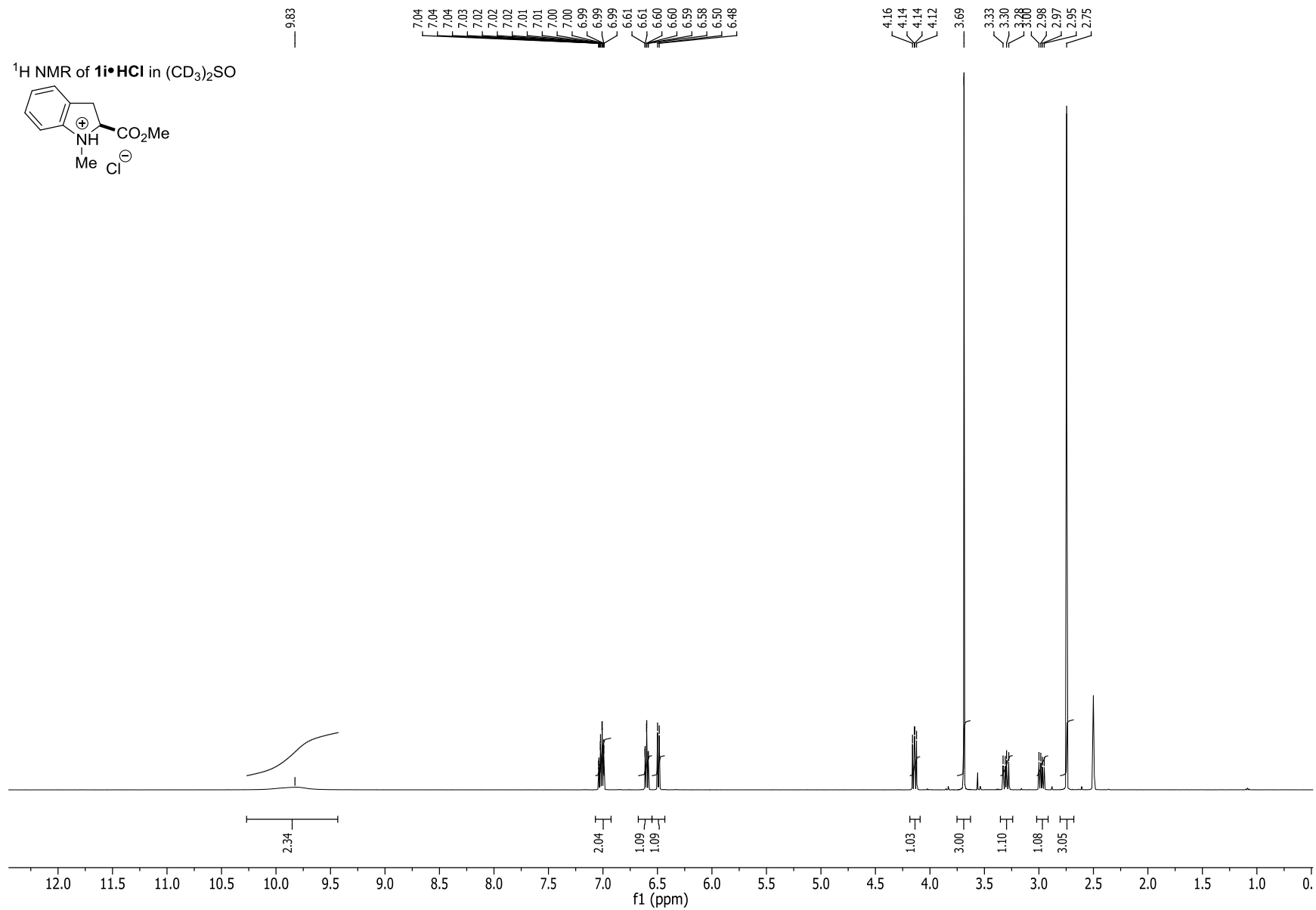
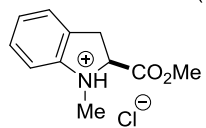


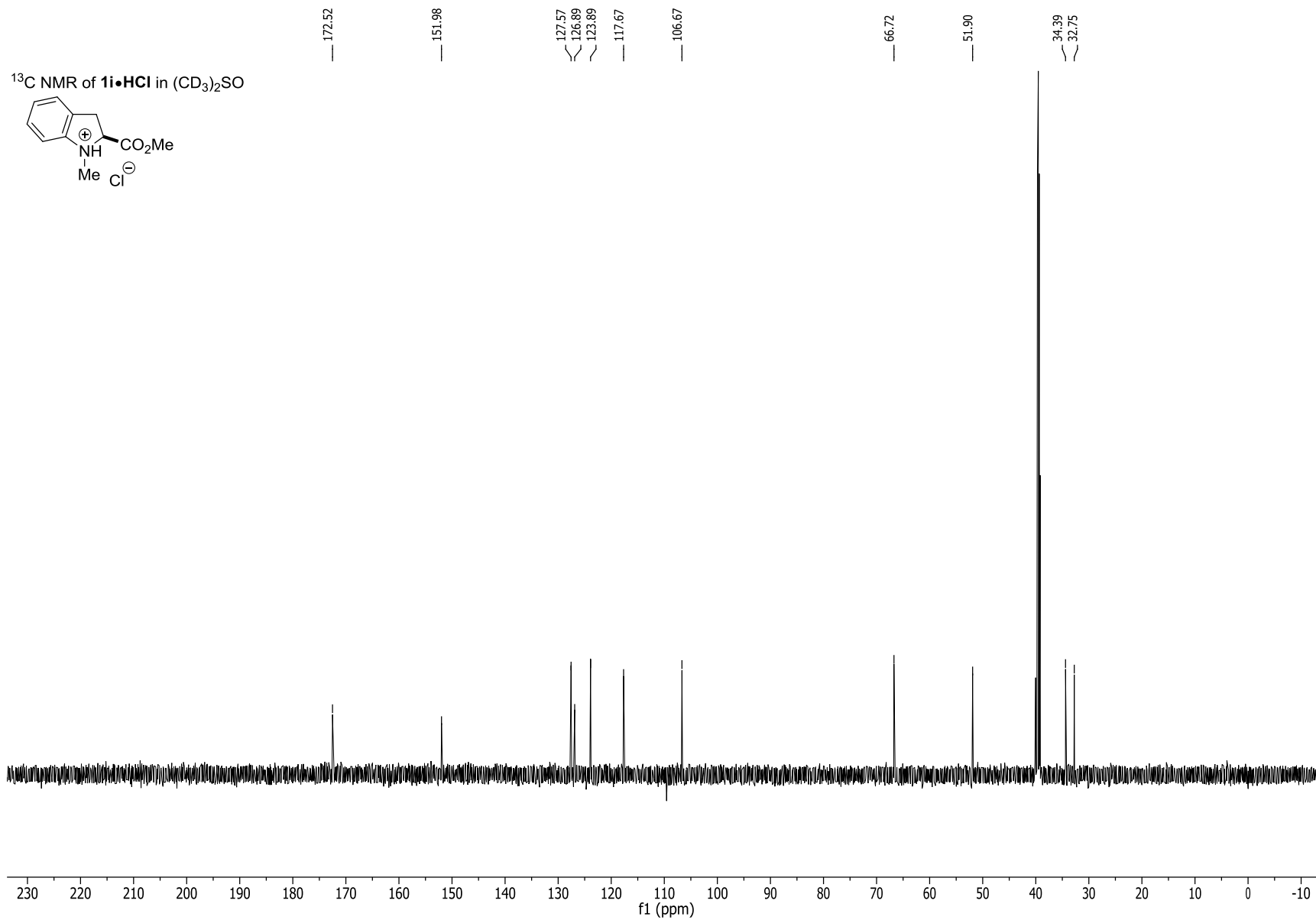
## VII. NMR spectra



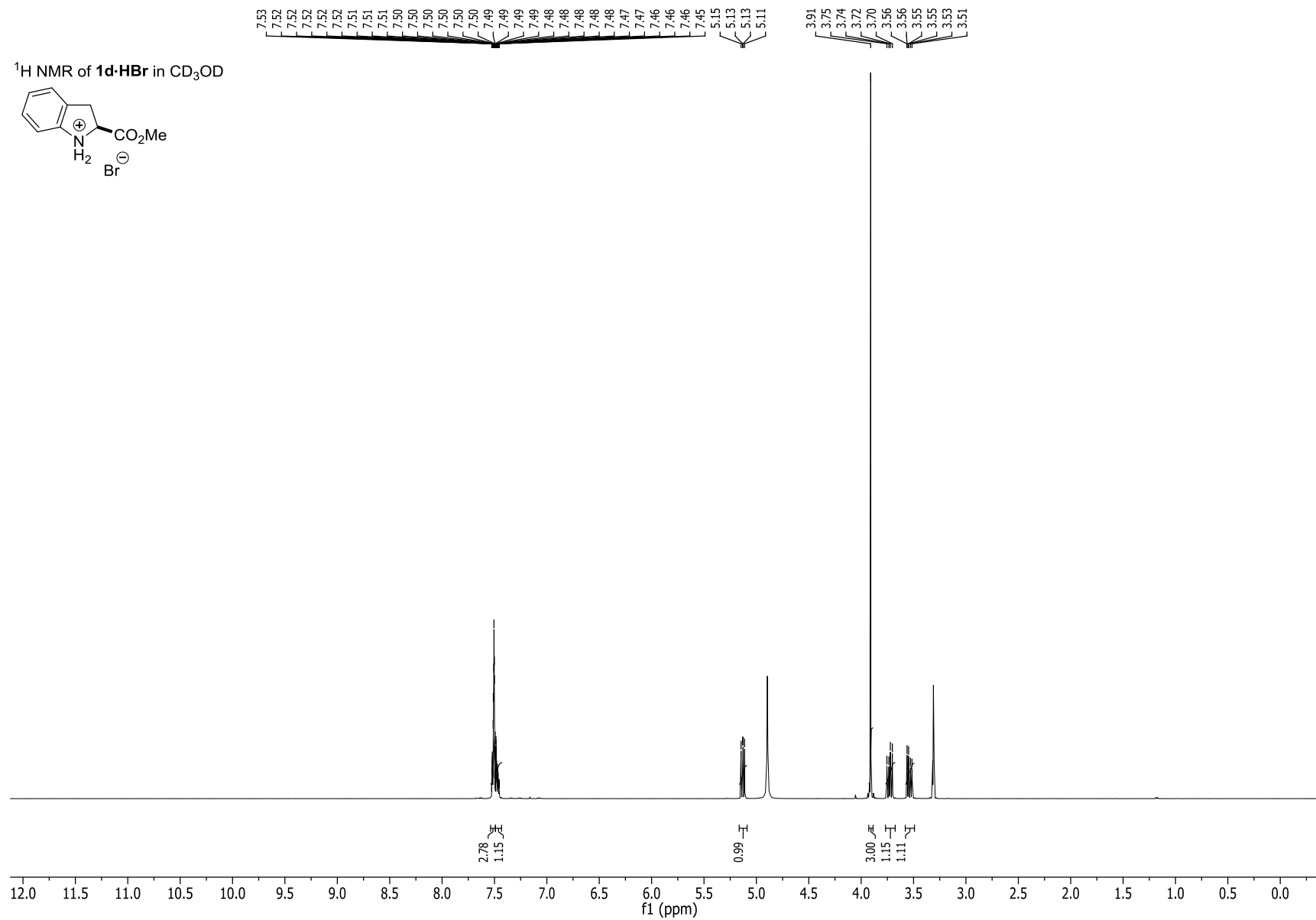
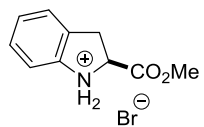


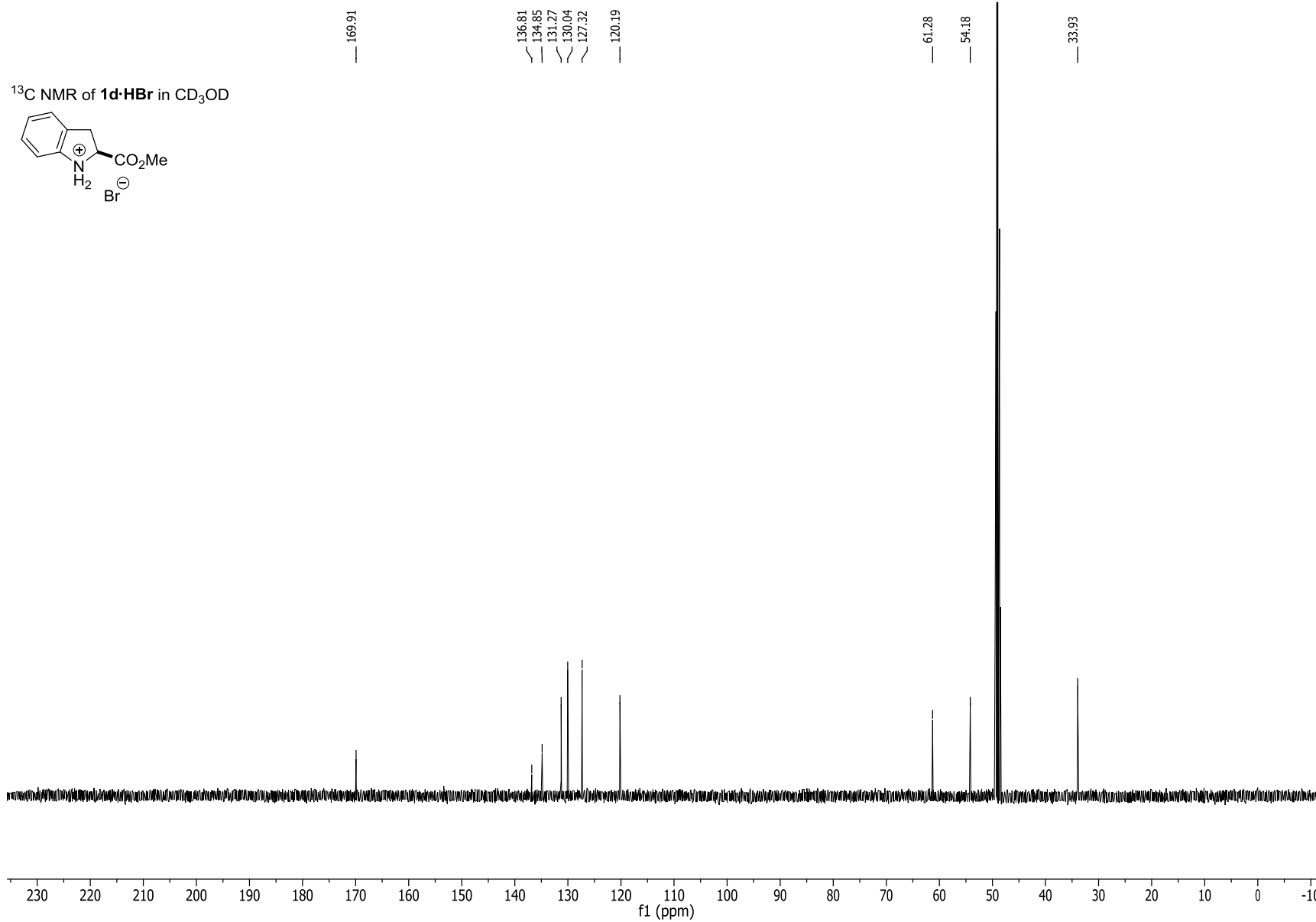
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **1i**•HCl in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO



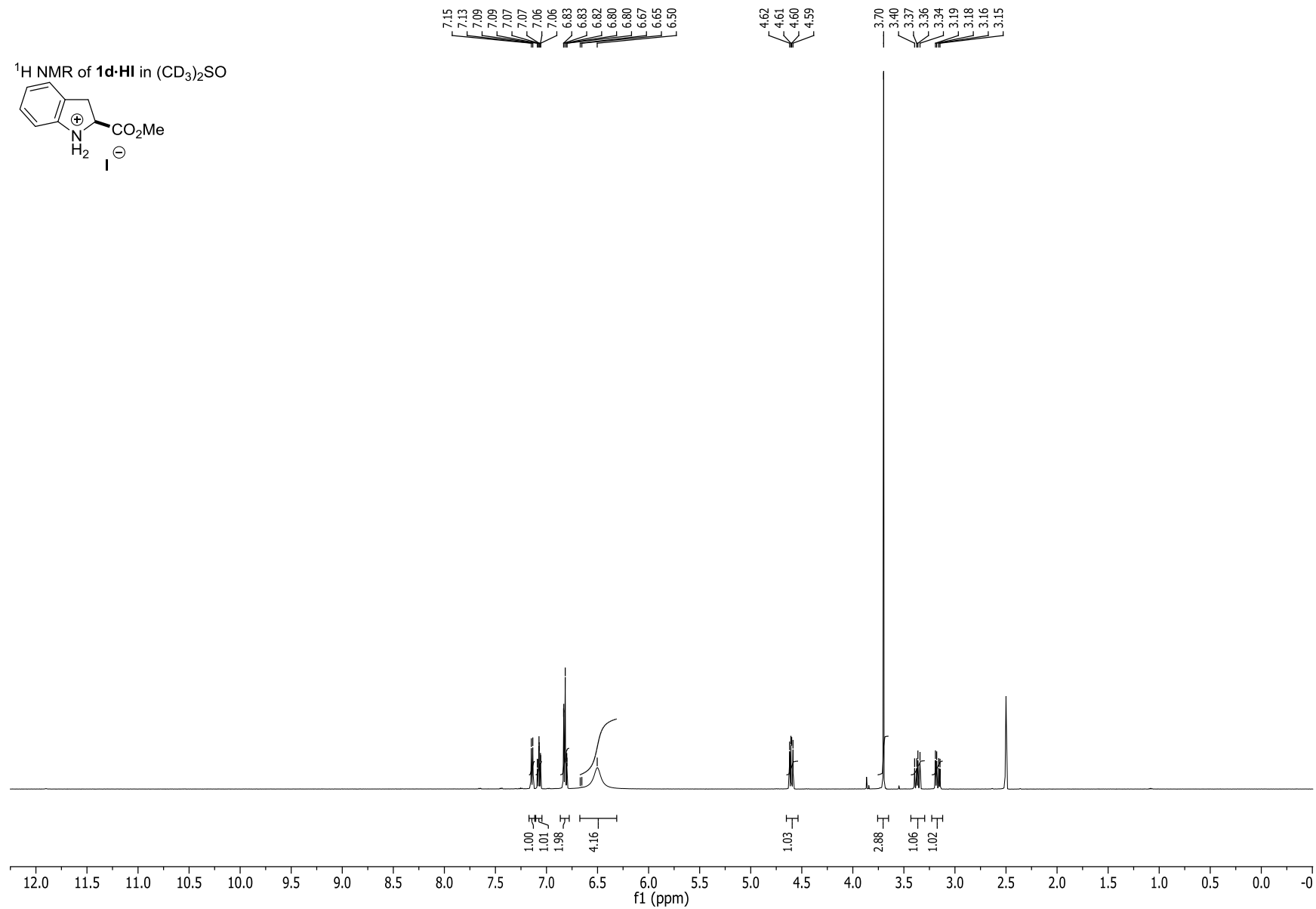
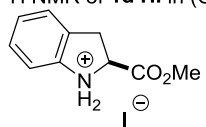


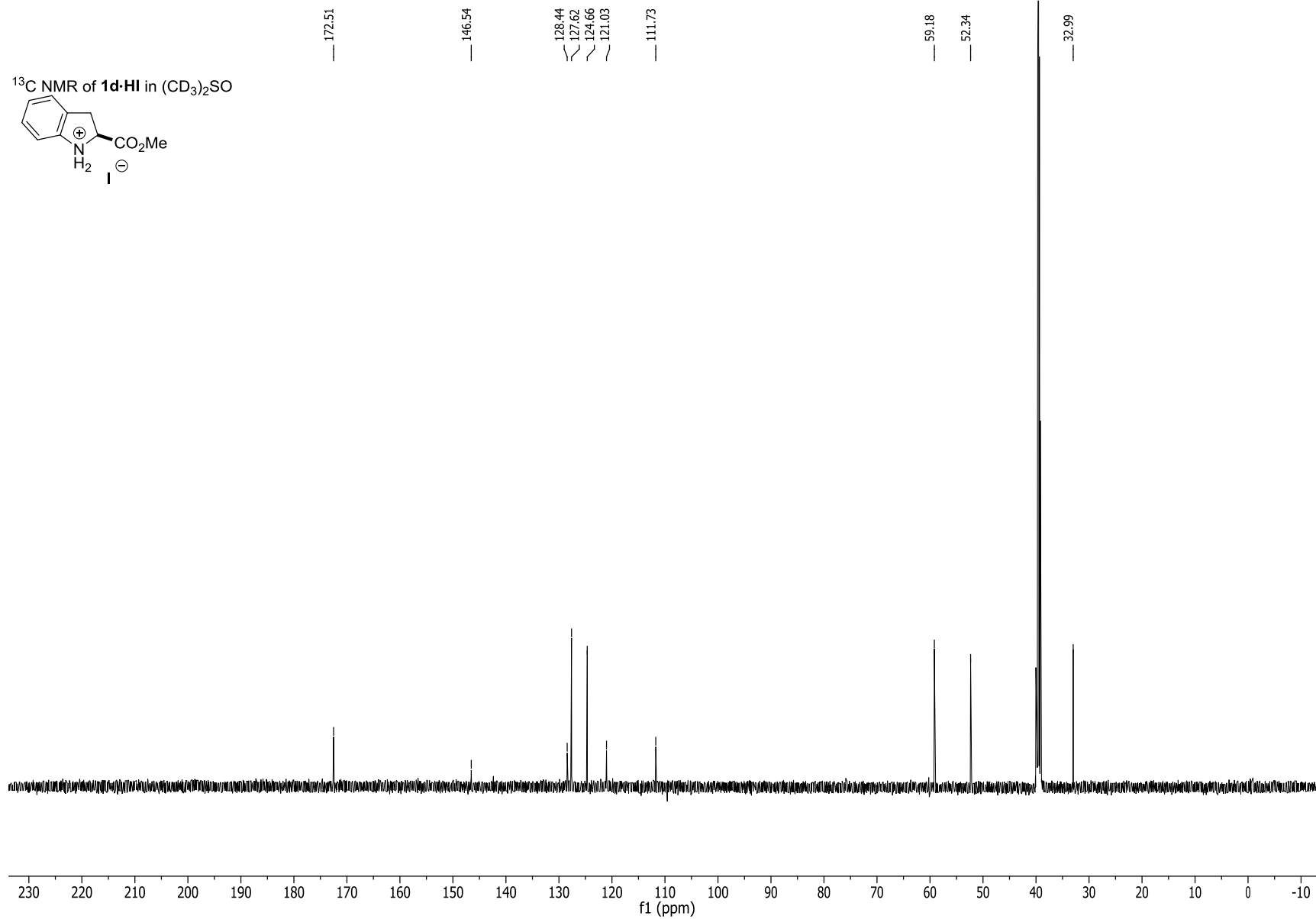
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **1d**·HBr in CD<sub>3</sub>OD





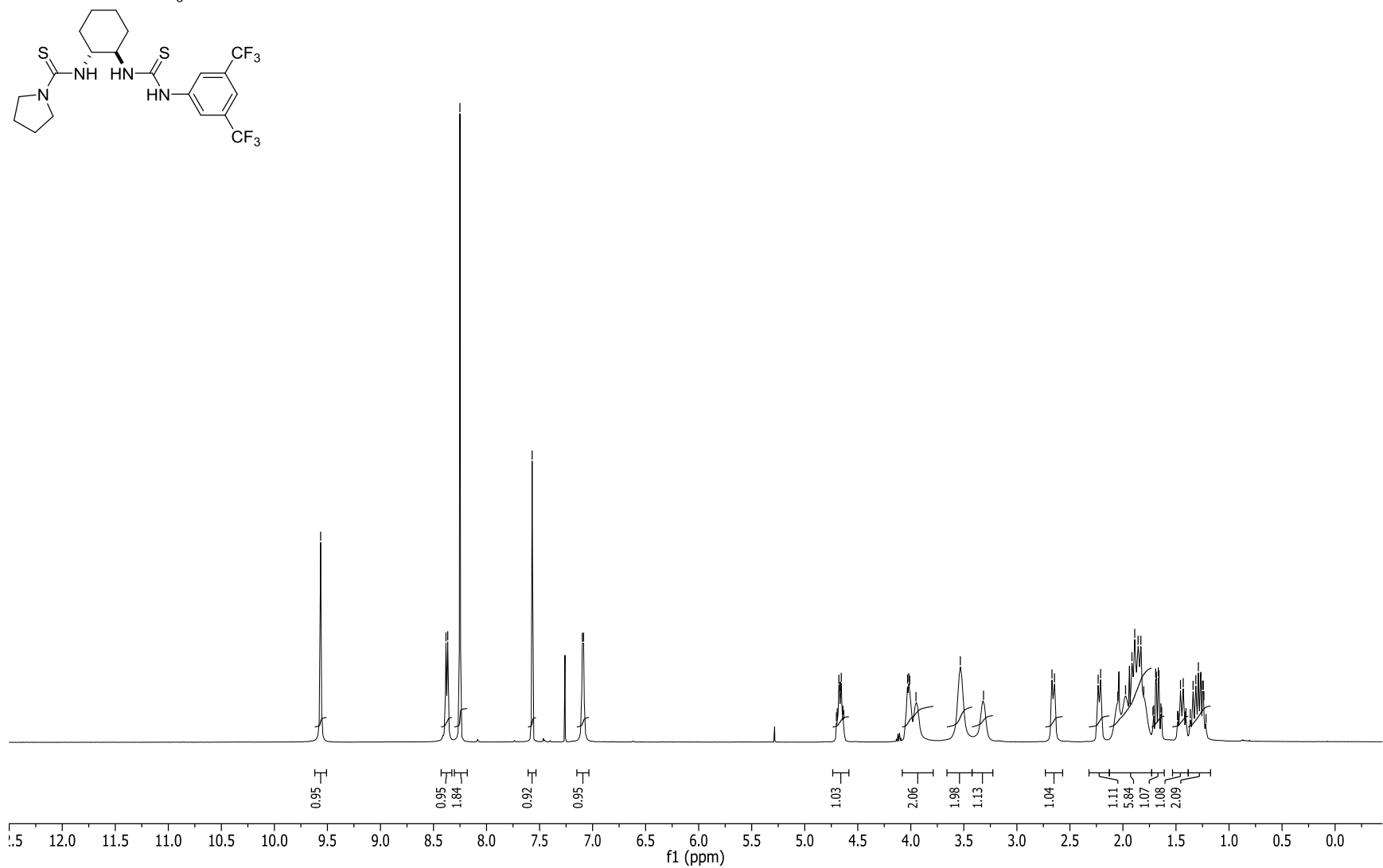
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **1d**·HI in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO

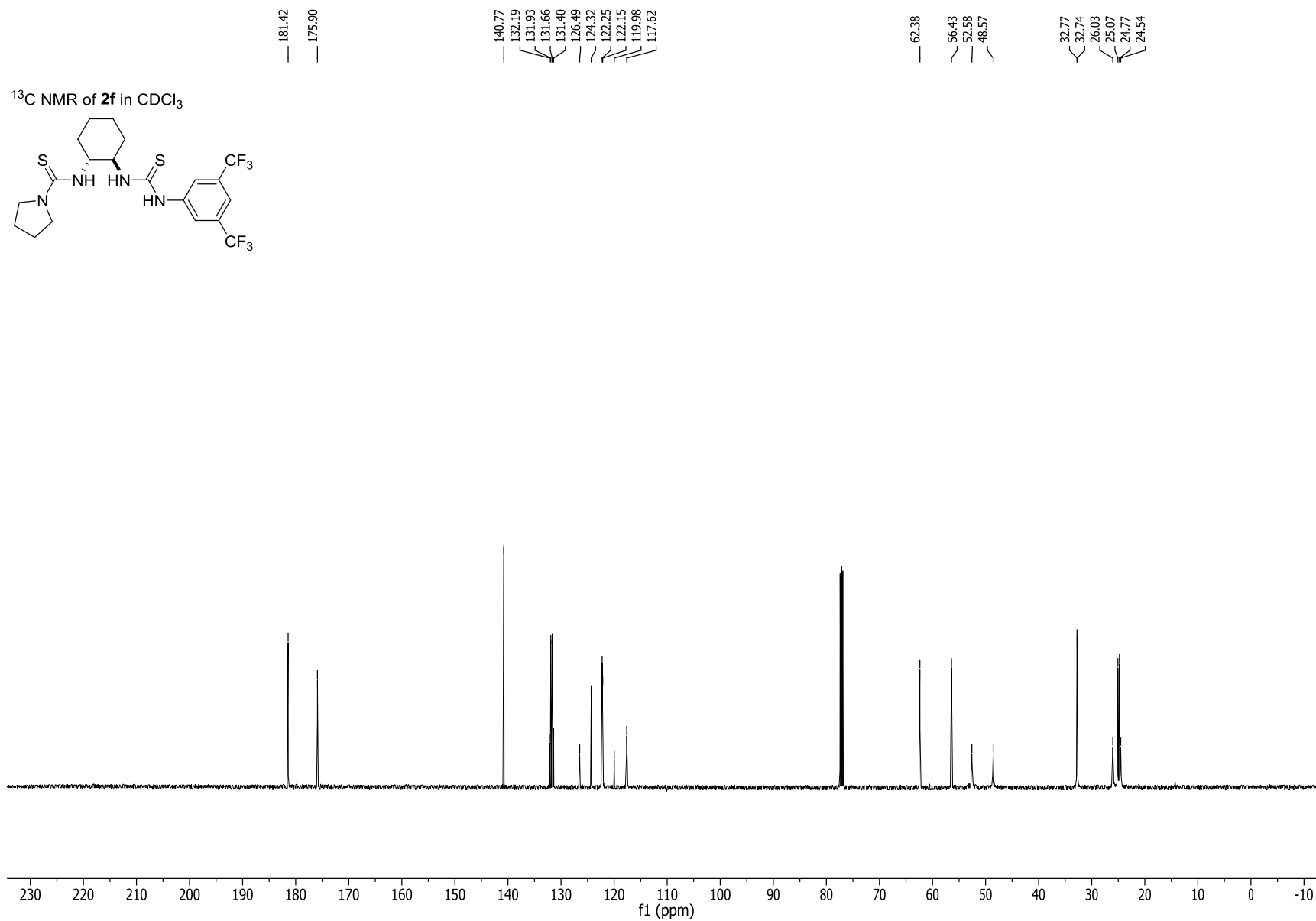


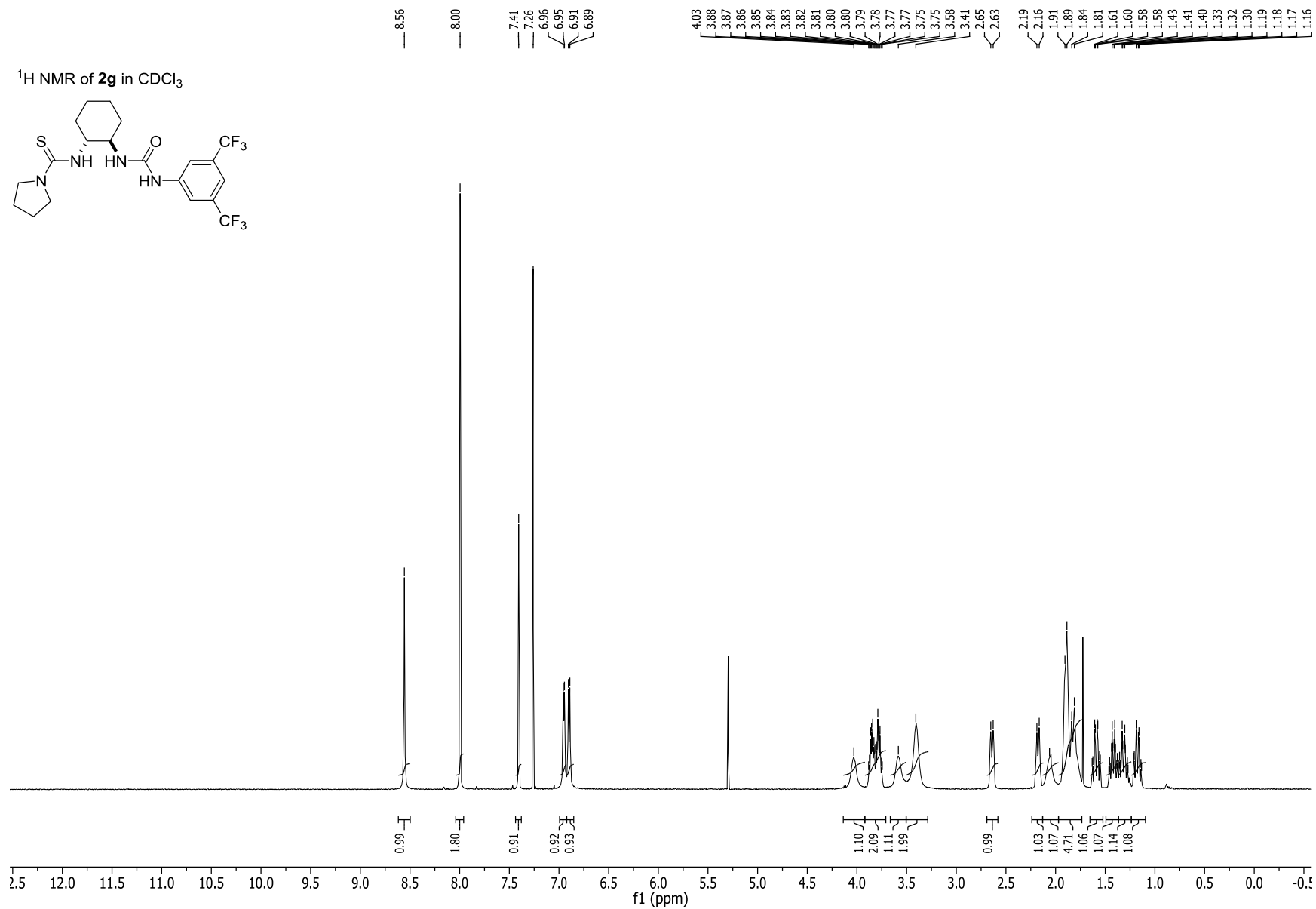


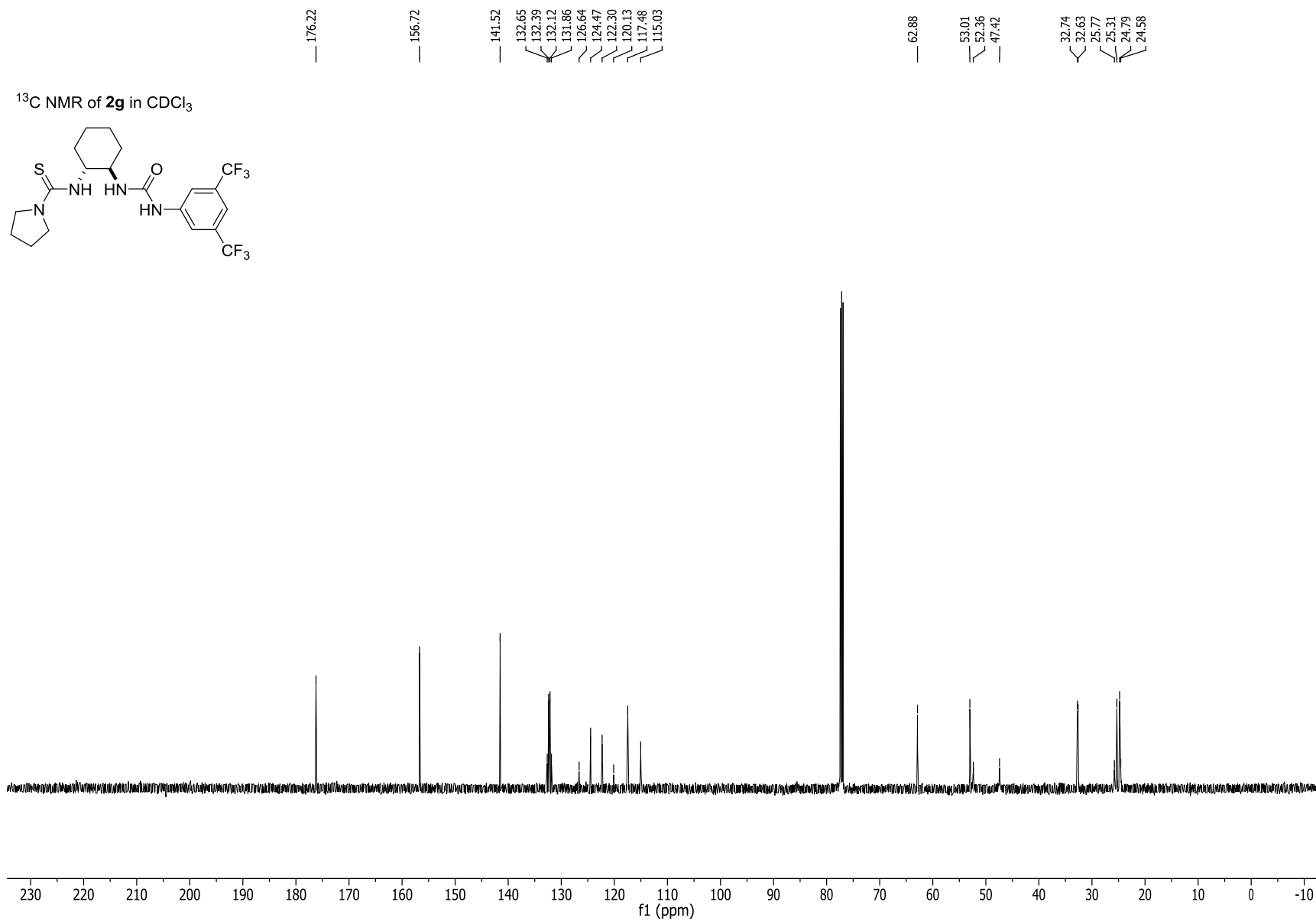


<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **2f** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

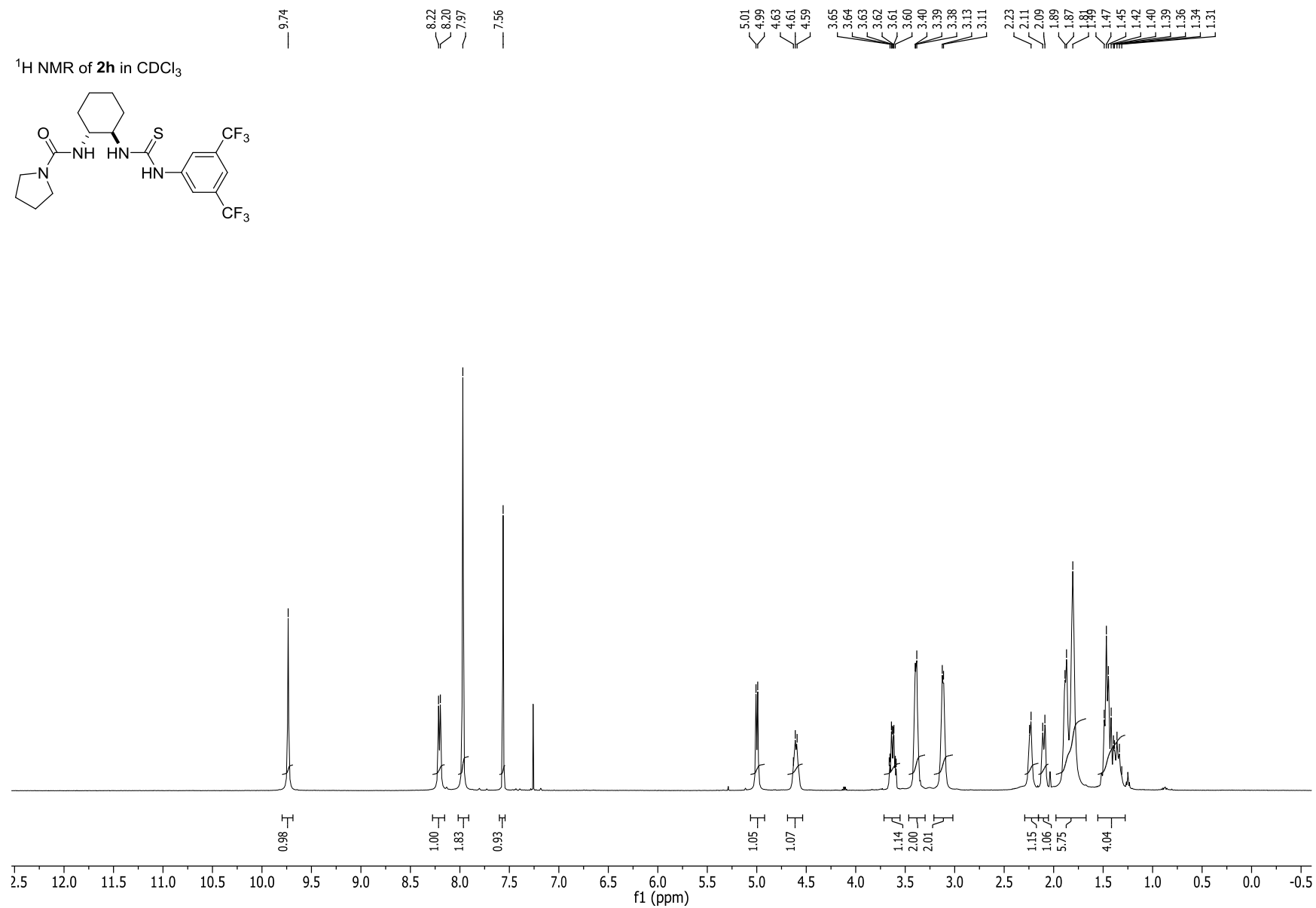
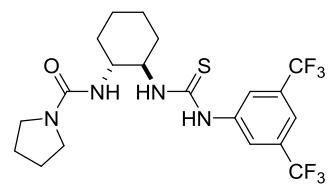




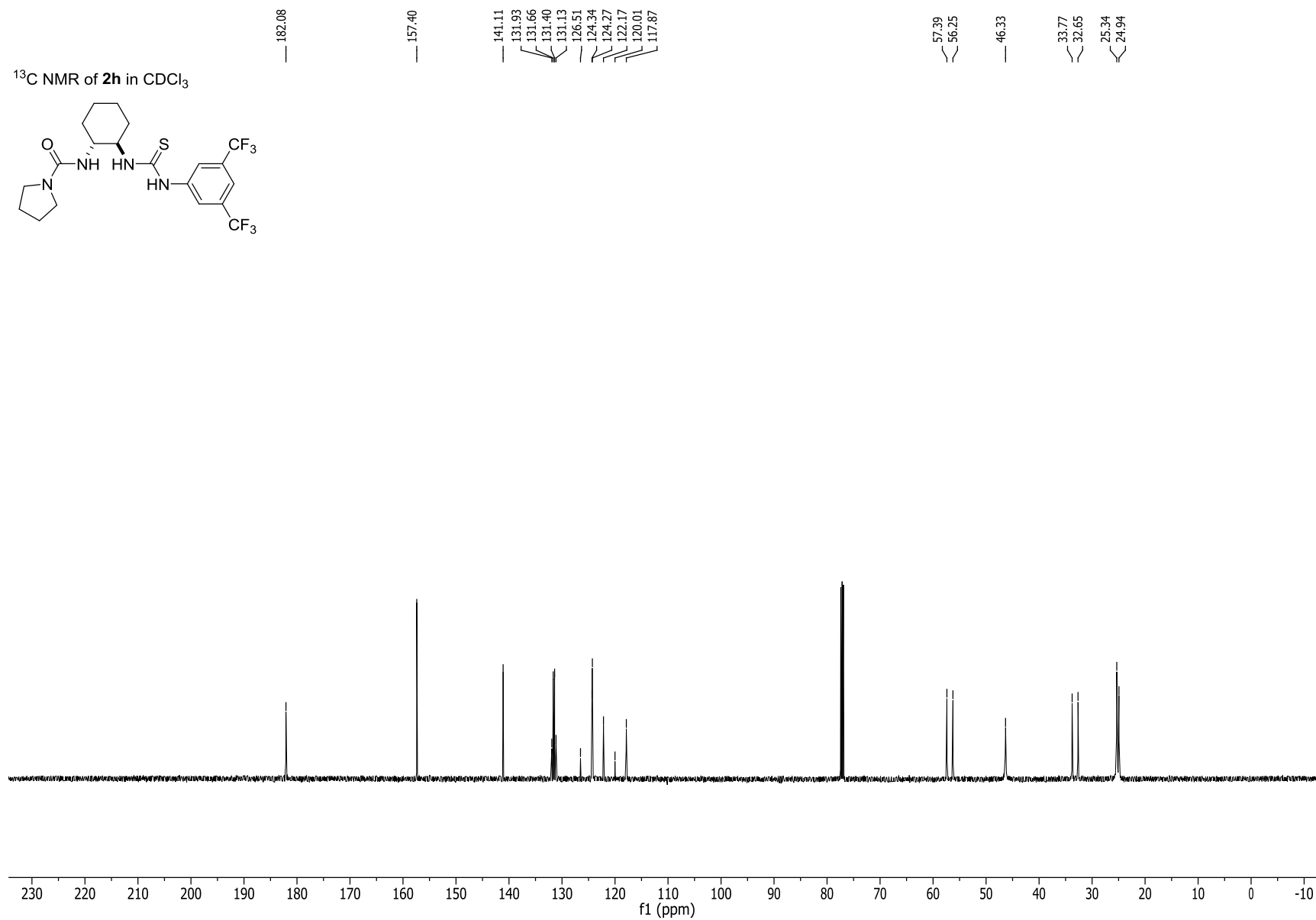
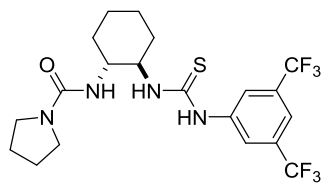


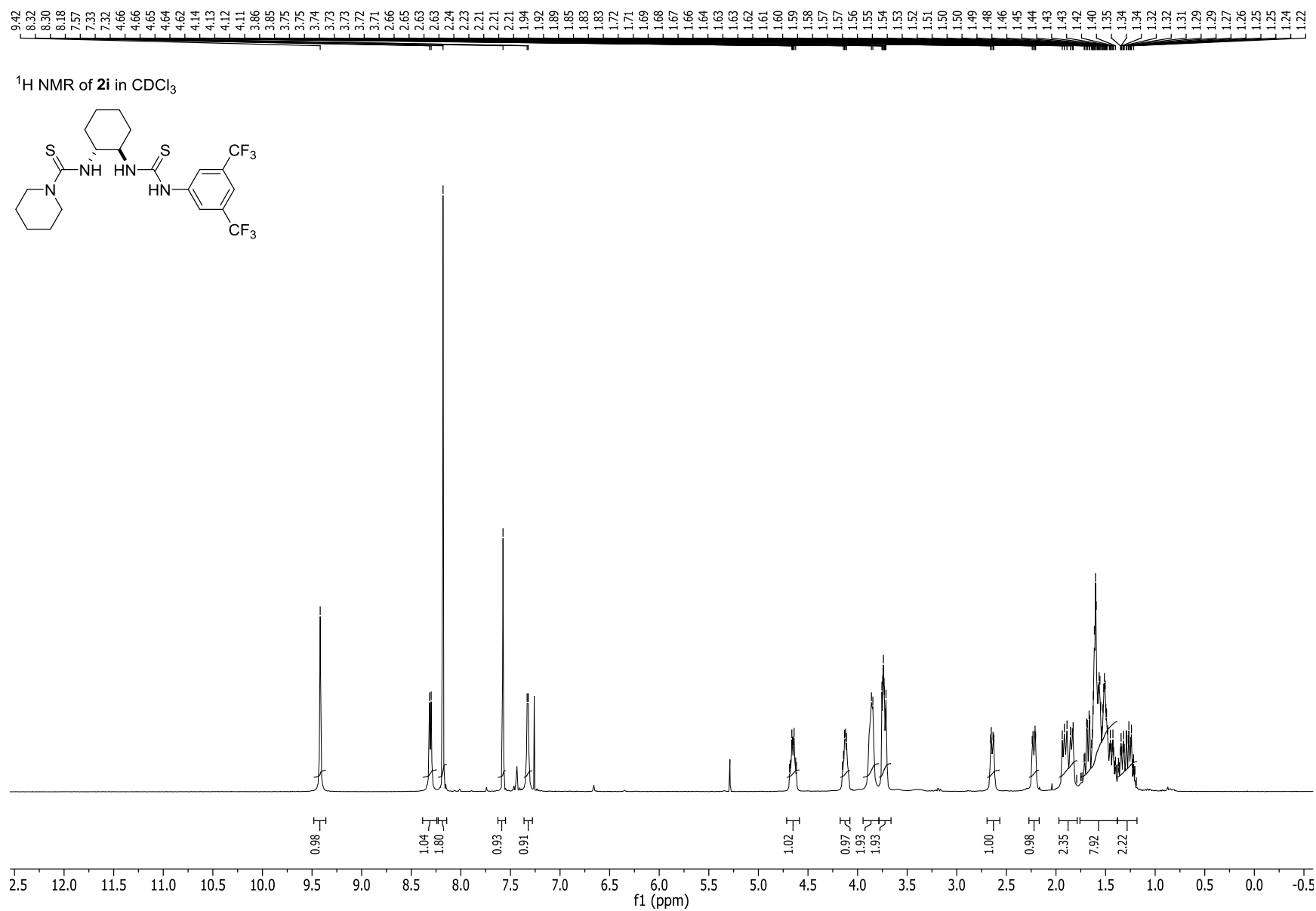


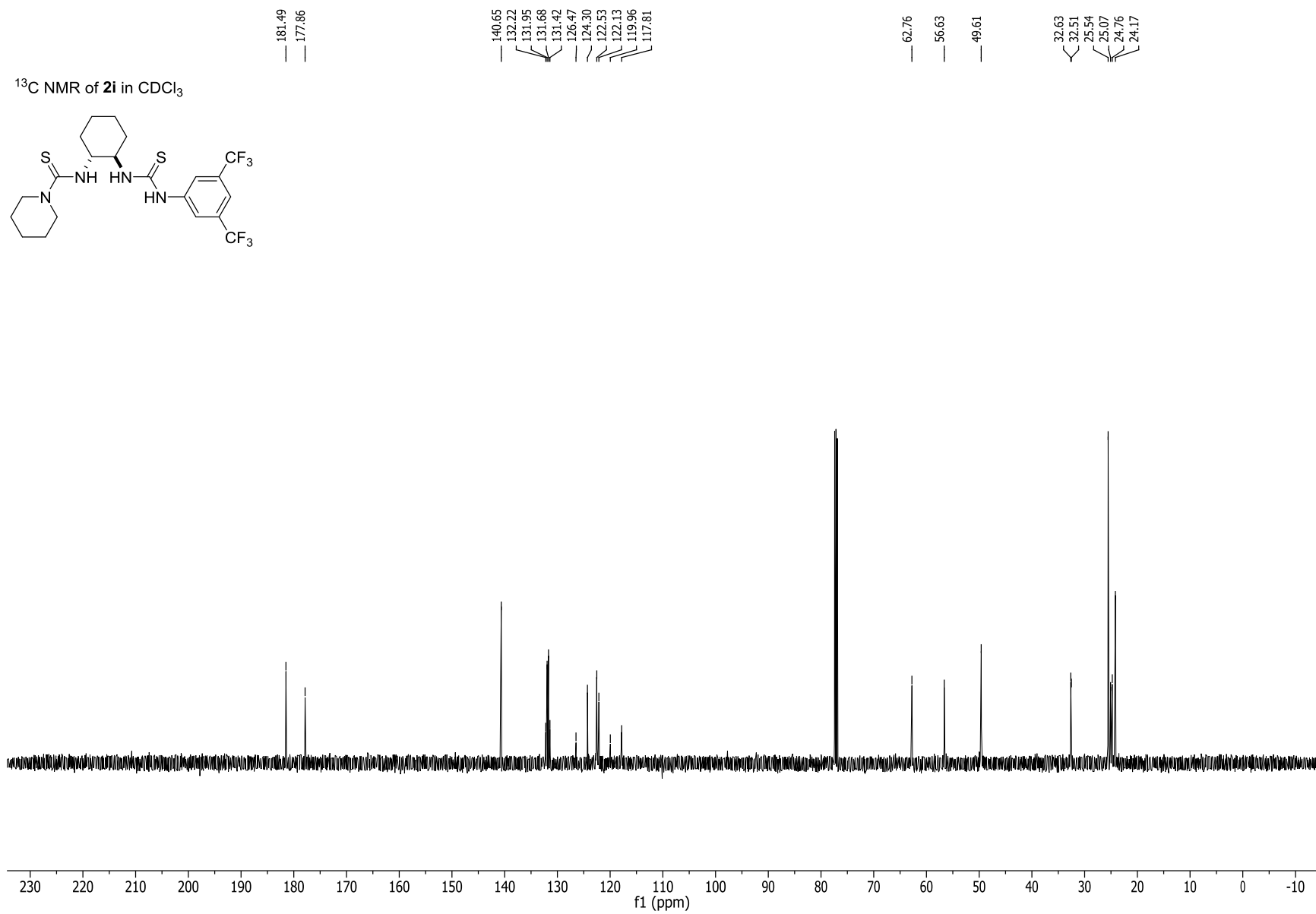
$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **2h** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



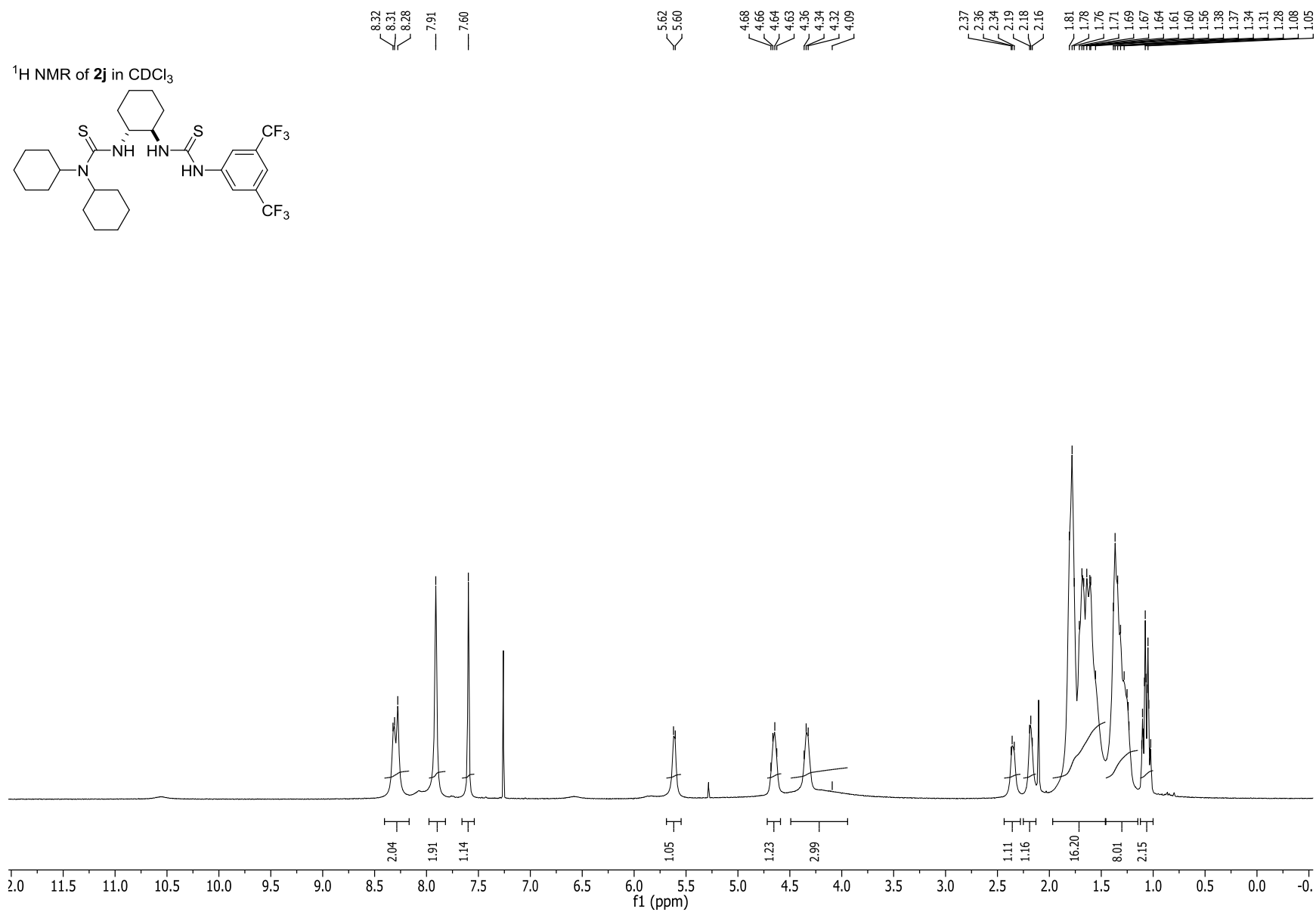
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **2h** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

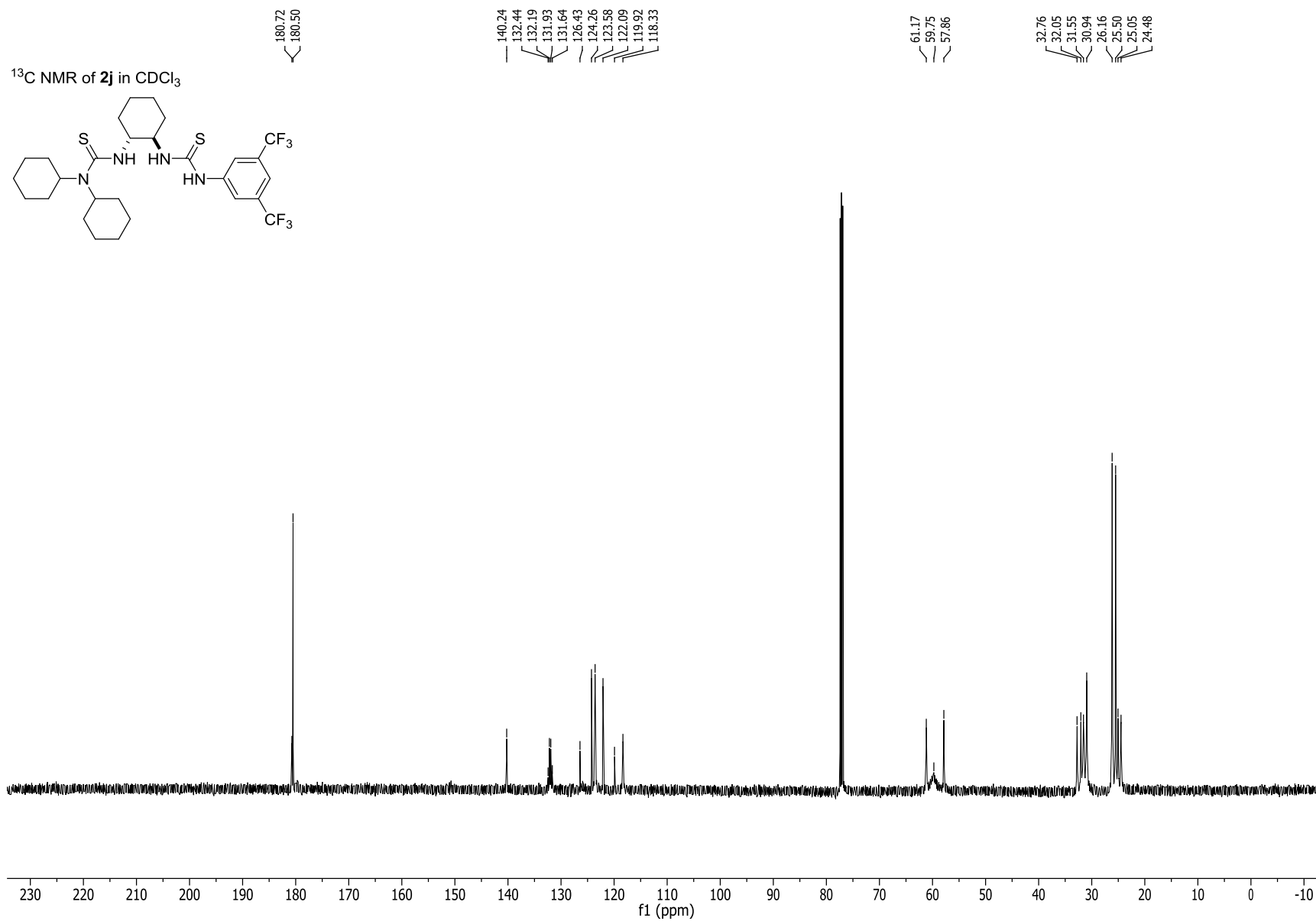


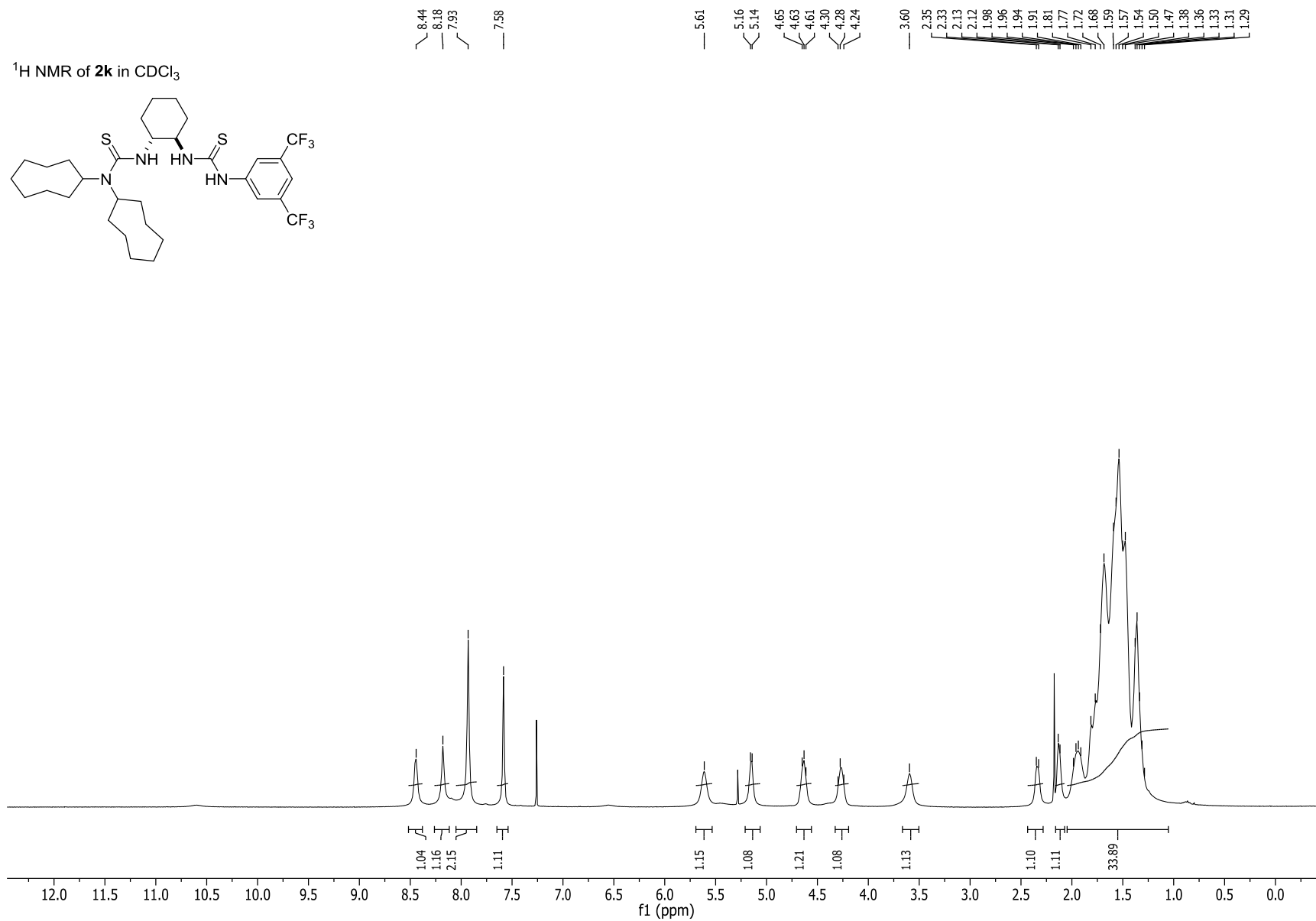


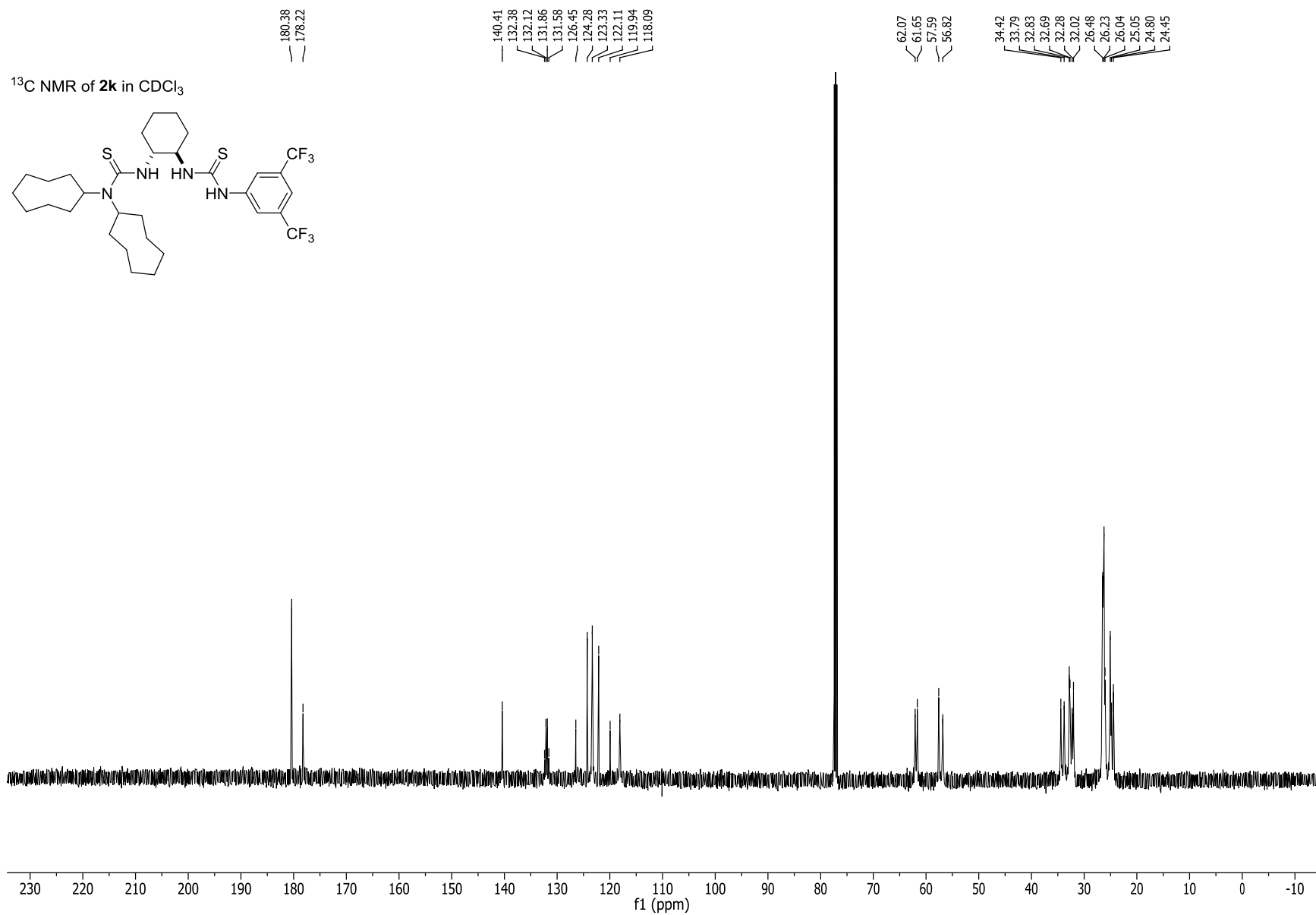


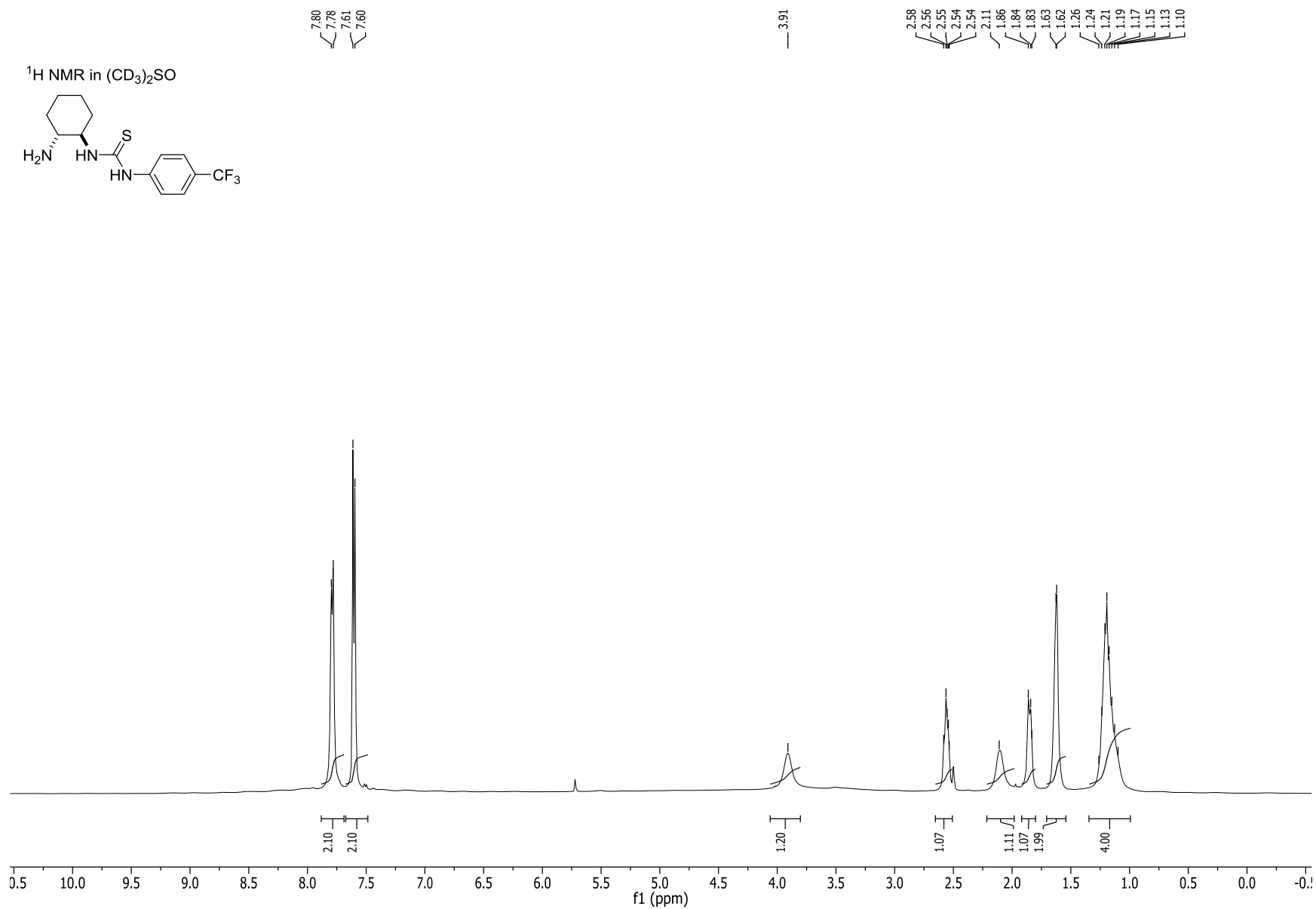


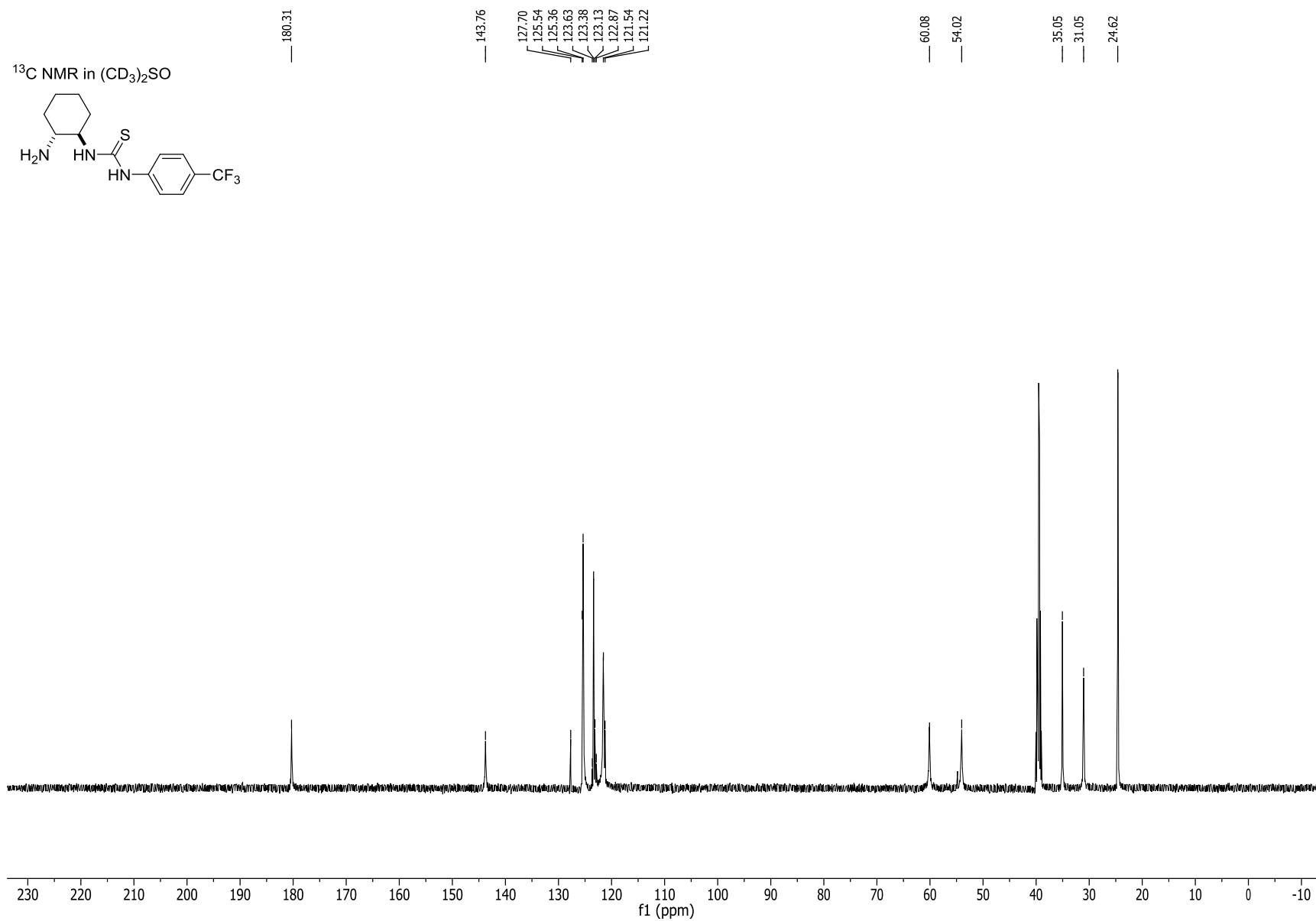




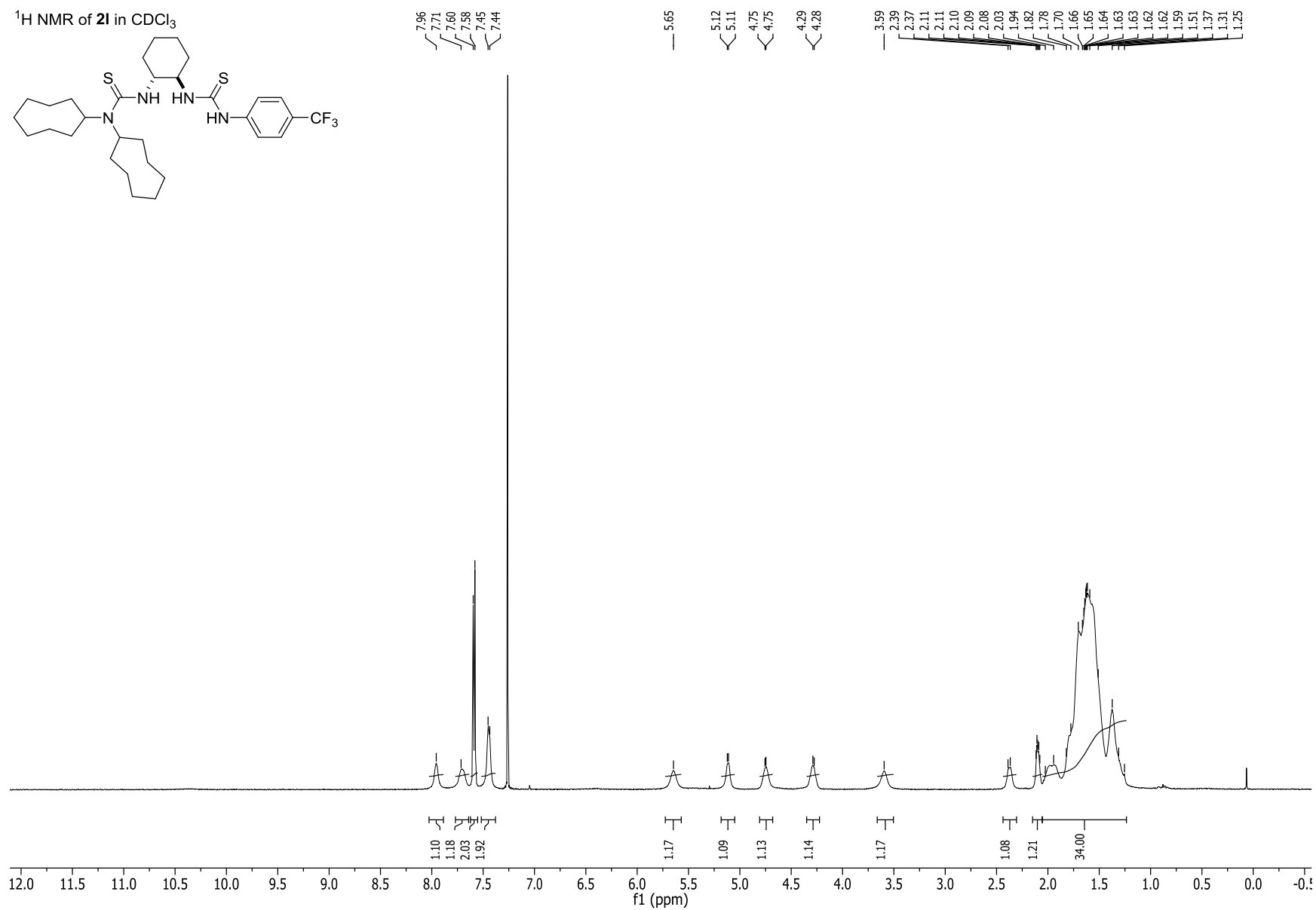
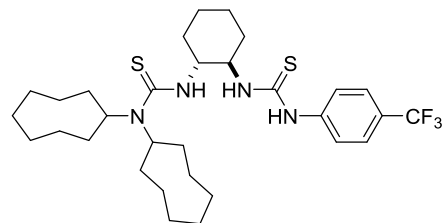


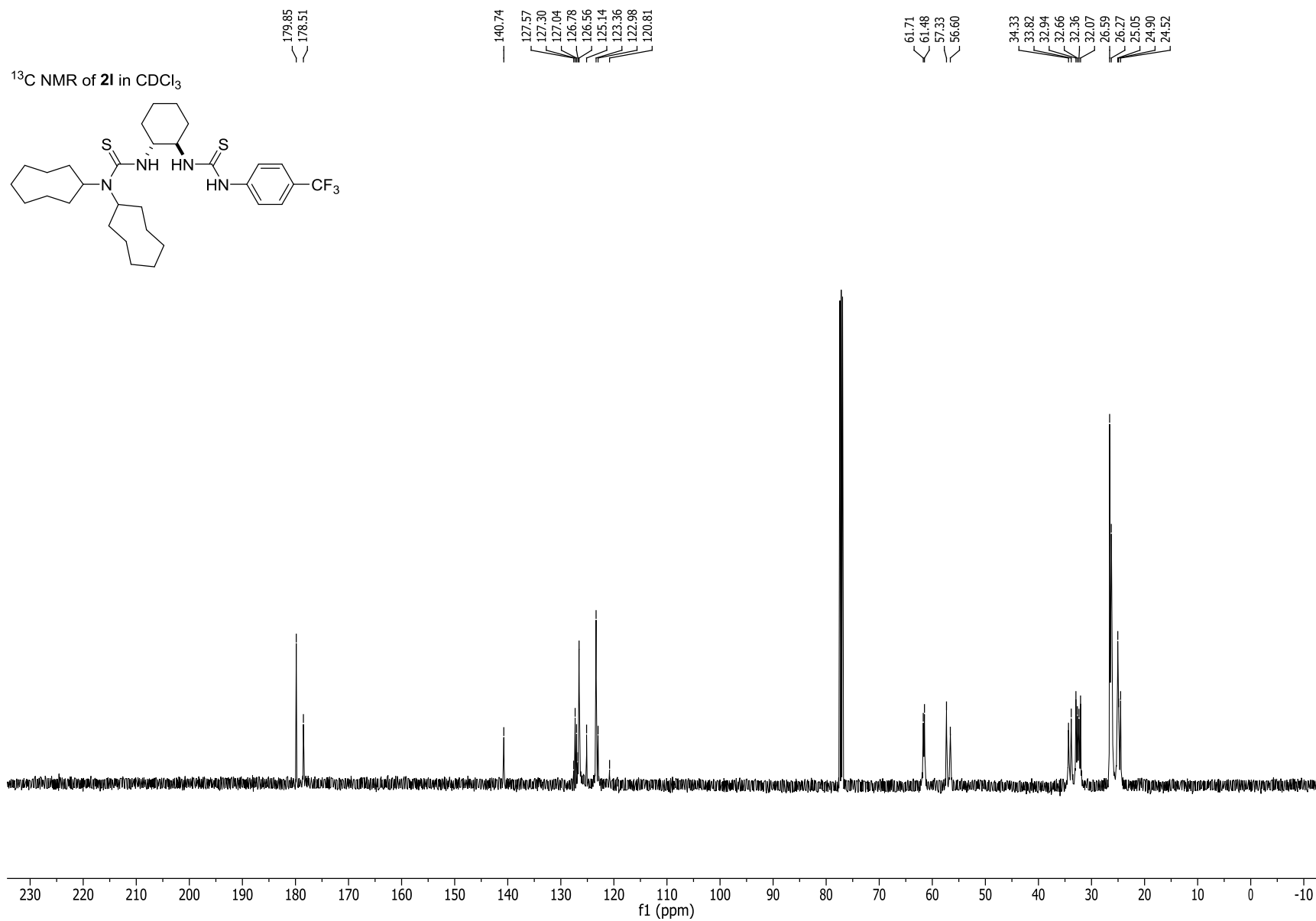




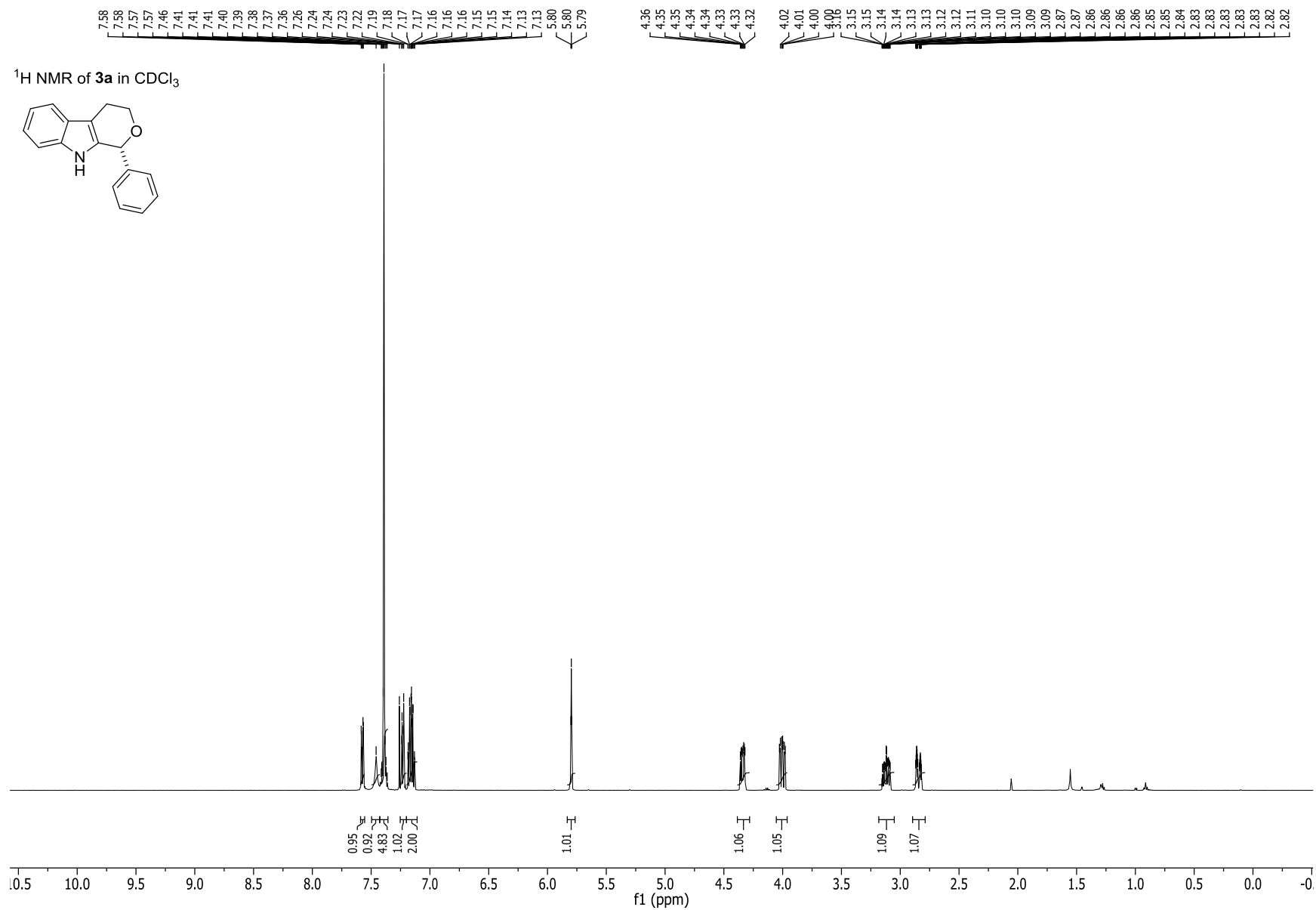


<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **2l** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

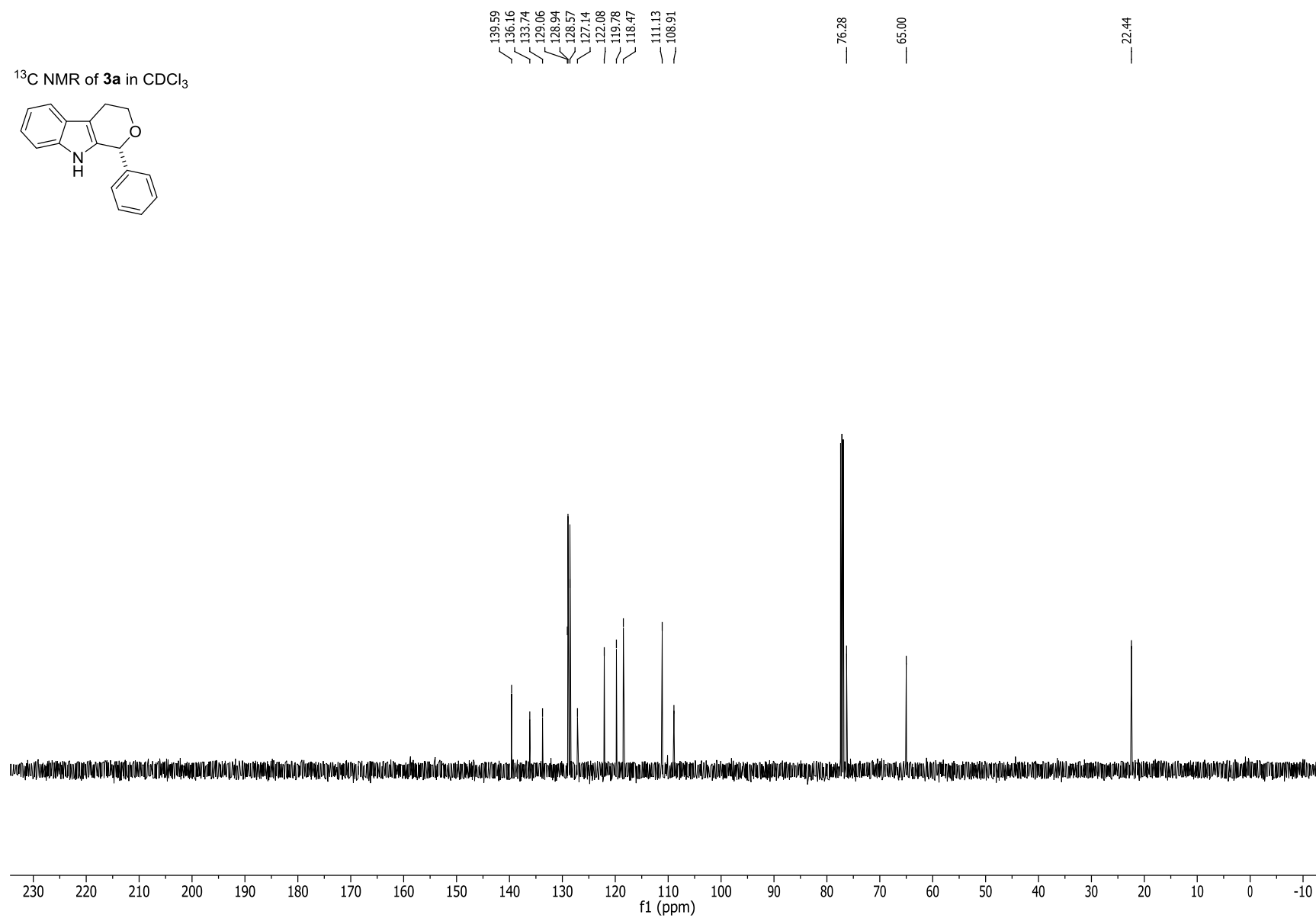
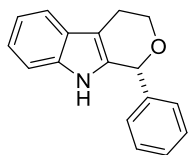


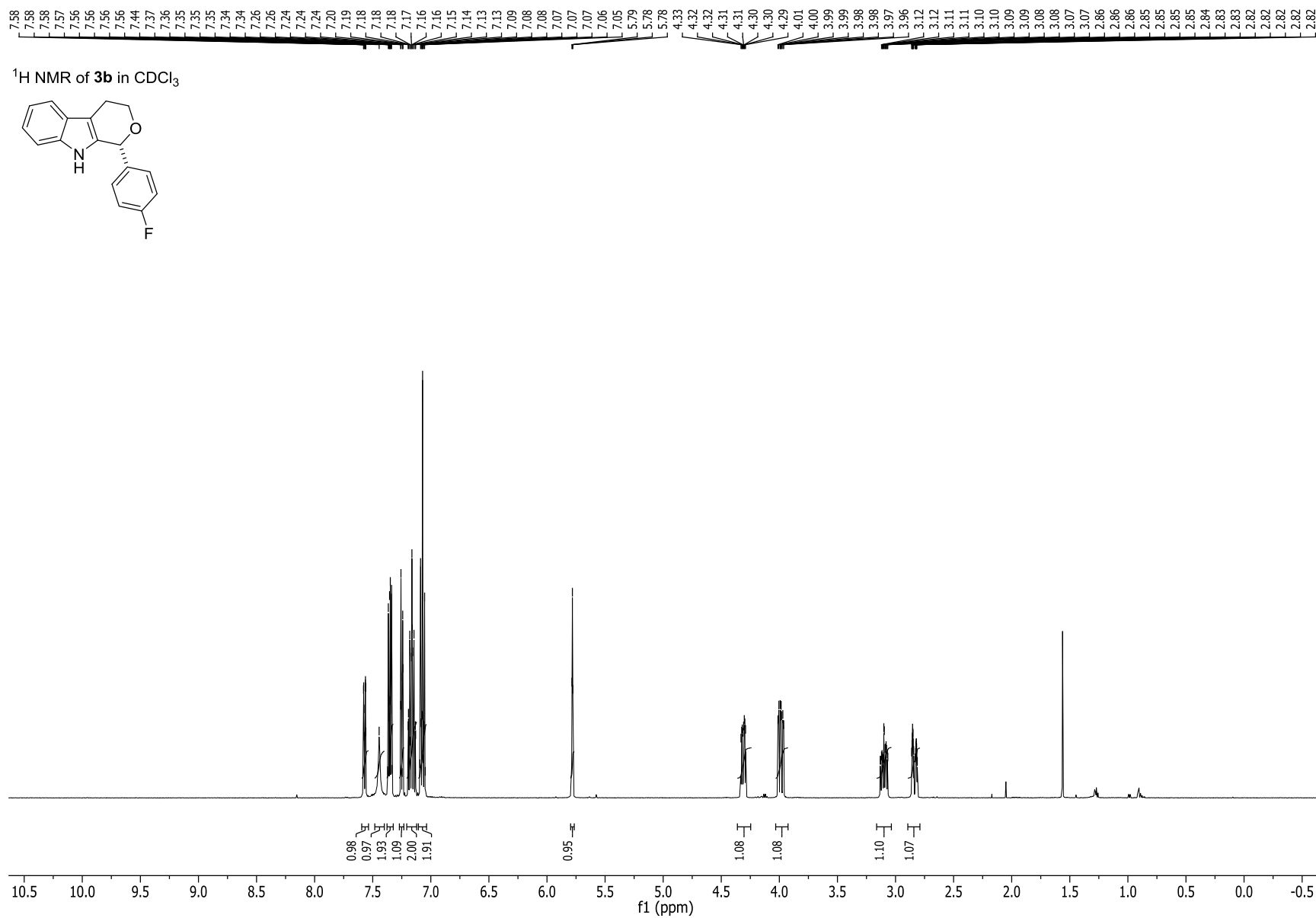




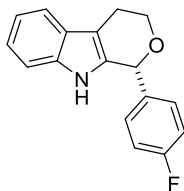


<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **3a** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>





$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **3b** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



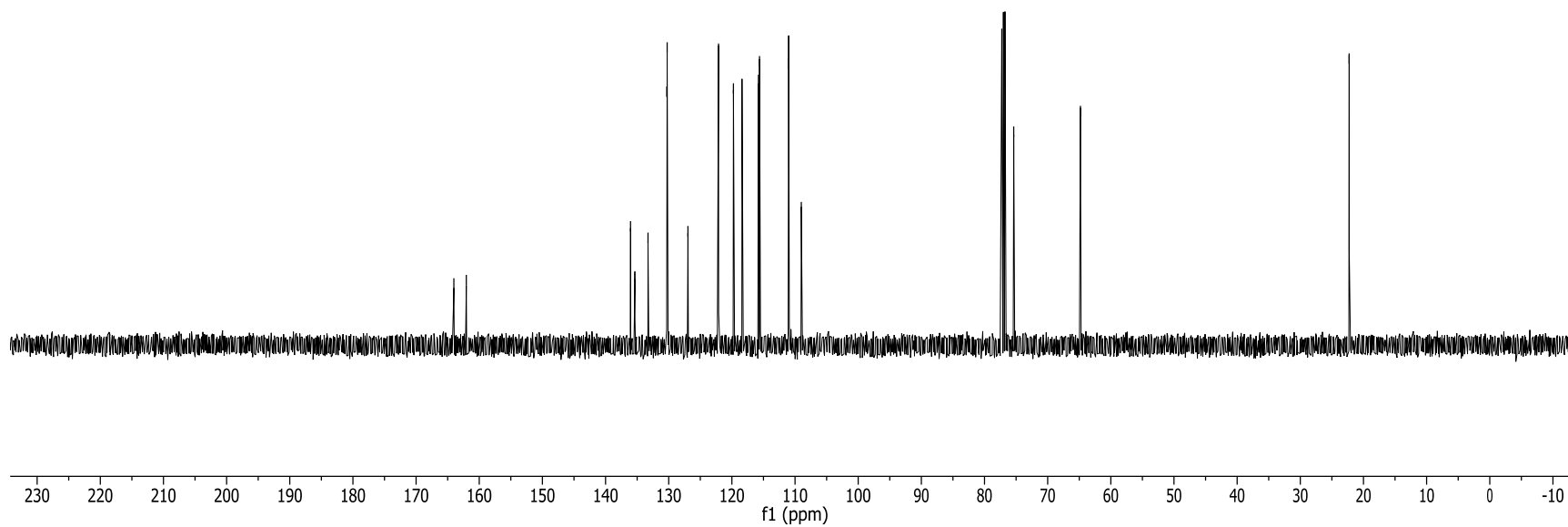
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162.05

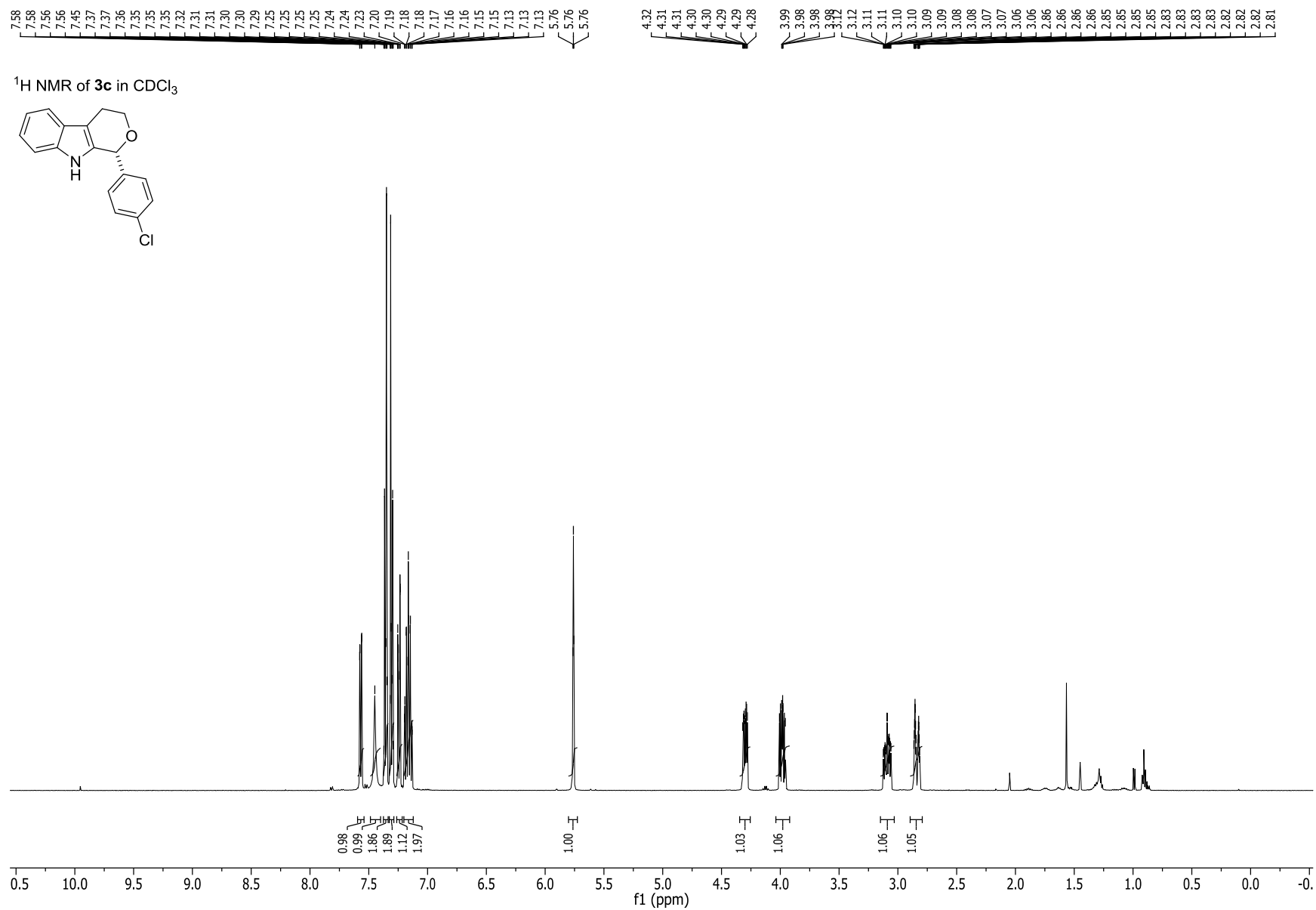
136.05  
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135.35  
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115.80  
115.62  
111.01  
109.01

75.37

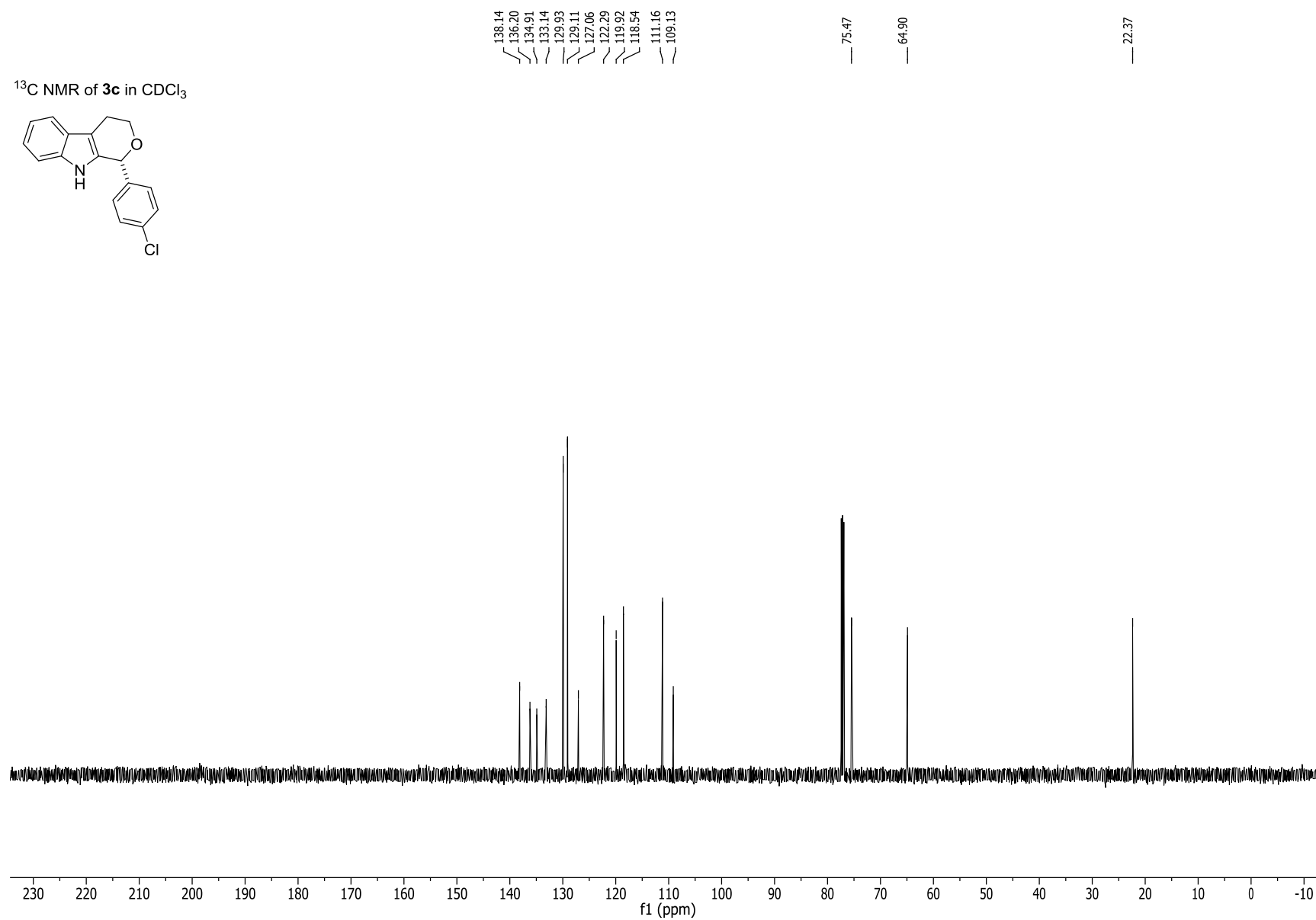
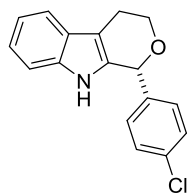
64.82

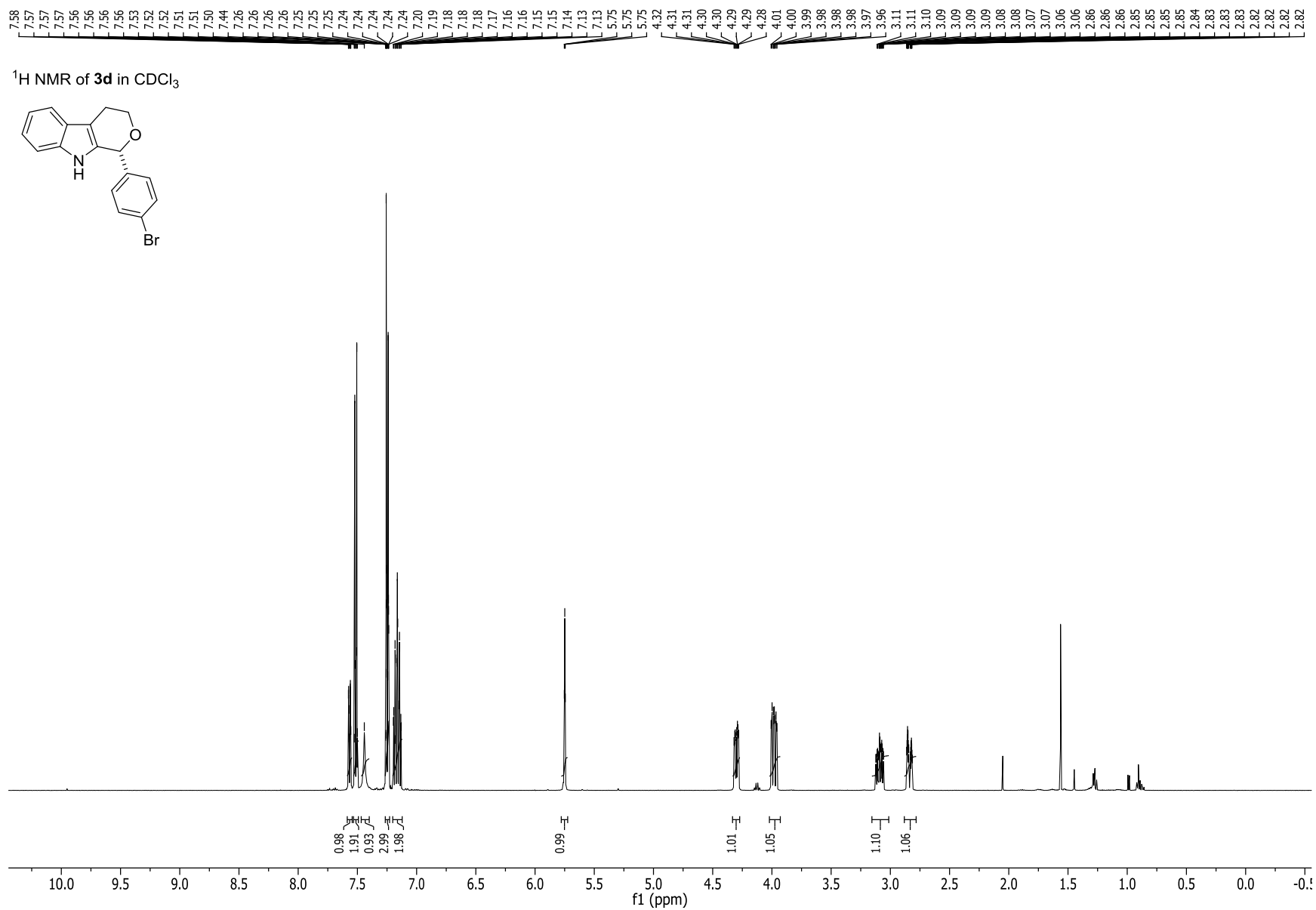
22.26



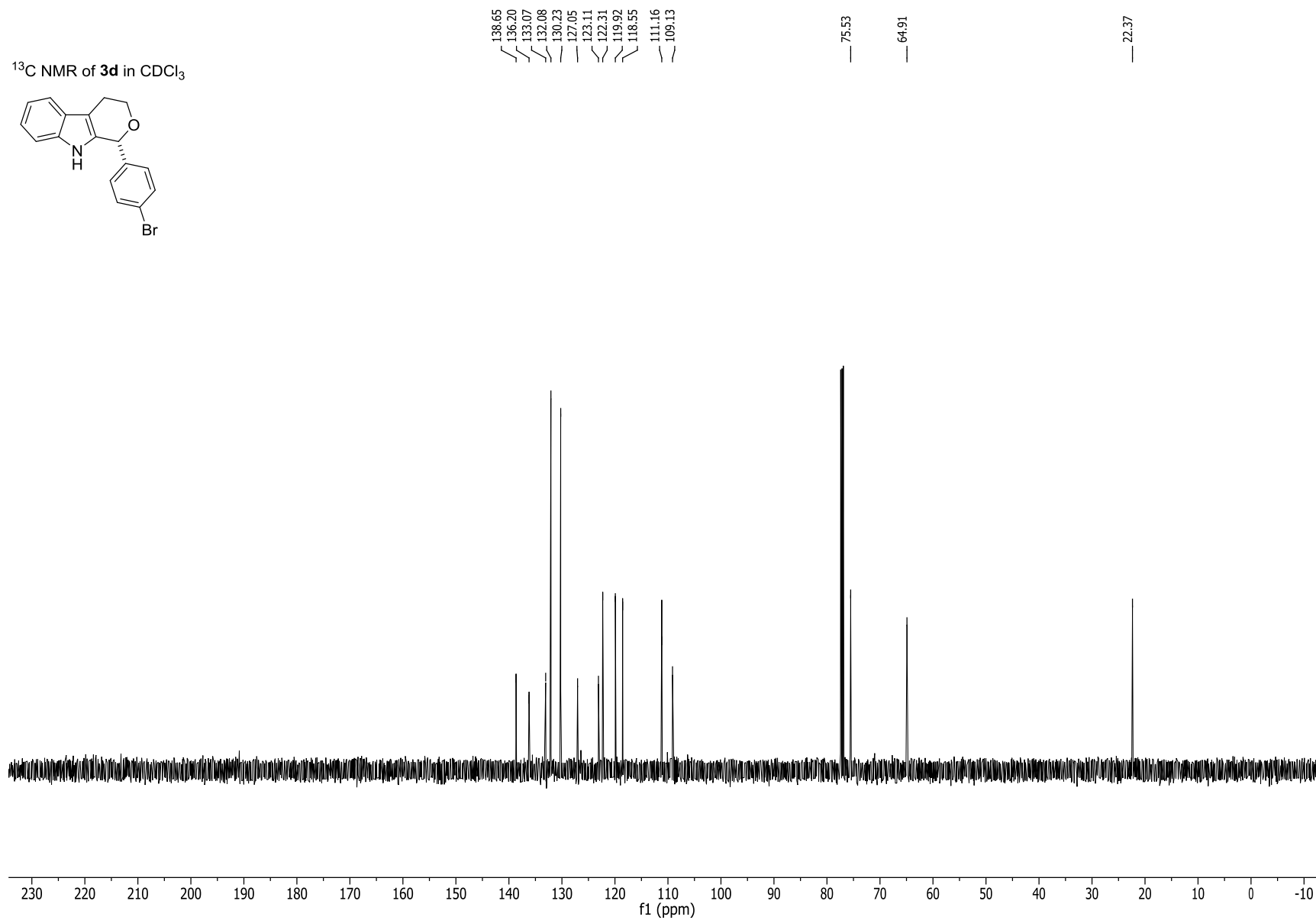
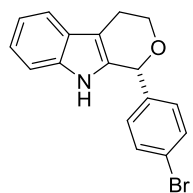


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **3c** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



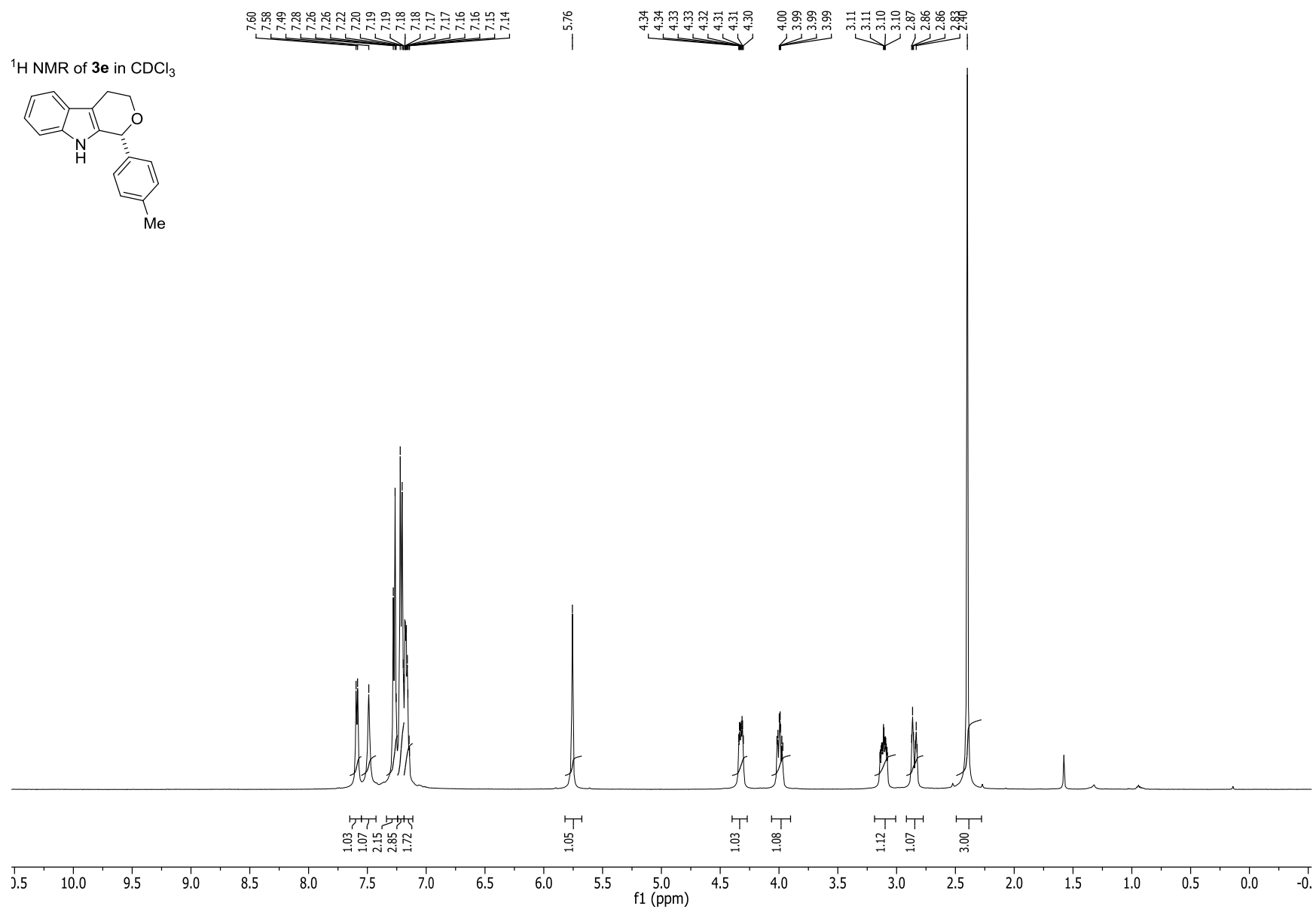
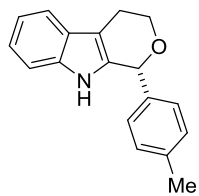


<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **3d** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

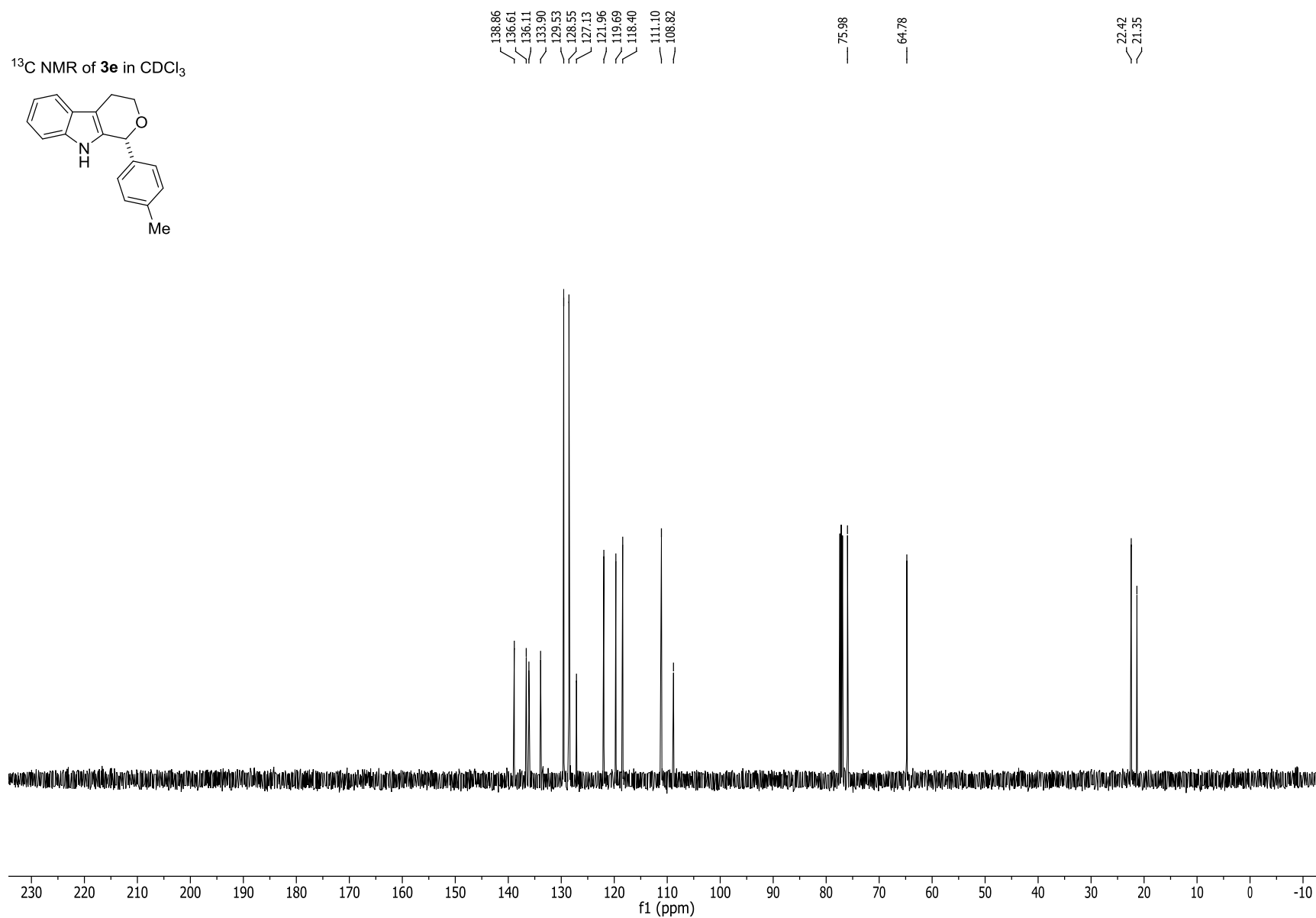
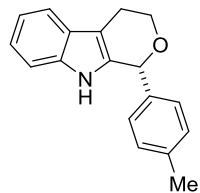


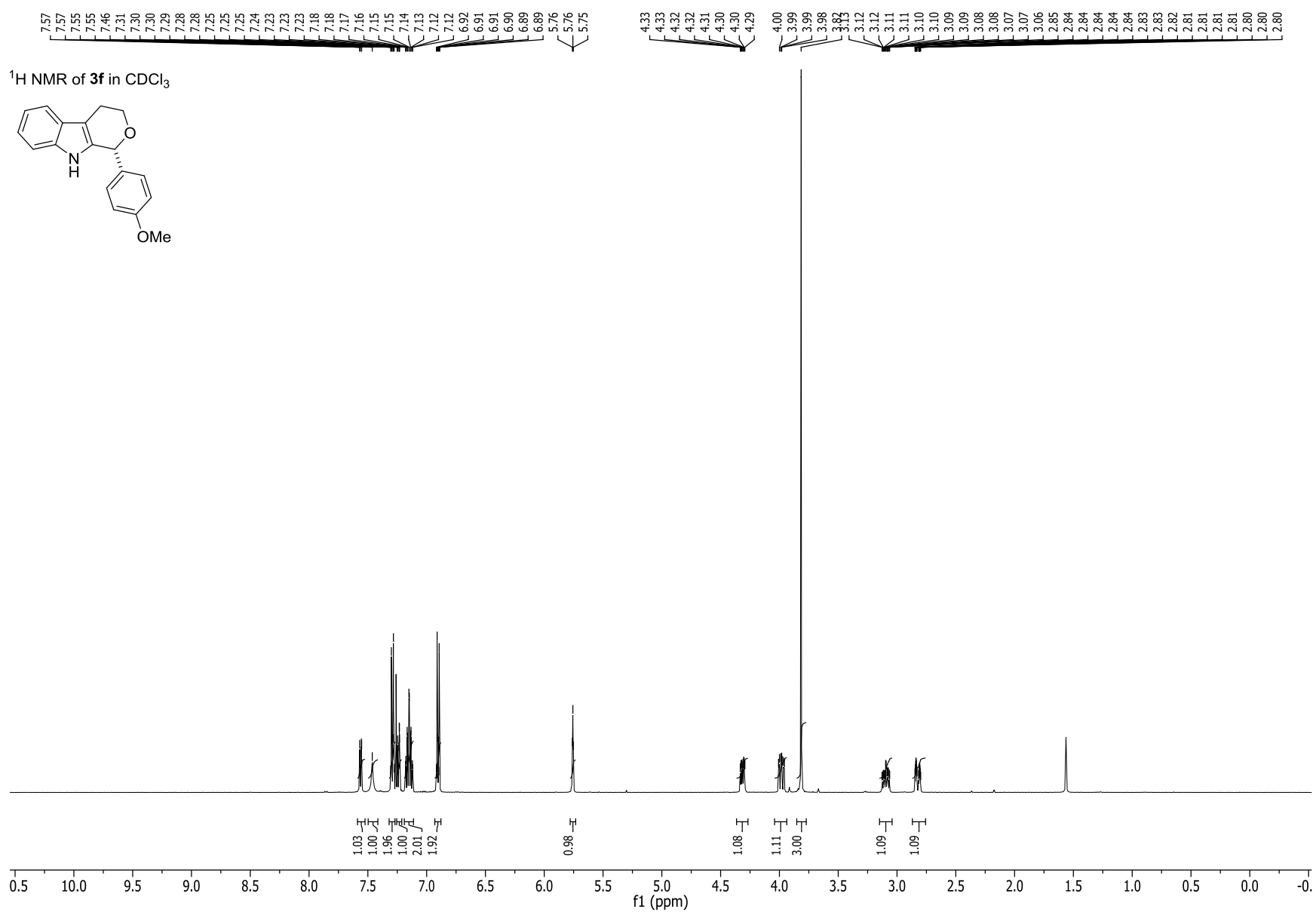


<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **3e** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

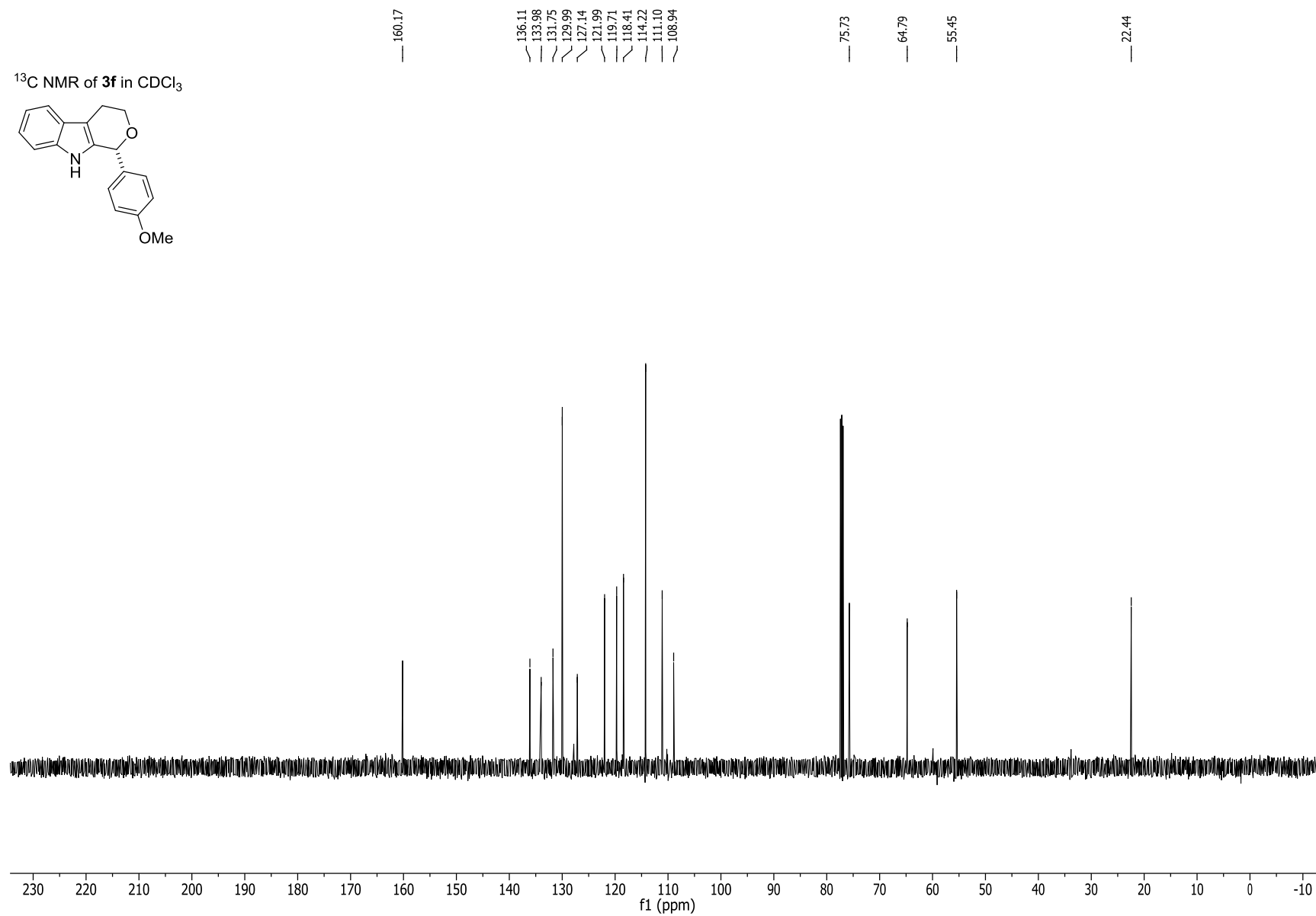
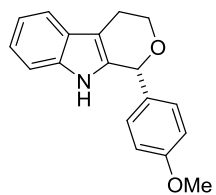


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **3e** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



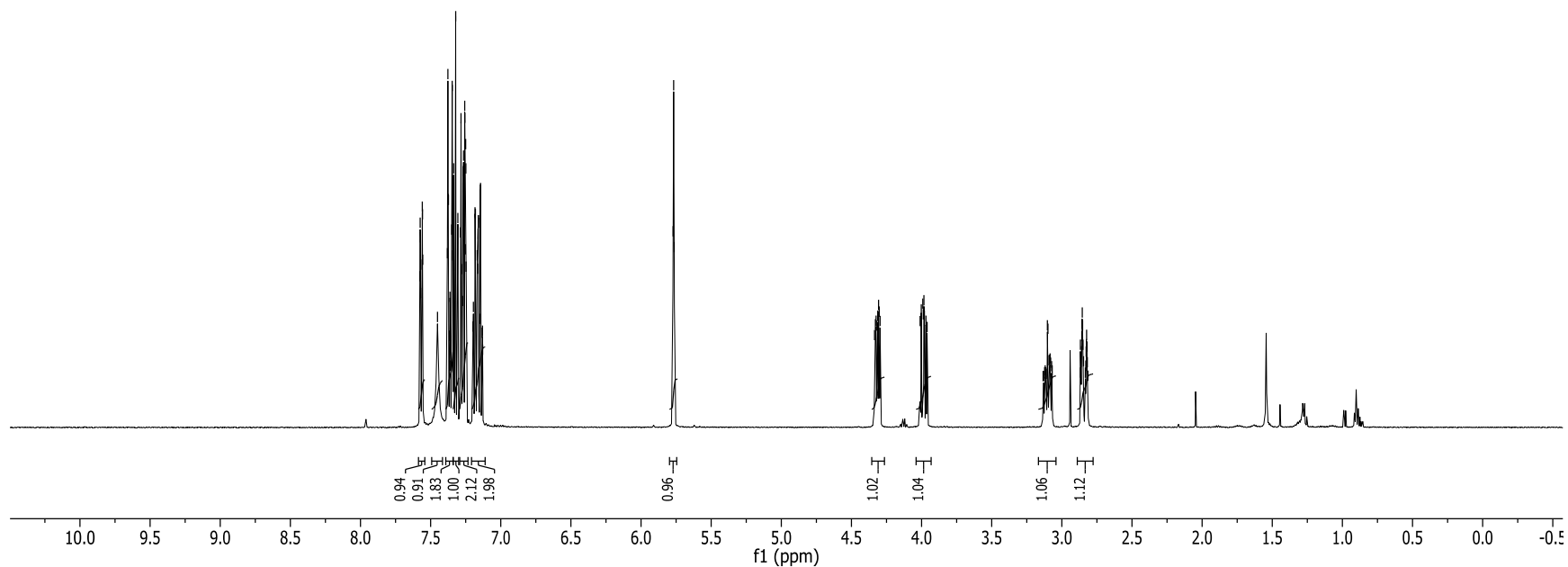
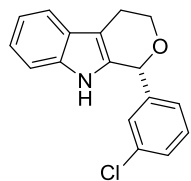


<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **3f** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

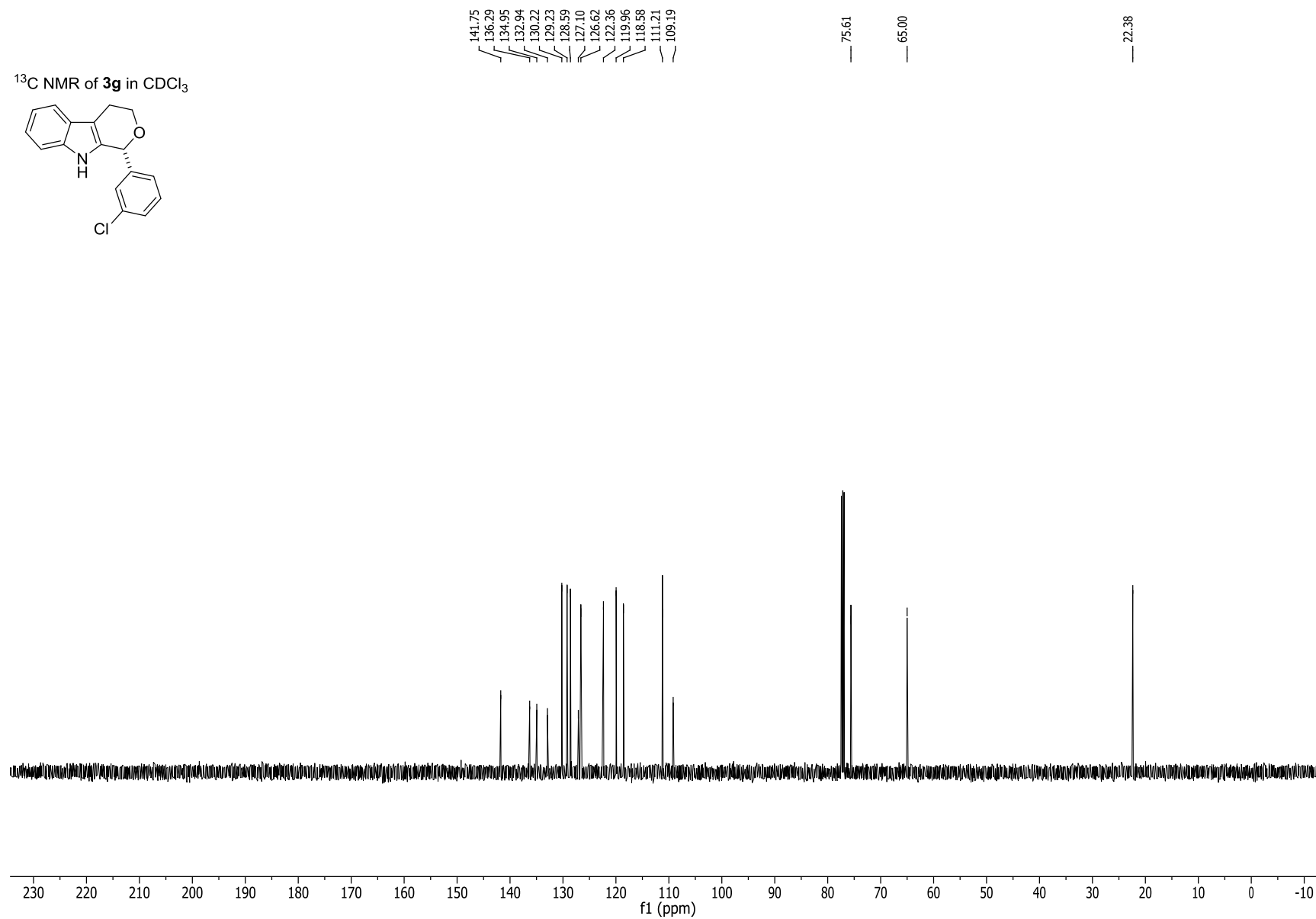
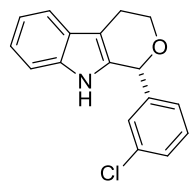


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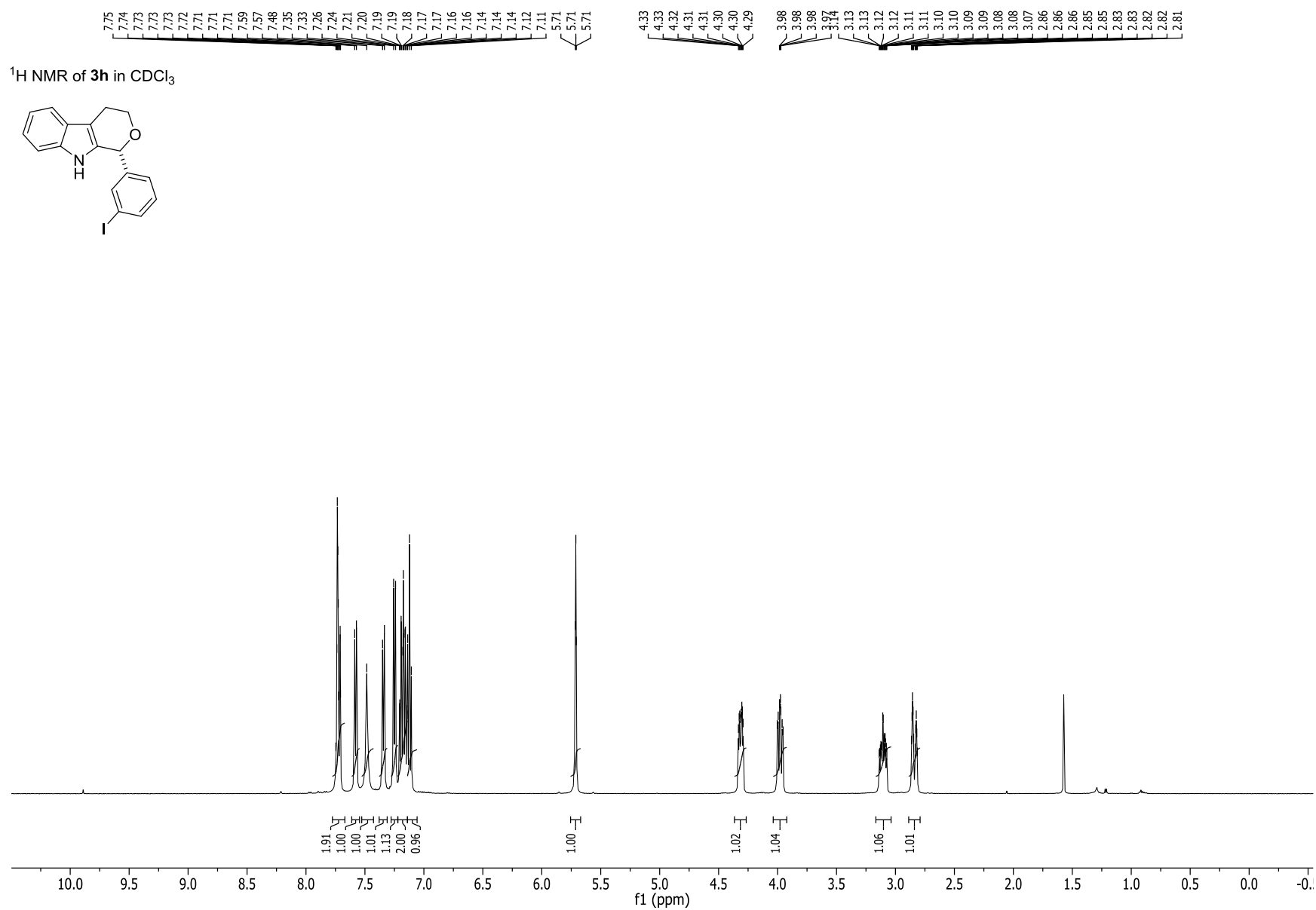
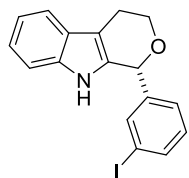
$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **3g** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



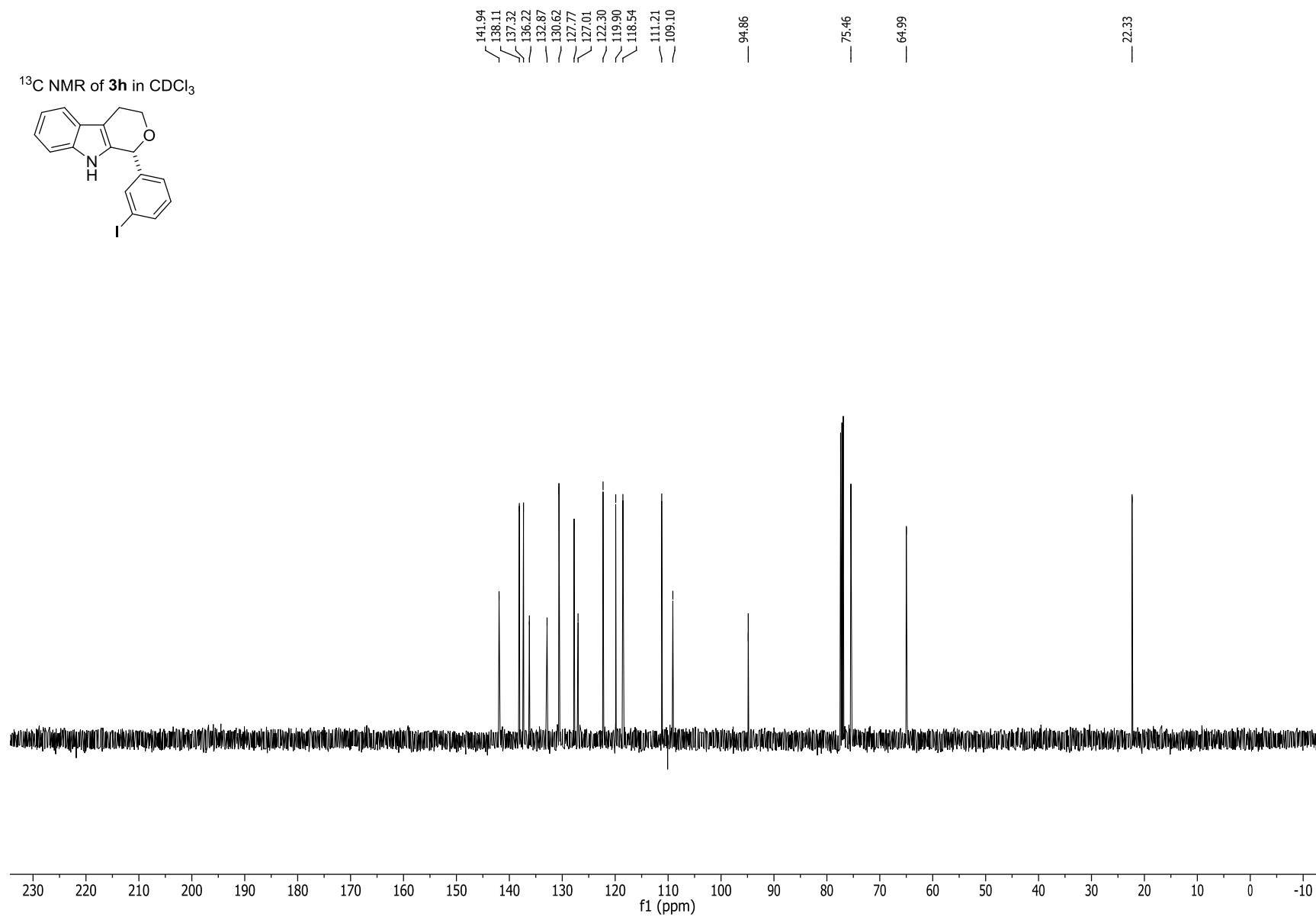
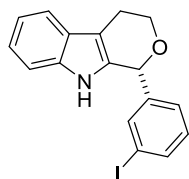
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **3g** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



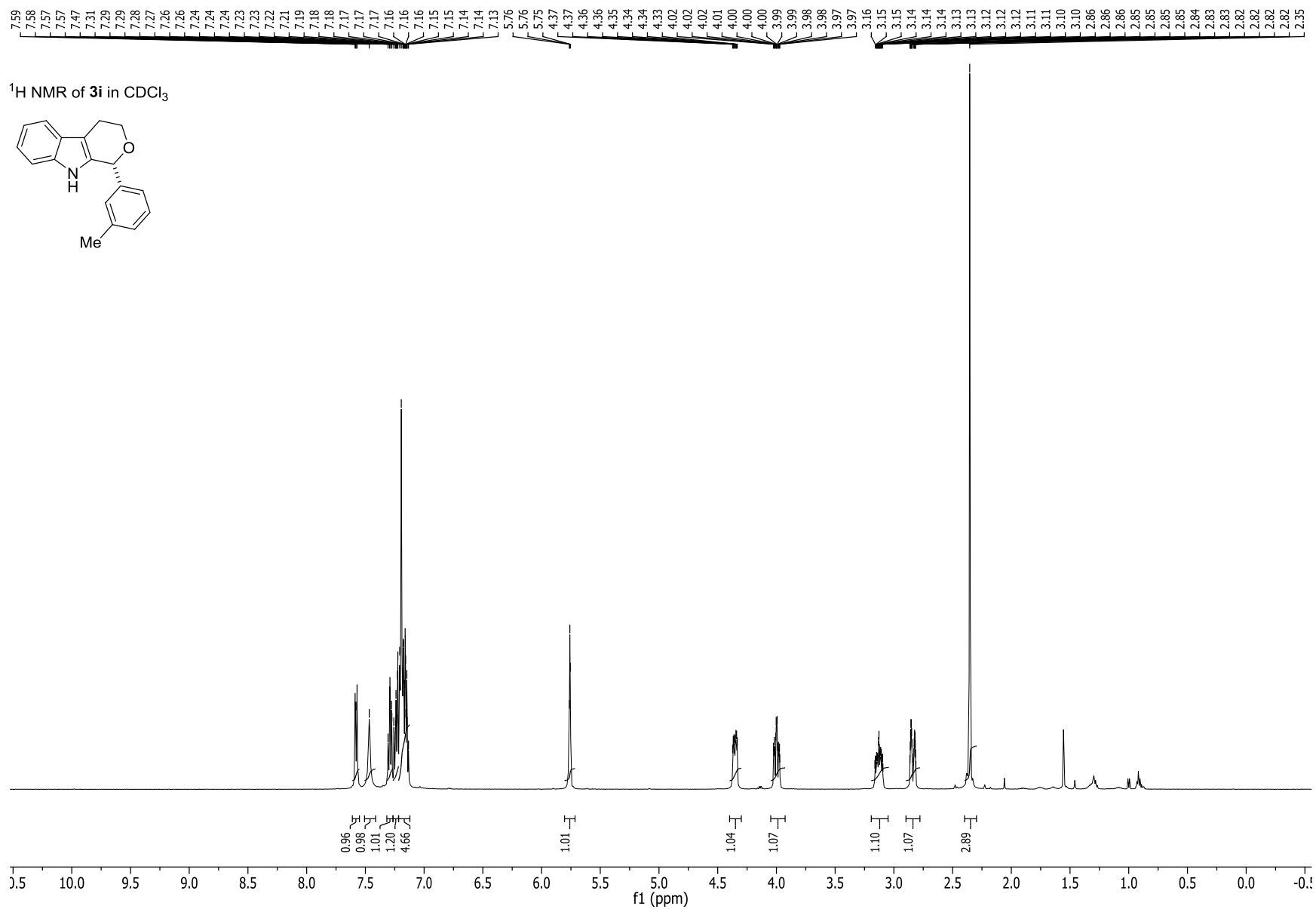
$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **3h** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



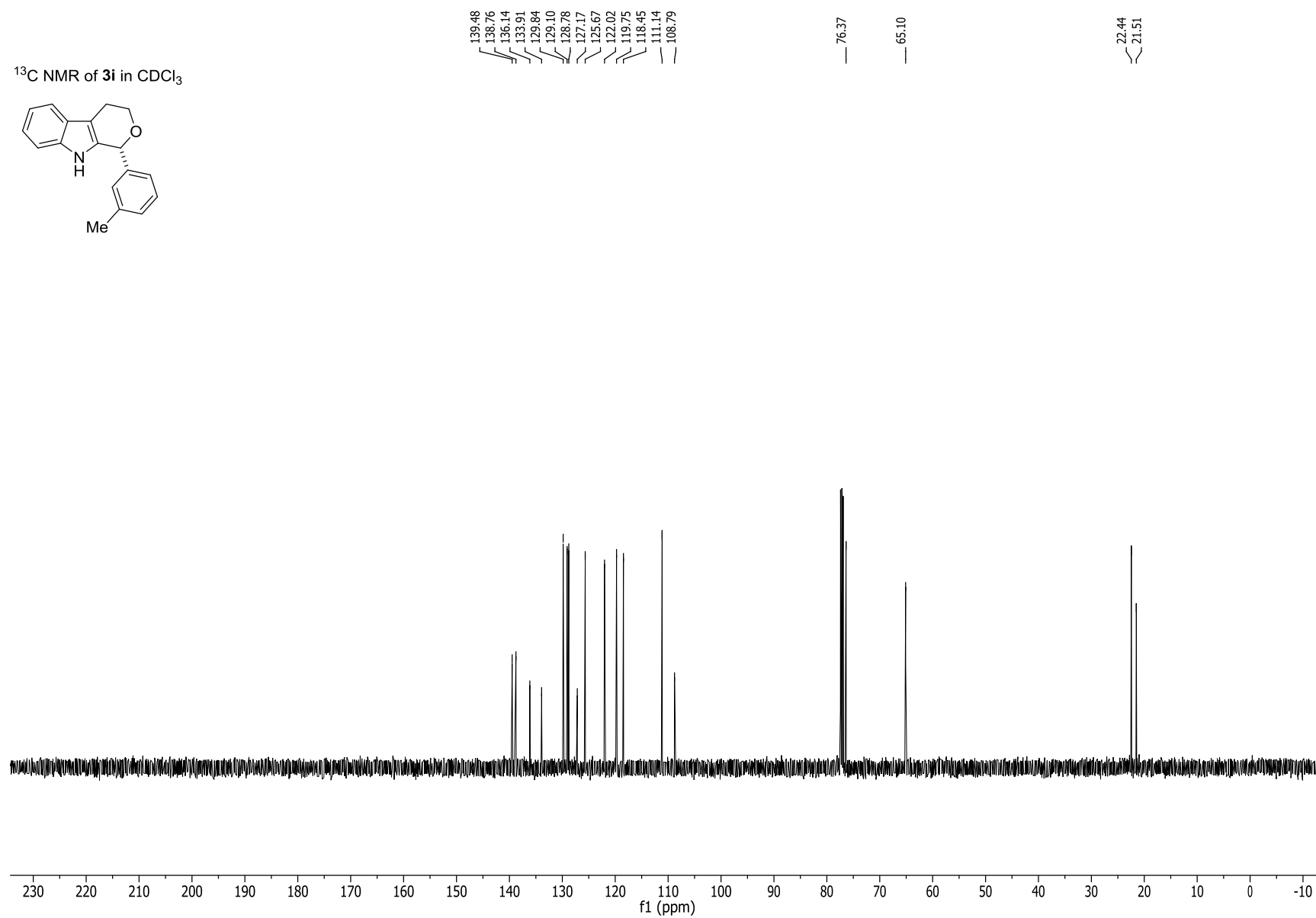
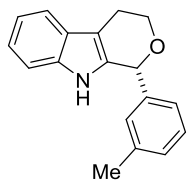
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **3h** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

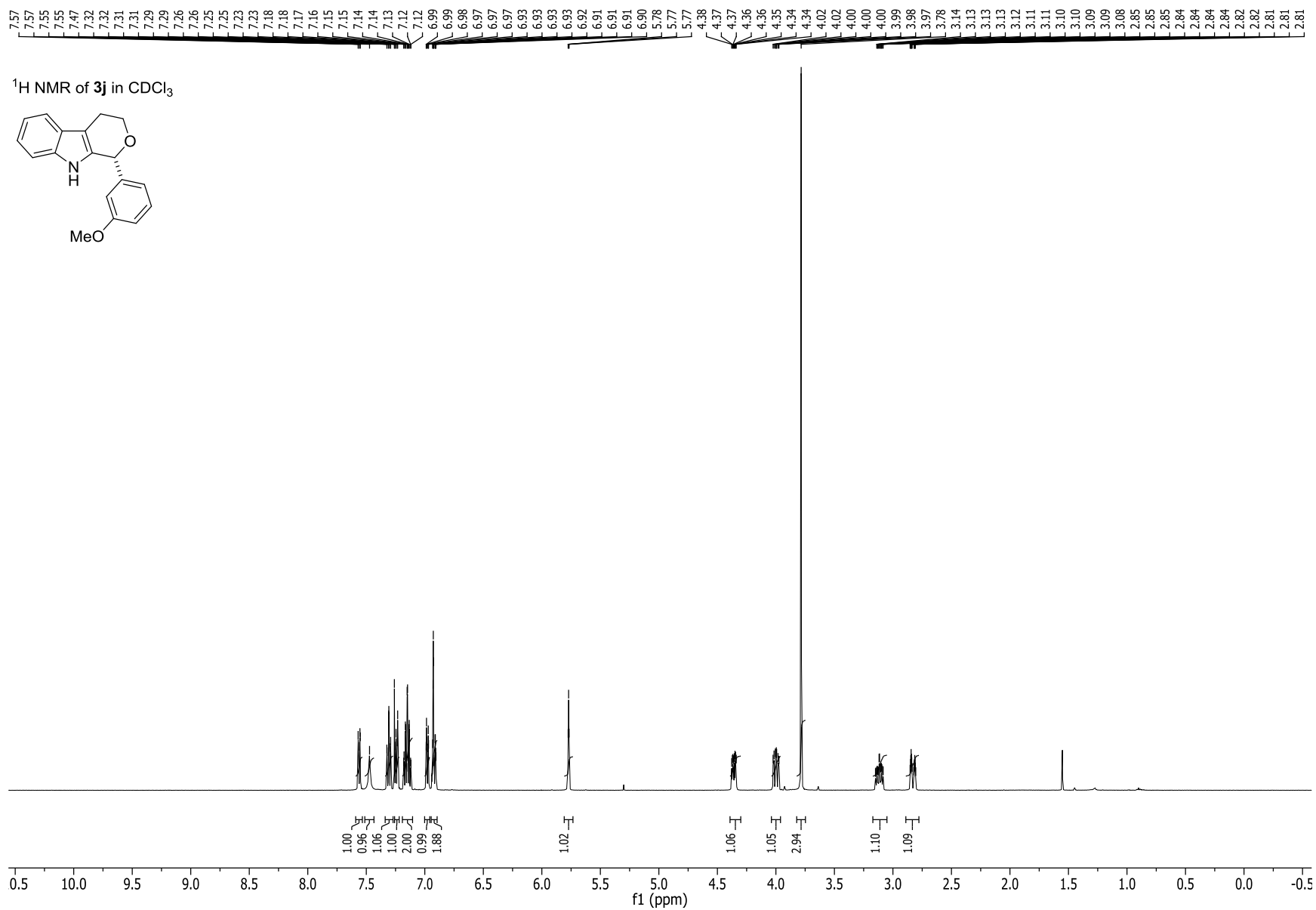




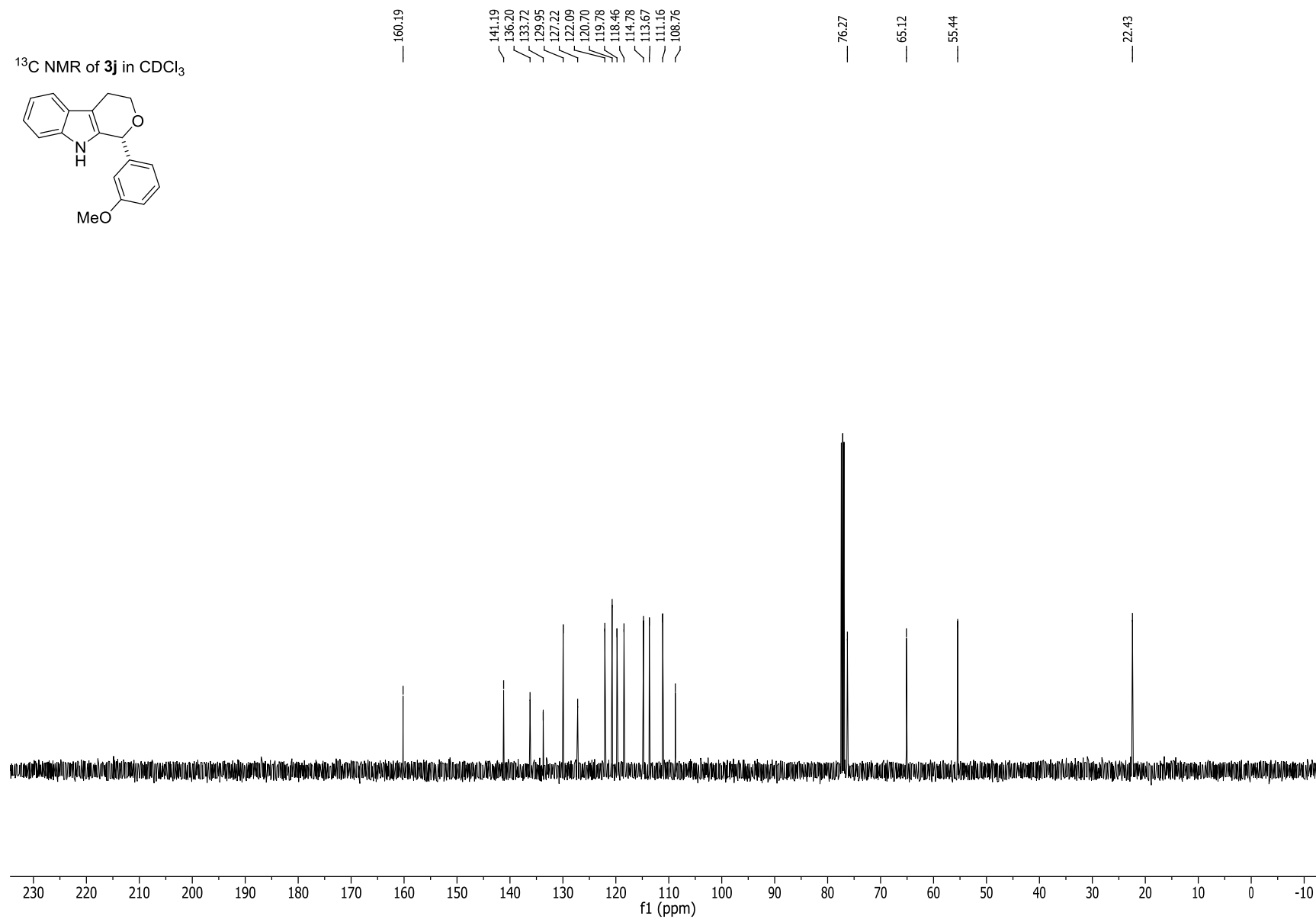
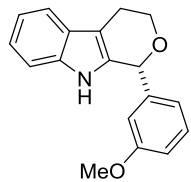


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **3i** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



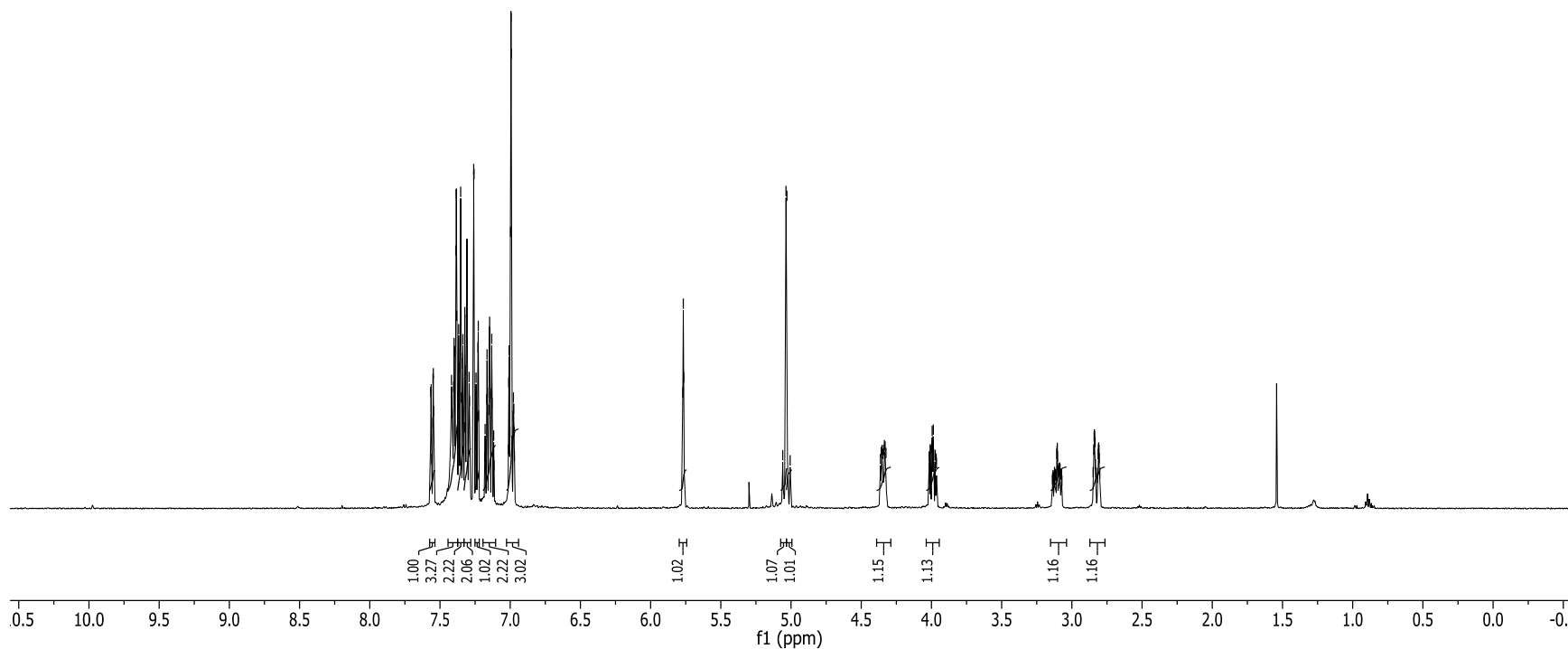
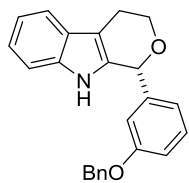


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **3j** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

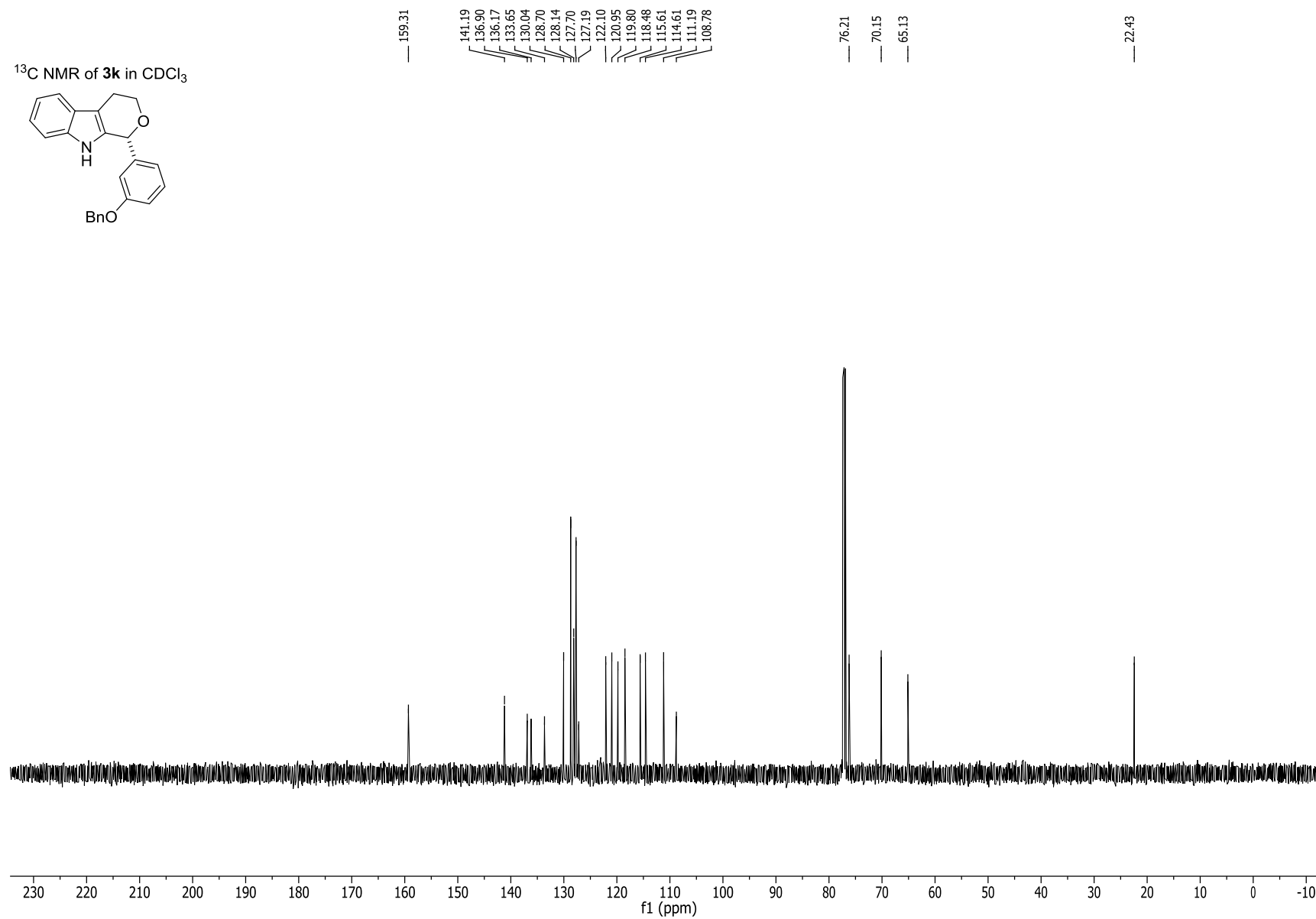
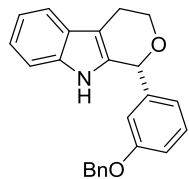


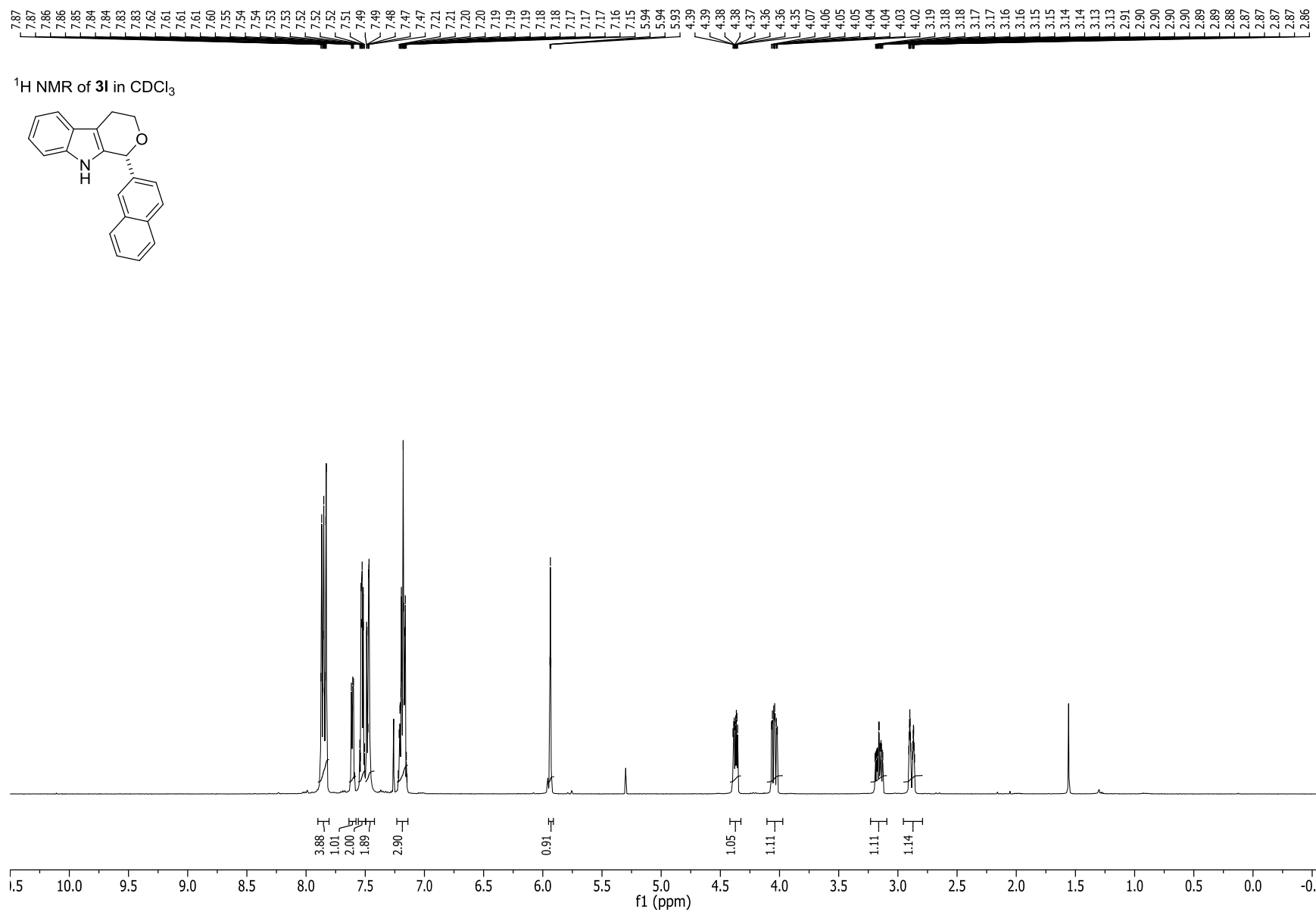
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$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **3k** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

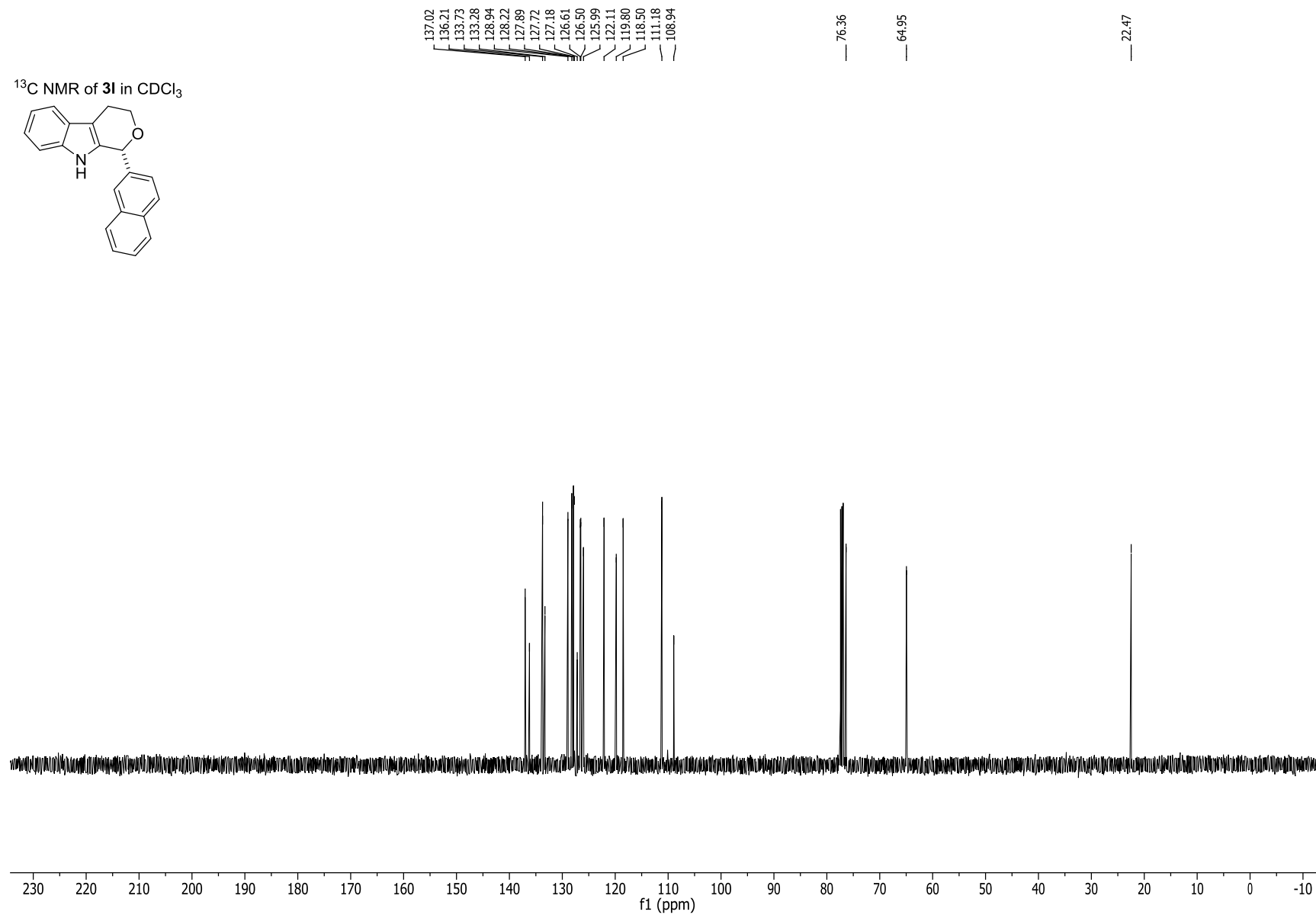
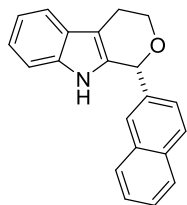


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **3k** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

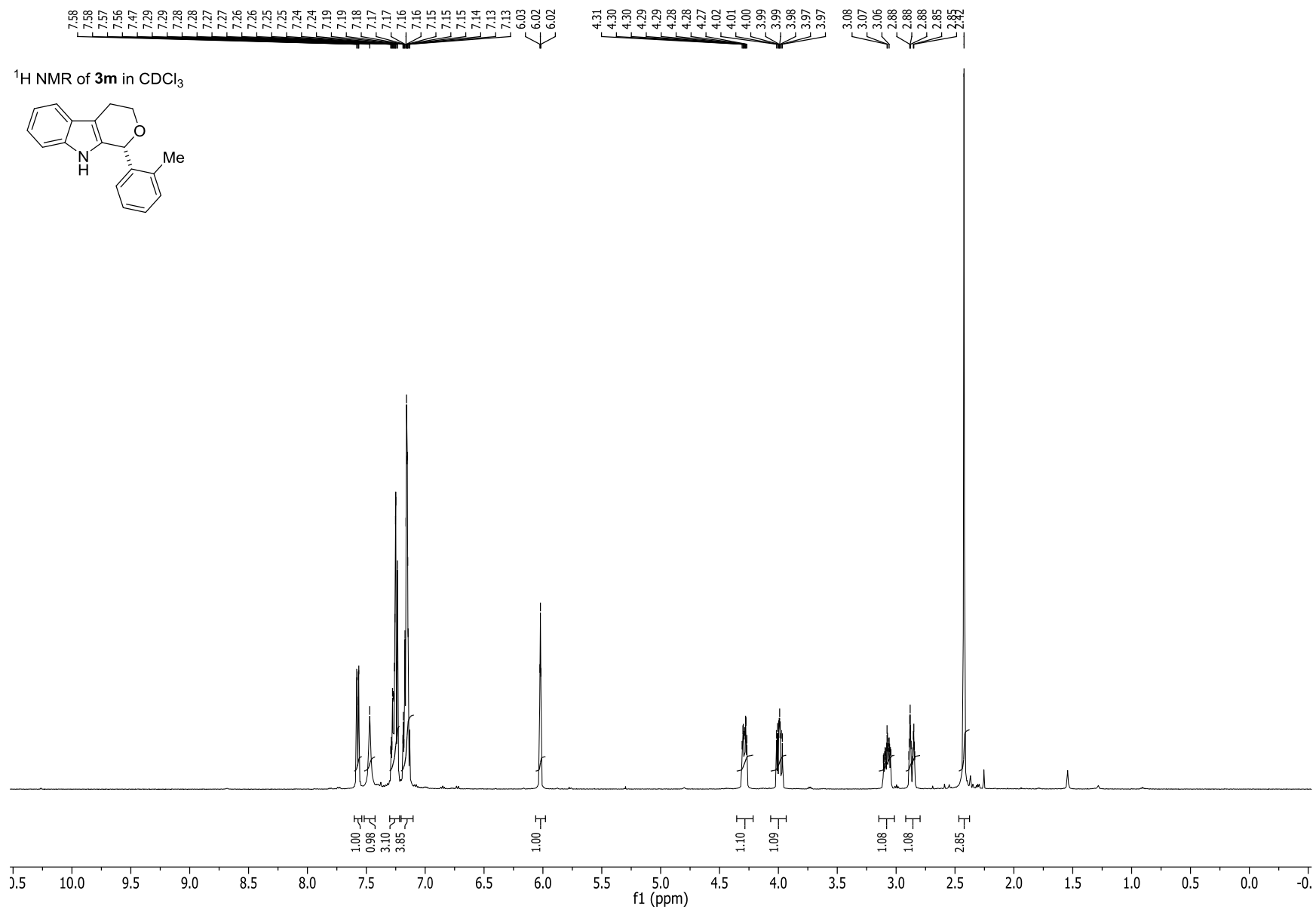




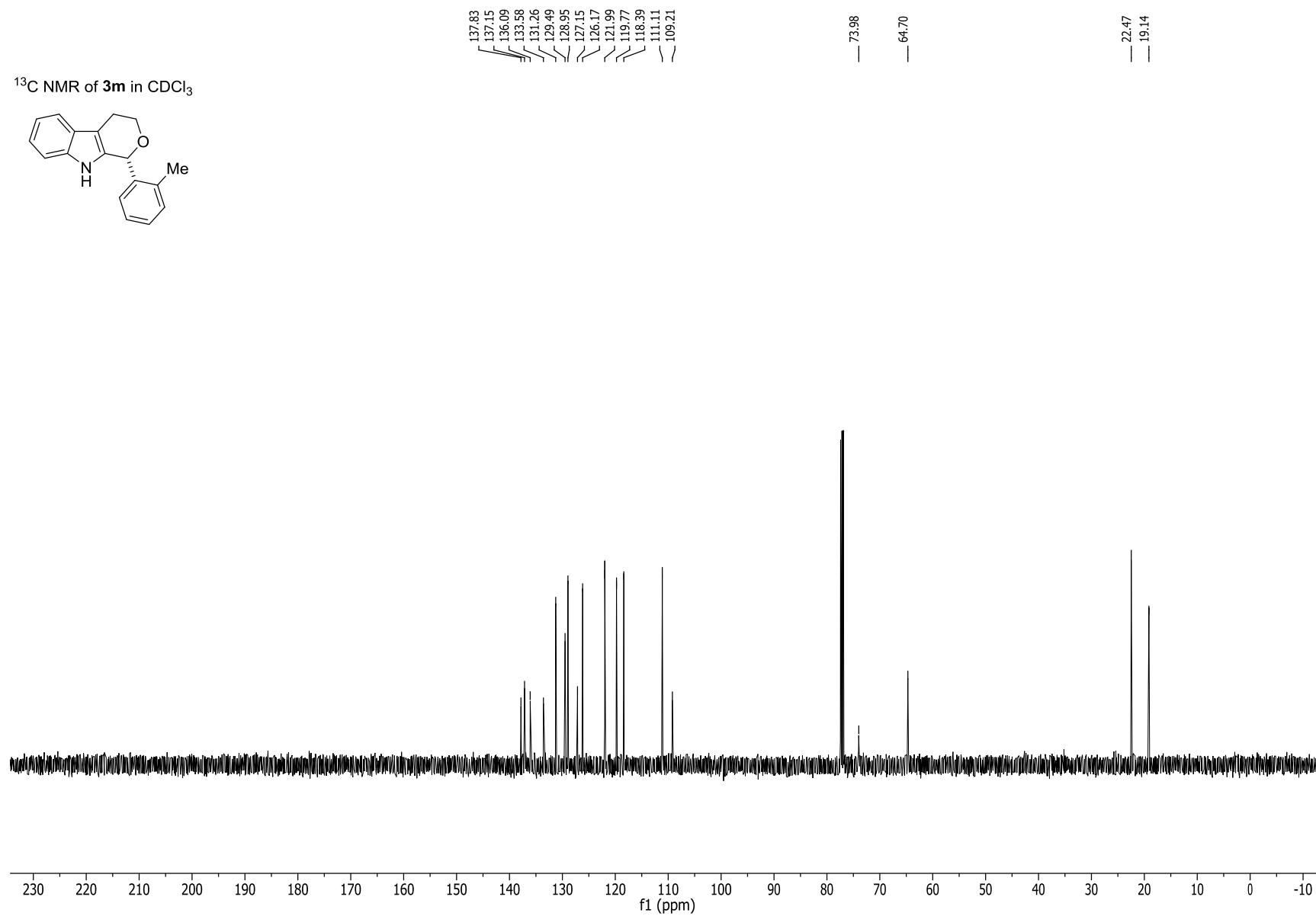
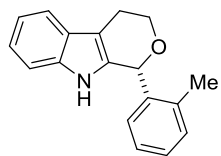
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **3I** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

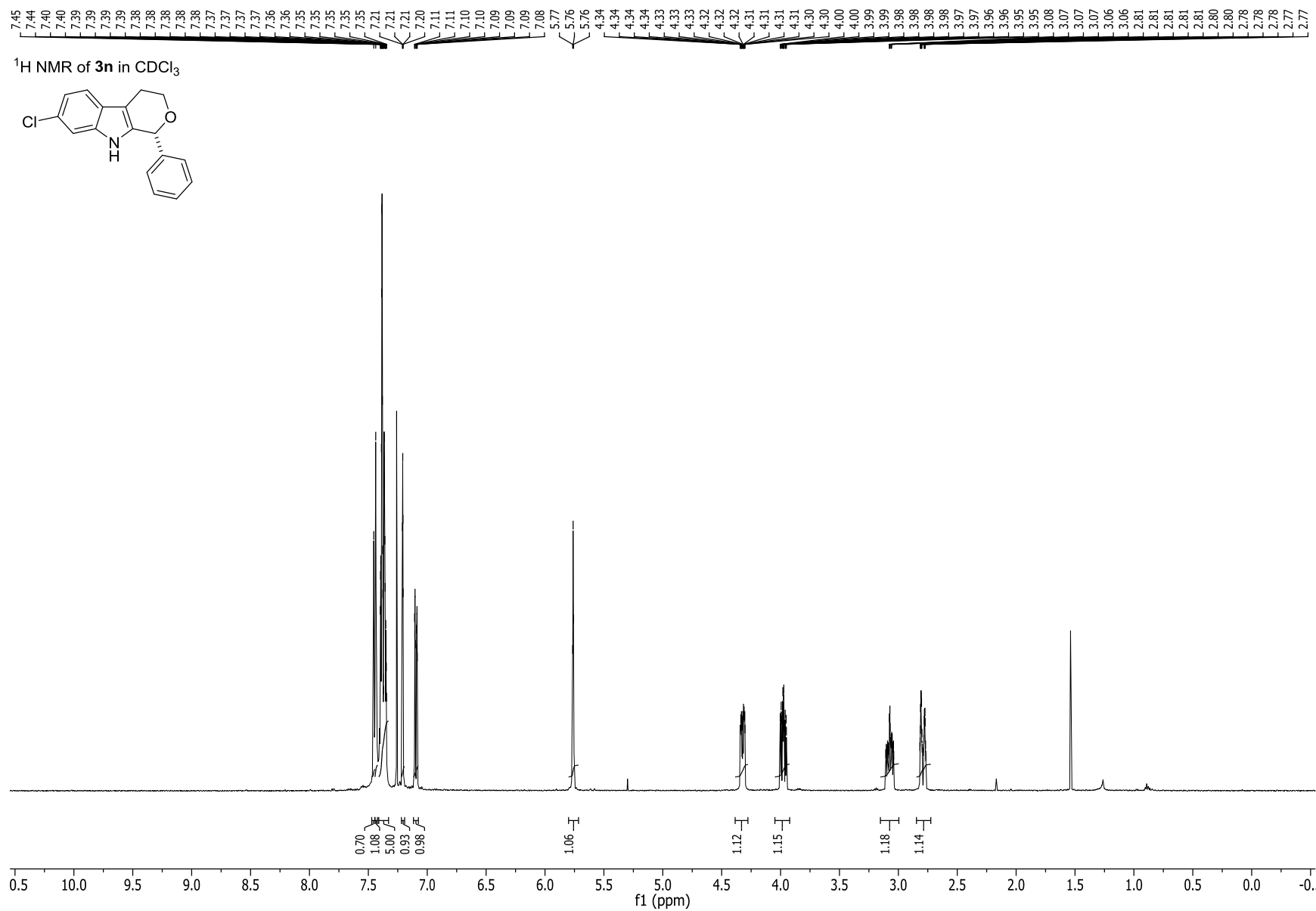




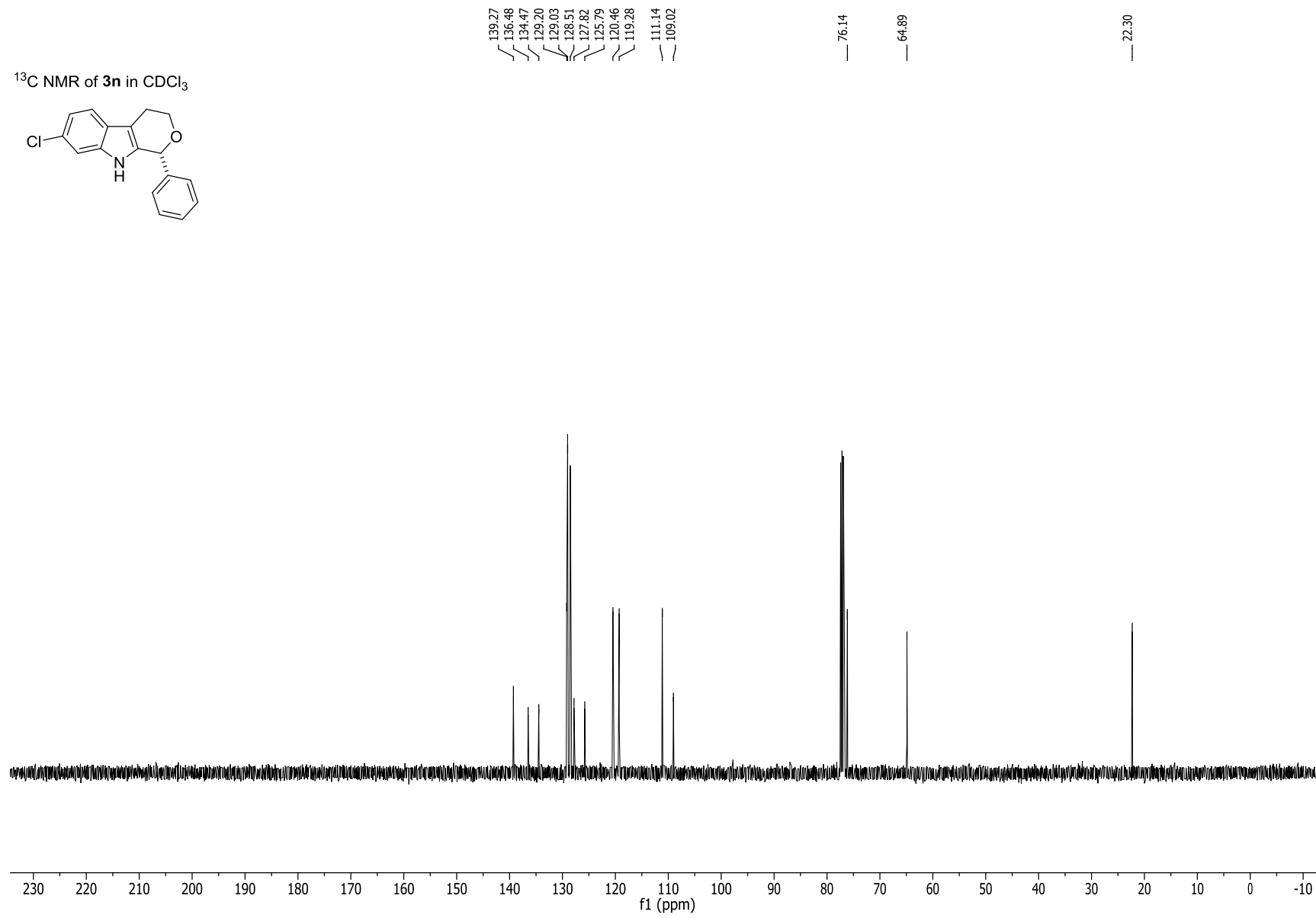
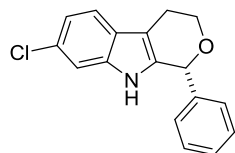


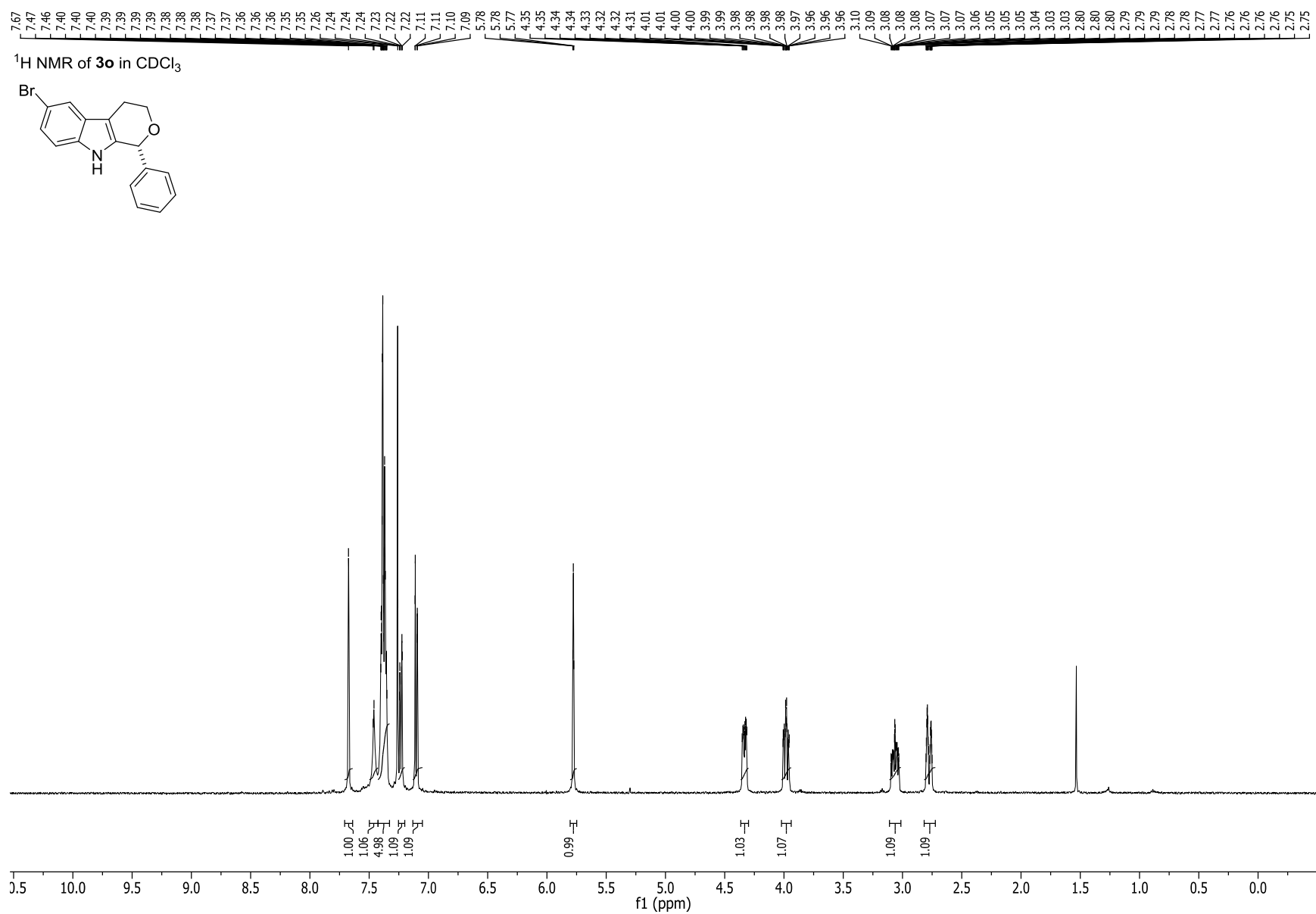
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **3m** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



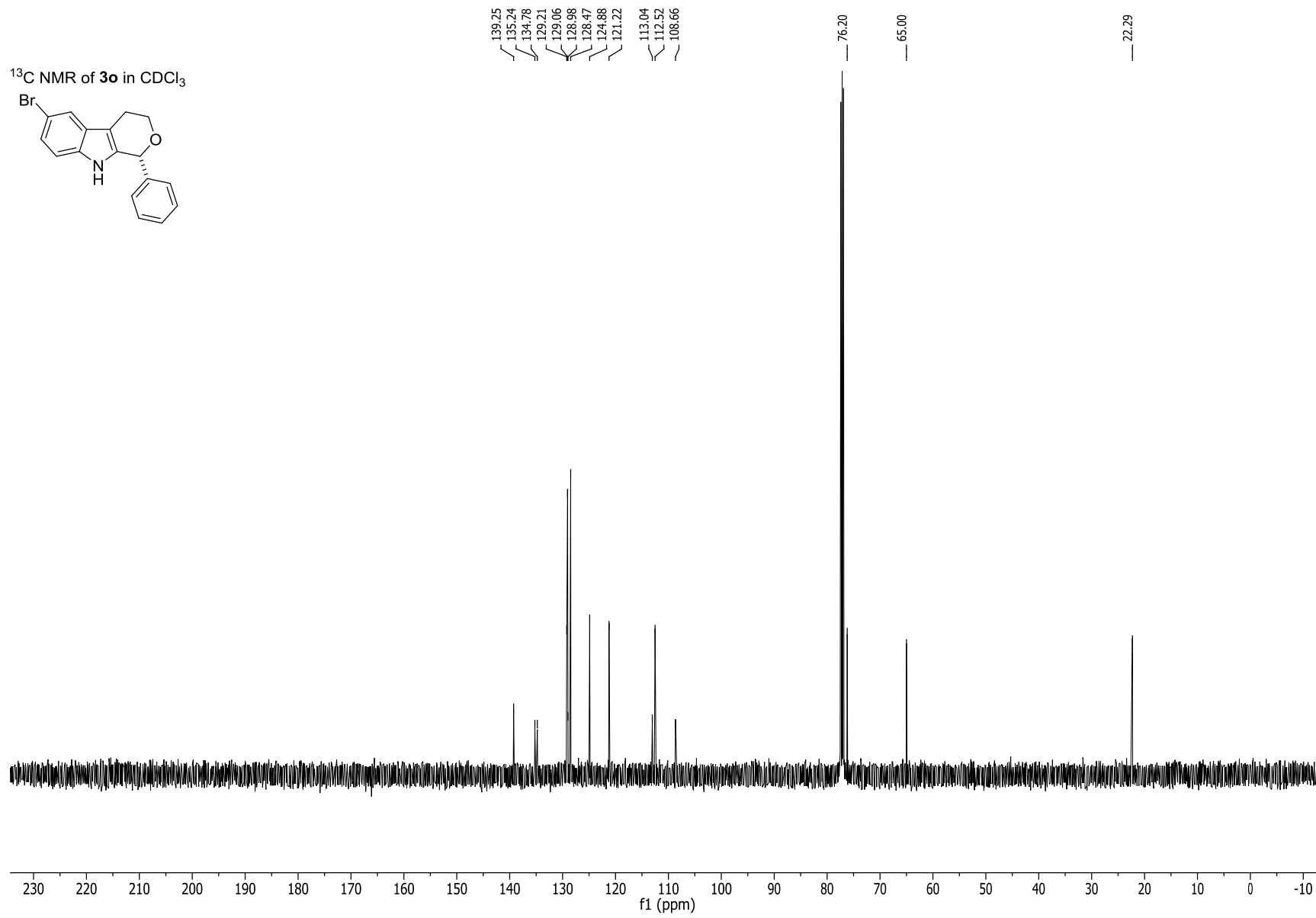
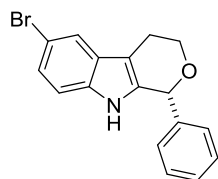


<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **3n** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

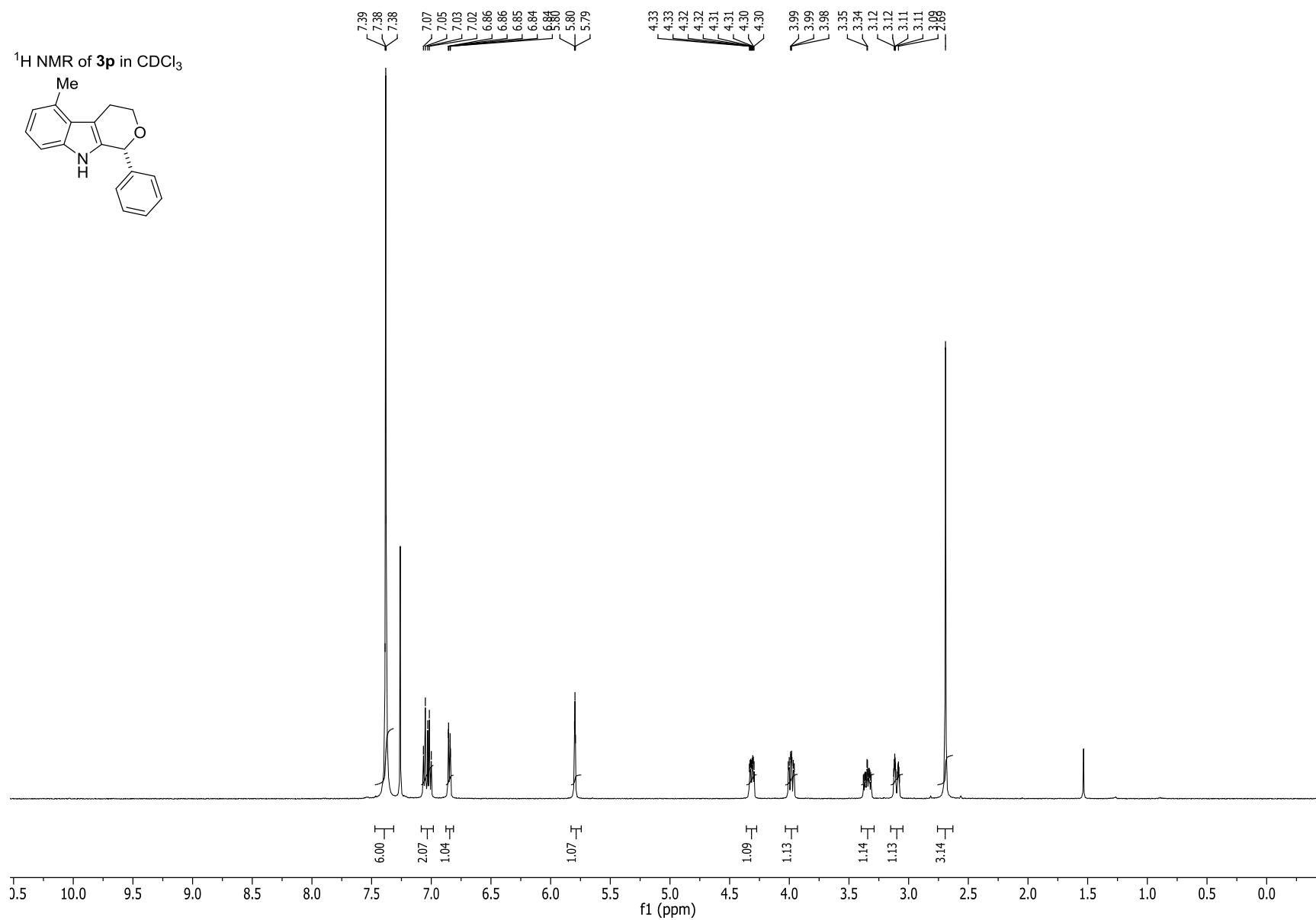
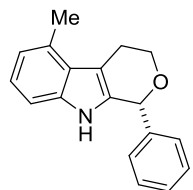




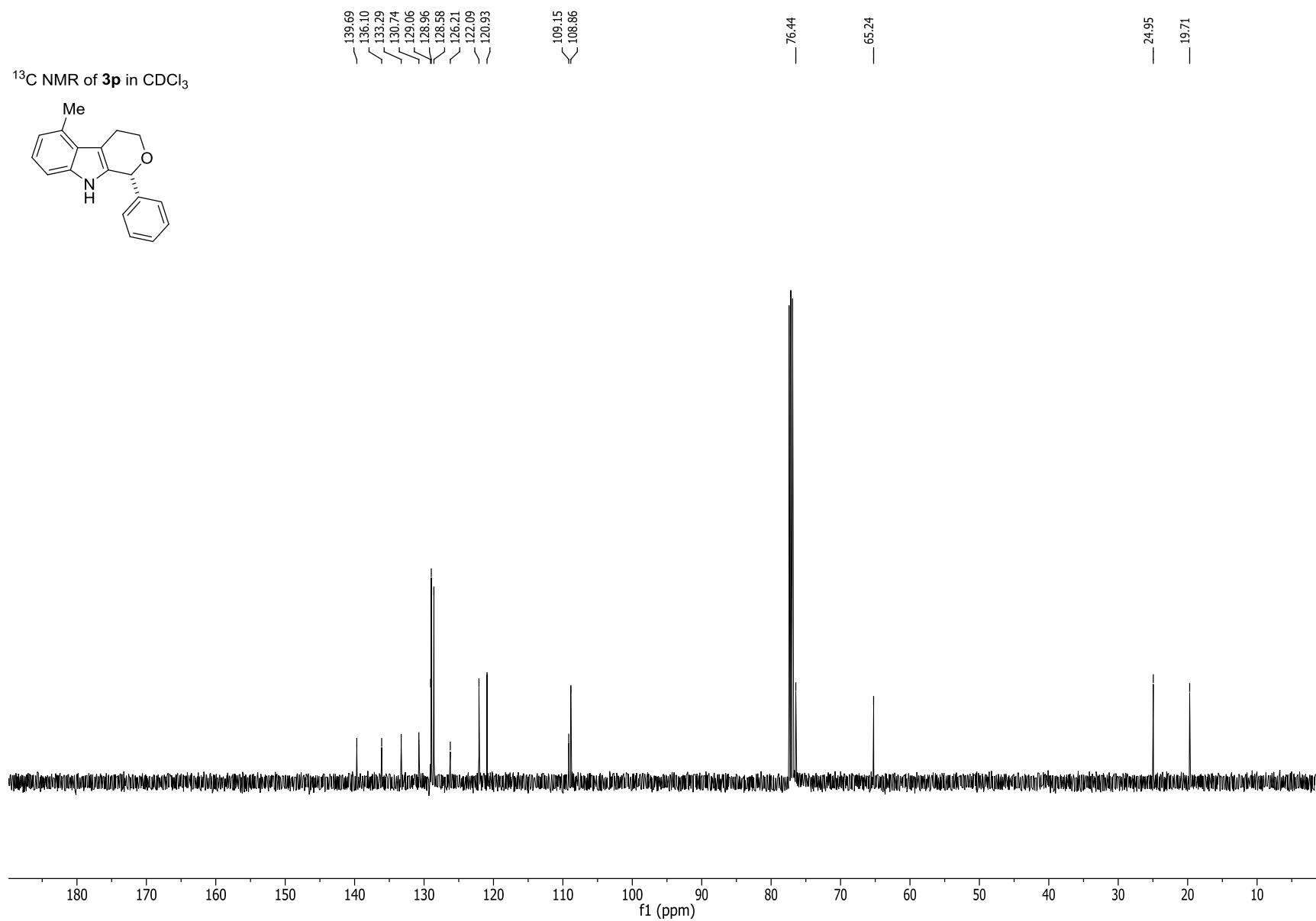
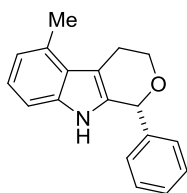
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **3o** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



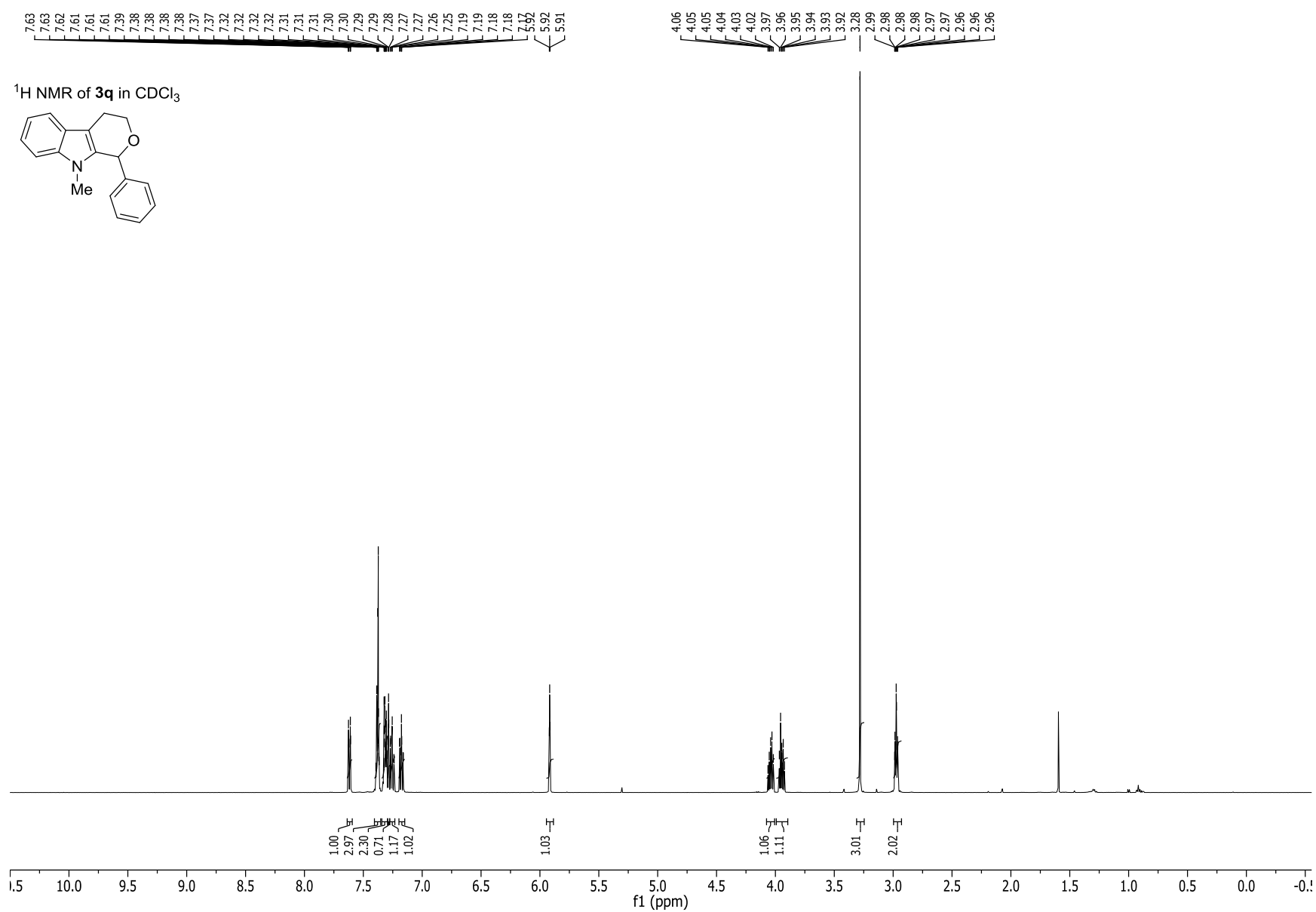
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **3p** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



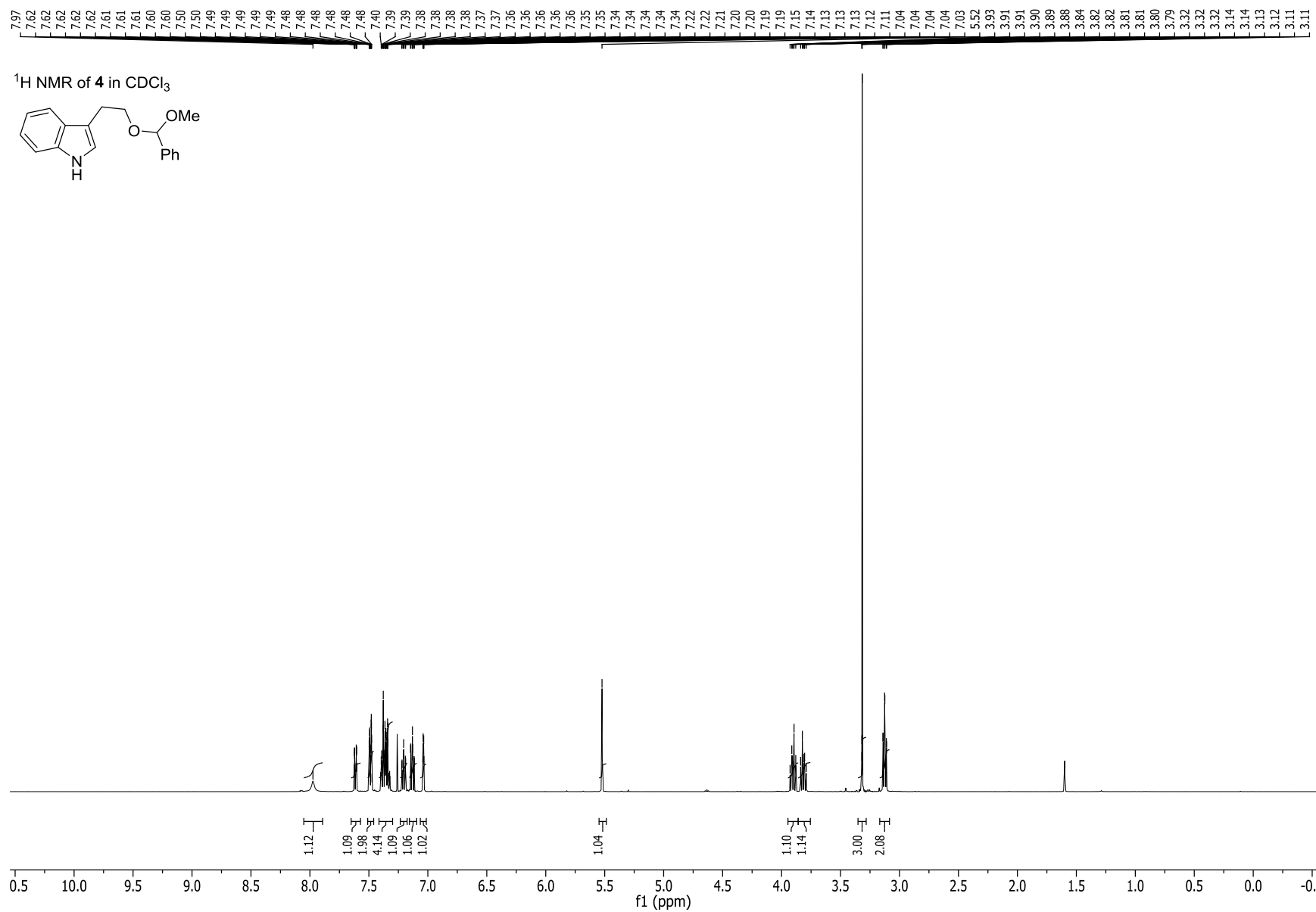
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **3p** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



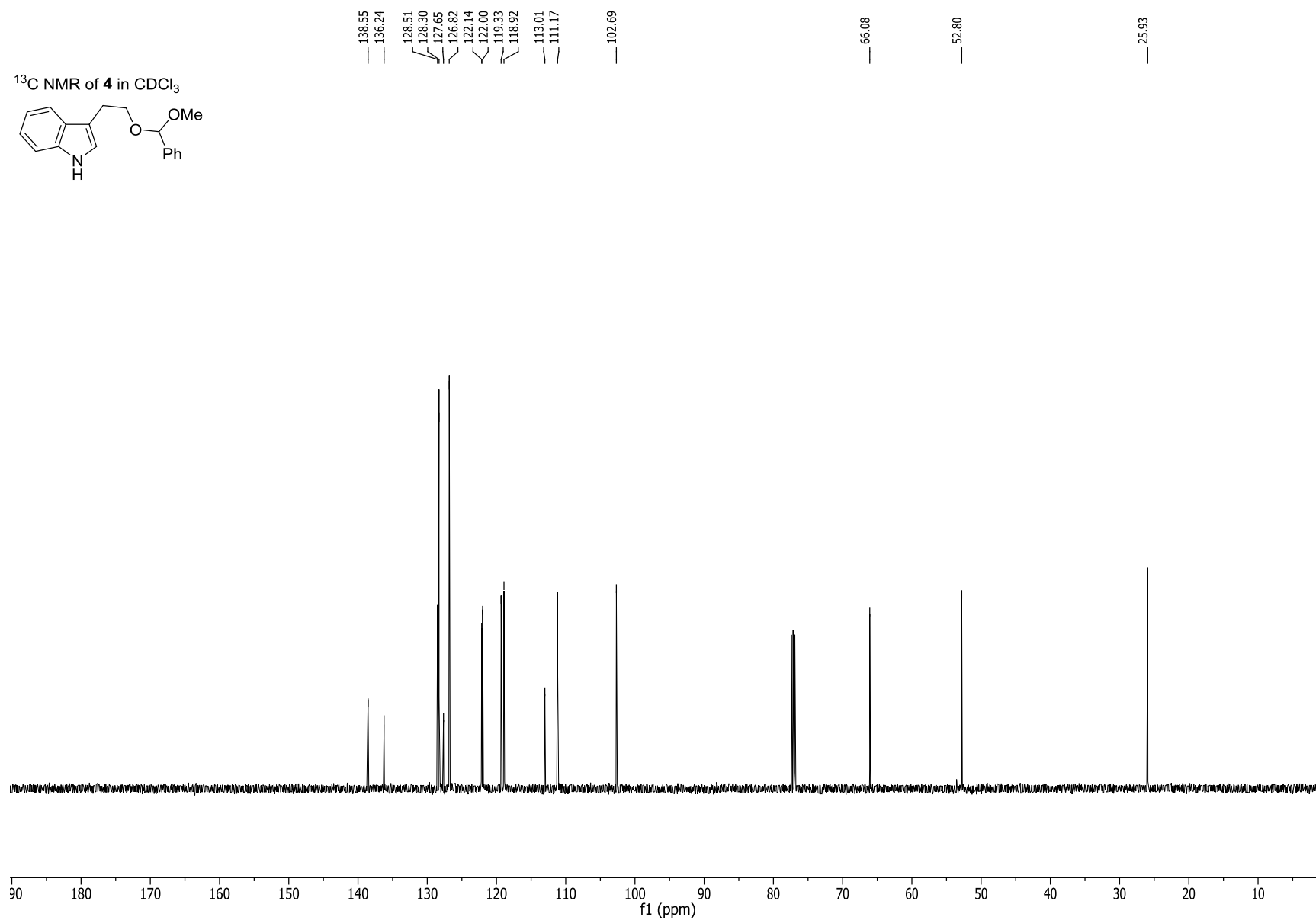
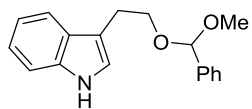








<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **4** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



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