

# Supporting Information

## LiOtBu-Promoted Synthesis of Bis(3-indolyl)methanes by the Alkylation of Indoles with Alcohols under Air

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# Both authors contributed equally to this work.

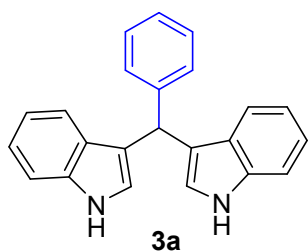
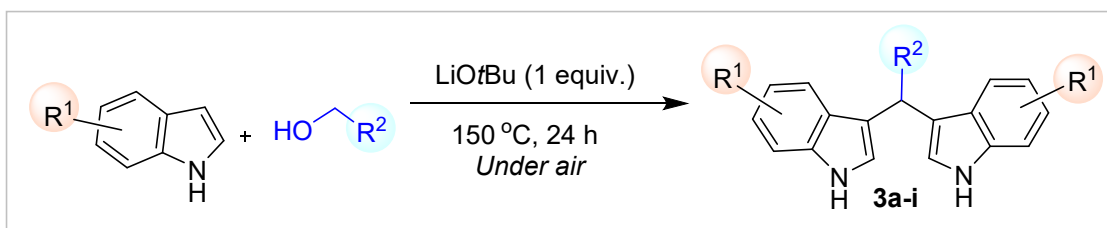
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## 1. General information

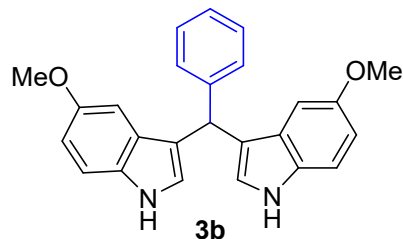
All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Ak-Sci and used without further purification. Mass spectra were obtained with a Hewlett-Packard HPGC-MS 5890/5972 instrument (EI, 70 eV) by using a GC inlet or with an MX-1321 instrument (EI, 70 eV) by using a direct inlet. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200 mesh, Merck), and silica gel Merck 60 F254 plates were used for TLC. Commercially available solvents were distilled for column chromatography. All other solvents were purified and dried by standard methods.

## 2. Experimental section

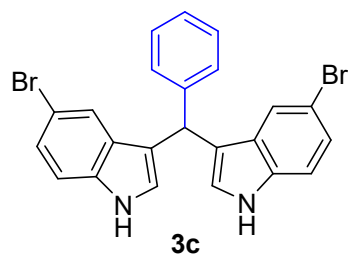


**3,3'-(phenylmethylene)bis(1H-indole)**<sup>1</sup>: Indole (35.1 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1eq) was added to a pressure tube that was charged with benzyl alcohol (130 mg, 1.2 mmol, 4eq), LiOtBu (24 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1eq) under air. The reaction mixture was stirred with a magnetic stirrer and heated at 150 °C for 24 hours. After cooling, the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite, which was washed three times with hot water (200 mL) to eliminate benzyl alcohol and three times with EtOAc to have the final filtrate. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was further purified on Silica gel column chromatography with a 5:1 elution system of hexane/ ethyl acetate to yield **3a** (38.6 mg, 80%) as pale-yellow solid; mp = 86-87 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.87 (s, 2H), 7.42 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 7.28 (dd, J = 8.4, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 7.01 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (dd, J = 2.4, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 5.90 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 144.03, 136.72, 128.74, 128.22, 127.12, 126.14, 123.61, 121.94, 119.96, 119.77, 119.25, 111.02, 77.24, 77.03, 76.82, 40.23.

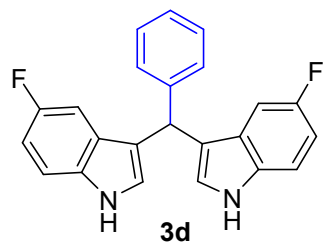
<sup>1</sup> N. K. Nguyen, D. L. Tran, T. Q. Hung, T. M. Le, N. T. Son, Q. T. Trinh, T. T. Dang, P. Langer, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2021**, *68*, 152936.



**3,3'-(phenylmethylene)bis(5-methoxy-1H-indole):**<sup>1</sup> Following the general procedure and using compound **2** (130 mg, 1.2 mmol) and 5-methoxy indole (44 mg, 0.3 mmol) gave a crude product, which was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (silica gel; hexane) to yield **3b** (47.2 mg, 82%) as pale-yellow solid; mp = 215-216 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.65 (s, 2H), 7.40 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 7.20 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (t, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 3H), 6.72 (dt, *J* = 8.7, 2.1 Hz, 2H), 5.77 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 152.67, 145.02, 131.80, 128.31, 127.97, 127.02, 125.70, 124.28, 117.68, 111.99, 110.55, 101.47, 55.24, 40.01, 39.84, 39.67, 39.51, 39.34, 39.17, 39.01.

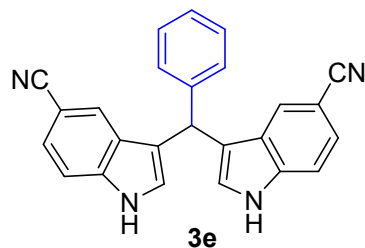


**3,3'-(phenylmethylene)bis(5-bromo-1H-indole):**<sup>2</sup> Following the general procedure and using compound **2** (130 mg, 1.2 mmol) and 5-bromoindole (59 mg, 0.3 mmol) gave a crude product, which was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (silica gel; hexane/ ethyl acetate, 30:1) to yield **3c** (51.8 mg, 72%) as pale-yellow solid; mp = 230-232 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.95 (s, 4H), 7.50 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.28 – 7.25 (m, 6H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 7H), 6.61 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 1.1 Hz, 3H), 5.72 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 143.07, 135.37, 128.70, 128.54, 128.43, 126.53, 124.99, 124.76, 122.30, 119.10, 112.70, 112.57, 77.22, 77.01, 76.80, 39.92.

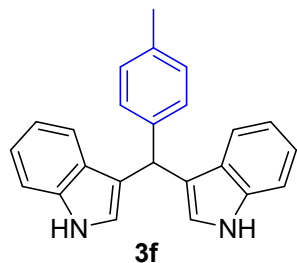


**3,3'-(phenylmethylene)bis(5-fluoro-1H-indole):**<sup>1</sup> Following the general procedure and using compound **2** (130 mg, 1.2 mmol) and 5-fluoroindole (41 mg, 0.3 mmol) gave a crude product, which was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (silica gel; hexane) to yield **3d** (25.5 mg, 48%) as pale-yellow solid; mp = 169-171 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.97 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.21 – 7.14 (m, 1H), 7.02 – 6.96 (m, 4H), 6.90 (td, *J* = 9.1, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 5.82 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 156.43 (d, *J* =

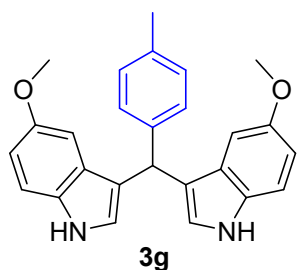
231.1 Hz), 144.46, 133.27, 128.25, 128.14, 126.80 (d,  $J = 9.9$  Hz), 125.95, 125.64, 118.04 (d,  $J = 4.7$  Hz), 112.45 (d,  $J = 9.7$  Hz), 109.05 (d,  $J = 26.1$  Hz), 103.63 (d,  $J = 23.2$  Hz).



**3,3'-(phenylmethylene)bis(1H-indole-5-carbonitrile):**<sup>2</sup> Following the general procedure and using compound **2** (130 mg, 1.2 mmol) and 5-cyanodindole (47 mg, 0.3 mmol) gave a crude product, which was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (silica gel; hexane) to yield **3e** (42.5 mg, 76%) as pale-yellow solid; mp = 240–242 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 11.47 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.14 (m, 6H), 5.96 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 143.84, 135.41, 129.45, 128.34, 128.23, 128.21, 126.23, 121.07, 120.67, 120.09, 118.69, 116.55, 102.46, 79.16, 40.01, 39.84, 39.67, 39.51, 39.34, 39.17, 39.01.

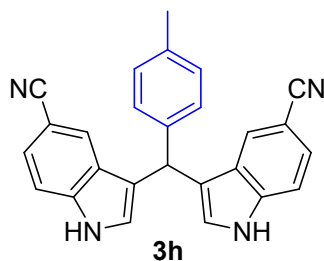


**3,3'-((4-methylphenyl)methylene)bis(1H-indole):**<sup>1</sup> Following the general procedure and using compound **1** (35 mg, 0.3 mmol) and 4-methylbenzyl alcohol (146 mg, 1.2 mmol) gave a crude product, which was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (silica gel; hexane) to yield **3f** (42.9 mg, 85%) as pale-yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.91 (s, 2H), 7.40 (dq,  $J = 7.9, 0.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.34 (dt,  $J = 8.1, 0.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.16 (ddd,  $J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.11 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 7.00 (ddd,  $J = 8.0, 7.1, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.02, 136.73, 135.47, 128.91, 128.58, 127.14, 123.54, 121.87, 119.98, 119.94, 119.19, 110.99, 77.24, 77.03, 76.82, 39.80.

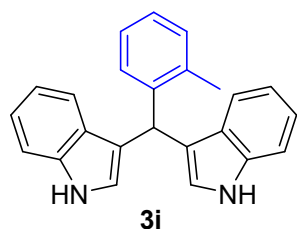


<sup>2</sup> N. Biswas, R. Sharma, D. Srimani, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2020**, *362*, 2902–2910.

**3,3'-(p-tolylmethylene)bis(5-methoxy-1H-indole):**<sup>3</sup> Following the general procedure and using 5-methoxy indole (44 mg, 0.3 mmol) and 4-methylbenzyl alcohol (146 mg, 1.2 mmol) gave a crude product, which was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (silica gel; hexane) to yield **3g** (26.8 mg, 45%) as pale-yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.79 (s, 2H), 7.29 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 3.63 (s, 6H), 2.29 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 154.33, 142.89, 135.76, 133.24, 129.41, 129.40, 128.50, 125.23, 119.62, 112.64, 111.86, 102.61, 55.74, 40.78, 21.02.



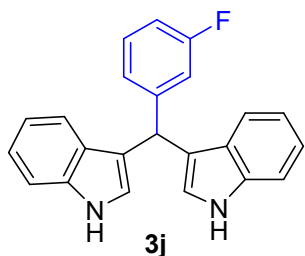
**3,3'-(p-tolylmethylene)bis(1H-indole-5-carbonitrile):**<sup>4</sup> Following the general procedure and using 5-cyanodindole (47 mg, 0.3 mmol) and 4-methylbenzyl alcohol (146 mg, 1.2 mmol) gave a crude product, which was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (silica gel; hexane) to yield **3h** (20.1 mg, 36%) as pale-yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.63 (s, 2H), 7.79 (s, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (s, 2H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 141.59, 139.71, 136.61, 129.85, 129.24, 127.73, 127.17, 125.72, 124.92, 121.18, 120.56, 113.58, 102.51, 40.01, 21.00.



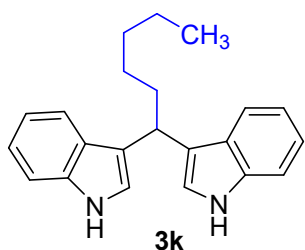
**3,3'-((2-methylphenyl)methylene)bis(1H-indole):**<sup>1</sup> Following the general procedure and using compound **1** (35 mg, 0.3 mmol) and 2-methylbenzyl alcohol (146 mg, 1.2 mmol) gave a crude product, which was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (silica gel; hexane) to yield **3i** (41.4 mg, 82%) as pale-yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.85 (s, 2H), 7.36 (ddd, *J* = 13.6, 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 3H), 7.24 – 7.09 (m, 5H), 7.08 – 6.99 (m, 3H), 6.54 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 207.07, 142.11, 136.77, 136.08, 130.20, 128.43, 127.23, 126.09, 125.84, 123.89, 121.90, 119.80, 119.21, 119.16, 111.06, 77.27, 77.05, 76.84, 36.25.

<sup>3</sup> S. S. Gogula, D. V. Prasanna, V. Thumma, S. Misra, C. A. Lincoln, P. M. Reddy, A. Hu and B. V. Subbareddy, *ACS Omega*, **2023**, 8, 36401-36411.

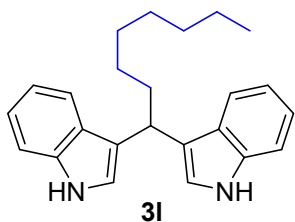
<sup>4</sup> V. Yadav, E. Balaraman, S. B. Mhaske, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, **2021**, 363, 4430.



**3,3'-((3-fluorophenyl)methylene)bis(1H-indole):**<sup>1</sup> Following the general procedure and using compound **1** (35 mg, 0.3 mmol) and 3-fluorobenzyl alcohol (151 mg, 1.2 mmol) gave a crude product, which was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (silica gel; hexane) to yield **3j** (40.2 mg, 79%) as pale-yellow solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.91 (s, 2H), 7.43 – 7.33 (m, 4H), 7.30 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.12 (m, 3H), 7.08 – 6.98 (m, 3H), 6.91 (tdd, J = 8.4, 2.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (dd, J = 2.5, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 5.89 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 163.84, 162.21, 146.86, 146.81, 136.72, 129.60, 129.55, 126.95, 124.43, 124.41, 123.58, 122.09, 119.80, 119.38, 119.10, 115.67, 115.52, 113.16, 113.02, 111.11, 77.24, 77.03, 76.82, 29.72.



**3,3'-(hexane-1,1-diyl)bis(1H-indole):**<sup>1</sup> Following general procedure and using compound **1** (35 mg, 0.3 mmol) and n-hexanol (123 mg, 1.2 mmol) gave a crude product, which was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (silica gel; hexane) to yield **3k** (35.6 mg, 75%) as pale-yellow solid; mp = 67-69 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 – 7.01 (m, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (s, 1H), 2.23 (qd, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (ddd, J = 15.2, 8.3, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 1.36 (dddd, J = 13.4, 7.7, 6.4, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.33 – 1.26 (m, 1H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 136.64, 127.23, 121.72, 121.38, 120.64, 119.70, 119.00, 111.04, 77.24, 77.03, 76.82, 35.84, 34.04, 32.04, 28.04, 22.68, 14.13.

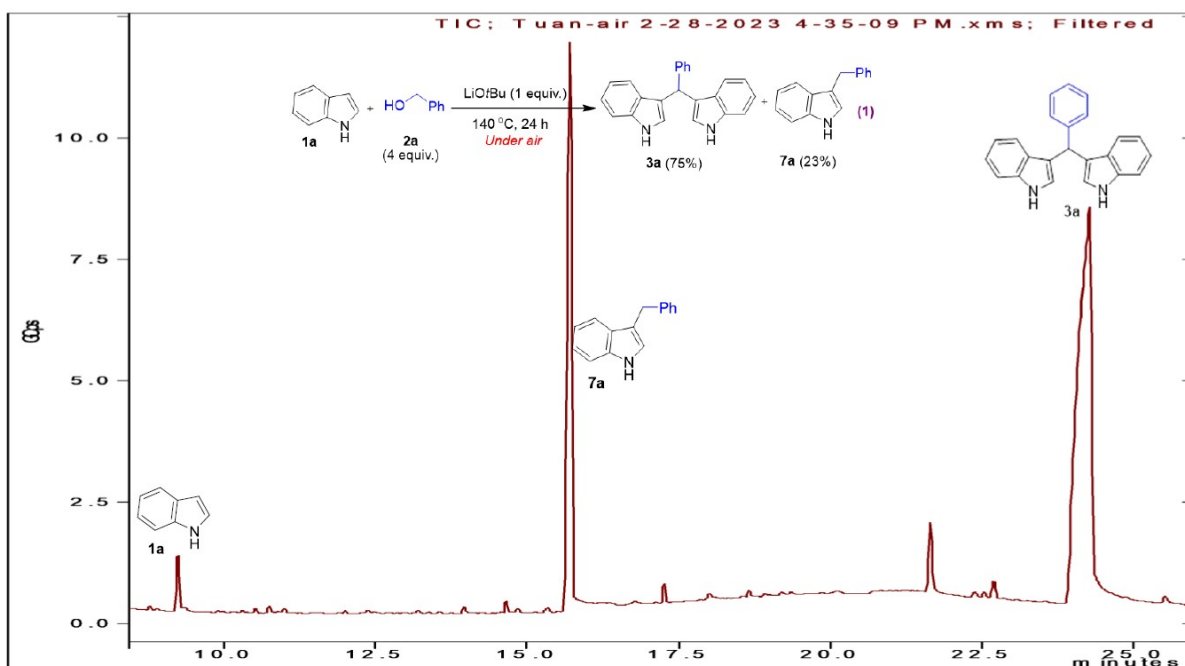


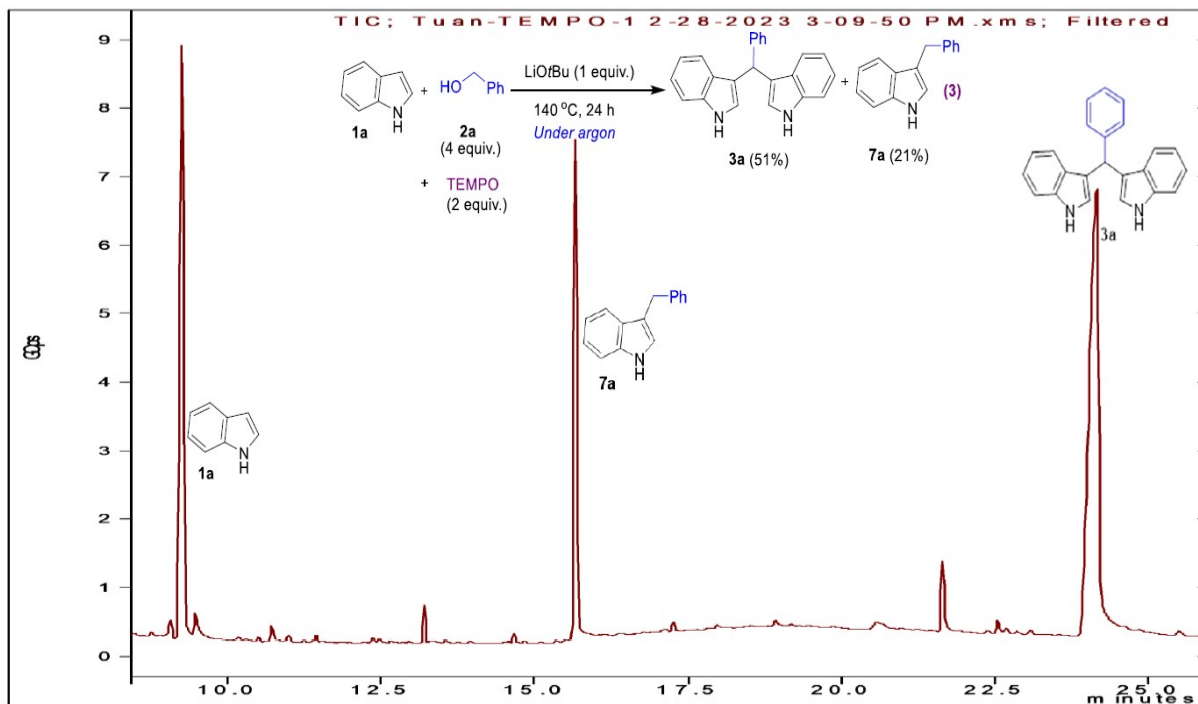
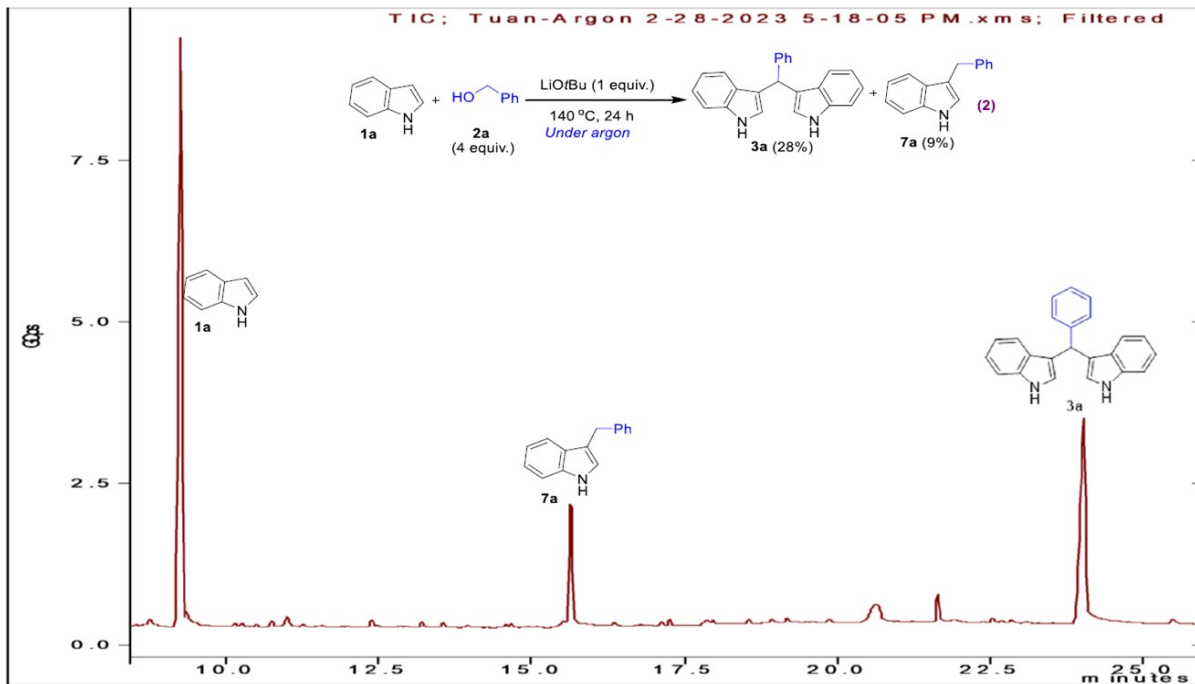
**3,3'-(octane-1,1-diyl)bis(1H-indole):**<sup>5</sup> Following general procedure and using compound **1** (35 mg, 0.3 mmol) and n-octanol (156.28 mg, 1.2 mmol) gave a pale-yellow semisolid product, which was purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (silica gel; hexane) to yield **3l** (31.0 mg,

<sup>5</sup> A. Gogoi, G. Basumatary and G. Bez, *Synthesis*, **2022**, *55*, 786-798.

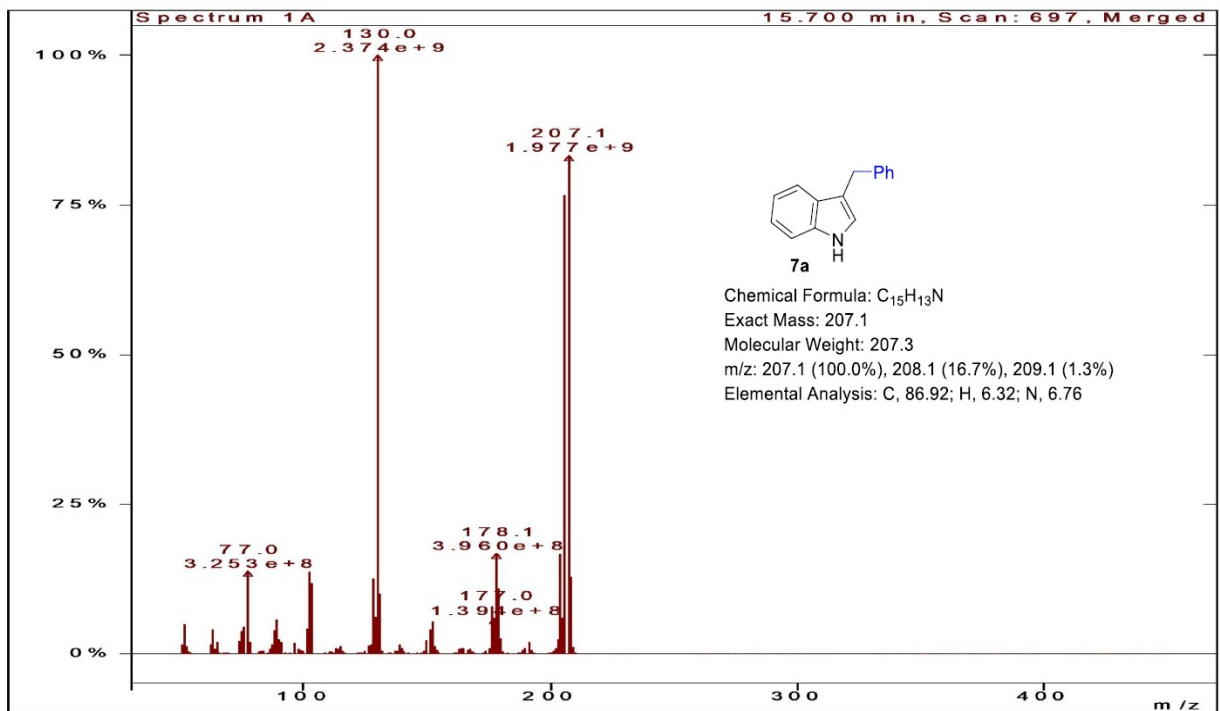
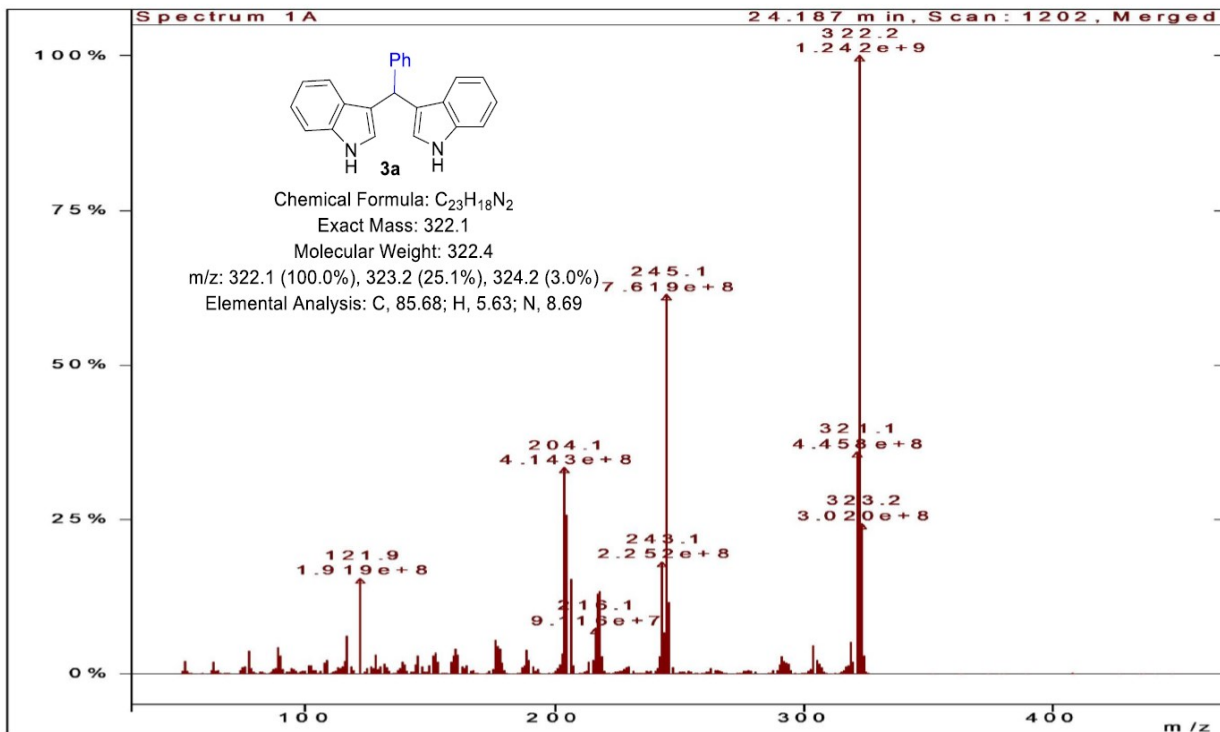
60%) as pale-yellow solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.88 (s, 2H), 7.60 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.33 (dt,  $J = 8.1, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.15 (ddd,  $J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.04 (ddd,  $J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.01 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 4.48 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.22 (q,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.46 – 1.39 (m, 2H), 1.39 – 1.31 (m, 2H), 1.24 – 1.20 (m, 4H), 0.89 – 0.82 (m, 5H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  136.63, 127.23, 121.71, 121.37, 120.65, 119.70, 118.99, 111.02, 35.87, 34.04, 31.93, 29.78, 29.31, 28.35, 22.67, 14.10.

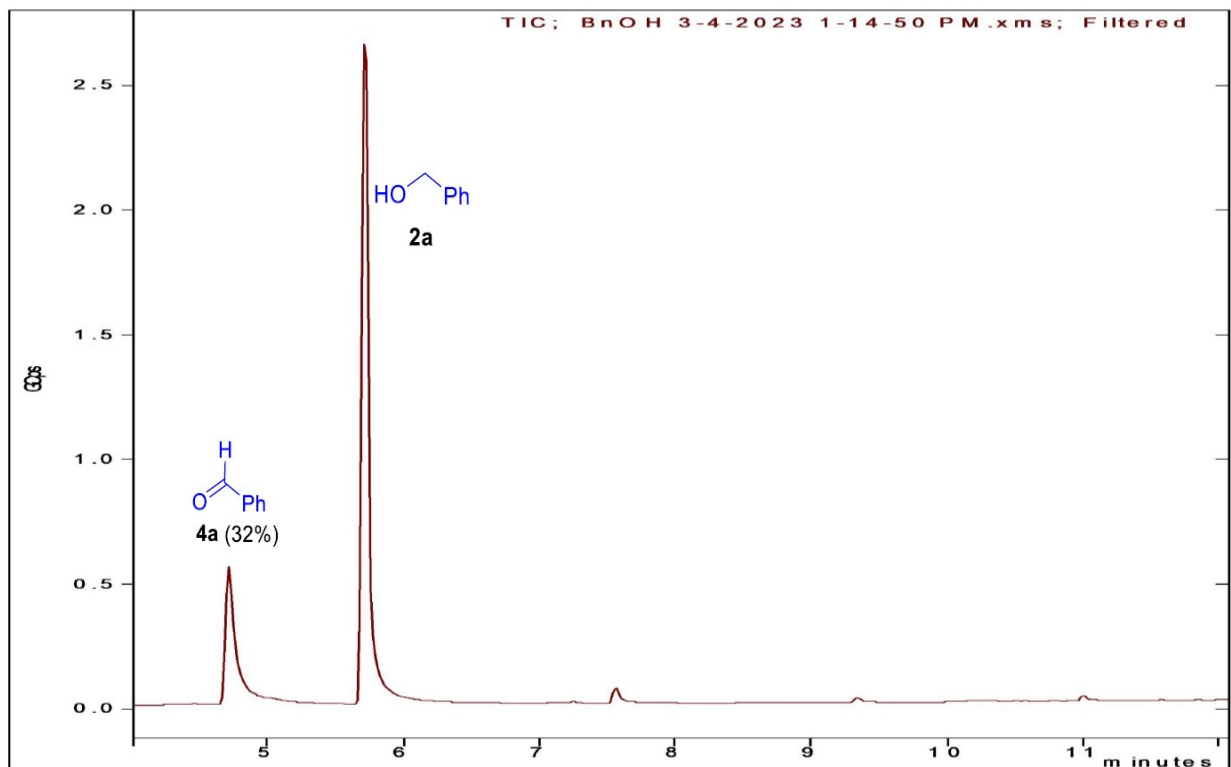
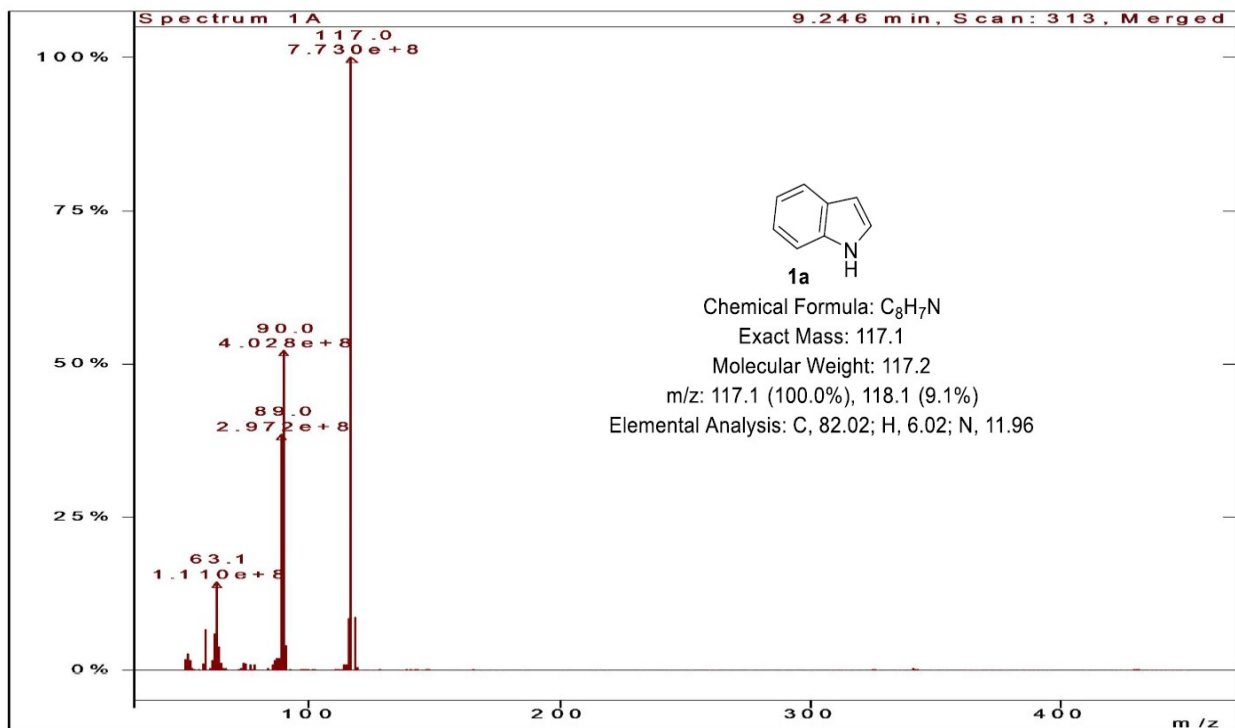
### 3. Results of control experiments were analyzed by GC MS method.

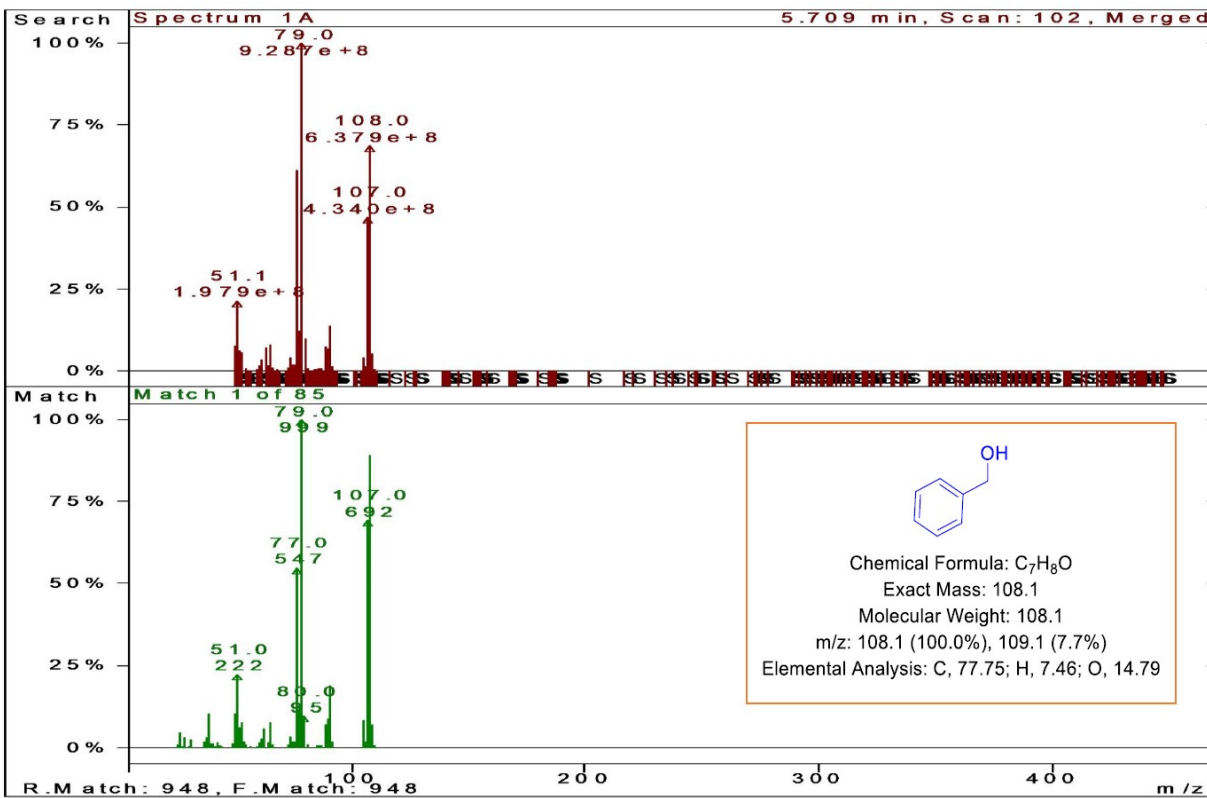
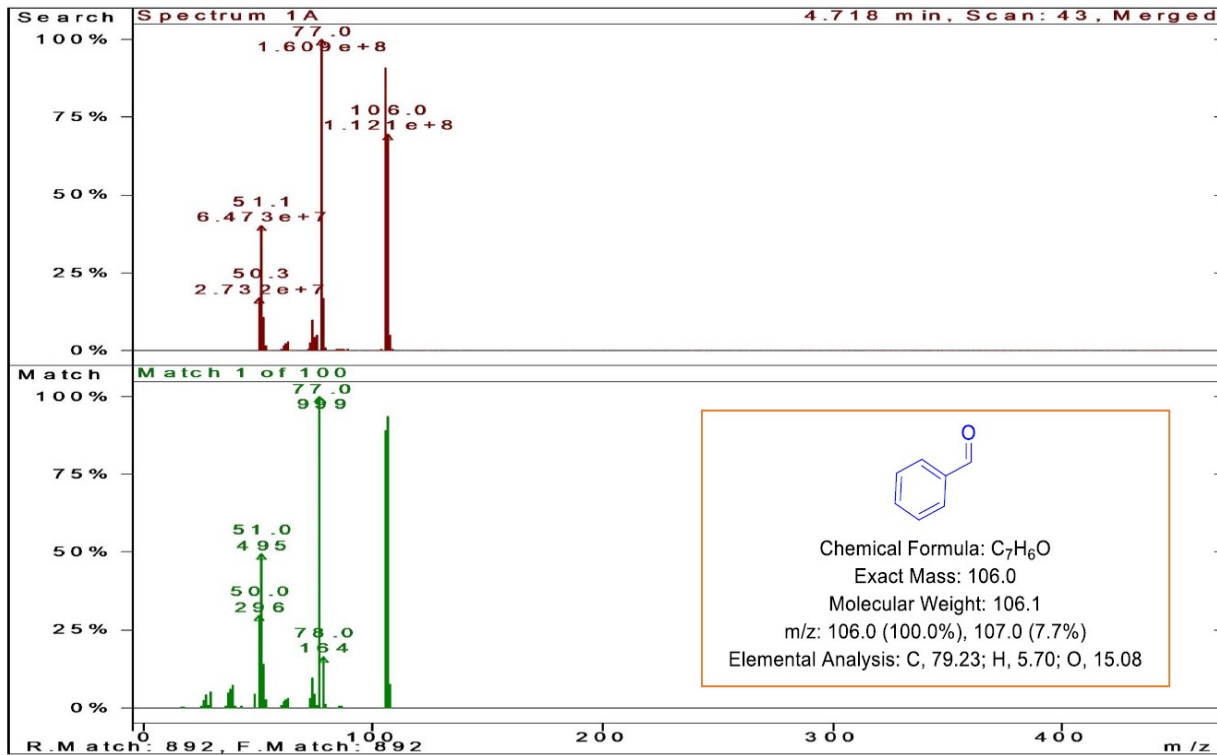




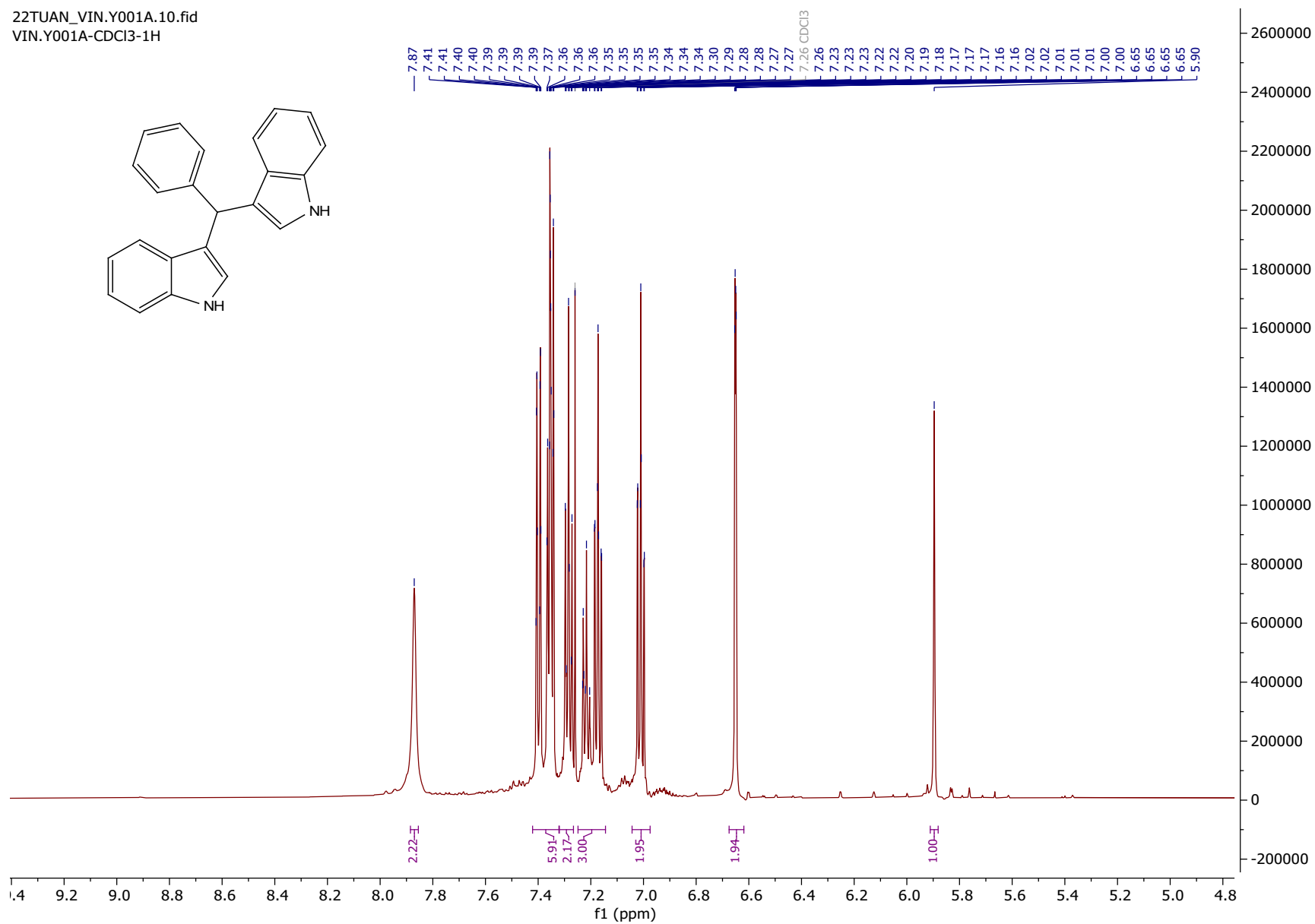
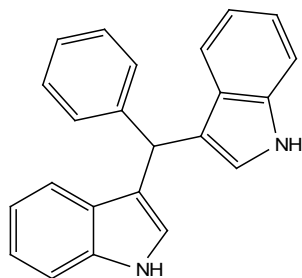




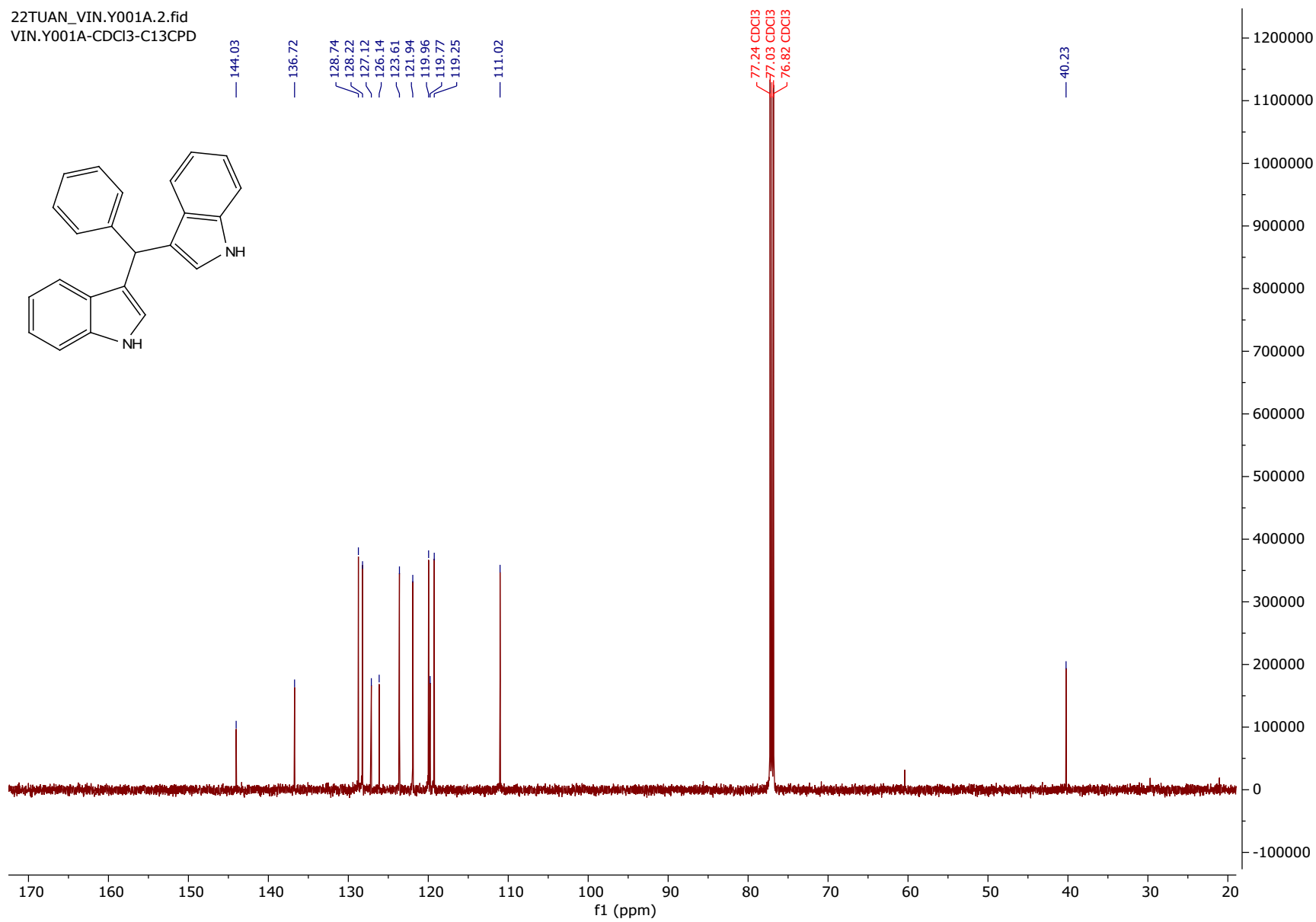




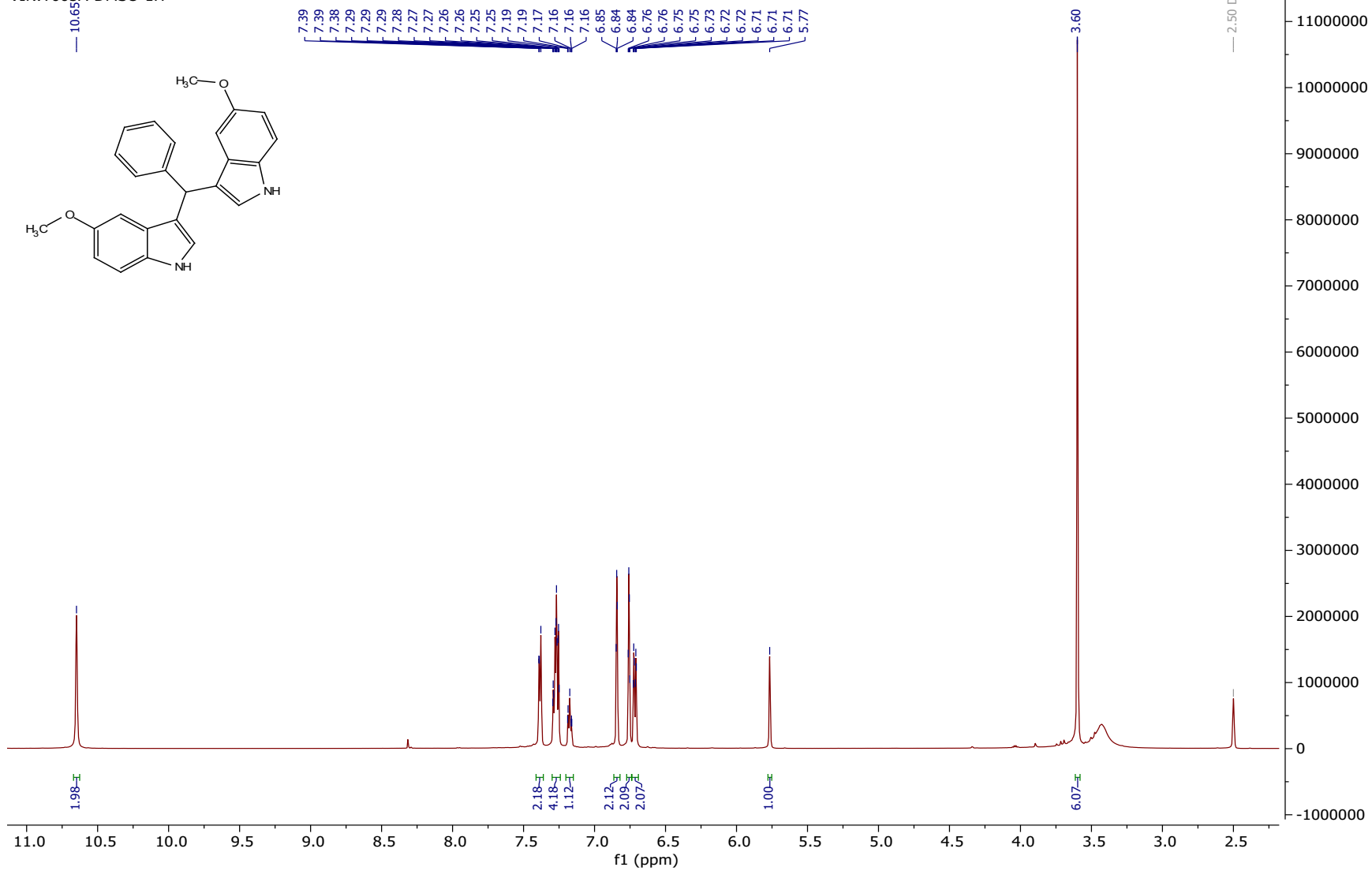
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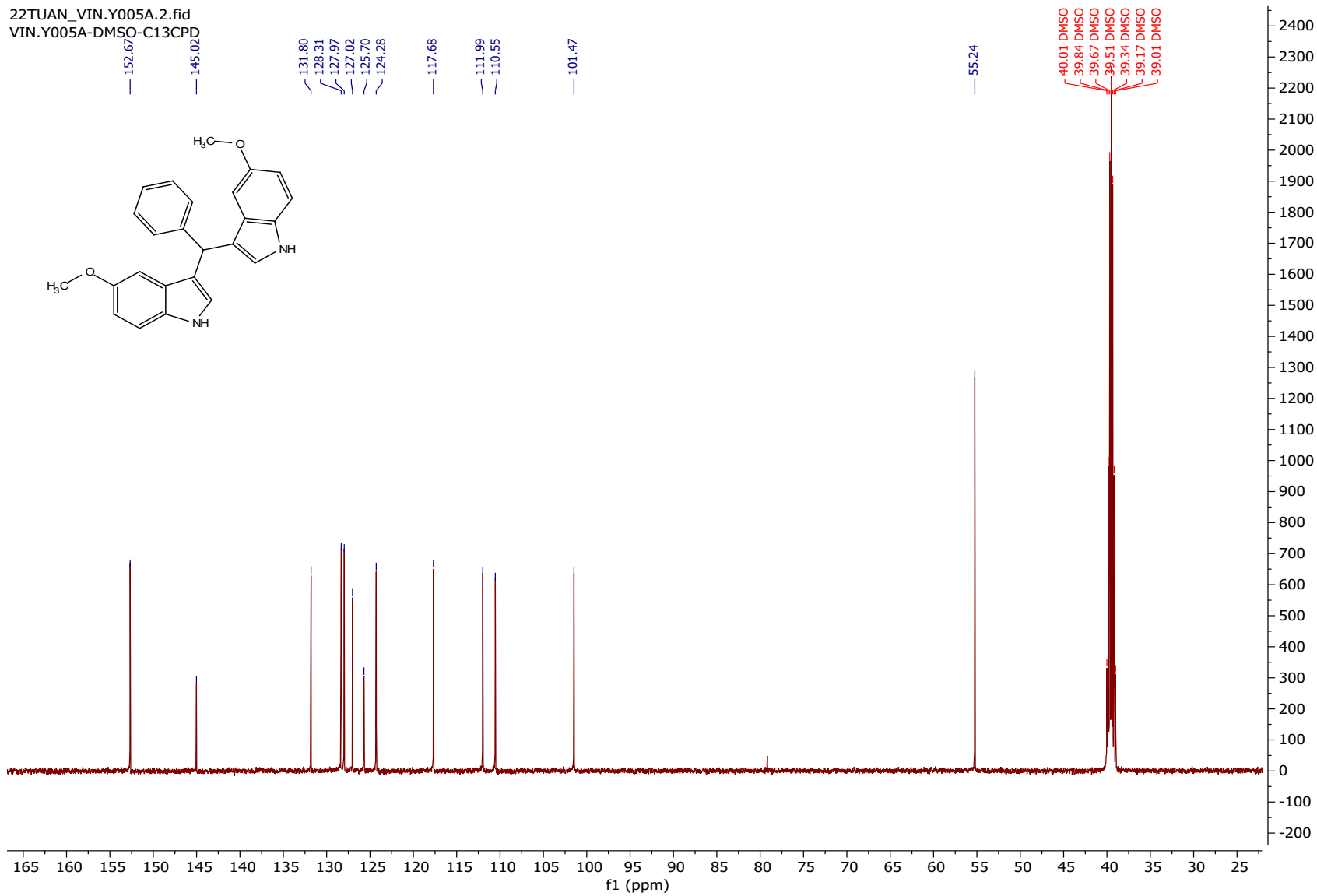
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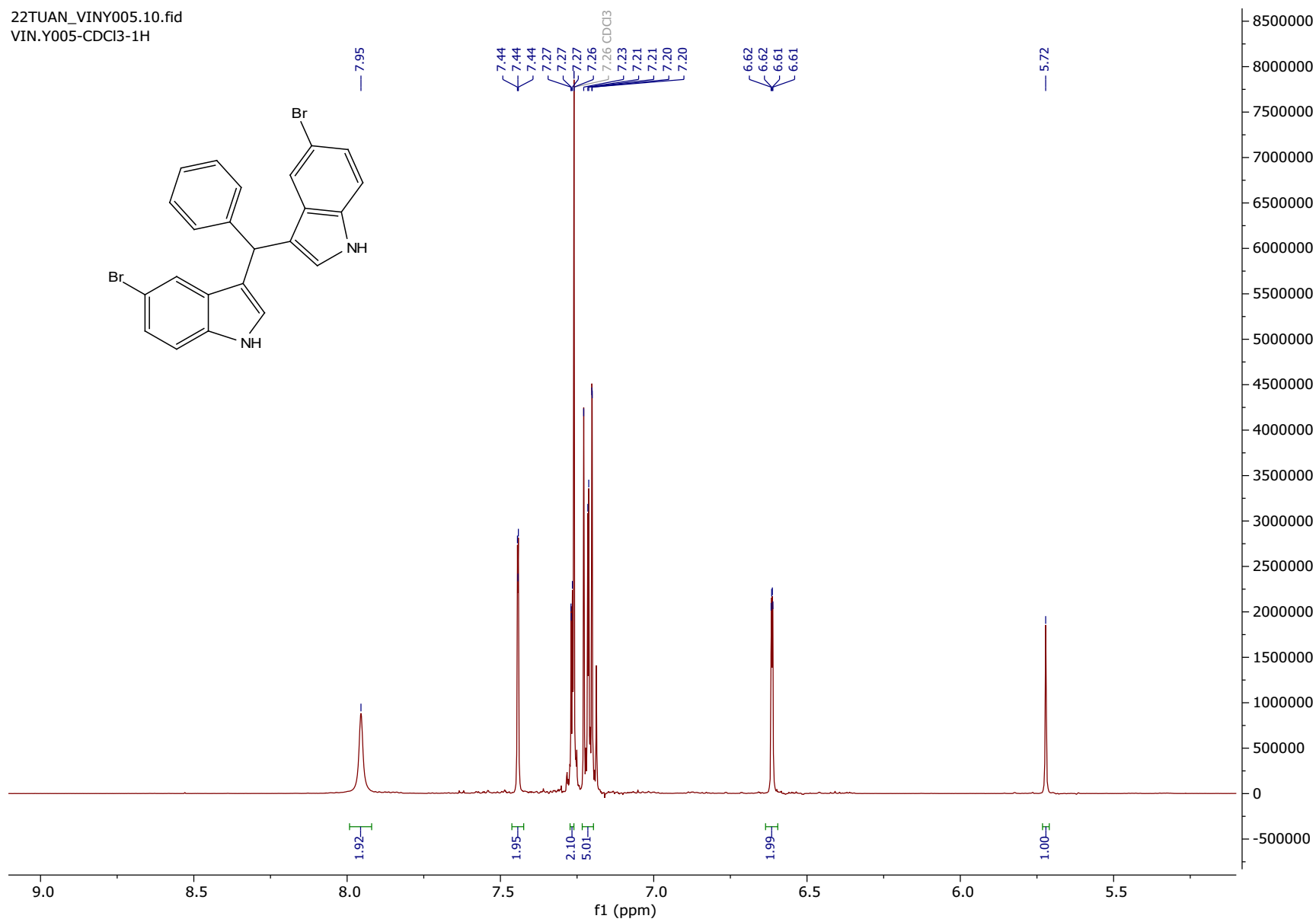
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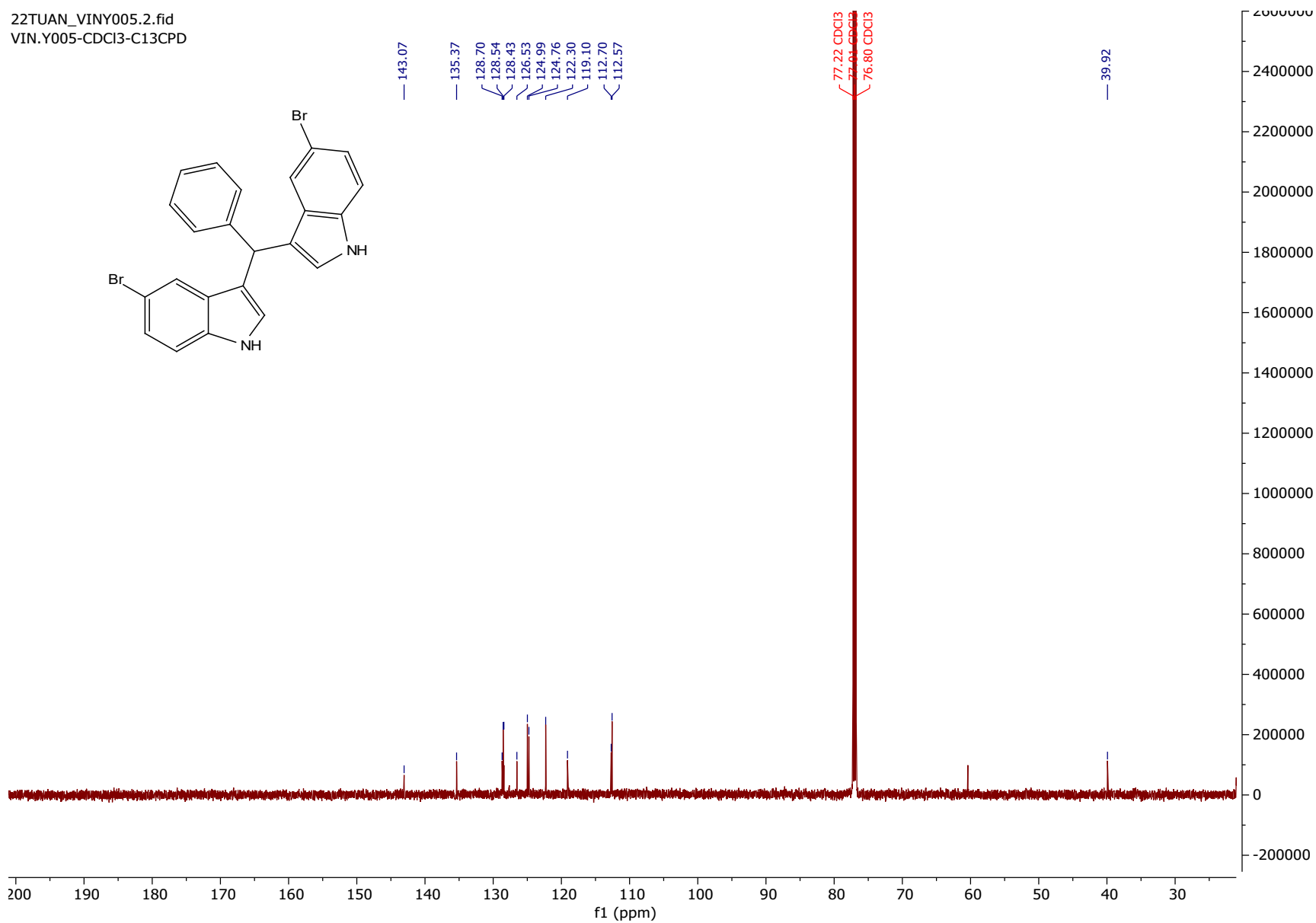
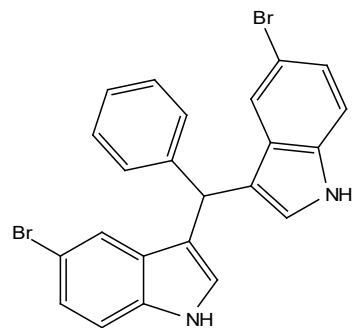


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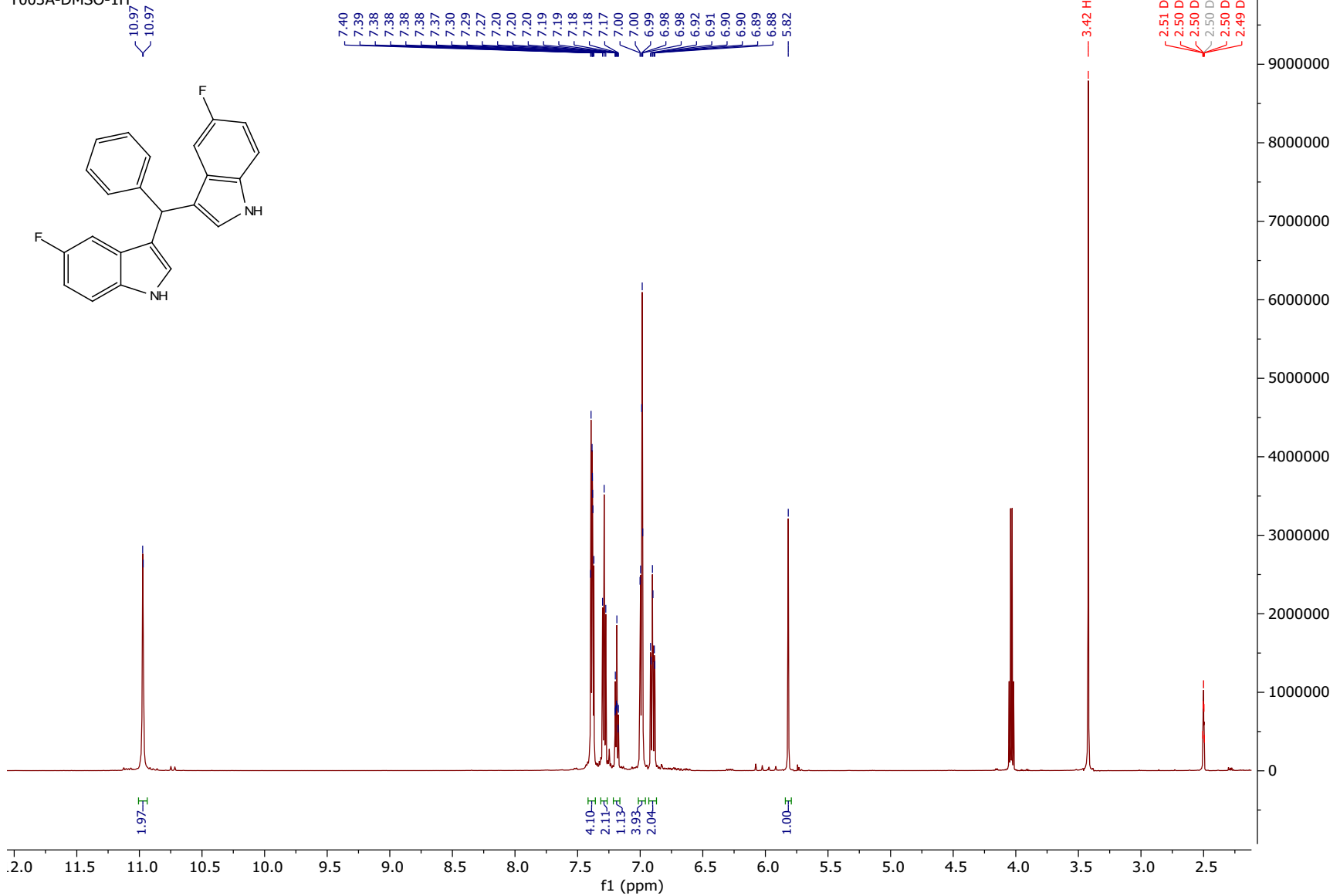




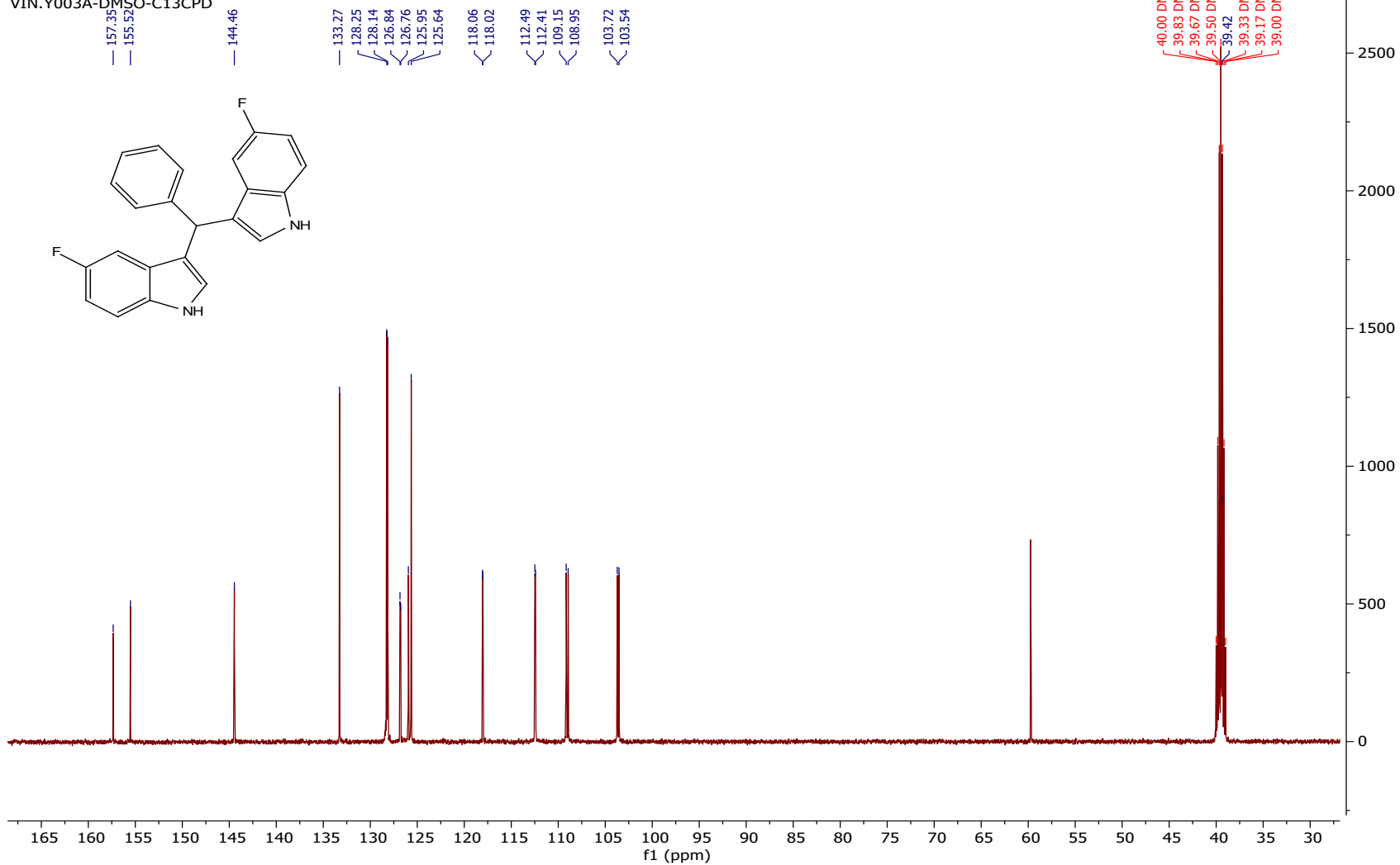
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22TUAN\_Y003A.10.fid  
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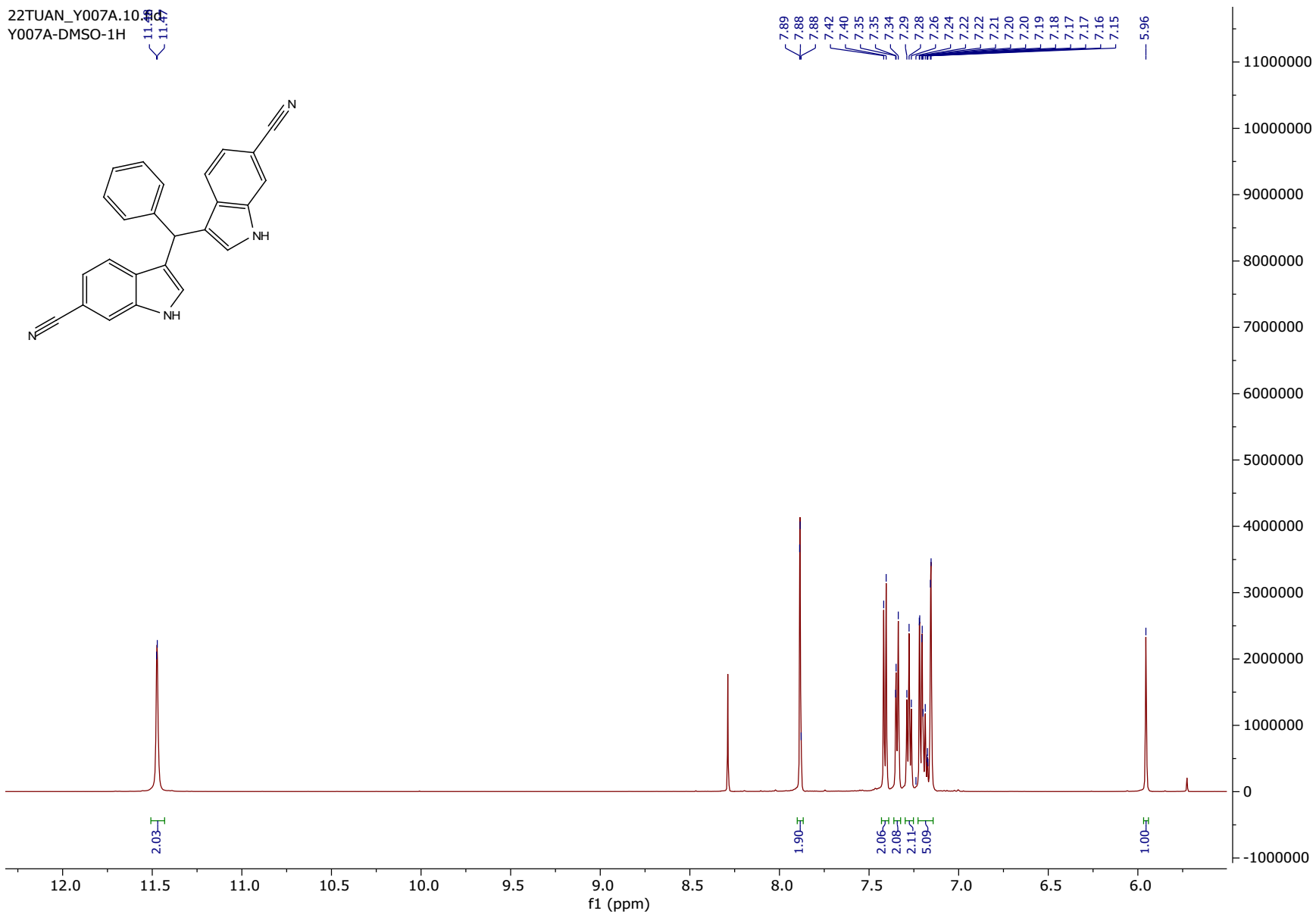
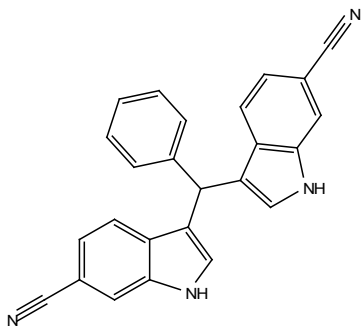


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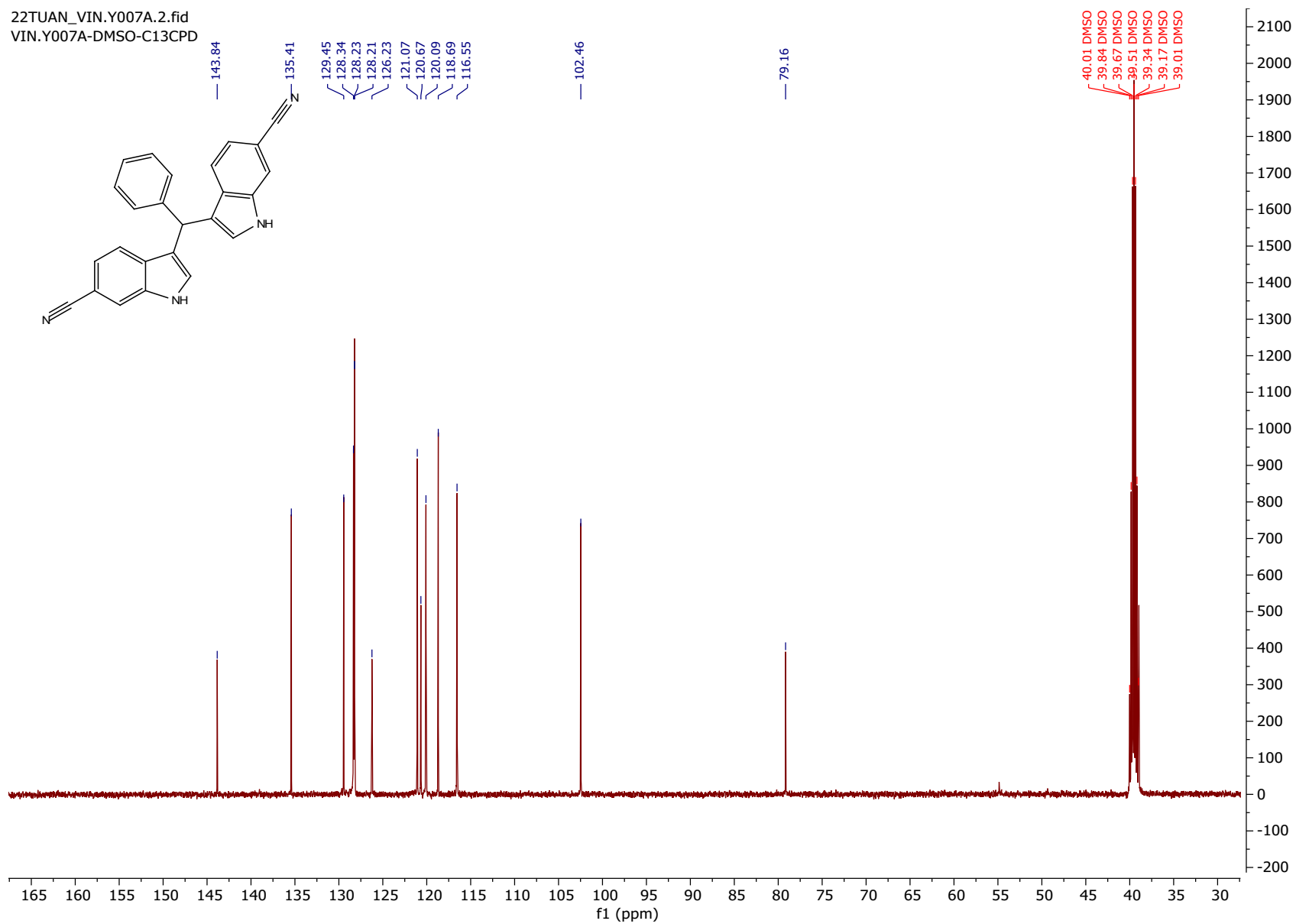


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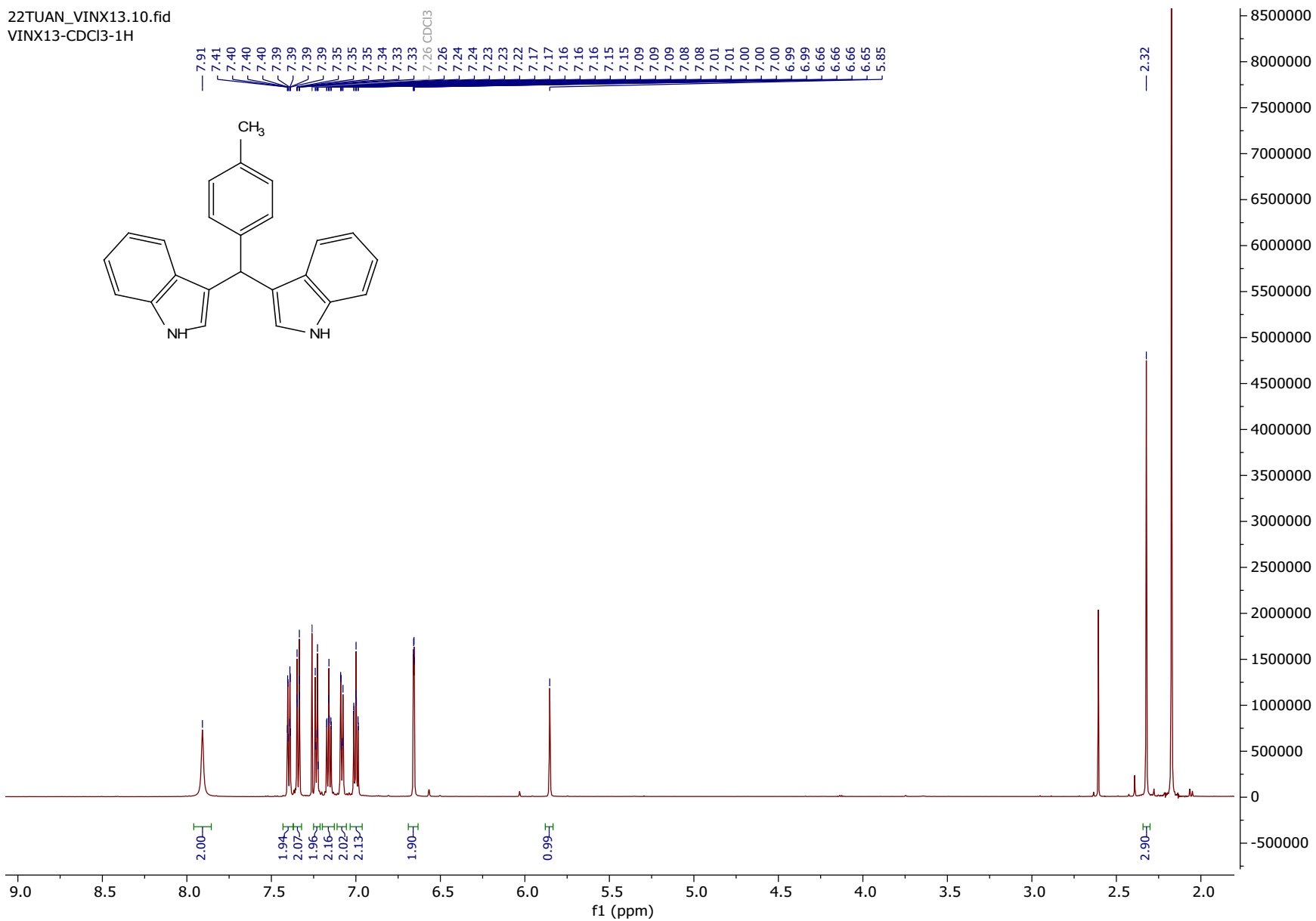
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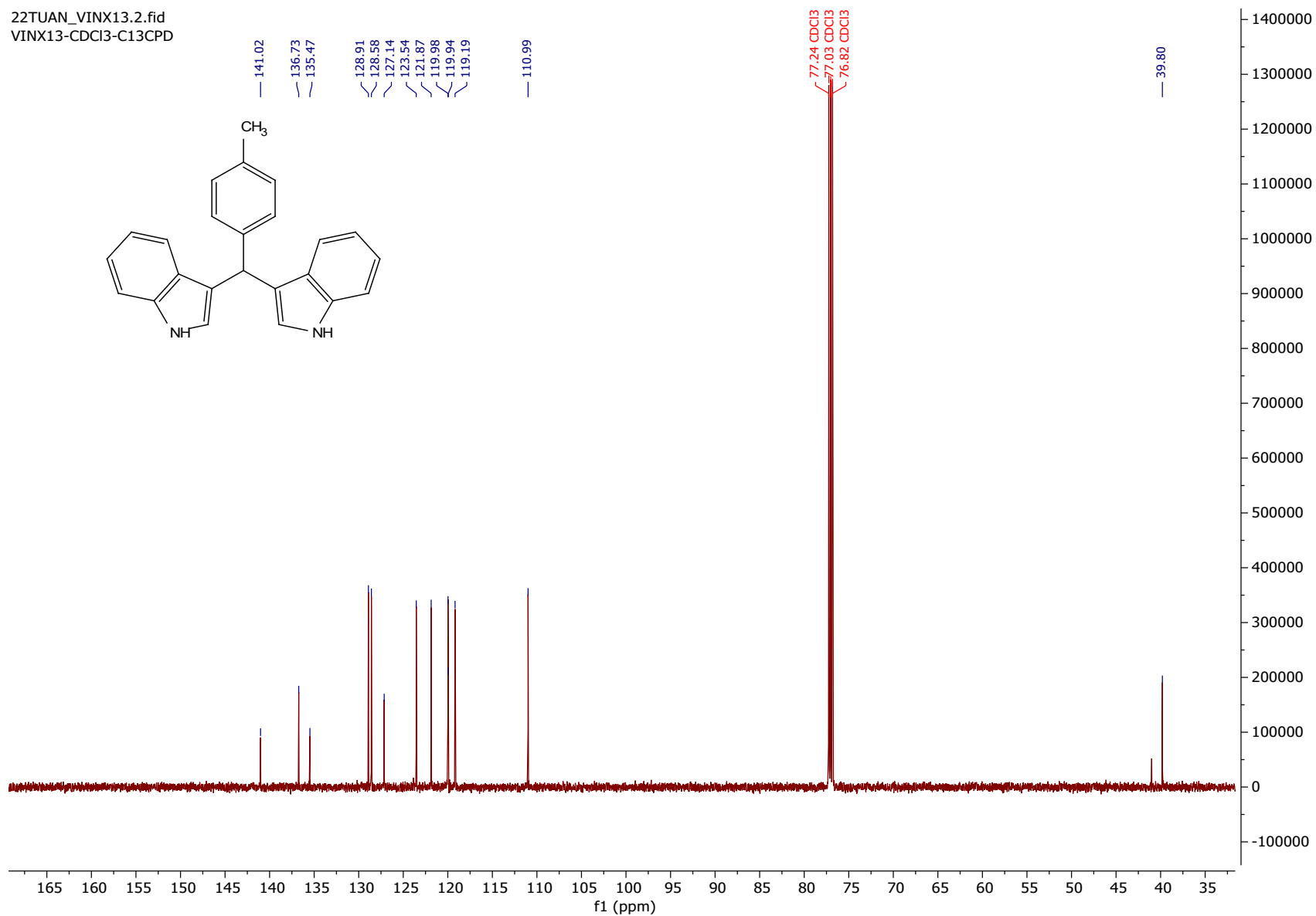
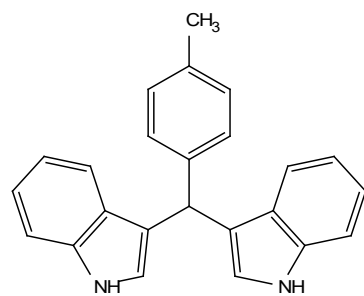
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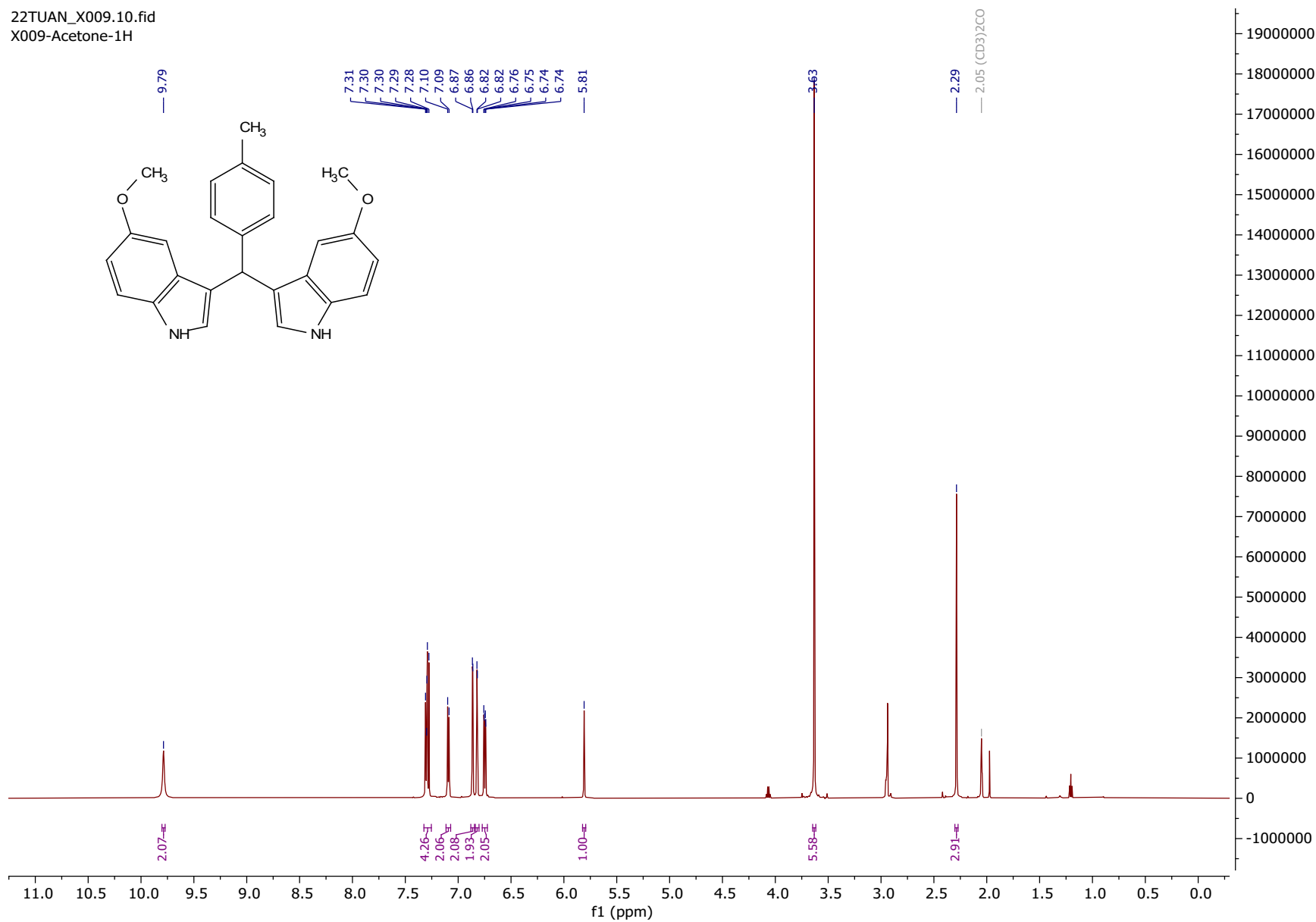
22TUAN\_VINX13.10.fid  
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22TUAN\_VINX13.2.fid  
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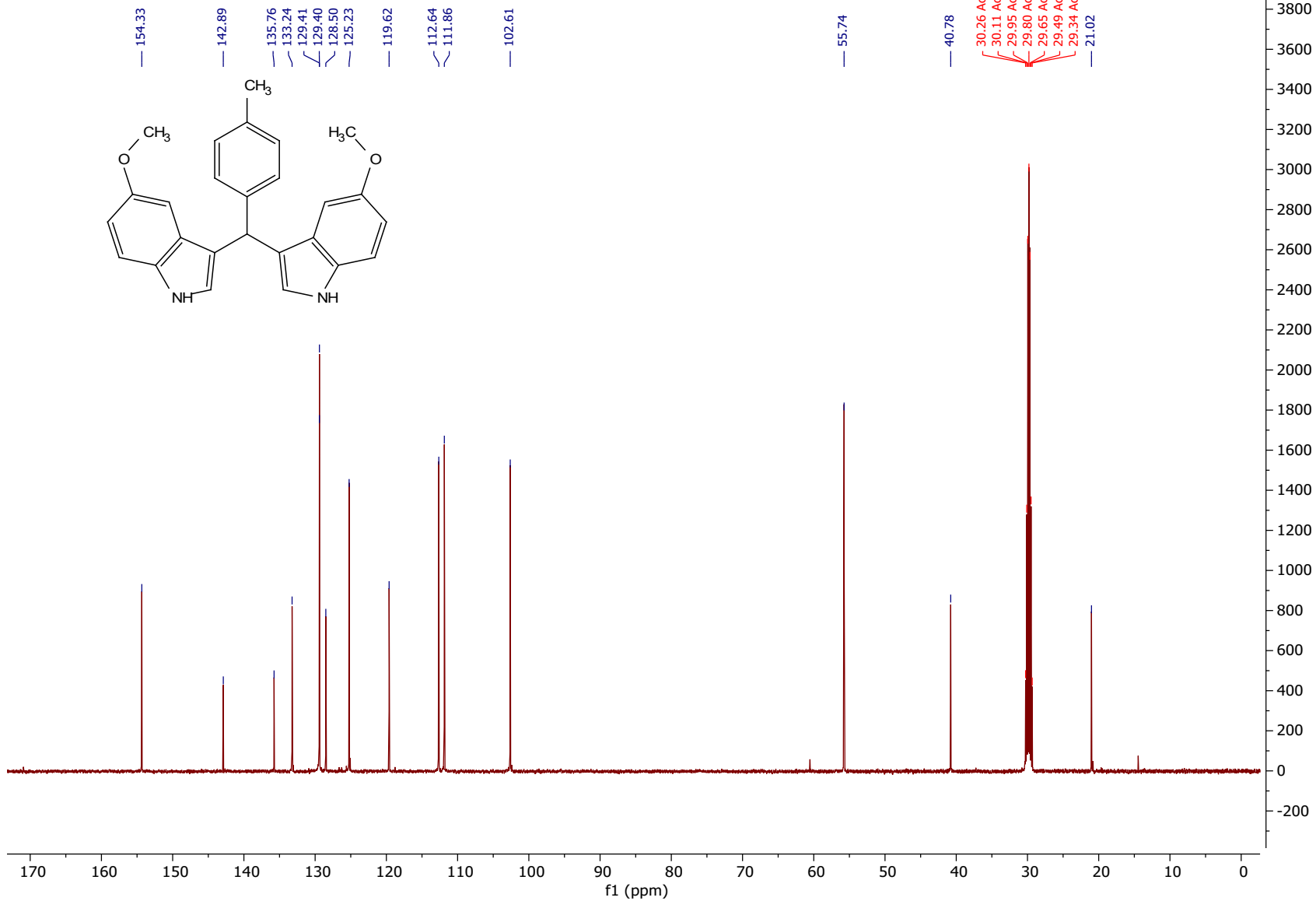


22TUAN\_X009.10.fid  
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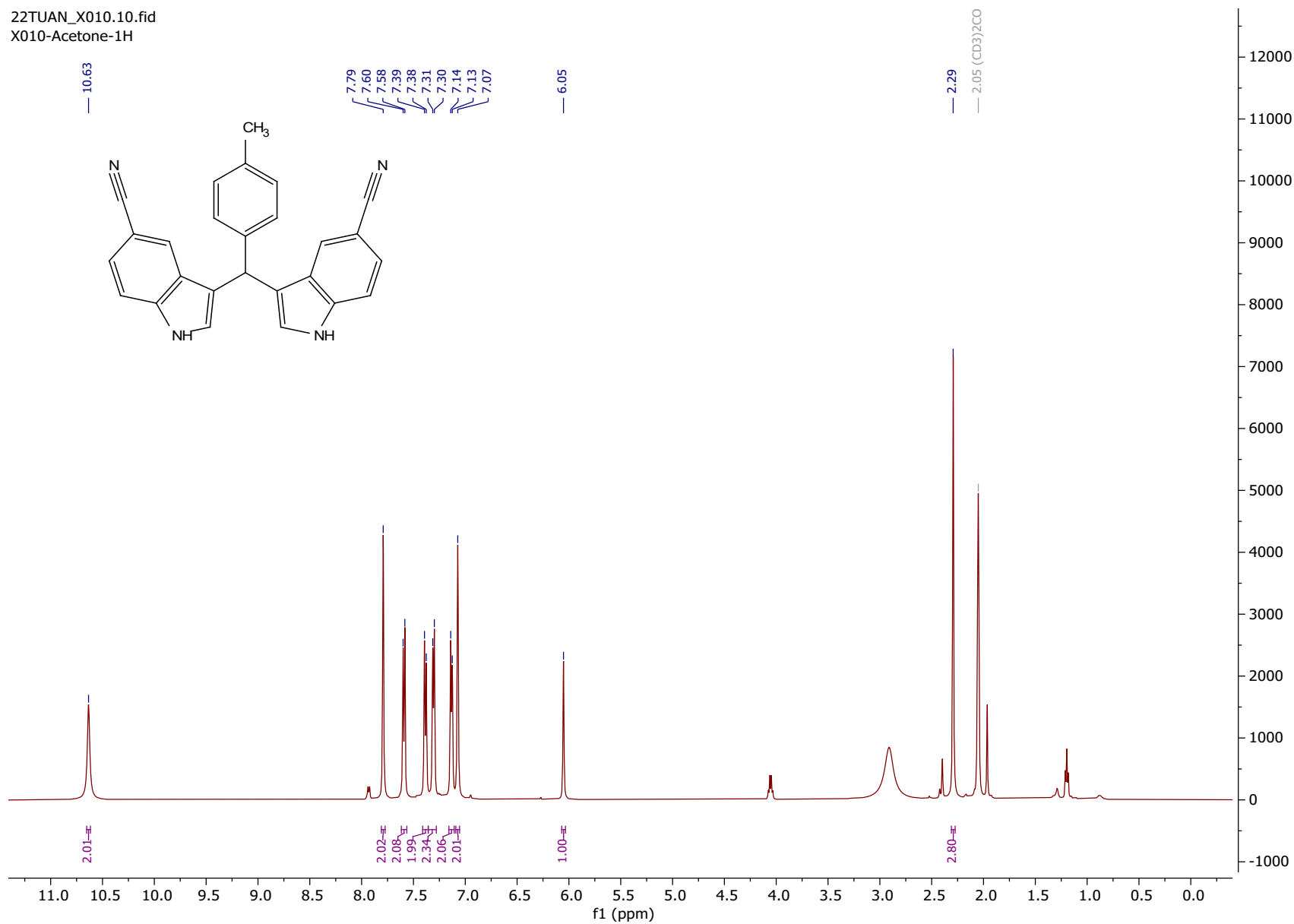




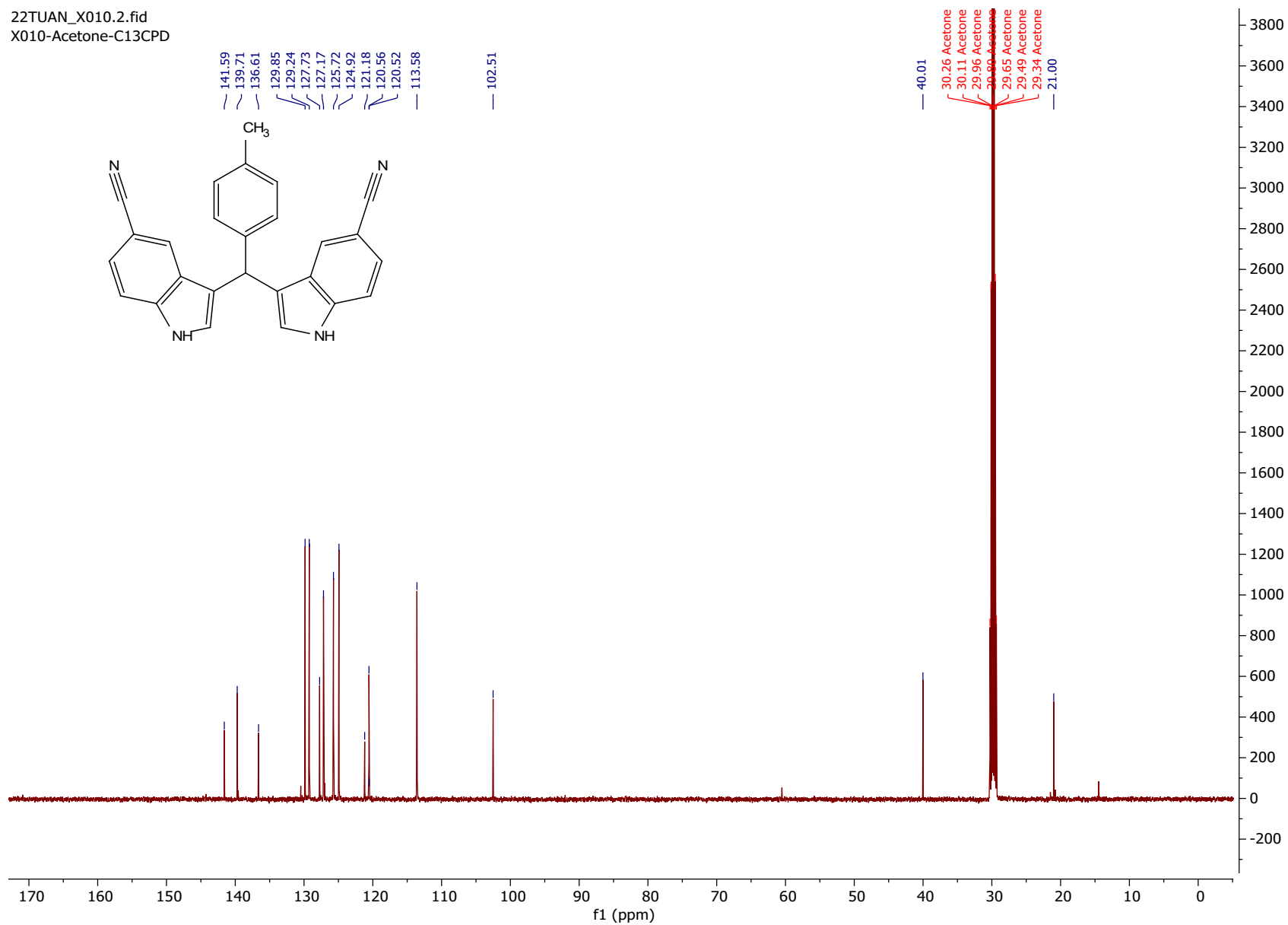
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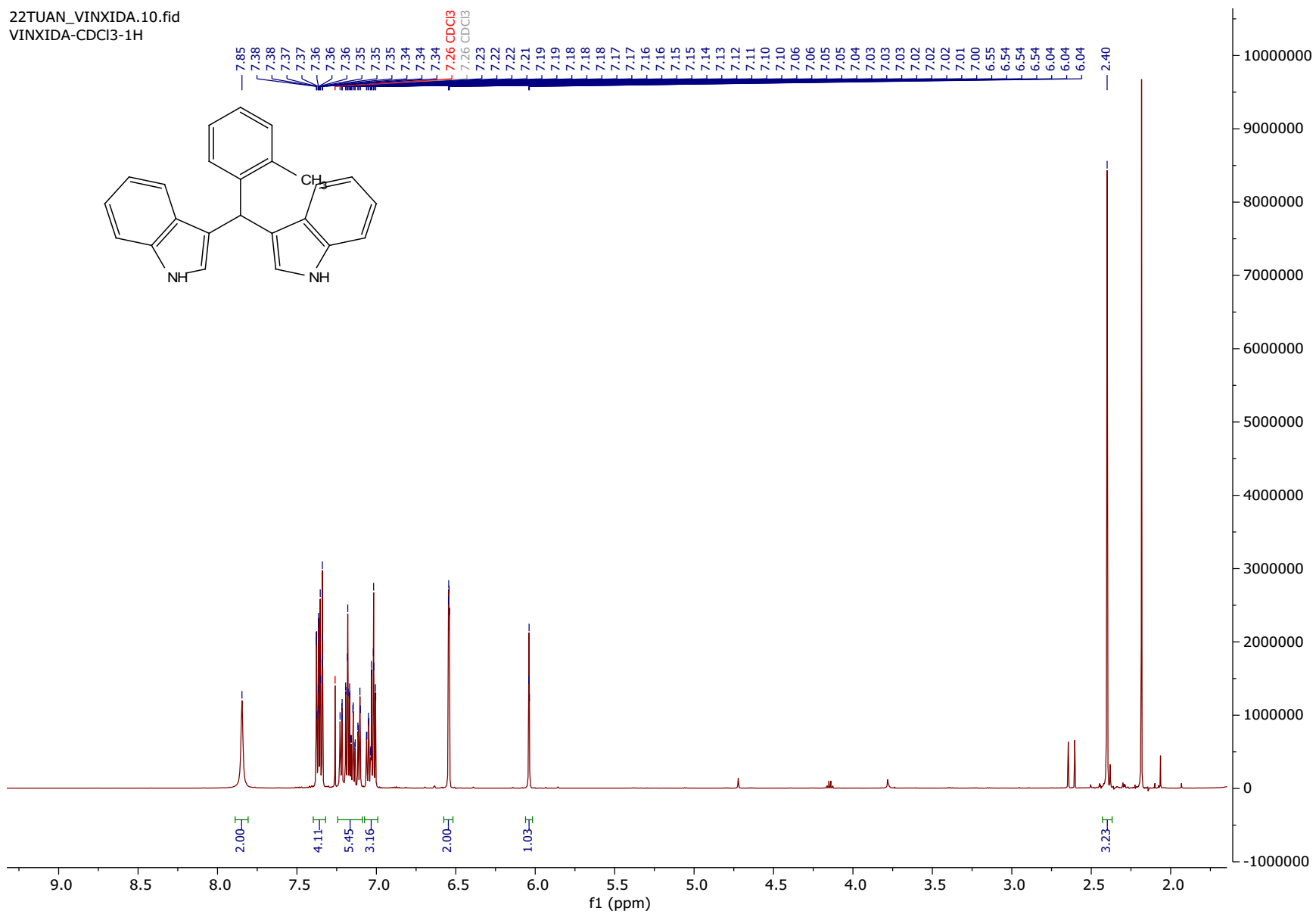
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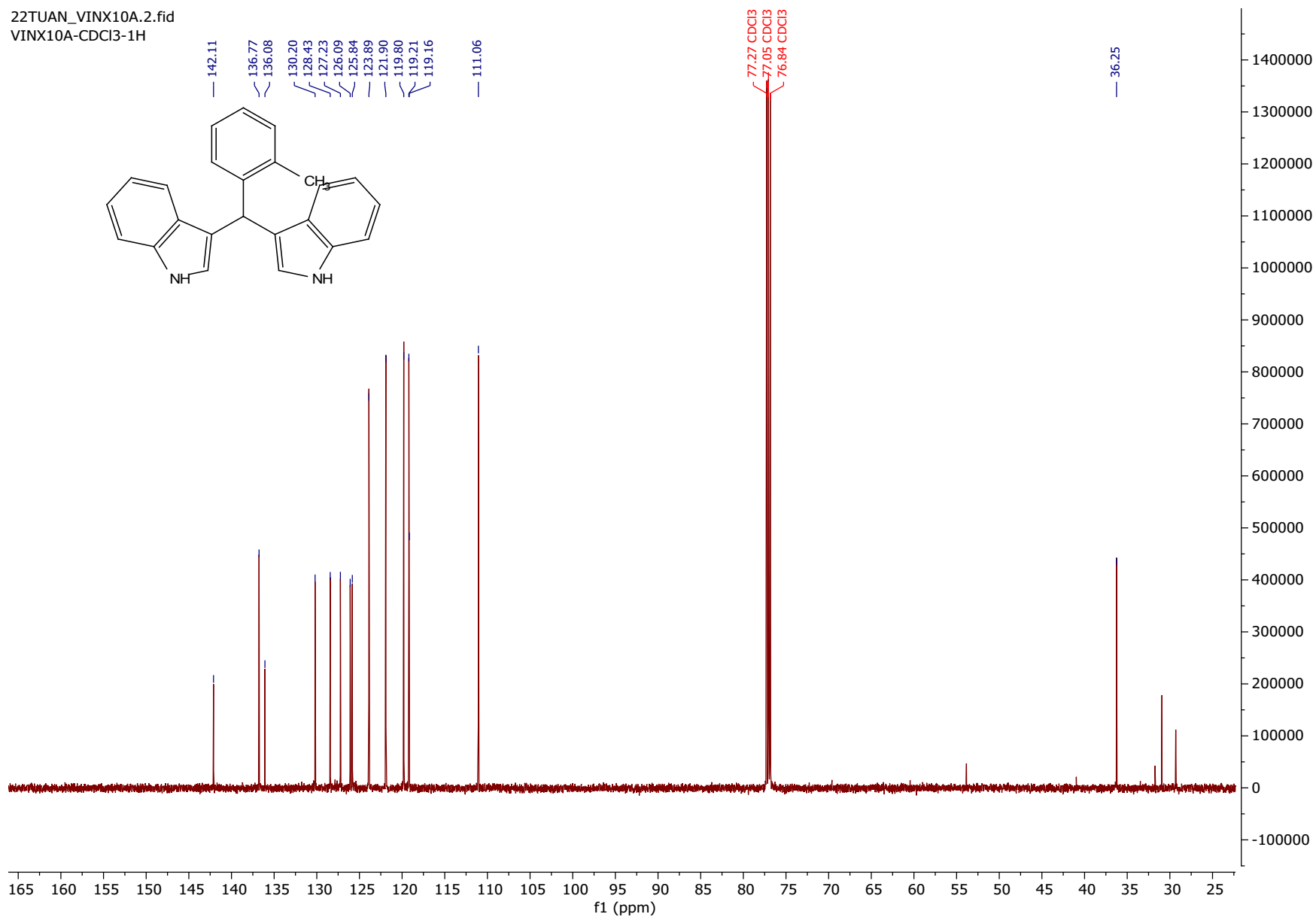
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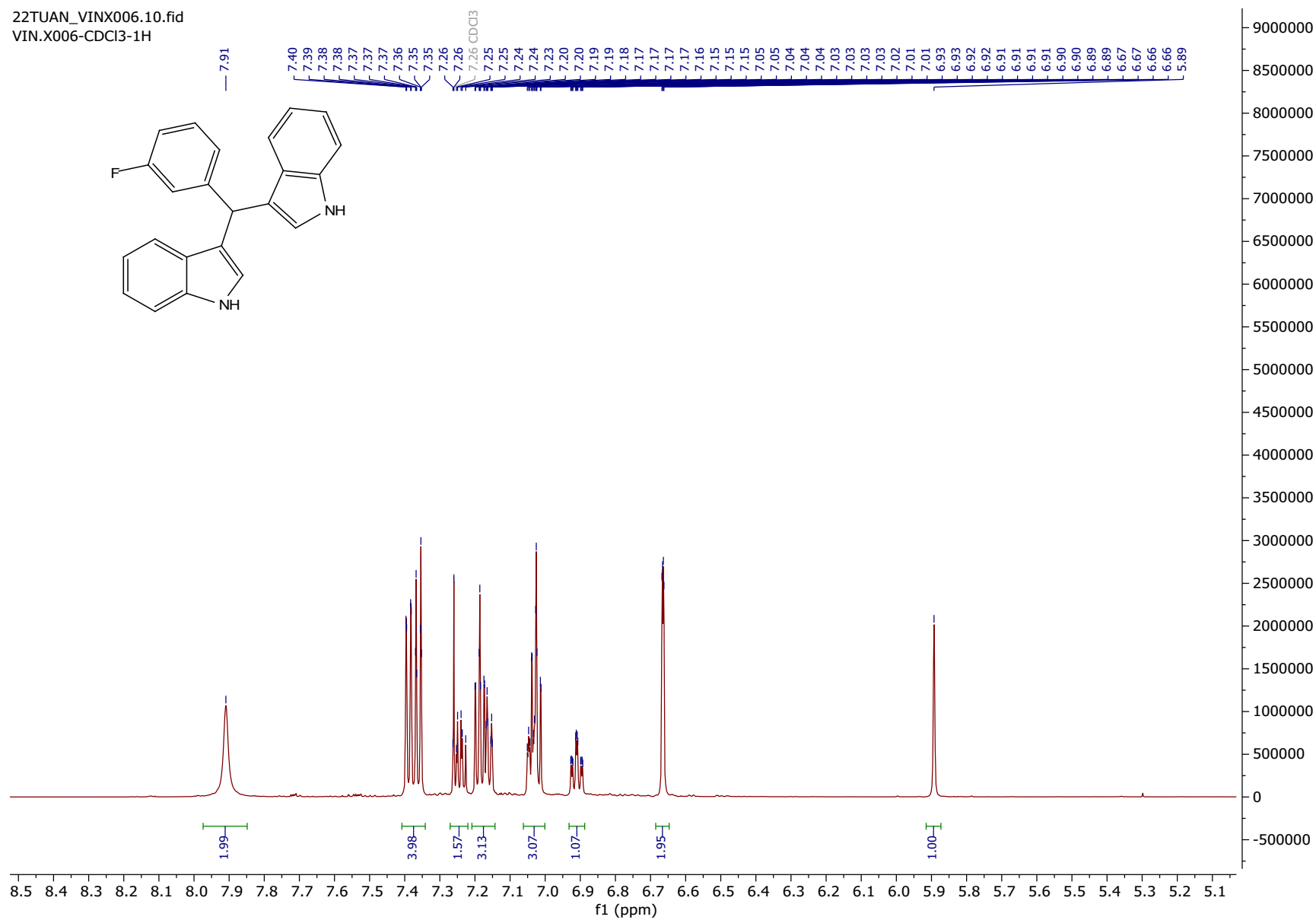
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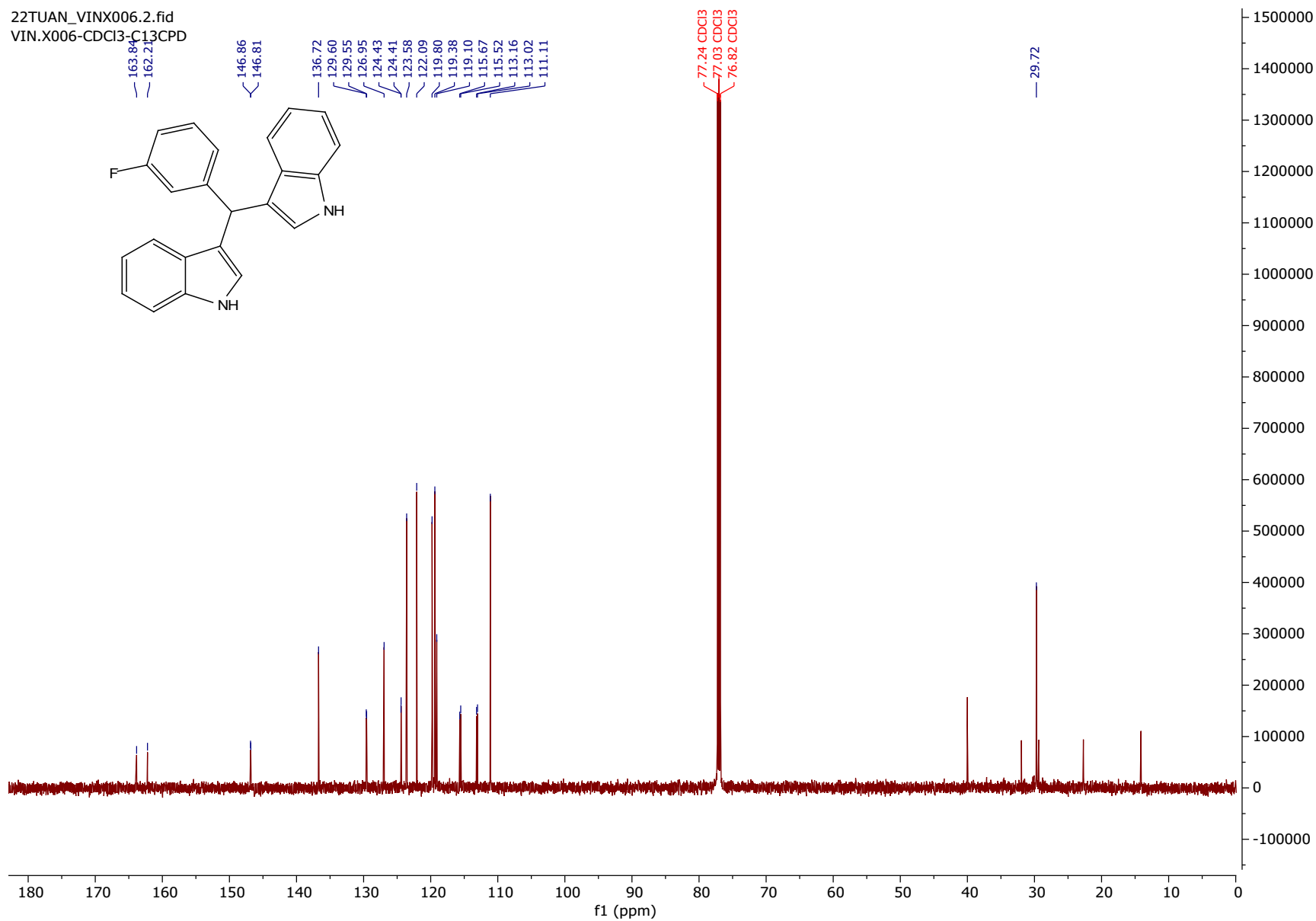
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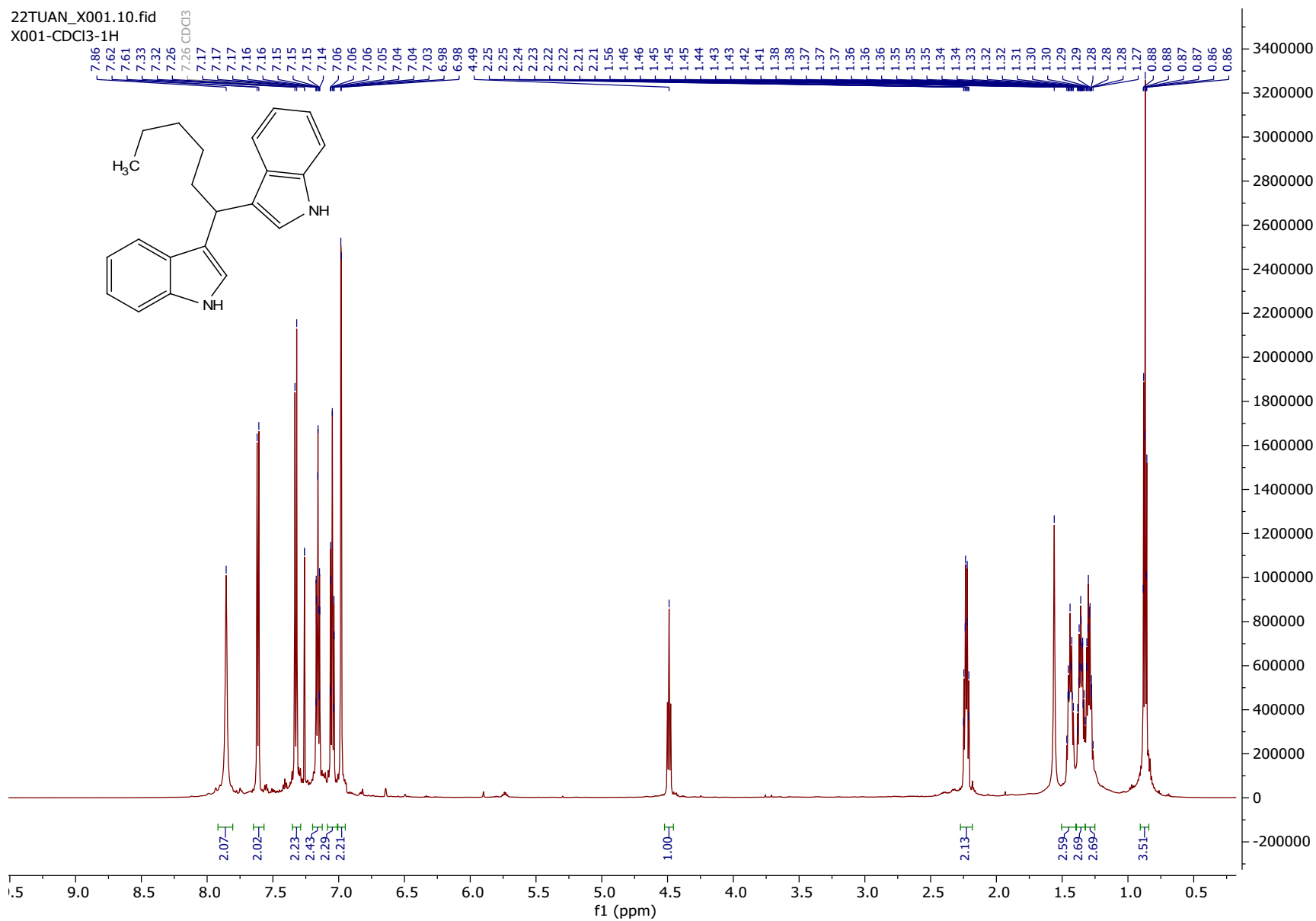
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22TUAN\_VINX006.2.fid  
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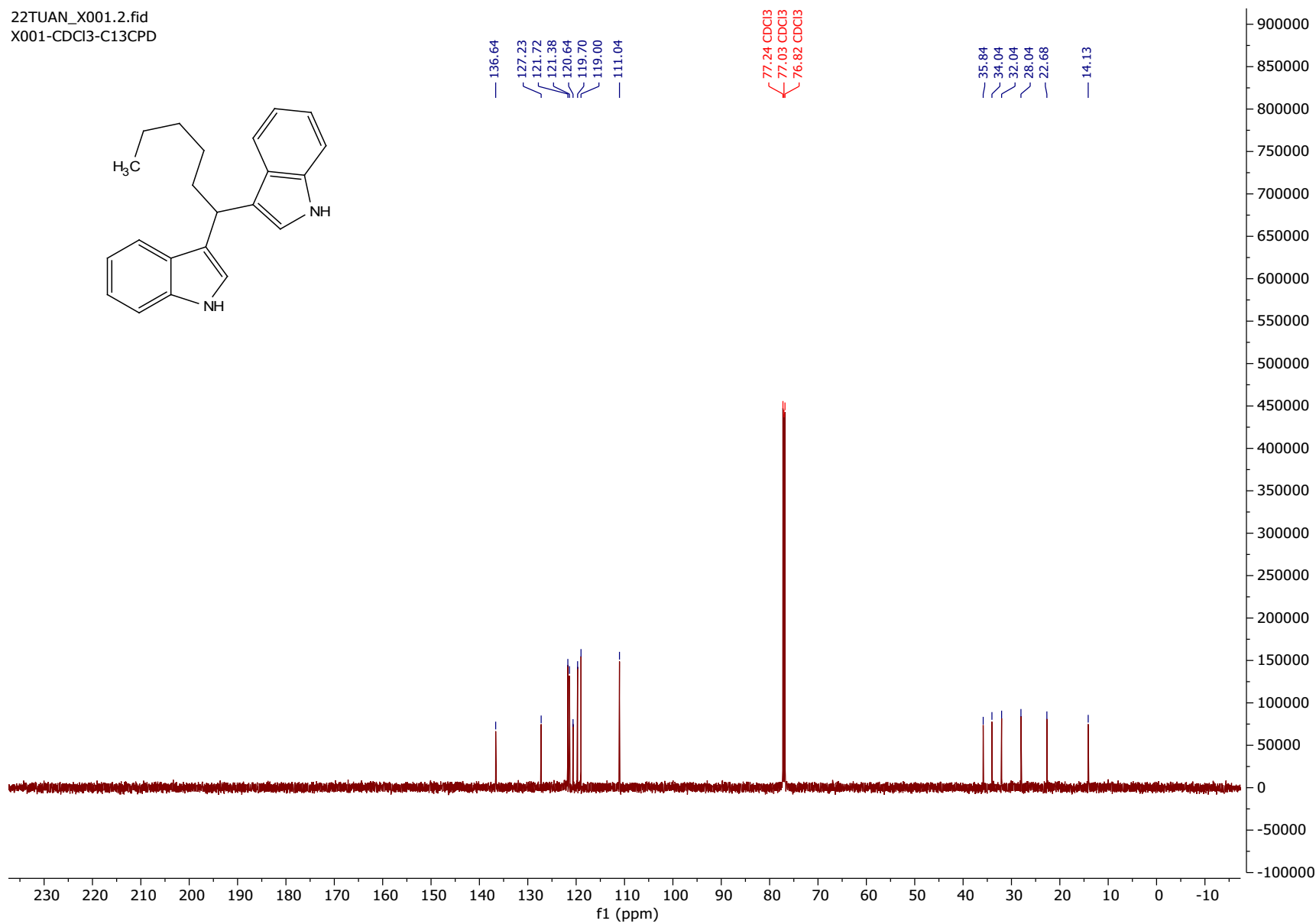
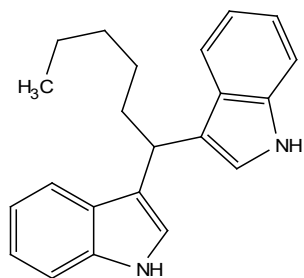


22TUAN\_X001.10.fid  
X001-CDCl3-1H

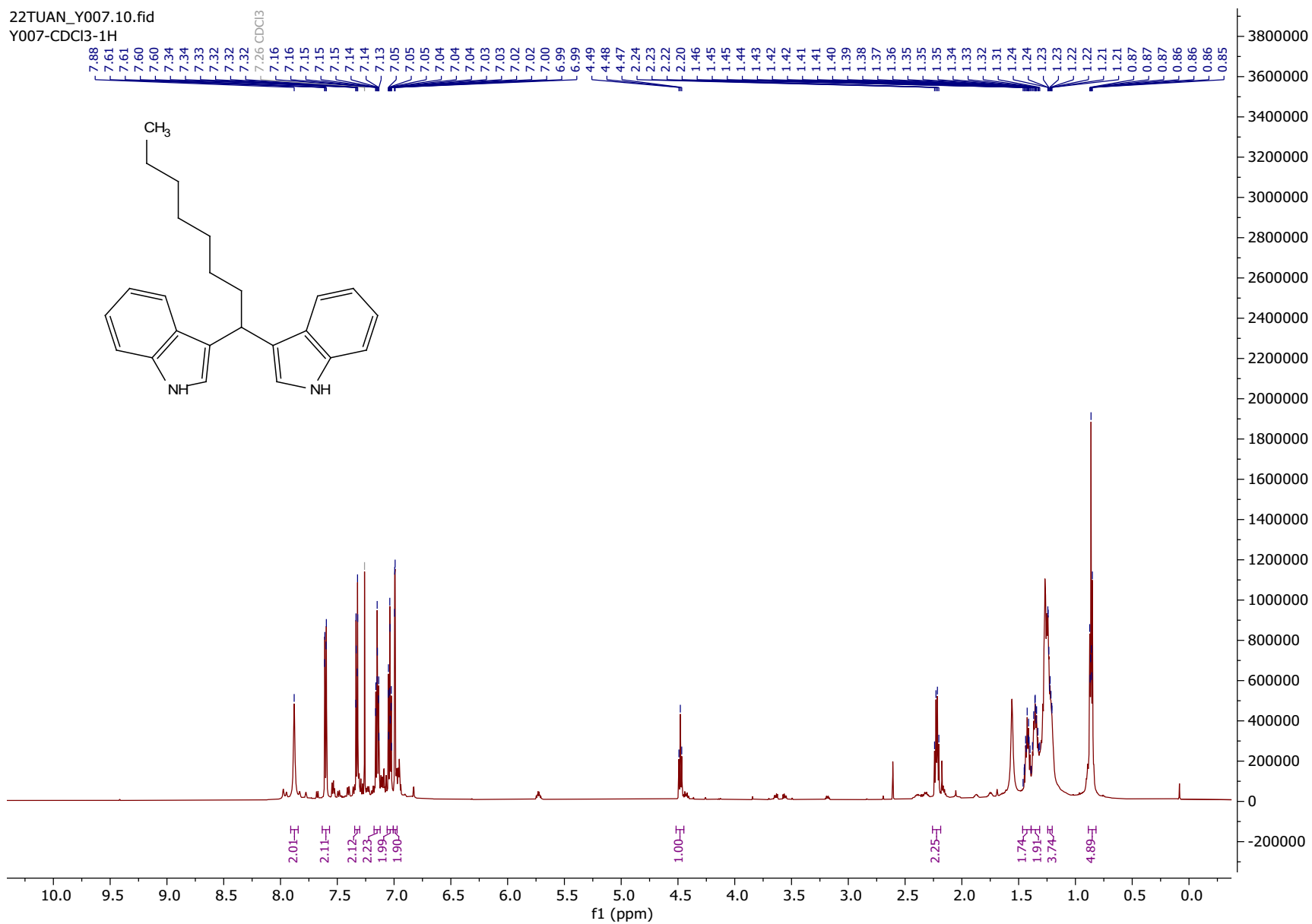




22TUAN\_X001.2.fid  
X001-CDCl3-C13CPD



22TUAN\_Y007.10.fid  
Y007-CDCl3-1H



22TUAN\_Y007.2.fid  
Y007-CDCl3-C13CPD

