

# The Application of NH<sub>4</sub>SCN as Nontoxic Cyanide Source for Divergent Strecker Synthesis of Aminonitriles and Iminonitriles

Xiaofan Wang,<sup>a</sup> Bingyue Zhao<sup>a</sup> Lingzhi Xu,<sup>a</sup> Xuemin Li,<sup>a</sup> Haofeng Shi<sup>a</sup>  
and Yunfei Du<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>[a]</sup>Tianjin Key Laboratory for Modern Drug Delivery & High-Efficiency, School of  
Pharmaceutical Science and Technology, Tianjin University, Tianjin 300072,  
China. E-mail: duyunfeier@tju.edu.cn

## Supporting Information

<b>I</b>	General Information	<b>S1</b>
<b>II</b>	General Procedures and Characterization Data	<b>S2-S17</b>
<b>III</b>	X-ray Crystal Structure and Data of <b>4h</b>	<b>S18-S19</b>
<b>IV</b>	Mechanistic Investigation	<b>S20-S22</b>
<b>V</b>	References	<b>S23</b>
<b>VI</b>	NMR ( <sup>1</sup> H, <sup>13</sup> C and <sup>19</sup> F) Spectra	<b>S24-S84</b>

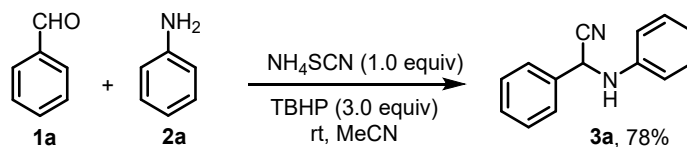
## I. General Information

$^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  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 ( $\delta$ ) 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. General Procedures and Characterization Data

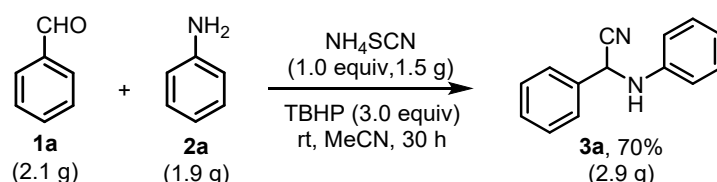
### 1. Procedure A for Synthesis of Aminonitrile 3a:



A mixture of ammonium thiocyanate (114 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP) (614  $\mu\text{L}$ , 4.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were stirred at room temperature in MeCN (8 mL) for 18 h. Then aldehyde **1a** (153  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and amine **2a** (137  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added to the solution. The mixture was stirred for another 12 h at room temperature.

When the reaction was completed, the reaction was quenched with aq. hydrogen peroxide solution (30% w/w, 2 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/PE = 1:9) to give the desired product **3a** as a yellow solid (243.4 mg, 78%).

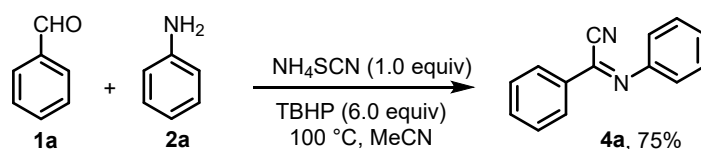
#### Gram-scale synthesis of product 3a:



A mixture of ammonium thiocyanate (1.5 g, 19.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and TBHP (8 mL, 59.1 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were stirred at room temperature in MeCN (60 mL) for 18 h. Aldehyde **1a** (2 mL, 19.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and amine **2a** (1.8 mL, 19.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added to the solution. The mixture was stirred for another 12 h at room temperature.

When the reaction was completed, the reaction was quenched with aq. hydrogen peroxide solution (30% w/w, 10 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 x 60 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/PE = 1:9) to give the desired product **3a** as a yellow solid (2.9 g, 70%).

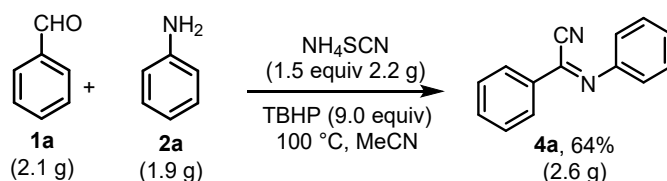
### 2. Procedure B for Synthesis of Iminonitrile 4a



A mixture of ammonium thiocyanate (114.2 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and TBHP (614  $\mu\text{L}$ , 4.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were stirred at room temperature in MeCN (8 mL) for 18 h. Aldehyde **1a** (153  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and amine **2a** (137  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added to the solution. The mixture was stirred for another 12 h at room temperature. To the resulting mixture was added TBHP (614  $\mu\text{L}$ , 4.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at  $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (oil bath) for 6 h.

When the reaction was completed, the reaction was quenched with aq. hydrogen peroxide solution (30% w/w, 2 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (PE) to give the desired product **4a** as a brown solid (231.7 mg, 75%).

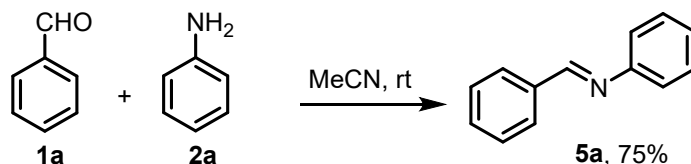
#### Gram-scale synthesis of product **4a**:



A mixture of ammonium thiocyanate (2.2 g, 29.6 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and TBHP (12 mL, 88.7 mmol, 4.5 equiv) were stirred at room temperature in MeCN (80 mL) for 18 h. Aldehyde **1a** (2 mL, 19.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and amine **2a** (1.8 mL, 19.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added to the solution. The mixture was stirred for another 12 h at room temperature. To the resulting mixture was added TBHP (12 mL, 88.7 mmol, 4.5 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at  $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (oil bath) for 6 h.

When the reaction was completed, the reaction was quenched with aq. hydrogen peroxide solution (30% w/w, 10 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 x 60 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (PE) to give the desired product **4a** as a brown solid (2.6 g, 64%).

### 3. Procedure C for Synthesis of Imine **5a**

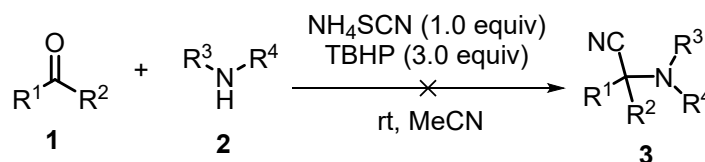


A mixture of aldehyde **1a** (1530  $\mu\text{L}$ , 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and amine **2a** (1370  $\mu\text{L}$ , 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in MeCN (20 mL) was stirred for 4 h at room temperature. When the reaction was completed, the reaction mixture was dried with  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (PE) to give the desired product **5a** as a whited solid (2745 mg, 75%).

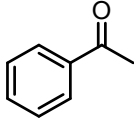
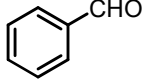
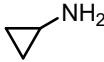

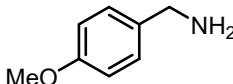
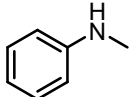
#### 4. Further Investigations on Substrate Scopes

After investigating the substrate scopes of the method as shown in Table 2 and Table 3 of the text, we found it is somewhat narrow than that of the classic Strecker reaction. Representative examples were shown here. Actually, we have studied the reaction of many aliphatic aldehydes and aliphatic amines, including the pre-prepared imines. Unfortunately, none of them was suitable for this transformation.

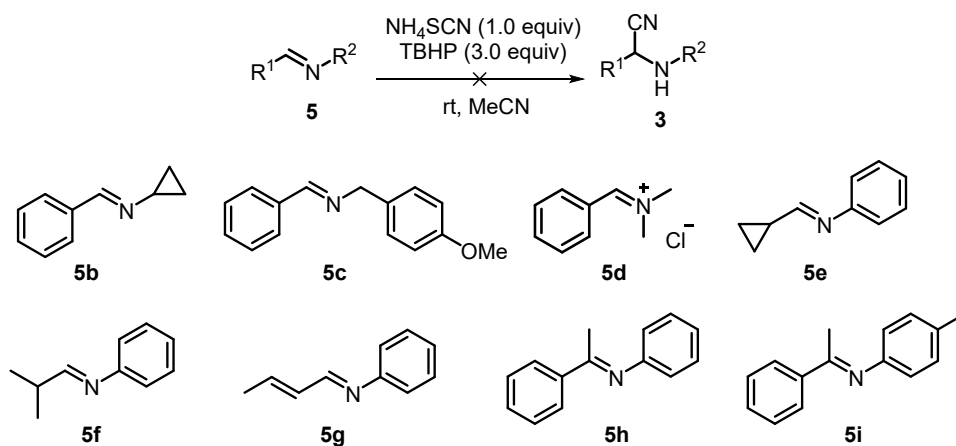
Here are some examples using aliphatic aldehydes or aliphatic amines.



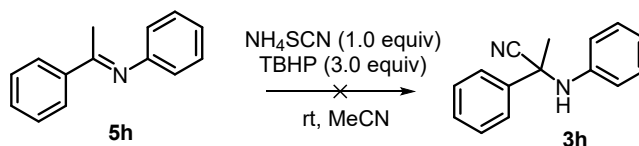
1	2

Here are some examples using pre-prepared imines derived from aliphatic aldehydes or aliphatic amines (**5b-g** were known compounds synthesized according to previous report<sup>4</sup>).

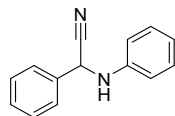


We also tried the reaction of acetophenone and aniline. Disappointingly, the reaction also did not provide the desired aminonitrile.



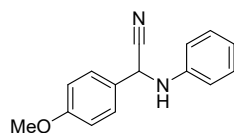
## 5. Characterization Data of 3a-t

### 2-Phenyl-2-(phenylamino)acetonitrile (3a)



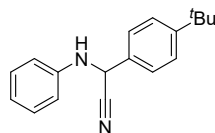
Following the general procedure A, **3a** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A brown solid (243 mg, 78%); mp: 138 – 141 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.89 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 5.41 (s, 1H), 4.01 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 144.8, 134.0, 129.70, 129.68, 129.5, 127.4, 120.4, 118.3, 114.3, 50.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 209.1073, found 209.1075.

### 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(phenylamino)acetonitrile (3b)



Following the general procedure A, **3b** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A yellow solid (275 mg, 77%); mp: 123 – 124 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.89 – 6.82 (m, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 3.98 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 160.4, 144.7, 129.5, 128.6, 125.9, 120.1, 118.4, 114.6, 114.1, 55.4, 49.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 239.1179, found 239.1172.

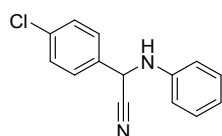
### 2-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)-2-(phenylamino)acetonitrile (3c)



Following the general procedure A, **3c** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A brown solid (320 mg, 81%); mp: 115 – 116 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.55 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.87 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.75

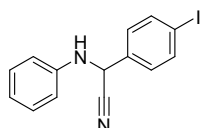
(d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 4.13 (s, 1H), 1.31 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  153.0, 144.7, 131.0, 130.0, 127.2, 126.4, 120.4, 118.4, 114.3, 50.1, 34.9, 31.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaN}_2^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$ ] 287.1519, found 287.1529.

### 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(phenylamino)acetonitrile (3d)



Following the general procedure **A**, **3d** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A yellow solid (210 mg, 58%); mp: 131 – 133 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.50 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 6.89 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 4.03 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  144.5, 135.7, 132.5, 129.7, 129.6, 128.7, 120.7, 117.9, 114.4, 49.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}^{35}\text{ClN}_2^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ] 243.0684, found 243.0687.

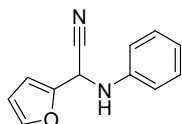
### 2-(4-Iodophenyl)-2-(phenylamino)acetonitrile (3e)



Following the general procedure **A**, **3e** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A yellow solid (270 mg, 54%); mp: 125 – 127 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.70 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 6.87 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 5.31 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.14 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  144.3, 138.3, 133.5, 129.5, 129.0, 120.4, 117.9, 114.3, 95.4, 49.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{IN}_2^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ] 335.0040, found 335.0042.

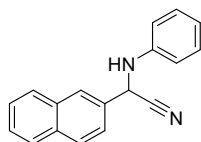
### 2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(phenylamino)acetonitrile (3f)





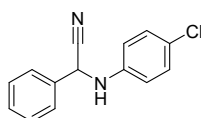
Following the general procedure **A**, **3f** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A yellow solid (205 mg, 69%); mp: 102 – 103 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (s, 1H), 4.20 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 146.2, 144.1, 129.7, 120.8, 116.6, 114.6, 111.0, 109.8, 44.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 199.0866, found 199.0863.

### 2-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-2-(phenylamino)acetonitrile (**3g**)



Following the general procedure **A**, **3g** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A brown solid (216 mg, 56%); mp: 144 – 145 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.97 – 7.86 (m, 3H), 7.63 – 7.56 (m, 3H), 7.35 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.94 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 4.16 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 144.6, 133.4, 133.0, 131.1, 129.6, 129.4, 128.2, 127.7, 127.1, 127.0, 126.6, 124.4, 120.3, 118.2, 114.2, 50.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 259.1230, found 259.1235.

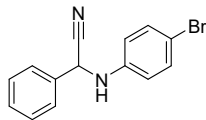
### 2-((4-Chlorophenyl)amino)-2-phenylacetonitrile (**3h**)



Following the general procedure **A**, **3h** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/ PE). A yellow solid (315.8 mg, 87%); mp: 129 – 131 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.62 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.39 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)

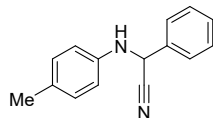
$\delta$  143.3, 133.6, 129.8, 129.6, 129.5, 127.3, 125.2, 118.0, 115.5, 50.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{14}H_{12}^{35}ClN_2^+$  [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 243.0684, found 243.0682.

### 2-((4-Bromophenyl)amino)-2-phenylacetonitrile (**3i**)



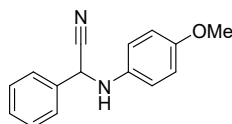
Following the general procedure **A**, **3i** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/ PE). A yellow solid (369 mg, 86%); mp: 117 – 119 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.61 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.9 Hz, 3H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.39 (s, 1H), 4.12 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  143.7, 133.5, 132.5, 129.8, 129.5, 127.3, 118.0, 115.9, 112.4, 50.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{14}H_{11}^{79}BrNaN_2^+$  [M + Na<sup>+</sup>] 308.9998, found 309.0008.

### 2-Phenyl-2-(p-tolylamino)acetonitrile (**3j**)



Following the general procedure **A**, **3j** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/ PE). A yellow solid (239 mg, 72%); mp: 125 – 127 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.61 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.49 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.41 (s, 1H), 3.92 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.5, 134.2, 130.2, 129.9, 129.6, 129.4, 127.4, 118.5, 114.6, 50.8, 20.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{15}H_{15}N_2^+$  [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 223.1230, found 223.1233.

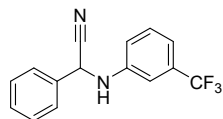
### 2-((4-Methoxyphenyl)amino)-2-phenylacetonitrile (**3k**)



Following the general procedure **A**, **3k** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/ PE). A yellow solid (290 mg, 81%); mp: 127 – 128 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.60 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 6.94 – 6.65 (m, 4H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 4.10 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  154.2,

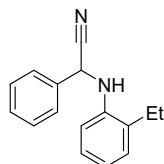
138.7, 134.3, 129.6, 129.4, 127.4, 118.6, 116.4, 115.1, 55.8, 51.7. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{15}H_{15}N_2O^+$  [ $M + H^+$ ] 239.1179, found 239.1180.

### 2-Phenyl-2-((3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)amino)acetonitrile (**3l**)



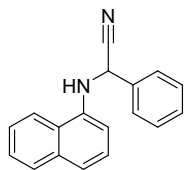
Following the general procedure **A**, **3l** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/ PE). A brown solid (199 mg, 48%); mp: 129 – 130 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.59 (d,  $J = 3.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 3H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.93 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 4.33 (s, 1H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  145.0, 133.3, 132.0 (q,  $^2J_{C-F} = 32.3$  Hz), 130.2, 129.9, 129.6, 127.3, 124.1 (q,  $^1J_{C-F} = 273.7$  Hz), 117.8, 116.9, 116.8 (q,  $^3J_{C-F} = 3.0$  Hz), 110.8, 50.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{15}H_{12}F_3N_2^+$  [ $M + H^+$ ] 277.0947, found 277.0952.

### 2-((2-Ethylphenyl)amino)-2-phenylacetonitrile (**3m**)



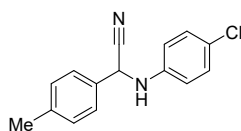
Following the general procedure **A**, **3m** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/ PE). A yellow solid (280 mg, 79%); mp: 138 – 139 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.64 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.98 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 3.96 (s, 1H), 2.50 (q,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.3, 134.3, 129.7, 129.5, 129.4, 128.6, 127.3, 127.3, 120.3, 118.5, 112.0, 50.3, 23.9, 13.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{16}H_{17}N_2^+$  [ $M + H^+$ ] 237.1386, found 237.1388.

### 2-(Naphthalen-1-ylamino)-2-phenylacetonitrile (**3n**)



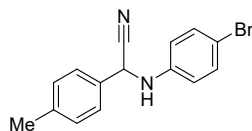
Following the general procedure **A**, **3n** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A yellow solid (158 mg, 41%); mp: 144 – 146 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.41 (m, 7H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 4.66 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 140.0, 134.4, 134.1, 129.8, 129.6, 129.0, 127.5, 126.3, 126.3, 125.7, 124.1, 120.8, 119.9, 118.3, 107.5, 50.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 259.1230, found 259.1234.

### 2-((4-Chlorophenyl)amino)-2-(*p*-tolyl)acetonitrile (**3o**)



Following the general procedure **A**, **3o** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A brown solid (288 mg, 75%); mp: 133 – 134 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 4.06 (s, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 143.4, 139.9, 130.7, 130.2, 129.6, 127.2, 125.1, 118.2, 115.5, 50.1, 21.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub><sup>35</sup>ClN<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 257.0840, found 257.0844.

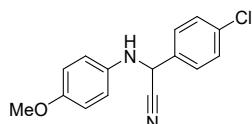
### 2-((4-Bromophenyl)amino)-2-(*p*-tolyl)acetonitrile (**3p**)



Following the general procedure **A**, **3p** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A brown solid (324 mg, 72%); mp: 157 – 158 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,

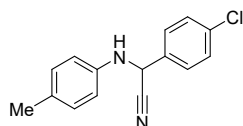
Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.44 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d,  $J = 5.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.64 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 4.04 (s, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  143.7, 139.9, 132.5, 130.6, 130.2, 127.3, 118.1, 116.0, 112.5, 50.1, 21.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}^{79}\text{BrNaN}_2^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$ ] 323.0154, found 323.0152.

### 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)acetonitrile (3q)



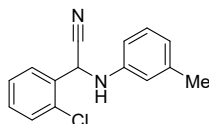
Following the general procedure **A**, **3q** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A brown solid (184 mg, 45%); mp: 117 – 119 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.54 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 4.00 – 3.78 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  154.4, 138.3, 135.6, 132.7, 129.6, 128.7, 118.2, 116.7, 115.1, 55.8, 51.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}^{35}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ] 273.0789, found 273.0792.

### 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(*p*-tolylamino)acetonitrile (3r)



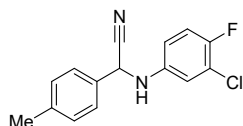
Following the general procedure **A**, **3r** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A brown solid (307 mg, 80%); mp: 135 – 136 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.54 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 6.69 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 5.39 (s, 1H), 3.96 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.0, 135.6, 132.6, 130.3, 130.2, 129.6, 128.7, 118.0, 114.9, 50.2, 20.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}^{35}\text{ClN}_2^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ] 257.0840, found 257.0842.

### 2-(2-Chlorophenyl)-2-(*m*-tolylamino)acetonitrile (3s)



Following the general procedure **A**, **3s** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A yellow solid (238 mg, 62%); mp: 122 – 124 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.79 – 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 3.98 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 144.7, 139.6, 133.7, 132.0, 131.1, 130.6, 129.6, 129.2, 127.9, 121.5, 118.0, 115.2, 111.5, 48.2, 21.7. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub><sup>35</sup>ClN<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 257.0840, found 257.0844.

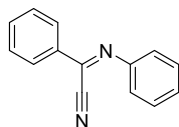
### 2-((3-Chloro-4-fluorophenyl)amino)-2-(*p*-tolyl)acetonitrile (**3t**)



Following the general procedure **A**, **3t** was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/PE). A brown solid (230 mg, 56%); mp: 125 – 126 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.62 – 6.56 (m, 1H), 5.28 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 152.7 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 242.2 Hz), 141.6 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 140.0, 130.5, 130.2, 127.2, 121.8 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 19.0 Hz), 118.0, 117.3 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 22.4 Hz), 116.0, 113.7 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 6.6 Hz), 50.5, 21.33. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub><sup>35</sup>ClFN<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 275.0746, found 275.0748.

## 6. Characterization Data of 4a-h

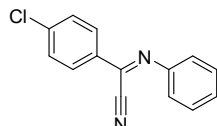
### (*Z*)-*N*-Phenylbenzimidoyl cyanide (**4a**)



Following the general procedure **B**, **4a** was purified by silica gel chromatography (PE). A yellow solid (231 mg, 75%); mp: 108 – 110 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)

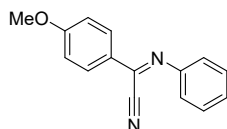
$\delta$  8.08 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.48 (dt,  $J = 14.8, 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 7.39 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  149.1, 139.8, 133.6, 132.8, 129.2, 129.0, 128.2, 127.3, 120.3, 110.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ] 207.0917, found 207.0916.

**(Z)-4-Chloro-N-phenylbenzimidoyl cyanide (4b)**



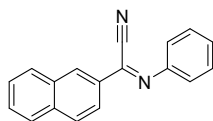
Following the general procedure **B**, **4b** was purified by silica gel chromatography (PE). A yellow solid (209 mg, 58%); mp: 132 – 133 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  8.10 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H). HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}^{35}\text{ClN}_2^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ] 241.0527, found 241.0529.

**(Z)-4-Methoxy-N-phenylbenzimidoyl cyanide (4c)**



Following the general procedure **B**, **4c** was purified by silica gel chromatography (PE). Yellow oil (226 mg, 64%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  8.05 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.11 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  163.6, 149.6, 139.3, 130.3, 129.4, 127.0, 126.7, 120.5, 114.6, 111.1, 55.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ] 237.1022, found 237.1025.

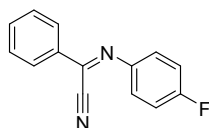
**(Z)-N-Phenyl-2-naphthimidoyl cyanide (4d)**



Following the general procedure **B**, **4d** was purified by silica gel chromatography (PE). Yellow oil (200 mg, 52%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  8.60 (s, 1H), 8.27 (dd,

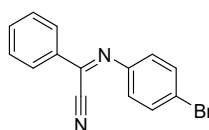
$J = 8.7, 1.9$  Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.25 (dt,  $J = 7.3, 1.2$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  149.4, 139.9, 135.6, 132.8, 131.5, 131.2, 129.5, 129.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.1, 127.5, 127.4, 123.0, 120.6, 111.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ] 257.1073, found 257.1079.

**(Z)-N-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzimidoyl cyanide (4e)**



Following the general procedure **B**, **4e** was purified by silica gel chromatography (PE). A yellow solid (181 mg, 54%); mp: 122 – 124 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  8.15 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  162.0 (d,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 248.5$  Hz), 145.1 (d,  $^4J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.0$  Hz), 139.8, 133.7, 133.1, 129.2, 128.4, 122.6 (d,  $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.0$  Hz), 116.4 (d,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.2$  Hz), 111.1.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  -114.36. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{FN}_2^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ] 225.0823, found 225.0833.

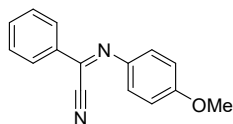
**(Z)-N-(4-Bromophenyl)benzimidoyl cyanide (4f)**



Following the general procedure **B**, **4f** was purified by silica gel chromatography (PE). Yellow oil (324 mg, 76%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  8.15 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.60 (dd,  $J = 7.9, 5.8$  Hz, 3H), 7.56 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  148.1, 140.4, 133.5, 133.3, 132.6, 129.3, 128.4, 122.3, 121.1, 110.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9^{79}\text{BrNaN}_2^+$  [ $\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$ ] 306.9841, found 306.9849.

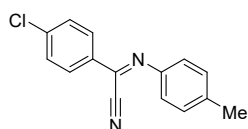
**(Z)-N-(4-Methoxyphenyl)benzimidoyl cyanide (4g)**





Following the general procedure **B**, **4g** was purified by silica gel chromatography (PE). A yellow solid (209 mg, 59%); mp: 128 – 130 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 3H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.5, 141.9, 137.0, 134.2, 132.5, 129.1, 128.0, 123.2, 114.6, 111.8, 55.7. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NaN<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M + Na<sup>+</sup>] 259.0842, found 259.0854.

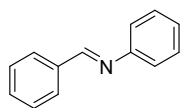
#### (*Z*)-4-Chloro-*N*-(*p*-tolyl)benzimidoyl cyanide (**4h**)



Following the general procedure **B**, **4h** was purified by silica gel chromatography (PE). A yellow solid (301 mg, 79%); mp: 132 – 134 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.13 – 8.04 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (s, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 146.3, 139.2, 138.2, 137.5, 132.5, 130.1, 129.5, 129.4, 120.9, 111.2, 21.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub><sup>35</sup>ClN<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 255.0684, found 255.0688.

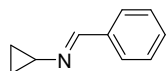
## 7. Characterization Data of **5a-b**

#### (*E*)-*N*,*I*-Diphenylmethanimine (**5a**)



Following the general procedure **C**, **5a** was purified by silica gel chromatography (PE). A white solid (2450 mg, 98%); mp: 92 – 94 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.47 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 160.6, 152.2, 136.3, 131.6, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 126.1, 121.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 182.0964, found 182.0966.

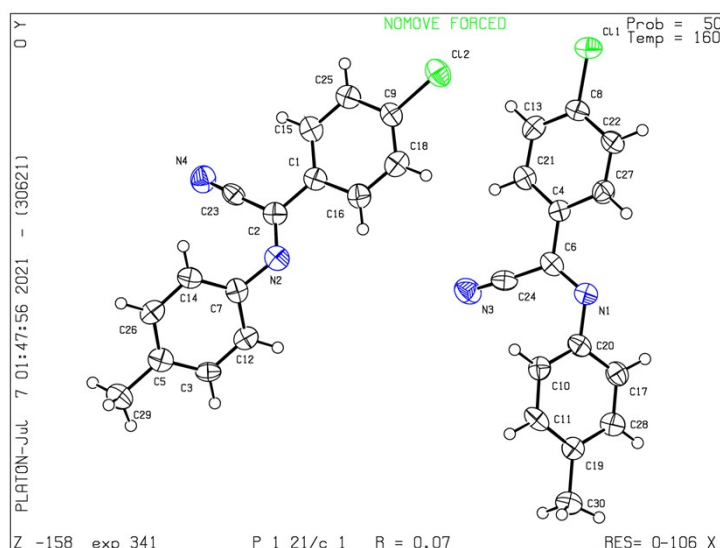
#### (*E*)-*N*-Cyclopropyl-1-phenylmethanimine (**5b**)



Following the general procedure **C**, **5b** was purified by silica gel chromatography (PE). A gray solid (387 mg, 88%); mp: 78 – 80 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.46 (s, 1H), 7.68 (dd, J = 6.7, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 3.03 (tt, J = 6.8, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.04 – 0.97 (m, 2H), 0.96 – 0.90 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 158.52, 136.61, 130.17, 128.64, 127.64, 42.07, 8.92. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M + H<sup>+</sup>] 146.0964, found 146.0961.

### III. X-ray Crystal Structure and Data of 4h

Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by slow evaporation of the solvent from a DCM solution of **4h**. Crystal data collection and refinement parameters of **4h** are summarized in Table S2. Intensity data were collected at 160 K on a ROD, Synergy Custom system, HyPix diffractometer using mirror-monochromated Cu K $\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda = 1.54184$  Å. The data were corrected for decay, Lorentz, and polarization effects as well as absorption and beam corrections based on the multi-scan technique. The structure was solved by the ShelXT [2] structure solution program using Intrinsic Phasing and refined with the ShelXL [3] refinement package using Least Squares minimisation.



**Figure S1** X-ray Crystal Structure of **4h** with 50% ellipsoid probability

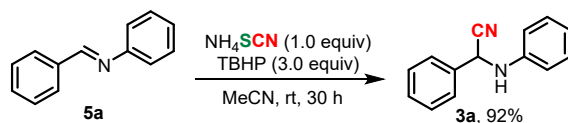
**Table S1** Crystal Data and Structure Refinement for **4h**

Identification code	4h
Empirical formula	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>11</sub> ClN <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	254.70
Temperature/K	159.99(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c
a/Å	21.7065(16)
b/Å	3.9870(2)

$c/\text{\AA}$	30.5412(18)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90
$\beta/^\circ$	110.142(8)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90
Volume/ $\text{\AA}^3$	2481.5(3)
Z	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{g/cm}^3$	1.364
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	2.560
F(000)	1056.0
Crystal size/ $\text{mm}^3$	$0.05 \times 0.05 \times 0.05$
Radiation	Cu $K\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 1.54184$ )
$2\Theta$ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	6.164 to 100.852
Index ranges	$-20 \leq h \leq 21, -3 \leq k \leq 3, -30 \leq l \leq 30$
Reflections collected	8134
Independent reflections	2429 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0454, R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0435$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	2429/0/327
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.081
Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R^1 = 0.0707, wR^2 = 0.1944$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R^1 = 0.0857, wR^2 = 0.2053$
Largest diff. peak/hole / $e \text{\AA}^{-3}$	0.45/-0.45

## IV. Mechanistic Investigation

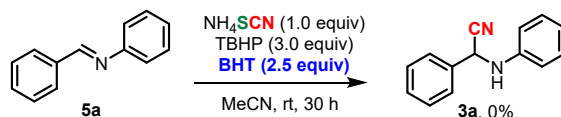
### 1. NH<sub>4</sub>SCN/TBHP-Mediated Cyanation of Imine



A mixture of ammonium thiocyanate (114 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and TBHP (614  $\mu$ L, 4.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv) in MeCN (8 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. To the solution was then added imine **5a** (270 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), stirred the mixture for another 12 h at room temperature.

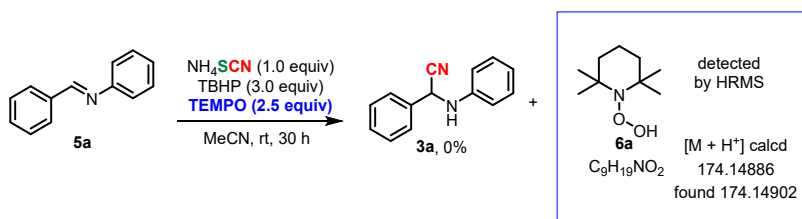
When the reaction was completed, the reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/PE = 1:9) to give the desired product **3a** as a yellow solid (280.4 mg, 92%).

### 2. BHT Inhibiting and TEMPO Trapping Experiments



A mixture of ammonium thiocyanate (114 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and TBHP (614  $\mu$ L, 4.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylphenol (BHT) (826.3 mg, 3.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv) in MeCN (8 mL) were stirred at room temperature for 18 h.<sup>1</sup> To the solution was then added imine **5a** (270 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), stirred the mixture for another 12 h at room temperature.

No **3a** was monitored by TLC.



A mixture of ammonium thiocyanate (114 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and TBHP (614  $\mu$ L, 4.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidinoxy (TEMPO) (585.0 mg, 3.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv) in MeCN was stirred at room temperature (8 mL) for 18 h.<sup>2-3</sup> To

the solution was added imine **5a** (270 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), then stirred the mixture for another 12 h at room temperature.

No **3a** was monitored by TLC. The HRMS spectrum (Figure S2) showed the formation of **6a** (adduct of TEMPO-OH).

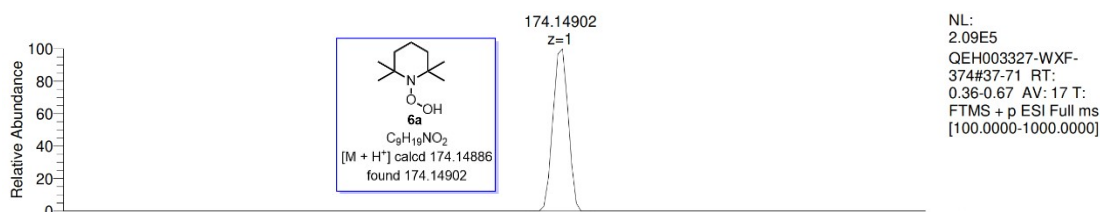
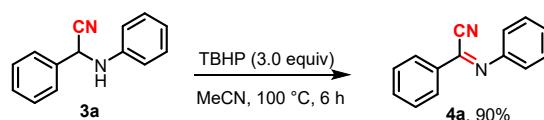


Figure S2

### 3. Oxidation of $\alpha$ -Aminonitrile



To a solution of **3a** (312 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in MeCN (8 mL) was added TBHP (614  $\mu$ L, 4.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 6 h.

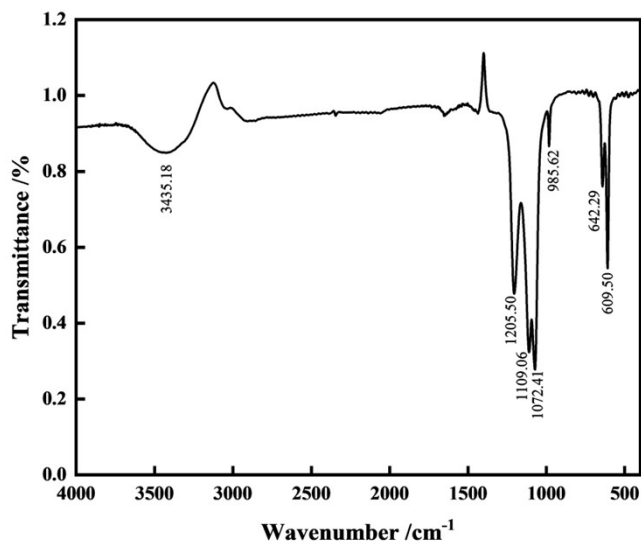
When the reaction was completed, the reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (PE) to give the desired product **4a** as a brown solid (268.1 mg, 90%).

### 4. Precipitation of BaSO<sub>4</sub>

A mixture of ammonium thiocyanate (114 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP) (614 mL, 4.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were stirred at room temperature in MeCN (8 mL) for 18 h. Then aldehyde **1a** (153 mL, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and amine **2a** (137 mL, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added to the solution. The mixture was stirred for another 12 h at room temperature.

When the reaction was completed, the reaction mixture was poured into deionized water (20 mL), and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3  $\times$  20 mL). The aqueous layer was transferred into a 100 mL Erlenmeyer flask, to which was added aq. solution of BaCl<sub>2</sub> (2 M, 3 mL), Then the precipitate generated was separated by filtration and dried at 67 °C to give a white powder (328 mg).<sup>5</sup> The powder was further analyzed by FT-IR

spectra using a FTIR, TENSOR II spectrometer (Bruker Technology Co., Ltd.) by incorporating samples in KBr disks to confirm the characteristic vibrational bands. Reflections (SI, Figure S3) of the precipitated solid agreed the IR spectra reported previously for BaSO<sub>4</sub>.<sup>6</sup>



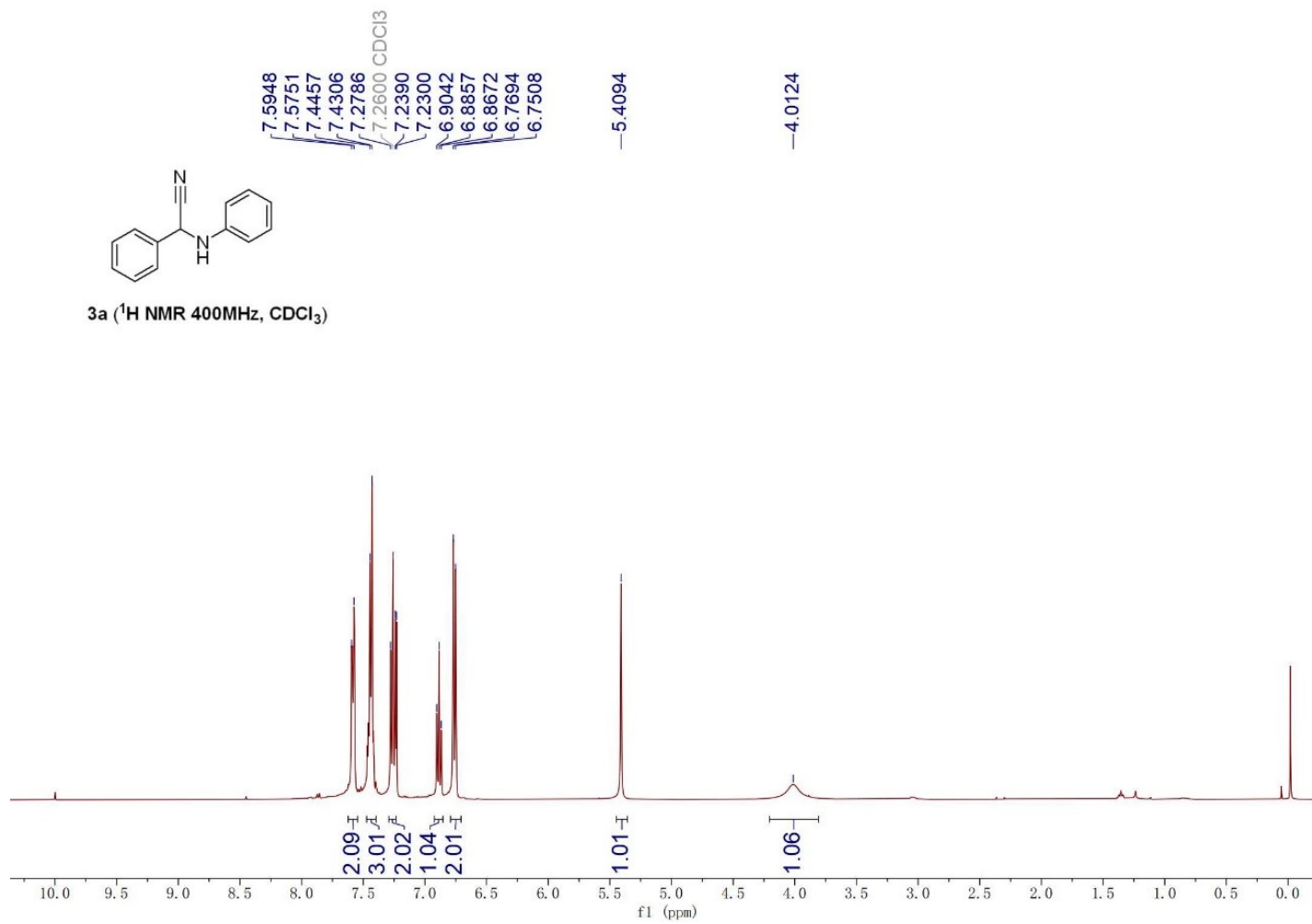
**Figure S3 FTIR spectra of precipitated solid**

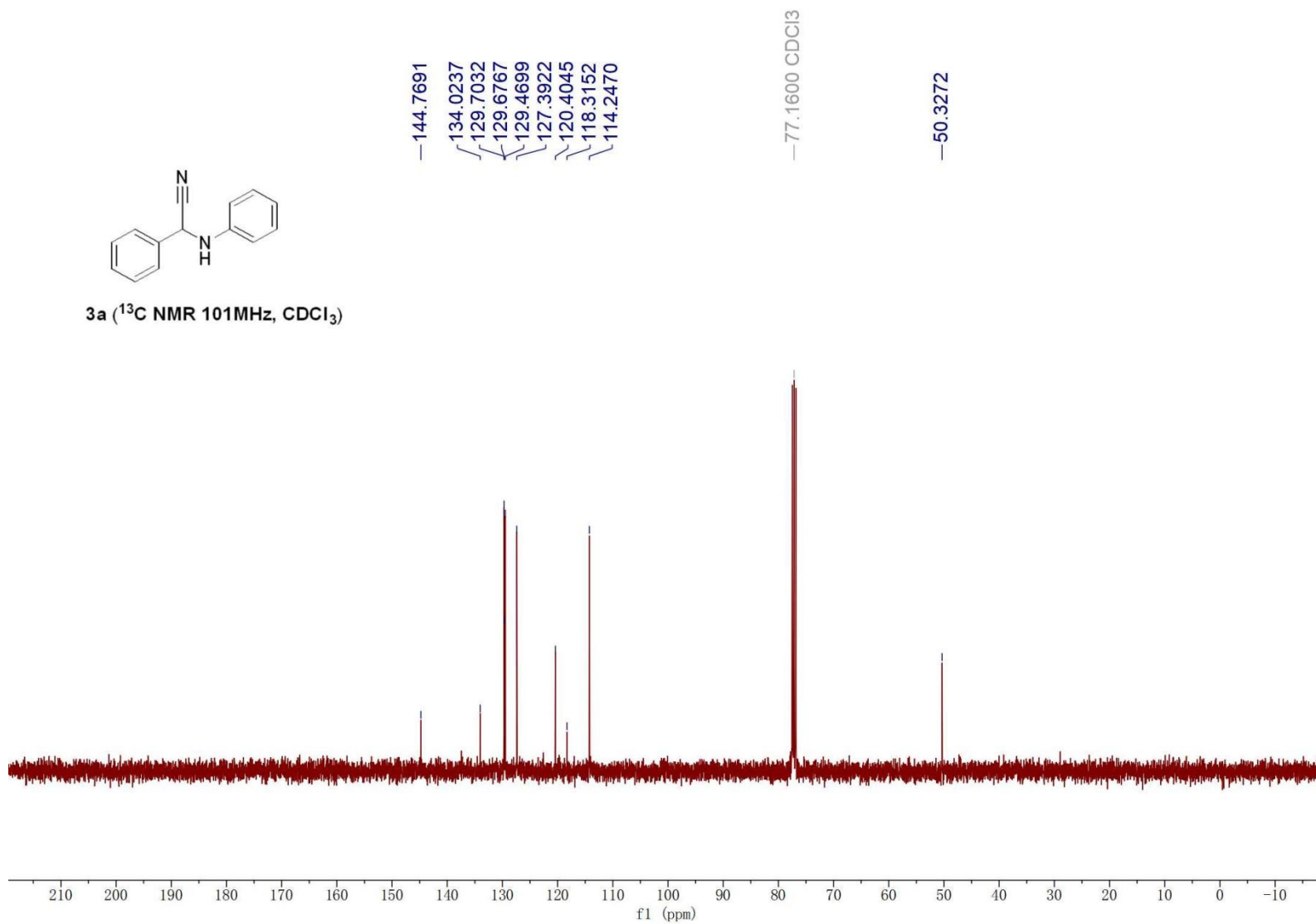
## V. References

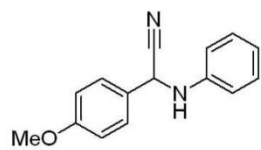
- (1) R. H. Matjie, R. Singh and C. A. Strydom, Oxidation of sodium thiocyanate (NaSCN) in streford aqueous liquor using air and commercial hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), *Energ. Fuel.*, 2016, **30**, 2345-2355.
- (2) Q. Yang, X. Yan, C. Feng, D. Chen, Z. Yan and K. Xu, Tandem Strecker/C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H amination reactions for the construction of cyanide-functionalized imidazo[1,5- $\alpha$ ]pyridines with NH<sub>4</sub>SCN as a cyanating agent, *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2021, **8**, 6384-6389.
- (3) Y. Li, X. Liang, K. Niu, J. Gu, F. Liu, Q. Xia, Q. Wang and W. Zhang, Visible-light-induced photocatalyst-free radical trifluoromethylation, *Org. Lett.*, 2022, **24**, 5918–5923.
- (4) N. Boyer, P. Gloanec, G. De Nanteuil, P. Jubault and J.-C. Quirion, Synthesis of  $\alpha,\alpha$ -difluoro- $\beta$ -amino esters or *gem*-difluoro- $\beta$ -lactams as potential metalloprotease inhibitors, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2008, **25**, 4277-4295.
- (5) A. Wagner and A. R. Ofial, Potassium thiocyanate as source of cyanide for the oxidative  $\alpha$ -cyanation of tertiary amines, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2015, **80**, 2848-2854
- (6) M. Zhang, B. Zhang, X. Li, Z. Yin, and X. Guo, Synthesis and surface properties of submicron barium sulfate particles. *Appl. Surf. Sci.*, 2011, **258**, 24-29.



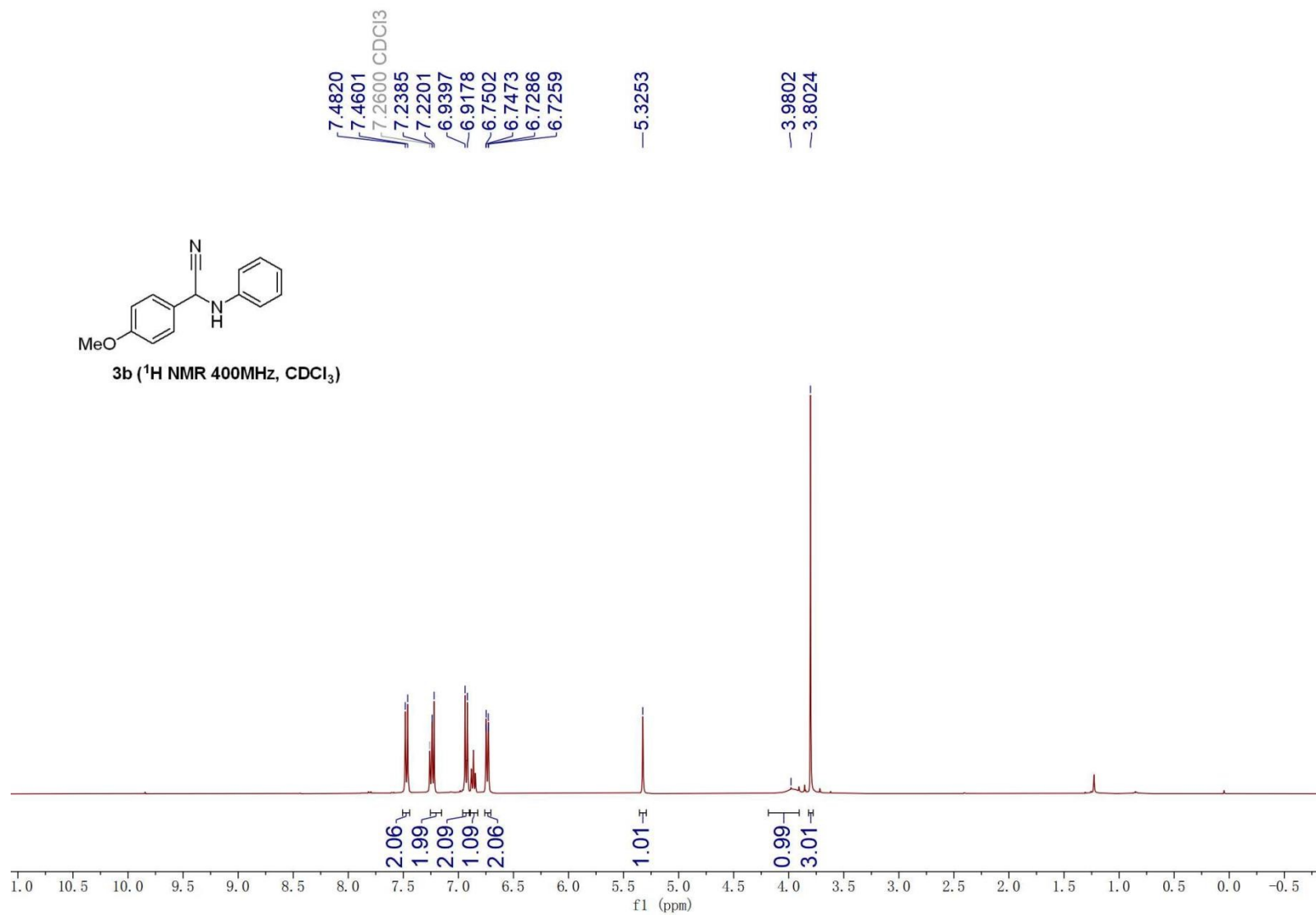
## VI. MNR Spectra

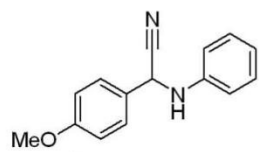




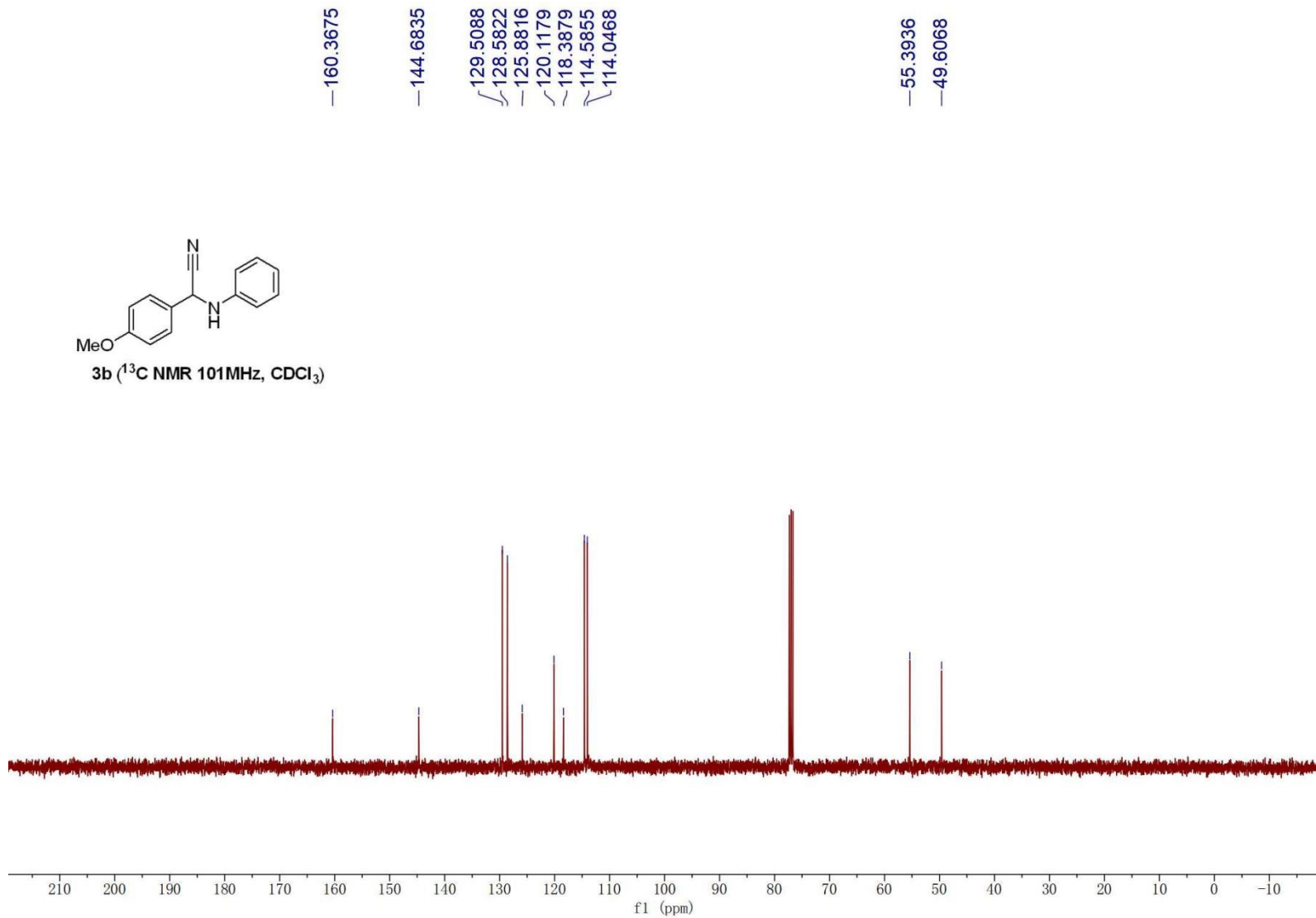


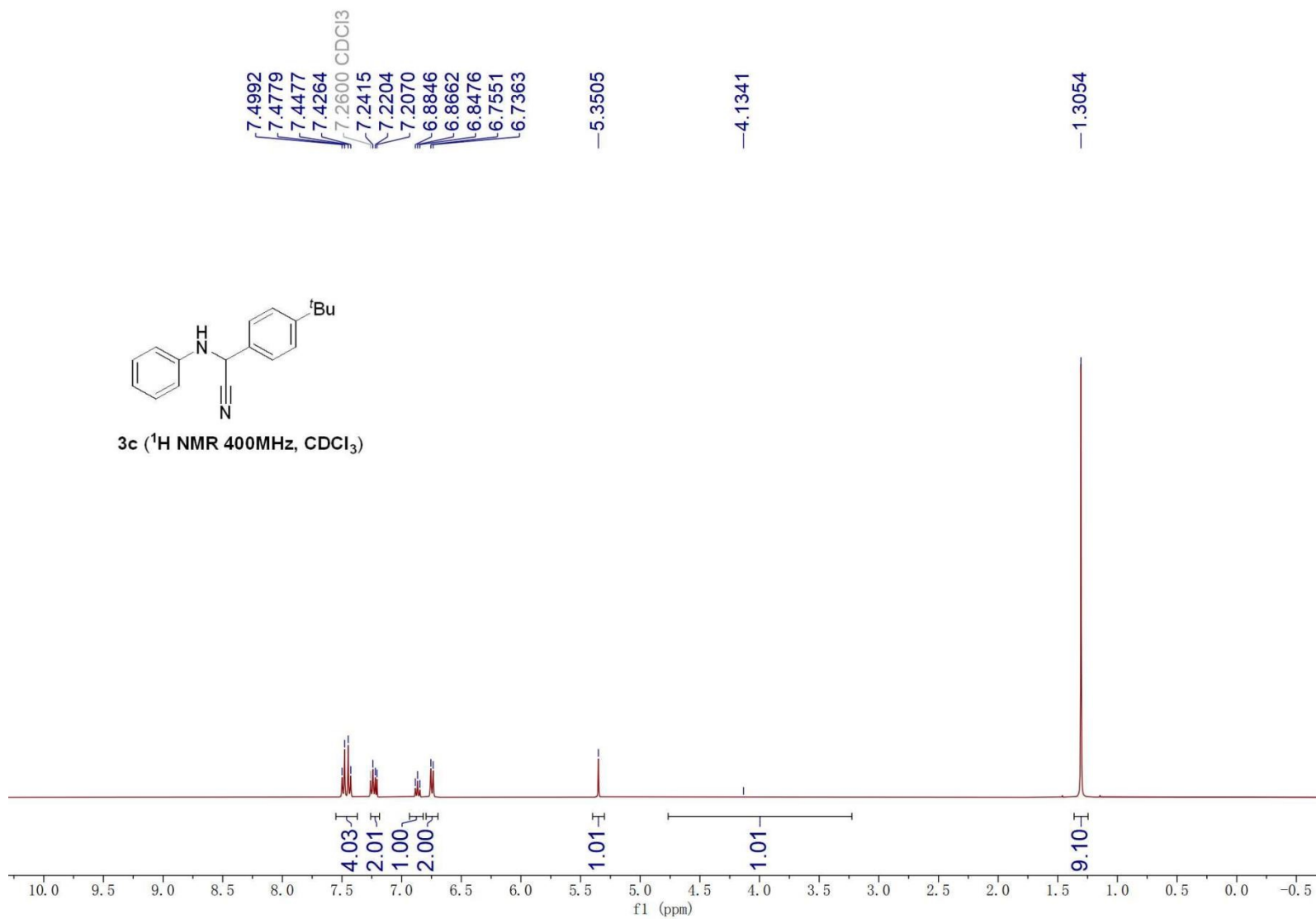
3b (<sup>1</sup>H NMR 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

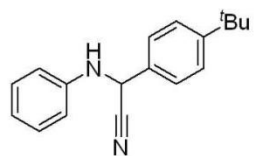




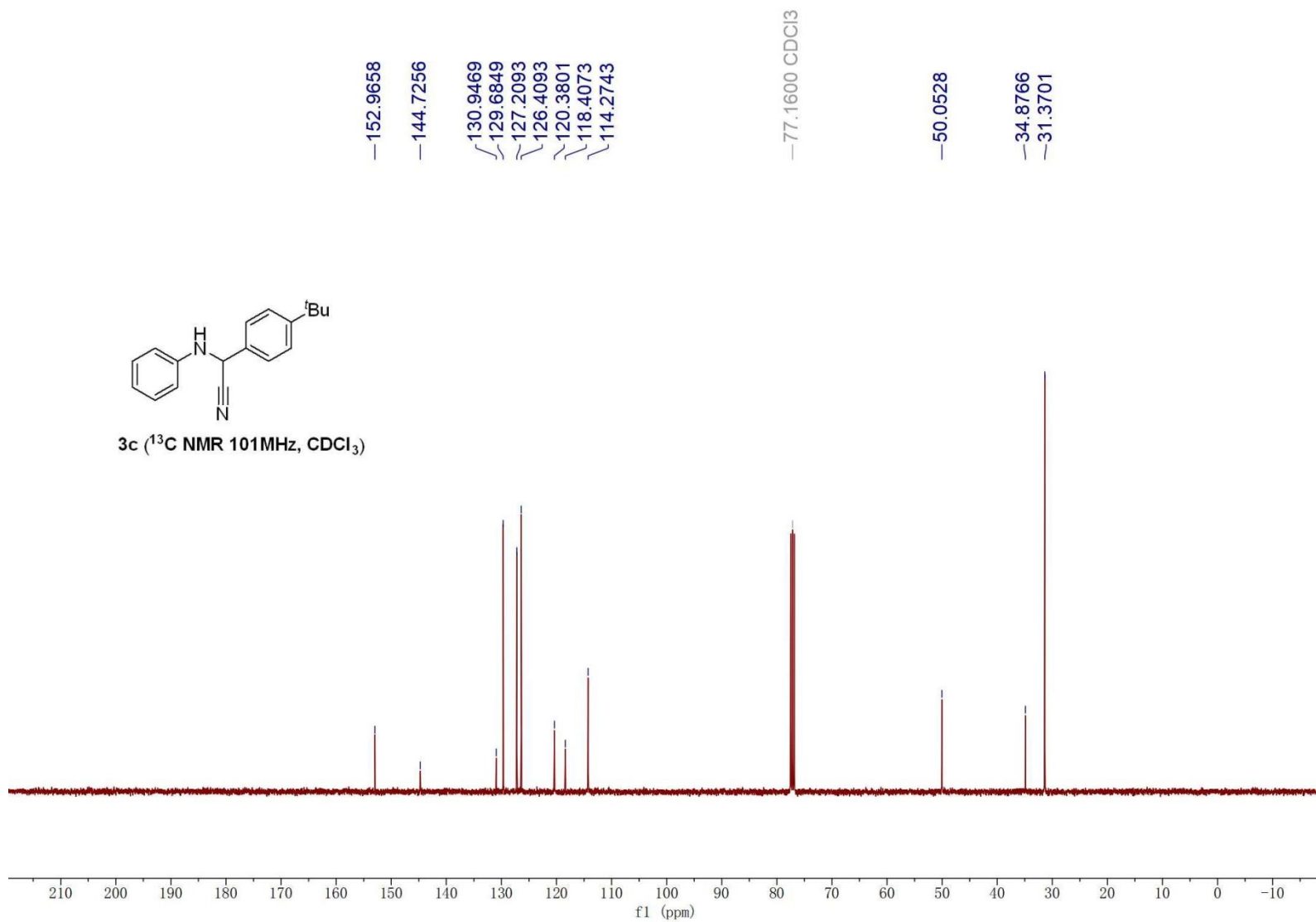
3b ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

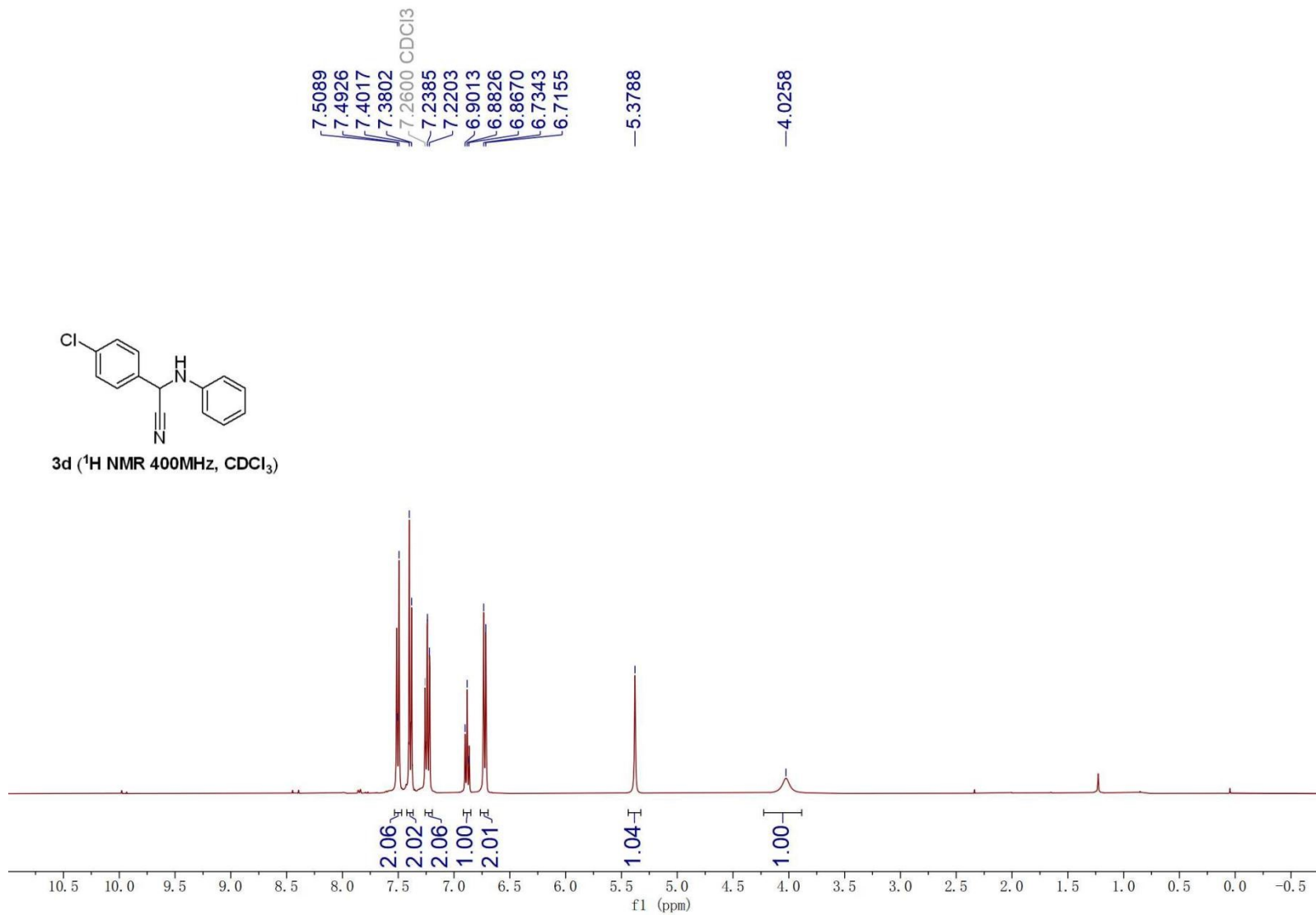


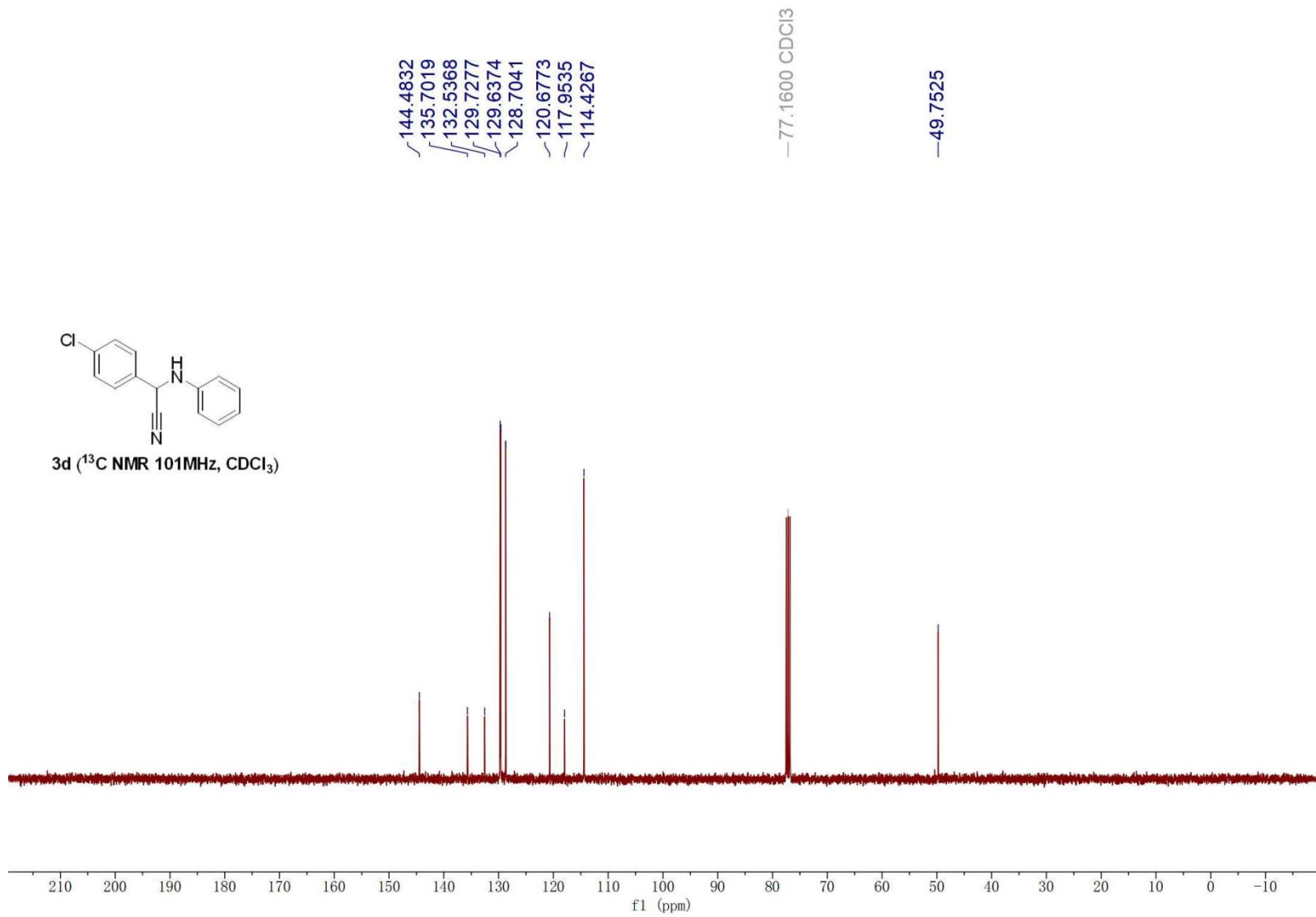




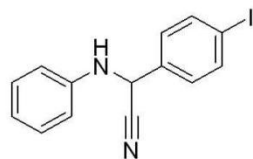
3c ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



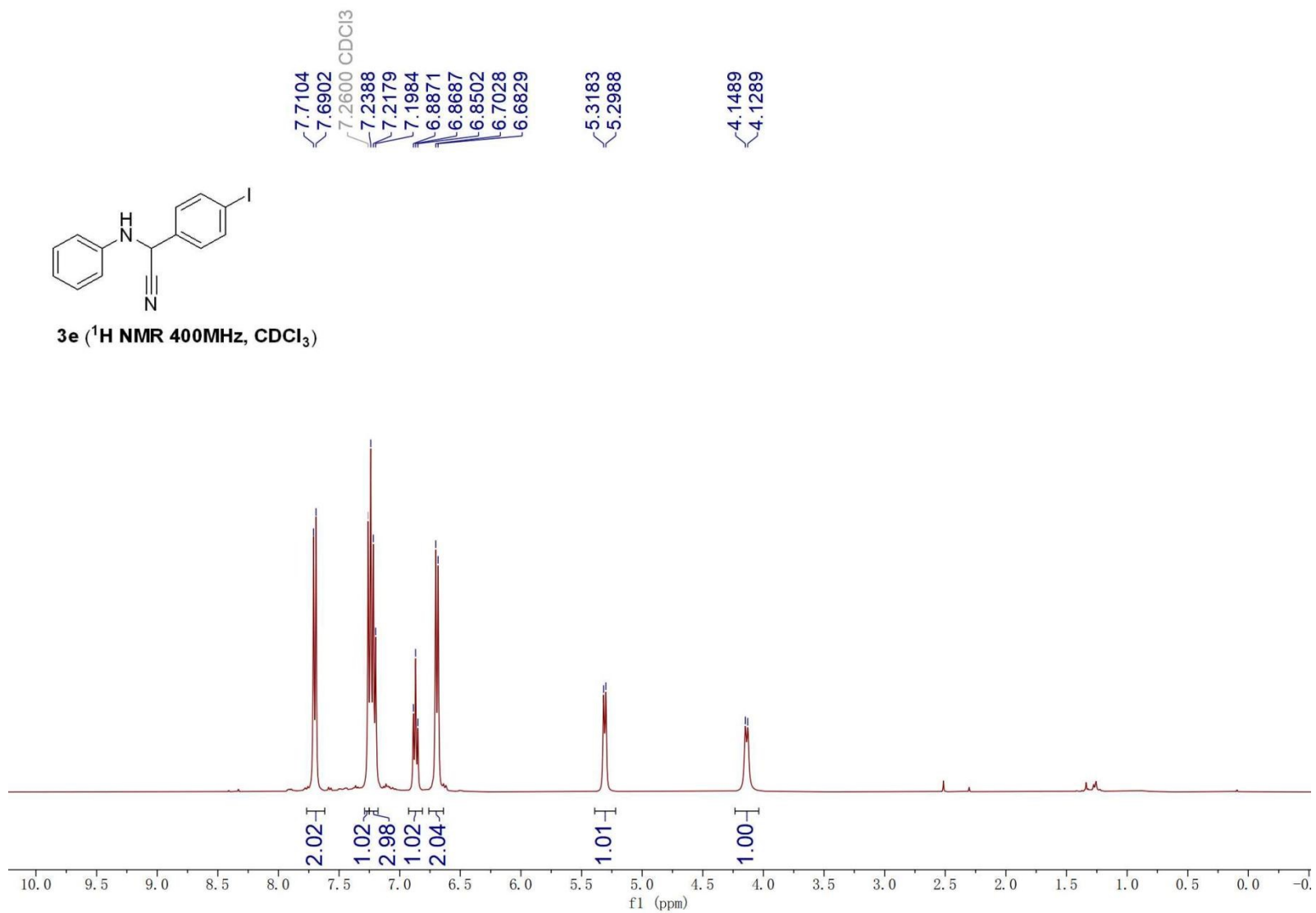


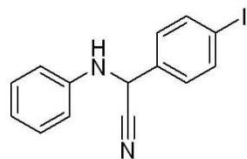




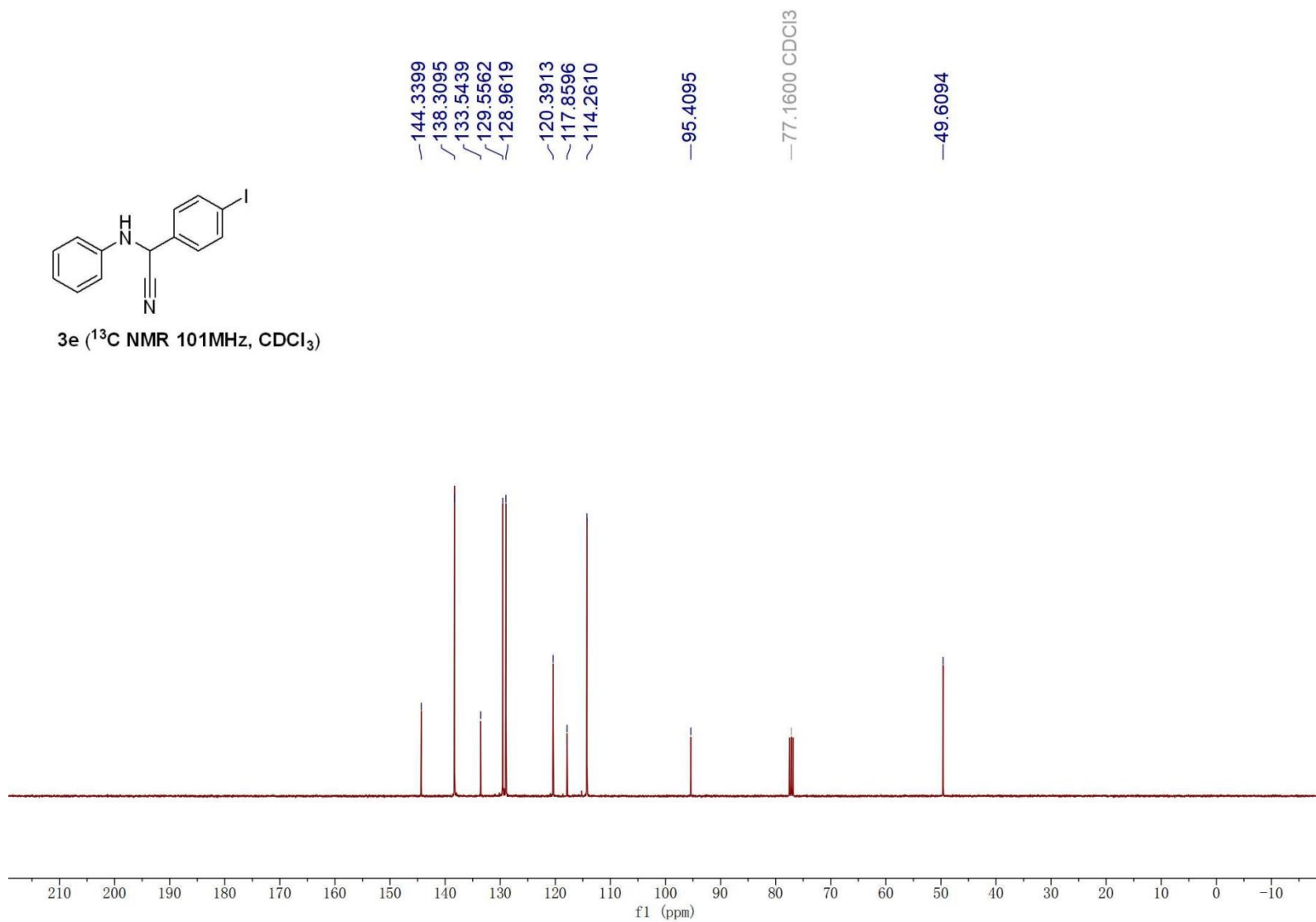


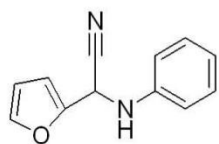
**3e** ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR 400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



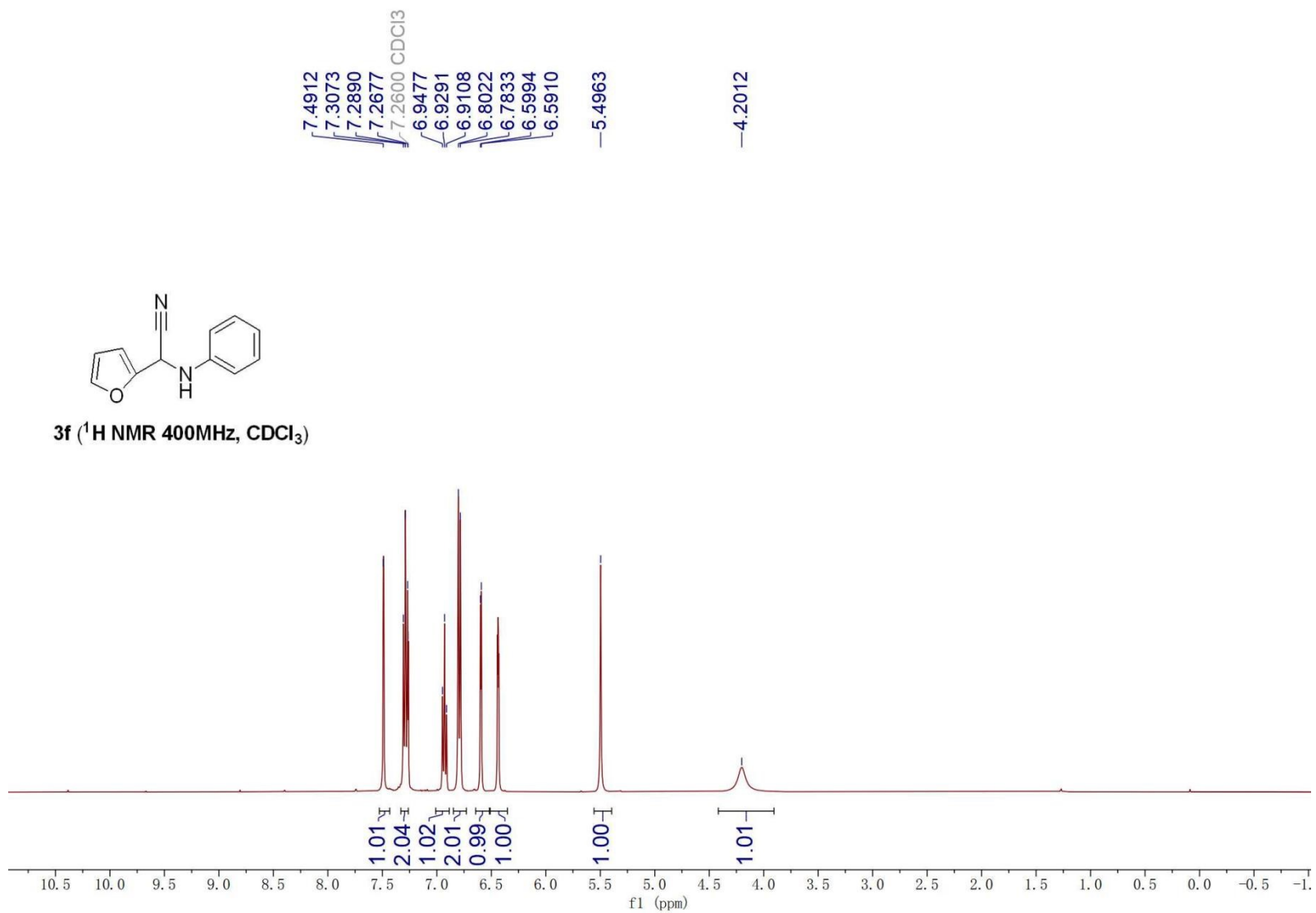


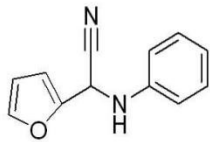
3e ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



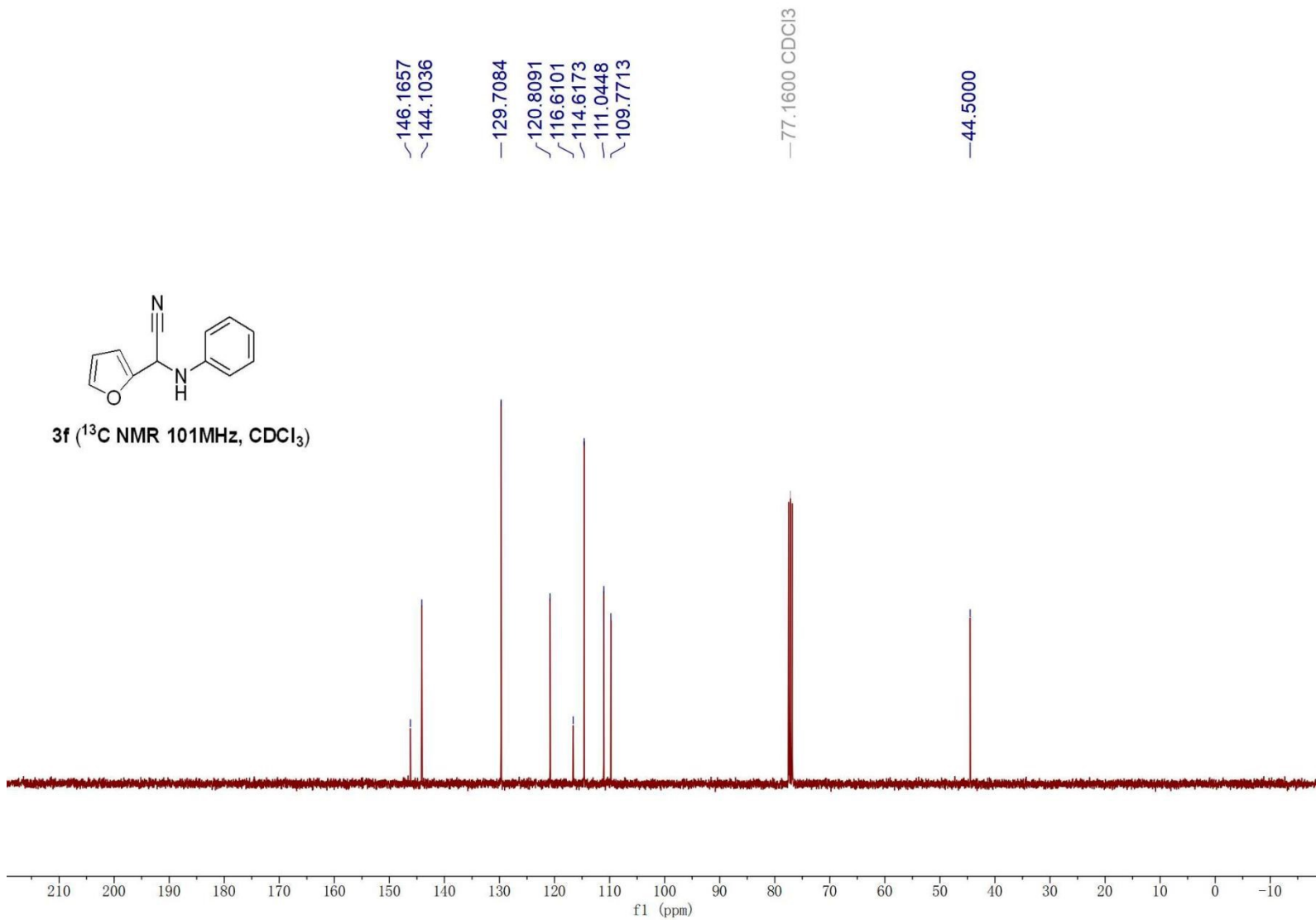


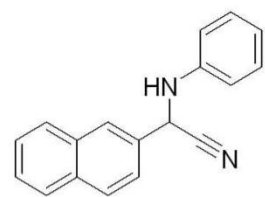
3f ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR 400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



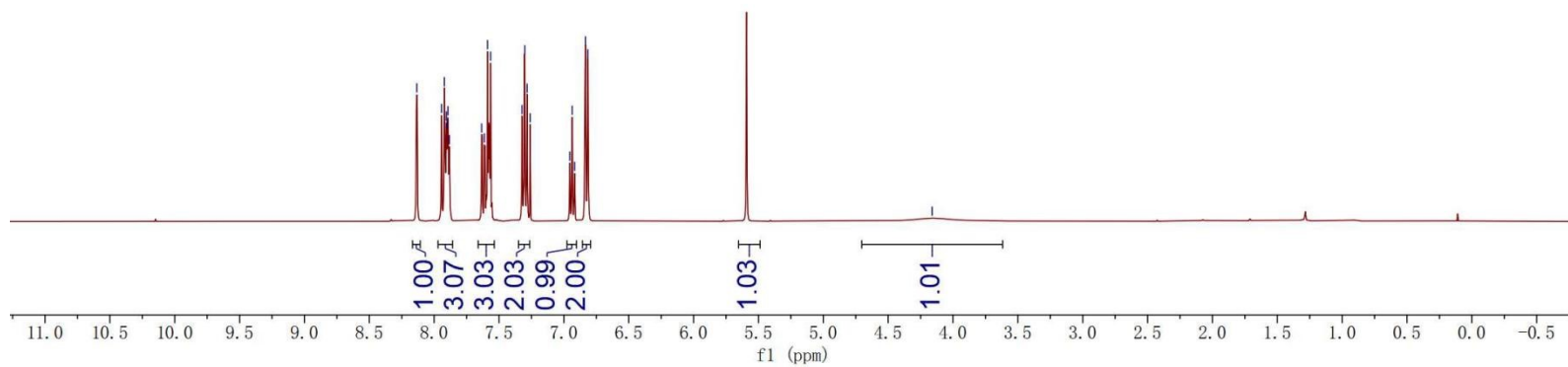


3f (<sup>13</sup>C NMR 101MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



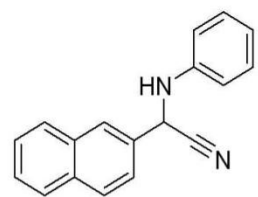


**3g** ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR 400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

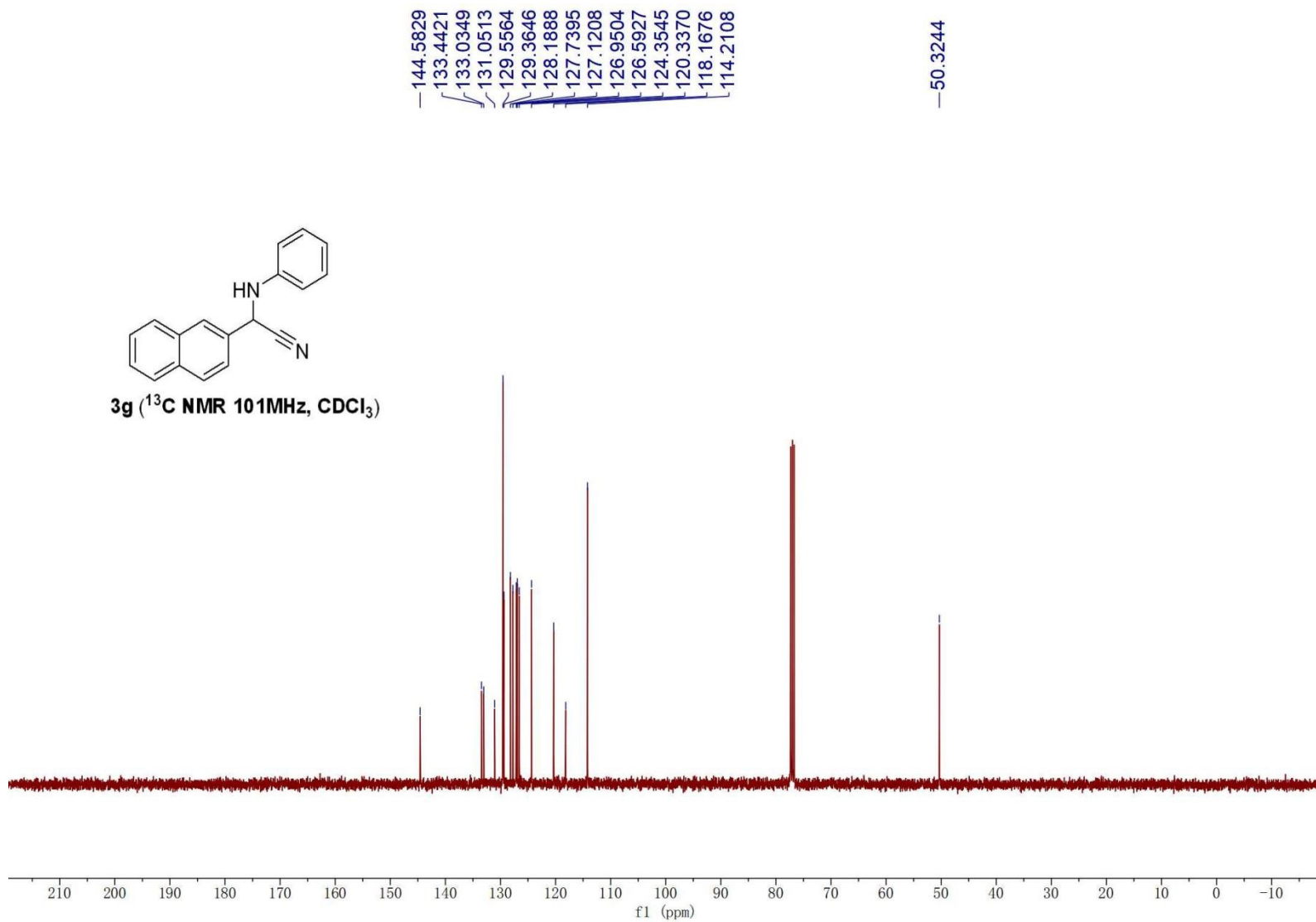


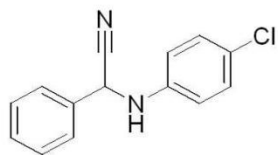
8.1334  
7.9425  
7.9211  
7.9057  
7.8995  
7.8928  
7.8827  
7.6341  
7.6128  
7.5883  
7.5645  
7.3228  
7.3014  
7.2831  
7.2597  
6.9540  
6.9354  
6.9170  
6.8333  
6.8146

—4.1609

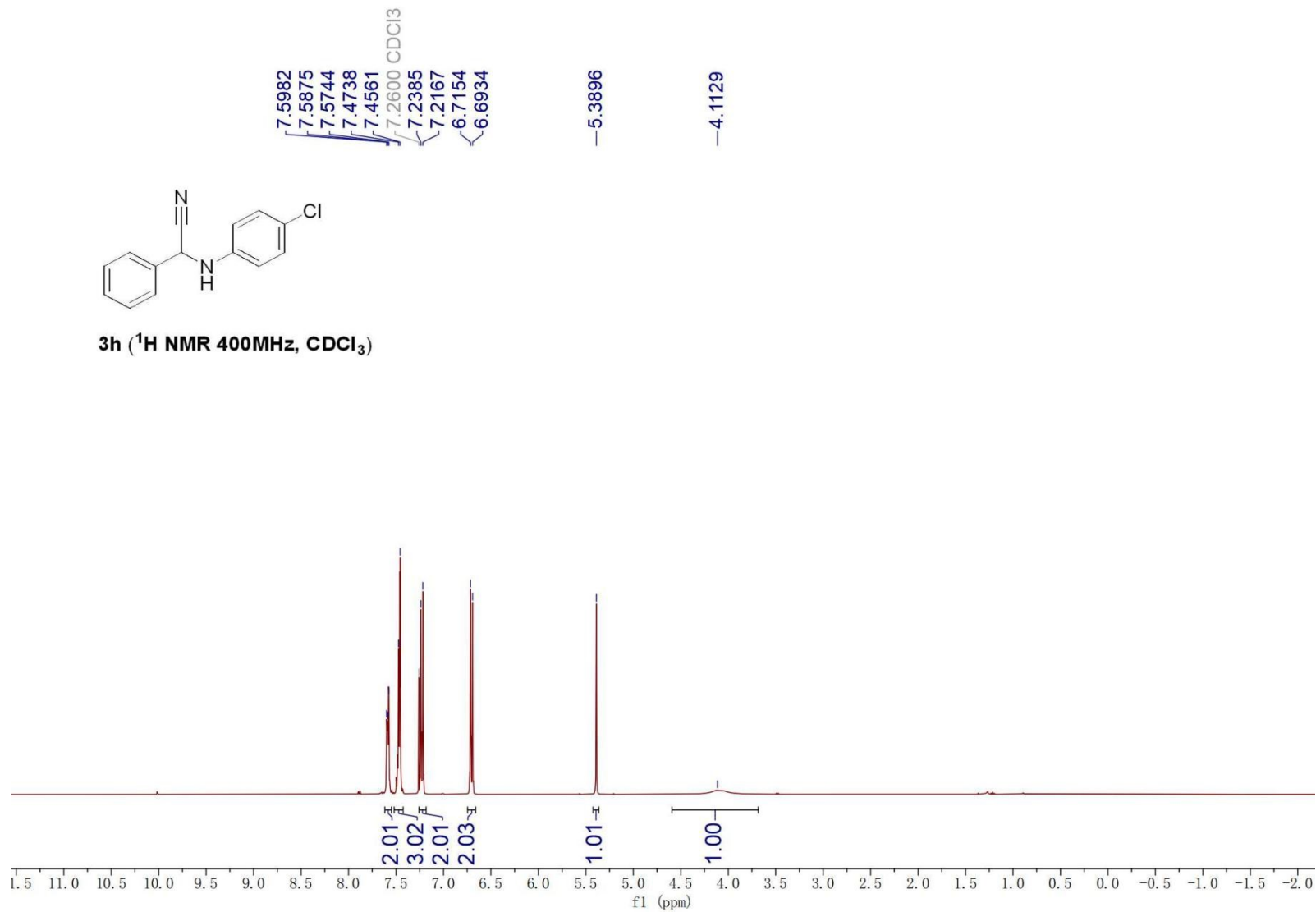


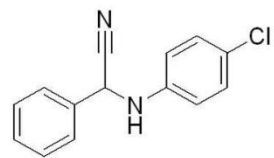
**3g** ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



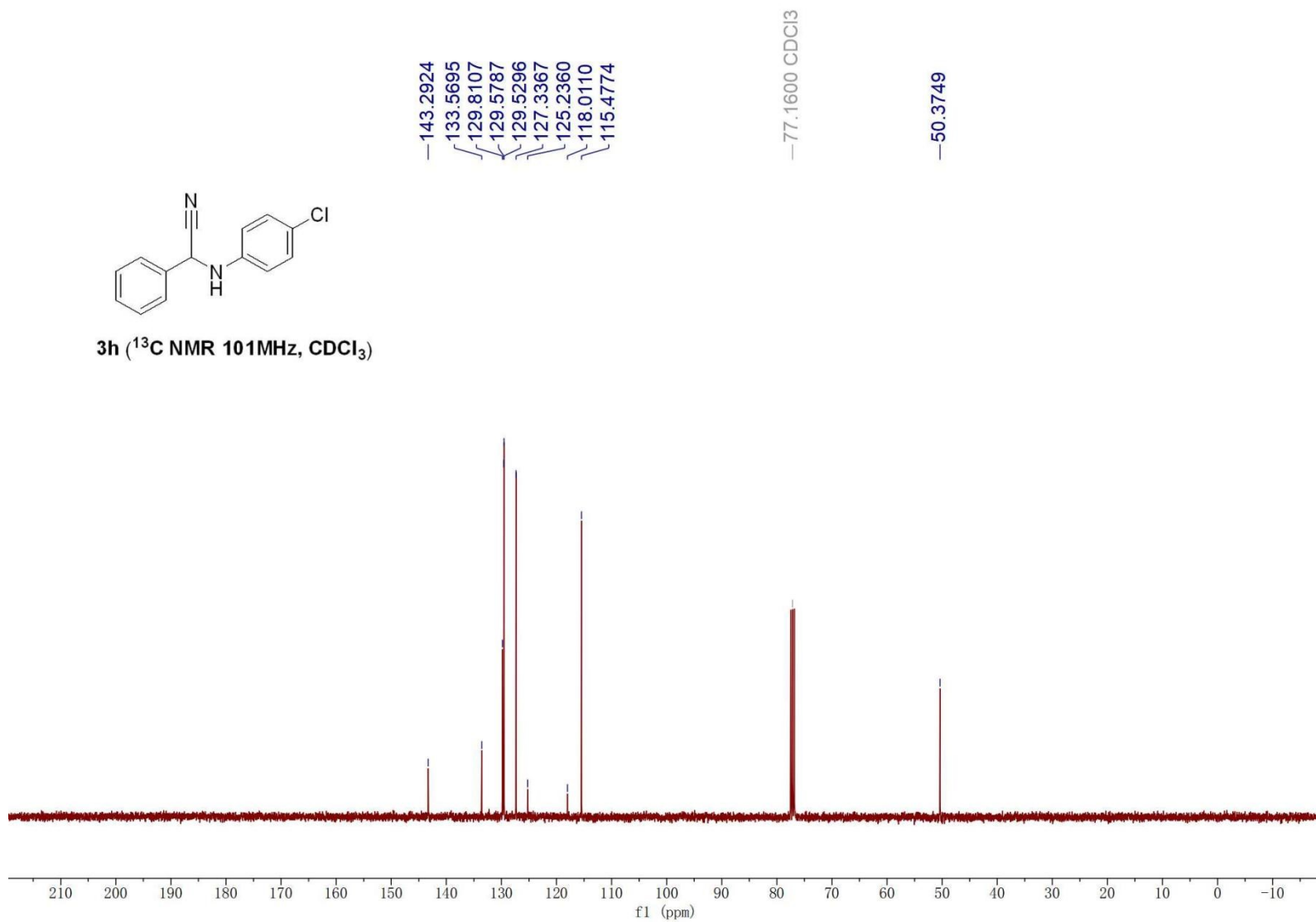


3h (<sup>1</sup>H NMR 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

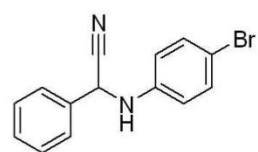




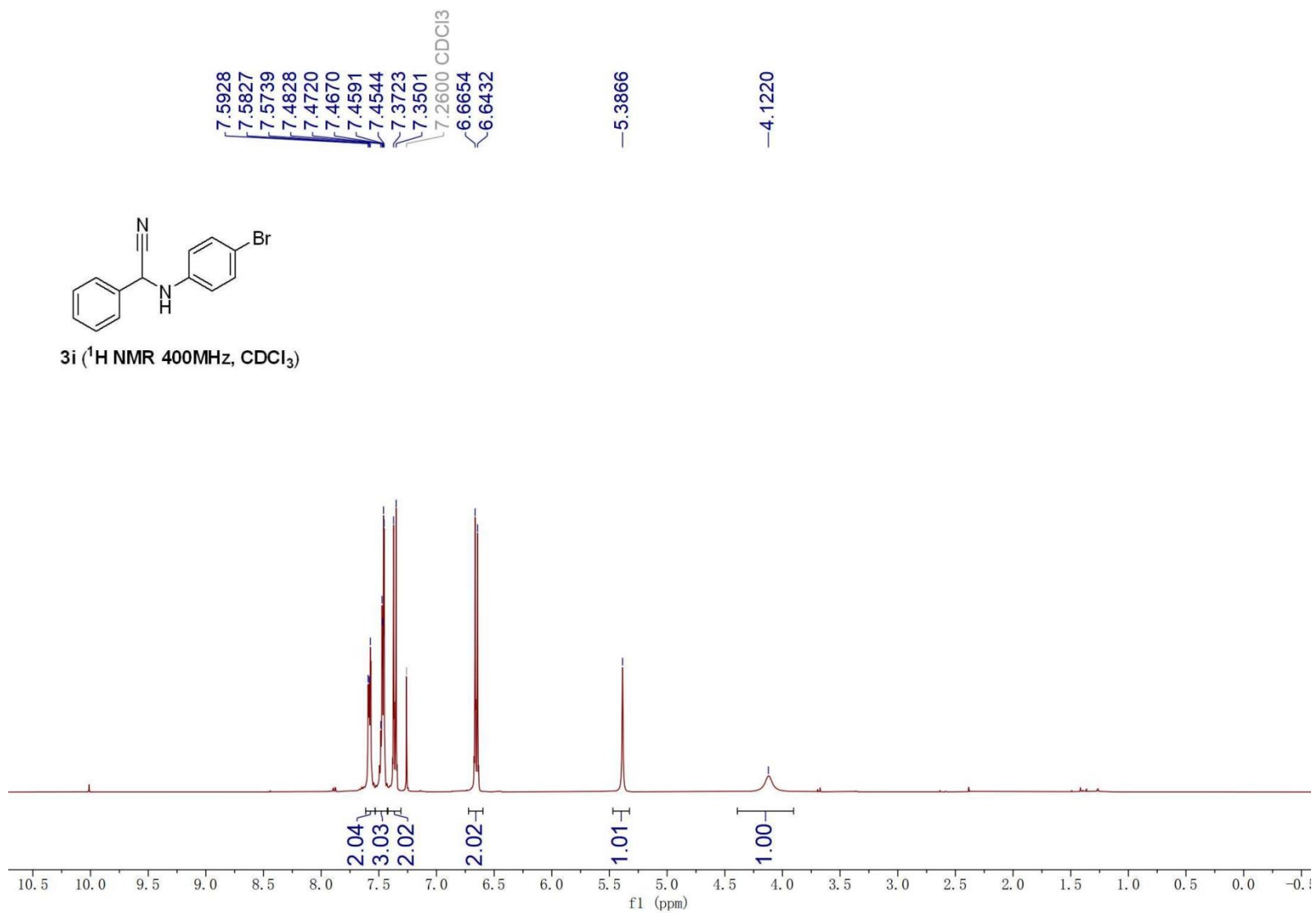
3h ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

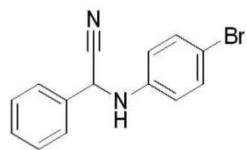




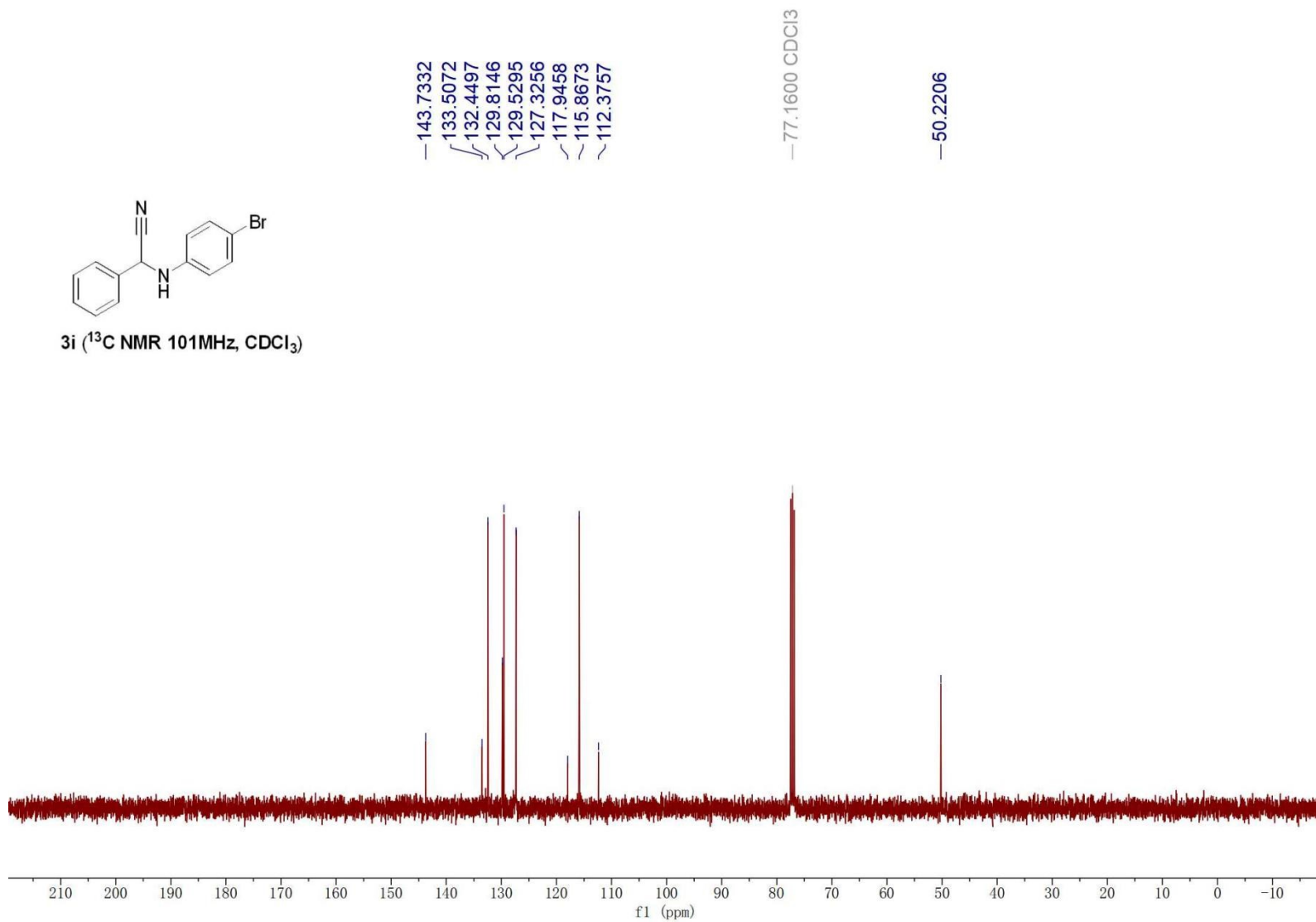


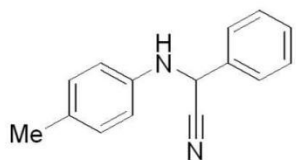
3i (<sup>1</sup>H NMR 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



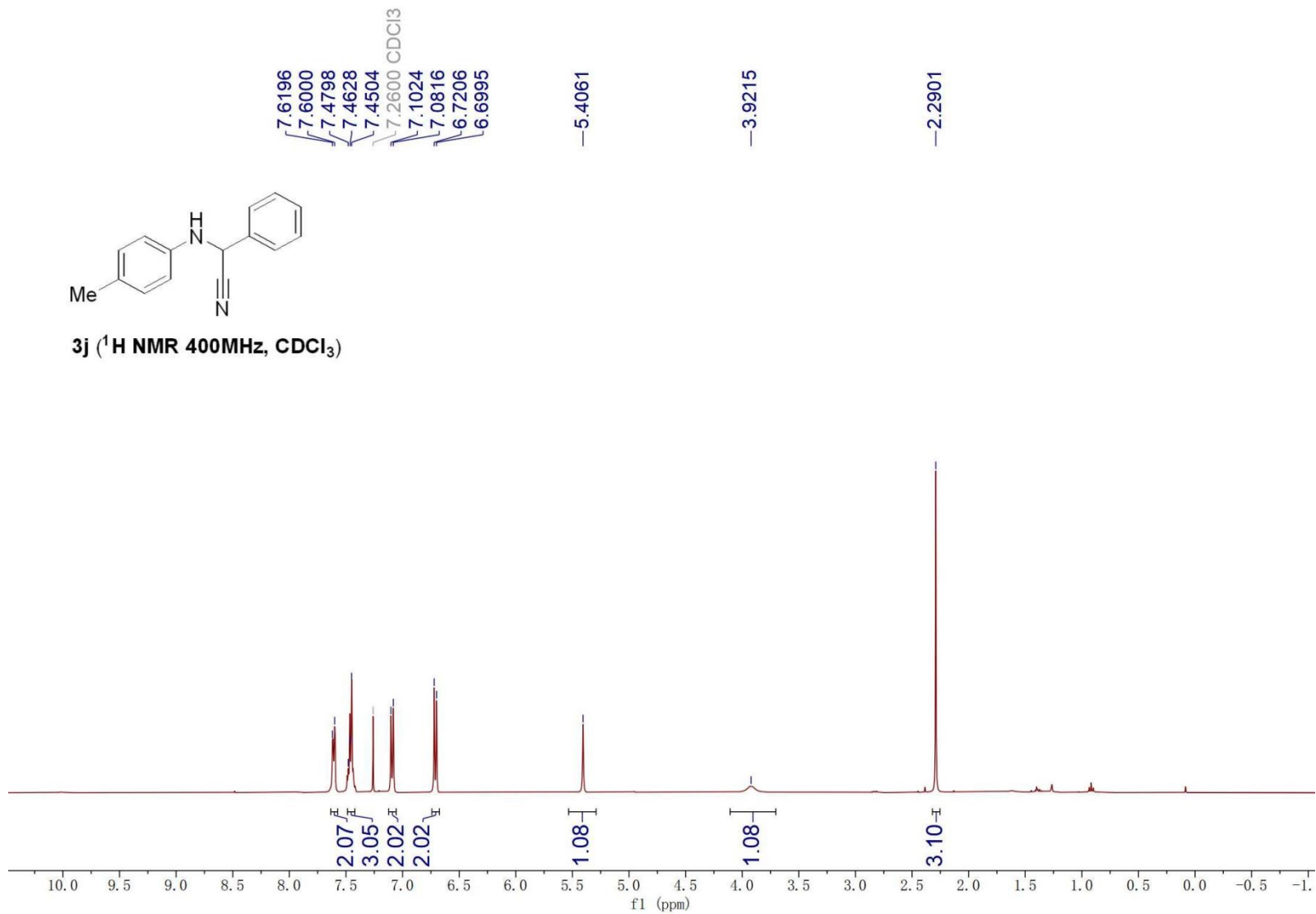


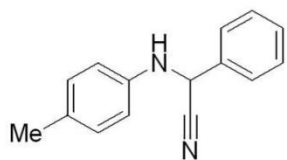
3i ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



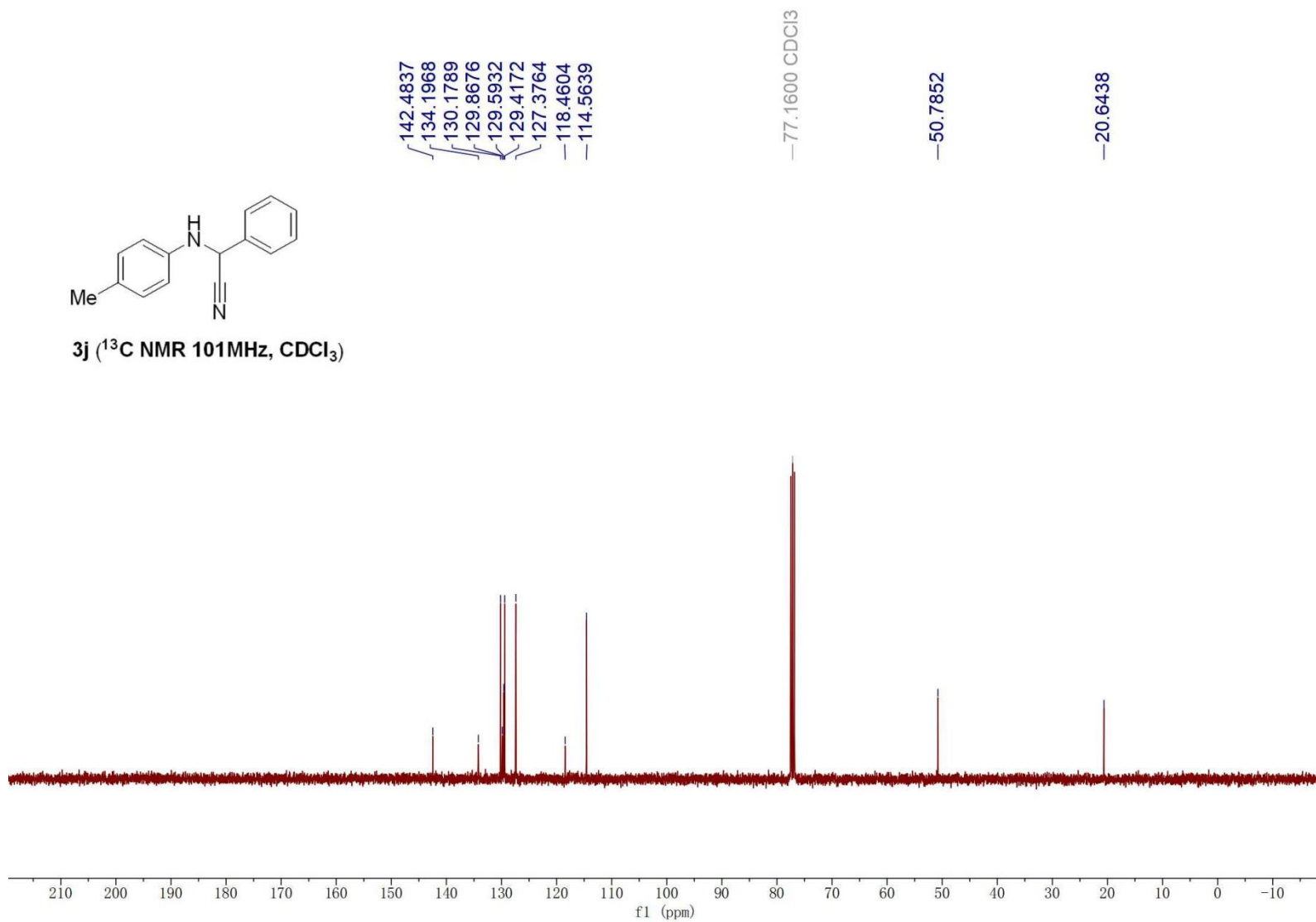


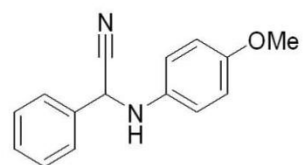
3j (<sup>1</sup>H NMR 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



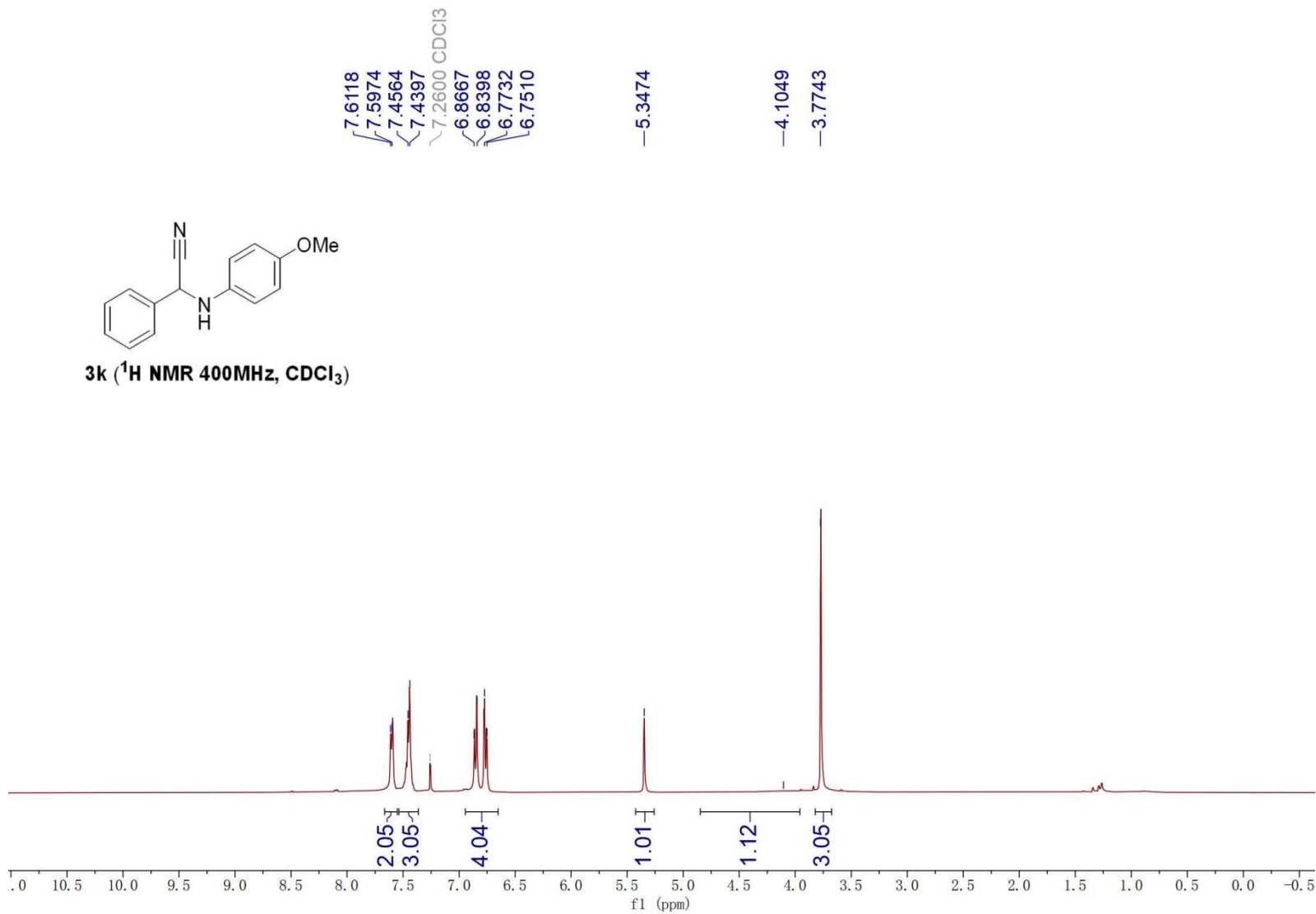


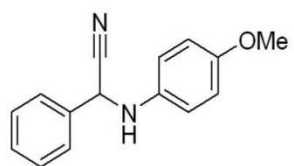
3j ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



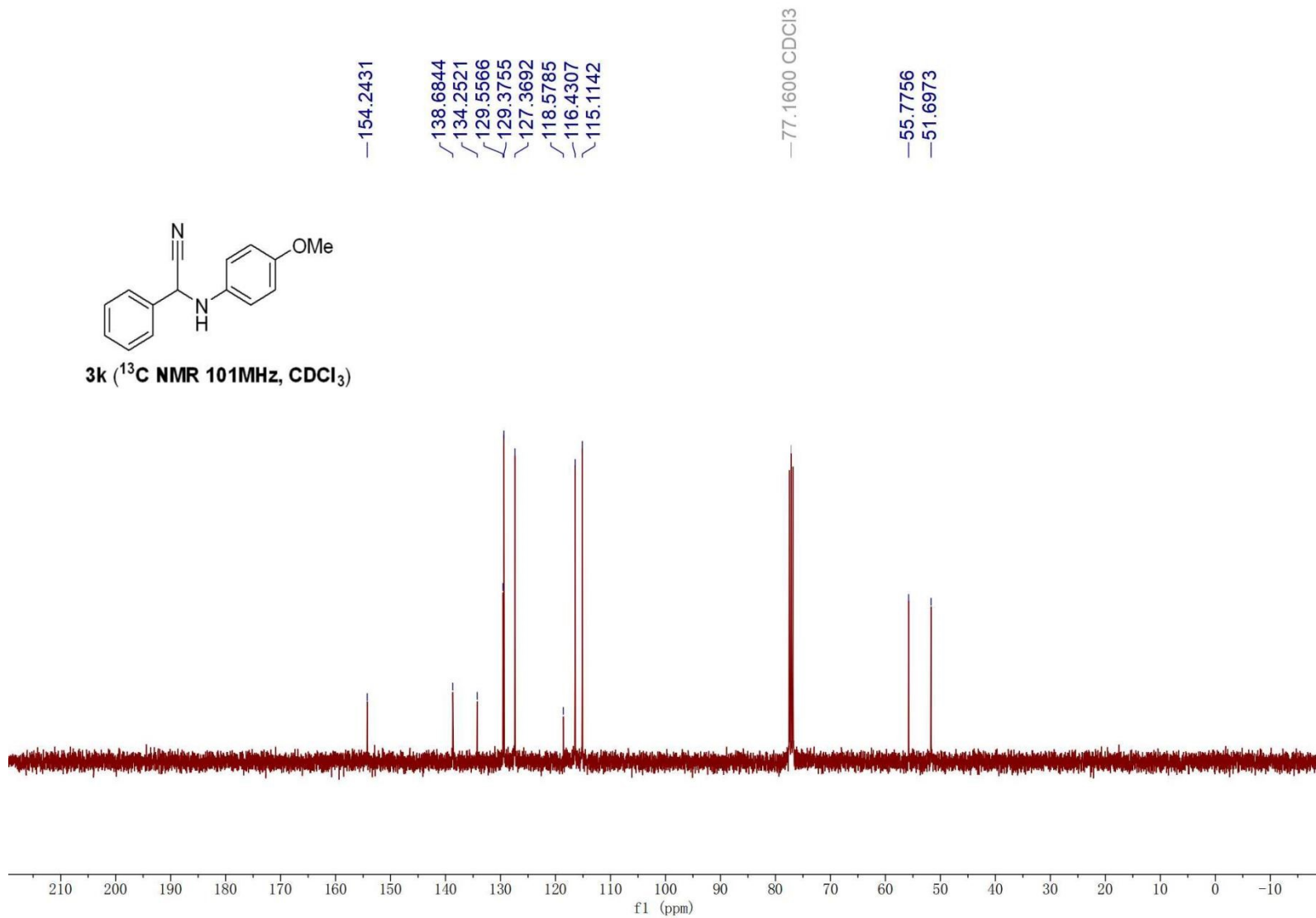


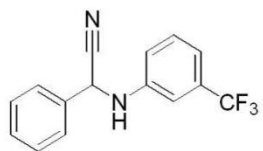
3k (<sup>1</sup>H NMR 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



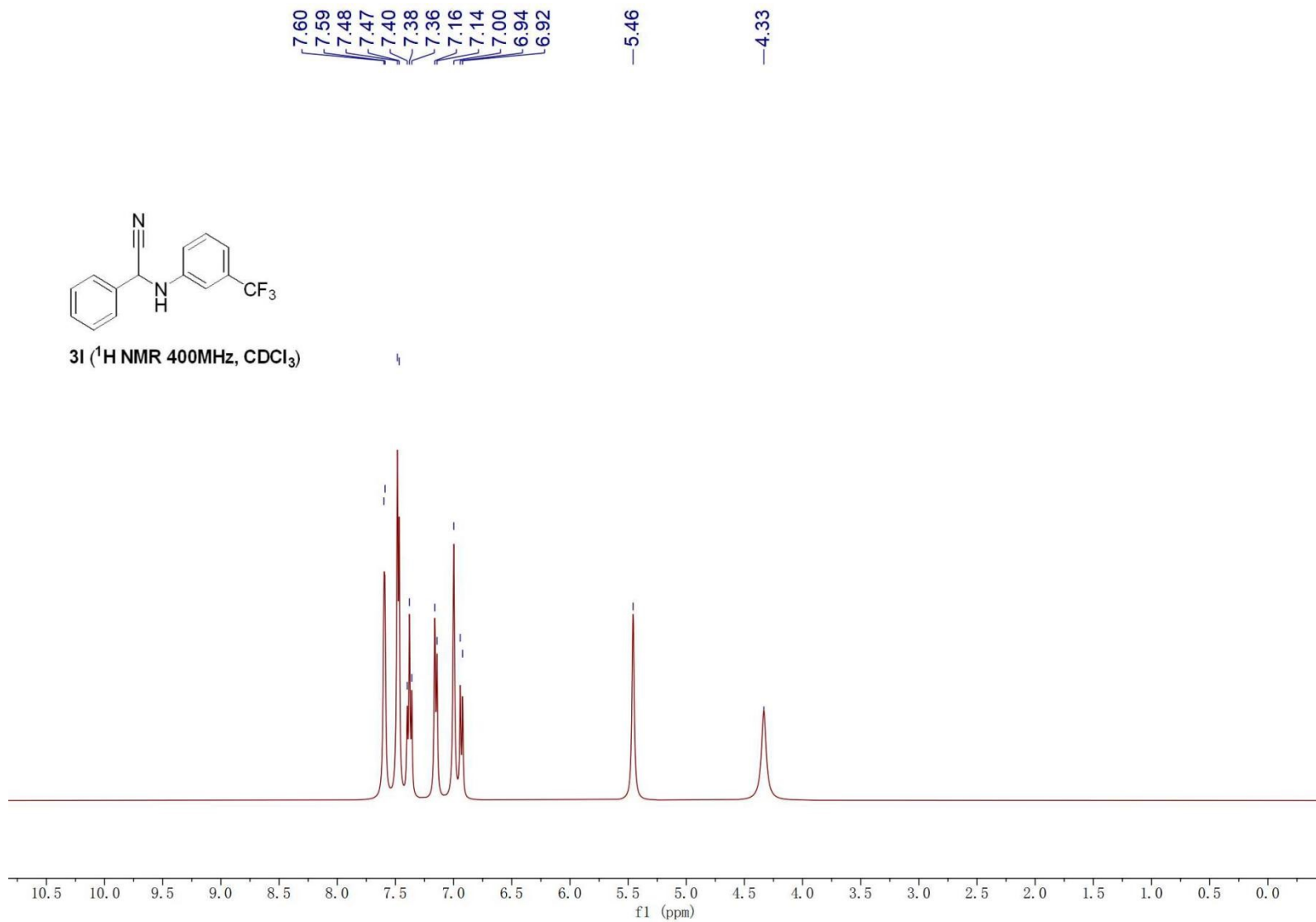


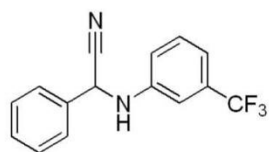
3k ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



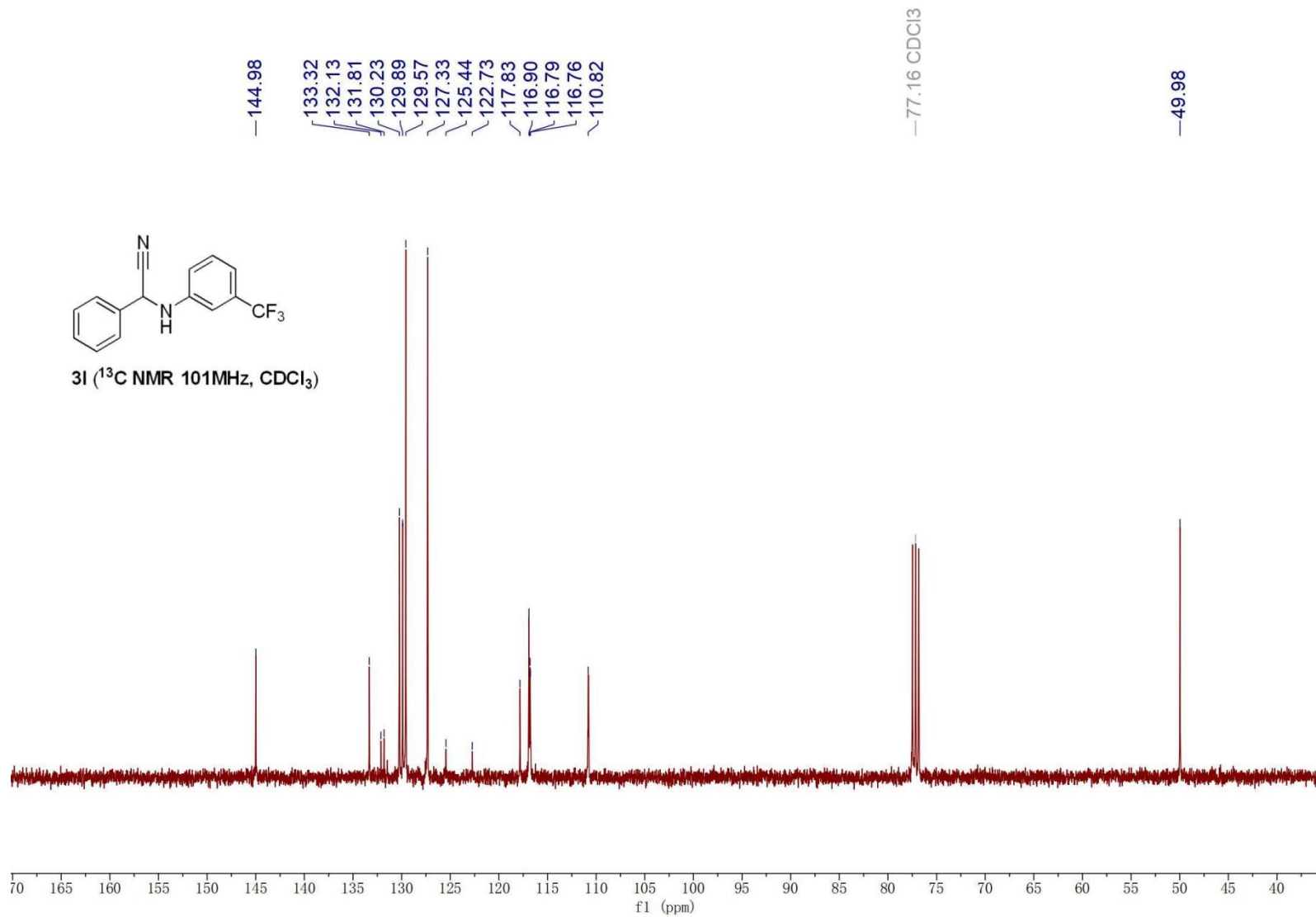


3l (<sup>1</sup>H NMR 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

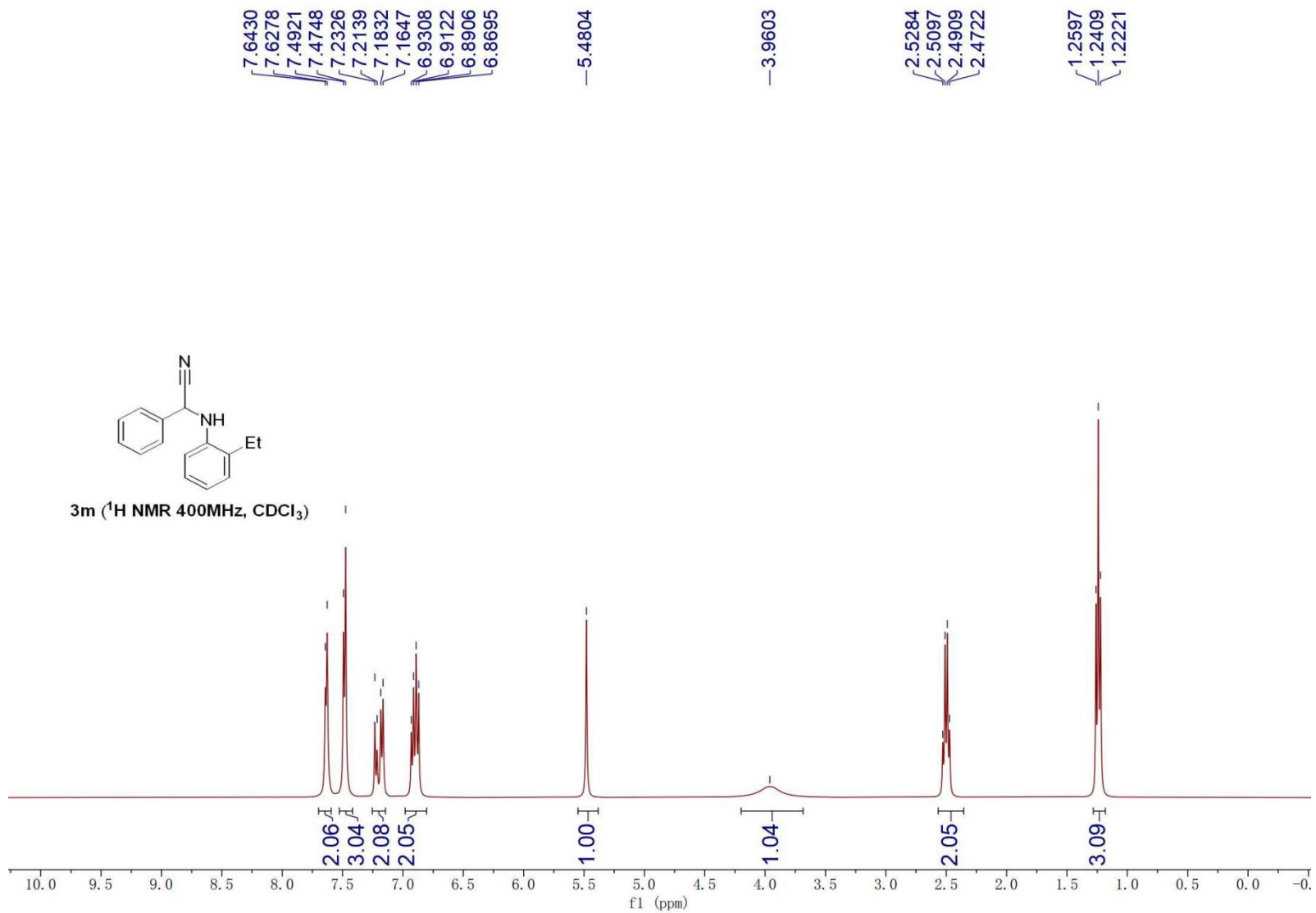


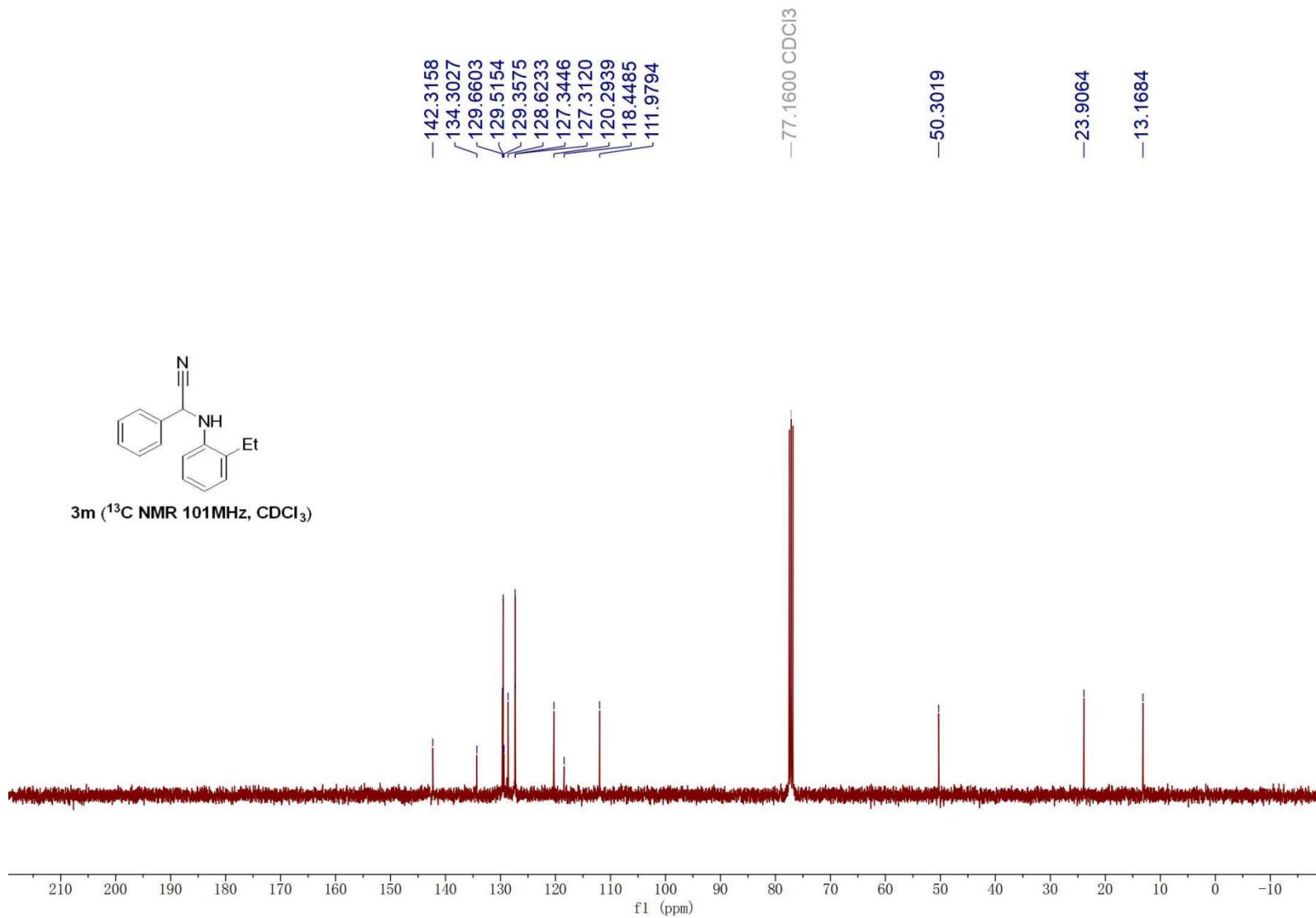


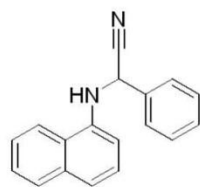
3l (<sup>13</sup>C NMR 101MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



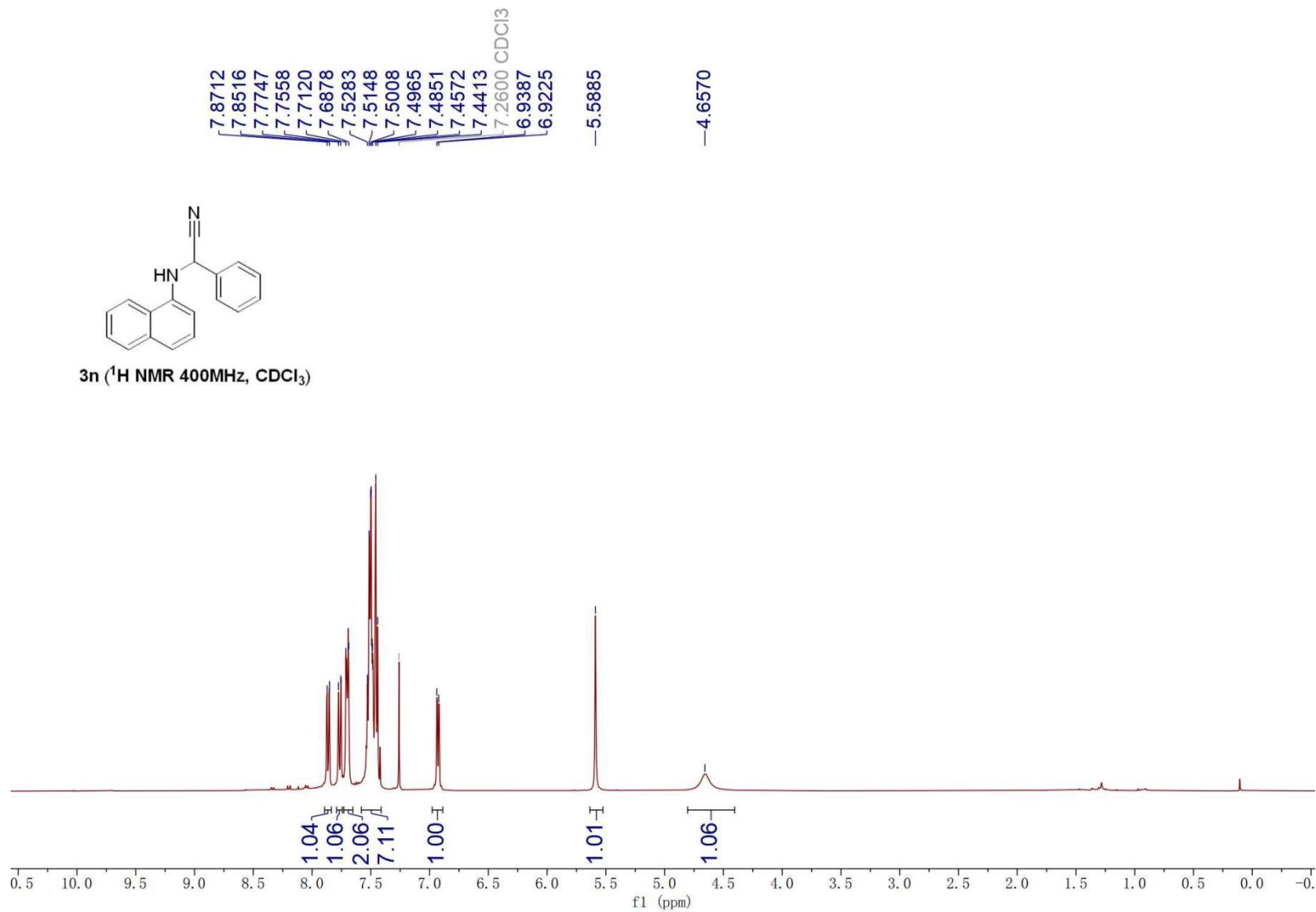


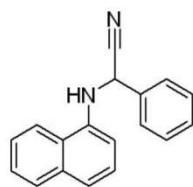




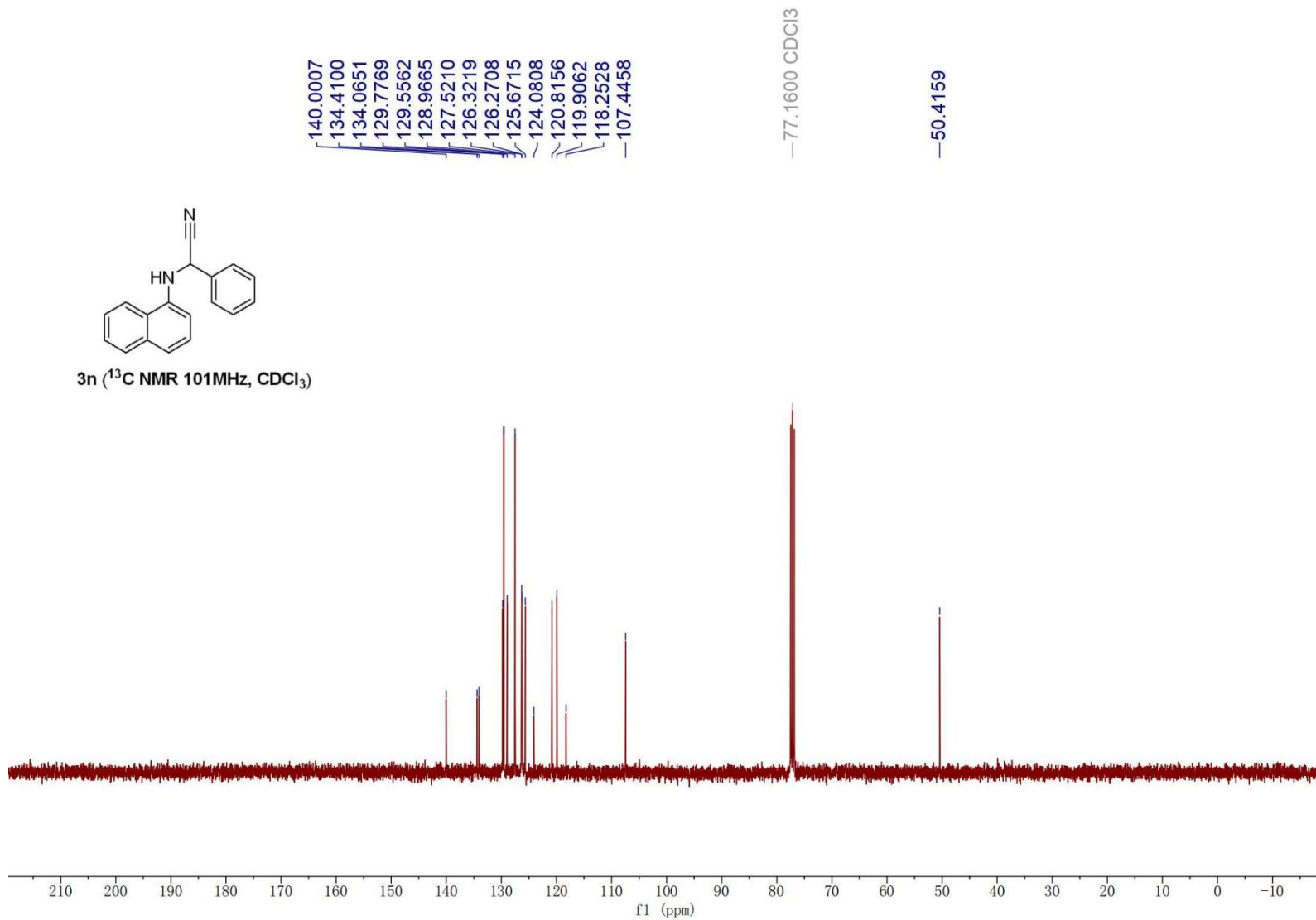


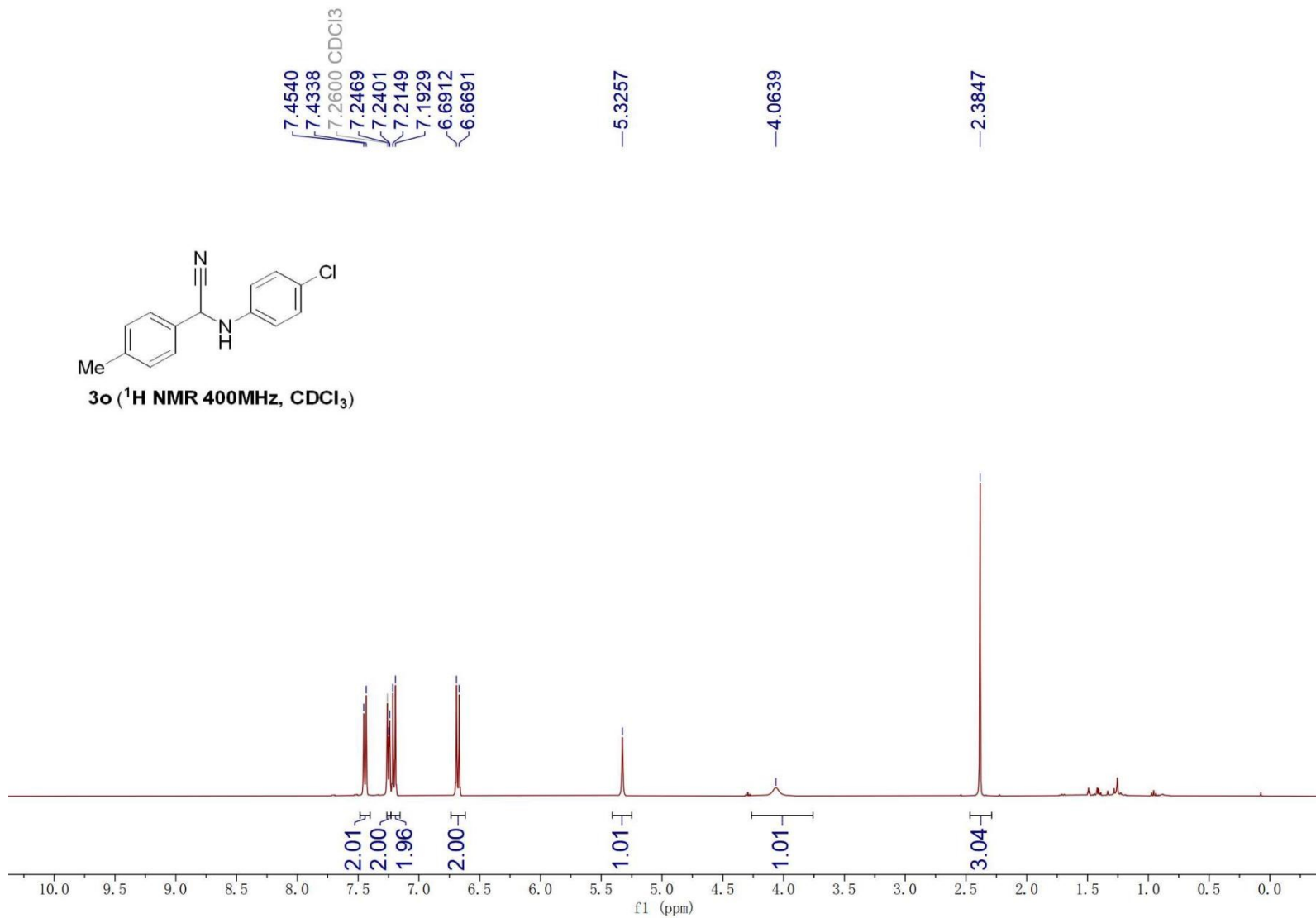
3n (<sup>1</sup>H NMR 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

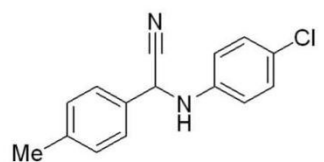




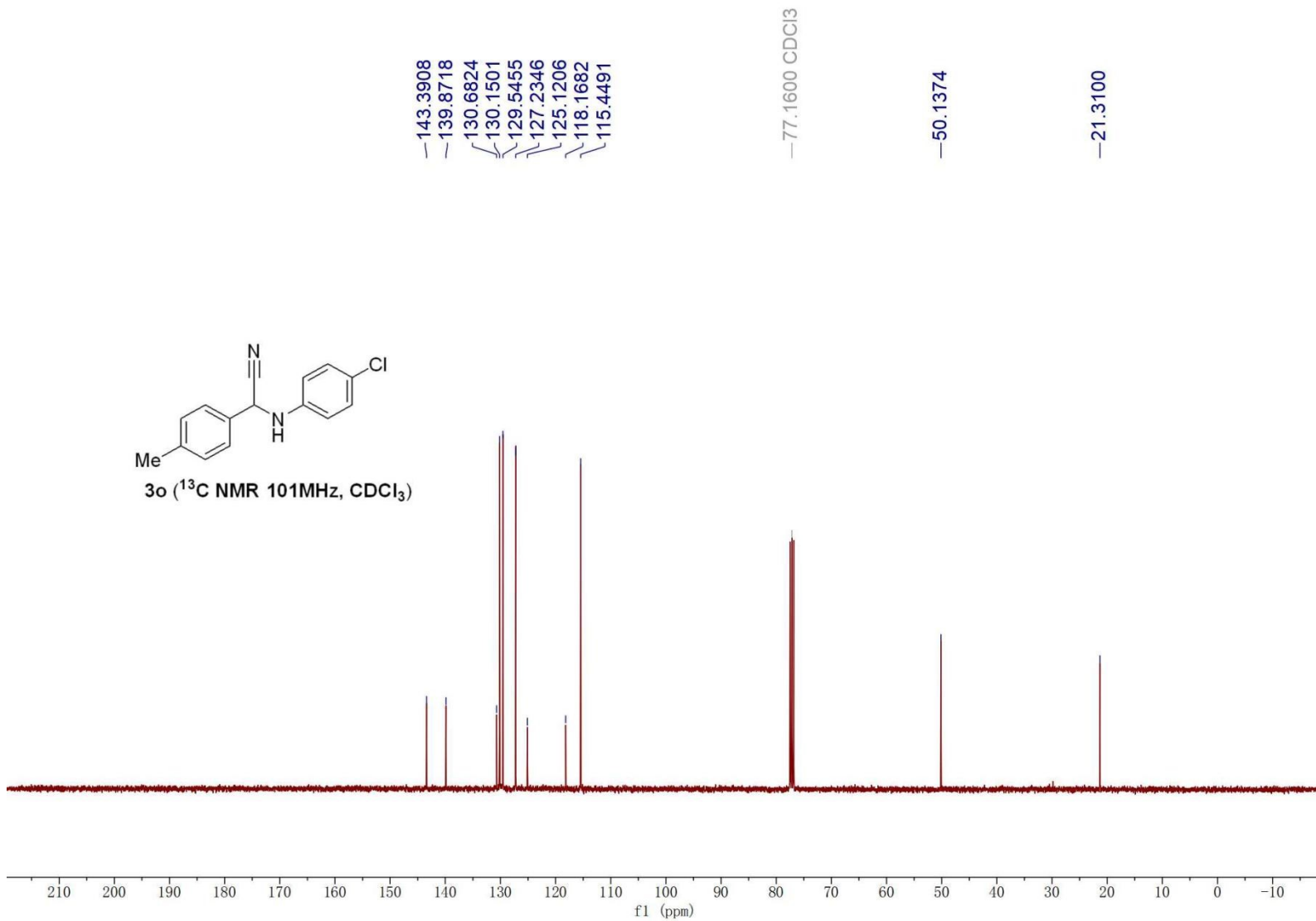
**3n** ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

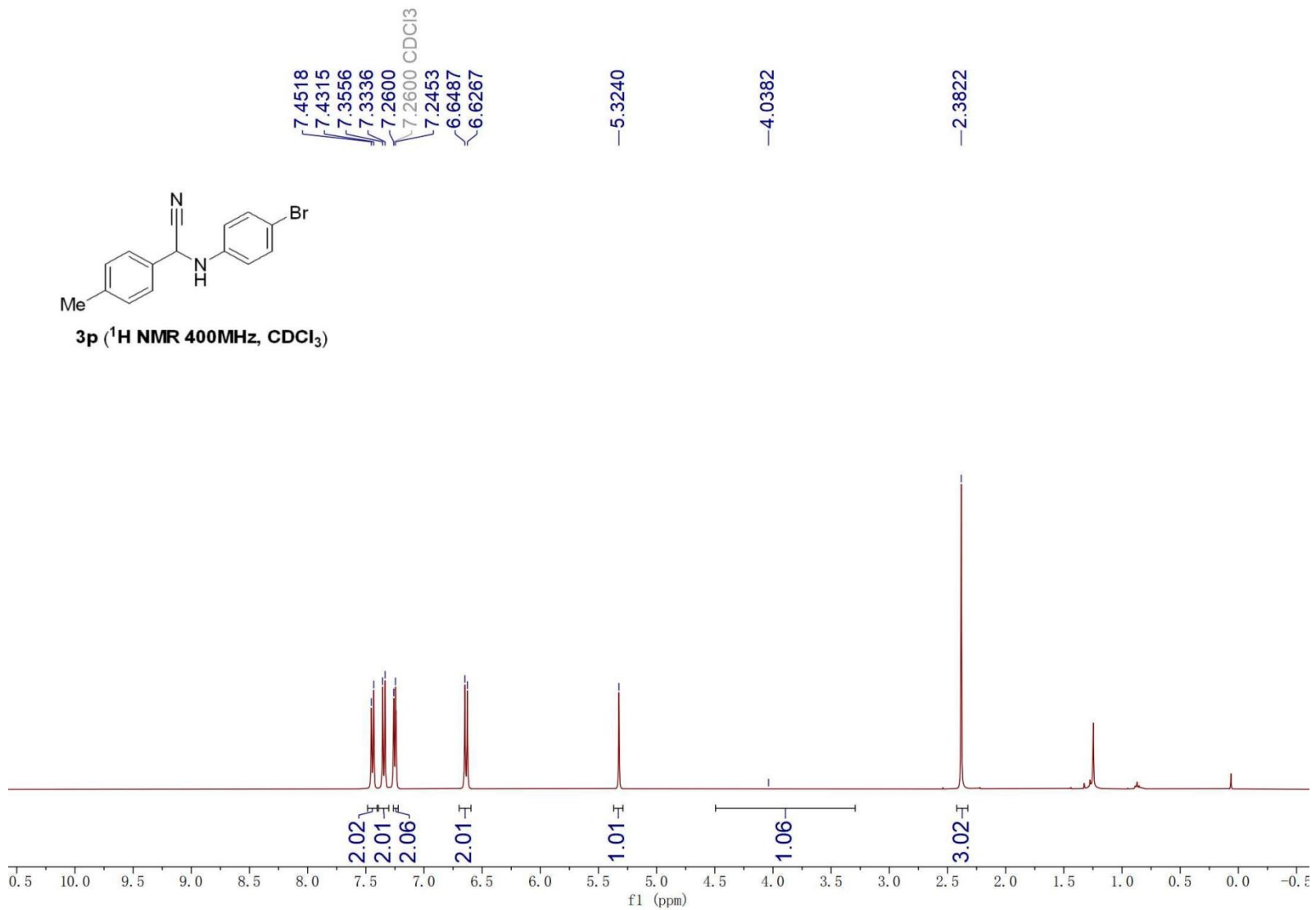
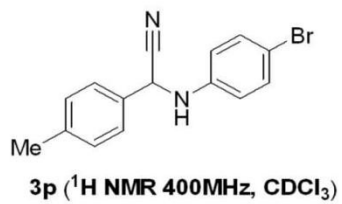


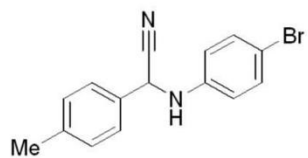




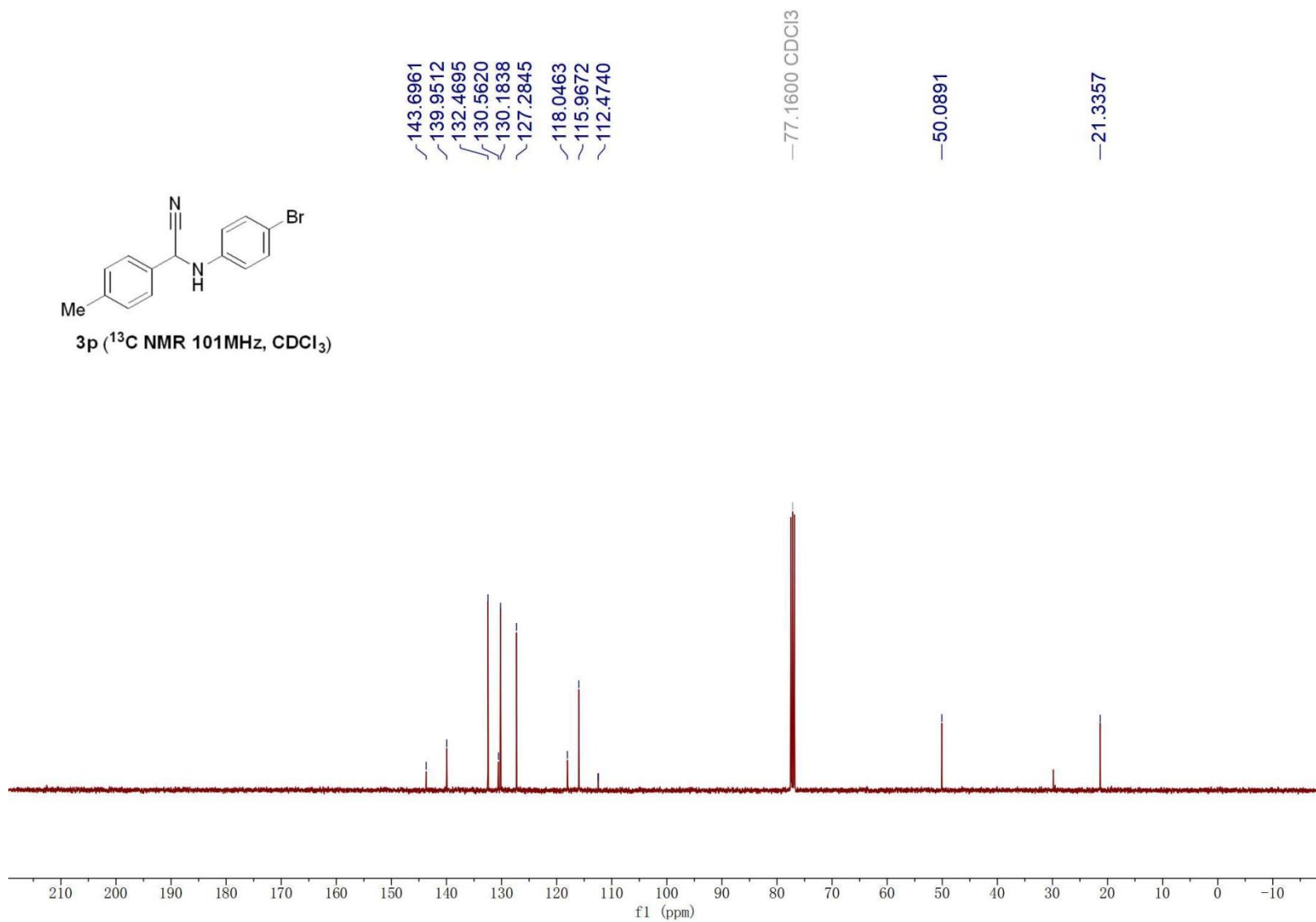
3o (<sup>13</sup>C NMR 101MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



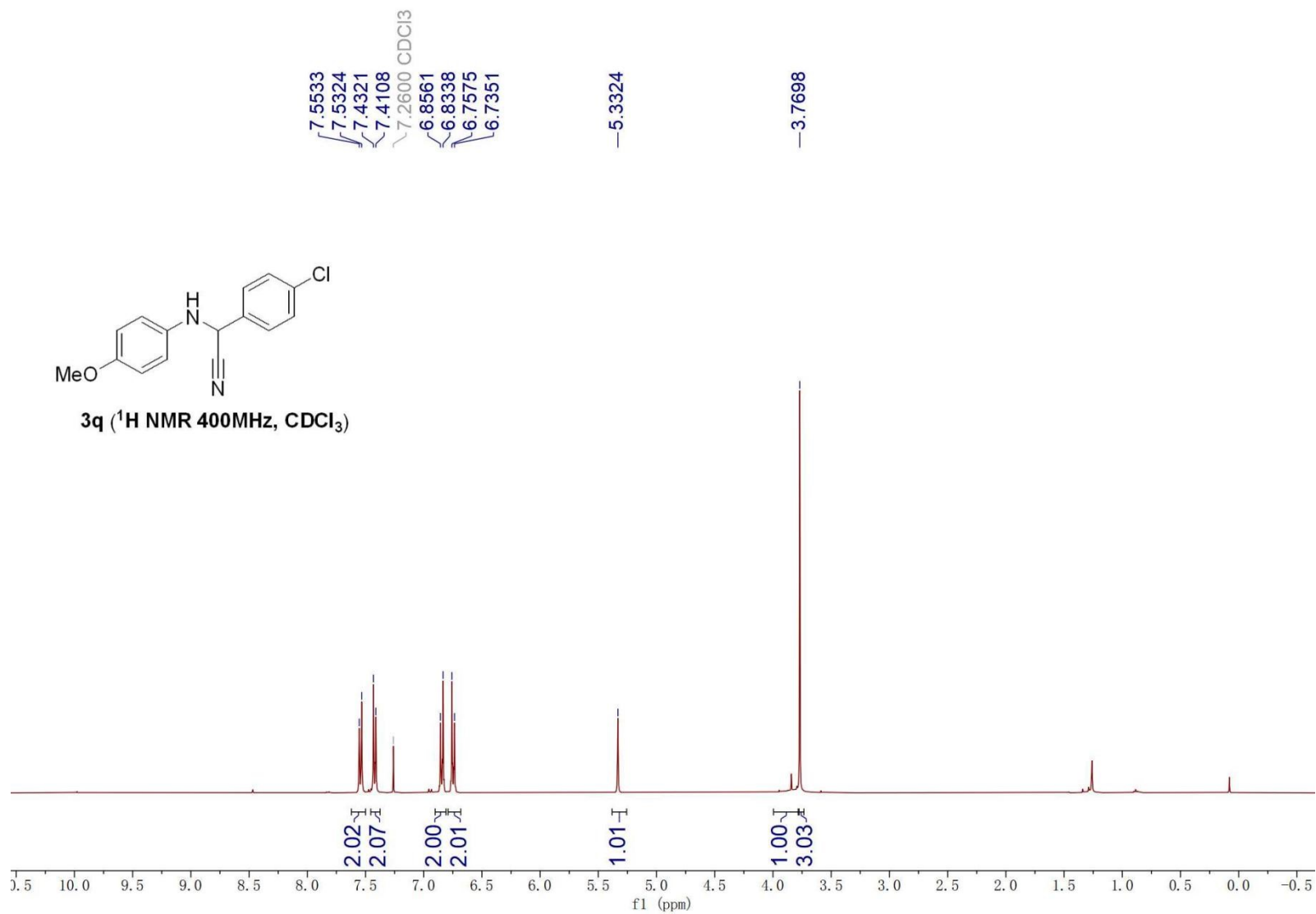
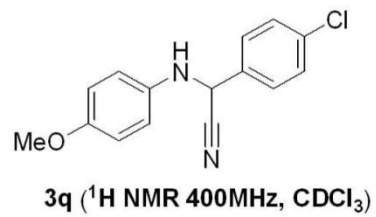


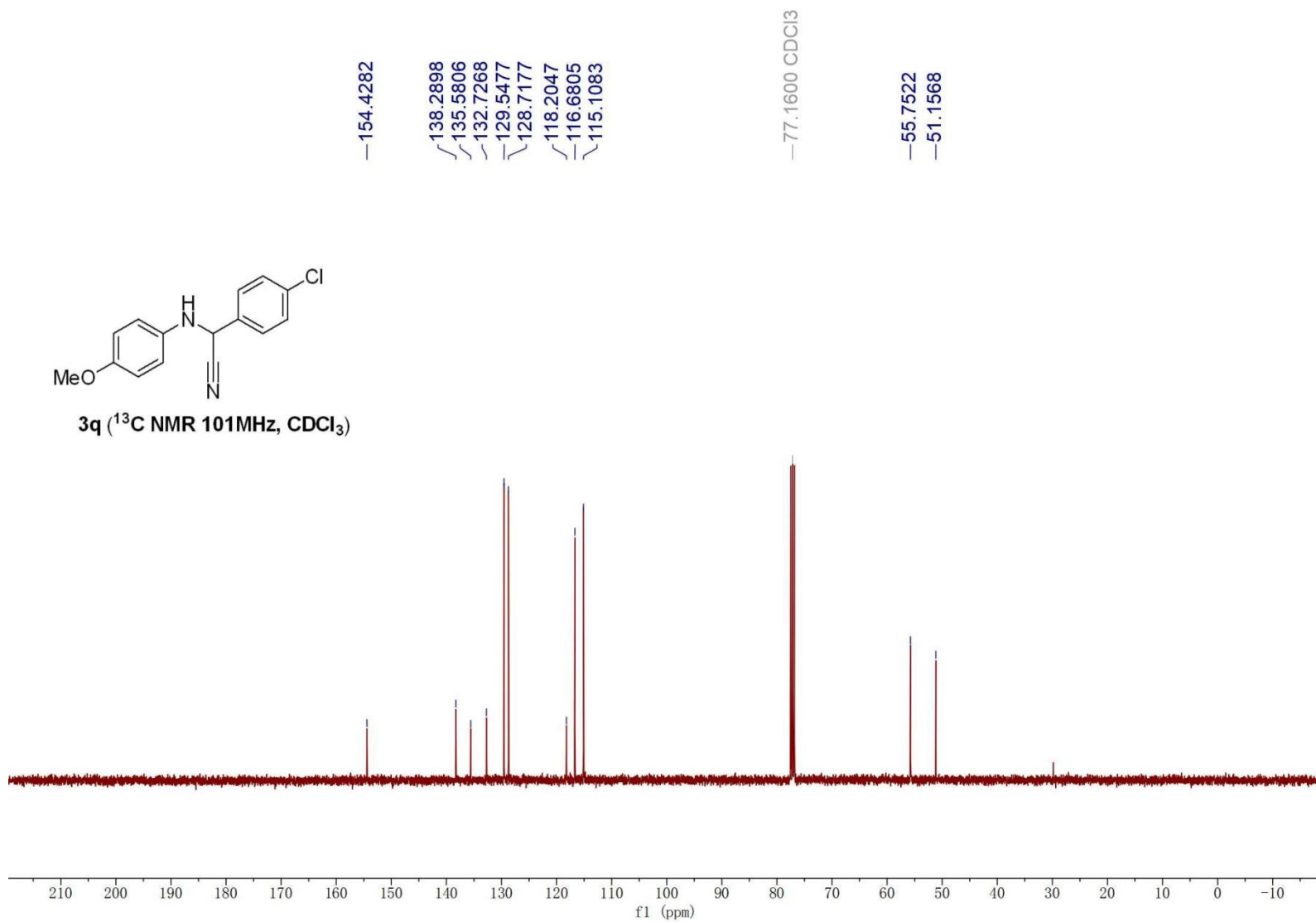
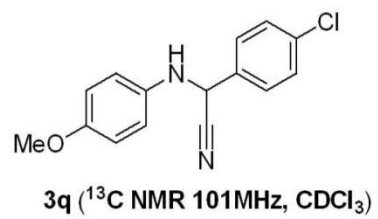


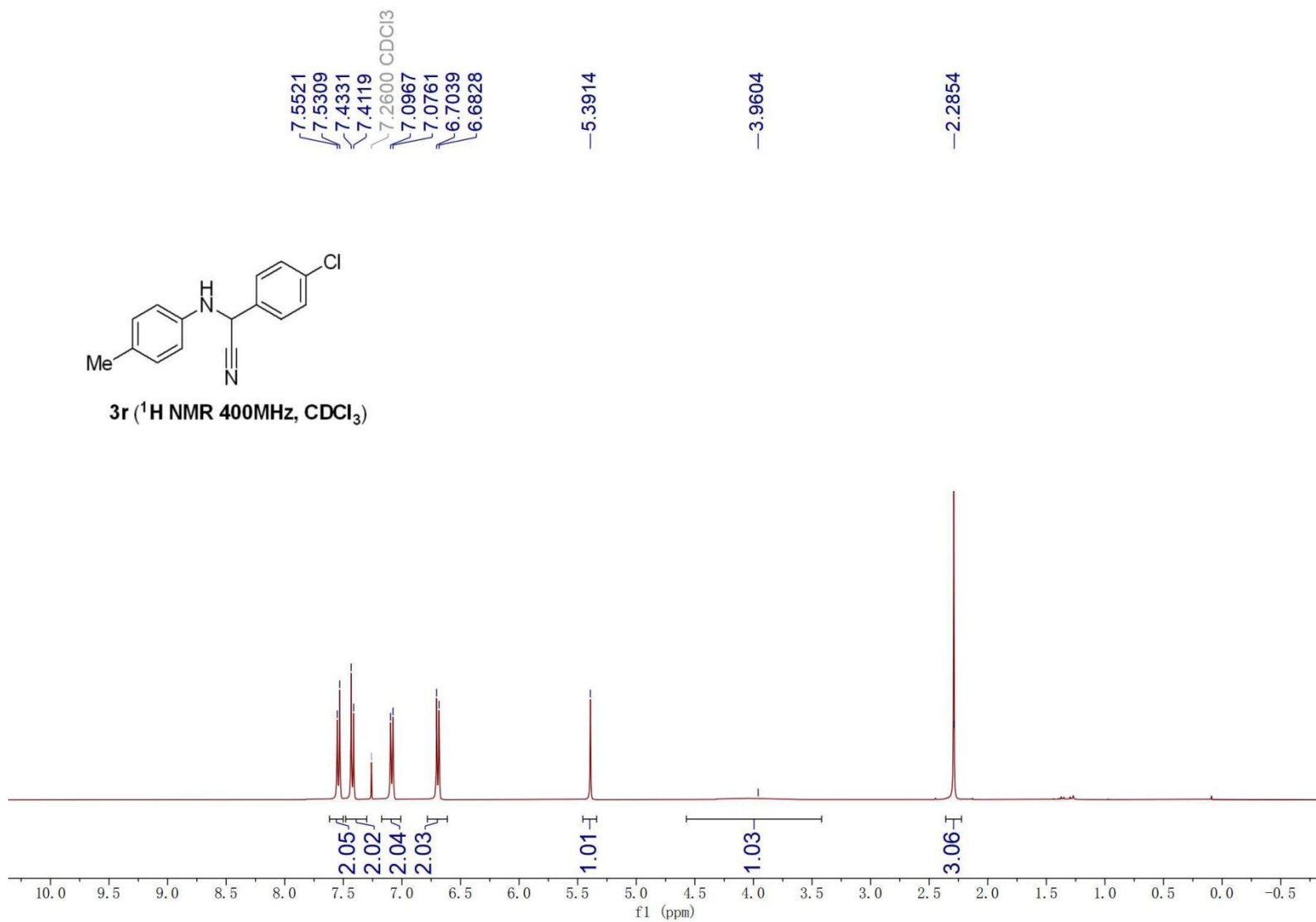
3p ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

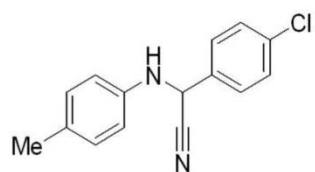




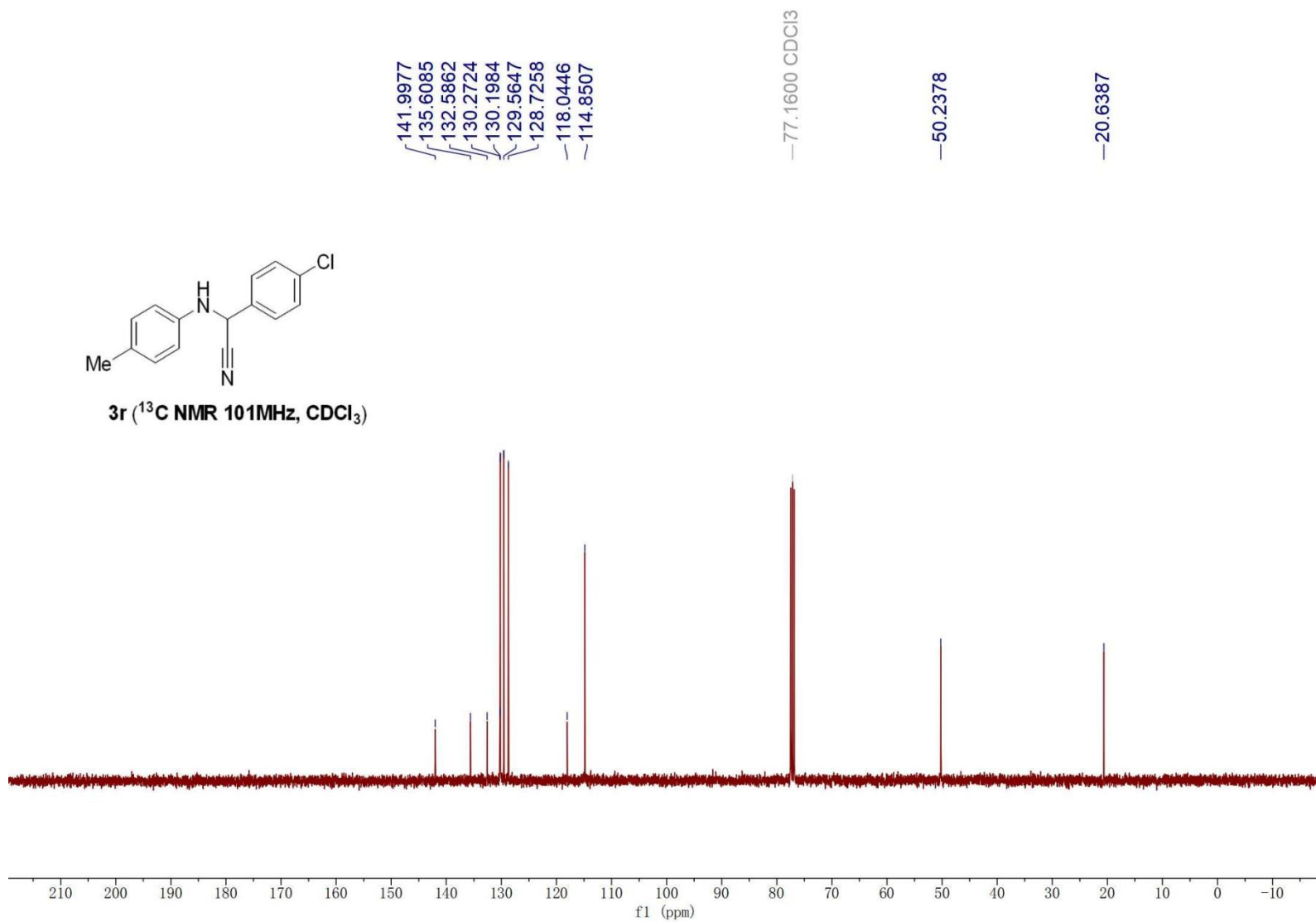


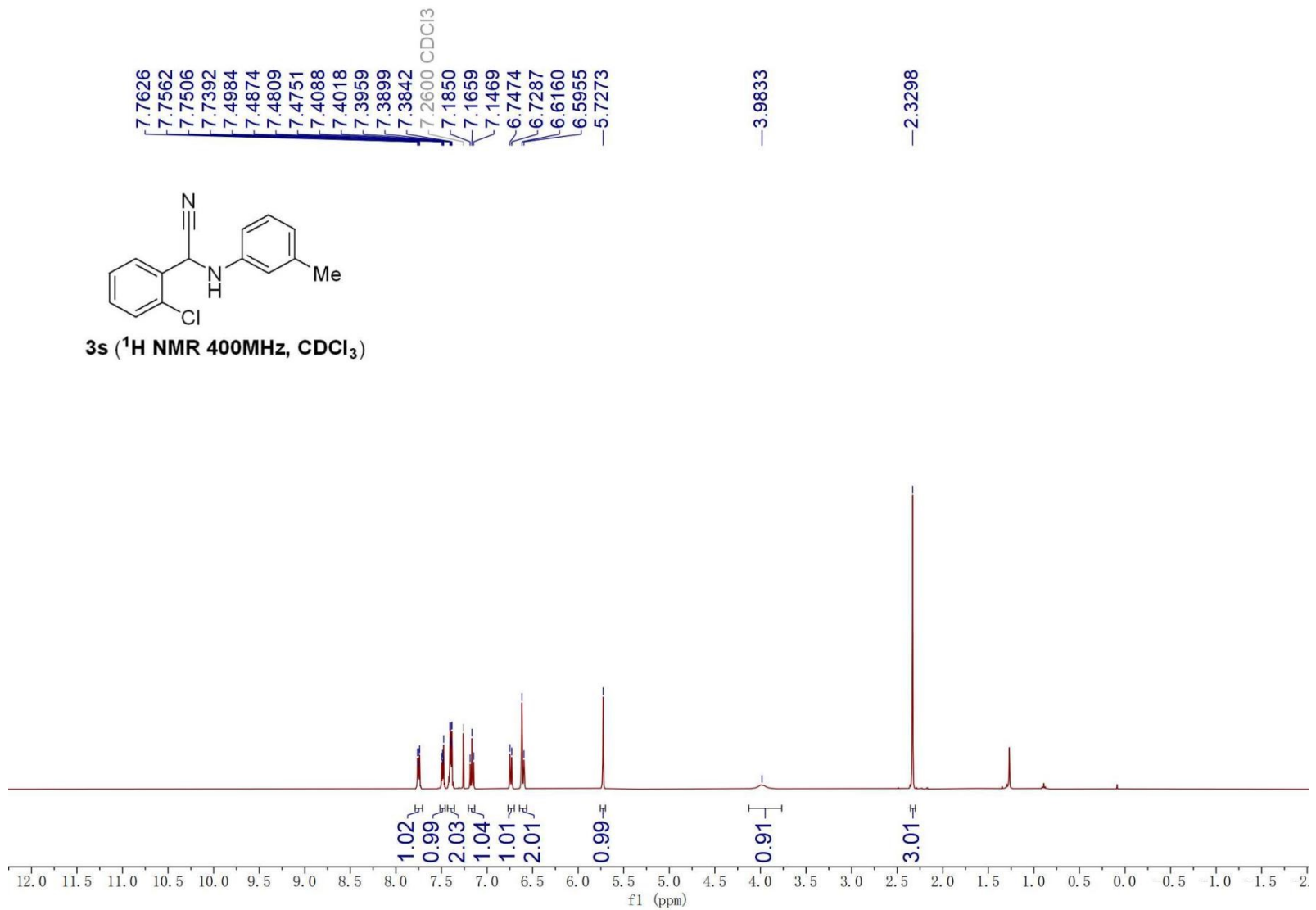


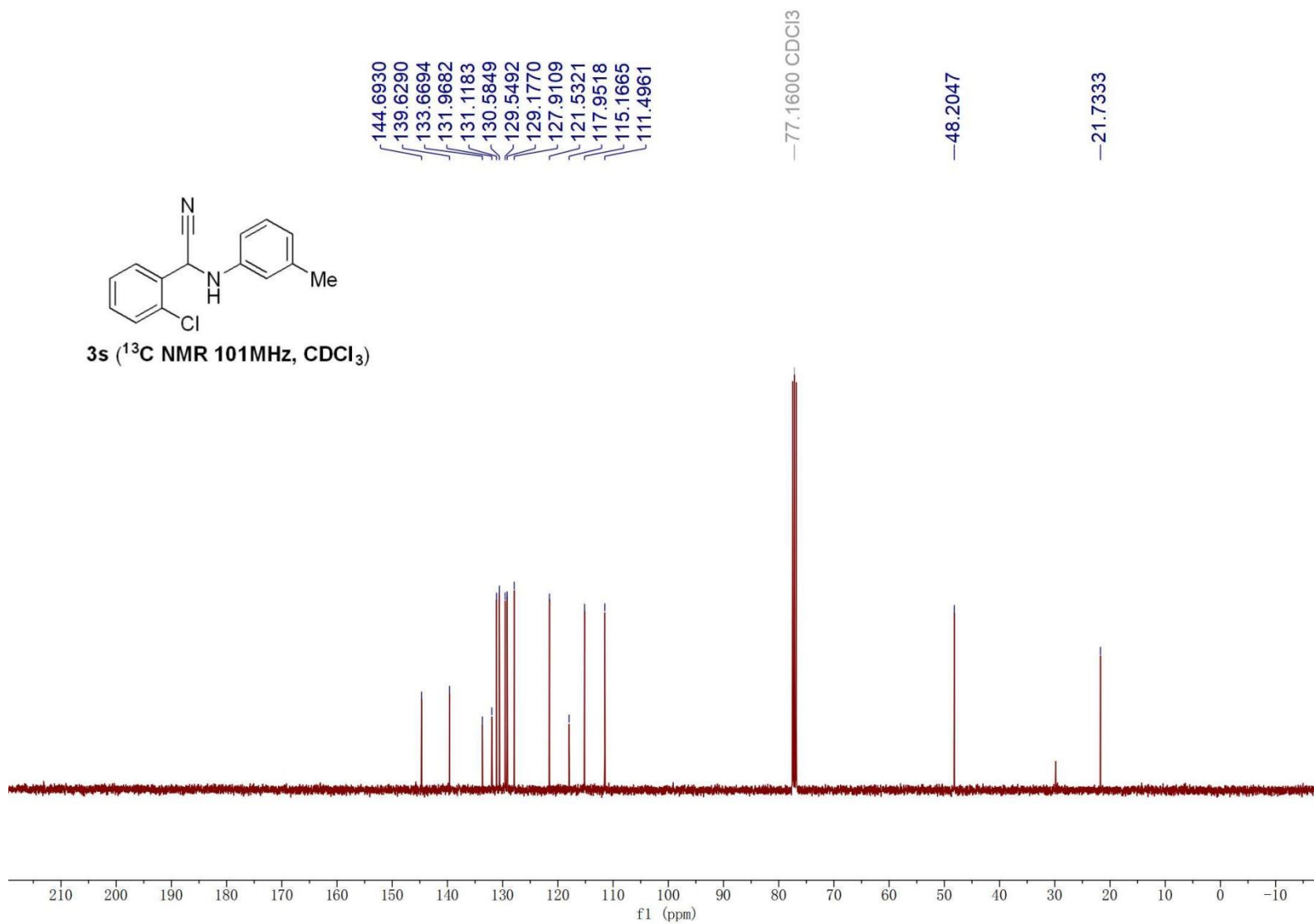
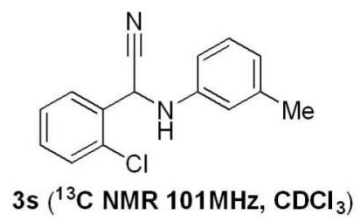


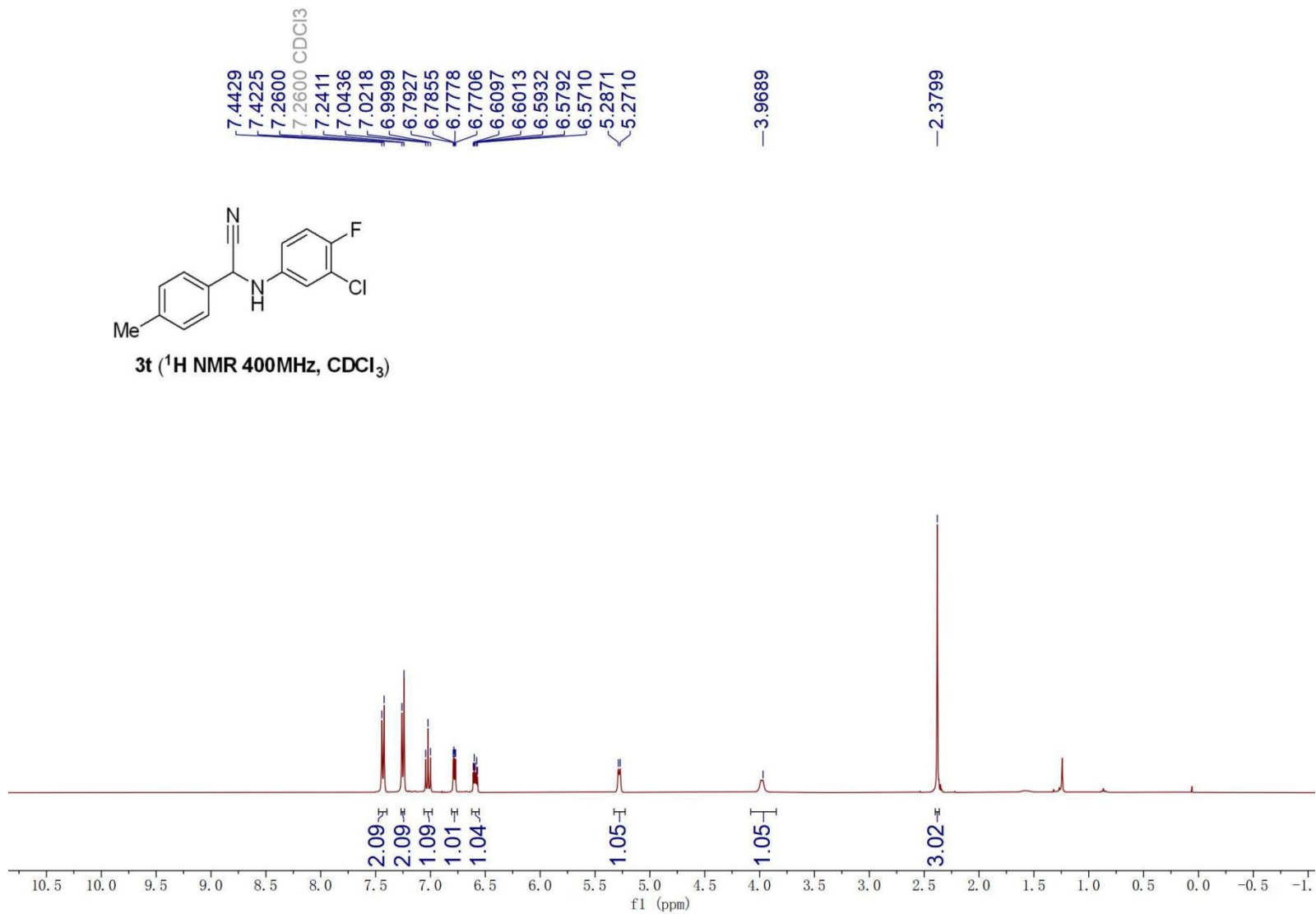


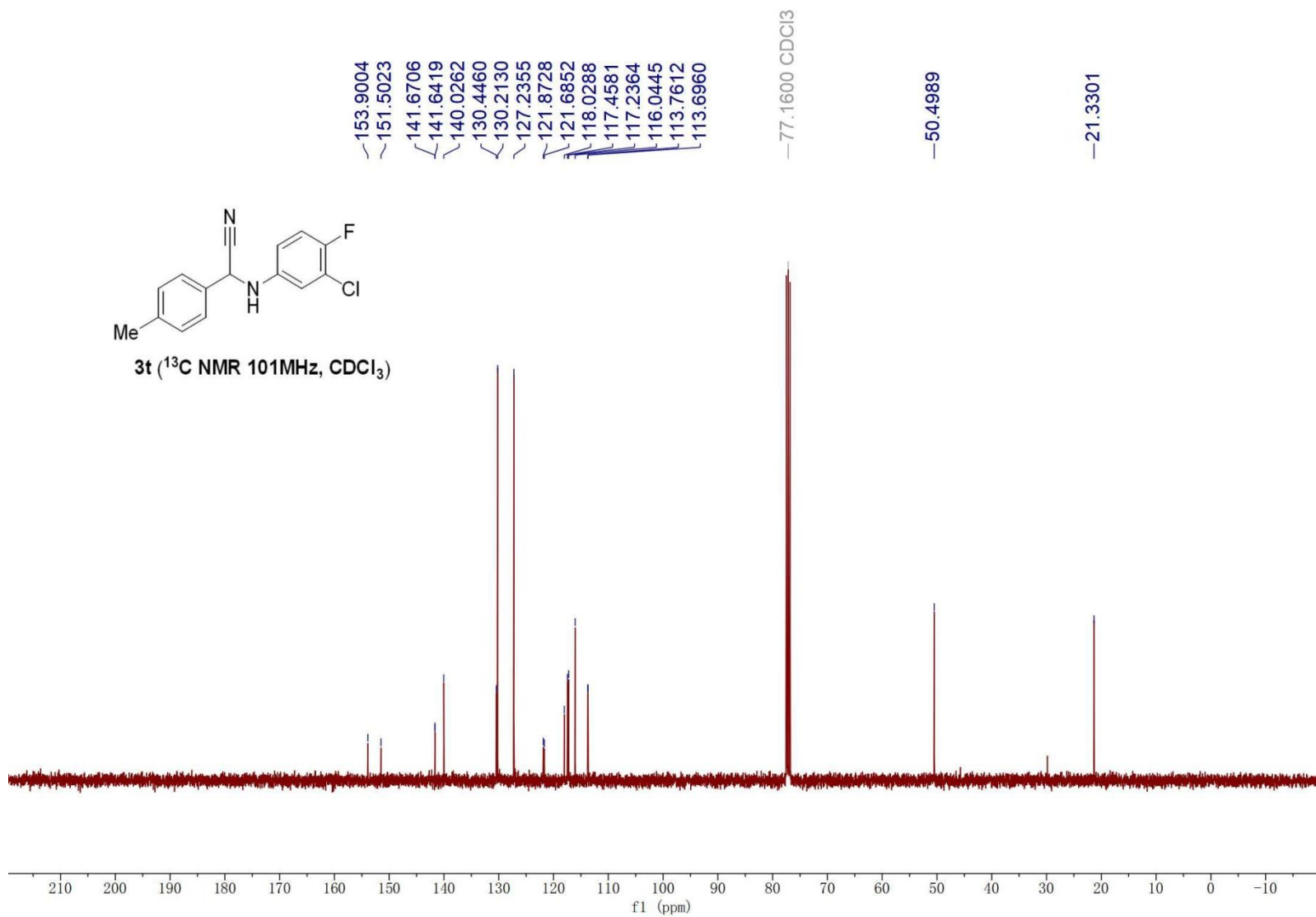
3r (<sup>13</sup>C NMR 101MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



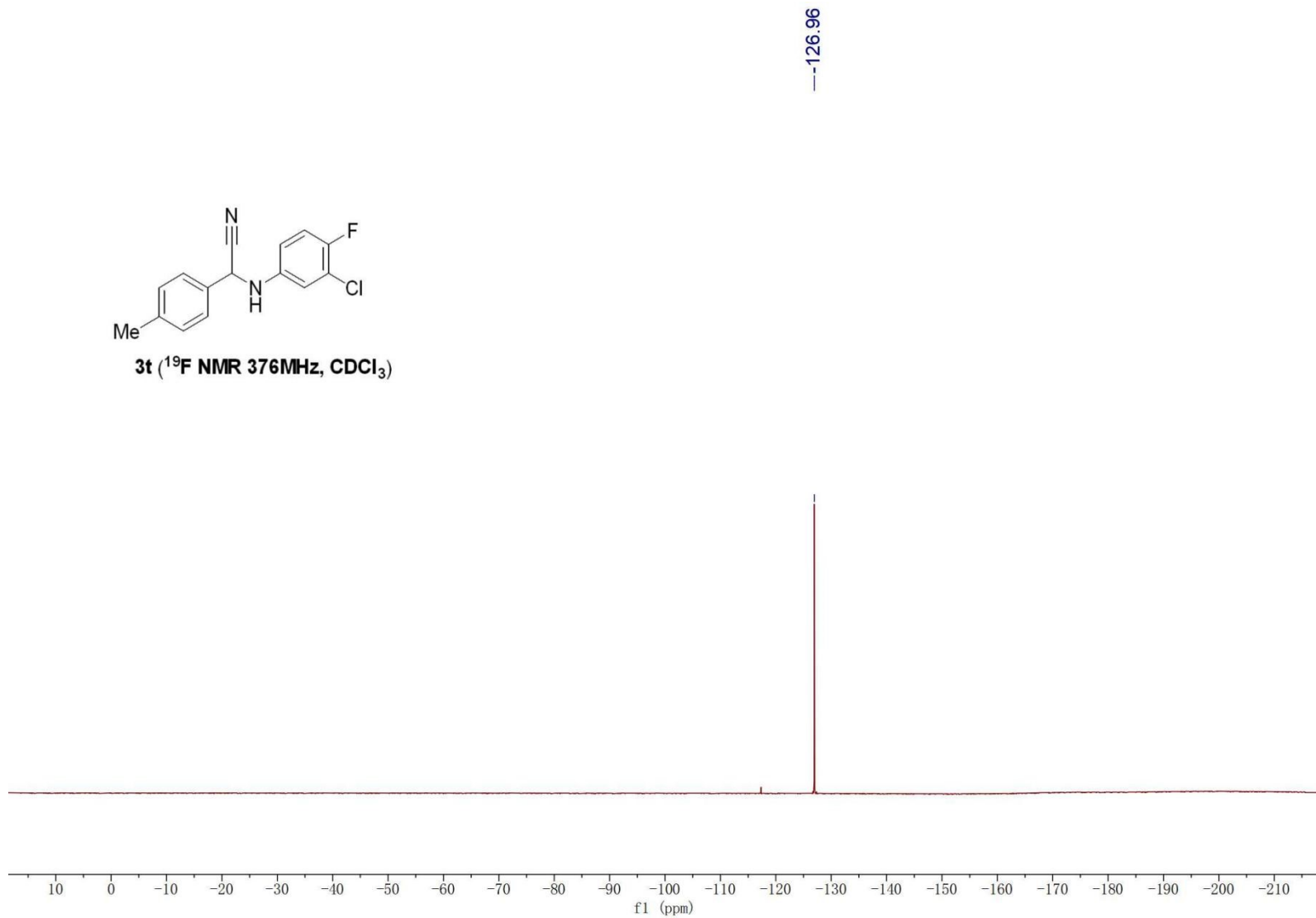
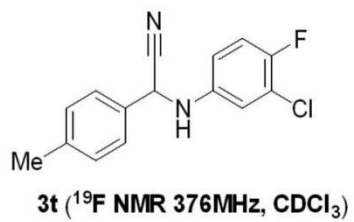


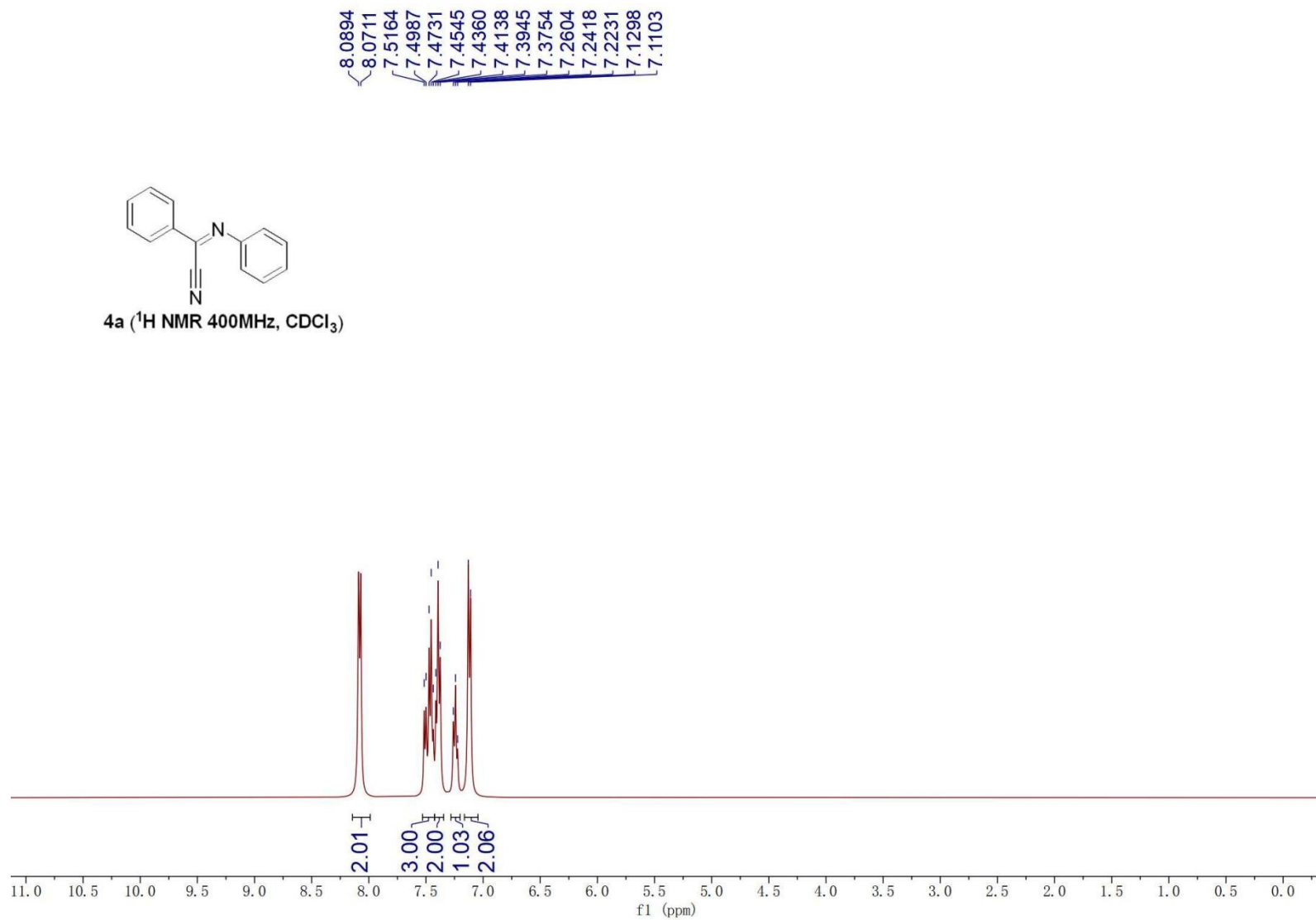


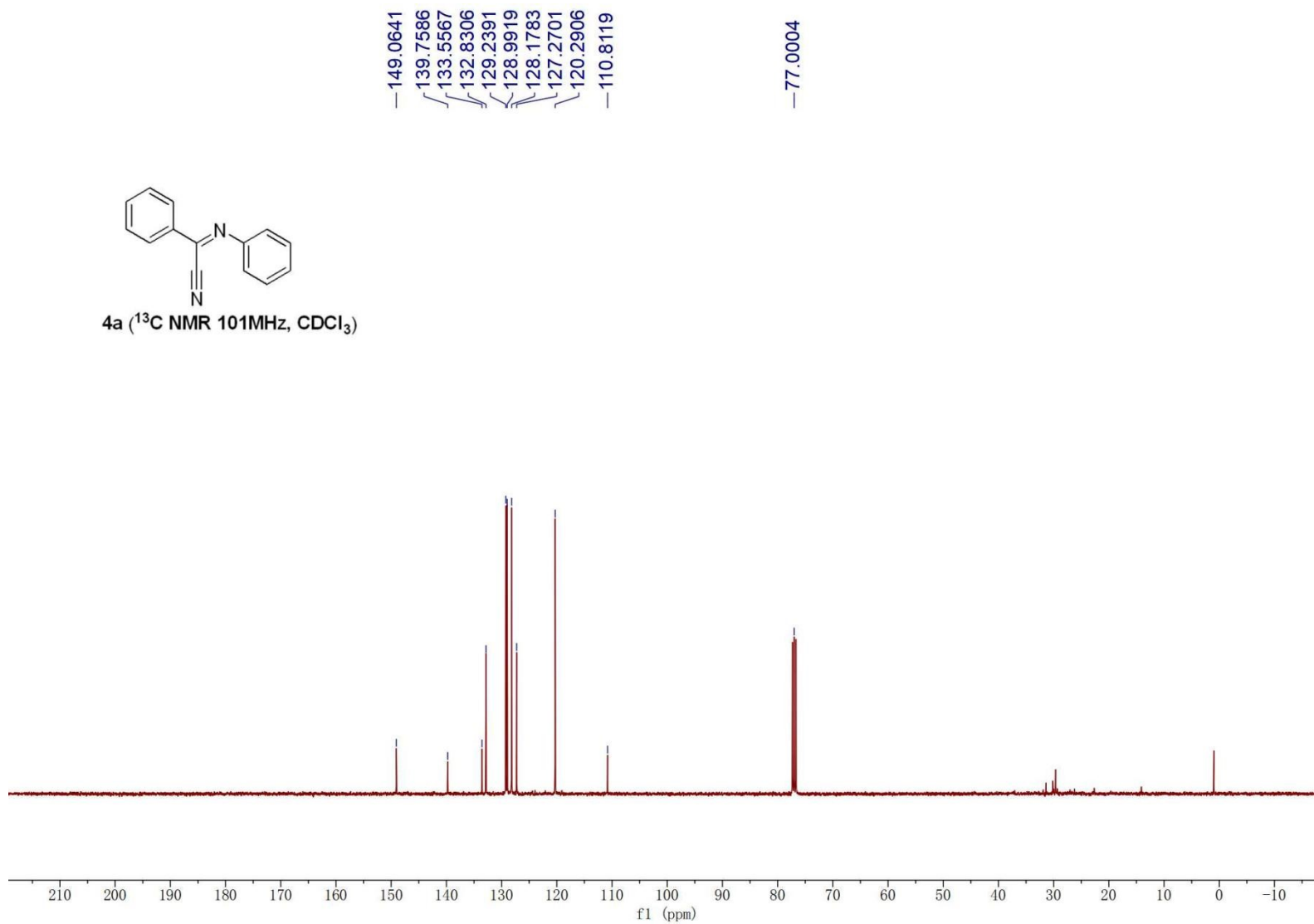


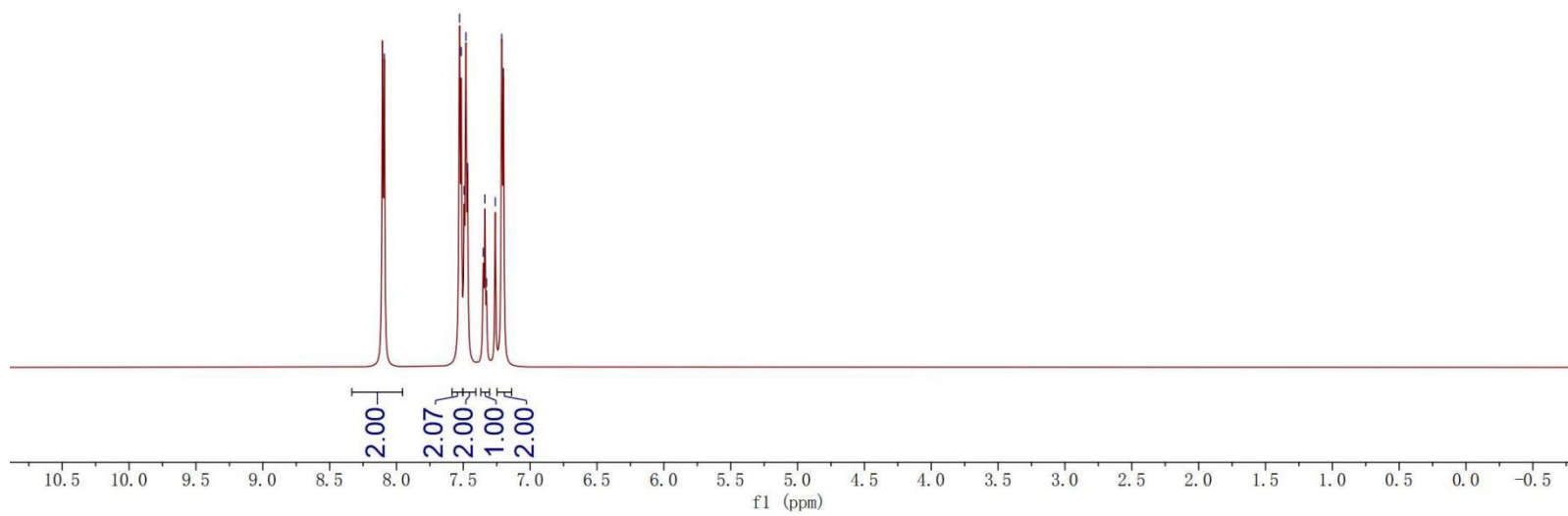
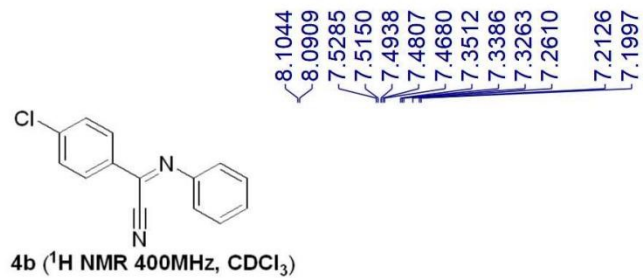


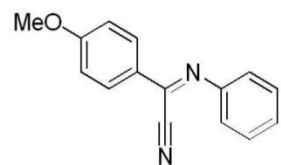




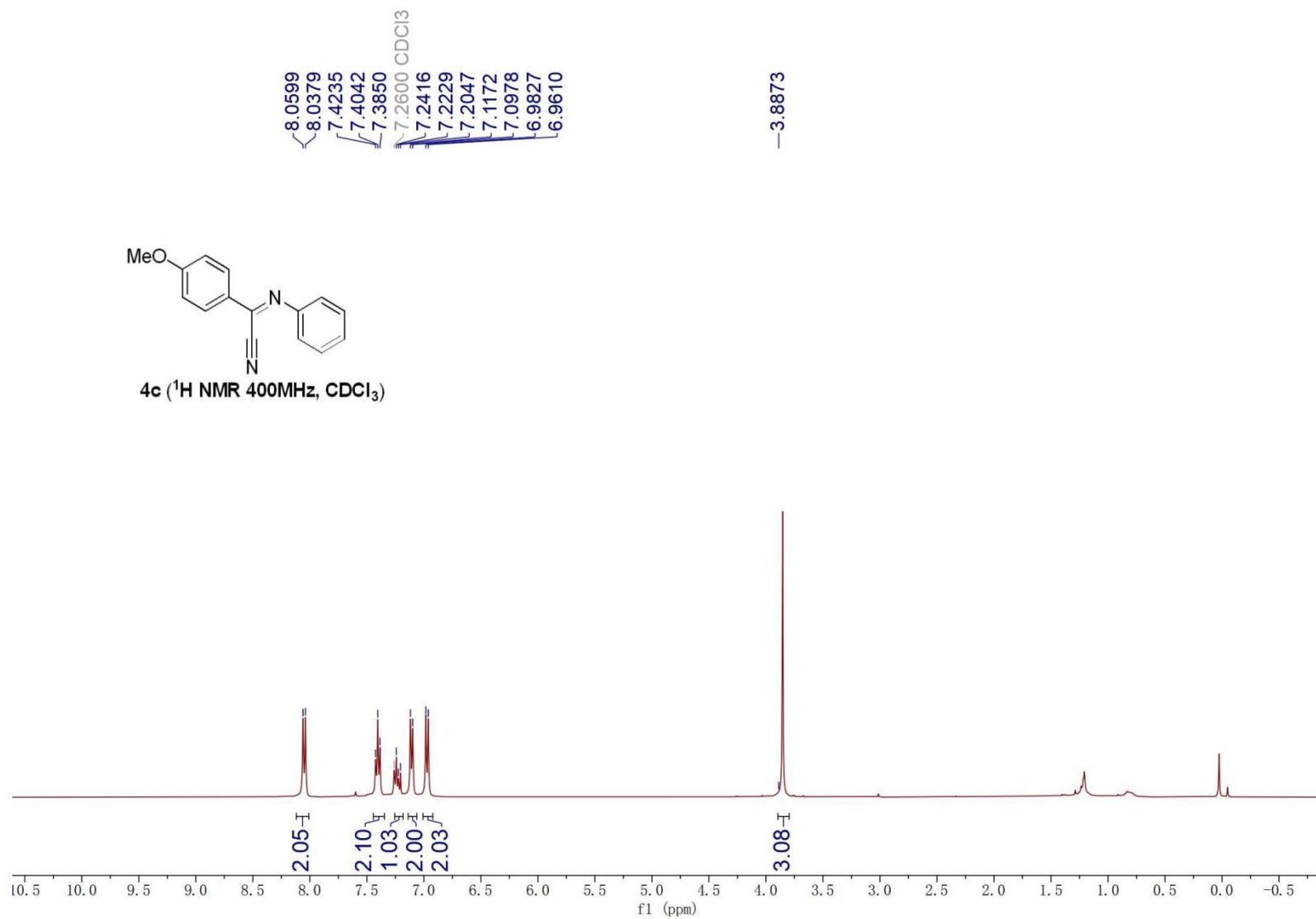


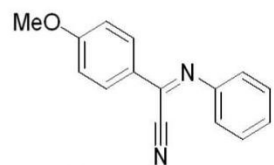




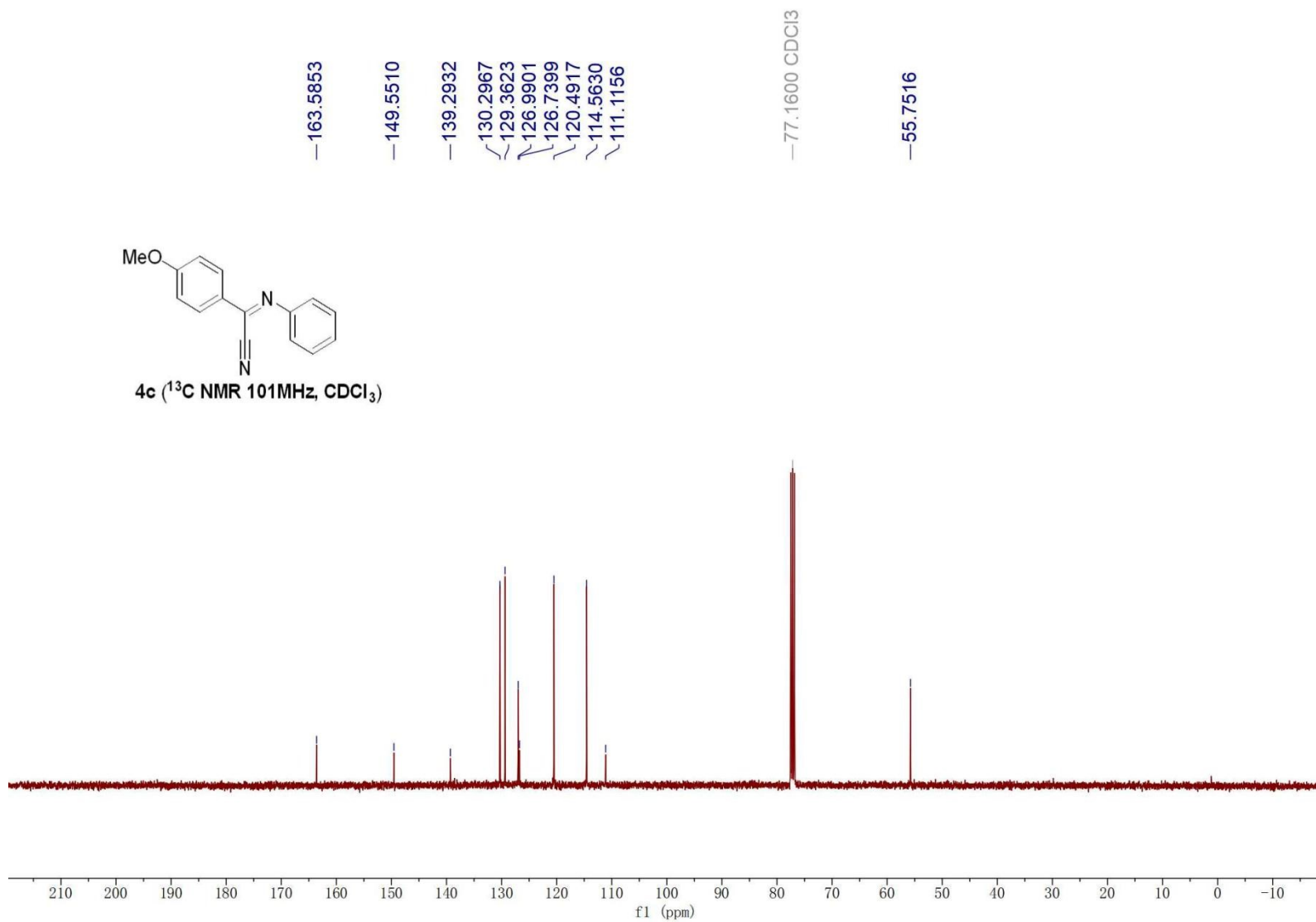


4c ( $^1\text{H NMR}$  400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

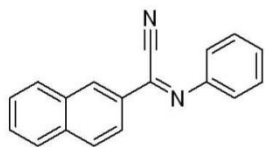




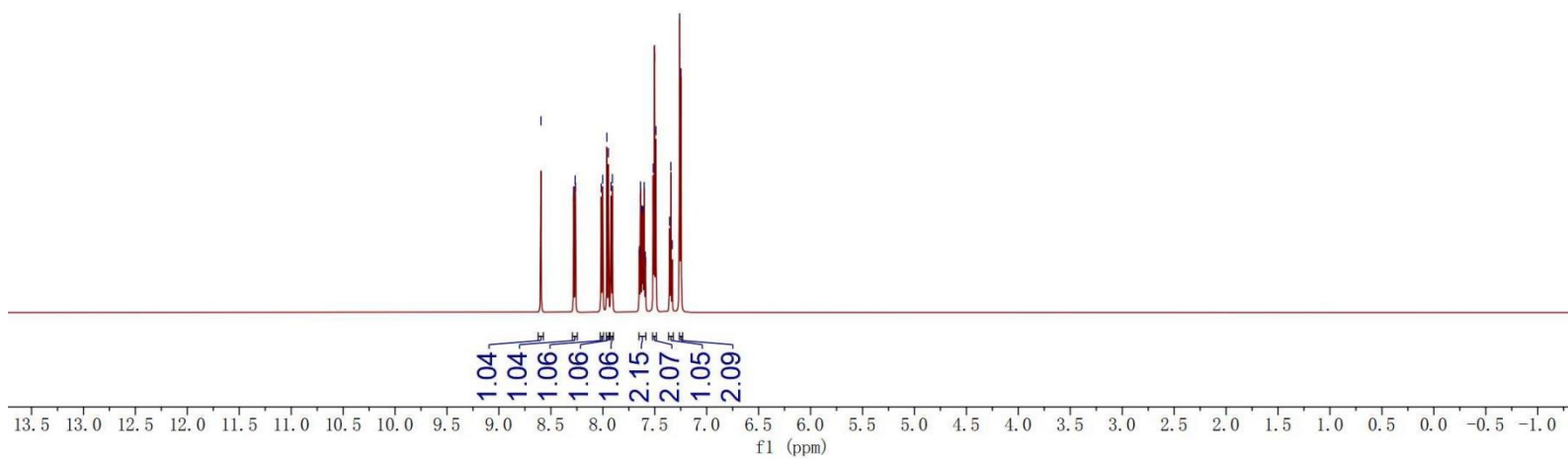
4c ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

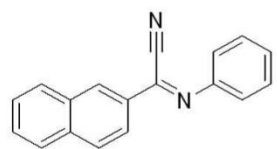


8.5964  
8.2807  
8.2776  
8.2662  
8.2631  
8.0149  
8.0015  
7.9603  
7.9458  
7.9213  
7.9080  
7.6500  
7.6477  
7.6385  
7.6363  
7.6340  
7.6253  
7.6227  
7.6155  
7.6130  
7.6040  
7.6019  
7.5998  
7.5906  
7.5884  
7.5147  
7.5116  
7.5023  
7.5008  
7.4912  
7.4884  
7.3592  
7.3571  
7.3552  
7.3469  
7.3447  
7.3426  
7.3322  
7.2622  
7.2601  
7.2583  
7.2501  
7.2479  
7.2461

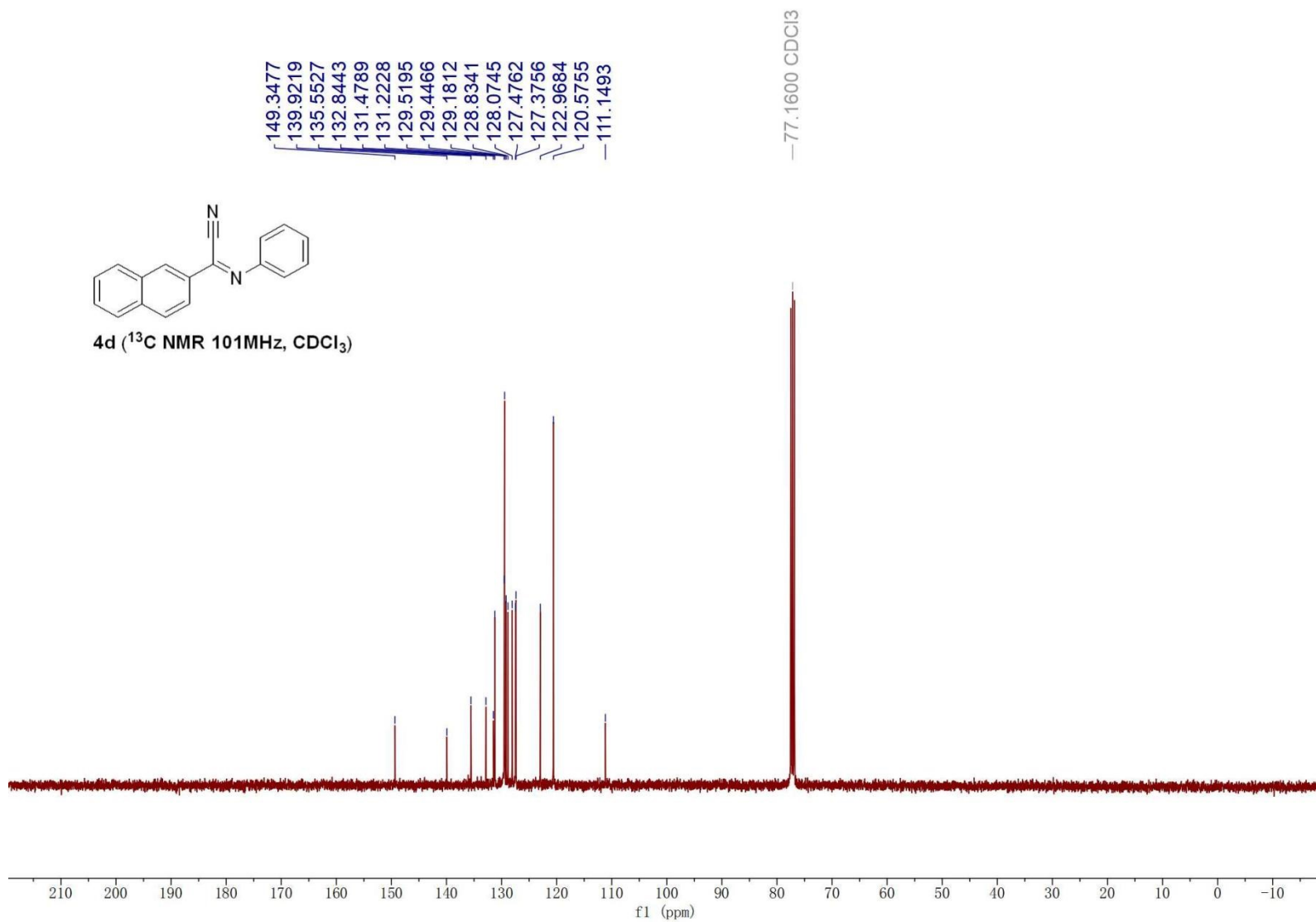


4d ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR 400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

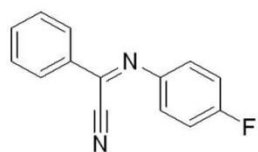




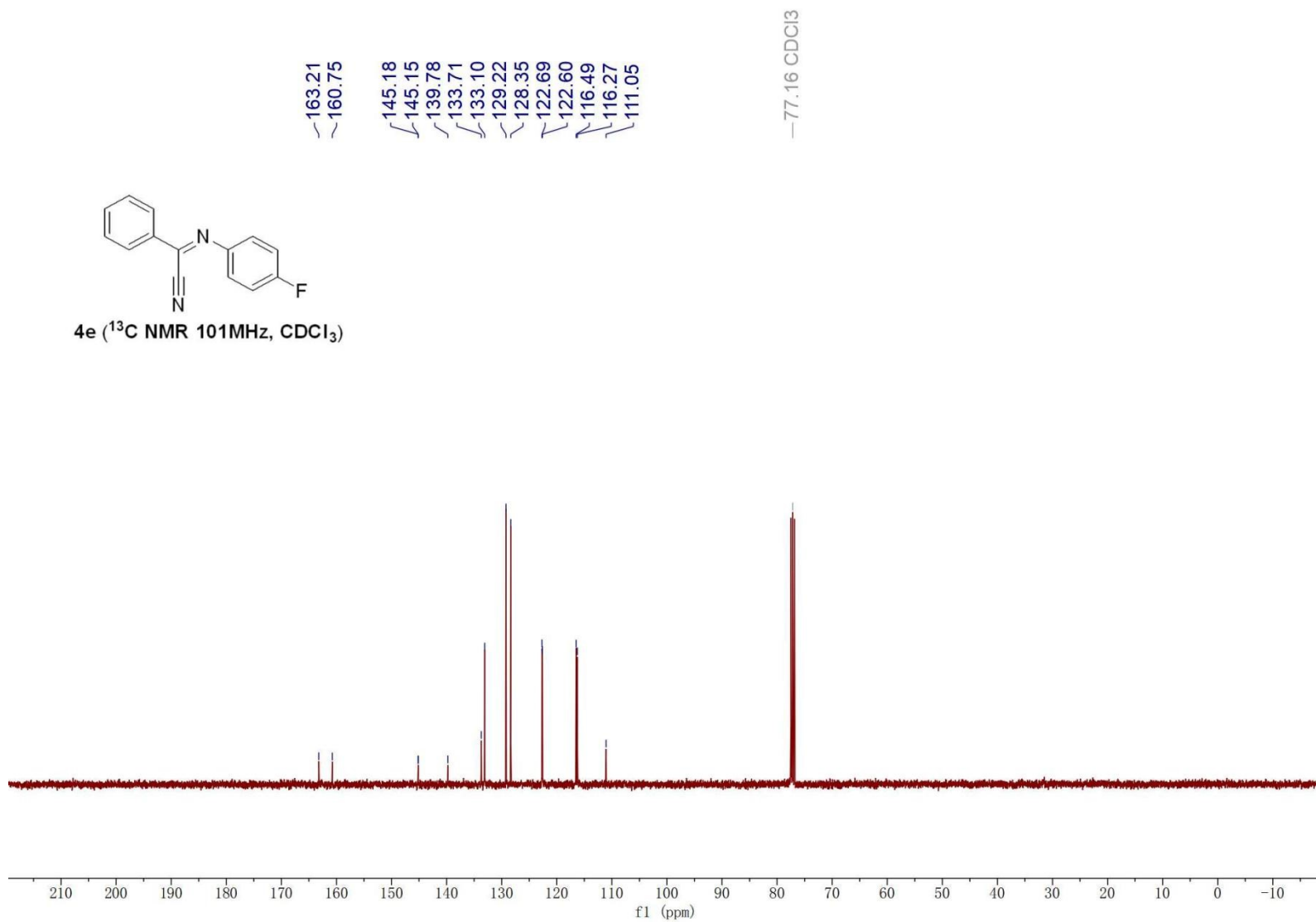
4d ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

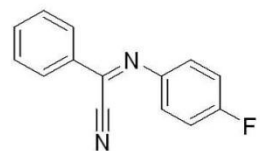






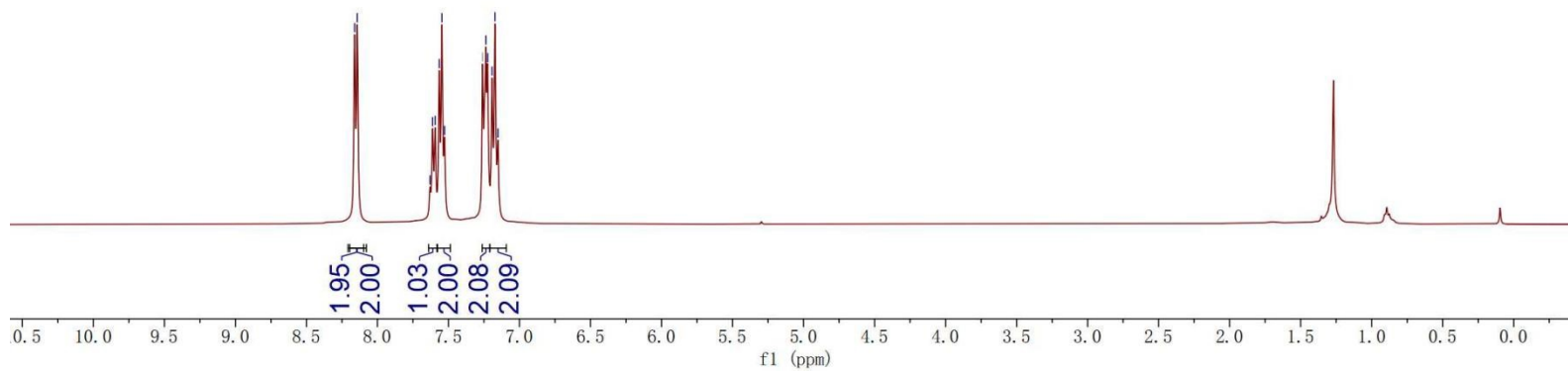
4e ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )





4e ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR 400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

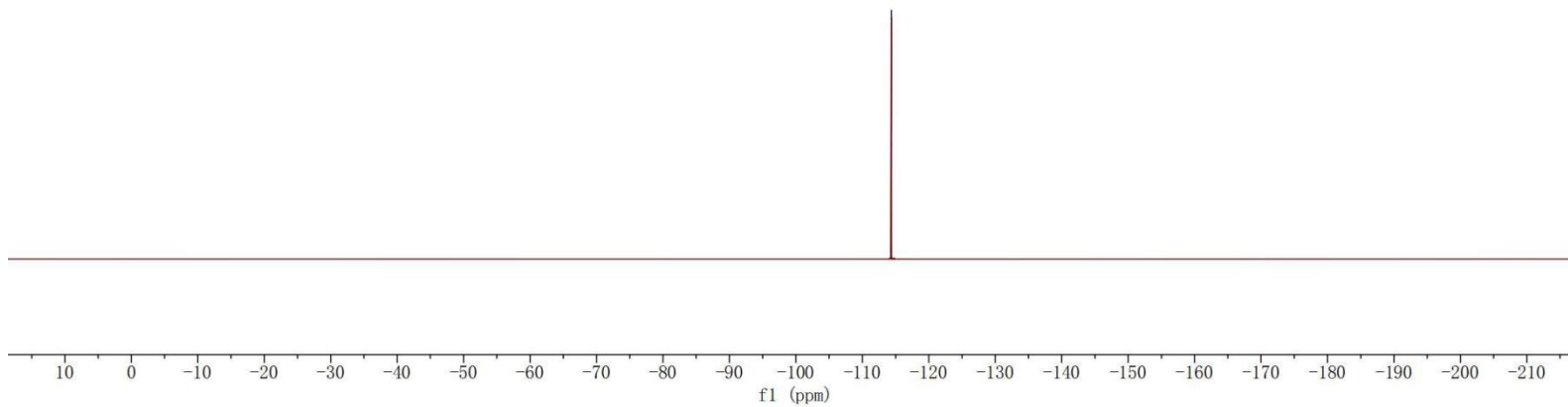
8.16  
8.14  
7.63  
7.61  
7.59  
7.57  
7.55  
7.53  
7.26  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
7.24  
7.22  
7.19  
7.17  
7.15

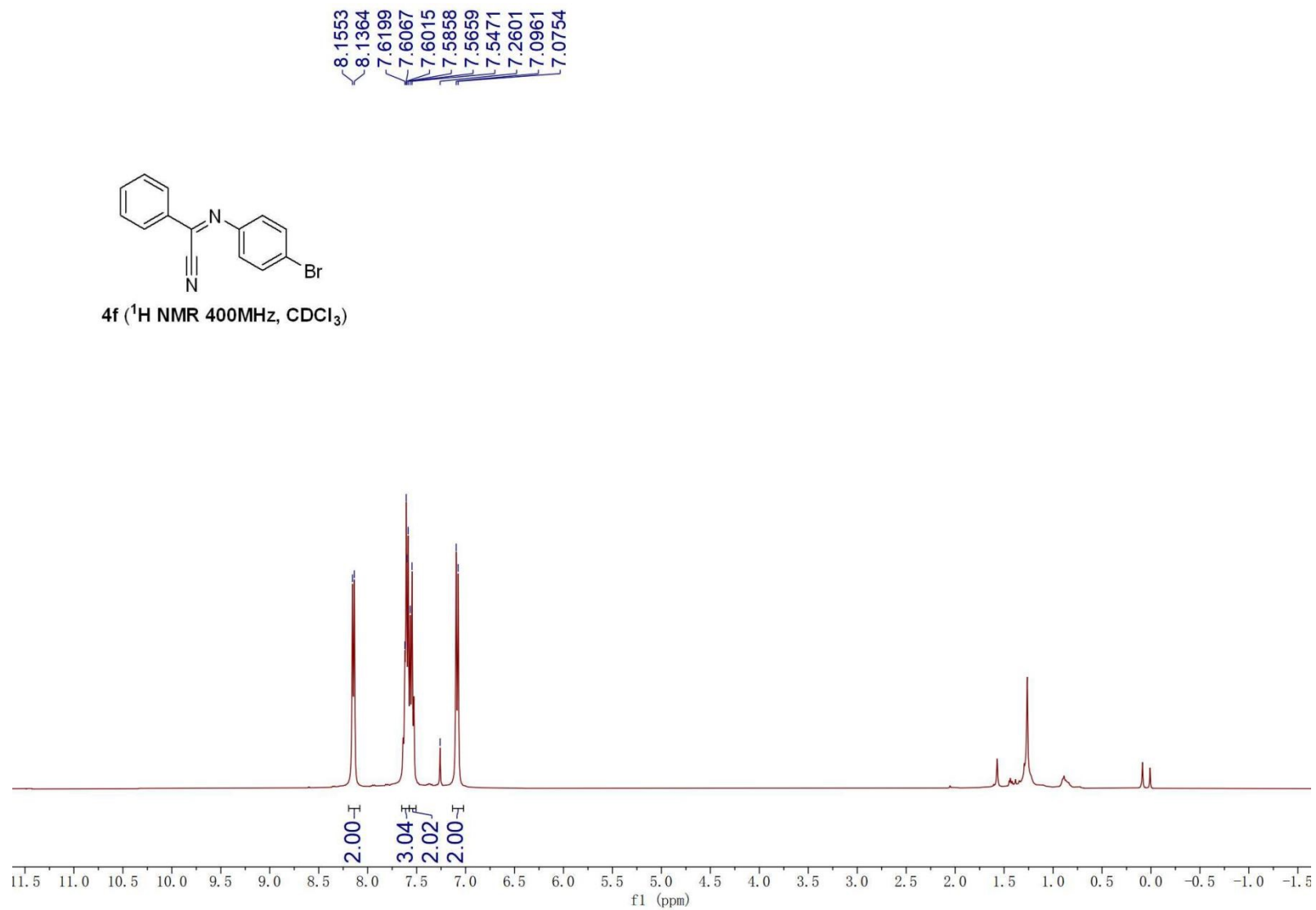




4e ( $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR 376MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

—114.36

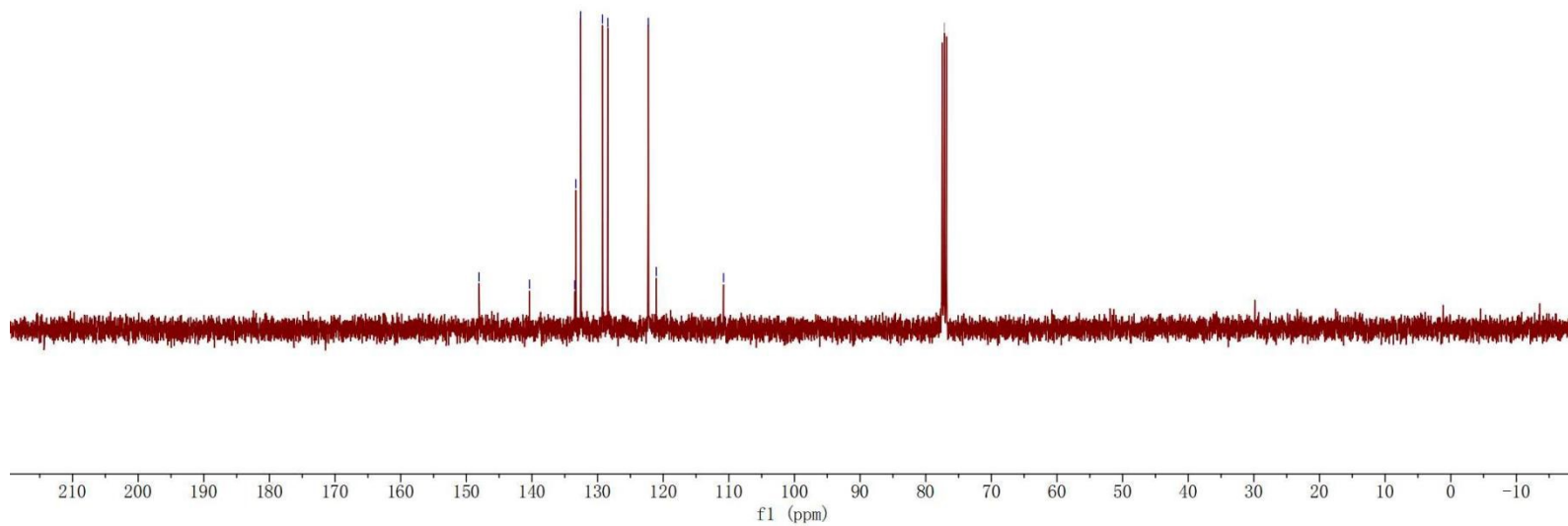


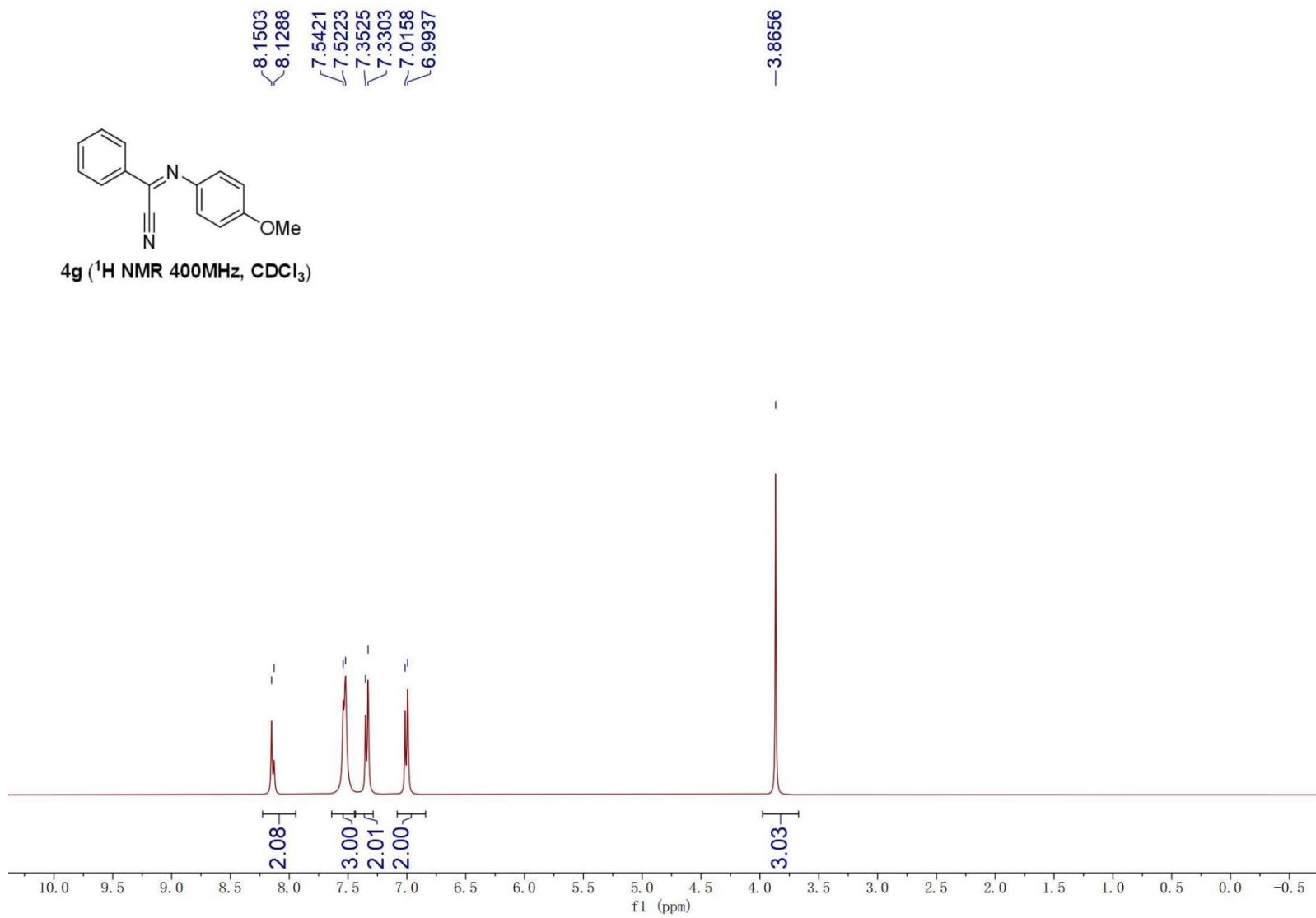


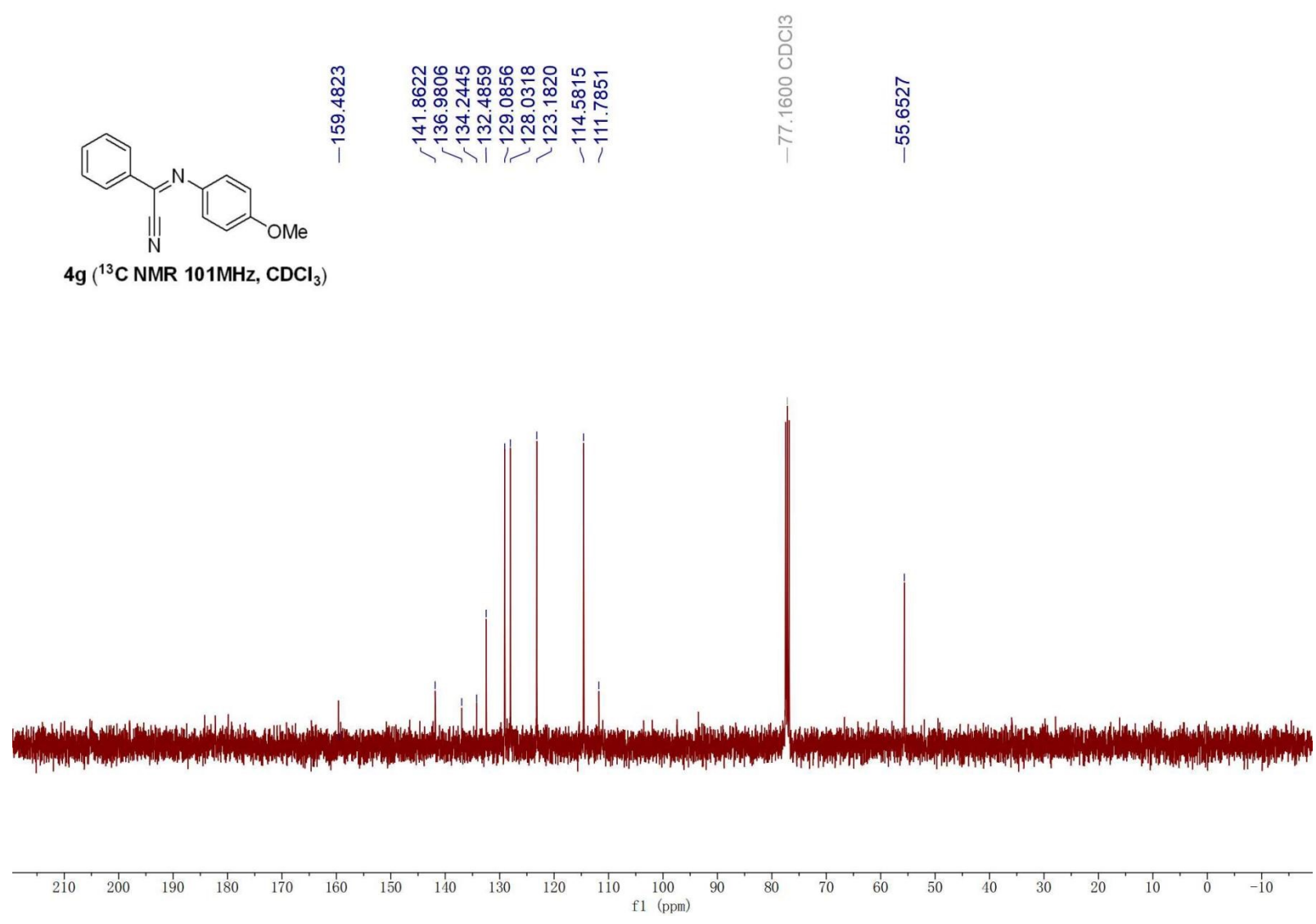


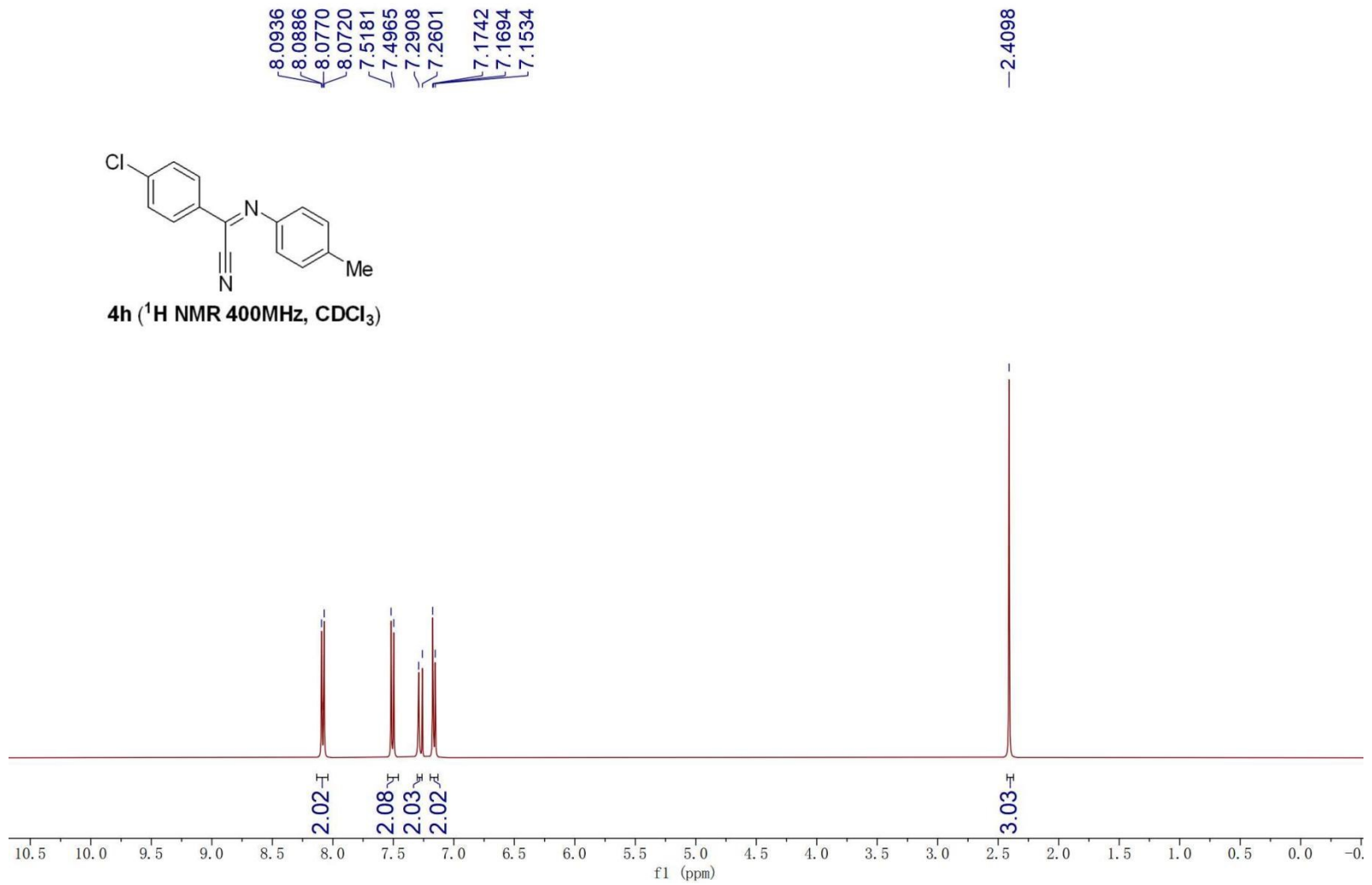
148.0522  
140.3824  
133.4784  
133.3067  
132.5727  
129.2485  
128.4434  
122.2657  
121.0519  
—110.7976

—77.1600  $\text{CDCl}_3$

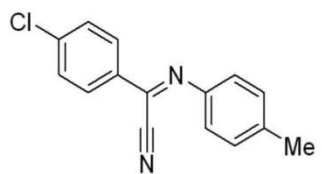












4h ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 101MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

