

Visible light-mediated radical addition cascade cyclization of aryl isocyanide with tricarbonyls: Rapid access to substituted phenanthridines and isoquinolines

Sabyasachi Manna, Rahul Halanuru Sreedhara, and Kandikere Ramaiah Prabhu*

Department of Organic Chemistry,

Indian Institute of Science,

Bangalore 560 012,

Karnataka, India

*To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: prabhu@iisc.ac.in

Table of Contents:

Sl.No	Title	Page No.
1	General Experimental	SI-3
2	Optimization and control studies	SI-4
3	General experimental procedure	SI-8
4	Characterization data for products	SI-9
5	Product modification	SI-16
6	Mechanistic studies	SI-16
7	Crystal data for 3fa	SI-18
8	References	SI-19
9	¹ H and ¹³ C spectra	SI-20

General Experimental

All reactions were carried out using distilled solvents. Reactions were monitored by using precoated silica TLC plates (GF-254). Mass spectra were recorded in EI and ESI (TOF) modes. NMR spectra were recorded in at 400 MHz spectrometers in CDCl_3 , DMSO-d_6 , and tetramethylsilane (TMS; $\delta = 0.00$ ppm) served as an internal standard for ^1H NMR. The corresponding residual non-deuterated solvent signal (CDCl_3 ; $\delta = 77.00$ ppm and DMSO-d_6 ; $\delta = 39.52$ ppm) was used as an internal standard for ^{13}C NMR. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel 230-400 mesh or 100-200 mesh (Merck), and thin-layer chromatography was carried out using Silica Gel GF-254. Chemicals obtained from commercial suppliers were used without further purification. Aryl isocyanides were prepared according to the literature procedures.¹ and $(\text{Ir}[\text{df}(\text{CF}_3)\text{ppy}]_2(\text{dtbpy}))\text{PF}_6$ ² were prepared according to the literature reports.

Emission Spectra of Blue LED Strip:

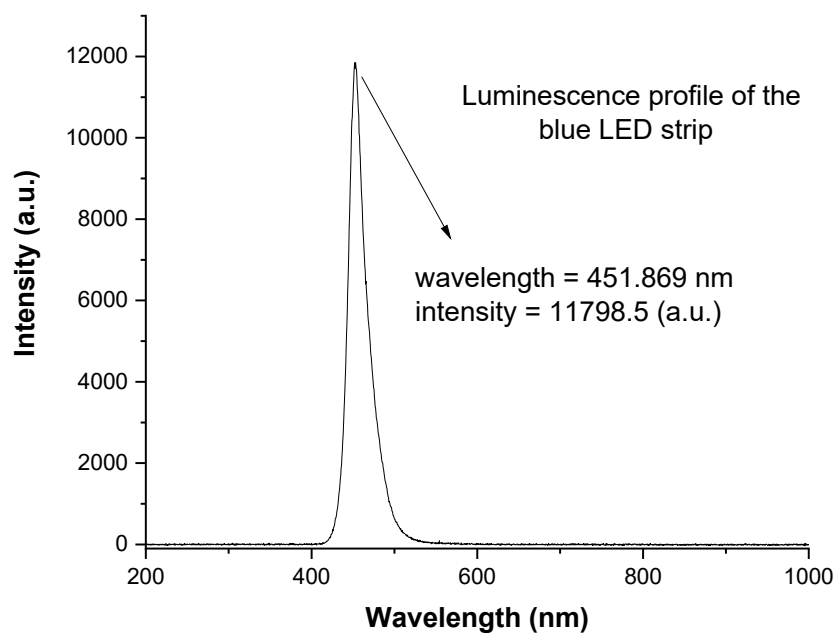


Fig 1: Plot of Intensity versus wavelength for the emission from the blue LED strip

An Ocean Optics spectrometer was used to record the emission spectrum of the blue LED strip, which was oriented toward the aperture of the spectrometer unit at a distance of approximately 8 cm.

Optimization and Control Studies

(a) Optimization of reaction conditions for the synthesis of phenanthridines:

In an 8 mL screw cap reaction vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was added 2-isocyano-5-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.), triethyl methanetricarboxylate, appropriate oxidant, and appropriate photocatalyst. The appropriate solvent was added to the vial, and it was purged three times with argon and sealed with a cap containing a TFE-lined silicone septa. The reaction vial was degassed with argon for 15 minutes via an inlet needle. After this, the cap was changed with a solid-top cap under argon flow, and the vial was irradiated with 2 × 27 W CFL for 6-24 h. The reaction temperature was maintained at approximately 25 °C *via* a fan. After the reaction was stopped, the reaction mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and water (10 mL). Sat. NaHCO₃ was then added and extracted with EtOAc (10 mL x 3) and washed with brine (saturated aq NaCl, 10 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was removed in a rotatory evaporator followed by *a vacuo*. The reaction mixture was analyzed by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

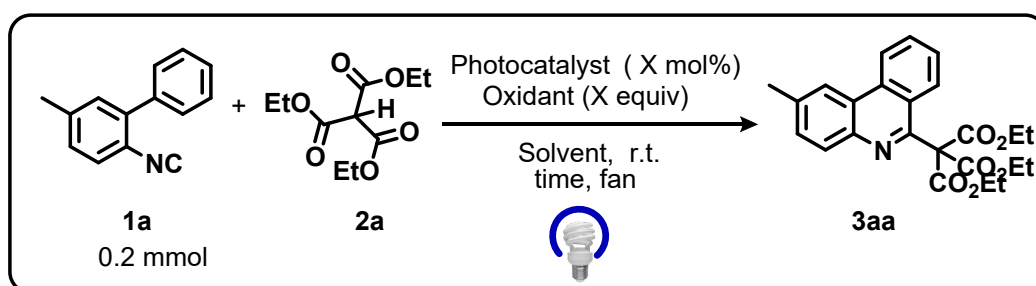


Table 1 Optimization studies ^a

Entry	2a (equiv)	Oxidant (equiv)	Atmosphere	Time (h)	Photocatalyst (mol%)	Solvent	NMR Yield of 3aa (%) ^b
1	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ ·6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	62
2	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ ·6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN	n.d.
3	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ ·6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CH ₂ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	6
4	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ ·6 H ₂ O (2)	C ₃ H ₇ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	n.d.

5	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ . 6 H ₂ O (2)	DCM:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	trace
6	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ . 6 H ₂ O (2)	DMSO:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	trace
7	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ . 6 H ₂ O (2)	TFE:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	n.d.
8	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ . 6 H ₂ O (2)	HFIP:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	n.d.
9	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Eosin Y (5)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	n.d.
10	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ir[{dF(CF ₃)ppy} ₂ (dtbpy)]PF ₆ (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	n.d.
11	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Mes-Acr-PhBF ₄ (5)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	n.d.
12	2	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ . 6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	59
13	2	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ . 6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	53
14	2	70% aq. TBHP(2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ . 6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	n.d.
15	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ . 6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 1 mL	46
16	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ . 6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 4 mL	38
17	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ . 6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (3:1)	59

						2 mL	
18	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ ·6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:3) 2 mL	52
19	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	24	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ ·6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	60
20	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	6	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ ·6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	56
21	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ (PF ₆) ₂ (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	65
22	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ (PF ₆) ₂ (1)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	61
23	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ (PF ₆) ₂ (3)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	57
24 ^c	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ (PF ₆) ₂ (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	71
25 ^{c, d}	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	purged and degassed with Ar	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ (PF ₆) ₂ (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	78
26 ^{c, d}	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (1.5)	purged and degassed with Ar	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ (PF ₆) ₂ (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	76
27 ^{c, d}	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (1.2)	purged and degassed with Ar	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ (PF ₆) ₂ (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	71
28 ^{c, d}	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2.5)	purged and degassed with Ar	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ (PF ₆) ₂ (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	75
29 ^{c, d}	1.5	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (1.5)	purged and degassed	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ (PF ₆) ₂ (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1)	79

			with Ar			2 mL	
30 ^{c, d}	1.2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (1.5)	purged and degassed with Ar	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ (PF ₆) ₂ (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	57
31	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	none	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	n.d.
32	2	none	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ · 6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	n.d.
33 ^e	2	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	air	12	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ · 6 H ₂ O (2)	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (1:1) 2 mL	n.d.

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (X mmol), oxidant (X mmol), Photocatalyst (x mol%), Solvent (x mL) under 2 × 27W CFL for 6-12 h. ^b NMR yield (using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard). ^c Reaction was performed under blue LED strip (452 nm, 1.5 mW/cm²). ^d Reaction mixture was degassed with Ar for 15 min. ^e Reaction was performed in the dark.



Fig 2: Reaction set-up under CFL (left) and Blue LED strips (right)

General Experimental Procedure

(a) General experimental procedure for synthesis of phenanthridines from *ortho*-aryl isocyanides and tricarbonyls:

In a 8 mL screw cap reaction vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was added *ortho*-aryl isocyanide (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.), tricarbonyl (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), $K_2S_2O_8$ (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), $Ru(bpy)_3(PF_6)_2$ (0.004 mmol, 2 mol%). 2 mL of degassed $CH_3CN:H_2O$ (1:1) was added to the vial and it was purged three times with argon and was sealed with a cap containing TFE-lined silicone septa. The reaction vial was then degassed with argon for 15 min *via* an inlet needle. After this, the cap was changed with a solid-top cap under argon flow and the vial was irradiated with a blue LED strip (0.11 W/cm², measured through a Newport optical power meter 1916-R at a distance of 2 cm) for 12-24 h. The temperature of the reaction vial was maintained at approximately 25 °C *via* a fan. After the reaction was stopped, the reaction mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and water (10 mL). Sat. $NaHCO_3$ was then added to the reaction mixture and it was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL x 3) and washed with brine (saturated aq NaCl, 10 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , and the solvent was removed in a rotatory evaporator followed by *vacuo*. The crude products were then purified on a silica gel column (230-400 mesh) using EtOAc/petroleum ether mixture to get the pure product.

(b) Experimental procedure for synthesis of isoquinolines from vinyl isocyanides and tricarbonyls:

In an 8 mL screw cap reaction vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was added vinyl-isocyanide (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.), tricarbonyl (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), $K_2S_2O_8$ (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), $Ru(bpy)_3(PF_6)_2$ (0.004 mmol, 2 mol%). 2 mL of degassed $CH_3CN:H_2O$ (1:1) was added to the vial, and it was purged three times with argon and was sealed with a cap containing TFE-lined silicone septa. The reaction vial was degassed with argon for 15 minutes *via* an inlet needle. After this, the cap was changed with a solid-top cap under argon flow and the vial was irradiated with a blue LED strip (0.11 W/cm², measured through a Newport optical power meter 1916-R at a distance of 2 cm) for 12-24 h. The temperature of the reaction vial was maintained at approximately 25 °C *via* a fan. After the reaction was stopped, the reaction mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and water (10 mL). Sat. $NaHCO_3$ was then added to the reaction mixture and it was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL x 3) and washed with brine (saturated aq NaCl, 10 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , and the solvent was removed in a rotatory evaporator followed by *a vacuum*. The crude products were then purified on a silica gel column (230-400 mesh) using EtOAc/petroleum ether mixture to get the pure product.

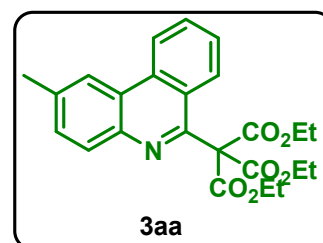
(c) Experimental Procedure for the scale-up reaction for phenanthridine from *ortho*-aryl isocyanide and triethylmethane tricarbonylate:

In a 50 mL RB (round bottom flask), equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was added the 2-isocyano-5-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (5.175 mmol, 1 equiv.), tricarbonyl (7.7625 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), $K_2S_2O_8$ (7.7625 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), $Ru(bpy)_3(PF_6)_2$ (0.1035 mmol, 2 mol%). 52 mL of

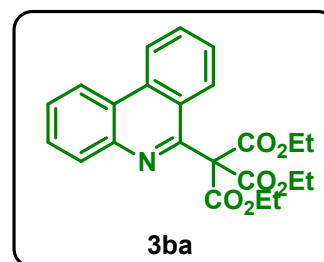
degassed CH₃CN:H₂O (1:1) was added to the RB, and it was purged three times with argon and was sealed with a rubber septum. The rb was then degassed with argon for 15 min via an inlet needle. After this, the rb was irradiated with a blue LED strip (0.11 W/cm², measured through an optical power meter 1916-R at a distance of 1 cm) for 12 h. The temperature of the RB was maintained at approximately 25 °C *via* a fan. After the reaction was stopped, the reaction mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and water (20 mL). Sat. NaHCO₃ was then added to the reaction mixture, and it was extracted with EtOAc (20 mL x 3) and washed with brine (saturated aq NaCl, 20 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed in a rotatory evaporator followed by a *vacuo*. The crude products were then purified on a silica gel column (230-400 mesh) using EtOAc/petroleum ether mixture to get the pure product **3aa** in 61% yield (1.34 gm).

Characterization data for products:

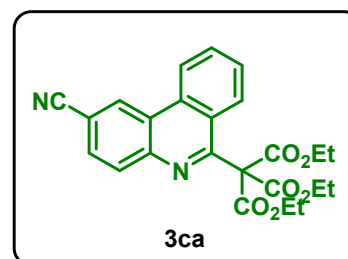
1. **triethyl (2-methylphenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3aa)**. White solid; Yield – (56.7 mg, 67%); *mp*: 145-147 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2982, 2925, 1739, 1219, 1060; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 8.35 (s, 1 H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.81-7.73 (m, 2 H), 7.60-7.53 (m, 2 H), 4.37 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6 H), 2.64 (s, 3 H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 9 H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.6, 153.5, 140.8, 137.5, 132.9, 130.2, 130.1, 129.8, 126.6, 126.2, 125.2, 124.0, 122.4, 121.4, 74.7, 62.6, 22.0, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₄H₂₅NO₆H (M + H): 424.1760, found (M + H): 424.1759.



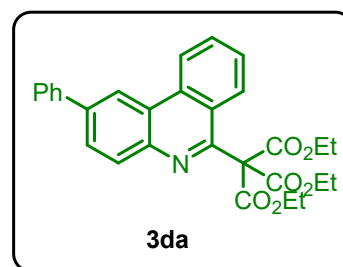
2. **triethyl phenanthridin-6-ylmethanetricarboxylate (3ba)**. White solid; Yield – (52.1 mg, 64%); *mp*: 109-111 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2981, 1731, 1221, 1058; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.67 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 8.59-8.57 (m, 1 H), 8.11-8.09 (m, 1 H), 7.84-7.77 (m, 2 H), 7.75-7.68 (m, 2 H), 7.63-7.59 (m, 1 H), 4.38 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6 H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 9 H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.6, 154.5, 142.5, 133.2, 130.5, 130.1, 128.4, 127.6, 126.7, 126.2, 125.2, 124.1, 122.4, 121.8, 74.7, 62.7, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₃H₂₃NO₆H (M + H): 410.1604, found (M + H): 410.1610.



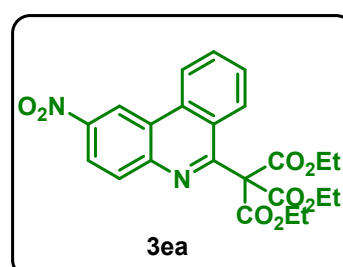
3. **triethyl (2-cyanophenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3ca)**. White solid; Yield – (71.6 mg, 82%); *mp*: 164-166 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2983, 2228, 1736, 1218, 1059; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.91 (d, *J* = 1.28 Hz, 1 H), 8.61 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.91-7.88 (m, 2 H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.71-7.67 (m, 1 H), 4.38 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6 H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 9 H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.1, 157.7, 144.0, 132.1, 131.5, 131.2, 130.1, 128.0, 127.7, 126.6, 125.5, 124.3, 122.4, 118.9, 111.0, 74.7, 62.9, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₄H₂₂N₂O₆H (M + H): 435.1556, found (M + H): 435.1552.



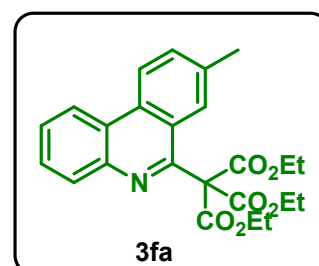
4. **triethyl (2-phenylphenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3da)**. White solid; Yield – (65.7 mg, 67%); **mp**: 168-170 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2981, 2934, 1738, 1224, 1060; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.77-8.74 (m, 2 H), 8.16 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.97 (dd, $J_1 = 8.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.84-7.79 (m, 4 H), 7.63 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.55 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.45 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 4.41 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6 H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 9 H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.6, 154.4, 141.8, 141.0, 140.5, 133.2, 130.9, 130.1, 128.9, 127.9, 127.7, 127.6, 126.9, 126.3, 125.4, 124.3, 122.4, 120.2, 74.7, 62.7, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_6\text{H}$ ($M + H$): 486.1917, found ($M + H$): 486.1920.



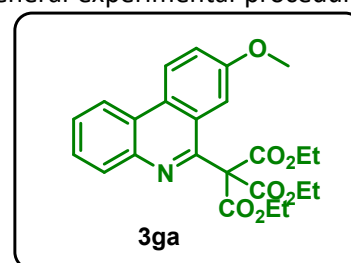
5. **triethyl (2-nitrophenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3ea)**. White solid; Yield – (41.8 mg, 46%); **mp**: 166-168 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2983, 1732, 1217, 1059; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.49(d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1 H), 8.74 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 8.51 (dd, $J_1 = 8.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.4$ Hz, 1 H), 8.20 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1 H), 7.97-7.92 (m, 1 H), 7.85-7.83 (m, 1 H), 7.75-7.71 (m, 1 H), 4.39 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H), 1.27 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 9 H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.1, 158.4, 146.3, 145.3, 133.0, 131.8, 131.4, 128.3, 126.8, 125.6, 124.2, 122.7, 122.4, 118.7, 74.82, 63.0, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8\text{H}$ ($M + H$): 455.1454, found ($M + H$): 455.1452.



6. **triethyl (8-methylphenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3fa)**. White solid; Yield – (57.1 mg, 68%); **mp**: 162-164 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2981, , 1737, 1206, 1059; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.56-8.54 (m, 2 H), 8.08-8.05 (m, 1 H), 7.69-7.63(m, 3 H), 7.51 (s, 1 H), 4.38 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H), 2.53 (s, 3 H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 9 H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.6, 154.2, 142.2, 136.7, 131.9, 131.2, 130.5, 128.0, 127.5, 125.6, 125.4, 124.3, 122.4, 121.6, 74.8, 62.7, 21.8, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_6\text{H}$ ($M + H$): 424.1760, found ($M + H$): 424.1760.

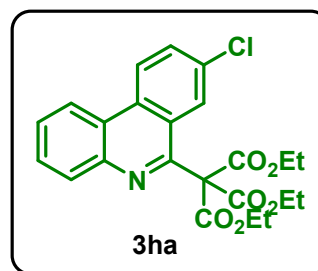


7. **triethyl (8-methoxyphenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3ga)**. White solid; Yield – (62.6 mg, 71%); **mp**: 121-123 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2981, 1736, 1220, 1058; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.57 (d, $J = 9.1$ Hz, 1 H), 8.50-8.48 (m, 1 H), 8.08-8.05 (m, 1 H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 2 H), 7.45 (dd, $J_1 = 9.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.4$ Hz 1 H), 7.10 (s, 1 H), 4.38 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H), 3.87 (s, 3 H), 1.27 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 9 H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.6, 158.1, 153.6, 141.7, 130.4, 127.6, 127.4, 126.4, 124.2, 124.0, 121.3, 121.0, 106.3, 74.9, 62.6, 55.3, 13.9; **HRESI-MS** (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_7\text{H}$ ($M + H$): 440.1709, found ($M + H$): 440.1711.

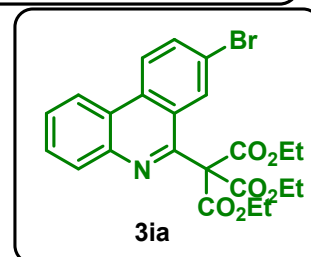


8. **triethyl (8-chlorophenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3ha)**. White solid; Yield – (61.7 mg, 70%); **mp**: 143-145 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2981, 1736, 1207, 1058; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.57 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1 H), 8.49

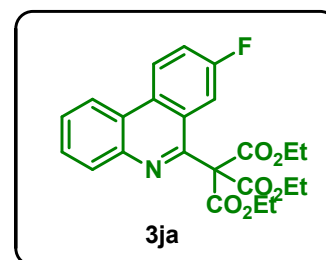
(d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 8.08 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1 H), 7.75-7.67 (m, 4 H), 4.41 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 9 H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.2, 153.3, 142.3, 132.7, 131.6, 130.6, 130.5, 128.7, 128.0, 126.1, 125.7, 124.1, 123.5, 121.6, 74.7, 62.8, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{ClNO}_6\text{H}$ (M + H): 444.1214, found (M + H): 444.1211.



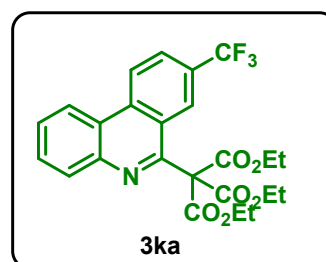
9. **triethyl (8-bromophenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3ia)**. White solid; Yield – (76.8 mg, 79%); **mp**: 149-151 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2982, 1736, 1208, 1059; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.49 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 8.07 (d, $J = 7.92$ Hz, 1 H), 7.89-7.86 (m, 2 H), 7.75-7.67 (m, 2 H), 4.41 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H), 1.31 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 9 H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.2, 153.2, 142.3, 133.3, 131.9, 130.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.0, 126.4, 124.2, 123.5, 121.6, 120.8, 74.7, 62.8, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{BrNO}_6\text{H}$ (M + H): 488.0709, found (M + H): 488.0702.



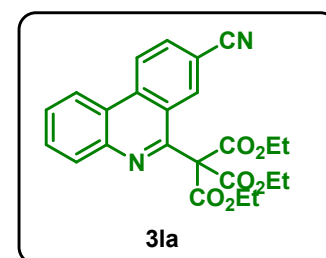
10. **triethyl (8-fluorophenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3ja)**. White solid; Yield – (49.2 mg, 57%); **mp**: 105-107 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2982, 2937, 1734, 1194, 1058; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.67-8.63 (m, 1 H), 8.52-8.50 (m, 1 H), 8.10-8.08 (m, 1 H), 7.74-7.68 (m, 2 H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 1 H), 7.43-7.40 (m, 1 H), 4.40 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 9 H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.3, 160.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 246.9$ Hz), 153.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.8$ Hz), 142.1, 130.5, 129.9, 128.3, 128.0, 126.4 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 7.9$ Hz), 125.0 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.4$ Hz), 123.7, 121.5, 119.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 23.6$ Hz), 111.0 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.1$ Hz), 74.7, 62.8, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{FNO}_6\text{H}$ (M + H): 428.1059, found (M + H): 428.1509.



11. **triethyl (8-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3ka)**. White solid; Yield – (74.3 mg, 78%); **mp**: 144-146 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2983, 1733, 1208, 1124, 1058; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.76 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 8.57 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H), 8.11 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H), 8.05 (s, 1 H), 8.0 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 7.81-7.72 (m, 2 H), 4.41 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 9 H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.3, 154.4, 143.1, 135.5, 130.7, 129.8, 128.5 (q, $J = 35.2$ Hz), 128.3, 125.9 (q, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 124.7, 124.2 (q, $J = 4.3$ Hz), 123.8 (q, $J = 270.8$ Hz), 123.6, 123.3, 122.3, 74.9, 63.0, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_6\text{H}$ (M + H): 478.1477, found (M + H): 478.1478.

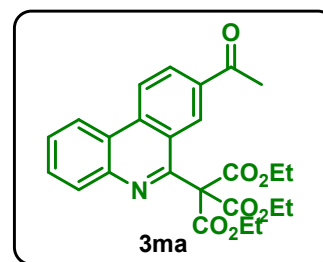


12. **triethyl (8-cyanophenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3la)**. White solid; Yield – (50.1 mg, 58%); **mp**: 155-157 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2982, 2230, 1733, 1206, 1057; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.74 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1 H), 8.57 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H), 8.13-8.08 (m, 2 H), 7.98 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.85-7.76 (m, 2 H), 4.43 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H), 1.33 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 9 H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.1, 153.7, 143.3, 135.9,

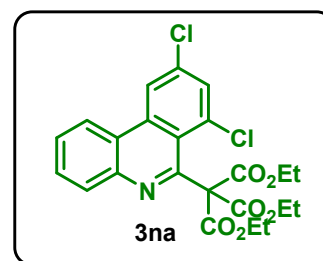


131.9, 131.2, 130.7, 130.3, 128.6, 124.8, 123.8, 122.9, 122.4, 118.3, 110.3, 74.7, 63.1, 13.8 ;
HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₄H₂₂N₂O₆H (M + H): 435.1556, found (M + H): 435.1575.

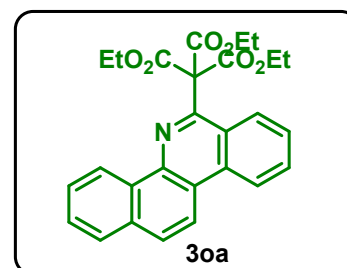
13. **triethyl (8-acetylphenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3ma)**. White solid; Yield – (59.8 mg, 66%); **mp**: 136-138 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2981, 2937, 1731, 1686, 1249, 1057; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.71 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1 H), 8.59 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 8.39 (s, 1 H), 8.36 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1 H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.81-7.72 (m, 2 H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6 H), 2.69 (s, 3 H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 9H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.9, 166.0, 165.5, 154.8, 143.3, 136.4, 134.7, 130.6, 129.7, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 124.7, 123.5, 123.0, 122.5, 74.9, 63.3, 63.0, 26.4, 13.9; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₅H₂₅NO₇Na (M + Na): 474.1529, found (M + H): 474.1531.



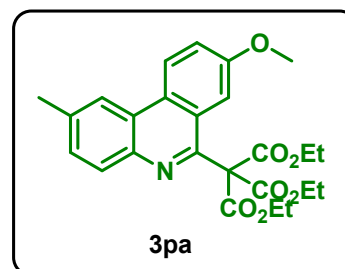
14. **triethyl (7,9-dichlorophenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3na)**. White solid; Yield – (83.8 mg, 88%); **mp**: 177-179 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2982, 1746, 1592, 1197, 1062; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (s, 1 H), 8.44 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.77-7.67 (m, 3 H), 4.53-4.48 (m, 2 H), 4.31-4.30 (m, 4 H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.08, 3 H), 1.21 (s, 6 H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.9, 165.5, 152.6, 141.7, 137.1, 135.6, 132.7, 130.5, 130.1, 129.8, 128.4, 122.5, 122.3, 122.1, 121.8, 77.8, 62.9, 62.6, 14.0, 13.6; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₃H₂₁Cl₂NO₆Na (M + Na): 500.0644, found (M + Na): 500.0643.



15. **triethyl benzo[*c*]phenanthridin-6-ylmethanetricarboxylate (3oa)**. White solid; Yield – (50.4 mg, 64%); **mp**: 150-152 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2982, 2925, 1736, 1225, 1059; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.23 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 8.74 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1 H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.99-7.97 (m, 1 H), 7.90-7.84 (m, 2 H), 7.75-7.63 (m, 3 H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6 H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 9 H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.7, 153.0, 139.2, 133.6, 133.1, 131.9, 130.0, 128.4, 127.5, 127.3, 126.8, 126.6, 126.3, 125.6, 124.7, 75.2, 62.7, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₇H₂₅NO₆H (M + H): 460.1760, found (M + H): 460.1759.

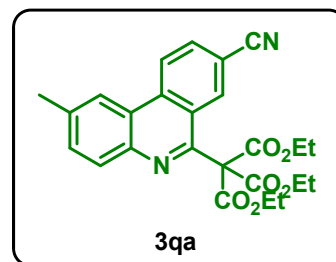


16. **triethyl (8-methoxy-2-methylphenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3pa)**. White solid; Yield – (64.4 mg, 71%); **mp**: 133-135 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2981, 2926, 1737, 1222, 1058; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.55 (d, *J* = 9.12 Hz, 1 H), 8.27 (s, 1 H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.43 (dd, *J*₁ = 9.1 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.38 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6 H), 3.87 (s, 3 H), 2.64 (s, 3 H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 9 H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.7, 158.0, 152.6, 140.1, 137.6, 130.2, 129.2, 127.5, 126.5, 124.1, 124.0, 120.9, 120.8, 106.2, 74.9, 62.7, 55.3, 22.1, 13.9; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₅H₂₇NO₇H (M + H): 454.1866, found (M + H): 454.1865.

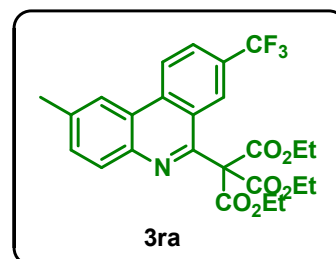


17. **triethyl (8-cyano-2-methylphenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3qa)**. White solid;

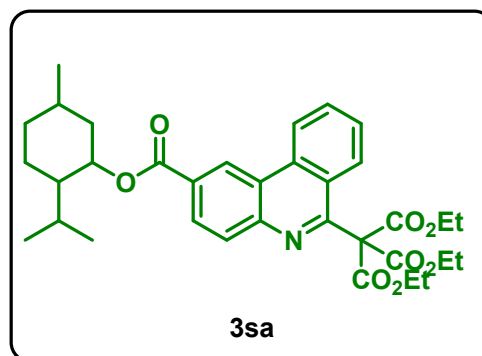
Yield – (42.3 mg, 47%); **mp**: 130-132 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2226, 1734, 1216, 1054; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.71 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1 H), 8.32 (s, 1 H), 8.07 (s, 1 H), 7.99 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.94 (dd, $J_1 = 8.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 4.42 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H), 2.66 (s, 3 H), 1.32 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 9 H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.2, 152.6, 141.7, 138.8, 135.6, 132.0, 131.9, 131.0, 130.4, 124.8, 123.8, 122.7, 121.9, 118.4, 110.1, 74.7, 63.0, 22.0, 13.9; **HRESI-MS** (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6\text{Na}$ ($M + \text{Na}$): 471.1532, found ($M + \text{H}$): 471.1533.



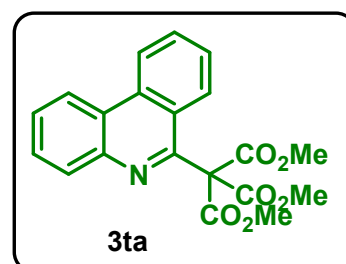
18. **triethyl (2-methyl-8-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3ra)**. White solid; Yield – (79.8 mg, 81%); **mp**: 102-104 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2983, 1731, 1210, 1124, 1056; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.75 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 8.35 (s, 1 H), 8.02-7.96 (m, 3 H), 7.61 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 4.40 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H), 2.66 (s, 3 H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 9 H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.3, 153.4, 141.4, 138.4, 135.2, 131.2, 130.4, 128.3 (q, $J = 32.5$ Hz), 125.6 (q, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 124.1 (q, $J = 4.2$ Hz), 123.8 (q, $J = 270.8$ Hz), 123.5, 121.8, 74.8, 62.9, 22.0, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_6\text{H}$ ($M + \text{H}$): 492.1634, found ($M + \text{H}$): 492.1632.



19. **Triethyl (2-(((2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)carbonyl)phenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate (3sa)**. White solid; Yield – (96.9 mg, 80%); **mp**: 62-64 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2955, 2928, 2869, 1738, 1712, 1285, 1254, 1060; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.32 (s, 1 H), 8.77 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 8.33 (d, $J_1 = 8.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.5$ Hz, 1 H), 8.12 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1 H), 7.88 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1 H), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.65 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1 H), 5.07 (td, $J_1 = 10.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.2$ Hz, 1 H), 4.37 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H), 2.24-2.21 (m, 1 H), 2.07-2.01 (m, 1 H), 1.80-1.77 (m, 2 H), 1.71-1.63 (m, 2 H), 1.27-1.22 (m, 11 H), 0.99-0.97 (m, 7H), 0.86 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3 H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.9, 165.3, 156.7, 144.8, 133.3, 130.7, 130.5, 129.5, 128.5, 127.3, 126.4, 125.3, 124.5, 123.7, 122.7, 75.3, 74.7, 62.8, 47.3, 41.0, 34.3, 31.4, 26.6, 23.7, 22.0, 20.7, 16.6, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{41}\text{NO}_8\text{H}$ ($M + \text{H}$): 592.2910, found ($M + \text{H}$): 592.2913.

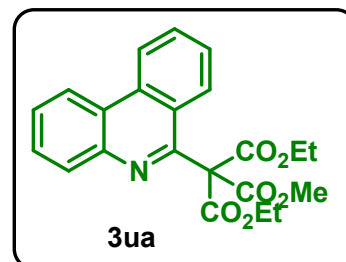


20. **trimethyl phenanthridin-6-ylmethanetricarboxylate (3ta)**. White solid; Yield – (49.2 mg, 67%); **mp**: 190-192 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2952, 1742, 1232, 1066; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.69 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 8.60-8.58 (m, 1 H), 8.11-8.08 (m, 1 H), 7.84 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.76-7.70 (m, 3 H), 7.64-7.60 (m, 1 H), 3.89 (s, 9 H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.9, 154.2, 142.3, 133.3, 130.7, 130.2,

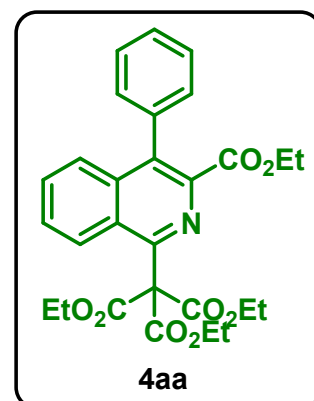


128.6, 127.8, 127.1, 125.0, 124.2, 121.8, 74.6, 53.7; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₀H₁₇NO₆H (M + H): 368.1134, found (M + H): 368.1138.

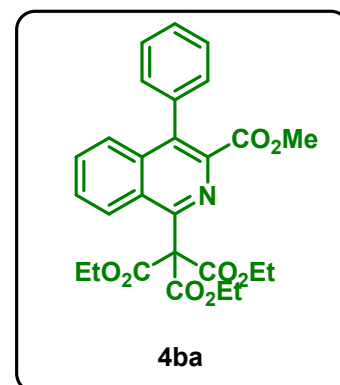
21. **trimethyl phenanthridin-6-ylmethanetricarboxylate (3ua)**. White solid; Yield – (51.4 mg, 65%); **mp**: 179-181 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (a). **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2923, 2855, 1740, 1510, 1458, 1352, 1251, 1172, 1065; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.68 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 8.60-8.58 (m, 1 H), 8.11-8.09 (m, 1 H), 7.85-7.81 (m, 1 H), 7.76-7.71 (m, 3 H), 7.63-7.60 (m, 1 H), 4.39 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4 H), 3.87 (s, 3 H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6 H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.2, 165.4, 154.4, 142.4, 133.2, 130.5, 130.1, 128.5, 127.7, 126.8, 126.1, 125.1, 124.1, 122.5, 121.8, 74.7, 62.7, 53.5, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₂H₂₁NO₆H (M + H): 396.1447, found (M + H): 396.1448.



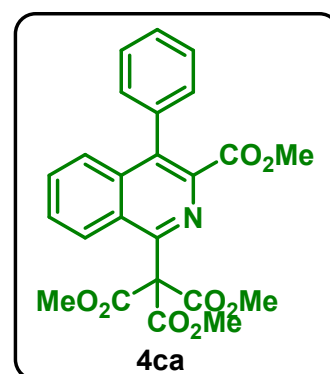
22. **triethyl (3-(ethoxycarbonyl)-4-phenylisoquinolin-1-yl)methanetricarboxylate (4aa)**. white sticky solid; Yield – (85.2 mg, 70%); Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (b). **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2982, 1735, 1221, 1059; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80-7.70 (m, 1 H), 7.67-7.64 (m, 1 H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 2 H), 7.51-7.50 (m, 3 H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 2 H), 4.39 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6 H), 4.11 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 9 H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3 H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.2, 165.4, 153.4, 139.7, 136.4, 136.1, 134.7, 130.0, 129.7, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.2, 125.5, 74.5, 62.8, 60.9, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₈H₂₉NO₈H (M + H): 508.1971, found (M + H): 508.1973.



23. **triethyl (3-(methoxycarbonyl)-4-phenylisoquinolin-1-yl)methanetricarboxylate (4ba)**. White solid; Yield – (78.3 mg, 79%); **mp**: 90-92 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (b). **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2982, 2925, 1733, 1221, 1058; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79-7.78 (m, 1 H), 7.63-7.61 (m, 3 H), 7.52-7.50 (m, 3 H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 4.39 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6 H), 3.69 (s, 3 H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 9 H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.5, 165.4, 153.4, 138.9, 136.5, 135.9, 135.3, 130.0, 129.5, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.4, 125.5, 74.5, 62.8, 51.9, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₇H₂₇NO₈Na (M + Na): 516.1634, found (M + H): 516.1631.

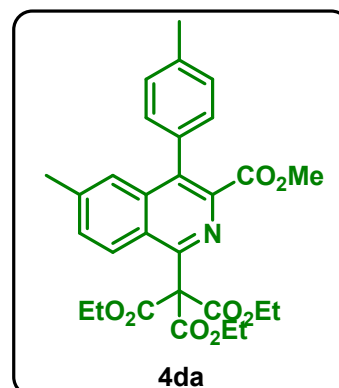


24. **trimethyl (3-(methoxycarbonyl)-4-phenylisoquinolin-1-yl)methanetricarboxylate (4ca)**. White solid; Yield – (61.9 mg, 69%); **mp**: 168-170 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (b). **IR** (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2953, 1736, 1433, 1226, 1065; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74-7.72 (m, 1 H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 3 H), 7.52-7.51 (m, 3 H), 7.34-7.33 (m, 2 H), 3.90 (s, 9 H), 3.69 (s, 3 H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.3, 165.8, 153.1, 138.5, 136.7, 135.9, 130.2, 129.5, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7, 125.0, 74.4, 53.8, 52.1; **HRESI-MS**

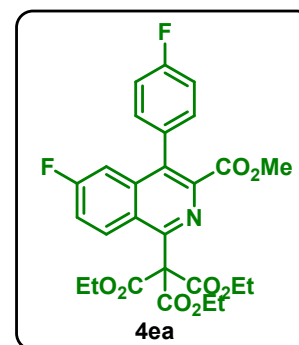


(*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₄H₂₁NO₈Na (M + Na): 474.1165, found (M + H): 474.1165.

25. **triethyl(3-(methoxycarbonyl)-6-methyl-4-(*p*-tolyl)isoquinolin-1-yl)methanetricarboxylate (4da)**. White solid; Yield – (64.7 mg, 62%); *mp*: 105-107 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (b). IR (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2981, 2923, 1736, 1221, 1059; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.51 (s, 1 H), 7.42 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.6 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2 H), 4.40 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6 H), 3.70 (s, 3 H), 2.50 (s, 3 H), 2.48 (s, 3 H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.6, 165.5, 152.4, 138.5, 138.0, 137.5, 135.6, 135.0, 133.0, 132.2, 129.3, 128.8, 128.2, 127.3, 124.3, 74.4, 62.8, 51.9, 22.2, 21.3, 13.7; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₉H₃₁NO₈H (M + H): 522.2128, found (M + H): 522.2128.

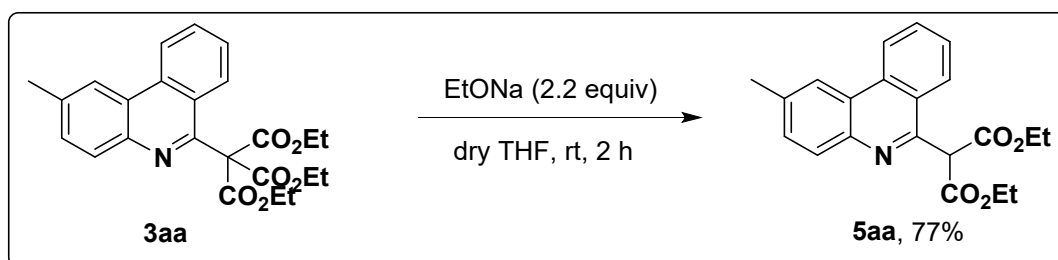


26. **Triethyl (6-fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(methoxycarbonyl)isoquinolin-1-yl)methanetricarboxylate (4ea)**. White solid; Yield – (83.8 mg, 79%); *mp*: 124-126 °C; Prepared as shown in the general experimental procedure (b). IR (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2984, 1735, 1220, 1196, 1058; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65-7.61 (m, 1 H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 2 H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 2 H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2 H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6 H), 3.70 (s, 3 H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 165.1, 162.6 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 245.8 Hz), 161.3 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 251.1 Hz), 153.1 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 5.5 Hz), 138.7, 134.3, 131.5 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 3.6 Hz), 131.3 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 8.0 Hz), 130.2 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 8.8 Hz), 129.3 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 8.9 Hz), 120.8 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 24.7 Hz), 115.5 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 21.5 Hz), 109.8 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 22.3 Hz), 74.5, 63.0, 52.0, 13.8; **HRESI-MS** (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₇H₂₅F₂NO₈H (M + H): 530.1626, found (M + H): 530.1624.



Product modification

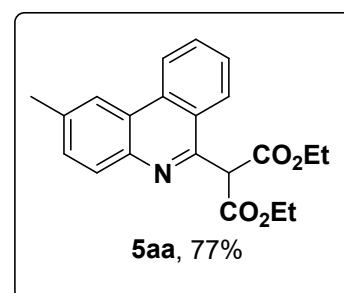
Synthesis of dicarbonyl 5aa:



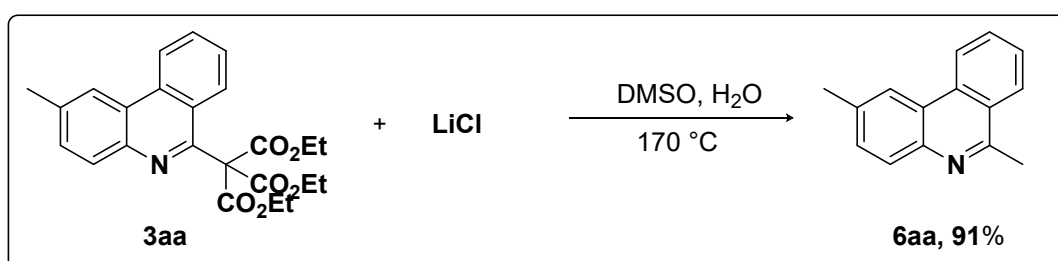
The compound **3aa** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) in dry THF (2 mL) was added dropwise to a well stirred solution of sodium ethoxide (0.44 mmol, 2.2 equiv) in THF (2 mL) under argon at rt. After stirring at rt for 2 h the solution was acidified with 1N HCl and diluted with ethyl acetate (10 mL). The organic layer was collected and washed with water, sat. NaHCO₃ solution, brine. The organic layer collected was then dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was concentrated in rotatory evaporator followed by *in vacuo* and purified by silica gel (230-400 mesh) column chromatography with EtOAc/petroleum ether mixture to provide the pure dicarbonyl product **5aa** (54.1 mg, 77% yield)

diethyl 2-(2-methylphenanthridin-6-yl)malonate (**5aa**)

White solid; Yield – (54.1 mg, 77%); *mp*: 129-131 °C; IR (Neat, cm⁻¹): 2981, 1737, 1451, 1365, 1304, 1252, 1179, 1148, 1097, 1035; ¹H NMR δ (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 8.34 (s, 1 H), 8.07-7.99 (m, 2 H), 7.85-7.81 (m, 1 H), 7.69-7.65 (m, 1 H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.65 (s, 1 H), 4.41-4.29 (m, 4 H), 2.63 (s, 3 H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6 H); ¹³C NMR δ (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 167.5, 152.5, 141.5, 137.2, 132.9, 130.3, 130.2, 130.1, 127.3, 125.0, 124.9, 123.7, 122.5, 121.4, 61.9, 59.3, 21.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) (*m/z*): Calculated for C₂₁H₂₁NO₄H [M+H]: 352.1549, found [M+H]: 352.1551.



Synthesis of 2,6-dimethylphenanthridine **6aa**:

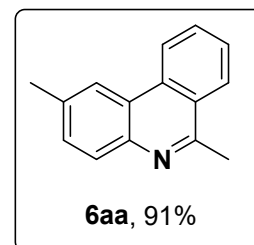


DMSO (2 mL) solution of the compound triethyl (2-methylphenanthridin-6-yl)methanetricarboxylate, **3aa** (84.69 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), LiCl (27.13 mg, 0.64 mmol, 3.2 equiv), and water (7 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) was heated at 170°C for 2 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the reaction mixture was washed with water (10 mL), and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (3x20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and then concentrated under

reduced pressure to give a crude product. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using EtOAc/petroleum ether as the eluant in 91% (37.7 mg) yield.

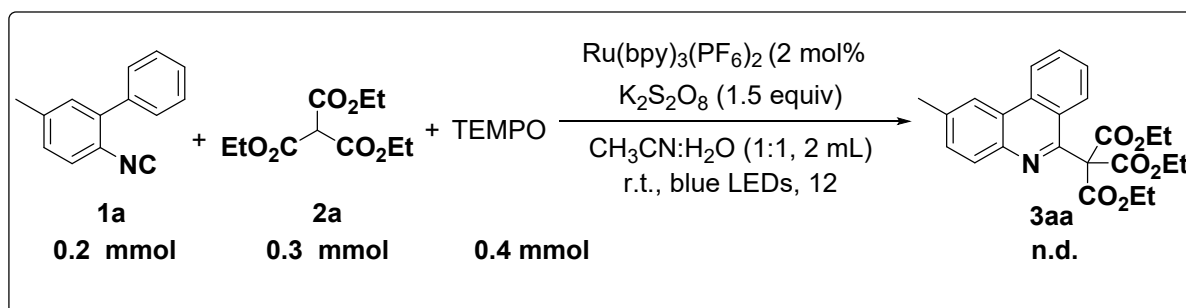
2,6-dimethylphenanthridine (6aa)

White solid; Yield – (37.7 mg, 91%); IR (Neat, cm^{-1}): 2922, 2854, 1582, 1495, 1457, 1375, 1315, 1244, 1187, 1082, 825, 760; $^1\text{H NMR } \delta$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): 8.63 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 8.34 (s, 1 H), 8.22 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1 H), 8.02 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.86-7.82 (m, 1 H), 7.71-7.67 (m, 1 H), 7.56-7.54 (m, 1 H), 3.05 (s, 3 H), 2.63 (s, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C NMR } \delta$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): 157.8, 141.8, 136.0, 132.3, 130.3, 130.2, 128.9, 127.1, 126.4, 125.9, 123.5, 122.2, 121.5, 23.2, 21.8; HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{NH}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}$]: 208.1126, found [$\text{M}+\text{H}$]: 208.1128.



Mechanistic Studies:

Tempo Quenching Studies

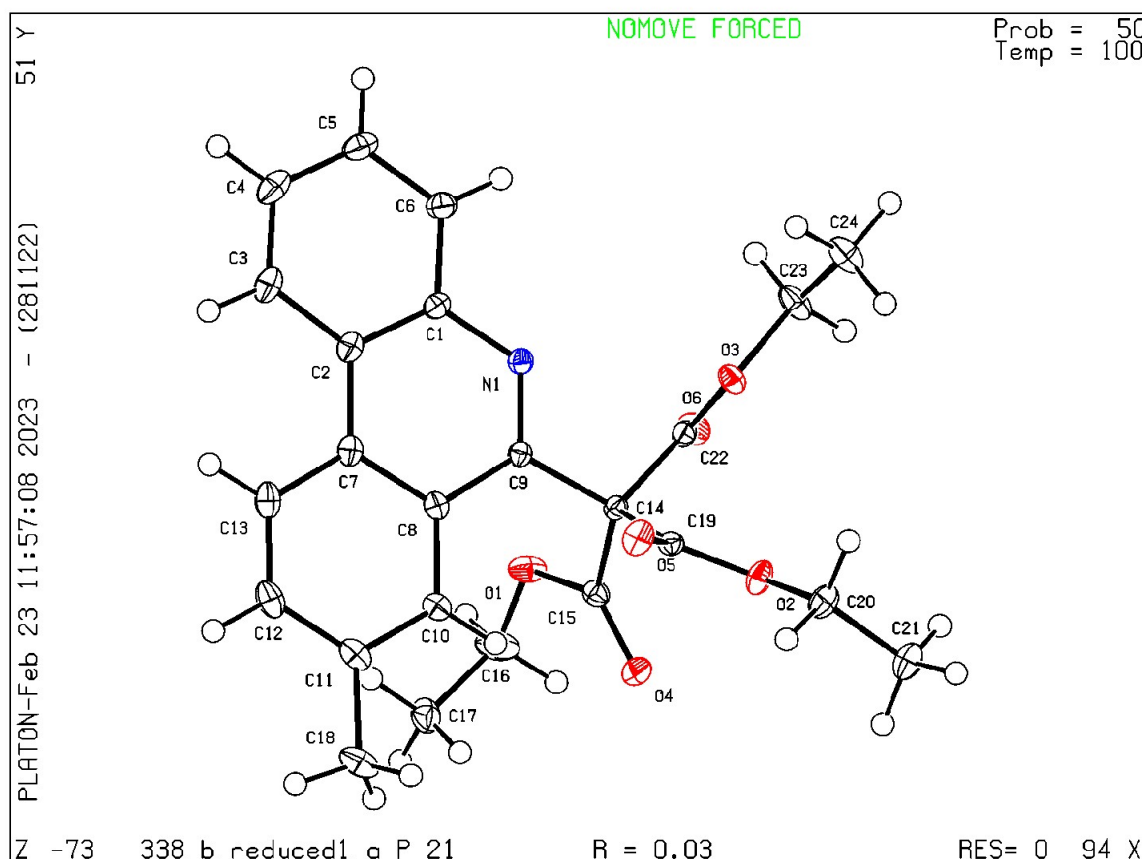


In a 8 mL screw cap reaction vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was added 2-isocyano-5-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl **1a** as ortho-aryl isocyanide (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.), tricarbonyl **2a** (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidinyloxy (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv.), $\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3(\text{PF}_6)_2$ (0.004 mmol, 2 mol%). 2 mL of degassed $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}:\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1:1) was added to the vial then and it was purged three times with argon and was sealed with a cap containing PTFE-lined silicone septa. The reaction vial was then degassed with argon for 15 min via an inlet needle. After this, the cap was changed with a PTFE-lined solid-top cap under argon flow and the vial was irradiated with a blue LED strip (1.5 mW/cm², at a distance of 2 cm) for 12 h. The temperature of the reaction vial was maintained at approximately 25 °C via a fan. After the reaction was stopped, the reaction mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and water (10 mL). The residue was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL x 3) and washed with brine (saturated aq NaCl, 10 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 and the solvent was removed in rotatory evaporator followed by in vacuo. The crude product was then purified by column chromatography on silica gel (230-400 mesh) using EtOAc/petroleum ether mixture.

Crystal Data:

Crystal data for 3fa:

The ORTEP diagram and crystal parameters of **3fa** in thermal ellipsoids are drawn at 50% probability level. The crystal of suitable quality was obtained from slow evaporation of solution of pure isolated **3fa** in DCM/hexane and was analyzed by single crystal diffractometer. Atomic coordinates, bond lengths, bond angles, and thermal parameters for this compound have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. CCDC 2344514 contains supplementary crystallographic data.



Bond precision: C-C = 0.0022 Å Wavelength = 0.71076

Cell: a=7.8789 (9) b=14.2204 (13) c=10.1298 (19)

alpha=90

beta=110.174 (7)

gamma=90

Temperature: 100 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	1065.3 (3)	1065.3 (3)
Space group	P 21	P 21
Hall group	P 2yb	P 2yb
Moiety formula	C ₂₄ H ₂₅ NO ₆	?
Sum formula	C ₂₄ H ₂₅ NO ₆	C ₂₄ H ₂₅ NO ₆
Mr	423.45	423.45
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.320	1.320
Z	2	2

Mu (mm ⁻¹)	0.095	0.095
F000	448.0	448.0
F000'	448.24	
h, k, lmax	11, 20, 14	11, 20, 14
Nref	6535[3388]	6437
Tmin, Tmax		
Tmin'	0.973	

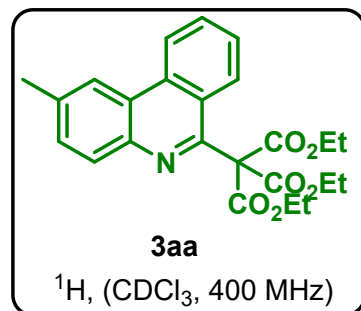
Correction method= Not given

Data completeness= 1.90/0.99; Theta(max)= 30.564; R (reflections) = 0.0336 (6269); S =1.086; Npar= 284; wR2 (reflections) = 0.0925 (6437).

References:

1. (a) M. Tobisu, K. Koh, T. Furukawa and N. Chatani, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2012, **51**, 11363 –11366. (b) J. Rong, L. Deng, P. Tan, C. Ni, Y. Gu and J. Hu, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2016, **55**, 2743 –2747.
2. C. B. Kelly, N. R. Patel, D. N. Primer, M. Jouffroy, J. C. Tellis, G. A. Molander, *Nat. Protoc.*, 2017, **12**, 472-492.

Spectras:

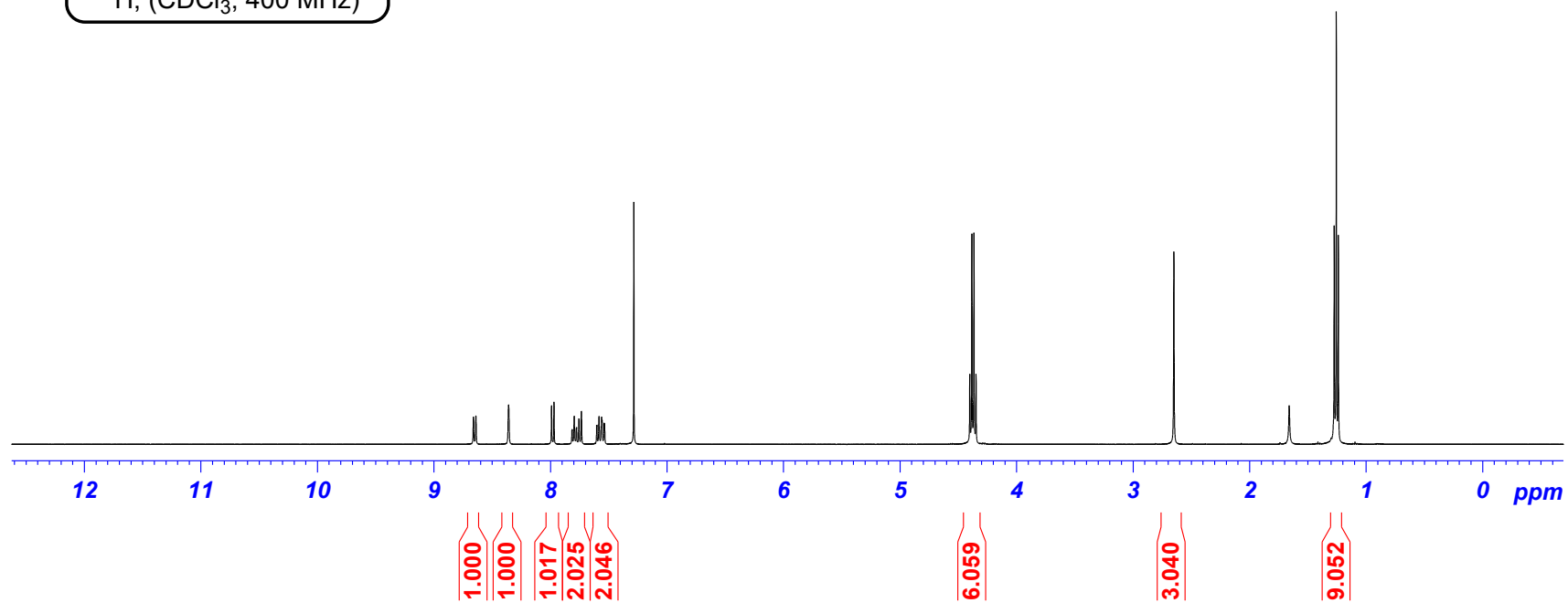


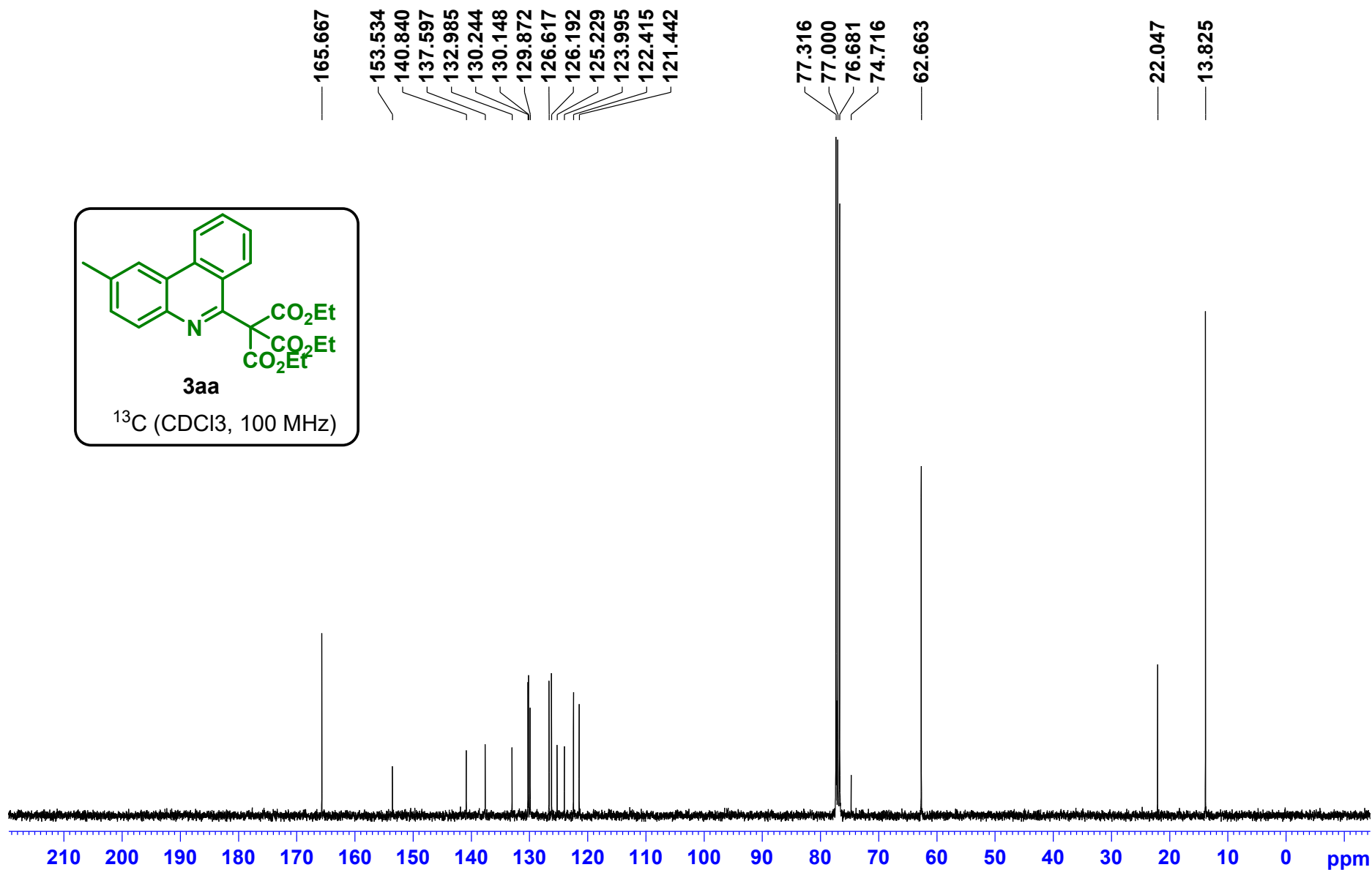
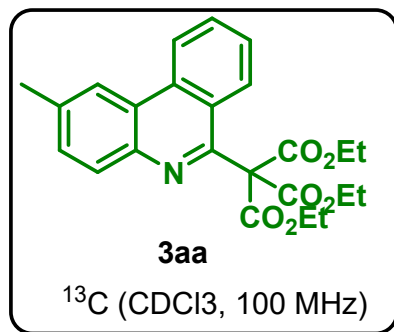
8.661
8.640
8.359
7.990
7.969
7.816
7.813
7.796
7.778
7.775
7.755
7.735
7.603
7.601
7.585
7.583
7.561
7.556
7.539
7.535
7.284

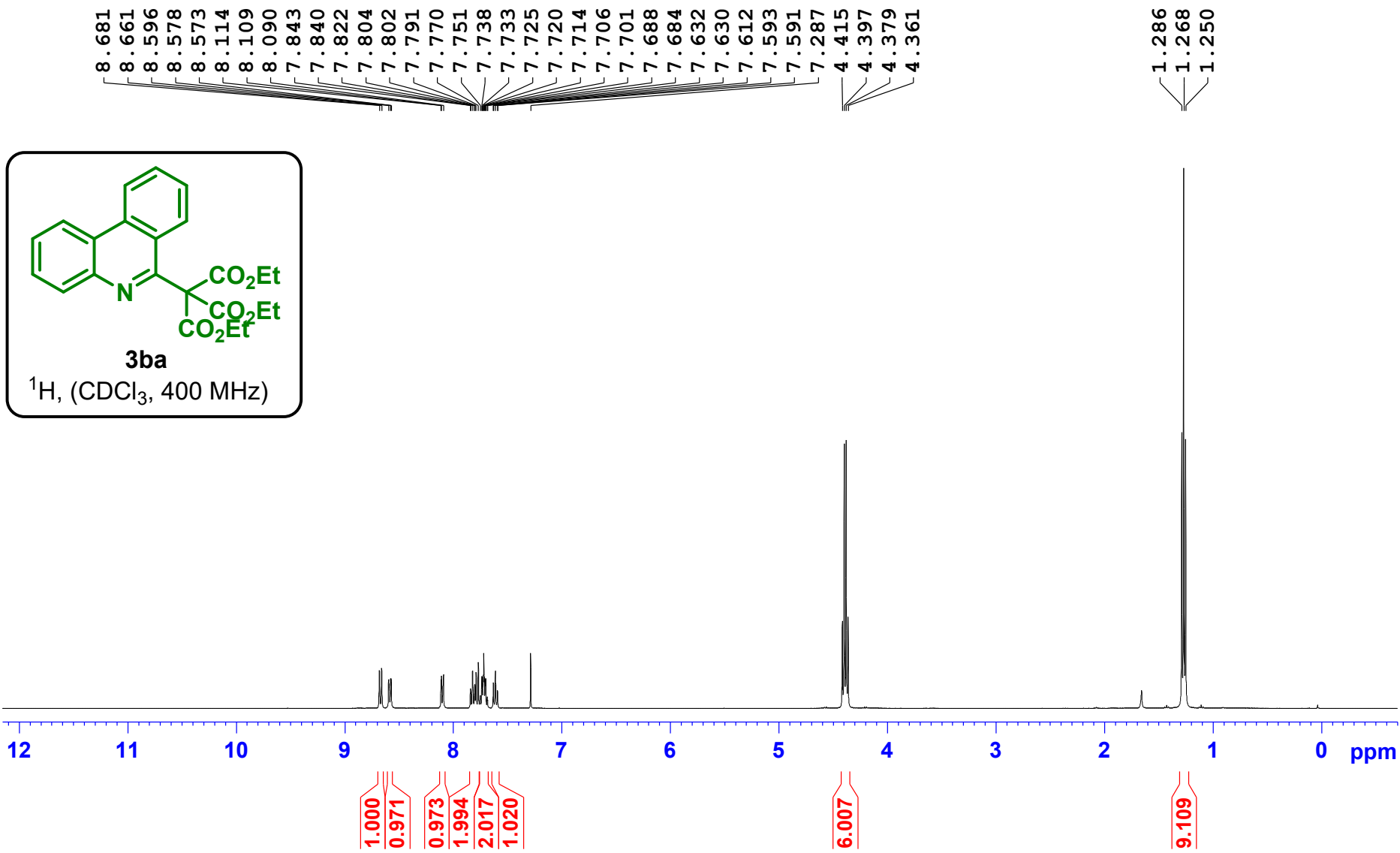
4.401
4.383
4.365
4.347

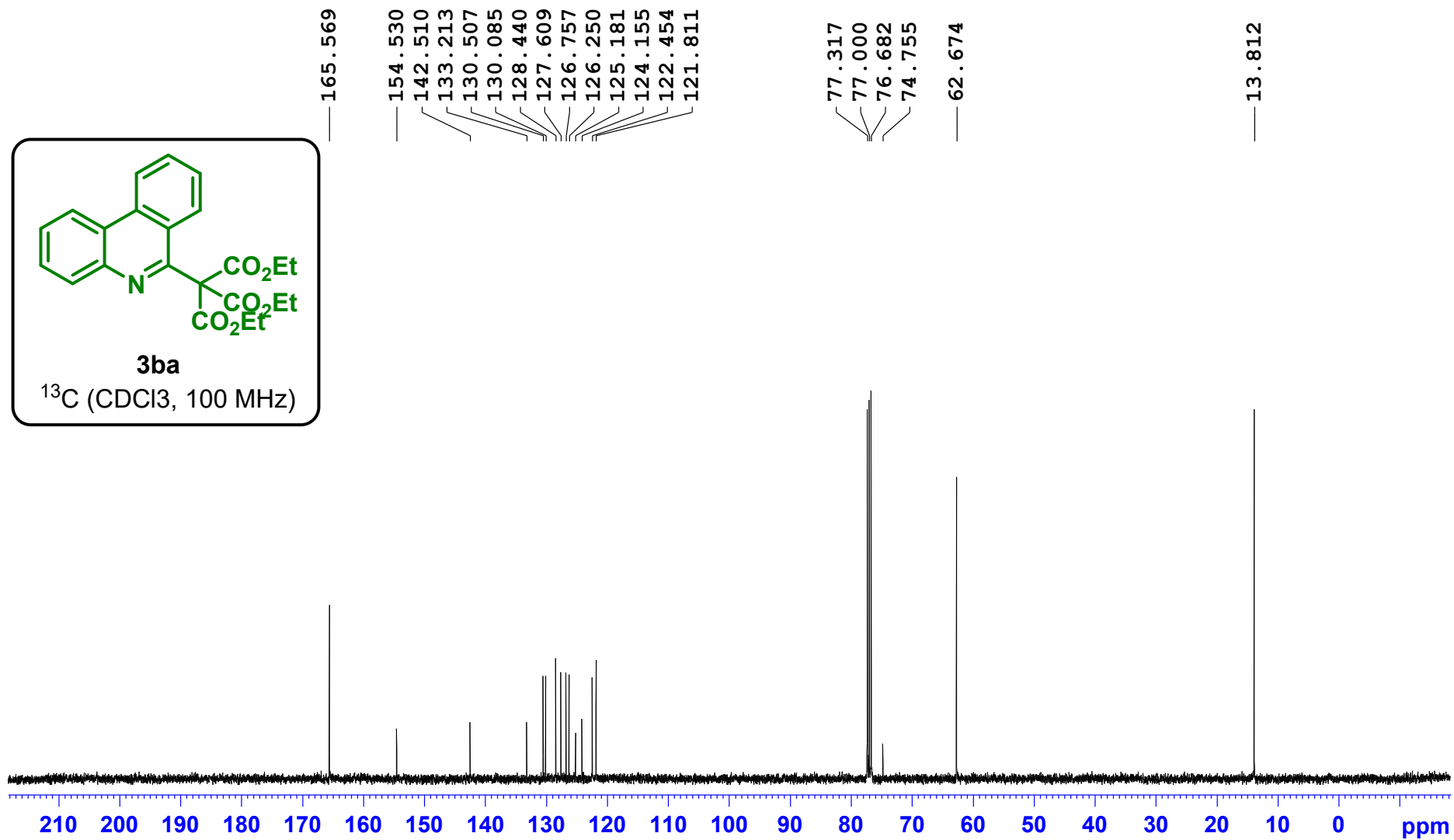
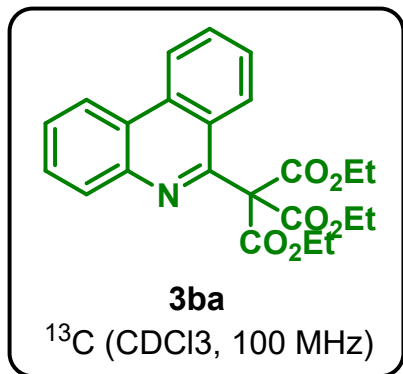
2.649

1.273
1.255
1.237





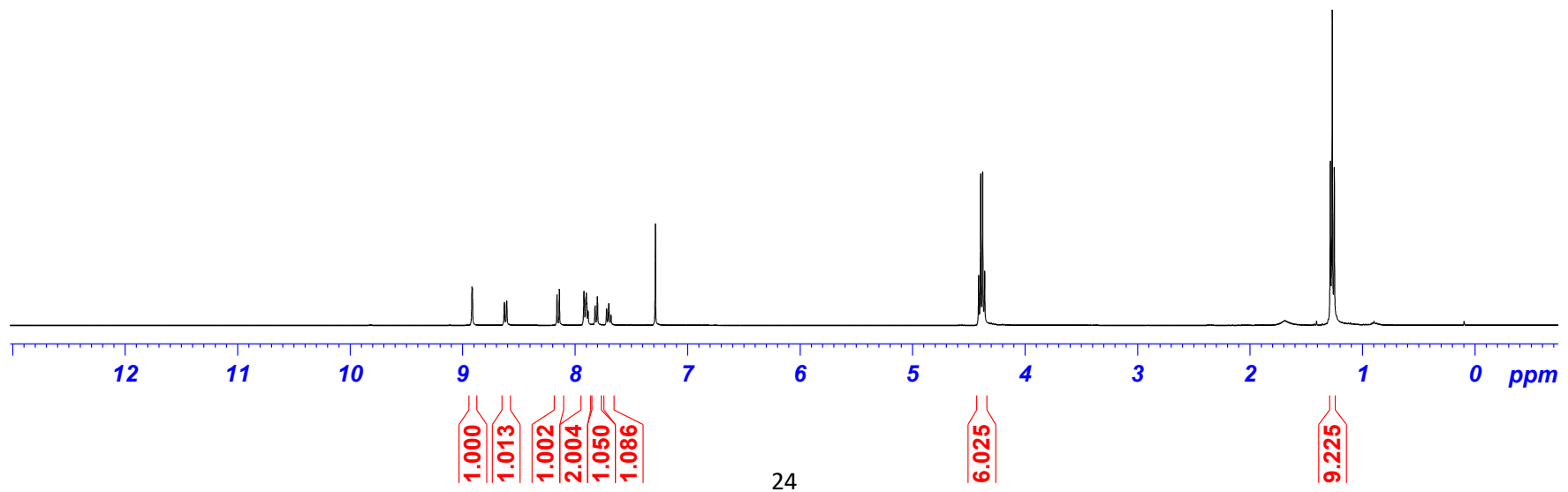
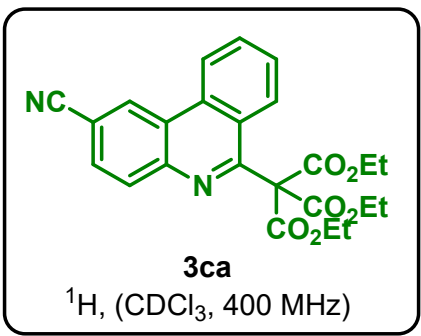


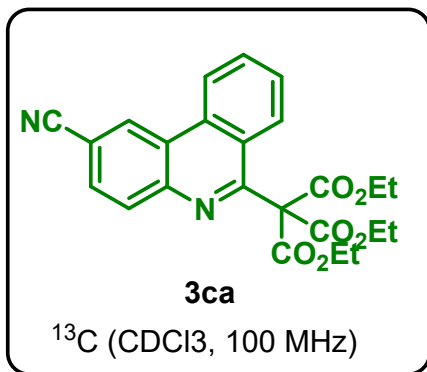


8.914
8.911
8.626
8.606
8.158
8.137
7.918
7.914
7.901
7.898
7.893
7.883
7.881
7.820
7.799
7.717
7.698
7.679
7.284

4.409
4.391
4.374
4.356

1.283
1.265
1.248

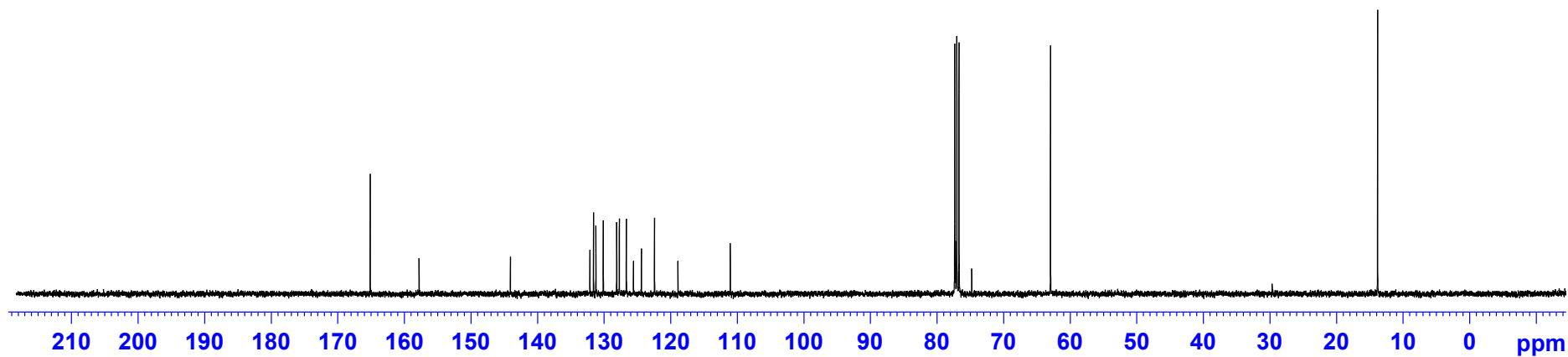


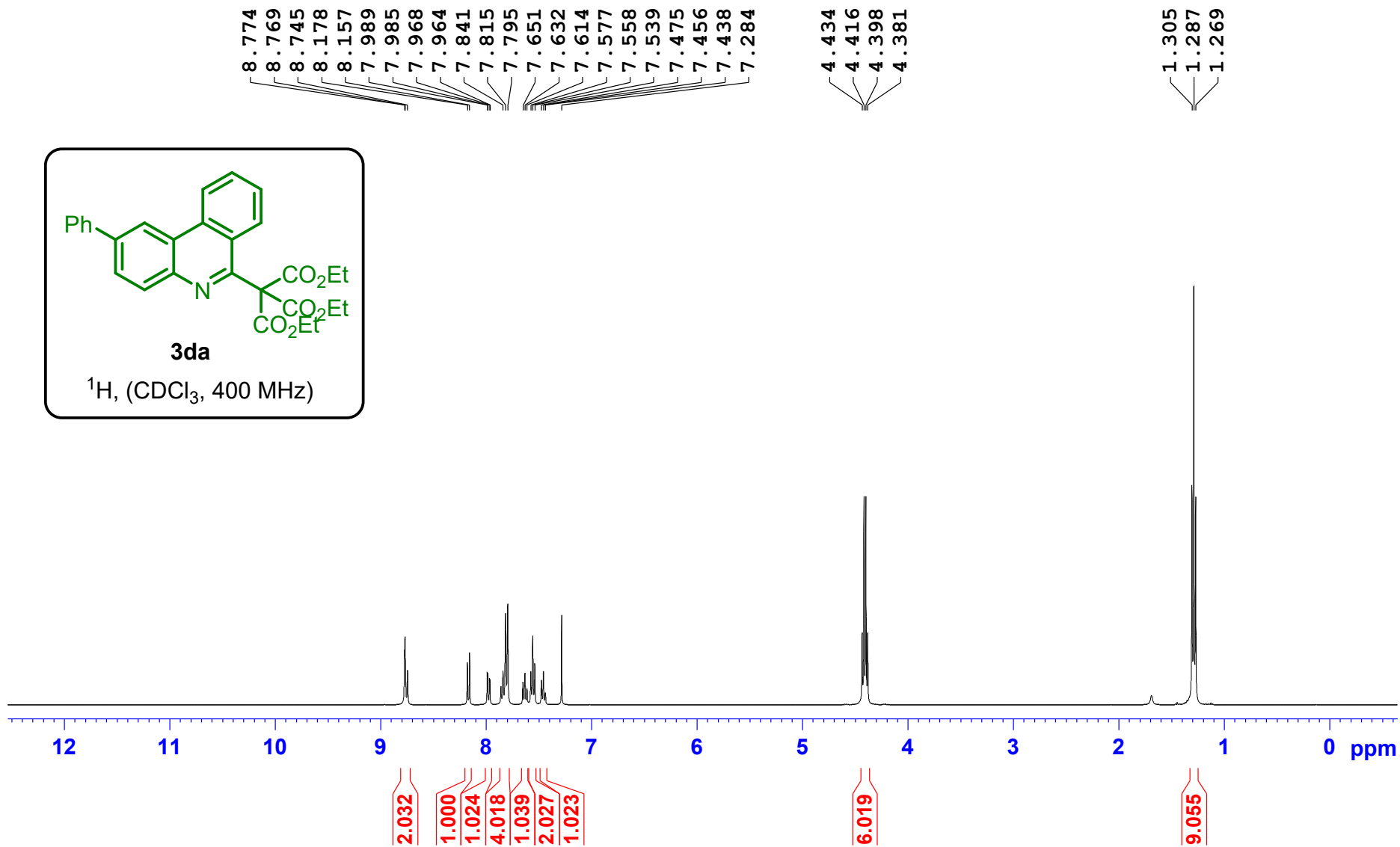
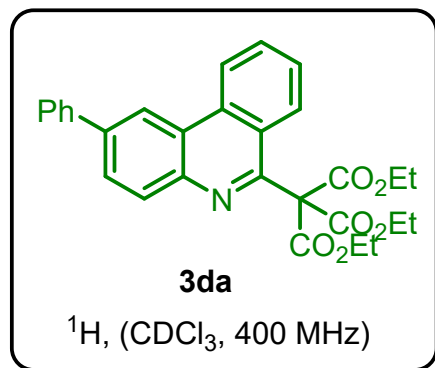


165.120
157.777
144.056
132.110
131.574
131.224
130.111
128.098
127.698
126.651
125.577
124.390
122.417
118.898
111.035

77.318
77.000
76.682
74.760
62.933

13.800

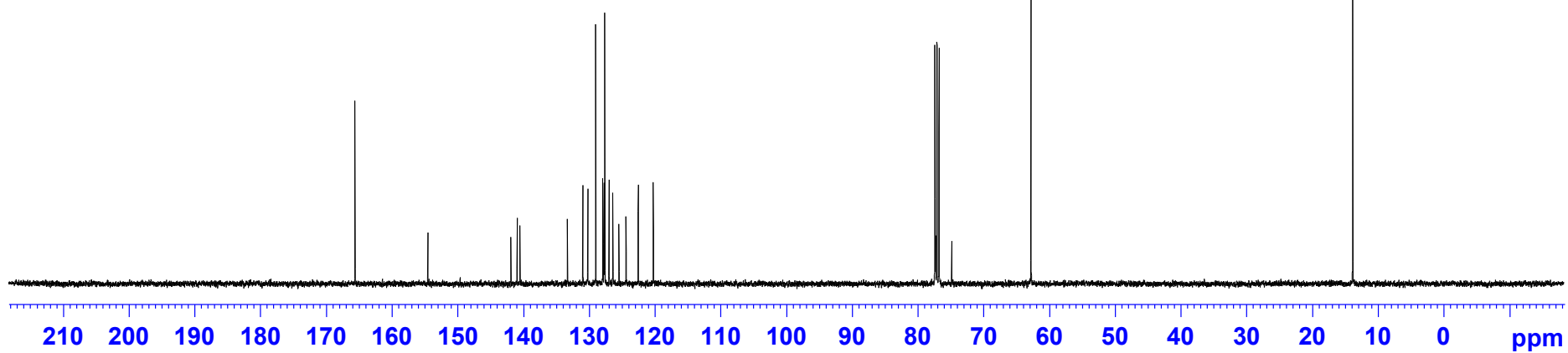
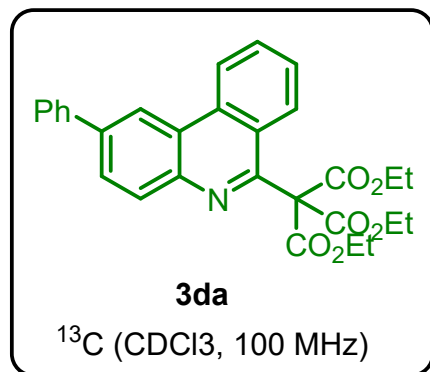


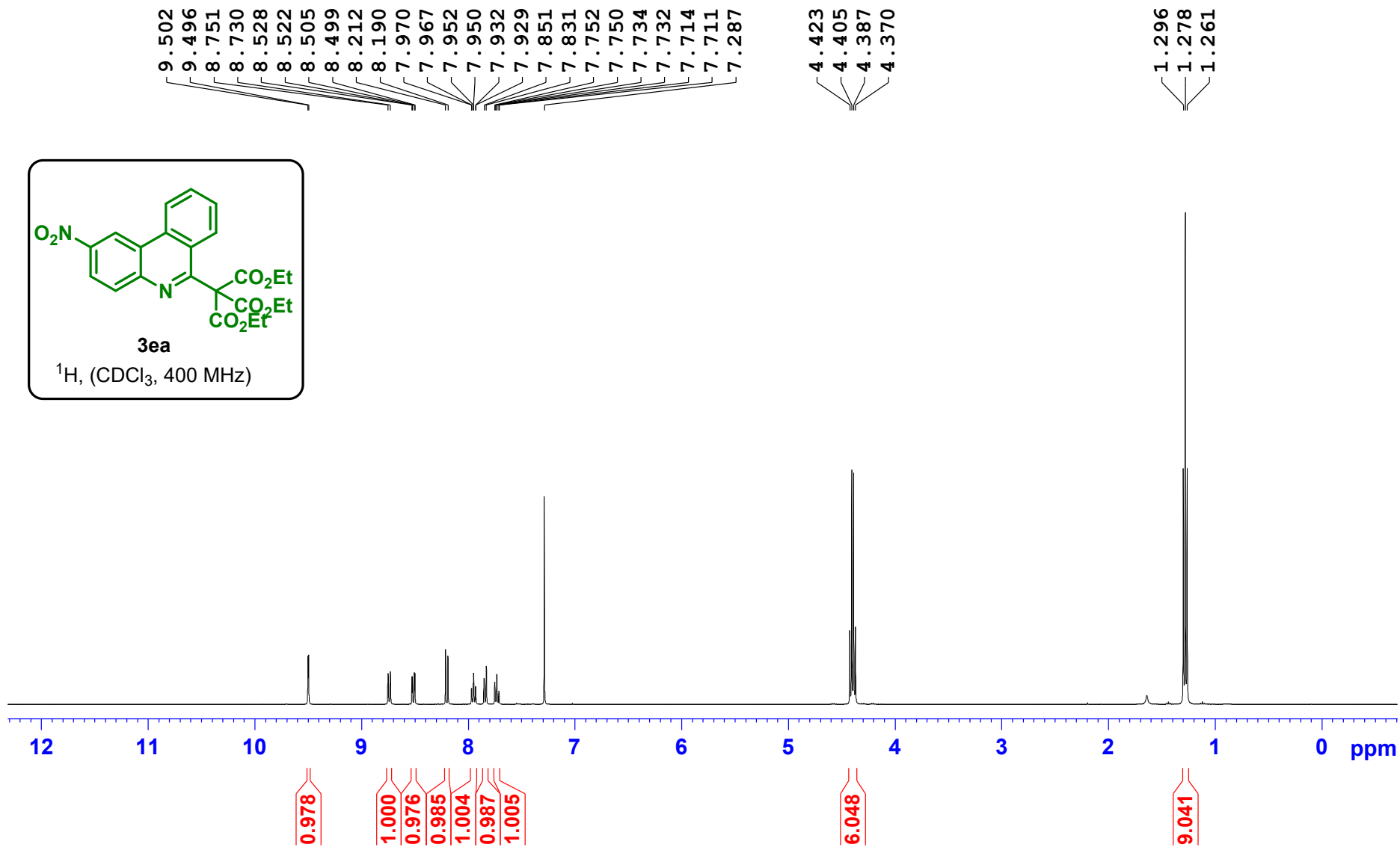


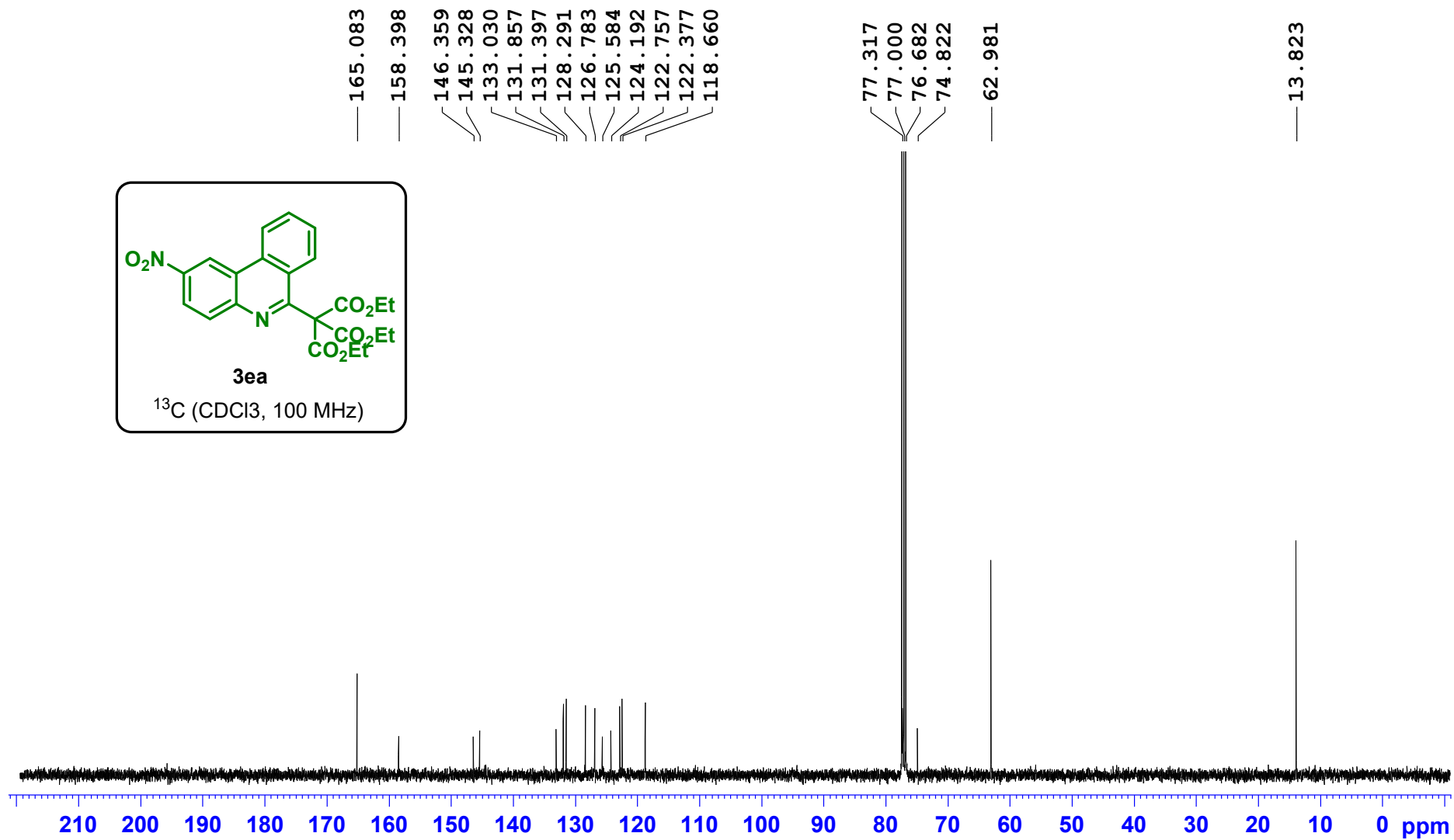
165.565
154.451
141.859
140.881
140.465
133.248
130.869
130.116
128.923
127.860
127.673
127.564
126.884
126.327
125.390
124.307
122.459
120.164

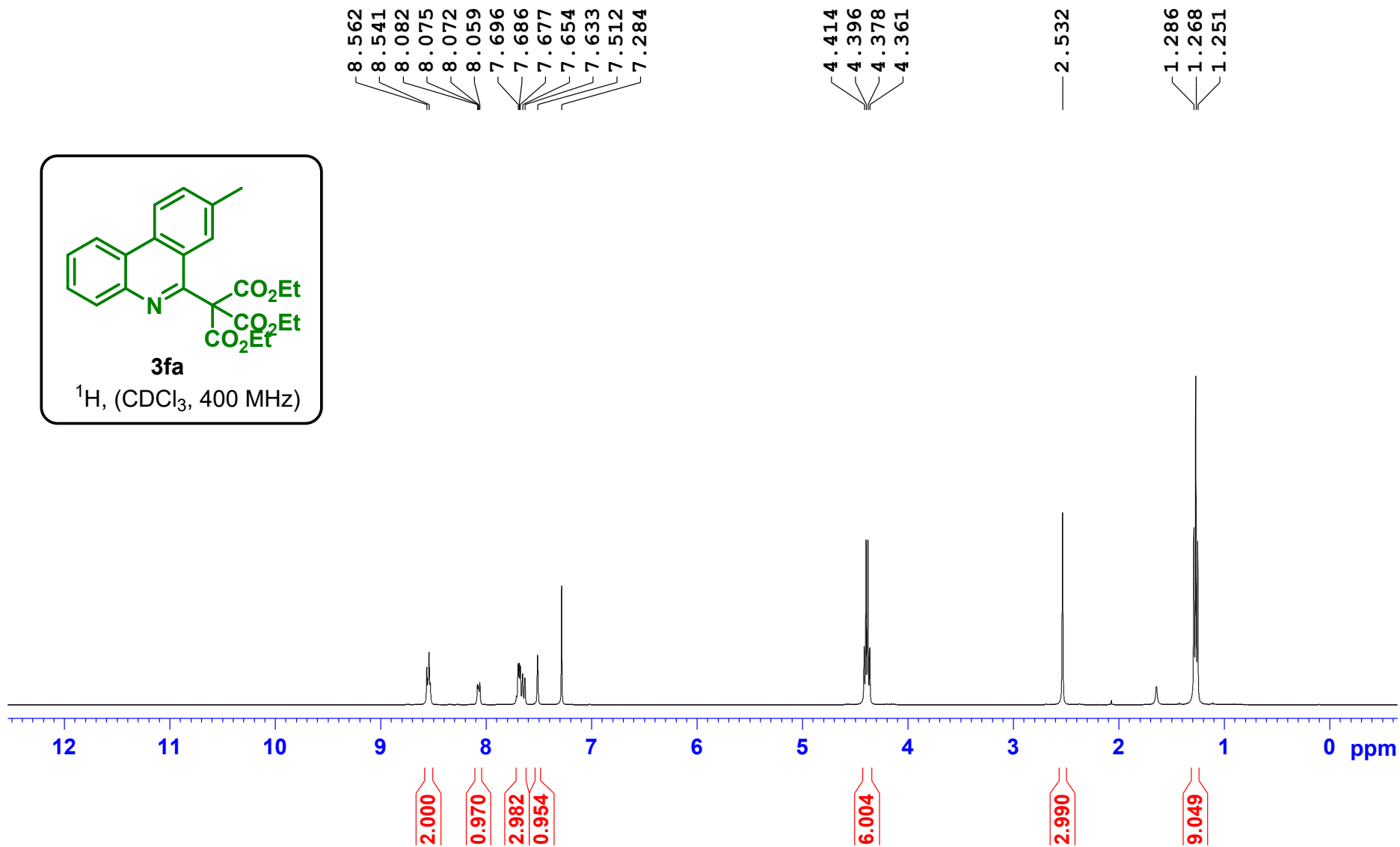
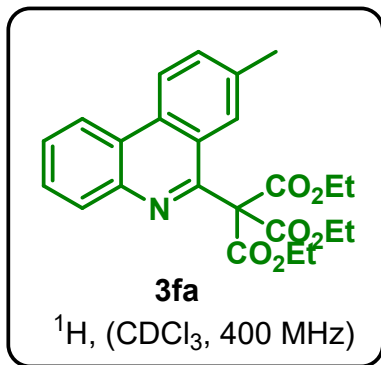
77.318
77.000
76.682
74.749
62.685

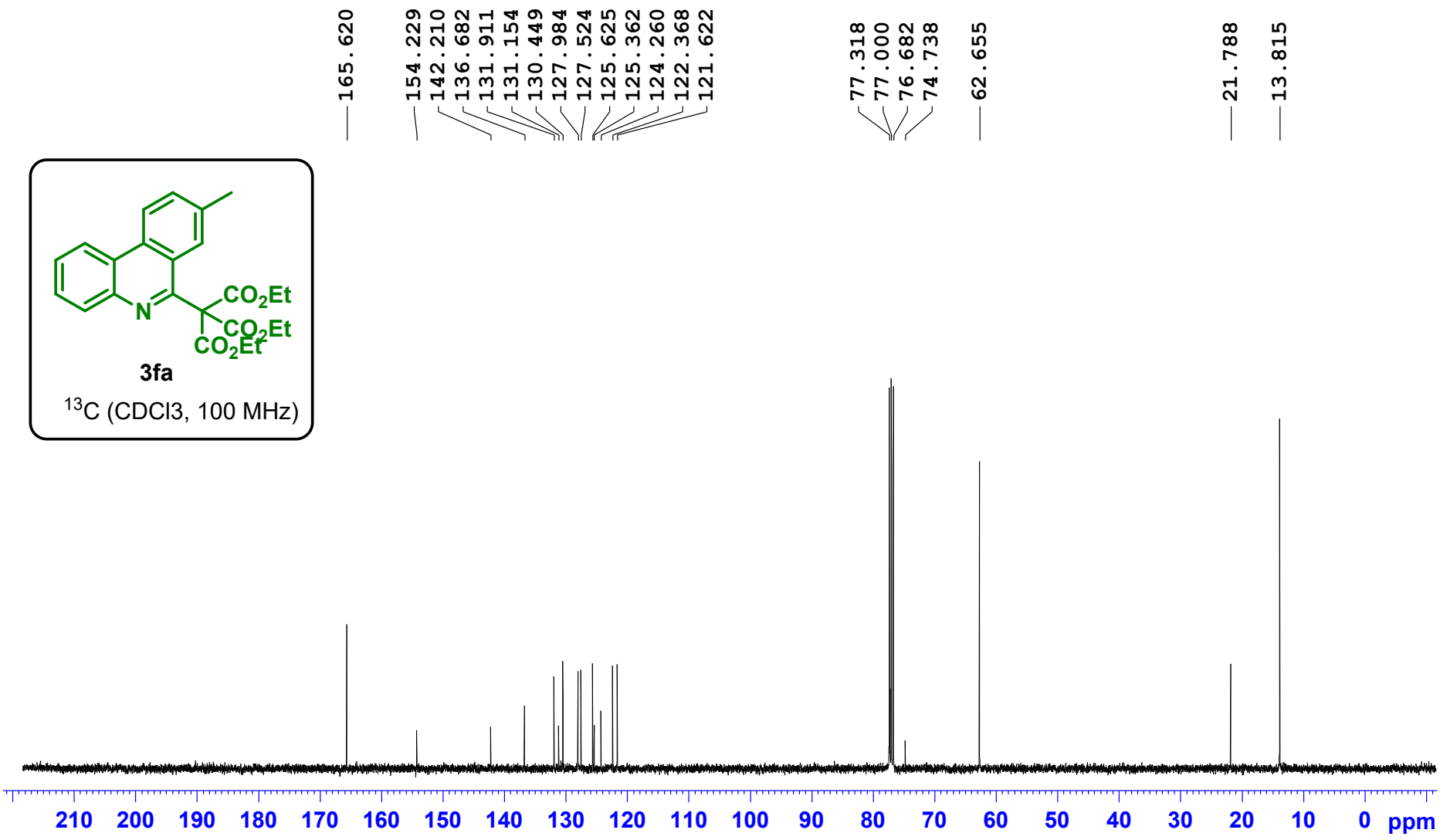
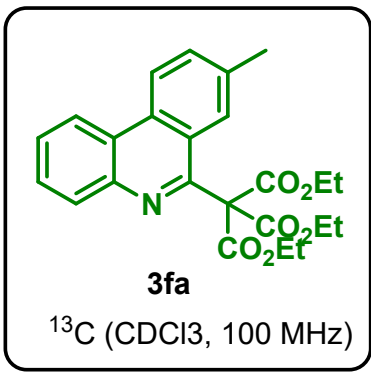
13.821







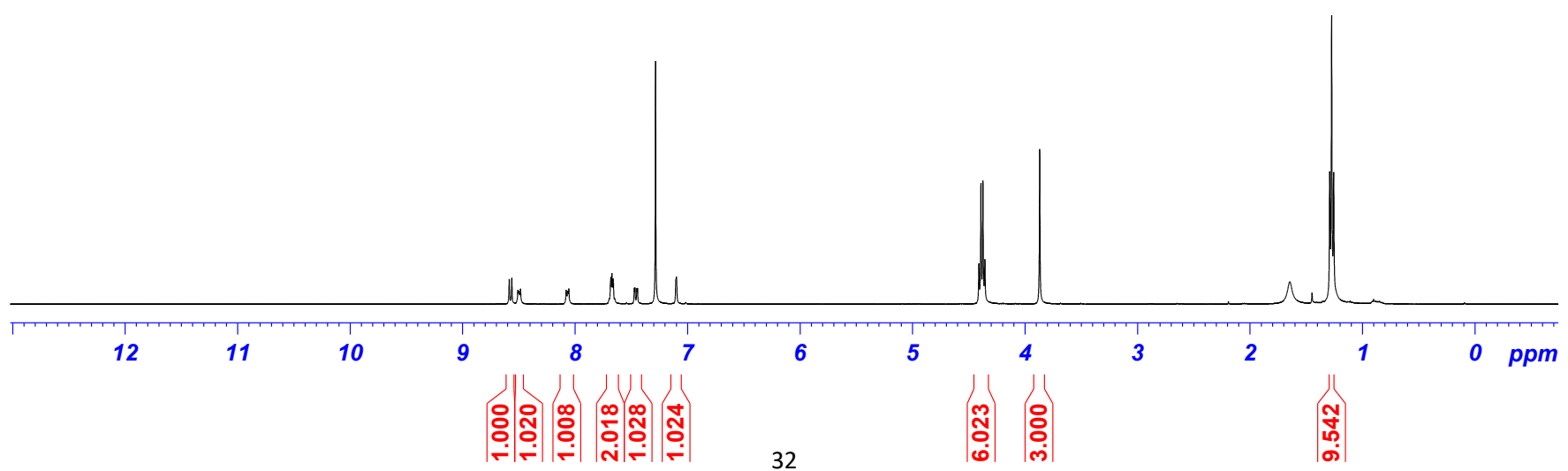
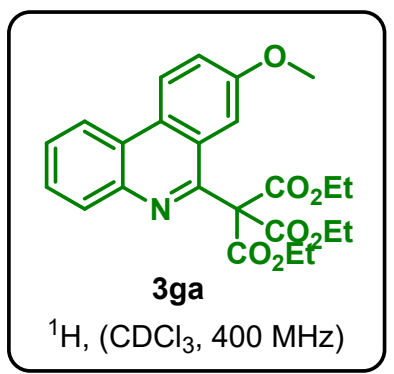




8.585
8.562
8.508
8.498
8.485
8.079
8.074
8.065
8.062
8.055
7.681
7.672
7.662
7.473
7.467
7.450
7.444
7.284
7.099

4.409
4.392
4.374
4.356
3.871

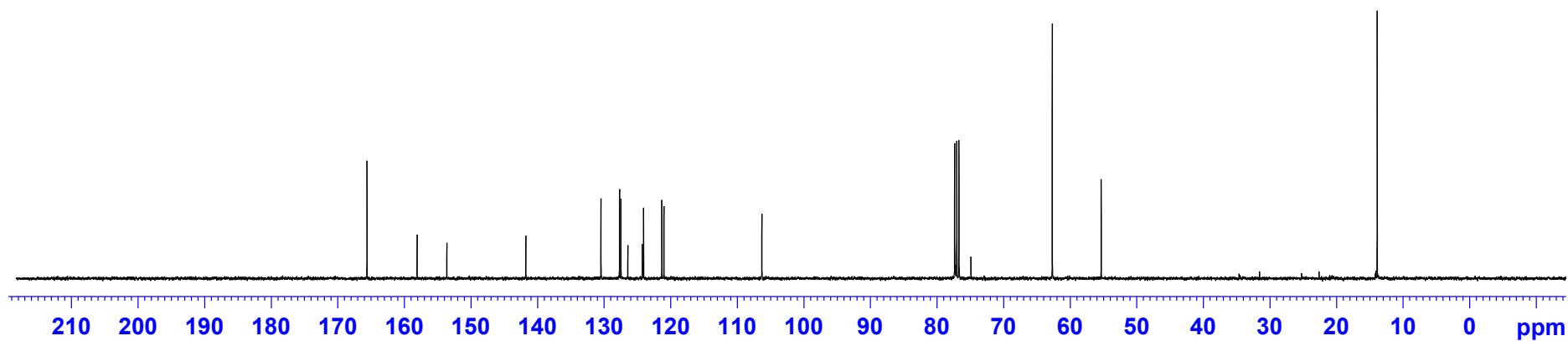
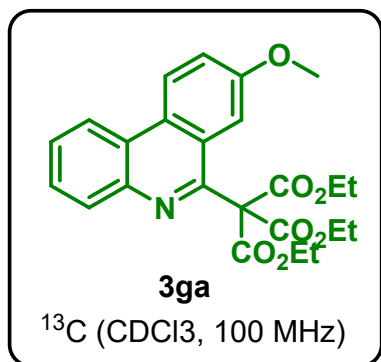
1.293
1.275
1.257

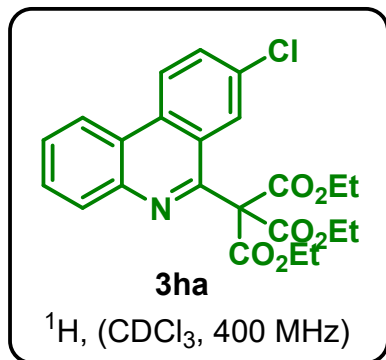


165.588
158.060
153.593
141.727
130.440
127.647
127.442
126.415
124.232
124.047
121.305
120.988
106.274

77.318
77.000
76.682
74.878
62.656
55.310

13.863

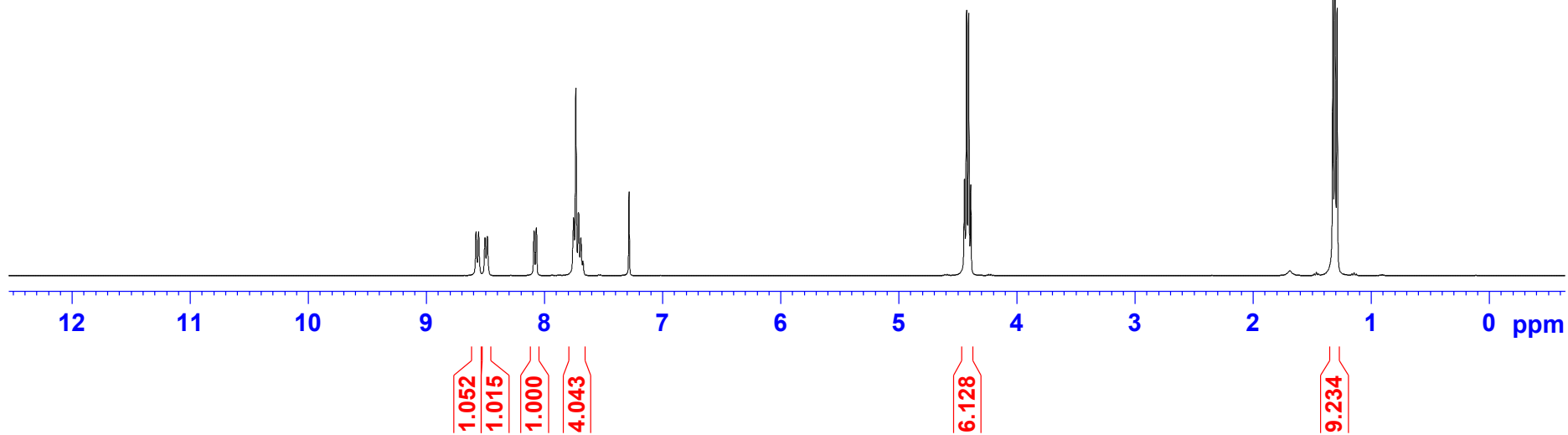


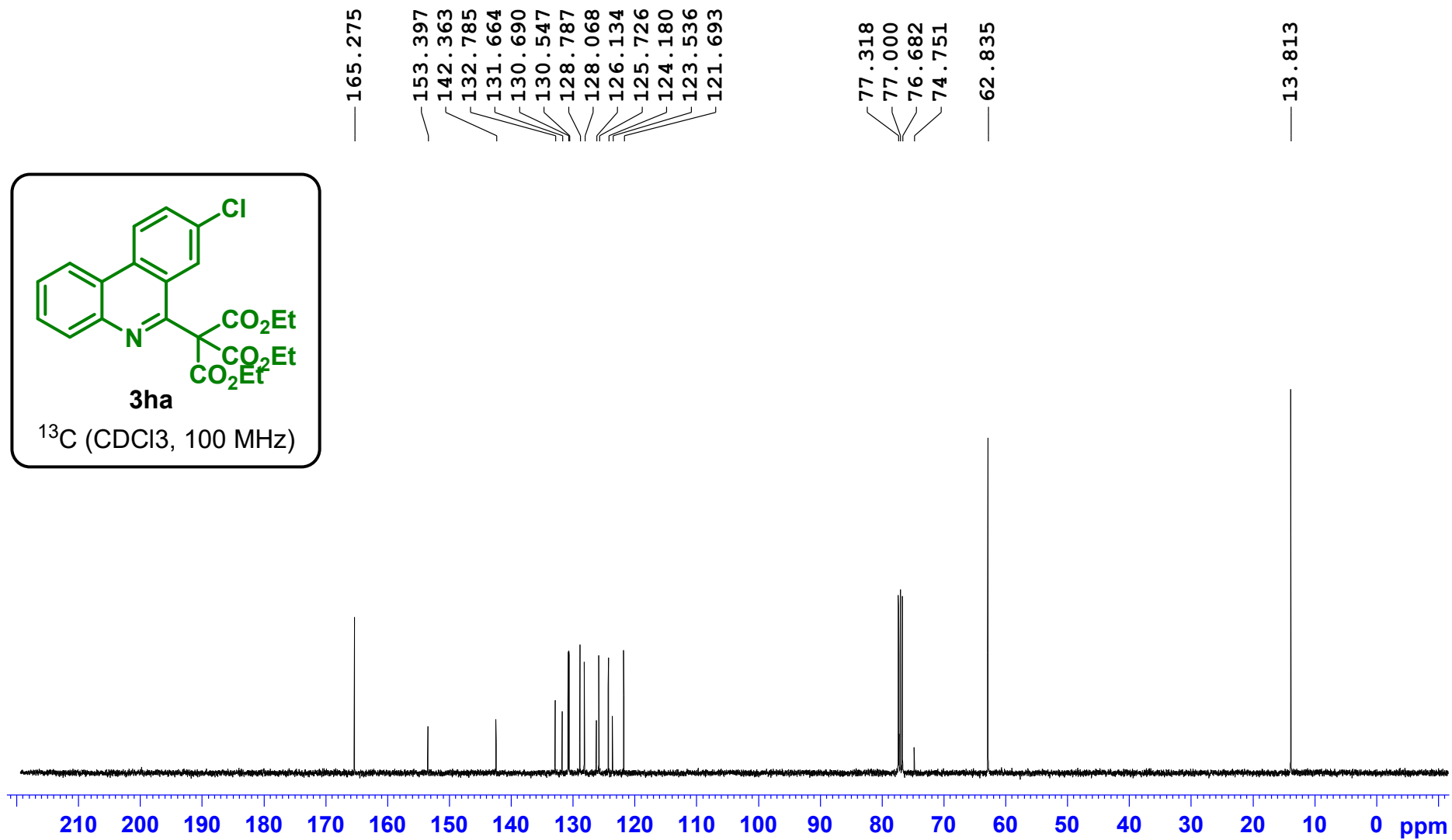
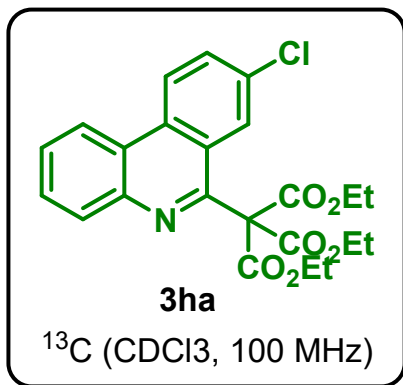


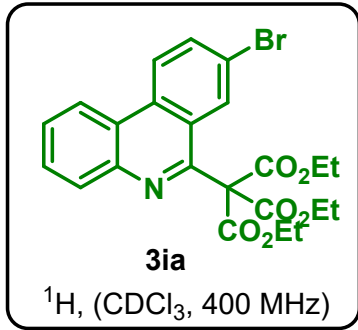
8.580
 8.557
 8.504
 8.485
 8.089
 8.069
 7.754
 7.734
 7.713
 7.692
 7.675
 7.283

4.442
 4.425
 4.407
 4.389

1.322
 1.304
 1.286



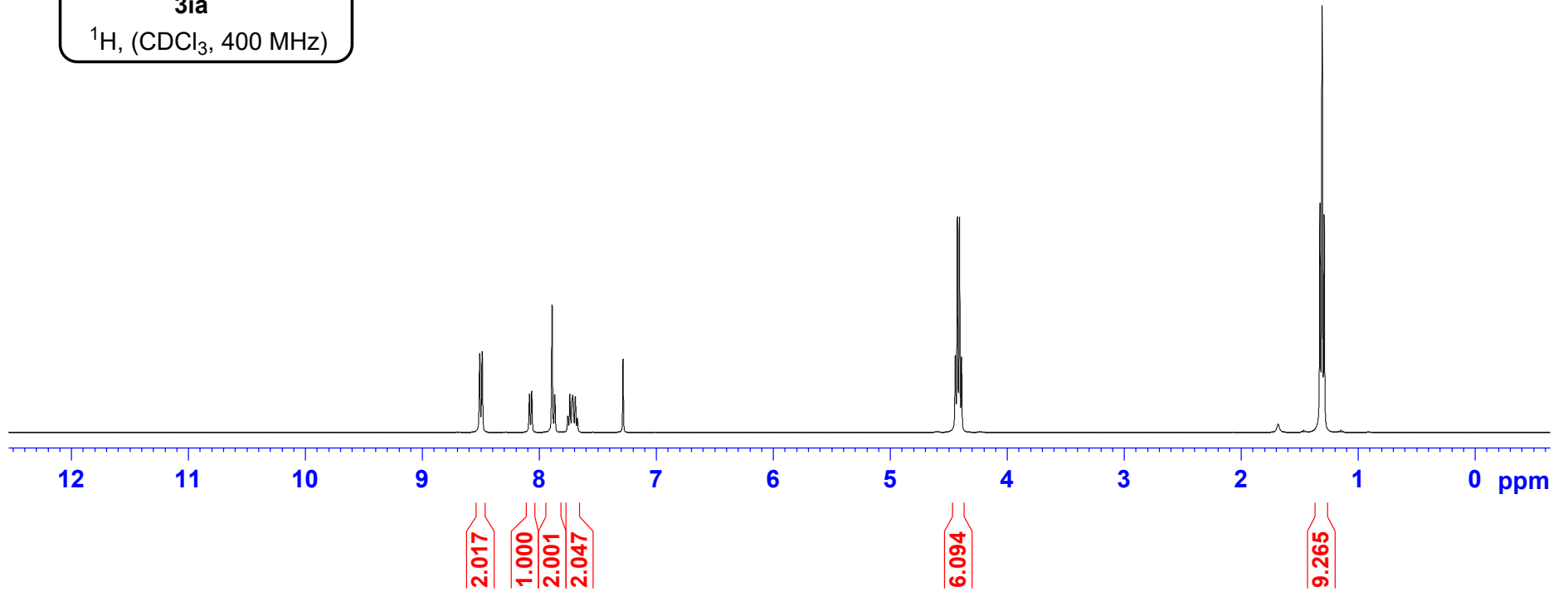


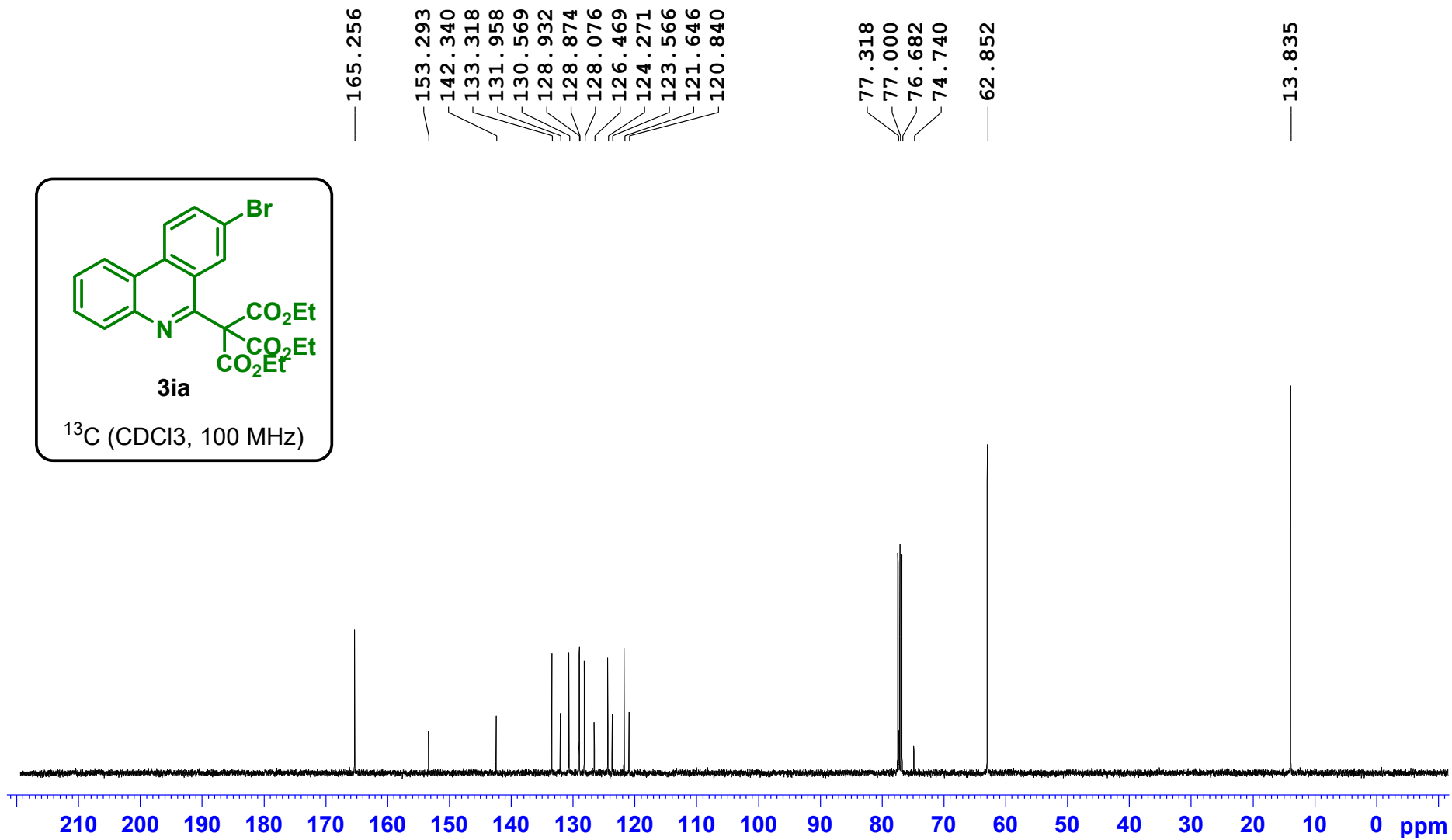
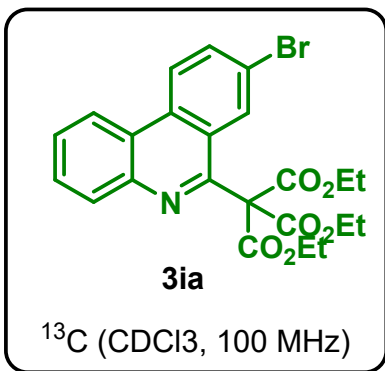


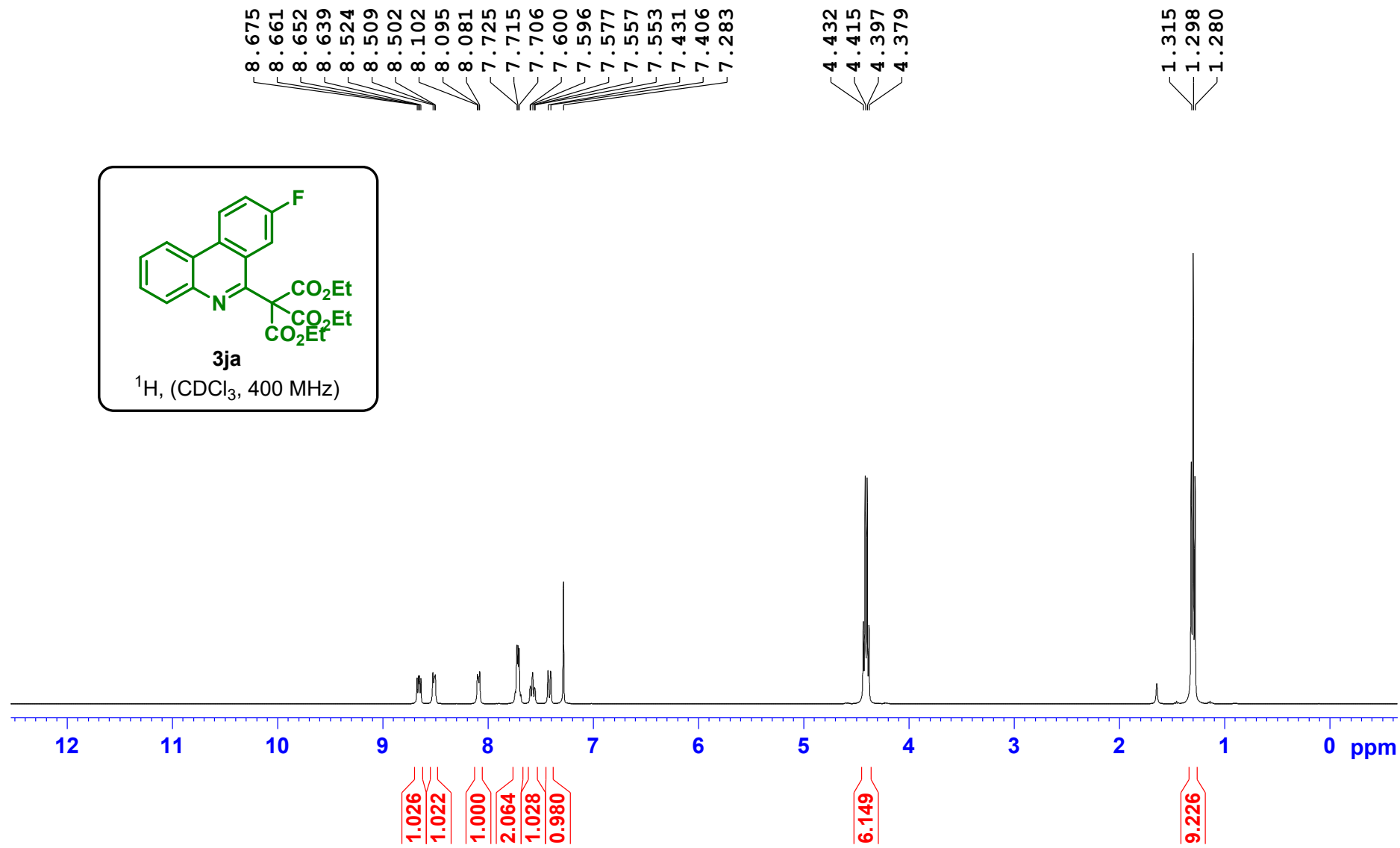
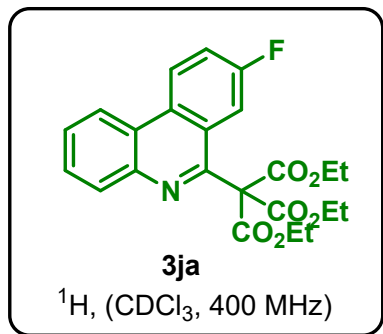
8.510
8.489
8.085
8.065
7.891
7.868
7.756
7.739
7.719
7.715
7.712
7.692
7.674
7.284

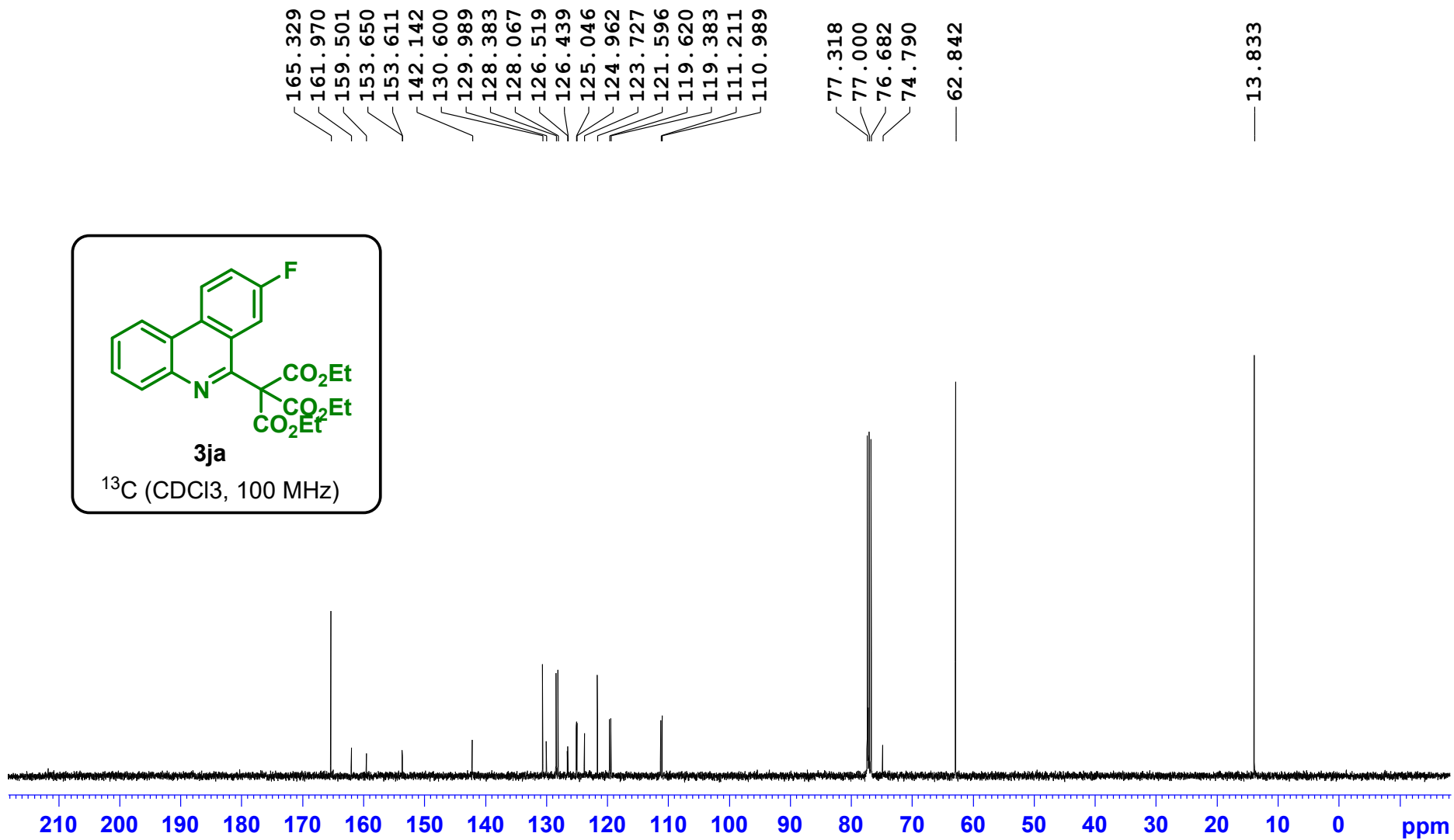
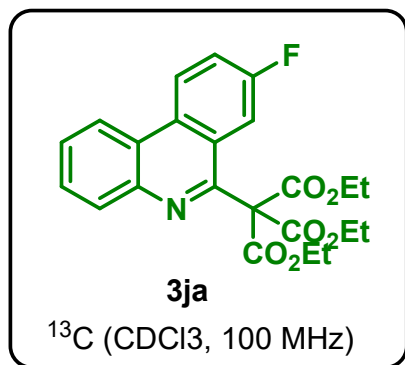
4.442
4.425
4.407
4.389

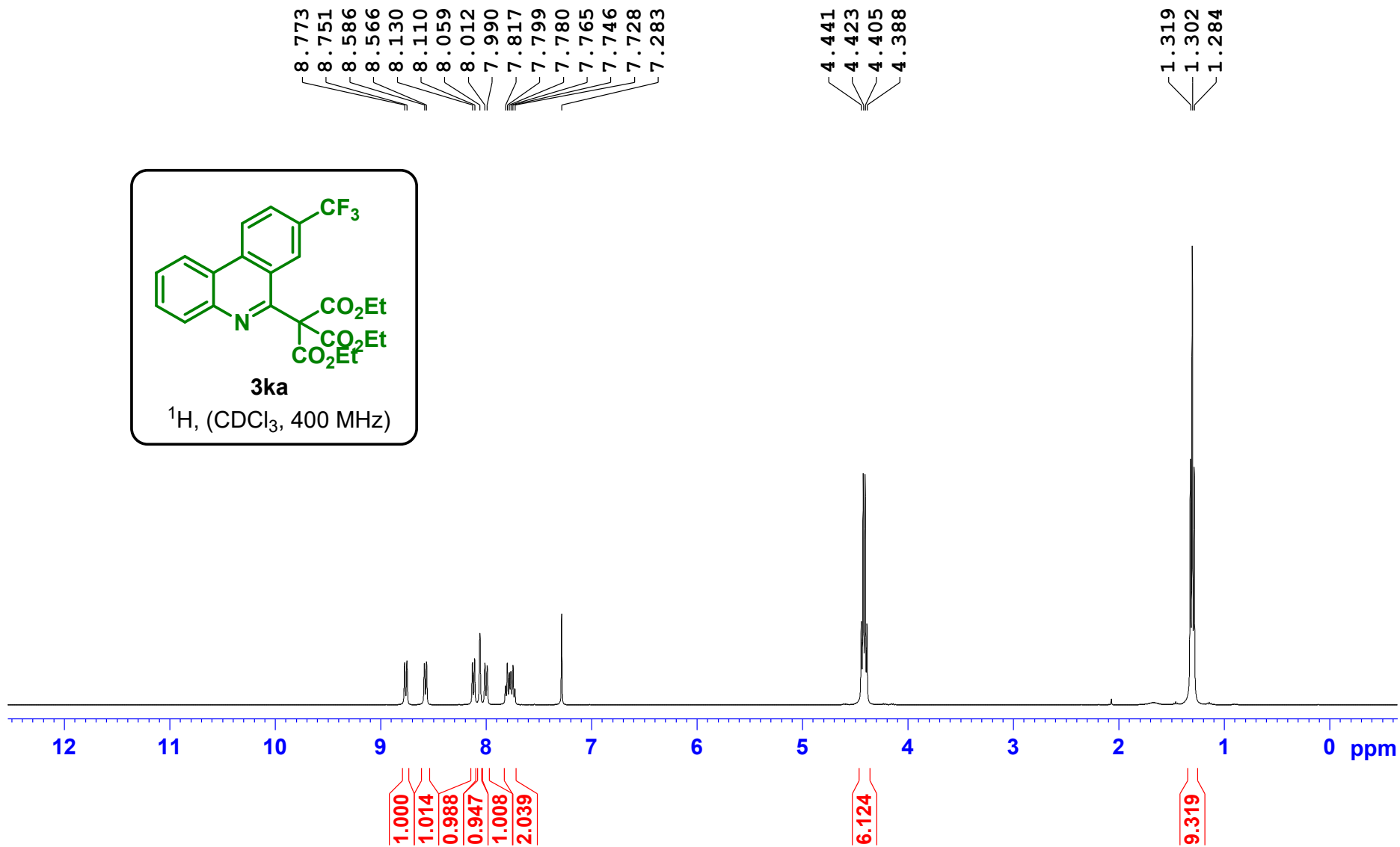
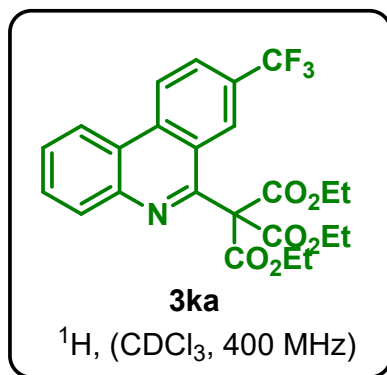
1.324
1.307
1.289

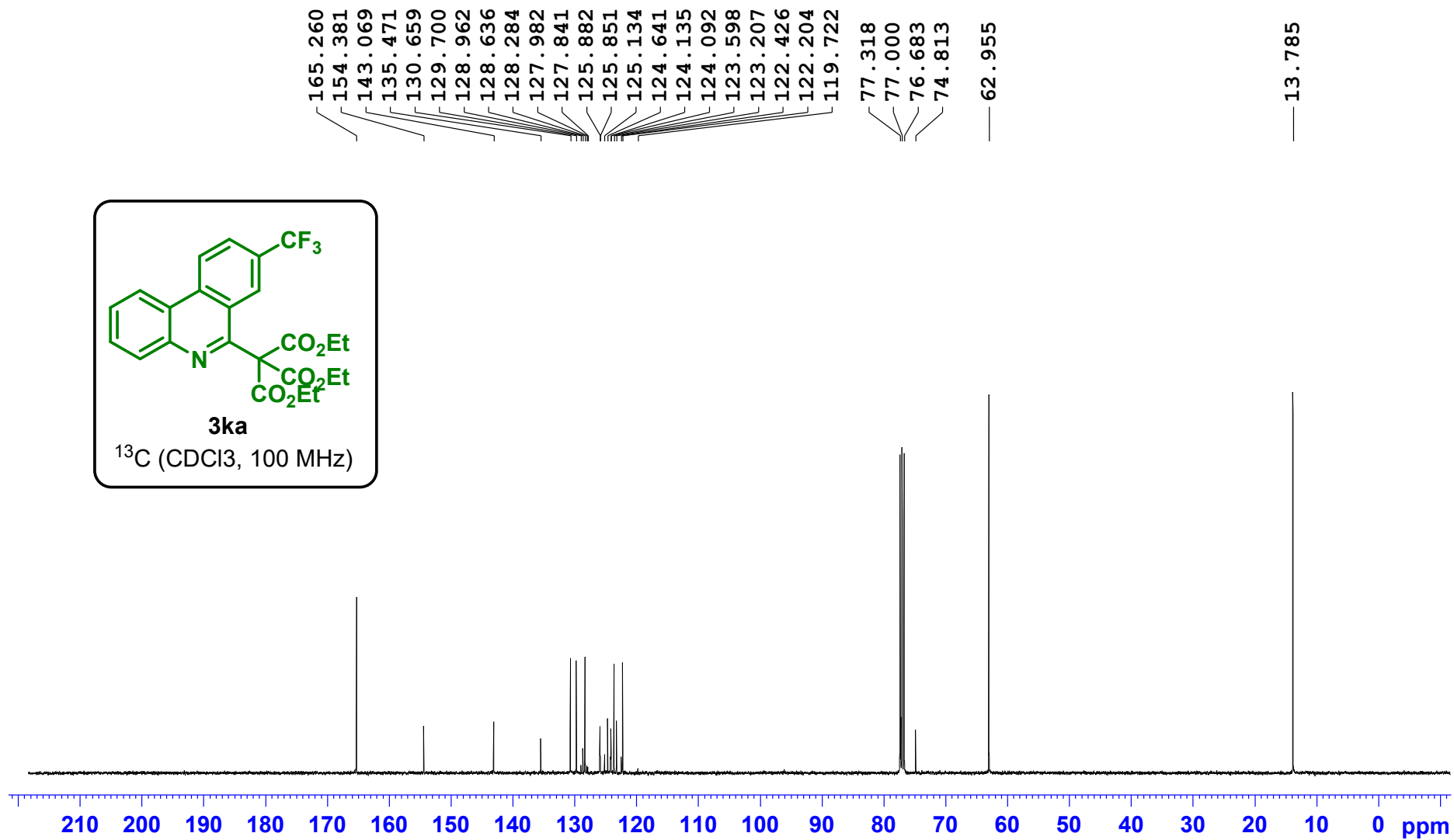


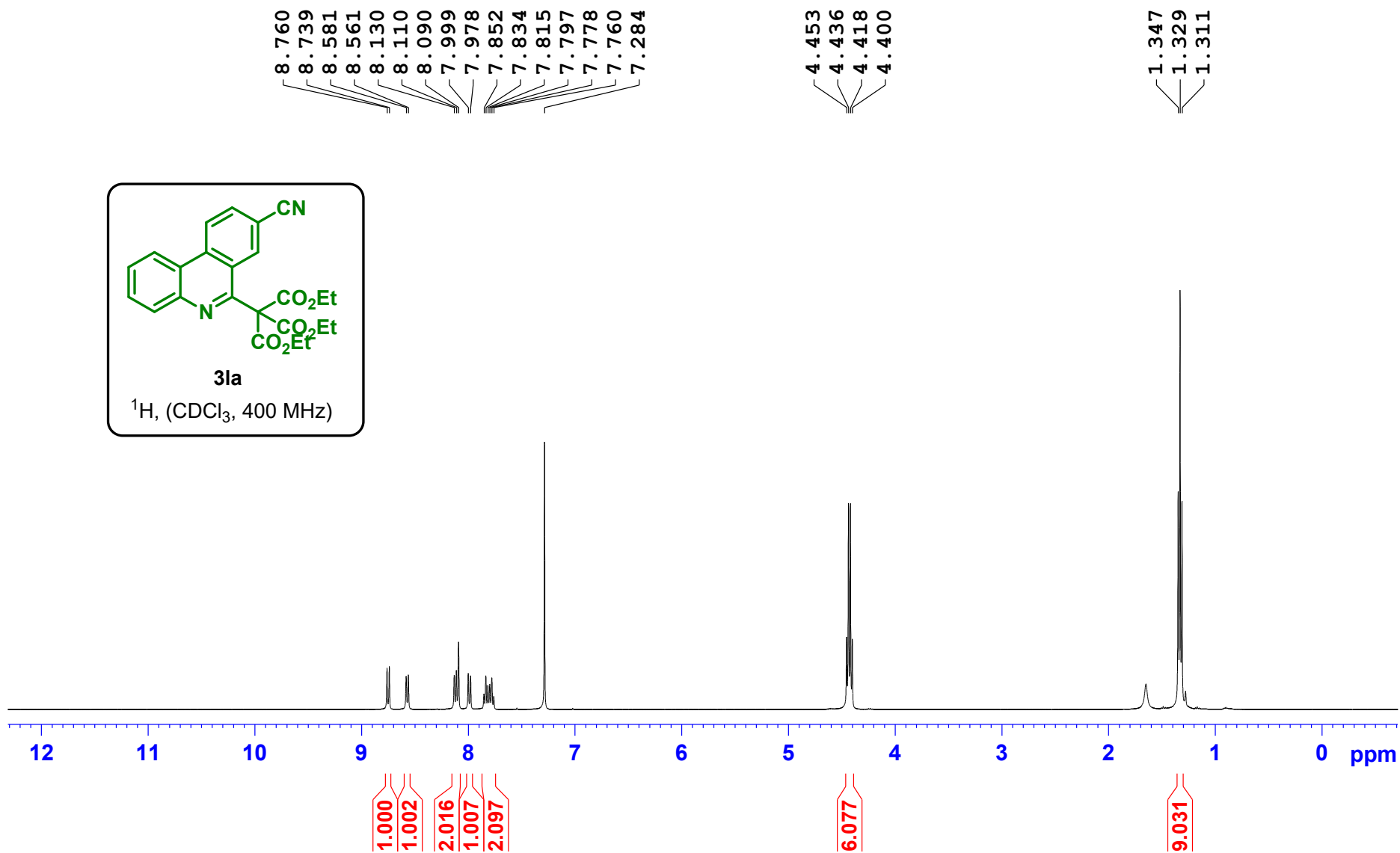
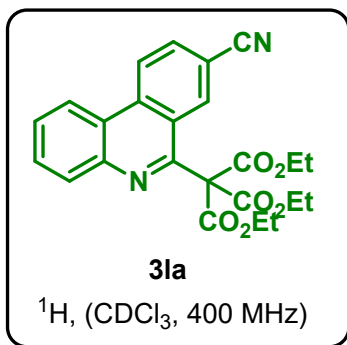


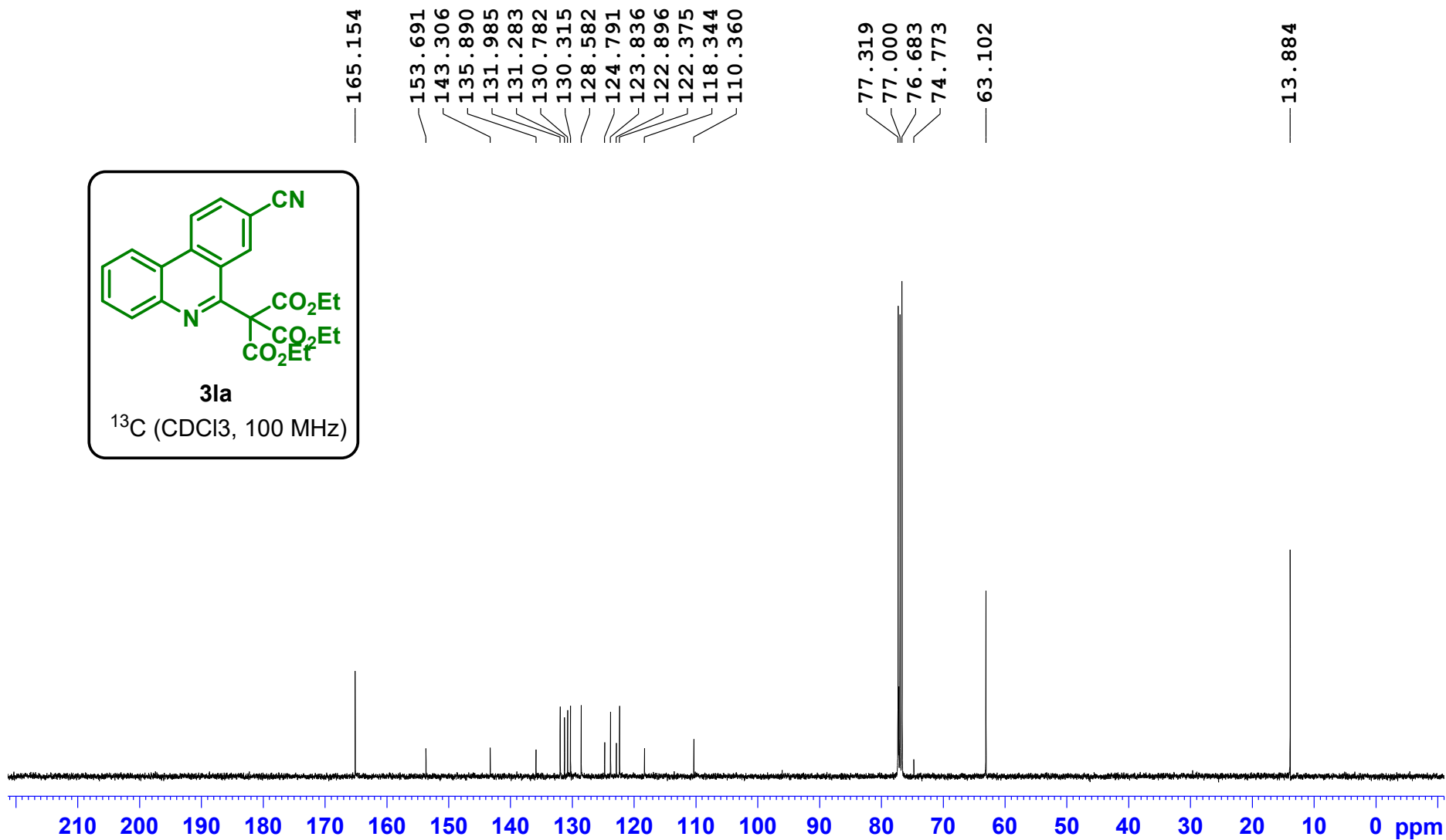
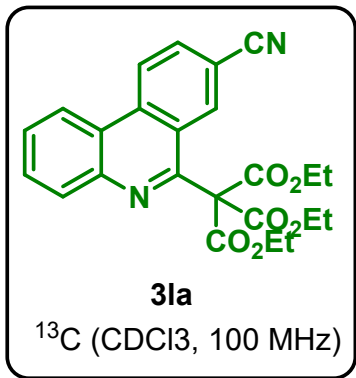


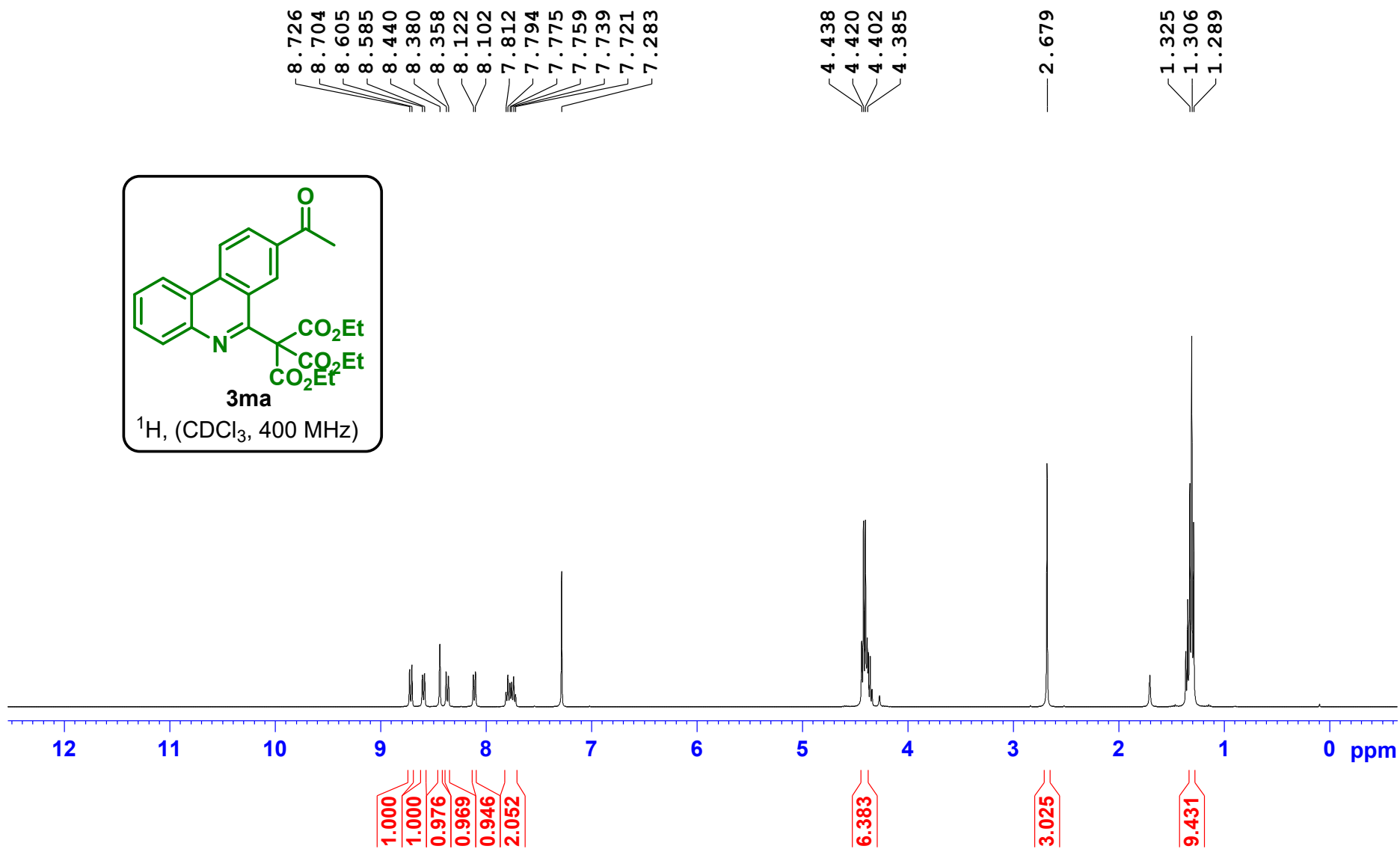
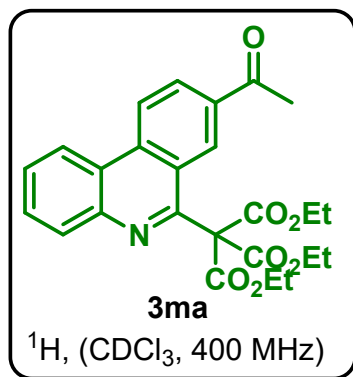


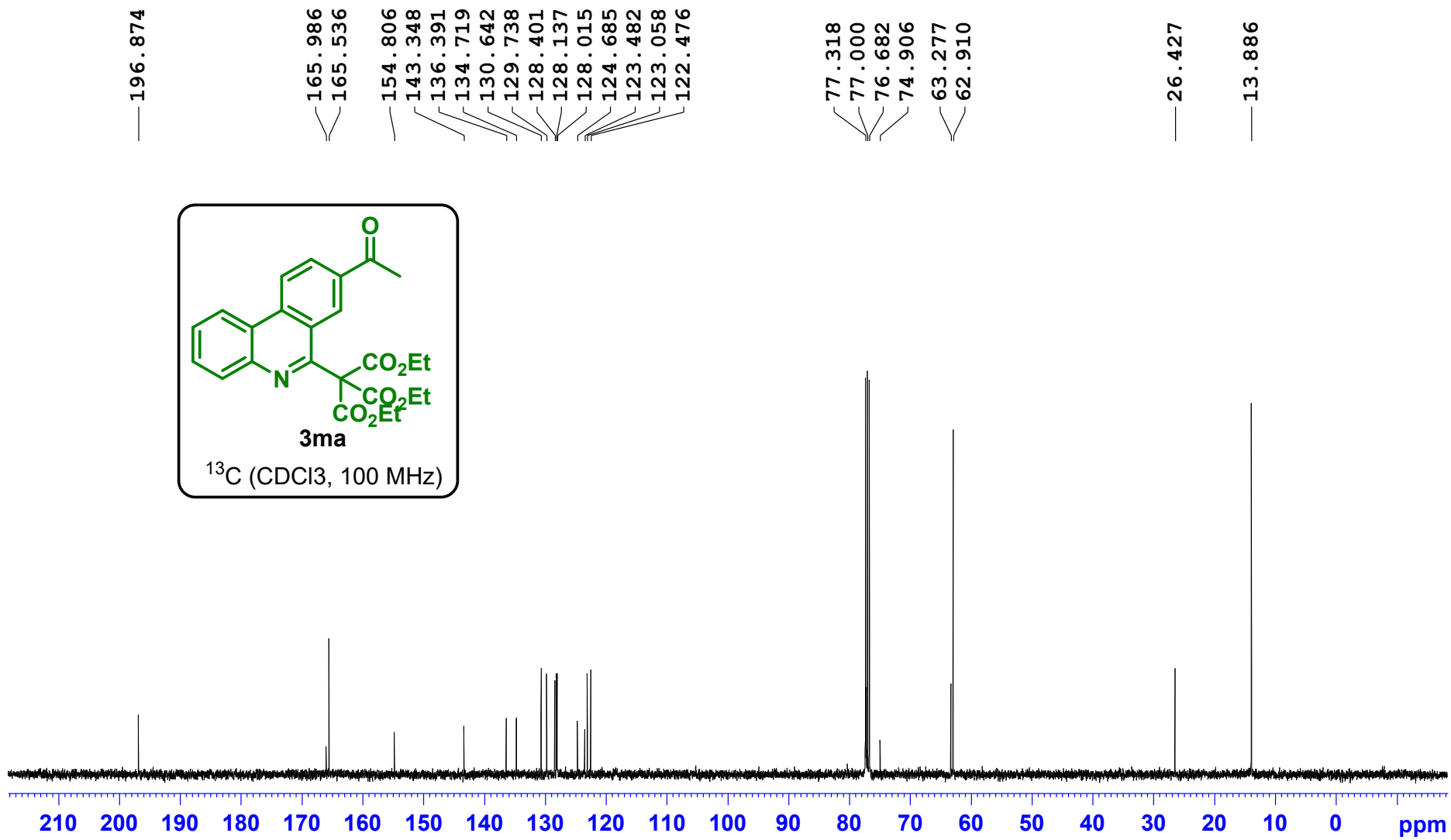


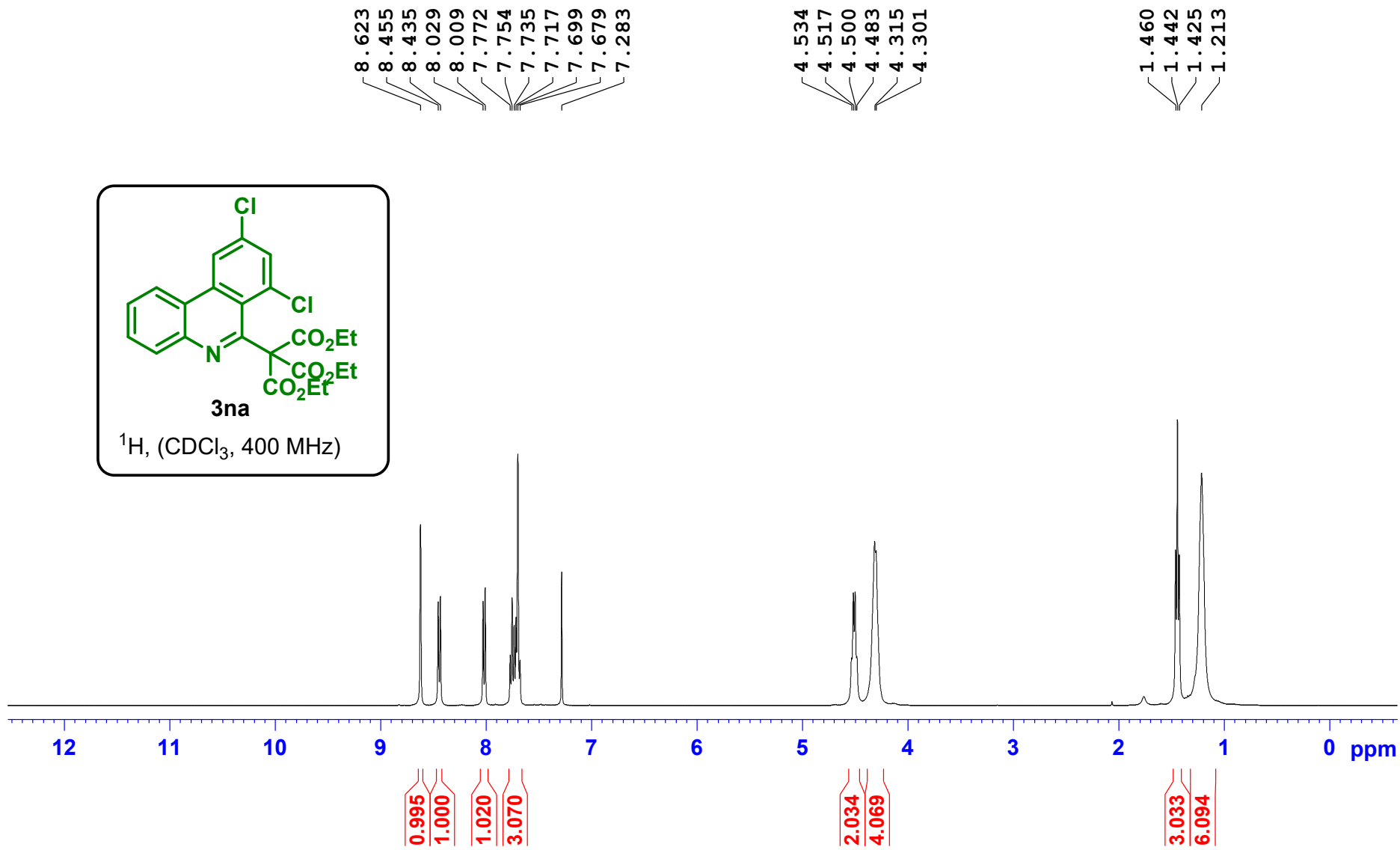
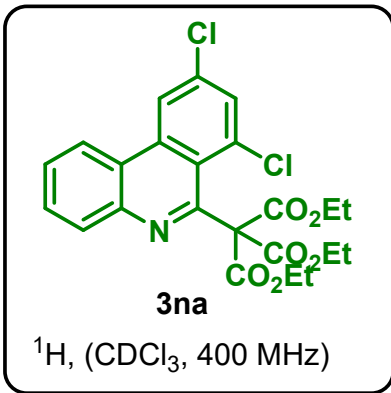


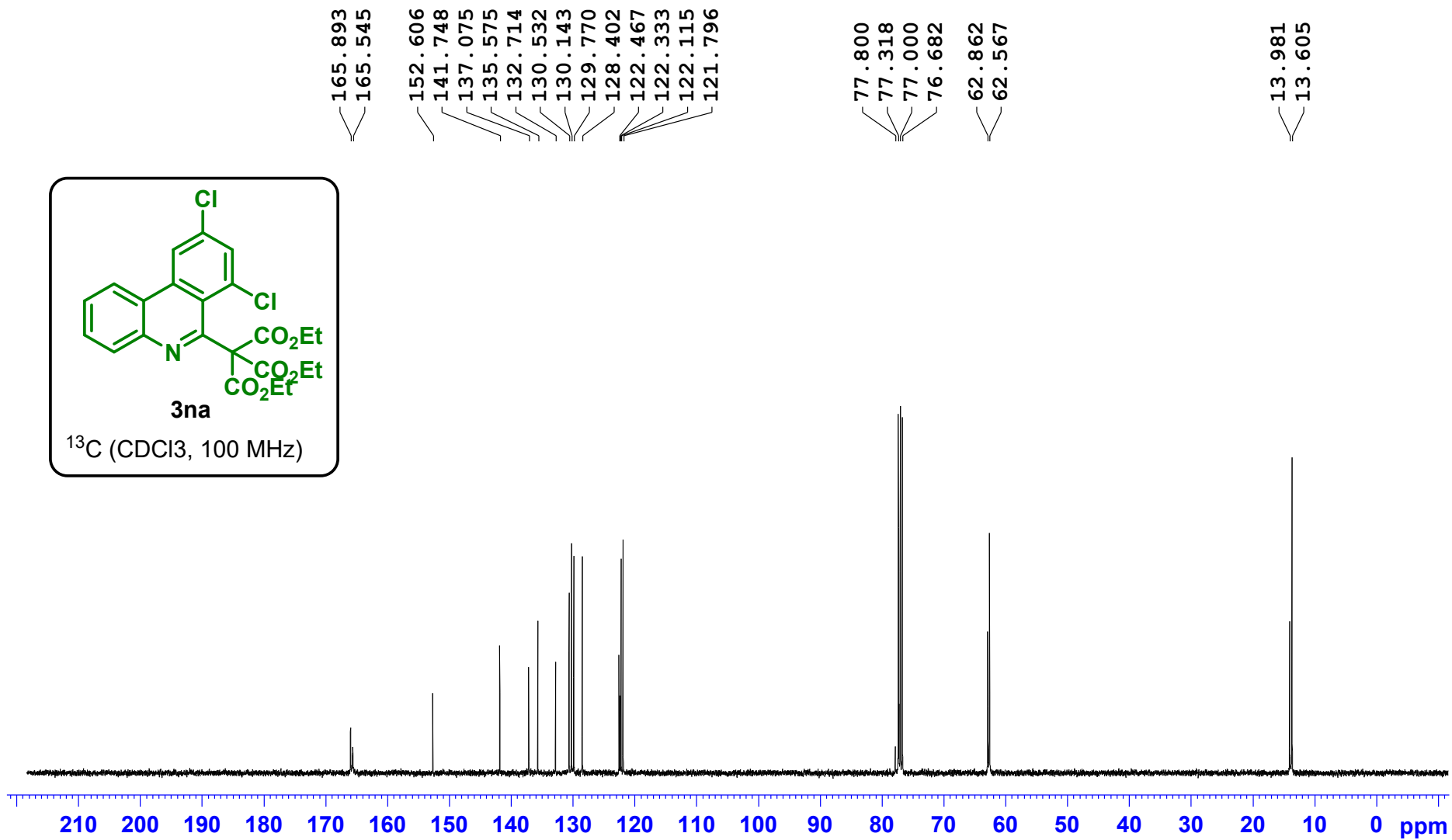
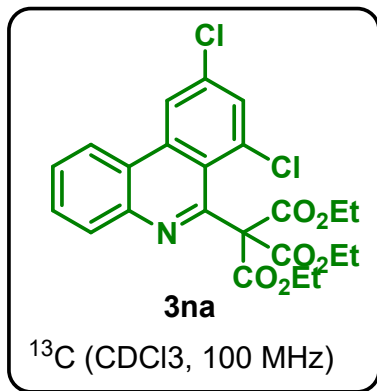


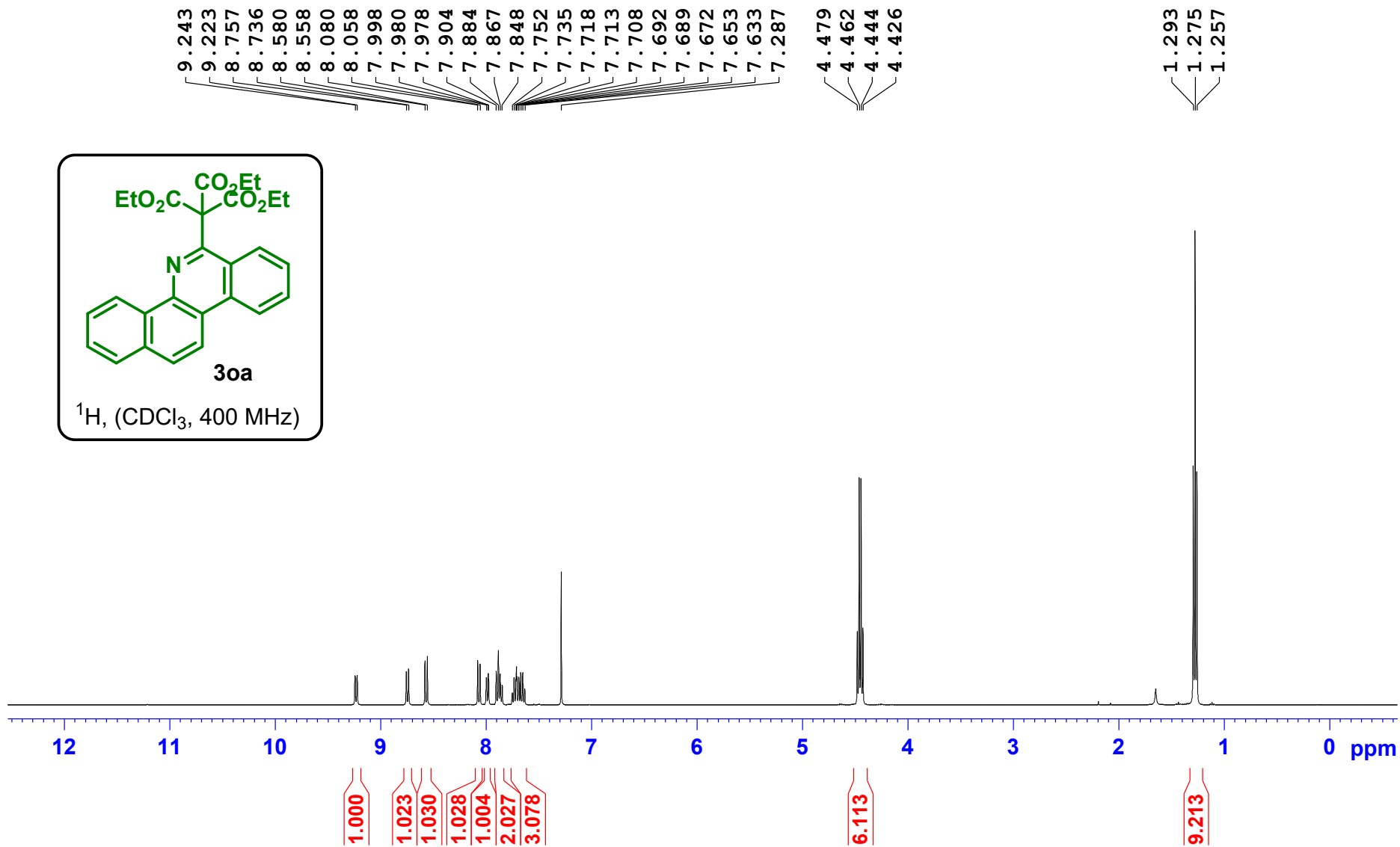
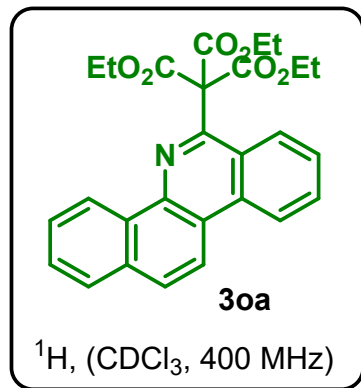


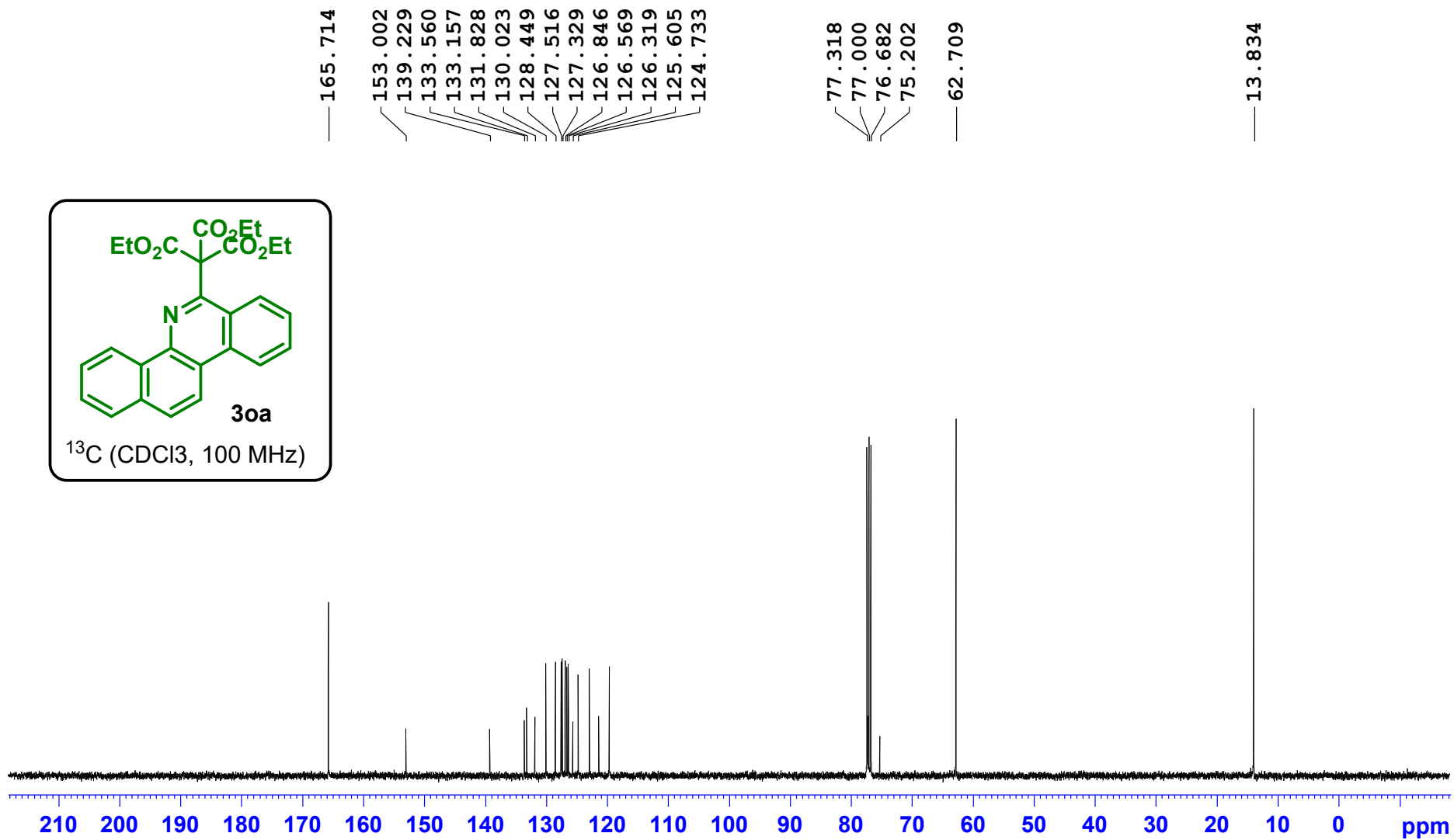
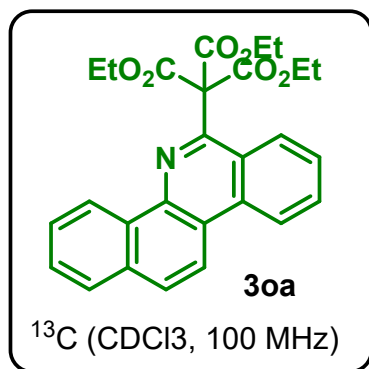


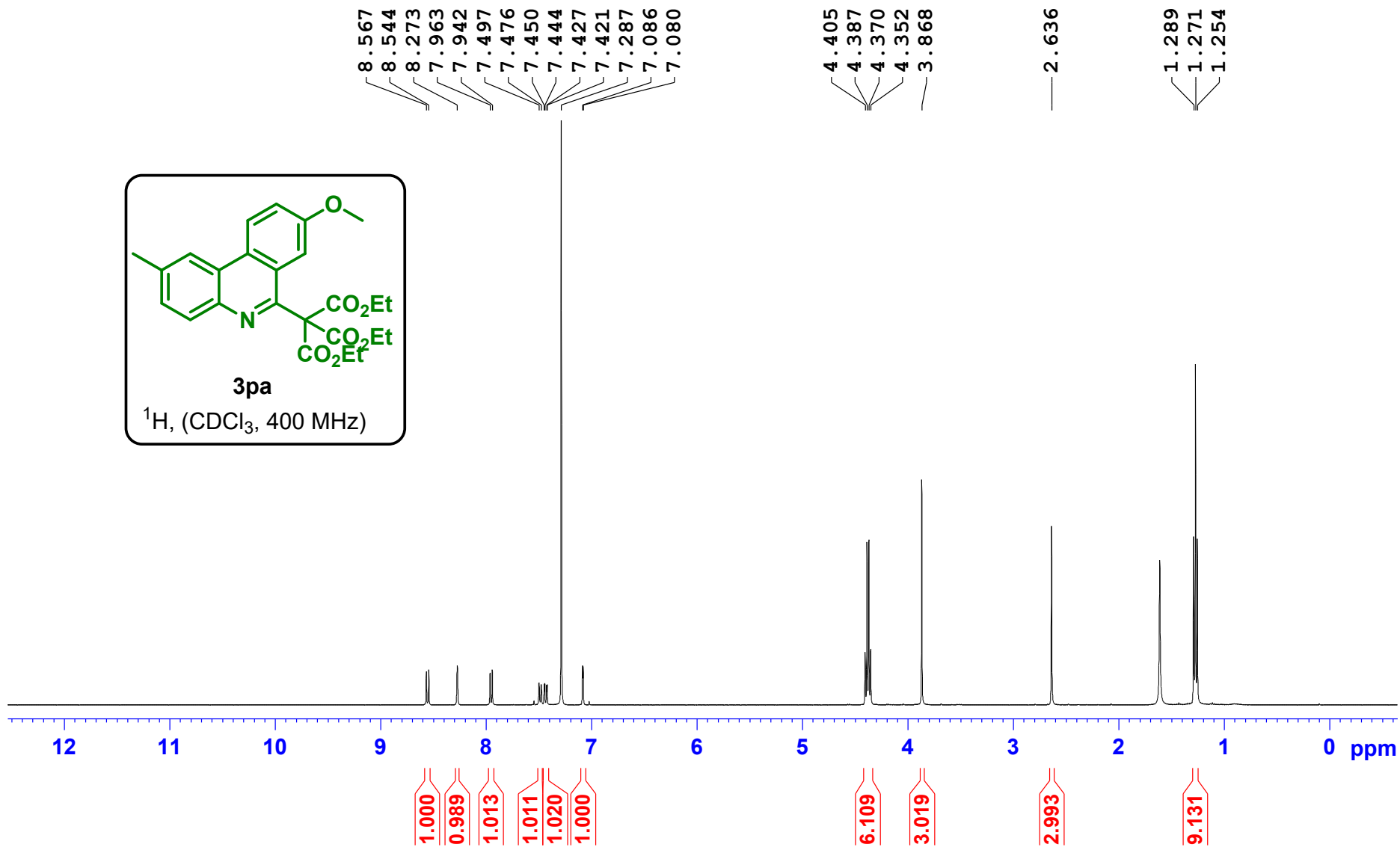


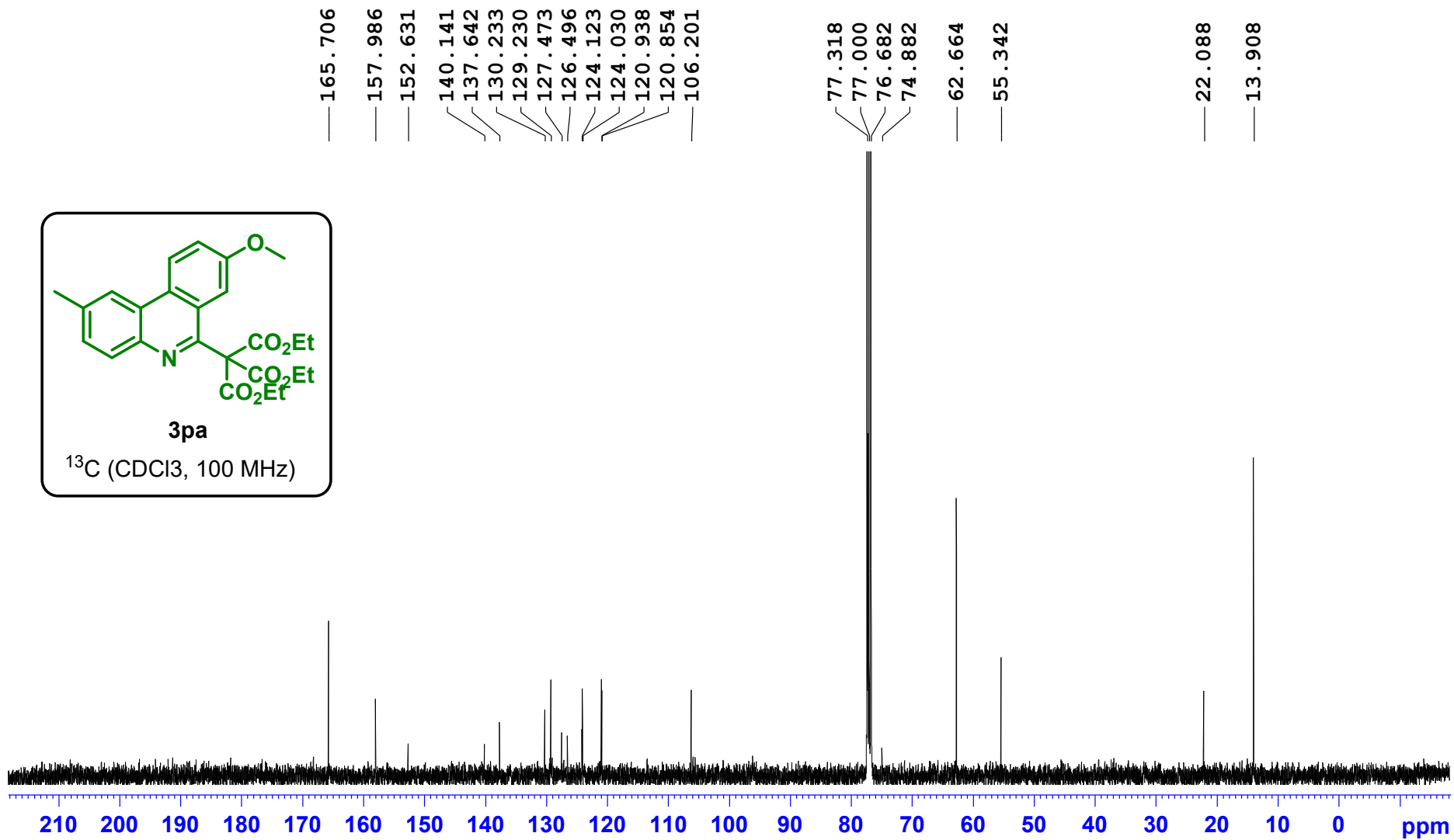
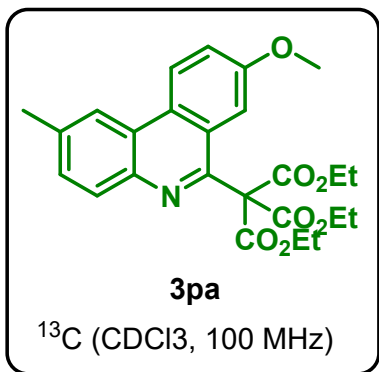


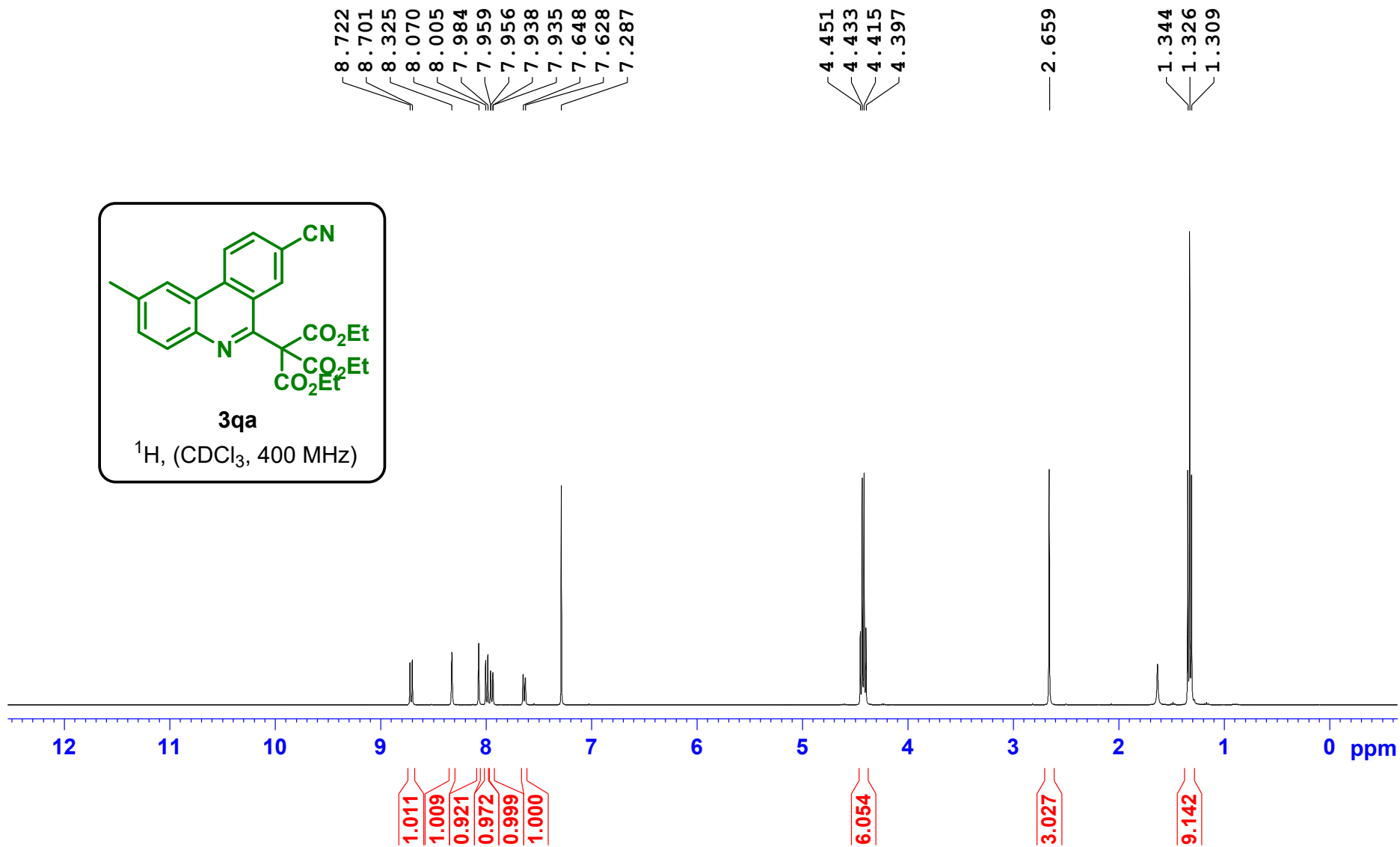
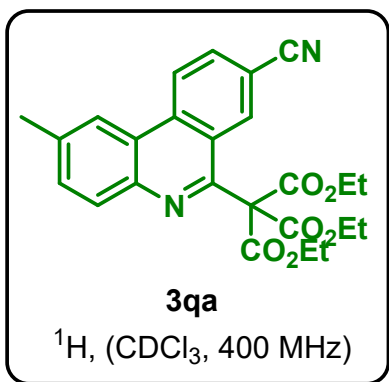


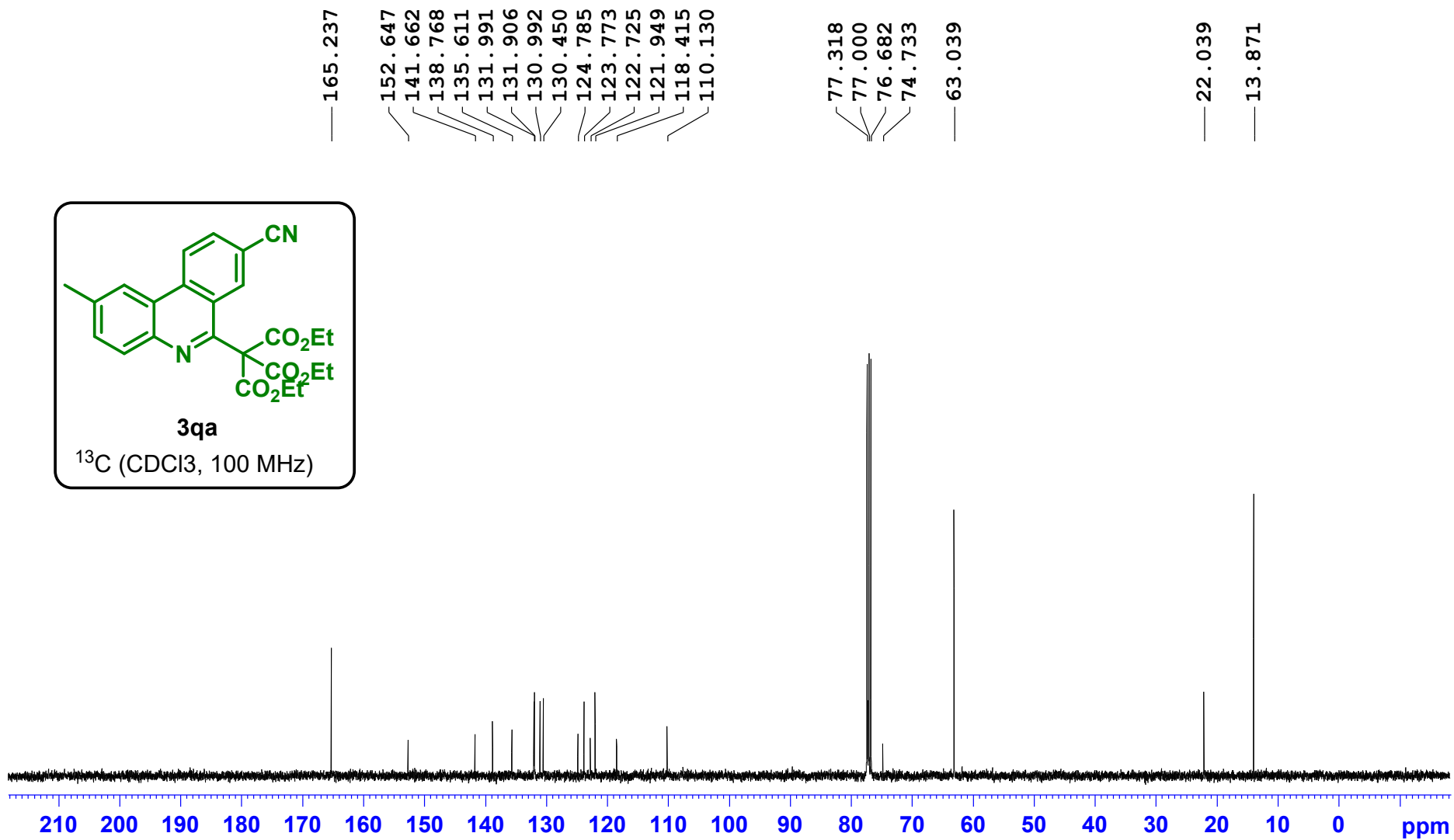
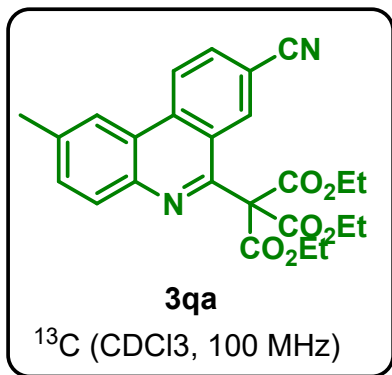


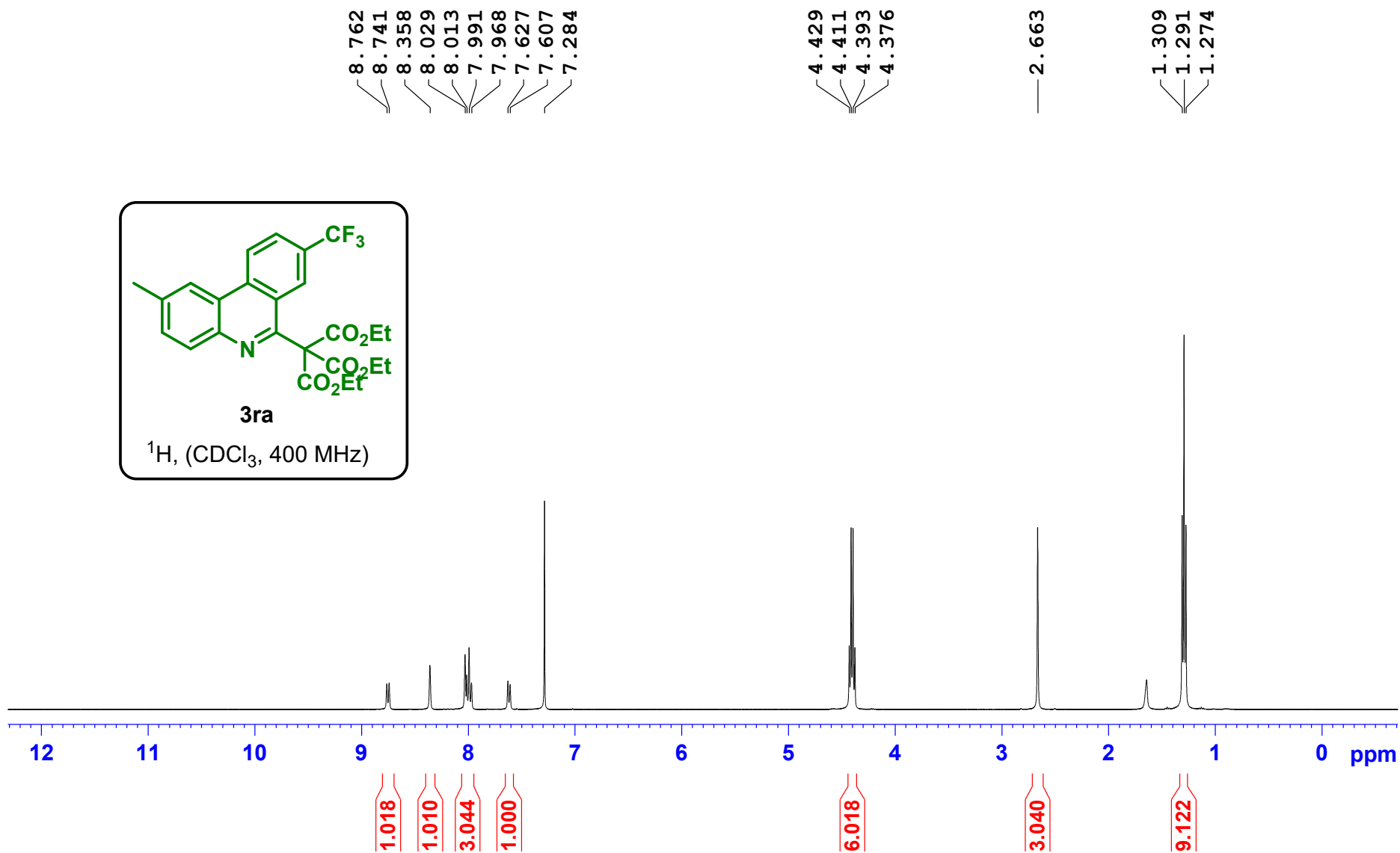
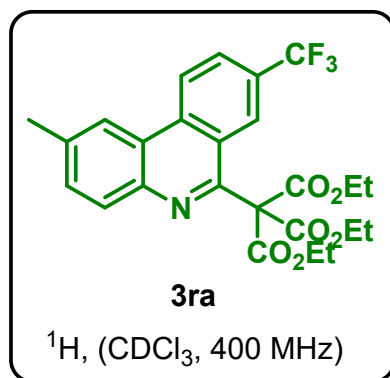


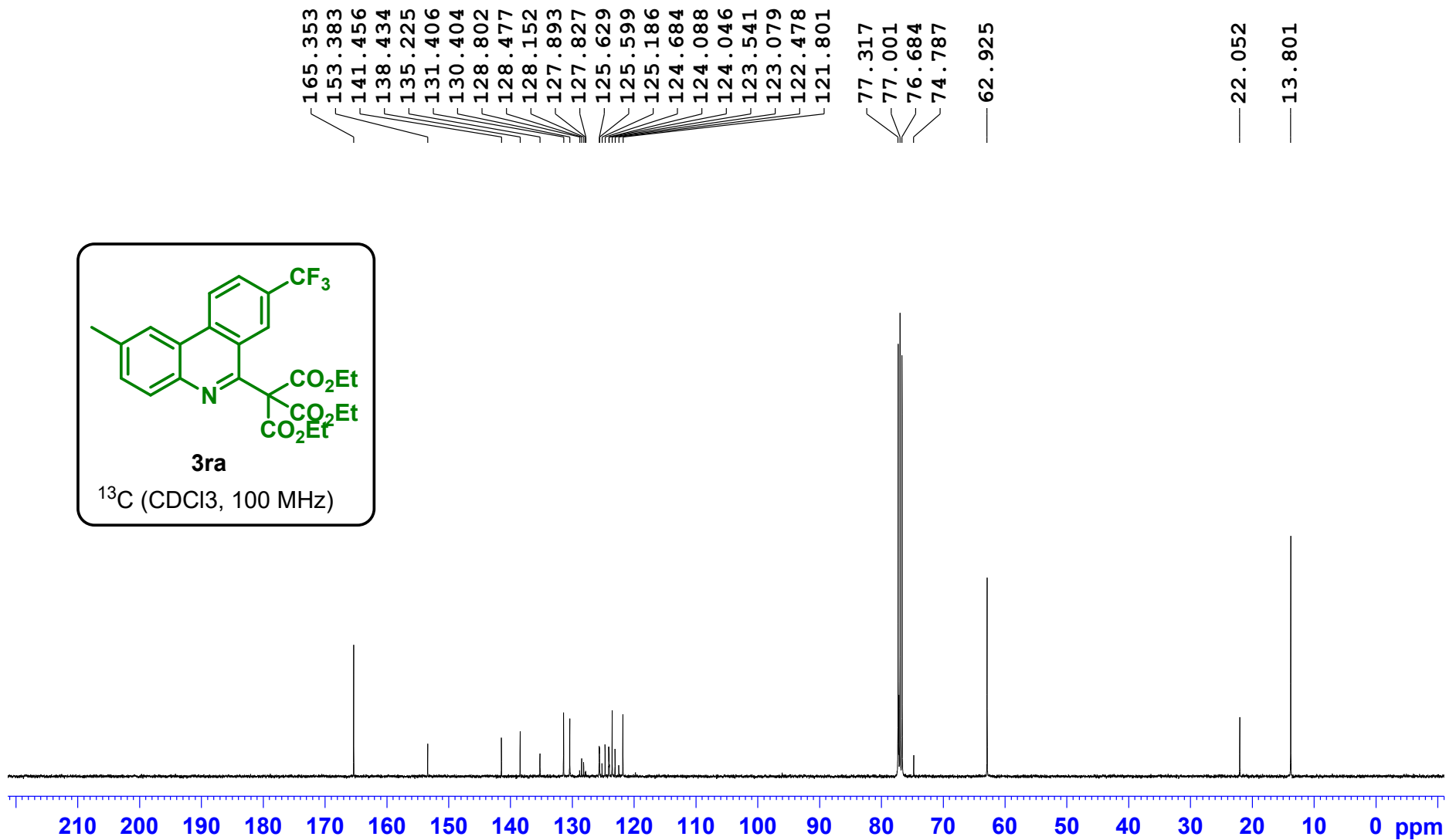
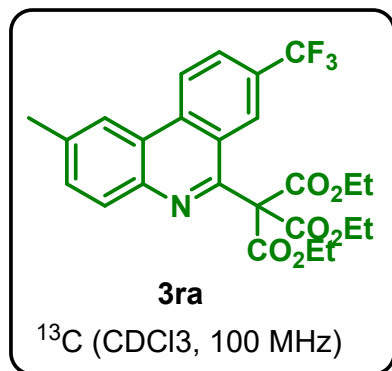


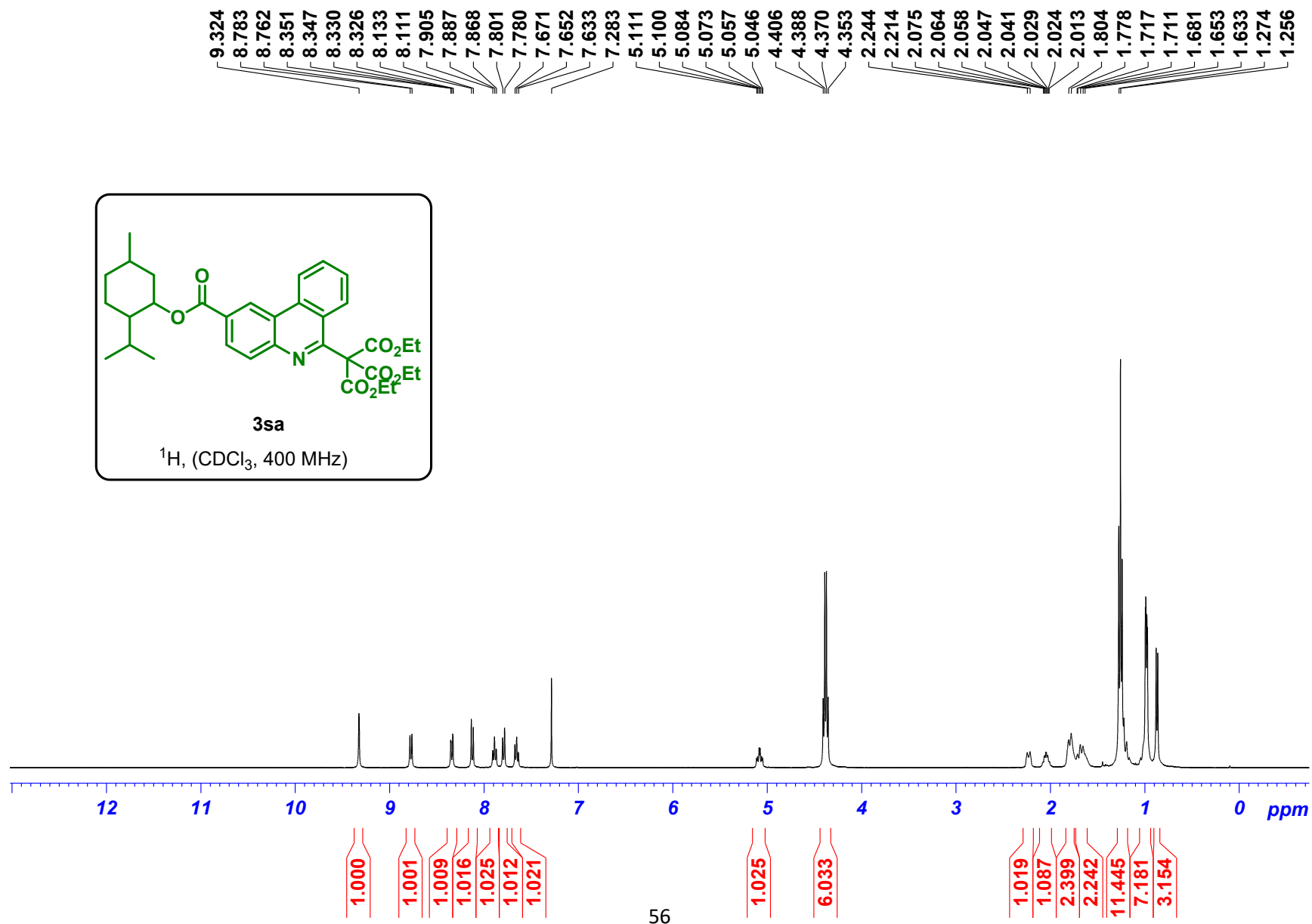








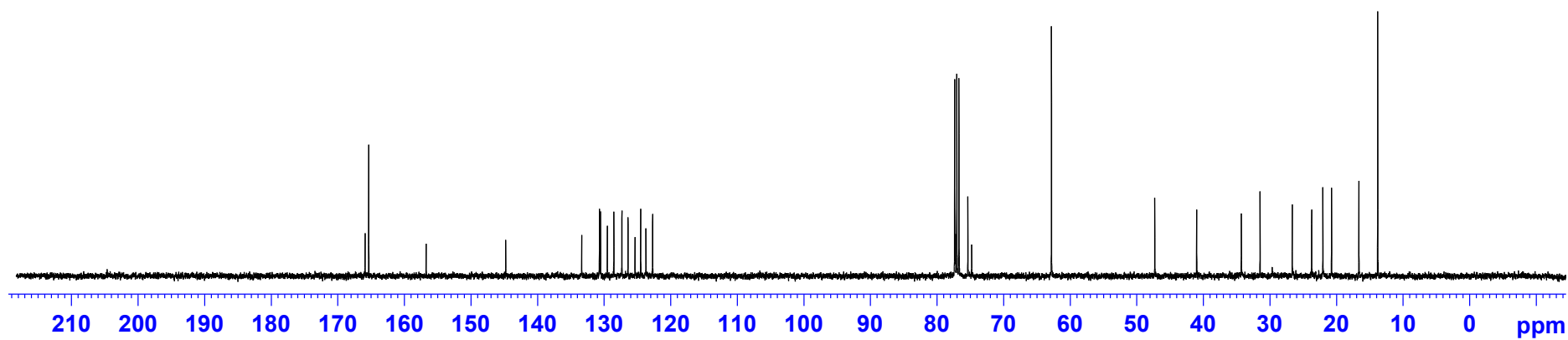
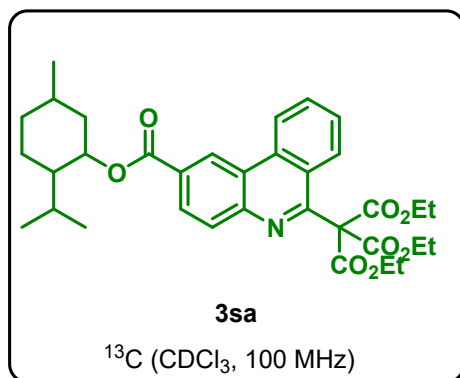


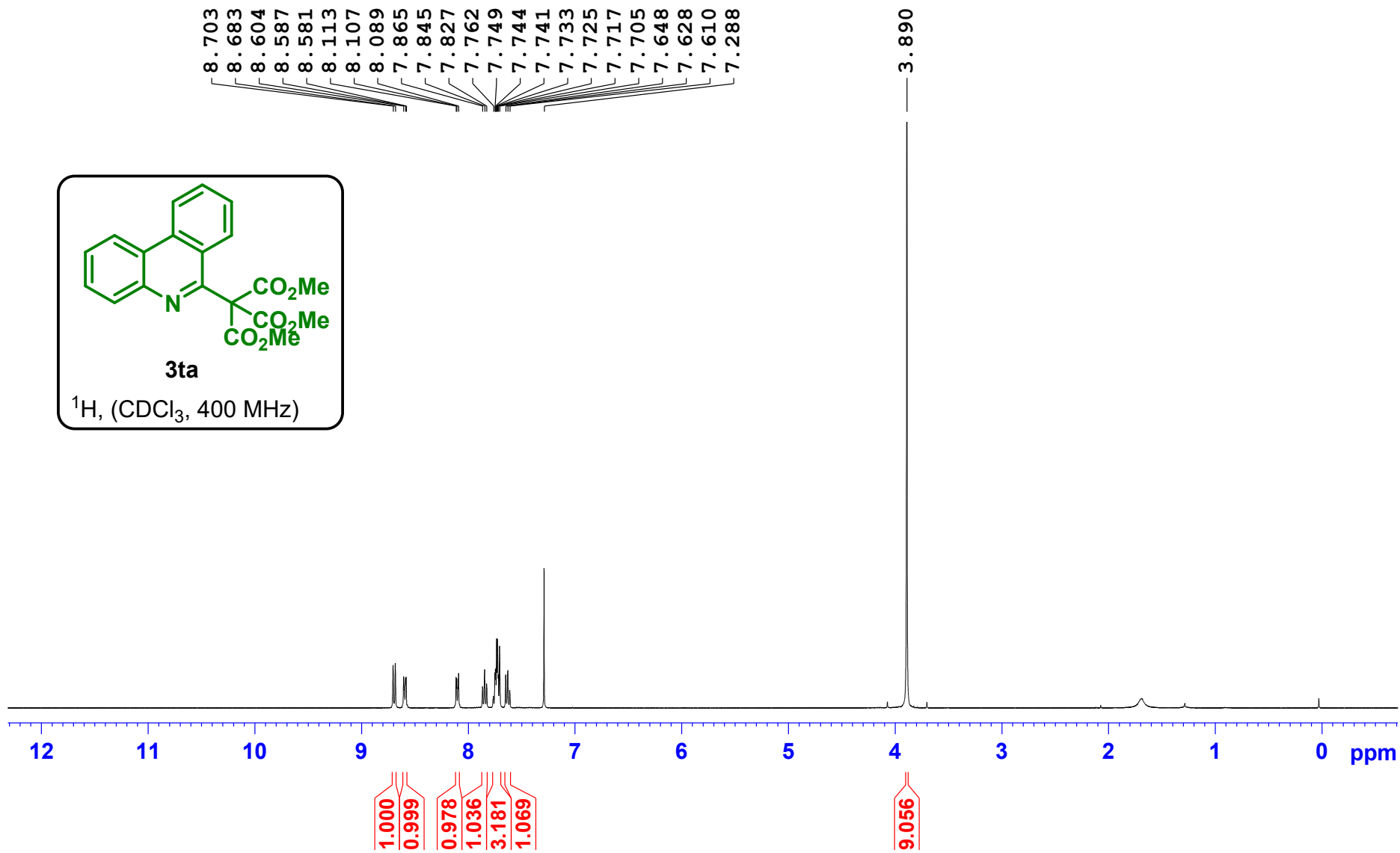
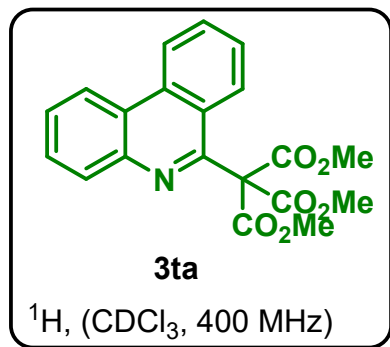


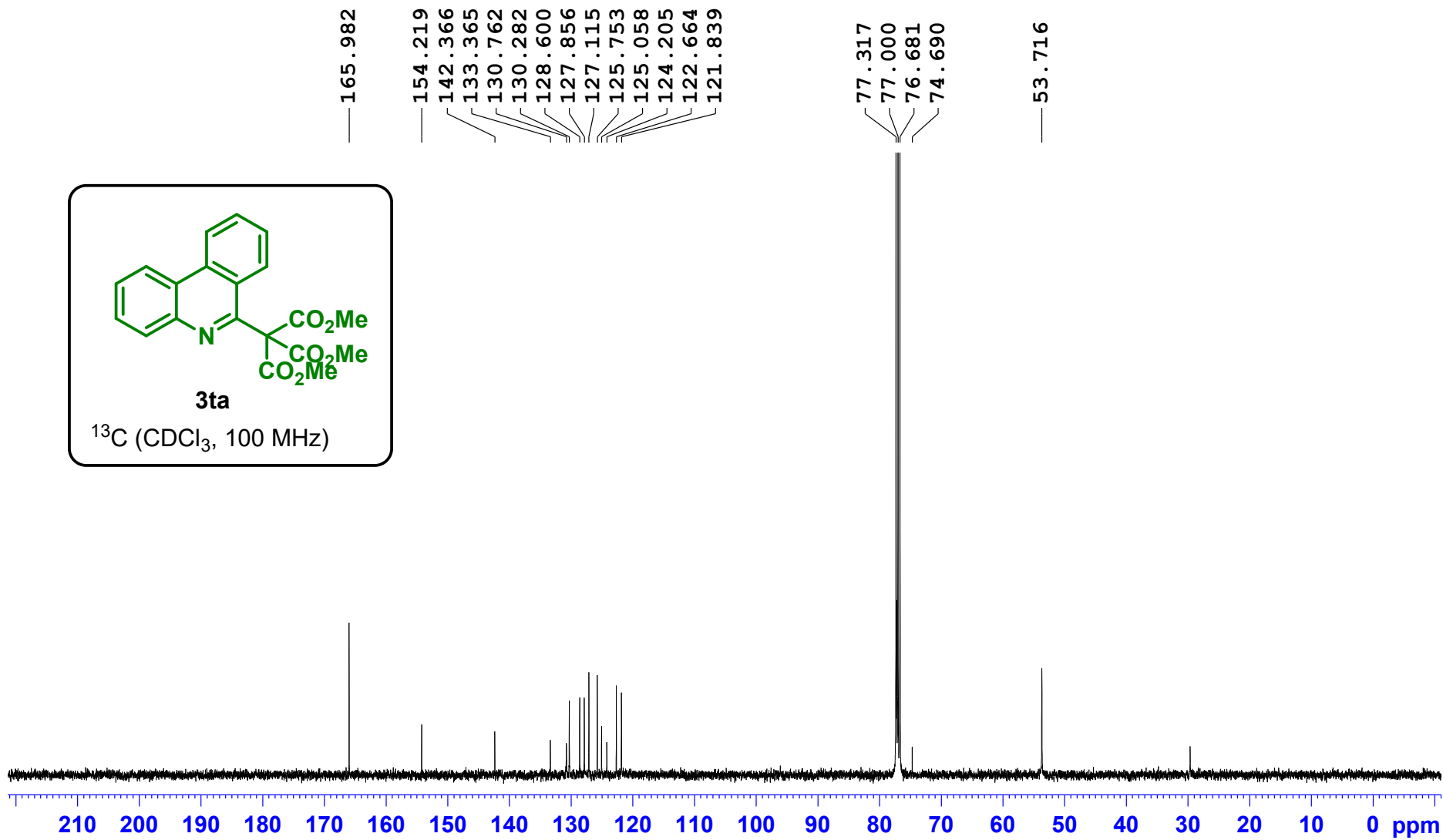
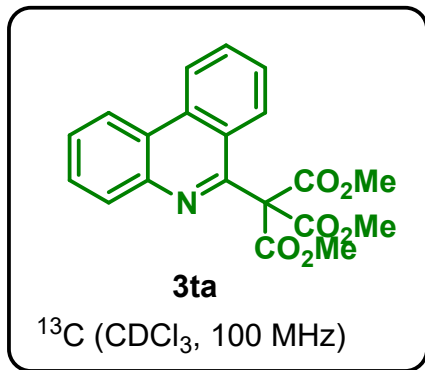
165.872
165.328
156.701
144.764
133.334
130.676
130.516
129.480
128.510
127.307
126.386
125.329
124.484
123.702
122.685

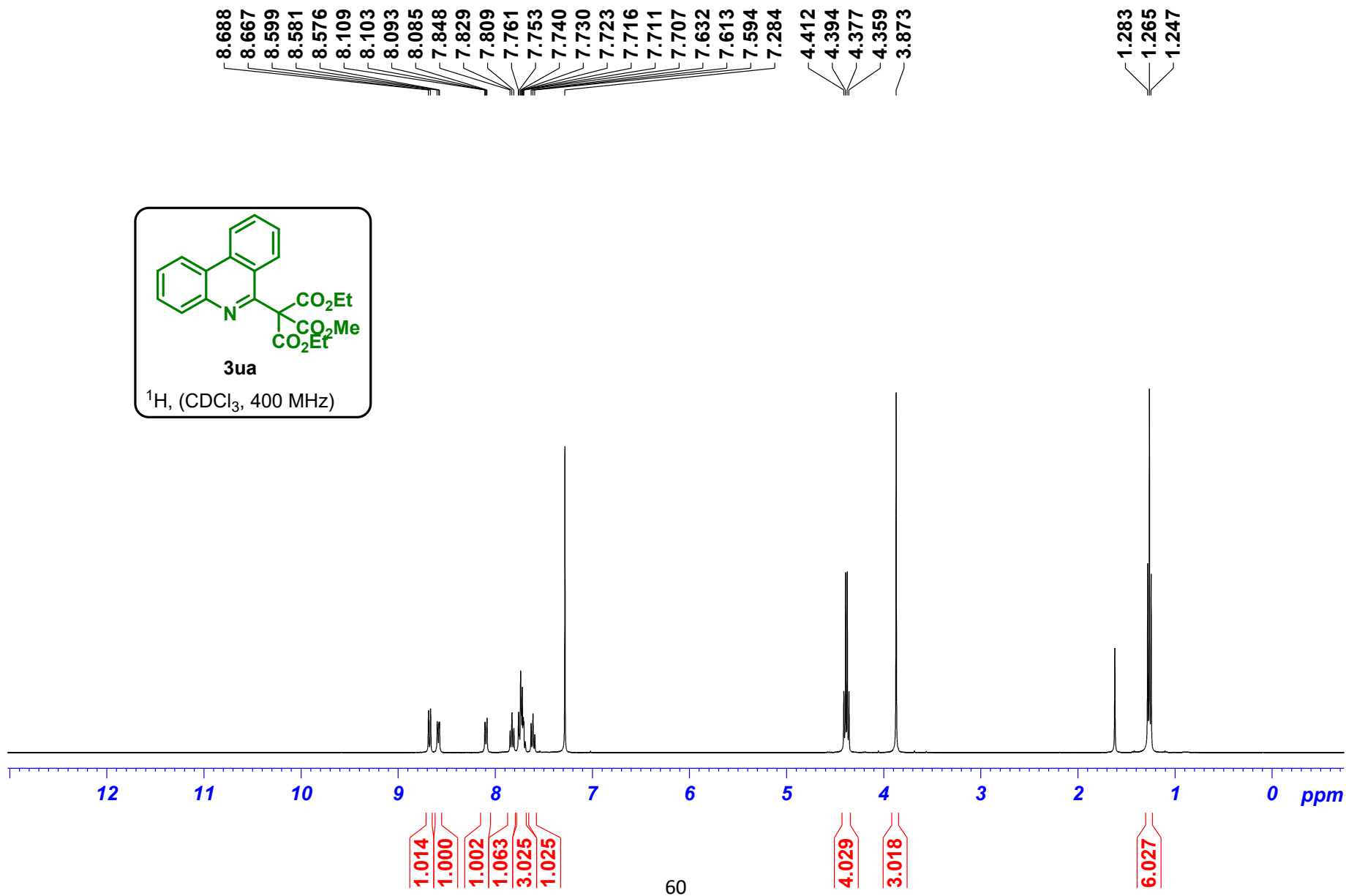
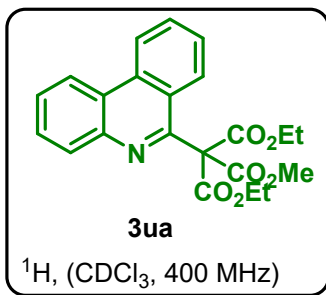
77.318
77.201
77.000
76.682
75.344
74.766
62.785

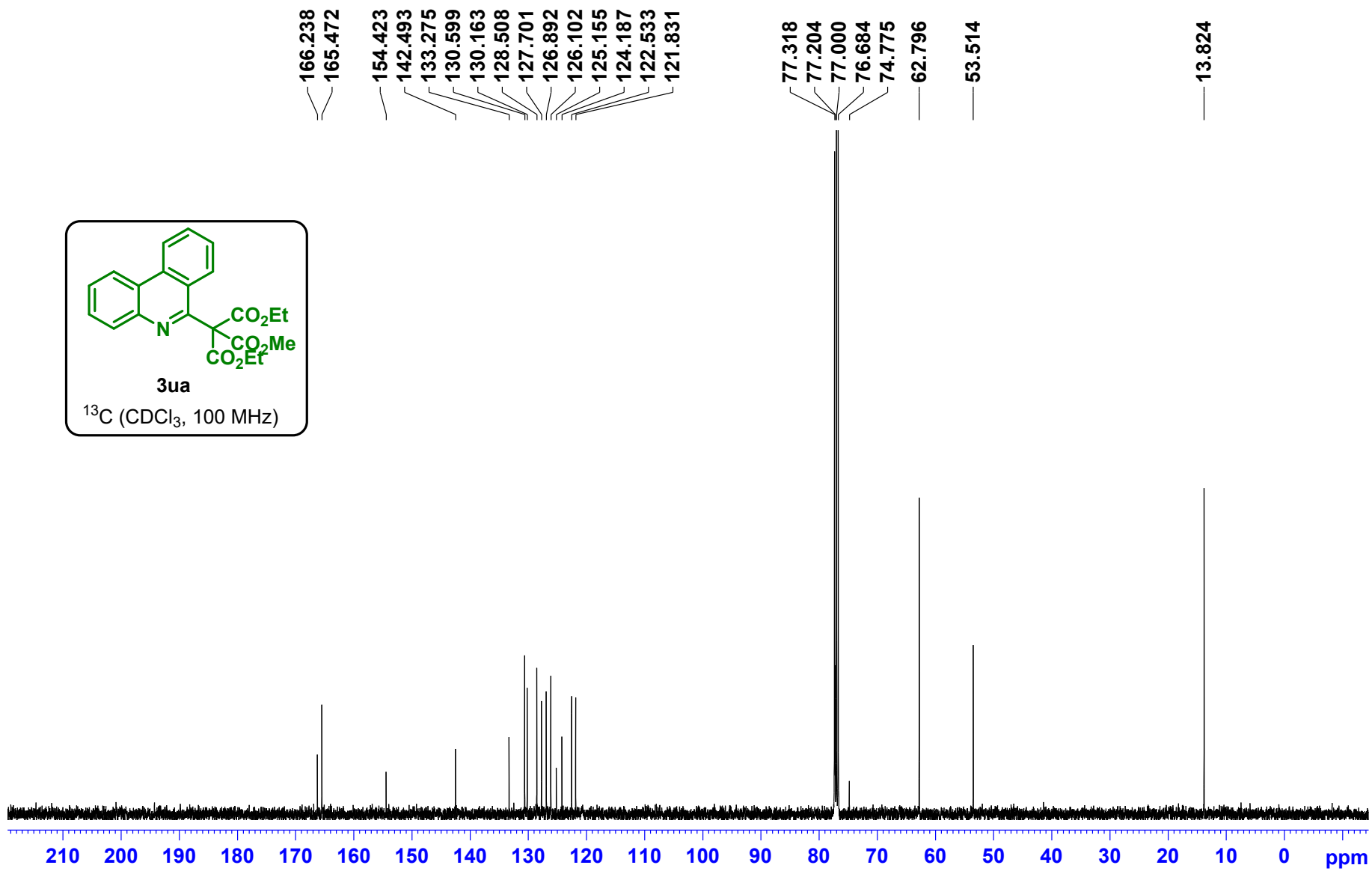
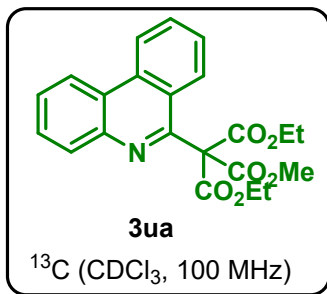
47.270
40.972
34.268
31.451
26.617
23.701
22.018
20.717
16.601
13.781

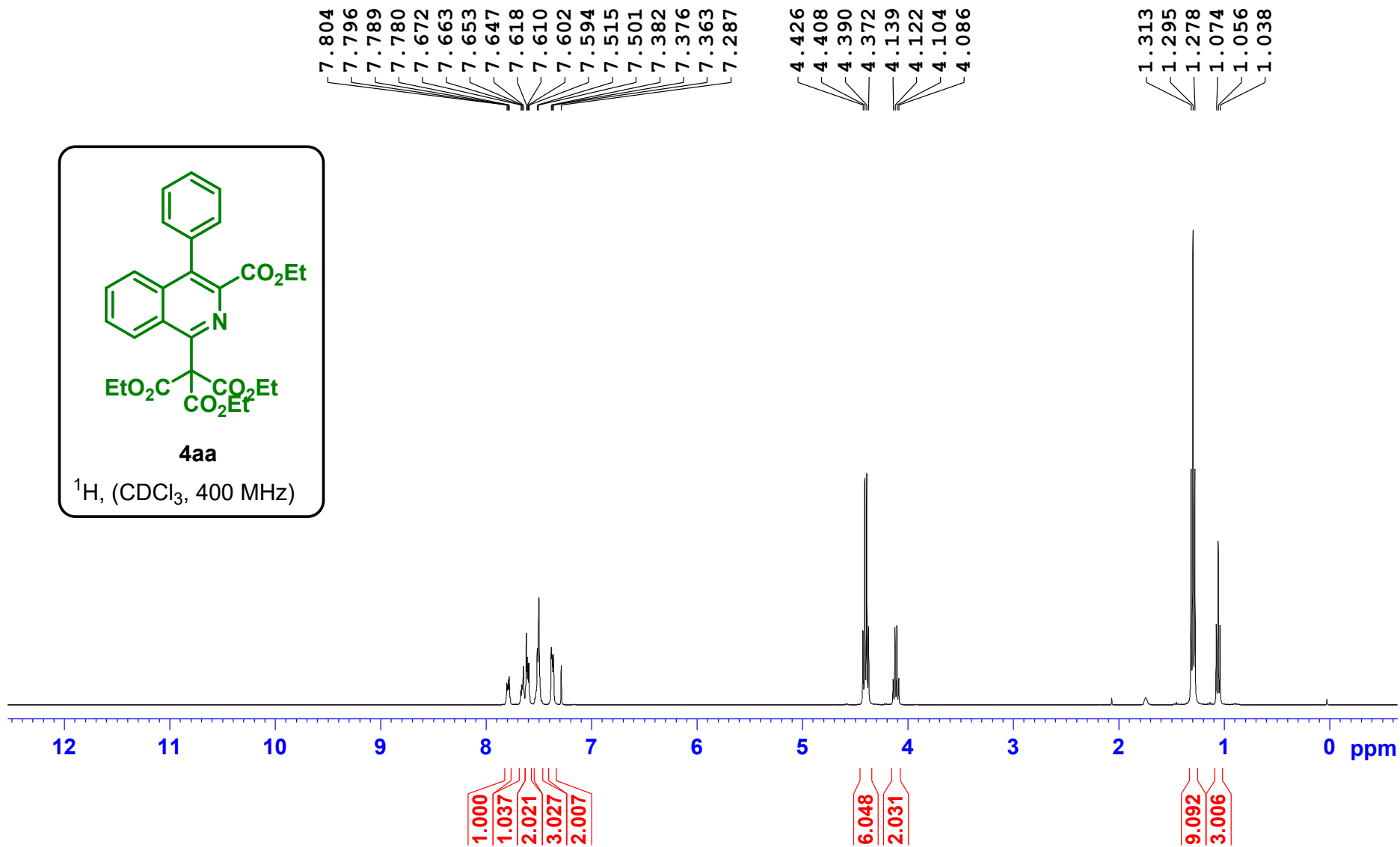
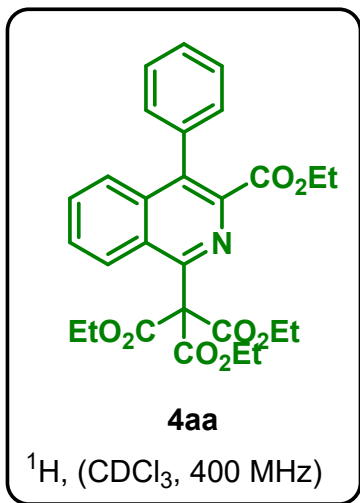


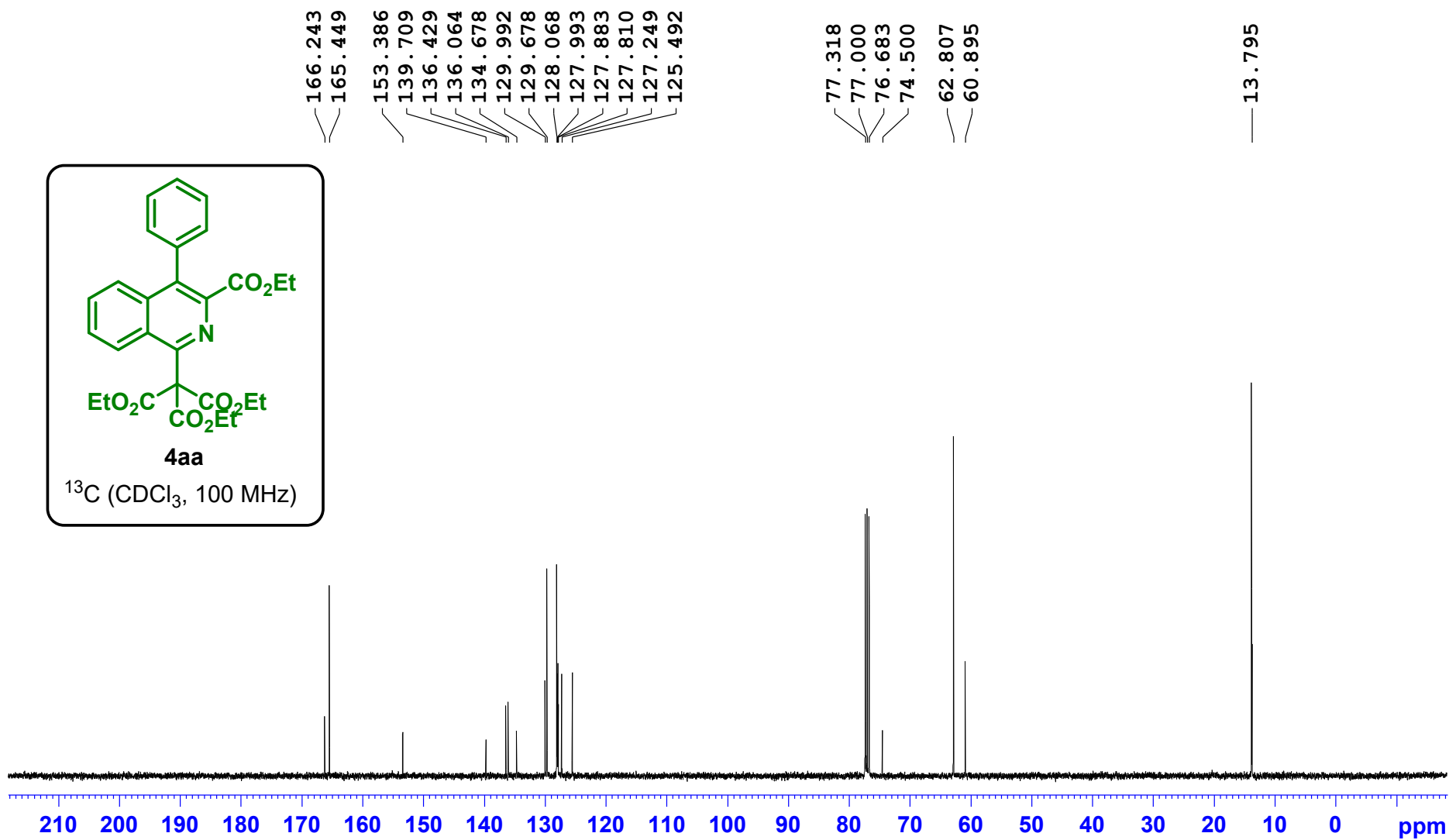
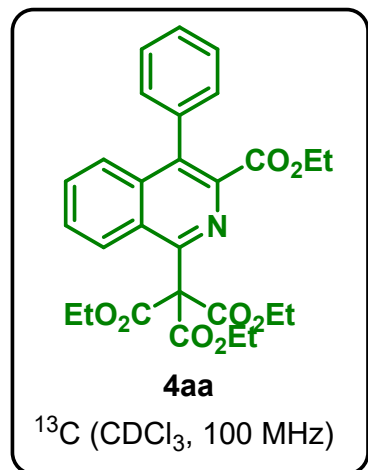


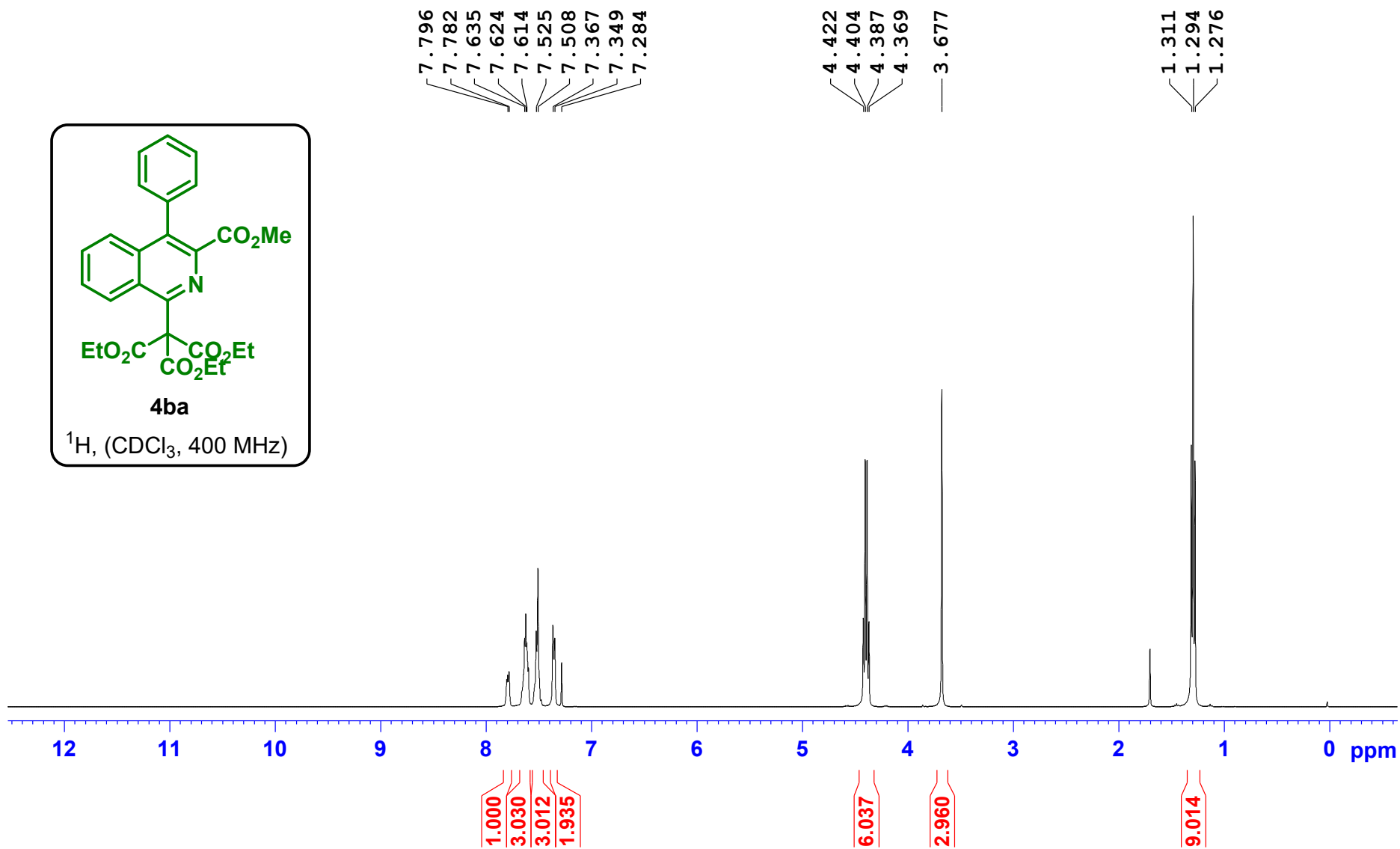
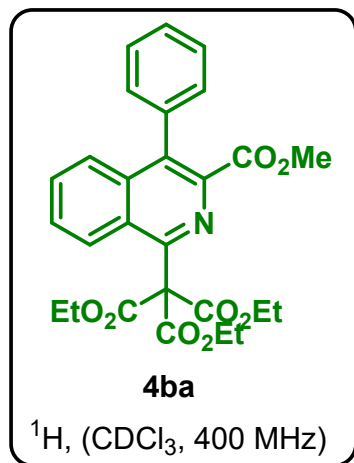


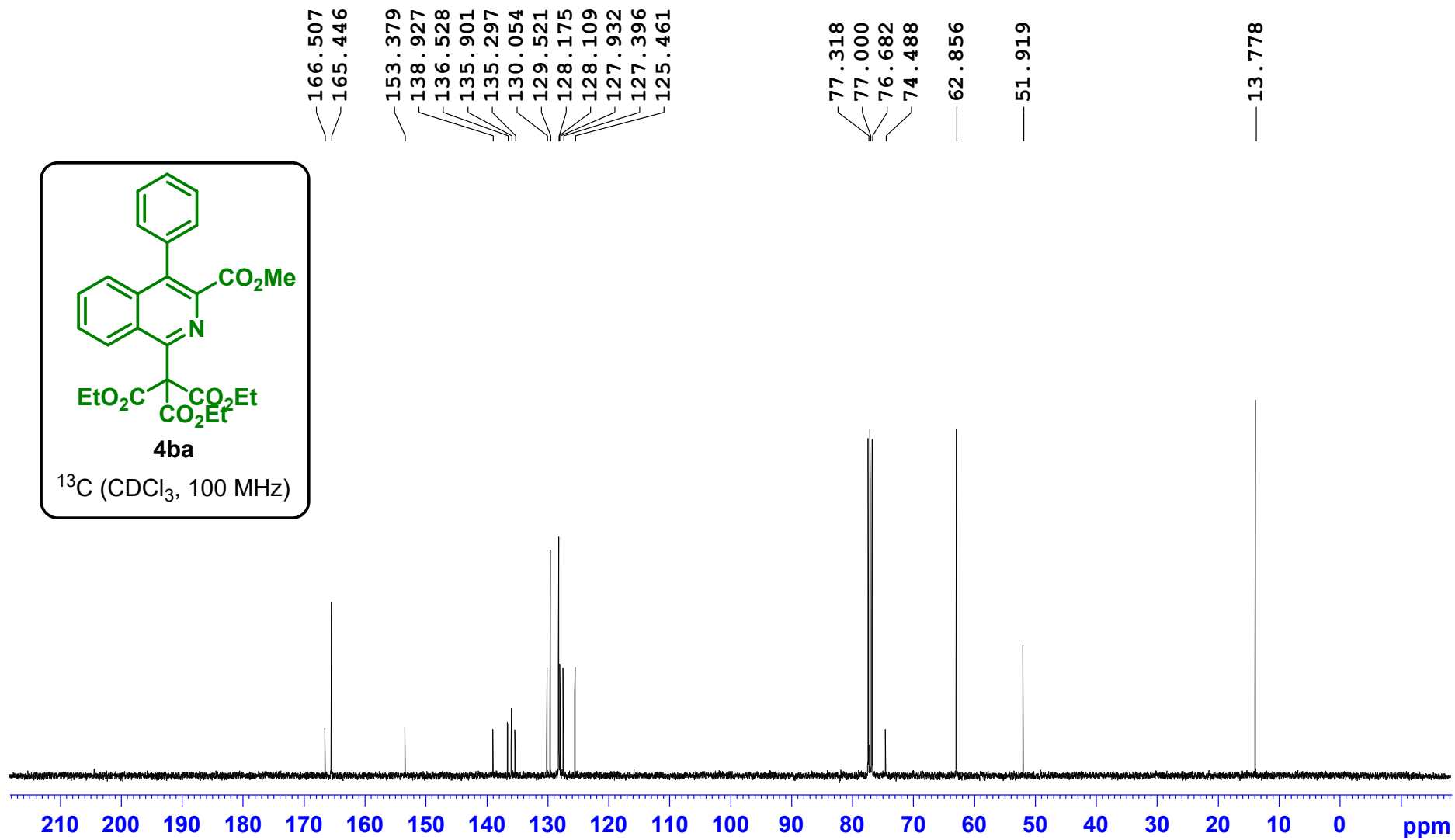
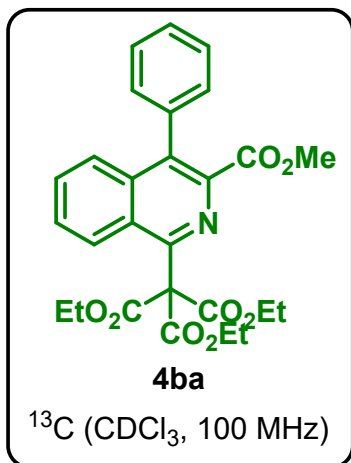


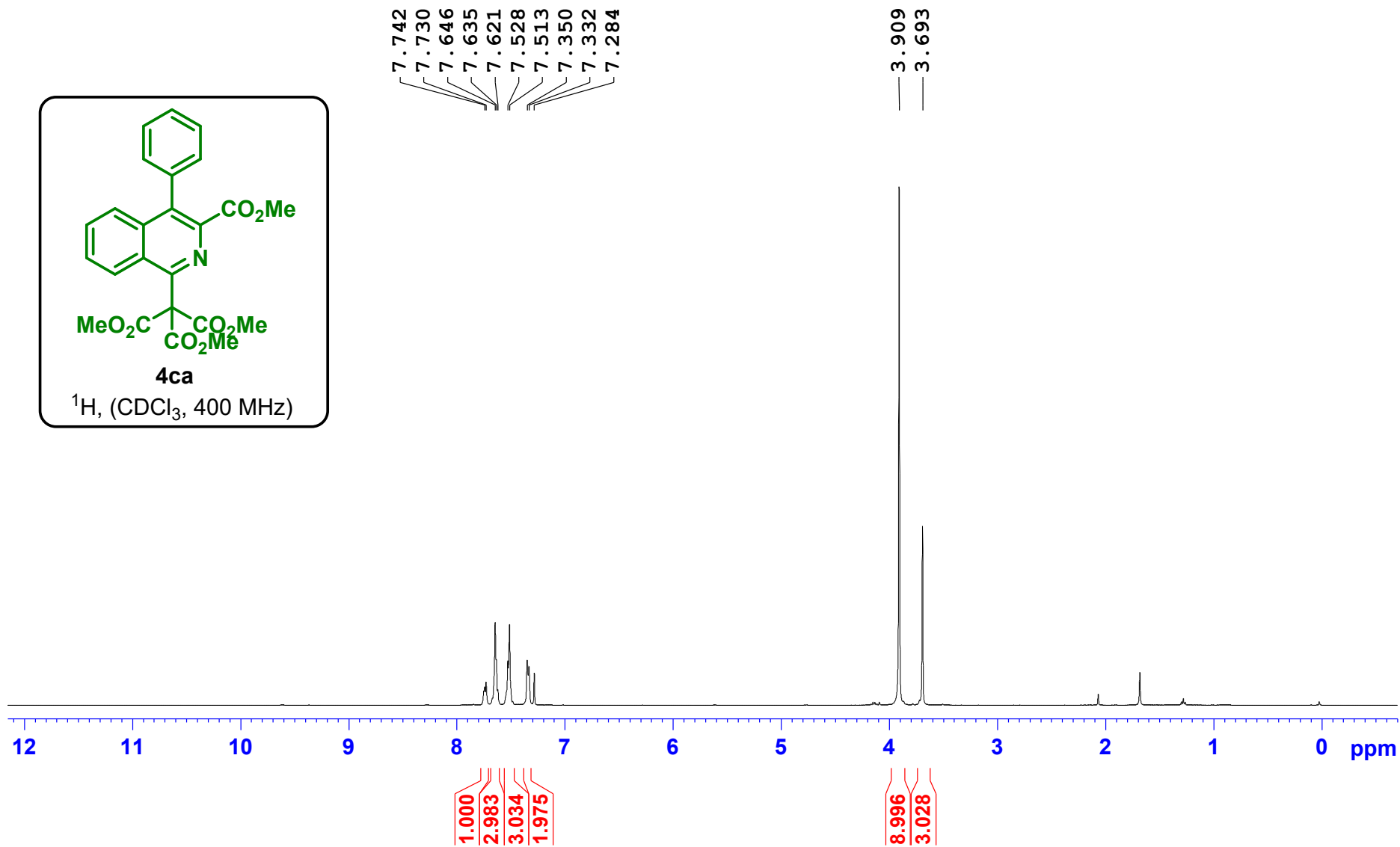
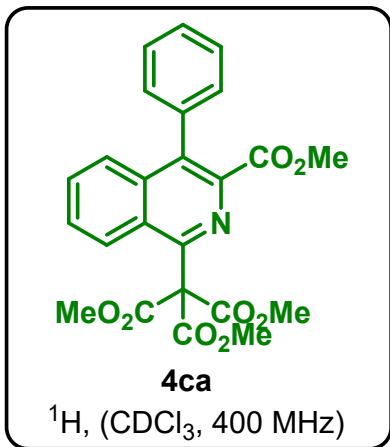


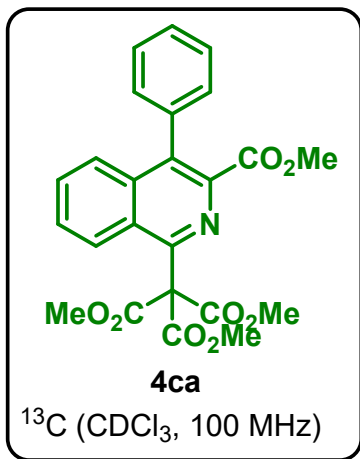










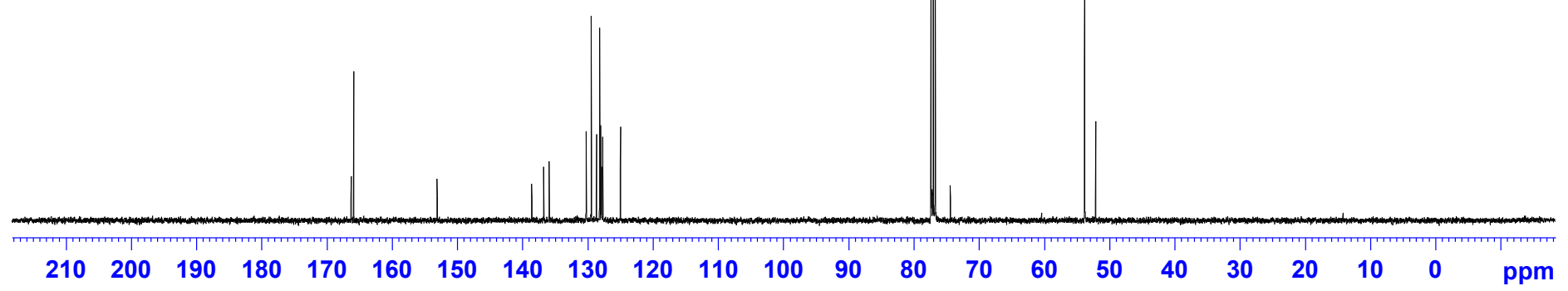


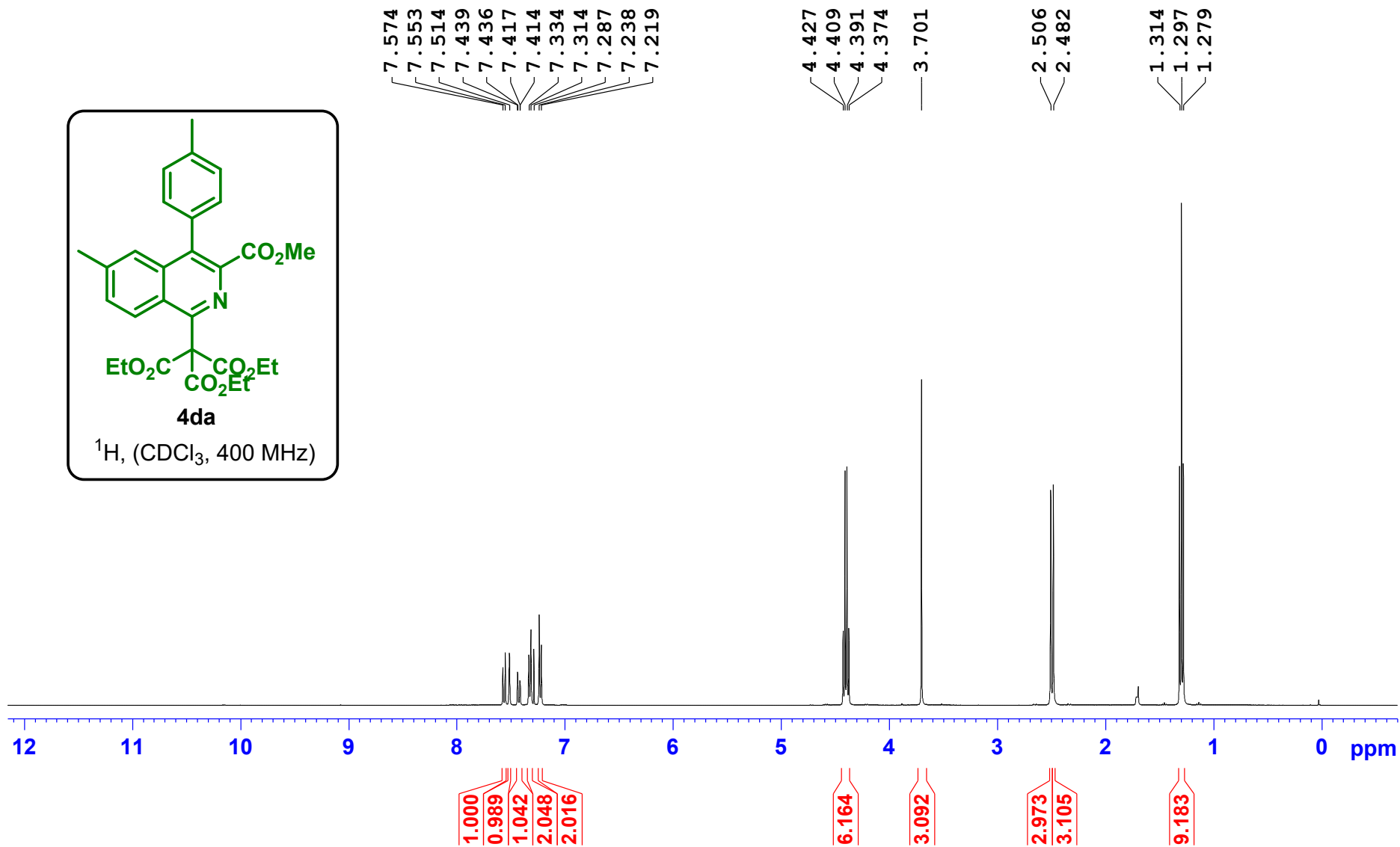
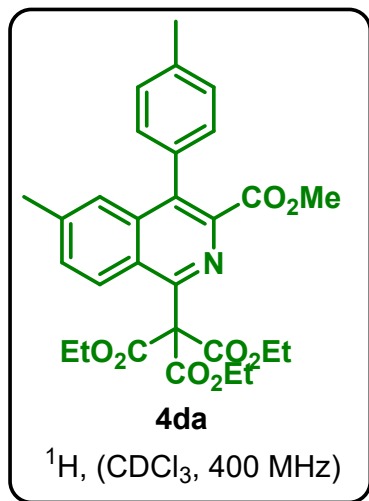
166.267
165.841

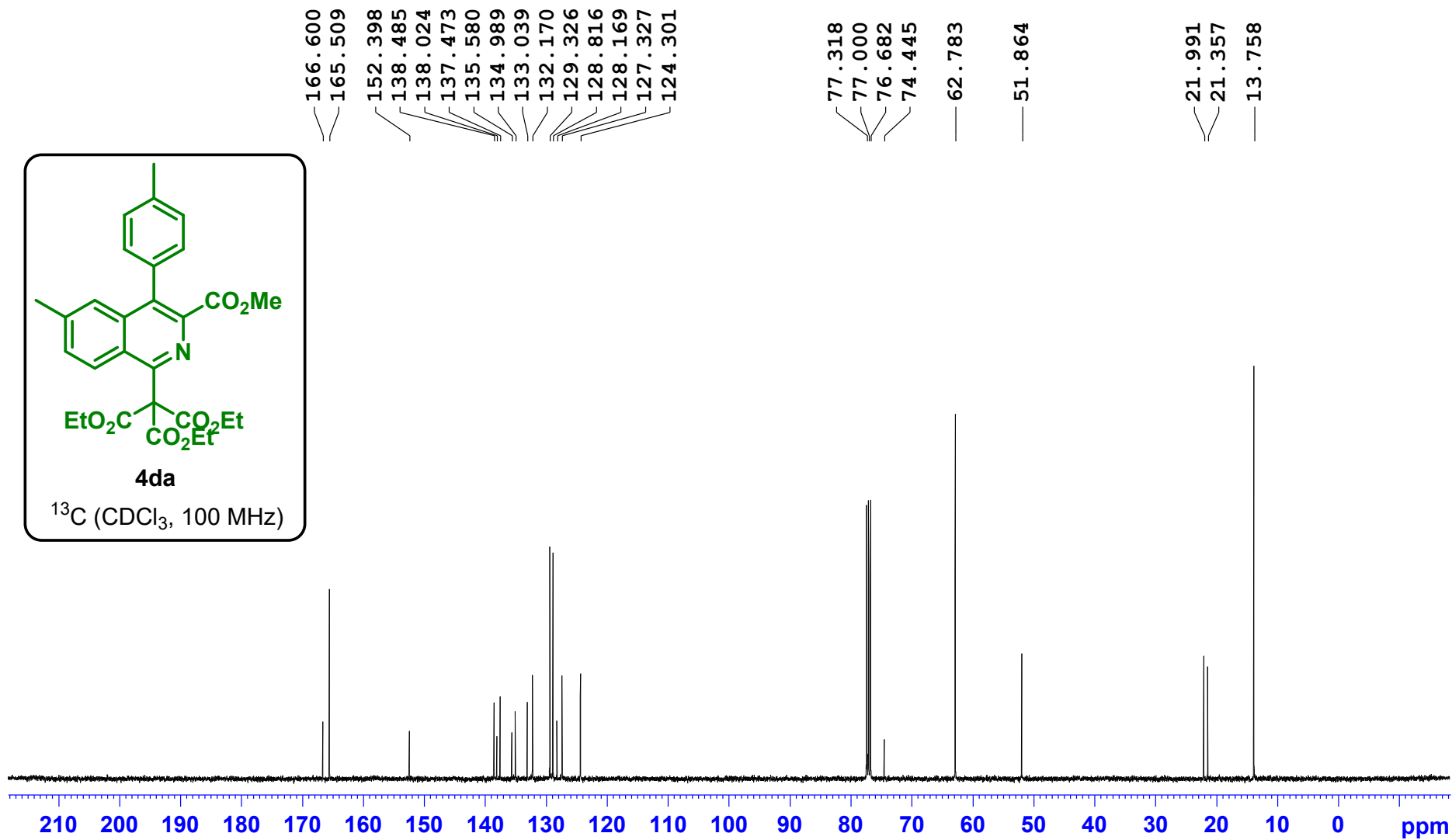
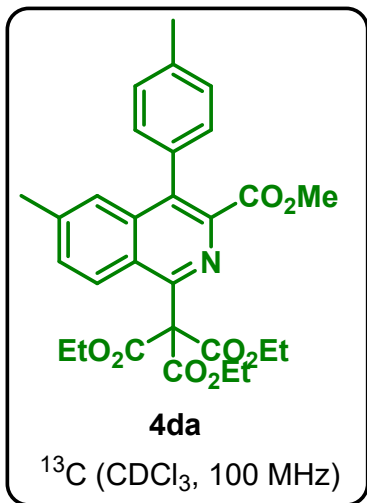
153.066
138.558
136.722
135.881
130.212
129.421
128.629
128.134
127.964
127.861
127.672
124.958

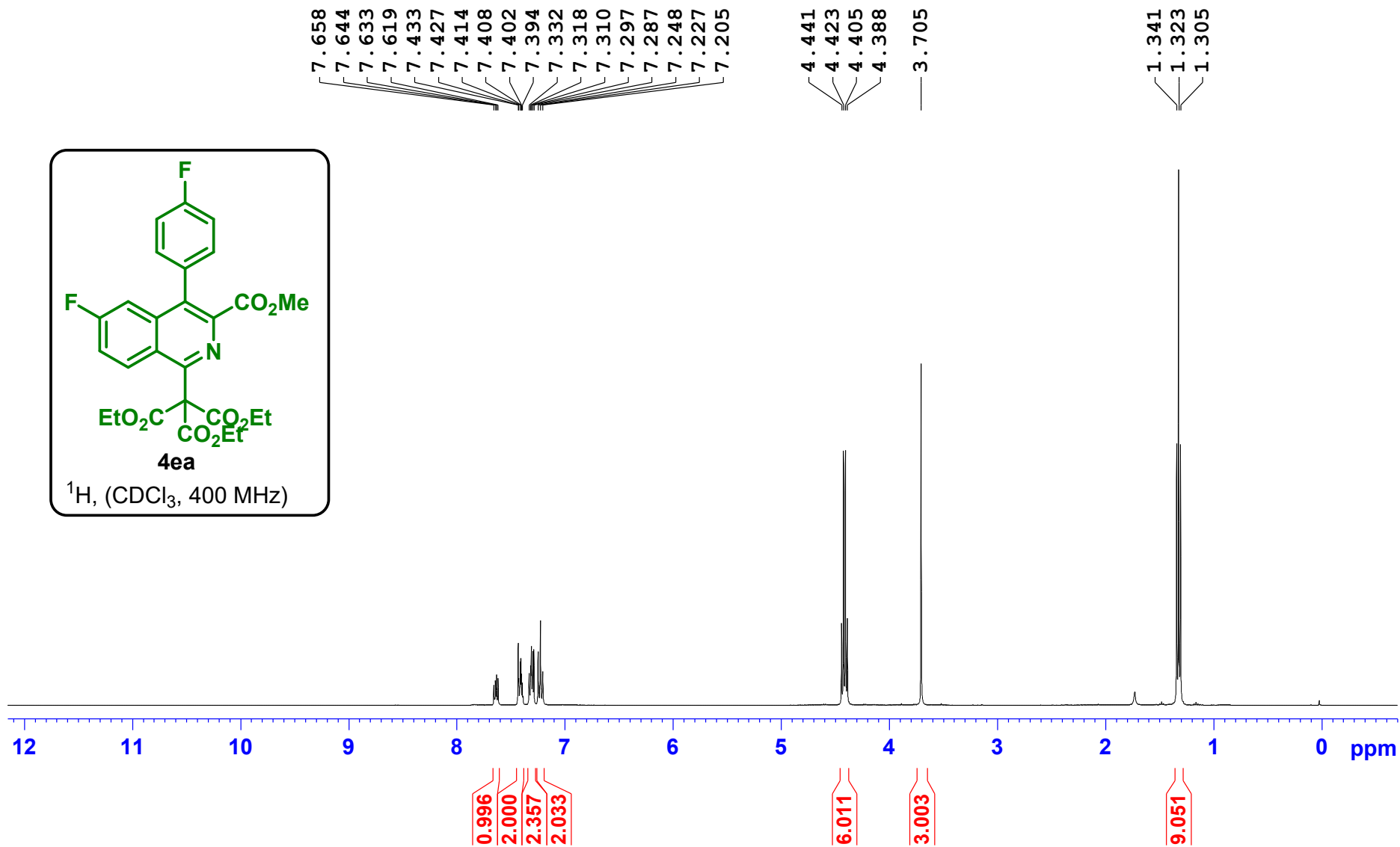
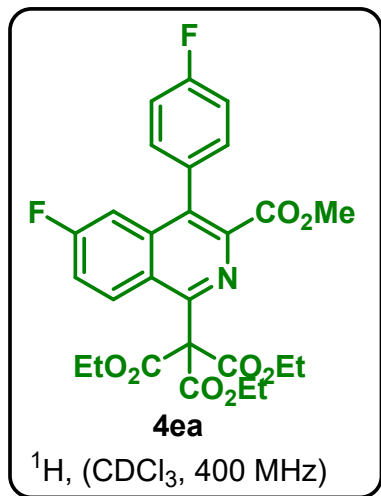
77.318
77.000
76.683
74.362

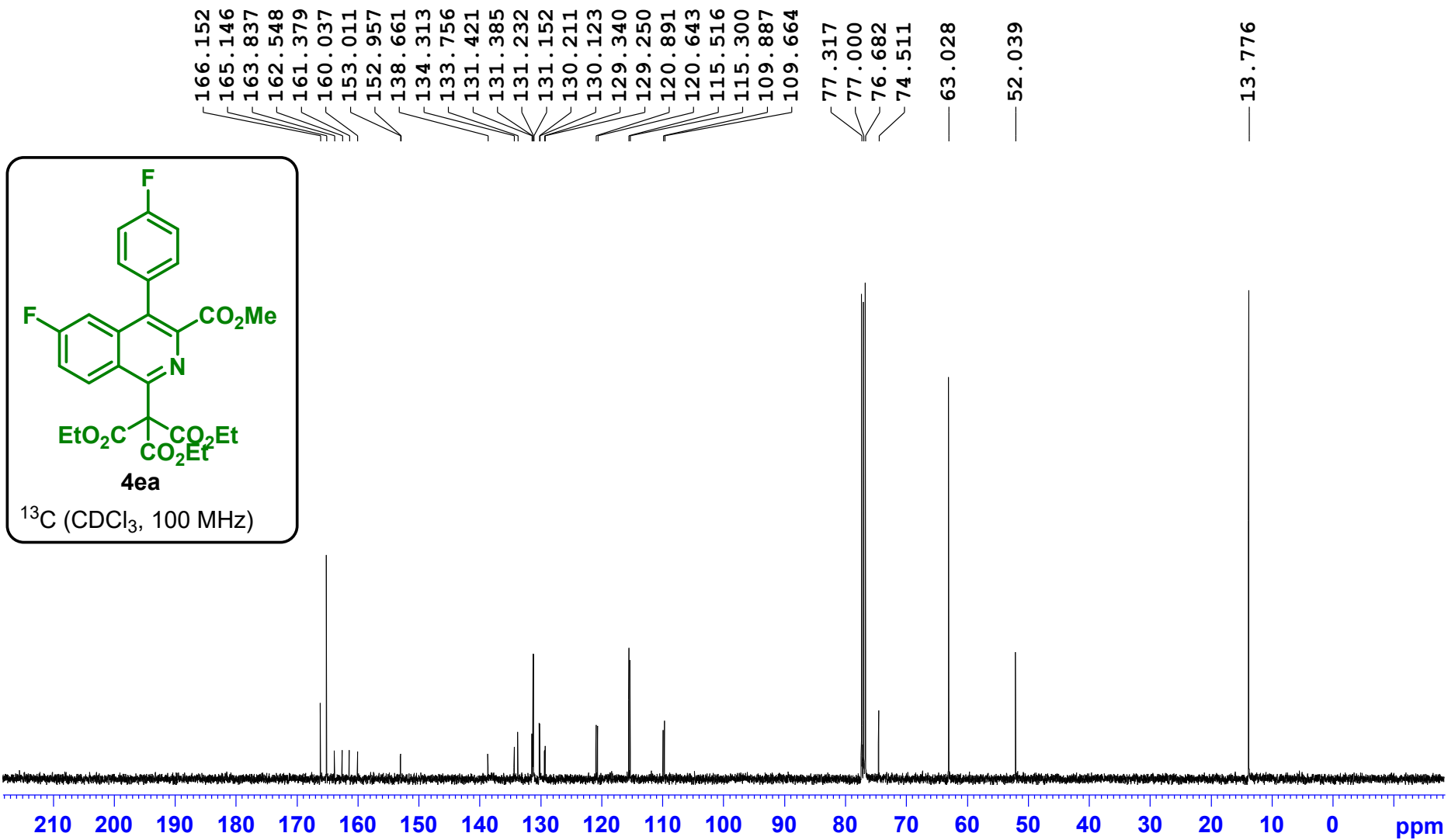
53.771
52.081

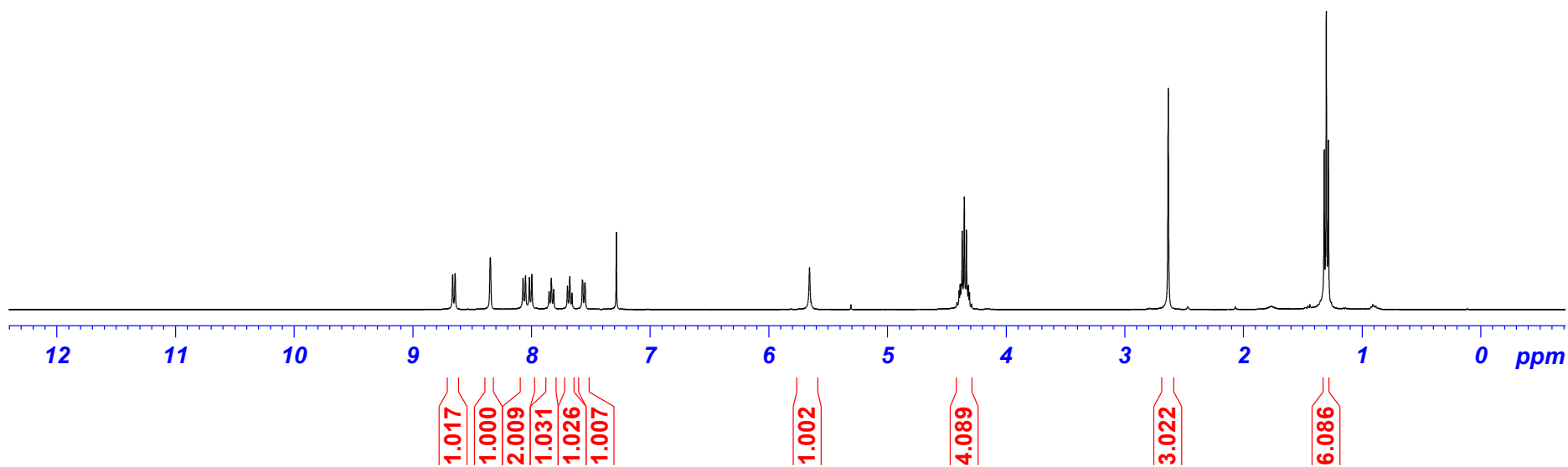
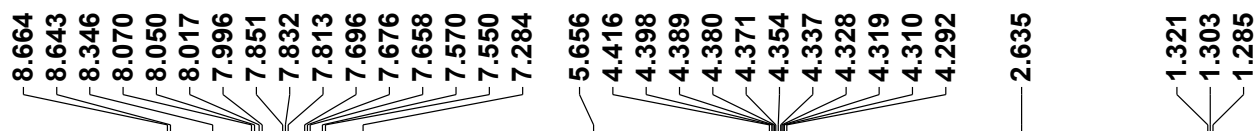
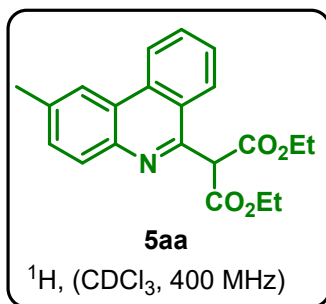


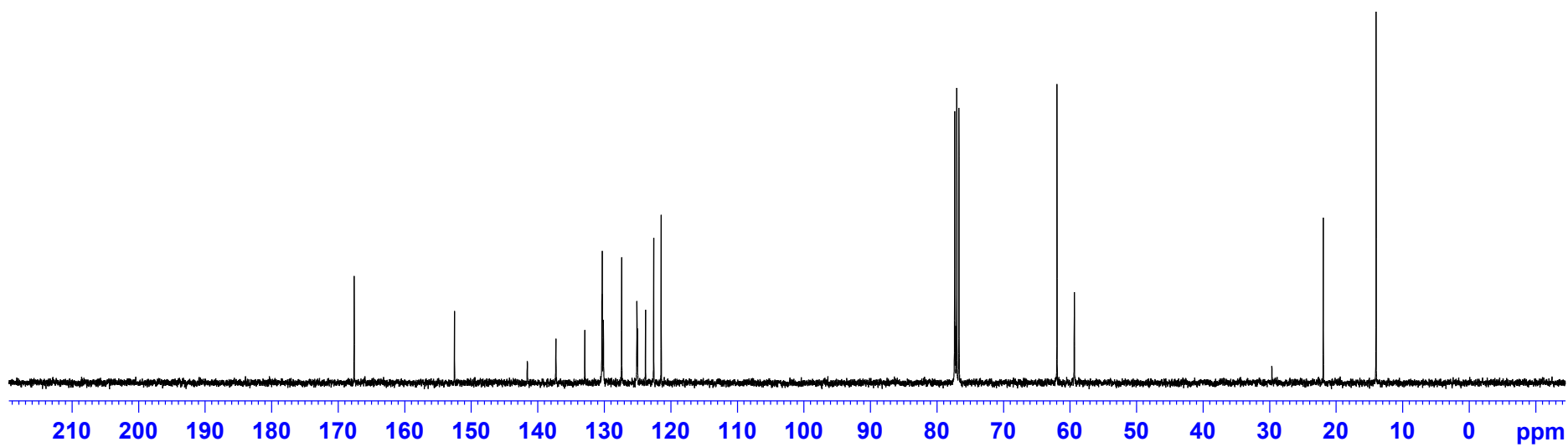
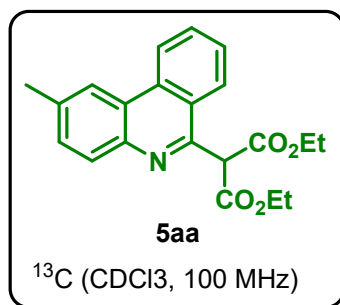






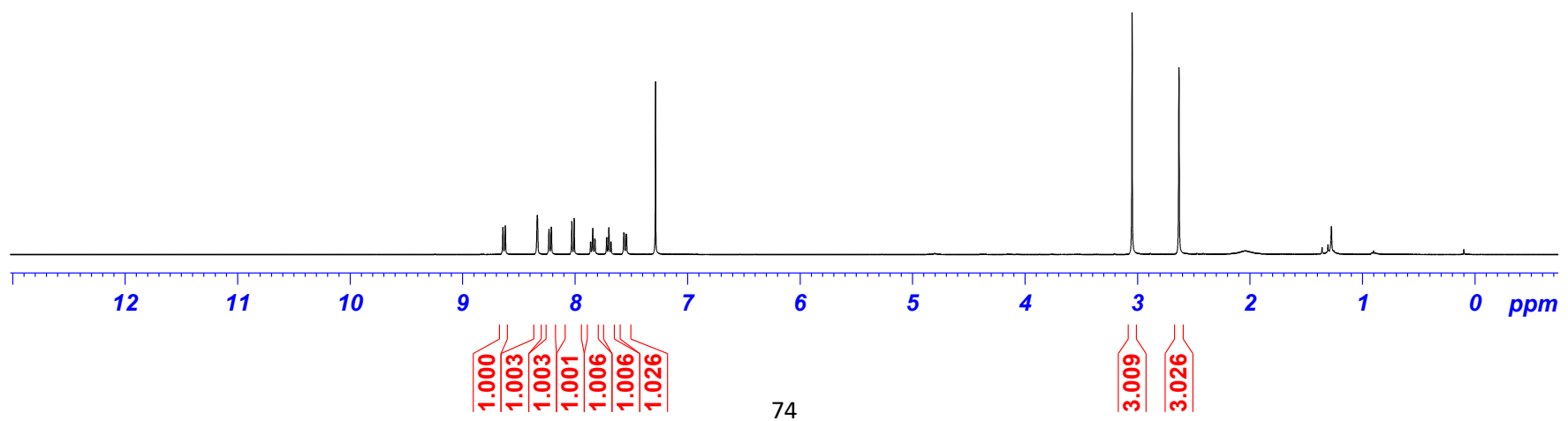
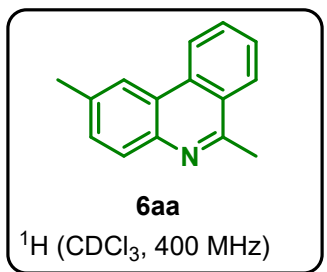






8.641
8.620
8.335
8.231
8.211
8.028
8.008
7.862
7.860
7.842
7.824
7.821
7.719
7.717
7.699
7.681
7.679
7.566
7.562
7.545
7.542
7.284

3.050
2.633



157.811
141.874
136.097
132.338
130.300
130.277
128.974
127.127
126.497
125.942
123.571
122.252
121.583

77.318
77.000
76.682

23.224
21.876

