

Iron Catalyzed Cycloaddition of Alkynenitriles and Alkynes

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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General Experimental:

All reactions were conducted under an atmosphere of N_2 using standard Schlenk techniques or in a N_2 filled glove-box unless otherwise noted. Toluene was dried over neutral alumina under N_2 using a Grubbs type solvent purification system. Dimethyl formamide was purchased from Sigma Aldrich in a sure-seal® bottle. THF was freshly distilled from Na/benzophenone. Iron acetate (99.995% purity) was purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Cyanoalkynes **1a**,^{1a} **1b**,^{1a} **1i**,^{1b} and **1j**,² were prepared by known literature procedures.

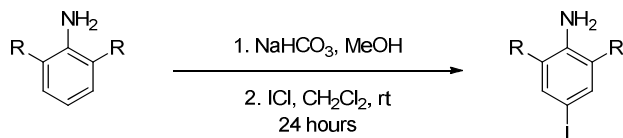
^1H and ^{13}C Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectra of pure compounds were acquired at 400 and 100 MHz, respectively unless otherwise noted. All spectra are referenced to residual protonated CHCl_3 via a singlet at 7.27 ppm for ^1H and to the center line of a triplet at 77.26 ppm for ^{13}C . The abbreviations s, d, dd, dt, dq, t, q, and quint stand for singlet, doublet, doublet of doublets, doublet of triplets, doublet of quartets, triplet, quartet, and quintet, in that order. All ^{13}C NMR spectra are proton decoupled. Gas Chromatography was performed using the following conditions: initial oven temperature: 100 °C; temperature ramp rate 10 °C/min.; final temperature: 300 °C held for 12 minutes; detector temperature: 250 °C.

Ligand Syntheses

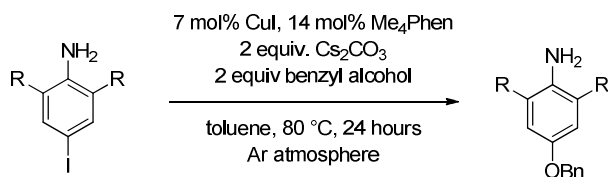
Ligands **L1-L6**^{4a} and **L7-L10**^{4b} were synthesized by the reported methods.

Ligands **L11** and **L12** were synthesized as follows:

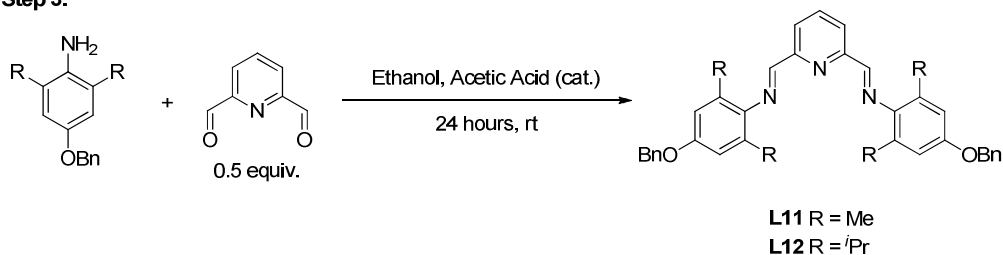
Step 1:



Step 2:



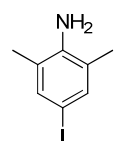
Step 3:



Step 1 (general procedure):

Adapted from the literature procedure.^{5a} To a stirring mixture of 2,6-substituted aniline and NaHCO₃ (3 equiv) in methanol, a solution of iodine monochloride (1.1 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ was added dropwise over 1 hour. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. Solids were filtered from the mixture and rinsed with diethyl ether. The filtrate was reduced *in vacuo* to a dark red oil to which a 300 mL solution of saturated sodium thiosulfate was added. The solution was stirred for 10 minutes then extracted with 3 x 200 mL portions of diethyl ether. The organic extracts were dried with Na₂SO₄ and reduced *in vacuo*.

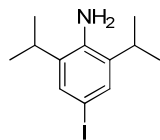
Synthesis of 4-iodo-2,6-dimethylaniline



4-iodo-2,6-dimethylaniline was prepared using the Step 1 general procedure with 2,6-dimethylaniline (10.0 g, 83 mmol), iodine monochloride (14.7 g, 91 mmol), sodium bicarbonate (20.8 g, 248 mmol) of sodium bicarbonate. The reaction was stirred at

room temperature with 115 mL of methanol and 90 mL of dichloromethane to yield **4-iodo-2,6-dimethylaniline** (19.2g, 93%) as a dark red oil. Spectral data matches the reported values.^{5b}

Synthesis of 4-iodo-2,6-diisopropylaniline

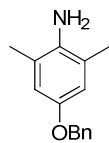


4-iodo-2,6-diisopropylaniline was prepared using the Step 1 general procedure with 2,6 diisopropylaniline (10.0 g, 56 mmol), iodine monochloride (10.1 g, 62 mmol), sodium bicarbonate (14.2 g, 169 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature with 80 mL of methanol and 60 mL of dichloromethane to yield **4-iodo-2,6-diisopropylaniline** (16.8 g, 93%) as a dark red oil. Spectral data matches the reported values.^{5c}

Step 2 (general procedure):

Adapted from the literature procedure.^{5c} In a nitrogen glove box, a 20 mL scintillation vial was filled with CuI (7 mol%) 3,4,7,8-tetramethyl-1,10-phenanthroline (Me₄Phen, 14 mol%), Cs₂CO₃ (2.0 equiv), and 4-iodo-2,6-dialkyl aniline (1.0 equiv). The vial was sealed with a rubber septum, removed from the glove box then evacuated and backfilled with Argon three times. Toluene was added and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 20 minutes. Benzyl alcohol (2.0 equiv) was added and the rubber septum was quickly replaced with a vial cap. The reaction was stirred for 24 hours at 80 °C then cooled to room temperature, filtered through a silica gel plug, and flushed with 150 mL of ethyl acetate. The resulting solution was reduced *in vacuo* and purified using silica gel flash chromatography with 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes.

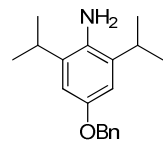
Synthesis of 4-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethylaniline



4-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethylaniline was prepared using the Step 2 general procedure with CuI (57.8 mg, 0.30 mmol), Me₄Phen (143.5 mg, 0.61 mmol), cesium carbonate (1.56 g, 8.1 mmol), 4-iodo-2,6-dimethylaniline (1.0 g, 4.0 mmol), and benzyl alcohol (875.3 mg, 8.1 mmol). The reaction was run for 24 hours at 80 °C in 1.9 mL of toluene to yield **4-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethylaniline** (362.9 mg, 40%) as a blue solid. Mp: 71-73 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.48-7.33 (m, 5H), 6.68 (s, 2H), 5.01 (s, 2H), 3.35 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 151.5, 137.9, 136.9, 128.7, 127.9, 127.7, 123.4, 115.2, 70.9, 18.2. IR (cm⁻¹) 3450, 3375, 3032, 2969, 2908, 2735, 1602, 1489, 1380, 1328, 1298, 1242,

1150, 1054, 856, 738, 698. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₅H₁₇NO [M+H]⁺ 228.1388, found 228.1385.

Synthesis of 4-(benzyloxy)-2,6-diisopropylaniline

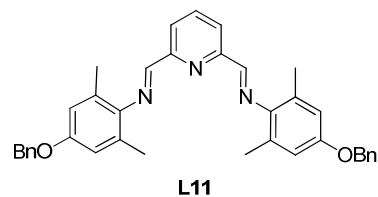


4-(benzyloxy)-2,6-diisopropylaniline was prepared using the Step 2 general procedure with CuI (57.8 mg, 0.30 mmol), Me₄Phen (143.5 mg, 0.61 mmol), cesium carbonate (1.56 g, 8.1 mmol), 4-iodo-2,6-diisopropylaniline (1.0 g, 4.0 mmol), and benzyl alcohol (875.3 mg, 8.1 mmol). The reaction was run for 24 hours at 80 ° in 1.9 mL of toluene to yield **4-(benzyloxy)-2,6-diisopropylaniline** (948.9 mg, 84%) as a dark red oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.48-7.27 (m, 5H), 6.74 (s, 2H), 3.48 (s, 2H), 3.01-2.94 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d, J = 6.8, 12H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 152.4, 138.0, 134.5, 134.4, 128.7, 128.01, 127.96, 110.1, 71.0, 28.4, 22.7. IR (cm⁻¹) 3382, 2960, 1599, 1463, 1347, 1218, 1175, 1100, 1027, 737, 696. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₆NO [M+H]⁺ 284.2014, found 284.2013.

Step 3 (general procedure):

Adapted from the literature procedure^{5a} 4-benzyloxy-2,6-dialkyl aniline (2.0 equiv.) and 2,6-pyridinedicarboxaldehyde (1.0 equiv) and a catalytic amount glacial acetic acid were stirred in 100% ethanol overnight at room temperature. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C, filtered, and rinsed with cold 100% ethanol.

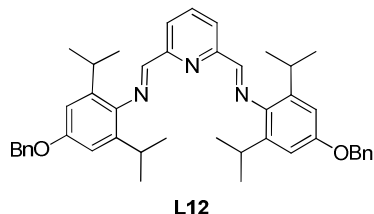
Synthesis of (N,N'E,N,N'E)-N,N'-(pyridine-2,6-diylbis(methanylylidene))bis(4-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethylaniline) (L11)



Compound **L11** was prepared using the Step 3 general procedure with 4-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethylaniline (194.6 mg, 0.86 mmol), 2,6-pyridinedicarboxaldehyde (57.8 mg, 0.43 mmol), and 5 drops of glacial acetic acid. The reaction was run at room temperature in 10 mL of 100% ethanol yielding **L11** (108.0 mg, 45.6%) as a yellow solid. Mp: 174-177 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.40 (s, 2H), 8.38 (d, J = 8.0 2H), 7.97 (t, J = 7.8, 1H), 7.47-7.33 (m, 10H), 7.76 (s, 4H), 5.06 (s, 4H), 2.20 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ

(ppm). IR (cm^{-1}) 3087, 2970, 2948, 1602, 1584, 1480, 1455, 1379, 1332, 1312, 1198, 1052, 738, 698. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{35}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 576.2627, found 576.2633.

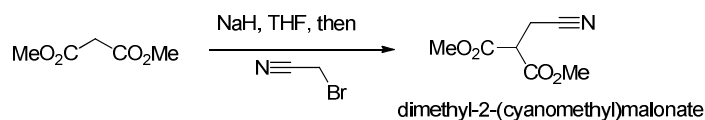
Synthesis of (*N,N'E,N,N'E*)-*N,N'*-(pyridine-2,6-diylbis(methanylylidene))bis(4-(benzyloxy)-2,6-diisopropylaniline) (**L12**)



Compound **L12** was prepared using the Step 3 general procedure with 4-(benzyloxy)-2,6-diisopropylaniline (2.35 g, 8.3 mmol), 2,6-pyridinedicarboxaldehyde (599.5 mg, 4.1 mmol), and 10 drops of glacial acetic acid. The reaction was run at room temperature in 10 mL of 100% ethanol to yield **L12** (2.48 g, 85%) as a yellow solid. M.p. 170-173 °C. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.40-8.38 (m, 4H), 7.99 (t, $J = 8.0$, 1H), 7.51-7.28 (m, 10H), 6.83 (s, 4H), 5.08 (s, 4H), 3.07-2.98 (m, 4H), 1.18 (d, $J = 7.2$, 24H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 163.4, 156.3, 154.8, 142.4, 139.1, 137.6, 137.5, 128.1, 128.2, 128.0, 122.8, 109.9, 70.5, 28.4, 23.7. IR (cm^{-1}) 3391, 2961, 2869, 1637, 1600, 1458, 1326, 1190, 1026, 736. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{45}\text{H}_{51}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 688.3879, found 688.3882.

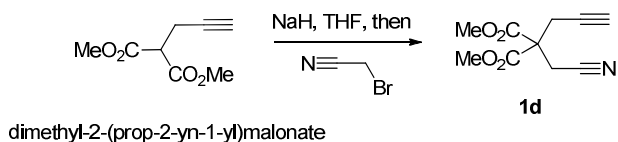
Alkynenitrile Syntheses

Synthesis of dimethyl-2-(cyanomethyl)malonate:



To a stirring suspension of NaH (1.8 g, 75.7 mmol) in 150 ml THF was added dimethylmalonate (10 g, 75.7 mmol) under N_2 counter-flow. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h after which time bromoacetonitrile (5.0 g, 42.1 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h at which time the solution was quenched with 100 mL of a saturated NH_4Cl solution. The layers were separated and aqueous layer was extracted with Et_2O (3 x 100 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine (100 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 , and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude yellow oil was purified by flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc /hexanes) to yield **dimethyl-2-(cyanomethyl)malonate** (4.1 g, 57%) as a pale yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.73 (t, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.89 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 167, 116.8, 53.5, 47.8, 17.1

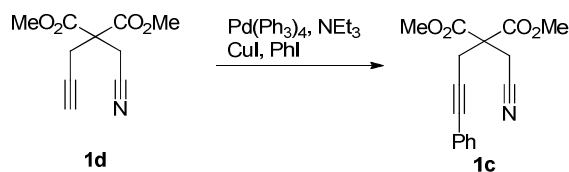
Synthesis of dimethyl 2-(cyanomethyl)-2-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (**1d**)



Dimethyl-2-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate was prepared by known literature procedure.⁷

To a stirring suspension of NaH (0.21 g, 8.82 mmol) in 50 ml THF was added dimethyl-2-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (1.0g, 5.88 mmol) under N₂ counter-flow. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h after which time bromoacetonitrile (1.0 g, 8.82 mmol) was added. A reflux condenser was attached and the mixture was stirred at reflux for 8-12 h at which time GC analysis showed no starting material. The solution was cooled to room temperature and quenched with 100 mL of a saturated NH₄Cl solution. The layers were separated and aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 100 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine (100 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude yellow oil was purified by flash column chromatography (10% EtOAc/hexanes then 12% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **1d** (0.6 g, 49%) as pale yellow oil. ¹H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.83 (s, 6H), 3.17 (s, 2H), 3.03 (d, *J* = 2.8Hz, 2H), 2.13 (t, *J* = 2.8Hz, 1H). ¹³C (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 168.3, 116.4, 81.0, 71.8, 53.9, 24.2, 22.1, 3.7. IR (cm⁻¹) 3288, 2960, 2253, 1743, 1483, 1327, 1217, 971, 892. HRMS calculated for C₁₀H₁₁NO₄Na 232.0586, found 232.0592.

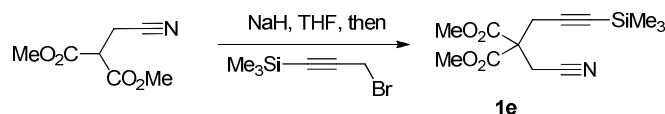
Synthesis of dimethyl-2-(cyanomethyl)-2-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (**1c**)



Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (28.4 mg, 0.04 mmol) and CuI (27.7 mg, 0.14 mmol) were added to a solution of **1d** (3.0 g, 14.5 mmol) in Et₃N (17 mL). To the mixture was added a solution of phenyl iodide (1.6 g, 8.1 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6h. The reaction was quenched by the addition of water and extracted with Et₂O. The organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl, and the water layer was extracted with Et₂O. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The residue was purified on a silica

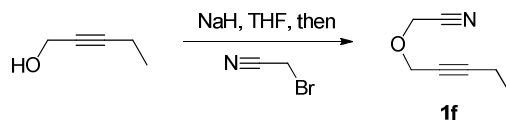
gel column chromatography (10% EtOAc/Hexanes), which furnished **1c** (1.2 g, 52% yield) as a dark brownish yellow oil. ^1H (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.34 (m, 5H), 3.85 (s, 6H), 3.25 (s, 2H) 3.22 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 168.1, 132.0, 128.7, 128.5, 122.6, 116.2, 85.2, 82.3, 55.5, 54.0, 24.7, 22.3. IR (cm^{-1}) 2957, 2253, 1743, 1438, 1295, 1215, 1030. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_4\text{Na}$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$ 308.0899, observed 308.0895.

Synthesis of dimethyl 2-(cyanomethyl)-2-(3-(trimethylsilyl)prop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (**1e**)



To a stirring suspension of NaH (0.12 g, 4.82 mmol) in 30 ml THF was added dimethyl-2-(cyanomethyl)malonate (0.55 mg, 3.21 mmol) under N_2 . The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h after which time (3-bromoprop-1-yn-1-yl)trimethylsilane (0.50 g, 4.82 mmol) was added. A reflux condenser was attached and the mixture was stirred at reflux for 12 h at which time GC analysis showed no starting material. The solution was cooled to room temperature and quenched with 70 mL of a saturated NH_4Cl solution. The layers were separated and aqueous layer was extracted with Et_2O (3 x 70 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine (100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude yellow oil was purified by flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **1e** (0.79 g, 87%) as a colorless solid. Mp: 34-36 $^\circ\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 3.82 (s, 6H), 3.14 (s, 2H), 3.03 (s, 2H), 0.15 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 167.9, 116.2, 99.1, 90.5, 55.4, 53.9, 25.4, 22.1, 0.1. IR (cm^{-1}): 2960, 2902, 2253, 2181, 1746, 1437, 1322, 1294, 1028, 847. HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_4\text{NaSi}$ 304.0981, found 304.0977.

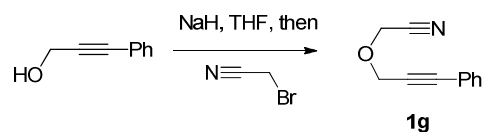
Synthesis of 2-(pent-2-yn-1-yloxy)acetonitrile (**1f**)



To a stirring suspension of NaH (0.7 g, 30.9 mmol) in 25 ml THF was added pent-2-yn-1-ol (2.0 g, 23.8 mmol) under N_2 counter-flow in two portions. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h after which time bromoacetonitrile (3.7 g, 30.9 mmol) was added. The

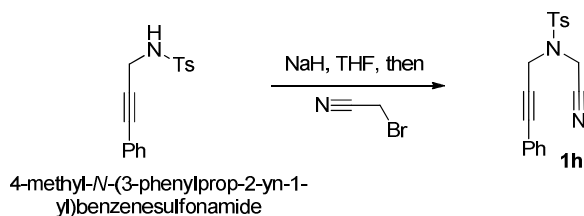
reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8-12 h at which time GC analysis showed no starting material. The solution was cooled and quenched with 100 mL of a saturated NH₄Cl solution. The layers were separated and aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 100 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine (100 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude yellow oil was purified by flash column chromatography (10% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **1f** (1.2 g, 42%) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 4.34 (s, 2H), 4.28 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 2.25 (m, 2H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 115.9, 91.3, 72.8, 58.9, 54.0, 13.7, 12.5. IR (cm⁻¹) 2980, 2919, 2292, 1452, 1320, 1140, 1092, 902. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₄NO₅ [M+H]⁺ 124.0762, found 124.0776.

Synthesis of 2-((3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)oxy)acetonitrile (**1g**)



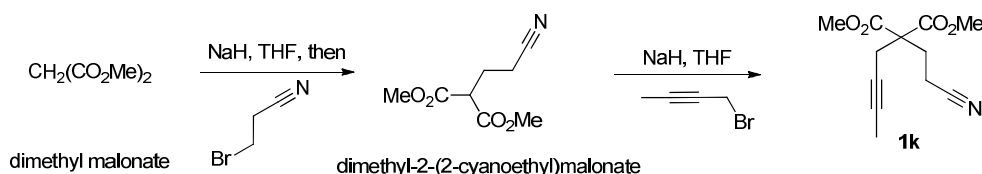
To a stirring suspension of NaH (0.3 g, 9.1 mmol) in 50 ml THF was added 3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-ol (2.0 g, 7.57 mmol) under N₂ counter-flow. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h after which time bromoacetonitrile (1.1 g, 9.1 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h at which time GC analysis showed no starting material. The solution was cooled and quenched with 100 mL of a saturated NH₄Cl solution. The layers were separated and aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 100 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine (100 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude yellow oil was purified by flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **1g** (1.2 g, 92%) as pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.36 (m, 3H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 4.43 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 132.0, 129.2, 128.6, 121.9, 115.9, 88.8, 82.3, 59.1, 54.3. IR cm⁻¹ 3060, 2908, 2857, 2242, 1964, 1598, 1490, 1350, 1249, 1093, 902, 759, 692. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₁H₁₀NO [M+H]⁺ 172.0762, found 172.0728.

Synthesis of *N*-(cyanomethyl)-4-methyl-*N*-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)benzenesulfonamide (**1h**)



To a stirring suspension of NaH (0.05 g, 1.9 mmol) in 20 ml THF was added 4-methyl-*N*-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)benzenesulfonamide ⁹ (0.5 g, 1.7 mmol) under N₂. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h after which time bromoacetonitrile (0.2 g, 1.9 mmol) was added. A reflux condenser was attached and the mixture was stirred at reflux for 12 h at which time GC analysis showed no starting material. The solution was cooled to room temperature and quenched with 100 mL of a saturated NH₄Cl solution. The layers were separated and aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 100 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine (100 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude yellow oil was purified by flash column chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **1h** (0.34 g, 60%) as a colorless solid. Mp: 97-99 °C. ¹H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.78 (d, *J*= 8Hz, 2H), 4.28 (t, *J*= 4.4 Hz, 2H), 2.25 (m, 2H), 1.15 (t, *J*= 7.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 145.2, 134.3, 131.9, 130.3, 129.2, 128.5, 128.1, 121.8, 113.8, 87.6, 80.1, 38.8, 35.4, 21.8. IR (cm⁻¹) 2958, 2253, 1744, 1438, 1215, 1072, 759. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₈H₁₆N₂O₂NaS (M+Na) 347.0830, observed: 347.0835.

Synthesis of dimethyl-2-(but-2-yn-1-yl)-2-(2-cyanoethyl)malonate (**1k**)

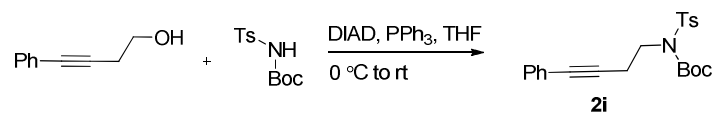


To a stirring suspension of NaH (0.24 g, 10.1 mmol) in 100 ml THF was added dimethyl malonate (2.00 g, 15.14 mmol) under N₂. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h after which time bromopropionitrile (1.35 g, 10.1 mmol) was added. A reflux condenser was attached and the mixture was stirred at reflux for 12 h at which time the solution was cooled to room temperature and quenched with 100 mL of a saturated NH₄Cl solution. The layers were separated and aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 100 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine (100 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude yellow oil was purified by flash column chromatography (40% EtOAc/hexanes)

to yield dimethyl-2-(2-cyanoethyl)malonate (1.2 g, 64%) as a pale yellow oil. Spectral data was compared with known literature values.¹⁰

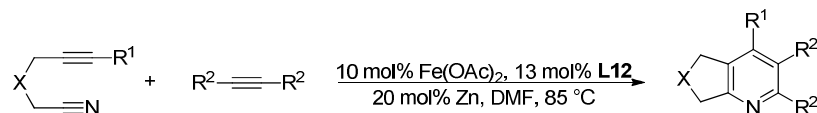
To a stirring suspension of NaH (0.16 g, 6.5 mmol) in 50 ml THF was added dimethyl-2-(2-cyanoethyl)malonate (1g, 5.4 mmol) under N₂. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h after which time 1-bromo-2-butyne (0.86 g, 6.5 mmol) was added. A reflux condenser was attached and the mixture was stirred at reflux for 12 h at which time the solution was cooled to room temperature and quenched with 50 mL of a saturated NH₄Cl solution. The layers were separated and aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 50 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine (50 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude yellow oil was purified by flash column chromatography (40% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **1k** (0.6 g, 50%) as a colorless solid. Mp: 62-63 °C. ¹H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 3.78 (s, 6H), 2.79 (q, *J* = 2.4, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (m, 4H), 1.77 (t, *J* = 2.4, 2.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 170.0, 119.2, 80.3, 72.4, 56.2, 53.3, 28.9, 24.2, 13.2, 3.7. IR (cm⁻¹) 2957, 2249, 1736, 1441, 1340, 1209. HRMS C₁₂H₁₅NO₄Na calculated: 260.0899, observed 260.0898.

Synthesis of tert-butyl(4-phenylbut-3-yn-1-yl)tosylcarbamate (**2i**)



Under N₂, diisopropylazodicarboxylate (1.7 ml, 8.92 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added to a solution of *N*-(tert-butyloxycarbonyl)-*p*-toluenesulfonamide (2.2 g, 8.1 mmol, 1 equiv), triphenylphosphine (8.9 g, 1.3 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and 4-phenylbut-3-yn-1-ol¹¹ (1.3 g, 8.92 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in a dropwise fashion at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 15 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Hexanes (100 ml) were added to the resultant yellow mixture and the white precipitate was filtered. The solid was pre-absorbed on silica gel and purified by flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc and Hexanes) affording the product **2i** as a white solid (3.1 g, 96%). Mp: 98-99 °C. ¹H (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.84 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.28 (m, 5H), 4.10 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.89 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 9H). ¹³C (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 151.1, 144.4, 137.6, 131.9, 129.5, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 123.7, 86.3, 84.7, 82.8, 45.6, 28.1, 21.8, 21.1. IR (in cm⁻¹): 3058, 2980, 2932, 1739, 1598,

1357, 1287, 1162, 970, 846, 693. HRMS (ESI) calculated for m/z $C_{22}H_{25}NO_4NaS$ ($M+Na$)⁺ 422.1402, observed 422.1403.



General Procedure for Cycloaddition:

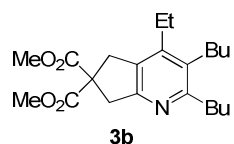
In a nitrogen filled glove box, a solution of alkyne nitrile (>1.0 M in DMF) was added to a vial containing 10 mol% $Fe(OAc)_2$ and 13 mol% **L12**. Additional DMF was added to make the final concentration of cyanoalkyne 0.4 M (accounting for alkyne volume). The mixture was stirred for 10 minutes then 1 equiv of alkyne and 20 mol% of zinc dust was added. The vial was capped and removed from the glove box then stirred at 85 °C for the indicated period of time. The crude mixture was purified via silica gel flash chromatography.

Synthesis of dimethyl-2,3-dibutyl-4-methyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3a**)

Compound **3a** was prepared using the general procedure with **1a** (51.3 mg, 0.23 mmol), **2a** (32.8 mg, 0.23 mmol), $Fe(OAc)_2$ (4.0 mg, 2.3×10^{-2} mmol), **L12** (20 mg, 3.1×10^{-2} mmol), and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6×10^{-2} mmol) in 533 μ L of *N,N*-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 °C for 2 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3a** (58.2 mg, 70%) as a viscous, yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 3.75 (s, 6H), 3.70 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 2.72 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 2.56, (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.42 (m, 2H), 0.93 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 172.4, 159.8, 156.6, 141.6, 123.3, 130.3, 57.7, 53.2, 42.2, 38.1, 35.6, 33.0, 32.5, 28.4, 23.4, 23.3, 15.9, 14.2, 14.1. IR (cm^{-1}) 3476, 2963, 2019, 1736, 1582, 1438, 1380, 1241, 1071, 963, 863, 818, 737. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{21}H_{32}NO_4$ [$M+H$]⁺ 362.2331, found 362.2338.

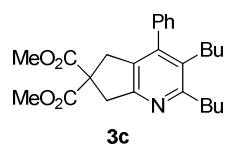
Synthesis of dimethyl-2,3-dibutyl-4-ethyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3b**)

Compound **3b** was prepared using the general procedure with **1a** (81.8 mg, 0.23 mmol), **2a** (47.7 mg, 0.35 mmol), $Fe(OAc)_2$ (6.0 mg, 3.5×10^{-2} mmol),



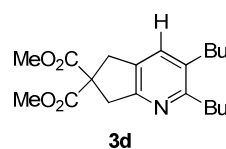
L12 (29.9 mg, 4.5×10^{-2} mmol), and zinc (4.5 mg, 6.9×10^{-2} mmol) in 800 μ L of dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 $^{\circ}$ C for 4 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3b** (102.9 mg, 86%) as a viscous, yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 3.75 (s, 6H), 3.63 (s, 2H), 3.51 (s, 2H), 2.76 (q, $J = 7.6, 7.6, 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.62 (q, $J = 7.2, 7.2, 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.24 (t, $J = 7.6, 7.6$ Hz, 3H), 1.10 (t, $J = 7.6, 7.6$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 172.3, 160.4, 157.1, 147.4, 131.4, 129.7, 58.1, 53.2, 42.0, 37.5, 42.0, 37.5, 35.5, 33.7, 33.0, 27.9, 23.5, 23.4, 23.3, 14.2, 14.04, 13.98. IR (cm^{-1}) 3476, 2958, 1744, 1580, 1437, 1408, 1378, 1253, 1104, 1070, 964, 905, 865, 736. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 376.2488, found 376.2497.

Synthesis of dimethyl-2,3-dibutyl-4-phenyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3c**)



Compound **3c** was prepared using the general procedure with **1c** (98.4 mg, 0.35 mmol), **2a** (47.7 mg, 0.35 mmol), $\text{Fe}(\text{OAc})_2$ (6.0 mg, 3.5×10^{-2} mmol), **L12** (29.9 mg, 4.5×10^{-2} mmol), and zinc (4.5 mg, 6.9×10^{-2} mmol) in 800 μ L of *N,N*-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 $^{\circ}$ C for 4 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3c** (136.6 mg, 75%) as a viscous yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.42 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.2$, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 3.71 (s, 6H), 3.22 (s, 2H), 2.78 (t, $J = 10$ Hz, 2H), 2.41 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 1.70 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 8 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (sext, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (q, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 8 Hz, 2H), 1.15 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 7.2 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, $J = 7.2$, 3H), 0.71 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 172.1, 160.6, 156.9, 146.8, 138.2, 131.6, 129.7, 128.6, 128.2, 127.7, 57.9, 42.3, 38.4, 35.4, 33.2, 32.9, 28.6, 23.3, 22.9, 14.2, 13.7. IR (cm^{-1}) 2956, 2869, 1783, 1576, 1490, 1437, 1273, 1198, 1073, 964, 739. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 424.2488, found 424.2484.

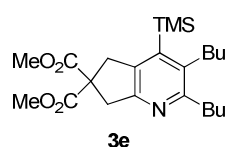
Synthesis of dimethyl 2,3-dibutyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3d**)



Compound **3d** was prepared using the general procedure with **1d** (32.8 mg, 0.23 mmol), **2a** (32.8 mg, 0.23 mmol), $\text{Fe}(\text{OAc})_2$ (4.0 mg, 2.3×10^{-2} mmol), **L12** (20 mg, 3.1×10^{-2} mmol), and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6×10^{-2} mmol) in 533 μ L

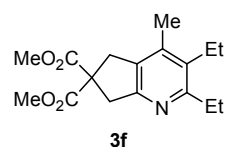
of *N,N*-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 °C for 26 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3d** (24.0 mg, 30%) as a viscous yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.23 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 6H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 2.76 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 1.63 (m, 4H), 1.53 (m, 4H), 1.42 (m, 4H), 0.95 (td, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 172.2, 159.7, 157.7, 133.8, 133.2, 130.6, 58.4, 53.3, 41.9, 38.5, 35.0, 33.4, 32.6, 32.2, 30.6, 23.3, 22.9, 14.24, 14.17. IR (cm⁻¹) 3286, 2958, 2868, 1737, 1603, 1572, 1437, 1379, 1249, 1072, 969, 853, 654. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₆H₃₄NO₄ [M+H]⁺ 348.2175, found 348.2176.

Synthesis of dimethyl 2,3-dibutyl-4-(trimethylsilyl)-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3e**)



Compound **3e** was prepared using the general procedure with **1e** (64.7 mg, 0.23 mmol), **2a** (32.8 mg, 0.23 mmol), Fe(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 2.3 x 10⁻² mmol), **L12** (20 mg, 3.1 x 10⁻² mmol), and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6 x 10⁻² mmol) in 533 μL of *N,N*-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 °C for 26 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3e** (55.0 mg, 57%) as a viscous, yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 3.75 (s, 6H), 3.60 (s, 4H), 2.72 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.64 (m, 4H), 1.42 (m, 4H), 0.96 (m, 6H), 0.39 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 172.3, 159.3, 156.5, 144.4, 138.8, 136.0, 58.3, 53.2, 41.3, 41.0, 35.4, 35.3, 33.0, 32.2, 29.9, 23.4, 23.3, 14.2, 14.1, 2.4. IR (cm⁻¹) 3476, 2957, 2870, 2179, 1739, 1556, 1436, 1376, 1253, 1200, 1167, 1072, 1049, 965, 877, 843, 762, 695, 633. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₃H₃₈NO₄ [M+H]⁺ 420.2570, found 420.2579.

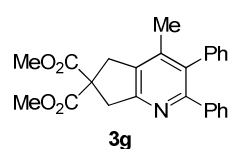
Synthesis of dimethyl 2,3-diethyl-4-methyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3f**)



Compound **3f** was prepared using the general procedure with **1a** (100.0 mg, 0.45 mmol), **2b** (36.8 mg, 0.45 mmol), Fe(OAc)₂ (7.8 mg, 4.5 x 10⁻² mmol), **L12** (38.8 mg, 5.8 x 10⁻² mmol), and zinc (5.9 mg, 9.0 x 10⁻² mmol) in 1.0 mL of *N,N*-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 °C for 6 hours and the resulting

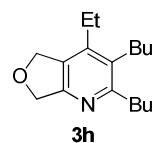
brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3f** (97.0 mg, 71%) as a viscous, yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 3.77 (s, 6H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 3.52 (s, 2H), 2.78 (q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 7.5 Hz, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.64 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 7.5 Hz, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.29-1.23 (m, 3H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 7.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 172.3, 160.6, 156.7, 141.6, 133.4, 130.5, 57.7, 53.2, 42.2, 38.1, 28.7, 21.6, 15.6, 14.9, 14.5. IR (cm⁻¹) 2965, 1737, 1584, 1437, 1377, 1259, 1071, 961, 928, 864, 820, 733. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₂₄NO₄ [M+H]⁺ 306.1705, found 306.1707.

Synthesis of dimethyl-4-methyl-2,3-diphenyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3g**)



Compound **3g** was prepared using the general procedure with **1a** (100.0 mg, 0.45 mmol), **2c** (159.7 mg, 0.90 mmol), Fe(OAc)₂ (7.8 mg, 4.5 x 10⁻² mmol), **L12** (38.8 mg, 5.8 x 10⁻² mmol), and zinc (5.9 mg, 9.0 x 10⁻² mmol) in 1.1 mL of N,N-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 °C for 6 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3g** (88.0 mg, 54%) as a viscous, yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.27-7.02 (m, 10H), 3.82 (s, 8H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 2.09 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm). IR (cm⁻¹) 3057, 2854, 1737, 1601, 1554, 1495, 1432, 1400, 1266, 1201, 1121, 1073, 908, 862, 819, 797, 771, 736, 701, 574. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₅H₂₄NO₄ [M+H]⁺ 402.1705, found 402.1700.

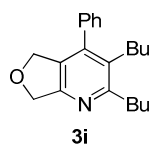
Synthesis of 2,3-dibutyl-4-ethyl-5,7-dihydrofuro[3,4-b]pyridine (**3h**)



Compound **3h** was prepared using the general procedure with **1f** (28.3 mg, 0.23 mmol), **2a** (32.8 mg, 0.23 mmol), Fe(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 2.3 x 10⁻² mmol), **L12** (20 mg, 3.1 x 10⁻² mmol), and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6 x 10⁻² mmol) in 533 μL of N,N-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 °C for 26 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3h** (24.7 mg, 41%) as a yellow viscous oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 5.13 (s, 2H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 2.77 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.64-2.50 (m, 4H), 1.71-1.6 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.41 (m, 6H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 3H), 1.00-0.929 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 160.9, 156.9, 145.2, 131.6, 128.7, 73.4, 71.9, 35.4, 33.7, 32.8, 27.6, 23.7, 23.4,

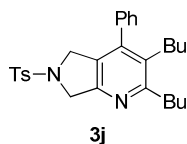
23.2, 14.1, 14.02, 13.97. IR (cm⁻¹) 2959, 1768, 1583, 1462, 1406, 1376, 1304, 1186, 1104, 1049, 903, 795, 742. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₂₈NO [M+H]⁺ 262.2171, found 262.2173.

Synthesis of 2,3-dibutyl-4-phenyl-5,7-dihydrofuro[3,4-b]pyridine (**3i**)



Compound **3i** was prepared using the general procedure with **1g** (39.4 mg, 0.23 mmol), **2a** (32.8 mg, 0.23 mmol), Fe(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 2.3 x 10⁻² mmol), **L12** (20 mg, 3.1 x 10⁻² mmol), and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6 x 10⁻² mmol) in 533 μL of N,N-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 °C for 4 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3i** (37.8 mg, 45%) as a colorless solid. Mp 49-50 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.19 (m, 2H), 5.1 (s, 2H), 4.8 (s, 2H), 2.85 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.49 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.45 (sext, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (m, 2H), 1.18 (sext, *J* = 7.2, 7.2 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.74 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 161.3, 156.9, 144.5, 137.9, 131.9, 129.0, 128.8, 128.1, 128.0, 73.8, 72.6, 35.5, 33.4, 32.9, 28.4, 23.3, 23.0, 14.2, 13.7. IR (cm⁻¹) 3058, 2957, 1952, 1780, 1581, 1497, 1463, 1399, 1289, 1257, 1181, 1101, 1042, 999, 900, 849, 748, 704, 647. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₈NO [M+H]⁺ 310.2171, found 310.2171.

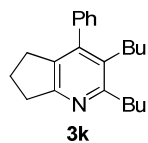
Synthesis of 2,3-dibutyl-4-phenyl-6-tosyl-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyridine (**3j**)



Compound **3j** was prepared using the general procedure with **1h** (74.6 mg, 0.23 mmol), **2a** (32.8 mg, 0.23 mmol), Fe(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 2.3 x 10⁻² mmol), **L12** (20 mg, 3.1 x 10⁻² mmol), and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6 x 10⁻² mmol) in 533 μL of N,N-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 °C for 4 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3j** (43.5 mg, 41%) as a colorless solid. Mp 158-160 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.71 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (q, *J* = 6.0, 7.2, 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 0.8 Hz, 2H), 4.63 (s, 2H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 2.78 (t, *J* = 7.6, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (t, *J* = 10.4, 5.6 Hz, 5H), 1.68 (q, *J* = 6.8, 8.4, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (sext, *J* = 7.6, 7.2, 7.6, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (q, *J* = 7.2, 8.4, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.2, 7.2, 3H), 0.71 (t, *J* = 7.2, 7.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 161.8, 153.3, 145.7, 143.9, 137.2, 134.0, 132.7, 130.0, 129.0, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 126.7, 54.5, 52.4, 35.4, 33.2, 32.7, 28.5, 23.2, 23.0, 21.7, 14.2, 13.7. IR (cm⁻¹) 3064,

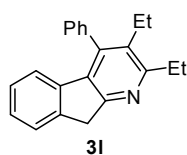
2957, 2926, 2860, 1725, 1494, 1212, 1097, 1061, 966, 740. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₈H₃₅N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 463.2419, found 463.2426.

Synthesis of 2,3-dibutyl-4-phenyl-6,7-dihydro-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine (3k)



Compound **3k** was prepared using the general procedure with **1i** (38.9 mg, 0.23 mmol), **2a** (32.8 mg, 0.23 mmol), Fe(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 2.3 x 10⁻² mmol), **L12** (20 mg, 3.1 x 10⁻² mmol), and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6 x 10⁻² mmol) in 533 μL of N,N-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 °C for 4 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3k** (54.3 mg, 65%) as a yellow viscous oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.46-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 2.85 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.49 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (m, 2H), 1.48 (sext, 7.5 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 8.7 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.38-1.12 (m, 6H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 3H), 0.74 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 7.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 161.6, 159.1, 146.7, 139.0, 133.2, 130.3, 128.5, 128.32, 128.25, 127.3, 35.5, 34.7, 33.3, 33.1, 30.4, 28.6, 23.3, 23.0, 22.9, 14.2, 13.6. IR (cm⁻¹) 3057, 3029, 2959, 1950, 1725, 1573, 1496, 1462, 1393, 1338, 1243, 1178, 1104, 1073, 1028, 964, 916, 846, 739, 703, 619. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₃₀N [M+H]⁺ 308.2378, found 308.2384.

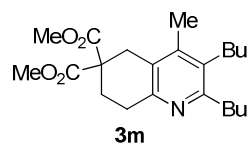
2,3-diethyl-4-phenyl-9H-indeno[2,1-b]pyridine (3l)



Compound **3l** was prepared using the general procedure with **1j** (50.0 mg, 0.23 mmol), **2b** (18.9 mg, 0.23 mmol), Fe(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 2.3 x 10⁻² mmol), **L12** (20 mg, 3.1 x 10⁻² mmol), and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6 x 10⁻² mmol) in 552 μL of N,N-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 °C for 2 hours. To the resulting brown mixture, 5 mL of dichloromethane, 5 mL of acetone and 10 mL of 6M HCl was added. The solution was stirred for 2 hours. The aqueous layer was extracted with 3 x 25 mL portions of dichloromethane and the organic layer was collected and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting greenish-yellow oil was dissolved in minimal dichloromethane and loaded onto a silica plug. The silica plug was then washed with 100 mL of ethyl acetate and the resulting filtrate was discarded. A 100 mL solution of 1% acetic acid in ethyl acetate was passed through the plug which was also discarded. A 100 mL of 1% NEt₃ solution in ethyl acetate was run through the

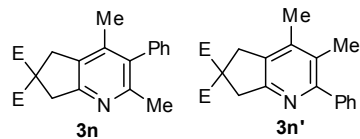
plug, collected, concentrated *in vacuo*, and further purified by column with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3l** (44.2 mg, 64%) as a yellow solid. Mp: 118-122 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.56-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 161.4, 159.9, 144.5, 141.8, 140.2, 138.4, 132.9, 131.1, 129.2, 128.6, 128.1, 126.7, 125.1, 122.7, 38.7, 28.8, 22.2, 15.8, 15.0. IR (cm⁻¹). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₂₂N [M+H]⁺ 300.1752, found 300.1746.

Synthesis of dimethyl 2,3-dibutyl-4-methyl-7,8-dihydroquinoline-6,6(5H)-dicarboxylate (**3m**)



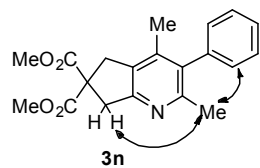
Compound **3m** was prepared using the general procedure with **1k** (54.6 mg, 0.23 mmol), **2a** (32.8 mg, 0.23 mmol), Fe(OAc)₂ (4.0 mg, 2.3 x 10⁻² mmol), **L12** (20 mg, 3.1 x 10⁻² mmol), and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6 x 10⁻² mmol) in 533 μL of *N,N*-dimethylformamide. The reaction was stirred at 85 °C for 24 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate in hexanes to yield **3m** (34.5 mg, 40%) as yellow viscous oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 3.74 (s, 6H), 3.12 (s, 2H), 2.86 (t, *J* = 6.5, 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.70 (t, *J* = 8.5, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (t, *J* = 7.0, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.44 (m, 6H), 0.96 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 171.8, 157.4, 150.4, 131.6, 127.7, 124.8, 53.7, 52.8, 35.5, 32.6, 32.3, 32.0, 29.5, 28.5, 27.7, 23.3, 23.1, 14.6, 14.0, 13.8. IR (cm⁻¹) 2957, 2870, 1738, 1665, 1571, 1438, 1332, 1242, 1169, 1084, 1027, 976, 858, 792, 737, 700. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₃₄NO₄ [M+H]⁺ 376.2488, found 376.2486.

Synthesis of Dimethyl-2,4-dimethyl-3-phenyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3n**) and dimethyl-3,4-dimethyl-2-phenyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3n'**):



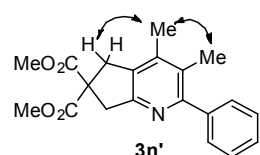
Compounds **3n** and **3n'** were prepared using the general procedure with **1a** (100 mg, 0.45 mmol) and **2e** (52 mg, 0.45 mmol), 10 mol% Fe(OAc)₂ (7.80 mg, 4.5x10⁻² mmol), 13 mol% of **L12** (39.7 mg, 5.9x10⁻² mmol), and zinc (5.9 mg, 9.0 x 10⁻² mmol) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide. After 6h the crude reaction mixture was purified via flash column chromatography using 100 ml hexanes then

20% ethyl acetate in hexanes to afford **3m** and **3m'** in a 1.2:1.0::**3n:3n'** as yellowish oils (105.3 mg, 69% yield).



3n: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm 7.41 (d, $J=8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.41 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.2, 158.2, 155.5, 141.7, 139.1, 135.5, 130.1, 129.3, 128.8, 127.4, 127.4, 57.8, 53.3, 42.2,

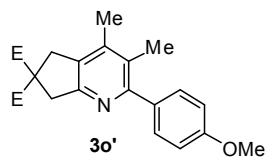
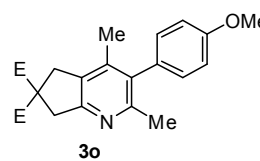
37.8, 23.7, 17.1. IR (cm^{-1}) 3472, 2954, 1737, 1575, 1437, 1273, 1071, 868, 705. nOe correlation of the methyl group and the phenyl ring and between the methyl and the methylene on the 5-membered ring. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 340.1549, found 340.1552.



3n': ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm 7.41 (d, $J=4\text{Hz}$, 4H), 7.36 (d, t, $J=4.4\text{Hz}$, 1H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 3.6 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.2, 158.4, 157.1, 142.8,

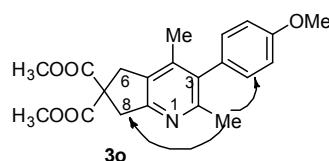
141.5, 131.3, 129.3, 128.3, 127.9, 127.7, 57.9, 53.3, 42.2, 37.9, 16.5, 16.4. IR (cm^{-1}) 3055, 2955, 1736, 1575, 1436, 1269, 1073, 738, 703. nOe correlation between the 2 methyl groups and the methyl group with the methylene on the 5-membered ring. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 340.1549, found 340.1553.

Synthesis of dimethyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,4-dimethyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3o**) and dimethyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,4-dimethyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3o'**)



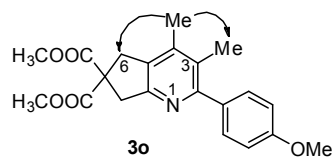
Compounds **3o** and **3o'** were prepared using the general procedure with **1a** (100 mg, 0.45 mmol) and **2f** (65 mg, 0.45 mmol), 10 mol% $\text{Fe}(\text{OAc})_2$

(7.80 mg, 4.5×10^{-2} mmol), 13 mol% of **L12** (39.7 mg, 5.9×10^{-2} mmol), and zinc (5.9 mg, 9.0×10^{-2} mmol) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide. After 6h the crude reaction mixture was purified via flash column chromatography using 100 ml hexanes then 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes and finally 30% ethyl acetate and hexanes to afford **3o** and **3o'** in a 3:2::**3o:3o'** as oils (65.2 mg, 39% yield).



3o: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm 7.02 (d, $J=8.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.96 (d, $J=8.4\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.41 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz,

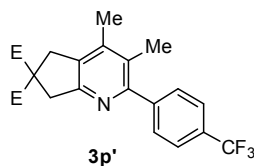
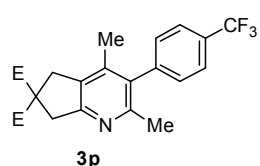
CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 172.3, 158.9, 158.0, 156.0, 142.3, 135.1, 131.2, 130.5, 130.2, 114.3, 57.9, 55.5, 53.3, 42.2, 37.9, 23.8, 17.2. IR (cm⁻¹): 3053, 2956, 2842, 1736, 1515, 1269, 1246, 1071, 838, 737. nOe correlation between the methyl group and phenyl ring. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₁N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺ 370.1654, found 370.1660



3o: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 7.37 (d, J = 8.8Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, t, J = 8.8Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm)

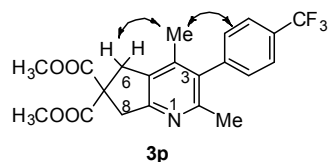
172.3, 159.3, 158.1, 157.1, 142.8, 134.2, 130.9, 130.6, 127.9, 113.8, 58.0, 55.5, 53.3, 42.2, 38.0, 16.6, 16.5. IR (cm⁻¹): 2955, 2840, 1736, 1608, 1437, 1247, 1107, 1071, 839, 765. nOe correlation between the two methyl groups and the methylene on the 5-membered ring. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₄NO₅ [M+H]⁺ 370.1654, found 370.1660

Synthesis of dimethyl-2,4-dimethyl-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3p**) and dimethyl-3,4-dimethyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3p'**)



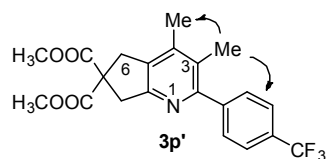
Compounds **3p** and **3p'** were prepared using the general procedure with **1a** (100 mg, 0.45 mmol) and **2g** (65 mg, 0.45 mmol), 10 mol% Fe(OAc)₂ (7.80 mg, 4.5x10⁻² mmol), 13 mol% of **L12** (39.7 mg, 5.9x10⁻²

mmol), and zinc (5.9 mg, 9.0 x 10⁻² mmol) in DMF. After 4h the crude reaction mixture was purified via flash column chromatography using 100 ml hexanes then 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes, and finally 30% ethyl acetate in hexanes to afford **3p** and **3p'** in a 4:1::**3p**:**3p'** as yellowish oils (63.7 mg, 39%).



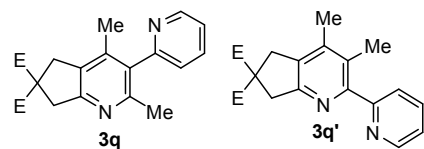
3p: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 7.02 (d, J = 8.8Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4Hz 2H), 7.41 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 172.2, 158.9, 158.0, 156.0, 142.3, 135.1, 131.2, 130.5, 130.2, 114.3, 57.9, 55.5,

53.3, 42.2, 37.9, 23.8, 17.2. IR (cm⁻¹): 2956, 2927, 2856, 1737, 1615, 1438, 1325, 1167, 1126, 1067, 848. nOe correlation between the methyl and the methylene, and also the methyl group with the phenyl ring. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NO₄F₃ [M+H]⁺ 408.1423, found 408.1425.

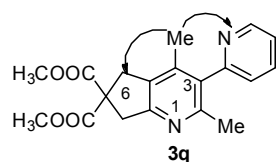


3p': ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm 7.69 (d, $J=8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.25 (d, $J=8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.1, 159.0, 155.2, 143.1, 141.5, 134.0, 130.3, 130.0, 126.0, 125.9, 57.8, 53.4, 42.3, 37.8, 23.8, 17.1. nOe correlation between the methyl group and the phenyl and also between the 2 methyl groups. IR (CH_2Cl_2 , cm^{-1}): HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 370.16, found 370.1660

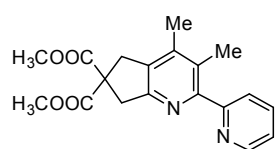
Synthesis of dimethyl-2,4-dimethyl-3-(pyridin-2-yl)-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3q**) and dimethyl-3,4-dimethyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3q'**)



Compounds **3q** and **3q'** were prepared using the general procedure with **1a** (50 mg, 0.22 mmol) and **2g** (39.4 mg, 0.22 mmol) with 10 mol% $\text{Fe}(\text{OAc})_2$ (3.89 mg, 2.2×10^{-2} mmol), 13 mol% of **L12** (19.83 mg, 2.9×10^{-2} mmol), and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6×10^{-2} mmol) in DMF. After 5h the crude reaction mixture was purified via flash column chromatography using using 50% EtOAc in hexanes then 2% dichloromethane in methanol, and finally 5% dichloromethane in methanol to afford **3q** and **3q'** in a 7:3::**3q**:**3q'** as yellowish oils (42.7 mg, 56%).

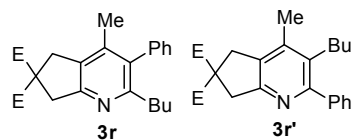


3q: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm 8.80 (s, 1H), 7.70 (dt, $J=8\text{Hz}$, 1.2Hz, 1H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J=7.6\text{Hz}$, 1H), 3.77 (s, 6H), 3.70 (s, 2H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.95 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.1, 159.2, 158.3, 155.4, 150.1, 141.7, 136.8, 134.2, 130.3, 124.9, 122.4, 58.0, 53.3, 42.2, 37.7, 23.3, 16.7. IR (cm^{-1}): 2954, 2924, 2851, 1736, 1588, 1434, 1274, 1071, 964, 823. nOe correlation between the methyl group and the pyridyl ring and also with the methylene protons on the 5 membered ring. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 341.1517, found 341.1511.

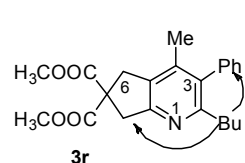


3q': ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.70 (s, 1H), 7.79 (t, $J=7.6\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J=7.6\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.73 (s, 2H), 3.61 (s, 2H), 2.26 (d, $J=4\text{Hz}$, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 172.2, 159.8, 157.3, 156.4, 149.0, 143.4, 136.7, 132.4, 129.0, 124.6, 122.6, 58.1, 53.4, 42.2, 38.0, 16.5, 15.9. IR (cm^{-1}): 2954, 2924, 2853, 1736, 1585, 1436, 1276, 1072, 964. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 341.1501, found 341.1505

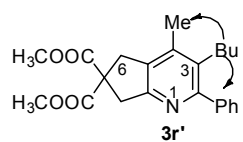
Synthesis of dimethyl-2-butyl-4-methyl-3-phenyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (3r) and dimethyl-3-butyl-4-methyl-2-phenyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (3r')



Compounds **3r** and **3r'** were prepared using the general procedure with **1a** (50 mg, 0.22 mmol) and **2i** (26.2 mg, 0.22 mmol), 10 mol% Fe(OAc)₂ (3.89 mg, 2.2x10⁻² mmol), 13 mol% of **L12** (19.83 mg, 2.9x10⁻² mmol) catalyst, and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6 x 10⁻² mmol) in DMF. After 16h the crude reaction mixture was purified via flash column chromatography using 100 ml hexanes and then 20% EtOAc in hexanes to afford **3q** and **3q'** in a 3:2::**3r**:**3r'** as oils (45.2 mg, 53%).

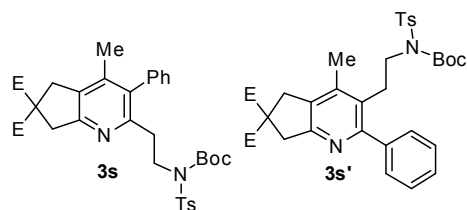


3r: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 7.36 (m, 5H), 3.76 (s, 6H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.60 (s, 2H), 2.53 (t, *J*= 8.4Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 2H), 1.21 (sext, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.77 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 172.3, 159.0, 156.8, 142.3, 141.8, 132.9, 131.8, 128.9, 128.2, 127.6, 57.8, 53.3, 42.2, 38.1, 32.5, 29.0, 23.0, 16.0, 13.8. IR (cm⁻¹): 2956, 2860, 1737, 1574, 1437, 1273, 1071, 736, 705. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₃H₂₇NO₄ [M+H]⁺ 382.2018, found 382.2022



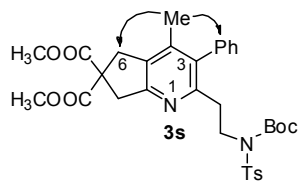
3r': ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.60 (td, *J*₁= 6.8 Hz, *J*₂= 1.6 Hz, *J*₃= 1.2 Hz, 2H) 3.80 (s, 6H), 3.74 (s, 2H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 2.45 (t, *J*₁= 8.4Hz, *J*₂= 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.76 (sext, *J*₁= 7.6 Hz, *J*₂= 7.2 Hz, *J*₃= 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.73 (t, *J*₁= 7.6 Hz, *J*₂= 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 172.2, 159.7, 158.4, 141.9, 139.0, 135.0, 129.9., 129.0, 128.6, 127.4, 57.7, 53.3, 42.4, 38.0, 36.1, 32.6, 22.9, 17.2, 14.0. IR (cm⁻¹): 2956, 2870, 1737, 1436, 1274, 1071, 961, 862, 735, 702. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₃H₂₈NO₄ [M+H]⁺ 382.2018, found 382.2032.

Synthesis of dimethyl 2-(2-(N-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-4-methylphenylsulfonamido)ethyl)-4-methyl-3-phenyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (3s), and dimethyl 3-(2-(N-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-4-methylphenylsulfonamido)ethyl)-4-methyl-2-phenyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (3s')



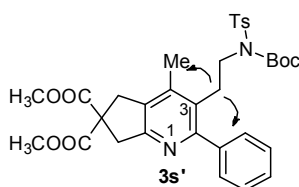
Compounds **3s** and **3s'** were prepared using the general procedure with **1a** (50 mg, 0.22 mmol), **2i** (26.2 mg, 0.22 mmol), 10 mol% Fe(OAc)₂ (3.89 mg, 2.2x10⁻² mmol), 13 mol% of **L12** (19.83 mg, 2.9x10⁻² mmol) catalyst, and zinc

(3.0 mg, 4.6×10^{-2} mmol) in DMF. After 16h the crude reaction mixture was purified via flash column chromatography using 100 ml hexanes, then 20% EtOAc in hexanes and finally 40% EtOAc in hexanes to afford **3s** and **3s'** in a 3:2::**3s**:**3s'** as yellowish oils (61.8 mg, 44%).



3s: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.52 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J=8.14$ Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 3.74 (s, 2H), 3.61 (s, 2H), 3.03 (t, $J=8.4, 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.42 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 6H), 1.29 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.2, 160.0, 158.0,

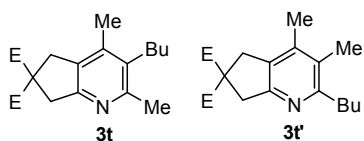
151.0, 144.3, 143.6, 141.3, 137.5, 132.1, 129.4, 129.1, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 84.6, 57.8, 53.4, 46.1, 42.3, 38.1, 30.1, 28.1, 21.8, 16.3. nOe correlation between the methyl group and the phenyl ring and also the methyl group and the methylene protons on the 5 membered ring. IR (cm^{-1}): 2956, 1734, 1575, 1437, 1400, 1278, 1159, 1090, 969, 736. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8\text{SNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 645.2247, found 645.2264.



3s': ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.61(d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, $J=7.6$, 2H), 7.13 (d, $J=7.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.12 (t, $J=7.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 2.86 (t, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H), 1.28 (s, 9H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.3, 158.7, 155.6, 151.0, 144.0, 141.7, 138.5, 137.7, 135.6, 130.4, 129.6, 129.2, 128.9, 128.1, 127.5, 84.0, 57.8, 53.3, 46.8, 42.2, 37.9, 35.8, 28.0, 21.8, 17.2. nOe correlation between the methylene on the side chain with the phenyl and also the methyl group. IR (cm^{-1}): 2956, 1734, 1596, 1439, 1400, 1277, 1159, 1088, 970, 735. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8\text{SNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 645.2247, found 645.2254.

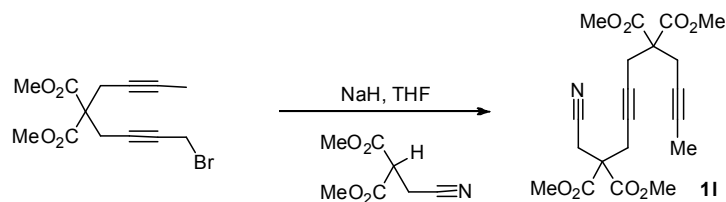
Synthesis of dimethyl-3-butyl-2,4-dimethyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3t**) and dimethyl-2-butyl-3,4-dimethyl-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-6,6(7H)-dicarboxylate (**3t'**)



Compounds **3t** and **3t'** were prepared using the general procedure with **1a** (50 mg, 0.22 mmol) and **2j** (28.9 mg, 0.22 mmol), 10 mol% $\text{Fe}(\text{OAc})_2$ (3.89 mg, 2.2×10^{-2} mmol) and 13 mol% of **L12**

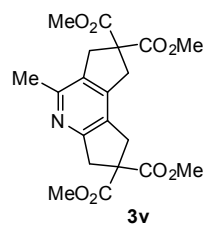
(19.83 mg, 2.9×10^{-2} mmol) catalyst, and zinc (3.0 mg, 4.6×10^{-2} mmol) in 0.53 ml DMF. After 16h the crude reaction mixture was purified via flash column chromatography using 100 ml

Synthesis of tetramethyl 1-cyanoundeca-4,9-diyn-2,2,7,7-tetracarboxylate (**11**)



Dimethyl 2-(4-bromobut-2-yn-1-yl)-2-(but-2-yn-1-yl)malonate¹² was then added to a solution of NaH (92 mg, 3.85 mmol), THF (40 ml), and dimethyl-2-(cyanomethyl)malonate (0.6 g, 3.5 mmol) which was previously stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. After the addition was complete the reaction mixture was refluxed for 12-15 hours. Completion of the reaction was monitored by gas chromatography. The reaction was later quenched by addition of 50 ml saturated ammonium chloride and distilled water 20 ml and extracted with diethyl ether (3x100 ml). All organic layers were washed with brine and then dried over magnesium sulfate. The organic layers were concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a crude oil. The crude oil was then purified by column chromatography using silica gel to afford **11** (1.2 g, 86%) as yellowish oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 3.81 (s, 6H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 3.12 (s, 2H), 2.98 (t, *J*= 2 Hz, 2H), 2.93 (t, *J*= 2.4 Hz, 2H), 2.84 (q, *J*=2.4 Hz, 2H), 1.75 (t, *J*= 2.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 169.6, 168.1, 116.3, 79.7, 79.5, 723.0, 56.9, 55.3, 53.9, 53.2, 24.1, 23.2, 23.1, 22.0, 3.7. IR (cm⁻¹): 2958, 2848, 2251, 1741, 1437, 1294, 1214, 1056, 952, 819. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₃NO₈Na [M+Na]⁺ 428.1321, found 428.1328.

Synthesis of tetramethyl-5-methyl-dicyclopenta[b,d]pyridine-2,2,7,7(1H,3H,6H,8H)-tetracarboxylate (**3v**)

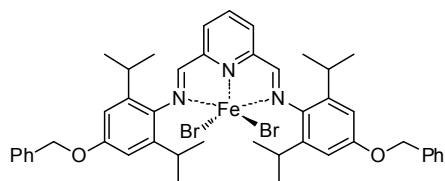


The general procedure was used with **11** (50 mg, 0.12 mmol) with 20 mol% Fe(OAc)₂ (4.3 mg, 3.2x10⁻² mmoles) and 32 mol% of **L12** (21.4 mg, 2.5 x10⁻² mmoles), and zinc dust (3.2 mg, 4.9 x10⁻²) in 0.4 ml DMF. After 24h the crude reaction mixture was purified via flash column chromatography using 100 ml hexanes, then 30% EtOAc in hexanes and finally 50% EtOAc in hexanes to afford **3v** as yellowish oil (37 mg, 74%).

3v: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 3.76 (s, 6H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 3.62 (s, 2H), 3.52 (s, 2H), 3.49 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 172.1, 171.9, 159.3, 152.9, 145.5, 132.7, 126.8, 59.8, 58.3, 53.4, 41.8, 39.4, 39.1, 37.1, 22.0. IR (cm⁻¹): 2955, 2850, 1736,

1592, 1434, 1266, 1200, 1068, 961, 860, 737. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₄NO₄ [M+H]⁺ 406.1502, found 406.1502.

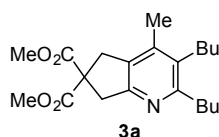
Synthesis of FeBr₂ and L12 complex



The FeBr₂ and L12 complex was prepared by a previous reported method¹³ using FeBr₂ (20 mg, 9.2 x10⁻² mmol) L12 (61.8 mg, 9.2 x10⁻² mmol) in THF in the glove box. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 hours and then filtered

over celite. Removal of THF in *vacuo* afforded the complex as a dark green solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) (All peaks appeared broad) δ (ppm) 59.5 (2H), 14.02 (4H), 7.55 (17H), 0.34 (28H), 3.62 (s, 2H), 3.52 (s, 2H), 3.49 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H). Crystals were grown by slow diffusion of diethyl ether from dichloromethane. Based on the preliminary crystal structure analysis, we found that the iron is coordinated to the 3 nitrogens of L12. The crystal system is triclinic A= 8.8401 Å, B= 9.9680 Å, C= 27.2923 Å, α= 90.91°, β= 94.59°, γ= 113.99°. Unit cell volume= 2194.98 Å³, Space group= Pī. Disorder in the *p*-substituted benzyloxy region was also observed.

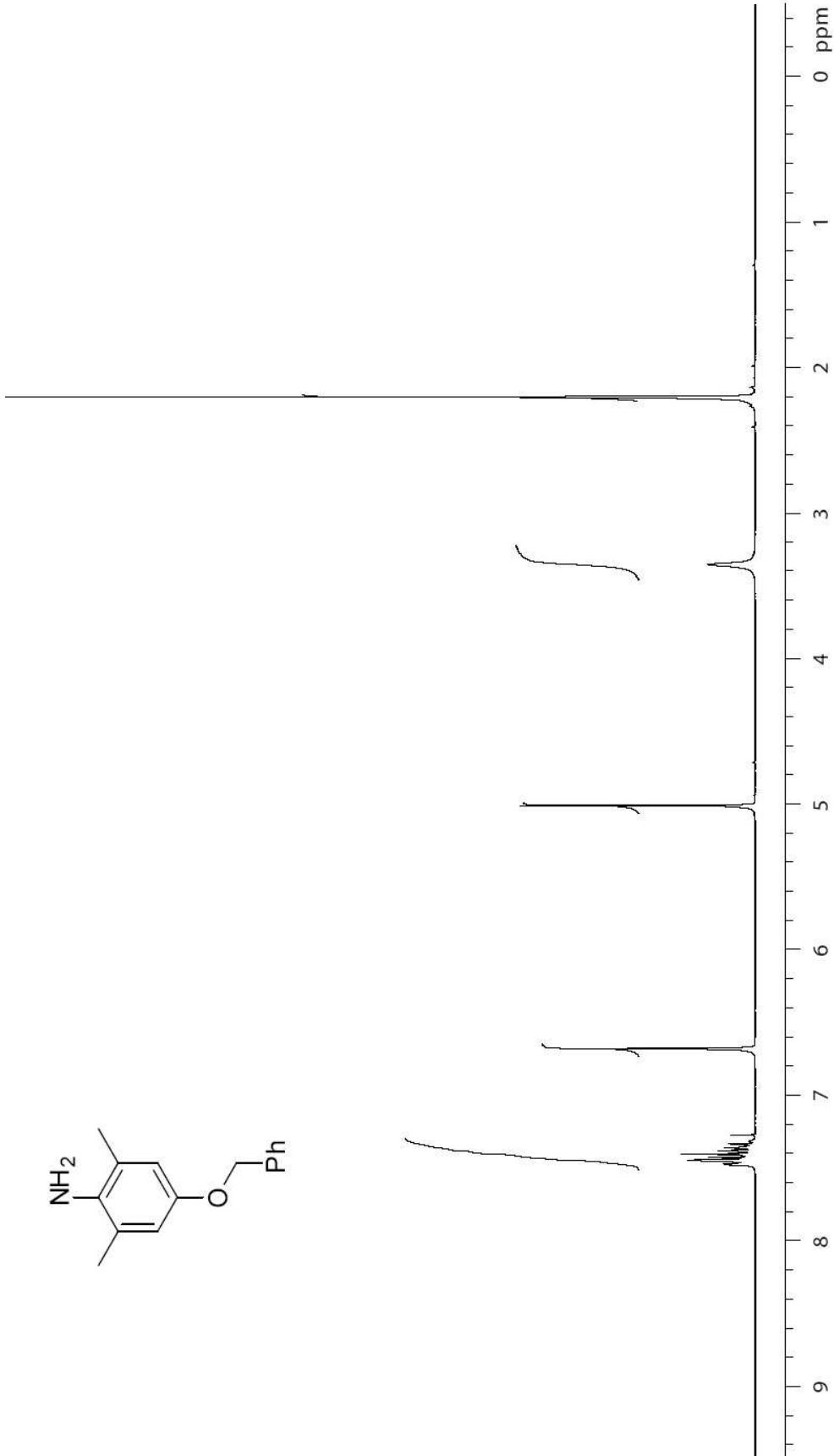
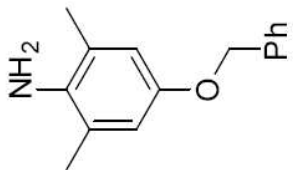


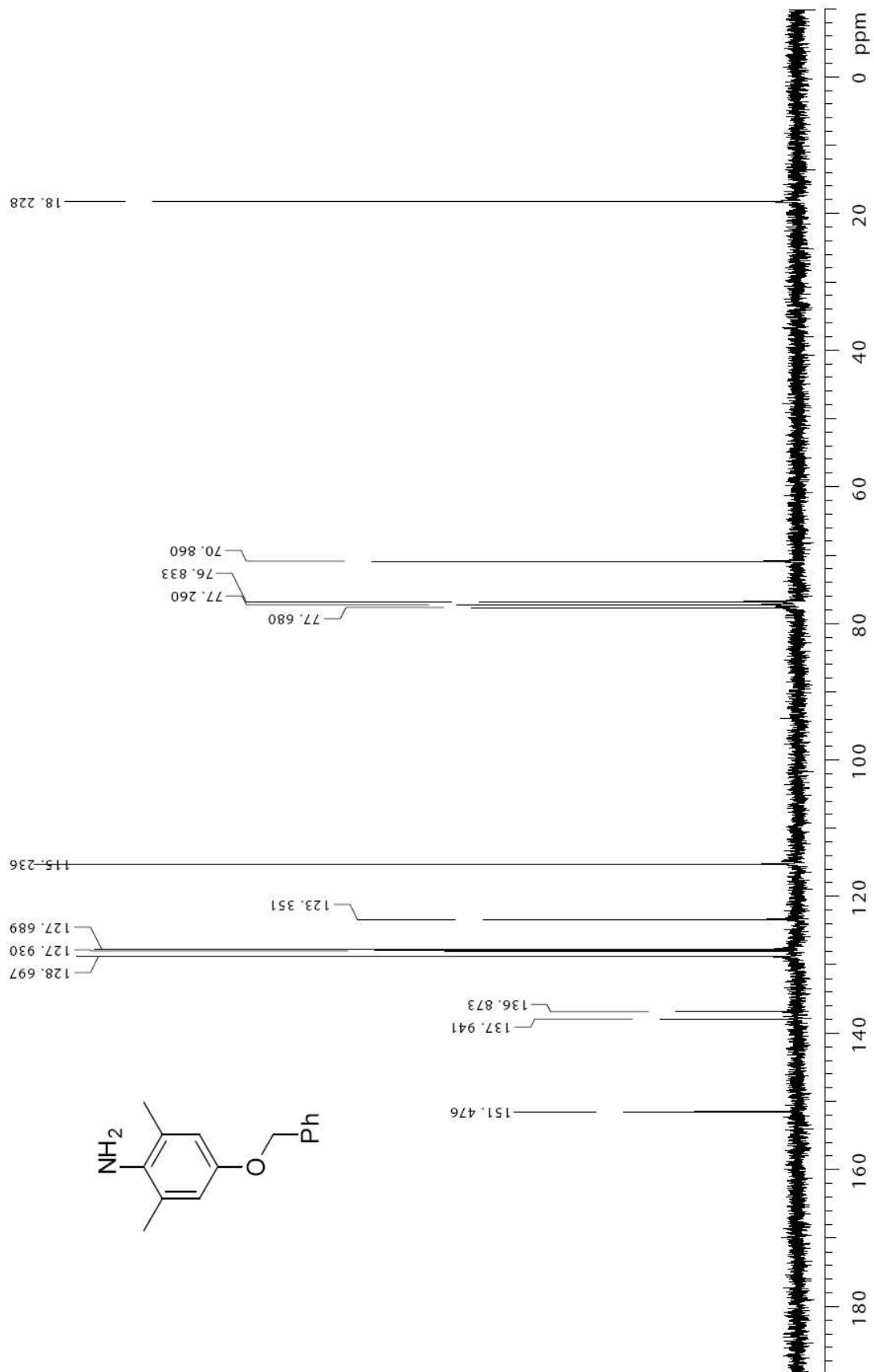
Compound **3a** was prepared using **1a** (51.3 mg, 0.23 mmol) **2a** (32.8 mg, 0.23 mmol), FeBr₂-L12 complex (20.3 mg, 2.3x 10⁻² mmol), and zinc (30 mg, 4.6x10⁻² mmol) in 533μL of *N,N*-dimethyl formamide. The reaction was

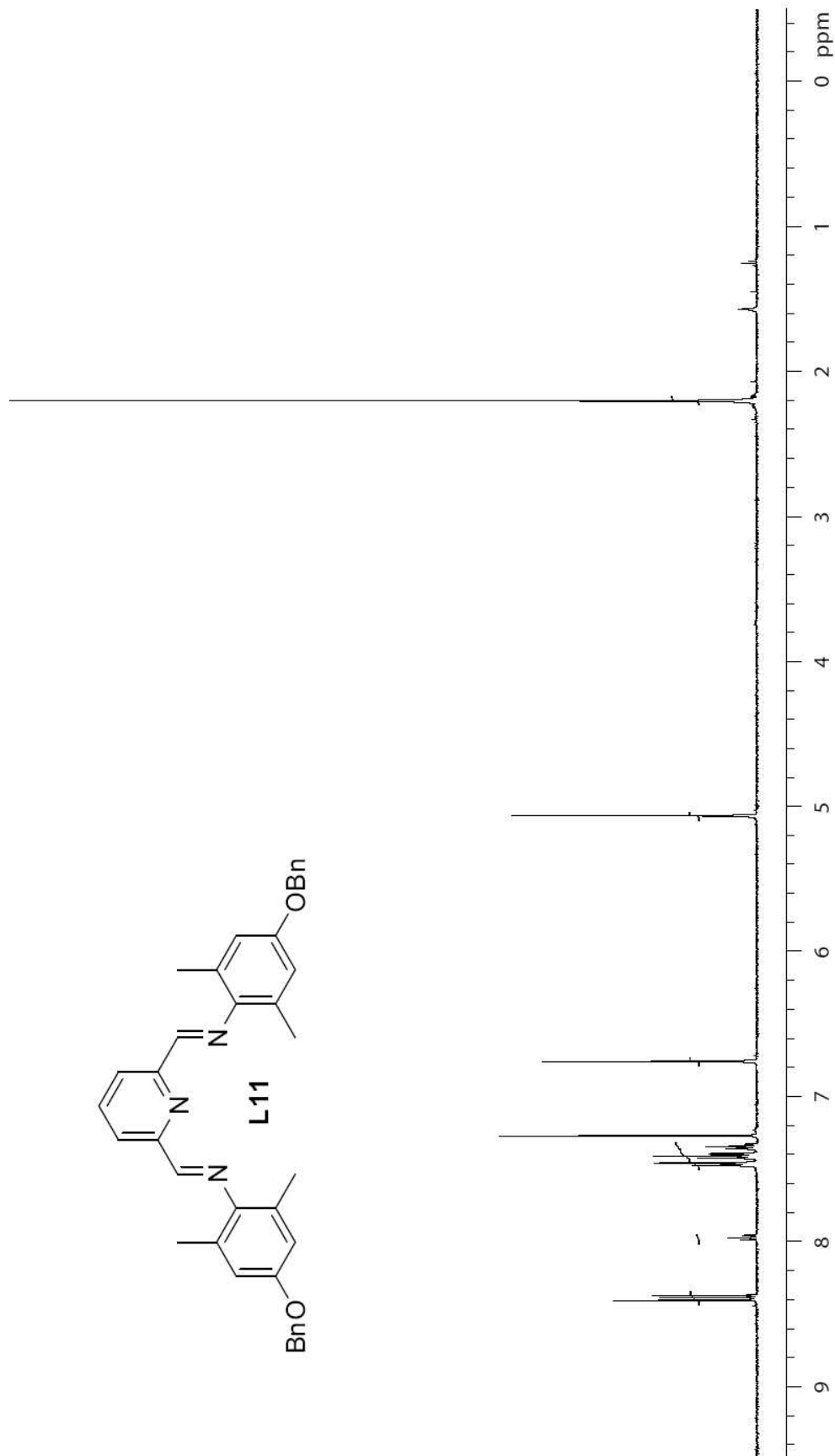
stirred at 85 °C for 2 hours and the resulting brown mixture was purified with silica gel flash chromatography using 10% EtOAc in hexanes to yield **3a** (48 mg, 58%) as a viscous yellow oil (characterization reported above).

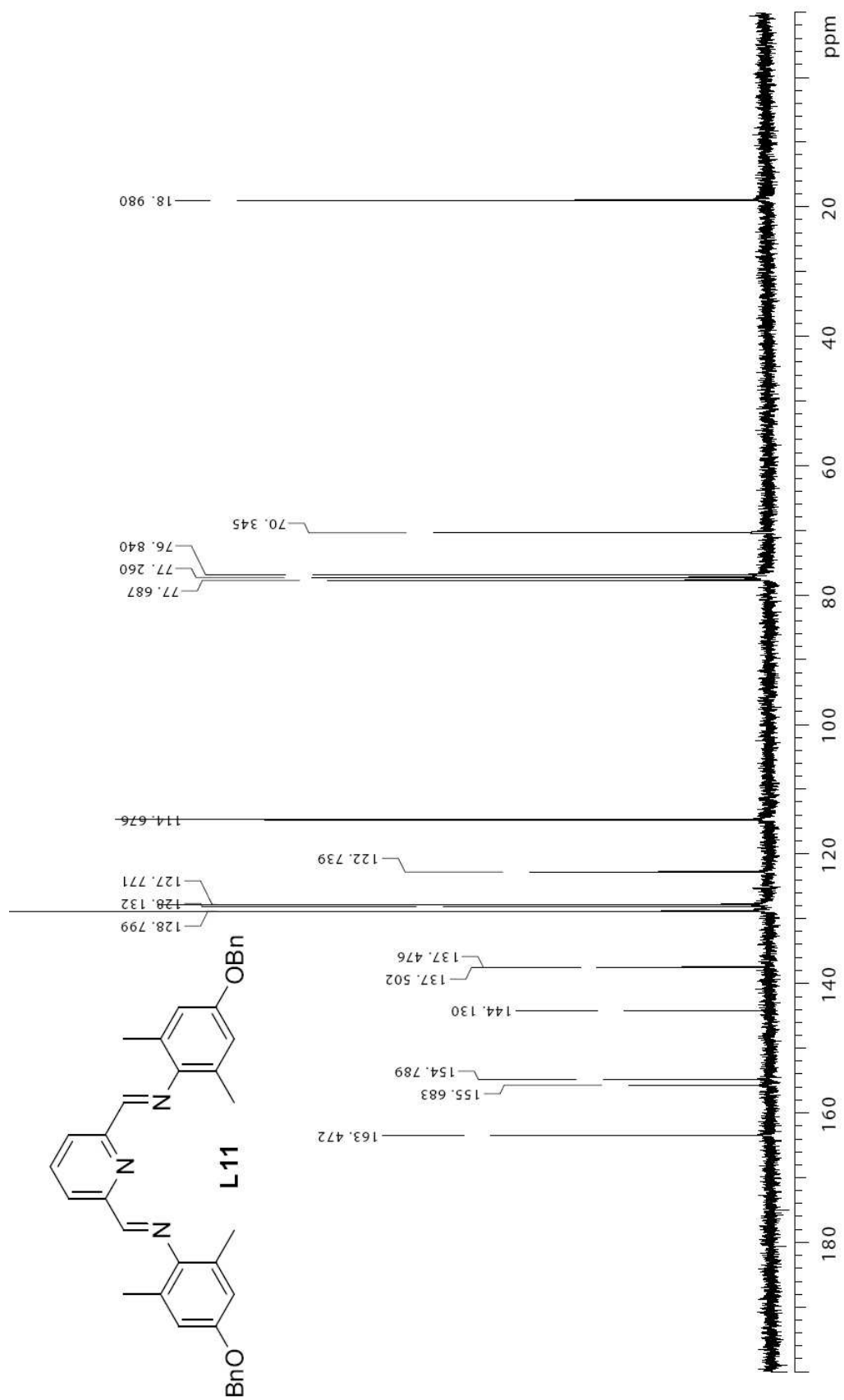
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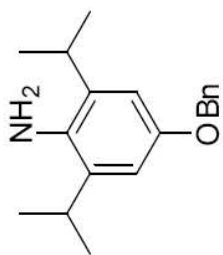
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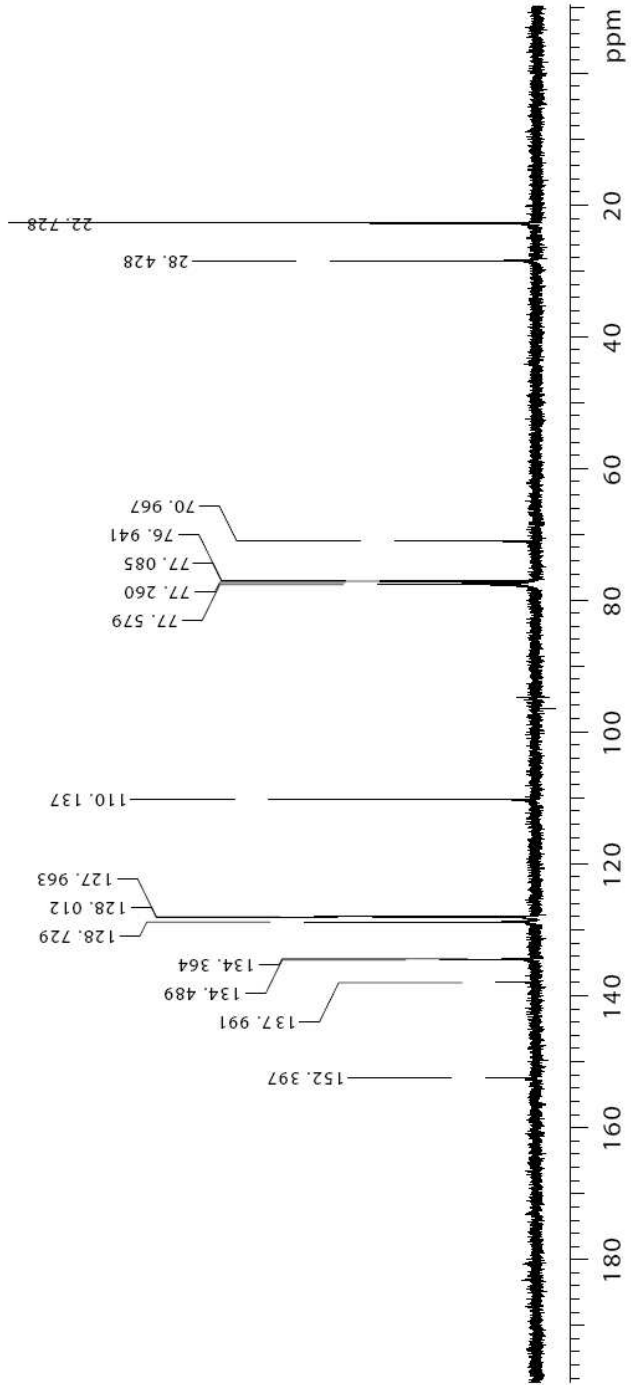


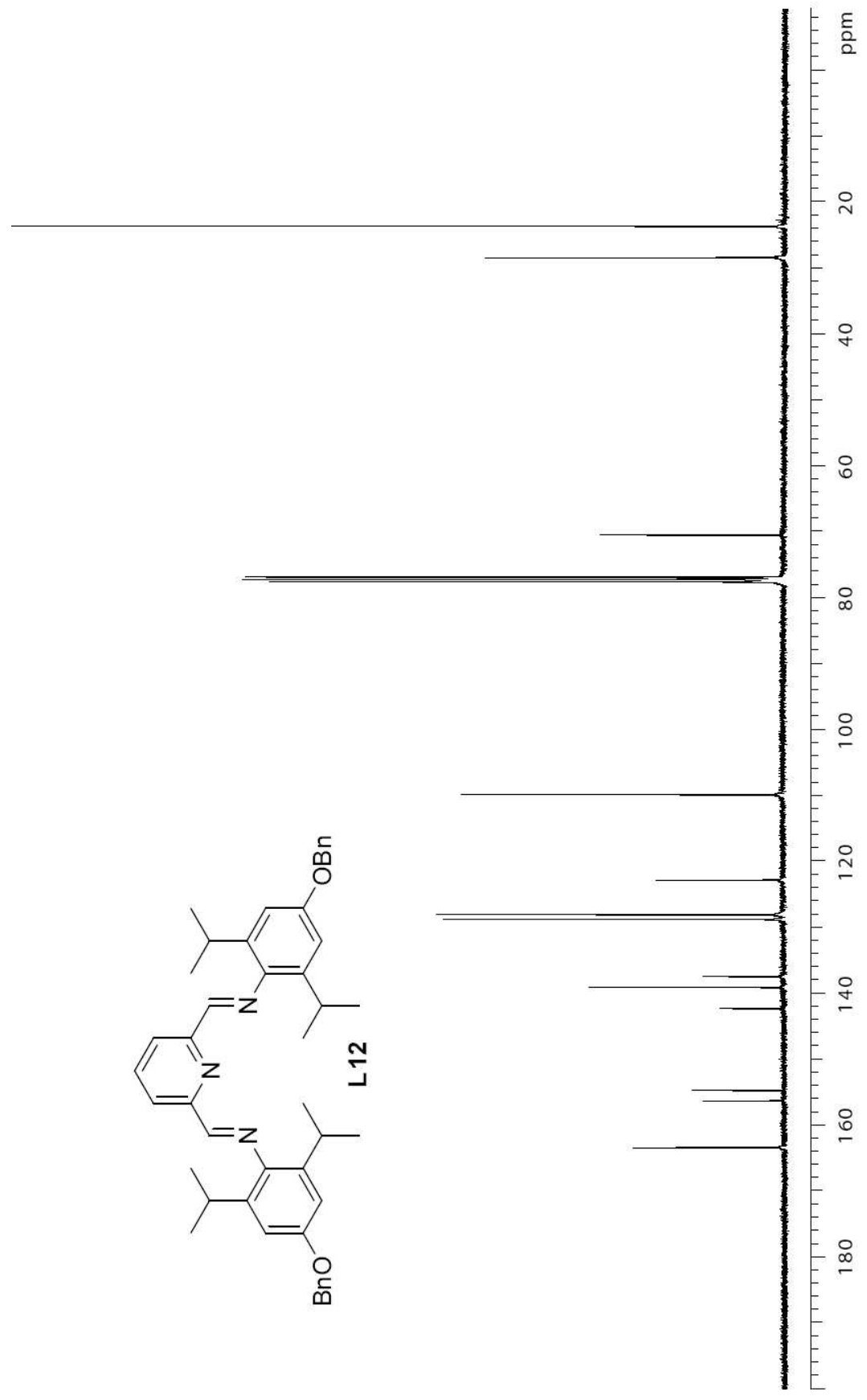
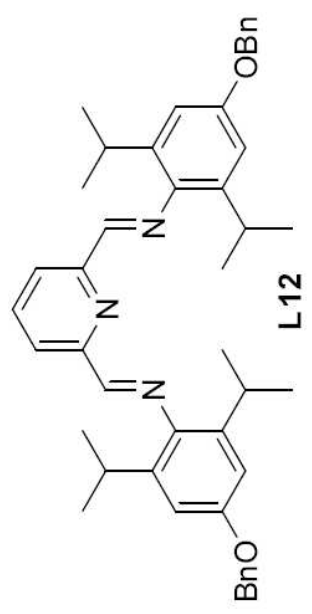


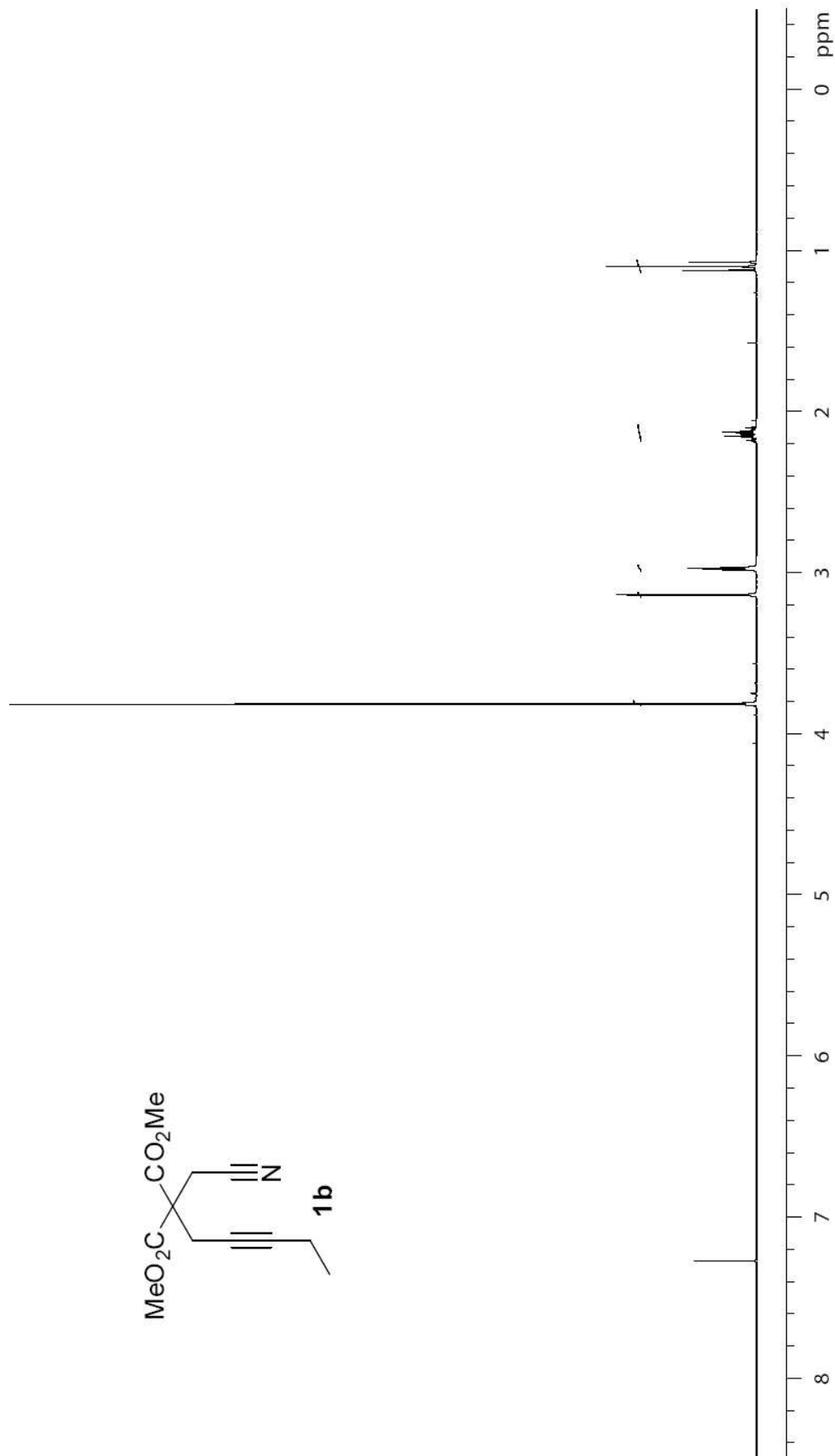
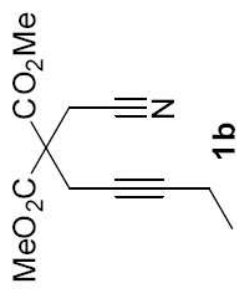


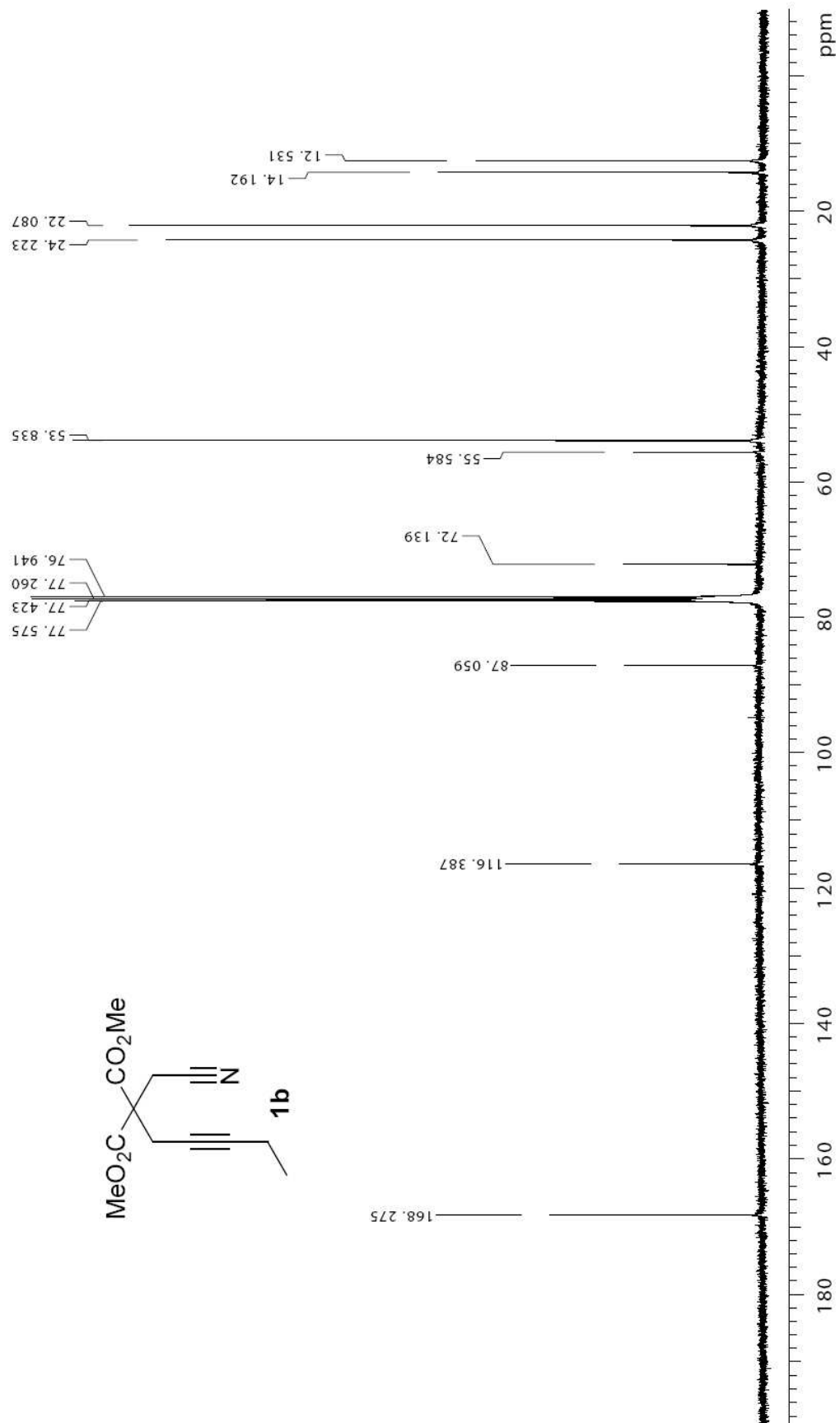


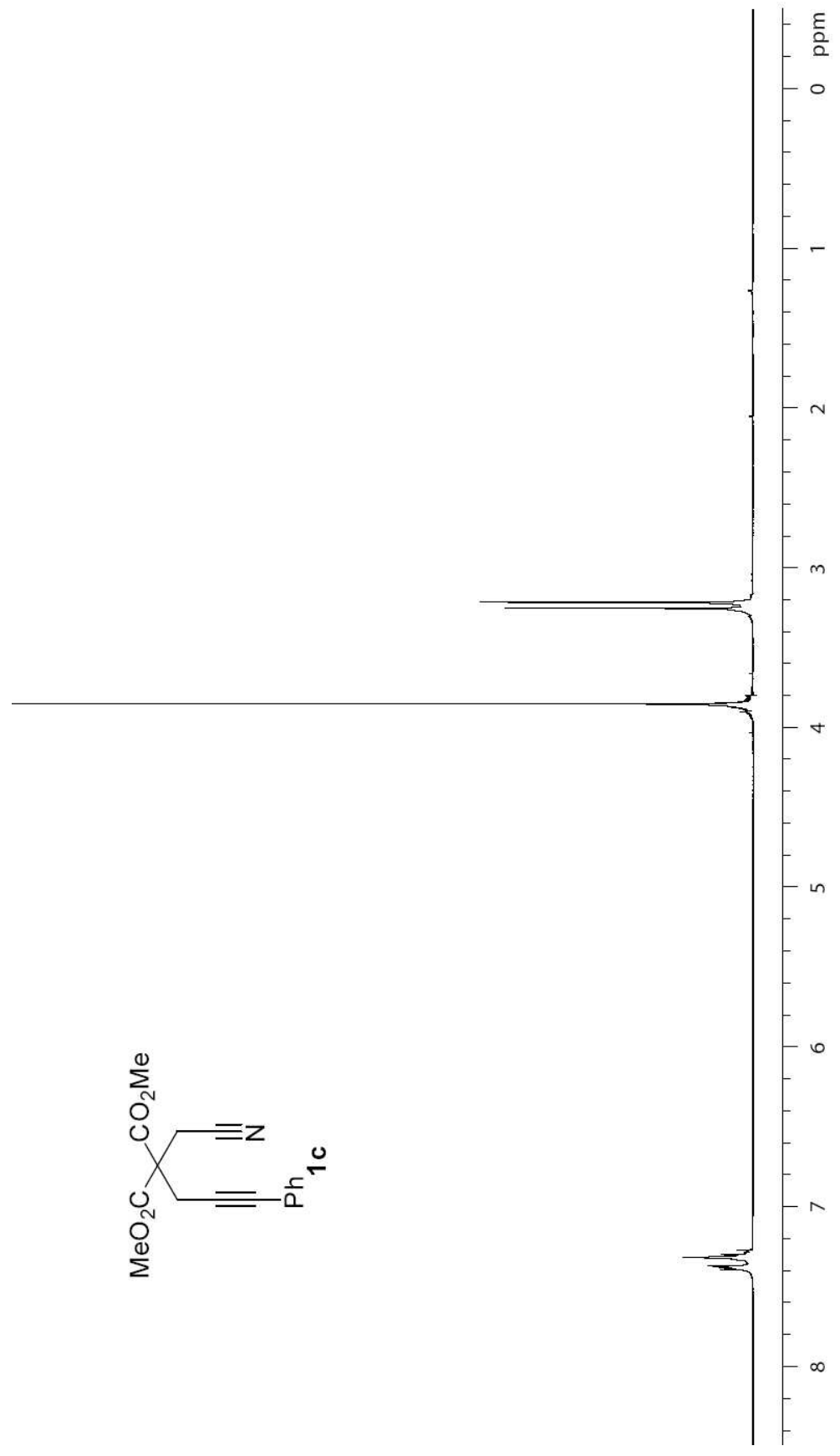
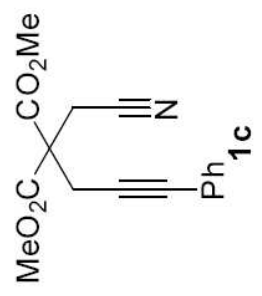
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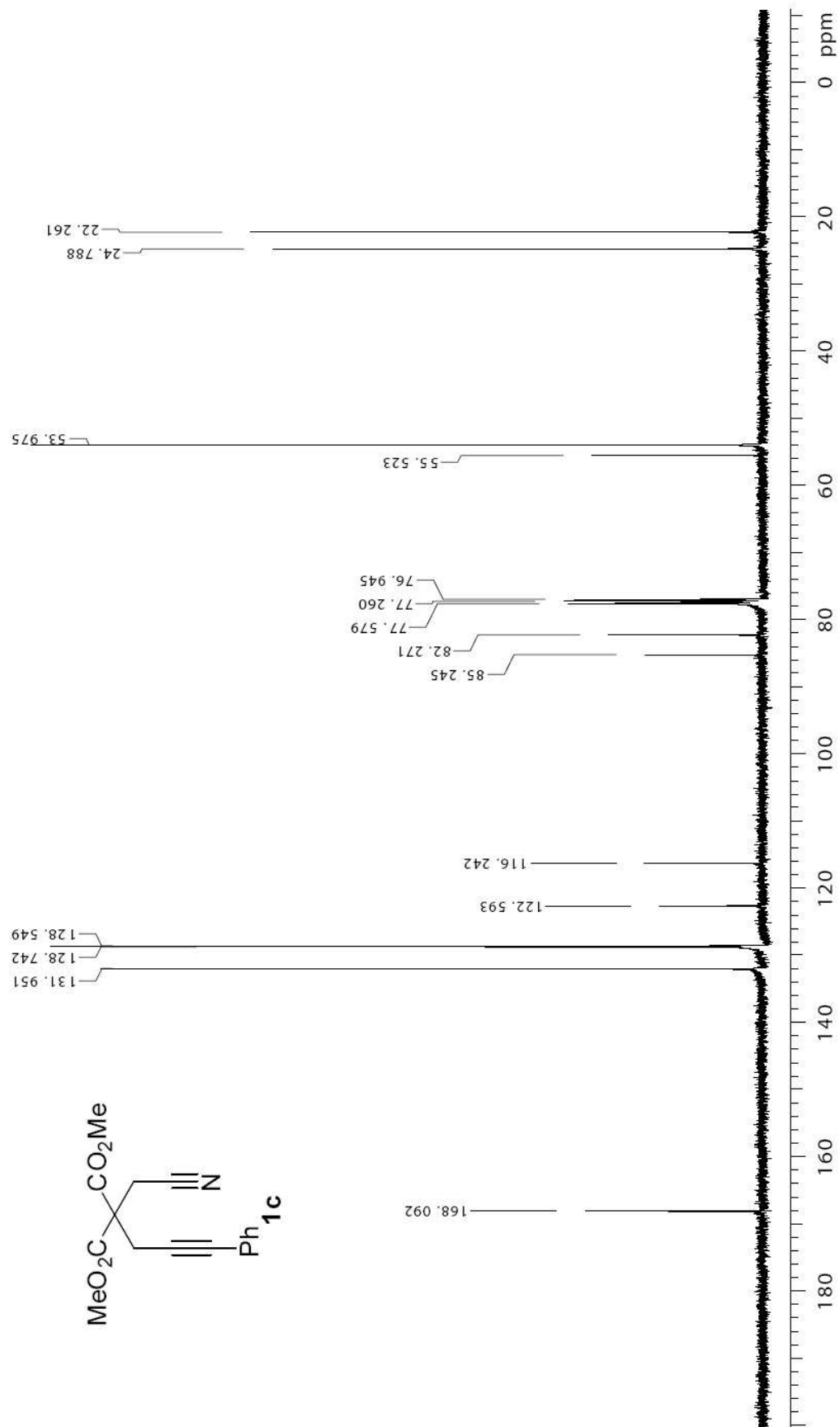


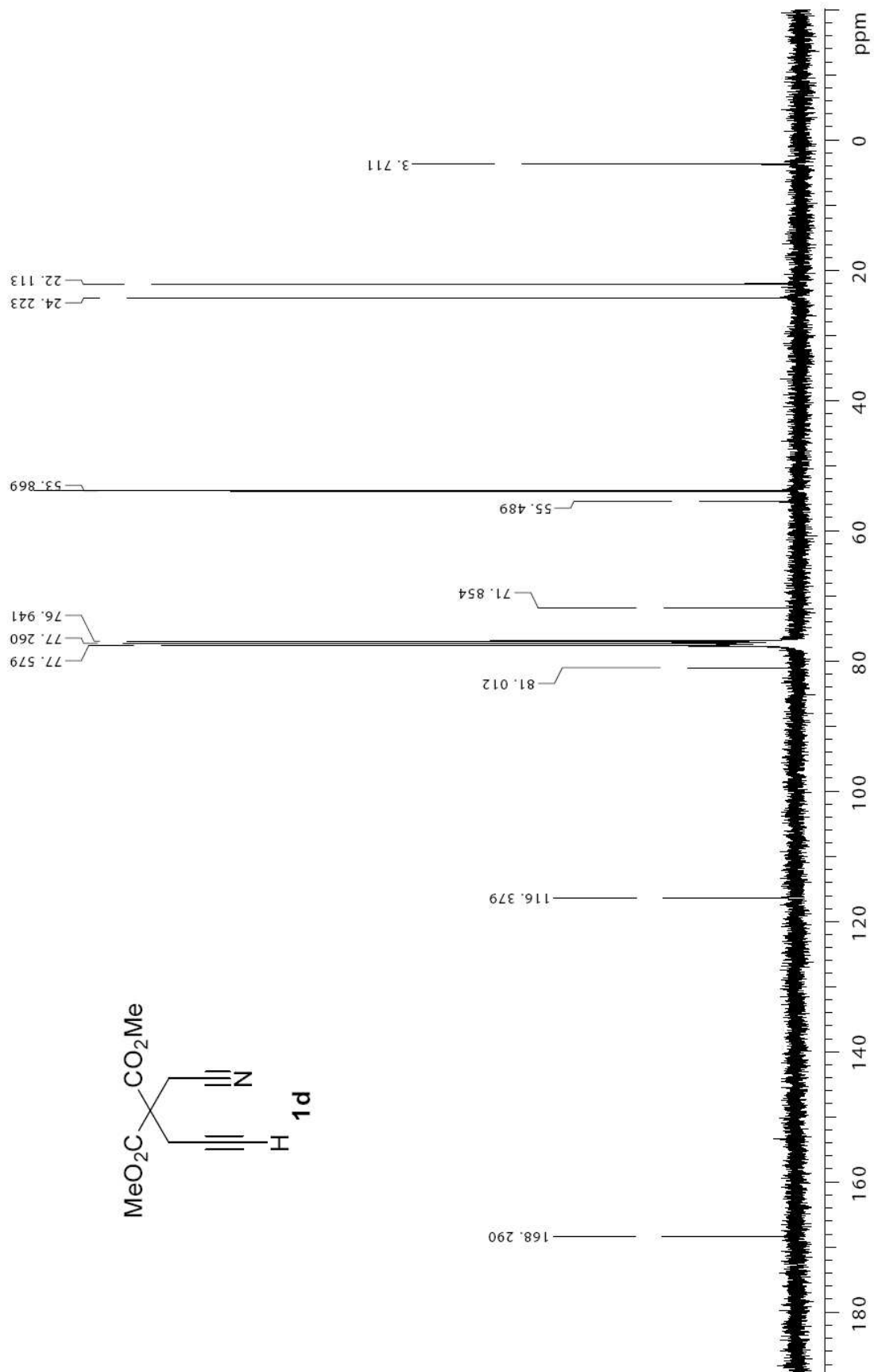


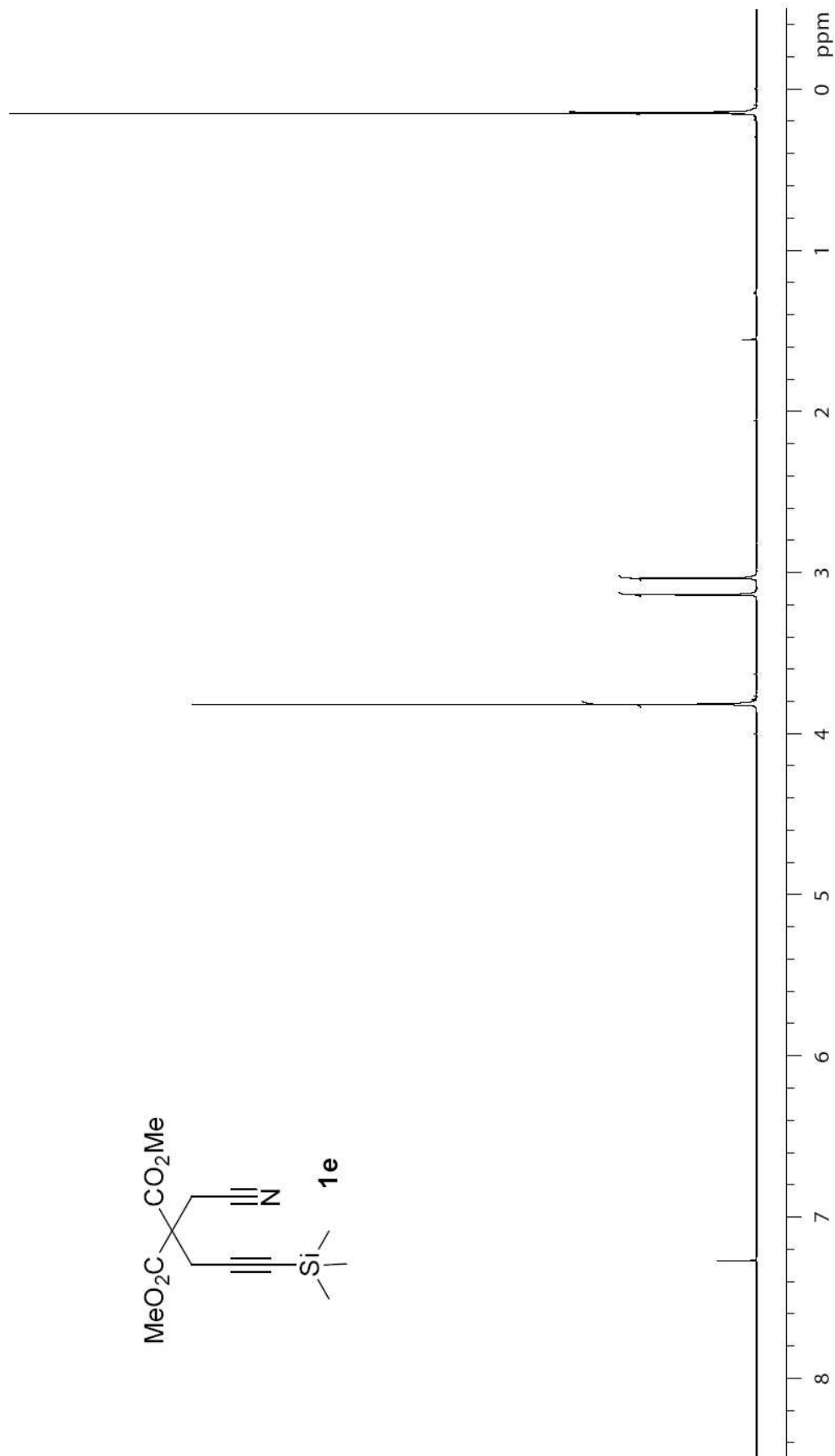
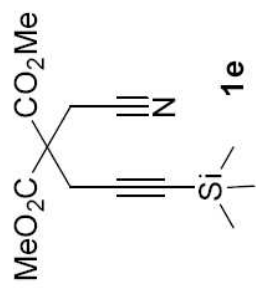


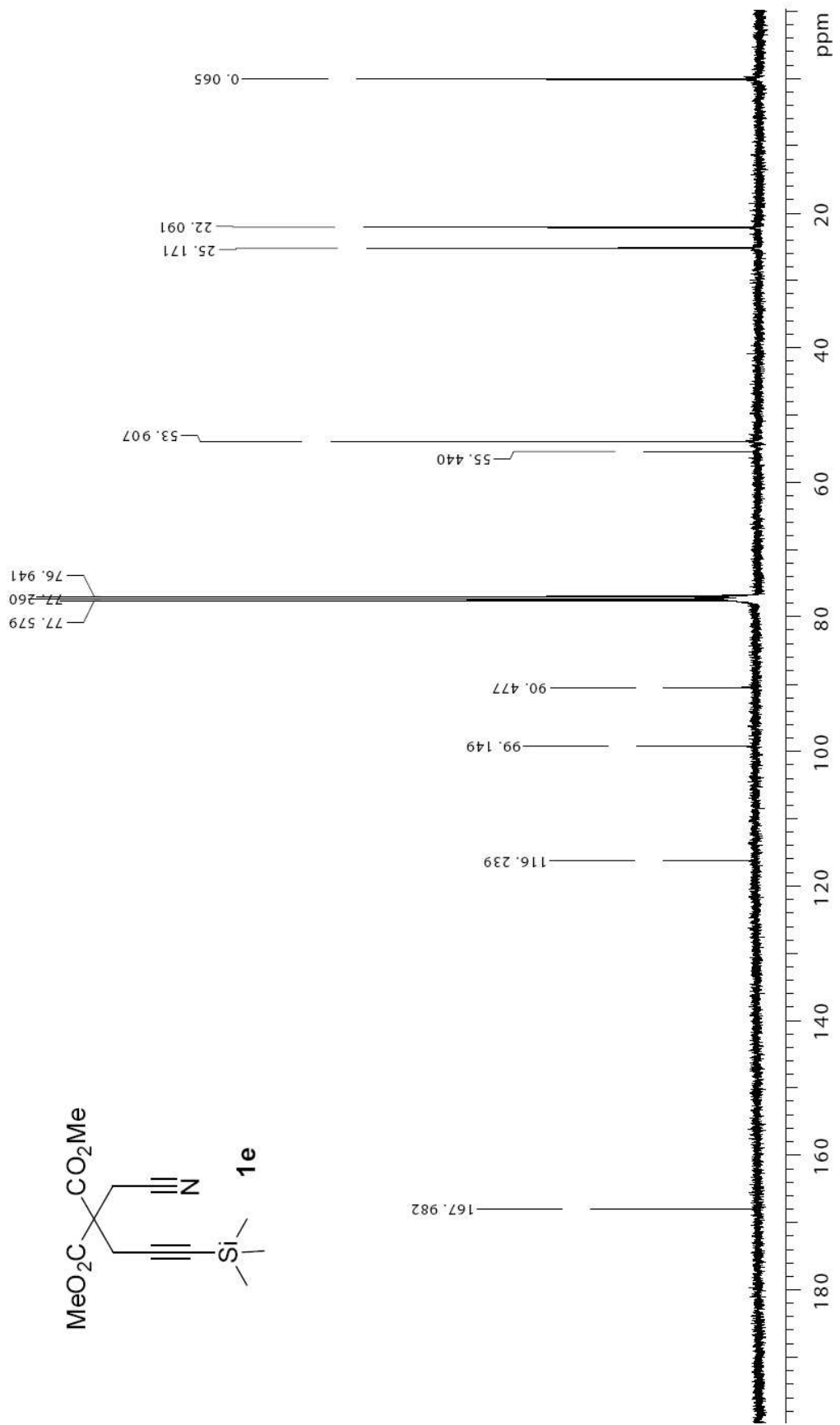


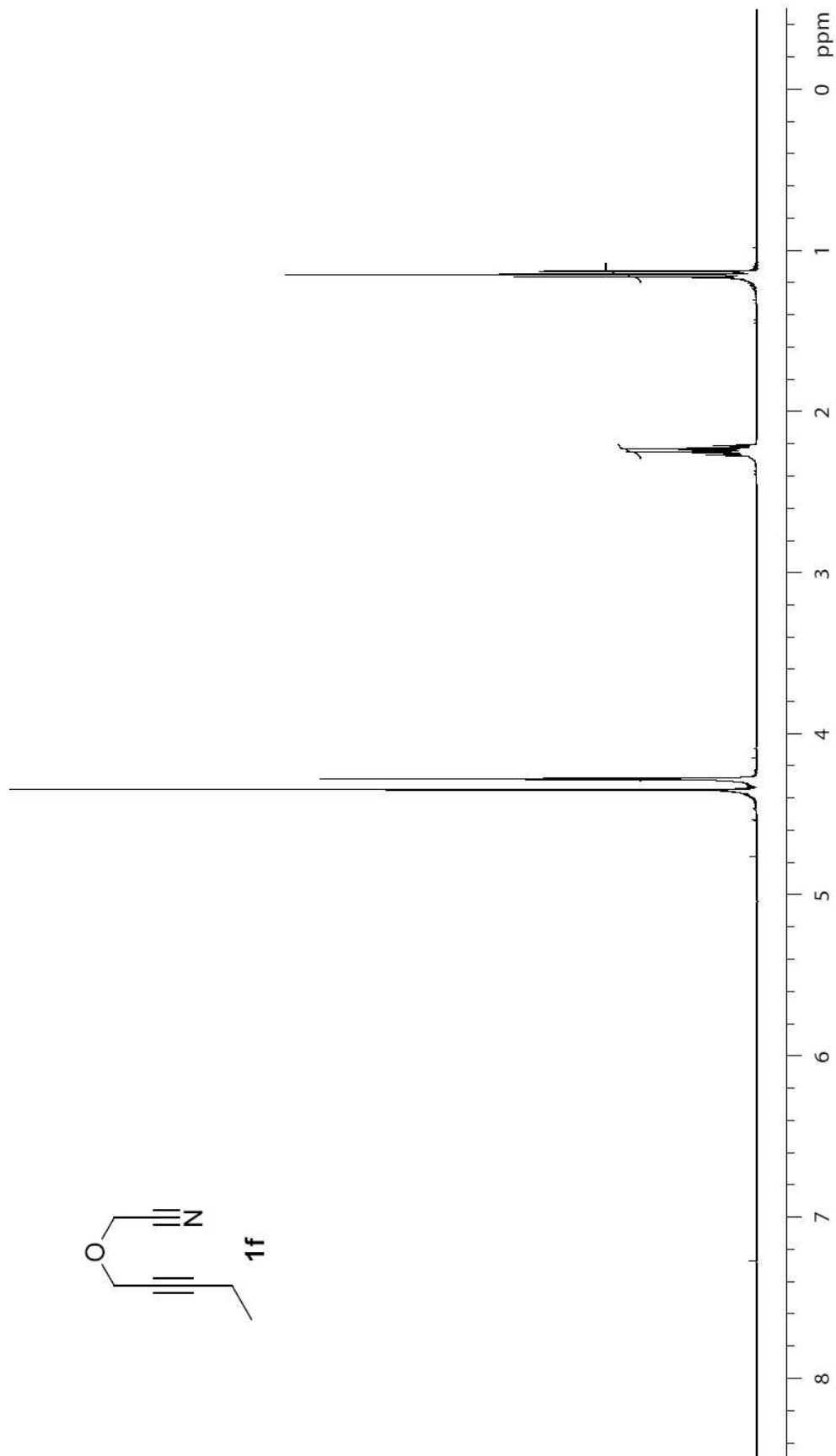
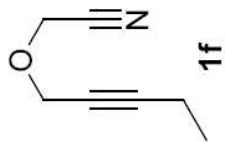


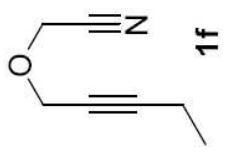
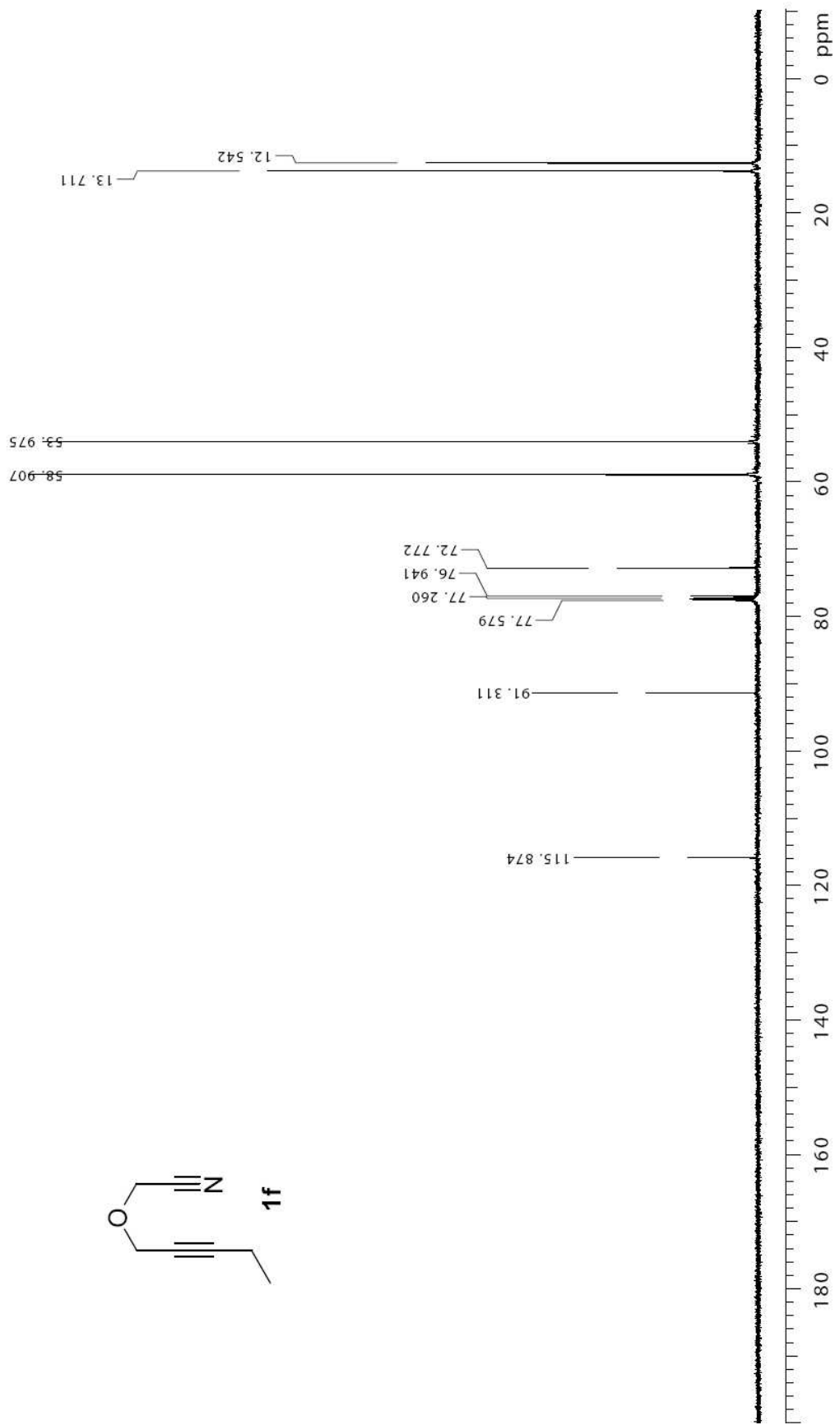


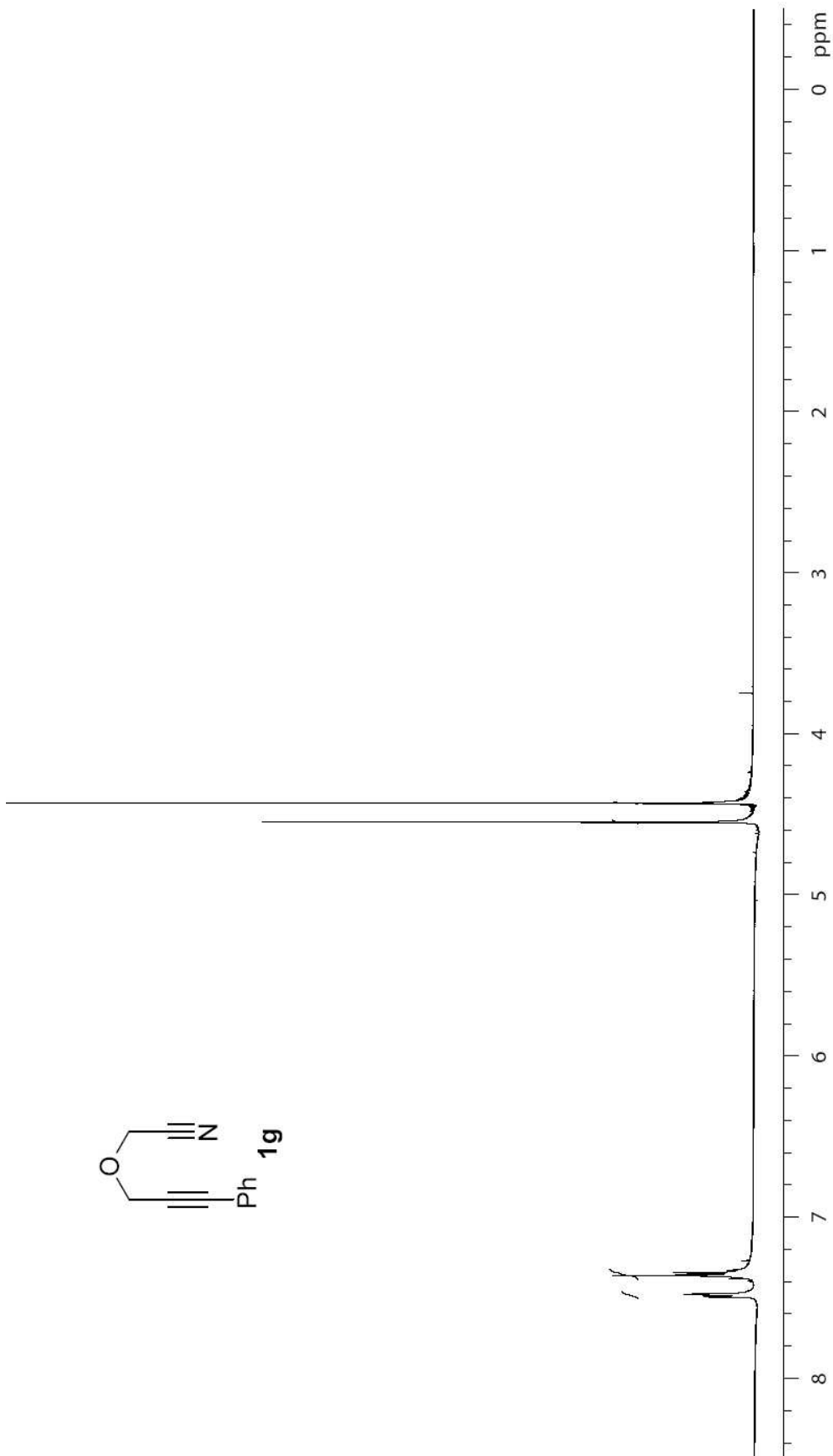
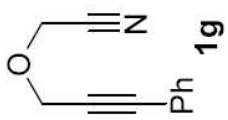


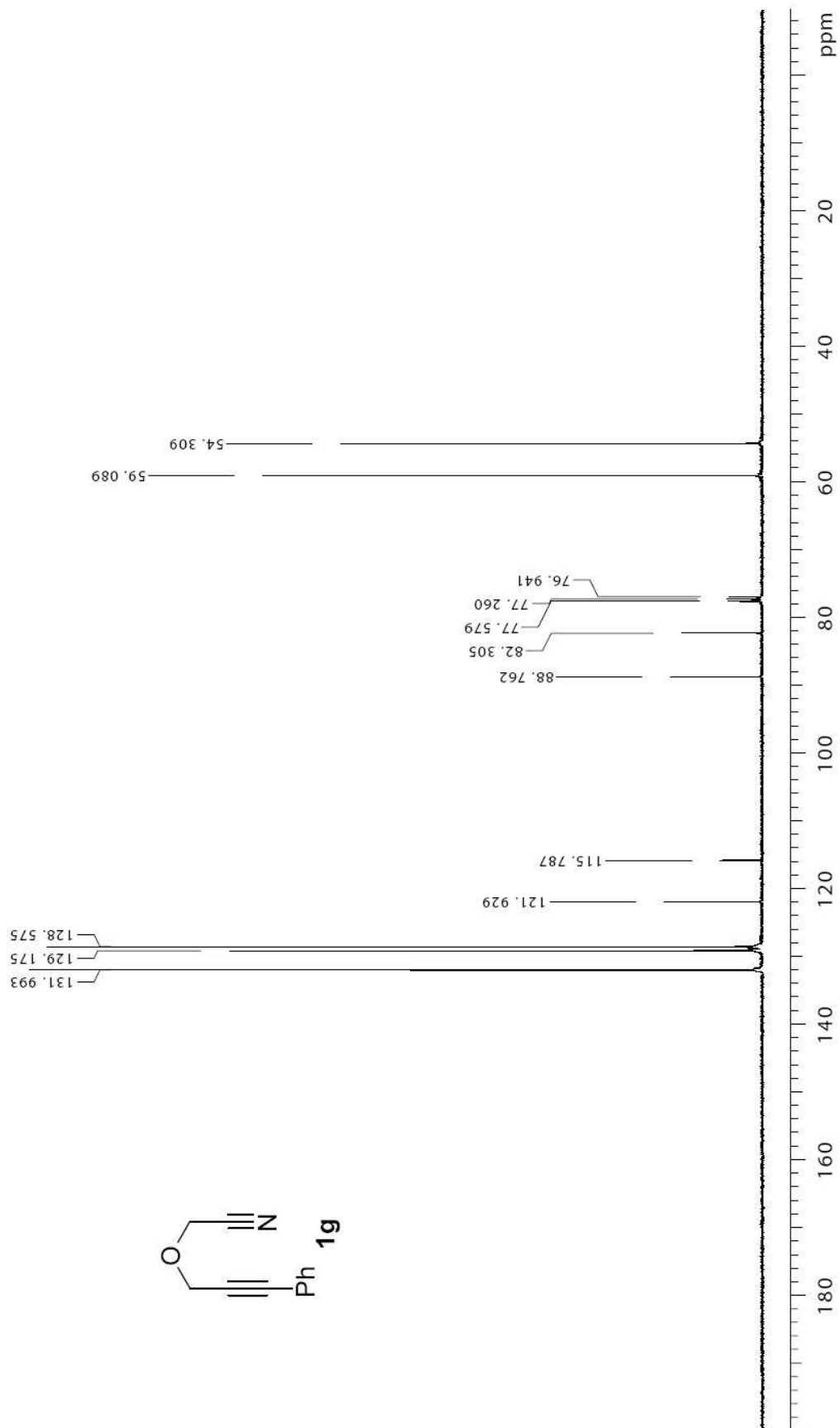


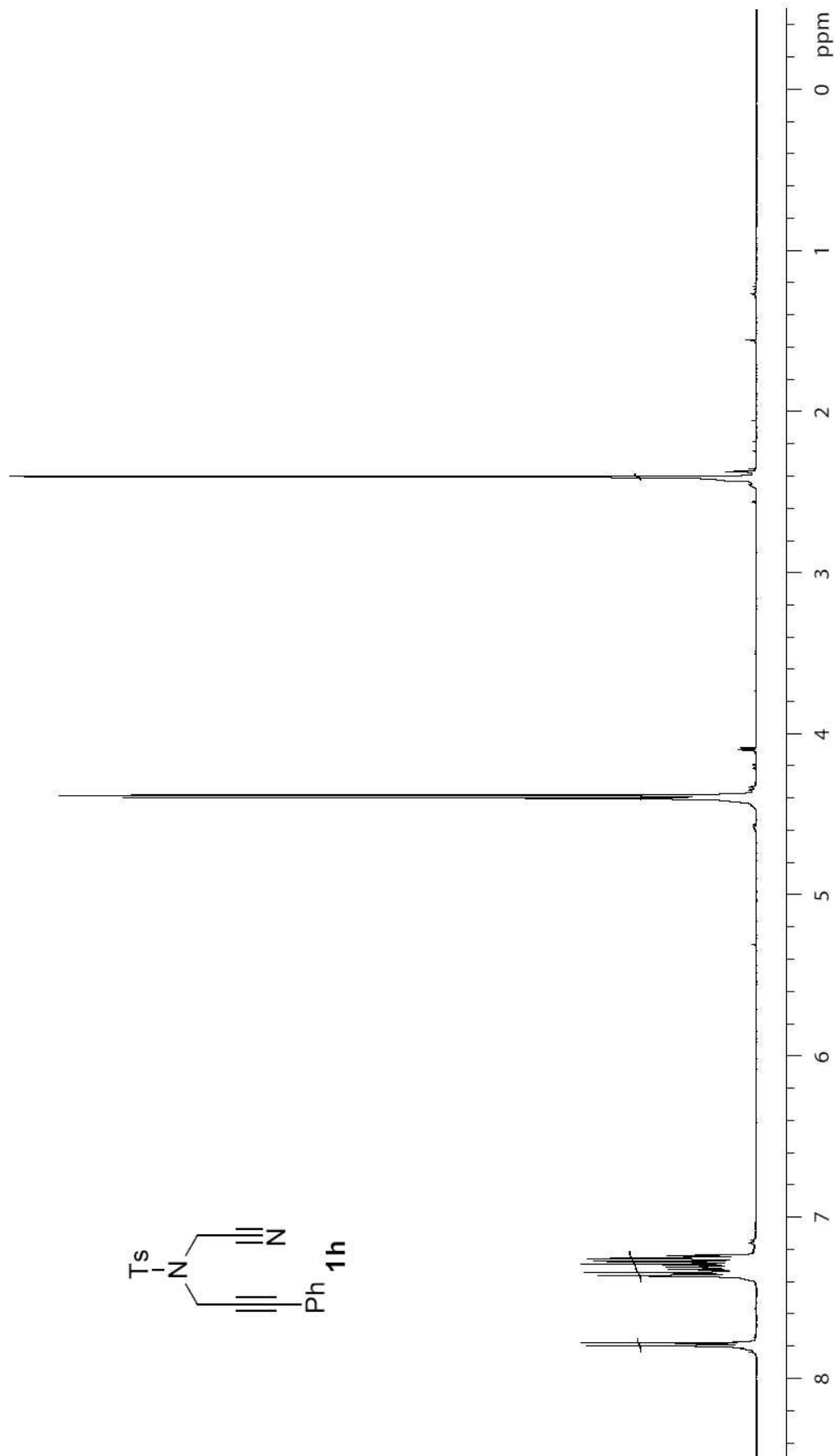
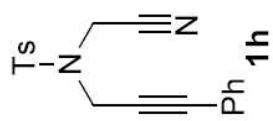


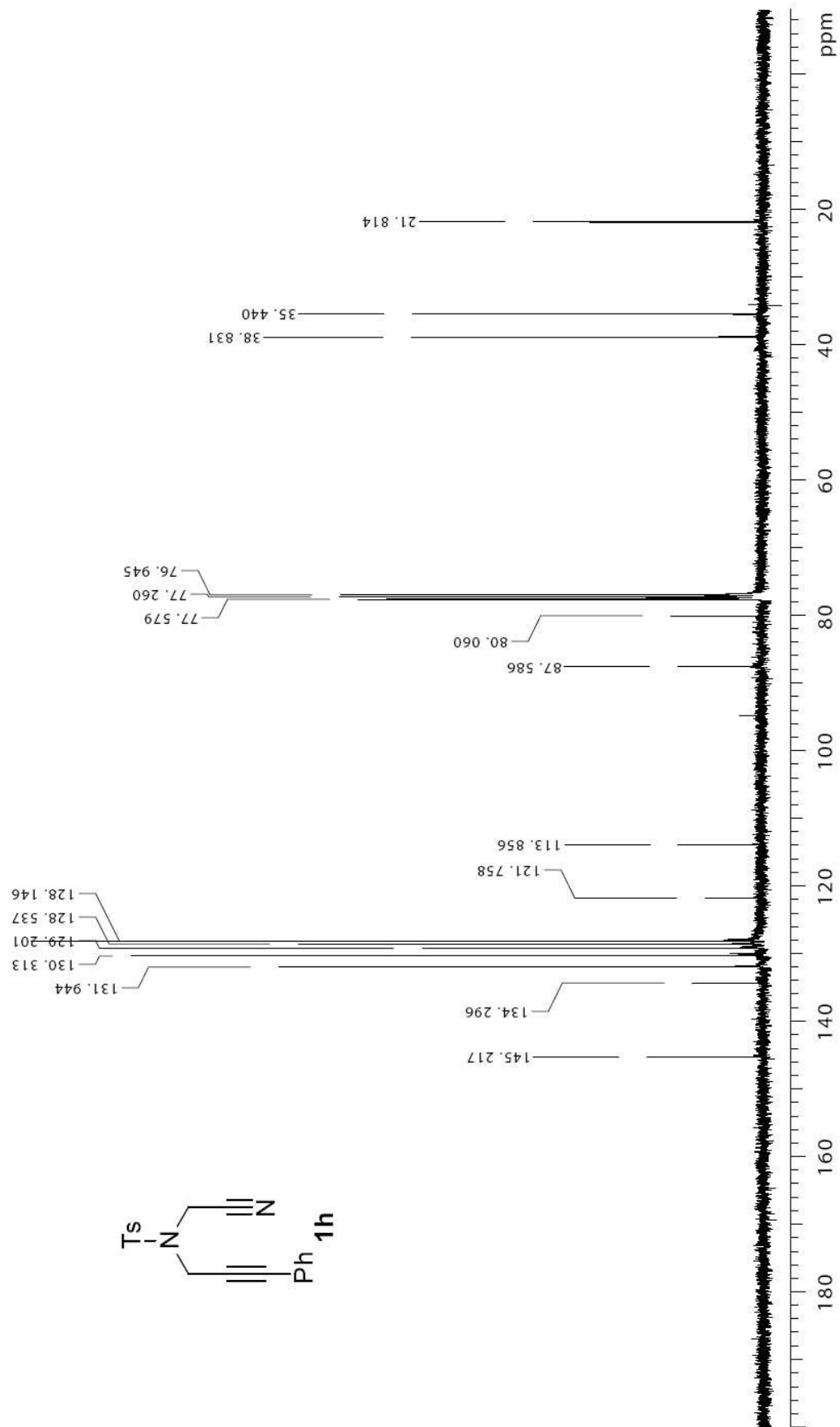


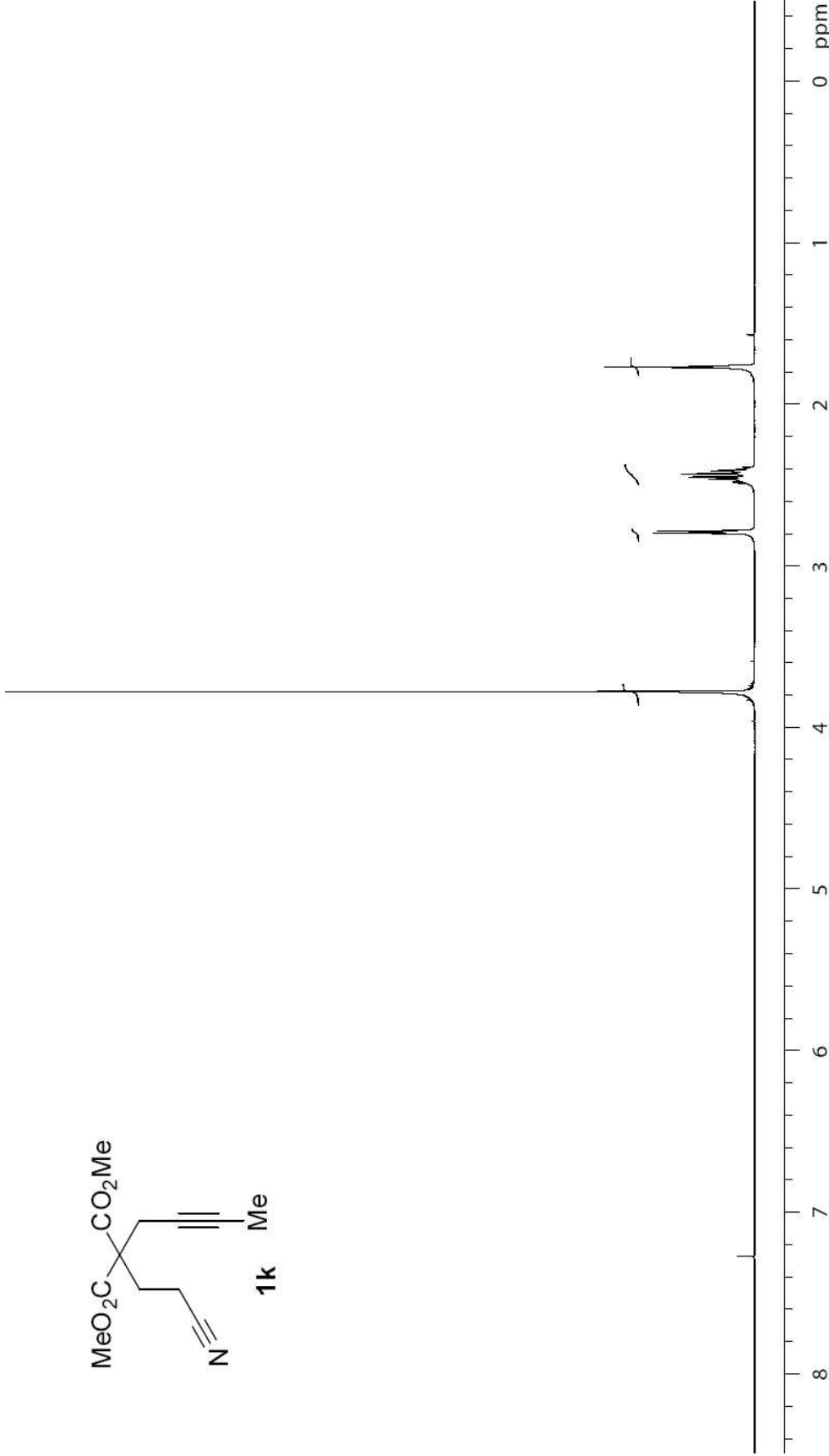
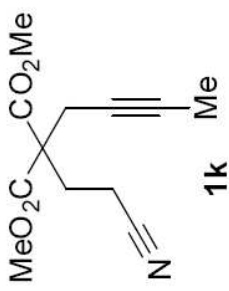


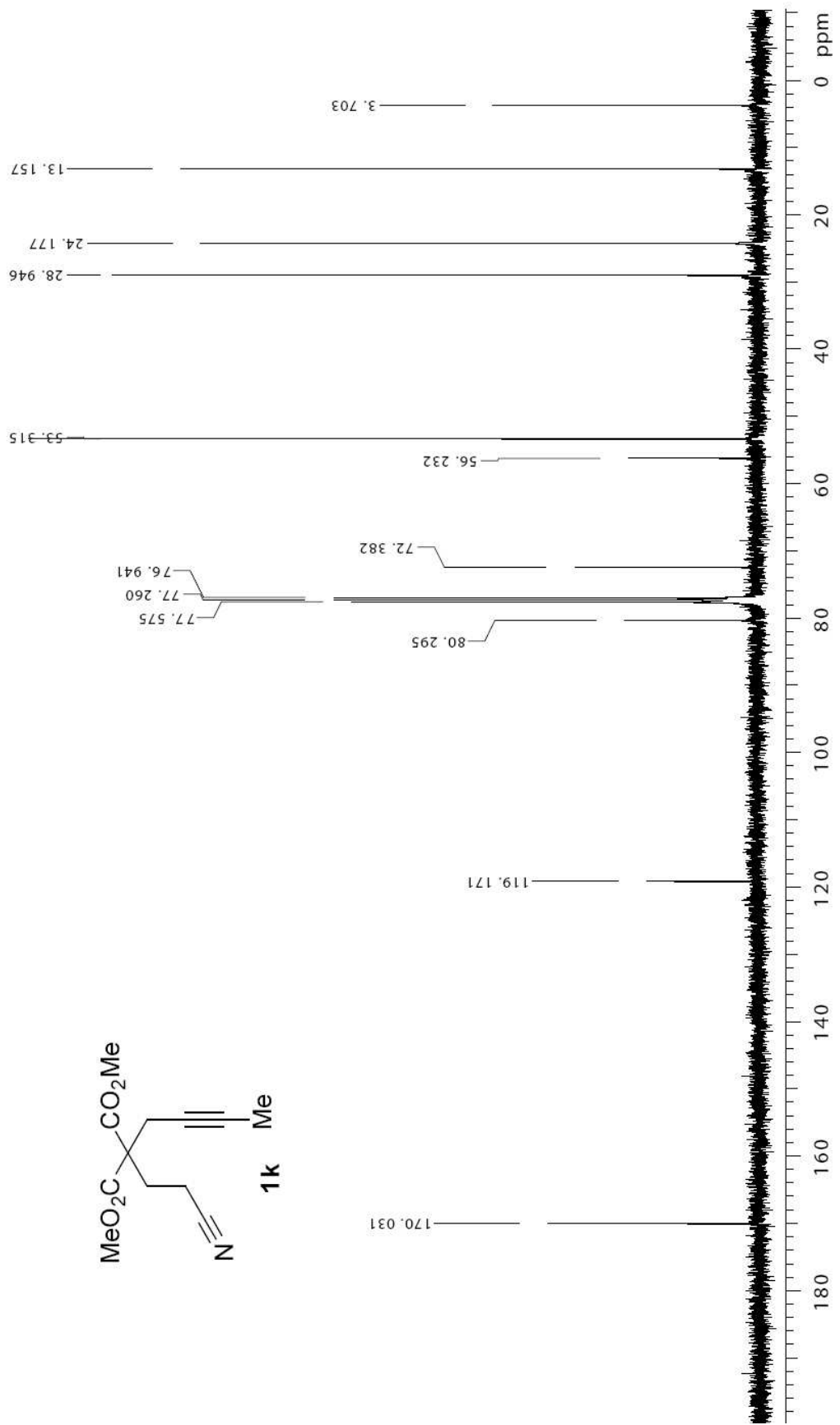


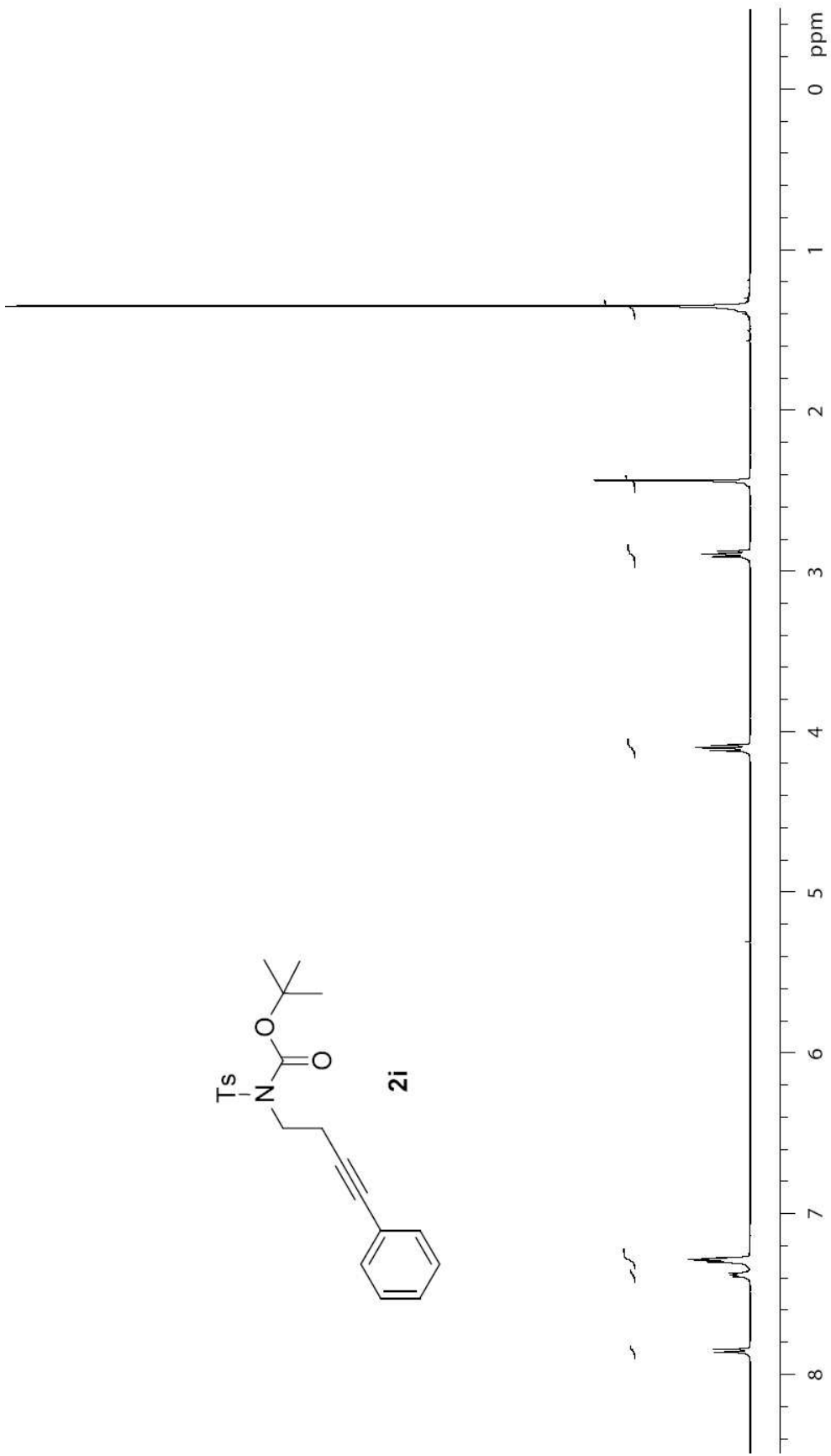
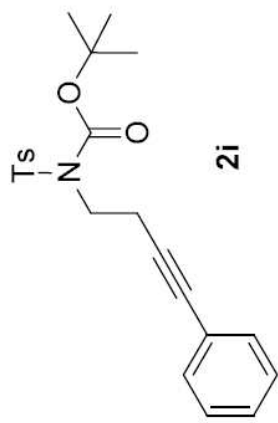


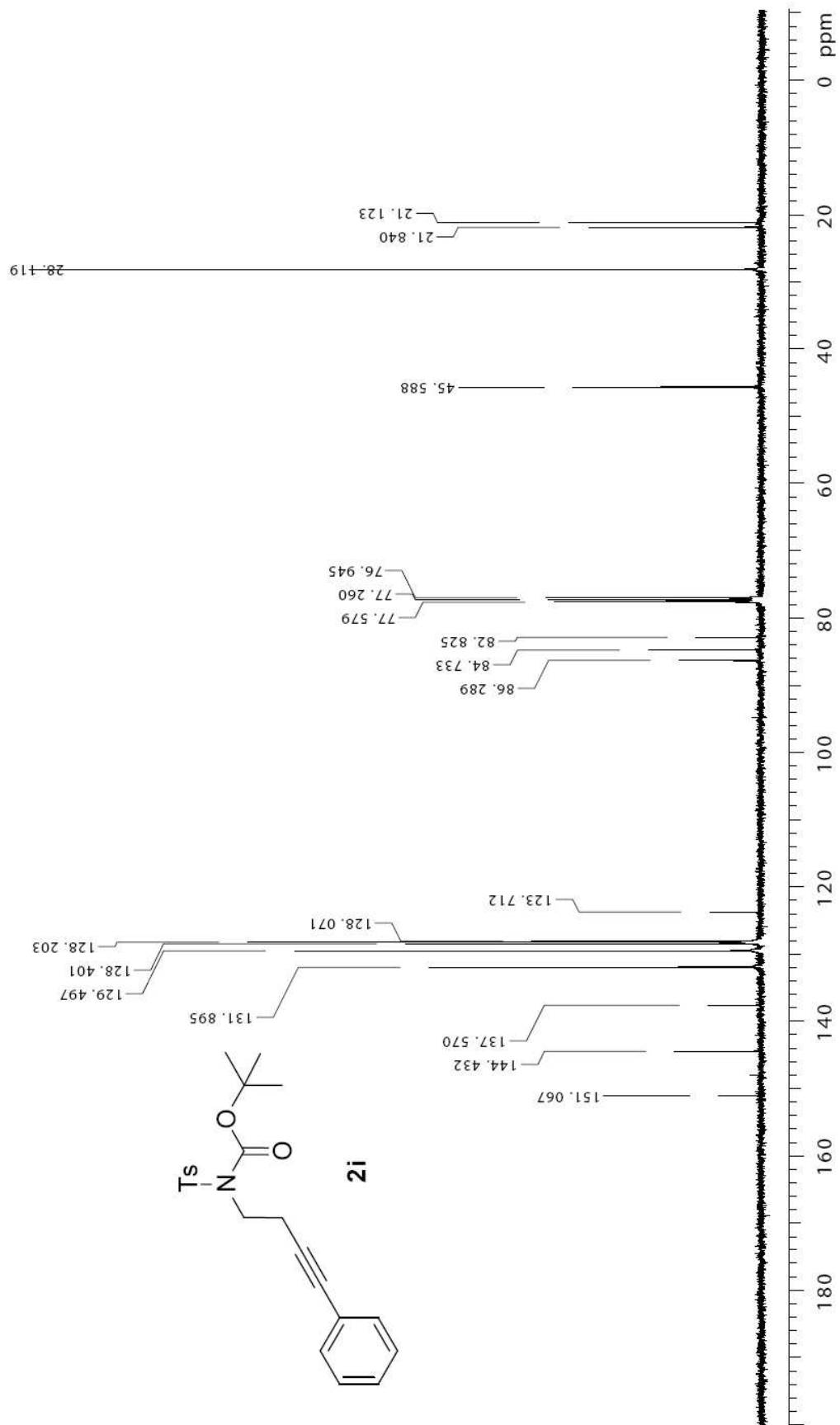


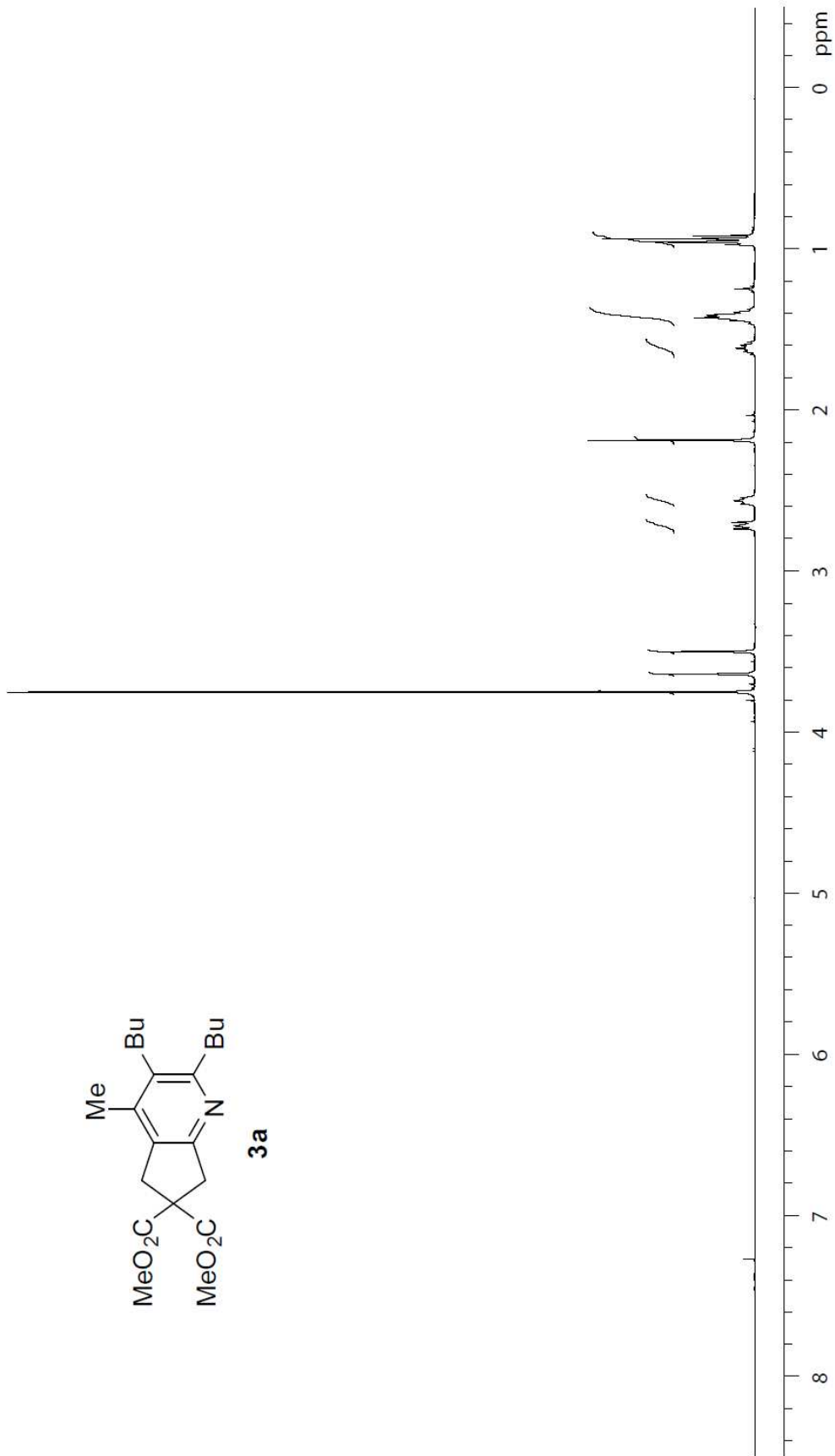
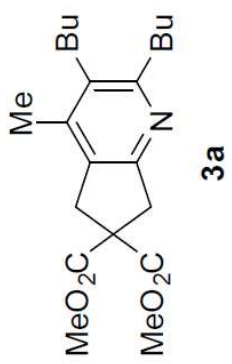


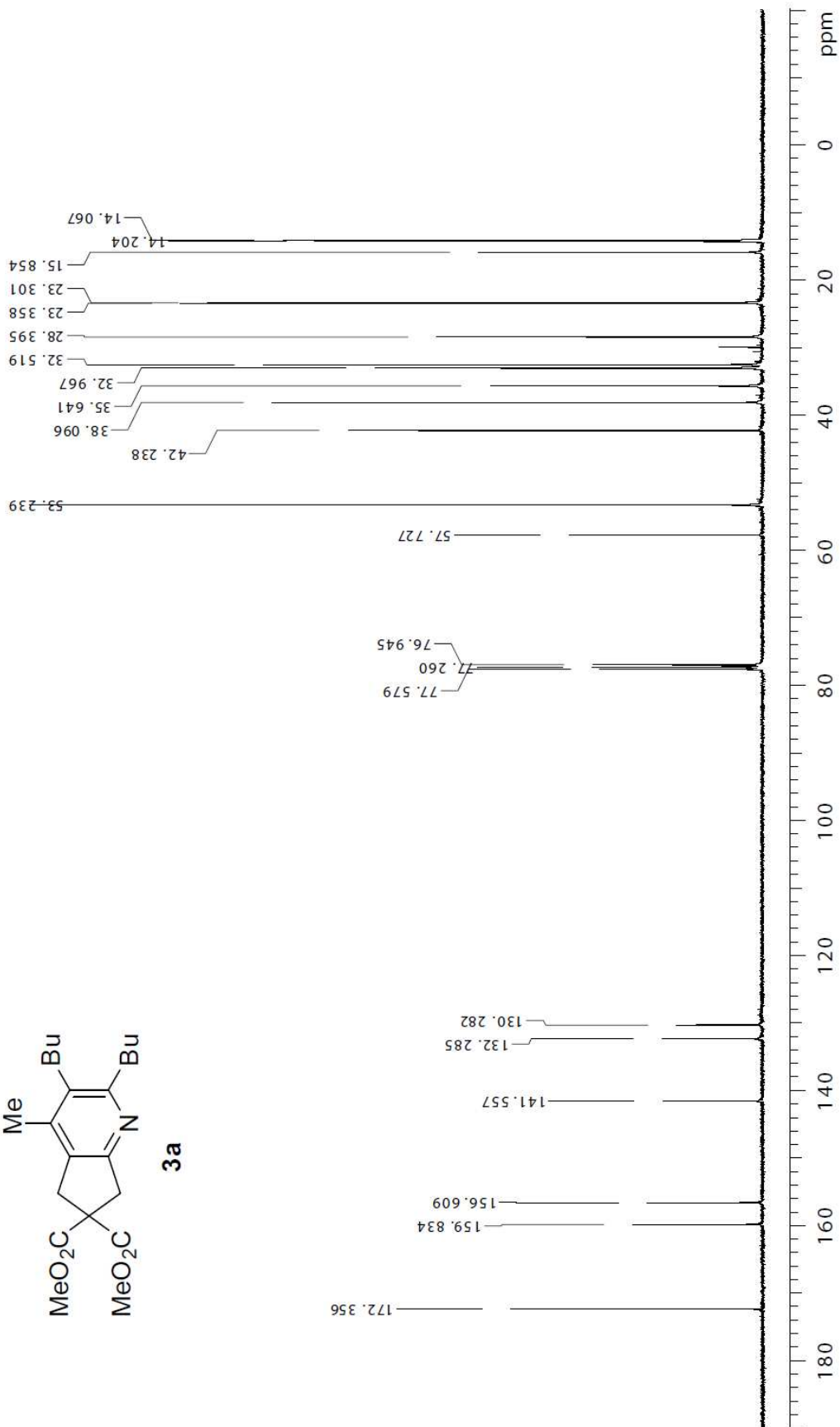
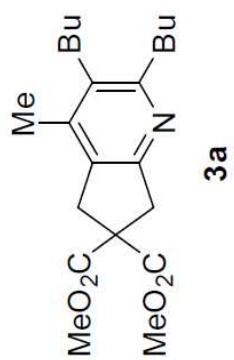


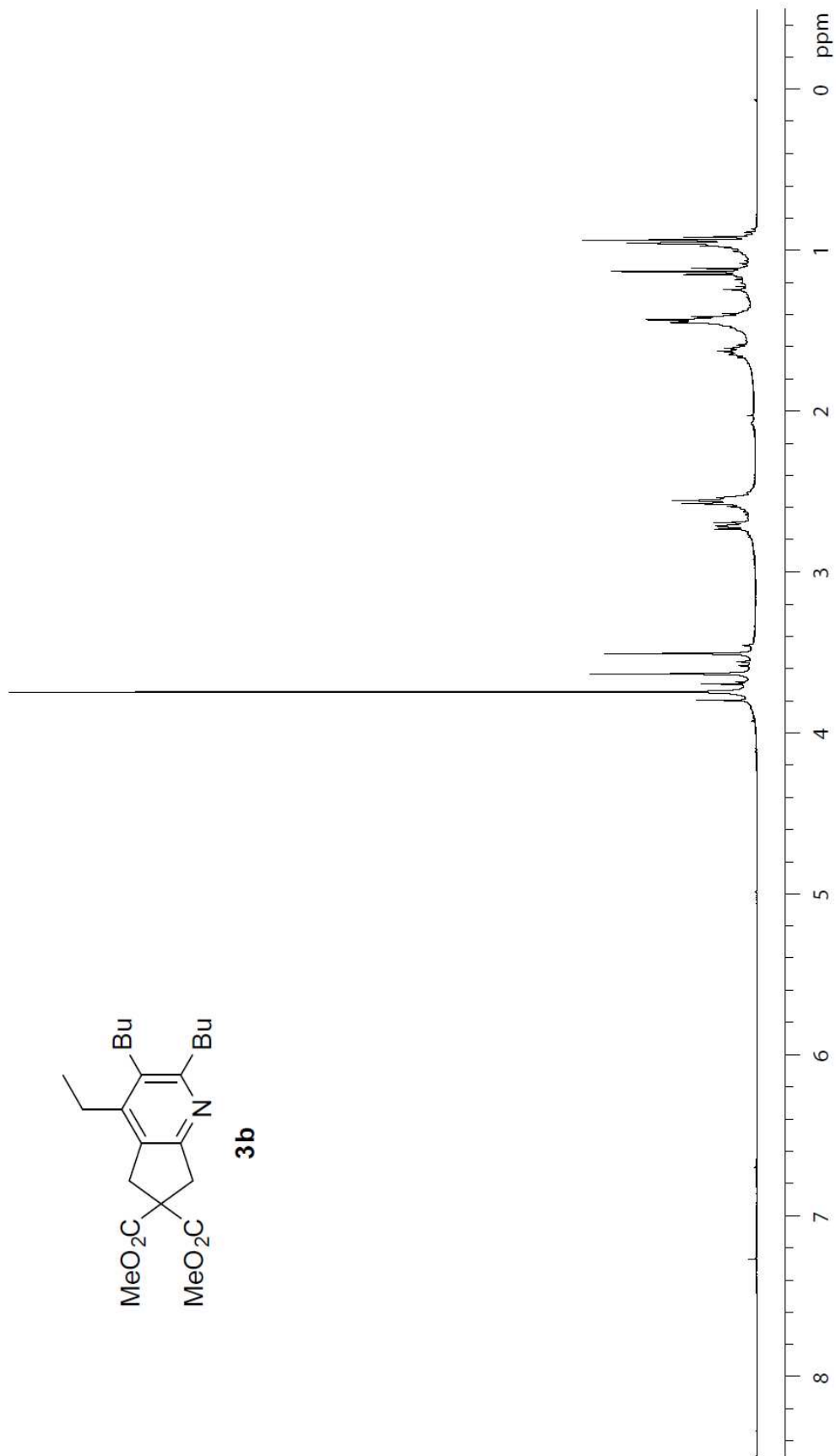
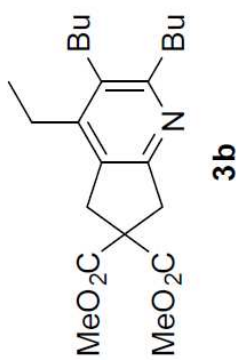


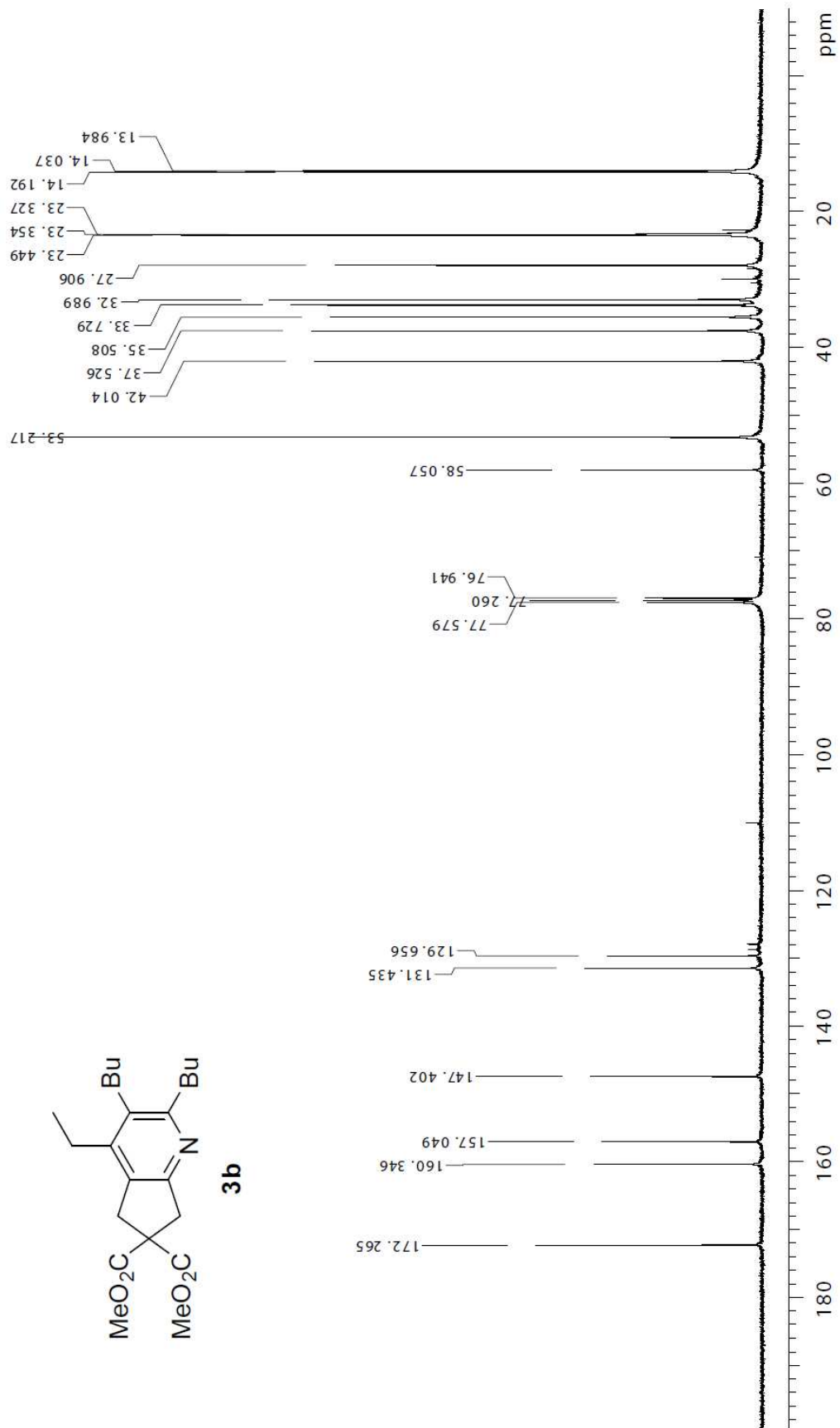
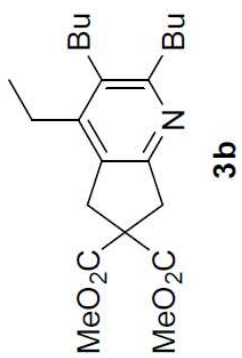


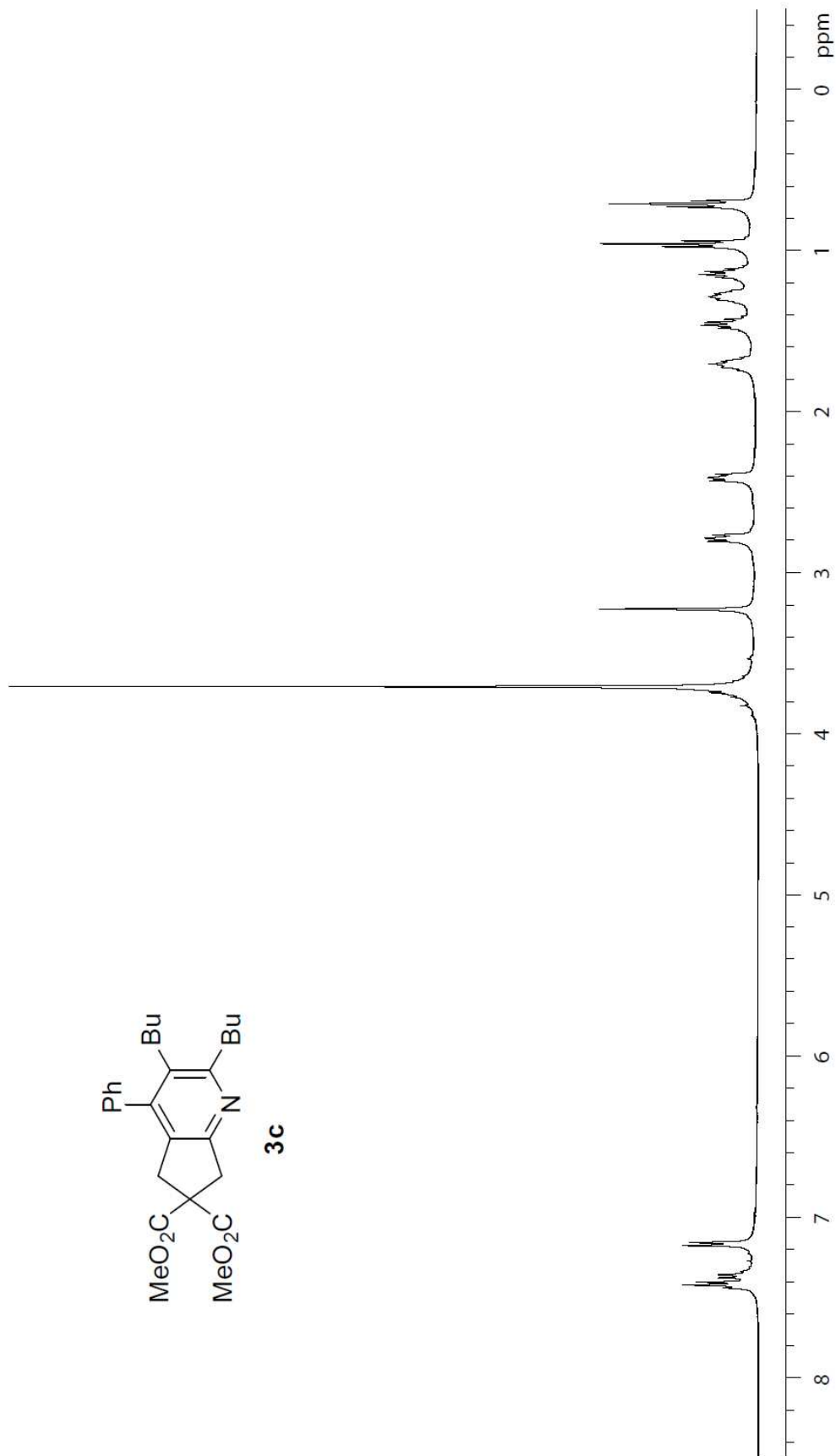
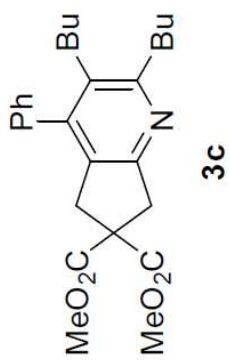


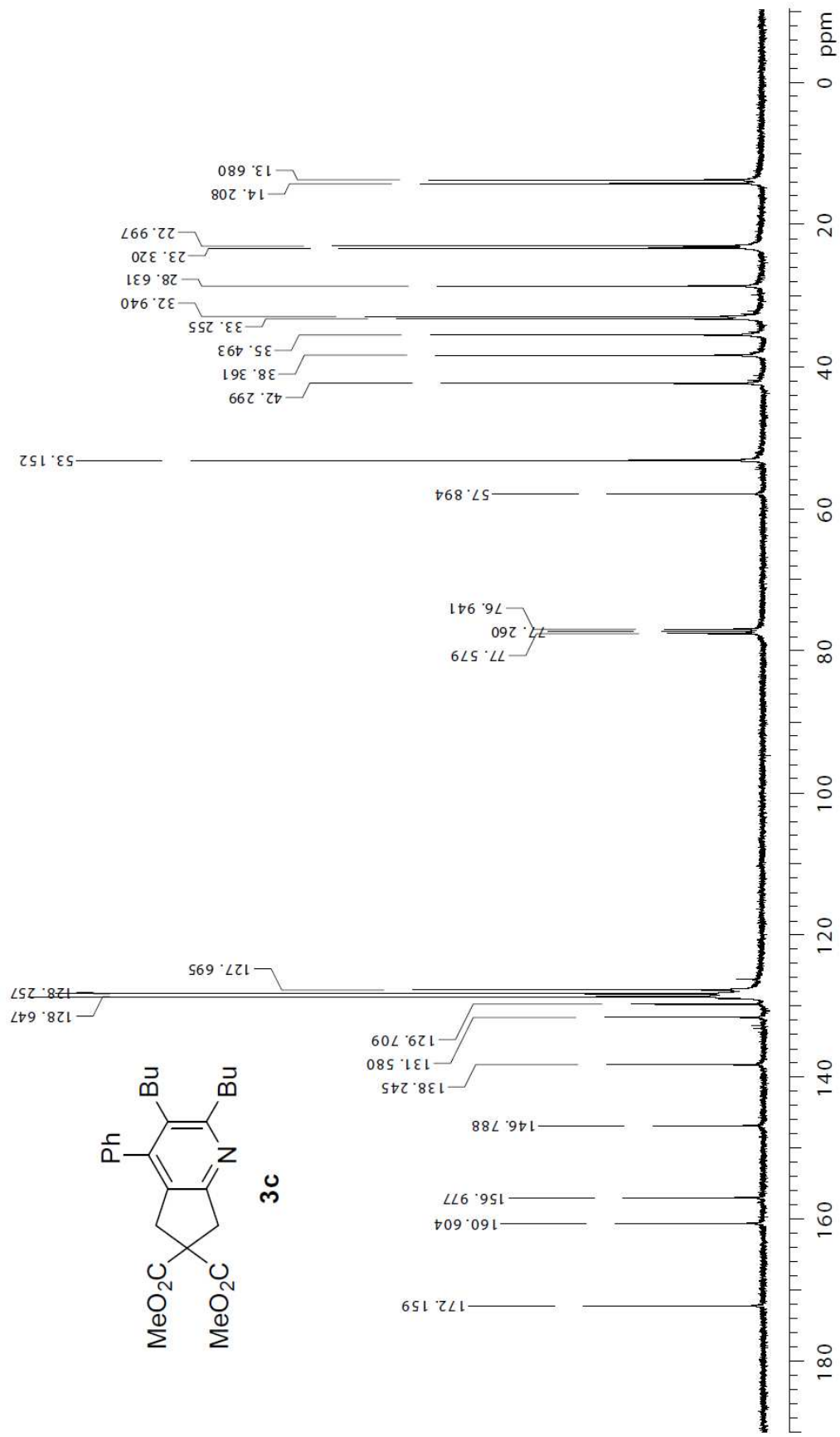


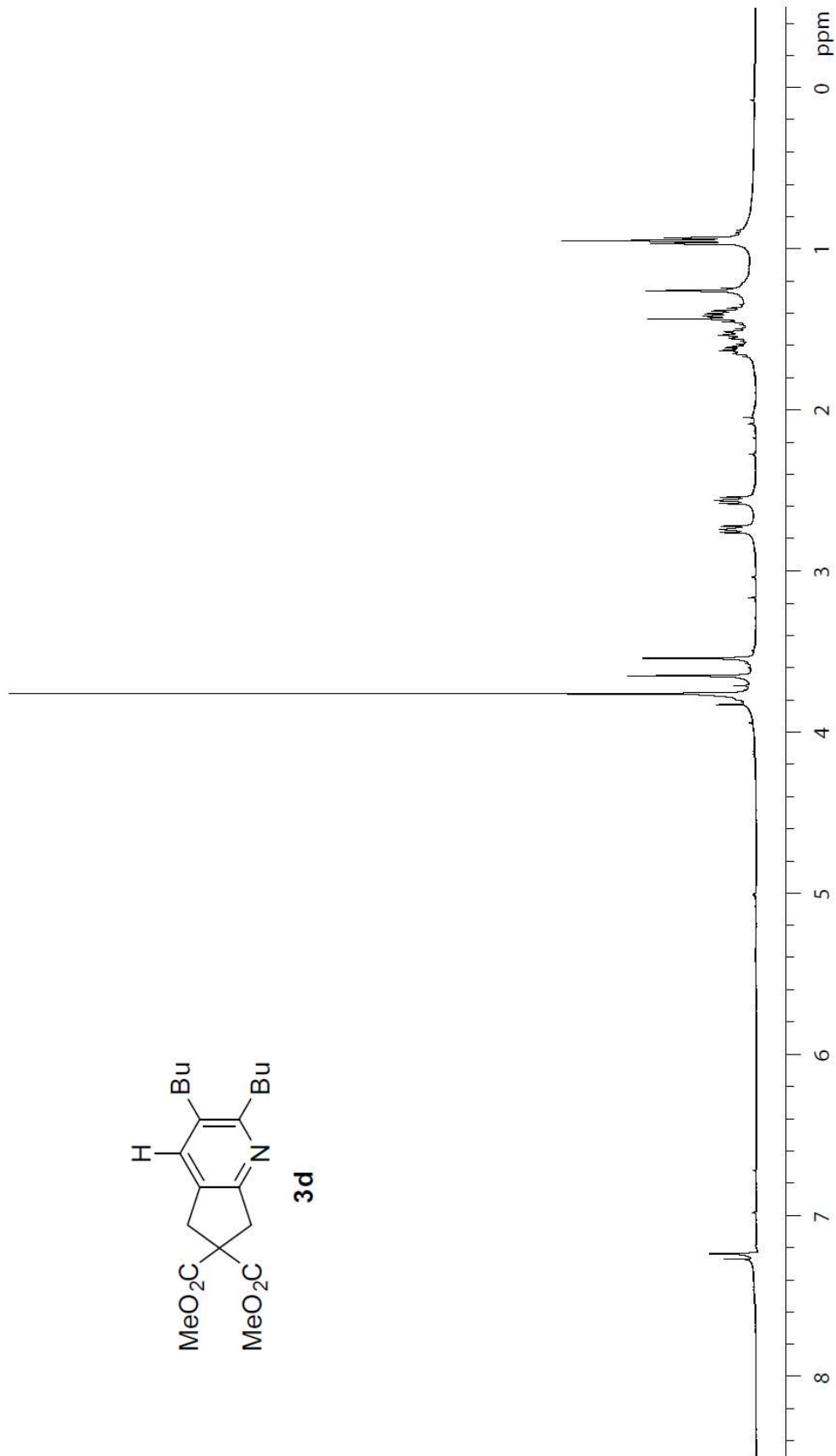
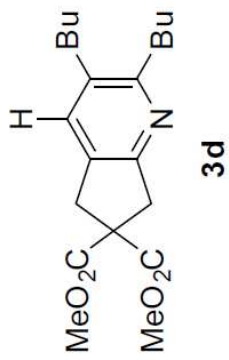


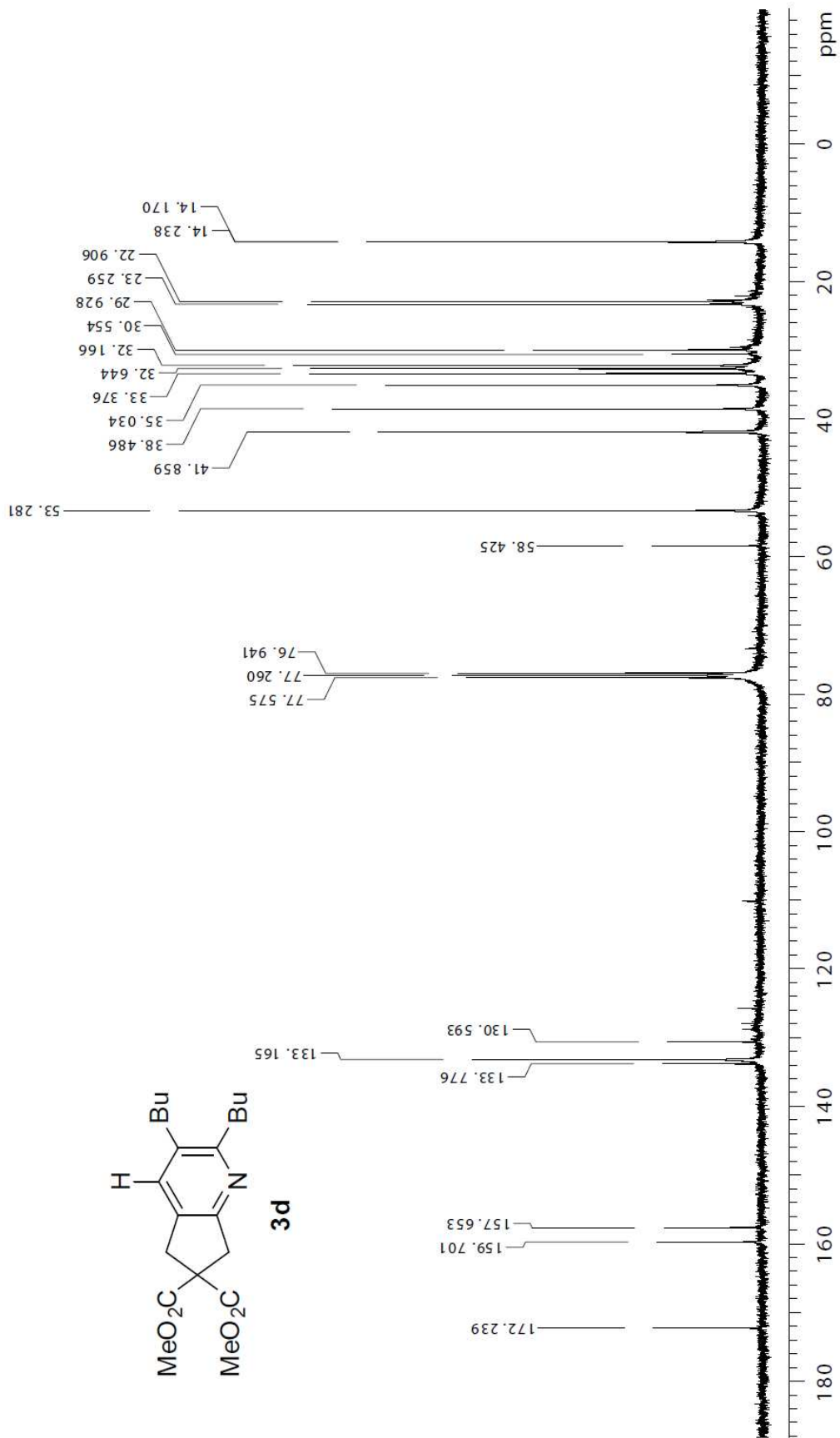


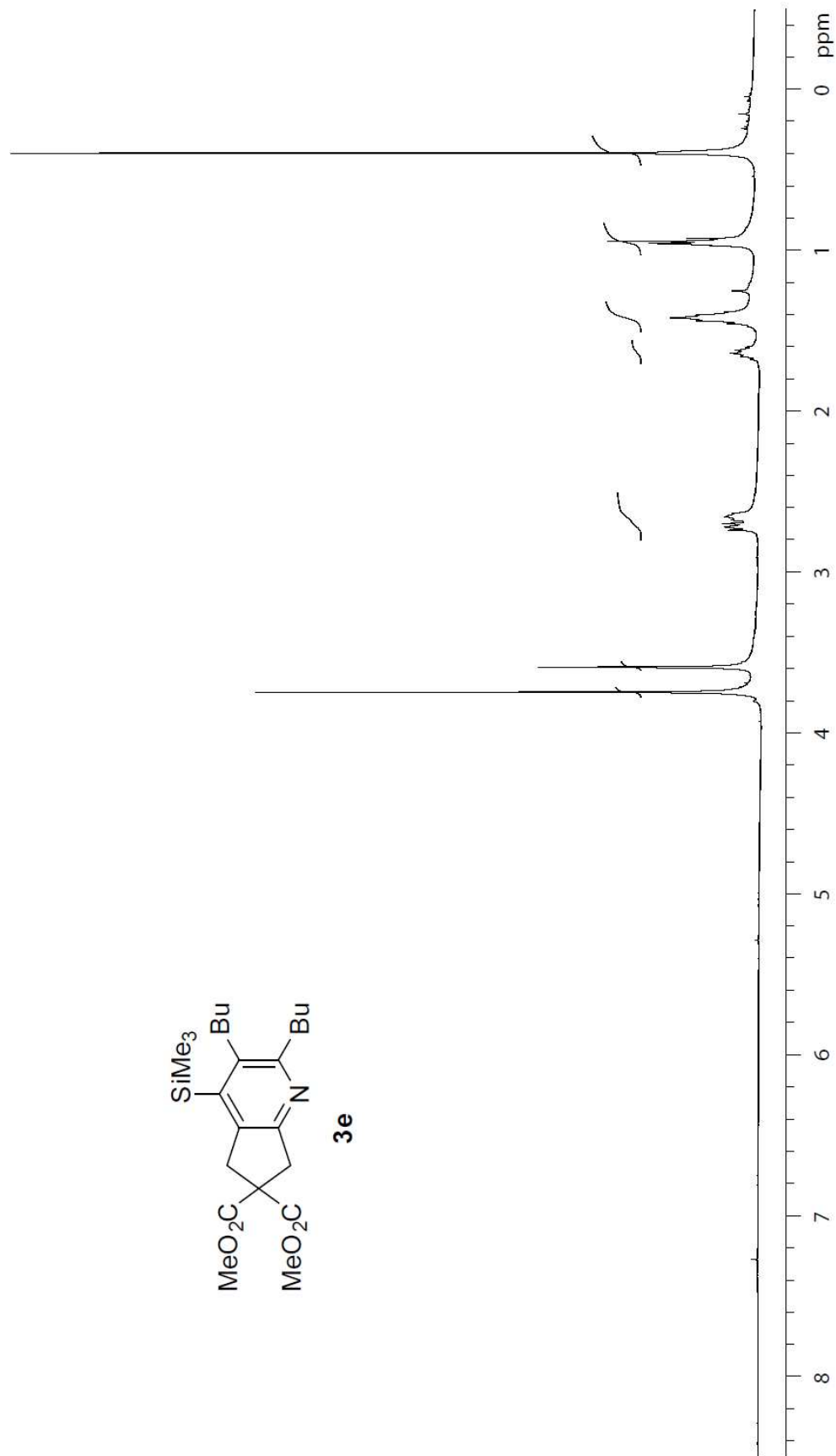
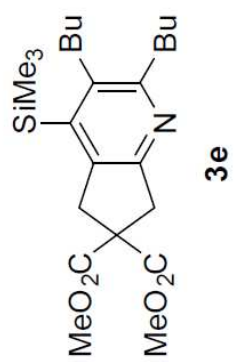


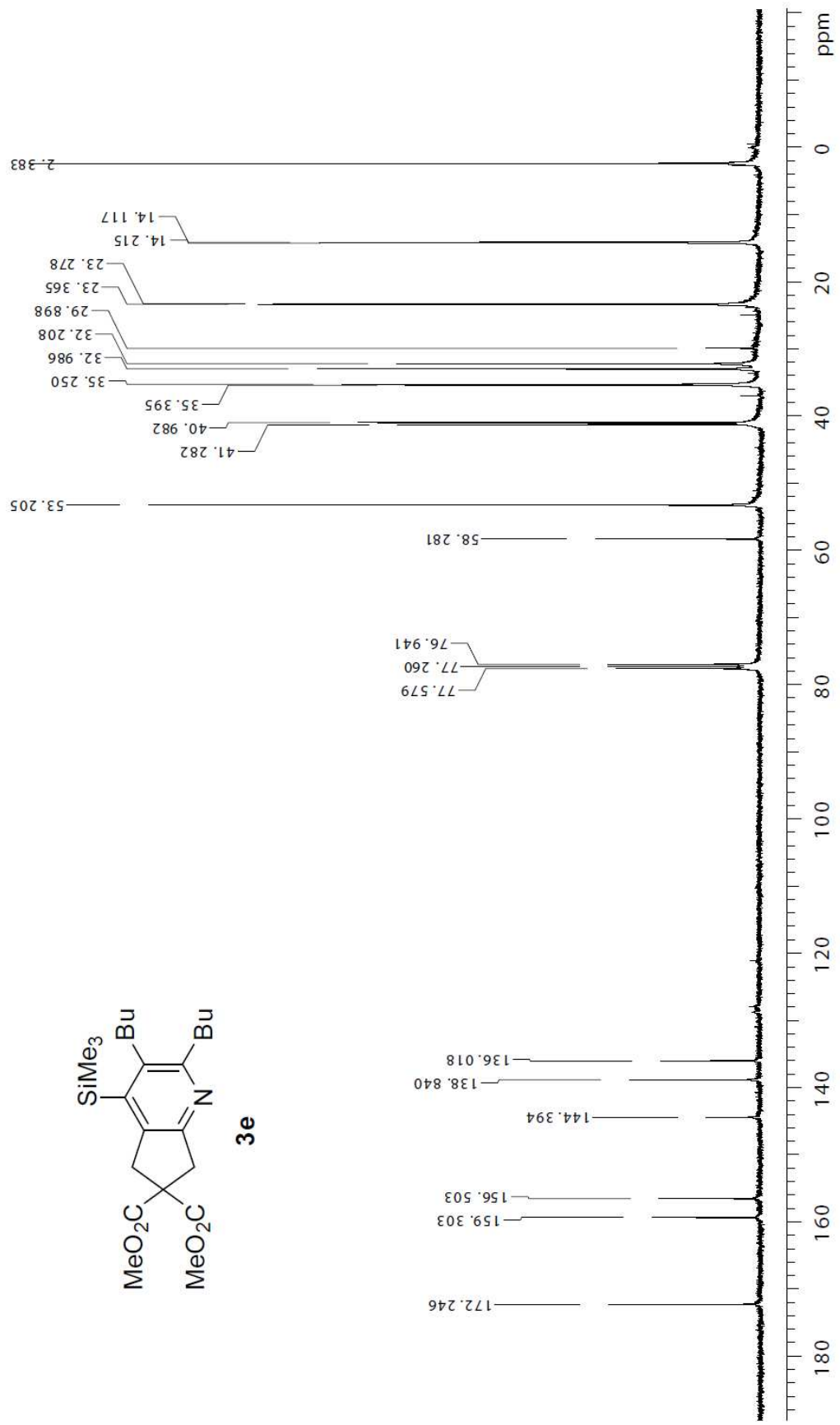






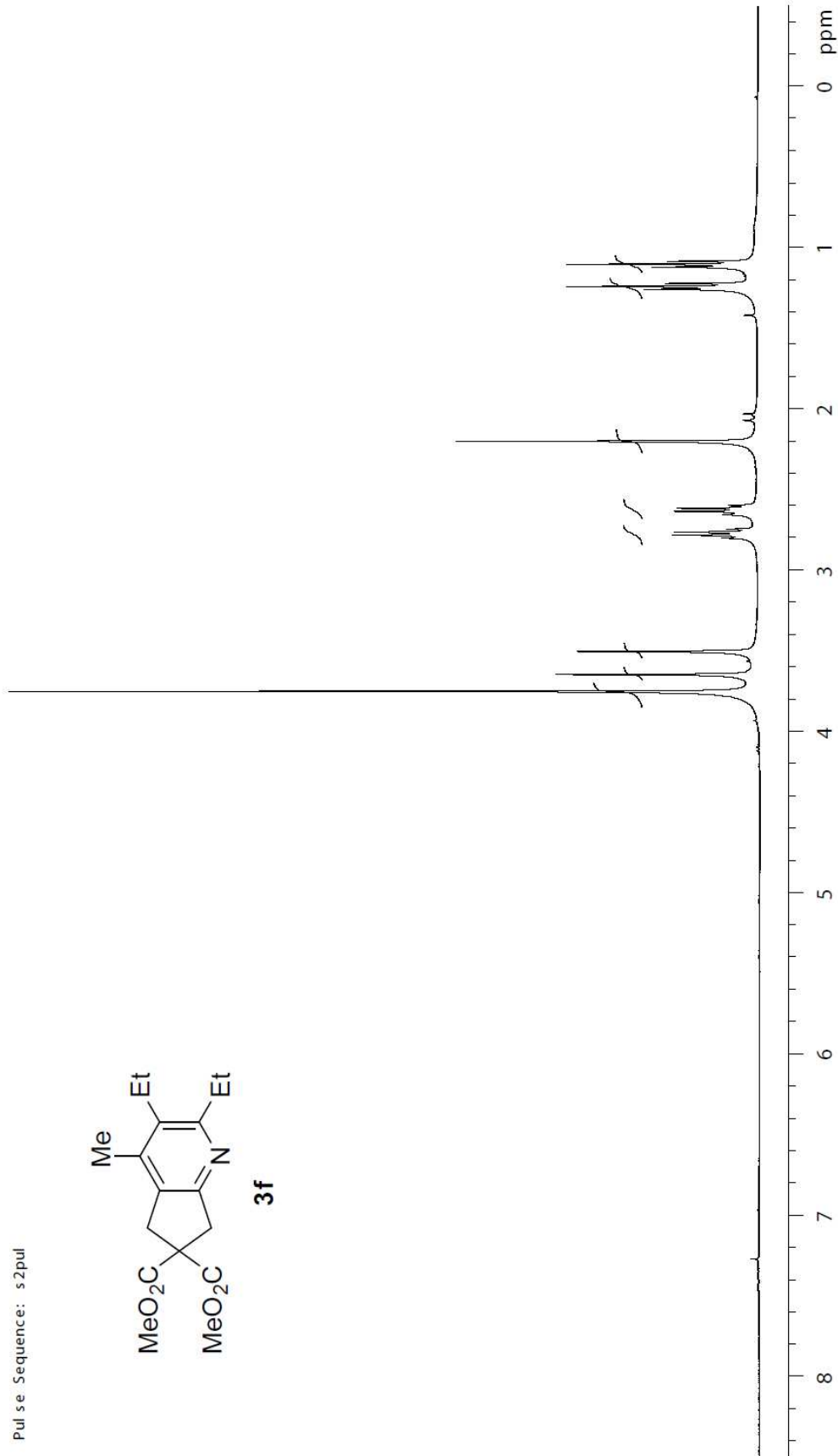
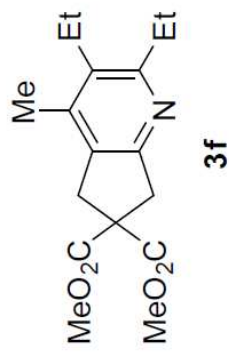


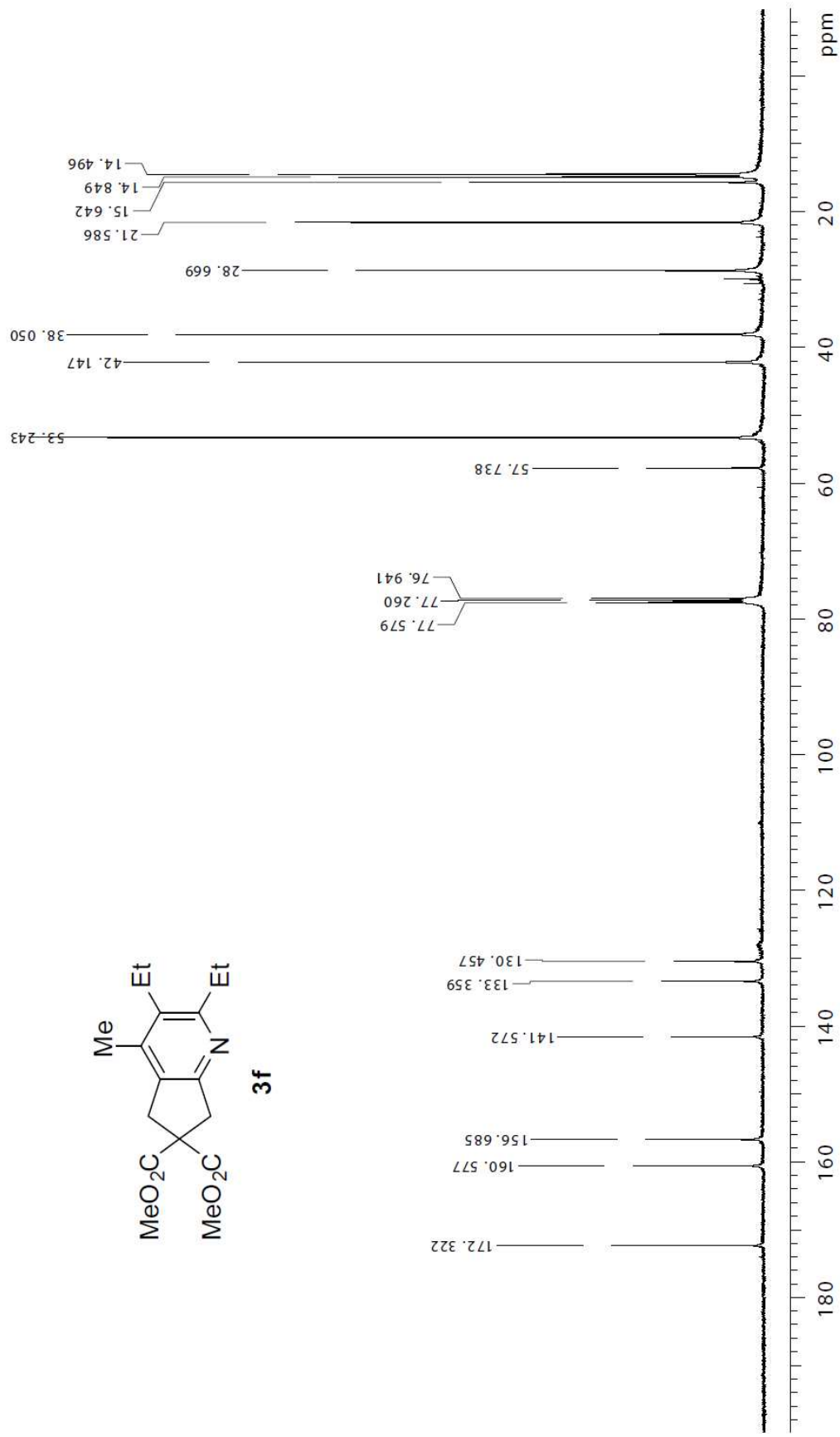


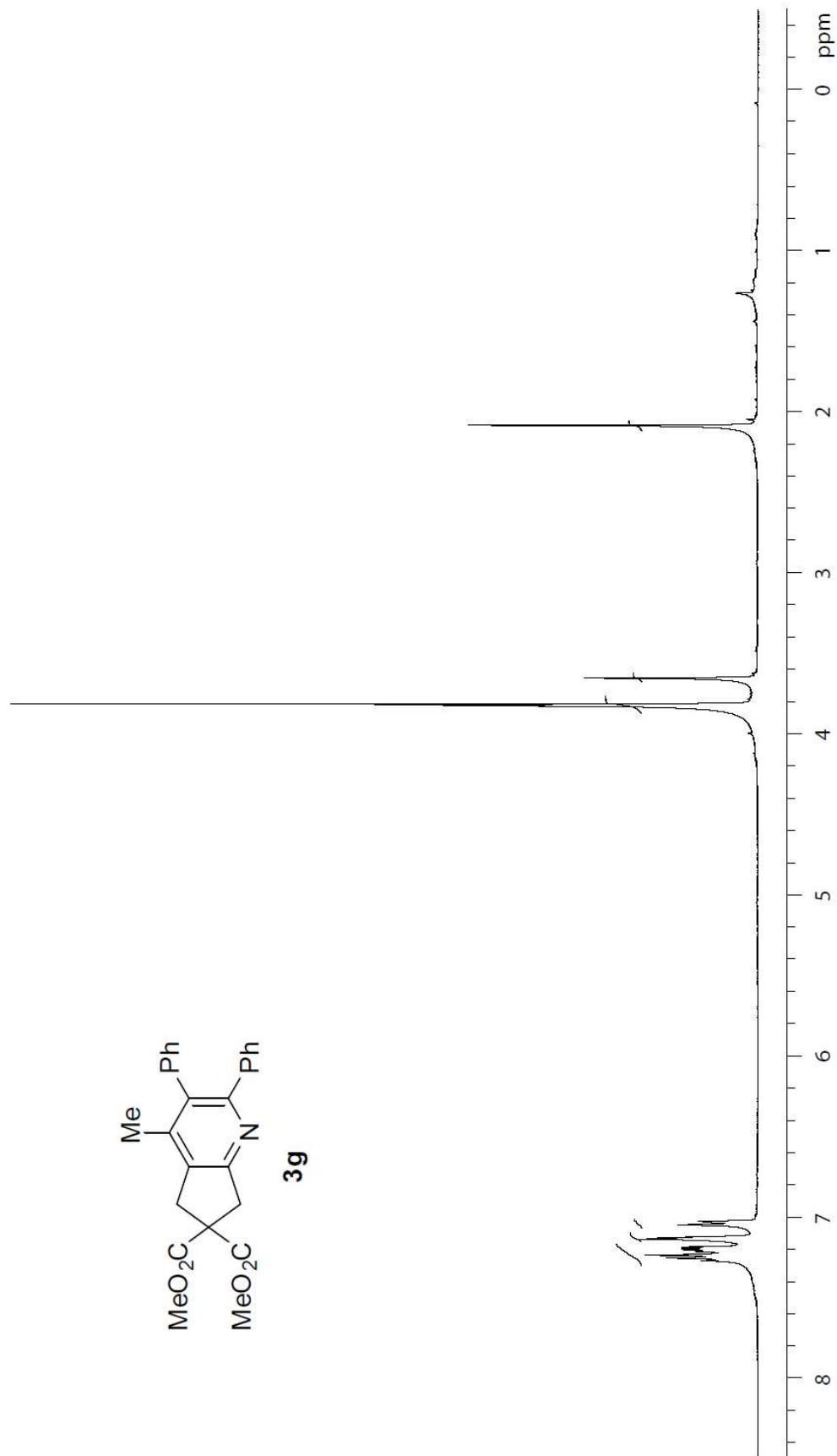
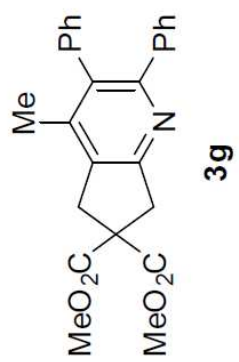


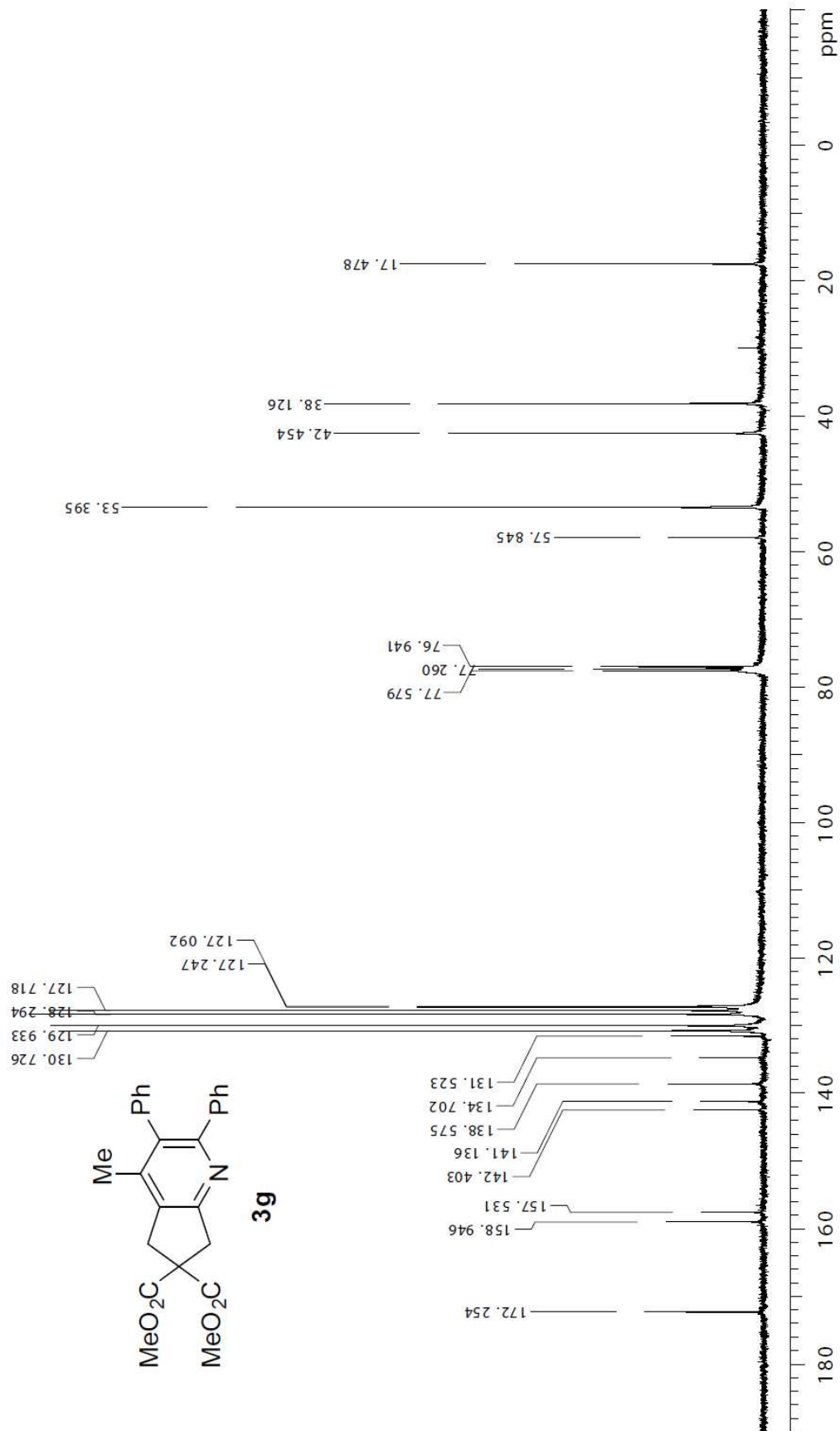
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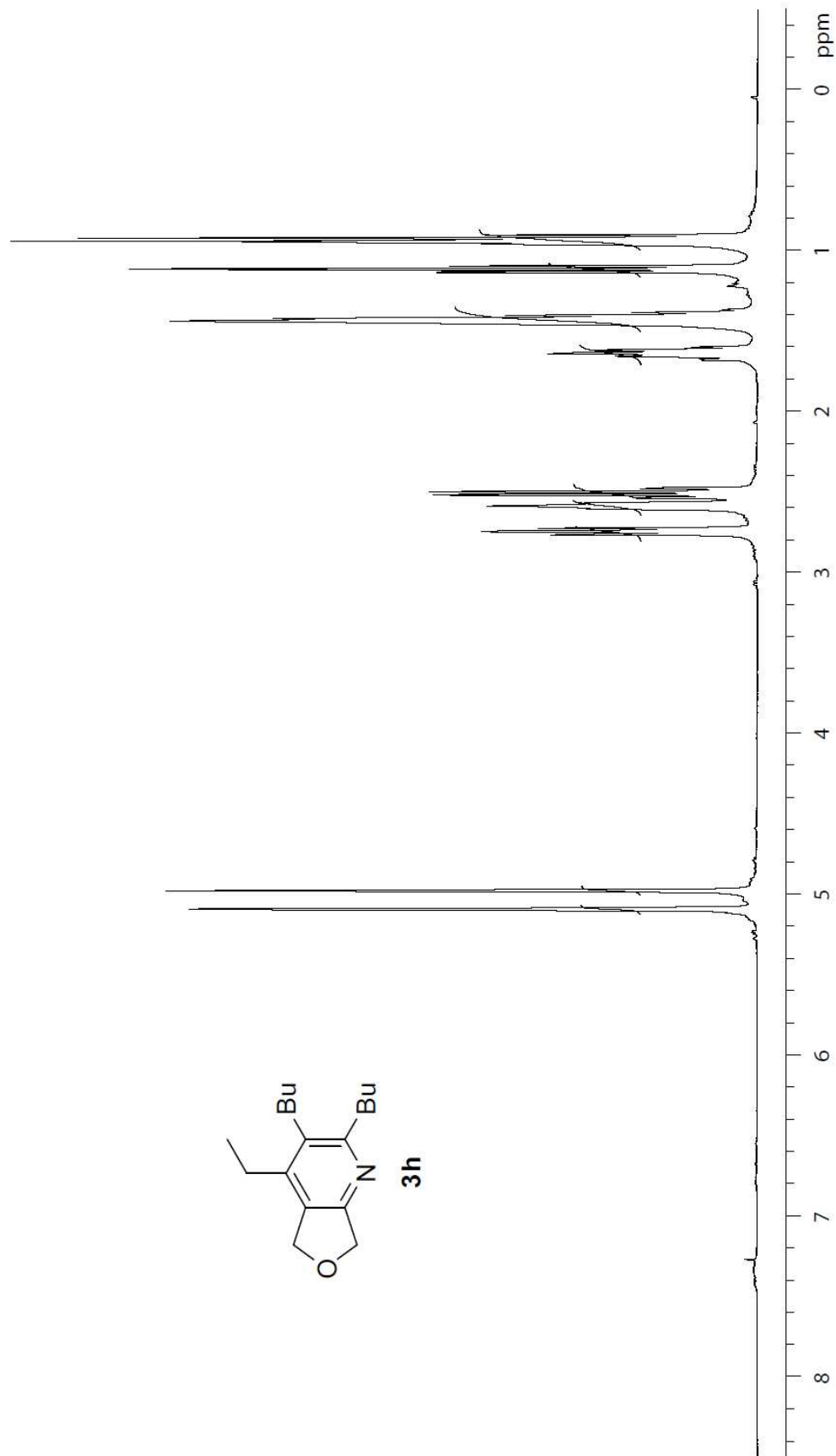
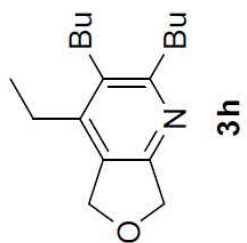
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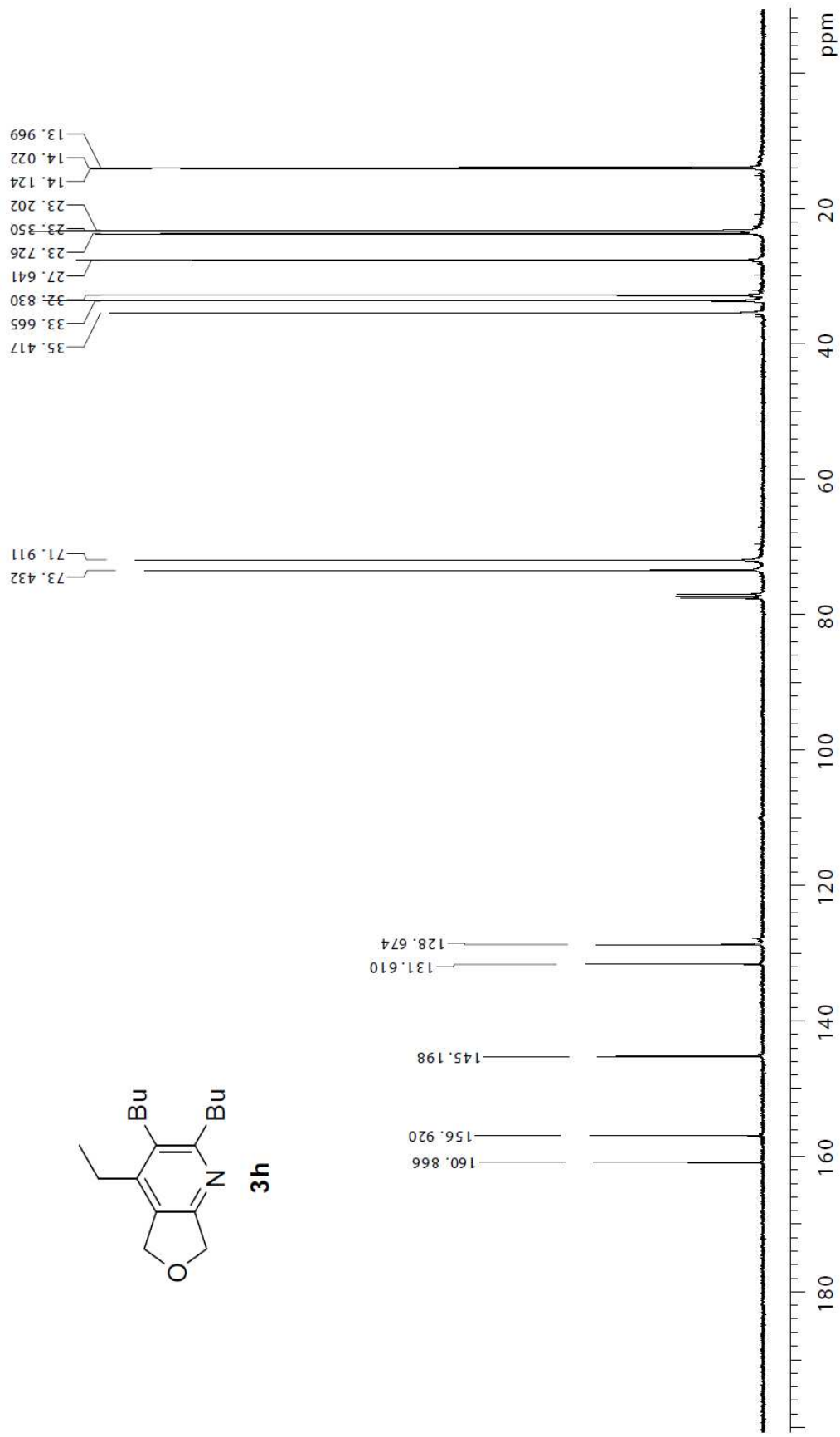


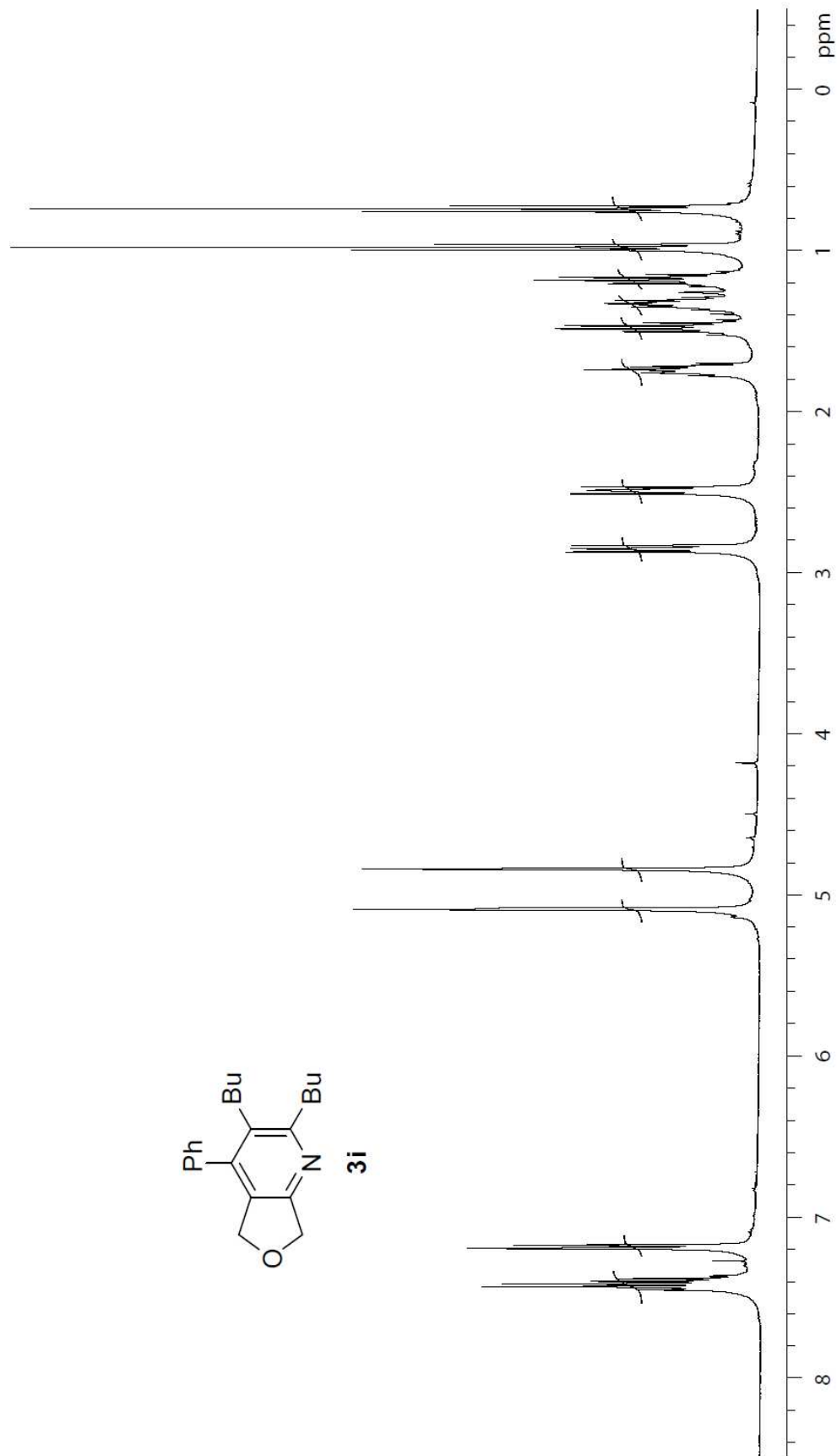
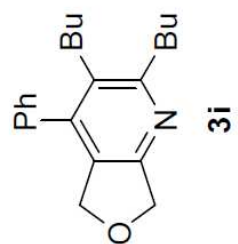


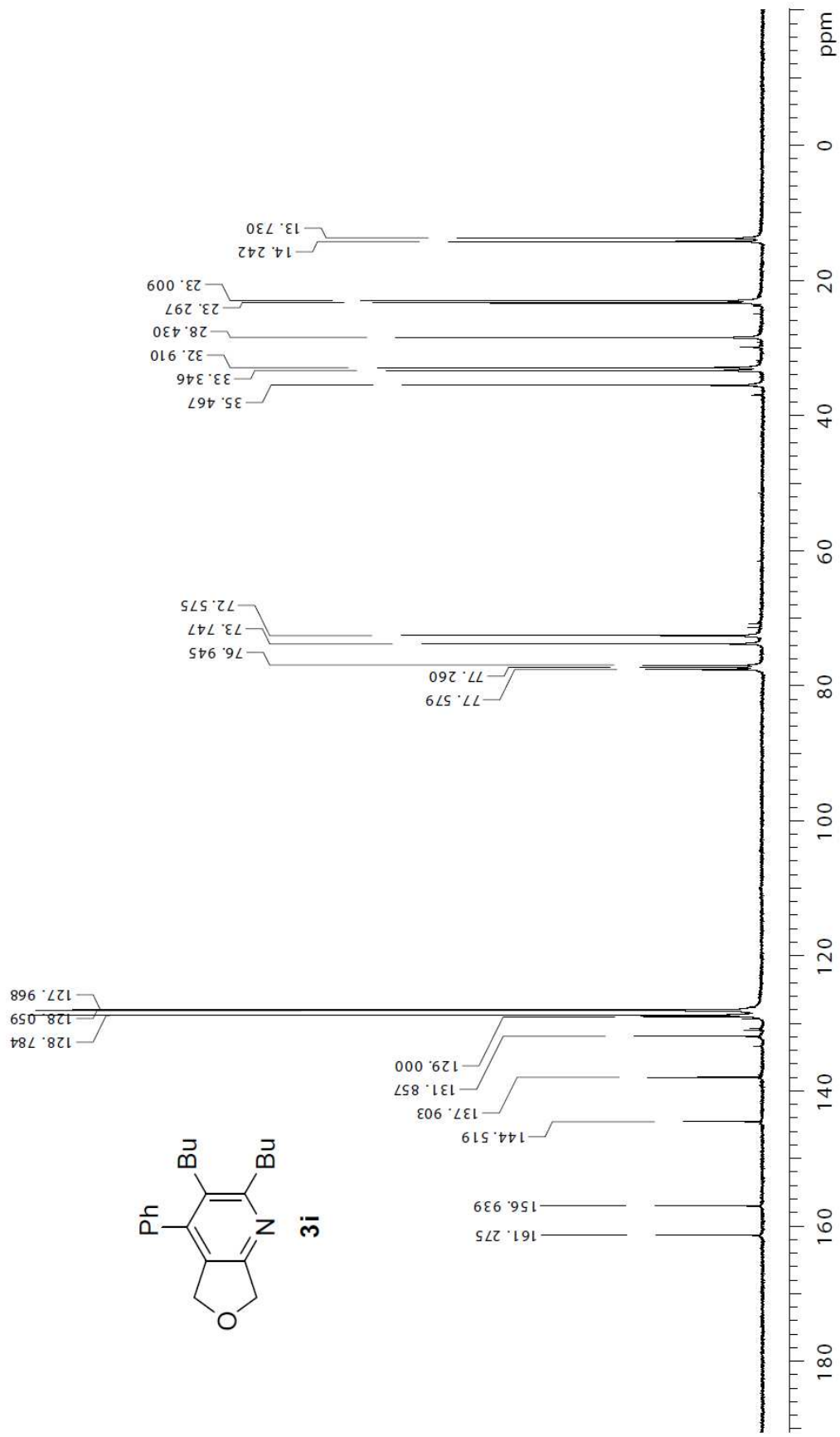


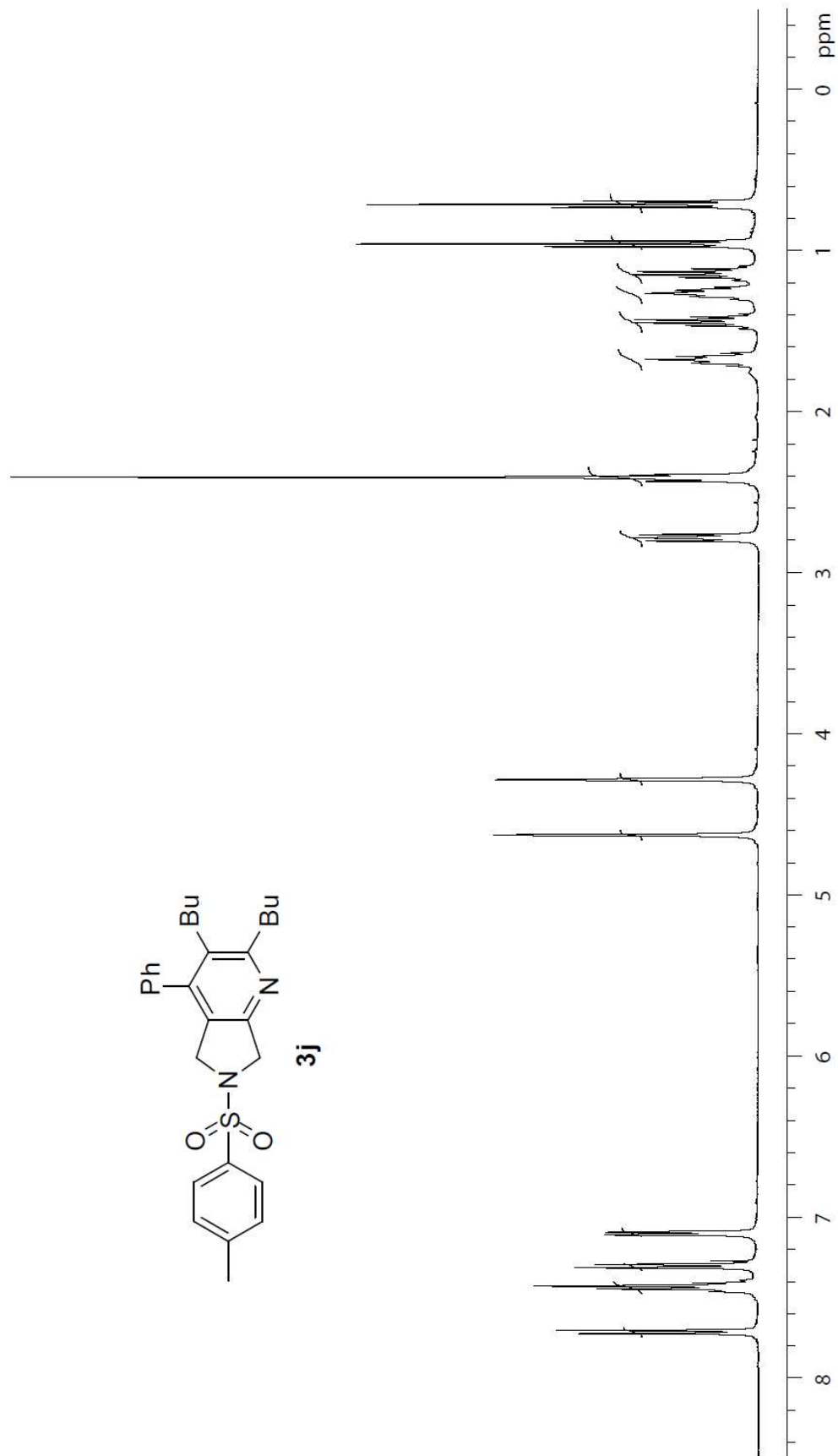
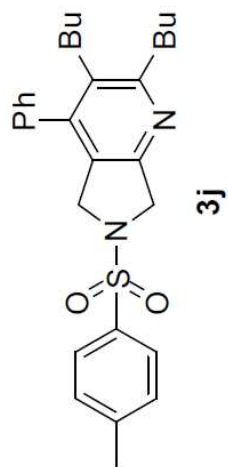


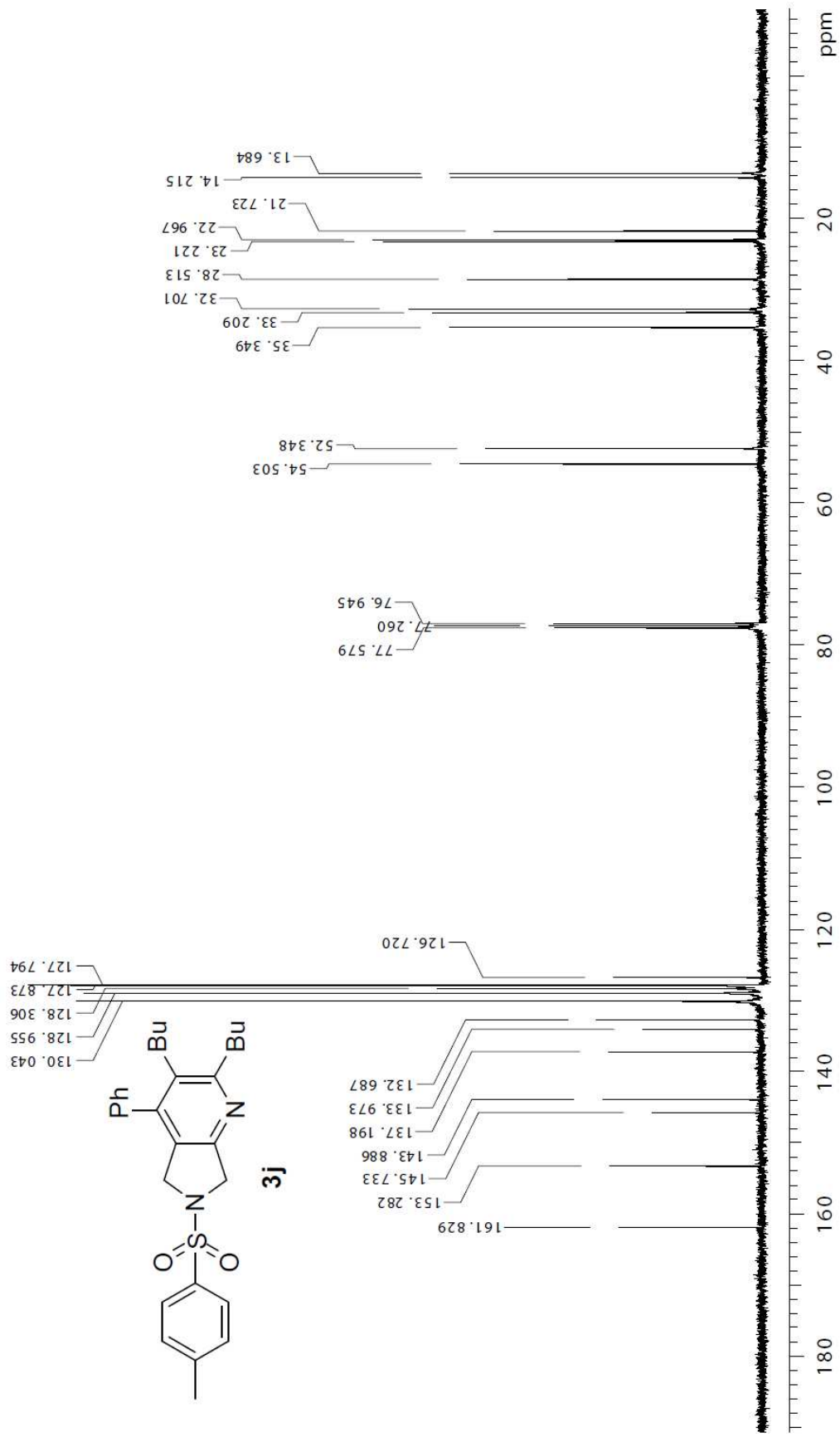


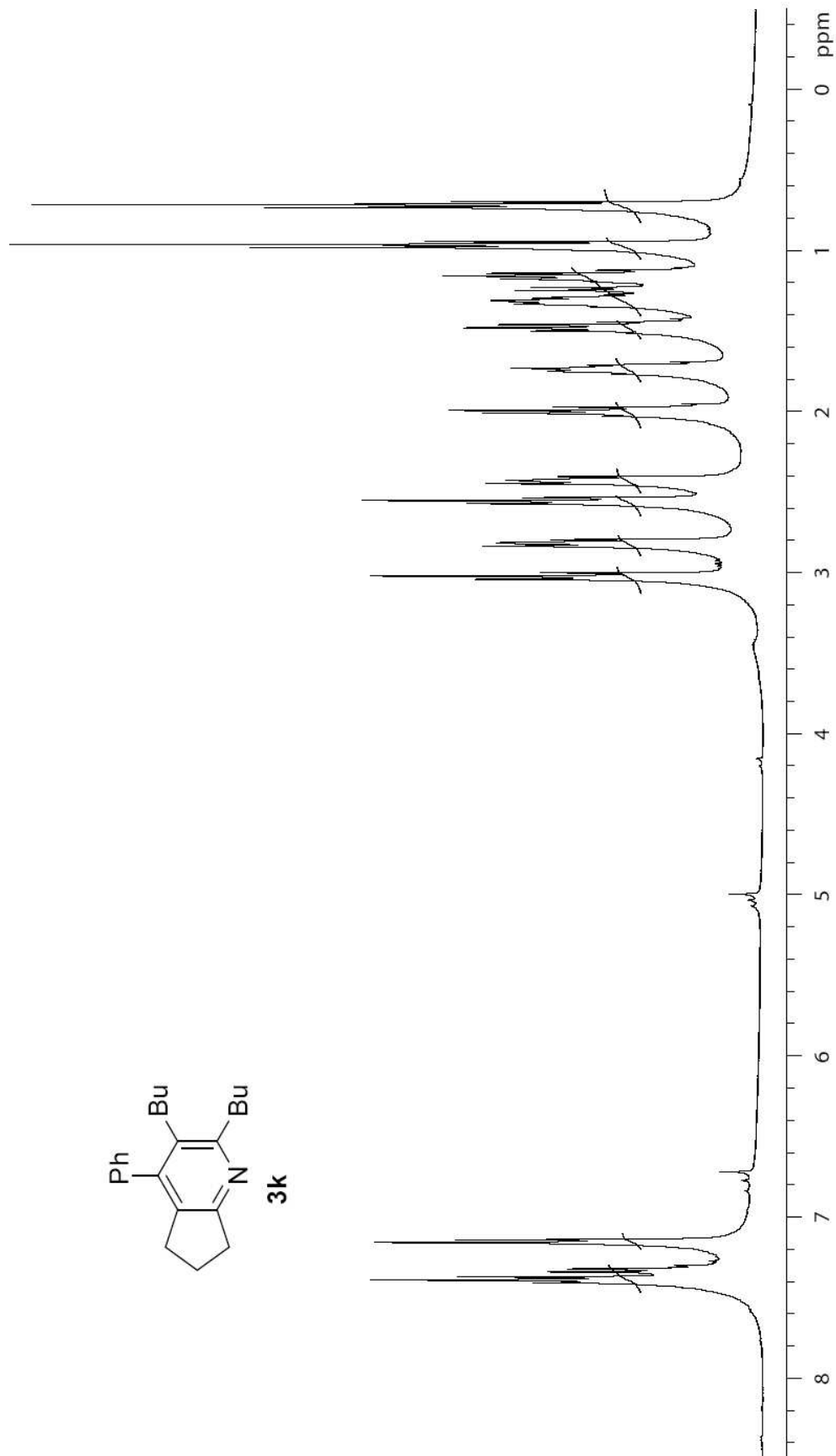
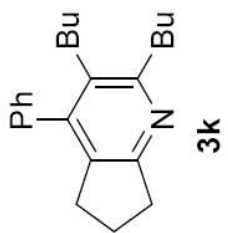


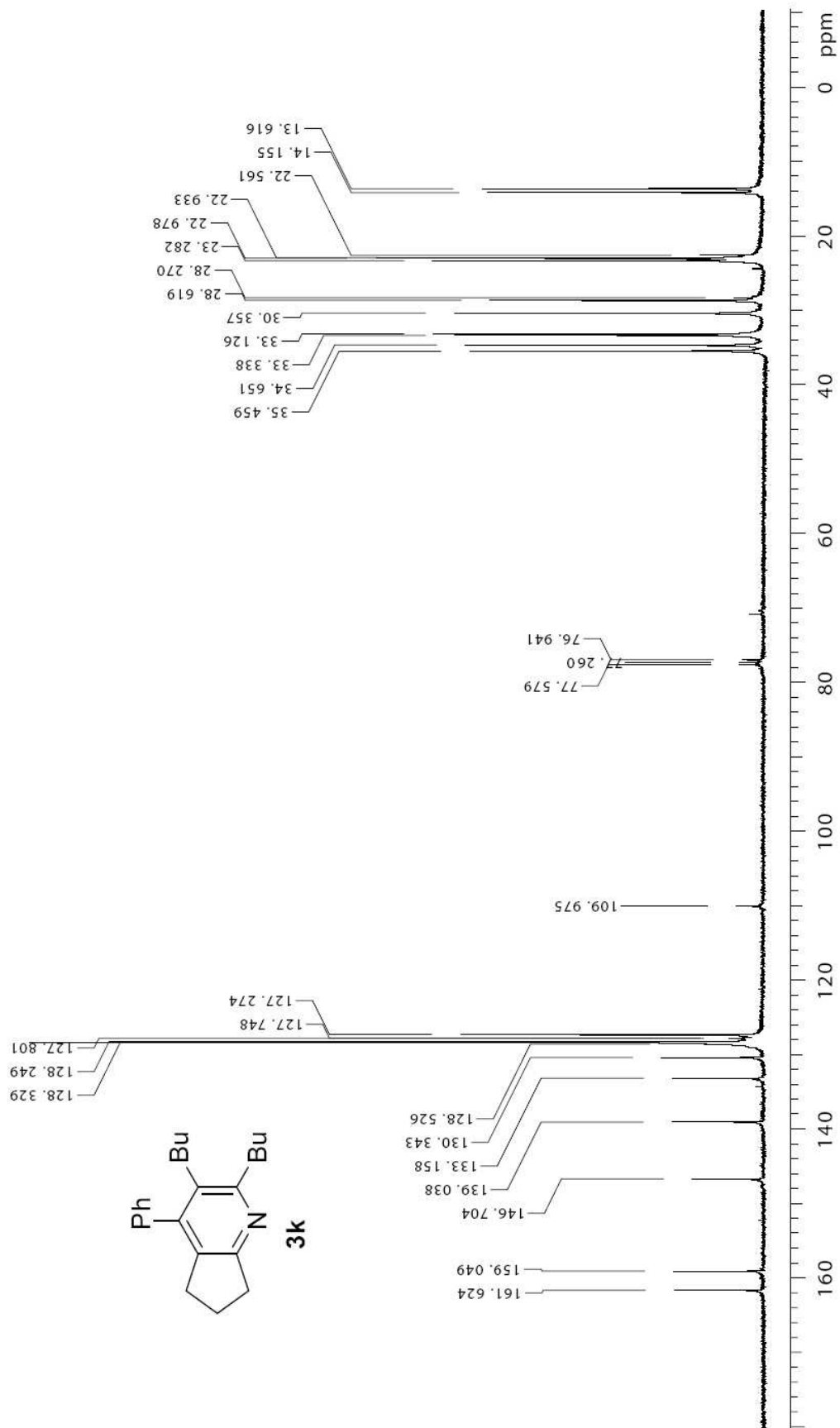


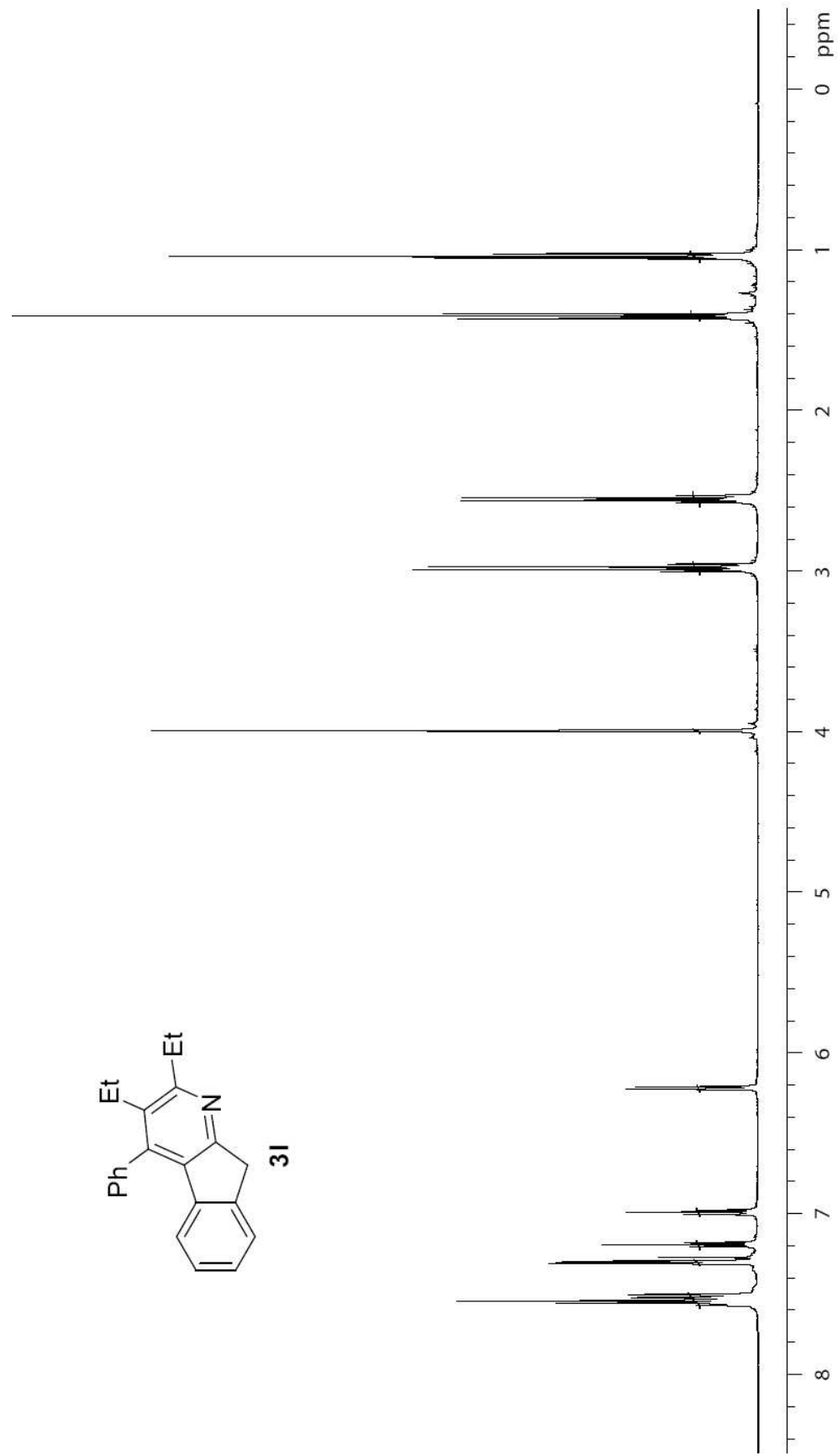
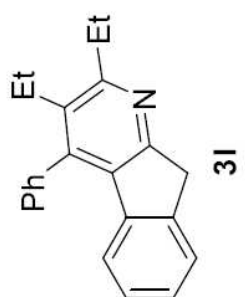


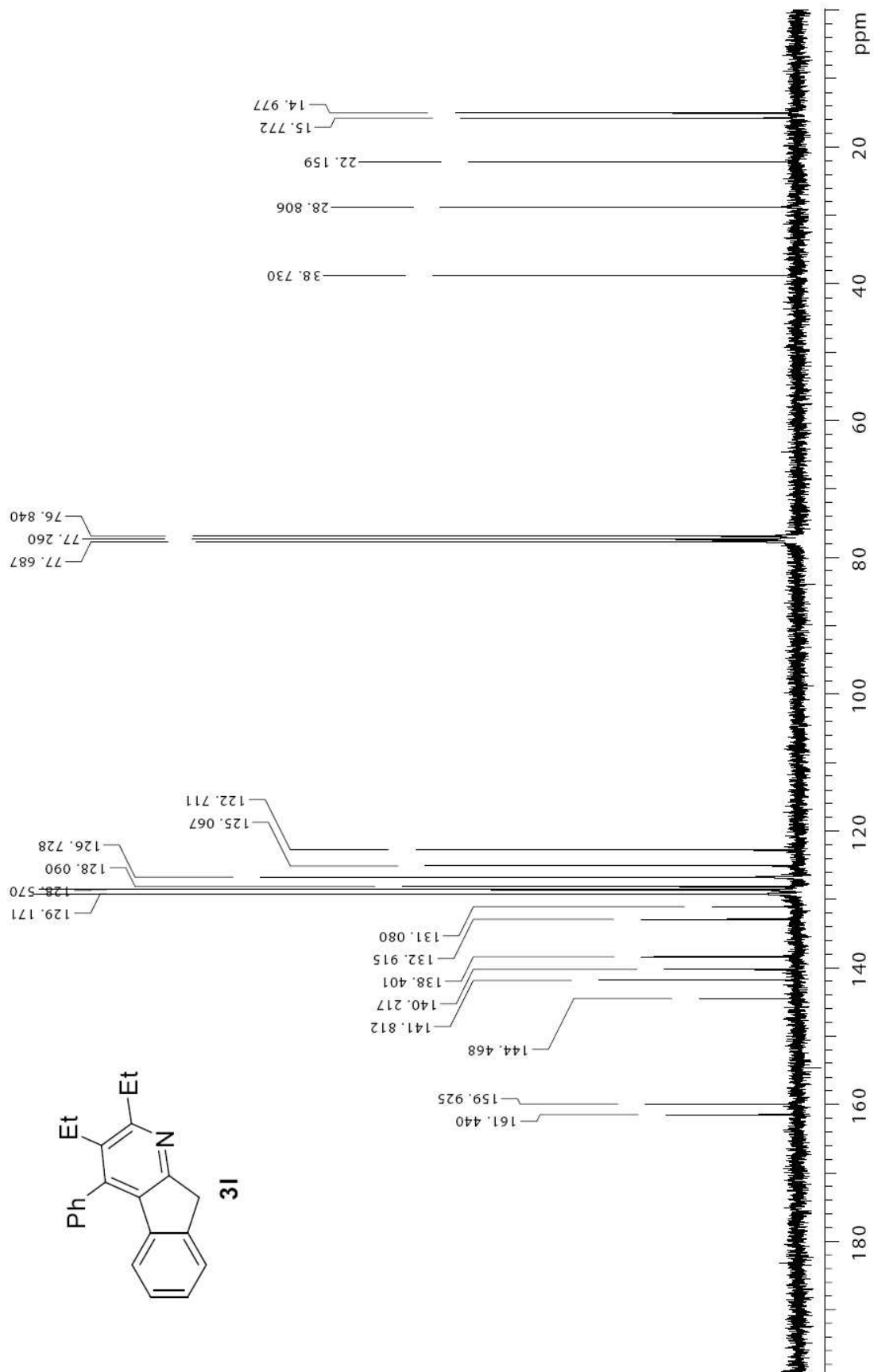


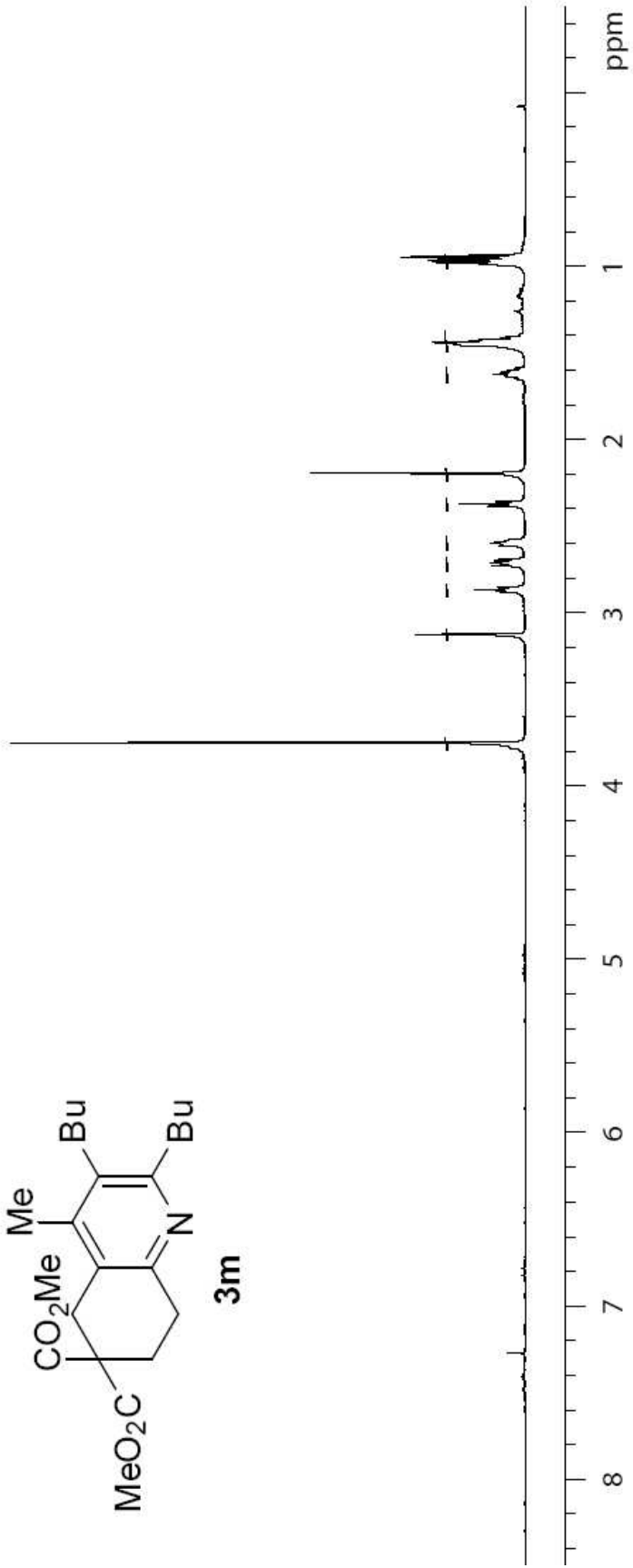
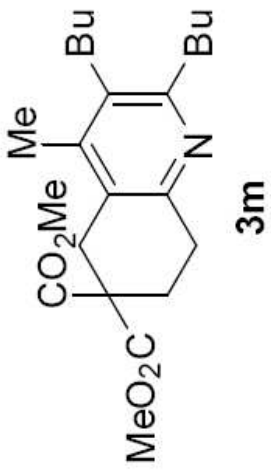


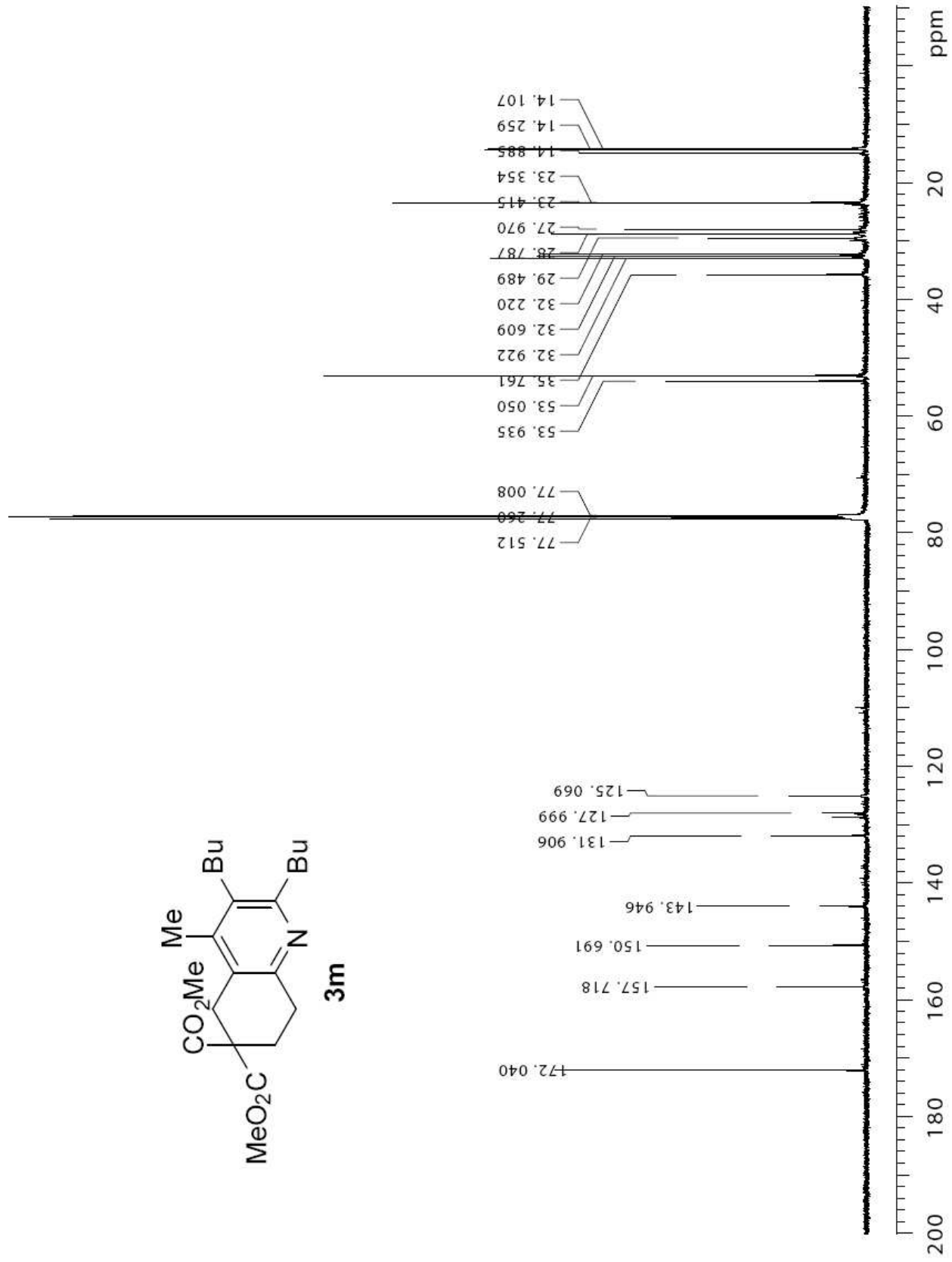
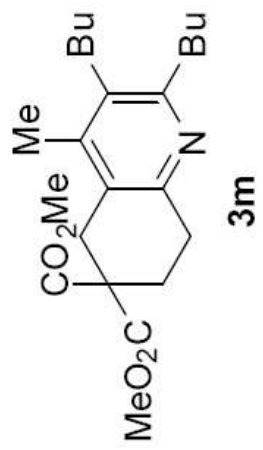


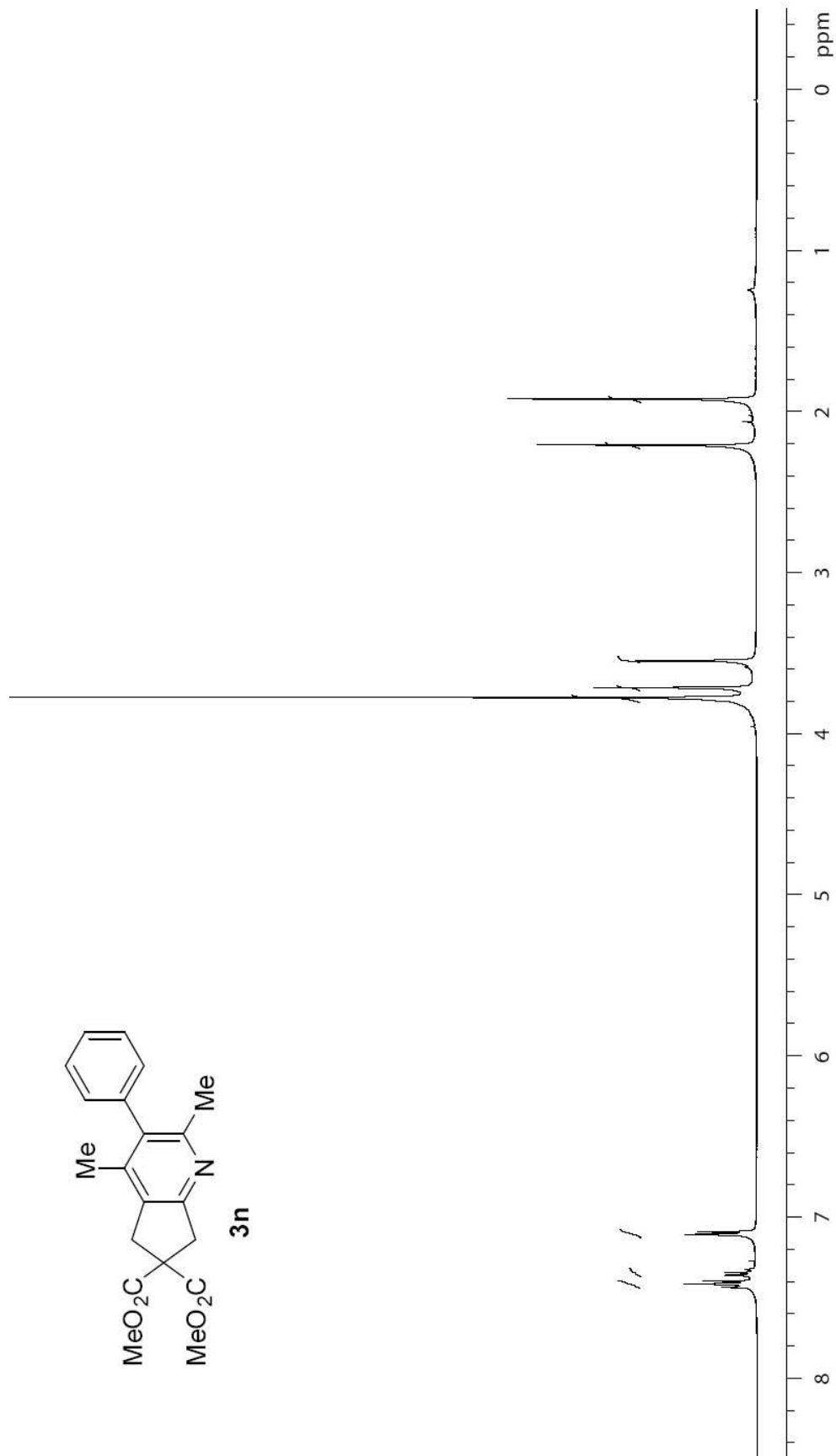
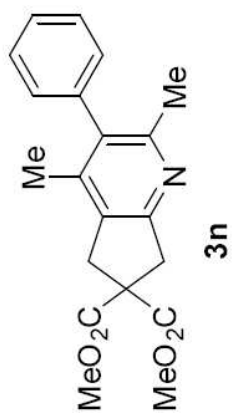


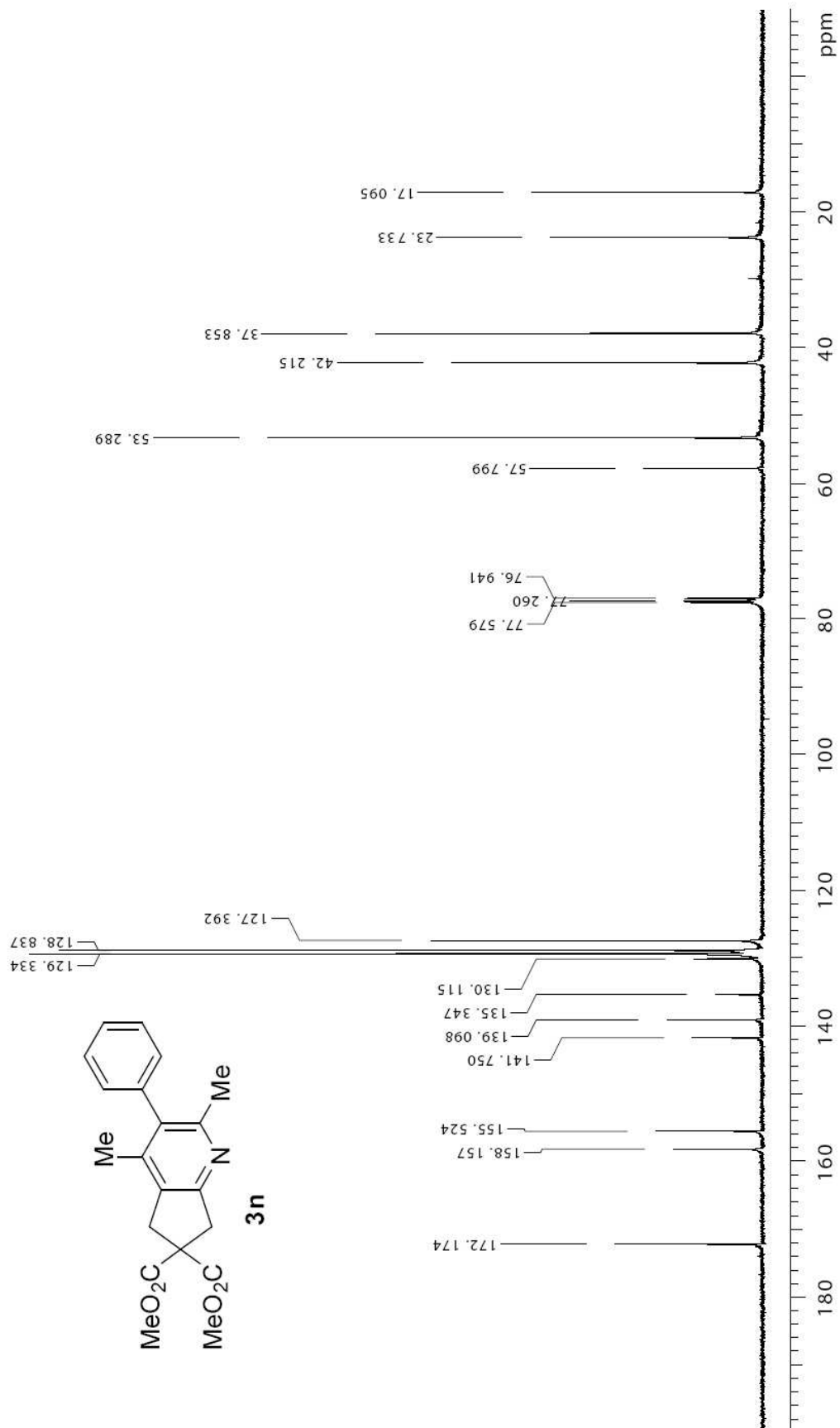


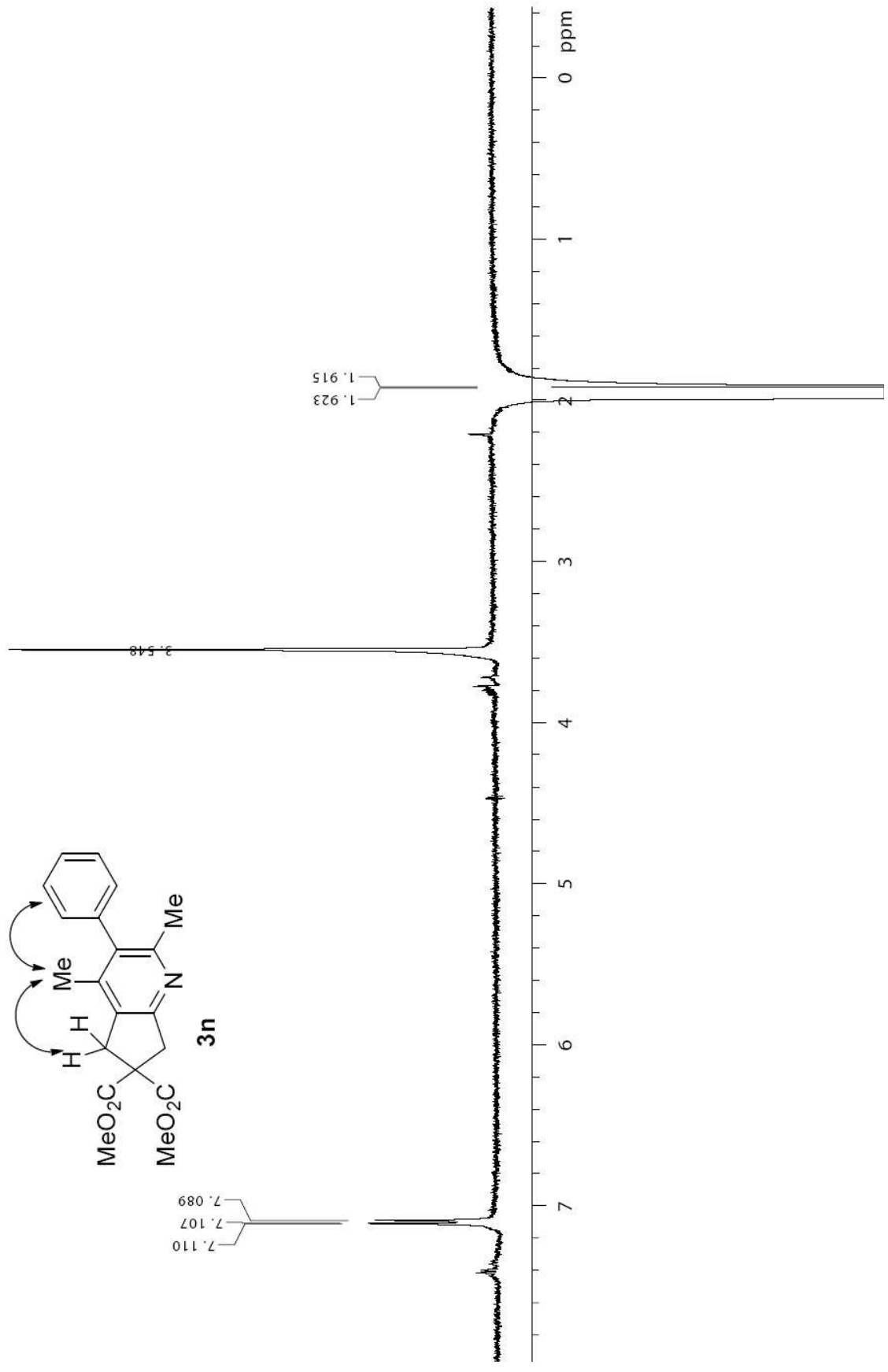


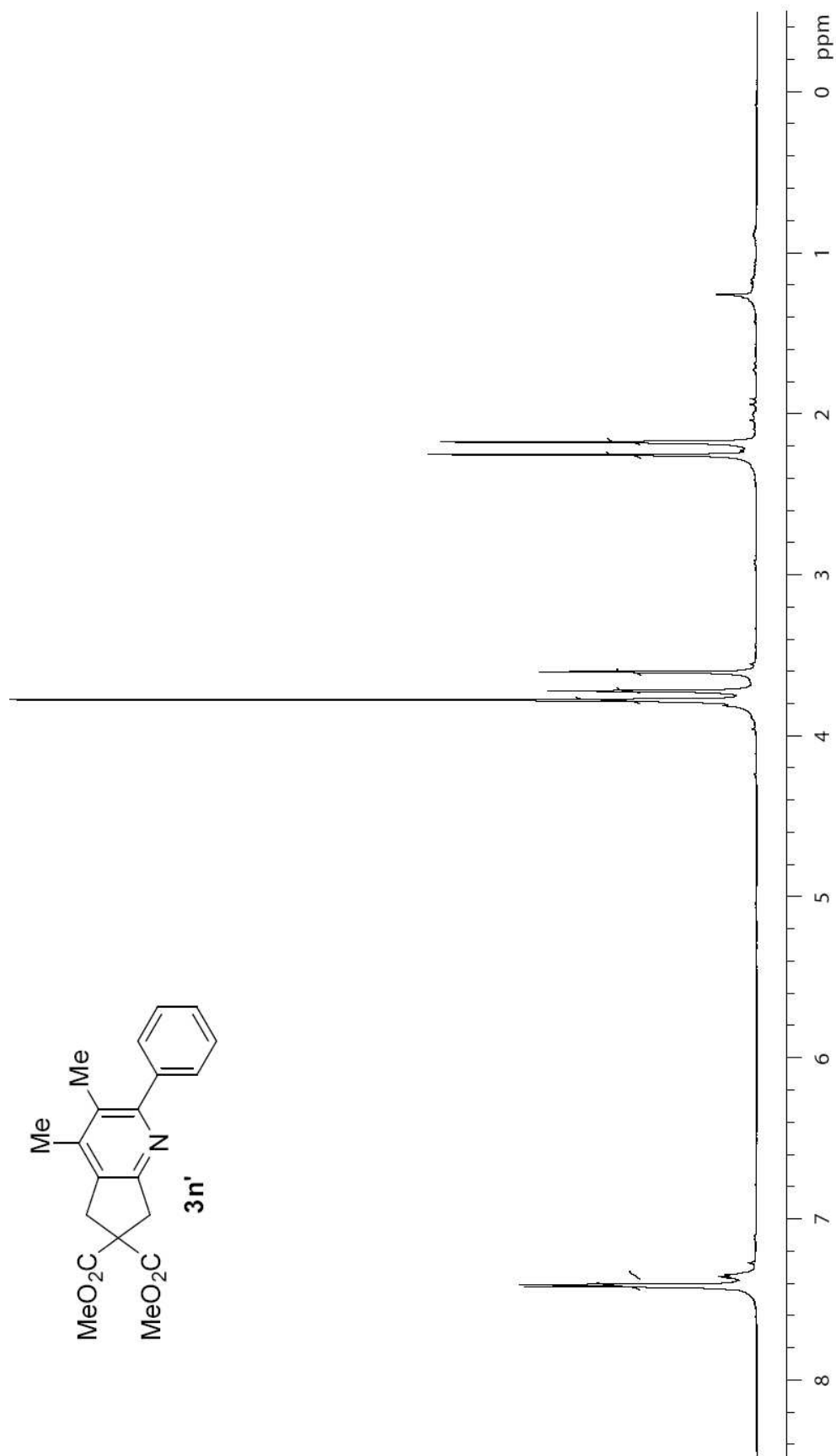
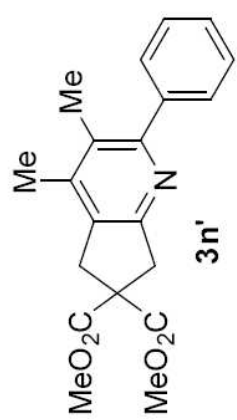


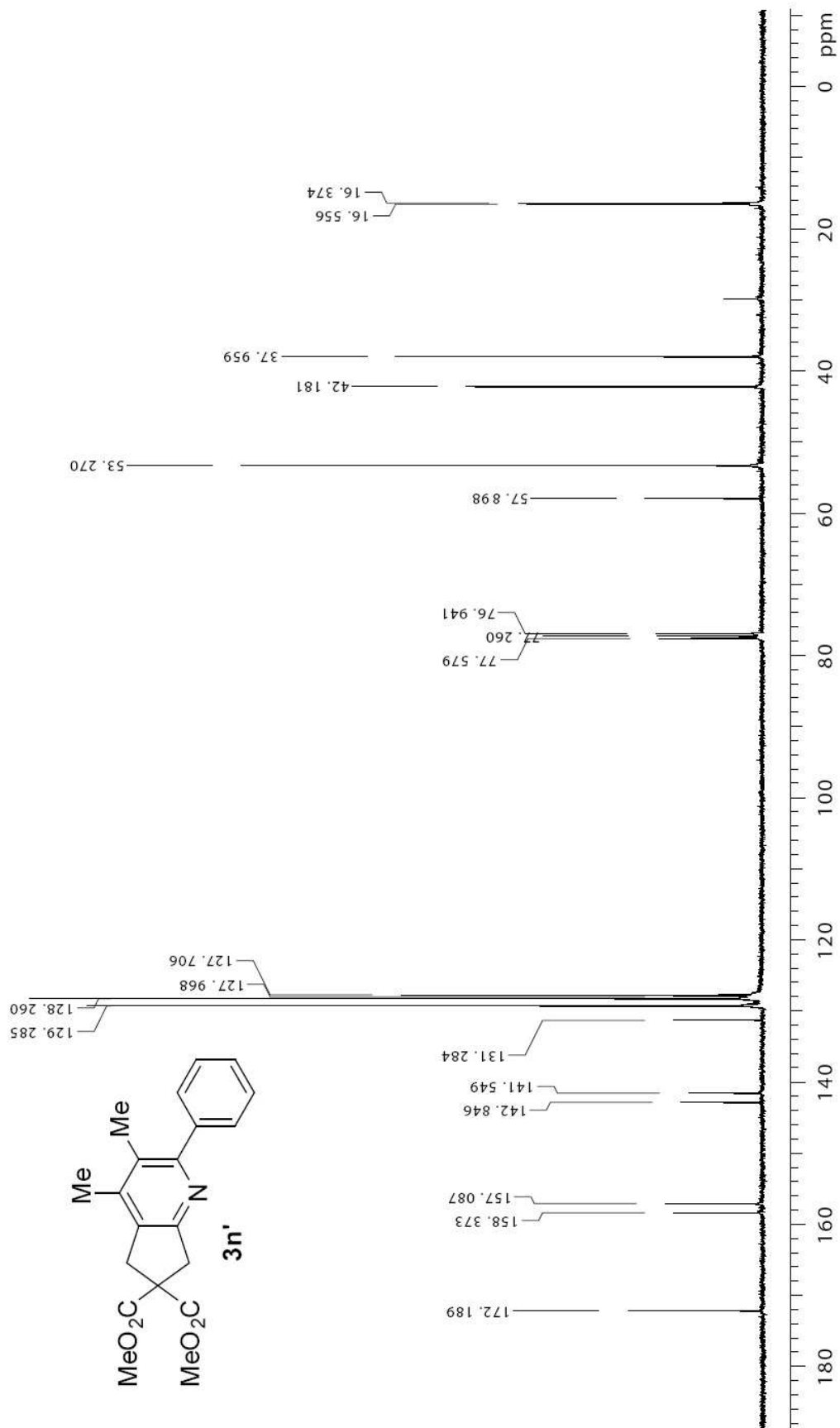


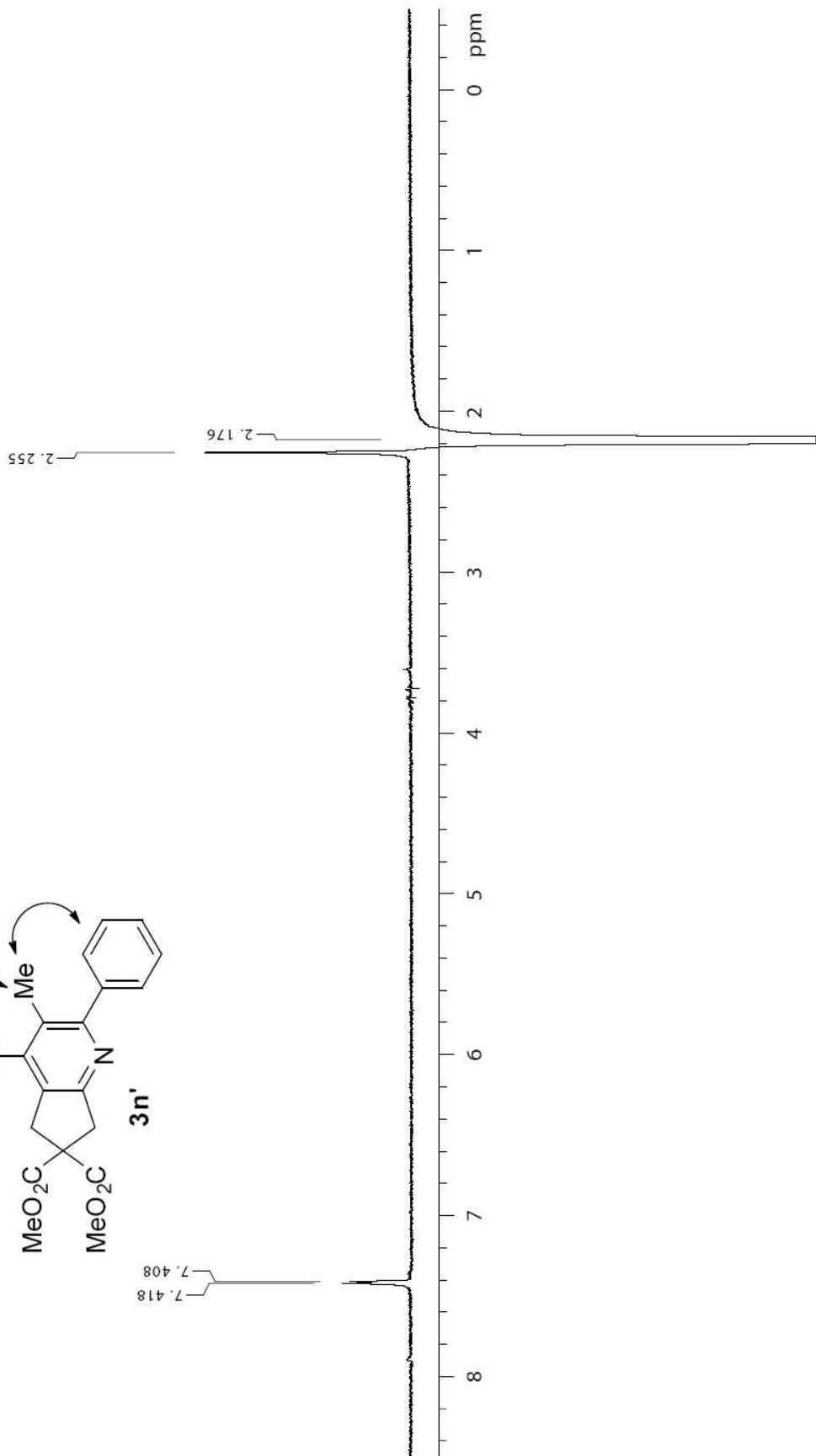
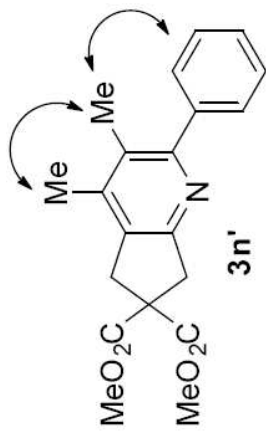


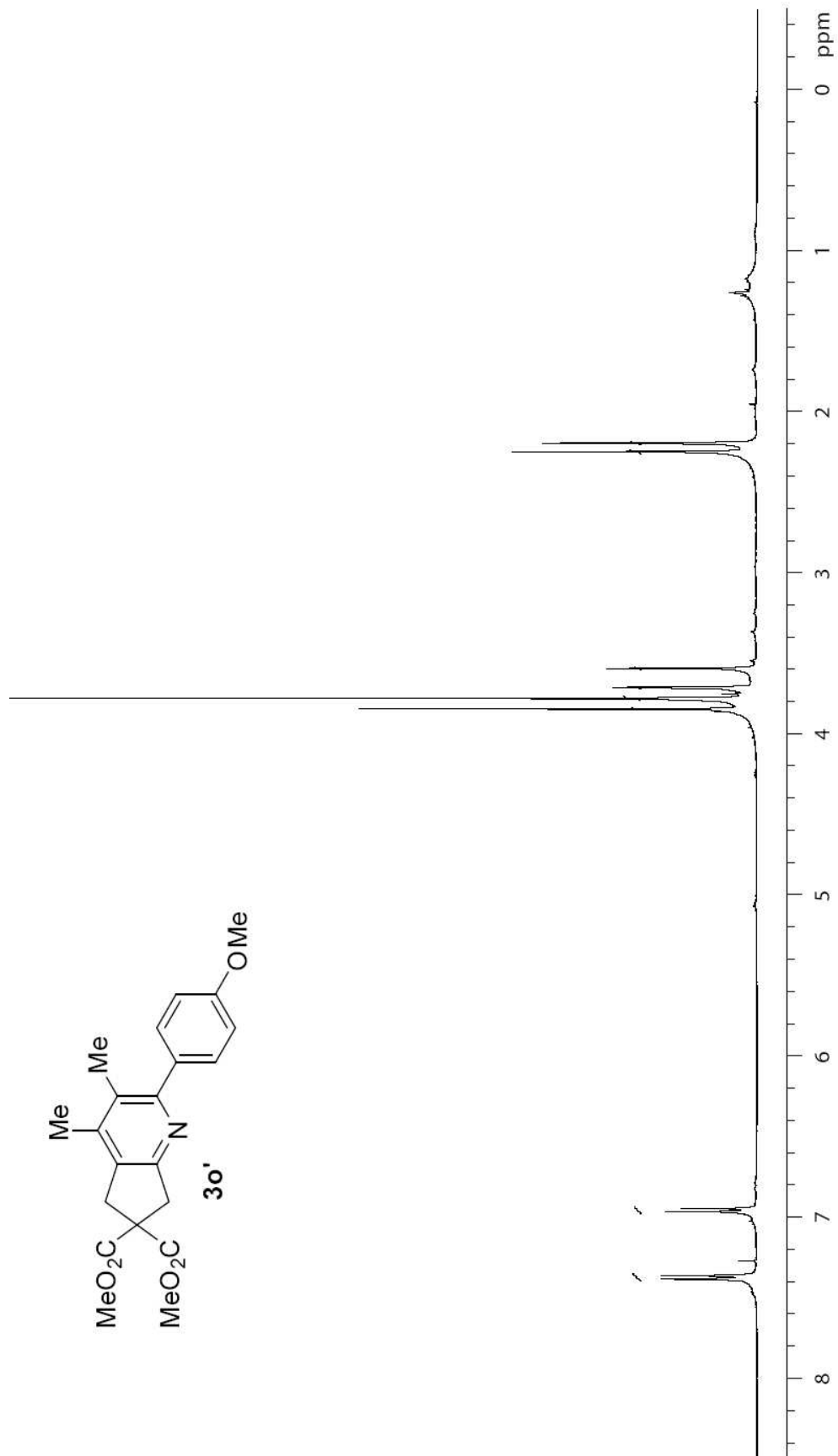


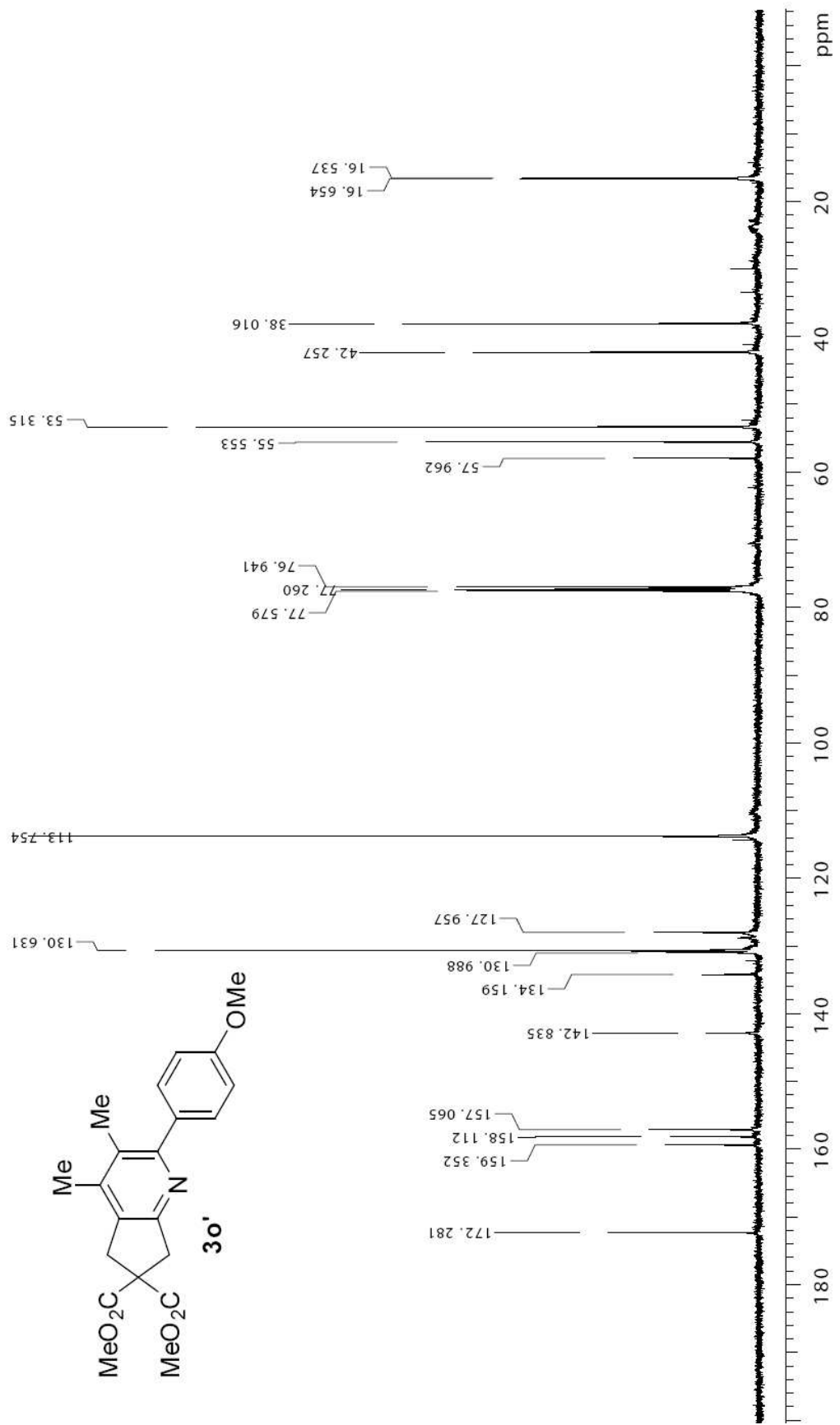


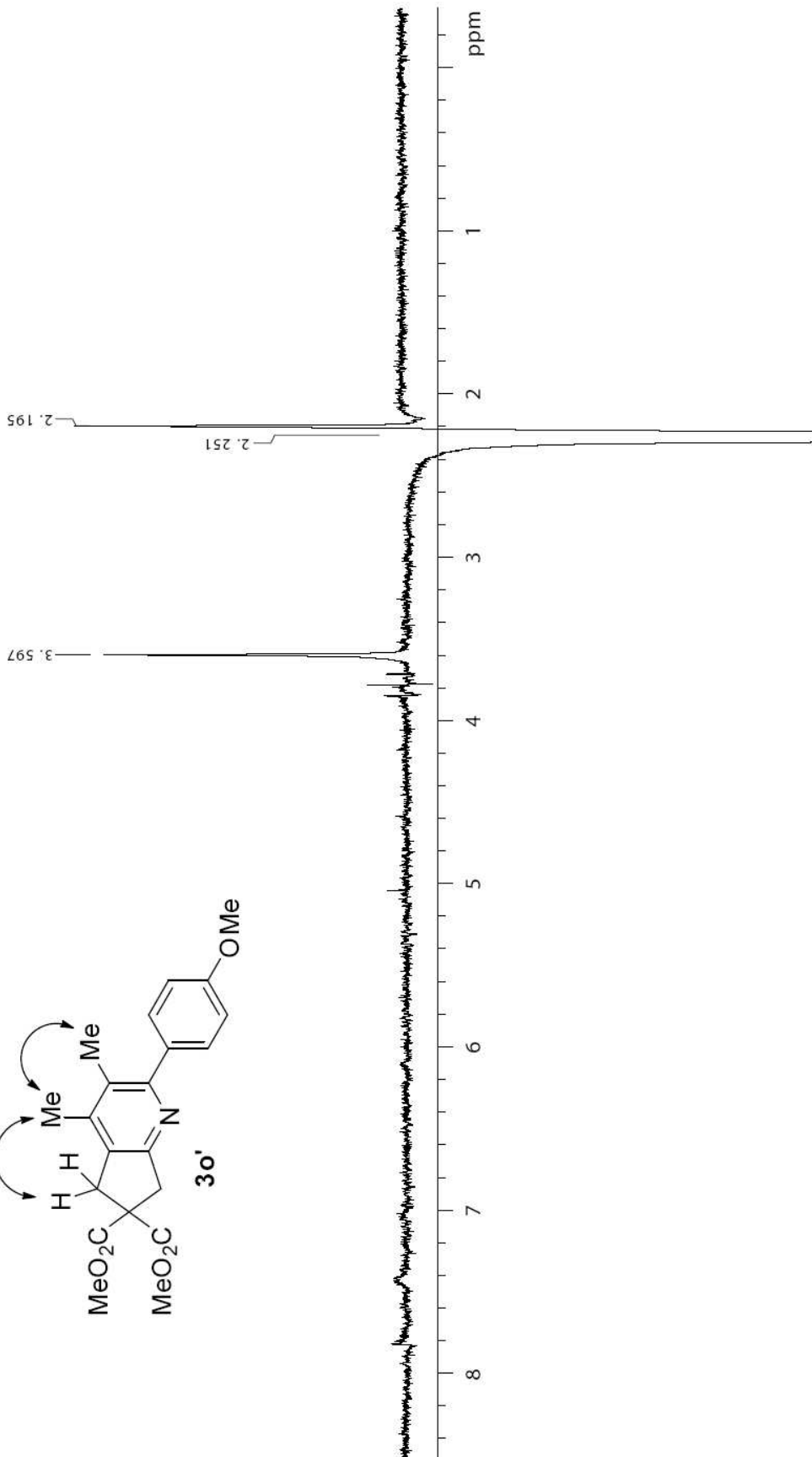
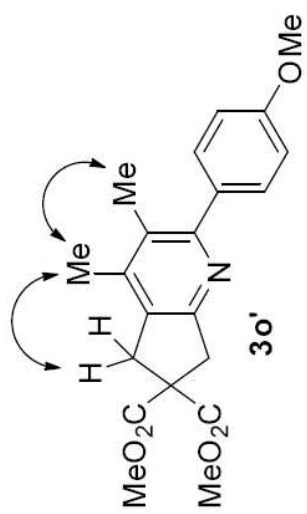


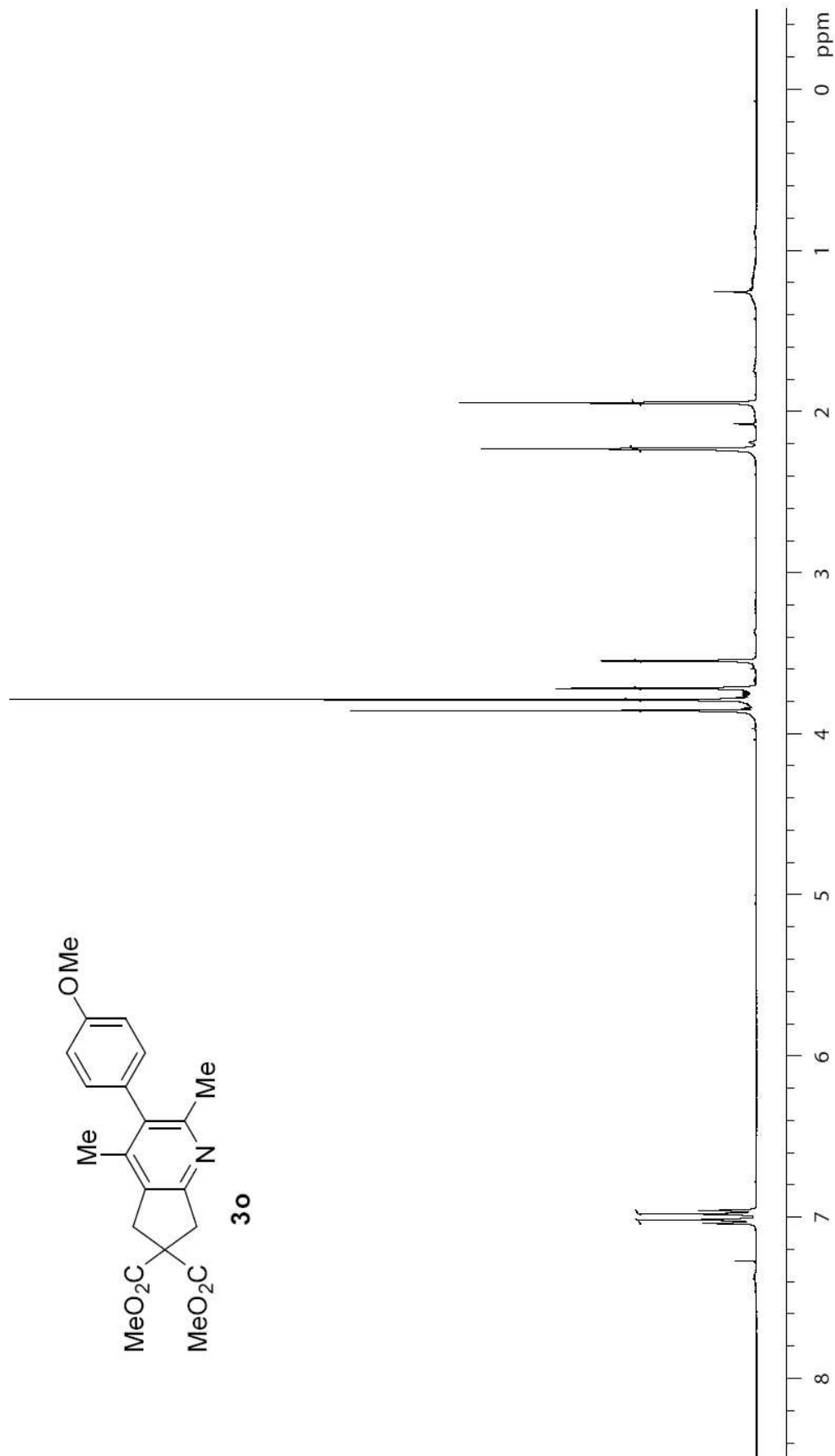


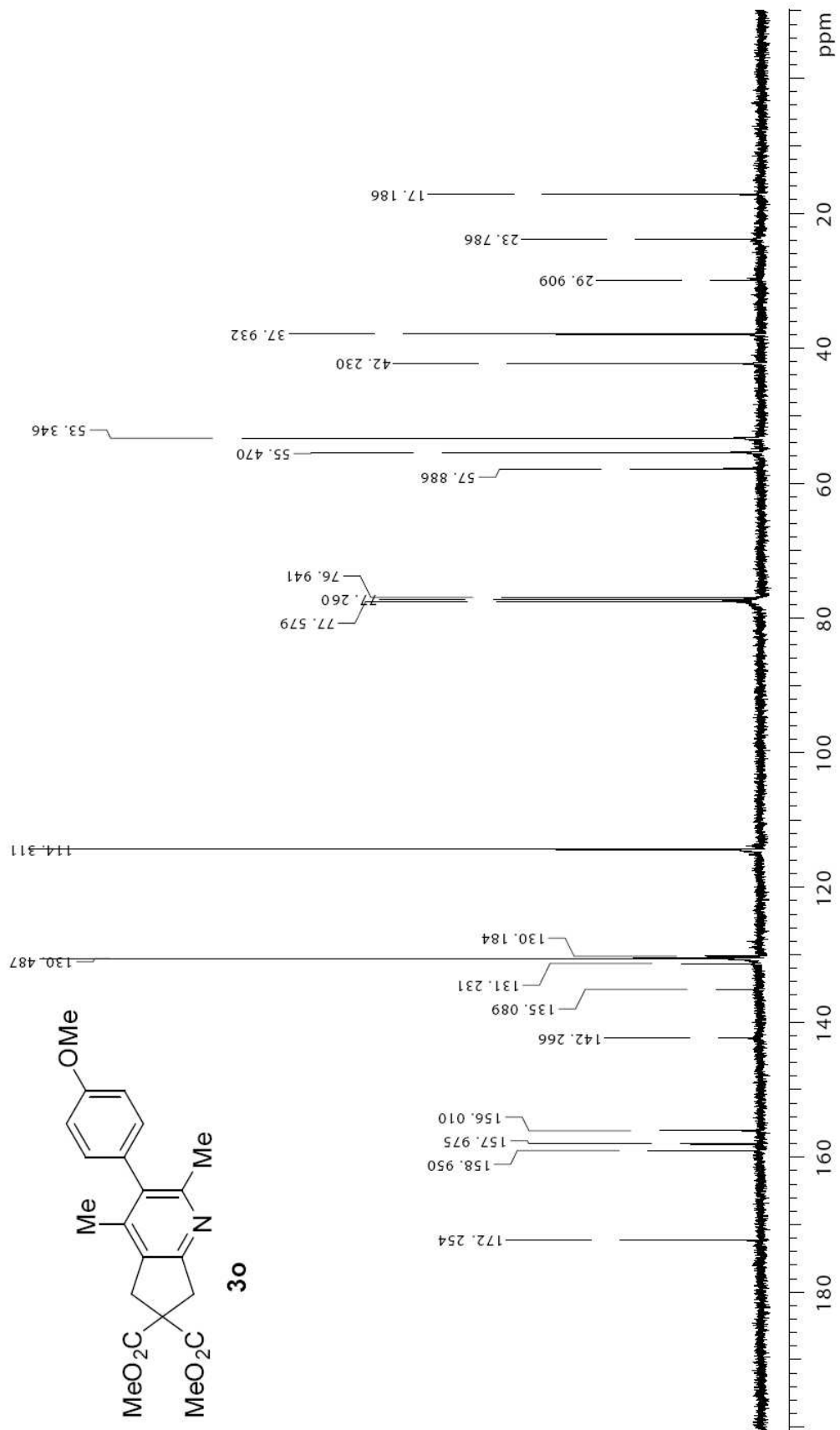


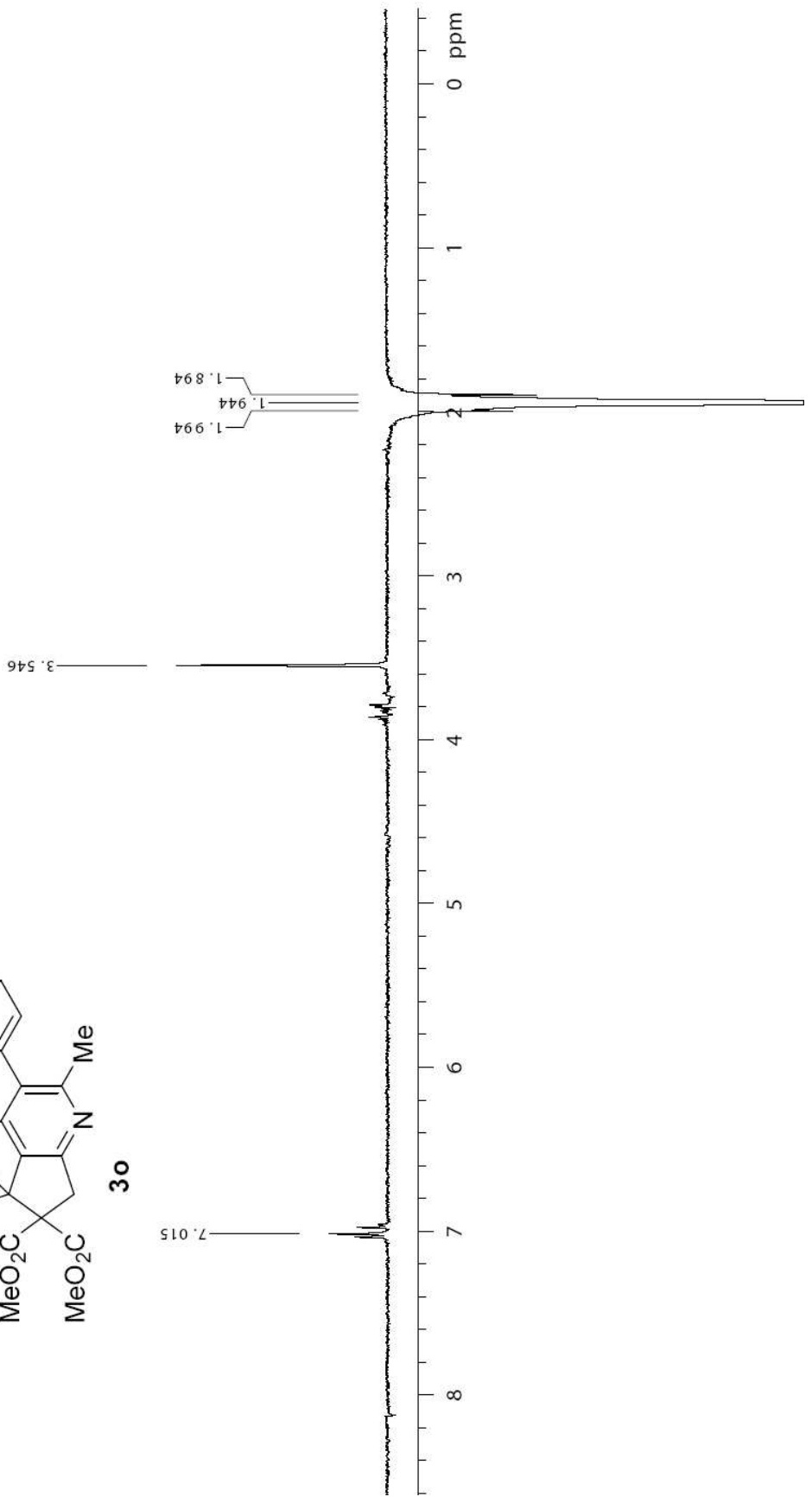
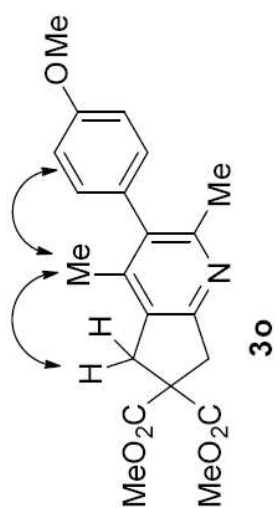


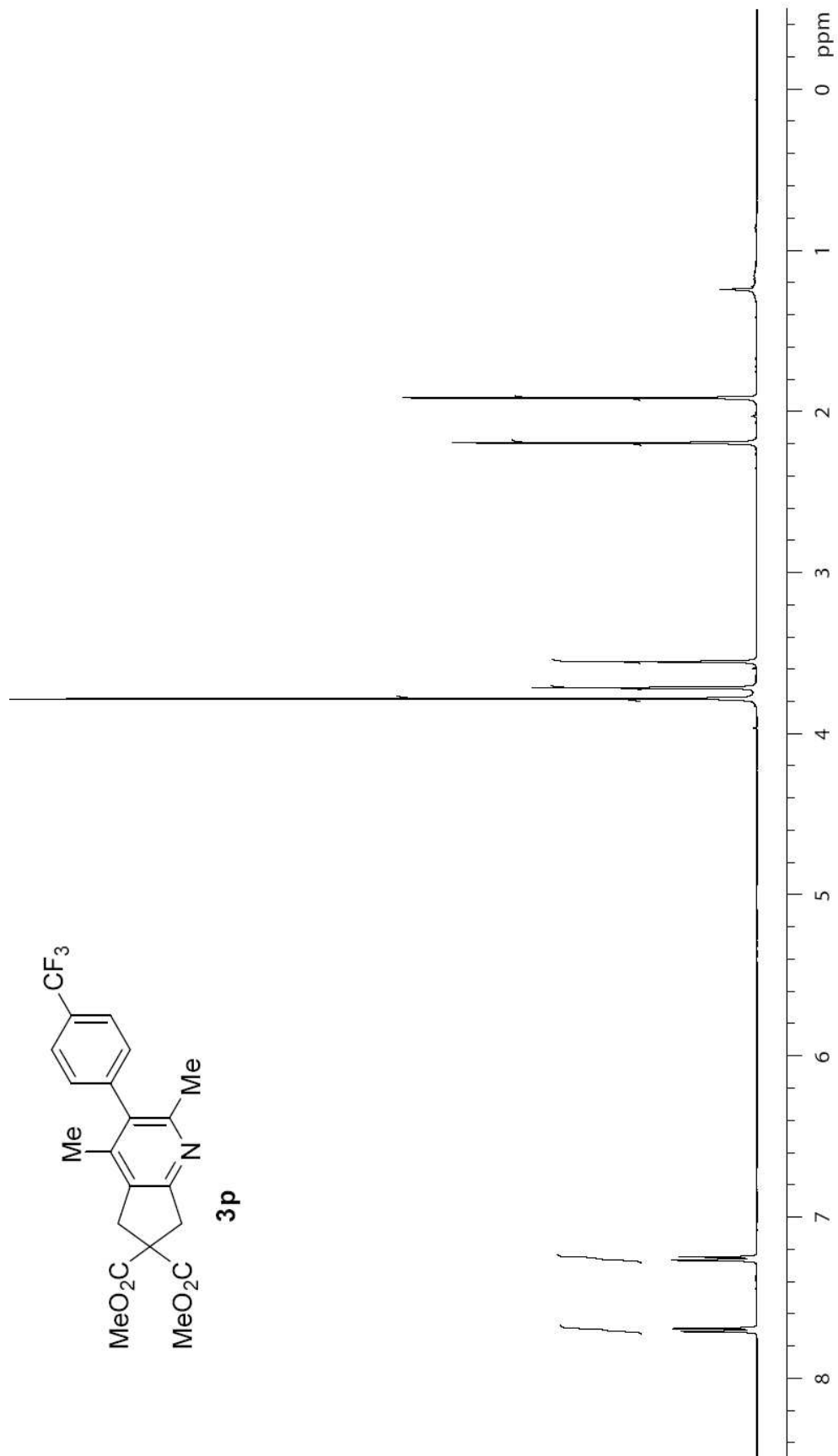


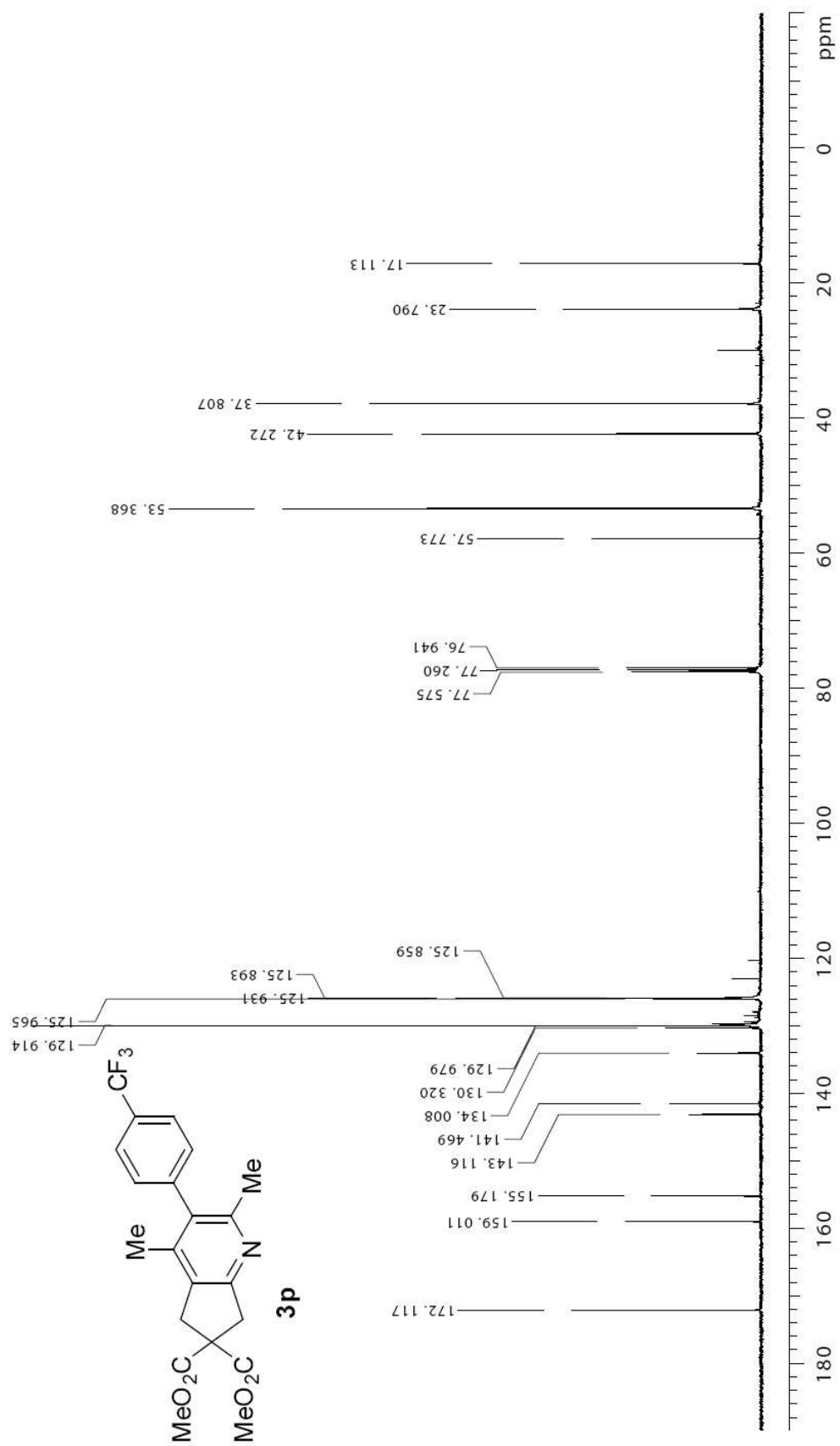


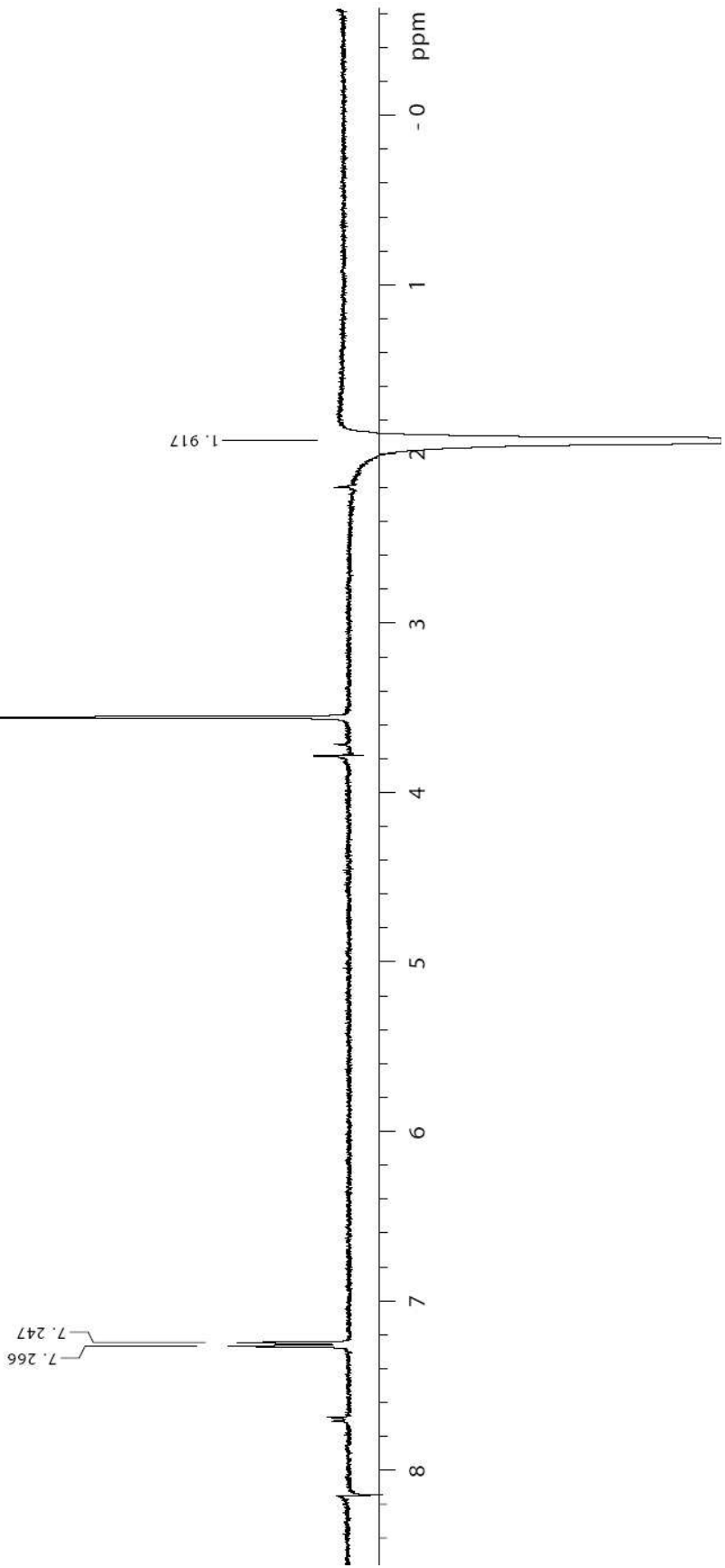
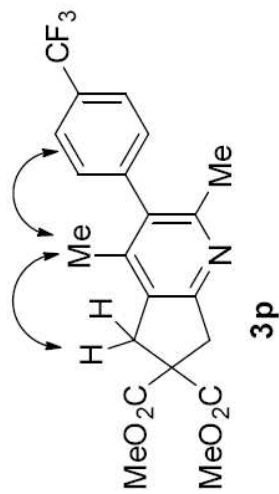


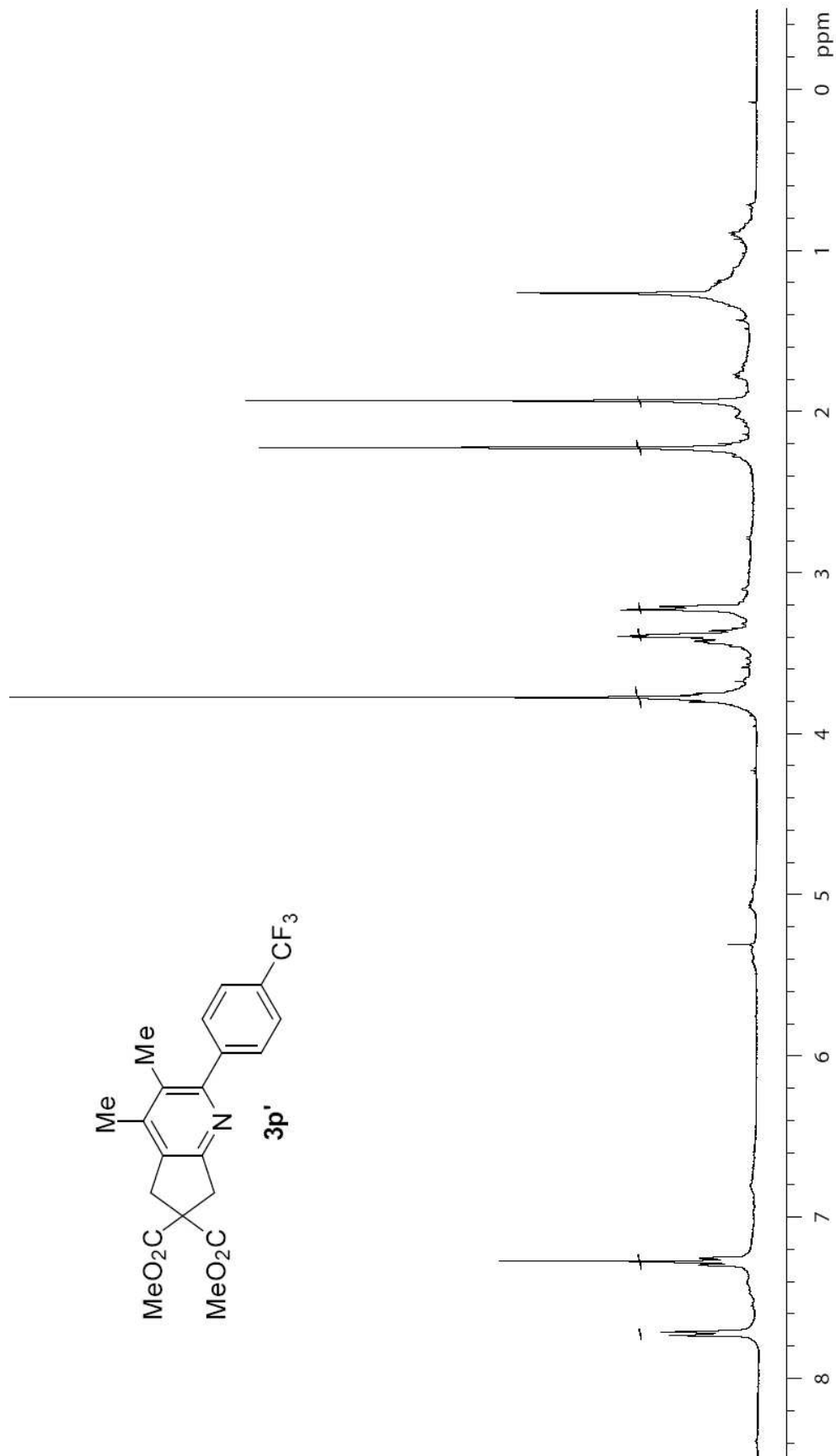


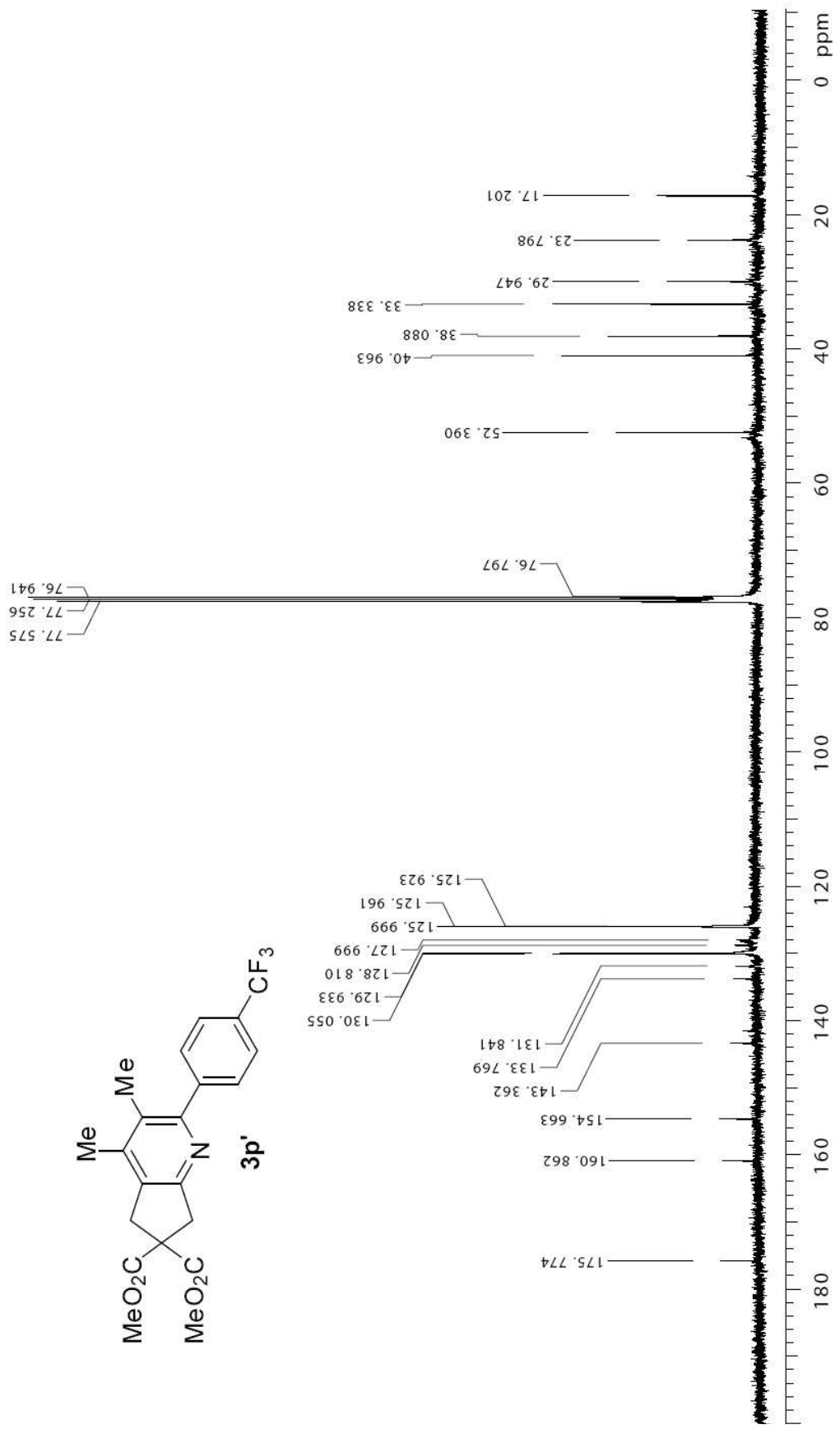


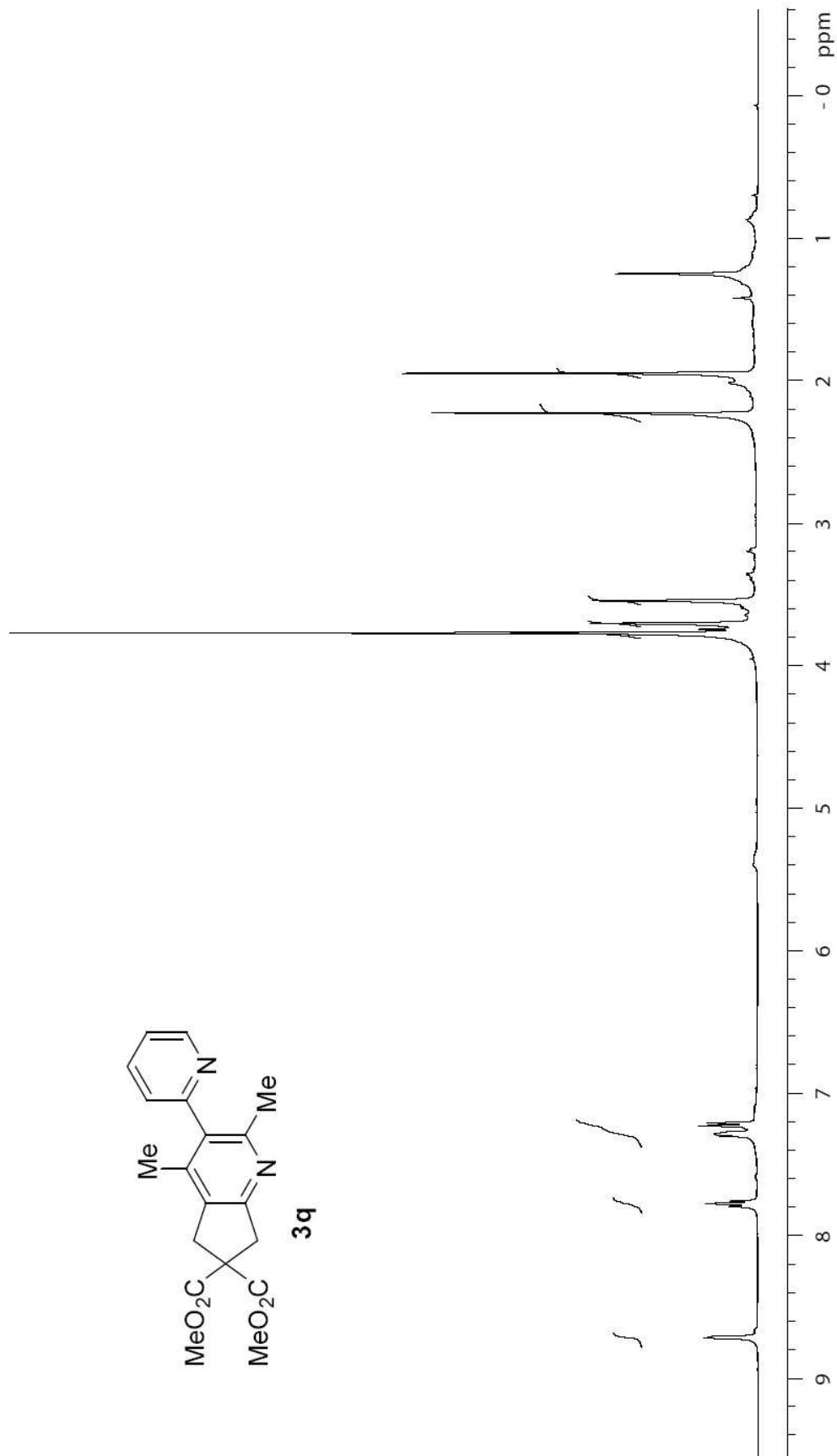
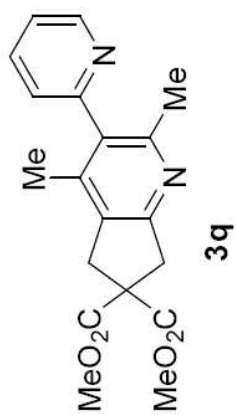


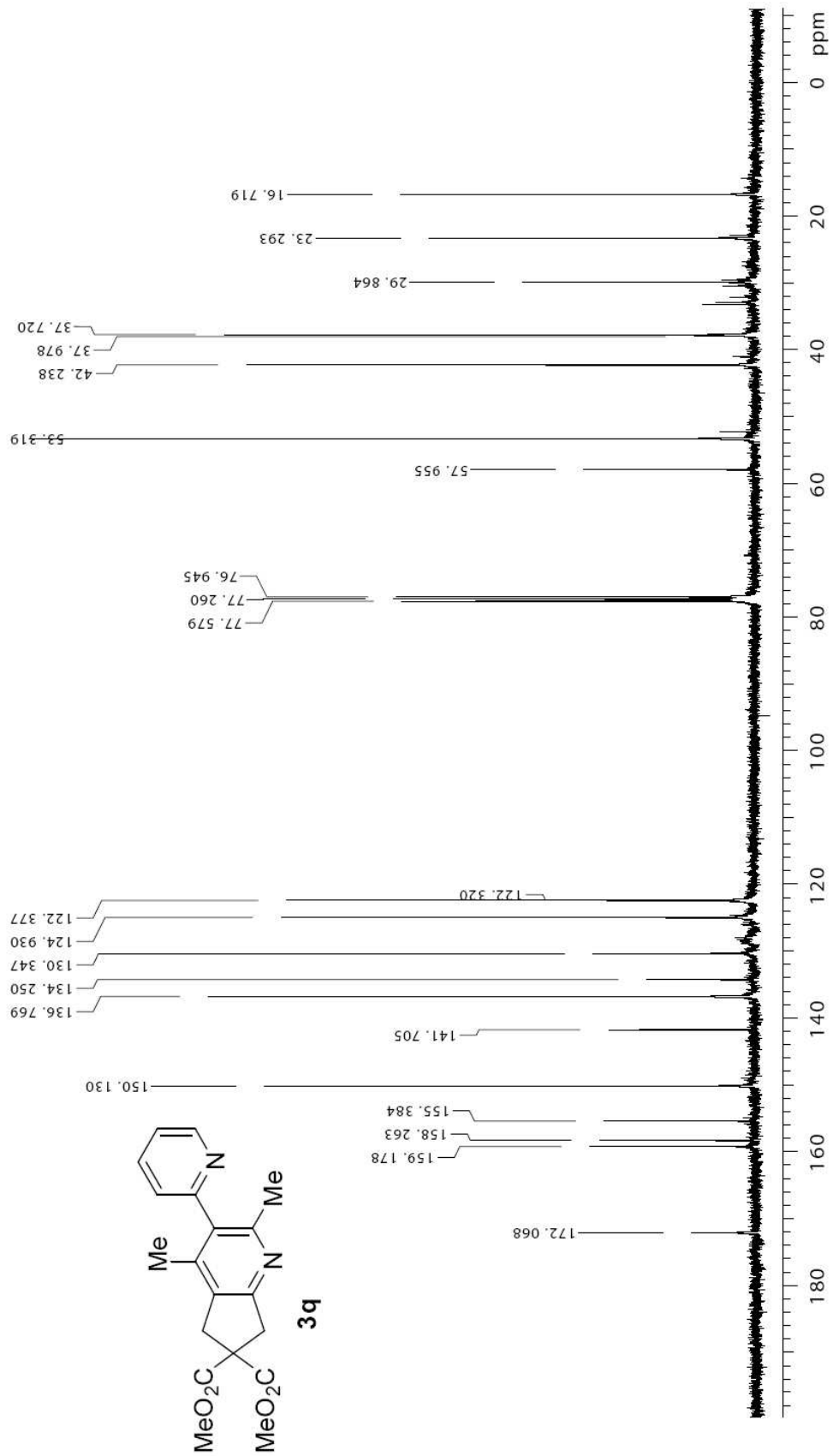


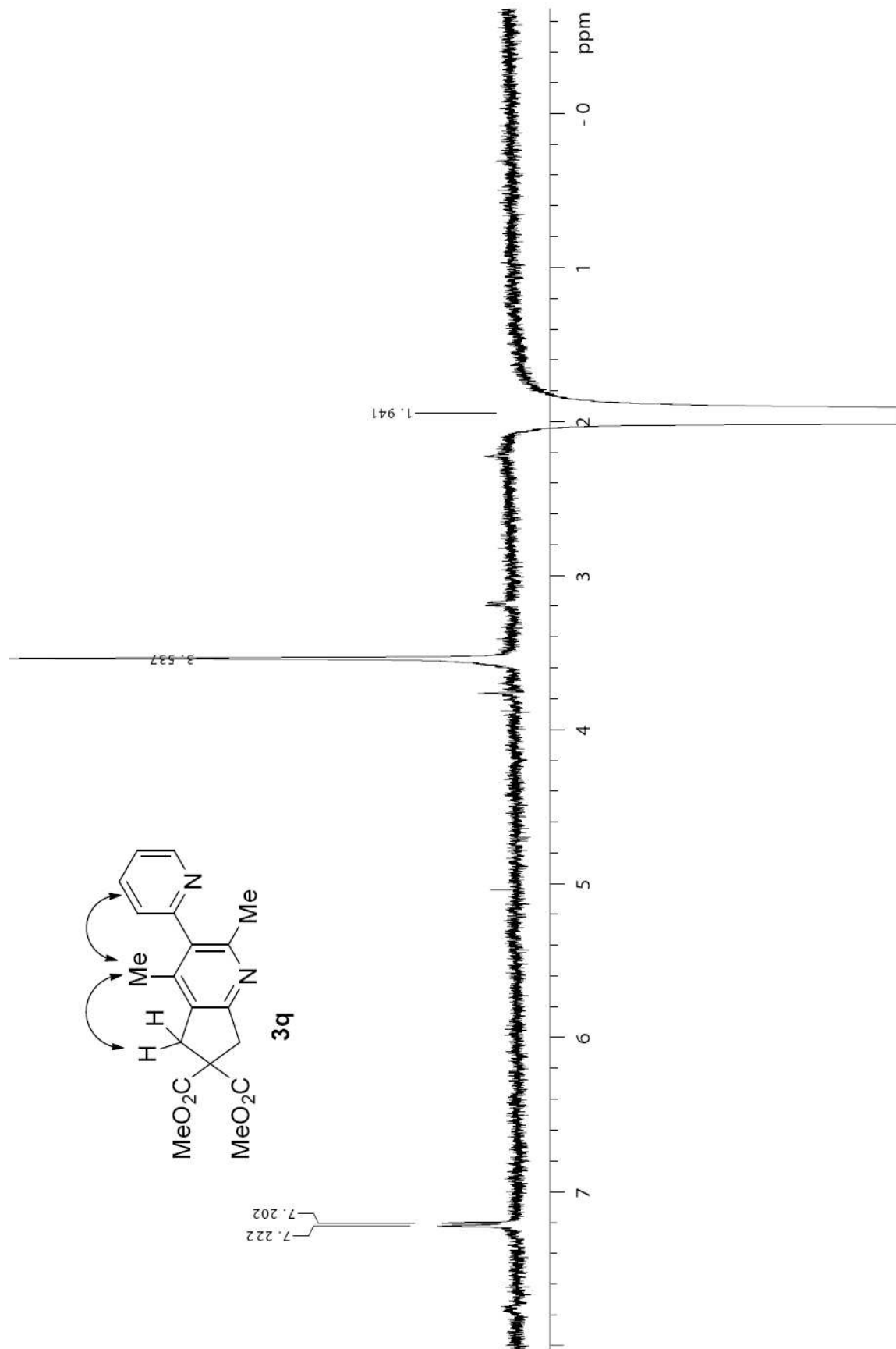


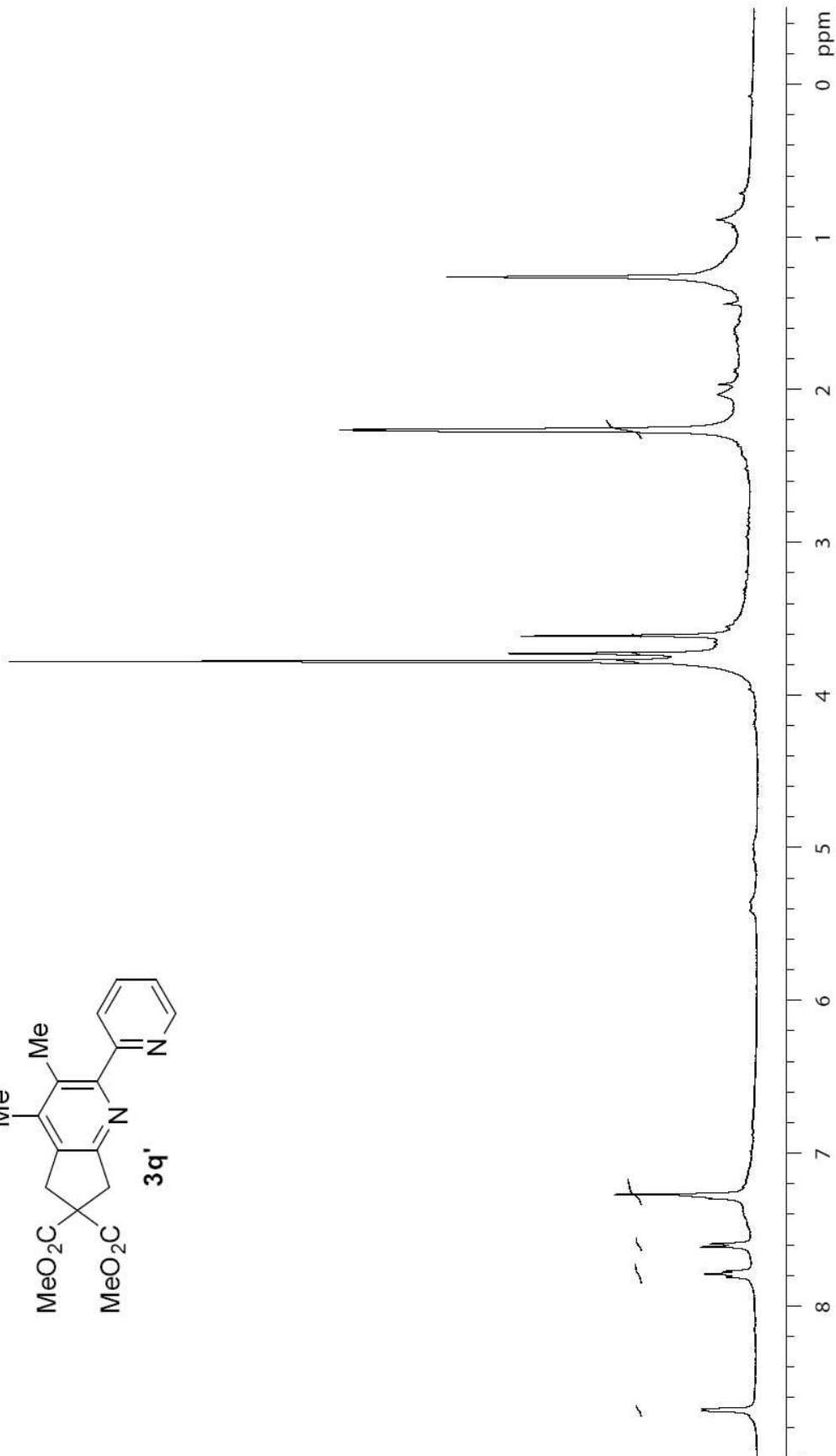
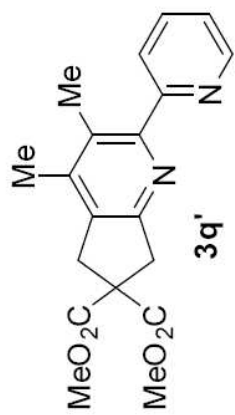


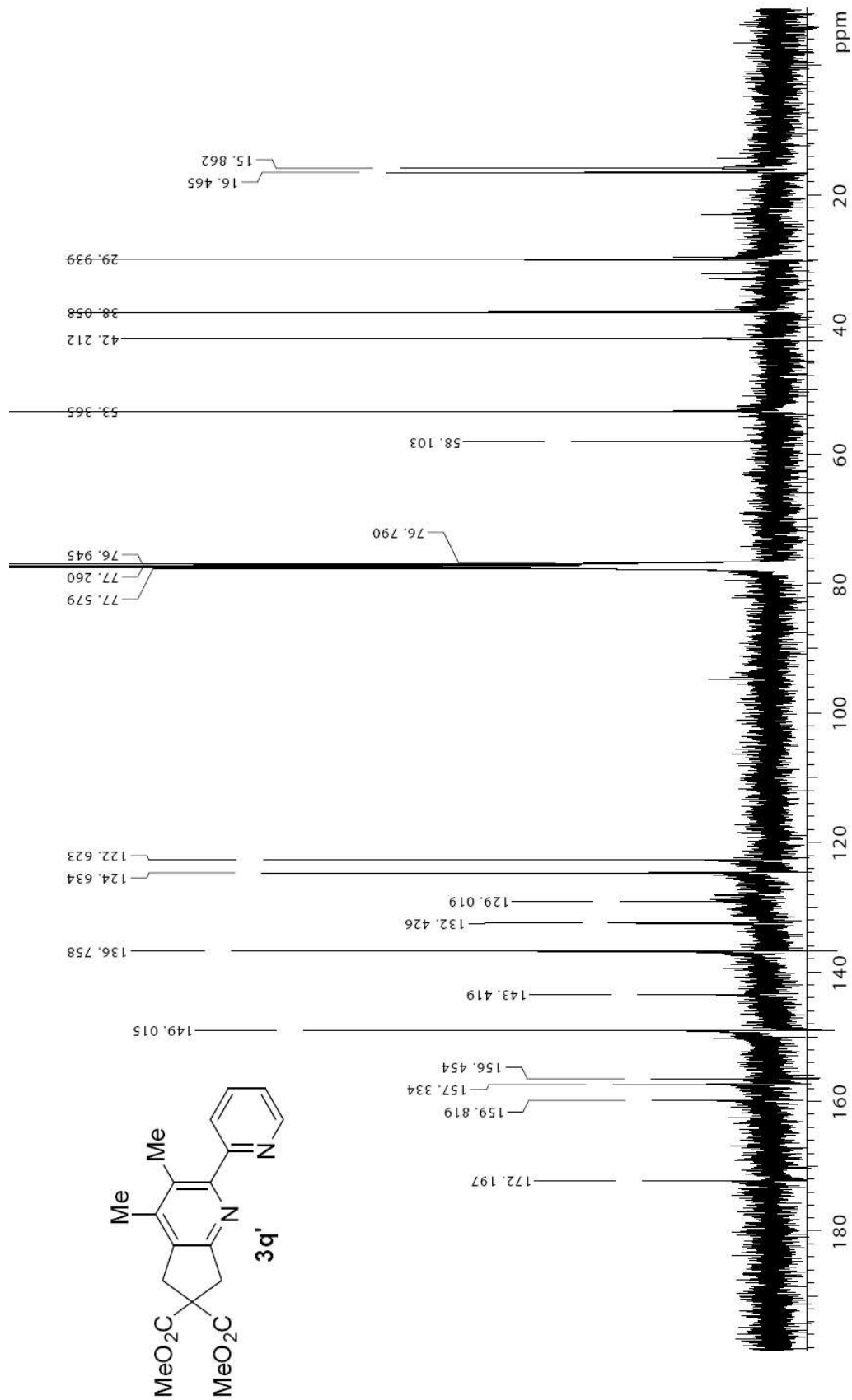


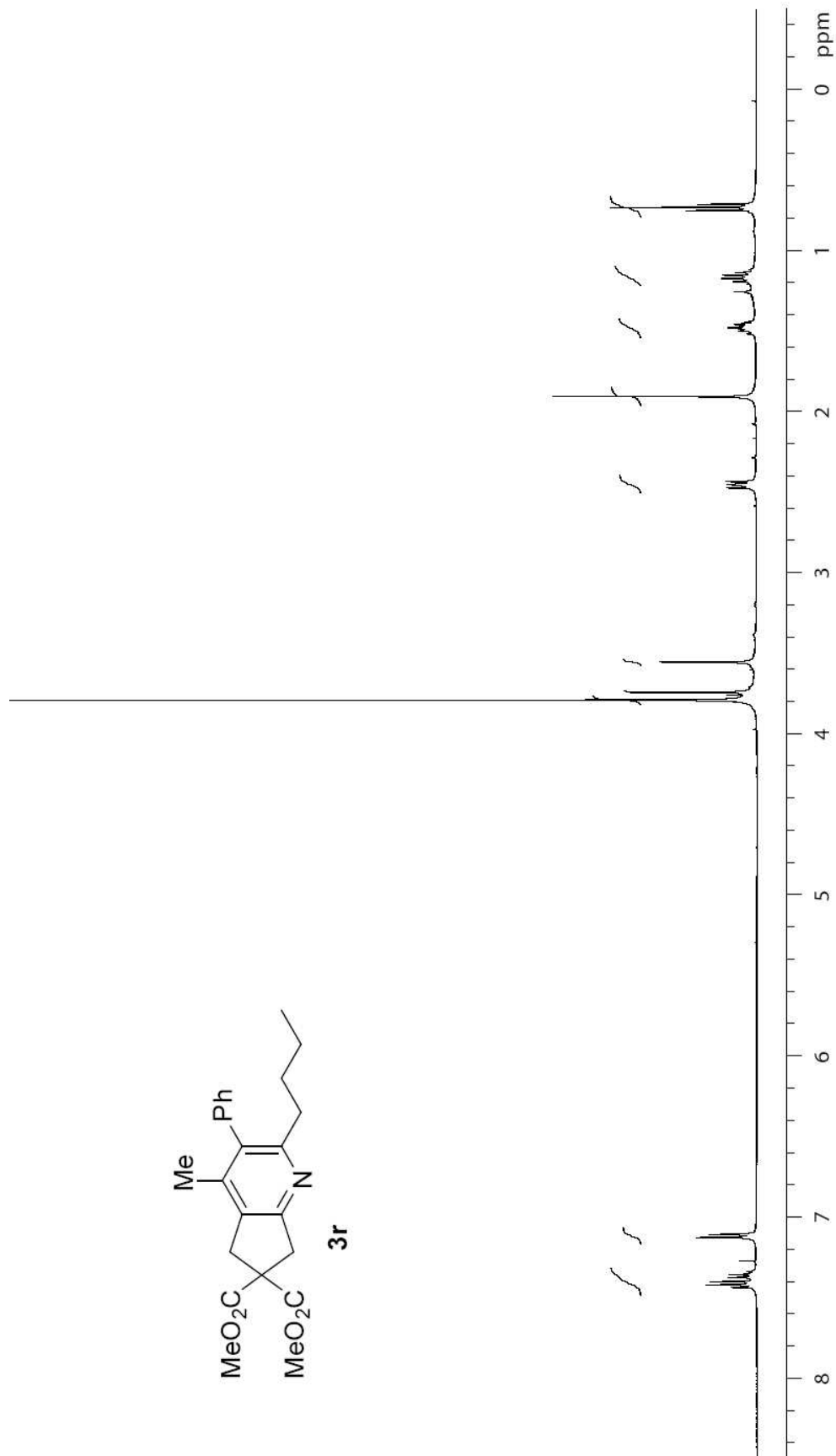
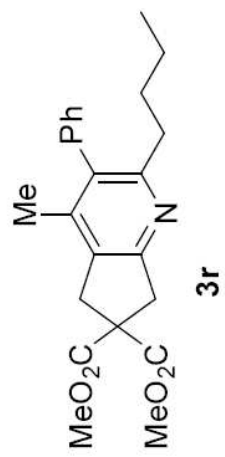


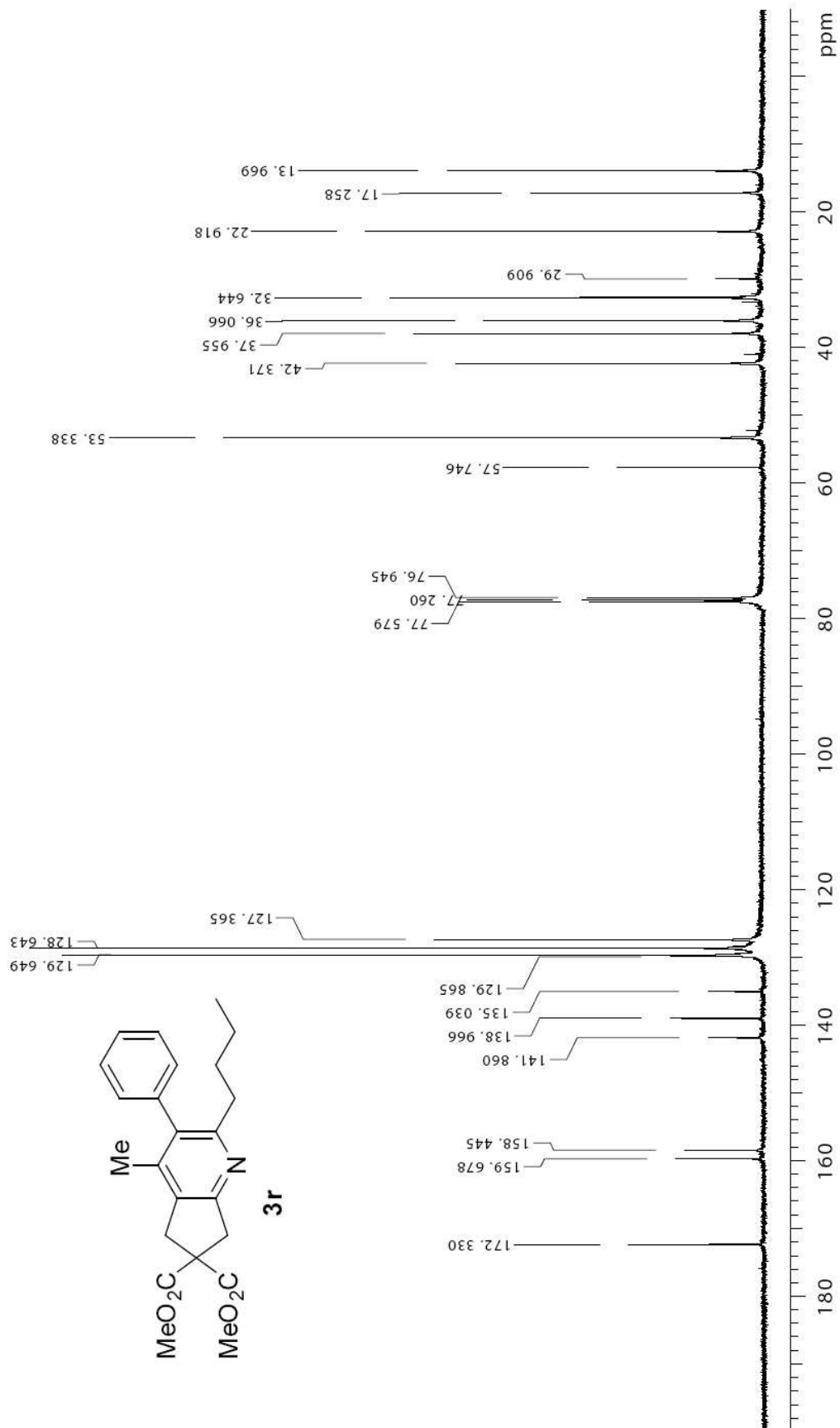


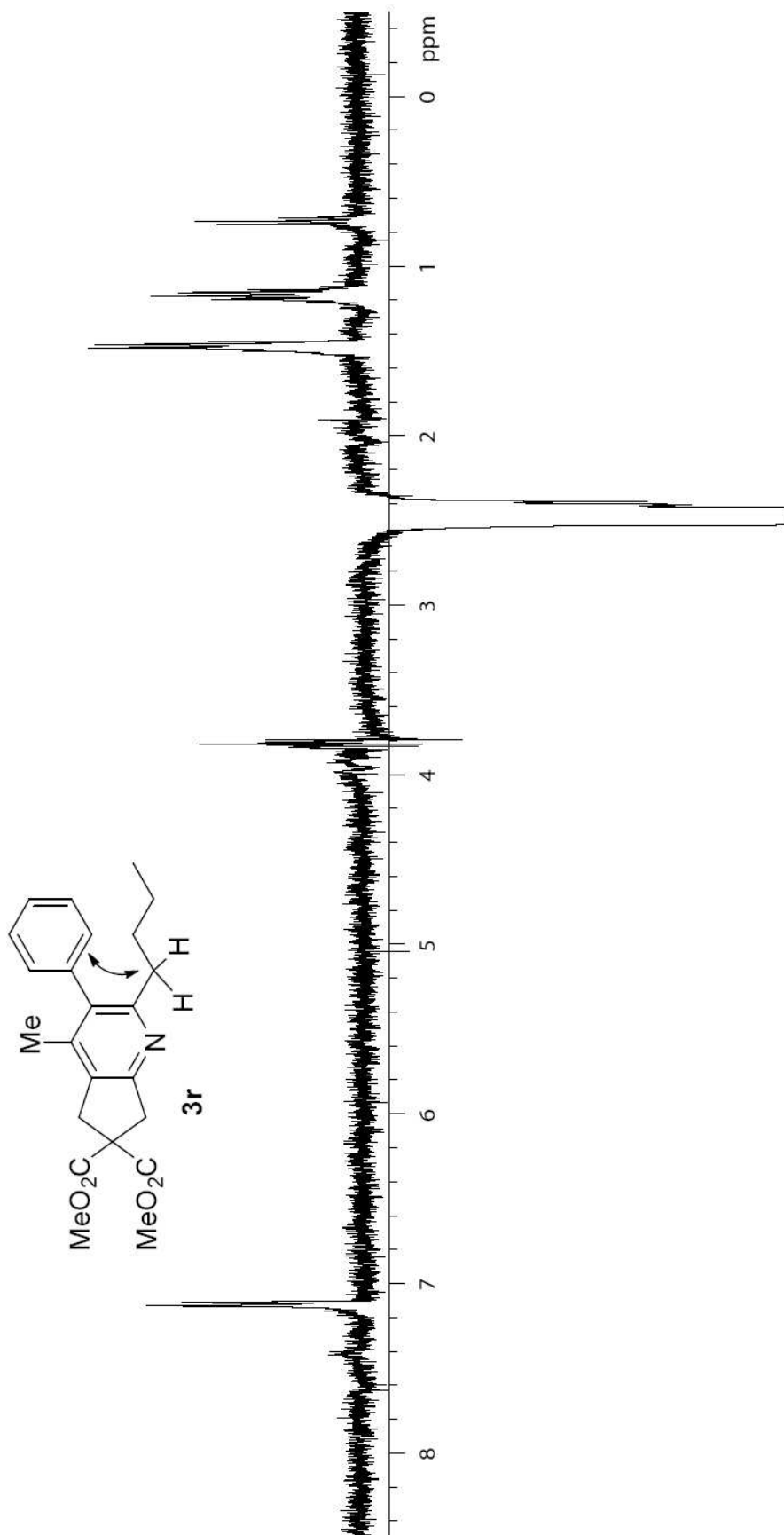


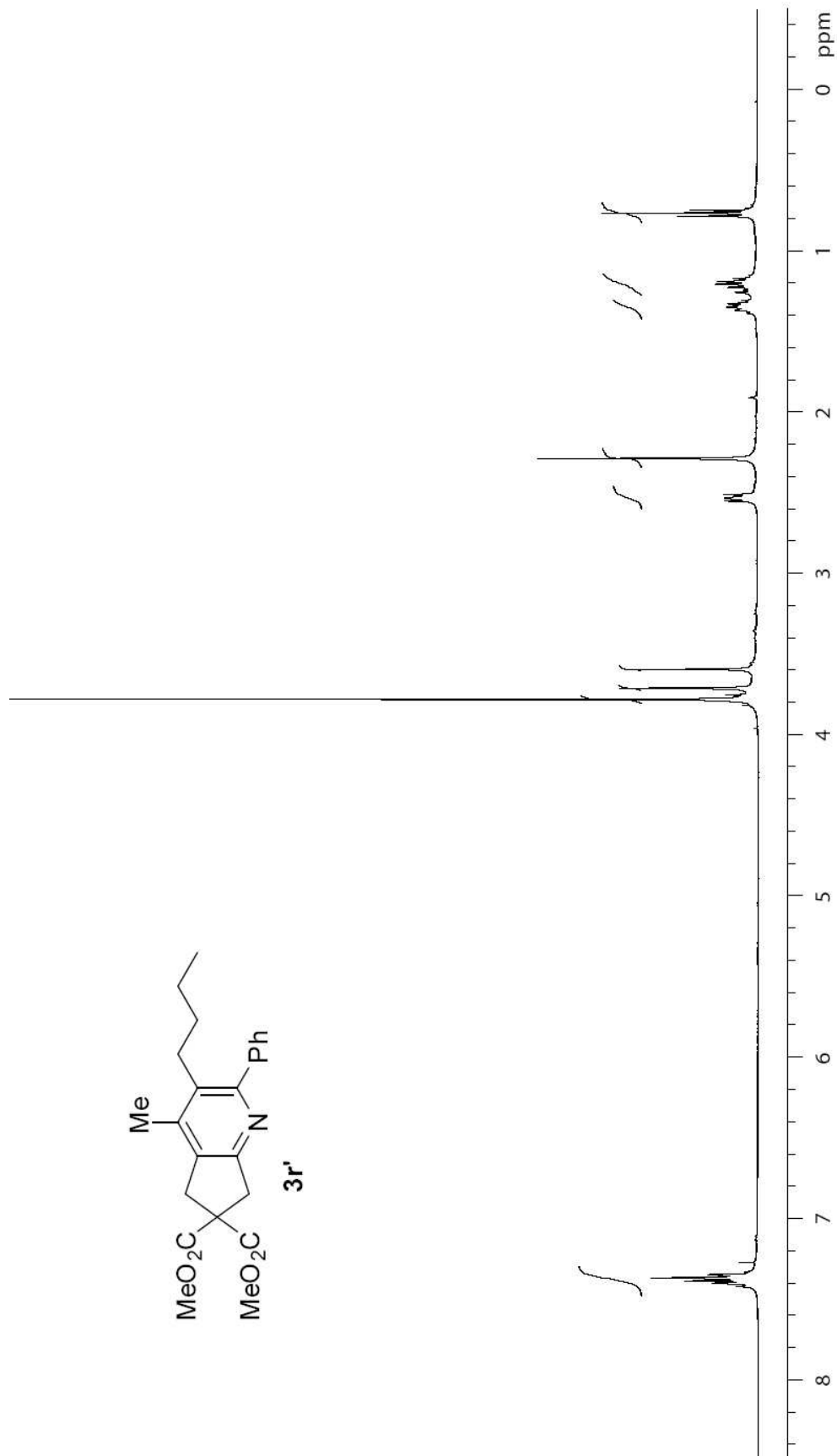


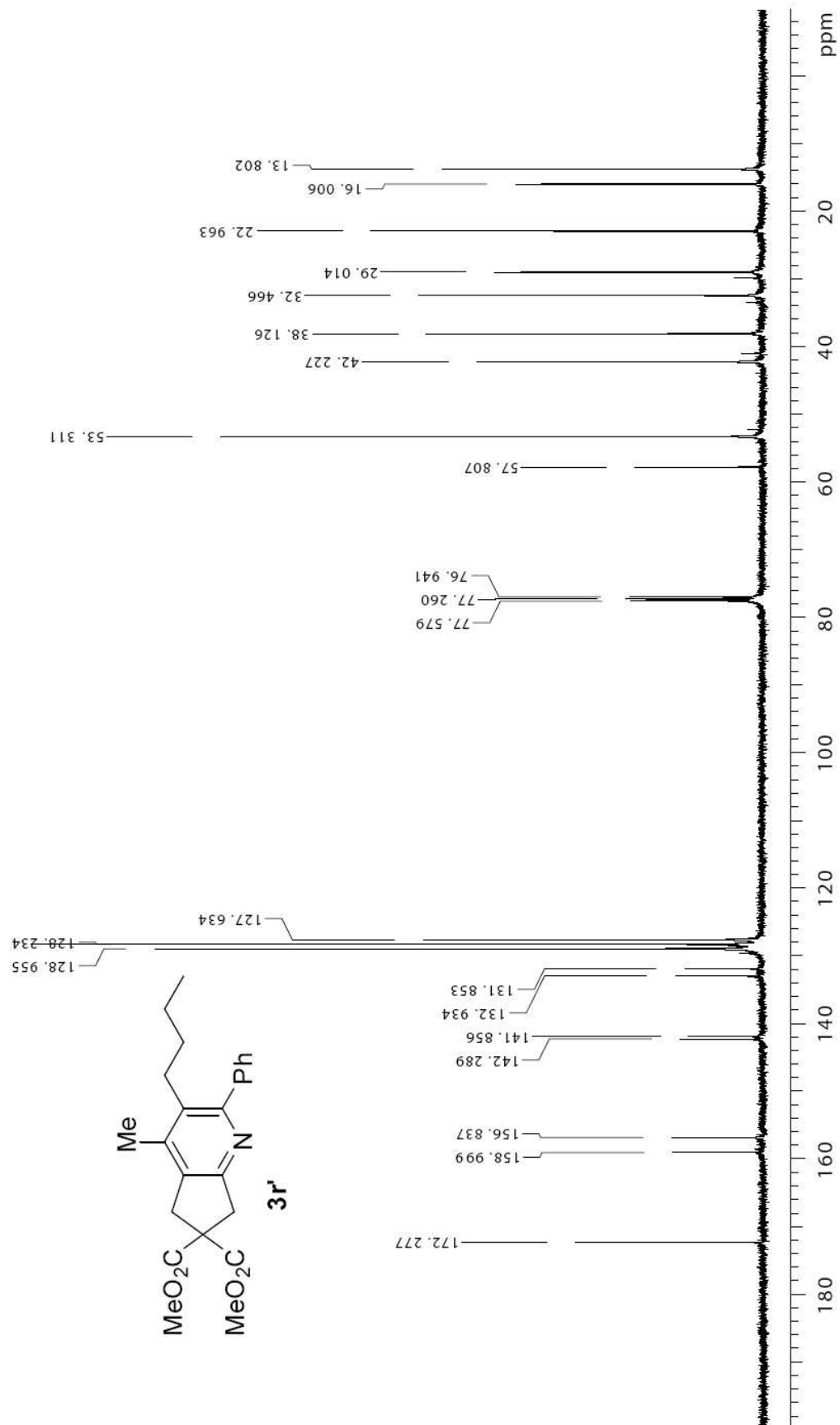


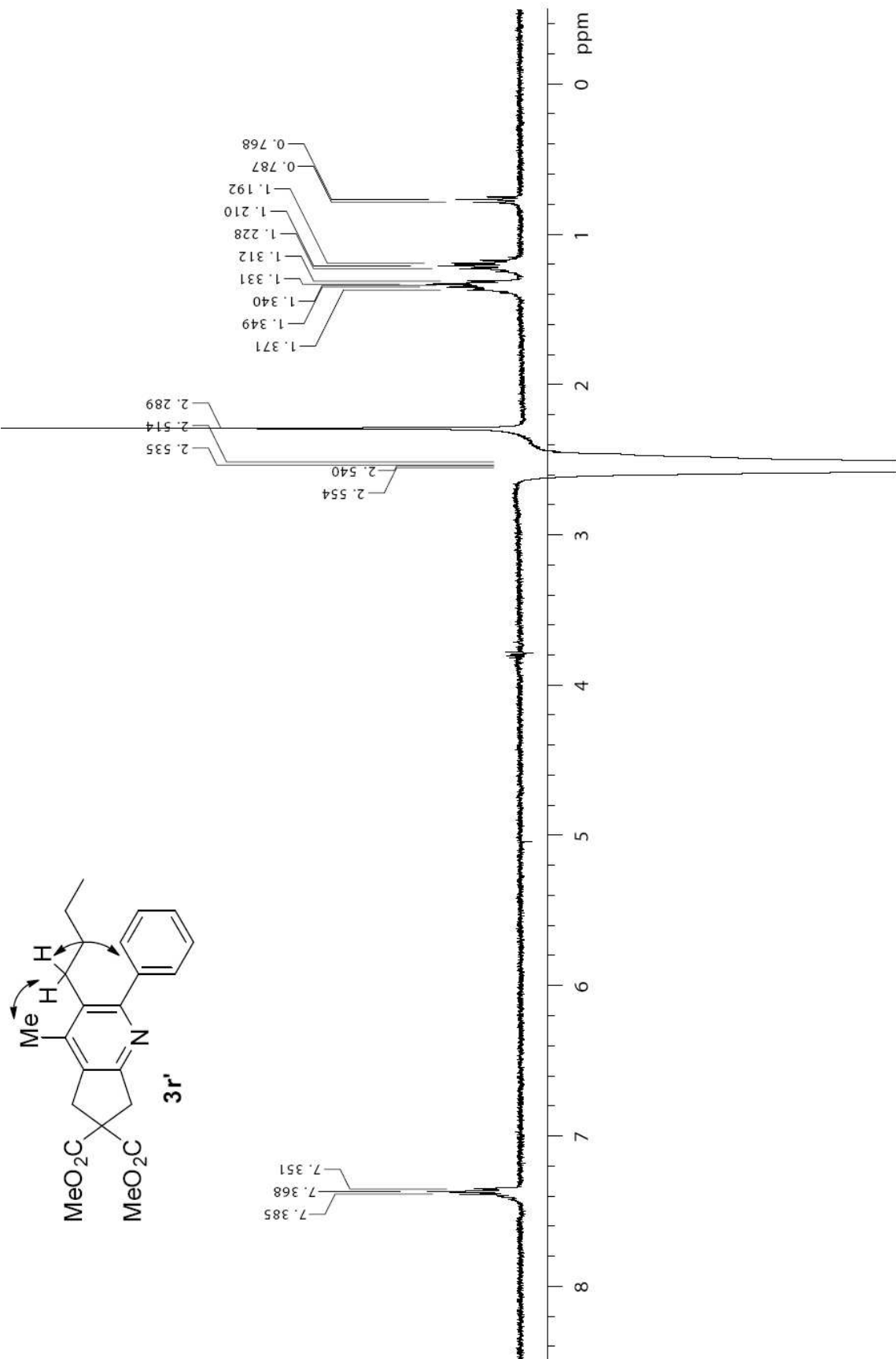


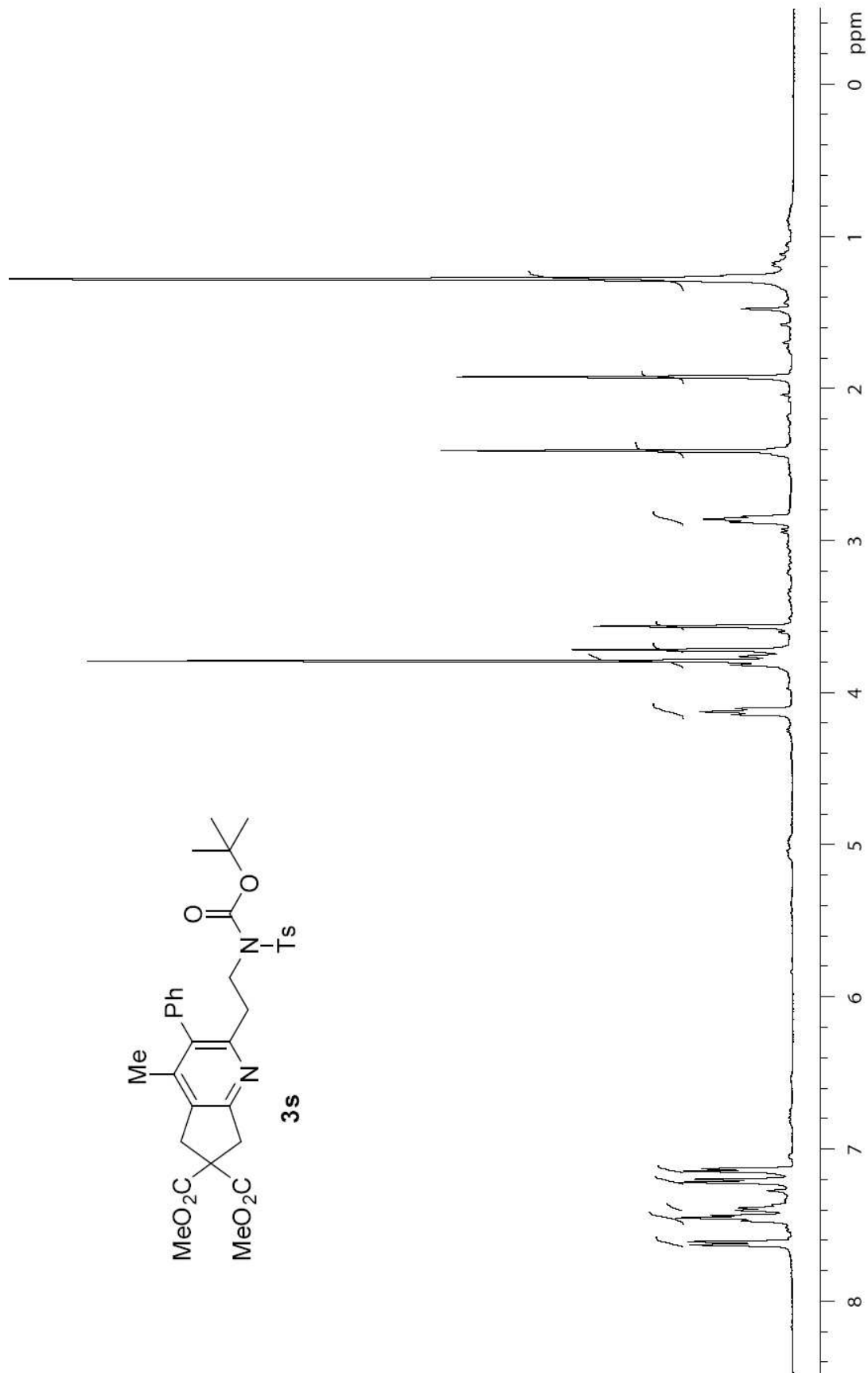
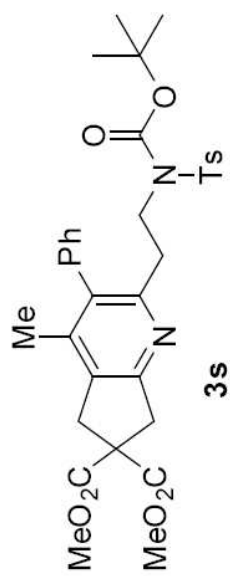


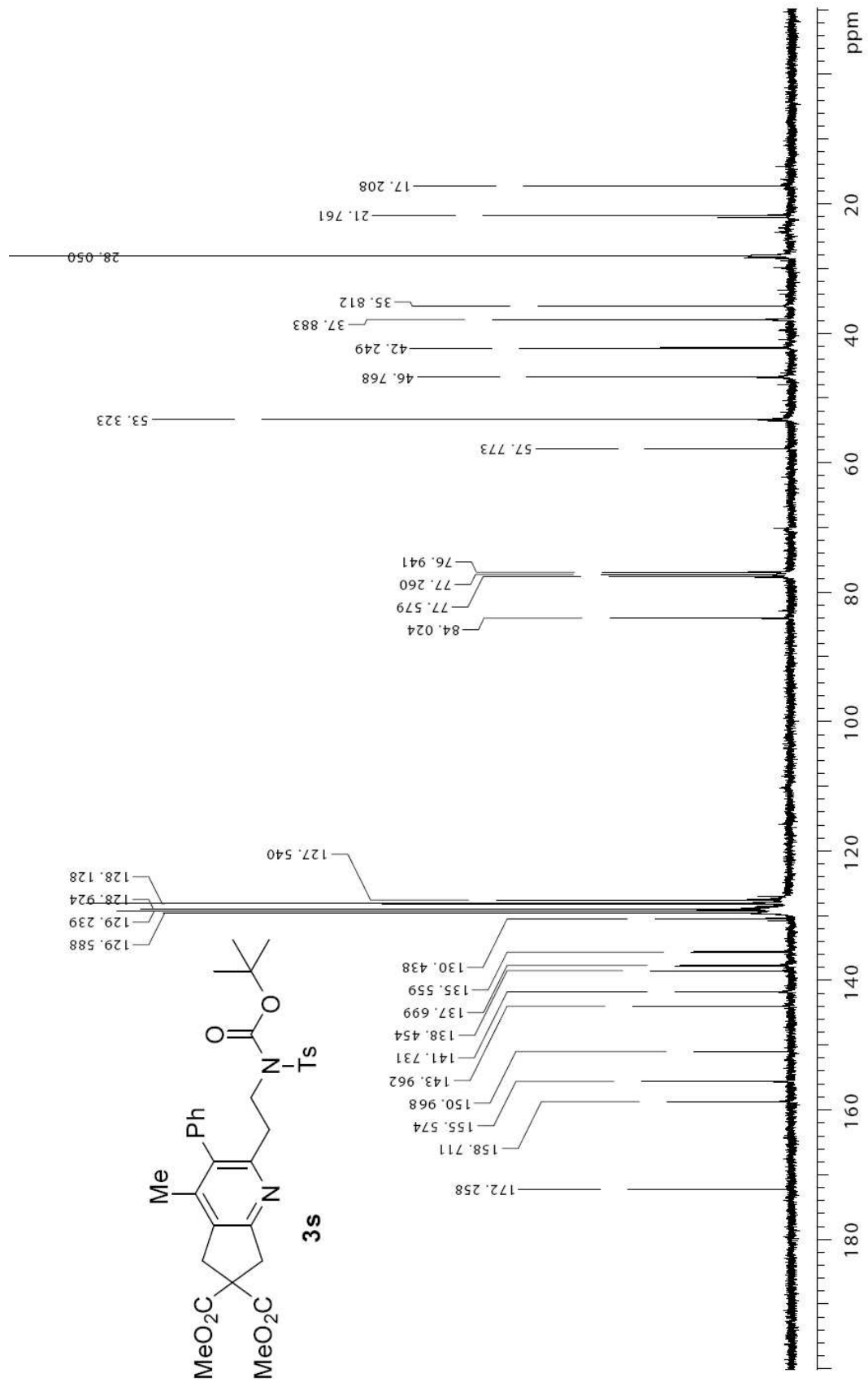


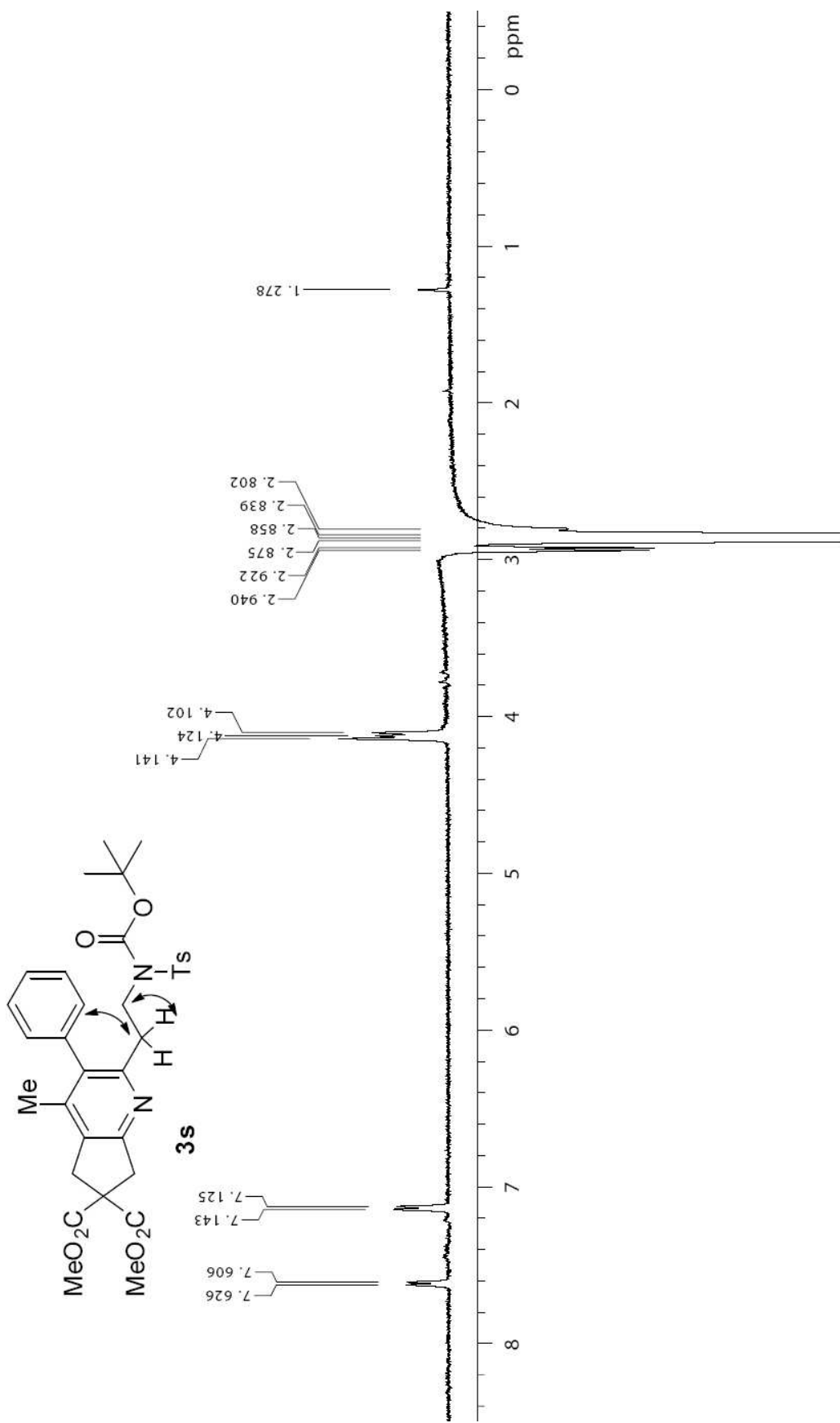


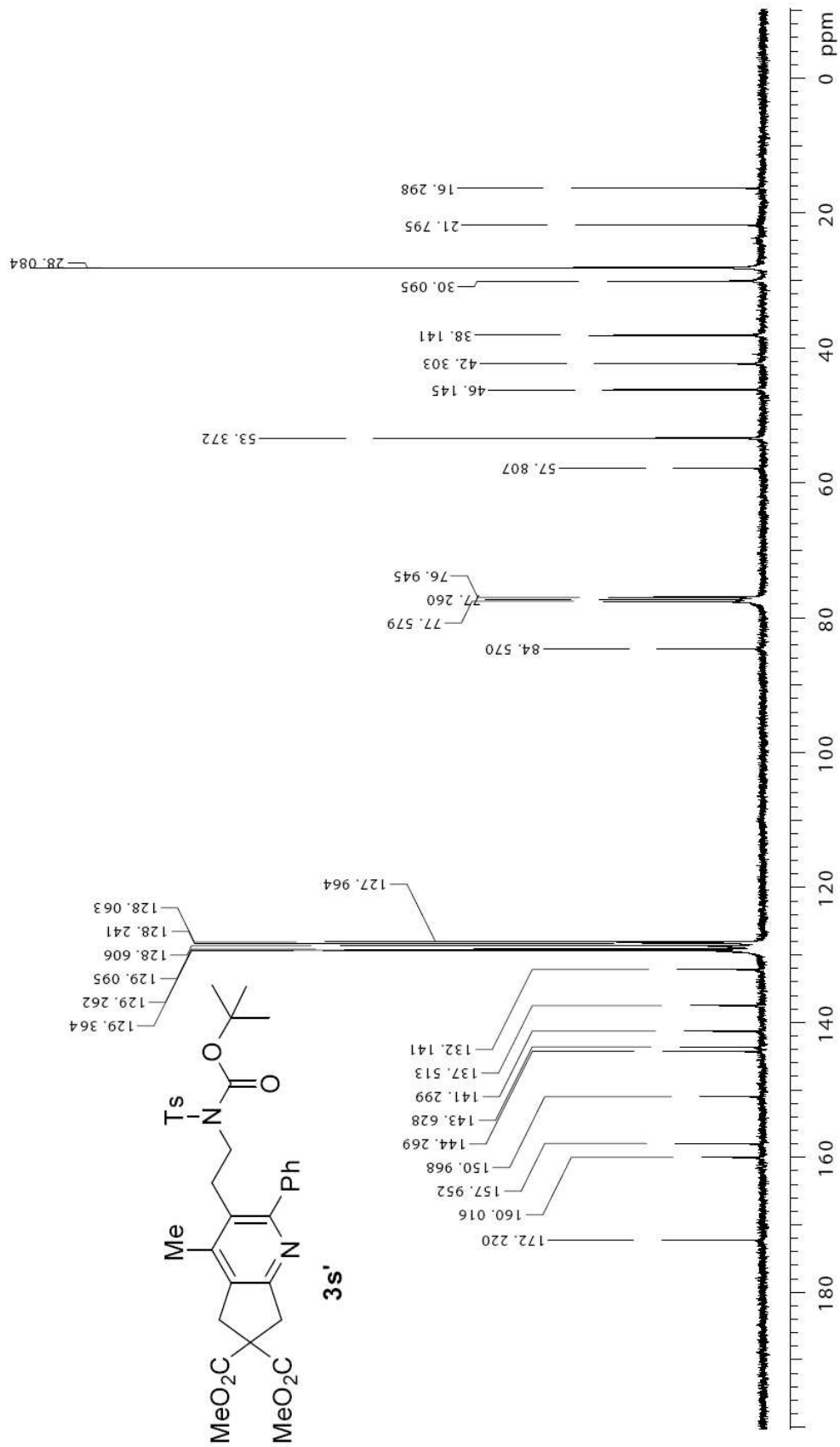


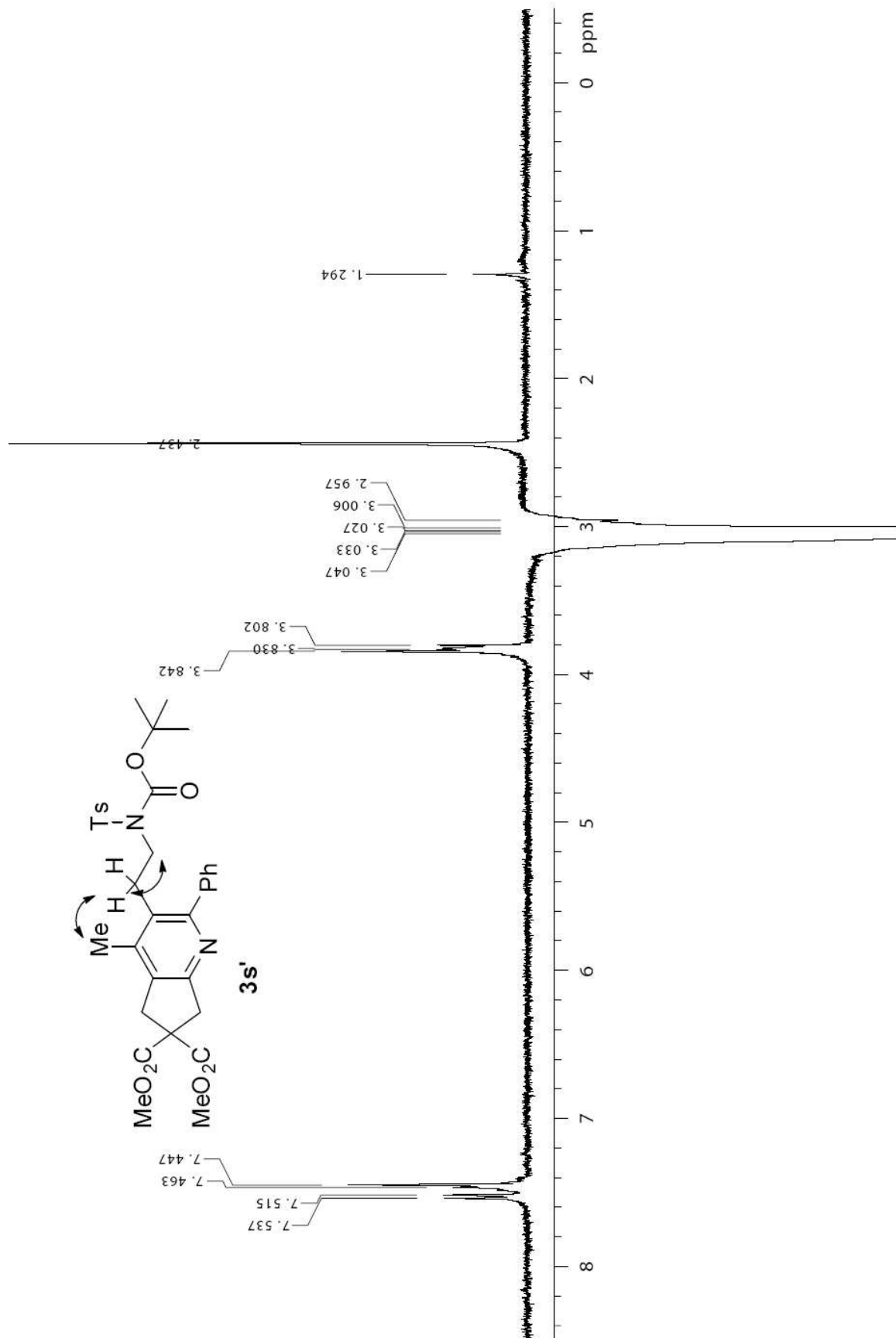


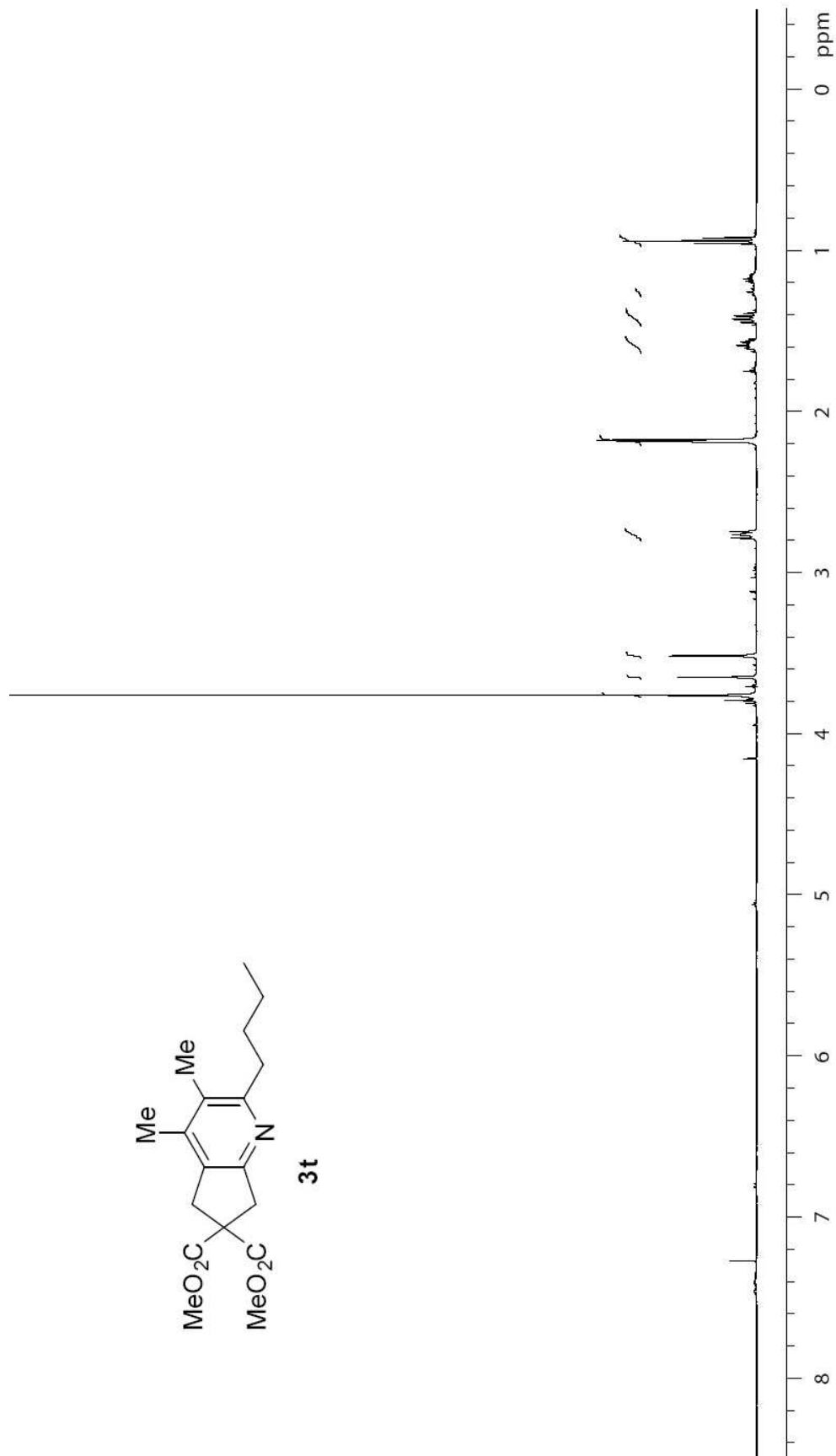
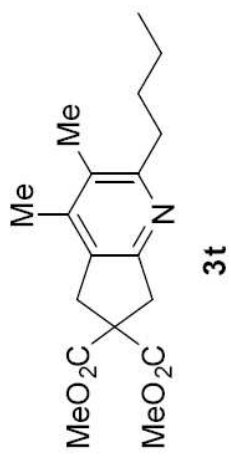


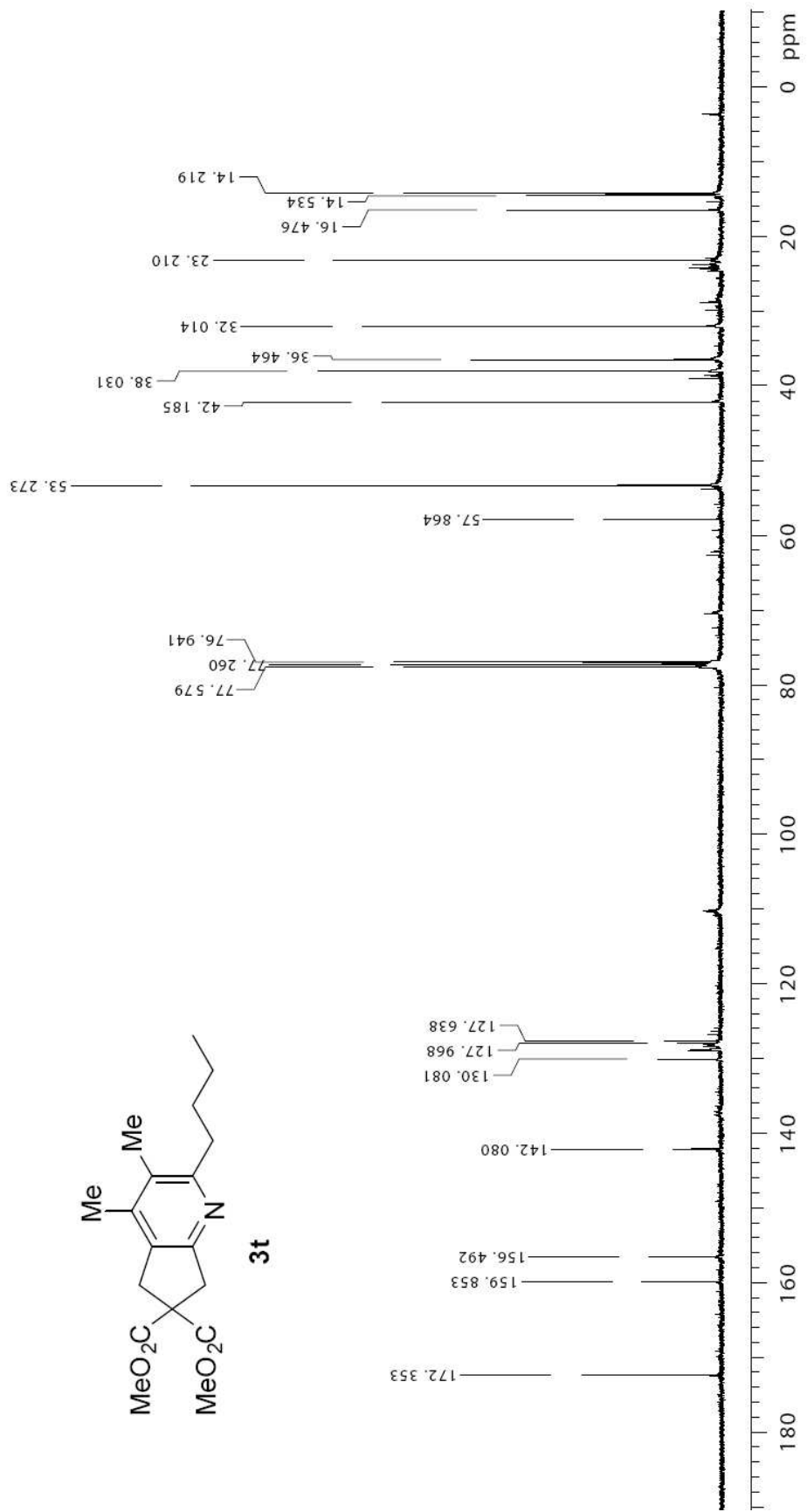


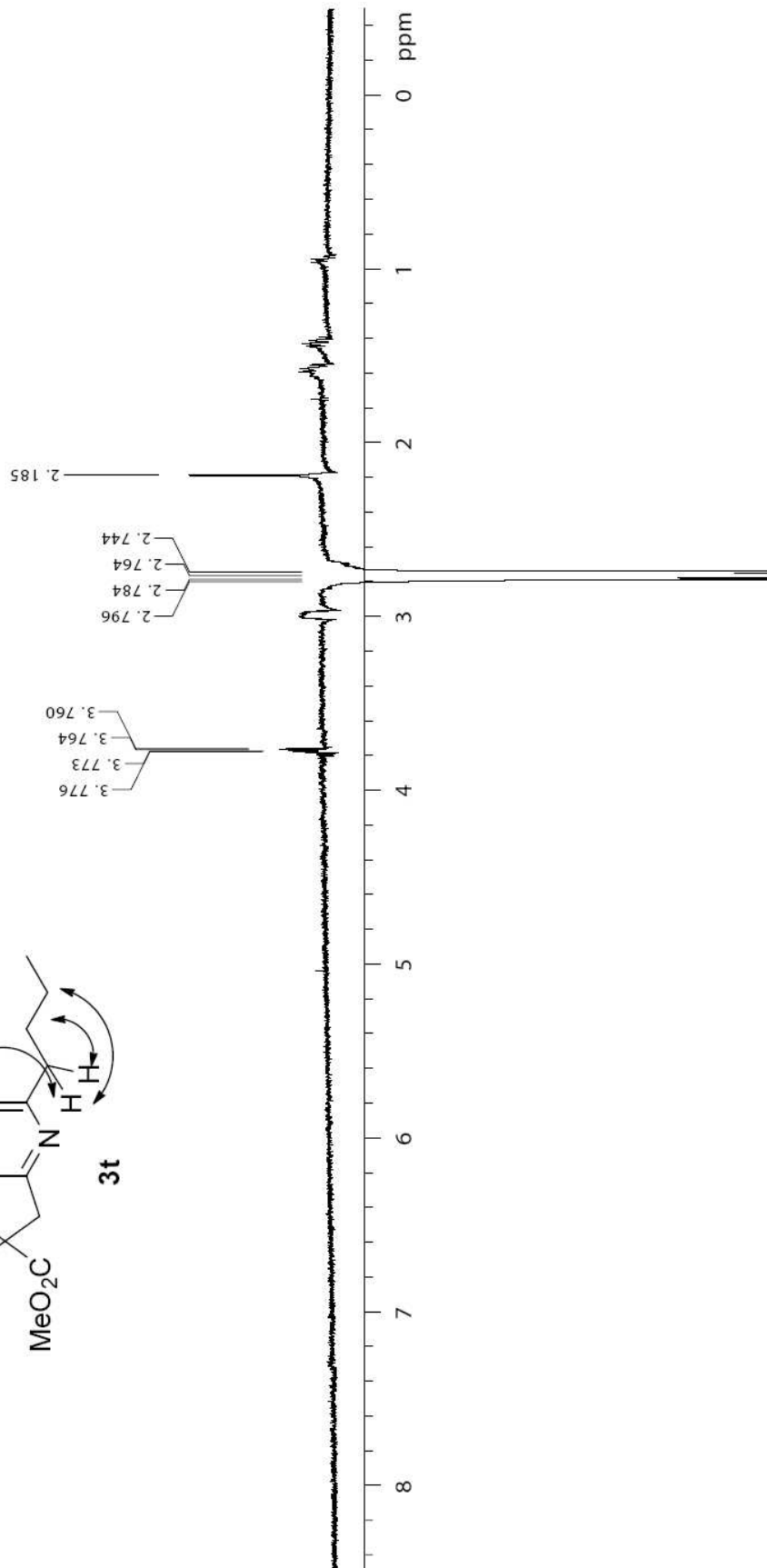
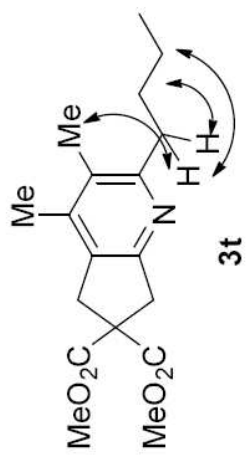


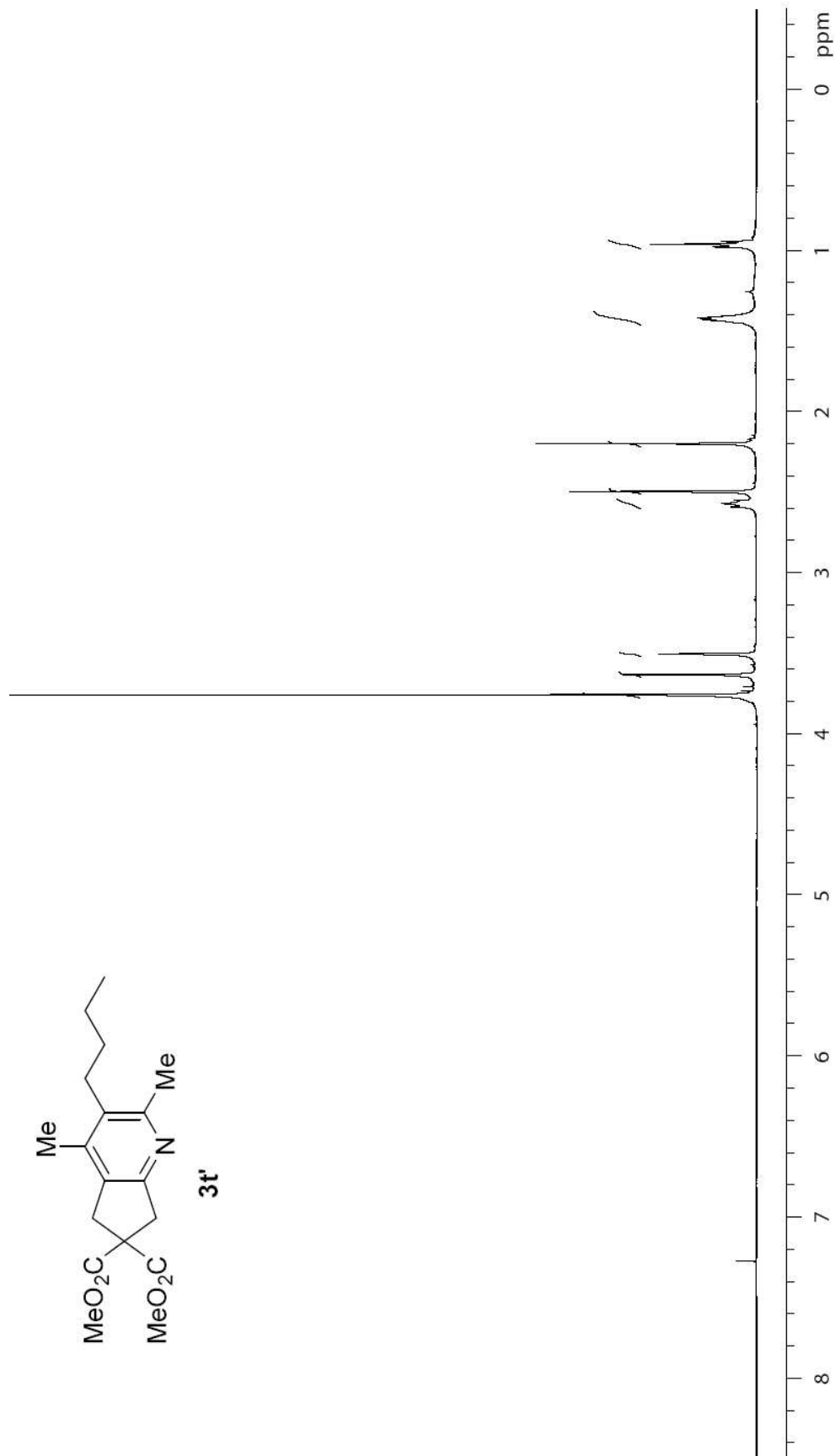












BD-167-006 fr 38-50 Isomer B
C13, CDCl3 07-26-2010

Pulse Sequence: s2pul

