

Divergent Synthesis of 2-Methylthioindole and 2-Unsubstituted Indole Derivatives Mediated by SOCl₂ and Dimethyl/diethyl Sulfoxides

Jingran Zhang,^a Beibei Zhang,^a Jiaxin He,^a Haofeng Shi^a and Yunfei Du^{a*}

*^aTianjin Key Laboratory for Modern Drug Delivery & High-Efficiency, School of
Pharmaceutical Science and Technology, Tianjin University, Tianjin 300072, China.*

Tel: +86-22-27406121; duyunfeier@tju.edu.cn

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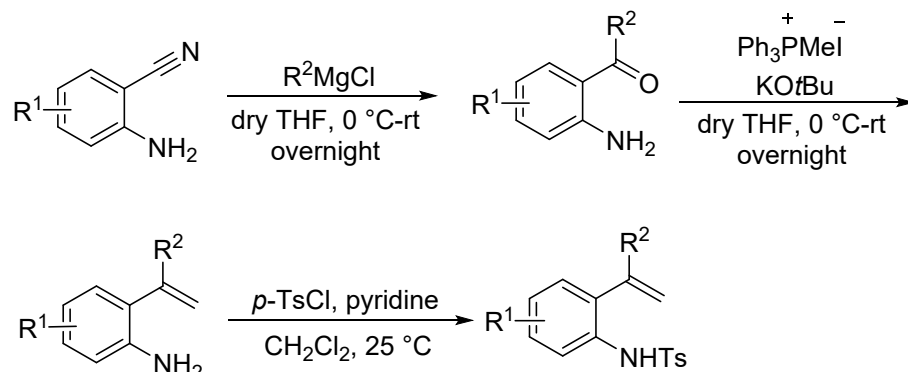
I. General Information

^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz or 600 MHz spectrometer at 25 °C. Chemical shifts values are given in ppm and referred as the internal standard to TMS: 0.00 ppm. Chemical shifts were expressed in parts per million (δ) downfield from the internal standard tetramethylsilane, and were reported as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quadruple), dd (doublet of doublet), m (multiplet), etc. The coupling constants J , are reported in Hertz (Hz). High resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) was obtained on a Q-TOF micro spectrometer. Melting points were determined with a Micromelting point apparatus. TLC plates were visualized by exposure to ultraviolet light.

Reagents and solvents were purchased as reagent grade and were used without further purification. All reactions were performed in standard glassware, heated at 70 °C for 3 h before used. Flash column chromatography was performed over silica gel (200-300 m) using a mixture of ethyl acetate (EtOAc) and petroleum ether (PE).

II. Experimental Procedures and Spectroscopic Data

1. Typical procedure for the synthesis of 1-phenylvinylaniline derivatives 1 (1a-q):¹



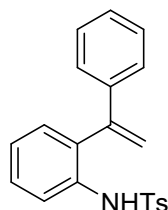
General procedure: 2-Aminobenzonitrile (1.0 equiv, 10 mmol) was added to a solution of Grignard reagent (3.0 equiv, 30 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred overnight. Saturated aq. NH₄Cl (30 mL) was then cautiously added dropwise by syringe until gas evolution ceased. The reaction mixture was then extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 30 mL). The organic solvent was removed by rotary evaporator under vacuum and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford ketone intermediate.

To a stirred solution of Ph₃PMeI (1.5 equiv, 7.5 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) was added KO⁺tBu⁻ (1.5 equiv, 7.5 mmol) in portions under nitrogen. After the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h, a solution of the corresponding ketone (1 equiv, 5 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature under nitrogen overnight. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with water and extracted with EtOAc (25 mL x 2). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ (25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated on rotary evaporator under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give 2-alkenylaniline.

To a solution of 2-alkenylaniline (1.0 equiv, 10.0 mmol) in pyridine (20 mL) was added *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (1.1 equiv, 11.0 mmol) at 0 °C. After being stirred at room temperature for 2 h, the reaction mixture was poured into water and then the product was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 30 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/5) to give the corresponding 1-phenylvinylaniline product.

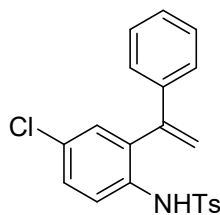
b. Spectroscopic data of 1-phenylvinylaniline derivatives 1 (1a-q):

4-Methyl-*N*-(2-(1-phenylvinyl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide (1a)



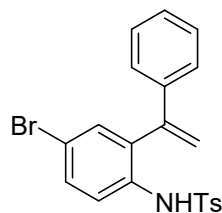
Following the general procedure, **1a** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 80%); mp: 88-90 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (dd, *J* = 10.3, 4.2 Hz, 3H), 7.06 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.04 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0, 143.7, 138.7, 136.1, 134.3, 133.1, 130.5, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 127.3, 126.4, 124.7, 121.1, 117.1, 21.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₉NNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 372.1029, found 372.1022.

N-(4-Chloro-2-(1-phenylvinyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1b)



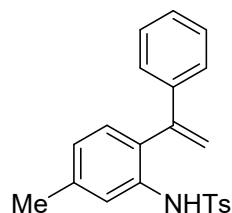
Following the general procedure, **1b** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 82%); mp: 94-95 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dt, *J* = 8.5, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 5.69 (d, *J* = 0.6 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (d, *J* = 0.6 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.99, 143.96, 137.9, 135.8, 134.8, 133.0, 130.24, 130.22, 129.6, 129.0, 128.89, 128.85, 127.2, 126.3, 122.7, 117.8, 21.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₈³⁵ClNNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 406.0639, found 406.0635.

N-(4-Bromo-2-(1-phenylvinyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1c)



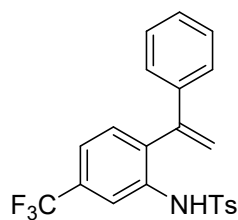
Following the general procedure, **1c** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 78%); mp: 101-103 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.8 Hz, 3H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.04 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 5.70 (d, *J* = 0.4 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.0, 143.8, 137.9, 135.7, 135.0, 133.5, 133.1, 131.8, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 127.2, 126.3, 122.8, 117.9, 117.9, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₈⁷⁹BrNNaO₂S⁺ [*M* + Na⁺] 450.0134, found 450.0136.

4-Methyl-*N*-(5-methyl-2-(1-phenylvinyl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide (**1d**)



Following the general procedure, **1d** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 83%); mp: 140-142 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.98 – 6.89 (m, 2H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 5.65 (s, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 2.38 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0, 143.7, 139.0, 138.9, 136.1, 134.0, 130.3, 130.3, 129.5, 128.8, 128.5, 127.3, 126.4, 125.6, 121.9, 116.9, 21.6, 21.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₂₁NNaO₂S⁺ [*M* + Na⁺] 386.1185, found 386.1188.

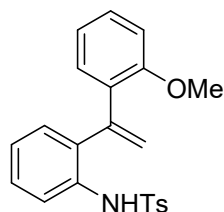
4-Methyl-*N*-(2-(1-phenylvinyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide (**1e**)



Following the general procedure, **1e** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 75%); mp: 108-110 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (ddd, *J* = 7.8, 6.5, 4.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.04 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.74 (s). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.1 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 33.3 Hz), 137.7, 136.0, 135.5, 135.0,

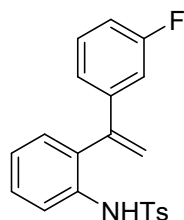
131.4 (q, $^2J_{C-F} = 32.5$ Hz), 131.00, 130.97, 129.7, 129.0, 128.9, 127.3, 126.3, 123.7 (q, $^1J_{C-F} = 270.8$ Hz), 121.1 (q, $^4J_{C-F} = 3.6$ Hz), 118.0, 117.3 (q, $^4J_{C-F} = 4.0$ Hz), 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{22}H_{18}F_3NNaO_2S^+$ [$M + Na^+$] 440.0903, found 440.0908.

***N*-(2-(1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)vinyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1f)**



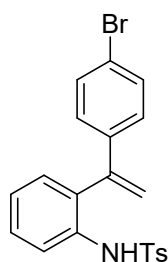
Following the general procedure, **1f** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 68%); mp: 87-89 °C. 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.61 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (dd, $J = 24.0, 15.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd, $J = 7.4, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.45 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.87 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 156.1, 143.5, 142.4, 136.4, 134.3, 134.1, 129.9, 129.9, 129.4, 129.4, 129.3, 128.2, 127.3, 123.9, 121.6, 120.8, 119.7, 111.3, 55.6, 21.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{22}H_{21}NNaO_3S^+$ [$M + Na^+$] 402.1134, found 402.1138.

***N*-(2-(1-(3-Fluorophenyl)vinyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1g)**



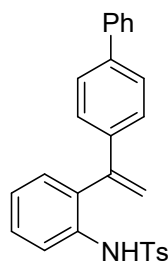
Following the general procedure, **1g** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 65%); mp: 64-66 °C. 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.75 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.20 (dd, $J = 14.1, 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 – 7.07 (m, 3H), 7.03 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (td, $J = 8.3, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 6.52 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -112.04 (s). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.9 (d, $^1J_{C-F} = 245.1$ Hz), 144.0, 143.9, 141.0 (d, $^3J_{C-F} = 7.2$ Hz), 136.0, 134.2, 132.3, 130.4, 130.2 (d, $^3J_{C-F} = 8.3$ Hz), 129.5, 129.1, 127.1, 124.8, 121.9, 121.1, 118.2, 115.3 (d, $^2J_{C-F} = 21.1$ Hz), 113.4 (d, $^2J_{C-F} = 22.3$ Hz), 21.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{21}H_{18}FNNaO_2S^+$ [$M + Na^+$] 390.0934, found 390.0938.

***N*-(2-(1-(4-Bromophenyl)vinyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1h)**



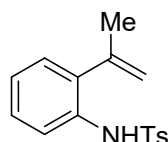
Following the general procedure, **1h** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 73%); mp: 104-106 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (s, 2H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 3H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 5.00 (s, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.9, 143.9, 137.5, 136.0, 134.2, 132.3, 131.8, 130.4, 129.5, 129.1, 127.8, 127.1, 124.7, 122.7, 120.9, 117.7, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₈⁷⁹BrNNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 450.0134, found 450.0138.

***N*-(2-(1-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)vinyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1i)**



Following the general procedure, **1i** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 62%); mp: 102-104 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53 – 7.31 (m, 8H), 7.19 – 6.97 (m, 6H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 5.77 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.5, 143.8, 141.3, 140.2, 137.5, 136.1, 134.3, 133.0, 130.5, 129.5, 128.9, 127.7, 127.4, 127.2, 127.0, 126.8, 124.8, 121.1, 117.1, 21.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₇H₂₃NNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 448.1342, found 448.1346.

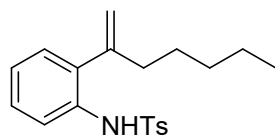
4-Methyl-*N*-(2-(prop-1-en-2-yl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide (1j)



Following the general procedure, **1j** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 88%); mp: 74-76 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 4.9 Hz, 3H), 7.04

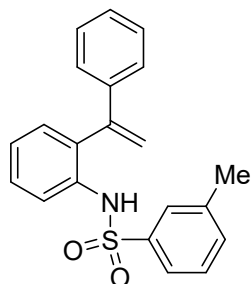
(dd, $J = 8.8, 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.01 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.26 (s, 1H), 4.68 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.9, 142.1, 136.4, 134.8, 132.9, 129.6, 128.0, 128.0, 127.2, 124.4, 120.6, 117.1, 24.4, 21.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$] 310.0872, found 310.0876.

***N*-(2-(Hept-1-en-2-yl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1k)**



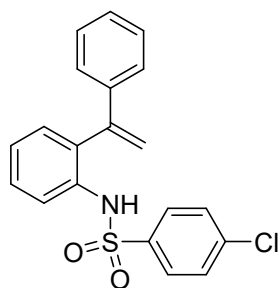
Following the general procedure, **1k** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 65%); mp: 61-63 °C. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 3H), 7.03 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.00 – 6.94 (m, 2H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 4.69 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.97 – 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.26 – 1.18 (m, 4H), 1.18 – 1.13 (m, 2H), 0.86 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.6, 143.8, 133.9, 133.4, 129.6, 128.3, 128.0, 127.2, 124.0, 119.8, 115.9, 37.8, 31.5, 27.1, 22.4, 21.5, 14.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$] 366.1498, found 366.1494.

3-Methyl-*N*-(2-(1-phenylvinyl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide (1l)



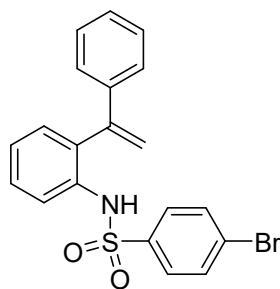
Following the general procedure, **1l** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 83%); mp: 80-82 °C. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.71 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.29 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.12 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, $J = 7.4, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.1, 139.1, 138.9, 138.7, 134.2, 133.7, 133.3, 130.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.5, 126.3, 124.9, 124.4, 121.3, 117.0, 21.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$] 372.1029, found 372.1026.

4-Chloro-*N*-(2-(1-phenylvinyl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide (1m)



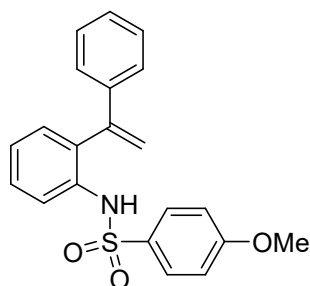
Following the general procedure, **1m** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 85%); mp: 97-99 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.15 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (dt, *J* = 8.5, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 5.71 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0, 139.5, 138.5, 137.4, 133.7, 133.5, 130.7, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 126.2, 125.3, 121.7, 117.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₁₆³⁵ClNNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 392.0482, found 392.0488.

4-Bromo-*N*-(2-(1-phenylvinyl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide (**1n**)



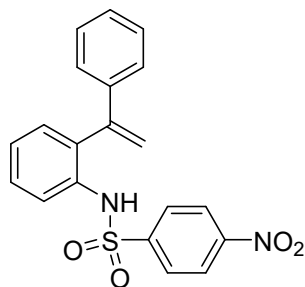
Following the general procedure, **1n** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 80%); mp: 82-84 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.16 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.03 – 6.94 (m, 2H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 5.71 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 138.4, 137.9, 133.7, 133.5, 132.1, 130.7, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 126.2, 125.3, 121.7, 117.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₁₆⁷⁹BrNNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 435.9977, found 435.9973.

4-Methoxy-*N*-(2-(1-phenylvinyl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide (**1o**)



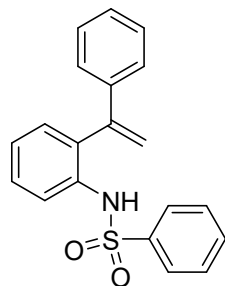
Following the general procedure, **1o** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 82%); mp: 87-88 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.11 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.05 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.80 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 5.72 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.1, 145.0, 138.7, 134.3, 133.1, 130.6, 130.5, 129.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 126.4, 124.7, 121.1, 117.1, 114.0, 55.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₉NNaO₃S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 388.0978, found 388.0971.

4-Nitro-*N*-(2-(1-phenylvinyl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide (**1p**)



Following the general procedure, **1p** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A yellow solid (yield: 79%); mp: 117-119 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 – 8.04 (m, 2H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.39 (td, *J* = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.10 (m, 4H), 6.98 (dt, *J* = 8.5, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 5.70 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (d, *J* = 0.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.1, 144.8, 144.5, 138.2, 133.7, 133.0, 130.8, 129.2, 128.9, 128.9, 128.3, 126.0, 125.9, 124.0, 122.2, 117.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂NaO₄S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 403.0723, found 403.0726.

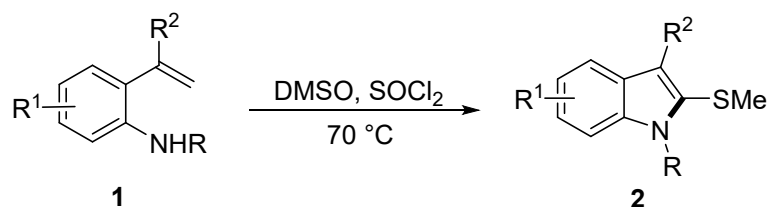
N-(2-(1-Phenylvinyl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide (**1q**)



Following the general procedure, **1q** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (yield: 81%); mp: 120-121 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.13 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 5.66 (s,

1H), 4.85 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0, 139.1, 138.6, 134.1, 133.4, 132.9, 132.9, 130.5, 128.9, 128.9, 128.7, 127.2, 126.3, 125.0, 121.4, 117.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₁₇NNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 358.0872, found 358.0876.

c. Typical Procedure for the synthesis of 2-methylthioindole derivatives 2 (2a-o):

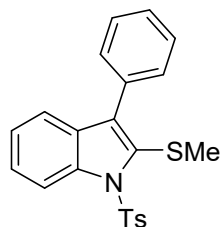


Method A: To a solution of substrate **1** (0.5 mmol) in DMSO (1 mL) was slowly added SOCl₂ (2.0 mmol, 239 mg) at 25 °C. The mixture was kept stirring at 70 °C until TLC indicated the total consumption of substrate **1**. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ solution (5 mL) and water (20 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL), combined the organic phase and then evaporated the solvent, purified by flash column chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE) to afford the desired 2-methylthioindole derivatives **2**.

Method B: To a solution of substrate **1** (0.5 mmol) in DMSO (1 mL) was slowly added SOCl₂ (2.5 mmol, 299 mg) at 25 °C. The mixture was kept stirring at 70 °C until TLC indicated the total consumption of substrate **1**. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ solution (5 mL) and water (20 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL), combined the organic phase and then evaporated the solvent, purified by flash column chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE) to afford the desired 2-methylthioindole derivatives **2**.

d. Spectroscopic data of 2-methylthioindole derivatives 2 (2a-o):

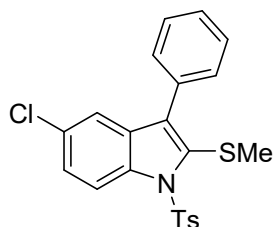
2-(Methylthio)-3-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indole (2a)



Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2a** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (157 mg, 80%); mp: 116-118 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.54 –

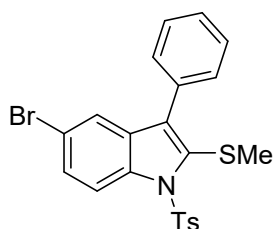
7.36 (m, 7H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.8, 138.0, 136.1, 132.6, 131.6, 130.1, 129.8, 129.6, 129.5, 128.4, 127.9, 127.3, 126.0, 123.8, 120.1, 115.6, 21.7, 21.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}_2^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$] 416.0749, found 416.0755.

5-Chloro-2-(methylthio)-3-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indole (2b)



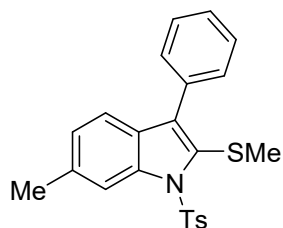
Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2b** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (139 mg, 65%); mp: 148-150 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.34 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.41 (td, $J = 5.9, 2.3$ Hz, 4H), 7.36 (dd, $J = 9.0, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.1, 136.3, 135.8, 132.0, 131.4, 130.7, 130.6, 130.0, 129.7, 129.7, 128.5, 128.1, 127.3, 126.0, 119.5, 116.7, 21.7, 21.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}^{35}\text{ClNNaO}_2\text{S}_2^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$] 450.0360, found 450.0366.

5-Bromo-2-(methylthio)-3-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indole (2c)



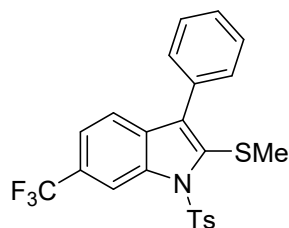
Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2c** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (172 mg, 73%); mp: 139-141 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.28 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.55 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.40 (tt, $J = 7.8, 1.6$ Hz, 3H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.1, 136.6, 135.8, 132.0, 131.3, 131.2, 130.5, 130.0, 129.7, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 127.3, 122.6, 117.4, 117.0, 21.7, 21.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}^{79}\text{BrNNaO}_2\text{S}_2^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$] 493.9855, found 493.9858.

6-Methyl-2-(methylthio)-3-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indole (2d)



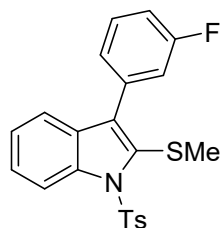
Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2d** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (179 mg, 88%); mp: 139-140 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.48 – 7.36 (m, 5H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.7, 138.4, 136.2, 132.8, 131.7, 130.1, 129.8, 129.6, 128.9, 128.3, 127.8, 127.3, 127.1, 125.3, 119.7, 115.6, 22.2, 21.7, 21.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₃H₂₁NNaO₂S₂⁺ [*M* + Na⁺] 430.0906, found 430.0902.

2-(Methylthio)-3-phenyl-1-tosyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-indole (**2e**)



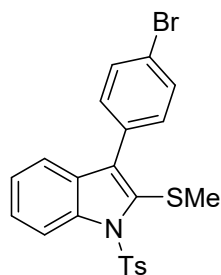
Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2e** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (70 mg, 30%); Following the general procedure **Method B**, **2e** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (113 mg, 49%); mp: 121-123 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.72 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 1.9 Hz, 3H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -61.09 (s). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.3, 137.0, 135.8, 132.9, 131.9, 131.8, 130.7, 130.0, 129.7, 128.5, 128.2, 127.8 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 32.1 Hz), 127.5, 124.6 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 270.5 Hz), 120.4, 113.0 (q, ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 4.4 Hz), 21.6, 21.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₃H₁₈F₃NNaO₂S₂⁺ [*M* + Na⁺] 484.0623, found 484.0625.

3-(3-Fluorophenyl)-2-(methylthio)-1-tosyl-1H-indole (**2f**)



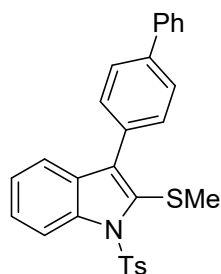
Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2f** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (146 mg, 71%); mp: 83-84 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 7.3 Hz, 3H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (td, *J* = 8.4, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.99 (s). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.7 (d, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 244.3 Hz), 144.9, 138.0, 136.1, 134.8 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 8.4 Hz), 130.24 (d, ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 2.0 Hz), 130.21, 129.8 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 8.4 Hz), 129.6, 129.1, 127.3, 126.1, 125.9, 123.9, 119.8, 117.1 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 21.8 Hz), 115.6, 114.7 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 20.9 Hz), 21.6, 21.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₁₈FNNaO₂S₂⁺ [M + Na⁺] 434.0655, found 434.0658.

3-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-(methylthio)-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (**2g**)



Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2g** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (186 mg, 79%); mp: 116-117 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 138.0, 136.1, 131.8, 131.6, 130.4, 130.0, 129.6, 129.0, 127.3, 126.1, 123.9, 122.0, 119.8, 115.6, 21.6, 21.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₁₈⁷⁹BrNNaO₂S₂⁺ [M + Na⁺] 493.9855, found 493.9848.

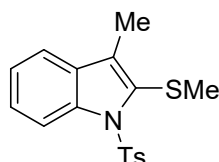
3-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-(methylthio)-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (**2h**)



Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2h** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (152 mg, 65%); mp: 201-203 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.43 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.72 –

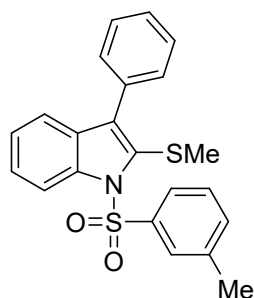
7.68 (m, 2H), 7.66 (dd, $J = 5.2, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (ddd, $J = 10.3, 6.8, 1.8$ Hz, 4H), 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.22 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.8, 140.7, 140.6, 138.1, 136.1, 131.6, 131.2, 130.5, 129.8, 129.6, 129.5, 128.8, 127.5, 127.3, 127.1, 127.0, 126.0, 123.8, 120.1, 115.6, 21.6, 21.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}_2^+$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}^+]$ 492.1062, found 492.1068.

3-Methyl-2-(methylthio)-1-tosyl-1H-indole (2i)



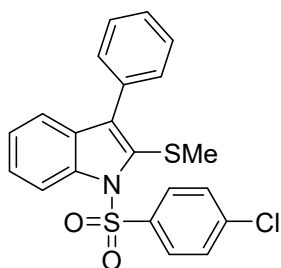
Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2i** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). Colorless oil (119 mg, 72%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.34 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (ddd, $J = 8.5, 7.3, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.5, 138.0, 136.3, 130.2, 129.5, 129.2, 127.4, 127.1, 125.8, 123.4, 119.3, 115.5, 21.6, 20.9, 10.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}_2^+$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}^+]$ 354.0598, found 354.0599.

2-(Methylthio)-3-phenyl-1-(m-tolylsulfonyl)-1H-indole (2j)



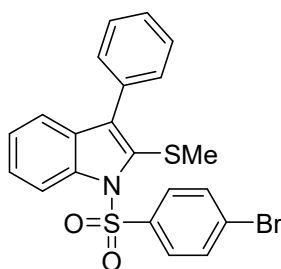
Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2j** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (159 mg, 81%); mp: 107-108 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.41 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.39 (m, 7H), 7.36 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 139.2, 138.9, 138.0, 134.6, 132.6, 131.7, 130.1, 129.8, 129.5, 128.8, 128.4, 127.9, 127.6, 126.0, 124.4, 123.8, 120.1, 115.5, 21.39, 21.37. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}_2^+$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}^+]$ 416.0749, found 416.0742.

1-((4-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl)-2-(methylthio)-3-phenyl-1H-indole (2k)



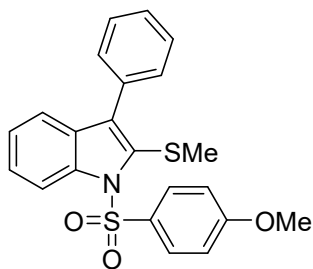
Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2k** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (147 mg, 71%); mp: 114-115 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.49 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.45 – 7.38 (m, 6H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.4, 138.0, 137.4, 132.4, 132.2, 130.1, 129.69, 129.66, 129.3, 128.7, 128.4, 128.0, 126.2, 124.1, 120.3, 115.5, 21.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₆ClNNaO₂S₂⁺ [M + Na⁺] 436.0203, found 436.0208.

1-((4-Bromophenyl)sulfonyl)-2-(methylthio)-3-phenyl-1H-indole (**2l**)



Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2l** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (153 mg, 67%); mp: 114-115 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 7.0 Hz, 3H), 7.44 – 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.0, 137.9, 132.4, 132.3, 132.2, 130.1, 129.7, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 126.2, 124.1, 120.3, 115.5, 21.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₆⁷⁹BrNNaO₂S₂⁺ [M + Na⁺] 479.9698, found 479.9688.

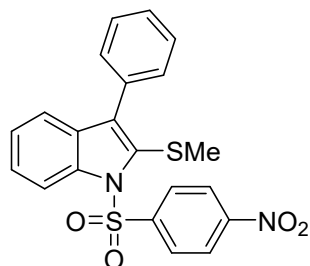
1-((4-Methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl)-2-(methylthio)-3-phenyl-1H-indole (**2m**)



Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2m** was purified by silica gel

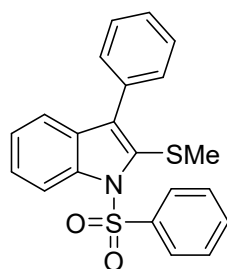
chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (147 mg, 72%); mp: 122-124 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.49 – 7.38 (m, 7H), 7.28 – 7.24 (d, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.7, 138.0, 132.7, 131.5, 130.7, 130.1, 129.9, 129.56, 129.54, 128.3, 127.8, 125.9, 123.7, 120.0, 115.6, 114.1, 55.6, 21.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₁₉NNaO₃S₂⁺ [*M* + Na⁺] 432.0699, found 432.0690.

2-(Methylthio)-1-((4-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)-3-phenyl-1*H*-indole (2n)



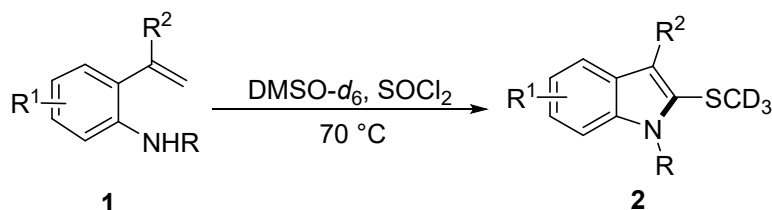
Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2n** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). A yellow solid (172 mg, 81%); mp: 96-98 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.6, 144.2, 137.9, 132.9, 132.0, 130.0, 129.8, 129.5, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 126.5, 124.6, 124.2, 120.5, 115.5, 21.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₆N₂NaO₄S₂⁺ [*M* + Na⁺] 447.0444, found 447.0448.

2-(Methylthio)-3-phenyl-1-(phenylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indole (2o)



Following the general procedure **Method A**, **2o** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/petroleum ether). A white solid (155mg, 82%); mp: 110-111 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.37 (m, 9H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.0, 138.1, 133.7, 132.5, 131.8, 130.1, 129.8, 129.5, 129.0, 128.4, 127.9, 127.3, 126.0, 123.9, 120.1, 115.6, 21.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₇NNaO₂S₂⁺ [*M* + Na⁺] 402.0593, found 402.0596.

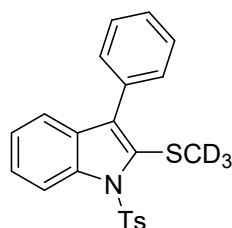
e. Typical procedure for the synthesis of 2-(*d*₃-methylthio) indole derivatives 2 (2p-s):



General procedure: To a solution of substrate **1** (0.5 mmol) in DMSO-*d*₆ (1 mL) was slowly added SOCl₂ (2.0 mmol, 239 mg) at 25 °C. The mixture was kept stirring at 70 °C until TLC indicated the total consumption of substrate **1**. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ solution (5 mL) and water (20 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL), combined the organic phase and then evaporated the solvent, purified by flash column chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE) to afford the desired 2-(*d*₃-methylthio)indole derivatives **2**.

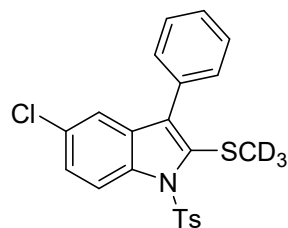
f. Spectroscopic data of 2-(*d*₃-methylthio) indole derivatives 2 (2p-s):

2-(*d*₃-Methylthio)-3-phenyl-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (2p)



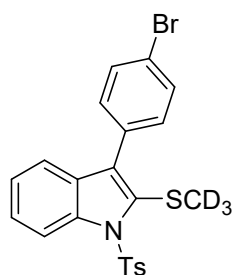
Following the general procedure, **2p** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (157 mg, 80%); mp: 116-117 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.41 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.49 – 7.44 (m, 5H), 7.43 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.7, 138.1, 136.2, 132.7, 131.6, 130.1, 129.8, 129.6, 128.3, 127.8, 127.3, 125.9, 123.8, 120.0, 115.6, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₁₆D₃NNaO₂S₂⁺ [M + Na⁺] 416.0749, found 416.0745.

5-Chloro-2-(*d*₃-methylthio)-3-phenyl-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (2q)



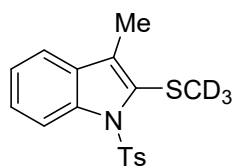
Following the general procedure, **2q** was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (141 mg, 66%); m.p. 150-151 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.33 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 4H), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.1, 136.3, 135.9, 132.0, 131.4, 130.8, 130.6, 130.0, 129.74, 129.65, 128.5, 128.1, 127.3, 126.0, 119.5, 116.7, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₁₅D₃ClNNaO₂S₂⁺ [M + Na⁺] 450.0360, found 450.0368.

3-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-(*d*₃-methylthio)-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (**2r**)



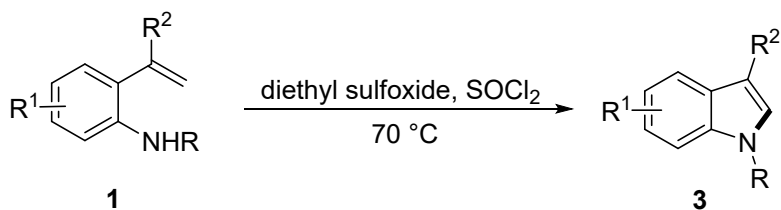
Following the general procedure, **2r** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (177 mg, 75%); mp: 117-118 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.41 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 138.0, 136.2, 131.8, 131.6, 130.4, 130.0, 129.6, 129.1, 127.3, 126.1, 123.9, 122.0, 119.8, 115.6, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₁₅D₃BrNNaO₂S₂⁺ [M + Na⁺] 493.9855, found 493.9858.

3-Methyl-2-(methylthio)-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (**2s**)



Following the general procedure, **2s** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). Colorless oil (116 mg, 70%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.37 – 8.31 (m, 1H), 7.81 – 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.43 (ddd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.5, 138.0, 136.2, 130.2, 129.5, 129.2, 127.4, 127.1, 125.8, 123.4, 119.3, 115.5, 21.6, 10.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₄D₃NNaO₂S₂⁺ [M + Na⁺] 354.0593, found 354.0596.

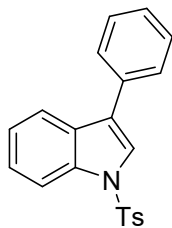
g. Typical procedure for the synthesis of 2-unsubstituted indole derivatives 3 (3a-j):



To a solution of substrate **1** (0.5 mmol) in diethyl sulfoxide (1 mL) was slowly added SOCl₂ (1.5 mmol, 179 mg) at 25 °C. The mixture was kept stirring at 70 °C until TLC indicated the total consumption of substrate **1**. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ solution (5 mL) and water (20 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL), combined the organic phase and then evaporated the solvent, purified by flash column chromatography (2% EtOAc/PE) to afford the desired 2-methylthioindole derivatives **3**.

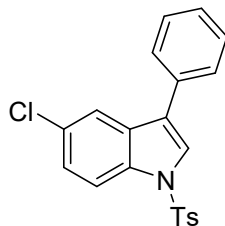
h. Spectroscopic data of 2-unsubstituted indole derivatives **3** (3a-j):

3-Phenyl-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (**3a**)



Following the general procedure, **3a** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (158 mg, 91%); mp: 144-145 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 3H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.1, 135.6, 135.2, 133.1, 130.0, 129.3, 128.9, 127.9, 127.6, 126.9, 124.9, 124.0, 123.6, 123.0, 120.5, 113.9, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₇NNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 370.0872, found 370.0878.

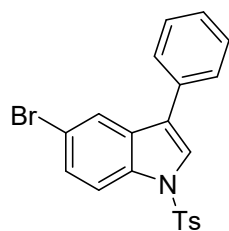
5-Chloro-3-phenyl-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (**3b**)



Following the general procedure, **3b** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5%

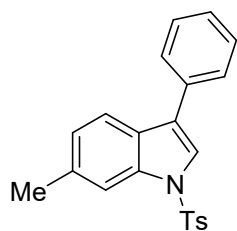
EtOAc/PE). A white solid (158 mg, 83%); mp: 115-116 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.76 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.4, 134.9, 133.9, 132.4, 130.6, 130.1, 129.6, 129.1, 127.9, 126.9, 125.2, 124.2, 123.5, 120.2, 114.9, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₆³⁵ClNNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 404.0482, found 404.0488.

5-Bromo-3-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indole (3c)



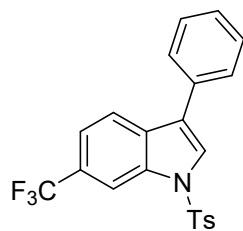
Following the general procedure, **3c** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (183 mg, 86%); mp: 132-134 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.4, 134.2, 132.4, 131.1, 130.1, 129.1, 127.9, 127.9, 127.8, 126.9, 124.1, 123.4, 123.2, 117.3, 115.3, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₁₆⁷⁹BrNNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 447.9977, found 447.9973.

6-Methyl-3-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indole (3d)



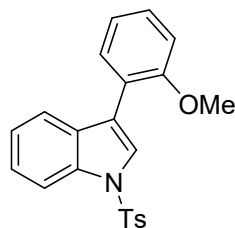
Following the general procedure, **3d** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (134 mg, 74%); mp: 120-121 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 136.0, 135.5, 135.1, 133.3, 129.9, 128.9, 127.8, 127.5, 127.1, 126.9, 125.1, 123.9, 122.4, 120.0, 114.0, 21.9, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₁₉NNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 384.1029, found 384.1025.

3-Phenyl-1-tosyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-indole (3e)



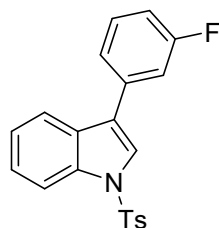
Following the general procedure, **3e** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (145 mg, 70%); mp: 132-134 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.80 (m, 3H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -61.09 (s). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.6, 134.8, 134.6, 132.3, 131.7, 130.2, 129.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.1 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 32.4 Hz), 127.0, 125.3, 124.5 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 270.4 Hz), 123.8, 121.0, 120.3 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 3.5 Hz), 111.3 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 4.4 Hz), 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₁₆F₃NNaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 438.0746, found 438.0741.

3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (3f)



Following the general procedure, **3f** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). Colorless oil (117 mg, 62%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.79 (m, 3H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.09 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.9, 144.9, 135.4, 135.0, 130.6, 130.3, 129.9, 128.8, 126.9, 125.3, 124.5, 123.2, 121.8, 121.2, 120.7, 119.5, 113.7, 111.3, 55.5, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₁₉NNaO₃S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 400.0978, found 400.0972.

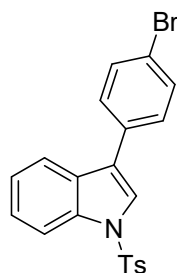
3-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (3g)



Following the general procedure, **3g** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). Colorless oil (139 mg, 76%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (d, *J* =

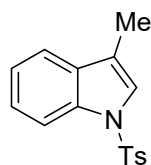
8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.42 (td, $J = 7.9, 5.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (ddd, $J = 6.3, 3.8, 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.09 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -112.58 (s). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.1 (d, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 244.6$ Hz), 145.1, 135.5, 135.3 (d, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.1$ Hz), 135.2, 130.4 (d, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.5$ Hz), 130.0, 128.9, 126.9, 125.1, 123.7, 123.5 (d, $^4J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.8$ Hz), 123.4, 122.8 (d, $^4J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.3$ Hz), 120.2, 114.7 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.0$ Hz), 114.3 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 21.0$ Hz), 113.9, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNNaO}_2\text{S}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$] 388.0778, found 388.0771.

3-(4-Bromophenyl)-1-tosyl-1H-indole (3h)



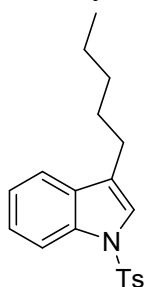
Following the general procedure, **3h** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). Colorless oil (159 mg, 75%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.06 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.2, 135.5, 135.3, 132.1, 130.0, 129.4, 128.9, 126.9, 125.1, 123.7, 123.1, 122.8, 121.5, 120.2, 113.9, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}^{79}\text{BrNNaO}_2\text{S}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$] 447.9977, found 447.9973.

3-Methyl-1-tosyl-1H-indole (3i)



Following the general procedure, **3i** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (98 mg, 69%); mp: 96-97 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.99 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.7, 135.5, 135.3, 131.8, 129.8, 126.8, 124.6, 123.1, 123.0, 119.4, 118.6, 113.7, 21.6, 9.7. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$] 308.0716, found 308.0712.

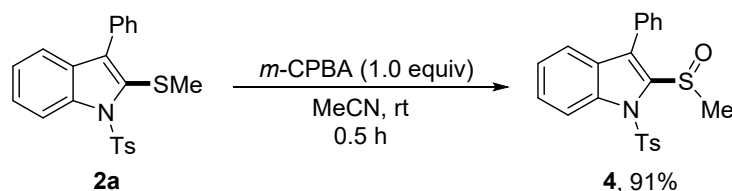
3-Pentyl-1-tosyl-1H-indole (3j)



Following the general procedure, **3j** was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE). A white solid (121 mg, 71%); mp: 59-60 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.21 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 8.0 Hz, 3H), 2.64 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.74 – 1.63 (m, 2H), 1.39 – 1.30 (m, 4H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.6, 135.4, 135.4, 131.3, 129.8, 126.7, 124.5, 123.7, 122.9, 122.6, 119.5, 113.8, 31.6, 28.6, 24.8, 22.5, 21.5, 14.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₃NNaO₂S⁺ [*M* + Na⁺] 364.1342, found 364.1346.

i. Procedure and spectroscopic data of compounds 4-13

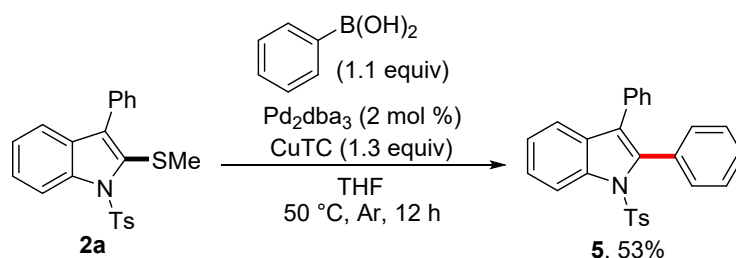
2-(Methylsulfinyl)-3-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-indole (4)²



To a solution of compound **2a** (0.5 mmol) in MeCN (2.0 mL) was added *meta*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (*m*-CPBA) (0.5 mmol) at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. Upon completion of the reaction, MeCN was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was admixed with DCM (30 mL) and the resultant solution was washed with water (30 mL × 3). The organic layer was further washed with aq. NaOH solution, then washed with brine, dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude residue was purified on silica gel (30% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to afford the corresponding sulfoxide **4** as a white solid (186 mg, 91 %), mp: 183–184 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.31 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (ddd, *J* = 8.6, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.40 (m, 5H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.6, 137.4, 135.8, 134.2, 133.1, 130.7, 130.4, 130.1, 129.9, 128.7, 128.3, 127.8,

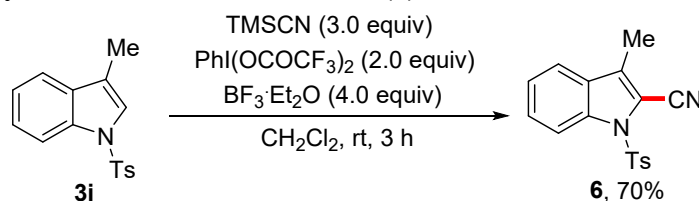
127.5, 124.5, 121.4, 115.1, 41.9, 21.7. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{22}H_{19}NNaO_3S_2^+$ [$M + Na^+$] 432.0699, found 432.0697.

2,3-Diphenyl-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (**5**)



2-Methylthioindole (0.50 mmol), phenylboronic acid (0.55 mmol), Pd_2dba_3 (0.01 mmol), and $CuTC$ (0.65 mmol) were placed in a reaction vessel, which was flushed with argon. Then THF (5 mL) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 12 h. When the reaction was completed (monitored by TLC), Et_2O (15 mL) was added, and then the mixture was extracted with a saturated aqueous solution of NH_4OH (3×20 mL). The organic layer was then dried with Na_2SO_4 , and solid residues after evaporation were subjected to preparative plate silica gel chromatography (5% $EtOAc$ /petroleum ether), giving the desired product **5** as a white solid (112 mg, 53%), mp: 145–146 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.41 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 3H), 7.29 (dd, $J = 7.7, 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H), 7.20 (dd, $J = 8.9, 6.1$ Hz, 3H), 7.09 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 144.6, 137.3, 136.9, 135.4, 132.7, 132.1, 130.9, 130.5, 129.9, 129.3, 128.5, 128.2, 127.3, 127.0, 125.2, 124.8, 124.2, 120.0, 116.3, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{27}H_{21}NNaO_2S^+$ [$M + Na^+$] 446.1185, found 446.1183.

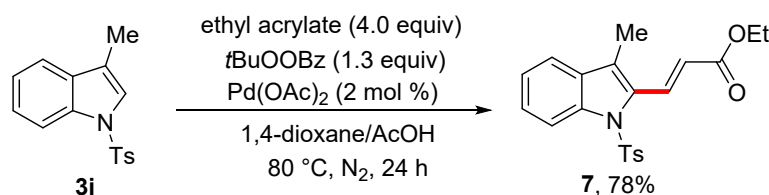
3-Methyl-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole-2-carbonitrile (**6**)³



To a stirred solution of PIFA (1.0 mmol) and $BF_3 \cdot Et_2O$ (2.0 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) added trimethylsilyl cyanide (1.5 mmol) at room temperature. After stirring 30 min, 3-methyl-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole **3i** (0.5 mmol) was added in one portion and the reaction mixture was stirred for additional 3 h under the same condition, with the reaction progress being monitored by TLC. After the completion of the reaction, saturated aq. sodium thiosulfate (5 mL) was added. The organic layer was separated

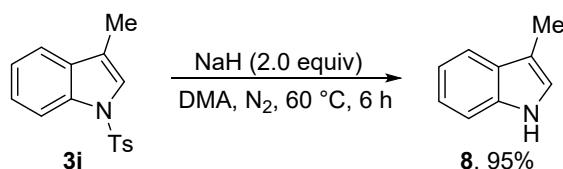
and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 10 mL). The combined extract was dried with MgSO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by column chromatography (20% EtOAc/PE) to give pure **6** as a yellow powder (109 mg, 70%), mp: 162–163 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 4.3 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.9, 136.7, 134.5, 134.5, 130.2, 128.8, 128.7, 127.1, 124.4, 120.7, 114.8, 112.2, 107.1, 21.7, 10.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₄N₂NaO₂S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 333.0668, found 333.0662.

Ethyl (*E*)-3-(3-methyl-1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl)acrylate (**7**)⁴



To a solution of indole **3i** (1.0 mmol) in 1, 4-dioxane/AcOH (3:1/v:v, 4.0 mL) was added Pd(OAc)₂ (0.02 mmol), *tert*-butyl benzoyl peroxide (1.3 mmol) and ethyl acrylate (4.0 mmol). The resulting mixture was heated to 80 °C under N₂ atmosphere for 24 h before it was cooled to room temperature, diluted with ethyl acetate, and filtered through a pad of celite. The filtrate was washed with saturated aq. NaHCO₃, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo* to give crude oil, which was purified by column chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE) to afford **7** (299 mg, 78%) as a white solid, mp: 111–112 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 12.8 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 6.12 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 6H), 1.39 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4, 144.9, 137.1, 134.9, 134.6, 131.8, 131.4, 129.6, 126.7, 126.5, 124.1, 123.3, 122.5, 119.8, 115.4, 60.8, 21.6, 14.4, 10.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NNaO₄S⁺ [M + Na⁺] 406.1083, found 406.1087.

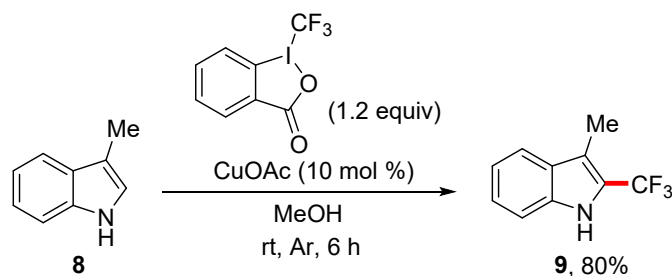
3-Methyl-1*H*-indole (**8**)



To a suspension solution of NaH (2.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in dry DMA (5.0 mL) under N₂ was added dropwise a solution of **3i** (1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry DMA (3.0 mL) by syringe. Then the mixture was heated at 60 °C until TLC showed the

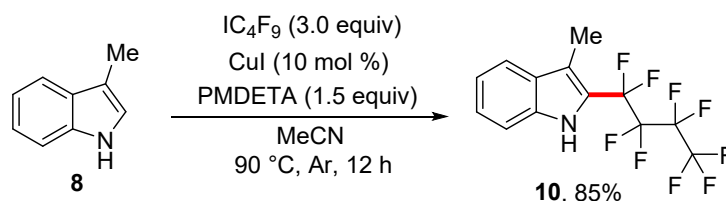
completion of the reaction. A saturated aq. solution of NH_4Cl (10 mL) was added to quench the reaction and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL) for one time. The organic layer was washed with water for three times, and the combined aqueous layers were extracted with EtOAc (20 mL) for one time. The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (5% EtOAc/PE) to give 3-methylindole **8** as a white solid (125 mg, 95%), mp: 93–94 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.63 (dd, $J = 7.9, 0.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, $J = 11.0, 4.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (ddd, $J = 3.1, 2.7, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 136.3, 128.3, 121.9, 121.6, 119.2, 118.9, 111.8, 111.0, 9.7. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{NNa}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$] 154.0627, found 154.0623.

3-Methyl-2-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-indole (**9**)⁵



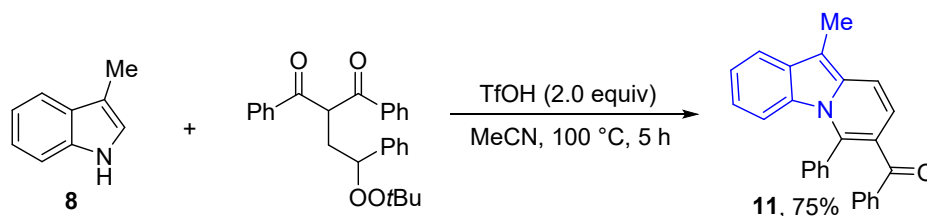
To a solution of CuOAc (0.05 mmol) and Togni's reagent (0.6 mmol) in degassed MeOH (5.0 ml) was added 3-methylindole **8** (0.5 mmol) under an argon atmosphere at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 6 h, then diluted with Et_2O . To the mixture was added saturated aq. NaHCO_3 solution (5.0 mL), and the whole mixture was extracted with Et_2O (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 . The solid was filtered off and the filtrate was evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude residue was purified on silica gel (10% EtOAc/PE) to give trifluoromethylated compound **9** as a colorless solid (80 mg, 80%), mp: 73–74°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.16 (brs, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -58.6. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 135.2, 128.1, 124.8, 122.1 (q, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 267.0$ Hz), 121.5 (q, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 36.7$ Hz), 120.4, 120.1, 114.1 (q, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.9$ Hz), 111.6, 8.35. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{F}_3\text{Na}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$] 222.0501, found 222.0506.

3-Methyl-2-(perfluorobutyl)-1H-indole (**10**)⁶



To a 25 mL of Schlenk tube was added CuI (0.1 mmol, 10 mol %) under air and then evacuated and backfilled with Ar (3 times). Acetonitrile (2 mL), PMDETA (1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv), 3-methylindole **8** (1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and perfluoroalkyl iodide (3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were added subsequently. The reaction mixture was heated to 80 °C. After stirring for 12 h, the reaction was cooled to room temperature. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and filtered with a pad of Celite. The filtrate was concentrated, and the residue was purified with silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE) to give product **10** (148 mg, 85%) as a white solid, mp: 75–76 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.24 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -78.61 – -83.99 (m, 3F), -107.20 – -110.56 (m, 2F), -123.05 (ddd, *J* = 20.1, 10.0, 2.9 Hz, 2F), -124.64 – -127.77 (m, 2F). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 135.9, 128.4, 125.0, 120.4, 120.1, 119.4 (t, *J* = 28.4 Hz), 117.2 (t, *J* = 32.5 Hz), 116.8 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 116.1 (t, *J* = 33.4 Hz), 114.7 (t, *J* = 32.7 Hz), 111.5, 8.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₈F₉NNa⁺ [*M* + Na⁺] 372.0405, found 372.0402.

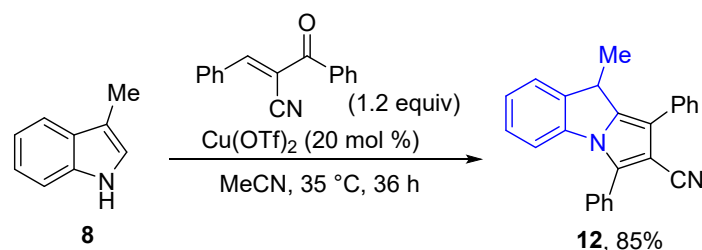
(10-Methyl-6-phenylpyrido[1,2-*a*]indol-7-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**11**)⁷



To a stirred solution of 3-methylindole **8** (1.5 mmol) and 4-oxo peroxide (0.5 mmol) in anhydrous MeCN (10 mL) was added TfOH (90.0 μL 1.0 mmol). The reaction tube was sealed and stirred at 100 °C for 5 h. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, EtOAc (30.0 mL) was added and the mixture was washed with aq. NaHCO₃ (10 mL × 3). The organic layer was then evaporated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (10% EtOAc/PE) to give the pure product **11** (135 mg, 75%) as brown oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.44 – 7.40 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 – 6.81 (m, 1H), 6.17 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.0, 141.4, 138.6, 134.3,

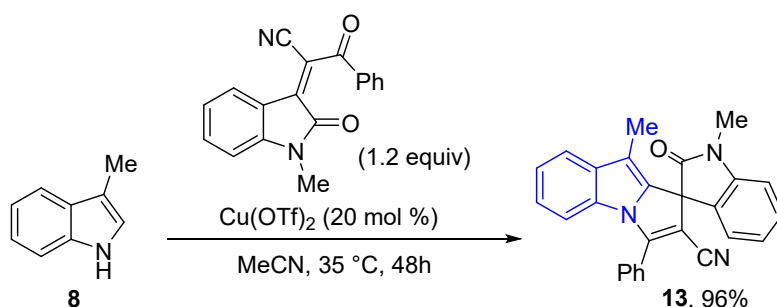
133.7, 132.6, 131.1, 130.8, 130.1, 129.7, 129.7, 129.0, 128.2, 122.6, 121.0, 120.6, 119.9, 118.4, 115.9, 115.3, 8.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{26}H_{19}NNaO^+$ [$M + Na^+$] 384.1359, found 384.1356.

9-Methyl-1,3-diphenyl-9H-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indole-2-carbonitrile (**12**)⁸



To a 5.0 mL vial were successively added 3-methylindole **8** (0.5 mmol), benzaldehyde-derived oxodiene (0.6 mmol), $Cu(OTf)_2$ (0.1 mmol), and MeCN (2.0 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at 35 °C until the full consumption of substrate **8** monitored by TLC. Then the precipitate was generated, and only a simple filtration was needed to purify product **12** (147 mg, 85%) as a white solid, mp: 173–174 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.73 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 – 7.52 (m, 3H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (td, $J = 7.4, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.47 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.46 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 141.2, 139.1, 138.4, 135.1, 132.3, 129.8, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 128.9, 127.6, 127.5, 127.2, 125.3, 125.0, 120.4, 117.1, 112.7, 96.1, 36.0, 16.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{25}H_{18}N_2Na^+$ [$M + Na^+$] 369.1362, found 369.1366.

1,9'-Dimethyl-2-oxo-3'-phenylspiro[indoline-3,1'-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indole]-2'-carbonitrile (**13**)⁸



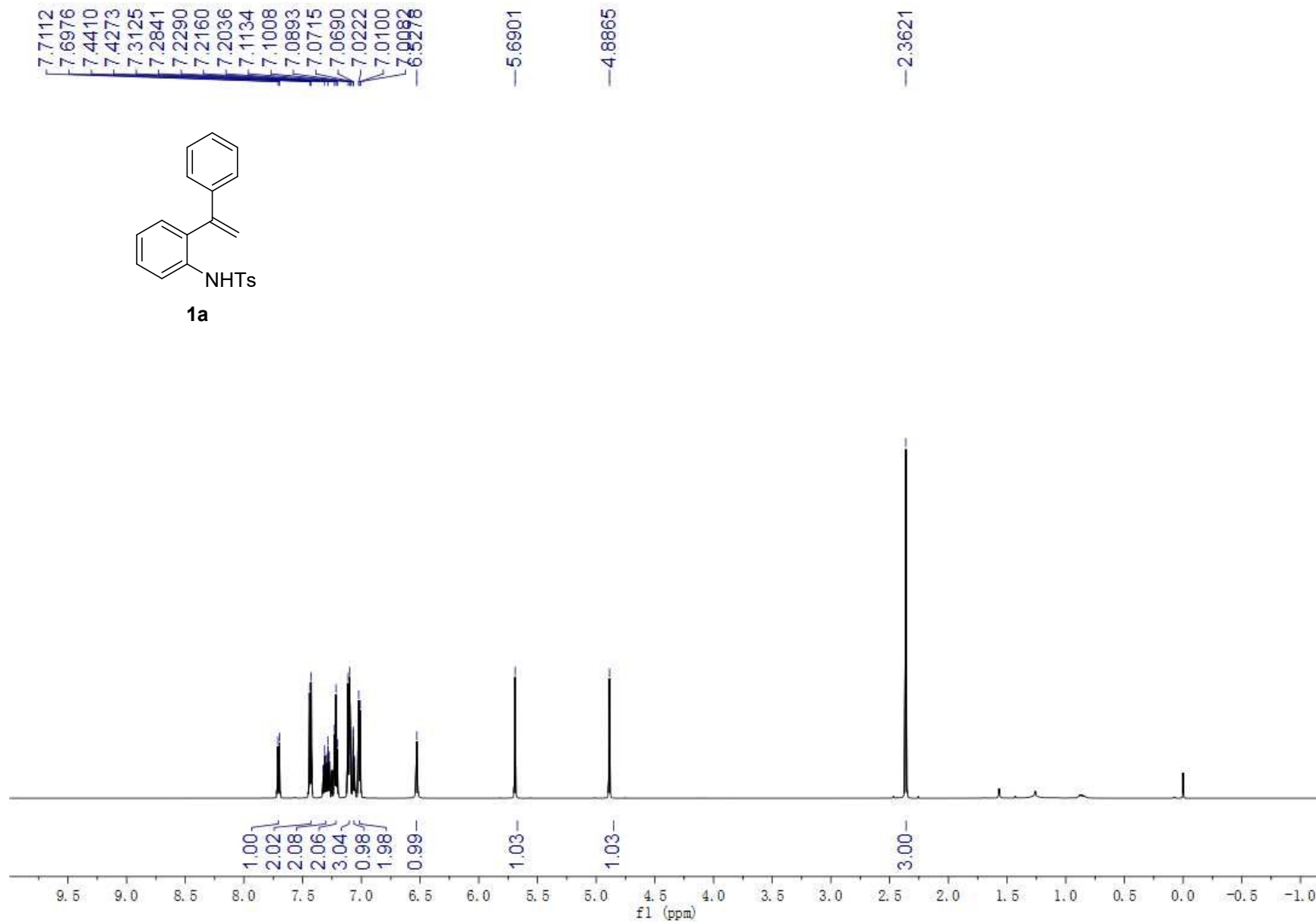
To a 5.0 mL vial were successively added 3-methylindole **8** (0.5 mmol), isatin-derived α,β -unsaturated ketone (0.6 mmol), $Cu(OTf)_2$ (0.1 mmol), and 2.0 mL of MeCN. The resulting mixture was stirred at 35 °C until almost full consumption of 3-methylindole **8** as monitored by TLC, and the precipitate was generated, and only a simple filtration was needed to purify the product **13** (193 mg, 96%) as a white solid,

mp: 212–213 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.68 – 7.61 (m, 3H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.14 – 7.07 (m, 4H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 1.86 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.3, 156.0, 144.4, 138.0, 134.8, 131.8, 131.7, 130.1, 129.2, 129.1, 127.0, 125.7, 124.4, 123.7, 123.5, 121.9, 119.8, 111.8, 111.3, 108.9, 96.2, 57.6, 27.2, 7.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₇H₁₉N₃NaO⁺ [M + Na⁺] 424.1420, found 424.1425.

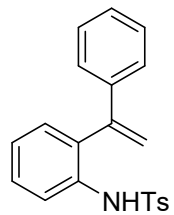
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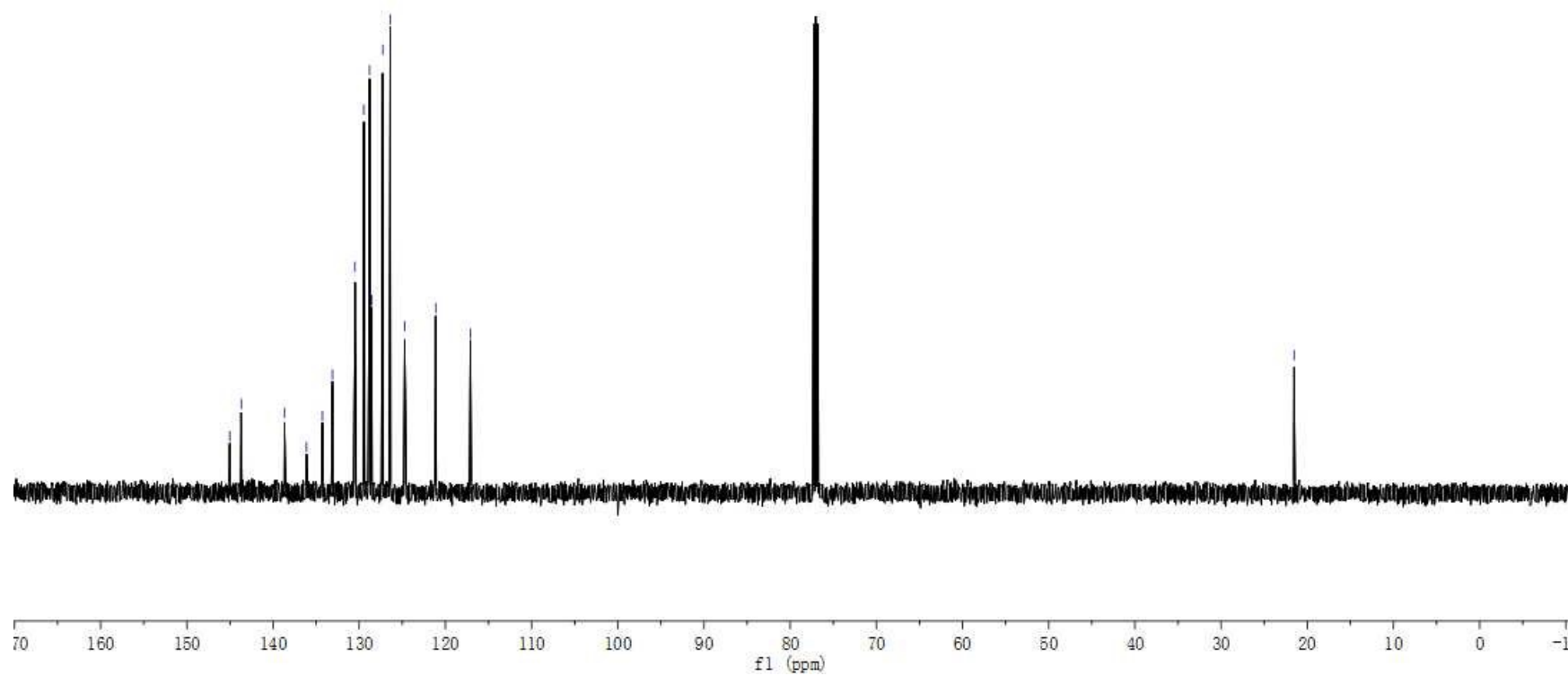
IV. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra:

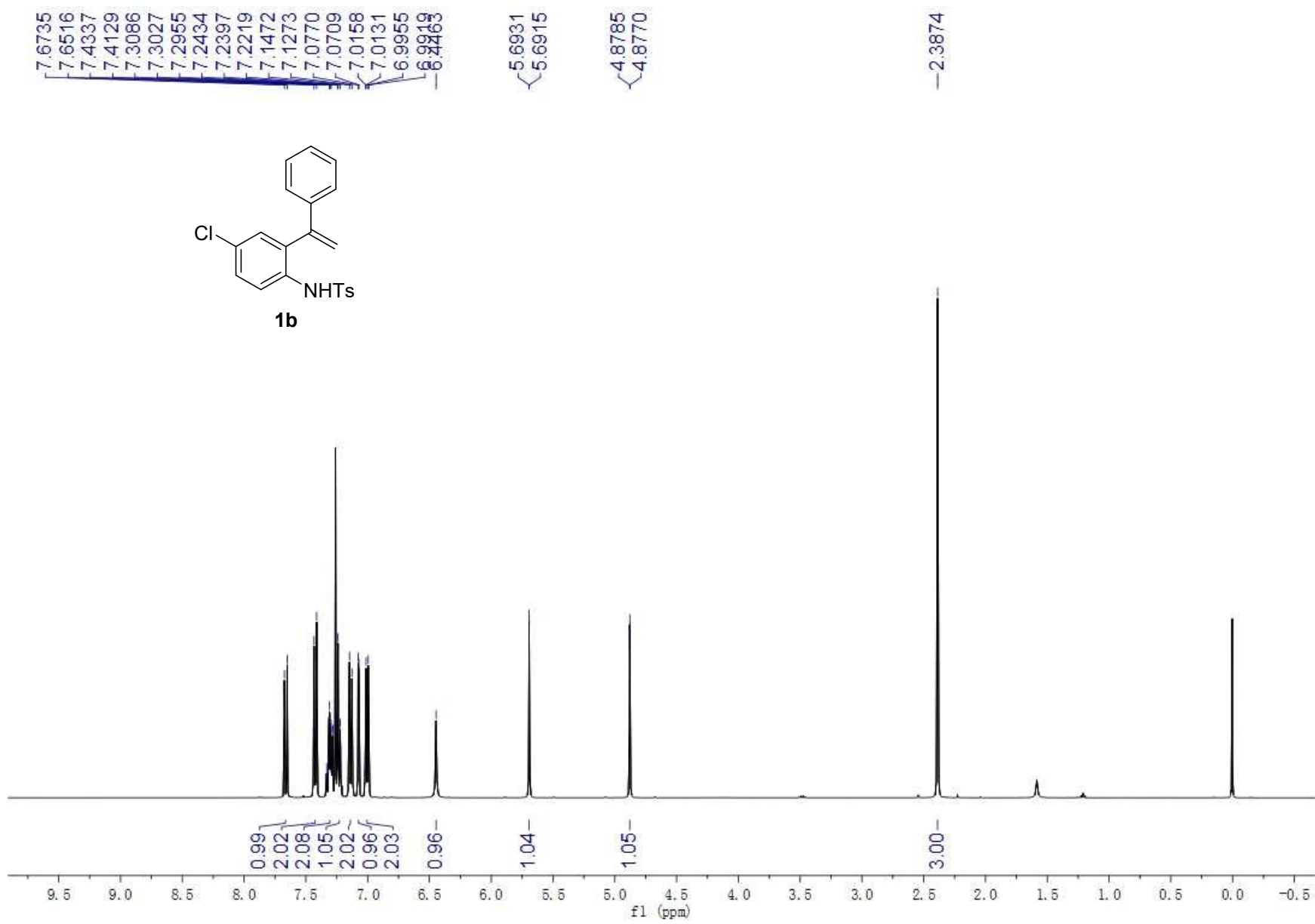


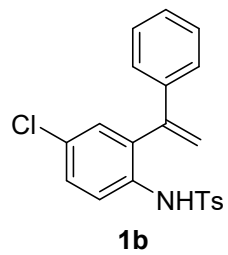
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1a

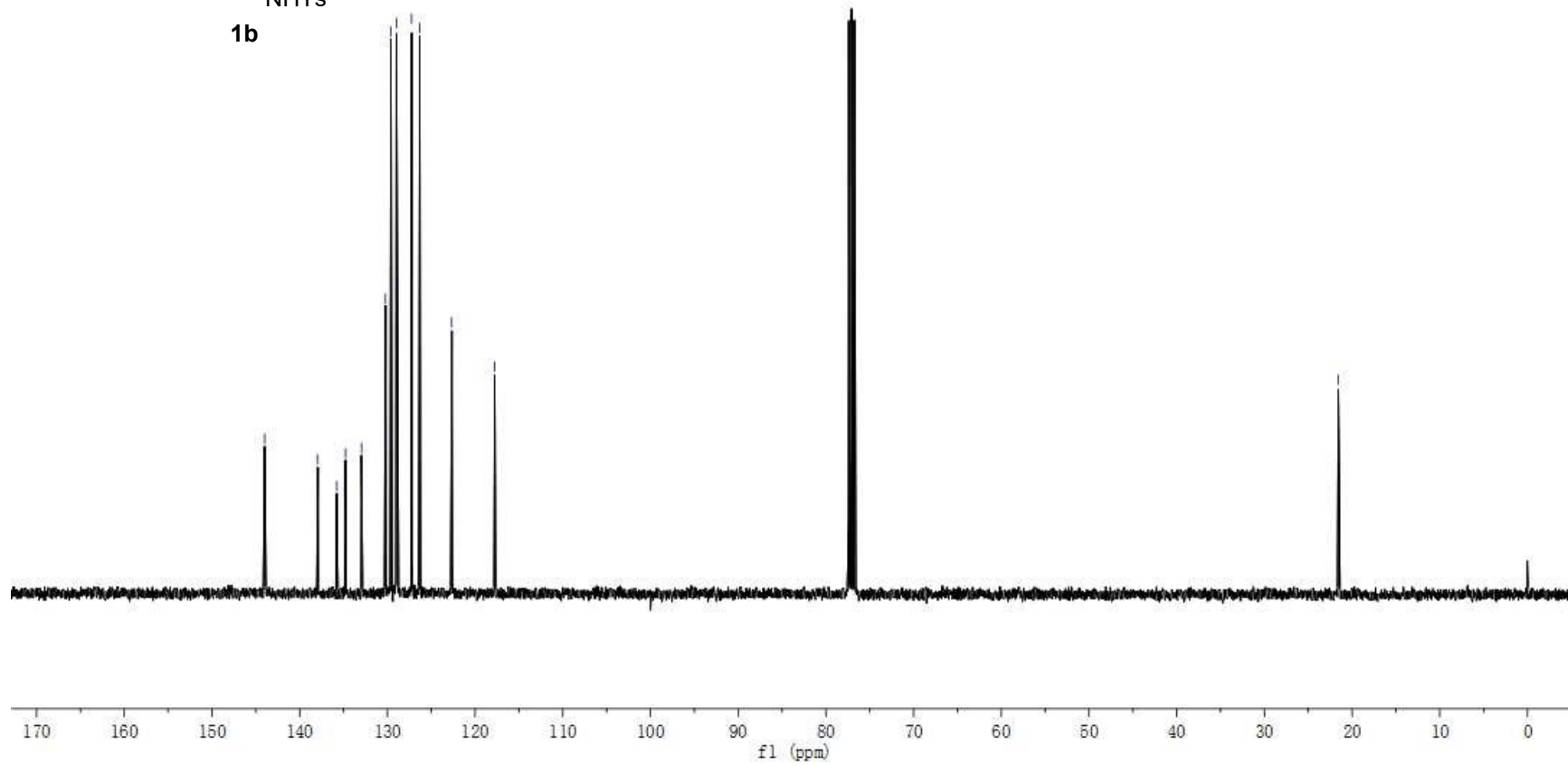


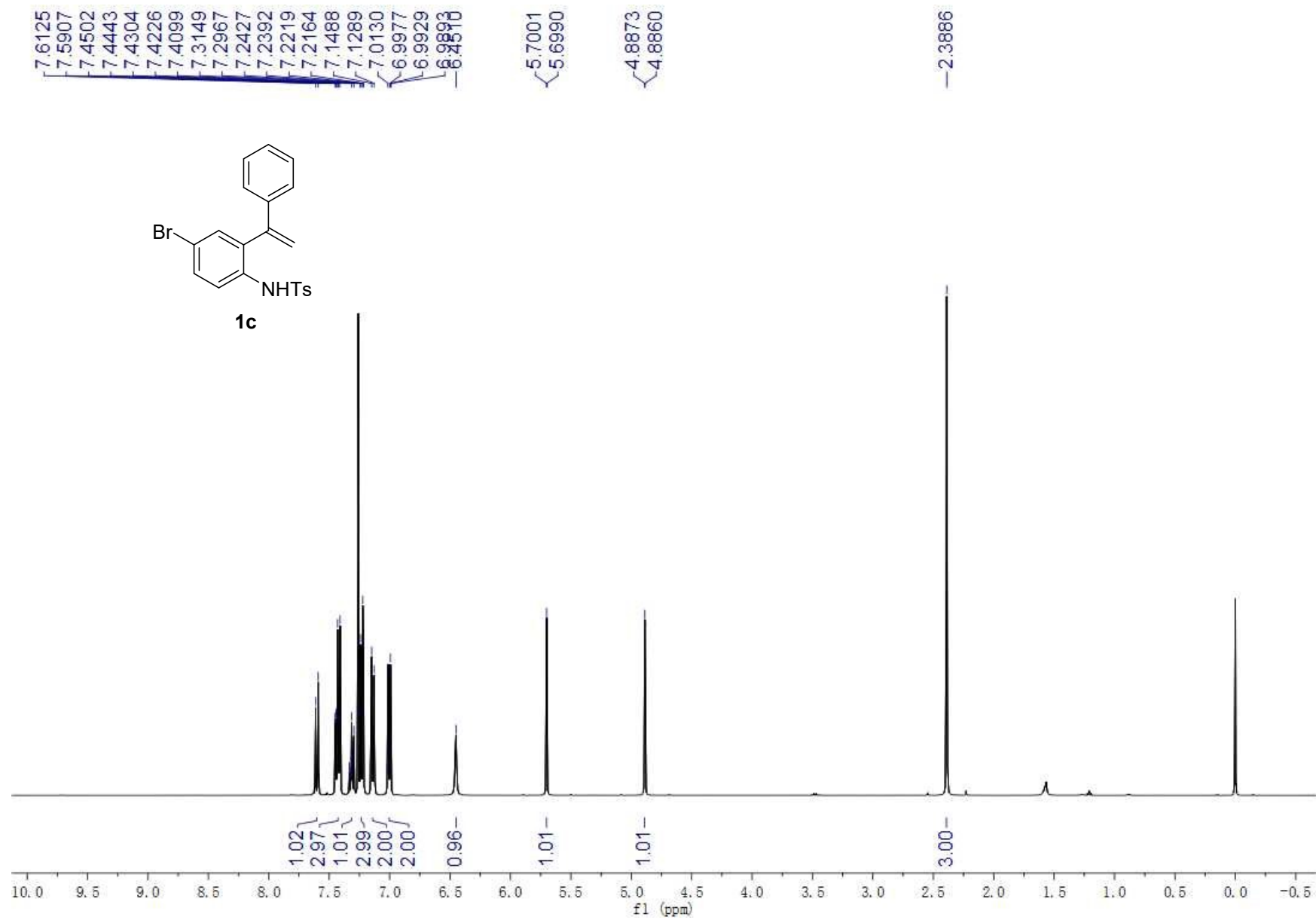




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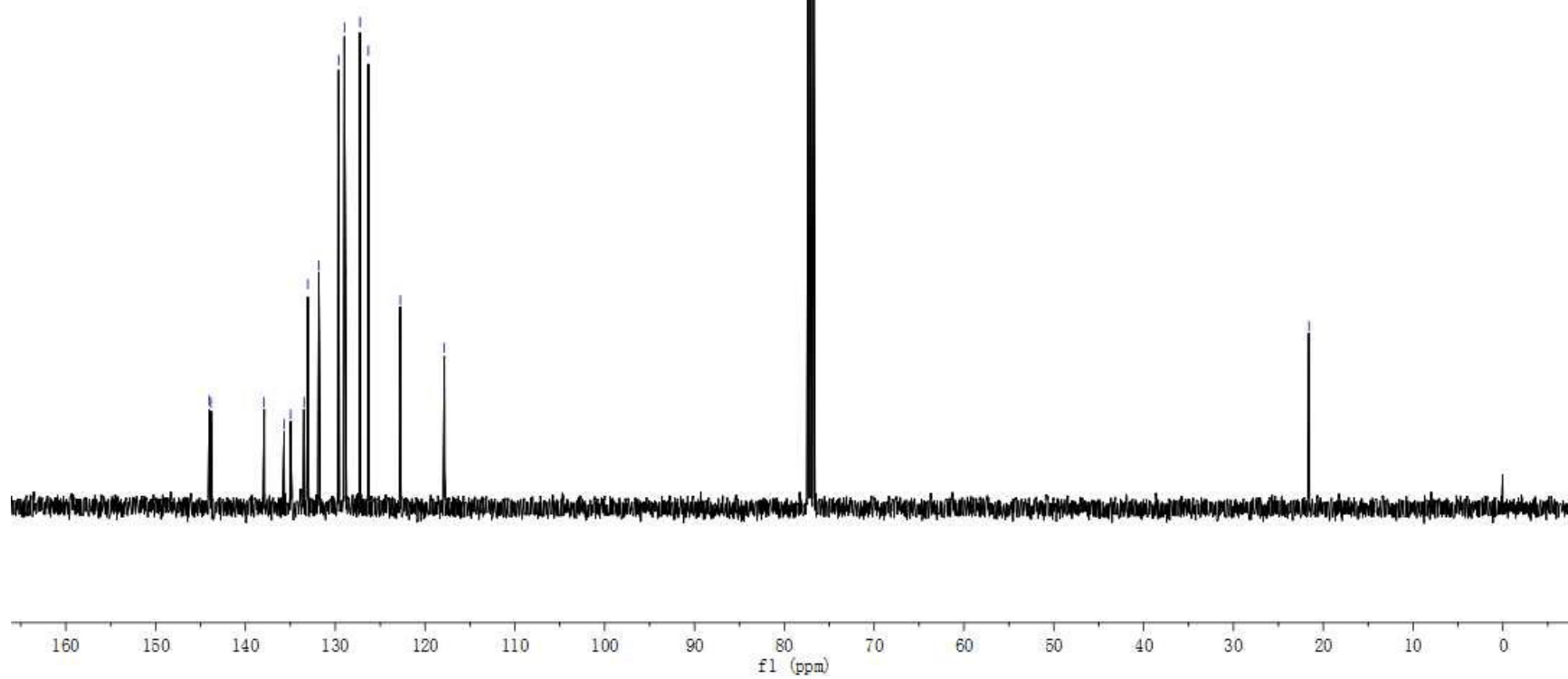
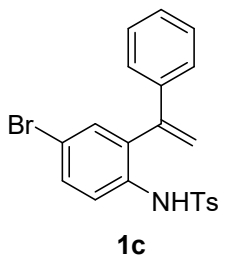
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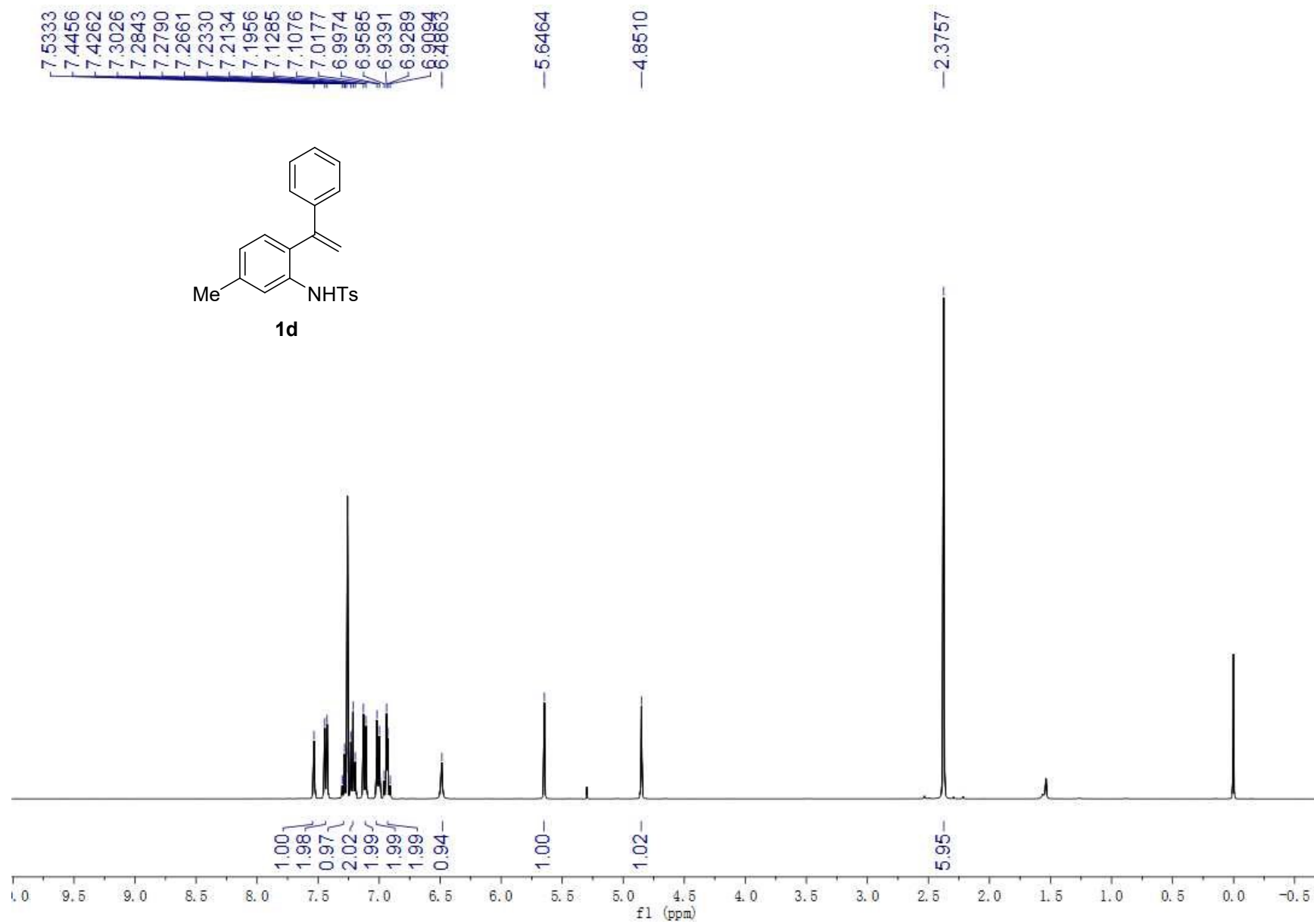




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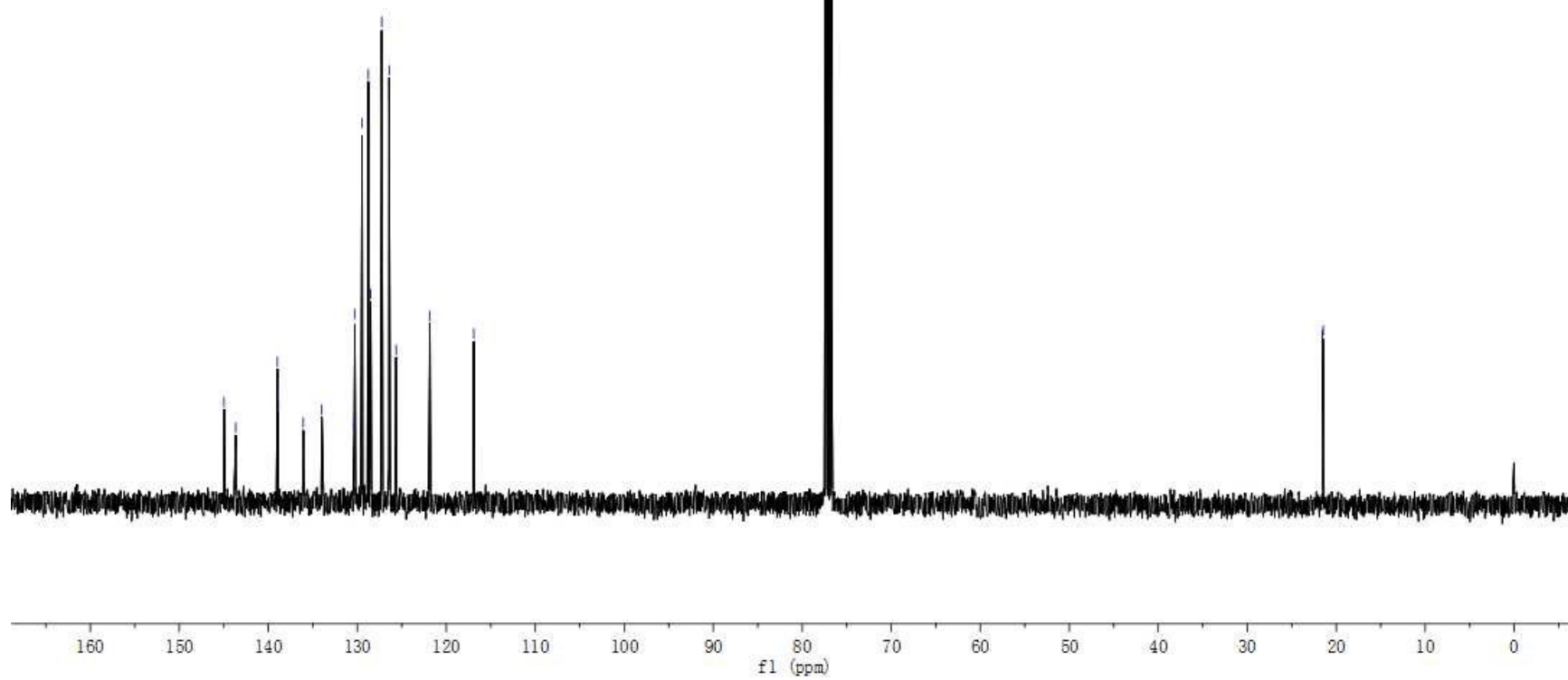
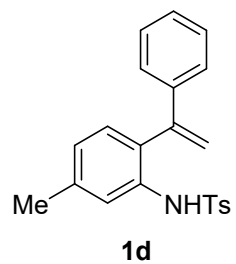
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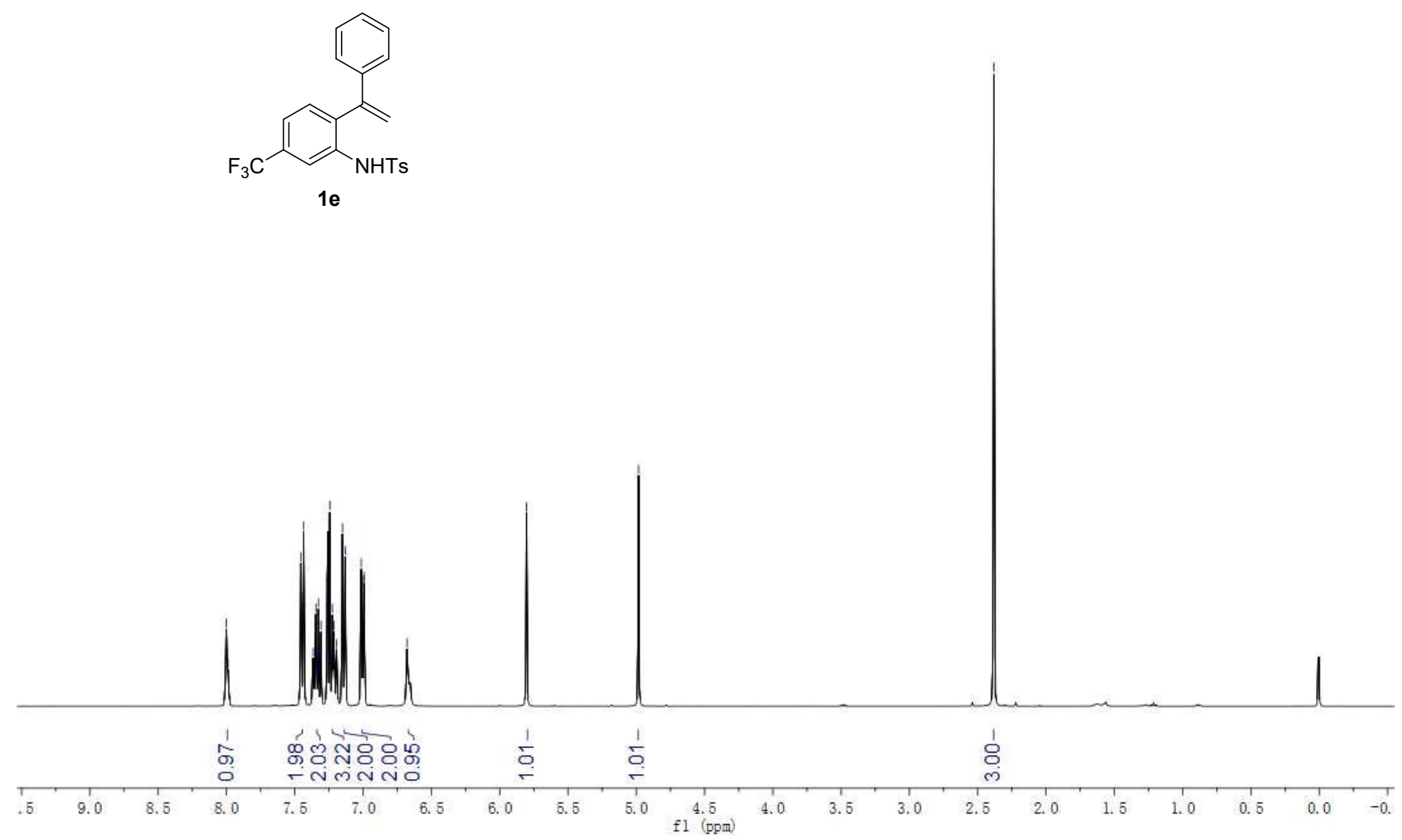
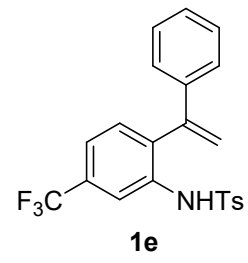
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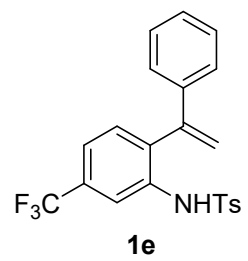


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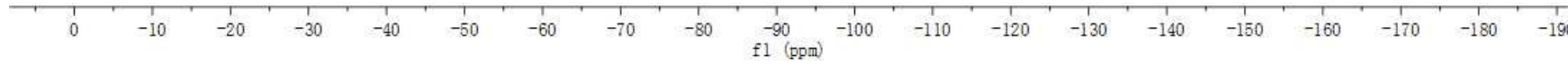
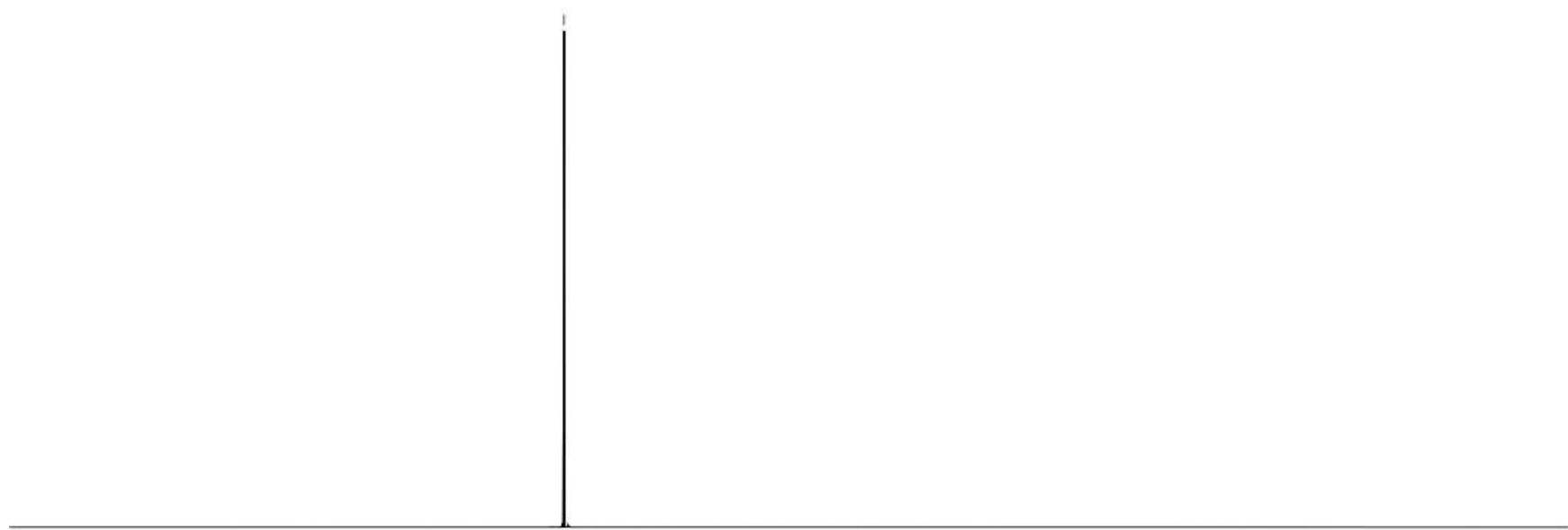
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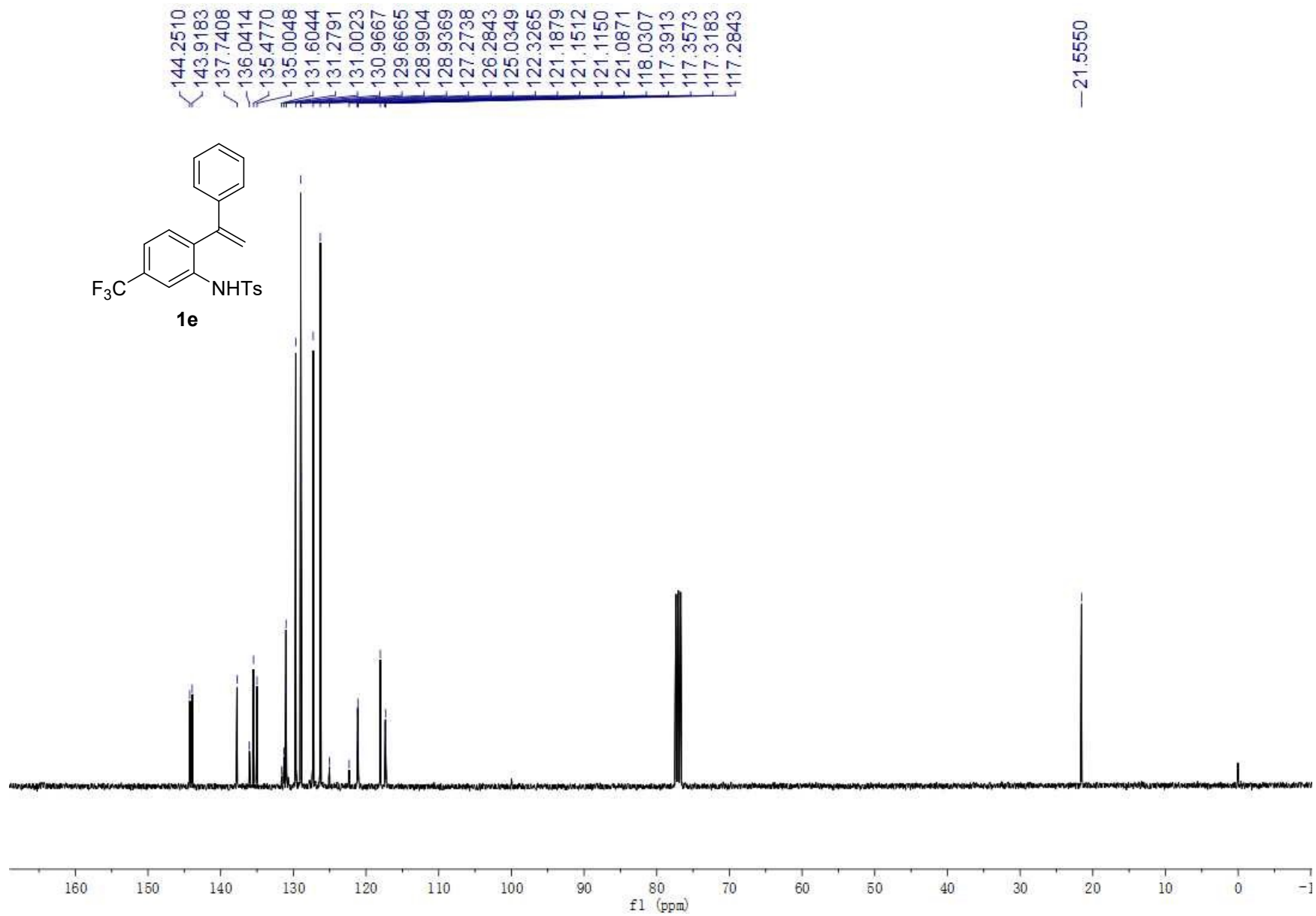
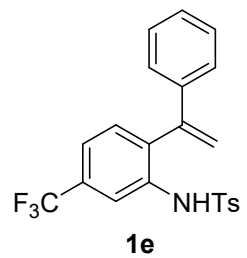
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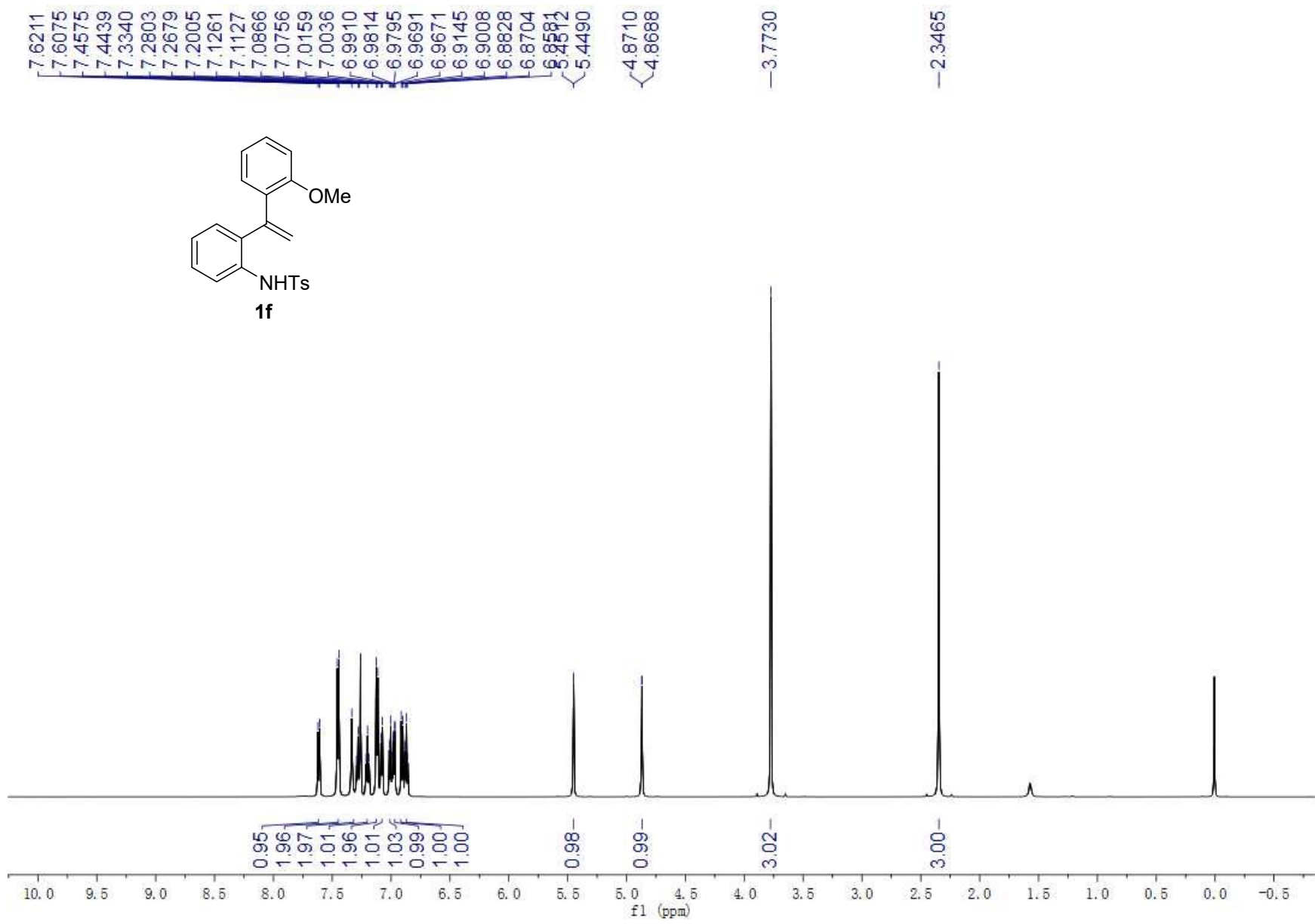


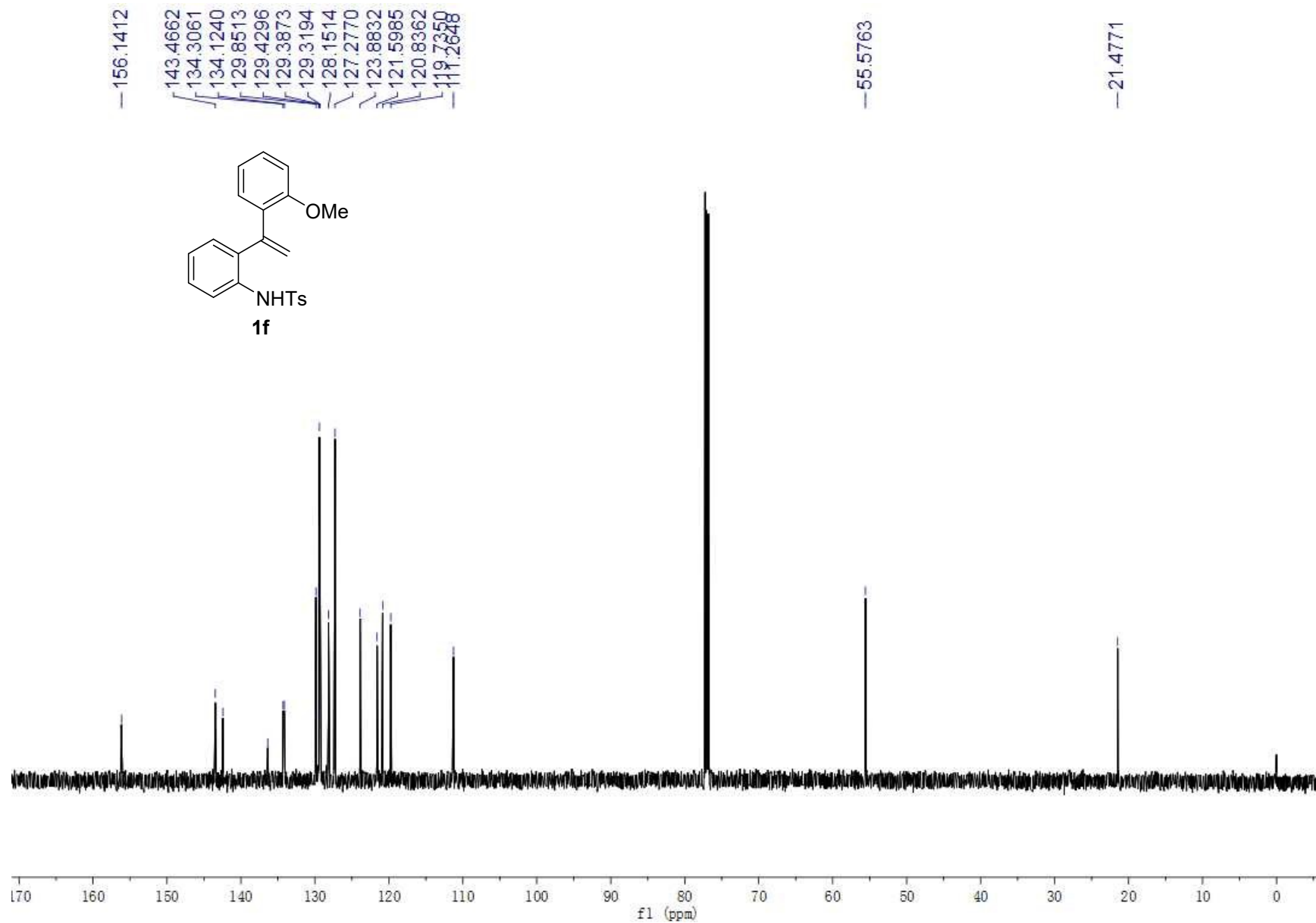


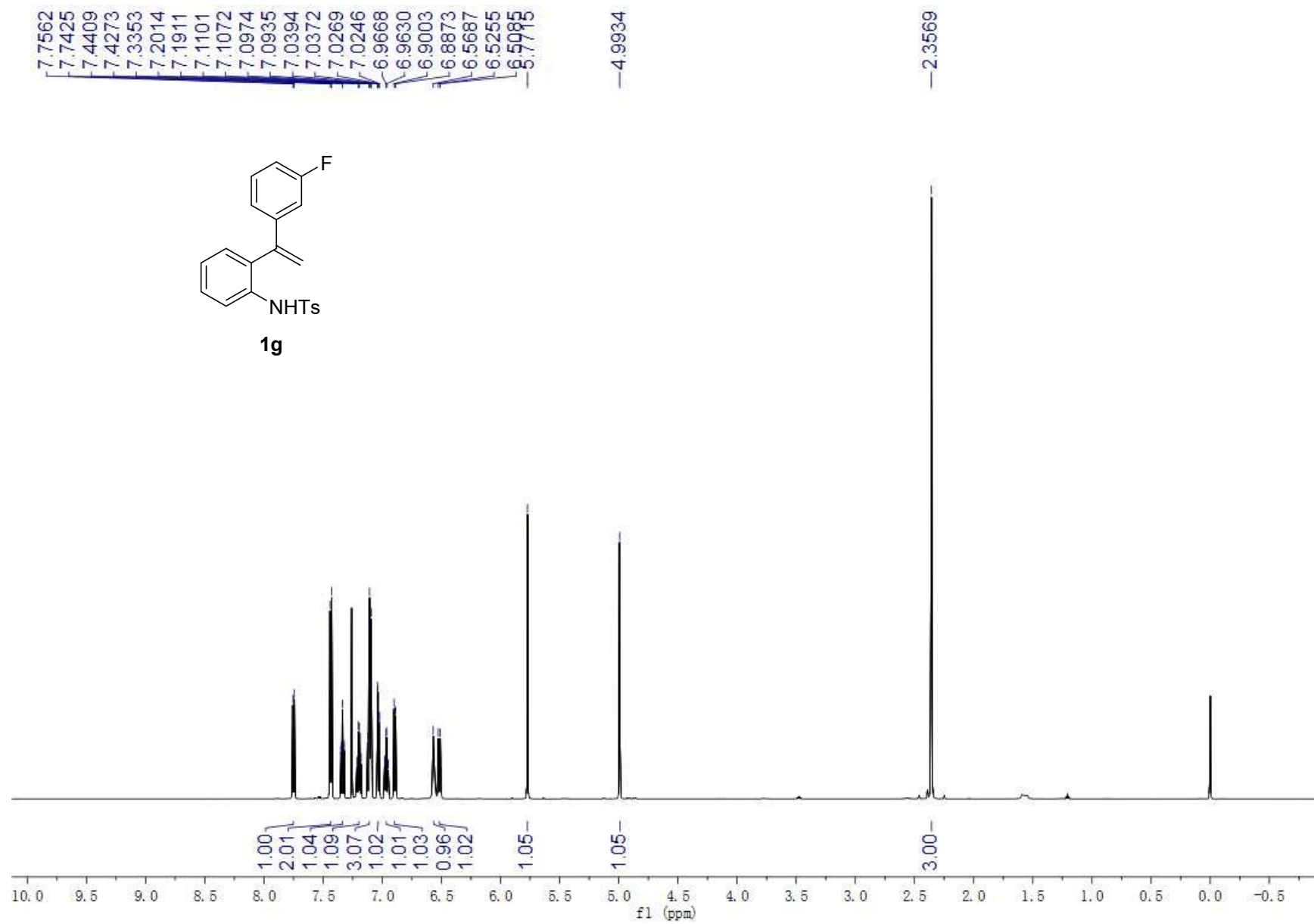
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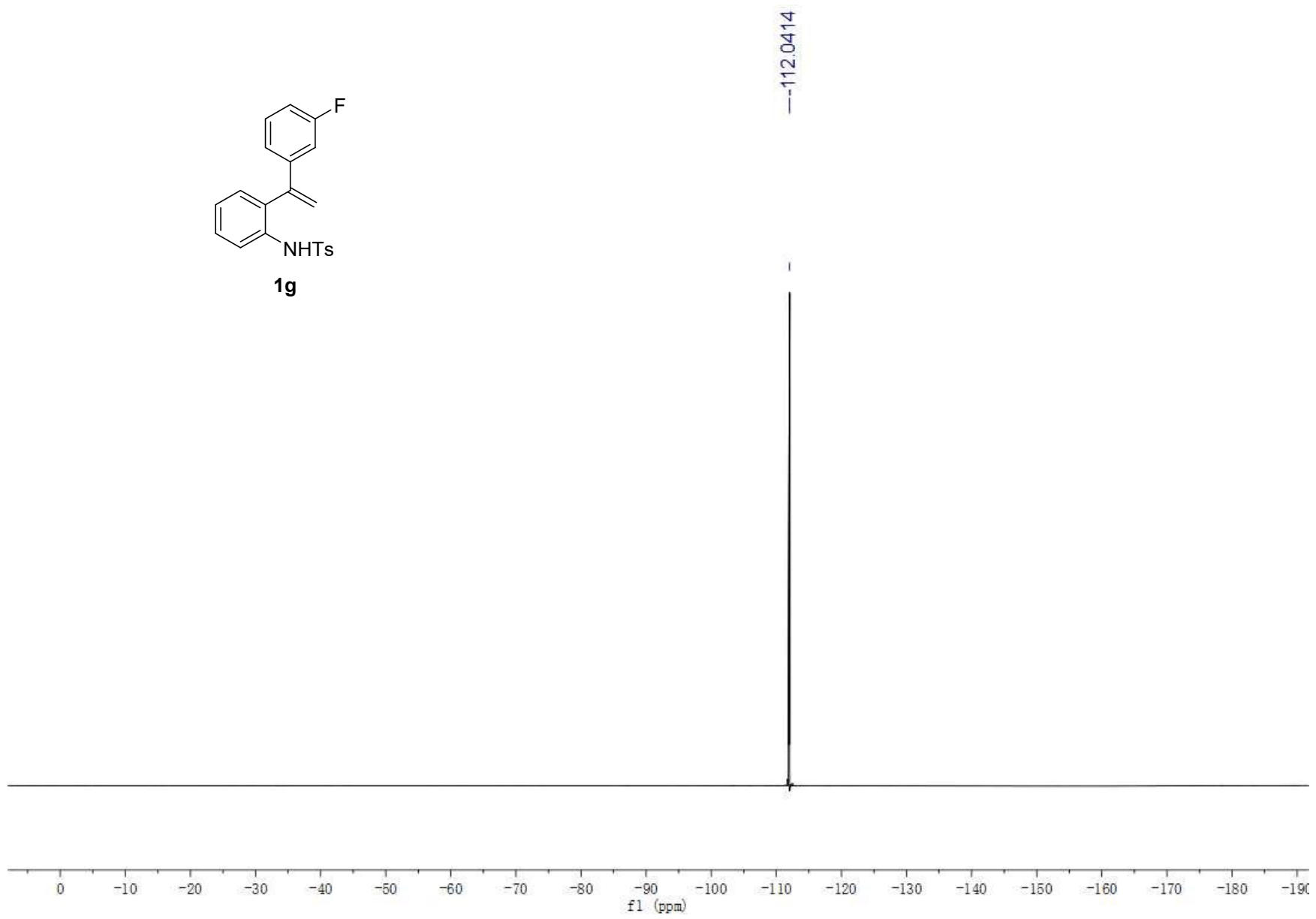
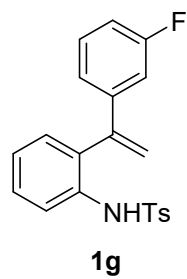




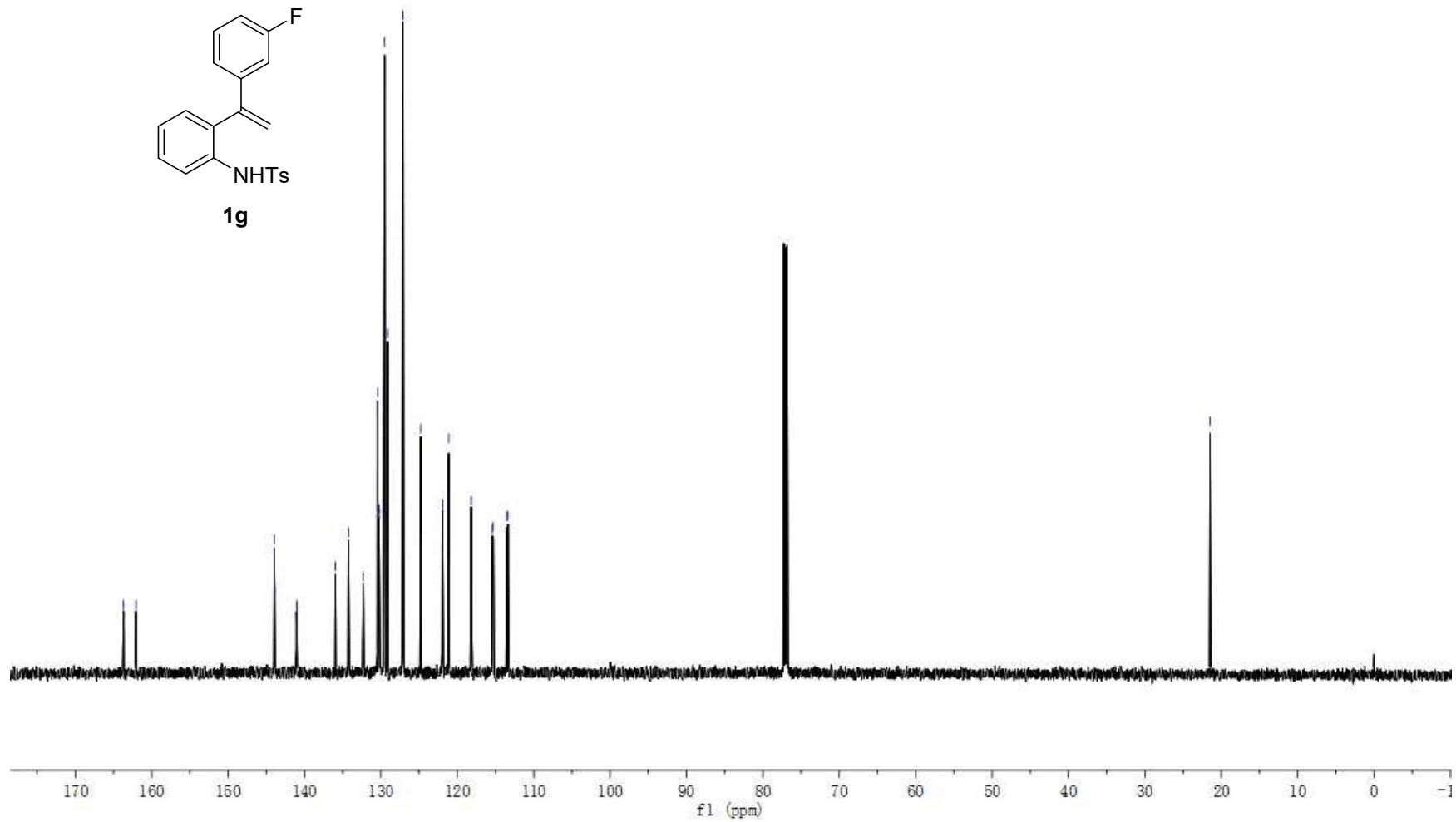
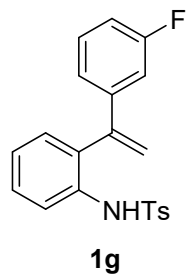


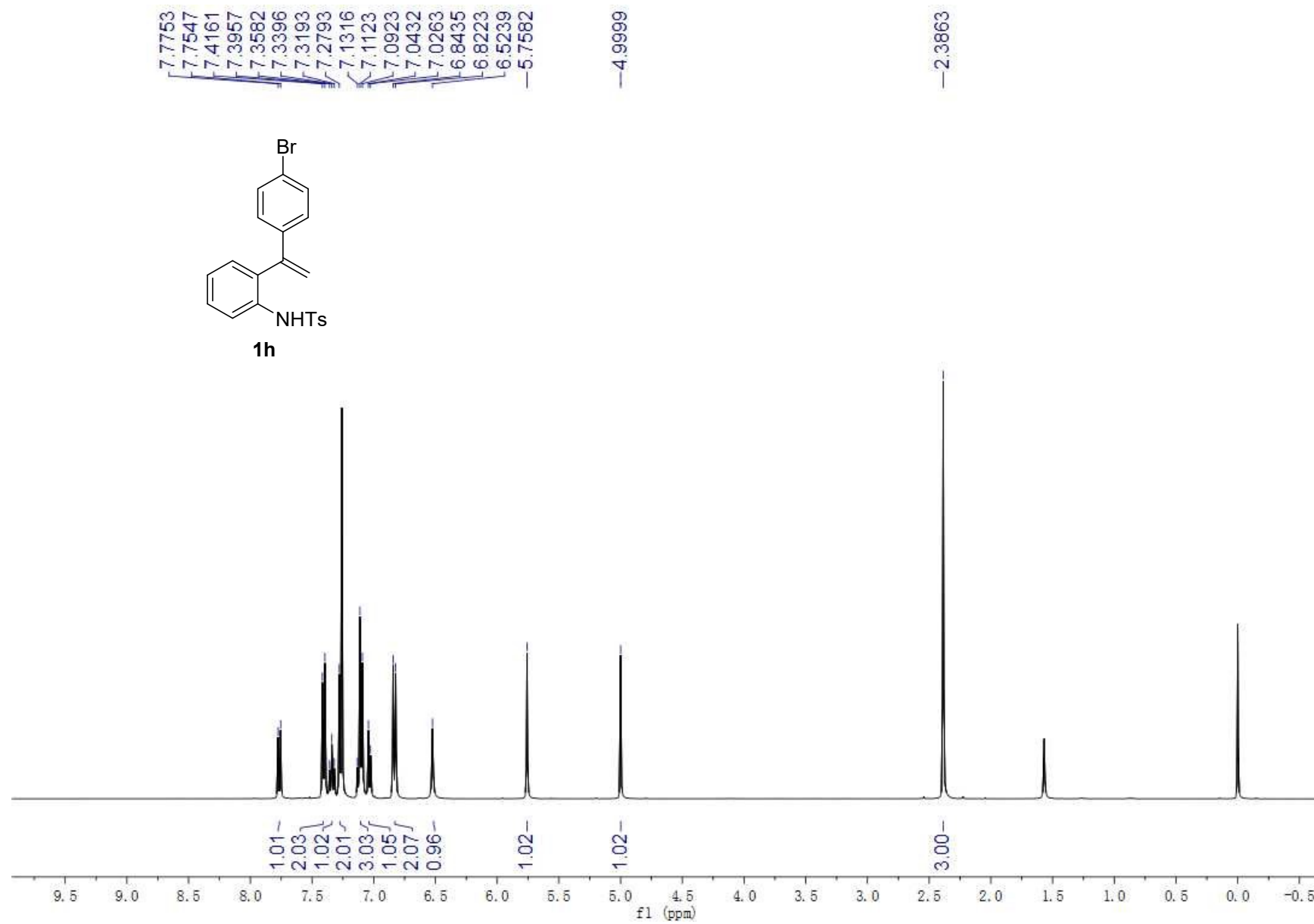




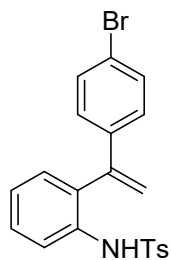


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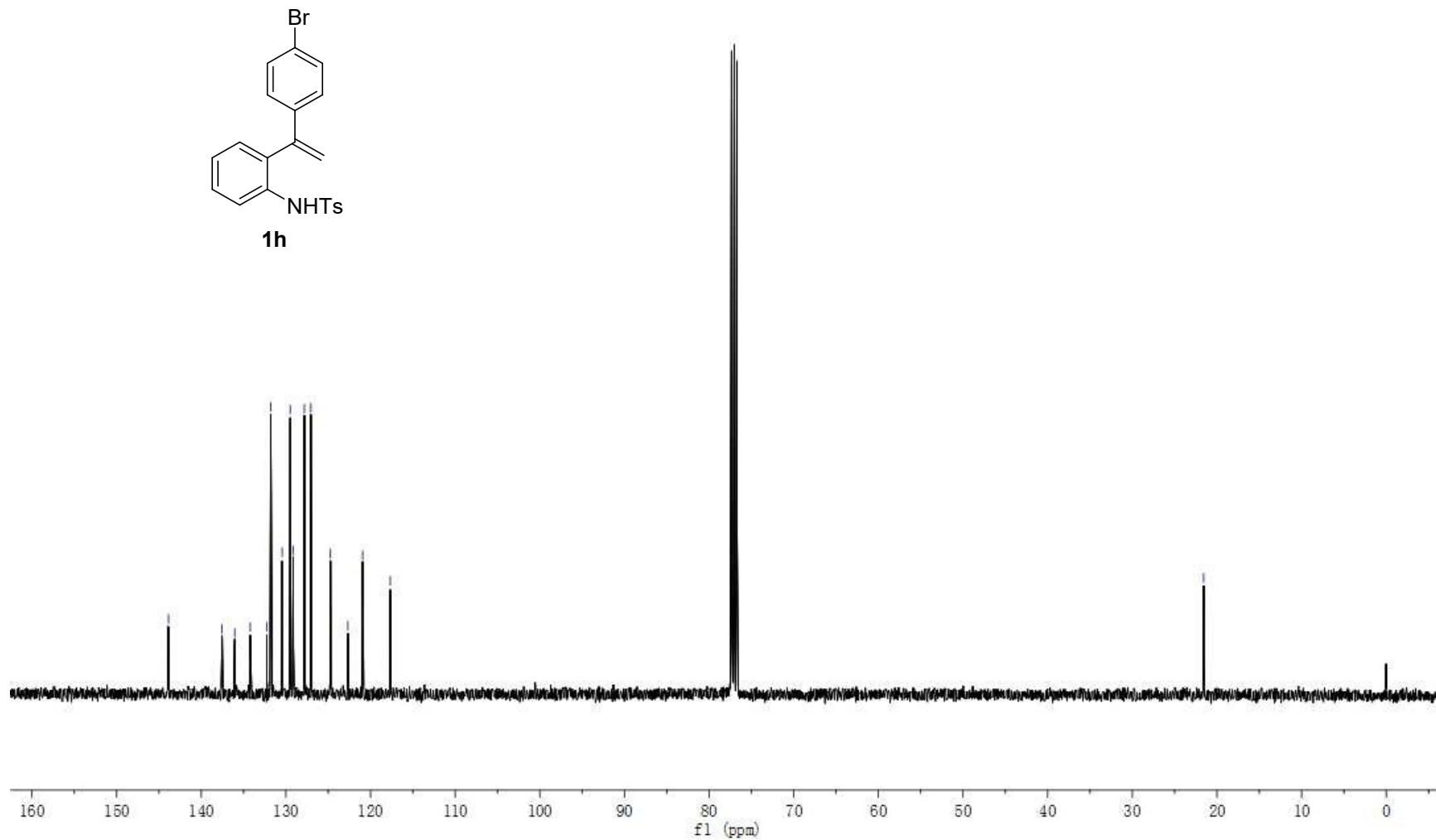


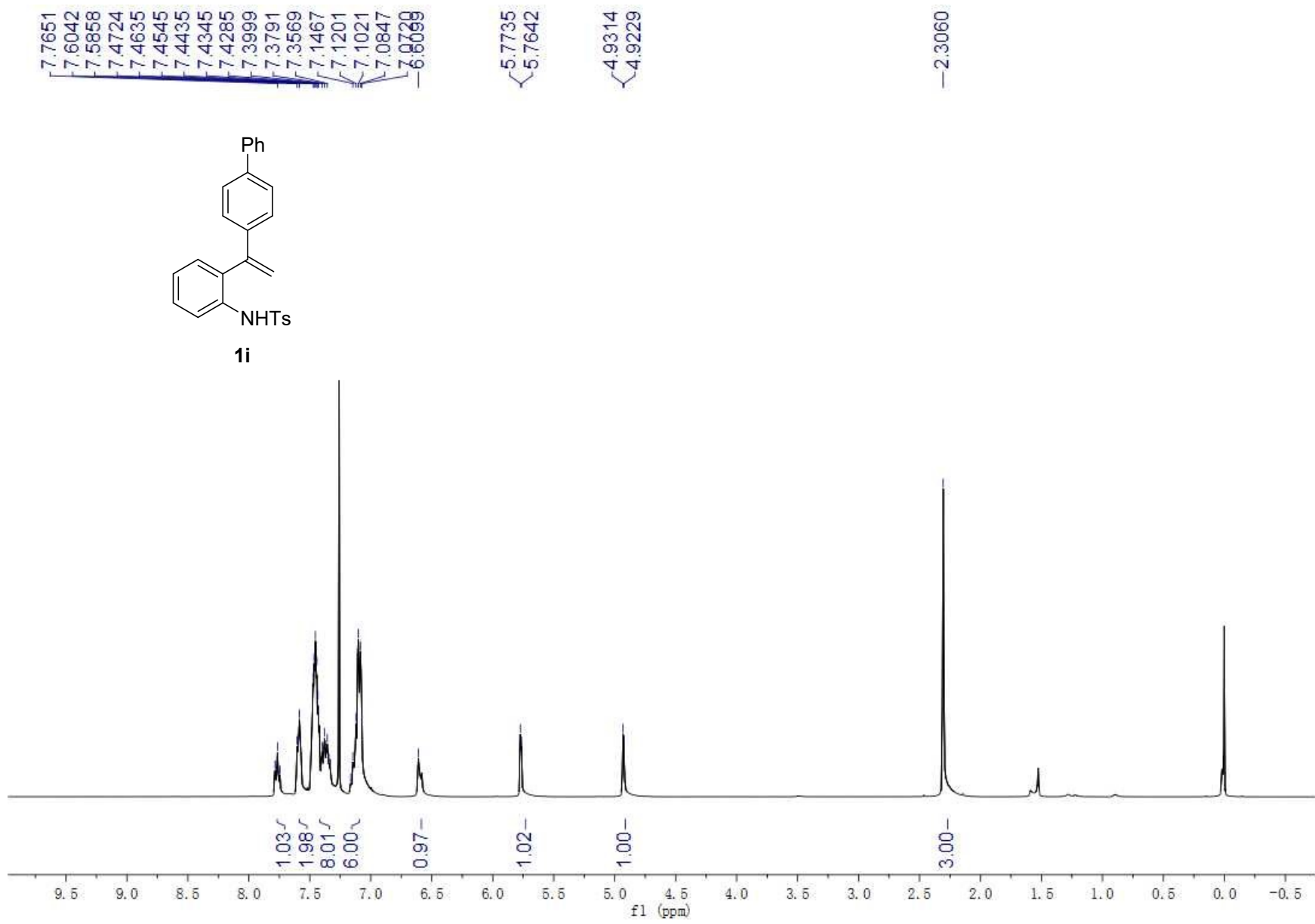


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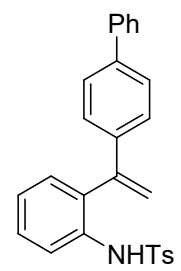


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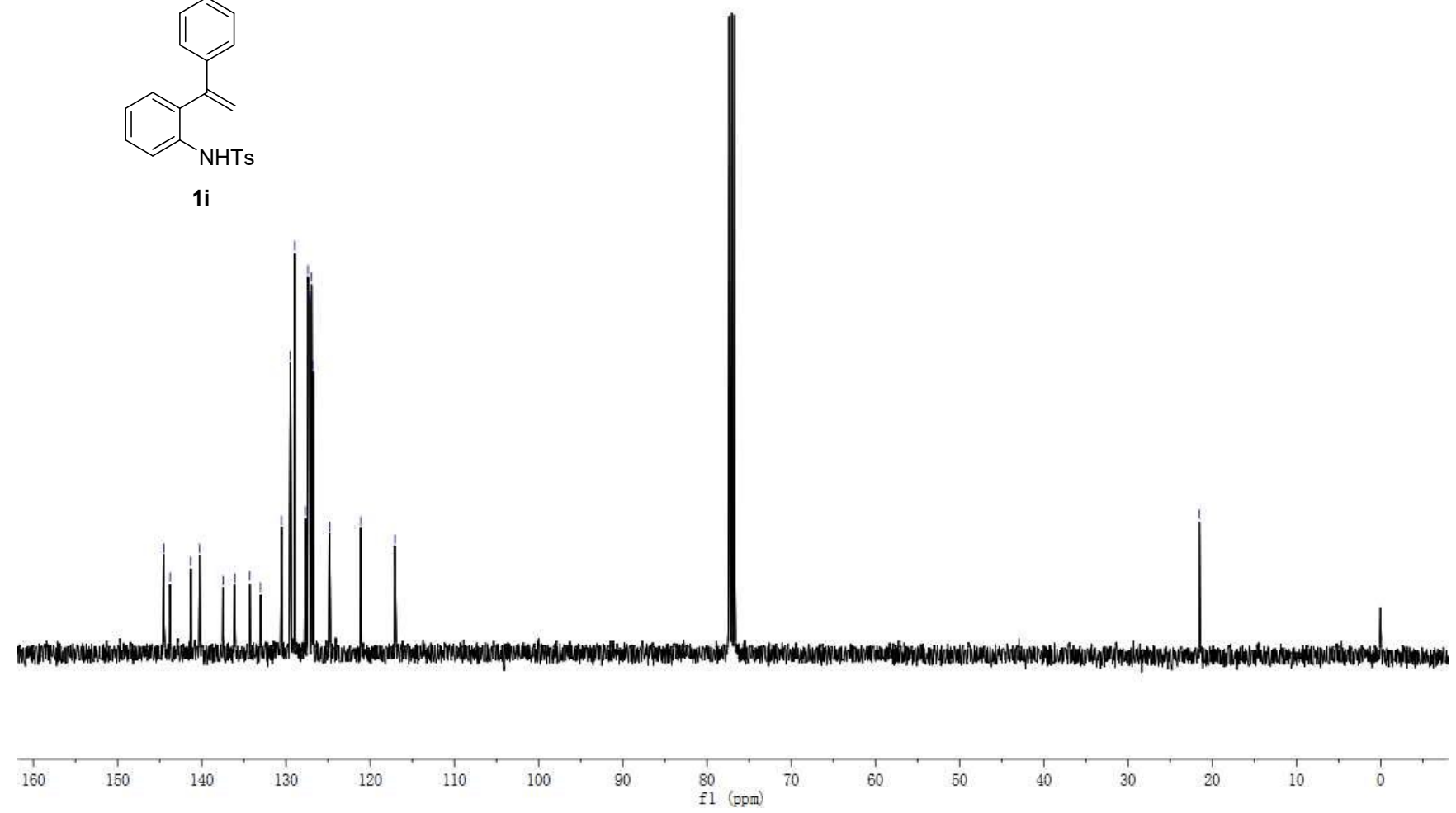




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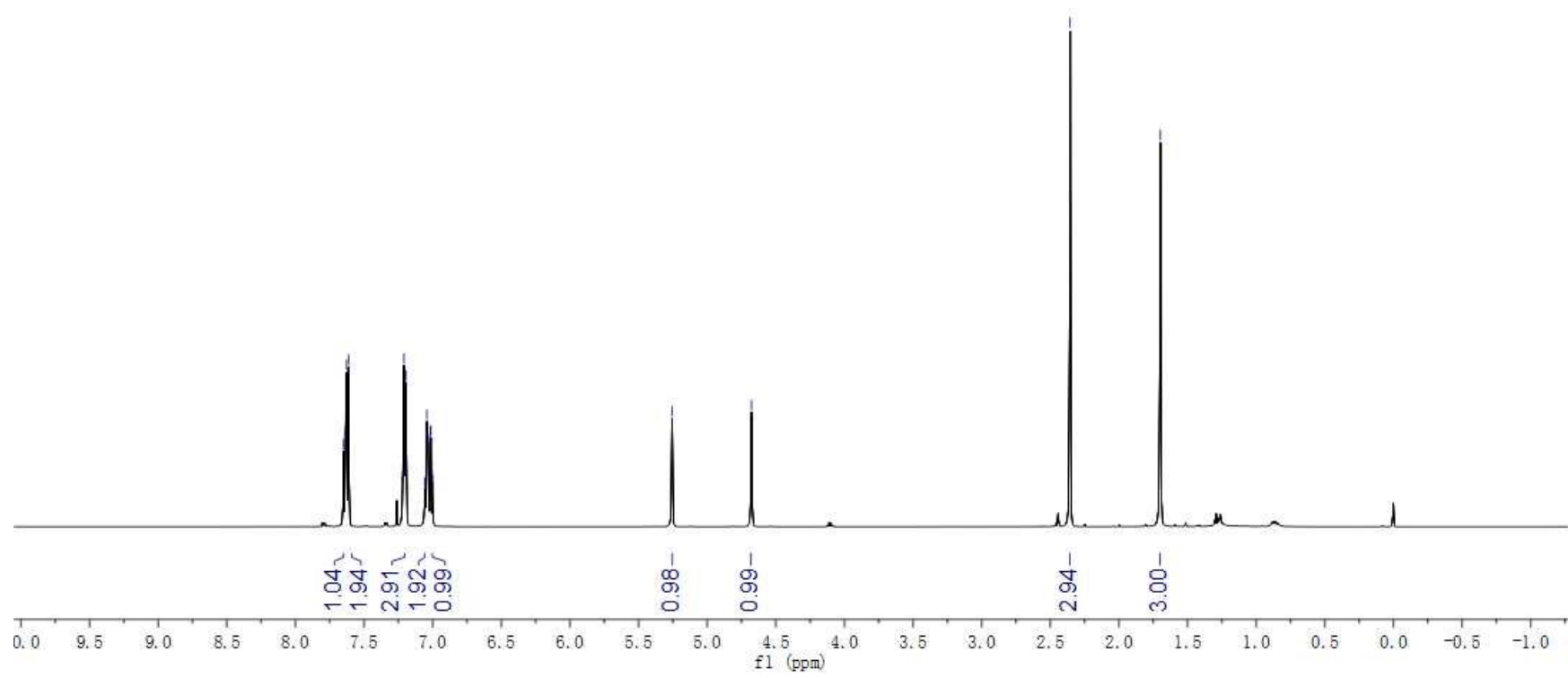
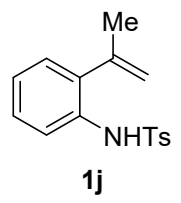
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—21.5143

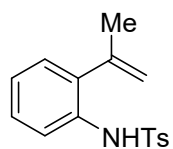
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-2.3561
-1.6985

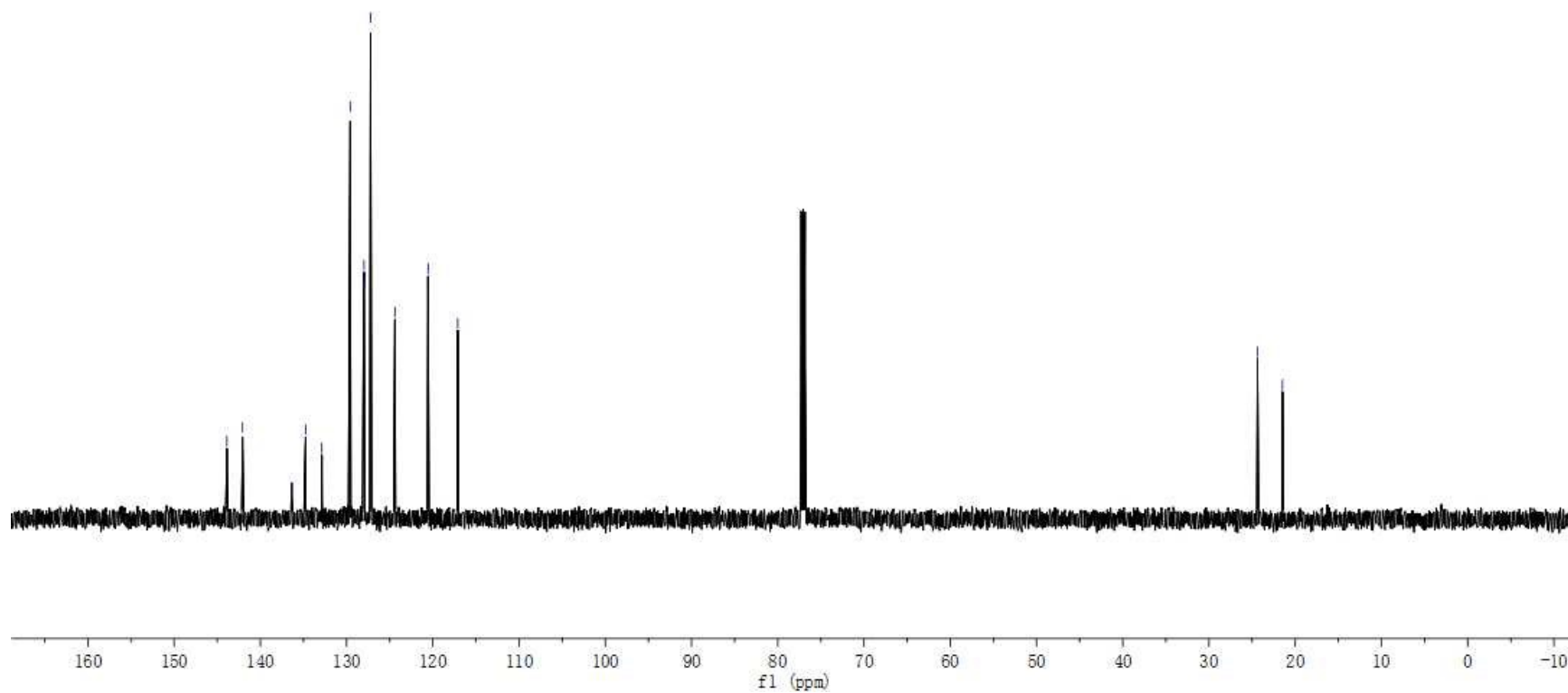


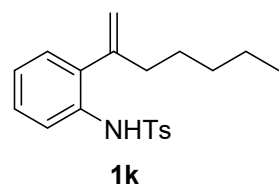
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1j





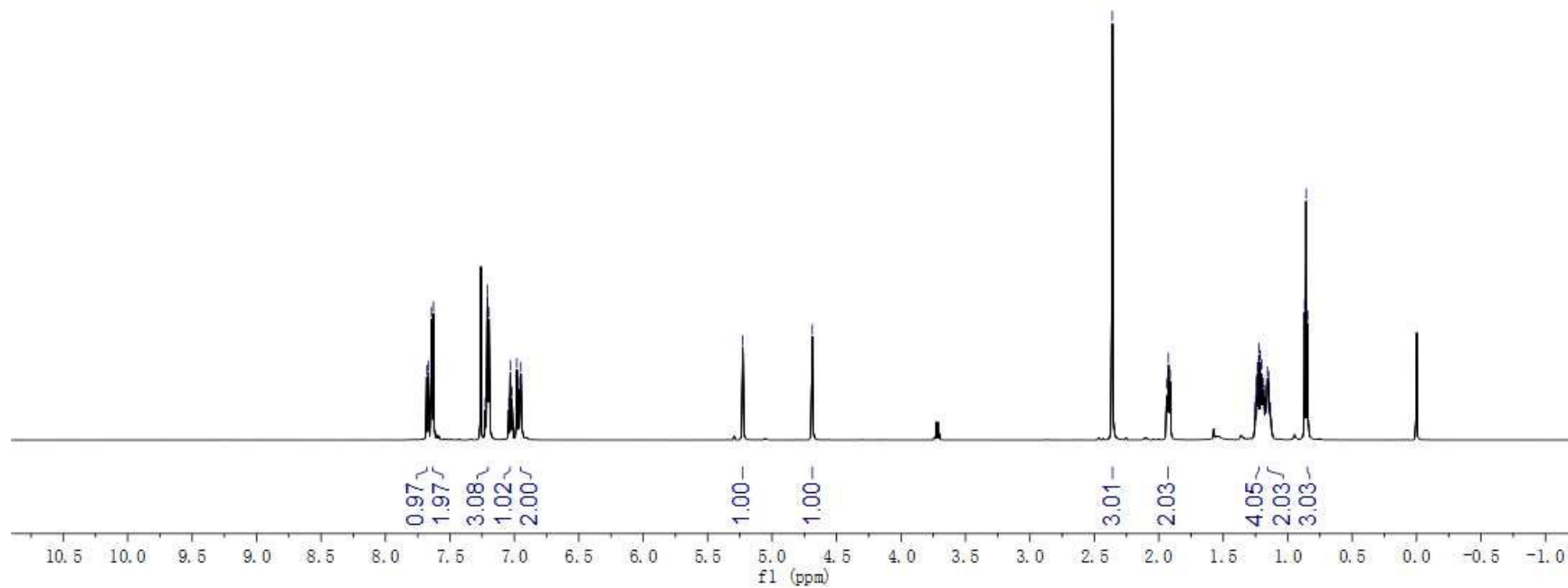
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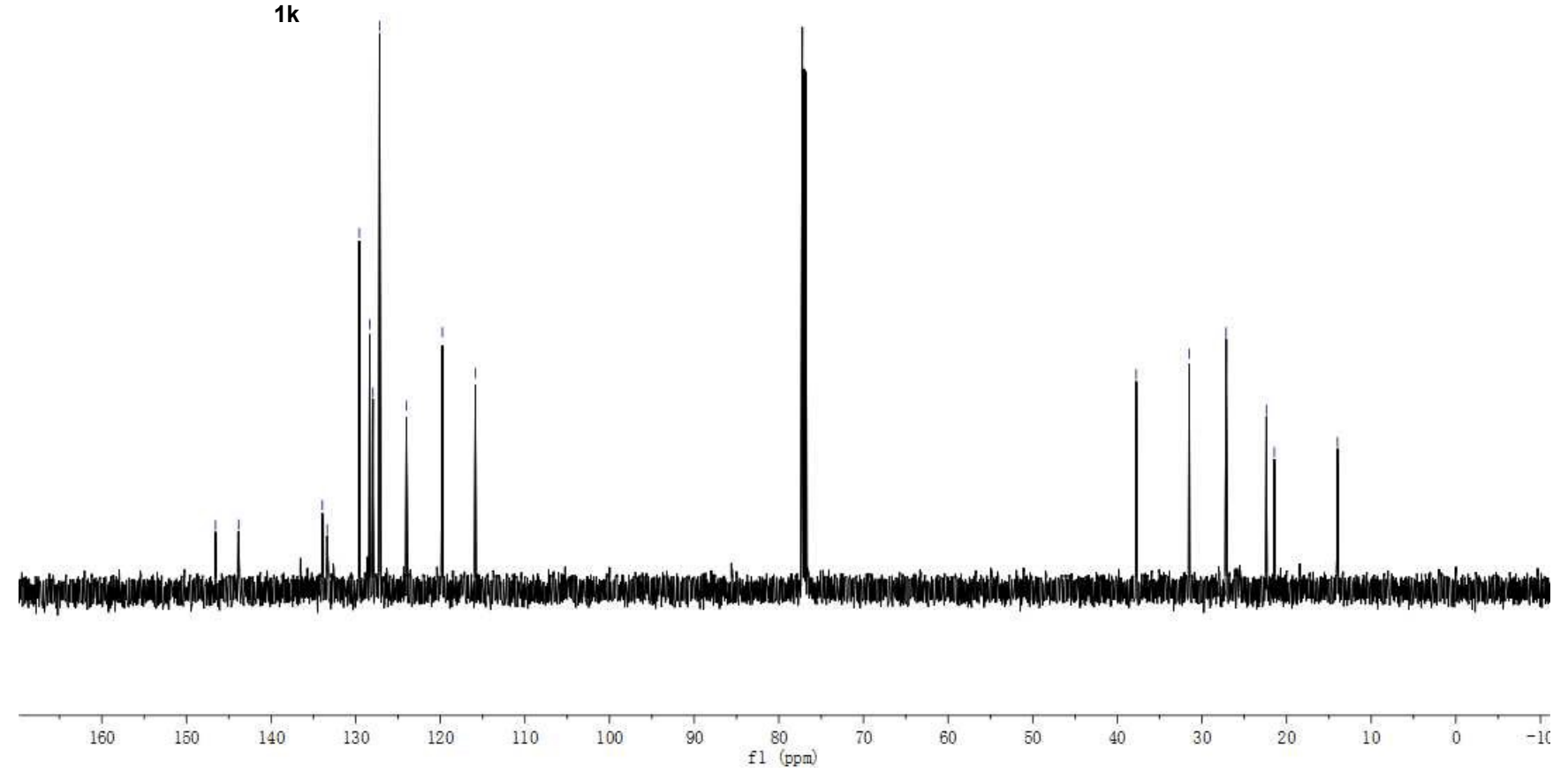
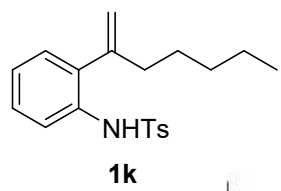
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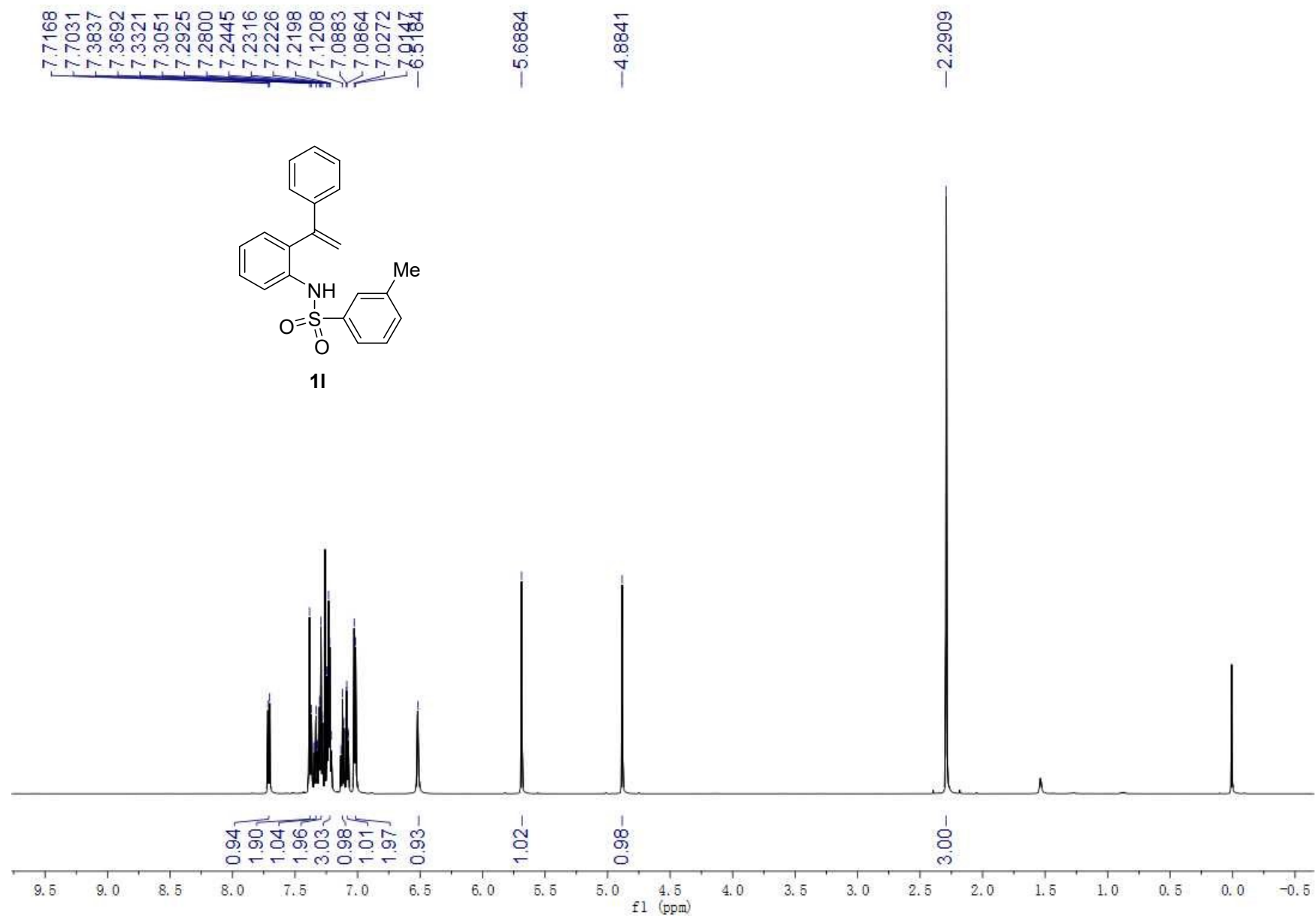
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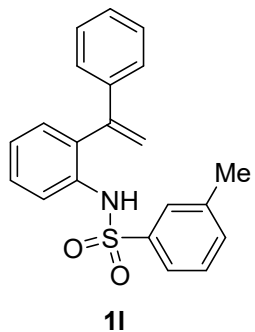
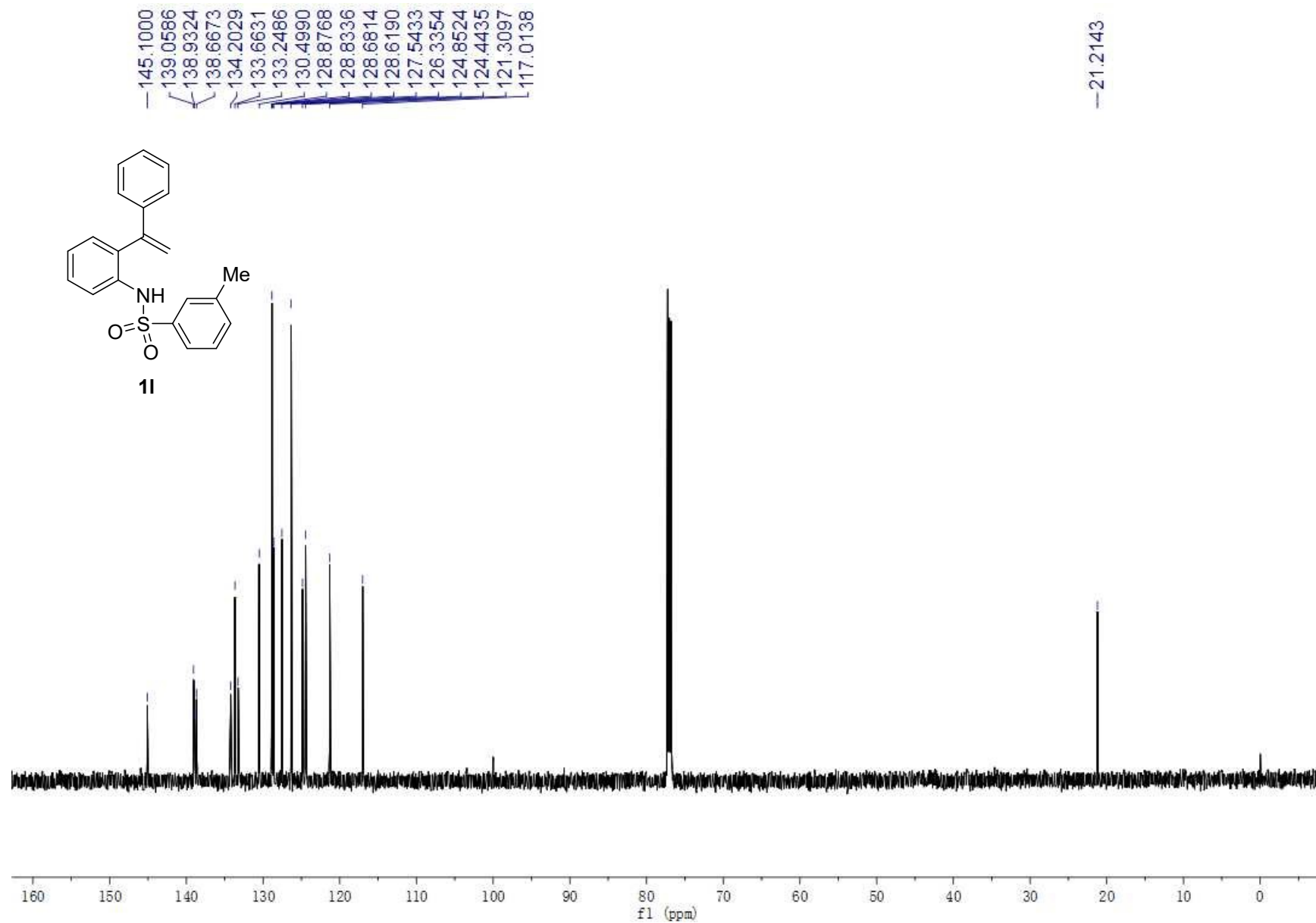


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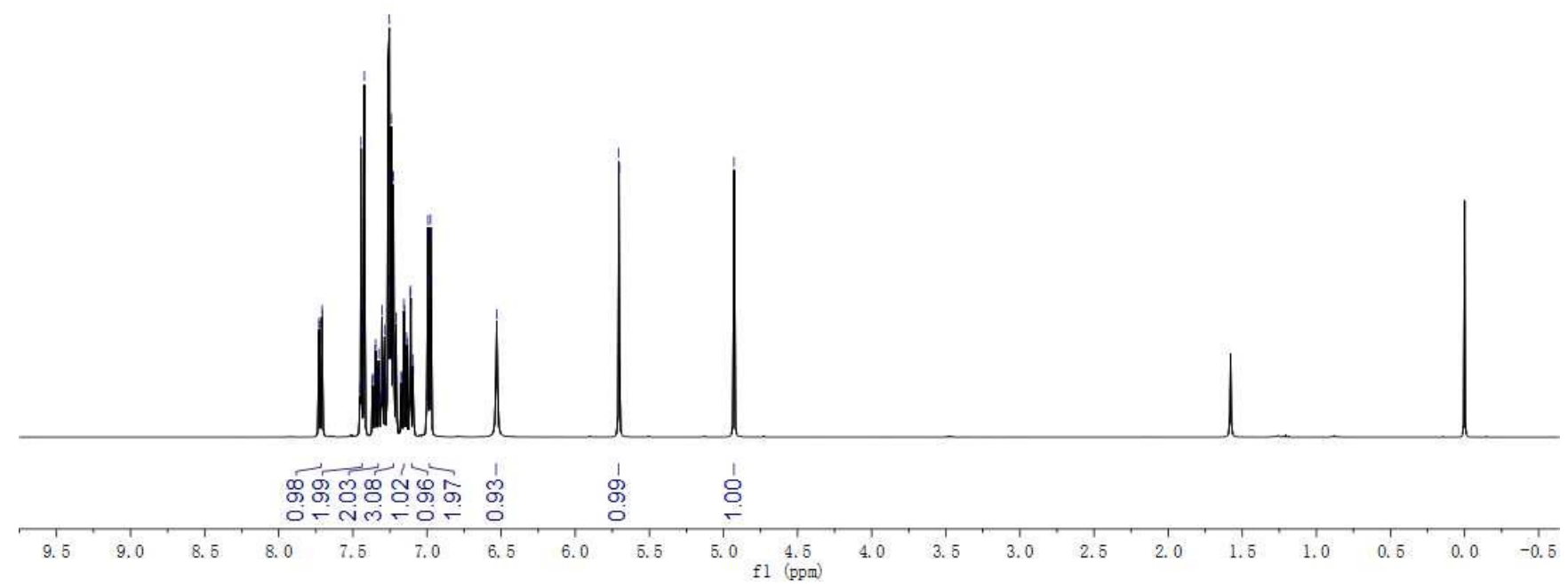
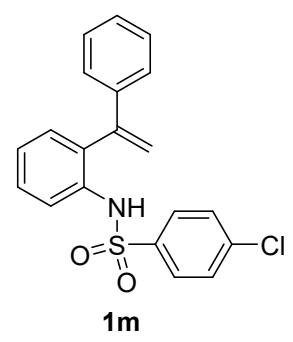




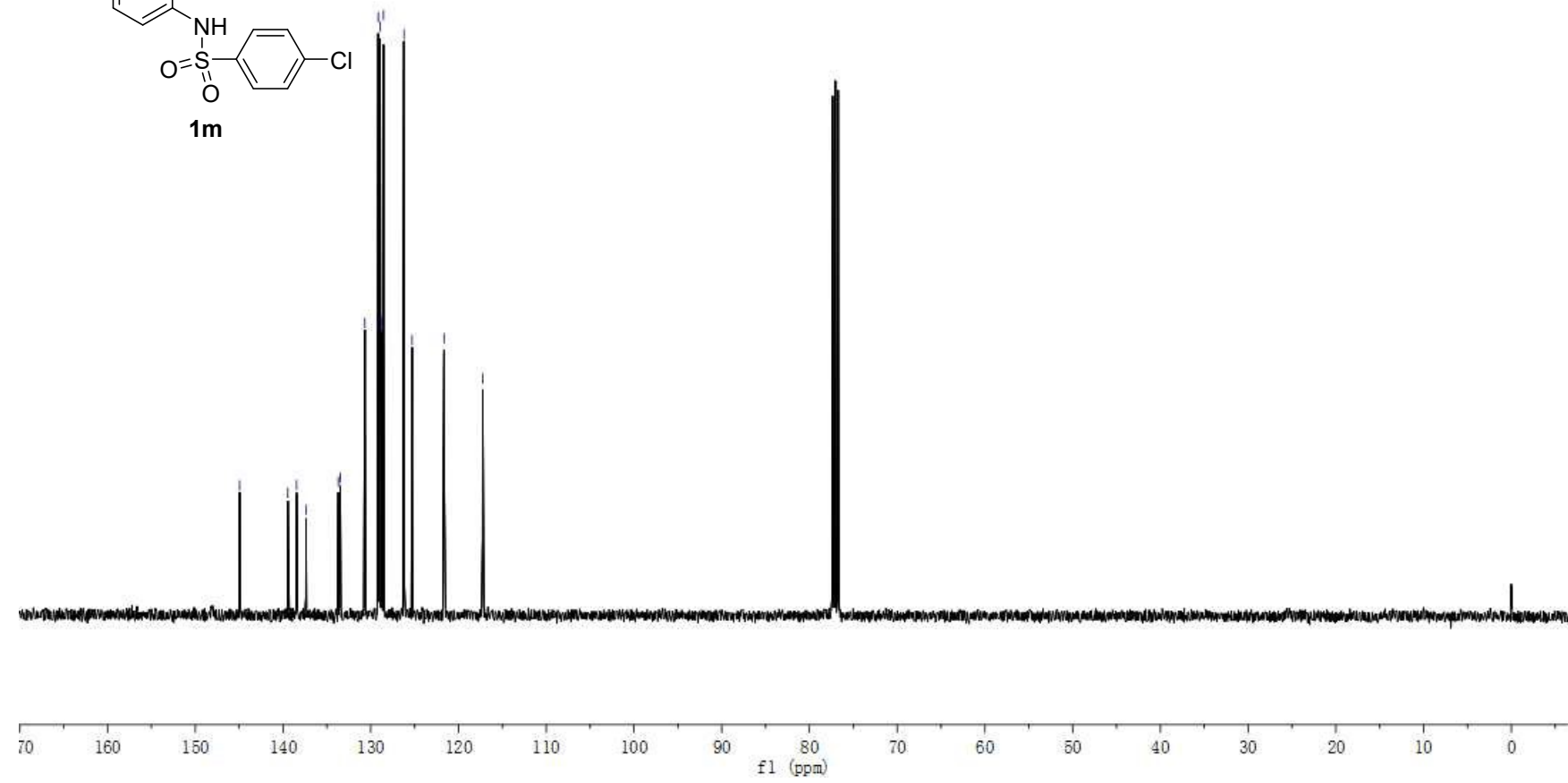
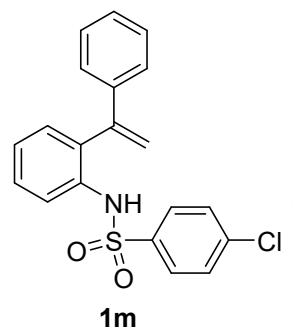
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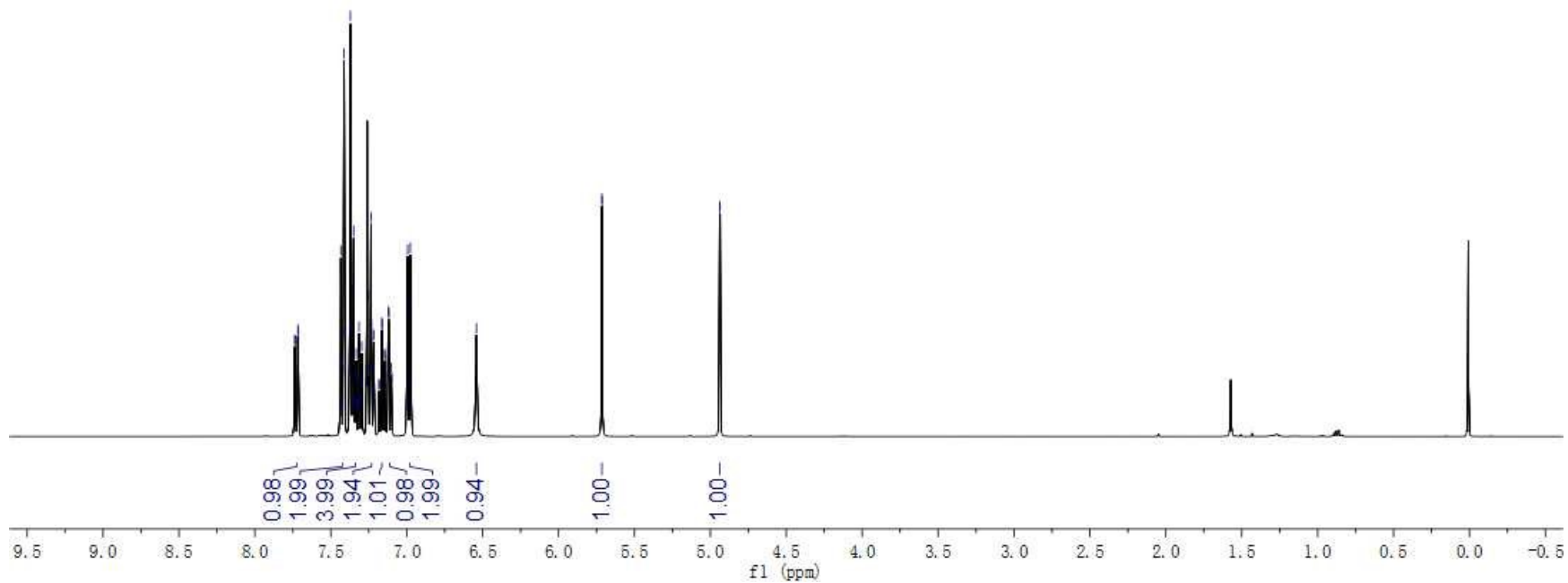
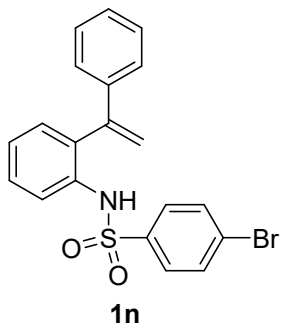
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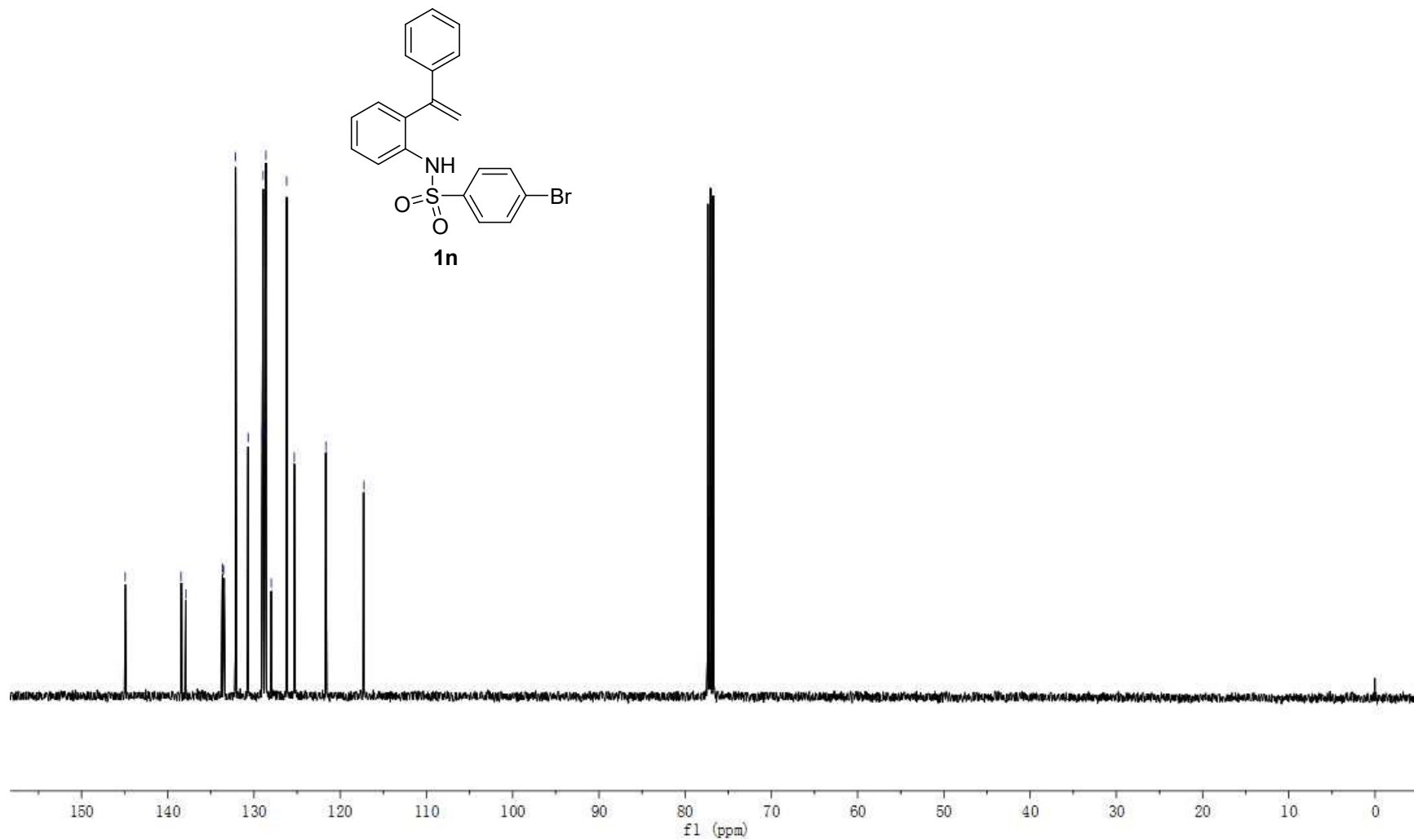
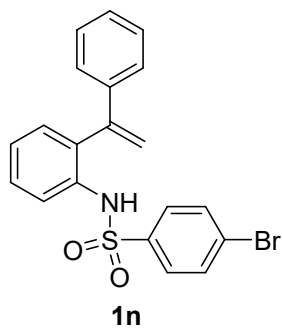
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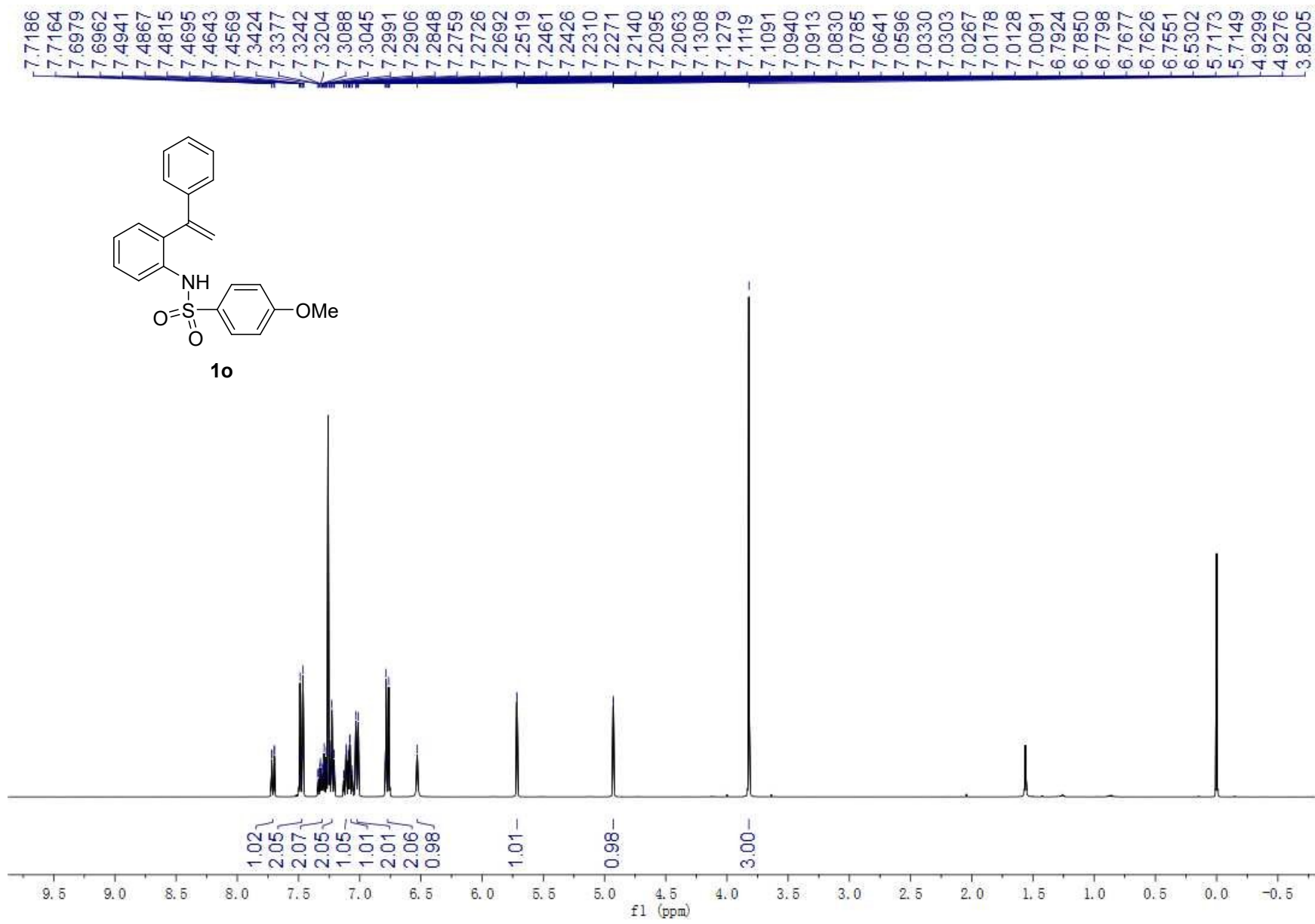
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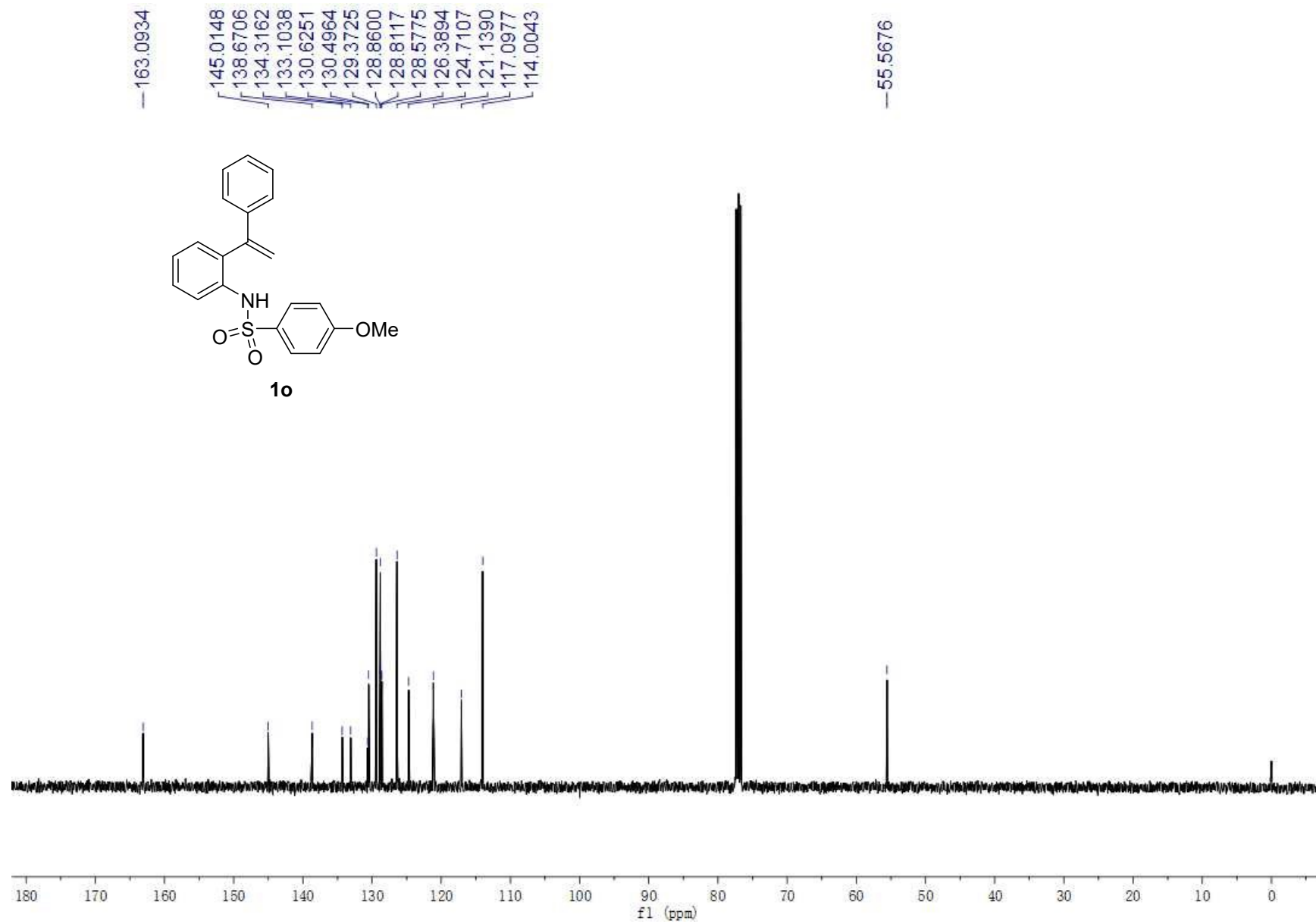
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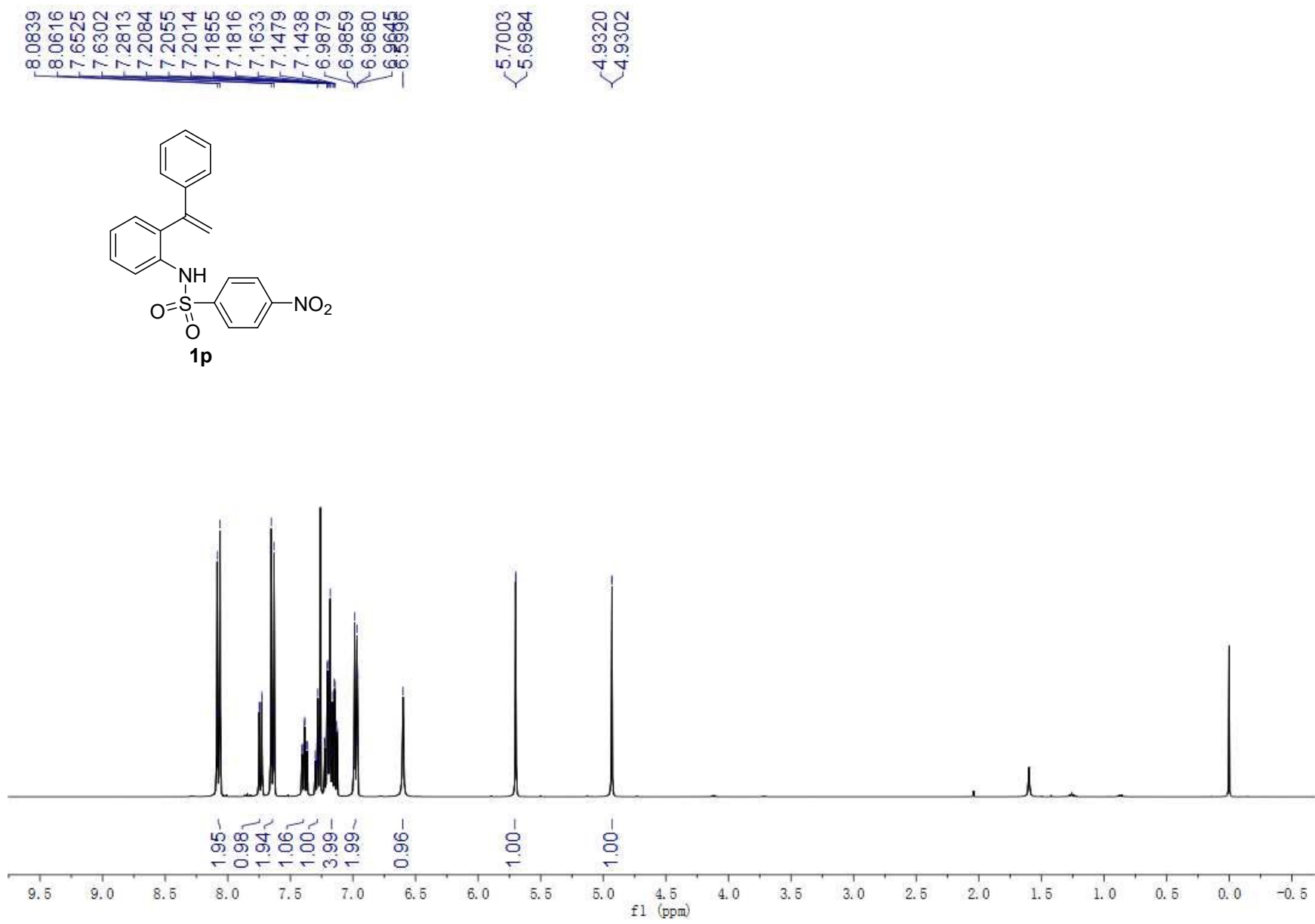


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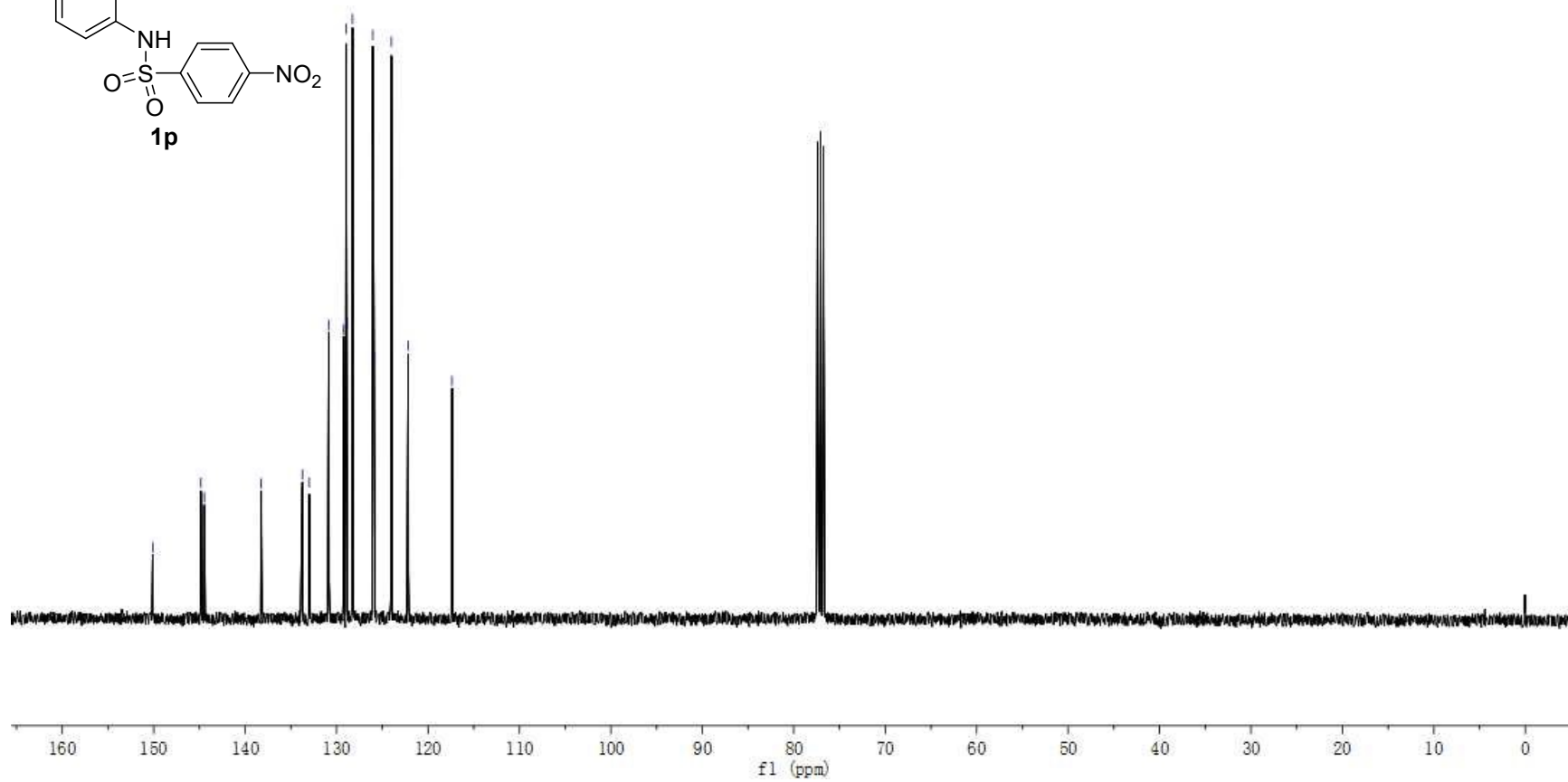
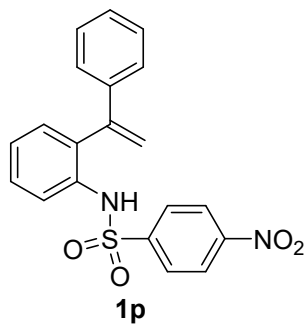


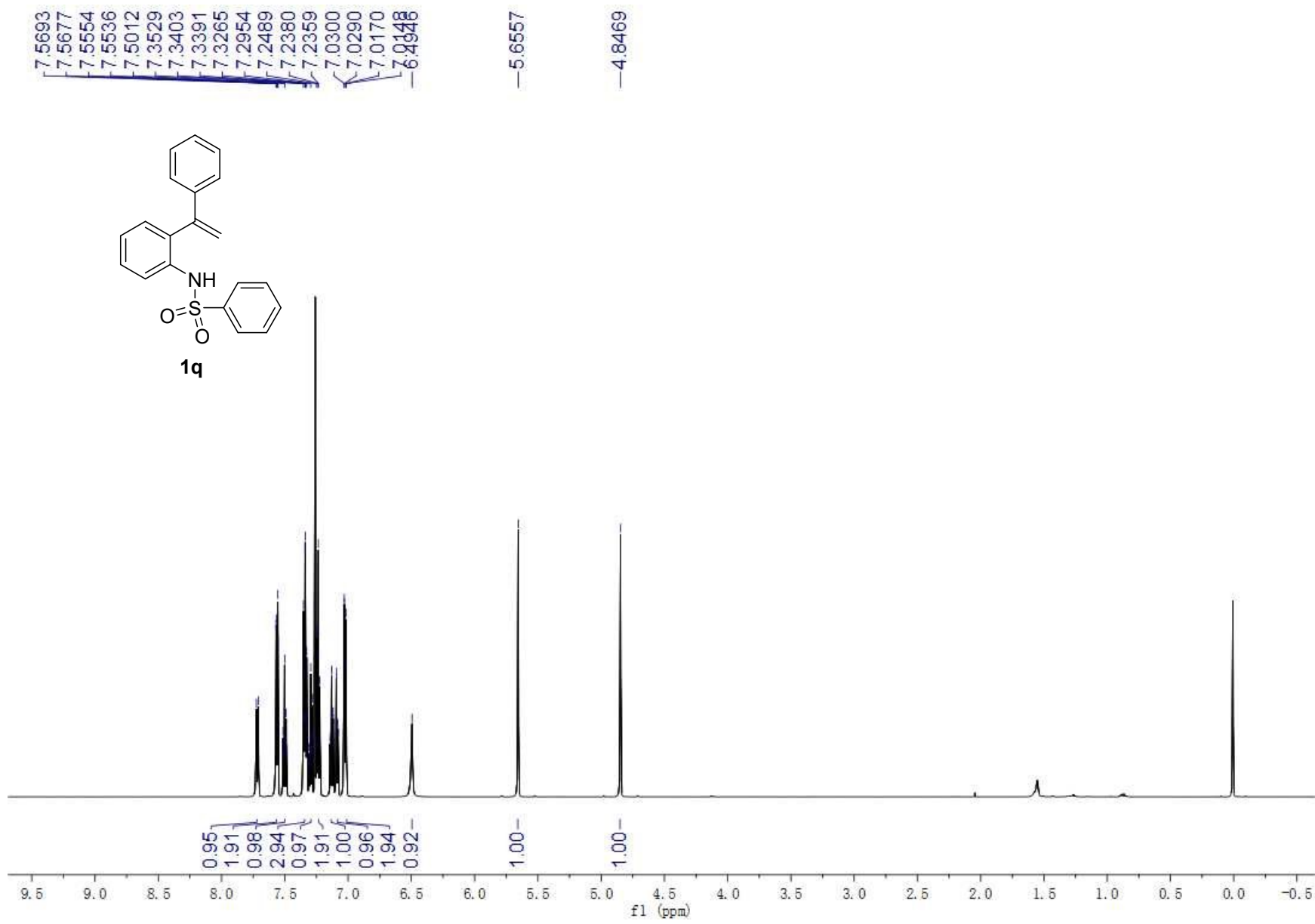




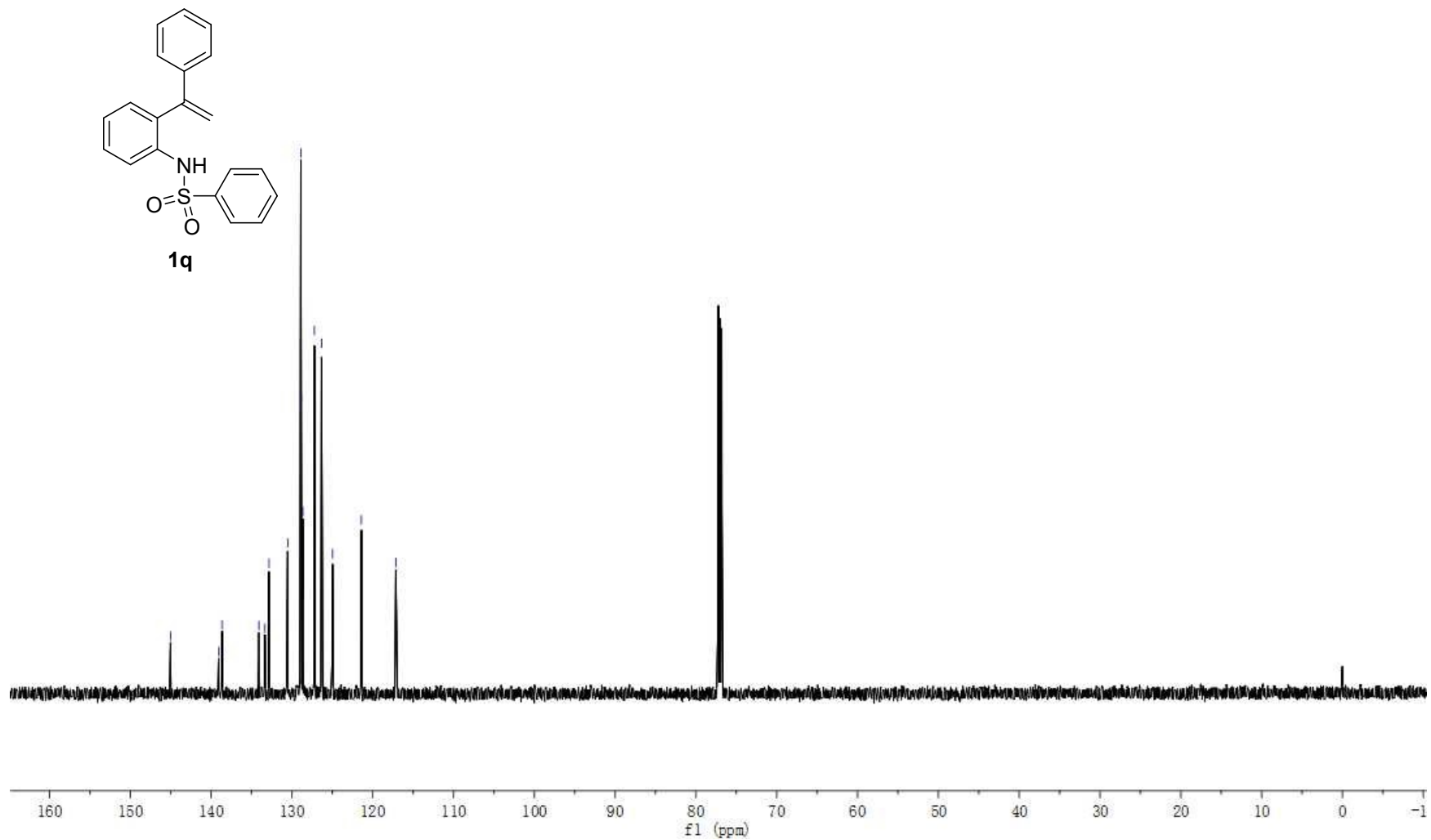
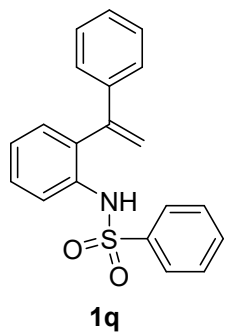


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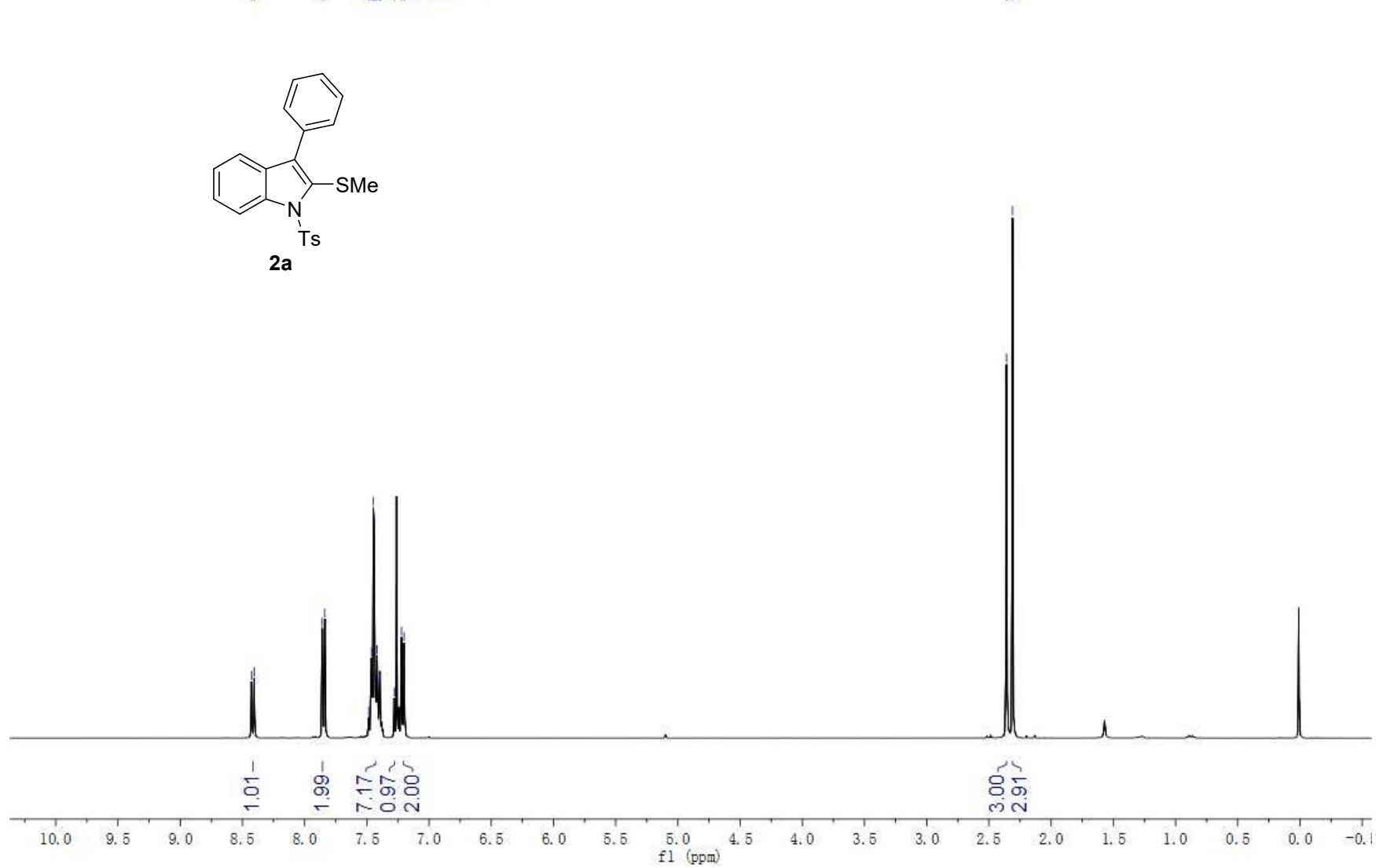
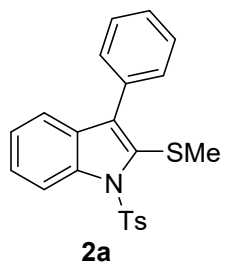


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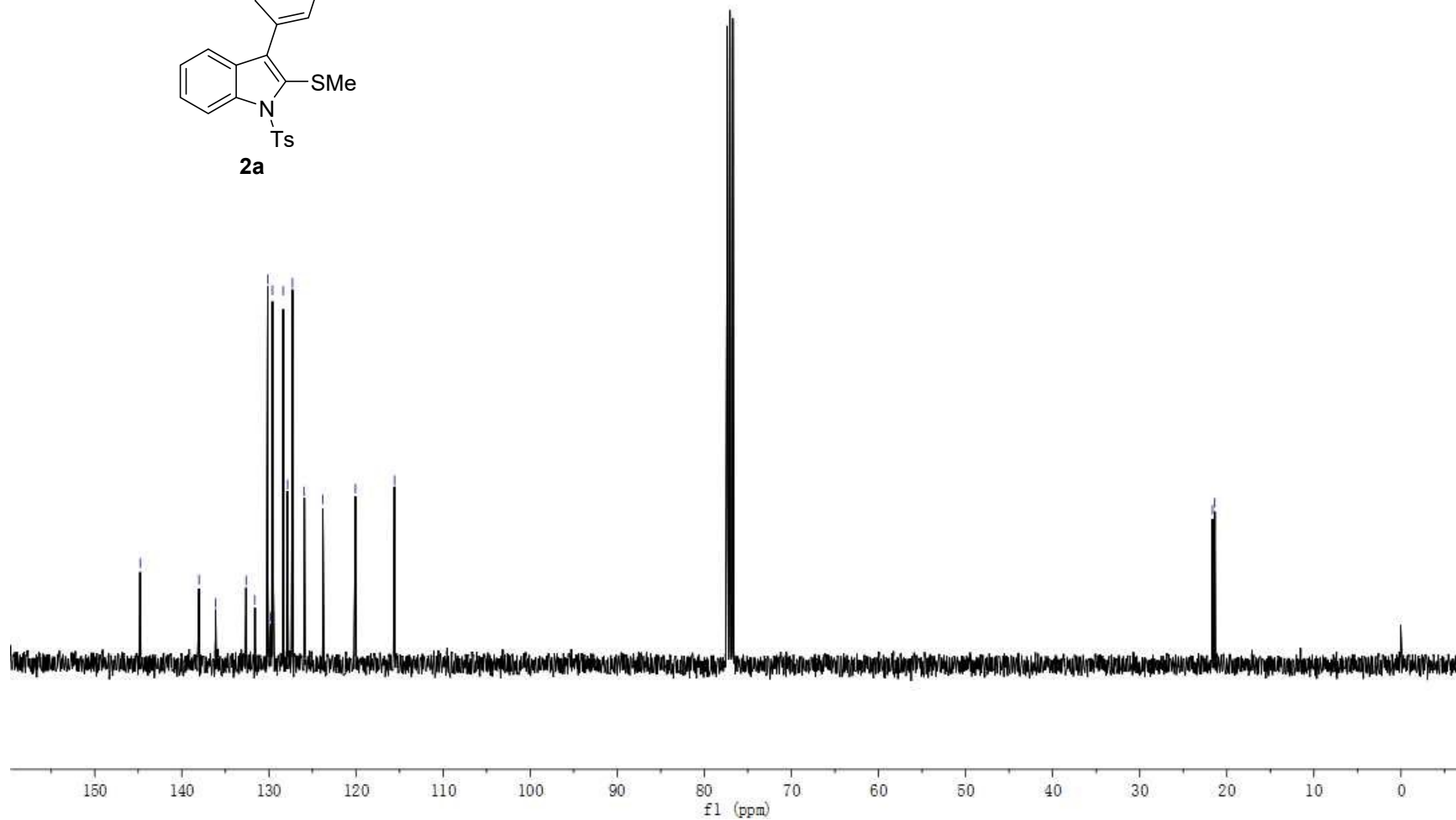
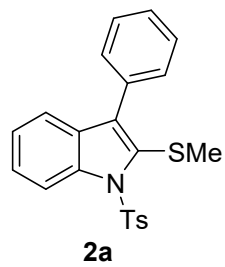
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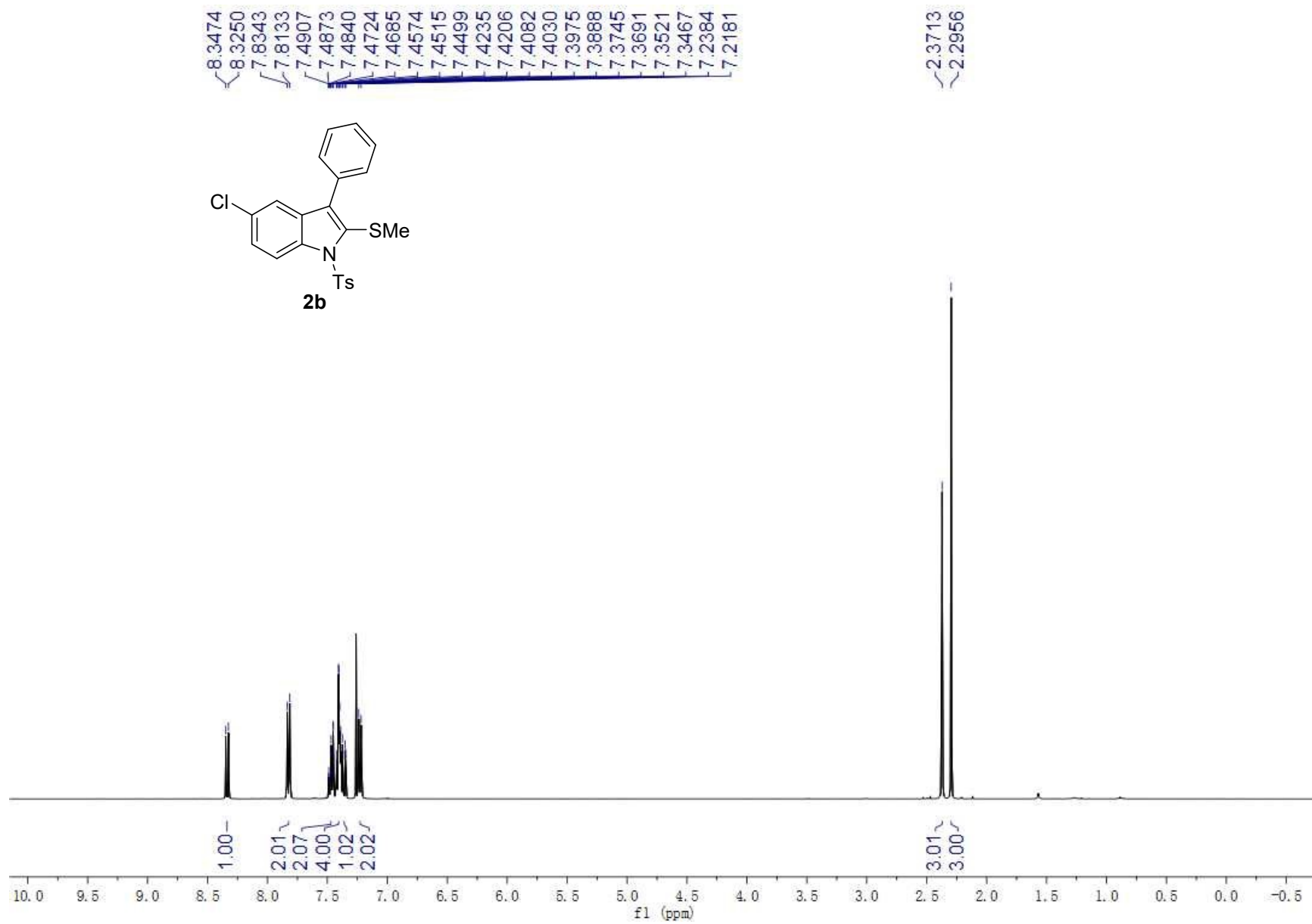
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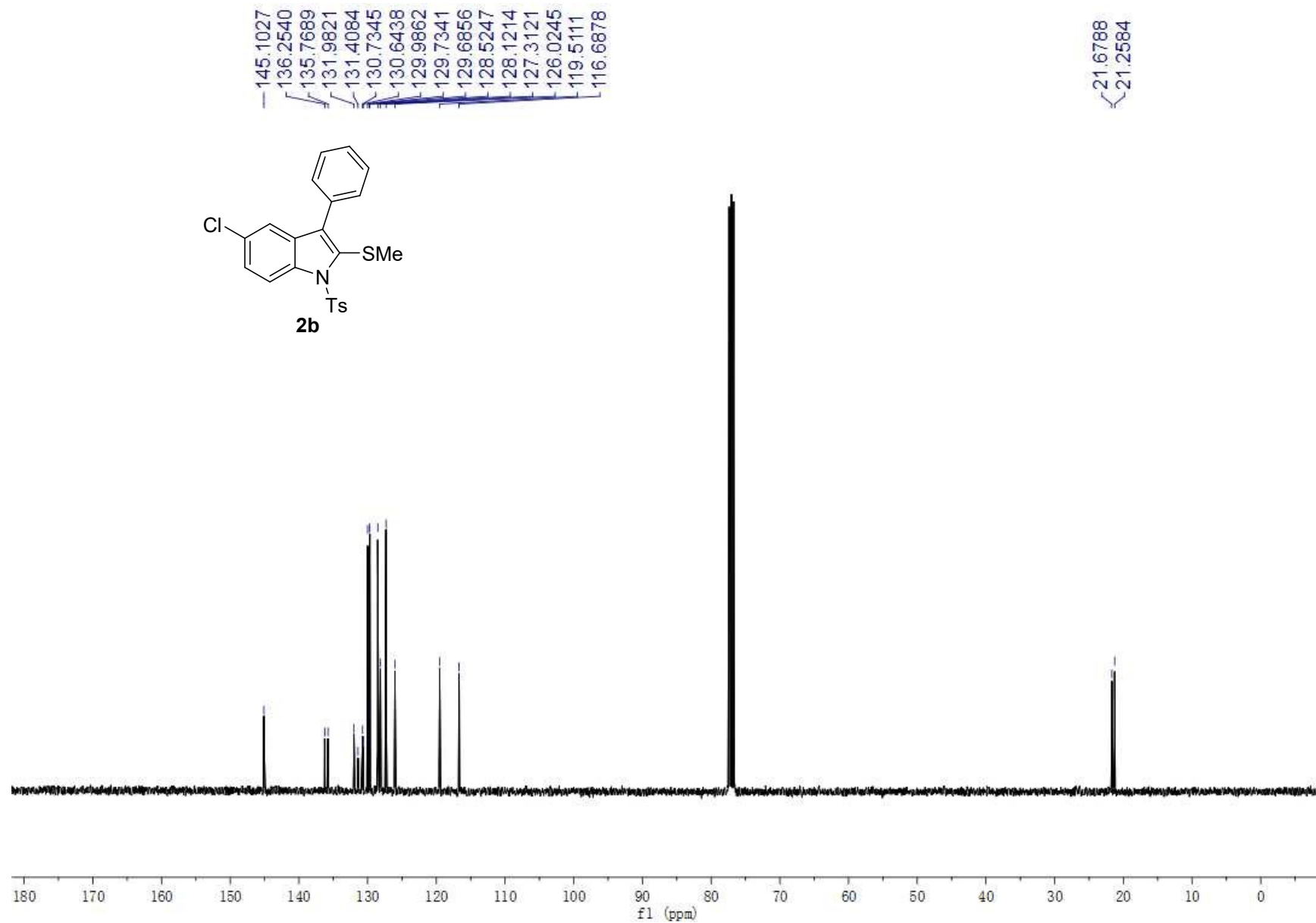


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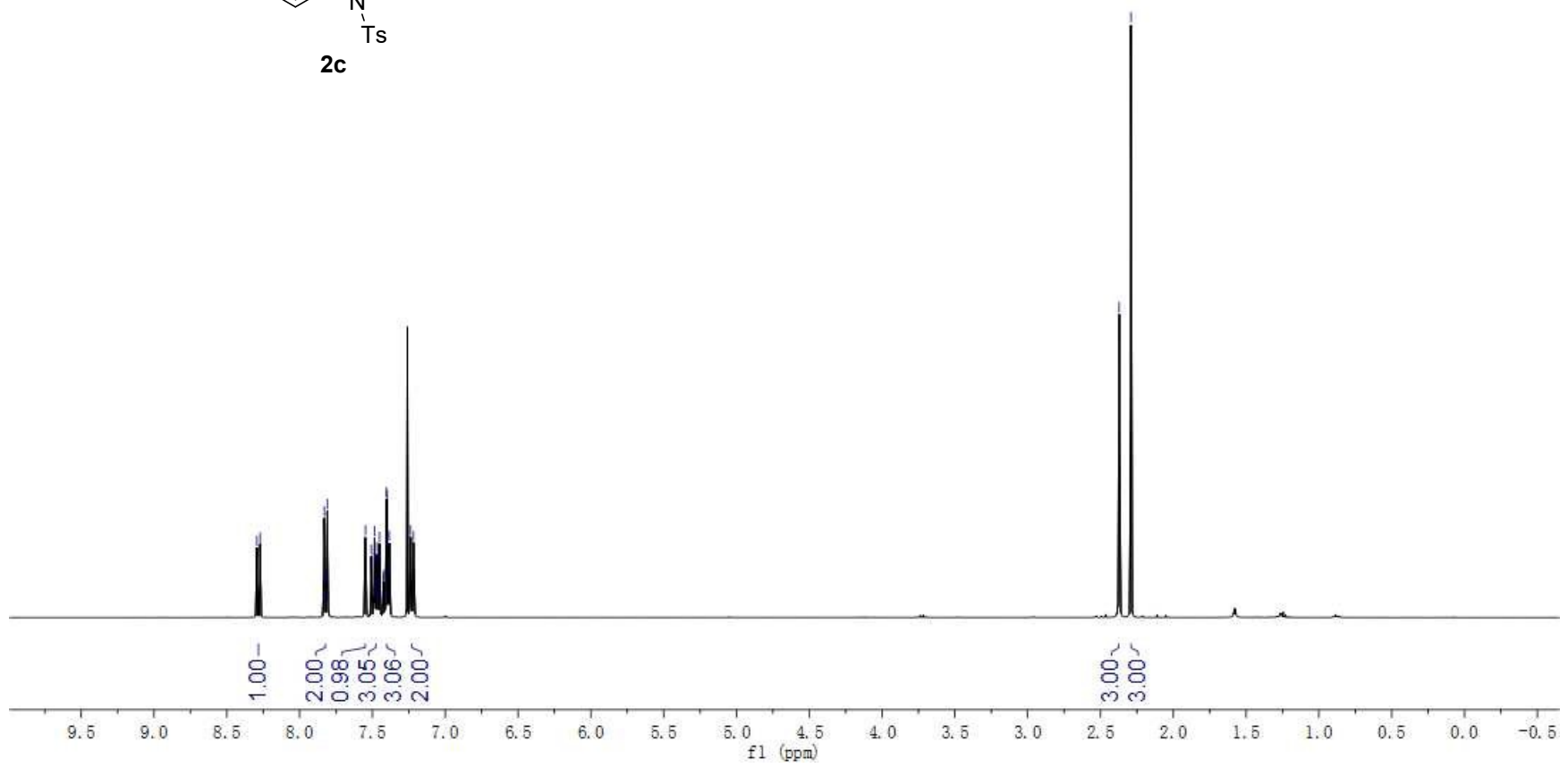
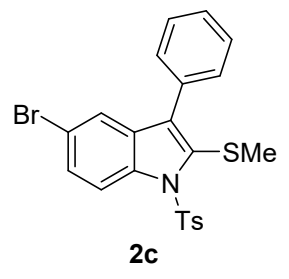
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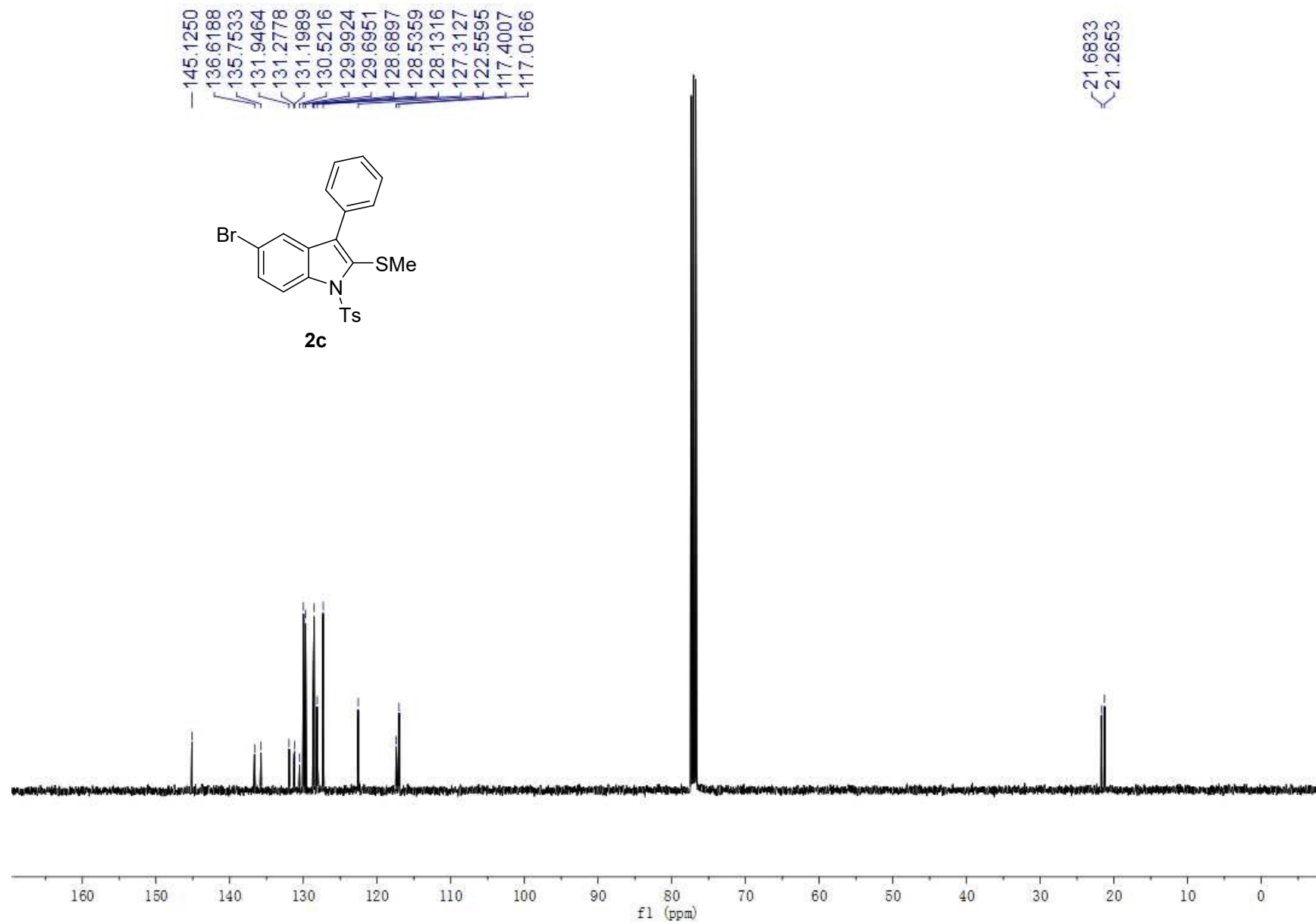






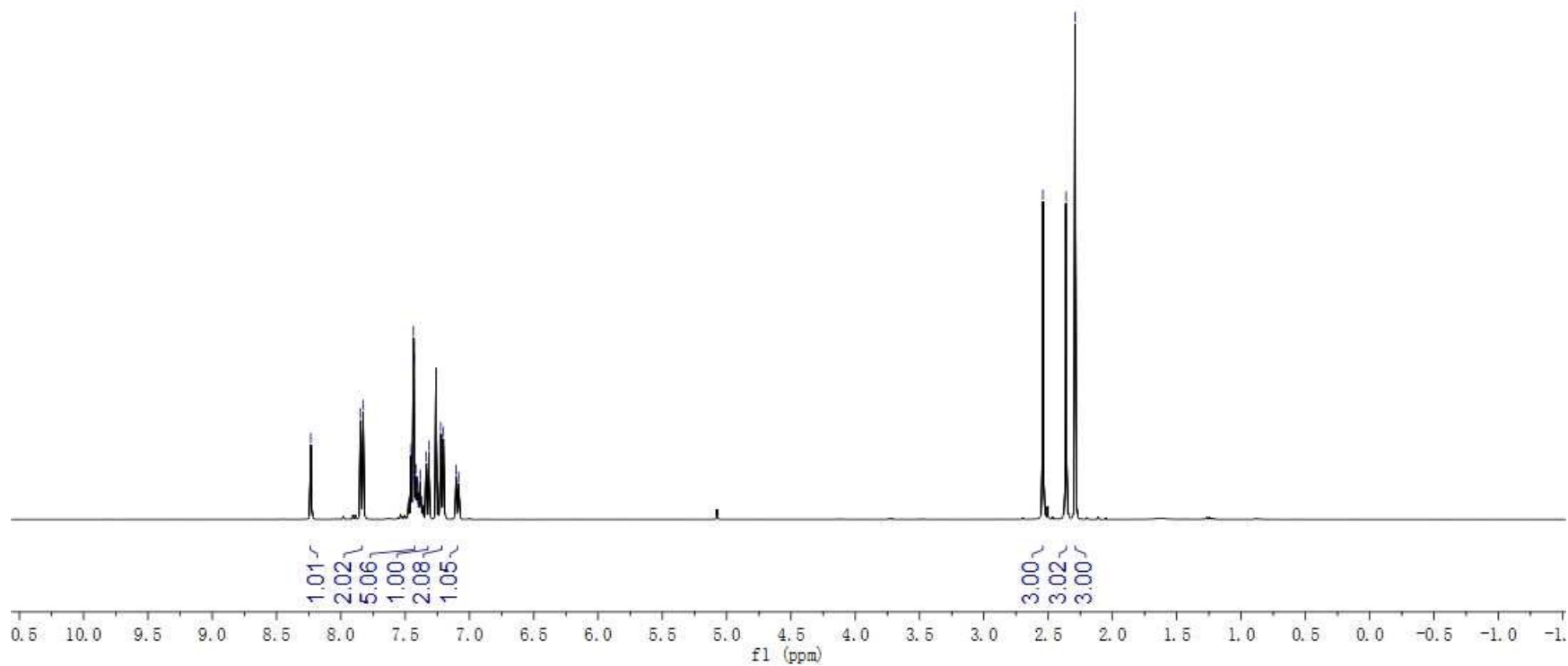
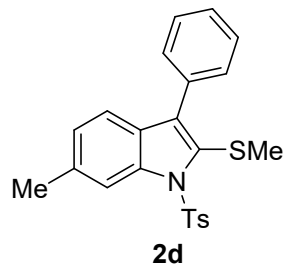
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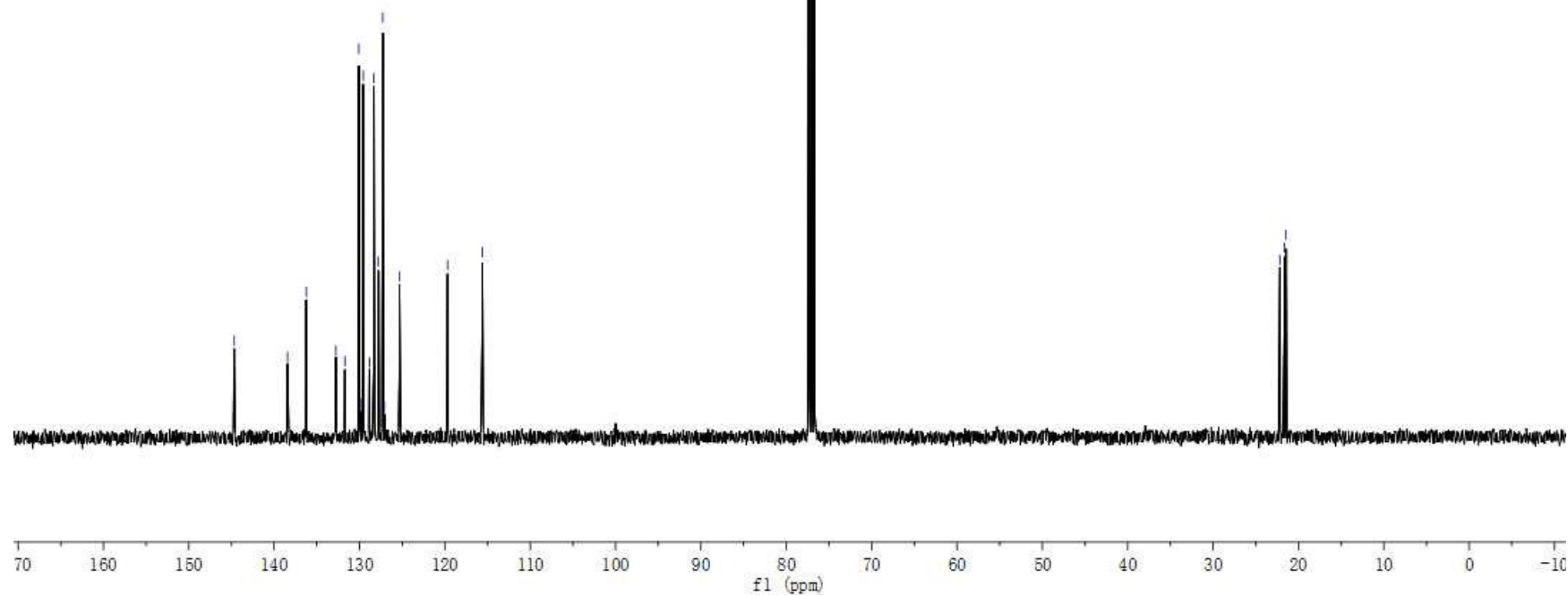
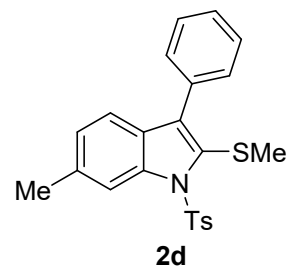
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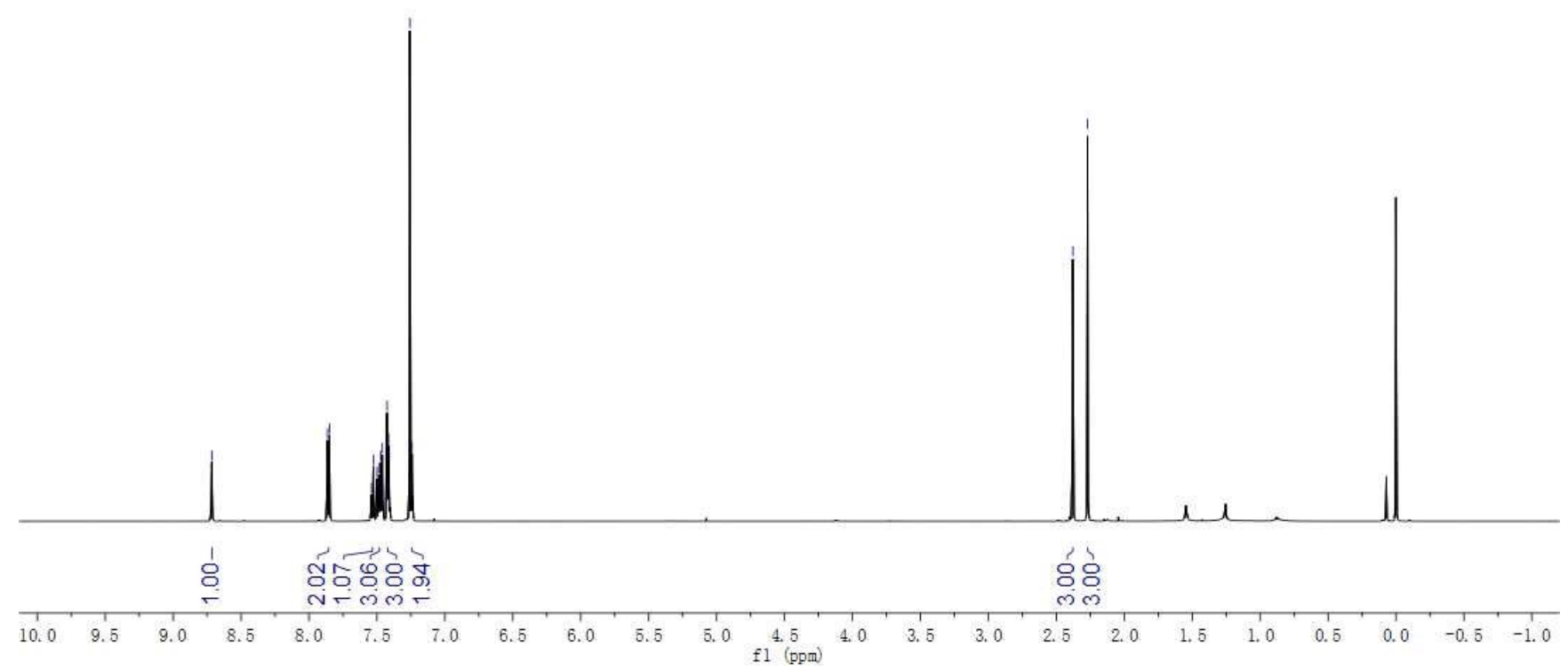
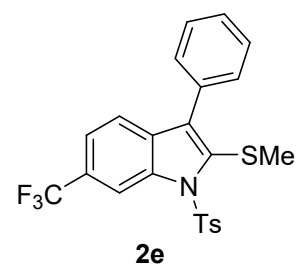
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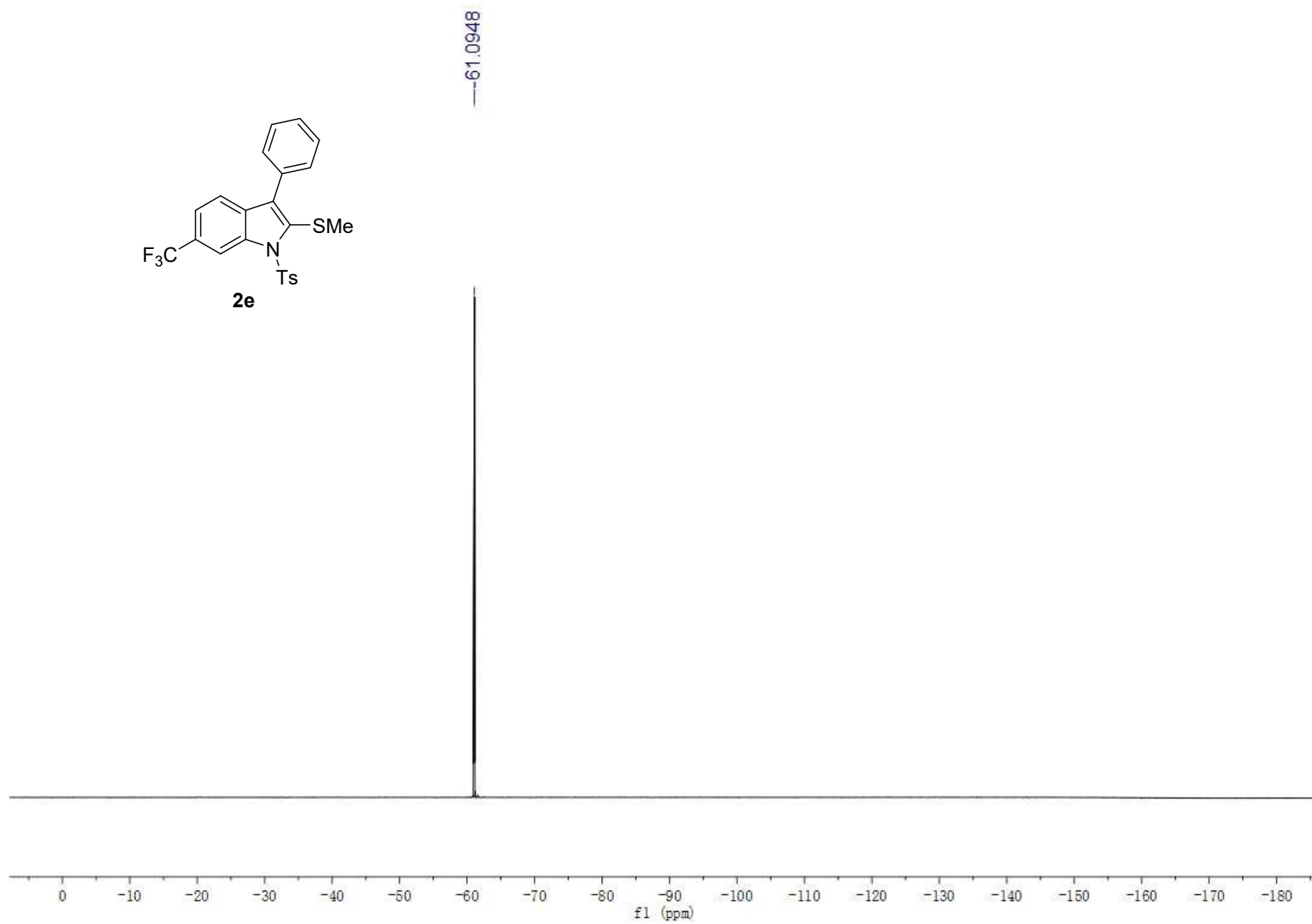
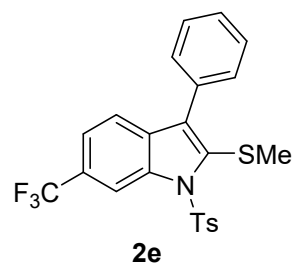
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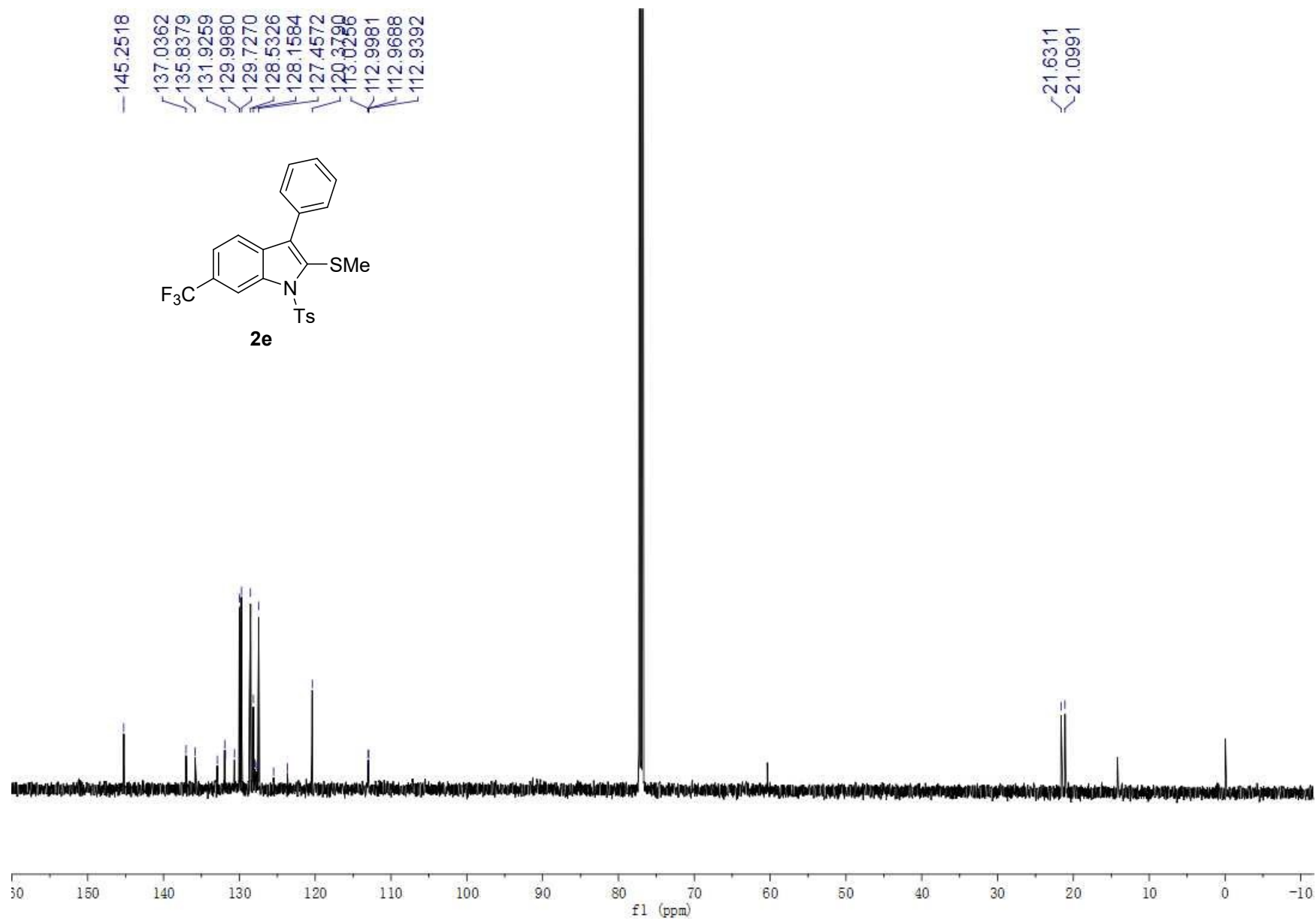


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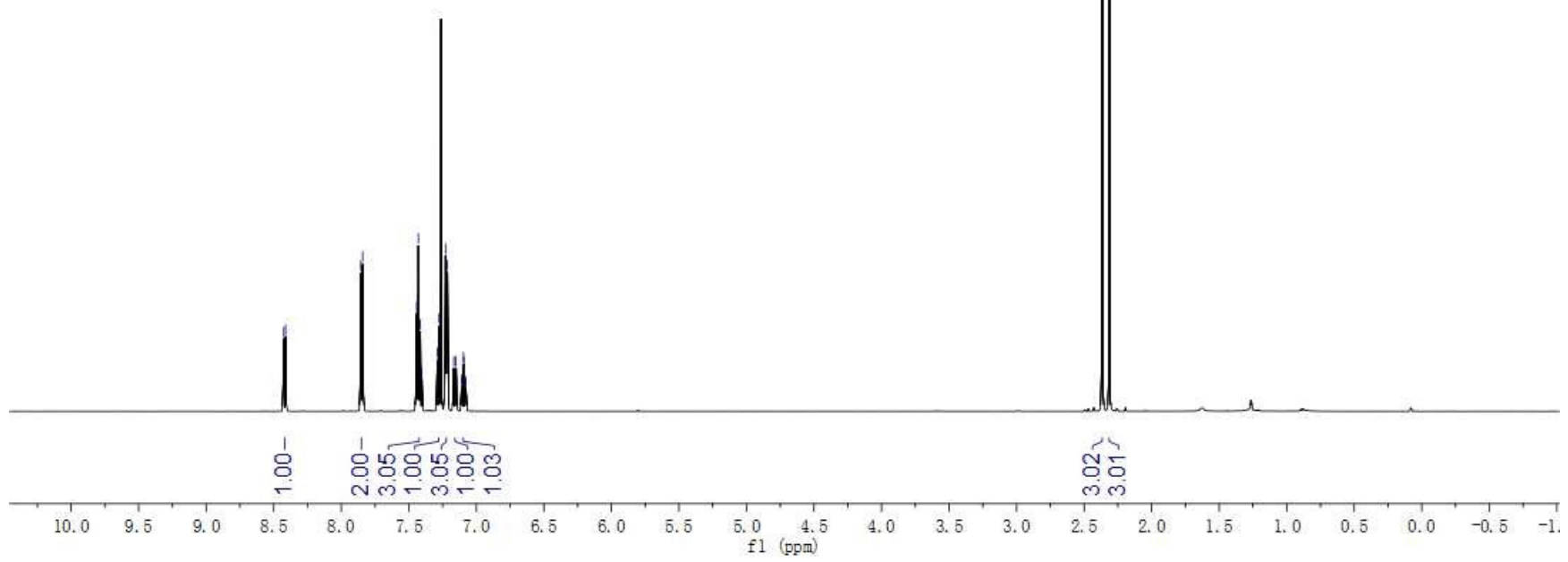
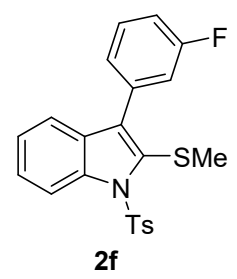


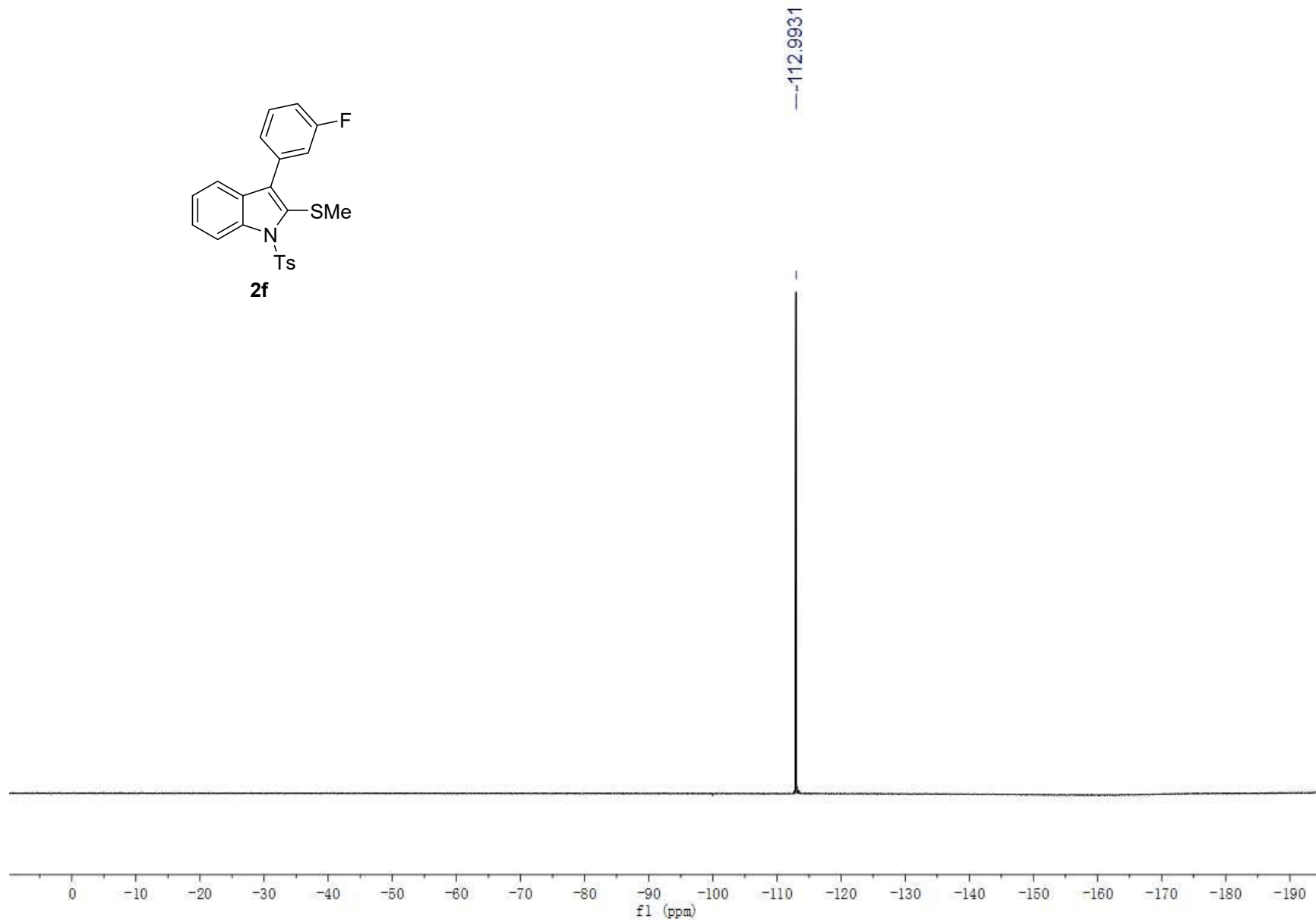
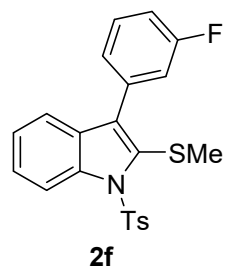


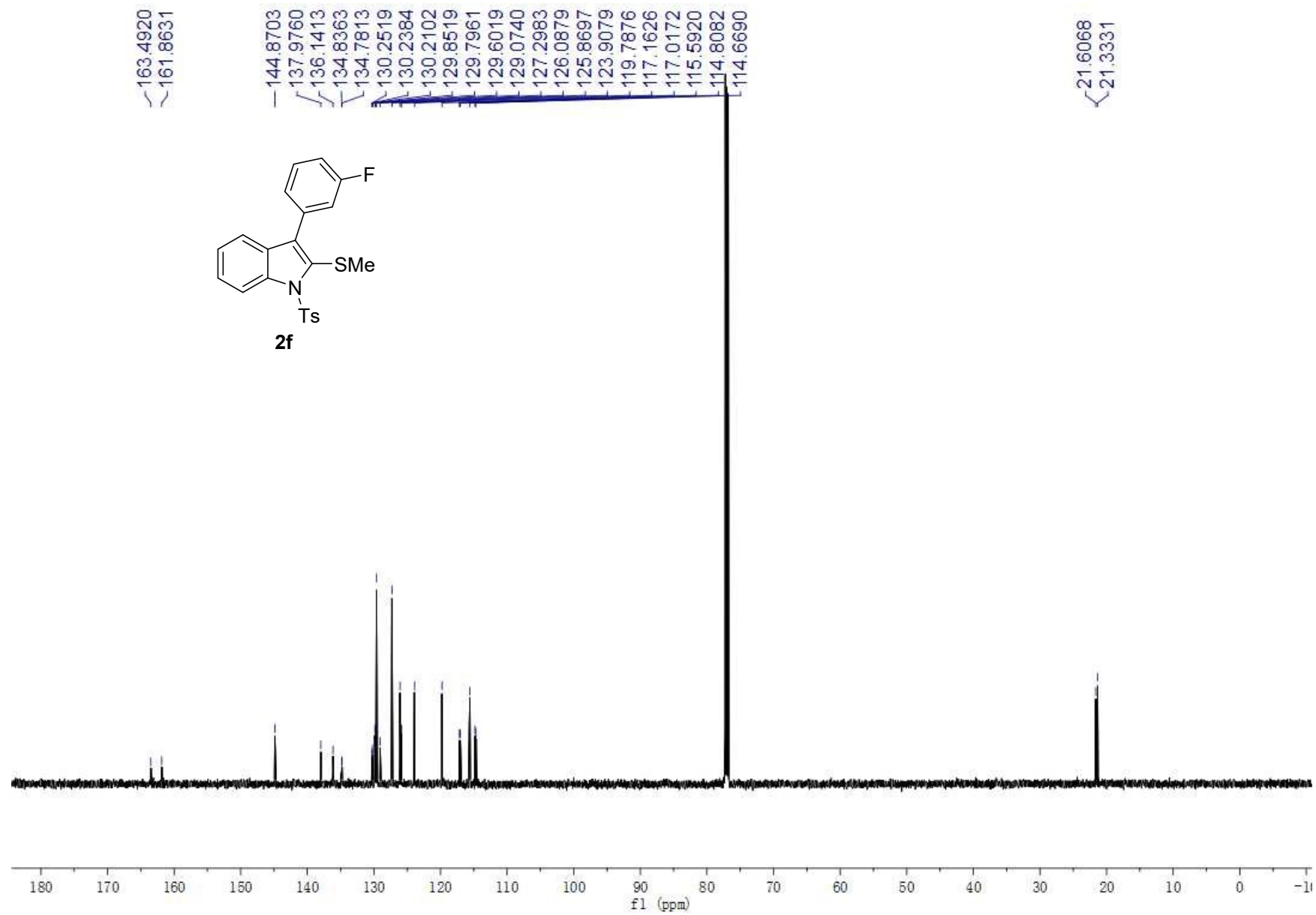


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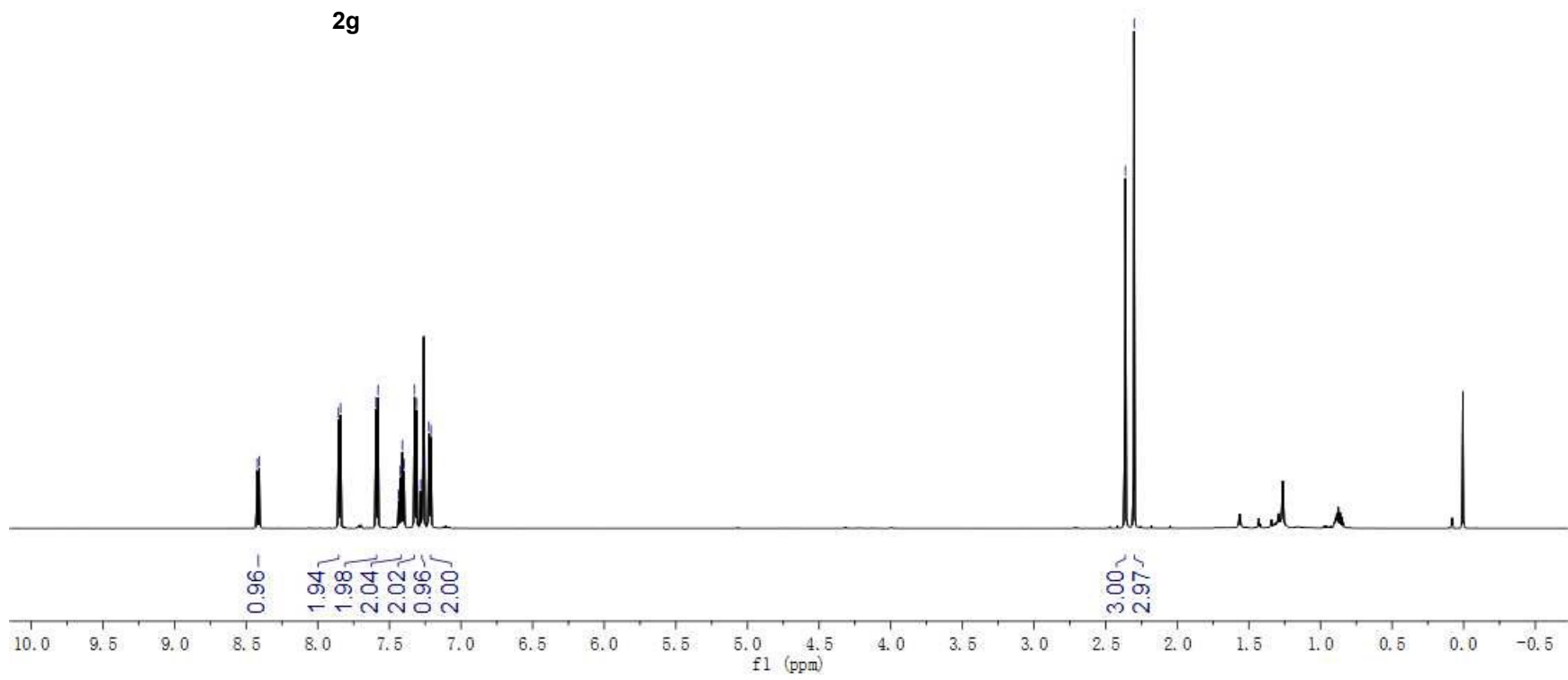
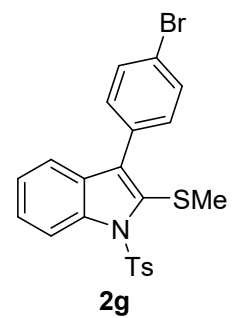






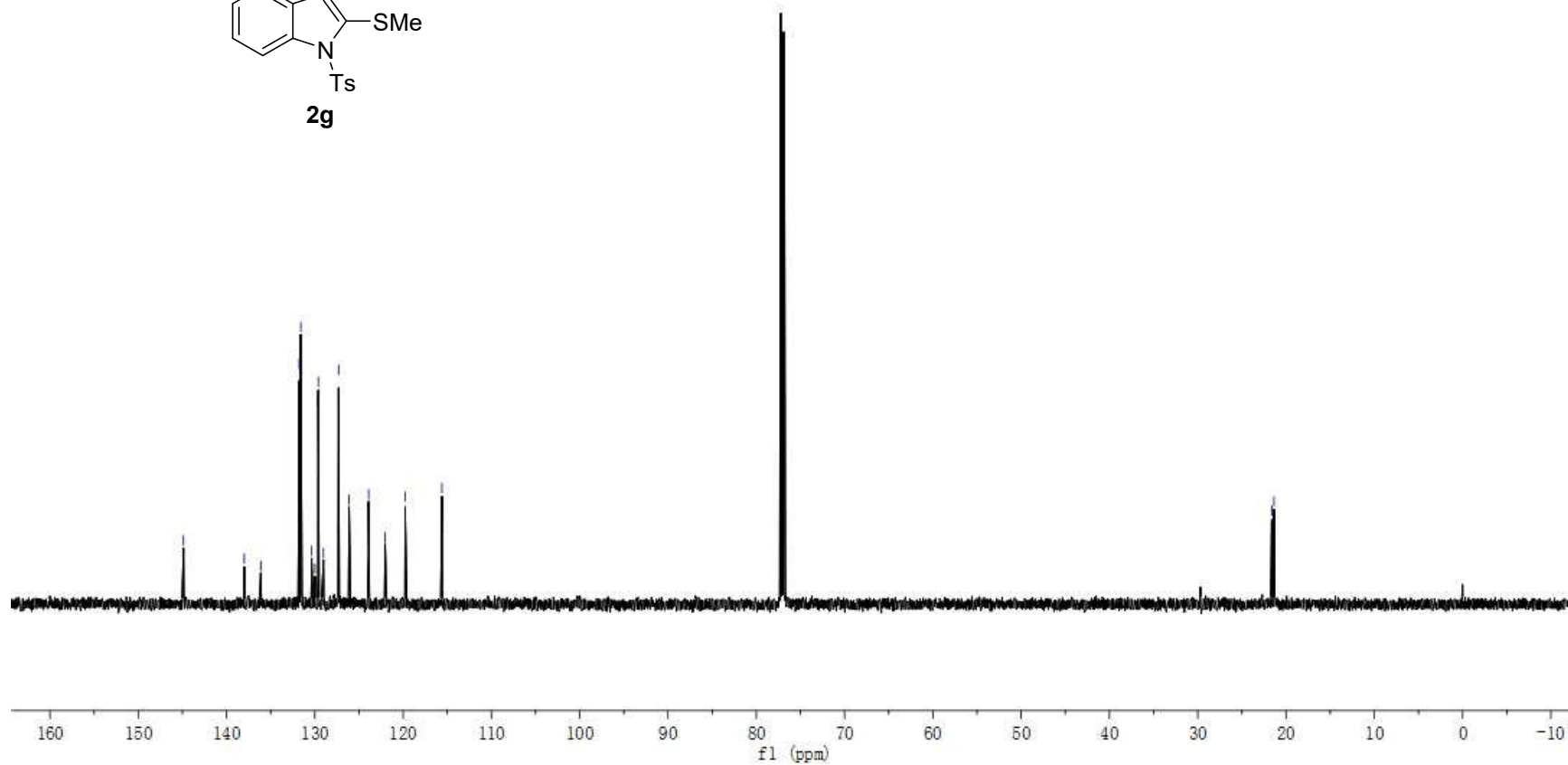
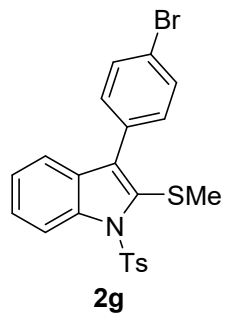
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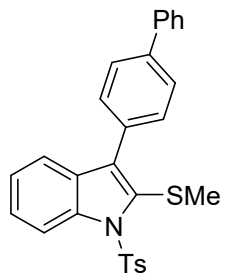


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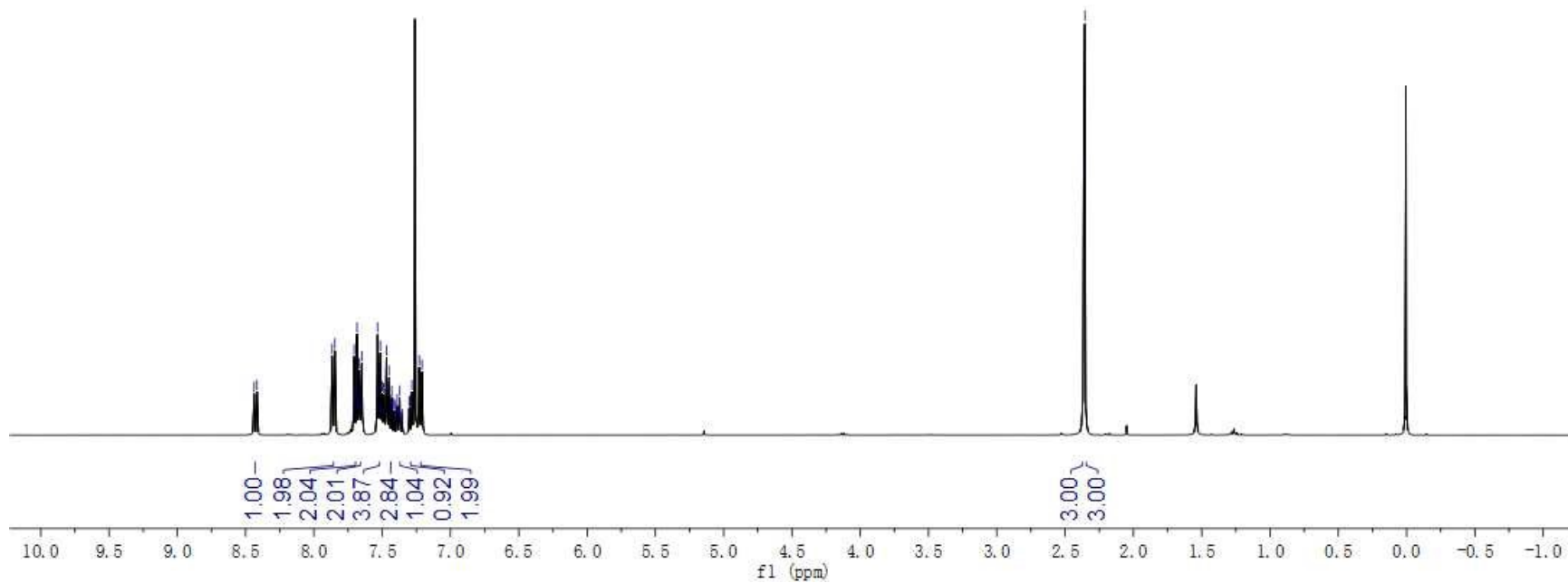
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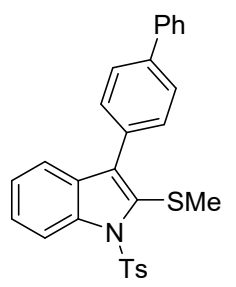
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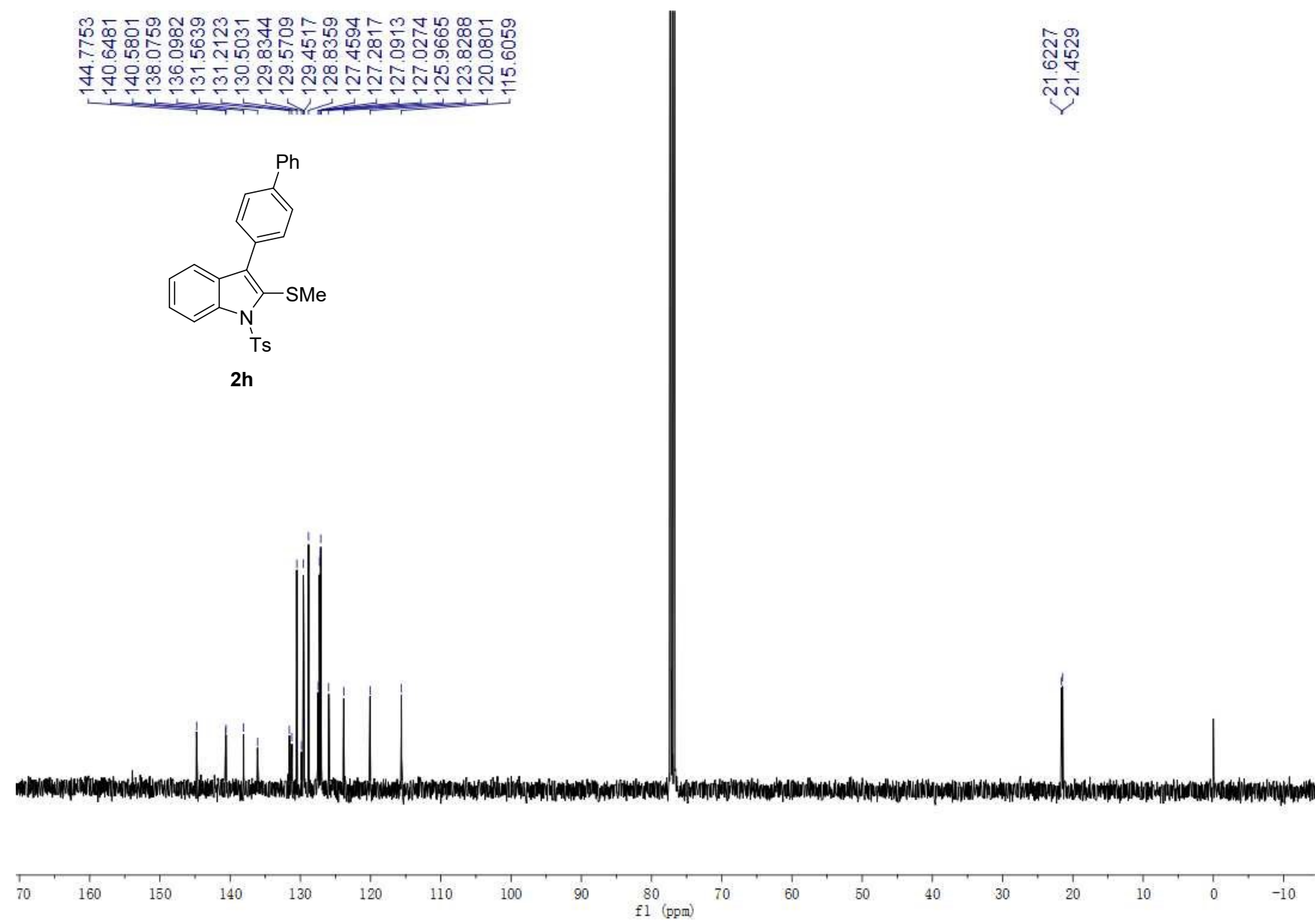
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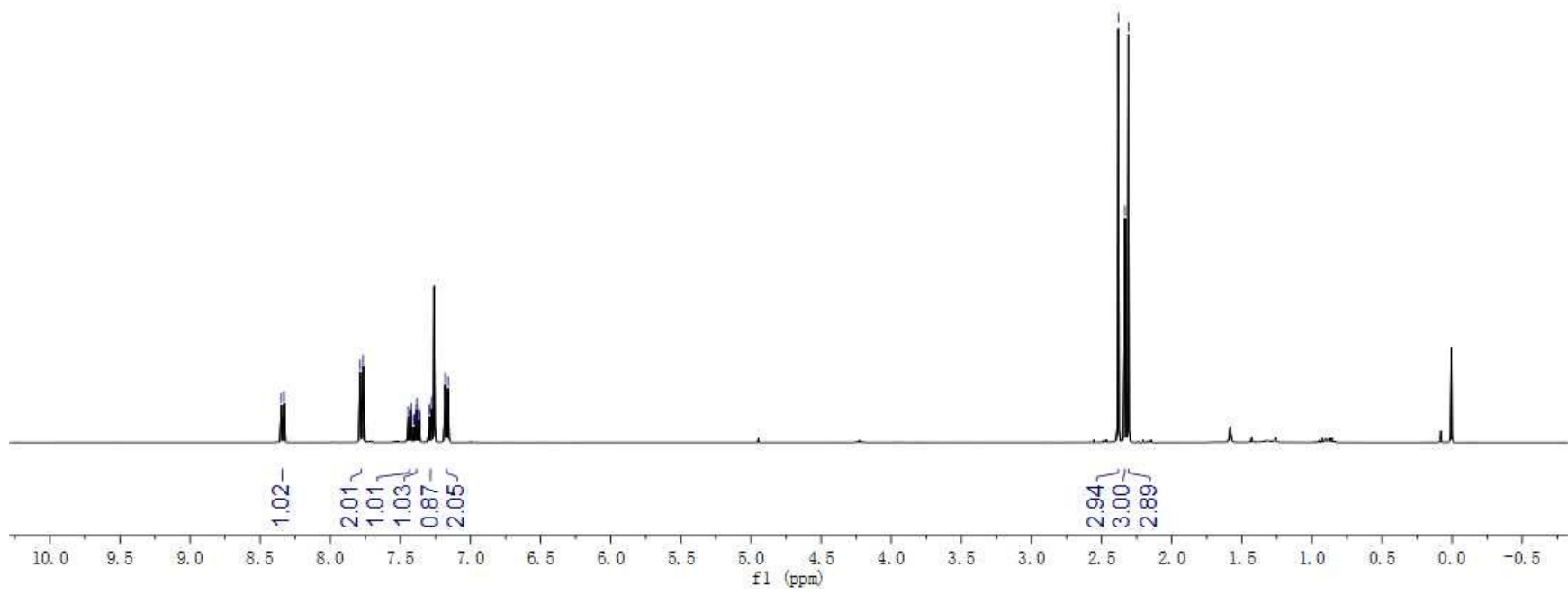
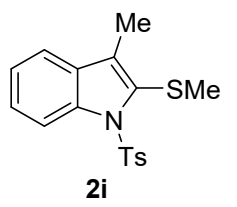
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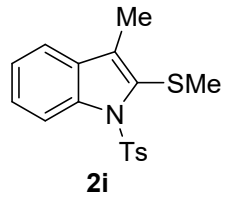
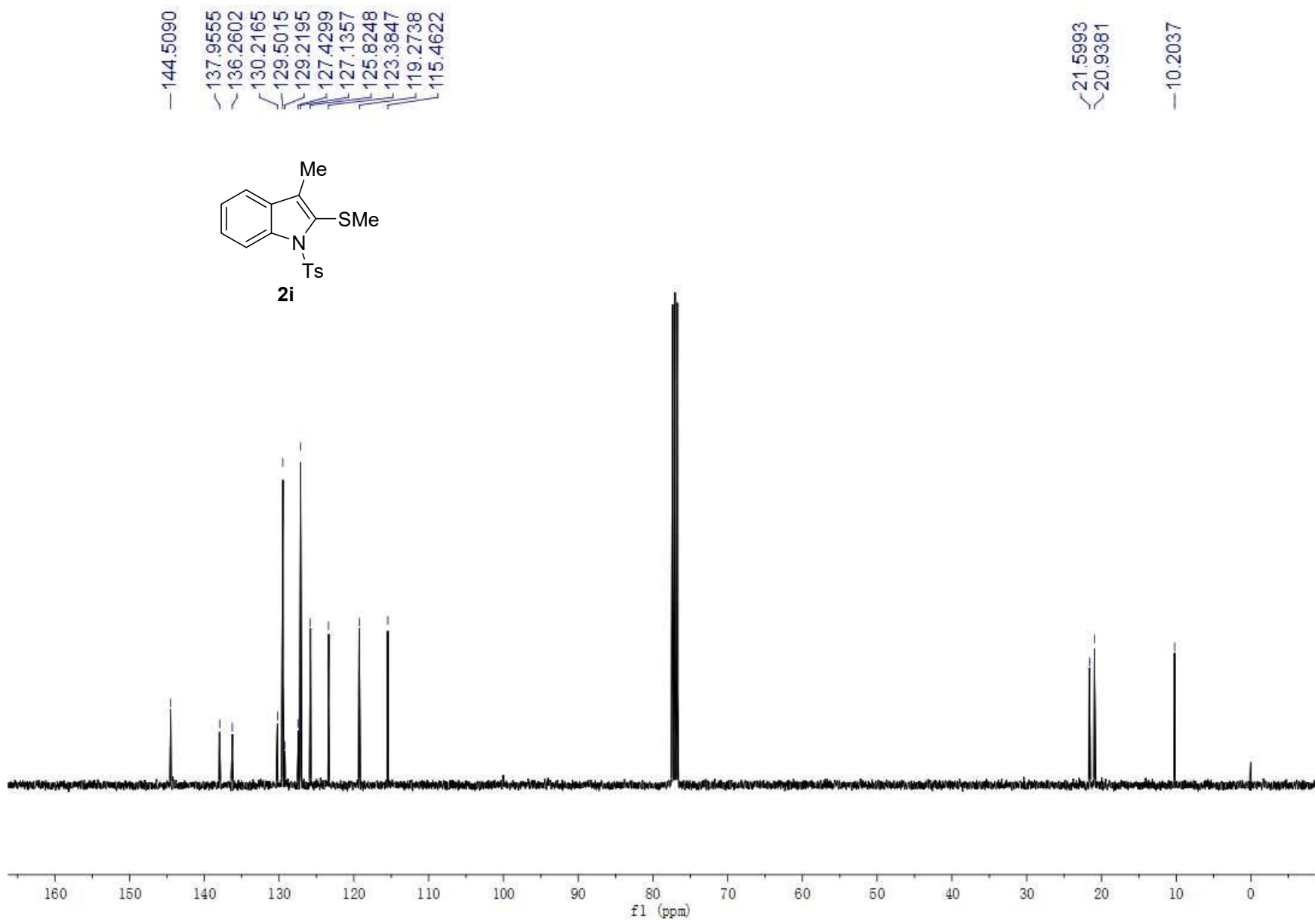


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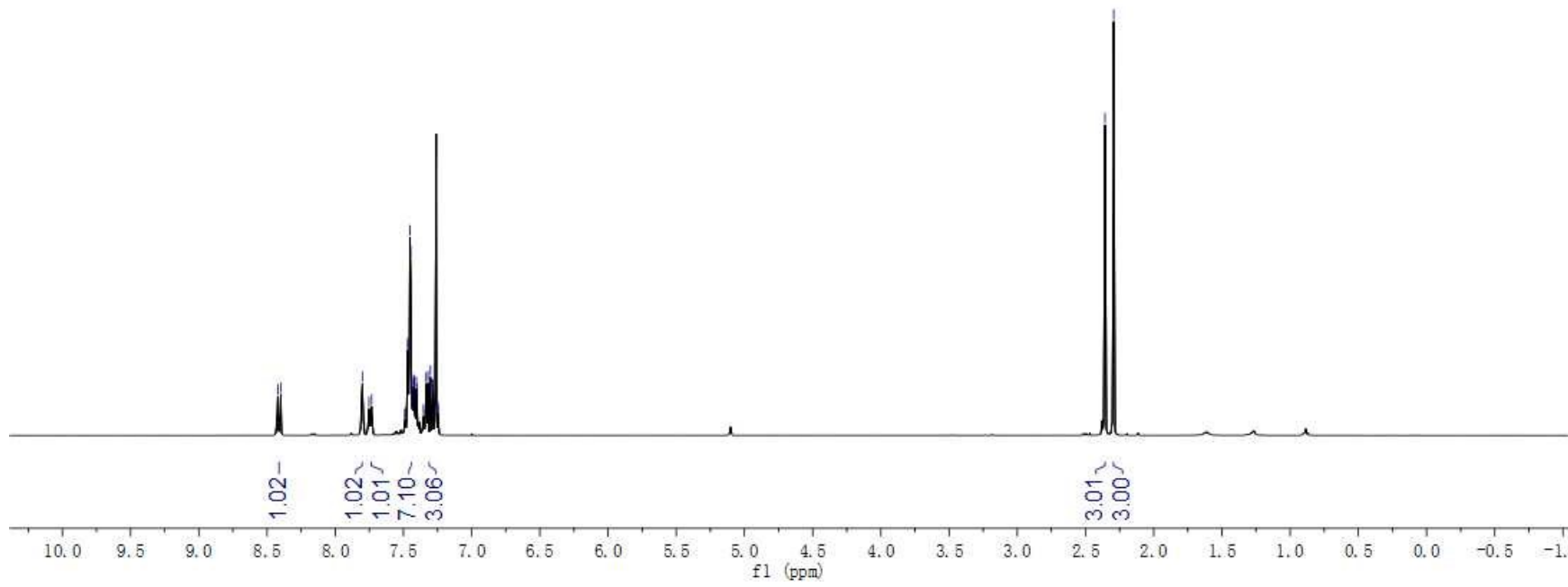
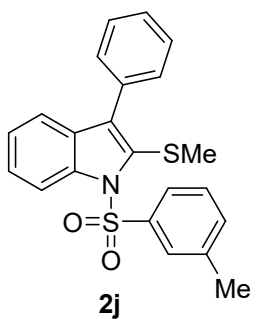
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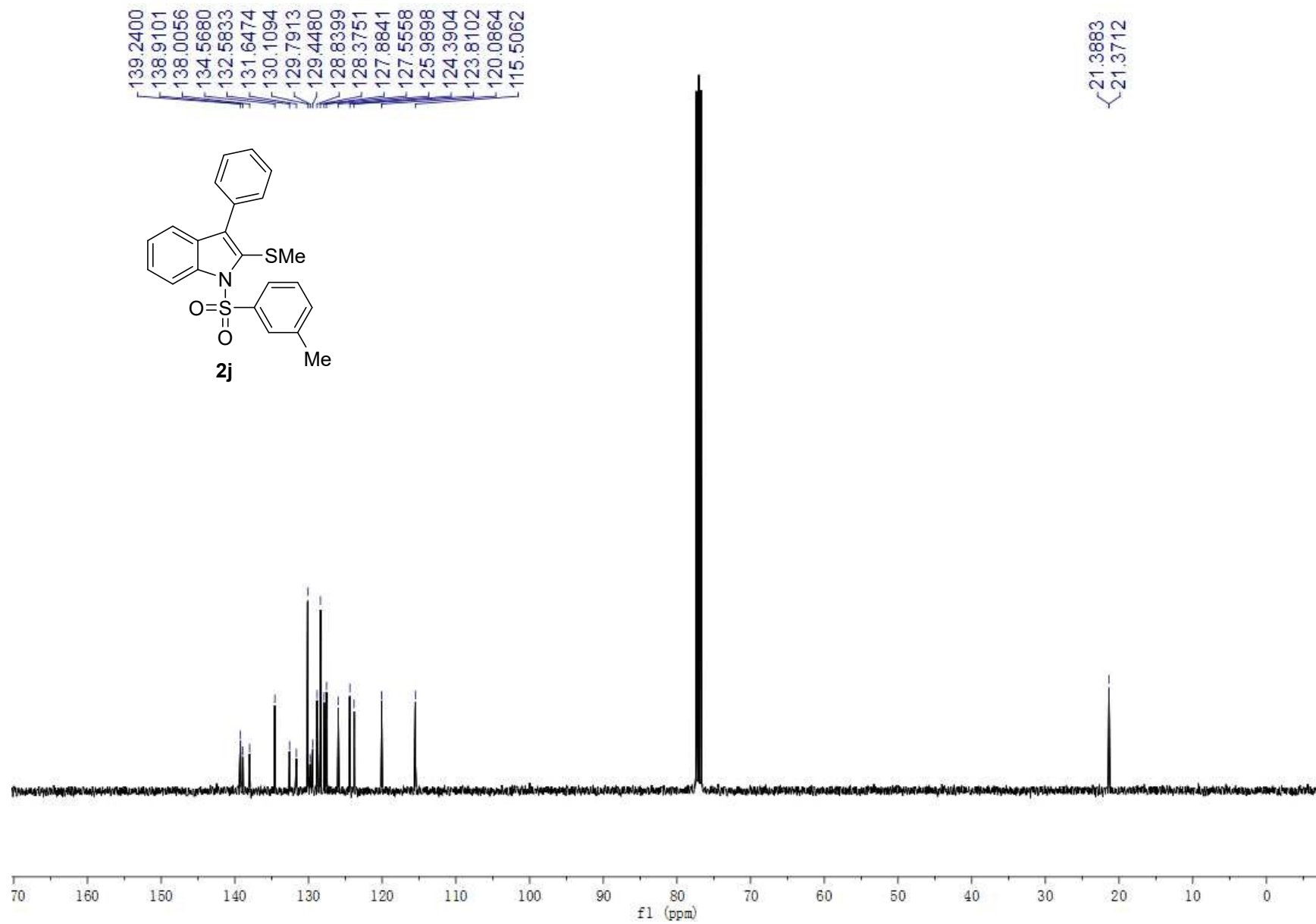


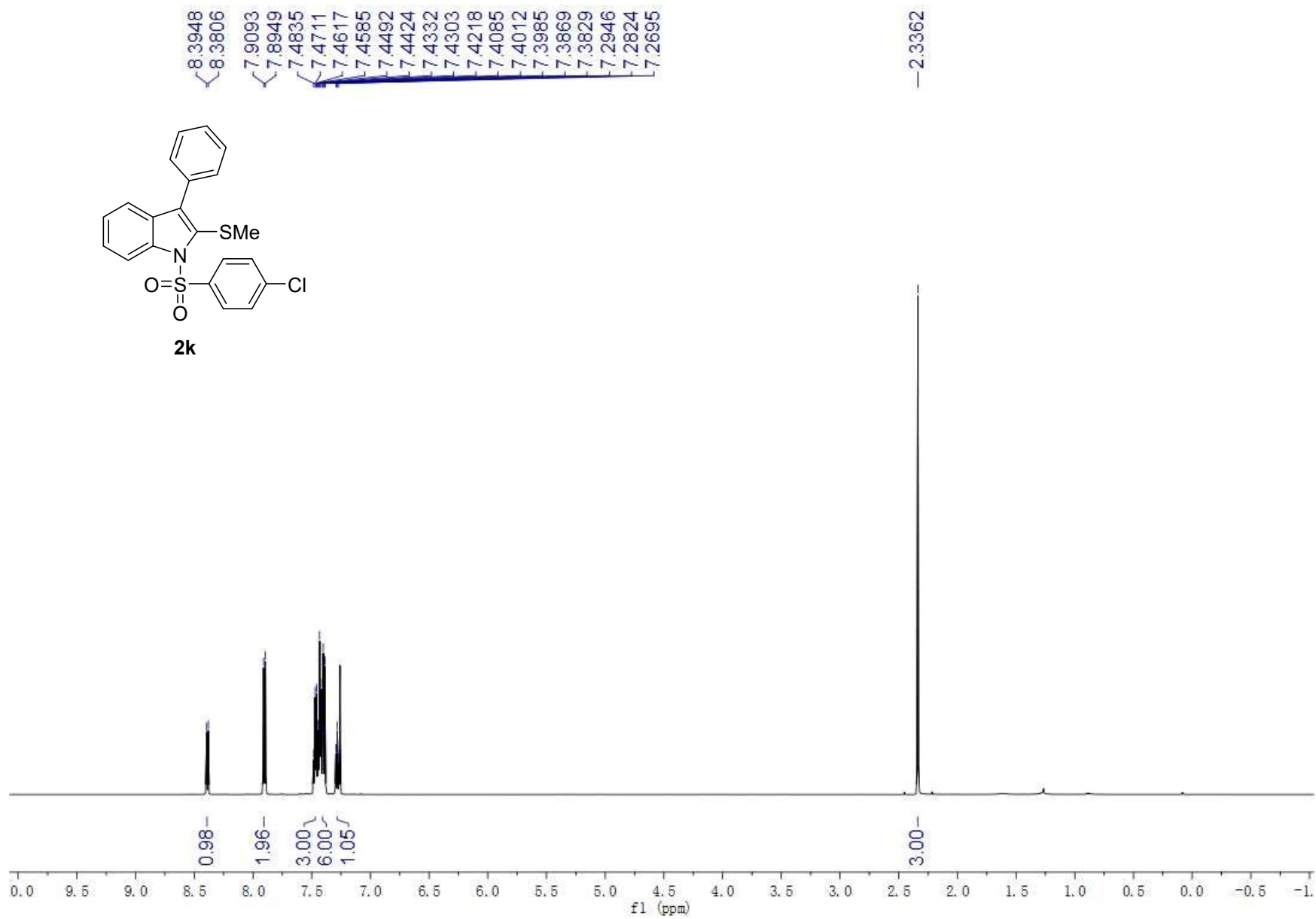
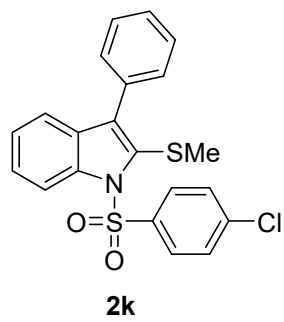


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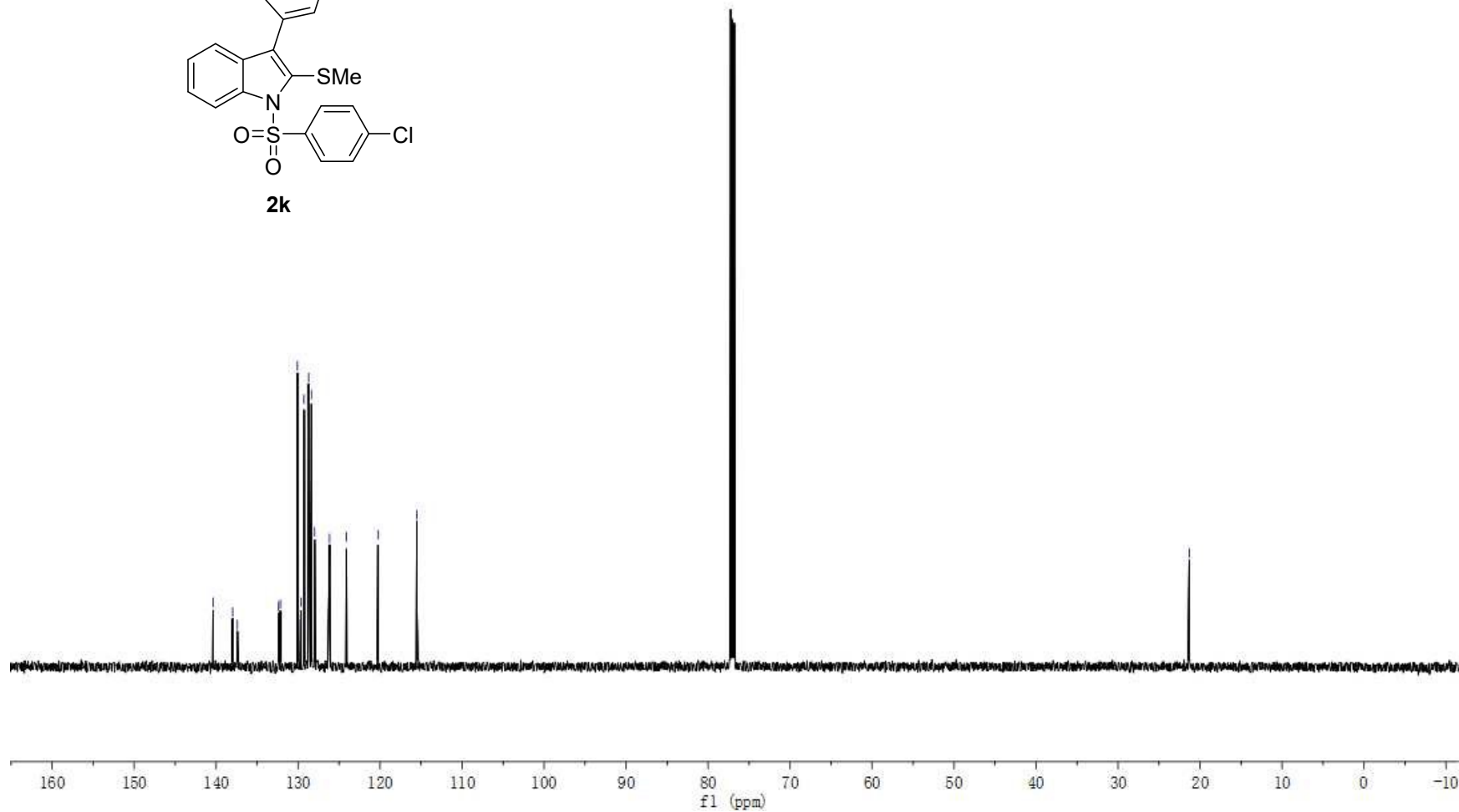
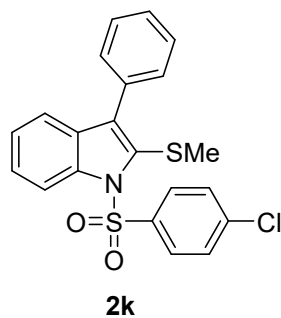
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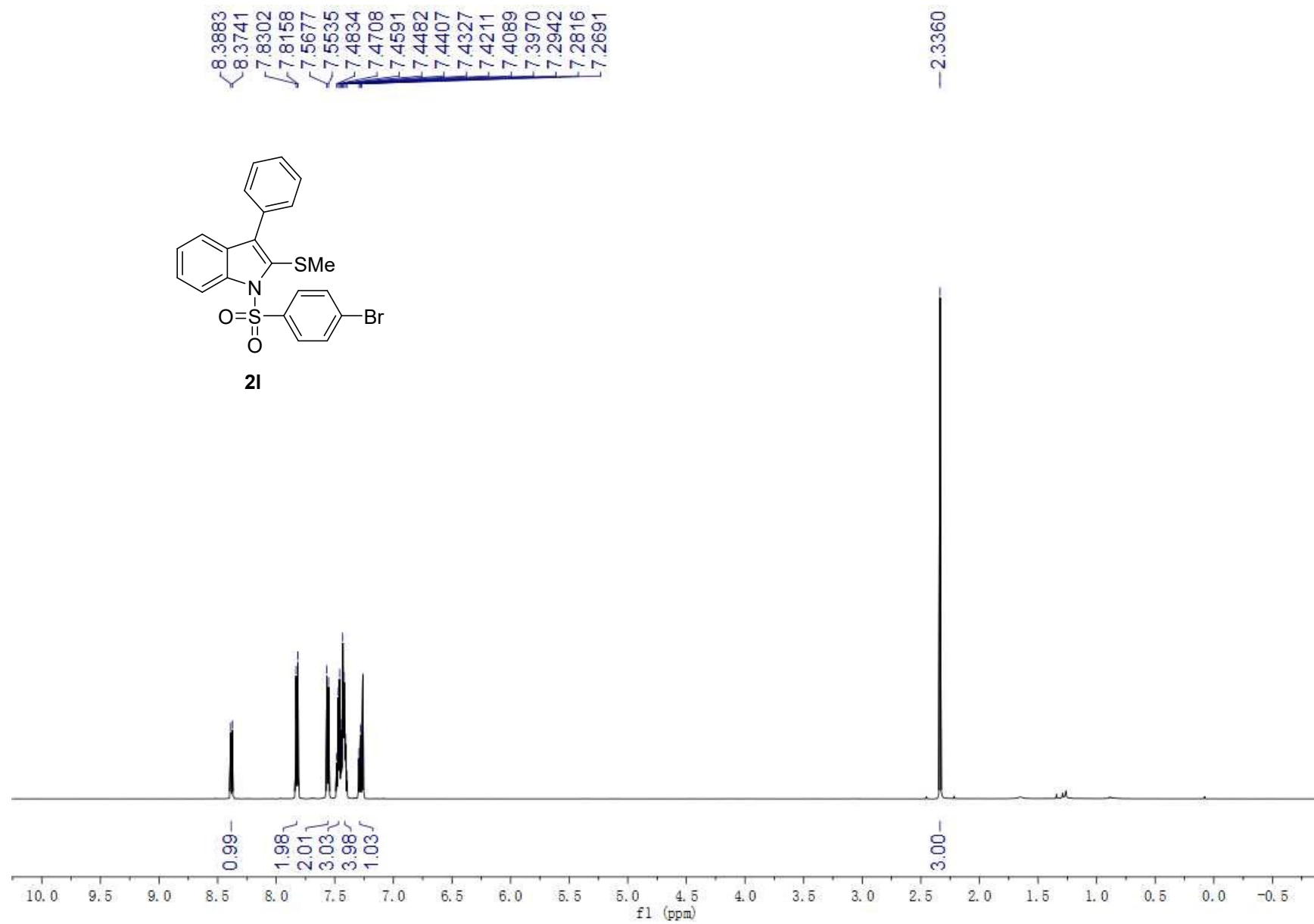




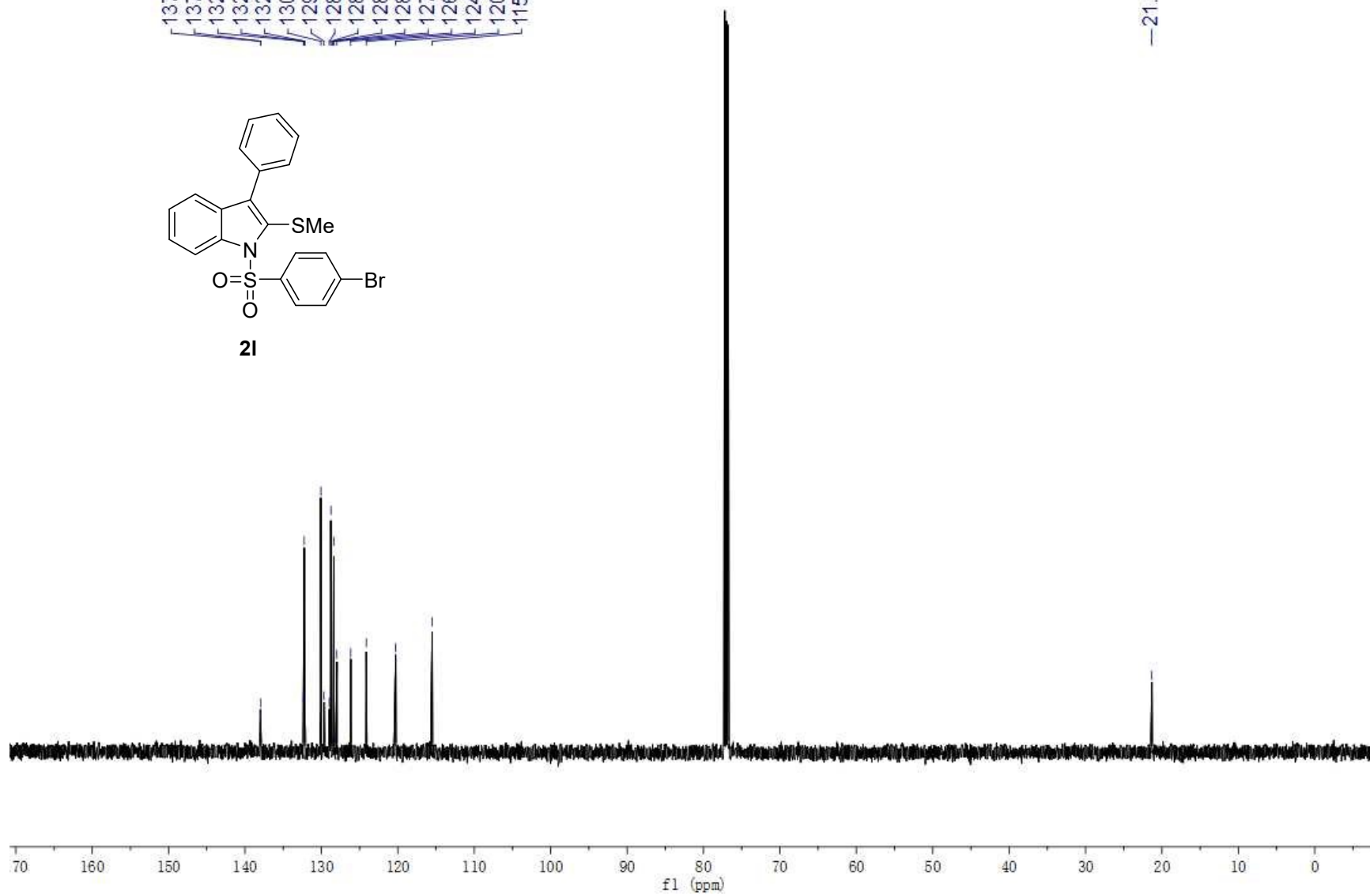
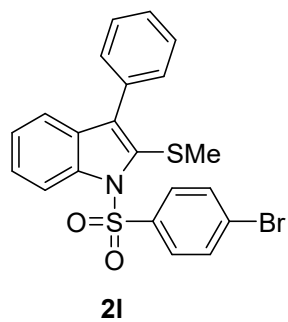


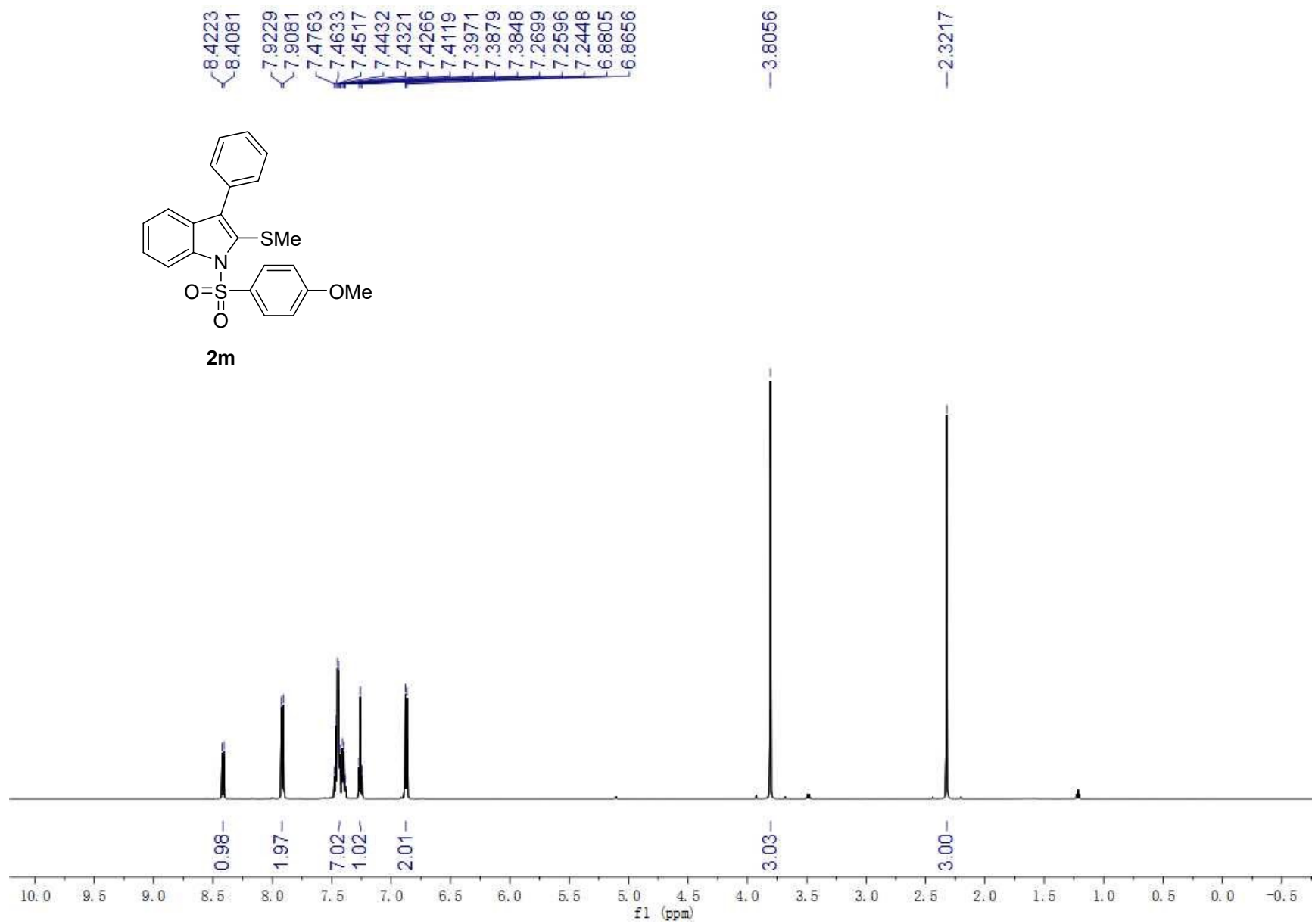
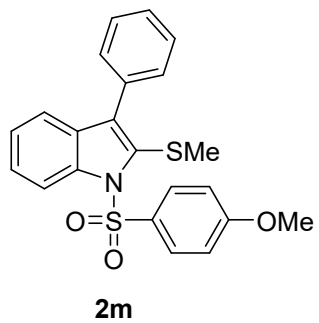
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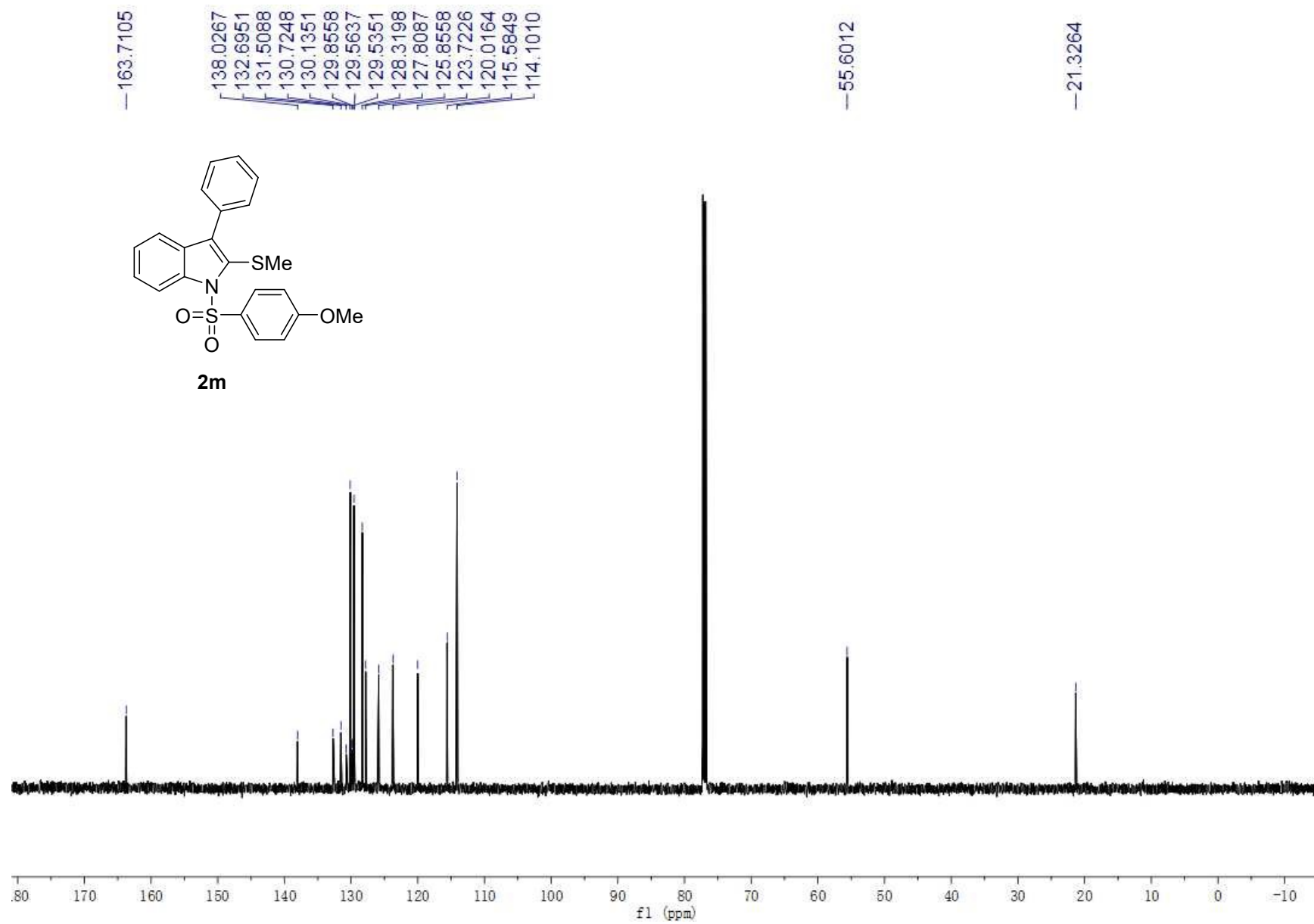


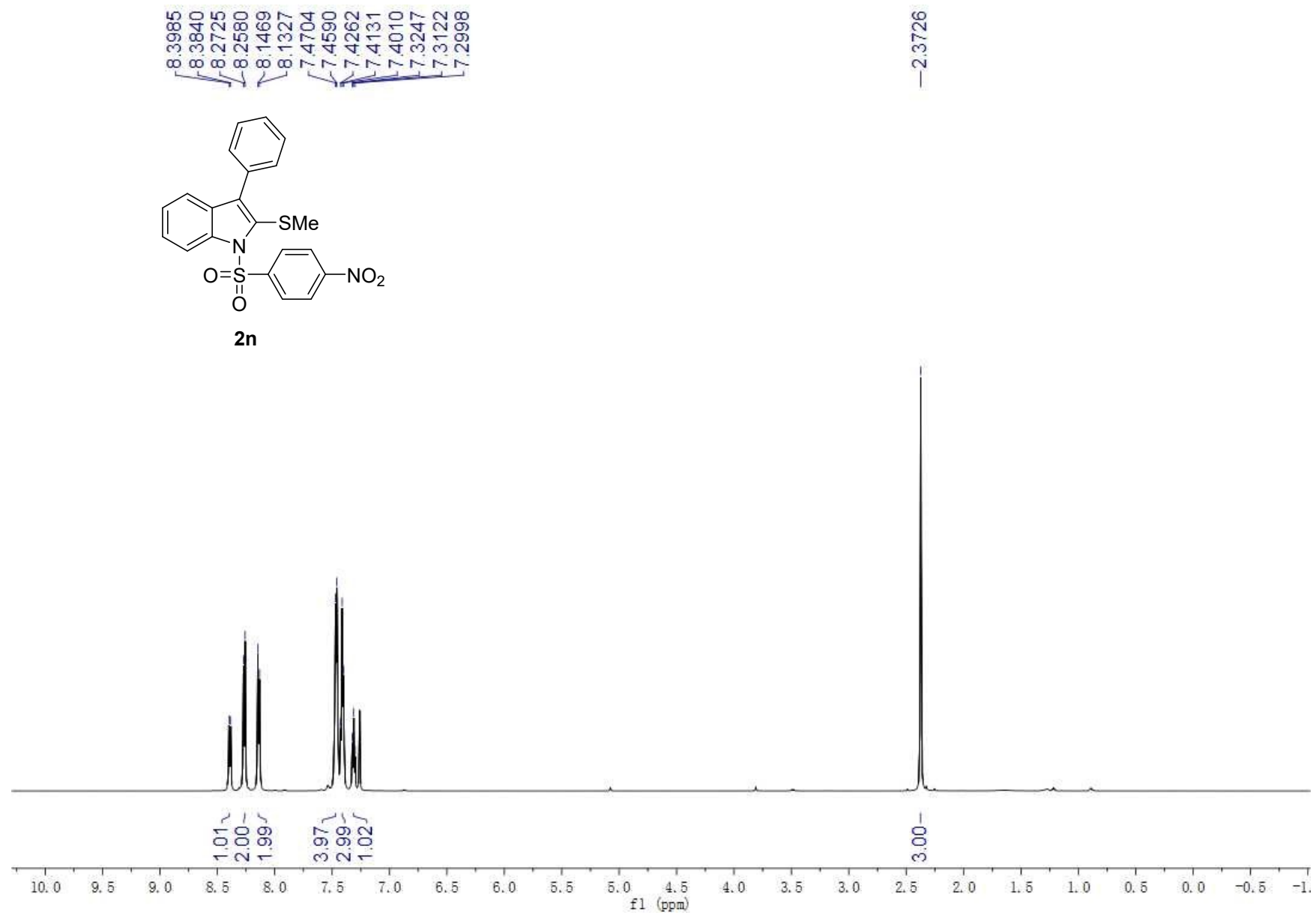


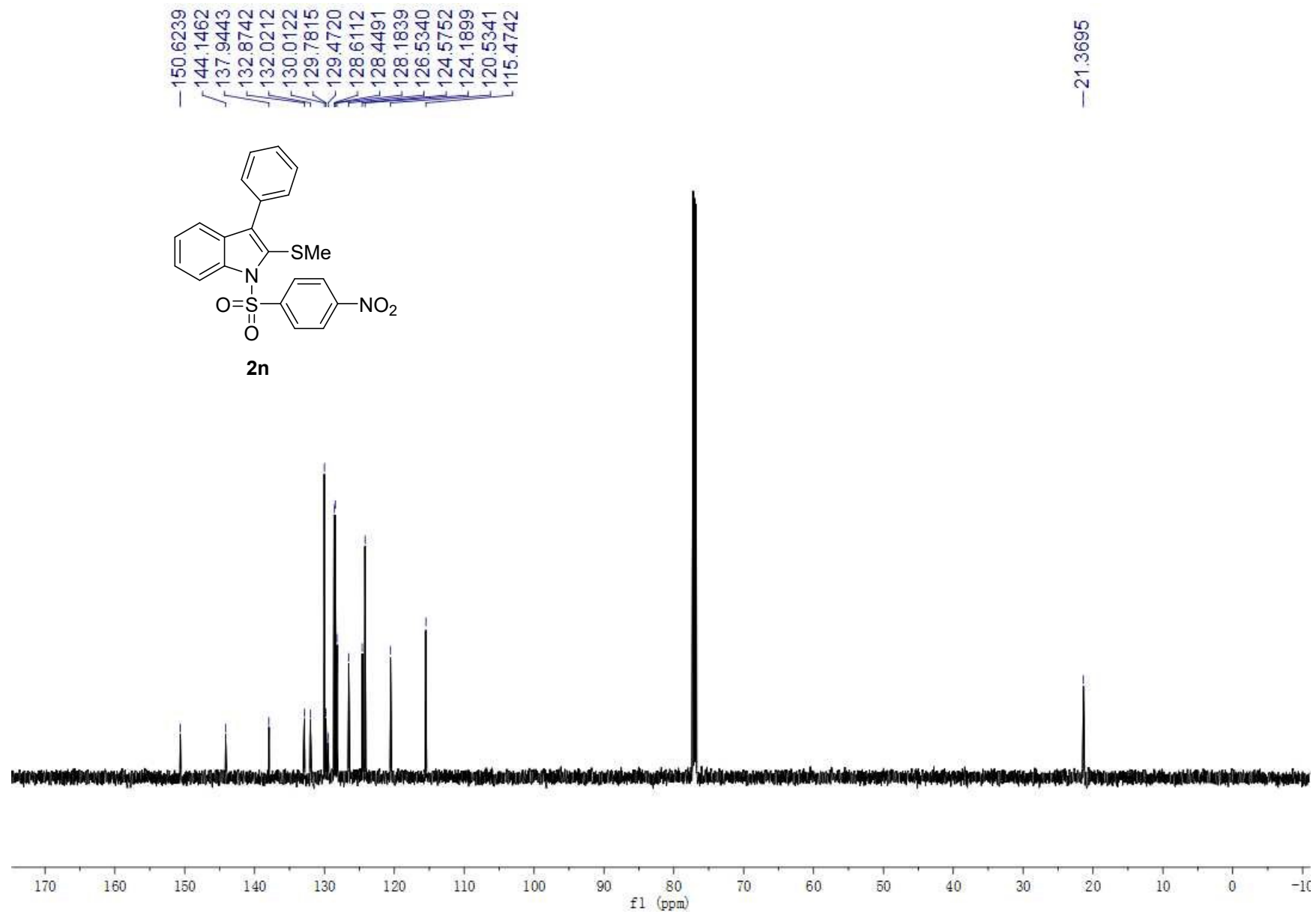
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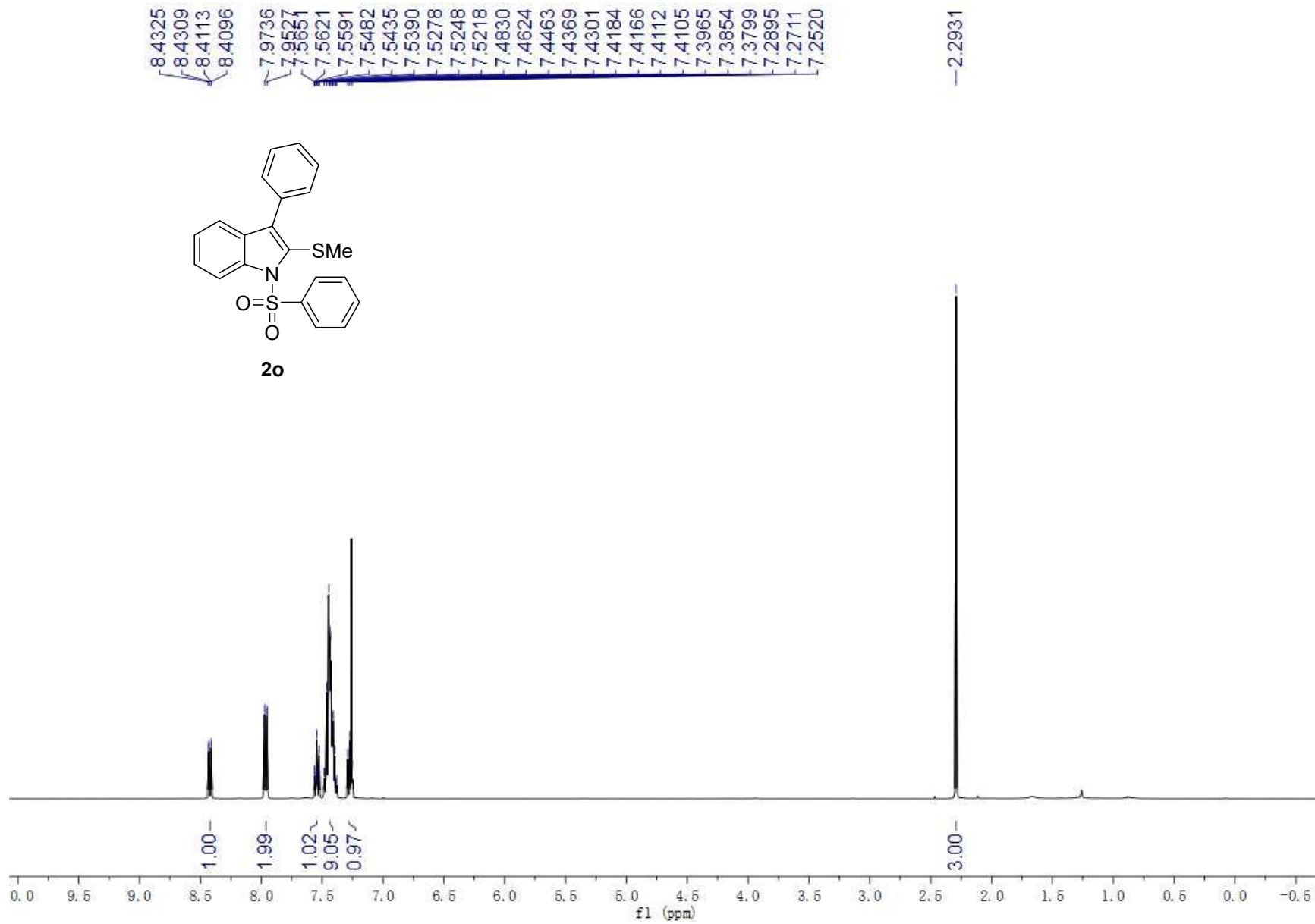




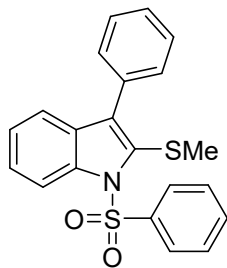




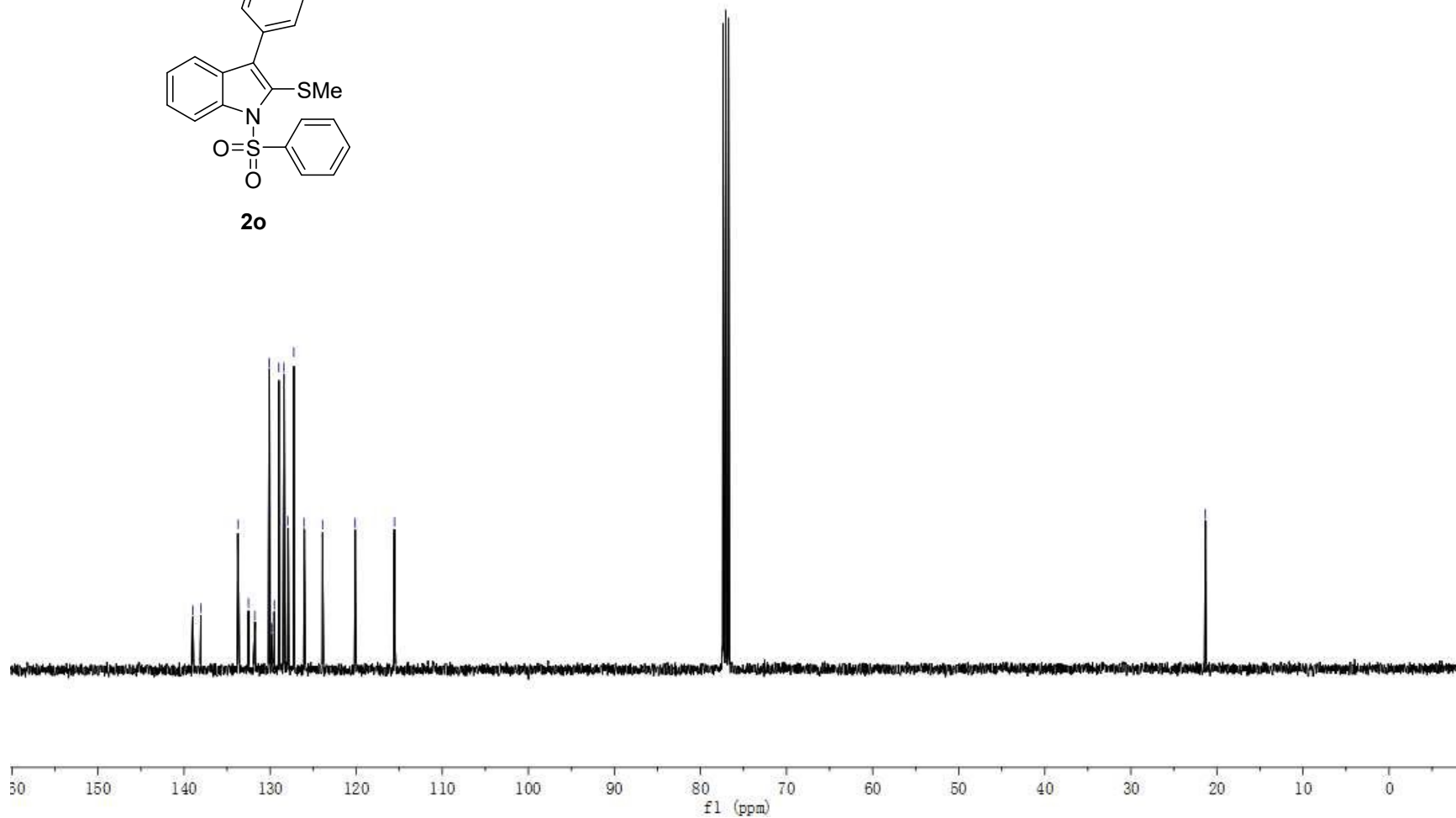


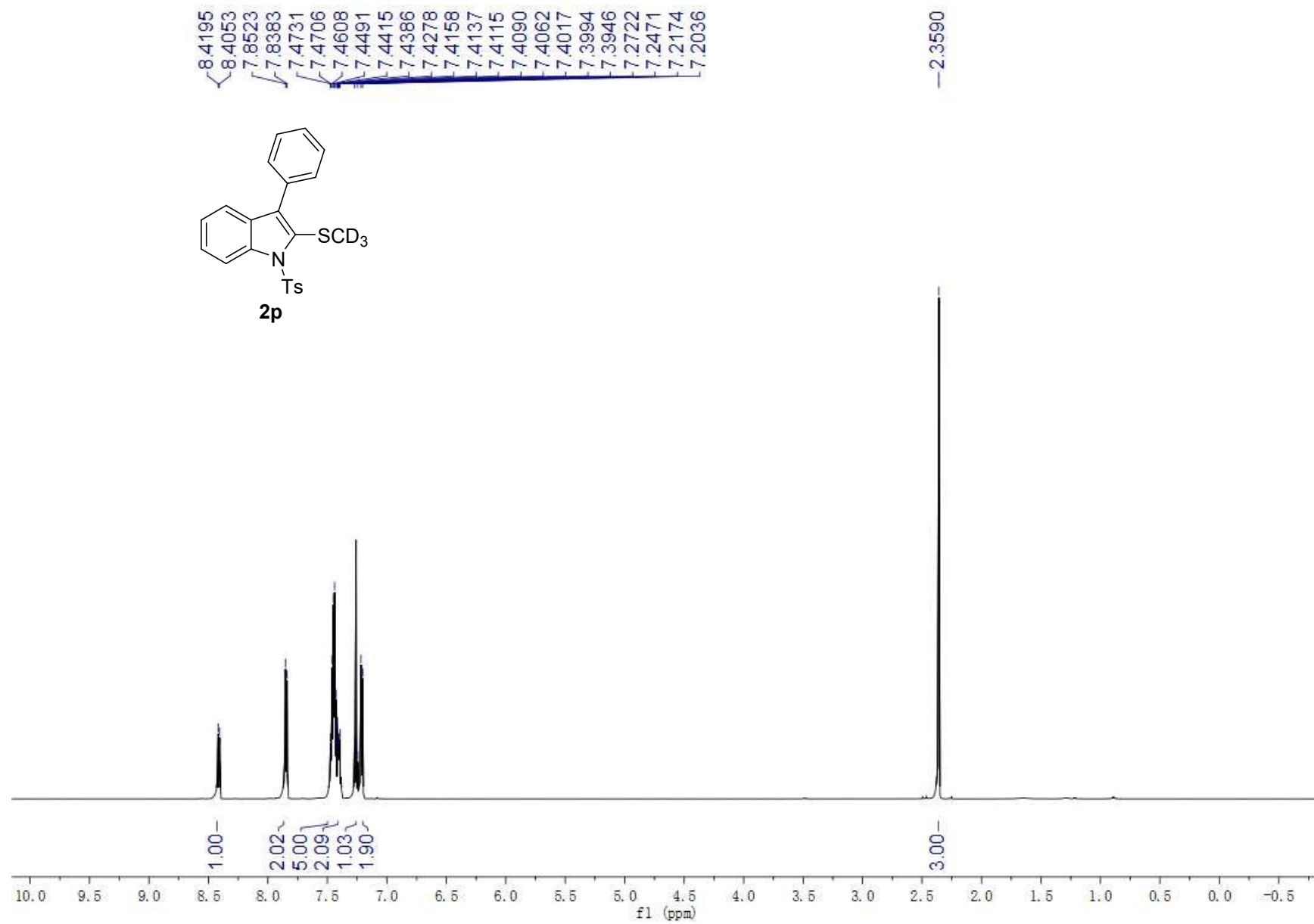


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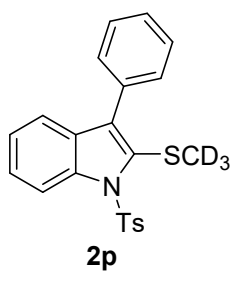


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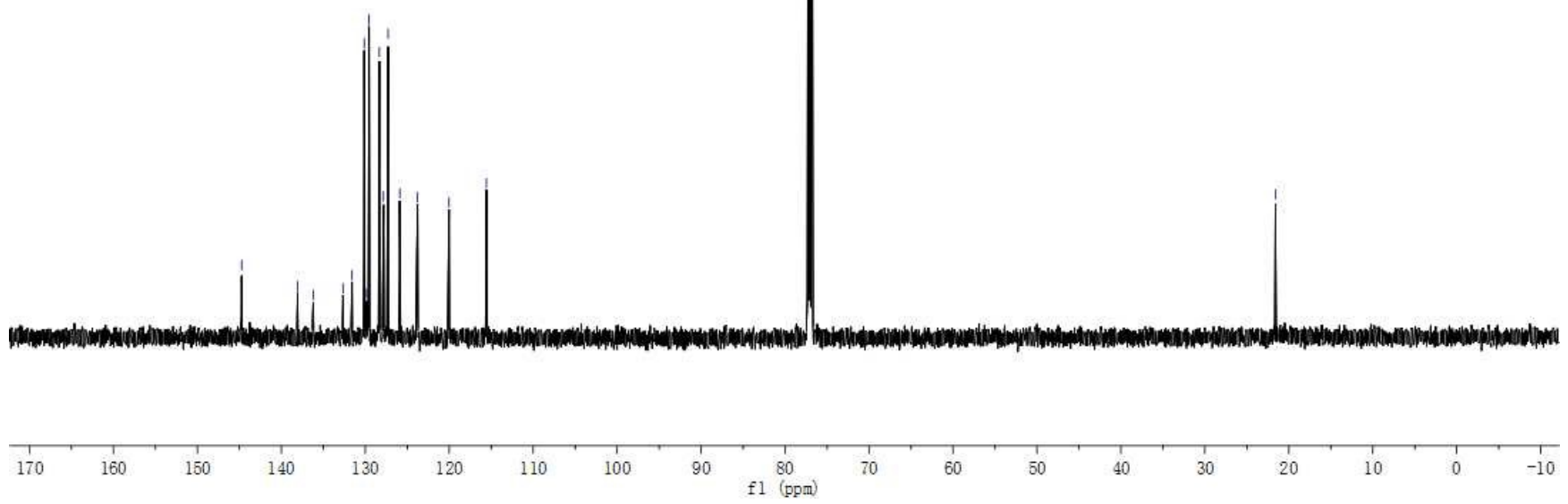


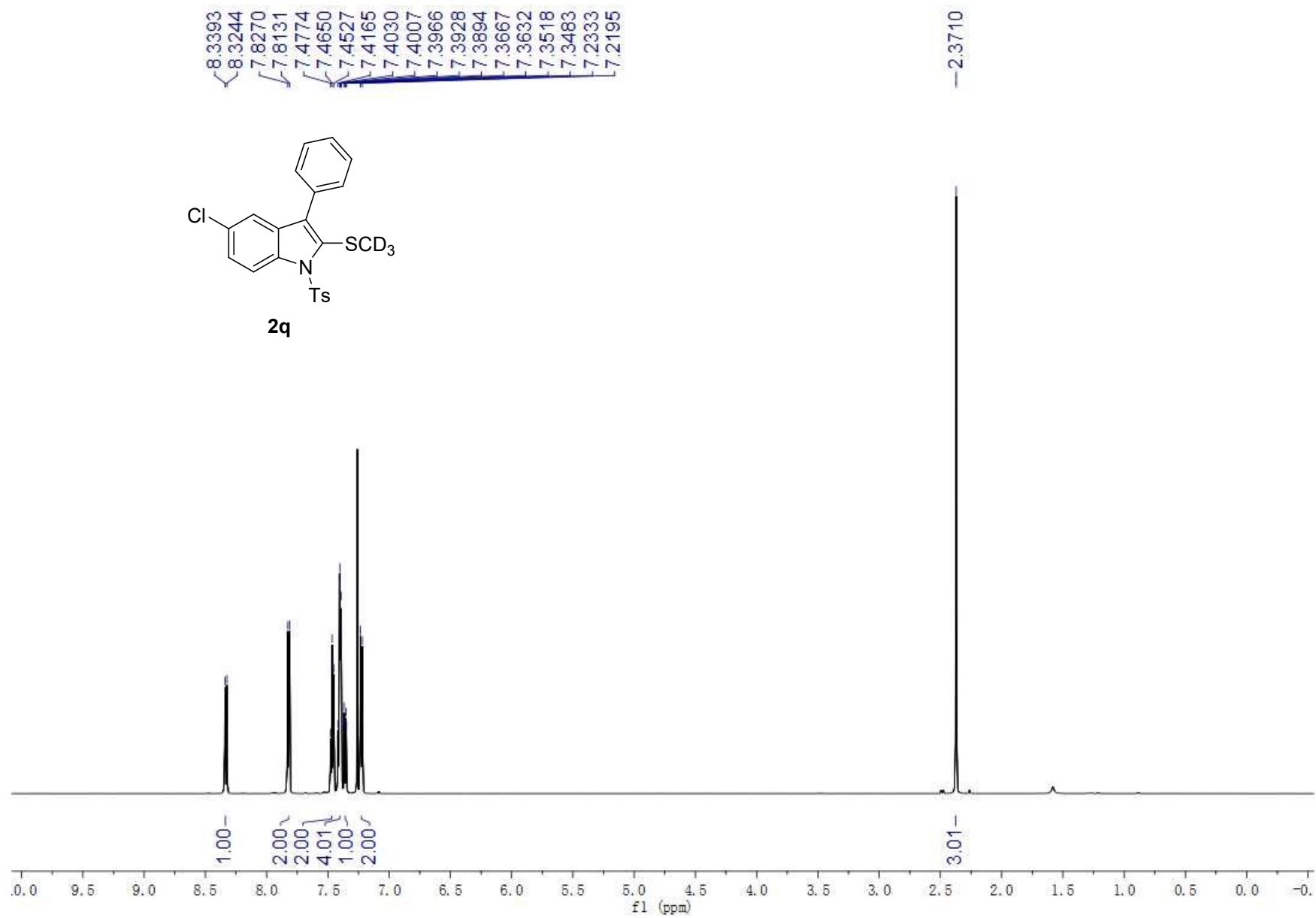


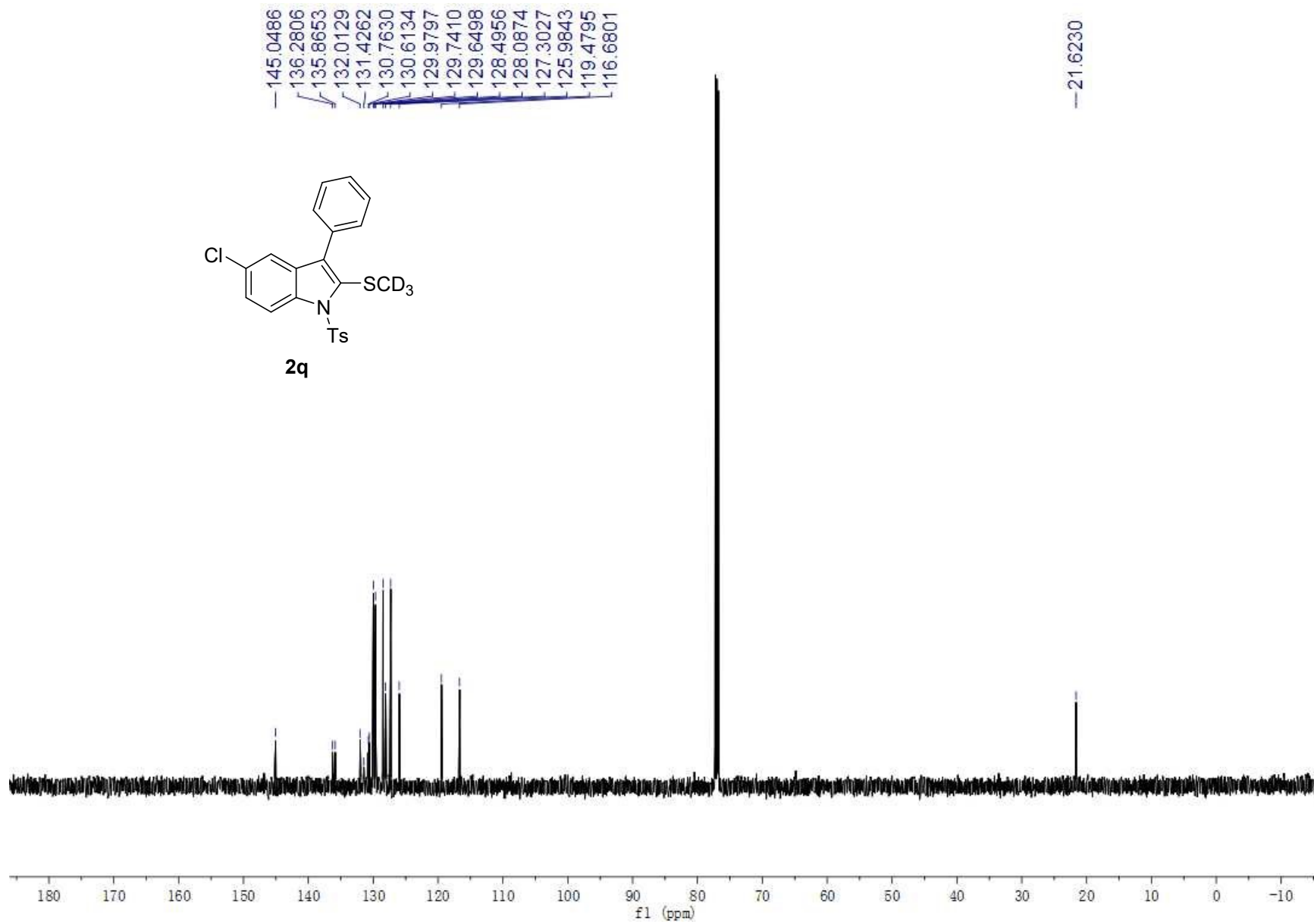
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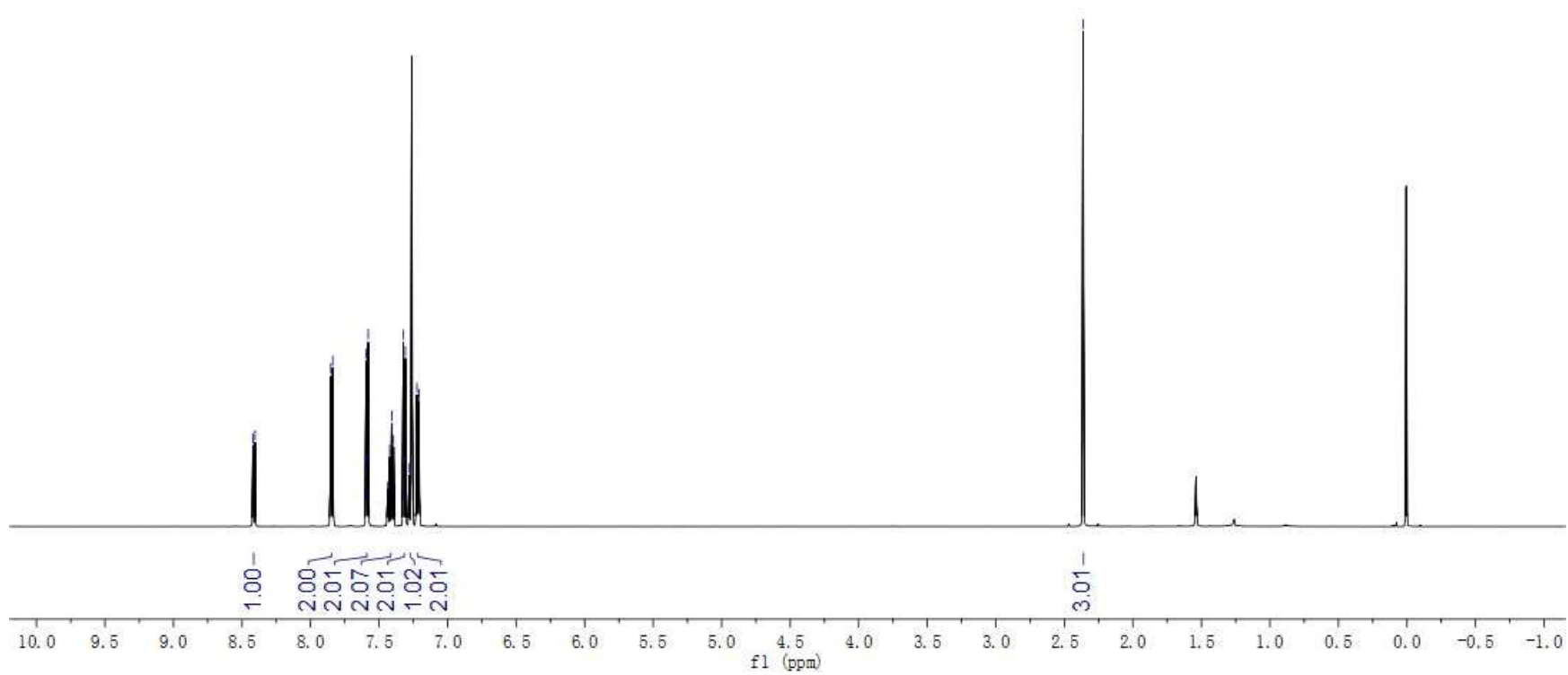
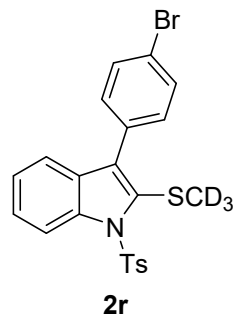


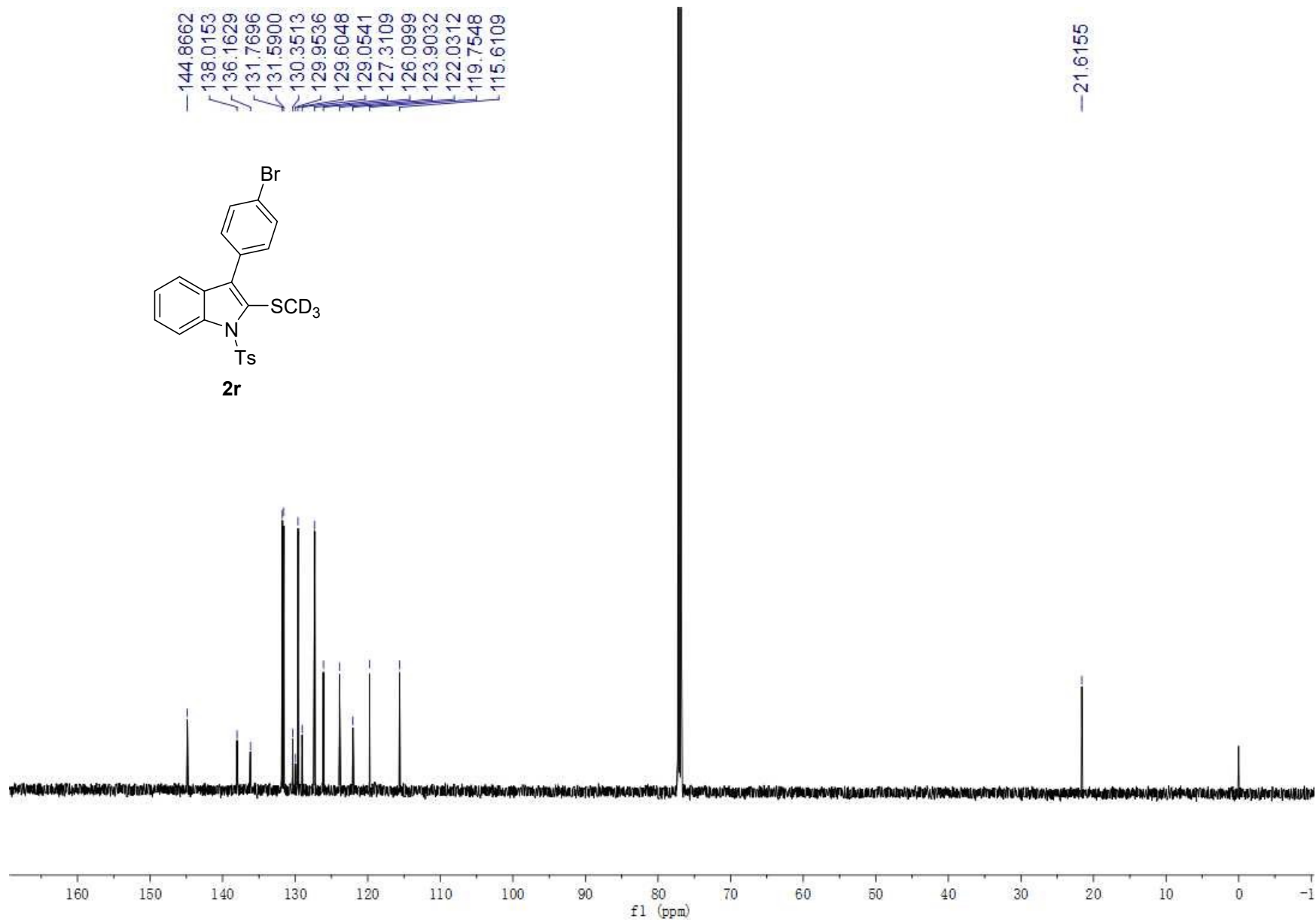




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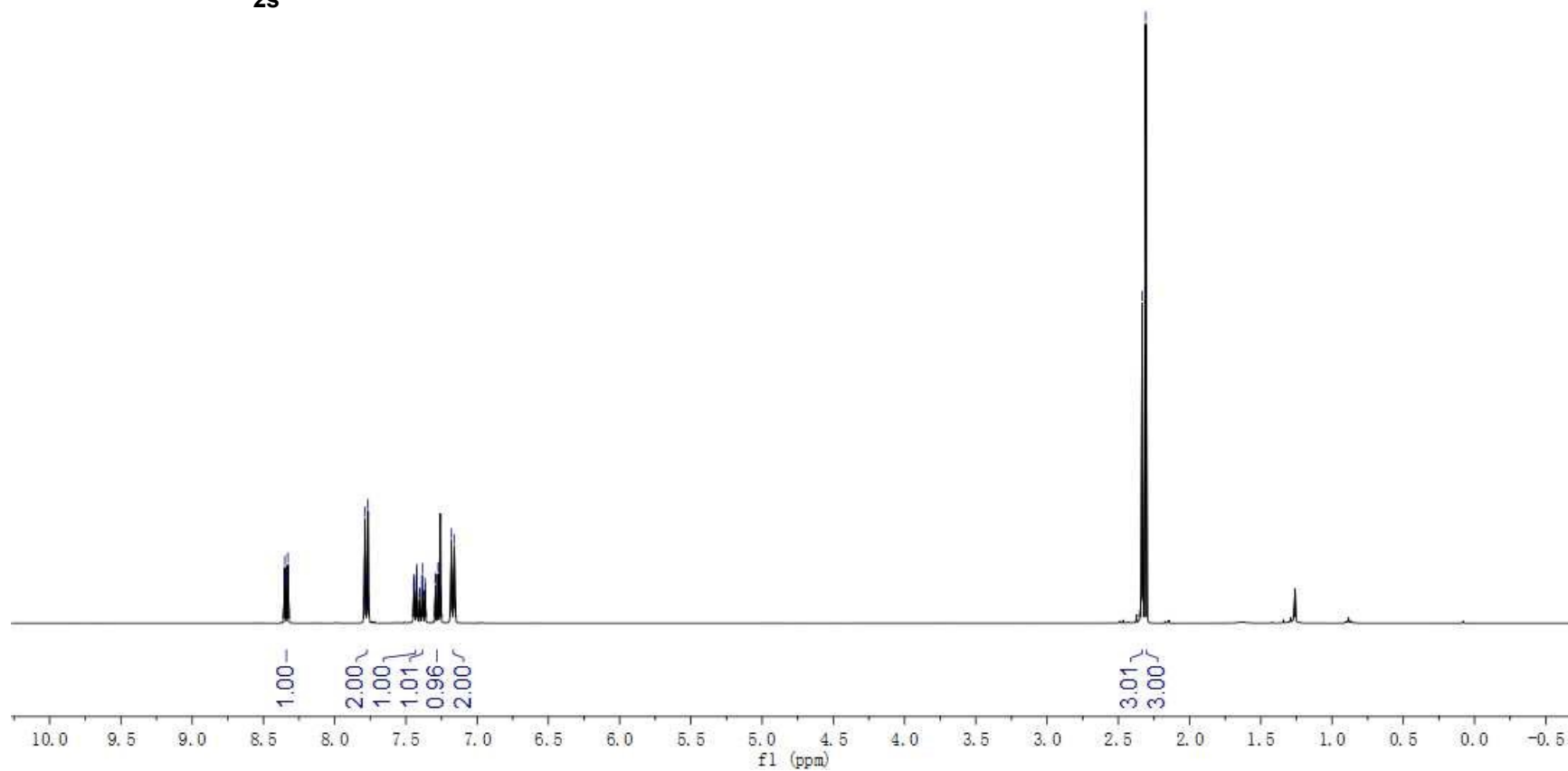
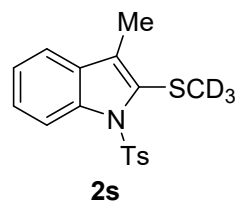
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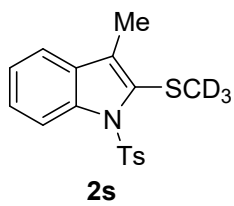




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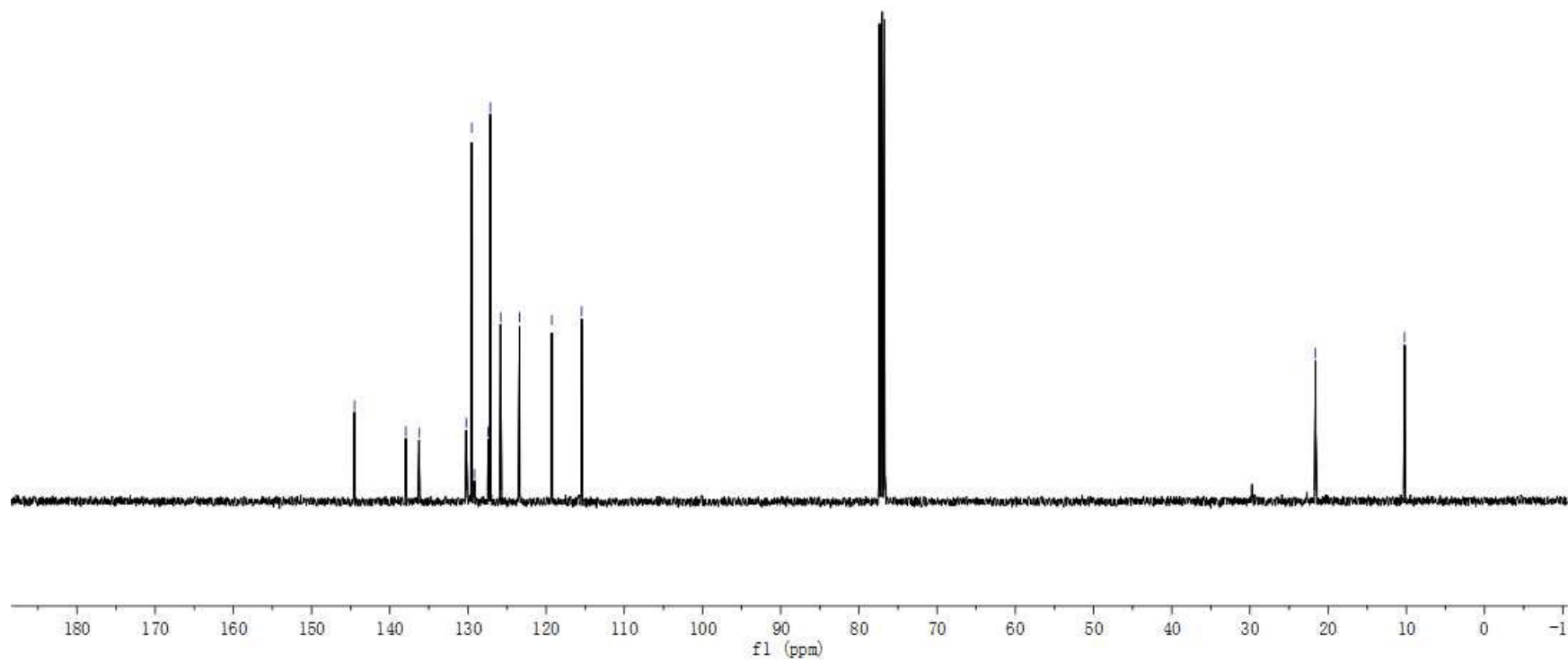


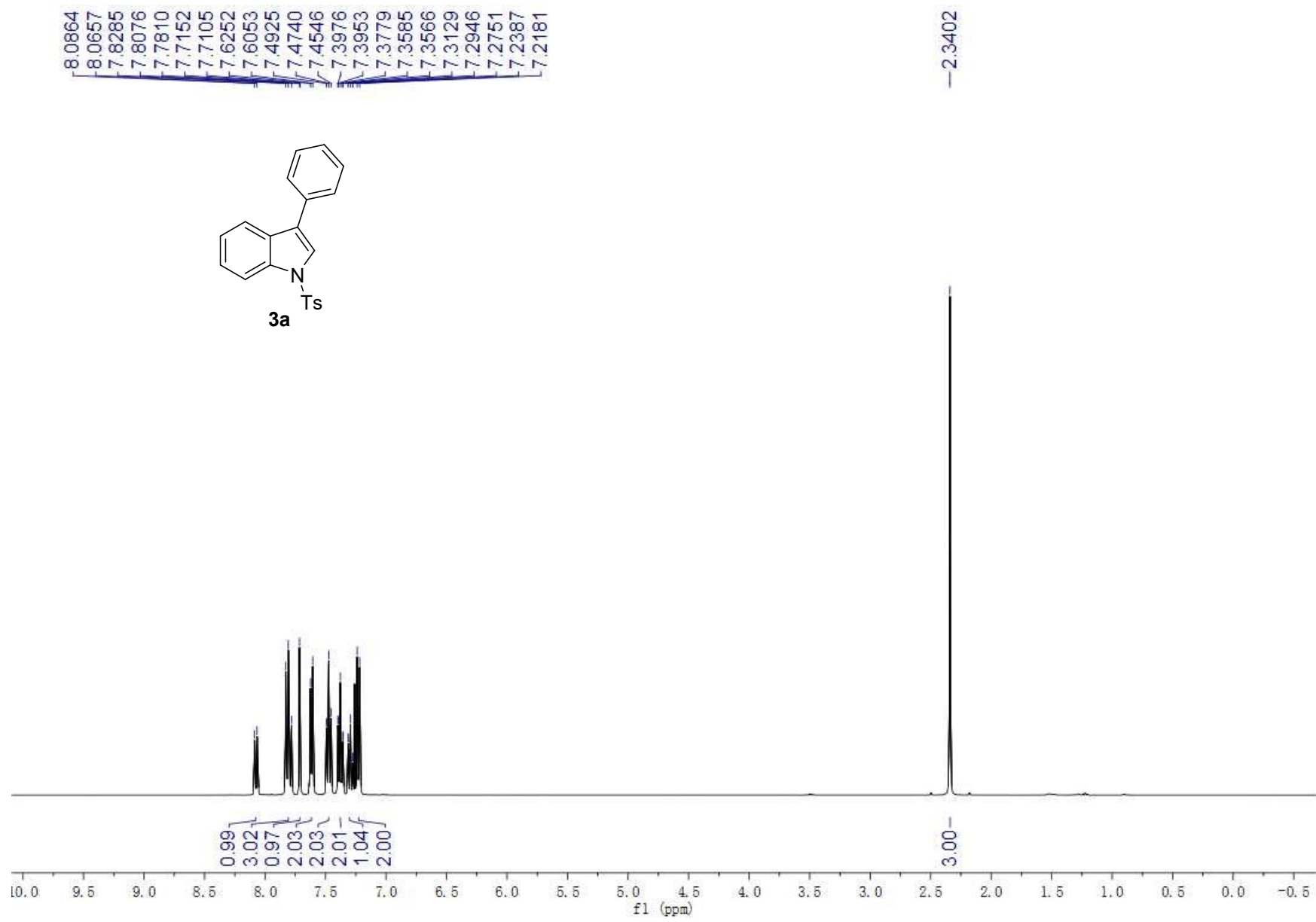


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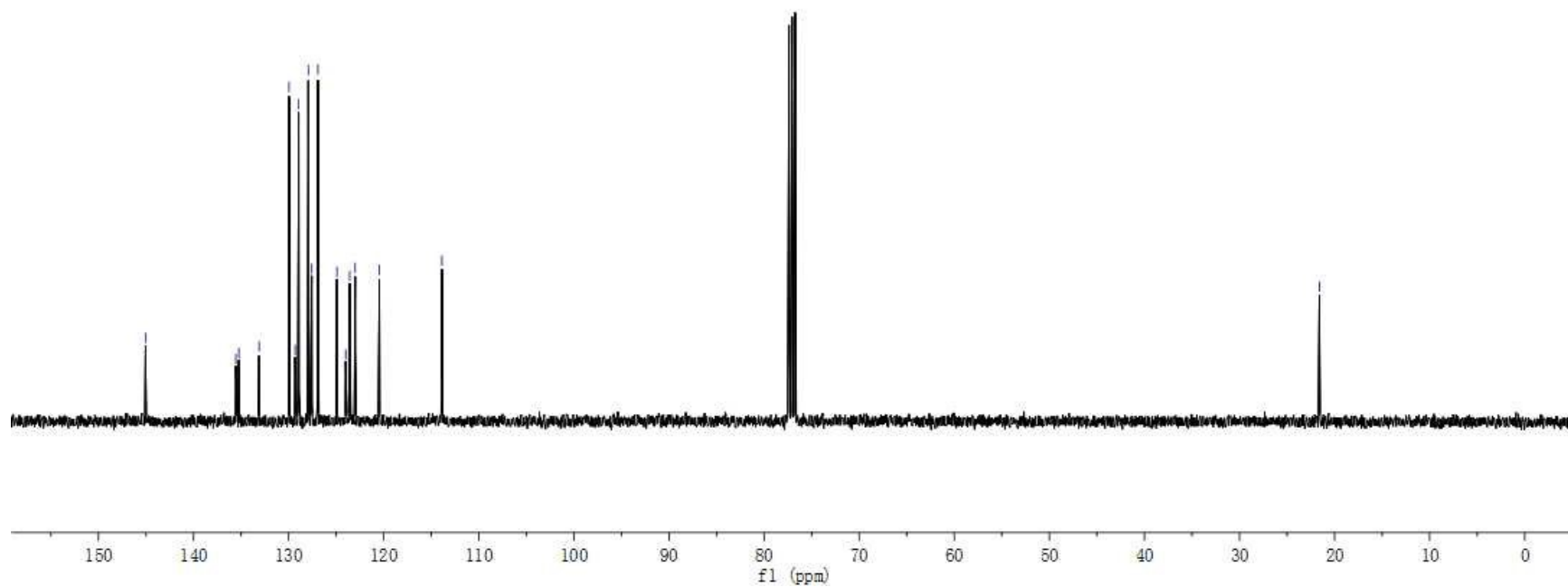
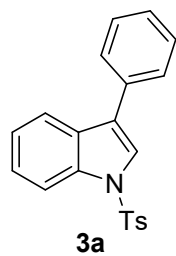
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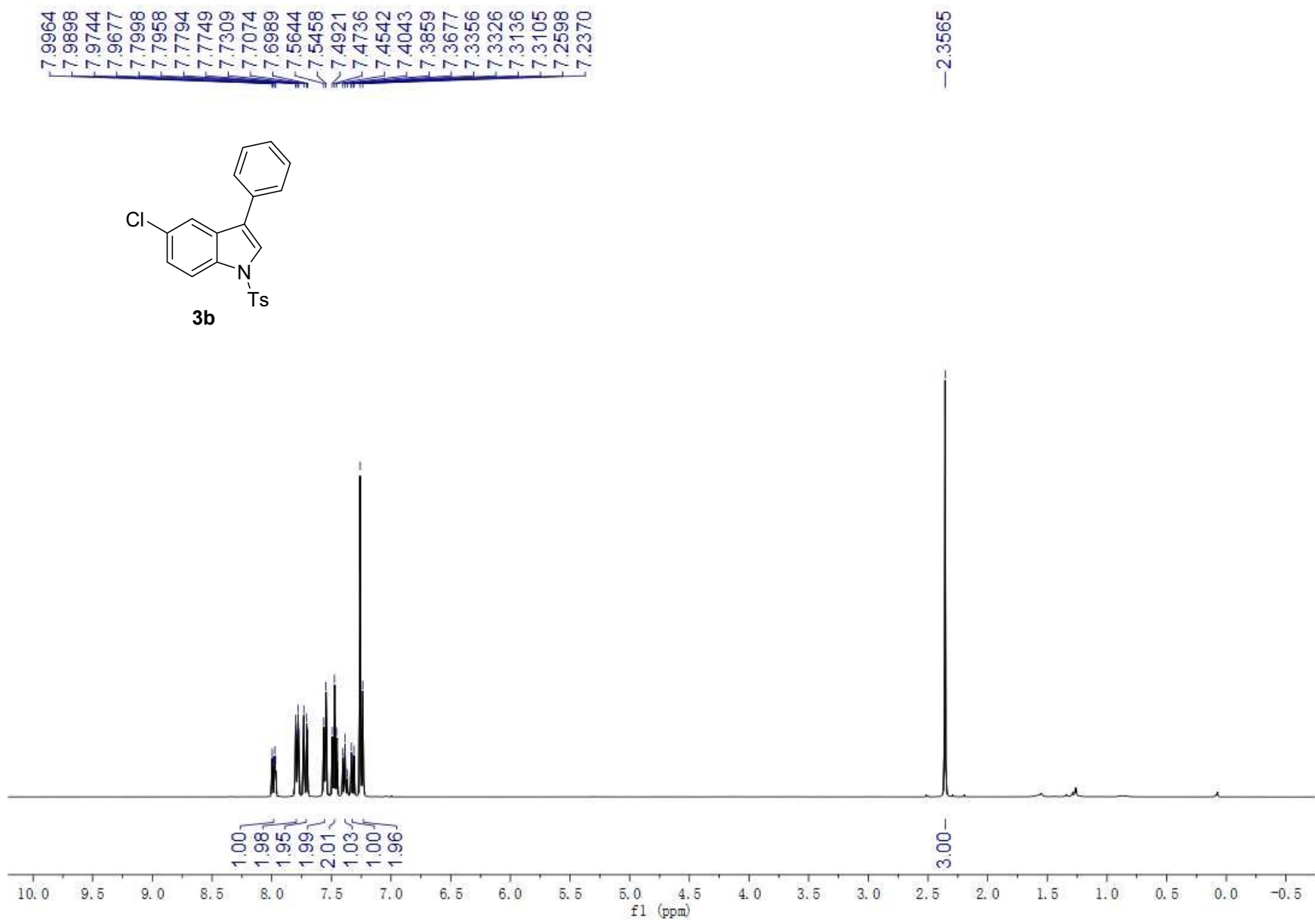


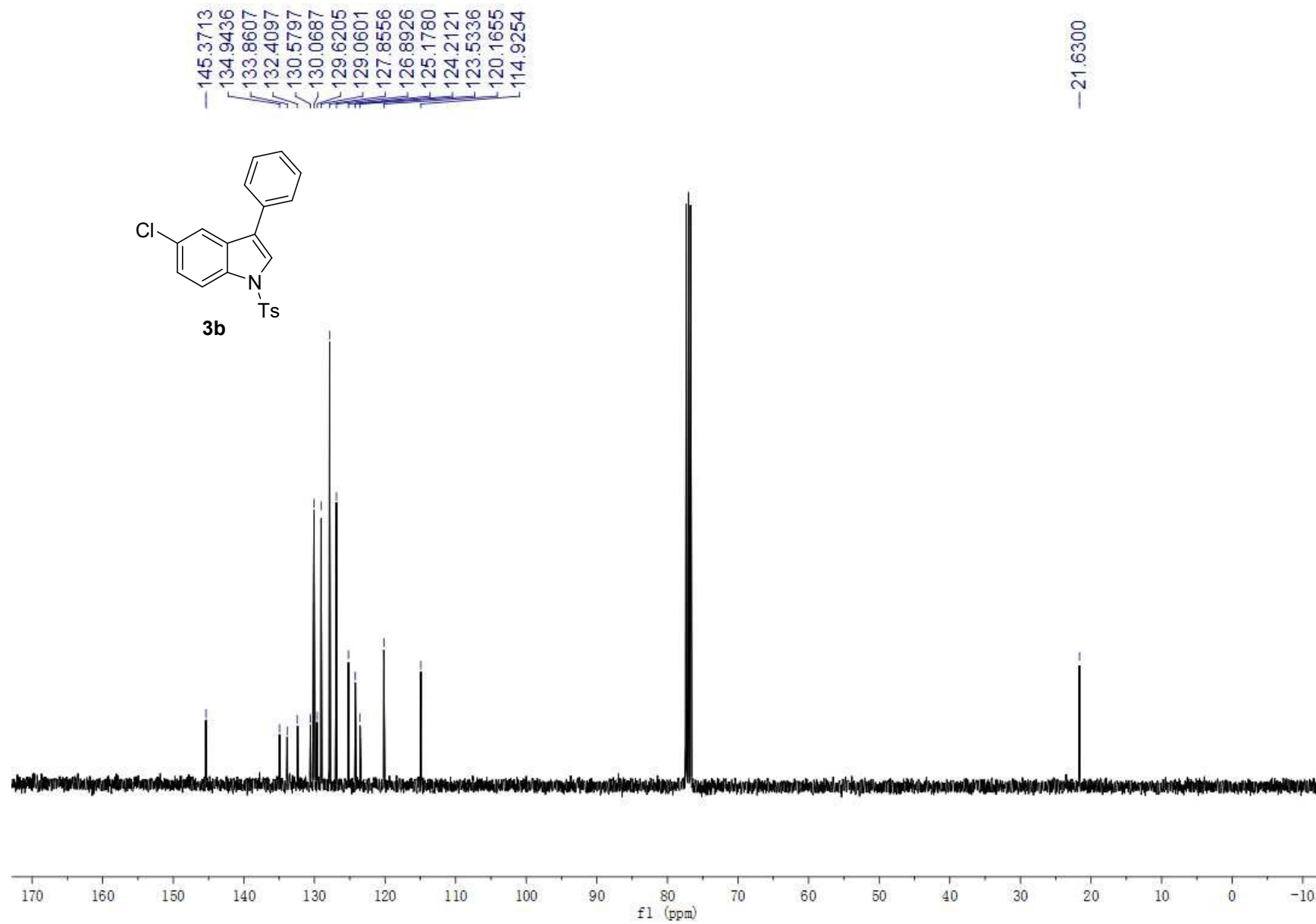


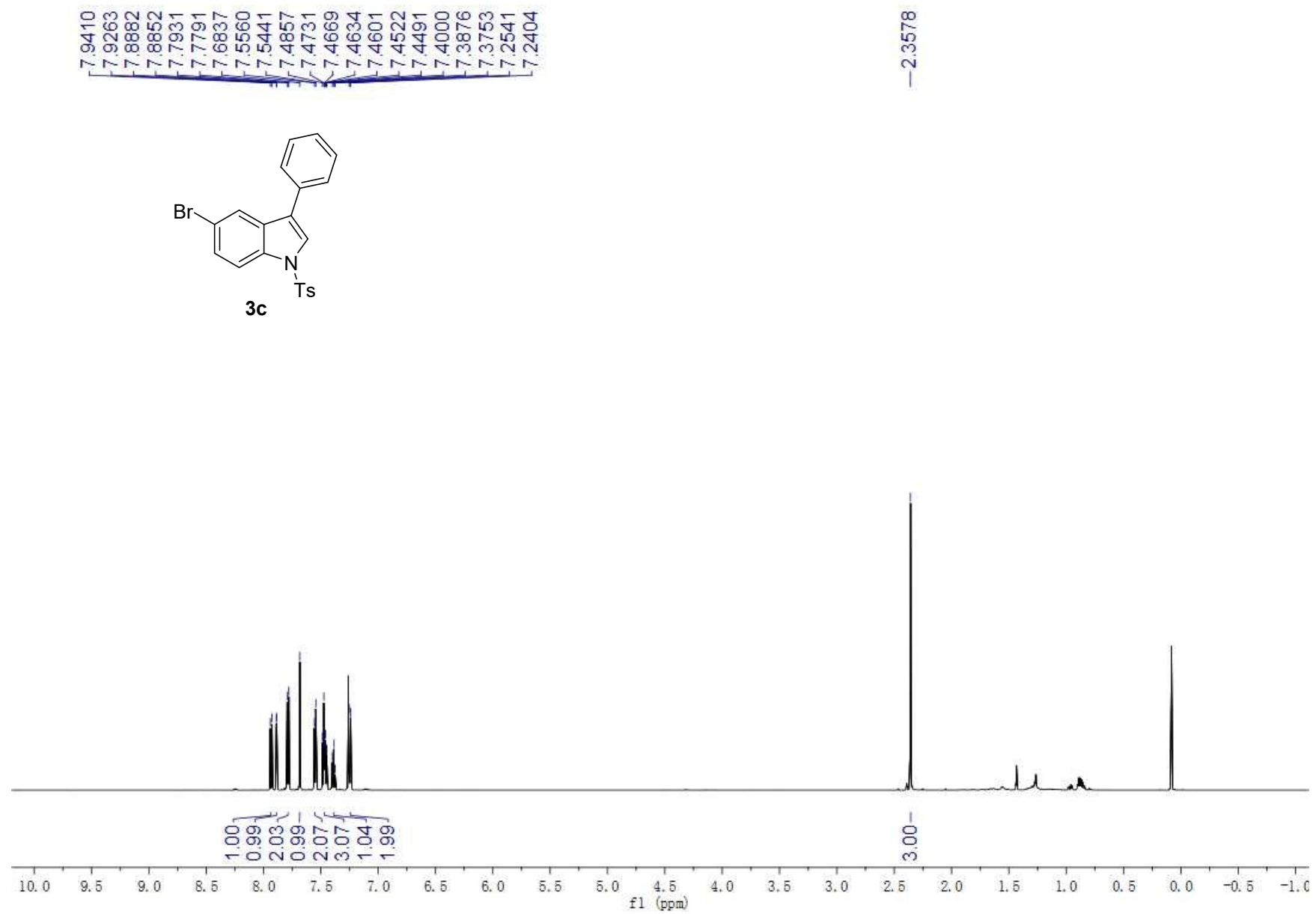
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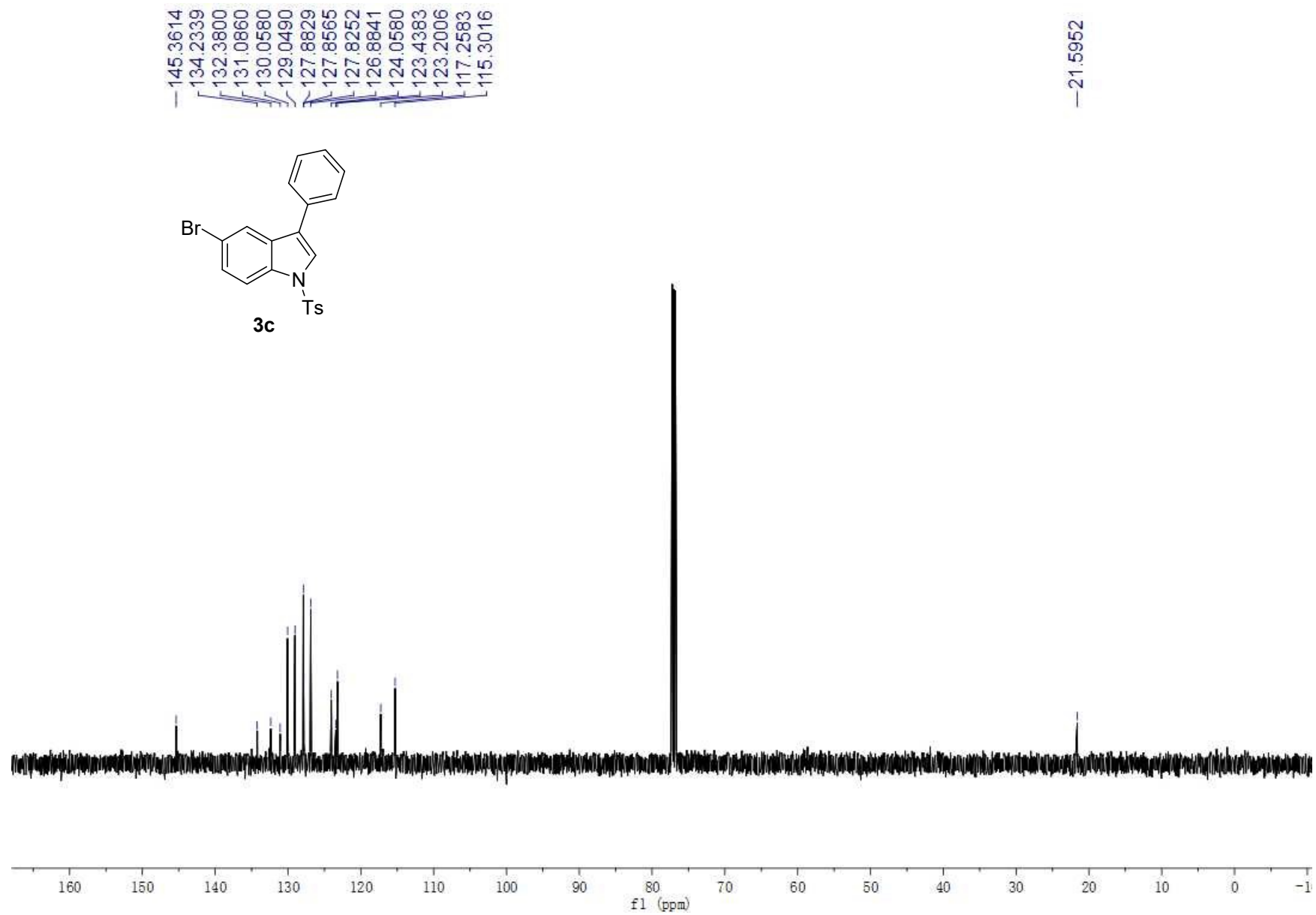
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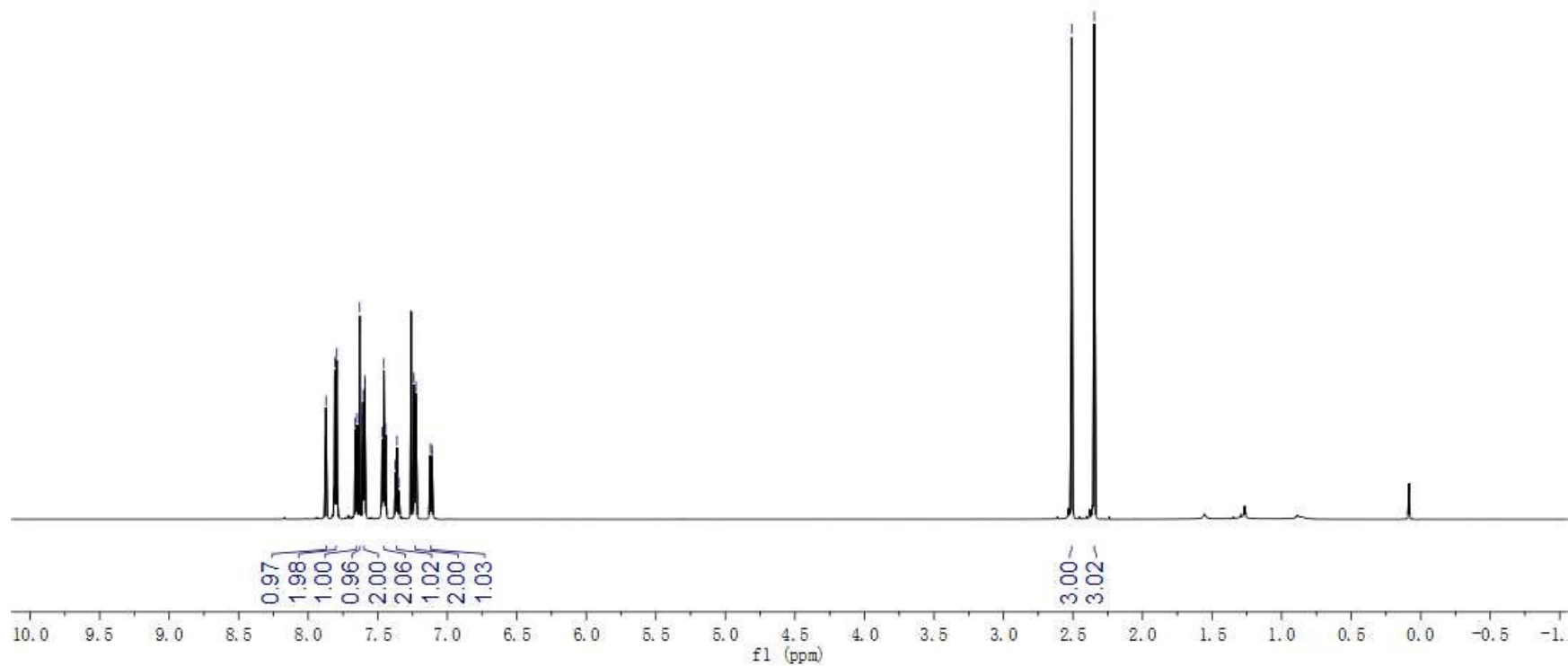
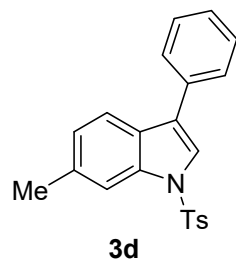


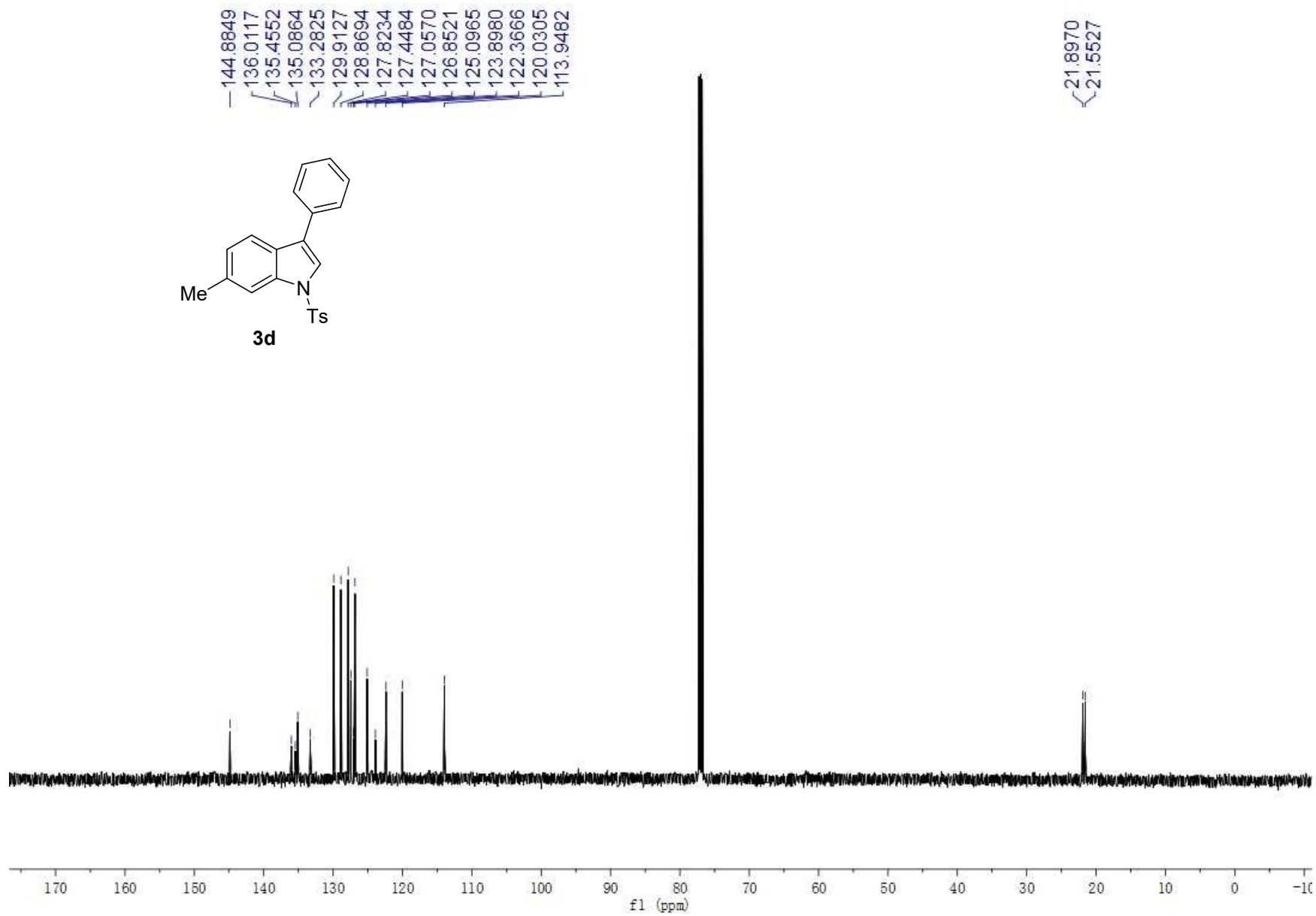
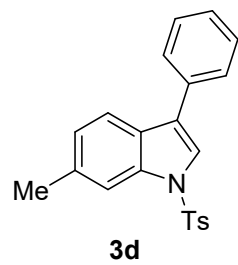


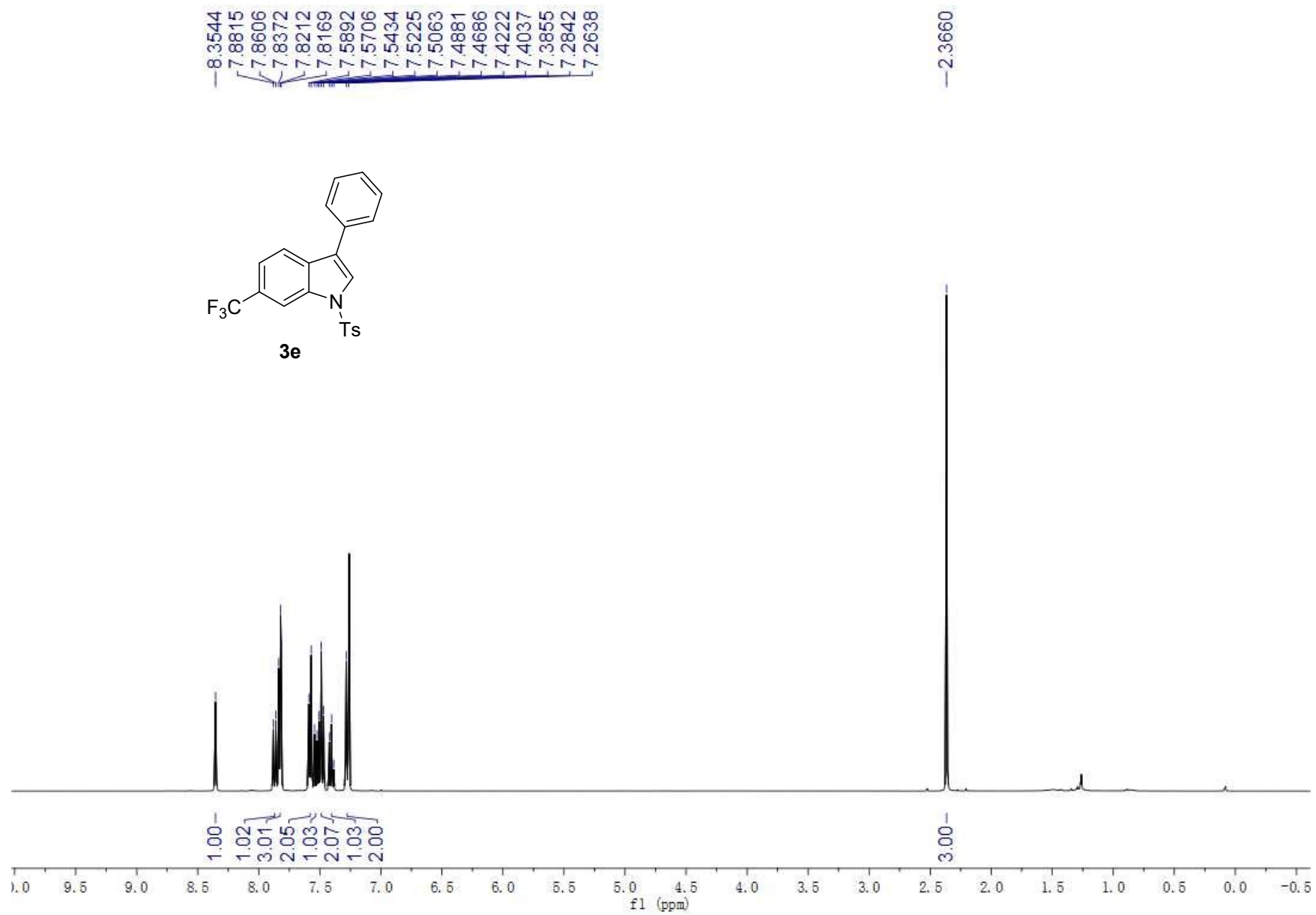


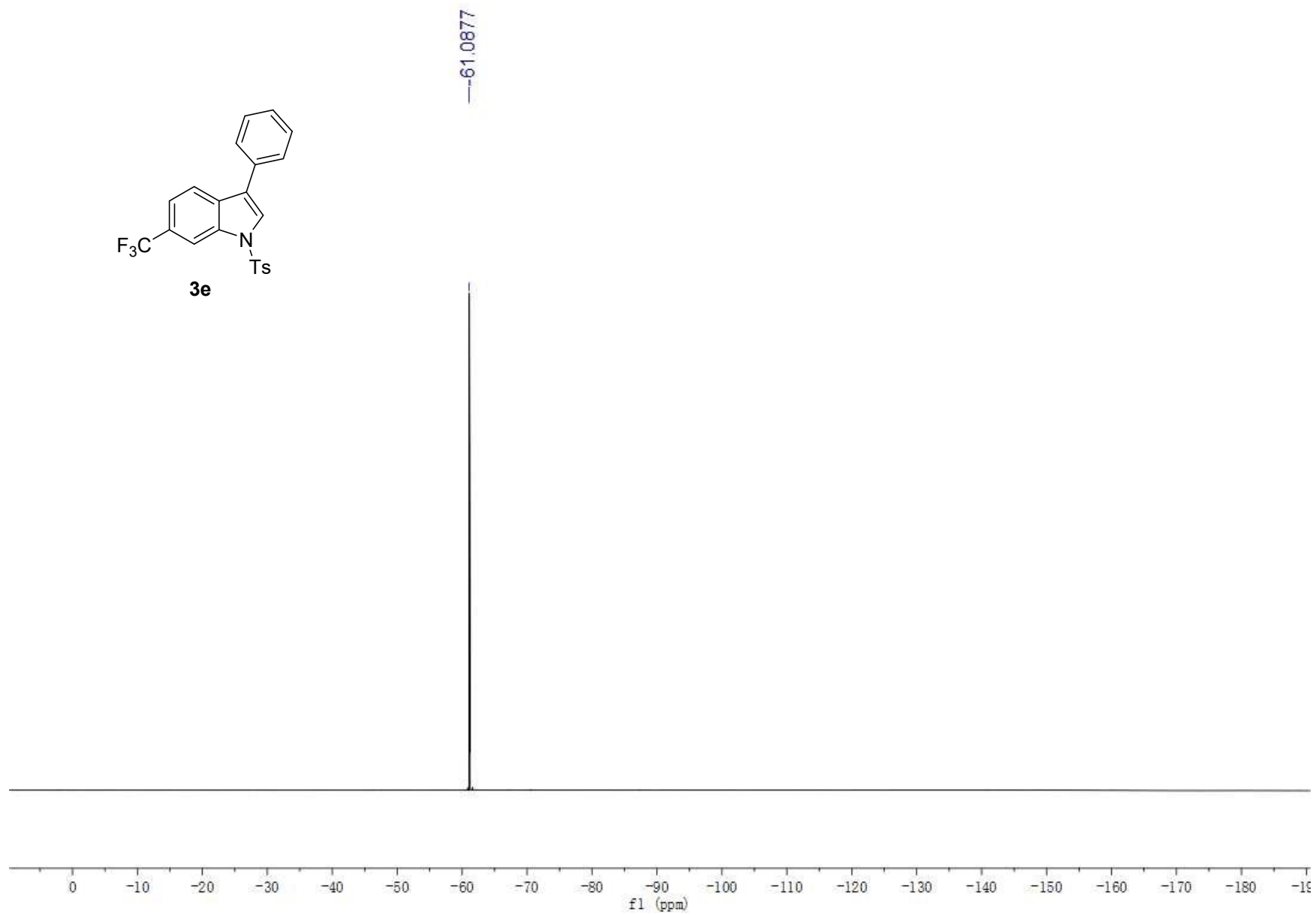
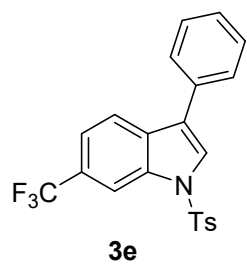
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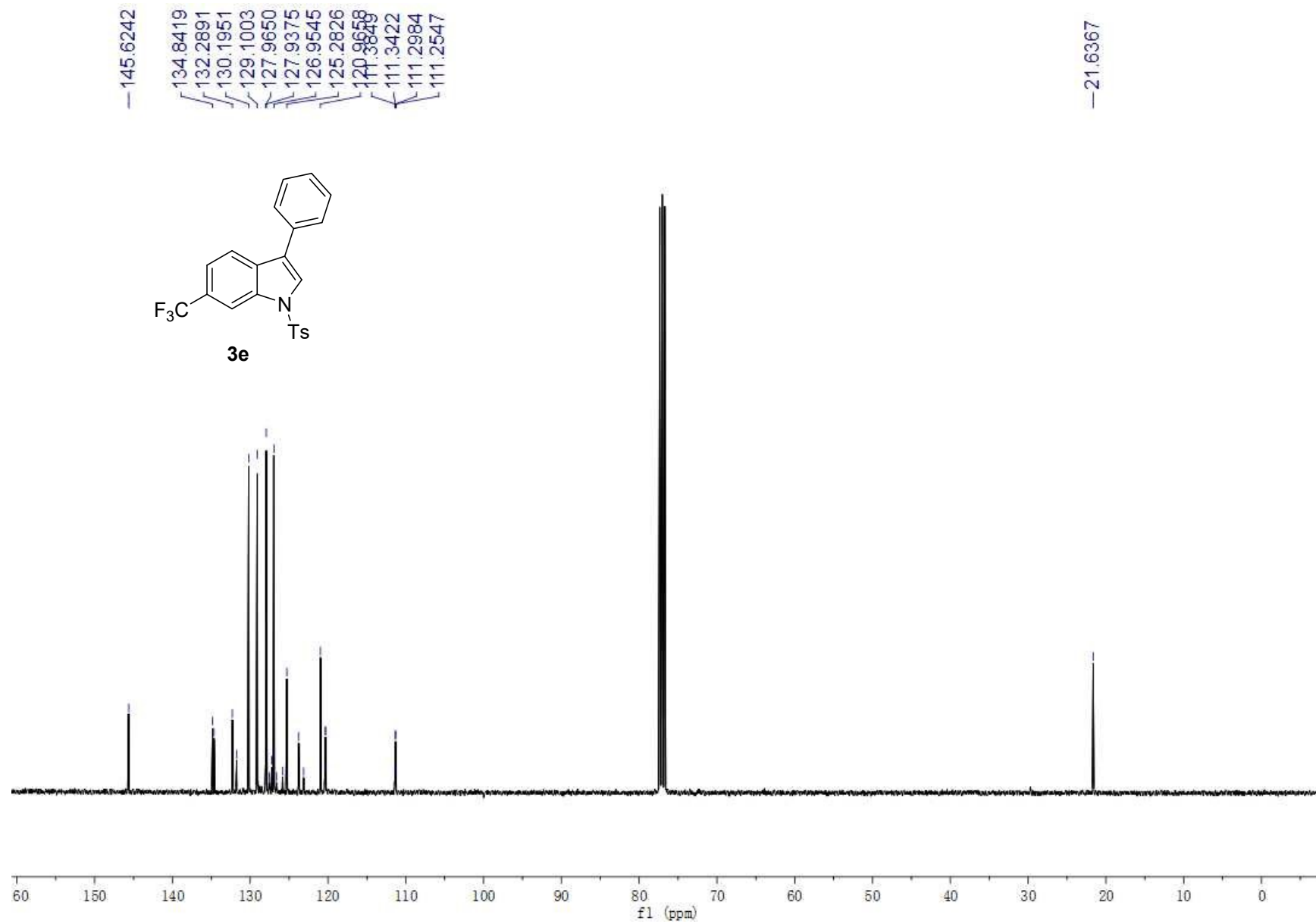
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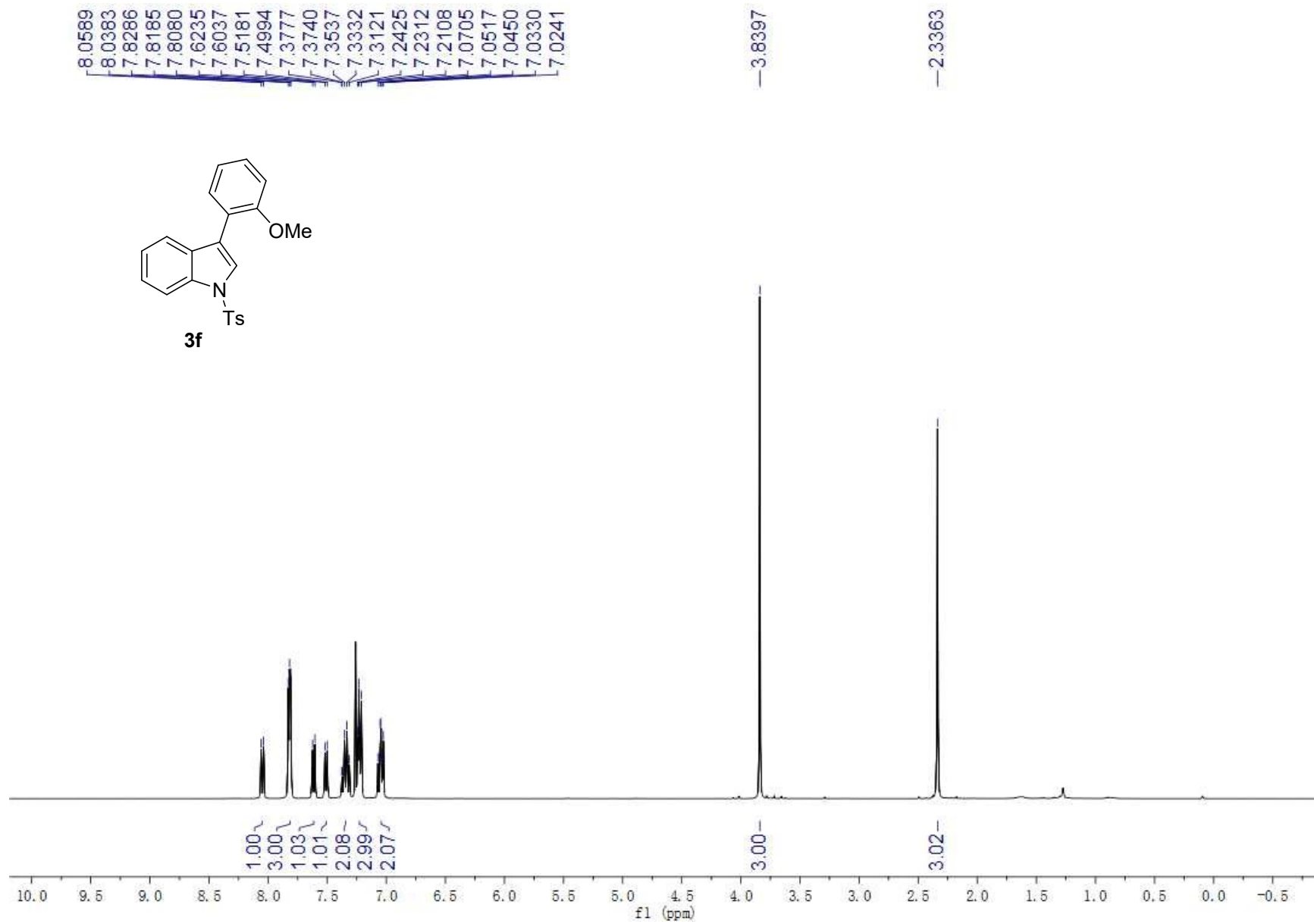


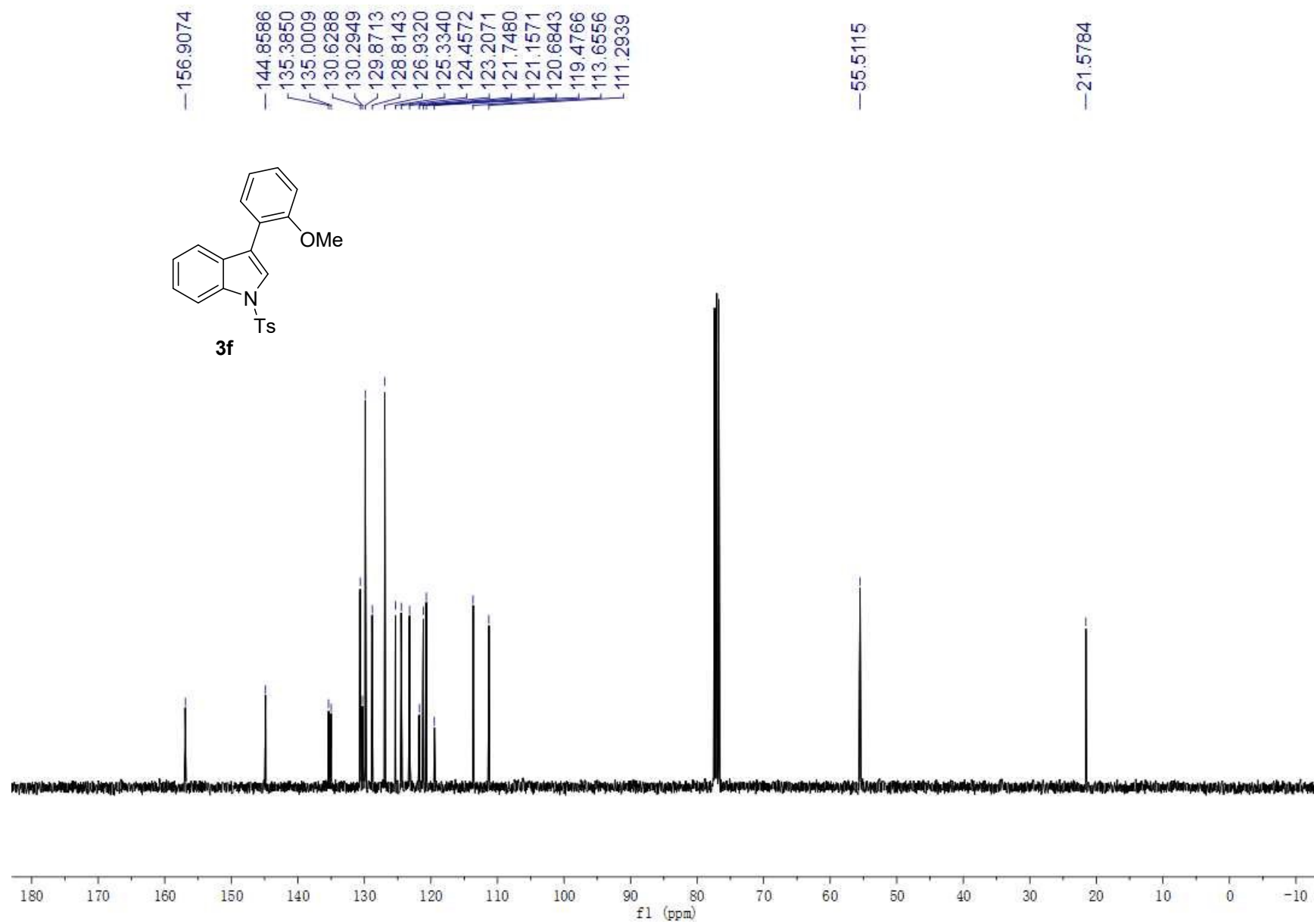


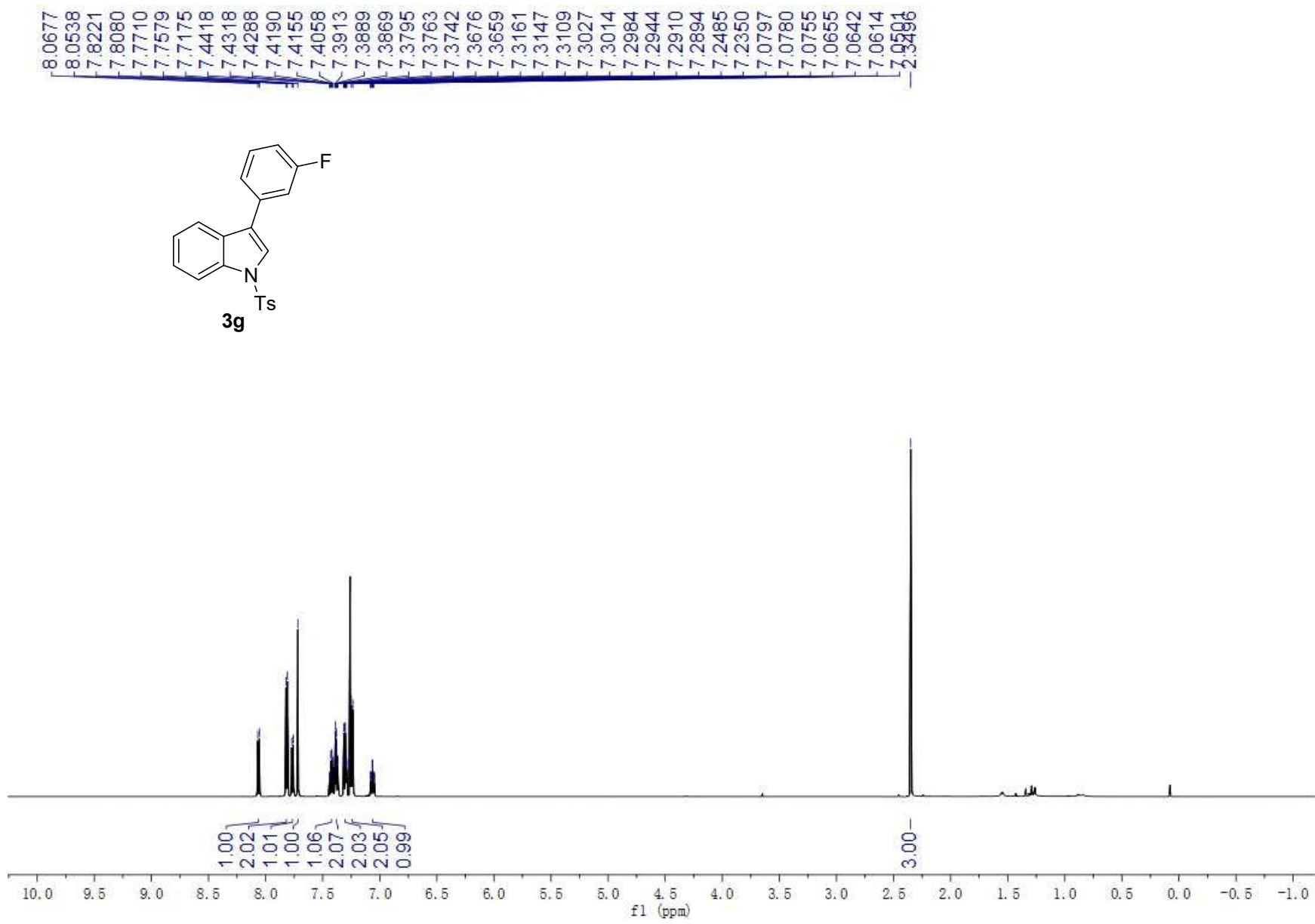


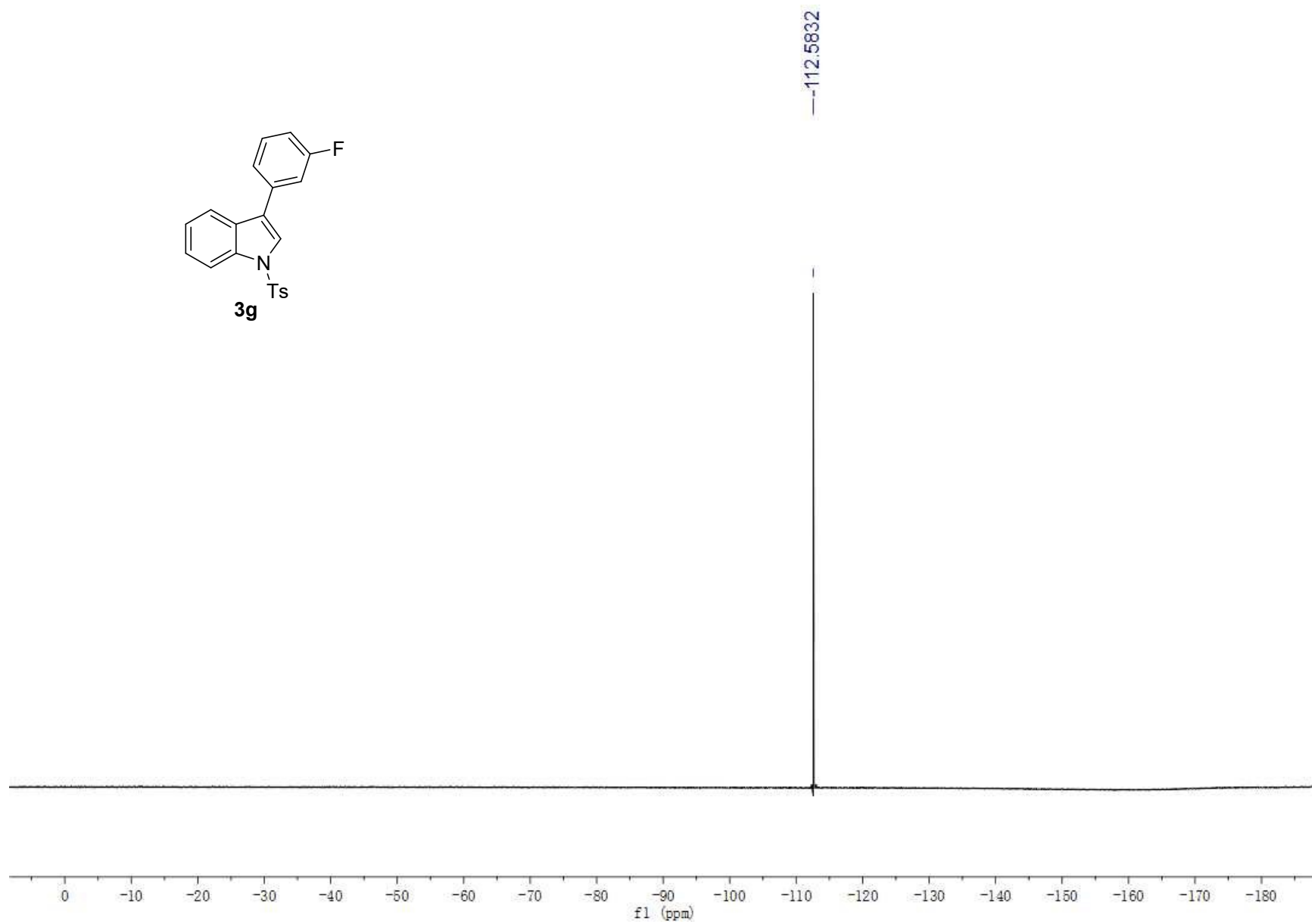
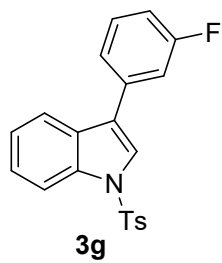


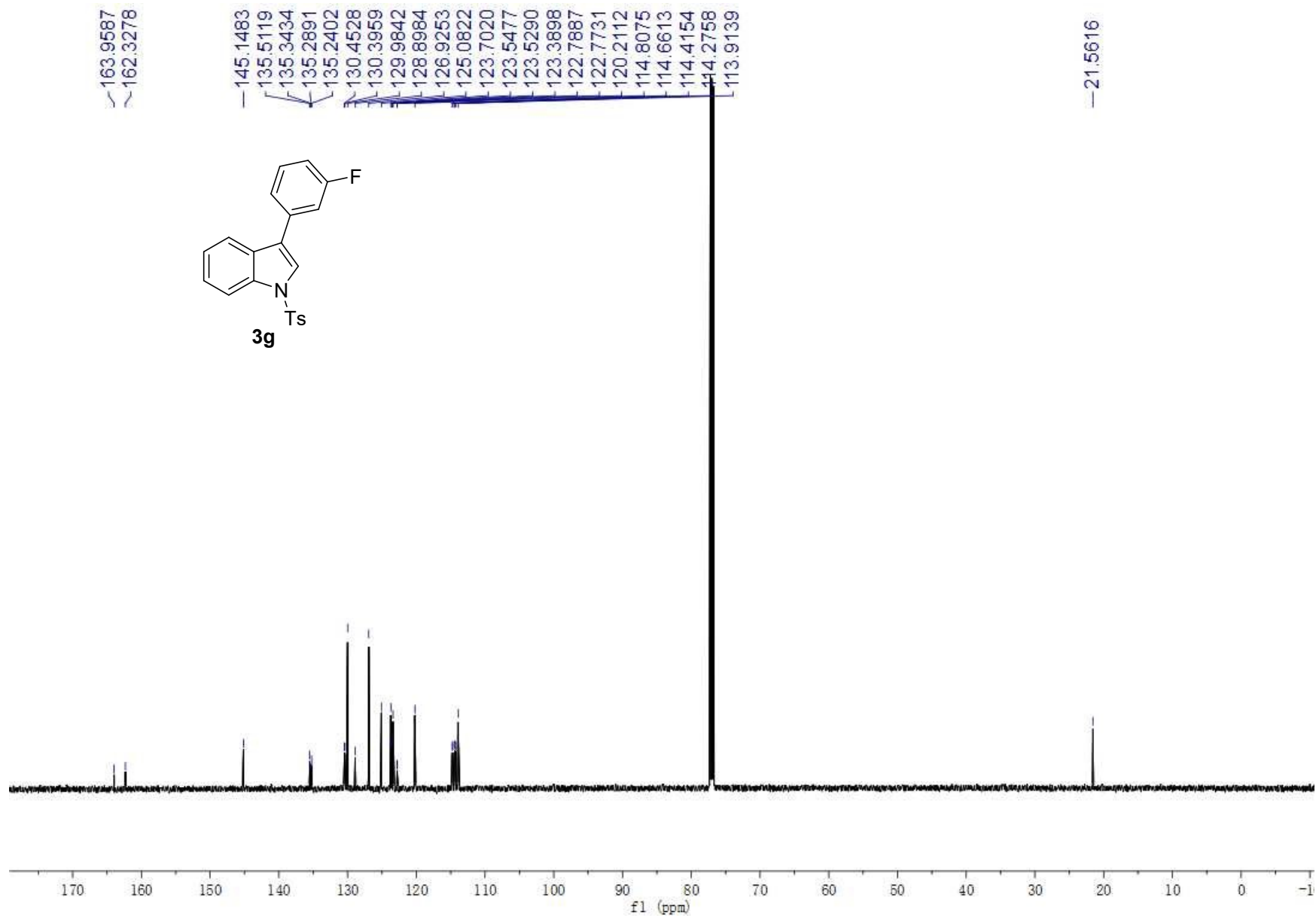


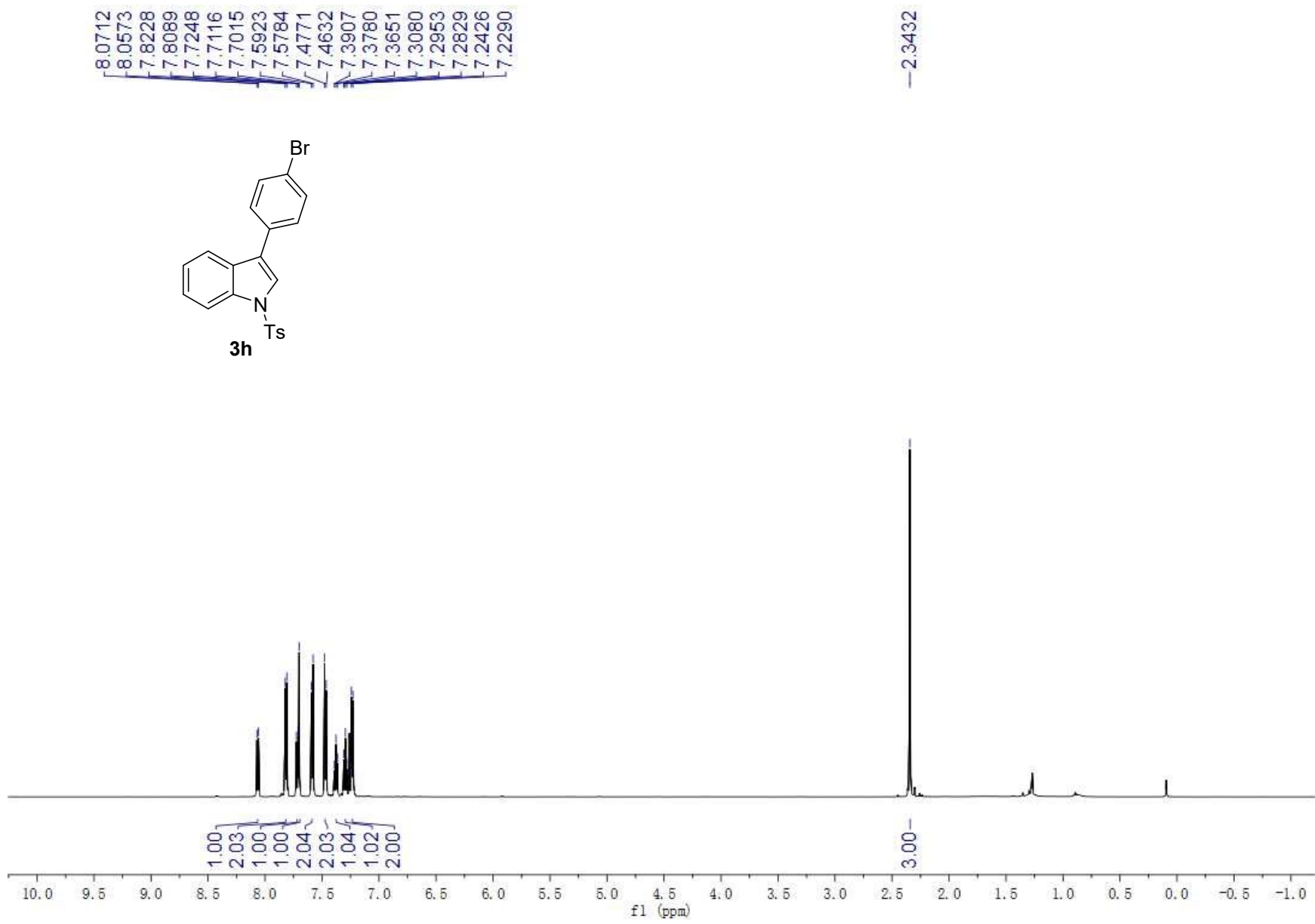




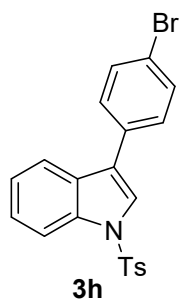




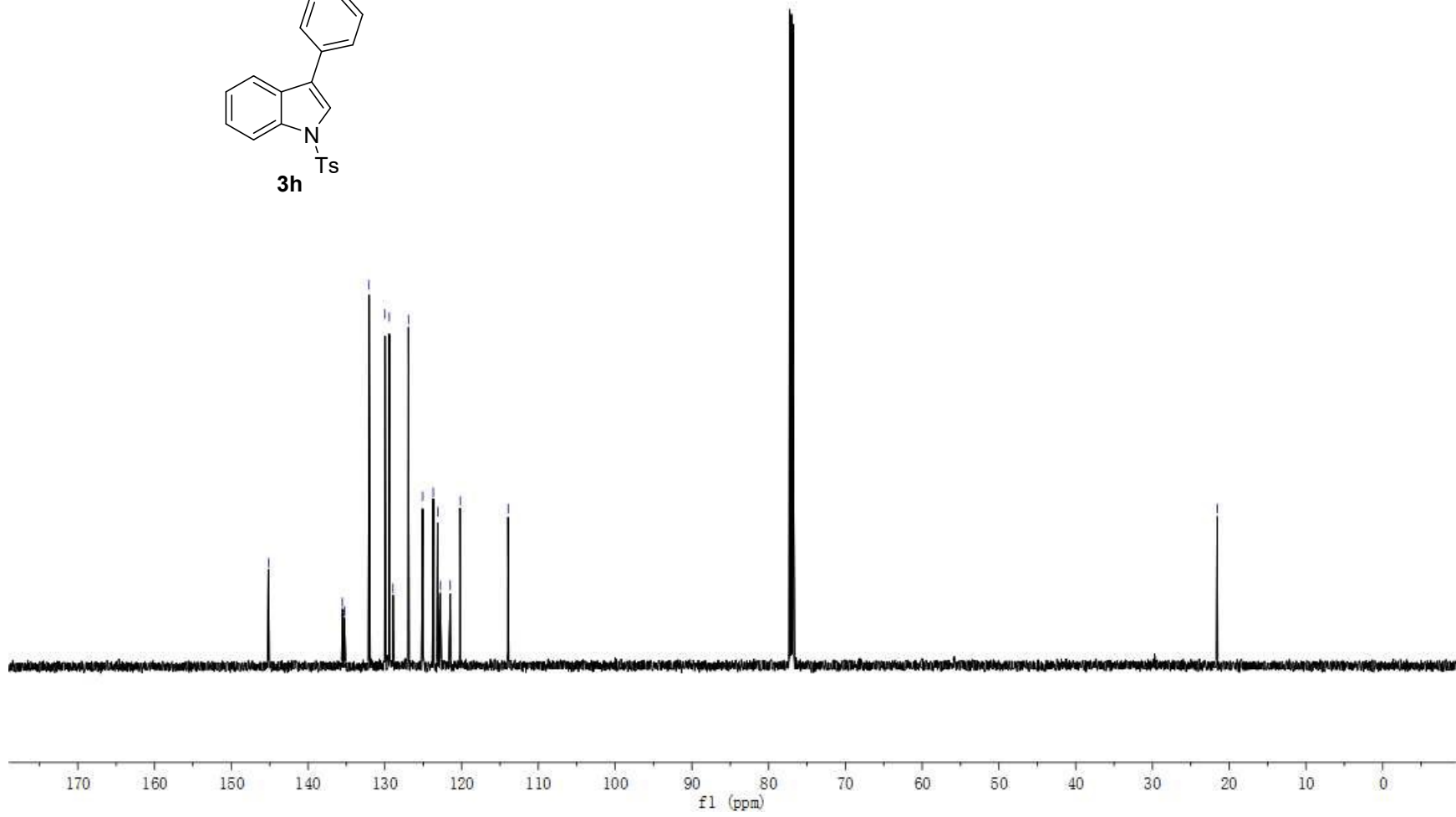




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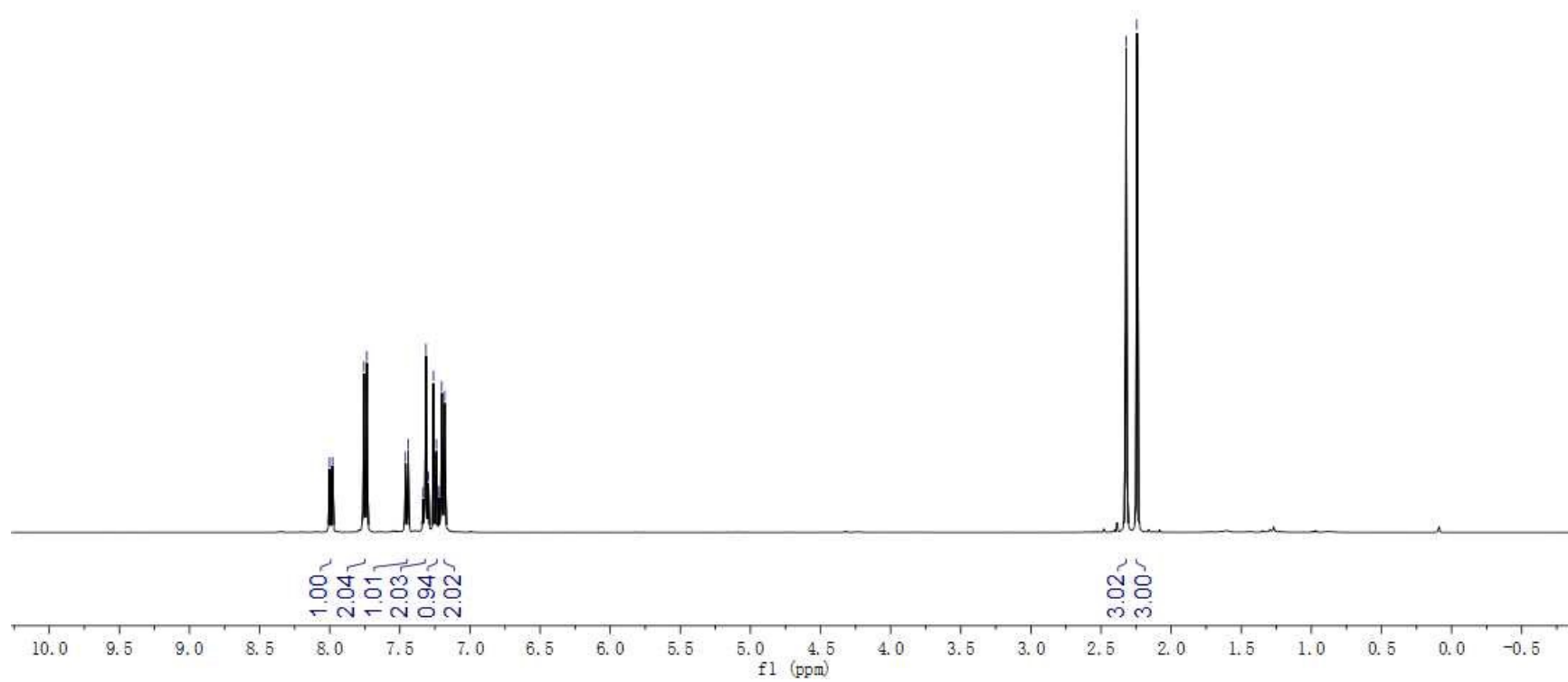
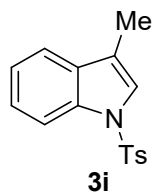


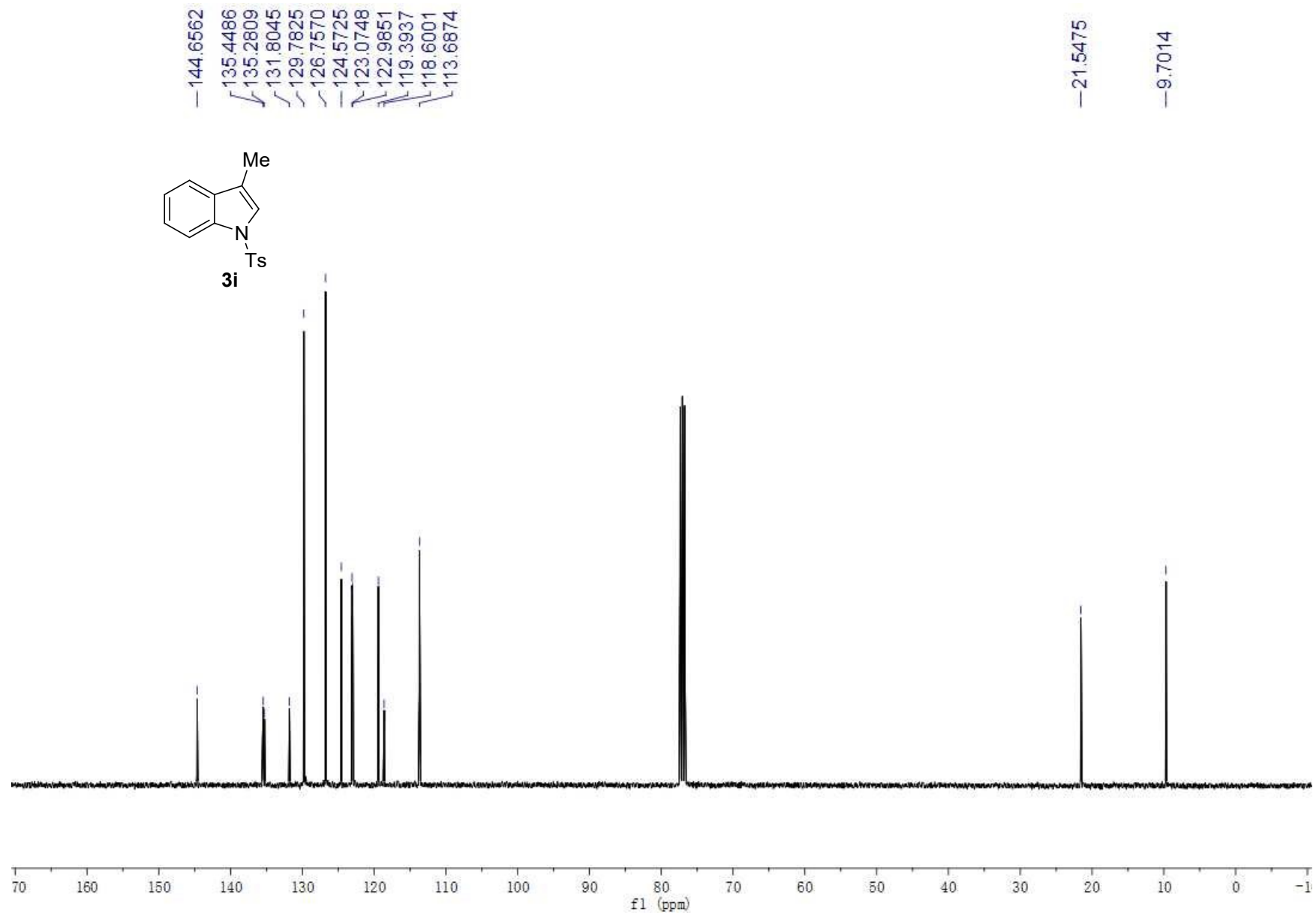
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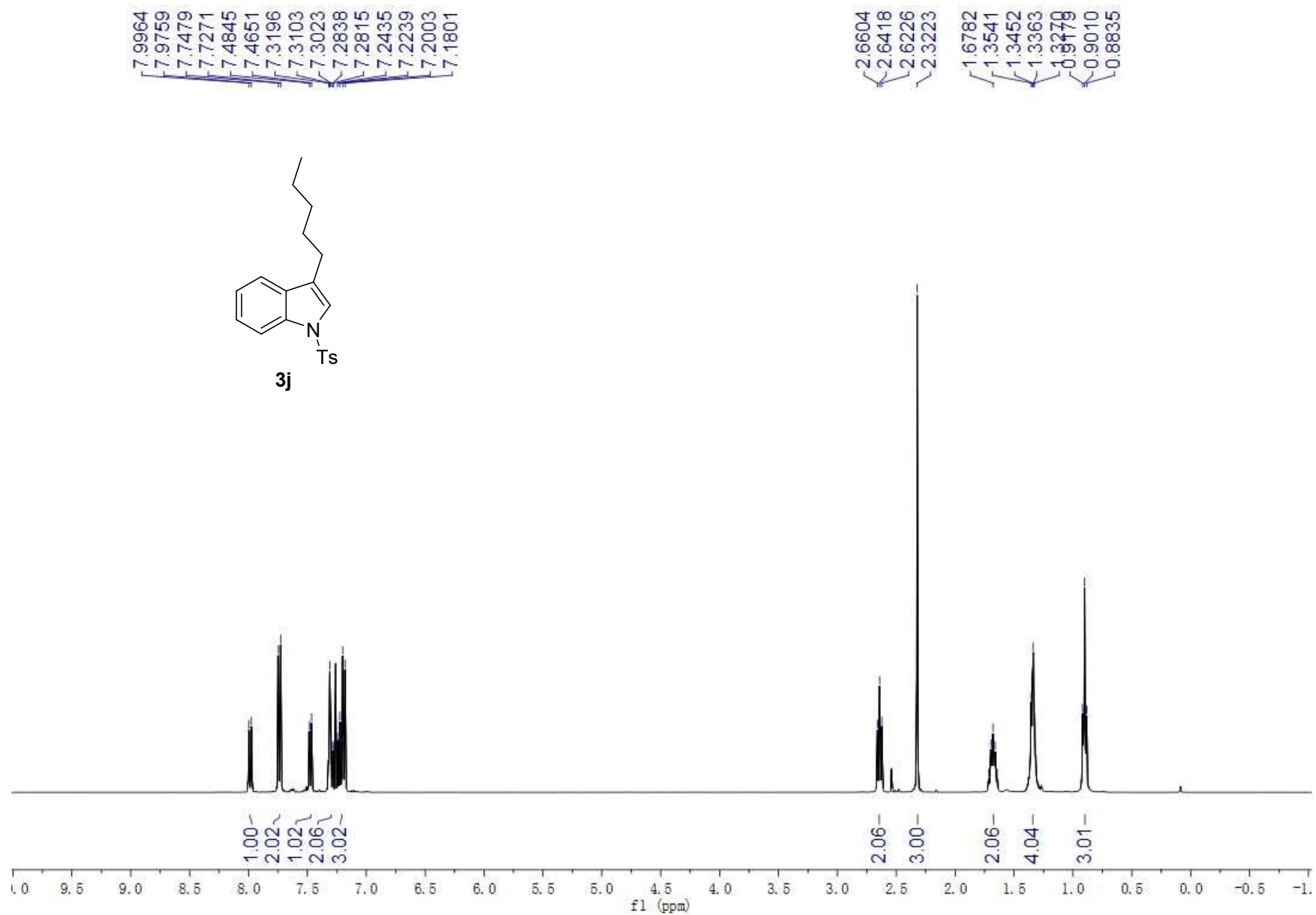


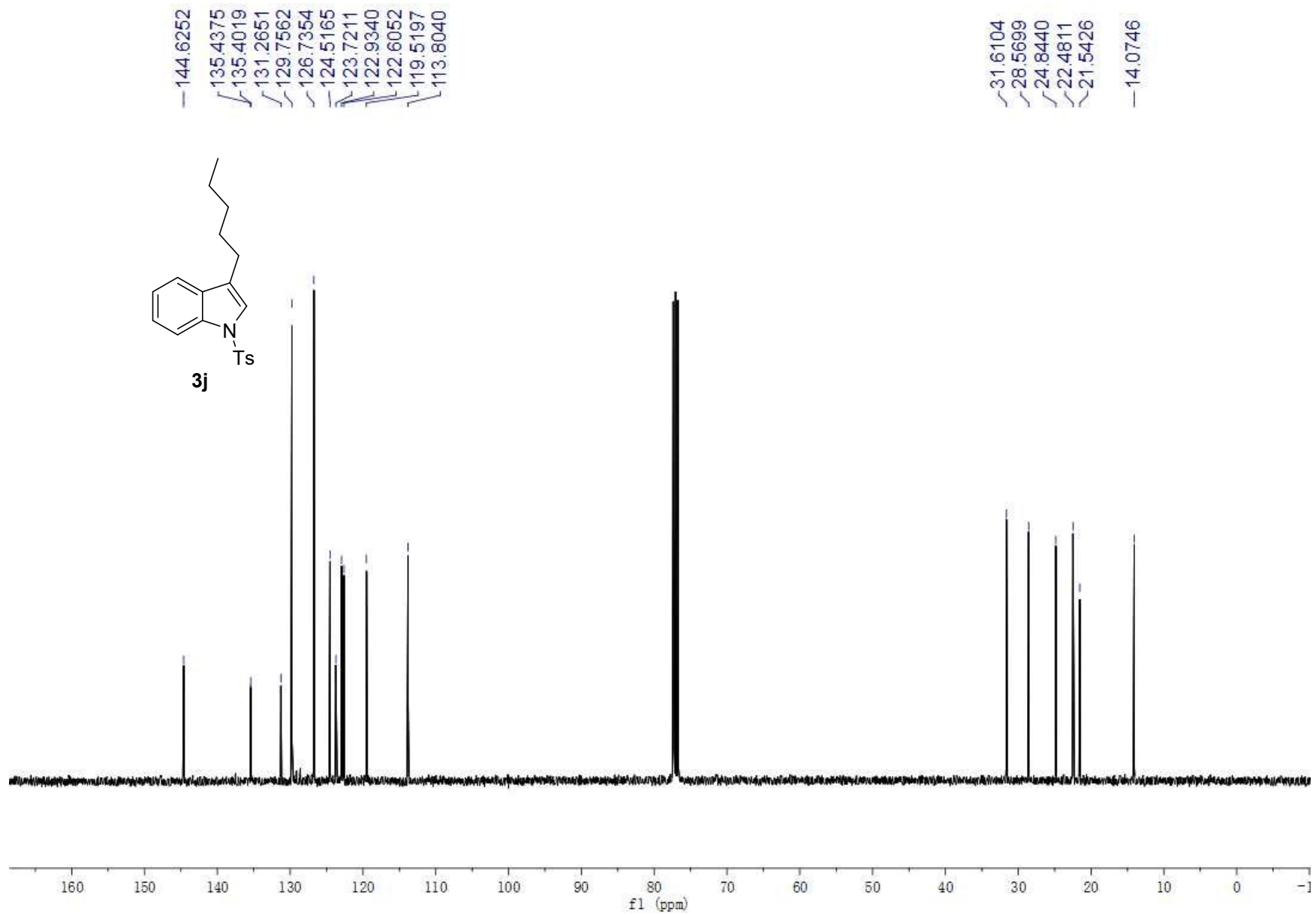
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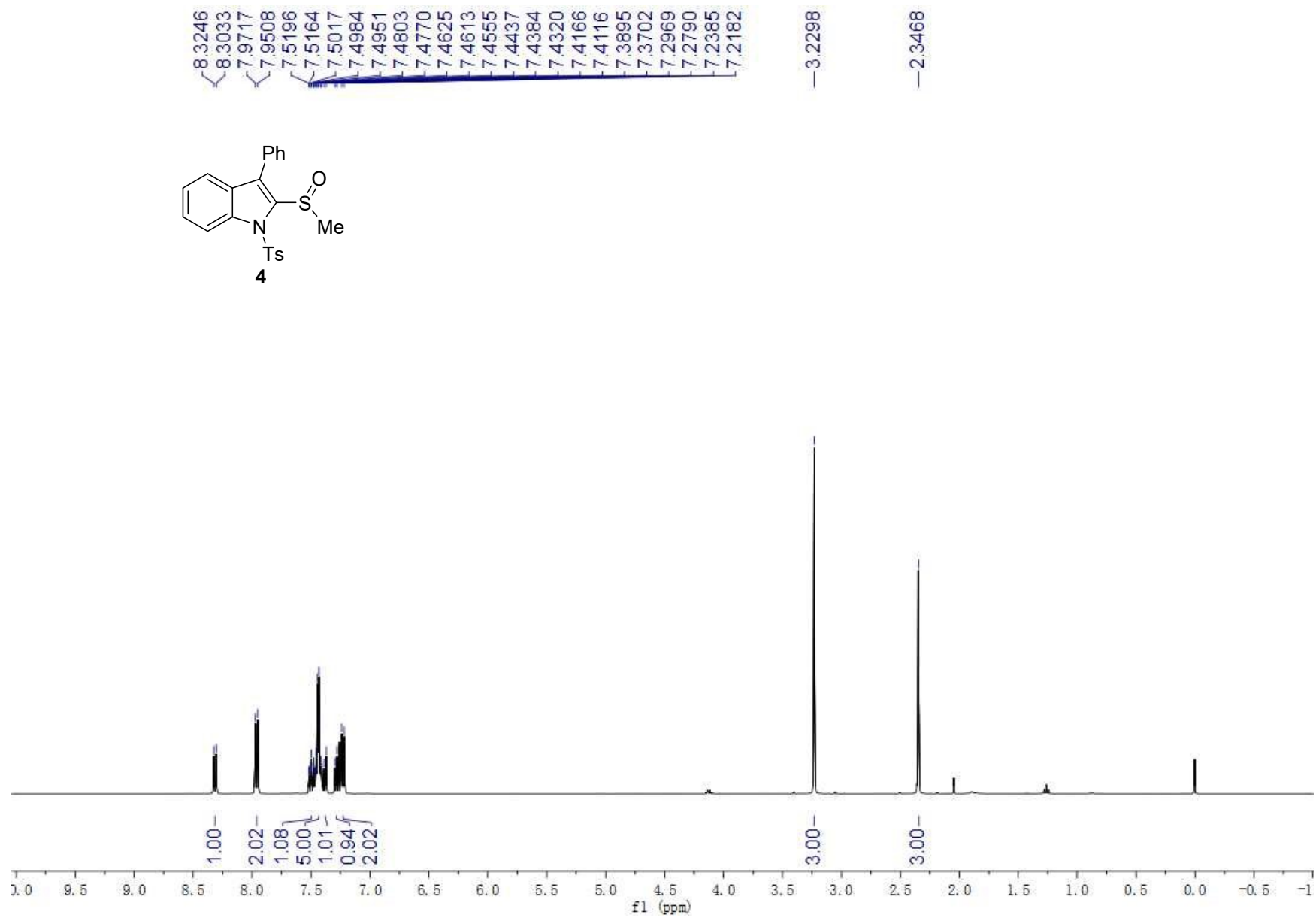
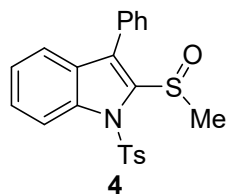
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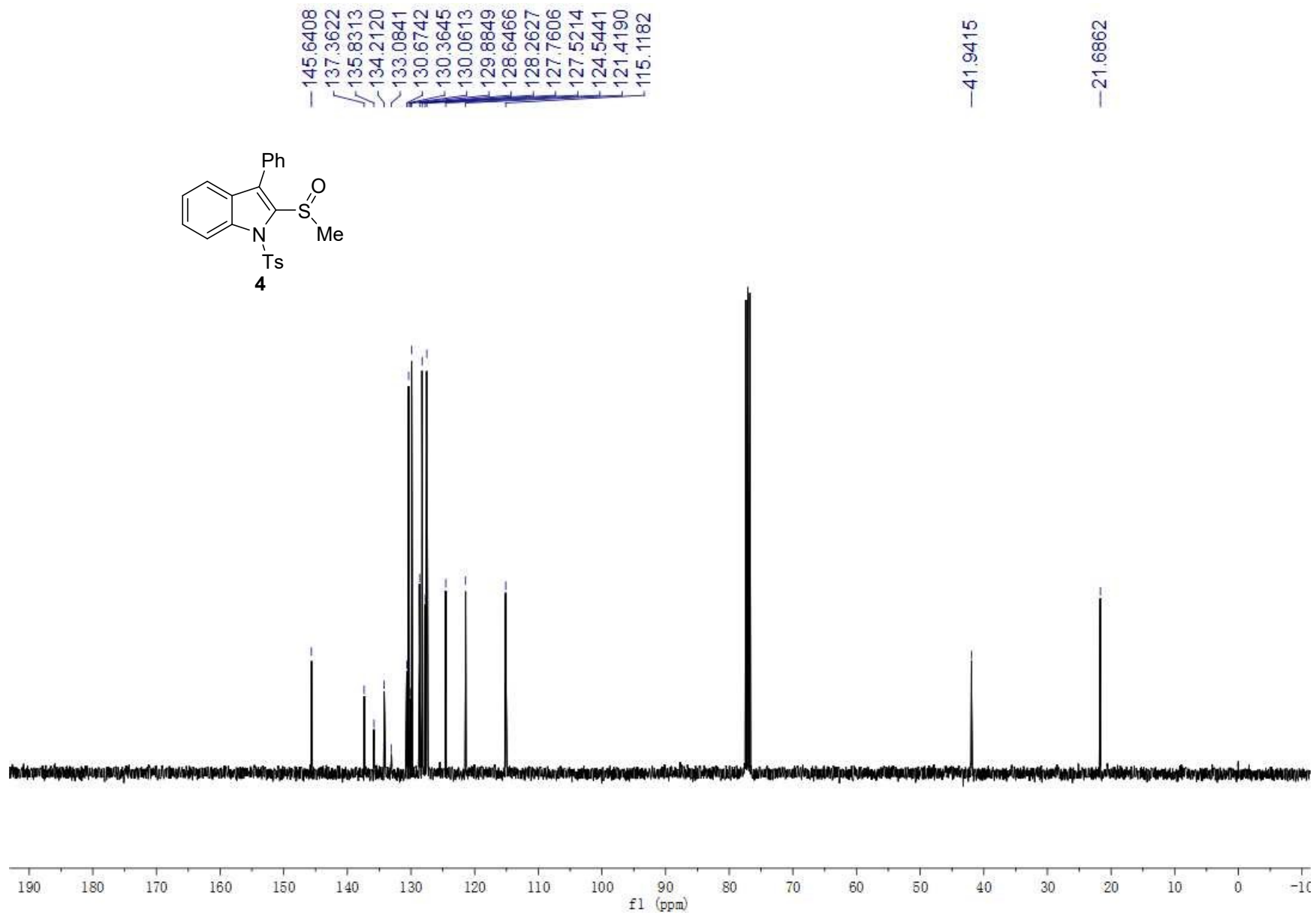
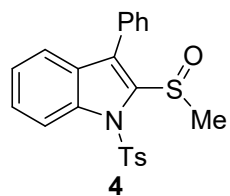


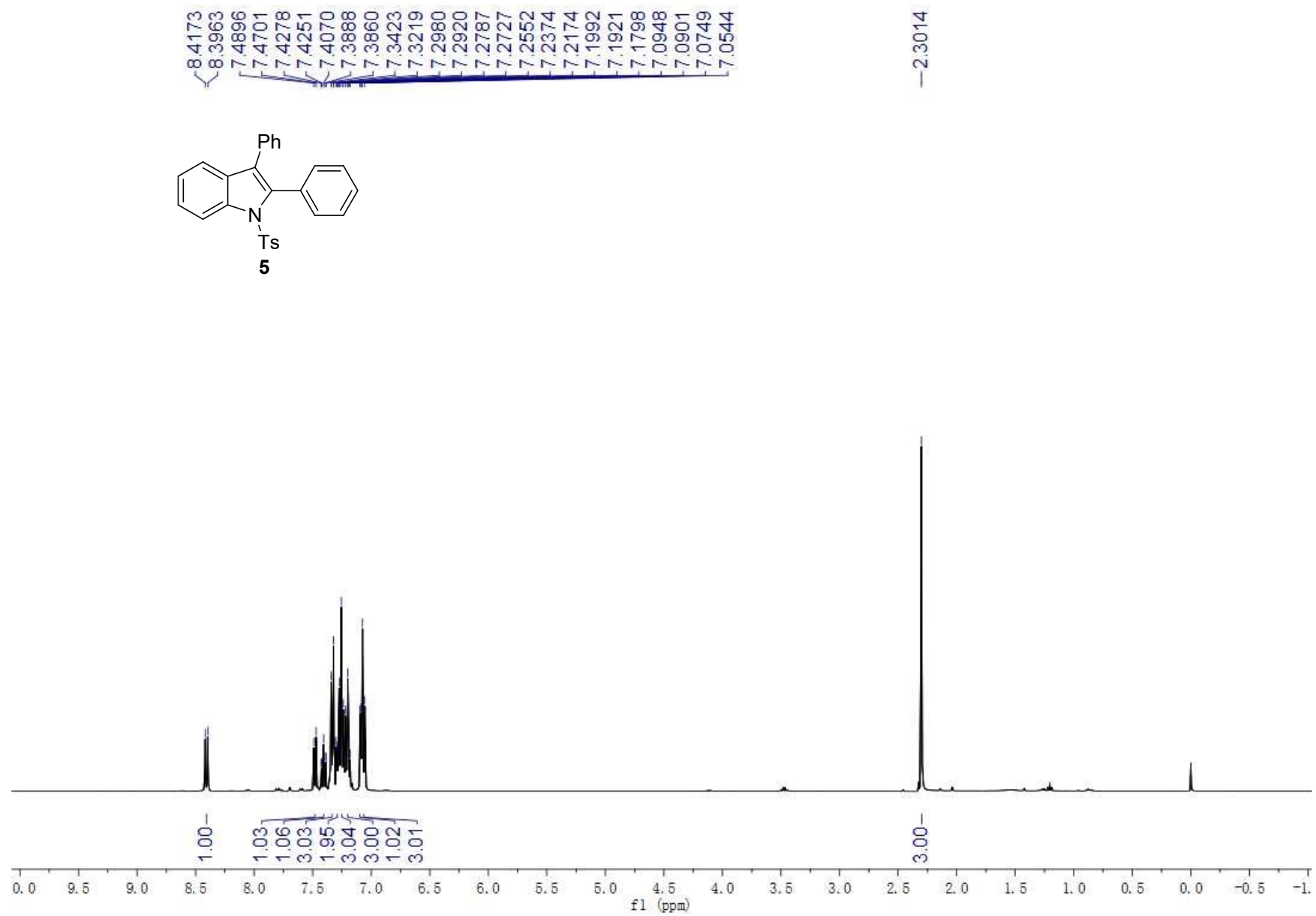


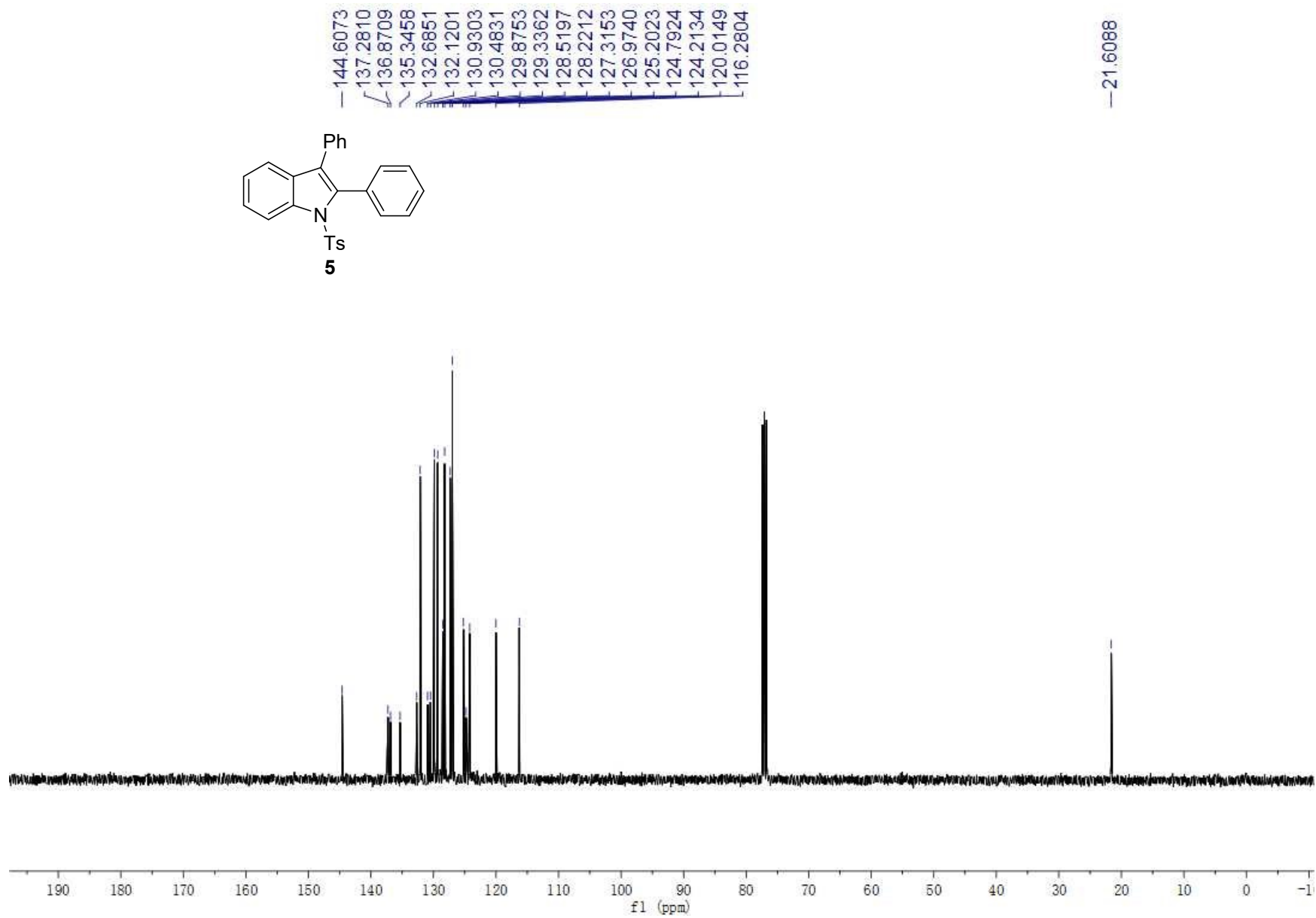
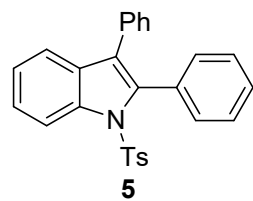






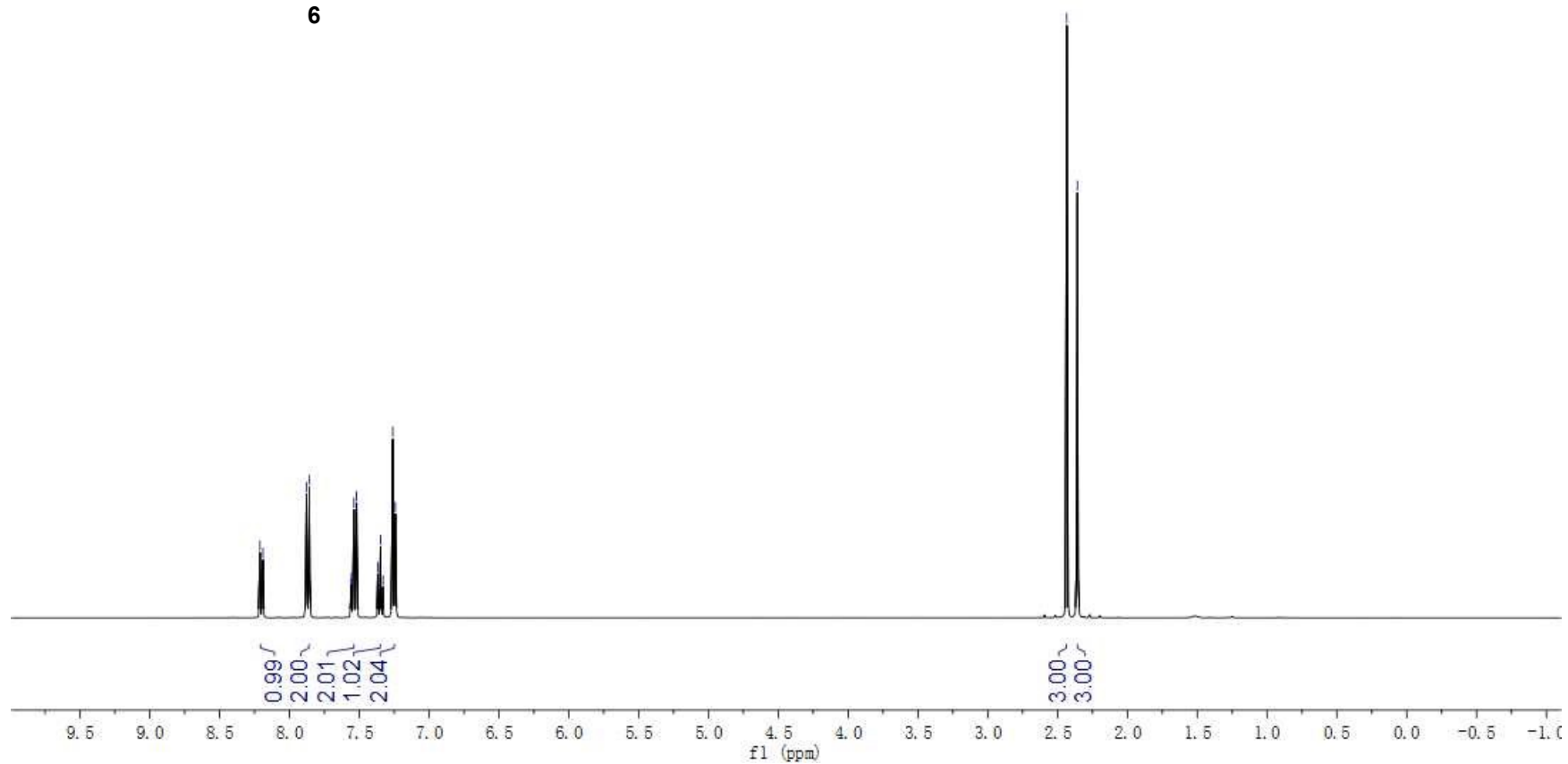
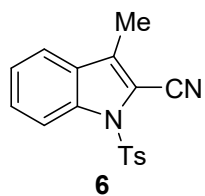


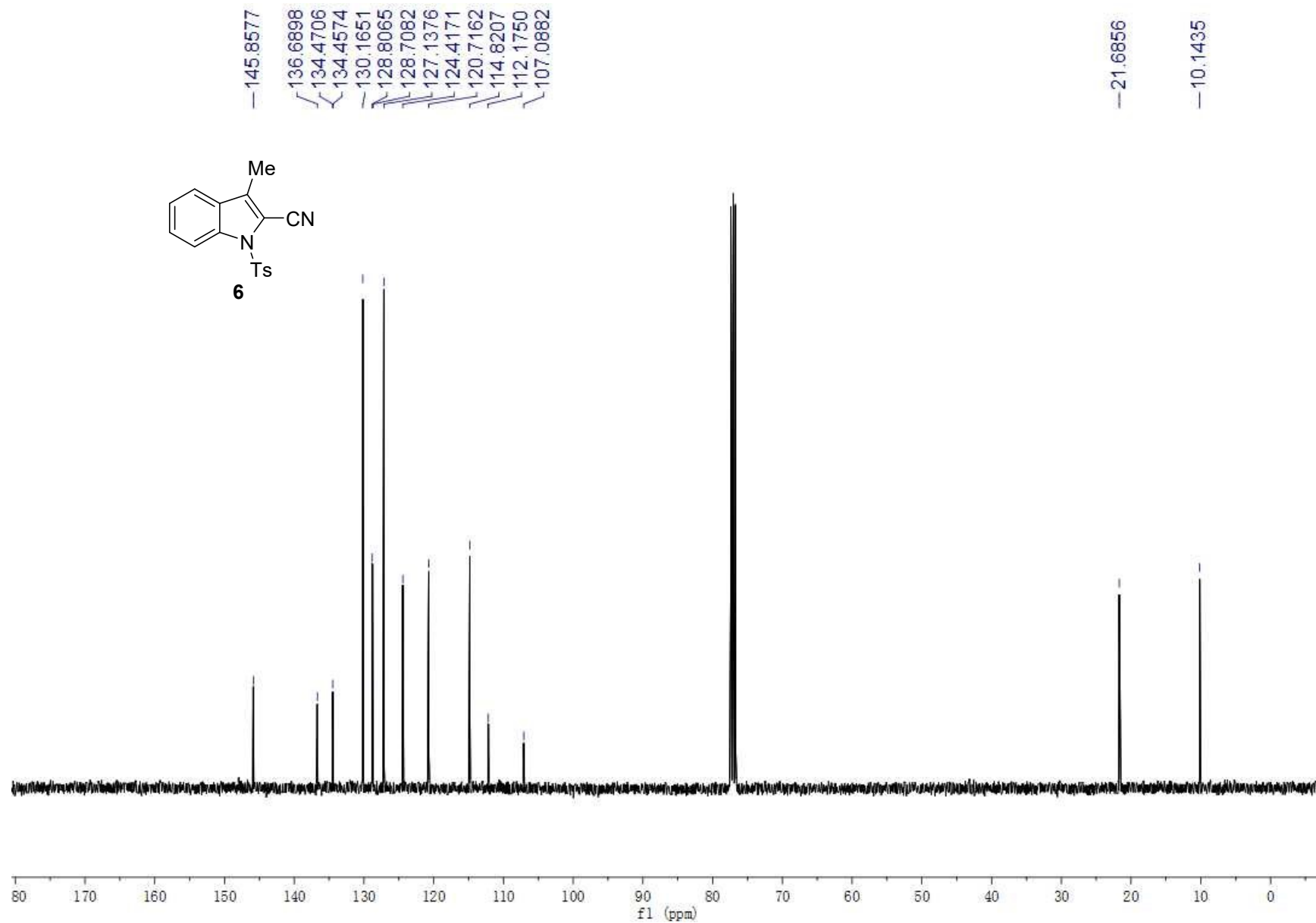




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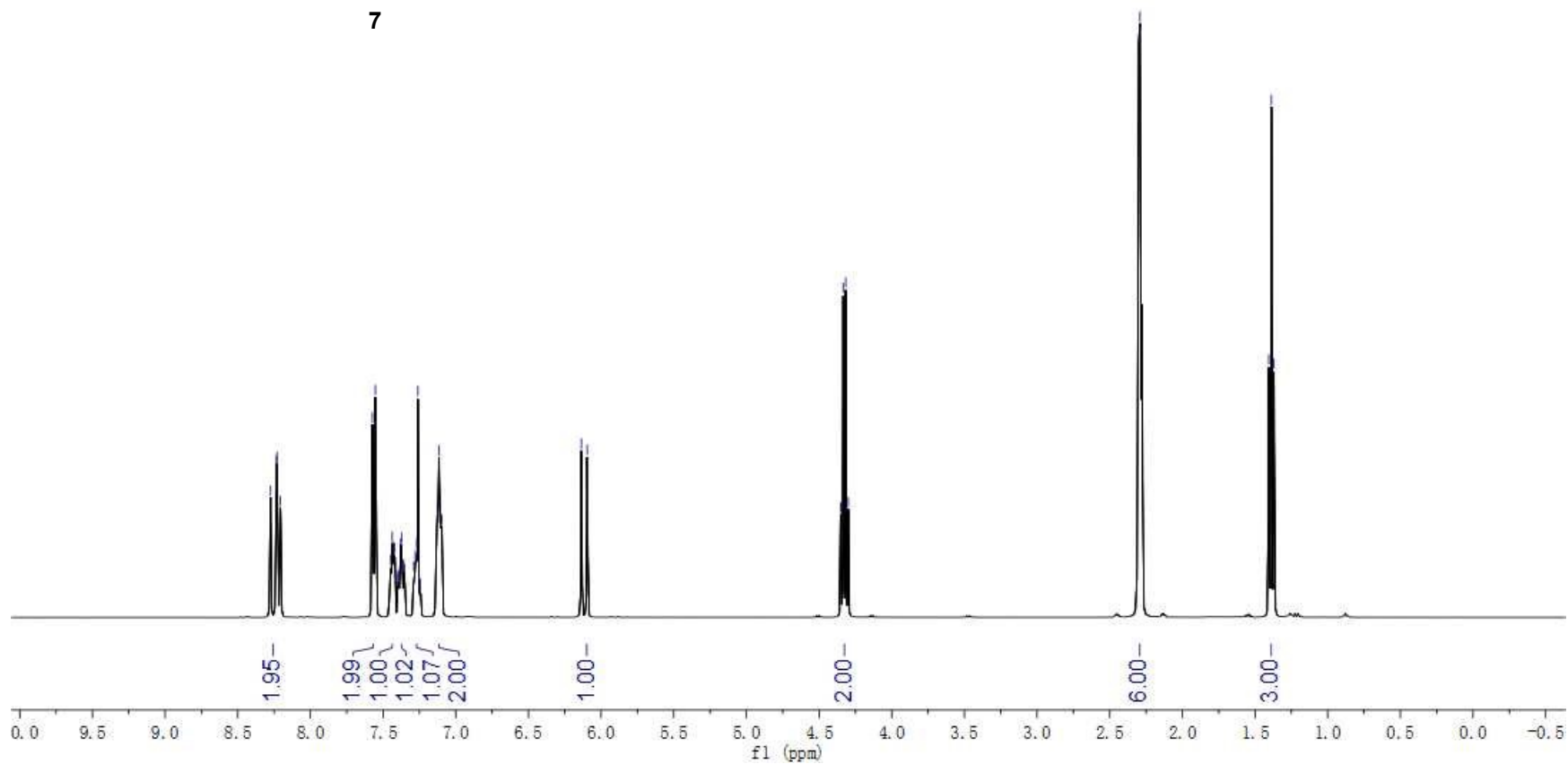
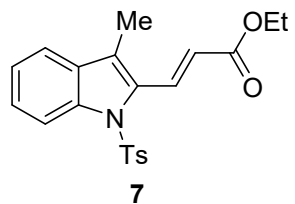


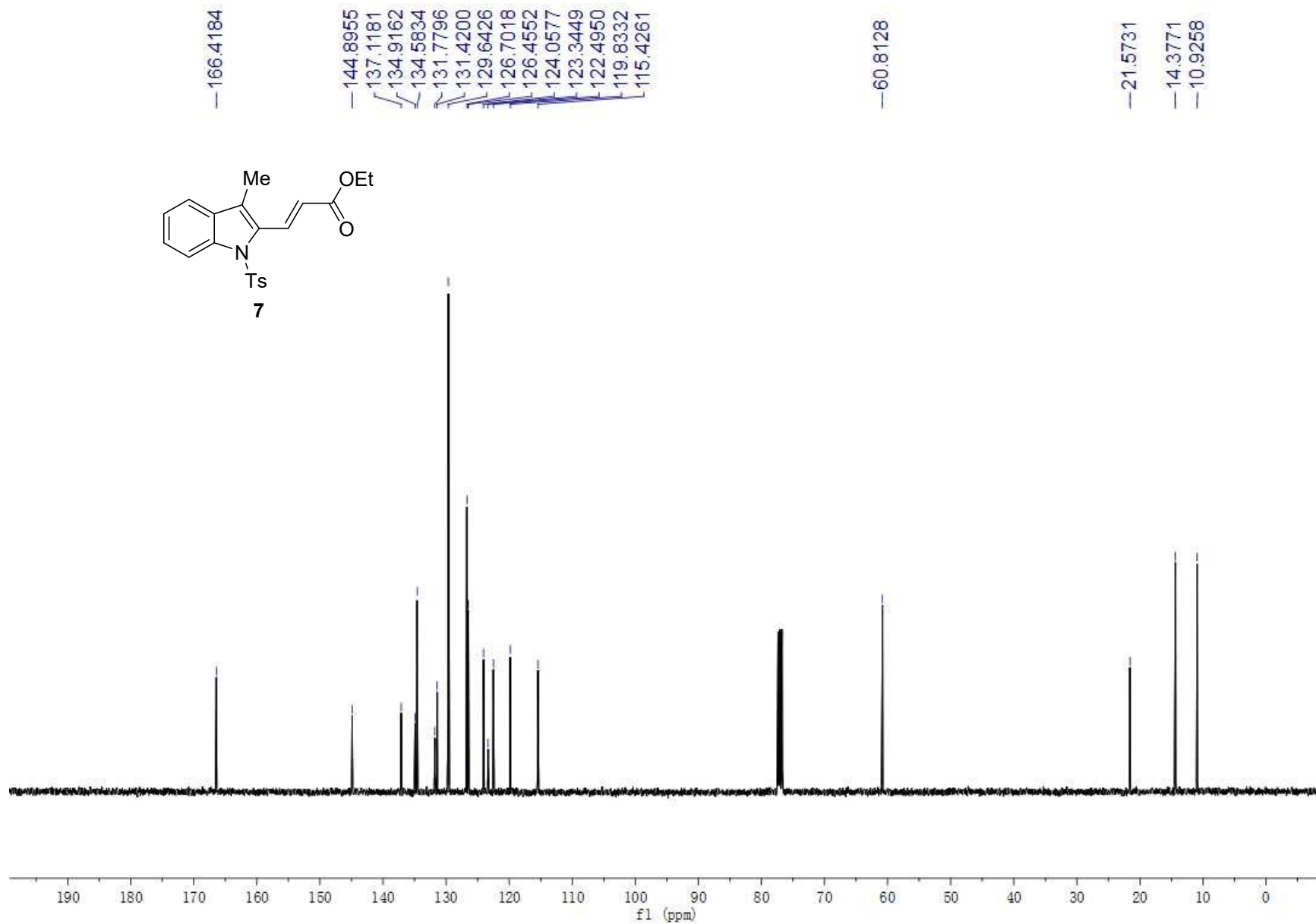
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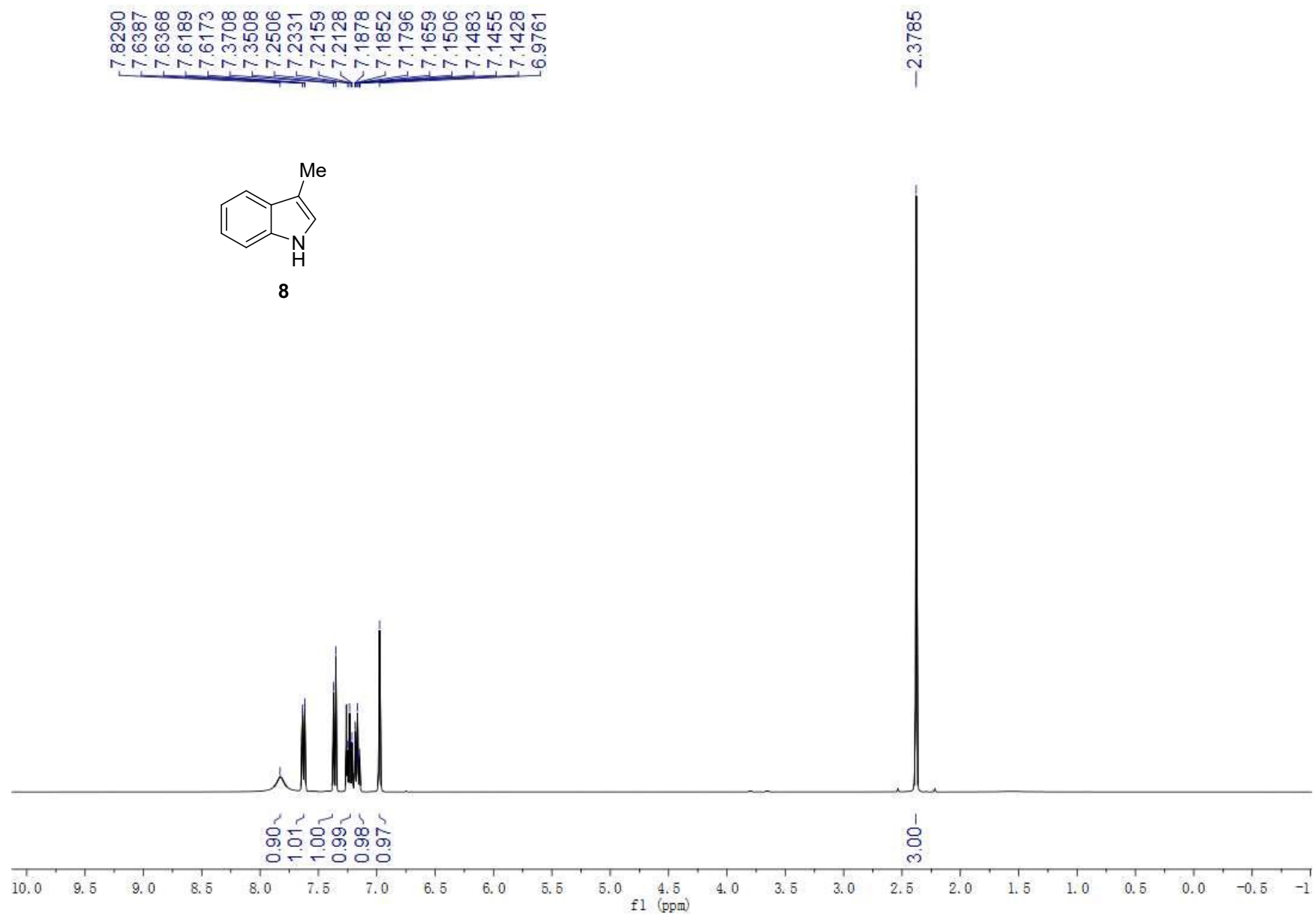
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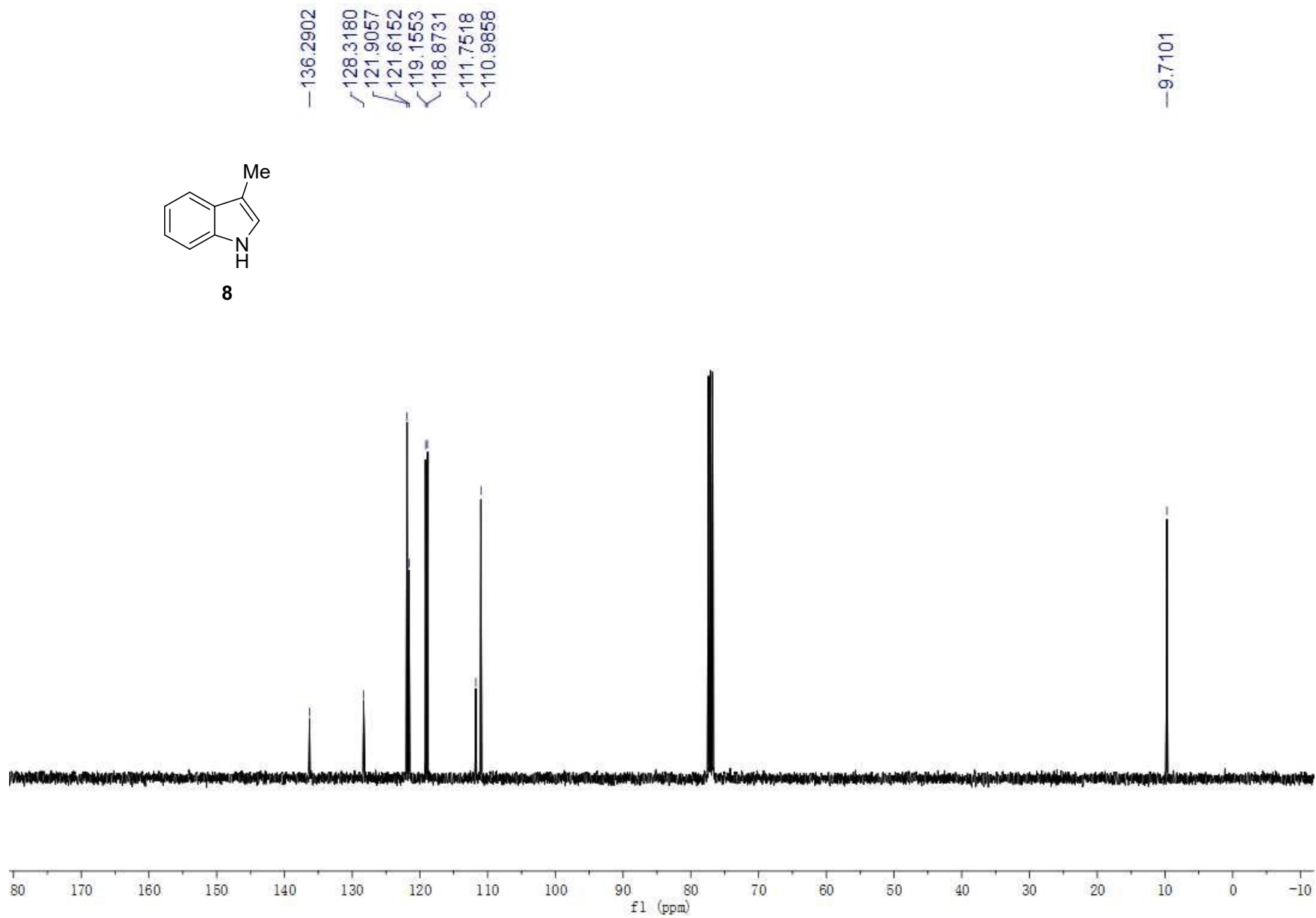
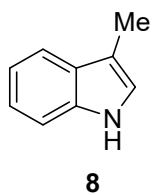
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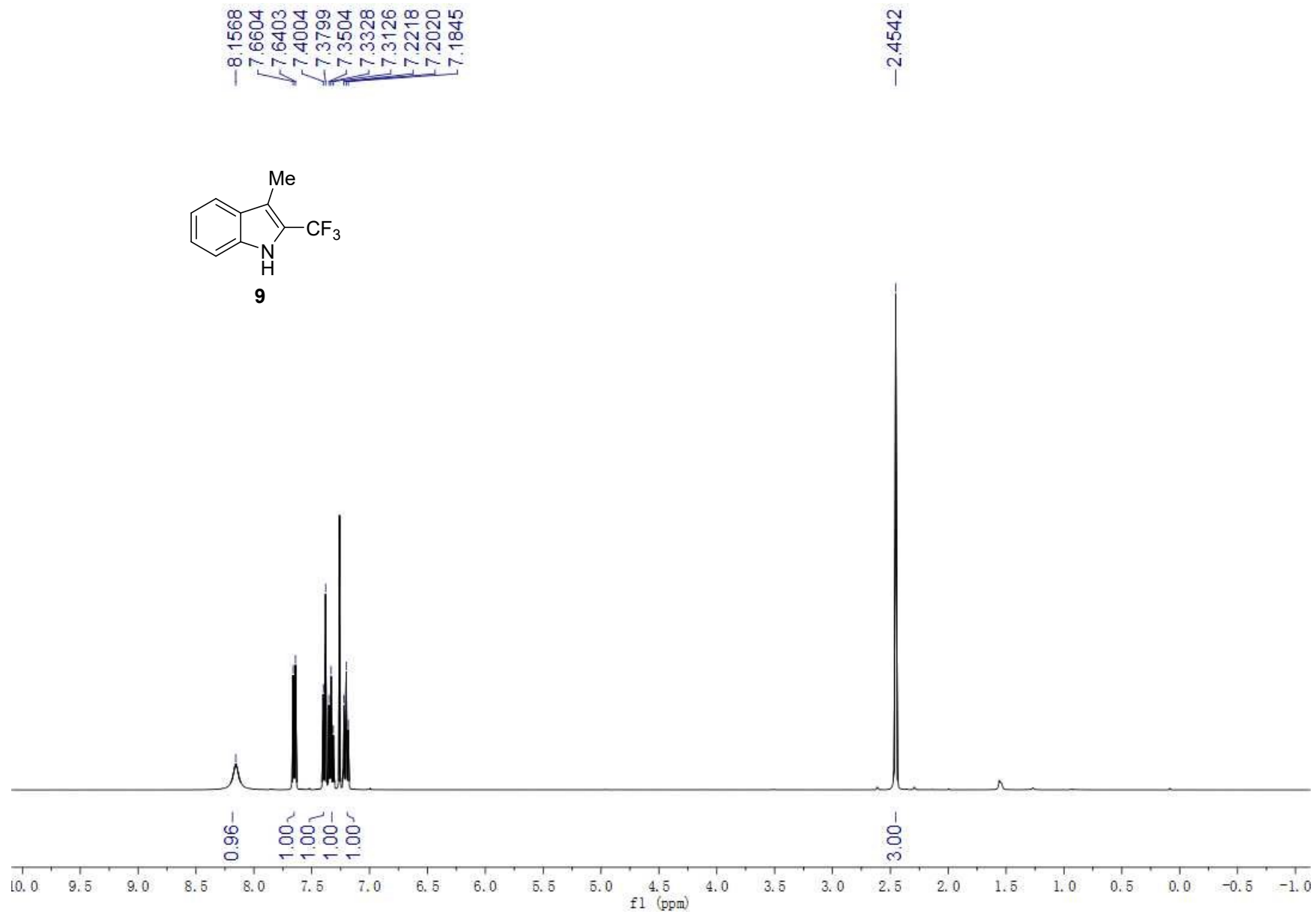
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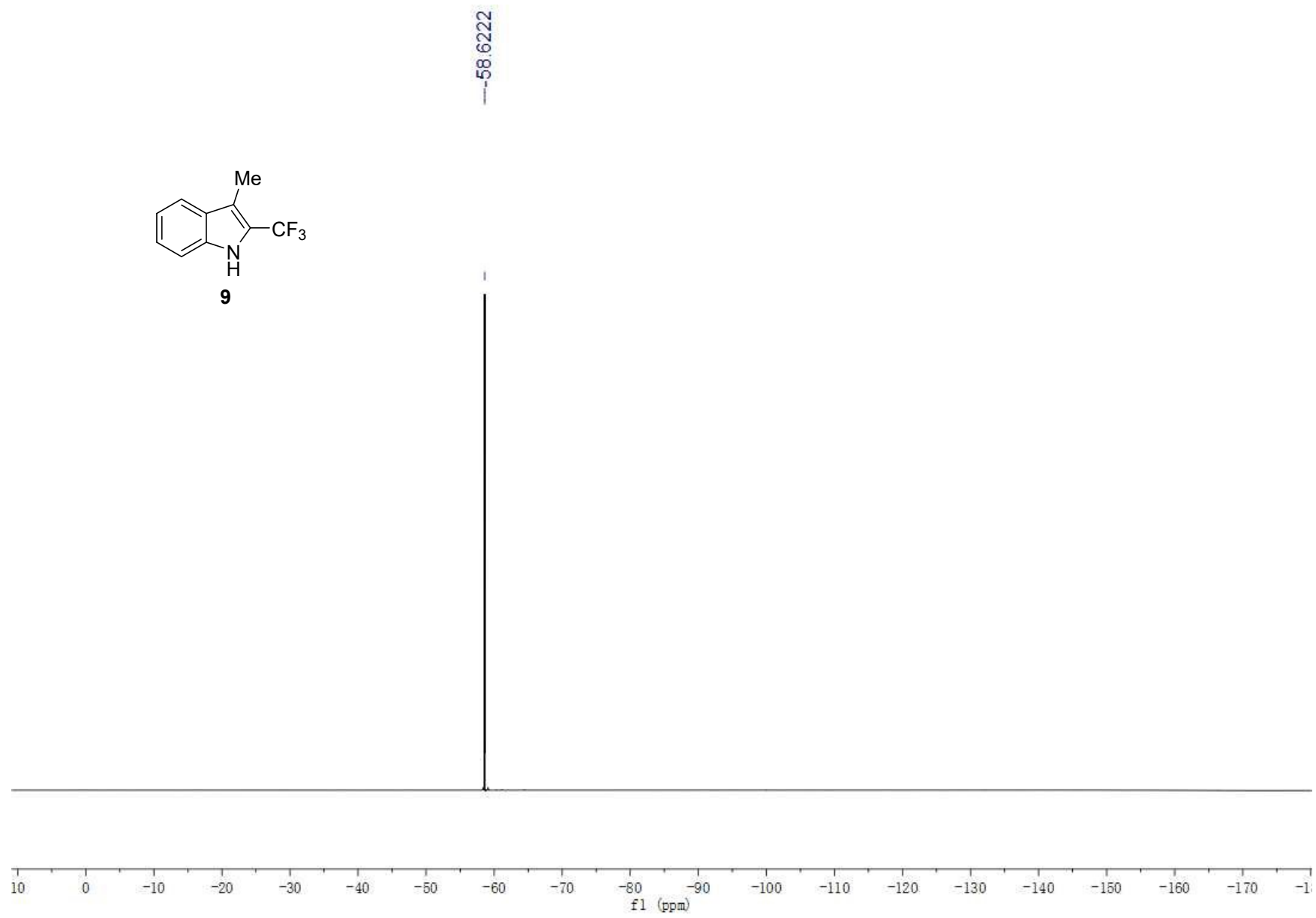
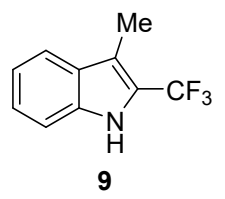


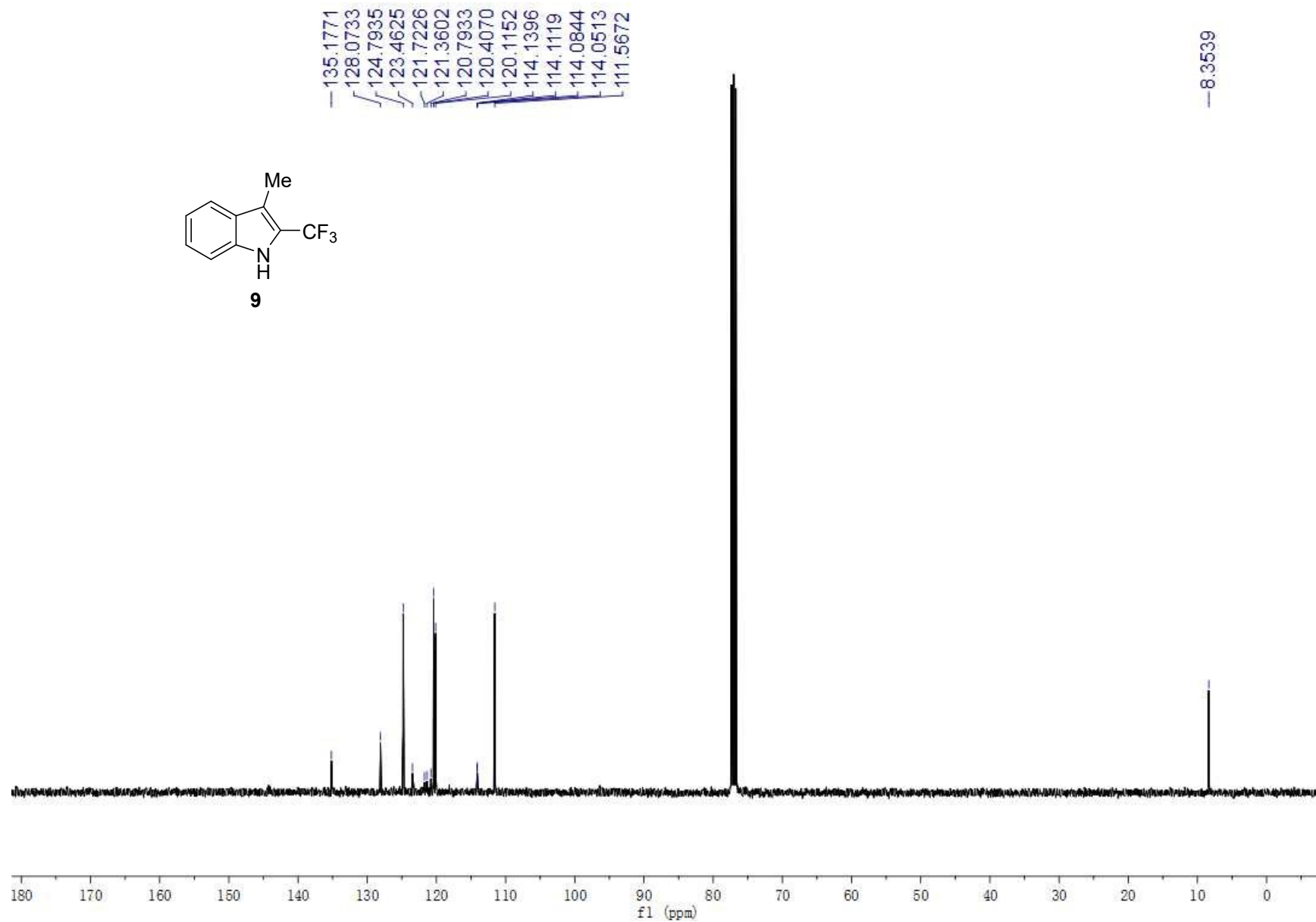
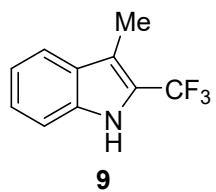


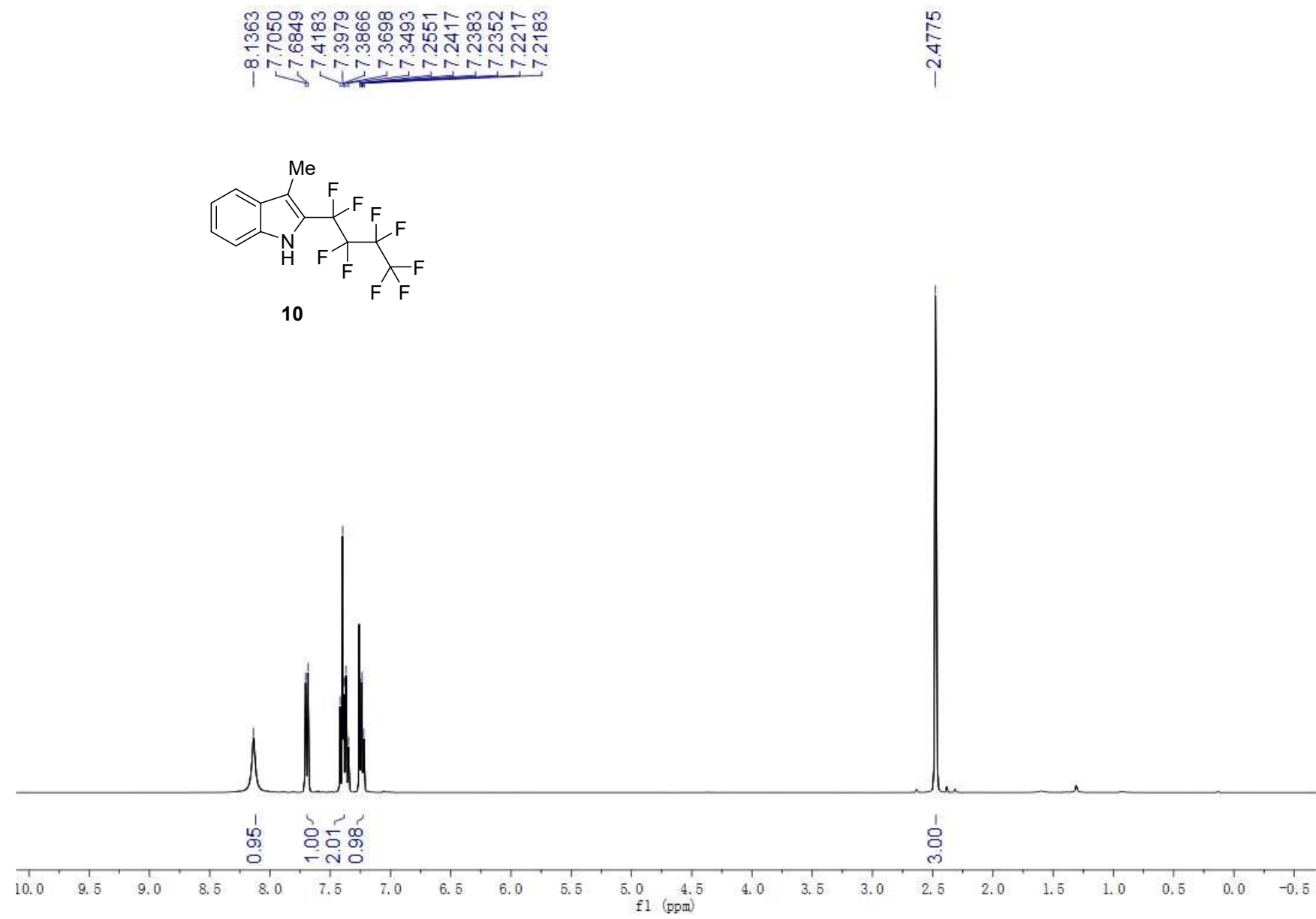
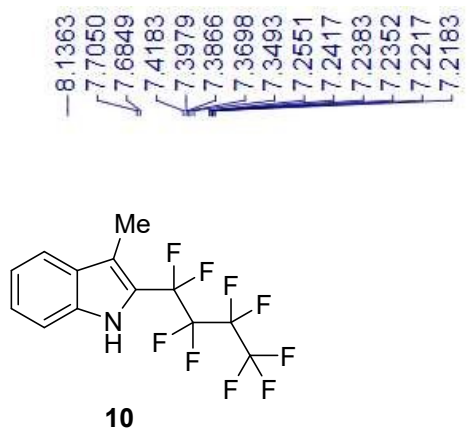


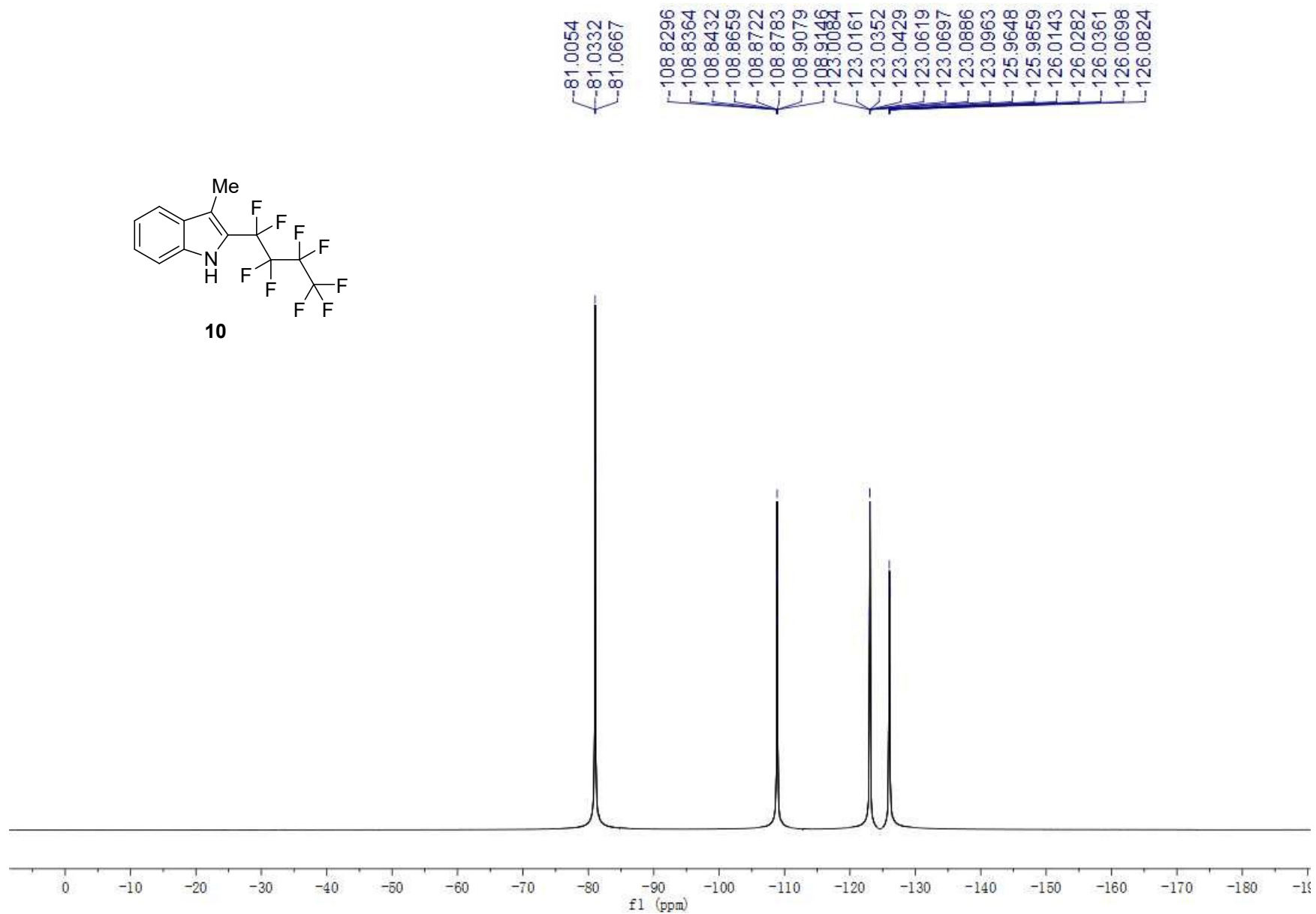
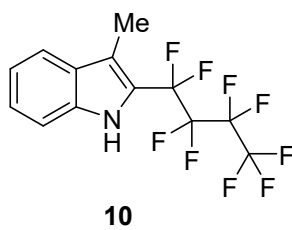


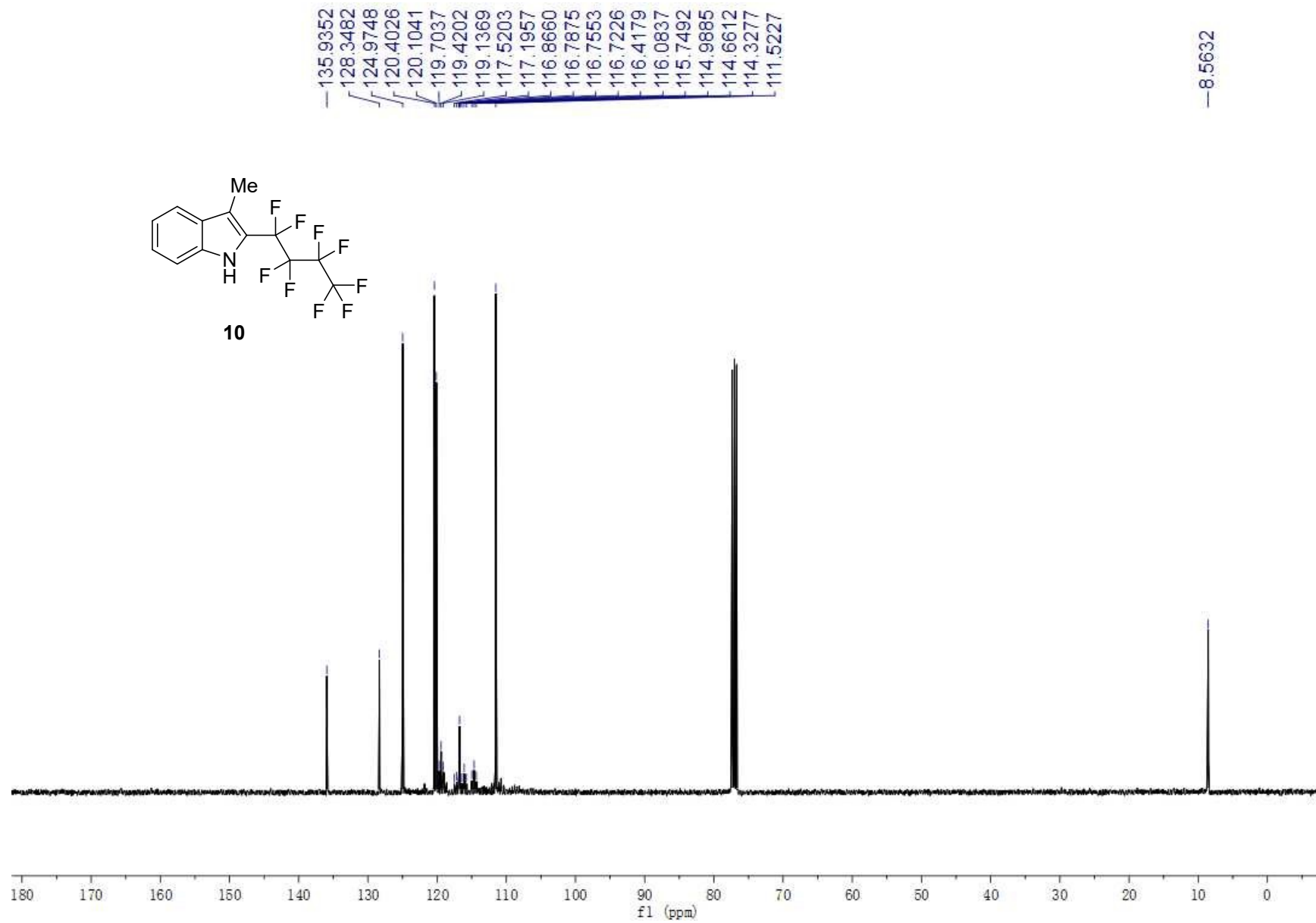






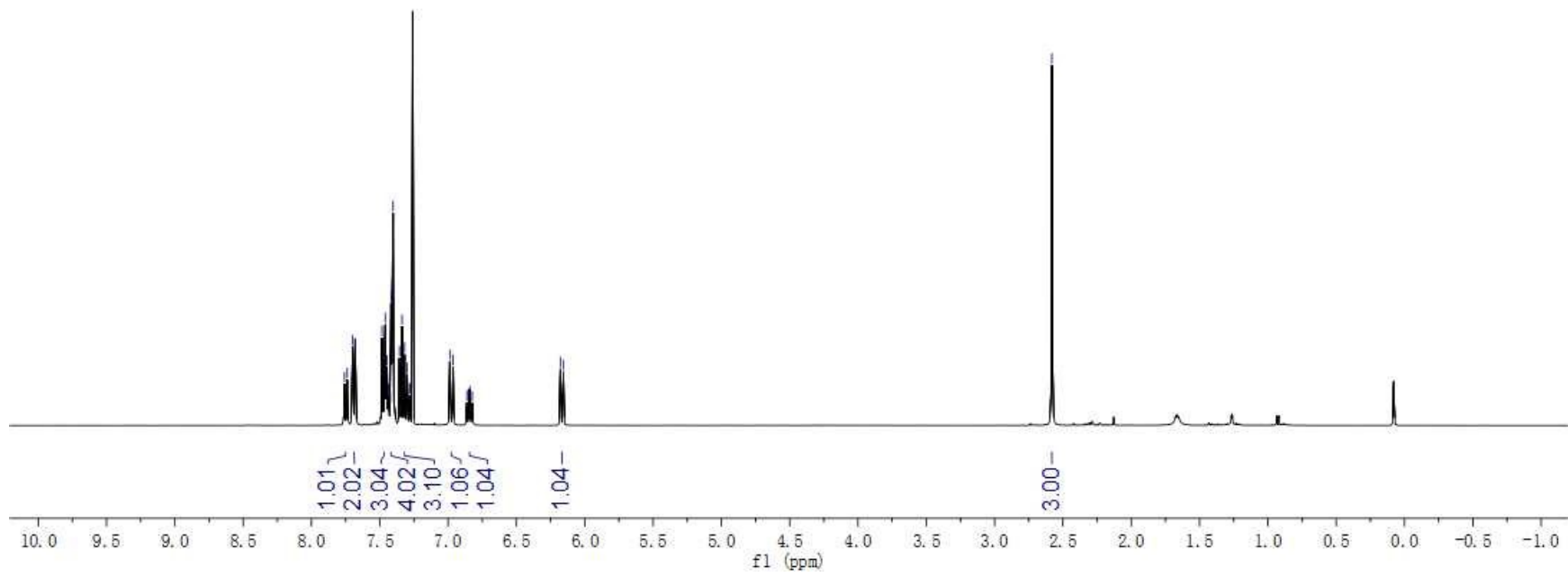
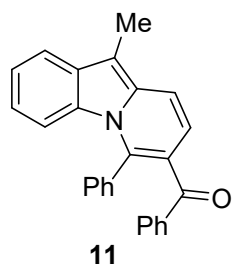


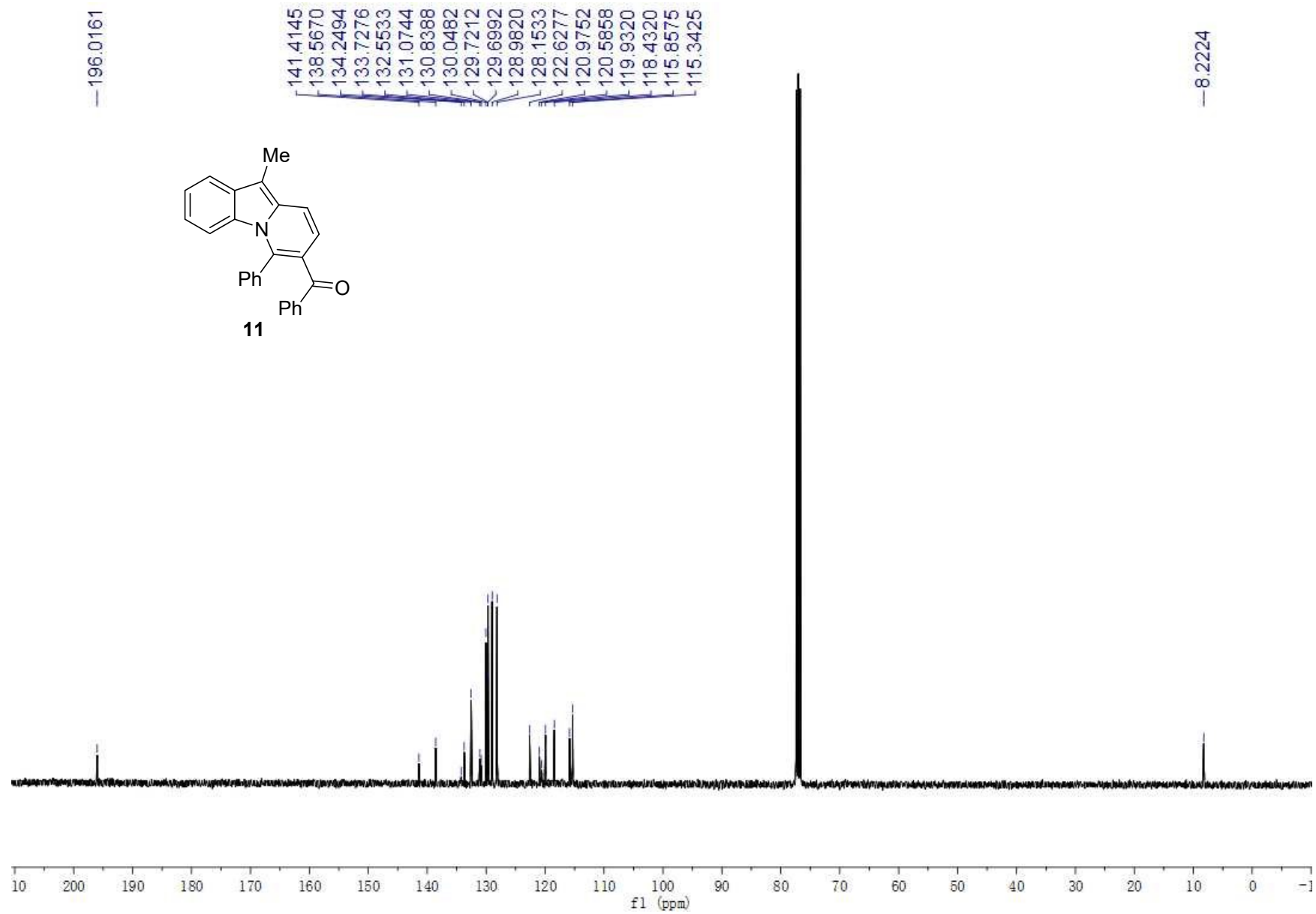




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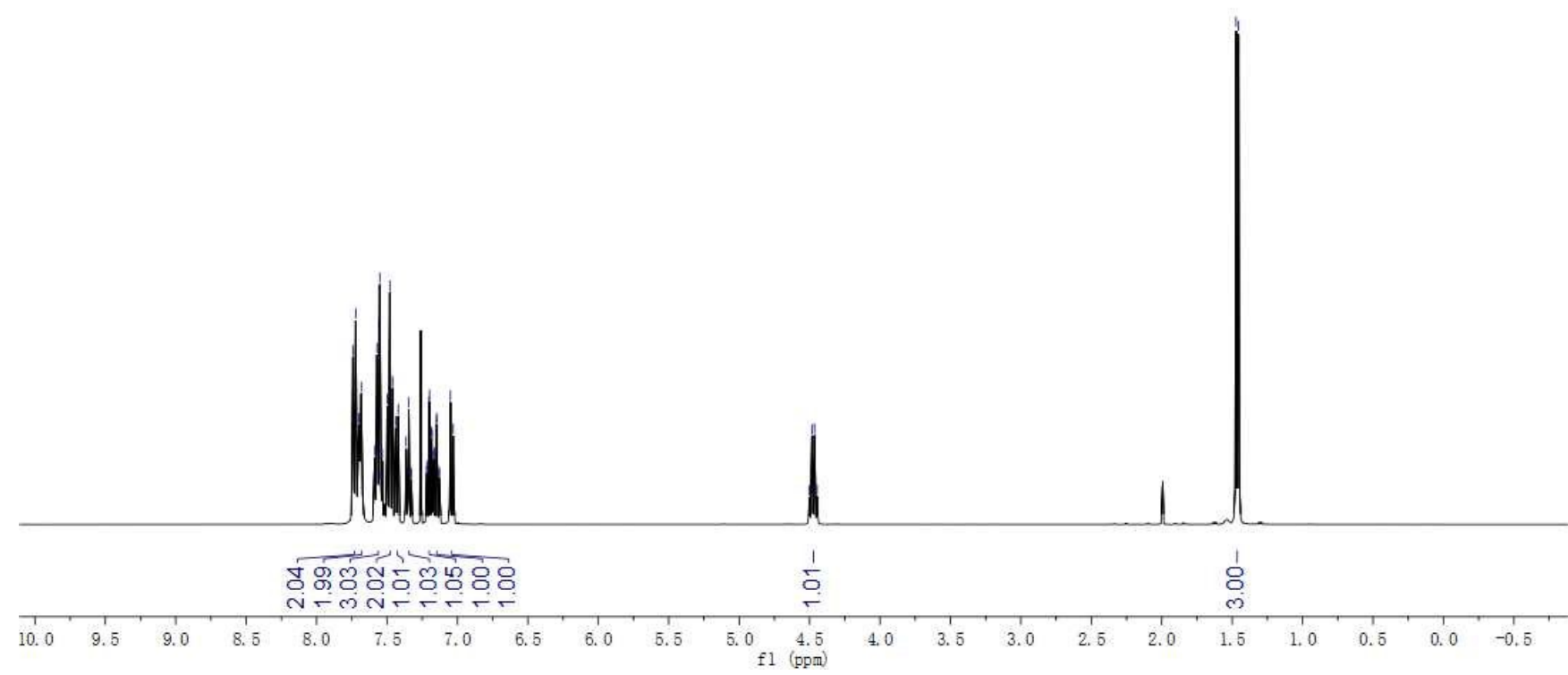
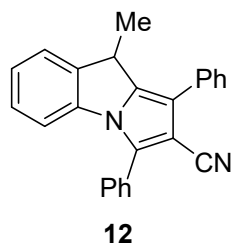
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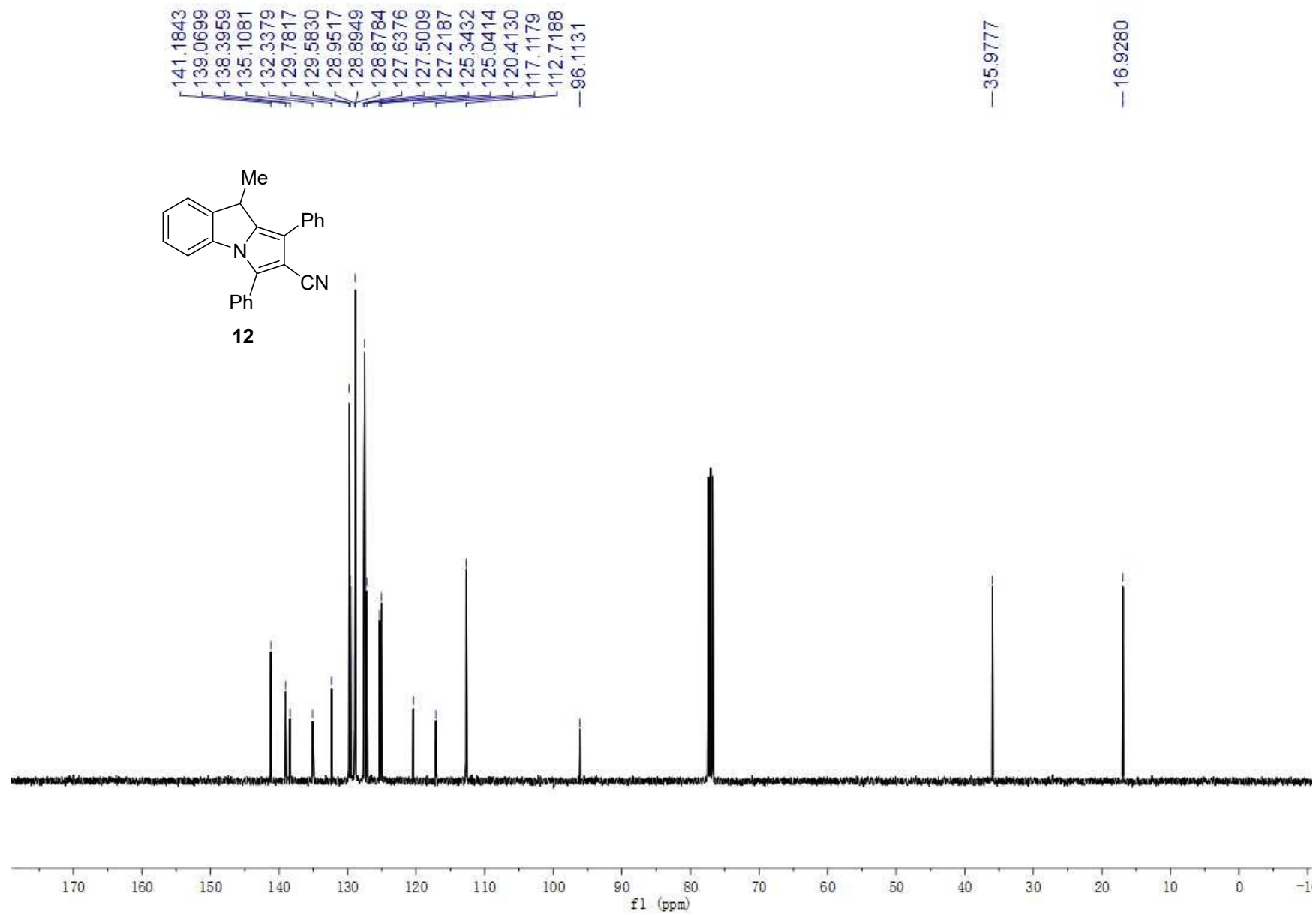




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—1.8555

