

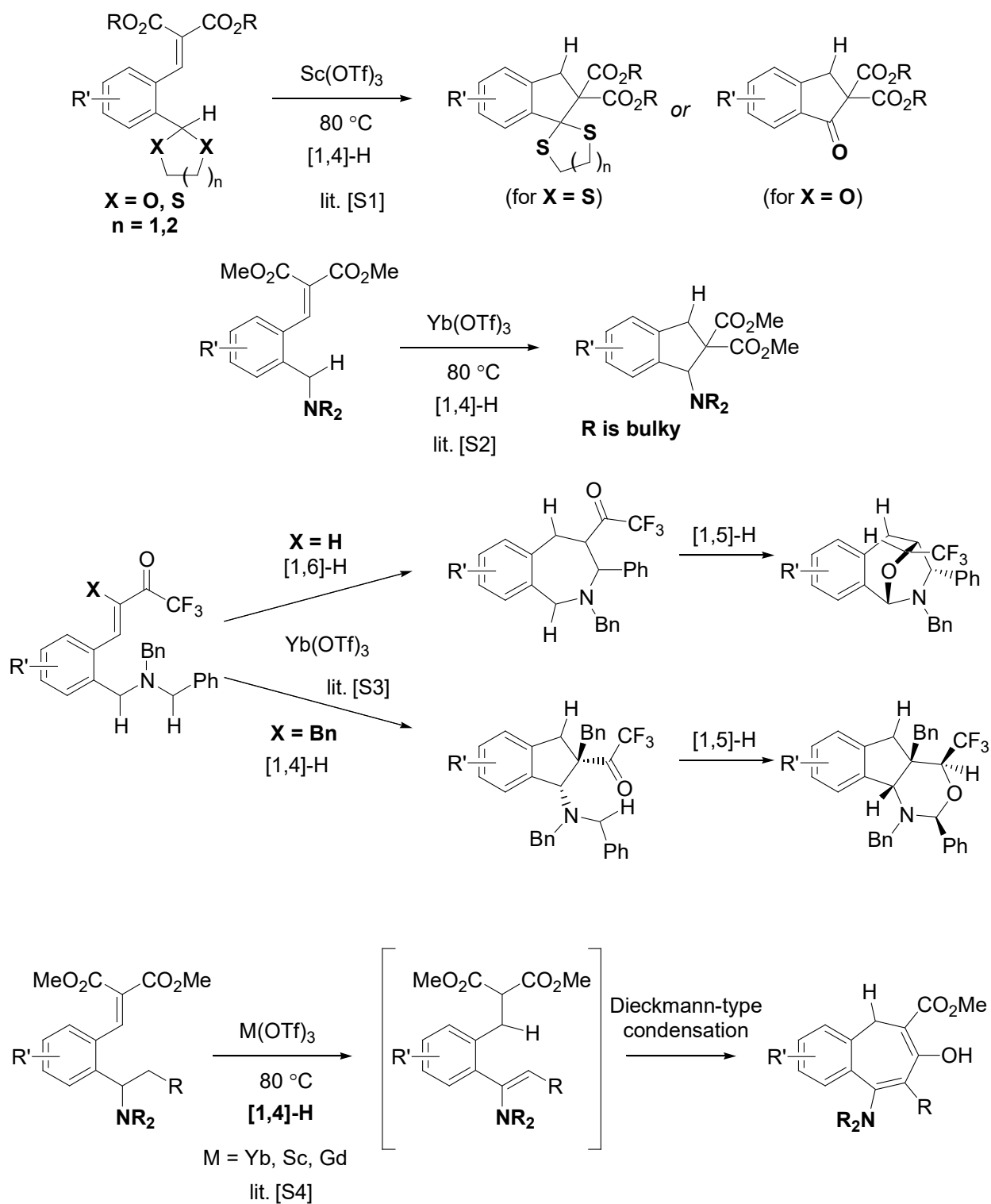
**Study on 1,4-hydride shift triggered spirocyclization
of arylidene imidazolones: substituent control on formation of indane
or tetrahydrobenzazepine systems**

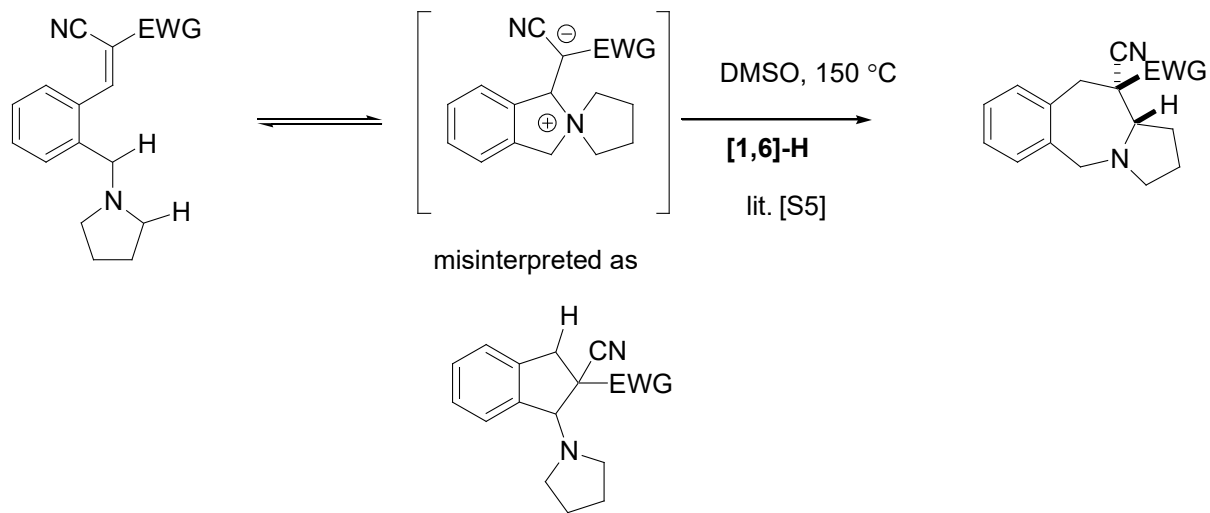
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Pavel N. Solyev, Mohamad Nurul Azmi, Mikhail S. Baranov and Andrey A. Mikhaylov**

Table of Contents

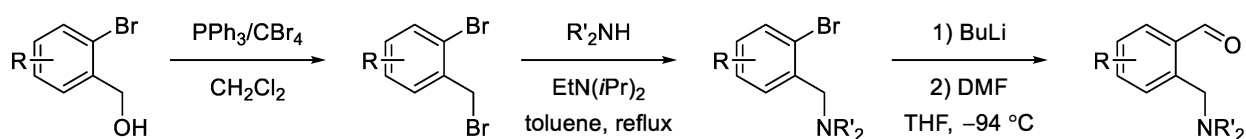
Literature reports on 1,4-Hydride-Shift-Triggered Cyclization	S2
General route for synthesis of starting aldehydes	S4
General Experimentation	S4
Starting materials	S5
References	S13
Copies of NMR spectra	S14

Literature reports on 1,4-Hydride-Shift-Triggered Cyclization





General route for synthesis of starting aldehydes



Details described in the supporting information in ref [S2]

General Experimentation

Reagents and methods: All reactions were performed in pre-dried at 180°C glassware. Solvents and reagents were distilled over indicated drying agents prior use: CHCl_3 , dichloroethane (CaH_2), ethyl acetate (K_2CO_3).

Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using aluminum plates pre-coated with silica gel (silica gel 60 F₂₅₄, Merck). TLC plates were visualized by exposure to 254 nm ultraviolet light (UV) or were stained by submersion in acidic ethanolic solution of vanillin followed by brief heating (vanillin). Flash-column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (60 Å, 230–400 mesh, Sigma-Aldrich).

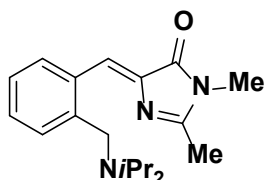
Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded using Bruker Fourier 300, Bruker Avance III 700 and Bruker Avance II 800 instruments at indicated temperature. Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet and/or multiple resonances), coupling constant (J) in Hertz, integration. Proton chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm, δ scale) and are referenced to residual protium in the NMR solvents (CHCl_3 , δ 7.26 ppm). Carbon chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm, δ scale) and are referenced to the carbon resonances of the NMR solvents (CDCl_3 , δ 77.16 ppm).

High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker microTOF-Q II mass spectrometer using electrospray ionization (ESI–TOF). Melting points were determined on Kofler melting point apparatus and are uncorrected.

Starting materials

General procedure: Substituted benzaldehyde (2 mmol, 1 equiv.) was dissolved in CHCl_3 (5 ml), then 35% solution of MeNH_2 in Pr^iOH (1 mL, excess) along with anhydrous Na_2SO_4 (1 g). The mixture was vigorously stirred overnight. The obtained solution was filtered from inorganics through cotton wool. Solid was washed excessively with CHCl_3 . Combined filtrate was evaporated to dryness. To the residue ethyl 2-[(1-methoxyethylidene)amino]acetate **2** (0.38 g, 2.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added. The obtained solution was left with occasional shaking for 48 h and evaporated. The product **1** was purified by flash chromatography using hexane/ EtOAc 1/1→0/1 as eluent.

(Z)-5-[2-(Diisopropylaminomethyl)benzylidene]-2,3-dimethyl-3,5-dihydro-4H-imidazol-4-one **1a**



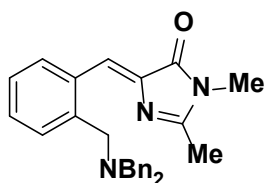
Yield 455 mg (1.45 mmol, 73%). Yellowish crystals, mp = 106-108 °C, R_f = 0.36 (SiO_2 , EtOAc).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 8.58–8.41 (m, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.59–7.38 (m, 1H), 7.36–7.14 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 3.01 (hept, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.03 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 12H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 170.8, 162.4, 142.8, 138.3, 132.9, 132.2, 129.8, 129.6, 126.8, 125.5, 47.7 ($\times 2$), 47.6, 26.6, 20.6 ($\times 4$), 15.7.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 314.2227, found 314.2235.

(Z)-5-[2-(Dibenzylaminomethyl)benzylidene]-2,3-dimethyl-3,5-dihydro-4H-imidazol-4-one **1b**



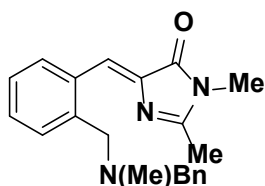
Yield 605 mg (1.48 mmol, 74%). Beige crystals, mp = 114-116 °C, R_f = 0.45 (SiO_2 , EtOAc).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 8.66–8.39 (m, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.59–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.34–7.27 (m, 6H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.54 (s, 4H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 170.7, 162.7, 140.1, 139.2 ($\times 2$), 138.8, 133.4, 132.5, 130.4, 129.7, 129.0 ($\times 4$), 128.4 ($\times 4$), 127.4, 126.9 ($\times 2$), 125.1, 58.5 ($\times 2$), 56.9, 26.7, 15.8.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 410.2227, found 410.2231.

(Z)-5-[2-(N-Benzyl-N-methylaminomethyl)benzylidene]-2,3-dimethyl-3,5-dihydro-4H-imidazol-4-one **1c**



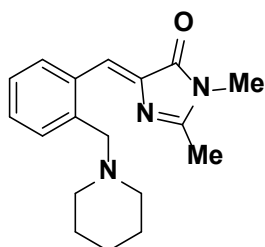
Yield 546 mg (1.64 mmol, 82%). Yellowish crystals, mp = 68-70 °C, R_f = 0.37 (SiO_2 , EtOAc).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 8.61 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.11 (m, 8H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 170.7, 162.7, 140.1, 139.1, 138.6, 133.5, 132.5, 130.5, 129.6, 129.2 ($\times 2$), 128.3 ($\times 2$), 127.6, 127.0, 125.2, 62.5, 60.6, 41.8, 26.6, 15.8.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}^+]$ 334.1914, found 334.1908.

(Z)-2,3-Dimethyl-5-[2-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)benzylidene]-3,5-dihydro-4H-imidazol-4-one 1d



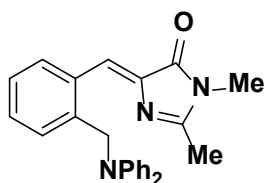
Yield 518 mg (1.74 mmol, 87%). Yellowish crystals, mp = 130-132 °C, R_f = 0.31 (SiO_2 , EtOAc).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 8.57 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.42–7.11 (m, 3H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 2.45–2.20 (m, 7H), 1.52 (p, J = 5.4 Hz, 4H), 1.40 (q, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 170.7, 162.5, 140.0, 138.3, 133.5, 132.3, 130.3, 129.4, 127.3, 125.3, 61.6, 54.5 ($\times 2$), 26.6, 26.1 ($\times 2$), 24.5, 15.7.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}^+]$ 298.1914, found 298.1920.

(Z)-5-[2-(Diphenylaminomethyl)benzylidene]-2,3-dimethyl-3,5-dihydro-4H-imidazol-4-one 1e



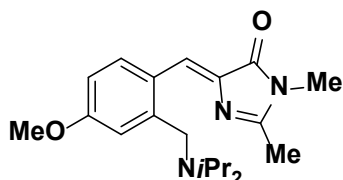
Yield 495 mg (1.30 mmol, 65%). Yellowish crystals, mp = 181-183 °C, R_f = 0.21 (SiO_2 , EtOAc).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 8.53 (dd, J = 7.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, J = 7.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.36–7.20 (m, 6H), 7.07 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 6.95 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 170.5, 163.6, 147.9 ($\times 2$), 139.4, 139.0, 132.4, 131.4, 130.2, 129.4 ($\times 4$), 127.1, 126.9, 122.7, 121.6 ($\times 2$), 120.7 ($\times 4$), 54.6, 26.7, 15.8.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}^+]$ 382.1914, found 382.1922.

(Z)-5-(2-Diisopropylaminomethyl-4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,3-dimethyl-3,5-dihydro-4H-imidazol-4-one 1f



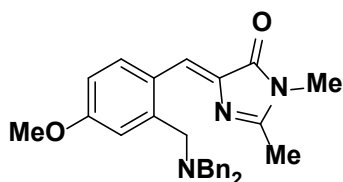
Yield 467 mg (1.36 mmol, 68%). Yellowish crystals, mp = 118-120 °C, R_f = 0.32 (SiO_2 , EtOAc).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 8.61 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 3.02 (hept, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.03 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 12H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 170.9, 161.2, 161.1, 145.9, 136.8, 134.2, 125.4, 124.6, 114.8, 112.2, 55.2, 48.1 ($\times 2$), 47.3, 26.6, 20.7 ($\times 4$), 15.7.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 344.2333, found 344.2334.

(Z)-5-(2-Dibenzylaminomethyl-4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,3-dimethyl-3,5-dihydro-4H-imidazol-4-one 1g



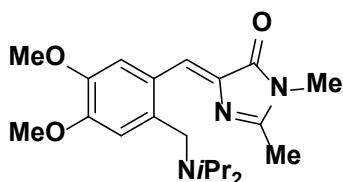
Yield 526 mg (1.20 mmol, 60%). Beige crystals, mp = 120-122 °C, R_f = 0.37 (SiO_2 , EtOAc).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 8.71 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 3.58 (s, 4H), 3.19 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 170.8, 161.5, 160.9, 142.7, 139.2 ($\times 2$), 137.2, 134.5, 128.9 ($\times 4$), 128.4 ($\times 4$), 127.0 ($\times 2$), 126.0, 124.5, 115.5, 112.9, 58.6 ($\times 2$), 56.6, 55.3, 26.6, 15.7.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 440.2333, found 344.2333.

(Z)-5-(2-Diisopropylaminomethyl-4,5-dimethoxybenzylidene)-2,3-dimethyl-3,5-dihydro-4H-imidazol-4-one 1h



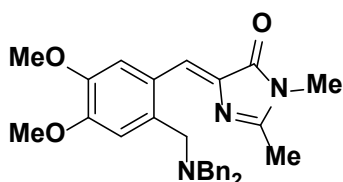
Yield 535 mg (1.43 mmol, 72%). Yellowish crystals, mp = 147-149 °C, R_f = 0.25 (SiO_2 , EtOAc).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 8.44 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 2H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 3.01 (hept, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.02 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 12H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 170.9, 161.0, 150.7, 147.3, 138.3, 136.7, 125.0, 124.3, 114.9, 112.2, 56.0, 55.9, 48.0 ($\times 2$), 46.5, 26.6, 20.8, 15.8 ($\times 4$).

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 374.2438, found 374.2448.

(Z)-5-(2-Dibenzylaminomethyl-4,5-dimethoxybenzylidene)-2,3-dimethyl-3,5-dihydro-4H-imidazol-4-one 1i



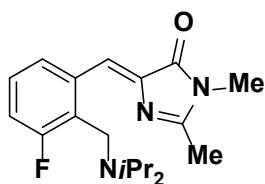
Yield 480 mg (1.30 mmol, 65%). Beige crystals, mp = 146-148 °C, R_f = 0.37 (SiO_2 , hexane/EtOAc, 1/1).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 8.53 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.57 (s, 4H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 170.8, 161.5, 160.9, 142.7, 139.2 ($\times 2$), 137.2, 134.5, 128.9 ($\times 4$), 128.4 ($\times 4$), 127.0 ($\times 2$), 126.0, 124.5, 115.5, 112.9, 58.6 ($\times 2$), 56.6, 55.3, 26.6, 15.7.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 470.2438, found 470.2437.

(Z)-5-(2-Diisopropylaminomethyl-3-fluorobenzylidene)-2,3-dimethyl-3,5-dihydro-4H-imidazol-4-one 1j



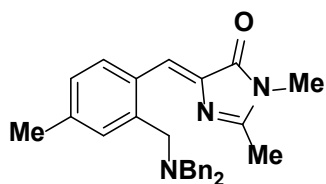
Yield 590 mg (1.84 mmol, 92%). Yellowish crystals, mp = 115-117 °C, R_f = 0.41 (SiO_2 , hexane/EtOAc, 1/1).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 8.33 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.27 (dt, J = 8.5, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, J = 9.7, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.95 (hept, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.07 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 12H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 170.6, 162.9, 162.1 (d, J = 243.8 Hz), 138.7, 136.5 (d, J = 3.7 Hz), 128.3 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 128.2 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 128.1 (d, J = 12.6 Hz), 125.4 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 116.1 (d, J = 24.2 Hz), 47.1 ($\times 2$), 38.70 (d, J = 4.9 Hz), 26.6, 20.6 ($\times 4$), 15.8.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{27}\text{FN}_3\text{O}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 322.2133, found 322.2139.

(Z)-5-(2-Dibenzylaminomethyl-4-methylbenzylidene)-2,3-dimethyl-3,5-dihydro-4H-imidazol-4-one 1k



Yield 660 mg (1.56 mmol, 78%). Yellowish crystals, mp = 104-105 °C, R_f = 0.54 (EtOAc).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 8.44 (s, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.51–7.31 (m, 9H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.57 (s, 4H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 170.6, 162.5, 139.2 ($\times 2$), 138.5, 137.3, 136.9, 133.2, 132.9, 130.6, 130.5, 128.9 ($\times 4$), 128.3 ($\times 4$), 126.8, 125.4, 58.4 ($\times 2$), 56.7, 26.6, 21.3, 15.7.

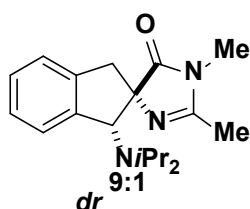
HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 424.2383, found 424.2384.

Cyclization products

General procedure for spirocyclization: Arylidene imidazolone **1** (0.30 mmol, 1 equiv.) was dissolved in anhydrous dichloroethane (2 ml) in a screw-cap vial (10 mL volume). The apparatus was flushed with argon. Then AlCl_3 (60 mg, 0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) was added, the vial was sealed and immersed into preheated to 100 °C oil bath. The reaction mixture was stirred at the indicated temperature for 2-5 h. Then it was allowed to cool to room temperature and transferred into separatory funnel with EtOAc (20 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 solution (10 mL). Organic layer was separated. Aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL). Combined organic phase was washed with brine (20 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered and evaporated to dryness on a rotary evaporator. Column chromatography of the residue on silica gel (eluent hexane/EtOAc 1/1→2/3→0/1) provided pure indane derivative **3** or tetrahydrobenzoazepine **4**.

In case of arylidene imidazolone **1b** both products **3b** and **4b** could be isolated, indane derivative **3b** has lower R_f .

cis-1'-Diisopropylamino-1,2-dimethyl-1',3'-dihydrospiro[imidazole-4,2'-inden]-5(1*H*)-one **3a**



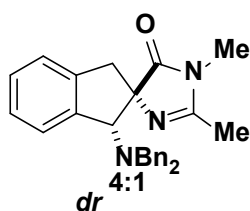
Yield 79 mg (0.25 mmol, 84%). R_f = 0.32 (SiO_2 , EtOAc), colorless oil.

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 7.35–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.23–7.12 (m, 3H), 5.03 (s, 1H), 3.24 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (m, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.86 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.09 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 6H), 0.86 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 6H), δ (for *trans* isomer, selected signals) = 4.67 (s, 1H), 3.37 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.88 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ = 185.3, 159.6, 143.1, 138.8, 127.6, 126.6, 125.2, 125.0, 82.9, 71.8, 48.4 (br), 43.3 (br), 40.7, 26.5 (br, $\times 2$), 24.6 (br, $\times 2$), 23.0, 16.0.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 314.2227, found 314.2222.

cis-1'-Dibenzylamino-1,2-dimethyl-1',3'-dihydrospiro[imidazole-4,2'-inden]-5(1*H*)-one **3b**



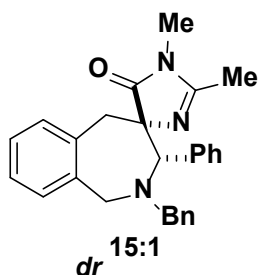
Yield 12 mg (0.03 mmol, 10%). R_f = 0.11 (SiO_2 , EtOAc), colorless oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 7.34–7.13 (m, 14H), 5.00 (s, 1H), 3.99 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 2H), 3.21 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 2.85 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H); δ (for *trans* isomer, selected signals) = 4.43 (s, 1H), 3.85 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 2H), 3.53 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 2.94 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (176 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 184.4, 160.5, 141.3, 140.2, 139.3, 129.0, 128.4⁴ ($\times 4$), 128.3⁵ ($\times 4$), 128.2, 127.9, 127.0 ($\times 2$), 125.2, 124.7, 82.1, 72.9, 55.8 ($\times 2$), 41.2, 27.0, 15.7.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $C_{27}H_{28}N_3O$ $[M+H]^+$ 410.2227, found 410.2216.

***cis*-2-Benzyl-1',2'-dimethyl-3-phenyl-1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[benzo[*c*]azepine-4,4'-imidazol]-5'(1'*H*)-one 4b**



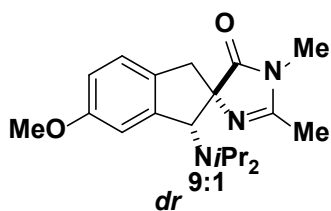
Yield 90 mg (0.22 mmol, 73%). R_f = 0.19 (SiO_2 , hexane/EtOAc, 1/1), colorless foam.

1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 7.45–7.07 (m, 13H), 6.99–6.77 (m, 1H), 4.24 (br d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (br s, 1H), 3.83 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.63–3.44 (m, 2H), 3.21 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.96 (s, 3H).

$^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (176 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 184.7, 160.7, 140.1, 138.8, 137.6, 129.9, 129.7, 129.5 ($\times 2$), 129.3, 128.8 ($\times 2$), 128.3 ($\times 2$), 127.7, 127.6, 127.2 ($\times 2$), 127.1, 126.8, 75.4, 57.2 (br), 40.6 (br), 26.1, 15.2. One carbon signal too broad to be determined (ca. 68 ppm based on HSQC correlation).

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $C_{27}H_{28}N_3O$ $[M+H]^+$ 410.2227, found 410.2229.

***cis*-1'-Diisopropylamino-6'-methoxy-1,2-dimethyl-1',3'-dihydrospiro[imidazole-4,2'-inden]-5(1'*H*)-one 3f**



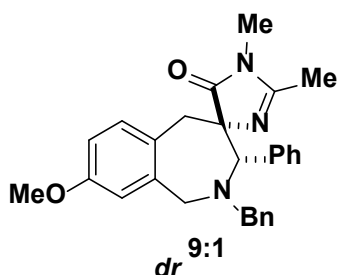
Yield 70 mg (0.20 mmol, 68%). R_f = 0.20 (SiO_2 , EtOAc), colorless oil.

1H NMR (800 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 7.05 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.20–3.13 (m, 3H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 2.79 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 1.19–0.65 (m, 12H); δ (for *trans* isomer) = 7.10 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.28 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.20–3.13 (m, 2H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.83 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.19–0.65 (m, 12H).

$^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 185.2, 159.6, 159.2, 144.9, 130.8, 125.4, 113.6, 111.0, 83.4, 71.6, 55.6, 48.9 (br), 43.2 (br), 40.0, 26.6, 24.6 (br, $\times 2$), 23.1 (br, $\times 2$), 16.0; δ (for *trans* isomer) = 182.6, 159.1, 159.0, 144.2, 132.6, 125.4, 114.0, 111.5, 81.9, 72.2, 55.6, 39.7, 26.4, 15.6. – Broad signals could not be identified for minor isomer.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for $C_{20}H_{30}N_3O_2$ $[M+H]^+$ 344.2227, found 344.2231.

cis-2-Benzyl-8-methoxy-1',2'-dimethyl-3-phenyl-1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[benzo[c]azepine-4,4'-imidazol]-5'(1'H)-one 4g



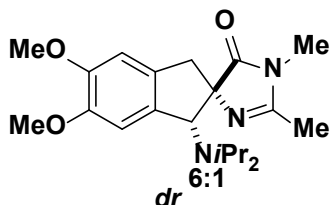
Yield 72 mg (0.16 mmol, 55%). R_f = 0.31 (SiO₂, hexane/EtOAc, 1/1), colorless oil.

¹H NMR (800 MHz, CDCl₃, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 7.35 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.18–7.13 (m, 3H), 7.06 (br d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (br d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (br s, 1H), 3.98 (br s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.60 (br d, J = 14.2 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (br s, 1H), 3.25 (d, J = 14.2 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (br s, 1H), 2.70 (br s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (201 MHz, CDCl₃, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 184.7, 160.6, 158.7, 140.1, 138.8, 130.6, 129.6, 129.5 ($\times 2$), 128.8 ($\times 2$), 128.4, 128.3 ($\times 2$), 127.7, 127.3 ($\times 2$), 126.9, 115.5, 112.1, 75.5 (br), 57.1 (br), 55.4, 39.9 (br), 29.8 (br), 26.1, 15.2. *One carbon signal too broad to be determined.*

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for C₂₈H₃₀N₃O₂ [M+H⁺] 440.2333, found 440.2330.

cis-1'-Diisopropylamino-5',6'-dimethoxy-1,2-dimethyl-1',3'-dihydrospiro[imidazole-4,2'-inden]-5(1H)-one 3h



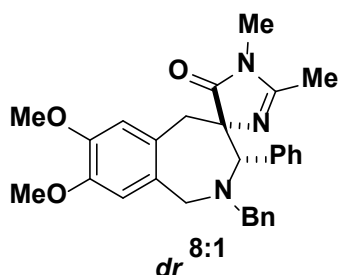
Yield 66 mg (0.18 mmol, 59%). R_f = 0.16 (SiO₂, EtOAc), colorless oil.

¹H NMR (800 MHz, CDCl₃, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 6.84 (s, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.18 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.19–3.13 (m, 2H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 2.81 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 1.11 (br s, 6H), 0.97–0.67 (br m, 6H); δ (for *trans* isomer) = 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.34 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.19–3.13 (m, 2H), 3.03 (s, 3H), 2.79 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.11 (br s, 6H), 0.97–0.67 (br m, 6H);

¹³C{¹H} NMR (201 MHz, CDCl₃, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 185.4, 159.6, 149.3, 148.5, 134.7, 130.5, 108.7, 108.1, 82.9, 71.8, 56.2, 56.2, 48.6 (br), 43.3 (br), 40.6, 29.8, 26.6, 24.6 (br, $\times 2$), 23.2 (br, $\times 2$), 16.0.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for C₂₁H₃₂N₃O₃ [M+H⁺] 374.2438, found 374.2432.

cis-2-Benzyl-7,8-dimethoxy-1',2'-dimethyl-3-phenyl-1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[benzo[c]azepine-4,4'-imidazol]-5'(1'H)-one 4i



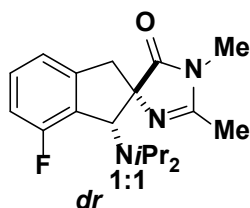
Yield 65 mg (0.14 mmol, 46%). R_f = 0.64 (SiO₂, EtOAc), colorless oil.

¹H NMR (800 MHz, CDCl₃, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 7.35 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18–7.12 (m, 3H), 6.67 (br s, 1H), 6.45 (br s, 1H), 4.12 (br s, 1H), 4.02 (br s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.84–3.75 (m, 4H), 3.61 (br d, J = 14.2 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (br s, 1H), 3.26 (d, J = 14.2 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (201 MHz, CDCl₃, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 184.6, 160.6, 147.9, 147.5, 140.2, 138.8, 129.6, 129.5 ($\times 2$), 128.7 ($\times 2$), 128.4, 128.2 ($\times 2$), 127.7, 127.2 ($\times 2$), 126.8, 113.5, 113.1, 75.6, 57.1 (br), 56.2 (br), 56.1, 56.0, 40.4 (br), 29.8 (br), 26.1, 15.2.

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for C₂₉H₃₂N₃O₃ [M+H⁺] 470.2430, found 470.2438.

1'-Diisopropylamino-1,2-dimethyl-7'-fluoro-1',3'-dihydrospiro[imidazole-4,2'-inden]-5(1H)-one 3j



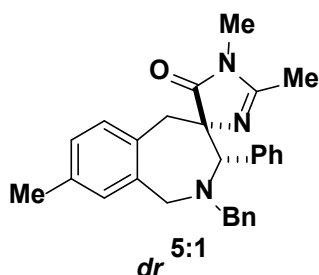
Yield 73 mg (0.22 mmol, 74%). R_f = 0.30 (SiO₂, EtOAc), colorless oil.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 300K): δ (for *both* isomers, without attribution) = 7.25–7.11 (m, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.5H), 6.93 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.5H), 6.83 (td, J = 8.4, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (s, 0.5H), 4.65 (s, 0.5H), 3.50 (d, J = 18.0 Hz, 0.5H), 3.21 (hept, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (s, 1H), 3.05 (s, 1.5H), 3.03 (s, 1.5H), 2.74 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 0.5H), 2.66 (hept, J = 6.5 Hz, 0.5H), 2.23 (s, 1.5H), 2.20 (s, 1.5H), 1.26–0.62 (br m, 12H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 300K): δ (for *both* isomers, without attribution) = 186.0, 180.9, 159.9 (d, J = 249.7 Hz, for both isomers), 159.8, 159.2, 144.6 (d, J = 5.4 Hz), 143.0 (d, J = 5.3 Hz), 130.2 (d, J = 7.7 Hz), 129.7 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 129.4 (d, J = 13.9 Hz), 128.8 (d, J = 16.6 Hz), 120.7 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 120.5 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 114.2 (d, J = 16.8 Hz), 113.9 (d, J = 16.0 Hz), 81.2, 80.3, 69.8, 69.0, 48.7, 44.1, 41.4, 40.9, 26.5 (for both isomers), 23.8, 22.5, 21.8³, 21.7⁵, 21.2, 15.9, 15.7. *Isopropyl signals too broad to be determined for second isomer.*

HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for C₁₉H₂₇FN₃O [M+H⁺] 332.2133, found 332.2137.

cis-2-Benzyl-1',2',8-trimethyl-3-phenyl-1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[benzo[c]azepine-4,4'-imidazol]-5'(1'H)-one 4k



Yield 74 mg (0.17 mmol, 58%). R_f = 0.20 (SiO₂, EtOAc), colorless oil.

¹H NMR (800 MHz, CDCl₃, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 7.42–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.24 (m, 4H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.17–7.08 (m, 3H), 7.01 (br d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (br s, 1H), 6.84 (br d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (br s, 1H), 3.96 (br s, 1H), 3.80 (br d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.63–3.34 (m, 2H), 3.21 (d, J = 14.2 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (br s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H).

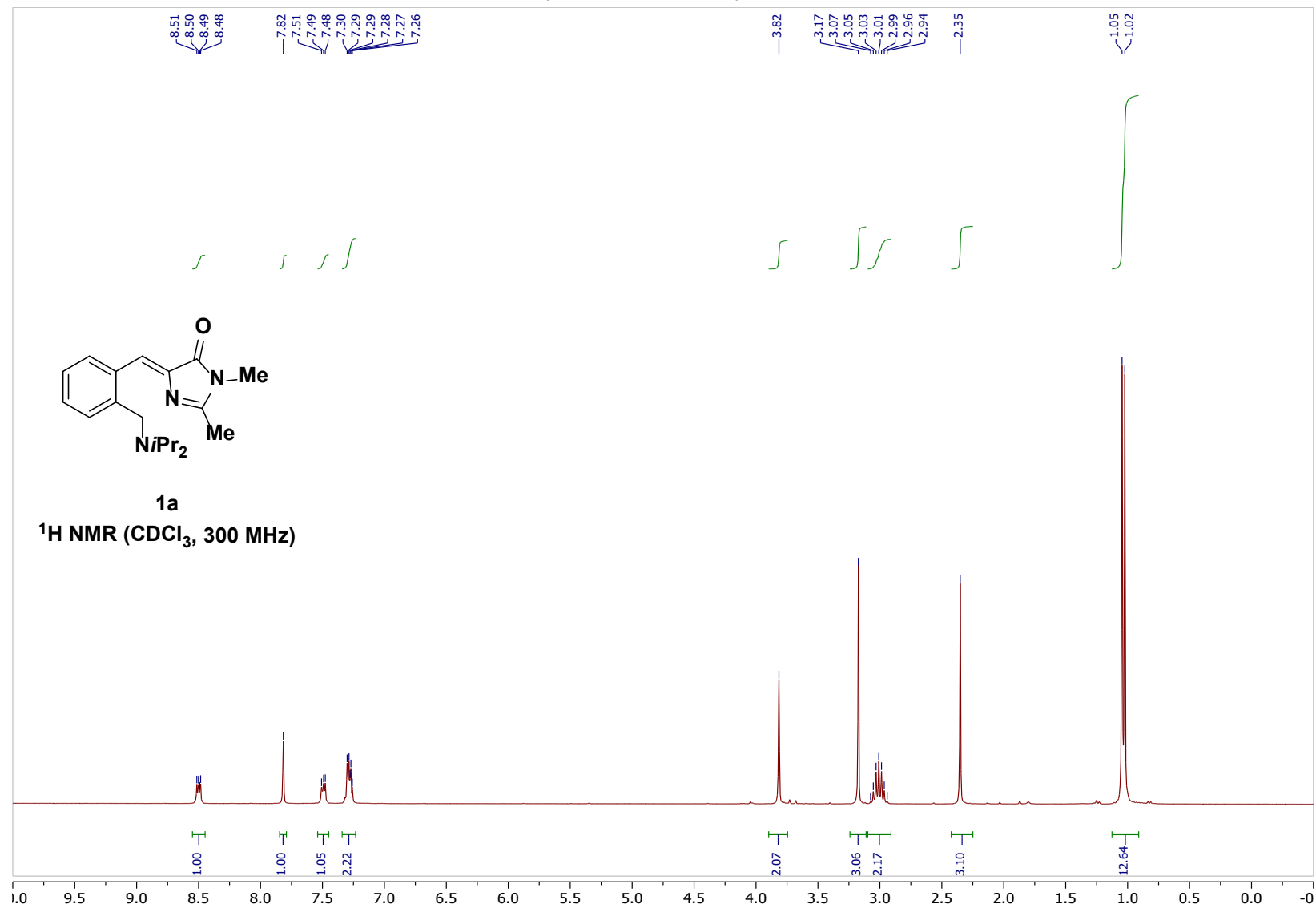
¹³C{¹H} NMR (201 MHz, CDCl₃, 300K): δ (for *cis* isomer) = 184.7, 160.6, 140.2, 138.9, 137.4, 137.1, 130.6, 129.6 ($\times 2$), 129.2, 128.8 ($\times 2$), 128.4, 128.2 ($\times 2$), 127.7², 127.6⁹, 127.2 ($\times 2$), 126.8, 75.5 (br), 57.1 (br), 40.7 (br), 29.8 (br), 26.1, 21.3, 15.2. One carbon signal too broad to be determined.

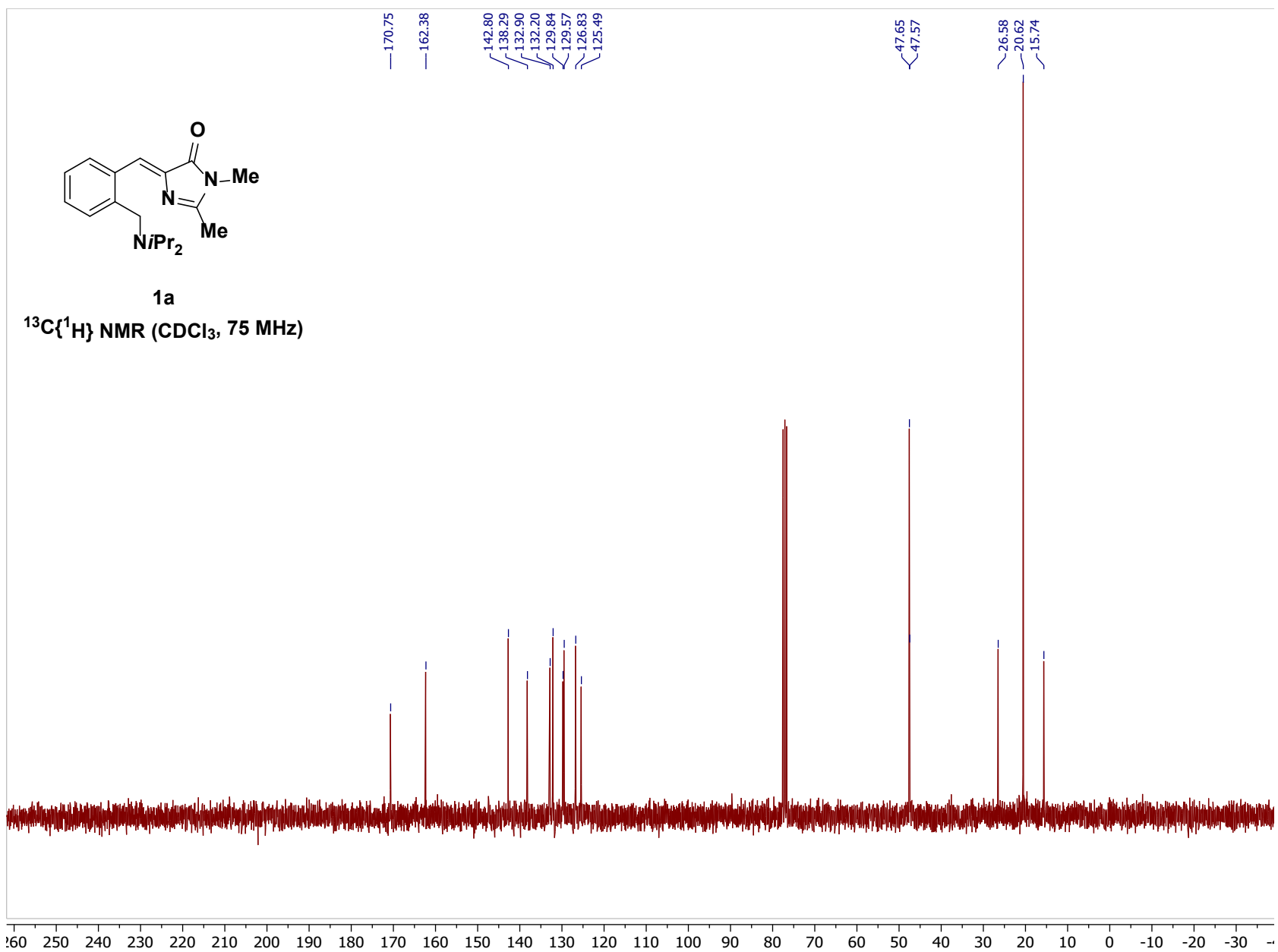
HRMS (ESI+) m/z : calcd for C₂₈H₃₀N₃O [M+H⁺] 424.2383, found 424.2379.

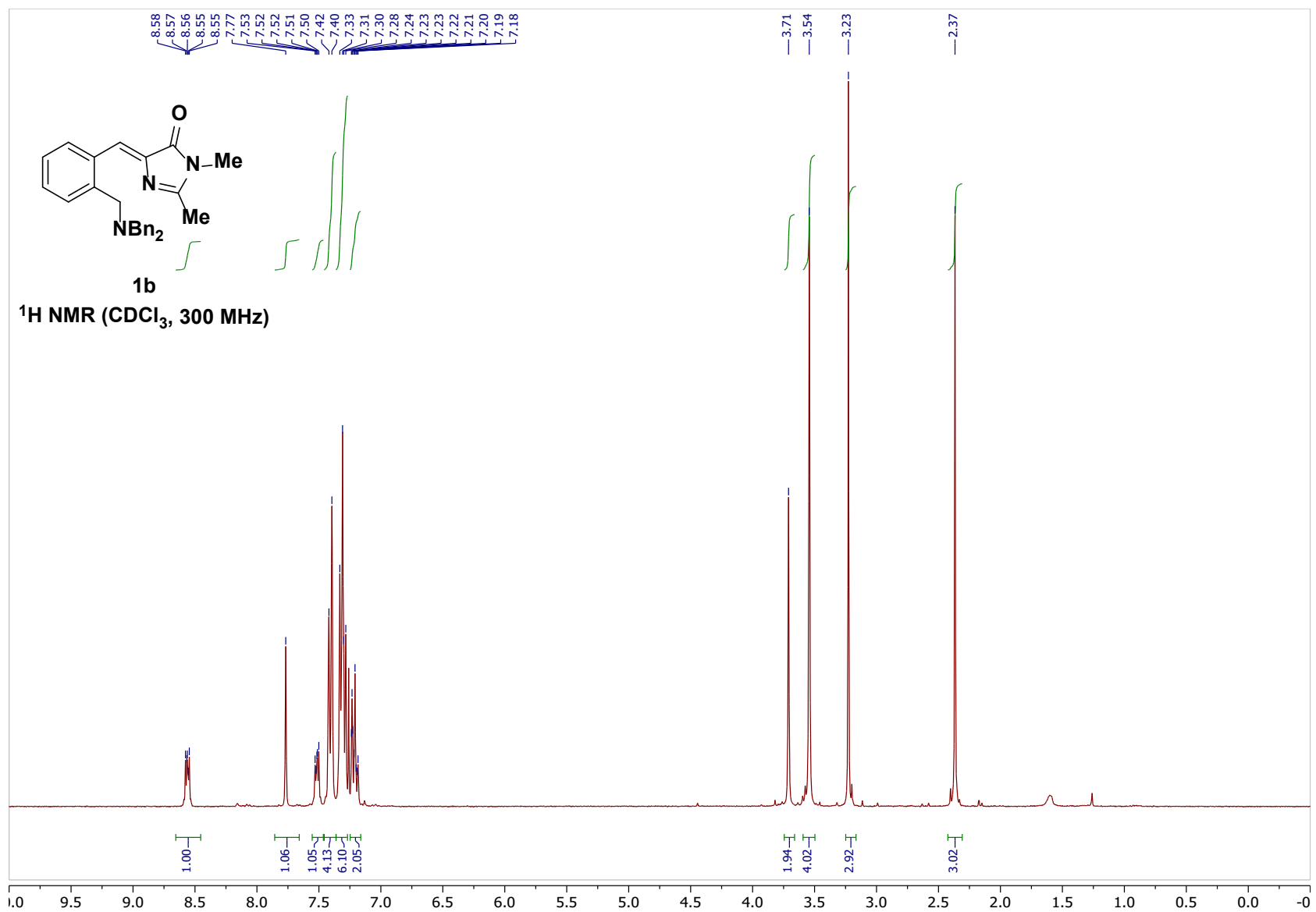
References

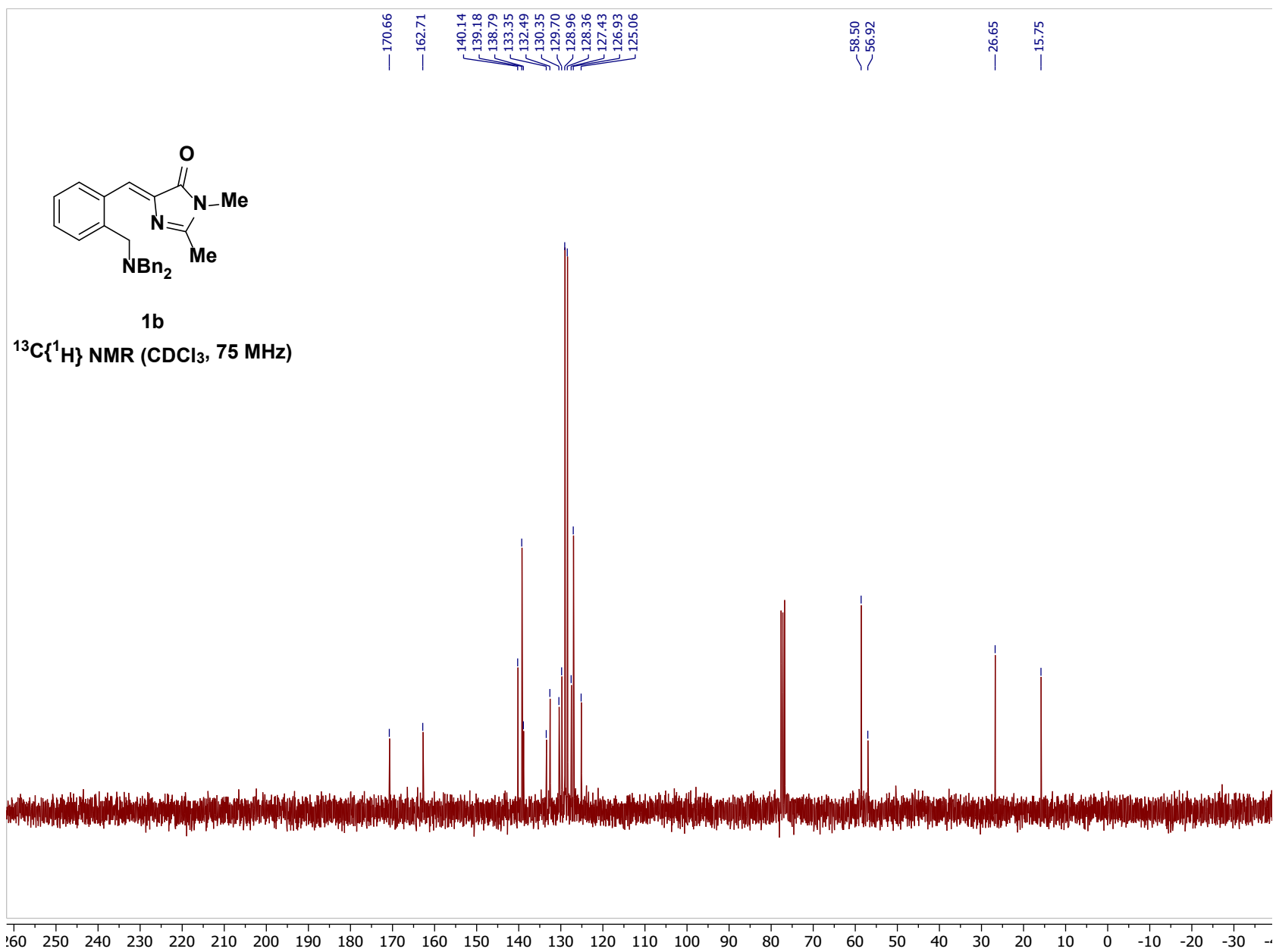
- S1. M. Alajarin, M. Marin-Luna and A. Vidala, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2011, **353**, 557; <https://doi.org/10.1002/adsc.201000812>.
S2. K. Mori, K. Kurihara and T. Akiyama, *Chem. Commun.*, 2014, **50**, 3729; <https://doi.org/10.1039/c4cc00894d>.
S3. K. Mori, K. Kurihara, S. Yabe, M. Yamanaka and T. Akiyama, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2014, **136**, 3744; <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja412706d>.
S4. J. Nagaki, T. Kawasaki-Takasuka and K. Mori, *Synlett*, 2024; <https://doi.org/10.1055/a-2287-9391>.
S5. A. P. Gorulya, A. V. Tverdokhlebov, A. A. Tolmachev, O. V. Shishkin and S. V. Shishkina, *Tetrahedron*, 2011, **67**, 1030; <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tet.2010.11.101>.

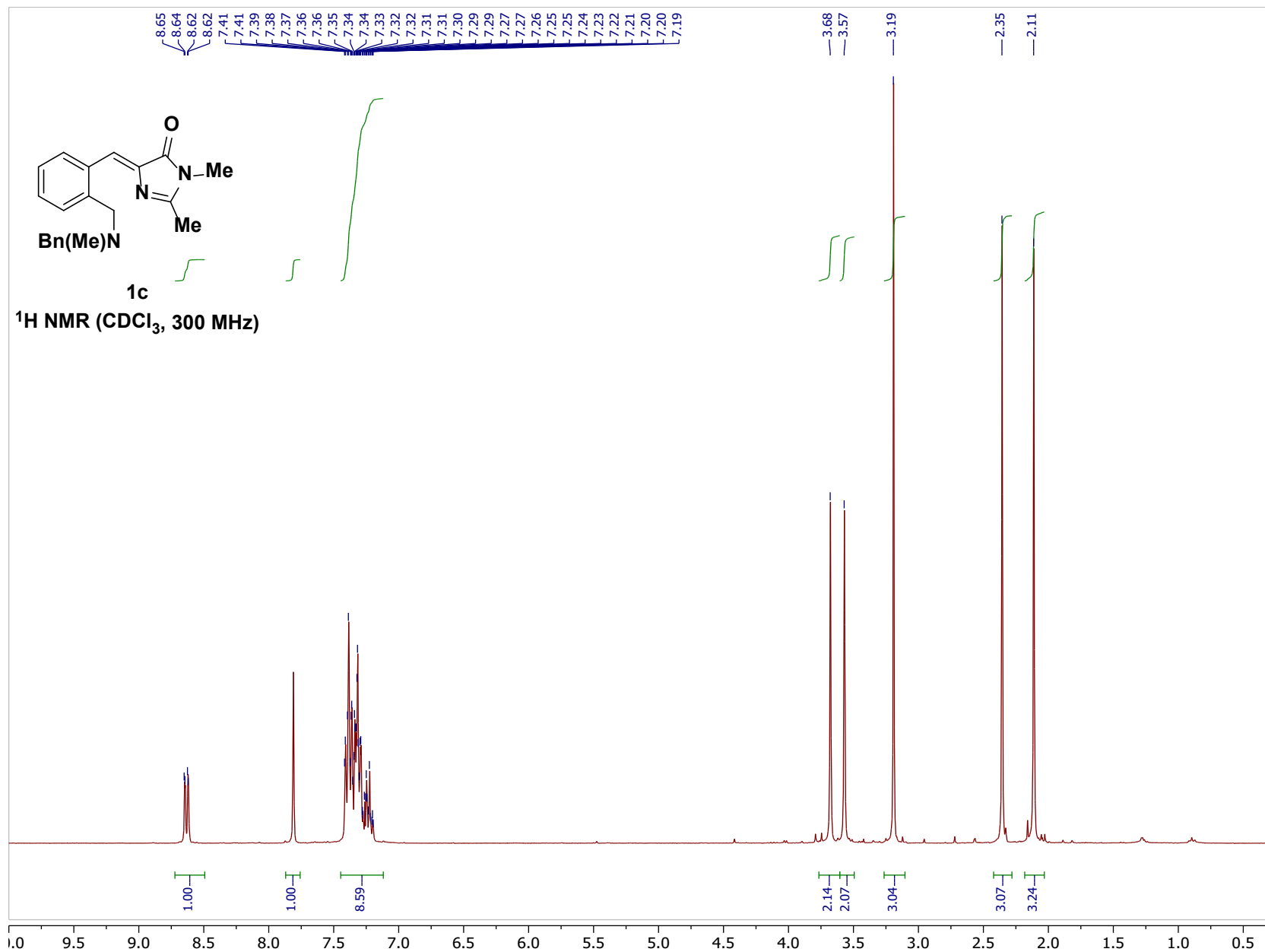
Copies of NMR spectra

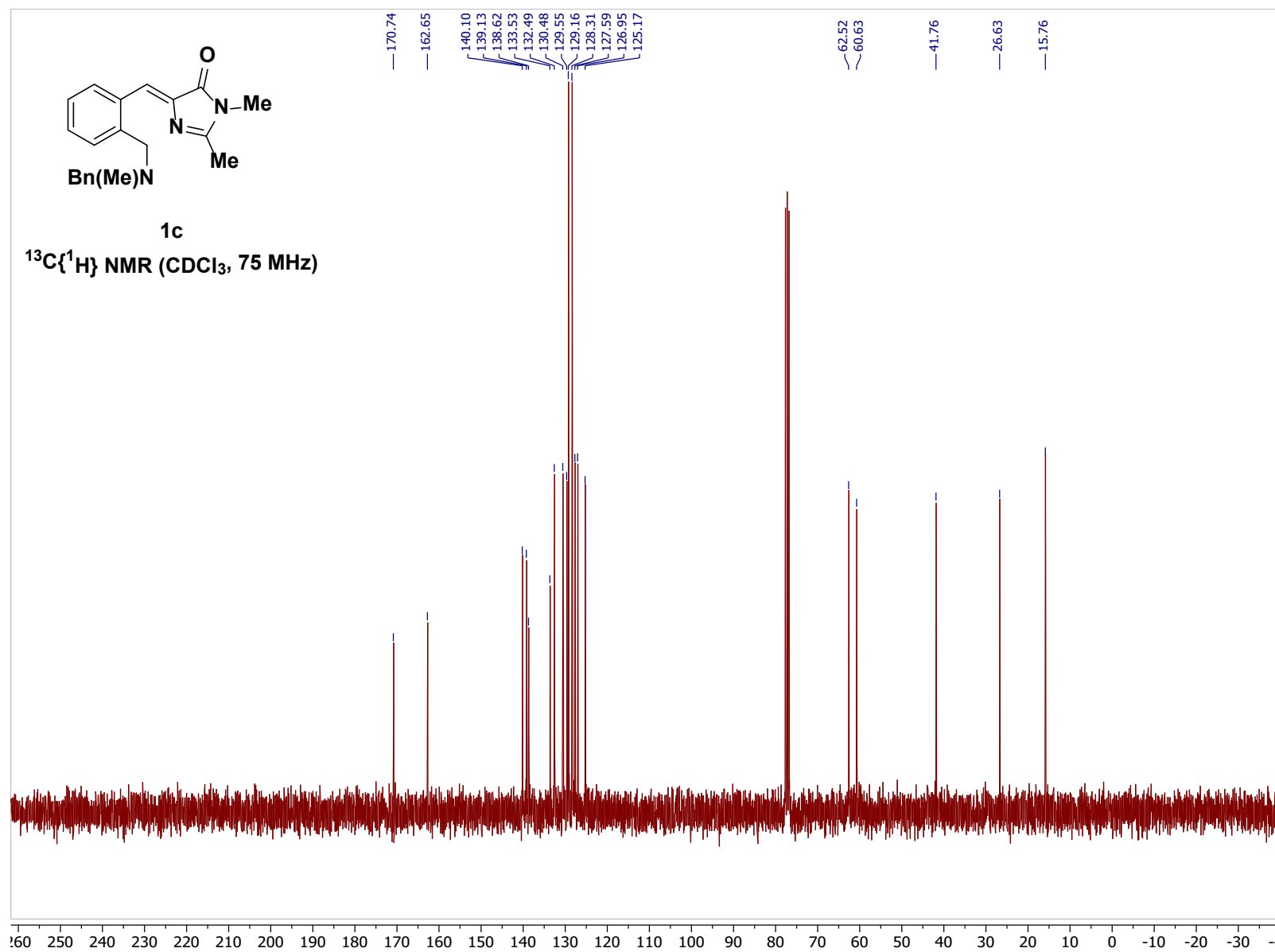


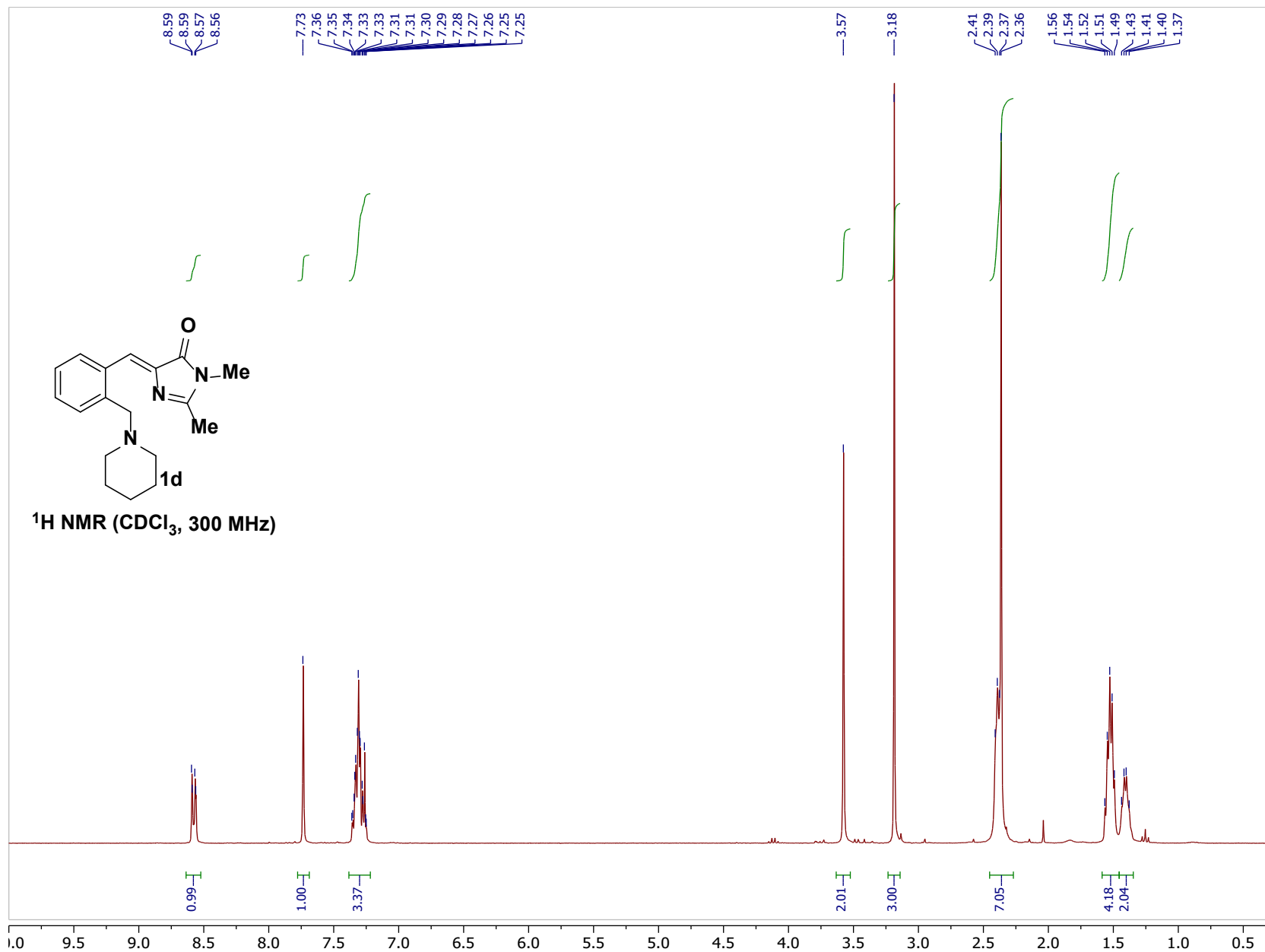


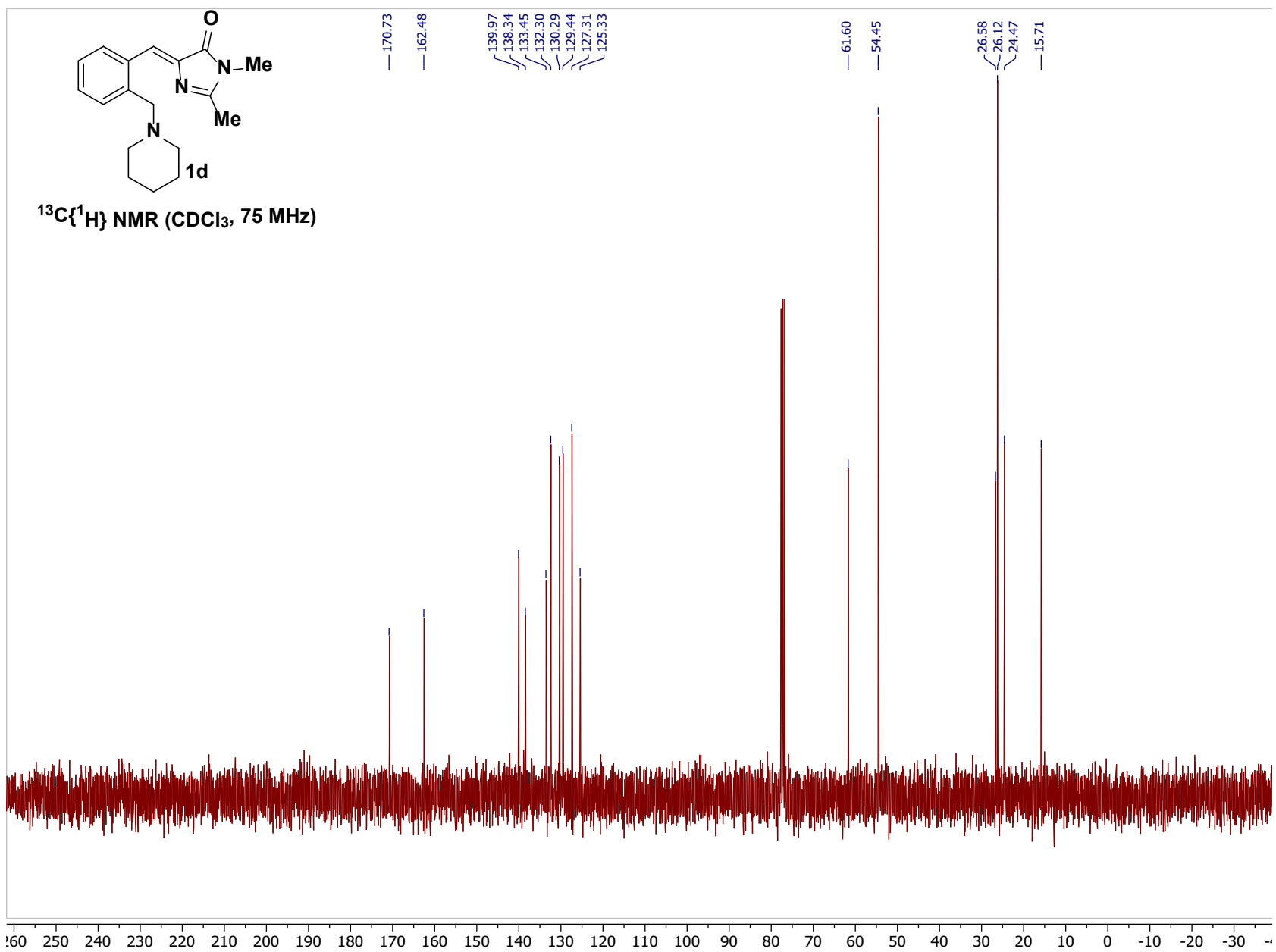


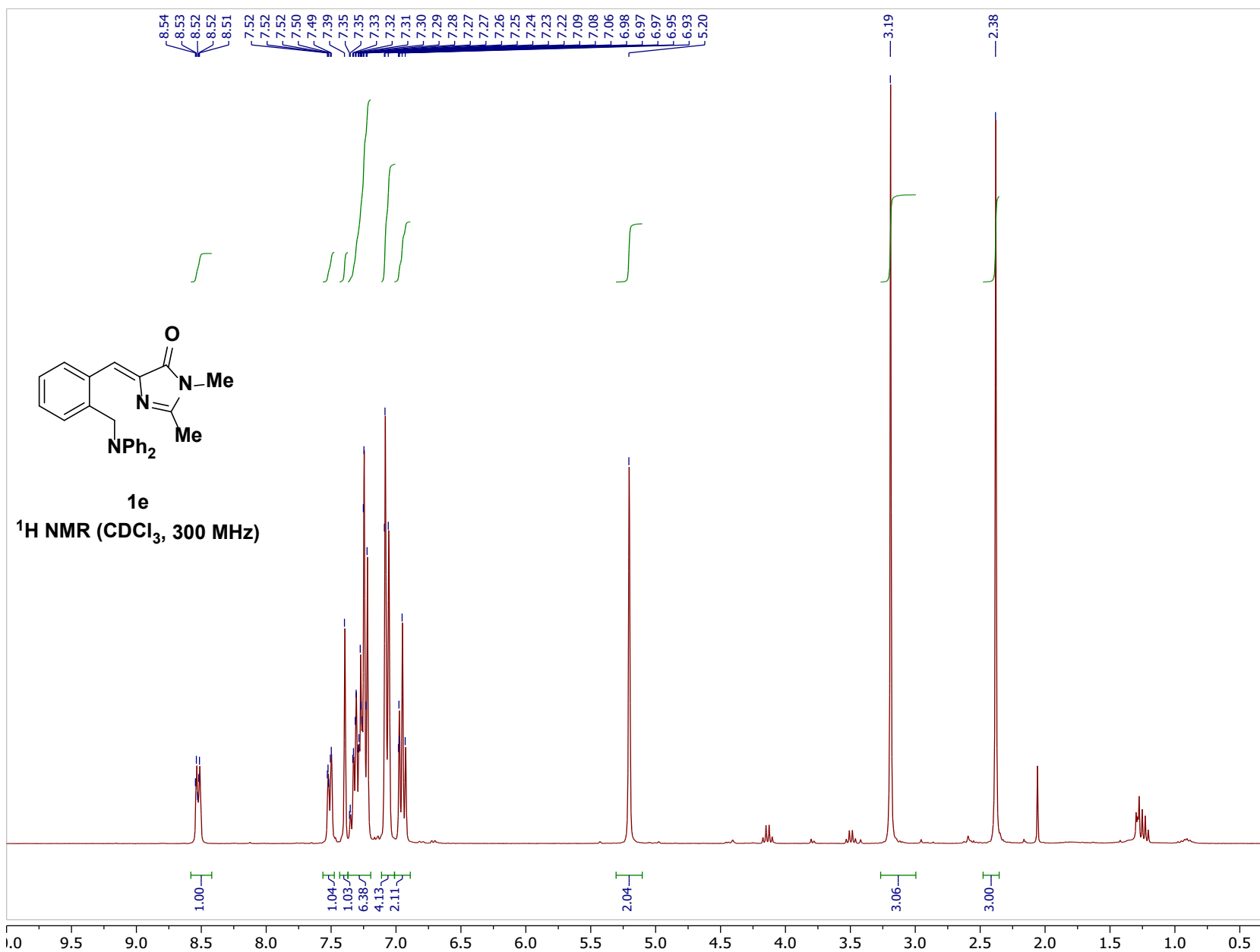


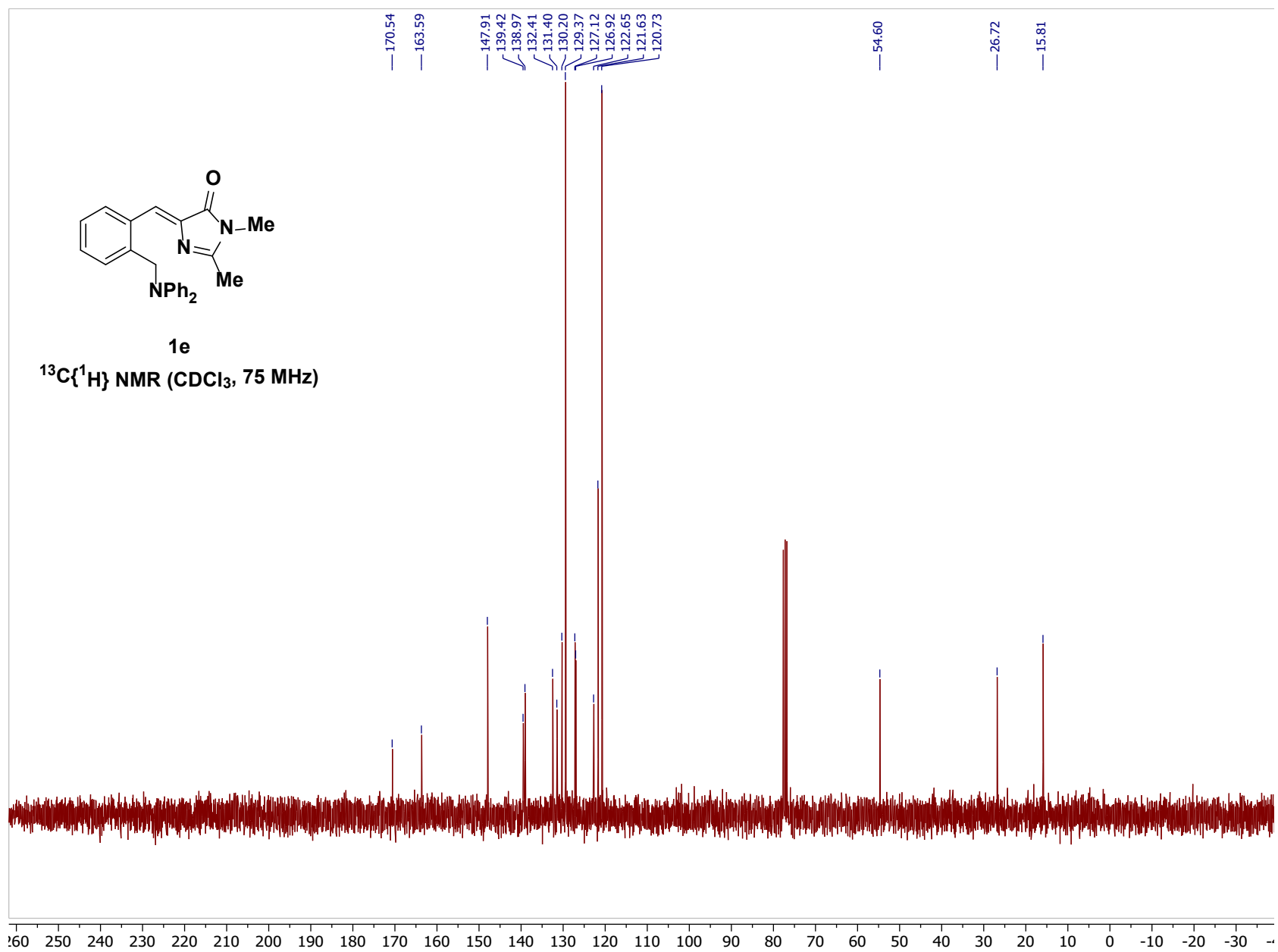


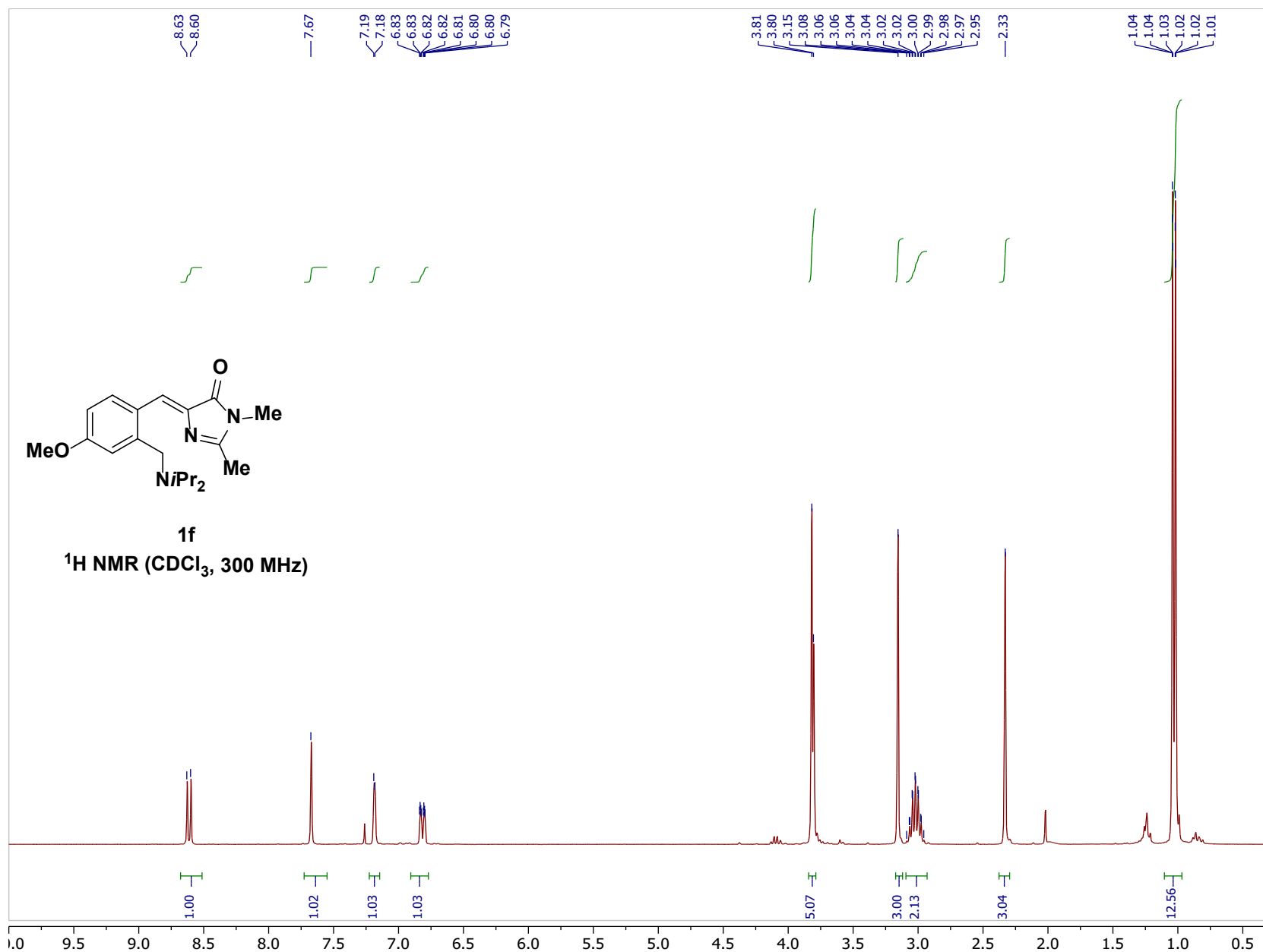


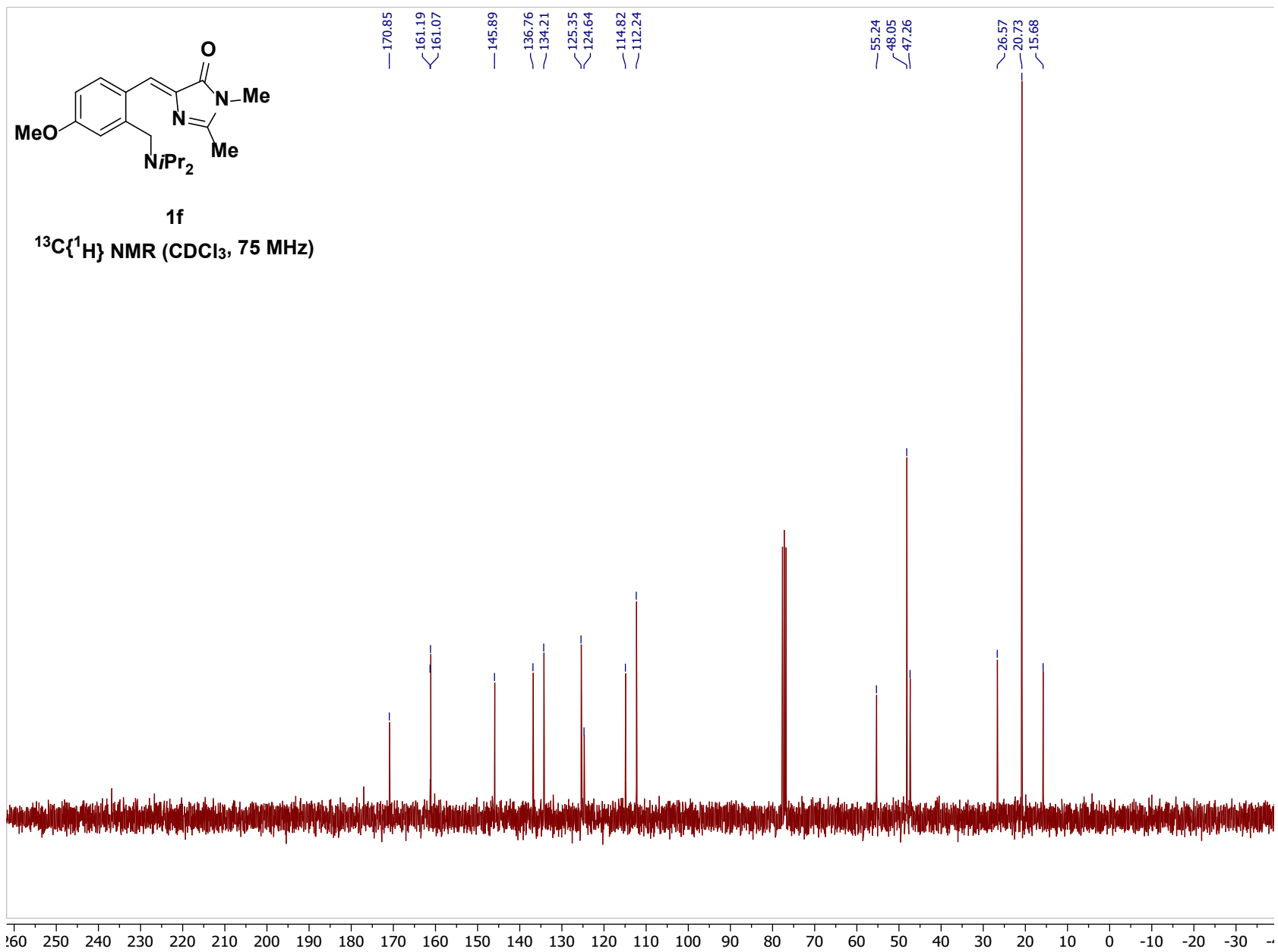


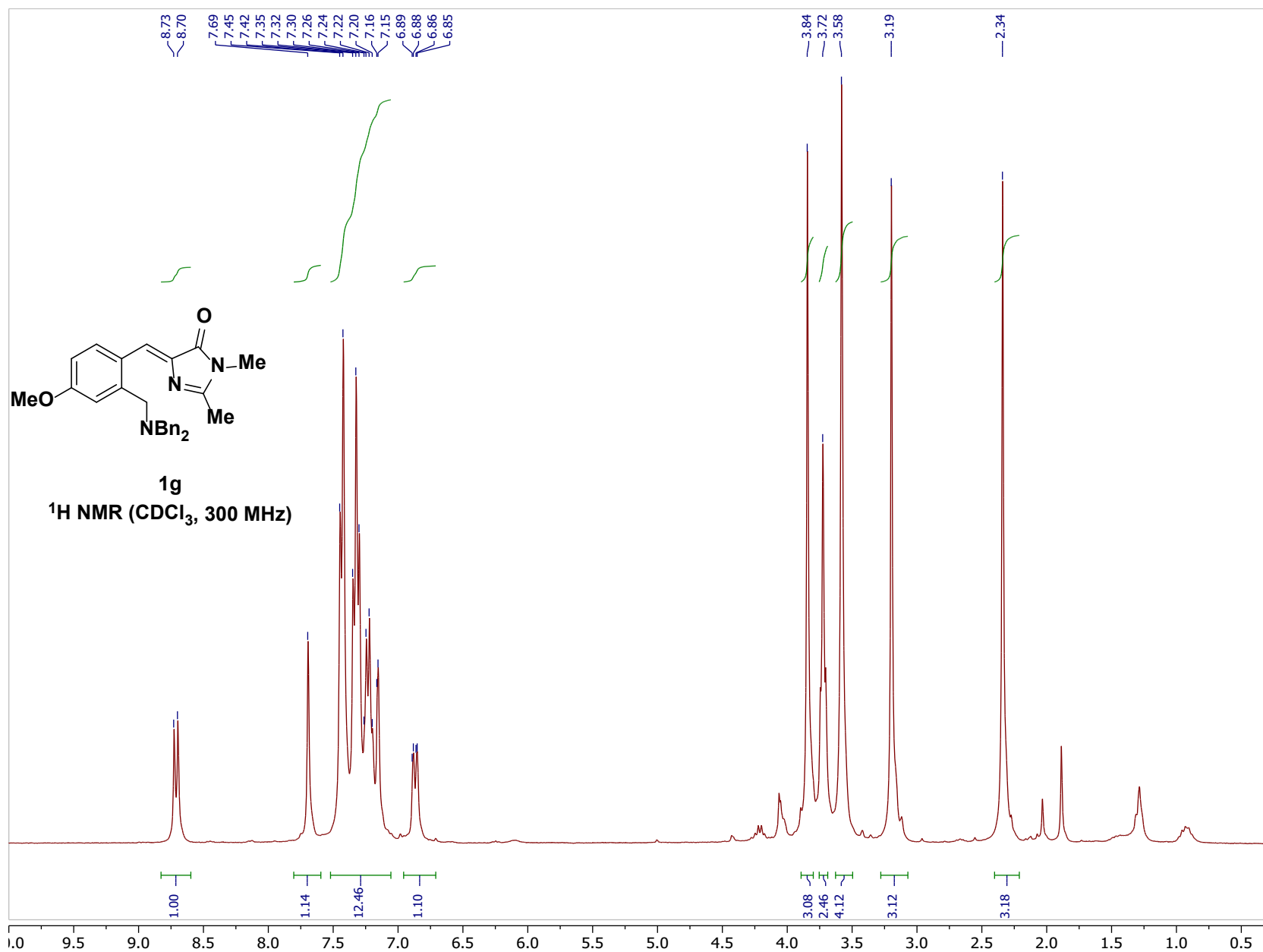


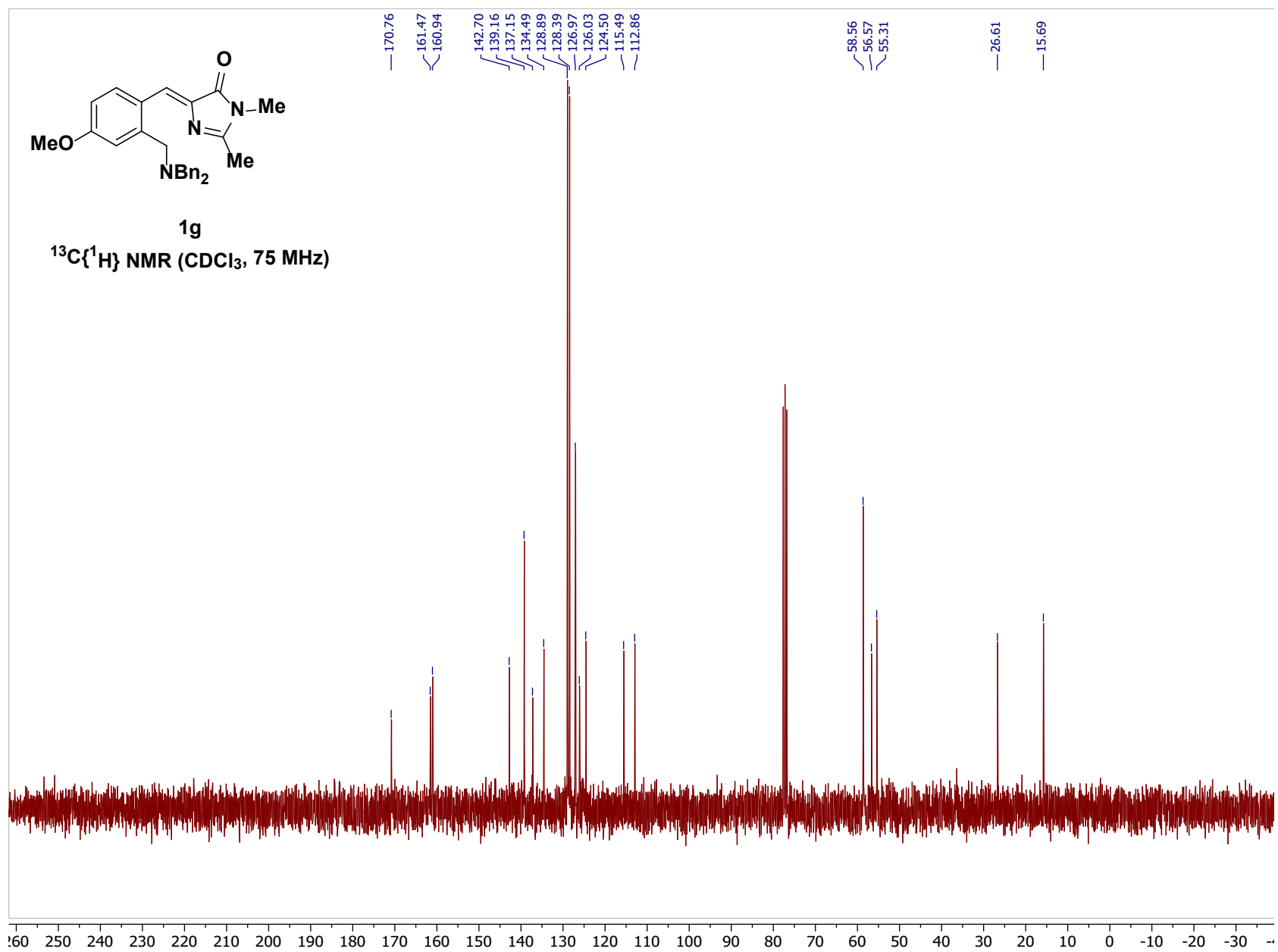


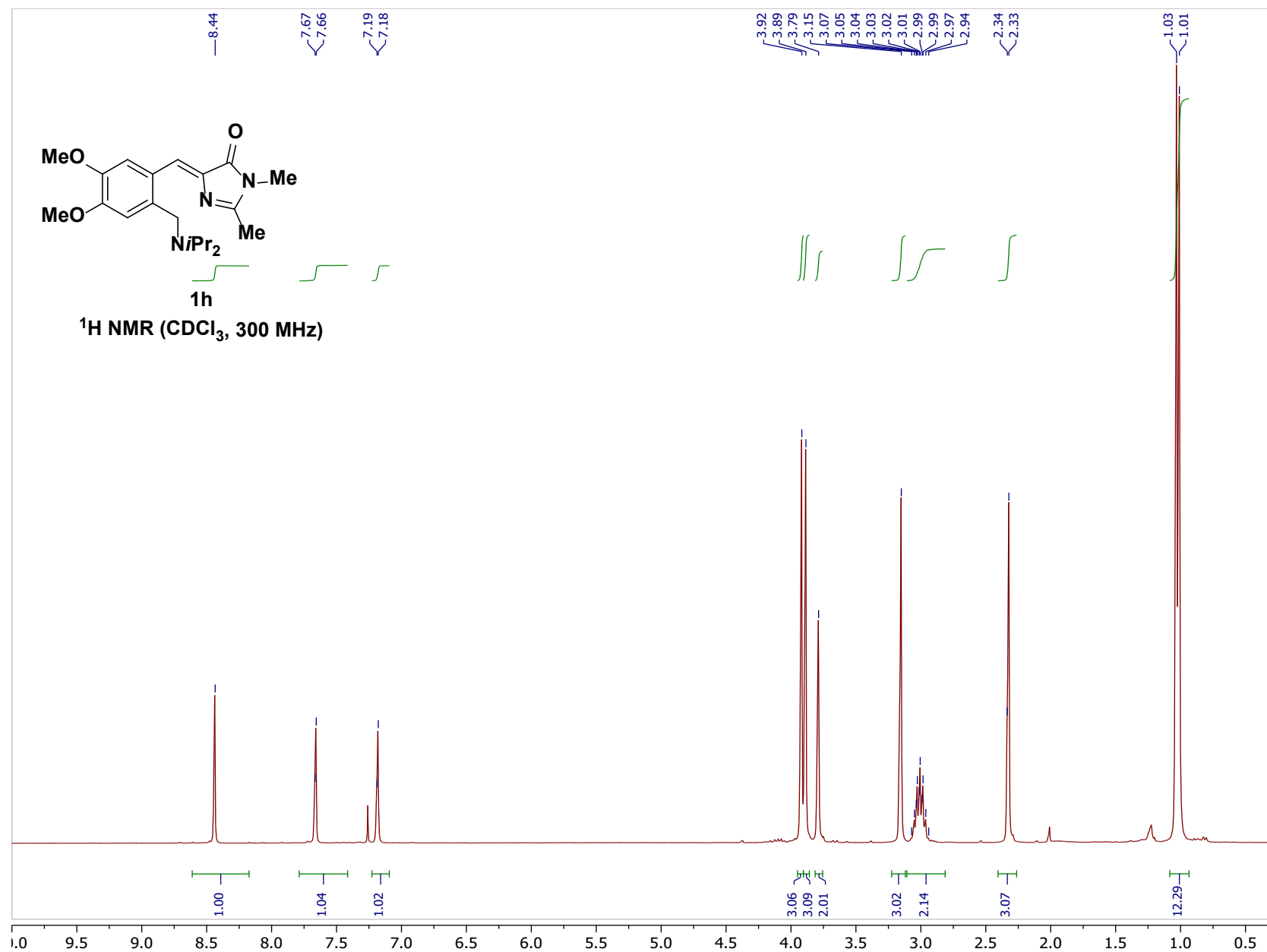


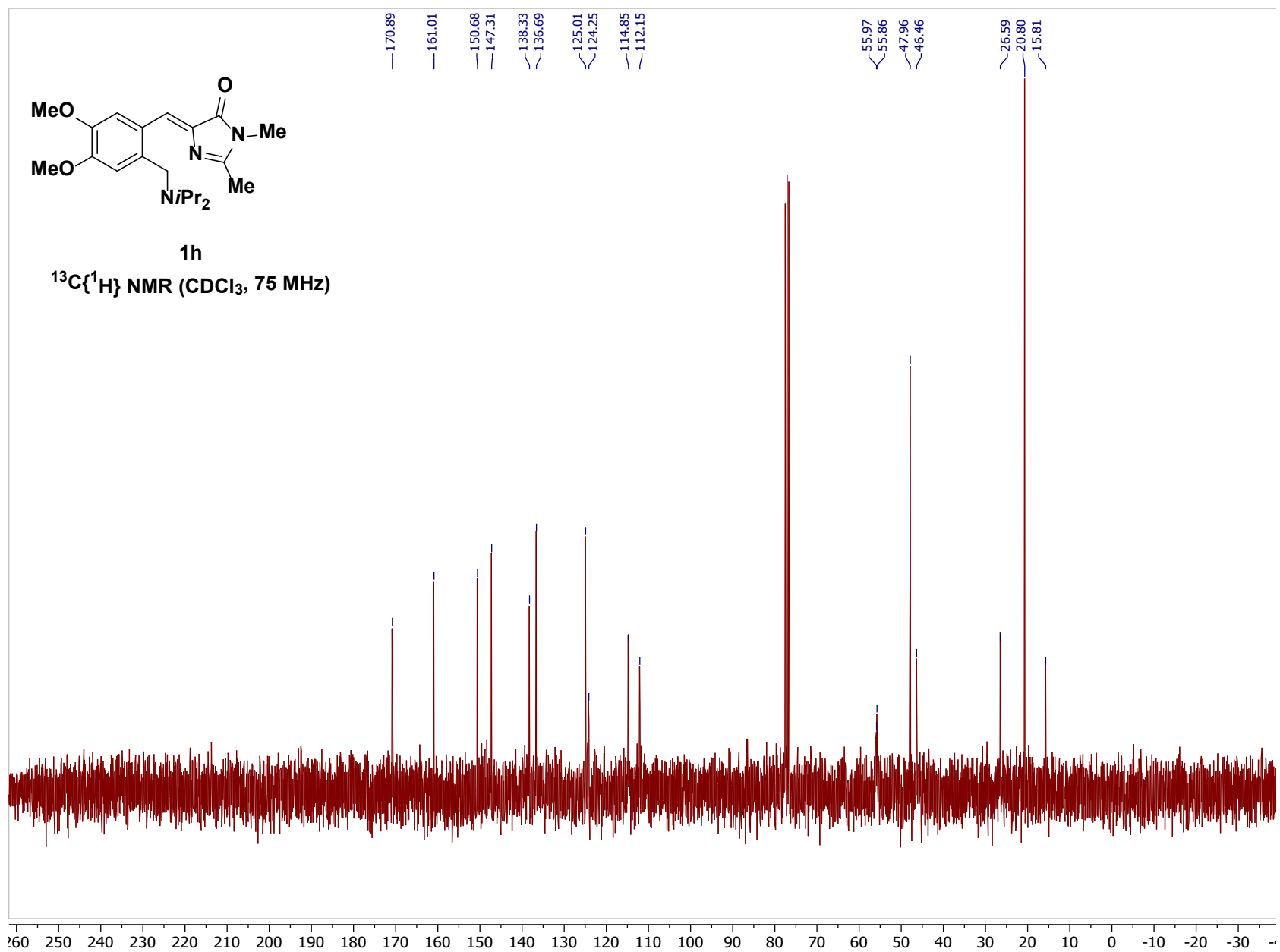


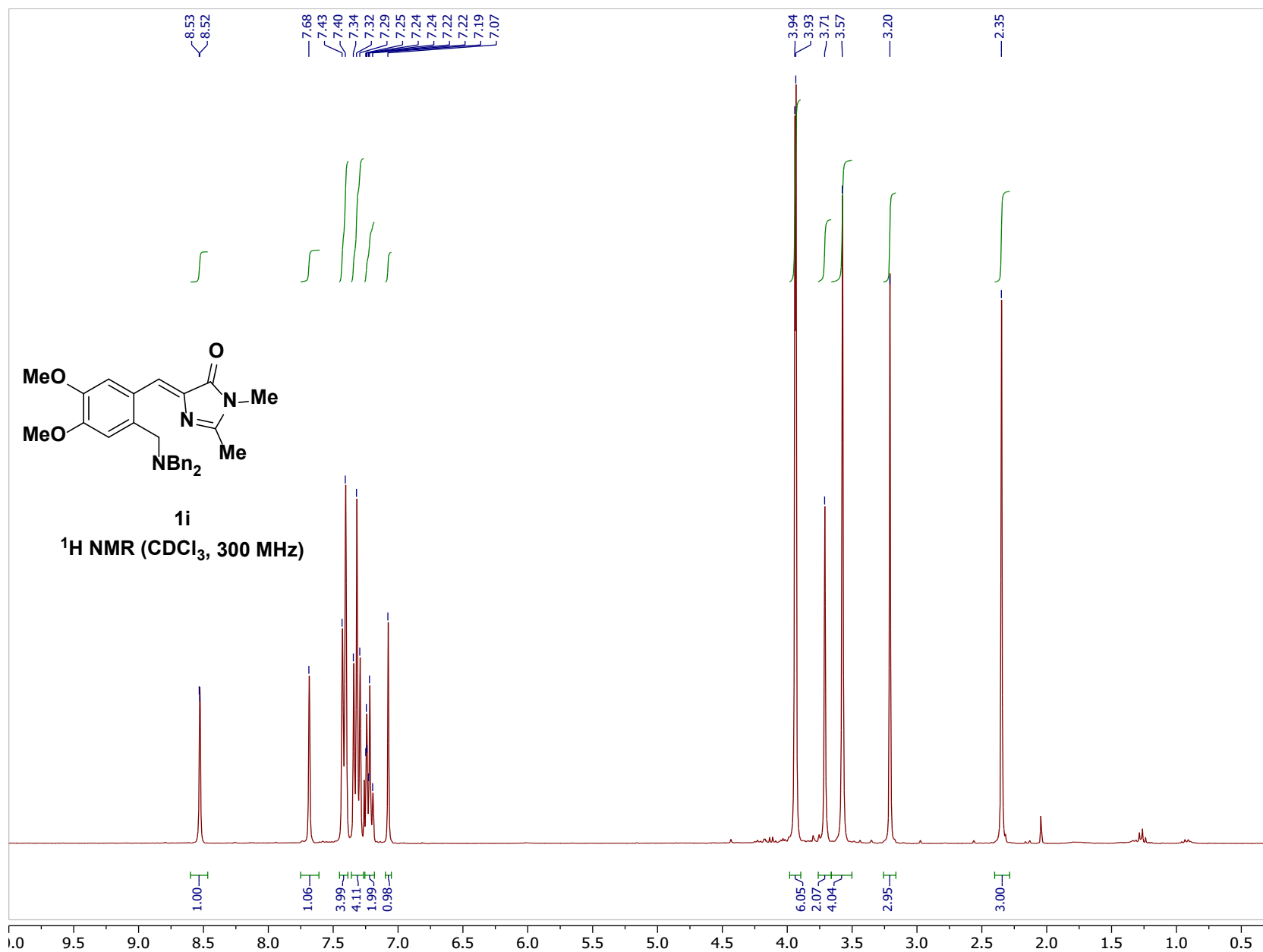


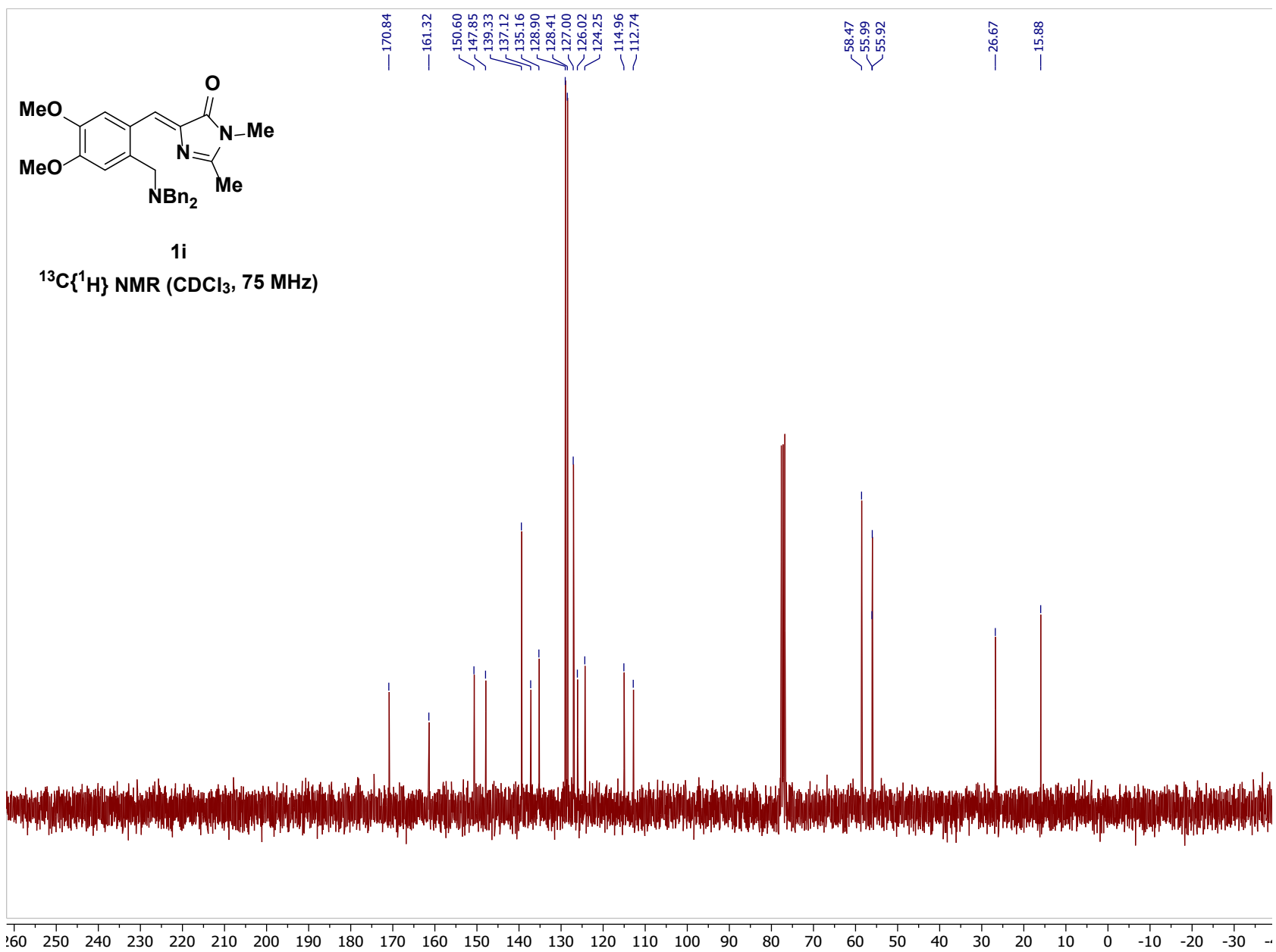


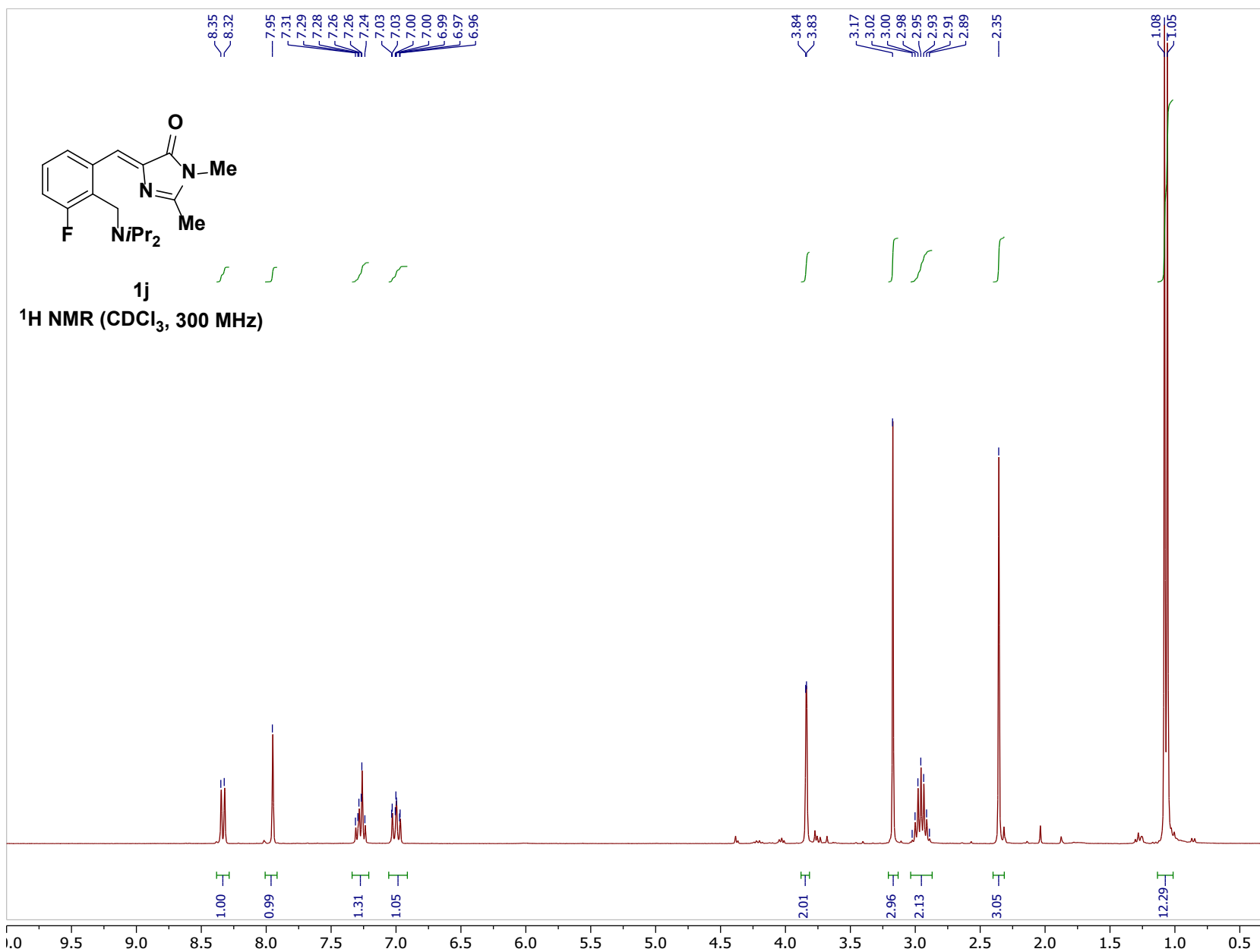


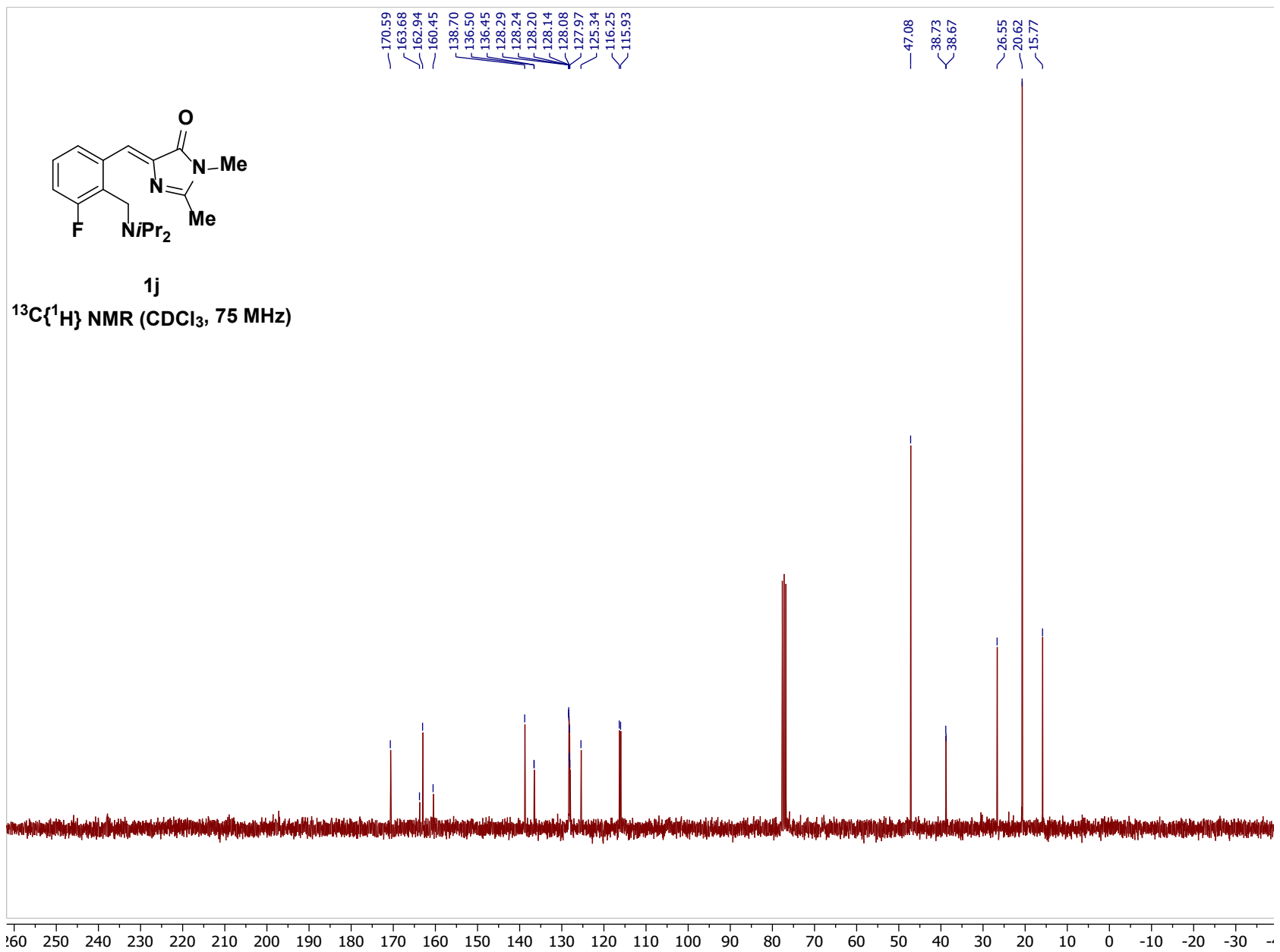


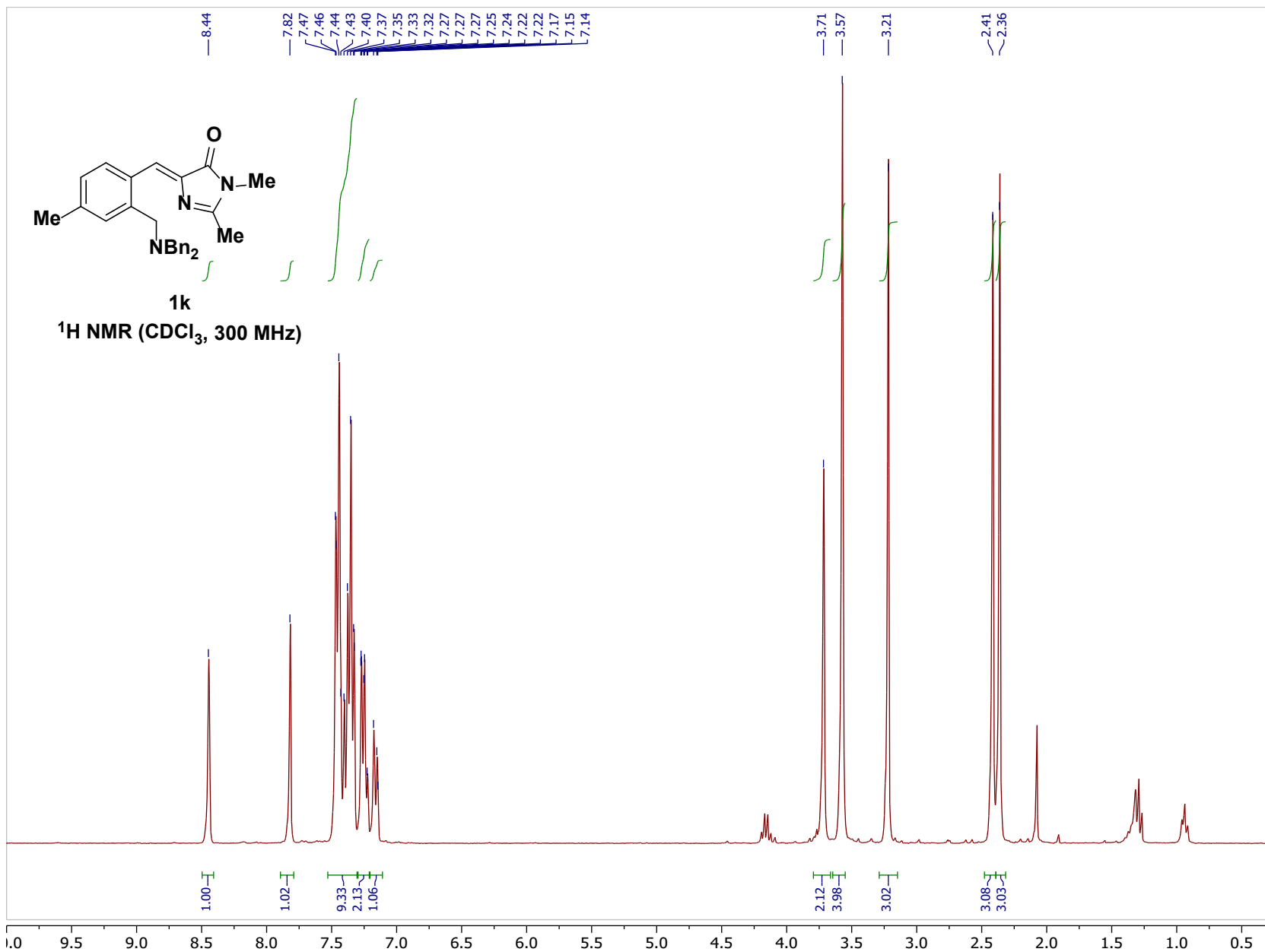


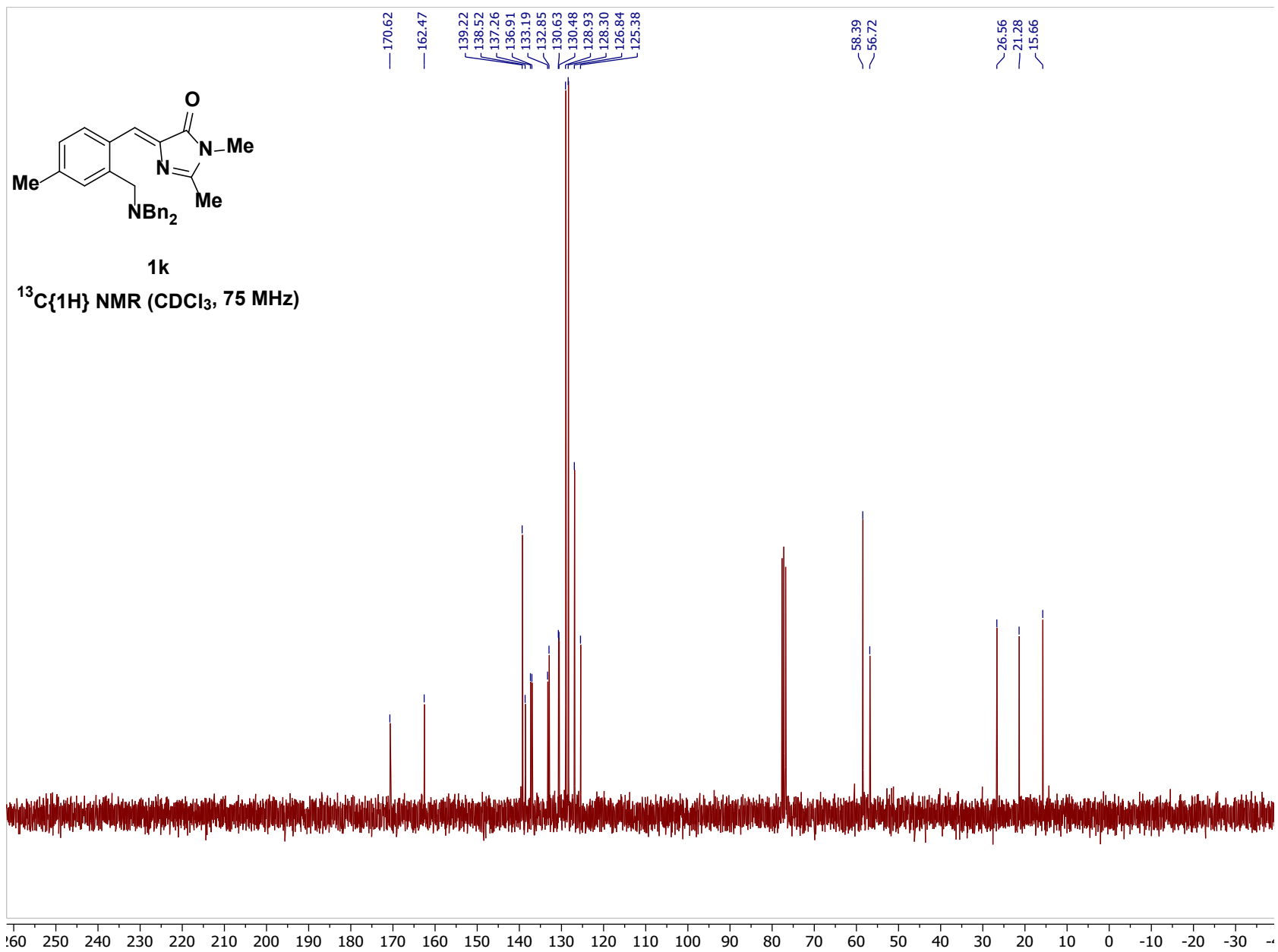


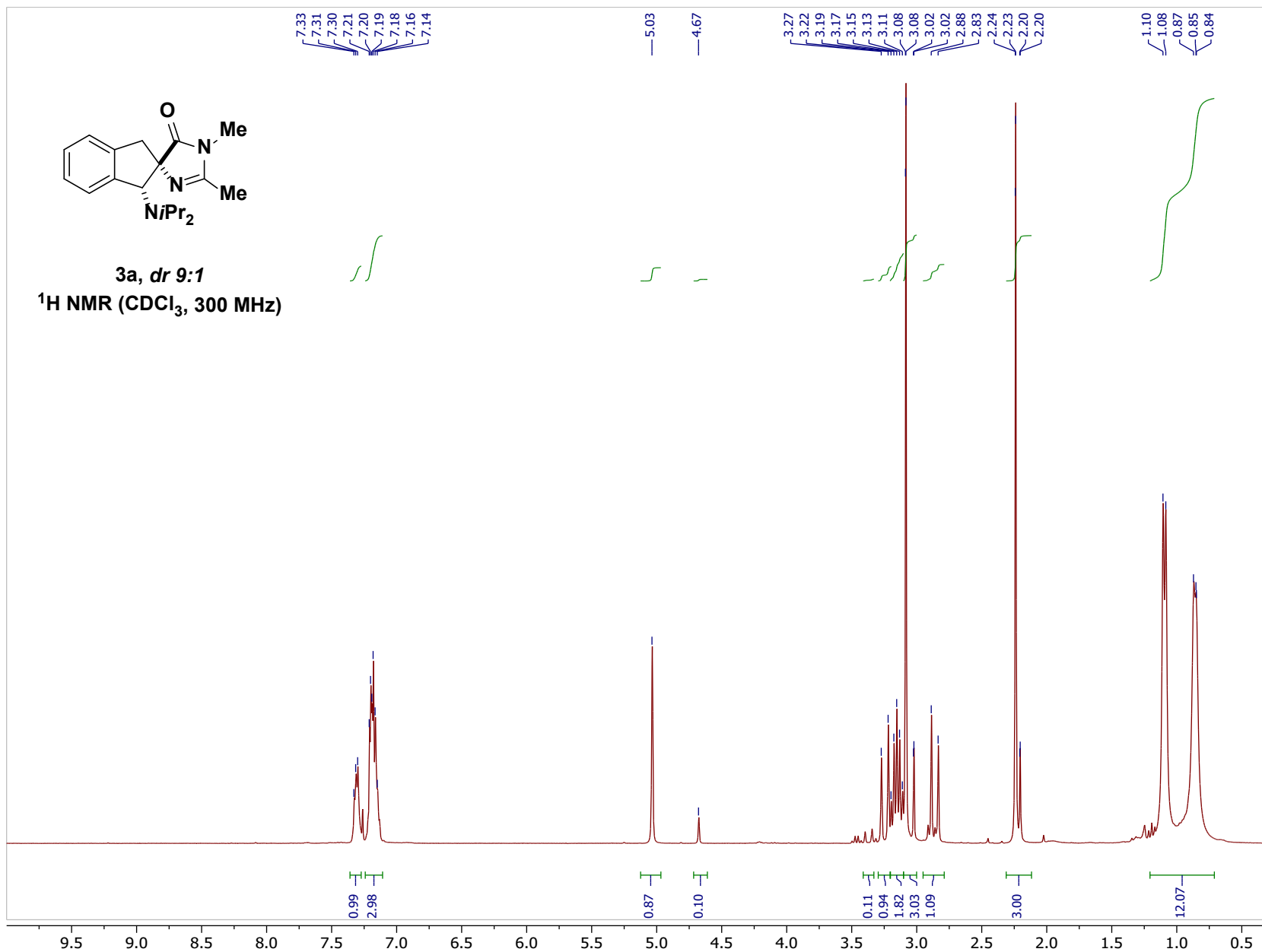


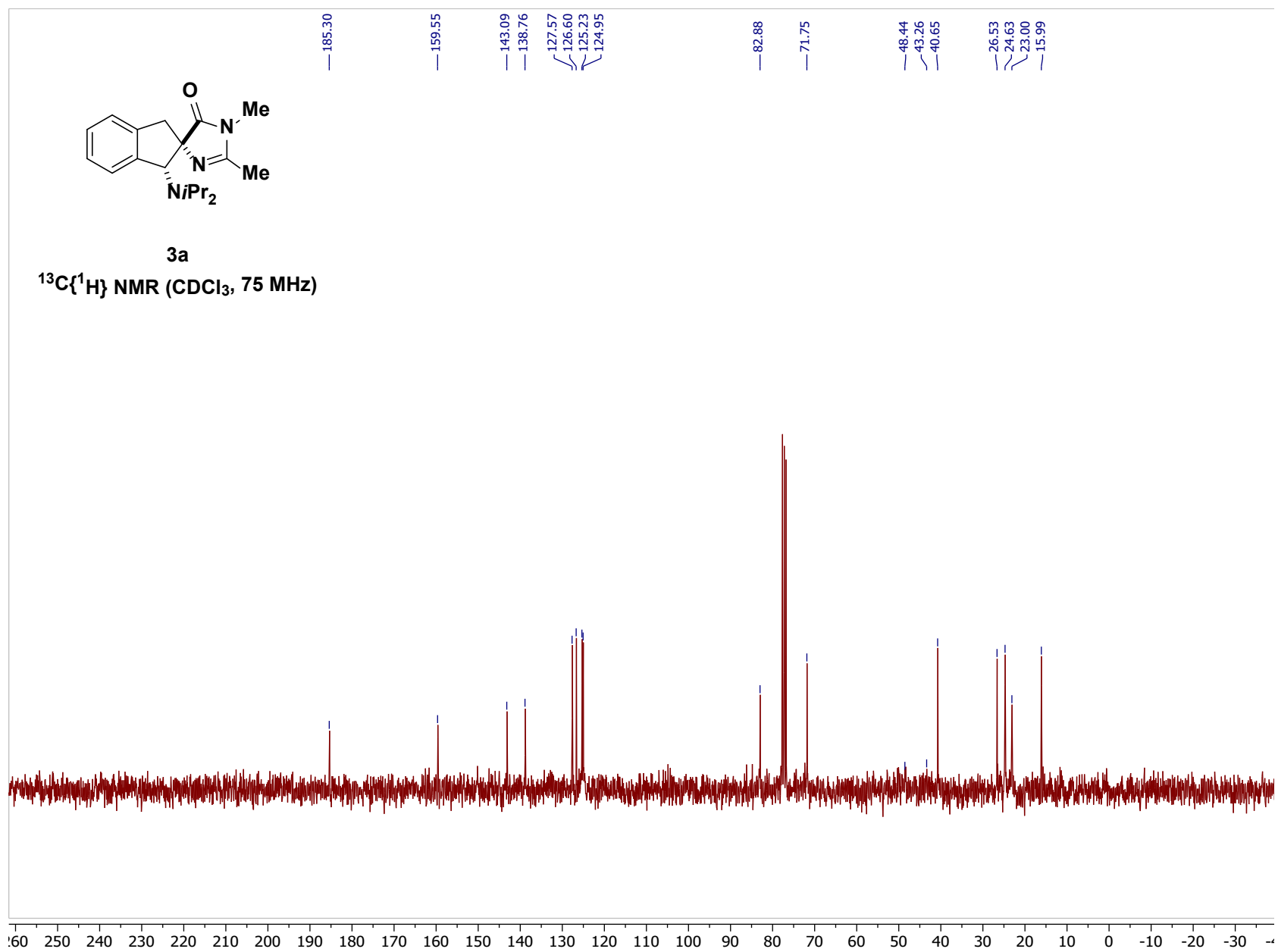


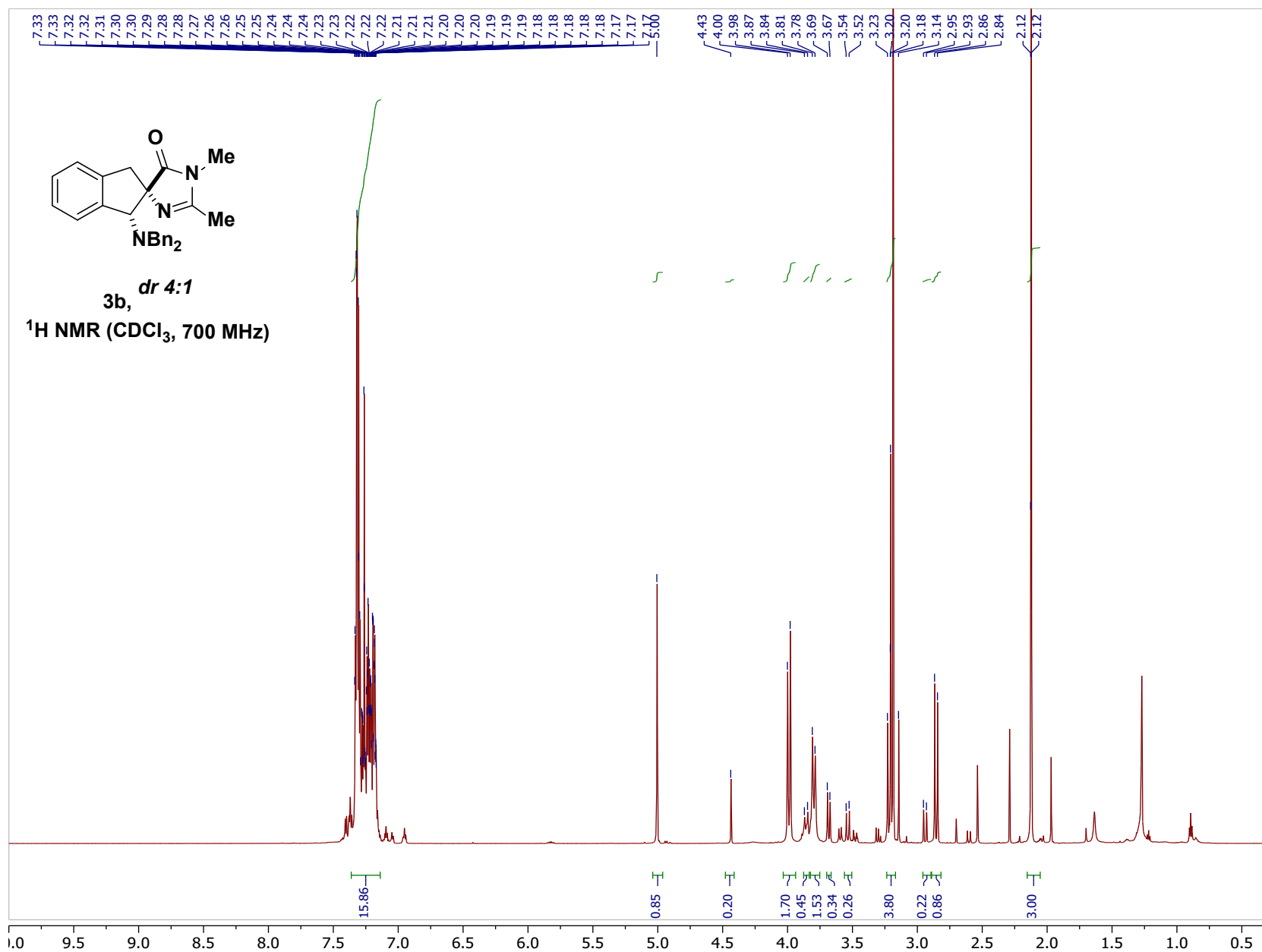


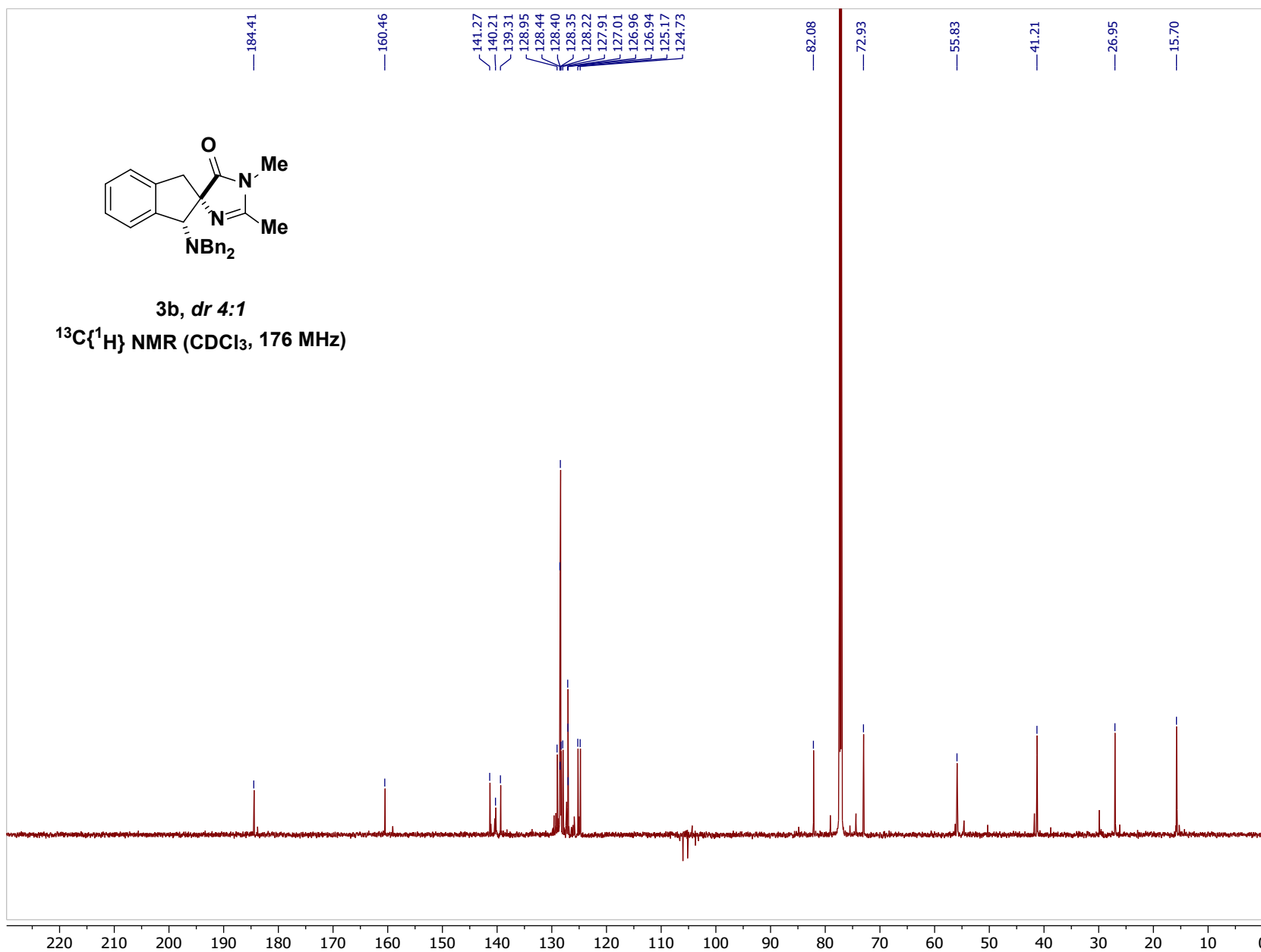


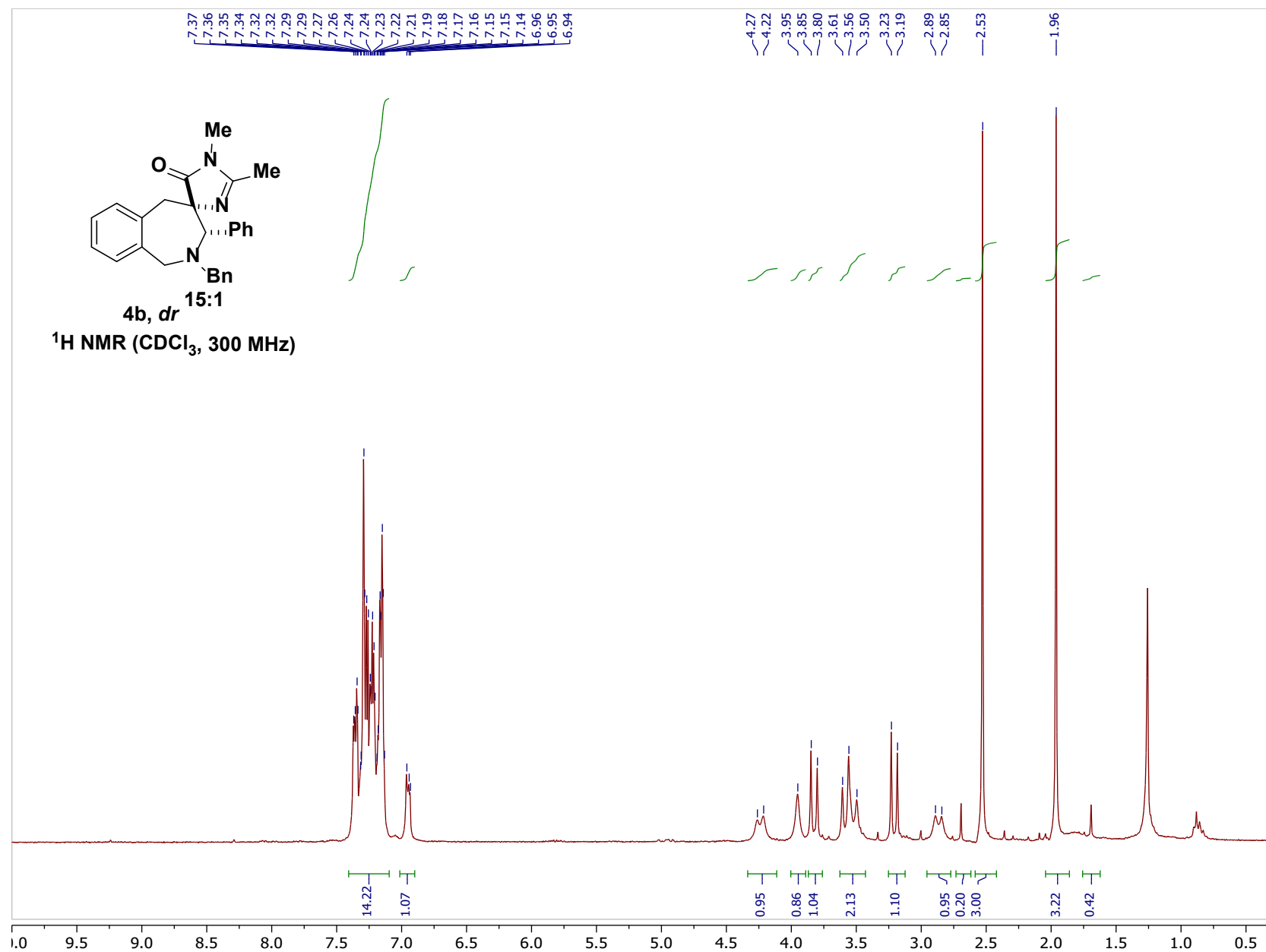


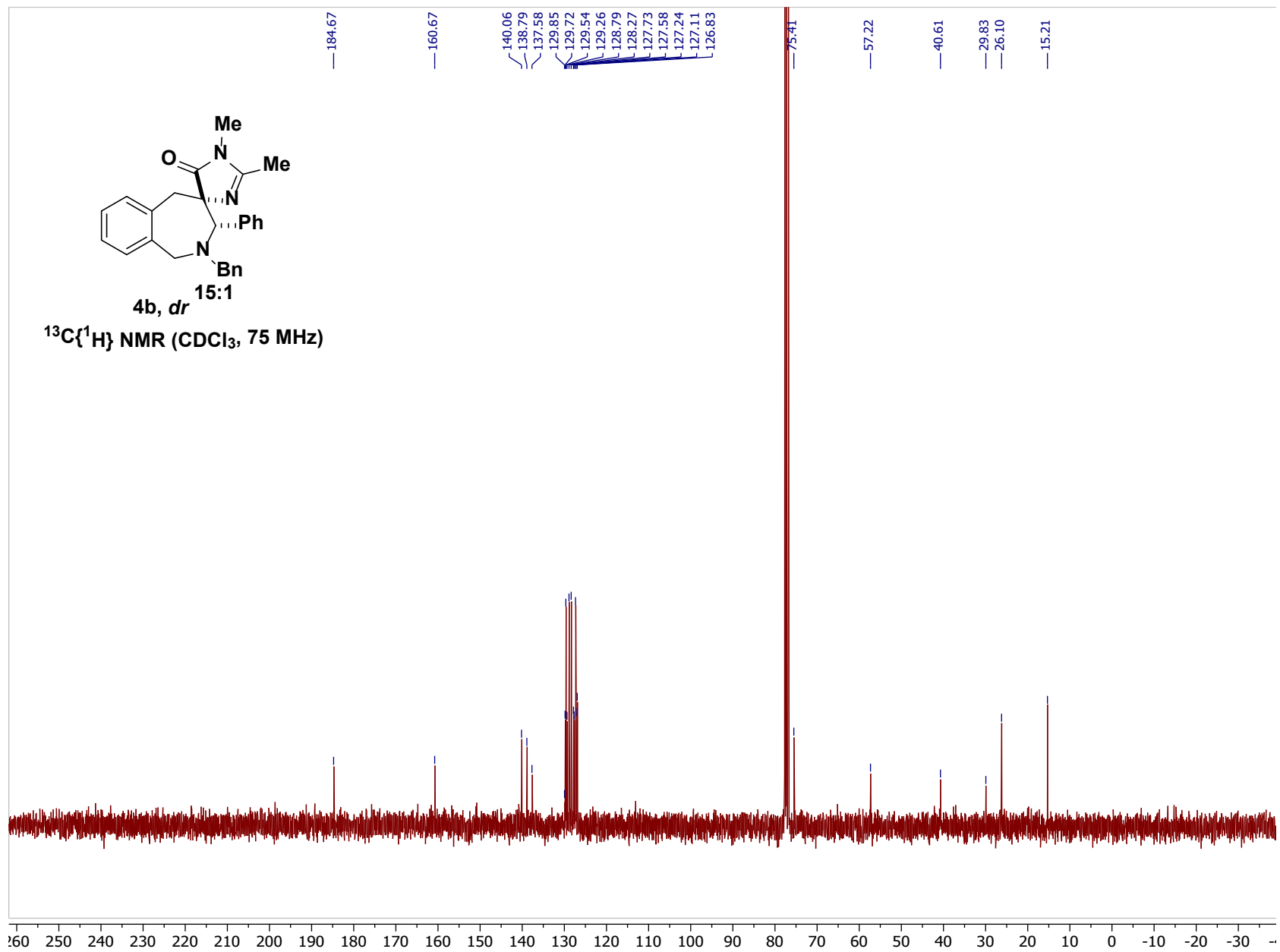


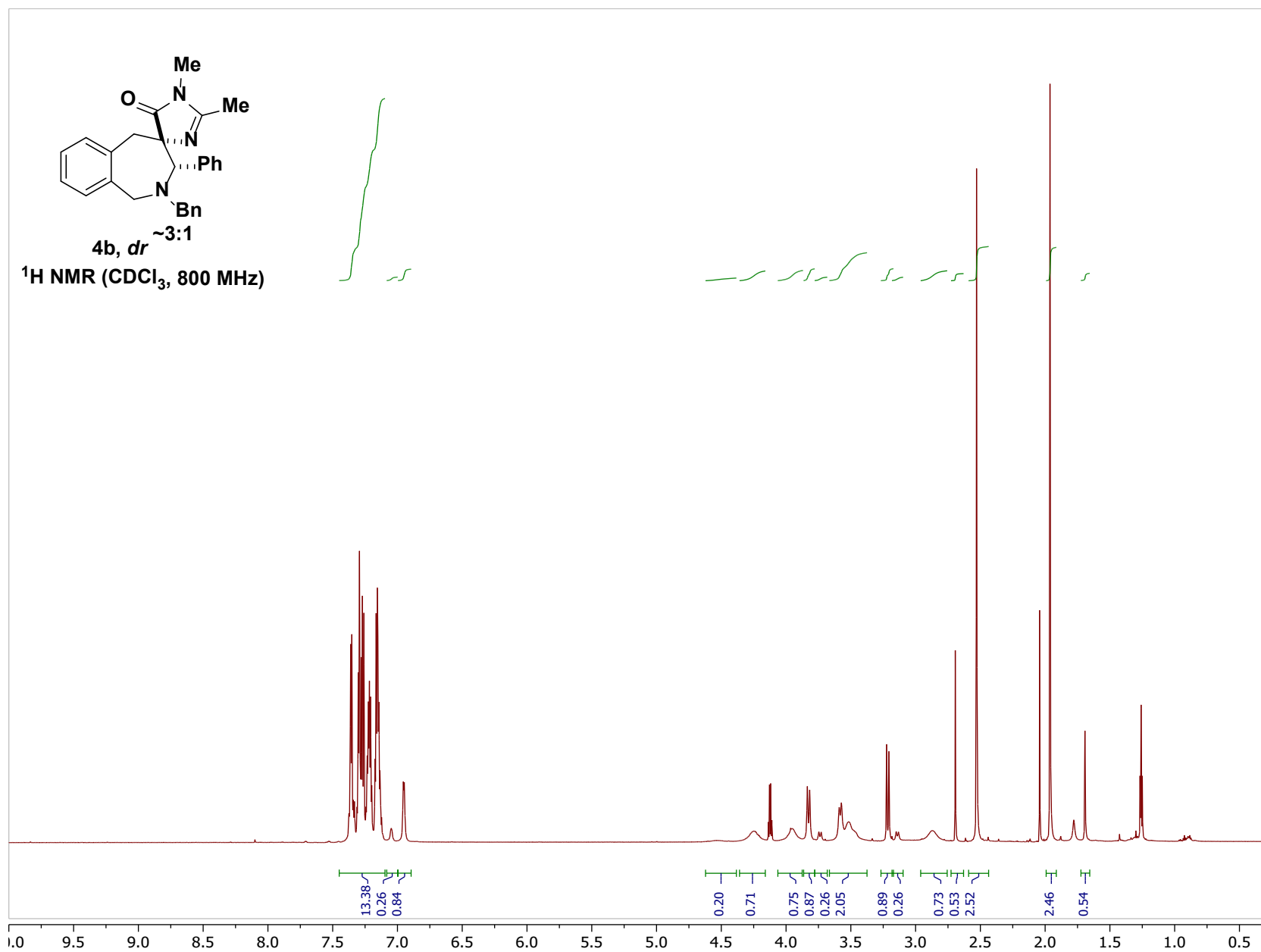


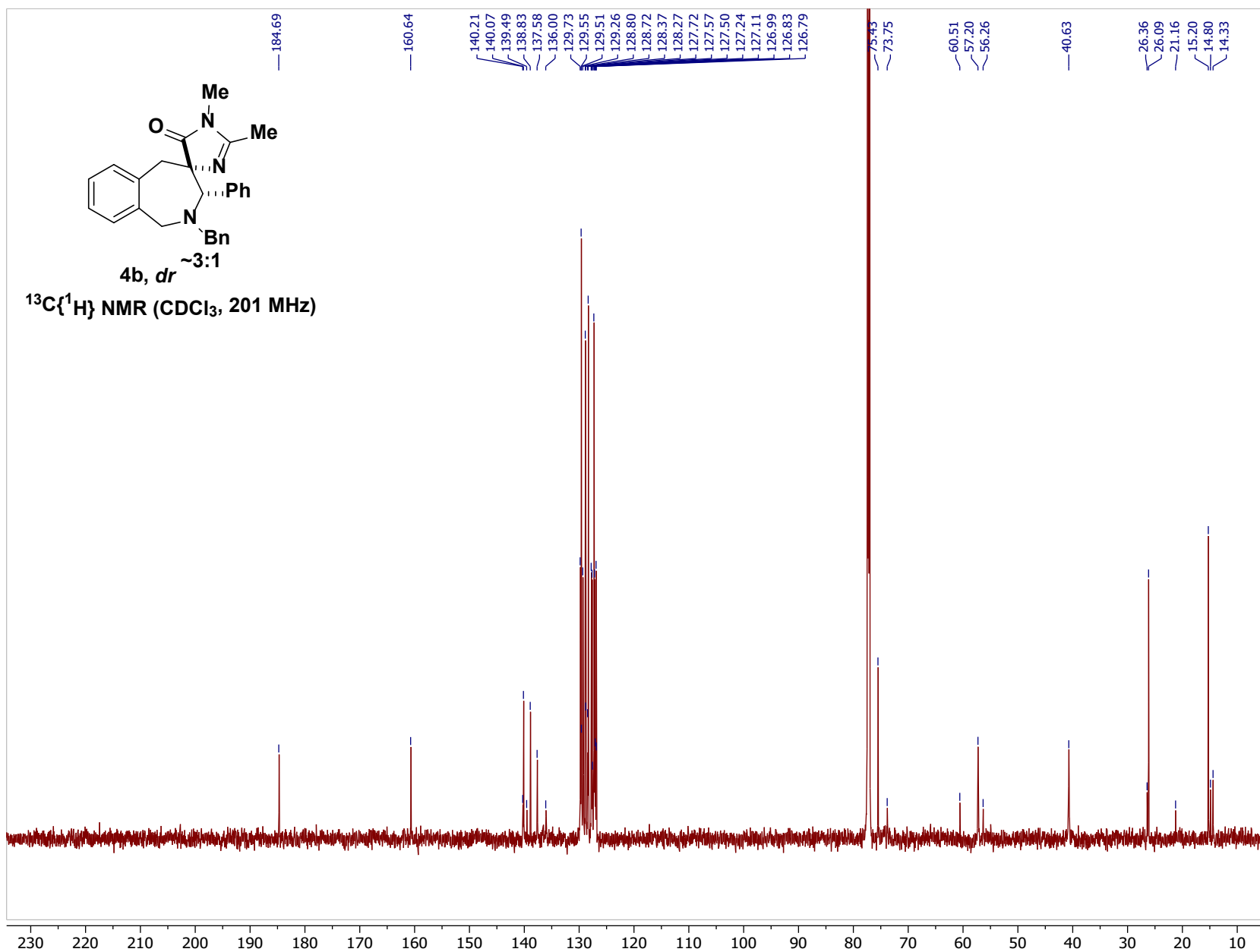


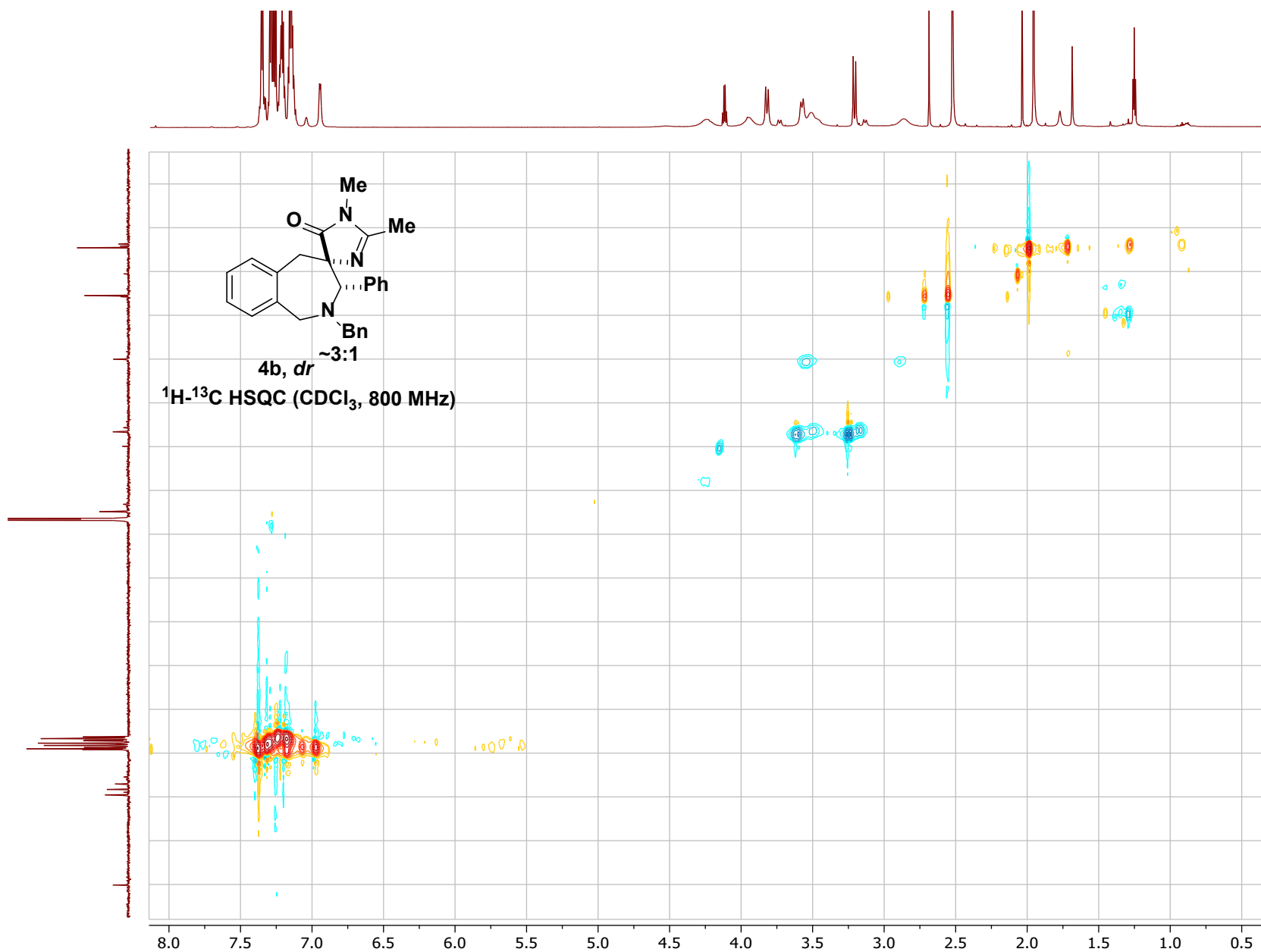


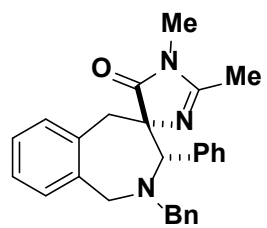












4b, *dr*
~3:1

^1H - ^{13}C HMBC (CDCl_3 , 800 MHz)

