

Supporting Information

A Solvent-specific DAST-mediated intramolecular Friedel-Crafts reaction: access to dibenzoxepine-fused spirooxindoles

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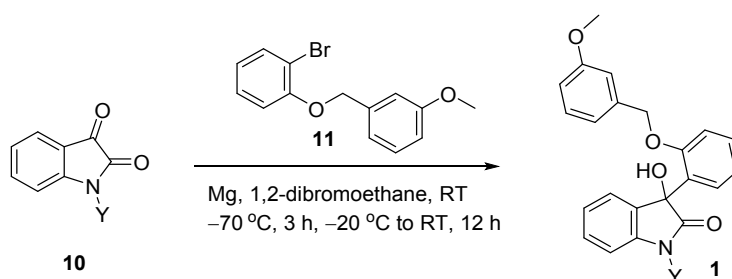
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1. General

All reactions were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere unless otherwise specified. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) using Merck silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ pre-coated plates and visualized by a UV lamp for reaction monitoring. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were measured, and chemical shifts were reported in ppm using TMS or the residual solvent peak as a reference. LC-MS analyses conducted using the Agilent 6140 quadrupole LCMS instrument using C18 columns.

2. Procedure and data for the starting materials (1a – 1aa)

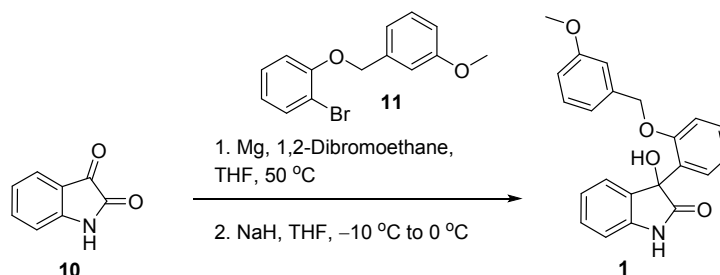
a. General Method – A.¹



To a stirred suspension of magnesium turnings (2.5 eq.), in dry THF, was added 1,2-dibromoethane (0.1 eq.) under nitrogen and allowed to stir for 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, a solution of 1-bromo-2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)benzene (**11**) (1.5 eq.) in dry THF was added dropwise and the reaction suspension was occasionally heated with a hot gun (50 °C) for initiation. After 30 minutes, the reaction suspension was refluxed for 1 h under nitrogen and then cooled to ambient temperature. To a separate flask, was added isatin, **10** (1 eq.) in dry THF and the solution was cooled to -20 °C under nitrogen. After 10 minutes, the above prepared Grignard reagent was added dropwise over 5 minutes. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed to ambient temperature and stirred for 12 h. After cooling to 0 °C, a saturated NH₄Cl solution (20 mL) was added slowly at 0 °C, followed by the addition of ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The organic layer was separated, washed with water (3 x 50 mL) and brine (40 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography using a mixture of petroleum ether and EtOAc as eluent to afford pure compound **1**.

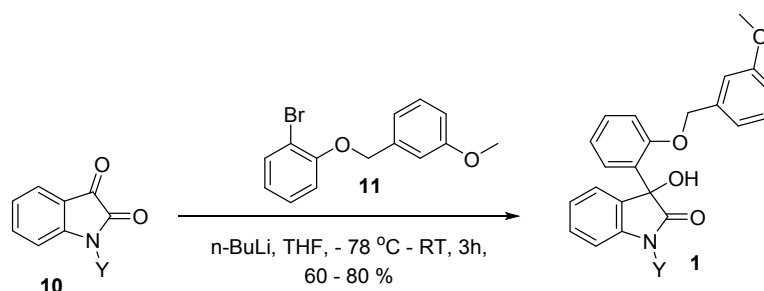
b. General Method – B.²

A Schlenk round bottom flask was charged with magnesium (0.062 g, 2.56 mmol), dry THF (5 mL) and 1,2-dibromoethane (0.1 eq.) under a nitrogen atmosphere and stirred until an exothermic reaction occurred (~10 minutes). 2-Bromo-4-chloro-1-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)benzene (**11**, 0.571 g, 1.743 mmol) in dry THF (3 mL) was added slowly over 10 minutes. Once the exothermic reaction had subsided, the reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 1 h and then allowed to cool to room temperature.



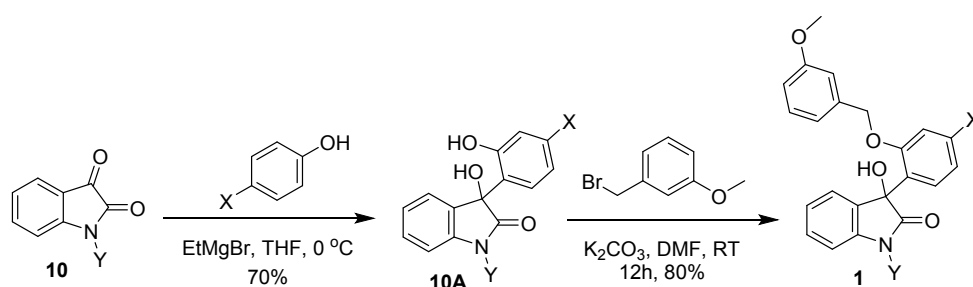
A separate round bottom flask was charged with 6-(trifluoromethyl)indoline-2,3-dione (**10**) (1.162 mmol) and dry THF (5 mL) under nitrogen. The solution was cooled to 0 °C, NaH (0.056 g, 1.394 mmol) added portion-wise and the mixture stirred until gas evolution ceased. The resulting suspension of the sodium salt of 6-(trifluoromethyl)indoline-2,3-dione (**10**) (1.162 mmol) was cooled to -30 °C, and the above Grignard reagent added *via* a syringe. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 30 minutes. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC or LCMS. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was quenched with a saturated solution of NH₄Cl (20 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The organic extract was washed with brine (40 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography using a mixture of petroleum ether and EtOAc as eluent to furnish the compound **1**.

c. General Method – C.³



A solution of 1-bromo-2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)benzene (**11**) (2.5 eq.) in anhydrous THF (10 vol.) was cooled to $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ under argon. After 15 minutes, a solution of *n*-BuLi (1.6 M in hexane, 2.5 eq.) was added dropwise over 15 minutes. The resulting pale yellow solution was stirred for 30 minutes before being added via cannula to cooled solution of isatin (**10**) (1 eq.) in anhydrous THF maintained at $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed to ambient temperature. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC for the consumption of isatin starting material. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and quenched with a saturated solution of NH_4Cl (20 mL), followed by extraction with ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (3 x 50 mL) and brine (40 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography using a mixture of petroleum ether and EtOAc as eluent to afford pure **1**.

d. General Method – D.⁴

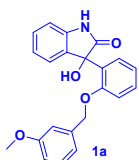


Step 1. Addition of magnesium phenolates to isatins. A solution of EtMgBr (1.1 eq., 1 M in THF) was added dropwise to a solution of phenol (1.2 eq., both unsubstituted and substituted analogues) in anhydrous THF (10 vol) maintained at $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The white suspension was stirred for 15 mins and the reaction mixture concentrated to dryness. The white bromo magnesium phenolate residue obtained was dissolved in DCM (10 vol), and the isatin (**10**, 1 eq.) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature and the progress monitored by TLC (if there was no any reaction at RT, the reaction mixture was heated at reflux until the isatin was consumed). The reaction mixture was quenched by the addition of 1N HCl (20 mL), the organic layer was separated and washed with water (2 x 30 mL), brine (30 mL) and dried over sodium sulfate. The crude product was purified either by flash chromatography using a mixture of petroleum ether and EtOAc as eluent or by recrystallization to afford the intermediate **10A**.

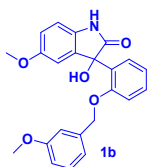
Step-2. Benzylation of phenolic OH. To a solution of the intermediate **10A** in anhydrous DMF at $25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ was added anhydrous K_2CO_3 (2 eq.) and 1-(bromomethyl)-3-methoxybenzene (1.2 eq.). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for

12 h, before quenching with ice-cold water (15 mL), followed by extraction with ethyl acetate (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (2 x 20 mL) and brine (20 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The crude residue obtained was purified either by flash chromatography using a mixture of petroleum ether and EtOAc as eluent or by recrystallization to afford pure **1**.

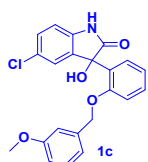
2.e. Spectral data of the synthesized starting materials **1a** – **1aa**.



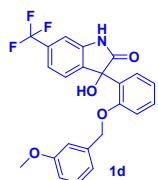
Compound 1a. 3-hydroxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method B. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 400 MHz) δ 10.17 (s, 1H), 7.88 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.07–7.26 (m, 4H), 6.92–7.07 (m, 1H), 6.71–6.89 (m, 6H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 6.42–6.47 (m, 2H), 4.72–4.86 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for (M–H)⁺ C₂₂H₁₉NO₄ 360.40; found 360.12.



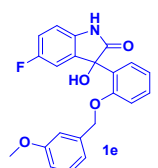
Compound 1b. 3-hydroxy-5-methoxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method B. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 400 MHz) δ 10.02 (s, 1H), 7.86 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.08–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.02 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.59–6.88 (m, 6H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 6.37 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.77–4.87 (m, 2H), 3.68–3.79 (m, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 400 MHz) δ 7.08–7.28 (m, 2H), 6.66–6.89 (m, 5H), 4.77–4.87 (m, 2H), 3.65–3.75 (m, 3H), 3.60–3.73 (m, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for (M–H)⁺ C₂₃H₂₁NO₅ 390.42; found 390.12.



Compound 1c. 5-chloro-3-hydroxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method B. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 300 MHz) δ 10.35 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.99–7.29 (m, 4H), 6.64–6.89 (m, 5H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.75–4.90 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for (M–H)⁺ C₂₂H₁₈ClNO₄ 394.84, found 394.05.

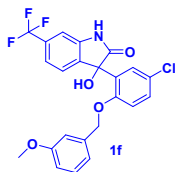


Compound 1d. 3-hydroxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method B. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 300 MHz) δ 10.47 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.17–7.29 (m, 2H), 6.78–7.12 (m, 6H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 6.35 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.69–4.88 (m, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 377 MHz) δ -61.73 (s, 3F); LCMS (ESI) calcd for (M–H)⁺ C₂₃H₁₈F₃NO₄ 428.40, found 428.11.

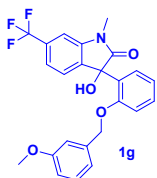


Compound 1e. 5-fluoro-3-hydroxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method B. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 400 MHz) δ 10.23 (s, 1H), 7.86 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.95–7.07 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H),

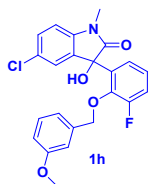
6.80 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.58–6.69 (m, 4H), 6.49 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.76–4.88 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H); ^{19}F NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 377 MHz) δ 120.8 (s, 1F); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{NH}_4)^+$, $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_4$ 397.39; found 397.20.



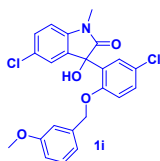
Compound 1f. 3-(5-chloro-2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-3-hydroxy-6-(trifluoromethyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method B. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.94 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (br s, 1H), 7.30–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.15–7.27 (m, 3H), 6.90 (dd, $J = 8.0, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 6.57–6.65 (m, 2H), 4.80 (d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.71 (d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.40 (br s, 1H); ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 377 MHz) δ -62.73 (s, 3F); HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClF}_3\text{NO}_4$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 464.84; found 464.80.



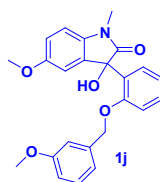
Compound 1g. 3-hydroxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-1-methyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.90 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.18–7.34 (m, 4H), 6.95–7.15 (m, 2H), 6.82–6.90 (m, 2H), 6.69–6.79 (m, 1H), 6.49–6.63 (m, 2H), 4.61–4.74 (m, 2H), 3.68–3.83 (m, 3H), 3.36 (s, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H); ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ -62.55 (s, 3F); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_4$ 444.42; found 444.20.



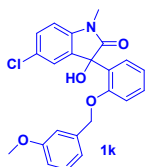
Compound 1h. 5-chloro-3-(3-fluoro-2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-3-hydroxy-1-methylindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method D. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.59–7.68 (m, 1H), 7.08–7.28 (m, 5H), 7.02 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.63–6.72 (m, 2H), 6.46 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.92 (d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.56 (br s, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H); ^{19}F NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 377 MHz): δ -129.95 (s, 1F); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClFNO}_4$ 428.86; found 428.20



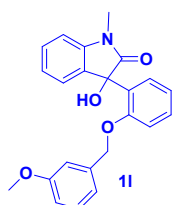
Compound 1i. 5-chloro-3-(5-chloro-2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-3-hydroxy-1-methylindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method D. ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 7.83 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.85–6.93 (m, 3H), 6.73 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 6.46 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.66 (s, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + 2\text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_4$ 446.31; found 446.20.



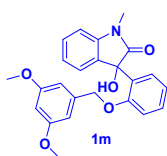
Compound 1j. 3-hydroxy-5-methoxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-1-methylindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.87 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.17–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.07 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.76–6.90 (m, 3H), 6.58–6.71 (m, 3H), 6.48 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.66–4.80 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.24 (s, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_5$ 406.45; found 406.25.



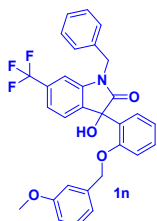
Compound 1k. 5-chloro-3-hydroxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-1-methylindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.88 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.18–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.09 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.79–6.93 (m, 2H), 6.63 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 6.45 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.66–4.77 (m, 2H), 3.72–3.84 (m, 3H), 3.22 (s, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{ClNO}_4$ 410.87; found 410.20.



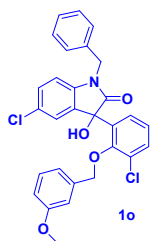
Compound 1l. 3-hydroxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-1-methylindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method A. ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 7.89 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.81–7.97 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.13–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.00–7.09 (m, 1H), 7.05 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.80–6.93 (m, 3H), 6.78–6.93 (m, 1H), 6.66–6.72 (m, 1H), 6.70 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.50–6.55 (m, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 6.45 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.42–6.49 (m, 1H), 4.61–4.74 (m, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.64 (s, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4$ 376.15; found 376.20.



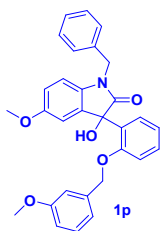
Compound 1m. 3-(2-((3,5-dimethoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-3-hydroxy-1-methylindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C. ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 7.89 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 2H), 7.05 (dt, $J = 1.0, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.92–6.82 (m, 3H), 6.71 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 6.42 (t, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.16 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.70–4.60 (m, 2H), 3.71 (s, 6H), 2.73 (s, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_5$ 406.45; found 406.45.



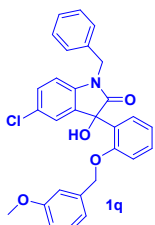
Compound 1n. 1-benzyl-3-hydroxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.89 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.06–7.32 (m, 9H), 6.91 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.52 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.63–4.71 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.61 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H); ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ -62.6 (s, 3F); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_4$ 520.52; found 520.20.



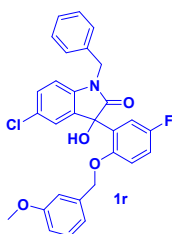
Compound 1o. 1-benzyl-5-chloro-3-(3-chloro-2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-3-hydroxyindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method D. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.77 (br d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.06–7.30 (m, 8H), 6.90 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.75–6.85 (m, 2H), 6.36 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.05 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.94 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.26 (br d, $J = 11.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.55 (br d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{23}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_4$ 521.41; found 521.2.



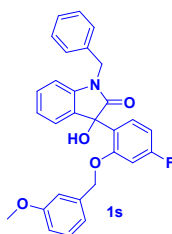
Compound 1p. 1-benzyl-3-hydroxy-5-methoxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.85 (br d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.14–7.30 (m, 7H), 7.06 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.80–6.92 (m, 2H), 6.58–6.71 (m, 4H), 6.39 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.70–4.85 (m, 3H), 3.74–3.85 (m, 4H), 3.59–3.74 (m, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_5$ 482.55; found 482.20.



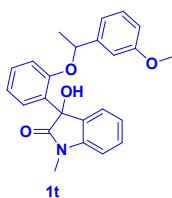
Compound 1q. 1-benzyl-5-chloro-3-hydroxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.90–7.95 (m, 1H), 7.12–7.37 (m, 11H), 7.07 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.87–6.98 (m, 2H), 6.63–6.71 (m, 2H), 6.40 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.88 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.32 (br s, 1H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{24}\text{ClNO}_4$ 486.96; found 486.20.



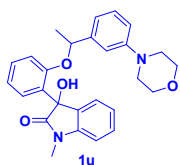
Compound 1r. 1-benzyl-5-chloro-3-(5-fluoro-2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-3-hydroxyindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method D. ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 6.66 (dd, $J = 9.8, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.20–7.33 (m, 7H), 7.12 (td, $J = 8.5, 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.87–6.95 (m, 3H), 6.64 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 6.43 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.68–4.84 (m, 2H), 4.58–4.66 (m, 1H), 3.97 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.69–3.77 (m, 3H); ^{19}F NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 377 MHz) δ -123.3 (s, 1F); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClFNO}_4$ 504.95; found 504.20.



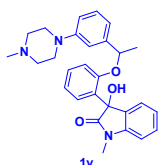
Compound 1s. 1-benzyl-3-(4-fluoro-2-((3-methoxybenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-3-hydroxyindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method A. ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 7.66 (dd, $J = 9.8, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.20–7.33 (m, 7H), 7.12 (td, $J = 8.5, 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.87–6.95 (m, 3H), 6.64 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 6.43 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.68–4.84 (m, 2H), 4.58–4.66 (m, 1H), 3.97 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.69–3.77 (m, 3H); ^{19}F NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 376 MHz) δ 123.5 (s, 1F); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{24}\text{FNO}_4$ 470.51; found 470.20.



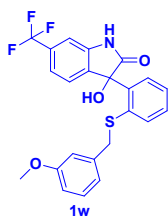
Compound 1t. Diastereomeric mixture (50 :50). 3-hydroxy-3-(2-(1-(3-methoxyphenyl)ethoxy)phenyl)-1-methylindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C. ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 7.87 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.90–7.10 (m, 5H), 6.75–6.87 (m, 4H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 6.48 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.06 (q, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 0.89 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M} + \text{H})^+$ $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4$ 390.45; found 390.20.



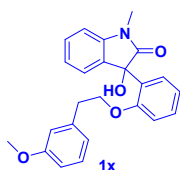
Compound 1u. 3-hydroxy-1-methyl-3-(2-(1-(3-morpholinophenyl)ethoxy)phenyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C as a diastereomeric mixture in a ratio of 50:50. ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 7.86 (ddd, $J = 1.5, 4.3, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.03 (m, 2H), 7.00–6.83 (m, 4H), 6.81–6.74 (m, 1H), 6.72–6.60 (m, 1H), 6.54 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.52–6.46 (m, 1H), 6.25 (s, 1H), 5.90 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.13 (q, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.70 (td, $J = 4.8, 16.1$ Hz, 4H), 3.38–3.24 (m, 1H), 3.18 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 3H), 3.15–3.07 (m, 2H), 2.93–2.77 (m, 2H), 1.18 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 0.89 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 1H); HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 445.2127; found 445.2109.



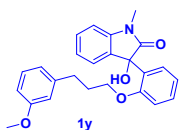
Compound 1v. 3-hydroxy-1-methyl-3-(2-(1-(3-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)phenyl)ethoxy)phenyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C as a diastereomeric mixture in a ratio of 60:40. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.88–7.82 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.11–7.02 (m, 2H), 7.00–6.73 (m, 4H), 6.67–6.57 (m, 1H), 6.56–6.45 (m, 1H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 5.86 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.12 (q, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.22–3.07 (m, 4H), 2.95–2.77 (m, 3H), 2.73–2.52 (m, 1H), 2.46–2.26 (m, 4H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.90 (s, 1H), 1.61–1.37 (m, 1H), 1.34–1.07 (m, 3H), 0.93–0.83 (m, 1H), 0.83–0.66 (m, 1H); HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 458.2444; found 458.2435.



Compound 1w. 3-hydroxy-3-(2-((3-methoxybenzyl)thio)phenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method B. ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400MHz) δ (7.62 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 2H), 7.13–7.32 (m, 3H), 6.99–7.09 (m, 2H), 6.70–6.98 (m, 6H), 6.55 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.46–6.52 (m, 1H), 6.34–6.44 (m, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 6.14 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.07 (s, 1H), 3.27–3.35 (s, 3H); ^{19}F NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 376MHz) δ -61.08 (s, 3F); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M}-1)^+$ $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3\text{S}$ 444.46; found 444.42.

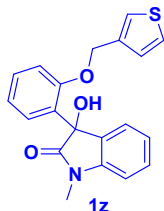


Compound 1x. 3-hydroxy-3-(2-(3-methoxyphenethoxy)phenyl)-1-methylindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.83 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.21–7.39 (m, 4H), 7.03–7.17 (m, 3H), 6.78–6.88 (m, 3H), 6.65–6.77 (m, 2H), 4.11 (td, $J = 9.0, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.88–3.99 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.38–3.52 (m, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 2.79–2.89 (m, 1H), 2.71 (ddd, $J = 14.0, 8.5, 6.0$ Hz, 1H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M}-18)^+$ $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4$ 372.45; found 372.20.

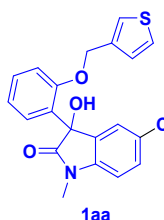


Compound 1y. 3-hydroxy-3-(2-(3-(3-methoxyphenyl)propoxy)phenyl)-1-methylindolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C. ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 7.91 (dd, $J = 1.8, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (td, $J = 7.7, 11.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (td, $J = 7.9, 11.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.95–6.90 (m, 1H), 6.88–6.85 (m, 1H),

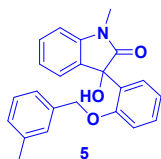
6.78–6.71 (m, 2H), 6.58–6.52 (m, 3H), 3.67–3.63 (m, 1H), 3.68 (s, 4H), 3.47 (td, $J = 6.5, 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.35 (s, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.35–2.30 (m, 1H), 2.25–2.19 (m, 1H), 1.63–1.55 (m, 2H); HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd. for $C_{25}H_{25}NO_4$ $[M+H]^+$ 404.1862; found 404.1837.



Compound 1z. 3-hydroxy-1-methyl-3-(2-(thiophen-3-ylmethoxy)phenyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method D. 1H NMR (CD_3OD , 400 MHz) δ 7.97–8.02 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.38 (m, 5H), 6.88–7.16 (m, 10H), 6.76 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.61–6.71 (m, 2H), 4.75–4.85 (m, 1H), 4.58–4.73 (m, 1H), 2.67–2.74 (m, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(M + H)^+$ $C_{23}H_{21}NO_4$ 352.42; found 352.40.



Compound 1aa. 5-chloro-3-hydroxy-1-methyl-3-(2-(thiophen-3-ylmethoxy)phenyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method D. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 7.89 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.21–7.36 (m, 4H), 6.99–7.14 (m, 3H), 6.88 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (dd, $J = 5.0, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.78–4.86 (m, 1H), 4.70–4.76 (m, 1H), 3.15 (s, 1H), 2.62–2.70 (m, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(M + 2H)^+$ $C_{23}H_{21}NO_4$ 391.45, found 391.20.



Compound 5. 3-hydroxy-1-methyl-3-(2-((3-methylbenzyl)oxy)phenyl)indolin-2-one was prepared according to the Method C. 1H NMR ($DMSO-d_6$, 400 MHz) δ 7.89 (dd, $J = 1.7, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.20–6.97 (m, 4H), 6.95–6.88 (m, 2H), 6.83 (dd, $J = 1.3, 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.74–6.67 (m, 2H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 5.88 (s, 1H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 4.71–4.60 (m, 2H), 3.31–3.14 (m, 2H), 3.10 (s, 1H), 2.68 (s, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.56–2.52 (m, 1H), 2.45–2.31 (m, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H); LCMS (ESI) calcd for $(M + H)^+$ $C_{23}H_{21}NO_3$ 360.43; found 360.50.

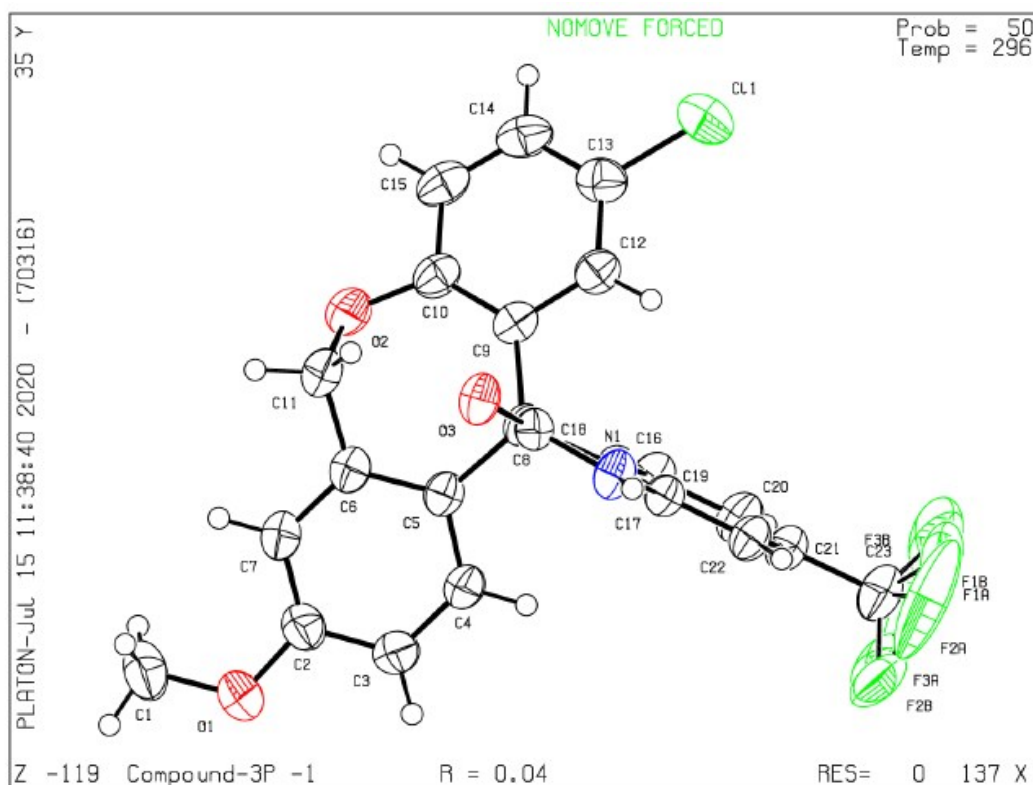
3. Crystal structure data and refinement details for compound-3f

CCDC deposition number	CCDC-2016549
Empirical formula	$C_{23}H_{15}ClF_3NO_3$
Formula weight	445.81
Temperature/K	296.15
Crystal system	triclinic

Space group	P-1
a/Å	7.8400(4)
b/Å	11.8374(6)
c/Å	11.9176(6)
α /°	111.955(2)
β /°	97.653(2)
γ /°	98.734(2)
Volume/Å ³	991.91(9)
Z	2
ρ_{calc} /g/cm ³	1.493
μ /mm ⁻¹	2.197
F(000)	456.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.25 × 0.15 × 0.1
Radiation	CuK α (λ = 1.54178)
2 θ range for data collection/°	8.18 to 130.38
Index ranges	-9 ≤ h ≤ 9, -13 ≤ k ≤ 13, -14 ≤ l ≤ 14
Reflections collected	28674
Independent reflections	3296 [R _{int} = 0.0485, R _{sigma} = 0.0239]
Data/restraints/parameters	3296/0/308
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.096
Final R indexes [I >= 2 σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0437, wR ₂ = 0.1213
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0452, wR ₂ = 0.1233
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	0.30/-0.27

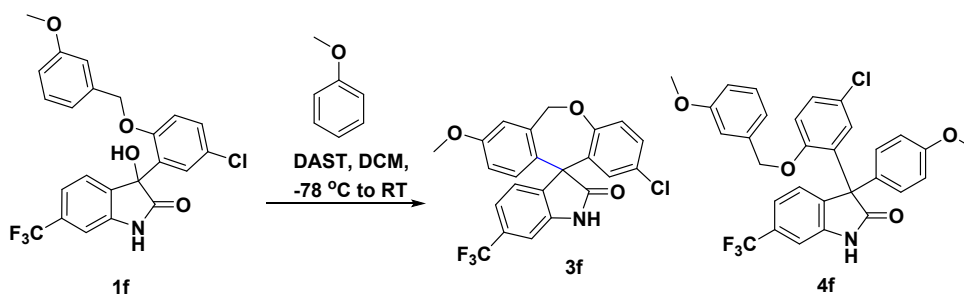
Experimental

Single crystals of Compound-3f {2-Chloro-8-methoxy-6'-(trifluoromethyl)-6H-spiro[dibenzo-[b,e]oxepine-11,3'-indolin]-2'-one} were obtained from methanol solution by solvent evaporation at room temperature. A suitable block shaped crystal was mounted on a nylon cryoloop using paratone oil. Data were collected on a Bruker SMART APEX-II diffractometer, equipped with Apex II area detector, at room temperature (~296 K). Initial structure solution was achieved with 'Intrinsic Phasing' method in Bruker APEX2 software suite. Using Olex2 [5], further structure refinements were performed with the ShelXL [6, 7] refinement package using Least Squares minimization.



ORTEP diagram of compound-3f with 50% probability ellipsoids (notice orientational disorder of the trifluoro methyl group; figure taken from checkCIF/PLATON report).

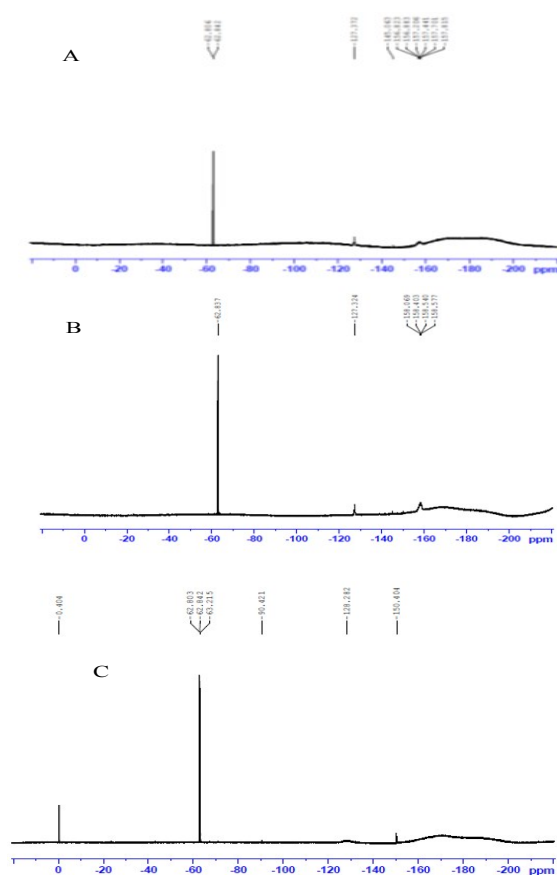
4. Cross over and control experiments



To support the derived mechanism, we have studied a cross over experiment by adding an equivalent of anisole to **1f** to see if the product **4f** is forming by intermolecular nucleophilic substitution. Interestingly, under the given reaction conditions, only the formation of **3f** was observed exclusively and not the product **4f**. This study clearly indicates that the intramolecular FC-Cyclization is preferred under this condition over intermolecular nucleophilic substitution, which supports our proposed plausible mechanism. In non-competitive environment, the nucleophilic substitution is also possible as explained in the potential application of the main manuscript.

In addition, we have performed the control experiment for the conversion **1f** to **3f** under standard reaction conditions by monitoring the reaction every 10 mins interval using $^1\text{H-NMR}$, $^{19}\text{F-NMR}$ and LCMS studies. Since the reaction temperature was $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, we were not able to see the mass for the

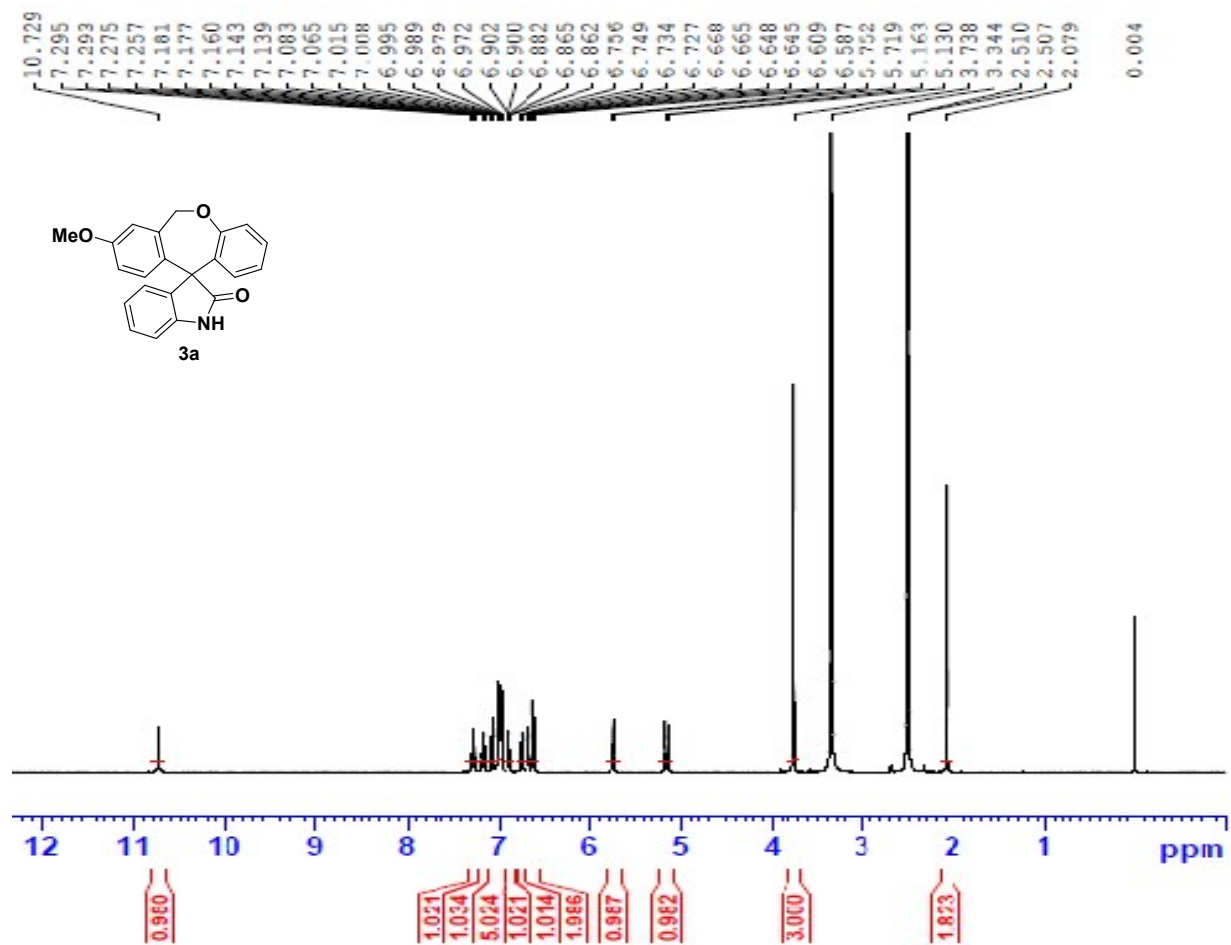
possible intermediates/additives by LCMS/¹H-NMR, which normally operates at higher temperature. However, ¹⁹F-NMR studies in DCM show some interesting observations, which supports our plausible mechanism. The Signal at -127 ppm could be attributed to F⁻ from HF, liberated from DAST on interaction with free hydroxyl in the substrate. It clearly indicates the generation of HF during the course of the reaction and since DCM is a non-coordinating solvent, the HF forms strong hydrogen-bond with the carbonyl oxygen of the intermediate C, which in turn makes the adjacent carbon center highly electrophilic in nature. So, before the fluoride ion could attack this position the intramolecular Friedel Craft reaction precedes to form compound **3f**. After completion of the reaction (30 minutes), the signal at -127 ppm disappeared and a new peak appeared at -0.4 ppm [9] due to the formation of CFCl₃ from the interaction of F⁻ with the traces of CD₂Cl₂ in the NMR solvent, which is reported in the literature [10].

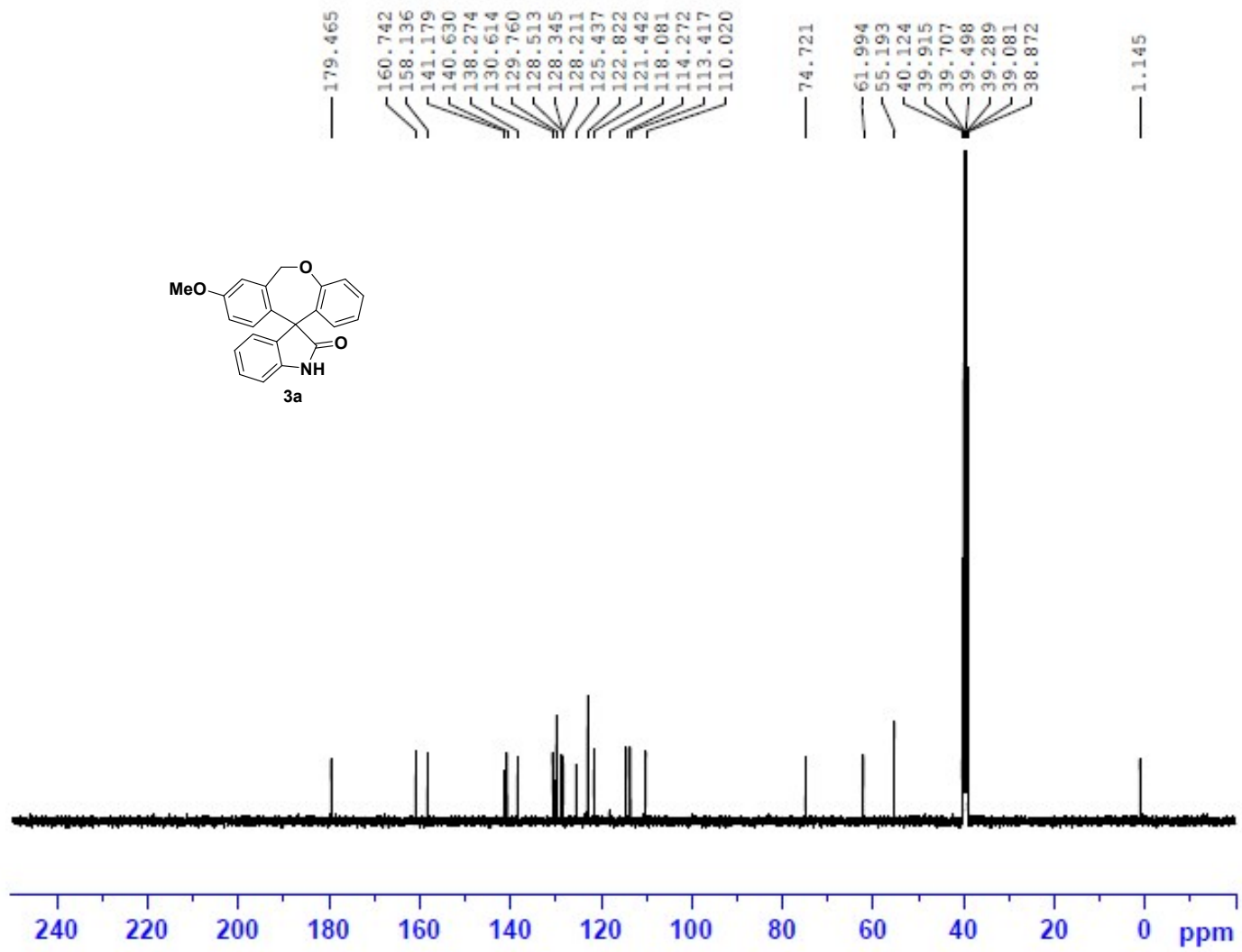


¹⁹F-NMR monitoring of the reaction (A) 10 mins (B) in 20 mins (C) in 30 mins

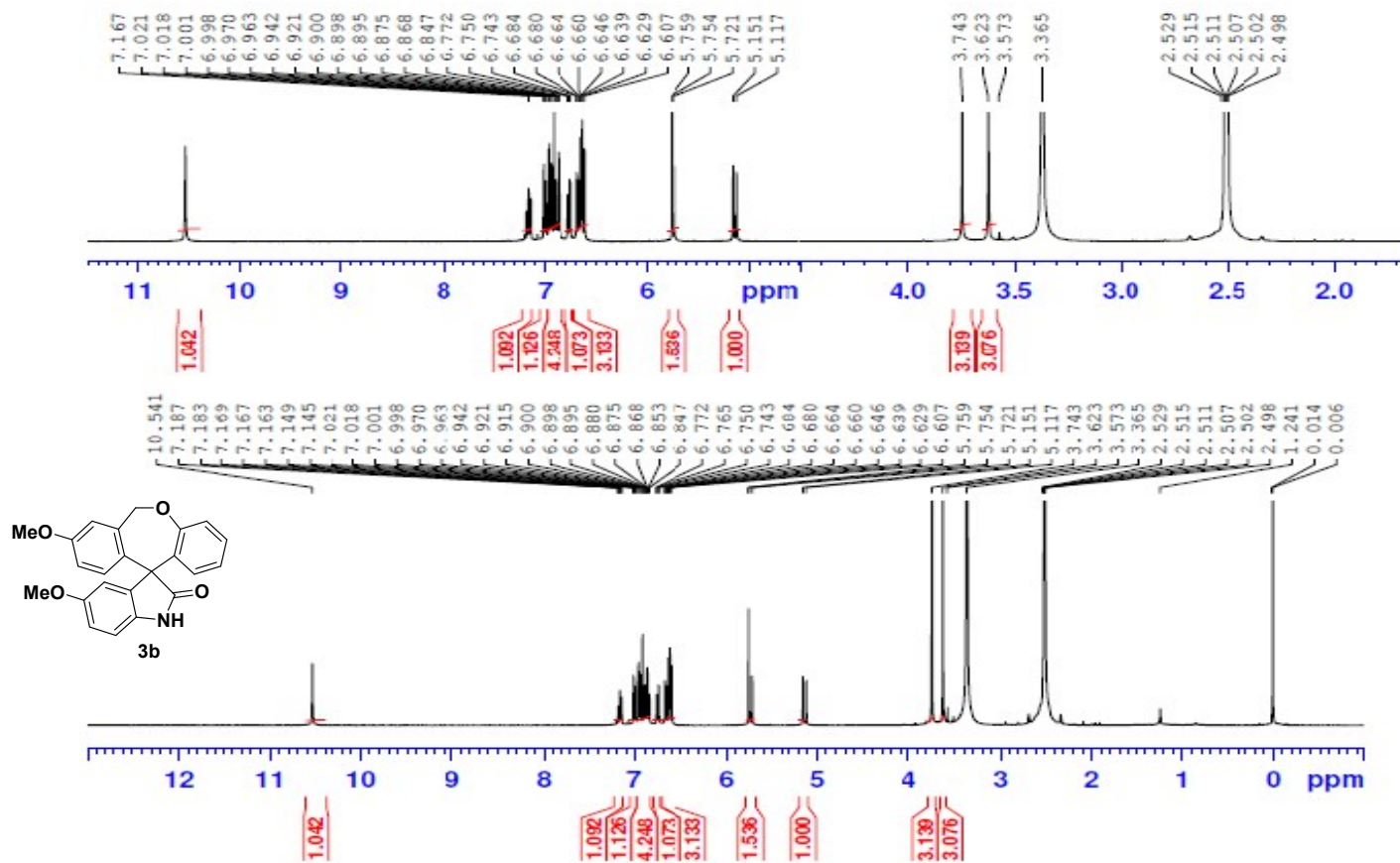
5. Spectral data for the final compounds (3a to 3aa).

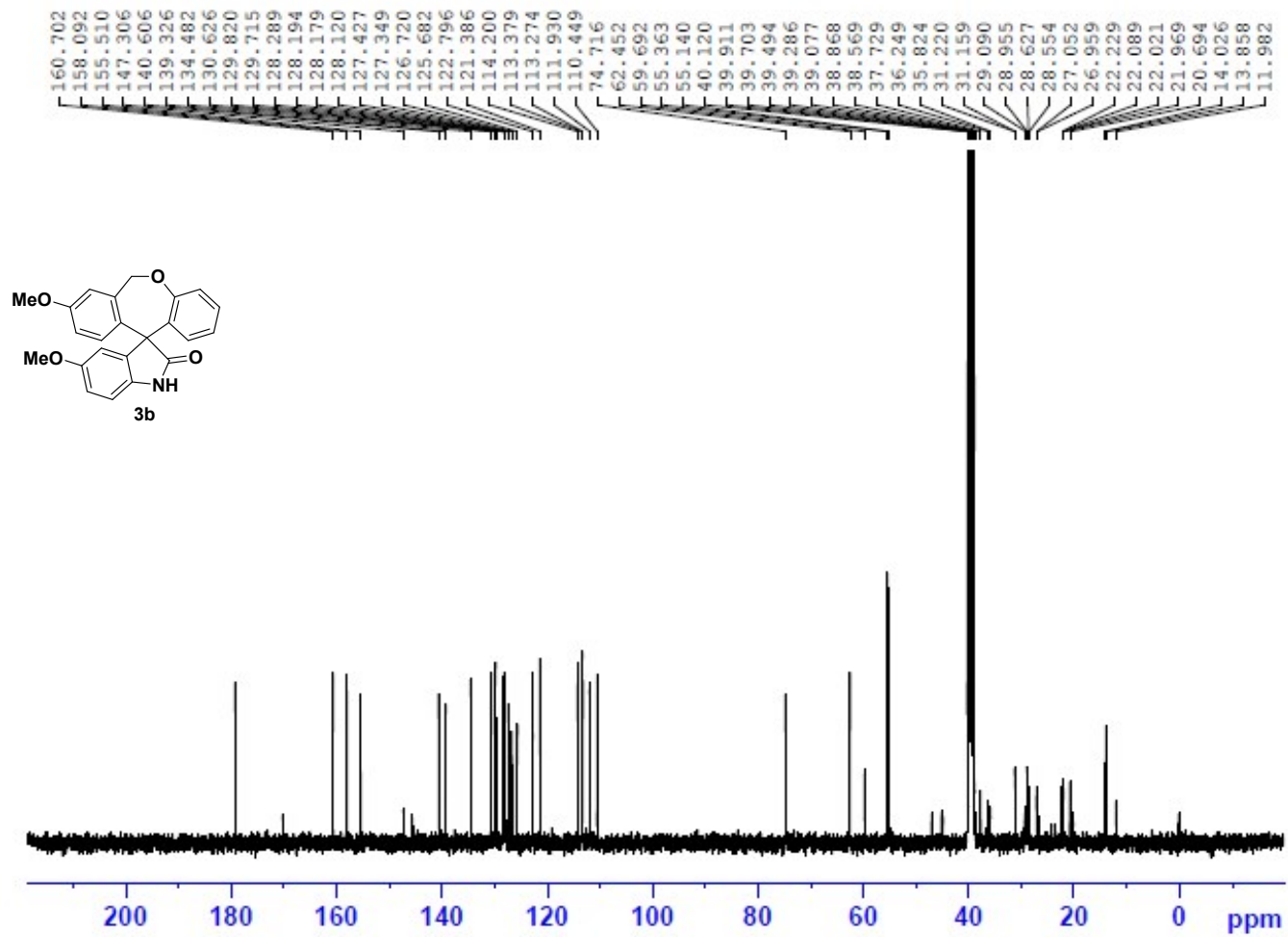
^1H and ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3a



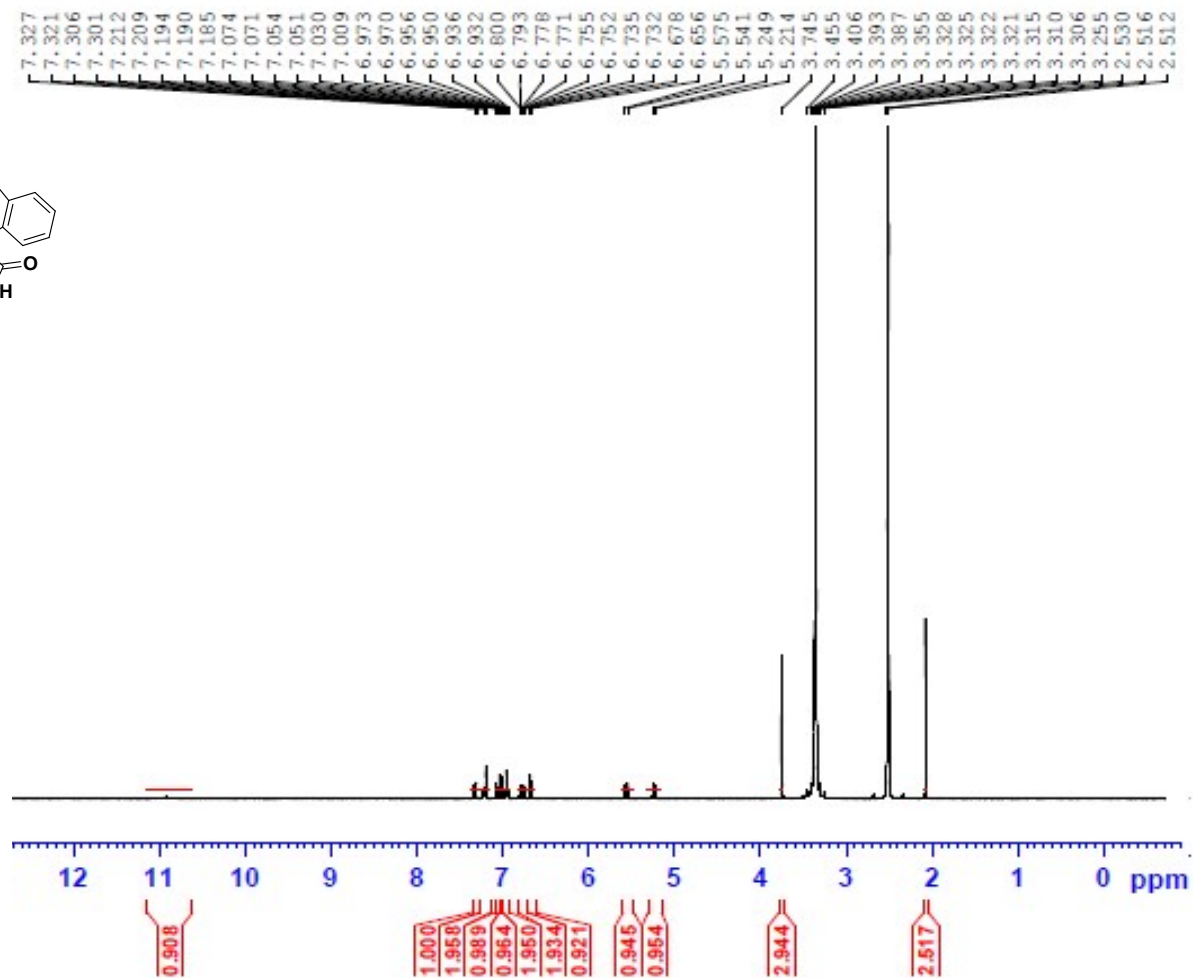
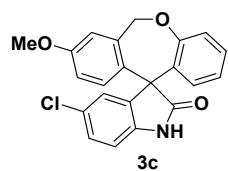


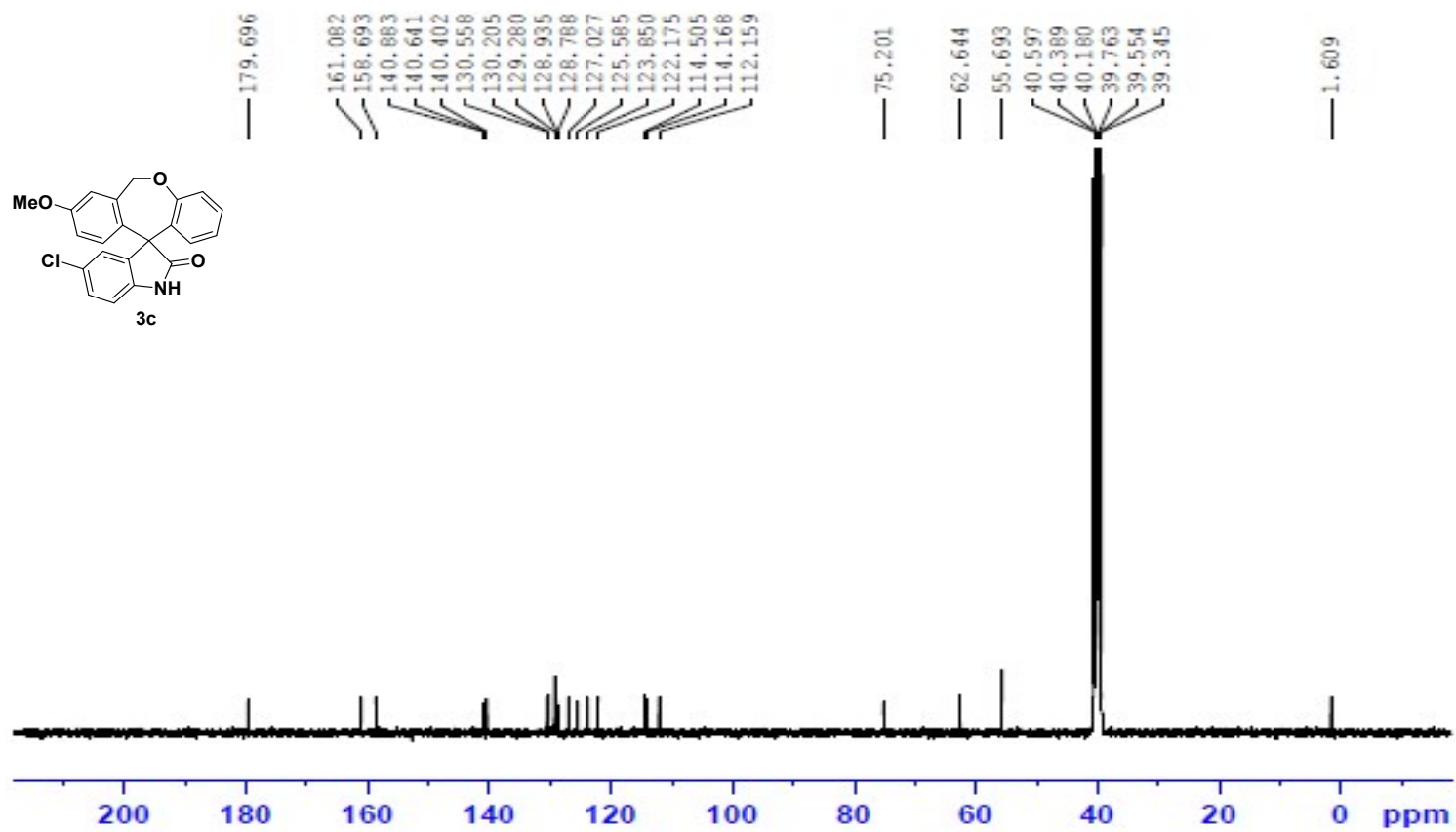
¹H and ¹³C – NMR Data for 3b



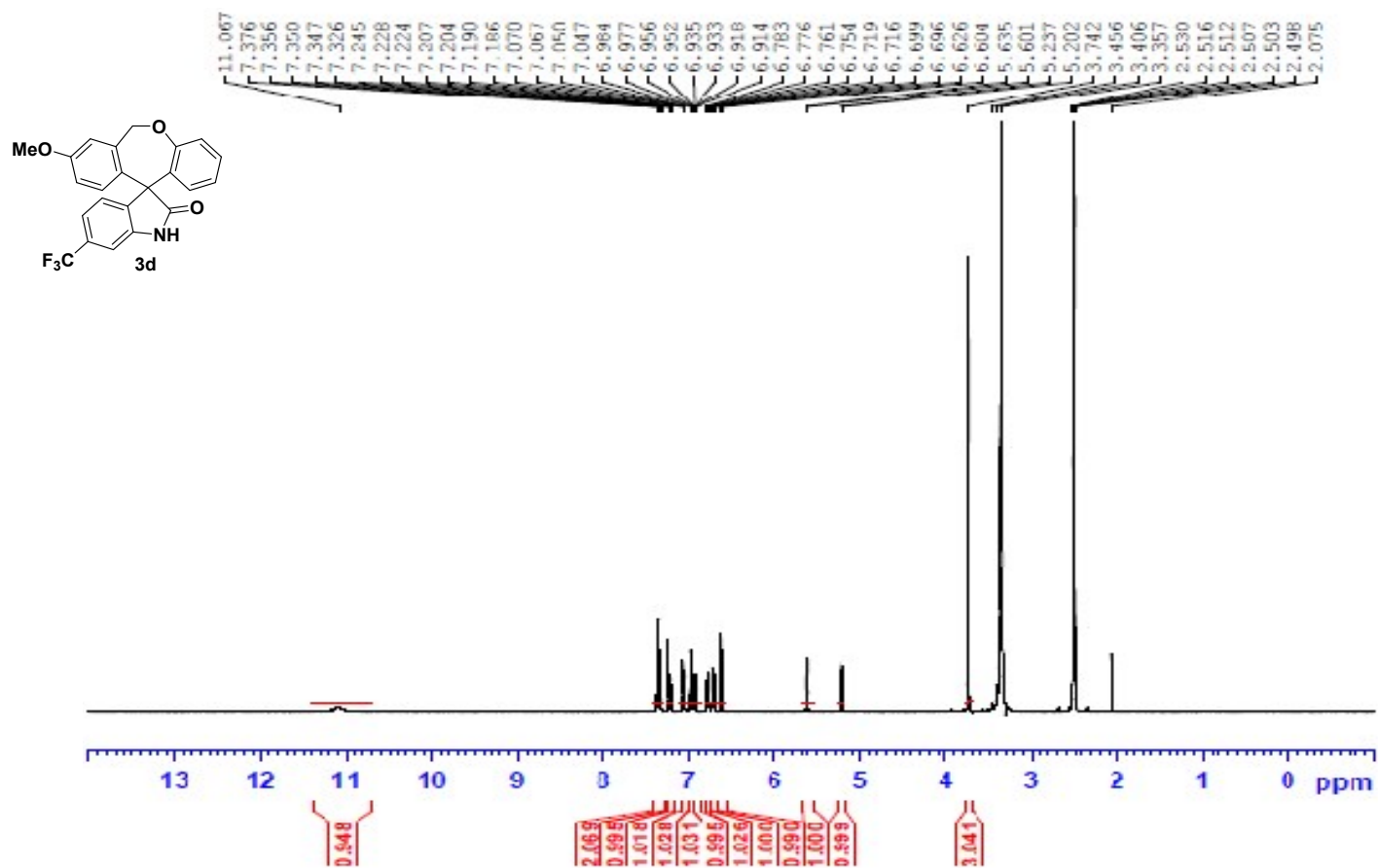


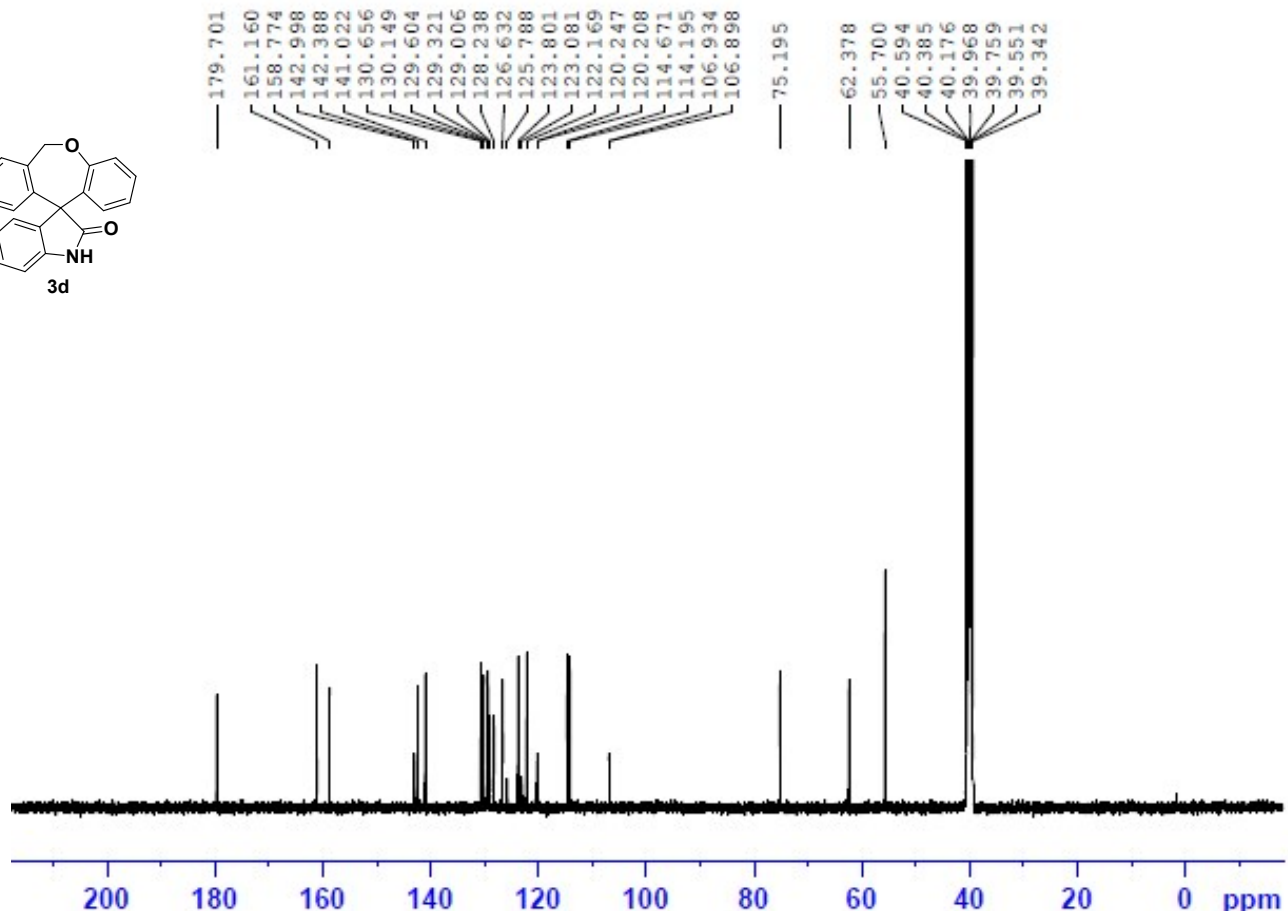
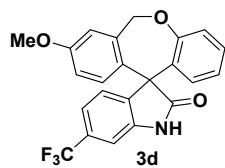
¹H and ¹³C – NMR Data for 3c

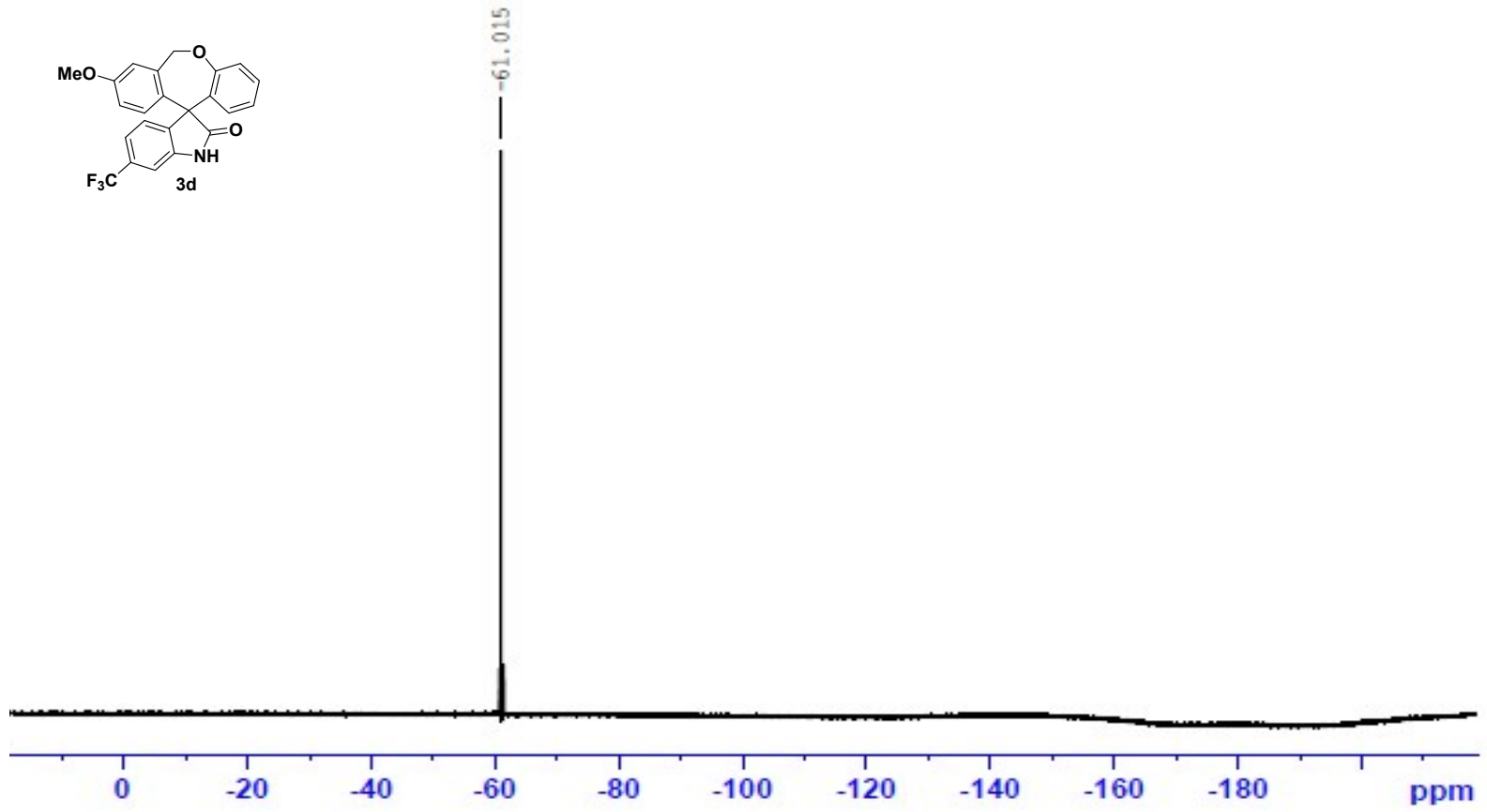




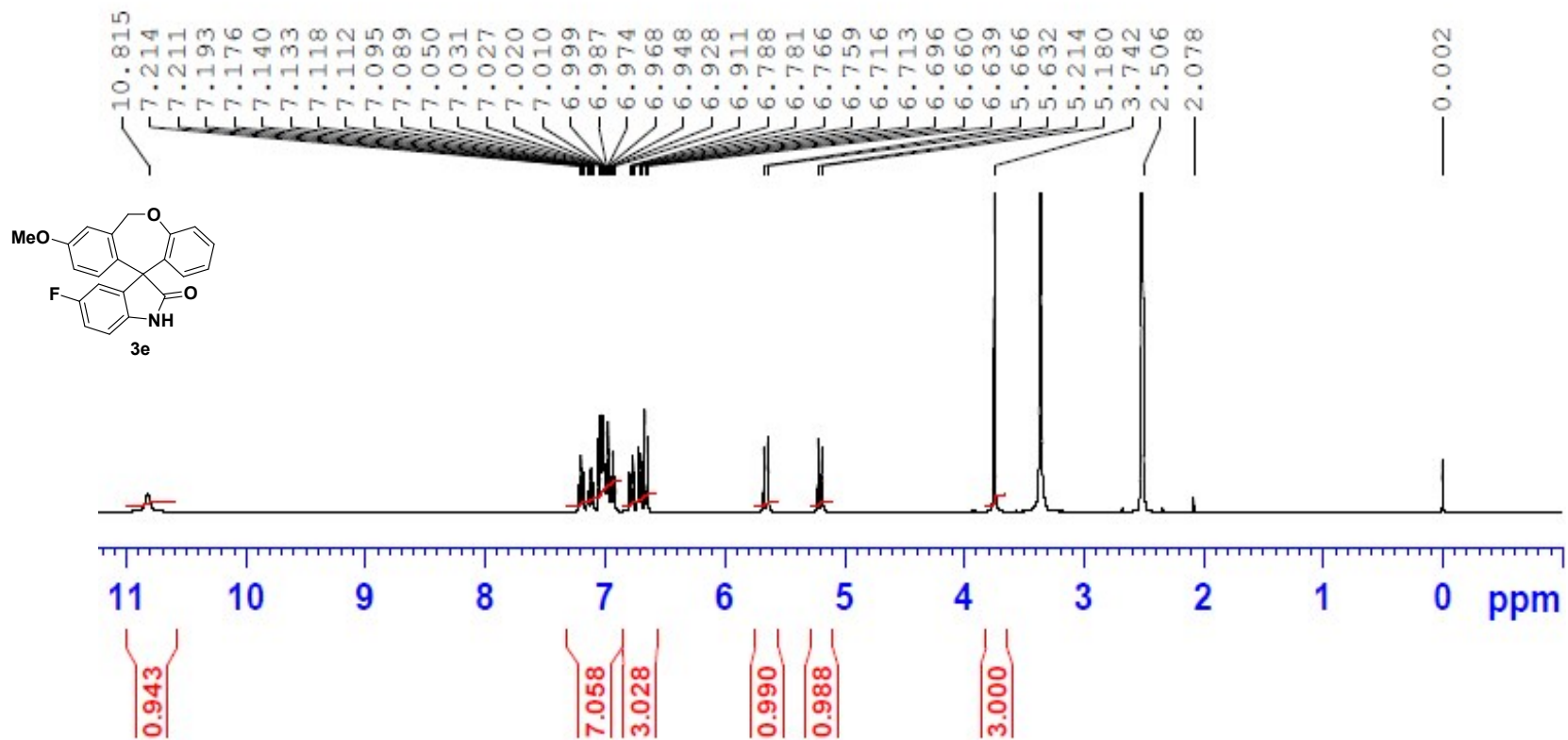
¹H, ¹³C & ¹⁹F- NMR Data for 3d

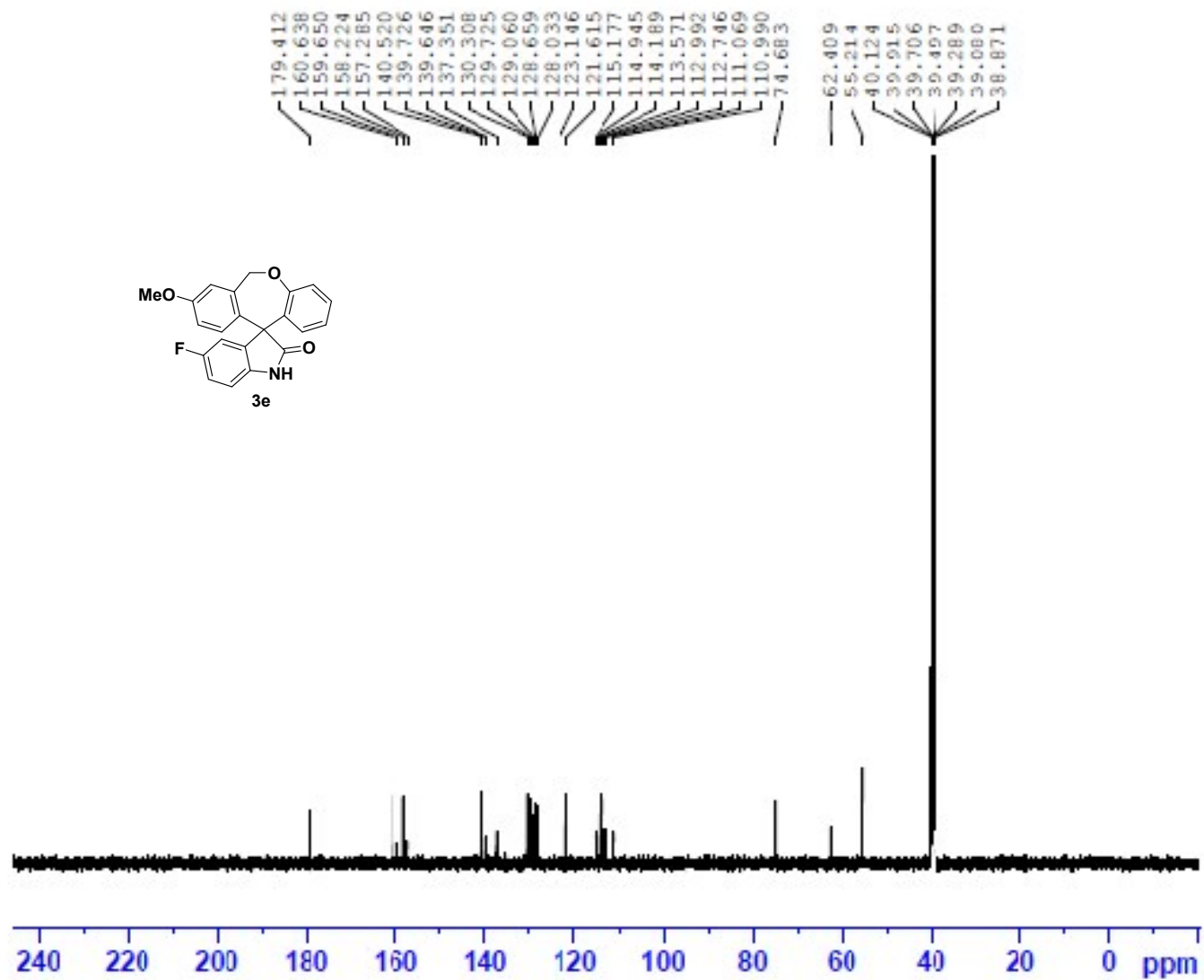


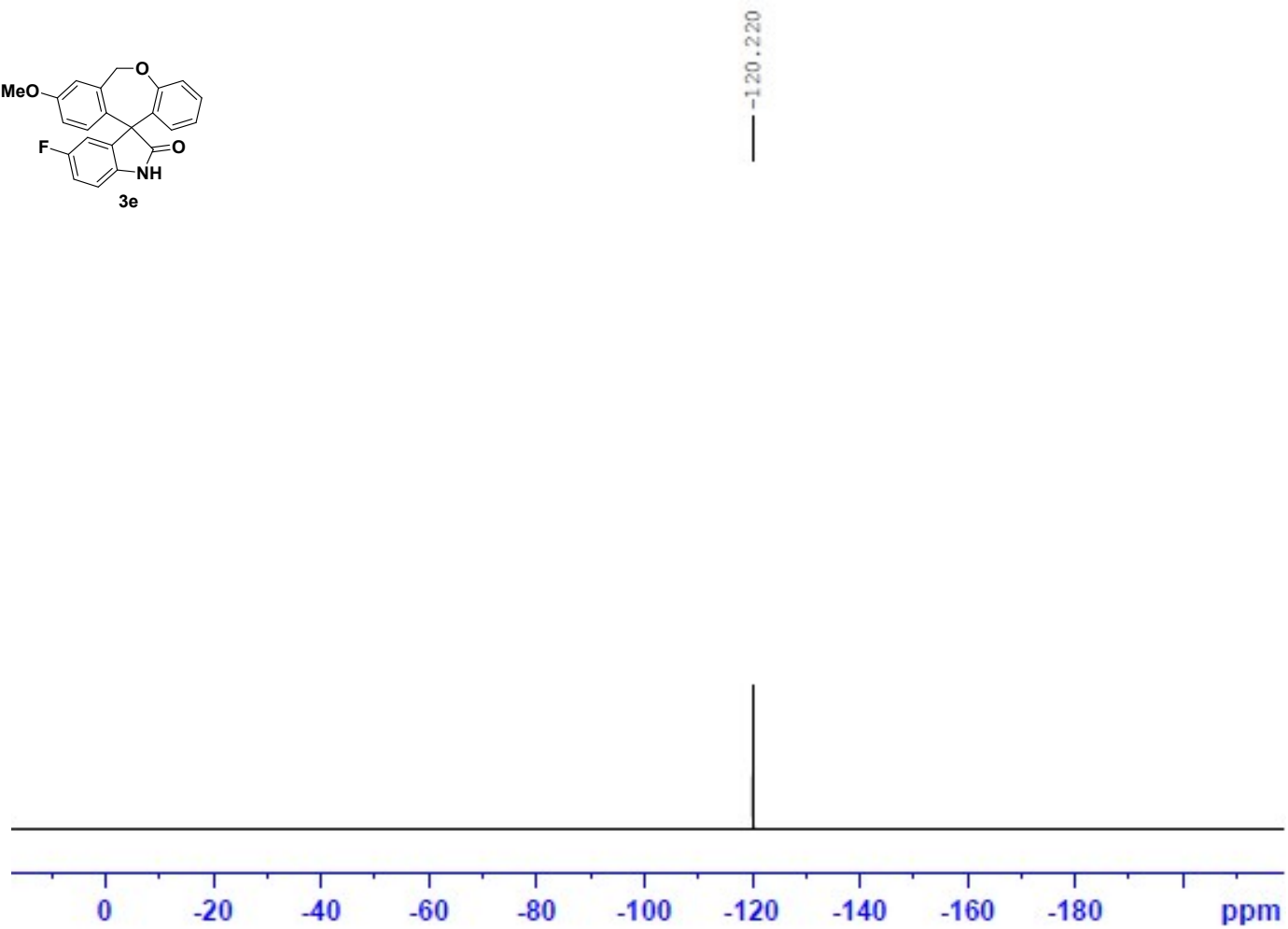
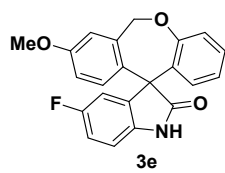




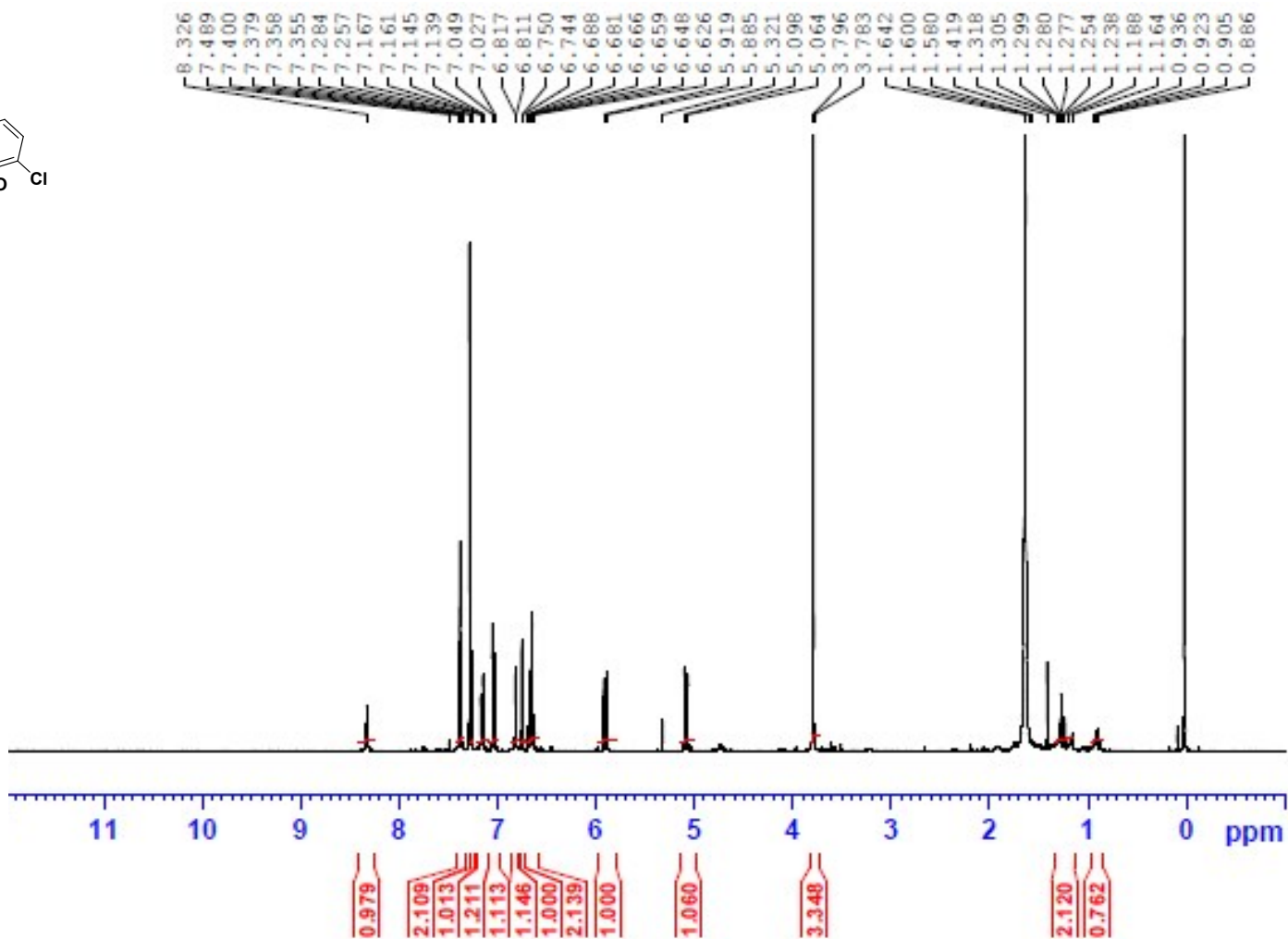
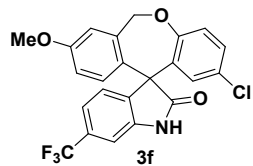
^1H , ^{13}C & ^{19}F - NMR Data for 3e.

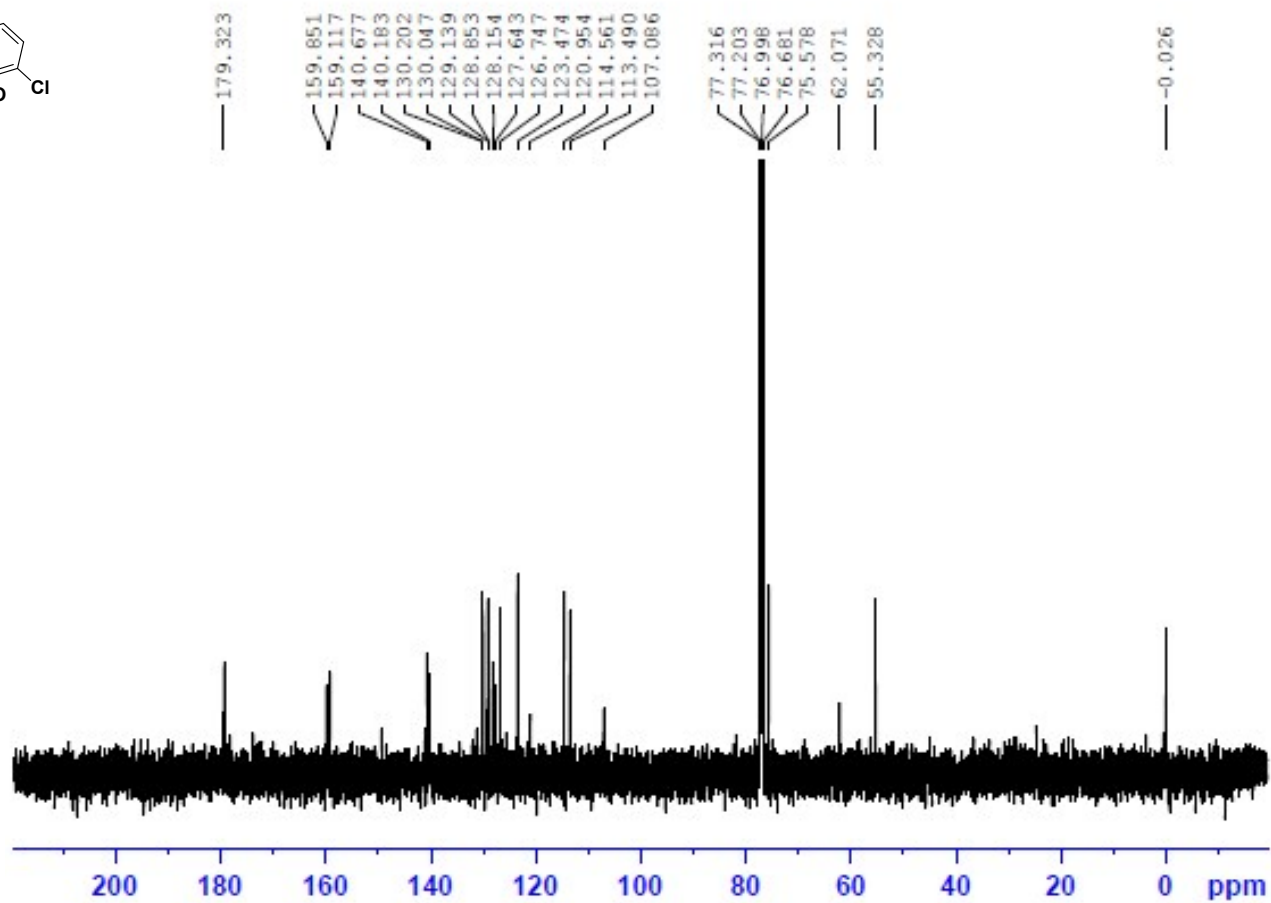
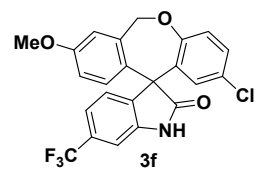


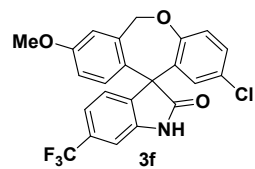




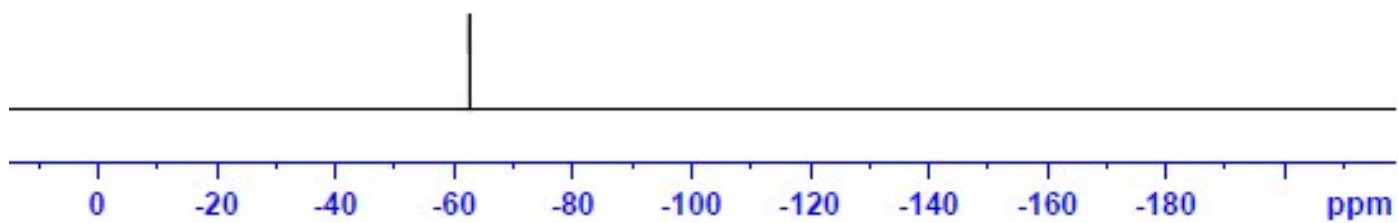
^1H , ^{13}C & ^{19}F - NMR Data for 3f



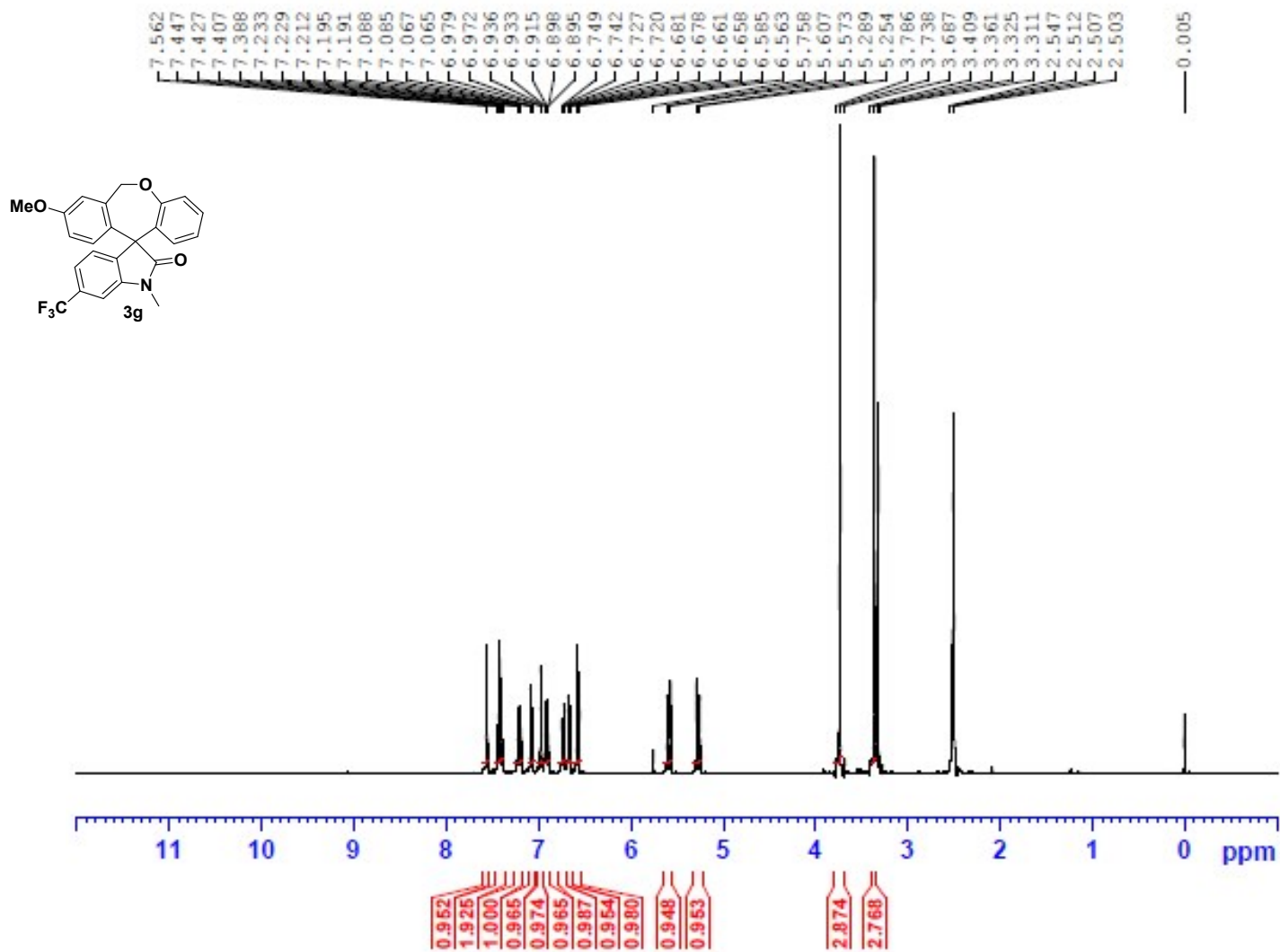


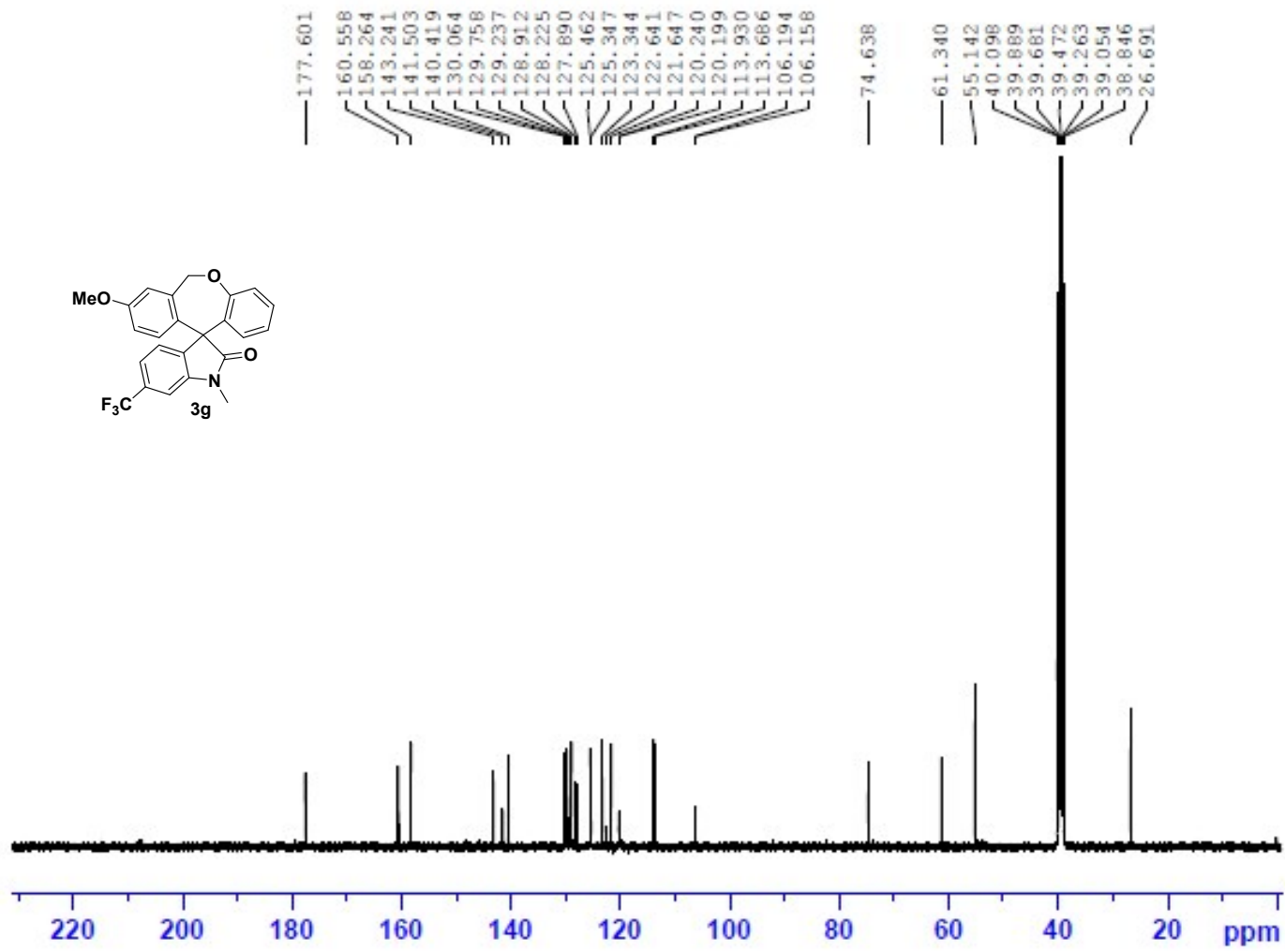


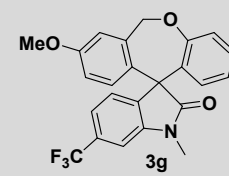
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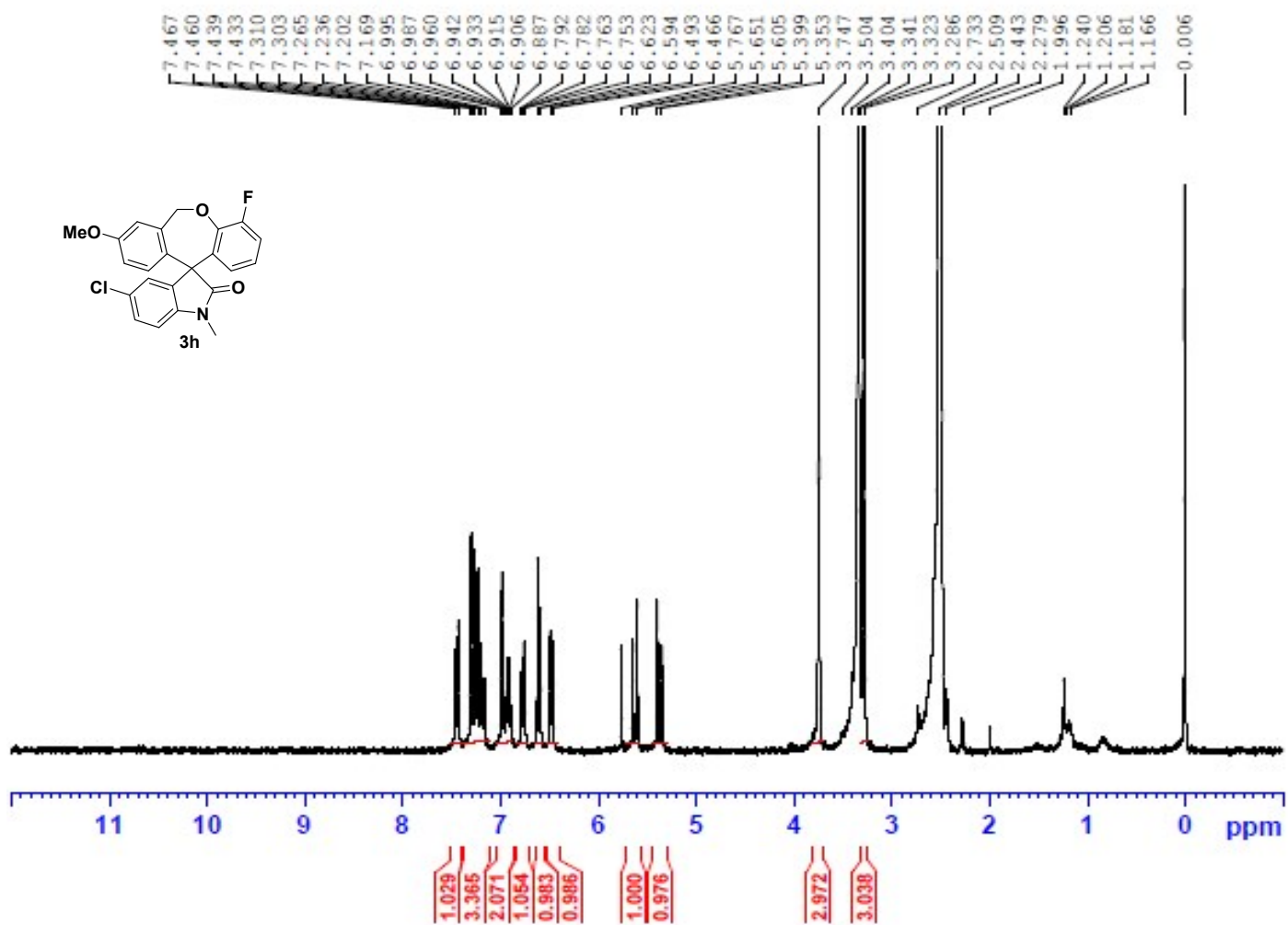
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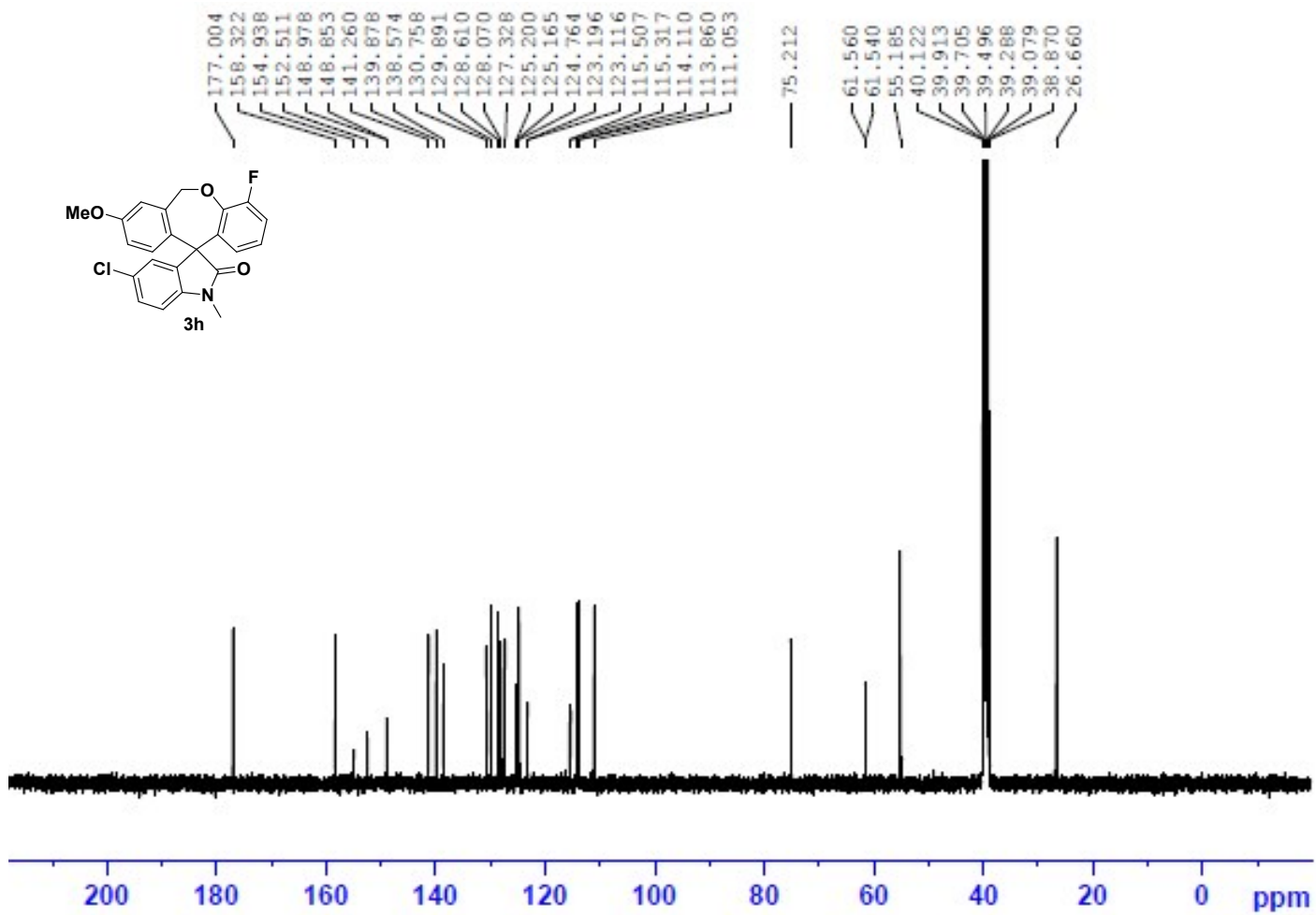


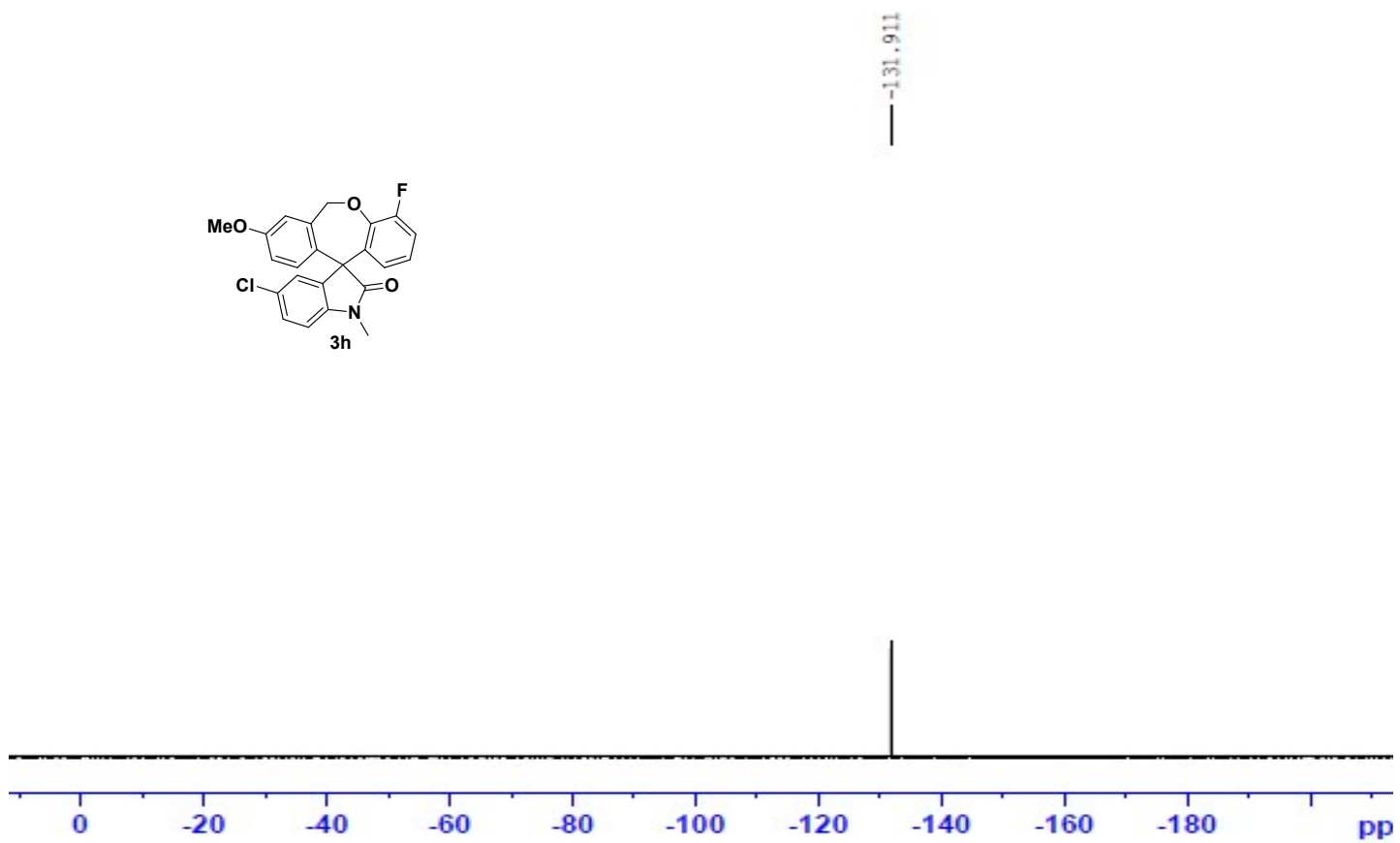
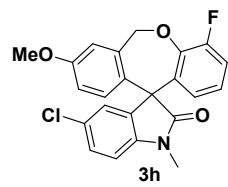




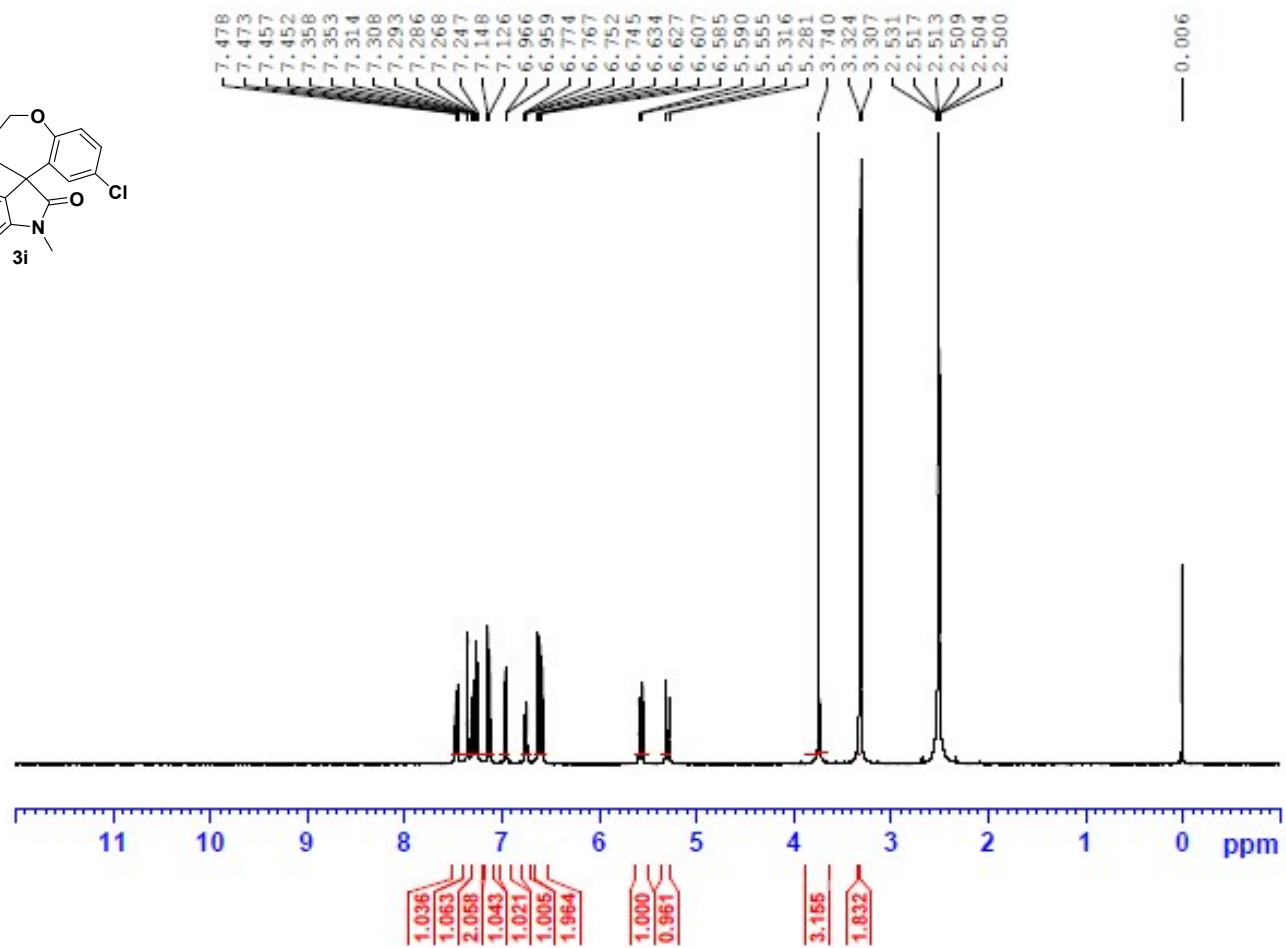
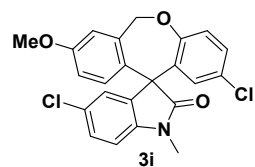
¹H, ¹³C & ¹⁹F- NMR Data for 3h

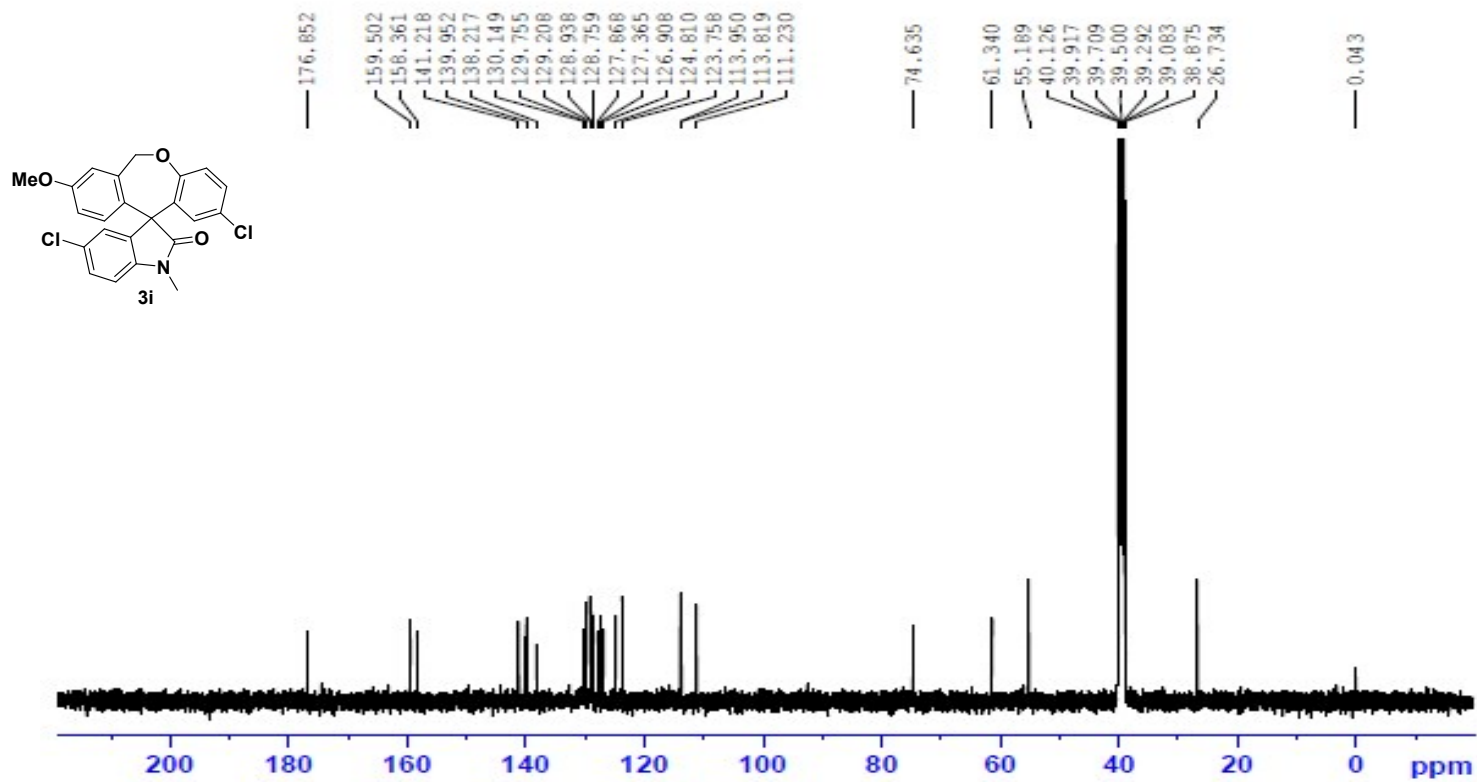




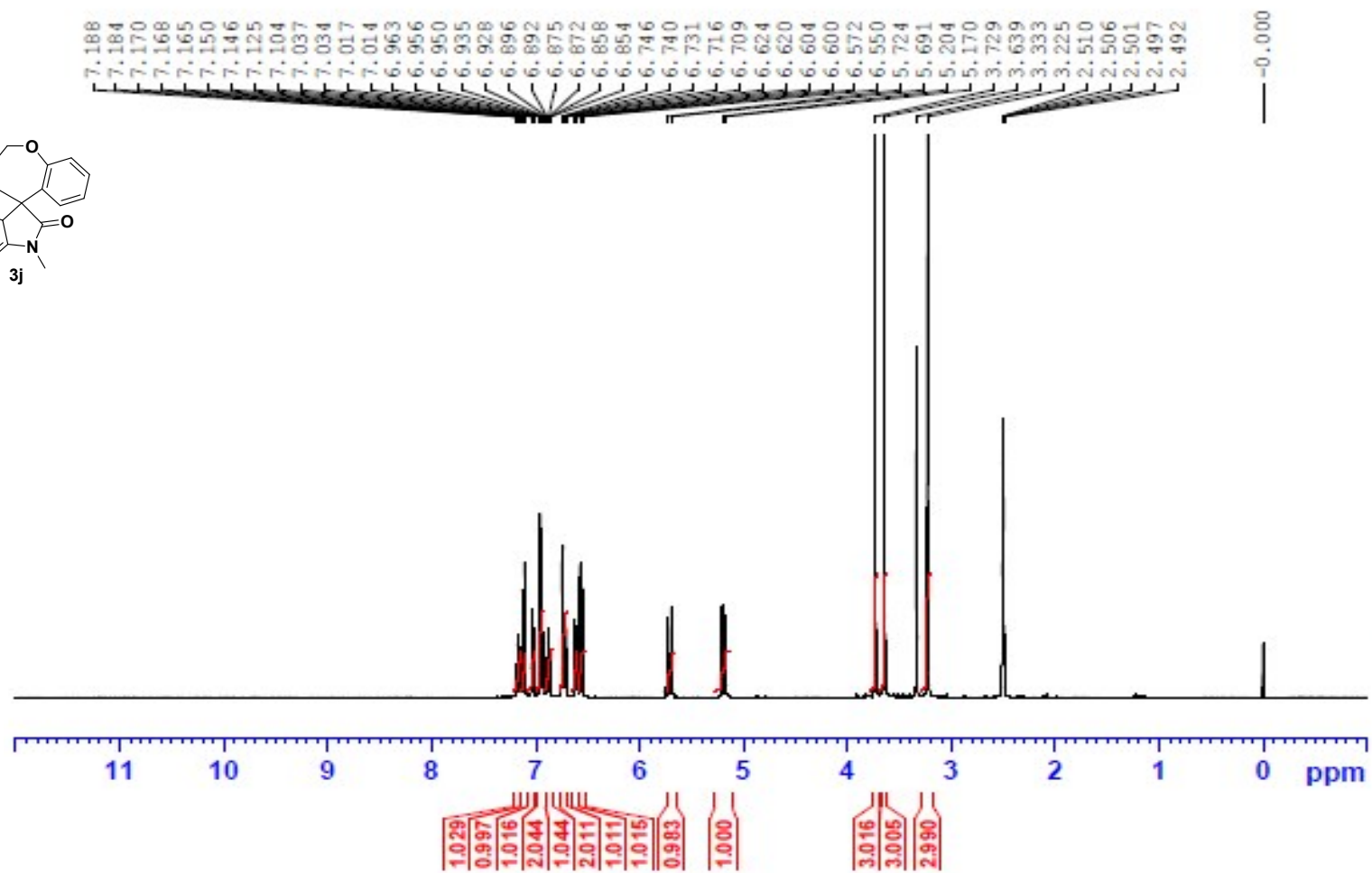
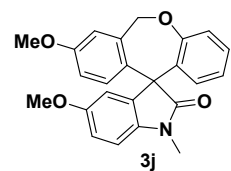


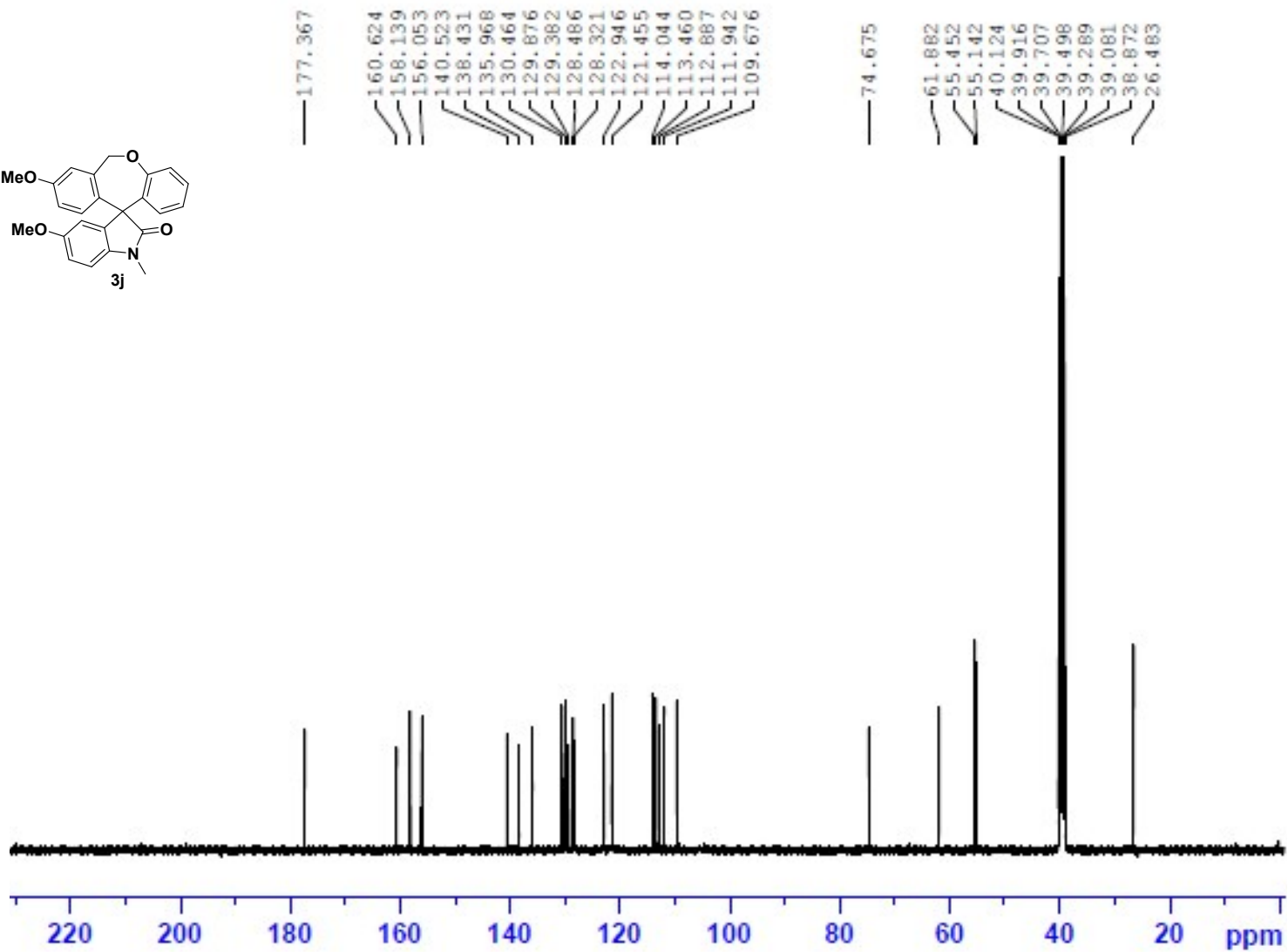
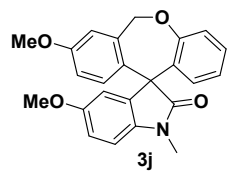
^1H , ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3i



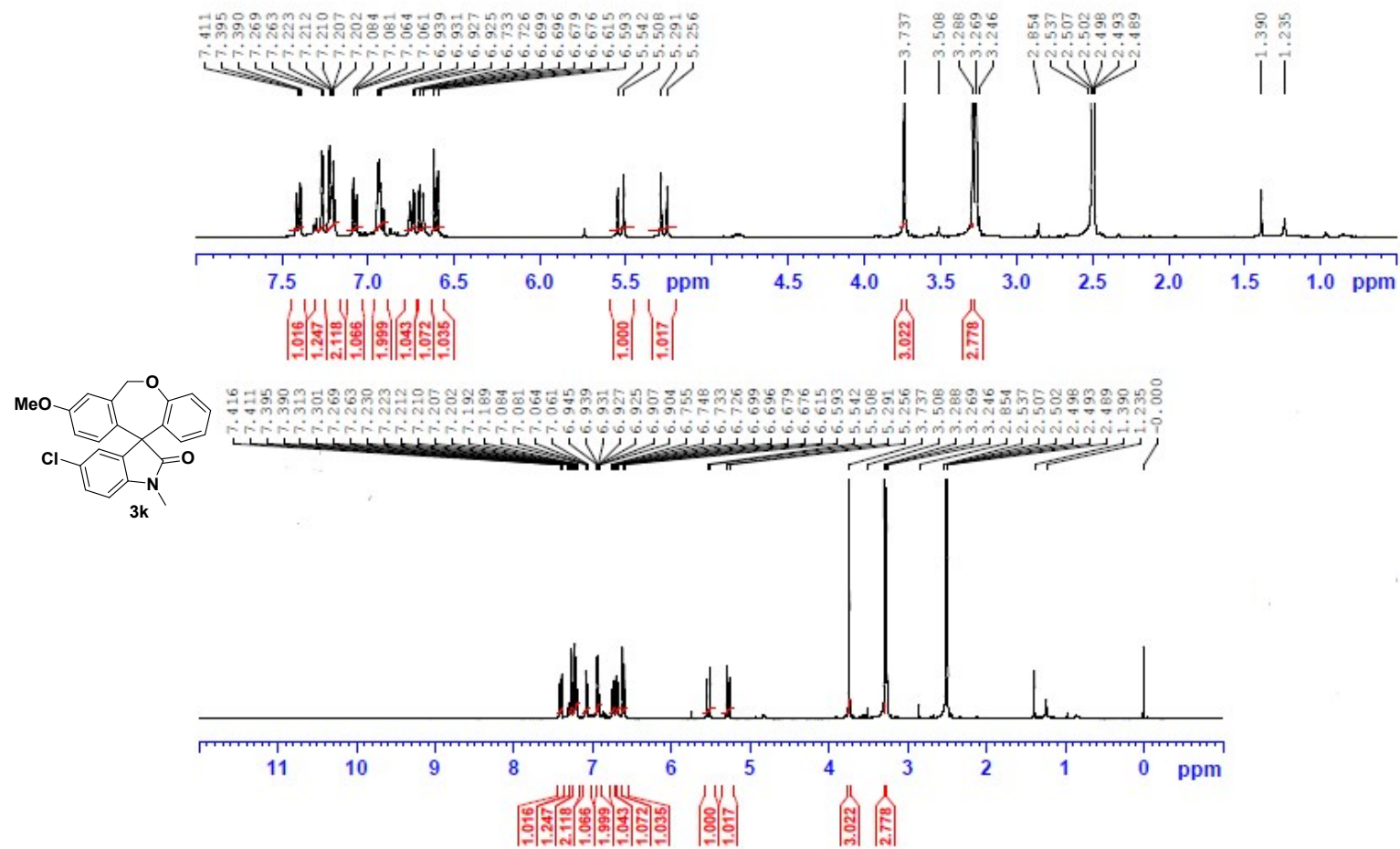


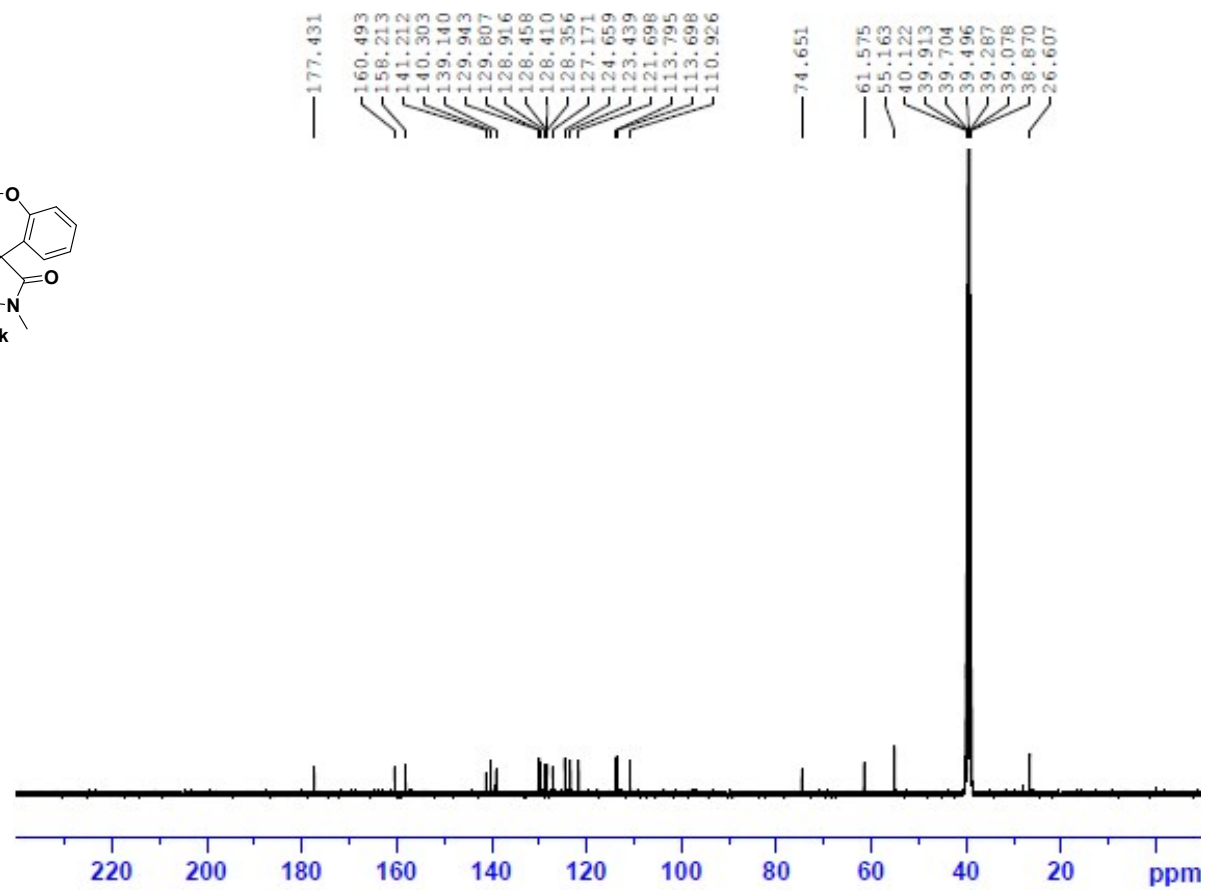
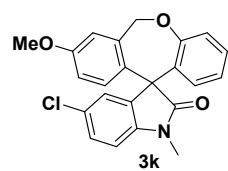
¹H, ¹³C – NMR Data for 3j



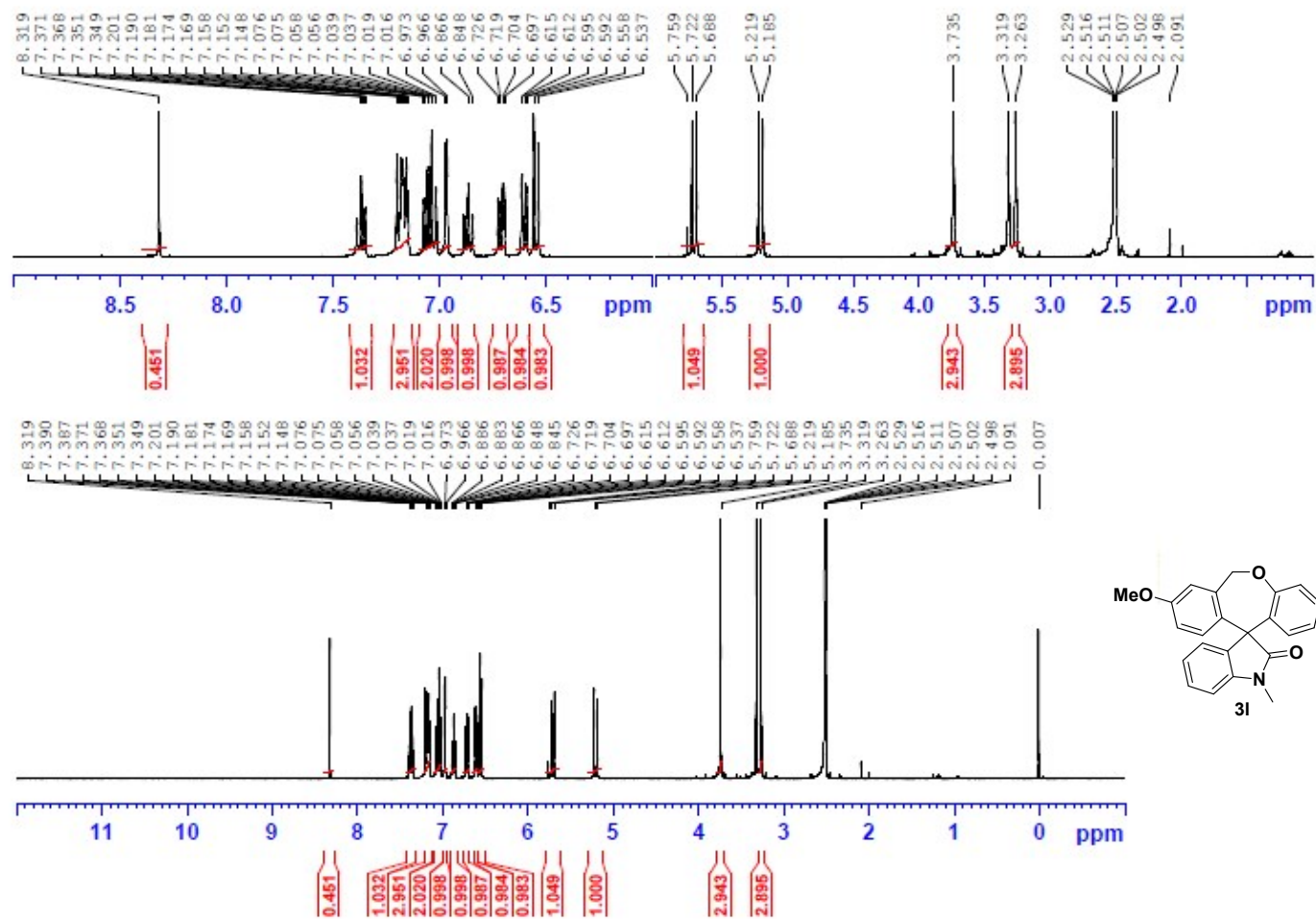


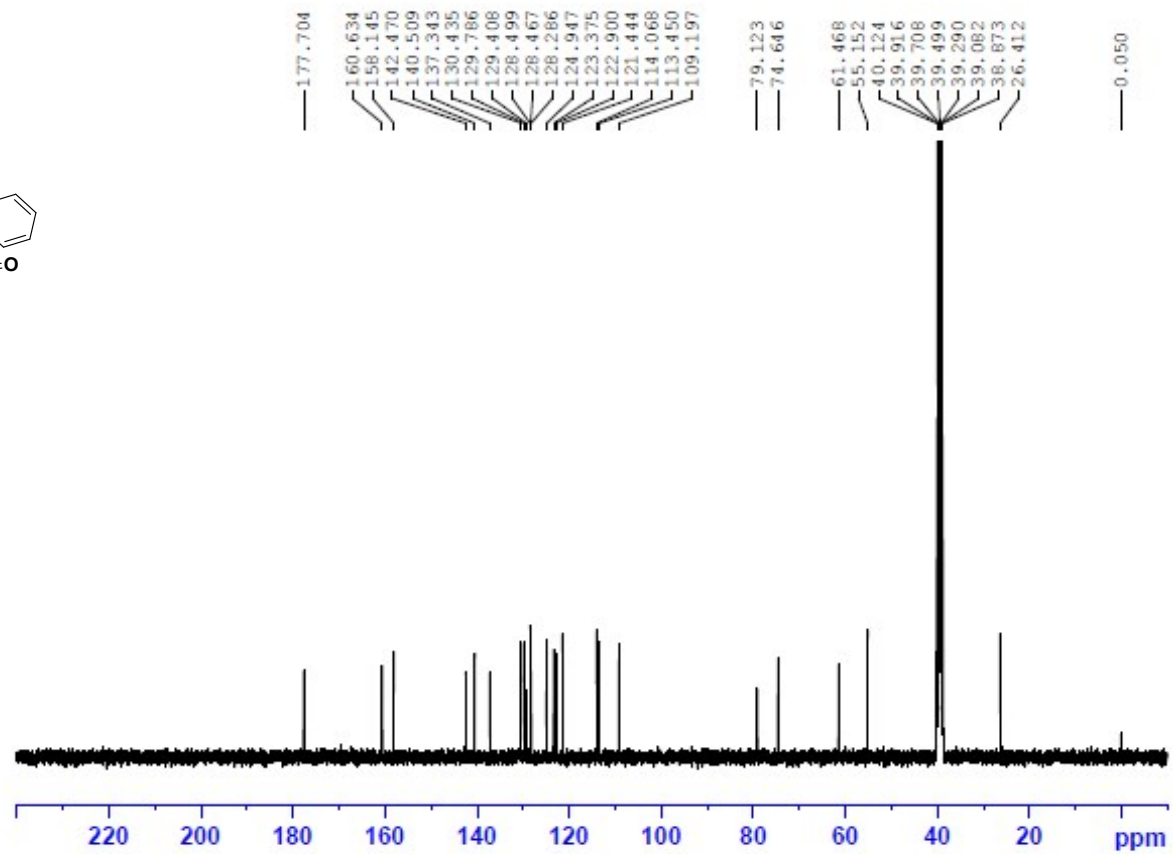
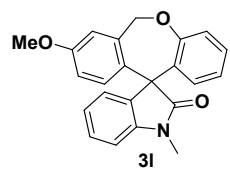
¹H, ¹³C – NMR Data for 3k



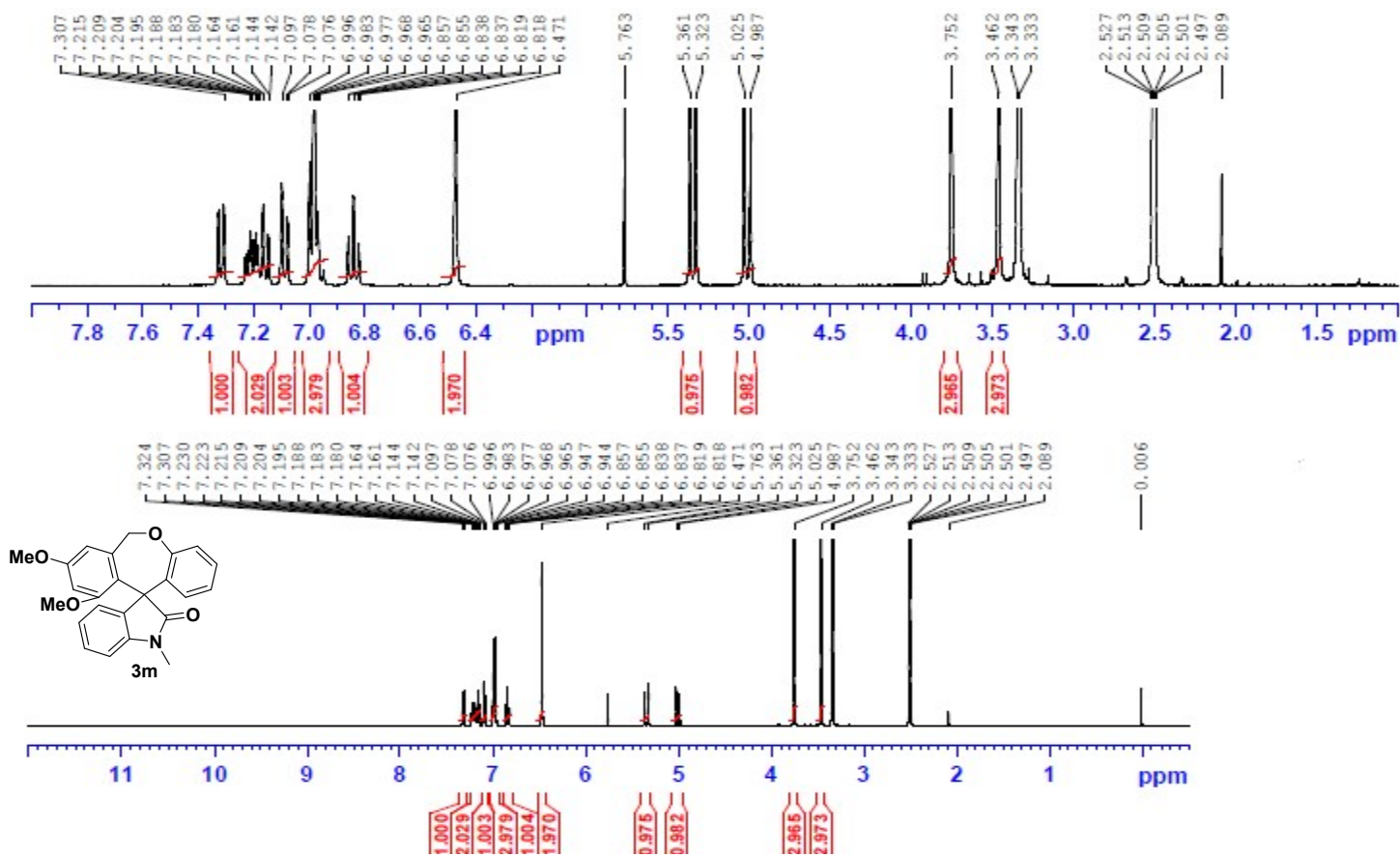


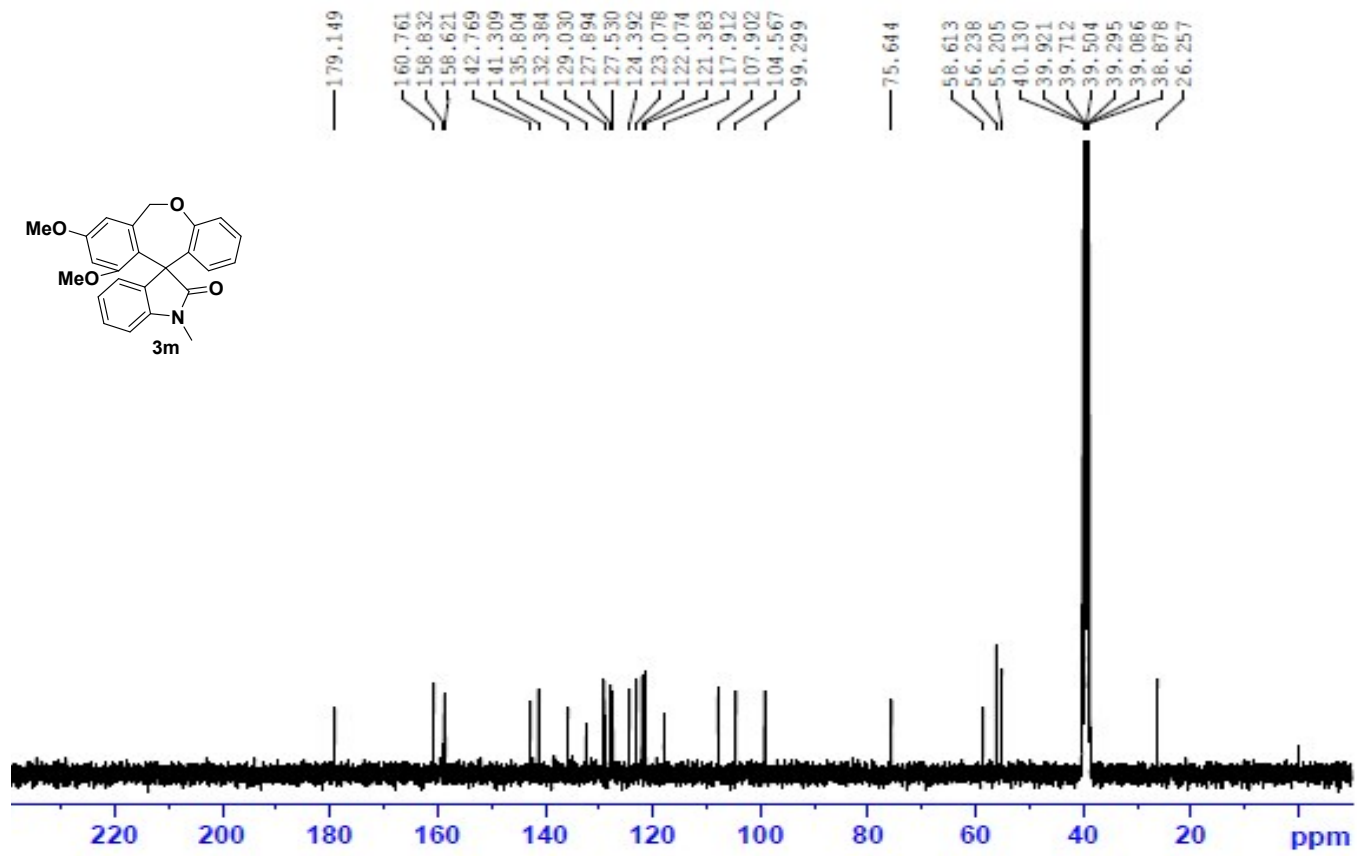
^1H , ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3l



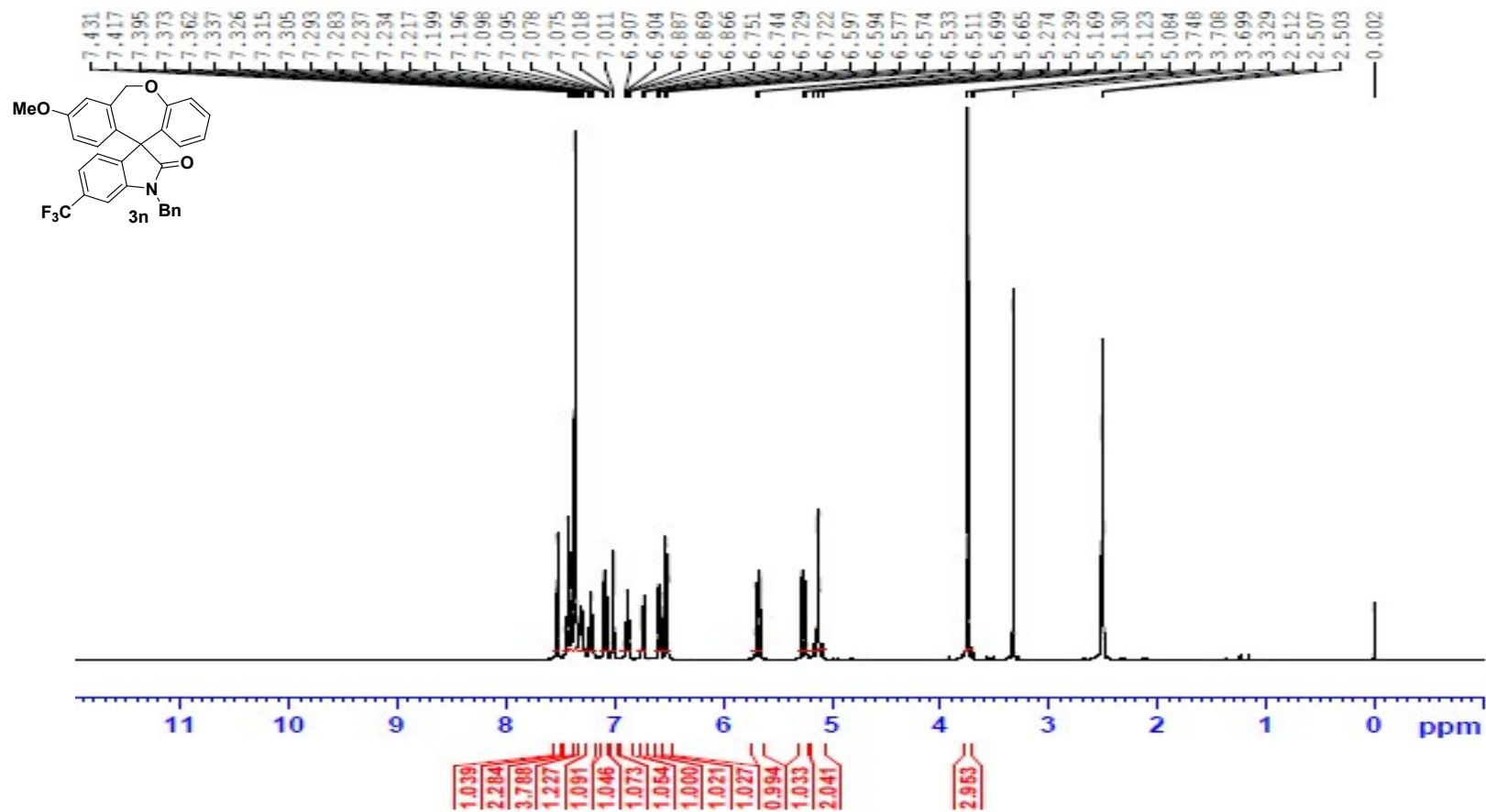


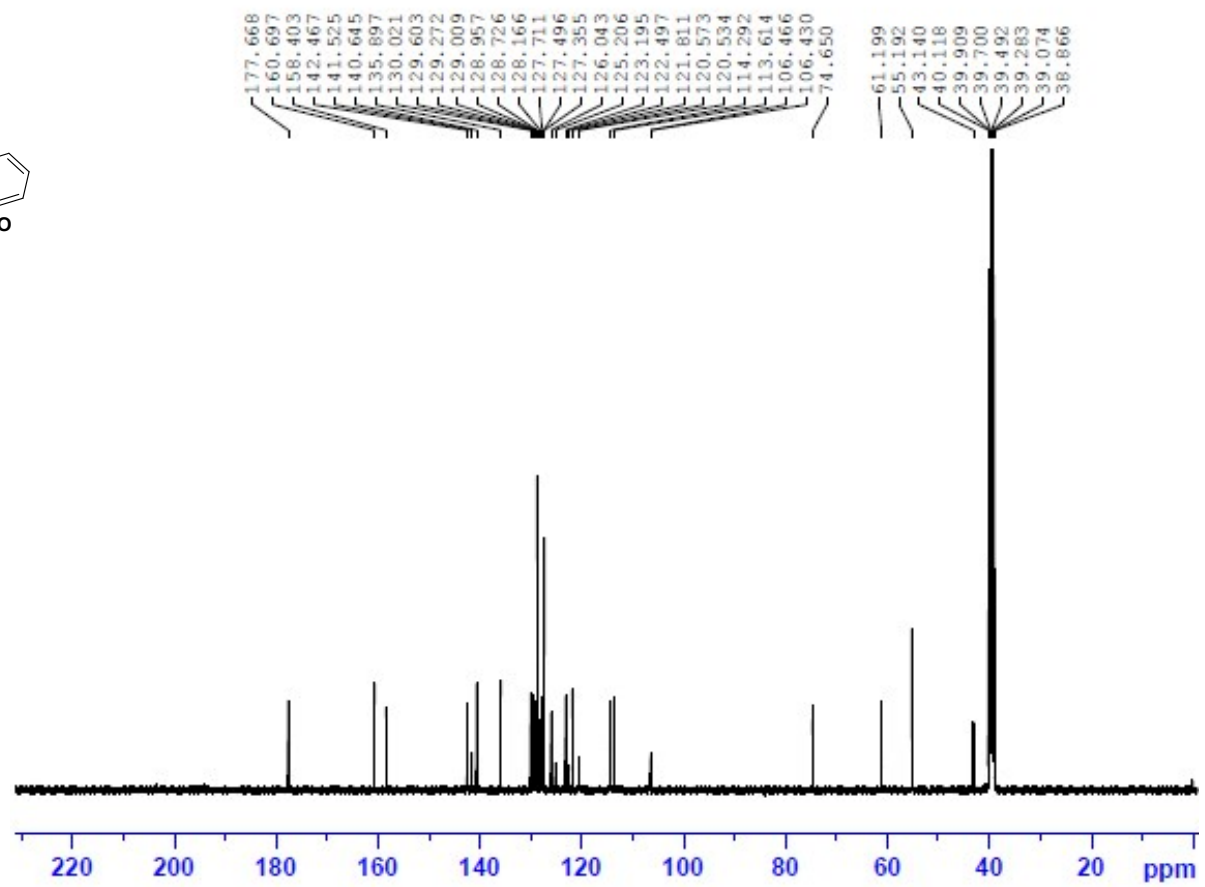
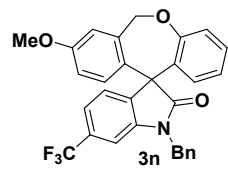
$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ – NMR Data for 3m

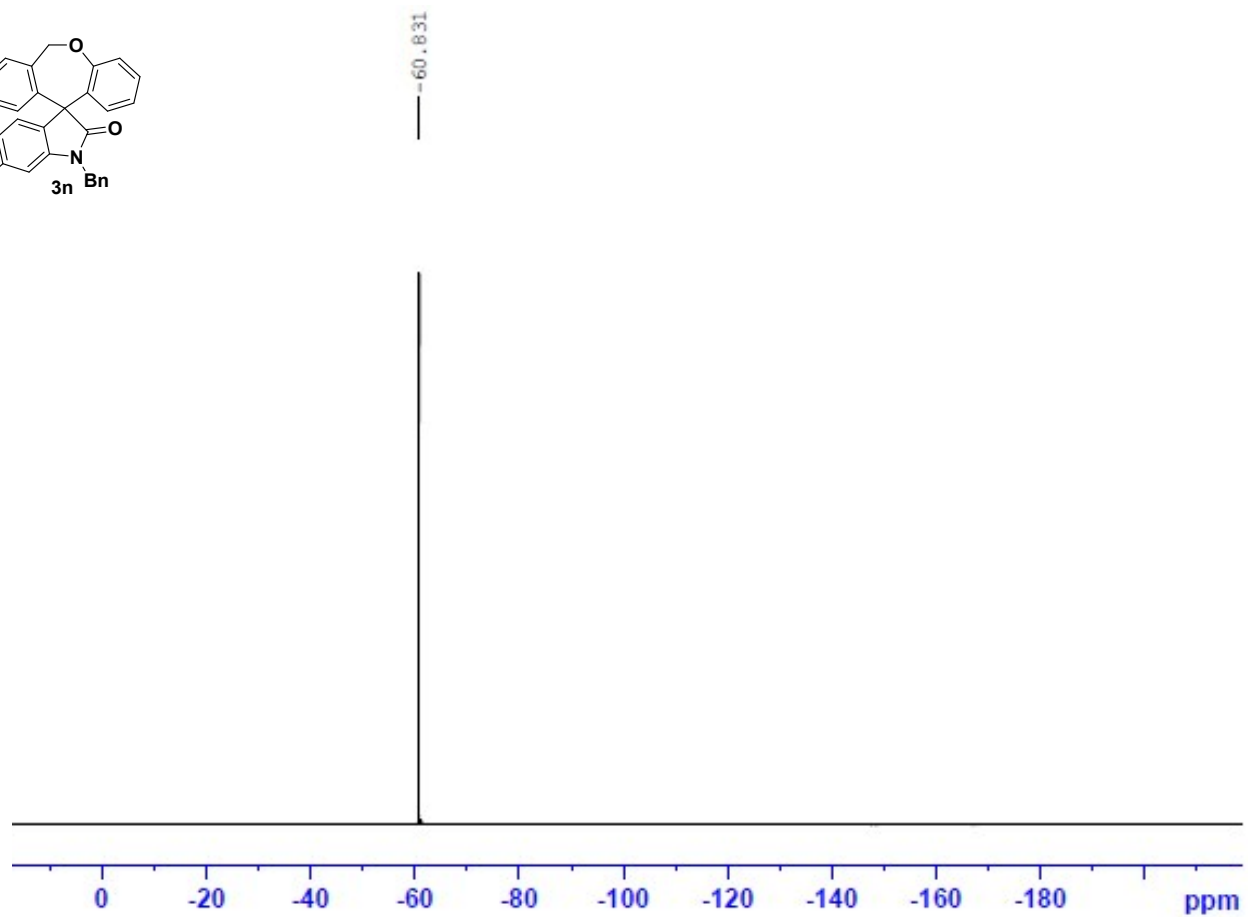
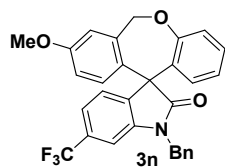




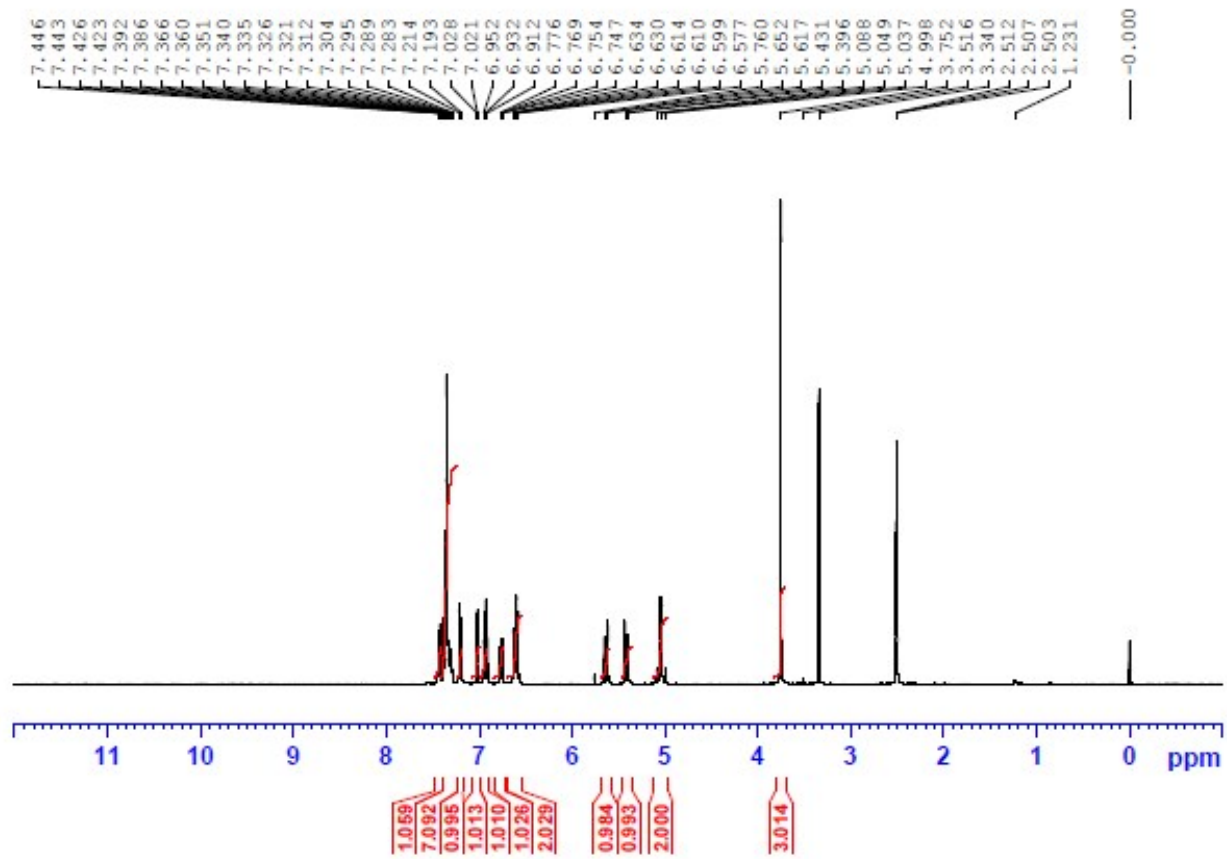
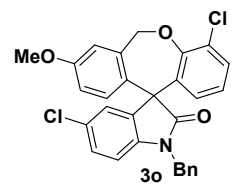
^1H , ^{13}C & ^{19}F -NMR Data for 3n

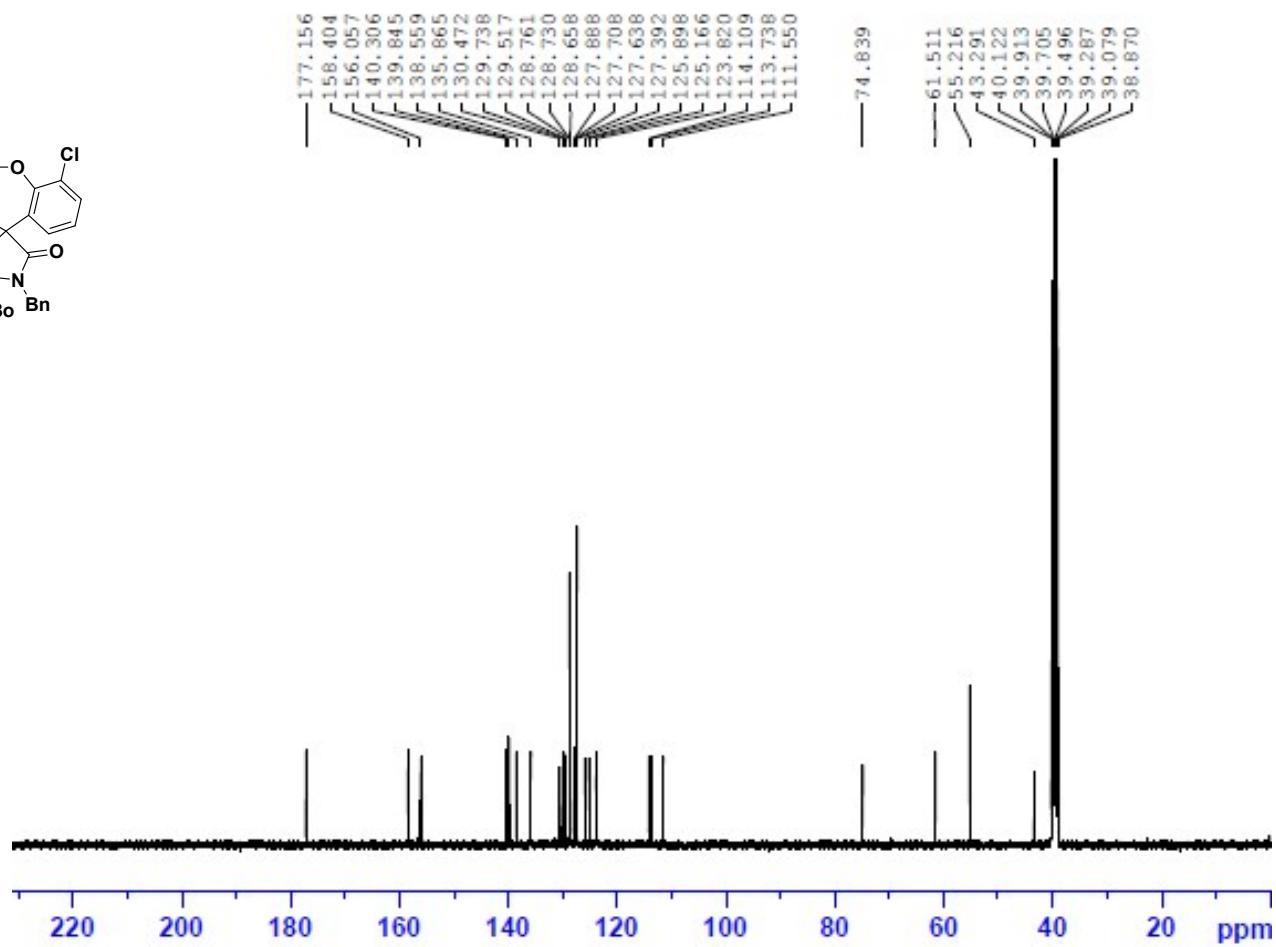
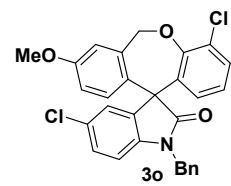




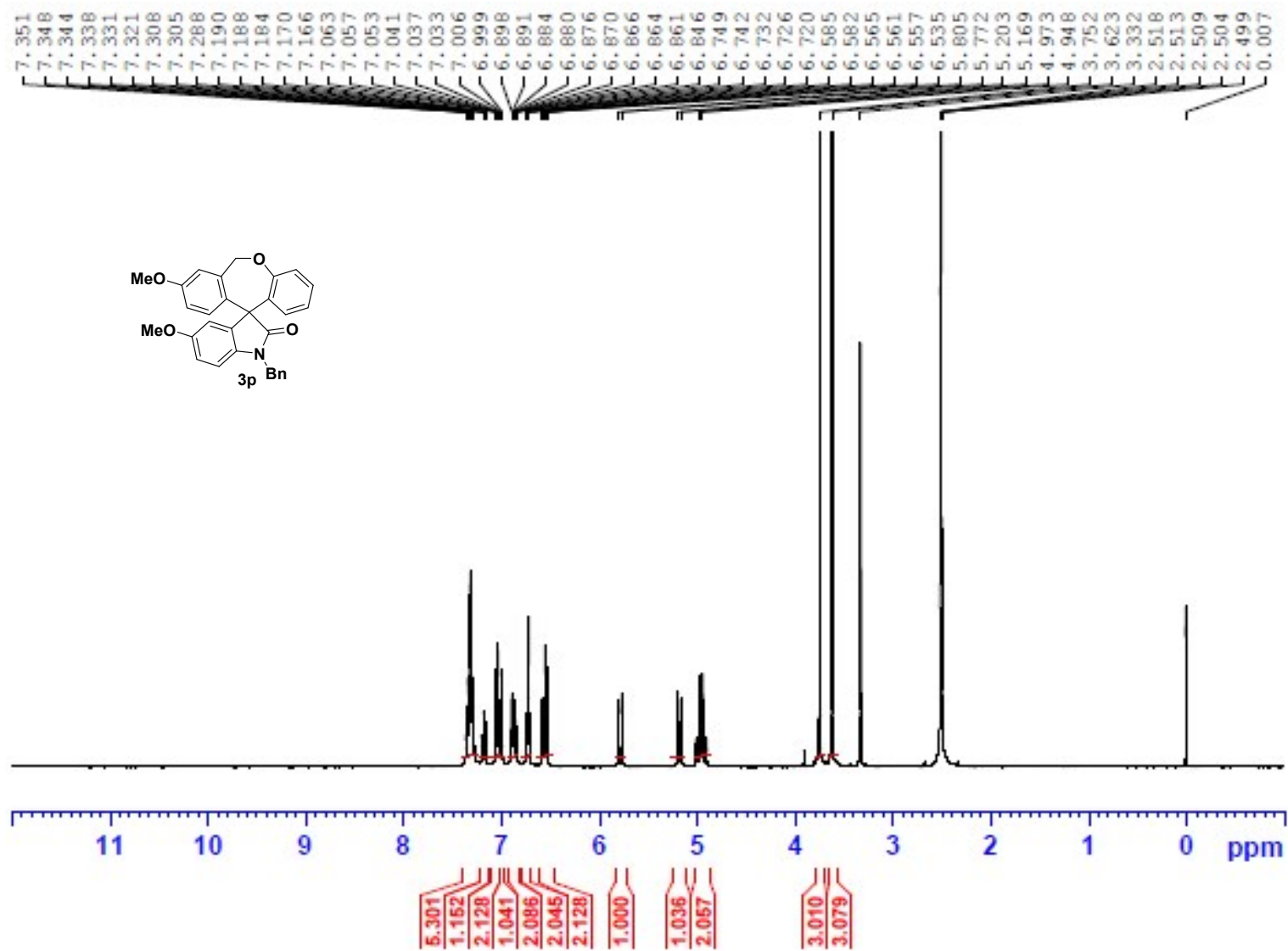


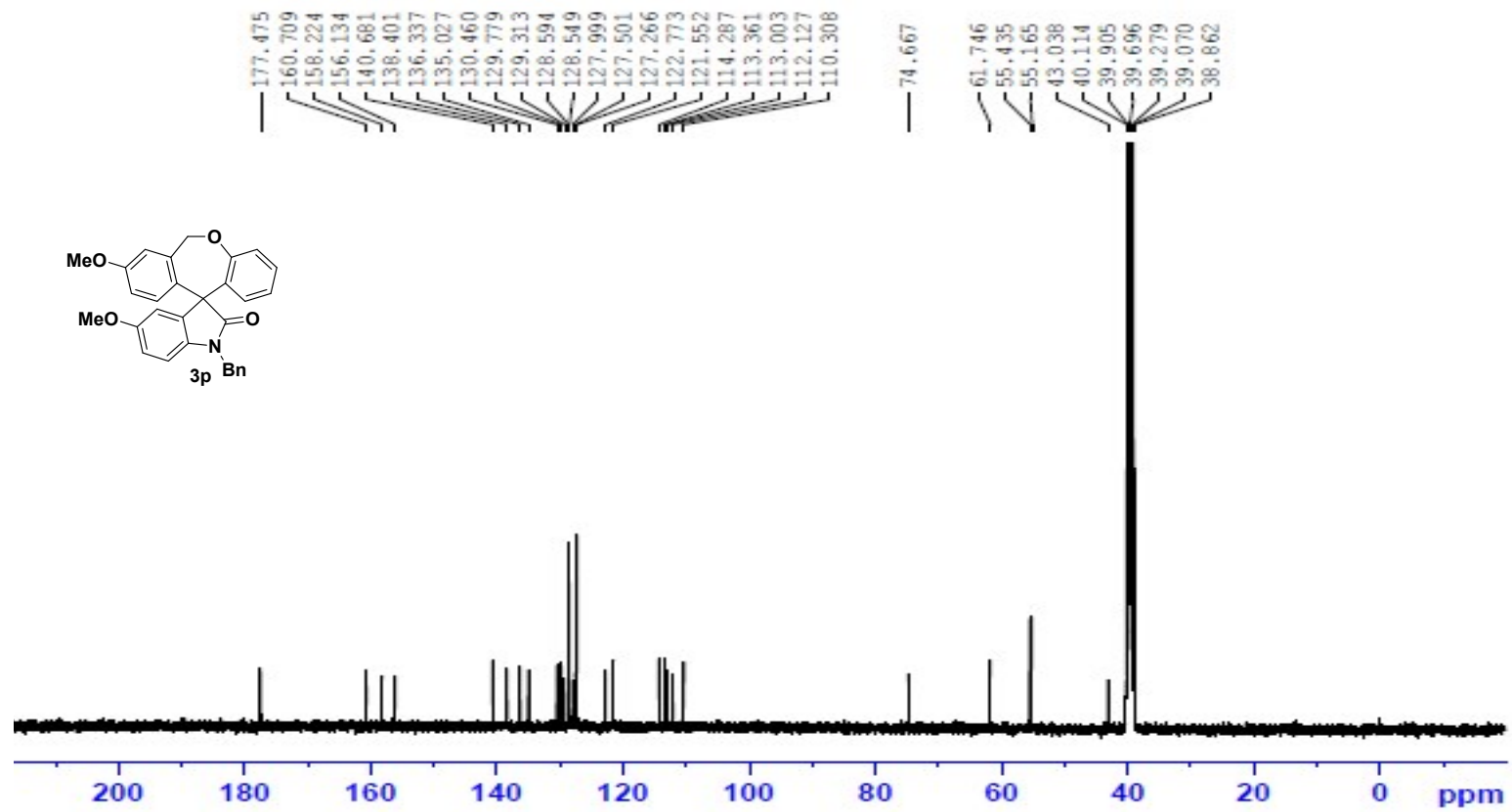
^1H , ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3o



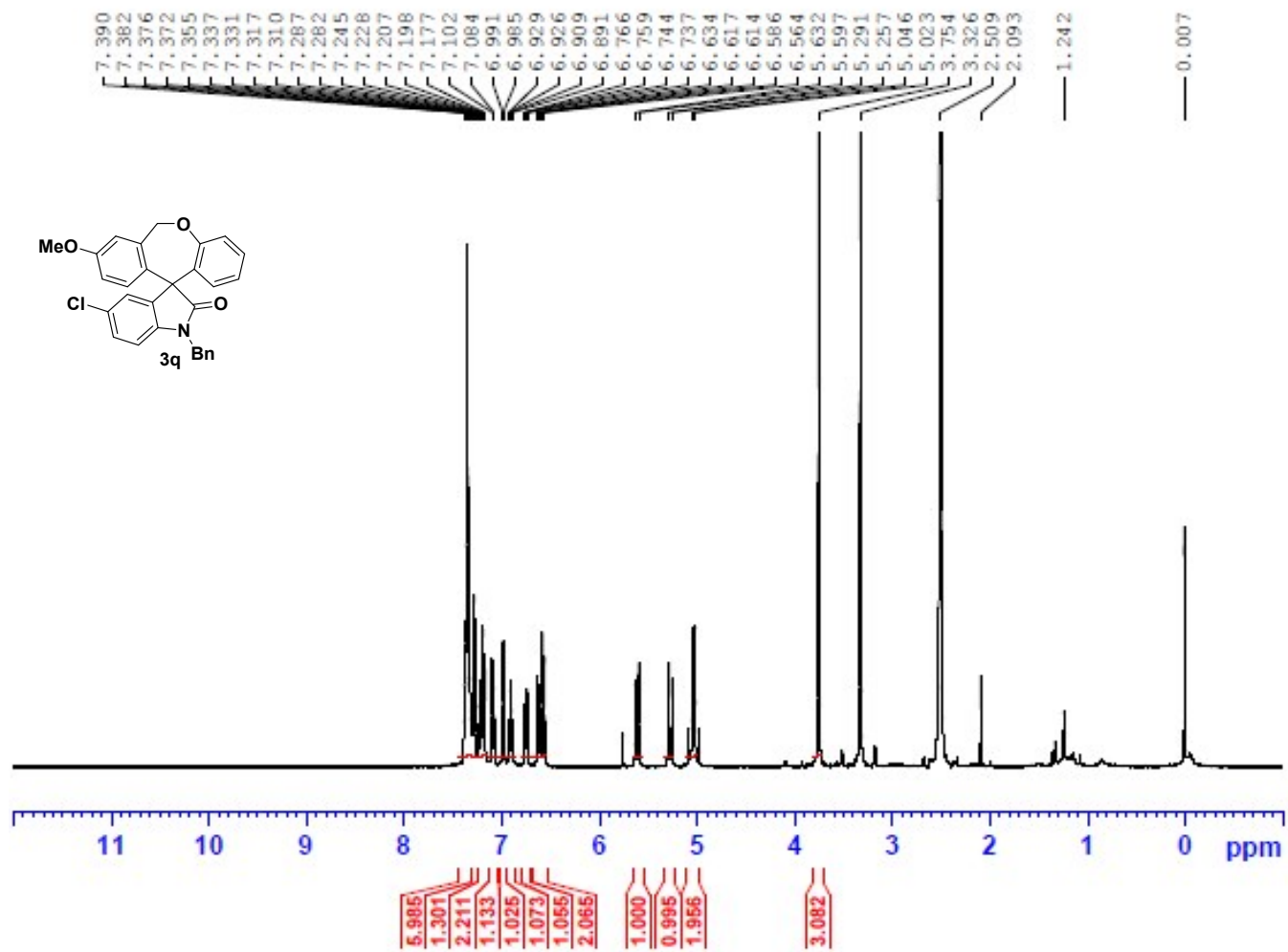


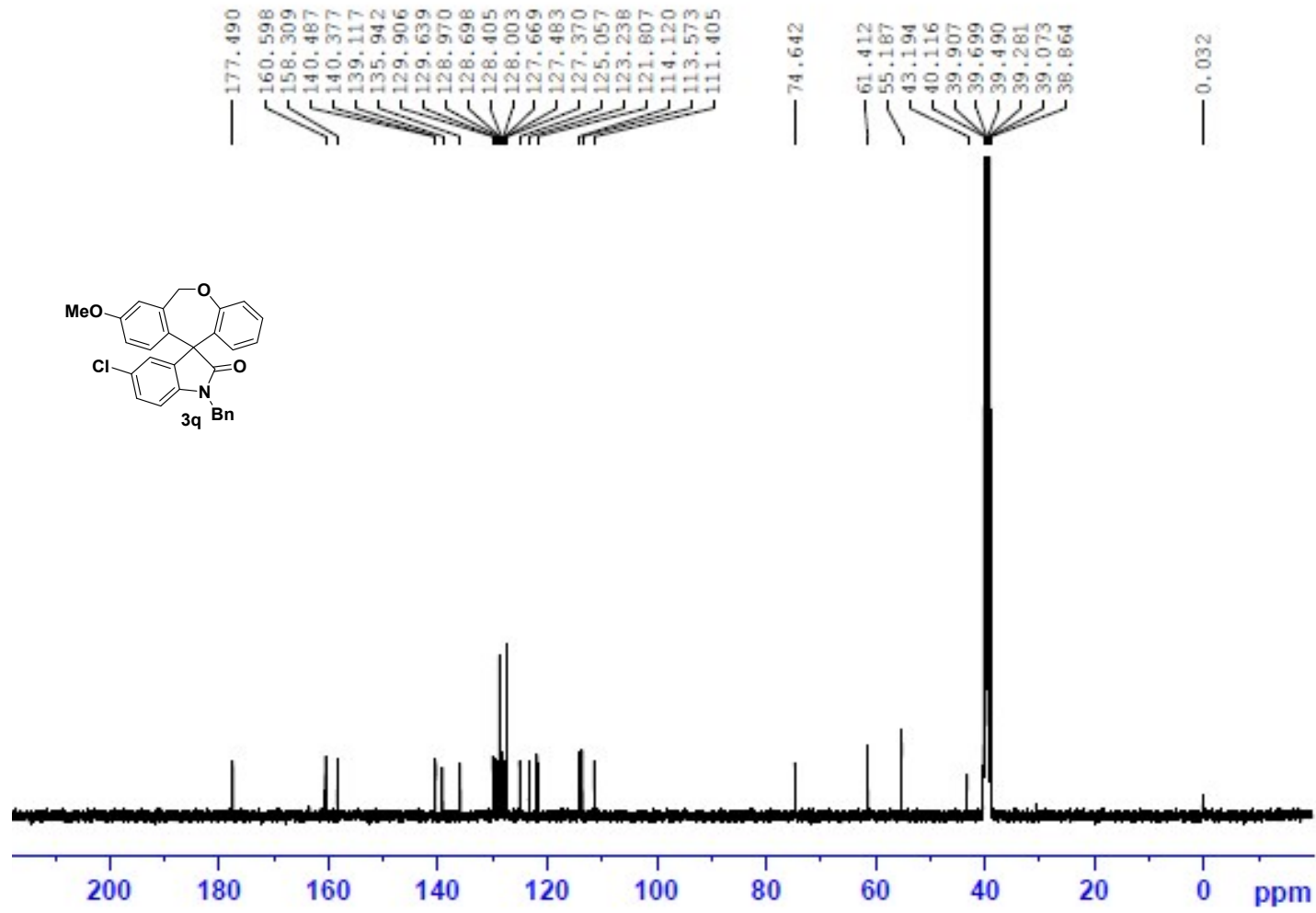
^1H , ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3p



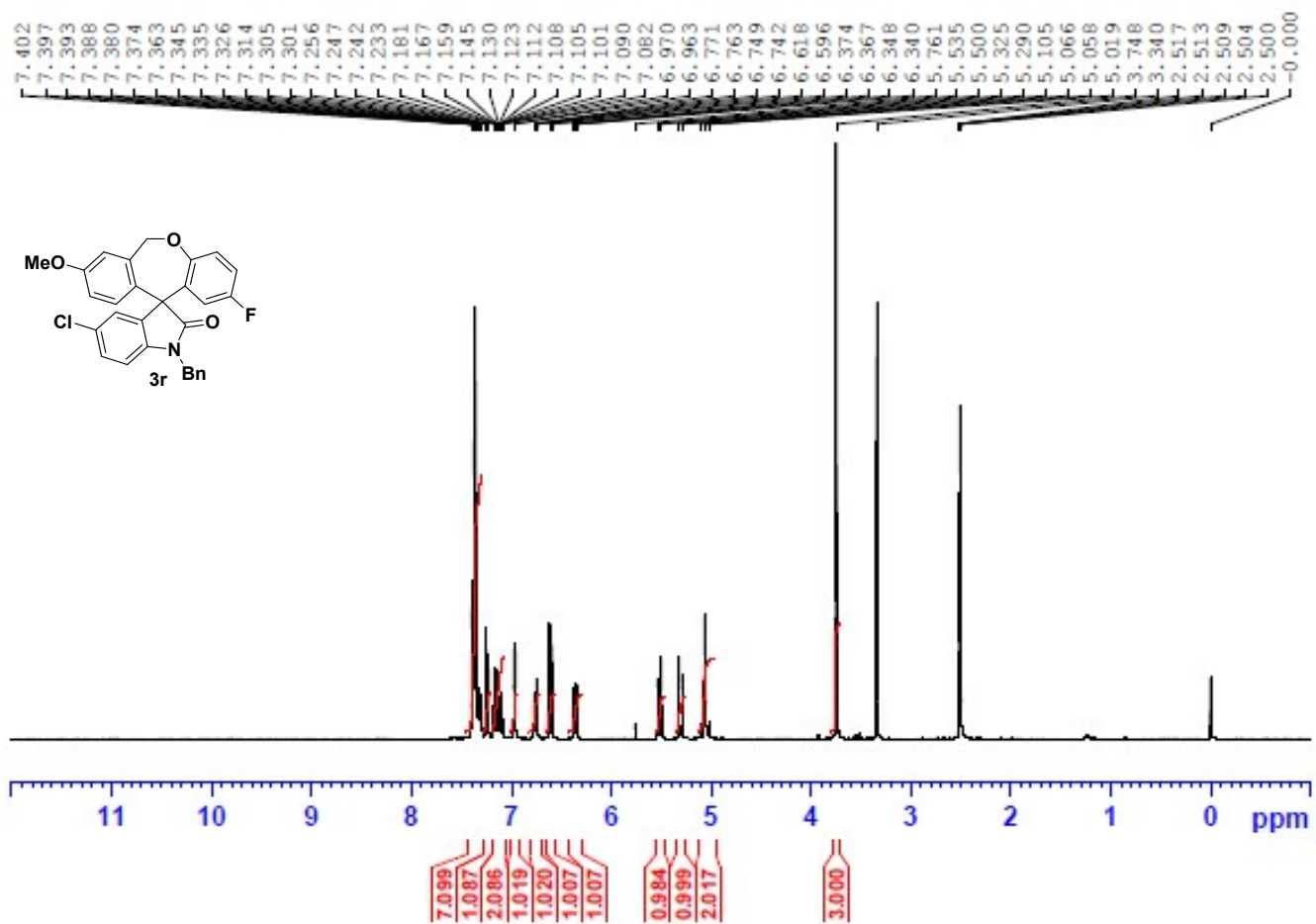


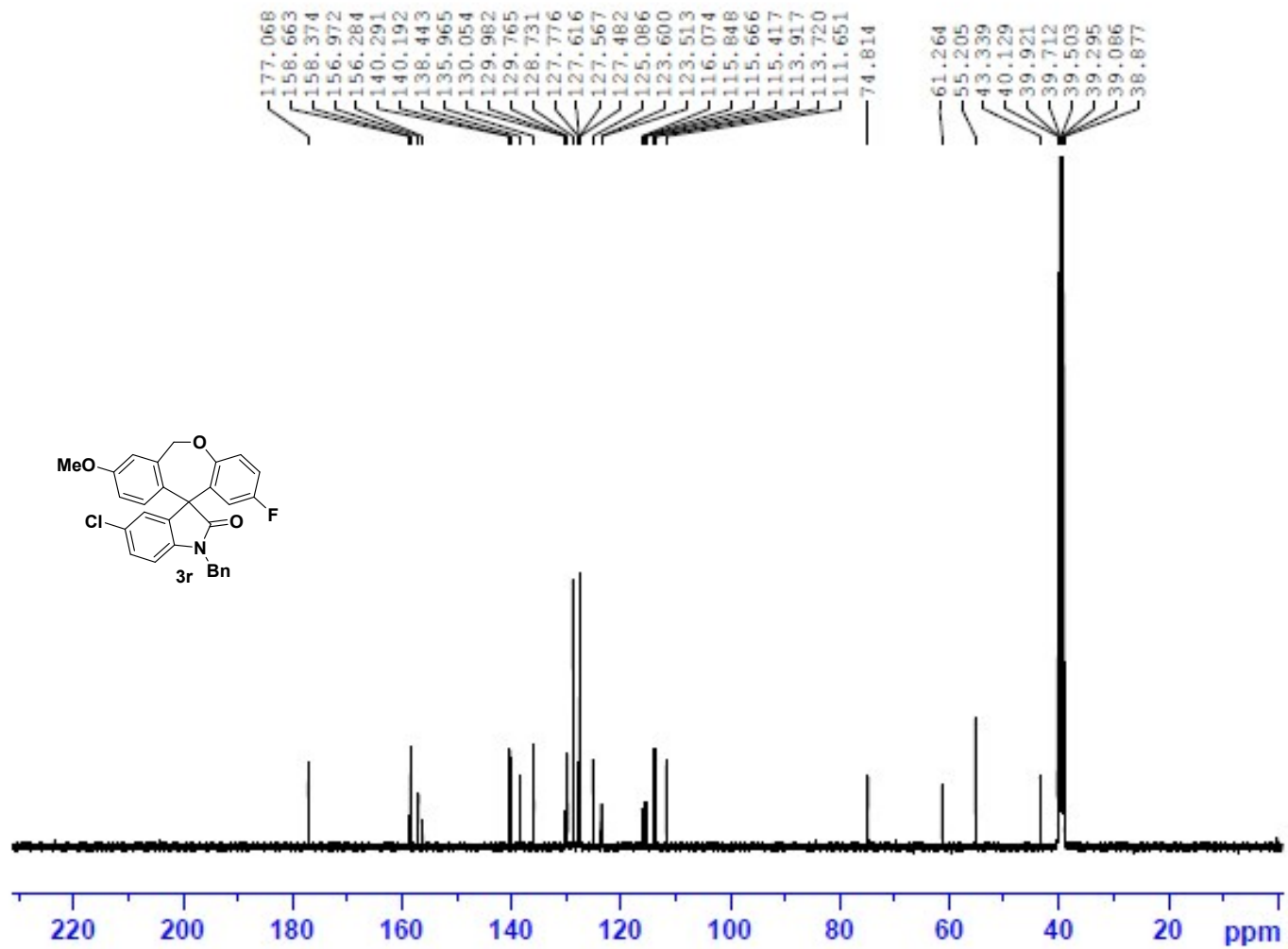
^1H , ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3q

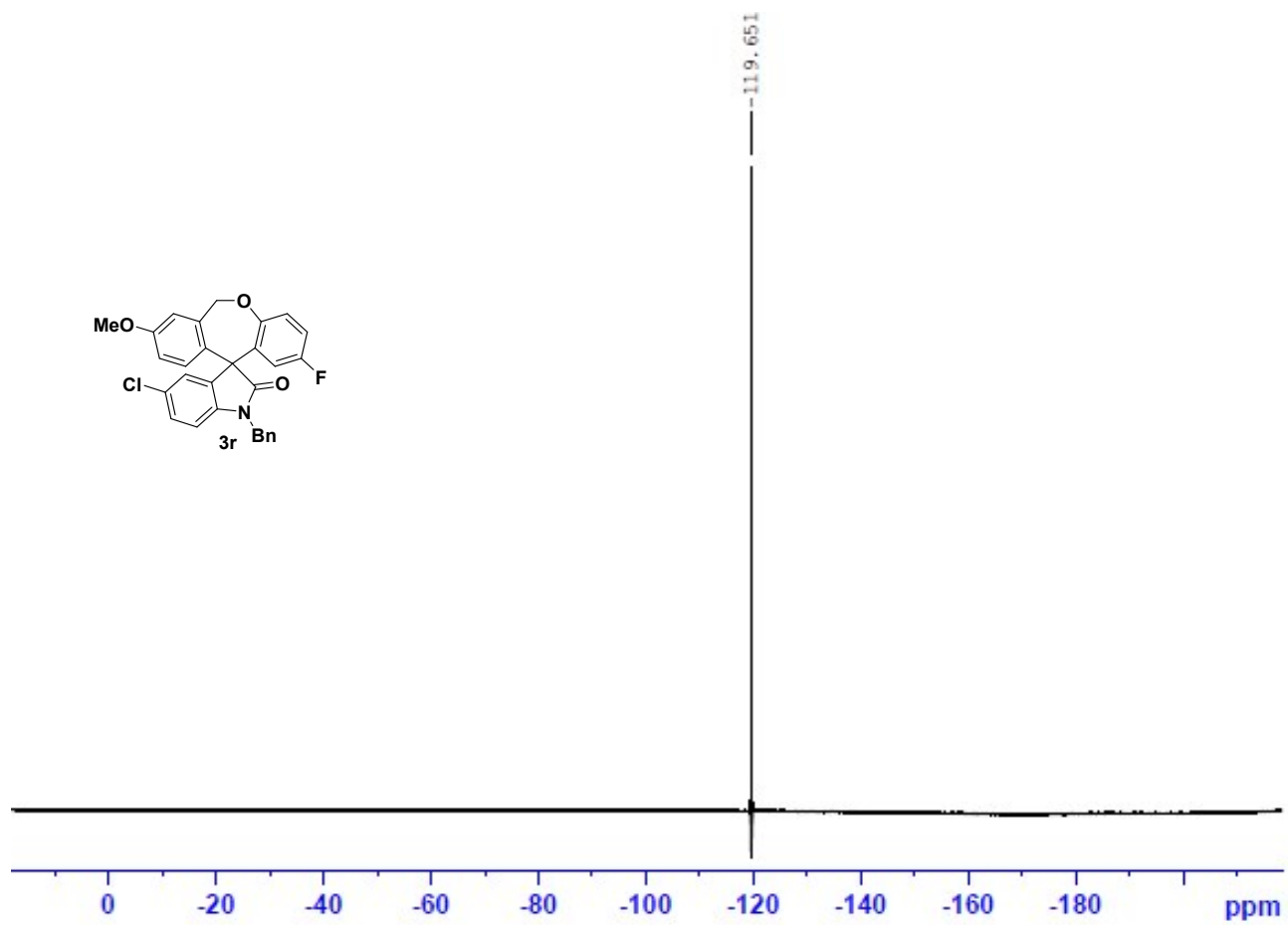
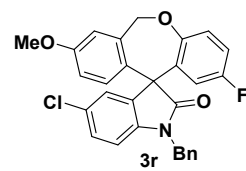


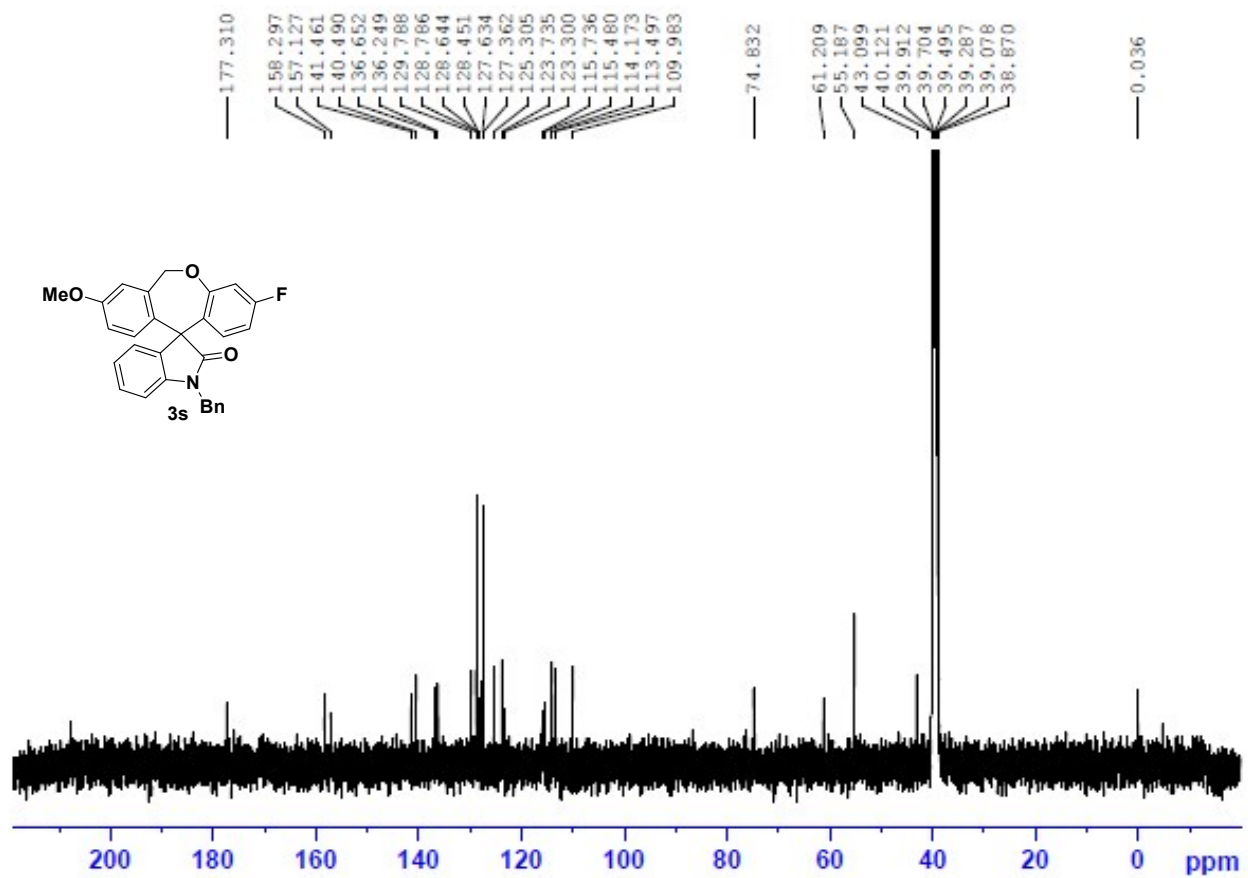


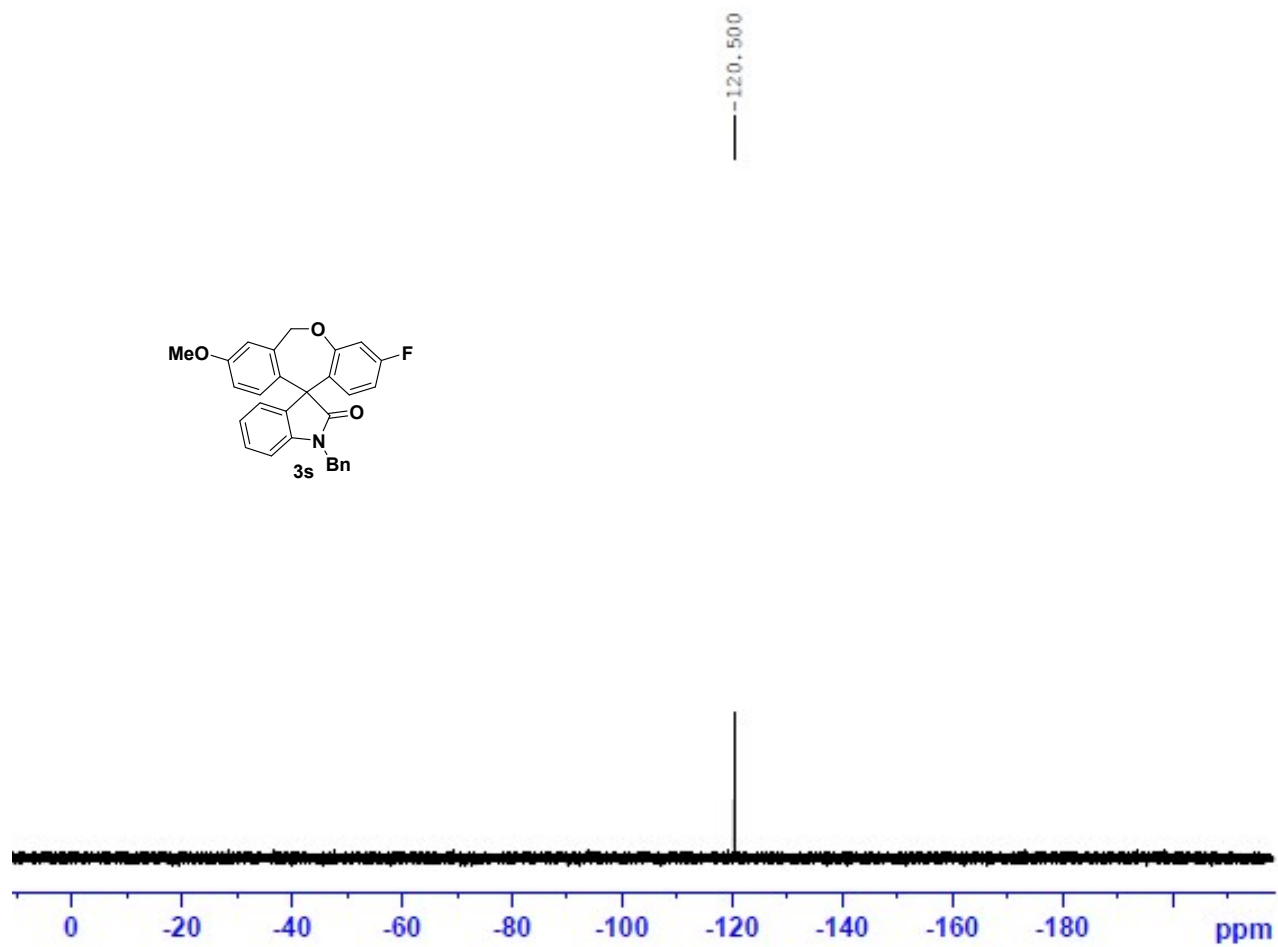
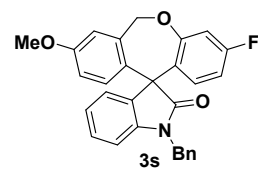
¹H, ¹³C & ¹⁹F- NMR Data for 3r



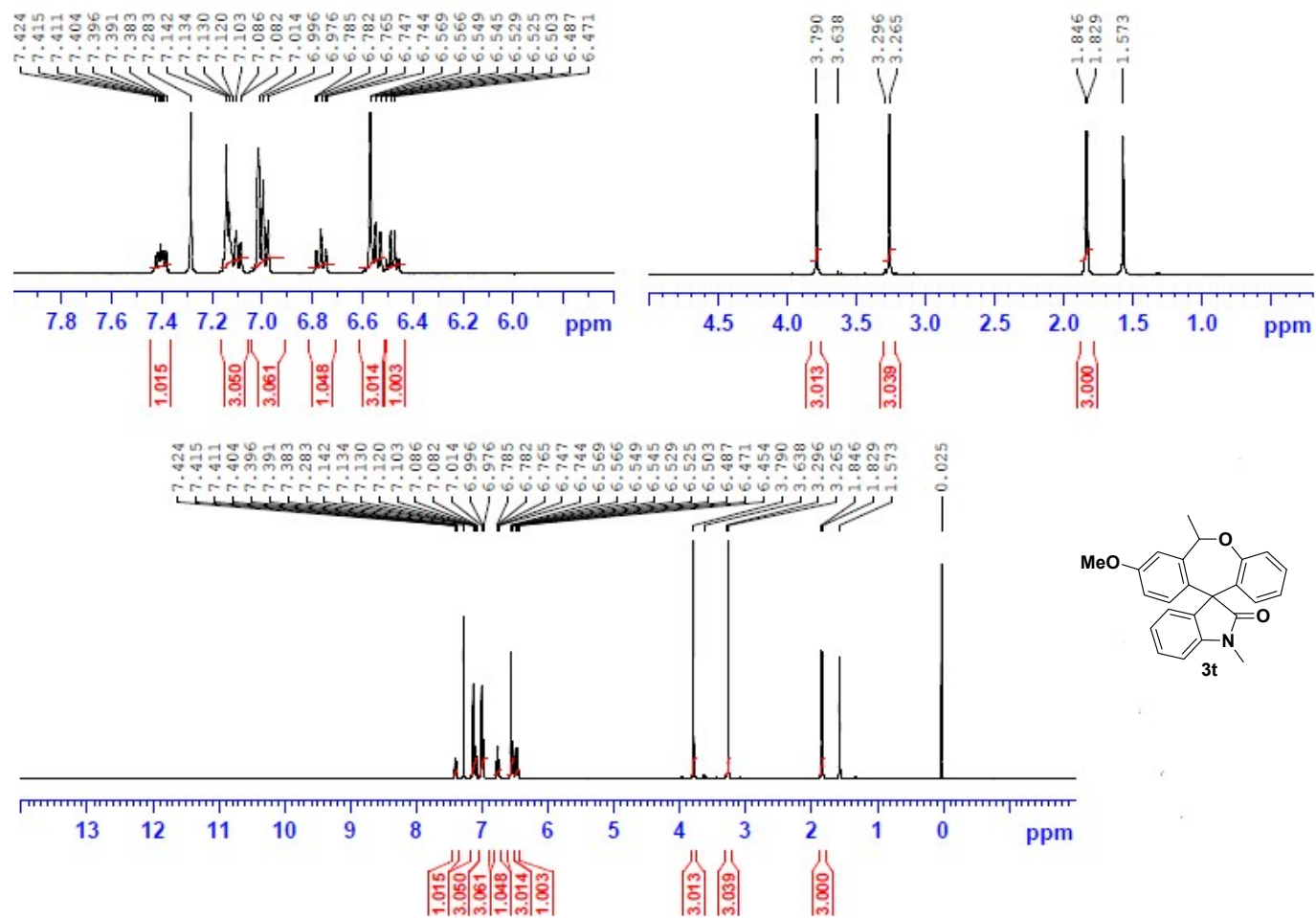


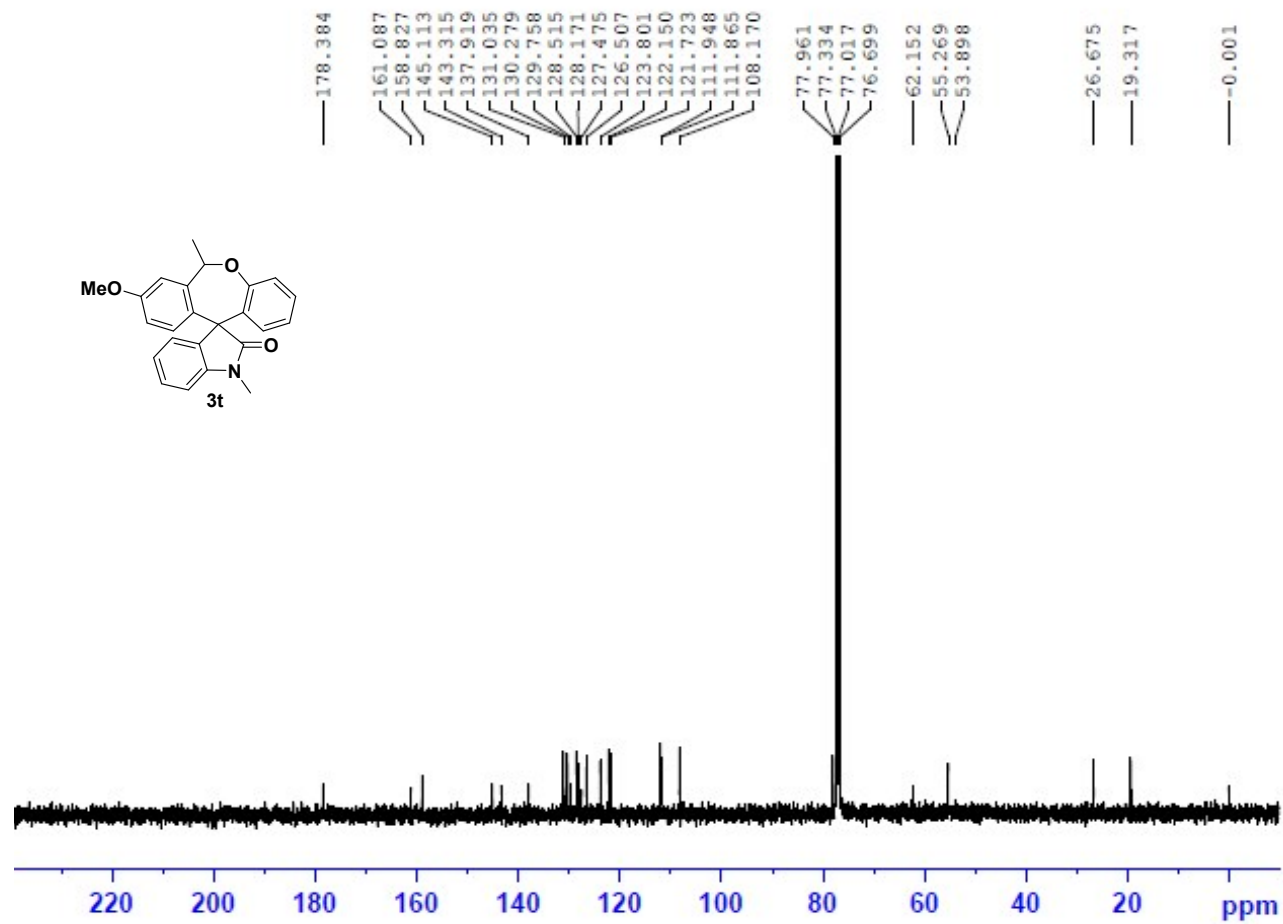




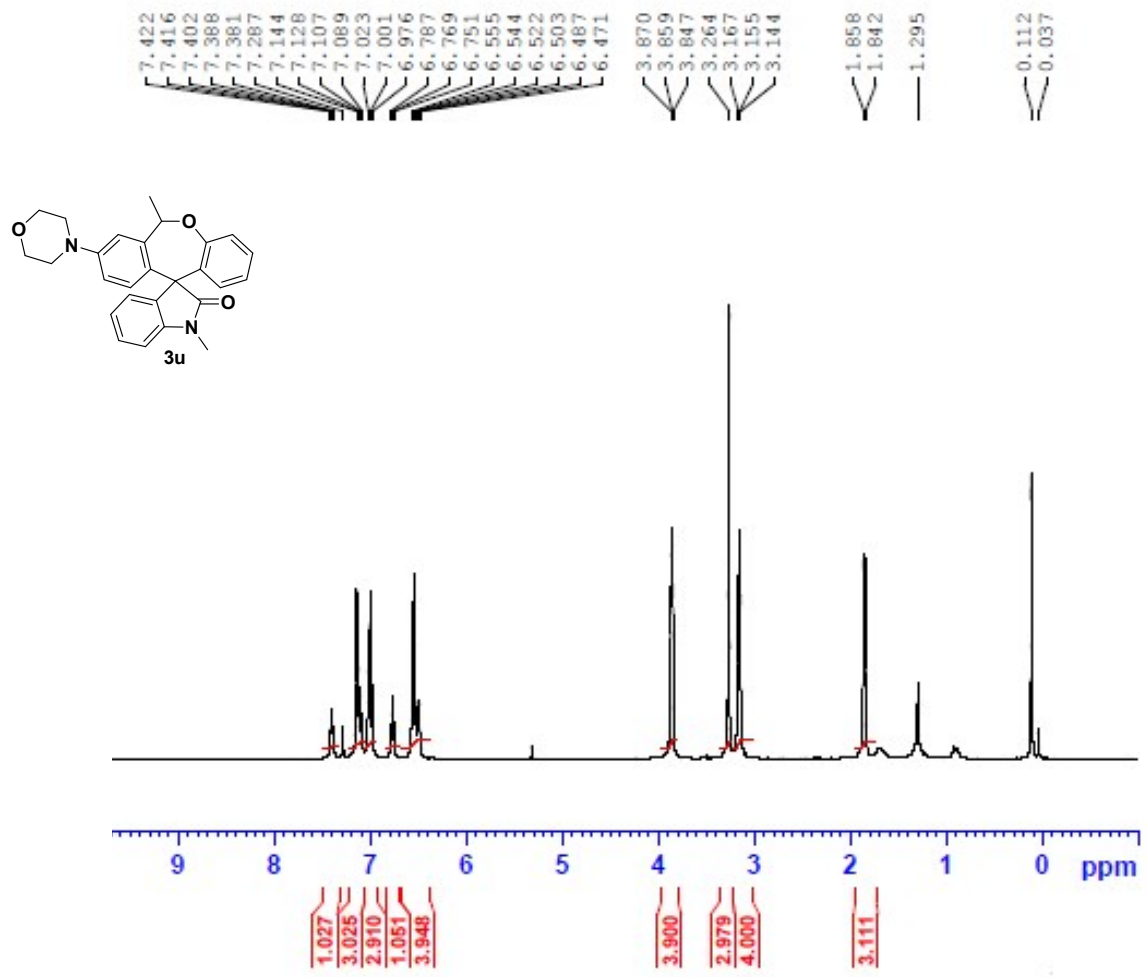


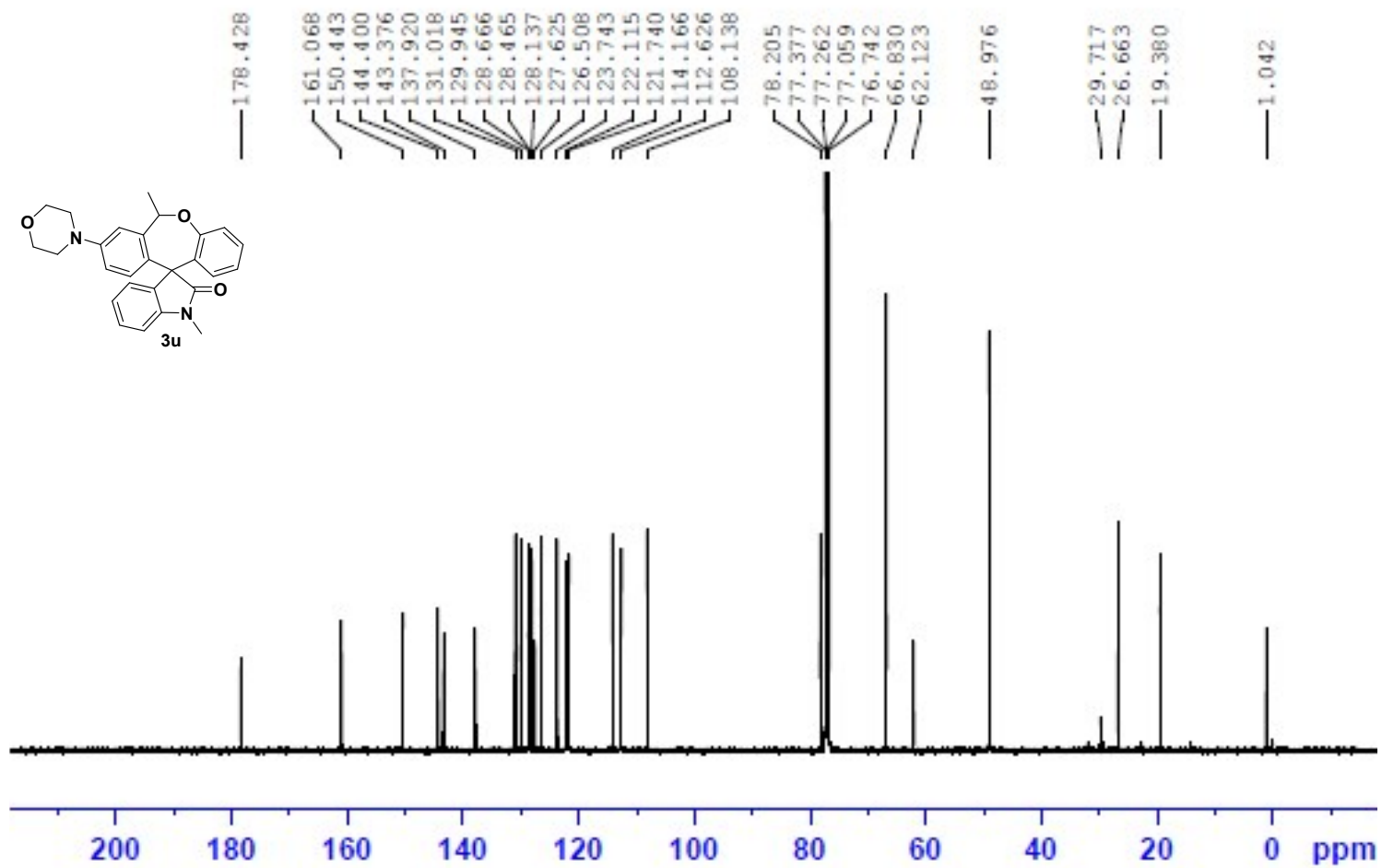
^1H , ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3t



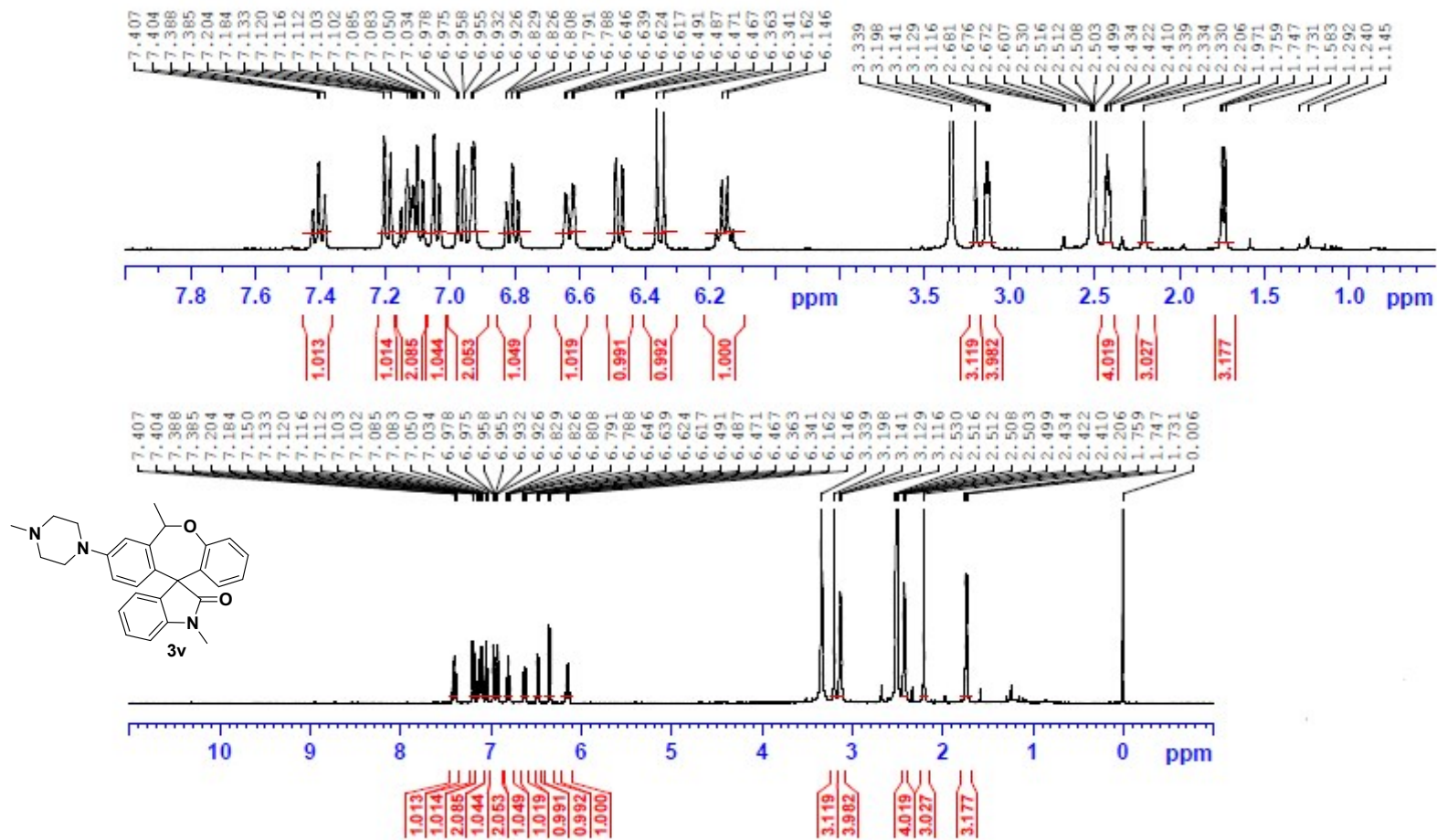


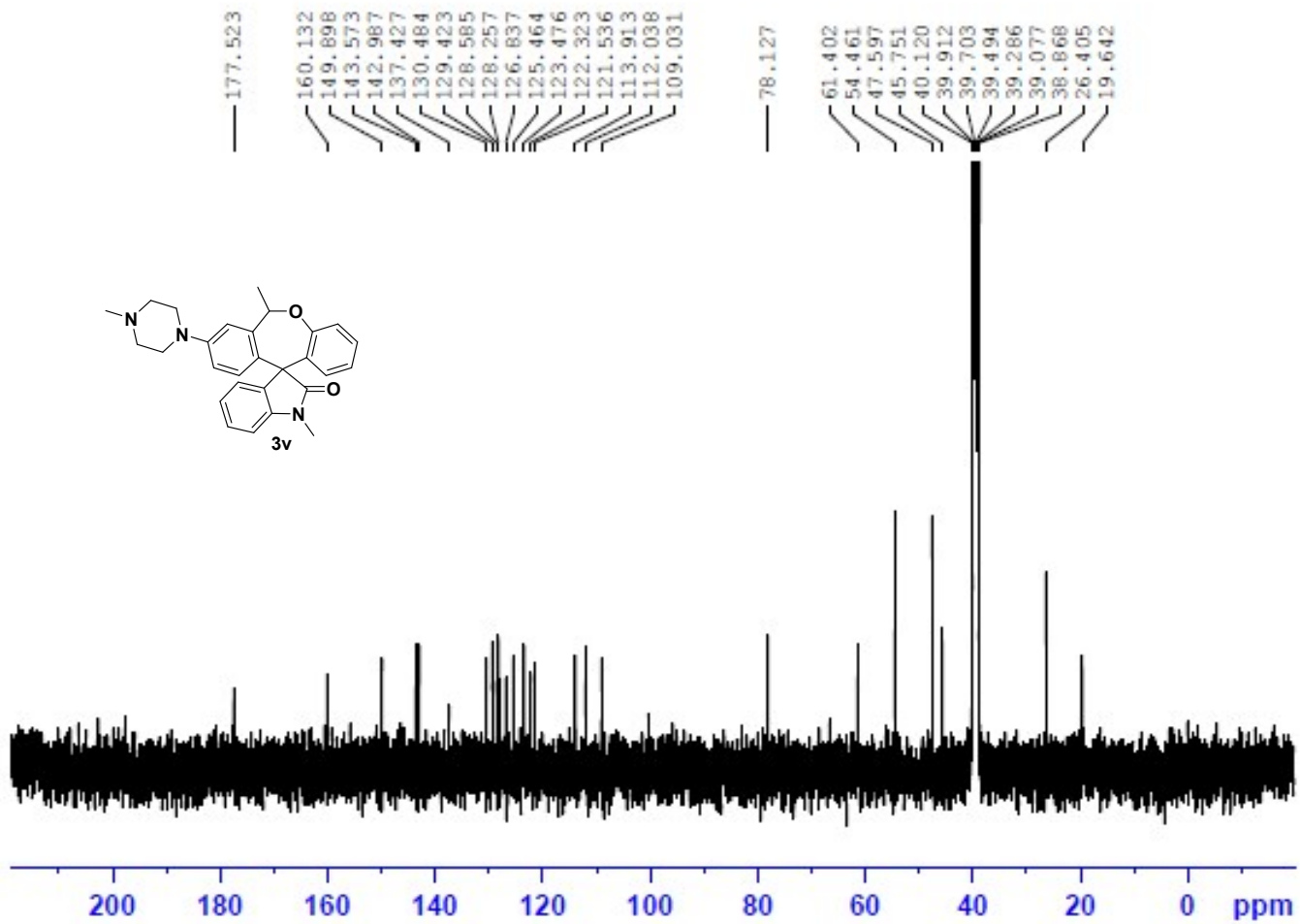
^1H , ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3u



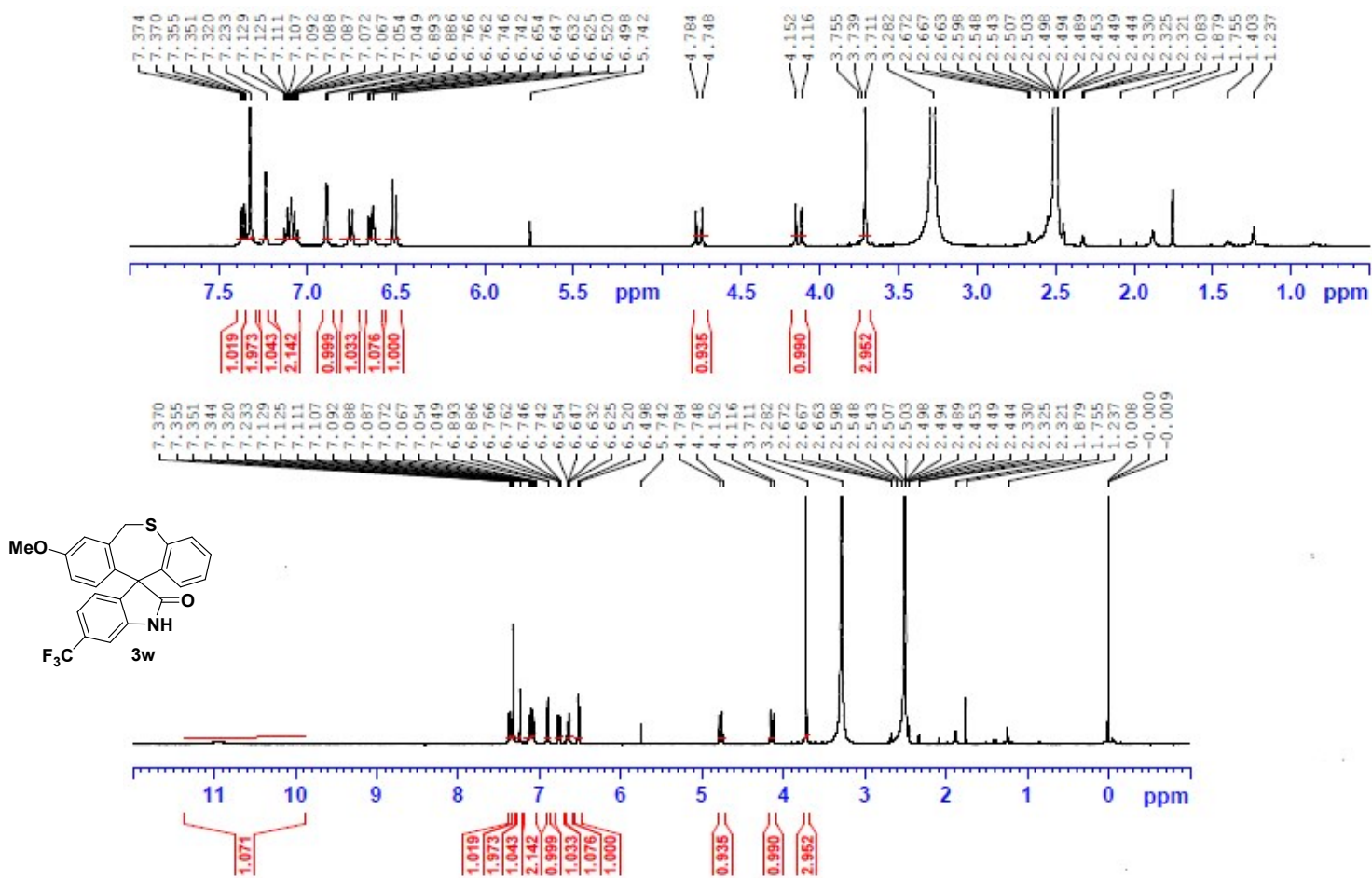


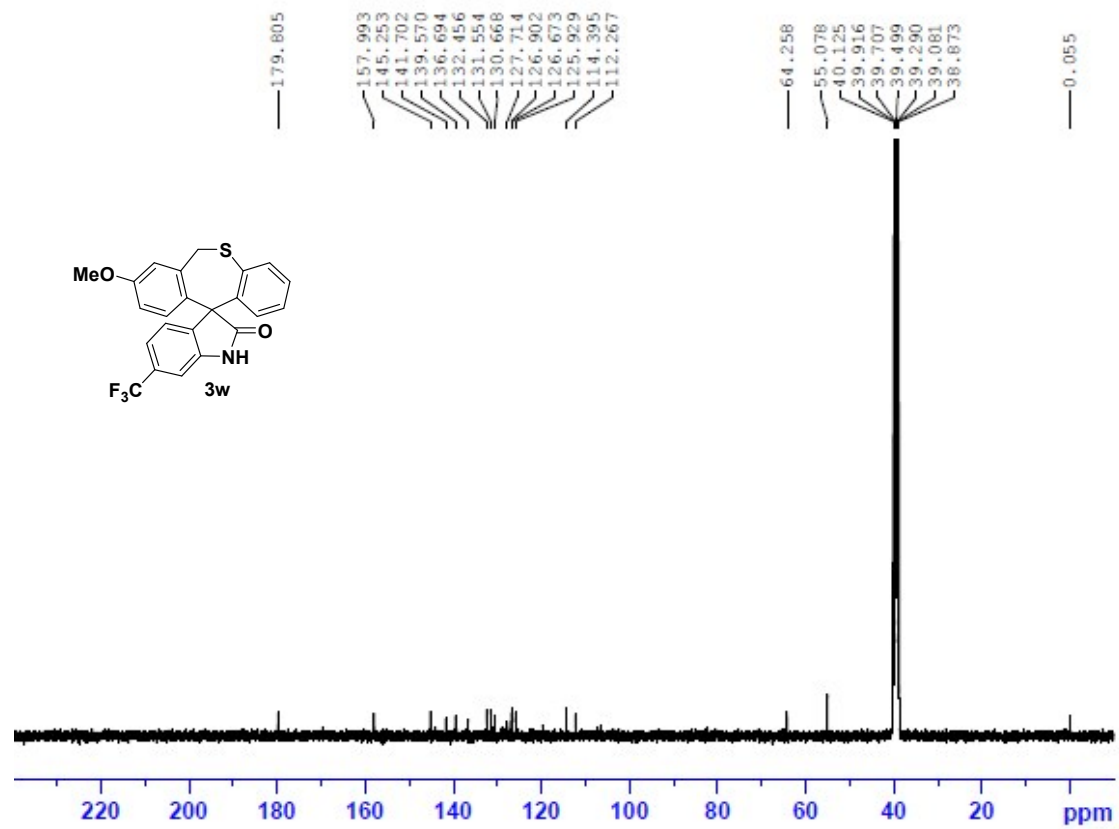
^1H , ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3v

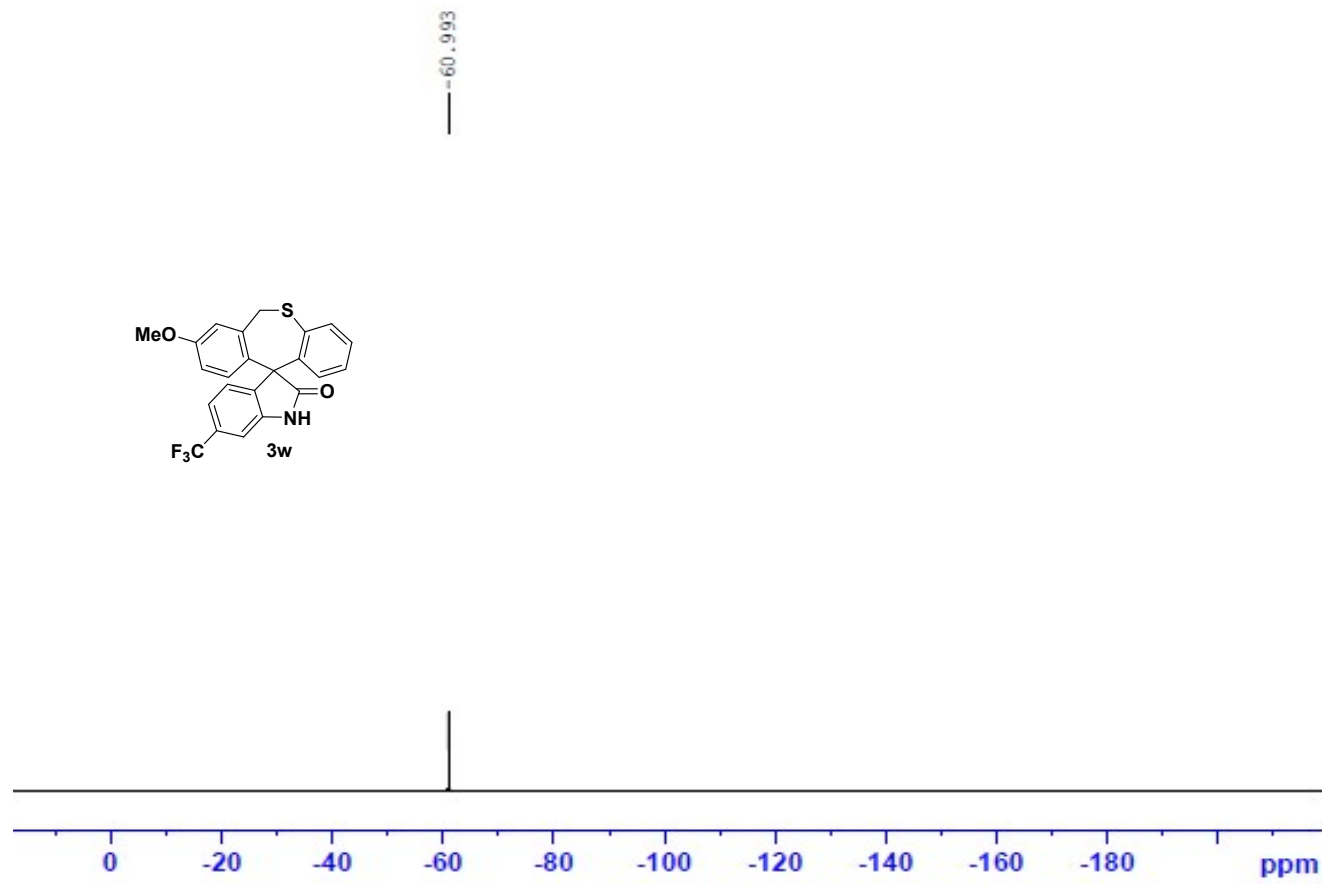




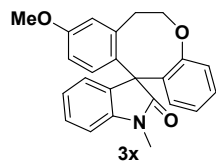
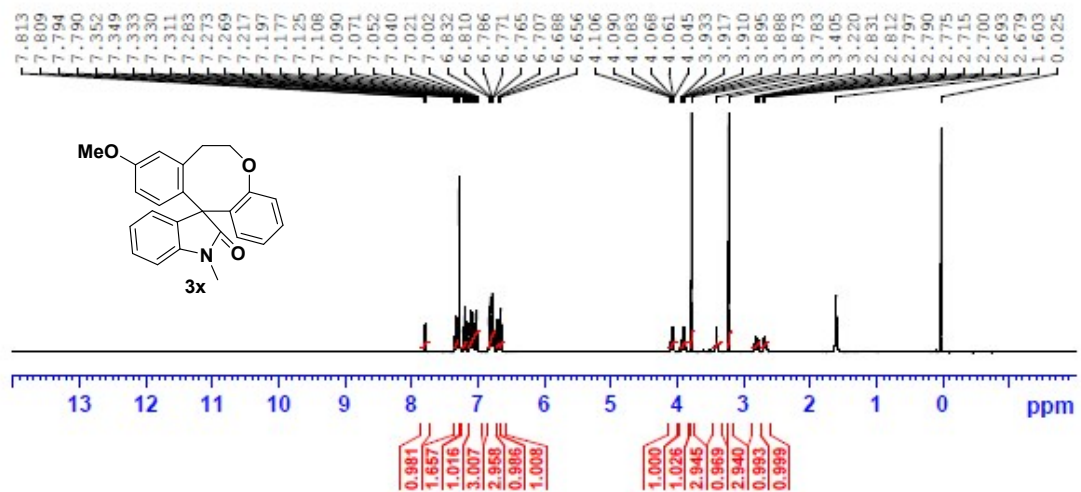
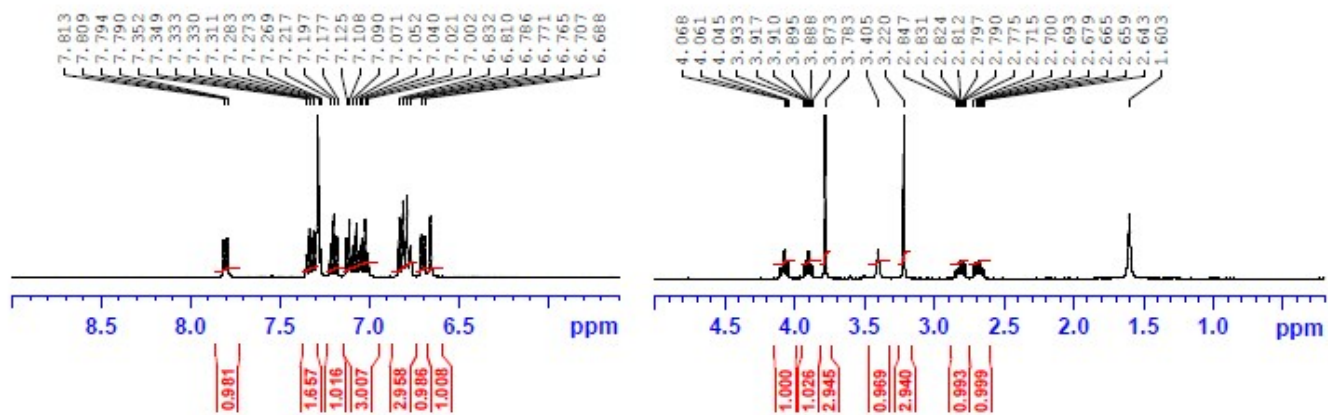
^1H , ^{13}C , ^{19}F – NMR Data for 3w

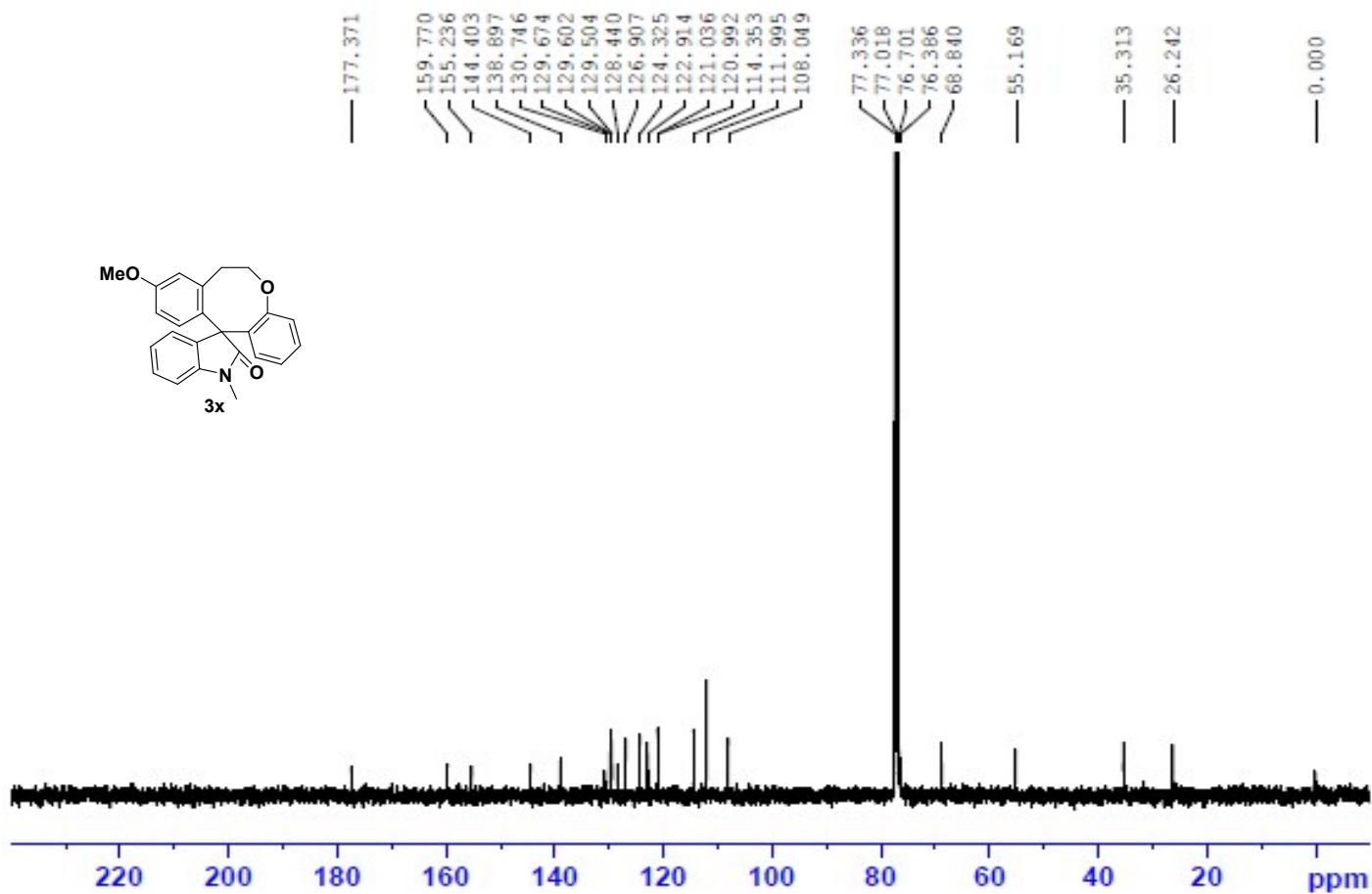




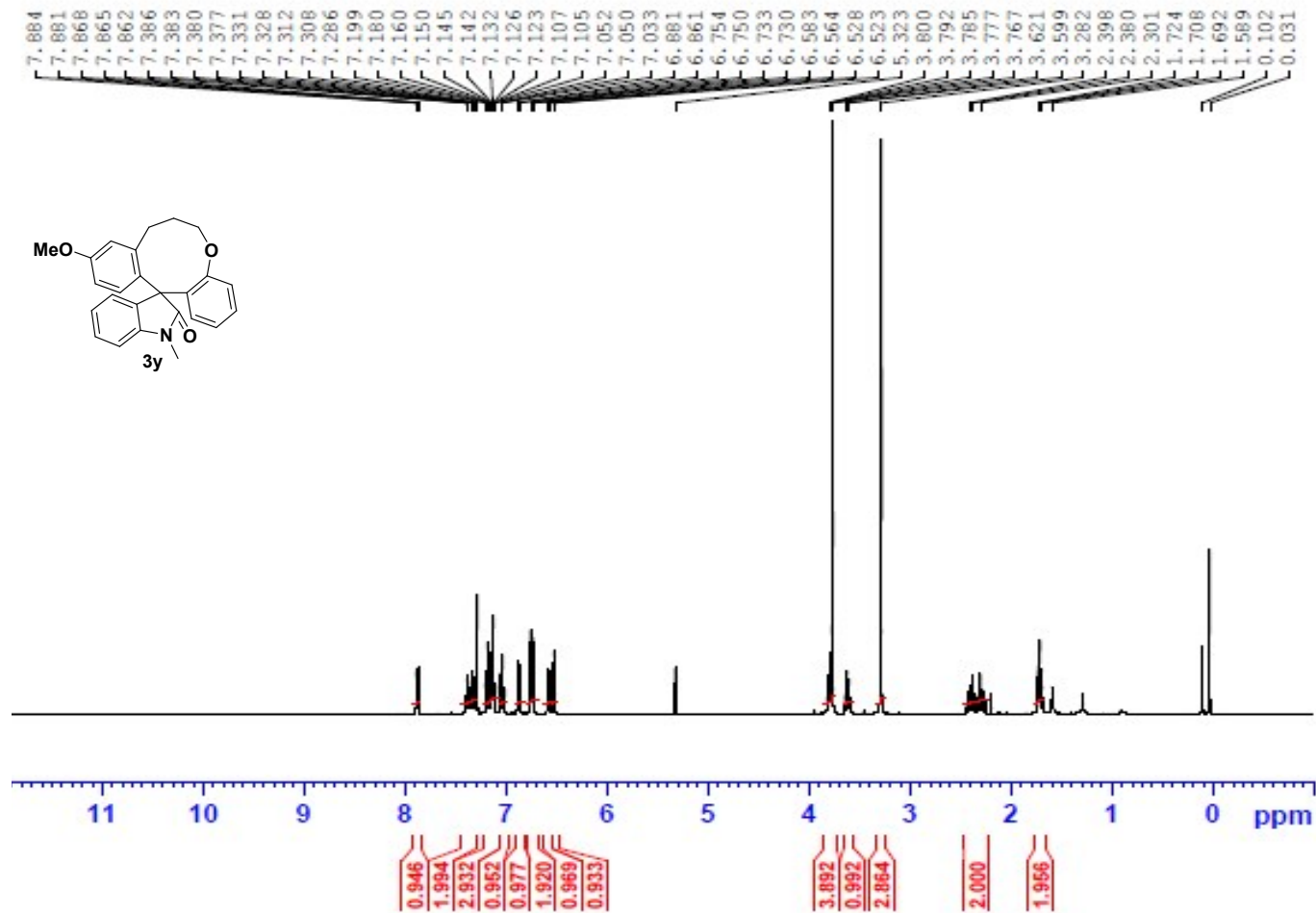


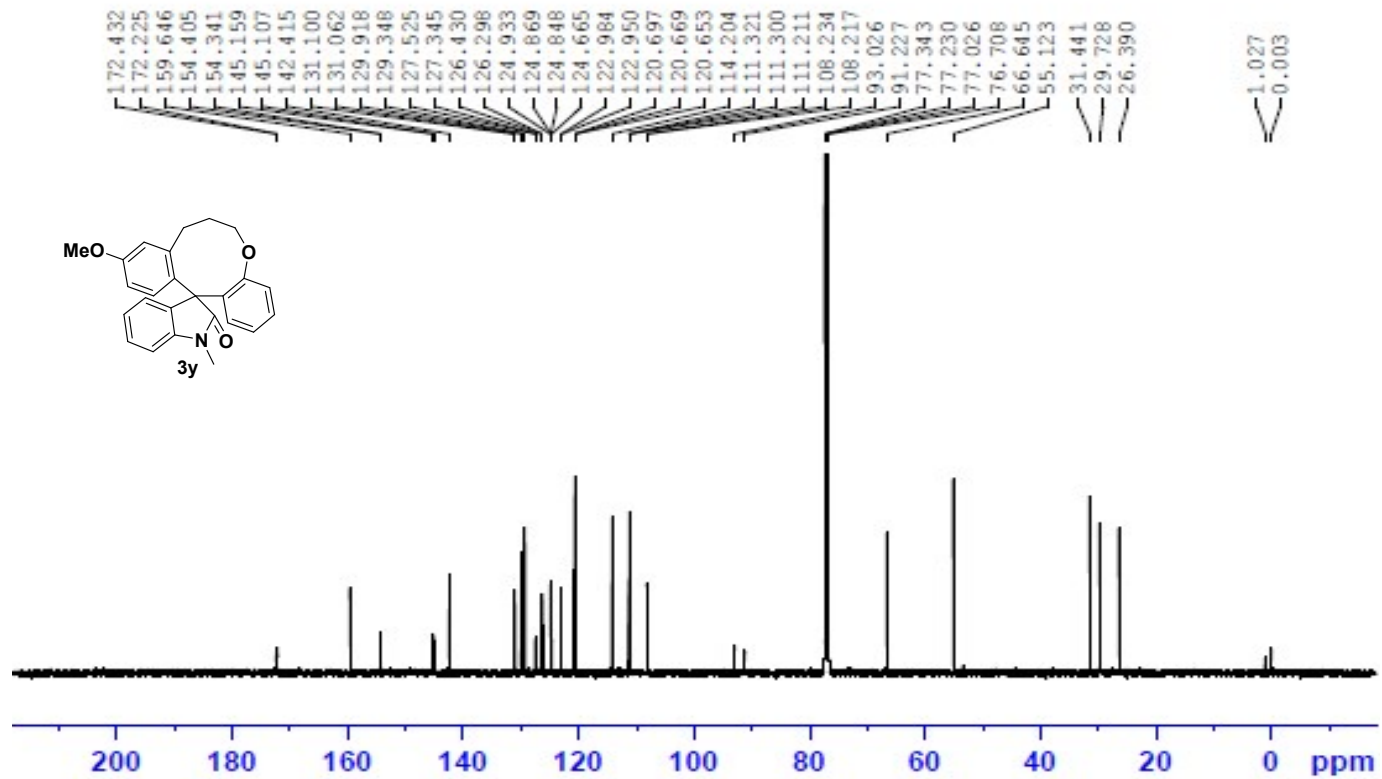
^1H , ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3x



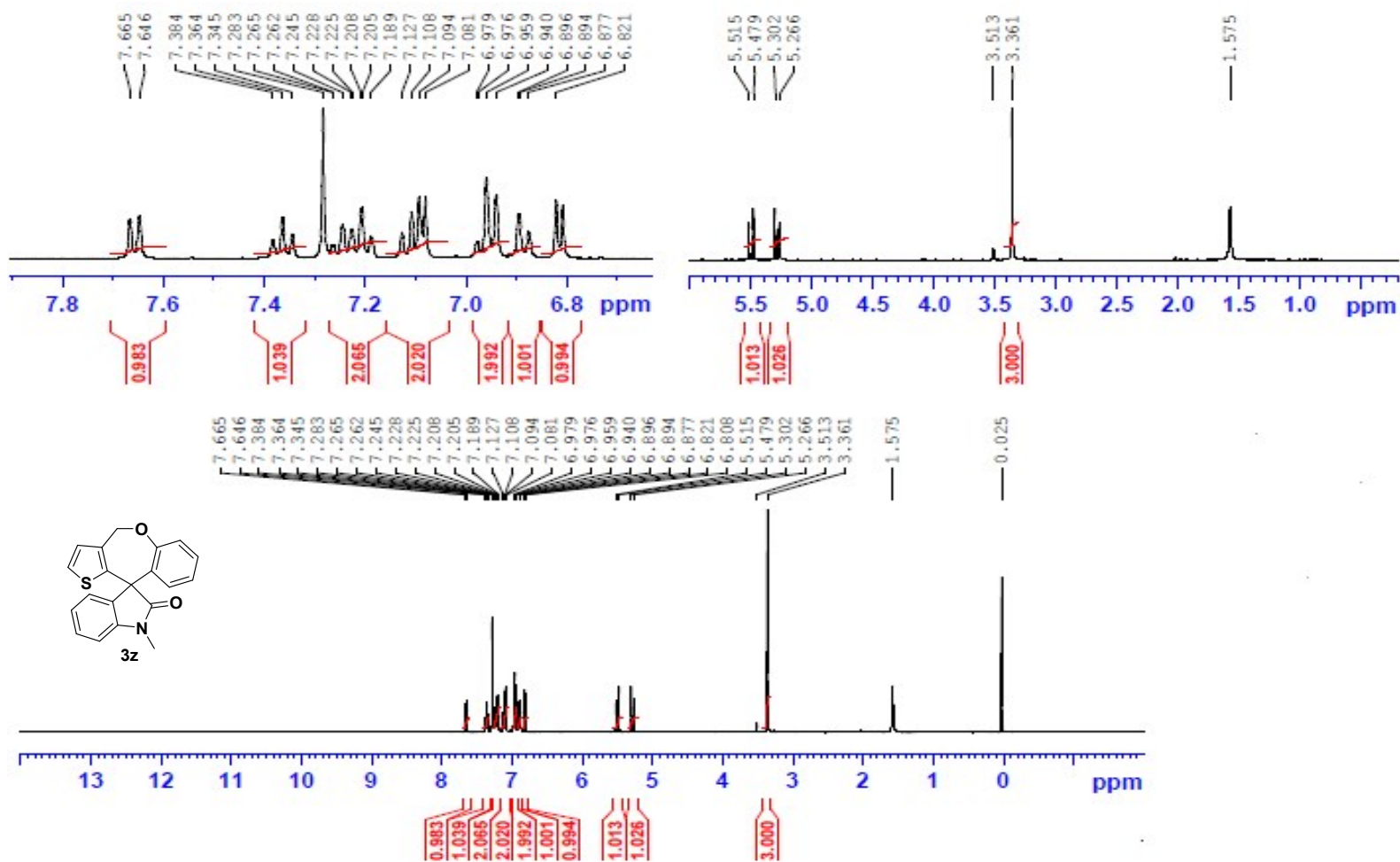


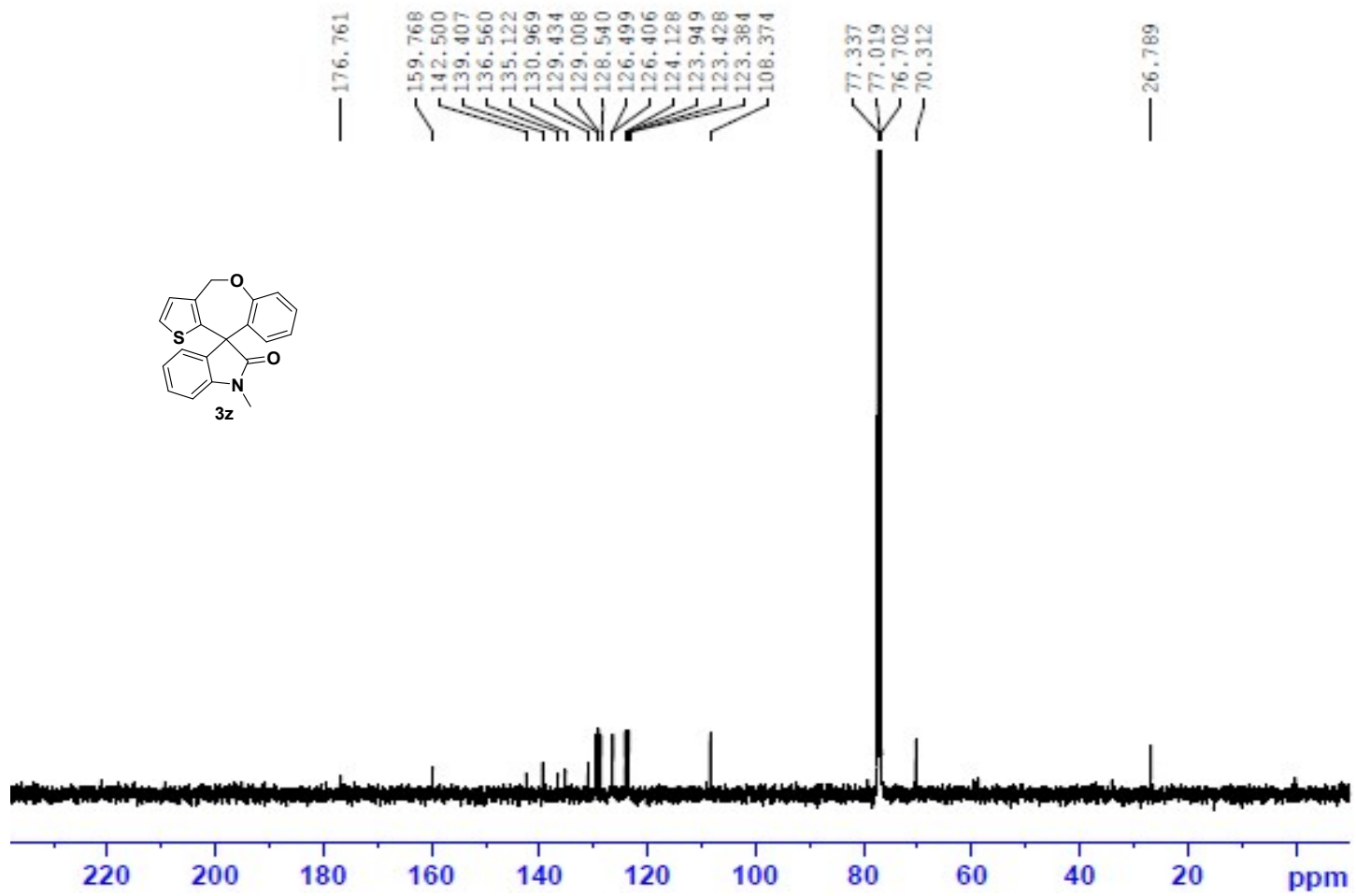
^1H , ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3y



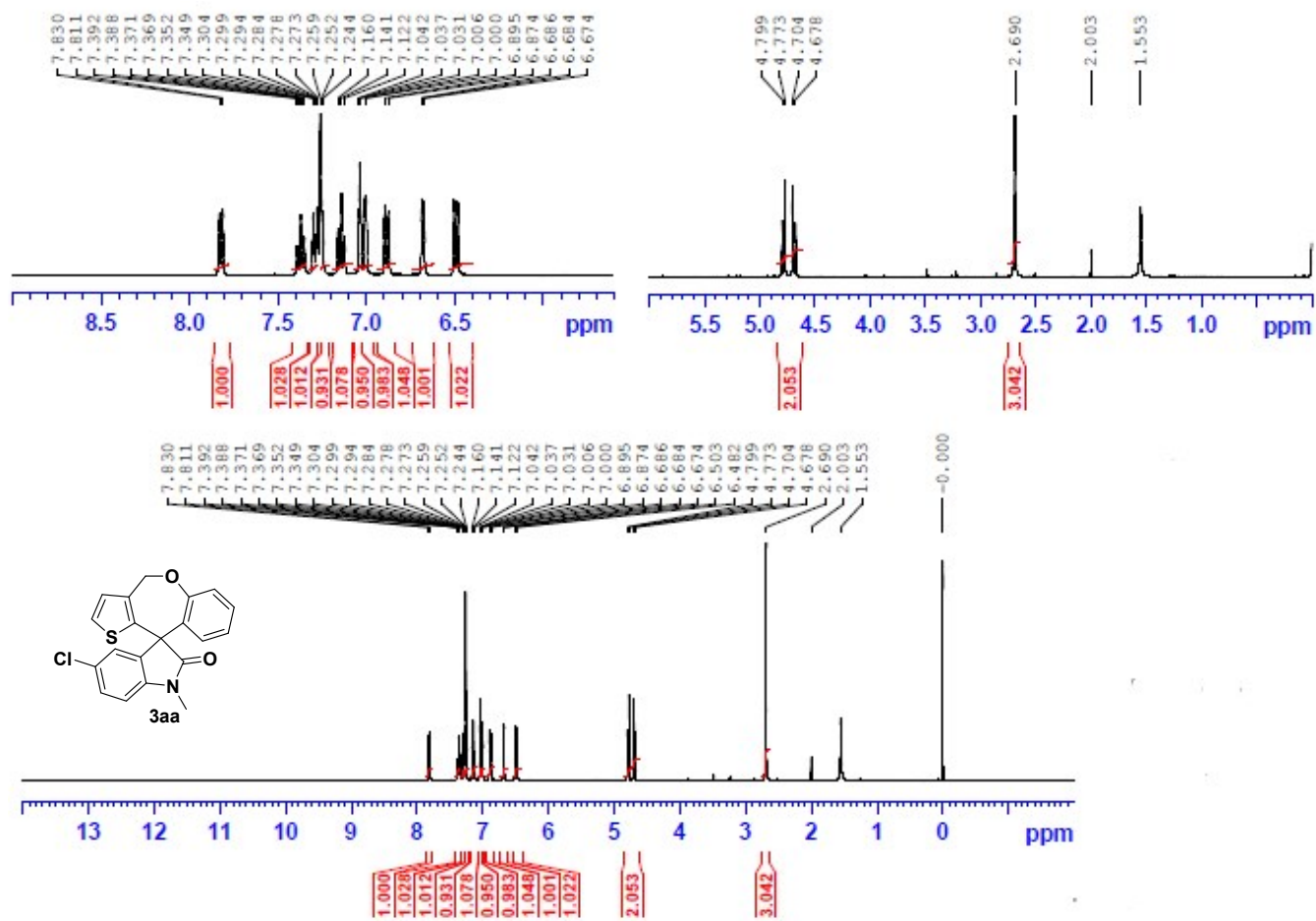


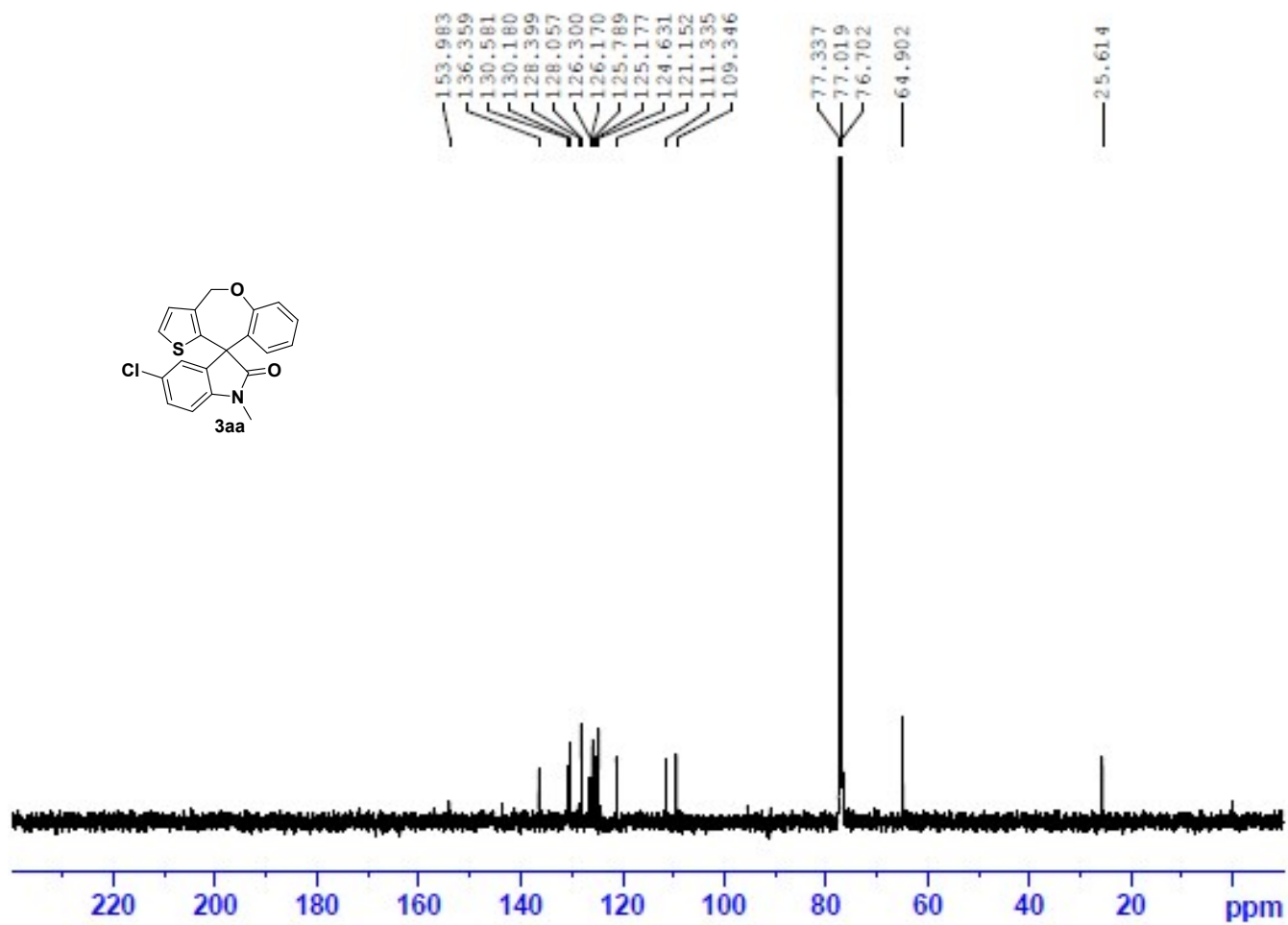
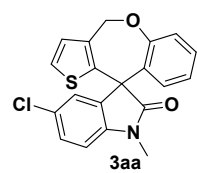
^1H , ^{13}C – NMR Data for 3z





¹H, ¹³C – NMR Data for 3aa





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