

## Supporting Information

### Sterically Hindered *N*-Heterocyclic Carbene/Palladium(II) Catalyzed Suzuki-Miyaura Coupling of Nitrobenzenes

Kai Chen<sup>[a]</sup>, Wei Chen<sup>[a]</sup>, Xiaofei Yi<sup>[a]</sup>, Wanzhi Chen\*<sup>[a]</sup>, and Miaochang Liu<sup>[b]</sup>, Huayue Wu\*<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>[a]</sup> Department of Chemistry, Zhejiang University, 38 Zheda Road, Hangzhou 310027, China. E-mail: chenwzz@zju.edu.cn

<sup>[b]</sup> College of Chemistry and Materials Engineering, Wenzhou University, Wenzhou, 325027, China.  
E-mail: huayuewu@wzu.edu.cn

#### Contents

I. General information.....	S2
II. Syntheses of ligand precursors.....	S2-S3
III. Characterization data of ligand precursors.....	S3-S11
IV. Optimization of the reaction conditions.....	S12-S18
V. General procedure for the synthesis of 3.....	S19
VI. Characterization data of products.....	S19-S35
VII. References.....	S36
VIII. NMR spectra of ligand precursors.....	S37-S54
IX. NMR spectra of coupling products.....	S55-S113

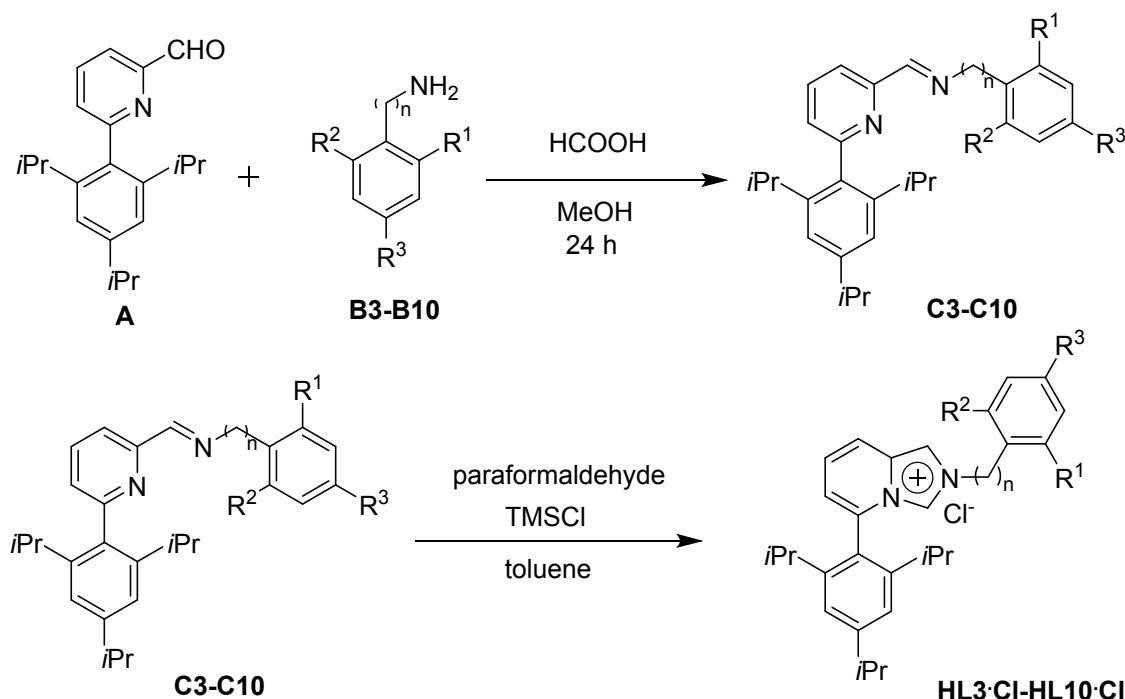
## I. General information

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded in deuterated solvents on a Bruker 400 (400 MHz) spectrometer and calibrated to the residual solvent peak or tetramethylsilane ( $\delta = 0$  ppm). Splitting patterns are designated as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), broad (br), multiplet (m). *J*-values are in Hz. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) data were obtained by using EI or ESI ionization.

Commercially obtained reagents were used without further purification. All reactions were monitored by TLC with Shanghai GF254 silica gel coated plates. Flash column chromatography was carried out using 200-300 mesh silica gel at increased pressure. Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in flame-dried reaction tubes with Teflon screw caps under nitrogen. Solvents if necessary (dioxane, THF, toluene, MeOH and ect.) were dried and distilled according to standard methods prior to use. Pd(acac)<sub>2</sub>,<sup>[1]</sup> **HL1·Cl** and **HL2·Cl**,<sup>[2]</sup> **HL11·PF<sub>6</sub>**,<sup>[3]</sup> **HL13·Cl**,<sup>[4]</sup> and **HL14·Cl**<sup>[5]</sup> were prepared according to the literature procedures.

## II. Syntheses of ligand precursors

**HL3·Cl-HL10·Cl** were prepared according to the following steps (Scheme S1).



Scheme S1. Synthesis of ligand precursors

An oven-dried Schlenk tube was charged with 6-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)picinaldehyde **A** (1 mmol, 309 mg), prepared according to the literature<sup>[2]</sup>, and aniline **B** (1.2 mmol). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> three times. MeOH (10 mL) and HCOOH (10  $\mu$ L,  $\geq 88\%$ ) were added

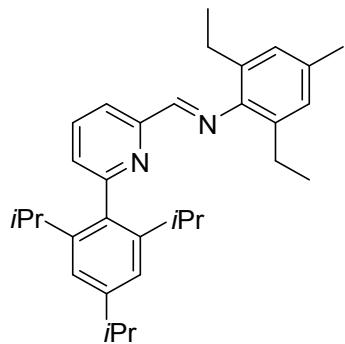
via a syringe. The resulting mixture was heated for 24 h at 60 °C and subsequently allowed to cool to room temperature. The solid was collected and subsequently washed with MeOH ( $3\times 5$  mL), and then dried in vacuo to afford **C**.

**C** (0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (0.2 mmol, 5.9 mg), toluene (1.5 mL) and TMSCl (0.4 mmol, 50  $\mu$ L) were added to a vial subsequently. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h until the yellow solution became colorless. Then the mixture was dried in vacuo to afford the crude solid. The solid was washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O ( $3\times 1.5$  mL), heptane ( $3\times 1.5$  mL) and then dried in vacuo to yield the desired products **HL3·Cl-HL10·Cl** as a white solid.

**HL12·Cl** was prepared similarly.

### III. Characterization data of ligand precursors

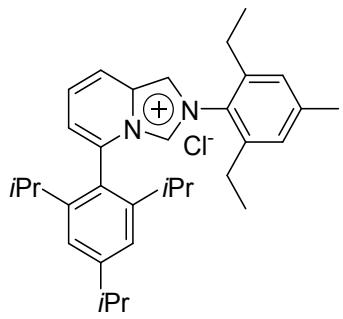
#### (E)-N-(2,6-diethyl-4-methylphenyl)-1-(6-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)pyridin-2-yl)methanimine (C3)



Pale yellow solid; yield: 395 mg (87%);

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.36 (s, 1H), 8.26 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 2H), 6.92 (s, 2H), 2.95 (hept,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.69-2.41 (m, 6H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.30 (d,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.21-1.07 (m, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.7, 160.0, 154.2, 149.1, 147.2, 146.3, 136.3, 135.8, 133.5, 132.9, 127.0, 126.6, 121.0, 118.8, 34.5, 30.5, 24.7, 24.3, 24.1, 24.0, 21.0, 14.8; HRMS (GC-TOF) for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: calcd. 454.3348; found: 454.3345.

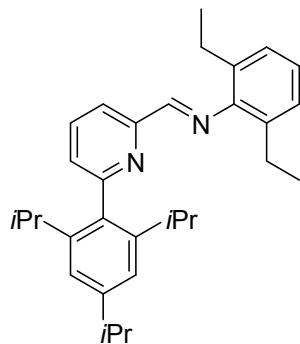
#### 2-(2,6-diethyl-4-methylphenyl)-5-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridin-2-i um chloride (HL3·Cl)



White solid; yield: 95 mg (95%);

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.35 (br, 1H), 9.05 (br, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (s, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 2H), 2.93 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.29-2.24 (m, 2H), 2.21-2.14 (m, 2H), 2.09-2.02 (m, 2H), 1.26 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 1.13 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H), 1.05-1.01 (m, 12H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 153.1, 147.9, 142.2, 139.7, 132.5, 129.8, 127.7, 125.3, 124.3, 122.5, 121.5, 121.4, 121.0, 120.5, 120.4, 34.5, 31.3, 25.1, 23.8, 23.8, 23.7, 21.4, 14.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>2</sub> ([M-Cl]<sup>+</sup>): calcd. 467.3421; found: 467.3385.

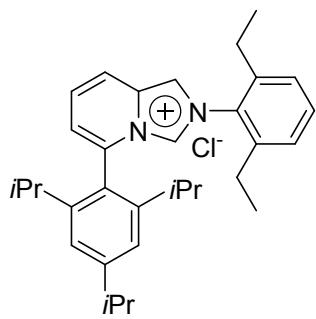
#### (E)-N-(2,6-diethylphenyl)-1-(6-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)pyridin-2-yl)methanimine (C4)



Pale yellow solid; yield: 340 mg (77%);

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.26 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.08 (m, 4H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (hept, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.58-2.49 (m, 6H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.18-1.11 (m, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.6, 160.1, 154.1, 149.6, 149.1, 146.3, 136.4, 135.8, 132.8, 126.7, 126.3, 124.2, 121.0, 118.8, 34.5, 30.5, 24.7, 24.3, 24.1, 24.0, 14.7; HRMS (GC-TOF) for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>40</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: calcd. 440.3191; found: 440.3190.

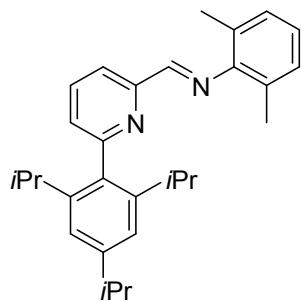
#### 2-(2,6-diethylphenyl)-5-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridin-2-ium chloride (HL4-Cl)



White solid; yield: 90 mg (92%);

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.32 (br, 1H), 8.99 (br, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.22 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (s, 2H), 7.04 (d,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (hept,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.27-2.20 (m, 4H), 2.13-2.07 (m, 2H), 1.25 (d,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.13 (d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 6H), 1.06-1.01 (m, 12H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  153.1, 147.9, 140.0, 132.7, 132.5, 132.3, 131.9, 127.1, 125.5, 124.2, 122.6, 121.4, 121.2, 120.3, 34.5, 31.3, 25.1, 23.8, 14.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{41}\text{N}_2$  ([M-Cl] $^+$ ): calcd. 453.3264; found: 453.3244.

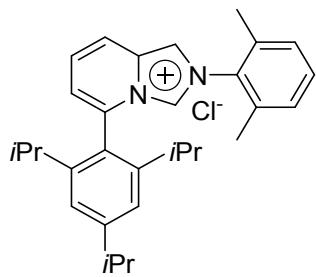
#### (E)-N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-1-(6-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)pyridin-2-yl)methanimine (C5)



Pale yellow solid; yield: 350 mg (85%);

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.36 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd,  $J$  = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.04 (m, 4H), 6.97 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (hept,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (hept,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.19 (s, 6H), 1.28 (d,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.14 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 6H), 1.13 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  163.9, 160.1, 154.1, 150.2, 149.1, 146.3, 136.3, 135.7, 128.2, 127.0, 126.7, 124.1, 121.0, 118.8, 34.5, 30.5, 24.3, 24.1, 24.0, 18.3; HRMS (GC-TOF) for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_2$ : calcd. 412.2878; found: 412.2880.

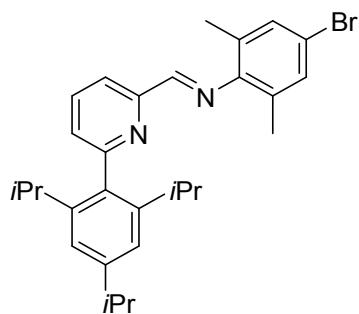
#### 2-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-5-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridin-2-iium chloride (HL5·Cl)



White solid; yield: 90 mg (98%);

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.43 (s, 1H), 9.00 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (s, 2H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.98 (s, 6H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.15 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 153.1, 147.9, 134.4, 133.6, 132.7, 131.5, 129.2, 125.4, 124.3, 122.6, 121.4, 121.0, 120.6, 119.7, 34.5, 31.3, 24.9, 24.1, 23.8, 17.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>2</sub> ([M-Cl]<sup>+</sup>) : calcd. 425.2951; found: 425.2929.

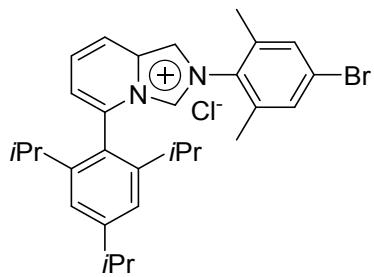
**(E)-N-(4-bromo-2,6-dimethylphenyl)-1-(6-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)pyridin-2-yl)methanimine (C6)**



Pale yellow solid; yield: 430 mg (88%);

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.32 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (s, 2H), 7.10 (s, 2H), 2.94 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.16 (s, 6H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 6H), 1.12 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 164.5, 160.3, 153.8, 149.3, 149.2, 146.2, 136.4, 135.6, 130.8, 129.3, 126.9, 121.0, 118.9, 116.8, 34.5, 30.5, 24.3, 24.1, 23.9, 18.2; HRMS (GC-TOF) for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Br : calcd. 490.1984; found: 490.1987.

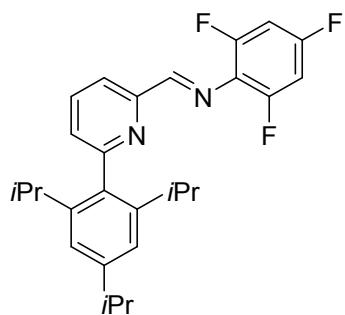
**2-(4-bromo-2,6-dimethylphenyl)-5-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridin-2-ium chloride (HL6·Cl)**



White solid; yield: 103 mg (96%);

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.62 (s, 1H), 8.95 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (s, 2H), 7.18 (s, 2H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (hept, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.98 (s, 6H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.15 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 153.2, 147.9, 136.5, 132.8, 132.8, 132.6, 132.1, 125.6, 125.5, 124.2, 122.6, 121.4, 121.2, 120.5, 120.0, 34.5, 31.3, 24.9, 24.1, 23.8, 17.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Br ([M-Cl]<sup>+</sup>): calcd. 503.2056; found: 503.2010.

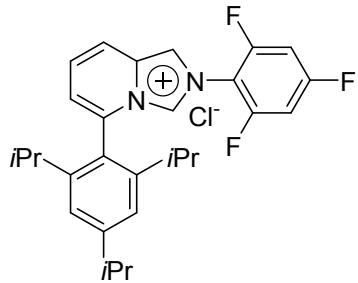
#### (E)-N-(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)-1-(6-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)pyridin-2-yl)methanimine (C7)



Pale yellow solid; yield: 380 mg (87%);

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.81 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 2H), 6.77 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.94 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 1.10 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.6, 160.3, 155.5 (ddd, *J* = 258.5, 14.3, 7.0 Hz), 154.0, 149.2, 146.2, 136.4, 135.6, 127.2, 121.0, 119.3, 100.8 (t, *J* = 28.0 Hz), 34.5, 30.4, 24.3, 24.1, 23.9; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -111.4, -119.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): calcd. 439.2361; found: 439.2347.

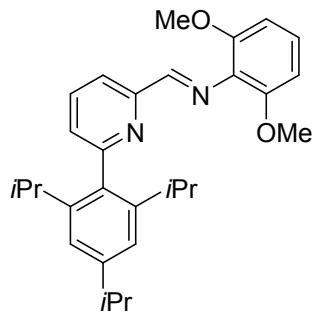
#### 2-(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)-5-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridin-2-ium chloride (HL7·Cl)



White solid; yield: 89 mg (91%);

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.81 (s, 1H), 8.71 (d,  $J = 9.1$  Hz, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.45 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.19 (s, 2H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 2.95 (hept,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.26 (hept,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.28 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H), 1.12 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 6H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.1 (ddd,  $J = 257.0, 14.0, 3.0$  Hz), 153.2, 148.2, 133.1, 132.0, 125.6, 123.9, 122.7, 122.4, 121.4, 120.5, 120.5, 102.5 (t,  $J = 24.0$  Hz), 34.5, 31.3, 25.2, 23.9;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -98.2, -115.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{F}_3$  ( $[\text{M}-\text{Cl}]^+$ ): calcd. 451.2356; found: 451.2324.

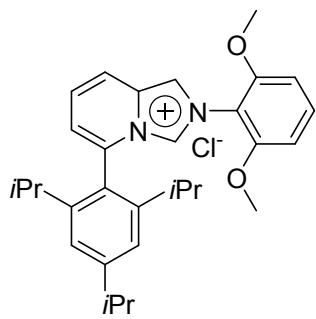
### (E)-N-(2,6-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-(6-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)pyridin-2-yl)methanimine (C8)



Pale yellow solid; yield: 320 mg (72%);

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.81 (s, 1H), 8.37 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.08 (br, 3H), 6.65 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 6H), 3.02-2.85 (br, 1H), 2.63-2.46 (br, 2H), 1.28 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 6H), 1.22-1.02 (m, 12H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.4, 159.8, 154.9, 152.0, 149.0, 146.3, 136.2, 136.0, 129.3, 126.5, 125.9, 120.9, 119.0, 104.6, 56.1, 34.5, 30.3, 24.4, 24.1, 23.9; HRMS (GC-TOF) for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ : calcd. 444.2777; found: 444.2780.

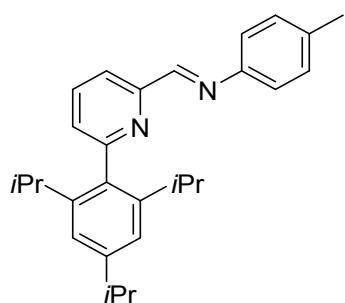
### 2-(2,6-dimethoxyphenyl)-5-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridin-2-ium chloride (HL8·Cl)



White solid; yield: 92 mg (93%);

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.91 (s, 1H), 8.80 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (s, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 6H), 2.95 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 1.04 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 154.6, 152.8, 148.1, 133.0, 132.5, 131.4, 124.5, 123.0, 122.5, 120.7, 120.2, 120.0, 112.4, 104.5, 56.5, 34.5, 31.1, 24.9, 24.0, 23.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> ([M-Cl]<sup>+</sup>): calcd. 457.2850; found: 457.2822.

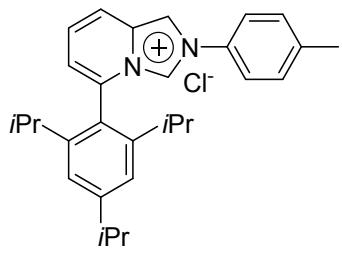
#### (E)-N-p-tolyl-1-(6-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)pyridin-2-yl)methanimine (C9)



Pale yellow solid; yield: 298 mg (75%);

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.68 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.10 (s, 2H), 2.94 (hept, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 1.10 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 160.5, 160.1, 154.5, 149.1, 148.3, 146.2, 136.8, 136.3, 135.8, 129.9, 126.4, 121.2, 120.9, 119.1, 34.5, 30.4, 24.4, 24.1, 23.9, 21.1; HRMS (GC-TOF) for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: calcd. 398.2722; found: 398.2724.

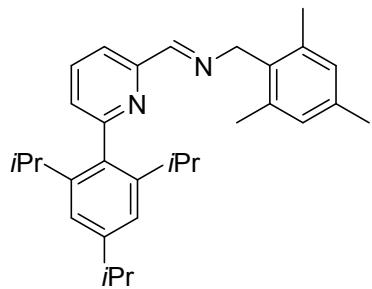
#### 2-(*p*-tolyl)-5-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridin-2-ium chloride (HL9·Cl)



White solid; yield: 87 mg (98%);

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.59 (s, 1H), 8.53 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.22 (s, 2H), 7.00 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.99 (hept,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.31 (hept,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 2H), 1.32 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H), 1.14 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 6H), 1.11 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  153.0, 148.2, 141.9, 133.1, 132.3, 131.3, 125.3, 124.2, 123.0, 122.6, 120.7, 120.1, 118.6, 117.6, 34.5, 31.2, 25.2, 24.2, 23.9, 21.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{35}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}-\text{Cl}]^+$ ) : calcd. 411.2795; found: 411.2772.

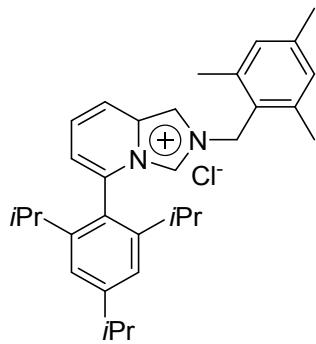
#### (E)-1-(6-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)pyridin-2-yl)-N-(2,4,6-trimethylbenzyl)methanimine (C10)



White solid; yield: 374 mg (85%);

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.35 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.75 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.06 (s, 2H), 6.87 (s, 2H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.92 (hept,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.46 (hept,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 6H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.27 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H), 1.10 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H), 1.07 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  162.2, 159.6, 154.6, 149.0, 146.2, 137.4, 137.0, 136.1, 135.9, 131.4, 129.2, 126.0, 120.9, 118.7, 58.0, 34.5, 30.3, 24.3, 24.1, 23.8, 20.9, 19.9; HRMS (GC-TOF) for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_2$ : calcd. 440.3191; found: 440.3188.

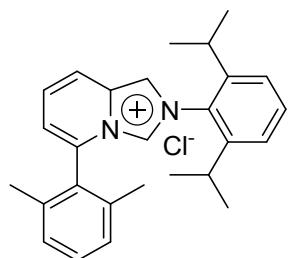
#### 5-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4,6-trimethylbenzyl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridin-2-iun chloride (HL10·Cl)



White solid; yield: 82 mg (84%);

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.22 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.29 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 2H), 5.99 (s, 2H), 2.93 (hept,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 6H), 2.13-2.07 (m, 2H), 1.25 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 6H), 0.90 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  152.9, 147.8, 140.0, 138.1, 133.7, 131.1, 129.7, 125.6, 124.9, 124.0, 122.2, 121.7, 119.2, 118.4, 116.8, 50.0, 34.5, 31.1, 25.1, 23.8, 23.7, 21.0, 19.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{41}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}-\text{Cl}]^+$ ): calcd. 453.3264; found: 453.3244.

### 2-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-5-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridin-2-ium chloride (HL12·Cl)

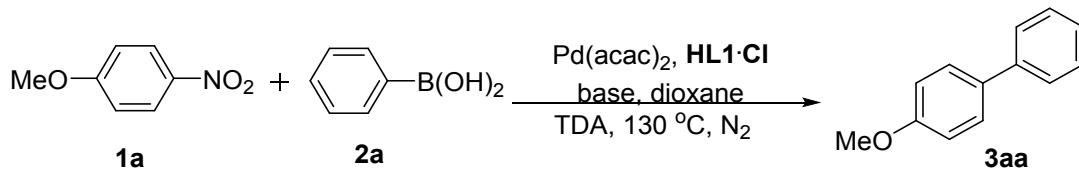


White solid; yield: 68 mg (81%);

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.10 (s, 1H), 8.84 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.60 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.15-2.10 (m, 2H), 2.07 (s, 6H), 1.23 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 6H), 1.03 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  144.9, 137.3, 132.8, 132.3, 132.2, 131.5, 130.5, 129.3, 129.0, 126.3, 124.7, 121.5, 120.9, 120.7, 120.0, 28.8, 24.6, 24.0, 19.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}-\text{Cl}]^+$ ): calcd. 383.2482; found: 383.2486.

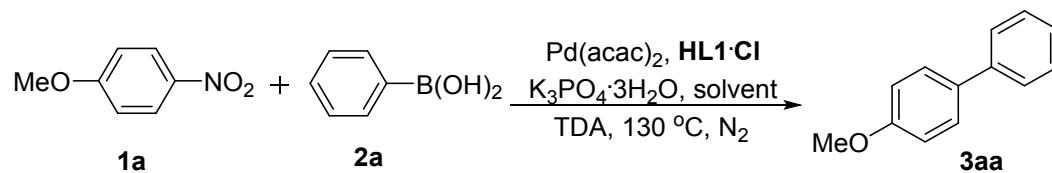
#### IV. Optimization of the reaction conditions

**Table S1. Optimization of bases<sup>a</sup>**



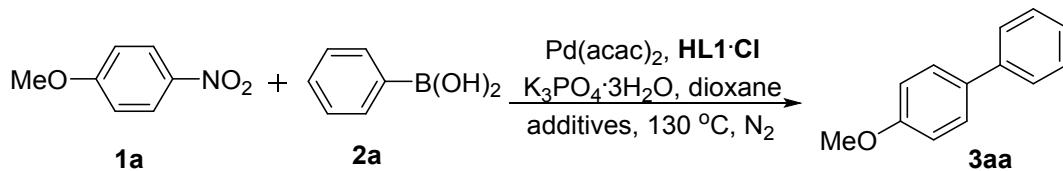
entry	base	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	$\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	55
2	$\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$	11
3	$\text{CsF}$	10
4	$\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$	17
5	$\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4$	47
6	$\text{KOAc}$	n.d.
7	$\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$	n.d.
8	$\text{KOH}$	n.d.
9	DBU	n.d.
10	$\text{Et}_3\text{N}$	n.d.

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.), **2a** (1.5 eq.),  $\text{Pd}(\text{acac})_2$  (5 mol%), base (3.0 eq.), **HL1·Cl** (10 mol%), TDA (10 mol%), dioxane (1.5 mL),  $130\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{N}_2$ , 36 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields.

**Table S2. Optimization of solvents<sup>a</sup>**

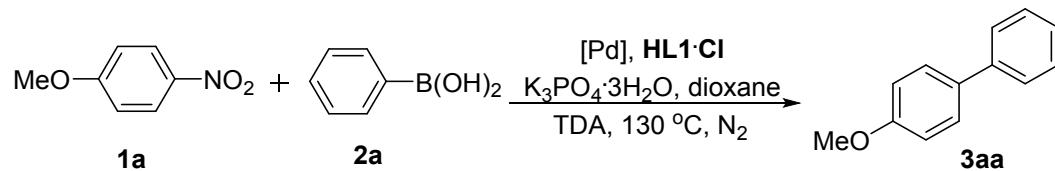
entry	solvent	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>dioxane</b>	<b>55</b>
2	THF	9
3	toluene	17
4	DCM	n.d.
5	DMA	25
6	DME	37
7	MTBE	27
8	heptane	12
9	<i>i</i> PrOH	24
10	$\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$	10
11	DMSO	n.d.
12	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	n.d.

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.), **2a** (1.5 eq.),  $\text{Pd}(\text{acac})_2$  (5 mol%),  $\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3.0 eq.), **HL1·Cl** (10 mol%), TDA (10 mol%), solvent (1.5 mL),  $130^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{N}_2$ , 36 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields.

**Table S3. Optimization of additives<sup>a</sup>**

entry	additives	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>TDA</b>	55
2	$^n\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}$	46
3	$^n\text{Bu}_4\text{NI}$	n.d.
4	$^n\text{Bu}_4\text{NF}$ (1.0 M in THF)	48
5	18-crown-6	52
6	$\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$	trace
7	$\text{ZnCl}_2$	n.d.
8	$\text{PPh}_3$	8
9	1,5-cyclooctadiene	32
10	--	45

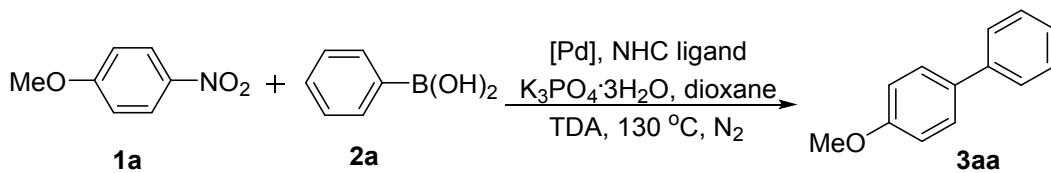
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.), **2a** (1.5 eq.),  $\text{Pd}(\text{acac})_2$  (5 mol%),  $\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3.0 eq.), **HL1·Cl** (10 mol%), additives (10 mol%), dioxane (1.5 mL),  $130^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{N}_2$ , 36 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields.

**Table S4. Optimization of Pd sources<sup>a</sup>**

entry	[Pd]	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>Pd(acac)<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>55</b>
2	PdCl <sub>2</sub>	32
3	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	22
4	PdCl <sub>2</sub> (MeCN) <sub>2</sub>	29
5	PdCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	10
6	Pd(TFA) <sub>2</sub>	25
7	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	8

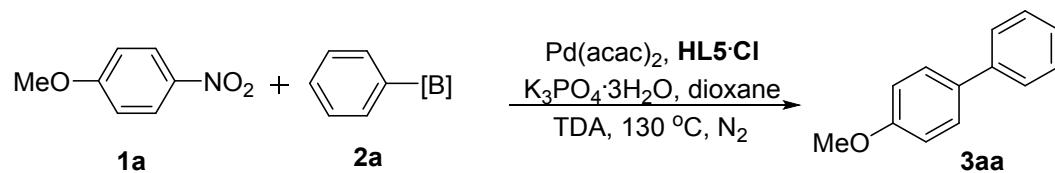
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.), **2a** (1.5 eq.), [Pd] (5 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (3.0 eq.), **HL1·Cl** (10 mol%), TDA (10 mol%), dioxane (1.5 mL), 130 °C, N<sub>2</sub>, 36 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields.

**Table S5. Optimization of [Pd]/L ratio, reaction time, reaction temperature, and additive amount<sup>a</sup>**



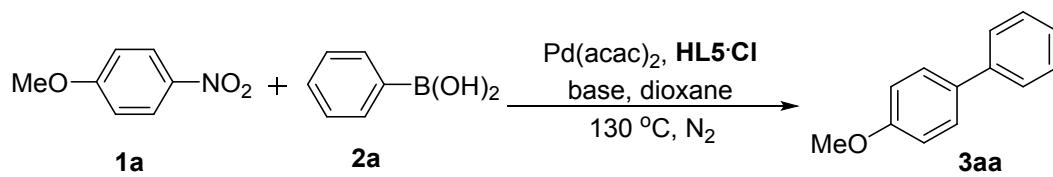
entry	[Pd]	Ligand	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	<b>HL1·Cl</b>	55
2 <sup>c</sup>	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	<b>HL1·Cl</b>	40
3 <sup>d</sup>	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	<b>HL1·Cl</b>	45
4 <sup>e</sup>	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	<b>HL1·Cl</b>	43
5 <sup>f</sup>	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	<b>HL5·Cl</b>	73
6 <sup>g</sup>	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	<b>HL5·Cl</b>	55
7 <sup>h</sup>	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	<b>HL5·Cl</b>	52
8	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	--	n.d.
9	--	<b>HL5·Cl</b>	n.d.
10 <sup>i</sup>	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	<b>HL5·Cl</b>	56
11 <sup>j</sup>	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	<b>HL5·Cl</b>	47
12 <sup>k</sup>	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	<b>HL5·Cl</b>	51

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.), **2a** (1.5 eq.), Pd(acac)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (3.0 eq.), NHC ligand (10 mol%), TDA (10 mol%), dioxane (1.5 mL), 130 °C, N<sub>2</sub>, 36 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields. <sup>c</sup>24 h. <sup>d</sup>**HL1·Cl** (20 mol%). <sup>e</sup>**HL1·Cl** (6 mol%). <sup>f</sup>TDA (5 mol%). <sup>g</sup>TDA (2.5 mol%). <sup>h</sup>TDA (20 mol%). <sup>i</sup> [Pd] (2.5 mol%), ligand (5 mol%), TDA (5 mol%), 48 h. <sup>j</sup>TDA (5 mol%), 48 h, air. <sup>k</sup>TDA (5 mol%), 48 h, 100 °C.

**Table S6. Effect of various boron-containing coupling partners <sup>a</sup>**

entry	[B] sources	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	PhBPin	60
2	PhBF <sub>3</sub> K	15
3	PhB(MIDA) <sup>c</sup>	traces

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.), **2a** (1.5 eq.),  $\text{Pd}(\text{acac})_2$  (5 mol%),  $\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3.0 eq.), **HL5·Cl** (10 mol%), TDA (5 mol%), dioxane (1.5 mL),  $130^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{N}_2$ , 48 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields. <sup>c</sup>MIDA = 2,2'-(methylazanediyl)diacetate.

**Table S7. Effect of TDA <sup>a</sup>**

entry	Base	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	$\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	82 (74) <sup>c</sup>
2	$\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4$	68 (61) <sup>c</sup>
3	$\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$	25 (20) <sup>c</sup>
4	$\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$	9 (7) <sup>c</sup>

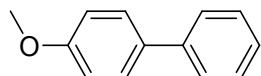
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.), **2a** (1.5 eq.),  $\text{Pd}(\text{acac})_2$  (5 mol%), base (3.0 eq.), **HL5·Cl** (10 mol%), TDA (5 mol%), dioxane (1.5 mL),  $130\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{N}_2$ , 48 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields. <sup>c</sup>Without TDA in parentheses.

## V. General procedure for the synthesis of 3

To an oven-dried tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar were added sequentially nitroarene **1** (0.6 mmol), boronic acid **2** (0.9 mmol), Pd(acac)<sub>2</sub> (9.1 mg, 0.03 mmol), **HL5·Cl** (28 mg, 0.06 mmol), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (480 mg, 1.8 mmol), TDA (9.7 mg, 0.03 mmol), and 1,4-dioxane (3 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes and then heated at 130 °C for 48 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, and then it was passed through a short pad of celite with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The solution was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give the product **3**.

## VI. Characterization data of products

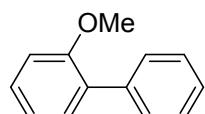
### 4-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (3aa)



White solid; yield: 91 mg (82%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.59-7.54 (m, 4H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.2, 140.9, 133.8, 128.8, 128.2, 126.8, 126.7, 114.2, 55.4; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

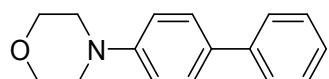
### 2-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (3ab)



Colorless oil; yield: 79 mg (72%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.61-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 156.5, 138.6, 131.0, 130.8, 129.6, 128.7, 128.1, 127.0, 120.9, 111.3, 55.6; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

### 4-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)morpholine (3ac)

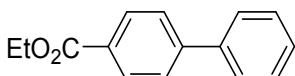


White solid; yield: 60 mg (42%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.61-7.54 (m, 4H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H),

7.00 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 3.92-3.89 (m, 4H), 3.24-3.21 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  150.6, 140.8, 132.7, 128.8, 127.8, 126.6, 115.8, 66.9, 49.2; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

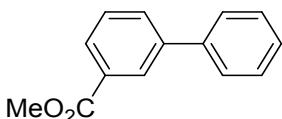
### **ethyl [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate (3ad)**



Pale yellow solid; yield: 84 mg (63%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.13 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.74-7.59 (m, 4H), 7.48 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 1H), 4.42 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.6, 145.5, 140.1, 130.1, 129.3, 129.0, 128.1, 127.3, 127.0, 61.0, 14.4; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[7]</sup>

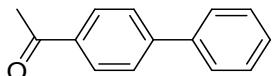
### **methyl [1,1'-biphenyl]-3-carboxylate (3ae)**



Colorless oil; yield: 76 mg (60%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.31 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.1, 141.5, 140.1, 131.6, 130.7, 128.9, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 127.8, 127.2, 52.2; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

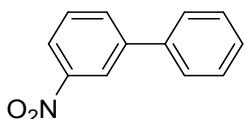
### **1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)ethan-1-one (3af)**



White solid; yield: 18 mg (15%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.04 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.8, 145.8, 139.9, 135.9, 129.0, 128.9, 128.2, 127.3, 127.2, 26.7; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

### **3-nitro-1,1'-biphenyl (3ag)**

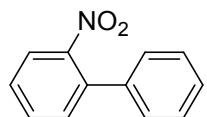


White solid; yield: 75 mg (63%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.45 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.50 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.7, 142.9,

138.7, 133.1, 129.7, 129.2, 128.6, 127.2, 122.1, 122.0; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

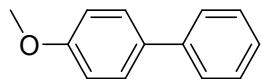
### 2-nitro-1,1'-biphenyl (3ah)



Pale yellow solid; yield: 70 mg (59%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.86 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.38-7.29 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 149.3, 137.4, 136.4, 132.31, 132.0, 128.7, 128.3, 128.2, 127.9, 124.1; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

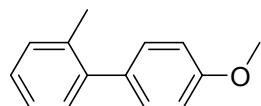
### 4-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (3ai)



White solid; yield: 94 mg (85%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.59-7.54 (m, 4H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.2, 140.9, 133.8, 128.8, 128.2, 126.8, 126.7, 114.2, 55.4; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

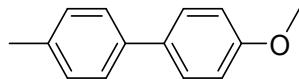
### 4'-methoxy-2-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (3aj)



Colorless oil; yield: 96 mg (81%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.34-7.26 (m, 6H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 158.5, 141.6, 135.5, 134.4, 130.3, 130.3, 129.9, 127.0, 125.8, 113.5, 55.3, 20.6; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

### 4-methoxy-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (3ak)

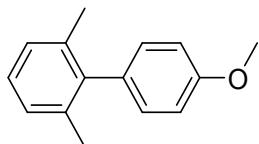


White solid; yield: 83 mg (70%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.0, 138.0, 136.4, 133.8, 129.5, 128.0, 126.6, 114.2, 55.4, 21.1; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in

good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

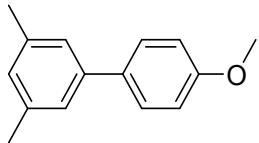
**4'-methoxy-2,6-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (3al)**



Colorless solid; yield: 77 mg (61%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.17-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.94 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 158.3, 141.5, 136.5, 133.3, 130.1, 127.2, 126.9, 113.8, 55.2, 20.9; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[8]</sup>

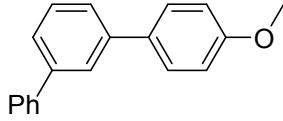
**4'-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (3am)**



White solid; yield: 89 mg (70%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (s, 2H), 7.02-6.84 (m, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.0, 140.8, 138.2, 134.0, 128.3, 128.2, 124.7, 114.1, 55.3, 21.4; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

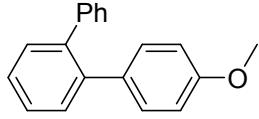
**4-methoxy-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl (3an)**



White solid; yield: 129 mg (83%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.63-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.3, 141.8, 141.5, 141.4, 133.8, 129.3, 128.9, 128.3, 127.5, 127.4, 125.8, 125.6, 114.3, 55.4; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

**4-methoxy-1,1':2',1''-terphenyl (3ao)**

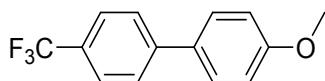


Colorless oil; yield: 78 mg (50%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.45-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.10 (m, 5H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 158.3, 141.8, 140.5, 140.2, 133.9, 131.0,

130.7, 130.6, 129.9, 127.9, 127.5, 127.2, 126.4, 113.4, 55.2; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

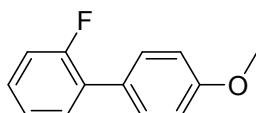
#### 4-methoxy-4'-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3ap)



White solid; yield: 74 mg (49%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.69-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.9, 144.3, 132.2, 128.7 (q, *J* = 32.0 Hz), 128.4, 126.9, 125.7 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 124.4 (q, *J* = 270.0 Hz), 114.4, 55.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -62.3; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

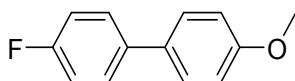
#### 2-fluoro-4'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (3aq)



White solid; yield: 75 mg (62%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.8, 1H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.10 (m, 1H), 6.98 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.8 (d, *J* = 245.5 Hz), 159.3, 130.5 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 130.2 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 128.7 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz), 128.4 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 128.2, 124.3 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 116.1 (d, *J* = 23.0 Hz), 113.9, 55.3; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -118.2; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[9]</sup>

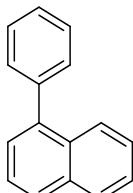
#### 4-fluoro-4'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (3ar)



White solid; yield: 115 mg (95%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.52-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.98 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 162.1 (d, *J* = 243.8 Hz), 159.1, 137.0 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 132.9, 128.2 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 128.1, 115.5 (d, *J* = 21.4 Hz), 114.3, 55.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -116.7; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

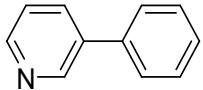
#### 1-phenylnaphthalene (3as)



Colorless oil; yield: 117 mg (96%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.90-7.80 (m, 3H), 7.50-7.36 (m, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 140.9, 140.4, 133.9, 131.8, 130.2, 128.4, 127.8, 127.4, 127.1, 126.2, 125.9, 125.5; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

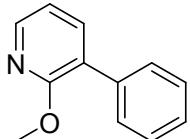
### 3-phenylpyridine (3at)



Colorless oil; yield: 82 mg (88%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.85 (s, 1H), 8.59 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.31 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 148.5, 148.3, 137.8, 136.7, 134.4, 129.1, 128.1, 127.2, 123.6; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

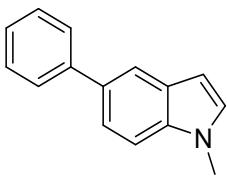
### 2-methoxy-3-phenylpyridine (3au)



Colorless oil; yield: 104 mg (94%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.17 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 160.9, 145.7, 138.6, 136.8, 129.2, 128.2, 127.6, 124.7, 117.1, 53.5; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

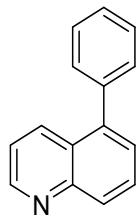
### 1-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-indole (3av)



Pale yellow solid; yield: 42 mg (34%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 142.7, 136.3, 132.9, 129.5, 129.0, 128.7, 127.4, 126.3, 121.4, 119.5, 109.5, 101.4, 33.0; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[10]</sup>

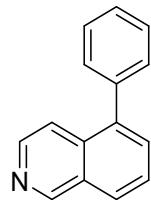
### **5-phenylquinoline (3aw)**



Pale yellow solid; yield: 116 mg (94%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.92 (dd,  $J = 4.1, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.42 (m, 6H), 7.32 (dd,  $J = 8.6, 4.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  150.3, 148.6, 140.5, 139.4, 134.4, 130.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.5, 127.7, 127.3, 126.7, 121.1; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

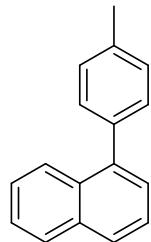
### **5-phenylisoquinoline (3ax)**



yellow oil; yield: 117 mg (95%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.30 (s, 1H), 8.48 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.96 (t,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.41 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  152.9, 143.4, 139.2, 139.0, 134.1, 130.9, 129.9, 129.0, 128.6, 127.8, 127.2, 126.9, 118.6; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

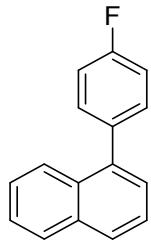
### **1-(*p*-tolyl)naphthalene (3ba)**



Colorless oil; yield: 114 mg (87%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.95-7.85 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.40 (m, 6H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  140.3, 137.8, 136.9, 133.8, 131.7, 130.0, 129.0, 128.3, 127.5, 126.9, 126.1, 125.9, 125.7, 125.4, 21.3; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[11]</sup>

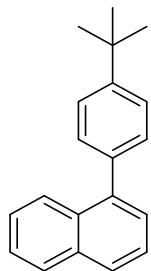
### **1-(4-fluorophenyl)naphthalene (3bb)**



White solid; yield: 114 mg (86%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 163.5 (d, *J* = 244.0 Hz), 139.2, 136.7 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 133.8, 131.7, 131.6 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 128.4, 127.8, 127.0, 126.2, 125.9, 125.8, 125.4, 115.3 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -115.5; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[12]</sup>

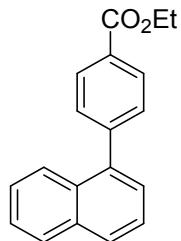
### 1-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)naphthalene (3bc)



White solid; yield: 136 mg (87%)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.42 (m, 8H), 1.42 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 150.1, 140.2, 137.7, 133.8, 131.7, 129.7, 128.2, 127.4, 126.9, 126.2, 125.9, 125.7, 125.4, 125.2, 34.6, 31.5; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[13]</sup>

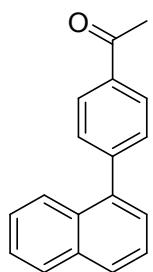
### ethyl 4-(naphthalen-1-yl)benzoate (3bd)



Pale yellow oil; yield: 126 mg (76%)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.97-7.84 (m, 3H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 2H), 4.46 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.6, 145.5, 139.2, 133.8, 131.3, 130.1, 129.6, 129.4, 128.4, 128.3, 127.0, 126.4, 126.0, 125.7, 125.4, 61.1, 14.4; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[14]</sup>

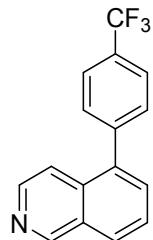
### **1-(4-(naphthalen-1-yl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3be)**



White solid; yield: 96 mg (65%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.97-7.84 (m, 3H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.42 (m, 4H), 2.70 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.9, 145.8, 139.0, 136.0, 133.8, 131.2, 130.4, 128.5, 128.4, 127.0, 126.5, 126.1, 125.6, 125.4, 26.8; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[15]</sup>

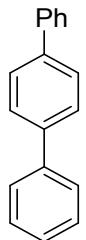
### **5-[4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl]isoquinoline (3bf)**



Off-white solid; yield: 78 mg (48%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.37 (s, 1H), 8.52 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.76-7.65 (m, 3H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 152.4, 142.7, 142.5, 137.8, 134.1, 131.6, 130.3 (q, *J* = 32.0 Hz), 130.2, 128.8, 128.2, 127.2, 125.7 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 122.8 (q, *J* = 271.0 Hz), 118.5; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -62.5; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[16]</sup>

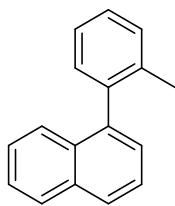
### **1,1':4',1"-terphenyl (3bg)**



White solid; yield: 110 mg (80%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.72-7.65 (m, 8H), 7.52-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 140.7, 140.2, 128.9, 127.5, 127.4, 127.1; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[17]</sup>

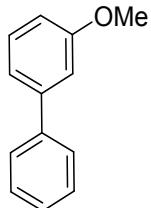
### **1-(*o*-tolyl)naphthalene (3bh)**



White solid; yield: 92 mg (70%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.26 (m, 2H), 2.04 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 140.3, 139.8, 136.8, 133.5, 132.0, 130.4, 129.9, 128.2, 127.6, 127.5, 126.6, 126.1, 126.0, 125.7, 125.6, 125.4, 20.1; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[18]</sup>

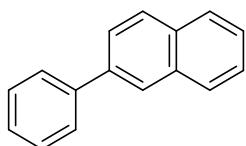
### **3-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (3bi)**



White solid; yield: 91mg (82%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 6.95 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 160.0, 142.8, 141.2, 129.8, 128.8, 127.5, 127.3, 119.7, 112.9, 112.7, 55.3; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

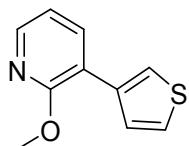
### **2-phenylnaphthalene (3bj)**



White solid; yield: 77 mg (63%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.01-7.90 (m, 3H), 7.84-7.77 (m, 3H), 7.60-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.2, 138.6, 133.8, 132.7, 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 127.7, 127.5, 127.4, 126.4, 126.0, 125.9, 125.7; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

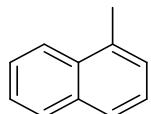
### **2-methoxy-3-(thiophen-3-yl)pyridine (3bk)**



Colorless oil; yield: 55 mg (48%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.13 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (dd, *J* = 3.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 160.5, 144.8, 137.3, 136.3, 127.7, 125.1, 124.0, 119.5, 117.1, 53.9; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>

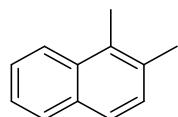
### 1-methylnaphthalene (3bl)



Colorless liquid; yield: 80 mg (94%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 134.4, 133.7, 132.7, 128.7, 126.7, 126.5, 125.8, 125.7, 125.7, 124.2, 19.5; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[19]</sup>

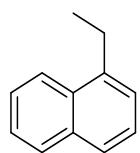
### 1,2-dimethylnaphthalene (3bm)



Colorless liquid; yield: 76 mg (81%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.59 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 133.2, 133.0, 132.4, 131.2, 129.1, 128.5, 125.8, 125.8, 124.6, 123.8, 20.9, 14.6; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[20]</sup>

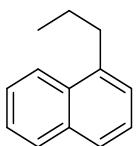
### 1-ethylnaphthalene (3bn)



Colorless liquid; yield: 75 mg (80%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.48 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 140.4, 134.0, 131.9, 128.9, 126.5, 125.8, 125.5, 125.0, 123.8, 26.0, 15.2; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[12]</sup>

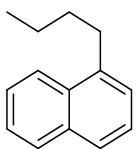
### 1-propylnaphthalene (3bo)



Colorless liquid; yield: 83 mg (81%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.90 (h, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.8, 134.0, 132.1, 128.9, 126.6, 126.1, 125.7, 125.6, 125.5, 124.0, 35.3, 24.0, 14.4; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[21]</sup>

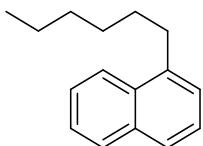
### 1-butynaphthalene (3bp)



Colorless liquid; yield: 105 mg (95%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.99-7.94 (m, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.87 (p, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.59 (h, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.1, 134.1, 132.1, 128.9, 126.5, 126.0, 125.7, 125.5, 124.0, 33.2, 33.0, 23.0, 14.2; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[22]</sup>

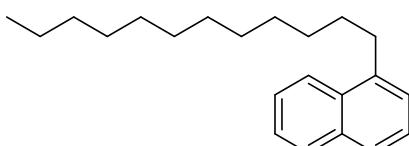
### 1-hexylnaphthalene (3bq)



Colorless liquid; yield: 119 mg (93%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.99-7.96 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 1.89 (p, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.64-1.42 (m, 6H), 1.06 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.2, 134.1, 132.1, 128.9, 126.5, 126.0, 125.8, 125.7, 125.5, 124.1, 33.3, 32.0, 31.0, 29.7, 22.9, 14.3; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[23]</sup>

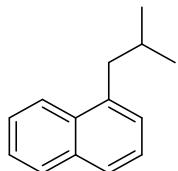
### 1-dodecylnaphthalene (3br)



Colorless liquid; yield: 104 mg (59%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (p, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.54-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.31 (m, 16H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.1, 133.9, 132.0, 128.8, 126.4, 125.9, 125.6, 125.5, 125.4, 124.0, 33.2, 32.0, 30.9, 29.9, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.4, 22.8, 14.2; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[12]</sup>

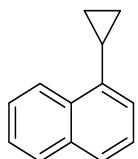
### **1-isobutylnaphthalene (3bs)**



Colorless liquid; yield: 74 mg (67%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.18-2.12 (m, 1H), 1.05 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 137.9, 134.0, 132.3, 128.8, 127.1, 126.6, 125.6, 125.4, 125.4, 124.3, 42.7, 29.6, 22.9; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[12]</sup>

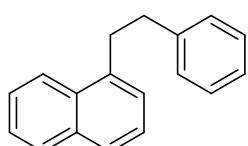
### **1-cyclopropylnaphthalene (3bt)**



Colorless liquid; yield: 93 mg (93%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.51-2.41 (m, 1H), 1.22-1.13 (m, 2H), 0.93-0.86 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.3, 133.7, 133.7, 128.6, 126.7, 125.8, 125.7, 125.6, 124.6, 123.9, 13.4, 6.6; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[24]</sup>

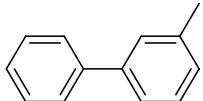
### **1-phenethylnaphthalene (3bu)**



Colorless liquid; yield: 132 mg (95%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 3H), 3.58-3.54 (m, 2H), 3.27-3.22 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 142.2, 138.0, 134.1, 132.0, 129.1, 128.7, 127.0, 126.3, 126.2, 126.1, 125.8, 125.7, 123.9, 37.3, 35.3; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[12]</sup>

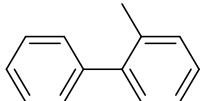
### 3-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (3bv)



Colorless liquid; yield: 76 mg (75%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.4, 141.3, 138.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.1, 128.0, 127.2, 124.3, 21.6; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[25]</sup>

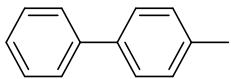
### 2-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (3bw)



Colorless liquid; yield: 76 mg (75%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.53-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 4H), 2.37 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 142.1, 142.0, 135.4, 130.4, 129.9, 129.3, 128.2, 127.3, 126.9, 125.9, 20.6; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[26]</sup>

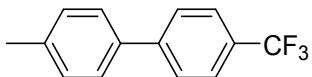
### 4-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (3bx)



White solid; yield: 88 mg (87%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.3, 138.5, 137.1, 129.6, 128.8, 127.1, 127.1, 21.2; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[26]</sup>

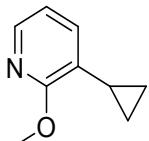
### 4-methyl-4'-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3by)



White solid; yield: 96 mg (68%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.74-7.69 (m, 4H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 144.7, 138.2, 136.9, 129.8, 129.1 (q, *J* = 32.0 Hz), 127.2, 127.1, 125.7 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 124.4 (q, *J* = 270 Hz), 21.1; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -62.3; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[27]</sup>

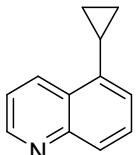
### 3-cyclopropyl-2-methoxypyridine (3bz)



Light yellow oil; yield: 42 mg (47%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.96 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.08-2.01 (m, 1H), 0.97-0.88 (m, 2H), 0.67-0.60 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 162.7, 143.1, 133.1, 126.5, 116.6, 53.5, 9.4, 7.5; HRMS (GC-TOF) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO : calcd. 149.0841; found: 149.0841.

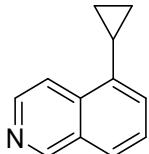
### 5-cyclopropylquinoline (3ca)



Pale yellow solid; m. p. 57-58 °C; yield: 87 mg (86%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.90 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.70 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.33-2.22 (m, 1H), 1.08-1.03 (m, 2H), 0.79-0.71 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 149.8, 148.3, 139.7, 133.0, 129.2, 128.6, 127.7, 124.2, 120.7, 12.6, 6.6; HRMS (GC-TOF) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N : calcd. 169.0891; found: 169.0892.

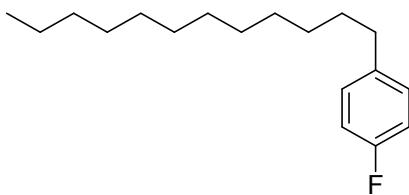
### 5-cyclopropylisoquinoline (3cb)



Blue solid; m. p. 62-63 °C; yield: 97 mg (96%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.22 (s, 1H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.31-2.21 (m, 1H), 1.10-1.01 (m, 2H), 0.76-0.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 152.8, 142.8, 138.6, 136.1, 128.7, 127.6, 126.9, 125.9, 117.3, 12.4, 6.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) : calcd. 170.0970; found: 170.0965.

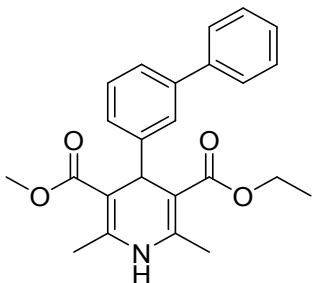
### **1-dodecyl-4-fluorobenzene (3cc)**



Colorless liquid; yield: 78 mg (49%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.18-7.06 (m, 2H), 7.03-6.88 (m, 2H), 2.63-2.47 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.54 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.19 (m, 18H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 161.1 (d, *J* = 241.0 Hz), 138.5 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 129.6 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 114.9 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 35.1, 31.9, 31.6, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.2, 22.7, 14.1; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -118.2; Spectral data obtained for the compound are in good agreement with the reported data.<sup>[28]</sup>

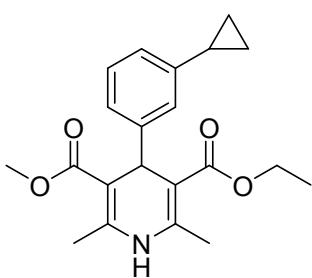
### **3-ethyl 5-methyl 4-([1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihdropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (N1)**



Waxy oil; yield: 172 mg (73%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.58-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.27 (m, 3H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 4.22-4.05 (m, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.3, 167.9, 148.3, 144.9, 144.7, 141.7, 140.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.2, 127.1, 126.9, 126.7, 125.1, 103.8, 103.5, 76.9, 59.9, 51.1, 39.6, 19.4, 14.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> : calcd. 391.1784; found: 391.1785.

### **3-ethyl 5-methyl 4-(3-cyclopropylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihdropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (N2)**



Waxy oil; yield: 64 mg (30%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.05-6.98 (m, 2H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 4.15-4.04 (m, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.88-1.77 (m, 1H),

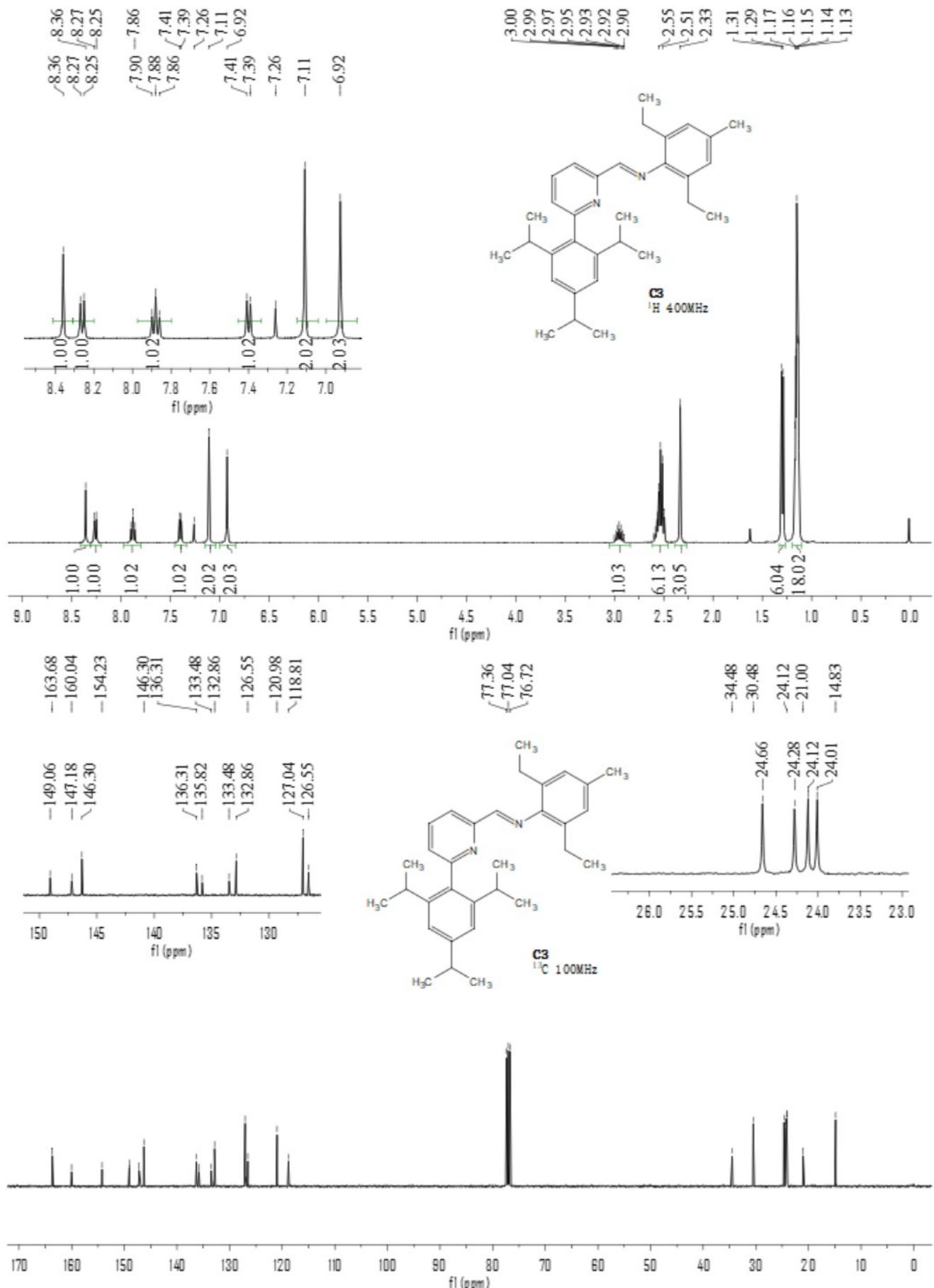
1.24 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 0.94-0.87 (m, 2H), 0.65-0.61 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.2, 167.8, 147.5, 144.5, 144.2, 143.3, 127.9, 125.4, 124.9, 123.1, 104.0, 103.6, 59.8, 51.0, 39.3, 19.5, 19.4, 15.4, 14.3, 9.3, 9.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4$  : calcd. 355.1784; found: 355.1787.

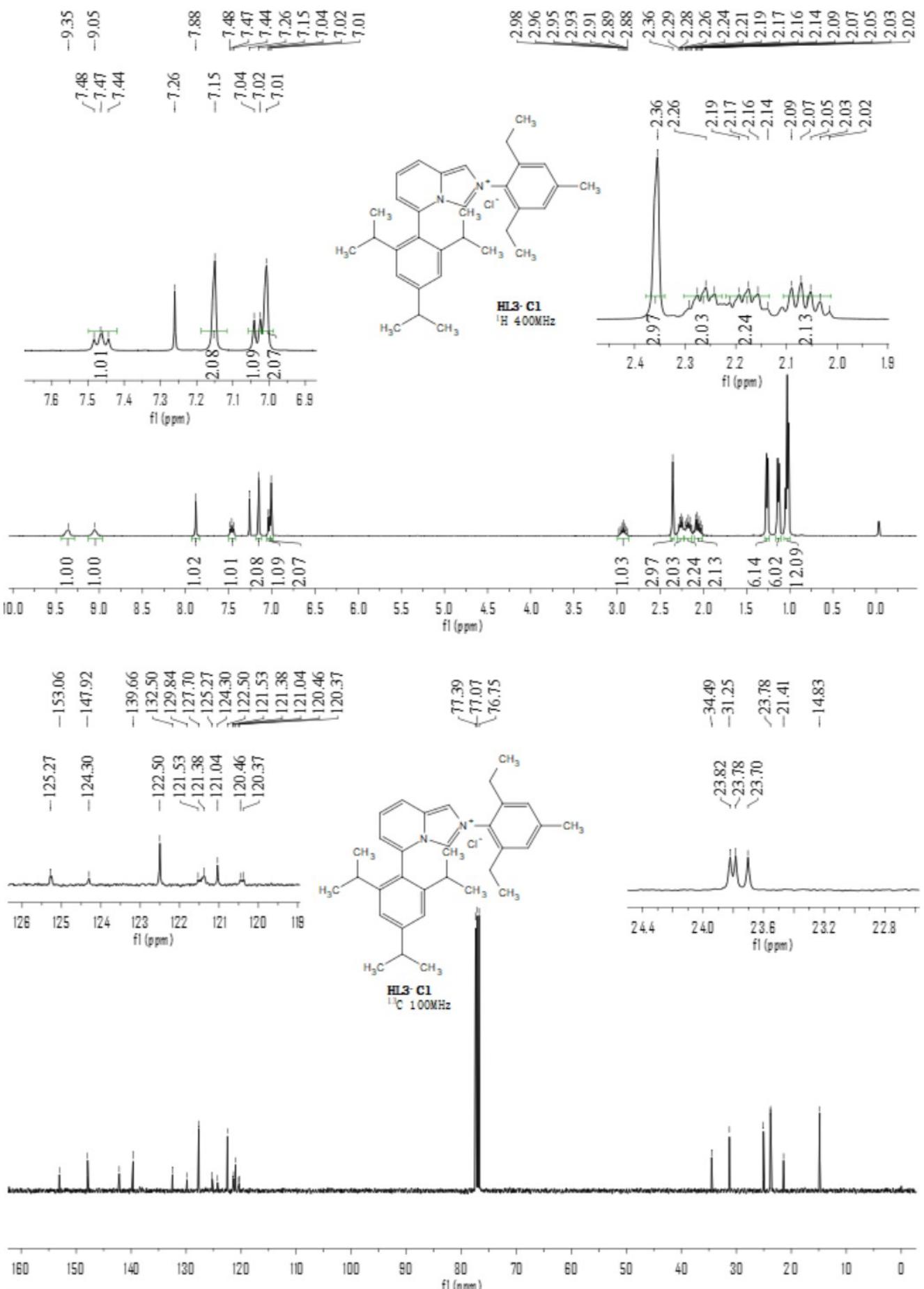
## VII. References

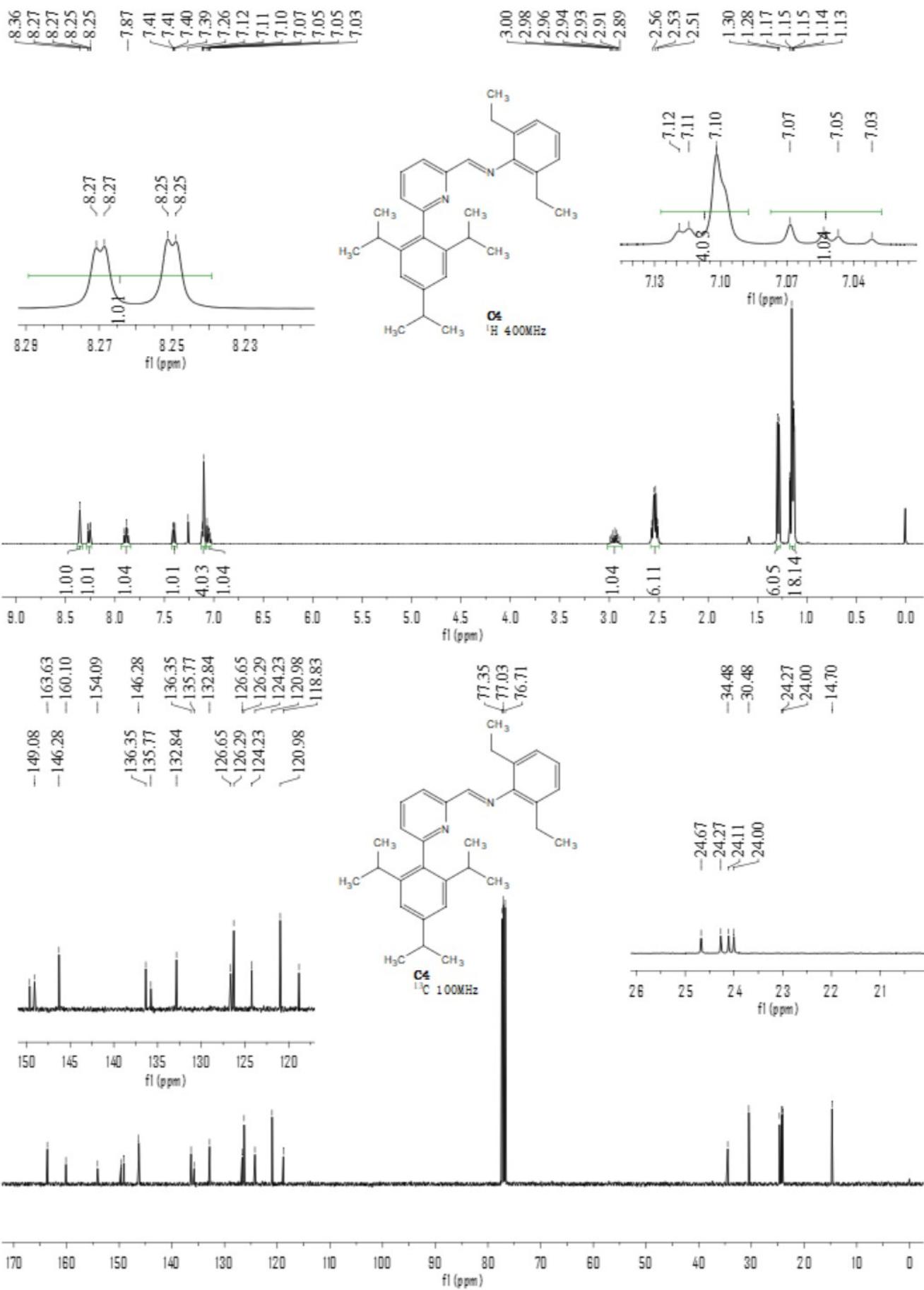
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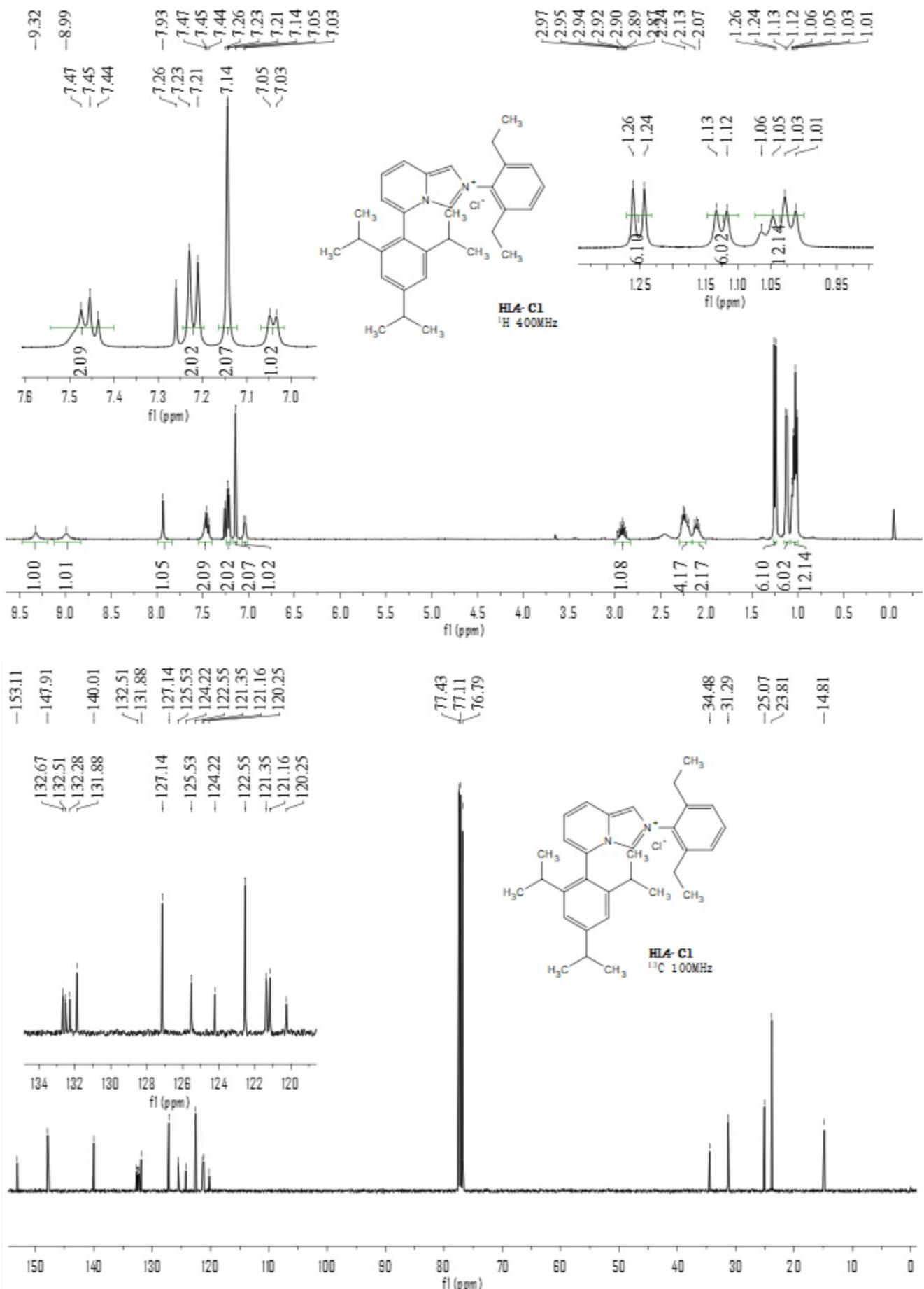
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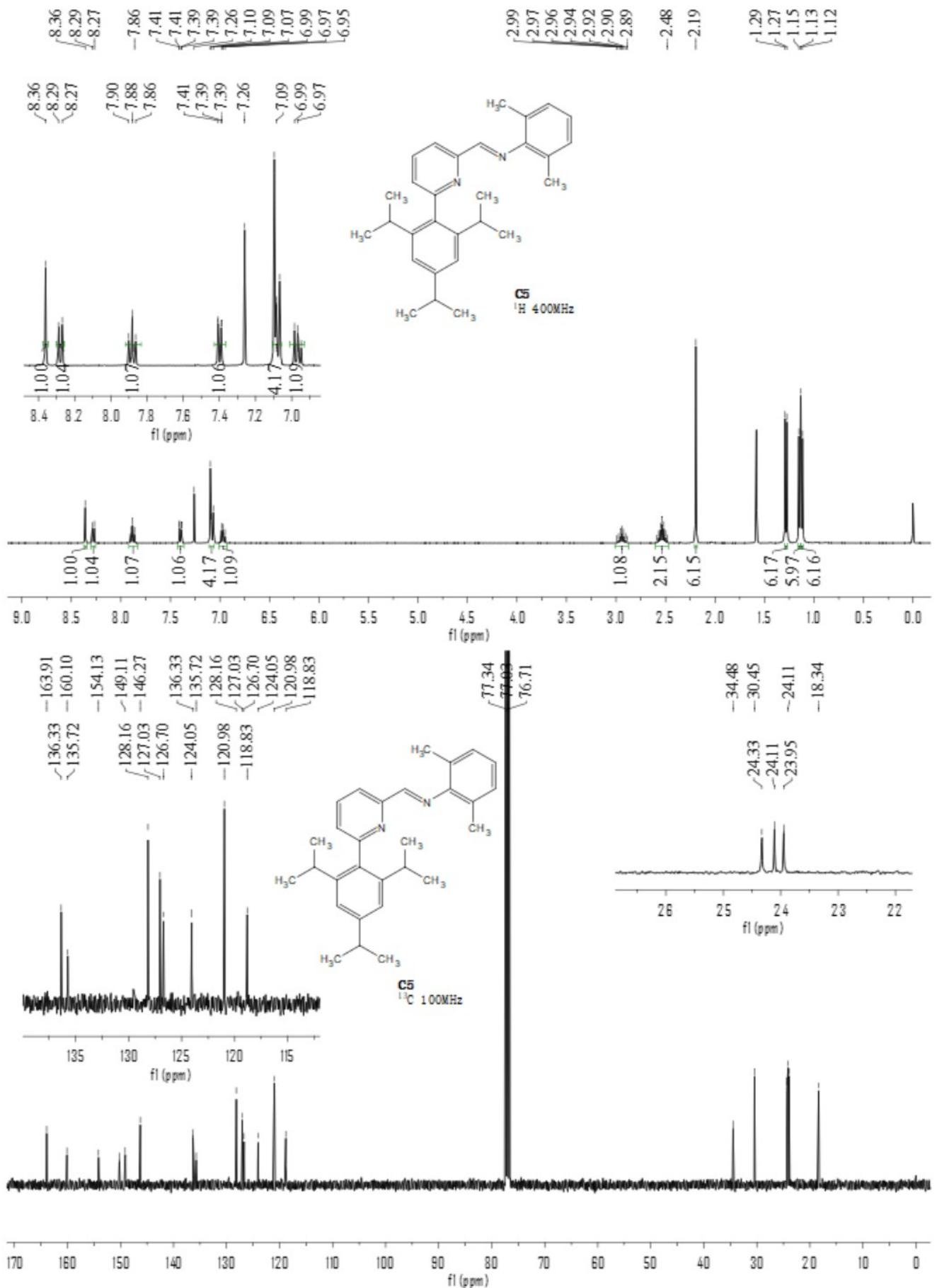
### VIII. NMR spectra of ligand precursors

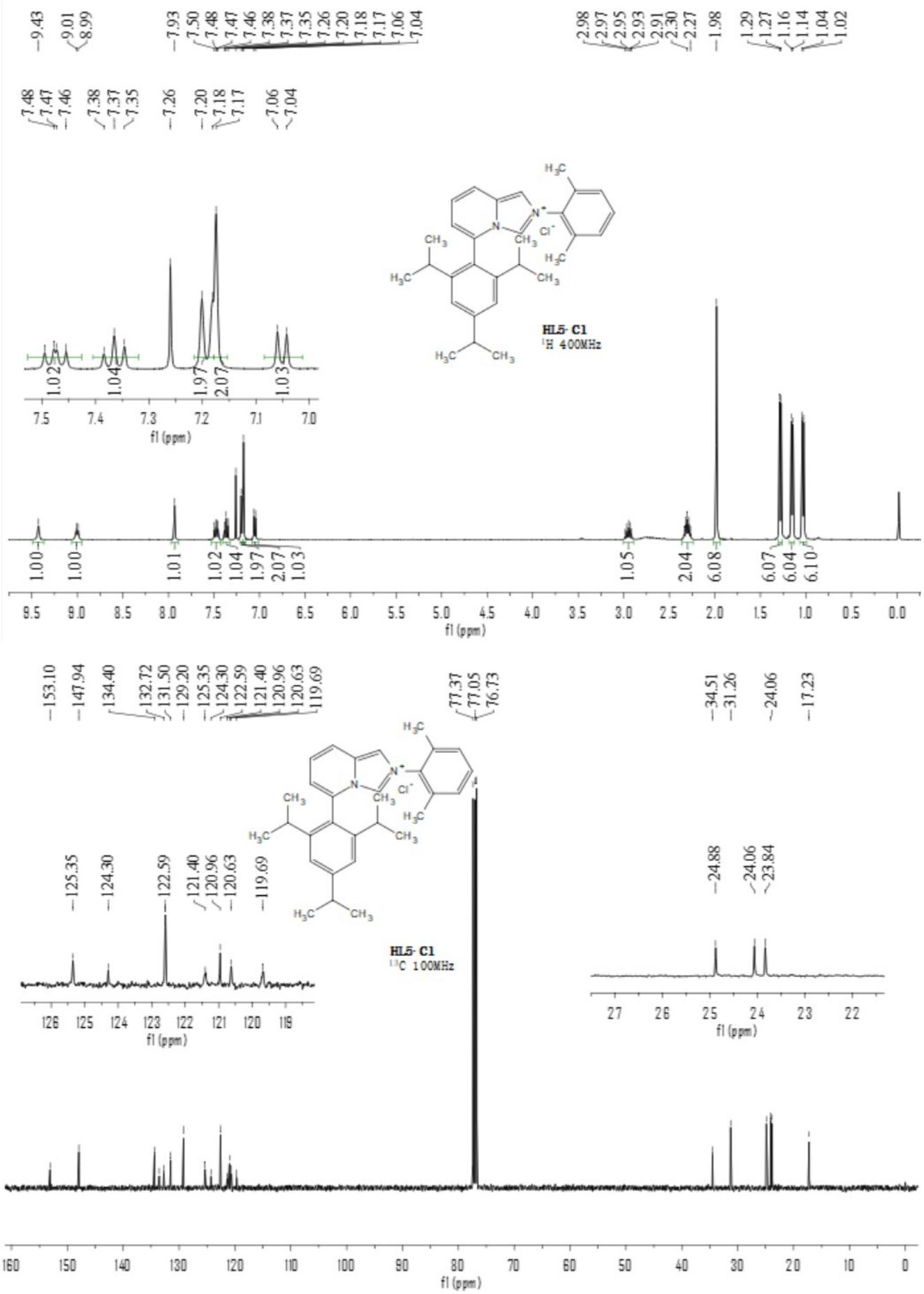


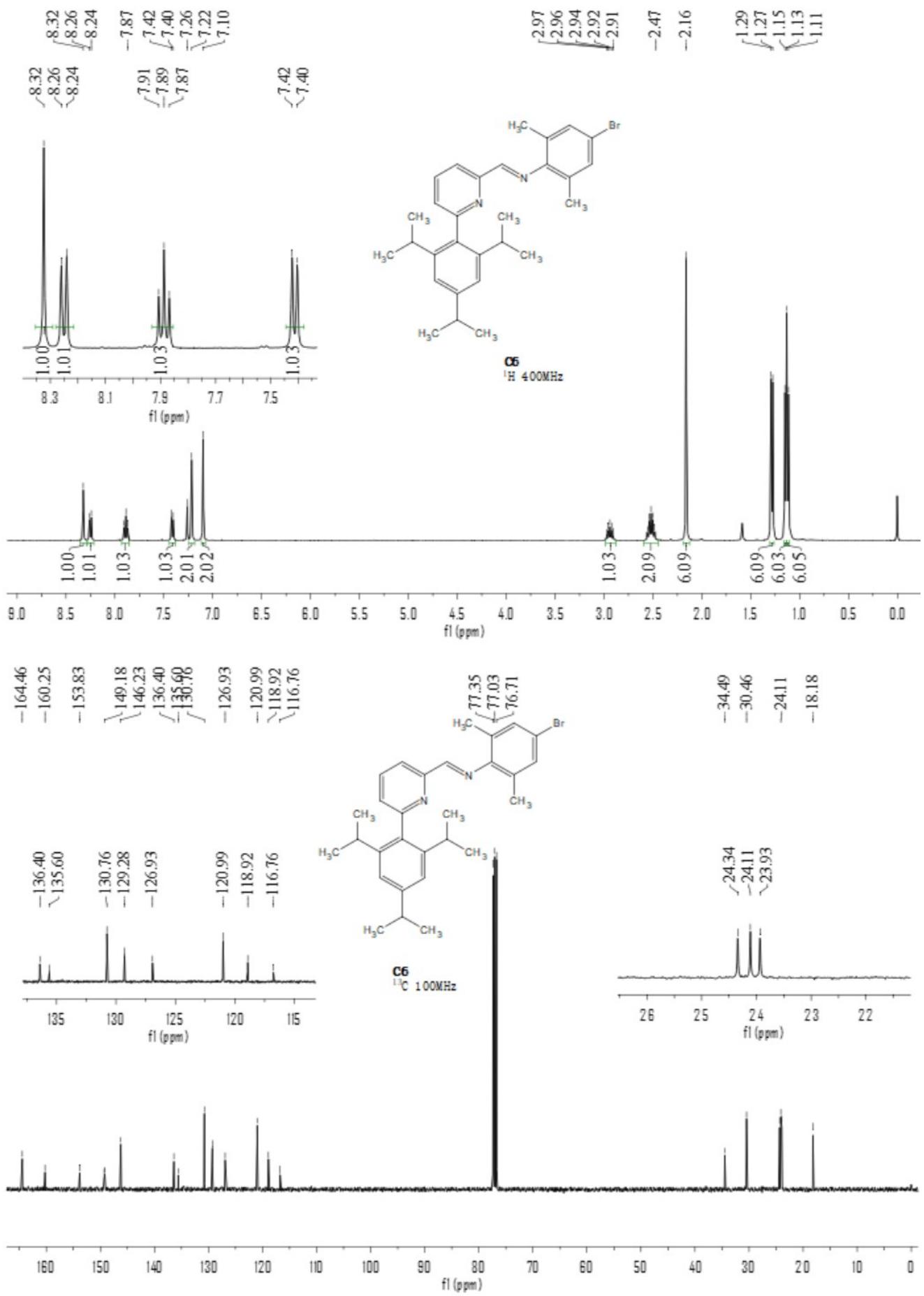


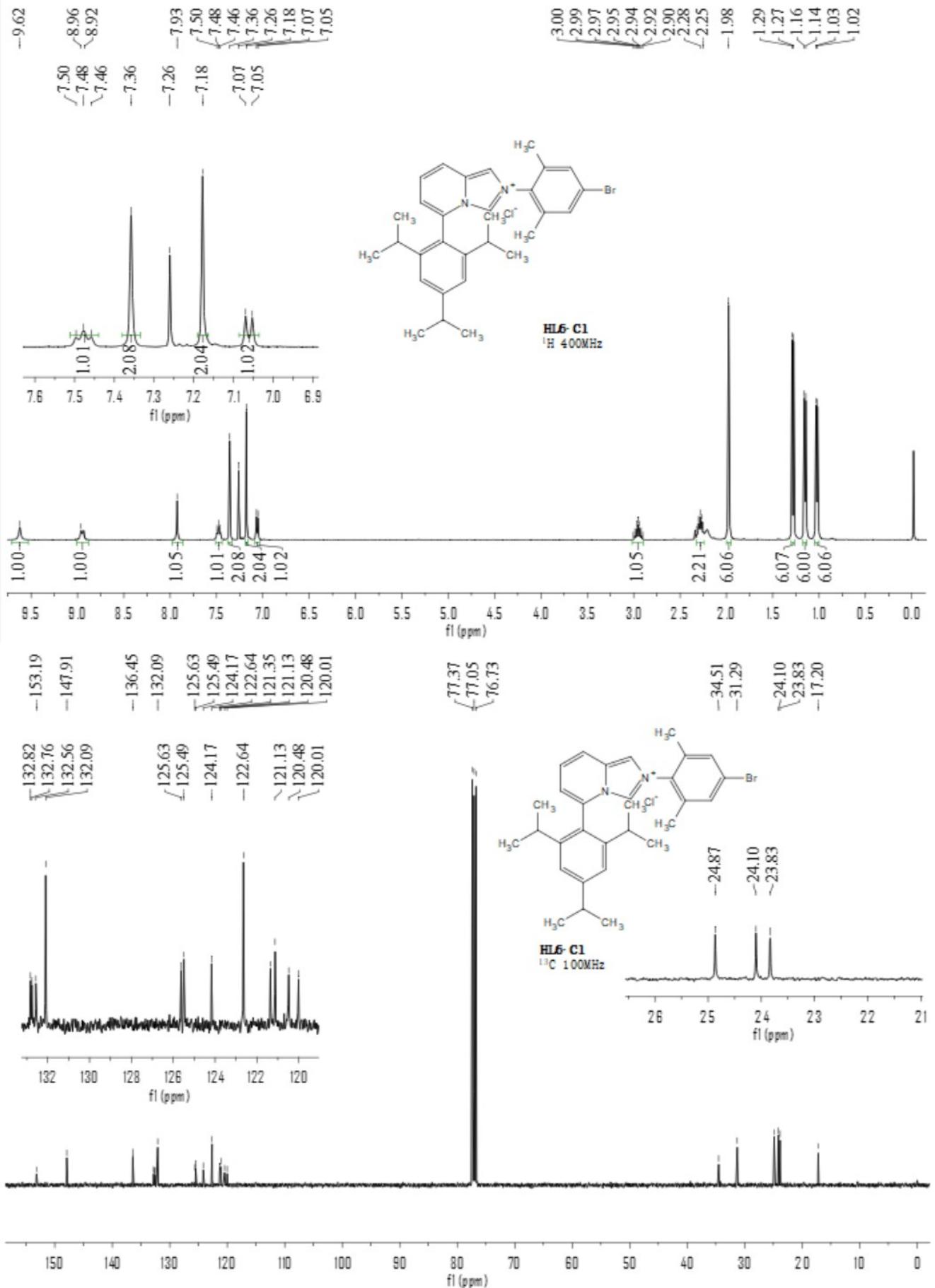


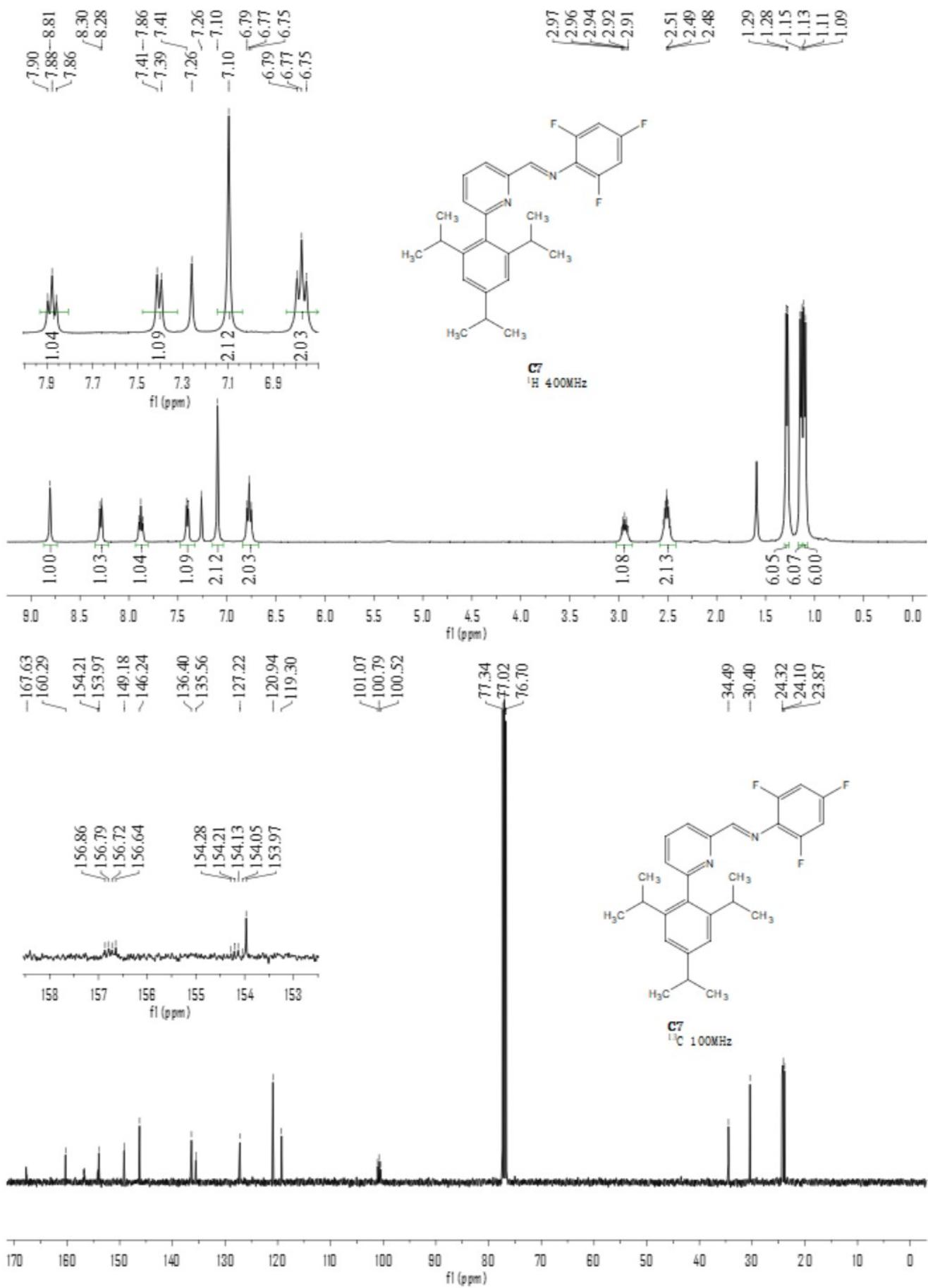


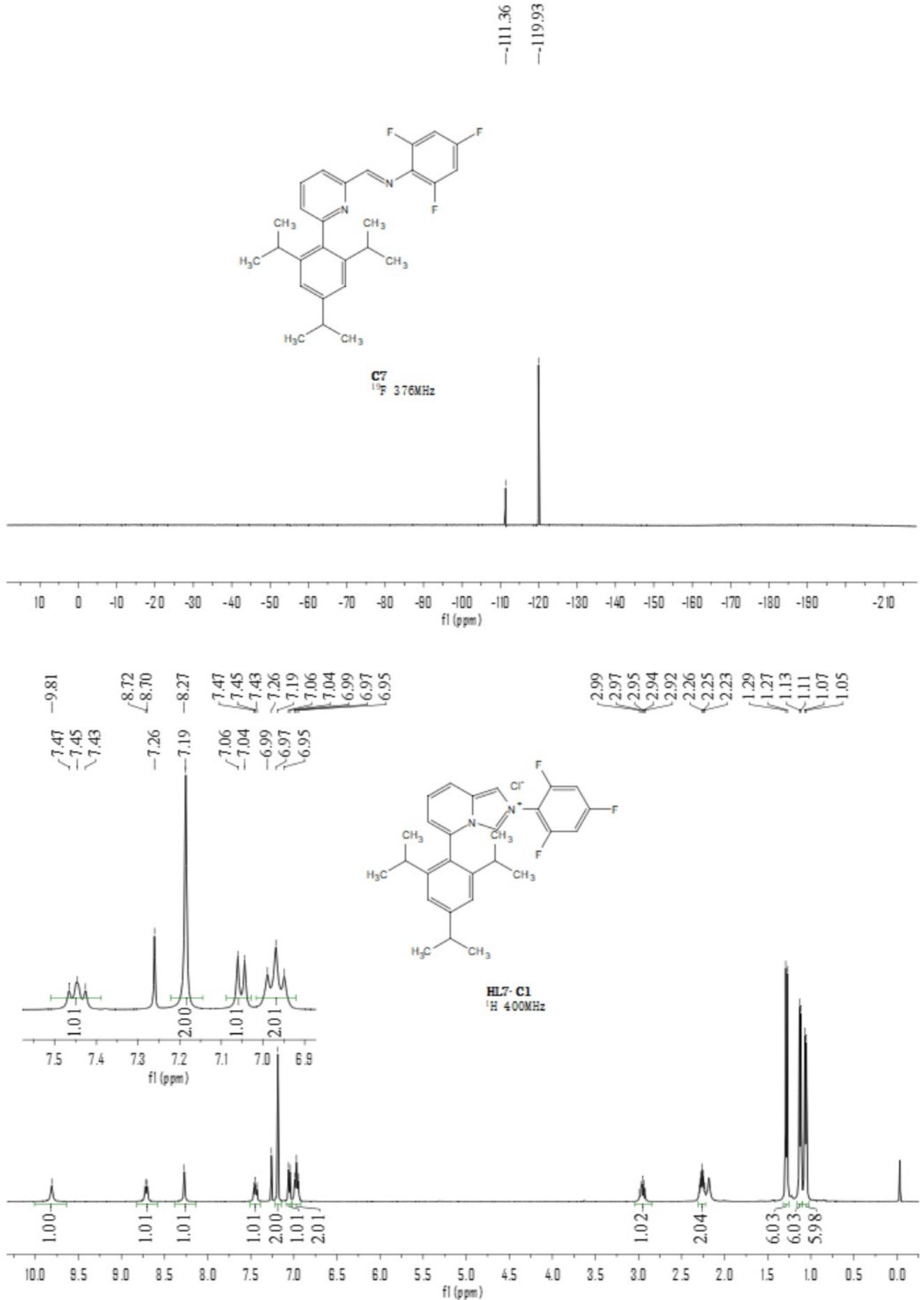


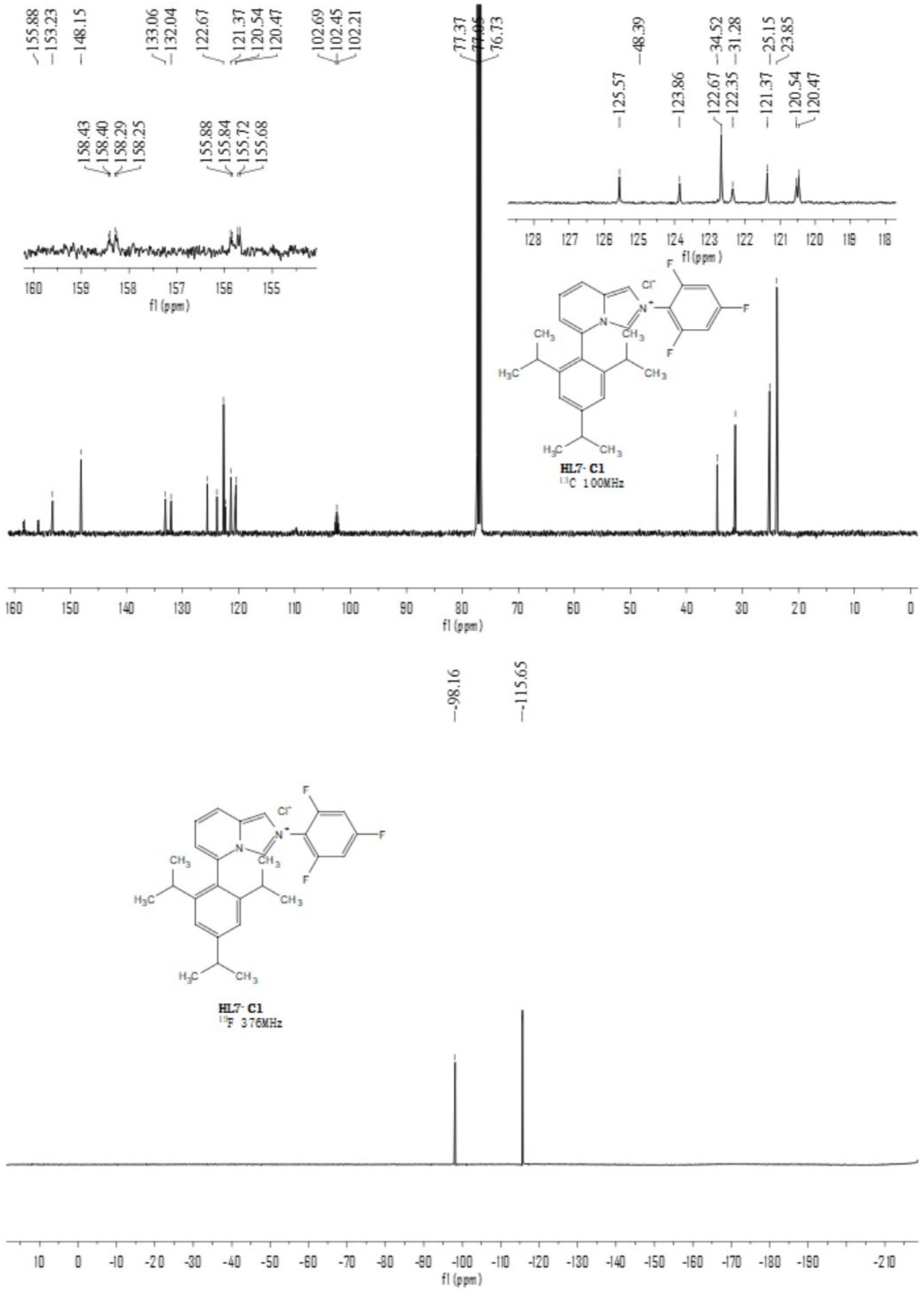


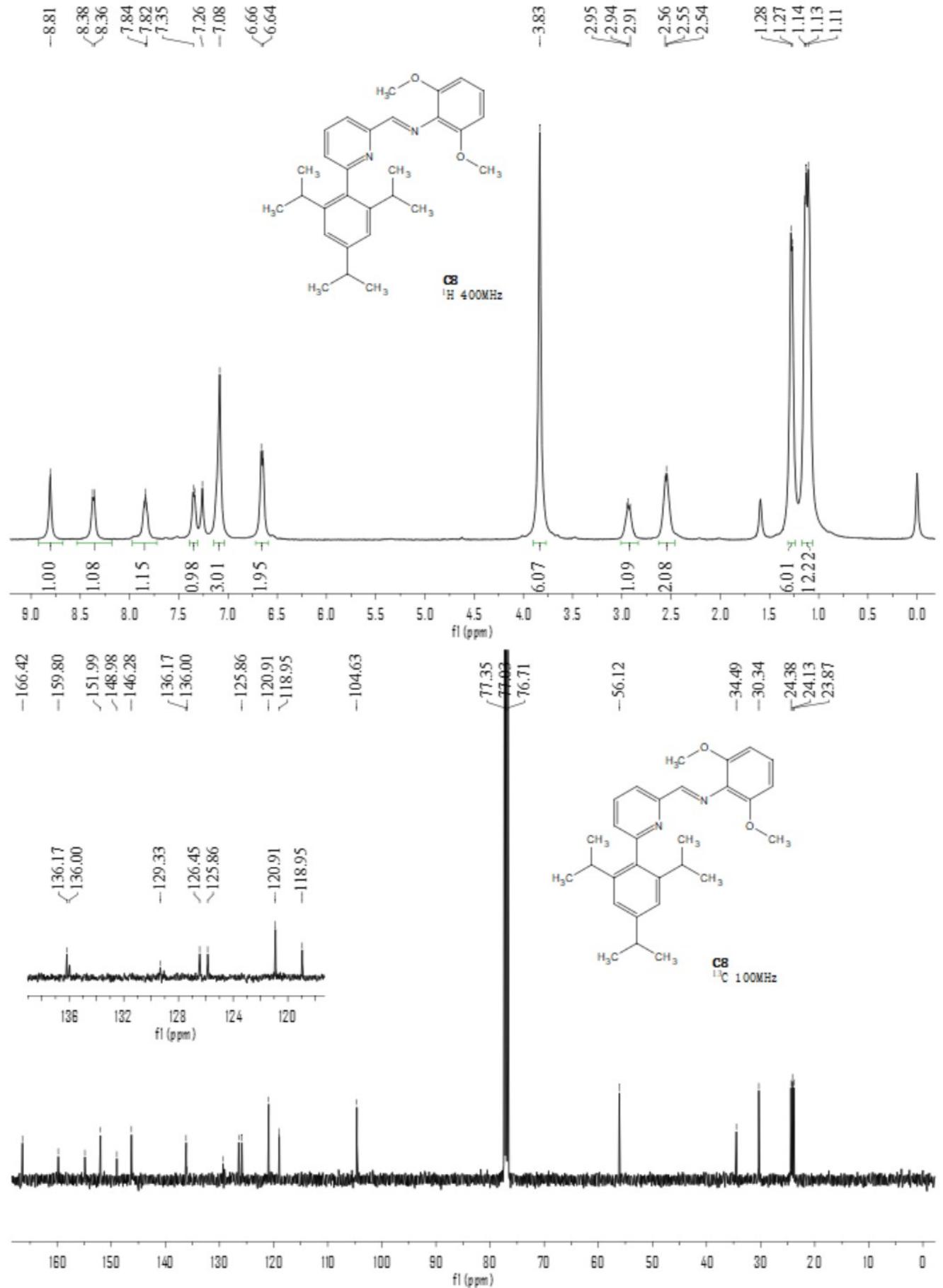


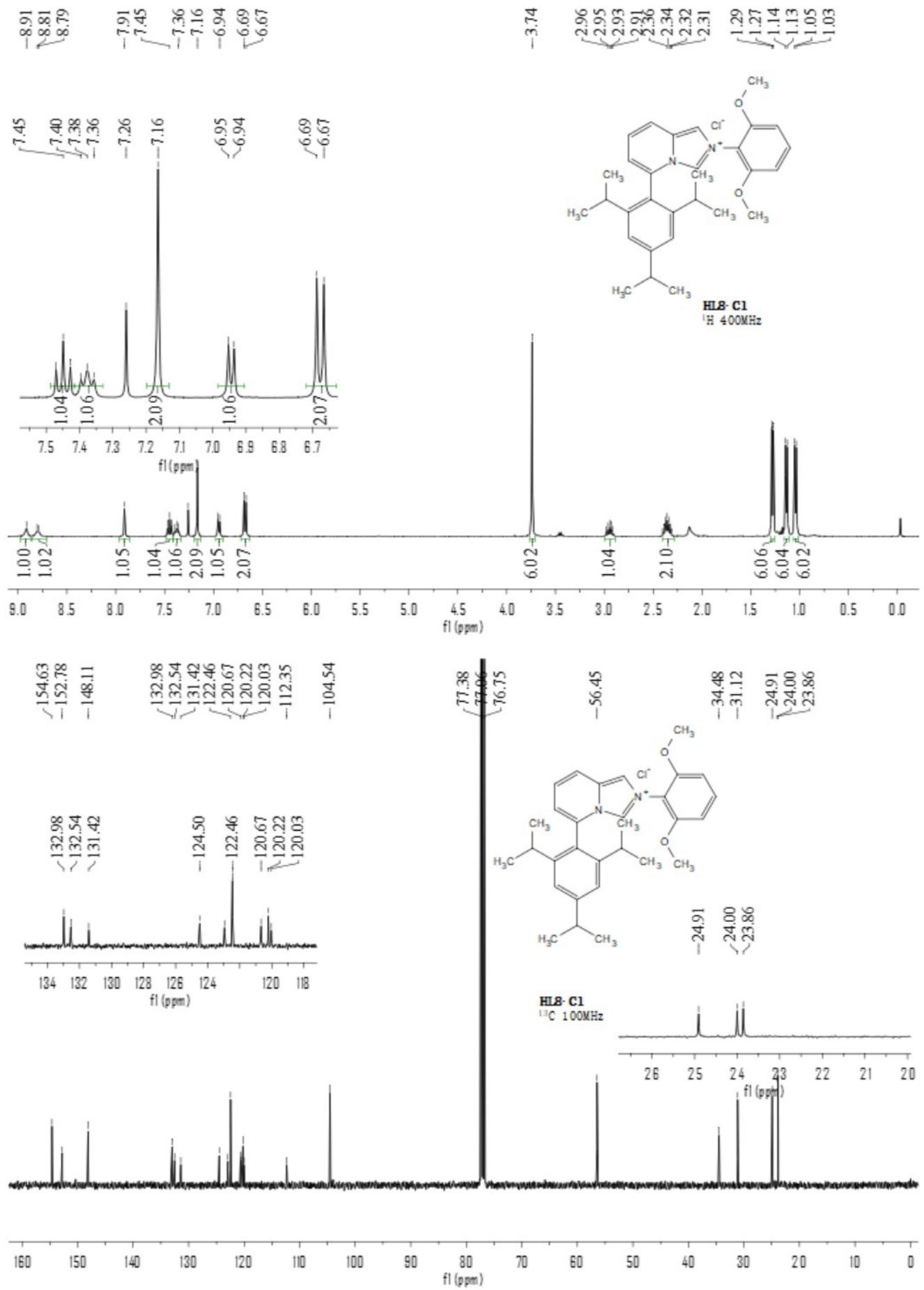


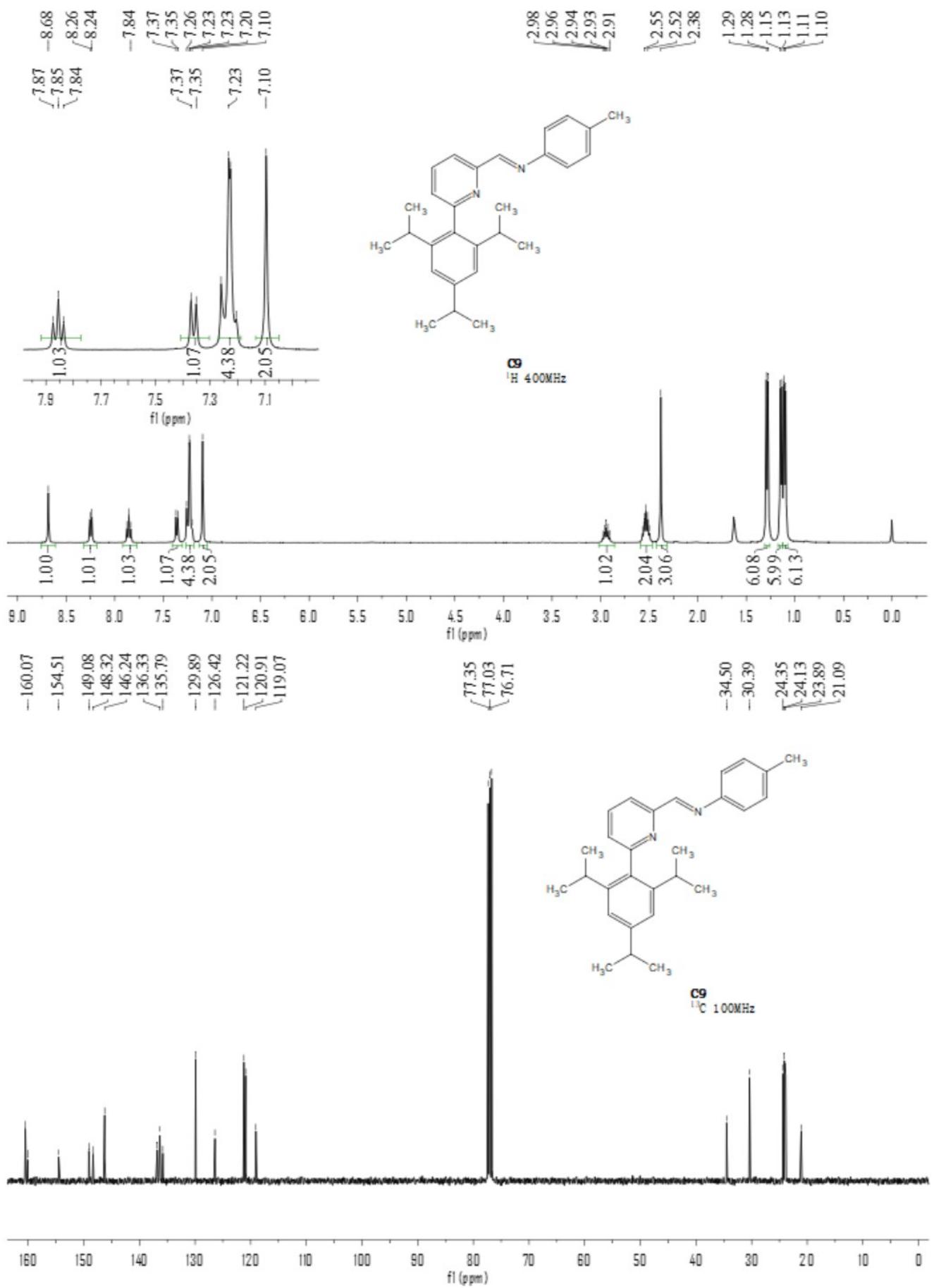


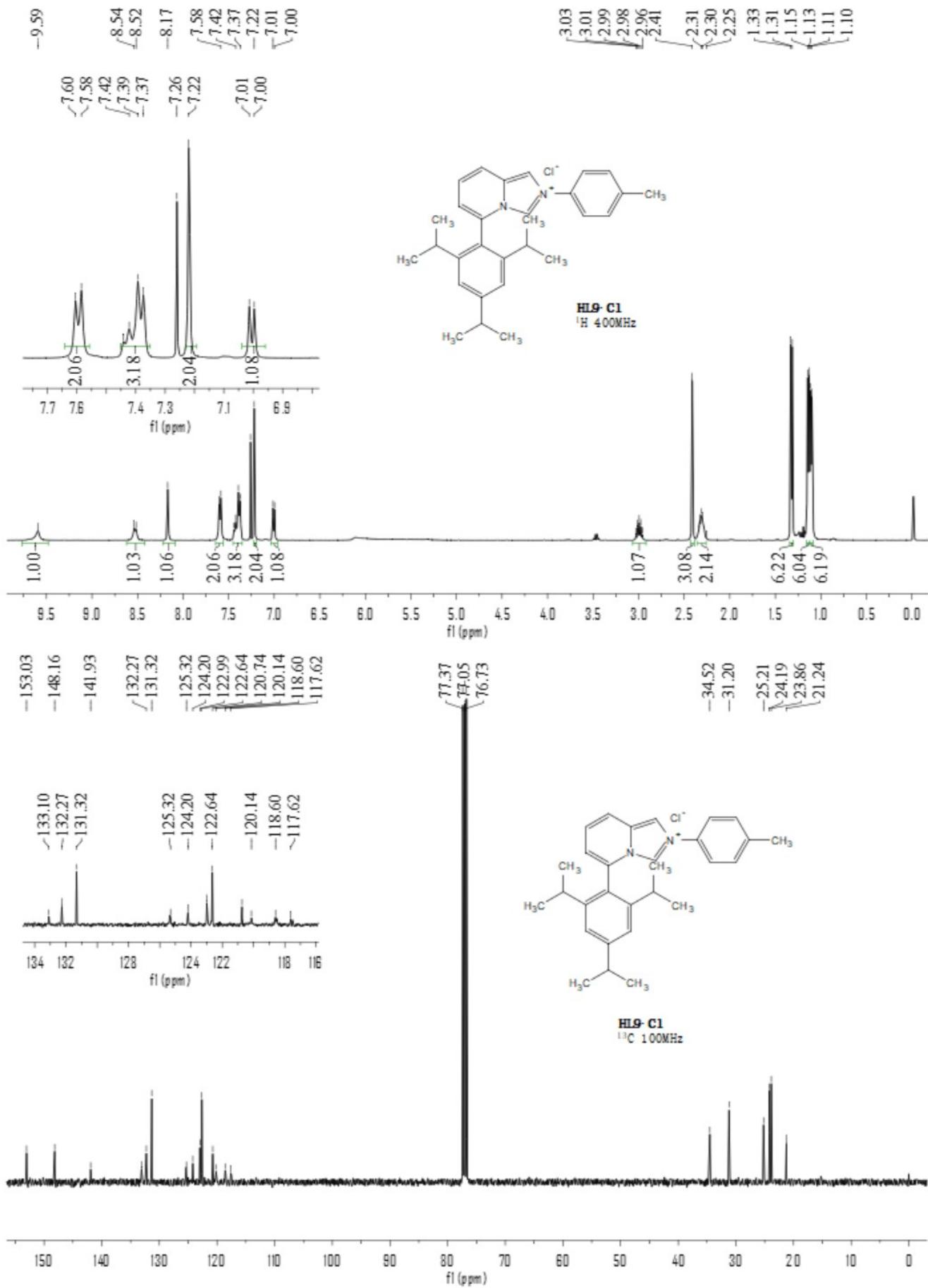


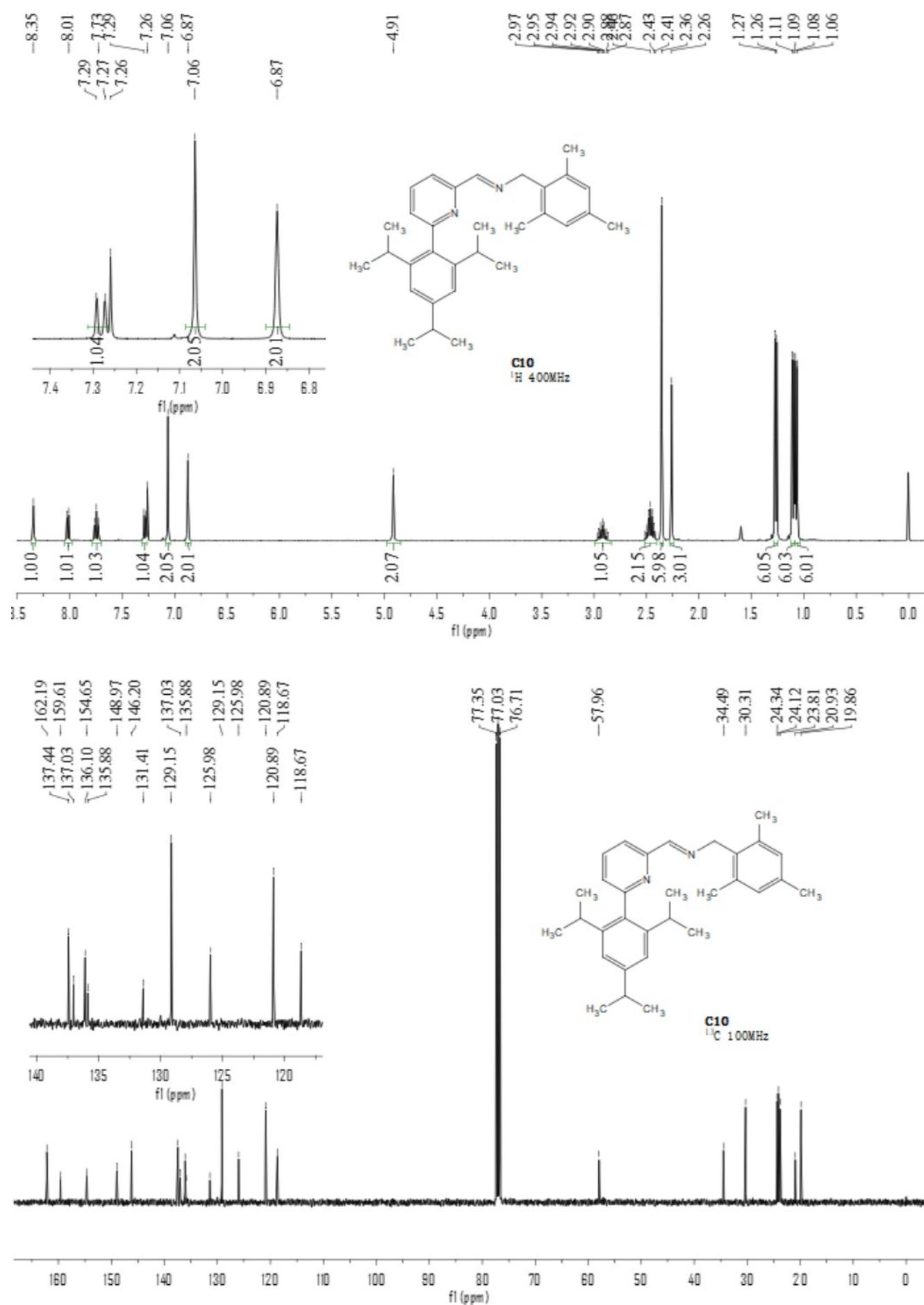


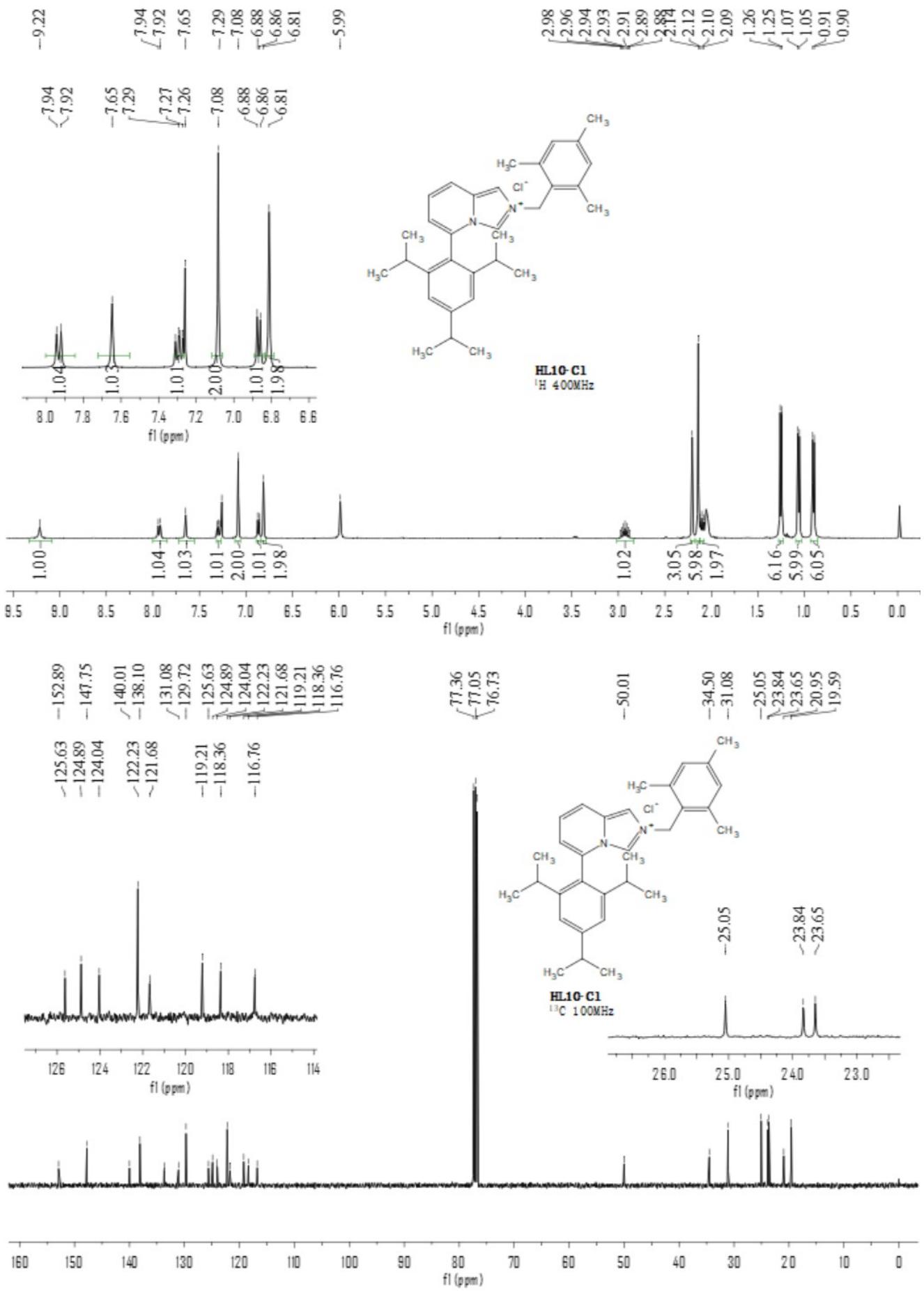


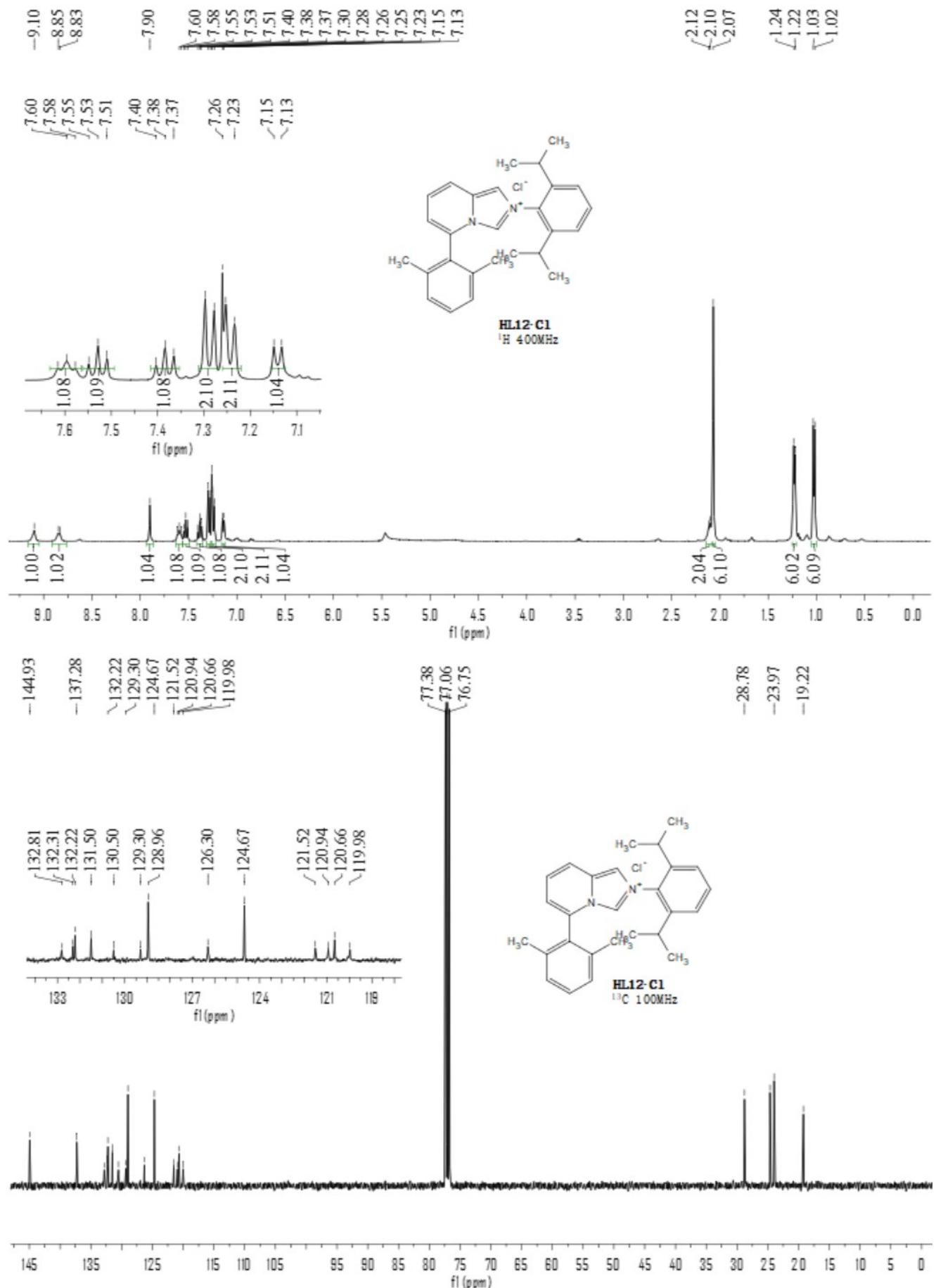




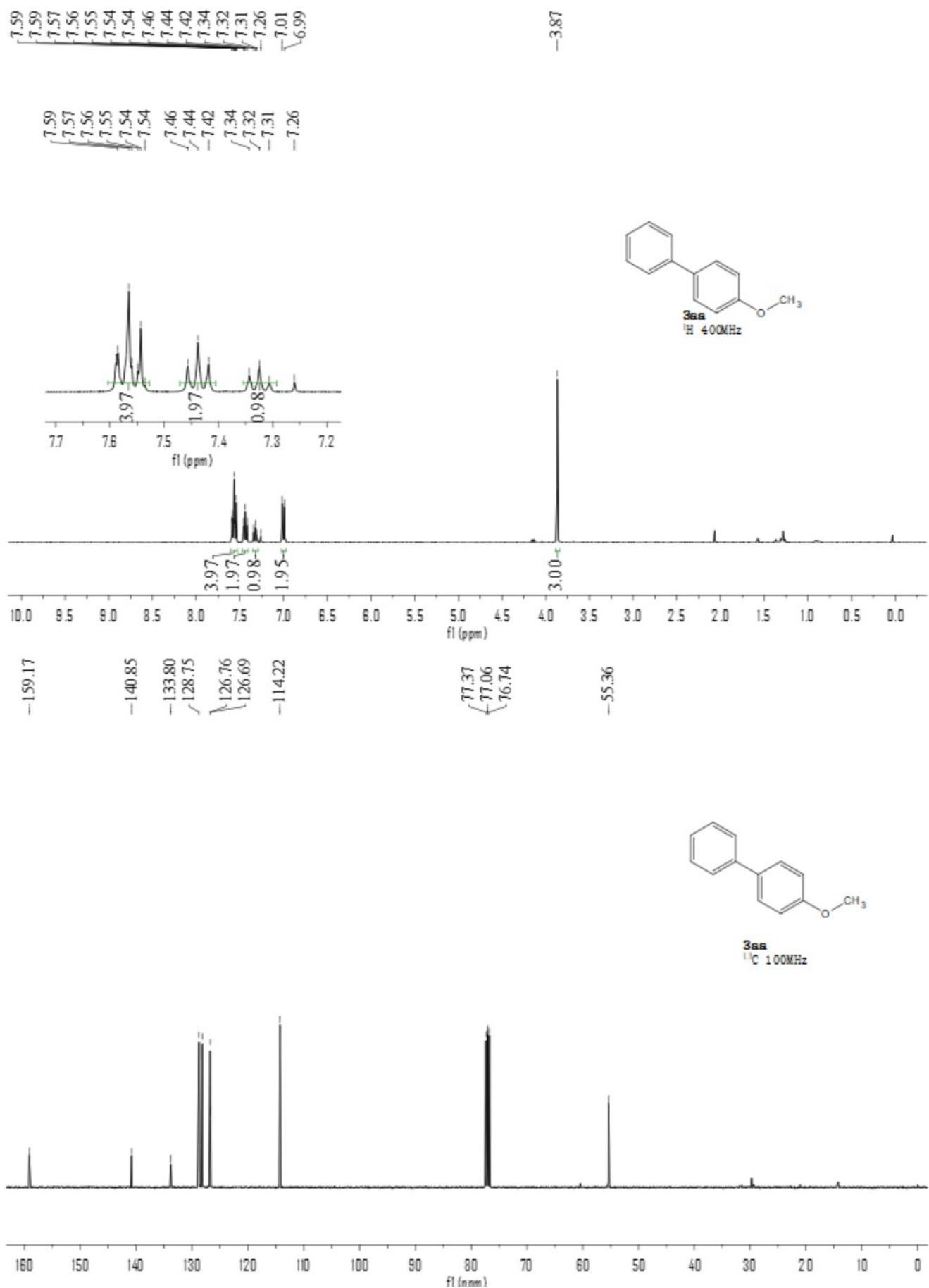


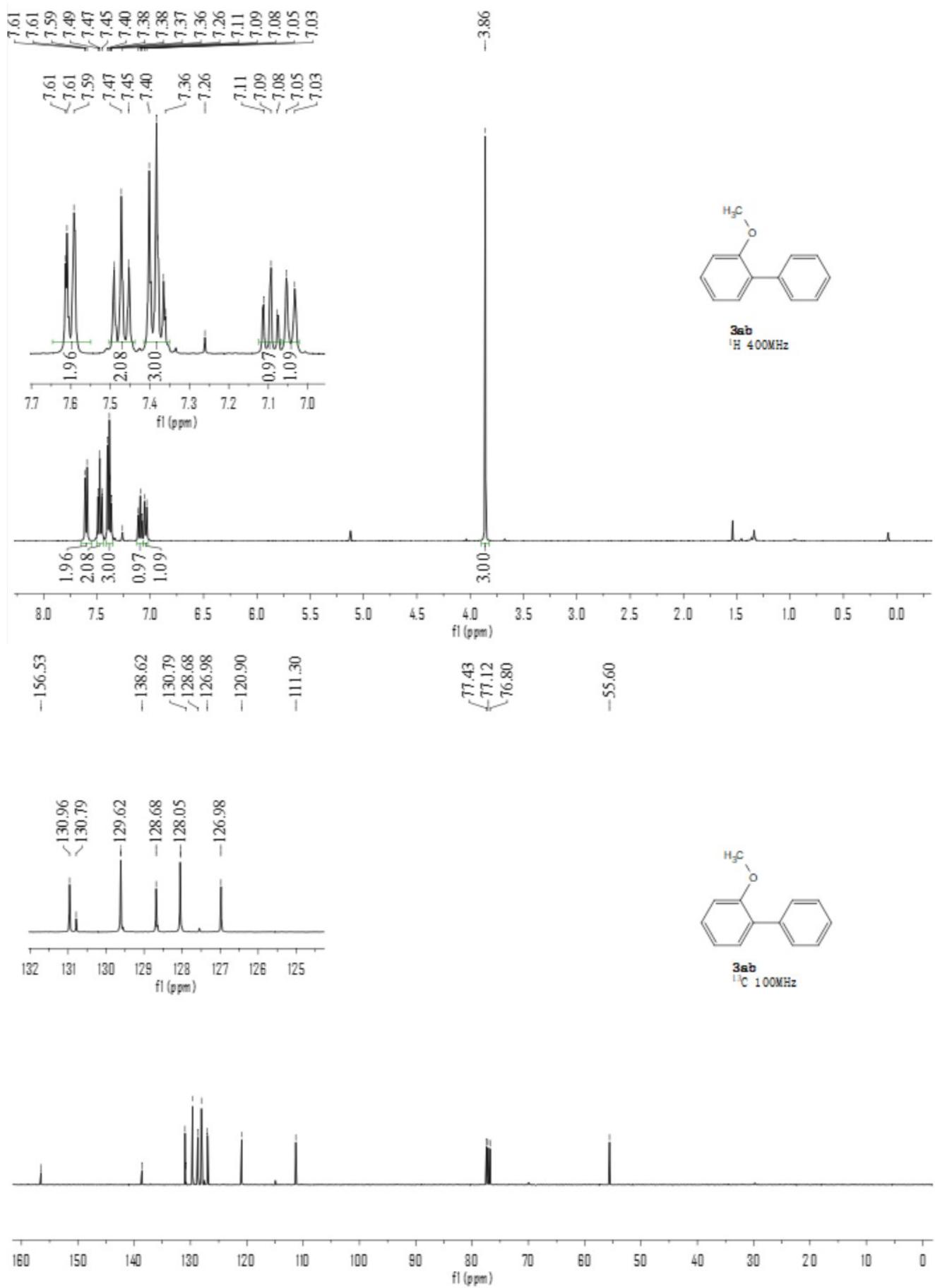


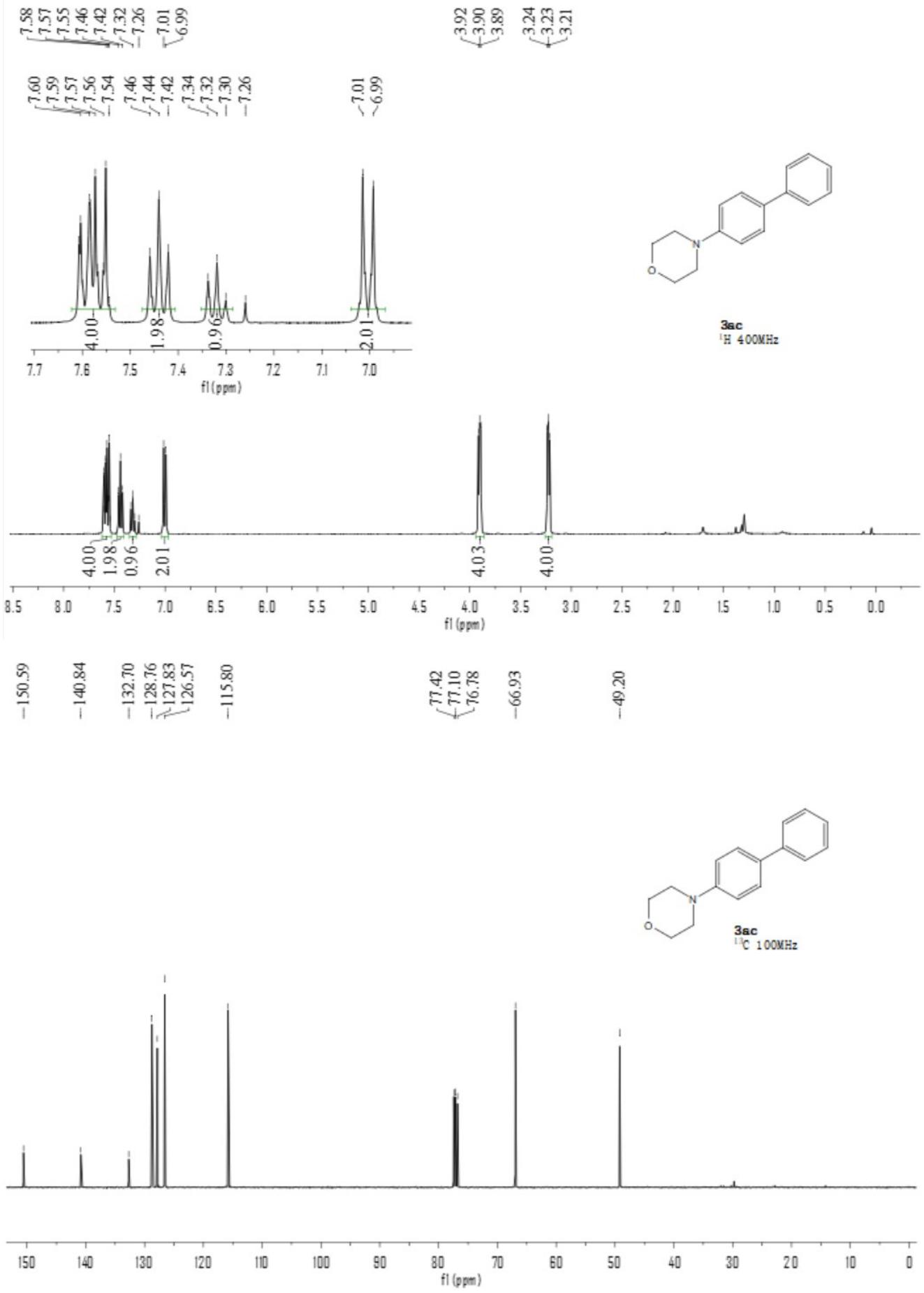


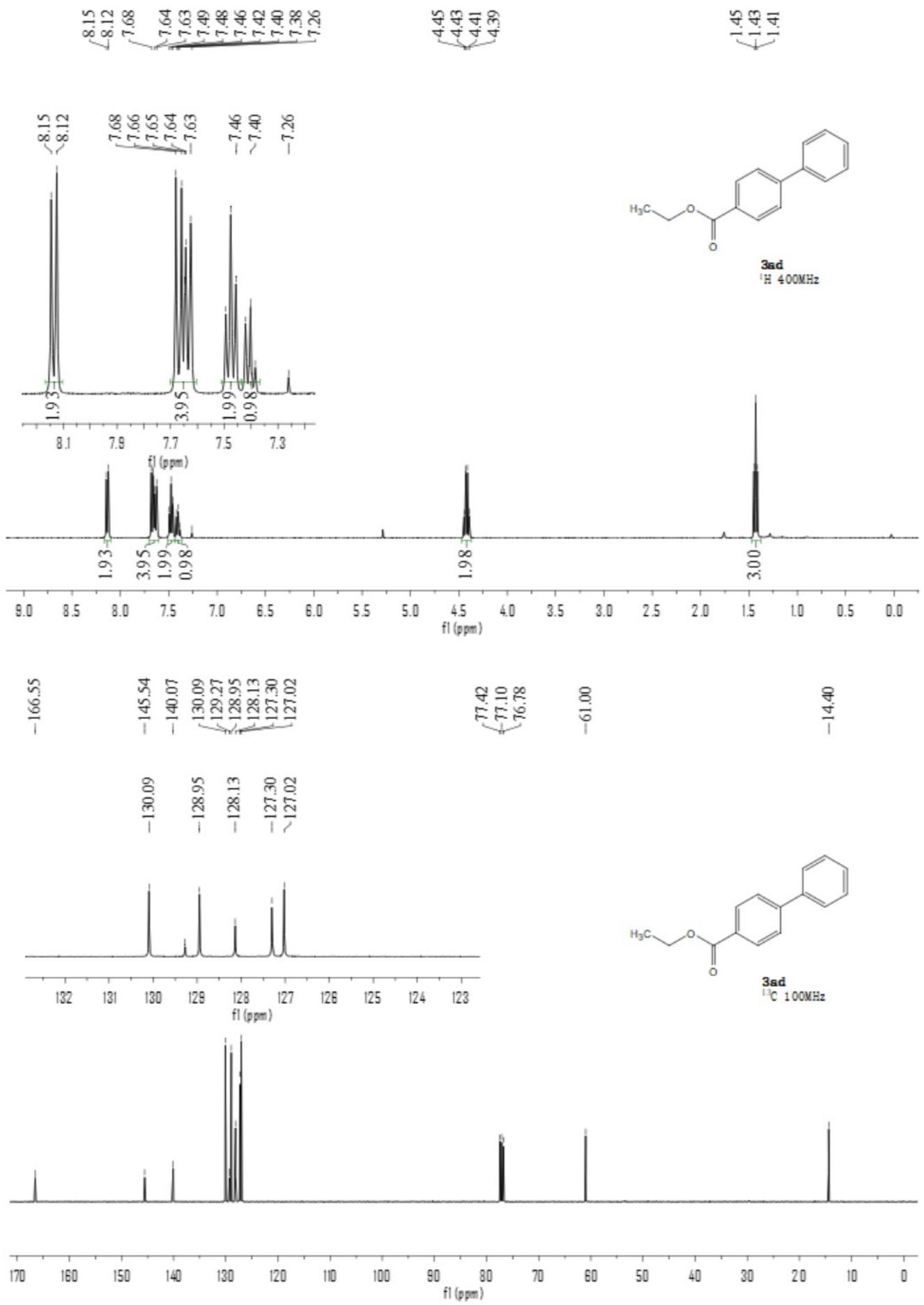


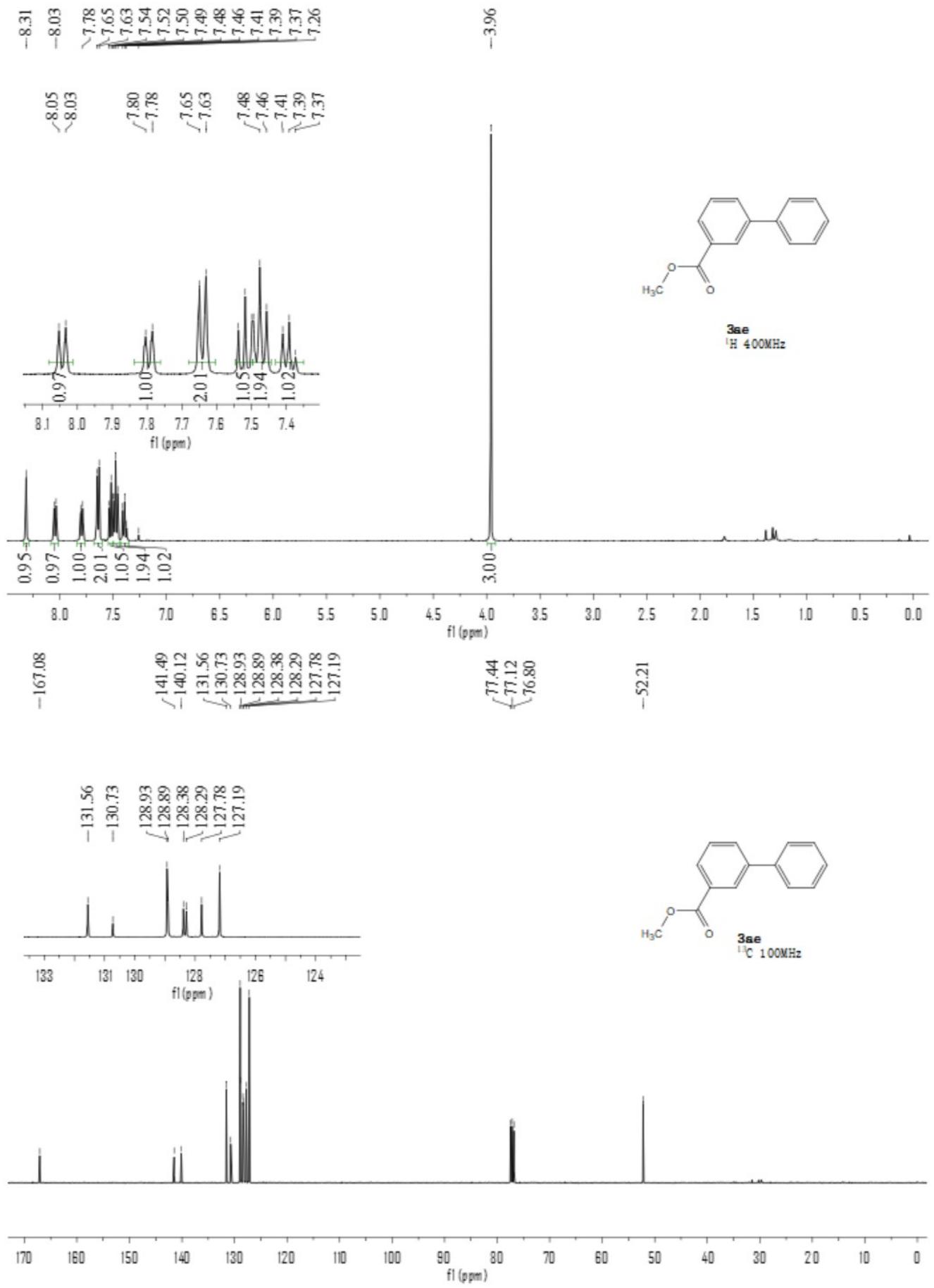
## IX. NMR spectra of coupling products

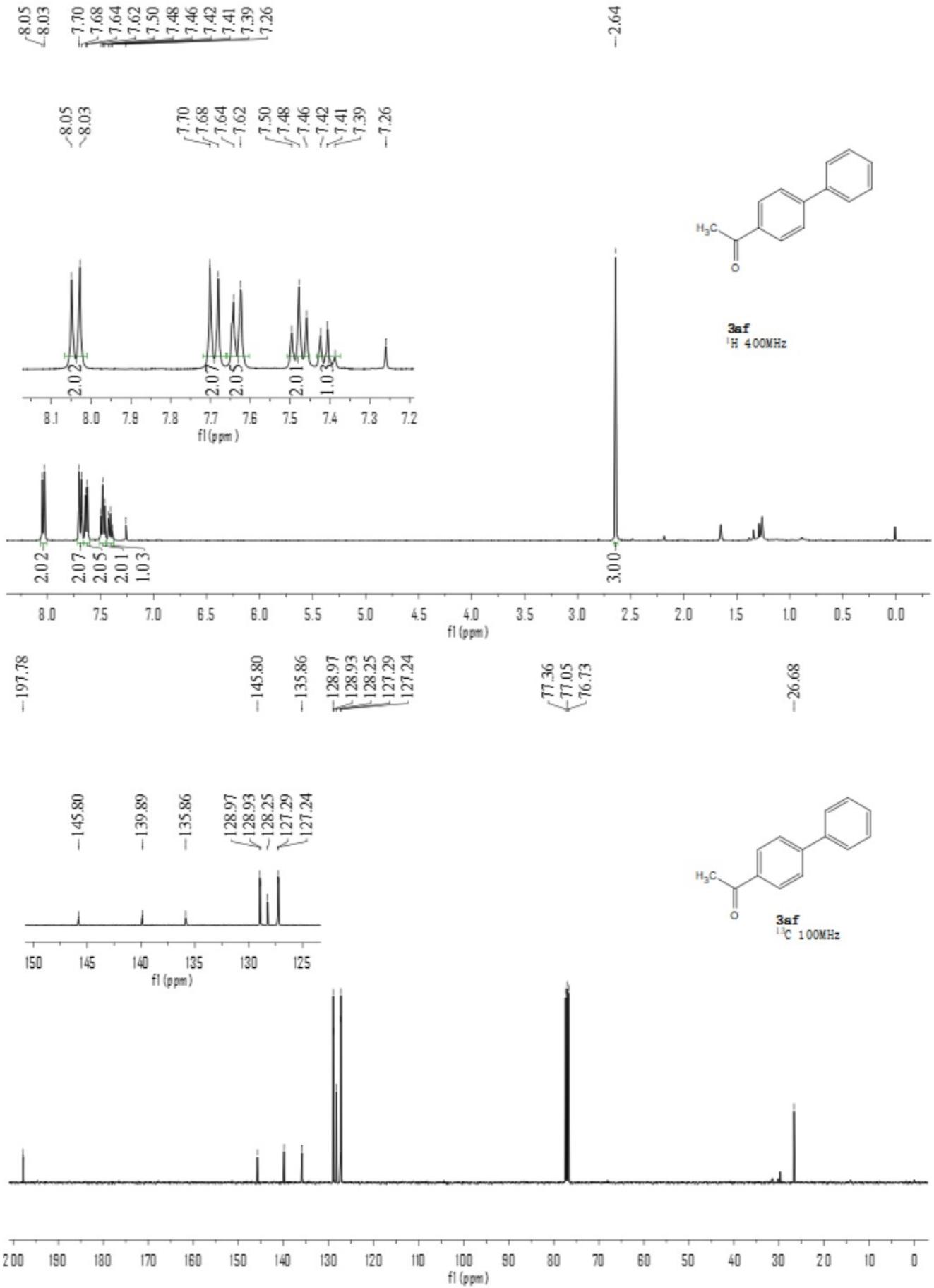


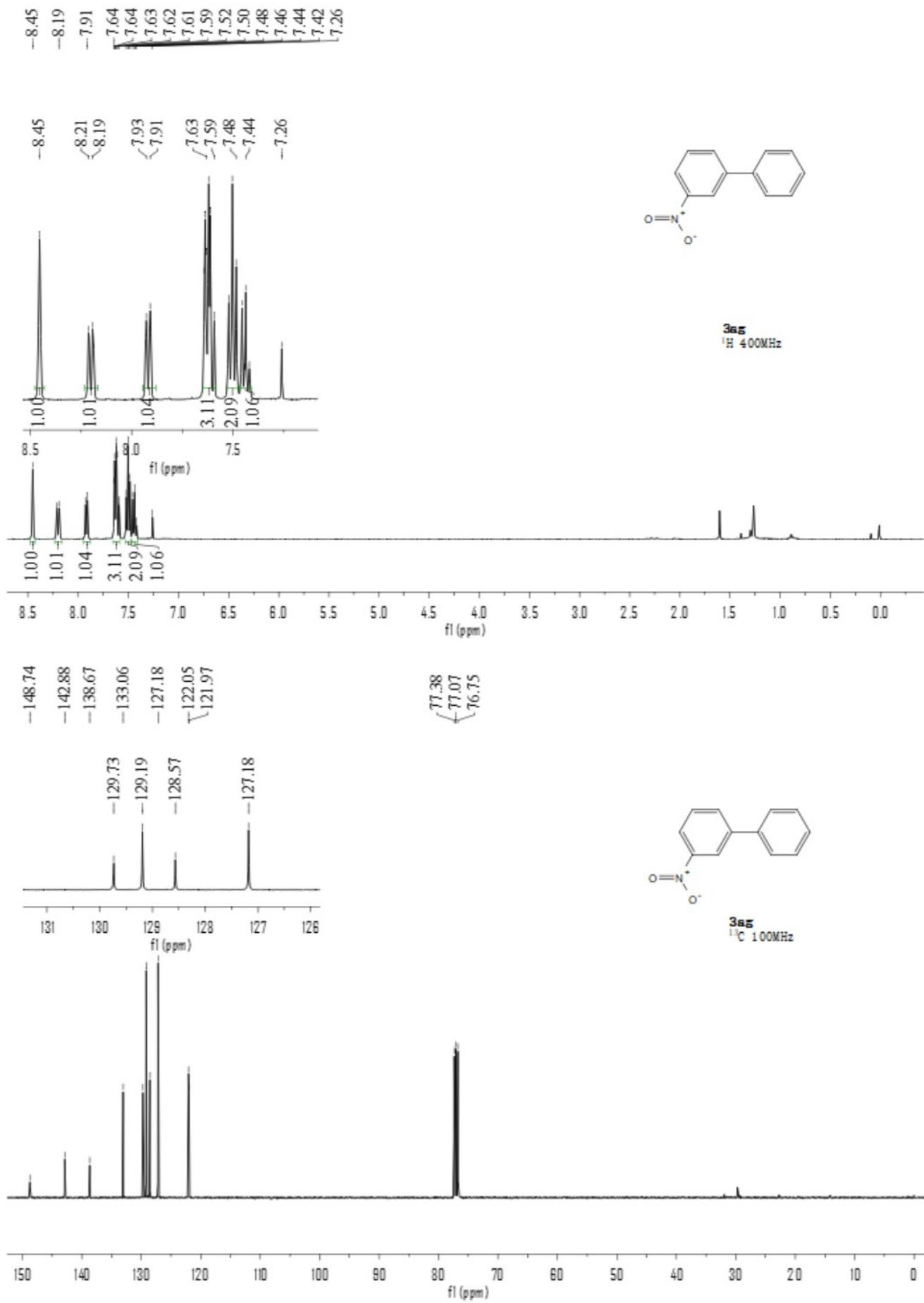


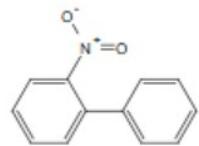
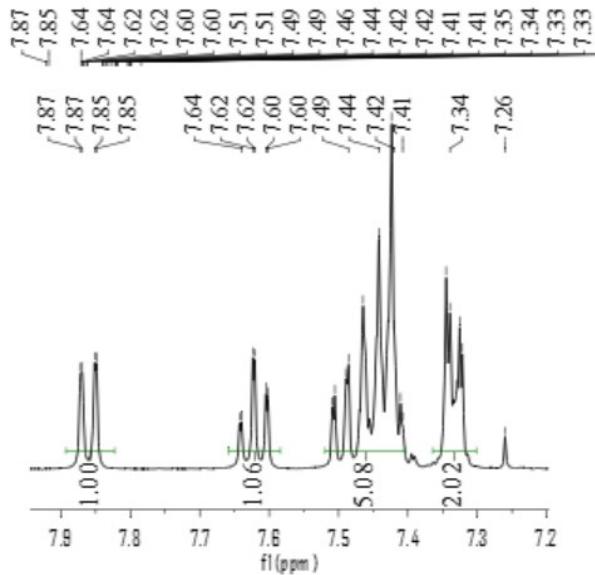




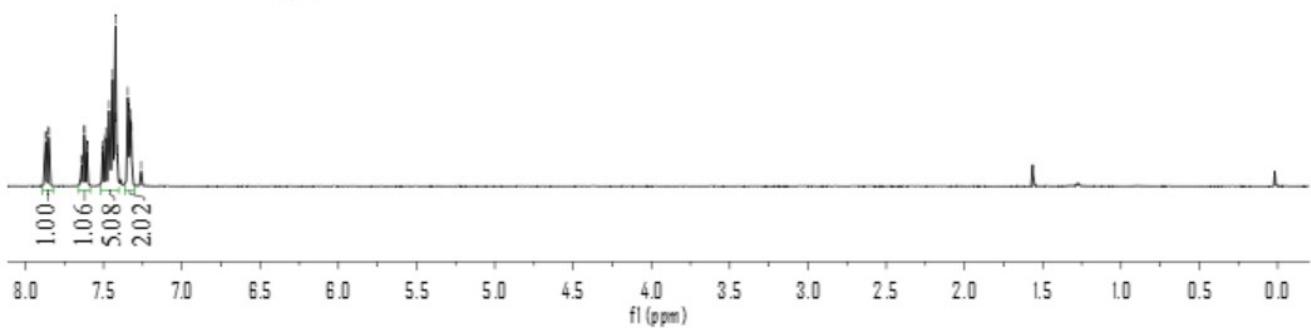




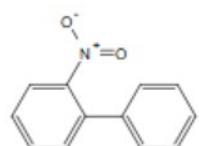




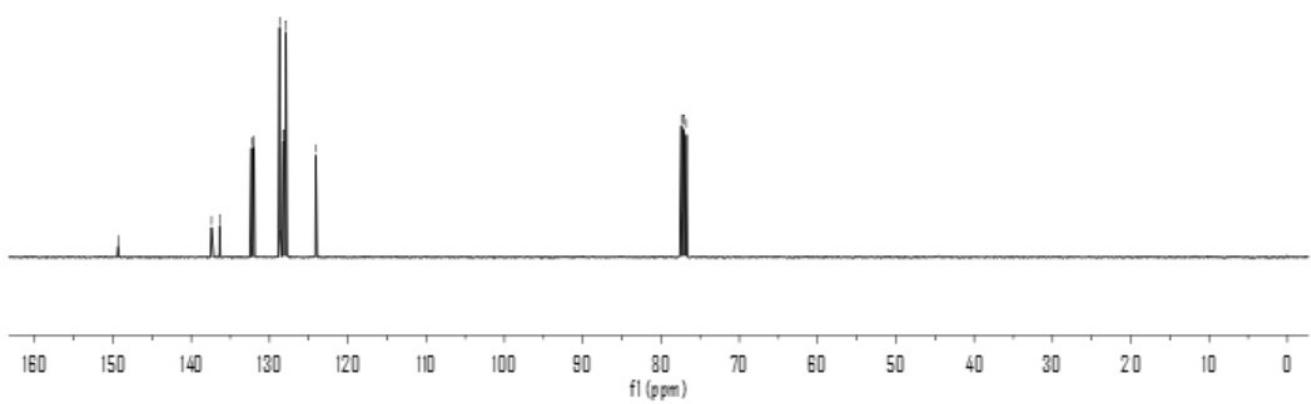
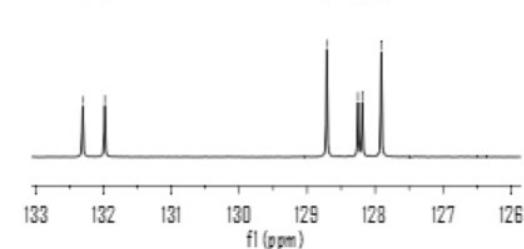
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<sup>1</sup>H 400MHz

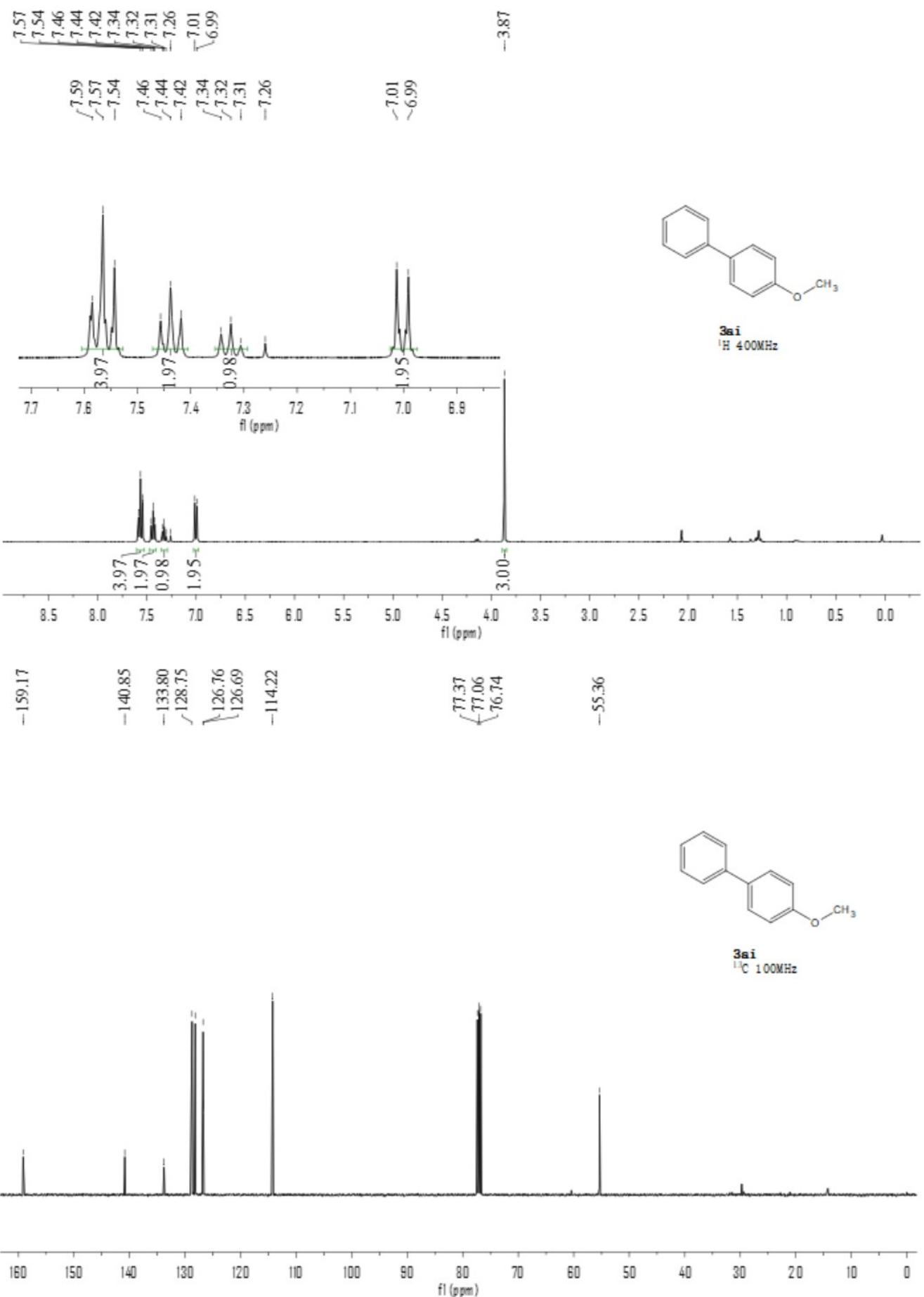


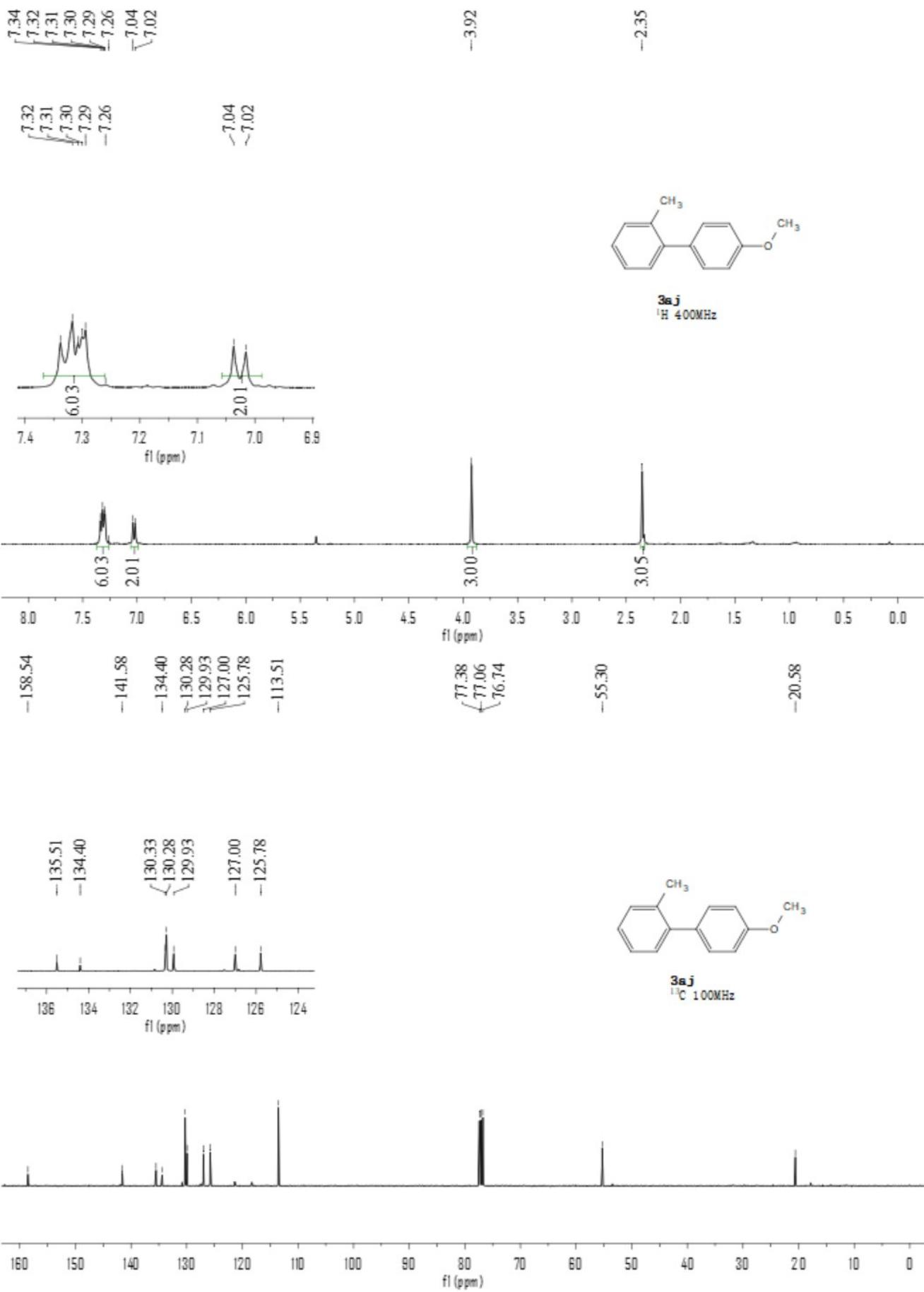
-132.31  
-131.98  
-130.36  
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-127.91  
-124.09  
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-128.19  
-127.91

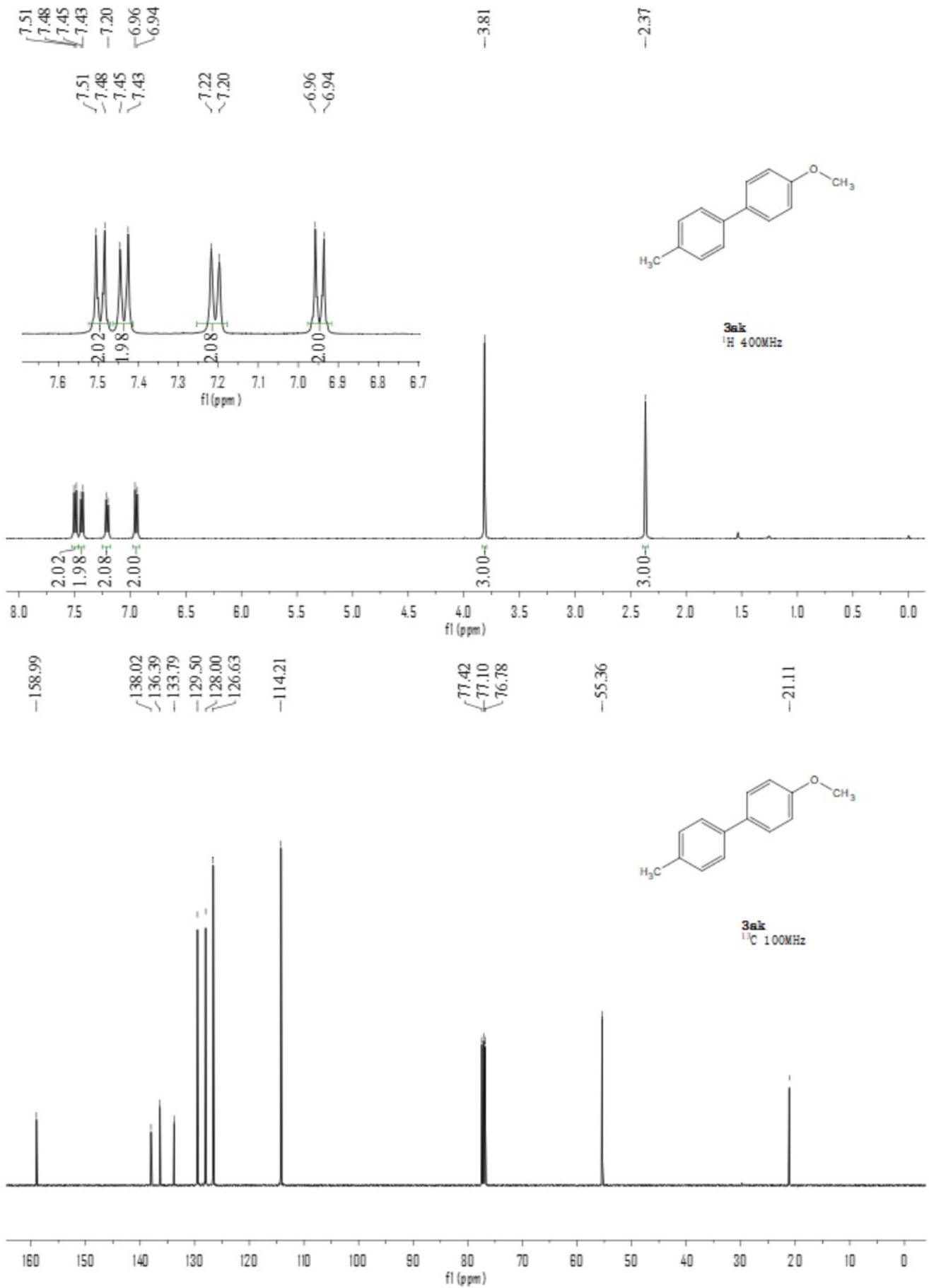


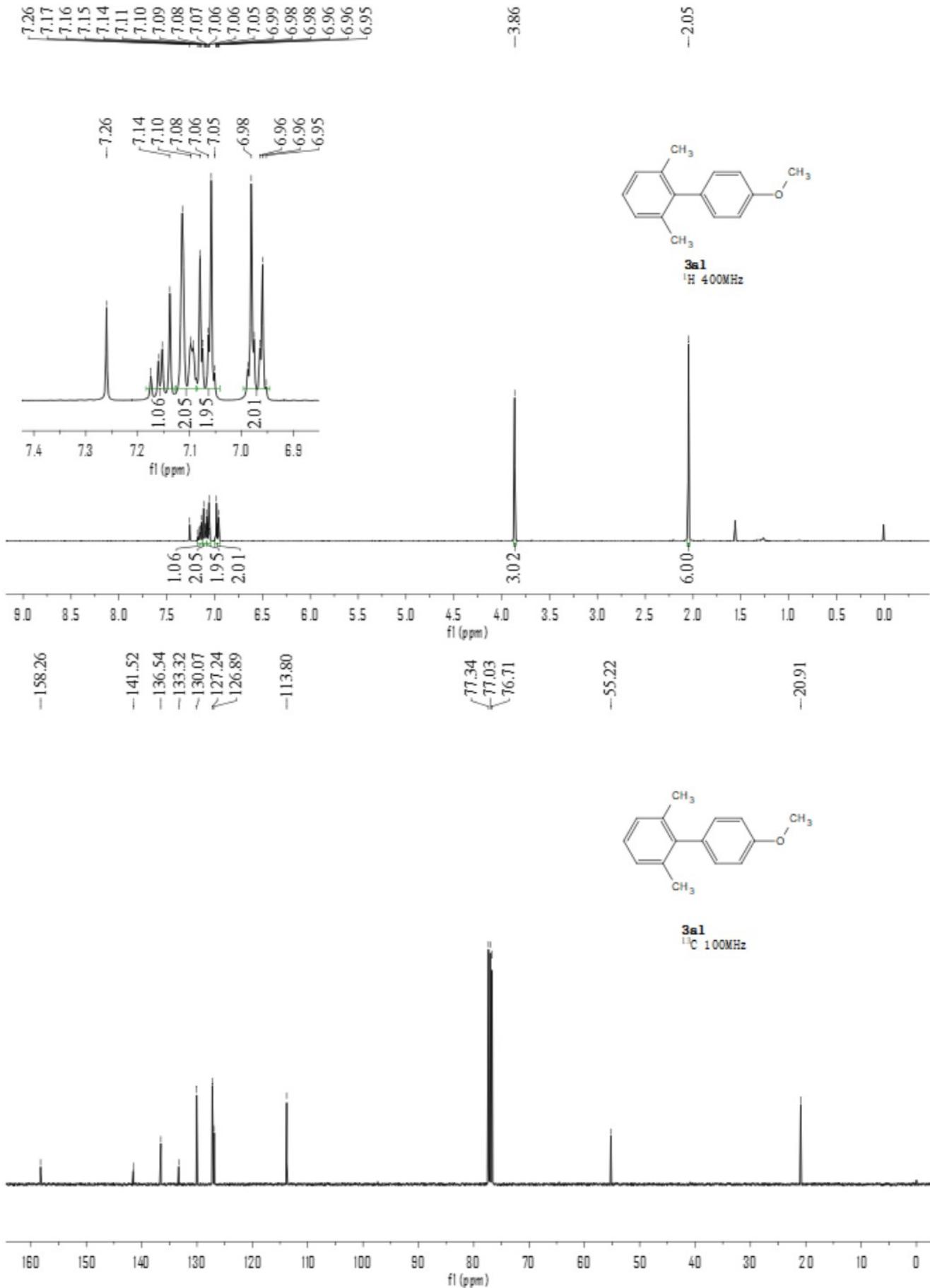
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<sup>13</sup>C 100MHz

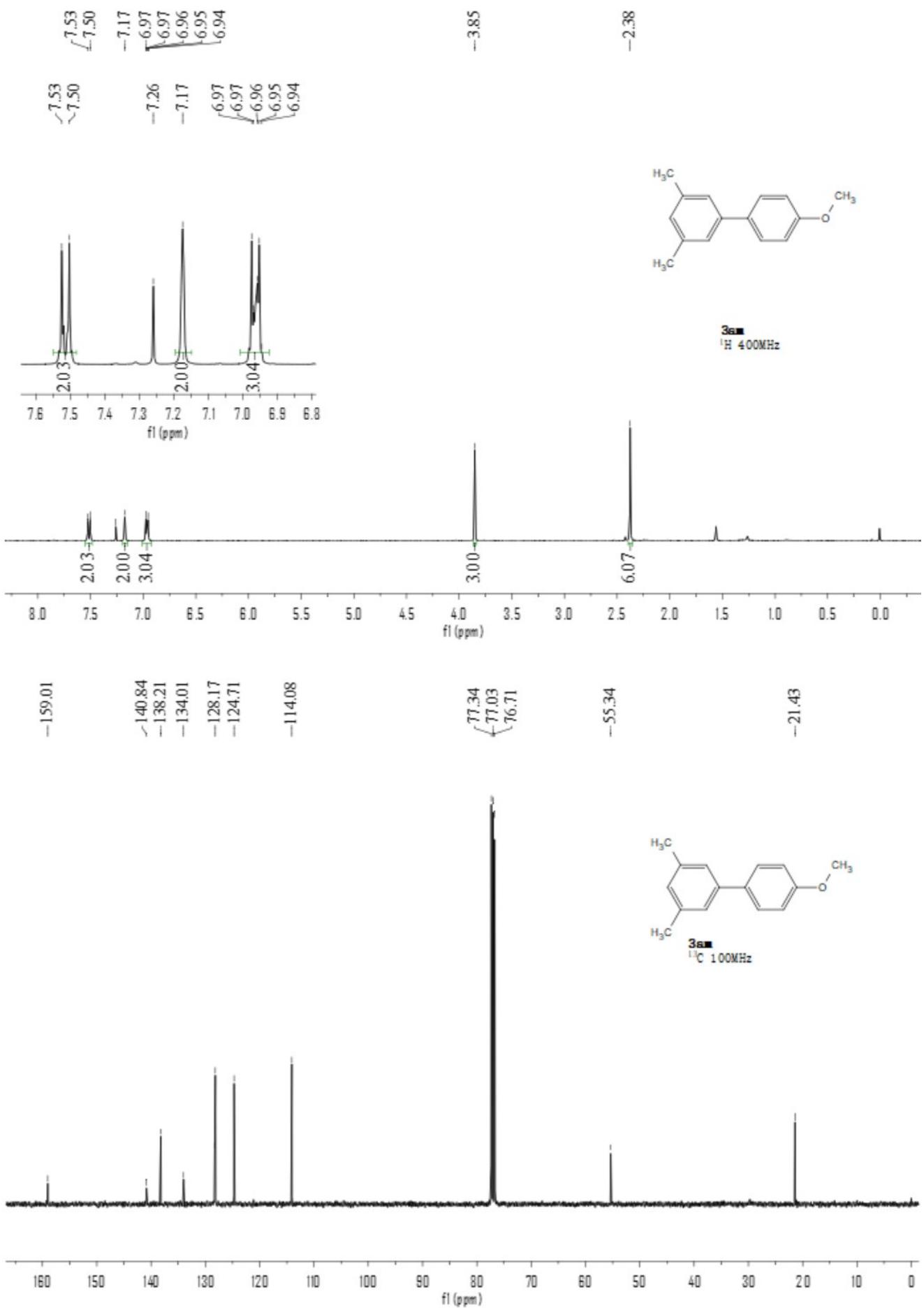


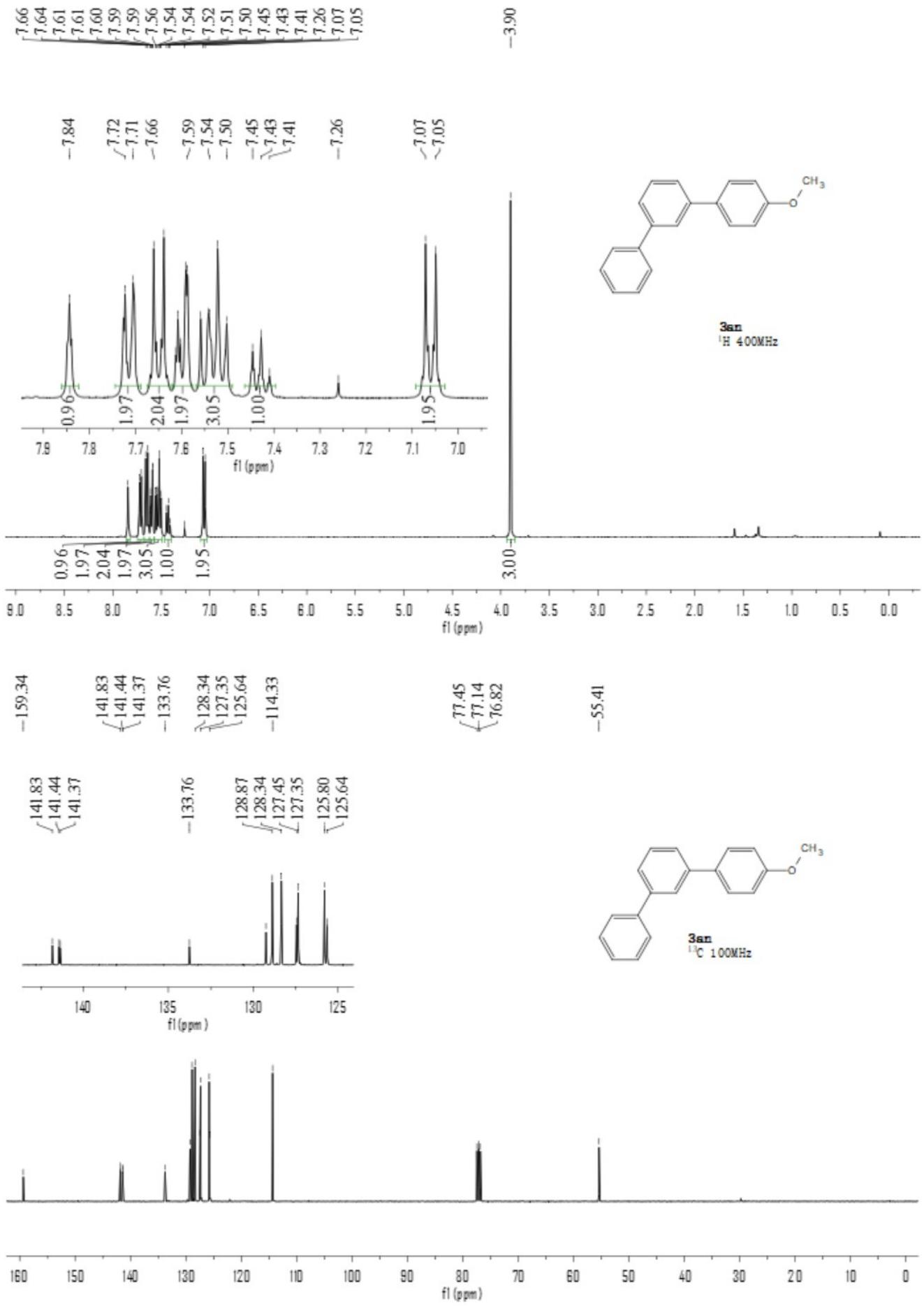


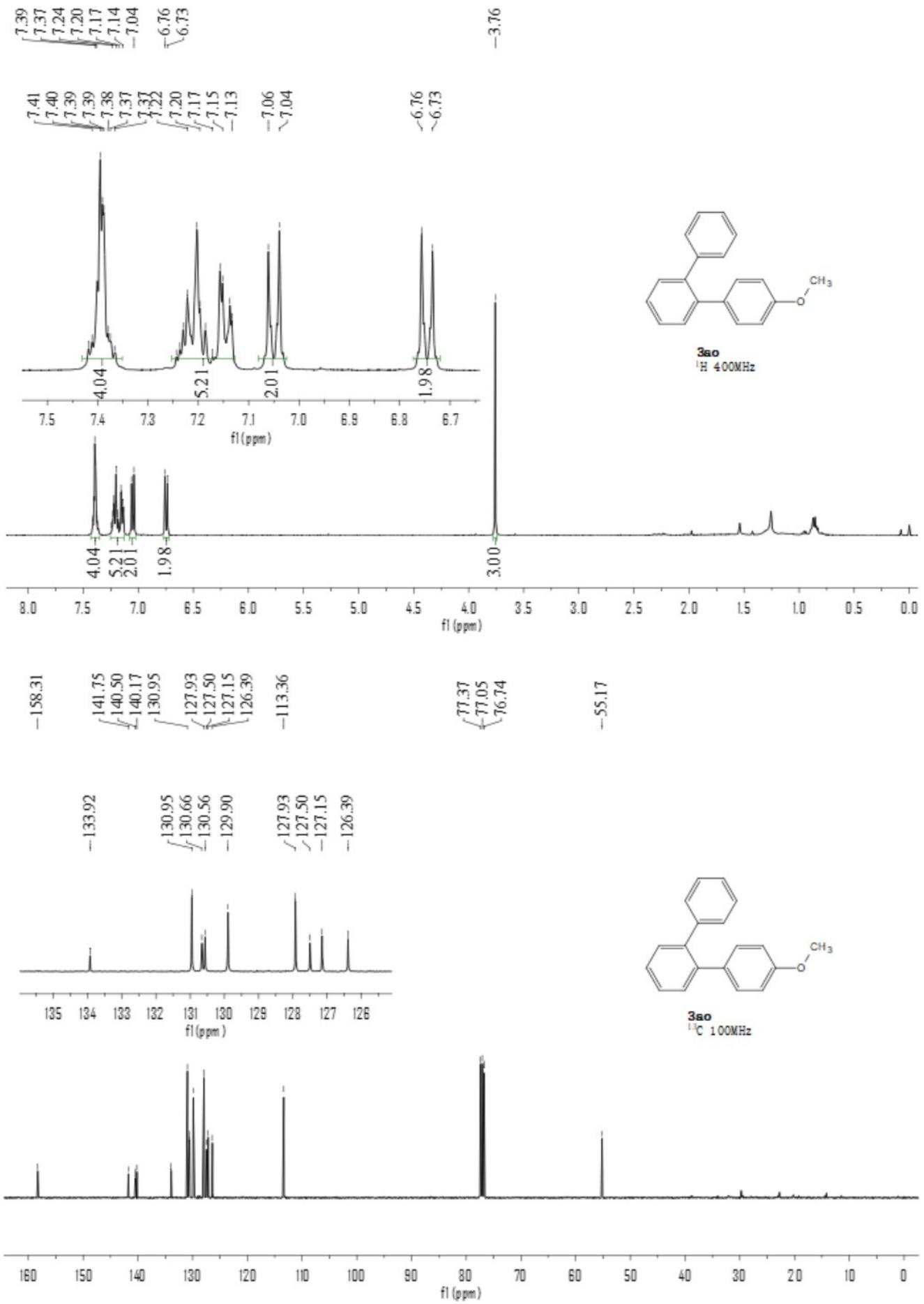


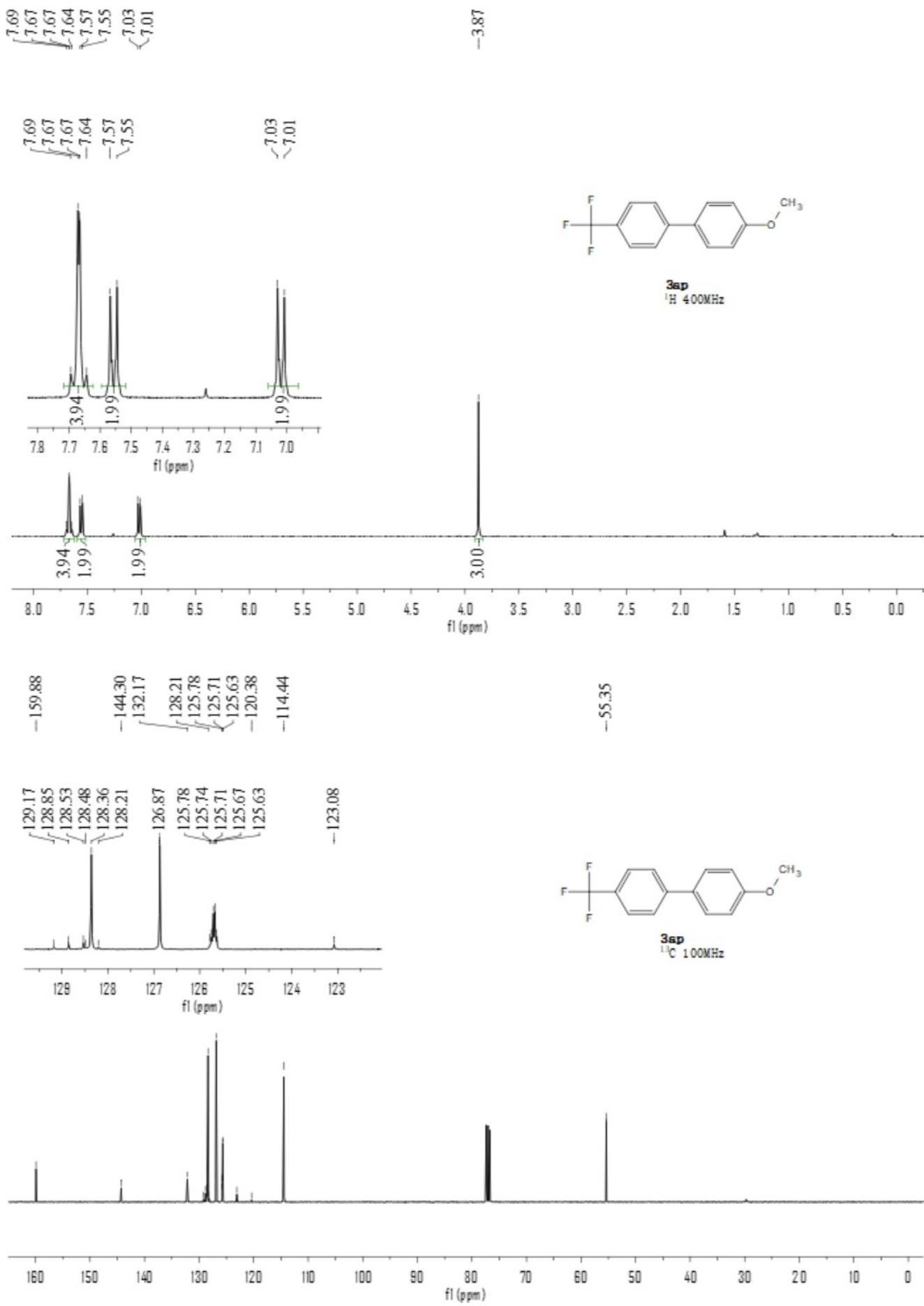


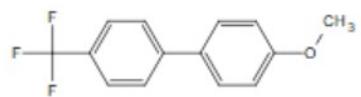




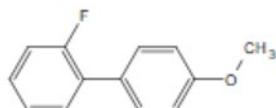
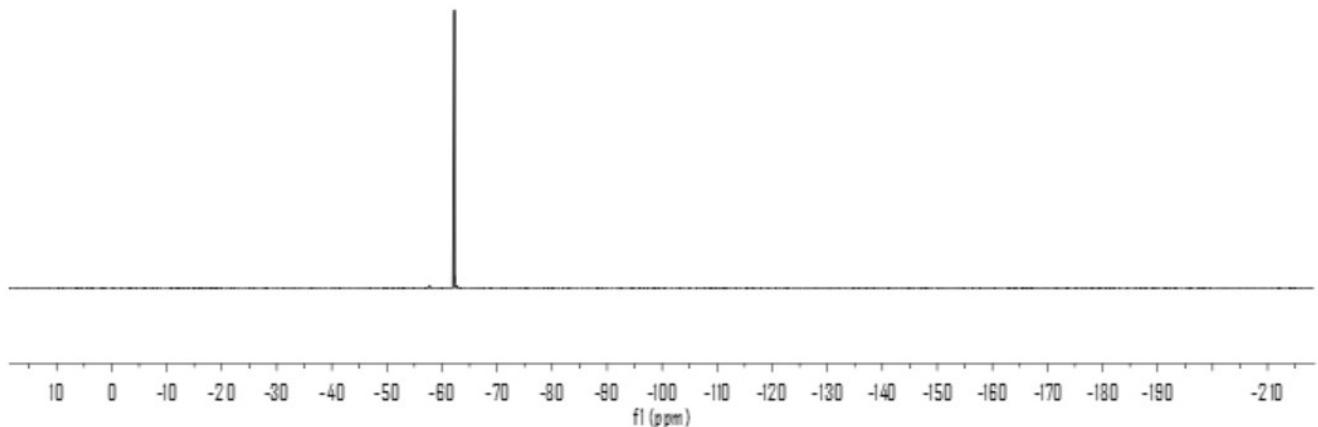




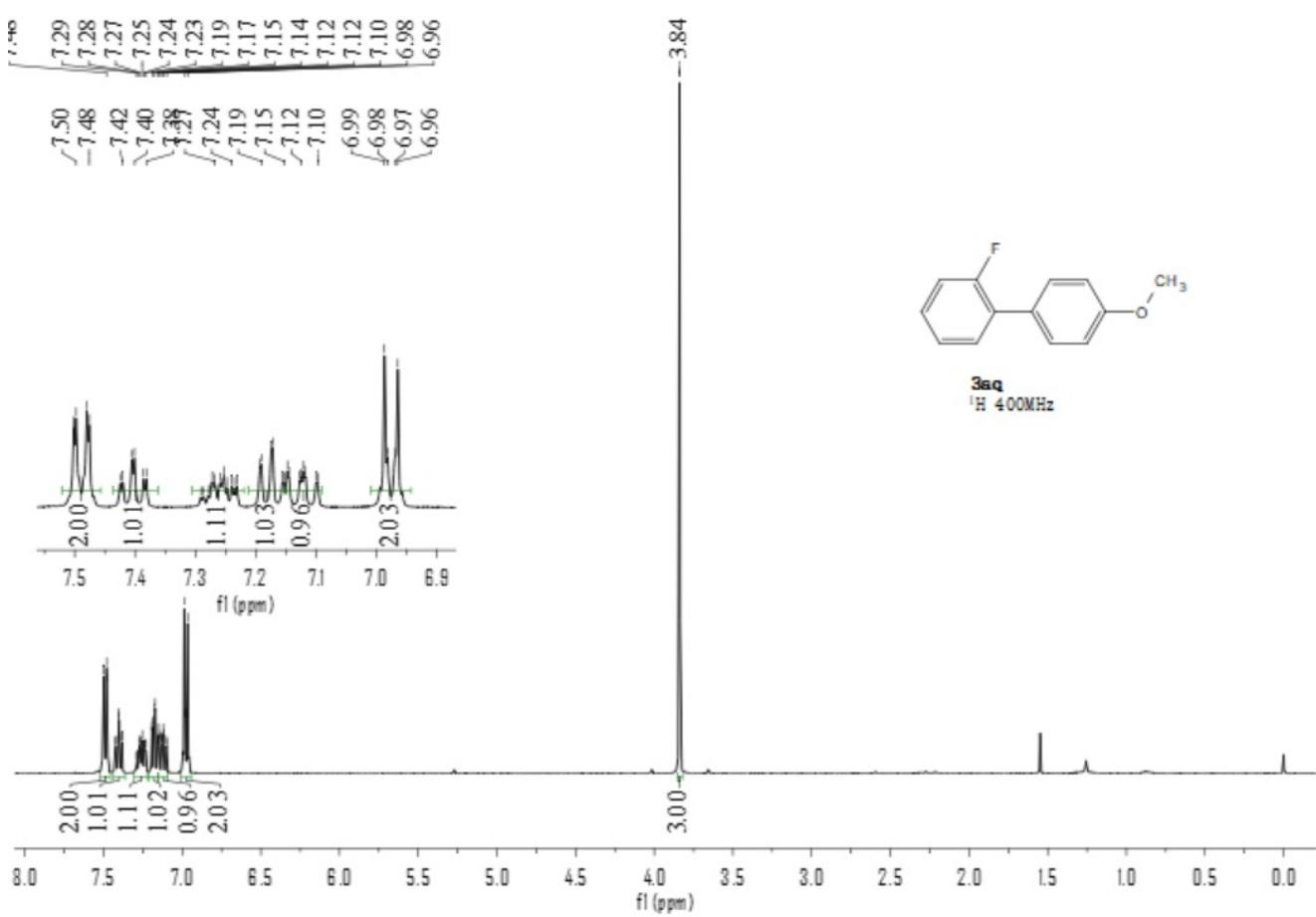


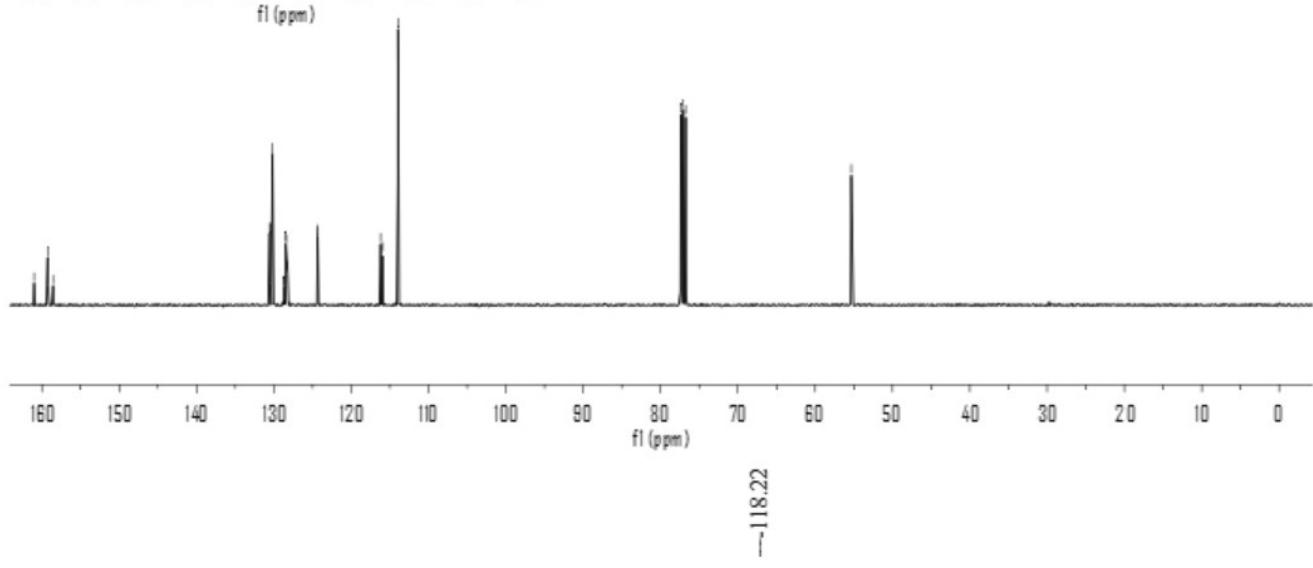
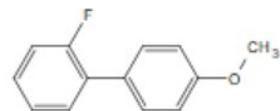
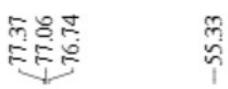
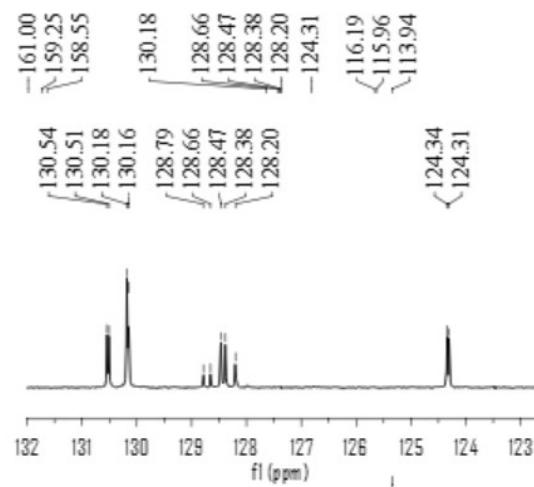


**3ap**  
**15 F 376MHz**

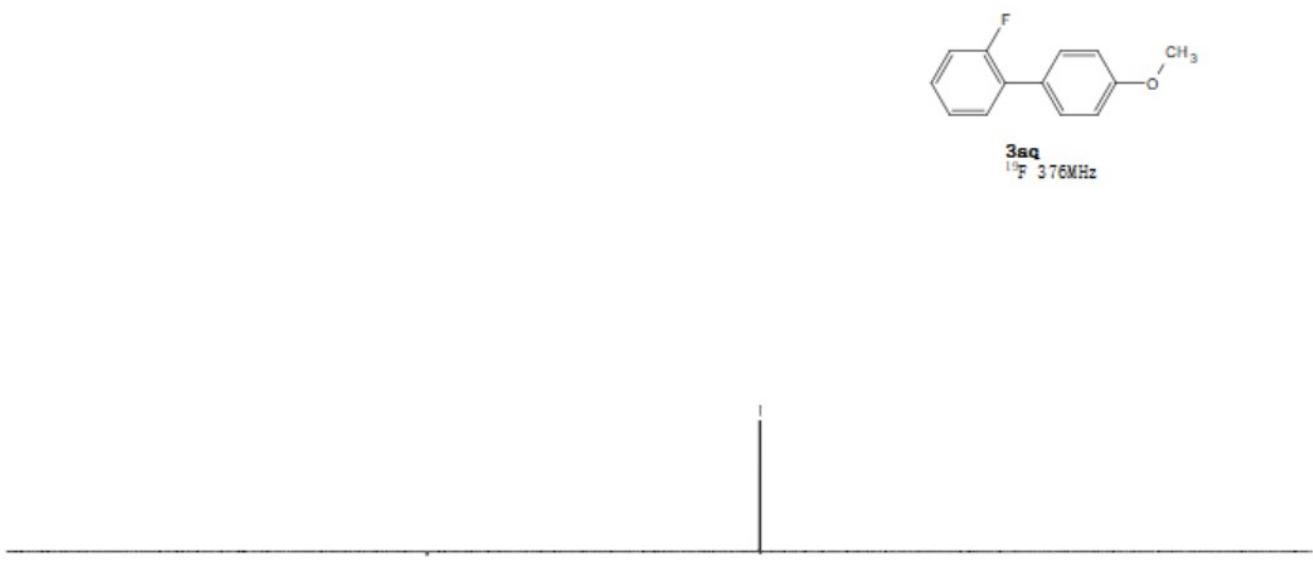


3sq  
<sup>1</sup>H 400MHz

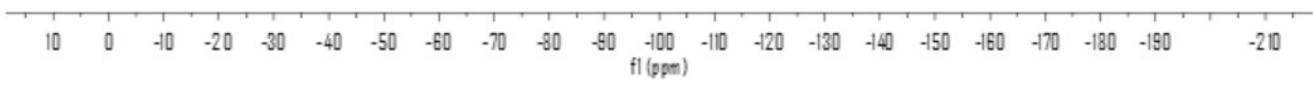


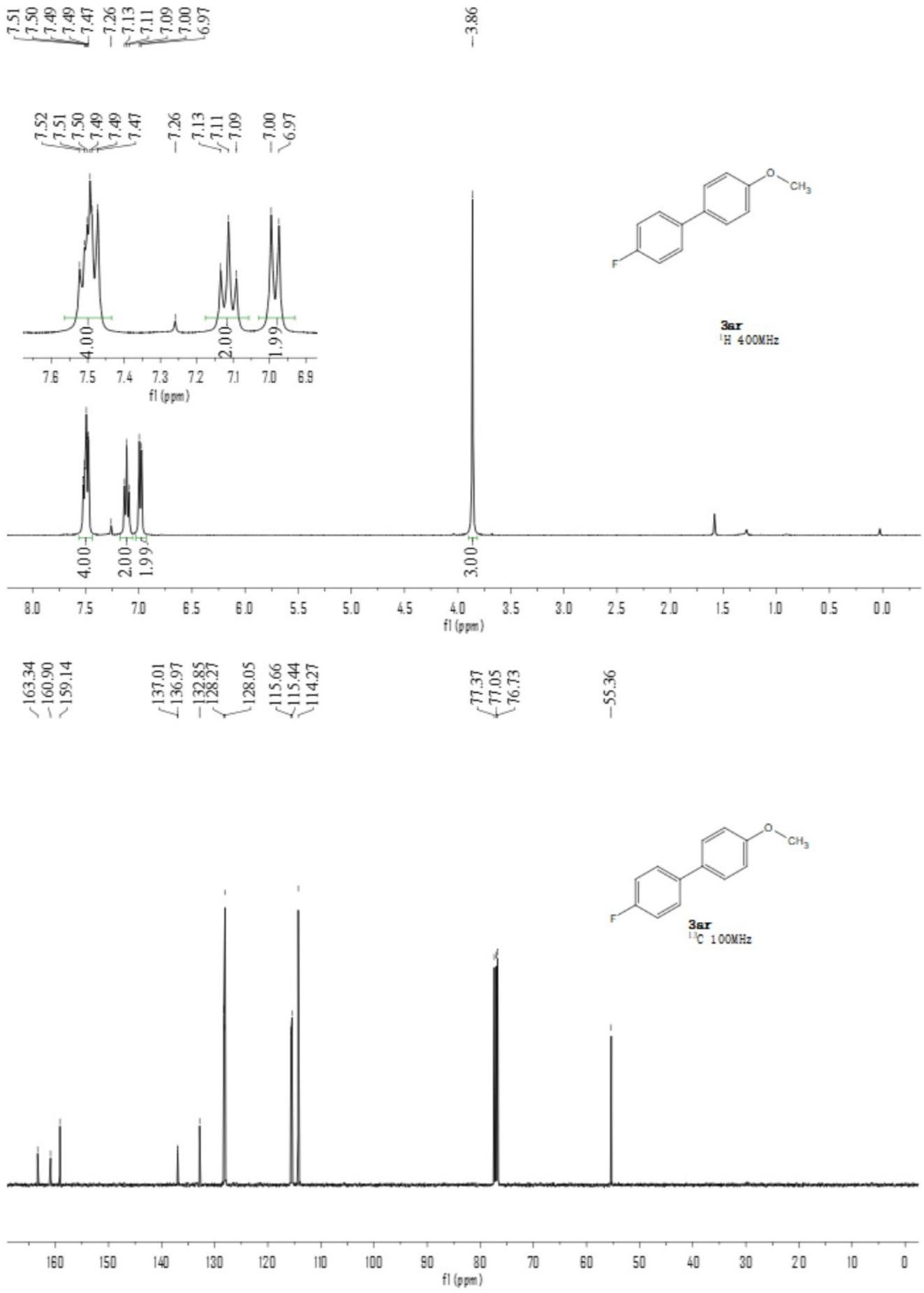


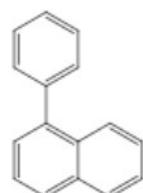
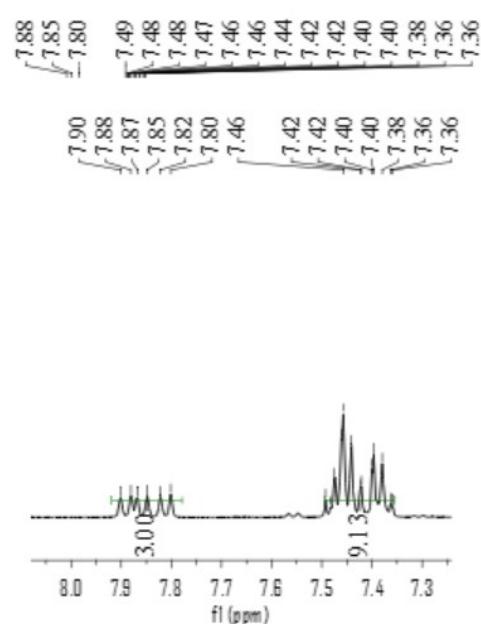
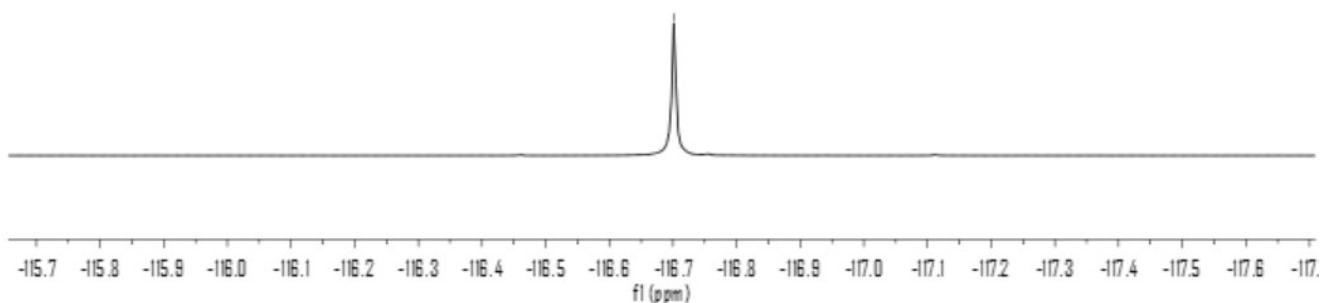
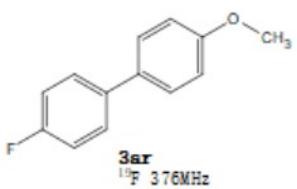
—118.22



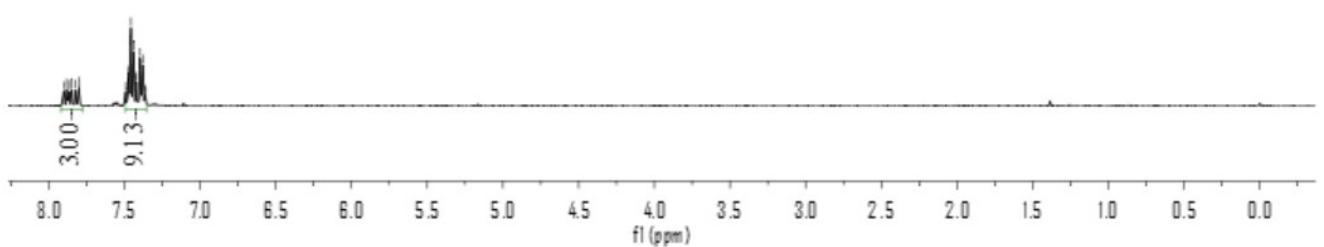
3aq  
<sup>19</sup>F 376MHz

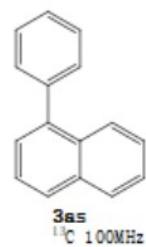




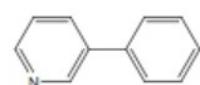
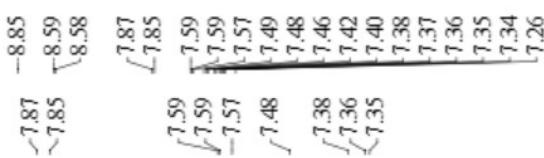
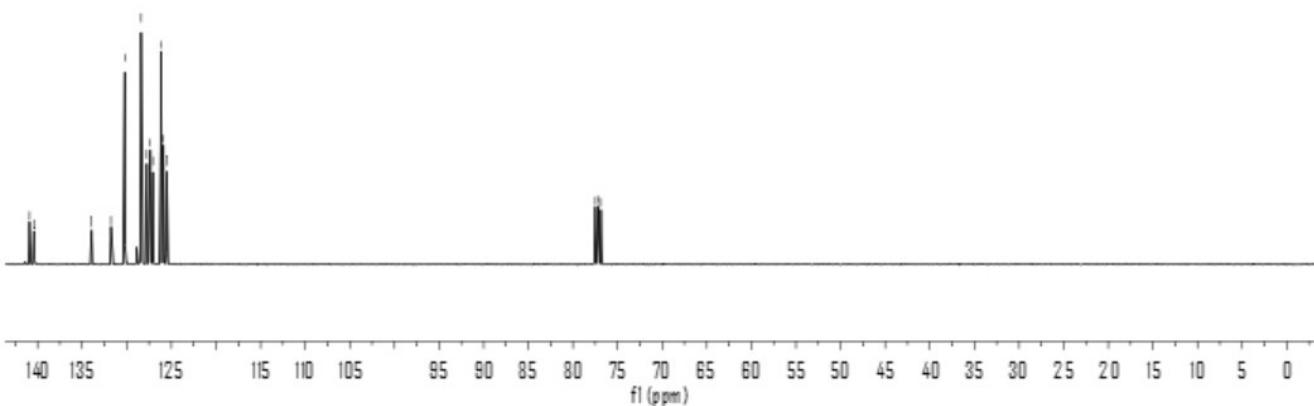


**3a5**  
<sup>1</sup>H 400MHz

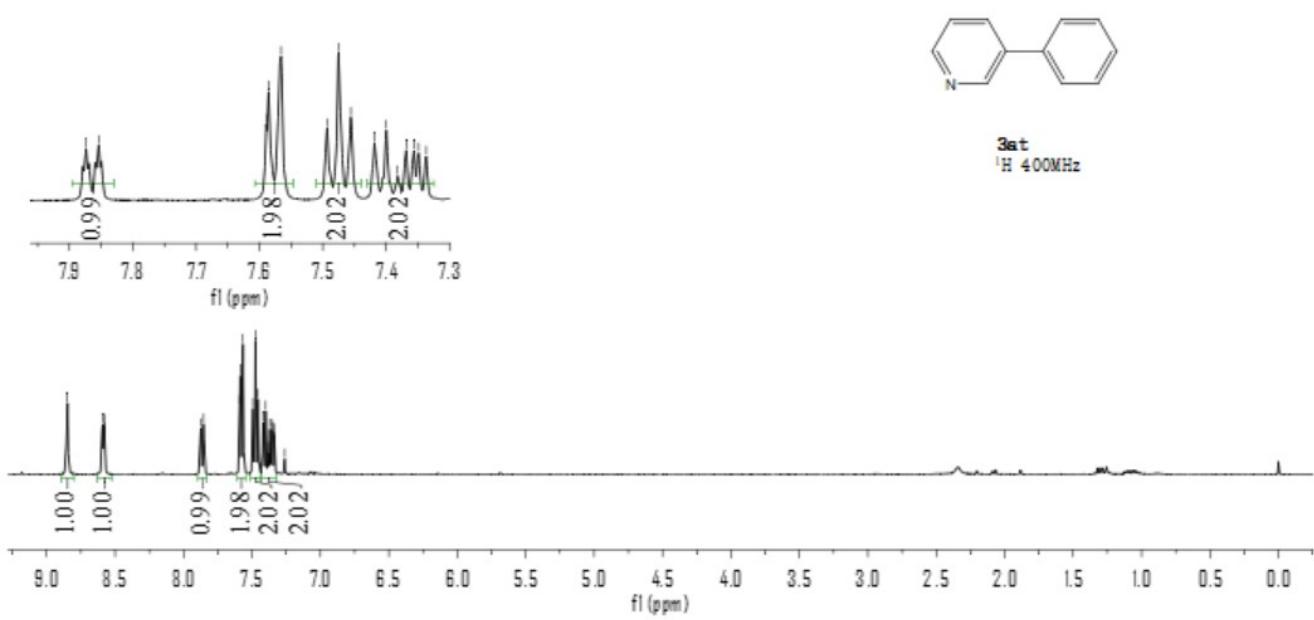


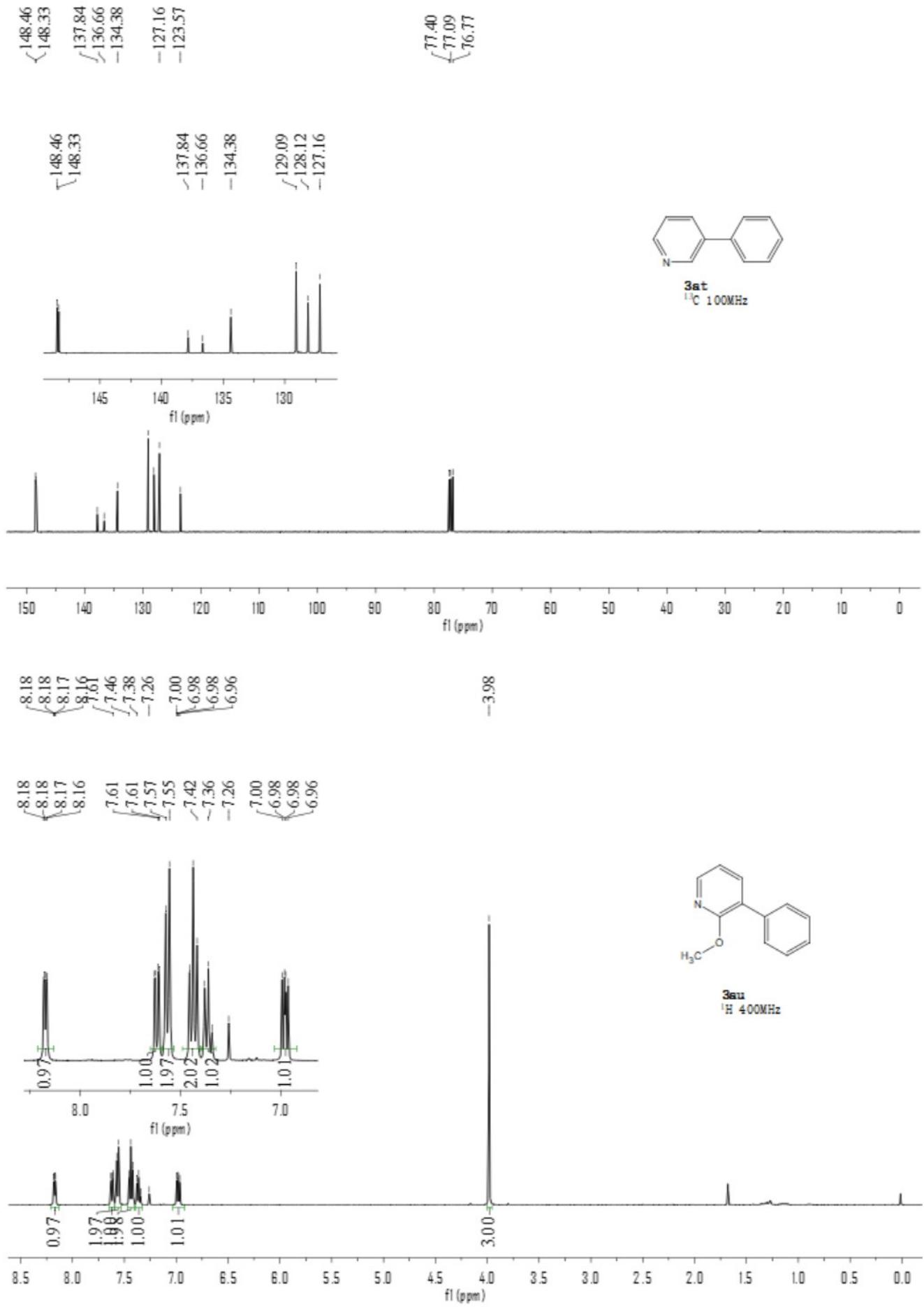


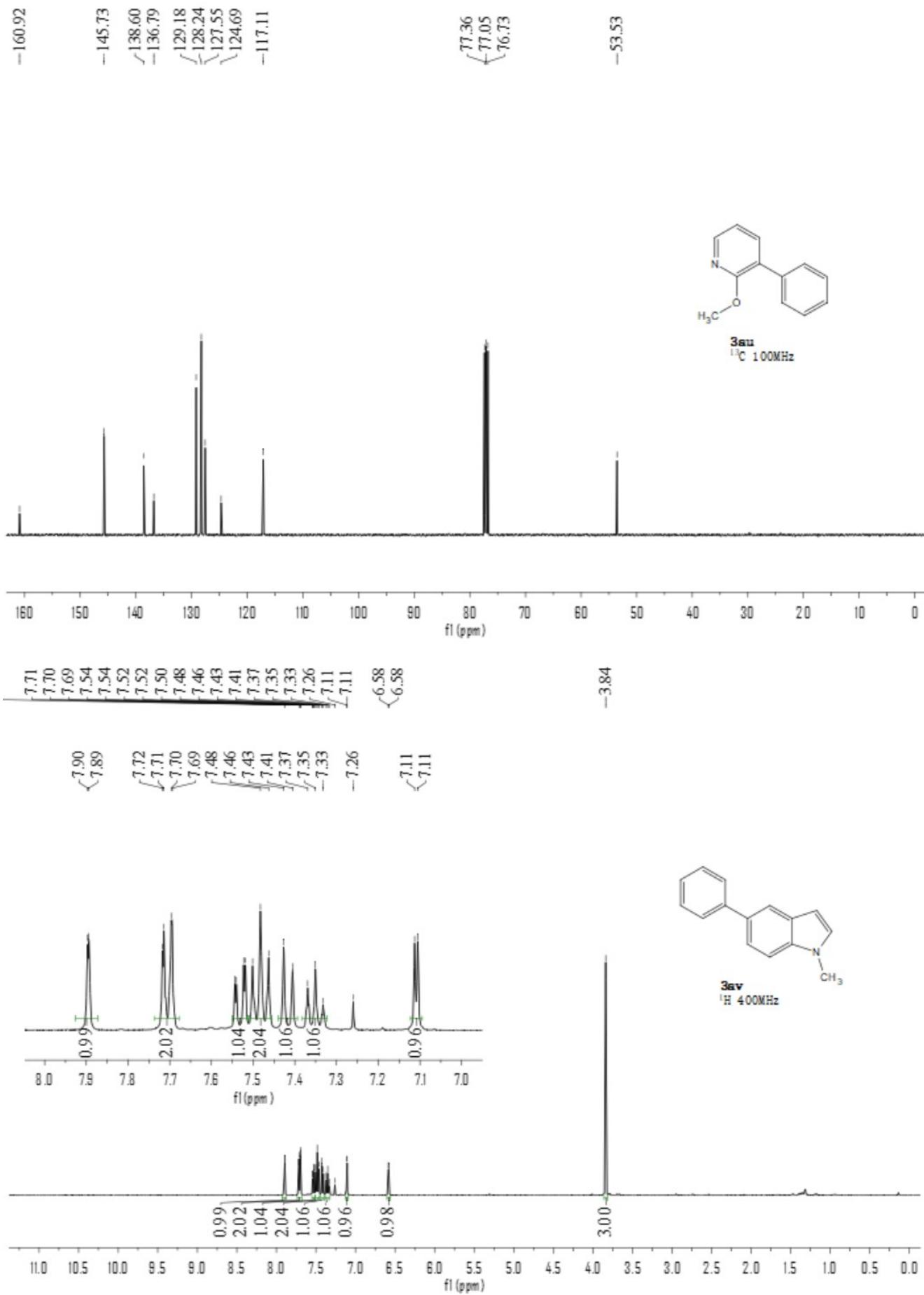
**385**  
<sup>13</sup>C 100MHz

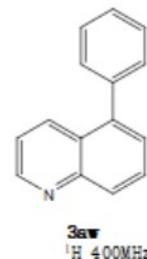
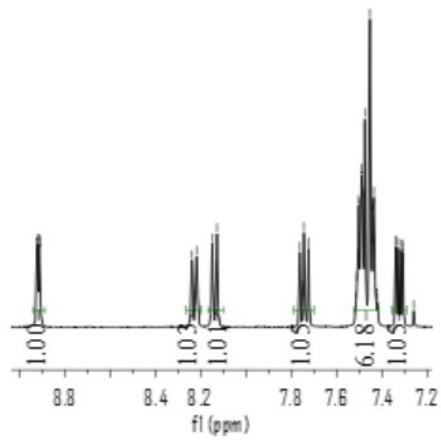
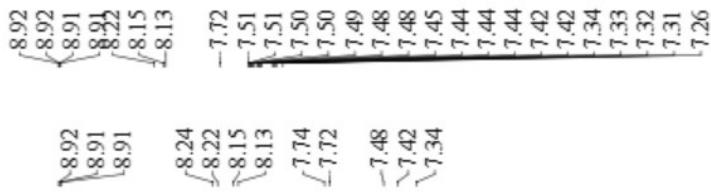
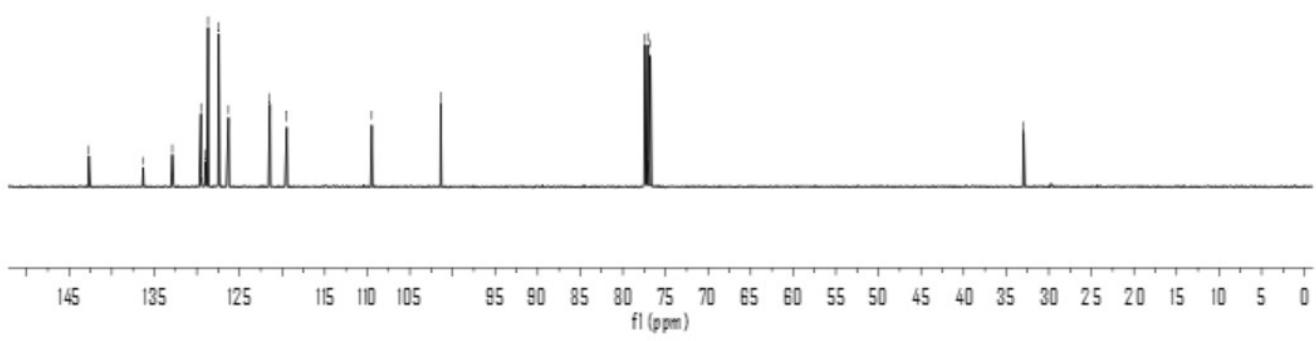
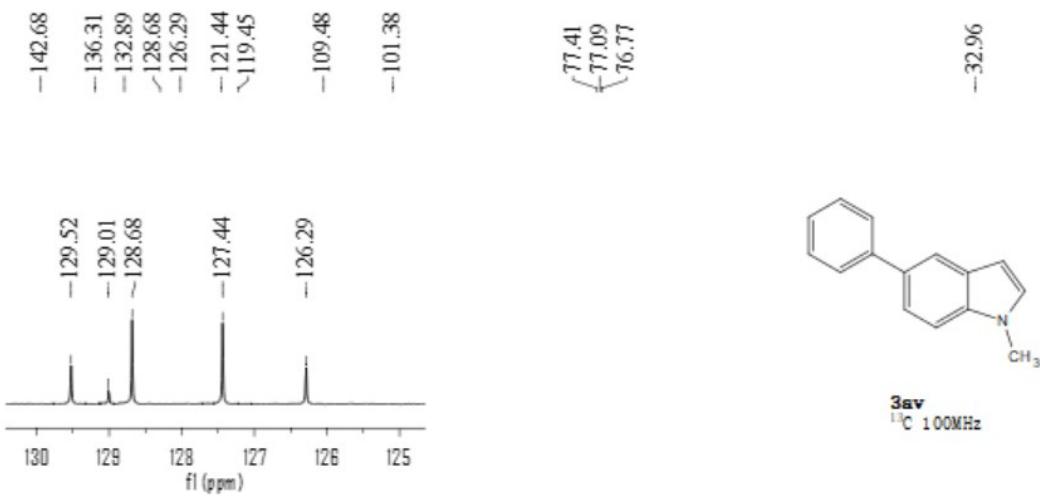


<sup>3</sup>at  
<sup>1</sup>H 400MHz



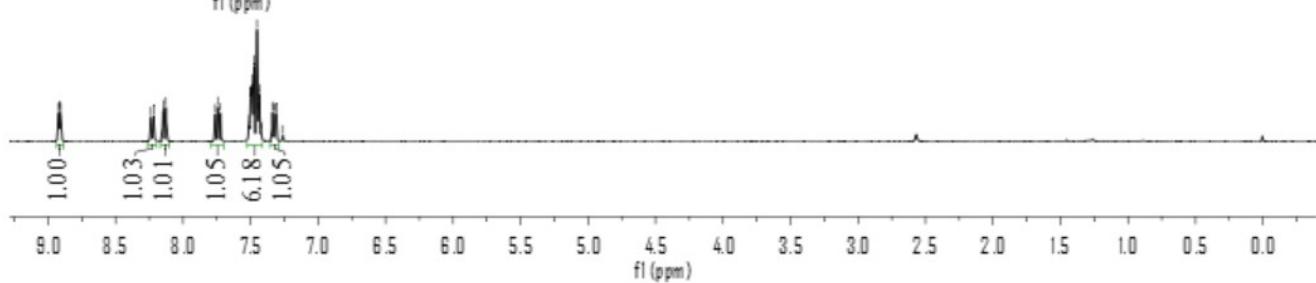


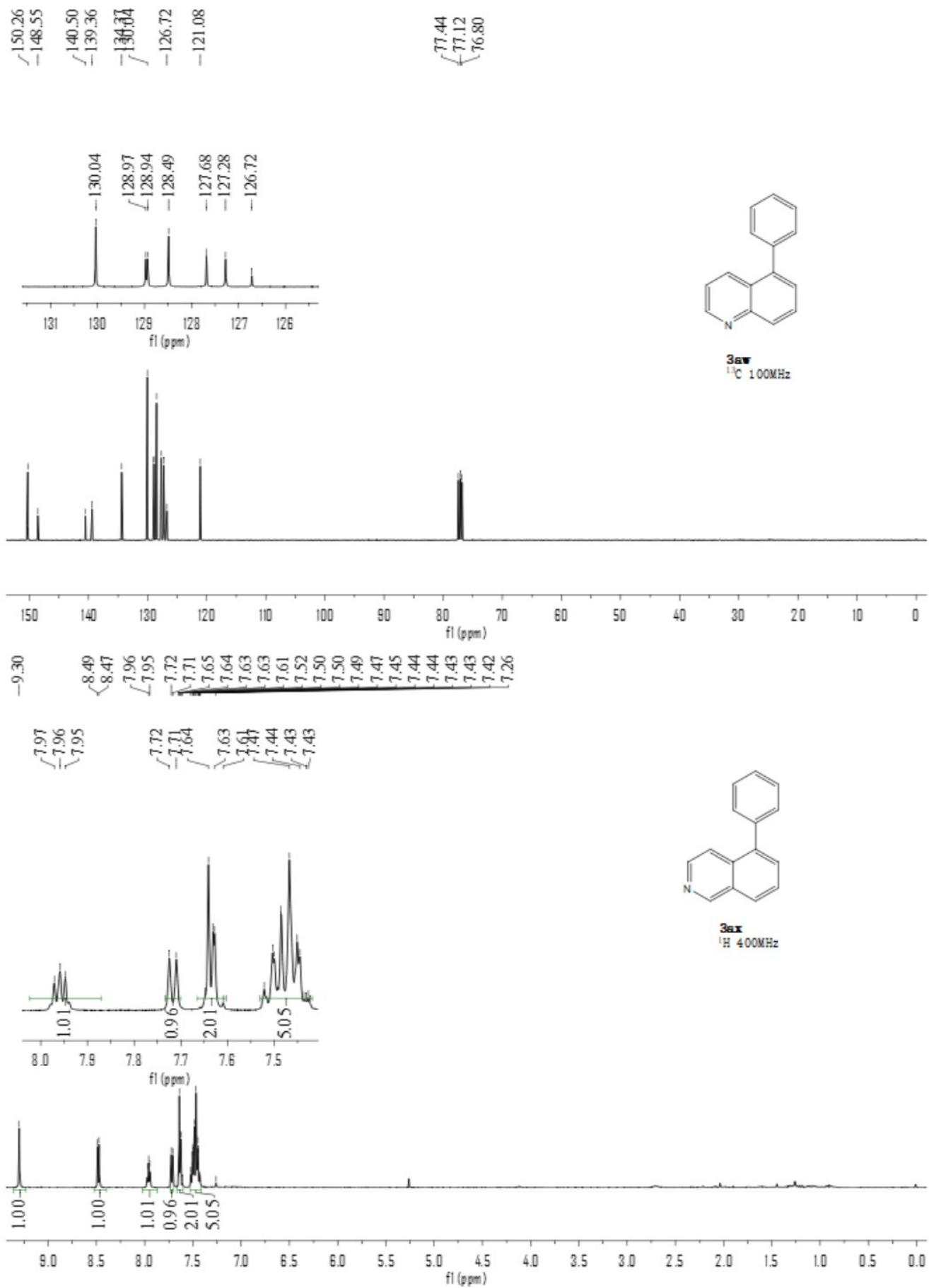


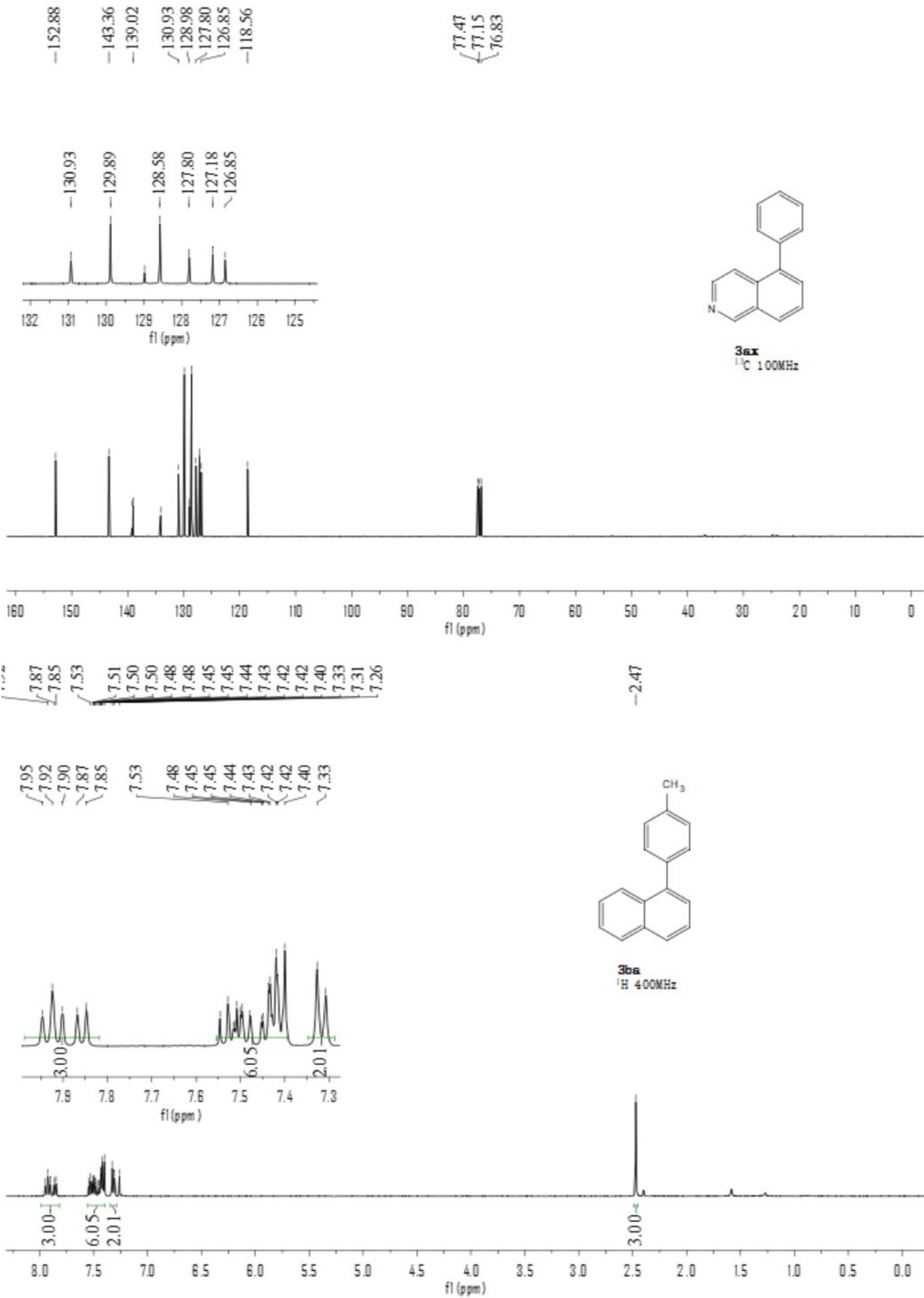


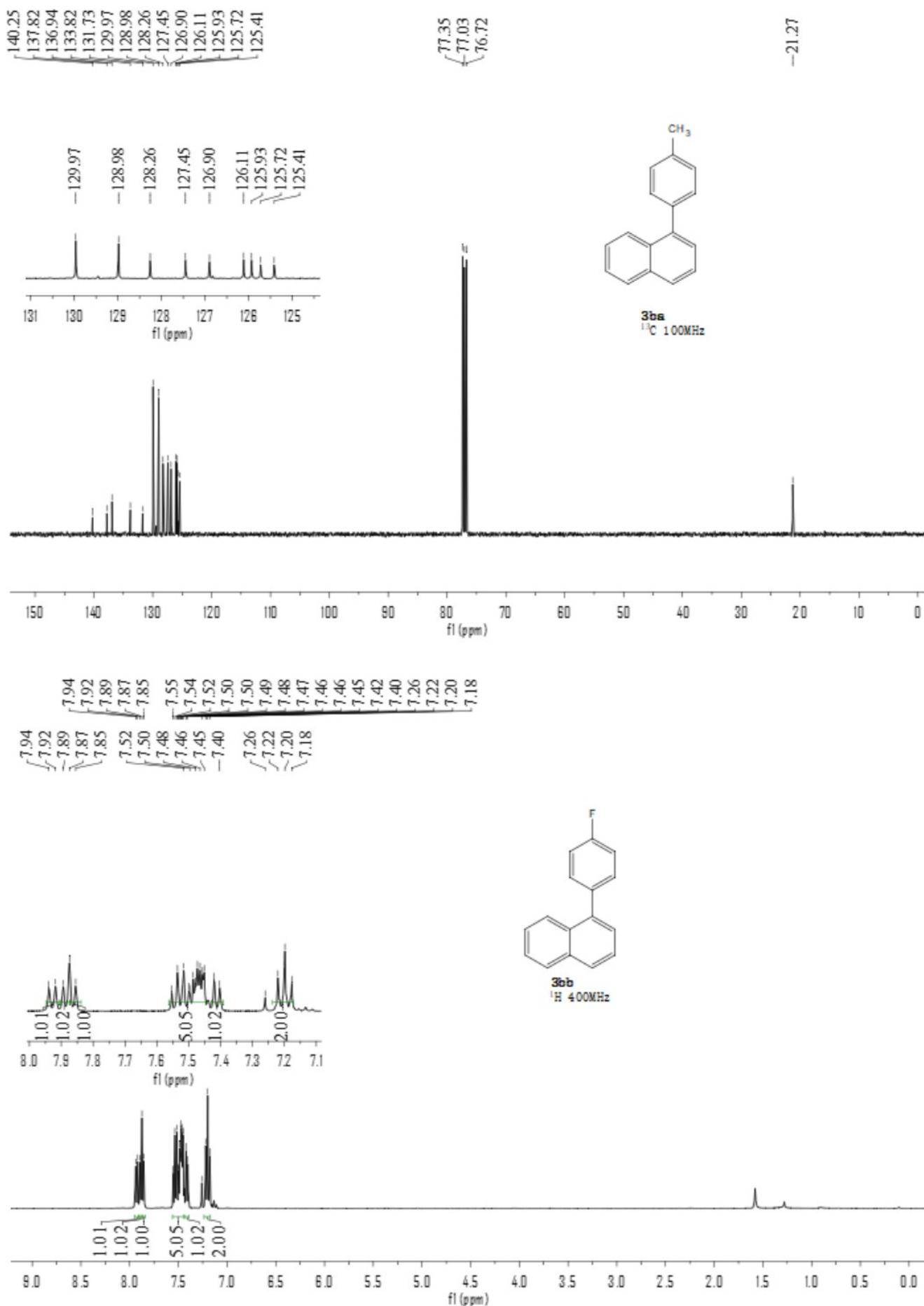
**3aw**

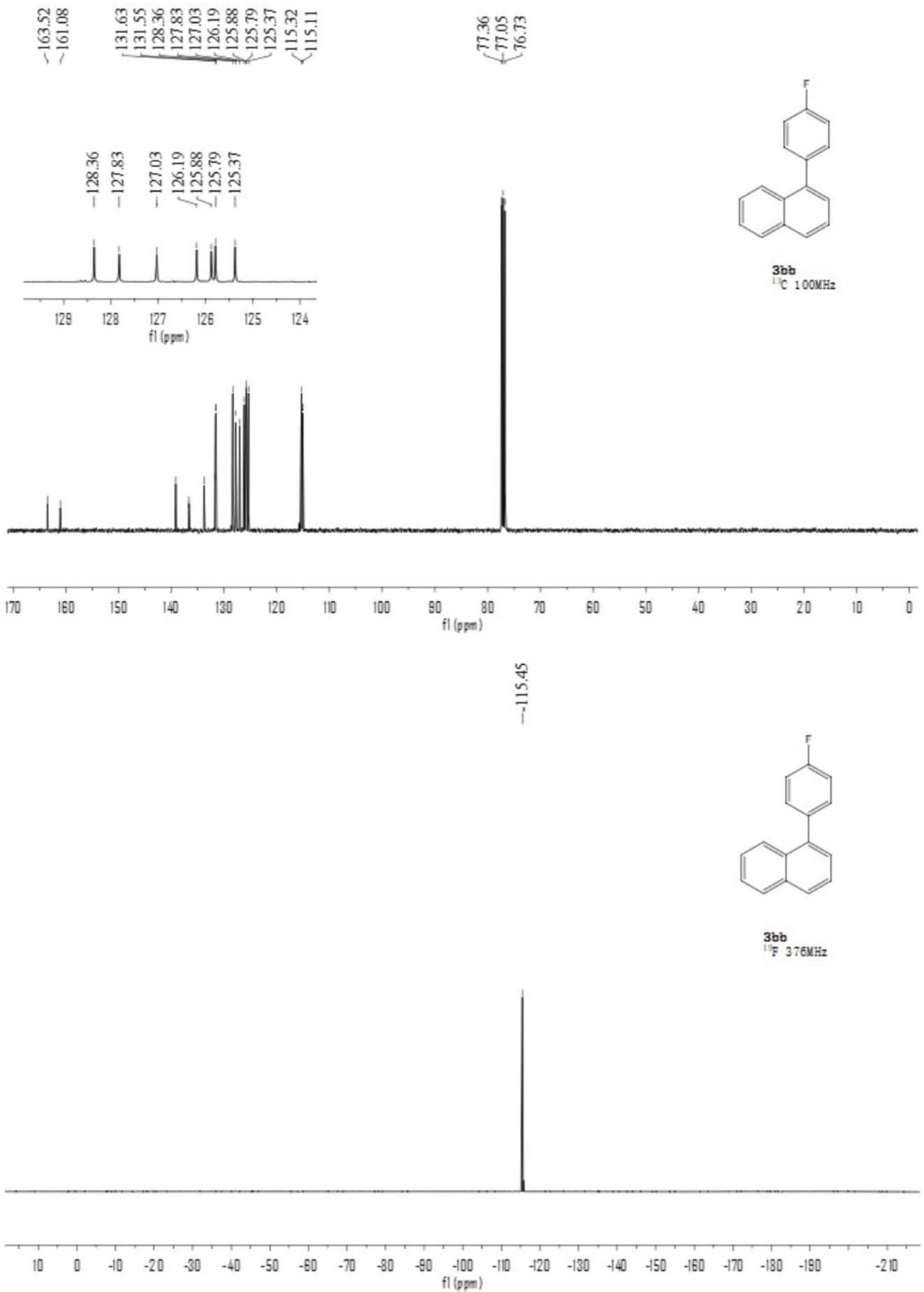
$^1\text{H}$  400MHz

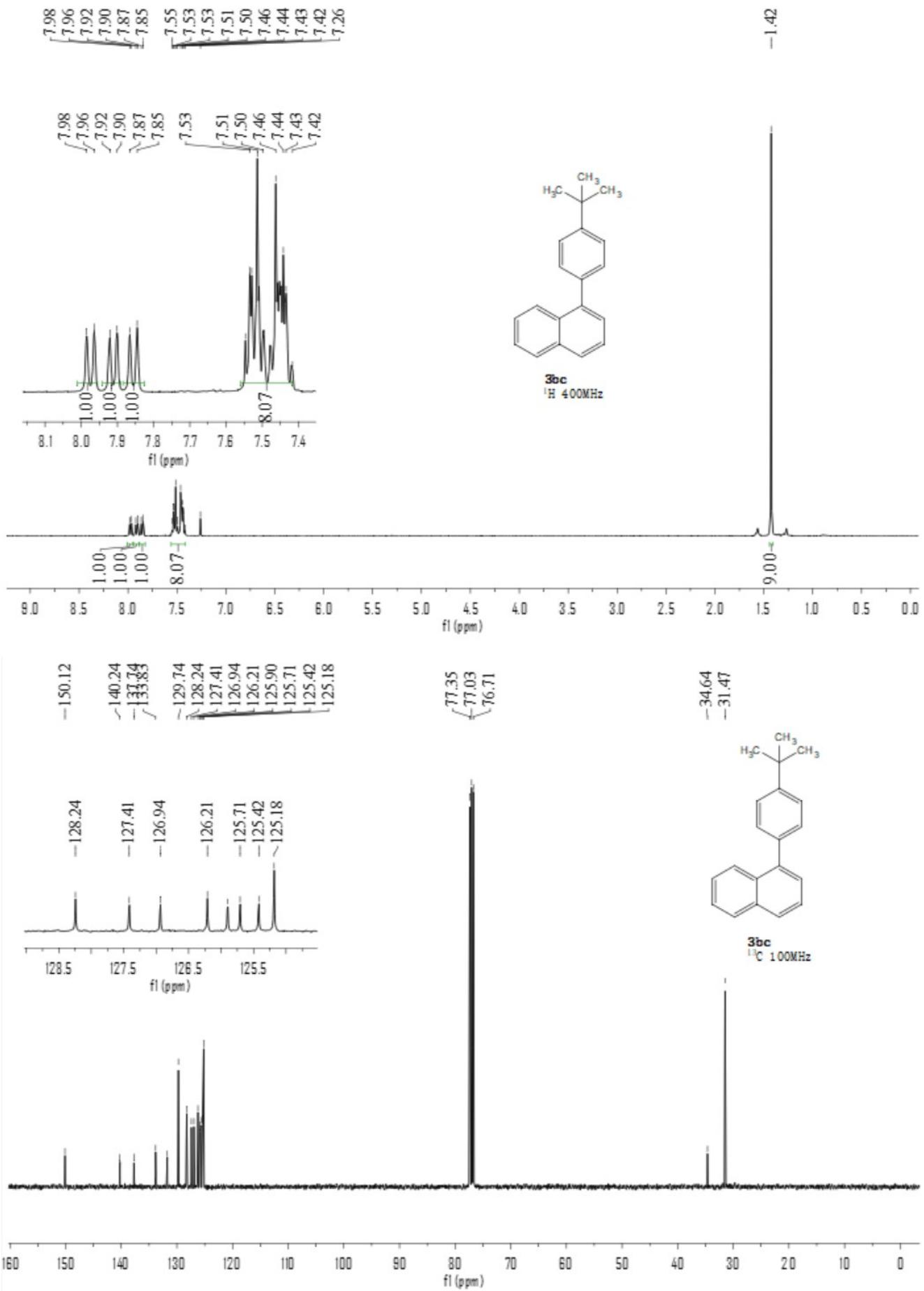


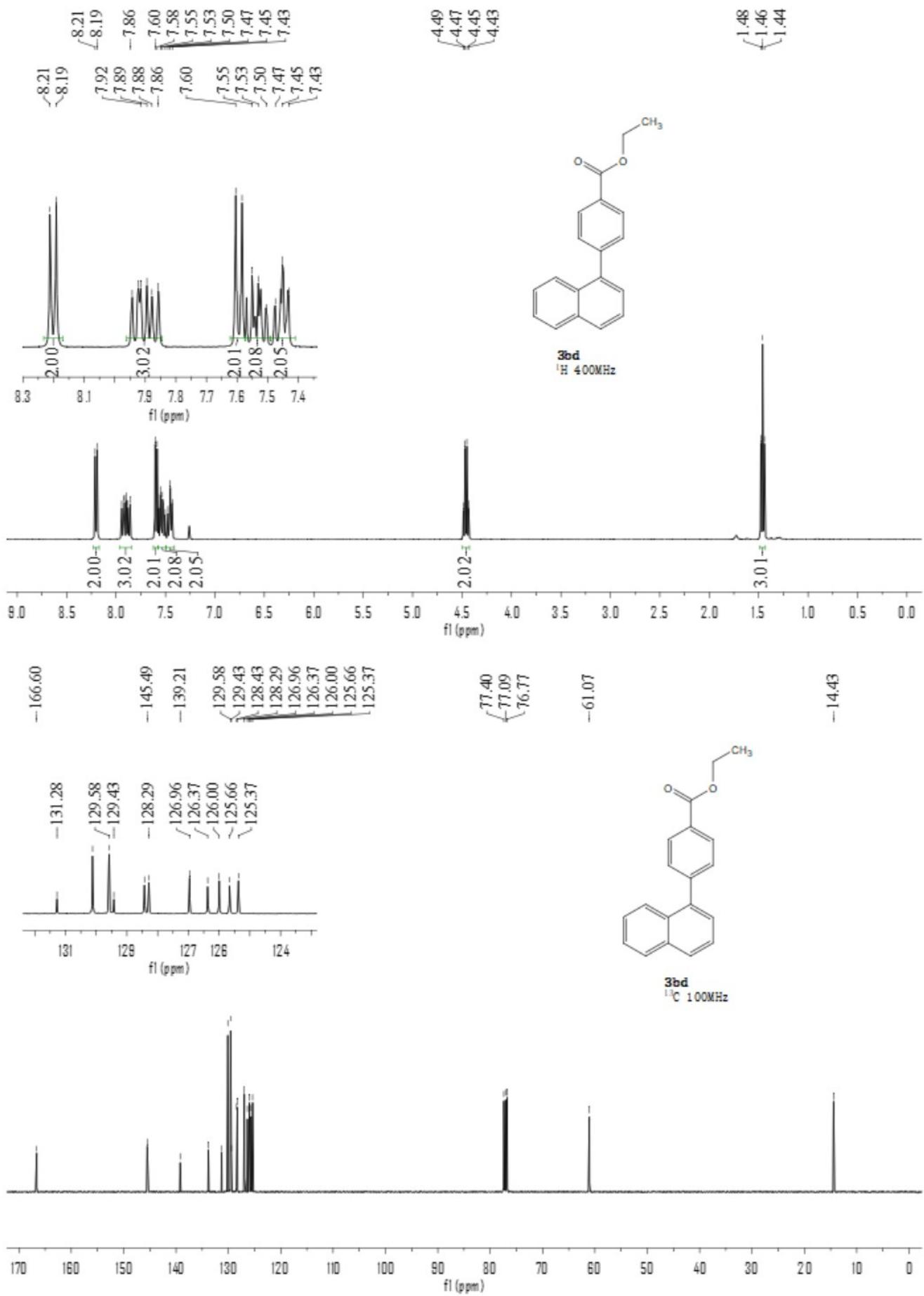


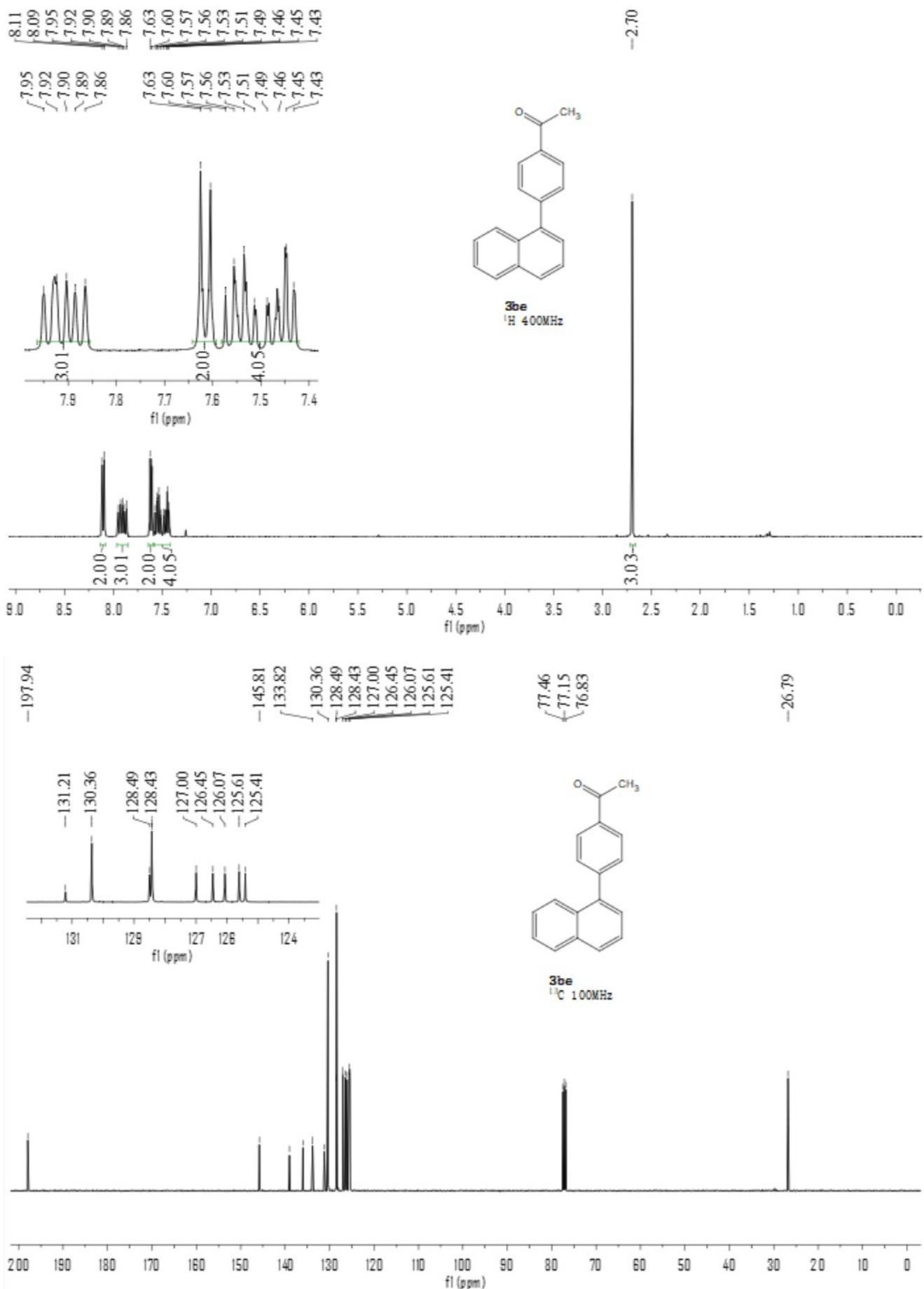


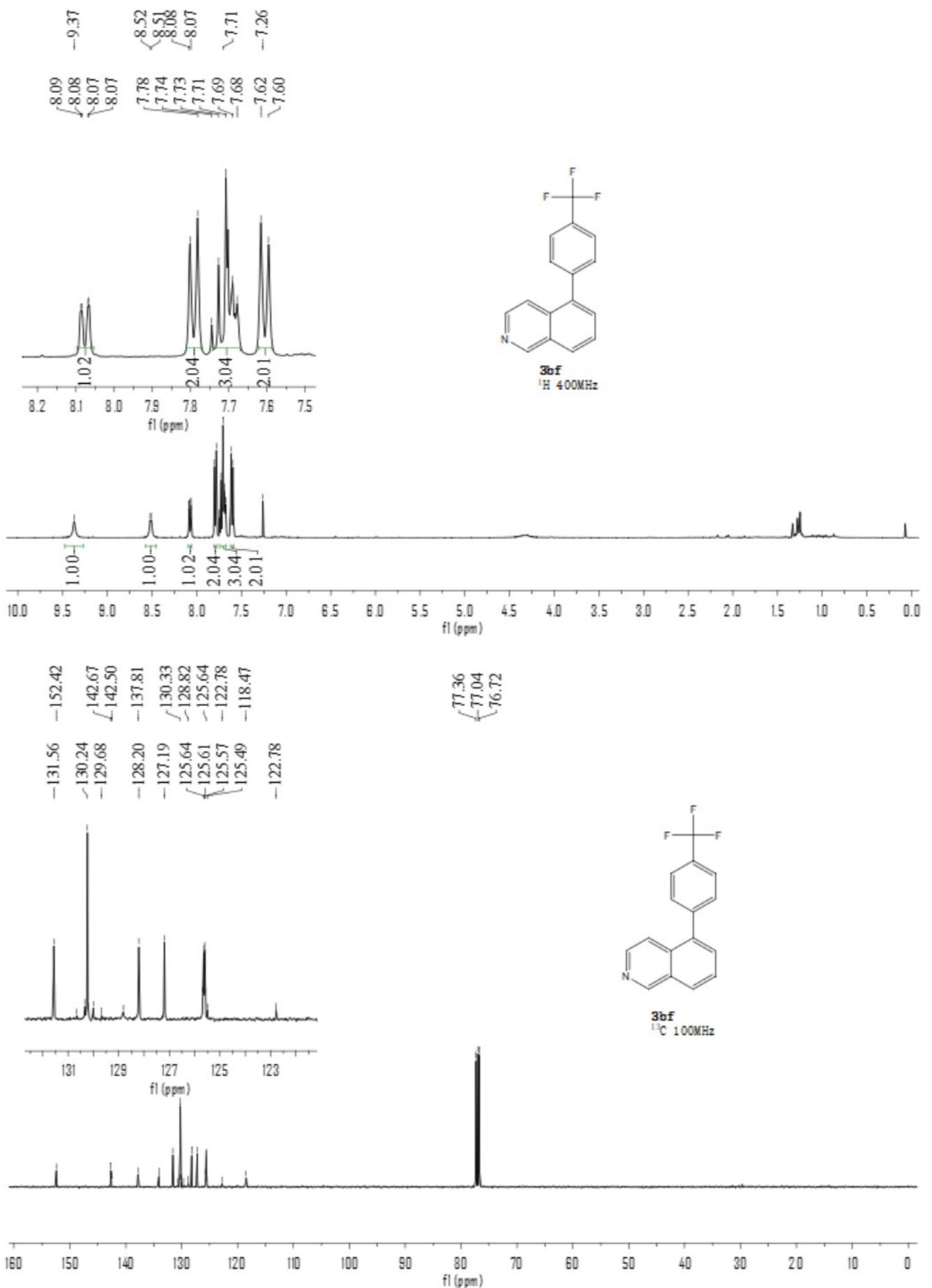




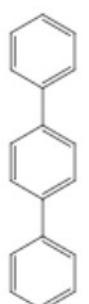
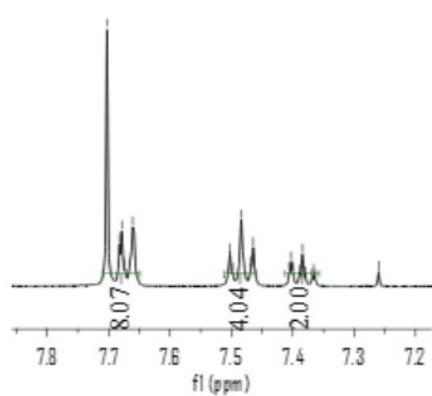
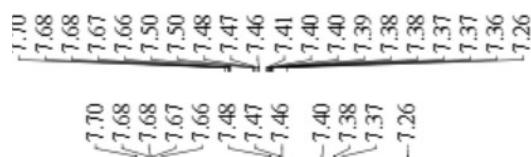
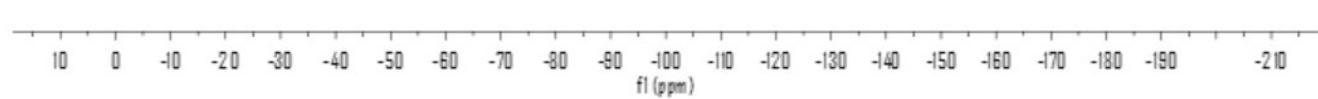
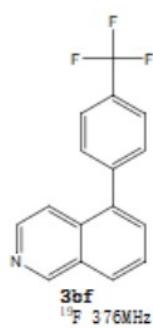




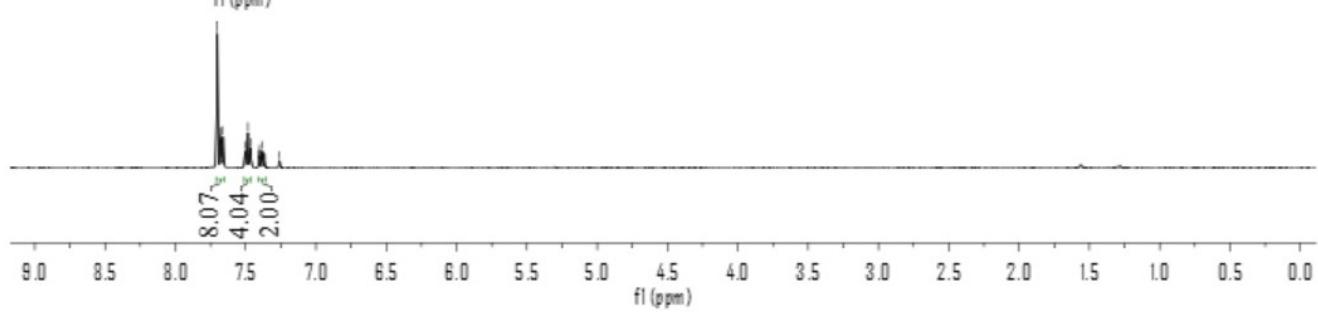


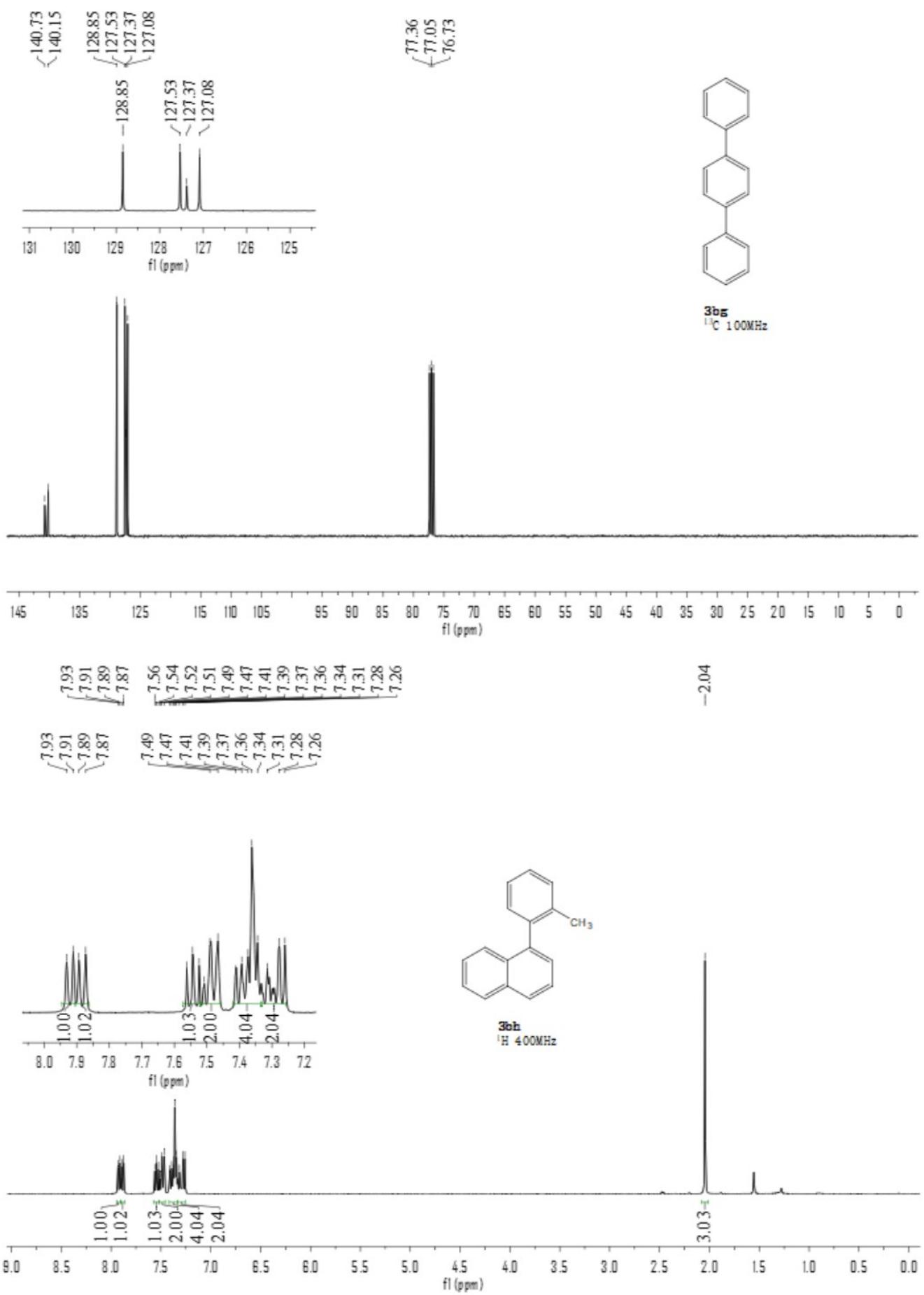


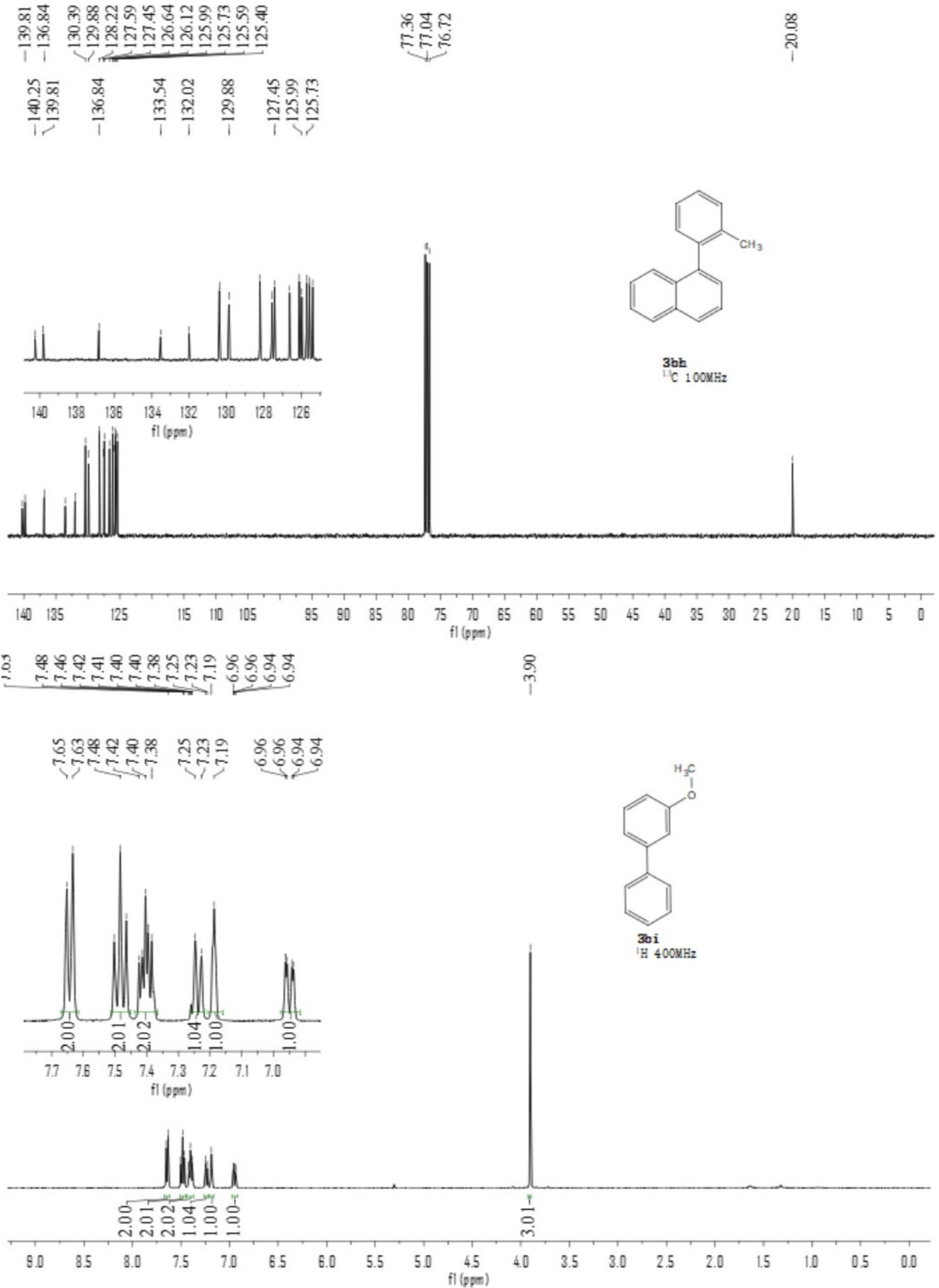
-62.49



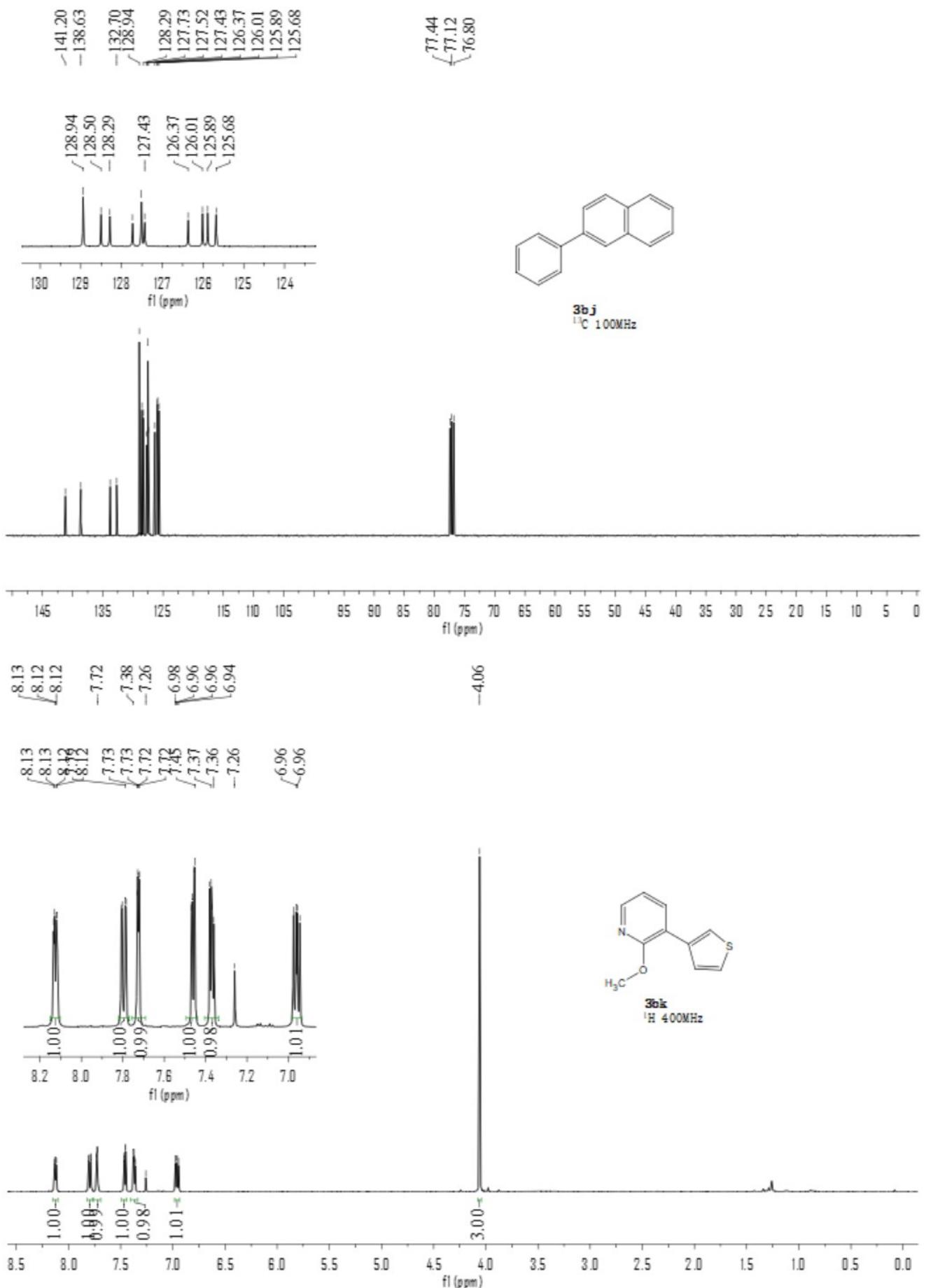
$^1\text{H}$  400MHz

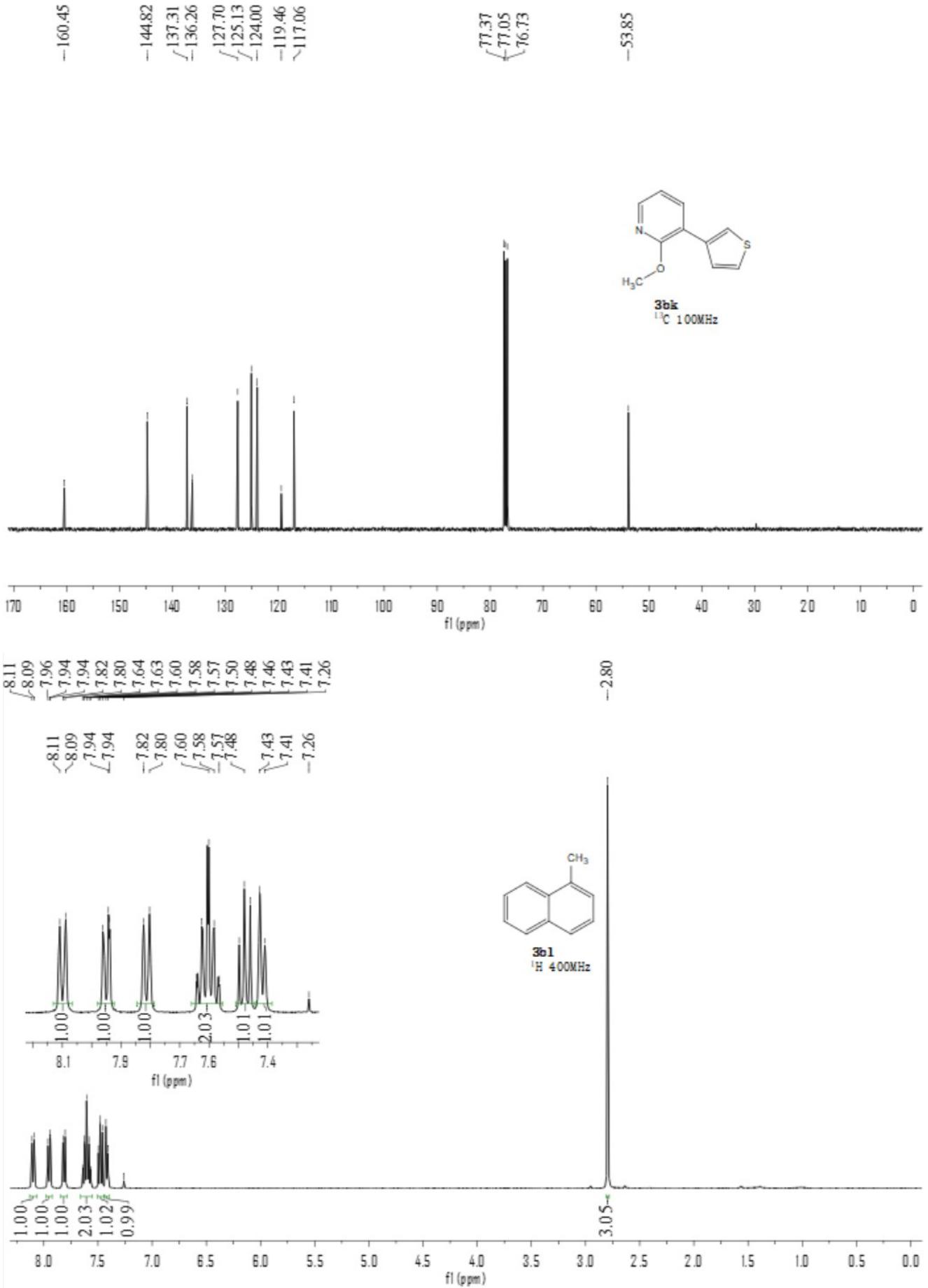


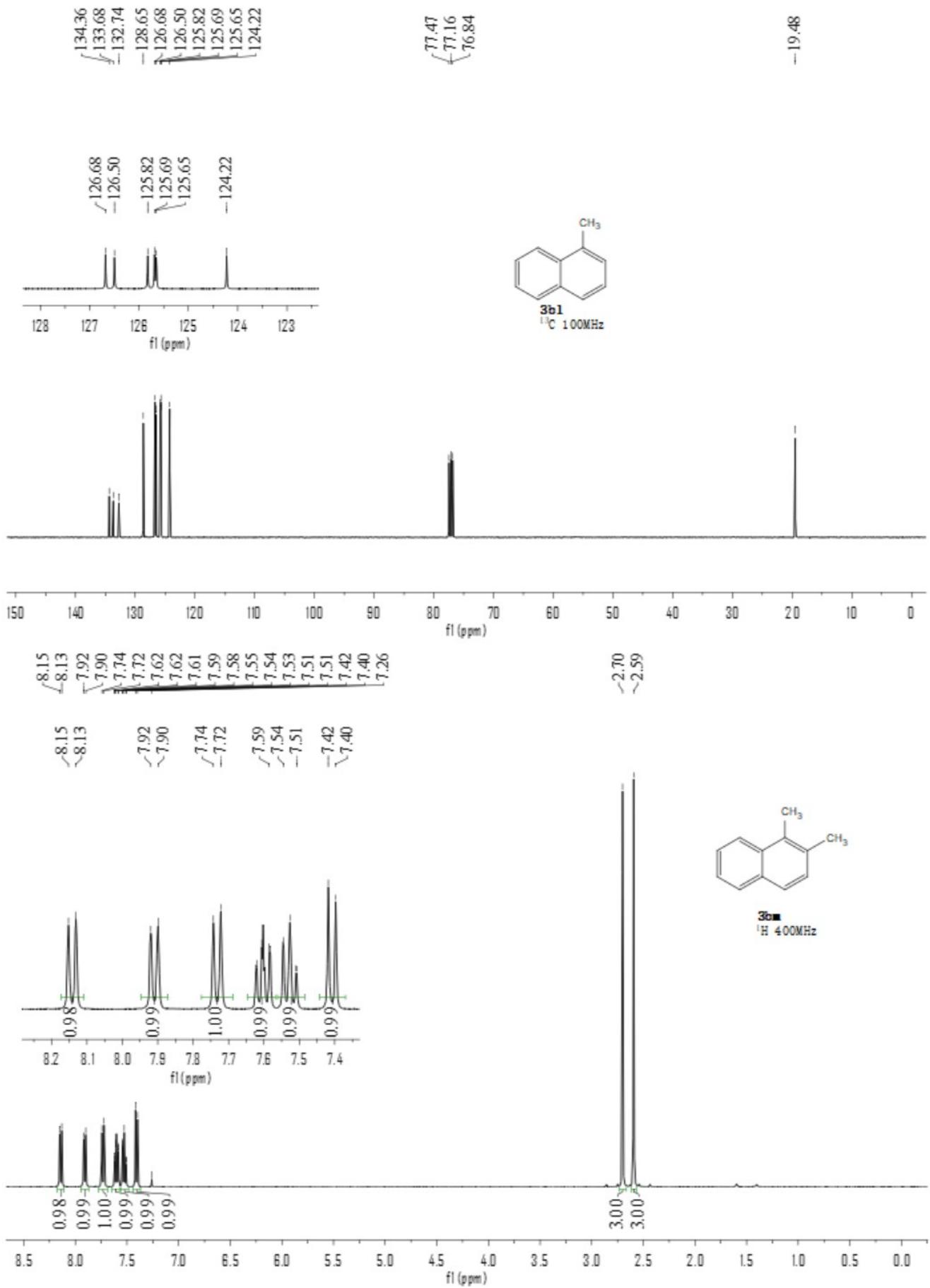


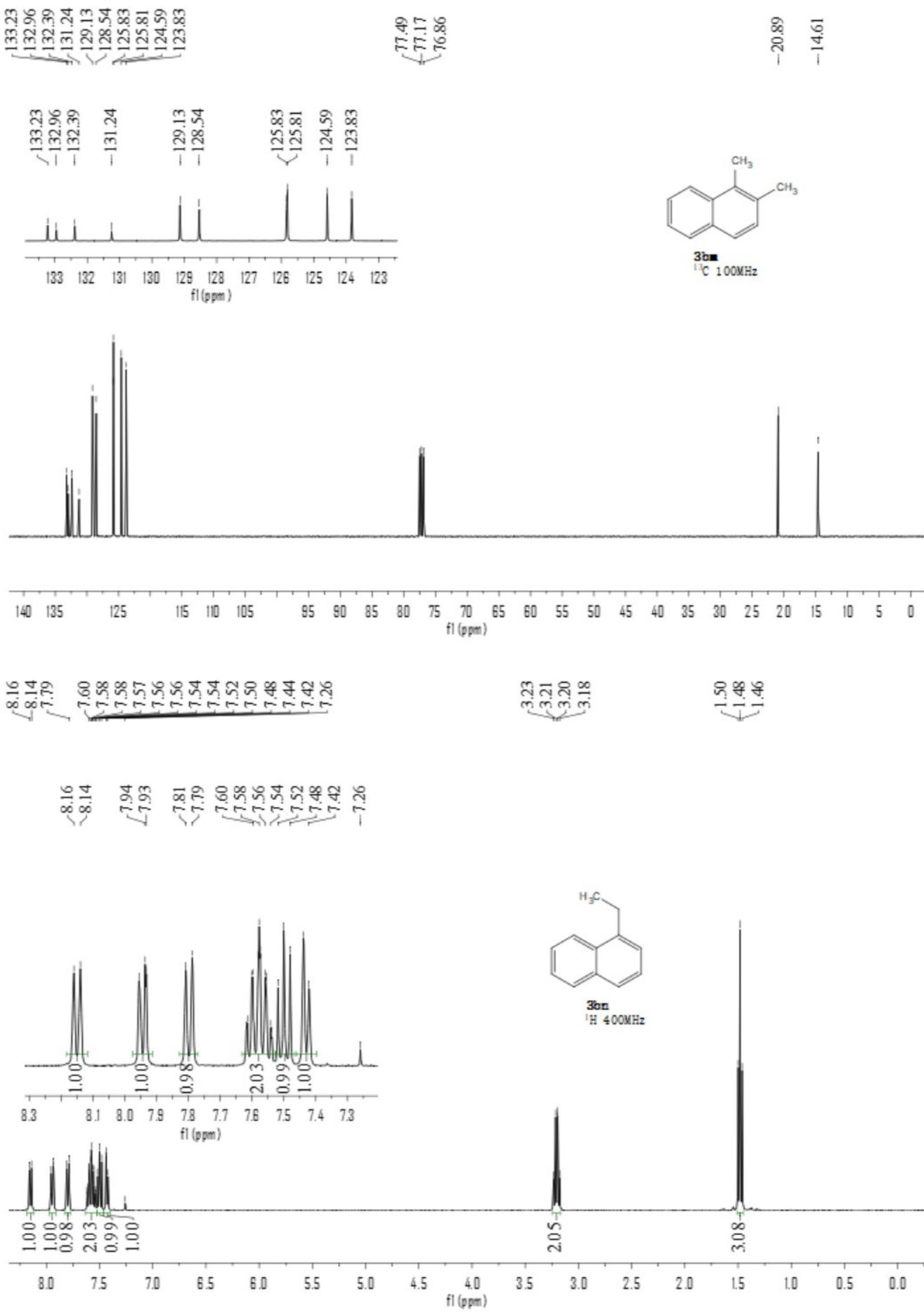


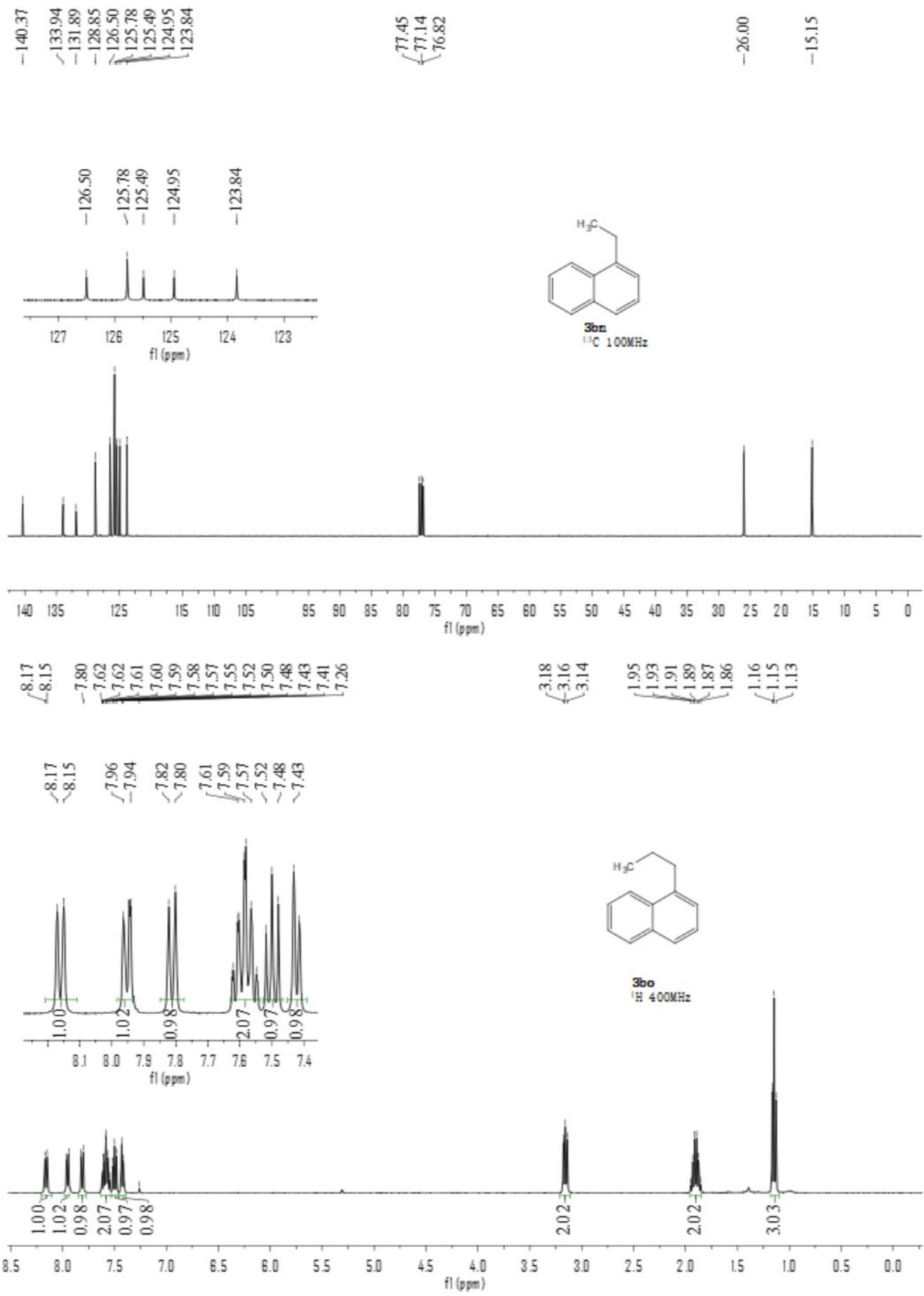


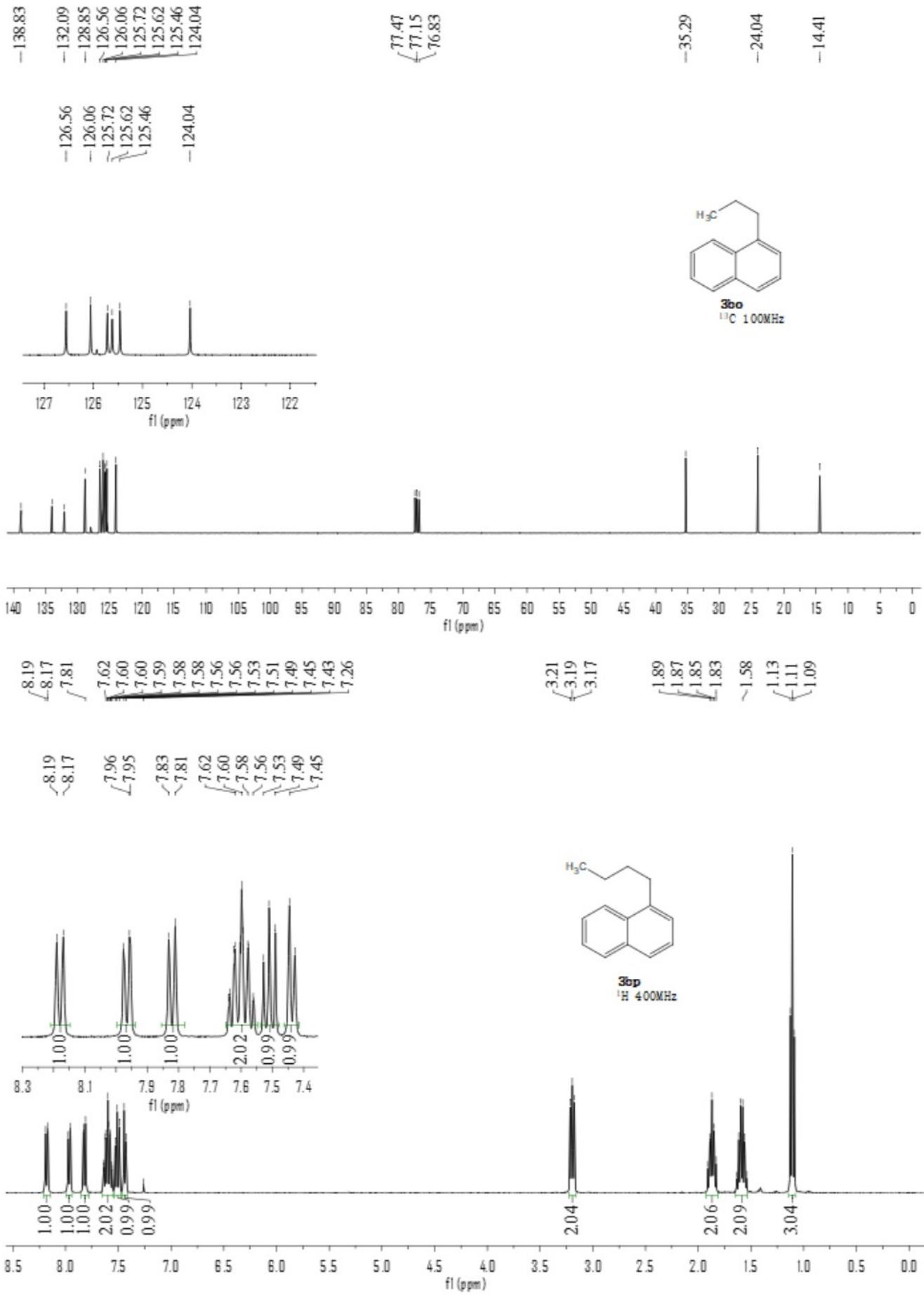


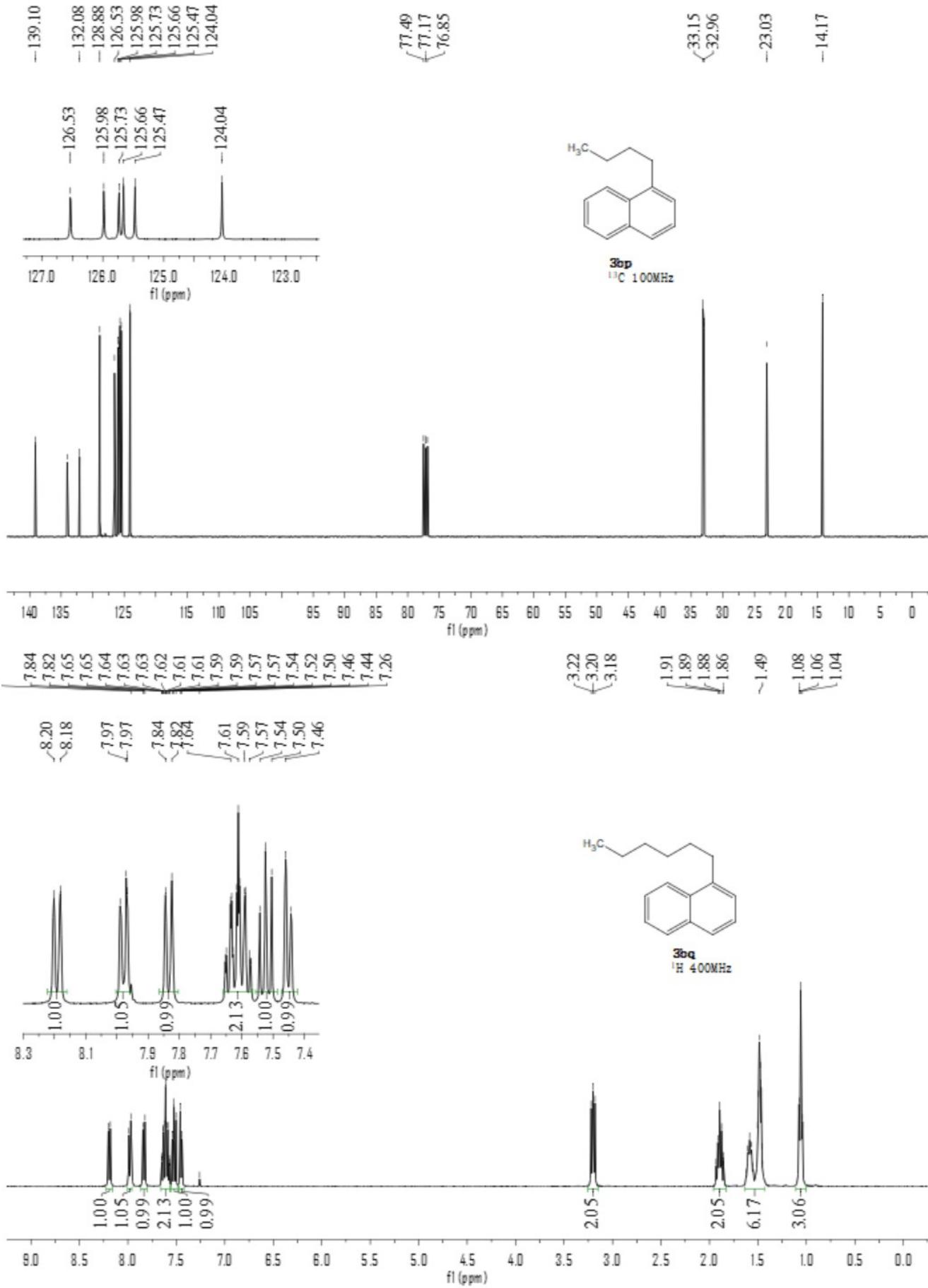


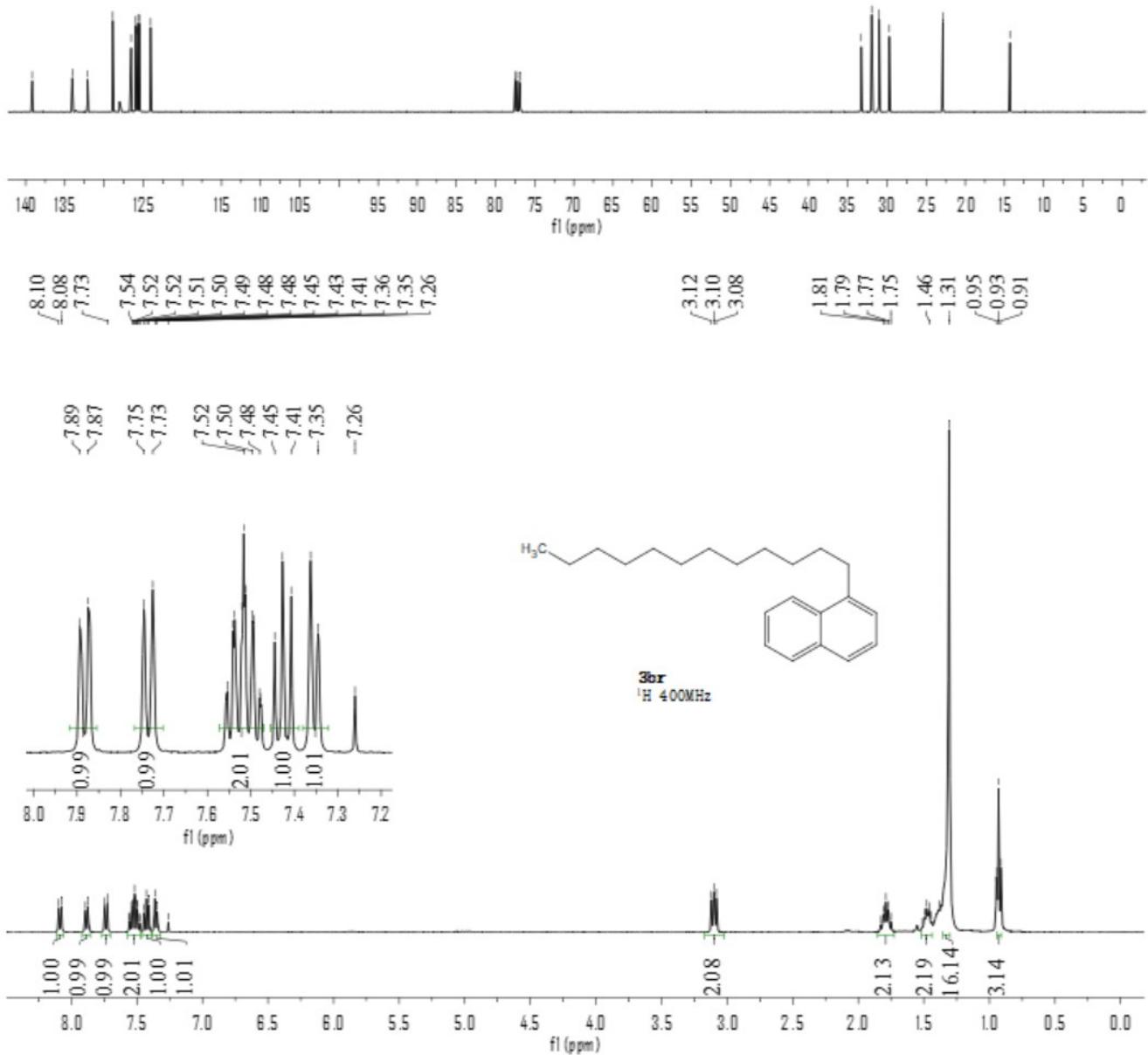
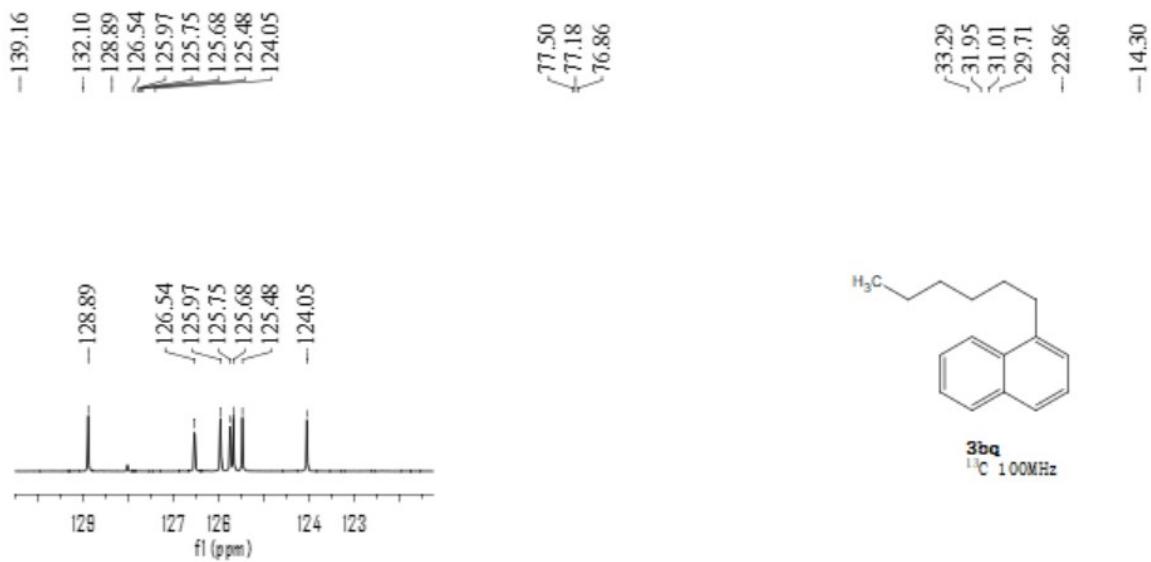


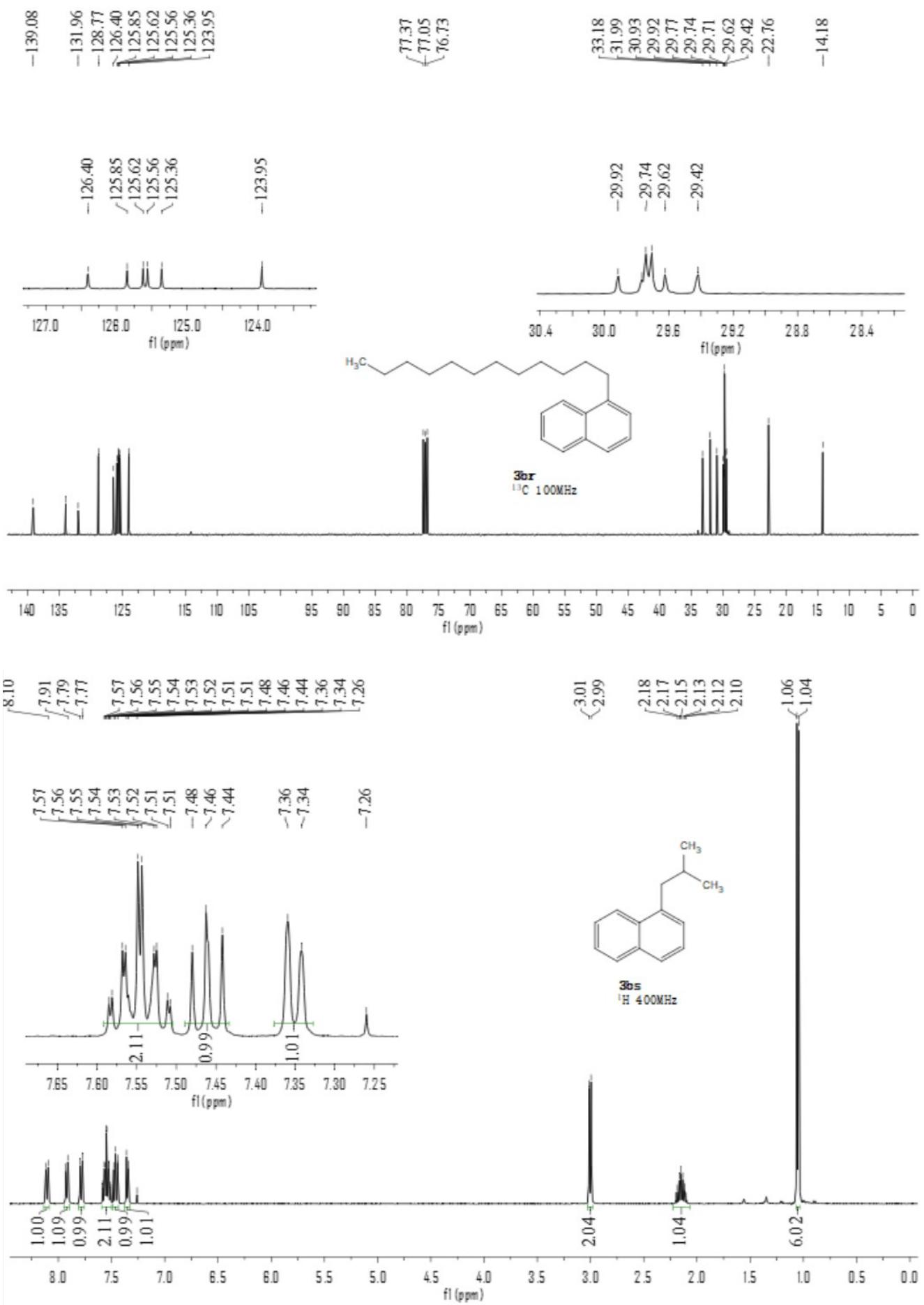


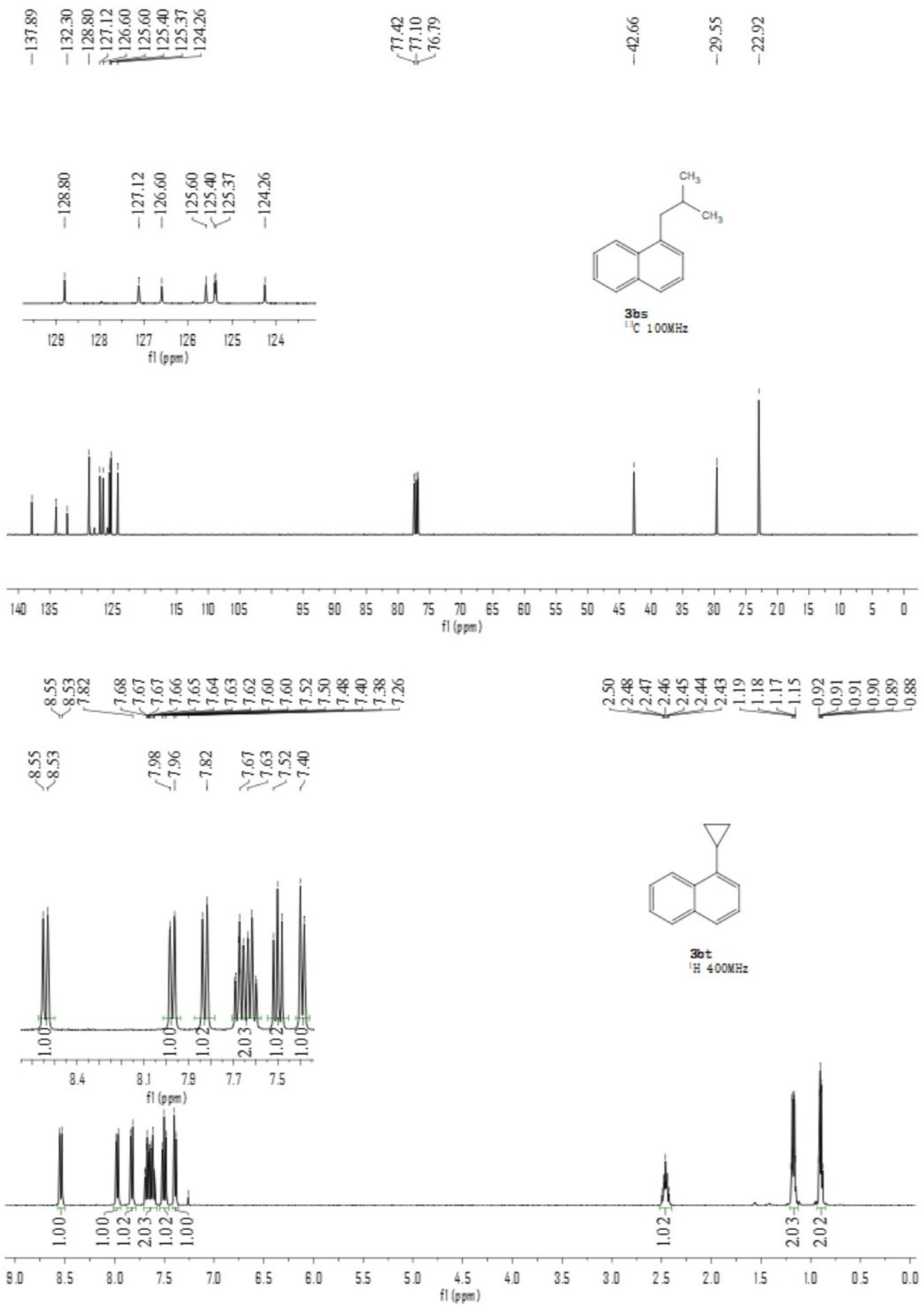


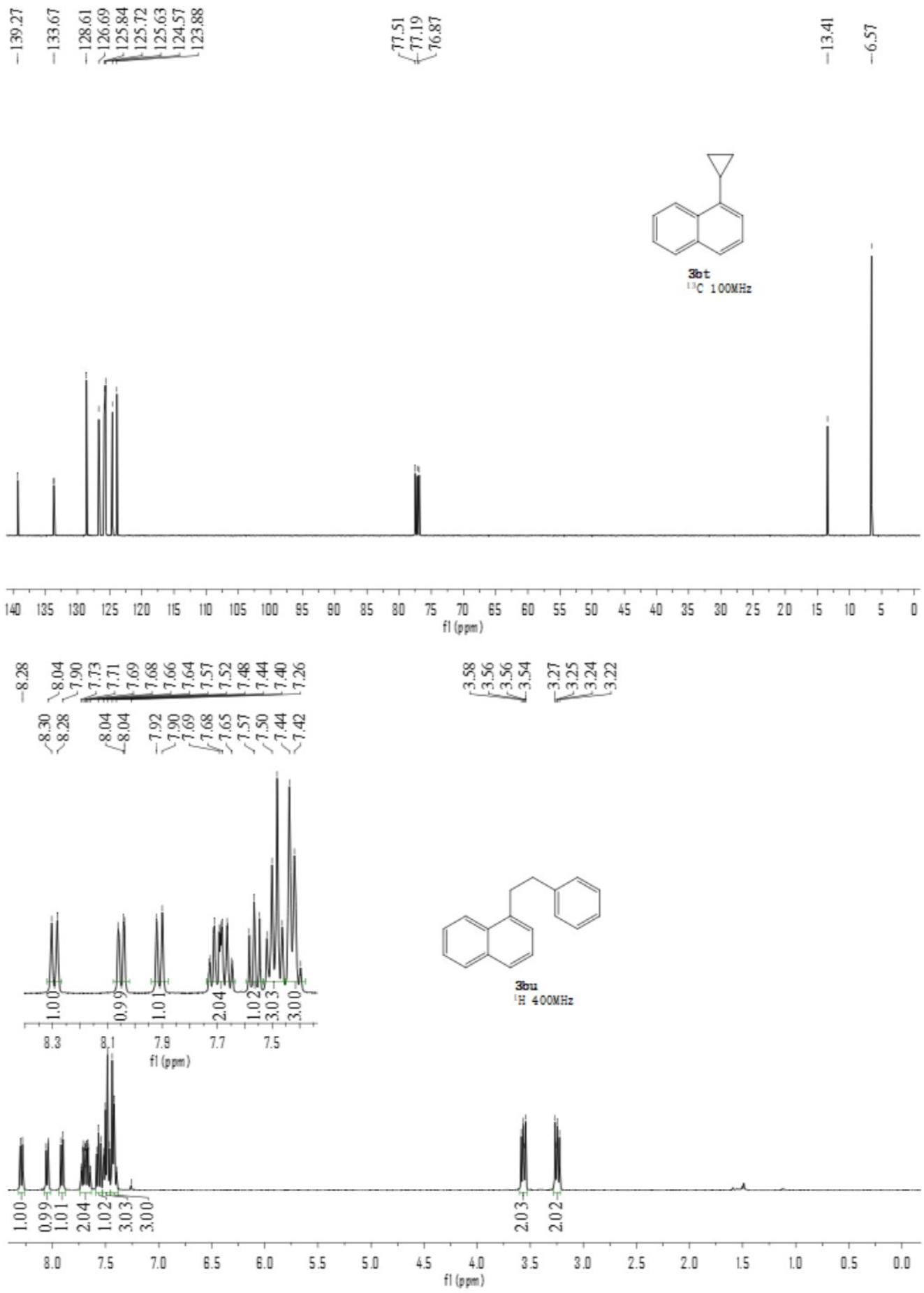


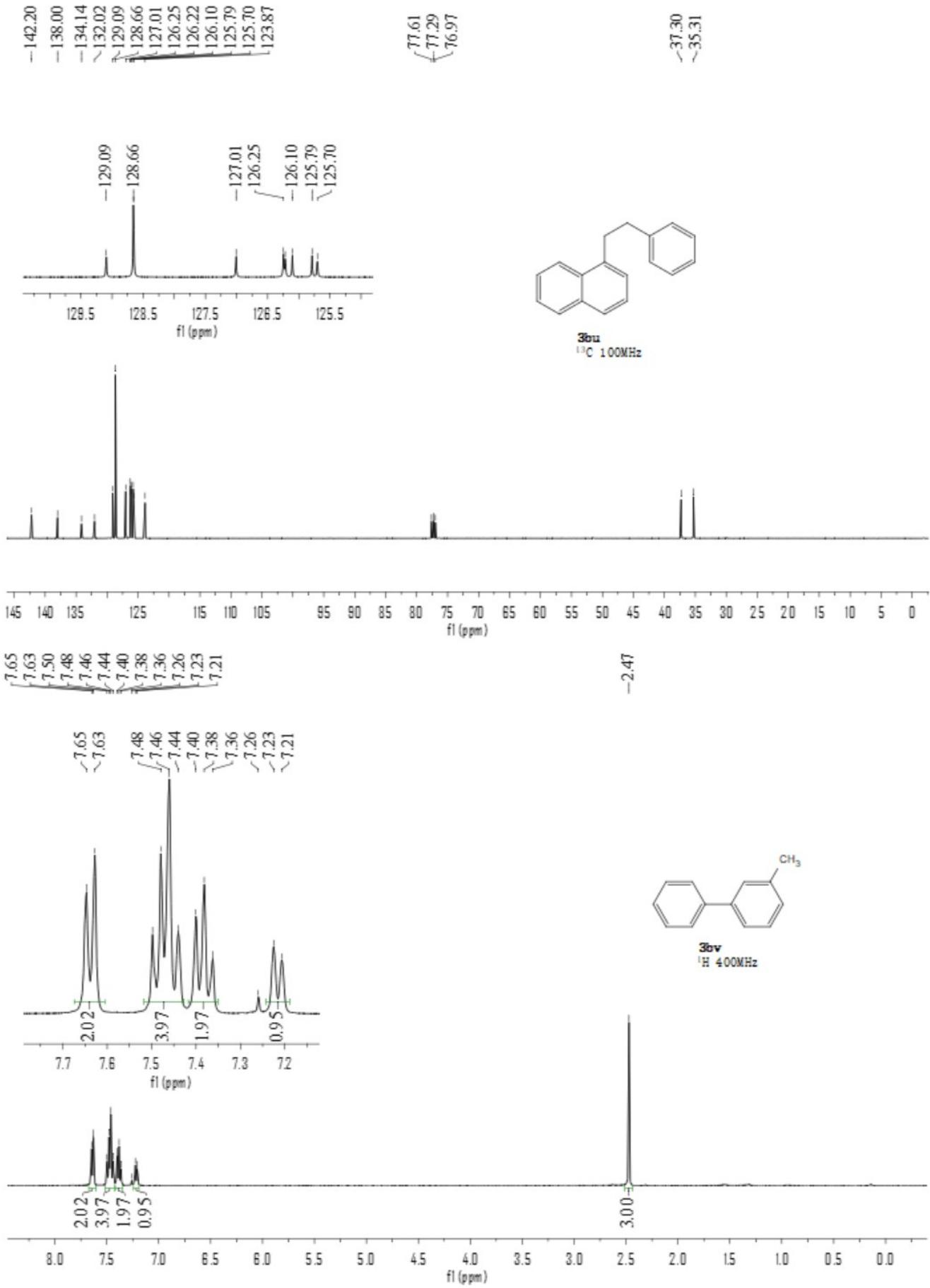


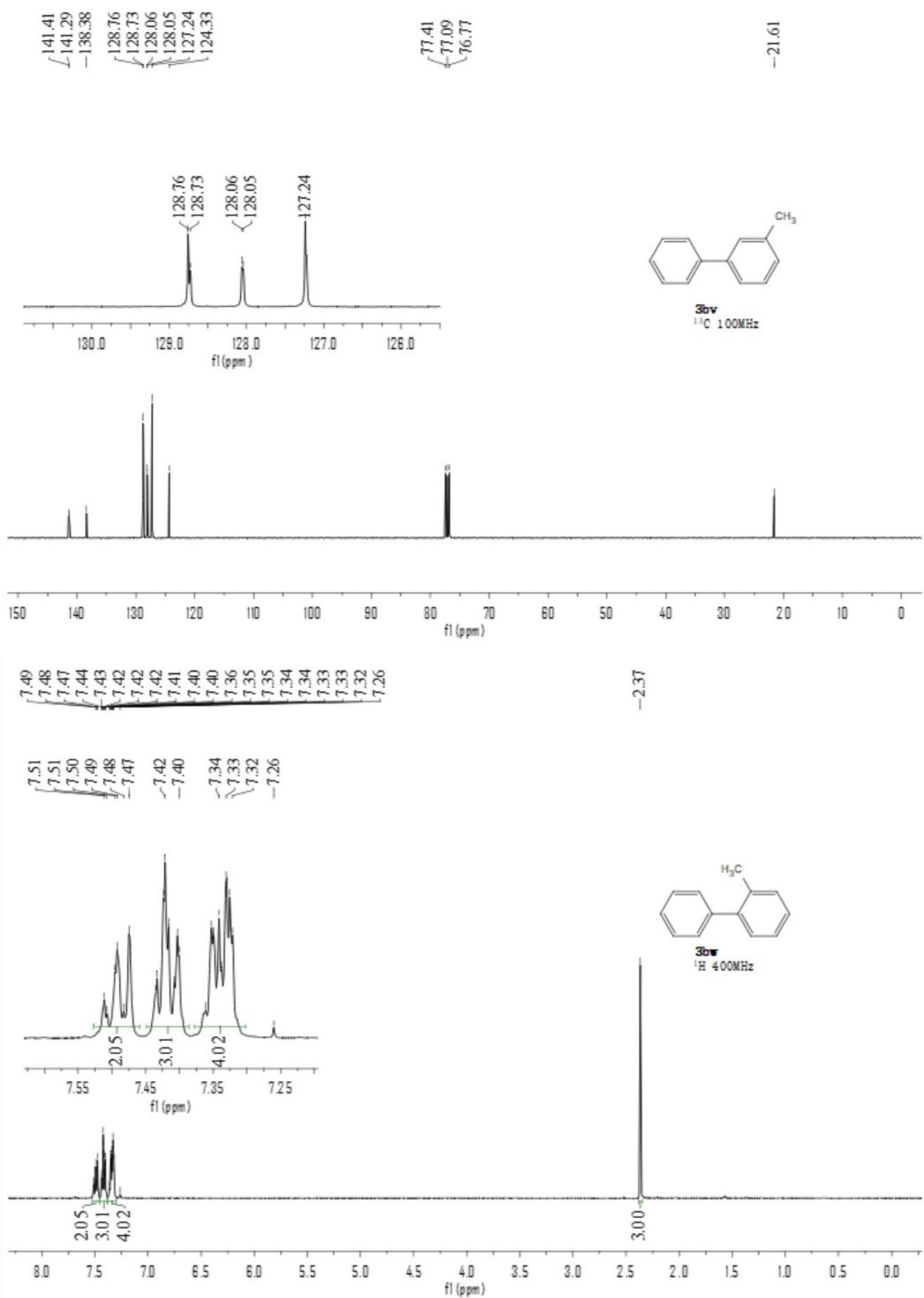


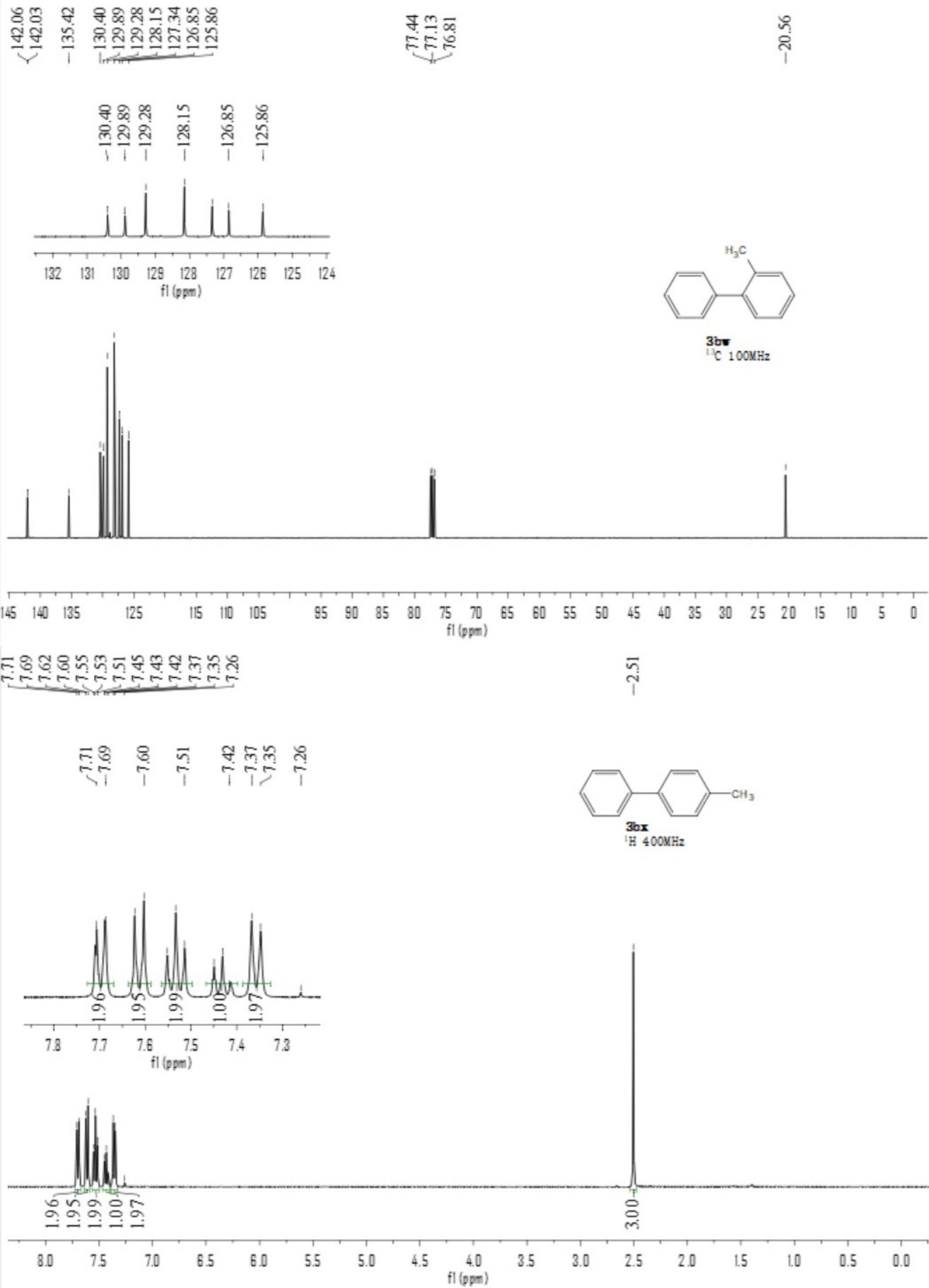


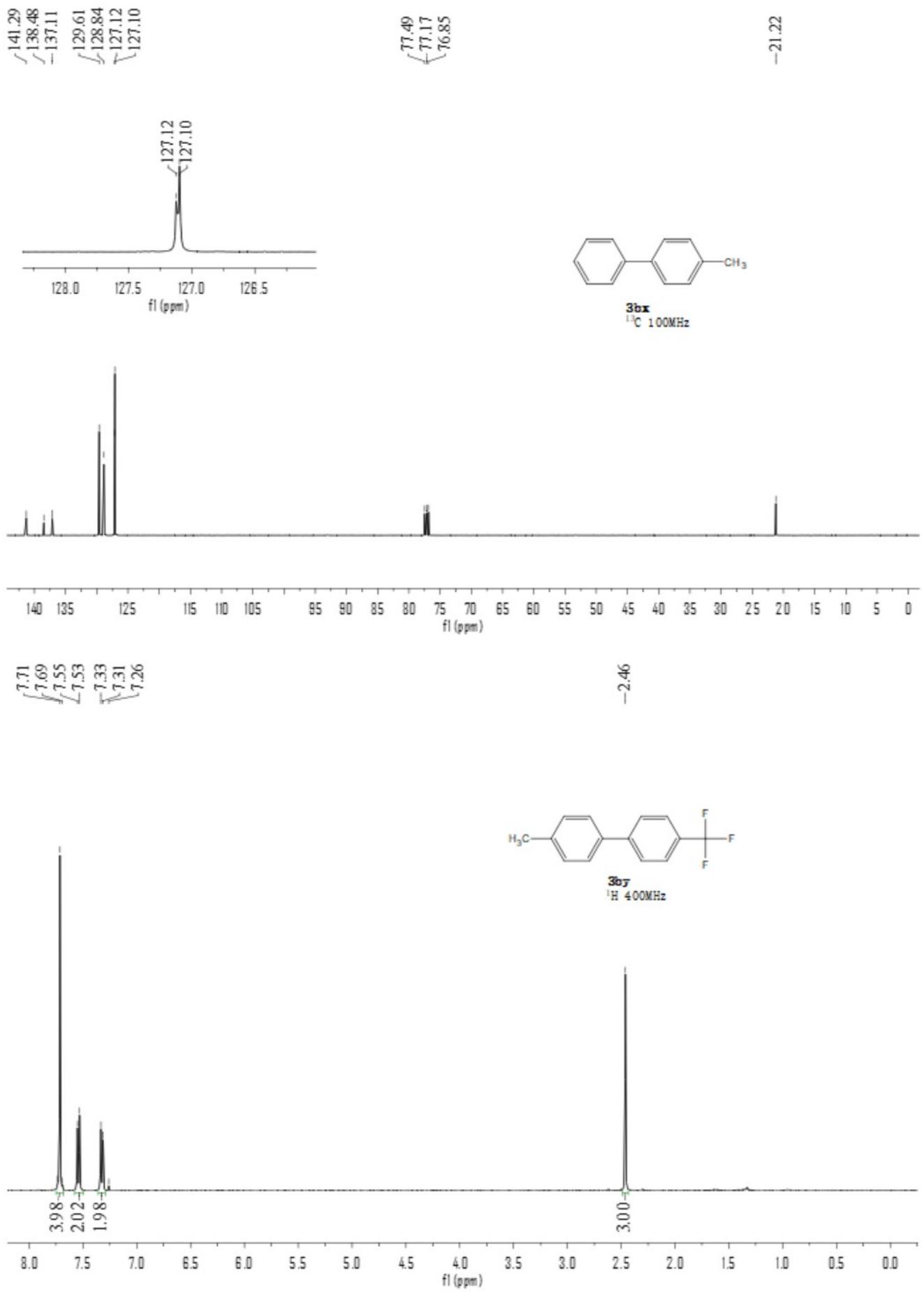


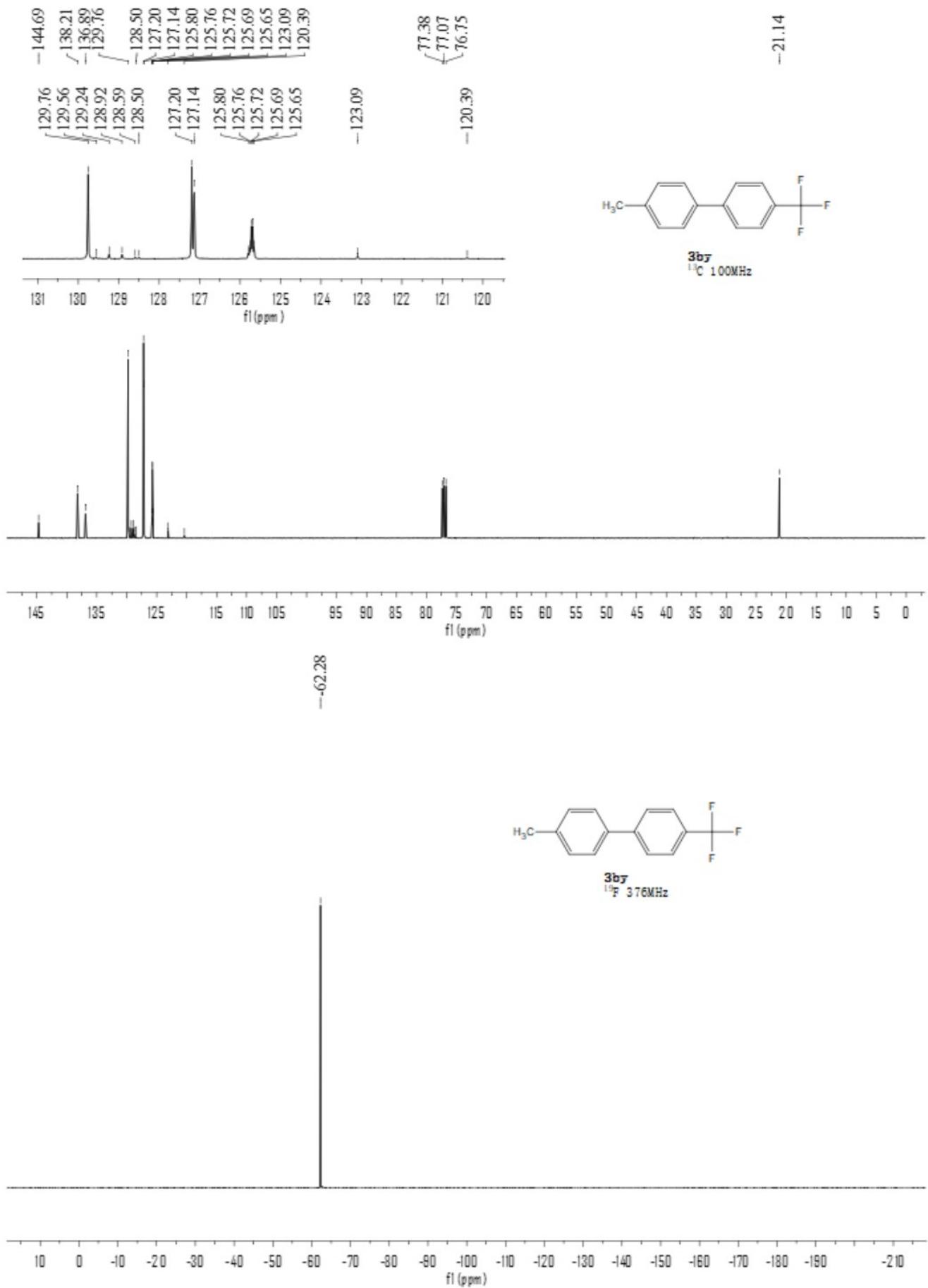


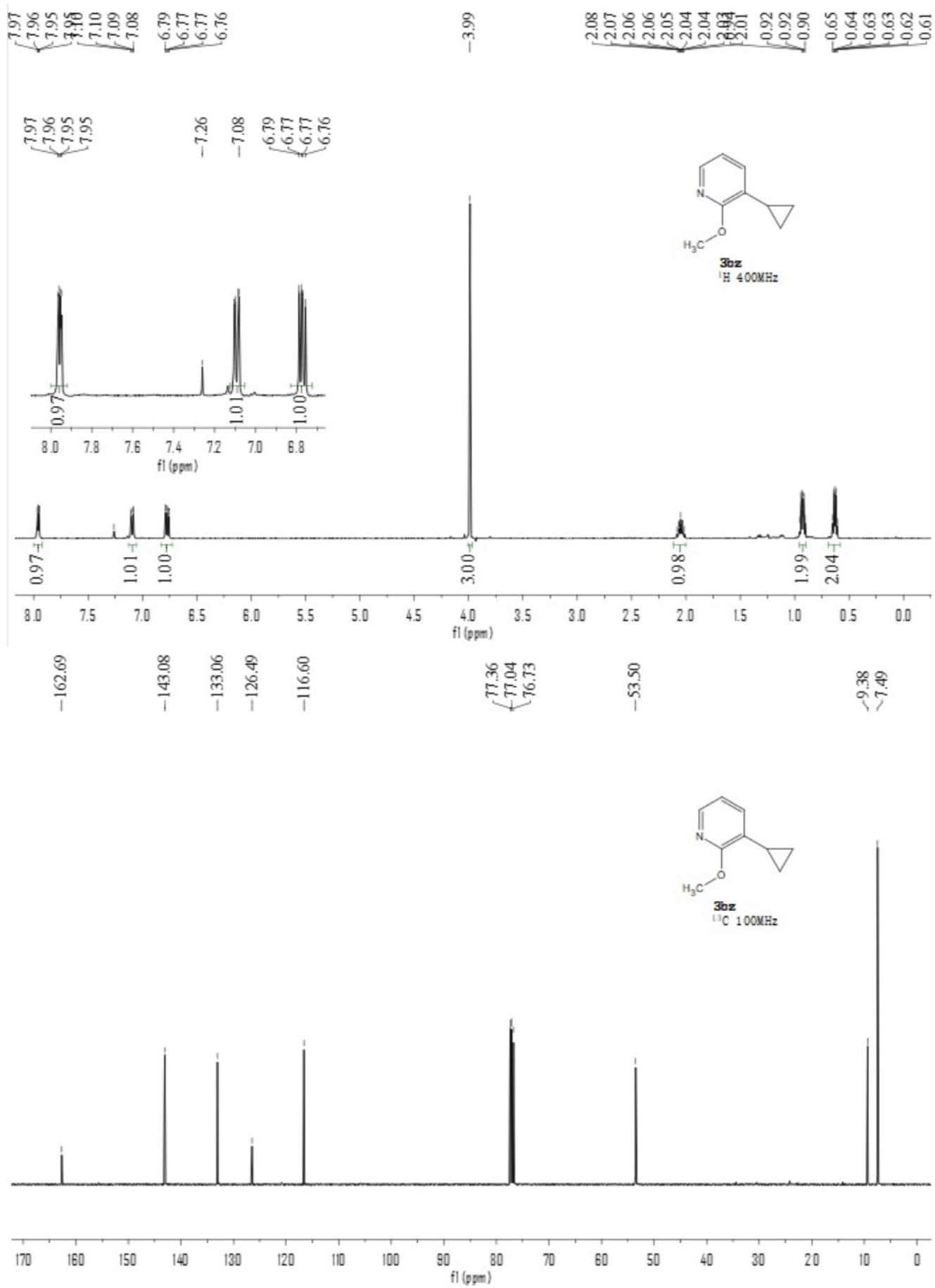


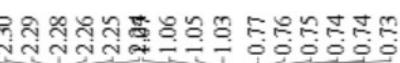
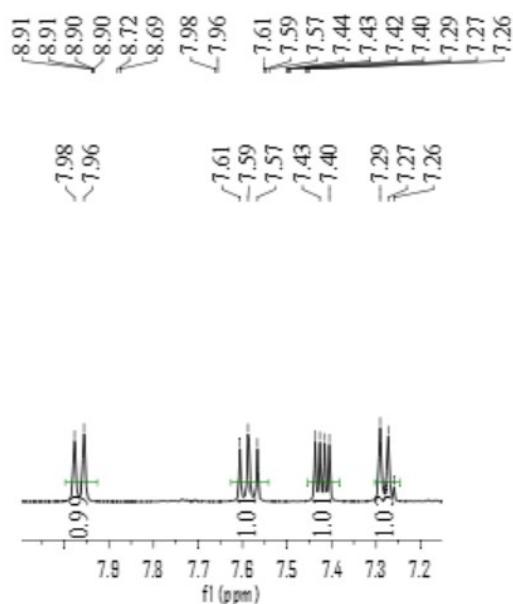




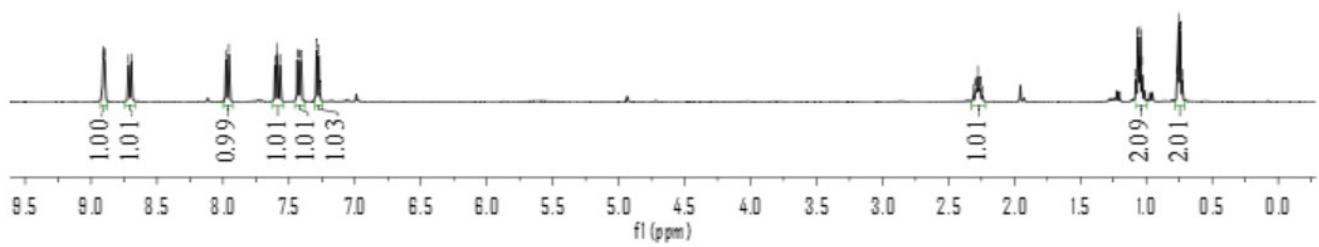








3ca  
<sup>1</sup>H 400MHz

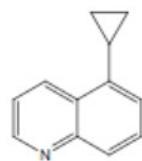


-149.82  
-148.26  
-139.73  
-133.04  
-127.69  
-124.23  
-120.70

77.43  
77.11  
76.79

2.09  
2.01

-12.57  
-6.61



3ca  
<sup>13</sup>C 100MHz

