

Supporting Information

## **A selective chromogenic molecular sensor for acetate anion in mixed acetonitrile/water media**

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1. Titration of **1**, **2**, **3** with [Me<sub>4</sub>N]OH in MeCN solution.
2. Titration of **2** with anions in MeCN solution.
3. Titration of **1**, **3** with anions in MeCN solution.
4. Titration of **2** with a mixture of F<sup>-</sup>, AcO<sup>-</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> in MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O solution.
5. Titration of **2** with anions in CHCl<sub>3</sub> solution.
6. Titration of **2** with AcO<sup>-</sup> in CHCl<sub>3</sub>/EtOH solution.
7. MS (ESI) spectra of **1**, **2** and **3**.
8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **1**, **2** and **3**.
9. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **1** and **3**.
10. IR spectra of **2**.

## 1. Titration of 1,2,3 with [Me<sub>4</sub>N]OH in MeCN solution

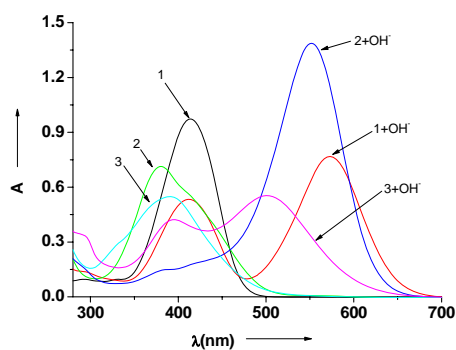


Fig. S1 Changes in the UV/vis absorption spectra of **1**, **2**, **3** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in MeCN solution upon addition of 20 equiv of [Me<sub>4</sub>N]OH.

## 2. Titration of **2** with anions in MeCN solution

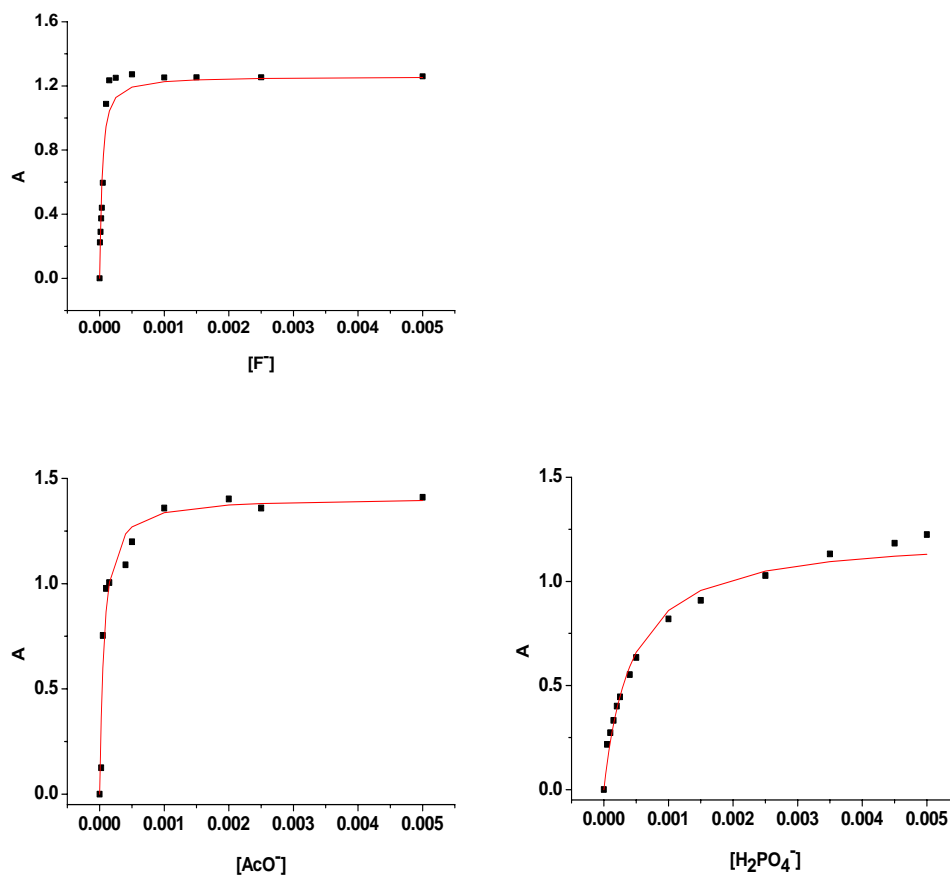


Fig. S2 The changes of absorption band centered at 552 nm as a function of [F<sup>-</sup>], [AcO<sup>-</sup>], [H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>], red line represents calculated results. **2** was  $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M.

### 3. Titration of **1**, **3** with anions in MeCN solution

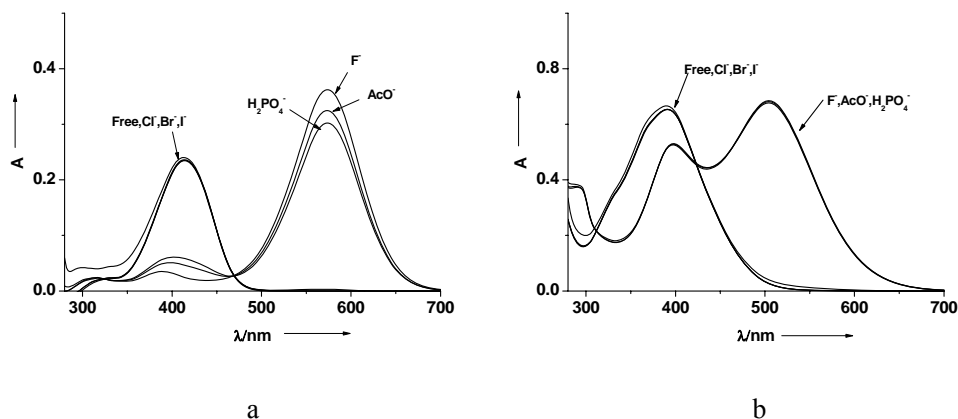


Fig. S3 a) Changes in the UV/vis absorption spectrum of **1** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in MeCN solution upon addition of 100 equiv of anions. b) Changes in the UV/vis absorption spectrum of **3** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in MeCN solution upon addition of 50 equiv of anions.

### 4. Titration of **2** with a mixture of F<sup>-</sup>, AcO<sup>-</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> in MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O solution

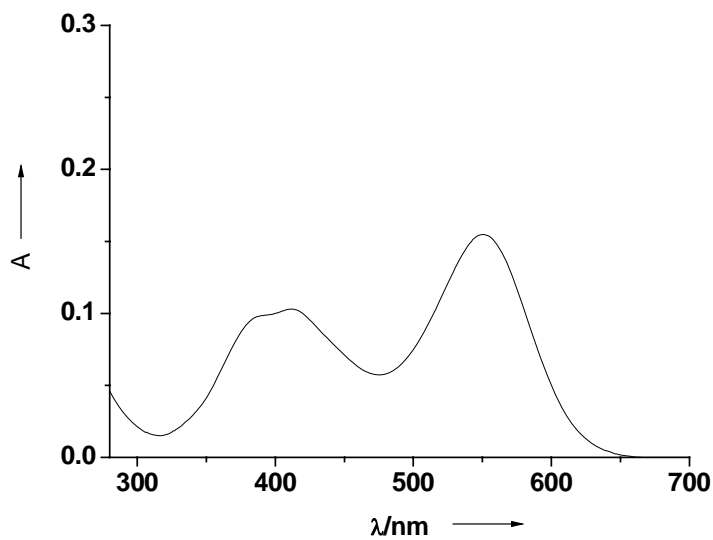


Fig. S4 Changes in the UV/vis absorption spectrum of **2** ( $6.25 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in acetonitrile/water (90:10, v/v) solution upon addition of 200 equiv of F<sup>-</sup>, AcO<sup>-</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>.

## 5. Titration of **2** with anions in CHCl<sub>3</sub> solution

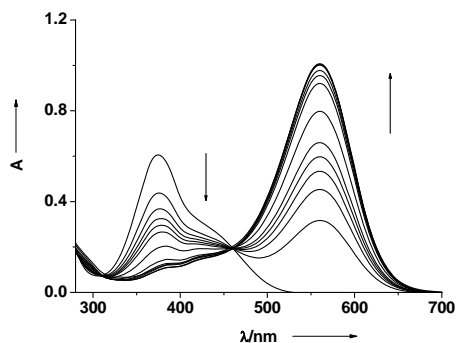


Fig. S5a UV/vis titration of **2** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> solution upon addition of AcO<sup>-</sup> (from 0 to 100 equiv).

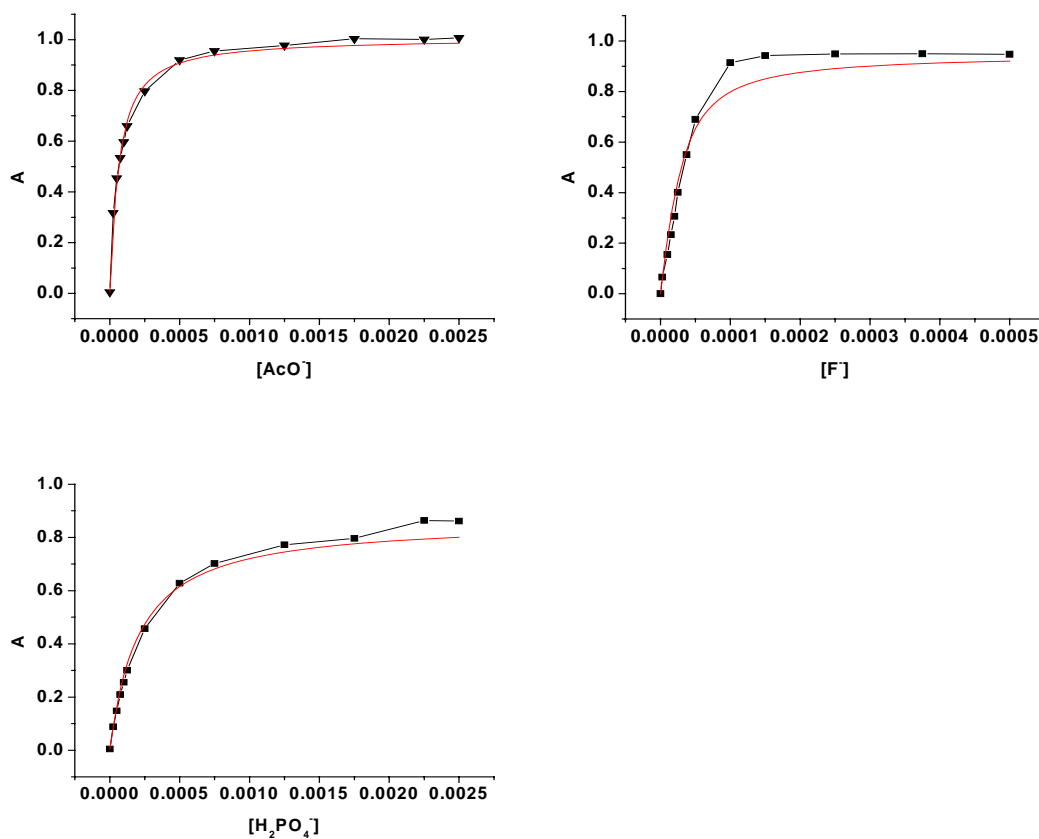


Fig. S5b The changes of absorption band centered at 560 nm as a function of [F<sup>-</sup>], [AcO<sup>-</sup>], [H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>], red line represents calculated results. [**2**] was  $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M. The equilibrium constant was calculated to be  $(6.68 \pm 1) \times 10^4$  M<sup>-1</sup> for F<sup>-</sup>,  $1.90 \times 10^4 \pm 901$  M<sup>-1</sup> for AcO<sup>-</sup> and  $5.10 \times 10^3 \pm 341$  M<sup>-1</sup> for H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>.

## 6. Titration of **2** with $\text{AcO}^-$ in $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{EtOH}$ solution

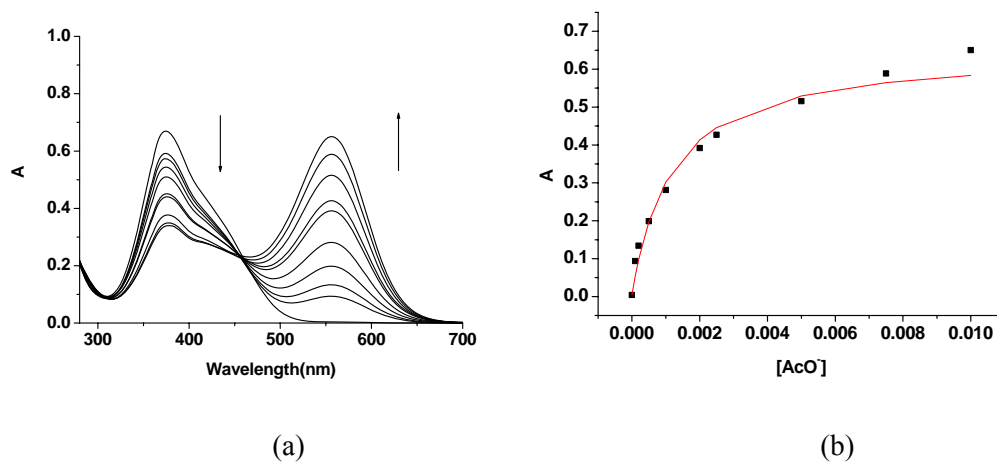
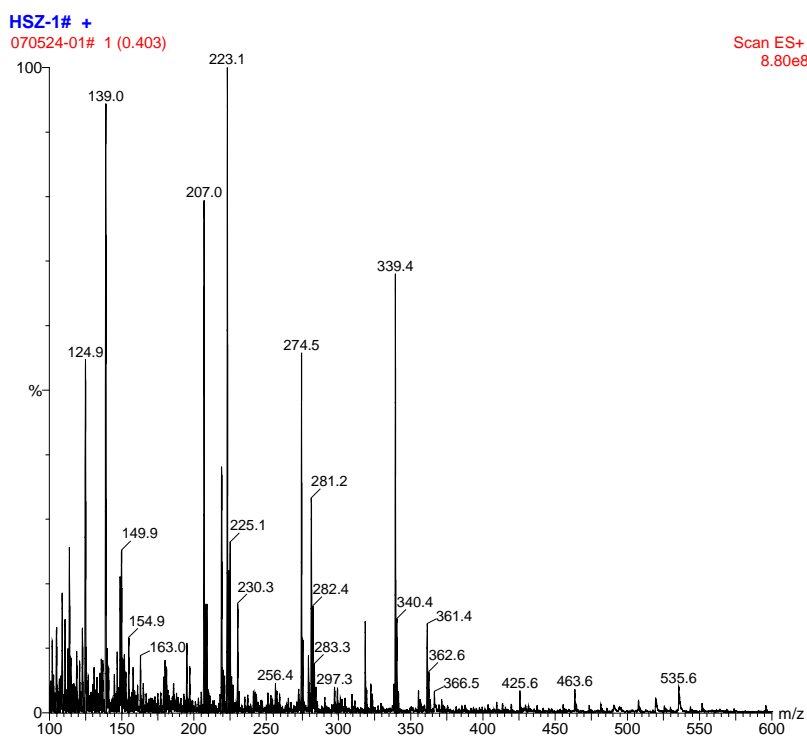


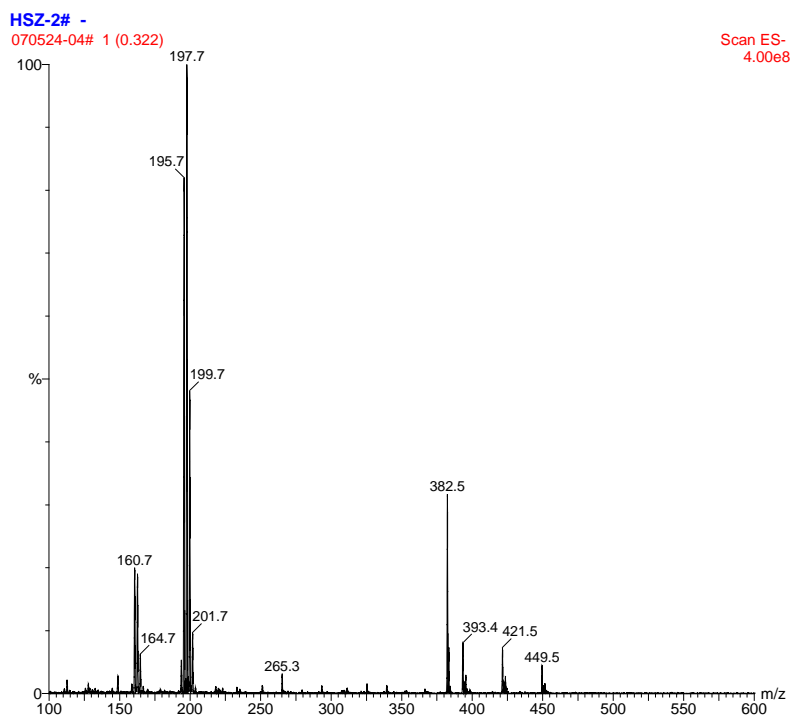
Fig. S6 (a) Changes in the UV-vis absorption spectrum of **2** in 1:1  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{EtOH}$  solution ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) upon addition of  $\text{AcO}^-$  (0-100 equiv); (b) the changes of absorption band centered at 560 nm as a function of  $[\text{AcO}^-]$ , red line represents calculated results.

## 7. MS (ESI) spectra of **1**, **2** and **3**

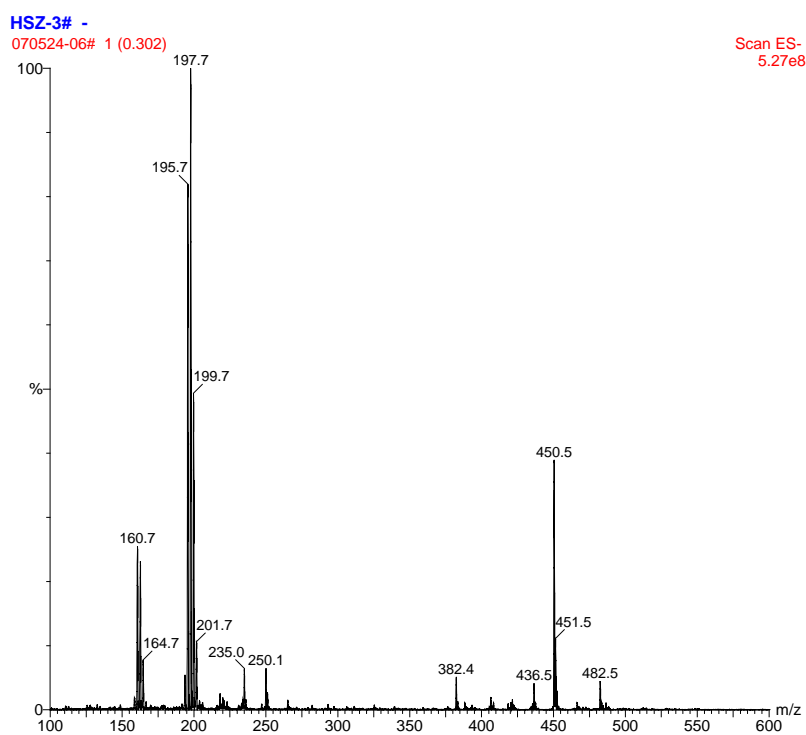
### MS (ESI) spectra of **1**



### MS (ESI) spectra of 2

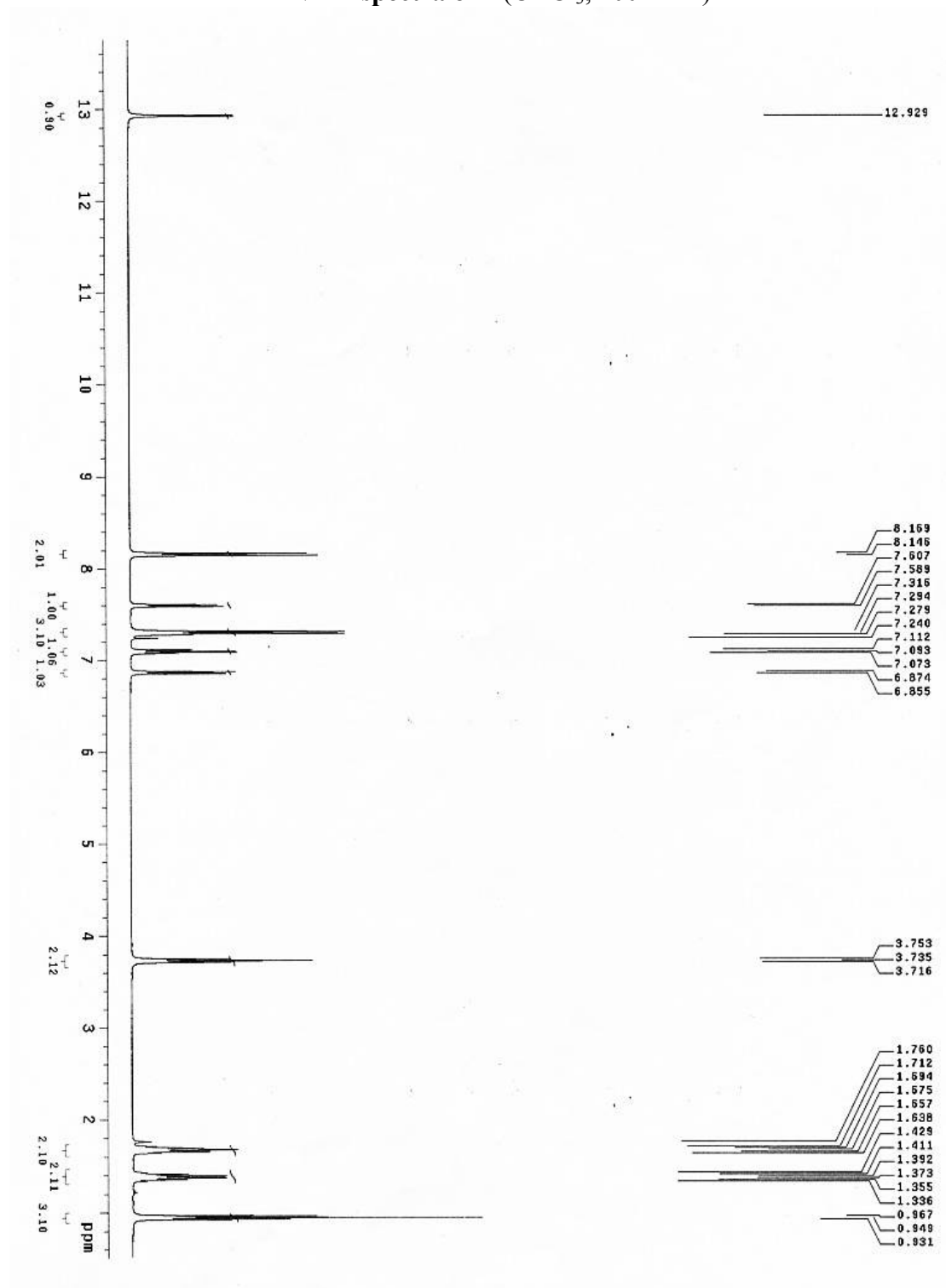


### MS (ESI) spectra of 3

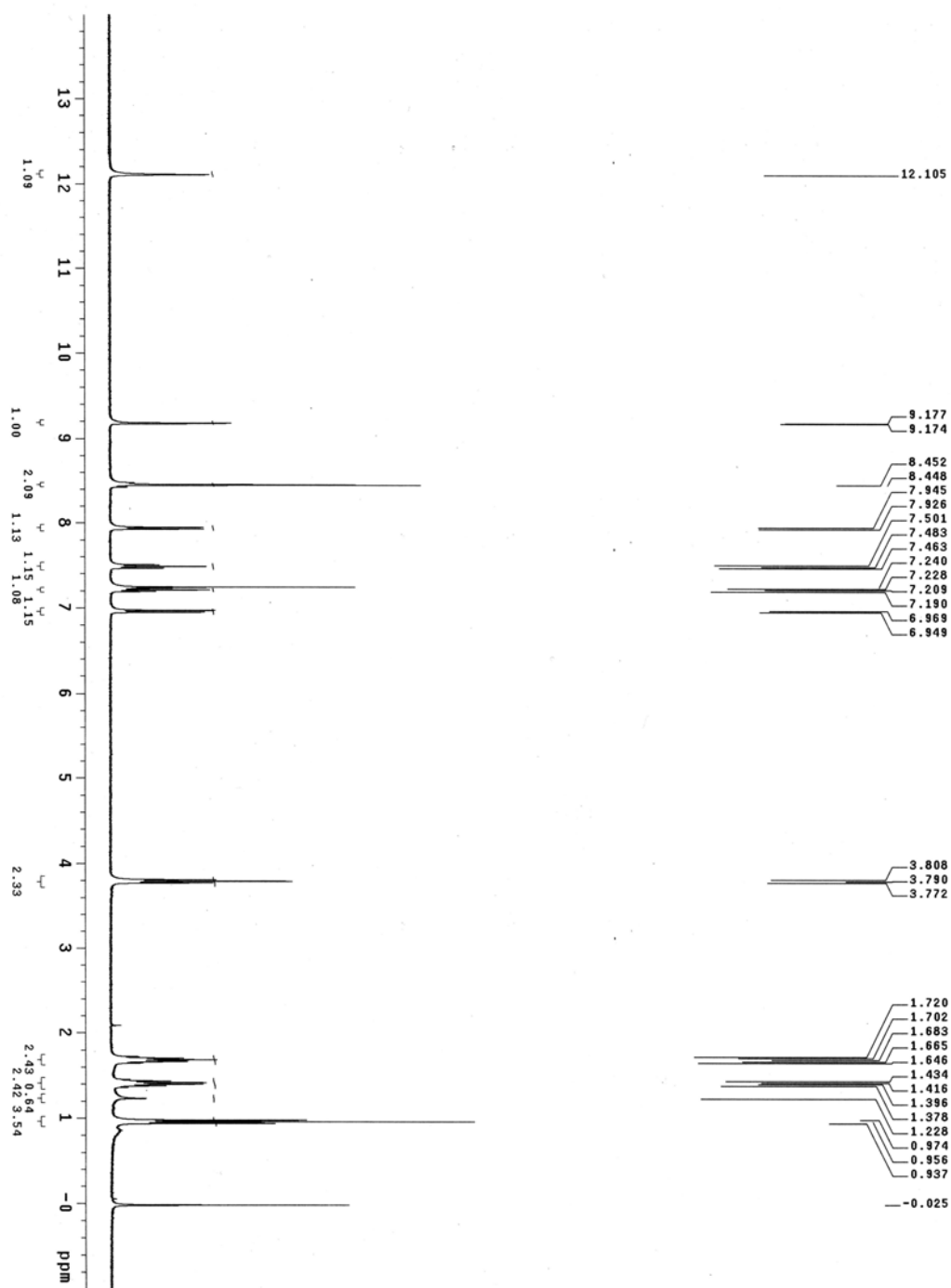


## 8. $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of 1, 2 and 3

### $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of 1 ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)

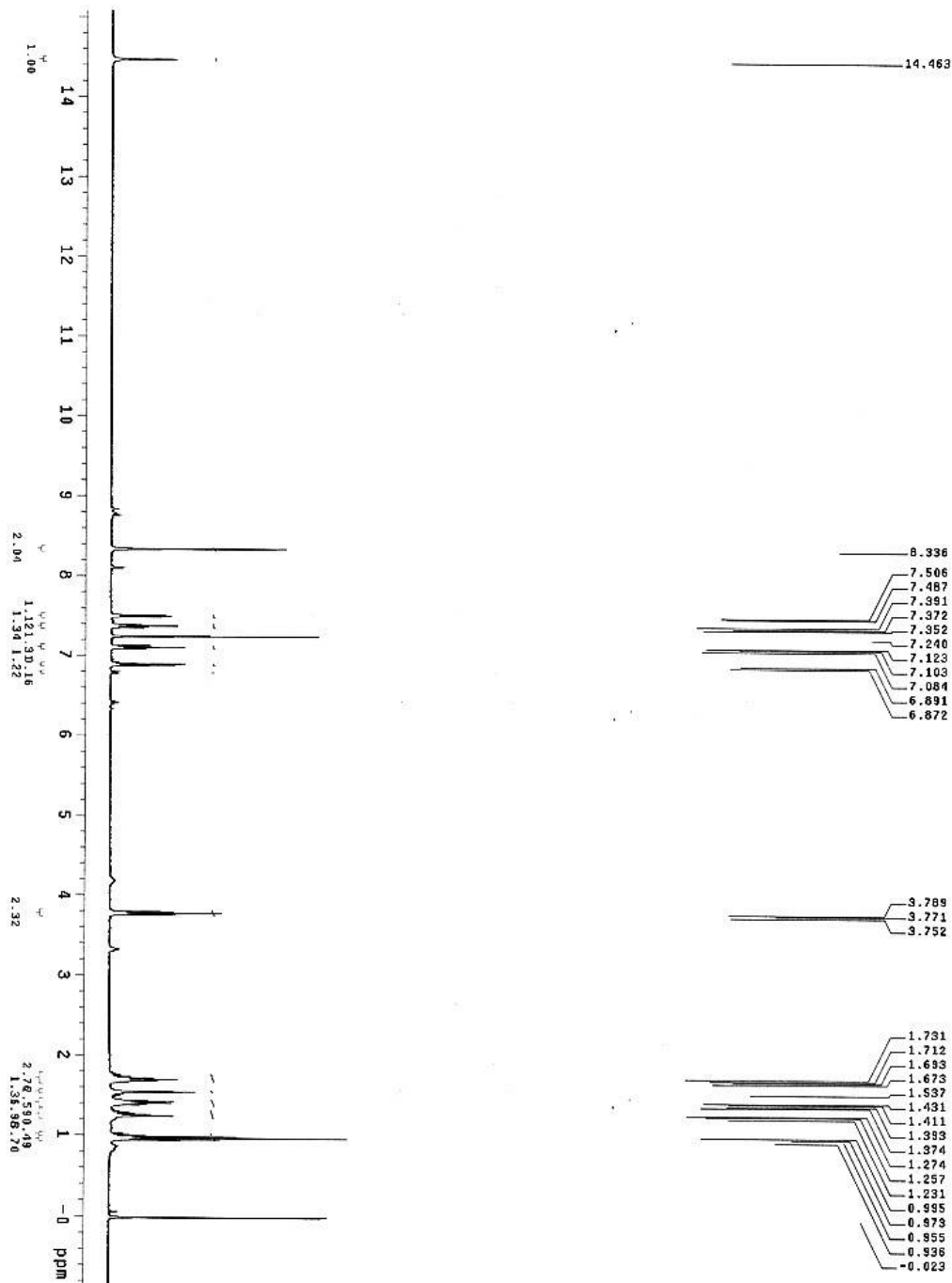


**$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of 2 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)**



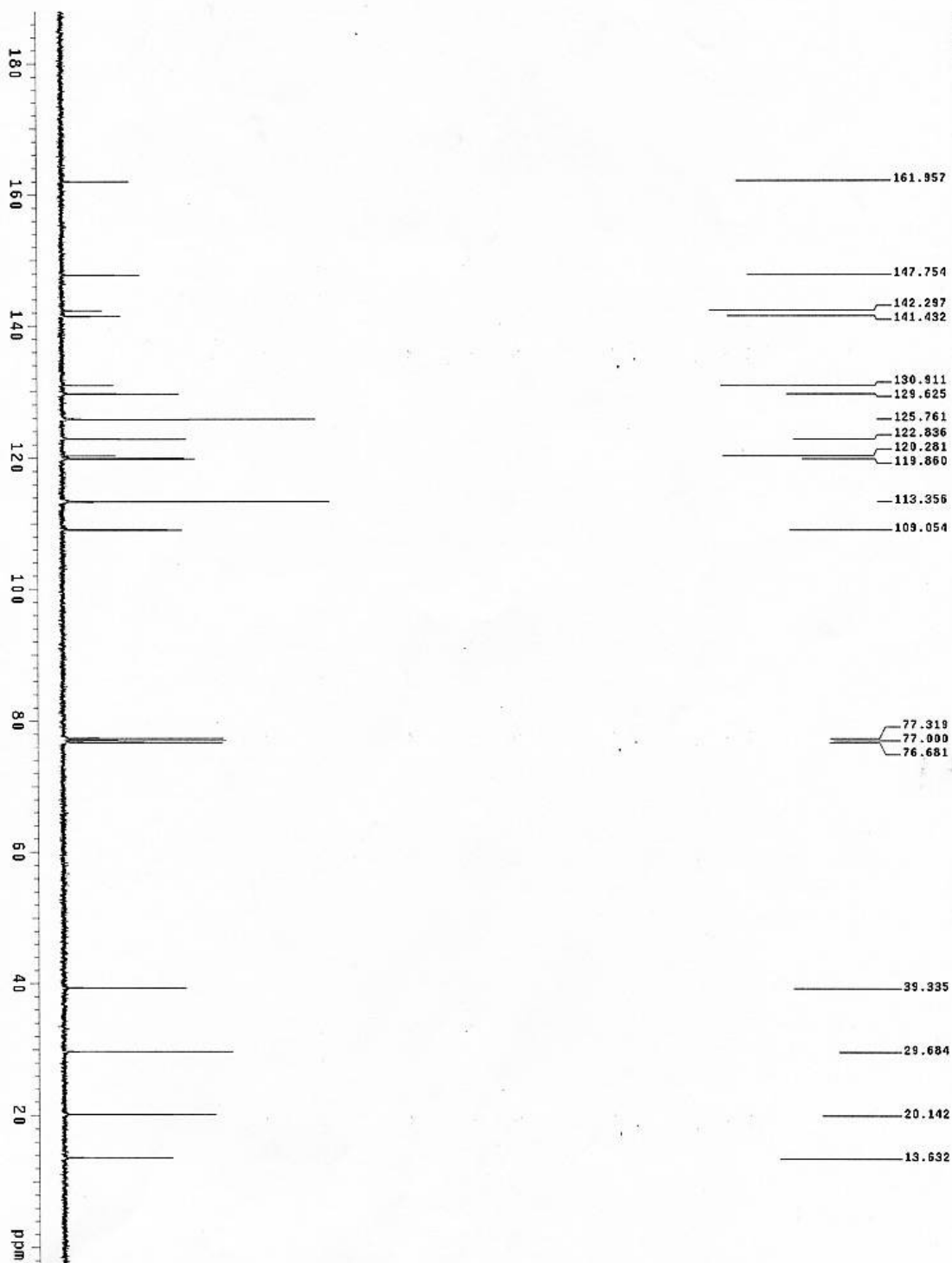


**$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of 3 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)**

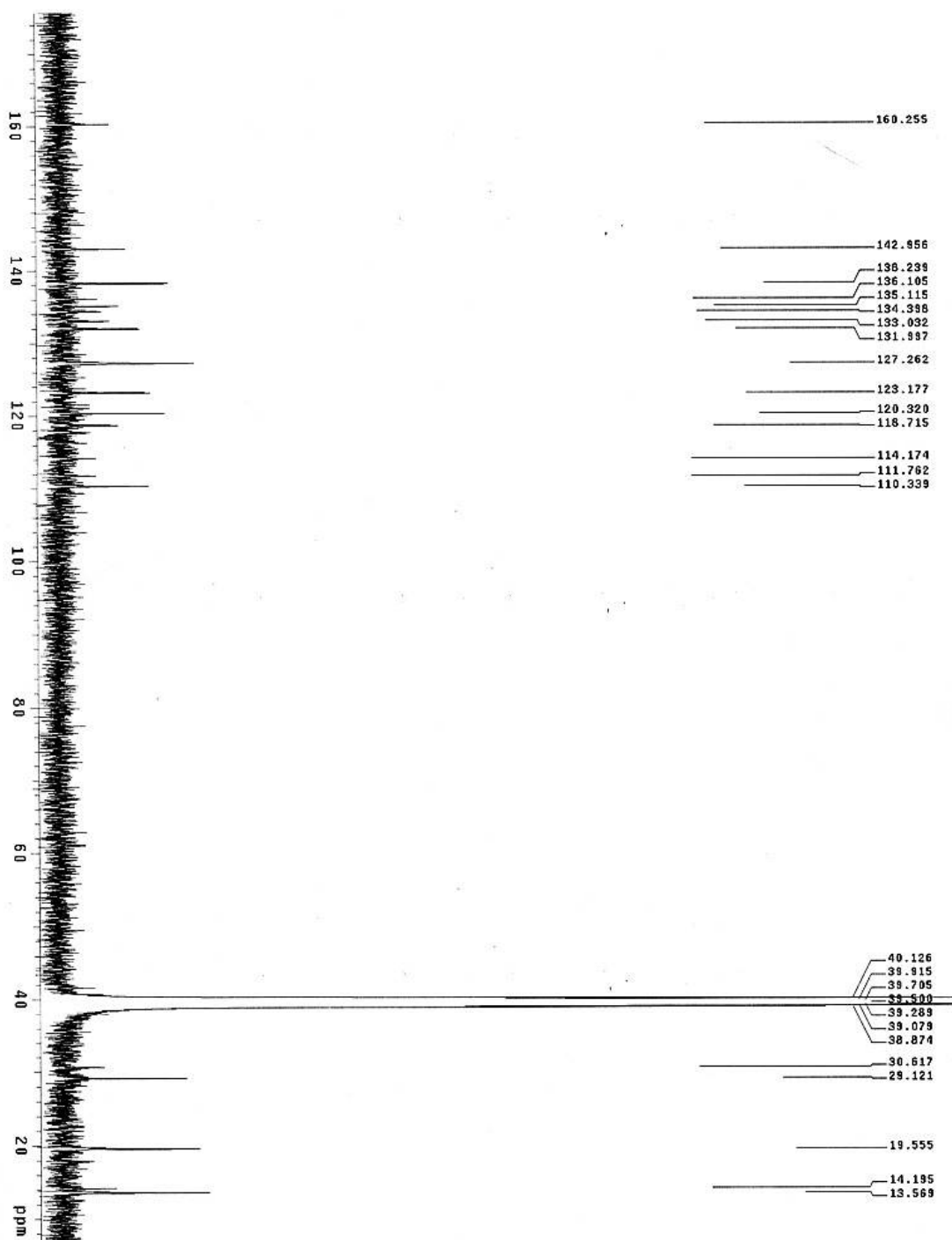


## 9. $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of 1 and 3

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of 1 ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of 3 (DMSO- $d_6$ , 400 MHz)



## 10. IR spectra of 2

