



## Supporting Information

for

### **Design, synthesis and photophysical properties of novel star-shaped truxene-based heterocycles utilizing ring-closing metathesis, Clauson–Kaas, Van Leusen and Ullmann-type reactions as key tools**

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### **Additional general procedures, experimental and analytical data as well as copies of NMR spectra**

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### General procedure for formation of compound **18** and **19**

Under nitrogen atmosphere, **2** (3 g, 4.41 mmol) was dissolved in dried CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) at 0 °C. A batch of TiCl<sub>4</sub> (5.87, 52.92 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added dropwise during 30 min with sufficient stirring. The purple reaction mixture was stirred for another 1 h at 0 °C, and then a solution of CH<sub>3</sub>OCHCl<sub>2</sub> **17** (5 mL, 52.92 mmol) in 10 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added dropwise over 10 min at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm slowly and stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After completion of the reaction (TLC monitoring), the purple mixture was poured into crushed ice and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic fractions were washed with water and brine and finally dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified with column chromatography (silica gel, ethyl acetate/hexanes) to provide the desired formylated truxene derivatives **18** and **19**.

**Synthesis of 5,5,10,10,15,15-hexabutyl-10,15-dihydro-5H-diindeno[1,2-*a*:1',2'-*c*]fluorene-2,7-dicarbaldehyde (**18**):** Yellow solid; yield = 16% (518 mg, starting from 3 g of **2**); *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.63 (15% ethyl acetate/petroleum ether). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of this compound was matched with the reported one [1].

**Synthesis of 5,5,10,10,15,15-hexabutyl-10,15-dihydro-5H-diindeno[1,2-*a*:1',2'-*c*]fluorene-2,7,12-tricarbaldehyde (**19**):** Yellow solid; yield = 50% (1.70 g, starting from 3 g of **2**); *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.53 (15% ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) [2].

### General procedure for the formation of truxene-based oxazole derivatives **20**, **21** and **25**:

In a two-necked round bottom flask (50 mL), the aldehydes **18/19/24** (1.0 equiv) were dissolved in dry methanol (10 mL) then TosMIC (2.5/3.5 equiv.) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3.0 equiv for each formyl group) were added portion wise to the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was heated at 70 °C for 5 h. After the completion of the reaction (TLC monitoring), the mixture was cooled to rt and methanol was removed under reduced pressure. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 15 mL) and the combined organic layer was washed with both water as well as brine solution and dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed on a rotavapor and the crude products were purified by silica gel column chromatography using the appropriate mixtures of EtOAc/petroleum ether to afford the corresponding desired oxazole derivatives.

**Synthesis of 5,5'-(5,5,10,10,15,15-hexabutyl-10,15-dihydro-5H-diindeno[1,2-*a*:1',2'-*c*]fluorene-2,7-diyl)bis(oxazole) (21):** Off white solid; yield = 57% (131 mg, starting from 210 mg of di-aldehyde **18**);  $R_f = 0.62$  (20% ethyl acetate/petroleum ether);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.46–8.38 (m, 3H), 8.00 (s, 2H), 7.75–7.73 (m, 4H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz, 3H), 7.43–7.40 (m, 2H), 3.07–2.92 (m, 6H), 2.19–2.11 (m, 6H), 0.95–0.88 (m, 12H), 0.50–0.43 (m, 30H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  154.53, 154.40, 153.50, 152.03, 150.36, 145.74, 145.68, 145.30, 140.86, 140.79, 139.91, 138.80, 137.93, 137.78, 126.74, 126.20, 125.81, 125.14, 125.03, 124.74, 122.73, 122.36, 121.46, 118.01, 117.97, 55.86, 55.79, 55.66, 36.71, 36.58, 26.56, 26.50, 22.84, 22.82, 13.81; IR (KBr) 2945, 2923, 2857, 1687, 1604, 1459  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (m/z): 813.40.

**Synthesis of 5,5',5''-(5,5,10,10,15,15-hexabutyl-10,15-dihydro-5H-diindeno[1,2-*a*:1',2'-*c*]fluorene-2,7,12-triyl)tris(oxazole) (20):** Pale yellow solid; yield = 78% (303 mg, starting from 300 mg of tri-aldehyde **19**);  $R_f = 0.41$  (20% ethyl acetate/petroleum ether);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.38 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 3H), 7.93 (bs, 3H), 7.69 (bs, 6H), 7.42 (bs, 3H), 2.94–2.90 (m, 6H), 2.12–2.08 (m, 6H), 0.88–0.80 (m, 12H), 0.38 (t,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 30H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  154.40, 151.94, 150.42, 145.86, 140.58, 138.02, 126.00, 125.12, 122.83, 121.57, 118.01, 55.88, 36.69, 26.56, 22.82, 13.83; IR (KBr) 3119, 2954, 2924, 2856, 1699, 1601, 1473  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; MS (m/z): 880.6.

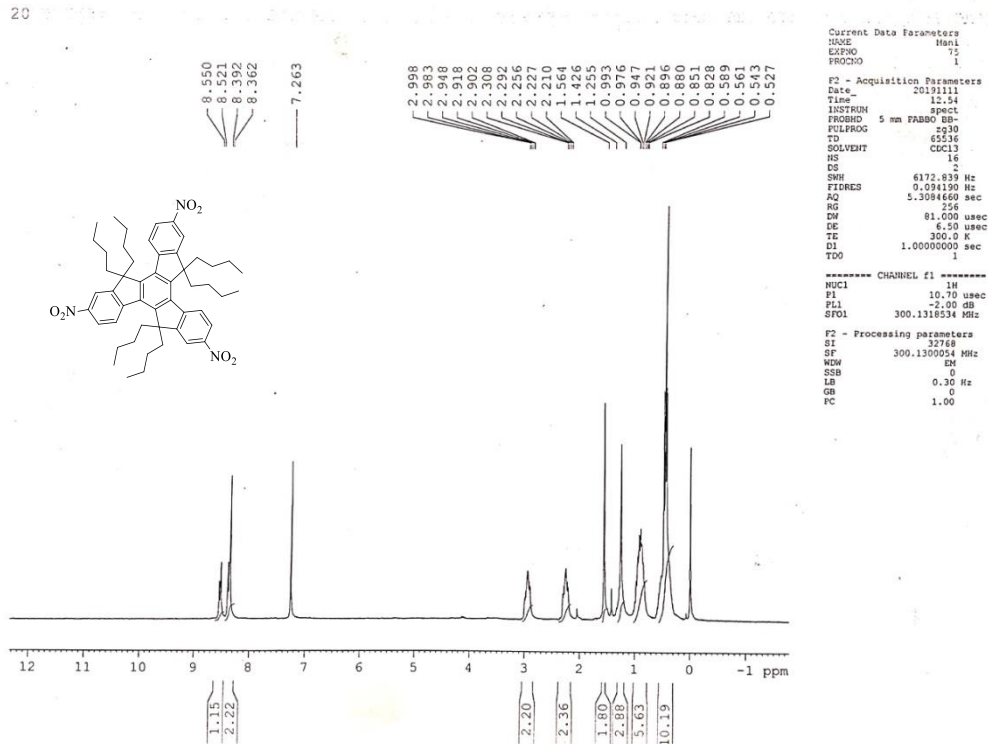
**Synthesis of 5,5',5''-((5,5,10,10,15,15-hexabutyl-10,15-dihydro-5H-diindeno[1,2-*a*:1',2'-*c*]fluorene-2,7,12-triyl)tris(benzene-4,1-diyl))tris(oxazole) (25):** Yellow solid; = 23% (96 mg, starting from **22**) two steps yield;  $R_f = 0.34$  (40% ethyl acetate/petroleum ether);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.49 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 3H), 7.96 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz, 3H), 7.97–7.74 (m, 18H), 7.44 (s, 3H), 3.10–3.03 (m, 6H), 2.26–2.18 (m, 6H), 1.01–0.89 (m, 12H), 0.51–0.47 (t,  $J = 8$  Hz, 30H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  154.47, 151.48, 150.54, 145.59, 141.43, 140.03, 138.17, 138.12, 127.57, 127.47, 126.59, 125.10, 124.91, 121.60, 120.47, 117.70, 108.17, 55.83, 36.84, 26.63, 22.92, 13.89; IR (KBr) 2953, 2923, 2855, 1686, 1602, 1474  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; MS (m/z): 1108.01.

**Synthesis of 5,5,10,10,15,15-hexabutyl-2,7,12-triiodo-10,15-dihydro-5H-diindeno[1,2-*a*:1',2'-*c*]fluorene (22):** A solution of compound **2** (2.5 g, 3.68 mmol) in 10 mL of solvent mixture ( $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) (100:40:3) was heated at 60 °C with vigorous stirring, followed by addition of  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (3 mL),  $\text{H}_5\text{IO}_6$  (1.0 g, 3.68 mmol), and  $\text{I}_2$  (2.80 g, 11.04 mmol). Then the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C under nitrogen atmosphere. A small amount of  $\text{H}_5\text{IO}_6$  was added to the mixture until the completion of the reaction (TLC monitoring), the

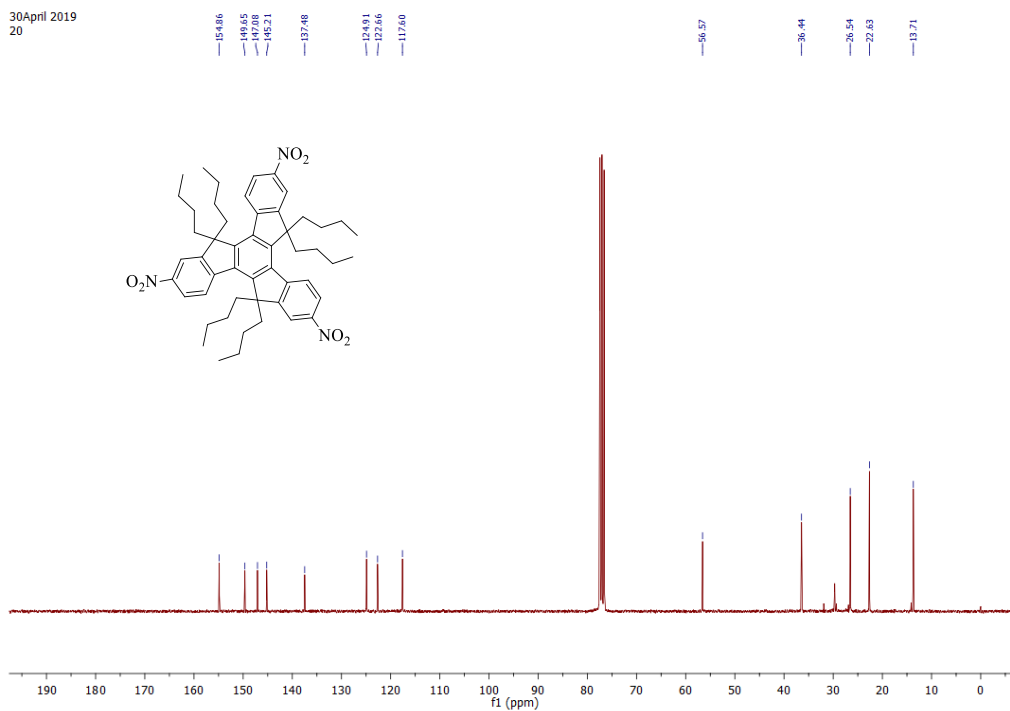
mixture was cooled to rt, and 150 mL of water was added it. The brown precipitate was filtered and purified by recrystallization three times from ethanol to afford **22** (2 g, 50%) as a white solid. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of this compound was matched with the reported one [3].

**Synthesis of 4,4',4''-(5,5,10,10,15,15-hexabutyl-10,15-dihydro-5H-diindeno[1,2-*a*:1',2'-*c*]fluorene-2,7,12-triyl)tribenzaldehyde (24):** A solution of **22** (400 mg, 0.37 mmol) in 30 mL of THF/toluene/water (1:1:1), were added Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (9.0 equiv) and 4-formylphenylboronic acid (**23**, 5.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed with nitrogen for 15–20 min. The Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (15 mol %) was then added to the reaction mixture and heated at 100 °C for 12 h. After completion (TLC monitoring), the reaction mixture was diluted with water and the organic layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The solvent was removed through rotavapor and the crude Suzuki product was directly used for further reaction as such without purification.

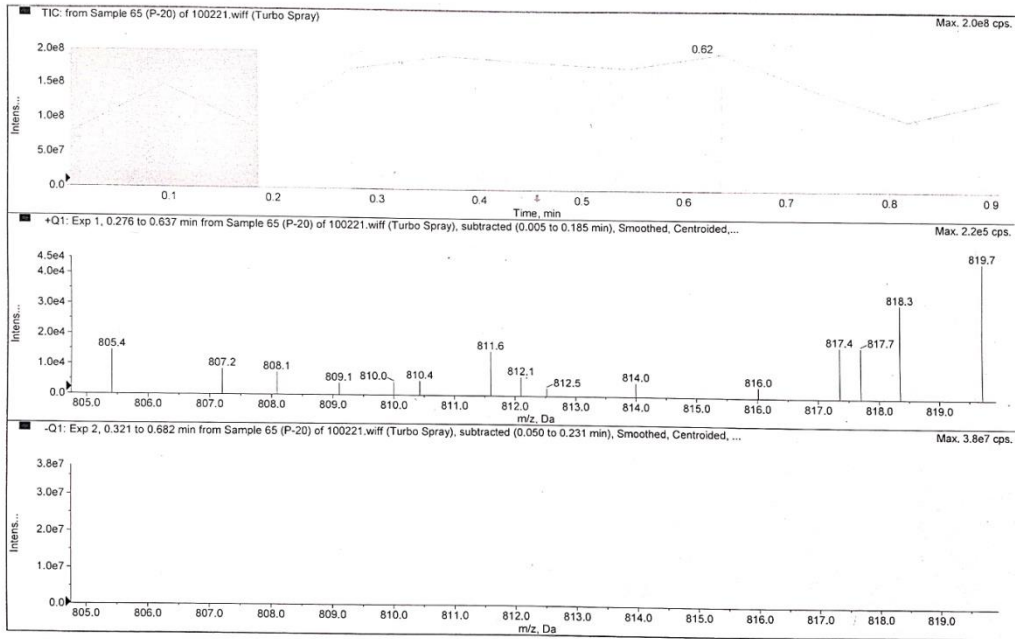
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 8



# <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 8

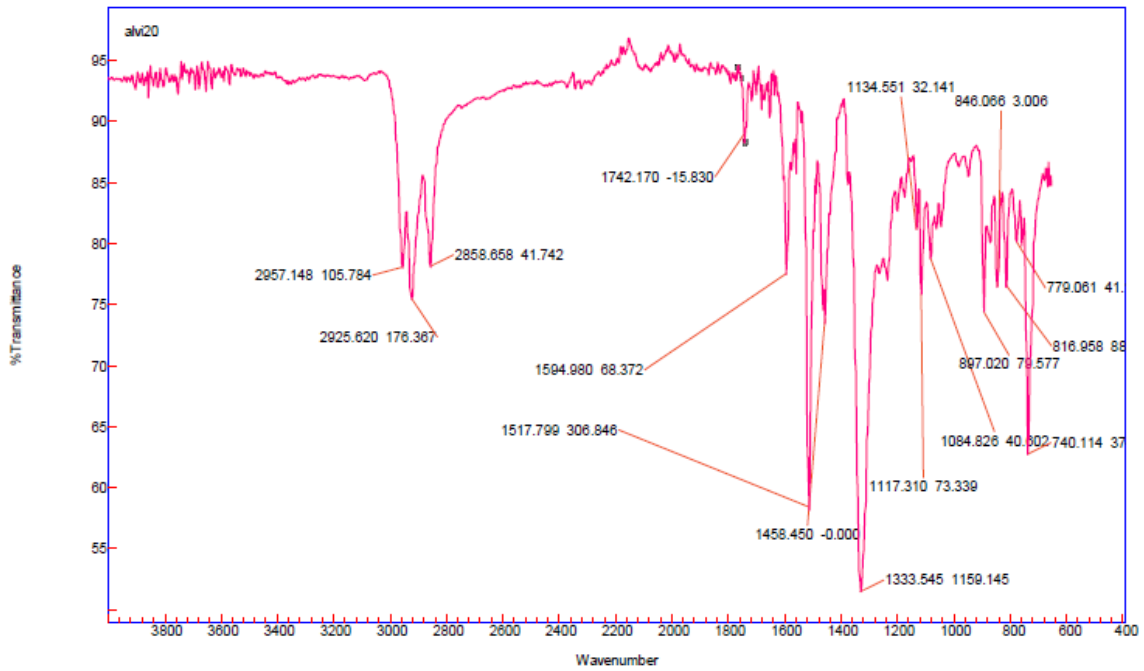


# Mass spectra of compound 8



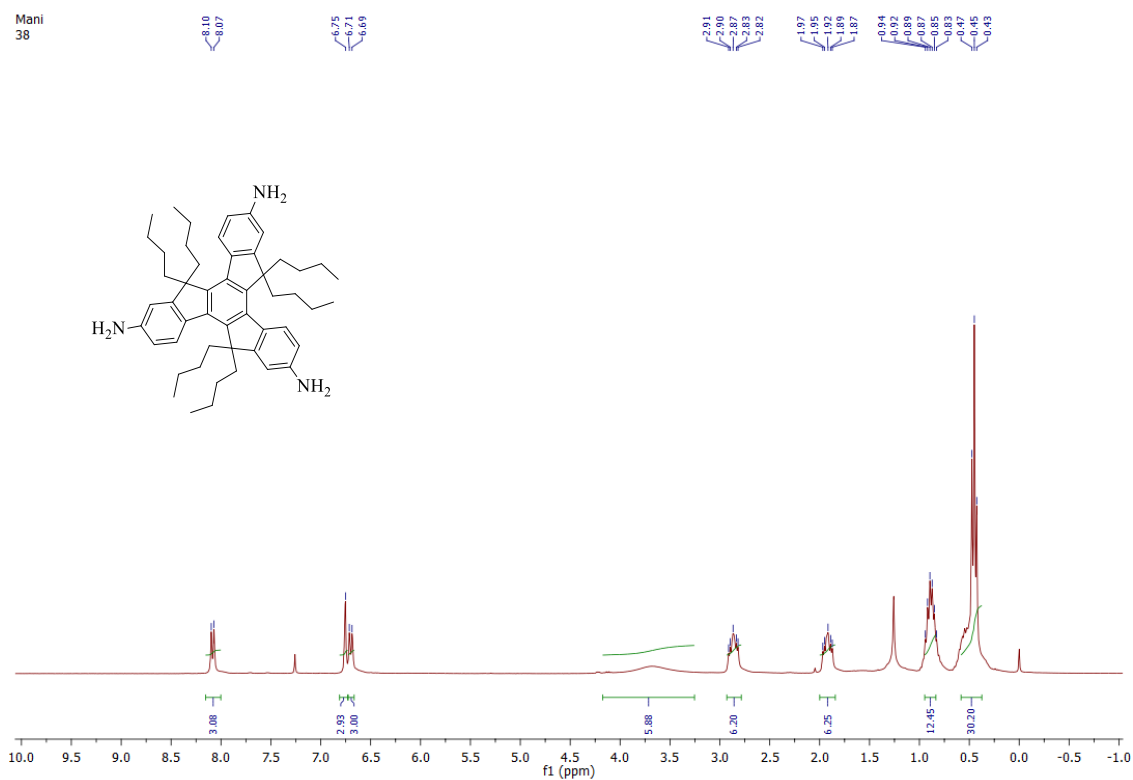
# IR spectrum of compound 8

Agilent Resolutions Pro

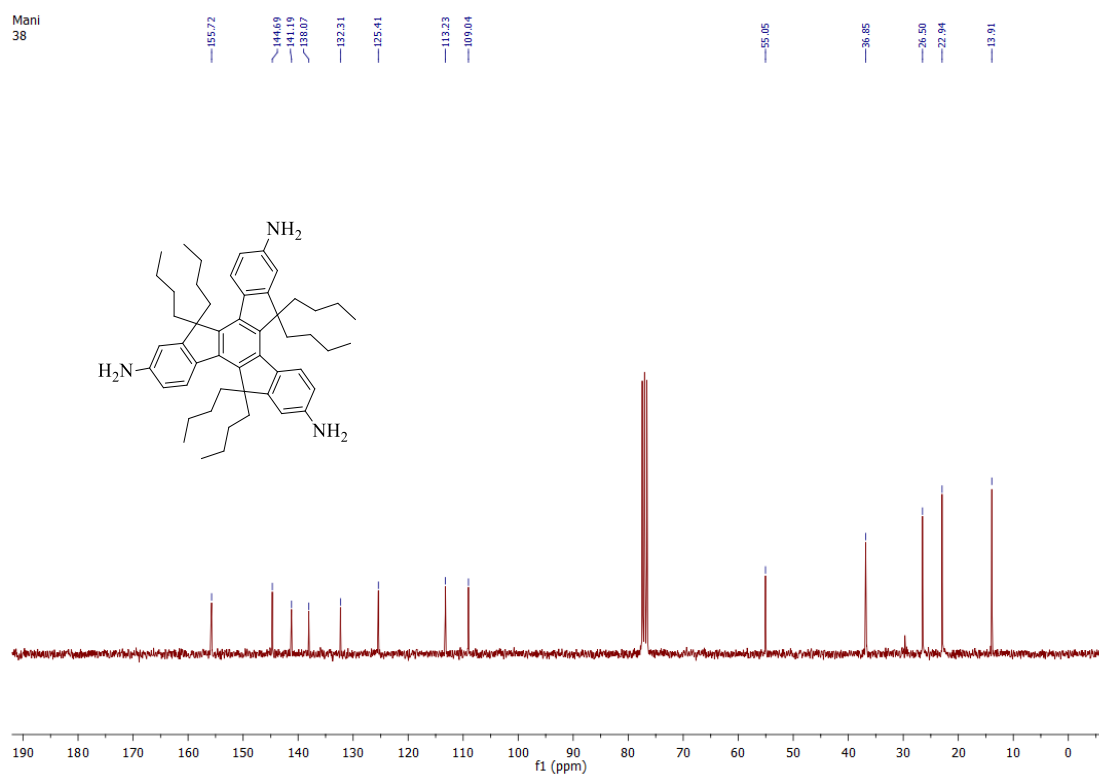




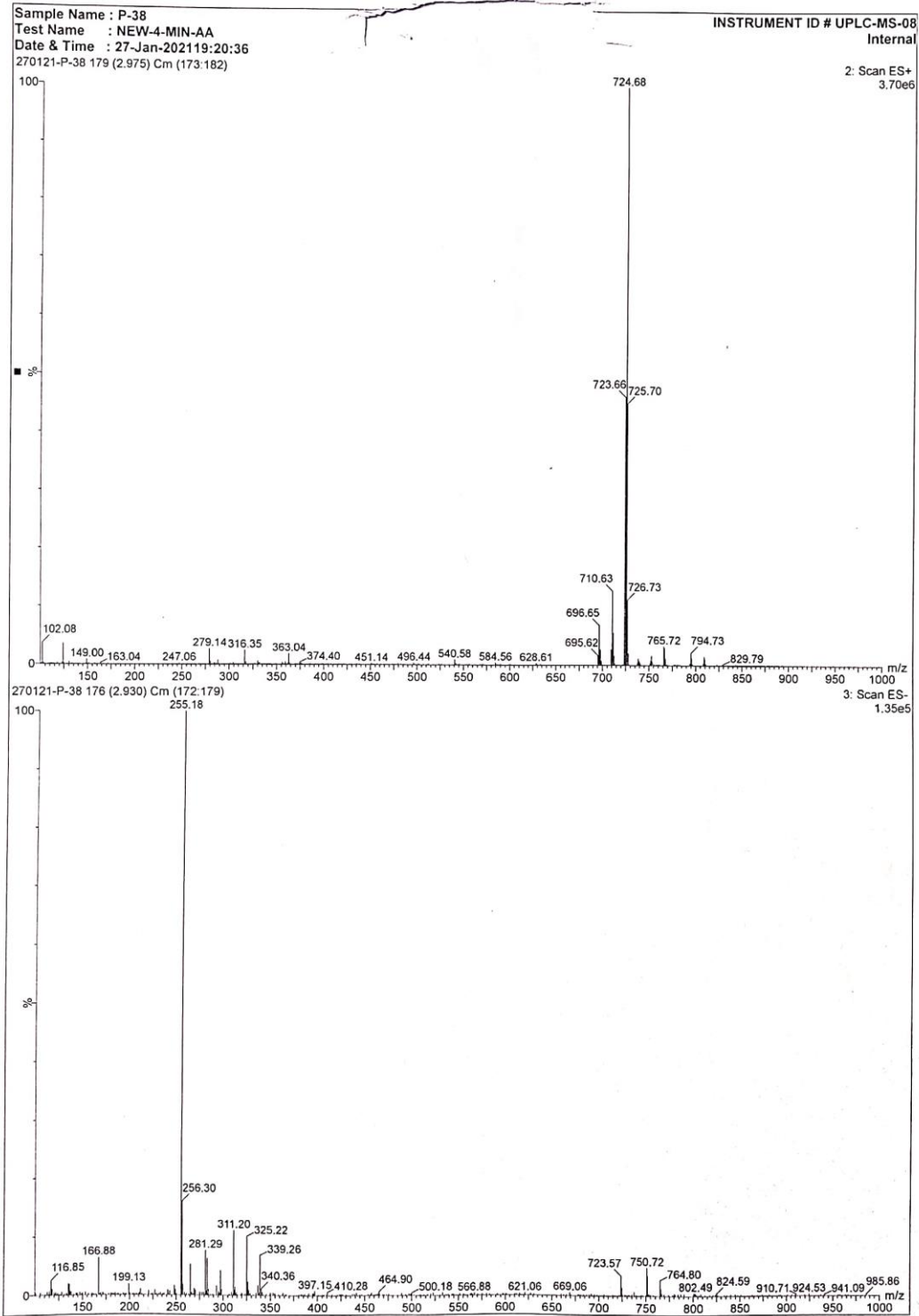
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 4



# <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 4

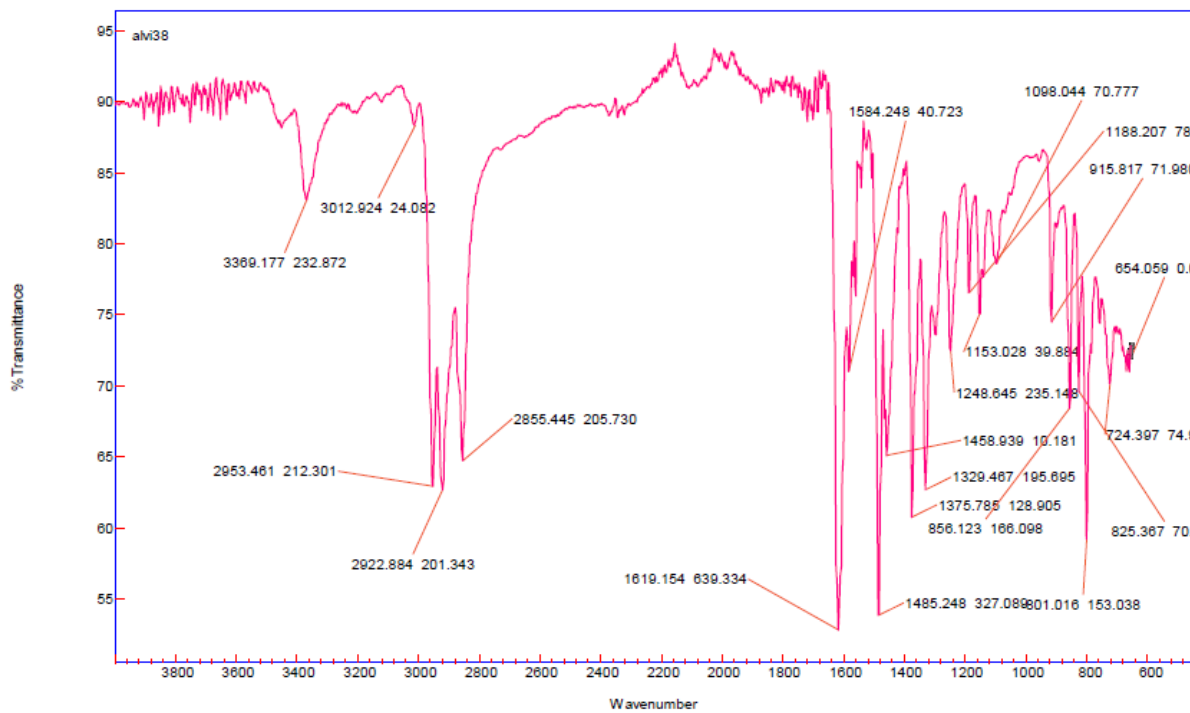


# Mass spectra of compound 4

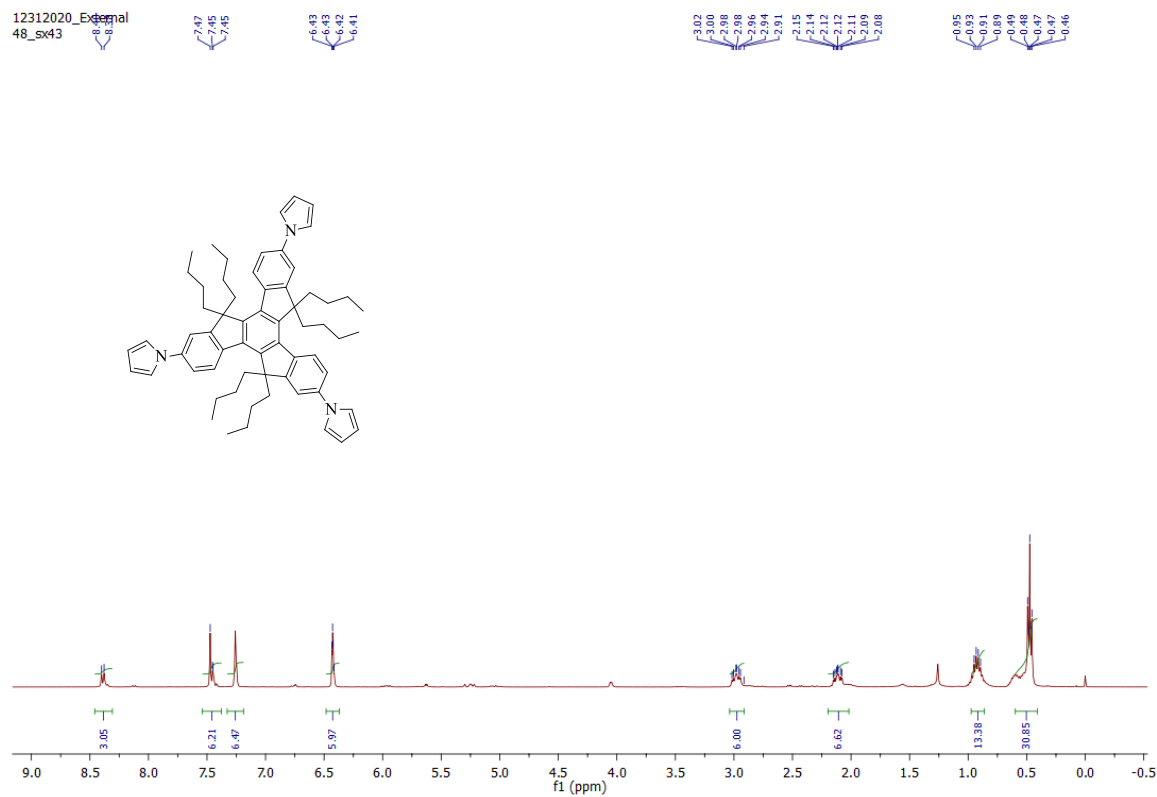


## IR spectrum of compound 4

Agilent Resolutions Pro

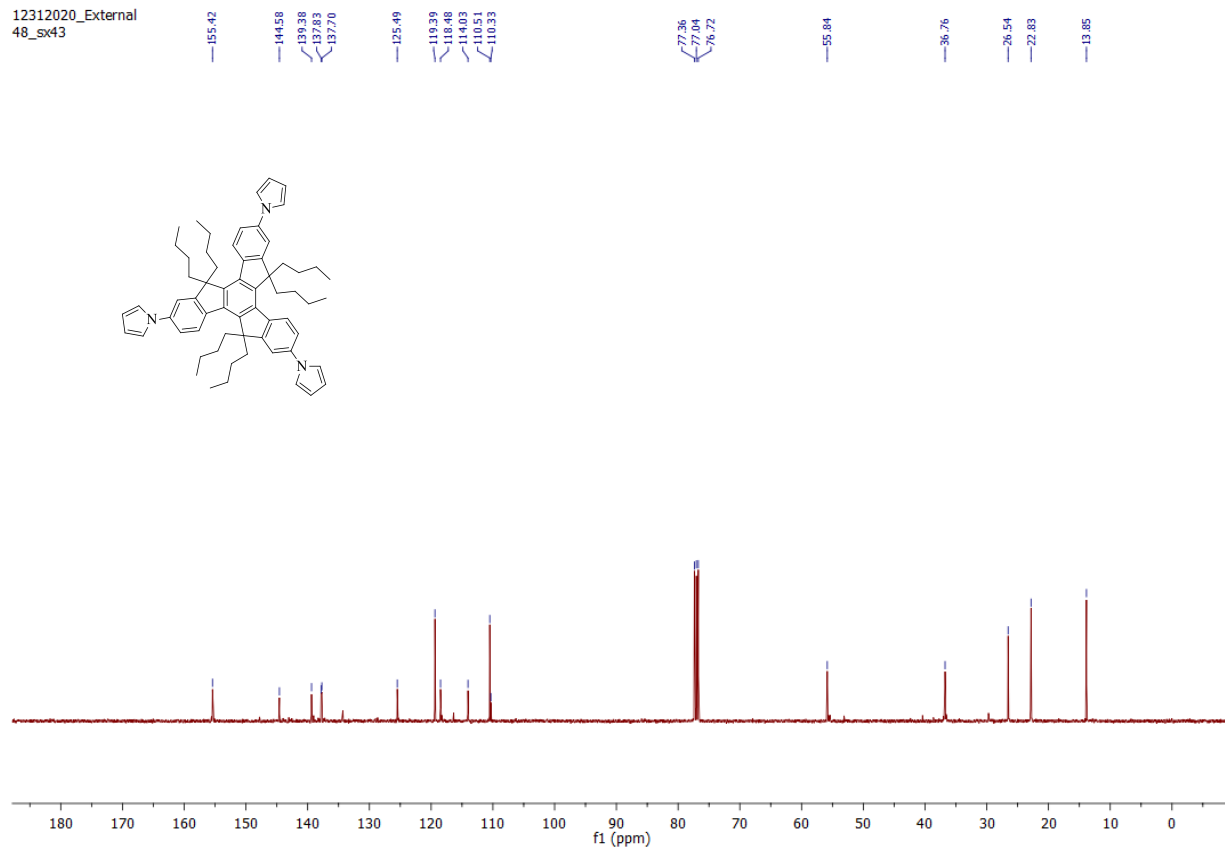


## <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 6

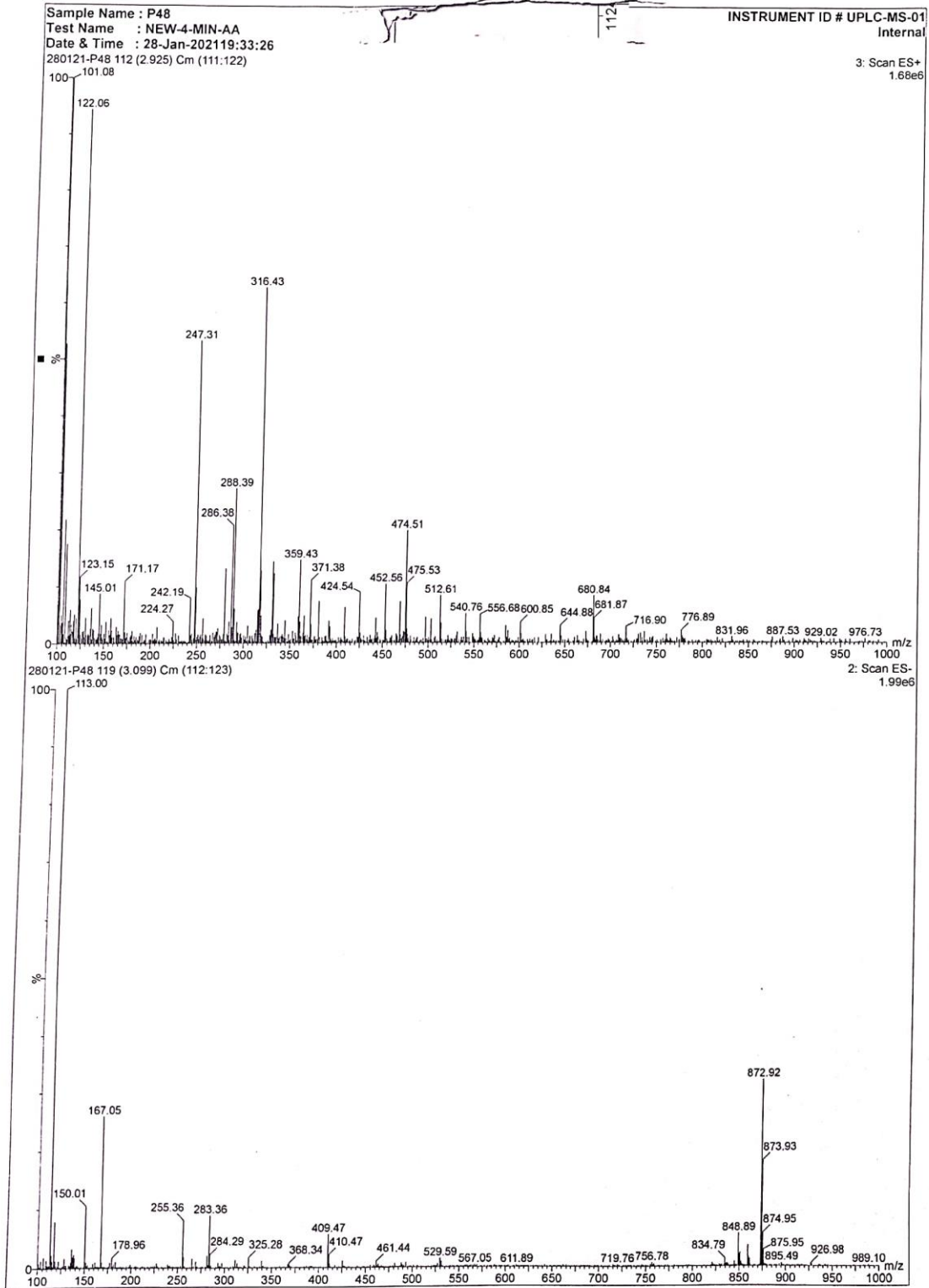


# <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 6

12312020\_External  
48\_sx43

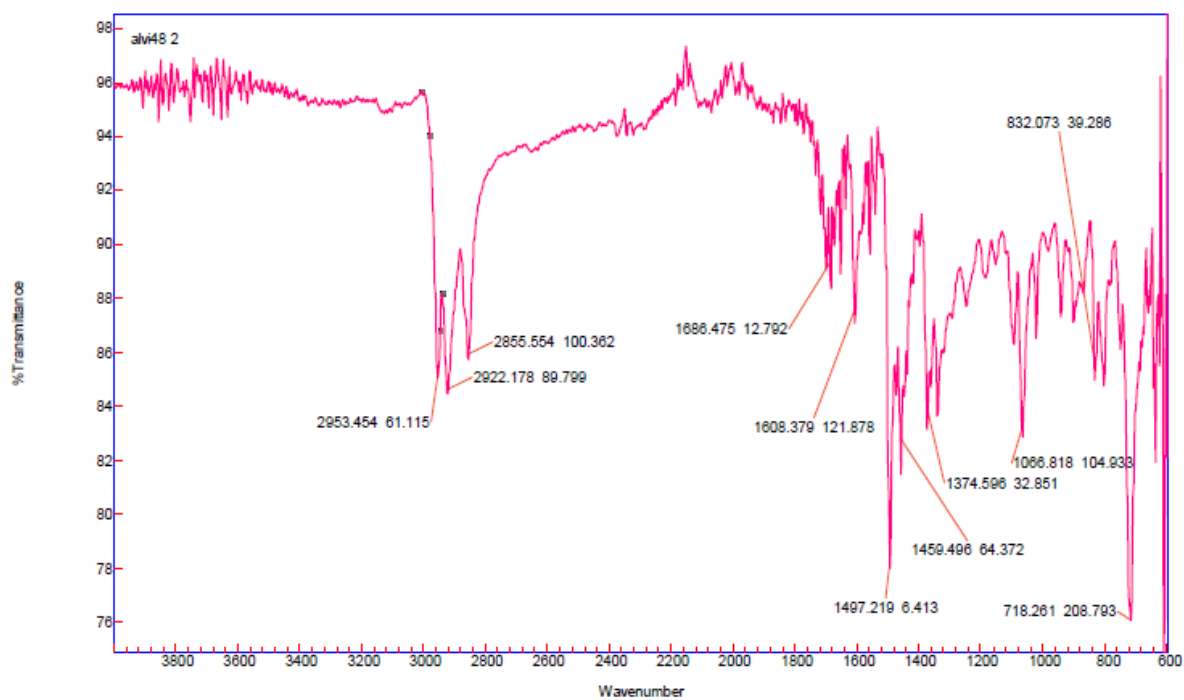


# Mass spectra of compound 6



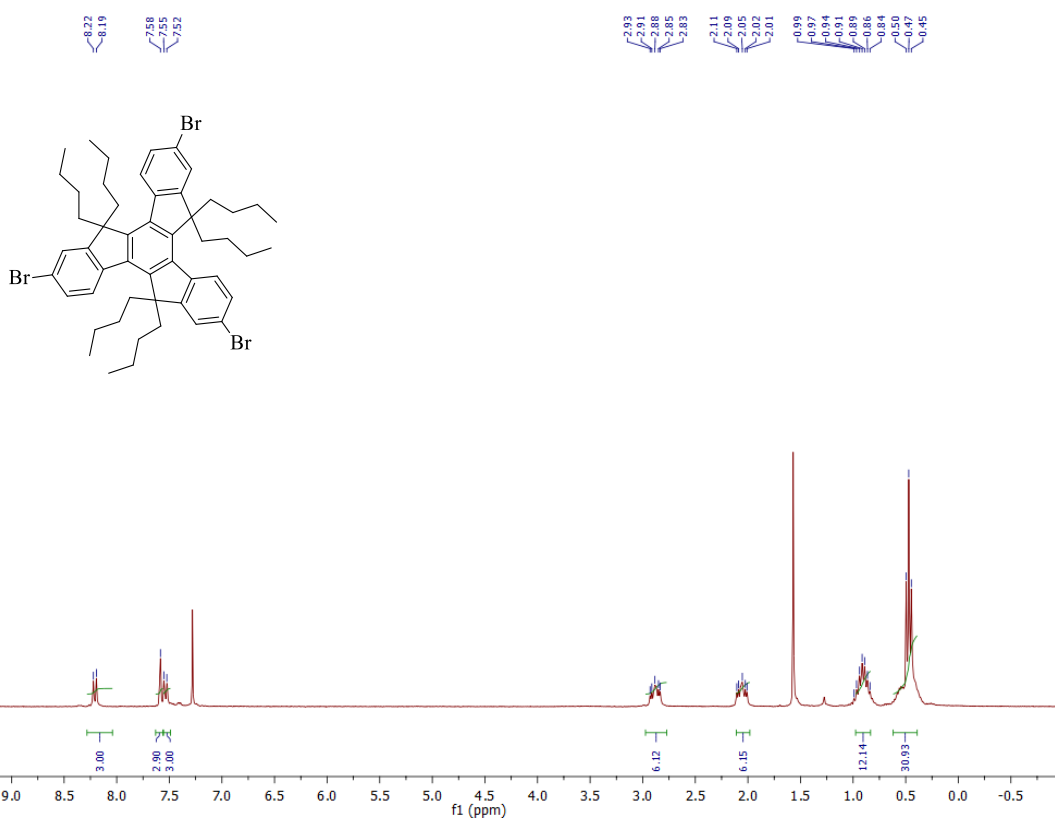
## IR spectrum of compound 6

Agilent Resolutions Pro

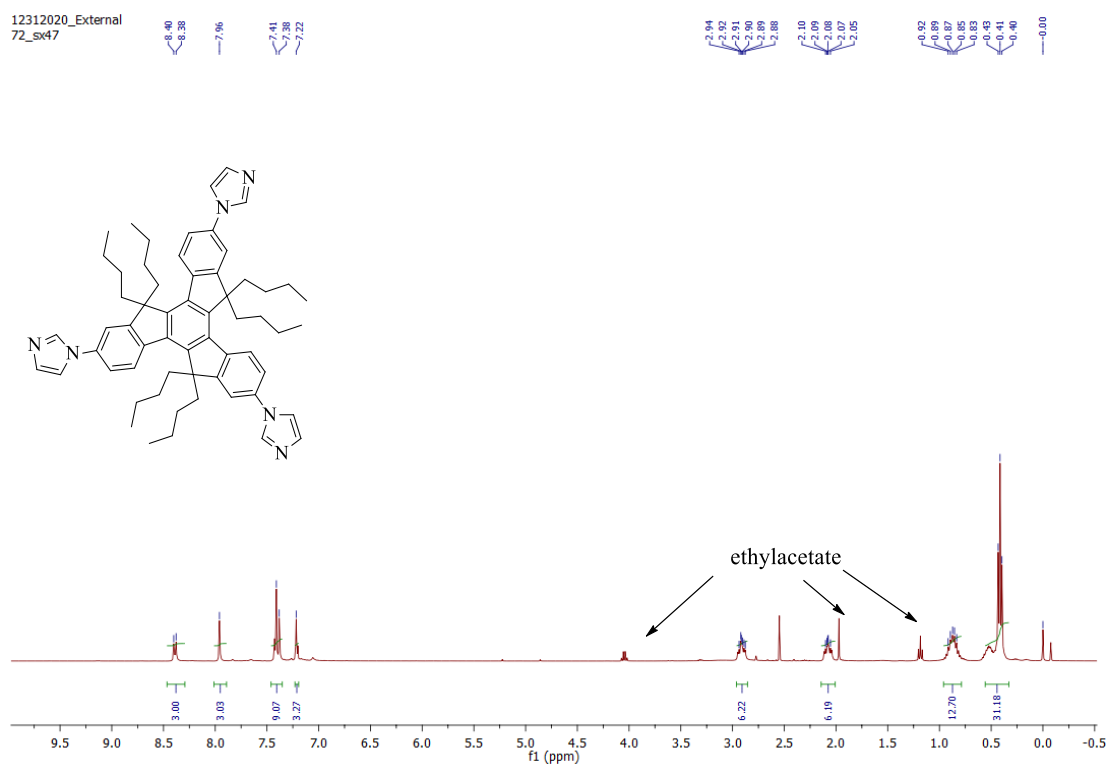


## <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 5

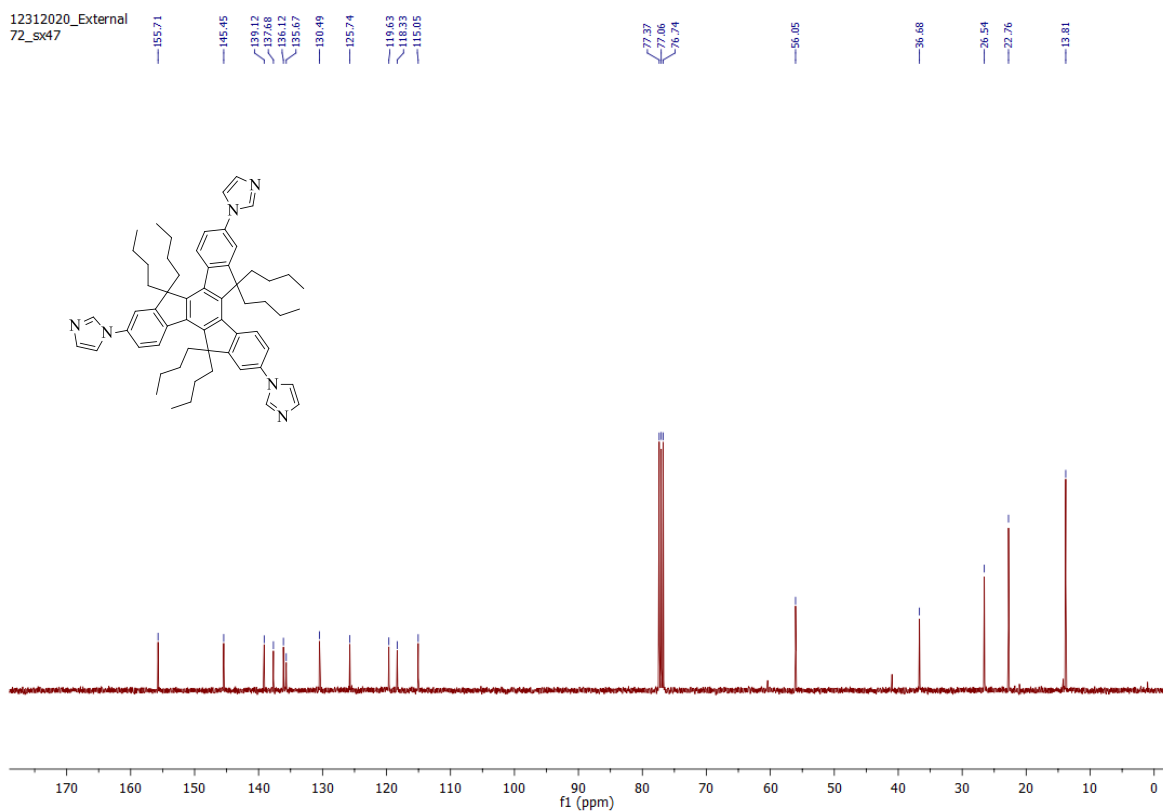
30 July 2019  
5



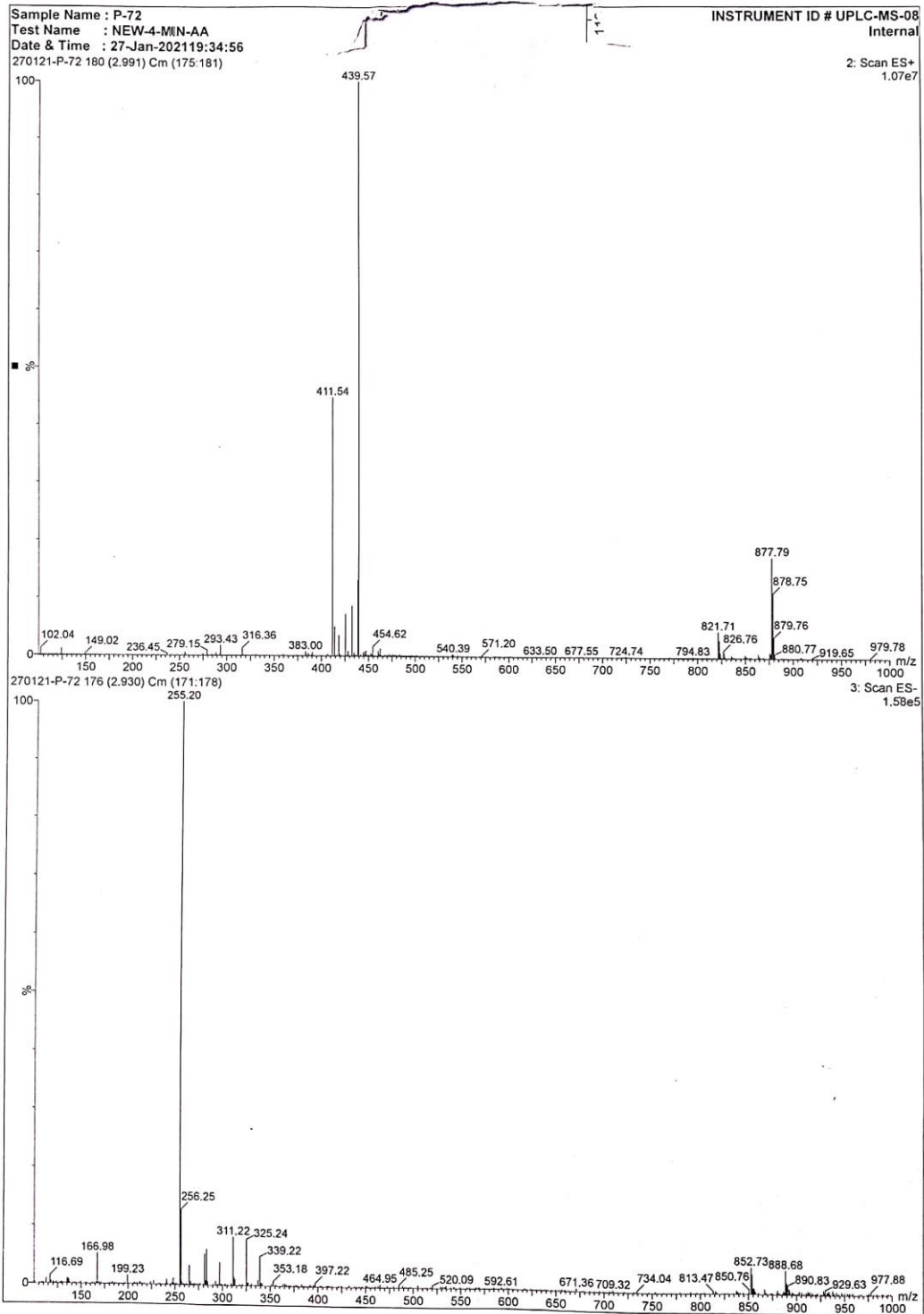
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 14



# <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 14



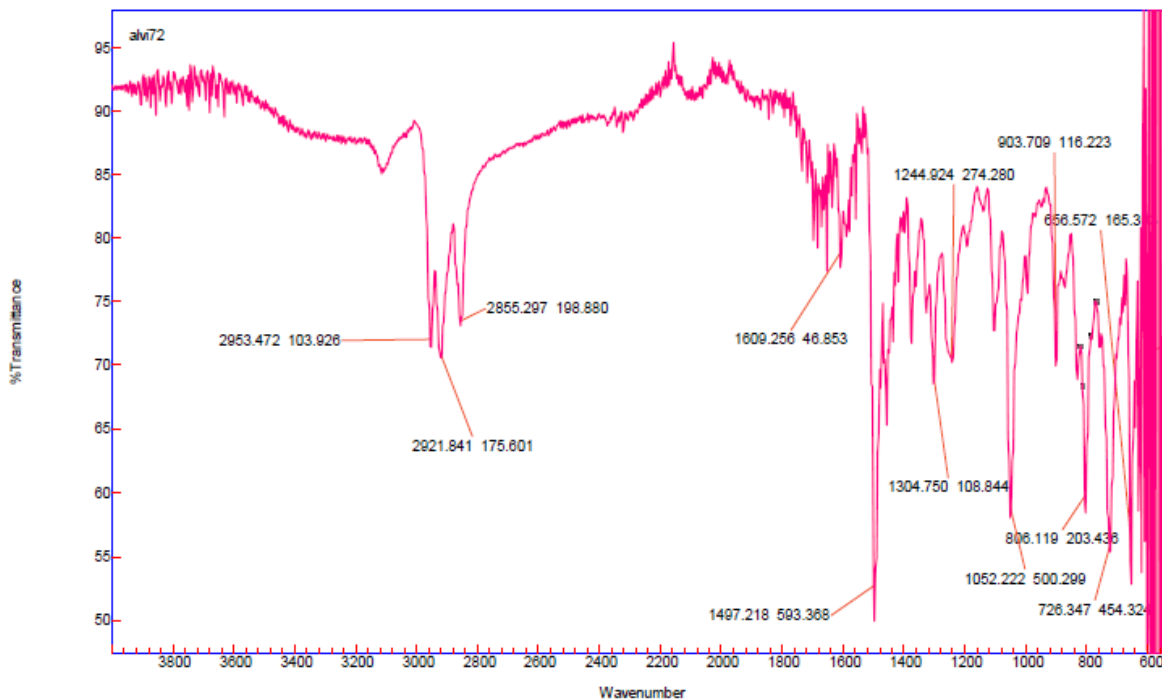
# Mass spectra of compound 14





# IR spectrum of compound 14

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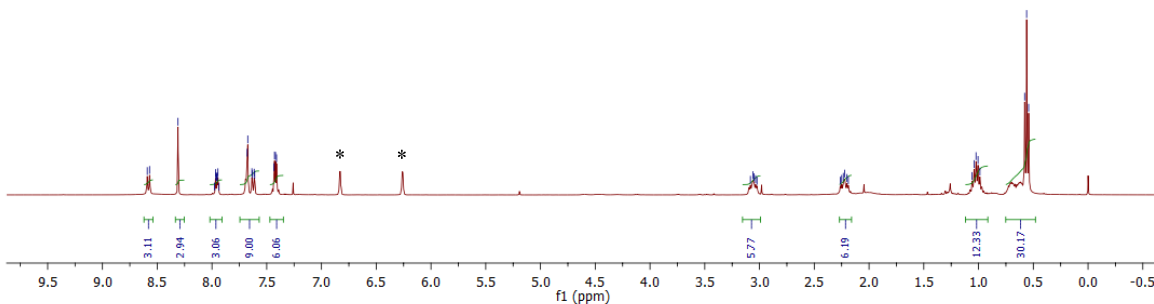
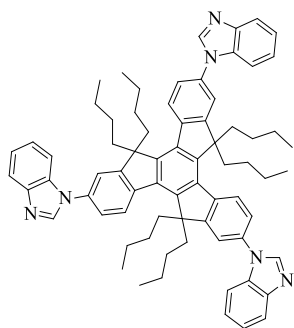
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 16

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77\_sx46

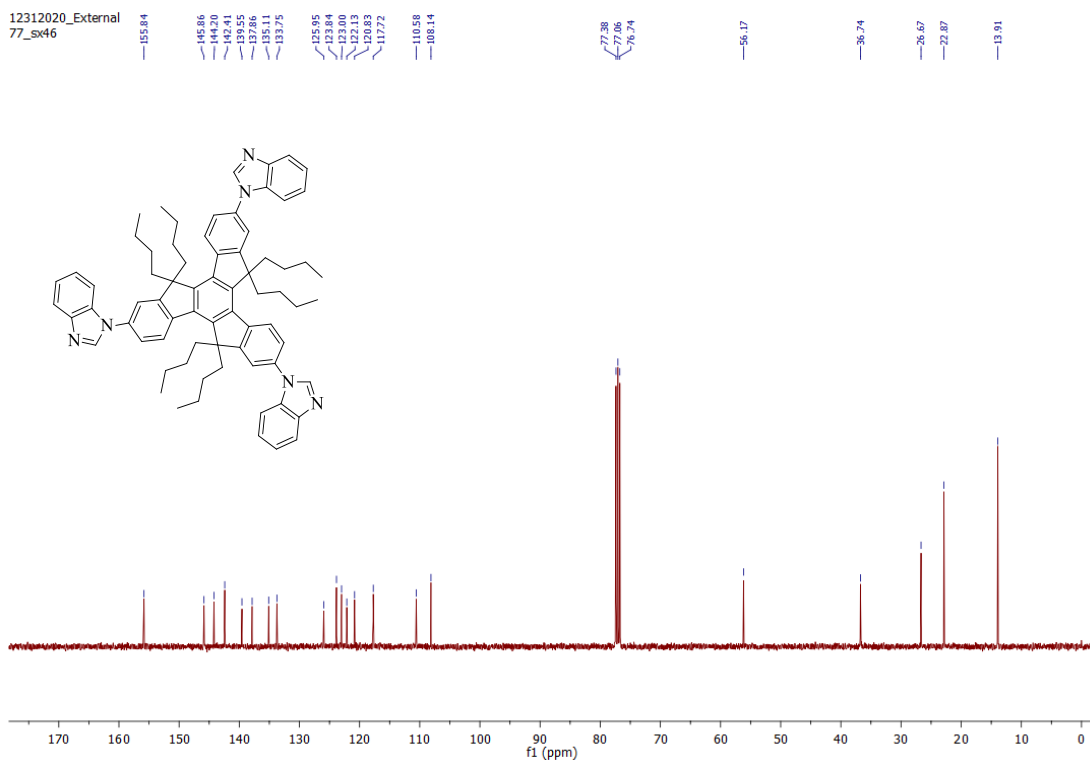
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8.57  
8.31  
7.97  
7.95  
7.88  
7.67  
7.64  
7.53  
7.51  
7.61  
7.43  
7.43  
7.42  
7.41

3.08  
3.06  
3.05  
3.04  
3.02  
2.26  
2.23  
2.22  
2.20  
2.19

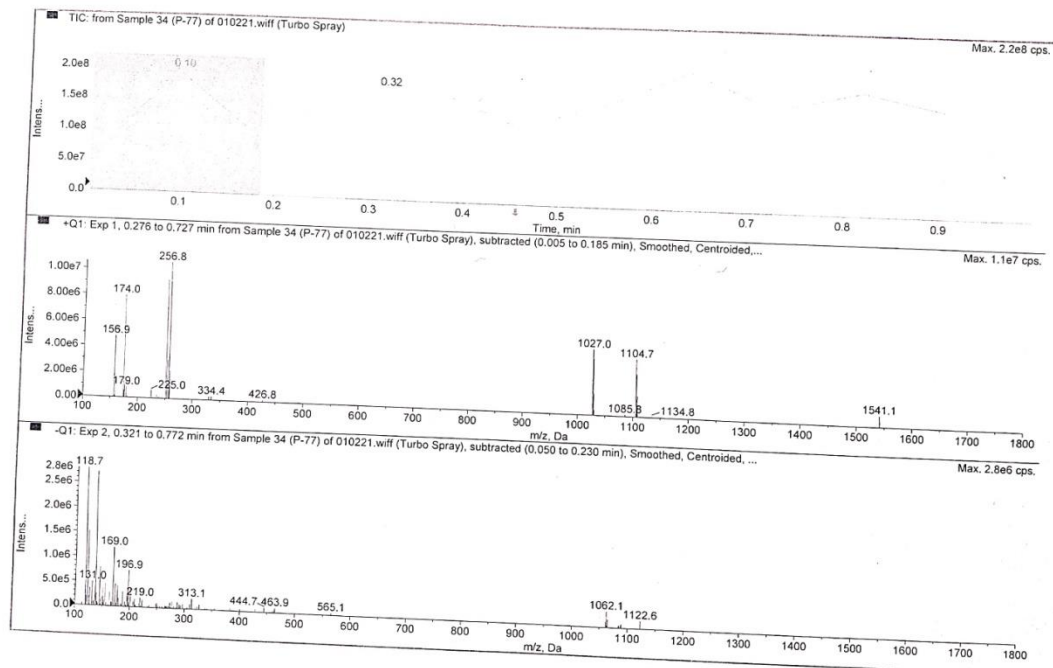
1.06  
1.04  
1.02  
1.00  
0.98  
0.56  
0.54



# <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 16

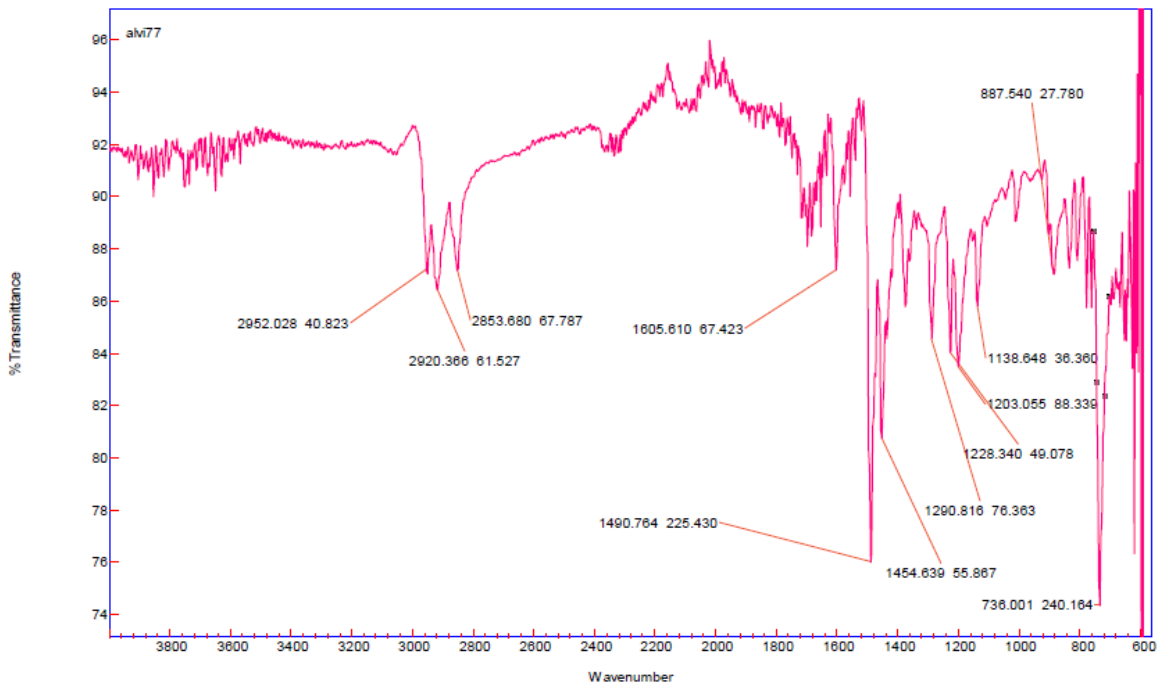


# Mass spectra of compound 16

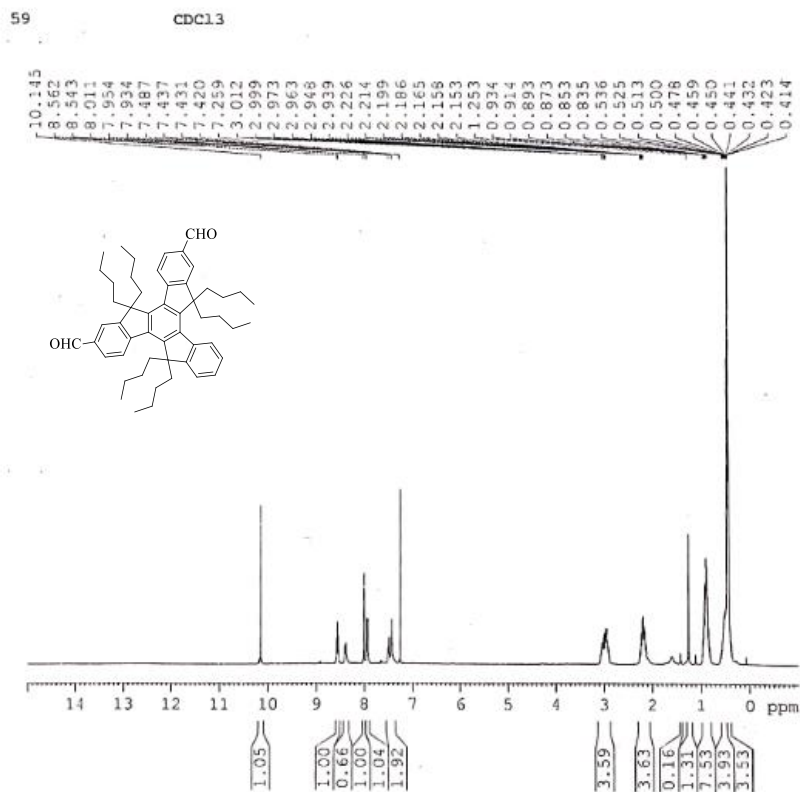


# IR spectrum of compound 16

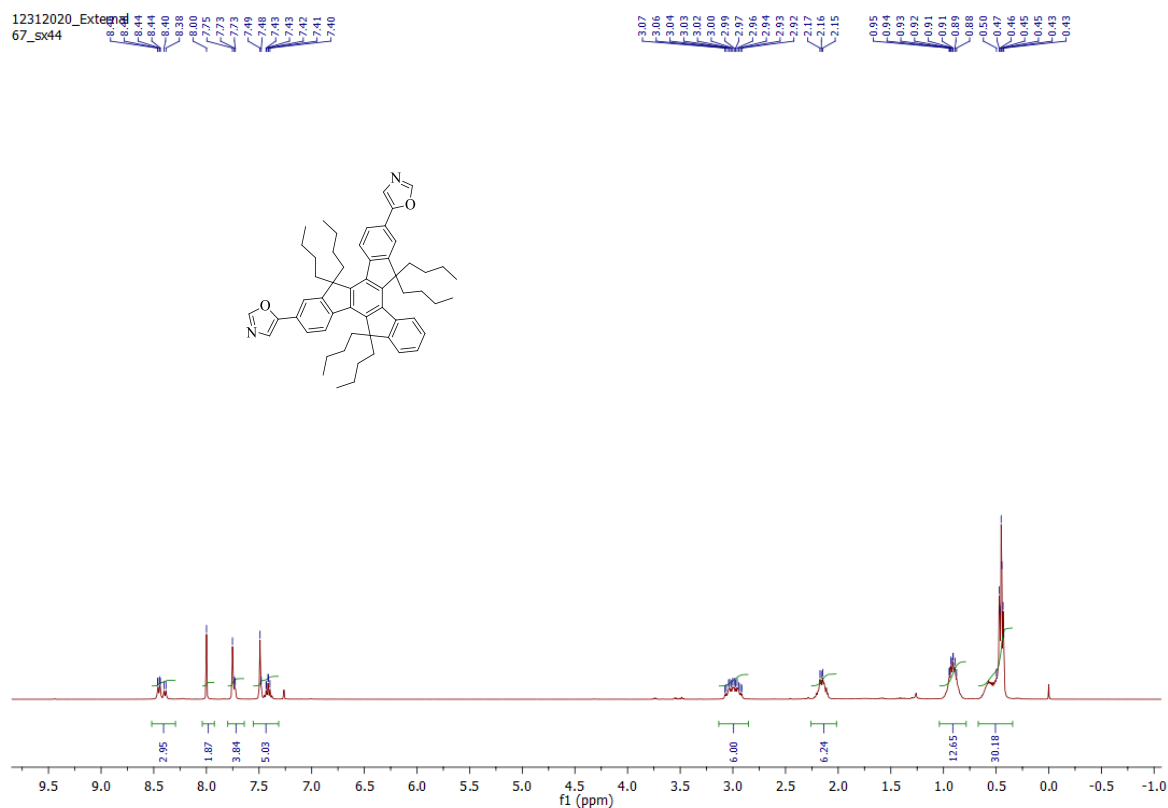
Agilent Resolutions Pro



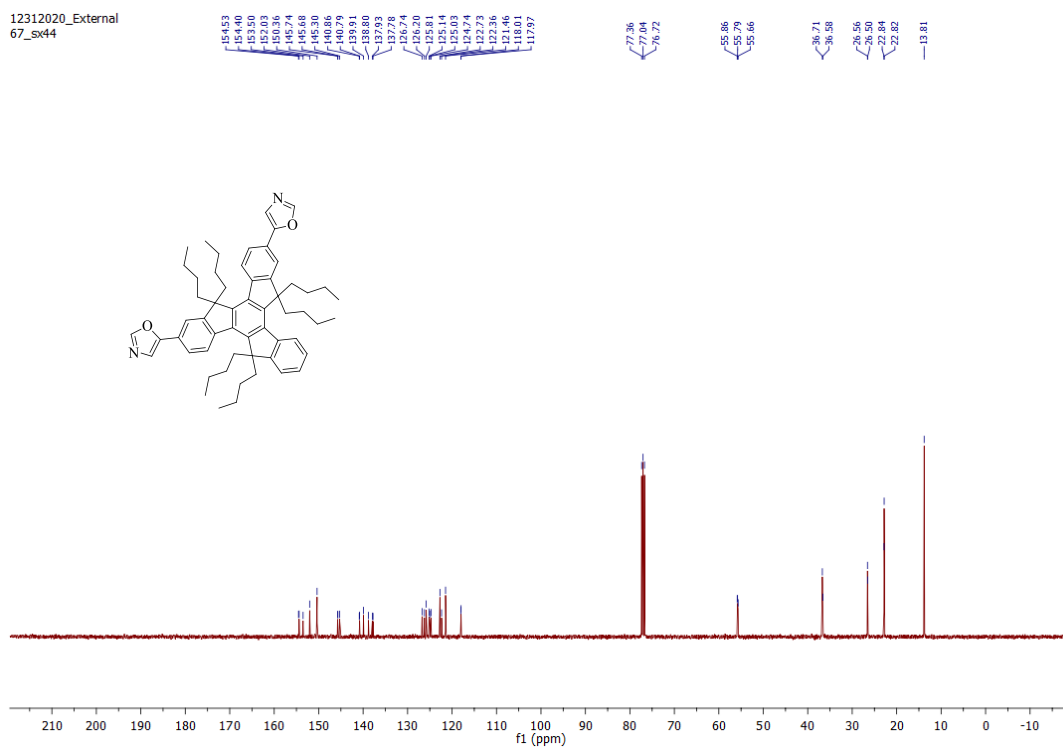
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 18



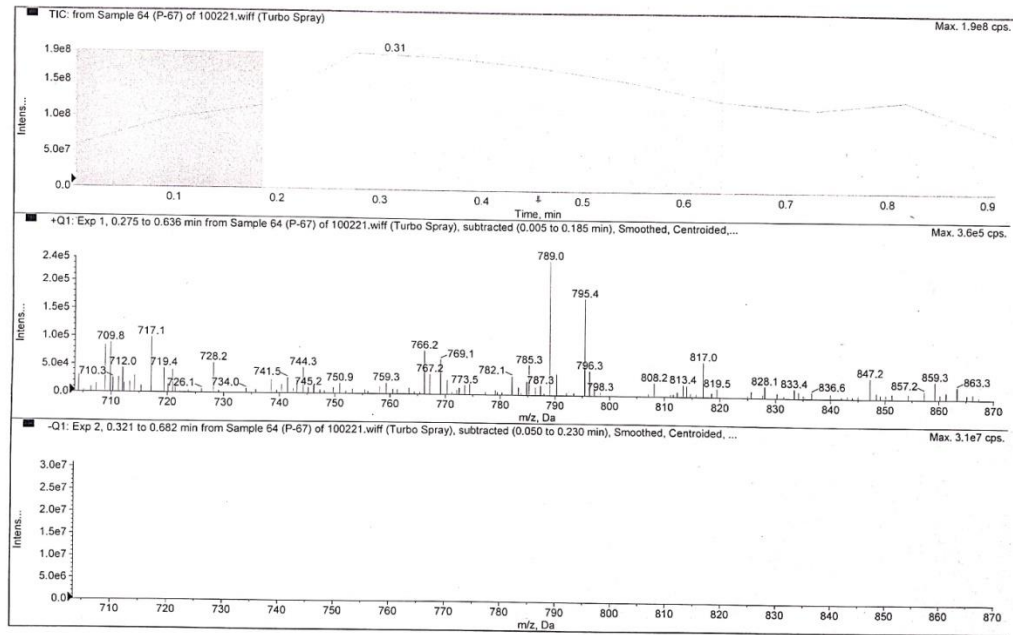
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 21



# <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 21

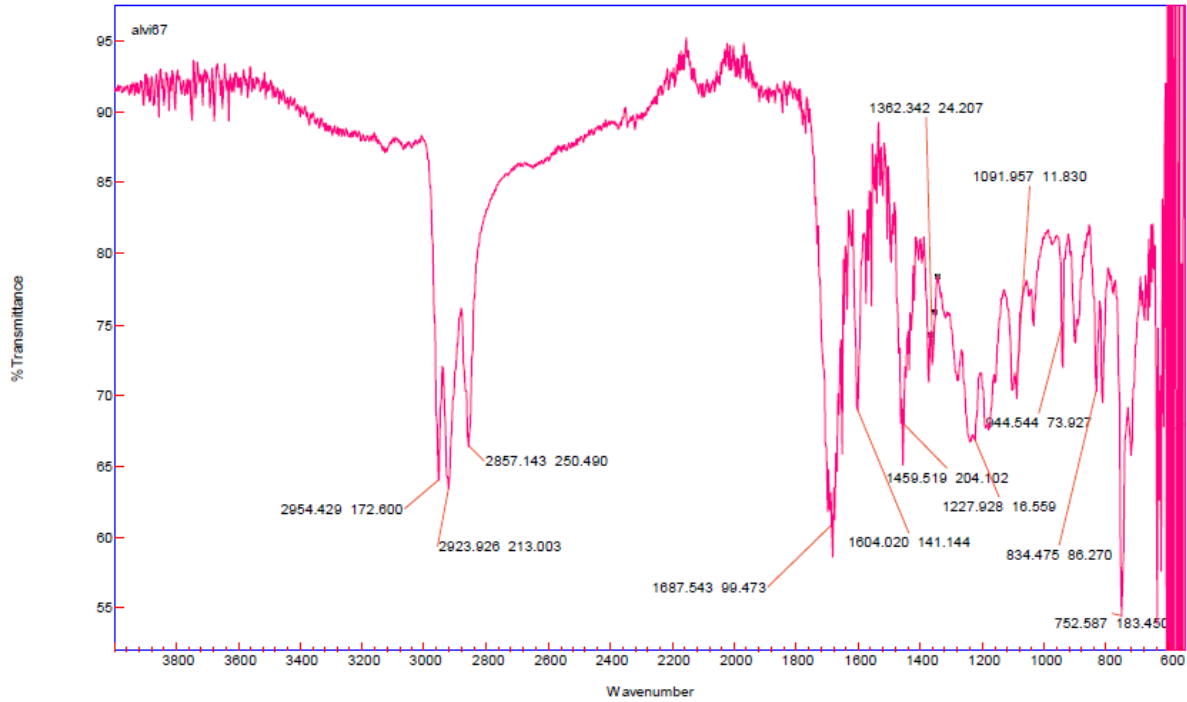


# Mass spectra of compound 21

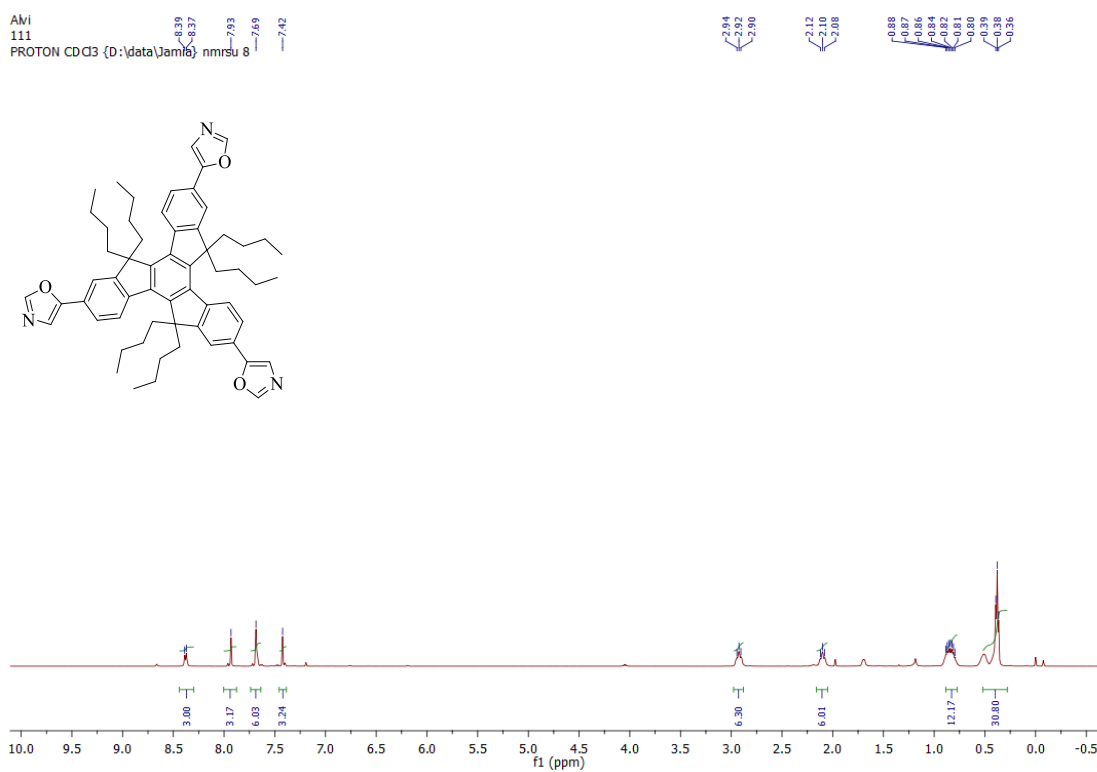


# IR spectrum of compound 21

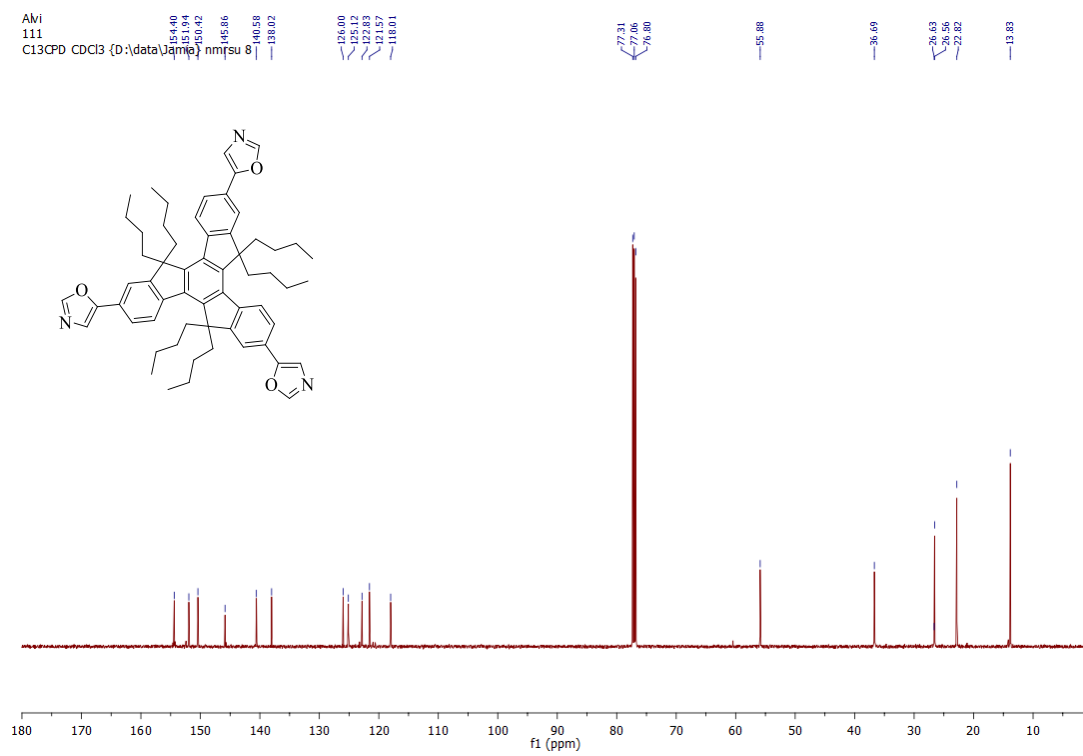
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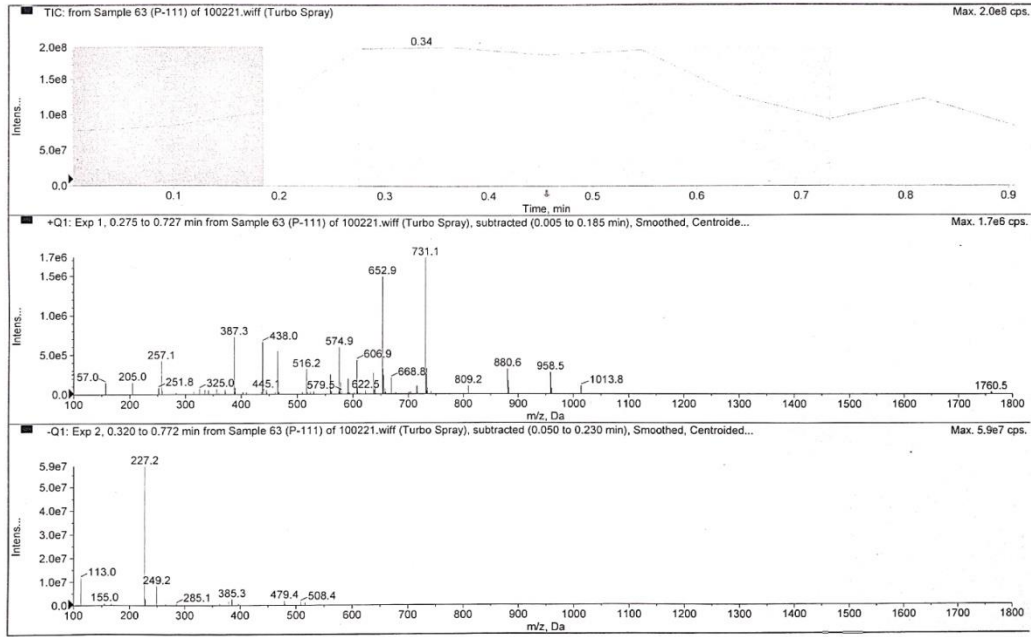
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 20



# <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 20

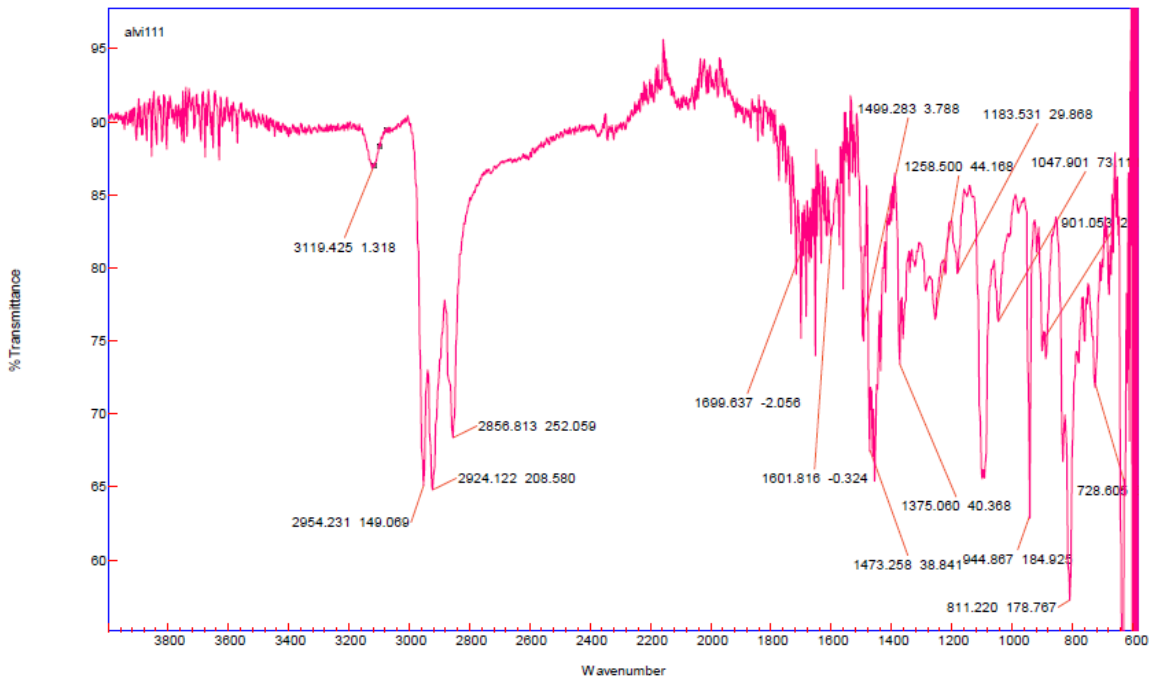


# Mass spectra of compound 20



# IR spectrum of compound 20

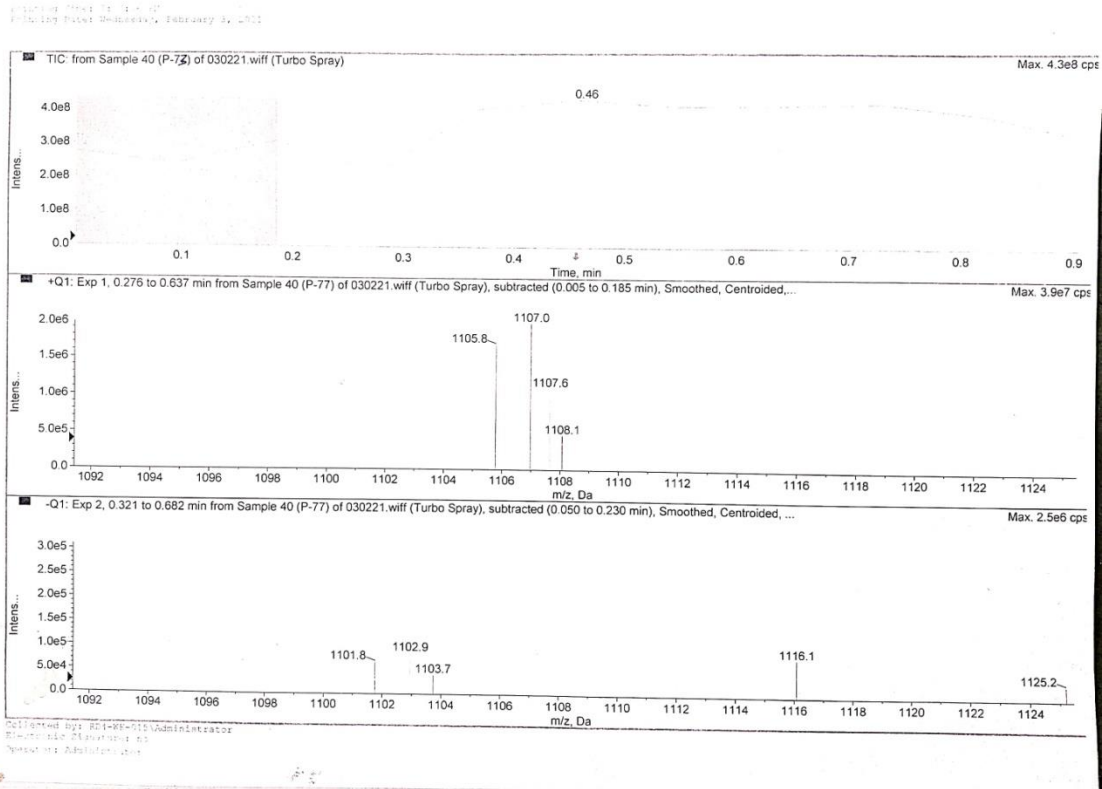
Agilent Resolutions Pro





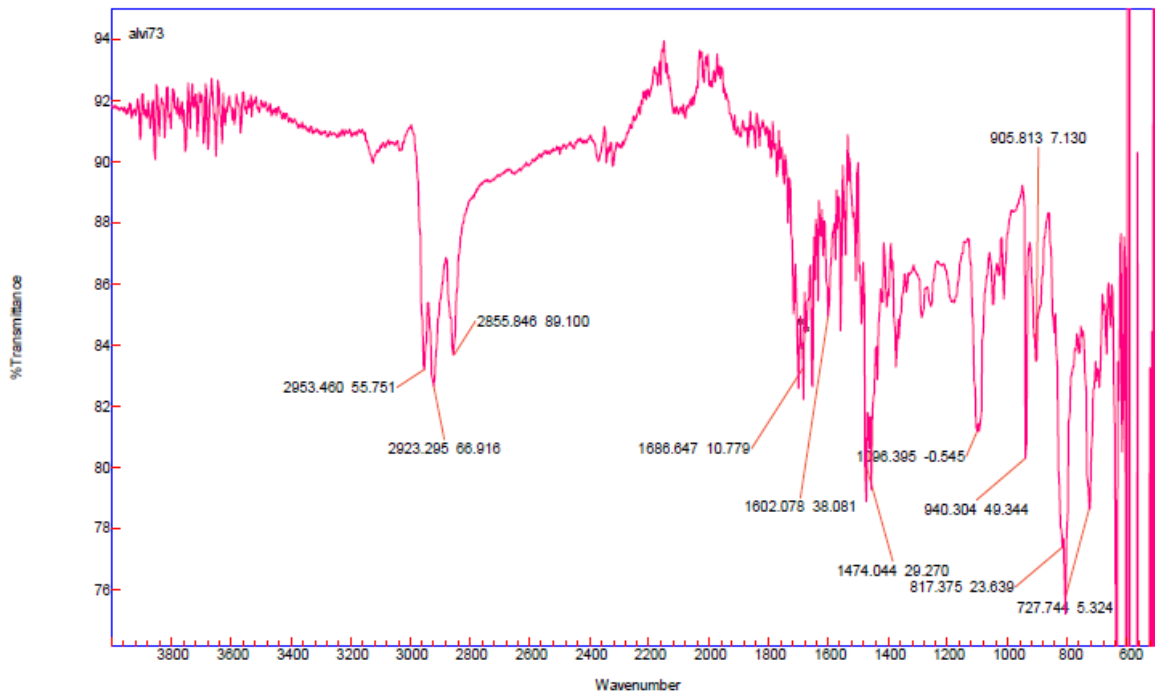


# Mass spectra of compound 25

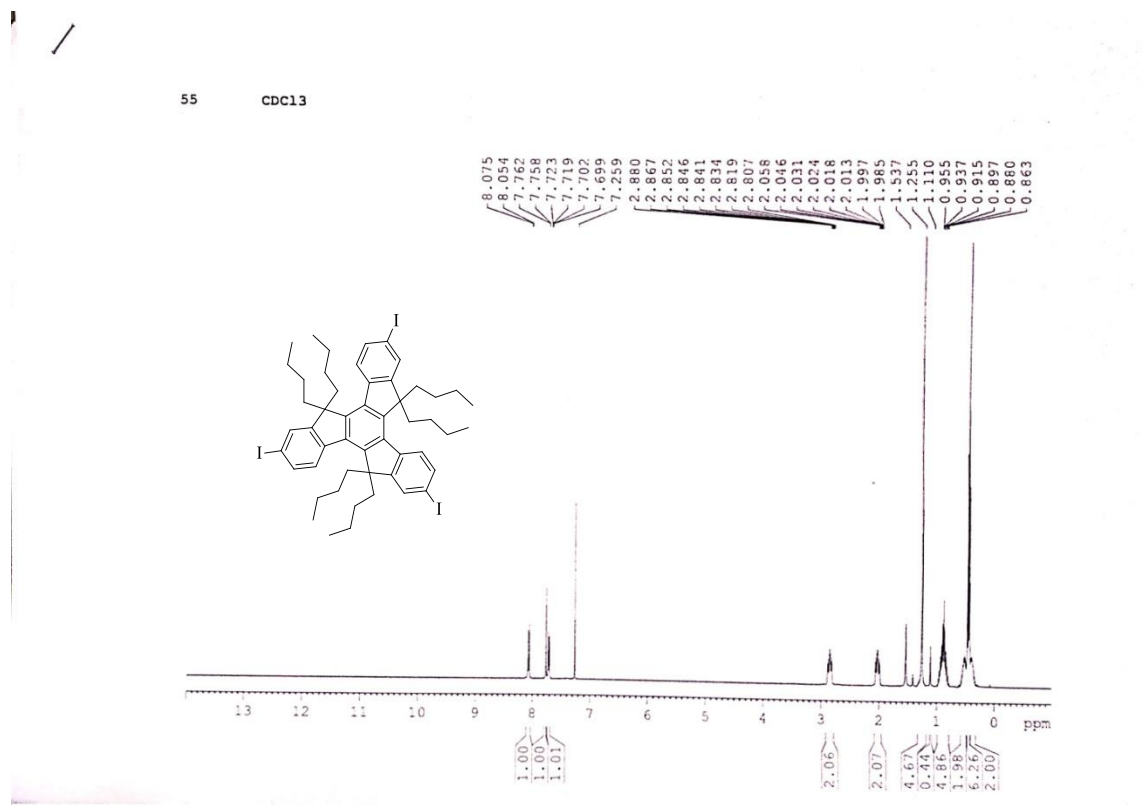


# IR spectrum of compound 25

Agilent Resolutions Pro



## <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound 22



## References

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3. Cao, X.-Y.; Zi, H.; Zhang, W.; Lu, H.; Pei, J. *J. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *70*, 3645–3653. doi:10.1021/jo0480139