

# Competition Studies in Alkyne Electrophilic Cyclization Reactions

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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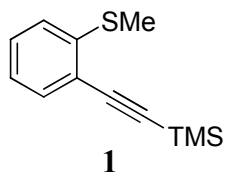
**General.** The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded at 300 and 75.5 MHz or 400 and 100 MHz respectively. Thin layer chromatography was performed using commercially prepared 60-mesh silica gel plates and visualization was effected with short wavelength UV light (254 nm). DCM was distilled over  $\text{CaH}_2$ . Anhydrous MeCN was used as received. Purification of the compounds has been performed by column chromatography. All melting points are uncorrected.

**Reagents.** All reagents were used directly as obtained commercially unless otherwise noted.

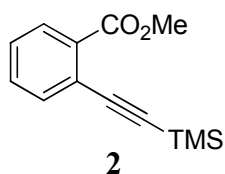
**Preparation of the non-commercial aryl iodides.** 2-Iodophenyl methyl selenide was prepared using a modified literature procedure.<sup>1</sup> In a 100 ml round bottom flask, 8.0 mmol of the 2-iodoaniline was dissolved in 5 ml of  $\text{HBF}_4$  (48% solution) and the mixture was stirred for 15 min and then allowed to cool to 0 °C. To this solution, an aqueous solution of  $\text{NaNO}_2$  (8.0 mmol in 3 mL of water) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, filtered and washed with cold ethanol. The diazonium salt was dried under vacuum and used for the next step without purification. A suspension of 8.0 mmol of the crude diazonium salt in 25 mL of  $\text{CHCl}_3$  containing 10 mol % of 18-crown-6 and 9.0 mmol of dimethyl diselenide was stirred at 0 °C. To this mixture, 16 mmol of KOAc was added in small portions over a period of 10 min and the resulting solution was allowed to stir for 4 h and then filtered. The solid residue was washed with chloroform and the resulting filtrate was washed with water (2 x 5 mL), dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product obtained was then purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/hexanes as the eluent. The product was obtained as a yellow oil (yield =

35%) with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>1</sup> *N*-Phenyl-2-iodobenzamide<sup>2</sup> and *N,N*-dimethyl-2-iodoaniline<sup>3</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures.

### Preparation of the TMS-protected alkynes.

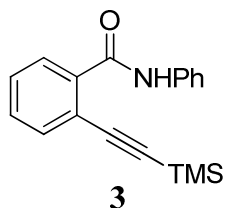


***o*-(Trimethylsilylethynyl)thioanisole (1).** This compound was prepared according to a modified literature procedure.<sup>4</sup> To a solution of *o*-iodothioanisole (5.0 mmol), PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (0.07 g, 2 mol %), and CuI (0.01 g, 1 mol %) in TEA (20 mL) (stirring for 5 min beforehand), 6.0 mmol of trimethylsilylacetylene (1.2 equiv) in 5 mL of TEA was added dropwise over 15 min. The reaction flask was flushed with argon and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The resulting solution was filtered, washed with brine, and extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 10 mL). The combined ether fractions were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under vacuum to yield the crude product. Purification by flash chromatography afforded the product (yield = 97%) as a yellow oil with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>4</sup>

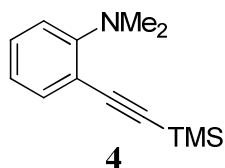


**Methyl 2-(trimethylsilylethynyl)benzoate (2).** This compound was prepared using the procedure (reaction time: 15 h) used for compound **1**. After flash chromatography, the

compound was isolated as a colorless oil (yield = 100%) with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>5</sup>



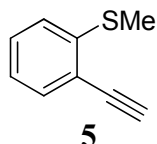
***N*-Phenyl 2-(trimethylsilylethynyl)benzamide (3).** To a solution of the iodobenzamide (5.0 mmol) in DMF (20 ml) were added PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (3 mol %), CuI (2 mol%) and DIPA (4 equiv). A solution of trimethylsilylacetylene (1.3 equiv) in 5 ml of DMF was added dropwise and the resulting mixture was then heated under an N<sub>2</sub> atm at 65 °C. After 4 h of stirring, the mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and 25 ml of satd aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and 25 ml of ethyl acetate were added. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was back extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine and water and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the product (80%) as a colorless solid with spectral properties identical to those previously reported:<sup>6</sup> mp 96-97 °C (lit. mp<sup>6</sup> 95-96 °C).



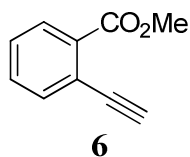
***N,N*-Dimethyl-2-(trimethylsilylethynyl)aniline (4).** This compound was prepared according to a literature procedure.<sup>7</sup> Purification by flash chromatography afforded the

product as a yellow oil (yield = 74%) with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>7</sup>

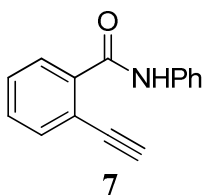
### Preparation of the terminal alkynes.



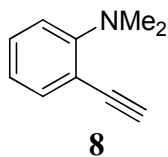
**2-Ethynylthioanisole (5).** A modified literature procedure<sup>8</sup> was used to prepare this compound. A solution of KOH (0.45 g, 8.0 mmol, 2 equiv) in 2 mL of water was added dropwise to *o*-(trimethylsilylethynyl)thioanisole (0.88 g, 4.0 mmol) in 20 mL of CH<sub>3</sub>OH under an argon atmosphere at 25 °C. The mixture was stirred for another 0.5 h at 25 °C, and the CH<sub>3</sub>OH was removed under vacuum. The residue was added to 20 mL of brine, and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under vacuum. Purification by flash chromatography afforded the product (yield = 86%) as a yellow oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.49 (s, 3H), 3.47 (s, 1H), 7.08 (td, *J* = 0.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (td, *J* = 1.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 15.3, 81.2, 83.7, 120.3, 124.38, 124.41, 129.5, 133.3, 142.0; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3288, 3049, 2922, 2102, 1436; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>S: 148.0347. Found: 148.0334.



**Methyl 2-ethynylbenzoate (6).** A modified literature procedure was used.<sup>5</sup> To a solution of compound **2** (4.0 mmol) in methanol (20 mL), KF·2H<sub>2</sub>O (2.26 g, 24 mmol, 6 equiv) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 36 h at 25 °C. After the reaction was over, methanol was removed under vacuum and the residue was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL), washed with 0.1M HCl and brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under vacuum. Purification by flash chromatography afforded the product (yield = 82%) as a colorless oil with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>5</sup>



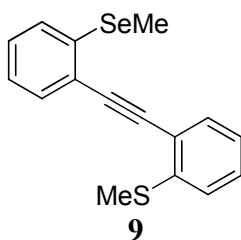
**N-Phenyl-2-ethynylbenzamide (7).** This compound was prepared according to the modified literature procedure used for compound **6** above, except that the reaction time was 0.5 h.<sup>5</sup> Purification by flash chromatography afforded the product (yield = 89%) as a yellow solid: mp 95-98 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.57 (s, 1H), 7.11-7.16 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.55-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.96-7.99 (m, 1H), 9.02 (br s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 82.0, 84.4, 118.6, 120.1, 124.7, 129.2, 129.7, 130.0, 130.9, 134.2, 136.9, 138.1, 164.4; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3295, 3054, 2305, 1672, 1265; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO: 221.08406. Found: 221.08437.



***N,N*-Dimethyl-2-ethynylaniline (8).** This compound was prepared according to a literature procedure.<sup>7</sup> Purification by flash chromatography afforded the product as a yellow oil (yield = 65%) with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>7</sup>

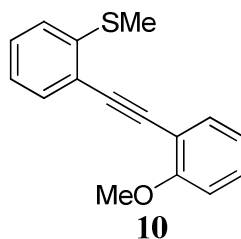
### Preparation of the diarylalkynes.

**General procedure used for the Sonogashira Coupling.** The following procedure has been used for the preparation of all of the diarylalkynes. Slight modifications were made wherever required (Table 2). To a solution of iodoarene (1.0 mmol), PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (0.014 g, 2 mol %), and CuI (0.002 g, 1 mol %) in TEA (4 mL) (stirring for 5 min beforehand), 1.2 mmol of trimethylsilylacetylene (1.2 equiv) in 1 mL of TEA was added dropwise over 10 min. The reaction flask was flushed with argon and the mixture was stirred at the indicated temperature for the indicated time (Table 2). After the reaction was over, the resulting solution was filtered, washed with brine, and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 10 mL). The combined extracts were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under vacuum to yield the crude product. Purification was performed by flash chromatography.

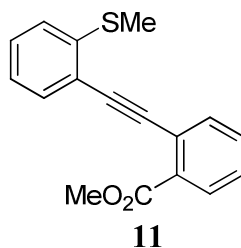


**2-[(2-(Methylselenenyl)phenyl)ethynyl]thioanisole (9).** The product was obtained as a white solid: mp 105-107 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 7.10-7.19 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.5, 15.5, 92.6, 94.2, 121.4, 123.7, 124.3, 124.4, 125.3, 127.5, 129.10, 129.11,

132.77, 132.81, 136.5, 141.8; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3053, 2986, 2305, 1266; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>SSe: 317.99814. Found: 317.99874.



**2-[(2-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl]thioanisole (10).** The product was obtained as a white solid: mp 117-119 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.52 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 6.89-6.96 (m, 2H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.56 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 15.4, 56.1, 91.1, 92.5, 110.9, 112.6, 120.6, 122.0, 124.41, 124.43, 128.7, 130.1, 132.5, 133.8, 141.7, 160.1; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3053, 2986, 2305, 1265; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>OS: 254.07654. Found: 254.07689.

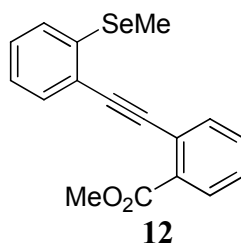


**Methyl 2-[(2-(methylthio)phenyl)ethynyl]benzoate (11).** The product was obtained as a colorless solid: mp 73-75 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.49 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 15.2, 52.4, 91.9, 94.6, 121.4, 123.6, 124.1, 124.3, 128.1, 129.1, 130.5, 131.6, 131.8, 132.8, 134.4, 141.9, 166.8; IR (in

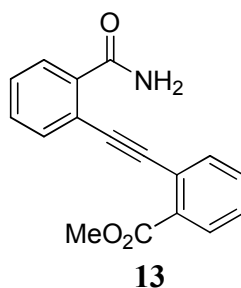


CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3054, 2986, 2305, 1727, 1265; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: 282.07145.

Found: 282.07178.

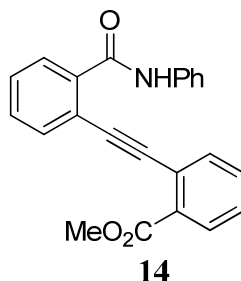


**Methyl 2-[(2-(methylselenenyl)phenyl)ethynyl]benzoate (12).** The product was obtained as a yellow gel: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.37 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 7.14-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.73 (dd, *J* = 0.9, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (dd, *J* = 0.9, 7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.3, 52.5, 92.9, 93.9, 123.7, 123.9, 125.4, 127.6, 128.3, 129.3, 130.6, 131.8, 131.9, 132.9, 134.5, 136.7, 166.9; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3053, 2928, 2305, 1729, 1262; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Se: 330.01590. Found: 330.01629.

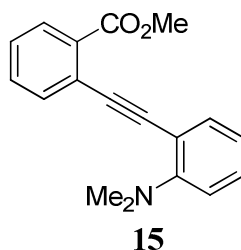


**Methyl 2-[(2-carbamoylphenyl)ethynyl]benzoate (13).** The product was obtained as a colorless solid: mp 122-124 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.93 (s, 3H), 6.48 (br s, 1H), 7.39-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.65-7.70 (m, 2H), 8.03 (dt, *J* = 0.9, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.21-8.24 (m, 1H), 8.37 (br s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 52.6, 92.7, 94.6, 120.3, 123.2, 128.8, 129.2, 130.75, 130.82, 130.9, 131.0, 132.3, 134.2, 134.3, 134.7, 166.3, 167.8; IR (in

CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3486, 3370, 3054, 2987, 2305, 1722, 1670; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: 279.08954. Found: 279.08994.

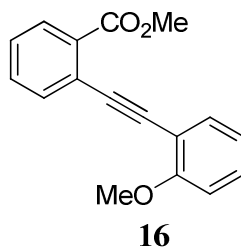


**Methyl 2-[(2-(phenylcarbamoyl)phenyl)ethynyl]benzoate (14).** The product was obtained as a yellow solid: mp 117-119 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.78 (s, 3H), 7.10-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.44 (td, *J* = 1.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.60-7.63 (m, 3H), 7.69-7.71 (m, 1H), 8.03-8.05 (m, 1H), 8.16-8.19 (m, 1H), 9.45 (br s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 52.5, 92.1, 95.2, 119.8, 121.4, 123.0, 124.7, 128.96, 129.03, 129.4, 130.8, 131.0, 131.1, 131.5, 132.4, 133.9, 134.3, 135.9, 138.2, 164.7, 166.2; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3350, 3053, 2985, 2306, 1719, 1665, 1265; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: 355.12084. Found: 355.12145.

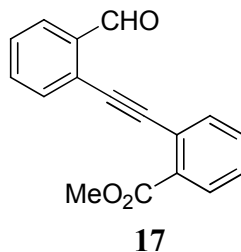


**Methyl 2-[(2-(dimethylamino)phenyl)ethynyl]benzoate (15).** The product was obtained as a yellow oil (strongly fluorescent under UV): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.00 (s, 6H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 6.86-6.91 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.32 (td, *J* = 1.5, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (td, *J* = 1.5, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dt, *J* = 0.6, 7.8

Hz, 1H), 7.95 (dd,  $J = 1.5, 7.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  43.6, 52.2, 93.6, 94.1, 114.9, 116.8, 120.4, 124.4, 127.6, 129.6, 130.5, 131.5, 131.7, 133.7, 134.9, 154.7, 166.9; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2948, 2835, 2207, 1728, 1251; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2$ : 279.12593. Found: 279.12658.

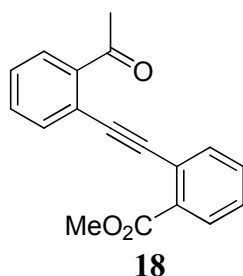


**Methyl 2-[(2-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl]benzoate (16).** The product was obtained as a light brown solid: mp 62-64 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.89 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 6.86-6.96 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.45 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  52.3, 56.0, 91.2, 92.5, 111.0, 112.8, 120.7, 124.2, 128.0, 130.3, 130.6, 131.8, 131.9, 134.1, 134.3, 160.3, 167.1; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3054, 2951, 2838, 2306, 2216, 1716, 1270; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3$ : 266.09429. Found: 266.09468.

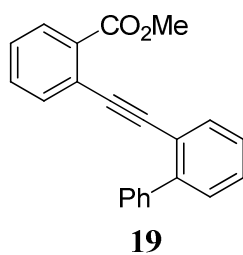


**Methyl 2-[(2-formylphenyl)ethynyl]benzoate (17).** The product was obtained as a white solid that turned gray upon exposure to air: mp 87-89 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,

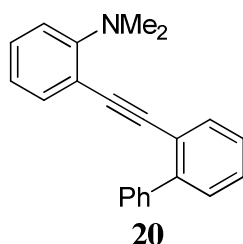
CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.95 (s, 3H), 7.40-7.61 (m, 4H), 7.67-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.95-8.03 (m, 2H), 10.76 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  52.6, 90.1, 95.1, 123.1, 127.16, 127.24, 128.9, 129.0, 130.9, 131.9, 132.1, 133.6, 133.9, 134.5, 136.5, 166.4, 192.6; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3054, 2987, 2306, 1727, 1696, 1264; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 264.07864. Found: 264.07909.



**Methyl 2-[(2-acetylphenyl)ethynyl]benzoate (18).** The product was obtained as an orange solid: mp 68-70 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.79 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 7.36-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.76 (m, 3H), 7.96 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  29.8, 52.1, 93.2, 93.7, 121.6, 123.3, 128.2, 128.4, 128.6, 130.4, 131.2, 131.5, 131.7, 133.9, 134.1, 140.3, 166.2, 199.9; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3055, 2952, 2305, 1730, 1678, 1270; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 278.09429. Found: 278.09473.

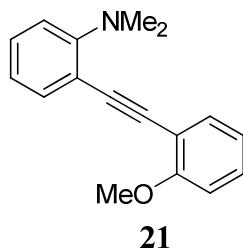


**Methyl 2-(biphenyl-2-ylethynyl)benzoate (19).** The product was obtained as a colorless solid: mp 67-69 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.82 (s, 3H), 7.29-7.47 (m, 9H), 7.68-7.74 (m, 3H), 7.92 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  52.3, 91.2, 94.5, 121.8, 124.1, 127.3, 127.7, 128.0, 128.2, 129.1, 129.67, 129.73, 130.6, 131.77, 131.82, 133.7, 134.1, 140.7, 144.0, 166.9; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3053, 2987, 2303, 2212, 1727, 1268; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$ : 312.11503. Found: 312.11564.

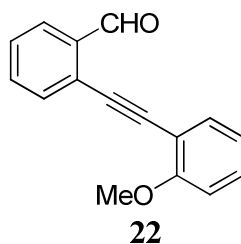


***N,N*-Dimethyl-2-(biphenyl-2-ylethynyl)aniline (20).** This compound was obtained in a 35% yield following the general procedure mentioned above. The following slightly modified literature procedure resulted in a significantly increased yield.<sup>9</sup> *N,N*-Dimethyl-2-iodoaniline (2.0 mmol), 42 mg of  $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$  (0.06 mmol, 3.0 mol %), and 12 mg of  $\text{CuI}$  (0.06 mmol, 3.0 mol %) were placed in a dry reaction flask. Next, 5 mL of toluene and 0.6 mL of diisopropylamine were added to the flask, followed by 0.22 g of 2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol (2.6 mmol, 1.3 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C under argon for 1 h. As monitored by TLC, the first acetylene coupling was complete. The reaction temperature of the oil bath was increased to 110 °C, and 96 mg of  $\text{NaH}$  (120 mg of 80% dispersion, 4.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added slowly to the mixture. After 5 min of stirring, 0.560 g (2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) of 2-iodobiphenyl was added to the reaction mixture, and the stirring was continued. After 25 min, 48 mg of  $\text{NaH}$  (another 60 mg portion of 80% dispersion) (2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added carefully, and the solution

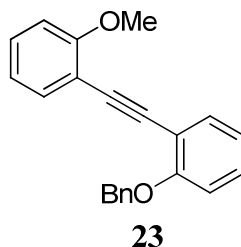
was stirred at 110 °C for 1 h. After cooling to room temperature, the suspension was filtered, and the separated amine-hydrochloride was washed with toluene. Evaporation of the combined toluene solution gave a crude product, which was purified by column chromatography using hexane-ethyl acetate mixtures to afford the product as a yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.79 (s, 6H), 6.78-6.85 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.45 (m, 9H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  43.4, 91.8, 94.6, 115.4, 116.9, 120.4, 122.4, 127.2, 127.5, 128.1, 128.4, 129.3, 129.6, 129.7, 132.9, 134.4, 140.9, 143.6, 154.6; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3051, 2984, 2304, 2207, 1269; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}$ : 297.15175. Found: 297.15210.



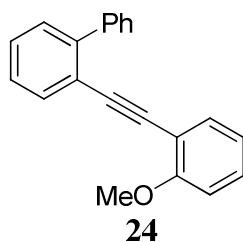
***N,N*-Dimethyl-2-[(2-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl]aniline (21)**. The product was obtained as a green liquid (fluorescent under UV):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.01 (s, 6H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 6.86-6.94 (m, 4H), 7.20-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.53 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  43.8, 55.9, 91.5, 93.1, 110.8, 113.4, 115.7, 117.1, 120.59, 120.64, 129.3, 129.6, 133.3, 134.6, 154.8, 160.2; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3054, 2986, 2305, 1265; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$ : 251.13101. Found: 251.13138.



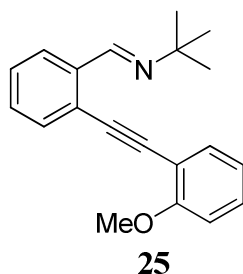
**2-[(2-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl]benzaldehyde (22).** The product was obtained as a colorless solid: mp 82-84 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.91 (s, 3H), 6.90-6.98 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.94 (dd,  $J = 1.2, 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 10.74 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.9, 89.2, 93.2, 110.8, 111.7, 120.7, 127.1, 127.5, 128.5, 130.7, 133.1, 133.4, 133.8, 136.0, 160.5, 192.7; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3053, 2987, 2305, 2215, 1694, 1271; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2$ : 236.08373. Found: 236.08409.



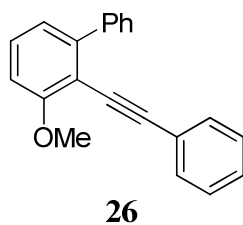
**1-Benzyloxy-2-[(2-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl]benzene (23).** The product was obtained as a white solid: mp 77-79 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.80 (s, 3H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 6.85-6.95 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.35 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.55 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  56.0, 70.6, 90.1, 90.3, 110.9, 113.0, 113.1, 113.9, 120.6, 121.0, 127.2, 127.8, 128.5, 129.6, 129.7, 133.6, 133.7, 137.3, 159.3, 160.0; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3052, 2984, 2306, 1266; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ : 314.13068. Found: 314.13110.



**2-[(2-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl]biphenyl (24).** The product was obtained as a white solid: mp 69-71 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.78 (s, 3H), 6.78-6.86 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.45 (m, 8H), 7.66-7.72 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  56.0, 89.1, 93.6, 111.0, 113.0, 120.7, 122.2, 127.2, 127.6, 128.1, 128.6, 129.7, 129.8, 129.9, 133.4, 133.6, 140.8, 143.9, 160.2; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3052, 2965, 2304, 2212, 1263; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}$ : 284.12012. Found: 284.12065.



***N*-[2-((2-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)benzylidene]-2-methylpropan-2-amine (25).** The compound was prepared according to the literature procedure as a yellow oil and the spectral properties were found to be identical to those previously reported.<sup>8</sup>





**3-Methoxy-2-(phenylethynyl)biphenyl (26).** The product was obtained as yellow gel:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.97 (s, 3H), 6.91 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.46 (m, 6H), 7.65 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  56.4, 85.6, 97.1, 109.4, 111.3, 122.1, 124.0, 127.7, 128.0, 128.1, 128.3, 129.3, 129.7, 131.5, 140.7, 146.1, 160.6; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3052, 2986, 2305, 1265; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}$ : 284.12012. Found: 284.12053.

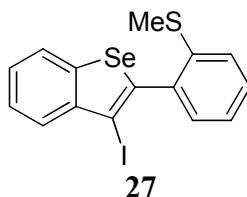
### **Electrophilic cyclization of the diarylalkynes.**

**General procedure for iodocyclization.** To a solution of 0.25 mmol of the diarylalkyne in 3 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was added gradually the  $\text{I}_2/\text{ICl}$  (amounts as indicated in Table 3) in 2 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The reaction mixture was flushed with argon and allowed to stir at 25 °C for the indicated time (the reaction was monitored by TLC for completion). The excess  $\text{I}_2/\text{ICl}$  was removed by washing with satd aq  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ . The mixture was then extracted by EtOAc or diethyl ether (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated under vacuum to yield the crude product, which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel with ethyl acetate/hexanes as the eluent.

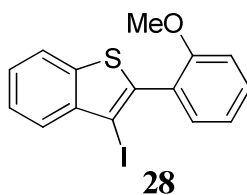
**General procedure for the PhSeCl cyclizations.** To a solution of 0.25 mmol of the diarylalkyne in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 mL) was added the PhSeCl (amount as indicated in Table 3) in 2 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The mixture was flushed with argon and allowed to stir at 25 °C for the indicated time. The reaction mixture was washed with 20 mL of water and extracted with EtOAc or diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$

and concentrated under vacuum to yield the crude product, which was further purified by flash chromatography on silica gel with ethyl acetate/hexanes as the eluent.

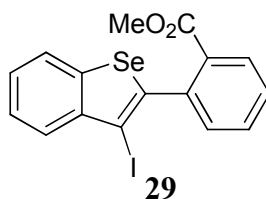
**General procedure for bromocyclization.** To a solution of 0.25 mmol of the diarylalkyne in 3 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added gradually 1.2 equiv of NBS dissolved in 2 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 25 °C for 1-4 h. The excess NBS was removed by washing with satd aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The mixture was then extracted by diethyl ether (2 x 10 mL). The combined ether layers were dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under vacuum to yield the crude product, which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/hexanes as the eluent.



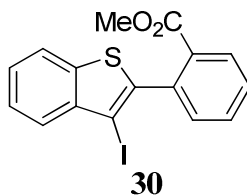
**3-Iodo-2-(2-methylsulfonylphenyl)benzo[*b*]selenophene (27).** The product was obtained as a white solid: mp 116-118 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.43 (s, 3H), 7.24-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.85-7.90 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 16.0, 87.2, 124.7, 125.2, 125.6, 125.9, 126.1, 128.8, 129.8, 131.0, 135.6, 139.3, 141.4, 142.9, 143.1; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3054, 2986, 2925, 1264; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ISse: 429.87914. Found: 429.88004.



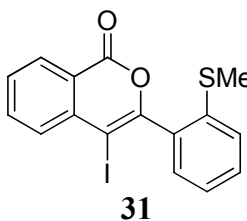
**3-Iodo-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)benzo[b]thiophene (28).** The product was obtained as a yellow solid: mp 104-106 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.83 (s, 3H), 7.00-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.45 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.79 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.8, 82.9, 111.6, 120.6, 122.3, 123.7, 125.3, 125.4, 126.1, 130.9, 132.7, 139.6, 139.8, 141.4, 157.3; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3052, 2980, 1432, 1264; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{IOS}$ : 365.95764. Found: 365.95825.



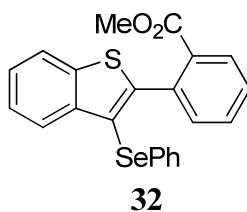
**Methyl 2-(3-iodobenzo[b]selenophen-2-yl)benzoate (29).** The product was obtained as a white solid: mp 113-115 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.69 (s, 3H), 7.32-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.60 (td,  $J = 1.2, 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 8.04 (dd,  $J = 1.2, 7.6$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  52.6, 85.3, 125.3, 125.8, 125.9, 128.6, 129.1, 130.7, 131.2, 131.9, 132.2, 138.2, 140.9, 142.8, 144.2, 167.1; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3054, 2984, 1727, 1266; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{IO}_2\text{Se}$ : 441.89690. Found: 441.89743.



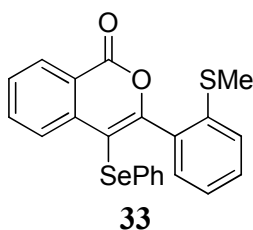
**Methyl 2-(3-iodobenzo[*b*]thiophen-2-yl)benzoate (30).** The product was obtained as a colorless solid: mp 111-115 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.68 (s, 3H), 7.38-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.81 (m, 2H), 8.05 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  52.6, 82.2, 122.3, 125.5, 125.6, 126.0, 129.4, 130.8, 131.7, 132.0, 132.6, 135.9, 139.4, 141.1, 142.2, 167.1; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3053, 2952, 1729, 1264; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{IO}_2\text{S}$ : 393.95245. Found: 393.95324.



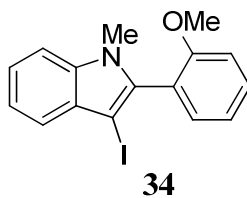
**4-Iodo-3-[2-(methylthio)phenyl]isocoumarin (31).** The product was obtained as a colorless solid: mp 128-130 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.48 (s, 3H), 7.28 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.46 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.82-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  16.7, 80.1, 120.7, 125.4, 127.1, 129.7, 130.1, 130.5, 130.8, 131.3, 135.5, 135.9, 137.8, 138.9, 154.6, 161.9; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3054, 2987, 1735, 1264; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{IO}_2\text{S}$ : 393.95245. Found: 393.95324.



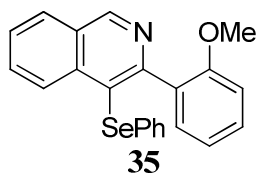
**Methyl 2-[3-(phenylselenenyl)benzo[*b*]thiophen-2-yl]benzoate (32).** The product was obtained as a yellow gel:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.59 (s, 3H), 7.07-7.12 (m, 5H), 7.36-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.48-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.80-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.97-8.00 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  52.3, 118.0, 122.3, 125.0, 125.16, 125.19, 126.2, 129.07, 129.11, 130.0, 130.05, 131.5, 131.8, 132.2, 132.8, 135.2, 139.7, 141.1, 147.9, 167.2; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3055, 2987, 1727, 1263; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{SSe}$ : 424.00362. Found: 424.00442.



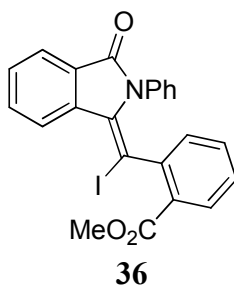
**3-[2-(Methylthio)phenyl]-4-(phenylselenenyl)isocoumarin (33).** The product was obtained as a white solid: mp 111-113  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.43 (s, 3H), 7.13-7.23 (m, 6H), 7.29-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.72 (m, 1H), 8.00 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.37 (dd,  $J = 0.8, 8.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  16.8, 108.0, 121.4, 125.1, 126.7, 126.9, 128.2, 129.1, 129.4, 129.9, 130.0, 130.2, 130.5, 131.5, 134.2, 135.5, 137.9, 139.1, 158.3, 162.1; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3056, 2987, 1743, 1262; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{SSe}$ : 424.00362. Found: 424.00442.



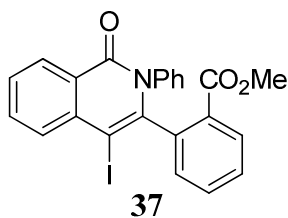
**3-Iodo-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-methylindole (34).** The product was obtained as a white oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.60 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 7.04 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.50 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  31.8, 55.8, 59.4, 109.8, 111.4, 120.4, 120.77, 120.79, 121.5, 122.7, 130.4, 131.1, 133.6, 137.6, 139.5, 158.0; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3053, 2939, 1465, 1265; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{INO}$ : 363.01202. Found: 363.01255.



**3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-4-(phenylselenyl)isoquinoline (35).** The product was obtained as a yellow gel:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.66 (s, 3H), 6.94 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.02-7.05 (m, 6H), 7.35-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.60 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (td,  $J = 1.2, 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 9.36 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.4, 110.6, 120.6, 124.0, 126.1, 127.5, 128.3, 128.46, 128.49, 129.1, 129.8, 130.2, 130.8, 131.6, 131.7, 133.3, 138.1, 153.5, 156.1, 156.9; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3053, 2985, 1265; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{NOSe}$ : 391.04753. Found: 391.04826.



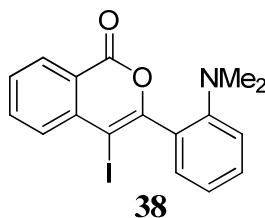
**(E)-Methyl 2-[iodo(3-oxo-2-phenylisoindolin-1-ylidene)methyl]benzoate (36).** The product was obtained as a yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.76 (s, 3H), 7.02 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.18 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.70 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.97-8.02 (m, 2H), 8.81 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  52.4, 71.2, 124.0, 124.7, 125.1, 125.2, 128.5, 128.6, 129.3, 130.7, 130.8, 131.0, 132.0, 132.2, 132.9, 135.1, 141.8, 144.7, 147.5, 151.9, 166.8; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3054, 2986, 1726, 1689, 1265; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{INO}_3$ : 481.01750. Found: 481.01876.



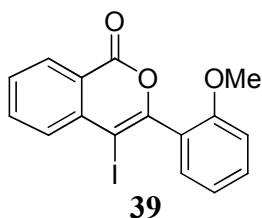
**Methyl 2-(4-iodo-1-oxo-2-phenyl-1,2-dihydroisoquinolin-3-yl)benzoate (37).** The product was obtained as a white solid: mp 112-114  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.79 (s, 3H), 6.98 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.11 (m, 2H), 7.21 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.57-7.68 (m, 3H), 8.04 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  52.7, 76.6, 123.0, 123.9, 124.1, 127.8, 128.7, 129.2, 130.0, 130.1, 130.7, 130.9, 132.1, 132.4, 133.1, 134.5, 137.1, 145.9, 148.7, 153.8, 166.1; IR (in

CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3052, 2985, 1725, 1664, 1263; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>16</sub>INO<sub>3</sub>: 481.01750.

Found: 481.01876.



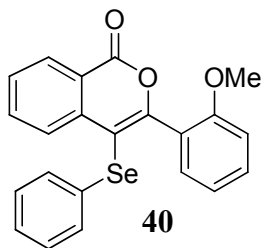
**3-[2-(Dimethylamino)phenyl]-4-iodoisocoumarin (38).** The product was obtained as a light green solid: mp 103-105 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.78 (s, 6H), 6.95-7.02 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.87 (m, 2H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 43.4, 79.5, 117.8, 120.0, 120.2, 126.7, 129.2, 129.9, 131.16, 131.21, 132.2, 135.8, 138.6, 152.0, 156.2, 162.3; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3056, 2989, 1731, 1265; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>INO<sub>2</sub>: 391.00693. Found: 391.00772.



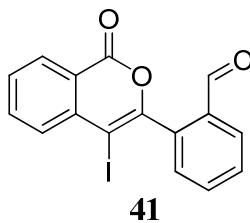
**4-Iodo-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)isocoumarin (39).** The product was obtained as a white solid: mp 166-168 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.85 (s, 3H), 6.96-6.98 (m, 1H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.79-7.85 (m, 2H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.8, 79.8, 111.5, 120.5, 120.6, 125.1, 129.3, 129.9, 131.2, 131.4, 132.0, 135.7, 138.2, 153.8,



157.2, 162.2; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3054, 2928, 1735, 1265; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>11</sub>IO<sub>3</sub>: 377.97530. Found: 377.97601.

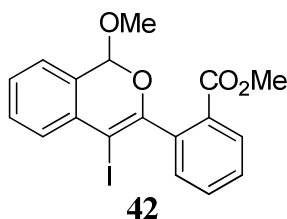


**3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-4-(phenylselenenyl)isocoumarin (40).** The product was obtained as a yellow solid: mp 113-116 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.71 (s, 3H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.15 (m, 3H), 7.19-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.5, 107.7, 111.0, 120.2, 121.2, 123.9, 126.5, 128.0, 128.7, 129.3, 129.6, 129.9, 131.0, 131.6, 131.8, 135.3, 138.2, 157.27, 157.35, 162.4; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3057, 2985, 1735, 1265; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Se: 408.02647. Found: 408.02699.



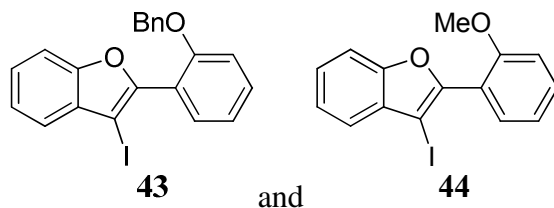
**3-(2-Formylphenyl)-4-iodoisocoumarin (41).** The product was obtained as a white solid: mp 146-148 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.77 (m, 3H), 7.82-7.88 (m, 2H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 10.08 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 79.6, 120.7, 129.9, 130.2, 130.4, 131.0,

131.3, 131.6, 134.1, 134.2, 136.1, 137.3, 137.5, 152.9, 161.3, 190.2; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3054, 2985, 1740, 1706, 1265; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>9</sub>IO<sub>3</sub>: 375.95965. Found: 375.96067.

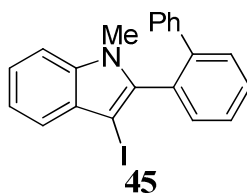


**Methyl 2-(4-iodo-1-methoxy-1H-isochromen-3-yl)benzoate (42).**

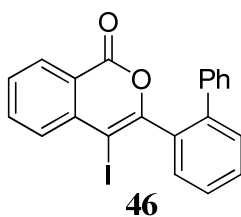
A modified literature procedure was used to prepare this compound.<sup>10</sup> To a solution of the diarylalkyne **15** (0.25 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and methanol (0.3 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5.0 mL), iodine (0.3 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 10 h. The reaction mixture was then quenched with satd aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, extracted using EtOAc and washed with water. The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under vacuum. Following flash column chromatography, compound **36** was isolated as the major product. The compound was unstable and decomposed during rotary evaporation (in order to remove the trace amounts of solvent). The NMR data showing the presence of the compound (note that the attached spectrum shows extra peaks because of the solvent and a slight impurity) is provided here: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 7.21 (dt, *J* = 0.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (td, *J* = 1.2, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.61 (td, *J* = 1.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (dt, *J* = 0.8, 8.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 52.5, 56.0, 74.9, 100.5, 125.7, 127.1, 127.8, 129.0, 129.4, 130.0, 130.4, 130.5, 131.0, 131.3, 132.4, 138.8, 152.3, 166.7.



**2-[2-(Benzyloxy)phenyl]-3-iodobenzofuran (43) and 3-iodo-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)benzofuran (44).** The reaction resulted in a complex inseparable mixture. However, these two products were observed by GC-MS analysis.

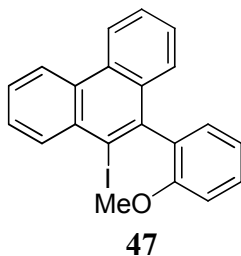


**2-(Biphenyl-2-yl)-3-iodo-1-methylindole (45).** The product was obtained as a yellow gel:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.15 (s, 3H), 7.07-7.09 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.23 (m, 7H), 7.46-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.58 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  31.6, 60.4, 109.8, 120.6, 121.3, 122.6, 127.3, 127.5, 128.4, 128.8, 130.0, 130.2, 130.3, 130.4, 133.4, 137.1, 140.6, 141.7, 142.8; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3052, 2984, 1463, 1265; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{IN}$ : 409.03275. Found: 409.03326.

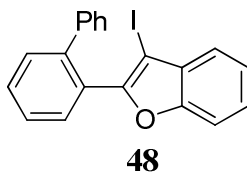


**3-(Biphenyl-2-yl)-4-iodoisocoumarin (46).** The product was obtained as a white solid: mp 132-134  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.22-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.39 (m, 2H),

7.44-7.57 (m, 5H), 7.67-7.75 (m, 2H), 8.22 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  79.8, 120.2, 127.4, 127.6, 128.4, 128.8, 129.4, 129.9, 130.3, 130.5, 130.8, 131.0, 134.6, 135.8, 137.8, 140.2, 142.2, 155.7, 161.5; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3055, 2985, 1736, 1266; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{13}\text{IO}_2$ : 423.99603. Found: 423.99687.

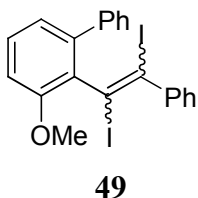


**9-Iodo-10-(2-methoxyphenyl)phenanthrene (47).** The product was obtained as a colorless solid: mp 135-137 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.69 (s, 3H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.70 (m, 3H), 8.44-8.46 (m, 1H), 8.66-8.72 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.9, 107.5, 111.6, 121.0, 122.8, 122.9, 127.2, 127.3, 127.5, 128.0, 128.3, 129.8, 130.5, 130.8, 131.6, 132.4, 132.8, 134.3, 134.7, 142.8, 157.0; IR (in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3052, 2985, 1492, 1266; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{IO}$ : 410.01677. Found: 410.01757.



**2-(Biphenyl-2-yl)-3-iodobenzofuran (48).** The product was obtained as a yellow gel:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.31-7.39 (m, 8H), 7.48-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  65.7, 111.4,

121.6, 123.4, 125.4, 127.17, 127.21, 128.3, 128.5, 128.8, 130.3, 130.6, 131.5, 132.0, 140.9, 142.7, 154.3, 156.0; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3053, 2984, 1449, 1263; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IO: 396.00112. Found: 396.00172.

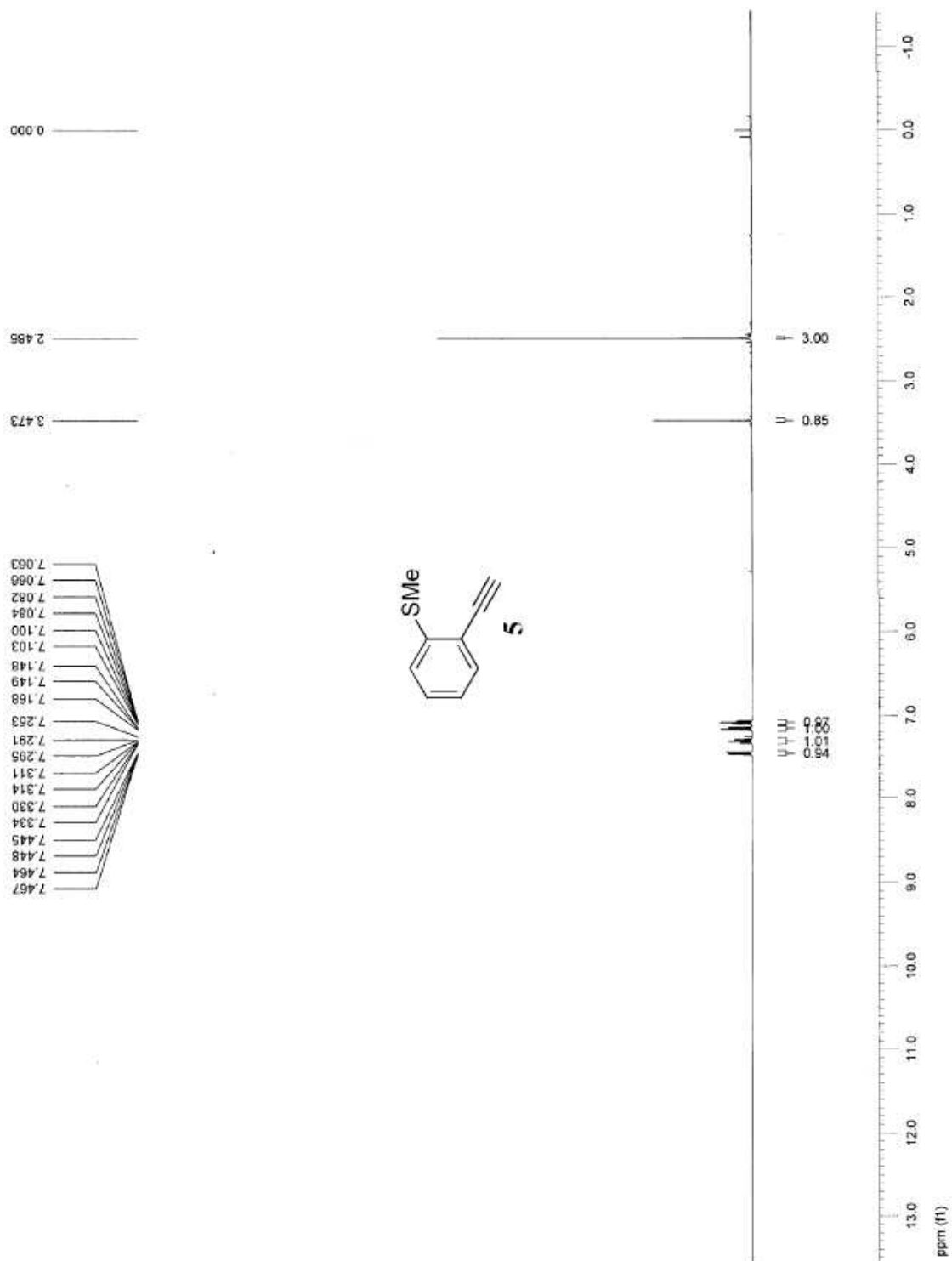


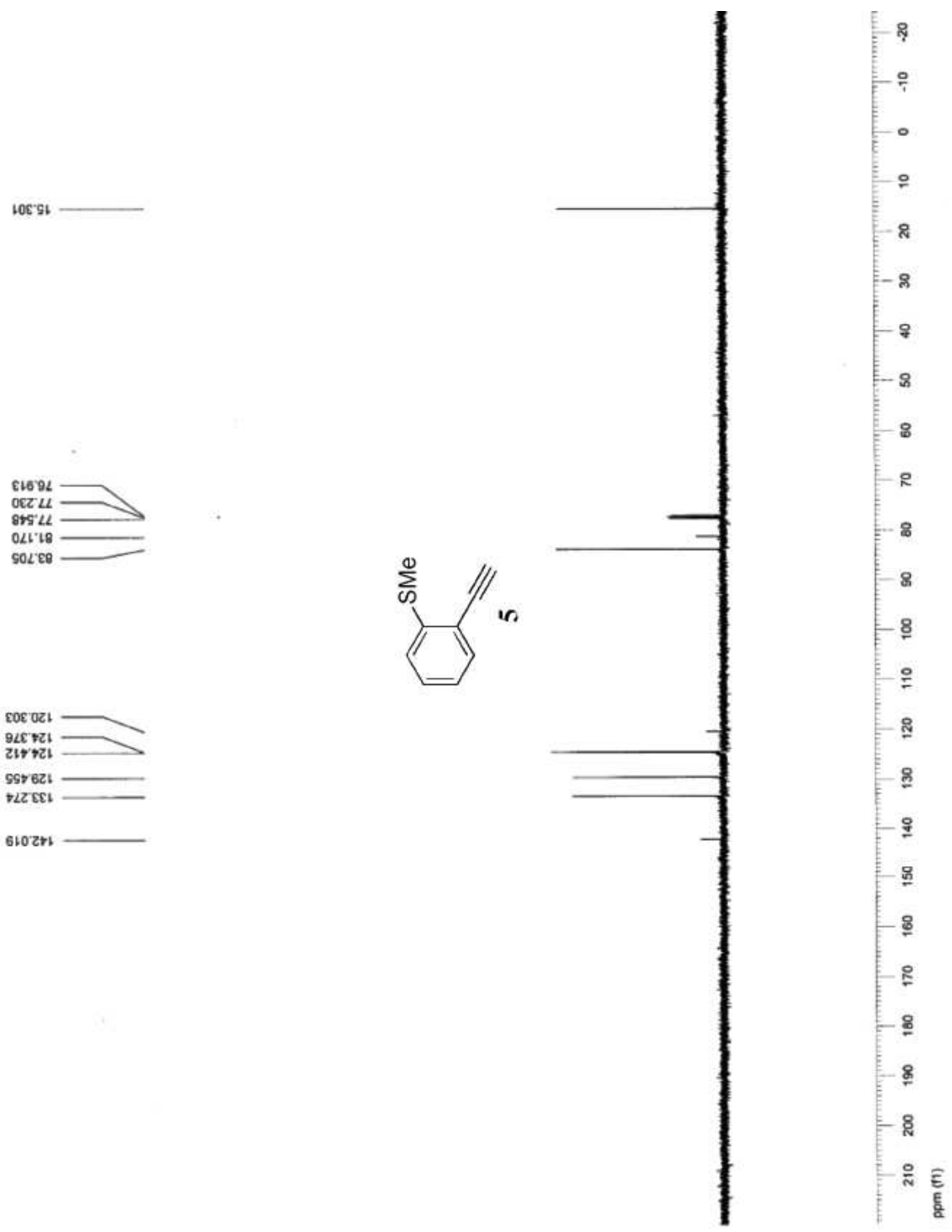
**2-(1,2-Diiodo-2-phenylvinyl)-3-methoxybiphenyl (49).** The product was obtained as a dark yellow solid: mp 102-104 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 4.00 (s, 3H), 6.98-7.01 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 56.4, 95.5, 101.2, 110.7, 123.0, 127.7, 127.9, 128.0, 128.3, 128.5, 129.7, 130.1, 140.5, 141.6, 147.4, 155.6; IR (in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3053, 2986, 1422, 1265; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub>I<sub>2</sub>O: 537.92907. Found: 537.92995.

## References

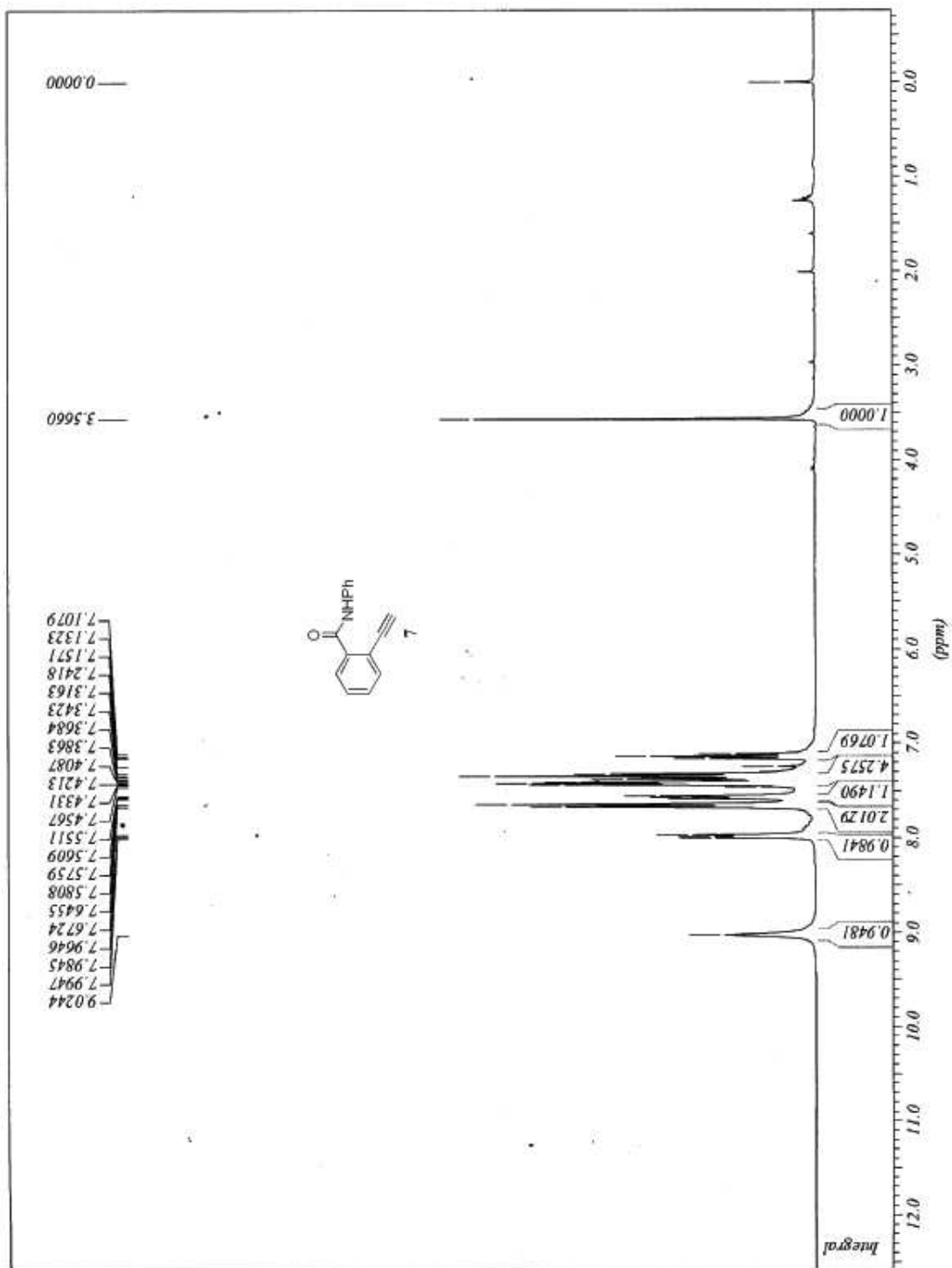
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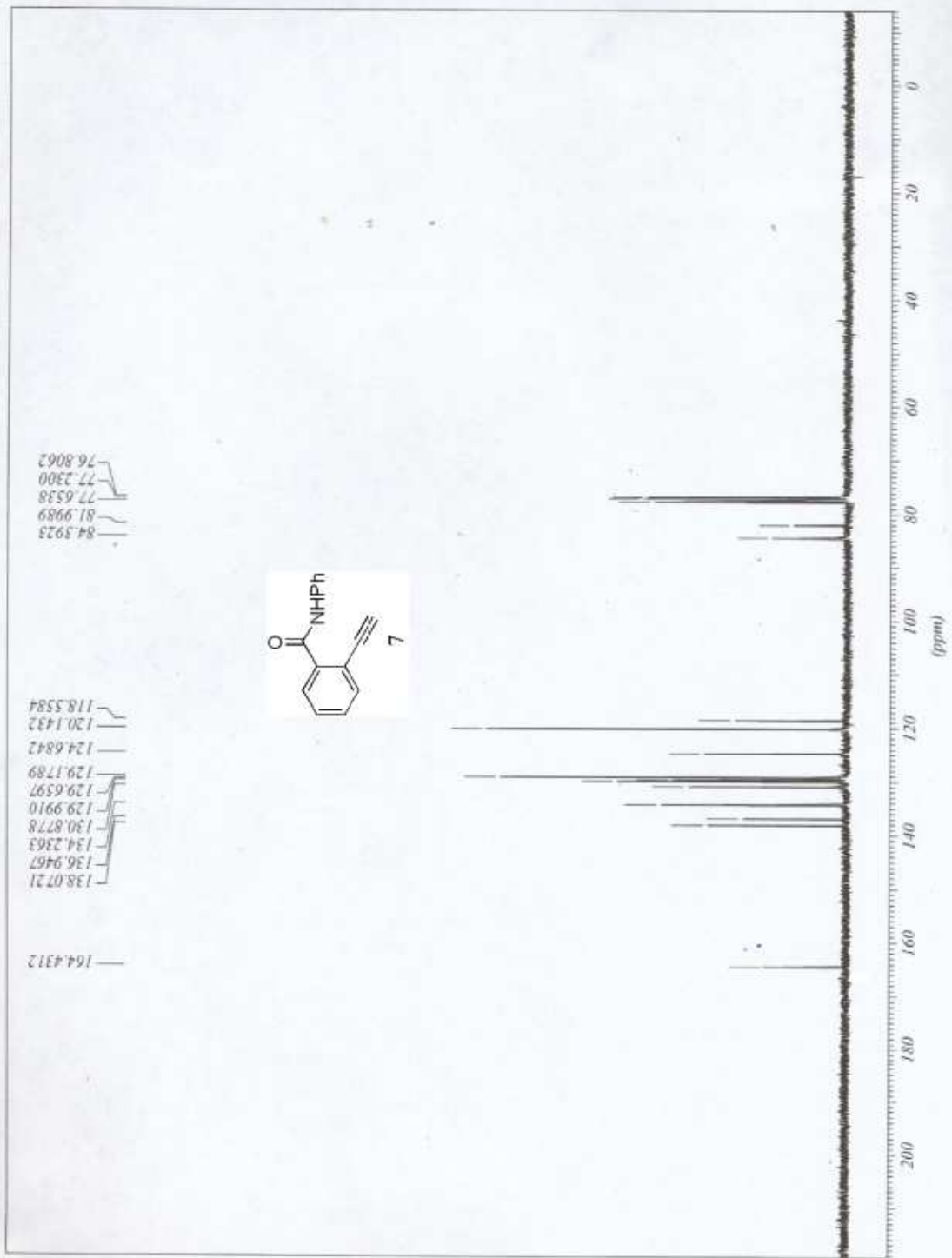
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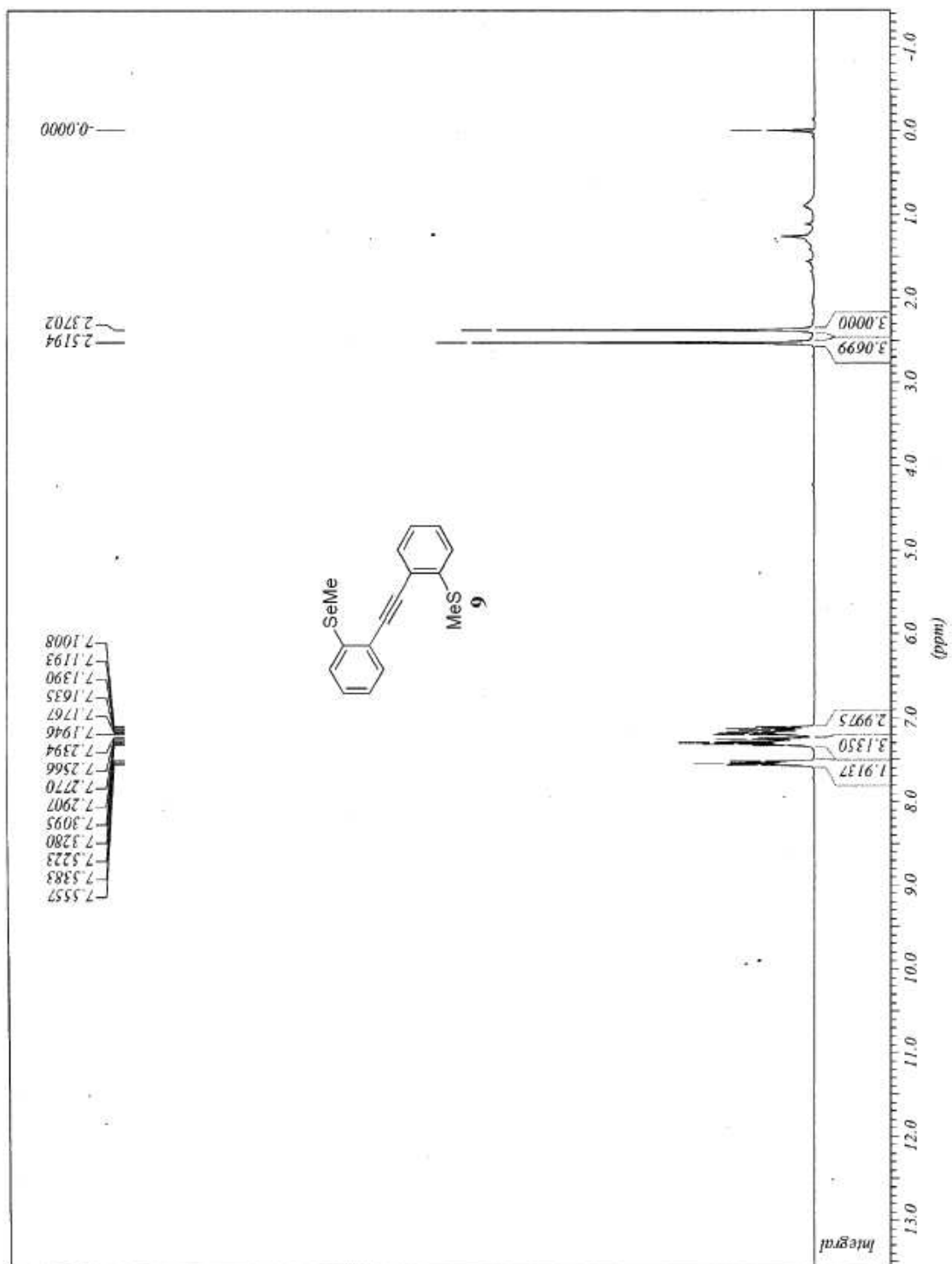


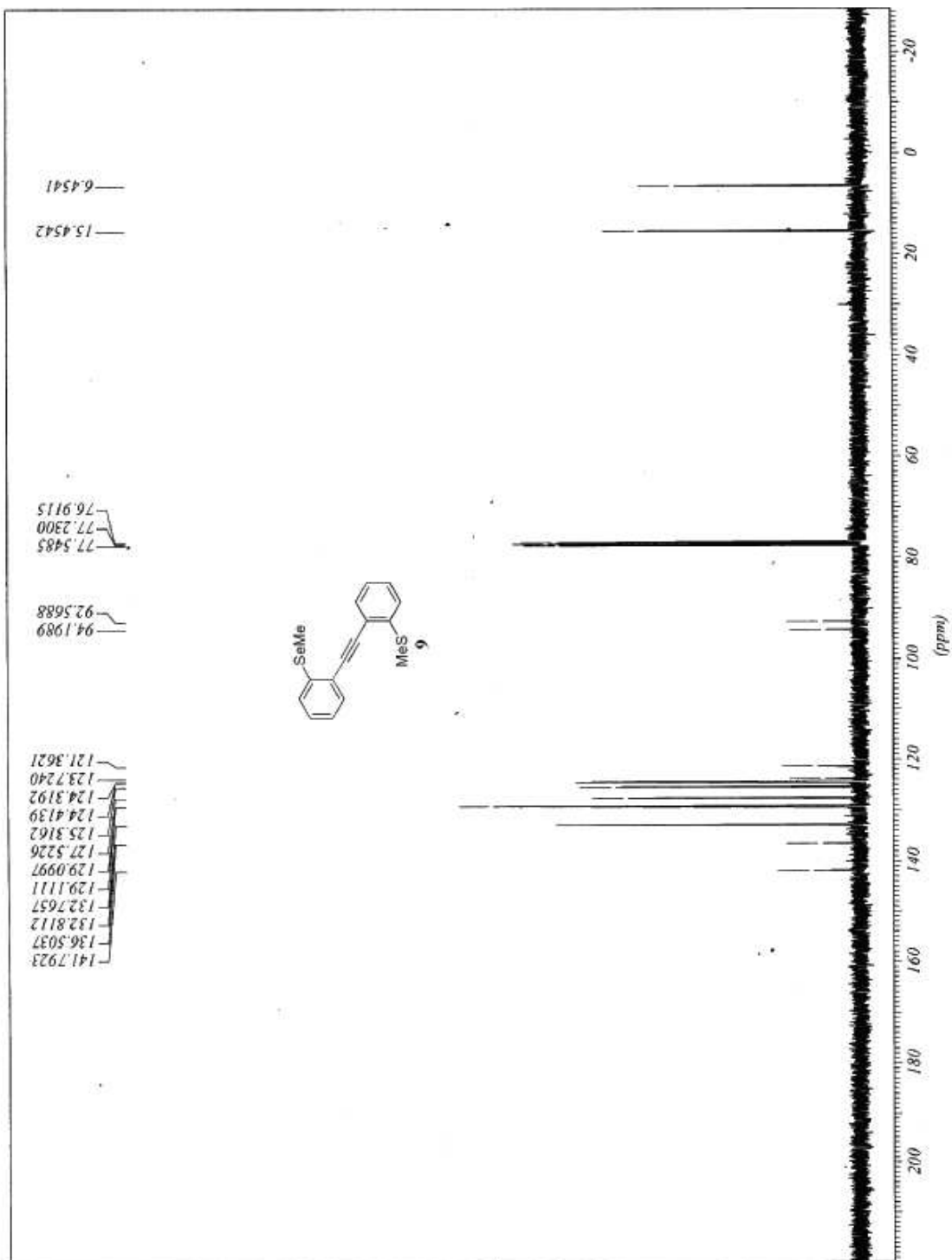


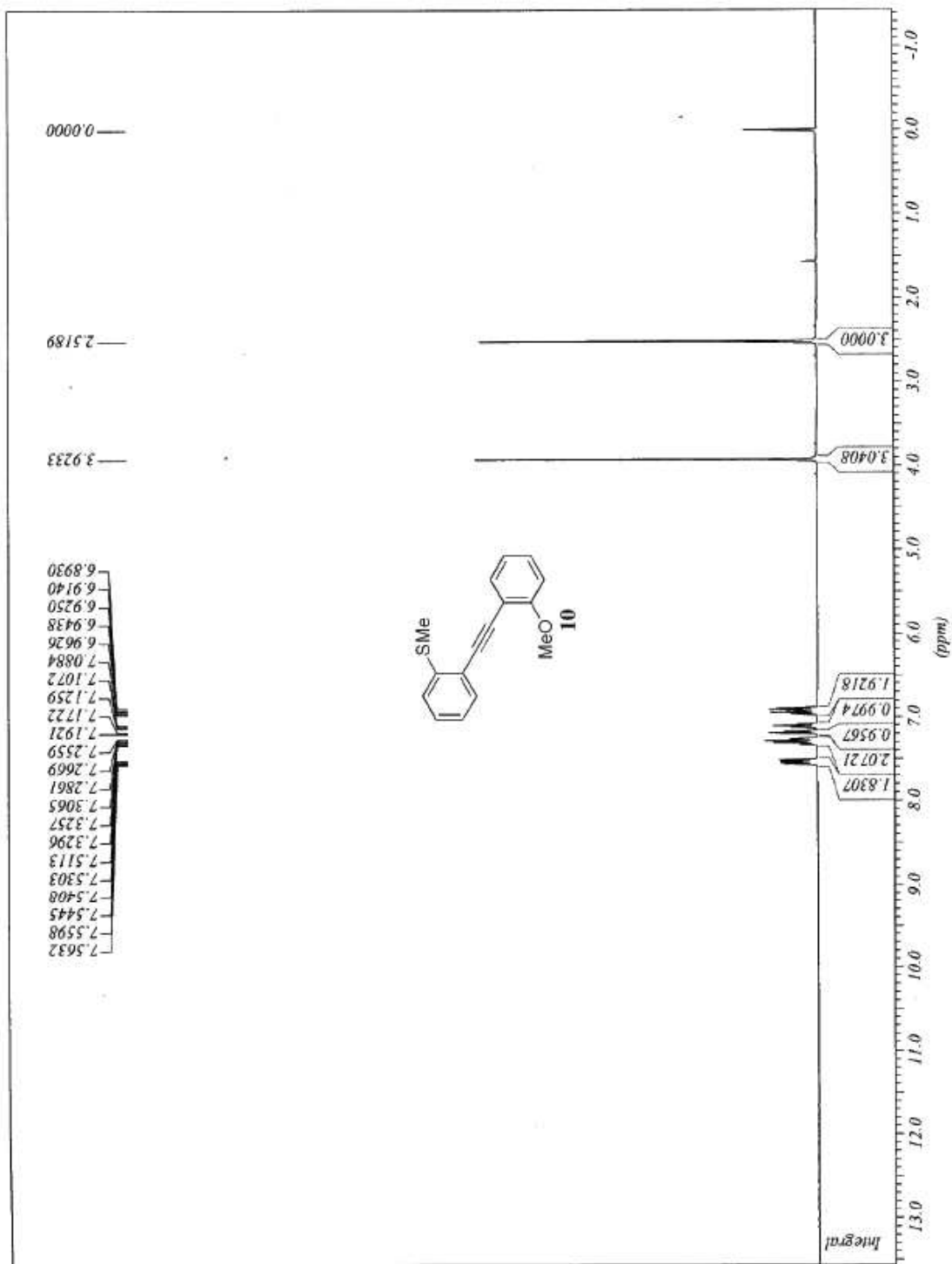


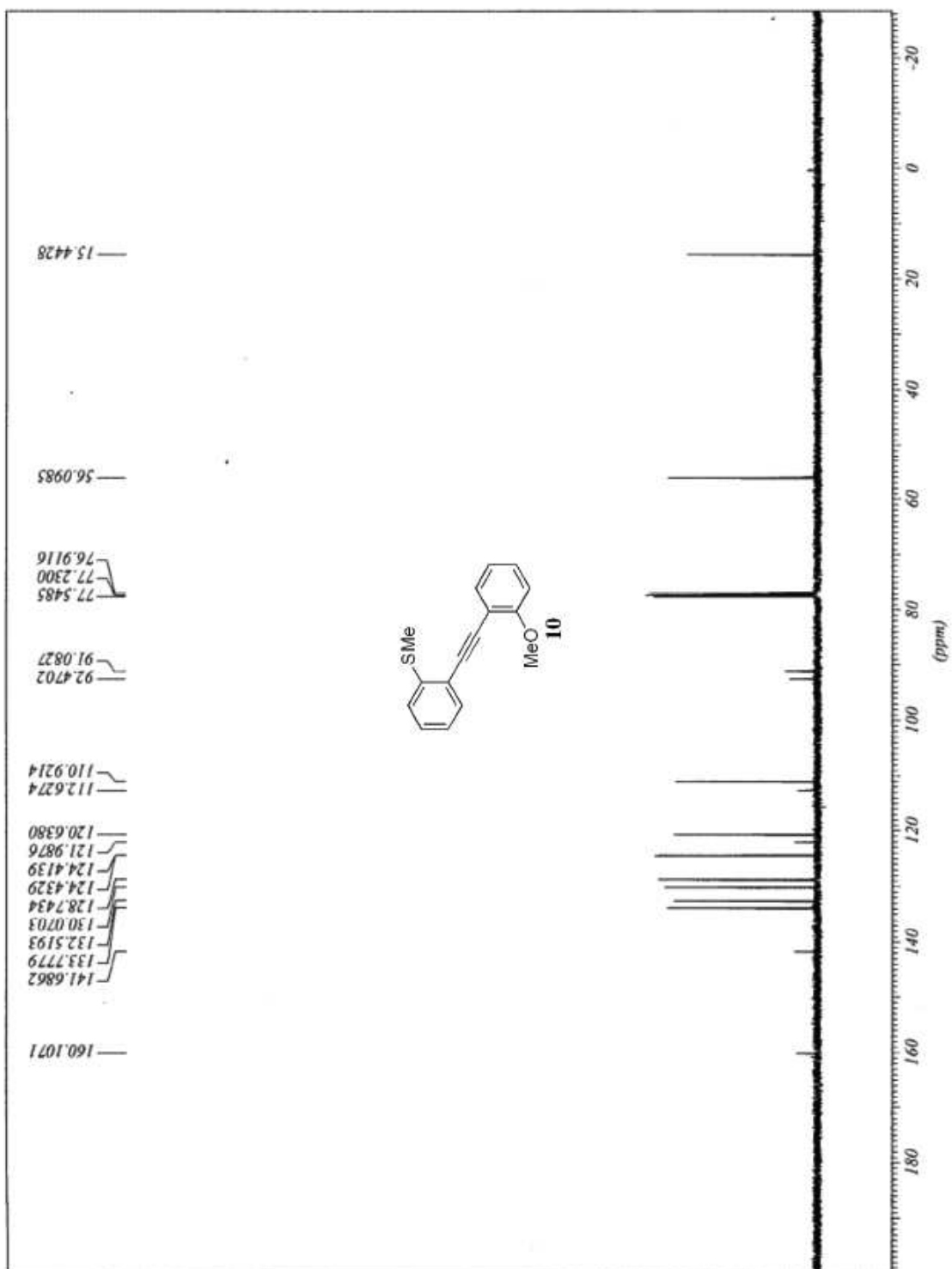




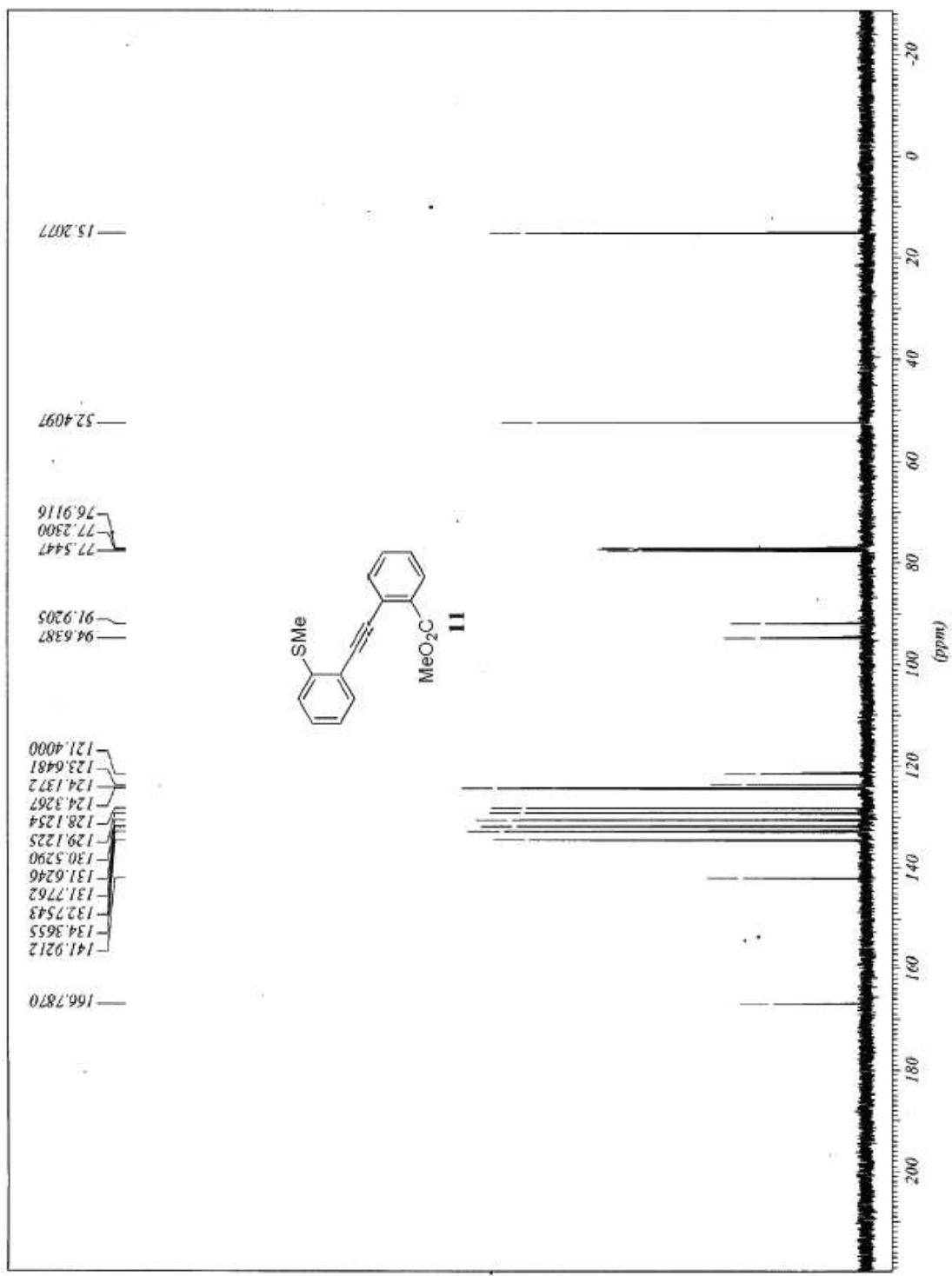




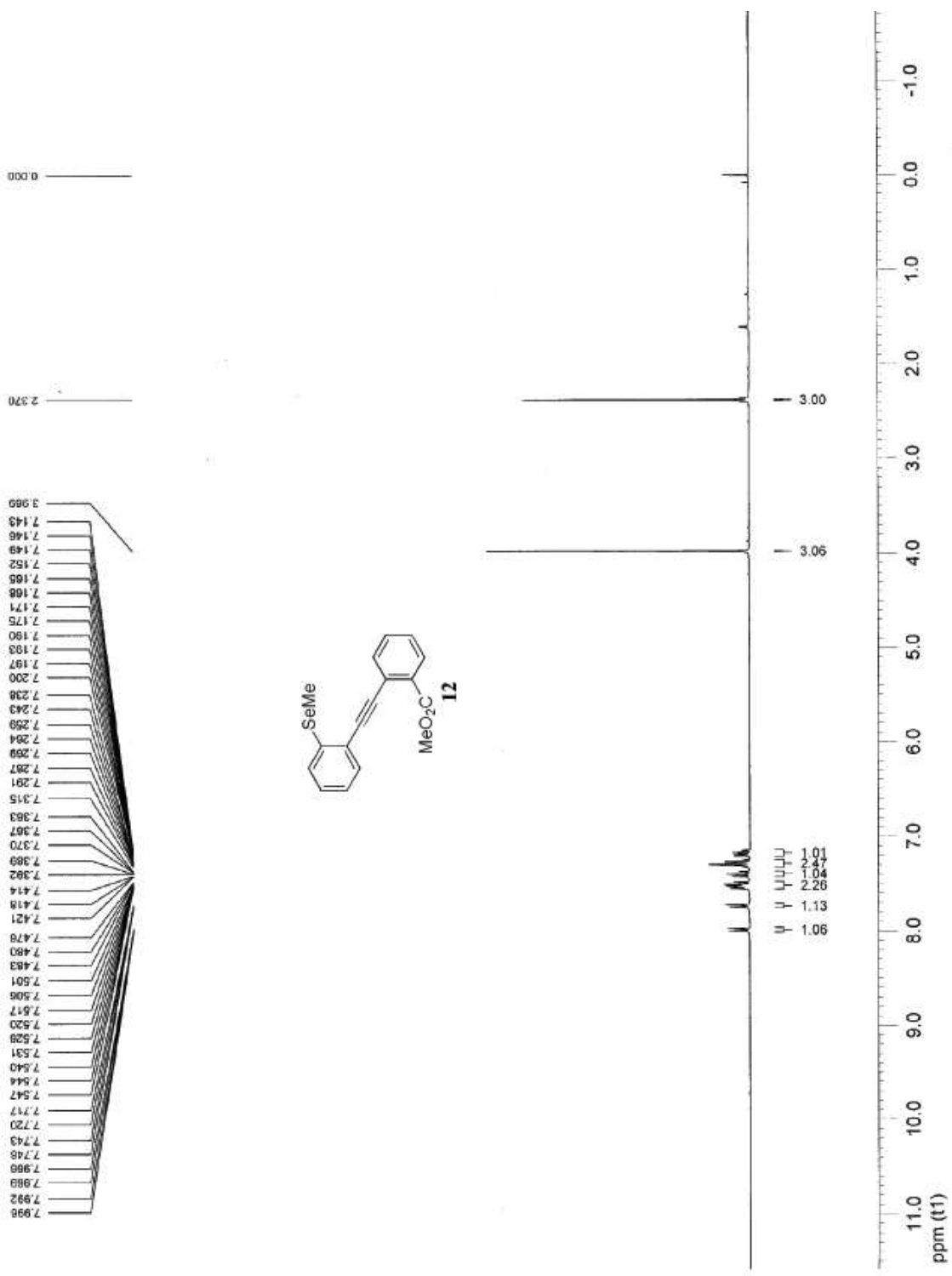


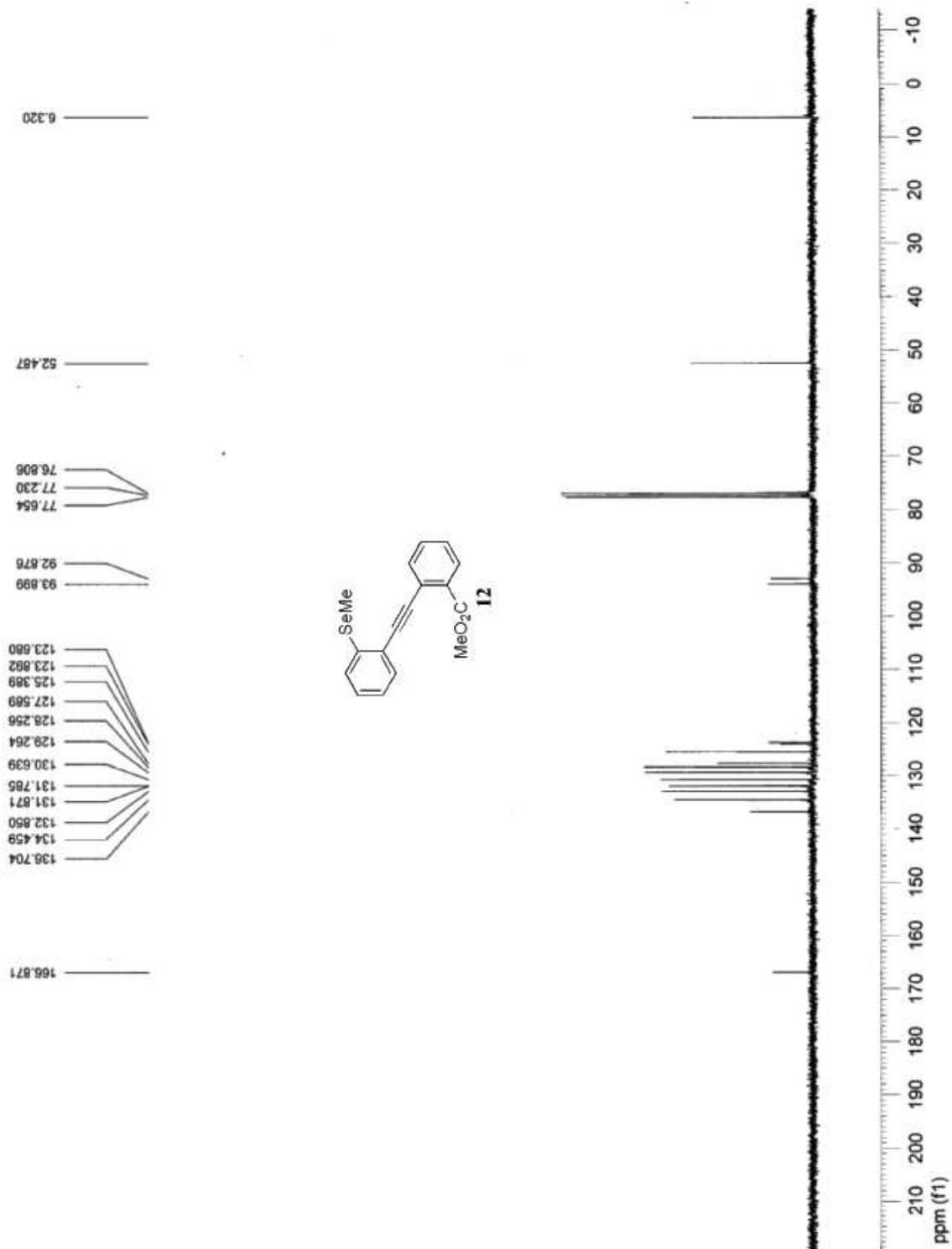


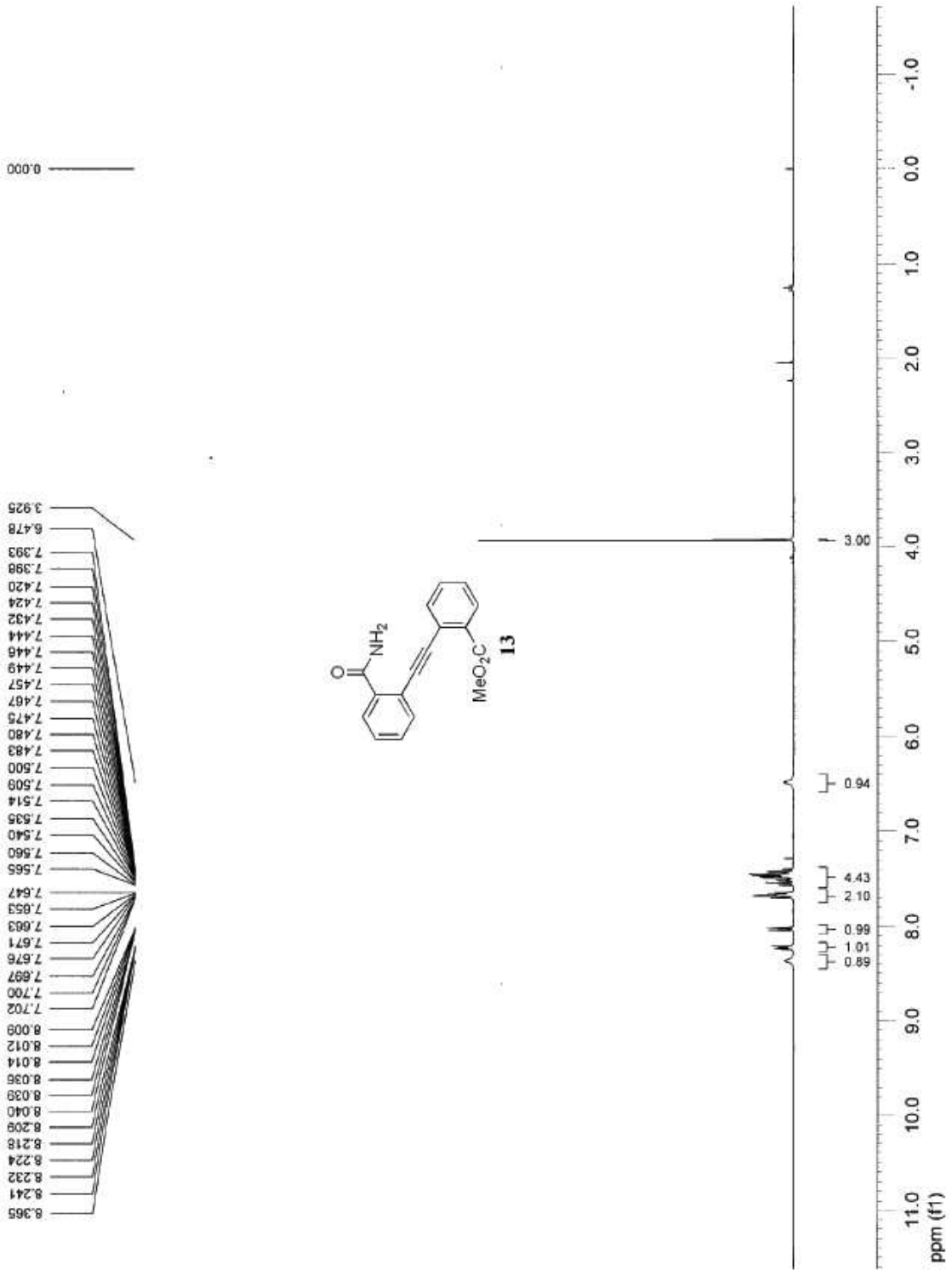


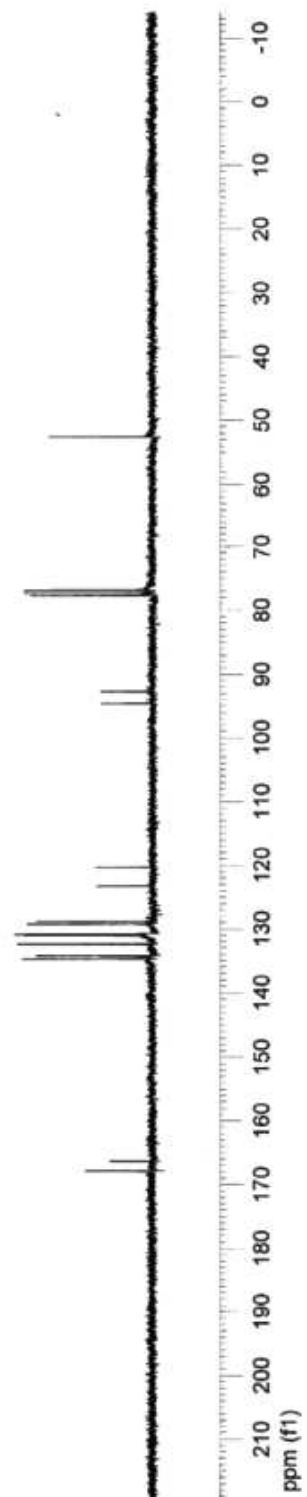
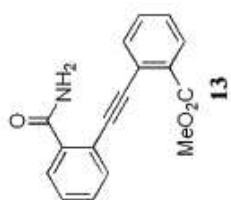
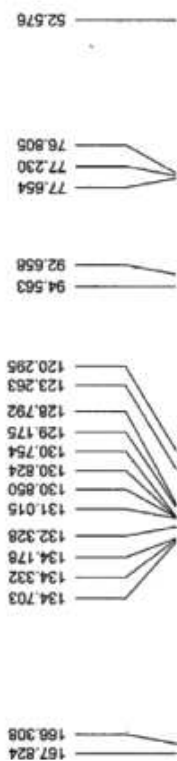


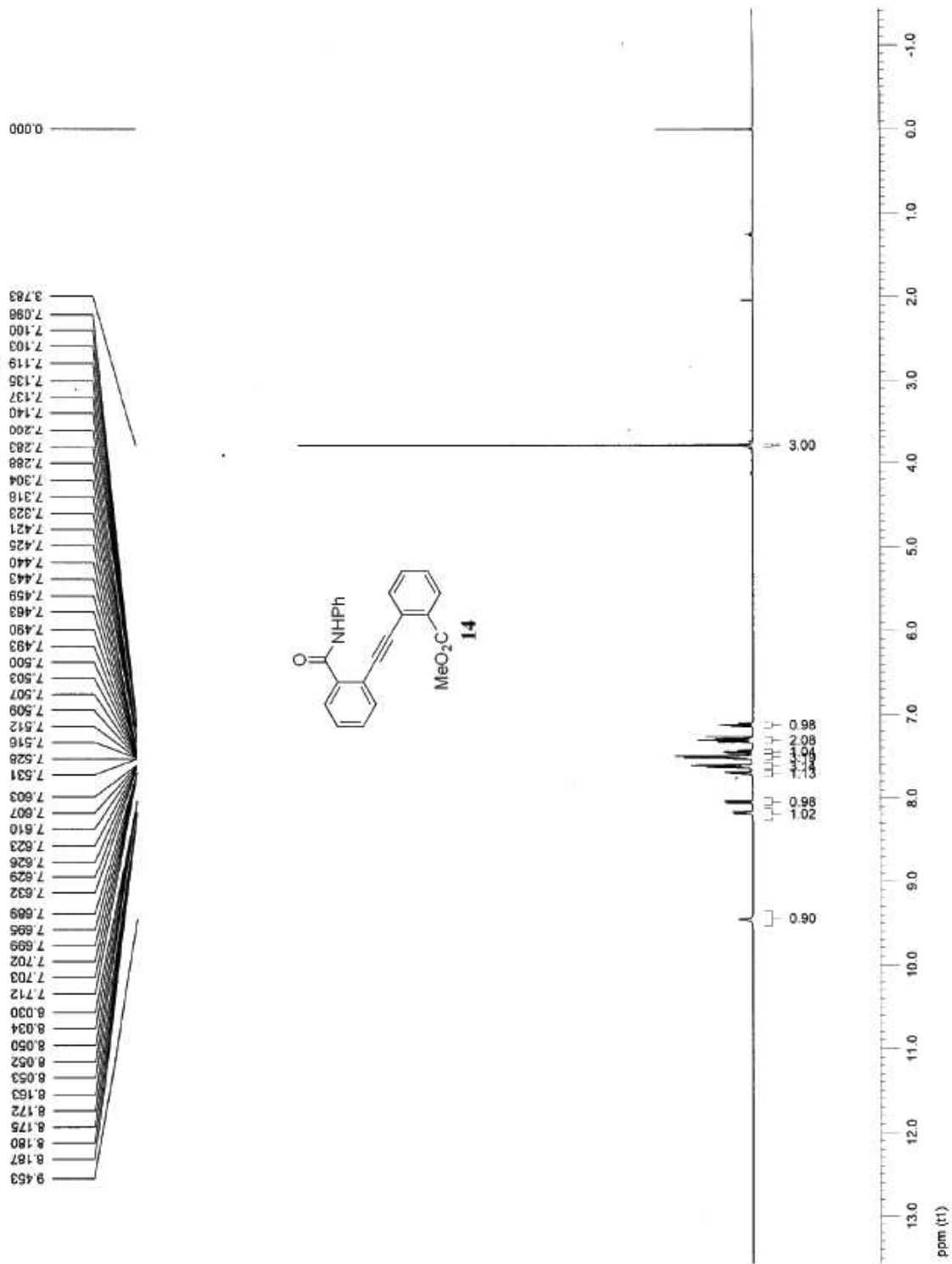


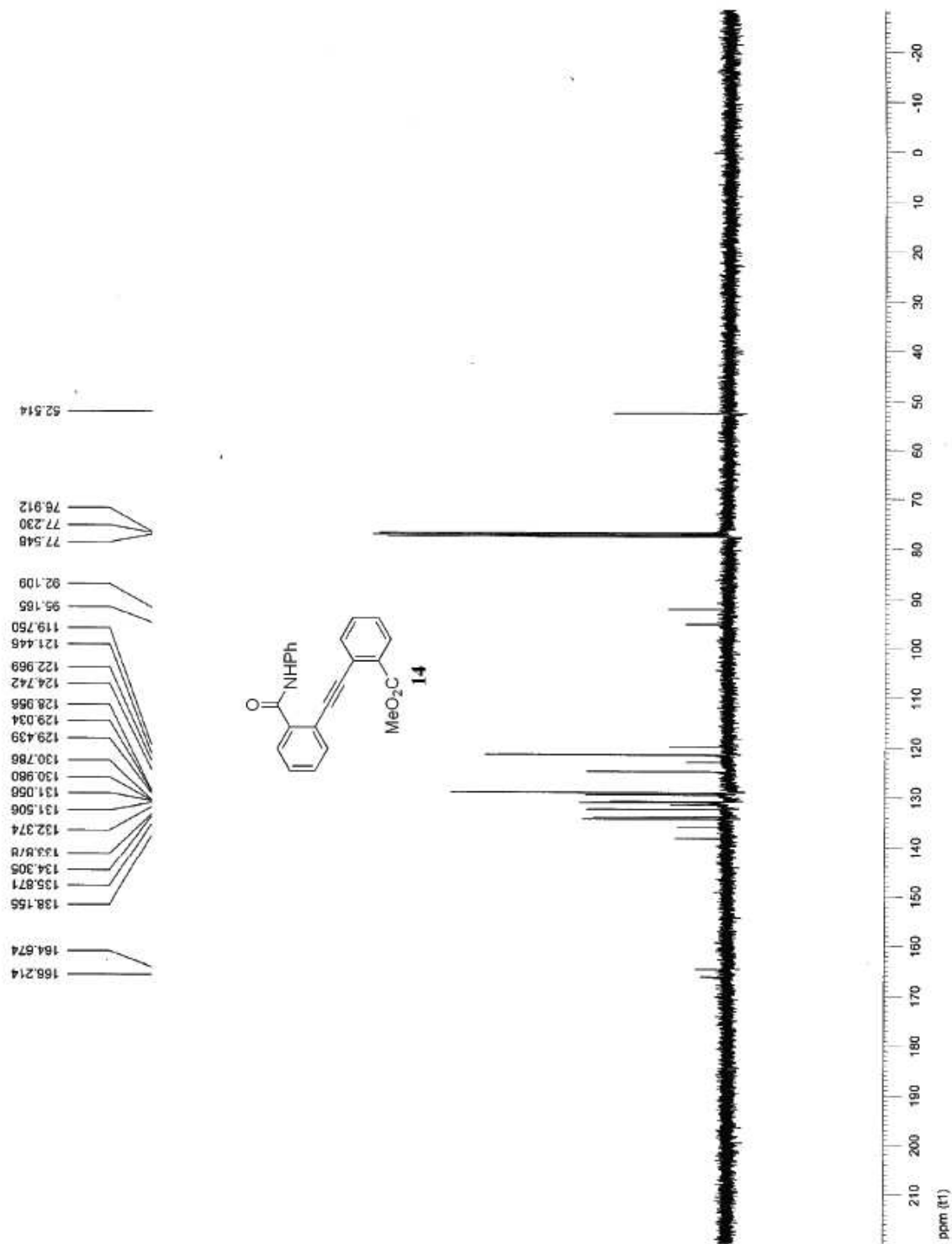




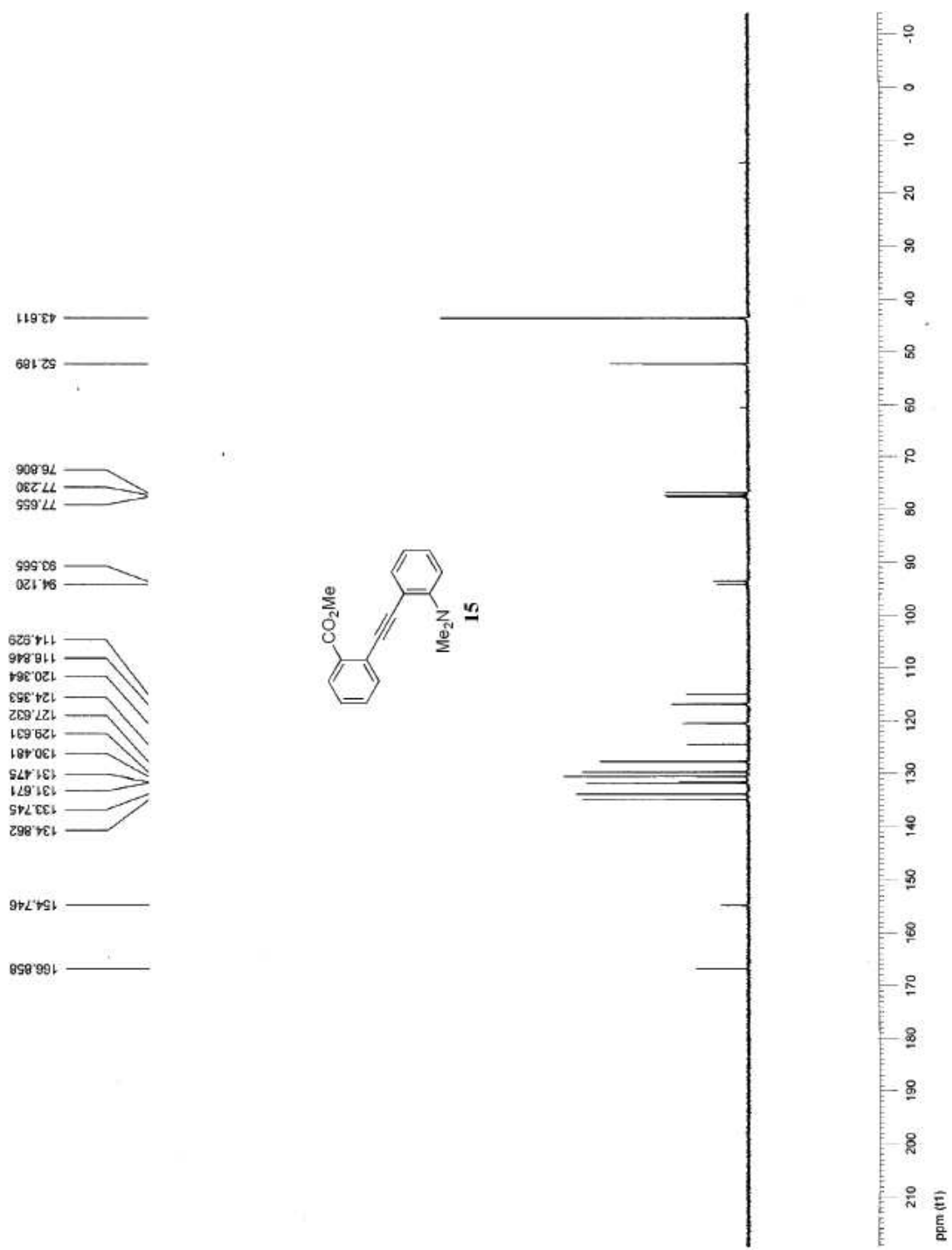




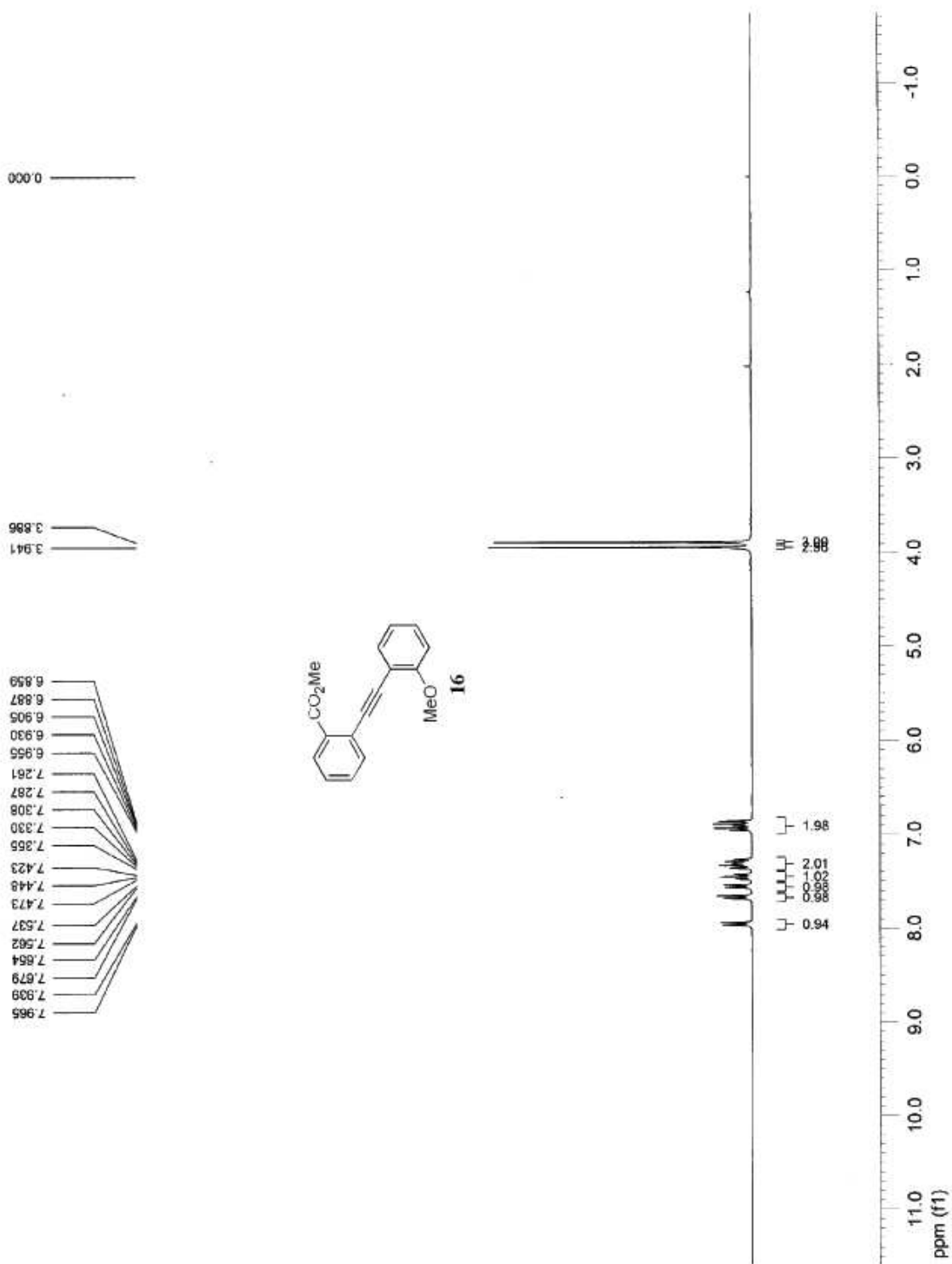






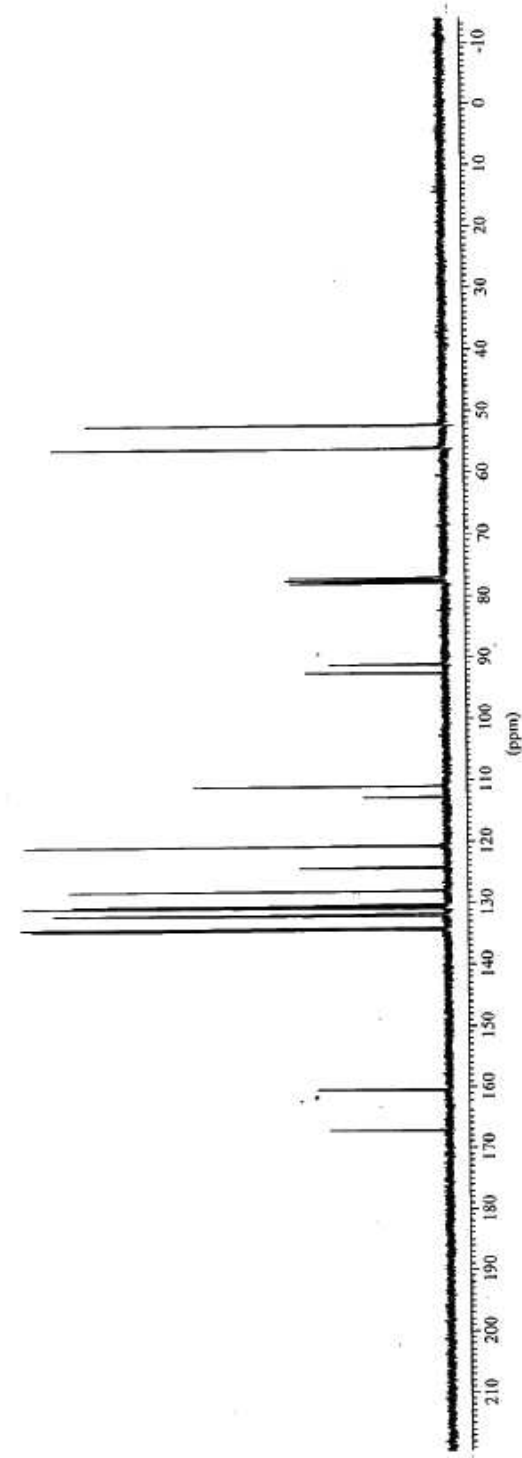
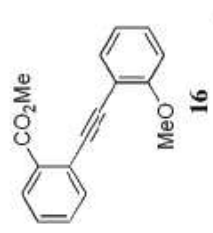


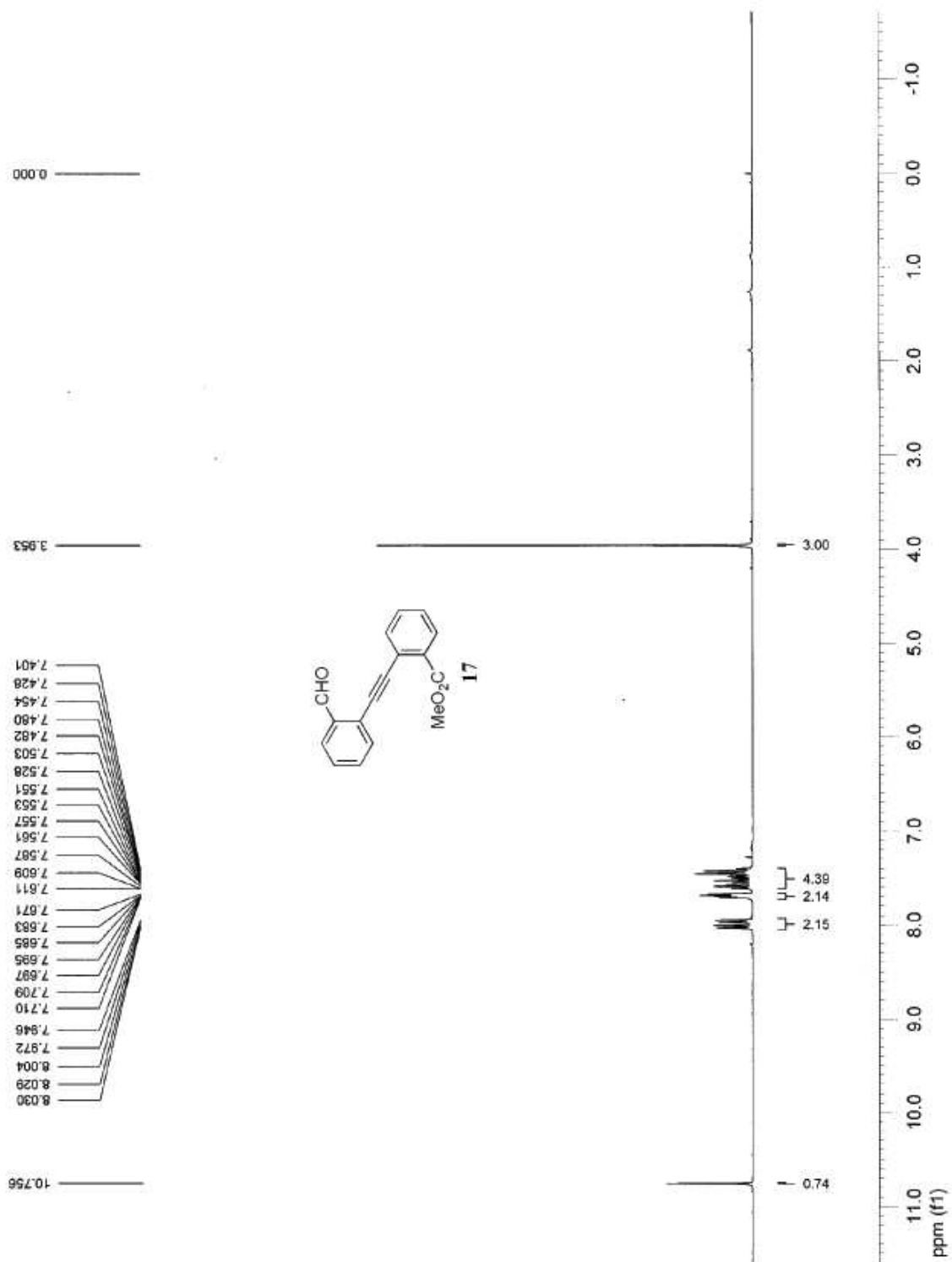


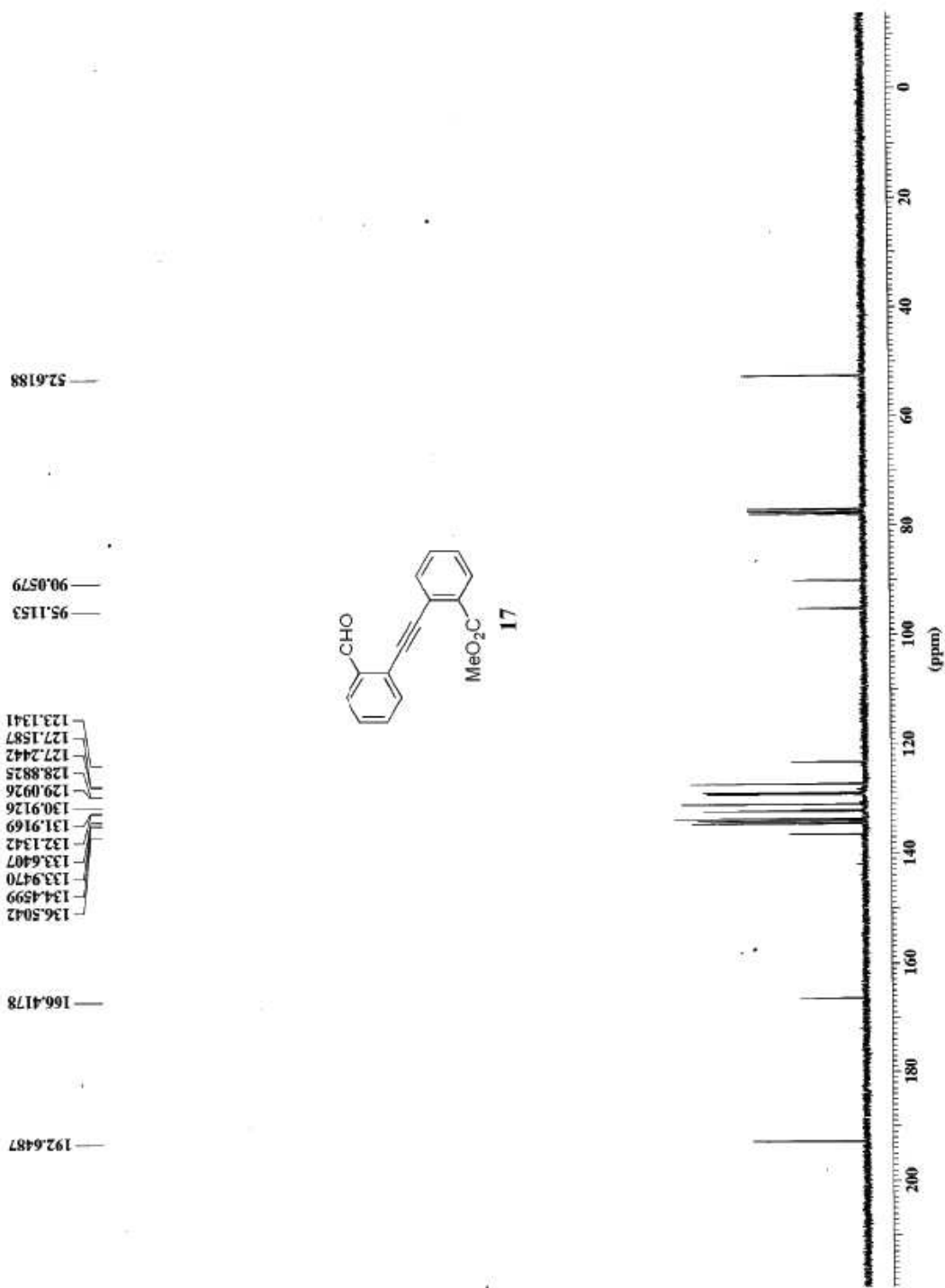


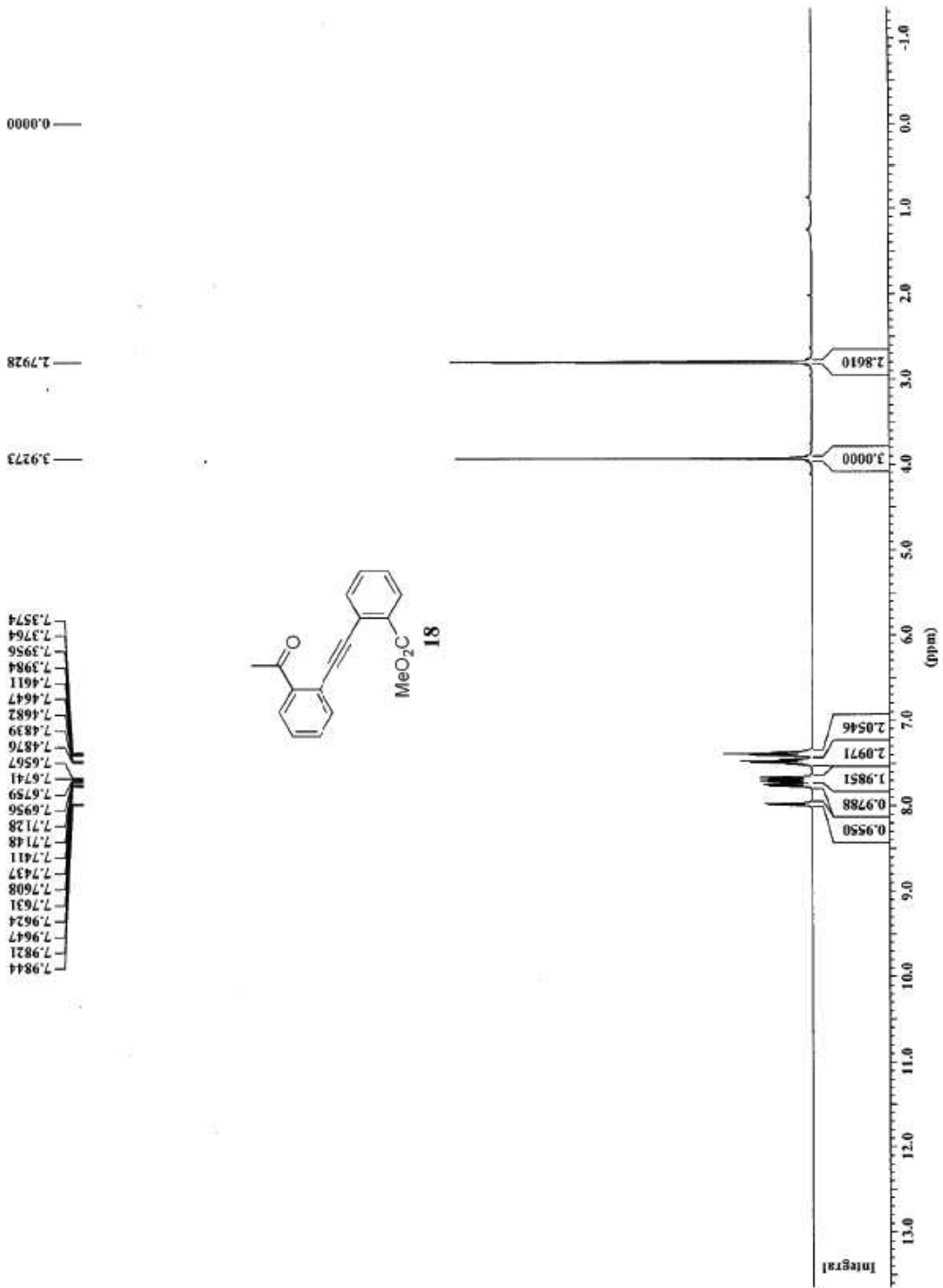
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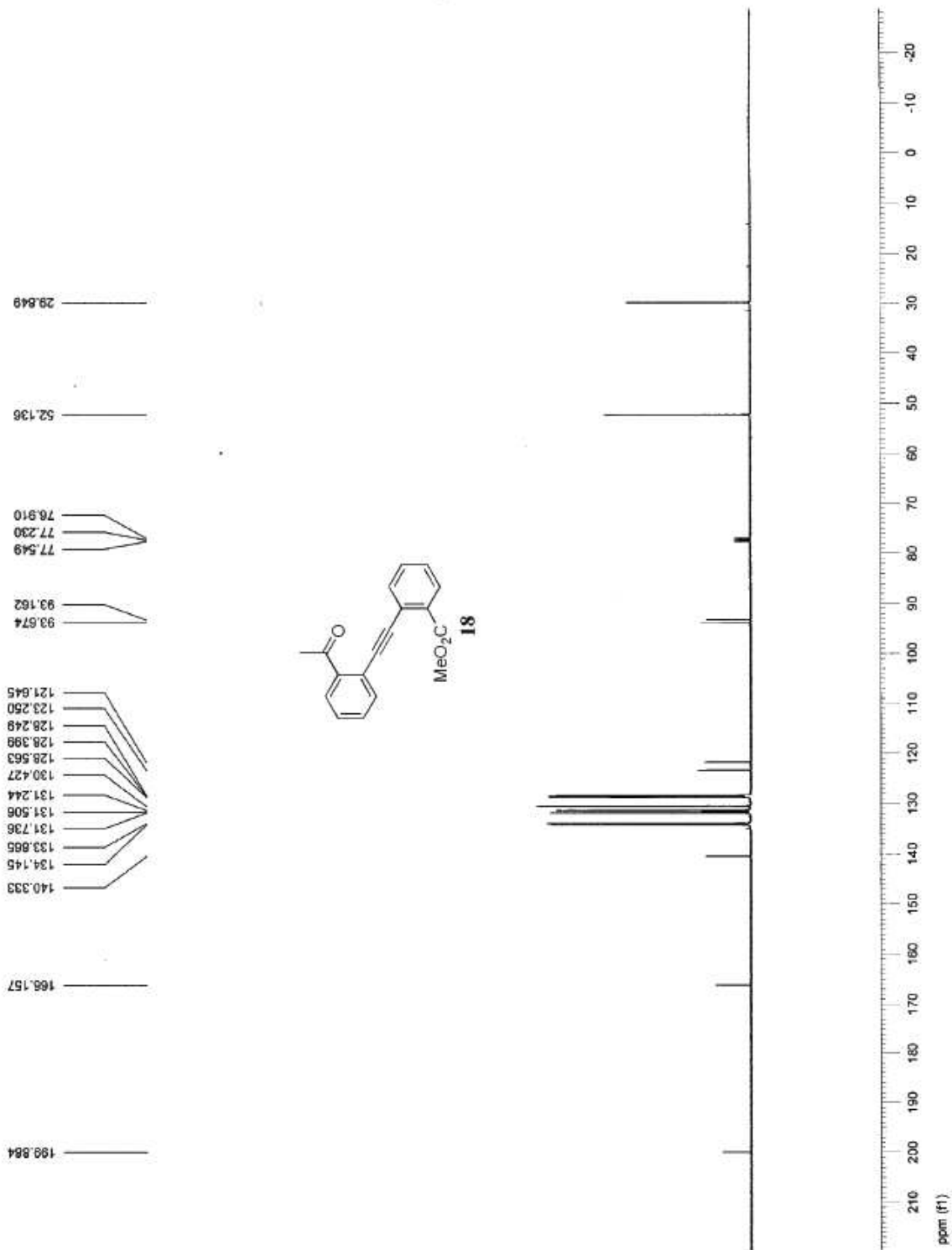
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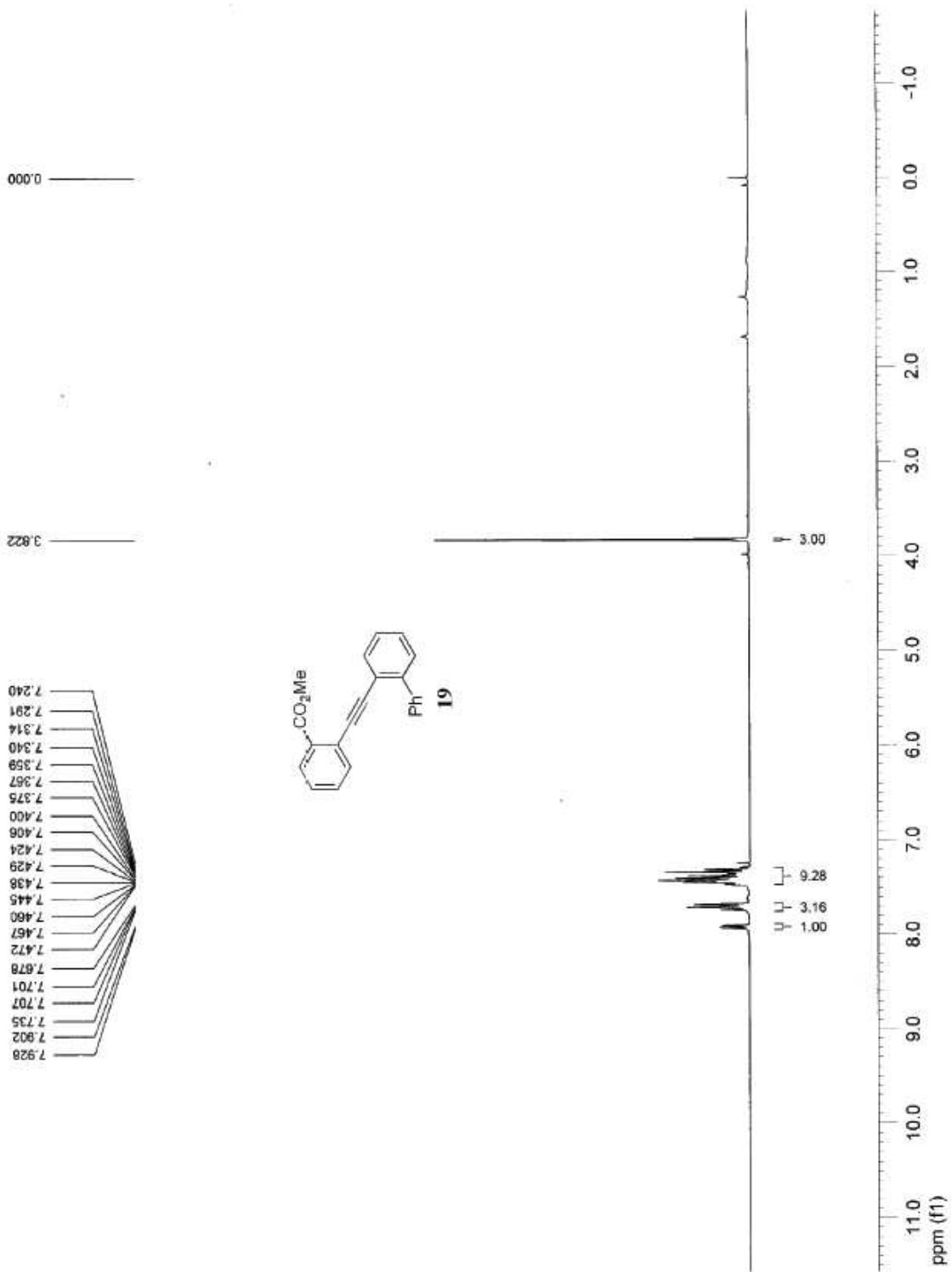


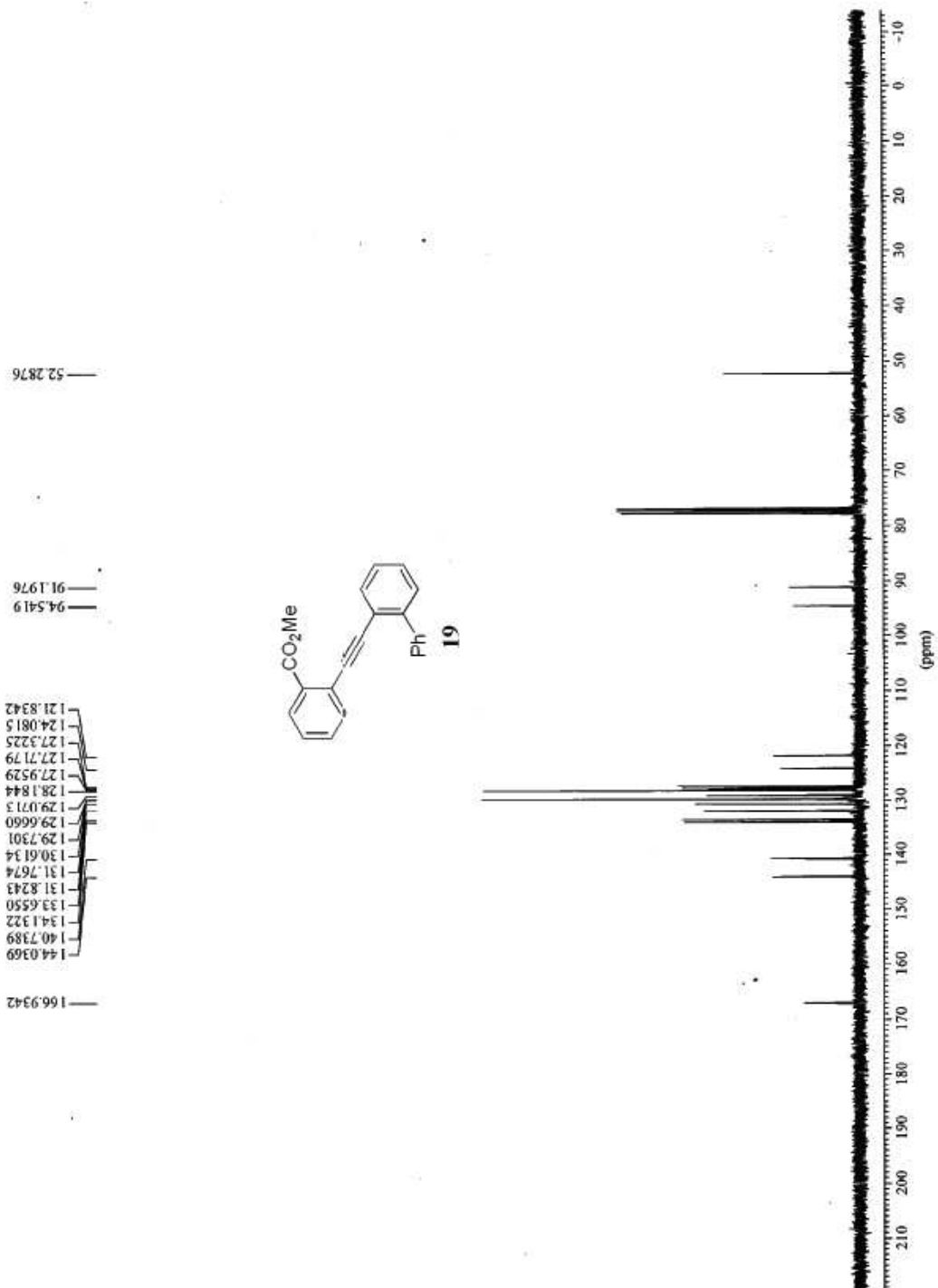




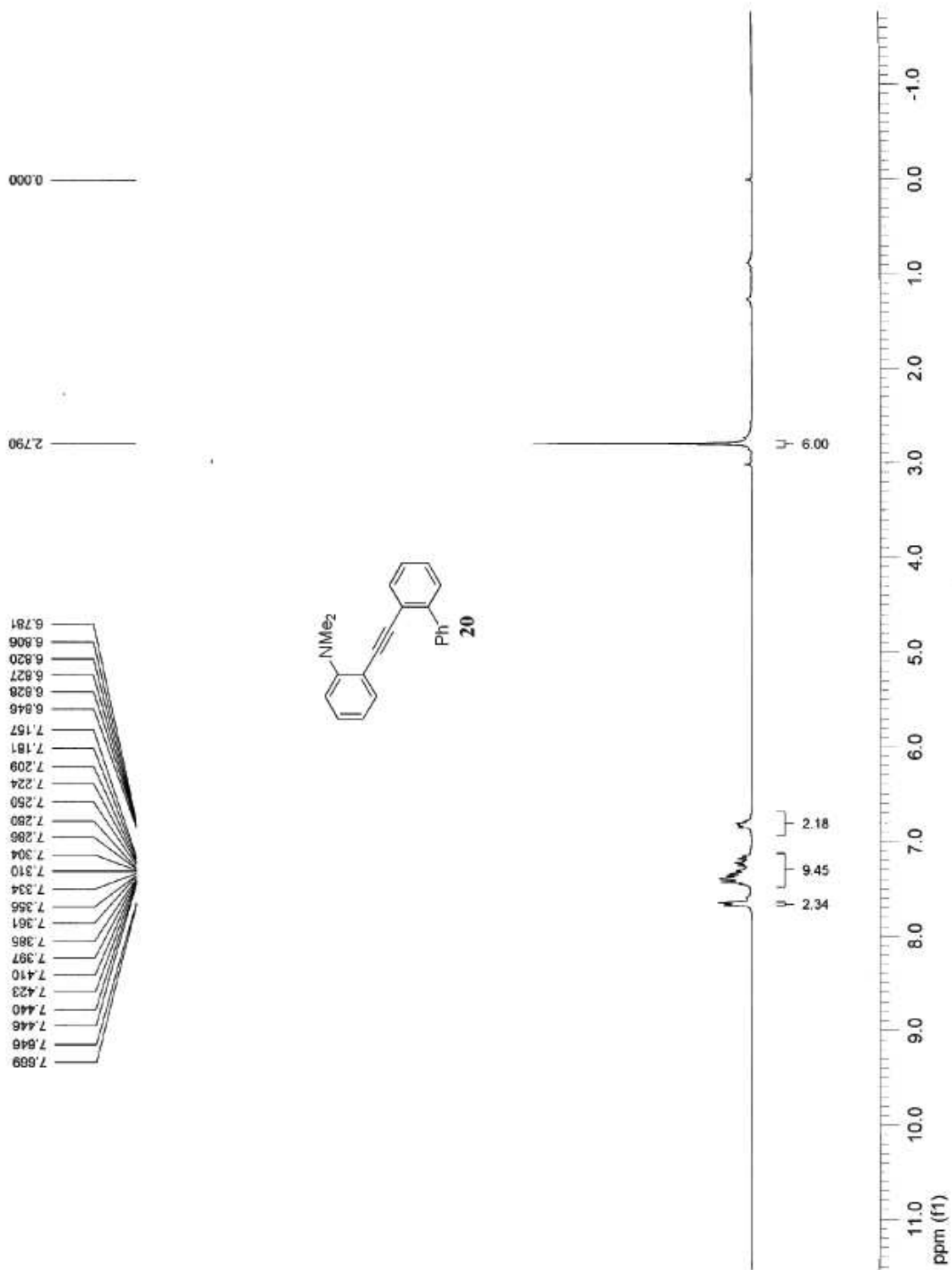


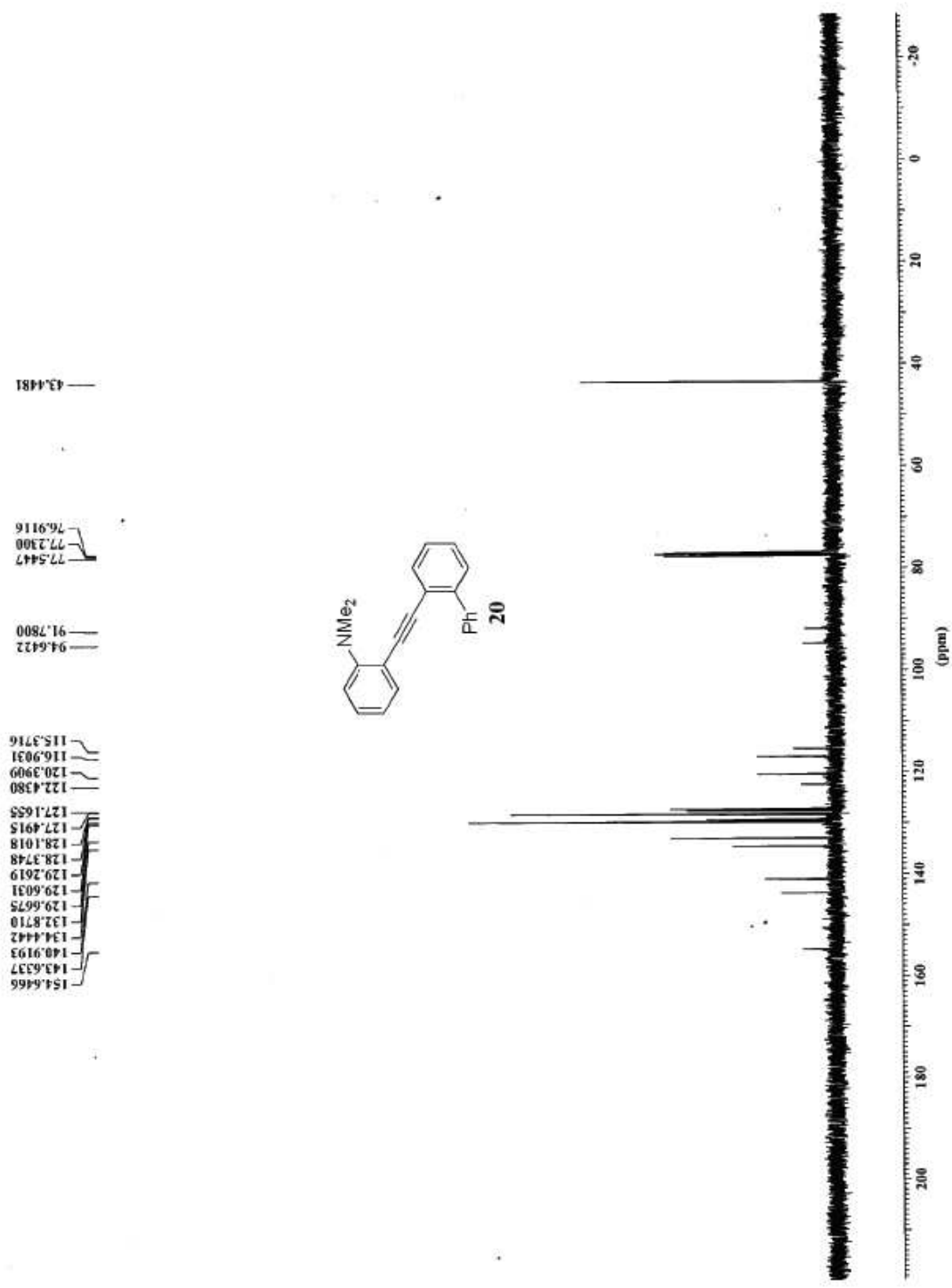


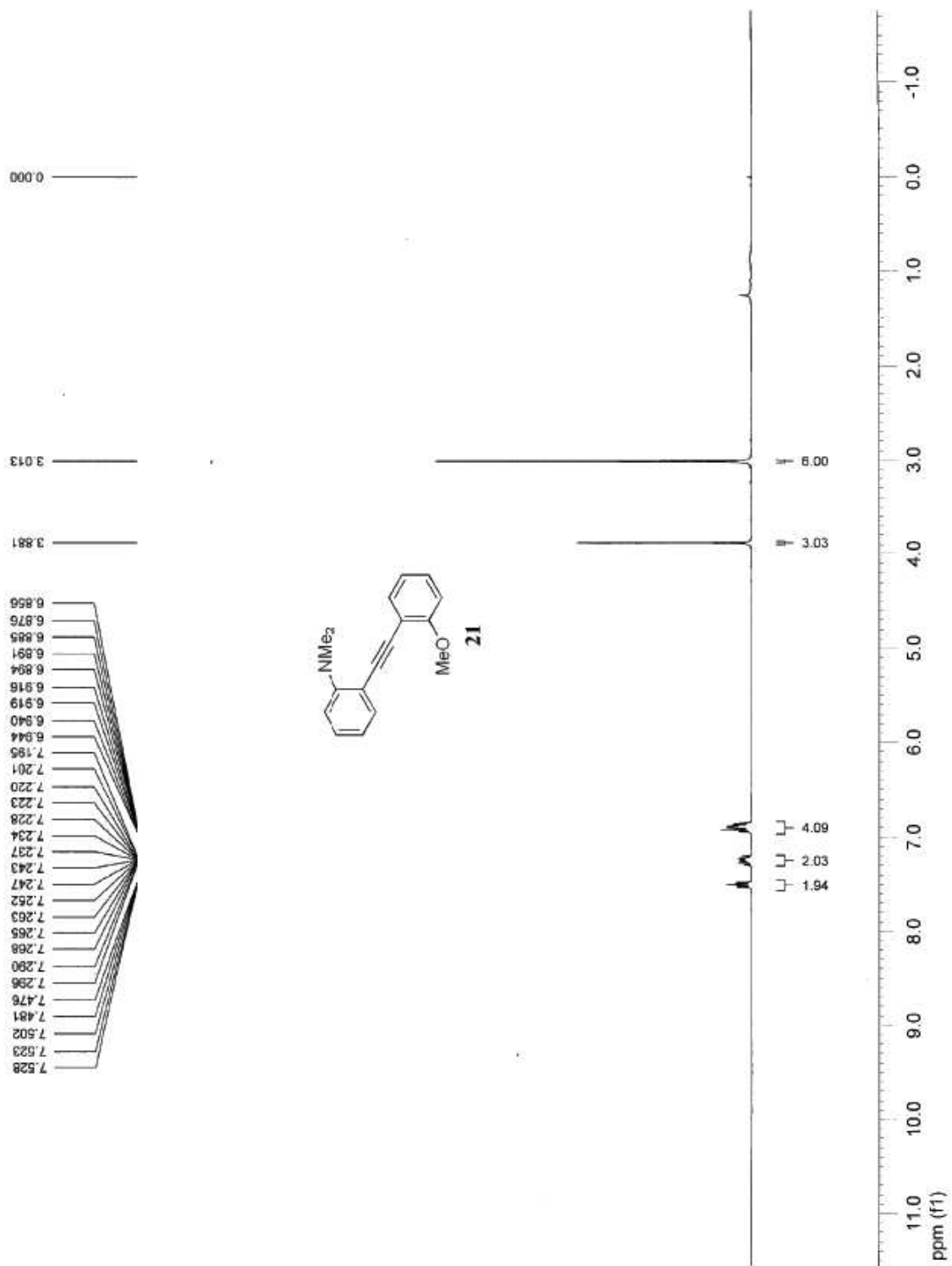












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