

**Reactions of β -styrylmalonates with aromatic aldehydes:
the development of a catalytic version using gallium trichloride**

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

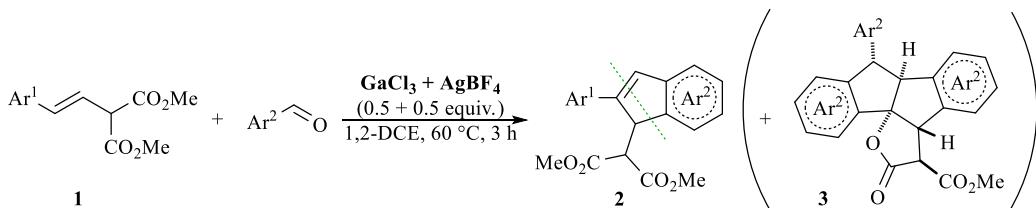
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1. General information

All operations with AgBF_4 and GaCl_3 were carried out under a dry argon atmosphere. 1,2-Dichloroethane as a solvent for reactions was distilled over P_2O_5 . All reagents and solvents used for chromatography were commercial-grade chemicals without additional purification. Starting styrylmalonates **1a–e** were synthesized according to the literature from the corresponding D-A cyclopropanes.^{S1} ^1H , ^{13}C and 2D NMR spectra were recorded on a 300 MHz (300.1 and 75.5 MHz, respectively) and 400 MHz (400.1 and 101.6 MHz, respectively) spectrometers in CDCl_3 containing 0.05% Me_4Si as the internal standard. TLC analysis was performed on Silufol chromatographic plates. For preparative chromatography, silica gel 60 (0.040–0.063 mm) was used. IR spectra were obtained on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum 65 spectrophotometer equipped with a Quest ATR Accessory (Specac), by the attenuated total reflectance (ATR) in the range 400–4000 cm^{-1} . High-resolution mass spectra were obtained with a Bruker micrOTOF II instrument (ESI, positive or negative ion modes, capillary voltage 4500 V). X-ray crystallographic data for compound **2l** were obtained on a “Bruker Apex II” diffractometer equipped with CCD detector, $\text{MoK}\alpha$ radiation tube and graphite monochromator (ω -scans). A semi-empirical absorption correction using the SADABS program was applied to all compounds.^{S2} Using Olex2, the structure was solved with a ShelXS structure solution program using Direct Methods and refined using a ShelXL refinement package with the Least Squares minimization in anisotropic approximation for nonhydrogen atoms.^{S3} The H-atoms were added in the calculated positions and refined using the riding model in isotropic approximation. The main crystallography data and refinement details are given in the Table S1. Crystallographic data for the structure **2l** reported in this paper have been deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary numbers CCDC 2360163. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

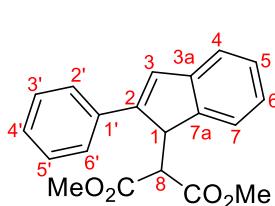
2. General procedure for synthesis of indenes **2a–m** and lactones **3a–d** and diene **5**.



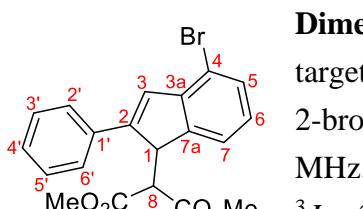
Under an argon atmosphere, a Schlenk flask was charged with 0.25 mmol of AgBF_4 , a mixture of 0.5 mmol of styrylmalonate **1**, 1.5 mmol of aromatic aldehyde in 3 mL DCE, 0.25 mmol of GaCl_3 , and a magnetic stir bar. The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C for 3 h, after cooling to ambient temperature, it was diluted with 15 mL CH_2Cl_2 and treated with an aqueous solution of HCl (10 mL, 10%) until pH reached 3. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3×10 mL). A catalytic amount of HBF_4 (50% aq.) and an excess of

ethereal solution of diazomethane* were added to the organic layer, the solution was bubbled with argon and then dried over MgSO_4 . The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (benzene to benzene-ethyl acetate, 30:1) to afford the product.

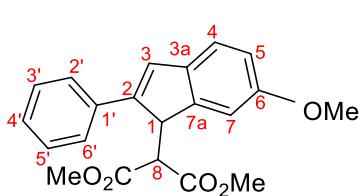
2.1. Characterization data for indenes 2a–m:



Dimethyl 2-(2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)malonate (2a). The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-styrylmalonate and benzaldehyde, 124 mg (77%) as a colorless oil. ^1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.31 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.70 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.88 (d, 1H, H(8), $^3J = 4.0$ Hz), 4.67 (d, 1H, H(1), $^3J = 4.0$ Hz), 7.04 (d, 1H, H(3), $^4J = 0.8$ Hz), 7.18 (td, 1H, H(6), $^3J = 7.4$ Hz, $^4J = 1.2$ Hz), 7.24–7.48 (m, 7H, H_{Ar}), 7.54 (d, 1H, H(7), $^3J = 7.4$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 47.9 (C(1)), 51.8 and 52.5 (2 OMe), 52.6 (C(8)), 121.2 (C(4)), 124.5 (C(7)), 125.2 (C(6)), 127.0 (C(2') and C(6')), 127.6 (C(4')), 127.7 (C(5)), 128.8 (C(3') and C(5')), 129.1 (C(3)), 135.0 (C(1')), 143.9 (C(7a)), 144.1 (C(3a)), 148.4 (C(2)), 167.2 and 169.4 (2 COO). The data correspond to those previously reported.⁵⁵

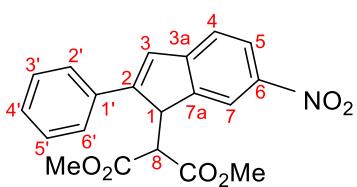


Dimethyl 2-(4-bromo-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)malonate (2b). The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-styrylmalonate and 2-bromobenzaldehyde, 138 mg (69%) as a colorless oil. ^1H NMR (400.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.33 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.72 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.89 (d, 1H, H(8), $^3J = 3.8$ Hz), 4.74 (br.d, 1H, H(1), $^3J = 3.8$ Hz), 7.04 (dd, 1H, H(6), $^3J = 7.6$ and 7.9 Hz), 7.13 (dd, 1H, H(3), $J = 1.5$ and 0.6 Hz), 7.34–7.53 (m, 7H, H_{Ar}). ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 49.2 (C(1)), 52.0 and 52.8 (2 OMe), 52.7 (C(8)), 115.3 (C(4)), 123.6, 126.7, 128.3, 128.4 and 130.9 (C(3), C(5), C(6), C(7) and C(4')), 127.3 and 129.0 (C(2'), C(6') and C(3'), C(5')), 134.5, 144.4, 145.4 and 149.6 (C(1'), C(3a), C(7a) and C(2)), 167.0 and 169.2 (2 COO). The data correspond to those previously reported.⁵⁵

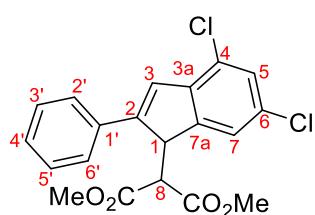


Dimethyl 2-(6-methoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)malonate (2c). The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-styrylmalonate and 4-methoxybenzaldehyde, 79 mg (45%) as a colorless oil. ^1H NMR (400.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.34 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.68 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.82 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.87 (d, 1H, H(8), $^3J = 4.2$ Hz), 4.62 (br.d, 1H, H(1), $^3J = 4.2$ Hz), 6.83 (dd, 1H, H(5), $^3J = 8.3$ Hz, $^4J = 2.2$ Hz), 6.97 (d, 1H, H(3), $^4J = 0.9$ Hz), 7.16 (d, 1H, H(7), $^4J = 2.2$ Hz), 7.20–7.31 (m, 2H, H_{Ar}), 7.32–7.50 (m, 4H, H_{Ar}). ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 48.0 (C(1)), 52.0, 52.7 and 55.7 (3 OMe), 52.9 (C(8)), 111.5 (C(7)), 113.2 (C(5)), 121.7 (C(4)), 126.9 and 128.9 (CH(2'), CH(6') and CH(3'), CH(5')), 127.5 (C(4')), 128.8 (C(3)), 135.4, 137.4, 146.0, 146.4 and 158.3 (5 C_{Ar}), 167.3 and 169.5 (2 COO). The data correspond to those previously reported.⁵⁵

* Previously, partial demethylation of ester groups in the reaction products was observed.⁵⁴ Thus, diazomethane was used to reinstall methyl groups.

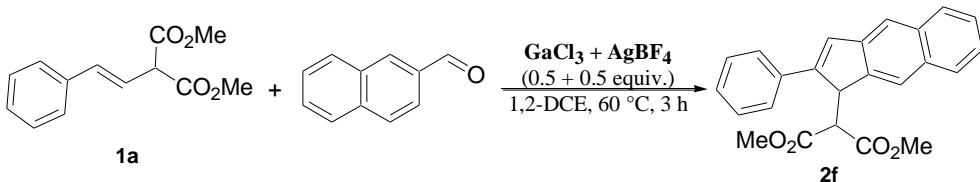


Dimethyl 2-(6-nitro-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)malonate (2d). The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-styrylmalonate and 4-nitrobenzaldehyde, 114 mg (62%) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.36 and 3.84 (both s, $2\times 3\text{H}$, 2 OMe), 4.01 (d, 1H, H(8), $^3J = 3.7$ Hz), 4.78 (br.d, 1H, H(1), $^3J = 3.7$ Hz), 7.14 (d, 1H, H(3), $^4J = 0.7$ Hz), 7.36–7.57 (m, 6H, H_{Ar}), 8.27 (dd, 1H, H(5), $^3J = 8.3$ Hz, $^4J = 2.0$ Hz), 8.45 (d, 1H, H(7), $^4J = 2.0$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 48.4 (C(1)), 52.2 (OMe), 52.4 (C(8)), 53.1 (OMe), 120.2, 121.0, 124.2, 127.8 and 129.1 (5 CH_{Ar}), 127.3 and 129.2 (CH(2')), CH(6') and CH(3'), CH(5')), 133.9, 144.6, 150.7 and 154.6 (4 C_{Ar}), 145.7 (C(6)), 166.6 and 169.0 (2 COO). The data correspond to those previously reported.⁵⁵



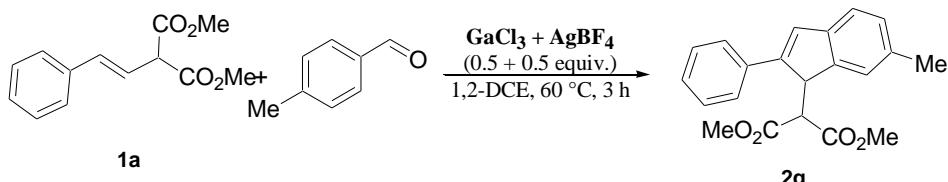
Dimethyl 2-(4,6-dichloro-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)malonate (2e). The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-styrylmalonate and 2,4-dichlorobenzaldehyde, 154 mg (79%) as a yellow solid. ^1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.37 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.76 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.91 (d, 1H, H(8), $^3J = 3.7$ Hz), 4.70 (d, 1H, H(1), $^3J = 3.7$ Hz), 7.12 (d, 1H, H(3), $^4J = 0.8$ Hz), 7.28–7.51 (m, 7H, H_{Ar}). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 48.9 (C(1)), 52.1 and 52.9 (2 OMe), 52.3 (C(8)), 123.9, 125.6, 127.8 and 128.4 (C(4'), C(3), C(5) and C(7)), 127.1 and 129.0 (C(3'), C(5'), C(2') and C(6')), 131.5, 134.1, 141.1, 141.4, 146.4 and 149.7 (C(1'), C(2), C(3a), C(7a), C(4) and C(6)), 166.7 and 169.1 (2 COO). IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ 3056, 2987, 2971, 2954, 2900, 2359, 2342, 1787, 1746, 1720, 1588, 1571, 1557, 1494, 1438, 1431, 1404, 1341, 1293, 1279, 1254, 1223, 1206, 1051, 1009, 937, 918, 891, 868, 848, 760, 696 cm^{-1} . HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_4$ (M): $M+\text{H}$, 391.0498, $M+\text{NH}_4$, 408.0764. Found: m/z 391.0487, 408.0756.

Dimethyl 2-(2-phenyl-1H-cyclopenta[b]naphthalen-1-yl)malonate (2f).

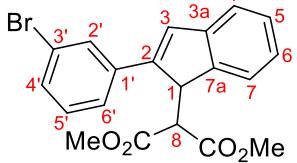


Compound **2f** was formed in the reaction of dimethyl 2-styrylmalonate and 2-naphthaldehyde and observed in an NMR spectrum after work-up in an NMR yield of 47%. The assignment of the product was based on the presence of signals similar to those of other indenes such as **2a** (see Section 4.1). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$ (M): $M+\text{H}$, 373.1434, $M+\text{NH}_4$, 390.1700. Found: m/z 373.1429, 390.1696.

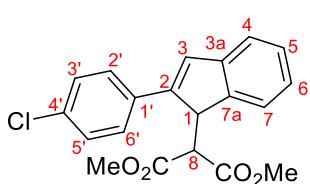
Dimethyl 2-(6-methyl-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)malonate (2g).



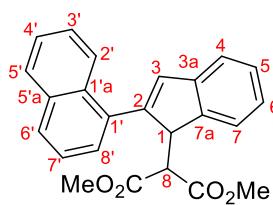
Compound **2g** was formed in the reaction of dimethyl 2-styrylmalonate and 4-methylbenzaldehyde and observed in an NMR spectrum after work-up in an NMR yield of 44%. The assignment of the product was based on the presence of signals similar to those of other indenes such as **2a** (see Section 4.1).



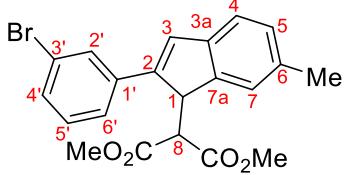
Dimethyl 2-[2-(3-bromophenyl)-1H-inden-1-yl]malonate (2h). The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-(3-bromostyryl)malonate and benzaldehyde, 160 mg (80%) as a colorless oil. ^1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.37 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.74 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.88 (d, 1H, H(8), $^3J = 3.9$ Hz), 4.66 (br.d, 1H, H(1), $^3J = 3.9$ Hz), 7.09 (d, 1H, H(3), $J = 0.9$ Hz), 7.17–7.50 (m, 6H, H_{Ar}), 7.52–7.68 (m, 2H, H_{Ar}). ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 47.9 (C(1)), 52.0 and 52.7 (2 OMe), 52.6 (C(8)), 121.5, 124.6, 125.7, 127.8, 129.9, 130.3, 130.5 and 130.6 (C(3), C(4), C(5), C(6), C(7), C(2'), C(4')), C(5') and (C(6')), 123.0 (C(3')), 137.3, 143.7, 143.9 and 146.8 (C(1'), C(3a), C(7a) and C(2)), 167.1 and 169.1 (2 COO). The data correspond to those previously reported reported.⁵⁵



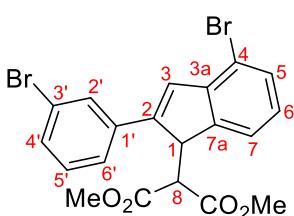
Dimethyl 2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-inden-1-yl]malonate (2i). The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-(4-chlorostyryl)malonate and benzaldehyde, 127 mg (71%) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.35 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.74 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.87 (d, 1H, H(8), $^3J = 4.0$ Hz), 4.66 (d, 1H, H(1), $^3J = 4.0$ Hz), 7.07 (d, 1H, H(3), $^4J = 0.9$ Hz), 7.17–7.50 (m, 7H, H_{Ar}), 7.57 (d, 1H, H(7), $^4J = 7.5$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 47.9 (C(1)), 51.9 and 52.7 (2 OMe), 52.6 (C(8)), 121.4, 124.6, 125.5 and 127.7 (C(4), C(7), C(6) and C(5)), 128.3 and 129.0 (C(3'), C(5'), C(2') and C(6')), 129.8 (C(3)), 133.6 and 133.6 (C(1') and C(4')), 143.8, 143.9 and 147.1 (C(7a), C(3a) and C(2)), 167.1 and 169.2 (2 COO). IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ 2987, 2953, 2901, 2360, 2342, 1787, 1763, 1736, 1597, 1490, 1459, 1436, 1403, 1339, 1280, 1228, 1151, 1092, 1064, 1015, 831, 813, 754, 715, 700, 614 cm^{-1} . HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClO}_4$ (M): $M+\text{H}$, 357.0888, $M+\text{NH}_4$, 374.1154. Found: m/z 357.0878, 374.1143.



Dimethyl 2-[2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-inden-1-yl]malonate (2j). The target compound was prepared from dimethyl (*E*)-2-[2-(naphthalen-1-yl)vinyl]malonate and benzaldehyde, 67 mg (36%) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.34 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.49 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.77 (d, 1H, H(8), $^3J = 4.9$ Hz), 4.86 (d, 1H, H(1), $^3J = 4.7$ Hz), 7.07 (d, 1H, H(3), $^4J = 1.2$ Hz), 7.34–7.57 (m, 9H, H_{Ar}), 7.79–7.99 (m, 3H, H_{Ar}), 8.15–8.28 (m, 1H, H(8')). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 51.0 (C(1)), 52.0 and 52.3 (2 OMe), 52.4 (C(8)), 121.4, 124.3, 125.2, 125.3, 126.0, 126.0, 126.2, 126.8, 127.7, 128.1, 128.4 and 133.0 (all CH_{Ar}), 132.9, 133.6, 134.0, 143.5 and 144.2 (all C_{Ar}), 167.5 and 168.9 (2 COO). IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ 2987, 2952, 2900, 2360, 2342, 1732, 1598, 1454, 1434, 1248, 1152, 1057, 1019, 910, 866, 802, 777, 755, 733, 663 cm^{-1} . HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$ (M): $M+\text{H}$, 373.1434, $M+\text{NH}_4$, 390.1700. Found: m/z 373.1435, 390.1703.



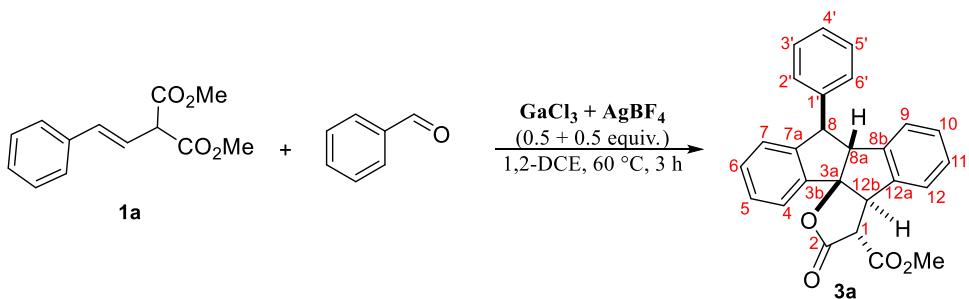
Dimethyl 2-[2-(3-bromophenyl)-6-methyl-1H-inden-1-yl]malonate (2k). The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-(3-bromostyryl)malonate and 4-methylbenzaldehyde. 141 mg (68%) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.42 (s, 3H, Me), 3.39 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.74 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.86 (d, 1H, H(8), $^3J = 4.2$ Hz), 4.61 (br.d, 1H, H(1), $^3J = 4.1$ Hz), 7.05 (d, 1H, H(3), $^3J = 0.8$ Hz), 7.14 (d, 1H, H_{Ar}, $^4J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.19–7.50 (m, 5H, H_{Ar}), 7.62 (t, 1H, H_{Ar}, $^4J = 1.7$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 21.8 (Me), 47.7 (C(1)), 52.0 and 52.6 (2 OMe), 52.7 (C(8)), 121.2, 125.4, 125.5, 128.5, 129.8, 130.3, 130.4 and 130.4 (all CH_{Ar}), 122.9, 135.5, 137.5, 141.1, 144.2 and 145.7 (all C_{Ar}), 167.2 and 169.2 (2 COO). IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ 2972, 2900, 2360, 2342, 1784, 1723, 1591, 1474, 1436, 1334, 1279, 1254, 1224, 1207, 1162, 1074, 1045, 870, 782, 690 cm^{-1} . HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{BrO}_4$ (M): $M+H$, 415.0539, $M+\text{Na}$, 437.0359. Found: m/z 415.0528, 437.0348.



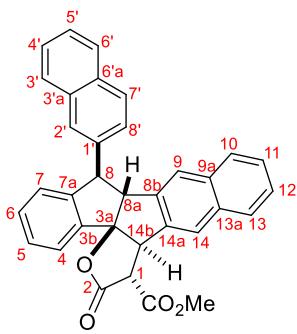
Dimethyl 2-[4-bromo-2-(3-bromophenyl)-1H-inden-1-yl]malonate (2l). The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-(3-bromostyryl)malonate and 2-bromobenzaldehyde. 205 mg (86%) as a yellow solid. ^1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.36 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.73 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.86 (d, 1H, H(8), $^3J = 3.9$ Hz), 4.70 (br.d, 1H, H(1), $^3J = 3.9$ Hz), 7.01–7.17 (m, 2H, H_{Ar}), 7.23–7.53 (m, 5H, H_{Ar}), 7.58–7.66 (m, 1H, H_{Ar}). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 49.0 (C(1)), 52.1 and 52.4 (2 OMe), 52.8 (C(8)), 115.6 (C(4)), 123.1 (C(3')), 123.6, 125.7, 127.0, 129.6 130.4, 131.0 and 131.1 (C(3), C(5), C(6), C(7), C(4'), C(5') C(6') and C(2')), 136.7, 143.9, 145.3 and 147.8 (C(1'), C(3a), C(7a) and C(2)), 166.8 and 168.9 (2 COO). IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ 2987, 2972, 2900, 2359, 2342, 1788, 1726, 1585, 1553, 1473, 1433, 1325, 1298, 1248, 1212, 1166, 1057, 1019, 864, 776, 689, 647 cm^{-1} . HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{Br}_2\text{O}_4$ (M): $M+H$, 478.9488, $M+\text{NH}_4$, 495.9754. Found: m/z 478.9480, 495.9745. Crystal Data for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{Br}_2\text{O}_4$ see p. S7

2.2 Characterization data for indenolactones 3a–d:

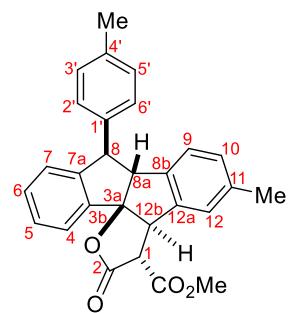
Methyl *rac*-(1*R*,3a*S*,8*R*,8a*R*,12*bR*)-2-oxo-8-phenyl-1,8,8a,12*b*-tetrahydro-2*H*-indenolactone[1',2':2,3]indenolactone[2,1-*b*]furan-1-carboxylate (3a).**



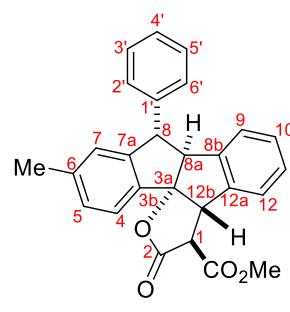
The target compound was formed in the reaction of dimethyl 2-styrylmalonate and benzaldehyde and observed in an NMR spectrum after work-up in an NMR yield of 13%. The assignment of the product was based on the presence of signals corresponding to those previously reported.^{S5}



Methyl *rac*-(1*R*,3*aS*,8*R*,8*a**R*,14*b**R*)-8-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2-oxo-1,8,8*a*,14*b*-tetrahydro-2*H*-benzo[5,6]indeno[1',2':2,3]indeno[2,1-*b*]furan-1-carboxylate (3b).** The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-styrylmalonate and 2-naphthaldehyde. 117 mg (47%) as a light beige solid. ^1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.90 (d, 1H, H(1), 3J = 5.5 Hz), 4.05 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.46 (d, 1H, H(8*a*), 3J = 4.0 Hz), 4.50 (d, 1H, H(8), 3J = 4.0 Hz), 4.99 (d, 1H, H(14*b*), 3J = 5.5 Hz), 6.98 (d, 1H, H(7), 3J = 7.7 Hz), 7.21 – 7.60 (m, 7H, H_{Ar}), 7.64 (d, 1H, H_{Ar}, 3J = 7.9 Hz), 7.75 – 7.93 (m, 7H, H_{Ar}). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 53.7 (OMe), 54.1 (C(14*b*)), 54.1 (C(1)), 58.0 (C(8*a*)), 66.2 (C(8)), 102.9 (C(3*a*)), 122.7, 123.5, 124.9, 125.9, 126.1, 126.1, 126.2, 126.4, 126.6, 127.5, 127.8, 128.7, 129.1 and 129.2 (15 CH_{Ar}), 129.7 (1 C_{Ar}), 130.5 and 130.8 (2 CH_{Ar}), 132.6, 133.5, 133.8, 135.8, 140.7, 140.8, 141.8 and 146.2 (8 C_{Ar}), 168.9 (COO), 171.0 (C(2)). IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ 3060, 2987, 2971, 2954, 2900, 2360, 2342, 1773, 1728, 1585, 1553, 1473, 1451, 1434, 1324, 1298, 1276, 1266, 1248, 1213, 1166, 1057, 1019, 865, 776, 753, 690, 648 cm^{-1} . HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_4$ (M): M+H, 497.1747, M+NH₄, 514.2013. Found: m/z 497.1747, 514.2014.



Methyl *rac*-(1*R*,3*aS*,8*R*,8*a**R*,12*b**R*)-11-methyl-2-oxo-8-(p-tolyl)-1,8,8*a*,12*b*-tetrahydro-2*H*-indeno[1',2':2,3]indeno[2,1-*b*]furan-1-carboxylate (3c).** The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-styrylmalonate and 4-methylbenzaldehyde. 104 mg (49%) as a white solid. ^1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.34 (s, 3H, Me), 2.36 (s, 3H, Me), 3.77 (d, 1H, H(1), 3J = 5.4 Hz), 3.96 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.12 (d, 1H, H(8*a*), 3J = 4.2 Hz), 4.22 (d, 1H, H(8), 3J = 4.2 Hz), 4.45 (d, 1H, H(12*b*), 3J = 5.4 Hz), 6.96 (d, 1H, H(7), 3J = 7.6 Hz), 7.03 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.07 – 7.43 (m, 8H, H_{Ar}), 7.62 (d, 1H, H(4), 3J = 7.1 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 21.1 and 21.3 (2 Me), 53.5 (OMe), 54.5 (C(12*b*)), 54.9 (C(1)), 57.5 (C(8)), 65.3 (C(8*a*)), 103.3 (C(3*a*)), 124.7 (C(4)), 125.0 and 125.4 (2 CH_{Ar}), 125.8(C(7)), 128.0 and 129.6 (C(3'), C(5'), C(2') and C(6')), 128.3, 130.1 and 130.6 (3 CH_{Ar}), 136.6, 138.7, 140.4, 140.6, 141.3 and 141.5 (6 C_{Ar}), 146.5 (C(7*a*)), 168.5 (COO), 171.0 (C(2)). IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ 2987, 2972, 2921, 2900, 2359, 2342, 1793, 1736, 1512, 1451, 1436, 1406, 1393, 1257, 1225, 1183, 1163, 1149, 1074, 1056, 1029, 1006, 891, 878, 865, 825, 754, 740, 697, 642 cm^{-1} . HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_4$ (M): M+H, 425.1747, M+NH₄, 442.2013. Found: m/z 425.1738, 442.2004.

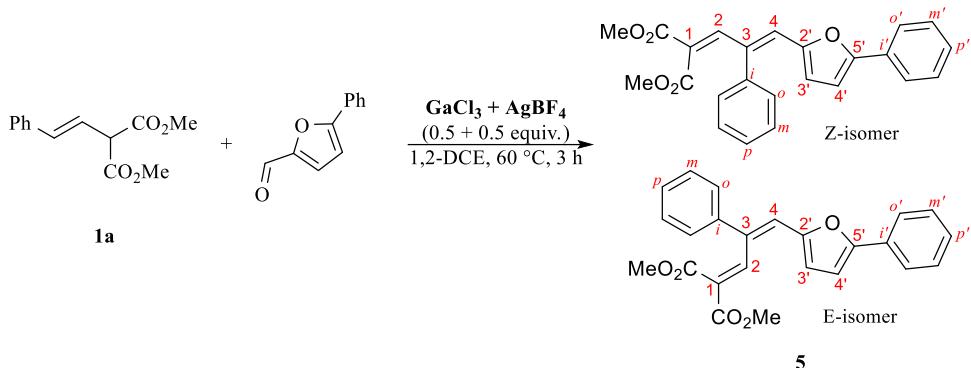


Methyl *rac*-(1*R*,3*aS*,8*R*,8*a**R*,12*b**R*)-6-methyl-2-oxo-8-phenyl-1,8,8*a*,12*b*-tetrahydro-2*H*-indeno[1',2':2,3]indeno[2,1-*b*]furan-1-carboxylate (3d).** The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-(methylstyryl)malonate and benzaldehyde. 123 mg (60%) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.30 (s, 3H, Me), 3.80 (d, 1H, H(1), 3J = 5.6 Hz), 3.98 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.21 (d, 1H, H(8*a*), 3J = 4.1 Hz), 4.27 (d, 1H, H(8), 3J = 4.1 Hz), 4.52 (d, 1H, H(12*b*), 3J = 5.3 Hz),

6.80 (br.s, 1H, H(7)), 7.17 – 7.44 (m, 10H, H_{Ar}), 7.54 (d, 1H, H(4), ³J = 7.9 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.5 (Me), 53.5 (OMe), 54.6 (C(12b)), 54.9 (C(1)), 57.7 (C(8)), 65.6 (C(8a)), 102.9 (C(3a)), 124.4, 125.0, 125.3, 126.1 and 127.0 (5 CH_{Ar}), 128.1 and 129.0 (C(3')), C(5'), C(2') and C(6')), 128.7, 129.2 and 129.50 (3 CH_{Ar}), 137.5, 140.9, 141.2, 143.6, 144.5 and 146.5 (6 C_{Ar}), 168.4 (COO)), 170.9 (C(2)). IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ 2987, 2971, 2901, 2360, 2342, 1778, 1736, 1495, 1453, 1436, 1160, 1075, 1028, 1010, 820, 752, 699 cm⁻¹. HRMS calcd for C₂₇H₂₂O₄ (M): M+H, 411.1591, M+NH₄, 428.1856. Found: m/z 411.1584, 428.1846.

2.3 Characterization data for diene 5.

Dimethyl 2-[2-phenyl-3-(5-phenylfuran-2-yl)allylidene]malonate (5).



The target compound was prepared from dimethyl 2-styrylmalonate and 5-phenylfuran-2-carbaldehyde. Both isomers 128 mg (66%) as a brown oil. Major E-isomer: ¹H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.12 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.93 (s, 3H, OMe), 6.66 (d, 1H, H(3'), ³J = 3.6 Hz), 6.71 (br.s, 1H, H(4)), 6.82 (d, 1H, H(4'), ³J = 3.6 Hz), 7.26–7.50 (m, 8H, H_{Ar}), 7.75–7.82 (m, 2H, H_{Ar}), 8.70 (d, 1H, H(2), ³J = 1.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 51.6 and 52.6 (2 OMe), 107.7 (C(4')), 117.6 (C(3')), 124.6 (C(4)), 124.3, 127.0, 127.9, 128.2, 128.3, 128.9, 128.9 and 129.9 (C(1), C(i') and 10 CH_{Ar}), 133.2 (C(i)), 139.9 (C(3)), 143.1 (C(2)), 151.9 (C(2')), 156.0 (C(5')), 165.1 and 165.5 (2 COO). Minor Z-isomer: ¹H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.15 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.80 (s, 3H, OMe), 5.87 (d, 1H, H(3'), ³J = 3.6 Hz), 6.54 (d, 1H, H(4'), ³J = 3.6 Hz), 6.97 (s, 1H, H(4)), 7.17–7.55 (m, 10H, H_{Ar}), 7.67 (s, 1H, H(2)). ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 51.8 and 52.5 (2 OMe), 107.8 (C(4')), 117.3 (C(3')), 123.8, 124.1, 125.0, 128.0, 128.1, 128.6, 128.7, 128.9, 129.7, 129.8, 134.6 (C(1), C(i), C(i') and 10 CH_{Ar}), 129.7 (C(4)), 136.1 (C(3)), 144.8 (C(2)), 150.9 (C(2')), 155.5 (C(5')), 165.2 and 165.9 (2 COO). IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ 2987, 2952, 2923, 2901, 2360, 2342, 1718, 1603, 1582, 1473, 1449, 1435, 1227, 1179, 1072, 1026, 924, 795, 760, 700 cm⁻¹. HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₀O₅ (M): M+H, 389.1384, M+Na, 411.1203. Found: m/z 389.1376, 411.1199.

2.4. Crystal data for indene **2l**

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for **2l**

| | |
|---|--|
| Identification code | 2l |
| Empirical formula | C ₂₀ H ₁₆ Br ₂ O ₄ |
| Formula weight | 480.15 |
| Temperature/K | 100.0 |
| Crystal system | monoclinic |
| Space group | P2 ₁ /c |
| a/Å | 13.546(2) |
| b/Å | 8.0371(14) |
| c/Å | 17.920(3) |
| α/° | 90 |
| β/° | 107.182(7) |
| γ/° | 90 |
| Volume/Å ³ | 1863.9(6) |
| Z | 4 |
| ρ _{calc} g/cm ³ | 1.711 |
| μ/mm ⁻¹ | 4.372 |
| F(000) | 952.0 |
| Crystal size/mm ³ | 0.2 × 0.2 × 0.07 |
| Radiation | MoKα (λ = 0.71073) |
| 2Θ range for data collection/° | 4.758 to 51.992 |
| Index ranges | -16 ≤ h ≤ 16, -9 ≤ k ≤ 9, -21 ≤ l ≤ 22 |
| Reflections collected | 14198 |
| Independent reflections | 3634 [R _{int} = 0.1248, R _{sigma} = 0.0794] |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 3634/0/237 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 1.028 |
| Final R indexes [I>=2σ (I)] | R ₁ = 0.0600, wR ₂ = 0.1553 |
| Final R indexes [all data] | R ₁ = 0.0723, wR ₂ = 0.1634 |
| Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³ | 0.66/-1.01 |

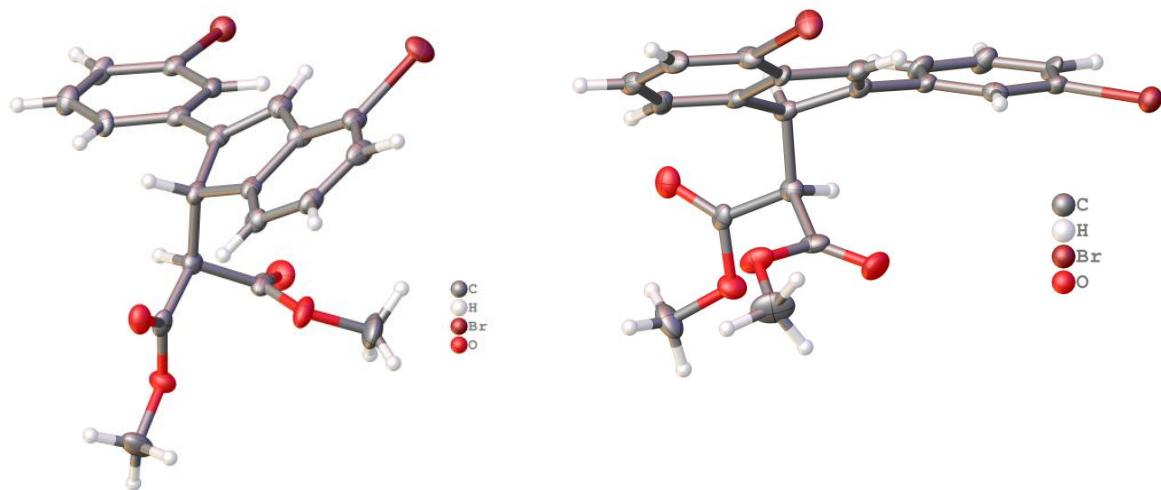


Figure S1. Crystallographic structure for **2l**.

Table S2. Fractional Atomic Coordinates ($\times 10^4$) and Equivalent Isotropic Displacement Parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for **2l**. U_{eq} is defined as 1/3 of the trace of the orthogonalised U_{II} tensor

| Atom | x | y | z | U(eq) |
|------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| Br2 | 9186.7(5) | -2339.5(8) | 860.9(3) | 24.2(2) |
| Br1 | 7626.2(5) | 220.5(8) | 4617.5(3) | 28.7(2) |
| O1 | 7214(3) | 7771(6) | 2171(2) | 27.2(10) |
| O2 | 6161(3) | 6945(6) | 1012(2) | 26.8(9) |
| O4 | 5643(3) | 4262(6) | 2007(2) | 28.9(10) |
| O3 | 6121(3) | 2580(6) | 1173(3) | 31.2(11) |
| C12 | 9344(4) | -77(7) | 1191(3) | 19.3(12) |
| C13 | 9958(4) | 978(8) | 915(3) | 21.3(13) |
| C17 | 6878(4) | 6704(8) | 1698(3) | 20.3(12) |
| C2 | 8379(4) | 2703(8) | 2499(3) | 20.6(12) |
| C10 | 8900(4) | 2122(8) | 1930(3) | 18.8(11) |
| C19 | 6275(4) | 3783(8) | 1589(3) | 22.7(13) |
| C9 | 7647(4) | 4414(8) | 3262(3) | 19.4(12) |
| C11 | 8814(4) | 465(7) | 1694(3) | 19.0(12) |
| C4 | 7740(4) | 2775(7) | 3540(3) | 18.0(11) |
| C1 | 8024(4) | 4453(8) | 2542(3) | 18.6(12) |
| C3 | 8169(4) | 1722(8) | 3053(3) | 21.5(12) |
| C7 | 7087(4) | 5255(8) | 4342(3) | 23.6(13) |
| C14 | 10030(5) | 2623(8) | 1132(4) | 26.1(14) |
| C16 | 7212(4) | 4886(7) | 1763(3) | 19.7(12) |
| C8 | 7323(4) | 5666(8) | 3661(3) | 21.0(12) |
| C6 | 7152(4) | 3678(9) | 4621(3) | 26.6(14) |
| C5 | 7482(4) | 2416(8) | 4220(3) | 23.7(13) |
| C15 | 9513(4) | 3224(8) | 1639(3) | 21.6(12) |
| C18 | 5740(5) | 8627(9) | 872(4) | 35.5(17) |
| C20 | 4754(5) | 3249(11) | 1920(4) | 43.4(19) |

Table S3. Bond Lengths for **2l**.

| Atom | Atom | Length/ \AA | | Atom | Atom | Length/ \AA |
|------|------|----------------------|--|------|------|----------------------|
| Br2 | C12 | 1.904(6) | | C2 | C3 | 1.362(8) |
| Br1 | C5 | 1.891(6) | | C10 | C11 | 1.392(8) |
| O1 | C17 | 1.197(7) | | C10 | C15 | 1.415(8) |
| O2 | C17 | 1.337(7) | | C19 | C16 | 1.503(8) |
| O2 | C18 | 1.460(8) | | C9 | C4 | 1.401(8) |
| O4 | C19 | 1.349(7) | | C9 | C1 | 1.522(7) |
| O4 | C20 | 1.423(7) | | C9 | C8 | 1.379(8) |
| O3 | C19 | 1.201(7) | | C4 | C3 | 1.454(8) |
| C12 | C13 | 1.378(8) | | C4 | C5 | 1.393(7) |
| C12 | C11 | 1.378(7) | | C1 | C16 | 1.540(7) |
| C13 | C14 | 1.373(9) | | C7 | C8 | 1.389(8) |
| C17 | C16 | 1.523(8) | | C7 | C6 | 1.356(9) |
| C2 | C10 | 1.477(7) | | C14 | C15 | 1.388(8) |
| C2 | C1 | 1.496(8) | | C6 | C5 | 1.390(9) |

Table S4. Bond Angles for **2l**.

| Atom | Atom | Atom | Angle/ $^\circ$ | | Atom | Atom | Atom | Angle/ $^\circ$ |
|------|------|------|-----------------|--|------|------|------|-----------------|
| C17 | O2 | C18 | 115.7(5) | | C8 | C9 | C1 | 131.5(6) |
| C19 | O4 | C20 | 115.6(5) | | C12 | C11 | C10 | 119.2(5) |
| C13 | C12 | Br2 | 120.0(4) | | C9 | C4 | C3 | 110.0(5) |
| C13 | C12 | C11 | 121.8(6) | | C5 | C4 | C9 | 119.1(5) |
| C11 | C12 | Br2 | 118.2(4) | | C5 | C4 | C3 | 130.7(6) |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|----------|--|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| C14 | C13 | C12 | 119.4(5) | | C2 | C1 | C9 | 102.5(5) |
| O1 | C17 | O2 | 124.6(6) | | C2 | C1 | C16 | 108.7(5) |
| O1 | C17 | C16 | 126.2(6) | | C9 | C1 | C16 | 116.4(4) |
| O2 | C17 | C16 | 109.1(5) | | C2 | C3 | C4 | 107.9(6) |
| C10 | C2 | C1 | 124.0(5) | | C6 | C7 | C8 | 122.7(6) |
| C3 | C2 | C10 | 124.5(6) | | C13 | C14 | C15 | 120.9(6) |
| C3 | C2 | C1 | 111.6(5) | | C17 | C16 | C1 | 113.7(5) |
| C11 | C10 | C2 | 119.9(5) | | C19 | C16 | C17 | 109.7(5) |
| C11 | C10 | C15 | 119.5(5) | | C19 | C16 | C1 | 112.8(5) |
| C15 | C10 | C2 | 120.6(5) | | C9 | C8 | C7 | 118.2(6) |
| O4 | C19 | C16 | 110.6(5) | | C7 | C6 | C5 | 119.1(5) |
| O3 | C19 | O4 | 123.5(5) | | C4 | C5 | Br1 | 119.8(4) |
| O3 | C19 | C16 | 125.8(5) | | C6 | C5 | Br1 | 120.0(4) |
| C4 | C9 | C1 | 107.7(5) | | C6 | C5 | C4 | 120.2(6) |
| C8 | C9 | C4 | 120.7(5) | | C14 | C15 | C10 | 119.2(6) |

Table S5. Torsion Angles for **2l**.

| A | B | C | D | Angle/° | A | B | C | D | Angle/° |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|
| Br2 | C12 | C13 | C14 | 177.3(4) | C4 | C9 | C1 | C16 | 115.3(6) |
| Br2 | C12 | C11 | C10 | -178.7(4) | C4 | C9 | C8 | C7 | -0.3(8) |
| O1 | C17 | C16 | C19 | 130.3(5) | C1 | C2 | C10 | C11 | -152.5(5) |
| O1 | C17 | C16 | C1 | 2.9(8) | C1 | C2 | C10 | C15 | 29.4(8) |
| O2 | C17 | C16 | C19 | -51.4(6) | C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 | -4.6(6) |
| O2 | C17 | C16 | C1 | -178.8(4) | C1 | C9 | C4 | C3 | 0.7(6) |
| O4 | C19 | C16 | C17 | -49.5(6) | C1 | C9 | C4 | C5 | 177.4(5) |
| O4 | C19 | C16 | C1 | 78.4(6) | C1 | C9 | C8 | C7 | -175.6(5) |
| O3 | C19 | C16 | C17 | 134.4(6) | C3 | C2 | C10 | C11 | 28.1(8) |
| O3 | C19 | C16 | C1 | -97.7(7) | C3 | C2 | C10 | C15 | -150.0(6) |
| C12 | C13 | C14 | C15 | 1.5(9) | C3 | C2 | C1 | C9 | 4.8(6) |
| C13 | C12 | C11 | C10 | -0.1(8) | C3 | C2 | C1 | C16 | -118.9(5) |
| C13 | C14 | C15 | C10 | -0.4(9) | C3 | C4 | C5 | Br1 | -2.8(9) |
| C2 | C10 | C11 | C12 | -176.9(5) | C3 | C4 | C5 | C6 | 175.0(6) |
| C2 | C10 | C15 | C14 | 177.2(5) | C7 | C6 | C5 | Br1 | 177.7(4) |
| C2 | C1 | C16 | C17 | -173.5(4) | C7 | C6 | C5 | C4 | -0.1(9) |
| C2 | C1 | C16 | C19 | 60.8(6) | C8 | C9 | C4 | C3 | -175.6(5) |
| C10 | C2 | C1 | C9 | -174.7(5) | C8 | C9 | C4 | C5 | 1.1(8) |
| C10 | C2 | C1 | C16 | 61.6(7) | C8 | C9 | C1 | C2 | 172.6(6) |
| C10 | C2 | C3 | C4 | 174.9(5) | C8 | C9 | C1 | C16 | -69.0(8) |
| C9 | C4 | C3 | C2 | 2.4(6) | C8 | C7 | C6 | C5 | 1.0(9) |
| C9 | C4 | C5 | Br1 | -178.8(4) | C6 | C7 | C8 | C9 | -0.8(8) |
| C9 | C4 | C5 | C6 | -0.9(8) | C5 | C4 | C3 | C2 | -173.8(6) |
| C9 | C1 | C16 | C17 | 71.5(6) | C15 | C10 | C11 | C12 | 1.2(8) |
| C9 | C1 | C16 | C19 | -54.2(7) | C18 | O2 | C17 | O1 | -3.5(8) |
| C11 | C12 | C13 | C14 | -1.2(9) | C18 | O2 | C17 | C16 | 178.2(4) |
| C11 | C10 | C15 | C14 | -1.0(8) | C20 | O4 | C19 | O3 | -0.6(9) |
| C4 | C9 | C1 | C2 | -3.2(6) | C20 | O4 | C19 | C16 | -176.7(5) |

Table S6. Hydrogen Atom Coordinates ($\text{\AA} \times 10^4$) and Isotropic Displacement Parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for **2l**.

| Atom | x | y | z | U(eq) |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| H13 | 10327.47 | 571.91 | 577.24 | 26 |
| H11 | 8393.63 | -283.87 | 1876.42 | 23 |
| H1 | 8625.68 | 5228.76 | 2632.61 | 22 |
| H3 | 8281.87 | 556.22 | 3111.18 | 26 |
| H7 | 6871.69 | 6114 | 4622.77 | 28 |
| H14 | 10439.39 | 3358.79 | 932.62 | 31 |

| | | | | |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----|
| H16 | 7543.58 | 4683.75 | 1341.35 | 24 |
| H8 | 7263.42 | 6779.45 | 3475.25 | 25 |
| H6 | 6974.11 | 3438.27 | 5084.07 | 32 |
| H15 | 9570.76 | 4361.44 | 1789.65 | 26 |
| H18A | 5291.97 | 8716.12 | 332.73 | 53 |
| H18B | 6307.08 | 9429.26 | 956.65 | 53 |
| H18C | 5337.08 | 8865.15 | 1232.77 | 53 |
| H20A | 4451.98 | 2958.38 | 1368.69 | 65 |
| H20B | 4244.91 | 3859.83 | 2104.58 | 65 |
| H20C | 4953.73 | 2230.03 | 2228.76 | 65 |

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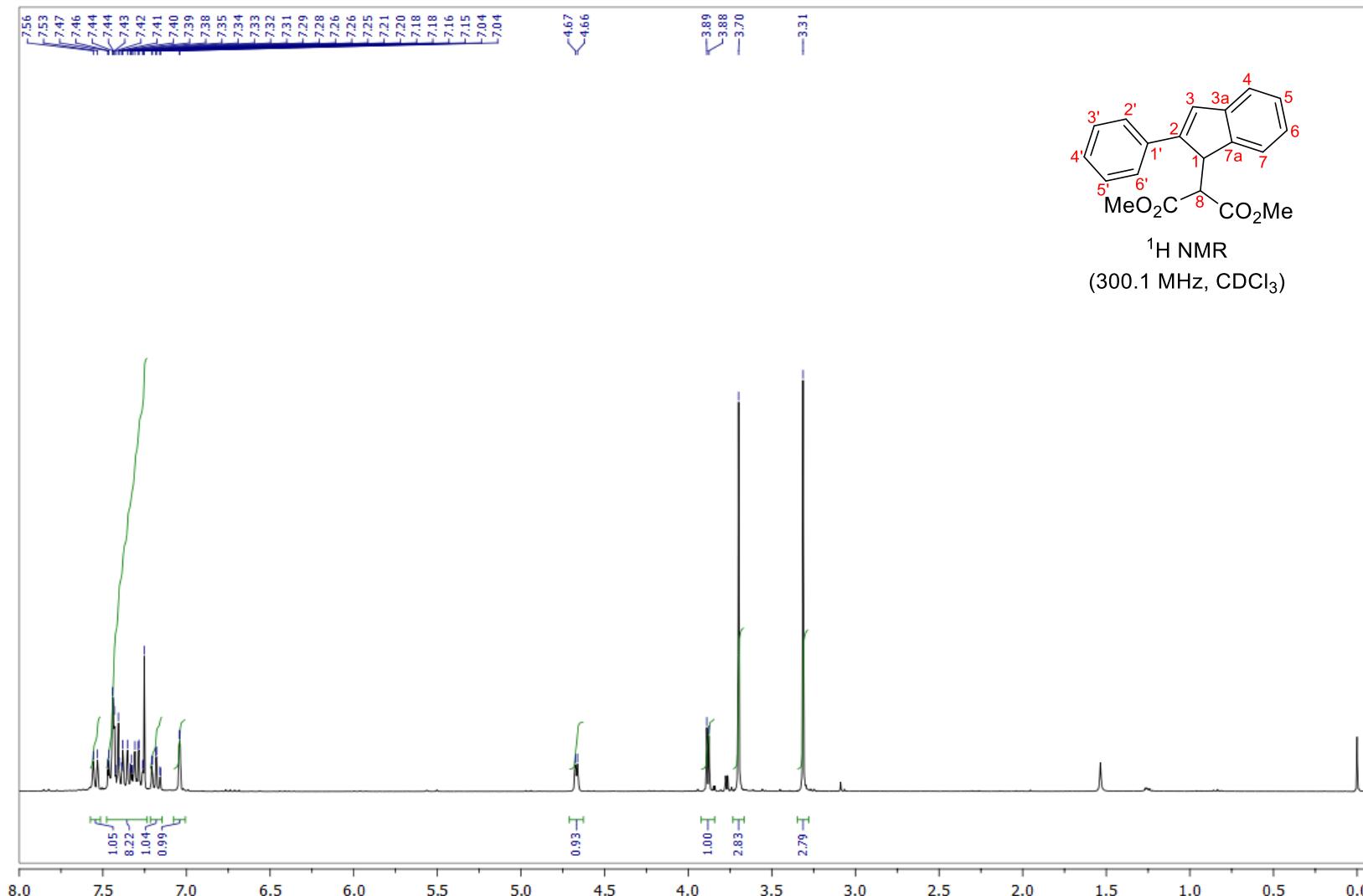
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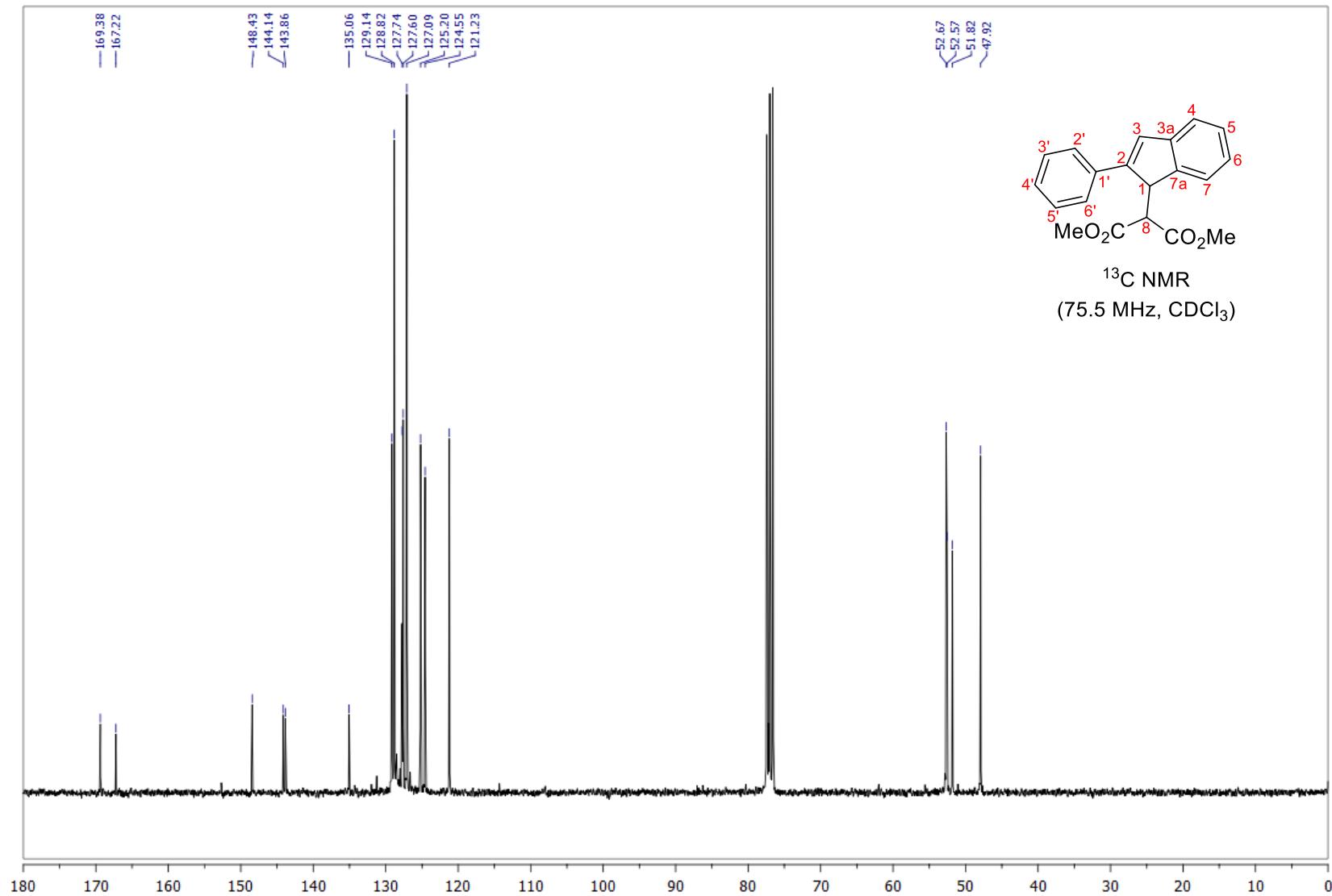
S3 (a) O. V. Dolomanov, L. J. Bourhis, R. J. Gildea, J. A. K. Howard and H. Puschmann, *J. Appl. Crystallogr.*, 2009, **42**, 339; <https://doi.org/10.1107/S0021889808042726>; (b) G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Crystallogr.*, 2015, **C71**, 3; <https://doi.org/10.1107/S2053229614024218>.

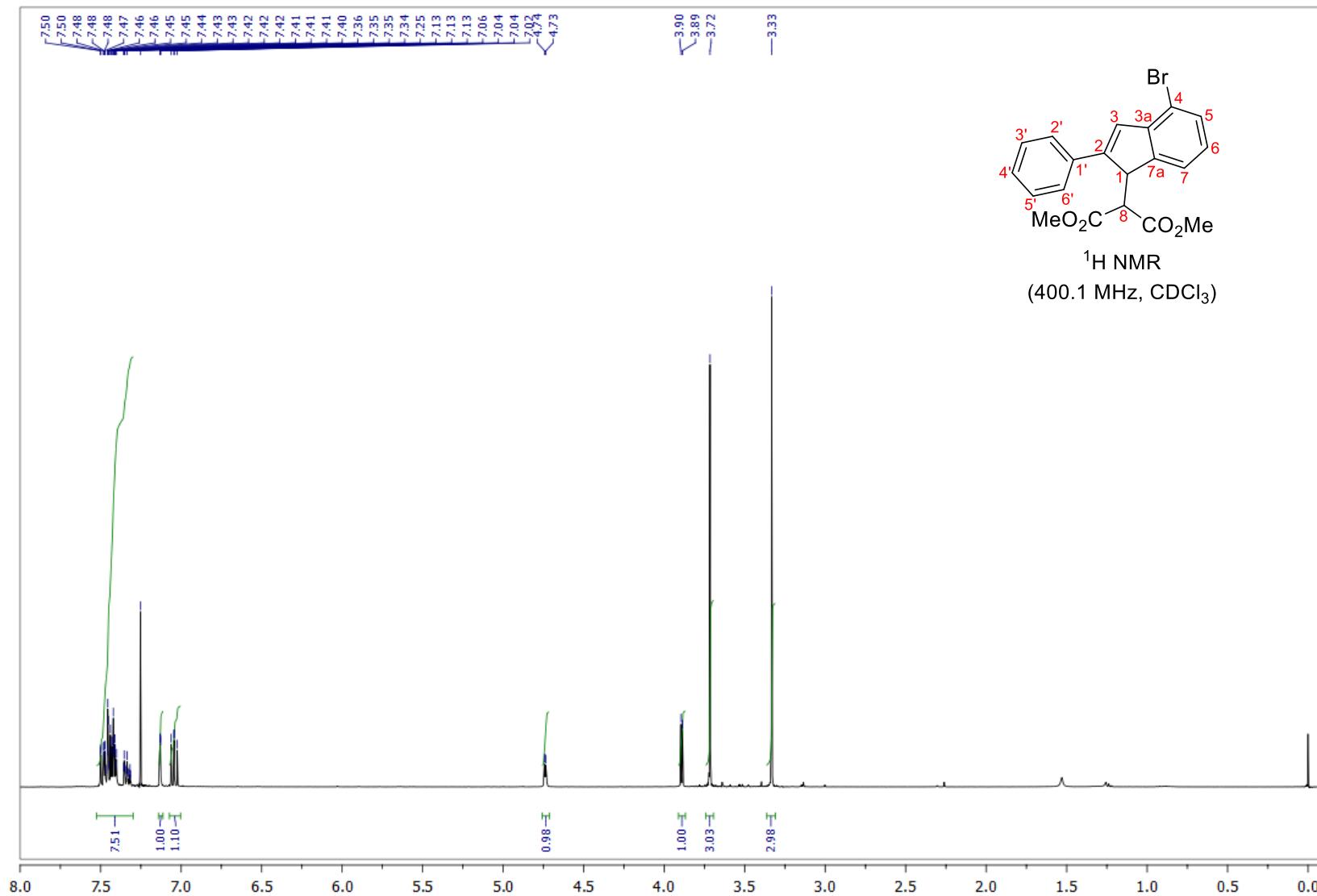
S4 D. D. Borisov, R. A. Novikov and Yu. V. Tomilov, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2021, **86**, 4457; <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.joc.0c02891>.

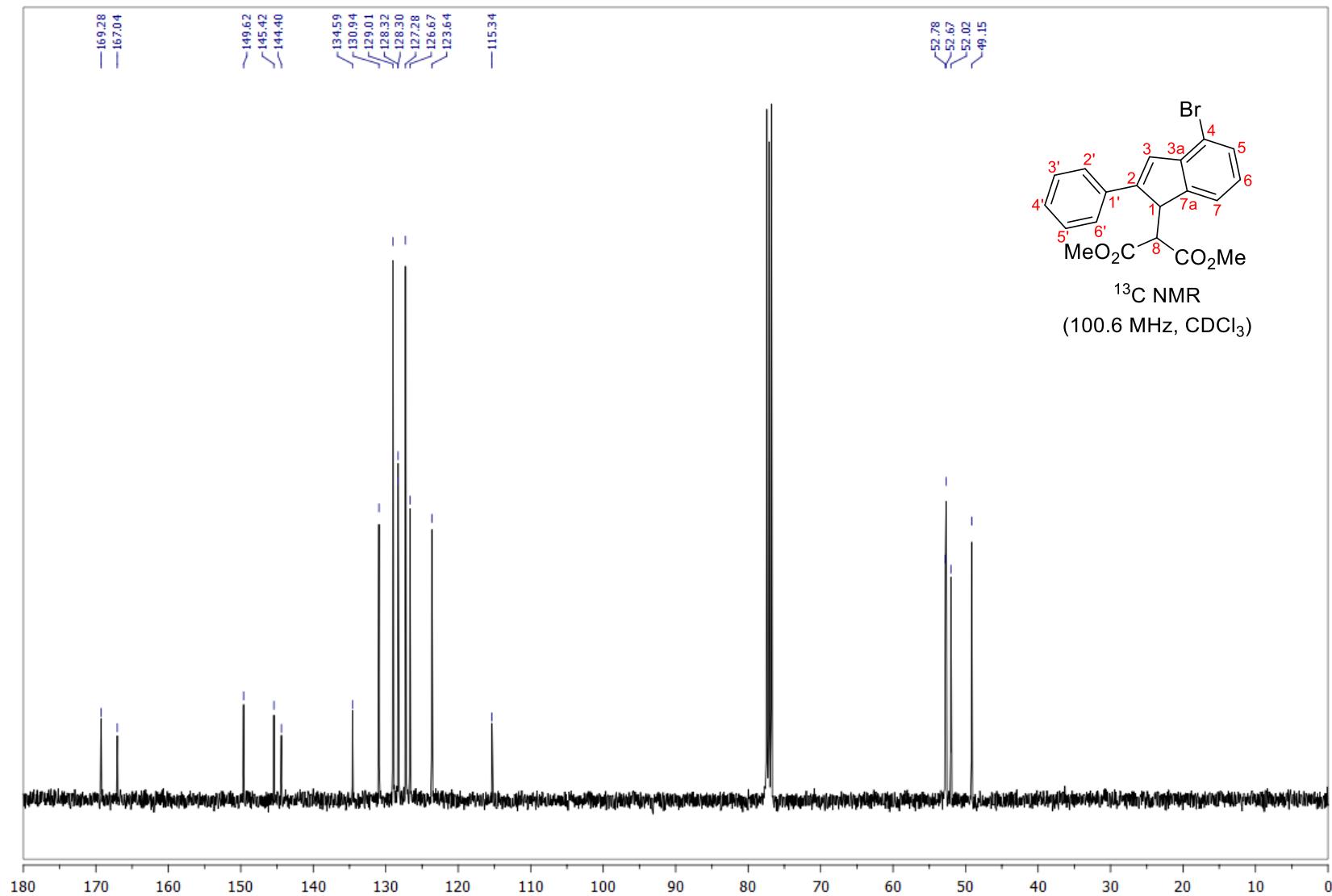
S5 D. D. Borisov, R. A. Novikov and Y. V. Tomilov, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2016, **55**, 12233; <https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.201603927>.

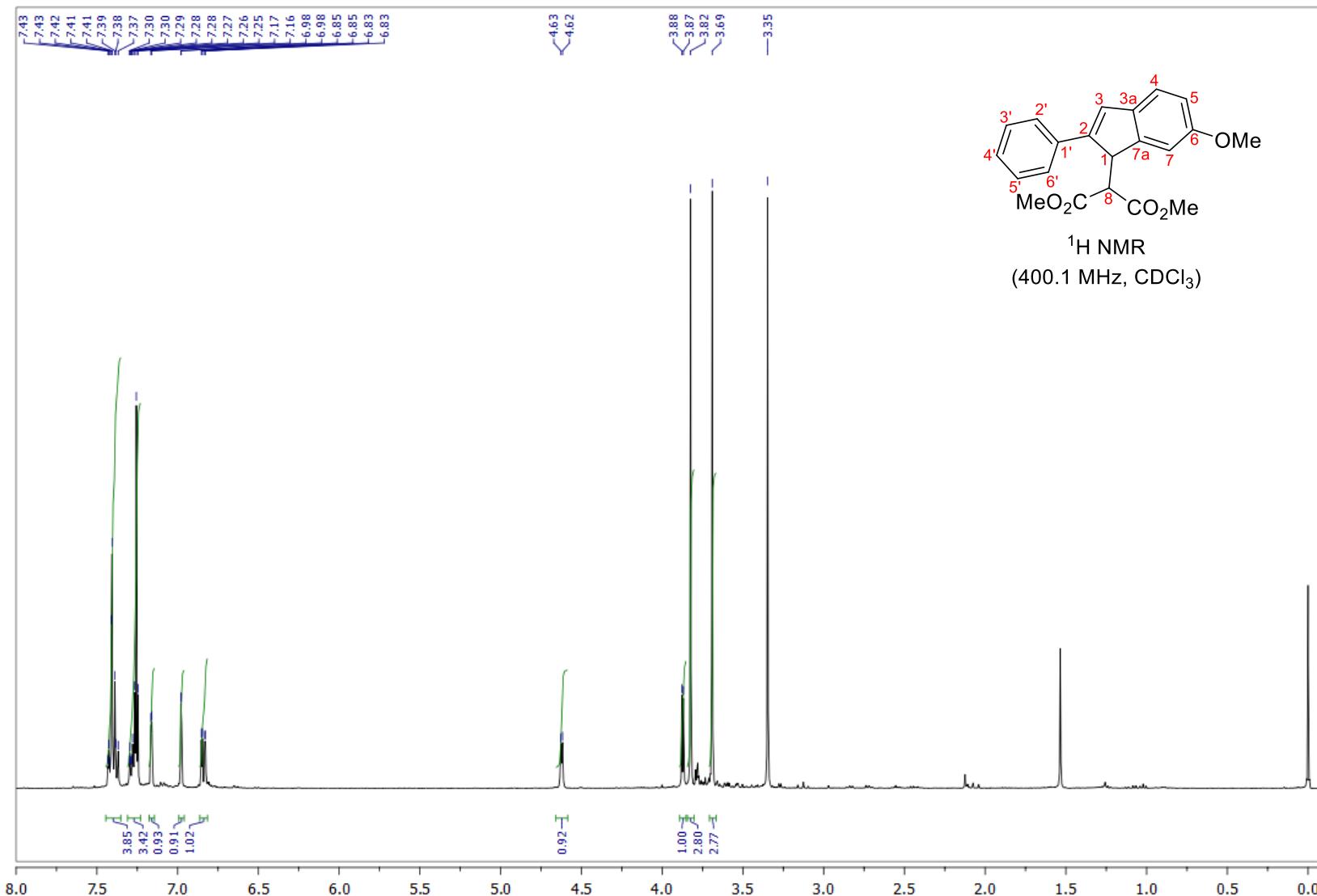
4. NMR Spectrum Copies:
4.1 NMR spectra for indenes 2a–l:

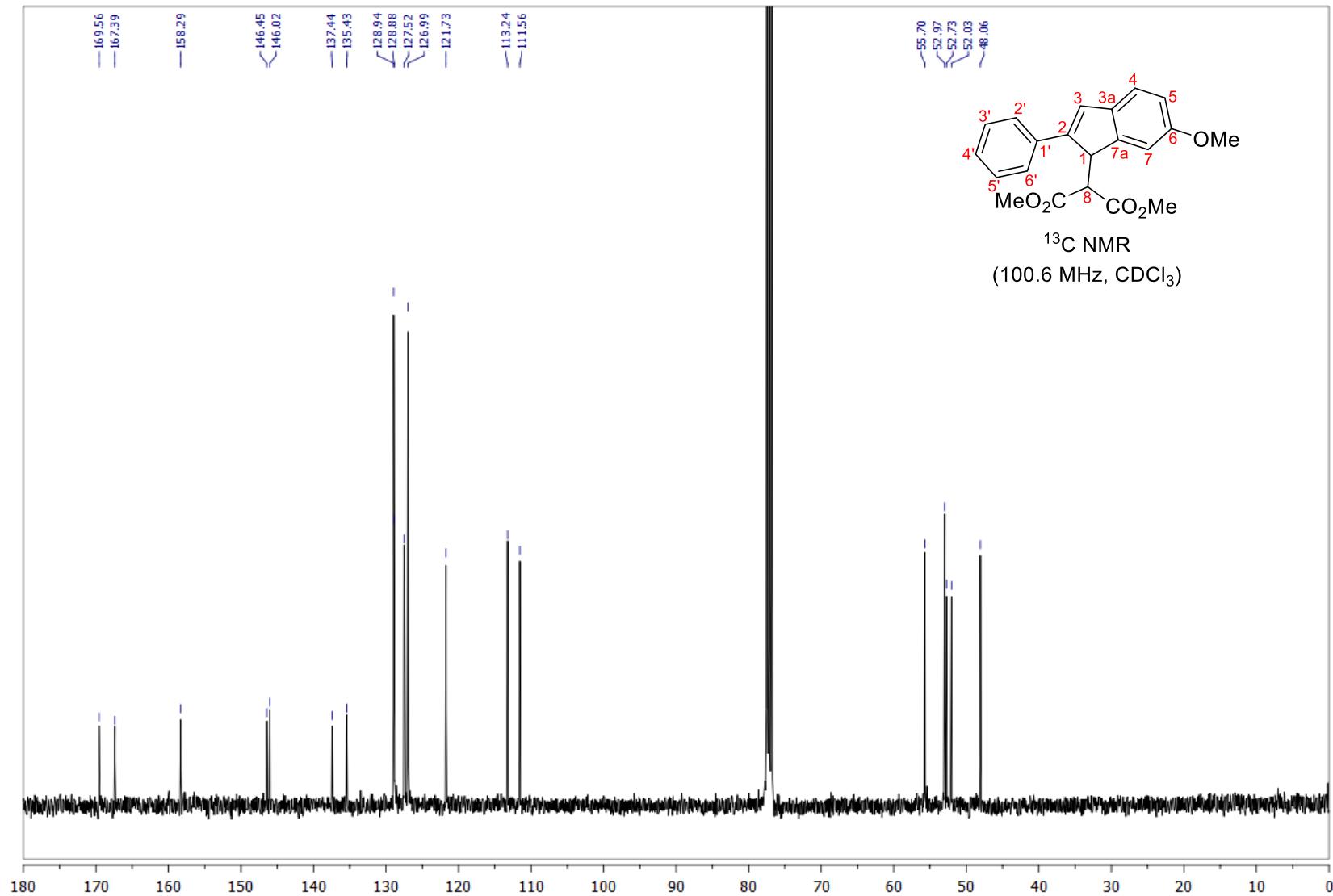


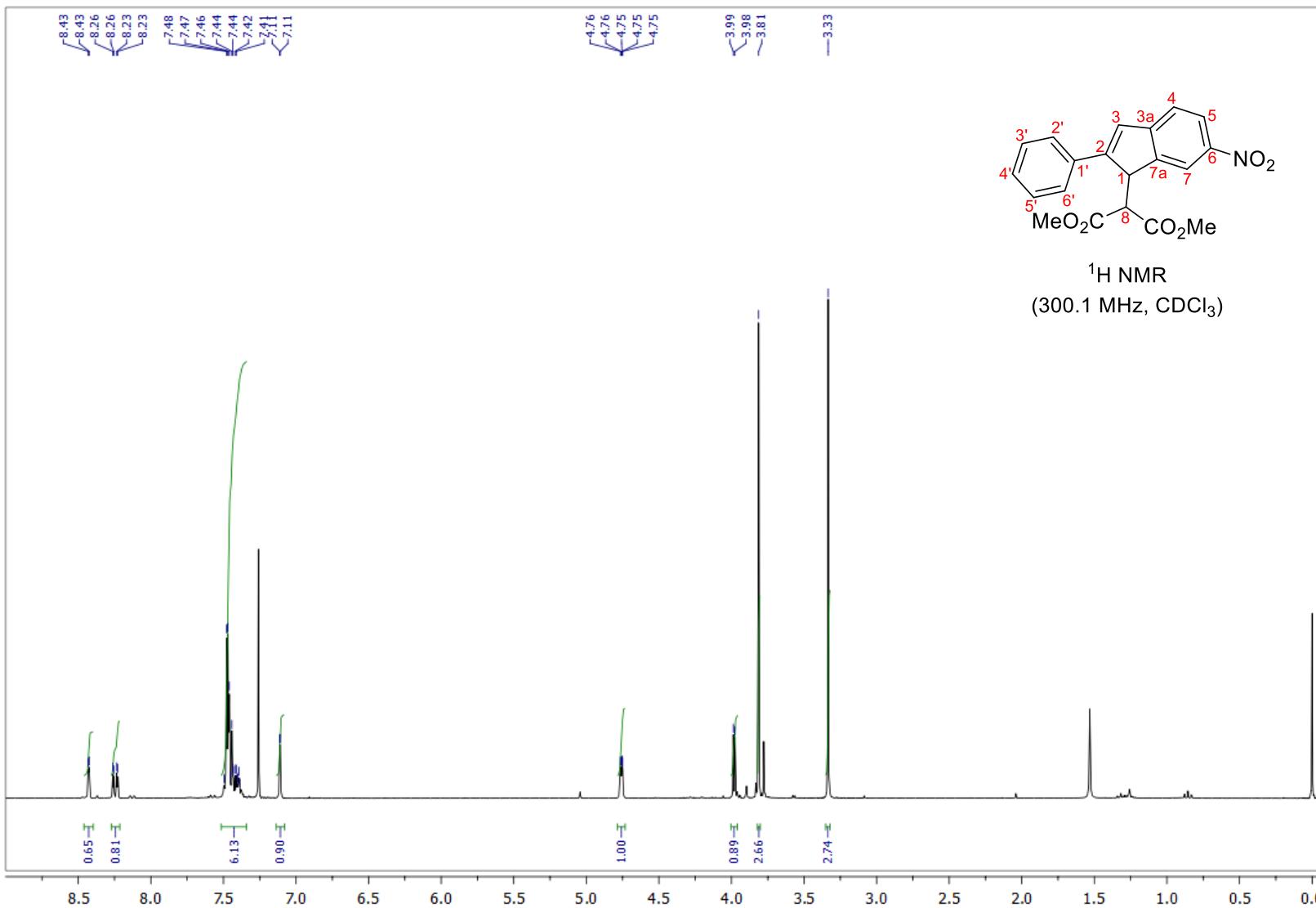


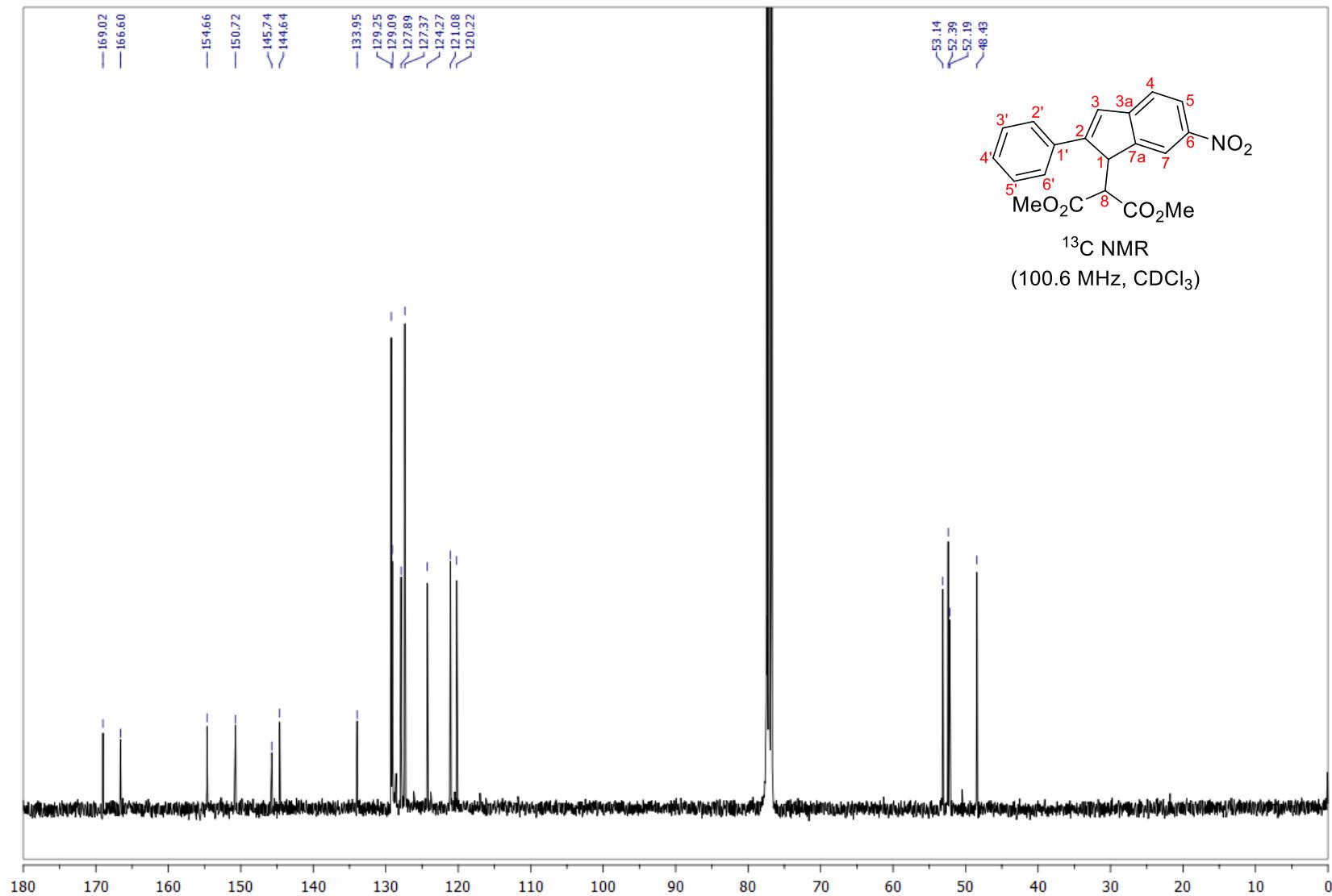


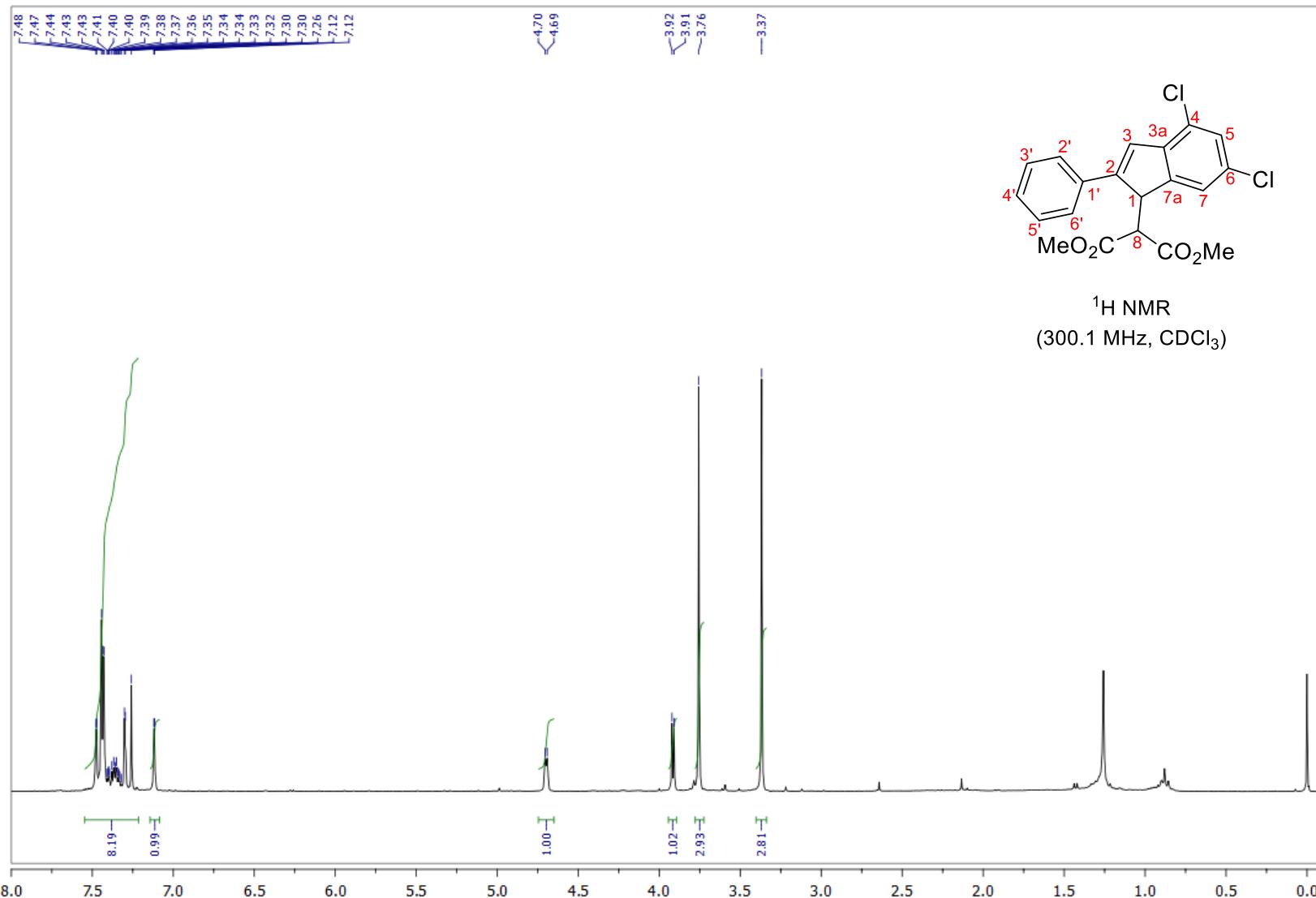


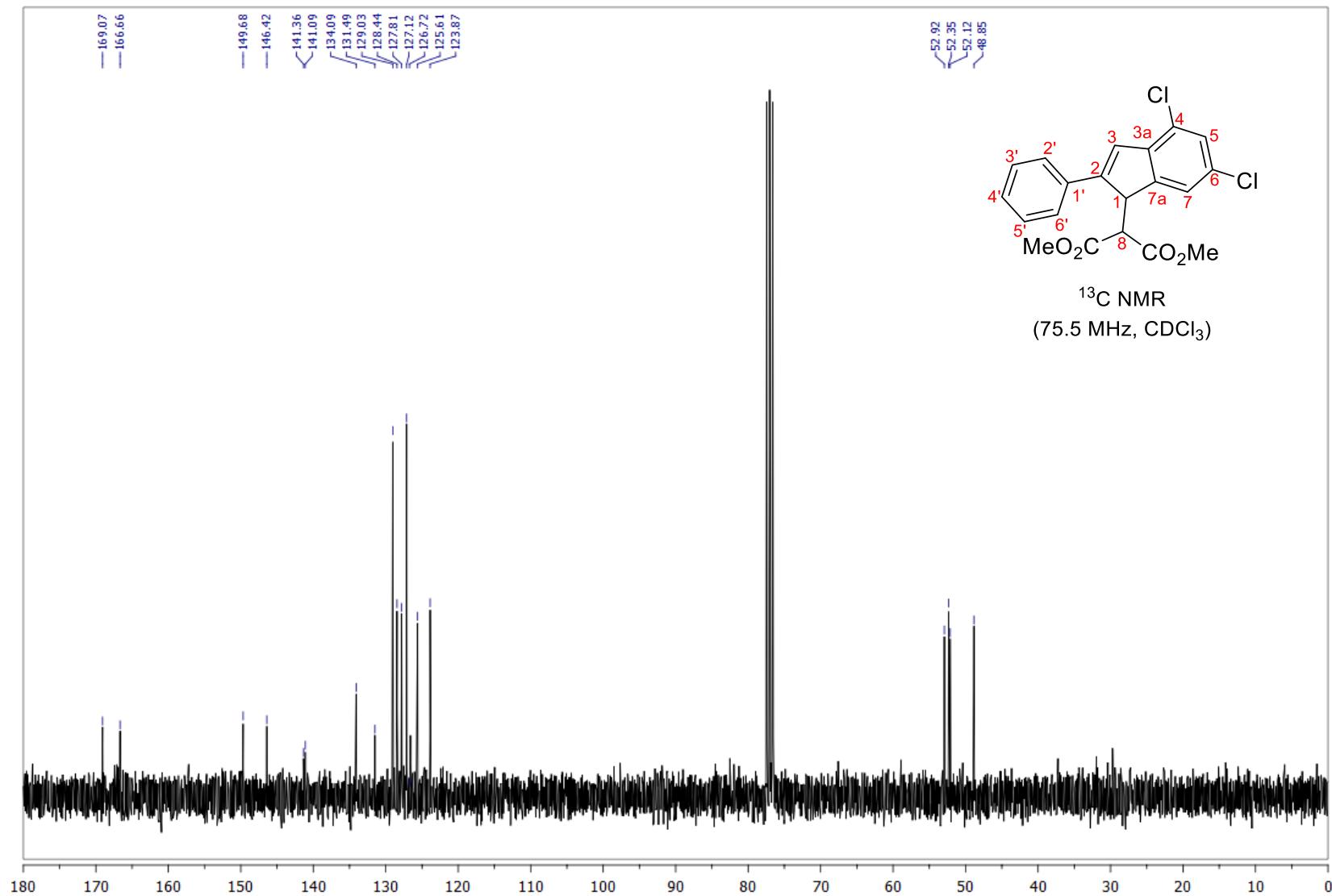


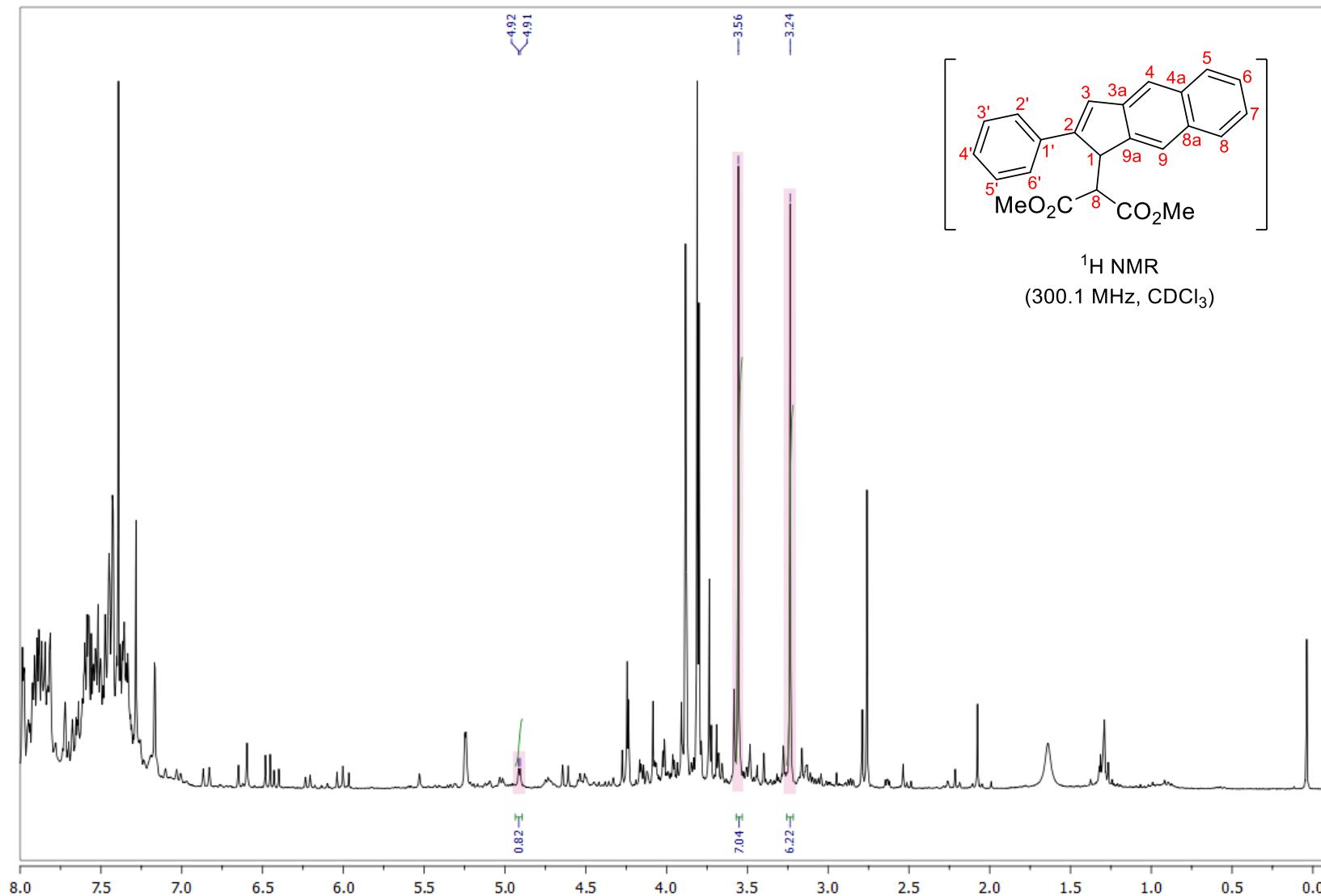


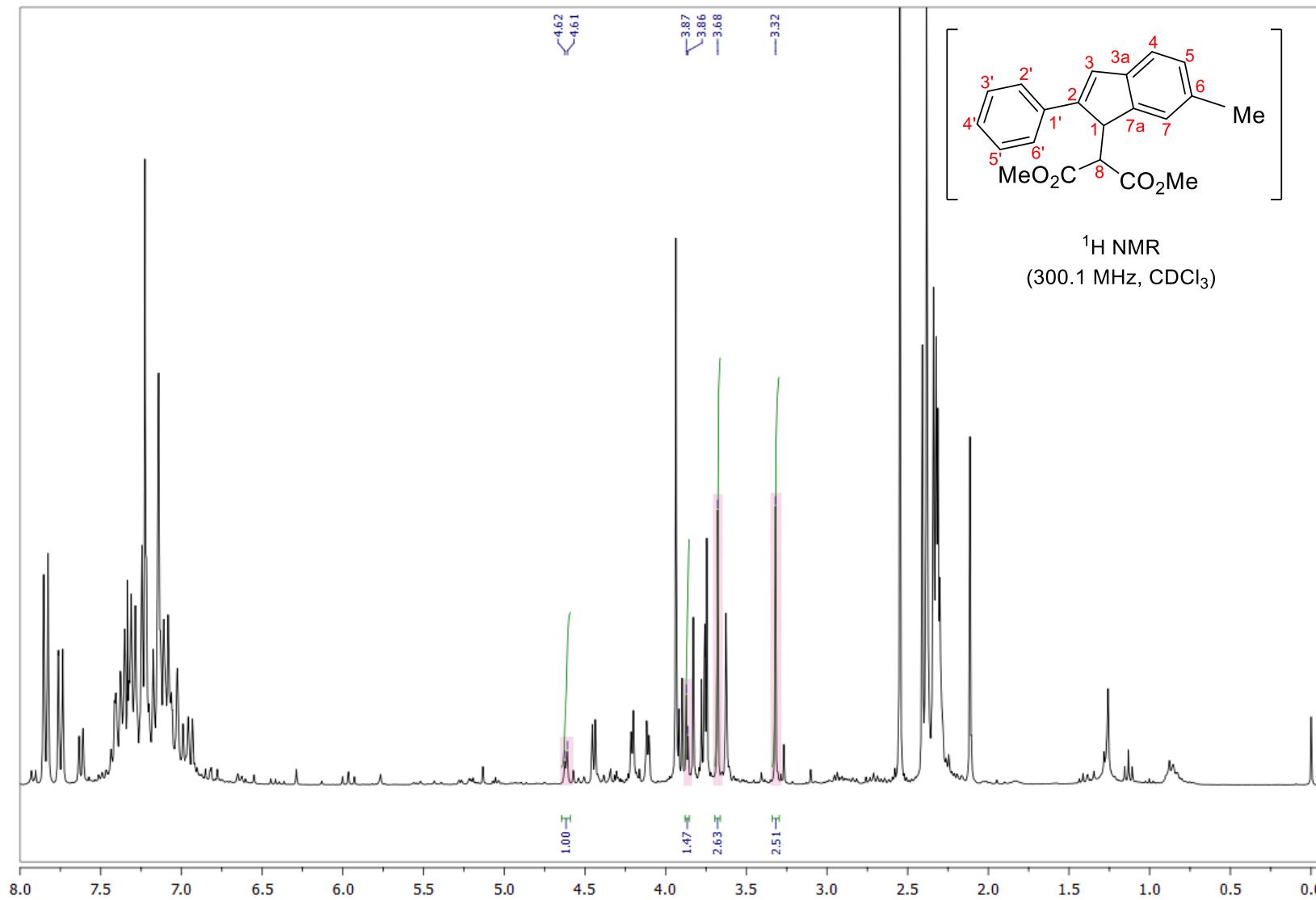


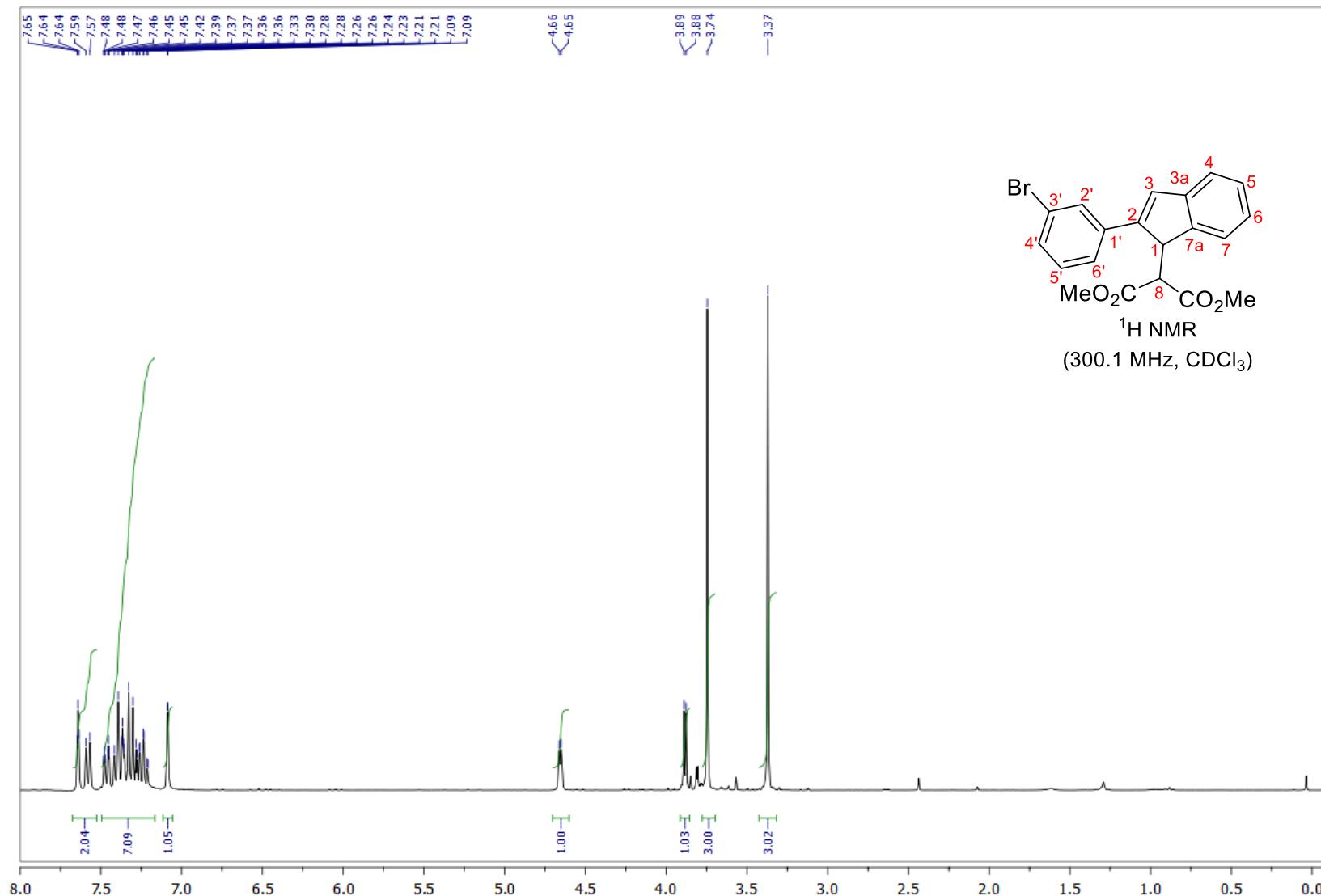


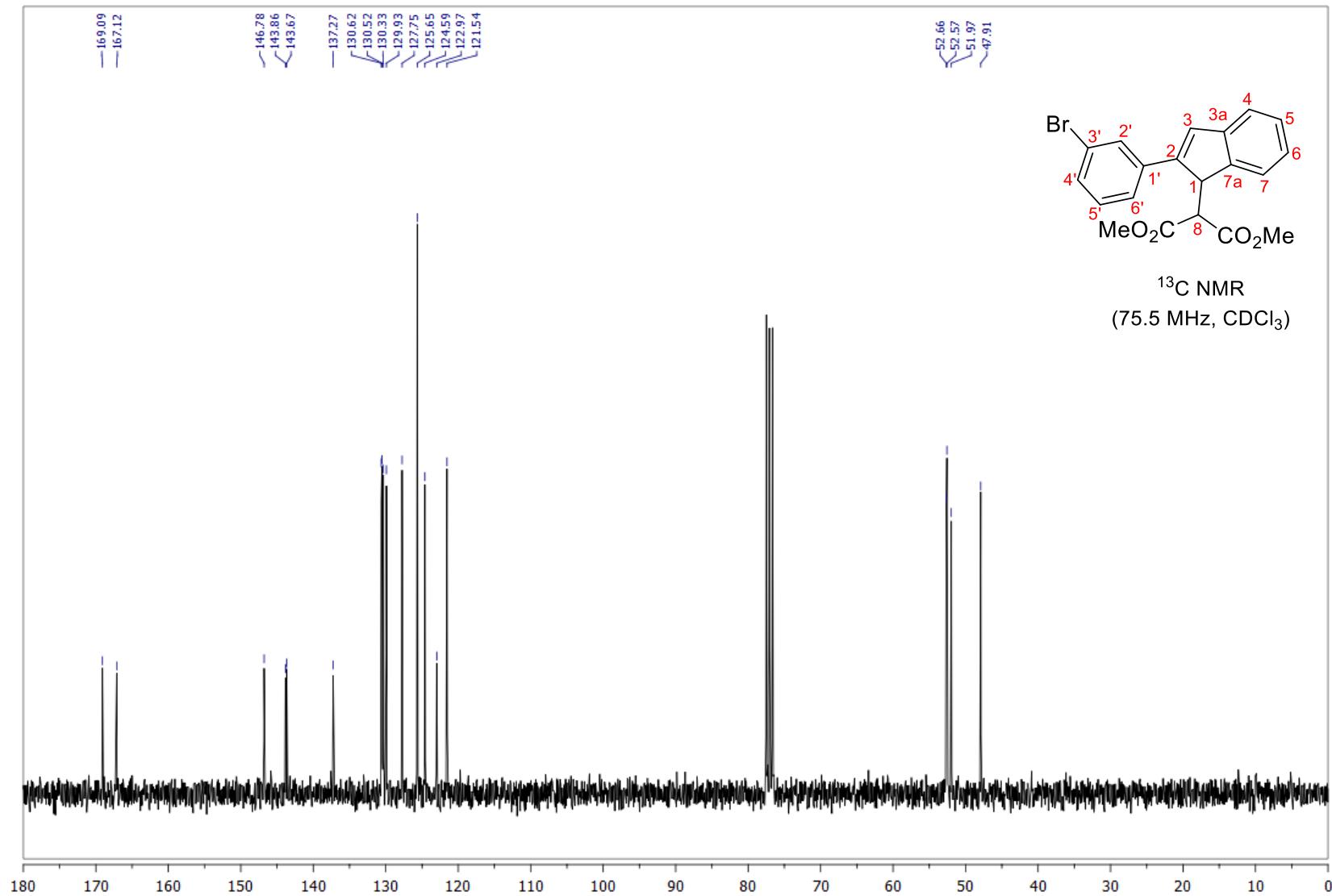


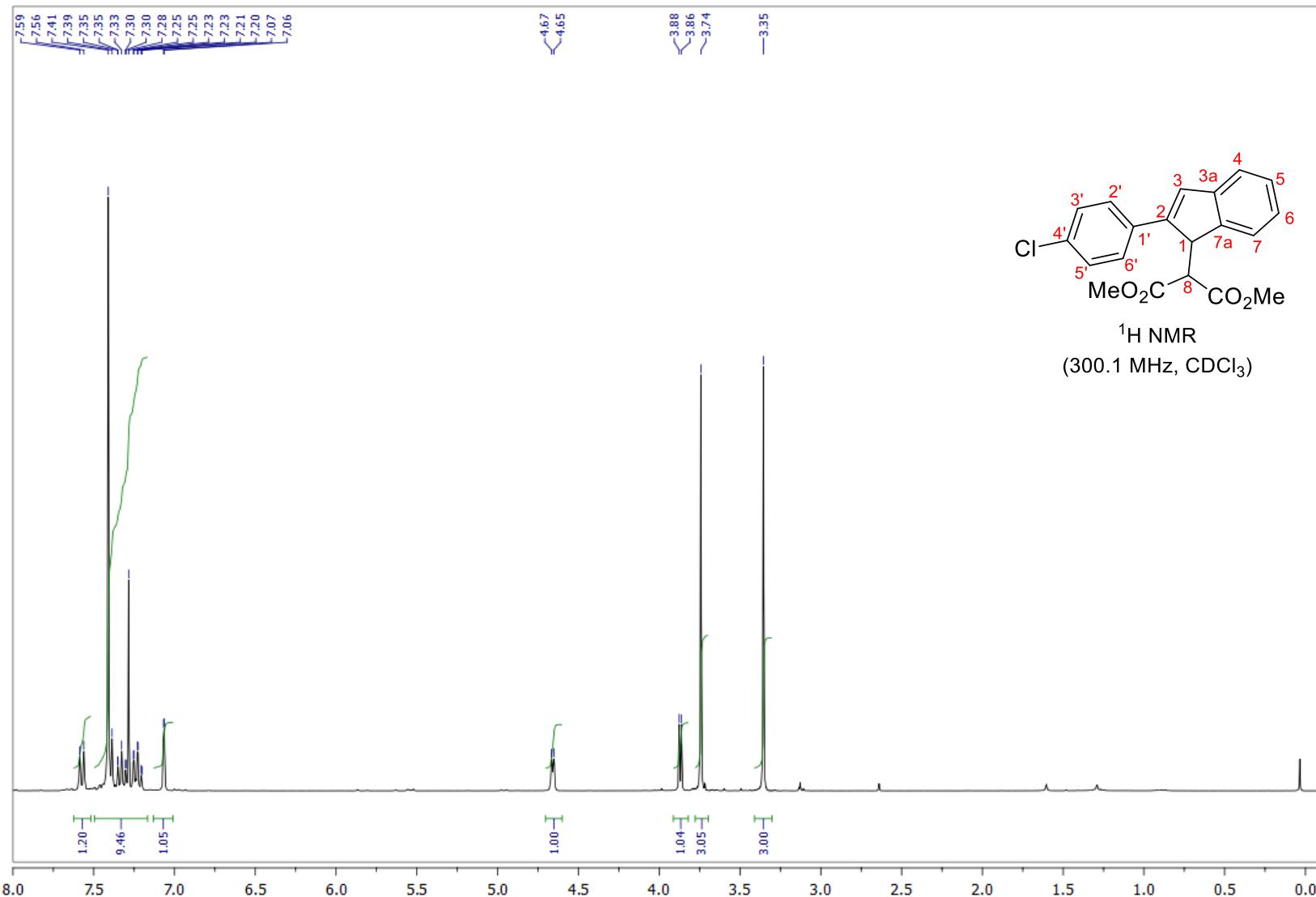


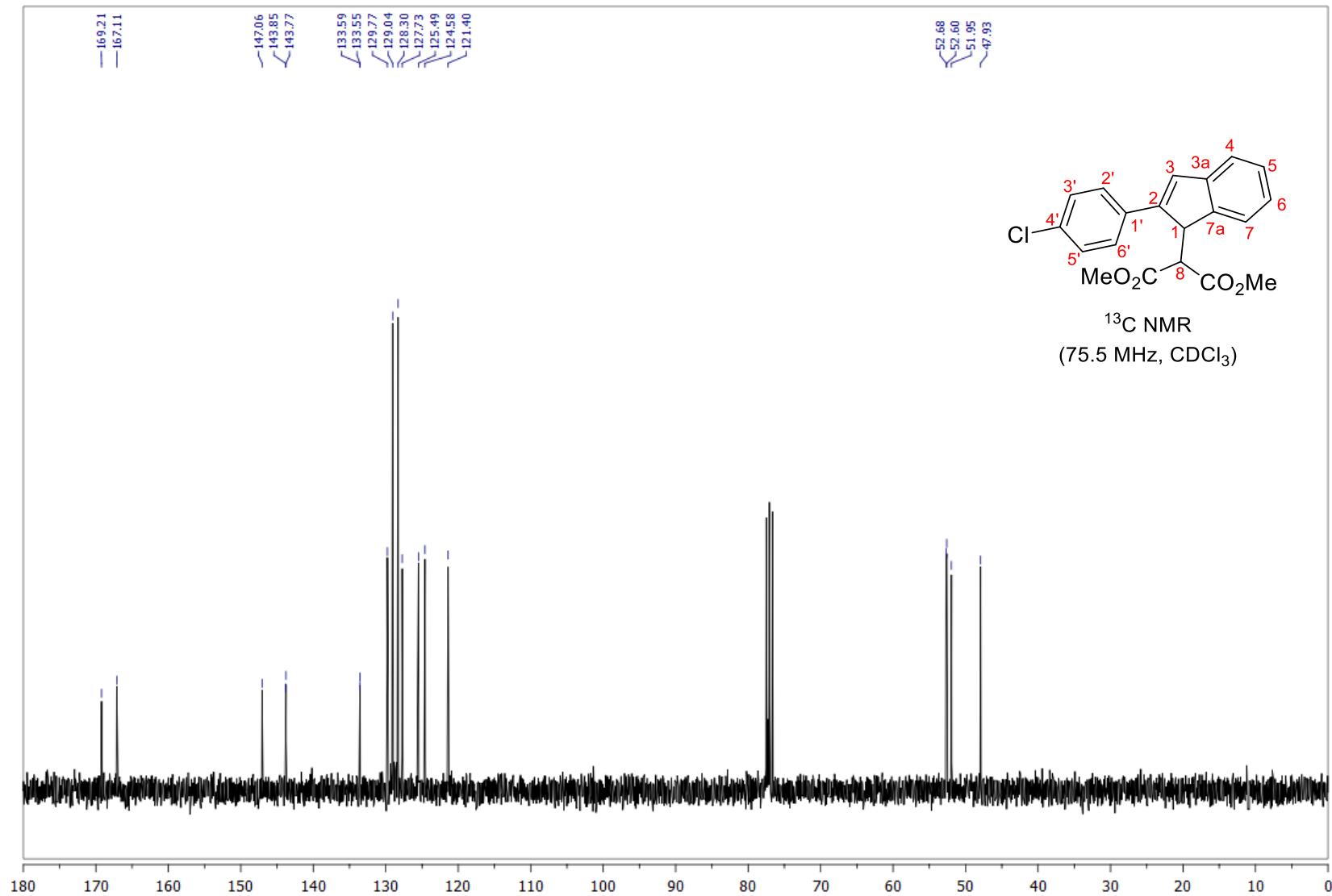


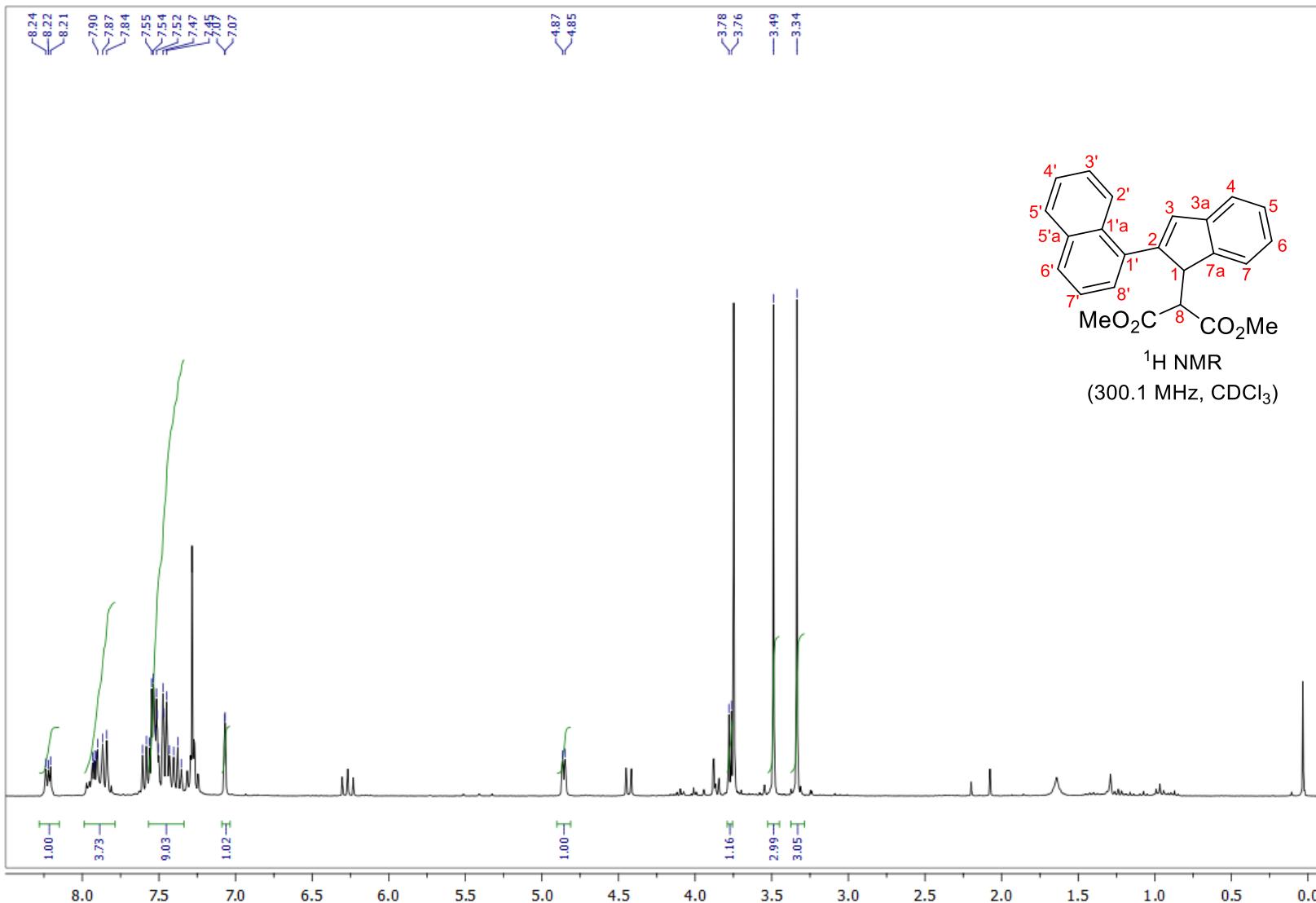


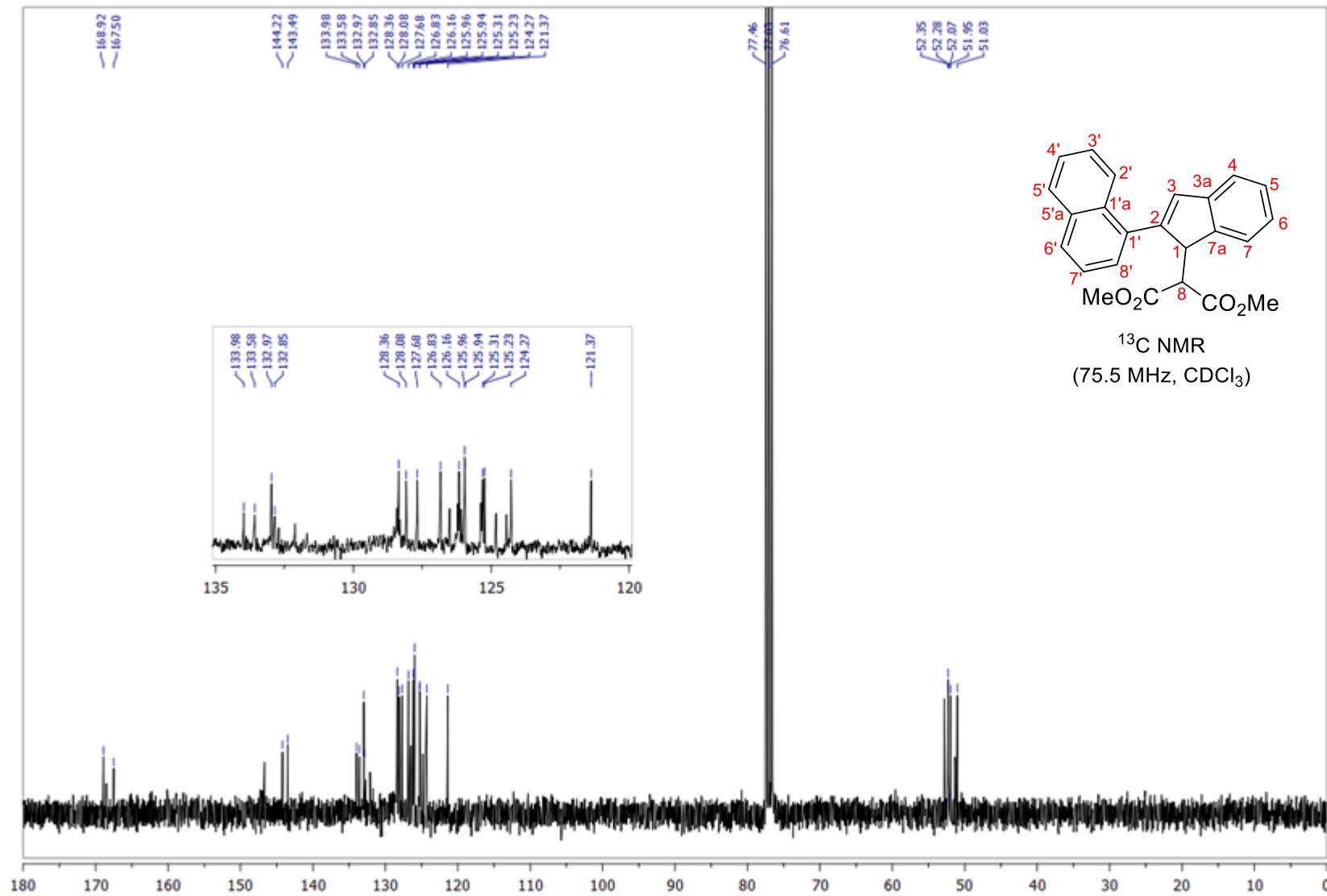


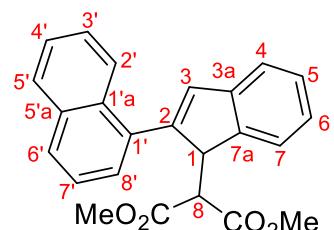




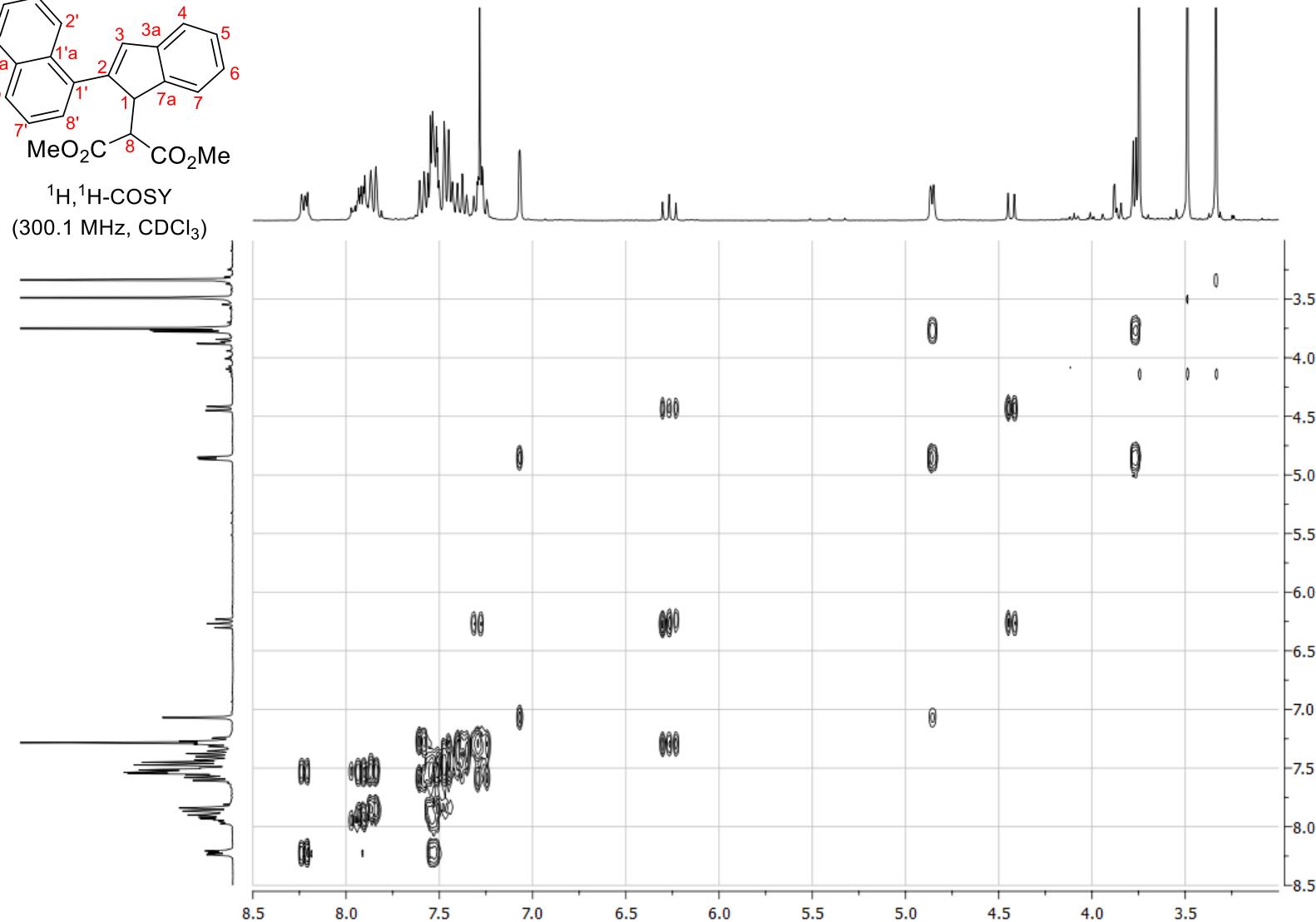


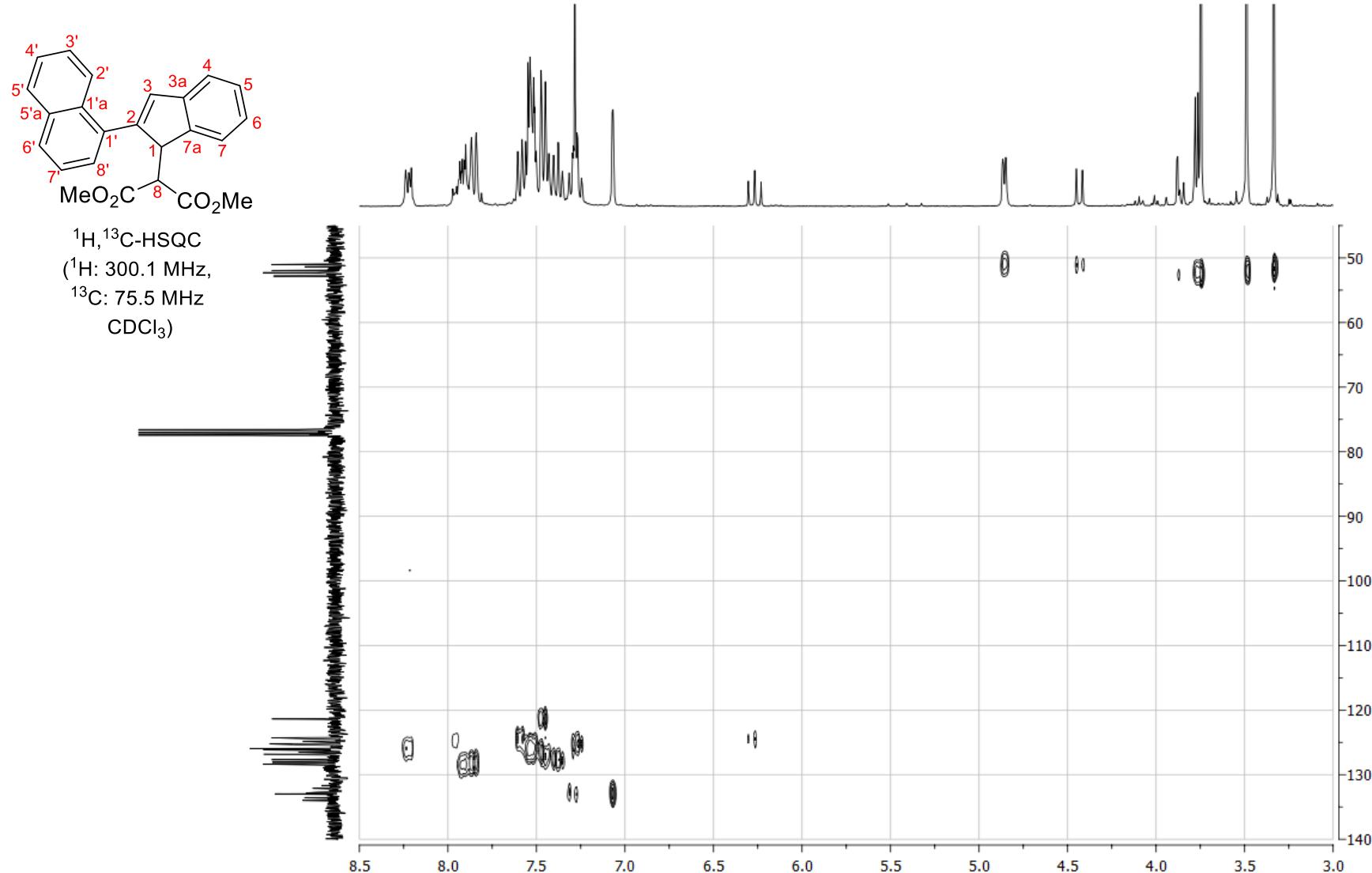


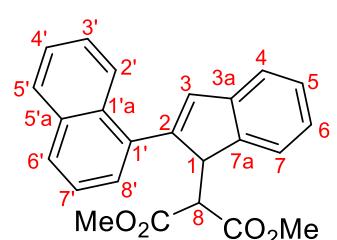




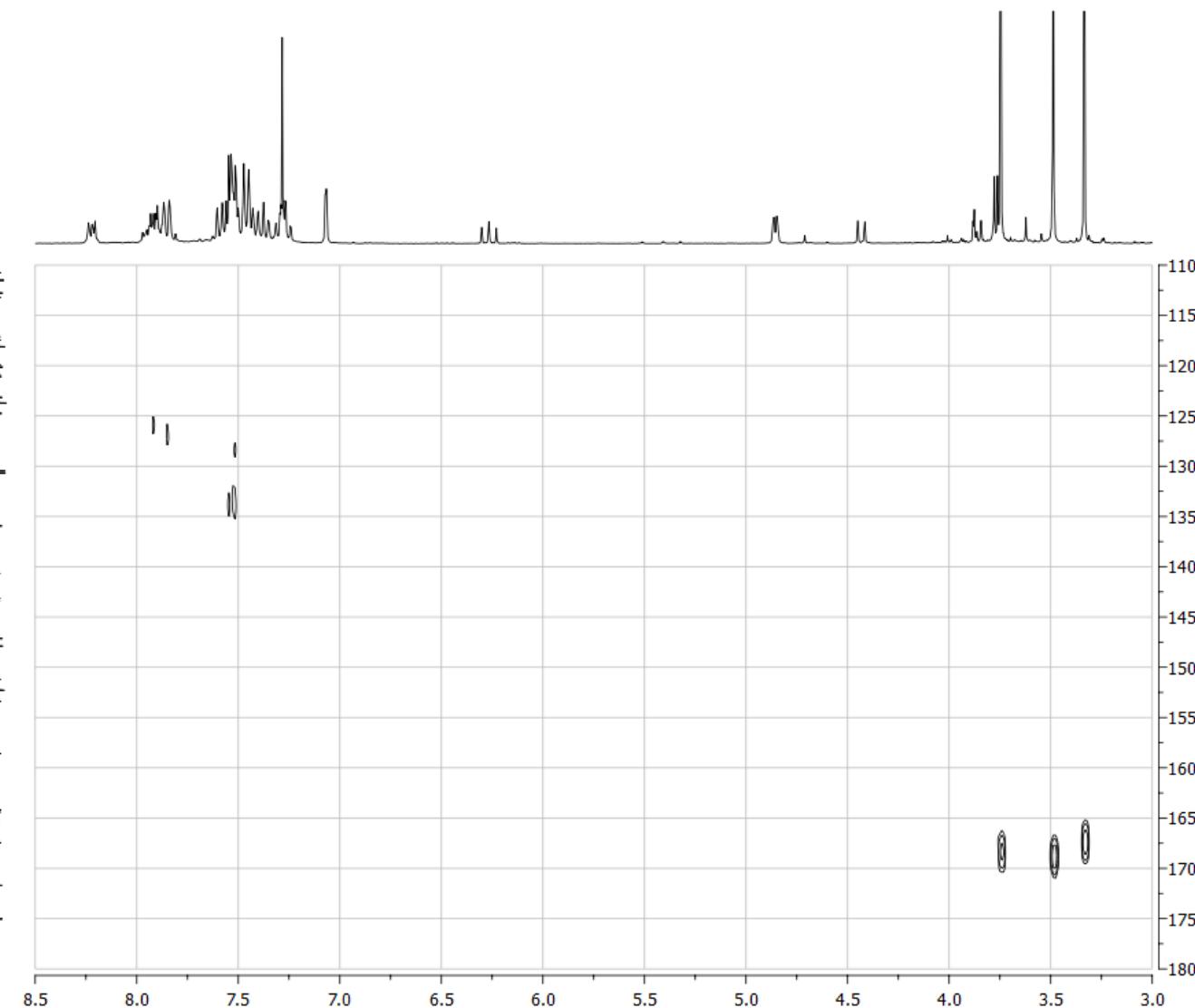
¹H, ¹H-COSY (300.1 MHz, CDCl₃)

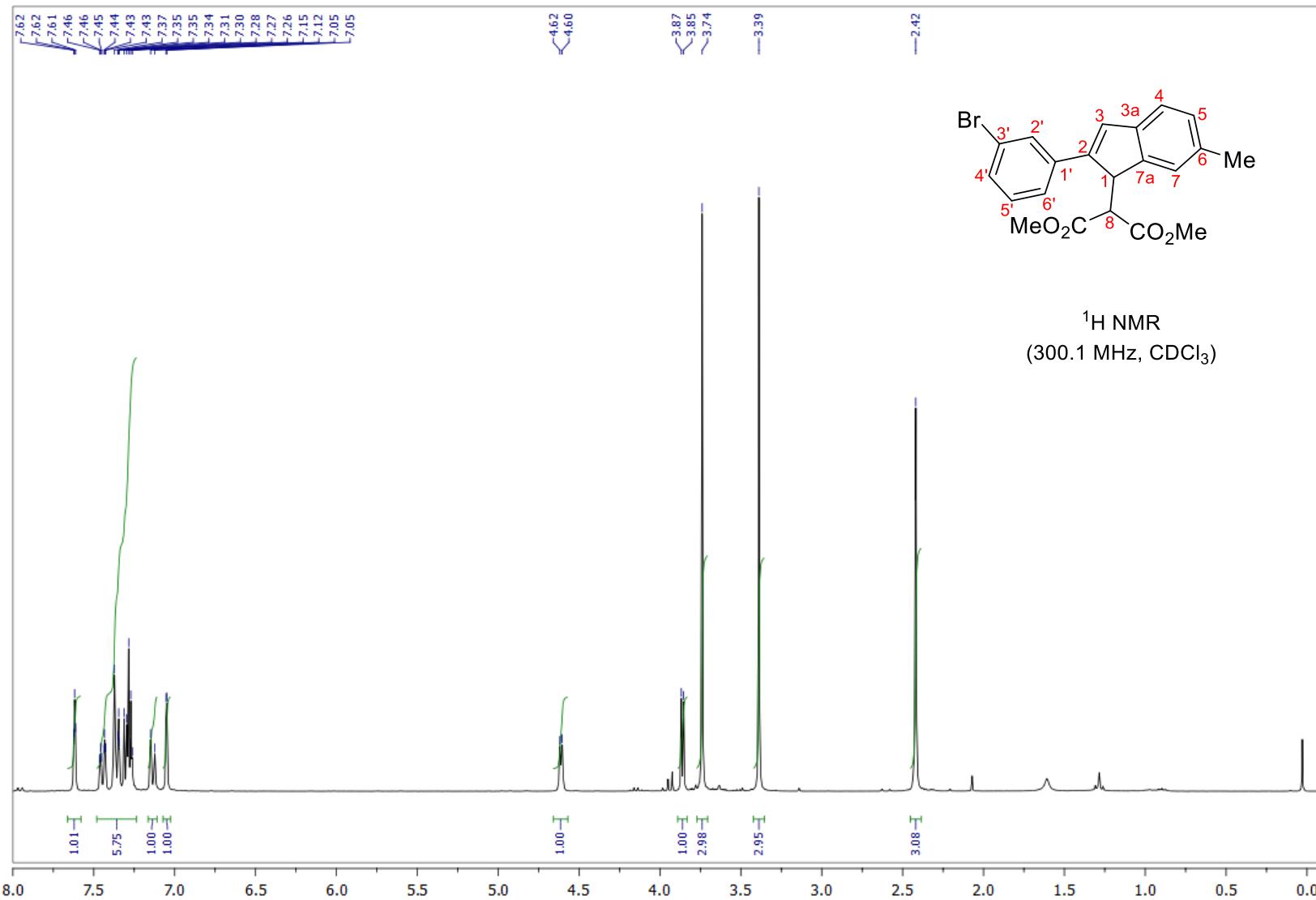


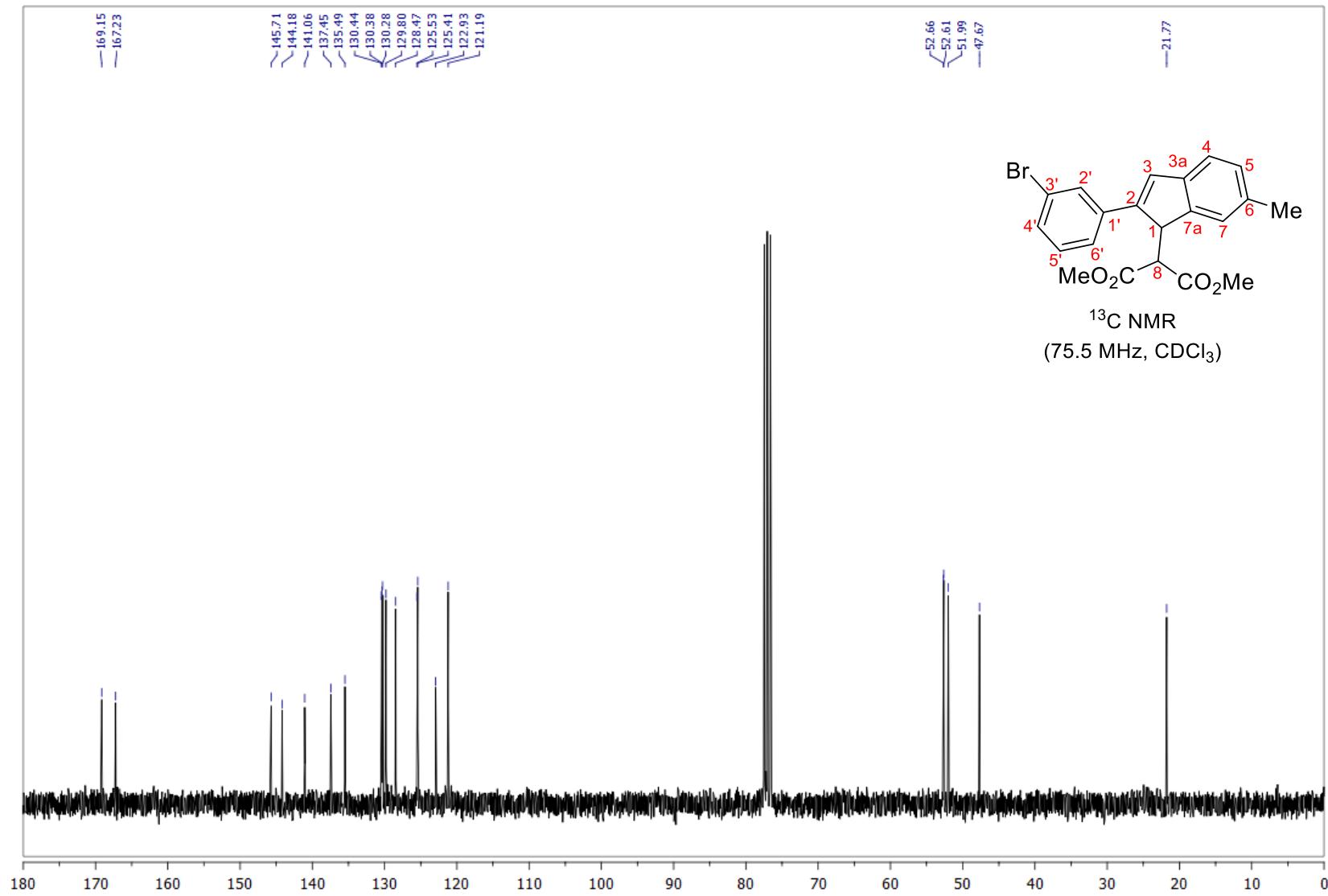


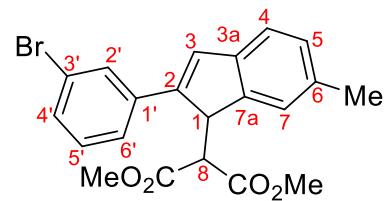


^1H , ^{13}C -HMBC
(^1H : 300.1 MHz,
 ^{13}C : 75.5 MHz
 CDCl_3)

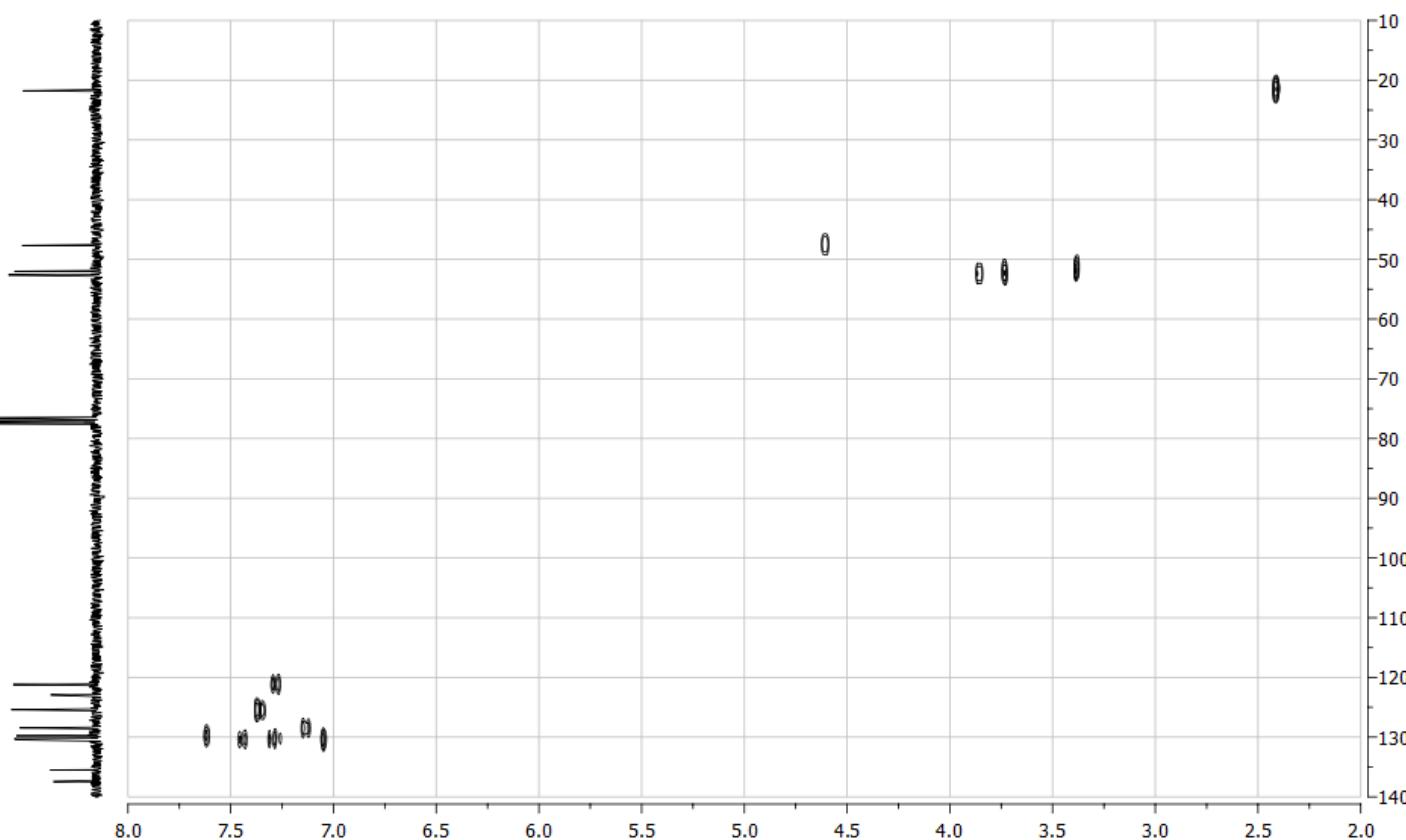


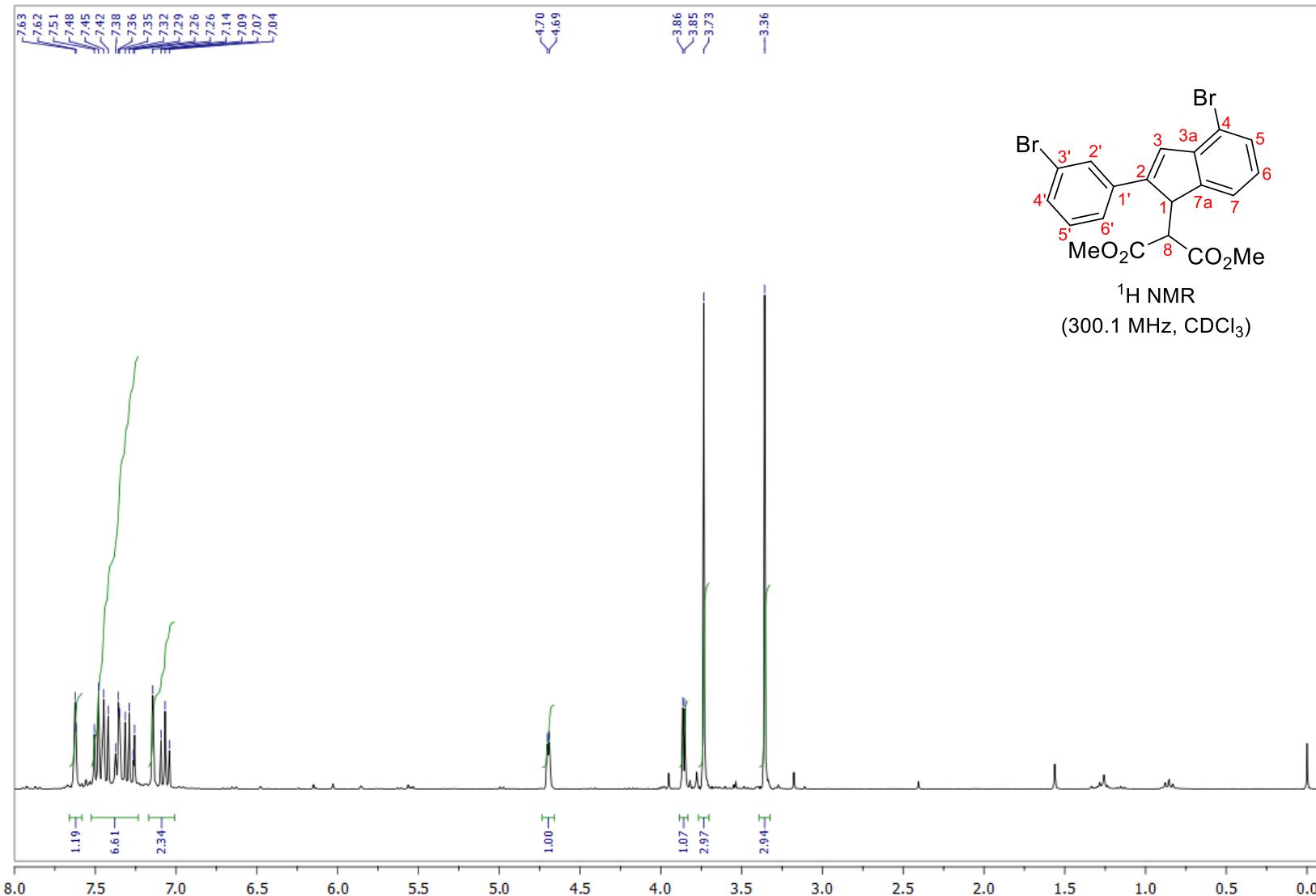


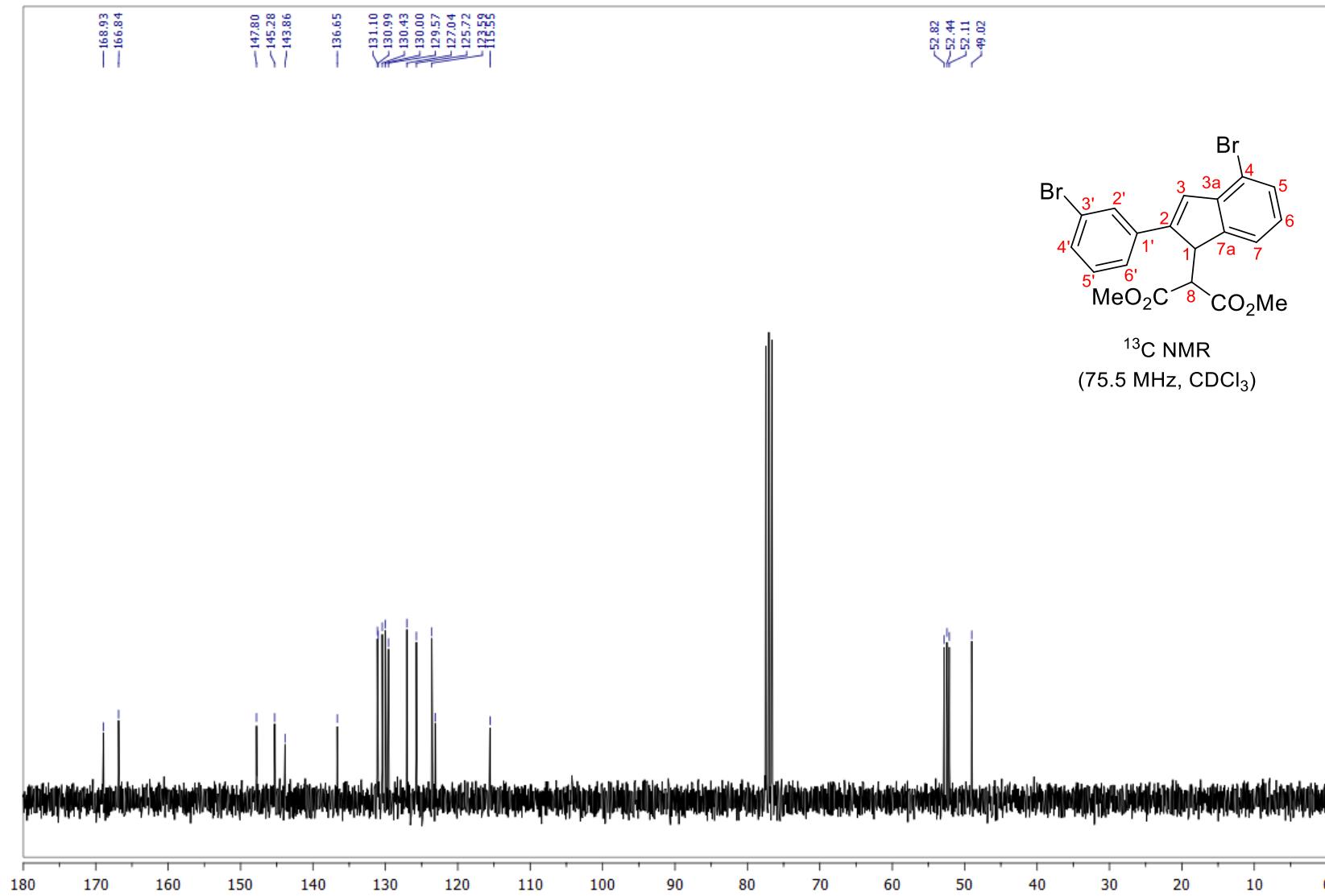




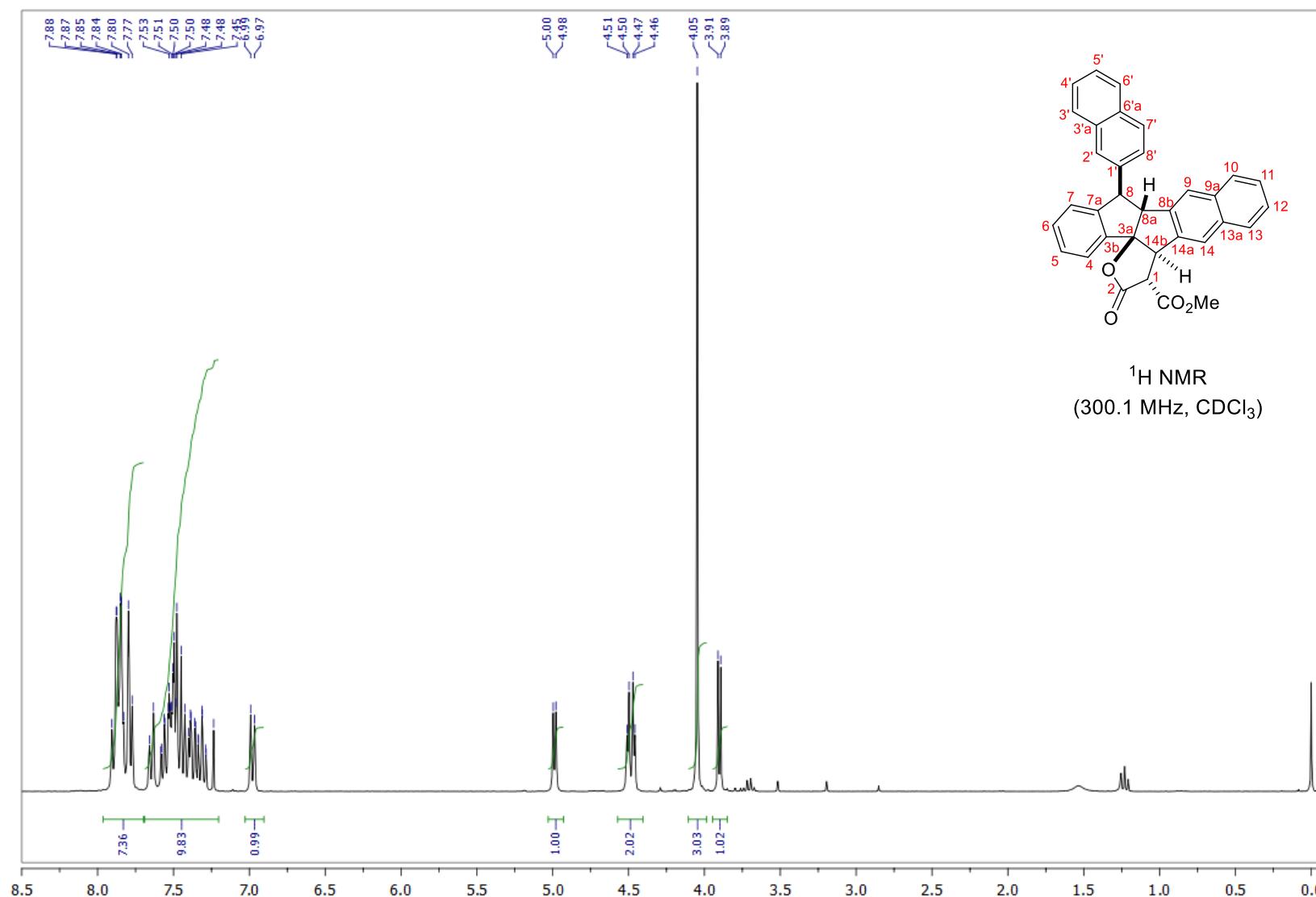
$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HSQC
(^1H : 300.1 MHz,
 ^{13}C : 75.5 MHz
 CDCl_3)

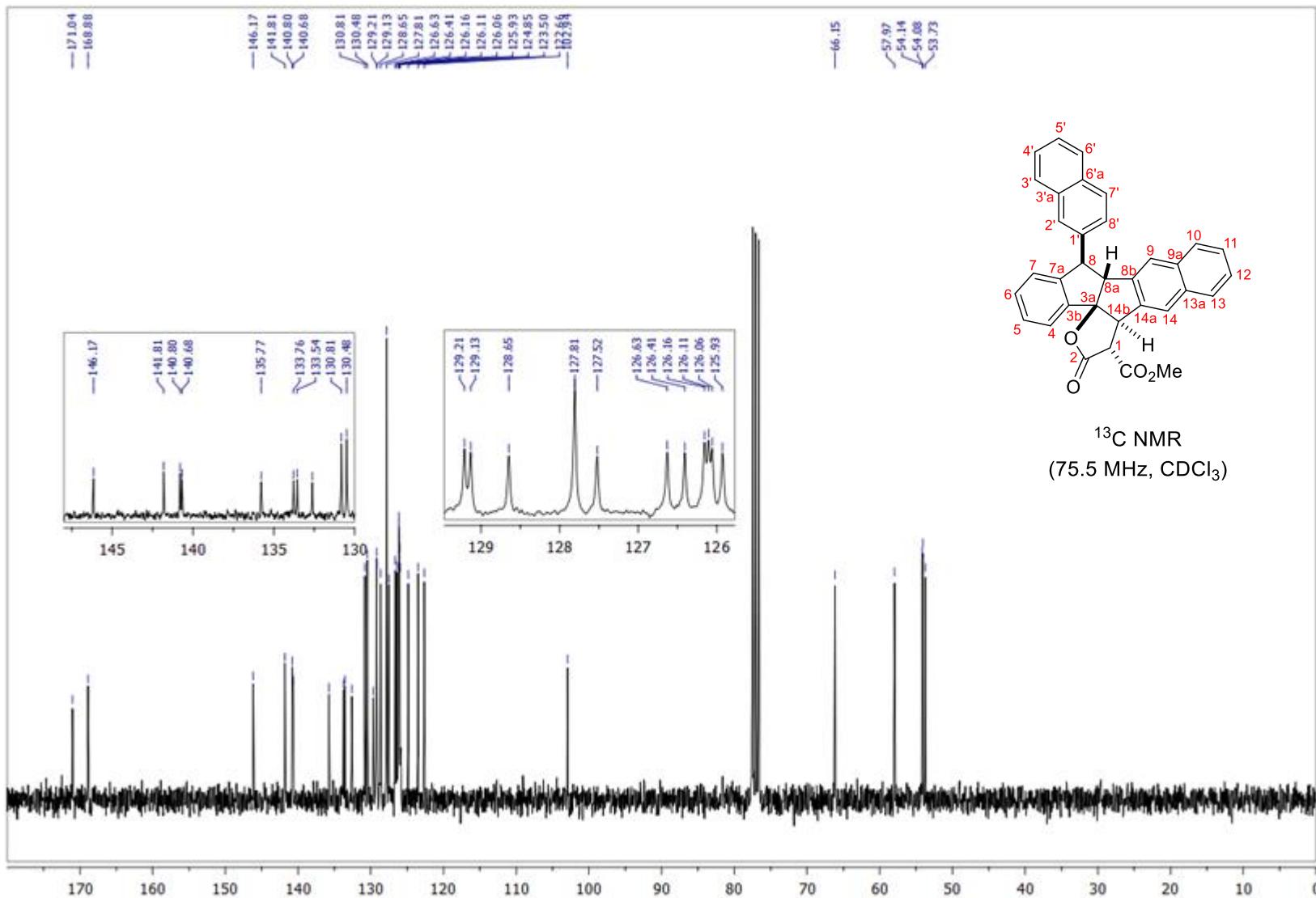


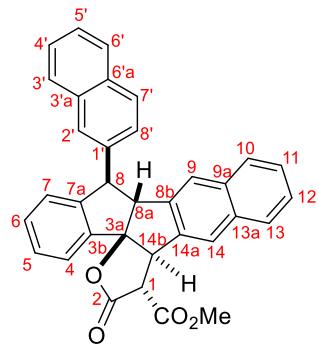




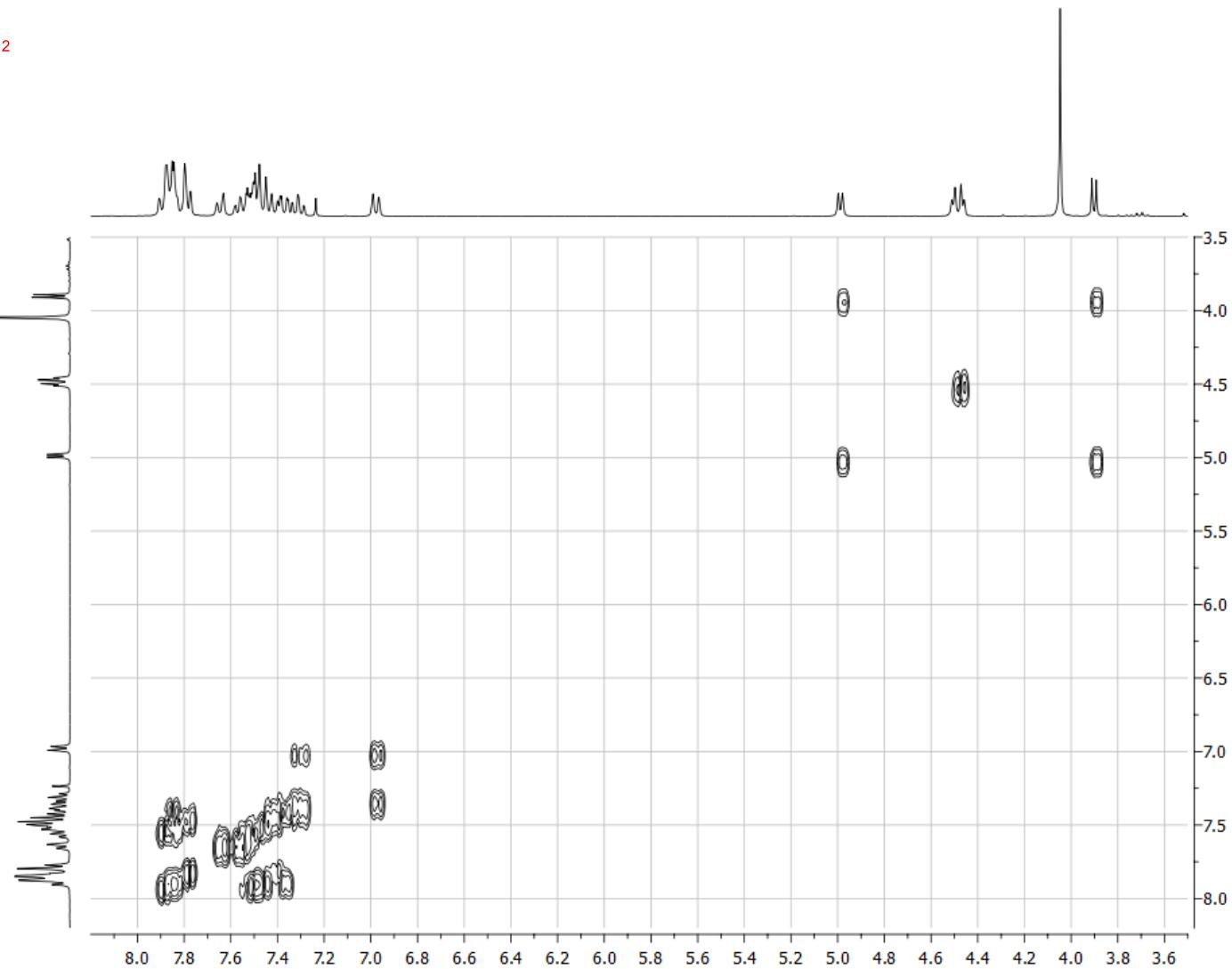
4.2 NMR spectra for the lactones **3a–d**:

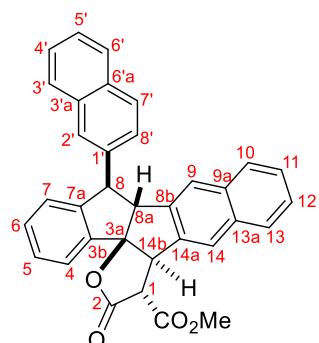




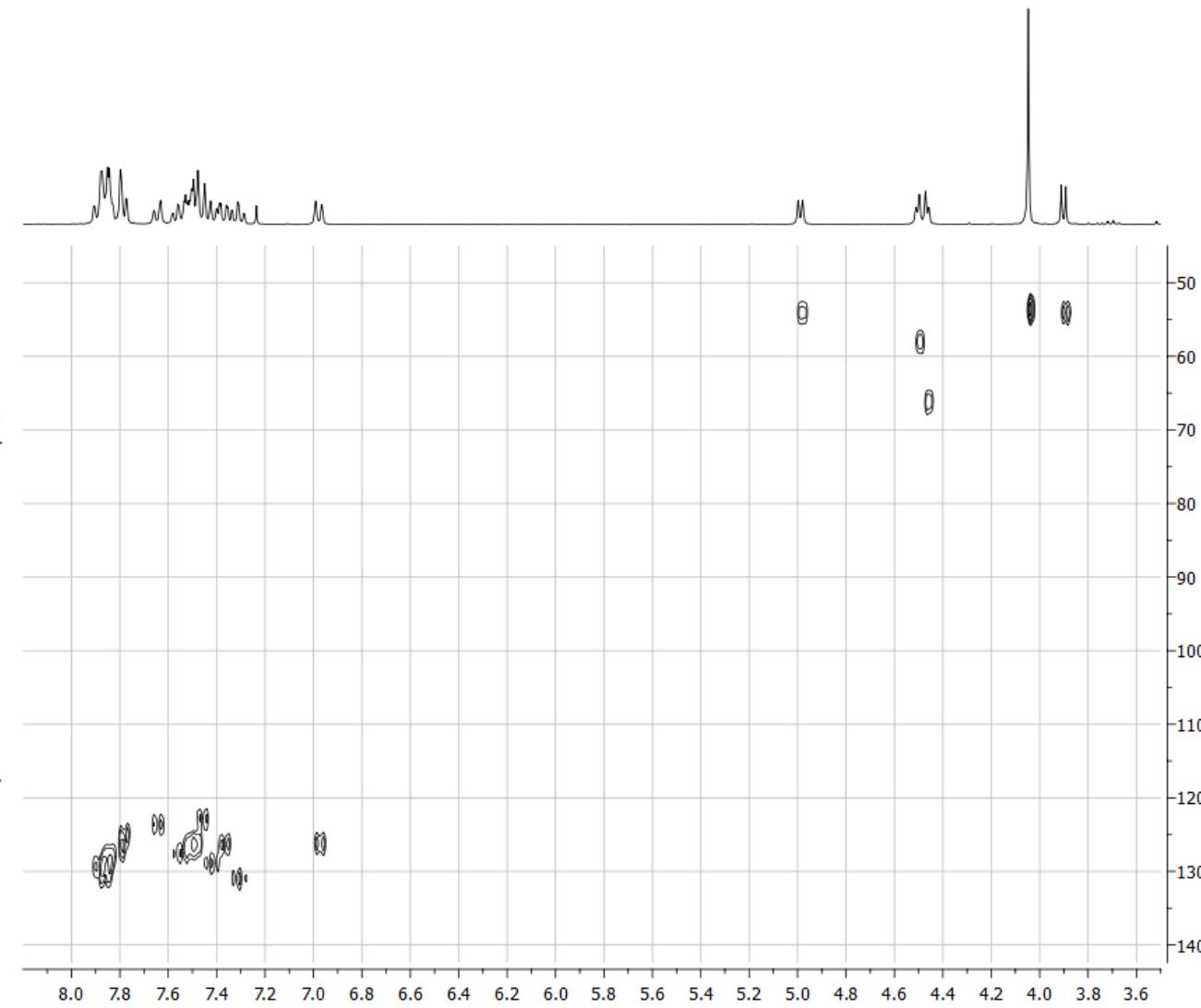


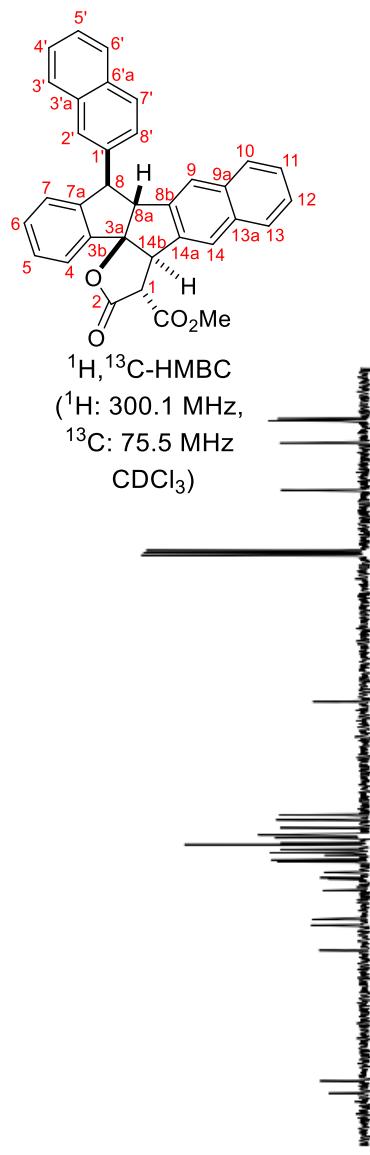
$^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ -COSY
(300.1 MHz, CDCl_3)

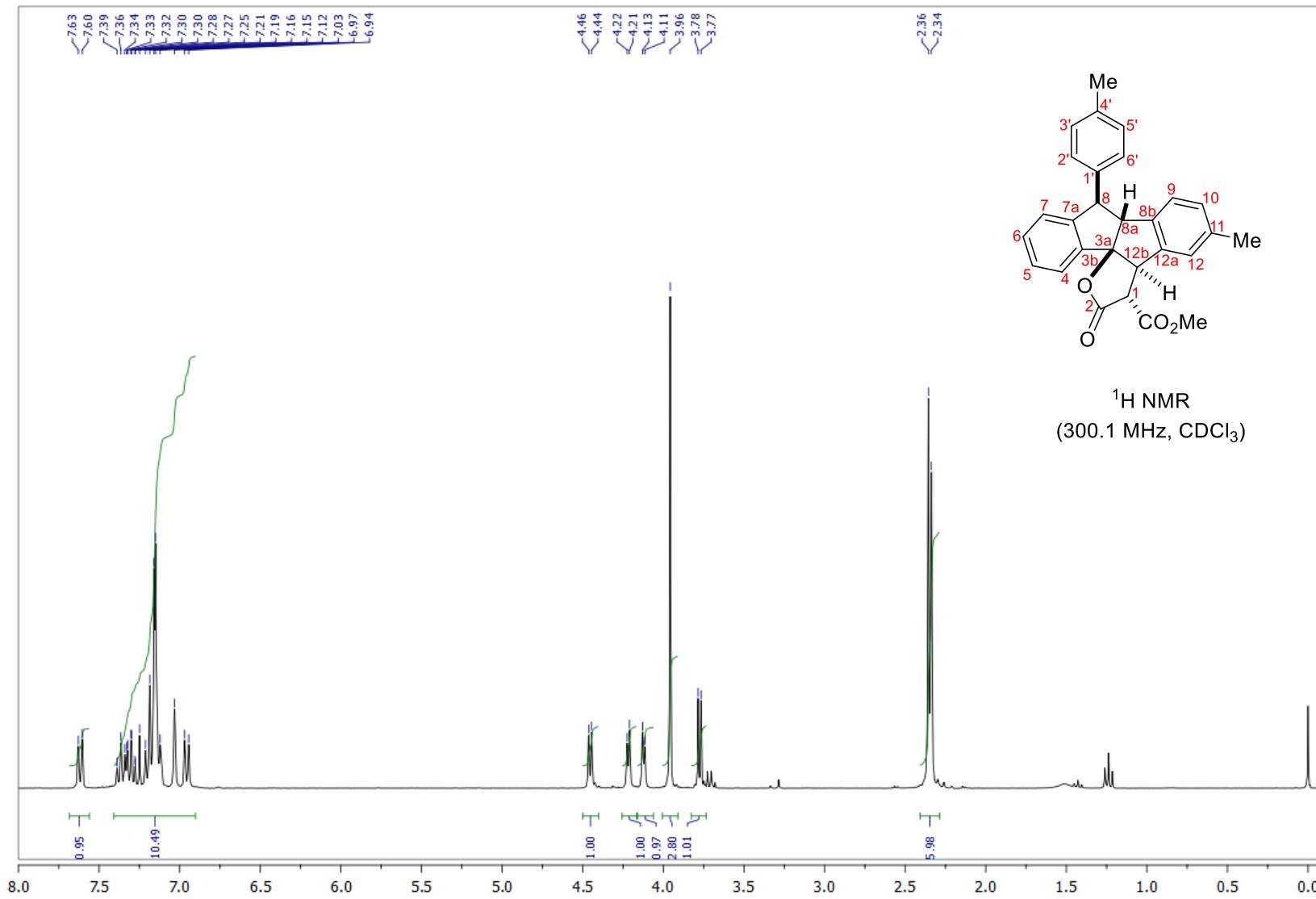


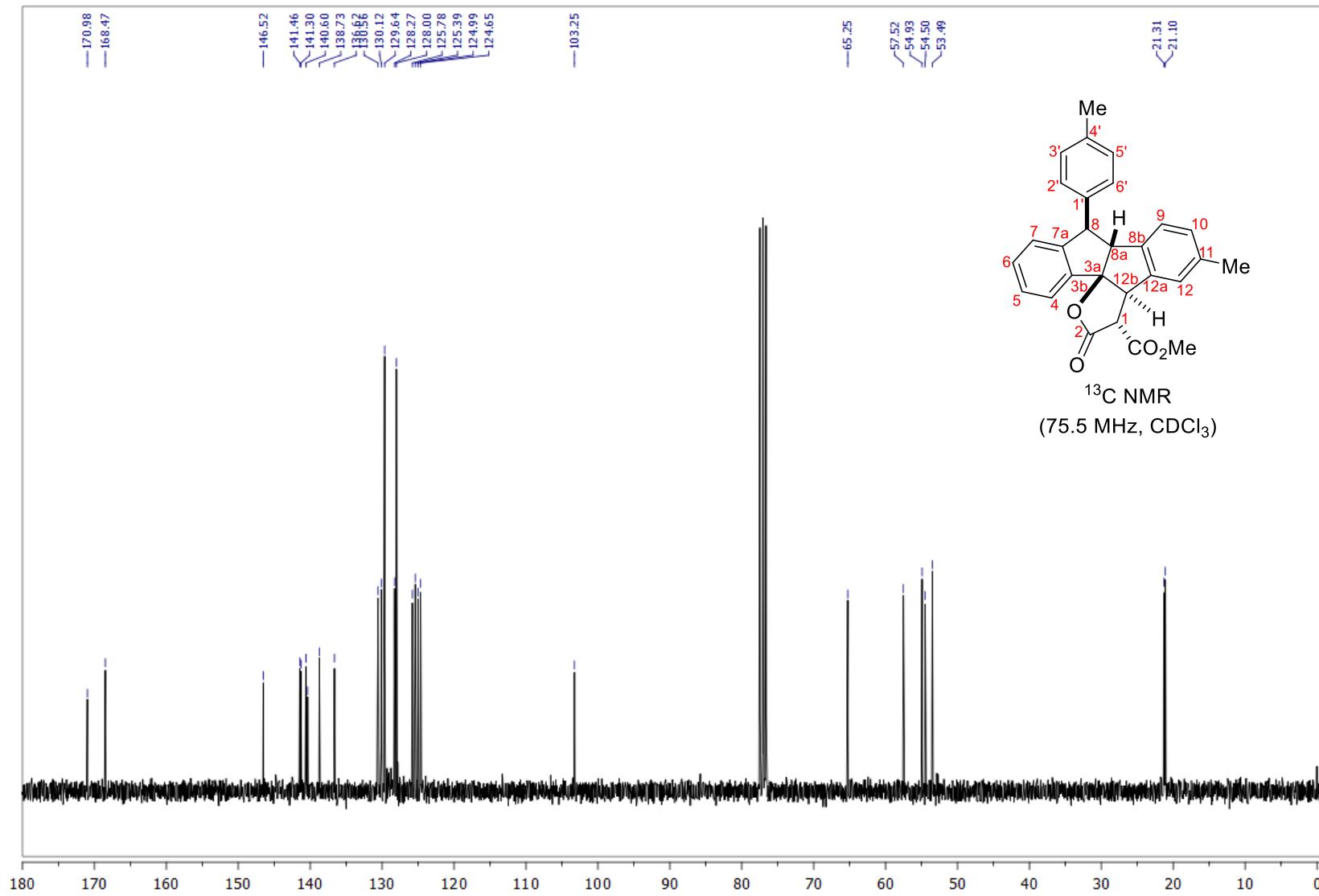


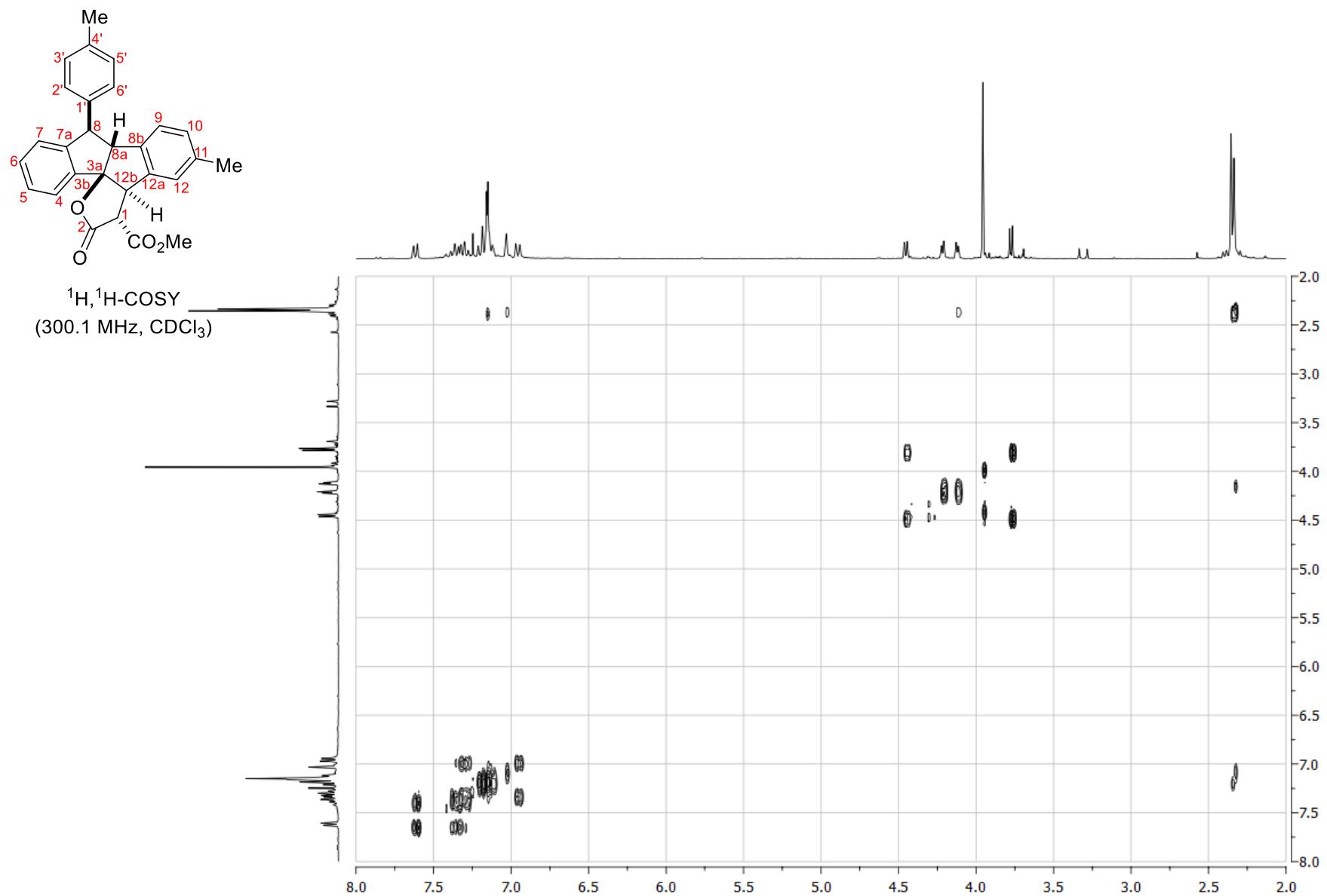
^1H , ^{13}C -HSQC
 $(^1\text{H}: 300.1 \text{ MHz},$
 $^{13}\text{C}: 75.5 \text{ MHz}$
 $\text{CDCl}_3)$

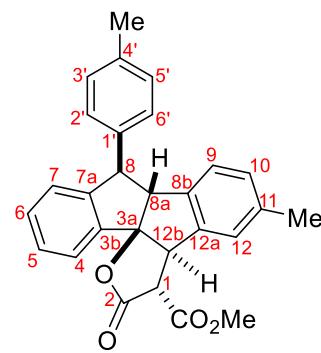




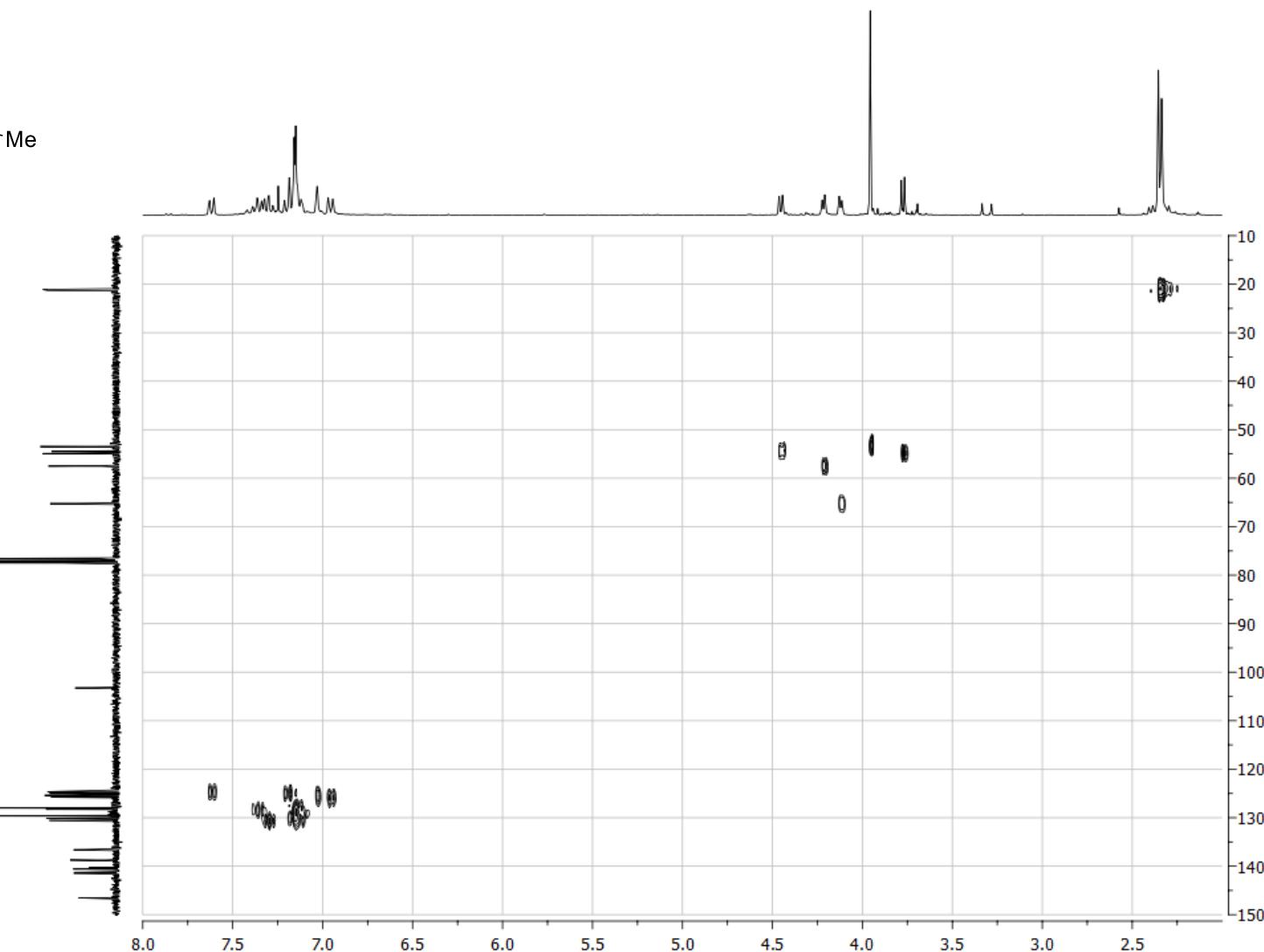


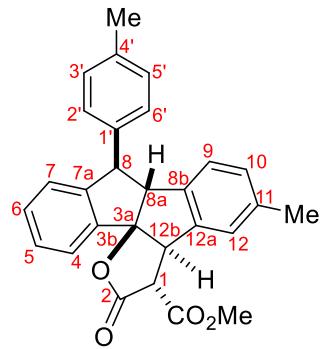




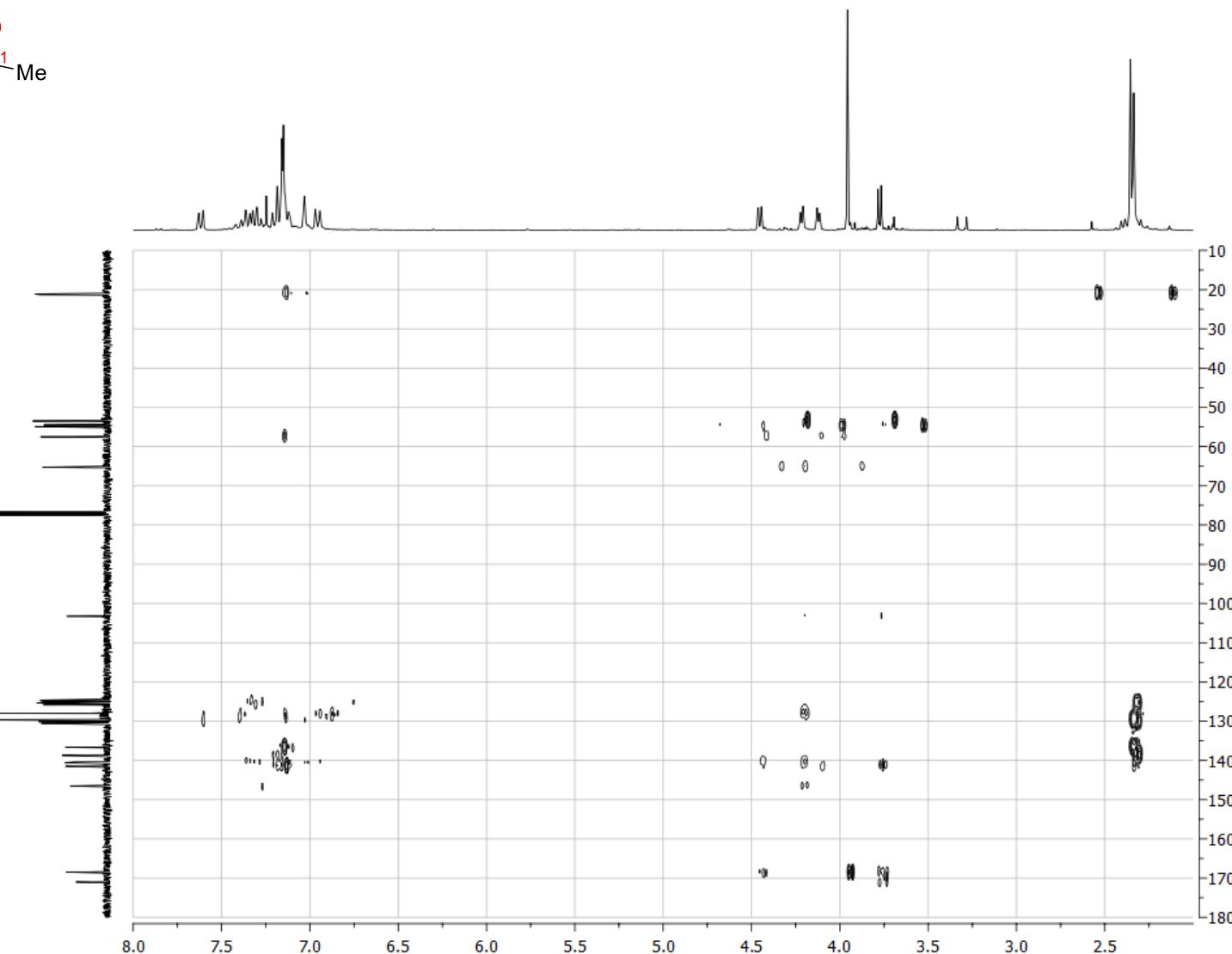


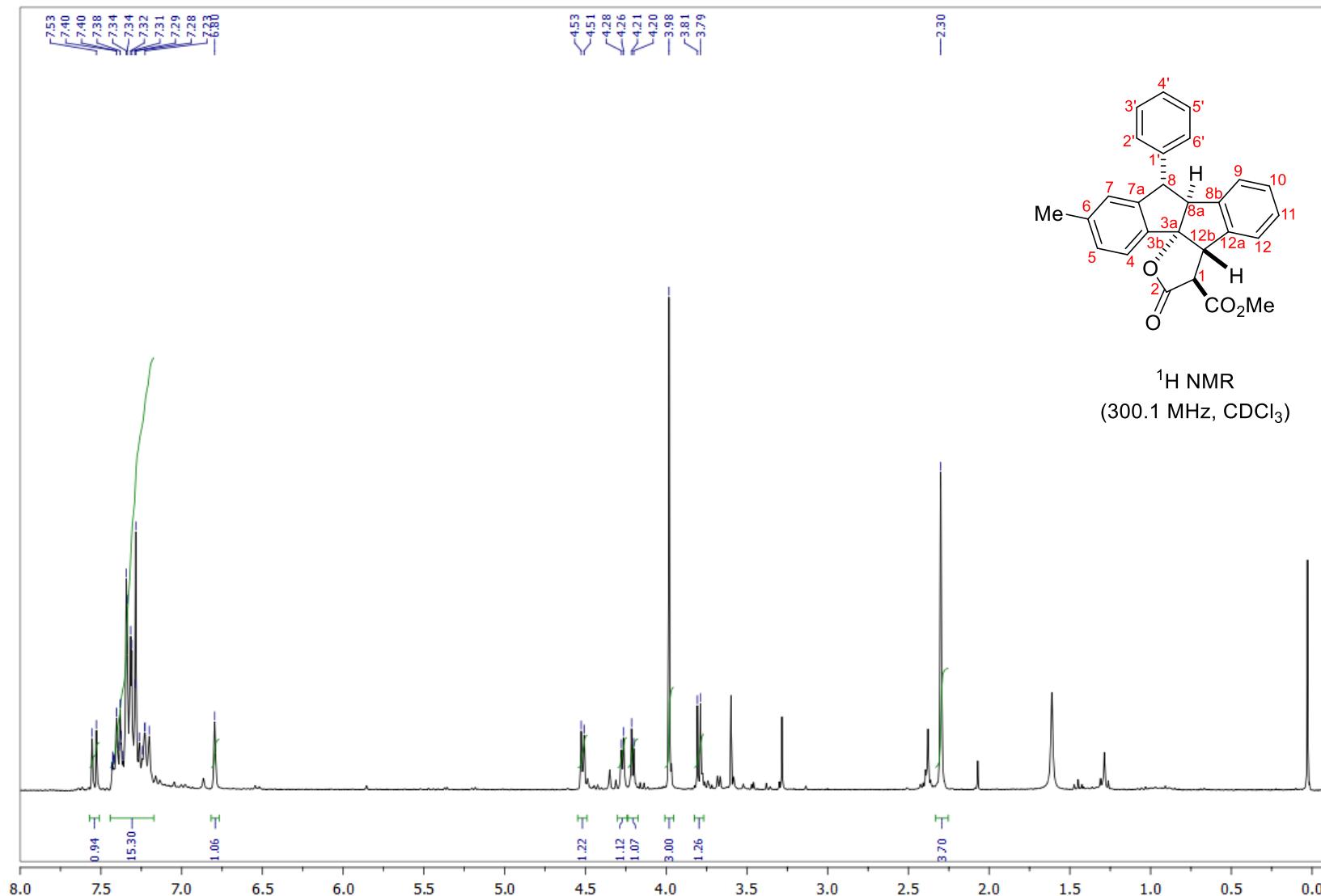
$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HSQC
(^1H : 300.1 MHz,
 ^{13}C : 75.5 MHz
 CDCl_3)

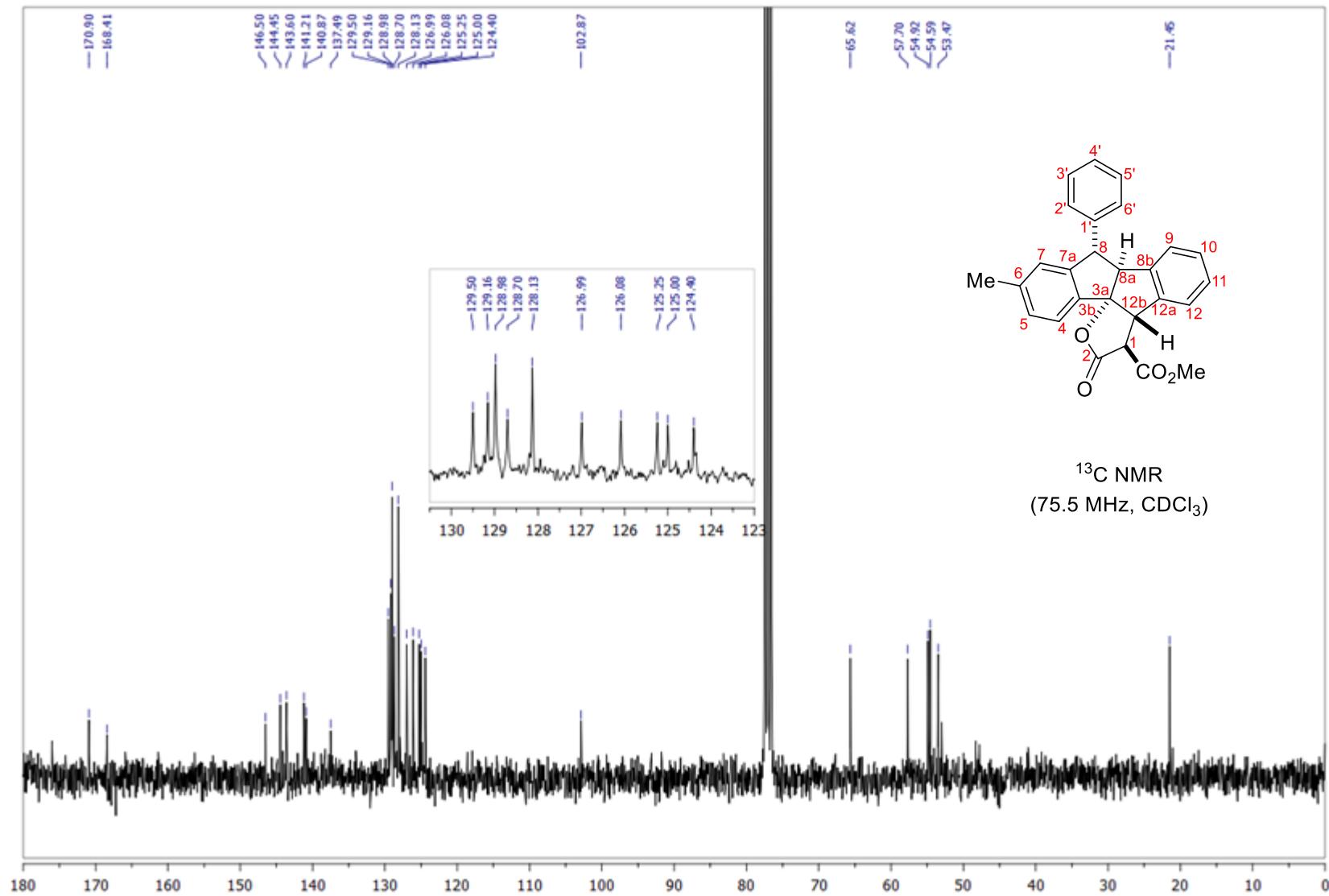


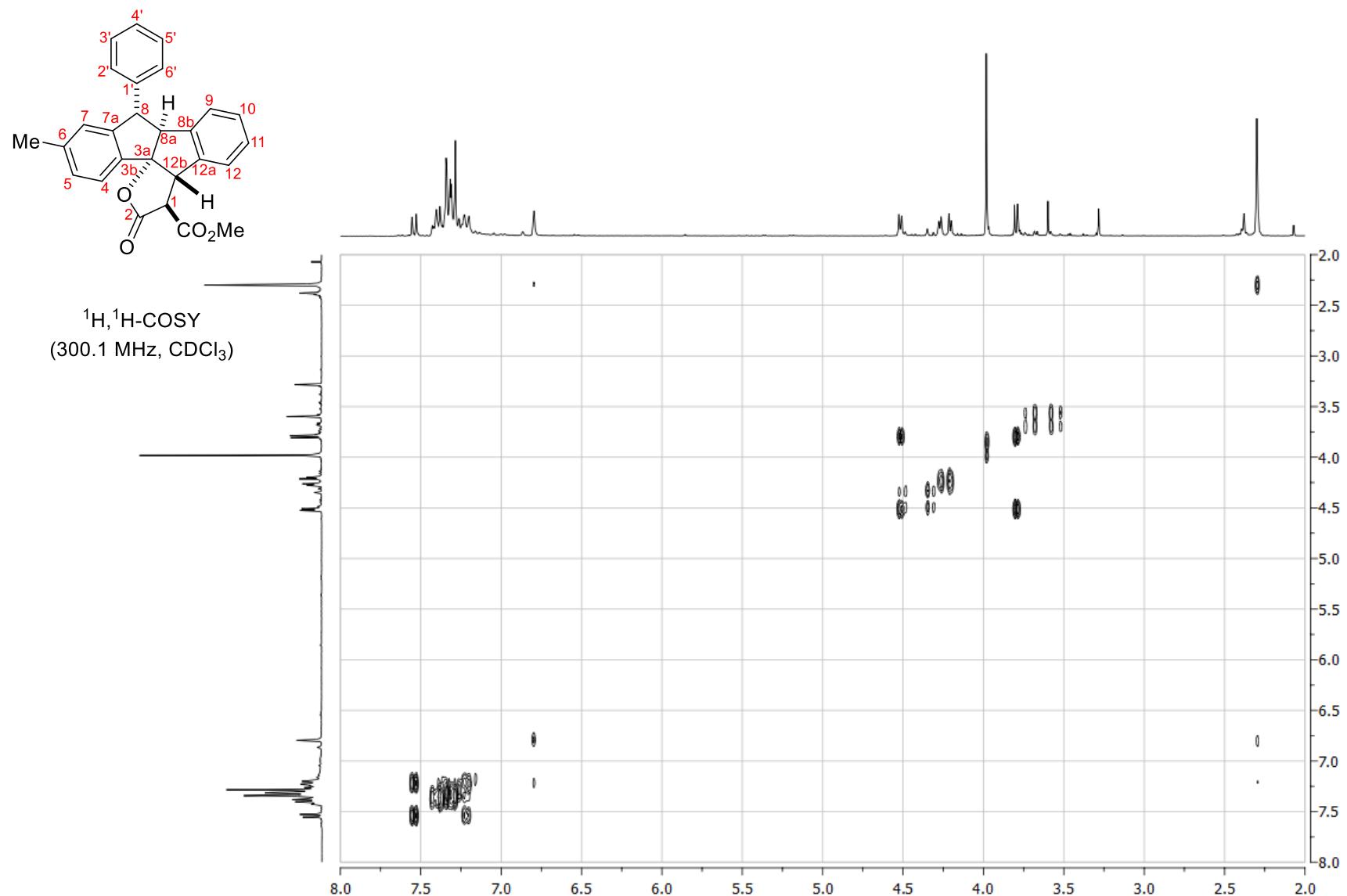


$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HMBC
(^1H : 300.1 MHz,
 ^{13}C : 75.5 MHz
 CDCl_3)

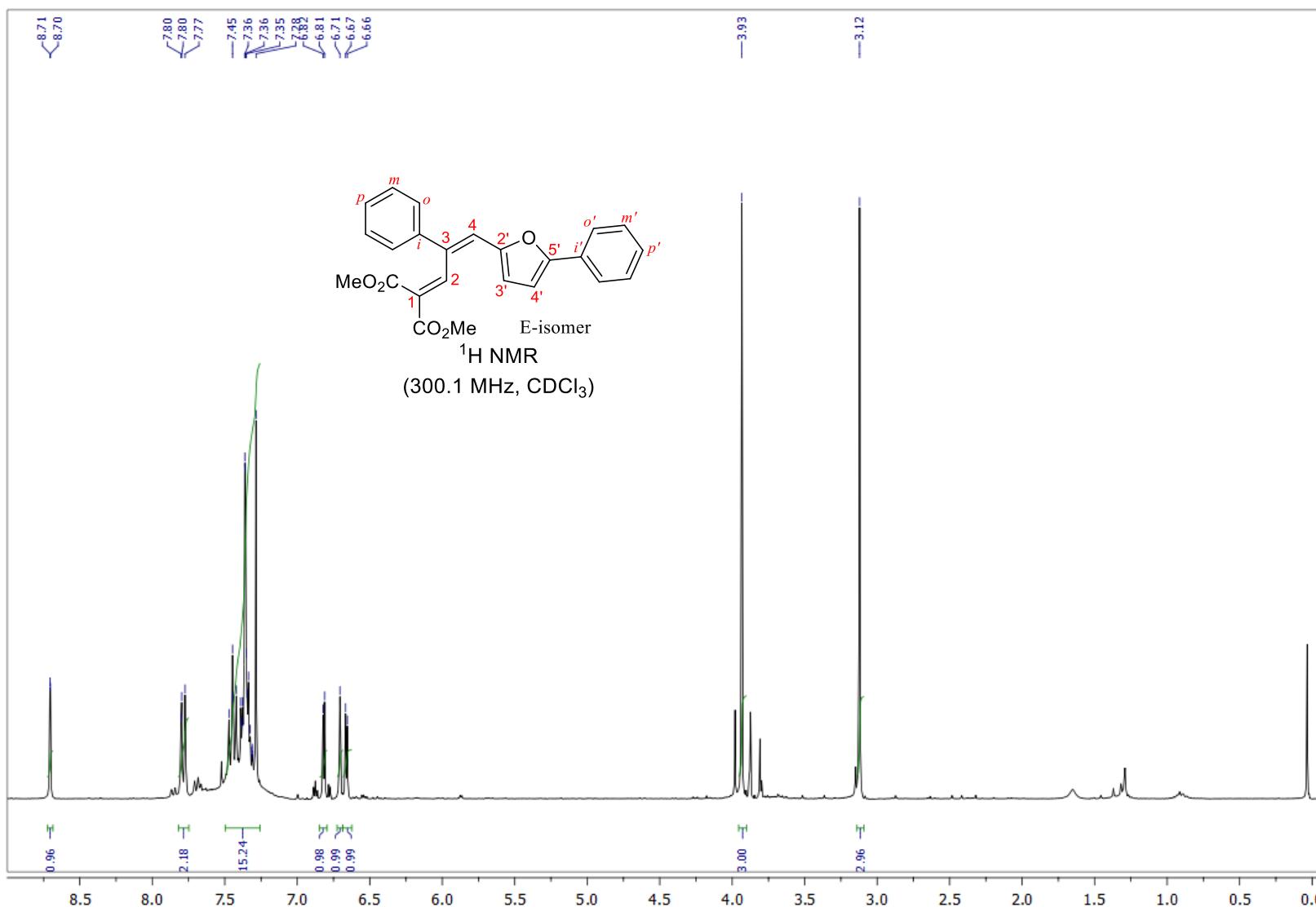


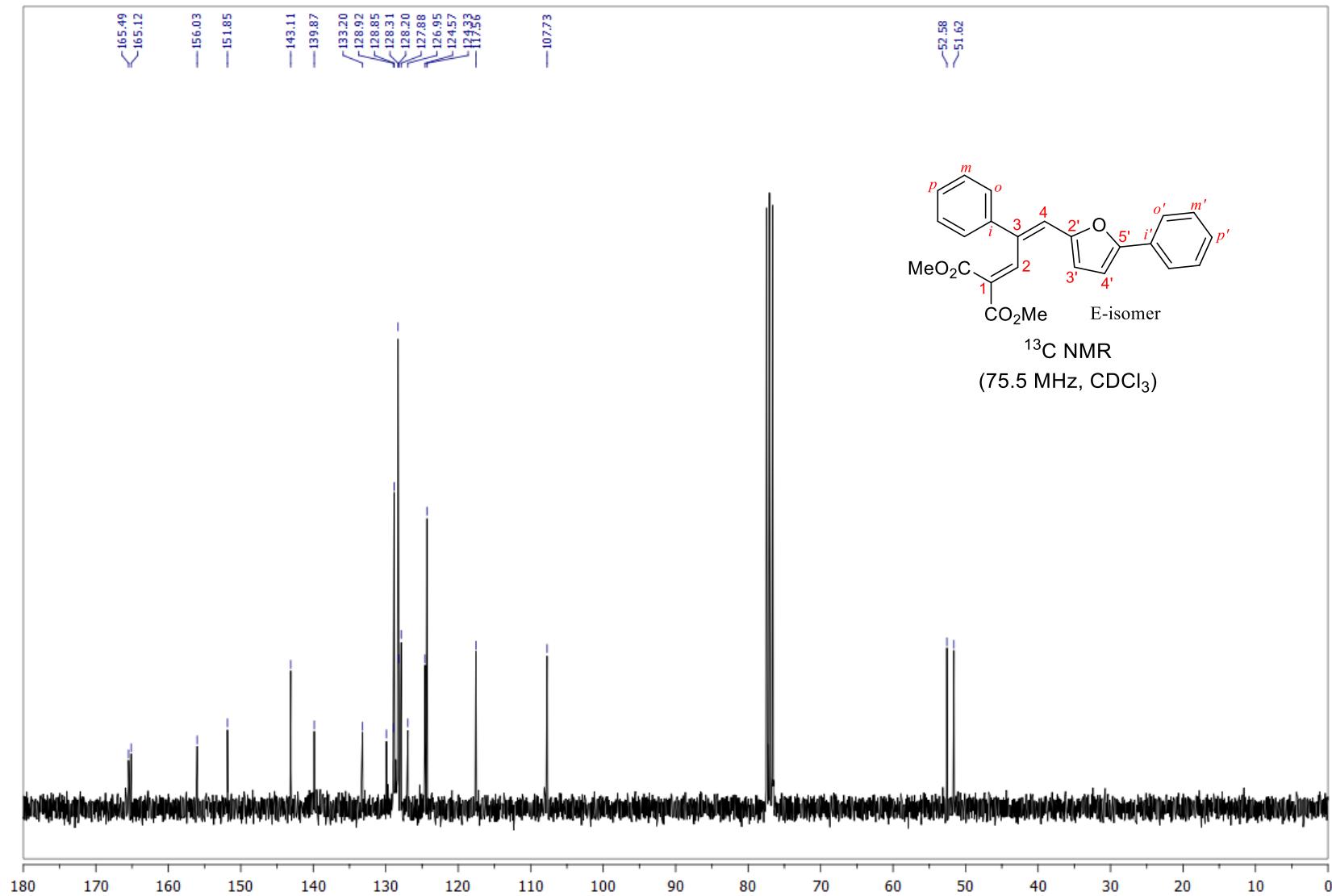


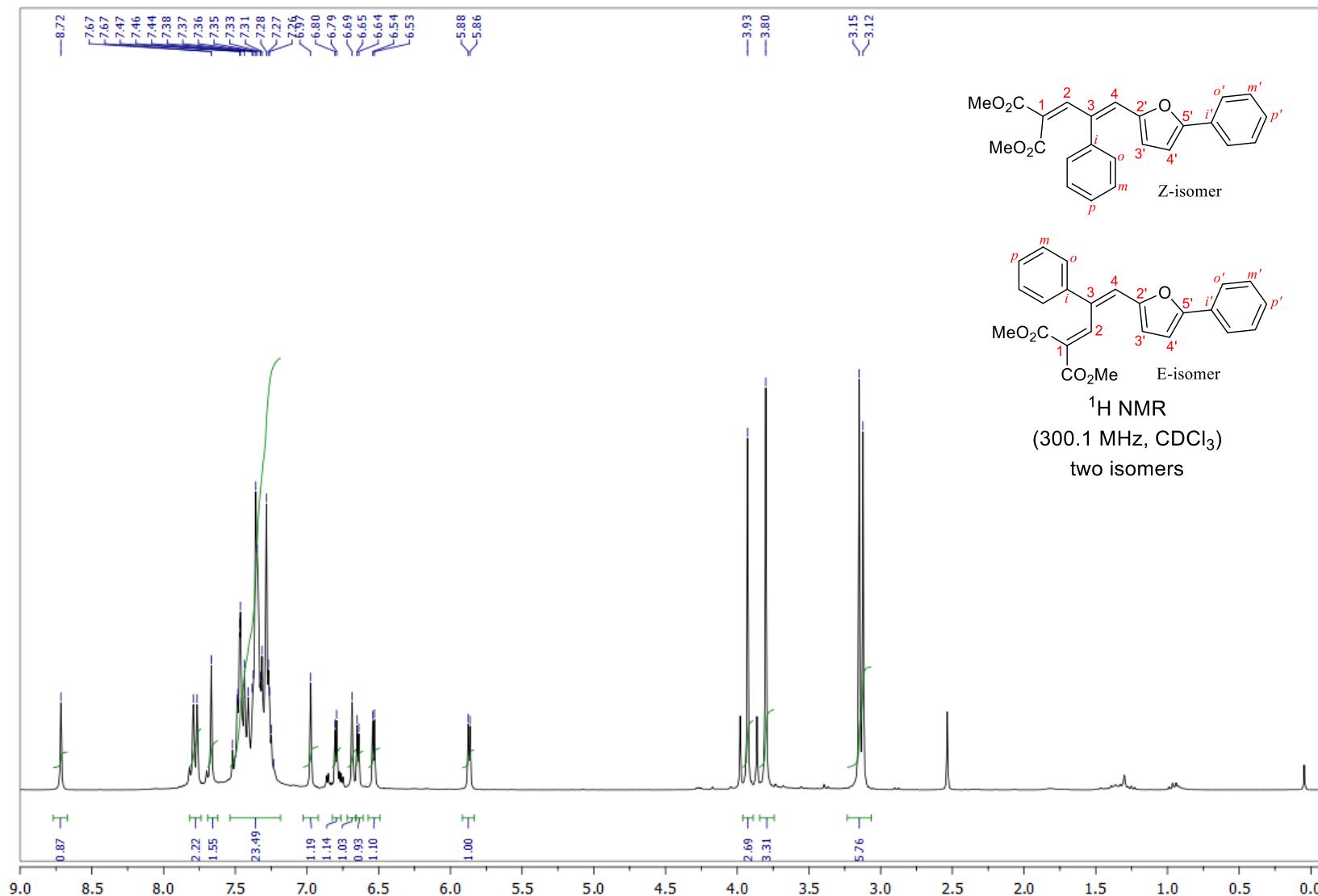


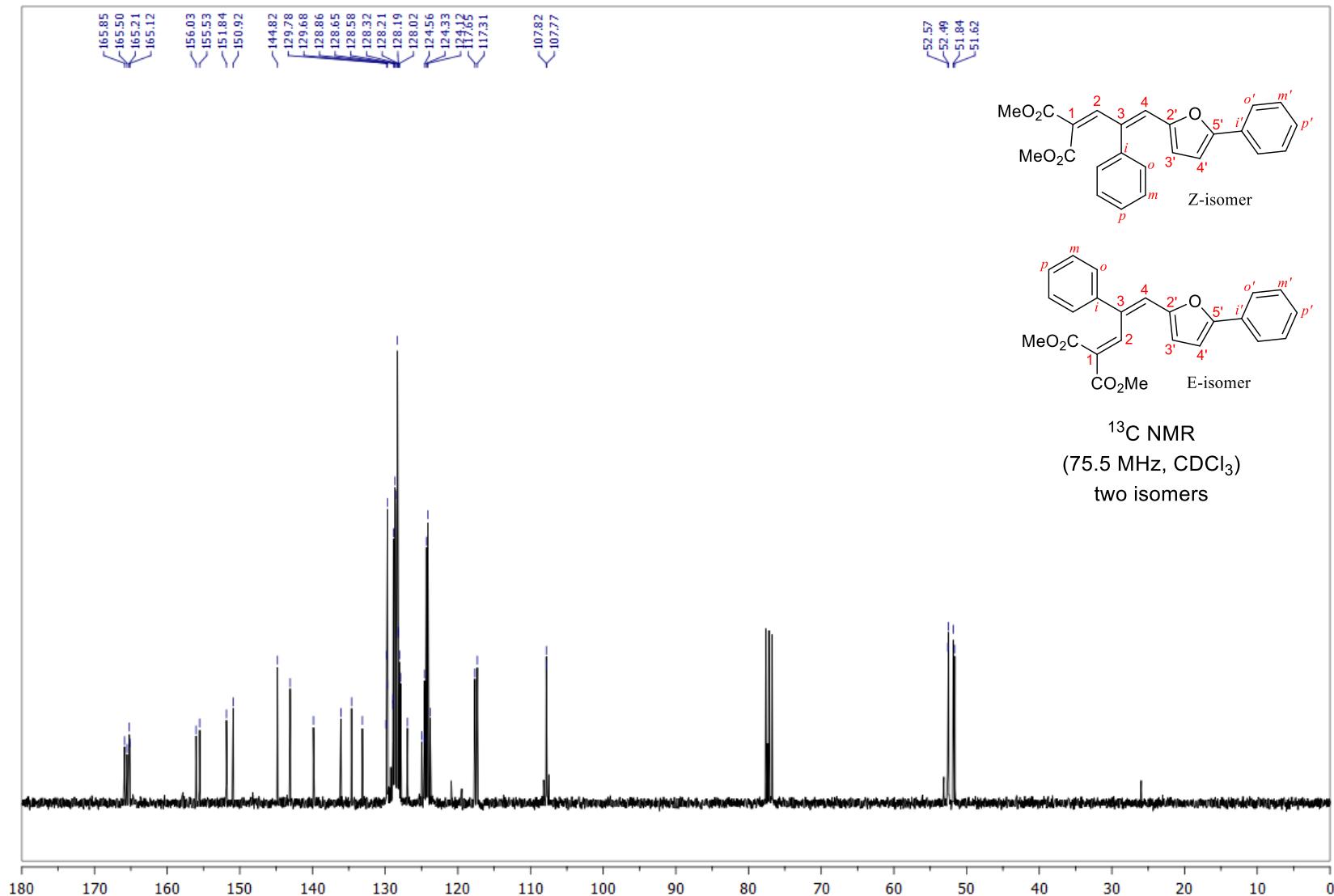


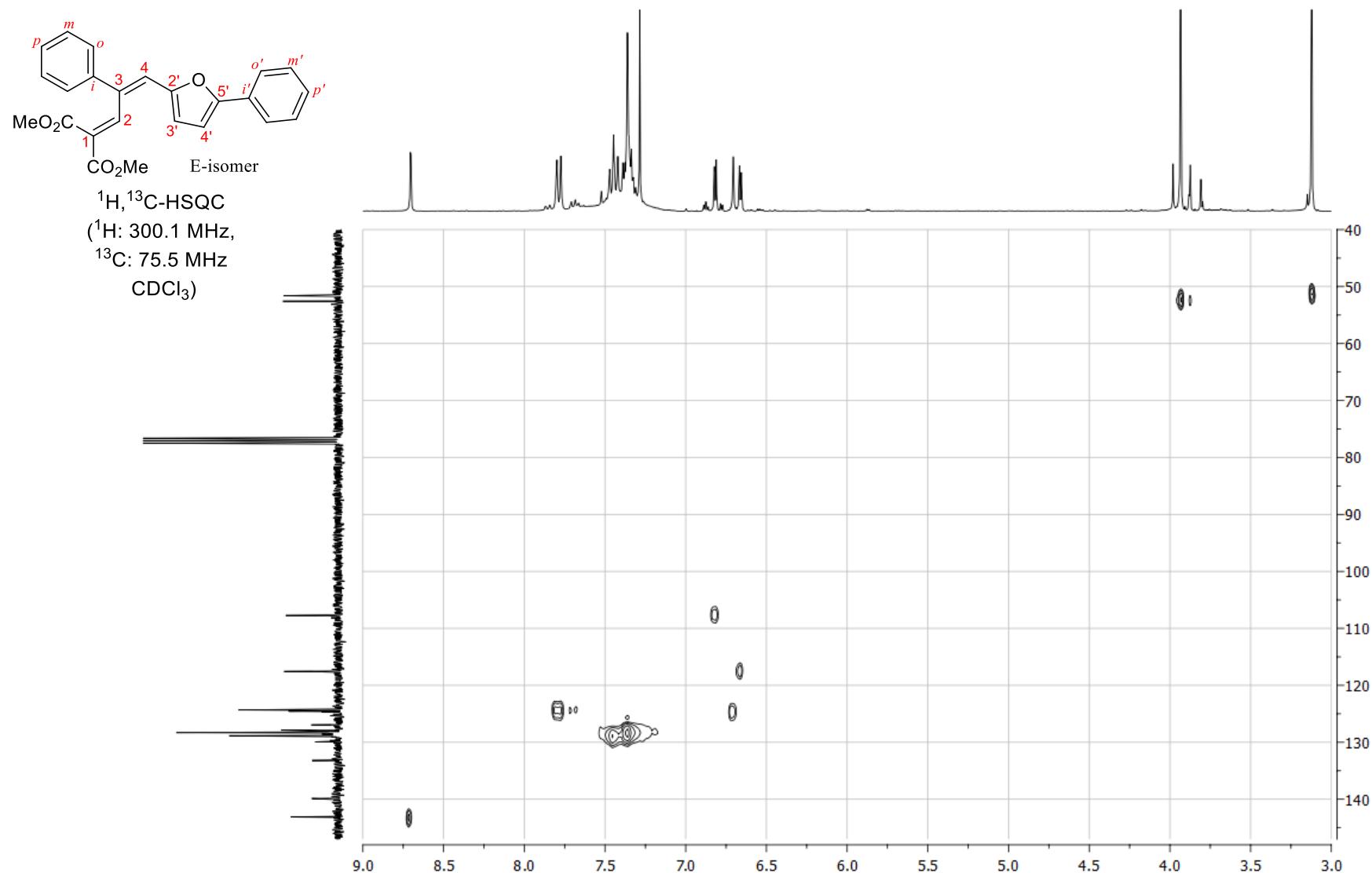
4.3 NMR spectra for the diene **5**:

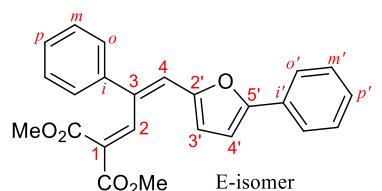
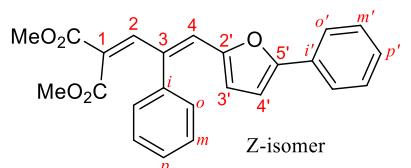




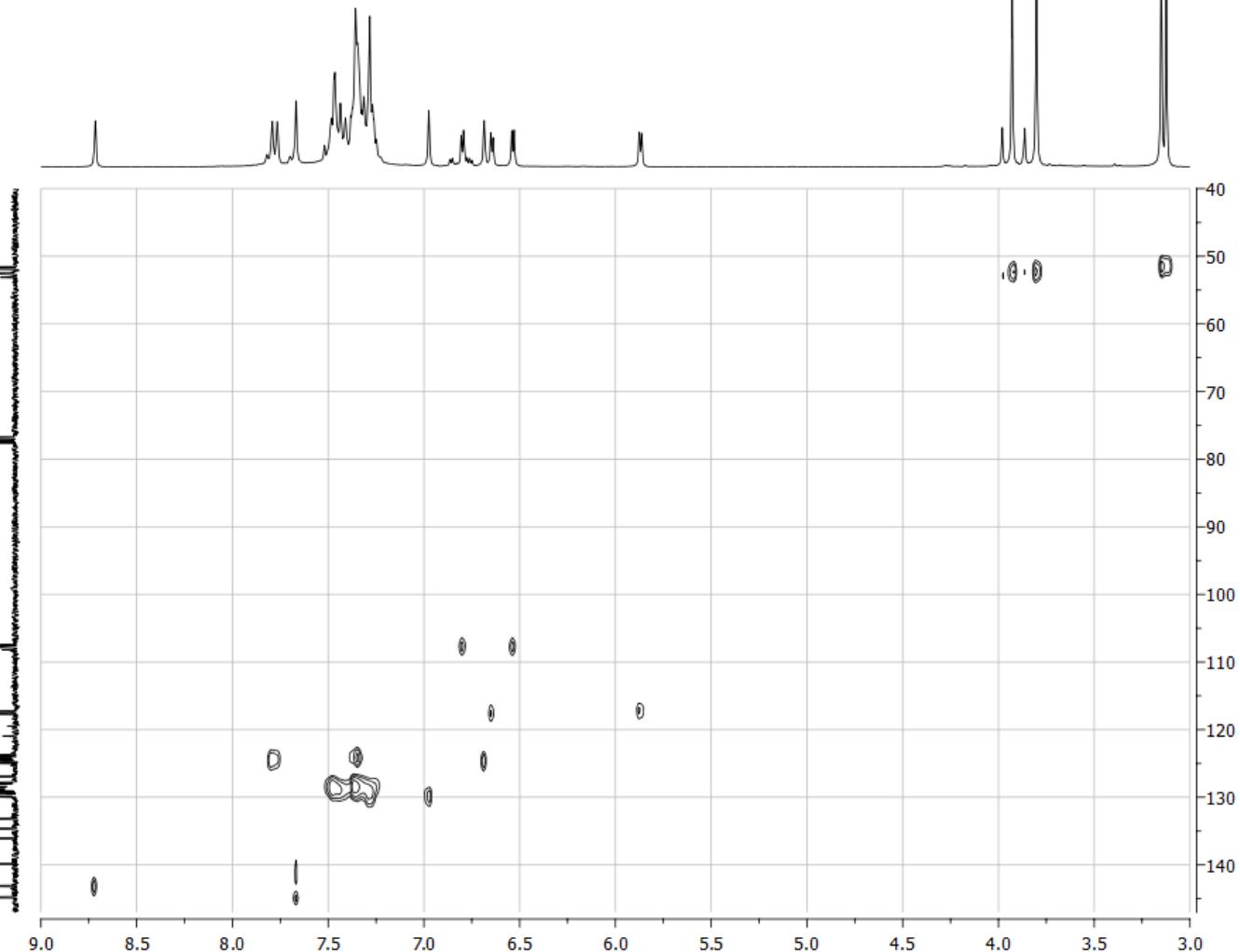


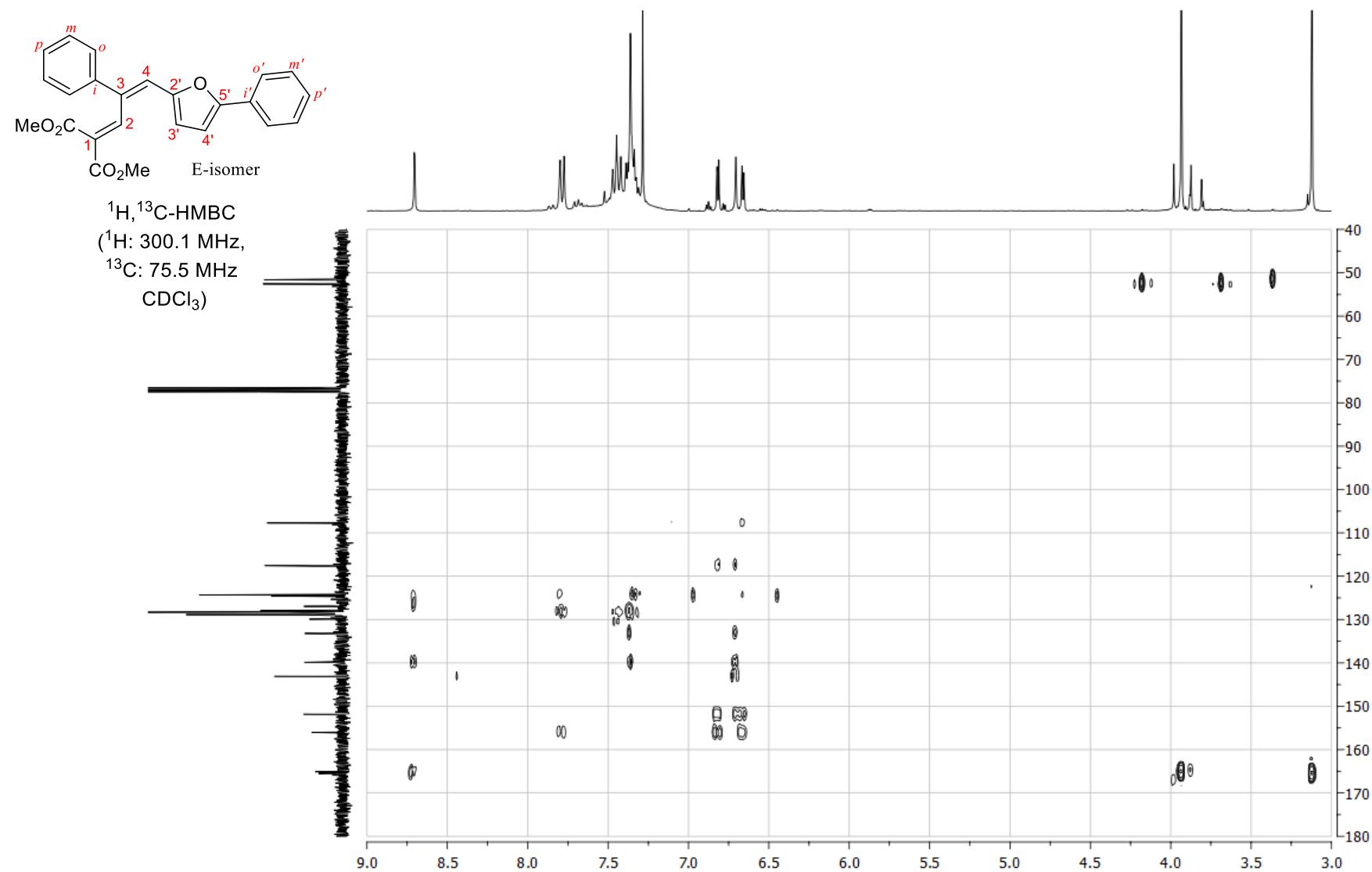


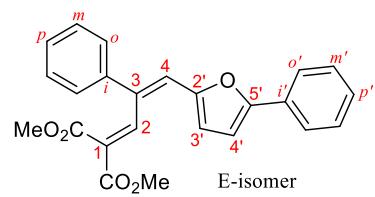
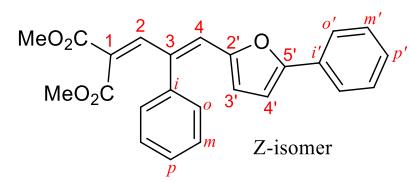




^1H , ^{13}C -HSQC
 $(^1\text{H}: 300.1 \text{ MHz},$
 $^{13}\text{C}: 75.5 \text{ MHz}$
 CDCl_3)
 two isomers







$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HMBC
 $(^1\text{H}: 300.1 \text{ MHz},$
 $^{13}\text{C}: 75.5 \text{ MHz}$
 $\text{CDCl}_3)$

two isomers

