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# Advances in C-H activation by palladium: migration and cyclocarbonylation

Marino Andres Campo Molina  
*Iowa State University*

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Advances in C-H activation by palladium: migration and cyclocarbonylation

by

Marino Andres Campo Molina

A dissertation submitted to the graduate faculty  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Major: Organic Chemistry

Program of Study Committee:

Richard C. Larock, Major Professor

Valerie Sheares Ashby

Keith Woo

Walter S. Trahanovsky

David Hoffman

Iowa State University

Ames, Iowa

2003

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has met the dissertation requirements of Iowa State University

Signature was redacted for privacy.

**Major Professor**

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**For the Major Program**

To all of those who believed in me.  
Thank you, I could not have done it alone.

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

Ac	acetyl
aq	aqueous
Ar	argon
br	broad
br, s	broad singlet
<i>n</i> -Bu	butyl
cat.	catalytic
concd	concentrated
d	doublet
dba	dibenzylideneacetone
dd	doublet of doublets
DDQ	2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyanoquinone
DEAD	Diethyl azodicarboxylate
DMA	<i>N,N</i> -dimethylacetamide
DMF	<i>N,N</i> -dimethylformamide
DMSO	dimethyl sulfoxide
dt	doublet of triplets
eq	equation
equiv	equivalent
Et	ethyl
h	hour
HRMS	high resolution mass spectroscopy



Hz	Hertz
IR	infrared
m	multiplet
Me	methyl
mL	milliliters
mol	mole(s)
mp	melting point
Ms	methanesulfonyl
MS	mass spectrometry
<i>n</i>	normal
NMP	<i>N</i> -methylpyrrolidone
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance
<i>o</i>	ortho
<i>p</i>	para
Ph	phenyl
q	quartet
s	singlet
t	triplet
TBAC	tetra- <i>n</i> -butylammonium chloride
td	triplet of doublets
Ts	<i>p</i> -toluenesulfonyl
tt	triplet of triplets

## ABSTRACT

Palladium-catalyzed intramolecular C-H activation of *o*-halobiaryls has been used to carry out important chemical transformations. For instance, in the presence of catalytic amounts of Pd(0), *o*-halobiaryls are readily cyclocarbonylated under an atmosphere of CO to produce fluorenones in high yields with good regioselectivity. This methodology has been successfully applied to the preparation of polycyclic fluorenones and fluorenones containing fused isoquinoline, indole, pyrrole, thiophene, benzothiophene, and benzofuran rings.

A novel 1,4-Pd migration between the *o*- and *o'*-positions of biaryls has been observed in organopalladium intermediates derived from *o*-halobiaryls. The organopalladium intermediates generated by this unique C-H activation-migration process have been trapped by way of a Heck reaction and Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling with arylboronic acids. Similarly, organopalladium intermediates generated by 1,4-Pd migration have been trapped by intramolecular arylation to produce fused polycycles. This unique migration-arylation methodology have been used to prepare complex polycyclic compounds containing fused benzofuran, quinoline, oxepine, indole, phenanthrene, and naphthalene rings.

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Palladium methodology is a powerful tool in organic synthesis due to the ability of this metal to catalyze a wide range of reactions. Most commonly, organopalladium intermediates are prepared in situ from the oxidative addition of organic halides or triflates to Pd(0). A more attractive approach to organopalladium intermediates involves C-H activation, which offers a more direct route to such intermediates as well as better atom economy.

Our own interest in Pd-catalyzed methodology involving C-H activation led us to examine intramolecular versions of this process in *o*-halobiaryls. First of all, we cyclocarbonylated *o*-halobiaryls to fluorenones using carbon monoxide. We have also discovered that palladium is able to migrate between the *o*- and *o'*-positions of these biaryls through a five-membered palladacycle intermediate. We have been able to show that such palladium migration is compatible with other Pd-catalyzed reactions, such as Heck, Suzuki, and alkyne annulation. Furthermore, we have developed a two step C-H activation process to transform *o*-halobiaryls into complex fused polycycles.

### Dissertation Organization

This dissertation is divided into three chapters. Each of these chapters is written by the following guidelines for a full paper in the *Journal of Organic Chemistry*.

Chapter 1 describes the synthesis of fluoren-9-ones and other cyclic ketones by the palladium catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of *o*-halobiaryls. The regioselectivity and general scope of this methodology for preparing carbocyclic and heterocyclic ketones is examined in detailed in terms of electronic and steric effects.

Chapter 2 describes experimental results aimed to establish a 1,4-palladium migration in organopalladium intermediates derived from *o*-halobiaryls. In order to accomplish this goal, the key arylpalladium intermediates generated by 1,4-palladium migration were trapped by Heck, Suzuki and alkyne annulation reactions. Our experimental results point to the intermediacy of an electrophilic palladium species, which prefers to reside in the more electron-rich position of the biaryl.

Chapter 3 describes the synthetic aspect of this 1,4-palladium migration. This methodology makes use of a palladium migration to generate key organopalladium intermediates, which undergo intramolecular arylation producing polycycles containing fused benzofuran, quinoline, oxepine, indole, phenanthrene, and naphthalene rings.

Finally, all the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra for the starting materials and the palladium-catalyzed reaction products have been compiled in appendices A-C.

**CHAPTER 1. SYNTHESIS OF FLUOREN-9-ONES BY THE  
PALLADIUM-CATALYZED CYCLOCARBONYLATION OF *o*-HALOBIARYLS**

Based on a paper published in the *Journal of Organic Chemistry*

Marino A. Campo and Richard C. Larock\*

*Department of Chemistry, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011*

*larock@iastate.edu*

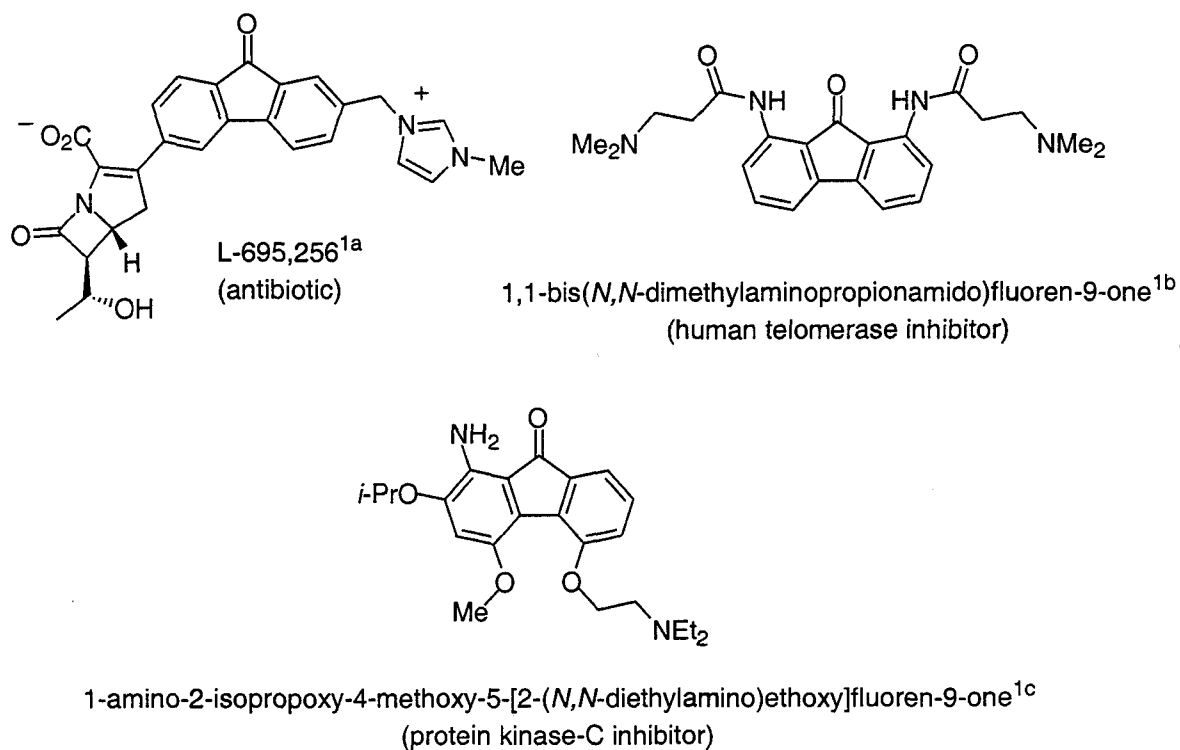
***Abstract***

The synthesis of various substituted fluoren-9-ones has been accomplished by the palladium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of *o*-halobiaryls. The cyclocarbonylation of 4'-substituted 2-iodobiphenyls produces very high yields of 2-substituted fluoren-9-ones bearing either electron-donating or electron-withdrawing substituents. 3'-Substituted 2-iodobiphenyls afford 3-substituted fluoren-9-ones in excellent yields with good regioselectivity. This chemistry has been successfully extended to polycyclic fluorenones and fluorenones containing fused isoquinoline, indole, pyrrole, thiophene, benzothiophene, and benzofuran rings.

**Introduction**

Fluoren-9-ones are a family of natural products displaying a wide range of biological activity,<sup>1</sup> such as antibiotic<sup>1a</sup> and inhibitory activity for human telomerase<sup>1b</sup> and protein kinase-C<sup>1c</sup> (Figure 1). In recent years, fluorenones have attracted much interest because of

groundbreaking discoveries in the biomedical field,<sup>1</sup> which include their use as probes for DNA redox chemistry.<sup>1d</sup> Furthermore, fluorenones have been prepared as key synthetic intermediates for the total synthesis of natural products, such as stealthin and prekinamycin.<sup>2</sup>

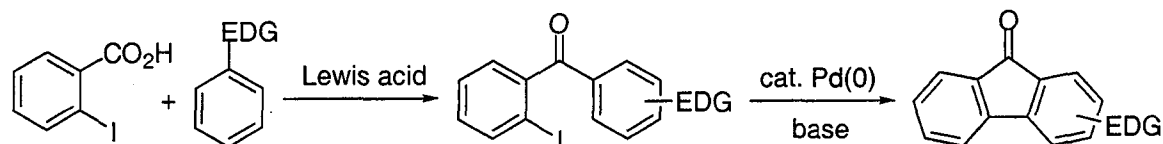


**Figure 1.** Biologically active fluoren-9-ones.

The most useful syntheses of fluorenones include Friedel-Crafts ring closures of biarylcarboxylic acids and derivatives,<sup>3</sup> intramolecular [4 + 2] cycloaddition reactions of conjugated enynes,<sup>4</sup> oxidation of fluorenes,<sup>5</sup> and remote metalation of 2-biphenylcarboxamides or 2-biphenyloxazolines.<sup>6</sup> Unfortunately, these methods suffer some drawbacks, mainly because they employ harsh reaction conditions, such as a strong Lewis acid,<sup>3</sup> heat,<sup>3,4</sup> or a nucleophilic base,<sup>6</sup> which do not tolerate many organic functional groups. Alternatively, fluorenones have been synthesized by the palladium-catalyzed cyclization of *o*-iodobenzophenones<sup>7</sup> (Scheme 1). Although, this reported methodology employs relatively

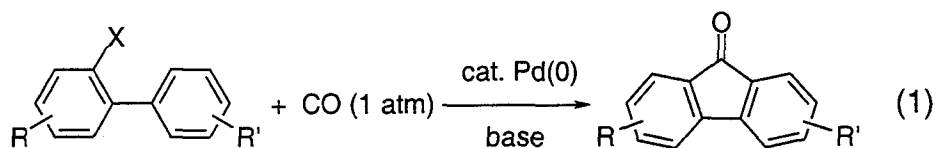
mild reaction conditions, the *o*-iodobenzophenones used as starting materials are difficult to prepare and require the use of a synthetically limited Friedel-Crafts type reaction.

### Scheme 1



EDG: electron-donating group (OMe, OH)

Our interest in fluorenones has led to the development of a novel palladium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of readily available *o*-halobiaryls, which provides a highly efficient and direct route to the fluoren-9-one skeleton, as well as other related cyclic aromatic ketones (eq 1).<sup>8</sup> Herein, we report the full details of this new fluorenone synthesis.



## Results and Discussion

In order to develop an optimum set of reaction conditions, we first studied the palladium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of commercially available 2-iodobiphenyl (**1**) to fluoren-9-one (**2**) as our model system. All of the optimization reactions have been carried out using 0.25 mmol of 2-iodobiphenyl (**1**) in DMF (6 mL) at 110 °C for 7 h under one atm of carbon monoxide. It is evident from the results listed in Table 1, that the base added, as well as the ligand present on palladium, are critical elements in this reaction. For instance, the use of chelating ligands, such as 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane (dppe), 1,1'-

bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (dppf), and 1,10-phenanthroline gave poor yields of the desired fluoren-9-one (**2**) (entries 1-3). Monodentate phosphine ligands have a major effect on the yield of the cyclocarbonylation reaction. Use of the electron-deficient ligands tri(*p*-fluorophenyl)phosphine and tri(*p*-chlorophenyl)phosphine gave low yields of fluoren-9-one (33 % and 37 % respectively), while the more electron-rich triphenylphosphine produced a 58 % yield (entries 4-6). Following this electronic trend, we have observed that the bulky, electron-rich ligand tricyclohexylphosphine was by far the most effective ligand, producing a quantitative yield of the desired compound **2** (entry 7). Finally, we explored the effect of different bases on the yield of fluoren-9-one and found that replacing the unusual cesium pivalate (CsPiv) base with NaOAc or Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was detrimental to the reaction (entries 8 and 9), the yield dropping from 100% to 92% and 82% respectively. The use of organic bases, such as pyridine and diisopropylethylamine, gave negligible yields of fluoren-9-one (entries 10 and 11).

The results of this optimization study have led to the development of a standard set of reaction conditions employing one atm of carbon monoxide, one equiv of the aryl halide (0.25 mmol), 5 mol % of commercially available Pd(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, and 2 equiv of anhydrous cesium pivalate in DMF (6 ml) at 110 °C for 7 h. This procedure has been applied to a wide range of aryl halides (Table 2). 2-Iodobiphenyl produces fluoren-9-one (**2**) in a quantitative yield (entry 2). Under our reaction conditions, 2-bromobiphenyl is also converted to fluoren-9-one (**2**) in a quantitative yield (entry 1). However, biphenyl-2-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate fails to afford the desired product.



**Table 1.** Palladium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of 2-iodobiphenyl (**1**) to fluoren-9-one (**2**).<sup>a</sup>

entry	base	Pd catalyst	ligand (mol %)	time (h)	% isolated yield of <b>2</b>
1	CsPiv <sup>b</sup>	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	dppe (5)	7	46
2	CsPiv	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	dppf (5)	7	25
3	CsPiv	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	1,10-phenanthroline (5)	7	< 5
4	CsPiv	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	( <i>p</i> -FC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> P (10)	7	33
5	CsPiv	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	( <i>p</i> -ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> P (10)	7	37
6	CsPiv	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Ph <sub>3</sub> P (10)	7	58 (38 <sup>c</sup> )
7	CsPiv	Pd(PCy <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	- <sup>d</sup>	7	100
8	NaOAc	Pd(PCy <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	- <sup>d</sup>	7	92
9	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Pd(PCy <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	- <sup>d</sup>	7	84
10	pyridine	Pd(PCy <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	- <sup>d</sup>	24	< 5
11	( <i>i</i> -Pr) <sub>2</sub> NEt	Pd(PCy <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	- <sup>d</sup>	24	< 5

<sup>a</sup>All reactions were run with 0.25 mmol of 2-iodobiphenyl (**1**), 2 equiv of base, 5 mol % of Pd catalyst, and 5 or 10 mol % of an appropriate ligand in 6 mL of DMF at 110 °C for 7 h under one atm of CO. <sup>b</sup>CsPiv = cesium pivalate. <sup>c</sup>The amount of DMF solvent was reduced from 6 ml to 1 ml. <sup>d</sup>The palladium catalyst contains 10 mol % of tricyclohexylphosphine, so no further ligand was added to the reaction mixture.

The utility of this reaction for the synthesis of 2-substituted fluoren-9-ones has been assessed by studying the cyclocarbonylation of readily prepared<sup>9</sup> 4'-substituted 2-iodobiphenyls (entries 2-6). As indicated, the reaction works well, tolerating both electron-donating, as well as electron-withdrawing substituents.

We have also addressed the question of regiochemistry in the cyclocarbonylation of 3'-substituted 2-iodobiphenyls<sup>9</sup> (entries 7 and 8). Cyclocarbonylation of the electron-rich 2-iodo-3'-methylbiphenyl (**12**) and the electron-poor 3-(2-iodophenyl)benzaldehyde (**15**)

**Table 2.** Synthesis of fluoren-9-ones by the Pd-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of *o*-halobiaryls.<sup>a</sup>

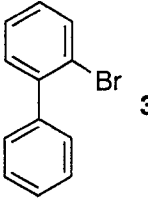
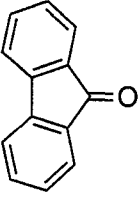
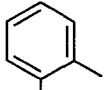
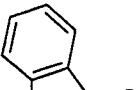
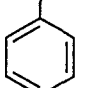
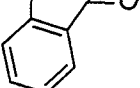
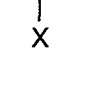
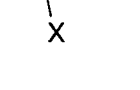
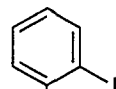
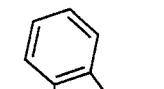
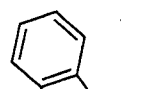
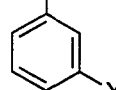
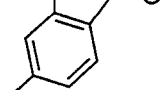
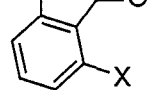
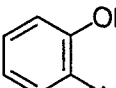
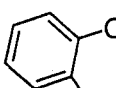
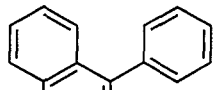
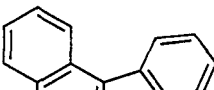
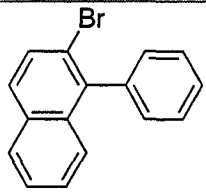
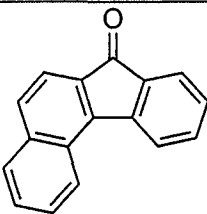
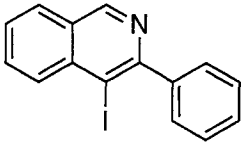
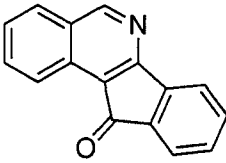
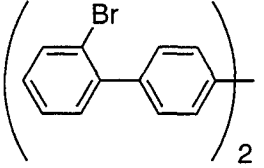
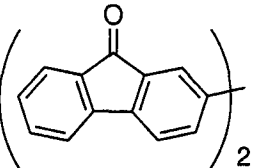
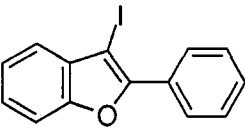
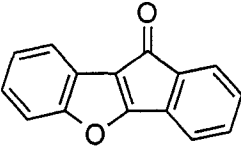
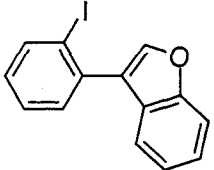
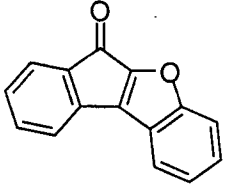
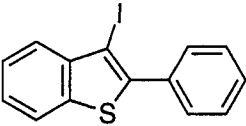
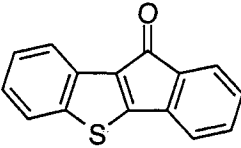
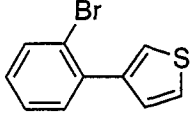
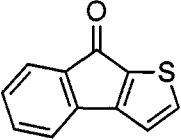
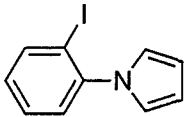
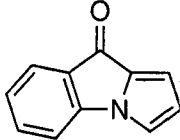
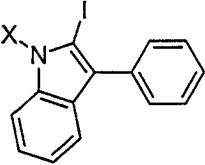
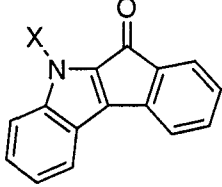
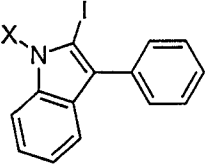
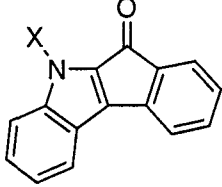
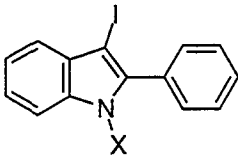
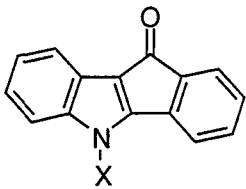
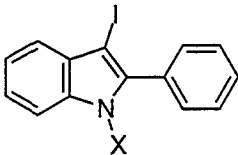
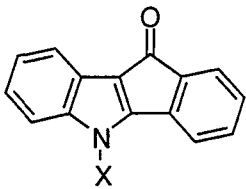
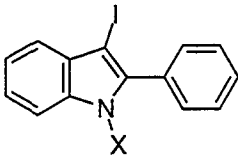
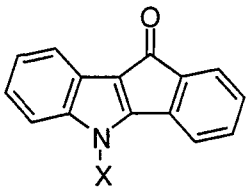
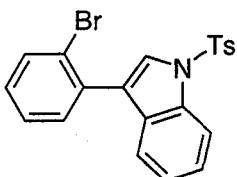
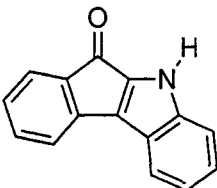
entry	substrate	product(s)	% yield
1	 <b>3</b>	 <b>2</b>	100
2	 X = H ( <b>1</b> )	 <b>2</b>	100
3	 X = Me ( <b>4</b> )	 <b>5</b>	97
4	 X = OMe ( <b>6</b> )	 <b>7</b>	100
5	X = CH <sub>2</sub> OMe ( <b>8</b> )	<b>9</b>	100
6	X = CHO ( <b>10</b> )	<b>11</b>	100
7	 X = Me ( <b>12</b> )	 <b>13</b> +  <b>14</b>	90 + 10
8	 X = CHO ( <b>15</b> )	 <b>16</b> +  <b>17</b>	94 (9:1) <sup>b</sup>
9	 <b>18</b>	 <b>19</b>	99
10	 <b>20</b>	 <b>21</b>	98

Table 2. (Continued)

entry	substrate	product(s)	% yield
11	 <b>22</b>	 <b>23</b>	96
12	 <b>24</b>	 <b>25</b>	95
13	 <b>26</b>	 <b>27</b>	87 <sup>c,d</sup>
14	 <b>28</b>	 <b>29</b>	0
15	 <b>30</b>	 <b>31</b>	81
16	 <b>32</b>	 <b>33</b>	67
17	 <b>34</b>	 <b>35</b>	86 <sup>d</sup>

**Table 2.** (Continued)

entry	substrate	product(s)	% yield
18	 <b>36</b>	 <b>37</b>	96
19	 X = H ( <b>38</b> )	 X = H ( <b>39</b> )	0
20	 X = Me ( <b>40</b> )	 X = Me ( <b>41</b> )	49
21	 X = H ( <b>42</b> )	 X = H ( <b>43</b> )	0
22	 X = Me ( <b>44</b> )	 X = Me ( <b>45</b> )	21
23	 X = Ts ( <b>46</b> )	 X = H ( <b>43</b> )	45
24	 <b>47</b>	 <b>39</b>	55 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup>All reactions were carried out under the optimal conditions described in the text. <sup>b</sup>The product ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis. <sup>c</sup>In order to keep the equivalents of aryl halide consistent, we employed 0.125 mmol of aryl dibromide **26**. <sup>d</sup>The reaction period was extended to 14 h. <sup>e</sup>A 42 % yield of compound **47** was recovered at the end of the reaction.

affords similar 9:1 regiochemical mixtures in excellent yields. In both cases, the predominant isomer arises from ring closure distal to the substituent. These experimental results seem to indicate that there is only a weak electronic effect during the cyclization process, and that a more important steric effect favors the less hindered isomers **13** and **16**.

This cyclocarbonylation does not appear to be significantly affected by the presence of substituents *ortho* to the halo group. For example, the palladium-catalyzed reaction of 2-iodo-3-methoxybiphenyl<sup>10</sup> (**18**) produces 1-methoxyfluoren-9-one (**19**) in 99 % yield (entry 9).

Interestingly, this palladium-catalyzed transformation can be readily employed on biaryl systems containing either polycyclic or heterocyclic rings. Thus, treatment of 9-iodo-10-phenylphenanthrene (**20**) with carbon monoxide under our standard reaction conditions produces indene[1,2-*l*]phenanthren-13-one<sup>11</sup> (**21**) in a 98% yield (entry 10). Similarly, 2-bromo-1-phenylnaphthalene<sup>12</sup> (**22**) produces a 96% yield of benzo[*c*]fluoren-7-one<sup>13</sup> (**23**) (entry 11). Furthermore, cyclocarbonylation of the nitrogen-containing heterocycle 4-iodo-3-phenylisoquinoline<sup>14</sup> (**24**) produces 11-oxoindeno[1,2-*c*]isoquinoline<sup>15</sup> (**25**) in a 95% yield (entry 12).

This palladium reaction is also effective for the double cyclocarbonylation of 2,2''-dibromo-*p*-quaterphenyl<sup>16</sup> (**26**) (entry 13). Under our standard reaction conditions, but 14 h reaction time, substrate **26** produces the desired [2,2']bifluorenyl-9,9'-dione<sup>17</sup> (**27**) in 87 % yield.

So far, we have demonstrated the utility of this chemistry by preparing a variety of fluorenones in high yields with good regioselectivity from *o*-halobiaryls containing six-membered ring aromatics, such as benzene, naphthalene, phenanthrene, etc. (Table 2, entries 1-13). We next turned our attention to applying this palladium methodology to *o*-halobiaryls in which one of the aromatic rings is a five-membered ring heterocycle, such as a benzofuran, a benzothiophene, a thiophene, a pyrrole or an indole (entries 14-24). We began

by studying the electronic effects of the cyclocarbonylation of *o*-iodobiaryls containing a benzofuran. When 3-iodo-2-phenylbenzofuran<sup>18</sup> (**28**) was subjected to the standard reaction conditions, it failed to give any of the desired benz[*b*]indeno[2,1-*d*]furan-10-one (**29**) (entry 14). On the other hand, the cyclocarbonylation of 3-(2-iodophenyl)benzofuran (**30**), in which ring closure takes place onto the electron-rich benzofuran ring, produced the desired benz[*b*]indeno[1,2-*d*]furan-6-one (**31**) in 81% yield (entry 15). In these benzofuran-containing systems, cyclocarbonylation occurred onto the more reactive benzofuran moiety of the biaryl (entry 15), but failed to do so onto the less electron-rich phenyl ring of the biaryl (entry 14). Similar electronic effects have also been observed with *o*-halobiaryls containing either benzothiophene or thiophene rings. For instance, 3-iodo-2-phenylbenzothiophene<sup>19</sup> (**32**) produced a 67 % yield of 10-oxo-10*H*-benz[*b*]indeno[1,2-*d*]thiophene<sup>20</sup> (**33**) (entry 16), while 3-(2-bromophenyl)thiophene<sup>21</sup> (**34**) produced an 86 % yield of indeno[2,1-*d*]thiophen-8-one<sup>22</sup> (**35**) with excellent C-2 regioselectivity (entry 17). It is noteworthy that switching from the oxygen heterocycle of entry 14 to the sulfur analogue of entry 16 resulted in a substantial increase in yield. In like manner, the pyrrole derivative 1-(2-iodophenyl)pyrrole (**36**) gave a 96 % yield of pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-9-one<sup>23</sup> (**37**) (entry 18).

The yield of the palladium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of *o*-halobiaryls containing an indole was not only dependent on electronic effects, but also on the nature of the protecting group on the indole nitrogen. To illustrate, 2-iodo-3-phenyl-1*H*-indole (**38**) and 3-iodo-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole<sup>24</sup> (**42**), both of which have unprotected nitrogens, failed to give the desired indenoindolones under the standard reaction conditions (entries 19 and 21). However, the *N*-methyl substituted indole analogues 2-iodo-1-methyl-3-phenylindole (**40**)

and 3-iodo-1-methyl-2-phenylindole (**44**) produced the desired 5-methyl-5*H*-indeno[2,1-*b*]indol-6-one<sup>7d, 25</sup> (**41**) and 5-methyl-5*H*-indeno[1,2-*b*]indol-10-one<sup>26</sup> (**45**) in 49% and 21% yields respectively (entries 20 and 22). In an attempt to increase the yield of indeno[1,2-*b*]indol-10-one, 3-iodo-2-phenyl-1-(4-toluenesulfonyl)indole (**46**) was prepared and subsequently cyclocarbonylated under our standard reaction conditions to produce 5*H*-indeno[1,2-*b*]indol-10-one<sup>27</sup> (**43**) in a 45% yield (entry 23). It is worth emphasizing that compound **46** led to the cyclocarbonylated product **43** in which the sulfonamide functionality had been removed under the relatively mild reaction conditions employed. This unusual deprotection was also observed in the cyclocarbonylation of 3-(2-bromophenyl)-1-(4-toluenesulfonyl)indole (**47**), which led to 5*H*-indeno[2,1-*b*]indol-6-one (**39**) in 55 % yield (entry 24). Furthermore, 42 % of the 3-(2-bromophenyl)-1-(4-toluenesulfonyl)indole (**47**) was recovered at the end of the reaction, which seems to indicate that removal of the sulfonamide functionality occurs during or after the cyclocarbonylation reaction, not before.

In summary, the synthesis of fluorenones have been accomplished in excellent yields with good regioselectivity by the cyclocarbonylation of *o*-halobiaryls containing six-membered ring aromatics (Table 2, entries 1-13). Similarly, this palladium-catalyzed reaction can also be used to prepare more strained fluorenones containing two fused five-membered rings (Table 2, entries 14-24). In the latter reactions, the yield of fluorenone is strongly dependent on electronic effects. This fact can be rationalized in terms of the ring strain of the palladium intermediates (see the latter mechanistic discussion and Scheme 2) leading to such fluorenones. The transformation is more favorable if cyclization occurs onto an electron-rich system, such as a benzofuran [81 % yield (entry 15)], a thiophene [86% yield

(entry 17)], a pyrrole [96 % yield (entry 18)] or an indole [97 % yield based on percent conversion (entry 24)] versus cyclization onto a relatively unreactive phenyl group [0-67 % yields (entries 14, 16 and 19-23)].

Finally, this chemistry can also be applied to vinylic halides for the preparation of indenones. For instance, the cyclocarbonylation of commercially available 1-bromo-1,2,2-triphenylethene (**48**) led to 2,3-diphenyl-1-indenone (**49**) in 81 % yield (Table 3, entry 1); however, 1-iodo-1,2,2-triphenylethene<sup>28</sup> (**51**) led to the desired product **49** in only a 61 % yield along with 24 % of triphenylethene (**50**) (entry 2). Furthermore, 5-iodo-6-phenyldibenz[*b,f*]oxepine<sup>29</sup> (**52**) produced indeno[5,6]dibenz-*[b,f]*oxepin-14-one (**53**) in 80 % yield (entry 3). Similar attempts to cyclocarbonylate 3-iodo-4-phenylisocoumarin (**54**) or 4-iodo-3-phenylisocoumarin (**56**) under our standard reaction conditions resulted in failure (entries 4 and 5). It is unclear why substrates **54** and **56** failed to successfully undergo the cyclocarbonylation reaction, but it is possibly due to unfavorable electronic effects during the cyclization process. Finally, the cyclocarbonylation of 1-iodo-2-phenylcyclohexene<sup>30</sup> (**58**) produced 1,2,3,4-tetrahydrofluoren-9-one<sup>31</sup> (**59**) in 34 % yield. This indicates that the palladium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of vinylic halides to indenones does not appear to be as general as the cyclocarbonylation of *o*-halobiaryls to fluorenones. This observation can be rationalized in terms of unfavorable electronic effects during the cyclocarbonylation of vinylic halides or possibly the instability of the desired indenone products.

We propose a possible reaction mechanism for this palladium-catalyzed synthesis of fluorenones involving (1) oxidative addition of the aryl halide to Pd(0), (2) CO insertion to



**Table 3.** Palladium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of vinylic halides to indenones.<sup>a</sup>

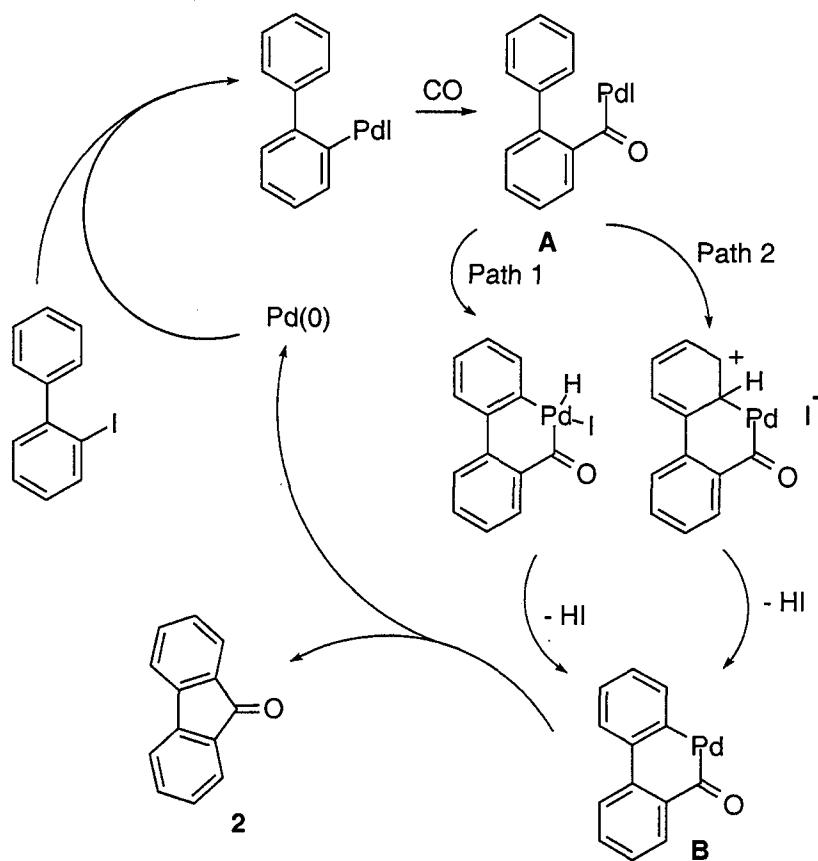
entry	substrate	product(s)	% yield
1	X = Br ( <b>48</b> )		81 <sup>b</sup> + 0
2	X = I ( <b>51</b> )	<b>49</b> + <b>50</b>	61 + 24
3	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	80
4	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	0
5	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	0
6	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>	34

<sup>a</sup>All reactions were carried out under the optimal conditions described in the text. <sup>b</sup>The reaction time was extended to 24 h.

generate the acylpalladium intermediate **A**, (3) either oxidative addition of the neighboring aryl C-H to the acylpalladium to generate a Pd(IV) intermediate (path 1)<sup>32</sup> or electrophilic

palladation (path 2)<sup>33</sup> and subsequent elimination of HI to generate the neighboring aryl C-H to the acylpalladium to generate a Pd(IV) intermediate (path 1)<sup>32</sup> or electrophilic palladation (path 2)<sup>33</sup> and subsequent elimination of HI to generate intermediate **B**, and (4) reductive elimination of the ketone with simultaneous regeneration of the Pd(0) catalyst (Scheme 2).

**Scheme 2**

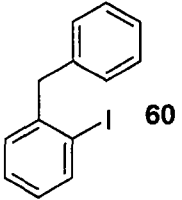
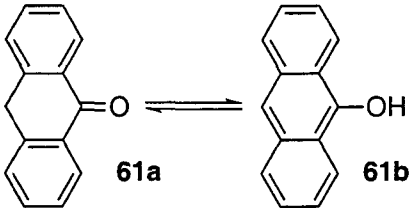
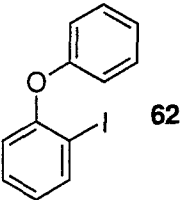
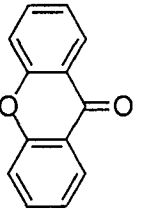
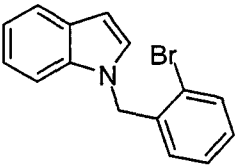
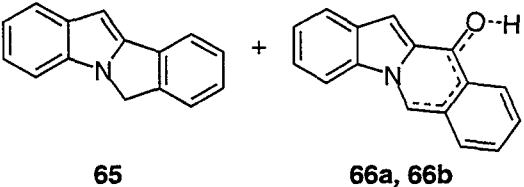


Finally, we have explored the use of our cyclocarbonylation methodology to prepare six-membered ring ketones. Unfortunately, treating 1-benzyl-2-iodobenzene<sup>34</sup> (**60**) with CO under our standard reaction conditions failed to give the desired product **61a** or tautomer **61b** (Table 4, entry 1). Similarly, the more electron-rich (2-iodophenyl)phenyl ether<sup>29</sup> (**62**) failed

to produce the desired xanthen-9-one (**63**) under our standard reaction conditions (entry 2).

A similar attempt to cyclocarbonylate 1-(2-bromobenzyl)indole<sup>35</sup> (**64**) led exclusively to

**Table 4.** Palladium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of aryl halides to six-membered ring ketones.<sup>a</sup>

entry	substrate	product(s)	% yield
1	 <b>60</b>	 <b>61a</b> ↔ <b>61b</b>	0
2	 <b>62</b>	 <b>63</b>	0
3	 <b>64</b>	 <b>65</b> + <b>66a, 66b</b>	70 + 0

<sup>a</sup>All reactions were carried out under the optimal conditions described in the text.

direct cyclization, without CO insertion, producing 6-*H*-isoindolo[2,1-*a*]indole<sup>36</sup> (**65**) in 70 % yield and none of the desired cyclic ketone product **66a** or tautomer **66b** (entry 3). We speculate that the cyclocarbonylation of aryl halides to six-membered ring ketones is unfavorable due to the difficulty in forming a seven-membered ring organopalladium intermediate analogous to **B**, which would be required prior to cyclization (Scheme 2).

Therefore, we conclude that the preparation of six-membered ring ketones by this methodology is probably not feasible, at least under our present reaction conditions.

### Conclusion

The palladium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of *o*-halobiaryls provides a short, straightforward route to a variety of substituted fluoren-9-ones under mild reaction conditions and short reaction times. Our success in extending this reaction to other biaryl systems, as well as some vinylic halides, indicates its potential for the synthesis of a wide variety of five-membered carbocyclic and heterocyclic aromatic ketones. We were unable to extend this chemistry to the preparation of six-membered cyclic ketones.

### Experimental Section

**General procedures.** All  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra were recorded at 300 and 75.5 MHz or 400 and 100 MHz respectively. Thin-layer chromatography was performed using commercially prepared 60-mesh silica gel plates (Whatman K6F), and visualization was effected with short wavelength UV light (254 nm) and a basic  $\text{KMnO}_4$  solution [3 g of  $\text{KMnO}_4$  + 20 g of  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  + 5 mL of  $\text{NaOH}$  (5 %) + 300 mL of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ]. All melting points are uncorrected. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Kratos MS50TC double focusing magnetic sector mass spectrometer using EI at 70 eV.

**Reagents.** All reagents were used directly as obtained commercially unless otherwise noted. Anhydrous forms of DME, THF, DMF, diethyl ether, ethyl acetate and hexanes were purchased from Fisher Scientific Co. 2-Iodobiphenyl (1), 2-iodothioanisole and thiophene-3-

boronic acid were obtained from Lancaster Synthesis Ltd. 2-Iodoaniline, triphenylethene (**50**), 1,2,2-triphenyl-1-bromoethene (**48**), 2-bromobiphenyl (**3**), 1-bromo-2-iodobenzene, 4-bromotoluene, 3-bromotoluene, 2-fluoroanisole, 4-bromoanisole, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dimethoxyfuran, 2-bromophenylboronic acid, 4,4'-diiodobiphenyl, phenyllithium, phenylacetylene, cesium carbonate, cesium fluoride, pivalic acid and triethylamine were obtained from Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc. Bis(tricyclohexylphosphine)palladium(0) was purchased from Strem Chemicals, Inc.

### Synthesis of the *o*-Halobiaryls

**2-Iodo-4'-methylbiphenyl (4).** 2-Iodo-4'-methylbiphenyl (**4**) was prepared by a procedure reported by Hart.<sup>9</sup> A solution of 2-bromiodobenzene (1.415 g, 5.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added slowly (90 min) to a solution of 4-methylphenylmagnesium bromide [prepared from 4-bromotoluene (1.71 g, 10.0 mmol) and Mg (0.246 g, 10.0 mmol) in THF (30 mL)], and the mixture was stirred under Ar for an additional 14 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched by adding I<sub>2</sub> (3.8 g, 15.0 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for an additional 30 min at room temperature. The excess I<sub>2</sub> was destroyed by adding 10% aq NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (35 mL); the organic layer was separated and rewashed with brine (20 mL). Finally, the organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed using 20:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.88 g (60 %) of the desired compound **3** as a colorless liquid with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>37</sup>

**2-Iodo-4'-methoxybiphenyl (6).** This biphenyl was prepared by the same method used to prepare **4**, but 4-bromoanisole (1.71 g, 10.0 mmol) was employed. The residue was

chromatographed using 20:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.610 g (39 %) of the desired compound **6** as a yellow solid. This compound was further purified by recrystallization from hexanes to yield a white solid: mp 58-60 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.86 (s, 3H), 6.94-7.02 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.36 (td, *J* = 7.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.9 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.5, 99.4, 113.5, 128.4, 128.8, 130.4, 130.7, 137.0, 139.7, 146.5, 159.3; HRMS *m/z* 309.98594 (calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>IO, 309.98547).

**2-Iodo-4'-methoxymethylbiphenyl (8)**. This iodobiphenyl was prepared in two steps from 2-iodo-4'-methylbiphenyl (**4**). Compound **4** was brominated by the procedure of Ponchant<sup>37</sup> to afford 4'-bromomethyl-2-iodobiphenyl (**67**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 4.54 (s, 2H), 7.01-7.07 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.41 (m, 6H), 7.94-7.97 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 33.4, 98.2, 128.2, 128.3, 129.1, 129.4, 130.1, 130.2, 130.4, 137.5, 139.6, 144.6, 145.8. A solution of 4'-bromomethyl-2-iodobiphenyl (**67**) (0.228 g, 0.611 mmol) and NaOMe (0.162 g, 3.0 mmol) in 10 mL of anhydrous methanol was stirred for 16 h at room temperature. The mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (25 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.172 g (87 %) of the desired compound **8** as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.44 (s, 3H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 6.99-7.04 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.41 (m, 6H), 7.94 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 58.6, 74.8, 98.8, 127.6, 128.4, 129.0, 129.6, 130.4, 137.9, 139.7, 143.8, 146.6; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3049, 2985, 1463 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 324.0016 (calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IO, 324.0011).

**4-(2-Iodophenyl)benzaldehyde (10)**. Compound **67** was oxidized to aldehyde **10** using the following procedure: a solution of AgClO<sub>4</sub> (0.29 g, 1.4 mmol) in DMSO (5 mL)

was added quickly with stirring to 4'-bromomethyl-2-iodobiphenyl (0.50 g, 1.3 mmol) in DMSO (2 mL). The resulting mixture was allowed to stand for 30 min at room temperature in the dark. At this point, triethylamine (0.81 g, 8.0 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred for an additional 20 min. The reaction mixture was quenched with brine (25 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (60 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (20 mL), and the organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the resulting yellow oil was purified by column chromatography using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.308 g (77 %) of 4-(2-iodophenyl)benzaldehyde (**10**) as a white solid: mp 79-80 °C (lit.<sup>38</sup> mp 80-81 °C). The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>38</sup>

**2-Iodo-3'-methylbiphenyl (12)**. This biphenyl was prepared by the same method used to prepare **4**, but 3-bromotoluene (1.71 g, 10.0 mmol) was employed. It was obtained as a colorless liquid (0.84 g, 57 %):  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.44 (s, 3H), 7.04 (td,  $J = 7.6, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.97 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 0.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  21.6, 98.8, 126.5, 127.9, 128.1, 128.4, 128.8, 130.1, 130.2, 137.6, 139.5, 144.2, 146.8; HRMS  $m/z$  293.99093 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{I}$ , 293.99055).

**3-(2-Iodophenyl)benzaldehyde (15)**. This aldehyde was prepared in two steps from 2-iodo-3'-methylbiphenyl (**12**) by the same method used to prepare 4-(2-iodophenyl)benzaldehyde (**10**). Bromination<sup>37</sup> of **12** produced 3'-bromomethyl-2-iodo-biphenyl (**68**) in 70 % yield:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.54 (s, 2H), 7.04 (td,  $J = 8.55, 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.42 (m, 6H), 7.95 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  33.4, 98.6, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 129.1, 129.5, 130.1, 130.2, 137.5, 139.7, 144.7, 146.0. Oxidation of **68** (0.485 g, 1.3

mmol) using DMSO (7 mL) and  $\text{AgClO}_4$  (0.29 g, 1.4 mmol) gave 0.300 g (75 %) of the desired product **15** as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.06 (td,  $J = 7.8, 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 (td,  $J = 7.4, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.85-7.86 (m, 1H), 7.91 (dt,  $J = 6.9, 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.96 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 10.06 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  98.3, 128.5, 128.8, 128.9, 129.5, 130.1, 130.8, 135.5, 136.3, 139.8, 145.0, 145.2, 192.1; IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ )  $1698\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  307.97049 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{IO}$ , 307.96982).

**2-Iodo-3-methoxybiphenyl (18).** 1-Lithio-2-methoxybiphenyl was prepared *in situ* from 2-fluoroanisole (1.134 g, 9.0 mmol) and phenyllithium (10 mL of 1.8 M solution in hexanes) in diethyl ether (20 ml) by the procedure of Huisgen.<sup>10</sup> The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C using an ice bath and  $\text{I}_2$  (3.5 g, 13.8 mmol) was added slowly with constant stirring. The mixture was stirred for an additional 30 min, then the excess  $\text{I}_2$  was destroyed by adding 10% aq  $\text{NaHSO}_3$  (35 mL). The organic layer was rewashd with brine (20 mL), dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and filtered. Removal of solvent under reduced pressure gave a yellow oil that was purified by chromatography using 20:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 1.02 g (36 %) of the desired compound **18** as a yellow solid. Recrystallization from hexanes/ethyl acetate gave the desired product as a white solid: mp 83-84 °C;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.94 (s, 3H), 6.82 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.92 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.43 (m, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  56.7, 91.4, 109.5, 122.8, 127.6, 127.9, 129.0, 129.4, 144.6, 148.9, 158.4; HRMS  $m/z$  309.98594 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{IO}$ , 309.98547).

**9-Iodo-10-phenylphenanthrene (20).** This iodobiaryl was prepared from 9-phenyl-10-(trimethylsilyl)phenanthrene<sup>39</sup> using an iodination procedure from the literature.<sup>40</sup> To a solution of 9-phenyl-10-(trimethylsilyl)phenanthrene (0.133 g, 0.4 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 mL)



was added ICl (0.078 g, 0.48 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h, then the excess ICl was destroyed by adding 10% aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (10 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The remaining solid was recrystallized from methanol/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to afford 0.13 g (85 %) of the desired compound **20** as a white solid: mp 118-120 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.28 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.60-7.70 (m, 3H), 8.44-8.47 (m, 1H), 8.63-8.70 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 106.6, 122.6, 122.7, 127.0, 127.1, 127.5, 127.8, 128.1, 128.5, 128.7, 130.0, 130.3, 130.6, 132.3, 132.4, 134.7, 145.3, 145.4; IR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3064, 3025, 1481 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 380.0062 (calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>13</sub>I, 380.0062).

**2-Bromo-1-phenylnaphthalene (22).** This starting material was prepared by the procedure of Wittig<sup>12</sup>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.27-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.52 (m, 5H), 7.65-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.79-7.82 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 121.8, 126.3, 127.0, 127.1, 128.1, 128.2, 128.6, 129.2, 130.2, 130.4, 132.6, 134.2, 139.9, 140.1.

**4-Iodo-3-phenylisoquinoline (24).** This aryl iodide was prepared by the procedure of Larock *et al*<sup>14</sup>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.45-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.61-7.71 (m, 3H), 7.83 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 9.17 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 98.2, 128.0, 128.1, 128.1, 128.4, 129.9, 132.4, 132.5, 138.7, 143.7, 152.1, 157.1 (one sp<sup>2</sup> carbon missing due to overlap); IR (neat) 3055, 1630, 1549 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 330.9852 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>IN, 330.9858).

**2,2''-Dibromo-*p*-quaterphenyl (26).** This aryl dibromide was prepared by a selective Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reaction as follows. 4,4'-Diiodobiphenyl (0.406 g, 1.0 mmol), 2-bromophenylboronic acid (0.44 g, 2.2 mmol), CsF (0.608 g, 4.0 mmol),

Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (0.0576 g, 0.10 mmol), and PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.052 g, 0.2 mmol) in 1,2-dimethoxyethane (DME) (5 mL) were stirred under Ar at 90 °C for 6 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (25 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by crystallization from ethanol/acetone to afford 0.318 g (68 % yield) of the desired compound **26** as a yellow solid: mp 170-171 °C (lit<sup>16</sup> mp 174.8 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.21-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.70-7.76 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 122.9, 126.9, 127.7, 129.0, 130.1, 131.6, 133.5, 140.1, 140.4, 142.4; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3054, 1466 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 463.9607 (calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>, 463.9598).

**3-Iodo-2-phenylbenzofuran (28)**. This compound was prepared by the procedure of Cacchi *et al.*<sup>18</sup> The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>18</sup>

**3-(2-Iodophenyl)benzofuran (30)**. This starting material was prepared by the procedure of Jørgensen *et al.*<sup>41</sup> from 1-(2-iodophenyl)-2-phenoxyethanone<sup>42</sup> (**69**) [ <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 5.10 (s, 1H), δ 6.91 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (tt, *J* = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H) 7.14-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 71.6, 91.7, 114.9, 121.9, 128.1, 128.7, 129.7, 132.4, 140.8, 141.5, 157.7, 199.9]. To a solution of **69** (0.2 g, 0.59 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (8 mL) was added methanesulfonic acid (0.39 mL, ~ 6 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 55 °C for 40 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (30 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 18:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.122 g (64 %) of the desired compound **30** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.05-7.09 (m,

1H), 7.25 (td,  $J = 7.4, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.33 (td,  $J = 7.6, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.46 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  99.8, 111.8, 121.0, 122.9, 124.2, 124.7, 127.1, 128.3, 129.5, 131.2, 136.8, 140.0, 143.0, 155.0; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3049, 3068  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  319.9702 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{IO}$ , 319.9698).

**3-Iodo-2-phenylbenzothiophene (32).** This starting material was prepared in two steps from commercially available 2-iodothioanisole. To a solution of 2-iodo-thioanisole (1.53 g, 6.1 mmol) and phenylacetylene (0.75 g, 7.3 mmol) in  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (25 mL) was added  $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$  (86 mg, 2.0 mol %). The mixture was stirred for 5 min under Ar and  $\text{CuI}$  (11 mg, 1.0 mol %) was added. The resulting mixture was then heated under an Ar atmosphere at 60 °C for 2 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and the ammonium iodide salt was removed by filtration. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography using 20:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 1.26 g (92 %) of 2-(2-phenylethynyl)thioanisole (**70**) as a yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.51 (s, 3H), 7.10 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 0.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.48 (ddd,  $J = 7.5, 1.2, 0.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.60 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  15.3, 87.1, 96.1, 123.4, 124.4, 124.4, 124.5, 128.6, 128.6, 129.0, 131.8, 132.5, 141.9; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 1599, 1491  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  224.06627 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{S}$ , 224.06597). 3-Chloromercurio-2-phenylbenzothiophene was prepared *in situ* from **70** by the procedure of Larock *et al.*<sup>19</sup> To a suspension of  $\text{Hg}(\text{OAc})_2$  (0.318 g, 1.0 mmol) in glacial HOAc (3 mL) at room temperature was added 2-(2-phenylethynyl)thioanisole (0.224 g, 1.0 mol), and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. The reaction mixture was

quenched by adding I<sub>2</sub> (0.38 g, 1.5 mmol), and the mixture was stirred vigorously for an additional 30 min. Excess I<sub>2</sub> was destroyed by adding 10% aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (30 mL), and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (50 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 30:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.304 g (90 %) of 3-iodo-2-phenylbenzothiophene as a yellow oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.34-7.40 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.66-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.75-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.81-7.84 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 79.7, 122.4, 125.7, 125.8, 126.6, 128.8, 129.2, 130.3, 134.9, 139.2, 142.2, 142.4; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3065, 1601, 1477, 1433 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 335.94745 (calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>IS, 335.94697).

**3-(2-Bromophenyl)thiophene (34).** This aryl bromide was prepared by a selective Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reaction as follows. 1-Bromo-2-iodobenzene (0.2829 g, 1.0 mmol), thiophene-3-boronic acid (0.140 g, 1.1 mmol), cesium fluoride (0.304 g, 2.0 mmol), Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (0.0288 g, 0.05 mmol), and PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.026 g, 0.1 mmol) in DME (5 mL) were stirred under Ar at 90 °C for 6 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using hexanes to afford 0.210 g (88 %) of the desired compound **34** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.17 (td, *J* = 7.6, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 122.6, 124.0, 124.8, 127.4, 128.7, 129.0, 131.3, 133.4, 137.6, 141.1; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3112, 3048, 1468 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 237.9455 (calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrS, 237.9452).

**1-(2-Iodophenyl)pyrrole (36).** This aryl iodide was prepared by the condensation of 2-iodoaniline with 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dimethoxyfuran. To a solution of citric acid monohydrate (4.2 g, 20 mmol) in water (20 ml) was added 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dimethoxyfuran (1.716 g, 13 mmol) and the mixture was stirred vigorously for approximately 8 min at room temperature. At this point a homogeneous solution was obtained, and the mixture was diluted with methanol (10 mL), followed by addition of 2-iodoaniline (2.19 g, 10 mmol) in methanol (20 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 14 h, then diluted with diethyl ether (75 ml) and washed with brine (75 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (25 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 20:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 2.28 g (85 %) of the desired compound **36** as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$  6.34 (t,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.81 (t,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.09 (td,  $J = 7.6, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 (td,  $J = 7.6, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 1.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  96.1, 109.4, 122.4, 128.3, 129.2, 129.6, 140.2, 144.2; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3049, 1496  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  268.9705 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{IN}$ , 268.9702).

**2-Iodo-3-phenyl-1H-indole (38).** This indole derivative was prepared from 2-trimethylsilyl-3-phenyl-1H-indole<sup>43</sup> using an iodination procedure from the literature.<sup>40</sup> To a solution of 2-trimethylsilyl-3-phenyl-1H-indole (0.265 g, 1.0 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 mL) was added ICl (0.1785 g, 1.1 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 mL) at  $-78$  °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at  $-78$  °C for 1 h. Then the excess ICl was destroyed by adding 10% aq  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  (15 mL). The organic layer was dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl

acetate to afford 0.249 g (78 %) of the desired compound **38** as a pale yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.06-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.63 (m, 3H), 8.02 (br s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  77.3, 110.5, 119.0, 120.6, 122.9, 123.8, 127.1, 127.3, 128.7, 129.9, 134.6, 139.8; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3446, 3053, 1404  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  318.9862 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{IN}$ , 318.9858).

**2-Iodo-1-methyl-3-phenylindole (40).** This indole derivative was prepared in two steps from 3-phenyl-1*H*-indole. To a suspension of NaH (0.0528 g, 2.2 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) at 0 °C was added 3-phenyl-1*H*-indole (0.338 g, 1.7 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. At this point MeI (2.414 g, 17.0 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) was added and the reaction mixture stirred at room temperature for 14 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (60 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.350 g (78 %) of the desired 1-methyl-3-phenylindole (**71**) as a yellow oil with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>44</sup> To a solution of **71** (0.343 g, 1.61 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at 0 °C was added *n*-butyllithium (0.76 mL of 2.5 M in hexanes, 1.9 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 4 h and then for 40 min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was cooled again to 0 °C and  $\text{I}_2$  (0.762 g, 3.0 mmol) was added slowly over a 5 min period and the stirring was continued for an additional 10 min. At this point, the reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (35 mL) and excess  $\text{I}_2$  was destroyed by adding 10 % aq  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  (40 mL). The organic layer was dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent

removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 18:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.383 g (70 %) of the desired compound **40** as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.85 (s, 3H), 7.06-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.61 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  34.8, 87.0, 110.0, 119.2, 120.2, 122.5, 123.2, 127.1, 127.8, 128.6, 130.2, 135.4, 138.8; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3048, 2941, 1460, 1323  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  333.0019 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{IN}$ , 333.0015).

**3-Iodo-2-phenyl-1H-indole (42).** This indole derivative was prepared by the procedure of Bocci and Palla.<sup>24</sup> The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>24</sup>

**3-Iodo-1-methyl-2-phenylindole (44).** This indole derivative was prepared from **42**. To a suspension of NaH (0.031 g, 1.3 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was added **42** (0.320 g, 1.0 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. At this point, MeI (1.42 g, 10.0 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 14 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (60 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.310 g (93 %) of the desired 3-iodo-1-methyl-2-phenylindole (**44**) as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.65 (s, 1H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.51 (m, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  32.1, 59.0, 109.9, 120.8, 121.5, 123.0, 128.5, 128.9, 130.5, 131.0, 131.7, 137.8, 141.8; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3047, 2944, 1463  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  333.0019 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{IN}$ , 333.0015).

**3-Iodo-2-phenyl-1-(4-toluenesulfonyl)indole (46).** To a suspension of NaH (0.031 g, 1.30 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was added 3-iodo-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole (0.320 g, 1.0 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. At this point *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (0.305 g, 1.6 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 14 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (60 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.30 g (68 %) of the desired compound **46** as a white solid: mp 118-120 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.32 (s, 3H), 7.07-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.50 (m, 10H), 8.30 (dt, *J* = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 21.8, 76.0, 116.2, 122.4, 124.9, 126.3, 127.1, 127.7, 129.5, 129.7, 131.8, 132.0, 132.5, 135.3, 137.2, 141.3, 145.2; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3065, 2982, 1377, 1260, 1178 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 472.9955 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 472.9946).

**3-(2-Bromophenyl)-1-(4-toluenesulfonyl)indole (47).** This indole derivative was prepared by a selective Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reaction as follows. 2-Bromophenylboronic acid (0.221 g, 1.1 mmol), 3-iodo-1-(4-toluenesulfonyl)indole<sup>45</sup> (0.3974 g, 1.0 mmol) [mp 130-131 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.31 (s, 3H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.68 (s, 1H), δ 7.75-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.93-7.96 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 21.7, 66.9, 113.4, 122.0, 124.0, 125.7, 127.0, 129.8, 130.1, 132.5, 134.4, 134.9, 145.4], CsF (0.304 g, 2.0 mmol), Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (0.0288 g, 0.05 mmol), and PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.026 g, 0.1 mmol) in DME (5 mL) were stirred under Ar at 90 °C for 5 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl



ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.349 g (82 %) of the desired compound **47** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.32 (s, 3H), 7.20-7.25 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.80-7.83 (m, 2H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 21.6, 113.8, 120.8, 122.6, 123.5, 123.9, 124.9, 125.4, 127.0, 127.5, 129.4, 130.0, 130.1, 132.0, 133.5, 133.6, 134.8, 135.2, 145.1; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3066, 2981, 1373, 1177 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 425.0091 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 425.0085).

**2-Iodo-1,2,2-triphenylethene (51).** This vinylic iodide was prepared by the procedure of Miller *et al.*<sup>28</sup>

**5-Iodo-6-phenyldibenz[*b,f*]oxepine (52).** This vinylic iodide was prepared by the procedure of Kitamura *et al.*<sup>29</sup> The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>29</sup>

**4-Iodo-3-phenylisocoumarin (54).** To a solution of methyl 2-(phenylethynyl)benzoate<sup>46</sup> (0.0708 g, 0.3 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) under Ar was added ICl (0.0584 g, 0.36 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL) dropwise via syringe. The reaction was stirred for 30 min at room temperature then diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL), washed with 10 % aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (25 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography using 10:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 94.6 mg (90 %) of the indicated compound **54** as a white solid: mp 169-170 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.47-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.83-7.92 (m, 2H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 76.7, 120.5, 128.3, 129.5, 129.9,

130.2, 130.4, 131.7, 135.4, 135.9, 138.4, 155.0, 161.7; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 1736 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 347.9652 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>IO<sub>2</sub>, 347.9647).

**3-Iodo-4-phenylisocoumarin (56).** To a solution of 4-phenyl-3-(trimethylsilyl)isocoumarin<sup>47</sup> (0.441 g, 1.5 mL) and I<sub>2</sub> (1.14 g, 4.5 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (15 mL) under Ar was added AgOTf (0.78 g, 3.0 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (5 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at 55 °C for 5 d. The mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, diluted with diethyl ether (100 mL), and filtered. The filtrate was washed with 10 % aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (25 mL) and the organic layer dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue purified by column chromatography using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 501 mg (96 %) of the indicated compound **56** as a white solid: mp 170-171 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.98 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.63 (m, 5H), 8.31 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 107.9, 119.6, 125.6, 127.4, 128.7, 128.9, 129.1, 129.9, 130.5, 135.2, 137.0, 137.3, 161.2.

**1-Iodo-2-phenylcyclohexene (58).** This vinylic iodide was prepared by the procedure of Larock *et al.*<sup>30</sup>

**1-Benzyl-2-iodobenzene (60).** To a solution of 2-iodobenzyl bromide (1.485 g, 5.0 mmol) in benzene (25 mL) was added AgClO<sub>4</sub> (2.07 g, 10 mmol) at room temperature and stirred for 7 h. The resulting mixture was filtered and diluted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL). The organic layer was washed twice with H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 50:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to obtain 1.529 g (86 %) of the desired product **60** as a clear oil with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>34</sup>

**(2-Iodophenyl)phenyl ether (62).** Compound **62** was prepared by the procedure of Kitamura *et al.*<sup>29</sup>

**1-(2-Bromobenzyl)indole (64).** Compound **64** was prepared by the procedure of Kozikowski *et al.*<sup>35</sup>

**General Procedure for the Pd-Catalyzed Cyclocarbonylation of *o*-Halobiaryls.** DMF (6 mL), Pd(PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (8.4 mg, 0.0125 mmol), anhydrous cesium pivalate (0.117 g, 0.5 mmol), and the *o*-halobiaryl (0.25 mmol) were stirred under an Ar atmosphere at room temperature for 5 min. The mixture was flushed with CO and fitted with a CO filled balloon. The reaction mixture was heated to 110 °C with vigorous stirring for 7 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with diethyl ether (35 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column.

**Fluoren-9-one (2).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 45.1 mg (100 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid: mp 82-83 °C. This compound was identified by comparing the <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra and melting point with an authentic sample obtained from Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc.

**2-Methylfluoren-9-one (5).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 47.1 mg (97 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid: mp 90-91 °C (lit.<sup>48</sup> mp 92 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.33 (s, 3H), 7.19-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.04- 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 21.4, 120.0,

120.2, 124.2, 125.0, 128.6, 134.3, 134.4, 134.7, 135.1, 139.3, 141.8, 144.7, 194.2. The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>48</sup>

**2-Methoxyfluoren-9-one (7).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 6:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 52.6 mg (100 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid: mp 78-79 °C (lit.<sup>48</sup> mp 78 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.82 (s, 3H), 6.94 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 1717 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>49</sup>

**2-Methoxymethylfluoren-9-one (9).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 56.0 mg (100 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.41 (s, 3H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.62-7.65 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 58.3, 74.1, 120.3, 123.6, 124.4, 129.1, 133.9, 134.4, 134.4, 134.8, 139.8, 143.9, 144.3, 193.8 (missing one sp<sup>2</sup> carbon due to overlap); IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3054, 2930, 1718 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 224.0840 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 224.0837).

**9-Oxofluorene-2-carbaldehyde (11).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 2:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 52.0 mg (100 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid: mp 204-205 °C (lit.<sup>49</sup> mp 203-204 °C); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 121.0, 121.7, 125.0, 130.8, 135.0, 135.1, 135.4, 136.4, 137.5, 143.3, 149.9, 190.8, 192.4. The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>50</sup>

**3-Methylfluoren-9-one (13).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 43.7 mg (90 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid: mp 66-67 °C (lit.<sup>51</sup> mp 65 °C); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 22.2, 120.1, 121.3, 124.2, 124.3, 129.0,

129.6, 131.9, 134.5, 134.7, 144.3, 144.8, 145.9, 193.3. The other spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>52</sup>

**1-Methylfluoren-9-one (14).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 4.9 mg (10 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid: mp 98-99 °C (lit.<sup>53</sup> mp 98-99 °C). The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>53</sup>

**9-Oxofluorene-3-carbaldehyde (16) and 9-oxofluorene-1-carbaldehyde (17).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 48.9 mg (94 %) of the indicated compounds as a 9:1 inseparable mixture of isomers (the ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis). **9-Oxofluorene-1-carbaldehyde** (minor isomer): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 11.06 (s, 1H) (as a characteristic peak); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 120.7, 124.9, 125.2, 126.3, 130.0, 133.6, 134.0, 134.7, 135.6, 143.8, 144.5, 145.0, 190.5, 194.4; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 1695, 1711 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 208.05281 (calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 208.05243).

**9-Oxofluorene-3-carbaldehyde** (major isomer). This isomer was purified by recrystallization from hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 29.2 mg (56 %) of the desired compound as a yellow solid: mp 148-149 °C (lit.<sup>54</sup> mp 149-150 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.37 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.82 (m, 2H), 8.03 (t, *J* = 0.9, 1H), 10.10 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 119.7, 121.2, 124.8, 125.0, 130.1, 132.7, 134.4, 135.7, 138.8, 141.2, 143.6, 145.2, 191.7, 193.0; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 1719, 1701 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 208.05281 (calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 208.05243).

**1-Methoxyfluoren-9-one (19).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 52.0 mg (99 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid:

mp 142-143 °C (lit.<sup>55</sup> mp 141-142 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.97 (s, 3H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (td, *J* = 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.63 (dt, *J* = 7.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 56.2, 113.1, 113.3, 120.3, 120.4, 124.1, 129.4, 134.1, 134.7, 137.0, 143.4, 146.7, 158.6, 187.5. The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>55</sup>

**Indene[1,2-*l*]phenanthrene-13-one (21).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 68.7 mg (98 %) of the indicated compound as an orange solid: mp 183-184 °C (ethanol/acetone) (lit.<sup>11</sup> mp 185-187 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.25-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.48 (td, *J* = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.79 (m, 5H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.57-8.63 (m, 2H), 8.70 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 9.21-9.24 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 122.8, 123.5, 123.7, 124.0, 125.5, 125.9, 126.2, 127.4, 127.5, 127.7, 127.8, 128.6, 129.0, 129.4, 131.2, 134.1, 134.5, 134.8, 144.0, 144.8, 196.0. The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>11</sup>

**Benzo[*c*]fluoren-7-one (23).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 55.3 mg (96 %) of the indicated compound as an orange solid: mp 160-161 °C (lit.<sup>13</sup> mp 161-162 °C). The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>13</sup>

**11-Oxoindeno[1,2-*c*]isoquinoline (25).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 1:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 54.9 mg (95 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid: mp 198-200 °C (lit.<sup>14</sup> mp 199-200 °C); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 119.8, 120.7, 123.6, 123.9, 127.7, 128.8, 129.3, 130.6, 132.6, 133.6, 134.7, 135.0, 143.9, 158.4, 162.5, 194.2. The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>14</sup>

**[2,2']Bifluorenyl-9,9'-dione (27).** In order to keep the equiv of aryl halide consistent, we employed 0.125 mmol of aryl dibromide **26** and the reaction period was extended to 14 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (20 mL) and a yellow solid crystallized from the reaction mixture. The solid was filtered and washed with water (10 mL) and then ethanol (5 mL) to yield 0.039 g (87 %) of the desired compound **27**. The indicated compound was further purified by crystallization from CHCl<sub>3</sub>/toluene to afford a green-yellow solid: mp 295-296 °C (lit.<sup>16</sup> mp 295-297 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.63 (m, 3H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR and IR were not obtained for this compound due to its poor solubility in common organic solvents; HRMS *m/z* 358.1001 (calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 358.0994).

**Benz[*b*]indeno[1,2-*d*]furan-6-one (31).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes:ethyl acetate to afford 44.6 mg (81 %) of the indicated compound as an orange solid: mp 109-110 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.12-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.44 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 113.8, 120.3, 122.0, 124.1, 124.8, 128.6, 128.7, 133.9, 134.9, 136.0, 141.4, 154.6, 161.6, 180.7; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3025, 1714 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 220.0526 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 220.0524).

**10-Oxo-10-*H*-benz[*b*]indeno[1,2-*d*]thiophene (33).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 39.6 mg (67 %) of the indicated compound as an orange solid: mp 203-204 °C (lit.<sup>20</sup> mp 205-206 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.17-7.49 (m, 6H), 7.76-7.80 (m, 1H), 8.10-8.14 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 120.4, 123.1,

123.3, 123.7, 125.5, 126.8, 129.7, 132.6, 133.8, 135.0, 137.1, 138.8, 144.2, 162.4, 187.4; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 1718, 1697, 1608 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 236.03008 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>8</sub>OS, 236.02959).

**Indeno[2,1-*d*]thiophen-8-one (35).** The reaction period was extended to 14 h. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 40.1 mg (86 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid: mp 109-110 °C (lit.<sup>22</sup> mp 107-110 °C); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 119.7, 120.3, 124.1, 128.2, 133.8, 137.1, 138.0, 139.3, 139.8, 158.8, 185.7. The other spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>22</sup>

**Pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-9-one (37).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 40.5 mg (96 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid: mp 121-122 °C (lit.<sup>23</sup> mp 119.5-121.5 °C); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 110.5, 114.2, 116.2, 119.7, 124.7, 125.7, 130.5, 132.2, 134.4, 144.0, 179.9. The other spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>23</sup>

**5*H*-Indeno[2,1-*b*]indol-6-one (39).** This compound was prepared from compound 47. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 30.6 mg (55 %) of the indicated compound as a purple solid: mp 259-260 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H) (missing one proton due to exchange); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 114.8, 119.9, 121.1, 121.9, 122.4, 123.6, 126.7, 127.2, 134.4, 134.8, 136.9, 140.6, 143.4, 184.1 (missing one sp<sup>2</sup> carbon due to overlap); IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3444, 3055, 1705 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 219.0686 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO, 219.0684).

**5-Methyl-5*H*-indeno[2,1-*b*]indol-6-one (41).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 28.5 mg (49 %) of the indicated



compound as a dark red solid: mp 145-146 °C (lit.<sup>7b,25</sup> mp 147-148 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.87 (s, 3H), 6.94-6.99 (m, 1H), 7.08-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.65 (dt, *J* = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 30.8, 111.7, 119.2, 121.4, 121.9, 122.1, 123.7, 126.2, 126.6, 133.7, 134.1, 137.4, 140.6, 144.1, 147.2, 185.0; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3054, 1704 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 233.0843 (calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO, 233.0841).

**5*H*-Indeno[1,2-*b*]indol-10-one (43).** This compound was prepared from compound **46**. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 2:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 24.9 mg (45 %) of the indicated compound as a red solid: mp 334-336 °C (sublimes) (lit.<sup>27</sup> mp 333-336 °C); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 114.4, 114.8, 119.8, 120.0, 123.1, 123.2, 123.6, 123.8, 130.5, 133.3, 135.3, 141.1, 142.5, 159.3, 185.2. The other spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>27</sup>

**5-Methyl-5*H*-indeno[1,2-*b*]indol-10-one (45).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 2:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 12.2 mg (21 %) of the indicated compound as a red solid: mp 217-218 °C (lit.<sup>26</sup> mp 216-218 °C). The spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>26</sup>

**2,3-Diphenyl-1-indenone (49).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 57.2 mg (81 %) of the indicated compound as a red solid: mp 152-153 °C. This compound was identified by comparing the <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra and melting point with an authentic sample obtained from Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc.

**2,3-Diphenyl-1-indenone (49) and triphenylethene (50).** These two compounds were obtained from the cyclocarbonylation of compound **51**. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 43.0 mg (61 %) of the indenone

**49** as a red solid, mp 152-153 °C; in addition, 15.4 mg (24 %) of compound **50** were isolated from the reaction mixture as a white solid, mp 68-69 °C. Compound **50** was identified by comparing the <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra and melting point with an authentic sample obtained from Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc.

**Indeno[5,6]dibenz[*b,f*]oxepin-14-one (53).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 58.9 mg (80 %) of the indicated compound as a red solid: mp 162-164 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.22-7.47 (m, 8H), 7.49-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.75 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.90-7.93 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 121.3, 121.9, 122.7, 123.7, 125.4, 125.4, 125.6, 126.8, 127.7, 129.5, 129.7, 130.0, 130.7, 131.9, 133.1, 133.7, 143.4, 153.2, 157.9, 158.8, 195.3; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3076, 1707 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 296.0842 (calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 296.0837).

**1,2,3,4-Tetrahydrofluoren-9-one (59).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 12:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 15.7 mg (34 %) of the indicated compound **59** as a yellow oil with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>31</sup>

**6-*H*-Isoindolo[2,1a]indole (65).** The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 12:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 58.9 mg (70 %) of the indicated compound as a white solid: mp 226-228 °C (lit.<sup>37</sup> mp 209-211 °C) with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>37</sup>

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and PPh<sub>3</sub>.

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**CHAPTER 2. NOVEL 1,4-PALLADIUM MIGRATION IN ORGANOPALLADIUM  
INTERMEDIATES DERIVED FROM *o*-HALOBIARYLS**

Based on a communication published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* and a paper to be published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*

Marino A. Campo and Richard C. Larock\*

*Department of Chemistry, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011*

*larock@iastate.edu*

***Abstract***

A novel 1,4-palladium migration between the *o*- and *o'*-positions of biaryls has been observed in organopalladium intermediates derived from *o*-halobiaryls. The organopalladium intermediates generated by this palladium migration have been trapped by way of a Heck reaction with ethyl acrylate and a Suzuki cross-coupling with arylboronic acids. The ratios of Heck and Suzuki products indicate that palladium has a tendency to migrate from a more electron-poor to a more electron-rich position in the biaryl.

**Introduction**

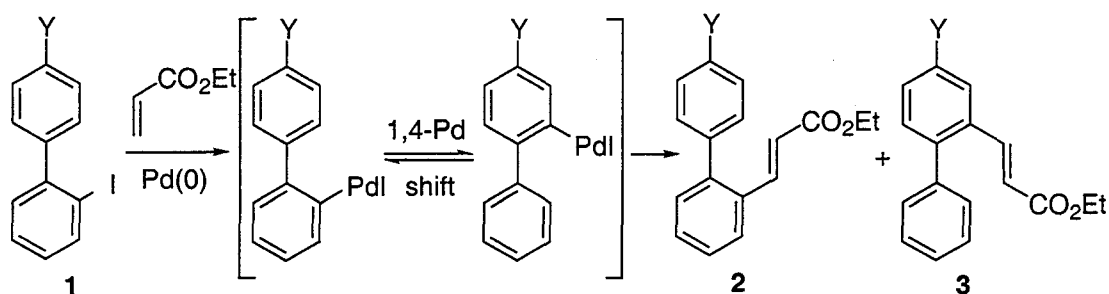
The extraordinary C-C bond forming ability of palladium places it among the most versatile and useful metals in organic synthesis. Organopalladium intermediates are often prepared by oxidative addition of an organic halide or triflate to Pd(0) and subsequent C-C bond formation normally occurs at the position originally occupied by the halogen or triflate.



Among the most important Pd-catalyzed C-C bond forming reactions is the Heck reaction for which there are numerous applications in the literature,<sup>1</sup> including a few employing *o*-bromobiaryls.<sup>2</sup>

To our surprise, upon studying the palladium-catalyzed olefination of unsymmetrical *o*-halobiphenyls with ethyl acrylate, we obtained, under certain modified reaction conditions, the expected *o*-olefinated biphenyl (**2**) along with the *o'*-olefinated biphenyl (**3**) (Scheme 1).<sup>3</sup>

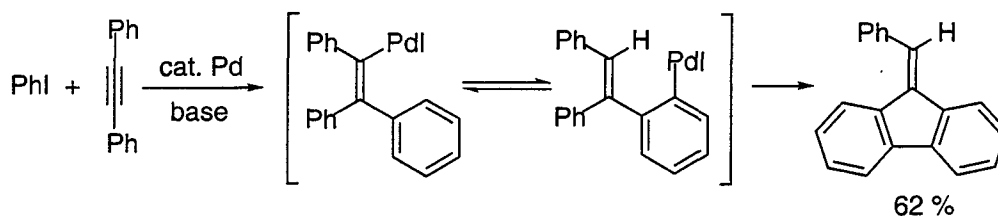
### Scheme 1



The observed mixture of Heck products points to the existence of arylpalladium intermediates in which the metal moiety is located in each of the two different *ortho* positions of the unsymmetrical biphenyl. This through-space relocation of the metal moiety between the *ortho* positions of biaryls amounts to an overall 1,4-palladium shift. The novel palladium migration observed in our *o*-halobiaryl systems has also been simultaneously reported by Gallagher, et al., who studied the Heck reaction of pyridine-containing biaryls.<sup>4</sup> However, the results reported by Gallagher suggested that palladium migration occurred only in minor amounts in such biaryls, and that electron-withdrawing nitro groups were critical to migration. Furthermore, Larock, et al. have previously proposed a vinylic to aryl palladium migration to account for the formation of 9-benzylidene-9*H*-fluorene from diphenylacetylene

and iodobenzene (Scheme 2).<sup>5</sup> We now wish to report the full details of this novel palladium aryl to aryl migration chemistry.

### Scheme 2

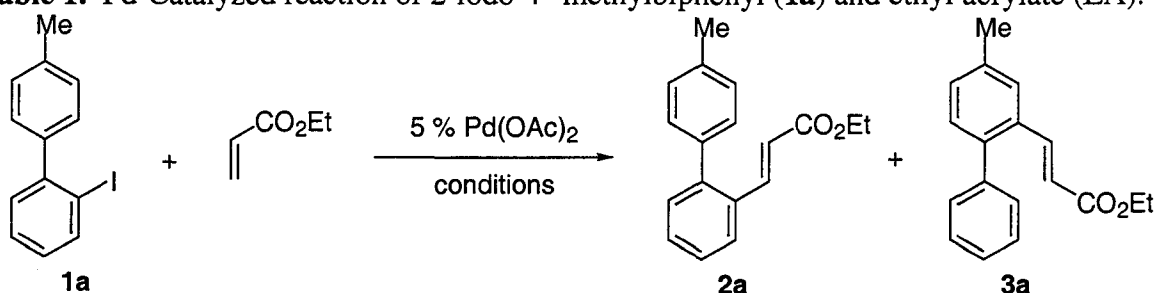


### Results and Discussion

In order to obtain a clear picture of how various reaction variables effect the palladium biaryl migration, we have studied the behavior of 2-iodo-4'-methylbiphenyl (**1a**) and ethyl acrylate under various reaction conditions (Table 1). We have found that under the classical reaction conditions described by Jeffrey,<sup>6</sup> the expected ethyl *E*-3-(4'-methylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (**2a**) was obtained exclusively in a quantitative yield (Table 1, entry 1). By simply diluting the reaction mixture 4-fold, we began to observe small amounts of the migration product ethyl *E*-3-(4-methylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (**3a**) (entry 2), and 23 % of **3a** was obtained under the more dilute conditions obtained by reducing the number of equivalents of ethyl acrylate from 4 to 1 (entry 3). We have obtained almost equal amounts of the direct olefination product **2a** and the rearranged product **3a** when using CsO<sub>2</sub>CCMe<sub>3</sub> (CsPiv) as the base (entry 4). Furthermore, under these conditions, the *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NCl (TBAC) additive was unnecessary to achieve virtually the same results (entry 5). The use of phosphine ligands, such as 1,1-bis(diphenylphosphino)methane (dppm) and PPh<sub>3</sub>, in the reaction further changed the isomer distribution to 50:50 (entries 6 and 7). The solubility of

the base in the reaction mixture seems to play a critical role in determining the isomer distribution. Thus, under identical conditions CsPiv, CsOAc, and NaOAc, which are listed in decreasing order of apparent solubility in DMF, gave decreasing amounts of isomer **3a** (entries 6, 8 and 9). To further illustrate this phenomenon, we have run the reaction under our standard migration

**Table 1.** Pd-Catalyzed reaction of 2-iodo-4'-methylbiphenyl (**1a**) and ethyl acrylate (EA).<sup>a</sup>



entry	equiv EA	conditions	time (d)	mol ratio <b>2a</b> : <b>3a</b> <sup>b</sup>	% yield
1	4	TBAC, NaHCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>c</sup>	1.0	100:0	100
2	4	TBAC, NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	1.0	95:5	100
3	1	TBAC, NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	1.0	77:23	92
4	1	TBAC, CsPiv	1.5	55:45	89
5	1	CsPiv	1.5	54:46	93
6	1	5 % dppm, CsPiv	1.5	50:50	88
7	1	10 % PPh <sub>3</sub> , CsPiv	1.5	50:50	87
8	1	5 % dppm, CsOAc	1.5	55:45	90
9	1	5 % dppm, NaOAc	1.0	69:31	75
10	1	5 % dppm, CsPiv <sup>d</sup>	1.0	75:25	94
11	1	5 % dppm, Et <sub>3</sub> N	1.0	100:0	90

<sup>a</sup>The reaction was run using 0.25 mmol of the iodobiaryl, ethyl acrylate (EA), 2 equiv of an appropriate base, and 1 equiv of *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NCl (TBAC) where indicated in 4 ml of DMF at 100 °C unless otherwise indicated. <sup>b</sup>The mole ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis. <sup>c</sup>One mL of DMF as solvent. <sup>d</sup>Four mL of toluene as solvent.

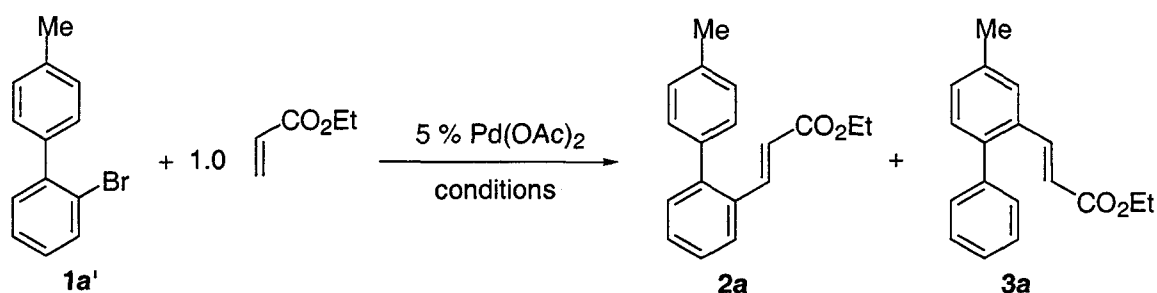
conditions, but used a less polar solvent toluene in which the CsPiv base has a much lower solubility than in DMF, and we obtained only 25 % of **3a** (entry 10 versus entry 6). The use of Et<sub>3</sub>N as a base completely inhibited the migration process. Using Et<sub>3</sub>N instead of CsPiv

and conditions identical to those of entry 6, we obtained isomer **2a** exclusively in a 90 % yield (entry 11). It is important to note at this point that by manipulating the reaction conditions, we can switch the palladium migration "on" or "off" in this biphenyl system. Thus, our optimal migration conditions for activating palladium migration are those described in entry 6 of Table 1 (conditions A), and the conditions to prevent this process are those described in entry 1. Furthermore, it turned out that ethyl acrylate was superior to other olefins as a Heck trap. For instance, the reaction of **1a** with either methyl vinyl ketone or styrene under conditions A favoring migration gave complex mixtures and no desired Heck products were isolated.

To investigate whether palladium migration will also occur with less reactive *o*-bromobiphenyls, we examined the Heck reaction of 2-bromo-4'-methylbiphenyl (**1a'**) and ethyl acrylate under various reaction conditions (Table 2). We first carried out the reaction of **1a'** under migration conditions A, but failed to observe any significant amount of Heck products after 3 days (entry 1, Table 2). In attempting to promote the reaction, we increased the temperature from 100 °C to 110 °C, but TLC analysis of the reaction mixture indicated that **1a'** had failed to react (entry 2). We then resorted to the use of highly active palladium catalyst systems employing a combination of 5 mol % Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and 10 mol % of a hindered, electron-rich phosphine ligand, such as 2-(di-*t*-butylphosphino)biphenyl or 2-(dicyclohexylphosphino)biphenyl.<sup>7</sup> Unfortunately, the results were unfruitful (entries 3 and 4). Similarly, the use of air-stable and highly active Pd(di-*t*-butylphosphinous acid)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as catalyst<sup>8</sup> failed to promote the Heck reaction of **1a'** (entry 5). It is somewhat surprising that the palladium catalysts described in entries 3-5 failed to promote the Heck reaction of 2-

bromo-4'-methylbiphenyl with ethyl acrylate, especially since these catalysts have been reported to activate aryl bromides, as well as aryl chlorides, towards Negishi, Suzuki, and amination reactions.<sup>7,8</sup> Fortunately, we were able to circumvent the poor reactivity of 2-bromo-4'-methylbiphenyl by simply carrying the reaction out under conditions A, but we replaced the DMF solvent with wet DMF (5 % H<sub>2</sub>O by volume) as the reaction solvent. Thus, compound **1a'** produced a 50:50 mixture of **2a** and **3a** in a 49 % yield along with 45 %

**Table 2.** Pd-Catalyzed reaction of 2-bromo-4'-methylbiphenyl (**1a'**) and ethyl acrylate.<sup>a</sup>



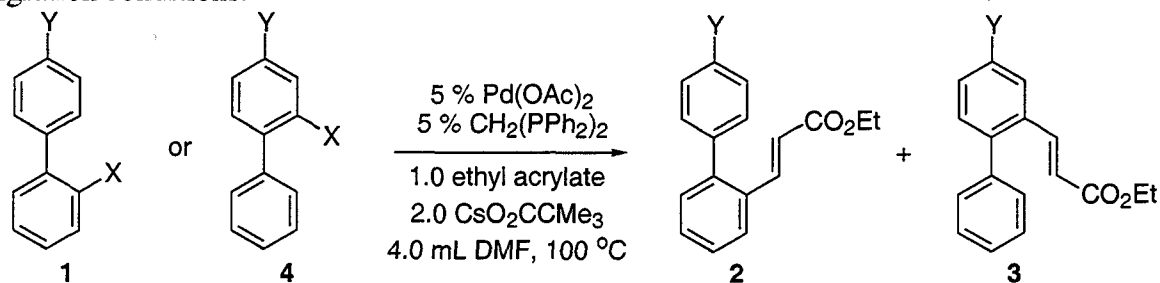
entry	conditions	mol ratio <b>2a:3a</b> <sup>b</sup>	% yield
1	5 % dppm, 2.0 CsPiv, DMF (4 mL), 100 °C, 3 d	-	trace
2	5 % dppm, 2.0 CsPiv, DMF (4 mL), 110 °C, 2 d	-	trace
3	10 % 2-(di- <i>t</i> -butylphosphino)biphenyl, 2.0 CsPiv, DMF (4 mL), 100 °C, 2 d	-	trace
4	10 % 2-(dicyclohexylphosphino)biphenyl, 2.0 CsPiv, DMF (4 mL), 100 °C, 2 d	-	trace
5	5 % Pd(di- <i>t</i> -butylphosphinous acid) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> <sup>c</sup> , 2.0 CsPiv, DMF (4 mL), 100 °C, 2 d	-	trace
6	5 % dppm, 2.0 CsPiv, DMF (3.8 mL), H <sub>2</sub> O (0.2 mL) 100 °C, 1 d	49 (45) <sup>d</sup>	50:50
7 <sup>e</sup>	5 % dppm, 2.0 CsPiv, DMF (3.8 mL), H <sub>2</sub> O (0.2 mL), 100 °C, 1 d	85	50:50

<sup>a</sup>The reaction was run using 0.25 mmol of the bromobiphenyl. <sup>b</sup>The mole ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis. <sup>c</sup>The Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> catalyst was omitted. <sup>d</sup>The yield in parentheses corresponds to the amount of isolated 4-methylbiphenyl. <sup>e</sup>Compound **1a** was used in place of **1a'**.

of 4-methylbiphenyl<sup>9</sup>, which corresponds to the product arising from C-Br reduction to a C-H bond (entry 6). We were also pleased to find that 2-iodo-4'-methylbiphenyl and ethyl acrylate reacted under the reaction conditions described in entry 6 of Table 2 to produce a 50:50 mixture of **2a** and **3a** in an 85 % yield (entry 7), verifying that **1a** and **1a'** generate identical mixtures of **2a** and **3a**. Thus far, two sets of migration reaction conditions have been developed, namely conditions A, which are described in entry 6 of Table 1, and conditions B, which are described in entry 6 of Table 2.

An obvious question to answer is whether under our standard reaction conditions 2-iodo-4-methylbiphenyl (**4a**) and ethyl acrylate would generate the same distribution of isomers **2a** and **3a** as previously obtained from **1a** and ethyl acrylate. Indeed, substrate **4a** generated a 49:51 mixture of isomers **2a** and **3a** in an 86 % yield under our optimized migration conditions A (entry 6, Table 3). This interesting result seems to indicate that under our reaction conditions, the arylpalladium intermediates generated from either **1a** or **4a** undergo apparent equilibration prior to olefin-trapping to generate essentially identical mixtures of **2a** and **3a** (compare entries 5 and 6 of Table 3). Once again, we can suppress the Pd migration by carrying the reaction out under the conditions described by Jeffrey (Table 4). Thus, 2-iodo-4-methylbiphenyl (**4a**) produced **3a** exclusively in a 93 % yield under the Jeffrey conditions (entry 6, Table 4).

In order to examine a possible correlation between electronic effects in the *o*-halobiphenyls and the ratio of Heck products they produce, we studied the reaction of various *p*-substituted *o*-halobiphenyls with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration conditions

**Table 3.** Heck reaction of *p*-substituted *o*-halobiphenyls with ethyl acrylate under Pd-migration conditions.<sup>a</sup>

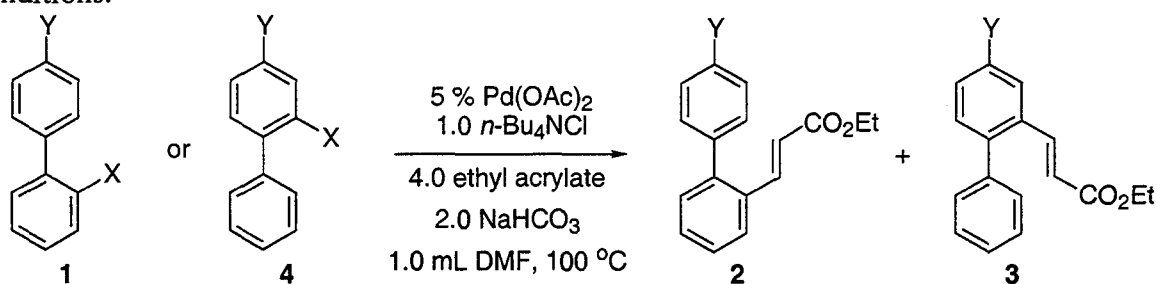
entry	substrate	Y	X	time (d)	% yield	mol ratio 2:3 <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>1a</b>	Me	I	1.5	88	50:50
2	<b>4a</b>	Me	I	1.5	86	49:51
3	<b>1b</b>	NMe <sub>2</sub>	I	1	90	55:45
4	<b>4b</b>	NMe <sub>2</sub>	I	1.5	93	49:51
5	<b>1c</b>	OMe	I	2	93	52:48
6	<b>4c</b>	OMe	I	2	92	48:52
7	<b>1d</b>	CO <sub>2</sub> Et	Br	1 <sup>c</sup>	45 (45) <sup>d</sup>	47:53
8	<b>4d</b>	CO <sub>2</sub> Et	I	1 <sup>c</sup>	83	42:58
9	<b>1e</b>	NO <sub>2</sub>	I	2.5 <sup>c</sup>	46 (40) <sup>d</sup>	39:61
10	<b>4e</b>	NO <sub>2</sub>	I	2.5 <sup>c</sup>	37 (50) <sup>d</sup>	33:67

<sup>a</sup>The reaction was run using 0.25 mmol of the halobiphenyl. <sup>b</sup>The mole ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis. <sup>c</sup>Wet DMF was used as the reaction solvent: 3.8 mL of DMF plus 0.2 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O (conditions B). <sup>d</sup>The yield in parentheses indicates the amount of isolated product in which C-X was reduced to C-H.

(Table 3). First of all, we used strong electron-donating dimethylamino-substituted biphenyls. For instance, the reaction of 4'-dimethylamino-2-iodobiphenyl (**1b**) with ethyl acrylate under migration conditions A produced a 55:45 mixture of isomers **2b** and **3b** respectively in a 90 % yield (entry 3, Table 3). Similarly, the reaction of 4-dimethylamino-2-iodobiphenyl (**4b**) and ethyl acrylate produced a 49:51 mixture of **2b** and **3b** respectively in a 93 % yield (entry 4). Notice that the Heck product ratios obtained from **1b** and **4b** differ by approximately 6 mol %, indicating that the migration kinetics for the arylpalladium intermediates derived from these dimethylamino-substituted biphenyls is apparently somewhat slower than the kinetics of their

methyl-substituted counterparts. Nevertheless, for practical purposes we can assume that the arylpalladium intermediates generated from **1b** and **4b** pretty much equilibrate prior to olefin-trapping by ethyl acrylate. Furthermore, we calculated the average ratio of **2b** and **3b** to be 52:48, indicating only a very slight preference for the formation of isomer **2b**. In addition, we suppressed the palladium migration by carrying out the reaction of **1b** and **4b** under Jeffrey's reaction conditions (Table 4). Thus, **1b** produced **2b** exclusively in an 80 % yield, while **4b** produced **3b** exclusively in a 100 % yield (entries 3 and 4 of Table 4).

**Table 4.** Heck reaction of *p*-substituted *o*-halobiphenyls with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's conditions.<sup>a</sup>



entry	substrate	Y	X	time (d)	% yield	mol ratio 2:3 <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>1a</b>	Me	I	1.0	100	100:0
2	<b>4a</b>	Me	I	1.0	93	0:100
3	<b>1b</b>	NMe <sub>2</sub>	I	1.0	80	100:0
4	<b>4b</b>	NMe <sub>2</sub>	I	1.0	100	0:100
5	<b>1c</b>	OMe	I	2.0	100	100:0
6	<b>4c</b>	OMe	I	2.0	99	0:100
7	<b>1d</b>	CO <sub>2</sub> Et	Br	2.0 <sup>c</sup>	77 + 11	-
8	<b>4d</b>	CO <sub>2</sub> Et	I	1.0	99	0:100
9	<b>1e</b>	NO <sub>2</sub>	I	1.0 <sup>d</sup>	85	100:0
10	<b>4e</b>	NO <sub>2</sub>	I	1.0 <sup>d</sup>	89	0:100

<sup>a</sup>The reaction was run using 0.25 mmol of the halobiphenyl. <sup>b</sup>The mole ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis. <sup>c</sup>Ten mol % of 2-(di-*t*-butylphosphino)biphenyl was used as the ligand. <sup>d</sup>2.0 Equiv of Et<sub>3</sub>N were used as the base.



We continued our investigation by examining the reaction of methoxy-substituted biphenyls **1c** and **4c** under our standard palladium migration conditions A. Thus, compound **1c** produced a 52:48 mixture of isomers **2c** and **3c** respectively in a 93 % yield (entry 5, Table 3), while compound **4c** produced a 48:52 mixture of **2c** and **3c** respectively in a 92 % yield (entry 6, Table 3). These results validate the idea that our migration reaction conditions promote the near equilibration of arylpalladium intermediates derived from methoxy-substituted biphenyls **1b** and **4b**, and in this case the ratio of Heck products differs by only approximately 4 mol %. Similar to our results with other biphenyls bearing electron-donating substituents, the 50:50 average ratio of Heck products **2c** and **3c** indicates no preference for the formation of either one of these two isomers. At this point, we conclude that *p*-substituted biphenyls bearing electron-donating groups, such as Me, MeO, and Me<sub>2</sub>N, produce nearly 50:50 mixtures of Heck products. To finalize our examination of the methoxy-substituted biphenyls **1c** and **4c**, we carried out the Heck reaction under Jeffrey's conditions (Table 4). Thus, **1b** produced **2b** in a quantitative yield (entry 5), while **4a** gave **3b** exclusively in a 99% yield (entry 6).

Next, we switched our attention to the Heck reactions of biphenyls bearing electron-withdrawing substituents. To begin with, we considered the Heck reaction of biphenyls **1d** and **4d** bearing a CO<sub>2</sub>Et group. Although the Pd-catalyzed reactions of **1d** and **4d** with ethyl acrylate were unsuccessful under migration conditions A, the reaction proceeded smoothly under conditions B. Thus, **1d** produced a 47:53 mixture of **2d** and **3d** in a 45 % yield, along with ethyl 4-phenylbenzoate<sup>10</sup> in 45 % yield, while **4d** produced a 42:58 mixture of **2d** and **3d** in an 83 % yield. Again, we found that the Heck product ratios produced by **1d** and **4d**

differed by approximately 5 mol %, indicating near equilibration of the corresponding arylpalladium intermediates. Furthermore, the average ratio of **2d** and **3d** turned out to be 44:56, which indicates that there is a slight tendency for these halobiphenyls to form isomer **3d**. Furthermore, the reaction of **1d** with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's conditions was unsuccessful, but the addition of 2-(dicyclohexylphosphino)biphenyl<sup>7</sup> as a ligand produced **2d** in a 77 % yield along with an 11 % yield of isomer **3d** (entry 7, Table 4). Thus, under these conditions, some migration appears to be taking place. Similarly, under Jeffrey's reaction conditions, compound **4d** produced the expected isomer **3d** exclusively in a 99 % yield (entry 8, Table 4).

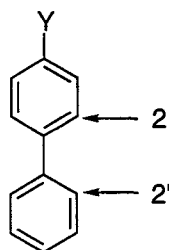
Finally, the Heck reactions of strong electron-withdrawing nitro-substituted biphenyls **1e** and **4e** have displayed a trend similar to that observed previously with the ester-substituted biphenyls. For instance, using aqueous DMF (conditions B), **1e** generated a 39:61 mixture of **2e** and **3e** respectively in a 46 % yield, plus a 40 % yield of reduction product (entry 9, Table 3). Under the same conditions, aryl iodide **4e** produced a 33:67 mixture of **2e** and **3e** respectively in a 37 % yield, plus a 50 % yield of the reduction product (entry 11). The average ratio of **2e** and **3e** is 36:64, which clearly indicates a preference for the formation of isomer **3e** arising from the arylpalladium intermediate having the metal moiety located on the nitro-substituted phenyl ring of the biphenyl. It is worth mentioning that under the migration conditions B the Heck reaction of biphenyls **1e** and **4e** was sluggish. Thus, after the prolonged heating required to complete these reactions, we isolated considerable amounts of 4-nitrobiphenyl<sup>11</sup> (40 % and 50 % yields respectively from **1e** and **4e**) as a side product arising from reduction of the C-I bond to a C-H bond. On the other hand, aryl iodides **1e** and **4e**

smoothly underwent the Heck reaction under Jeffrey's conditions using Et<sub>3</sub>N as the base to produce **2e** in an 85 % yield and **3e** in an 89 % yield respectively (entries 9 and 10, Table 4). It is worth noting that the use of Et<sub>3</sub>N as a base for the Heck reaction of **1e** and **4e** was necessary to eliminate small amounts of migration products.

We propose a possible mechanism (Scheme 3) for the palladium migration in organopalladium intermediates derived from *o*-halobiaryls which involves oxidative addition of the aryl halide to Pd(0) to generate intermediate **i**, which can either (a) undergo oxidative addition of a neighboring C-H bond to produce a hydridopallada(IV)cycle (**ii**), followed by reductive elimination of CH to generate **iii** or **i**, or (b) electrophilic palladation to generate intermediate **iv**, followed by either protonolysis of a C-Pd bond to generate **iii** or **i** or oxidative addition to HX to generate **ii**. In regard to the mechanism, we would like to point out that not all ligands on palladium are shown for simplicity. We believe that the intermediacy of **iv** is highly unlikely for two main reasons. First of all, it is improbable that intermediate **iv** could react with HX under the basic reaction conditions we employed. Second of all, Catellani and Chiusoli have demonstrated that pallada(II)cycles, analogous to intermediate **iv**, easily undergo oxidative addition to aryl and alkyl halides to generate palladium(IV) intermediates, which after a series of rearrangements lead to unique polycyclic compounds.<sup>12</sup> Thus, the presence of intermediate **iv** in our reaction would lead to the formation of signature compounds, which we were unable to observe under our reaction conditions. As a result, we favor the reversible interconversion between **i** and **iii** via hydridopallada(IV)cycle **ii**. It is also important to realize that palladium migration involves intramolecular C-H activation.



by the electronic preference of the palladium within the biphenyl. Since the palladium species involved in the intramolecular C-H activation required for palladium migration is most likely electrophilic in nature,<sup>13</sup> we speculate that palladium, as any other electrophile, will prefer the more electron-rich position of the biphenyl. HF/6-31G(d) calculations using the GAMESS suite of programs<sup>14</sup> show that biphenyls with electron-donating substituents, such as Me and OMe, have relatively similar Mulliken electron densities between the 2 and 2' positions (see Figure 1). These calculations are consistent with the near 50:50 mol ratio of Heck products **2a** and **2c** to **3a** and **3c** obtained with iodobiphenyls substituted with Me and



Y	2	2'	$ \Delta $
NMe <sub>2</sub>	-0.1973	-0.2200	0.0227
OMe	-0.2102	-0.2171	0.0069
Me	-0.2090	-0.2169	0.0079
CO <sub>2</sub> Et	-0.2299	-0.2126	0.0173
NO <sub>2</sub>	-0.2306	-0.2119	0.0187

**Figure 1.** Mulliken Electron Charges Calculated by HF/6-31G(d).

OMe groups under our palladium migration conditions (entries 1, 2, 5 and 6; Table 3). On the other hand, the Me<sub>2</sub>N- substituted biphenyl has a relatively larger concentration of charge on the 2' position. Thus, this biphenyl should favor palladium migration to the more electron-rich 2 position. Indeed, we obtained Heck products slightly enriched with isomer **2b** (entries 3 and 4). In contrast, substituted biphenyls bearing electron-withdrawing groups, such as CO<sub>2</sub>Et

and NO<sub>2</sub>, have greater electron density in the 2 position of the substituted phenyl moiety of the biphenyl. Thus, it is not surprising that we have obtained Heck reaction mixtures enriched with isomers **3d** and **3e** (entries 7-10, Table 3), which indicates a tendency for palladium to migrate to the more electron-rich position of these biphenyls. As a result, we conclude that electron density calculations can be used in a qualitative fashion to predict the preference of palladium within these biphenyls. Furthermore, these results are consistent with the intermediacy of an electrophilic palladium species.

At this time, we are unable to find any obvious correlation between our results and those reported by Gallagher.<sup>4</sup> Gallagher has observed that electron-withdrawing nitro groups are critical to migration in his systems. However, it is impossible to compare his experimental data with ours, since equilibration of the corresponding palladium intermediates was apparently never established in his reactions. Therefore, in his system we cannot deduce whether the nitro group is promoting migration directly or indirectly by simply retarding the Heck reaction and allowing enough time for the palladium migration to take place.

We have continued to investigate the electronic effects of other unsymmetrical *o*-halobiaryls and found a more marked effect on the Heck product distribution in the reaction of 2-iodo-3-phenylbenzofuran (**5a**) and ethyl acrylate, which under our standard migration conditions A gives exclusively ethyl *E*-3-(3-phenylbenzofuran-2-yl)acrylate (**6a**) in an 85 % yield (entry 1, Table 5). This unexpected result showing no apparent 1,4-Pd shift suggested that palladium has a strong preference for the 2-position of the benzofuran moiety. To test this hypothesis 3-(2-iodophenyl)benzofuran (**8a**) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration conditions A. Acrylate **6a** was produced in a 78 % yield,

alongside only ~5 % of isomer **7a** (entry 2), indicating a strong preference for palladium to migrate from the phenyl to the benzofuran ring. These results are consistent with the idea of an electrophilic palladium preferring the more reactive 2-position of the benzofuran moiety.<sup>15</sup> However, keep in mind that very different reactivities of the two arylpalladium intermediates could be favoring the formation of **6a**. Once again, compound **7a** was prepared in a 75 % yield from **8a** by carrying out the Heck reaction with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions (entry 3, Table 5).

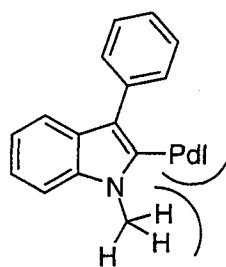
**Table 5.** Heck reaction of *o*-halobiaryls with ethyl acrylate.

entry	substrate	Y	conditions	% yield	mol ratio <b>6:7</b> <sup>a</sup>
1	<b>5a</b>	O	A, 1.0 d	85	100:0
2	<b>8a</b>	O	A, 1.0 d	83	94:6
3	<b>8a</b>	O	5 % Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> , 4.0 ethyl acrylate, 1.0 <i>n</i> -Bu <sub>4</sub> NCl, 2.0 NaHCO <sub>3</sub> , DMF (1.0 mL), 80 °C, 1.0 d	75	0:100
4	<b>5b</b>	NMe	A, 1.0 d	94	100:0
5	<b>8b</b>	NMe	A, 1.0 d	90	85:15
6	<b>8b</b>	NMe	5 % Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> , 4.0 ethyl acrylate, 1.0 <i>n</i> -Bu <sub>4</sub> NCl, 2.0 NaHCO <sub>3</sub> , DMF (1.0 mL), 80 °C, 1.0 d	85	100:0

<sup>a</sup>The product ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis.

Similarly, we have studied the Heck reaction of indole-containing biaryls (Table 5). As expected, the Pd-catalyzed reaction of 2-iodo-1-methyl-3-phenylindole (**5b**) and ethyl

acrylate under migration conditions A, produced ethyl *E*-3-(1-methyl-3-phenylindol-2-yl)acrylate (**6b**) exclusively in a 94 % yield (entry 4). Clearly this result supports the idea that palladium prefers to reside on the 2 position of the indole, rather than the phenyl moiety of the biaryl. On the other hand, the Heck reaction of 3-(2-iodophenyl)-1-methylindole (**8b**), under migration conditions A, produced an 85:15 mixture of **6b** and **7b** in a 90 % yield (entry 5). Although this latter result indicates a tendency for palladium to migrate to the indole ring, the arylpalladium intermediates formed were far from having reached equilibrium. We believe that the 15 mol % of retained product is a result of slow palladium migration kinetics, which might be due to unfavorable steric interactions imposed on the palladium when migrating to the relatively hindered 2 position of the 1-methylindole (Figure 2). Therefore, we postulate that steric hindrance might be a significant factor in this palladium migration chemistry disfavoring sterically congested arylpalladium intermediates.

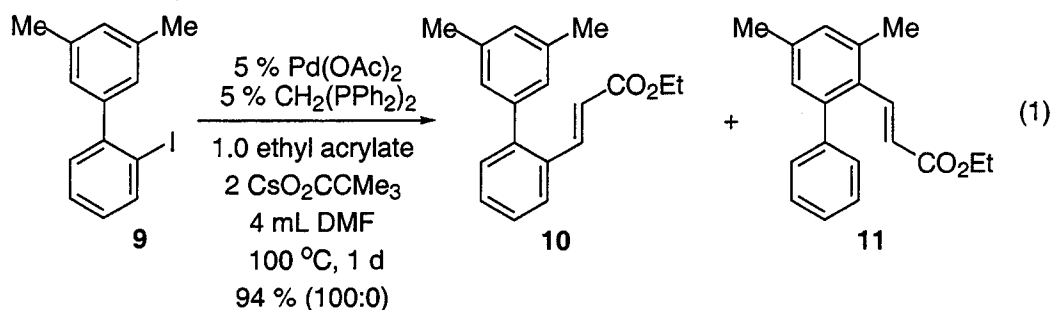


**Figure 2.** Unfavorable steric interactions in 1-methyl-3-phenylindol-2-ylpalladium iodide.

In order to study the effect of steric hindrance on the palladium migration, we have prepared 2-iodo-3',5'-dimethylbiphenyl (**9**). We chose this dimethyl-substituted biphenyl for two main reasons. First of all, methyl substituents are not likely to chelate palladium. Second of all, based on previous observations with biphenyls **1a** and **4a**, methyl groups

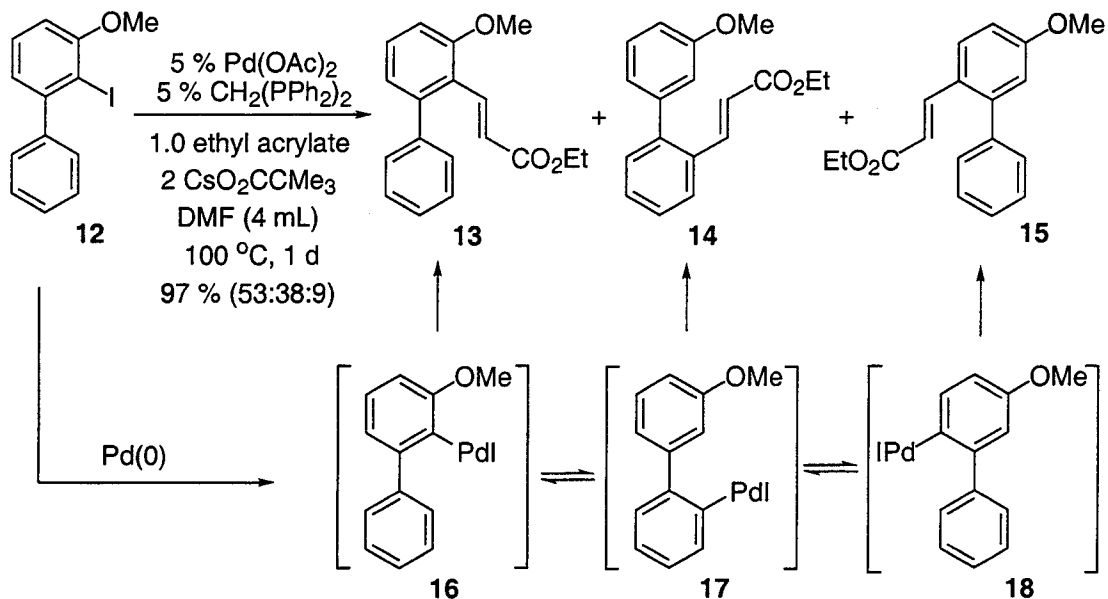


should be essentially electronically neutral in the palladium migration. We began by carrying out the reaction of **9** under Jeffrey's conditions to obtain the expected compound **10** exclusively in a 97 % yield (eq 1). Similarly, compound **9** also reacted with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration conditions A to generate compound **10** exclusively in a 94 % yield (eq 1). This result clearly indicates that the steric effect of the methyl substituents completely inhibited palladium migration to the dimethyl-substituted phenyl ring of the biphenyl.

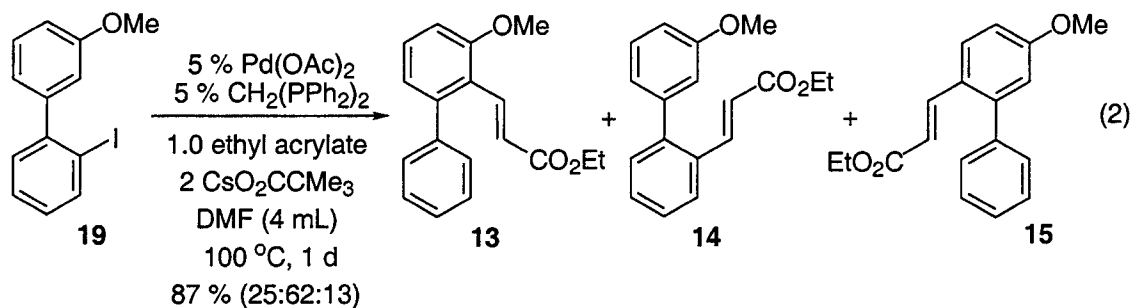


There is no reason to believe that these migrations should be restricted to a single 1,4-Pd shift. In fact, we have established a double 1,4-Pd shift in organopalladium intermediates generated from 2-iodo-3-methoxybiphenyl (**12**) (Scheme 4). Hypothetically, the palladium-catalyzed reaction involving compound **12** should give rise to three different arylpalladium intermediates **16-18** after a series of 1,4-Pd shifts, which should produce three different Heck products **13-15**. Indeed, the reaction of **12** with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration conditions A produced a mixture of compounds **13**, **14** and **15** (53:38:9 respectively) in an overall 97 % yield (Scheme 4). The presence of the key intermediate **18**, generated after a minimum of two 1,4-Pd shifts between the 2-, 2'-, and 6-positions of the biphenyl, explains the formation of isomer **15**. Interestingly, the reaction of 2-iodo-3'-methoxybiphenyl (**19**)

Scheme 4

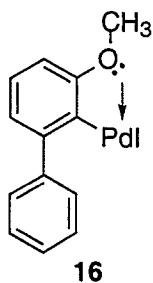


and ethyl acrylate under our standard migration conditions A, produced a mixture of compounds **13**, **14** and **15** (25:62:13 respectively) in an 87 % overall yield (eq 2). The wide discrepancy in the Heck product distribution obtained from the reaction of **12** versus **19**,



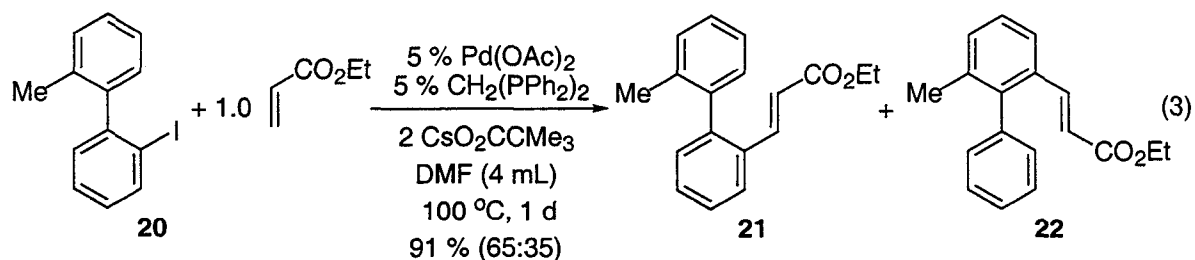
indicates that palladium is unable to achieve equilibrium between the three different positions of the biphenyl prior to olefin trapping. This is not an unexpected result, since equilibration of the palladium moiety in this biphenyl requires a more kinetically demanding double 1,4-Pd shift between the three distinct positions of the biphenyl prior to ethyl acrylate trapping. Finally, another factor adding to the complexity of this biphenyl system involves the

possibility of intramolecular oxygen chelation in the arylpalladium intermediate **16** (Figure 3).



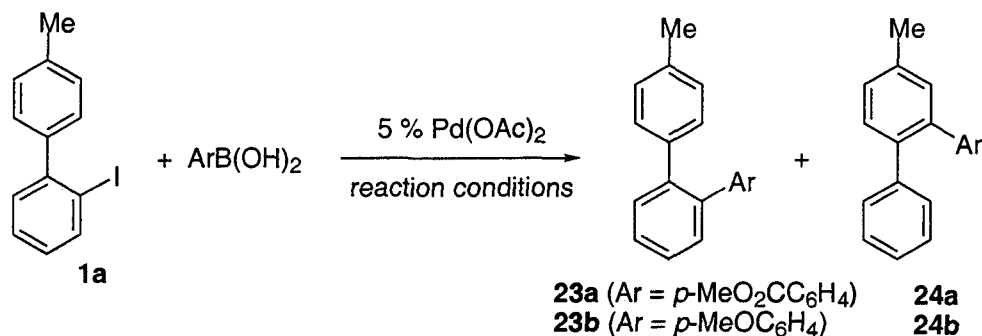
**Figure 3.** Intramolecular chelation by oxygen.

Another interesting example of palladium migration involves the use of 2-iodo-2'-methylbiphenyl (**20**) in the Heck reaction (eq 3). Notice that in this biphenyl, there is only one vacant position for palladium migration on the methyl-substituted phenyl ring versus two vacant positions on the other ring. Therefore, statistically speaking, we expect to obtain a 2:1 (67:33) mixture of isomers **21** and **22**. To our satisfaction, the reaction of compound **20** with ethyl acrylate under migration conditions A produced a nearly theoretical 65:35 mixture of **21** and **22** in a 91 % yield. Furthermore, the reaction of compound **20** with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's conditions produced **21** exclusively in a 92 % yield.



After exploring the Heck reaction, we proceeded to examine the Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling<sup>16</sup> of the same *o*-halobiaryls with arylboronic acids. First of all, we studied the coupling of 2-iodo-4'-methylbiphenyl (**1a**) with arylboronic acids under a variety of reaction

conditions (Table 6). For instance, the palladium-catalyzed coupling of **1a** with 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid under conditions described by Wright, et al.<sup>16c</sup> produced methyl 4-(4'-methylbiphen-2-yl)benzoate (**23a**) exclusively in a 62 % yield (entry 1). Clearly under these conditions, the coupling reaction proceeds without any palladium migration. We then carried out the coupling reaction of **1a** with 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid under our standard migration conditions A, but after 3 d only trace amounts of the Suzuki-Miyaura product **23a** could be identified by TLC analysis of the reaction mixture (entry 2). In order to improve the yield, we carried out this reaction with the more electron-rich 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid and obtained a 57:43 mixture of 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4'-methylbiphenyl (**23b**) and 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylbiphenyl (**24b**) in a 33 % yield, indicating that palladium migration had indeed occurred under these conditions. Even though we had obtained a low yield of Suzuki-Miyaura products under migration conditions A, we were encouraged by this positive result. We also suspected that the yield of this reaction could be improved by using water as an additive.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, we proceeded to carry out the coupling reaction of **1a** with 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid under migration conditions B, which employ 5% H<sub>2</sub>O by volume in DMF as the reaction solvent and we obtained a 66:34 mixture of isomers **23b** and **24b** in a substantially higher 77 % overall yield. It should be pointed out that the addition of water to the reaction mixture improved the overall yield of the Suzuki reaction, but it lowered the amount of migration product **24b** (compared entries 3 and 4). Furthermore, the Suzuki coupling of **1a** with the electron-deficient 4-(methoxycarbonylphenyl)boronic acid under migration conditions B,

**Table 6.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of 2-iodo-4'-methylbiphenyl (**1a**) with arylboronic acids.<sup>a</sup>

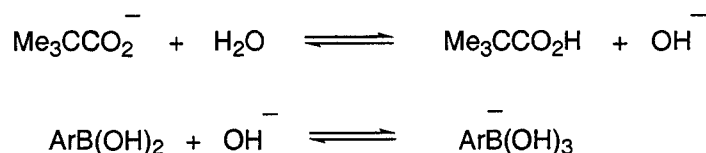
entry	reaction conditions	Ar/equiv	% yield	ratio (23:24) <sup>b</sup>
1	10 % PPh <sub>3</sub> , 2.2 CsF, DME (1.0 mL), 90 °C, 8 h	<i>p</i> -MeO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /1.2	62	100:0
2	5 % dppm, 2 CsPiv, DMF (4.0 mL), 100 °C, 72 h	<i>p</i> -MeO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /1.0	trace	-
3	5 % dppm, 2 CsPiv, DMF (4.0 mL), 100 °C, 72 h	<i>p</i> -MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /1.0	33	57:43
4	5 % dppm, 2 CsPiv, DMF (3.8 mL), 44 H <sub>2</sub> O (0.2 mL) 100 °C, 8 h	<i>p</i> -MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /1.0	77	66:34
5	5 % dppm, 2 CsPiv, DMF (3.8 mL), 44 H <sub>2</sub> O (0.2 mL) 100 °C, 8 h	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> /1.0	complex mixture	-
6	5 % dppm, 2 CsPiv, DMF (3.8 mL), 44 H <sub>2</sub> O (0.2 mL) 100 °C, 8 h	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> BF <sub>3</sub> K/1.0	complex mixture	-
7	5 % dppm, 2 CsPiv, DMF (3.8 mL), 44 H <sub>2</sub> O (0.2 mL) 100 °C, 8 h	<i>p</i> -MeO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> / 1.0	61	60:40
8	5 % dppm, 2 CsPiv, DMF (4.0 mL), 20 H <sub>2</sub> O, 100 °C, 8 h	<i>p</i> -MeO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> / 1.0	55	57:43
9	5 % dppm, 2 CsPiv, 2 Me <sub>3</sub> CCO <sub>2</sub> H, DMF (4.0 mL), 20 H <sub>2</sub> O, 100 °C, 24 h (buffered)	<i>p</i> -MeO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> / 1.0	57	50:50
10	5 % dppm, 2 CsPiv, 2 Me <sub>3</sub> CCO <sub>2</sub> H, DMF (4.0 mL), 100 °C, 24 h (buffered)	<i>p</i> -MeO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> / 1.0	trace	-
11	5 % dppm, 2 CsPiv, 2 Me <sub>3</sub> CCO <sub>2</sub> H, DMF (4.0 mL), 20 H <sub>2</sub> O, 100 °C, 24 h (buffered)	<i>p</i> -MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /1.0	38	52:48
12	5 % dppm, 2 CsPiv, 2 Me <sub>3</sub> CCO <sub>2</sub> H, DMF (4.0 mL), 20 H <sub>2</sub> O, 100 °C, 24 h (buffered)	<i>p</i> -MeO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> / 1.4	71	51:49

<sup>a</sup>The reaction was run using 0.25 mmol of the aryl iodide. <sup>b</sup>The mole ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis.

produced a 60:40 mixture of **23a** and **24a** in a 61 % yield (entry 7). Obviously, the use of 4-(methoxycarbonylphenyl)boronic acid in place of 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid improved the amount of migration product, presumably due to the lower reactivity of the electron-deficient arylboronic acid.

At this stage, we looked more closely at the possible role of water in the Suzuki-Miyaura coupling reaction and realized that, in the presence of base, water may serve as a source of hydroxide ions. In turn, hydroxide ions probably activate the arylboronic acid by generating a more reactive arylboronate species (Scheme 5). So our new strategy aimed to control the relatively fast arylpalladium trapping kinetics by arylboronic acids by controlling

#### Scheme 5



the concentration of hydroxide ions in the reaction mixture and thus reducing the concentration of the more reactive boronate anion. The first step was to carry out the coupling of **1a** with 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid under conditions B, but we also reduced the amount of water from 44 equiv (corresponding to conditions B) to 20 equiv. Under these conditions, the coupling reaction produced a 57:43 mixture of **23a** and **24a** in a 55 % overall yield (entry 8), indicating only a slight improvement in the isomer ratio (compare this with a 60:40 ratio previously obtained using conditions B). At this point, we decided to buffer the reaction mixture by using a combination of 2 equiv of CsPiv plus 2 equiv of pivalic acid. To our satisfaction, the coupling of **1a** and 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid under these buffered conditions produced a 50:50

mixture of **23a** and **24a** in a 57 % overall yield (entry 9). Naturally, we carried out the same reaction in the absence of water and observed only trace amounts of Suzuki-Miyaura products after 1 d of reaction (entry 10).

Now that we had apparently developed a set of optimal migration conditions for the Suzuki-Miyaura reaction, we proceeded to examine the use of the more electron-rich 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid as the coupling agent. As expected, the Suzuki-Miyaura coupling of **1a** with this arylboronic acid produced a 52:48 mixture of isomers **23b** and **24b** in a disappointingly low 38 % overall yield. This experiment confirmed the idea that the more electron-rich 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid trapped the arylpalladium intermediates somewhat faster than the electron-poor 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid, thus producing the observed ratio of isomers, which is slightly enriched with the direct coupling product **23b**. On the other hand, the overall low yields obtained in the Suzuki-Miyaura reaction under our buffered conditions (entries 9 and 11) might be due to a side reaction involving protonation of the corresponding arylboronic acids by pivalic acid (eq 4). Thus, in



an attempt to improve the reaction yield, we carried out the Suzuki cross-coupling of **1a** with 1.4 equiv of 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid as opposed to the usual 1.0 equiv (entry 12). Using this protocol, we obtained a 51:49 mixture of **23a** and **24a** in a 71 % overall yield. As a result, we chose this latter set of reaction conditions, described in entry 12 of Table 6, as our standard migration conditions (conditions C) for the Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of *o*-halobiaryls with arylboronic acids. Equally significant is the fact that we can

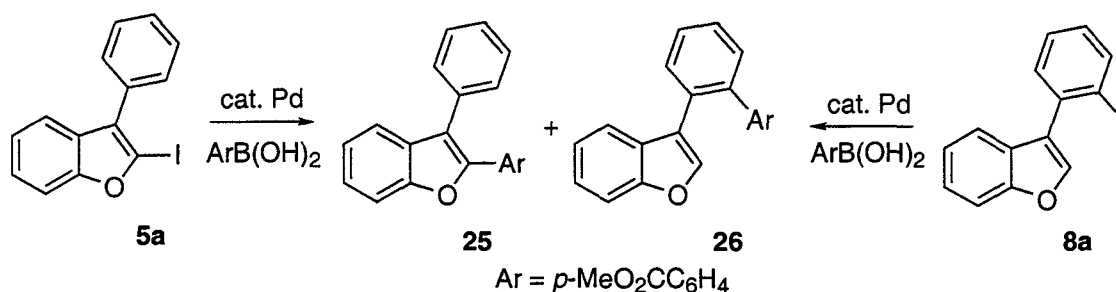
suppress the palladium migration in the Suzuki-Miyaura reaction by simply employing the conditions described in entry 1 of Table 6.

As discussed previously, there are two possible factors determining the ratio of Heck products from the corresponding *o*-halobiaryls, namely the distribution of arylpalladium intermediates and/or their relative reactivities towards ethyl acrylate. Naturally, the same argument applies to the Suzuki-Miyaura reaction. Recall that we have previously assumed that the reactivities of the arylpalladium intermediates generated via palladium migration are similar, and differing reactivities does not significantly affect the ratio of Heck products. If such an assumption were true, there should be very little difference between the ratios of Heck versus Suzuki-Miyaura products, since the determining factor for such product ratios is a pre-established distribution of the arylpalladium intermediates independent of their reactivities. On the other hand, if the reactivity of the arylpalladium intermediates is playing a significant role in determining the ratio of the reaction products, we should expect a significant difference between the ratios of Heck and Suzuki-Miyaura products. With this argument in mind, it is important to point out that under our migration conditions, aryl iodide **1a** produced nearly identical mixtures of Heck and Suzuki-Miyaura products. This is a very significant finding since this similarity supports our hypothesis that a pre-established distribution of arylpalladium intermediates determines these ratios. In order to further test this hypothesis, we have carried out the Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of 2-iodo-3-phenylbenzofuran (**5a**) with 4-(methoxycarbonyl)-phenylboronic acid under our standard migration conditions C and obtained 2-(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-3-phenylbenzofuran (**25**) exclusively in a 79 % yield (entry 1, Table 7). Similarly, the reaction of 3-(2-iodophenyl)-



benzofuran (**8a**) with 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid under our standard migration conditions C produced compound **25** in a 78 % overall yield, along with only a small amount (< 5 %) of the direct coupling product **26** (entry 2). In addition, the Suzuki-Miyaura reaction of **8a** under Wright's conditions produced the expected compound **26** in a 78 % yield, along with compound **25** in a 7 % yield. Clearly, both the Heck and Suzuki-Miyaura experiments with the benzofuran-containing biaryls **5a** and **8a** give very similar results indicating a tendency for palladium to migrate from the phenyl to the benzofuran moiety of the biaryl (see Tables 5 and 7). Furthermore, the similarities in Heck and Suzuki-Miyaura product ratios obtained under our migration conditions support the hypothesis that a pre-established distribution of arylpalladium intermediates rather than their relative reactivities determines such product ratios.

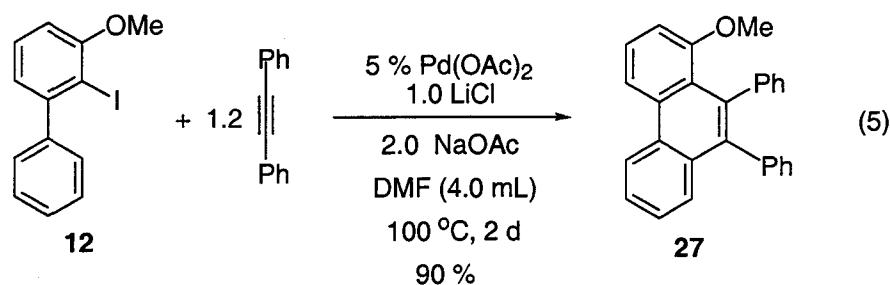
**Table 7.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of benzofuran-containing biaryls.<sup>a</sup>



entry	substrate	reaction conditions	% yield <b>25</b> + <b>26</b>
1	<b>5a</b>	C, 1.0 d	79 + 0
2	<b>8a</b>	C, 1.0 d	78 + < 5
3	<b>8a</b>	5 % Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> , 10 % PPh <sub>3</sub> , 2.2 CsF, 1.2 <i>p</i> -MeO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> B(OH) <sub>2</sub> , DME (1.0 mL), 90 °C, 6 h	7 + 75

<sup>a</sup>The reaction was run using 0.25 mmol of the corresponding aryl iodide.

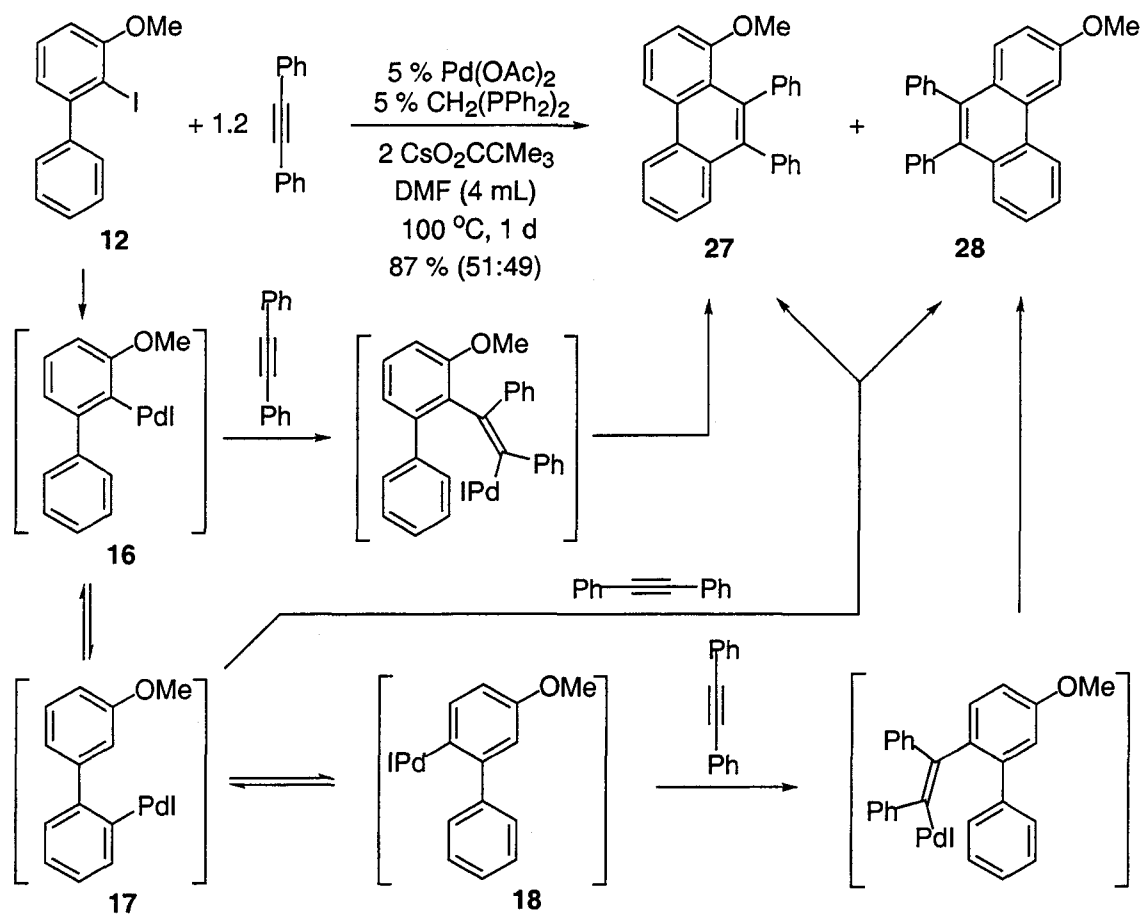
To further explore the scope of this Pd migration process, we have carried out the palladium-catalyzed reaction of diphenylacetylene and aryl iodide **12** in the hope that the arylpalladium intermediates generated by a 1,4-Pd shift could be trapped by way of alkyne insertion-annulation chemistry described earlier by Larock et al.<sup>18</sup> First, the reaction was carried out under the previously described annulation conditions employing 1.2 equiv of the acetylene, 5 mol % Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 1 equiv of LiCl and 2 equiv of NaOAc in DMF at 100 °C for 2 d. As expected, we obtained 1-methoxy-9,10-diphenylphenanthrene (**27**) in a 90 % yield (eq 5). We then switched “on” the palladium migration by allowing **12** to react with 1.2 equiv of



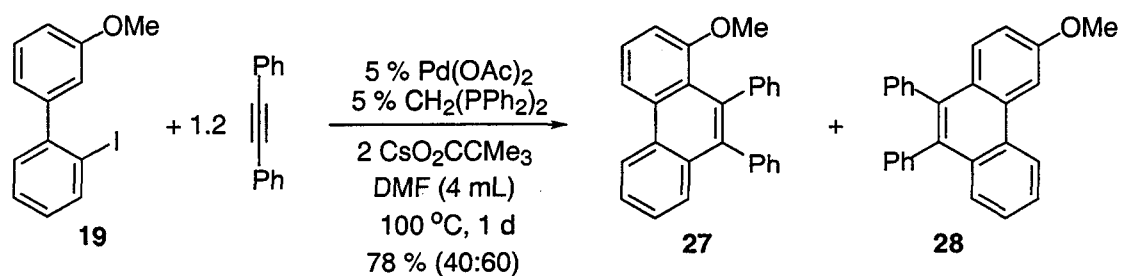
diphenylacetylene under our standard Pd migration conditions A to obtain a 51:49 mixture of phenanthrenes **27** and **28** respectively in an 87 % overall yield (Scheme 6). The mechanism for the formation of phenanthrenes **27** and **28** is described in Scheme 6. Notice that there are multiple paths for the formation of isomer **28** (as well as **27**). It is important to note that in these alkyne reactions the formation of product **28** cannot arise directly from the intermediacy of a simple bridged pallada(II)cycle,<sup>19</sup> but instead its formation requires complete migration of the palladium moiety from the methoxy-bearing ring to the other aromatic ring. Similarly, aryl iodide **19** reacted with diphenylacetylene under our standard migration conditions A to generate a 40:60 mixture of phenanthrenes **27** and **28** respectively

in a 78 % overall yield (Scheme 7), indicating that the arylpalladium intermediates derived from **12** and **19** have not reached equilibrium under these conditions. These interesting

### Scheme 6



### Scheme 7



migration results suggest that there is the exciting possibility of trapping arylpalladium intermediates generated by 1,4-Pd shifts by many other synthetically useful palladium methodologies.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, we have been able to establish a 1,4-palladium migration in organopalladium intermediates derived from *o*-halobiaryls. These arylpalladium intermediates have been generated under relatively mild reaction conditions compatible with the Heck, Suzuki and alkyne annulation reactions. We have developed standard migration conditions, which allow arylpalladium intermediates to approach equilibrium prior to the trapping step. The palladium migration can be activated or suppressed at will by simple manipulation of the reaction conditions. The nearly identical ratio of isomers obtained from the Heck and Suzuki reactions seem to indicate that there is a direct correlation between these ratios and the distribution of arylpalladium intermediates generated by palladium migration.

### Experimental

**General procedures.** All  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra were recorded at 300 and 75.5 MHz or 400 and 100 MHz respectively. Thin-layer chromatography was performed using commercially prepared 60-mesh silica gel plates (Whatman K6F), and visualization was effected with short wavelength UV light (254 nm) and a basic  $\text{KMnO}_4$  solution [3 g of  $\text{KMnO}_4$  + 20 g of  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  + 5 mL of  $\text{NaOH}$  (5 %) + 300 mL of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ]. All melting points are

uncorrected. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Kratos MS50TC double focusing magnetic sector mass spectrometer using EI at 70 eV.

**Reagents.** All reagents were used directly as obtained commercially unless otherwise noted. Anhydrous forms of THF, DME, DMF, diethyl ether, ethyl acetate and hexanes were purchased from Fisher Scientific Co. Tetra-*n*-butylammonium chloride (TBAC) was purchased from Lancaster Synthesis, Inc. 3-Bromoanisole, 1-bromo-2-iodobenzene, diphenylacetylene and ethyl acrylate were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc. Cesium pivalate was prepared according to the procedure of Larock and Campo.<sup>20</sup> Compounds **1a**, **1b**, **5b**, **8a**, **13** and **10** have been previously reported<sup>20</sup> (see chapter 1 of this thesis).

#### Synthesis of the *o*-halobiaryls

**2-Bromo-4'-methylbiphenyl (1a').** A mixture of 2-iodo-4'-methylbiphenyl (**1a**) (0.147 g, 0.5 mmol), CuBr (1.435 g, 5.0 mmol), and KBr (0.595 g, 5.0 mmol) in DMF (12 mL) was stirred at 145 °C under Ar for 1 d. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (80 mL) and filtered. The filtrate was washed with brine (50 mL), and the organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using hexanes to obtain 0.105 g (85 %) of the indicated compound as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.41 (s, 3H), 7.16-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.64-7.66 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 21.3, 122.8, 127.4, 128.6, 128.8, 129.3, 131.4, 133.1, 137.4, 138.3, 142.6. The other spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>21</sup>

**2-Iodo-4-methylbiphenyl (4a).** This compound was prepared by the procedure of Hellwinkel:<sup>22</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.35 (s, 3H), 7.18-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.41 (m, 5H), 7.79-7.80 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 20.7, 98.7, 127.7, 128.1, 129.2, 129.6, 129.9, 139.1, 140.2, 144.0, 144.3; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3024, 2920, 1603, 1473 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 293.9910 (calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>I, 293.9906).

***N,N*-Dimethyl-4-(2-iodophenyl)aniline (1b).** Compound **1b** was prepared in two steps from compound **1e**. To a solution of **1e** (0.389 g, 1.19 mmol), FeCl<sub>3</sub>•6H<sub>2</sub>O (5.0 mg, 0.018 mmol), and activated charcoal (2.4 mg) in methanol (10 mL) under reflux was added N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>•1H<sub>2</sub>O (0.115 g, 3.03 mmol) dropwise over 10 min. The mixture was refluxed for an additional 14 h and then allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and the organic layer was washed with water (50 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain a yellow oil [presumed to be 4-(2-iodophenyl)aniline], which without further purification or characterization was dissolved in acetonitrile (8 mL). To this acetonitrile solution was added 37 % aq formaldehyde (0.96 mL) and NaBH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.230 g, 3.66 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature while glacial acetic acid (0.12 mL) was added dropwise over 10 min. After the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for 40 min, then another portion of glacial acetic acid (0.12 mL) was added at once and stirring continued for an additional 30 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with 5 % aq NaOH. The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford

36.9 mg (96 %) of the indicated compound **1b** as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.00 (s, 6H), 6.75-6.77 (m, 2H), 6.94-6.98 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.93 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  40.5, 99.6, 111.5, 128.1, 128.2, 130.1, 130.3, 132.4, 139.5, 146.8, 149.9; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 2917, 2849, 1612, 1525, 1461, 1351  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  323.0176 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{IN}$ , 323.0171).

***N,N*-Dimethyl-3-iodo-4-phenylaniline (4b)**. Compound **4b** was prepared in two steps from 2-iodo-4-nitrobiphenyl (**4e**) by a procedure similar to that used for **1d**. The reaction mixture was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 38.1 mg (98 %) of the indicated compound (**4b**) as a yellow solid: mp 76-77 °C;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.96 (s, 6H), 6.75 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.38 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  40.5, 99.5, 112.3, 122.9, 127.0, 127.8, 129.8, 130.1, 134.4, 144.3, 150.4; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 2917, 2849, 1598, 1486, 1511, 1442  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  323.0176 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{IN}$ , 323.0171).

**2-Iodo-4-methoxybiphenyl (4c)**. This compound was prepared by the Sandmeyer reaction of diazotized 5-methoxy-2-phenylaniline:<sup>23</sup>  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.60-3.79 (br s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 6.32 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.41 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.42 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.3, 101.2, 104.4, 120.9, 126.9, 128.8, 129.3, 131.4, 139.4, 144.6, 160.1. To a solution of 5-methoxy-2-phenylaniline (0.66 g, 3.3 mmol) in a mixture of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (9 ml),  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (0.8 ml), and DME (20 ml) at 0 °C was added slowly with stirring  $\text{NaNO}_2$  (0.33 g, 4.8 mmol) and the resulting solution stirred for an additional 30 min at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was added slowly to a solution of NaI (3 g, 20 mmol) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (7 ml) and the mixture was stirred vigorously for an additional 15 min.

The I<sub>2</sub> present was destroyed by adding 10% aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) and the reaction mixture was subsequently extracted with diethyl ether (100 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 20:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.635 g (62 %) of the desired compound **4c** as a yellow solid, which was recrystallized from methanol: mp 83-84 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.83 (s, 3 H), 6.94 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.41 (m, 3 H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.6, 98.5, 114.3, 124.5, 127.4, 127.9, 129.6, 130.3, 139.2, 143.9, 158.9; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3051, 2966, 1554, 1592, 1475 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 309.9859 (calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>IO, 309.9855).

**Ethyl 4-(2-bromophenyl)benzoate (1d).** Compound **1d** was prepared by a selective Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reaction as follows. 2-Bromophenylboronic acid (0.462 g, 2.3 mmol), ethyl 4-iodobenzoate (0.552 g, 2.0 mmol), CsF (0.668 g, 4.4 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.022 g, 5 mol %), and PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.052 g, 10 mol %) in DME (10 mL) were stirred under Ar at 90 °C for 7 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.493 g (81 %) of the desired compound **1d** as a yellow oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.21-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.68 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.10-8.12 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.4, 61.1, 122.3, 127.5, 129.3, 129.5, 129.7, 131.1, 133.3, 141.7, 145.5, 166.5 (one sp<sup>2</sup> carbon missing due to overlap); IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 2980, 1715, 1611, 1466, 1275 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 304.0104 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub>, 304.0099).



**Ethyl 3-iodo-4-phenylbenzoate (4d).** Compound **4d** was prepared from ethyl 4-iodo-3-nitrobenzoate.<sup>24</sup> First, we carried out a Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of ethyl 2-iodo-3-nitrobenzoate and NaBPh<sub>4</sub> as follows. NaBPh<sub>4</sub> (1.69 g, 4.94 mmol), ethyl 4-iodo-3-nitrobenzoate (1.38 g, 4.3 mmol), LiCl (0.182 g, 4.3 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (48.0 mg, 5 mol %), and PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.113 g, 10 mol %) in DMF (10 mL) were stirred under Ar at 70 °C for 2 d. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (50 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to obtain a yellow oil (presumed to be ethyl 3-nitro-4-phenylbenzoate), which without further purification was dissolved in 50 mL of a mixture of DME/EtOH/AcOH (50:40:10 % by volume respectively). To this solution was added SnCl<sub>2</sub> (5.71 g, 30.1 mmol) and the resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C under Ar for 16 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (100 mL) and washed with 10 % aq Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (100 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column using 3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to obtain ~0.93 g (90 %) of ethyl 3-amino-4-phenylbenzoate as a yellow oil, which quickly decomposed as a neat liquid (no spectral data was obtained for this compound due to its instability). Ethyl 3-amino-4-phenylbenzoate was diazotized and iodinated by the following procedure. To a solution of ethyl 3-amino-4-phenylbenzoate (~0.93 g, 3.86 mmol) in DME (10 mL) was added water (8 mL) containing H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (0.7 mL). This reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C while NaNO<sub>2</sub> (0.386 g, 5.60 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) was added dropwise over 30 min. After the addition, the mixture was stirred for an additional 20 min at 0 °C, then this mixture was added to NaI (3.0 g, 20.0 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (7 mL). Any I<sub>2</sub> formed was

destroyed by adding 10% aq  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  (10 mL) and the mixture was extracted twice with diethyl ether (50 mL x 2). The organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to obtain 1.06 g (78 %) of the title compound **4d** as a white solid: mp 76-77 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.41 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.40 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 3H), 8.04 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d,  $J$  = 1.6 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.4, 61.4, 98.1, 128.2, 128.2, 129.0, 129.2, 129.9, 130.8, 140.6, 143.4, 150.9, 165.0; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 2973, 2818, 1722, 1276, 1378  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  351.9966 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{IO}_2$ , 351.9960); Anal. C, 51.14, H, 3.34 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{IO}_2$ : C, 51.16; H, 3.72)

**2-Iodo-4'-nitrobiphenyl (1e).** Compound **1e** was prepared by the procedure of Ozasa et al.<sup>25</sup>

**2-Iodo-4-nitrobiphenyl (4e).** Compound **4e** was prepared in two steps from 2-iodo-4-nitroaniline.<sup>26</sup> First of all, 2-iodo-4-nitroaniline was diazotized by the following procedure. To a solution of 2-iodo-4-nitroaniline (1.09 g, 4.13 mmol), and 48-50 % aq  $\text{HBF}_4$  (3.0 g) in methanol (20 mL) was added  $\text{NaNO}_2$  (0.342 g, 4.96 mmol) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.5 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min, and then the reaction mixture was concentrated to 10 mL by passing a stream of Ar over it. At this point, a yellow solid had precipitated out of solution, and further crystallization was induced by cooling the mixture to -20 °C. The solid was filtered and washed repeatedly with diethyl ether. Recrystallization from methanol/diethyl ether afforded 0.673 g (49 %) of 4-nitro-2-iodophenyldiazonium tetrafluoroborate as a yellow solid. 4-Nitro-2-iodophenyldiazonium tetrafluoroborate (82.7

mg, 0.25 mmol) was dissolved in dry DMSO (2.0 mL), then diluted with dry benzene (8.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 2 h under Ar. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (20 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 12:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to obtain 35.8 mg (44 %) of the indicated compound **4e** as a yellow solid: mp 91-92 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.33-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.48 (m, 4H), 8.25 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.80 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 97.9, 123.1, 128.4, 128.8, 130.2, 134.5, 142.3, 147.0, 153.1 (one sp<sup>2</sup> carbon missing due to overlap); IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 2918, 2850, 1523, 1349 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 324.9606 (calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>8</sub>INO<sub>2</sub>, 324.9600); Anal. C, 44.29, H, 2.29; N, 4.11 (calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>8</sub>INO<sub>2</sub>: C, 44.33; H, 2.48; N, 4.34).

**2-Iodo-3-phenylbenzofuran (5a).** This iodobiaryl was prepared from 3-phenyl-2-(triisopropylsilyl)benzofuran (**29**)<sup>27</sup> using an iodination procedure from the literature.<sup>28</sup> To a solution of **29** (0.329 g, 0.938 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) was added ICl (0.162 g, 1.0 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 30 min, then the excess ICl was destroyed by adding 10 % aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and diluted with 50 ml of Et<sub>2</sub>O. The organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The remaining oil was purified by column chromatography using 30:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.267 g (89 %) of the desired compound **5a** as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.19-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.43 (m, 1 H), 7.46-7.61 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 97.2, 111.2, 119.4, 123.4, 124.7, 128.0, 128.1, 128.9, 128.9, 129.2, 131.7, 158.4;

IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3062, 3030, 1444, 1335, 1090 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 319.9702 (calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>IO, 319.9698).

**3-(2-Iodophenyl)-1-methylindole (8b).** Compound **8b** was prepared in two steps from 2-(2-iodophenyl)acetaldehyde.<sup>29</sup> A solution of 2-(2-iodophenyl)acetaldehyde (0.216 g, 0.88 mmol), phenylhydrazine (0.105 g, 0.97 mmol), and methanesulfonic acid (17 mg, 0.18 mmol) in absolute ethanol (5.0 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 40 min under Ar. Then methanesulfonic acid (0.152 g, 1.58 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 85 °C for 1.5 d under Ar. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with satd aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (30 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using hexanes/ethyl acetate 3:1 to afford 11.5 mg (41 %) of 3-(2-iodophenyl)indole as a brown oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.99 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (br s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 100.9, 111.4, 120.2, 122.5, 123.7, 126.6, 128.1, 128.4, 131.5, 135.7, 139.9, 140.0 (two sp<sup>2</sup> carbons missing due to overlap). To a suspension of NaH (0.031 g, 1.3 mmol) in DMF (2.0 mL) at 0 °C was added 3-(2-iodophenyl)indole (0.319 g, 1.0 mmol) in DMF (3.0 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. At this point, MeI (1.42 g, 10.0 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 14 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (60 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column

chromatography using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.320 g (96 %) of the desired 3-(2-iodophenyl)-1-methylindole (**8b**) as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.84 (s, 3H), 6.97-7.01 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.45 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 0.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  33.1, 100.8, 109.5, 118.5, 119.7, 120.3, 122.0, 127.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.4, 131.5, 136.6, 139.9, 140.1; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3050, 2922, 1547, 1478, 1459, 1376  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  333.0024 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{IN}$ , 333.0014).

**2-Iodo-3',5'-dimethylbiphenyl (9).** 2-Iodo-3',5'-dimethylbiphenyl (**9**) was prepared by a procedure reported by Hart.<sup>30</sup> A solution of 2-bromoiodobenzene (1.415 g, 5.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added slowly (90 min) to a solution of 3,5-dimethylphenylmagnesium bromide [prepared from 1-bromo-3,5-dimethylbenzene (1.85 g, 10 mmol) and Mg (0.246 g, 10 mmol) in THF (30 mL)], and the mixture was stirred under Ar for an additional 14 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched by adding  $\text{I}_2$  (3.8 g, 15 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for an additional 30 min at room temperature. The excess  $\text{I}_2$  was destroyed by adding 10% aq  $\text{NaHSO}_3$  (35 mL) and the organic layer was separated and rewashd with brine (20 mL). Finally, the organic layer was dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed using hexanes to afford 0.836 g (54 %) of the desired compound **9** as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.36 (s, 6H), 6.95-7.02 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.92-7.94 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  21.6, 98.9, 127.3, 128.3, 128.8, 129.4, 130.3, 137.6, 139.6, 144.3, 147.1; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 2917, 2849, 1602, 1461, 1015  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  308.0070 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{I}$ , 308.0062).

**2-Iodo-3'-methoxybiphenyl (19).** Compound **19** was prepared by a procedure reported by Hart.<sup>30</sup> A solution of 2-bromoiodobenzene (1.415 g, 5.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added slowly (90 min) to a solution of 3-methoxyphenylmagnesium bromide [prepared from 3-bromoanisole (1.87 g, 10 mmol) and Mg (0.246 g, 10 mmol) in THF (30 mL)], and the mixture was stirred under Ar for an additional 14 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched by adding I<sub>2</sub> (3.8 g, 15 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for an additional 30 min at room temperature. The excess I<sub>2</sub> was destroyed by adding 10% aq NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (35 mL) and the organic layer was separated and rewashed with brine (20 mL). Finally, the organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed using 30:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.620 g (40 %) of the desired compound **19** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.84 (s, 3H), 6.88-6.95 (m, 3H), 7.01-7.05 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.4, 98.5, 113.4, 115.0, 121.8, 128.1, 128.9, 129.1, 130.1, 139.6, 145.5, 146.5, 159.1; HRMS *m/z* 309.9859 (calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>IO, 309.9855).

**2-Iodo-2'-methylbiphenyl (20).** Compound **20** was prepared by a procedure reported by Hart.<sup>30</sup> A solution of 2-bromoiodobenzene (1.415 g, 5.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added slowly (90 min) to a solution of 2-methylphenylmagnesium bromide [prepared from 2-bromotoluene (1.71 g, 10 mmol) and Mg (0.246 g, 10 mmol) in THF (30 mL)], and the mixture was stirred under Ar for an additional 14 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched by adding I<sub>2</sub> (3.8 g, 15 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for an additional 30 min at room temperature. The excess I<sub>2</sub> was destroyed by adding 10% aq NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (35 mL) and the organic layer was separated and rewashed with brine (20 mL). Finally, the organic

layer was dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed using hexanes to afford 0.97 g (66 %) of the desired compound **20** as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.07 (s, 3H), 7.01-7.07 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.36-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.92-7.94 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  20.1, 100.1, 125.6, 128.0, 128.1, 128.7, 129.2, 129.7, 129.9, 135.7, 138.9, 144.4, 146.8; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3056, 3018, 2921, 1461, 1428  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  293.9910 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{I}$ , 293.9906).

### Heck reactions

The following procedures are representative of the palladium-catalyzed Heck reactions with ethyl acrylate.

**Migration reaction conditions A:** The appropriate aryl halide (0.25 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (2.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol), 1,1-bis(diphenylphosphino)methane (dppm) (4.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol),  $\text{CsO}_2\text{CCMe}_3$  (CsPiv) (0.117 g, 0.5 mmol) and ethyl acrylate (0.025 g, 0.25 mmol) in DMF (4.0 ml) under Ar at 100 °C were stirred for the specified length of time. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with diethyl ether (35 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column.

**Migration reaction conditions B:** The appropriate aryl halide (0.25 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (2.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol), 1,1-bis(diphenylphosphino)methane (dppm) (4.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol),  $\text{CsO}_2\text{CCMe}_3$  (CsPiv) (0.117 g, 0.5 mmol) and ethyl acrylate (0.025 g, 0.25 mmol) in wet DMF (5 %  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  by volume) (4.0 mL) under Ar at 100 °C were stirred for the specified length

of time. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with diethyl ether (35 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column.

**Jeffrey's reaction conditions:**<sup>6</sup> The appropriate aryl iodide (0.25 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (2.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol),  $n\text{-Bu}_4\text{NCl}$  (0.0694 g, 0.25 mmol),  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (0.042 g, 0.5 mmol) and ethyl acrylate (0.10 g, 1.0 mmol) in DMF (1 ml) under Ar at 100 °C were stirred for the specified length of time. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with diethyl ether (35 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column.

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4'-methylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (2a).** 2-Iodo-4'-methylbiphenyl (**1a**) (73.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions for 1 day. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 66.6 mg (100 %) of the indicated compound as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.28 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 4.21 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.39 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.18-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.67-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.75 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.4, 21.2, 60.4, 119.0, 126.8, 127.5, 129.1, 129.8, 129.9, 130.6, 132.7, 137.0, 137.4, 143.0, 144.0, 167.0; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3024, 2977, 1712, 1631  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  266.1312 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ , 266.1307).



**Ethyl *E*-3-(4-methylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (3a).** Compound **4a** (73.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 61.9 mg (93 %) of the indicated compound as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.28 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 4.20 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.39 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.36-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.51-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.3, 21.2, 60.4, 119.0, 127.3, 127.4, 128.3, 130.0, 130.5, 130.8, 132.5, 137.4, 139.9, 140.3, 143.9, 167.0; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3026, 2980, 1633, 1711  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  266.1312 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ , 266.1307).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4'-methylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (2a) and ethyl *E*-3-(4-methylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (3a).** Compound **1a** (73.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A for 1.5 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 58.6 mg (88 %) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in a 50:50 ratio. Similarly, compound **4a** (73.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A for 1.5 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 57.3 mg (86 %) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in a 49:51 ratio.

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4'-dimethylaminobiphen-2-yl)acrylate (2b).** *N,N*-Dimethyl-4-(2-iodophenyl)aniline (**1b**) (80.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions for 1 day. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 59.0 mg (80 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid: mp 117-118  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.30 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 3.01 (s, 6H), 4.22 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.39 (d,  $J = 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.78-6.80 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.40 (m, 3H),

7.66 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.4, 40.6, 60.3, 112.2, 118.5, 126.7, 126.9, 127.7, 129.8, 130.4, 130.7, 132.6, 143.2, 144.7, 150.0, 167.2; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 2975, 2926, 2857, 1715, 1612, 1631, 1526  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  295.1580 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2$ , 295.1572); Anal. C, 77.05, H, 7.29; N, 4.57 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2$ : C, 77.26; H, 7.17; N, 4.77).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4-dimethylaminobiphen-2-yl)acrylate (3b).** *N,N*-Dimethyl-3-iodo-4-phenylaniline (**4b**) (80.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 73.8 mg (100 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.28 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 3.01 (s, 6H), 4.21 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.39 (d,  $J = 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.38-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.77 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.4, 40.6, 60.4, 109.8, 114.7, 118.7, 126.8, 128.2, 130.0, 131.3, 131.6, 133.1, 140.2, 145.1, 149.8, 167.1; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 2975, 2920, 1711, 1632, 1605, 1174  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  295.1577 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2$ , 295.1572).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4'-dimethylaminobiphen-2-yl)acrylate (2b) and ethyl *E*-3-(4-dimethylaminobiphen-2-yl)acrylate (3b).** Compound **1b** (80.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 66.4 mg (90 %) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in a 55:45 ratio. Similarly, compound **4b** (80.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using

5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 68.6 mg (93 %) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in a 49:51 ratio.

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4'-methoxybiphen-2-yl)acrylate (2c).** 2-Iodo-4'-methoxybiphenyl (**1c**) (77.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 70.6 mg (100 %) of the indicated compound as a white solid: mp 67-68 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.96-6.98 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.4, 55.4, 60.4, 113.8, 119.0, 126.9, 127.3, 129.9, 130.6, 131.0, 132.3, 132.7, 142.6, 144.1, 159.2, 167.0; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3060, 2979, 1710, 1631, 1516 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 282.1259 (calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 282.1256).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4-methoxybiphen-2-yl)acrylate (3c).** Compound **4c** (77.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 69.9 mg (99 %) of the indicated compound as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.5, 55.7, 60.6, 111.4, 116.4, 119.6, 127.4, 128.5, 130.1, 131.9, 133.8, 136.1, 139.9, 144.0, 159.2, 167.0; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 2980, 2935, 1711, 1633, 1481 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 282.1259 (calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 282.1256).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4'-methoxybiphen-2-yl)acrylate (2c) and ethyl *E*-3-(4-methoxybiphen-2-yl)acrylate (3c).** Compound **1c** (77.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 65.6 mg (93 %) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in a 52:48 ratio. Similarly, compound **4c** (77.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 64.9 mg (92 %) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in a 48:52 ratio.

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4'-ethoxycarbonylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (2d).** Ethyl 4-(2-bromophenyl)benzoate (**1d**) (76.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react for 2 d under Jeffrey's reaction conditions with ethyl acrylate plus added 2-(di-*t*-butylphosphino)biphenyl (7.46 mg, 10 mol %). The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 62.4 mg (77 %) of the indicated compound (**2d**) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.42 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.41 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.46 (m, 5H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.72 (m, 1H), 8.11-8.13 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.3, 14.4, 60.5, 61.1, 119.8, 127.0, 128.3, 129.6, 129.7, 129.9, 130.0, 130.4, 132.7, 141.8, 143.2, 144.5, 166.4, 166.7; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 2880, 2933, 1713, 1633 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 324.1368 (calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, 324.1362). In addition, we also obtained 8.9 mg (11 %) of compound **3d** as a clear oil.

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4-ethoxycarbonylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (3d).** Ethyl 3-iodo-4-phenylbenzoate (**4d**) (76.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1

hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 80.2 mg (99 %) of the indicated compound (**3d**) as a clear oil:

$^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.30 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.43 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 4.22 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 4.42 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.52 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.08-8.10 (m, 1H), 8.38 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.3, 14.4, 60.6, 61.3, 120.4, 128.2, 128.5, 129.7, 129.9, 130.5, 130.7, 132.9, 139.0, 142.8, 146.9, 166.0, 166.7 (one  $\text{sp}^2$  carbon missing due to overlap) ; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 2980, 1717, 1636, 1285, 1245  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  324.1368 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$ , 324.1362).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4'-ethoxycarbonylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (2d) and ethyl *E*-3-(4-ethoxycarbonylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (3d).** Compound **1d** (76.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions B for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 36.4 mg (45 %) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in a 47:53 ratio. In addition, we obtained 26.0 mg (46 %) of ethyl 4-phenylbenzoate as a white solid with spectral properties identical to those previously described in the literature.<sup>10</sup> Similarly, compound **4d** (76.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions B for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 67.2 mg (83 %) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in a 42:58 ratio.

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4'-nitrobiphen-2-yl)acrylate (2e).** Compound **1e** (81.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions, but  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (50.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) was used in place of  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  as the base. After 1 d, the reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 63.1 mg (85 %) of the indicated compound **3e** as a yellow oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.29 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 4.22 (q,  $J = 7.2$

Hz, 2H), 6.43 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.60 (d,  $J = 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.74 (m, 1H), 8.29-8.32 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.3, 60.7, 120.5, 123.6, 127.3, 129.0, 130.1, 130.3, 130.7, 132.7, 140.3, 142.4, 146.7, 147.3, 166.6; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 2917, 1710, 1517, 1348, 1314, 1179  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  297.1010 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_4$ , 297.1001).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4-nitrobiphen-2-yl)acrylate (3e).** Compound **4e** (81.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions, but  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (50.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) was used in place of  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  as the base. After 1 d, the reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 66.1 mg (89 %) of the indicated compound **3e** as a yellow solid: mp = 118-119 °C,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.31 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 4.24 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.55 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H), 8.26 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.5, 61.0, 122.2, 122.2, 124.2, 128.9, 129.1, 129.7, 131.8, 134.4, 138.1, 141.6, 147.5, 148.8, 166.3; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 2974, 2917, 2849, 1719, 1523, 1347, 1179, 1118  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  297.1010 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_4$ , 297.1001); Anal. C, 68.41; H, 4.84; N, 4.51 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_4$ : C, 68.68; H, 5.09; N, 4.71).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4'-nitrobiphen-2-yl)acrylate (2e) and ethyl *E*-3-(4-nitrobiphen-2-yl)acrylate (3e).** Compound **1e** (81.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions B for 2.5 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 34.2 mg (46 %) of the indicated compounds as a yellow oil in a 39:61 ratio. In addition, we obtained 19.9 mg (40 %) of 4-nitrobiphenyl as a yellow solid with spectral properties identical to those previously

reported.<sup>11</sup> Similarly, compound **4e** (81.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions B for 2.5 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 27.5 mg (37 %) of the indicated compounds as a yellow oil in a 33:67 ratio. In addition, we obtained 24.9 mg (50 %) of 4-nitrobiphenyl as a yellow solid with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>11</sup>

**Ethyl E-3-(3-phenylbenzofuran-2-yl)acrylate (6a).** Compound **5a** (80.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 62.1 mg (85 %) of the indicated compound as a white solid: mp 84-85 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.25 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.54 (m, 7H), 7.63-7.68 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.4, 60.7, 111.6, 119.4, 121.0, 123.5, 125.7, 127.0, 128.4, 128.4, 129.2, 129.6, 130.3, 131.2, 148.3, 155.0, 167.0; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3062, 2979, 1709, 1628, 1450 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 292.1104 (calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 292.1099). Similarly, compound **8a** (80.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 57.0 mg (78 %) of the indicated compound as a yellow solid: mp 82-84 °C.

**Ethyl E-3-[2-(benzofuran-3-yl)phenyl]acrylate (7a).** Compound **8a** (80.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions at 80 °C for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 54.8 mg (75 %) of the indicated compound as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.0

Hz, 3H), 4.18 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.58 (m, 6H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d,  $J = 15.6$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.3, 60.5, 111.8, 119.8, 119.8, 120.5, 123.2, 124.9, 127.1, 127.6, 128.2, 130.1, 130.7, 132.2, 133.7, 143.1, 143.5, 155.3, 166.8; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3060, 2979, 1711, 1633, 1452  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  292.1104 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3$ , 292.1099).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(1-methyl-3-phenylindol-2-yl)acrylate (6b).** Compound **5b** (83.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 71.2 mg (94 %) of the indicated compound **6b** as a yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.29 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 4.22 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.23 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.62 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.4, 31.7, 60.6, 109.7, 118.7, 120.6, 120.6, 122.7, 124.6, 127.0, 127.2, 128.8, 130.4, 131.1, 133.3, 134.2, 139.1, 167.2; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3057, 2975, 2927, 1708, 1625, 1369, 1289, 1180  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  305.1420 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2$ , 305.1416).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(2-(1-methylindol-3-yl)phenyl)acrylate (7b).** Compound **8b** (83.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions at 75  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 64.4 mg (85 %) of the indicated compound as a white solid: mp 130-131  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.26 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 4.19 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.43 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 7.14-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.73 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.4, 33.0,



60.3, 109.5, 113.9, 118.5, 120.0, 120.1, 122.2, 126.6, 127.0, 127.4, 129.4, 129.9, 131.0, 133.2, 136.0, 137.0, 144.6, 167.2; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 2918, 2848, 1712, 1631, 1314 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 305.1420 (calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, 305.1416); Anal. C, 78.36; H, 6.28; N, 4.45 (calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: C, 78.66; H, 6.27; N, 4.59).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(3',5'-dimethylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (10).** Compound **9** (77.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 69.0 mg (97 %) of the indicated compound **10** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.36 (s, 6H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 2H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.67-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.4, 21.4, 60.3, 118.9, 126.6, 127.5, 127.8, 129.2, 129.8, 130.5, 132.6, 137.8, 139.9, 143.3, 143.9, 167.0; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 2918, 2976, 1712, 1632, 1313 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 280.1468 (calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 280.1463).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(3-methoxybiphen-2-yl)acrylate (13).** Compound **12** (77.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 55.1 mg (78 %) of the indicated compound **13** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 4.16 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 6.94-6.96 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.41 (m, 6H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.3, 55.7, 60.2, 110.0, 121.5, 122.4, 123.0, 127.5, 128.2, 129.9, 130.0, 139.8, 140.6, 145.5, 159.3, 168.0; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3054, 2985, 2926, 1705, 1265, cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS 282.1256*m/z* (calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 282.1256).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(3'-methoxybiphen-2-yl)acrylate (14).** Compound **19** (77.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 60.0 mg (85 %) of the indicated compound as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.28 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 4.21 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.39 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.85-6.95 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.68-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.75 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.3, 55.4, 60.4, 113.4, 115.4, 119.2, 122.4, 126.8, 127.8, 129.3, 129.8, 130.4, 132.7, 141.3, 142.8, 143.8, 159.4, 166.9; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3061, 2980, 1711, 1632, 1314, 1177,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$ , 282.1256).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(5-methoxybiphen-2-yl)acrylate (15).** An authentic sample of compound **15** was prepared in two steps from 2-iodo-4-methoxybenzaldehyde<sup>31</sup> [mp 113-114 °C;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.88 (s, 3H), 6.99 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 9.93 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.9, 102.4, 114.9, 125.4, 128.6, 131.6, 164.4, 194.5] in the following matter. 2-Iodo-4-methoxybenzaldehyde (0.262 g, 1.0 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (11.2 mg, 0.05 mmol),  $\text{PPh}_3$  (26.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), CsF (0.334 g, 2.2 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (0.146 g, 1.2 mmol) in DME (5 ml) under Ar at 90 °C were stirred for 3 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with diethyl ether (35 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 21.0 mg (99 %) of 2-phenyl-4-methoxybenzaldehyde as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.91 (s, 3H), 6.88 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz,

1H), 6.99-7.02 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.47 (m, 5H), 8.03 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 9.84 (d,  $J = 0.4$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.7, 114.0, 115.2, 127.4, 128.3, 128.4, 129.9, 130.0, 137.9, 148.6, 163.6, 191.1. 2-Phenyl-4-methoxybenzaldehyde (53.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and (carboethoxymethylene)triphenylphosphorane (0.1305 g, 0.375 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5 ml) were stirred at 60 °C under argon for 15 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting yellow oil was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column using 1:9 ethyl acetate/hexanes to afford 43.7 mg (62 %) of the desired compound **15** as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.27 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 4.18 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.29 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.92-6.95 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.64-7.69 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.5, 55.7, 60.4, 114.2, 115.4, 117.0, 125.6, 127.9, 128.5, 128.5, 129.9, 140.1, 143.4, 145.1, 160.9, 167.4; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3056, 2978, 2937, 1709, 1630, 1600, 1484  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$ , 282.1256).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(3-methoxybiphen-2-yl)acrylate (13), ethyl *E*-3-(3'-methoxybiphen-2-yl)acrylate (14), and ethyl *E*-3-(5-methoxybiphen-2-yl)acrylate (15).** Compound **12** (77.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 68.5 mg (97 %) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in a 53:38:9 ratio. Similarly, compound **19** (77.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 61.3 mg (87 %) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in a 25:62:13 ratio.

**Ethyl *E*-3-(2'-methylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (21).** Compound **21** (73.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under Jeffrey's reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 61.2 mg (92 %) of the indicated compound **21** as a yellow oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.24 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 4.16 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.33 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.70-7.72 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.3, 20.1, 60.4, 119.0, 125.7, 126.2, 127.7, 128.0, 129.8, 129.9, 130.1, 130.5, 133.0, 136.1, 139.6, 142.9, 143.0, 166.9; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3061, 2978, 2920, 1713, 1633, 1177  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  266.1312 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ , 266.1307).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(2'-methylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (21) and ethyl *E*-3-(6-methylbiphen-2-yl)acrylate (22).** Compound **20** (73.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration reaction conditions A for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 60.5 mg (91 %) of the indicated compounds as a yellow oil in a 65:35 ratio. Minor isomer **22**:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.08 (s, 3H), 6.27 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.56 (m, 1H) as characteristic peaks;  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  20.9, 60.3, 118.8, 123.8, 127.4, 127.5, 128.5, 129.7, 131.5, 133.4, 137.0, 138.9, 142.8, 143.9, 143.9 as characteristic peaks; HRMS  $m/z$  266.1312 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ , 266.1307).

**1-Methoxy-9,10-diphenylphenanthrene (27).** 2-Iodo-3-methoxybiphenyl (**12**) (77.5 mg, 0.25 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (2.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol), LiCl (0.0105 g, 0.25 mmol), NaOAc (0.0175 g, 0.5 mmol) and diphenylacetylene (0.0534 g, 0.30 mmol) in DMF (4 ml) under Ar at 100 °C were stirred for 2 d. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature,

diluted with diethyl ether (35 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed using 25:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 81.1 mg (90 %) of the indicated compound **27** as a white solid: mp 188-189 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.34 (s, 3H), 6.96-7.20 (m, 11H), 7.43-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.63 (m, 2H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.77 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.9, 109.3, 115.5, 122.6, 123.1, 124.8, 126.2, 126.2, 126.4, 126.8, 126.9, 127.4, 127.8, 129.5, 129.7, 131.3, 132.1, 132.2, 135.1, 138.2, 139.8, 144.1, 157.9; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3026, 1576, 1462 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 360.1521 (calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O, 360.1514).

**3-Methoxy-9,10-diphenylphenanthrene (28).** Compound **12** (77.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol), 1,1-bis(diphenylphosphino)methane (dppm) (4.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol), CsPiv (0.117 g, 0.5 mmol) and diphenylacetylene (0.0534 g, 0.30 mmol) in DMF (4 ml) under Ar at 100 °C were stirred for 2 d. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with diethyl ether (35 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed using 25:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 40.0 mg (44 %) of compound **27**, alongside 38.4 mg (43 %) of compound **28** as a white solid: mp 184-186 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 4.03 (s, 3H), 7.11-7.25 (m, 11H), 7.47-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.65 (m, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.72 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.6, 104.0, 116.5, 122.6, 126.0, 126.4, 126.5, 126.6, 126.8, 127.6, 127.9, 129.4, 129.5, 131.1, 131.3, 131.5, 132.4, 135.0, 137.1, 139.7, 139.8, 158.3 (missing one sp<sup>2</sup> carbon due to

overlap); IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3056, 3022, 1576, 1460 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 360.1521 (calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O, 360.1514).

### Suzuki-Miyaura reactions

The following procedures are representative of the Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reactions of *o*-iodobiaryls with arylboronic acids.

**Migration reaction conditions C:** The appropriate aryl iodide (0.25 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol), 1,1-bis(diphenylphosphino)methane (dppm) (4.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol), CsO<sub>2</sub>CCMe<sub>3</sub> (CsPiv) (0.117 g, 0.5 mmol), Me<sub>3</sub>CCO<sub>2</sub>H (0.051 g, 0.5 mmol), H<sub>2</sub>O (0.09 g, 5.0 mmol) and the corresponding arylboronic acid (0.35 mmol) in DMF (4.0 ml) under Ar at 100 °C were stirred for the specified length of time. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with diethyl ether (35 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column.

**Wright's reaction conditions:**<sup>16c</sup> The appropriate aryl iodide (0.25 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2.8 mg, 5 mol %), PPh<sub>3</sub> (6.56 mg, 10 mol %), CsF (0.084 g, 0.55 mmol), and the corresponding arylboronic acid (0.30 mmol) in DME (1.0 ml) under Ar at 90 °C were stirred for the specified length of time. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with diethyl ether (35 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column.

**Methyl 4-(4'-methylbiphen-2-yl)benzoate (23a).** Compound **1a** and 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid were allowed to react under Wright's conditions for 8 h. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 46.6 mg (62 %) of the indicated compound **23a** as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.3 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 6.97-7.04 (m, 4H), 7.20-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.87-7.90 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  21.3, 52.3, 127.6, 128.3, 128.3, 129.0, 129.4, 129.9, 130.1, 130.6, 131.0, 136.6, 138.3, 139.7, 140.9, 146.9, 167.4; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 2918, 3023, 1724, 1277  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  302.1313 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ , 302.1307).

**Methyl 4-(4'-methylbiphen-2-yl)benzoate (23a) and methyl 4-(4-methylbiphen-2-yl)benzoate (24a).** Compound **1a** and 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid were allowed to react under our standard migration conditions C for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 59.7 mg (71 % corrected yield) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in a 51:49 ratio. Minor isomer **24a**:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.44 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H) as characteristic peaks; HRMS  $m/z$  302.1313 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ , 302.1307). In addition, this sample was contaminated with what is presumed to be 4,4'-bis(dimethoxycarbonyl)biphenyl (21 mol %):  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.92 (s, 3H), as a characteristic peak.

**4-(4'-Methylbiphen-2-yl)anisole (23b) and 4-(4-methylbiphen-2-yl)anisole (24b).** Compound **1a** and 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid (38.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) were allowed to react under our standard migration conditions C for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 30:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 26.2 mg (38 %) of the indicated compounds as a clear oil in 52:48 ratio. Major isomer **23b**:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.31 (s, 3H),

3.77 (s, 3H) as characteristic peaks; HRMS  $m/z$  274.1353 (calcd for  $C_{20}H_{18}O$ , 274.1358).

Minor isomer **24b**:  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  2.42 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H) as characteristic peaks; HRMS  $m/z$  274.1353 (calcd for  $C_{20}H_{18}O$ , 274.1358).

**Methyl 4-(3-phenylbenzofuran-2-yl)benzoate (25)**. Compound **5a** and 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid were allowed to react under our standard migration conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 64.9 mg (79 %) of the indicated **25** compound as a white solid: mp 122-123 °C;  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  3.90 (s, 3H), 7.23-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.51 (m, 6H), 7.56-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.71-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.96-7.98 (m, 2H);  $^{13}C$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  52.2, 111.3, 119.6, 120.4, 123.2, 125.5, 126.6, 128.1, 129.2, 129.4, 129.7, 130.1, 132.4, 134.9, 149.3, 154.2, 166.7 (one  $sp^2$  carbon missing due to overlap); IR ( $CH_2Cl_2$ ) 2917, 2849, 1727, 1609, 1453, 1278, 1118  $cm^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  328.1104 (calcd for  $C_{22}H_{16}O_3$ , 328.1099); Anal. C, 80.12; H, 4.81; N (calcd for  $C_{22}H_{16}O_3$ : C, 80.47; H, 4.91). In addition, compound **8a** and 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid were allowed to react under our standard migration conditions C for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 63.9 mg (78 %) of the indicated compound as a white solid.

**Methyl 4-[2-(benzofuran-3-yl)phenyl]benzoate (26)**. Compound **8a** and 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid were allowed to react under Wright's conditions for 6 h. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 61.5 mg (75 %) of the indicated compound **26** as a clear oil:  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  3.87 (s, 3H), 7.11-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.58-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.87-7.89 (m, 2H);  $^{13}C$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  52.3, 111.7, 120.6, 121.2, 123.0, 124.6, 127.4,



128.3, 128.4, 128.8, 129.5, 129.6, 130.1, 130.8, 131.1, 140.7, 143.1, 146.4, 155.3, 167.2; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 2850, 2973, 1723, 1609, 1452, 1279 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 328.1104 (calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 328.1099). In addition, we isolated 6.0 mg (7 %) of compound **25** from this reaction mixture.

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### CHAPTER 3. SEQUENTIAL 1,4-PALLADIUM MIGRATION FOLLOWED BY INTRAMOLECULAR ARYLATION: SYNTHESIS OF FUSED POLYCYCLES

Based on a communication to be submitted to the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*  
and a paper to be submitted to the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*

Marino A. Campo, Tuanli Yao, Qingping Tian and Richard C. Larock\*

*Department of Chemistry, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011*

*larock@iastate.edu*

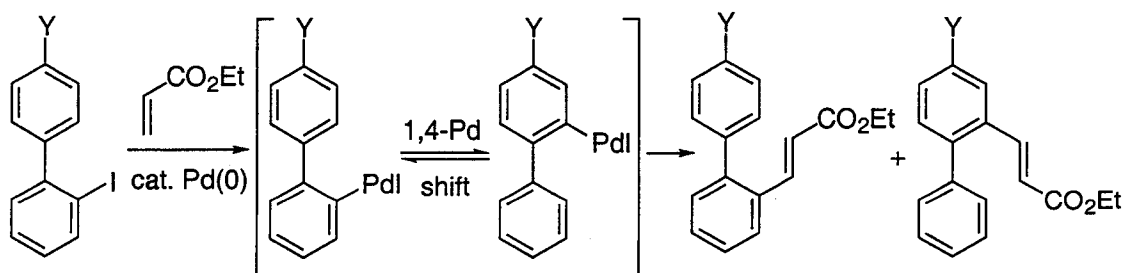
#### ***Abstract***

The synthesis of various fused carbocycles and heterocycles has been accomplished by the Pd-catalyzed intramolecular C-H activation of *o*-halobiaryls. This methodology makes use of a 1,4-palladium migration to generate key organopalladium intermediates, which undergo intramolecular arylation producing complex polycyclic compounds containing fused benzofuran, quinoline, oxepine, indole, phenanthrene, and naphthalene rings. This methodology offers a unique approach to the preparation of complex systems, which would be difficult to access by other known methodologies.

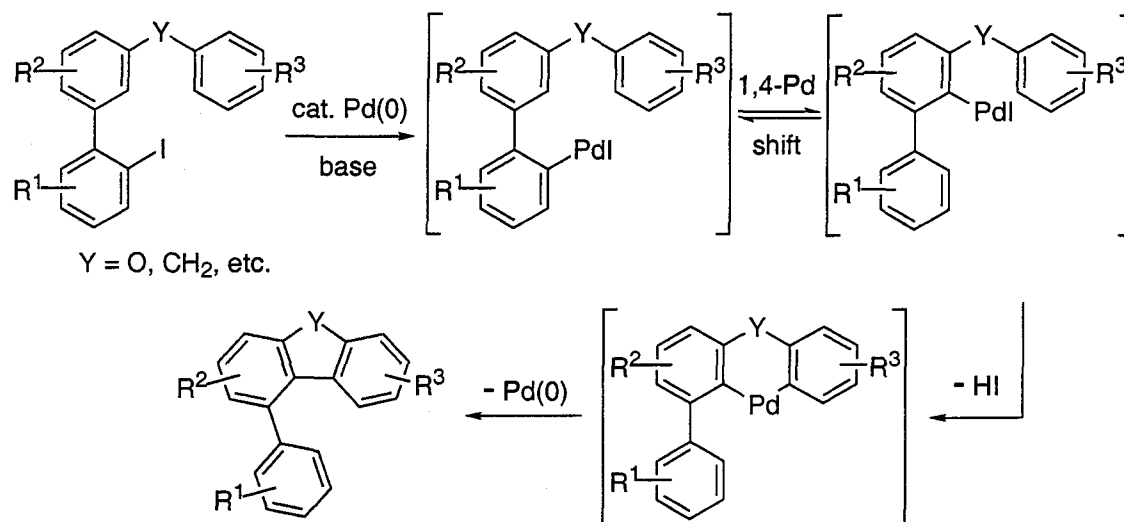
#### **Introduction**

The ability of palladium to activate C-H bonds has been used extensively in organic synthesis.<sup>1</sup> In recent years, palladium-catalyzed C-H activation has received considerable attention due to the wide variety of reactions this metal will catalyze. For instance, catalytic amounts of Pd salts have been used to activate the addition of C-H bonds of electron-rich

arenes to alkenes and alkynes, as well as to undergo other transformations, such as carbonylation.<sup>2</sup> We have previously reported the synthesis of 9-benzylidene-9*H*-fluorenes by Pd-catalyzed intramolecular C-H activation involving the rearrangement of organopalladium intermediates derived from aryl halides and internal alkynes.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, intramolecular C-H activation in organopalladium intermediates derived from *o*-halobiaryls leads to a 1,4-palladium migration (Scheme 1).<sup>4</sup> We have already shown that such intermediates can be trapped by Heck, Suzuki and alkyne annulation reactions. We have recently explored the synthetic potential of this aryl-aryl migration process, and now wish to report a novel synthesis of fused polycycles using this novel rearrangement. Our strategy involves the use of palladium C-H activation to catalyze a 1,4-palladium migration within biaryls generating key arylpalladium intermediates, which subsequently undergo C-C bond formation by intramolecular arylation producing fused polycycles (Scheme 2). This process represents a very powerful new tool for the preparation of complex molecules, which might be difficult to prepare by any other present methodology.

**Scheme 1**

Scheme 2

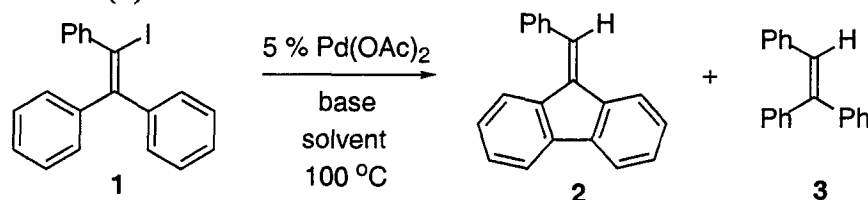


## Results and Discussion

In order to obtain an optimum set of reaction conditions for migration, we have reinvestigated the palladium-catalyzed transformation of 1-iodo-1,2,2-triphenylethene (**1**) to 9-benzylidene-9*H*-fluorene (**2**) as our model system<sup>3</sup> (Table 1). While this system may not be the most obvious for a study of aryl to aryl Pd migrations, we had previously accumulated substantial data on this system. To begin with, we carried out this reaction using our previously reported conditions<sup>3</sup> and obtained a 73 % yield of the desired compound **2**, along with a 15 % yield of triphenylethene (**3**) (entry 1). The first variable to be examined was the ligand on palladium. We examined phosphines other than PPh<sub>3</sub>. Entries 2 and 3 indicate that P(*o*-tolyl)<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (dppm) are superior to PPh<sub>3</sub> in affording higher yields of the fluorene **2**. However, the reactions with all of these phosphine ligands required 3 d to reach completion. In order to shorten this relatively lengthy reaction time, we eliminated *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NCl (TBAC) and found that the reaction was complete after only 1 d (entry 4). Unfortunately,

this led to a much lower yield of the desired compound **2** (47 %), and the yield of reduced product **3** increased to 47 %. In order to investigate whether DMF was the hydride source for the reduction of **1** to **3**, we carried out this reaction using other solvents,

**Table 1.** Palladium-catalyzed transformation of 1-iodo-1,2,2-triphenylethene (**1**) to 9-benzylidene fluorene (**2**).<sup>a</sup>



entry	ligand (mol %)	base	chloride source	solvent	time (d)	% yield 1	% yield 2
1	PPh <sub>3</sub> (10)	NaOAc	TBAC <sup>b</sup>	DMF	3	73	15
2	P( <i>o</i> -tolyl) <sub>3</sub> (10)	NaOAc	TBAC	DMF	3	75	20
3	dppm <sup>c</sup> (5)	NaOAc	TBAC	DMF	3	79	15
4	dppm (5)	NaOAc	-	DMF	1	47	47
5	dppm (5)	NaOAc	-	DMA	1.5	52	48
6	dppm (5)	NaOAc	-	NMP	1	46	46
7	dppm (5)	NaOAc	-	DMSO	1	-	-
8	dppm (5)	pyridine	-	DMF	1	-	-
9	dppm (5)	<i>i</i> -Pr <sub>2</sub> NEt	-	DMF	1	-	-
10	dppm (5)	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	-	DMF	1	70	26
11	dppm (5)	NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	-	DMF	1	65	23
12	dppm (5)	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>d</sup>	-	DMF	1	-	47
13	dppm (5)	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	-	DMF	1	74	22
14	dppm (5)	CsOAc	-	DMF	2	90	4
15	dppm (5)	CsO <sub>2</sub> CCMe <sub>3</sub>	-	DMF	1	96	4
16	dppm (5)	CsO <sub>2</sub> CCMe <sub>3</sub>	-	DMA	1	59	17 <sup>e</sup>
17	dppe <sup>f</sup> (5)	CsO <sub>2</sub> CCMe <sub>3</sub>	-	DMF	1	90	10
18	dppm (5)	<i>n</i> -Bu <sub>4</sub> NOAc	-	DMF	1	<10	-

<sup>a</sup>The reaction was run using 0.25 mmol of 1-iodo-1,2,2-triphenylethene (**1**), 5 mol % of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and 4 mL of solvent at 100 °C. <sup>b</sup>TBAC = *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NCl. <sup>c</sup>Dppm = 1,1-bis(diphenylphosphino)methane. <sup>d</sup>One equiv of NaI was added. <sup>e</sup>Twenty four percent of **1** was recovered. <sup>f</sup>Dppe = 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane.



such as DMA, NMP, and DMSO (entries 5-7). DMSO gave none of the desired fluorene **2** or any reduction product **3**. The amount of reduction was more or less the same in the other solvents. Thus, we continued our investigation using DMF as the reaction solvent.

We also examined the effect of various bases on the yield of **3**, including organic bases, such as pyridine and diisopropylethylamine (entries 8 and 9). These bases were ineffective in promoting the reaction and TLC analysis of the reaction mixtures indicated only the presence of starting vinylic halide **1**. The use of  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  as the base provided **2** in a 70 % yield, but we also obtained a 26 % yield of reduced product **3**. The base  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  provided a 65 % yield of **2** and a 23 % yield of **3**. We believe that the solubility of these bases in the reaction mixture may be playing a critical role in determining the outcome. Thus, once again we used  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  as the base, but this time we added 1 equiv of  $\text{NaI}$ , which is completely soluble in DMF, as an additive to promote a sodium common ion effect intended to make  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  less soluble in the reaction mixture. Indeed, this experiment revealed that under such reaction conditions only reduced product **3** was produced in a 47 % yield. None of the desired product **2** was observed (compare entries 10 and 12). Although there may be a number of other effects going on under these reaction conditions, it seemed logical to assume that the yield of the reaction would improve by using more soluble inorganic bases. Thus, the use of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$ , which presumably has better solubility than other alkali carbonates in DMF,<sup>5</sup> provided a slightly higher 74 % yield of compound **2**, along with a 22 % yield of reduced product **3**. Similarly, the use of very soluble  $\text{CsOAc}$  as base provided a 90 % yield of the desired product **2**, along with 4 % of the reduced product **3** after 2 d (entry 14). We subsequently found that cesium pivalate ( $\text{CsO}_2\text{CCMe}_3$ ), unlike any other

previously studied base, was completely soluble in DMF at 100 °C. In this case, we obtained an impressive 96 % yield of the desired compound **2**, along with only a small amount of the reduced product **3** (4 %) after only 1 d (entry 15). Clearly, cesium pivalate is far superior as a base in this reaction, and its high solubility in DMF seems to explain this phenomena. To illustrate, we carried out the reaction of **1** under conditions identical to those described in entry 15, but we used DMA instead of DMF as the solvent, in which cesium pivalate is not completely soluble. Under these conditions, we obtained a relatively low 59 % yield of the desired compound **2**, along with a 17 % yield of reduced product **3** (entry 16). Twenty four percent of the starting vinylic iodide **1** was also obtained. Finally, to test whether dppe was indeed critical to this reaction, we carried out the transformation using another chelating phosphine ligand, namely 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane (dppe), and we obtained a 90 % yield of **2**, along with a 10 % yield of the reduced product **3** (entry 17). As a result, our optimal set of reaction conditions for this transformation are those listed in entry 15 of Table 1. Notice that the newly developed conditions catalyze the transformation of **1** to **2** in high yield and much shorter reaction time than our earlier reported procedure.<sup>3</sup> The most critical element to achieve these positive results was the use of the highly soluble cesium pivalate base. Surprisingly, the use of *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NOAc as the base, which is also completely soluble in DMF under reaction conditions identical to those described in entry 15, failed to promote this reaction, affording only trace amounts of the desired product **2** after 1 d. As a result, not only the solubility, but also the exact nature of the base, appears critical in determining the reaction yield. It is interesting to note that the work of Buchwald, Hartwig and Fu has demonstrated that steric congestion imposed on palladium by bulky, electron-rich ligands

facilitate both the oxidative addition and reductive elimination steps involving palladium, and give rise to more effective catalyst systems.<sup>6</sup> However, nothing is apparently known about the effects of using a sterically hindered base, such as pivalate, in palladium chemistry, and whether or not it may give similar results to those obtained using bulky ligands.

With an apparently “optimal” set of reaction conditions at our disposal, we proceeded to study the sequential Pd-catalyzed migration/arylation of various 3'-substituted 2-iodobiphenyls (Table 2). We began by allowing 3'-benzyl-2-iodobiphenyl (**4**) to react under our standard reaction conditions at 100 °C, but after 2 d this substrate failed to react. However, by simply increasing the reaction temperature to 110 °C, we were able to obtain the desired compound **5** in a 40 % yield (entry 1). The disappointingly low yield obtained with this substrate might be explained by the poor reactivity of the benzyl moiety as an intramolecular trap. To test this idea, we carried out the reaction with the more electron-rich 2-iodo-3'-phenoxybiphenyl (**6**) and obtained the desired 4-phenyldibenzofuran (**7**) in an impressive 89 % yield (entry 2). Clearly, these results indicate that the electron-rich oxygen-substituted phenyl ring was superior as an arylating agent. Our finding that electron-rich arenes are superior to electron-neutral arene traps is consistent with literature reports indicating that the ease of C-H activation by palladium parallels electrophilic aromatic substitution.<sup>7</sup> Similarly, we were able to selectively obtain 3-chloro-5-phenyldibenzofuran (**9**) in an 82 % yield from 3-(*p*-chlorophenoxy)-2-iodobiphenyl (**8**) under our standard conditions while leaving the chloro functionality intact (entry 3).

Motivated by the ease of preparation of the following starting materials and by the knowledge that electron-rich arenes are apparently superior as intramolecular traps for our

**Table 2.** Palladium-catalyzed transformation of *o*-halobiaryls.<sup>a</sup>

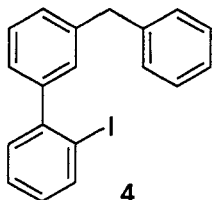
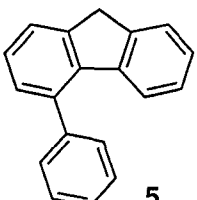
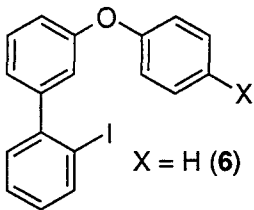
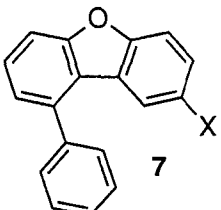

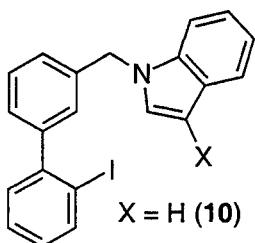
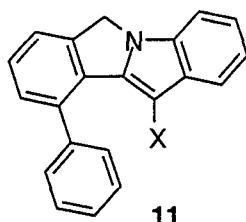

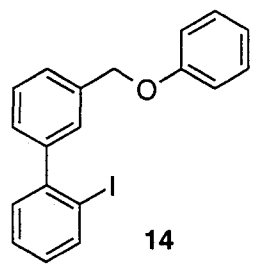
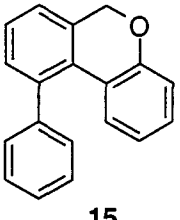
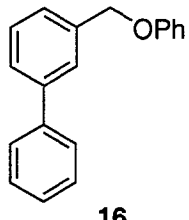
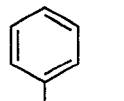
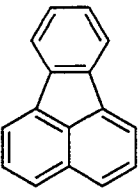
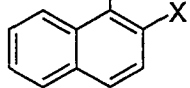
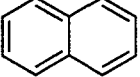
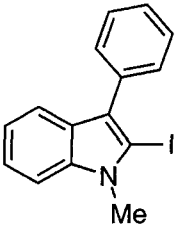
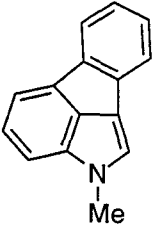
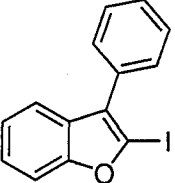
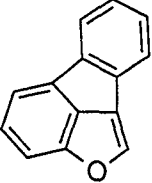
entry	substrate	product(s)	time (d)	% yield <sup>b</sup>
1	 <b>4</b>	 <b>5</b>	3 <sup>c</sup>	40
2	 X = H ( <b>6</b> )	 <b>7</b>	1 <sup>c</sup>	89
3	X = Cl ( <b>8</b> )	 <b>9</b>	1 <sup>c</sup>	82
4	 X = H ( <b>10</b> )	 <b>11</b>	1	70
5	X = Me ( <b>12</b> )	 <b>13</b>	1	71
6	 <b>14</b>	 <b>15</b> +  <b>16</b>	2 <sup>d</sup>	75 (60 : 40)
7	 X = I ( <b>17</b> )	 <b>18</b>	1 <sup>c</sup>	81
8	 X = Br ( <b>19</b> )	 <b>18</b>	3 <sup>c</sup>	70

Table 2. (continued)

entry	substrate	product(s)	time (d)	% yield <sup>b</sup>
9			2 <sup>c</sup>	78 (18)
10			2 <sup>c</sup>	71 (22)
11			2 <sup>c</sup>	50 (20)
12			2 <sup>c</sup>	56 (37)
13			2 <sup>c</sup>	0
14			2 <sup>c</sup>	65
15			2 <sup>c</sup>	0 (80)
16			2.5 <sup>c</sup>	54

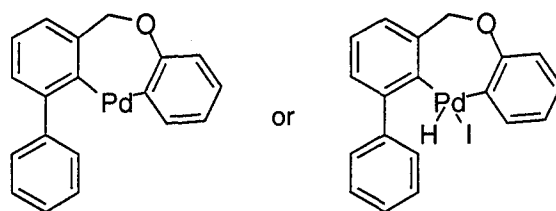
**Table 2.** (continued)

entry	substrate	product(s)	time (d)	% yield <sup>b</sup>
17	 <b>36</b>	 <b>37</b>	2 <sup>c</sup>	0
18	 <b>38</b>	 <b>39</b>	2 <sup>c</sup>	0

<sup>a</sup>The reaction was carried under the previously described standard conditions employing 0.25 mmol of the *o*-halobiaryl, 5 mol % Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 5 mol % dppm, and 2 equivs of CsO<sub>2</sub>CMe<sub>3</sub> in DMF (4 mL) at 100 °C unless otherwise noted. <sup>b</sup>The yield in parentheses corresponds to GC yield of product in which the C-I bond has been reduced to a C-H. <sup>c</sup>The reaction temperature was increased to 110 °C. <sup>d</sup>The reaction temperature was increased to 120 °C.

arylpalladium intermediates, we synthesized the indole derivatives **10** and **12**. To our great satisfaction, compound **10** smoothly underwent the desired reaction producing the relatively strained isoindoloindole **11** in a 70 % yield (entry 4). Surprisingly, compound **12** produced the strained and sterically congested 2-methyl isoindoloindole **13** in a 71 % yield. We next examined the possibility of using an intramolecular arylation to form six-membered rings. Unfortunately, 3-(2-iodophenyl)benzyl phenyl ether (**14**) failed to react under our standard reaction conditions. Even at 110 °C, the reaction was sluggish, so the temperature was increased to 120 °C, in which case the reaction was complete after 2 d. Unfortunately, a 60:40 inseparable mixture of the desired compound **15** and reduced product **16** was obtained in a 75 % overall yield. Clearly, the formation of a six-membered ring is not as favorable as

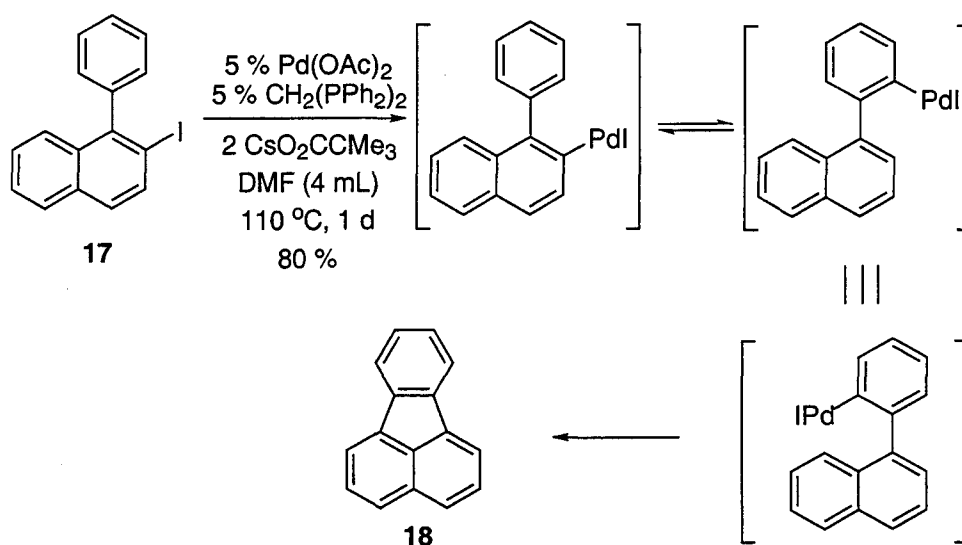
five-membered ring formation (compare entries 2 and 6). This might be due to the intermediacy of an unfavorable seven-membered ring palladacycle (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Unfavorable seven-membered ring palladacycle intermediates.

We proceeded to investigate the sequential migration/arylation reaction of more complex polyaromatic compounds. In theory, 2-iodo-1-phenylnaphthalene (**17**) should afford fluoranthene (**18**) using our methodology. Mechanistically, the palladium must first undergo a 1,4-palladium migration from the 2-position of the naphthalene to the *o*-position of the phenyl substituent, followed by arylation at the 8-position of the naphthalene (Scheme 3). Although the reaction did not proceed at 100 °C, at 110 °C, compound **17** produced the

**Scheme 3**

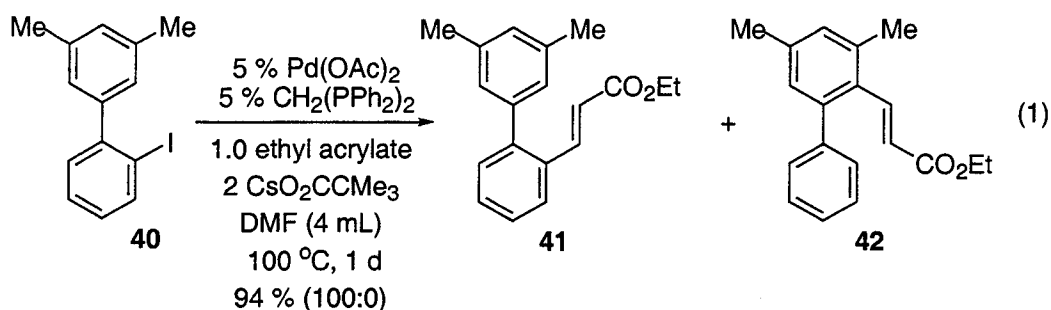


desired compound **18** in an 81 % yield. Similarly, 2-bromo-1-phenylnaphthalene (**19**) produced the desired fluoranthene (**18**) in a 70 % yield, indicating that this aryl bromide also undergoes the desired transformation, but in a somewhat lower yield and a longer reaction time.

Another interesting example of this migration involves the rearrangement of easily prepared 9-iodo-10-phenylphenanthrenes<sup>8</sup> to benz[*e*]acephenanthrylene. In this case, the palladium migrates from the 9 position of the phenanthrene to the *ortho* position of the phenyl substituent, followed by cyclization onto the 8 position of the phenanthrene. Indeed, the reaction of 9-iodo-10-phenylphenanthrene (**20**) under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C produced the desired benz[*e*]acephenanthrylene (**21**) in a 78 % yield (entry 9). We proceeded to investigate electronic effects in this phenanthrene reaction by looking at different substituents on the phenyl moiety. As expected, the use of an electron-donating methoxy group in compound **22** gave a good yield (71 %) of the corresponding benz[*e*]acephenanthrylene **23** (entry 10). However, the introduction of an electron-withdrawing CO<sub>2</sub>Et group in the *para* position of the phenyl substituent was detrimental to the reaction, producing compound **25** in only a 50 % yield. We have also studied the regioselectivity of the migration by using a 3-methyl-substituted phenyl moiety in the 10-position of the 9-iodophenanthrene (entry 12). Compound **26** has two available positions for palladium migration, the more sterically-congested neighboring 2 position or the remote 6 position of the phenyl ring. The palladium-catalyzed cyclization of compound **26** generated compound **27** exclusively in a 56 % yield. This result indicates that palladium migration occurs exclusively onto the less sterically-congested 6 position of the phenyl moiety and that

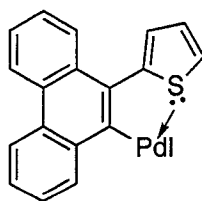


the presence of a methyl group apparently completely inhibited migration to the more hindered 2 position. This result is in complete agreement with our previous observation that the Heck reaction of 2-iodo-3',5'-dimethylbiphenyl (**40**) with ethyl acrylate under our standard migration conditions afforded exclusively ester **41** and failed to produce any of the migration product **42** (eq 1).<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, the less statistically favorable palladium migration to only the distal 6 position of the phenyl moiety might help explain the relatively low yield obtained for this transformation.



We next tried to prepare the more strained fused thiophene **29** from phenanthrene **28**.

Unfortunately, this reaction led to a very complex mixture, which produced none of the desired compound **29**. Besides the unfavorable ring strain associated with the final product **29**, intramolecular sulfur chelation of the intermediate 10-thiophen-1-ylphenanthren-9-ylpalladium iodide might be inhibiting the palladium migration step (Figure 2).



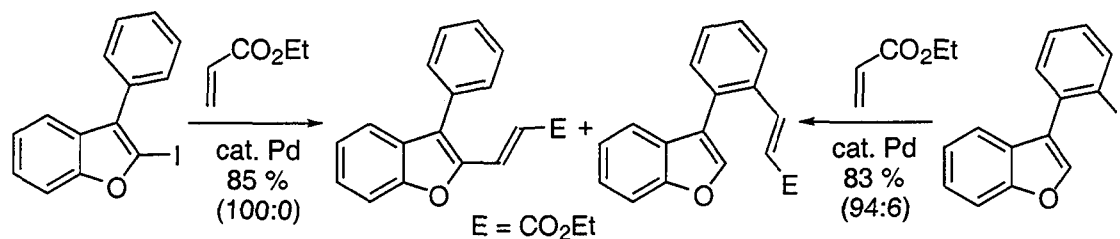
**Figure 2.** Intramolecular palladium chelation by sulfur.

In addition, the relatively electron-rich benzo[*e*]phenanthrene **30** also underwent the migration/arylation reaction, producing the highly conjugated hexacyclic compound **31** in a

65 % yield (entry 14). Unfortunately, compound **32** failed to generate the desired hexacycle **33** under our reaction conditions at 110 °C (entry 15). Only reduction product was isolated in 80 % yield. This example once again indicates that intramolecular annulation to form a six membered ring is rather unfavorable.

Having studied the palladium-catalyzed transformation of a variety of polycyclic aromatic halides, we switched our attention to heterocyclic aromatic compounds. To begin with, we carried out the reaction of 3-iodo-4-phenylquinoline (**34**) under our standard reaction conditions at 100 °C, but after 2 d this substrate failed to react. Fortunately, by simply increasing the reaction temperature to 110 °C, we obtained the desired indeno[1,2,3-*de*]quinoline (**35**) in a 54 % yield. Again the modest yield obtained with this electron-deficient substrate is consistent with our previous observations that electron-deficient substrates do not perform as well as more electron-rich substrates (compare entries 7 and 16). We also allowed 2-iodo-1-methyl-3-phenylindole (**36**) to react under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C, but failed to obtain the desired tricyclic compound **37** (entry 17). A similar negative result was obtained with 2-iodo-3-phenylbenzofuran (**38**) (entry 18). The poor results obtained with substrates **36** and **38** can be explained in terms of the unfavorable ring strain of the corresponding products **37** and **39**. In addition, we have previously established, using Heck trapping experiments, that palladium prefers to reside on the benzofuran and indole moieties in these substrates (Scheme 4).<sup>4,9</sup>

## Scheme 4

**Table 3.** Palladium-catalyzed migration and annulation of vinylic iodides.<sup>a</sup>

entry	substrate	product	time (d)	% yield <sup>b</sup>
1	 1	 2	1	96 (4)
2	 43	 44	2 <sup>c</sup>	80
3	 45	 46	2	0
4	 47	 48	5 <sup>c</sup>	0 (12)

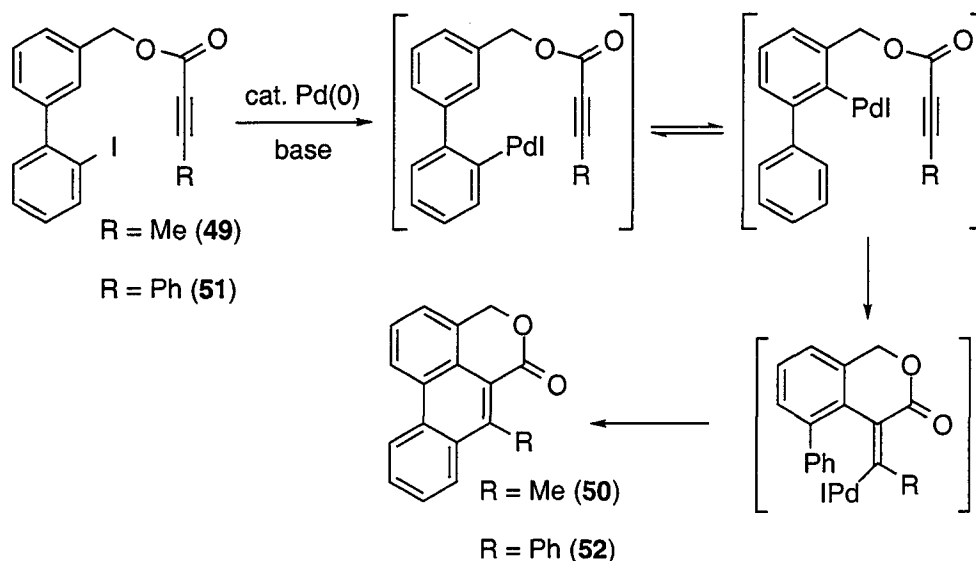
<sup>a</sup>The reaction was carried under the previously described standard Pd migration conditions employing 0.25 mmol of the vinylic iodide, 5 mol % of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 5 mol % of dppm, 2 equiv of CsO<sub>2</sub>CMe<sub>3</sub> in DMF (4 mL) at 100 °C, unless otherwise noted. <sup>b</sup>The yield in parentheses corresponds to the product in which the C-I has been reduced to a C-H bond. <sup>c</sup>The reaction temperature was increased to 110 °C.

While our efforts had been focused on synthesizing polycyclic compounds in which the key 1,4-palladium shift occurs from an aryl to another aryl position, we wanted to establish that our methodology could also make use of a vinylic to aryl palladium migration to generate the key intermediate for the intramolecular arylation step. We have already shown one example of such a transformation in converting compound **1** to **2** (entry 1, Table 3). Another illustration of this process involves the use of 9-iodo-10-phenyldibenz[*b,f*]oxepine (**43**). The reaction of this relatively electron-rich substrate produced the desired pentacyclic compound **44** in an 80 % yield (entry 2). On the other hand, treating the electron-deficient 3-iodo-4-phenylisocoumarin (**45**) under our standard reaction conditions gave a complex mixture, and we failed to isolate any of the desired compound **46** (entry 3). This disappointing result was not unexpected, since our experience with compound **45** has indicated that palladium easily catalyzes its decomposition. Our last attempt to generate polycycles from vinylic iodides involved the use of isoquinolone **47**. This substrate suffers the disadvantage that the intramolecular arylation step requires the formation of a six-membered ring. As expected, the reaction of substrate **47** under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C failed to produce the desired pentacyclic product **48** and after 5 d of reaction time, we were only able to isolate the reduction product *N*-phenyl-3-phenylisoquinolone<sup>10</sup> in a 12 % yield as a side product (entry 4).

We have also examined the possibility of preparing polycycles using annulation reactions other than the usual intramolecular arylation. The first set of experiments involved the use of intramolecular alkyne annulation reactions (entries 1 and 2, Table 4; Scheme 5). We have previously established that the corresponding intermolecular version of this alkyne

annulation methodology works well under our migration conditions.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, it was surprising to find that the reaction of either compound **49** or **51** gave complex reaction mixtures and that none of the desired tetracyclic compounds **50** or **52** could be isolated. It is conceivable that intermolecular side reactions might be giving rise to dimers, trimers and other oligomers, which would account for the complexity of these reaction mixtures.

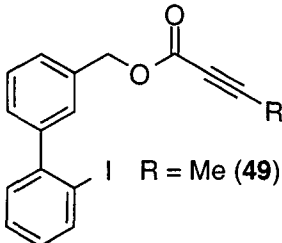
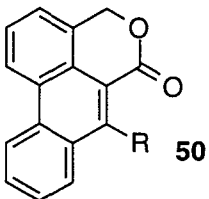


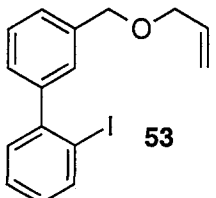
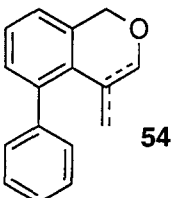
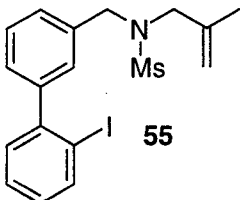
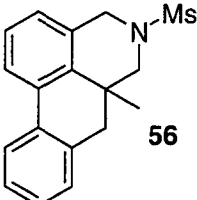
### Scheme 5



We also tested whether an intramolecular version of the Heck reaction could be used to trap key arylpalladium intermediates generated via palladium migration. Therefore, we prepared two biphenyl derivatives having a strategically positioned C-C double bond. Biphenyl **53** was designed to produce the cyclic compound **54** by intramolecular Heck reaction with the allyl ether moiety (entry 3). Unfortunately, the reaction of compound **53** produced a very complex reaction mixture, and we failed to isolate the desired compound **54**. Biphenyl **55** was designed to trap the corresponding palladium intermediate by

intramolecular annulation onto the methallyl amine moiety generating a stable alkylpalladium intermediate lacking  $\beta$ -hydrogens. In turn, this alkylpalladium intermediate

**Table 4.** Attempted palladium-catalyzed intramolecular alkyne and alkene annulations of 3'-substituted 2-iodobiphenyls.<sup>a</sup>

entry	substrate	anticipated product	time (d)	% yield
1	 R = Me ( <b>49</b> )	 <b>50</b>	1	0
2	 R = Ph ( <b>51</b> )	 <b>52</b>	1	0
3	 <b>53</b>	 <b>54</b>	1	0
4	 <b>55</b>	 <b>56</b>	1	0

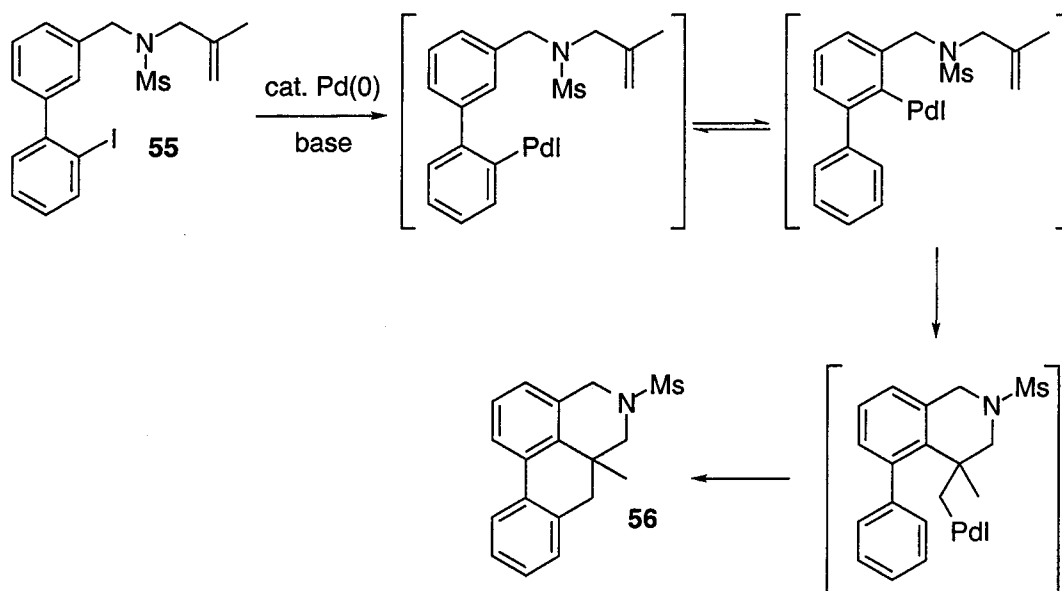
<sup>a</sup>The reaction was carried out under the previously described standard reaction conditions employing 0.25 mmol of the aryl iodide, 5 mol % of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 5 mol % of dppe, 2 equiv of CsO<sub>2</sub>CCMe<sub>3</sub> in DMF (4 mL) at 100 °C.

might be expected to undergo a second cyclization onto the neighboring phenyl ring via C-H activation to render the tetracyclic compound **56** (entry 4, Table 4; Scheme 6).

Unfortunately, as previously observed with other substrates, compound **55** produced a very complex reaction mixture, and we failed to isolate the desired tetracycle **56**. At this point, we conclude that intramolecular Heck and alkyne annulation reactions are ineffective for the

synthesis of complex polycycles using our present methodology. These negative results can most likely be attributed to unwanted intermolecular side reactions.

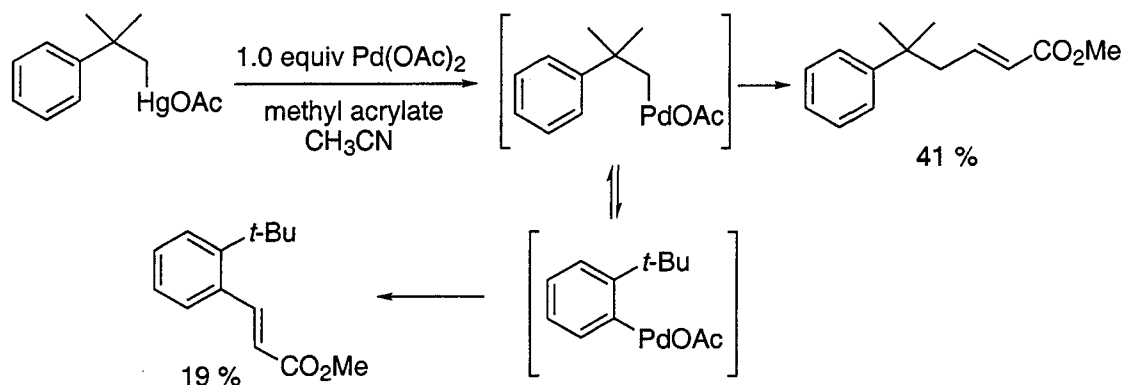
**Scheme 6**



We have continued to investigate the generality of our methodology for the synthesis of polycycles. Particularly, we were interested in exploiting other types of palladium migration. To elaborate, we have previously studied systems in which a 1,4-palladium shift between aryl and aryl positions or vinylic and aryl positions has been used to generate key palladium intermediates, which in turn undergo subsequent cyclization rendering the desired polycycles. We now report catalytic alkyl to aryl 1,4-palladium migration to prepare polycycles. This type of migration has been previously observed as a side reaction using stoichiometric amounts of palladium acetate and neophylmercuric acetate (Scheme 7).<sup>11</sup>

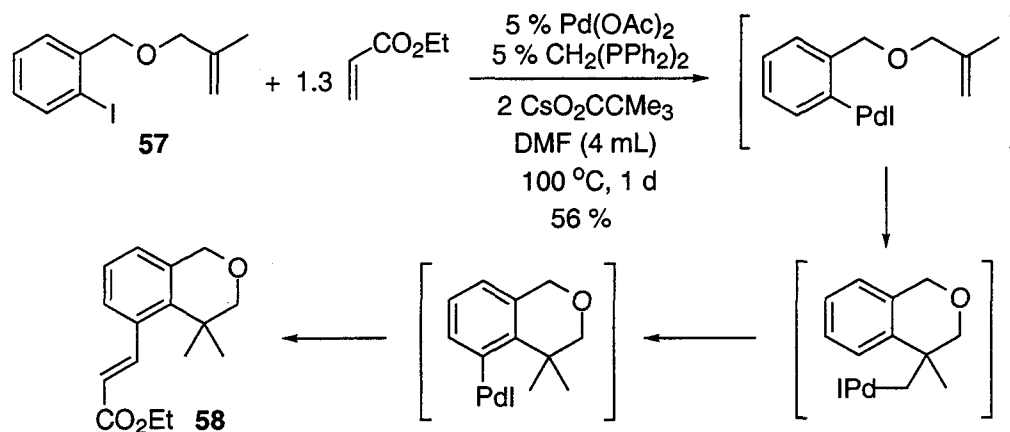
In order to accomplish this goal, we have used 2-iodobenzyl methallyl ether (**57**) as a precursor to generate a stable alkylpalladium intermediate. A stepwise examination of our experimental design reveals that the Pd-catalyzed annulation of 2-iodobenzyl methallyl ether

Scheme 7



should generate a stable alkylpalladium intermediate lacking  $\beta$ -hydrogens (Scheme 8). In turn, this intermediate might undergo the key alkyl to aryl palladium migration generating an arylpalladium, which is subsequently trapped by way of an intramolecular Heck reaction with ethyl acrylate. Thus, the reaction of compound **57** with ethyl acrylate under our standard conditions led to the formation of polycyclic compound **58** in a 56% yield (Scheme 8). Clearly, under our palladium-catalyzed reaction conditions the desired alkyl to aryl migration had occurred, indicating the potential of our methodology for generating polyfunctional cyclic compounds from relatively simple starting materials.

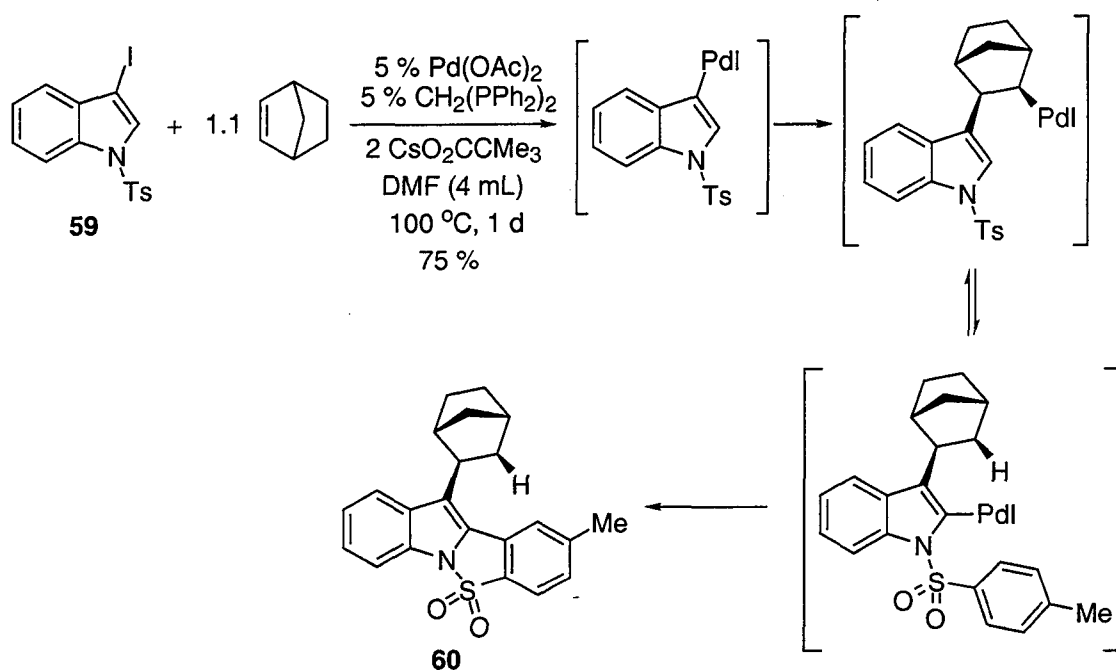
Scheme 8





A second example of a reaction involving an alkyl to aryl palladium migration to generate a functionalized polycycle was obtained during the reaction of 3-iodo-1-*p*-tosylindole (**59**) with norbornene under our standard Pd migration reaction conditions (Scheme 9). The first step of this reaction involves the *cis* addition of an indol-3-ylpalladium iodide to norbornene, generating a stable alkylpalladium intermediate lacking *cis*  $\beta$ -hydrogens properly aligned for  $\beta$ -hydride elimination. This intermediate in turn undergoes a 1,4-alkyl to aryl palladium shift to the 2-position of the indole, followed by intramolecular annulation onto the *p*-toluenesulfonyl moiety.<sup>12</sup> The overall transformation produced a 75 % yield of the desired polycycle **60**. The possibility of using this process to prepare other carbocycles and heterocycles is currently being investigated in our research group.

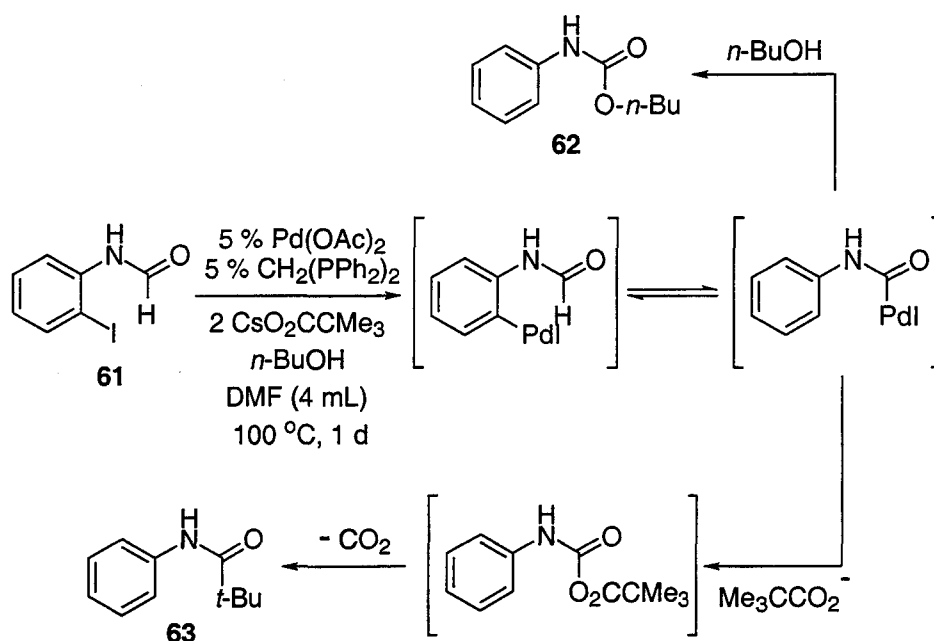
### Scheme 9



To further extend the scope of our methodology, we have explored other possible palladium migrations. Next, we describe experiments aimed towards establishing an aryl to

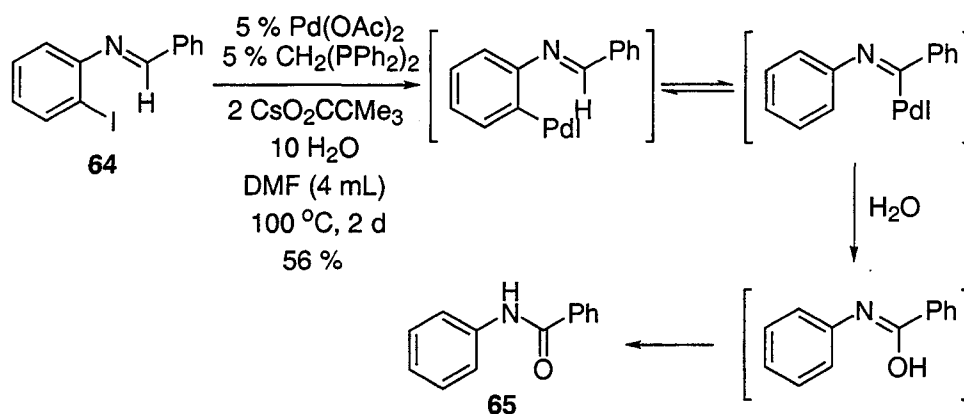
carbonyl palladium migration. First of all, we looked at an aryl to acyl palladium migration using *N*-(2-iodophenyl)formamide (**61**). Thus, the reaction of **61** under our standard migration reaction conditions in the presence of 10 equiv of *n*-butanol as a trapping agent for the anticipated acylpalladium intermediate produced the desired carbamate **62** in a 15 % yield along with the surprising pivalanilide (**63**) product in a 15 % yield. Scheme 9 shows a possible mechanism for the formation of these compounds from the key acylpalladium intermediate generated after the desired palladium migration. It is worth noting that by carrying out this reaction in the presence of 50 equiv of *n*-BuOH, we obtained the desired carbamate **62** exclusively in a 27 % yield, thus inhibiting the formation of pivalanilide (**63**). Similarly, if this reaction is carried out in the absence of *n*-BuOH, we obtained pivalanilide (**63**) exclusively in a 26 % yield.<sup>13</sup>

### Scheme 9



Similarly, the reaction of benzylidene(2-iodophenyl)amine (**64**) under our migration conditions in the presence of 10 equiv of water produced the desired benzanilide (**65**) in a 56 % yield (Scheme 11). The formation of benzanilide suggests that a palladium migration from an aryl to an imidoyl position has taken place, generating a Pd species which upon hydrolysis and subsequent tautomerization leads to the benzanilide product.<sup>14</sup>

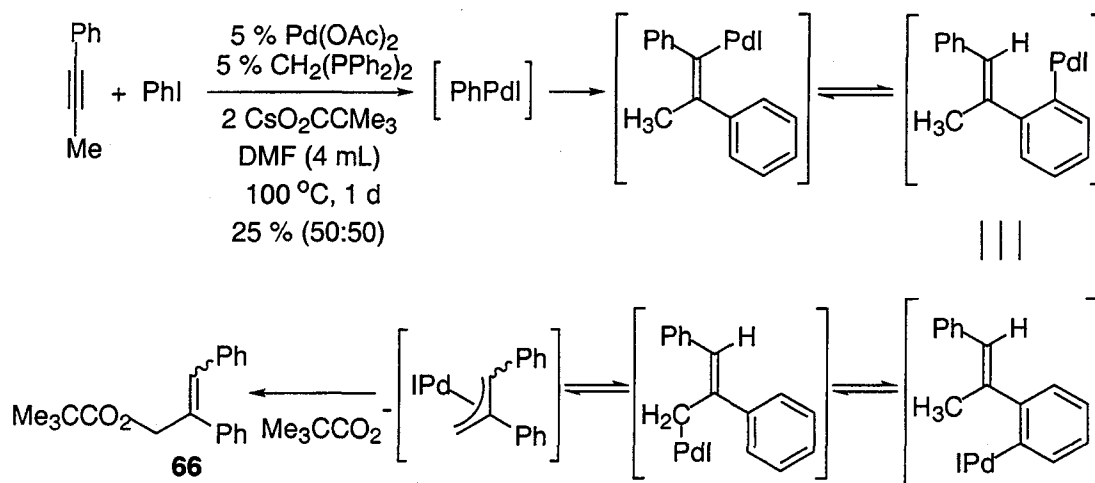
**Scheme 11**



Finally, we have explored the possibility of using an aryl to allyl palladium migration to prepare functionalized alkenes, as well as heterocycles. Scheme 12 illustrates a possible mechanism for the reaction of iodobenzene with 1-phenyl-1-propyne under our standard reaction conditions. Notice that the sterically-controlled, regioselective addition of phenylpalladium iodide to 1-phenyl-1-propyne should generate a vinylic palladium intermediate, which might undergo the expected 1,4-vinylic to aryl palladium migration to produce an arylpalladium intermediate. We anticipated that this arylpalladium intermediate might undergo a second migration to the methyl position, producing a  $\pi$ -allylpalladium species, which should react with the nucleophilic pivalate base, generating the desired

pivalate ester **66**. Indeed, this reaction produced the indicated pivalate ester **66** in a 25 % yield as a 50:50 mixture of

**Scheme 12**

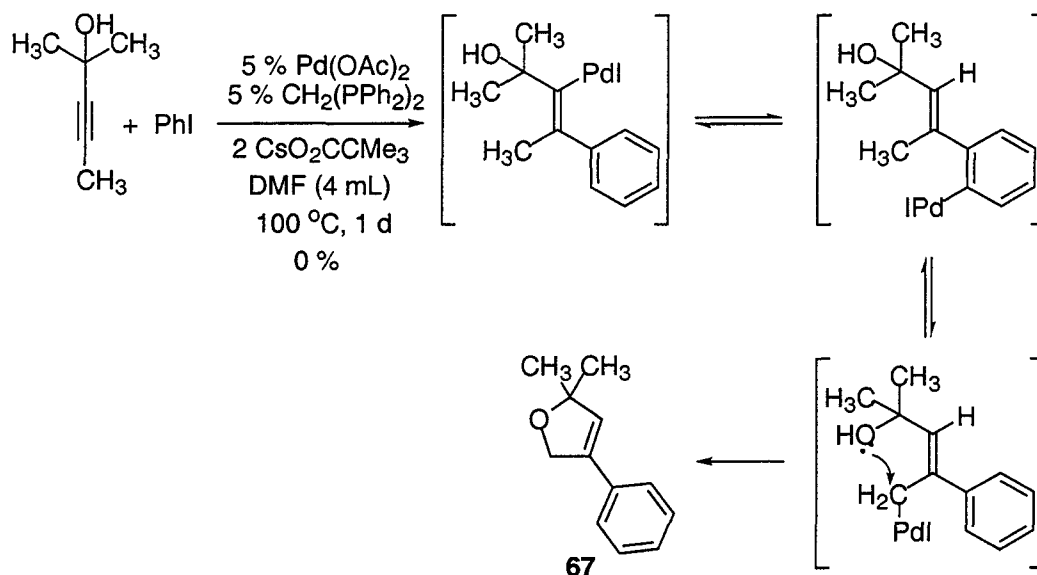


*E* and *Z* isomers. Having established the possibility of generating allylpalladium intermediates from aryl iodides and alkynes, we thought it should be feasible to trap such intermediates in an intramolecular fashion to generate heterocycles. Unfortunately, the reaction of iodobenzene with 2-methylpent-3-yn-2-ol failed to produce the desired cyclic ether **67** (Scheme 13). The potential of this type of annulation is currently being investigated in our research group.

### Conclusions

In conclusion, we have developed novel methodology for the synthesis of complex fused polycycles employing two sequential Pd-catalyzed intramolecular processes involving C-H activation. This methodology exploits relatively general aryl to aryl, vinylic to aryl, and alkyl to aryl 1,4-palladium migrations combined with intramolecular arylation to prepare a wide variety of carbocycles and heterocycles. The chemistry developed here works best with

Scheme 13



electron-rich aromatics, which is in agreement with the idea that these palladium-catalyzed C-H activation reactions parallel electrophilic aromatic substitution.

### Experimental

**General procedures.** All <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C spectra were recorded at 300 and 75.5 MHz or 400 and 100 MHz respectively. Thin-layer chromatography was performed using commercially prepared 60-mesh silica gel plates (Whatman K6F), and visualization was effected with short wavelength UV light (254 nm) and a basic KMnO<sub>4</sub> solution [3 g of KMnO<sub>4</sub> + 20 g of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> + 5 mL of NaOH (5 %) + 300 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O]. All melting points are uncorrected. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Kratos MS50TC double focusing magnetic sector mass spectrometer using EI at 70 eV.

**Reagents.** All reagents were used directly as obtained commercially unless otherwise noted. Anhydrous forms of THF, DME, DMF, benzene, diethyl ether, ethyl acetate and

hexanes were purchased from Fisher Scientific Co. *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NCl (TBAC) was purchased from Lancaster Synthesis, Inc. AgClO<sub>4</sub>, Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 3,4-dihydro-1-phenylnaphthalene and Et<sub>3</sub>N were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc. Cesium pivalate was prepared according to the procedure of Larock and Campo.<sup>15</sup> Compounds **1**, **2**, **19**, **20**, **36**, **38**, **40**, **41**, **43**, and **59** have been previously reported<sup>15</sup> (see Chapter 1 of this thesis).

### Synthesis of the organic halides

**3'-Benzyl-2-iodobiphenyl (4)**. This biphenyl was prepared from 3'-bromomethyl-2-iodobiphenyl (**68**)<sup>15</sup> by following a procedure from the literature.<sup>16</sup> To a suspension of AgClO<sub>4</sub> (0.28 g, 1.4 mmol) in benzene (4.0 mL) was added **68** (0.261 g, 0.7 mmol) in benzene (4.0 mL) and the resulting mixture stirred overnight at room temperature in the dark. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL), filtered and washed with brine (25 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 50:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.187 g (72 %) of the indicated compound **4** as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 4.03 (s, 3H), 6.97-7.01 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.34 (m, 11H), 7.92 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 42.0, 98.8, 126.2, 127.1, 128.2, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 128.8, 129.1, 130.1, 130.2, 139.6, 140.8, 141.0, 144.3, 146.6; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3056, 3025, 2917, 1601, 1583, 1494, 1461 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 370.0224 (calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub>I, 370.0218).

**2-Iodo-3'-methoxybiphenyl (69)**. Compound **69** was prepared by a procedure reported by Hart.<sup>17</sup> A solution of 2-bromoiodobenzene (1.415 g, 5.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added slowly (90 min) to a solution of 3-methoxyphenylmagnesium bromide [prepared from 3-bromoanisole (1.87 g, 10 mmol) and Mg (0.246 g, 10 mmol) in THF (30 mL)], and

the mixture was stirred under Ar for an additional 14 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched by adding I<sub>2</sub> (3.8 g, 15 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for an additional 30 min at room temperature. The excess I<sub>2</sub> was destroyed by adding 10% aq NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (35 mL) and the organic layer was separated and rewashed with brine (20 mL). Finally, the organic layer was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed using 30:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.620 g (40 %) of the desired compound **69** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.84 (s, 3H), 6.88-6.95 (m, 3H), 7.01-7.05 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.4, 98.5, 113.4, 115.0, 121.8, 128.1, 128.9, 129.1, 130.1, 139.6, 145.5, 146.5, 159.1; HRMS *m/z* 309.9859 (calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>IO, 309.9855).

**2-Iodo-3'-phenoxybiphenyl (6)**. This biphenyl was prepared in two steps from 2-iodo-3-methoxybiphenyl (**69**). To a solution of **69** (0.97 g, 3.14 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) at -78 °C was added 1.0 M BBr<sub>3</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4.1 mL, 4.1 mmol). The resulting solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 2 h. The mixture was worked up with ice (15 g) and extracted with diethyl ether (75 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.91 g (98 %) of 3-(2-iodophenyl)phenol (**70**) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 5.04 (br s, 1H), 6.80-6.81 (m, 1H), 6.85-6.90 (m, 2H), 7.00-7.05 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.37 (td, *J* = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 98.4, 114.7, 116.4, 122.0, 128.1, 128.9, 129.3, 130.0, 139.5, 145.8, 146.2, 155.0. Compound **70** was phenylated by a procedure found in the literature.<sup>18</sup> A suspension of **70** (0.222 g, 0.75 mmol), phenylboronic

acid (0.183 g, 1.5 mmol), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.163 g, 0.90 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.38 g, 3.75 mmol), 5 Angstrom molecular sieves (0.2 g) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6.0 mL) was stirred under O<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) for 2 d at room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL), filtered, and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 15:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.129 g (46 %) of the indicated compound **6** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.00-7.12 (m, 7H), 7.25-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.92 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 98.4, 118.2, 119.1, 119.8, 123.4, 124.2, 128.2, 129.0, 129.4, 129.8, 130.0, 139.6, 145.9, 146.0, 156.8, 157.1; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3058, 1578, 1488, 1460, 1222, cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 372.0020 (calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IO, 372.0011).

**2-Iodo-3'-(*p*-chlorophenoxy)biphenyl (8).** This biphenyl was prepared by a procedure similar to that used for compound **6**. A suspension of **70** (0.222 g, 0.75 mmol), *p*-chlorophenylboronic acid (0.235 g, 1.5 mmol), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.163 g, 0.90 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.38 g, 3.75 mmol), 5 Angstrom molecular sieves (0.2 g) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6.0 mL) was stirred under O<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) for 2 d at room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL), filtered, and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 30:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 79.5 mg (26 %) of the indicated compound **6** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.96-7.09 (m, 6H), 7.27-7.41 (m, 5H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 98.4, 118.2, 119.9, 120.3, 124.6, 128.2, 128.4, 129.1, 129.6, 129.8, 130.0, 139.6, 145.8, 146.0, 155.8, 156.4; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3057, 1576, 1484, 1460, 1228 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 405.9632 (calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>IClO, 405.9621).



**1-[3-(2-Iodophenyl)benzyl]indole (10).** To a suspension of NaH (0.031 g, 1.30 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was added 1*H*-indole (0.117 g, 1.0 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. At this point 3'-bromomethyl-2-iodobiphenyl (**68**)<sup>15</sup> (0.347 g, 0.93 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 3 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (60 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 12:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.335 g (88 %) of the desired compound **10** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 5.34 (s, 2H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.23 (m, 7H), 7.30-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 50.1, 98.6, 101.9, 109.9, 119.6, 121.1, 121.8, 126.2, 128.0, 128.2, 128.4, 128.6, 128.6, 128.9, 129.0, 130.1, 136.4, 137.4, 139.6, 144.6, 146.1; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3052, 2972, 2922, 2863, 1462, 1437, 1316 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 409.0334 (calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub>IN, 409.0328).

**1-[3-(2-Iodophenyl)benzyl]-3-methylindole (12).** To a suspension of NaH (0.031 g, 1.30 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was added 3-methyl-1*H*-indole (0.131 g, 1.0 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. At this point 3'-bromomethyl-2-iodobiphenyl (**68**)<sup>15</sup> (0.347 g, 0.93 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 3 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (60 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography

using 12:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.362 g (92 %) of the desired compound **12** as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.33 (d,  $J = 0.8$  Hz, 3H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 6.92-6.92 (m, 1H), 6.97-6.99 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.24 (m, 6H), 7.27-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.56-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.90-7.92 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.1, 50.1, 98.8, 109.9, 111.2, 119.1, 119.3, 121.9, 126.2, 126.4, 128.2, 128.4, 128.7, 128.7, 129.2, 129.3, 130.3, 136.9, 137.9, 139.8, 144.7, 146.4; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3052, 2914, 1611, 1465, 1330, 1012  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  423.0491 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{IN}$ , 423.0484).

**3-(2-Iodophenyl)benzyl phenyl ether (14).** To a suspension of NaH (0.031 g, 1.30 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at 0  $^\circ\text{C}$  was added phenol (0.094 g, 1.0 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. At this point, 3'-bromomethyl-2-iodobiphenyl (**68**)<sup>15</sup> (0.347 g, 0.93 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (60 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 12:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.359 g (100 %) of the desired compound **14** as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.13 (s, 2H), 6.96-7.04 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.94-7.96 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  69.9, 98.6, 115.0, 121.1, 126.8, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 129.0, 129.0, 129.6, 130.2, 137.0, 139.6, 144.5, 146.4, 158.8; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3056, 2919, 1598, 1494, 1238  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  386.0172 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{IO}$ , 386.0168).

**2-Iodo-1-phenylnaphthalene (17).** To a solution of 3,4-dihydro-1-phenylnaphthalene (1.30 g, 6.3 mmol) and  $\text{I}_2$  (2.24 g, mmol) in anhydrous  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (15 mL)

was added dropwise AgOTf (1.75 g, 6.8 mmol) in anhydrous CH<sub>3</sub>CN (20 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature in the dark for 1 h. The reaction was diluted with diethyl ether (70 mL) and washed with satd aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (25 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in benzene (25 mL). To this solution was added DDQ (2.86 g, 12.6 mmol) and the reaction heated at 65 °C for 2 d. The resulting mixture is filtered and washed with 10 % aq Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (25 mL). The organic layer was filtered, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified using chromatography on a silica gel column using 50:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 1.47 g (70 %) of the indicated compound **17** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.22-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.56 (m, 6H), 7.80-7.83 (m, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 98.7, 126.5, 127.0, 127.4, 128.1, 128.1, 128.7, 129.3, 130.2, 133.1, 133.6, 135.8, 143.5, 144.7; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3053, 1577, 1502, 1442, 1382, 1306 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 329.9910 (calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>11</sub>I, 329.9906).

#### General procedure for synthesis of the phenanthrenes<sup>8</sup>

The following procedure was used to prepare phenanthrenes **22**, **24**, **26**, **28**, **30** and chrysene **32**. To a solution of 2-(arylethynyl)biphenyl (0.30 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> was added ICl (1.2 equiv) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL) at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h unless otherwise indicated. The reaction mixture was then diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL), washed with 25 mL of satd aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the product was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column.

**General procedure for preparation of the 2-(arylethynyl)biphenyls.** To a solution of the corresponding aryl iodide (1.0 mmol) and the terminal alkyne (1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in Et<sub>3</sub>N (4.0 mL) were added PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (1.4 mg, 2 mol %) and CuI (2.0 mg, 1 mol %). The resulting mixture was then heated under an N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 55 °C for 3 h. The mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and the ammonium salt was removed by filtration. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the corresponding product.

**2-[(4-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl]biphenyl (71).** 2-Ethynylbiphenyl<sup>19</sup> and 4-iodoanisole were employed. Purification by flash chromatography (30:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 0.21 g (74 %) of the product as a clear liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.80 (s, 3H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.50 (m, 6H), 7.64-7.73 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.5, 88.4, 92.5, 114.2, 115.9, 122.2, 127.3, 127.6, 128.1, 128.4, 129.6, 129.7, 132.9, 133.1, 140.9, 143.9, 159.8.

**2-[(3-Methylphenyl)ethynyl]biphenyl (72).** 2-Ethynylbiphenyl<sup>19</sup> and 3-iodotoluene were employed. Purification by flash chromatography (40:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 0.26 g (95 %) of the product as a clear liquid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.34 (s, 3H), 7.12-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.53 (m, 6H), 7.67-7.74 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 21.5, 89.3, 92.7, 122.0, 123.5, 127.3, 127.7, 128.2, 128.4, 128.7, 128.7, 129.3, 129.7, 129.7, 132.2, 133.1, 138.2, 140.9, 144.1.

**Ethyl 4-(biphen-2-ylethynyl)benzoate (73).** 2-Ethynylbiphenyl<sup>19</sup> and ethyl 4-iodobenzoate were employed. Purification by flash chromatography (15:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 0.27 g (84 %) of the product as a white solid: mp 58-60 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ

1.38 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H), 4.36 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.48 (m, 8H), 7.64-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.96 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.6, 61.3, 91.7, 92.6, 121.3, 127.4, 127.9, 128.2, 128.3, 129.3, 129.63, 129.64, 129.8, 129.9, 131.4, 133.2, 140.6, 144.5, 166.3.

**2-(Biphen-2-ylethynyl)thiophene (74).** 2-Ethynylbiphenyl<sup>19</sup> and 2-iodothiophene were employed. Purification by flash chromatography (15:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 0.22 g (85 %) of the product as a light yellow liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.98-7.00 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.55 (m, 6H), 7.66-7.75 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  85.9, 93.5, 121.6, 123.8, 127.3, 127.4, 127.5, 127.8, 128.3, 129.0, 129.6, 129.8, 131.8, 132.8, 140.7, 144.0.

**2-[2-(Phenylethynyl)phenyl]naphthalene (75).** 2-(2-Iodophenyl)naphthalene<sup>17</sup> and phenylacetylene were employed. Purification by flash chromatography (40:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 0.29 g (96 %) of the product as a light yellow liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.24-7.58 (m, 10H), 7.70-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.86-7.97 (m, 4H), 8.17 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  89.7, 92.7, 122.0, 123.6, 126.2, 126.3, 127.4, 127.5, 127.9, 128.0, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 128.9, 130.0, 131.6, 132.9, 133.3, 133.5, 138.3, 144.0 (one  $\text{sp}^2$  carbon missing due to overlap).

**2-[(4-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl]-1-phenylnaphthalene (76).** 2-Iodo-1-phenylnaphthalene and 4-ethynylanisole<sup>20</sup> were employed. Purification by flash chromatography (20:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 0.27 g (82 %) of the product as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.81 (s, 3H), 6.82 (dd,  $J = 6.9, 2.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d,  $J = 6.9, 2.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.60 (m, 7H), 7.68-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.83-7.94 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.4, 88.9, 93.5, 114, 115.7, 120.7, 126.4, 126.6, 126.8, 127.6, 127.6, 128.1, 128.2, 128.4, 130.9, 132.4, 133.0, 133.1, 139.3, 142.8, 159.7.

**9-Iodo-10-(4-methoxyphenyl)phenanthrene (22).** Purification by flash

chromatography (30:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 0.122 g (99 %) of the product as a white solid: mp 170-171 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.94 (s, 3H), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.64-7.72 (m, 3H), 8.45-8.49 (m, 1H), 8.67-8.78 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.6, 107.7, 114.0, 122.8, 122.9, 127.2, 127.3, 127.7, 128.3, 129.0, 130.5, 130.8, 131.3, 132.7, 132.9, 135.0, 138.2, 145.3, 159.4; IR (neat) 3066, 3024, 2834, 1610 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 410.0172 (calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>15</sub>IO, 410.0168).

**Ethyl 4-(10-iodophenanthren-9-yl)benzoate (24).** The reaction mixture was stirred

at room temperature for 1 h. Purification by flash chromatography (15:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 0.136 g (100 %) of the product as a white solid: mp 152-153 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.47 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.66-7.75 (m, 3H), 8.26 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 8.45-8.49 (m, 1H), 8.68-8.78 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.6, 61.4, 106.0, 122.9, 123.0, 127.4, 127.5, 128.0, 128.4, 128.5, 130.1, 130.3, 130.4, 130.5, 130.8, 132.1, 132.5, 134.9, 144.6, 150.0, 166.7; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3069, 2979, 1714 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 452.0278 (calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>17</sub>IO<sub>2</sub>, 452.0273).

**9-Iodo-10-(3-methylphenyl)phenanthrene (26).** Purification by flash

chromatography (30:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 0.117 g (99 %) of the product as a white solid: mp 134-135 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.44 (s, 3H), 7.07-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.63-7.70 (m, 3H), 8.45-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.67-8.73 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 21.7, 106.5, 122.6, 122.7, 127.1, 127.1, 127.5, 128.1, 128.4, 128.5, 128.8, 130.3, 130.6, 130.6, 132.5, 132.5, 134.7, 138.1, 145.4, 145.5 (one sp<sup>2</sup> carbon missing due to

overlap); IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3067, 2971, 2921, 1602, 1563 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 394.0226 (calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>15</sub>I, 394.0219).

**9-Iodo-10-(thiophen-2-yl)phenanthrene (28).** Purification by flash chromatography (30:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 0.111 g (96 %) of the product as a white solid: mp 140-142 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.06-7.08 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.76 (m, 6H), 8.44-8.49 (m, 1H), 8.66-8.75 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 110.5, 122.7, 122.9, 126.5, 127.2, 127.5, 128.2, 128.4, 128.7, 128.8, 130.3, 131.1, 132.6, 133.2, 135.3, 138.4, 146.5; IR (neat) 2925, 1464, 1216 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 385.9631 (calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>11</sub>IS, 385.9626).

**6-Iodo-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthrene (30).** Purification by flash chromatography (30:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 0.138 g (97 %) of the product as a white solid: mp 186-187 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.94 (s, 3H), 7.08-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.69 (m, 4H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04-8.06 (m, 1H), 8.42 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 9.01-9.04 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.6, 107.3, 114.1, 126.4, 126.6, 126.7, 126.8, 128.4, 128.4, 128.6, 128.6, 128.8, 129.0, 129.7, 130.2, 131.3, 131.5, 132.4, 133.8, 133.8, 138.0, 145.0, 159.4; IR (neat) 2950, 1606, 1506 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 460.0330 (calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>17</sub>IO, 460.0324).

**6-Iodo-5-phenylchrysene (32).** Purification by flash chromatography (40:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 98 mg (76%) of the product as a yellow solid: mp 168-169 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.07 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.57 (m, 7H), 7.71-7.76 (m, 2H), 8.89 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.56-8.60 (m, 1H), 8.78 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 111.5, 121.3, 123.7, 125.4, 126.1, 127.7, 128.2, 128.4, 128.6, 128.9, 129.0, 129.2,

129.3, 130.4, 130.7, 130.8, 131.1, 133.5, 133.8, 135.3, 144.3, 150.0; IR (neat) 2922  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  430.0025 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{15}\text{I}$ , 430.0219).

**3-Iodo-4-phenylquinoline (34).** To a solution of *N*-phenylmethanesulfonamide<sup>21</sup> (0.513 g, 3.0 mmol),  $\text{PPh}_3$  (1.18 g, 4.5 mmol) and 3-phenylpropargyl alcohol (0.594 g, 4.5 mmol) in anhydrous THF (30 mL) at 0 °C was added DEAD (0.784 g, 4.5 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h and an additional 3 h at room temperature. The mixture was washed with brine (30 mL) and the organic layer was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to obtain 0.534 g (63 %) of *N*-methanesulfonyl-*N*-(3-phenyl-2-propyn-1-yl)aniline as a white solid: mp 76-77 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.08 (s, 3H), 4.67 (s, 2H), 7.34-7.46 (m, 8H), 7.62-7.66 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  39.2, 42.3, 84.4, 86.3, 122.3, 127.7, 128.4, 128.7, 129.1, 129.7, 131.9, 140.5. To a solution of *N*-methanesulfonyl-*N*-(3-phenyl-2-propyn-1-yl)aniline (71.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3.0 mL) at -78 °C was added ICl (48.7 mg, 0.3 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.5 mL) and the resulting solution stirred at this temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was washed with satd aq  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  (20 mL) and the organic layer dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to obtain 82.2 mg (80 %) of 3-iodo-1-methanesulfonyl-4-phenyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline as a white solid: mp 173-175 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.89 (s, 3H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 6.80 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.62 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 0.9$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  38.6, 56.7, 92.0, 126.9, 127.2, 127.2, 128.6, 128.8, 129.0, 129.2, 130.7, 134.5, 140.3, 143.9. A



solution of 3-iodo-1-methanesulfonyl-4-phenyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline (0.103 g, 0.25 mmol) and NaOH (0.10 g, 2.5 mmol) in EtOH (10 mL) was stirred at 50 °C under O<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) for 12 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (50 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 76.1 mg (92 %) of the desired compound **34** as a white solid: mp 131-132 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.25-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.69-7.74 (m, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 9.24 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 96.4, 126.8, 127.4, 128.7, 129.0, 129.1, 129.5, 129.8, 140.4, 147.2, 152.4, 156.6 (one sp<sup>2</sup> carbon missing due to overlap); IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3061, 2918, 1566, 1501, 1485 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 330.9864 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>IN, 330.9858).

**3-Iodo-4-phenylisocoumarin (45).** A solution of 4-phenyl-3-(trimethylsilyl)isocoumarin<sup>22</sup> (0.435 g, 1.48 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (1.13 g, 4.45 mmol), and AgOTf (0.76 g, 2.96 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (20 mL) was heated at 55 °C for 5 d. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (100 mL), and washed with satd aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (30 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to obtain 0.498 g (97 %) of the indicated compound **45** as a yellow solid. Recrystallization from hexanes/ethyl acetate afforded the indicated compound **45** as a yellow solid: mp 170-171 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.59-7.63 (m, 1H), 8.31 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 107.9, 119.6, 125.6, 127.4, 128.7, 128.9, 129.1, 129.9, 130.5, 135.2, 137.0, 137.3, 161.2; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 1736.0 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 347.9652 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>IO<sub>2</sub>, 347.9647).

**4-Iodo-2,3-diphenyl-2H-isoquinolin-1-one (47).** To a solution of *N*-phenyl-2-(phenylethynyl)benzamide<sup>23</sup> (74.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3.0 mL) at room temperature was added ICl (48.7 mg, 0.3 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL) and the resulting solution stirred at this temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was washed with satd aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) and the organic layer dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to obtain 42.3 mg (40 %) of the indicated compound **47** as a yellow solid: mp 129-130 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.08-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.57-7.64 (m, 3H), 7.67-7.72 (m, 1H), 8.03-8.06 (m, 1H), 8.84-8.87 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 75.2, 124.1, 125.1, 125.1, 125.4, 128.1, 128.7, 128.7, 130.5, 130.9, 132.0, 132.7, 135.7, 140.6, 145.0, 147.8, 152.1; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 2916, 2849, 1642, 1586, 1488, 1445 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 423.0131 (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>IO<sub>2</sub>, 423.0120).

**3-(2-Iodophenyl)benzyl but-2-ynoate (49).** To a solution of 3'-bromomethyl-2-iodobiphenyl (**68**)<sup>15</sup> (0.186 g, 0.5 mmol) and 2-butyric acid (58.8 mg, 0.7 mmol) in DMF (2.5 mL) was added diisopropylethylamine (84.0 mg, 0.65 mmol) and the resulting solution was stirred at 50 °C for 1 d. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (25 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.153 g (82 %) of the indicated compound **49** as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.99 (s, 3H), 5.24 (s, 2H), 7.01-7.07 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.44 (m, 6H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.9, 67.3, 72.4, 86.3, 98.5, 127.7, 128.3, 128.4, 129.0, 129.4, 129.6, 130.2, 134.8, 139.6, 144.5, 146.1, 153.6;

IR (neat) 3054, 2957, 2241, 1709, 1254  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  375.9967 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{IO}_2$ , 375.9960).

**3-(2-Iodophenyl)benzyl 3-phenylprop-2-ynoate (51).** To a solution of 3'-bromomethyl-2-iodobiphenyl (**68**)<sup>15</sup> (0.186 g, 0.5 mmol), 3-phenylpropynoic acid (0.102 g, 0.7 mmol) in DMF (2.5 mL) was added diisopropylethylamine (84.0 mg, 0.65 mmol) and the resulting solution stirred at 50 °C for 1 d. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (25 mL). The organic layer was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), filtered and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.197 g (90 %) of the indicated compound **51** as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.32 (s, 2H), 7.04 (td,  $J = 7.8, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.46 (m, 9H), 7.57-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.96 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 0.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  67.6, 80.6, 87.0, 98.6, 119.6, 127.9, 128.3, 128.4, 128.7, 129.1, 129.5, 129.7, 130.2, 130.8, 133.1, 134.8, 139.7, 144.5, 146.0, 154.0; IR (neat) 3056, 2220, 1709, 1489  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  438.0122 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{IO}_2$ , 438.0117).

**3-(2-Iodophenyl)benzyl allyl ether (53).** To a solution of sodium allyl alkoxide [prepared by dissolving metallic Na (0.10 g, 4.35 mmol) in allyl alcohol (5 mL)] in allyl alcohol was added 3'-bromomethyl-2-iodobiphenyl (**68**)<sup>15</sup> (0.347 g, 0.93 mmol) and the resulting solution was stirred at 55 °C for 5 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (25 mL). The organic layer was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), filtered and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using 20:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.293 g (90 %) of the indicated compound **5** as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.07 (dt,  $J = 5.7, 1.5$

Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 5.19-5.23 (m, 1H), 5.29-5.36 (m, 1H), 5.92-5.98 (m, 1H), 6.99-7.05 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.41 (m, 6H), 7.93-7.96 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  71.3, 72.0, 98.6, 117.3, 127.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.6, 128.7, 128.9, 130.1, 134.8, 138.1, 139.5, 144.3, 146.5; IR (neat) 3058, 2850, 1461, 1418, 1012  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  350.0171 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{IO}$ , 350.0168).

***N*-[3-(2-Iodophenyl)benzyl]-*N*-methallylmethanesulfonamide (55).** To a suspension of NaH (0.031 g, 1.30 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at 0  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  was added *N*-methallylmethanesulfonamide [prepared from methallylamine and methanesulfonyl chloride:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.79 (d,  $J$  = 0.3 Hz, 3H), 2.97, (s, 3H), 3.69 (m, 2H), 4.64 (br s, 1H), 4.93-4.95 (m, 1H), 4.99-5.00 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  20.2, 41.1, 49.1, 113.0, 141.1] (0.149 g, 1.0 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. At this point 3'-bromomethyl-2-iodobiphenyl (**68**)<sup>15</sup> (0.347 g, 0.93 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (60 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 2:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.353 g (86 %) of the desired compound **55** as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.75 (s, 3H), 2.82 (t,  $J$  = 3.4 Hz, 3H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 4.98-5.00 (m, 2H), 7.03 (t,  $J$  = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.95 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  20.1, 40.3, 49.9, 52.6, 98.6, 115.0, 128.3, 128.3, 128.5, 129.0, 129.1, 129.7, 130.0, 135.5, 139.5, 139.9, 144.7, 146.2; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3051, 2919, 1329, 1148, 1012  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  441.0267 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{INO}_2\text{S}$ , 441.0260).

**2-Iodobenzyl methallyl ether (57).** To a suspension of NaH (0.031 g, 1.30 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was added 2-iodobenzyl alcohol (0.234 g, 1.0 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. At this point, methallyl chloride (0.122 g, 1.35 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (60 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 20:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 0.27 g (94 %) of the desired compound **57** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.80 (s, 3H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 5.05 (s, 1H), 6.96-7.00 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.81-7.83 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 19.8, 74.9, 75.9, 97.8, 112.7, 128.4, 128.9, 129.3, 139.3, 140.9, 142.2; HRMS *m/z* 288.0018 (calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IO, 288.0011).

**N-(2-Iodophenyl)formamide (61).** Compound **61** was prepared according to the procedure of Fukuyama et al.<sup>24</sup>

**Benzylidene(2-iodophenyl)amine (64).** Compound **64** was prepared according to the procedure of Larock et al.<sup>25</sup>

**Representative procedure for the palladium-catalyzed migration reactions.** The appropriate aryl iodide (0.25 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol), 1,1-bis(diphenylphosphino)methane (dppm) (4.8 mg, 0.0125 mmol) and CsO<sub>2</sub>CCMe<sub>3</sub> (CsPiv) (0.117 g, 0.5 mmol) in DMF (4 ml) under Ar at 100 °C were stirred for the specified length of time. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with diethyl

ether (35 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The aqueous layer was reextracted with diethyl ether (15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered, and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel column.

**9-Benzylidene fluorene (2).** Compound **1** (95.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 50:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 61.0 mg (96 %) of the indicated compound **2** as a yellow solid with melting point and spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>3</sup>

**1,1,2-Triphenylethene (3).** Compound **3** was obtained as a side product from compound **1**. This compound was characterized by comparing the melting point and  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra with an authentic sample obtained from Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc.

**1-Phenyl-9H-fluorene (5).** Compound **4** (92.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C for 3 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 30:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 24.2 mg (40 %) of the indicated compound **5** as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.95 (s, 2H), 6.94 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.33 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.55 (m, 7H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  37.0, 122.9, 124.0, 124.8, 126.3, 126.4, 127.5, 128.5, 128.8, 129.2, 137.9, 138.7, 141.3, 141.6, 143.7, 143.9 (one  $\text{sp}^2$  carbon missing due to overlap); IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3056, 3025, 1454, 1417, 1478  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  242.1101 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}$ , 242.1096).

**1-Phenyldibenzofuran (7).** Compound **6** (93.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed

using 30:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 54.4 mg (89 %) of the indicated compound **7** as a white solid: mp 62-63 °C (lit<sup>26</sup> mp 63-64 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.10-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.64 (m, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 110.5, 111.6, 121.8, 122.3, 122.5, 123.9, 124.0, 127.1, 127.1, 127.9, 128.6, 129.0, 138.0, 140.0, 156.4, 156.5.

The other spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>26</sup>

**7-Chloro-1-phenyldibenzofuran (9).** Compound **8** (0.101 g, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 50:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 57.1 mg (82 %) of the indicated compound **9** as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.25 (dd, *J* = 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.60 (m, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 110.7, 112.5, 121.0, 122.1, 124.3, 125.3, 127.1, 127.7, 127.8, 128.3, 128.8, 128.9, 138.2, 139.4, 154.7, 157.1; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3061, 3032, 1444, 1400, 1199, 1243 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 278.0501 (calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ClO, 278.0498).

**10-Phenyl-6H-isoindolo[2,1-*a*]indole (11).** Compound **10** (0.102 g, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 12:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 49.2 mg (70 %) of the indicated compound **11** as a white solid: mp 139-140 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 5.08 (s, 2H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 7.03-7.07 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.54 (m, 8H), 7.64-7.66 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 48.2, 94.3, 109.1, 119.7, 121.7, 122.4, 127.3, 128.0, 128.5, 128.8, 129.3, 131.0, 132.4, 133.7, 137.0, 139.9, 142.5, 143.2 (one sp<sup>2</sup> carbon missing due to overlap); IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3053, 2916, 2850, 1471, 1551, 1446 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 281.1210 (calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N, 281.1204).

**2-Methyl-10-phenyl-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole (13).** Compound **12** (0.106 g, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 12:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 52.4 mg (71 %) of the indicated compound **13** as a white solid: mp 143-145 °C (decomposes); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.41 (s, 3H), 5.06 (s, 2H), 7.03-7.07 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.40-7.50 (m, 7H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.5, 48.1, 104.2, 109.0, 119.1, 120.0, 122.0, 122.4, 126.5, 127.9, 128.7, 129.9, 130.2, 132.6, 133.8, 134.0, 137.0, 140.0, 142.6, 142.8; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3048, 2976, 2853, 1469, 2976, 2853, 1469, 1411 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 295.1369 (calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N, 295.1361).

**10-Phenyl-6H-benzo[*c*]chromene (15) and phenyl 3-phenylbenzyl ether (16).**

Compound **14** (96.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions at 120 °C for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 50:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 47.8 mg (75 %) of a 60:40 inseparable mixture of compounds **15** and **16** respectively. Major isomer **15**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 5.02 (s, 2H) as a characteristic peak; HRMS *m/z* 258.1050 (calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O, 258.1045). Minor isomer **16**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 5.11 (s, 2H) as a characteristic peak; HRMS *m/z* 260.1206 (calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O, 260.1201). Mixture: <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 69.9, 70.2, 115.1, 117.6, 121.3, 121.3, 123.6, 124.1, 126.6, 126.7, 127.1, 127.4, 127.4, 127.5, 127.5, 127.7, 128.4, 128.9, 128.9, 128.9, 129.1, 129.1, 129.3, 129.4, 129.4, 129.8, 132.0, 135.5, 137.8, 139.3, 141.2, 141.9, 142.5, 156.6, 159.0; IR (neat) 3058, 3029, 1599, 1495, 1453, 1243 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**Fluoranthene (18).** Compound **17** (82.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C for 1 d. The reaction mixture was



chromatographed using 50:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 41.0 mg (81 %) of the indicated compound **13** as a white solid: mp 107-108 °C (lit<sup>27</sup> mp 106-108 °C). The other spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>28</sup>

**Benzo[*e*]acephenanthrylene (21).** Compound **20**<sup>15</sup> (95.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 50:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 49.2 mg (78 %) of the indicated compound **21** as a white solid: mp 166-167 °C (lit<sup>29</sup> mp 165-166 °C). The other spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>30</sup>

**5-Methoxybenzo[*e*]acephenanthrylene (23).** Compound **22** (0.103 g, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 30:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 50.1 mg (71 %) of the indicated compound **23** as a white solid: mp 188-189 °C (lit<sup>30</sup> mp 189-190 °C). The other spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>30</sup>

**Ethyl benzo[*e*]acephenanthrylene-5-carboxylate (25).** Compound **24** (0.113 g, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 9:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 40.5 mg (50 %) of the indicated compound **25** as a white solid: mp 153-154 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.63-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.74-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.98-8.04 (m, 3H), 8.09 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 8.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.5, 61.2, 120.1, 121.5, 122.1, 122.5, 123.2, 123.3, 127.0, 127.6, 127.7, 128.5, 129.0, 129.9, 130.6,

131.1, 132.4, 133.8, 134.0, 136.2, 140.7, 142.6, 166.9; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 2979, 1710, 1240, 1290 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 324.1157 (calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 324.1150).

**6-Methylbenzo[*e*]acephenanthrylene (27).** Compound **26** (98.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 50:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 37.2 mg (56 %) of the indicated compound **27** as a white solid: mp 149-151 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.50 (s, 3H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.80 (m, 5H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.01-8.02 (m, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.63 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 21.9, 119.2, 121.2, 121.3, 121.3, 122.8, 123.2, 126.8, 127.0, 127.6, 128.3, 129.0, 130.2, 130.8, 132.4, 134.1, 135.3, 137.2, 137.5, 138.2, 138.9; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 2921, 2852, 1460, 1600, 1374 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 266.1099 (calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>14</sub>, 266.1096).

**10-Methoxydibenz[*e,l*]acephenanthrylene (31).** Compound **30** (0.115 g, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 50:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 54.0 mg (65 %) of the indicated compound **31** as a white solid: mp 178-179 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.95 (s, 3H), 6.93 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.70-8.03 (m, 7H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 9.19 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 55.9, 107.4, 113.4, 119.6, 121.0, 122.8, 122.8, 126.0, 126.8, 127.3, 127.5, 127.8, 128.3, 128.4, 128.6, 128.7, 129.0, 131.5, 131.5, 133.8, 133.8, 136.1, 137.4, 142.6, 160.6; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 2921, 2849, 1608, 1461, 1285, 1213 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 332.1209 (calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O, 332.1201).

**Indeno[1,2,3-*de*]quinoline (35).** Compound **34** (82.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C for 2.5 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 3:2 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 27.4 mg (54 %) of the indicated compound **35** as a white solid: mp 100-101 °C (lit<sup>31</sup> mp 102-103 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.35-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.72-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.91 (m, 3H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 9.07 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 114.4, 121.0, 122.2, 123.7, 128.2, 128.4, 130.4, 131.7, 135.4, 138.2, 138.2, 140.5, 145.1, 145.7, 152.9. The other spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>32</sup>

**Benzo[*f*]fluoreno[1,9-*b,c*]oxepine (44).** Compound **43** (99.1 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions at 110 °C for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 18:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 53.6 mg (80 %) of the indicated compound **44** as a white solid: mp 106-107 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.69 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 6.93-6.95 (m, 1H), 6.97-6.99 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.07 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.30 (m, 5H), 7.58-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.64 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 115.4, 117.2, 120.4, 120.6, 122.3, 124.8, 126.0, 127.2, 128.3, 128.7, 129.1, 131.3, 131.4, 132.4, 137.1, 137.6, 139.9, 141.0, 154.8, 155.6; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3050, 1580, 1238, 1450, 1426 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 268.0892 (calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O, 268.0888).

**Ethyl *E*-3-(4,4-dimethylisochroman-5-yl)acrylate (58).** Compound **57** (72.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and ethyl acrylate (32.5 mg, 0.325 mmol) were allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 7:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 36.4 mg (56 %) of the indicated compound **58** as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.38 (s, 6H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 4.28 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz,

2H), 4.80 (s, 2H), 6.19 (d,  $J = 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d,  $J = 15.6$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.5, 26.5, 34.0, 60.7, 69.6, 78.9, 119.8, 126.1, 126.3, 127.5, 134.9, 135.0, 141.5, 145.7, 167.0; IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) 3056.1, 2962.9, 2844.3, 1711.3, 1632.3, 1446.0  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  260.1416 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3$ , 260.1412).

**8-Methyl-1*H*-indole[1,2-*b*]benzo[*d*]isothiazole-10-(endo-norbornan-2-yl)-5,5-dioxide (60).** Compound **59**<sup>15</sup> (99.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) and norbornene (25.9 mg, 0.275 mmol) were allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and washed with brine (25 mL). The organic layer was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to afford 68.0 mg (75 %) of the indicated compound **60** as a yellow solid, which is easily recrystallized from  $\text{CHCl}_3$ /hexanes: mp 255-256 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.42-1.49 (m, 3H), 1.71-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.94 (m, 2H), 2.07-2.08 (m, 1H), 2.51 (br s, 4H), 2.65 (br s, 1H), 3.28-3.31 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.68-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.83 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  22.3, 29.4, 30.7, 36.5, 37.8, 37.9, 41.1, 42.7, 112.0, 122.6, 122.8, 123.0, 123.2, 123.5, 125.5, 128.7, 129.2, 132.2, 133.0, 135.5, 145.0 (one  $\text{sp}^2$  carbon missing due to overlap); IR (neat) 2952, 2866, 1597, 1326, 1179  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS  $m/z$  363.1300 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$ , 363.1293).

***N*-Phenylcarbamic acid butyl ester (62).** Compound **61** (61.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) and *n*-BuOH (0.925 g, 12.5 mmol) were allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford

13.0 mg (27 %) of the indicated compound **62** as a yellow oil with spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>33</sup>

**Pivalanilide (63).** Compound **61** (61.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) was allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions for 1 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 11.4 mg (26 %) of the indicated compound **63** as a white solid: mp 130-132 °C (lit<sup>34</sup> mp 133-134 °C). All the spectral properties were identical to those previously reported.<sup>35</sup>

**Benzanilide (65).** Compound **64**<sup>25</sup> (76.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) and H<sub>2</sub>O (45.0 mg, 2.5 mmol) were allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions for 2 d. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 27.6 mg (56 %) of the indicated compound **65** as a white solid: mp 163-164 °C. This compound was characterized by comparing the melting point and <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra with an authentic sample obtained from Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc.

***E*-2,3-Diphenylprop-2-en-1-yl pivalate (66a) and *Z*-2,3-diphenylprop-2-en-1-yl pivalate (66b).** Iodobenzene (51.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 1-phenyl-1-propyne (34.8 mg, 0.30 mmol) were allowed to react under our standard reaction conditions at 100 °C for 21 h. The reaction mixture was chromatographed using 30:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford 18.7 mg (25 %) of the indicated compounds **66a** and **66b** as an inseparable 50:50 mixture: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.11 (s, 9H), 1.13 (s, 9H), 4.91 (br s, 2H), 5.12 (br s, 2H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.98-7.47 (m, 20H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 27.2, 27.3, 62.2, 69.2, 126.7, 127.3, 127.7, 127.8, 127.8, 128.2, 128.6, 128.7, 128.8, 129.0, 129.1, 129.1, 129.5, 133.0; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3058, 2971, 2926, 2869, 1729, 1479, 1446 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS *m/z* 294.1623 (calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 294.1620).

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## GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

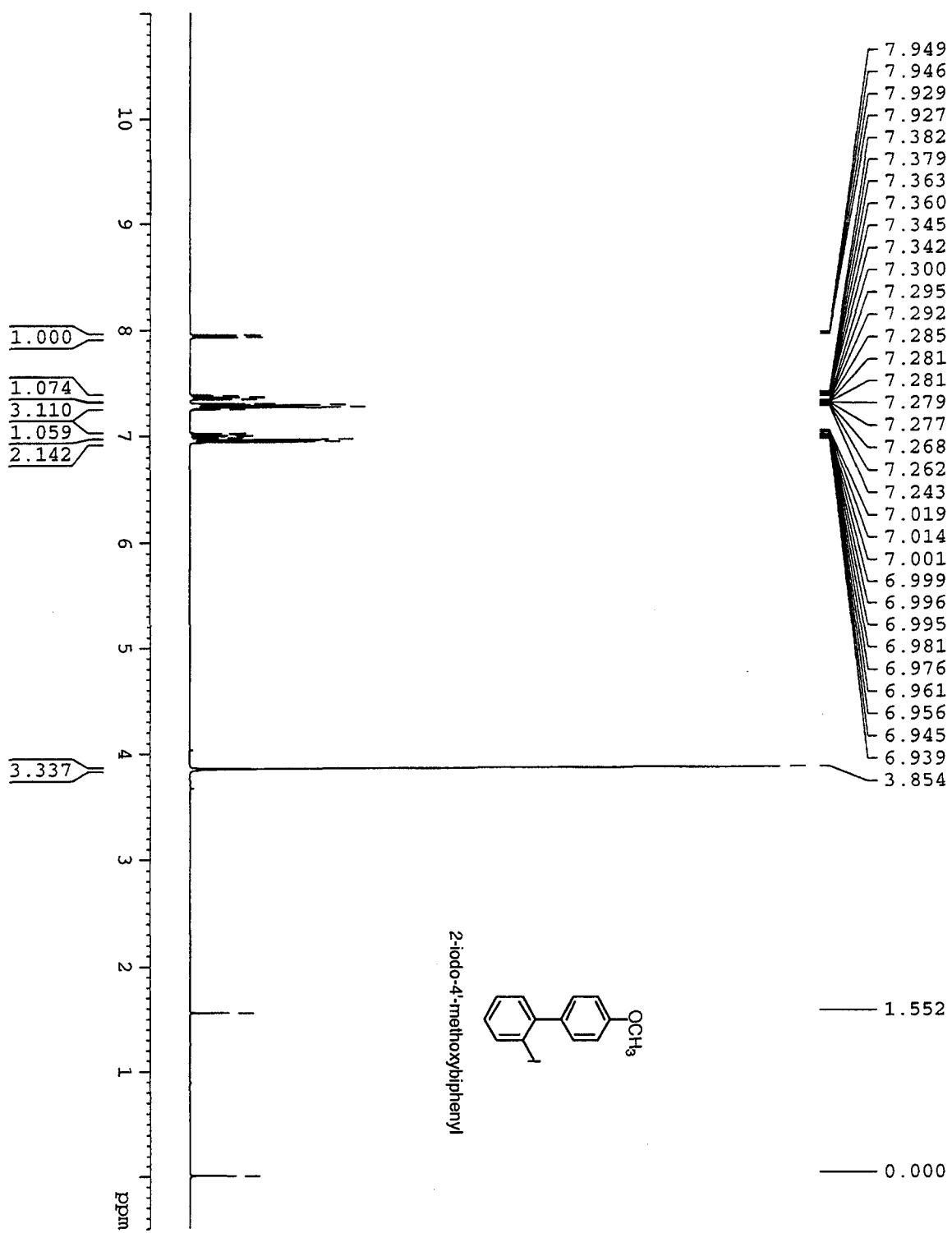
In this dissertation, the scope and limitations of several palladium-catalyzed processes have been presented. In particular, the palladium-catalyzed intramolecular C-H activation of *o*-halobiaryls has been exploited for the synthesis of a wide variety of polycycles and heterocycles.

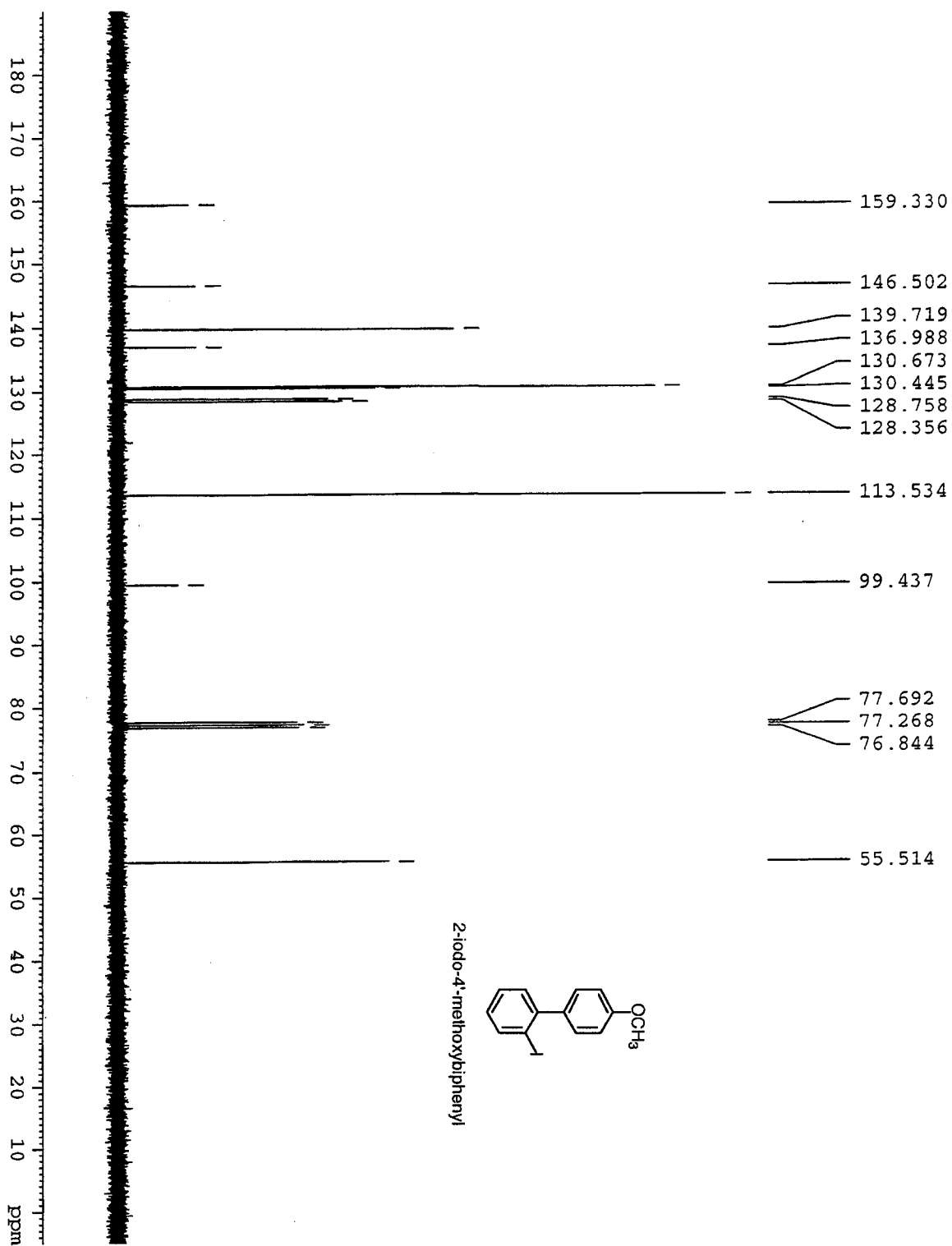
Chapter 1 describes the synthesis of various carbocyclic and heterocyclic ketones by the palladium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of *o*-halobiaryls. This methodology works well for electron-rich, as well as electron-poor, *o*-halobiaryls. This reaction proceeds with good regioselectivity favoring the less sterically-congested isomer.

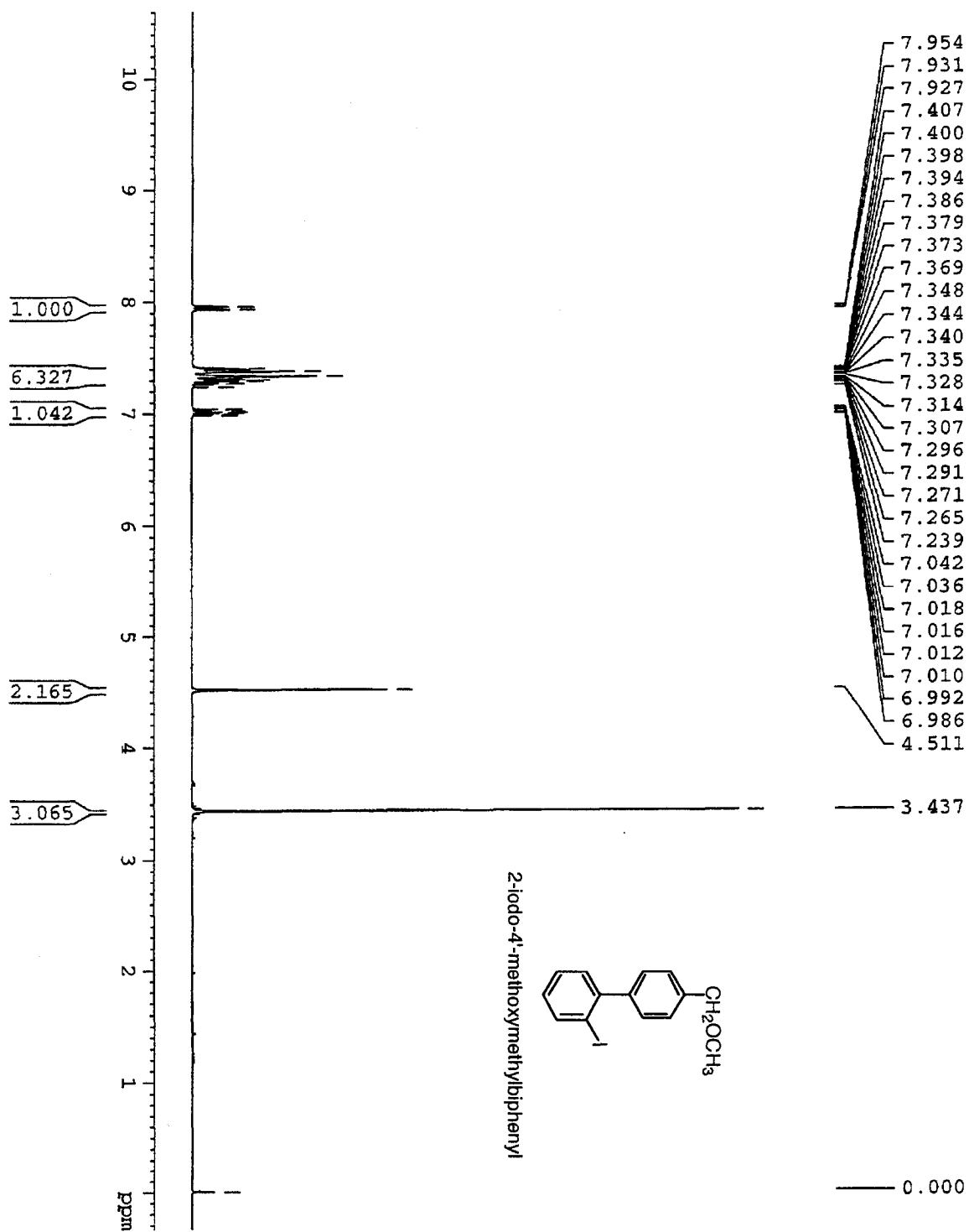
Chapter 2 describes Heck, Suzuki and alkyne annulation reactions with *o*-halobiaryls. These reactions have revealed that arylpalladium intermediates undergo a facile 1,4-palladium shift. After studying various reaction variables, we have learned that this palladium migration can be activated or suppressed at will by simply choosing the appropriate set of reaction conditions. These experiments consistently point to the intermediacy of an electrophilic palladium species.

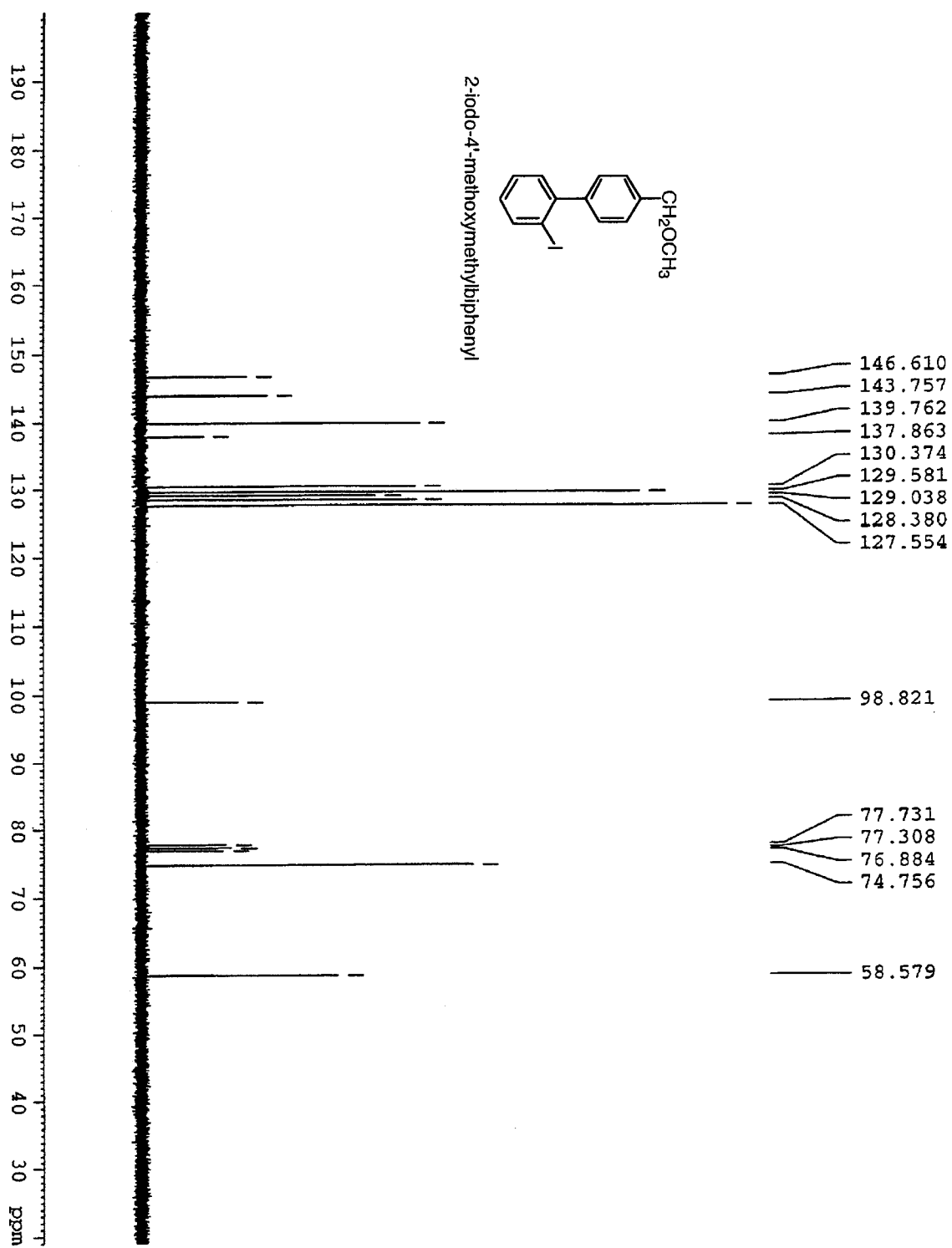
Chapter 3 describes novel methodology involving the sequential transformation of *o*-halobiaryls to fused polycycles. This methodology works best for electron-rich arenes, which is in agreement with the idea that C-H activation by palladium parallels electrophilic aromatic substitution. We have been able to exploit a wide range of palladium migrations to generate the key organopalladium intermediates required for these cyclizations.

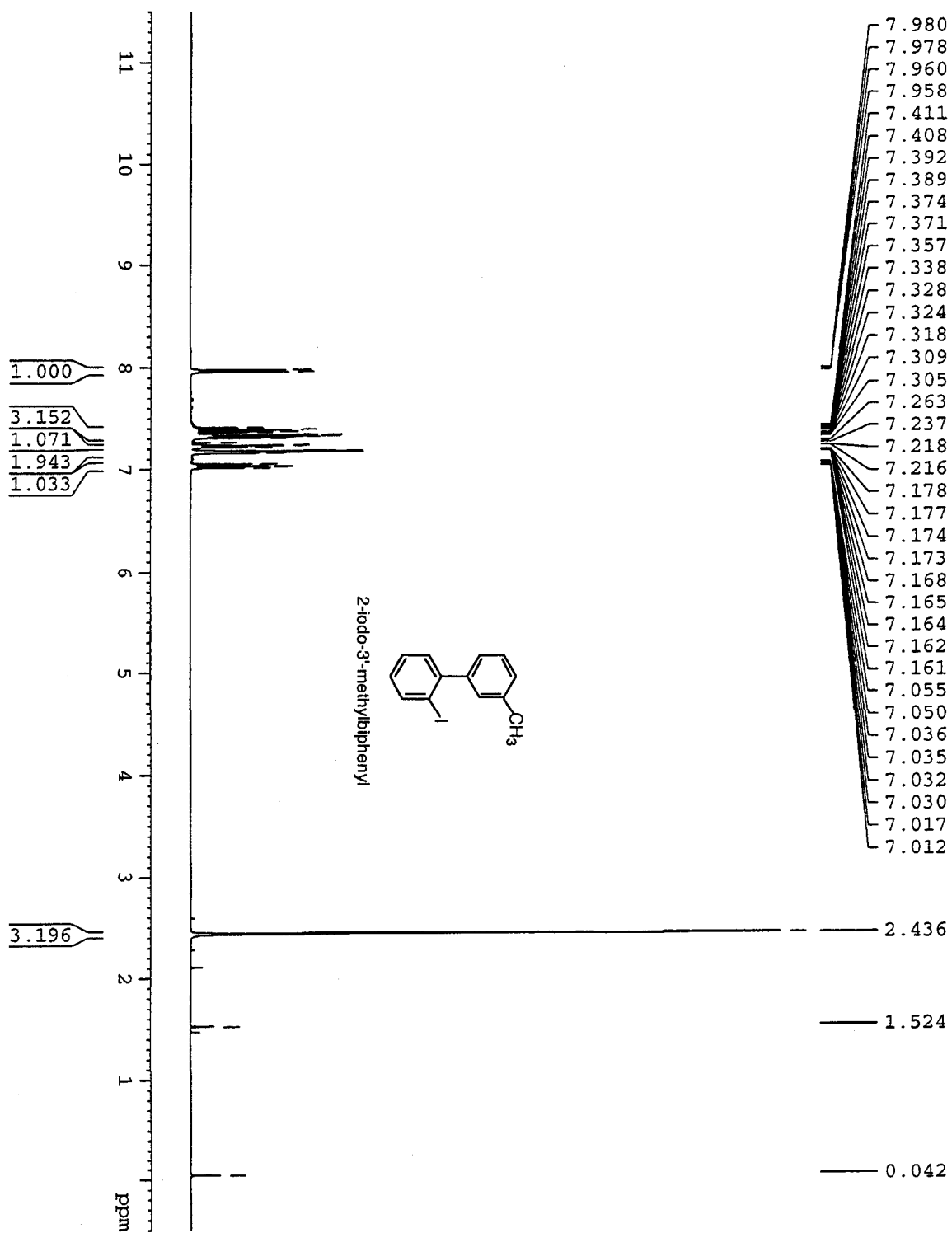
APPENDIX A. CHAPTER 1  $^1\text{H}$  AND  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR SPECTRA

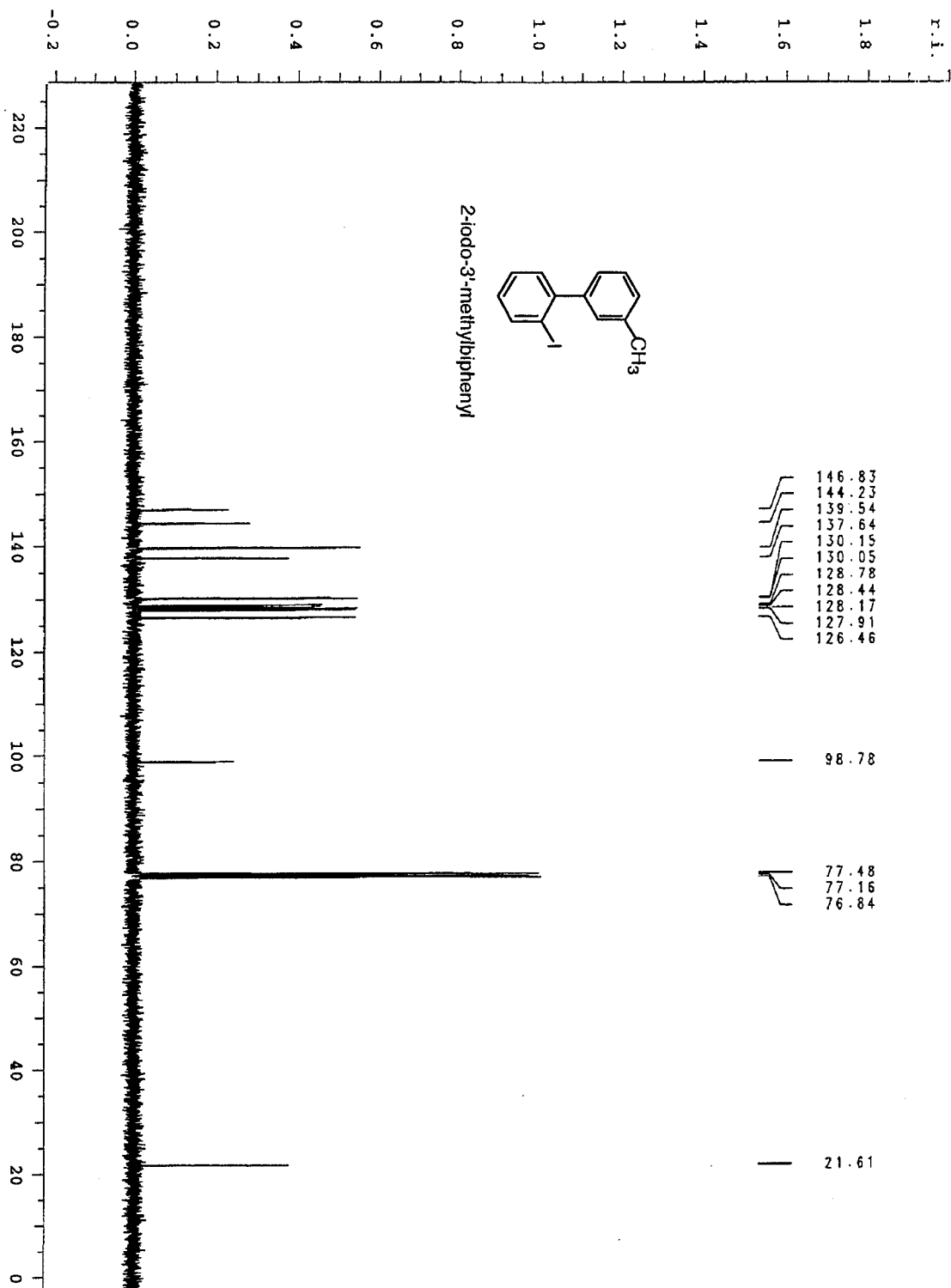




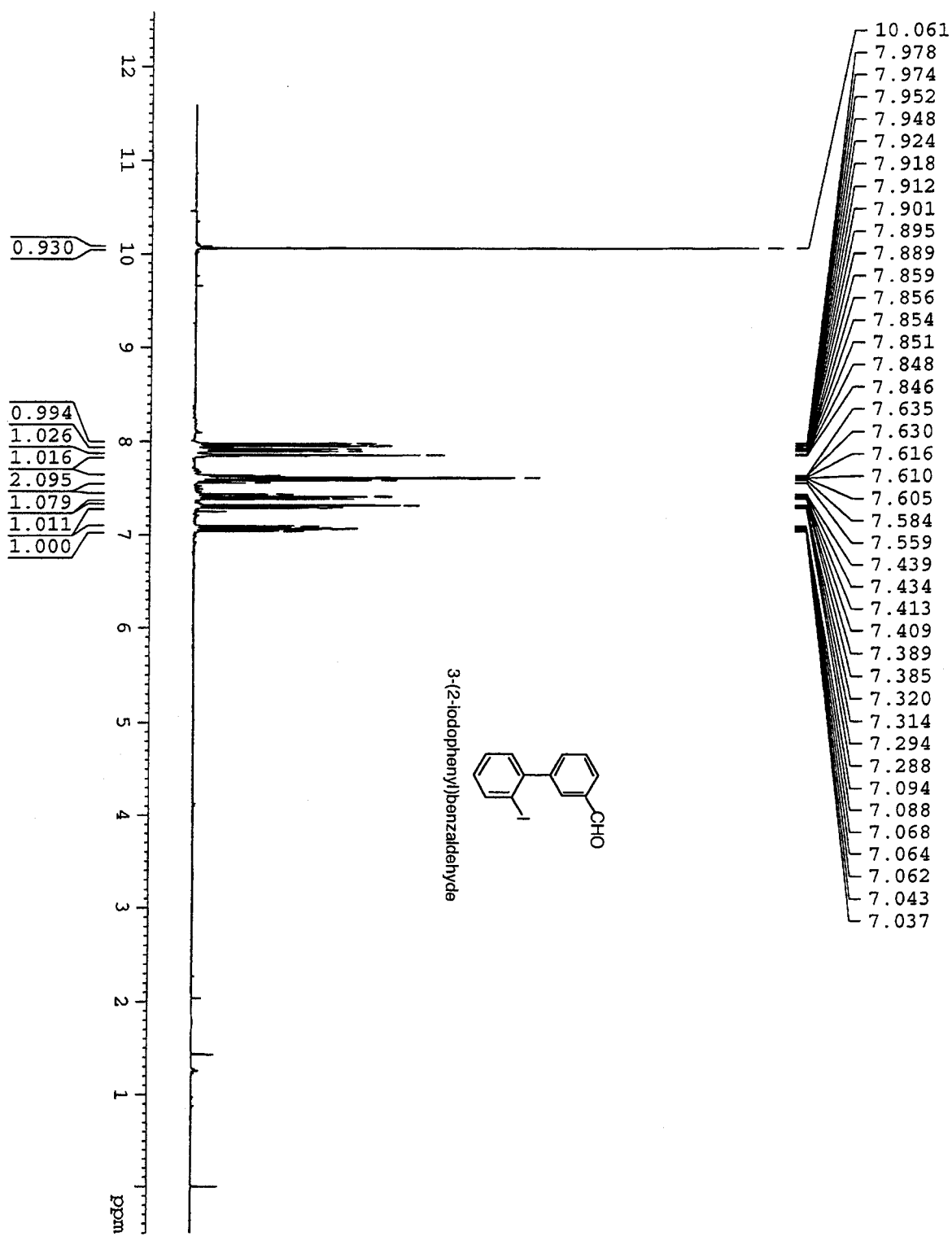


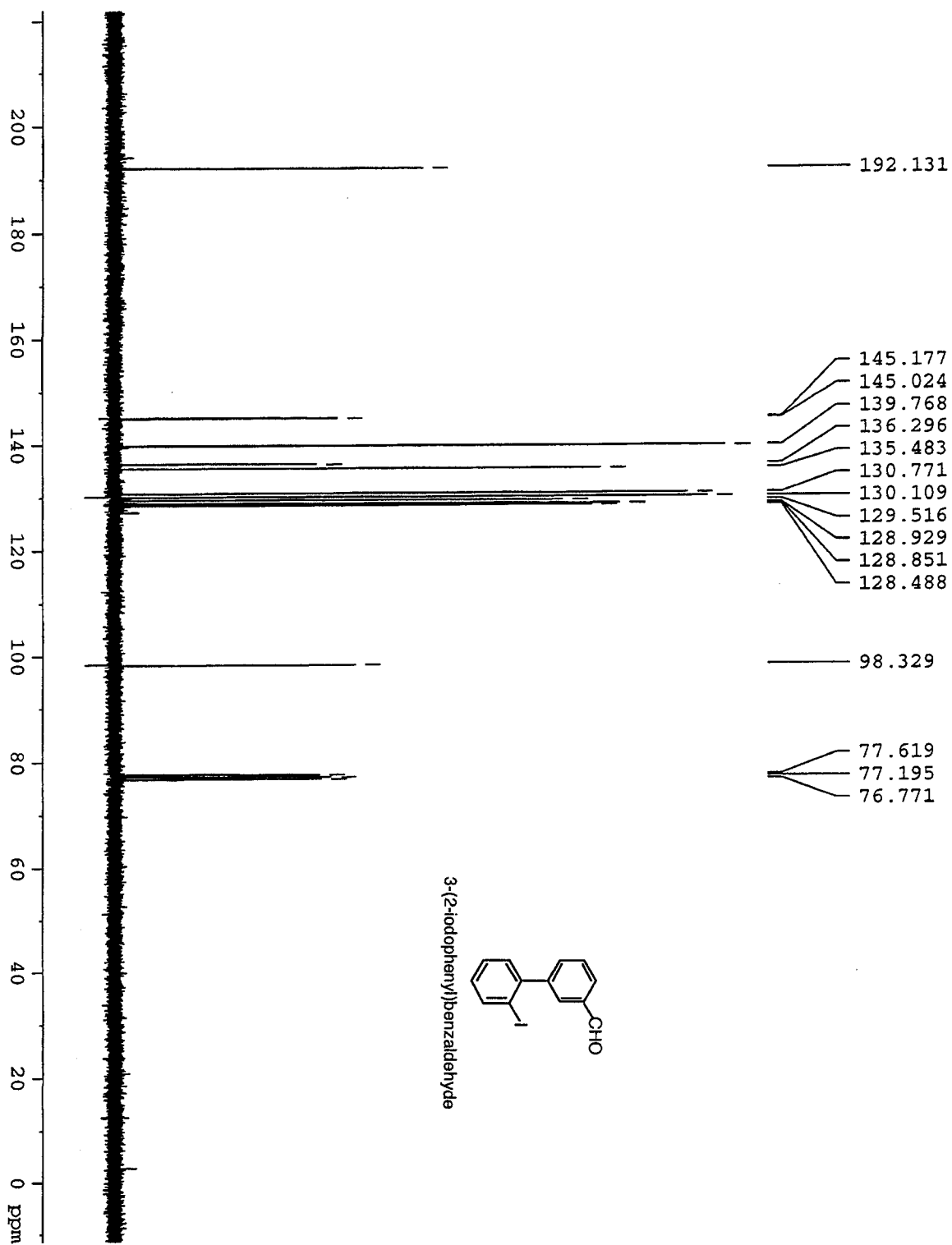


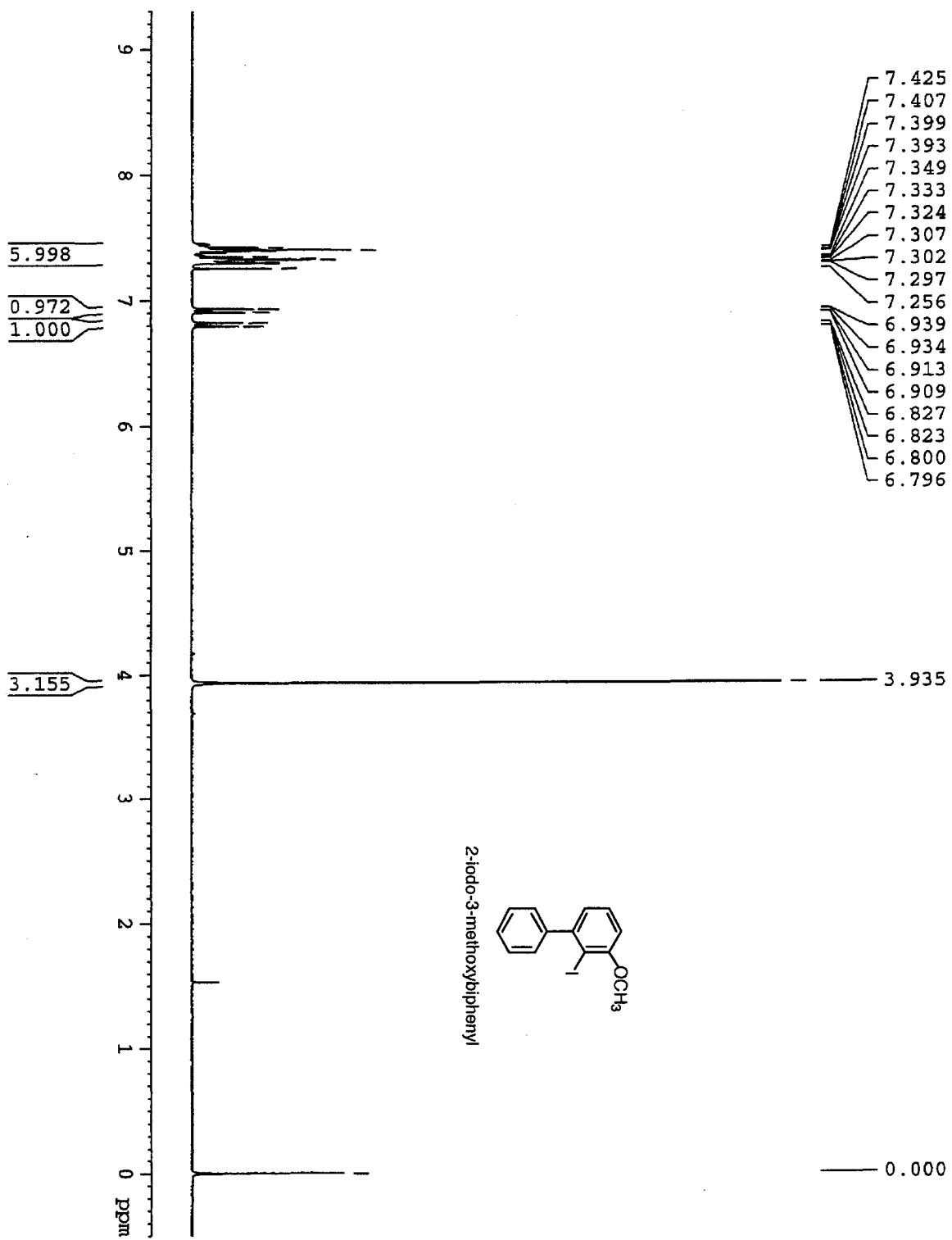


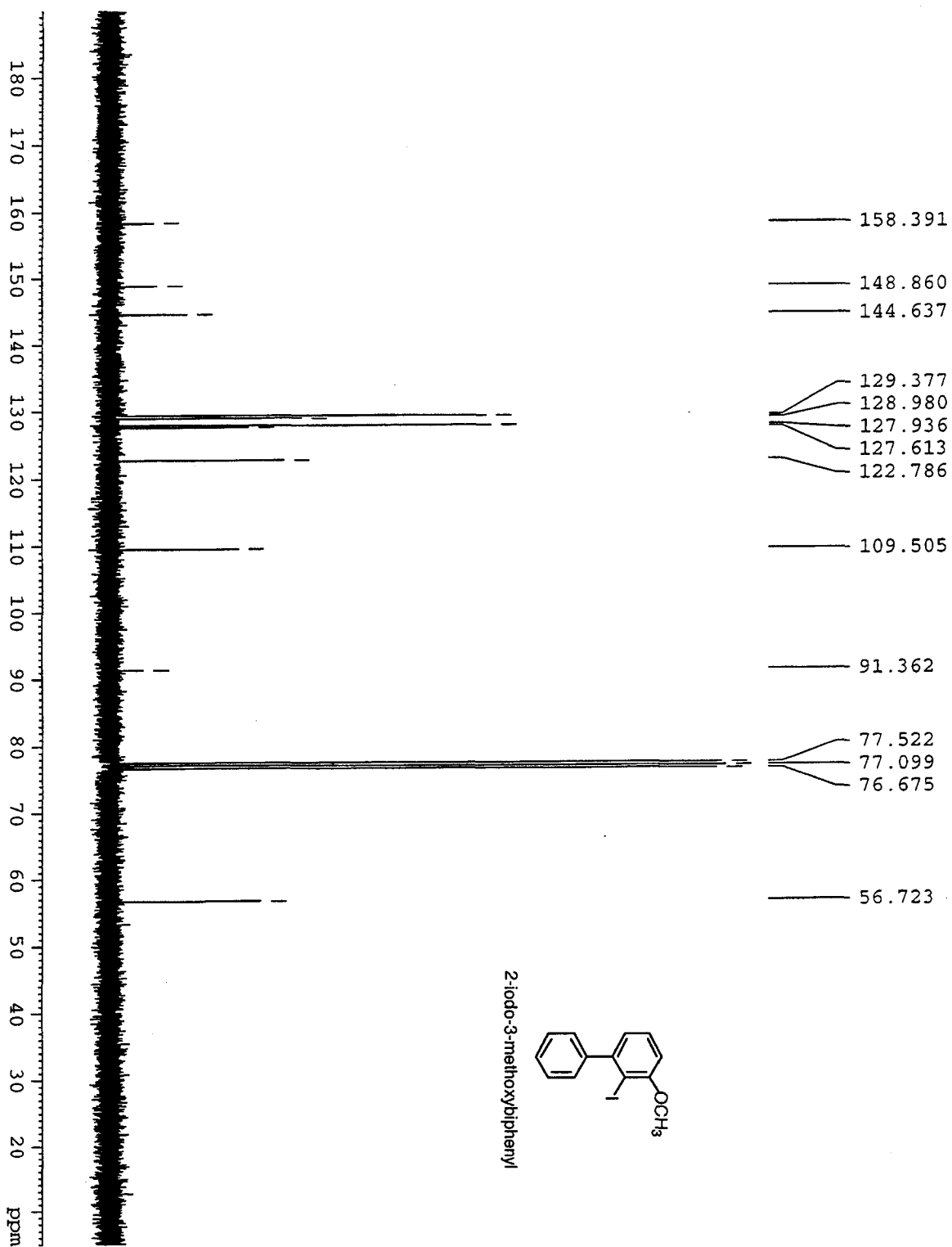


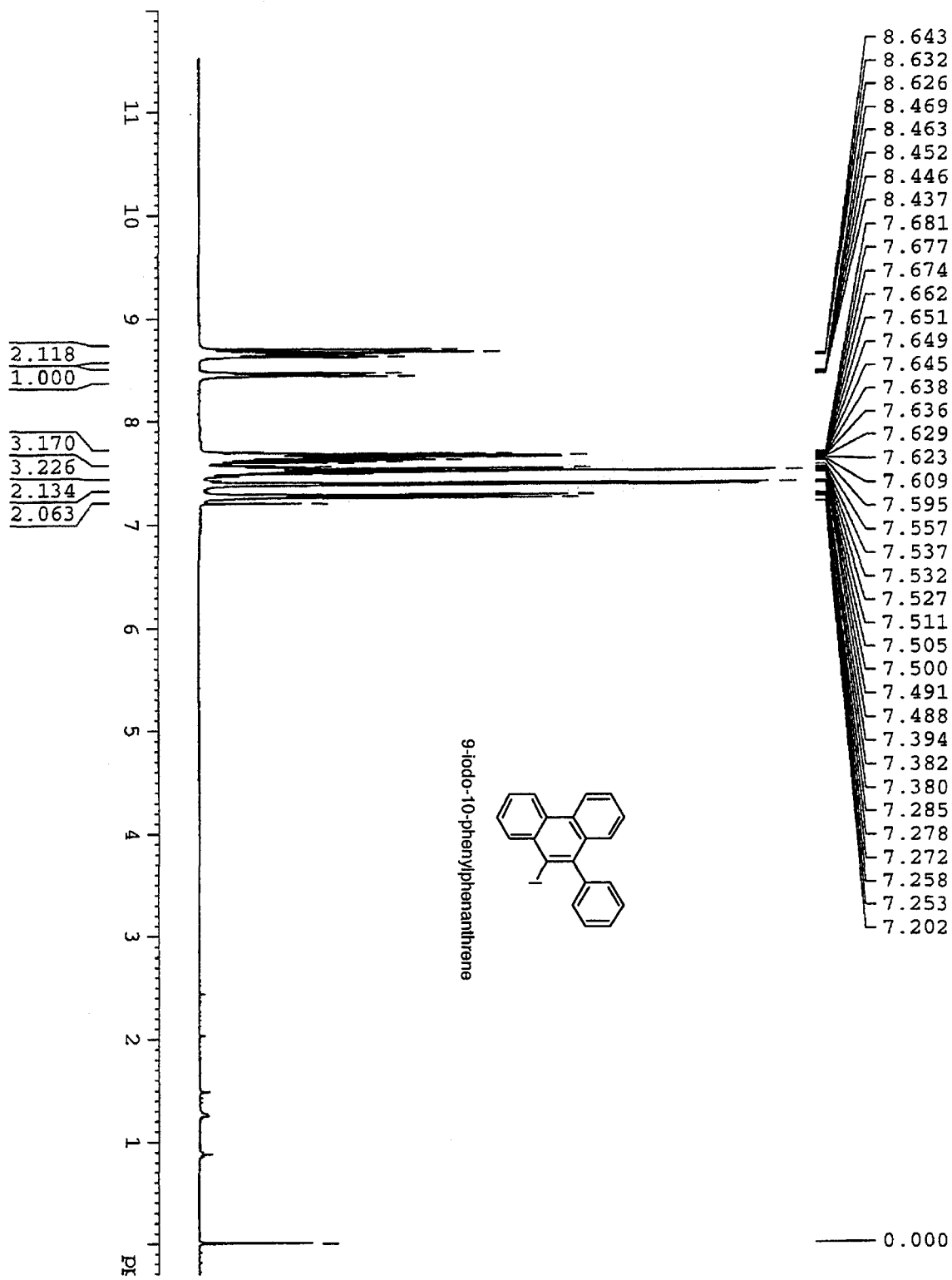


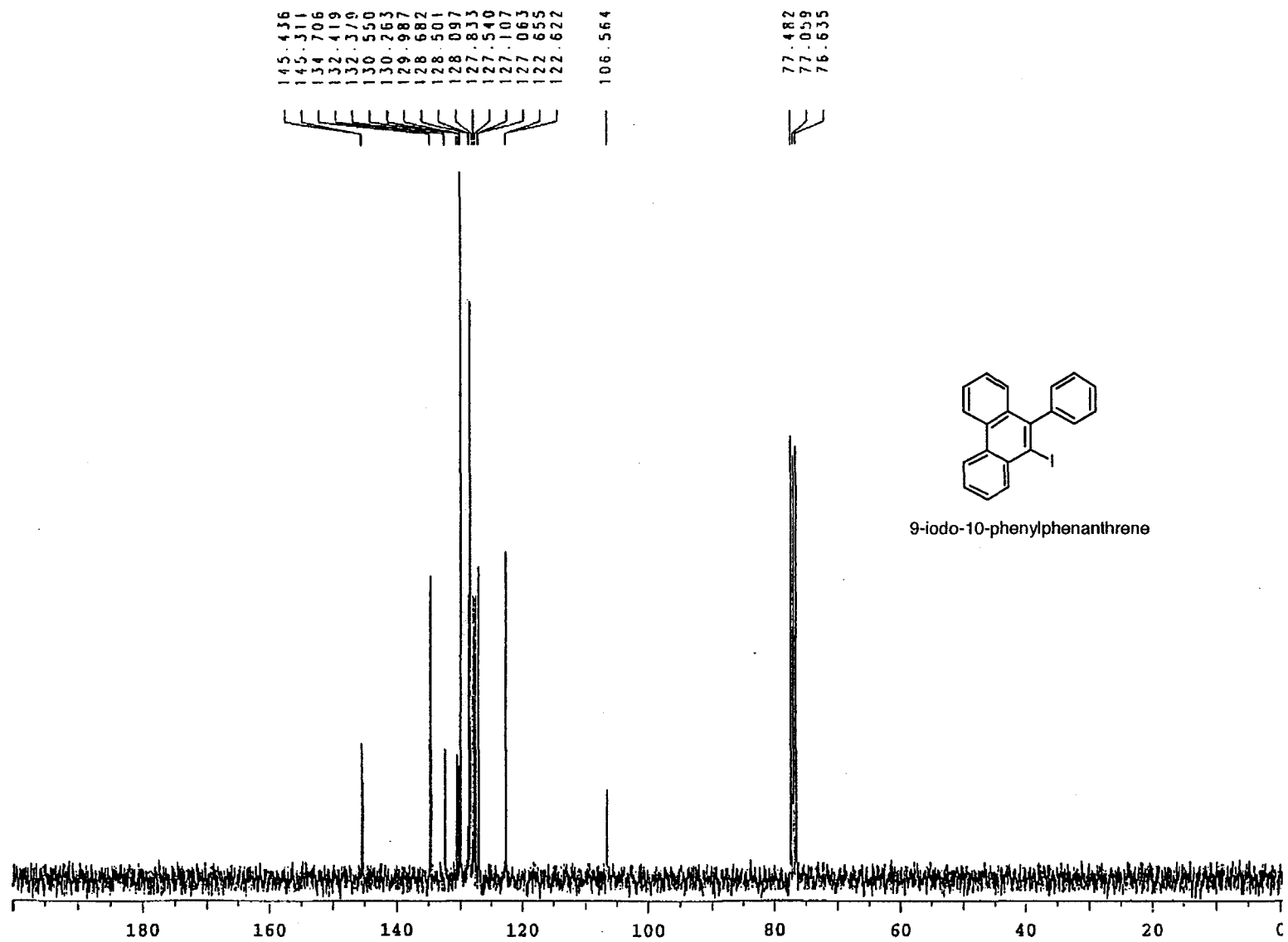


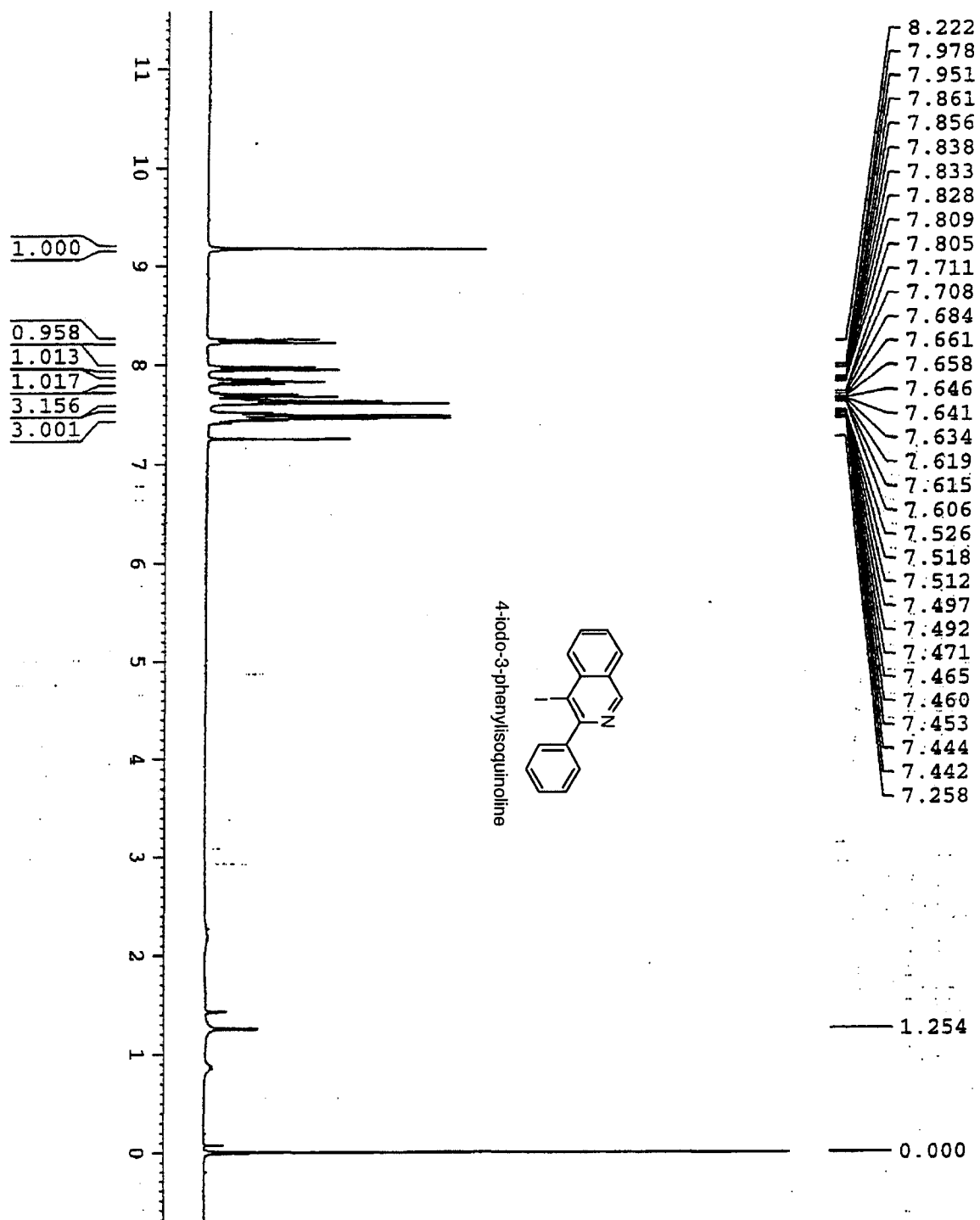


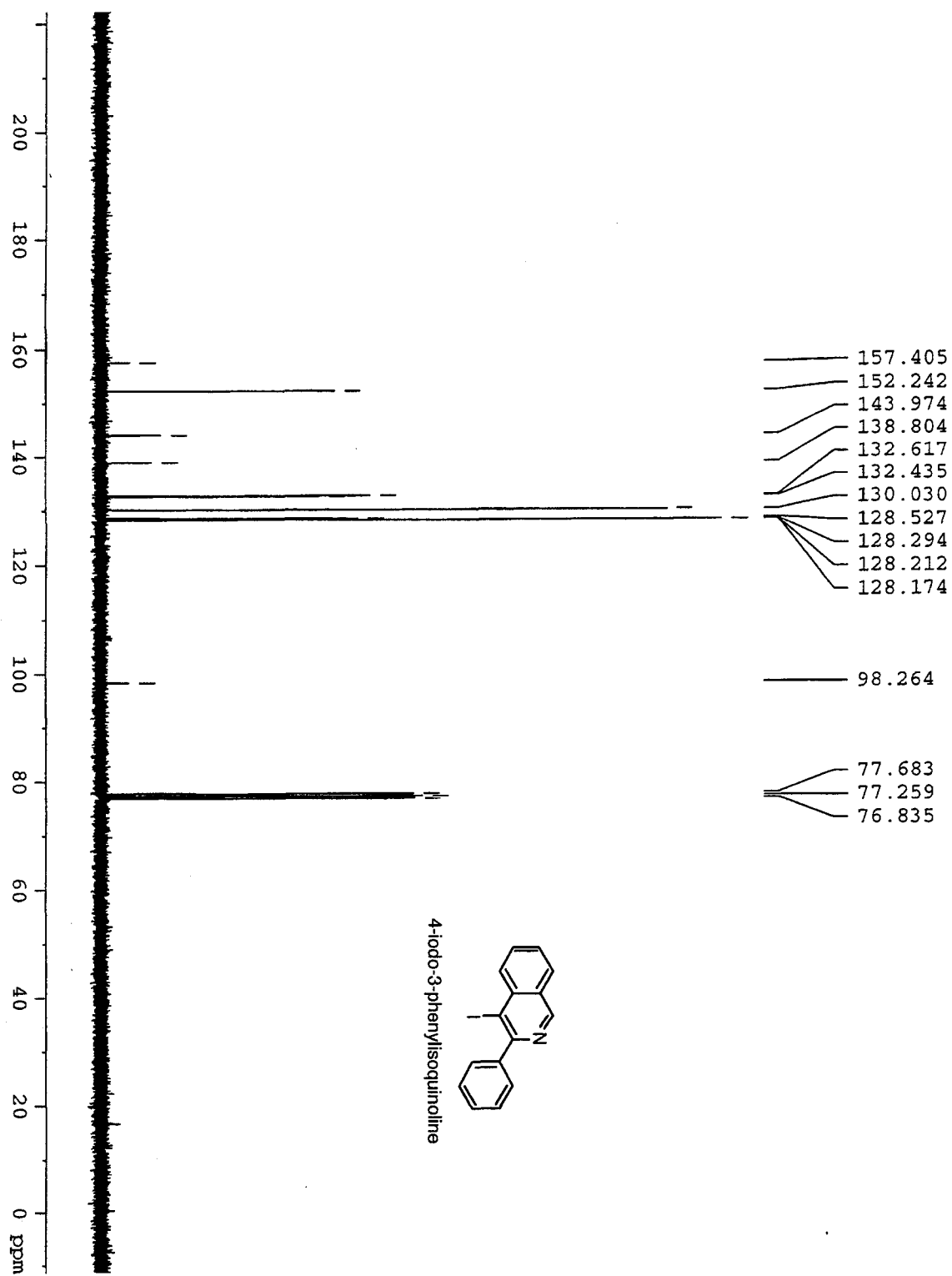




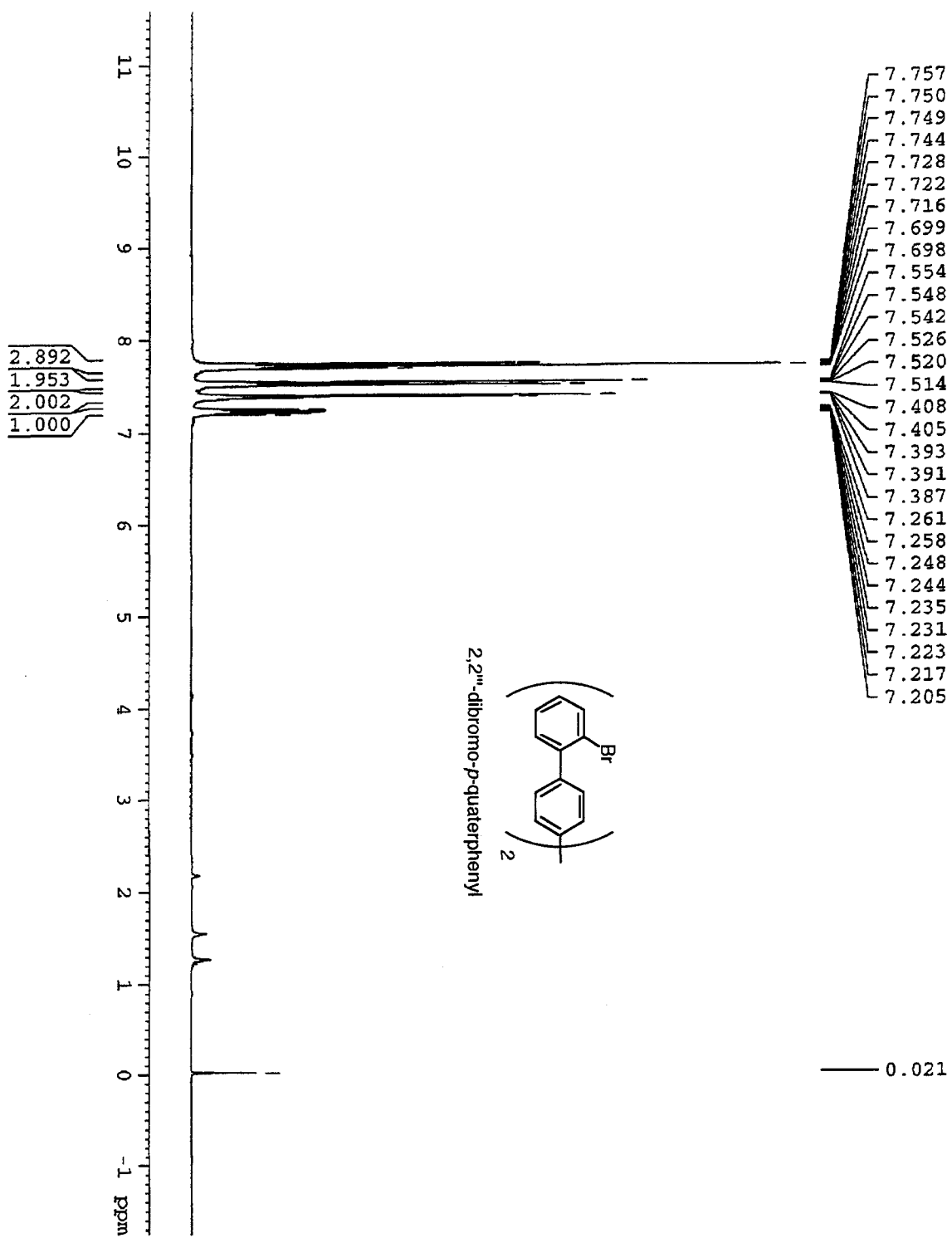


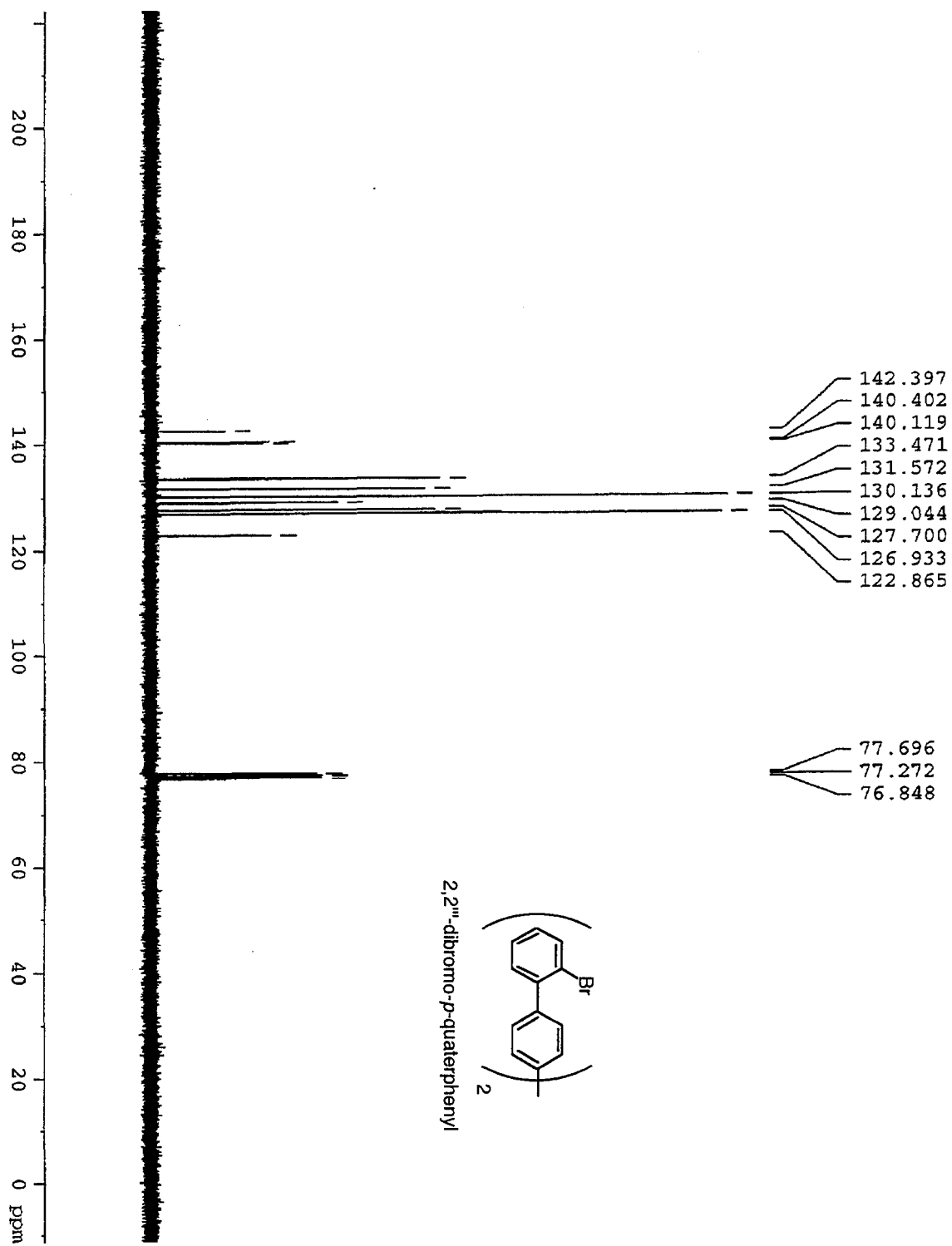


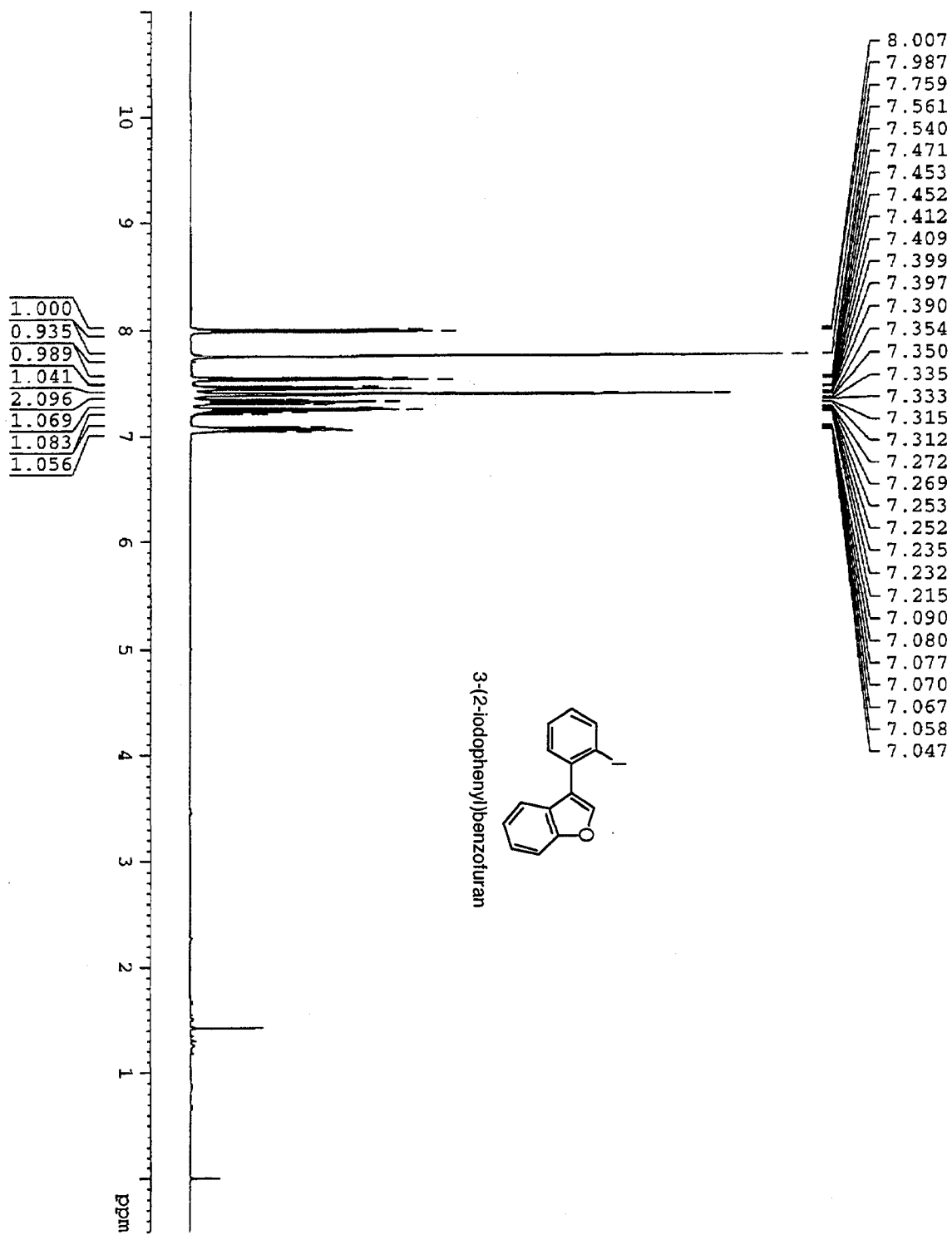


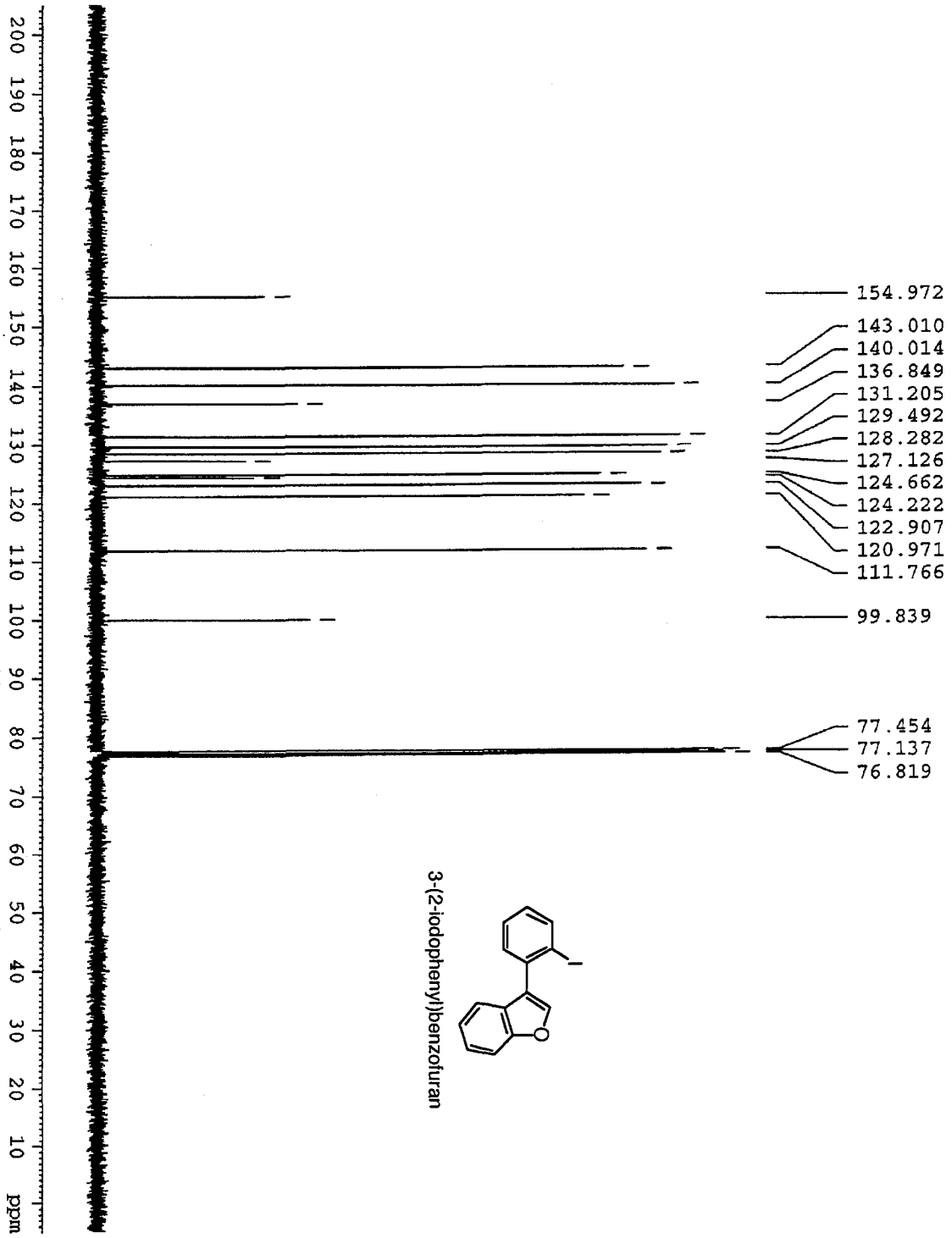


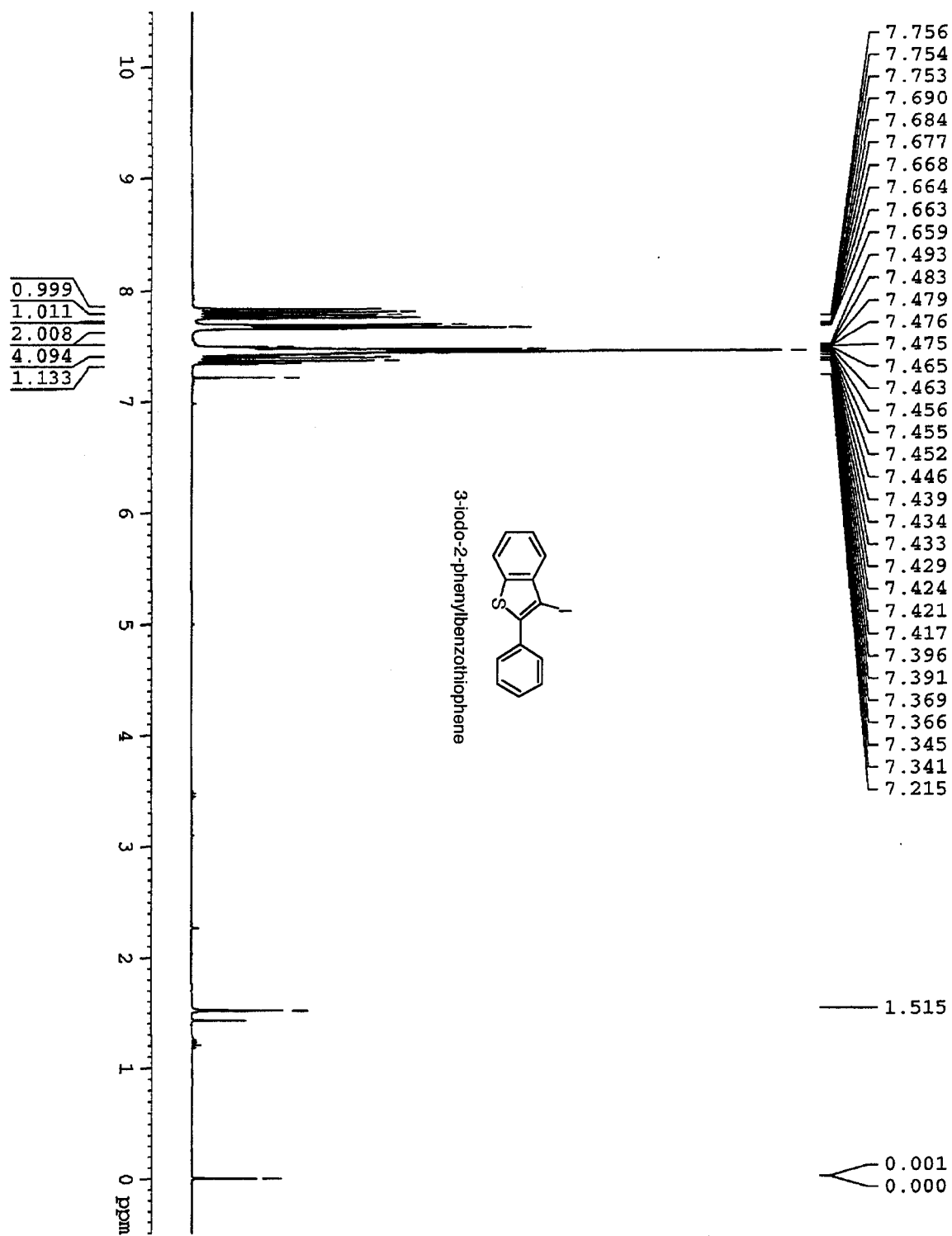


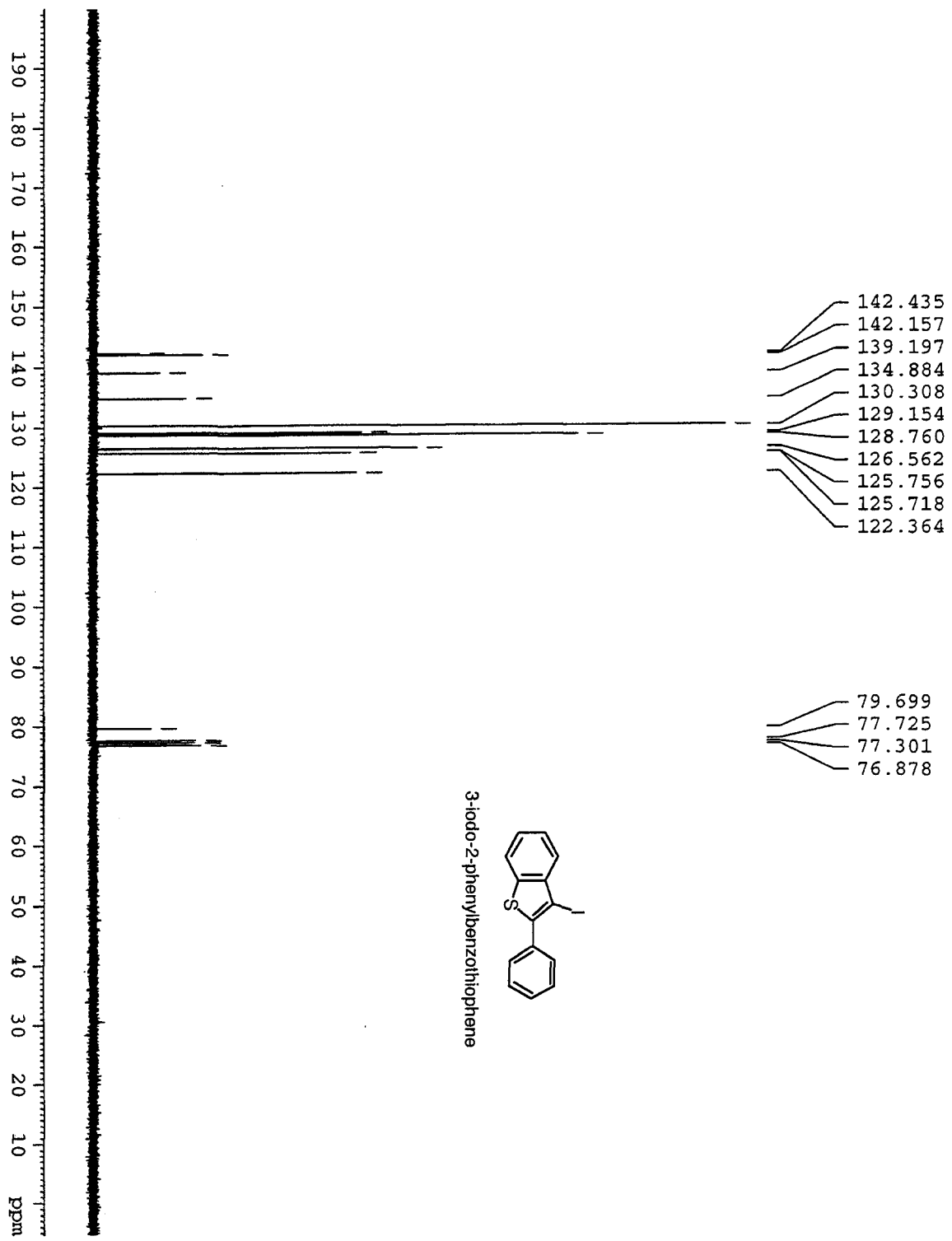


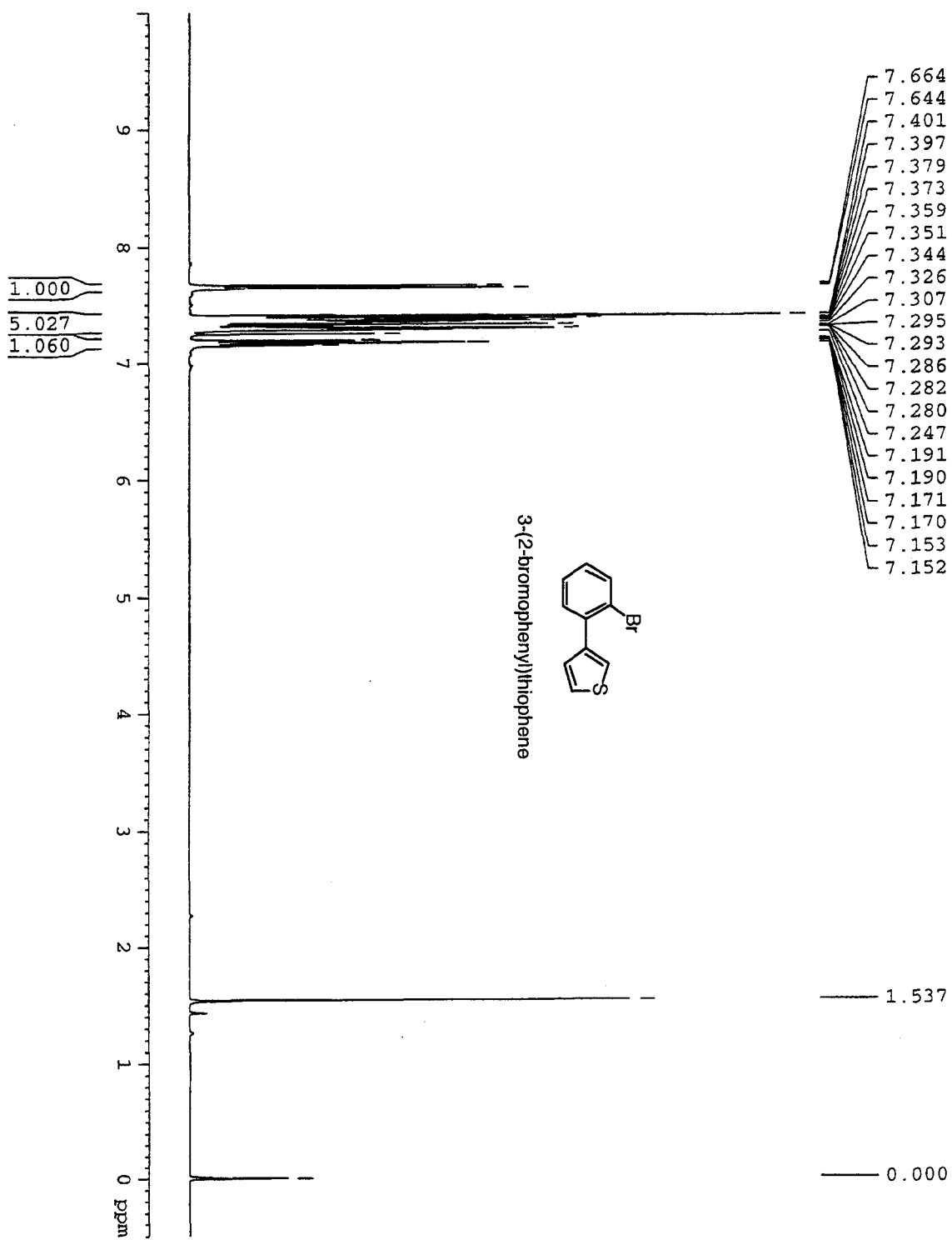


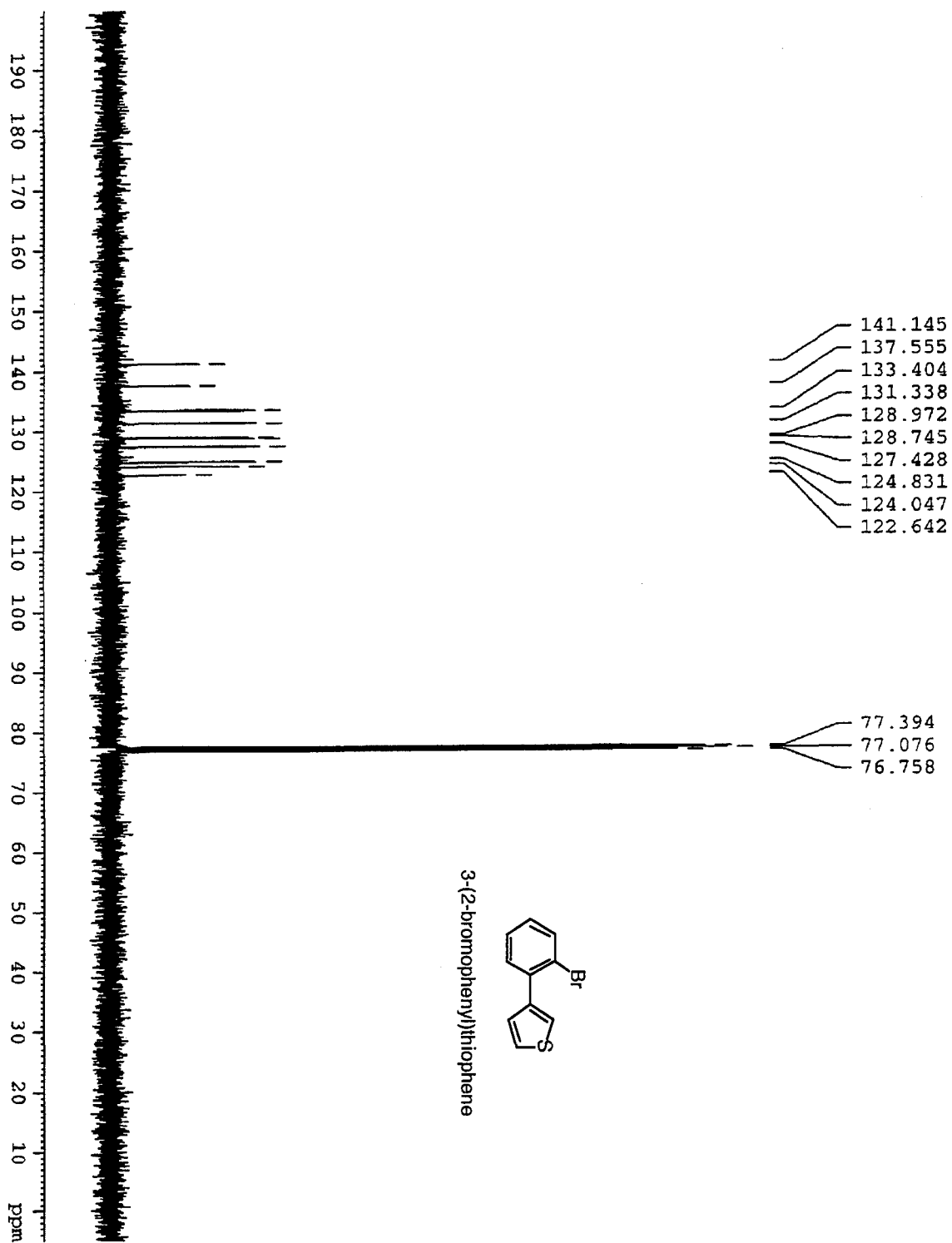










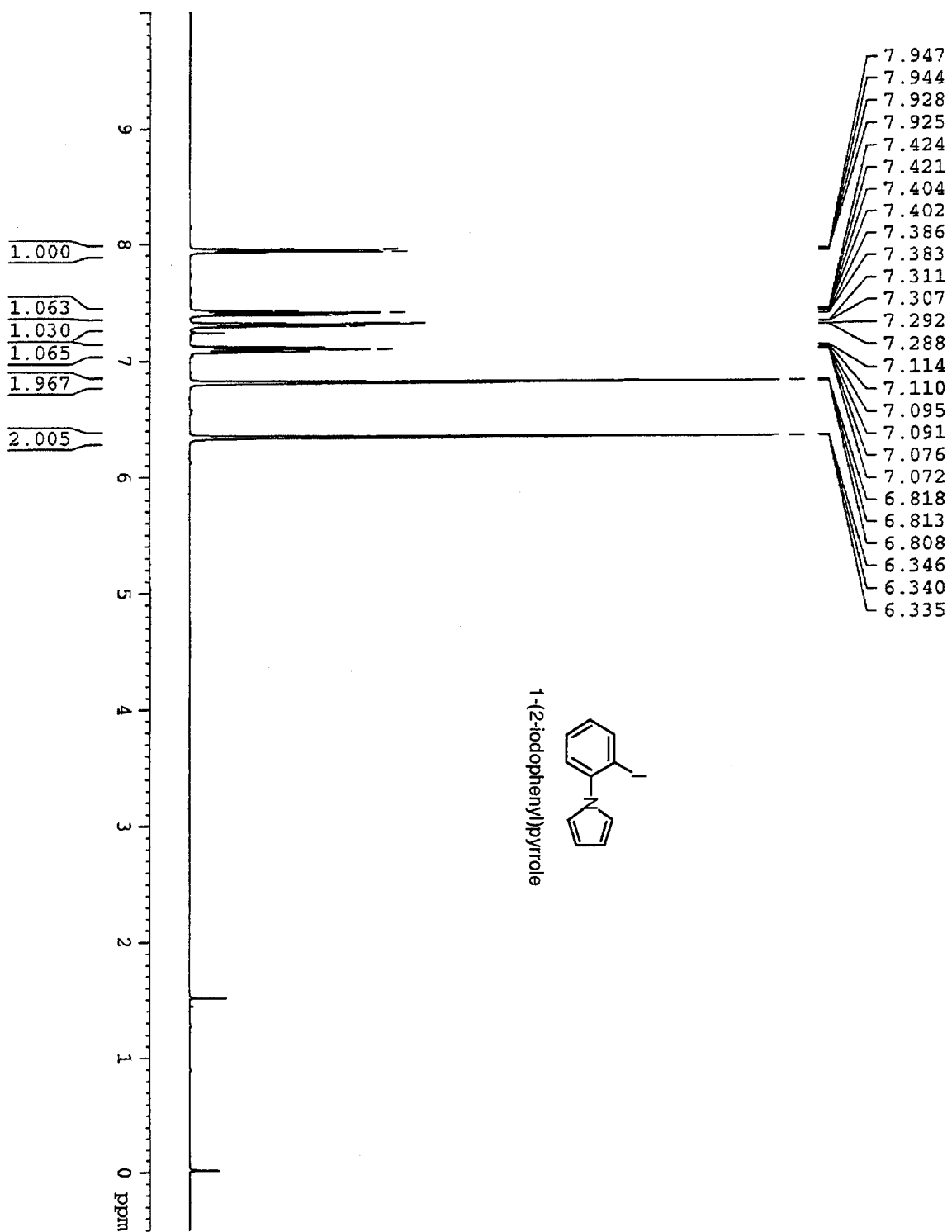


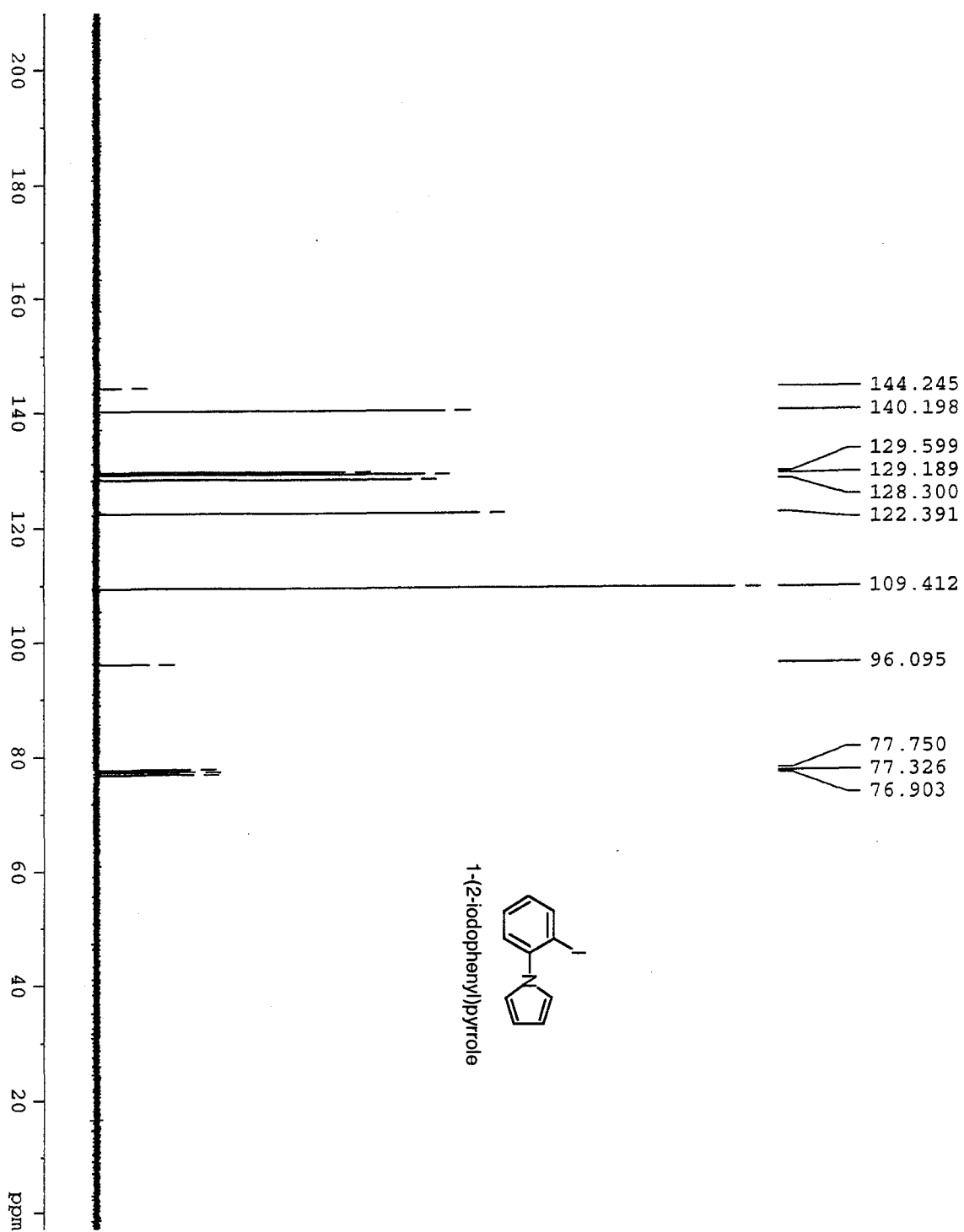
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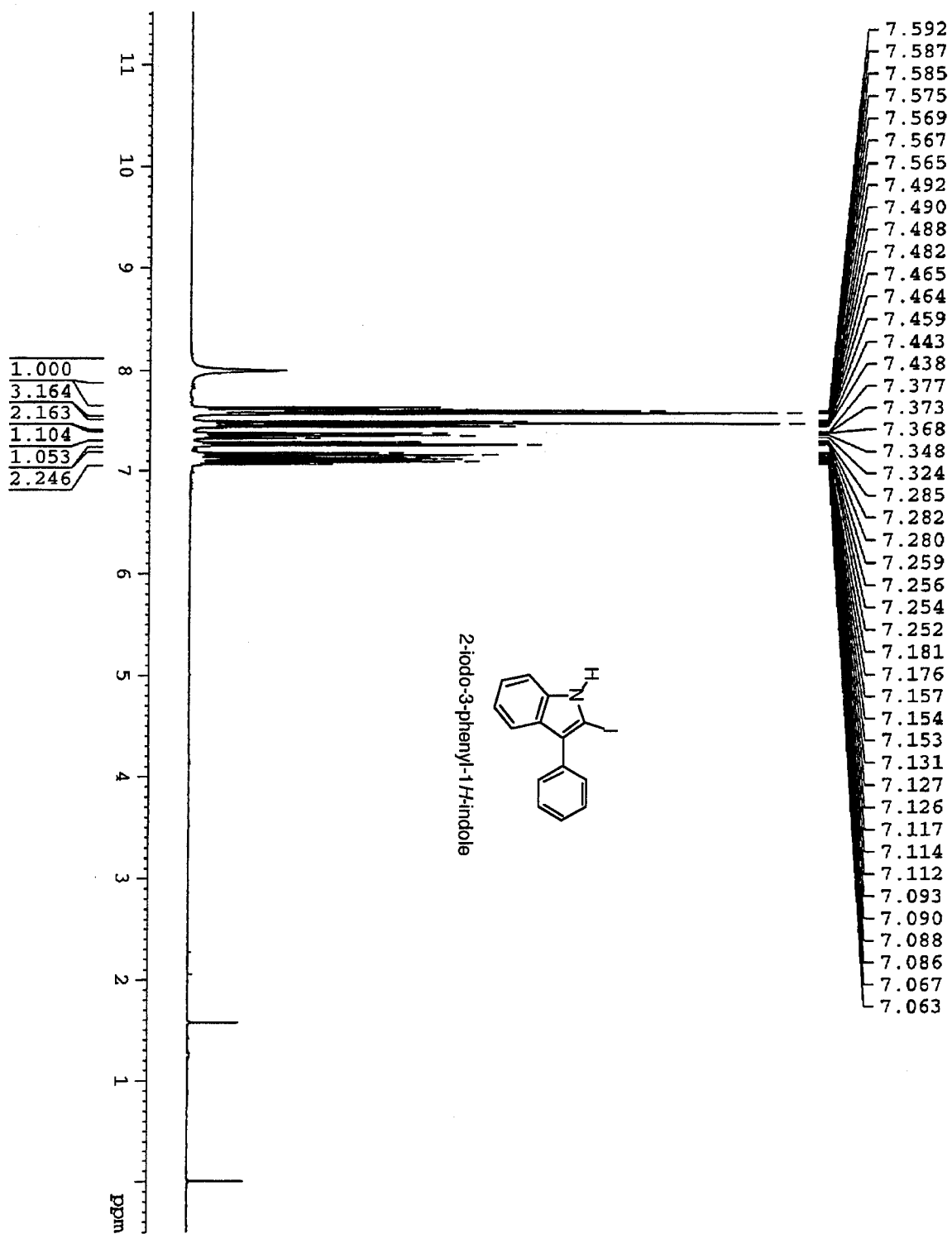
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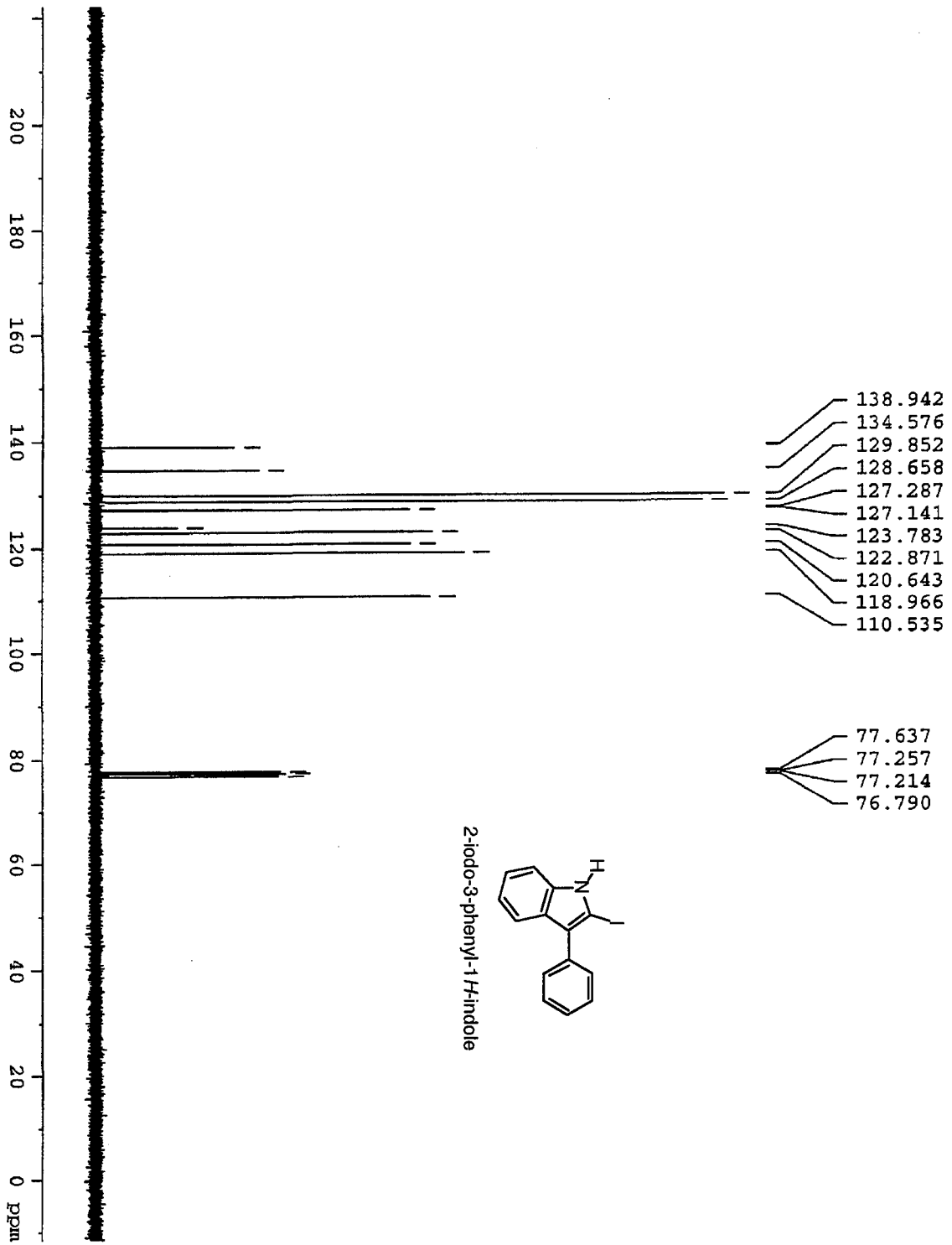
3-(2-bromophenyl)thiophene

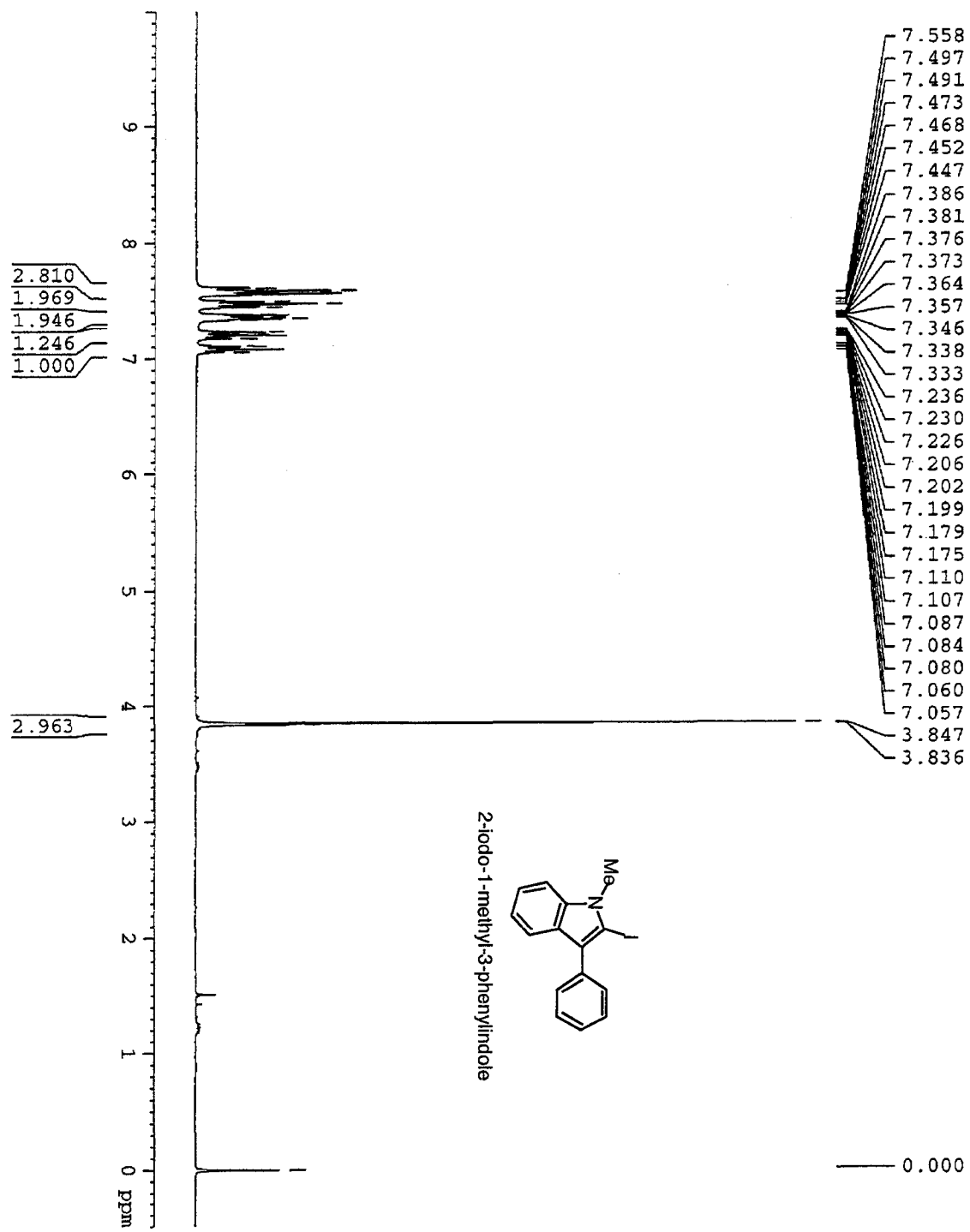


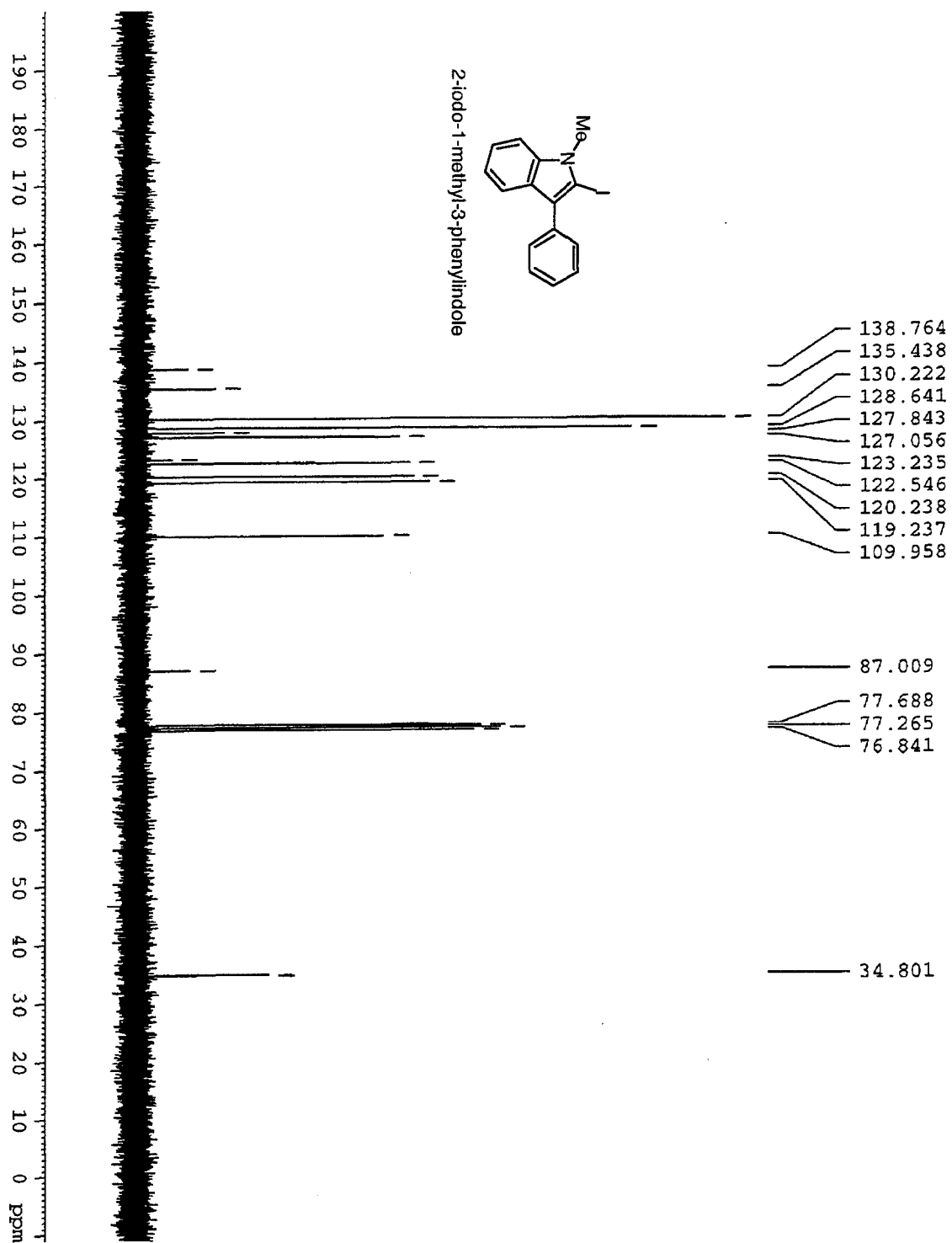


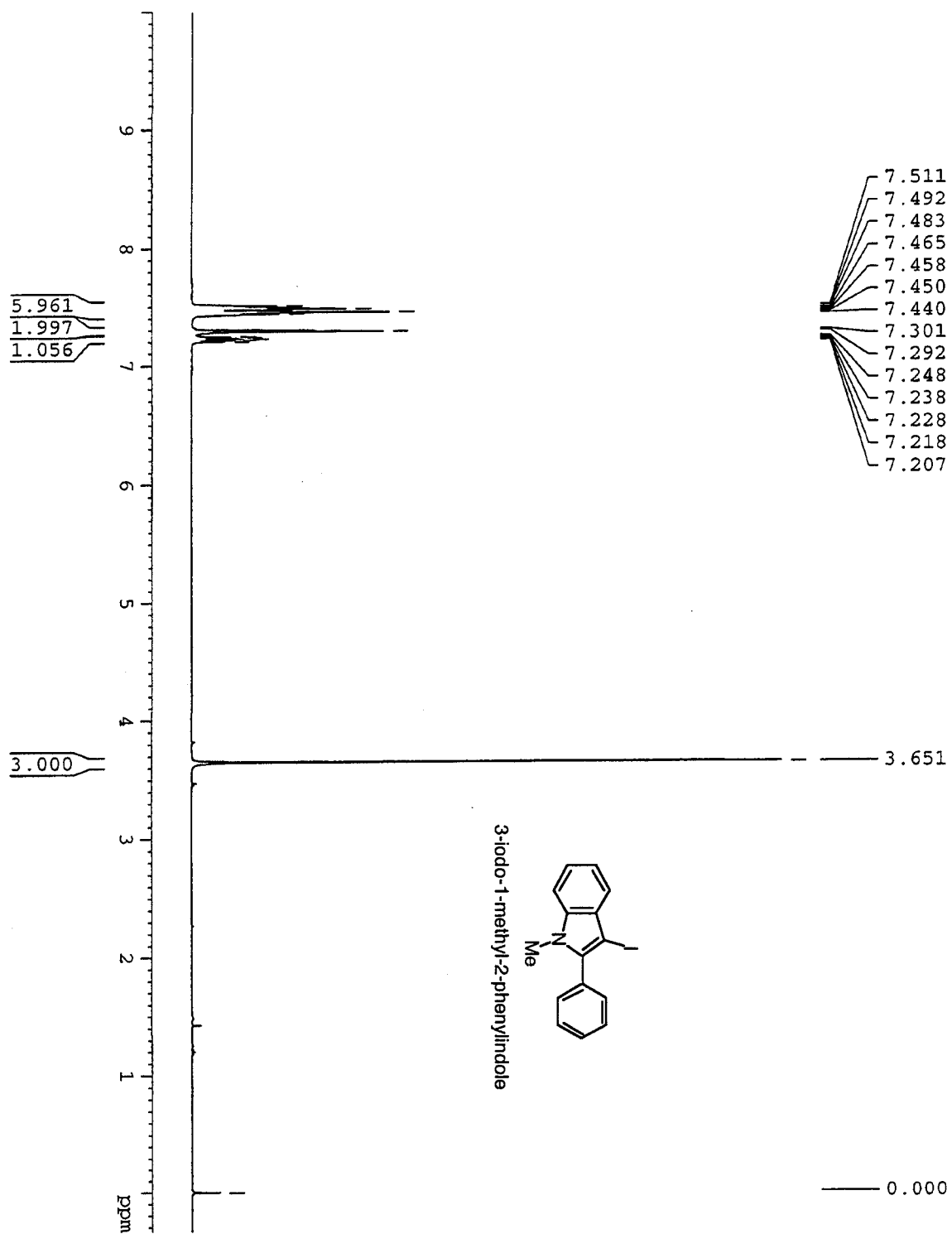


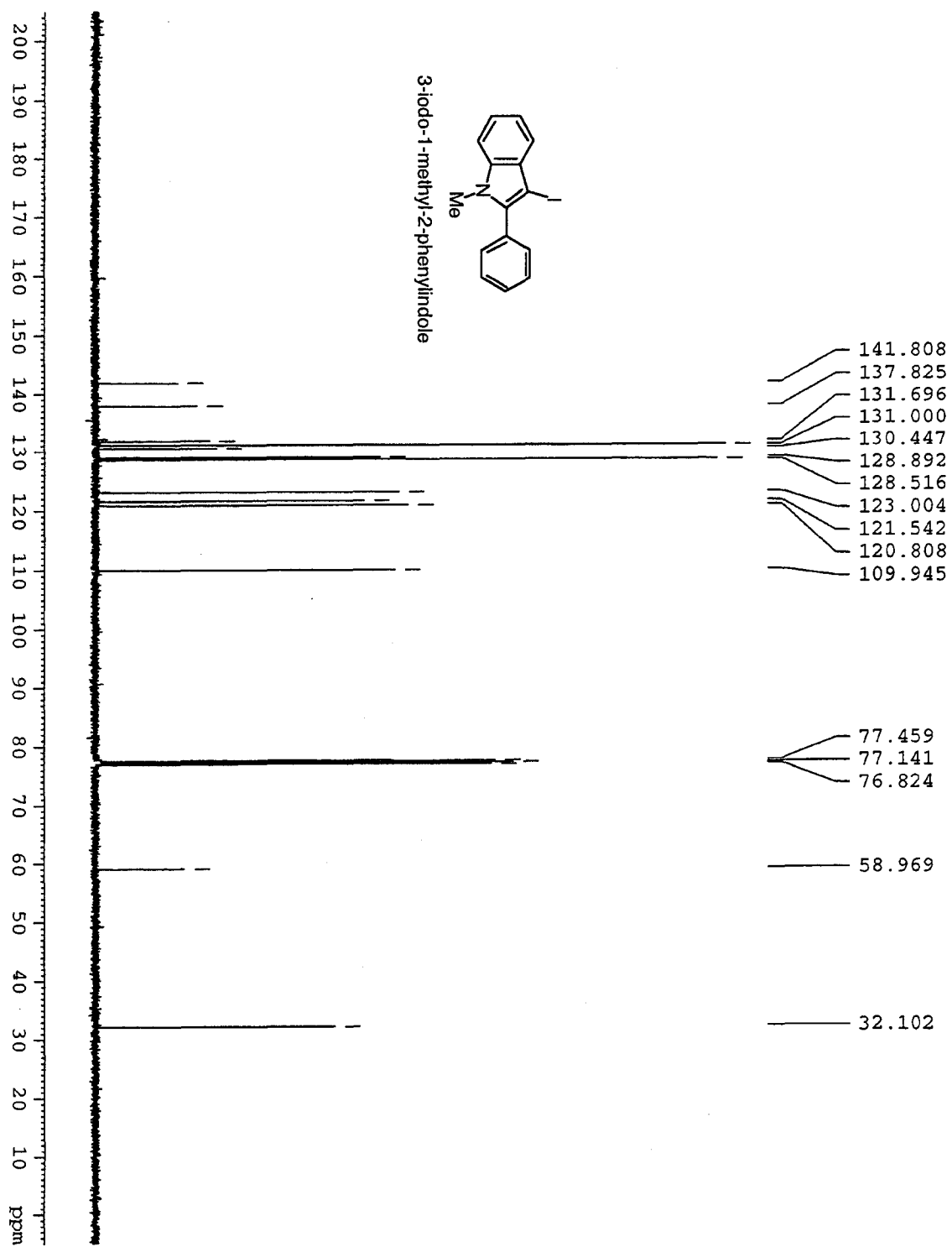




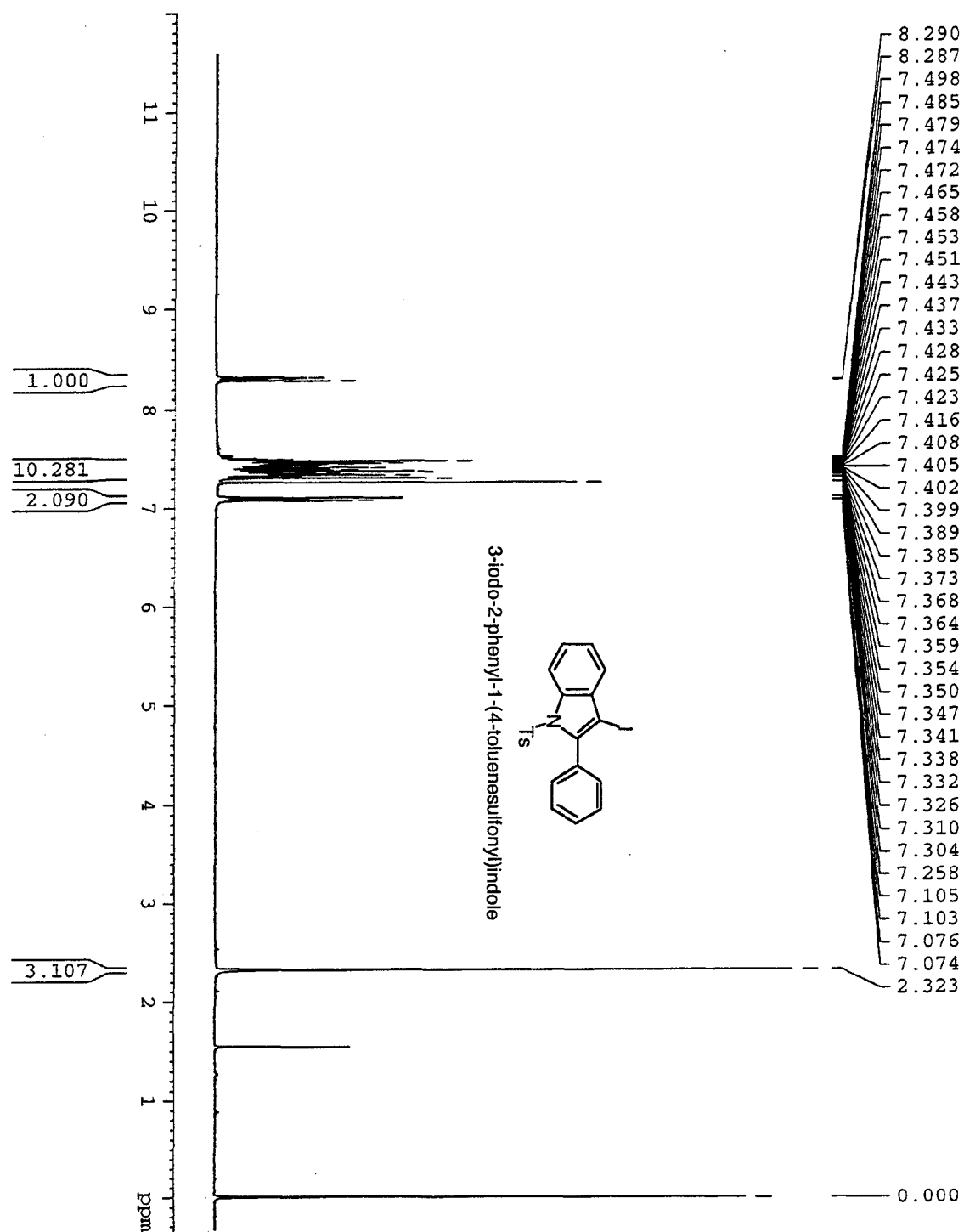


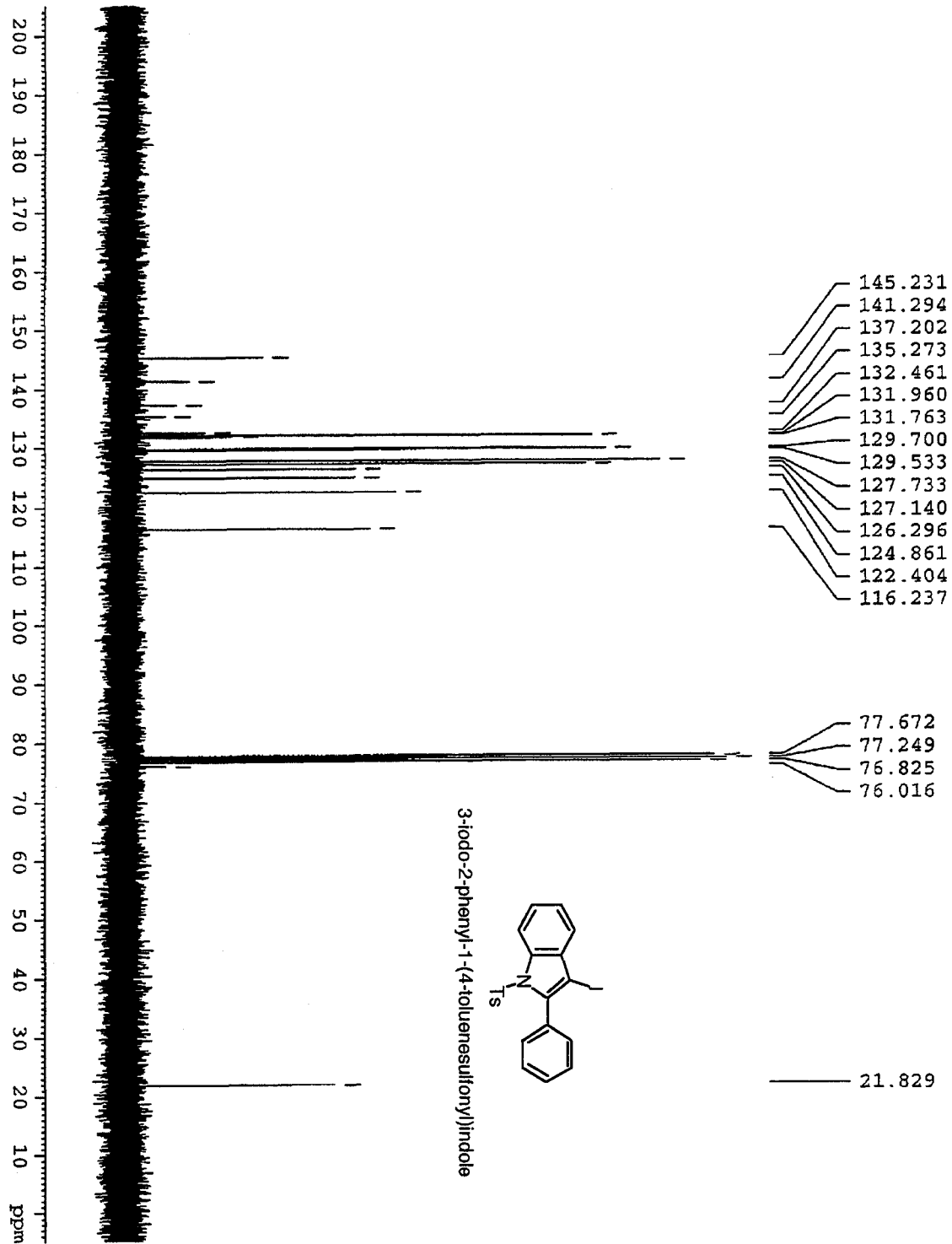


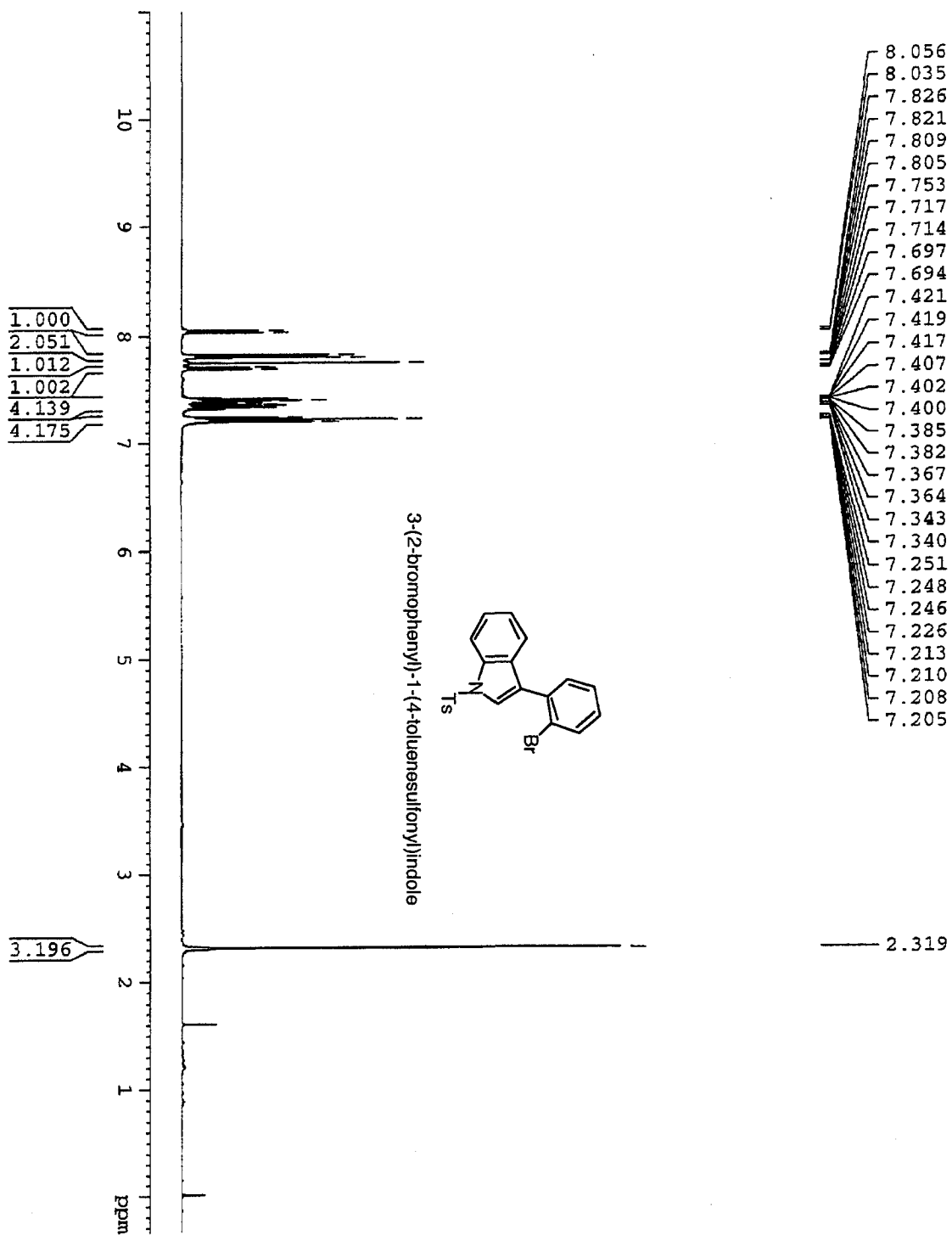


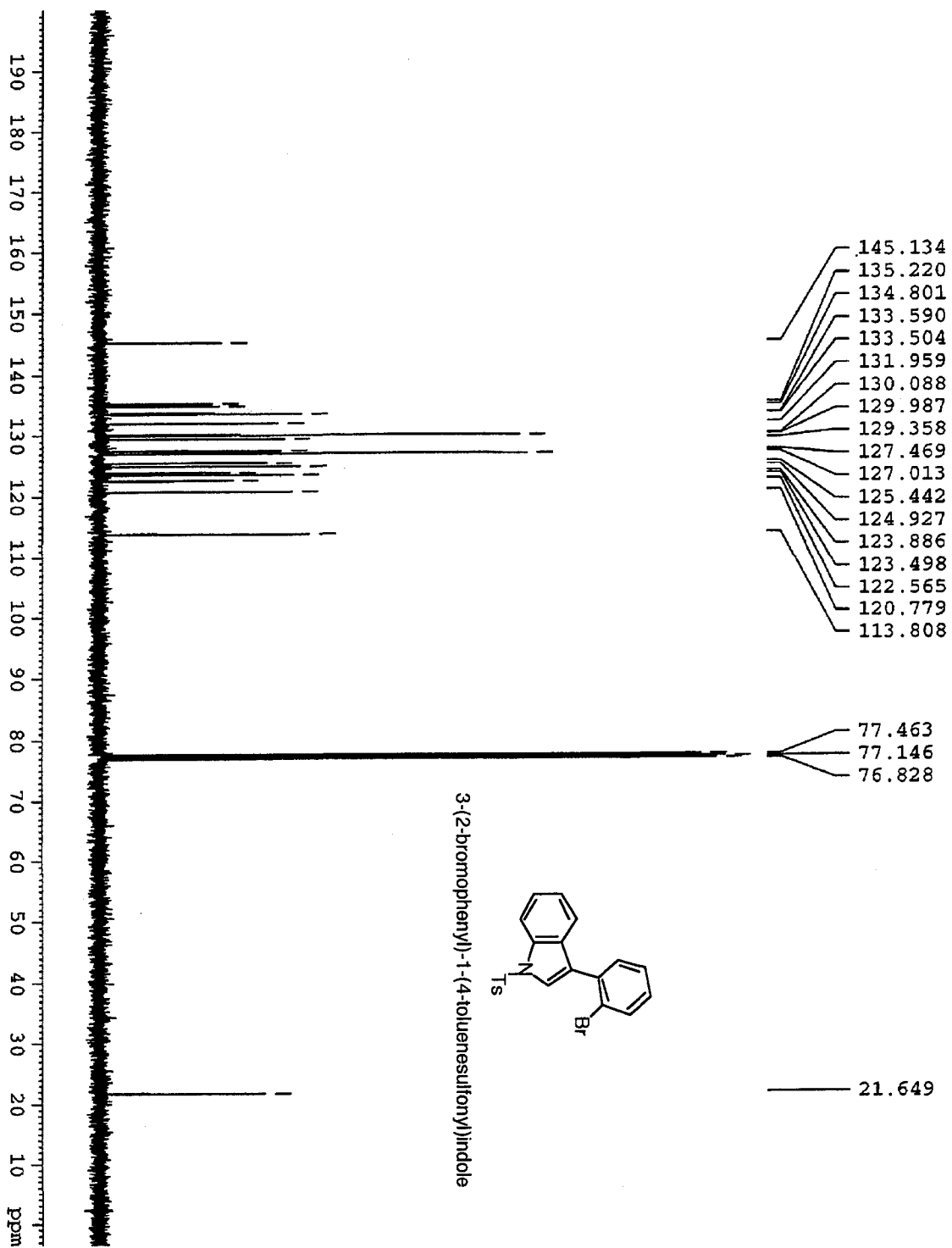


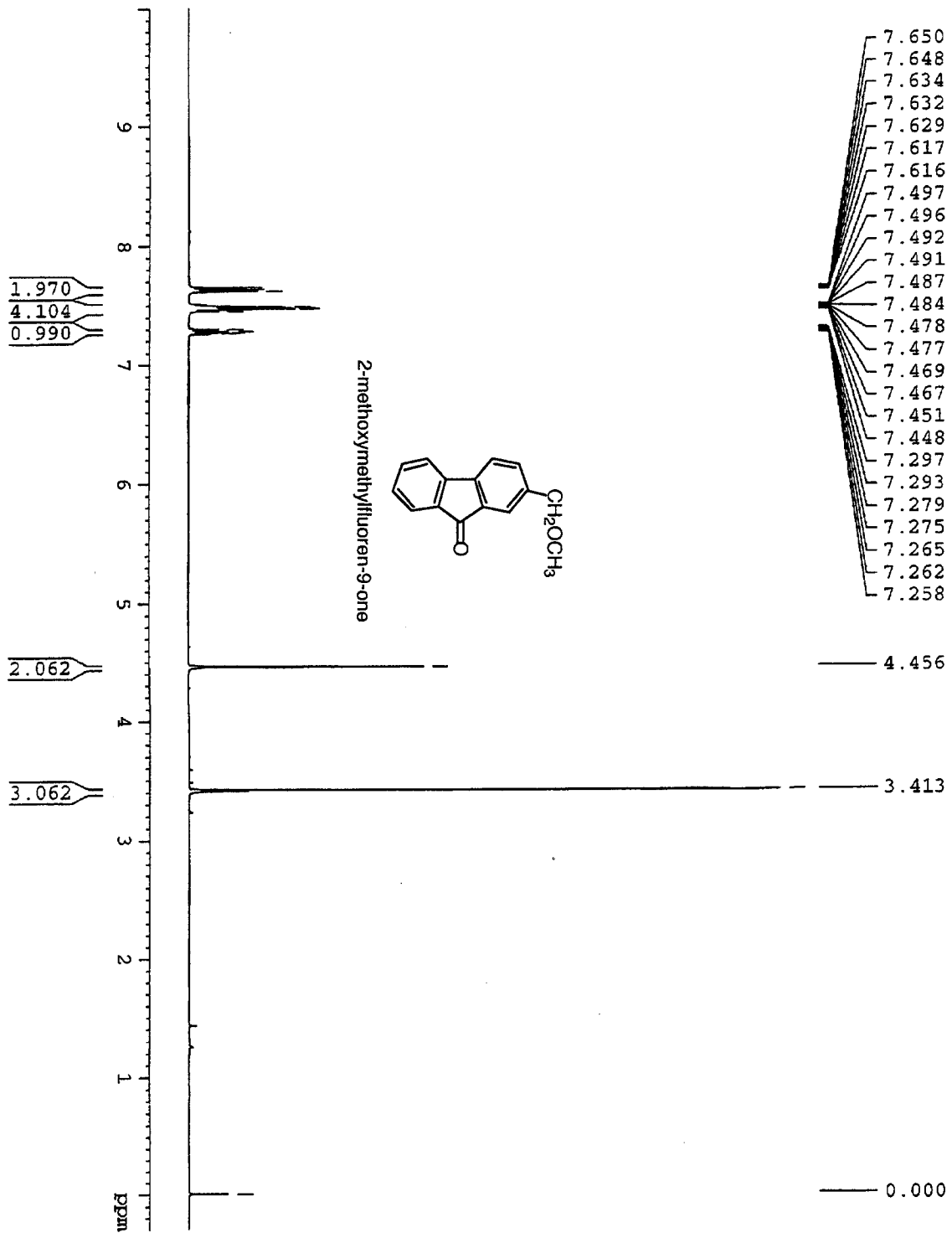


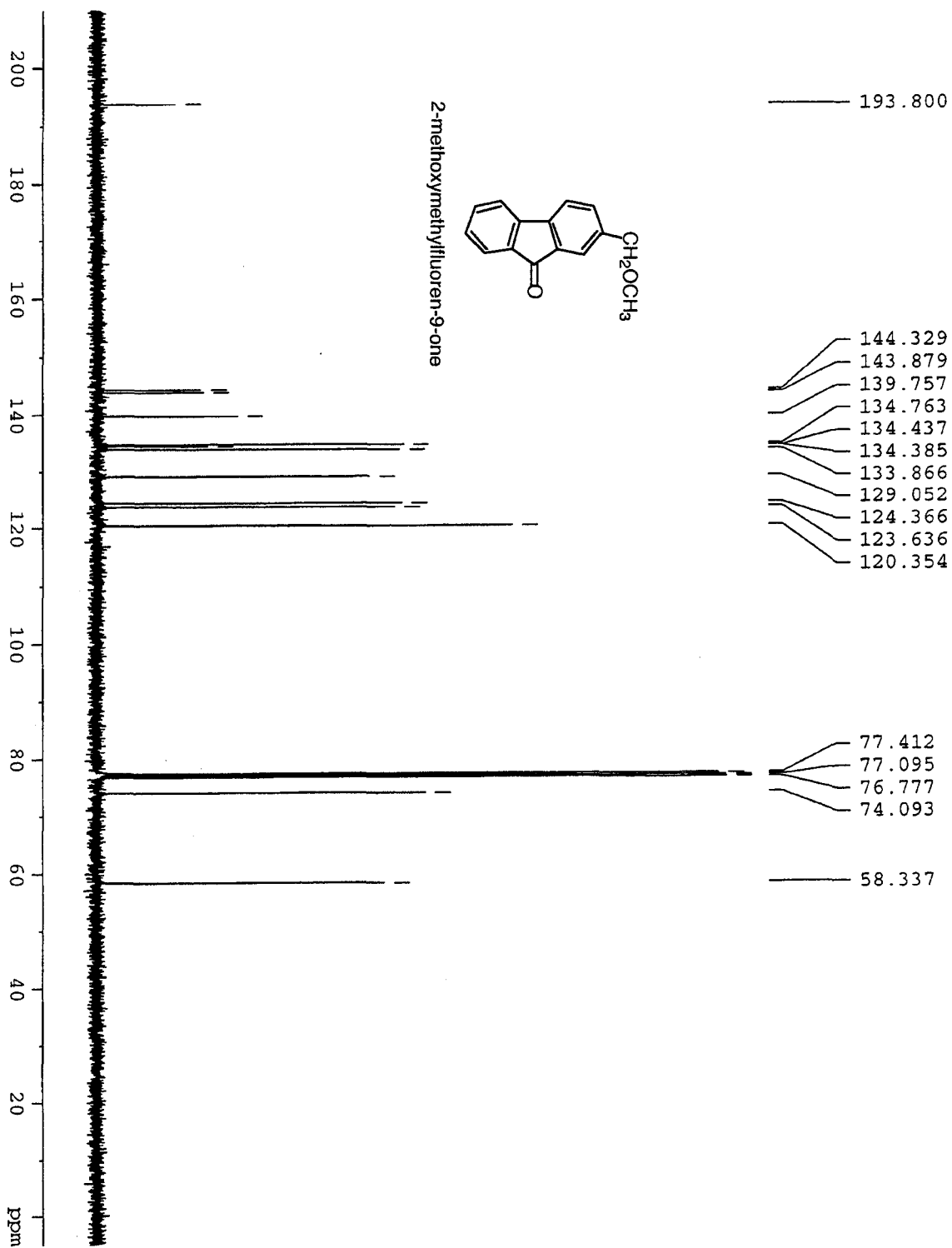


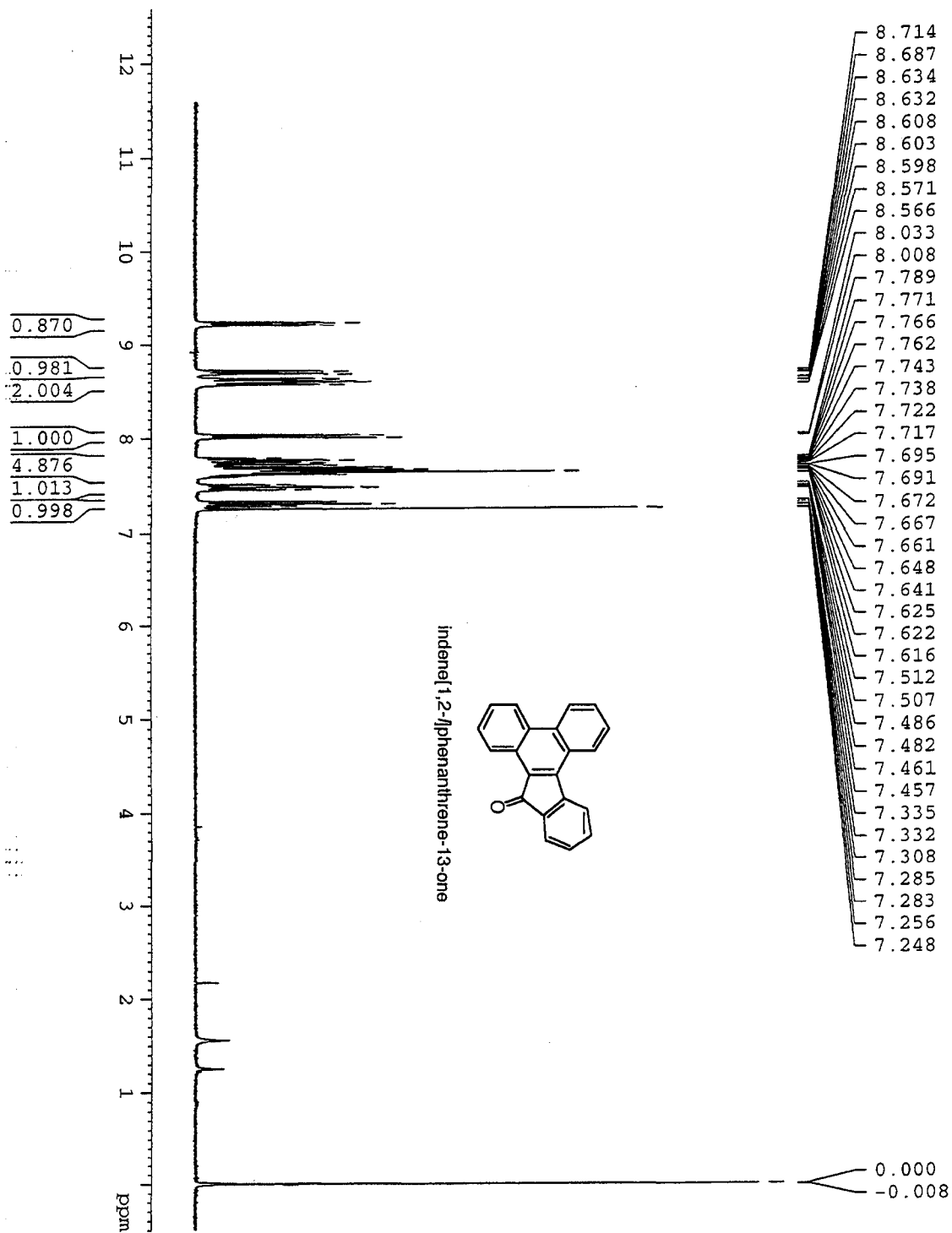


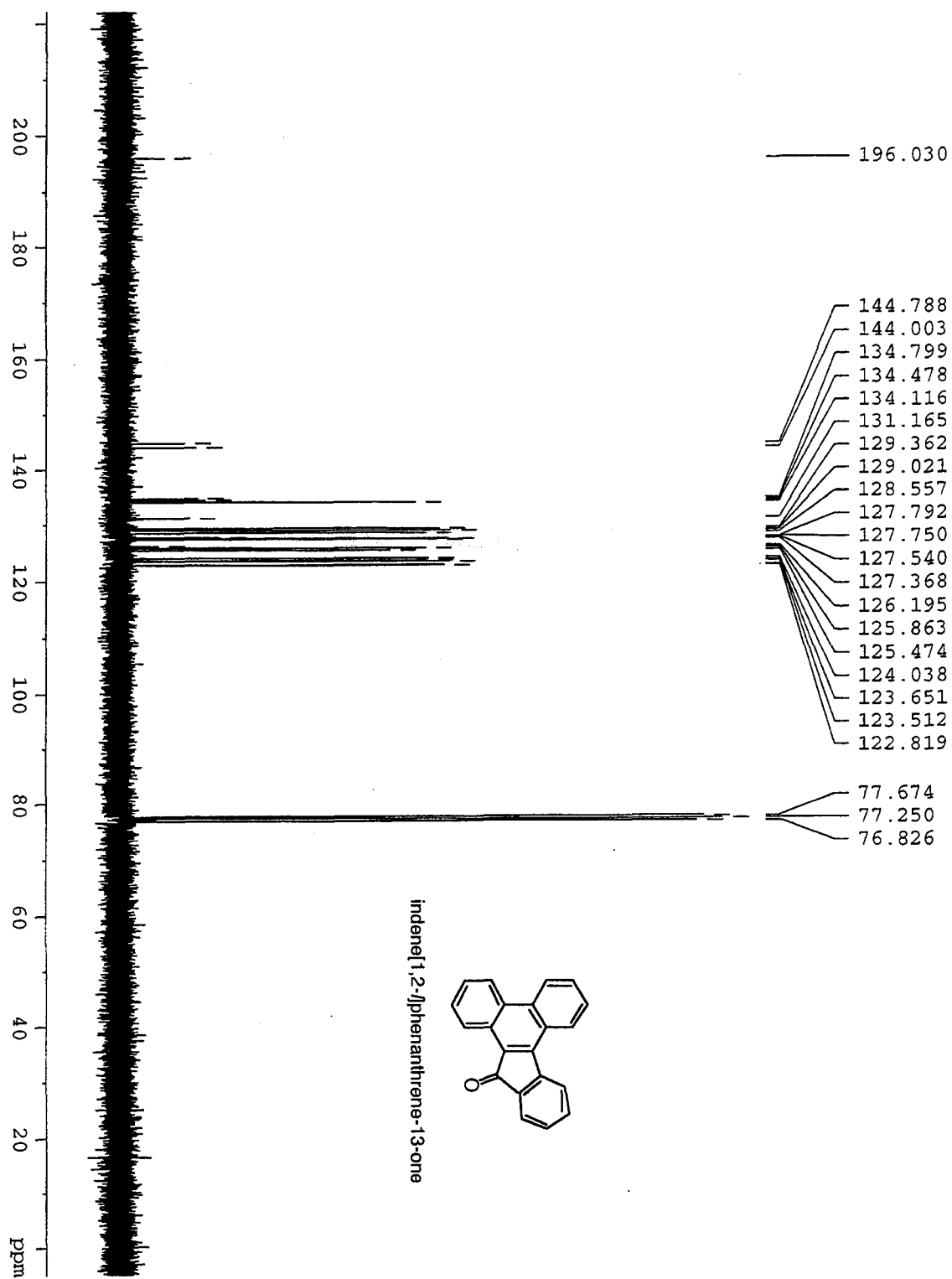




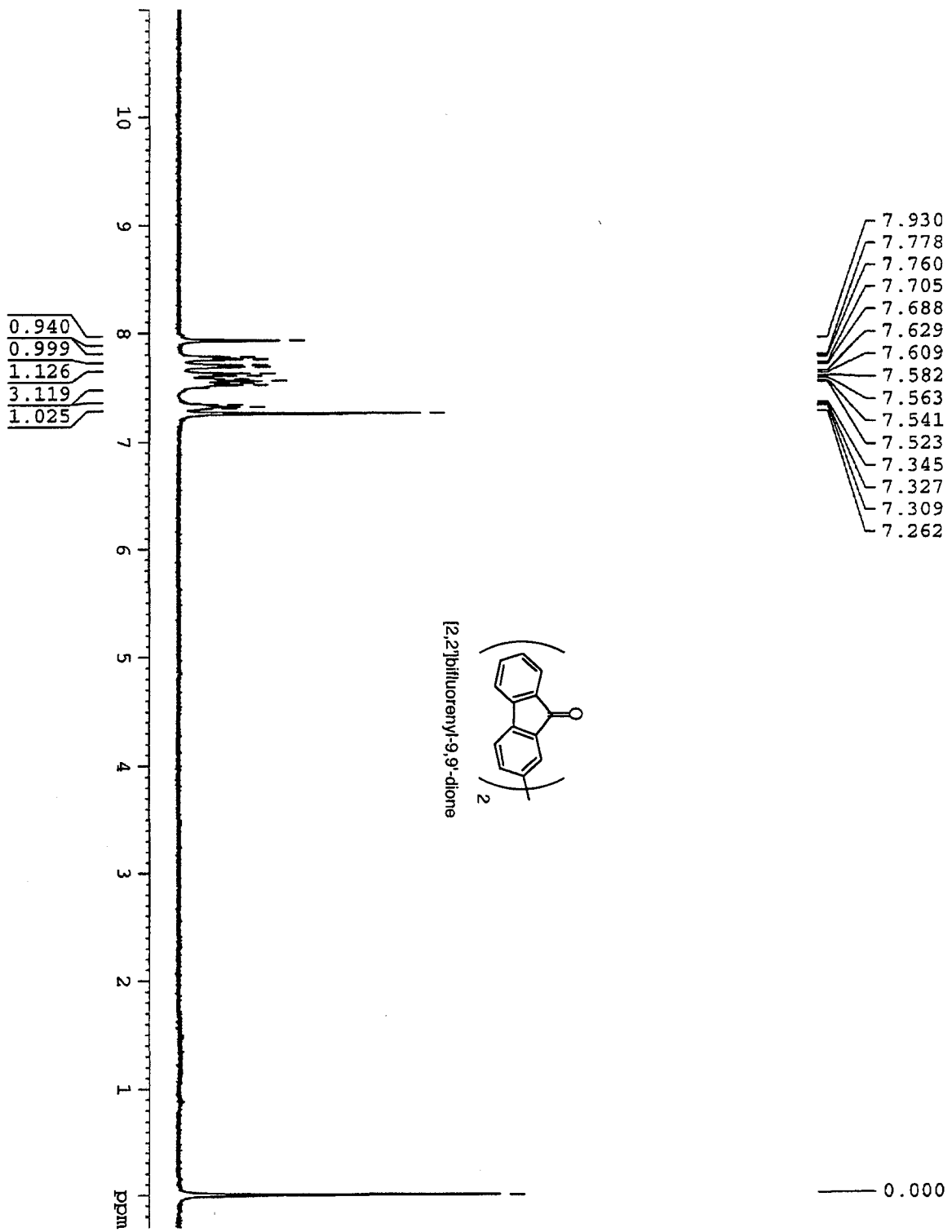


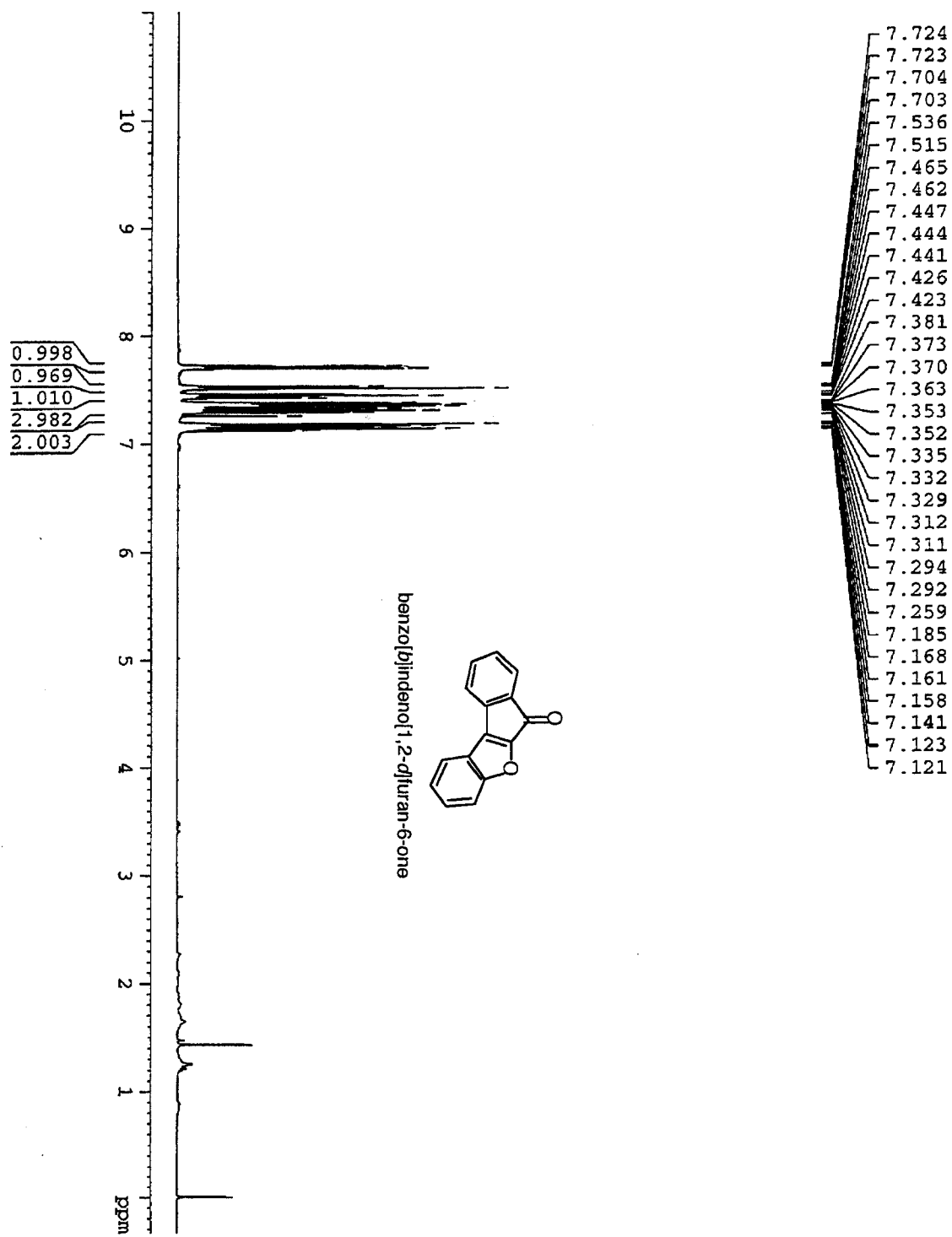


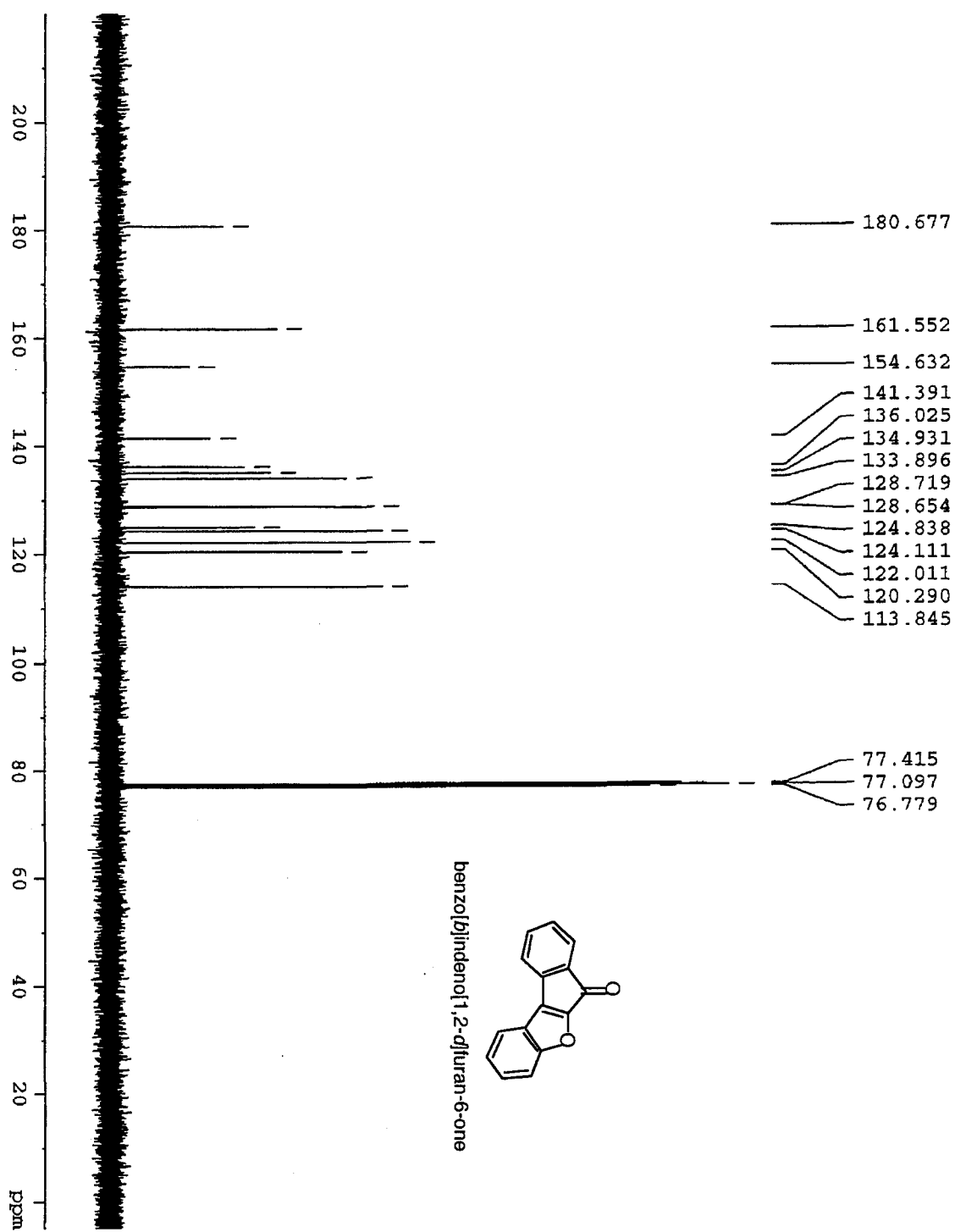


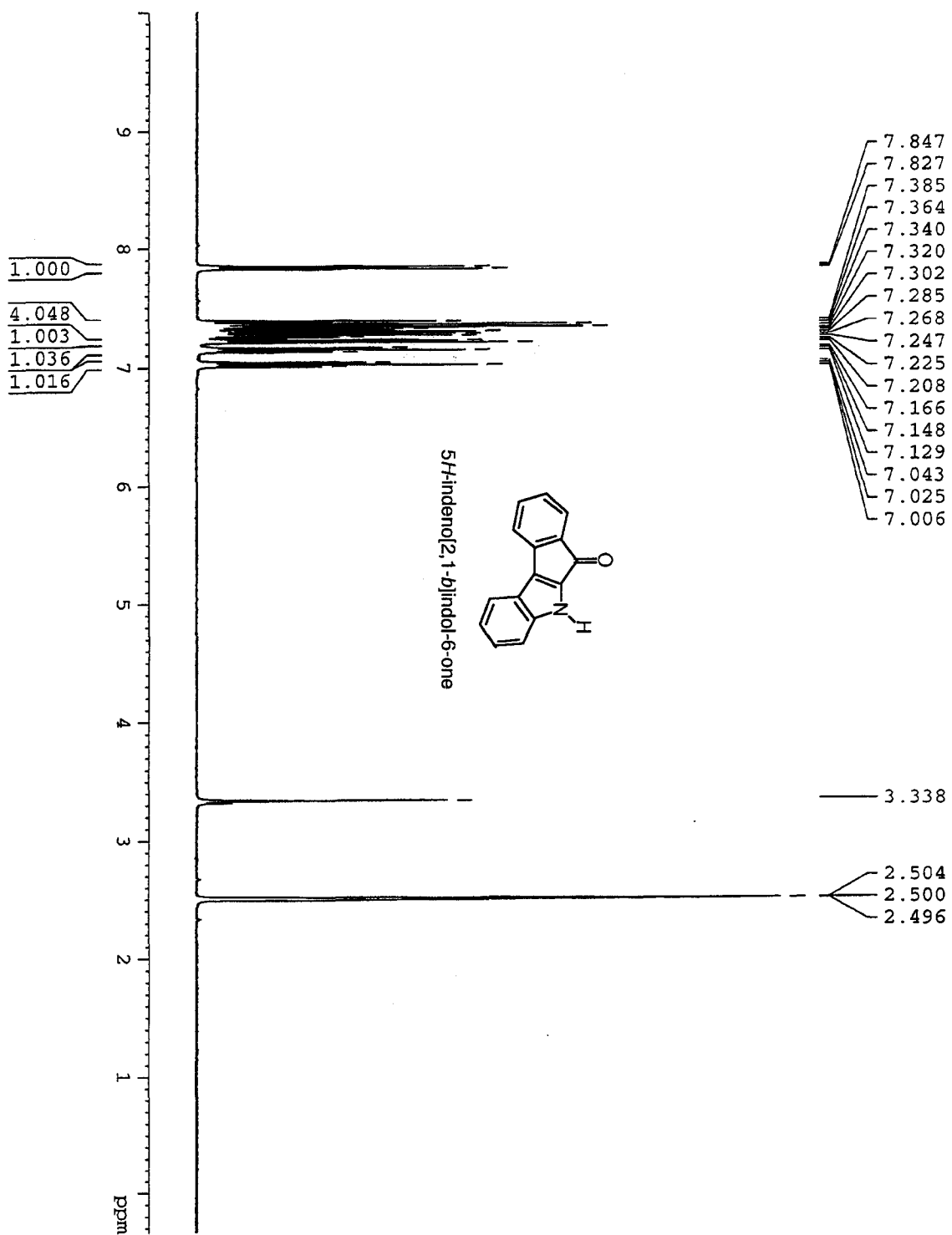


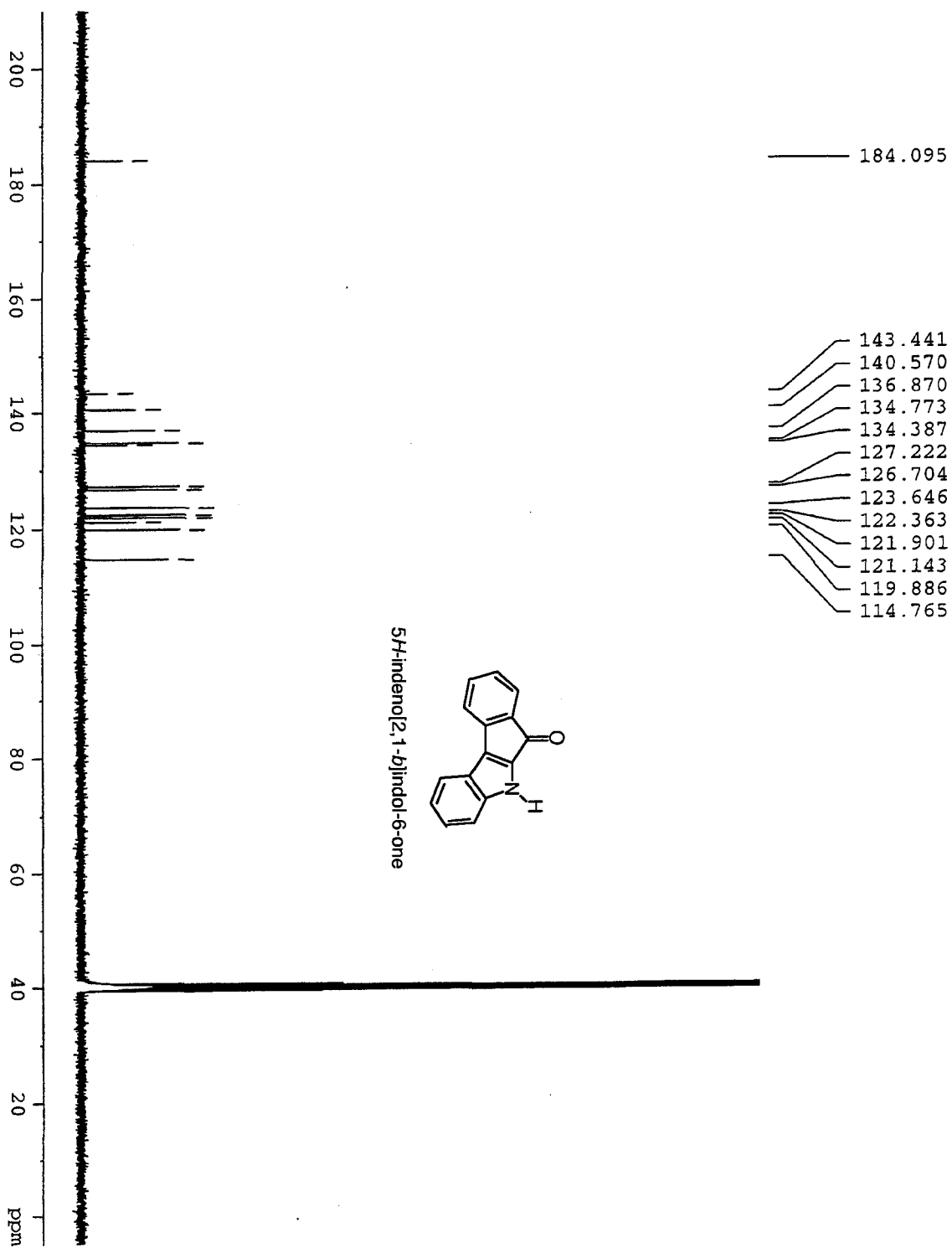


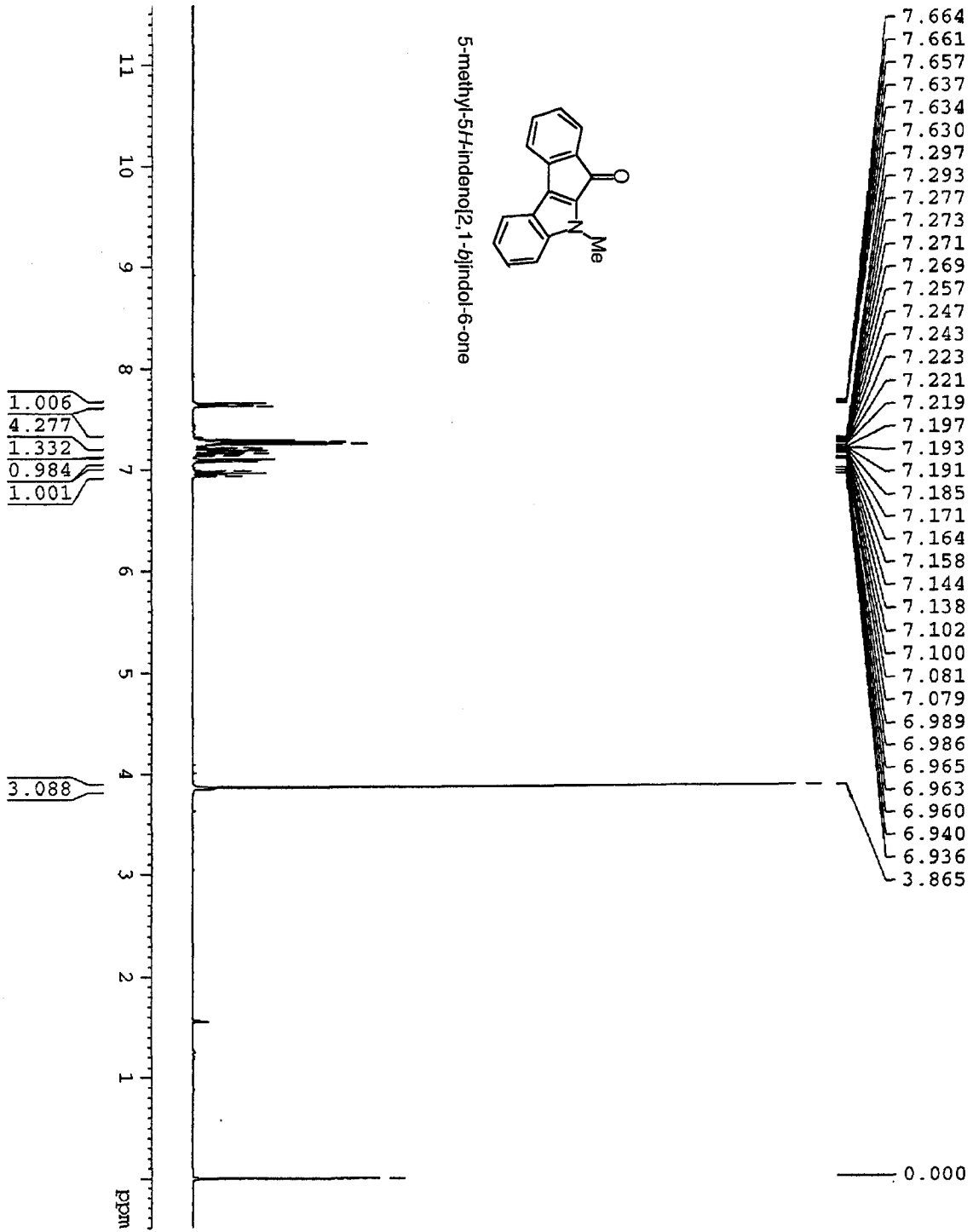


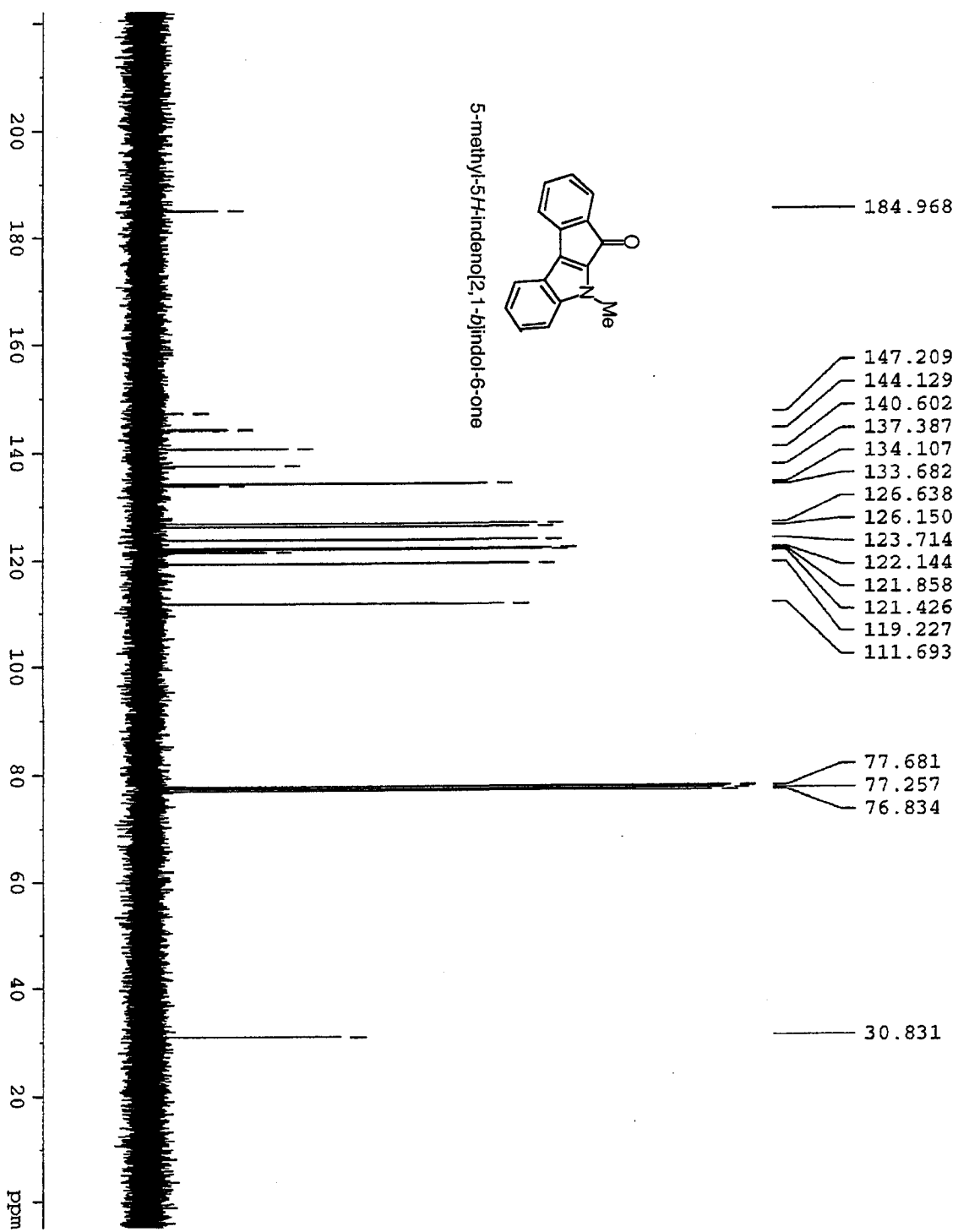


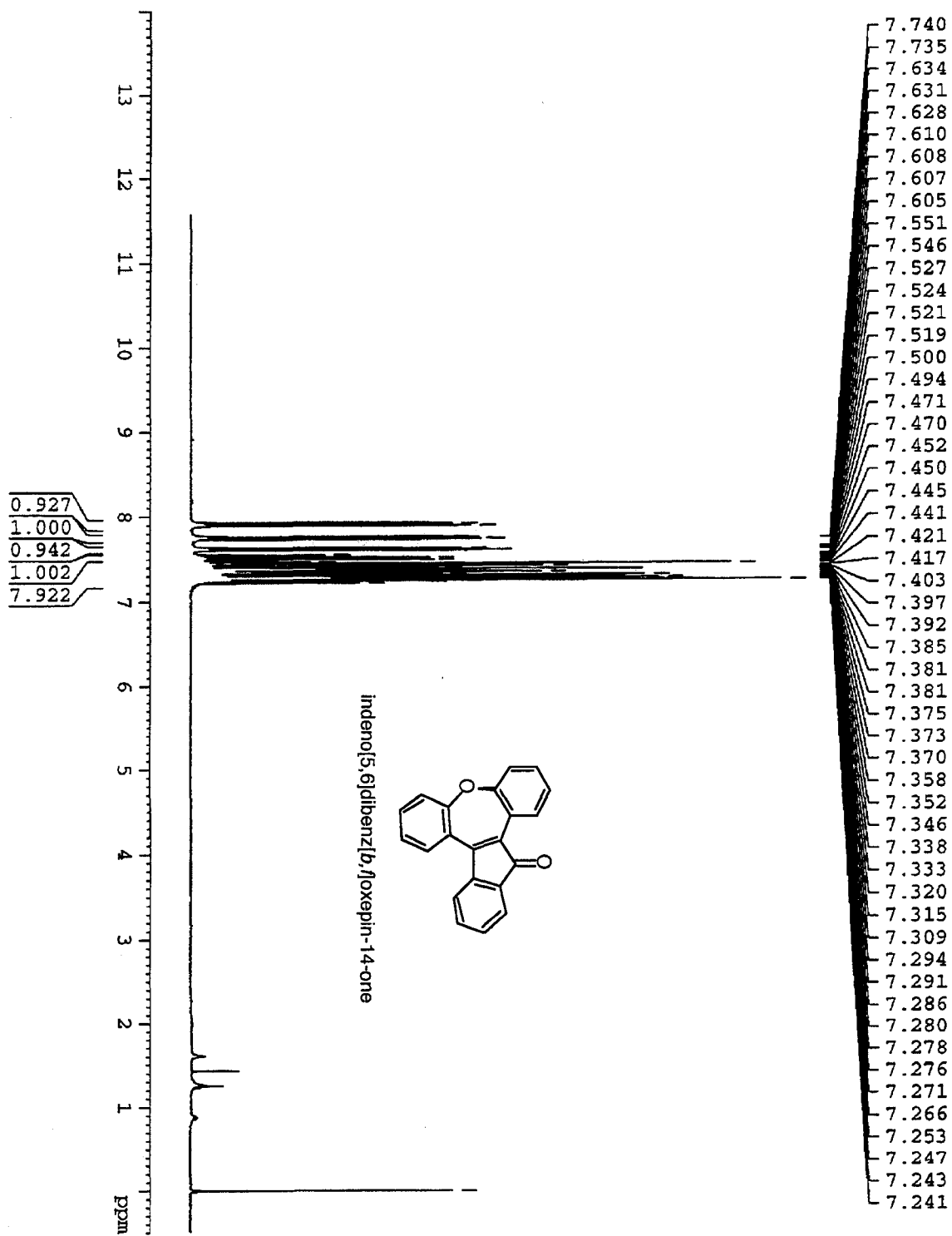




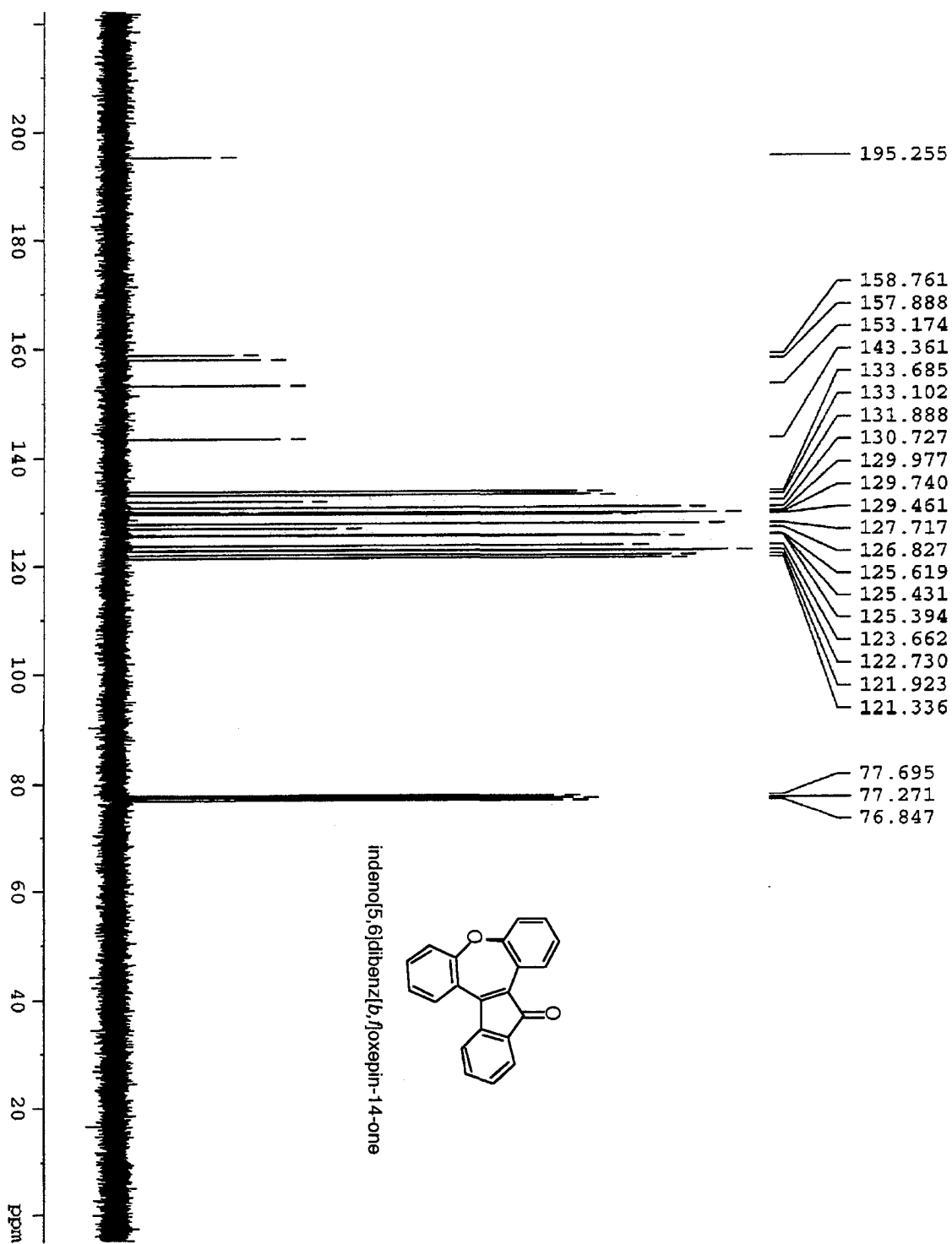




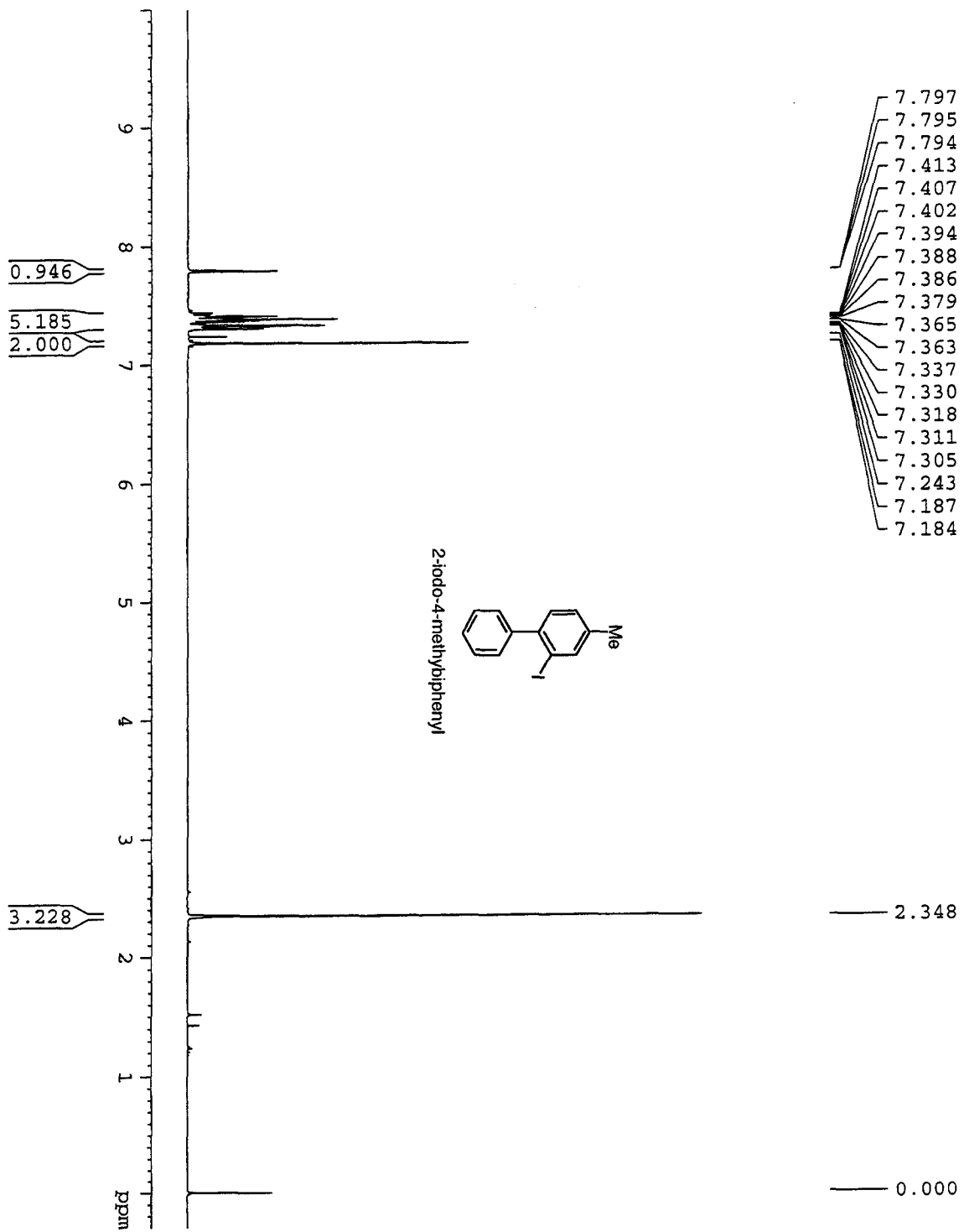


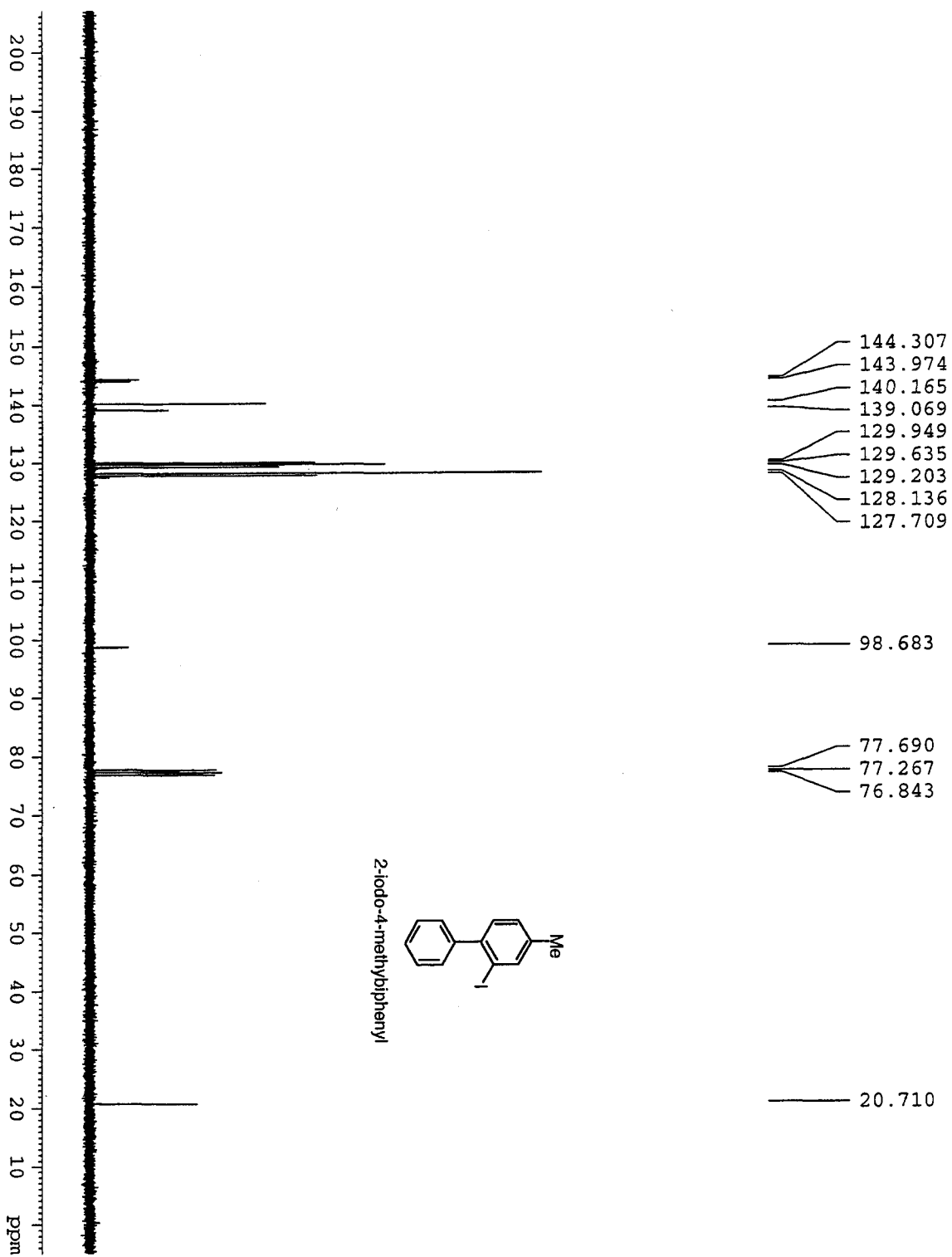


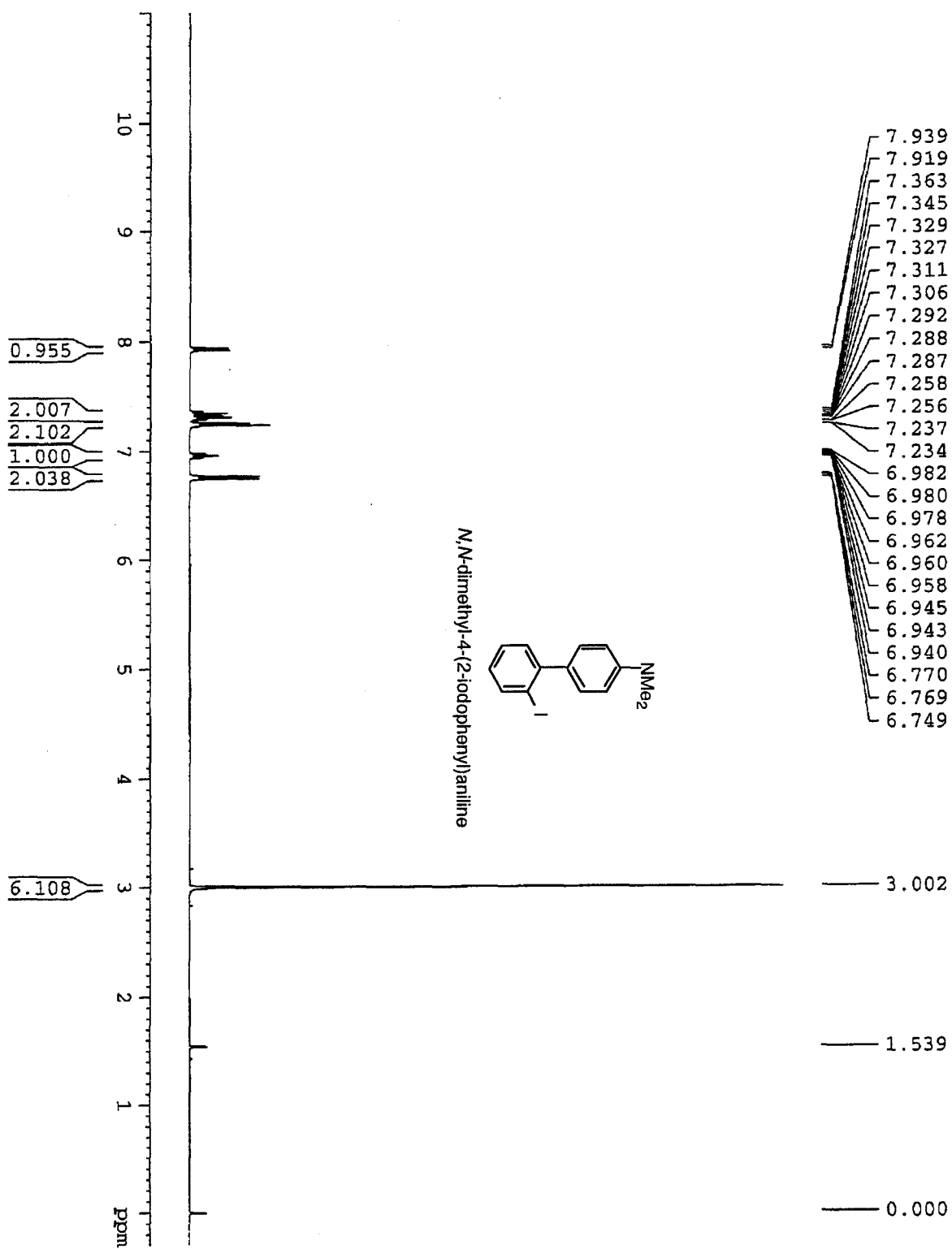


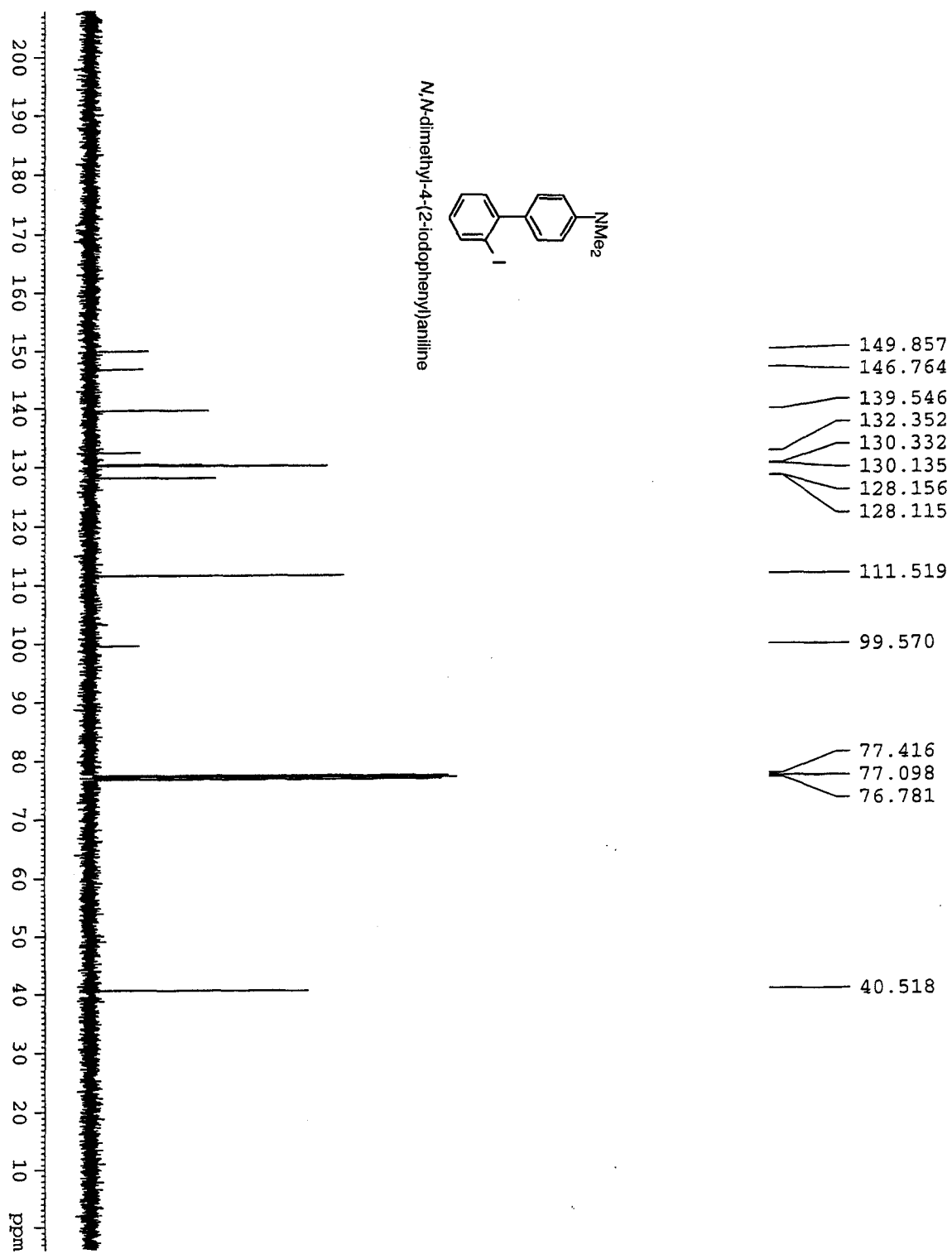
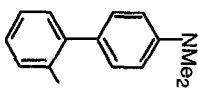


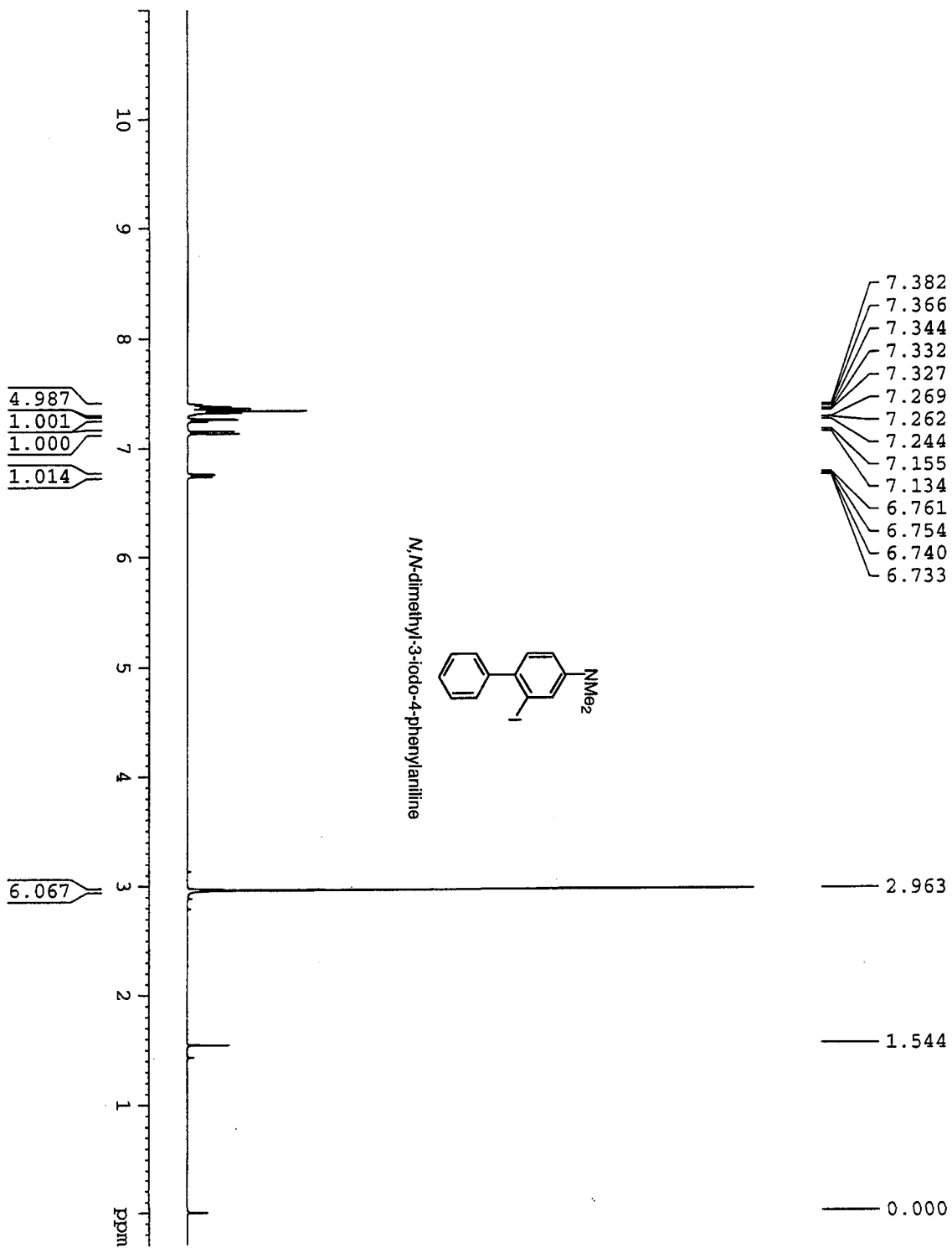
APPENDIX B. CHAPTER 2  $^1\text{H}$  AND  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR SPECTRA

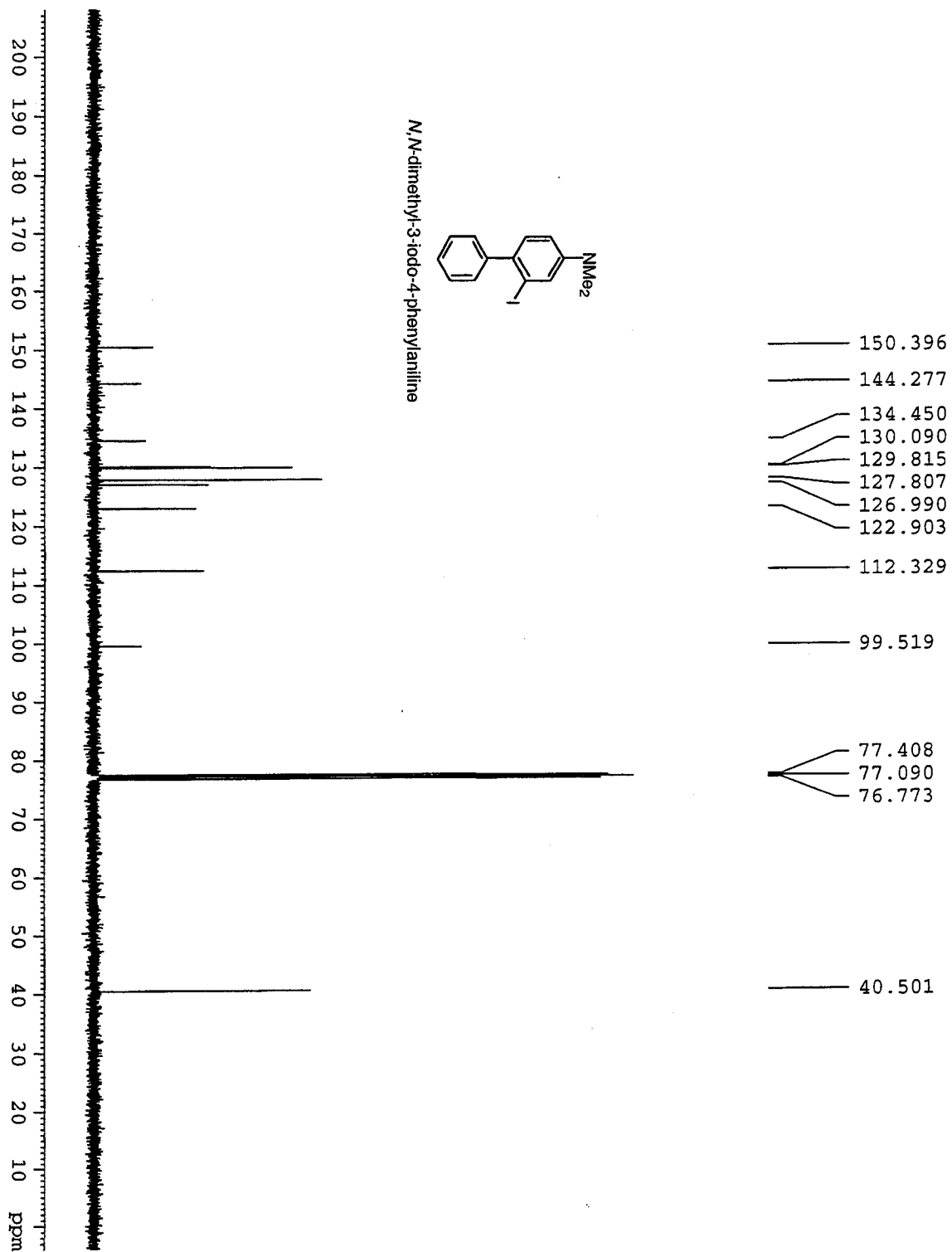
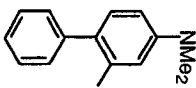




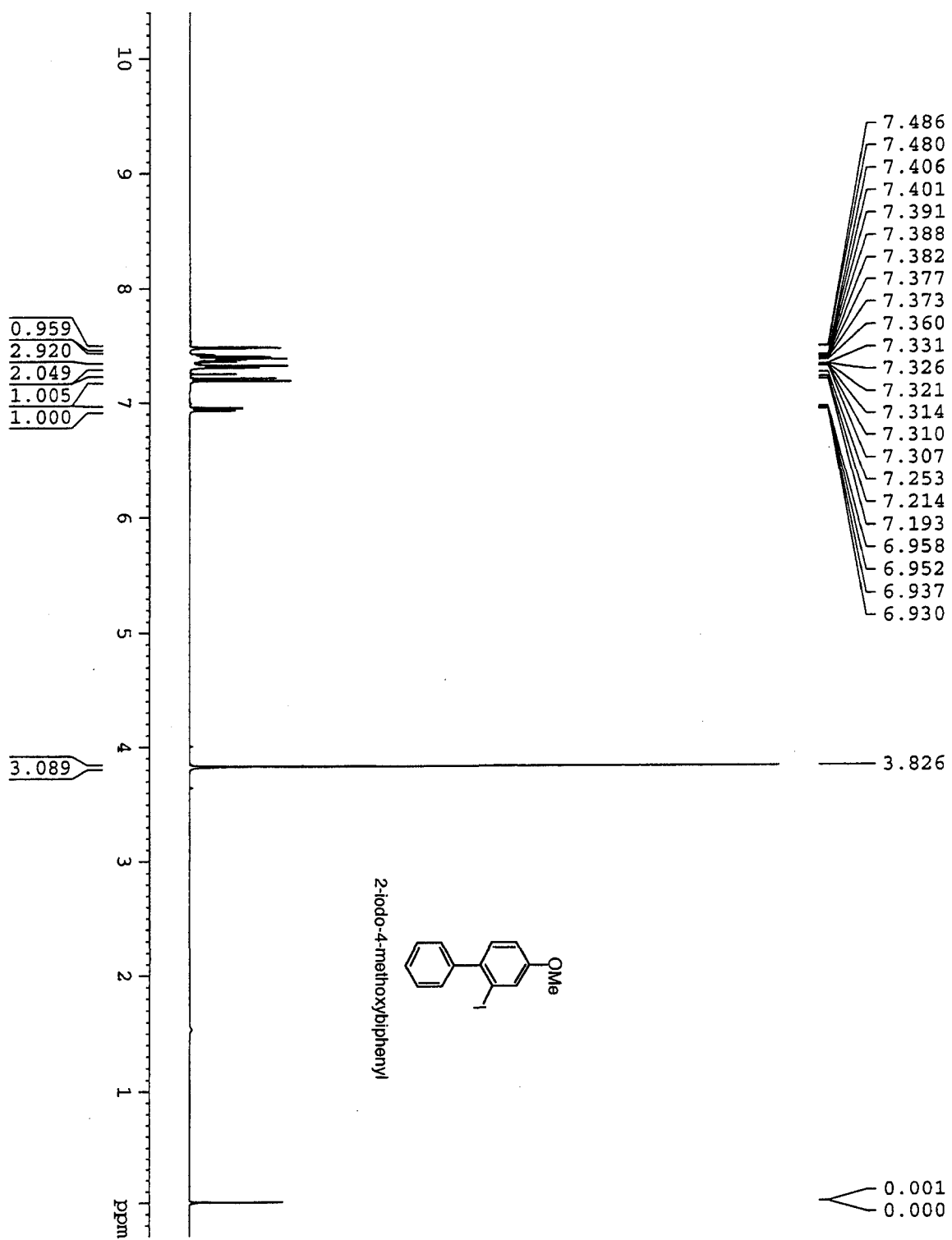


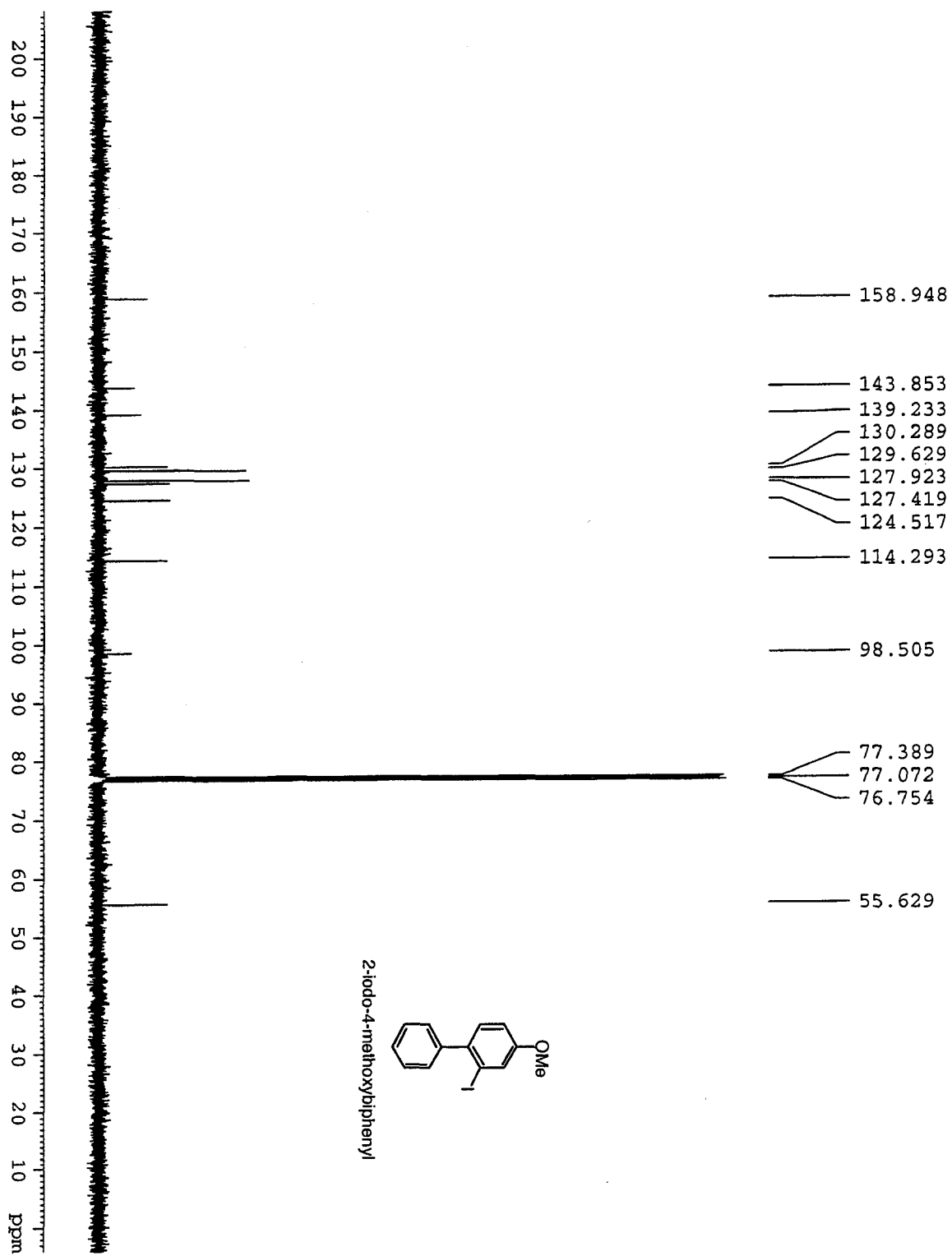
*N,N*-dimethyl-4-(2-iodophenyl)aniline

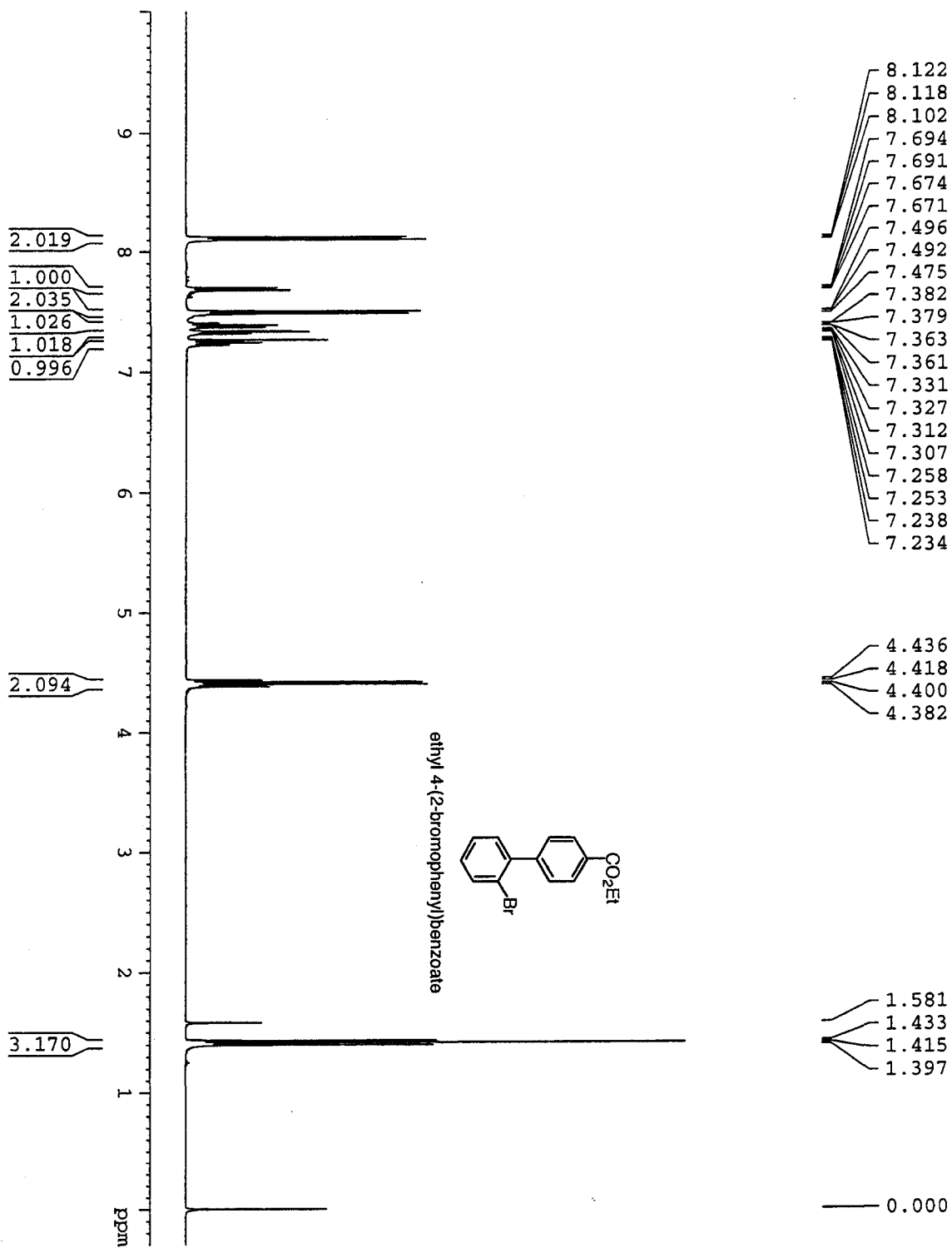


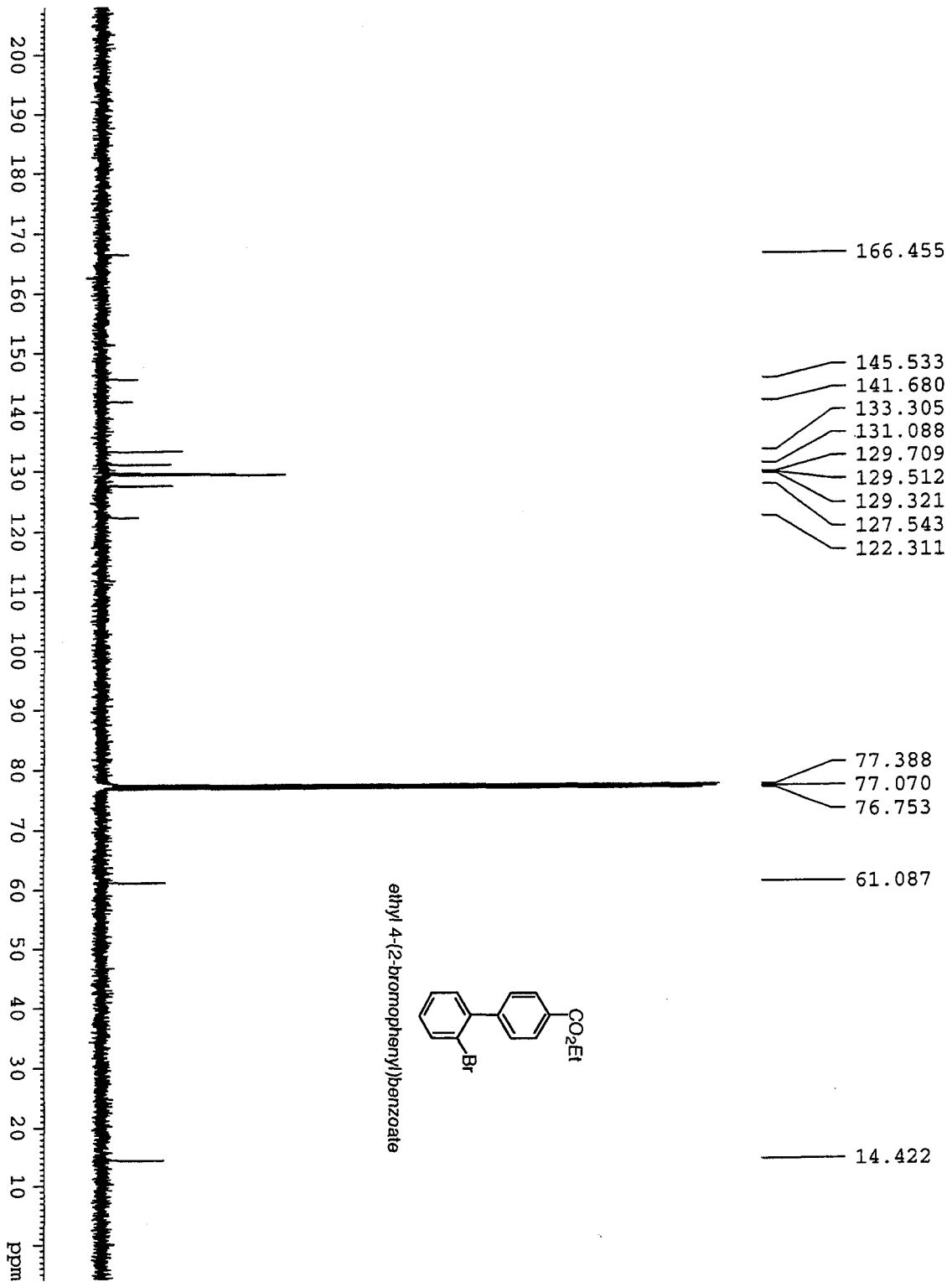
*N,N*-dimethyl-3-iodo-4-phenylaniline

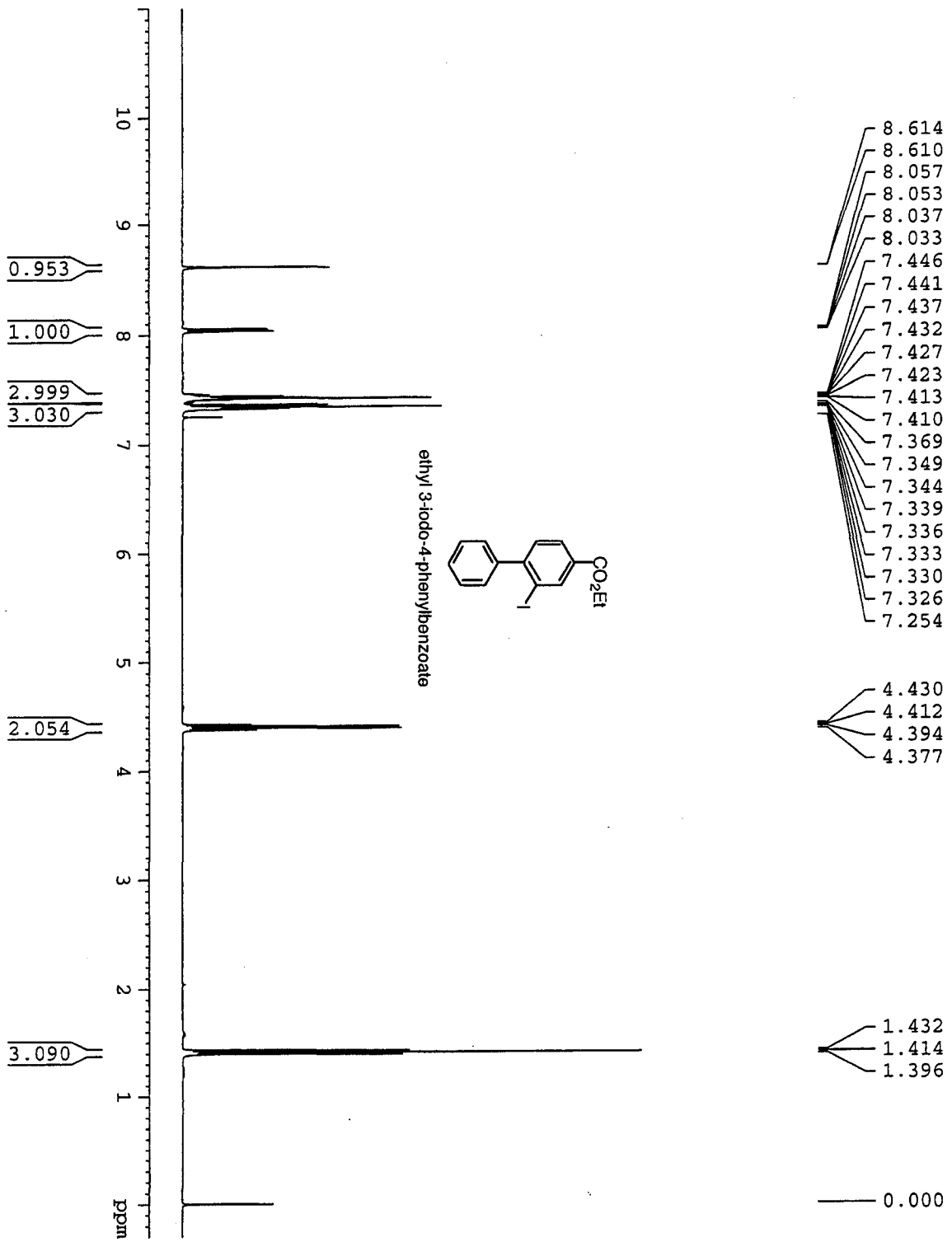


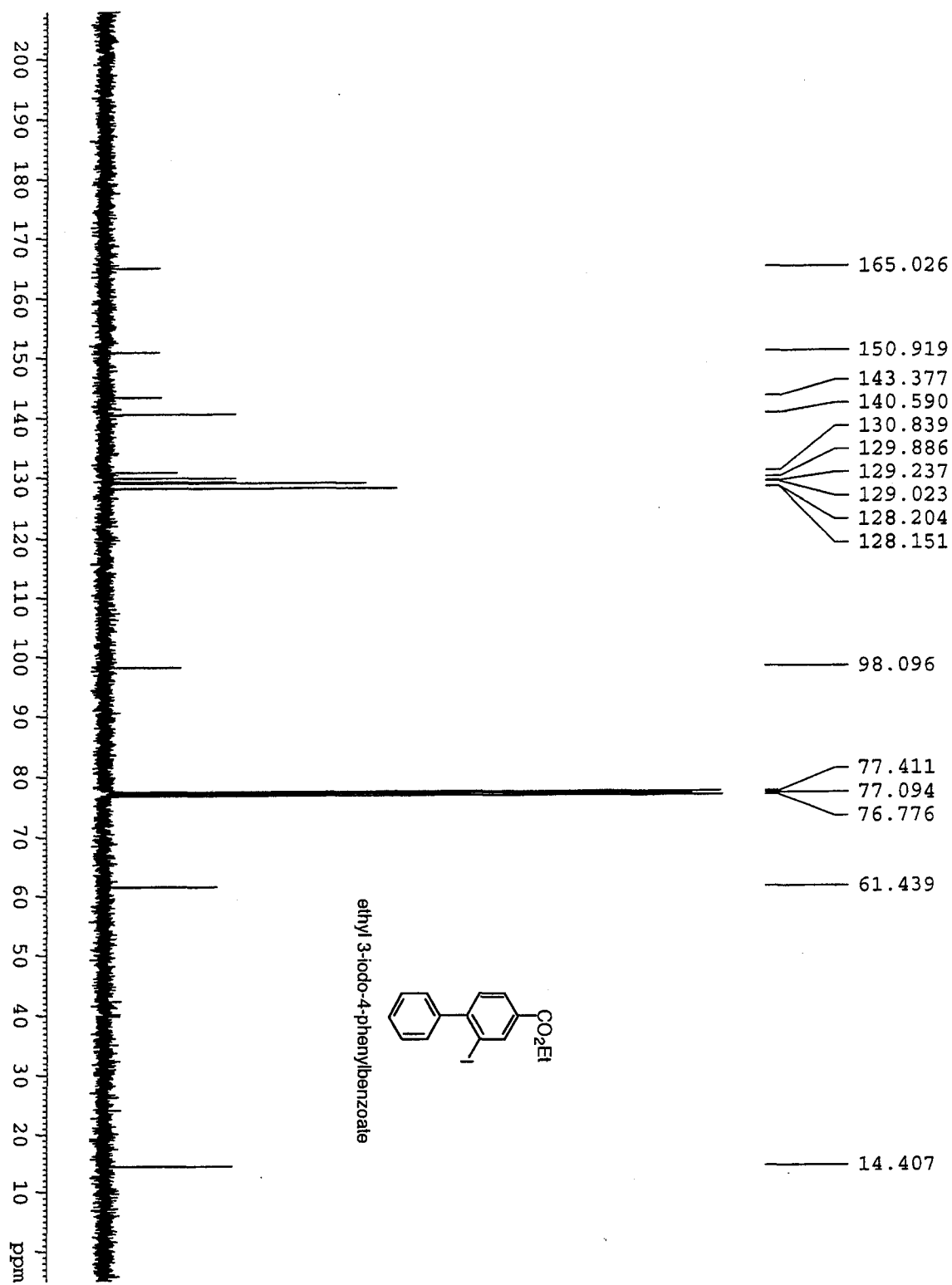


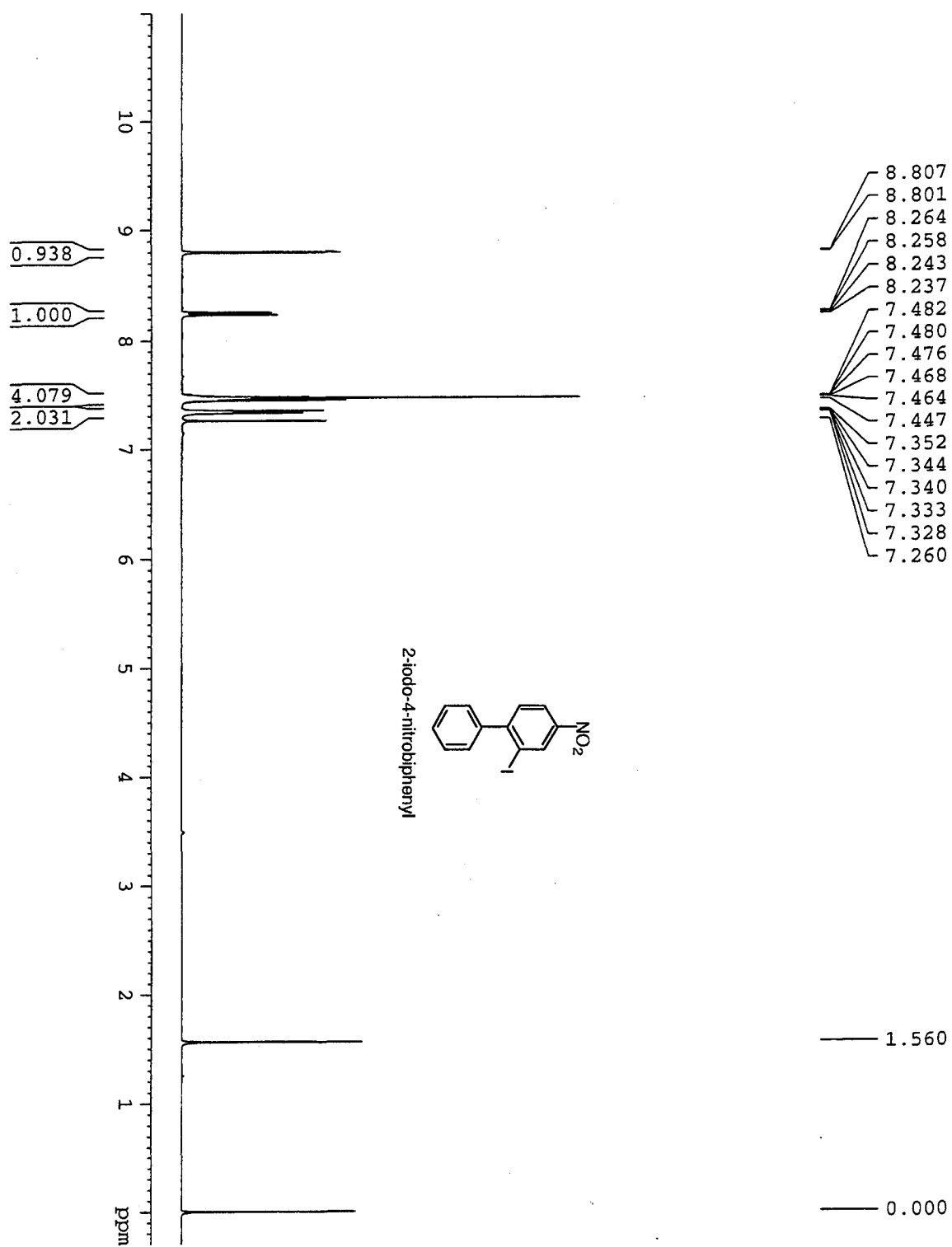


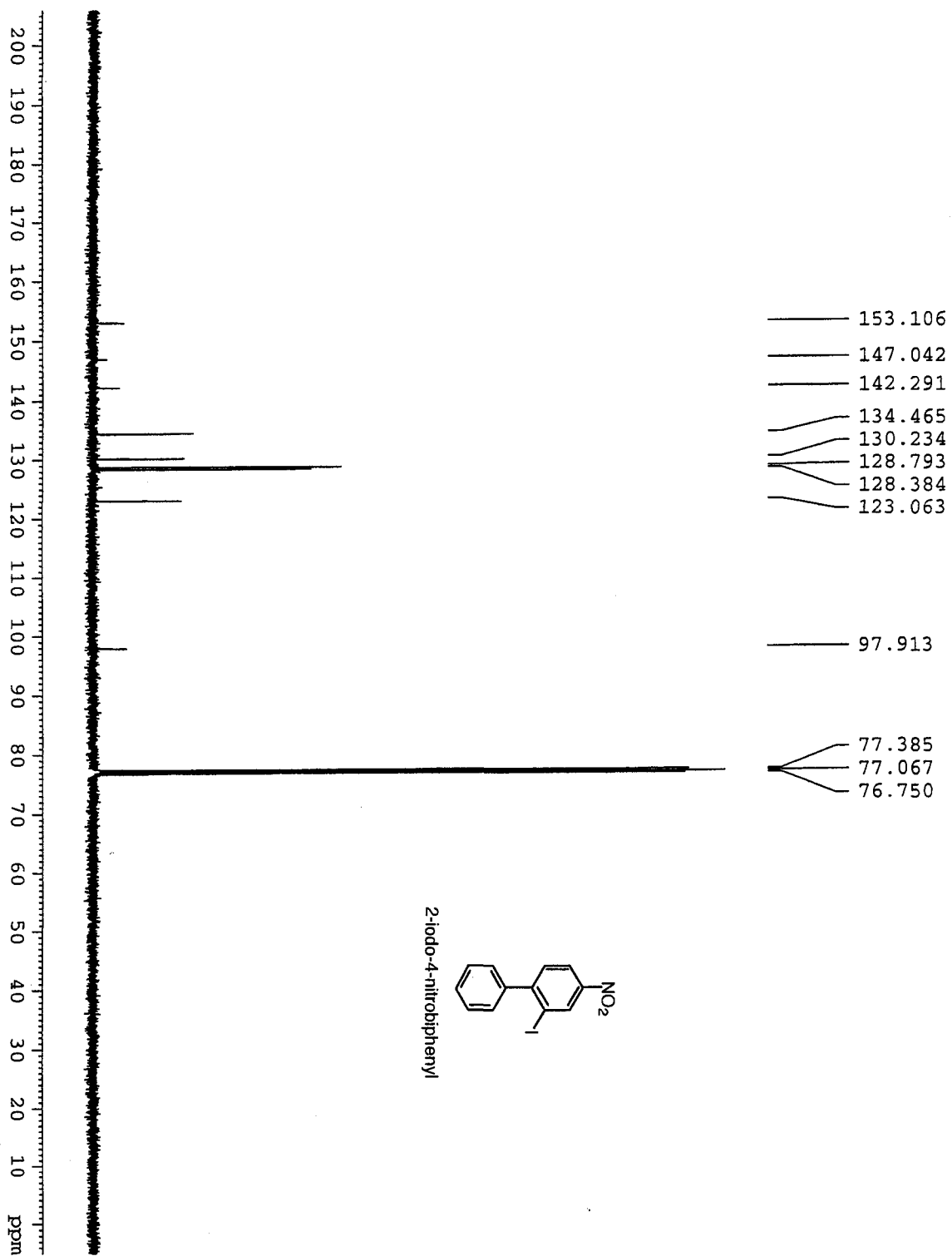




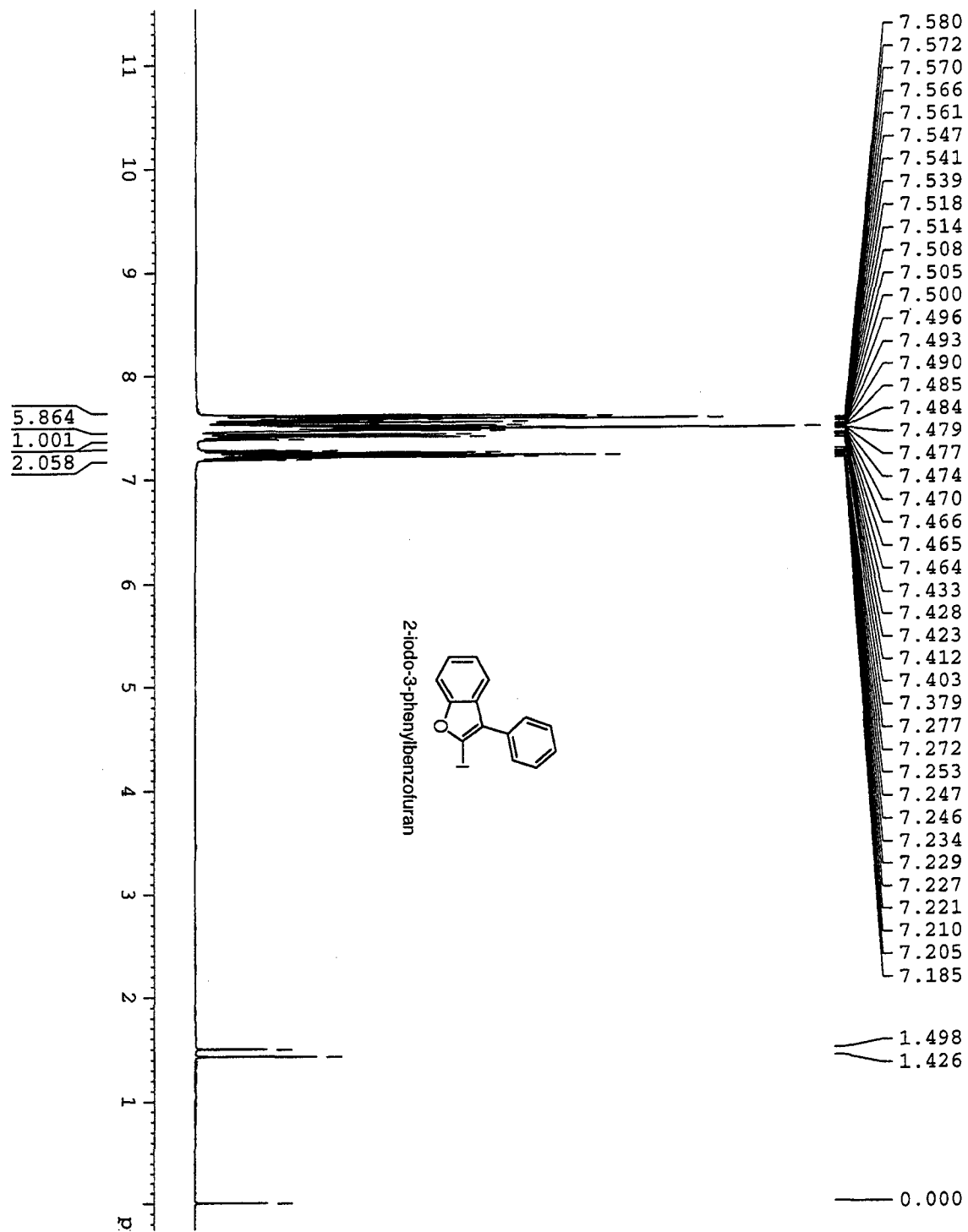


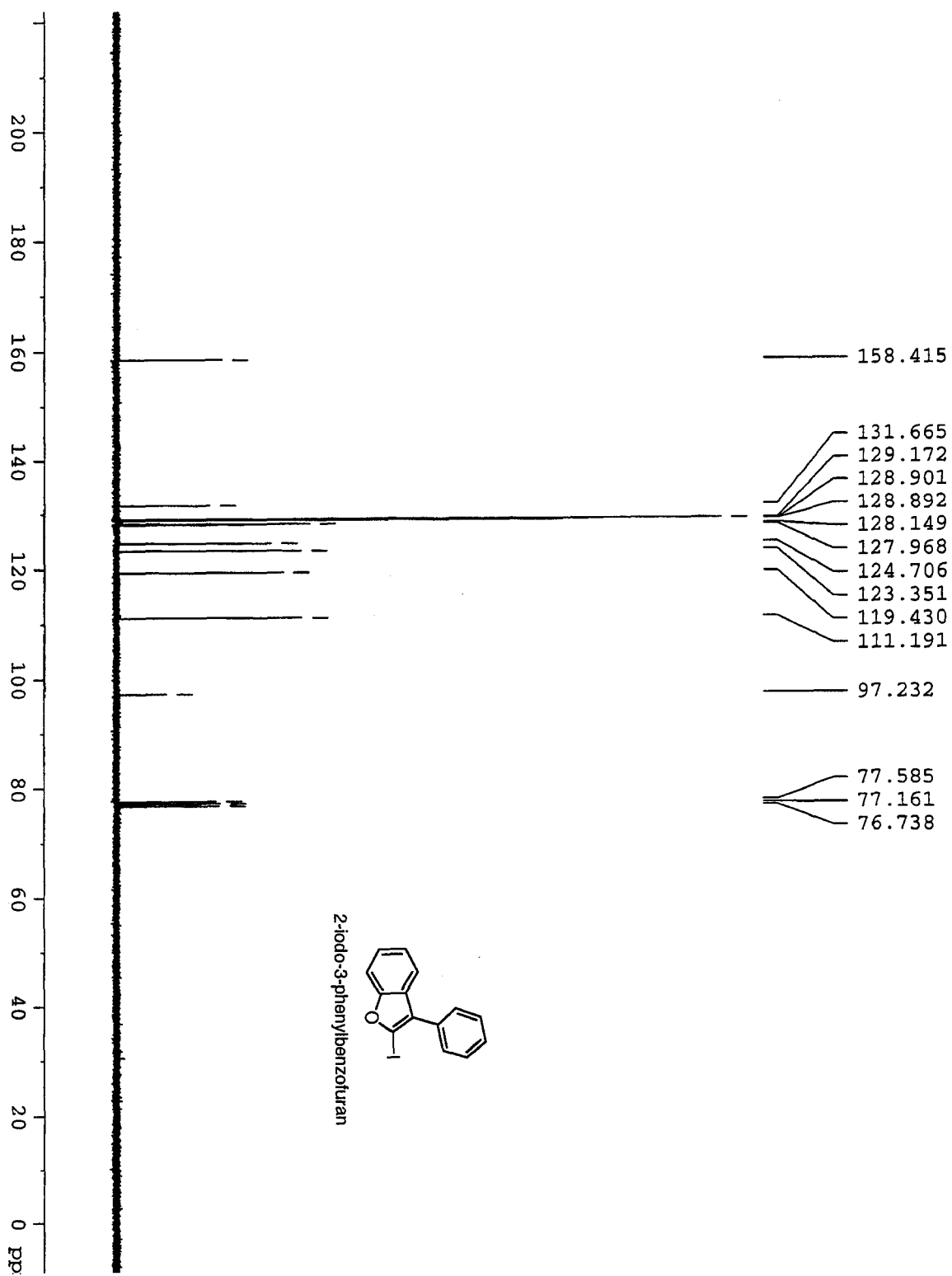


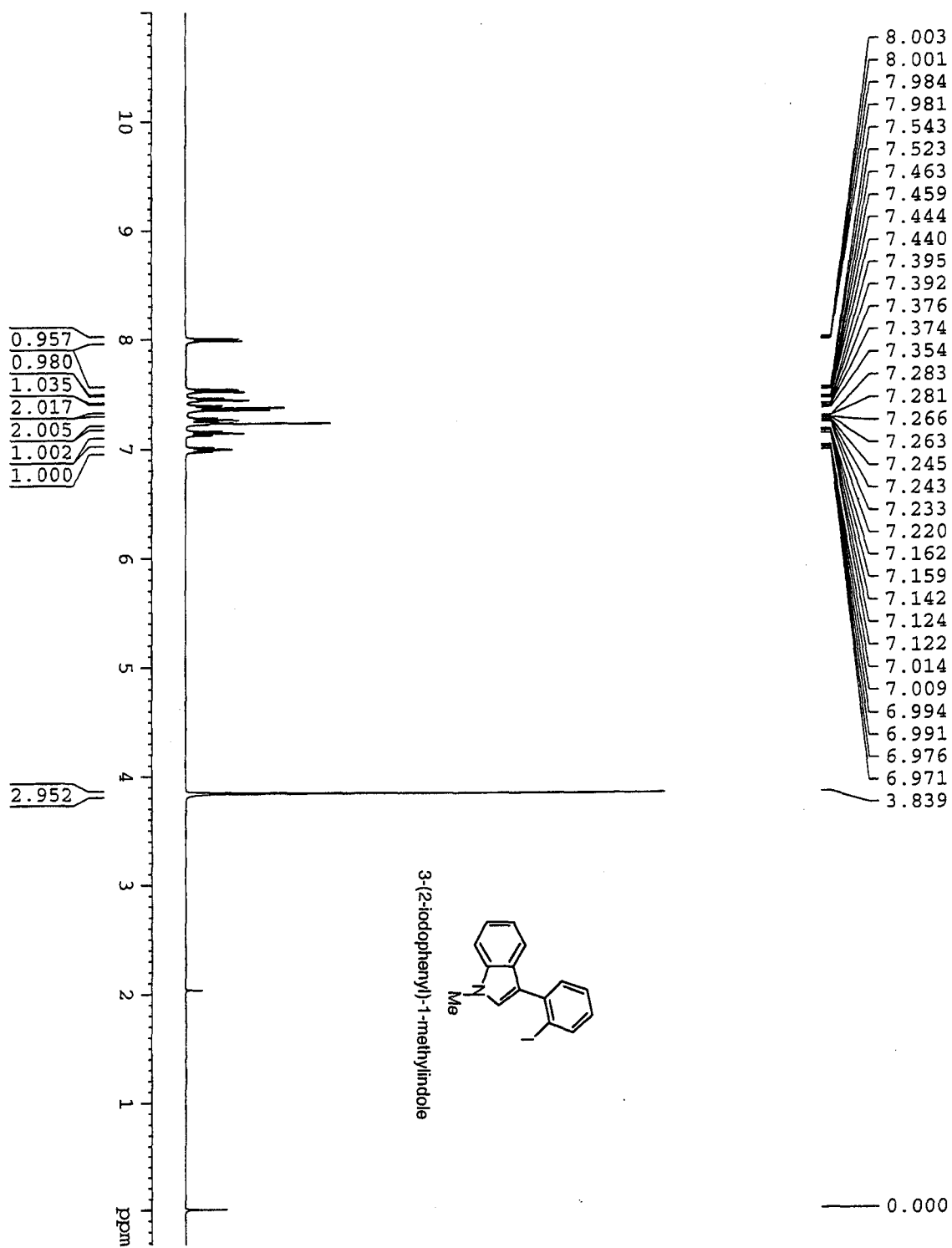




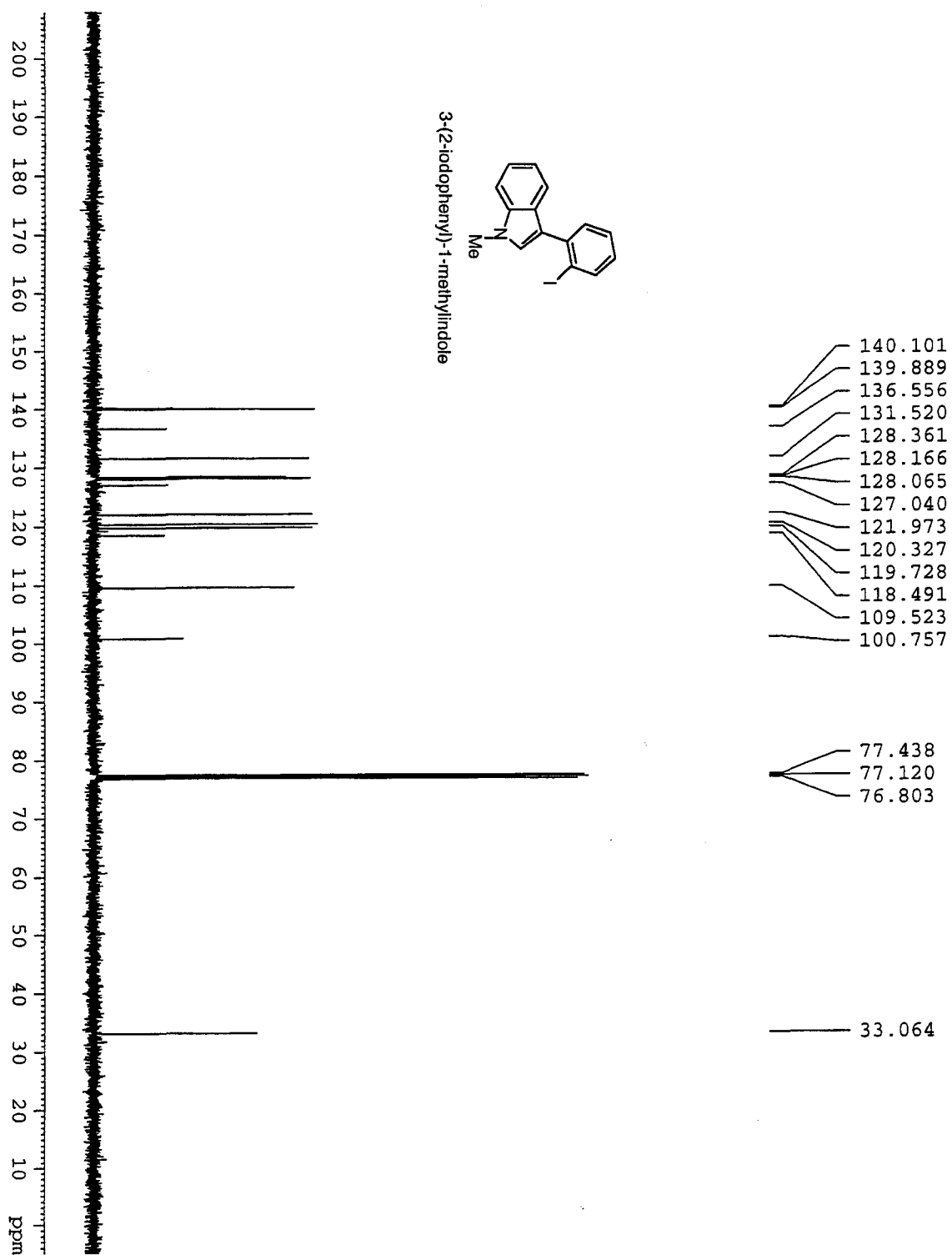
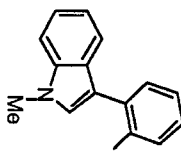


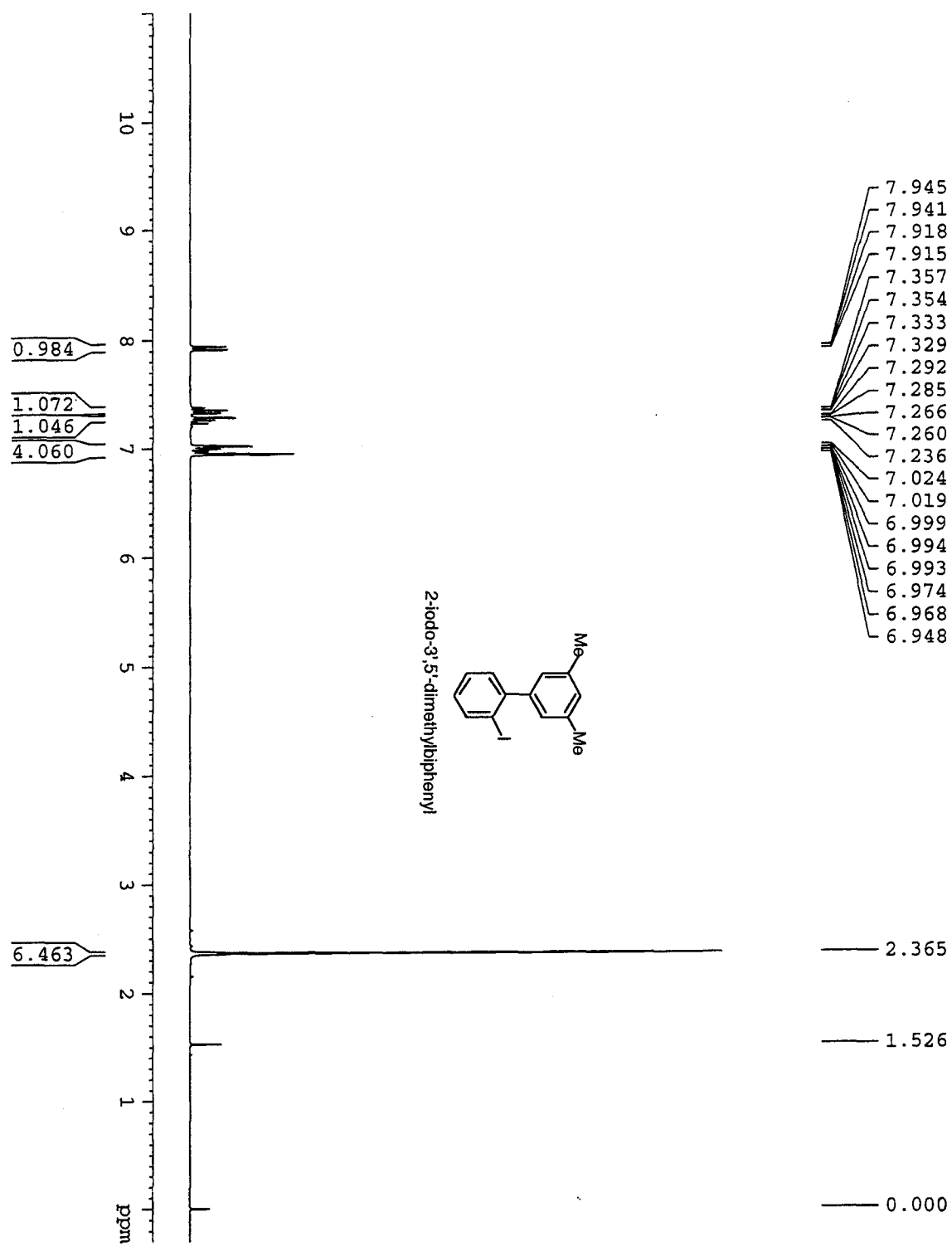


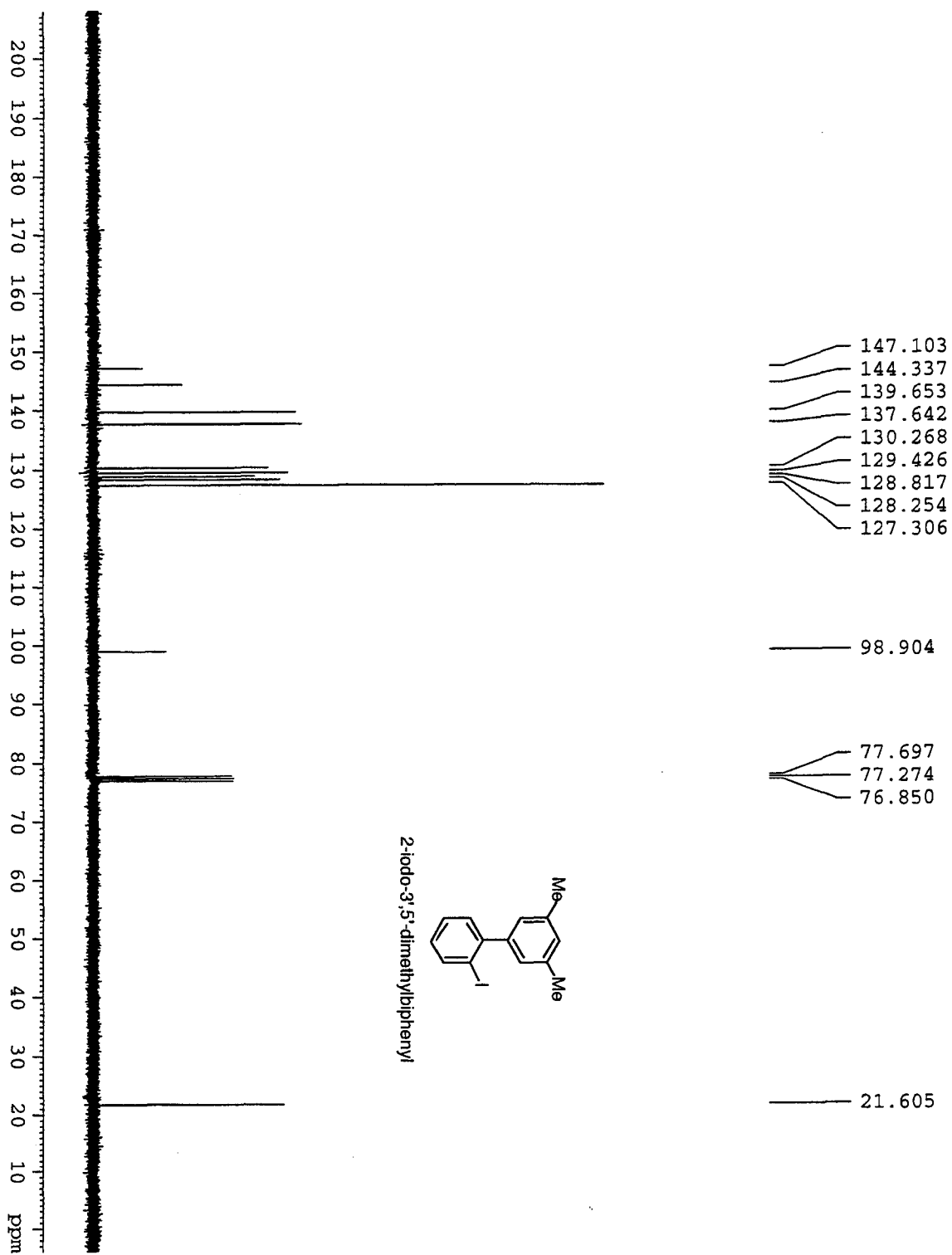


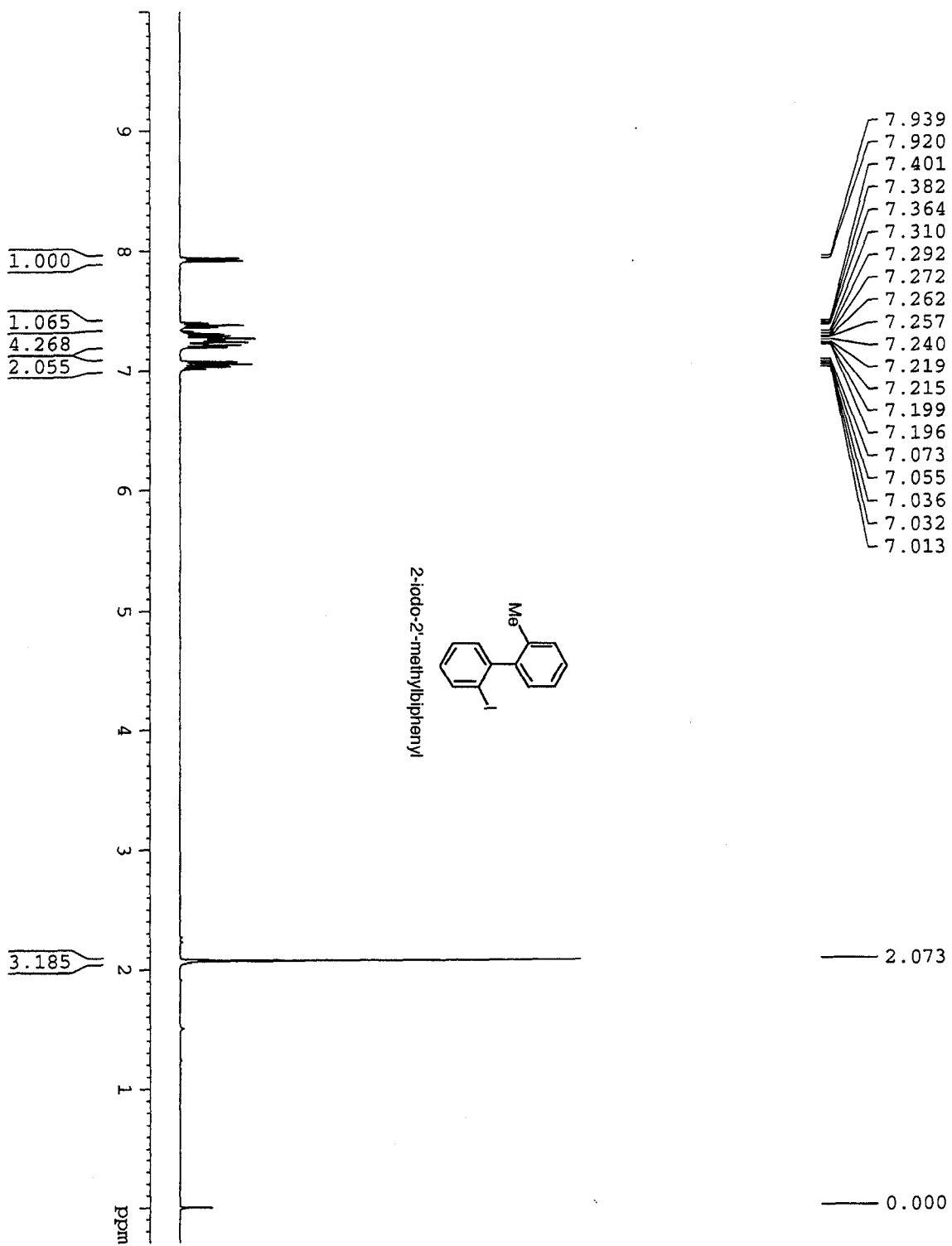


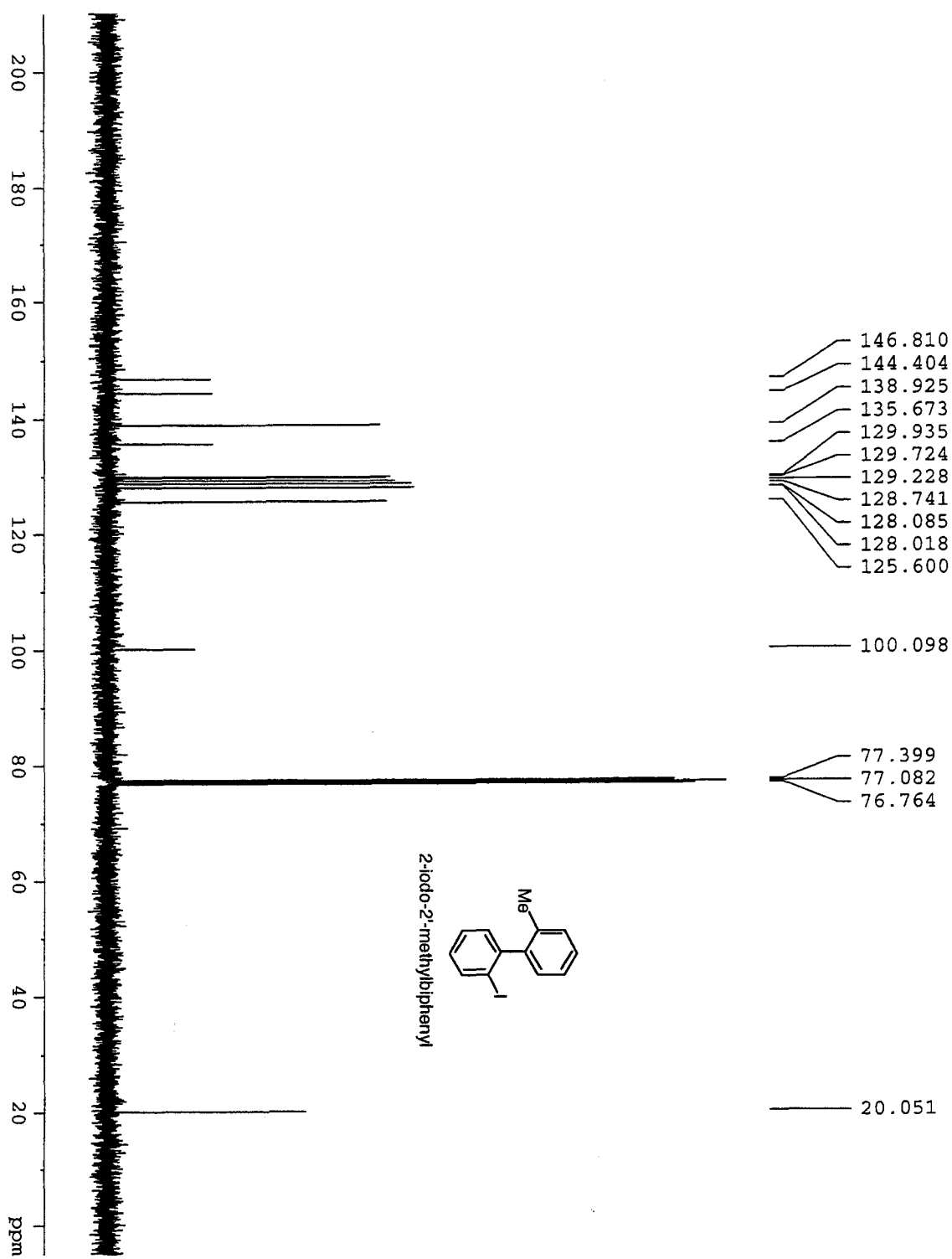
3-(2-iodophenyl)-1-methylindole



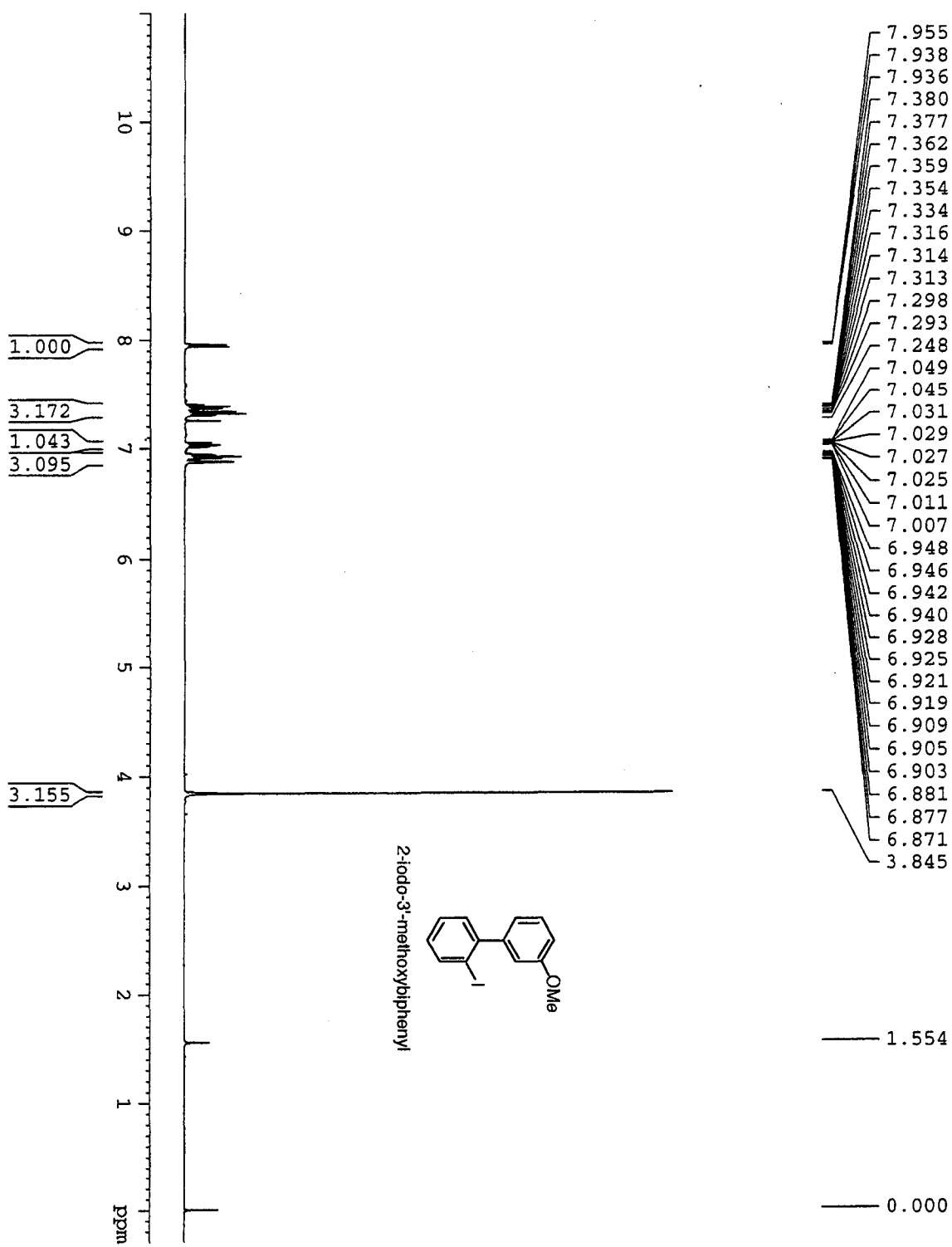


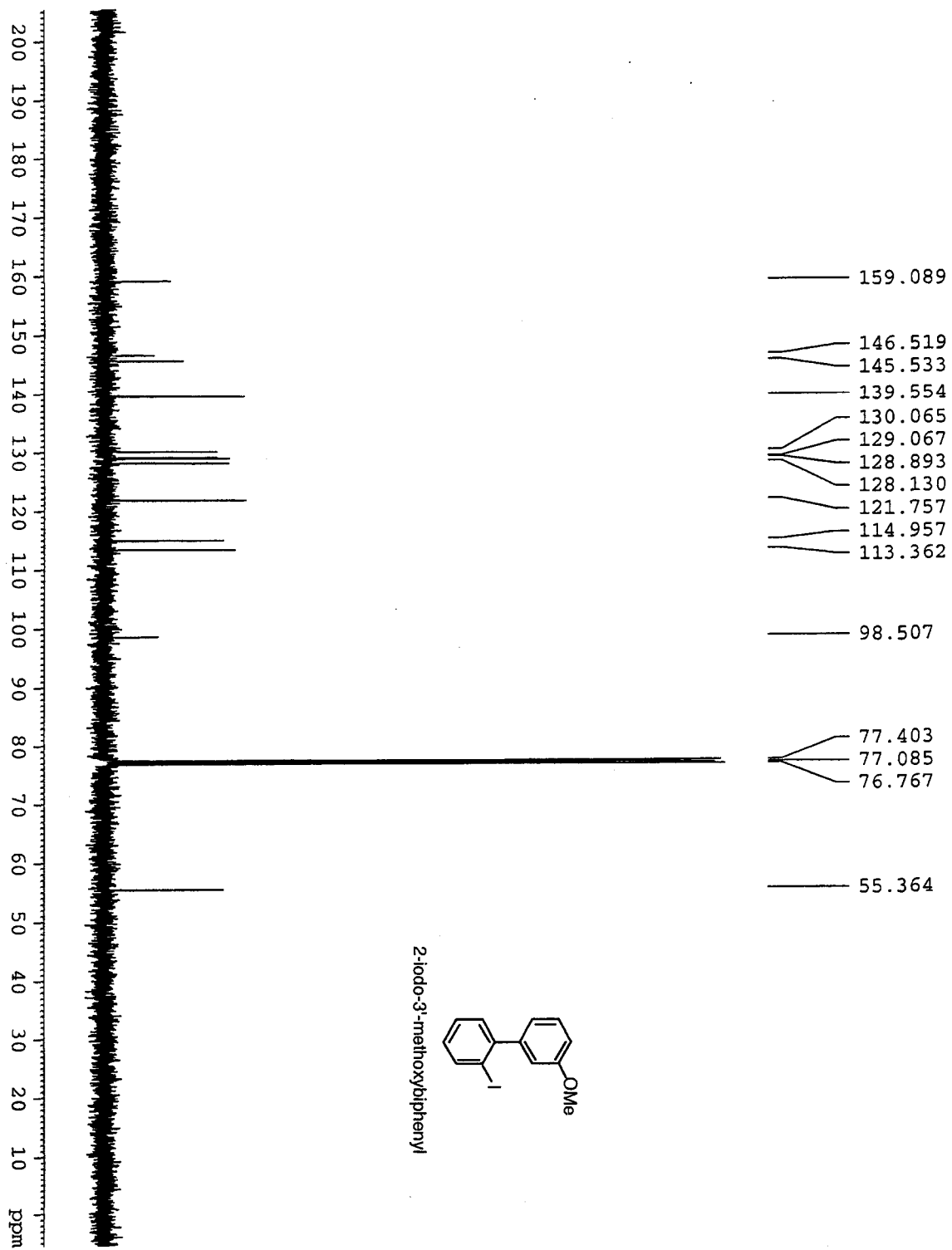


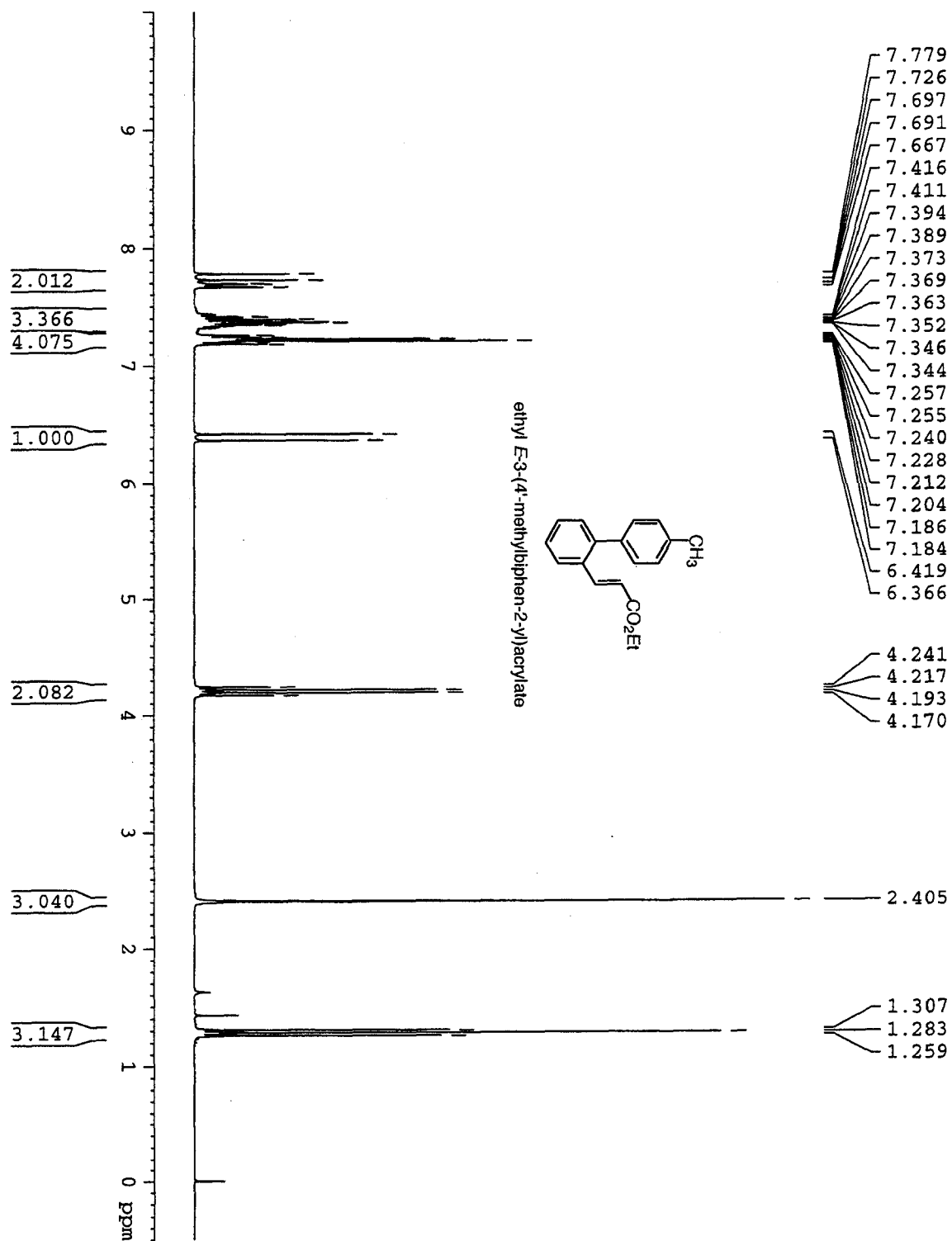


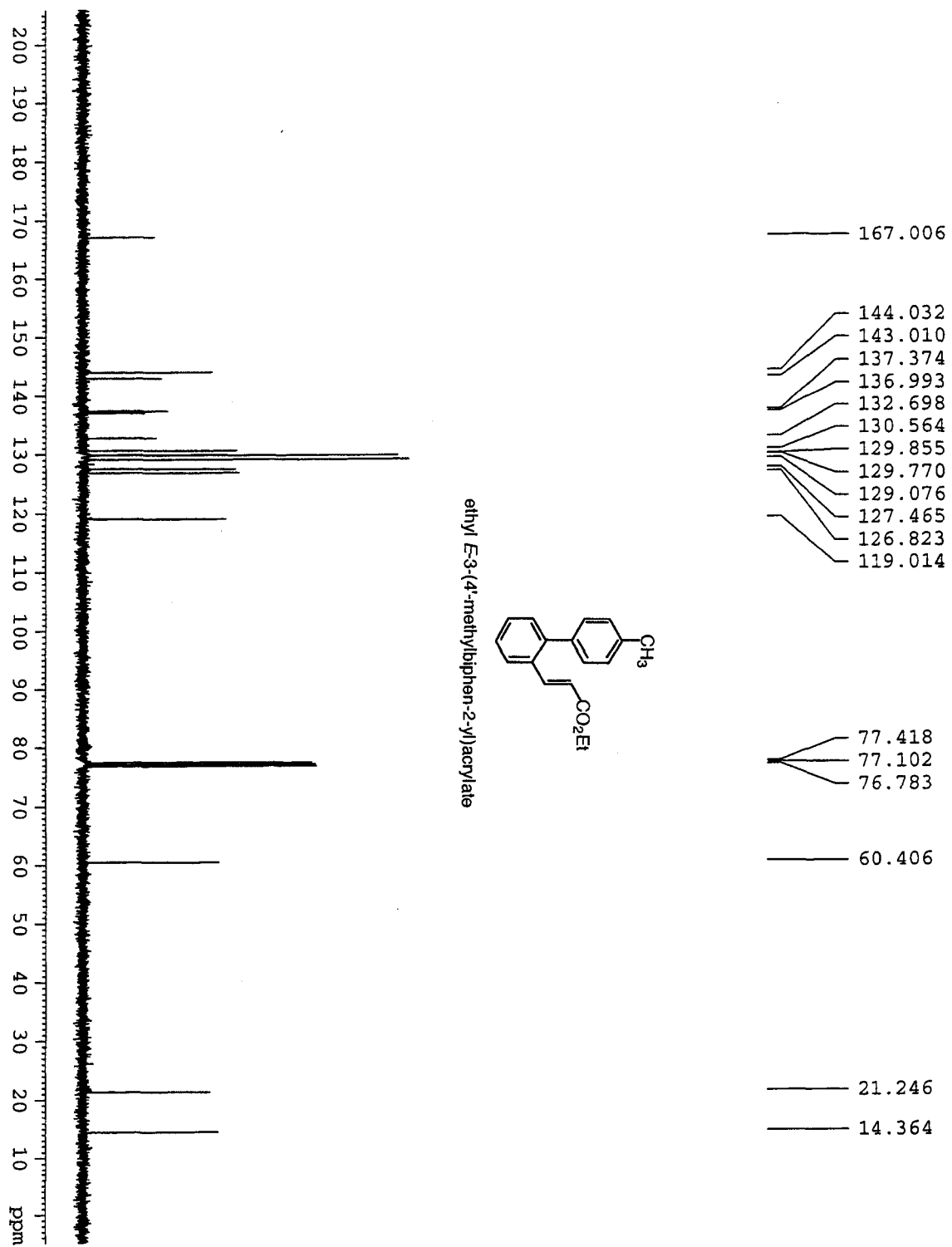


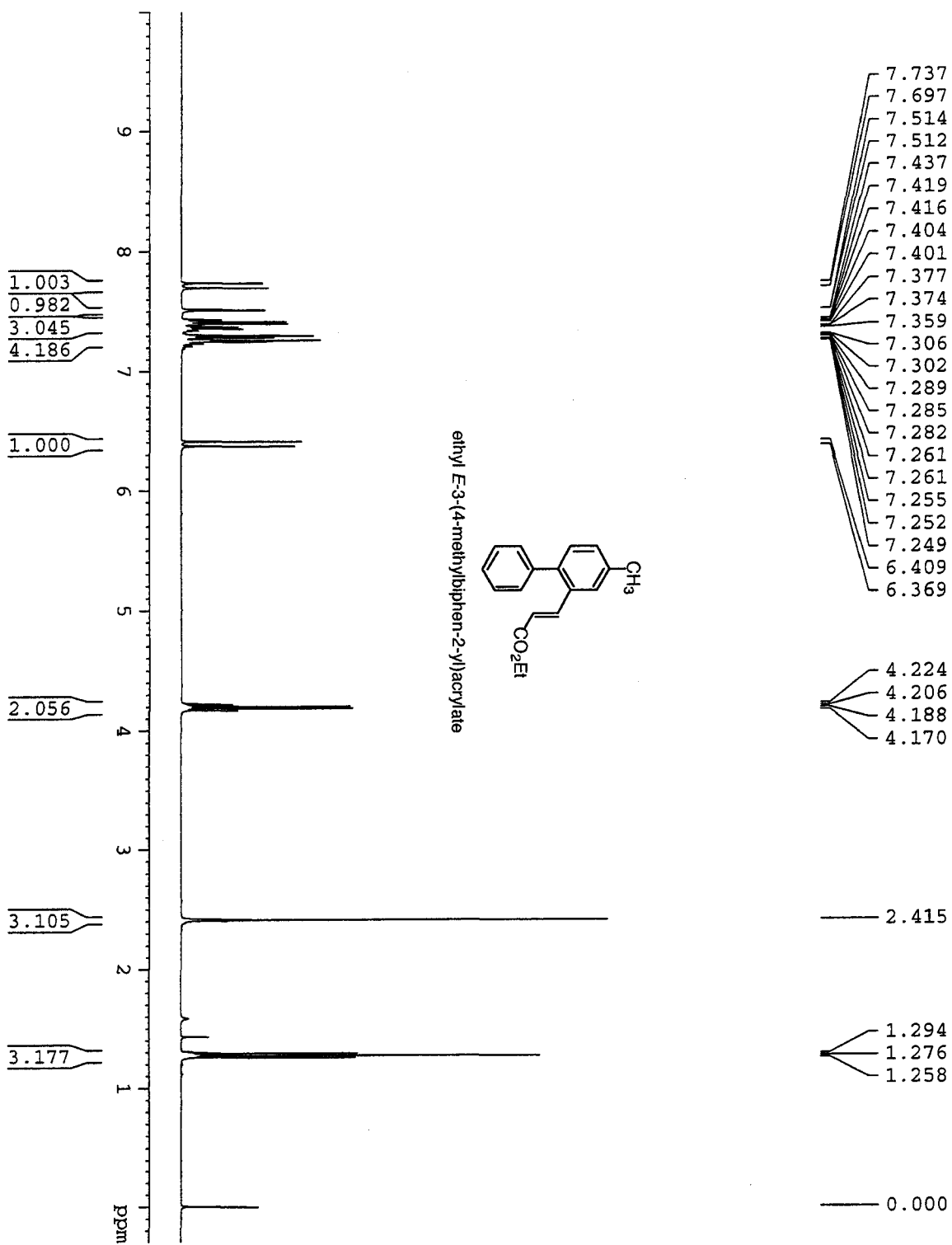


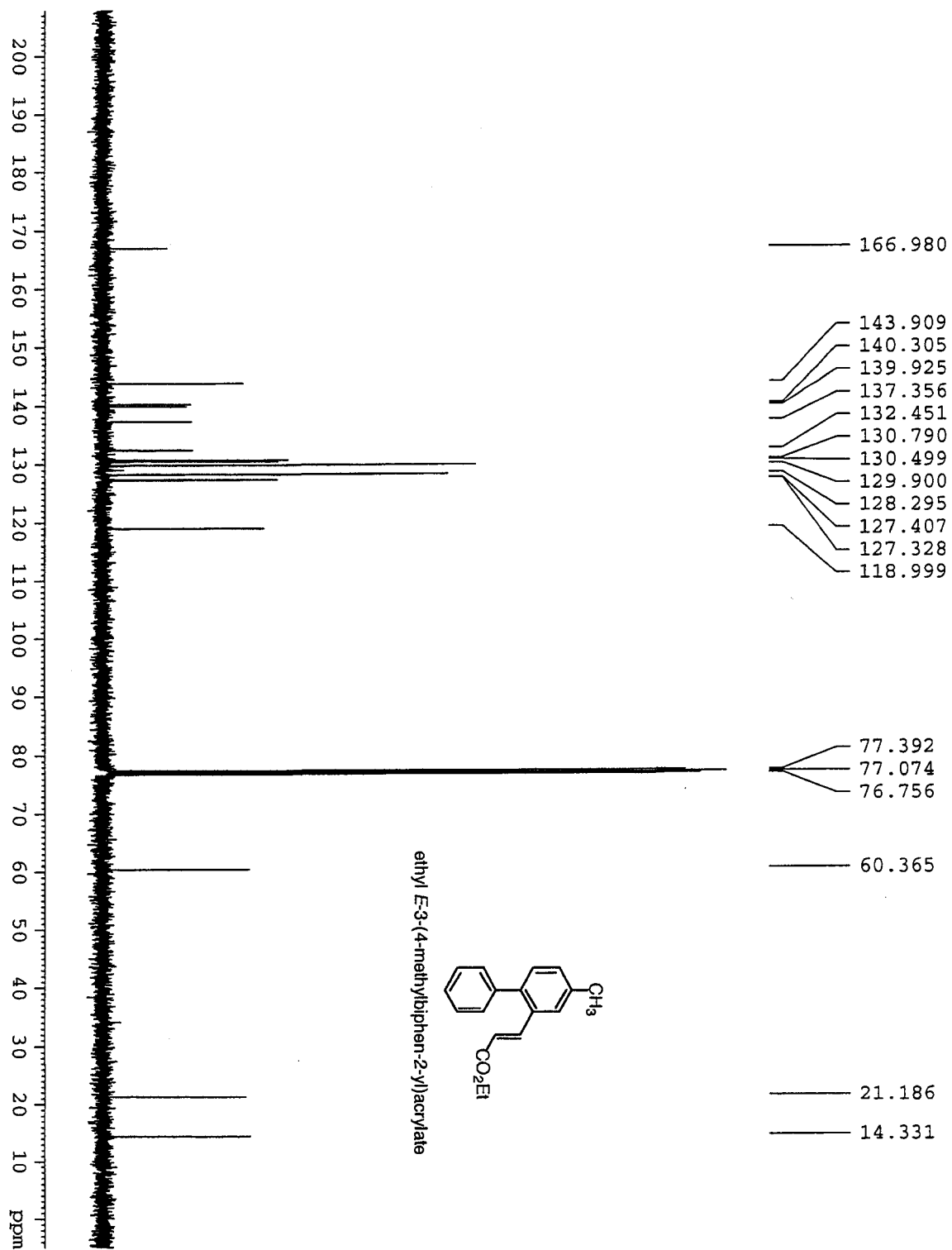


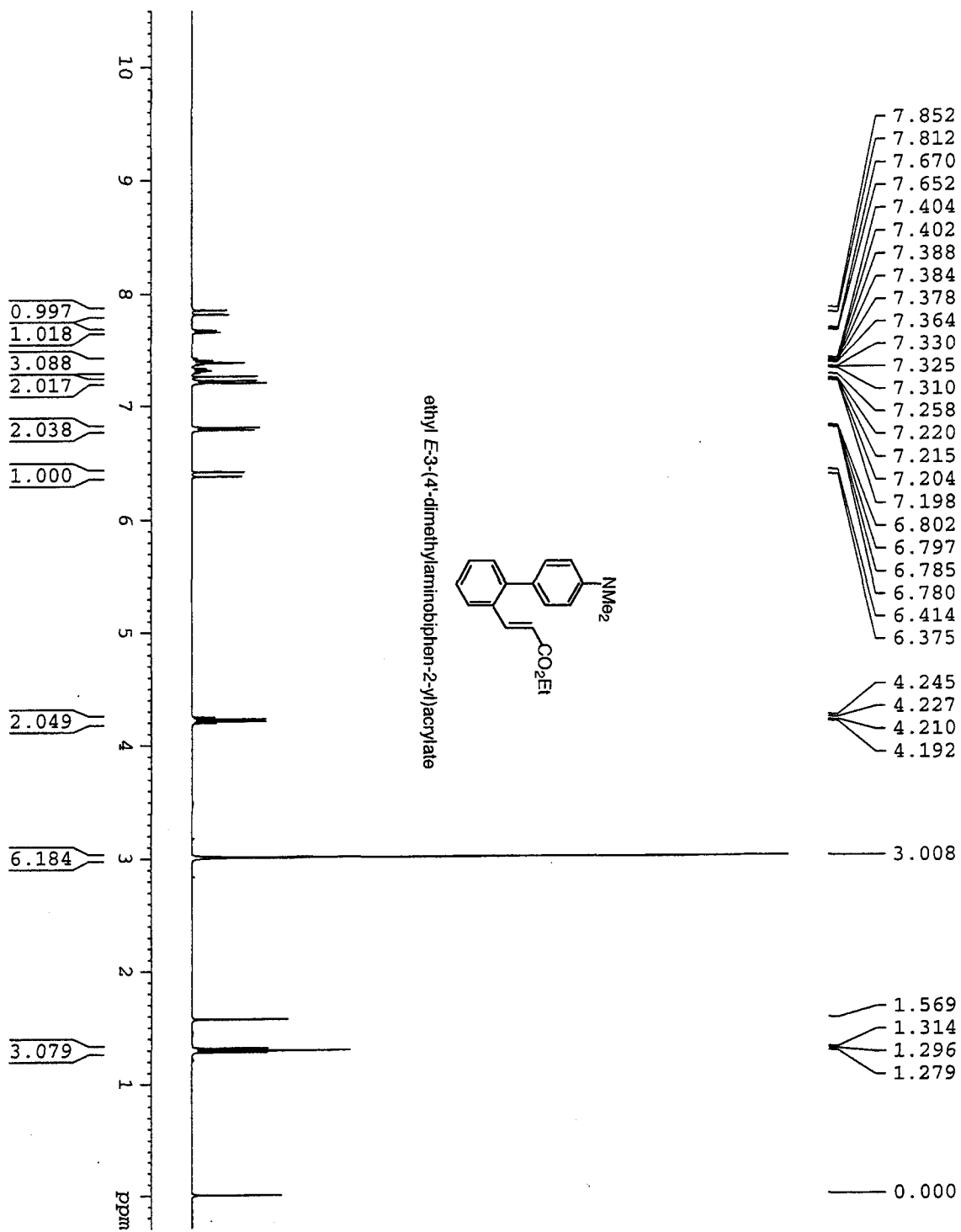


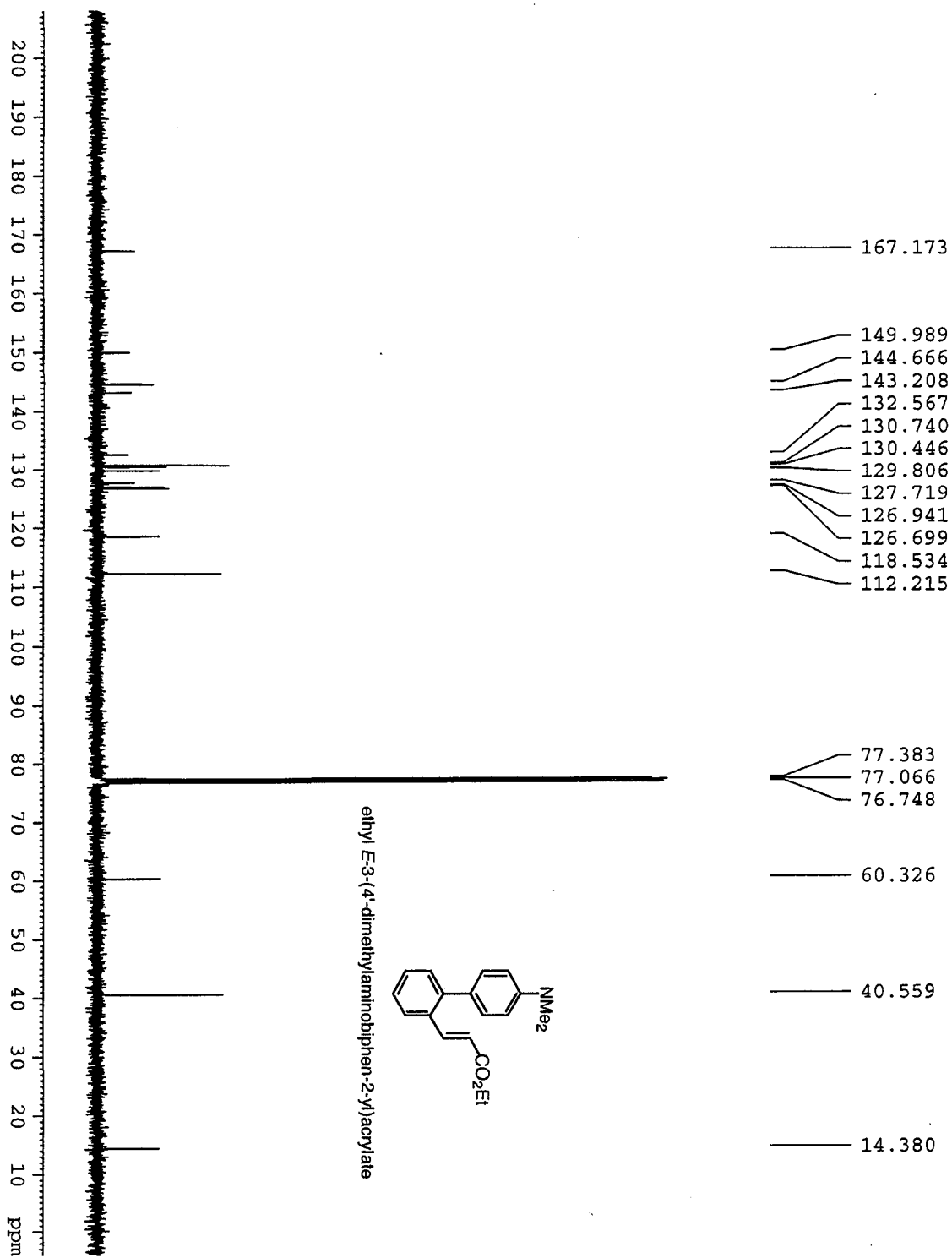




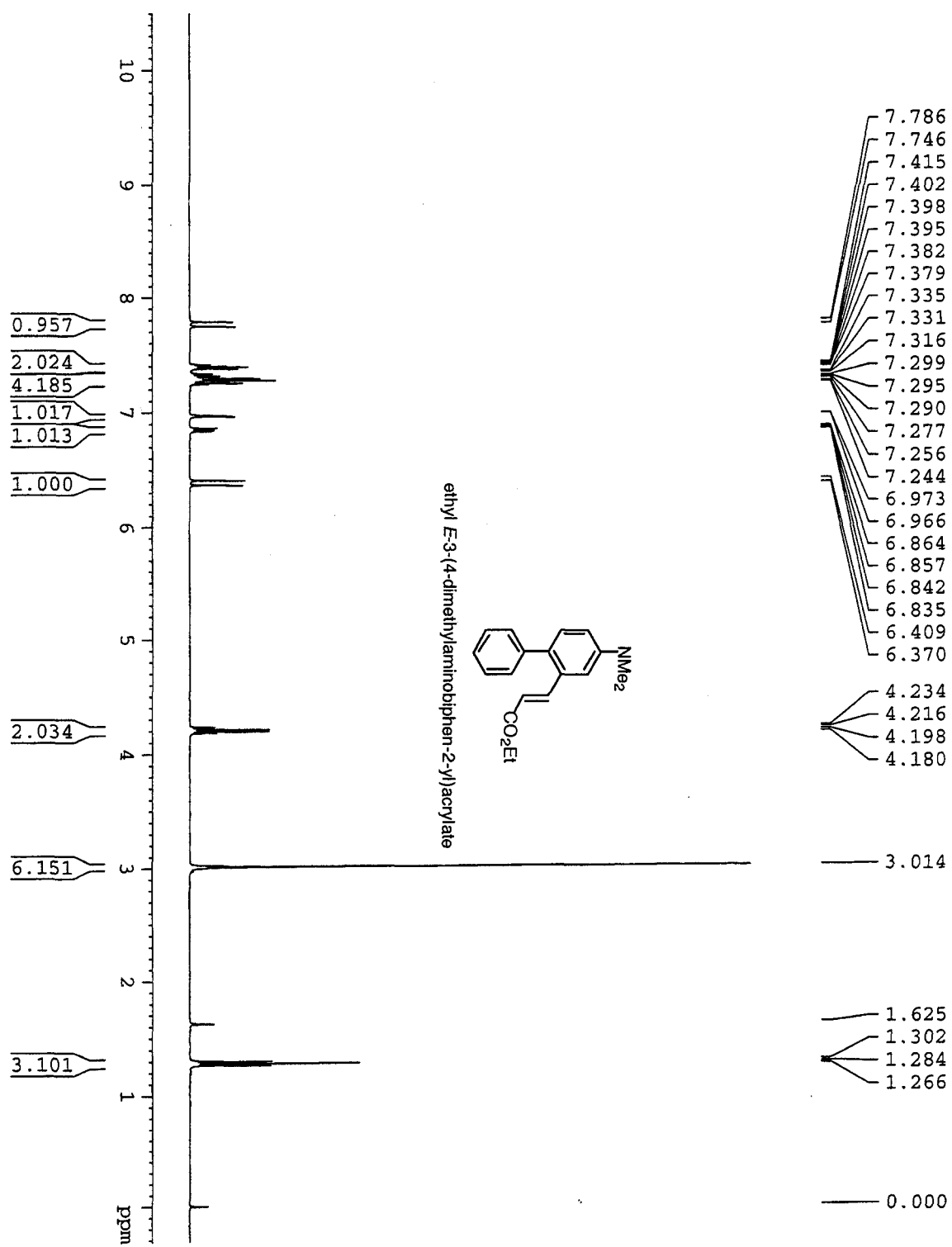


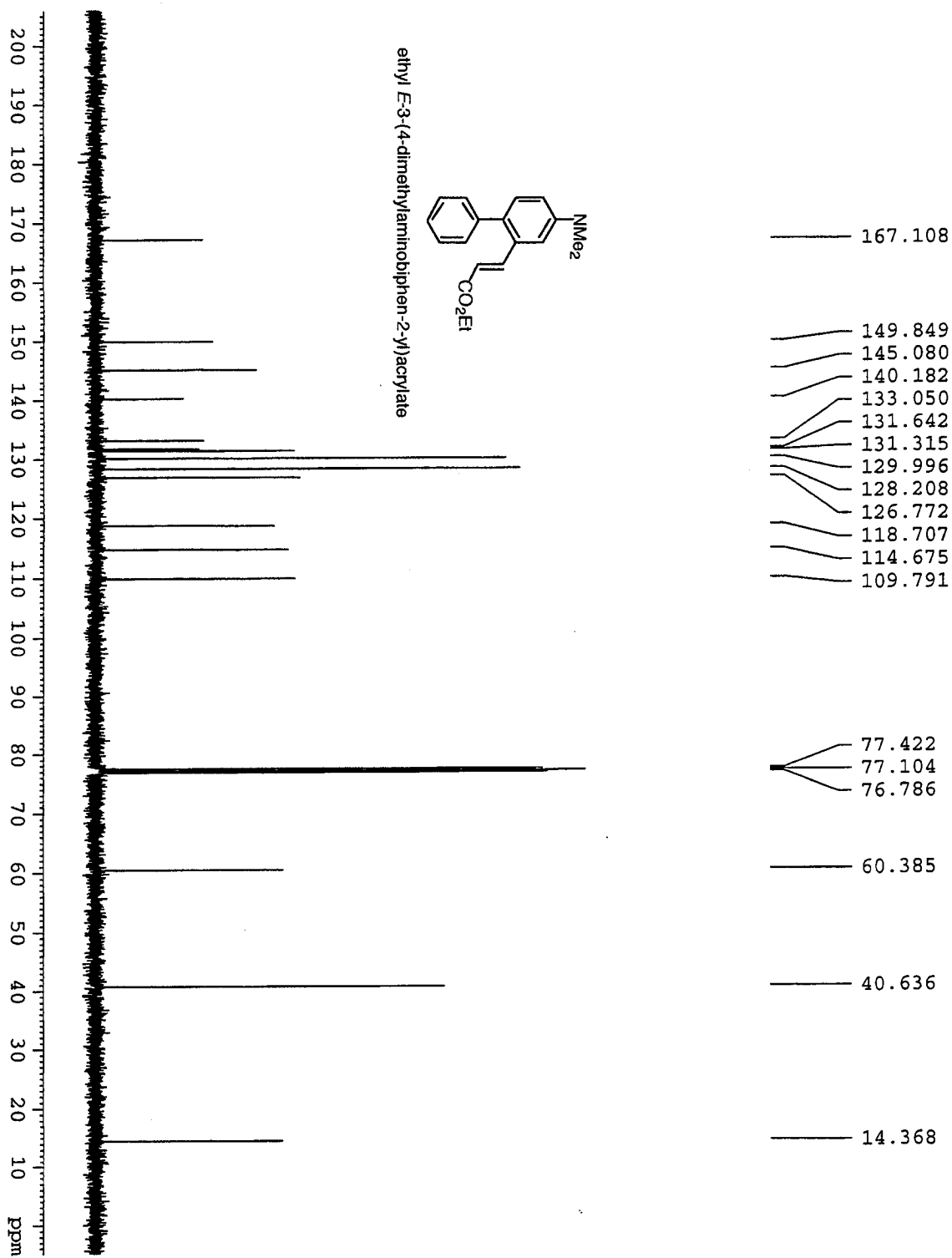


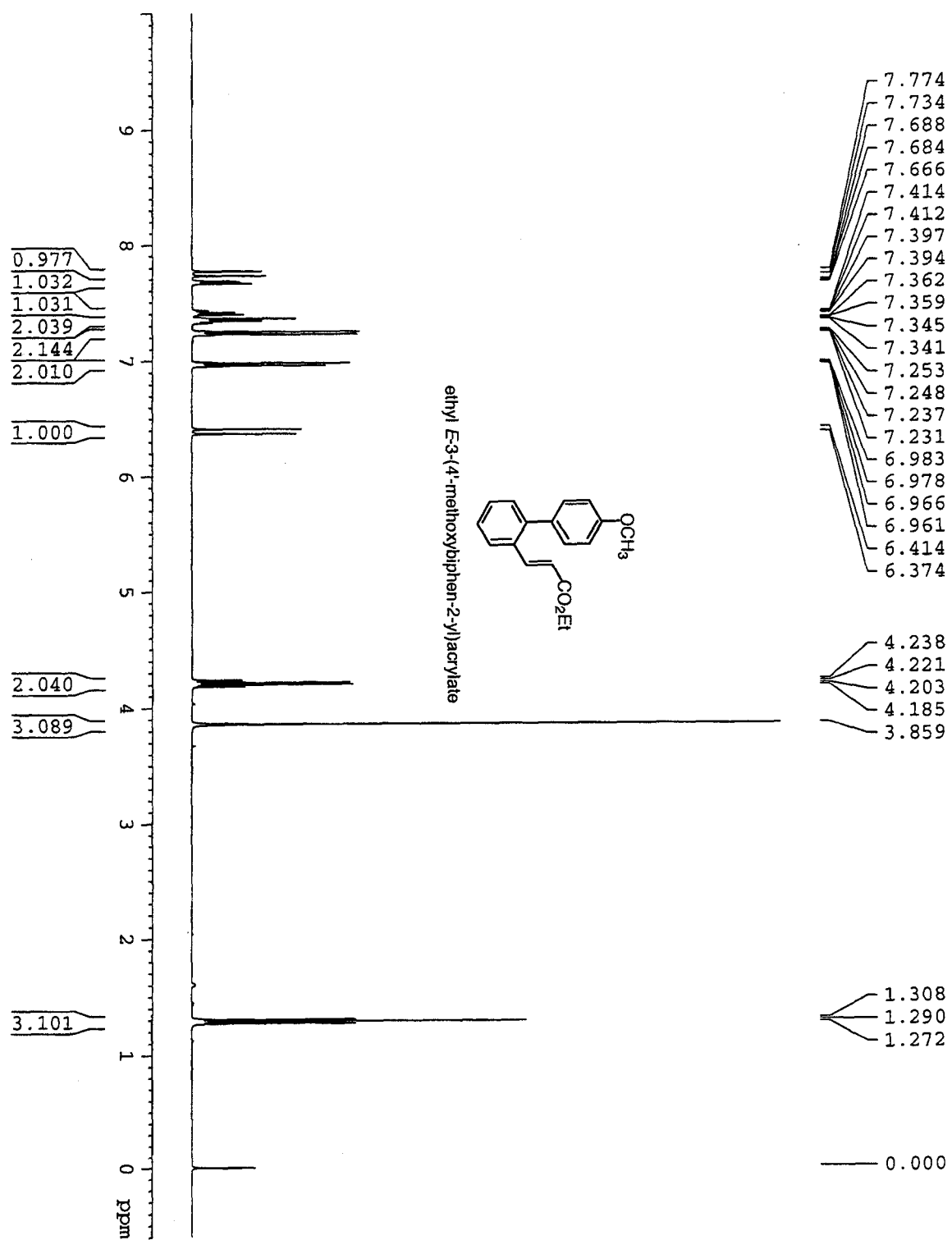


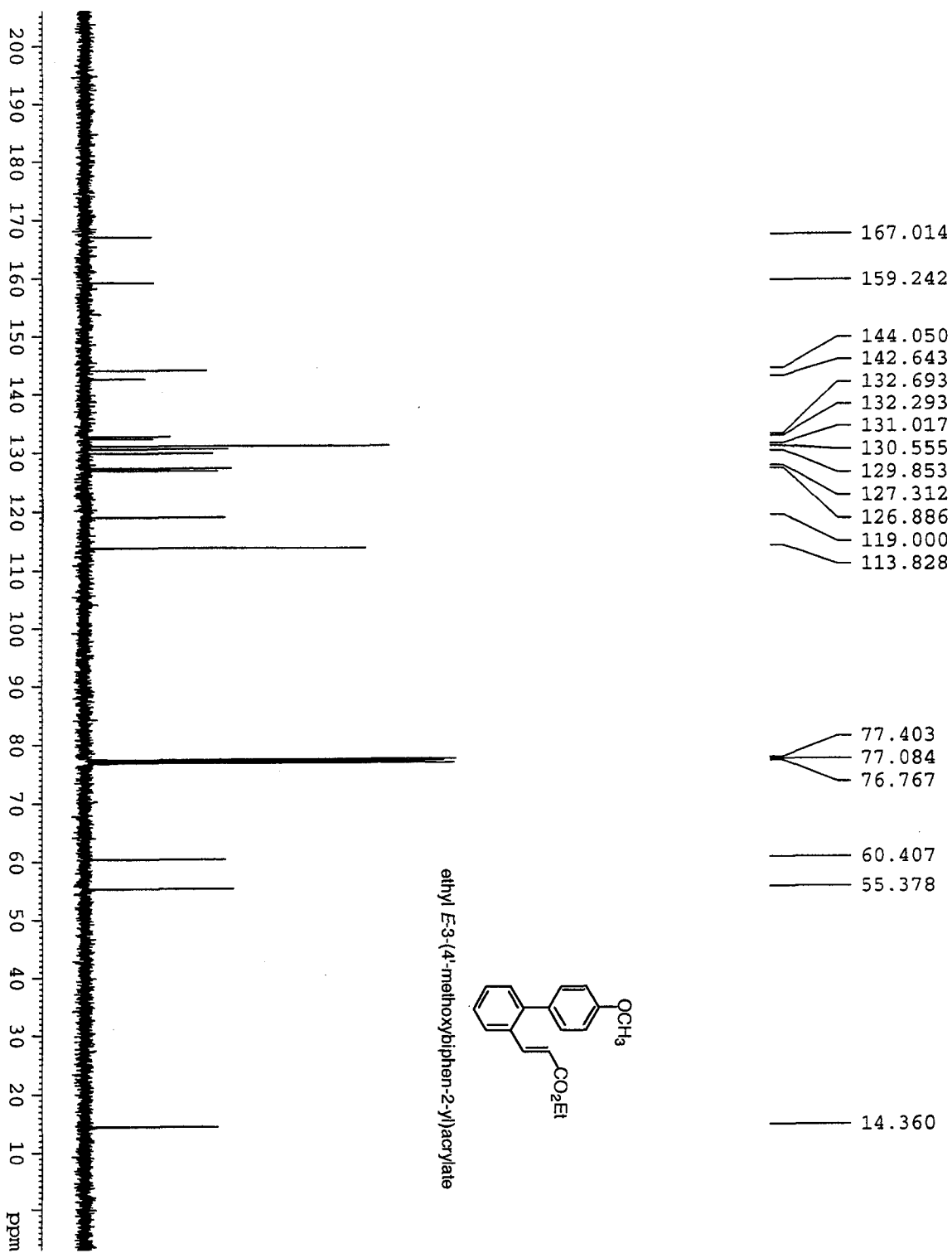


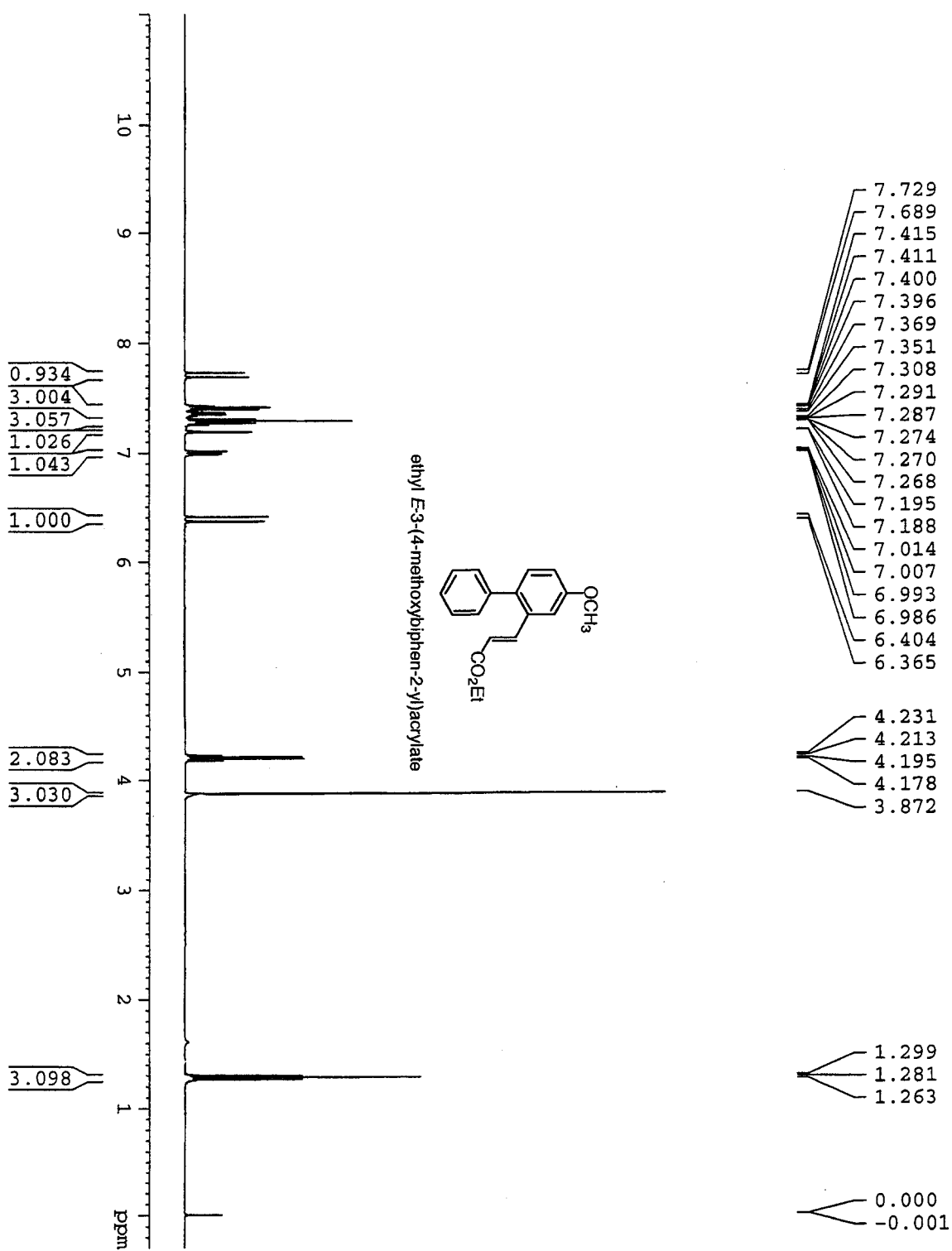


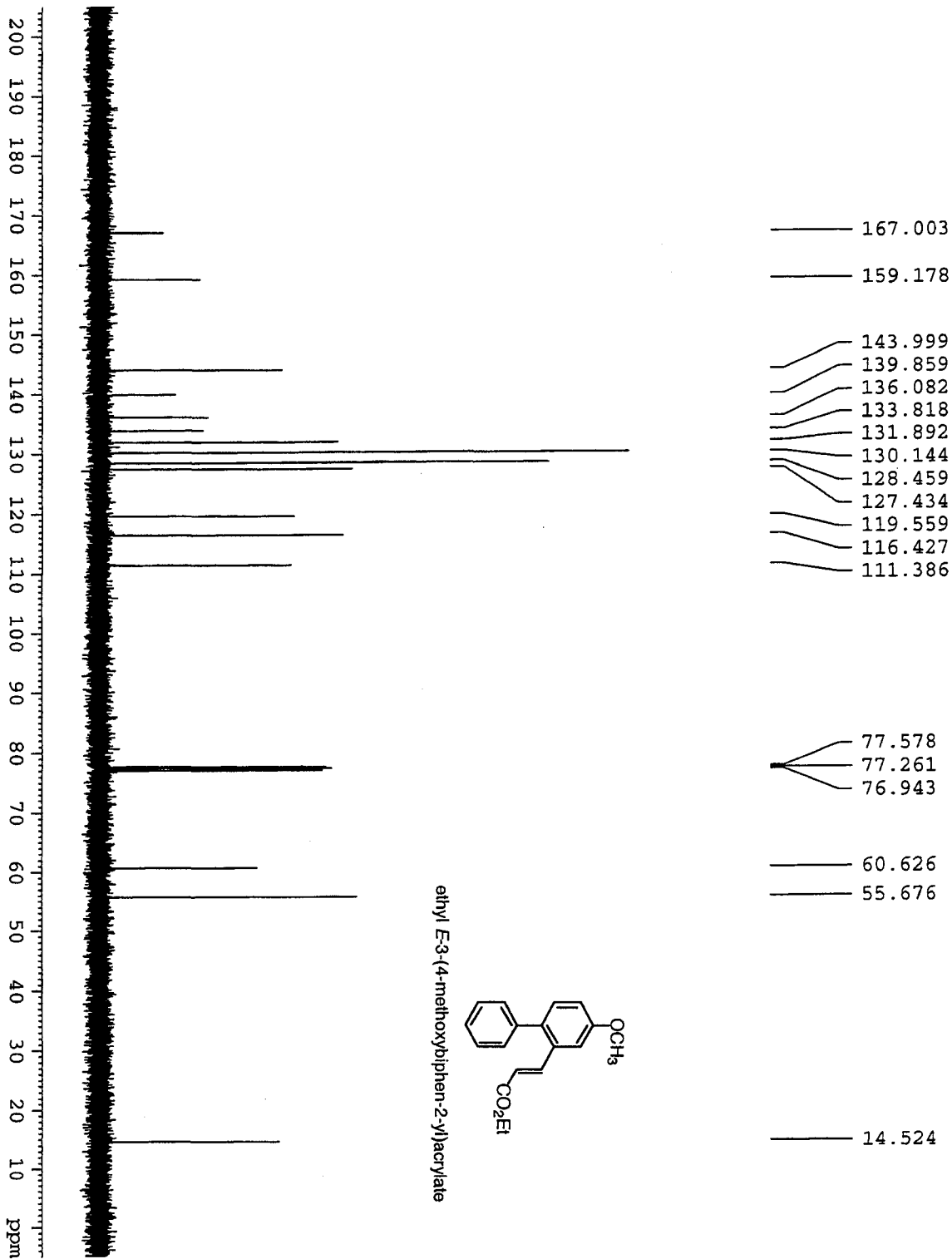


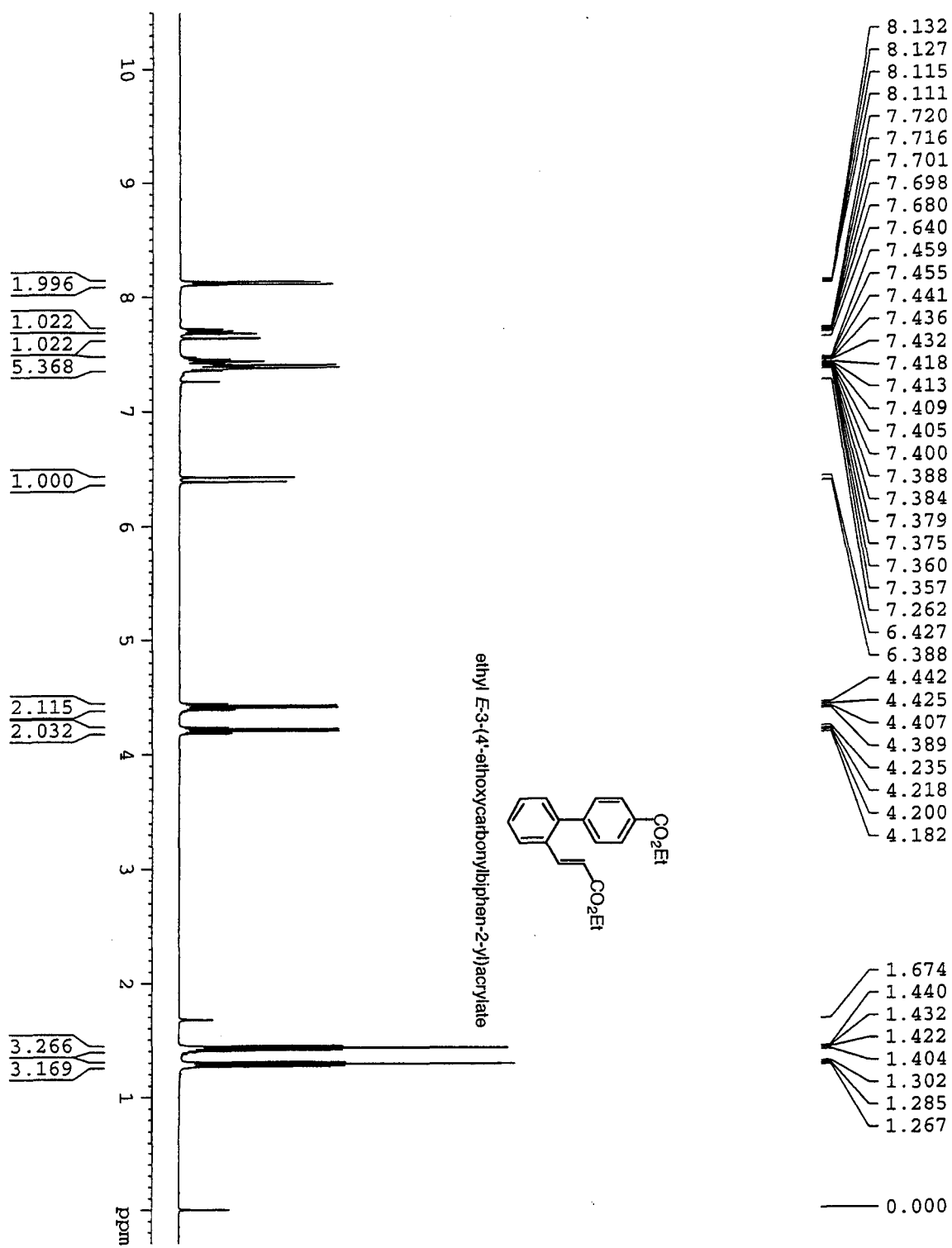


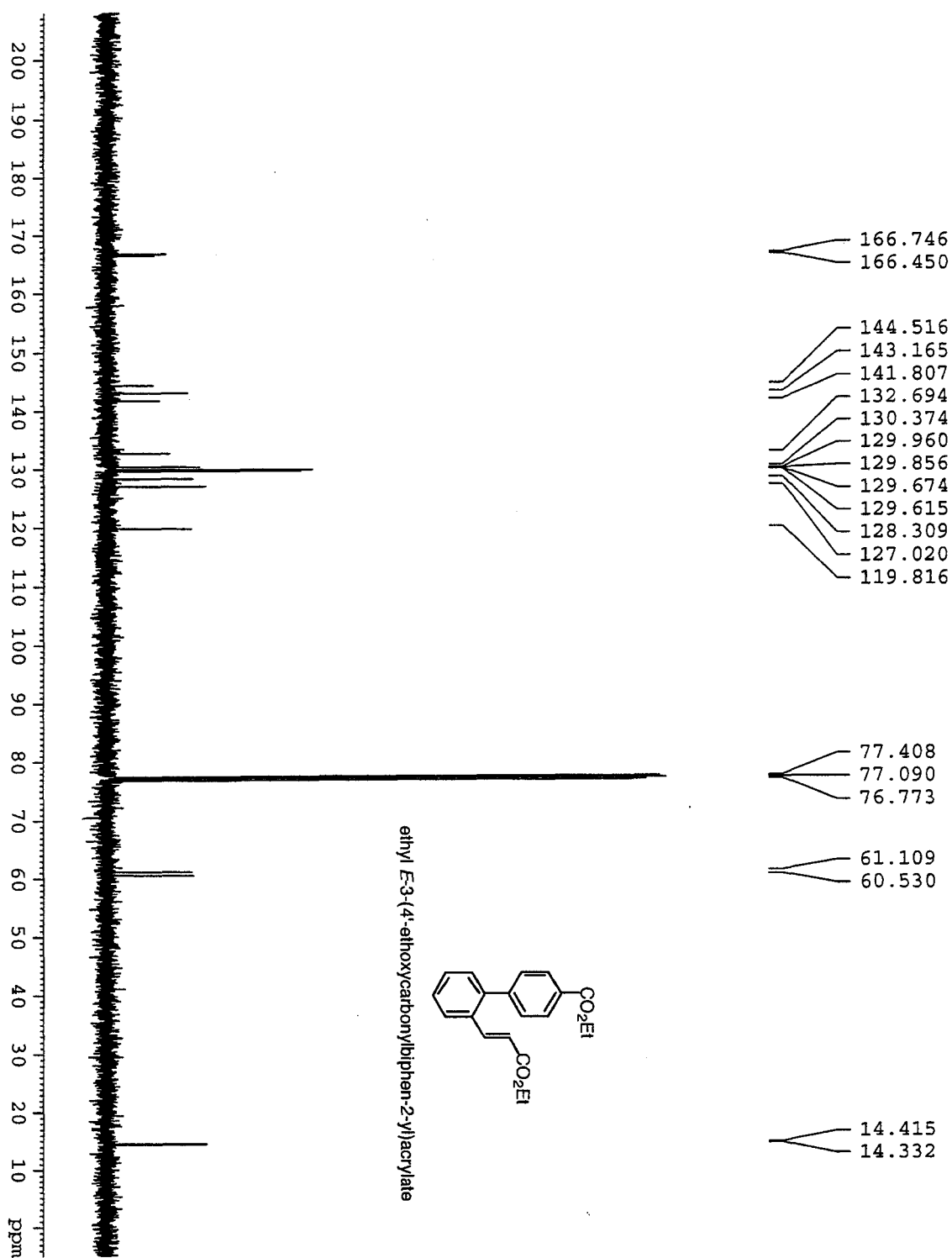




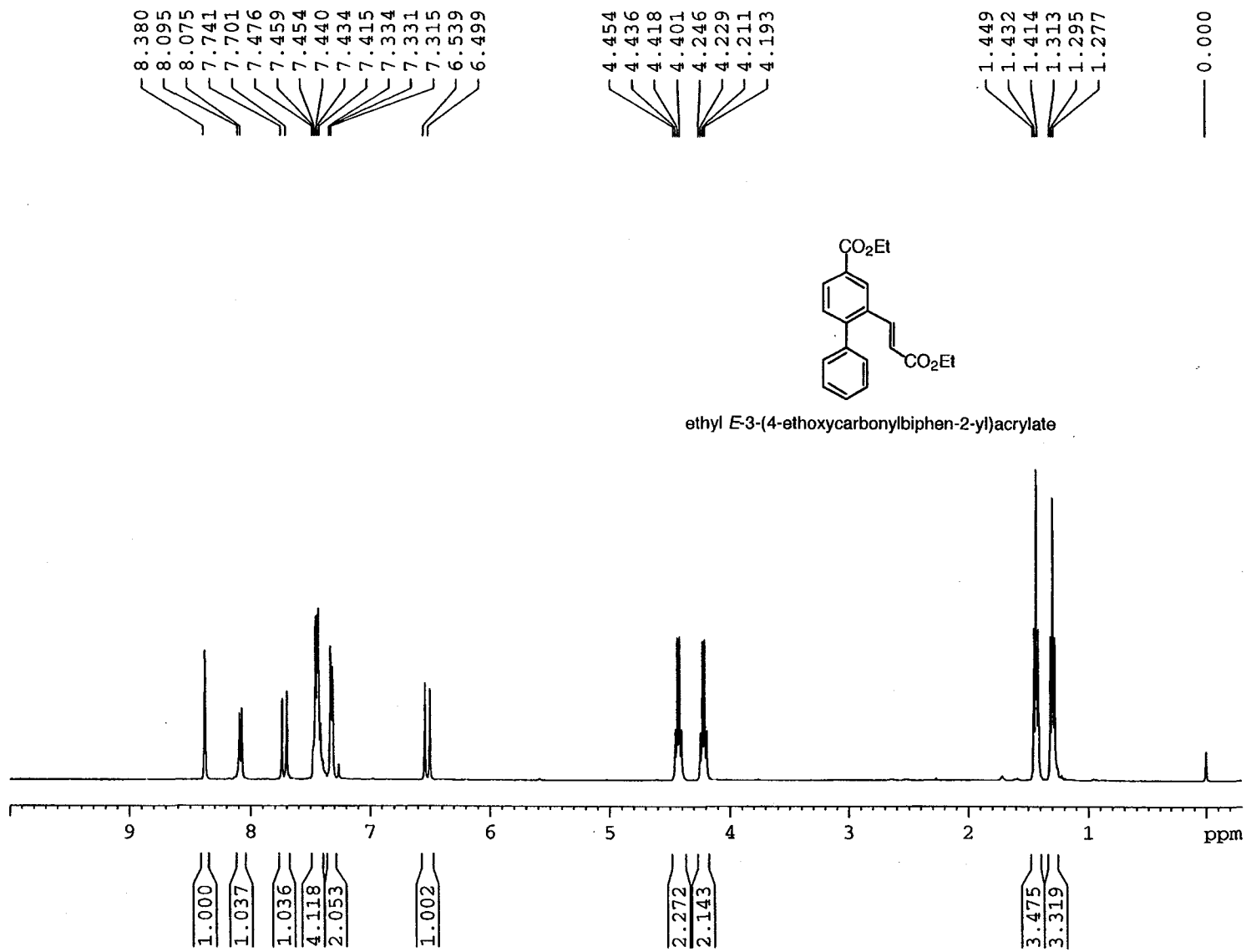


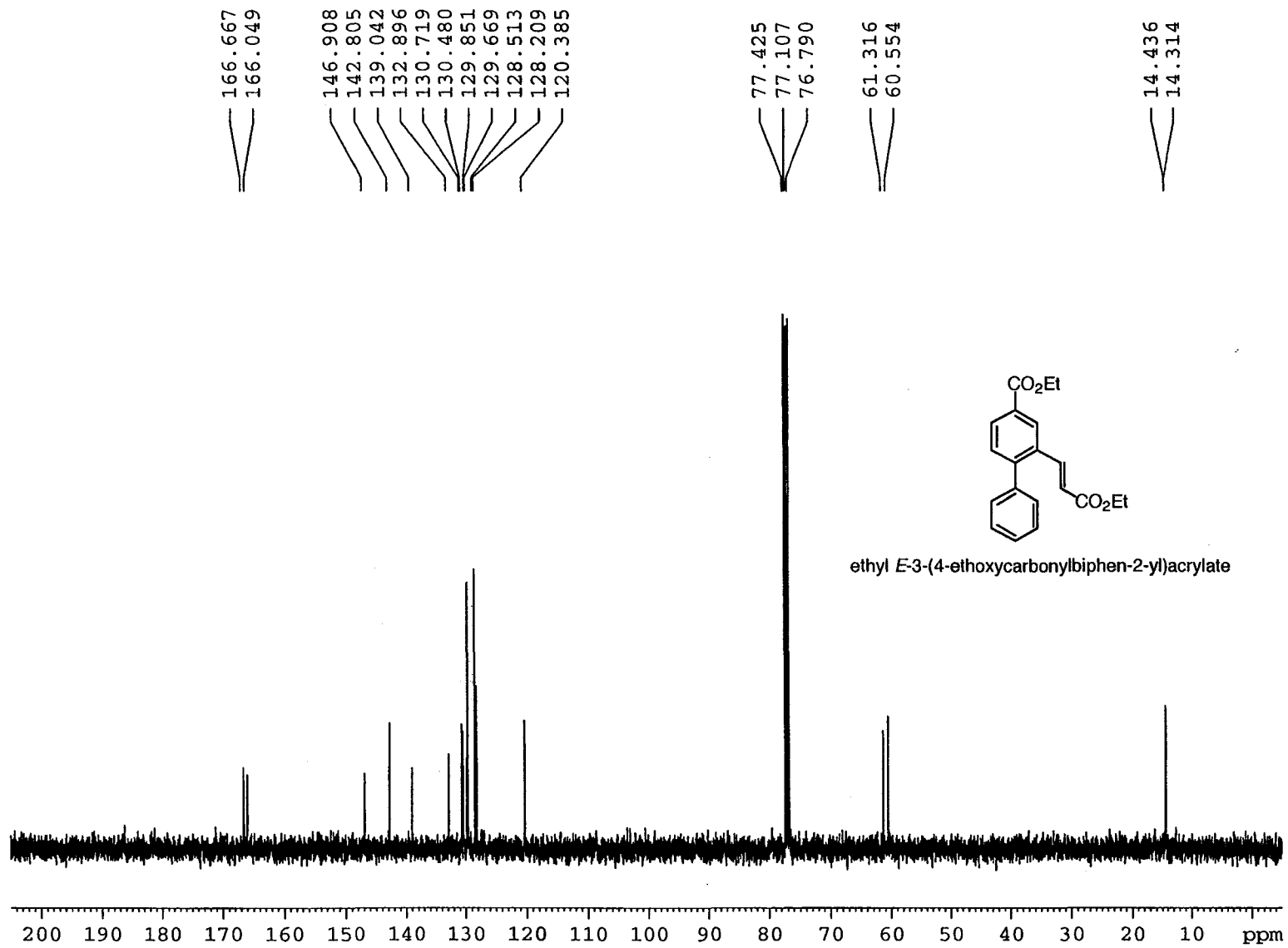


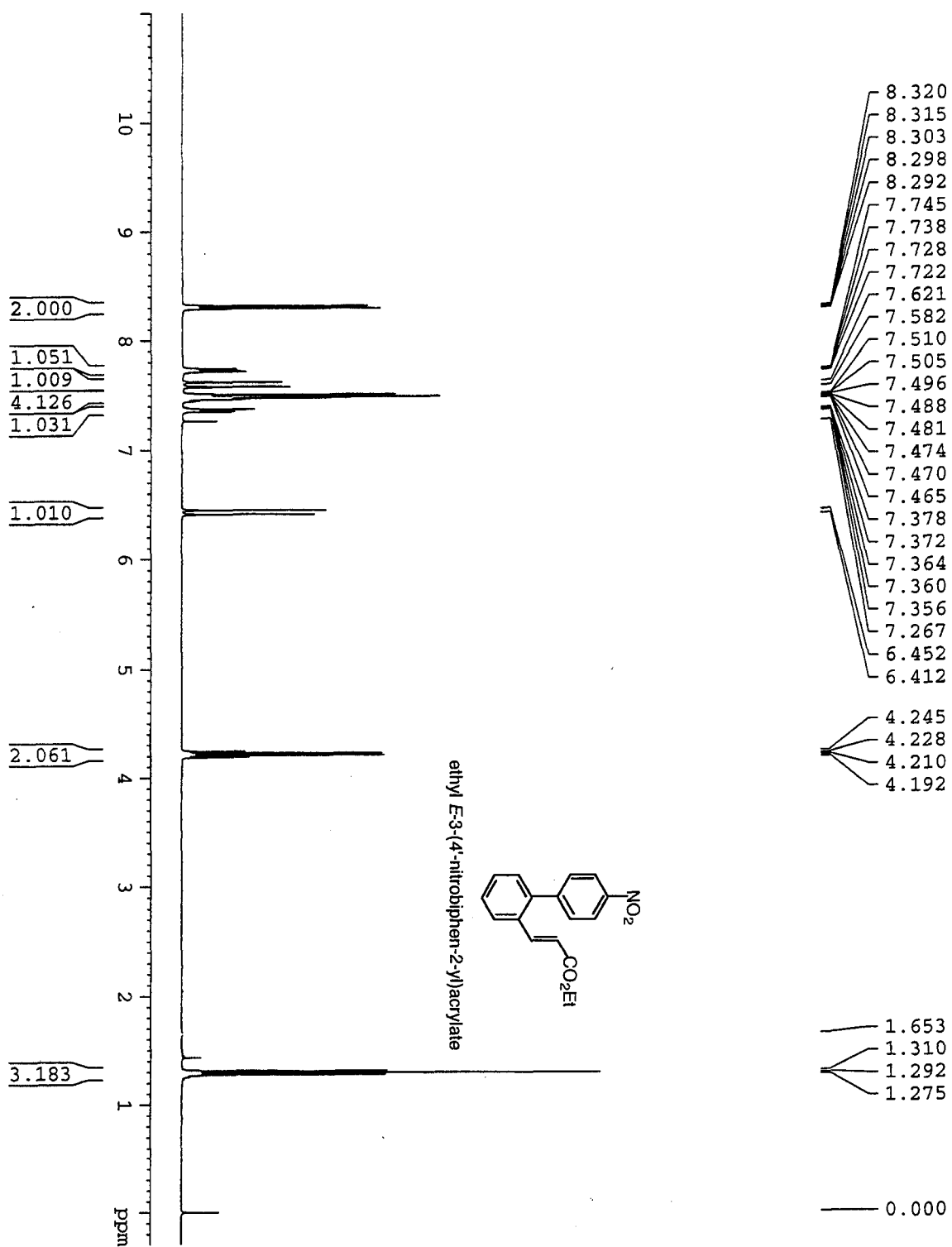


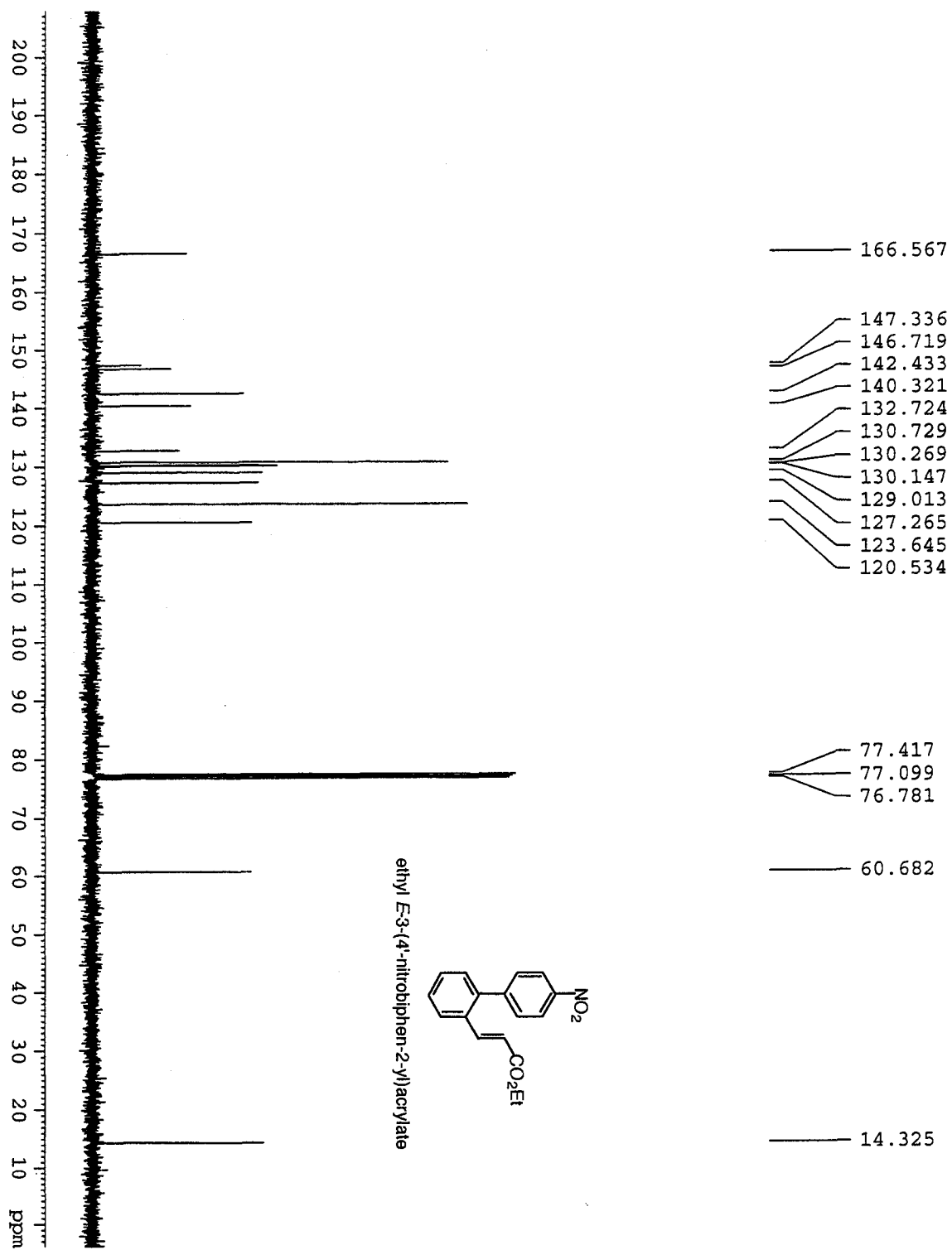


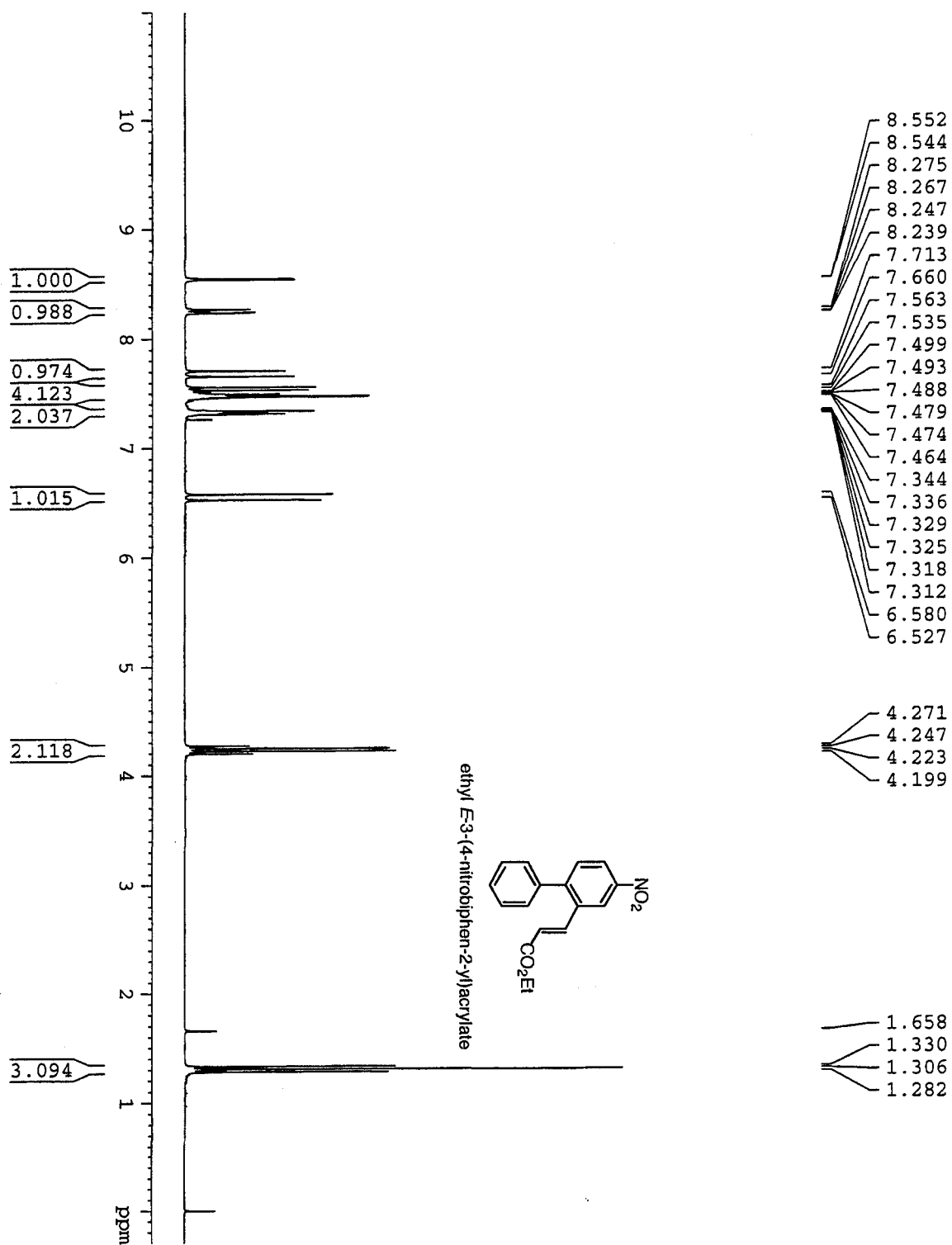


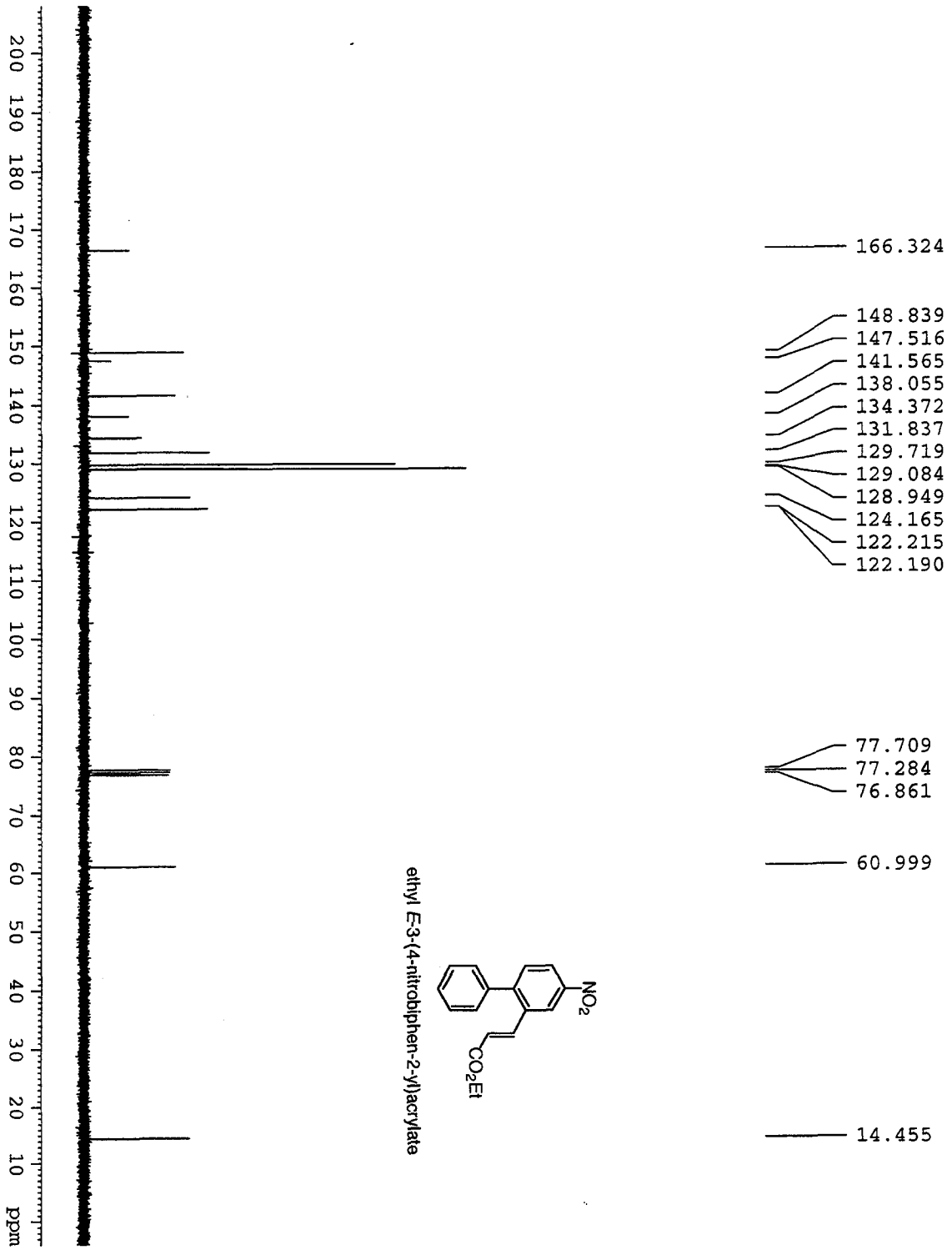


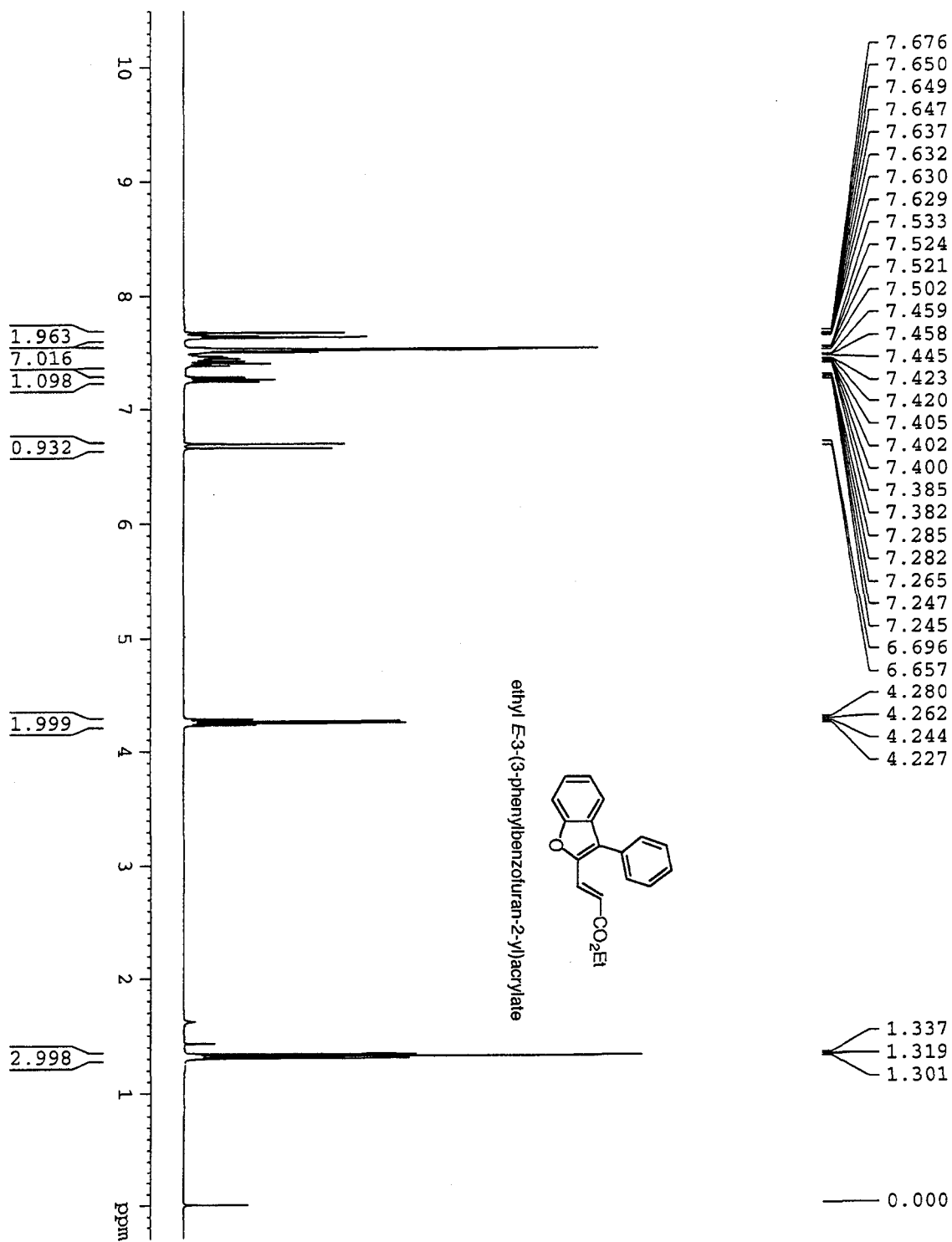


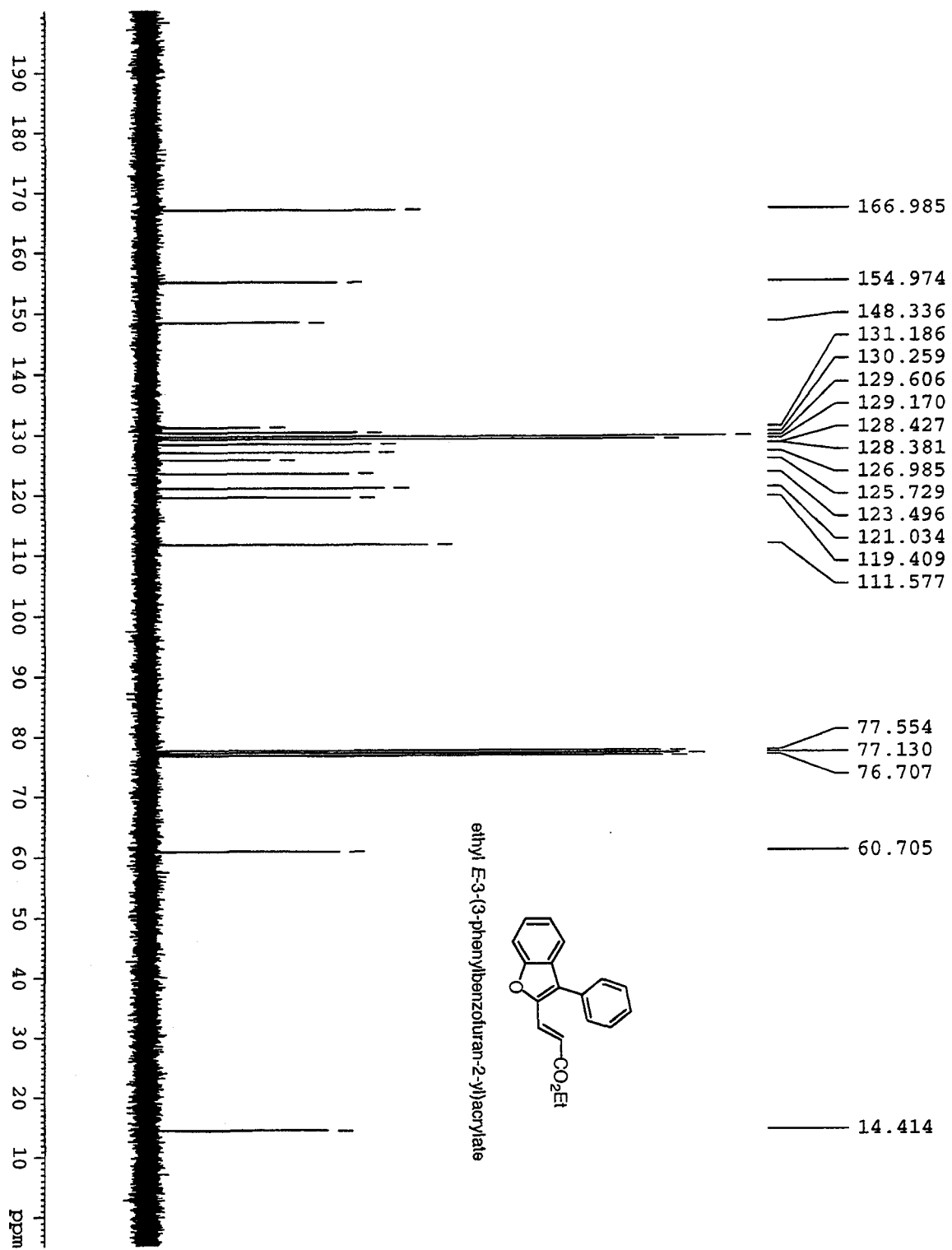




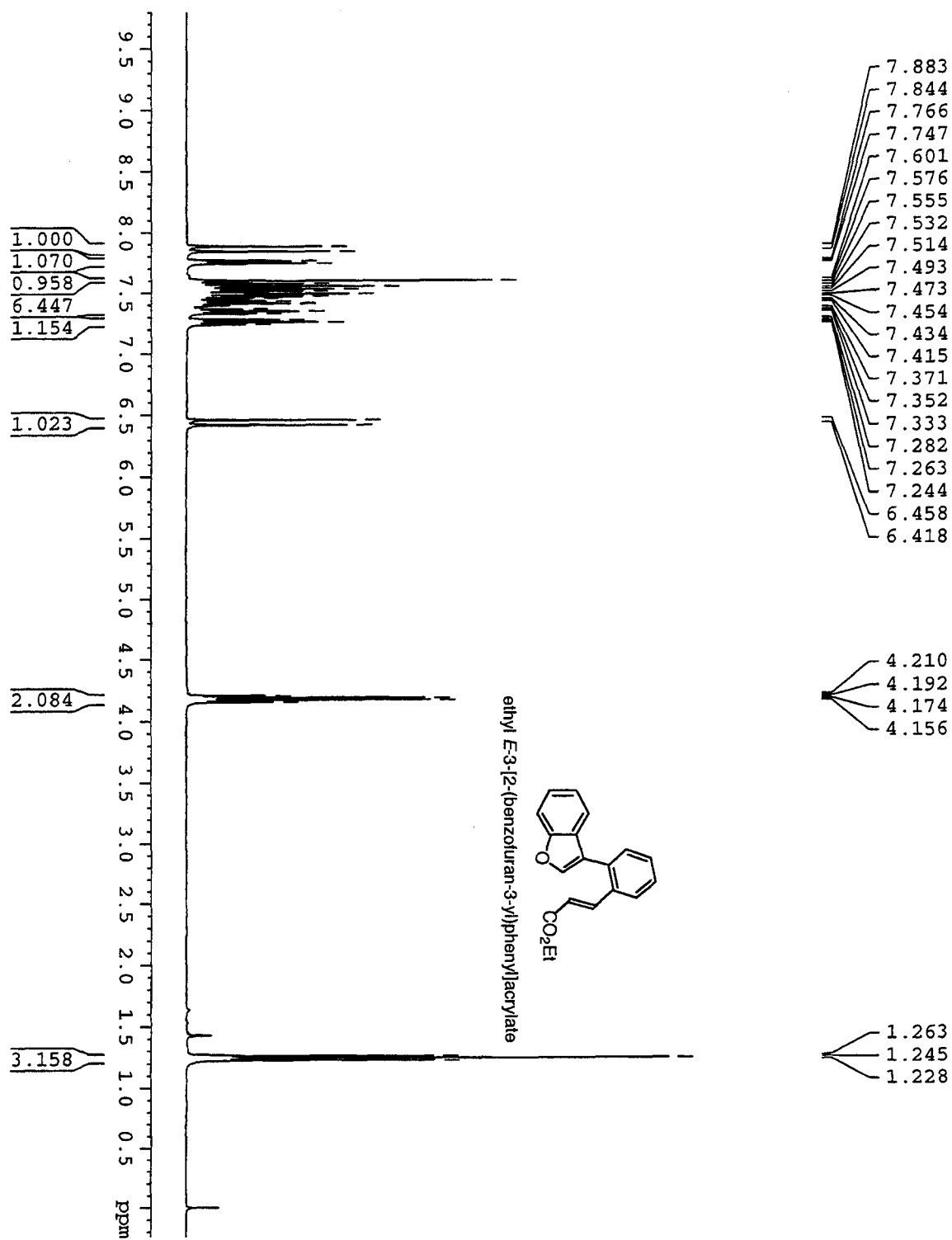


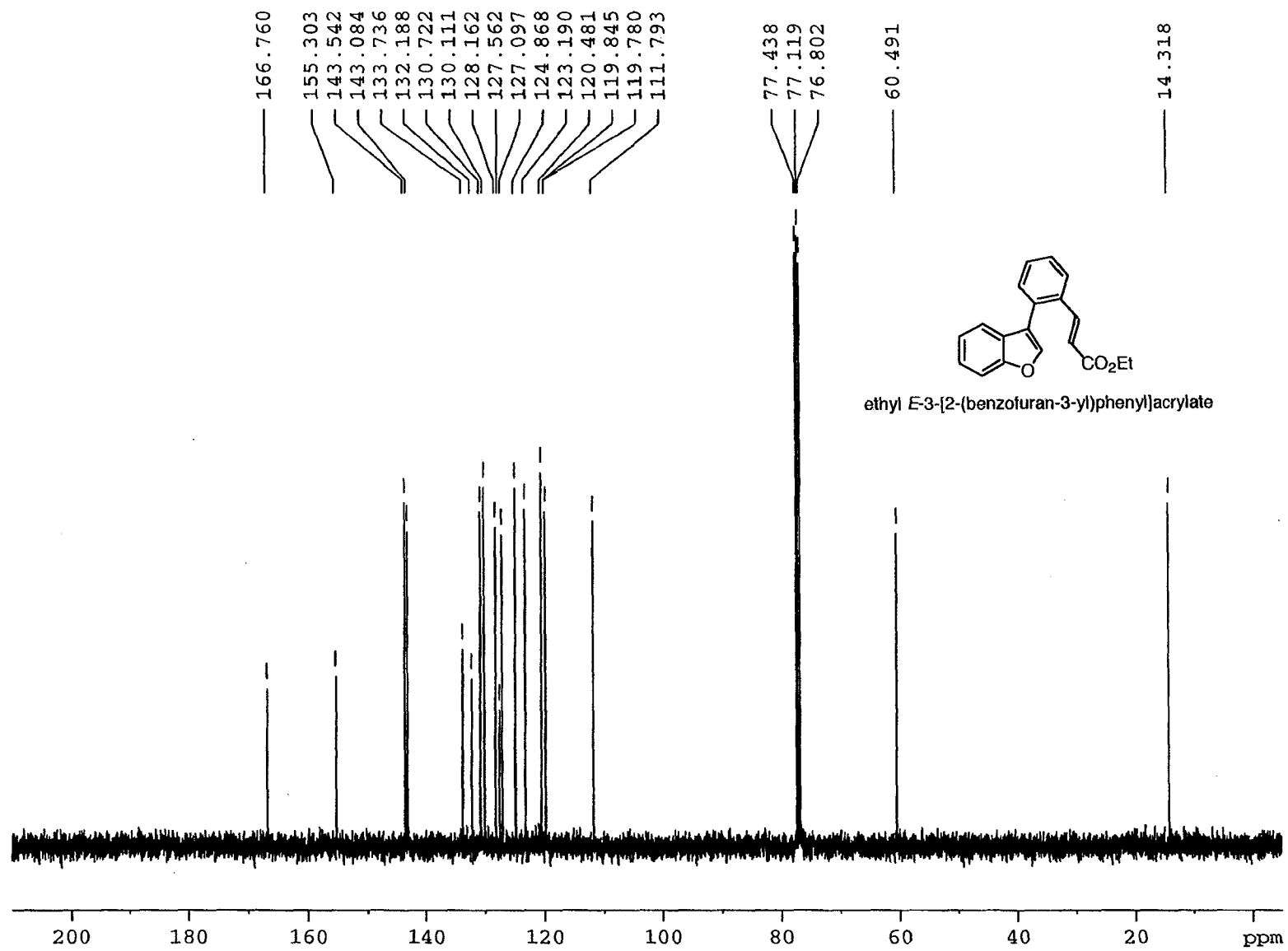


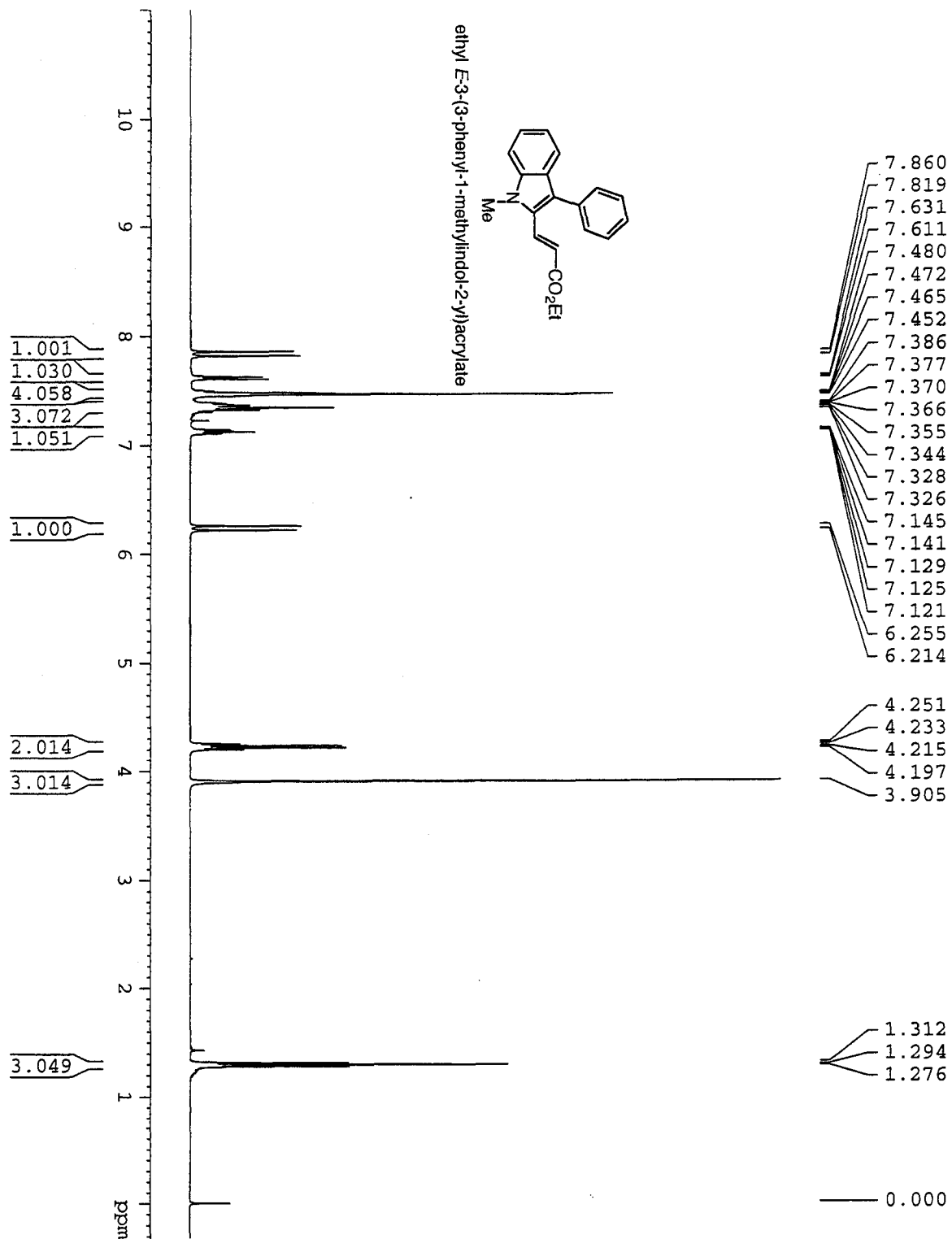


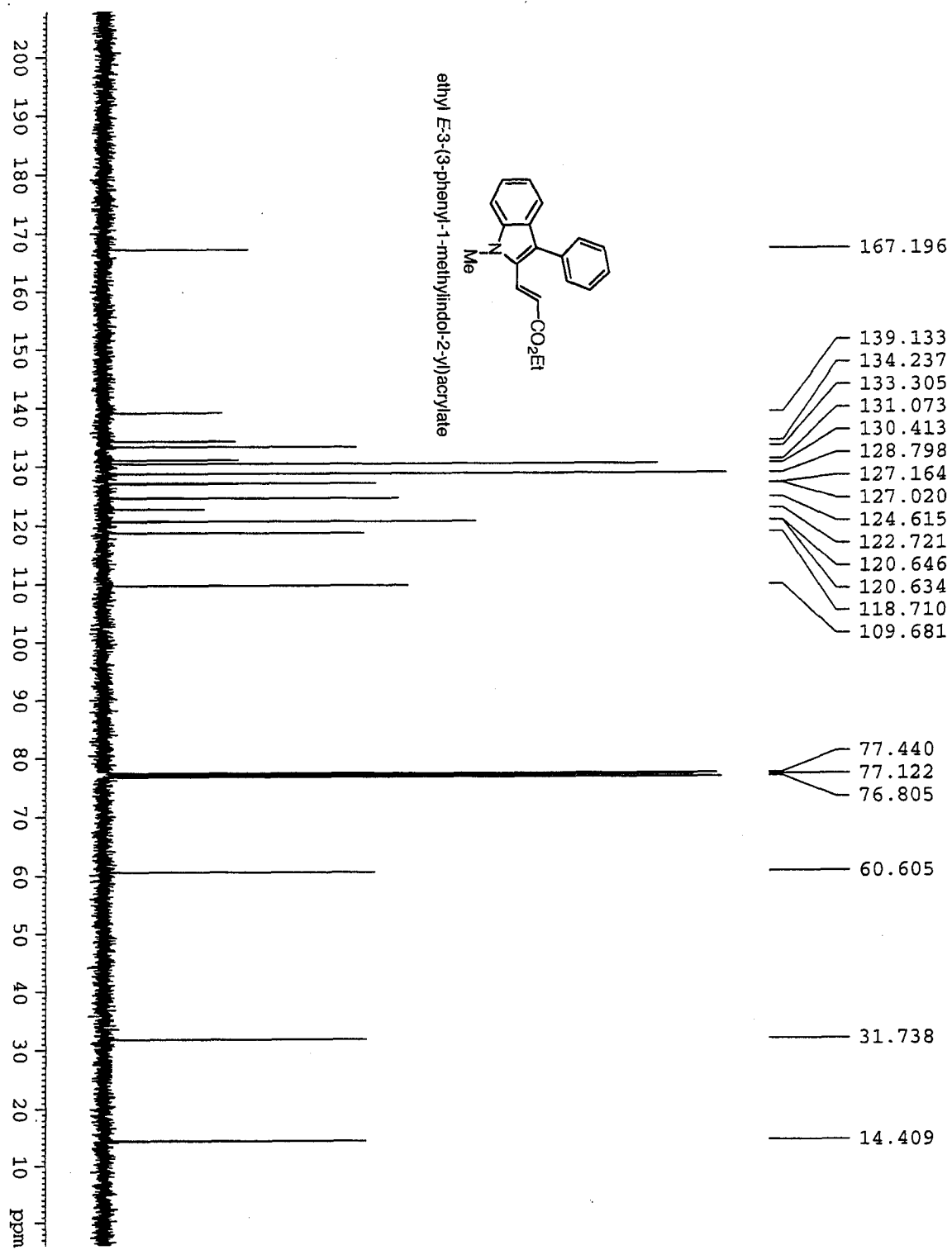


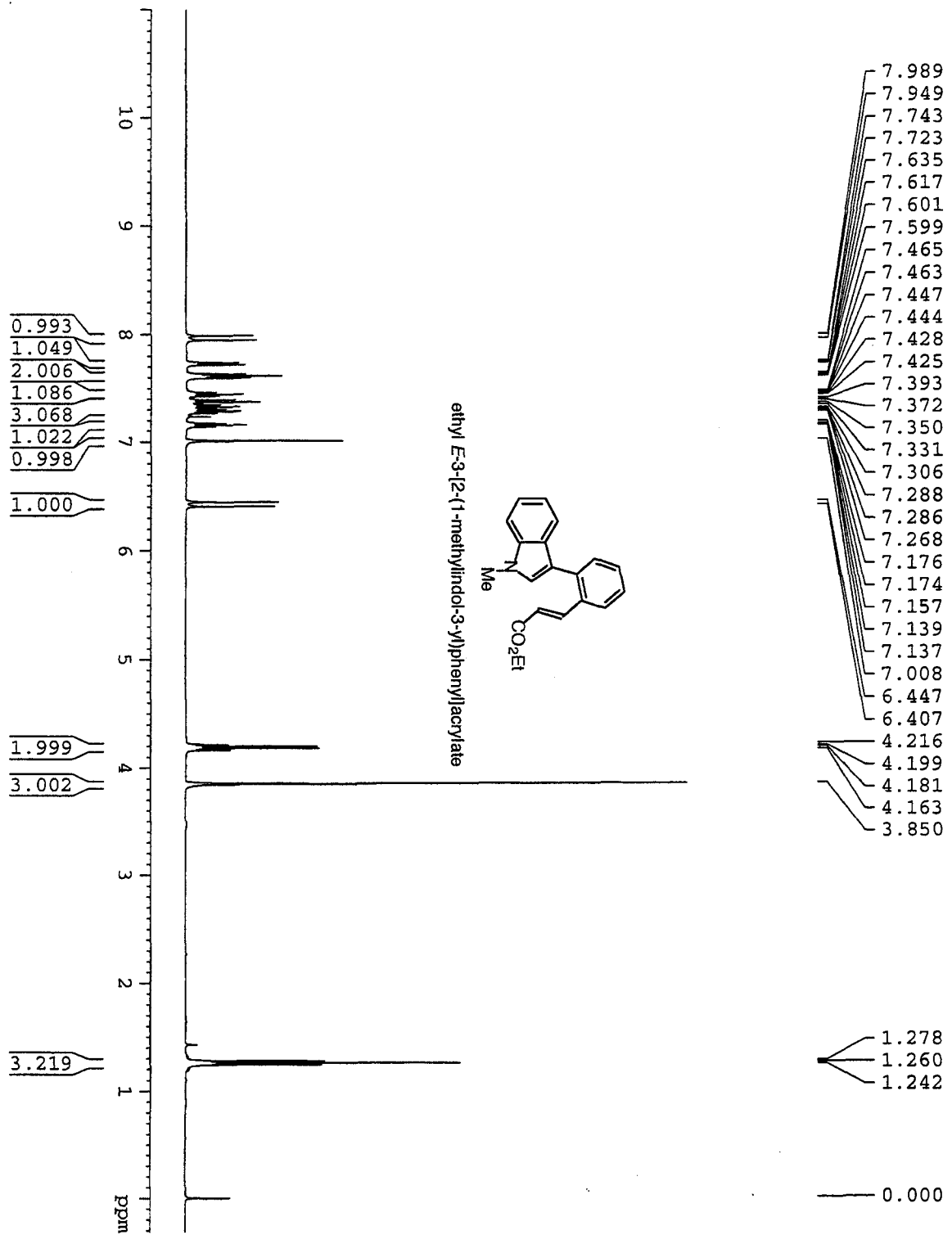


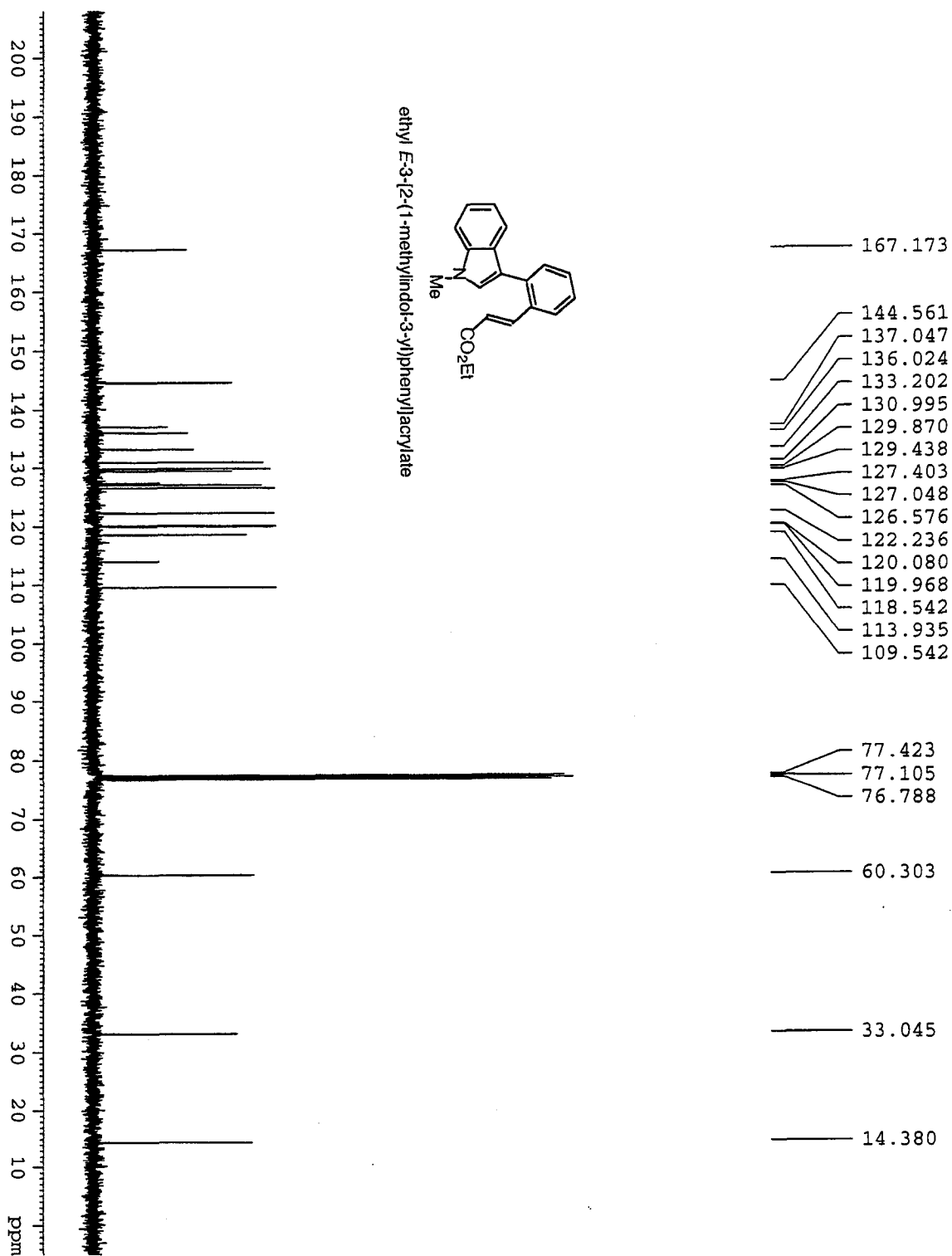


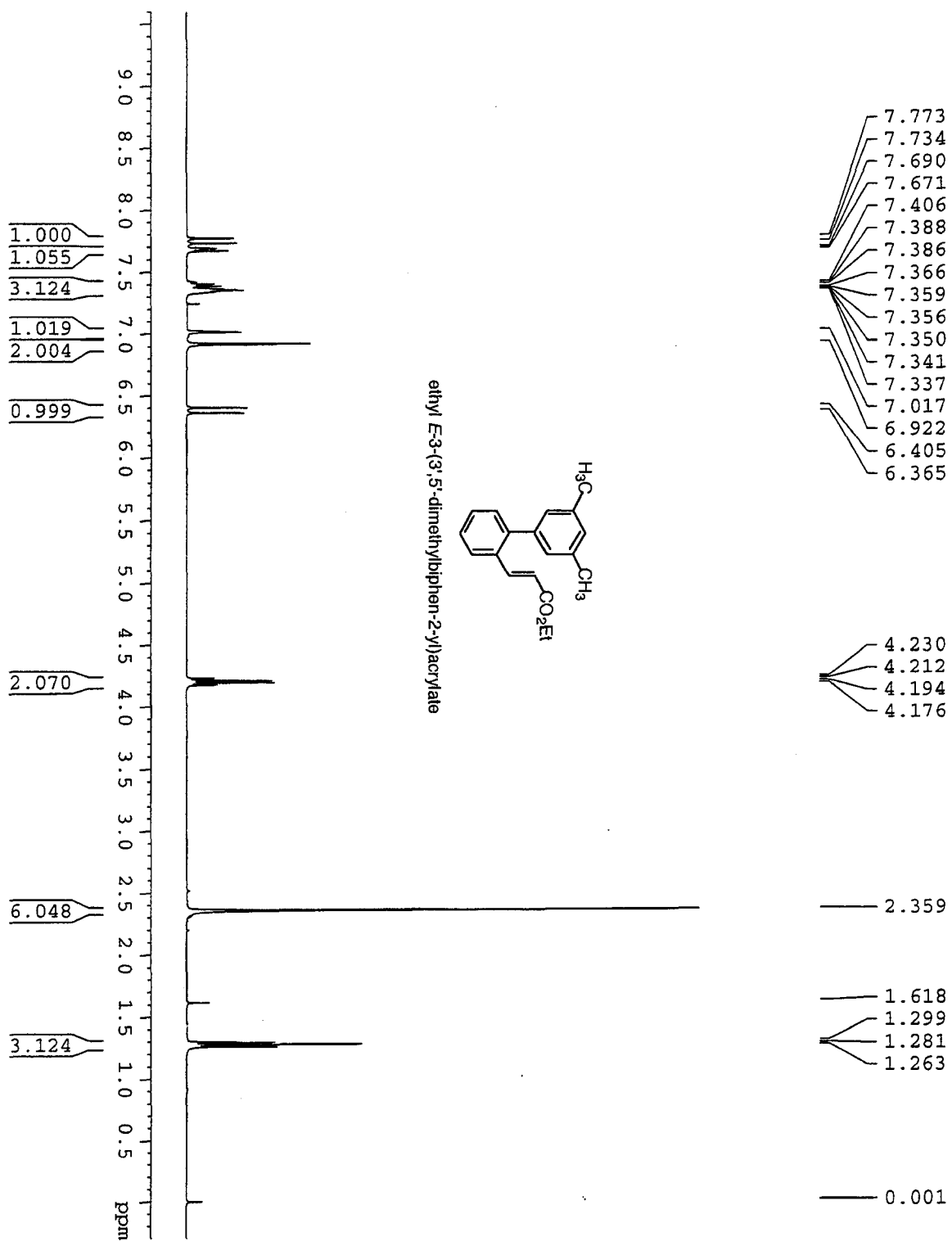


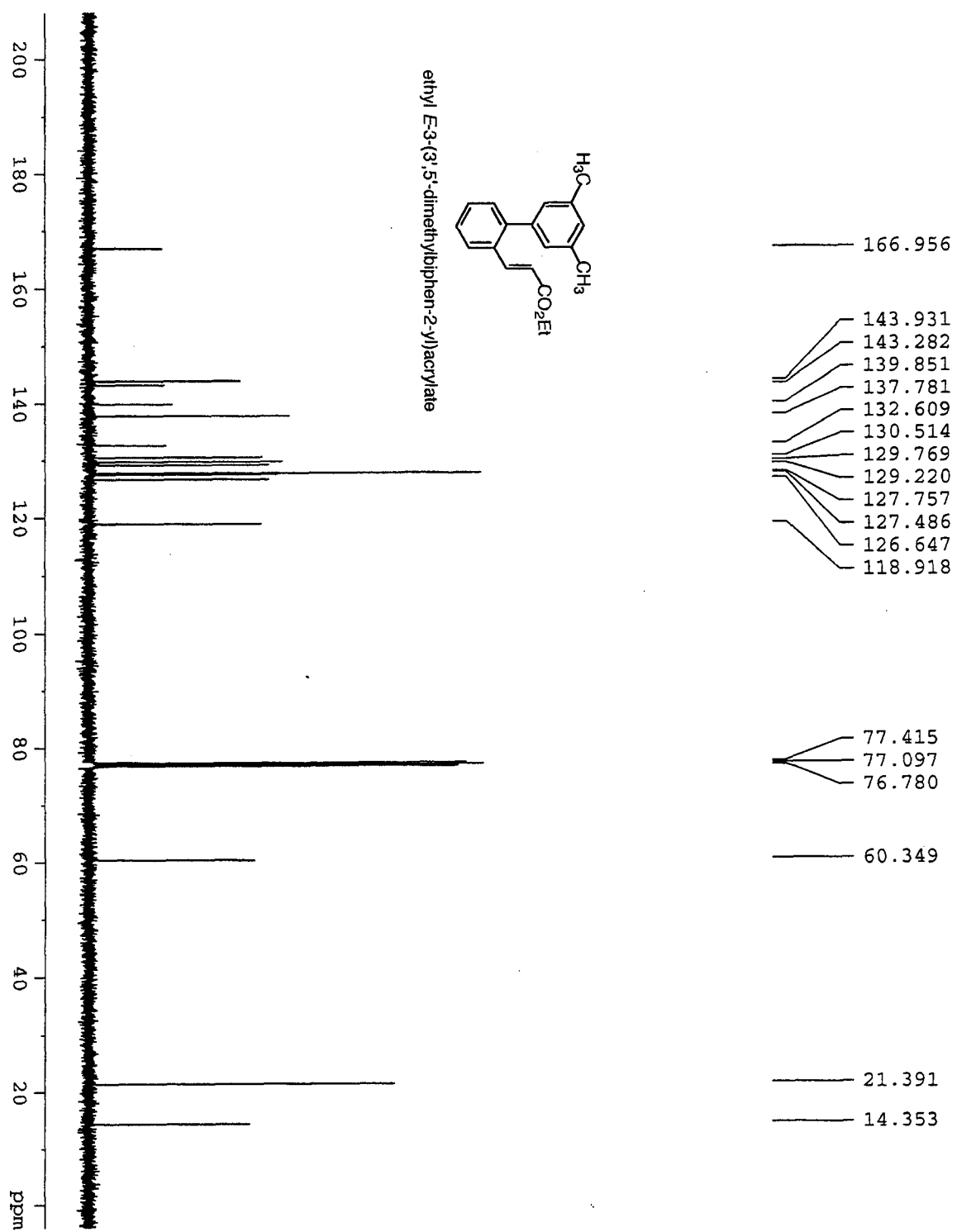




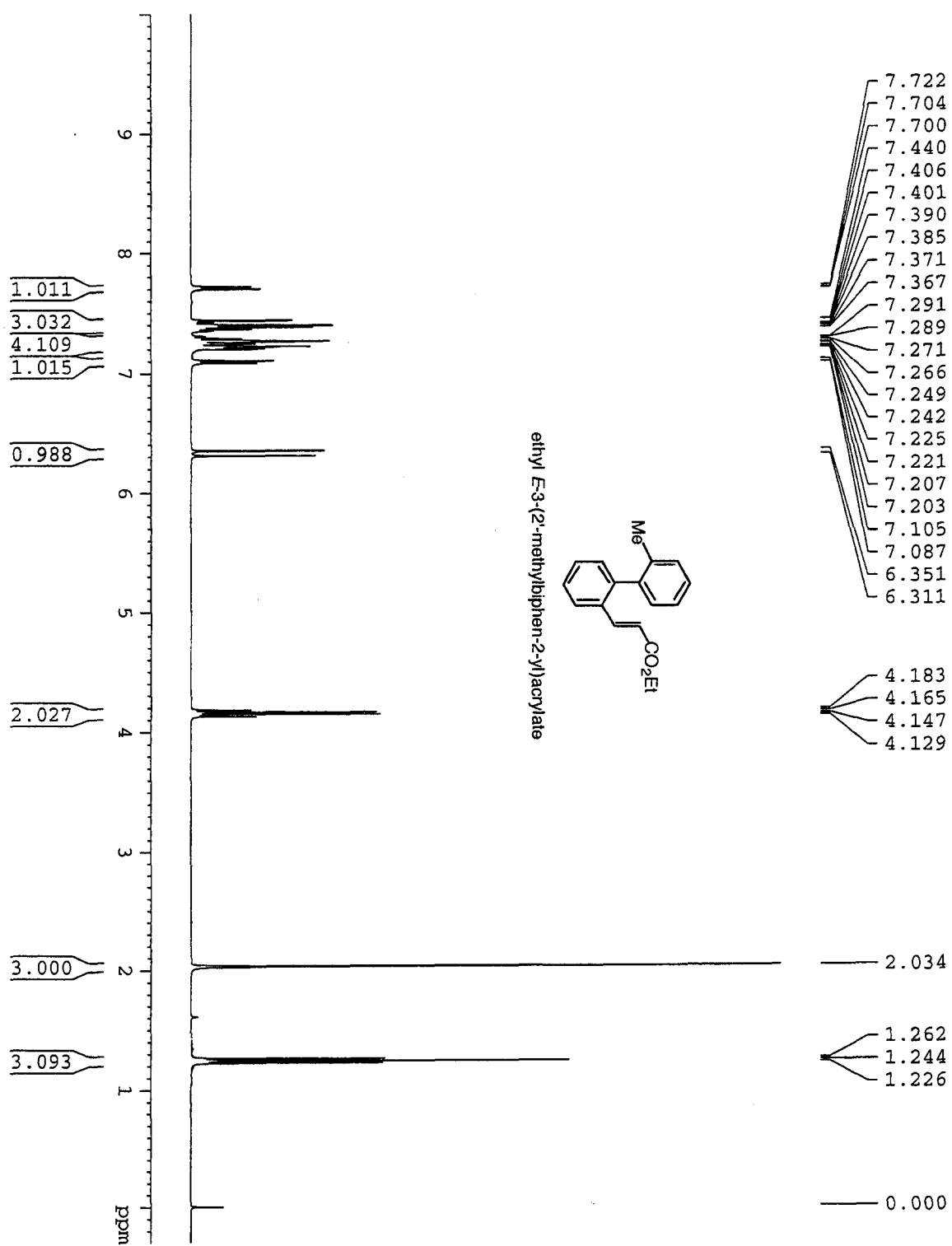


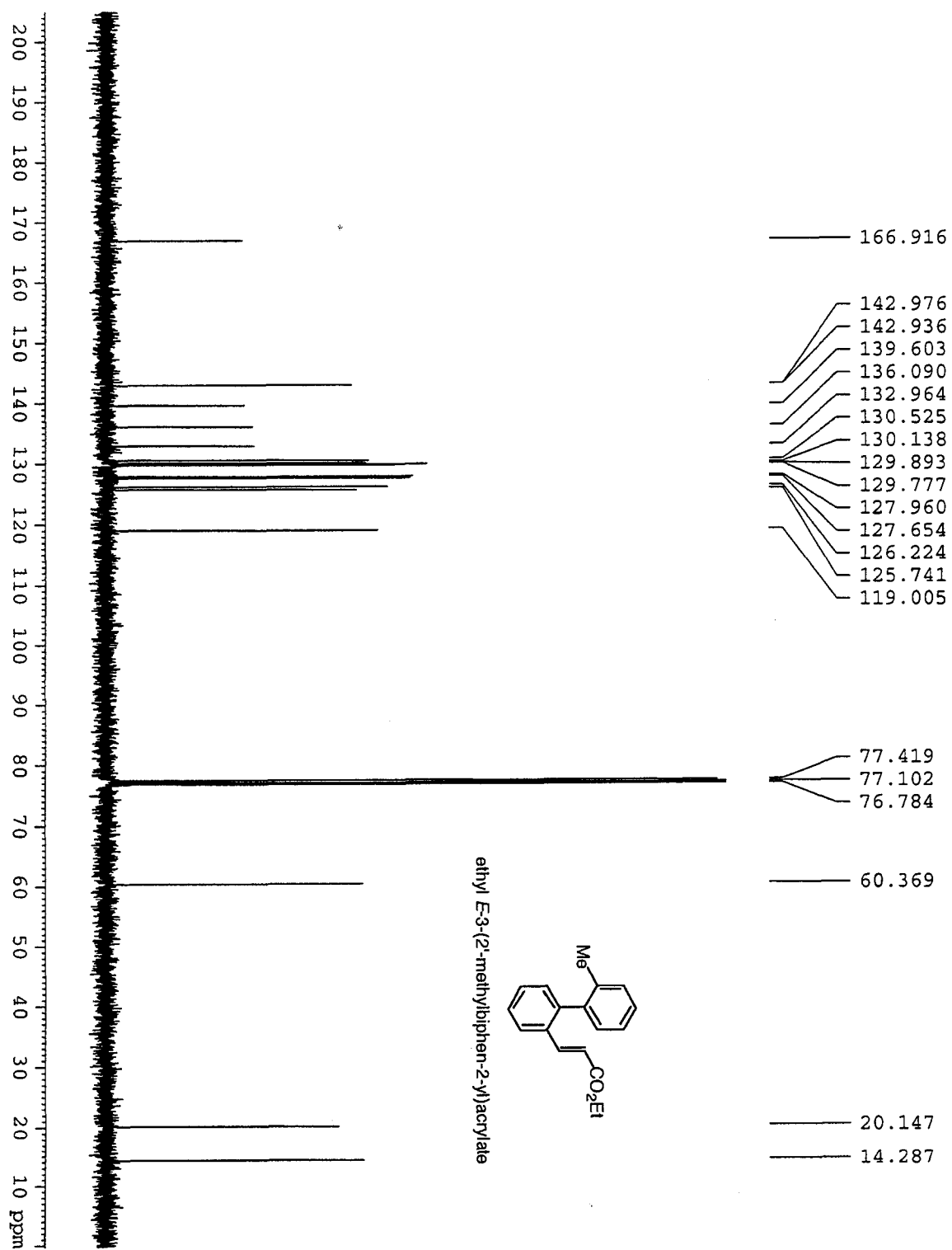


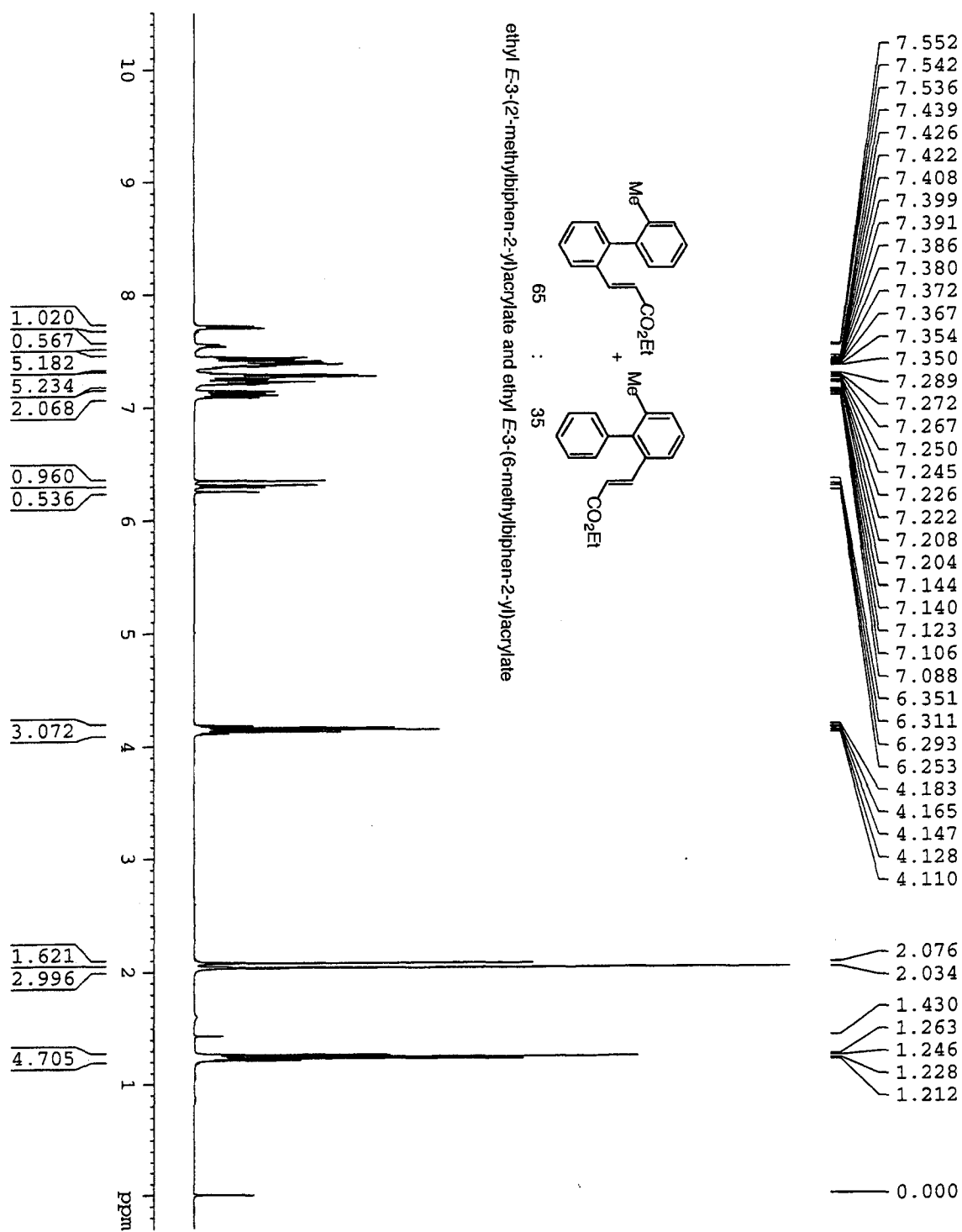


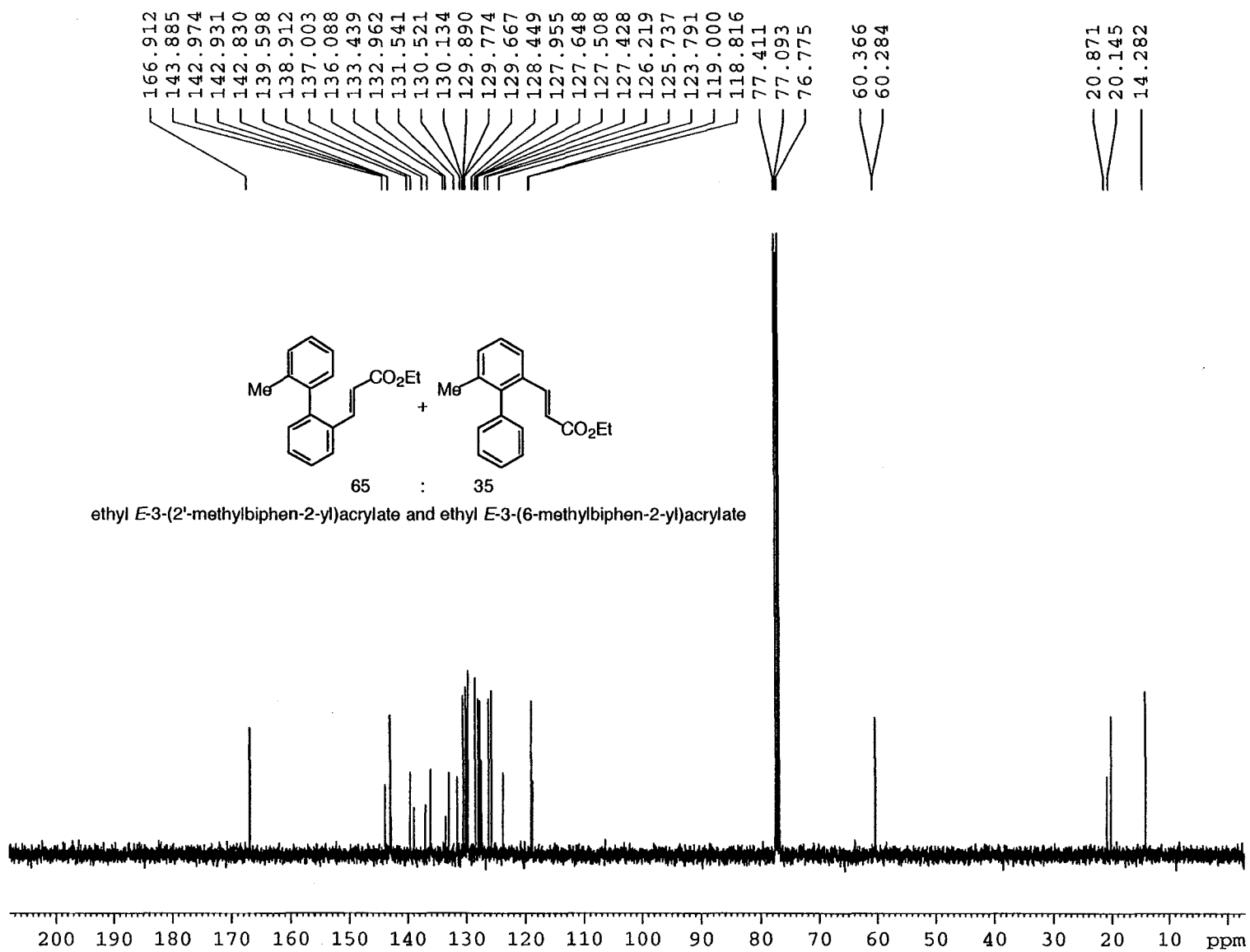


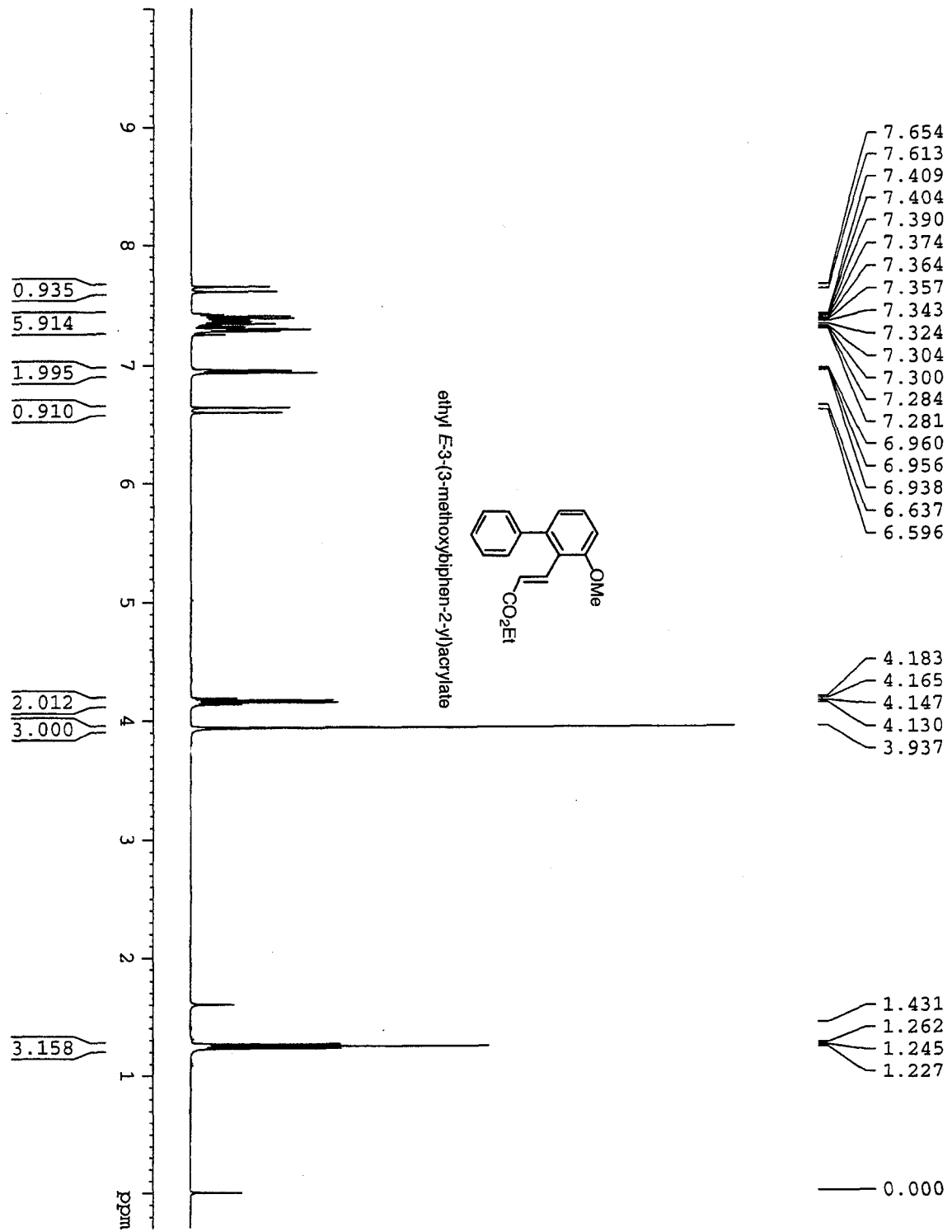


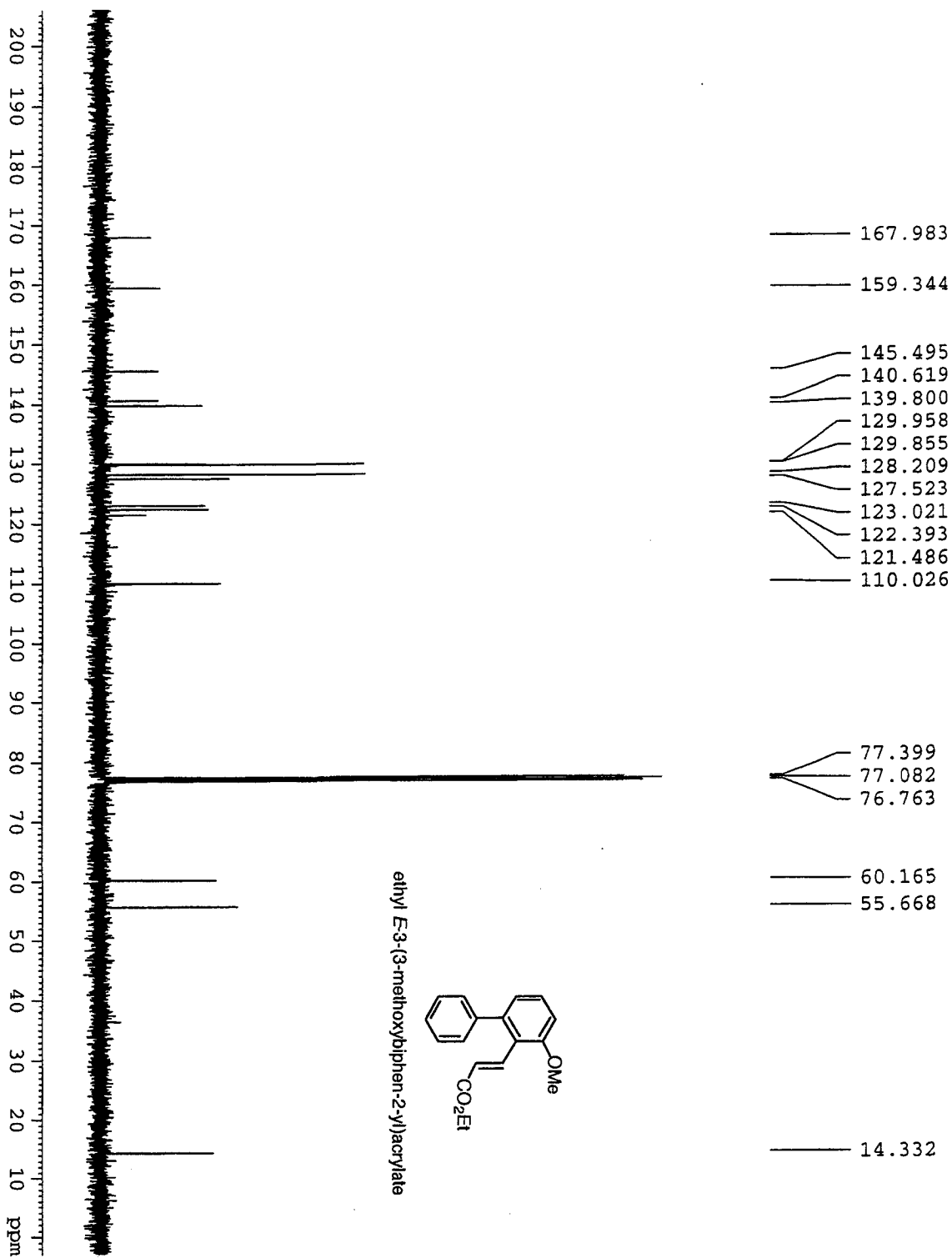


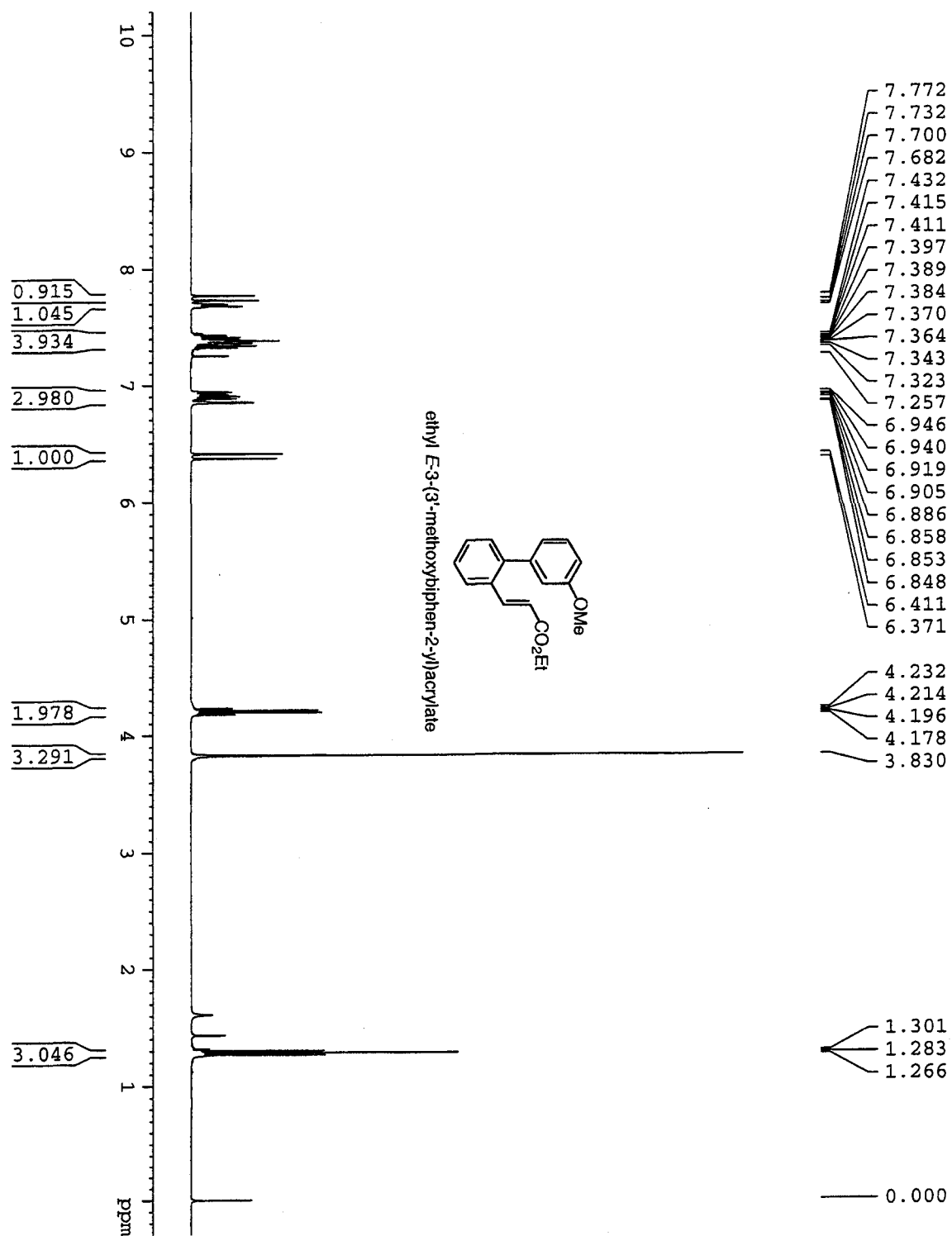


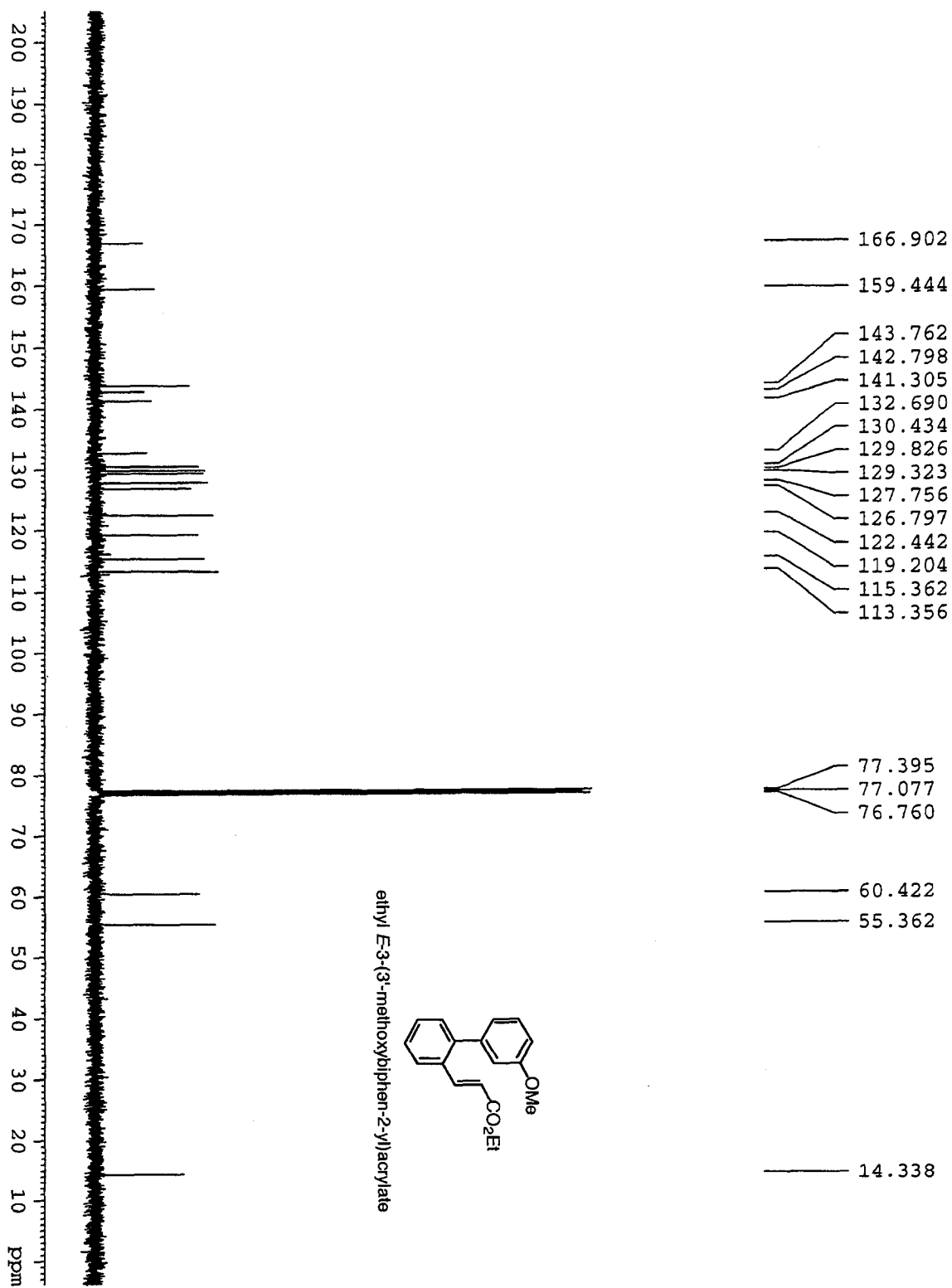




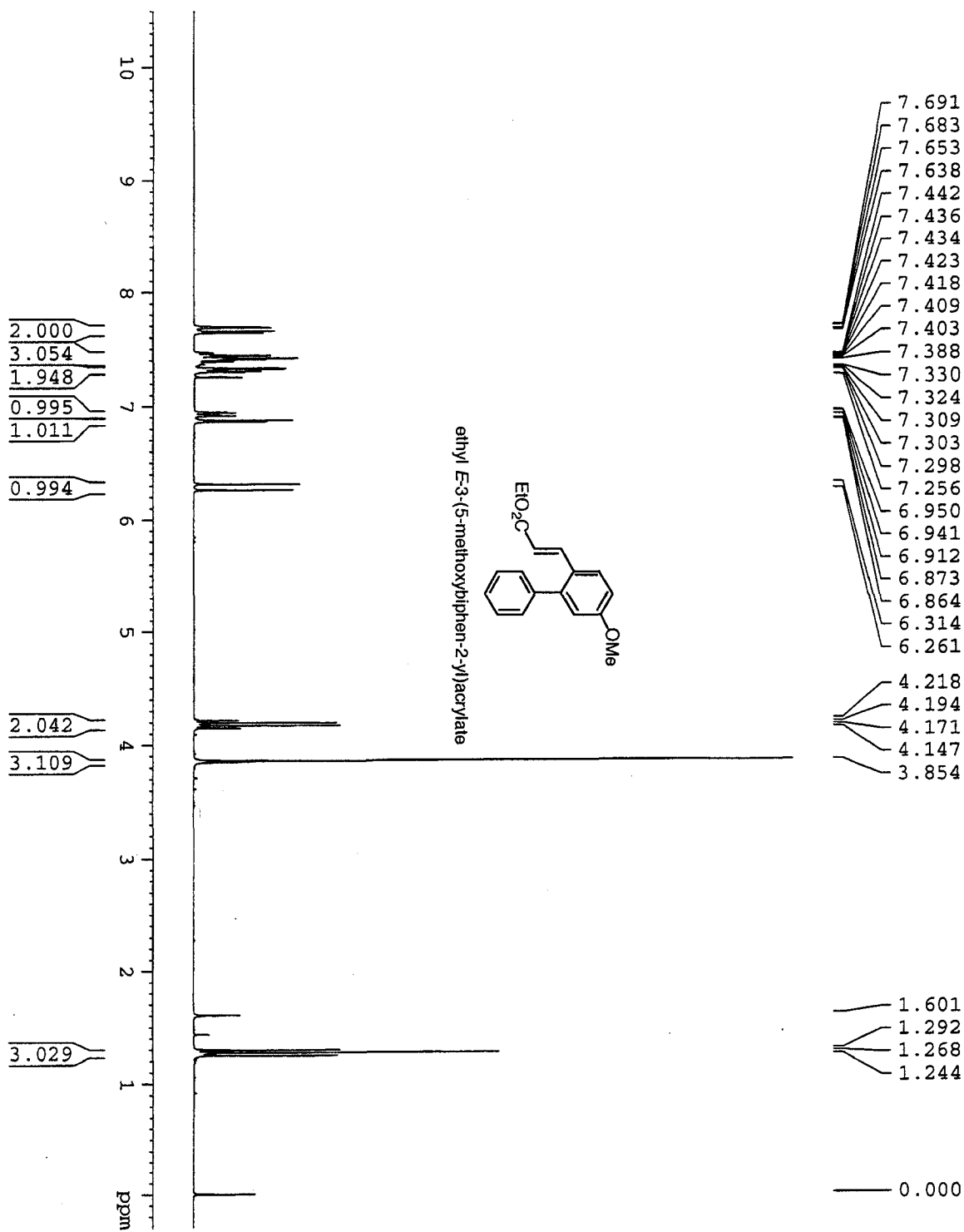


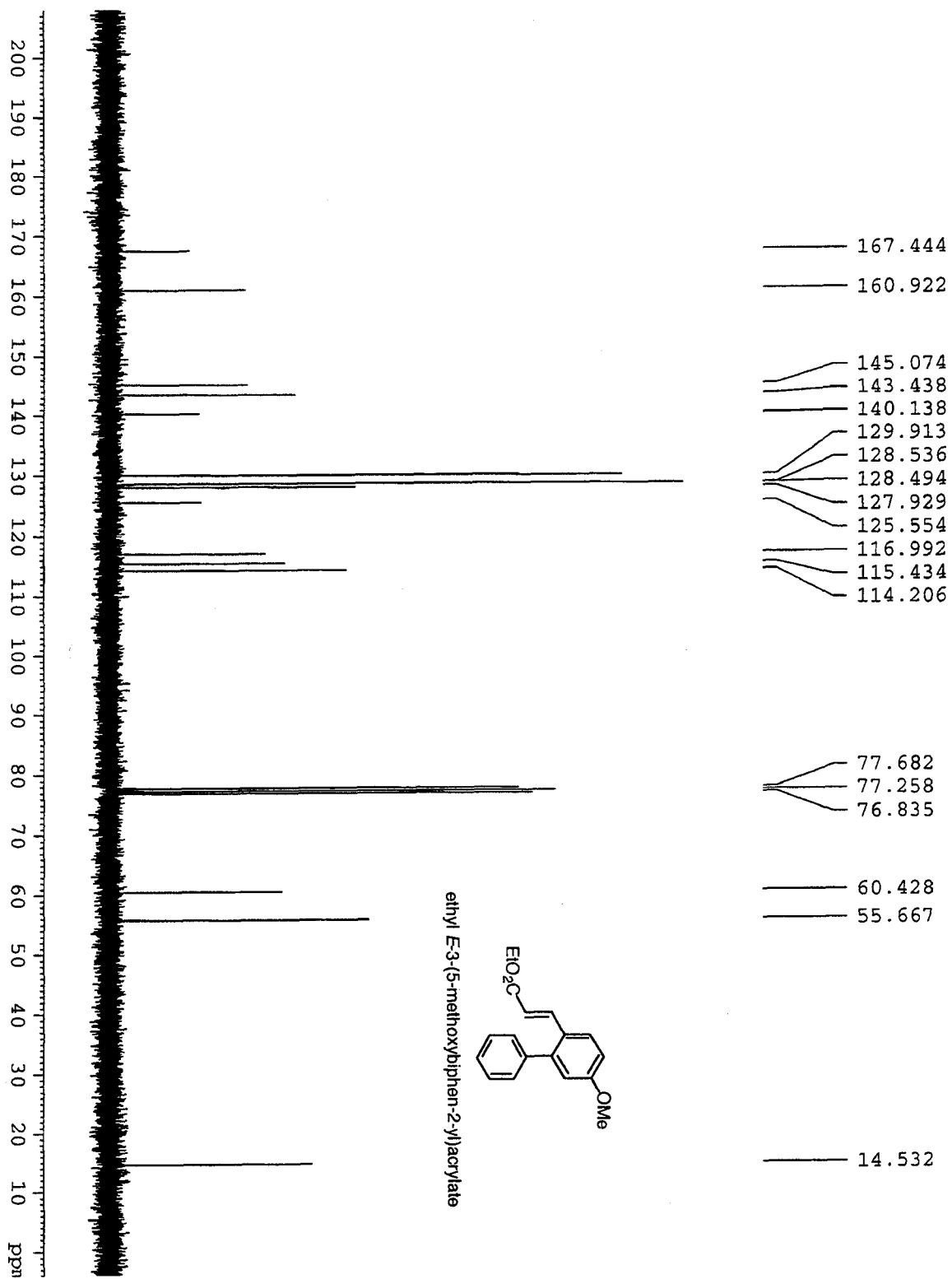


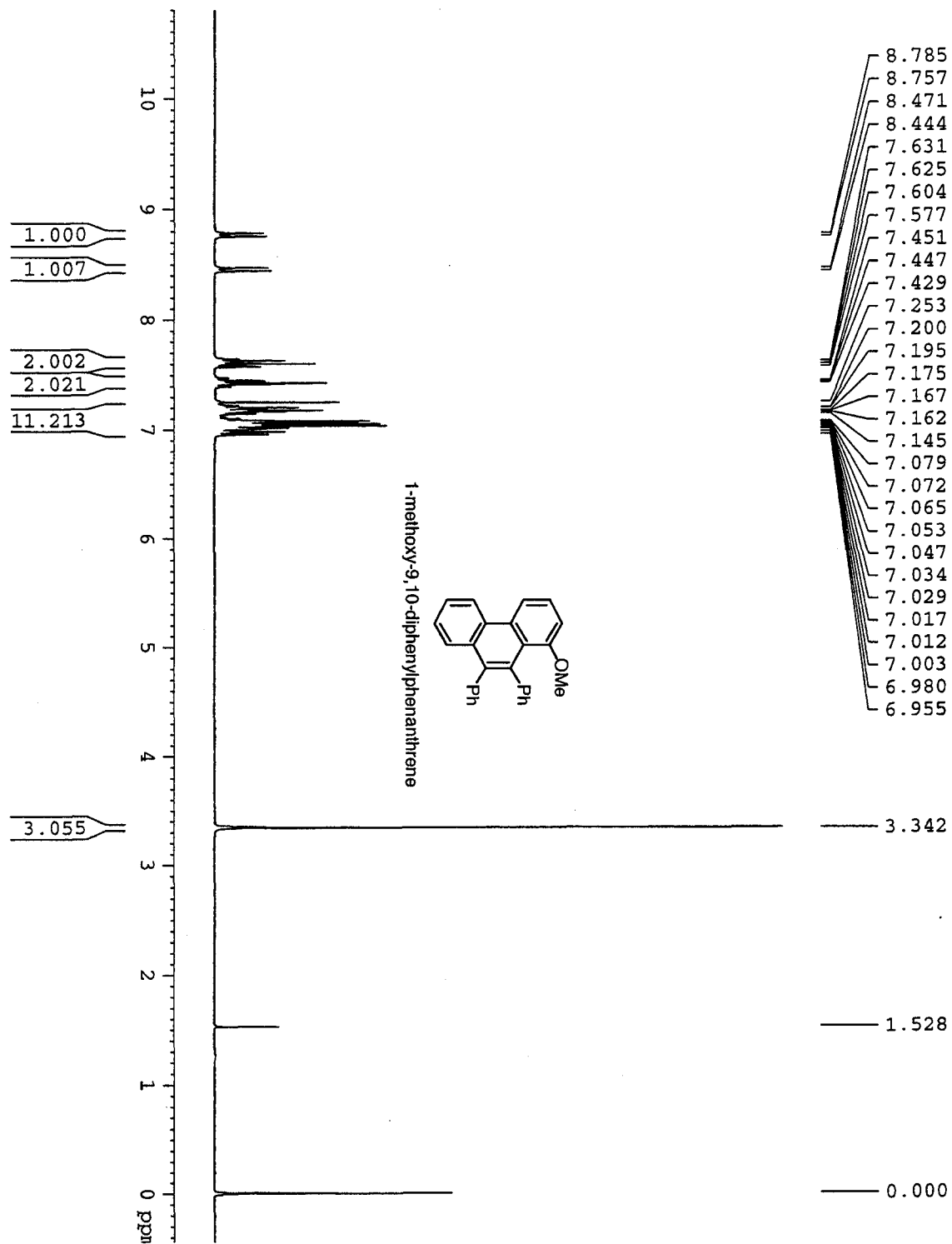


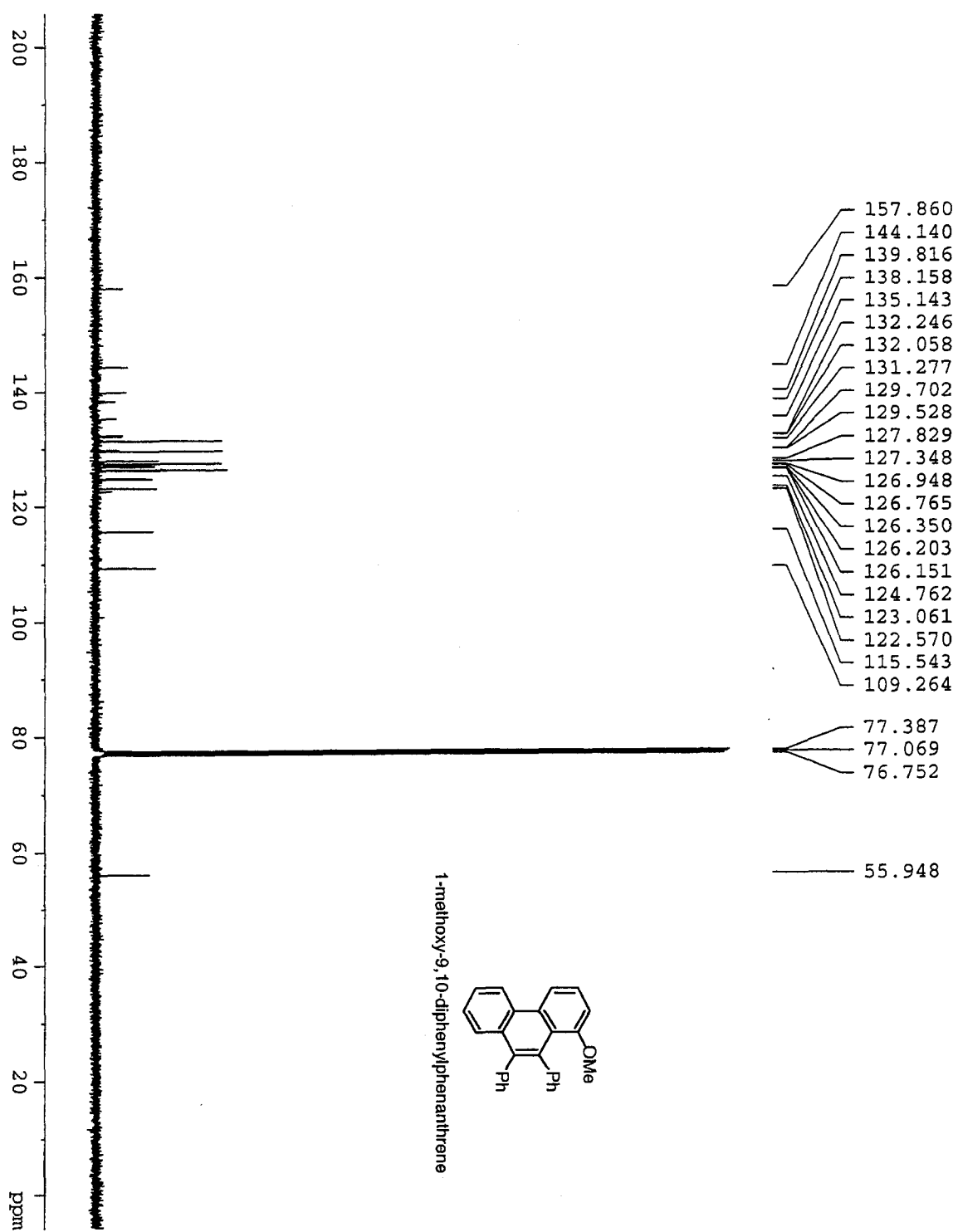


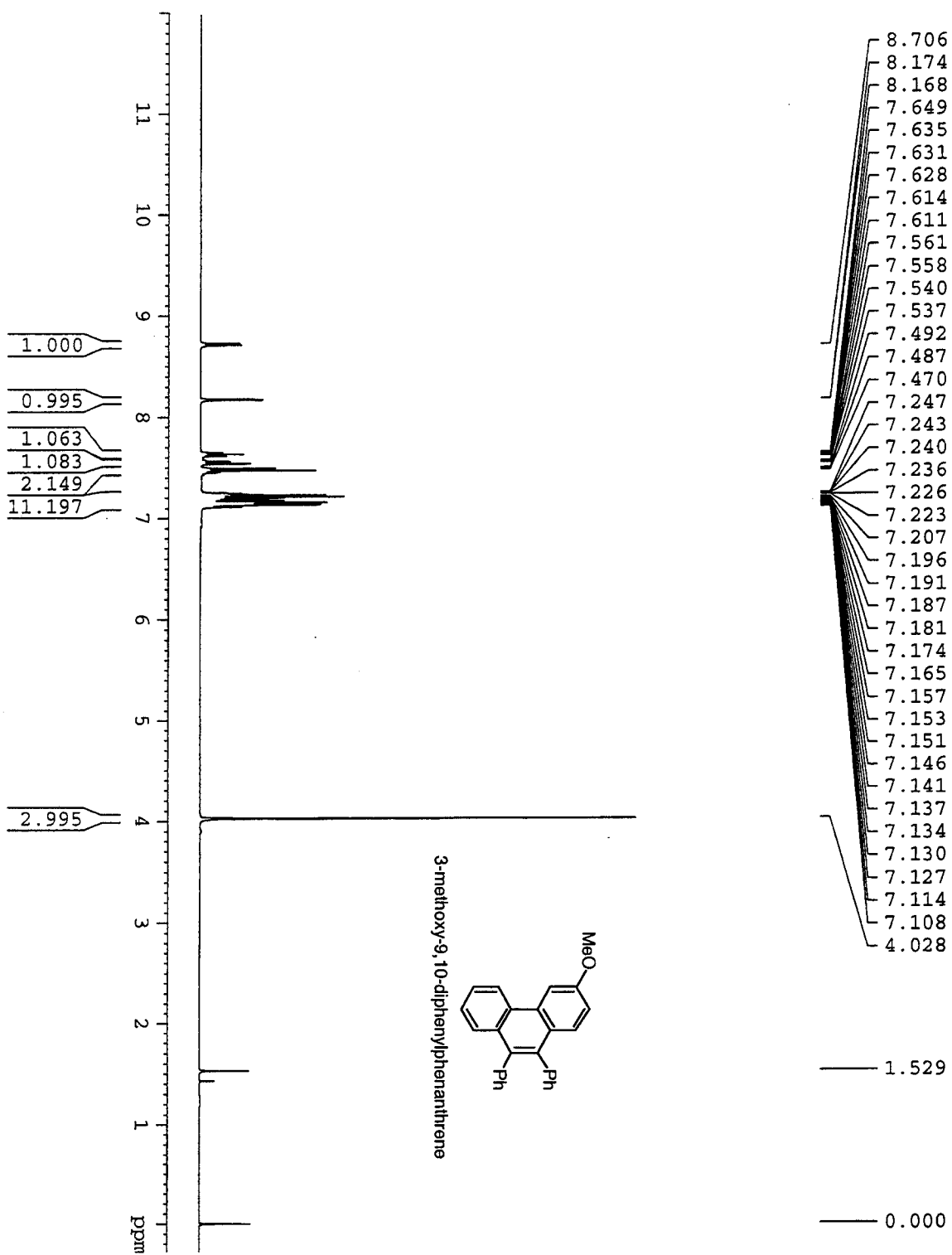


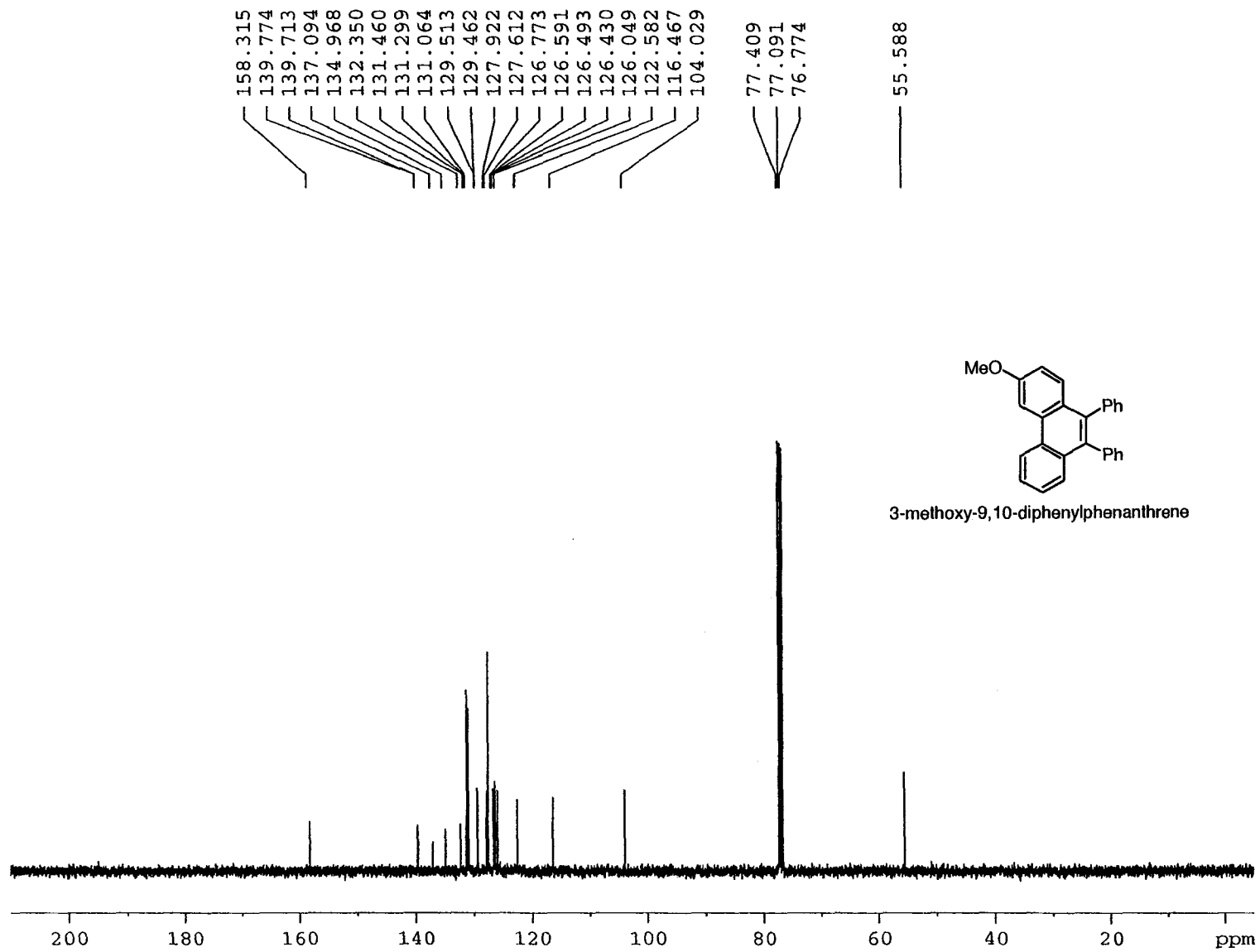


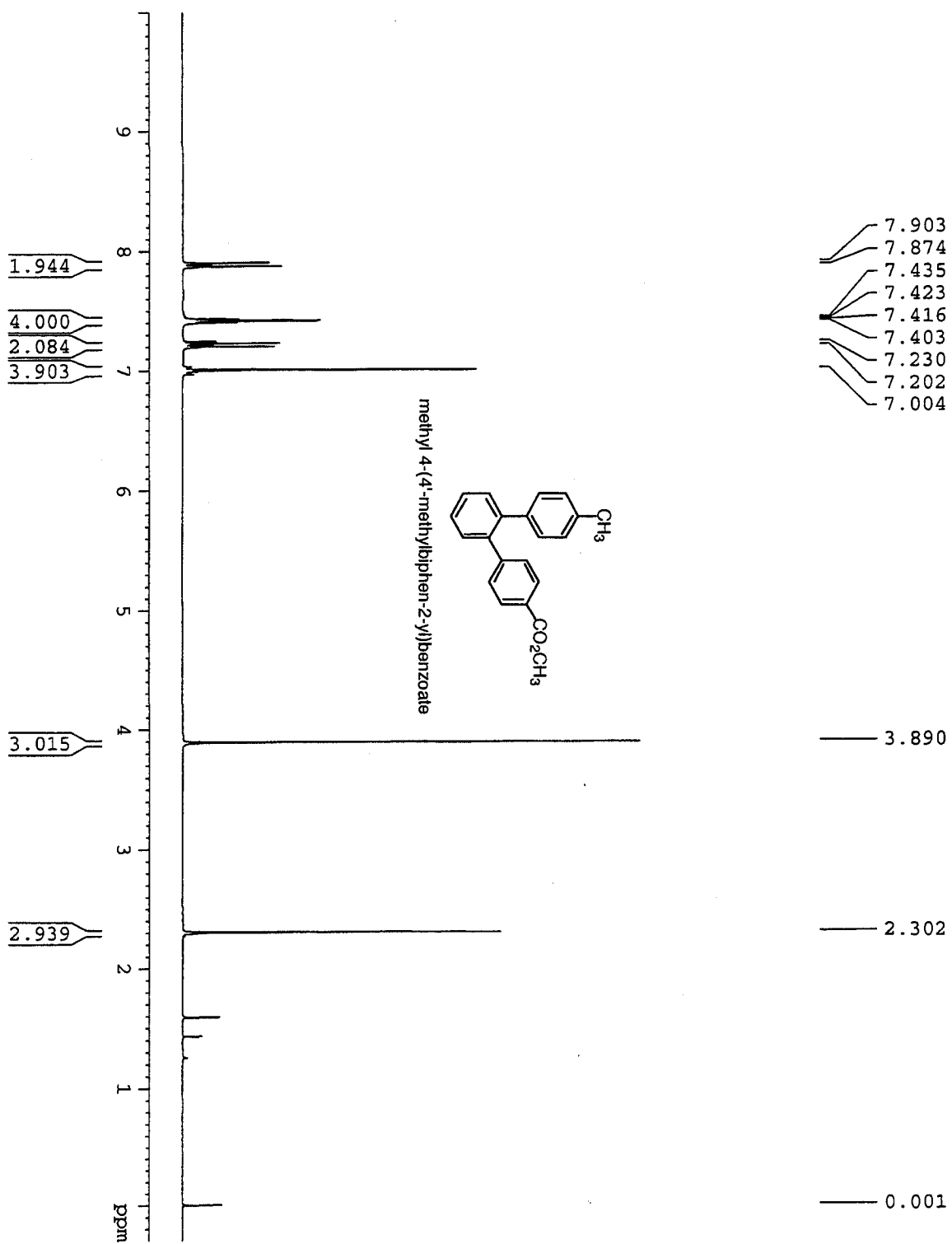


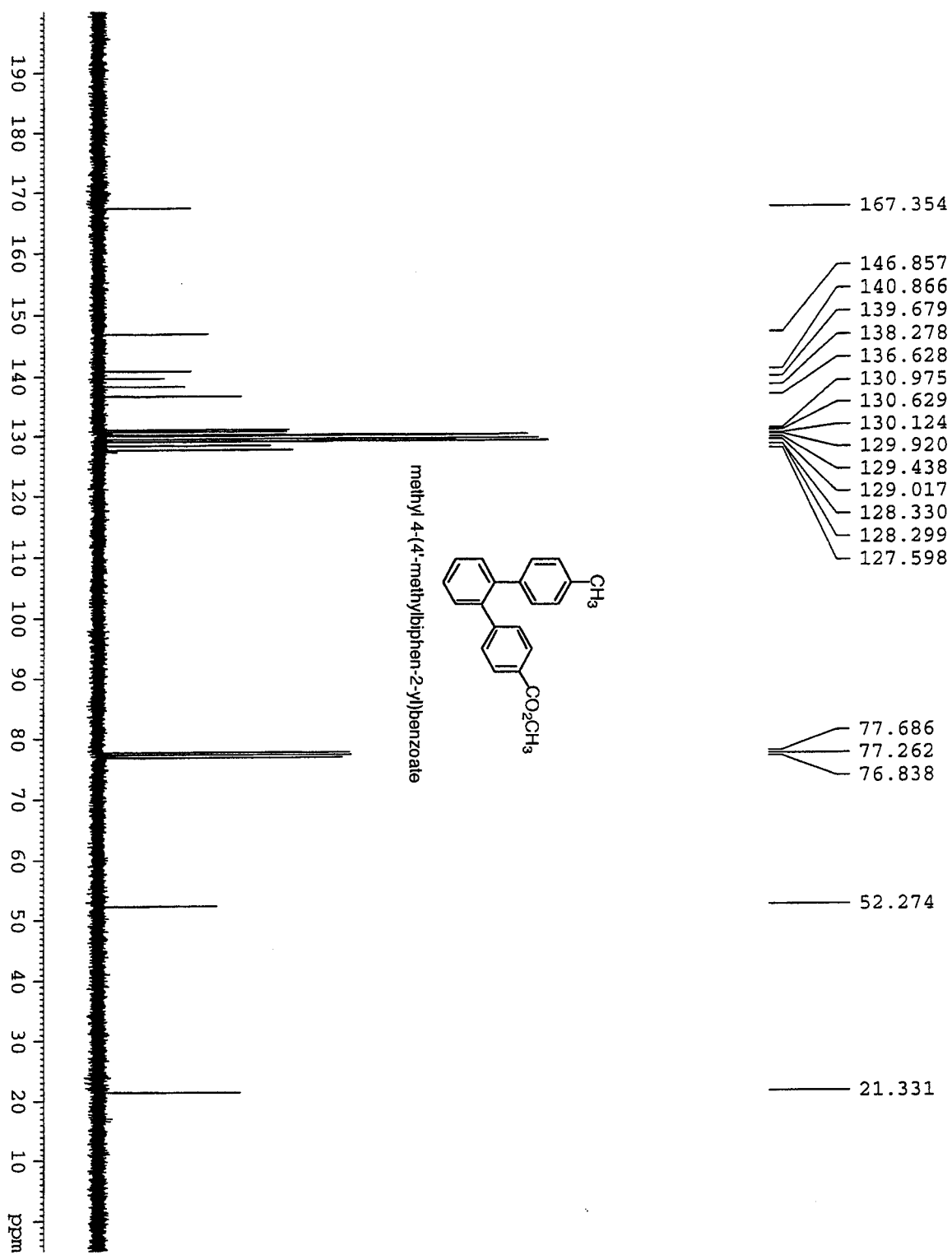




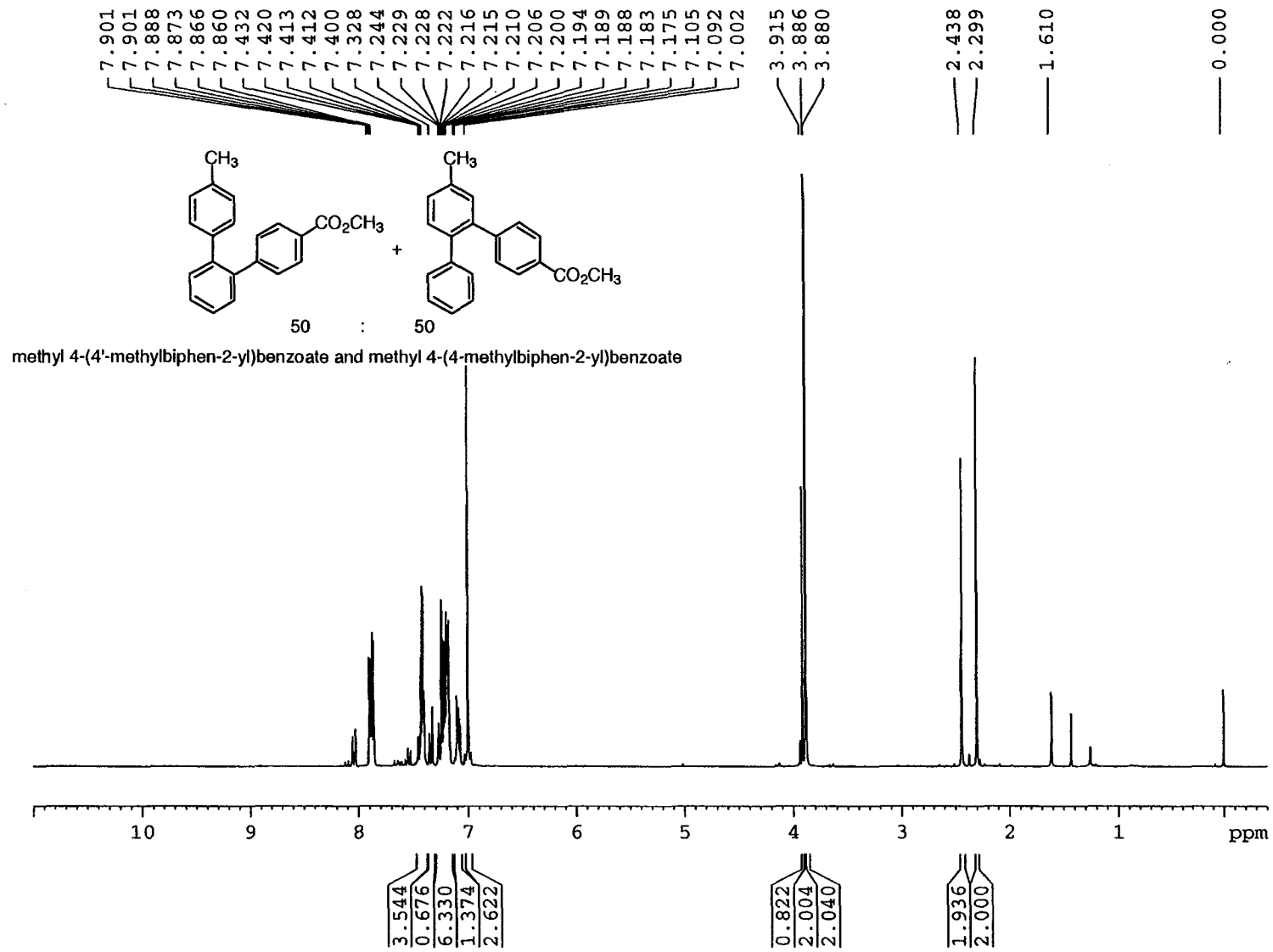


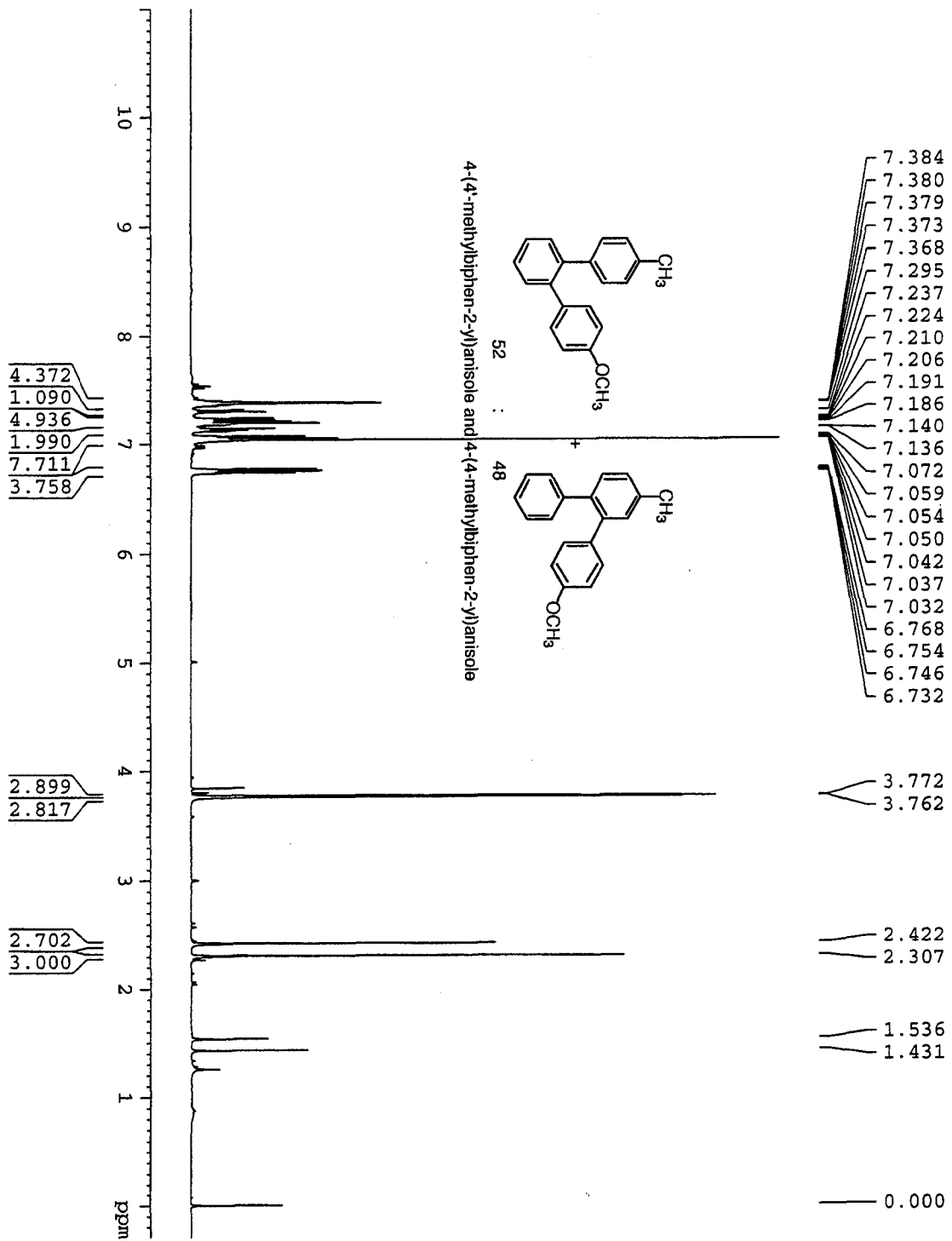


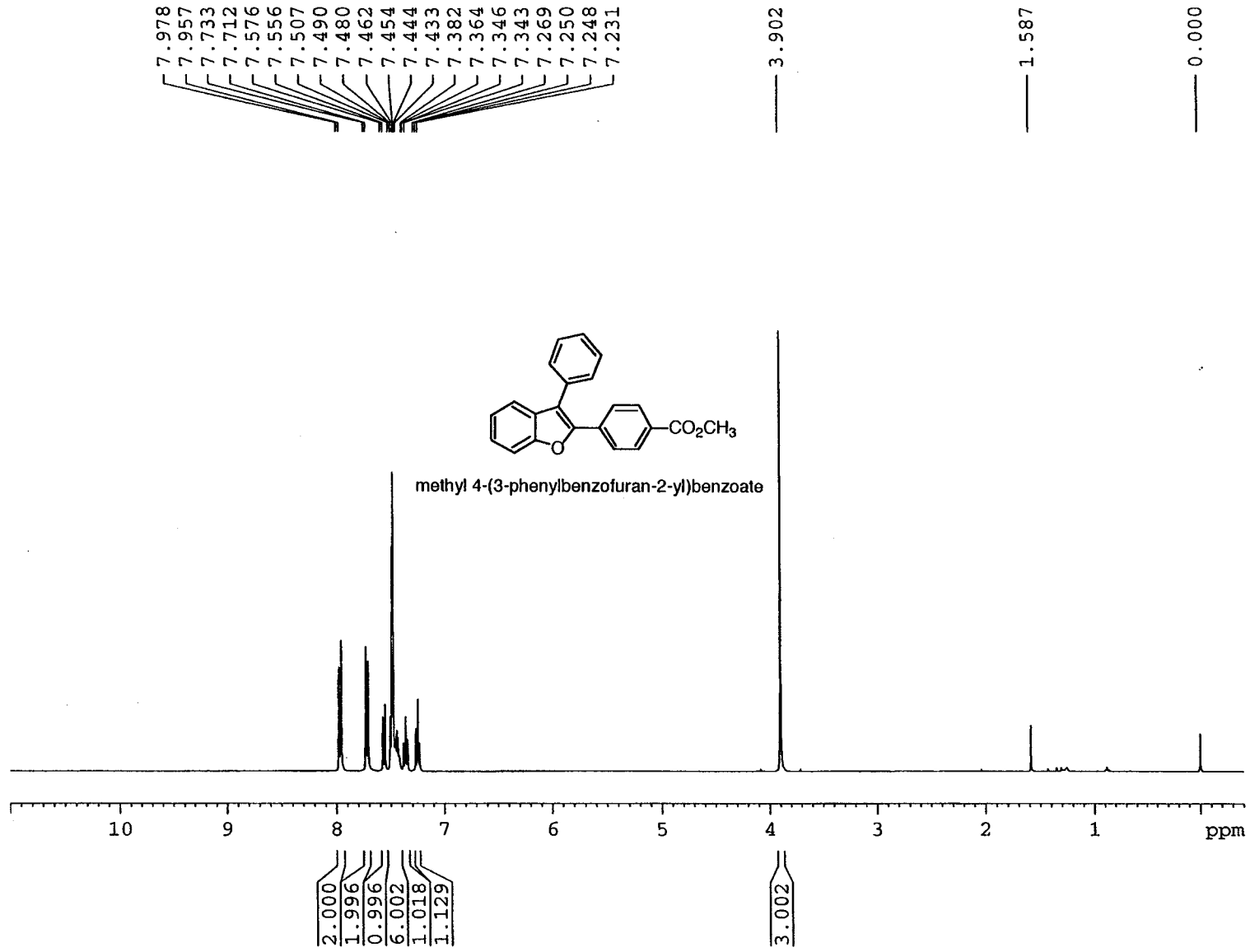


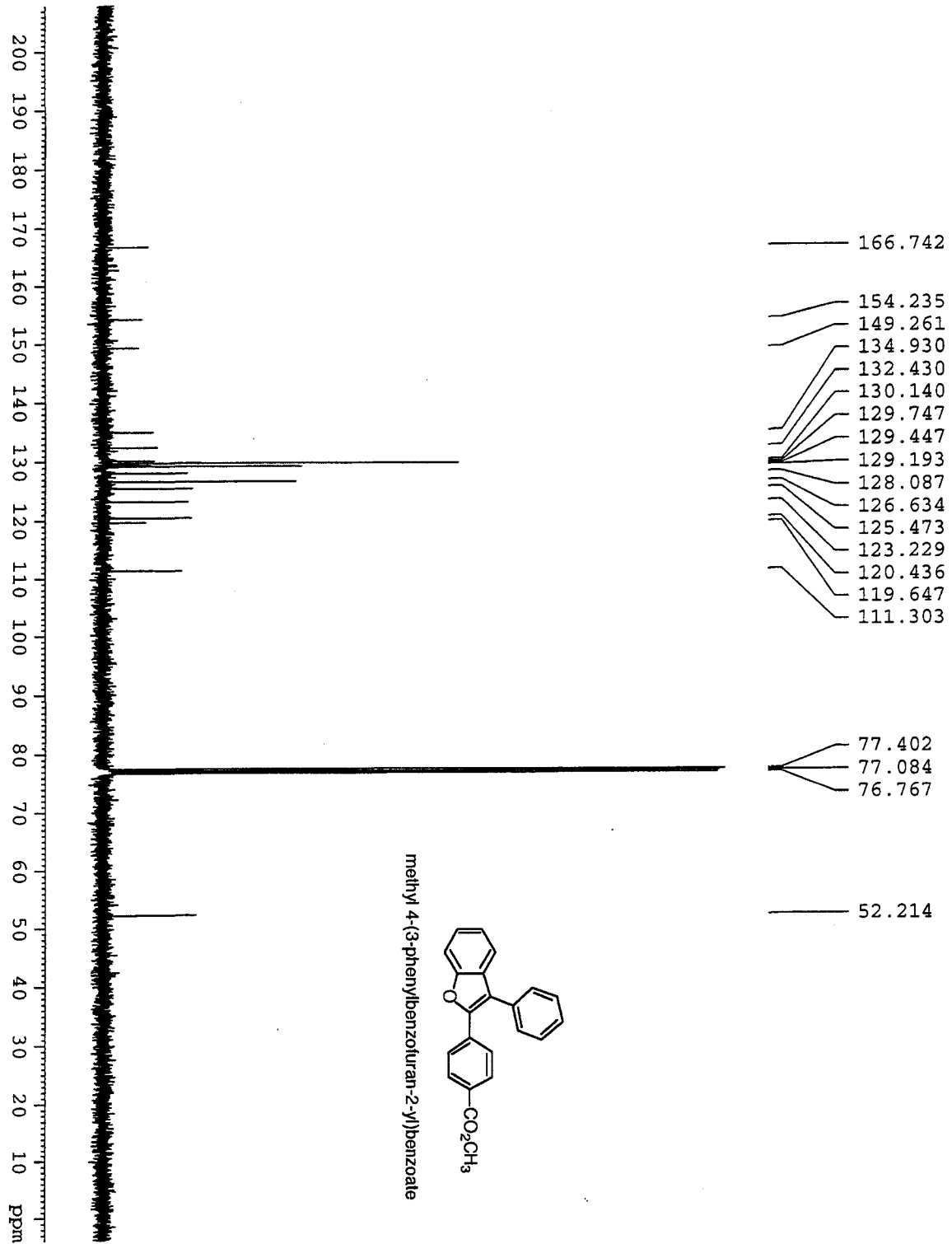


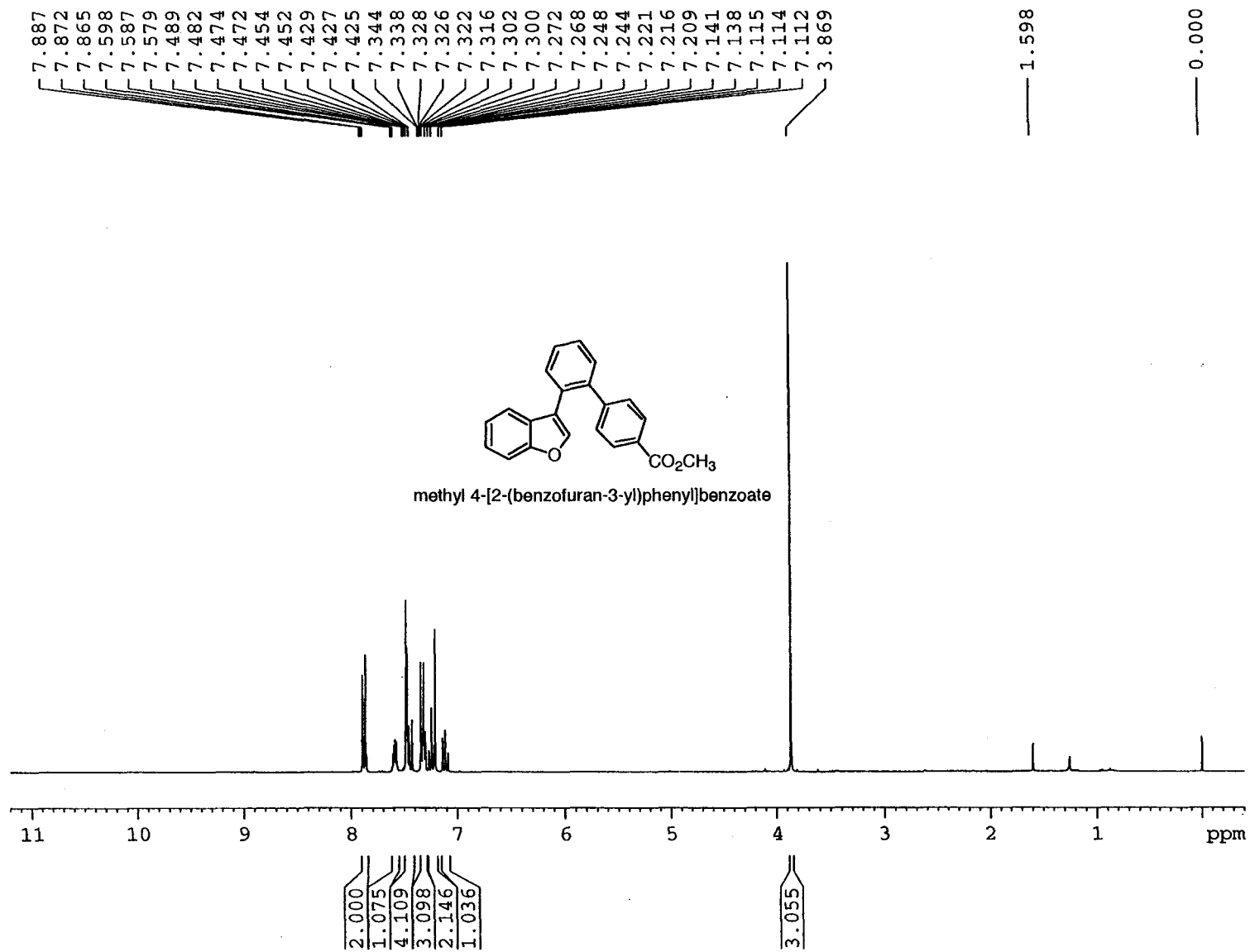


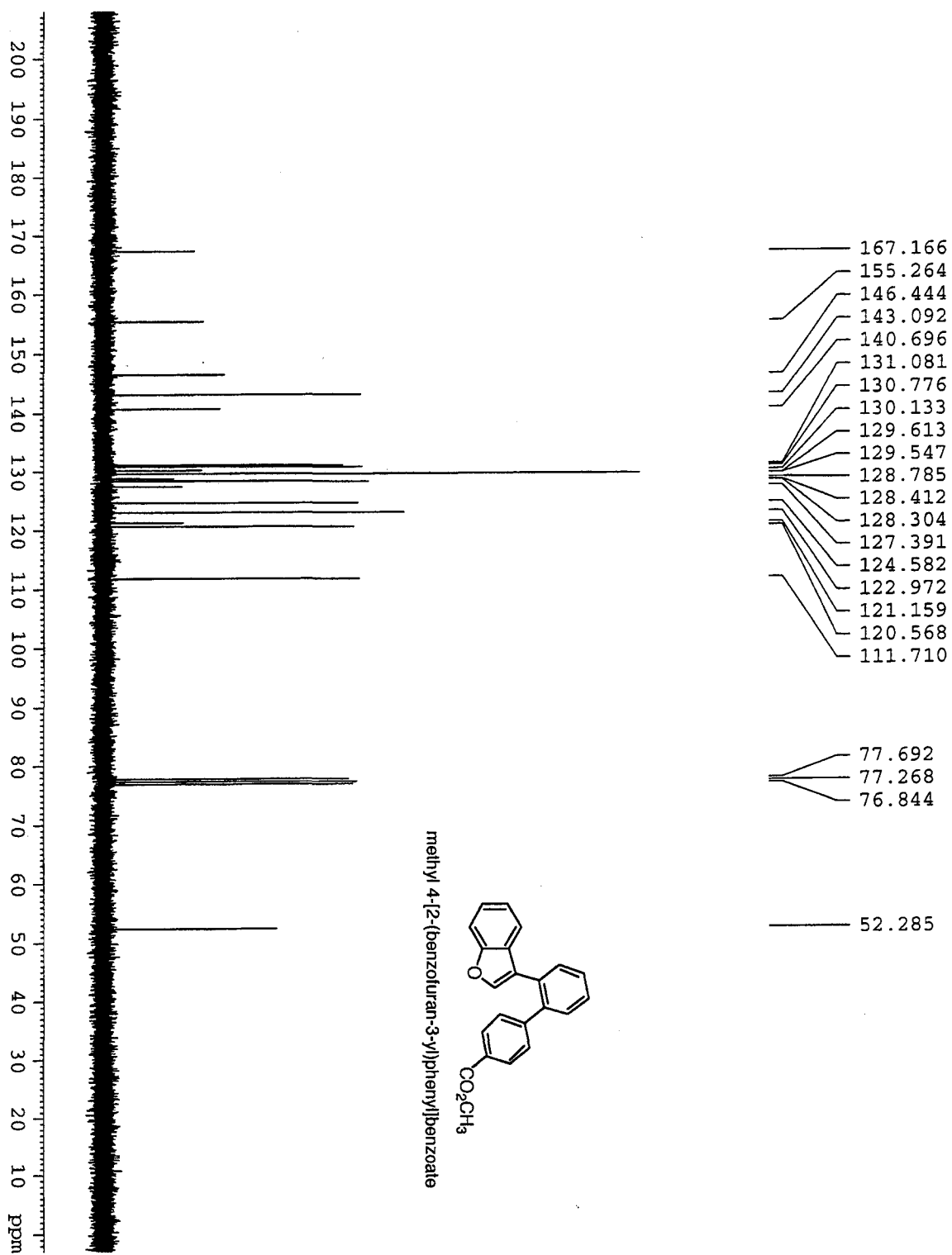




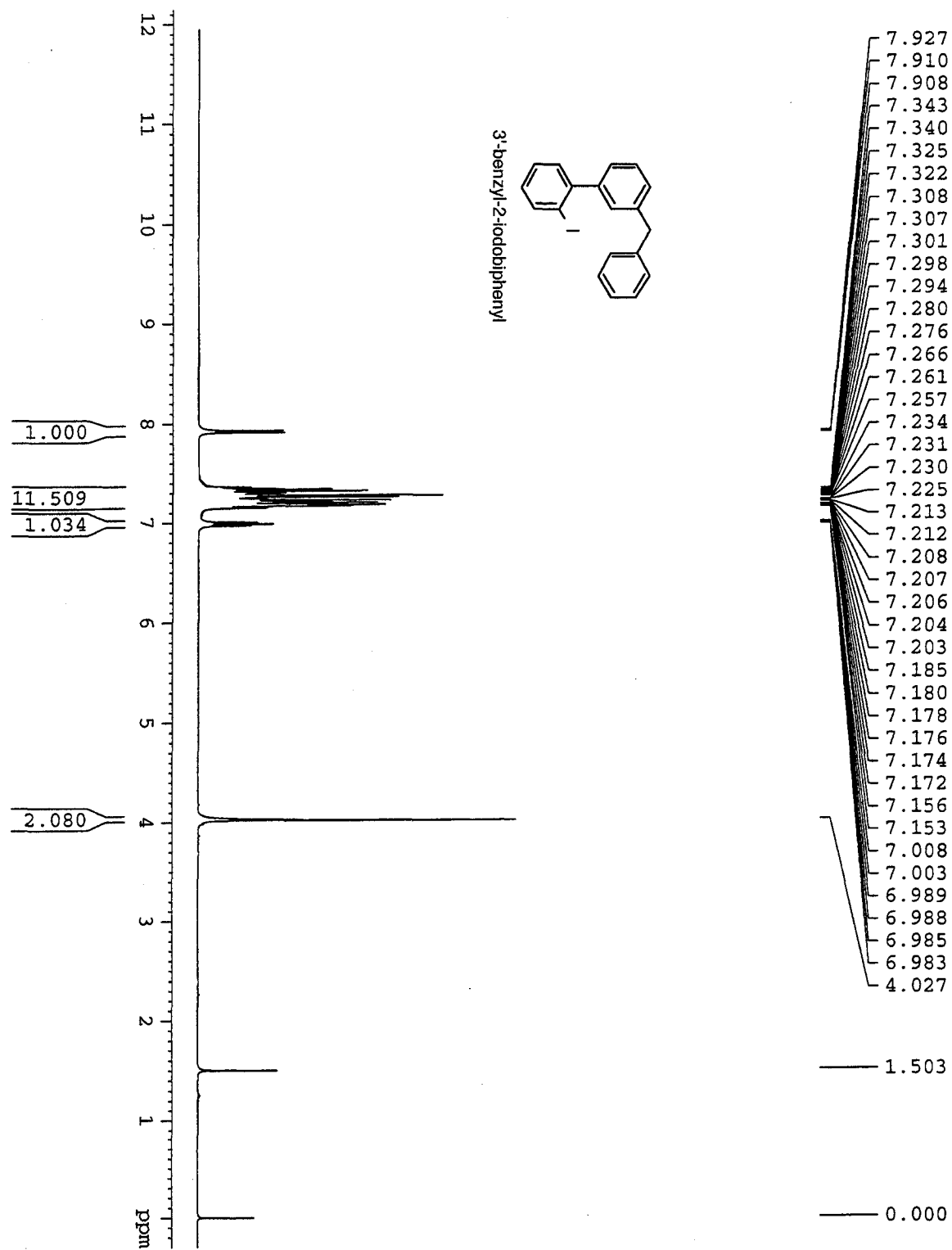




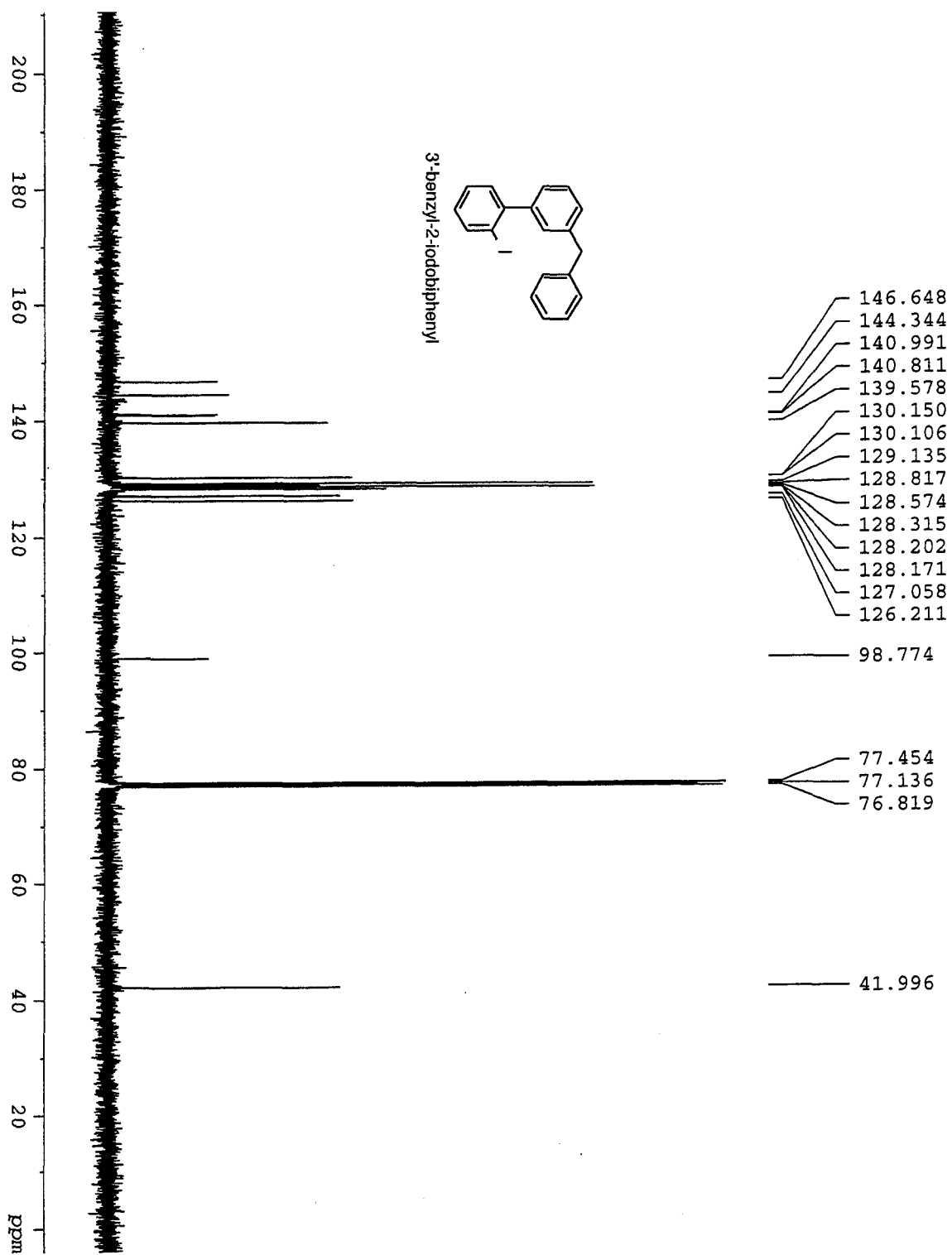


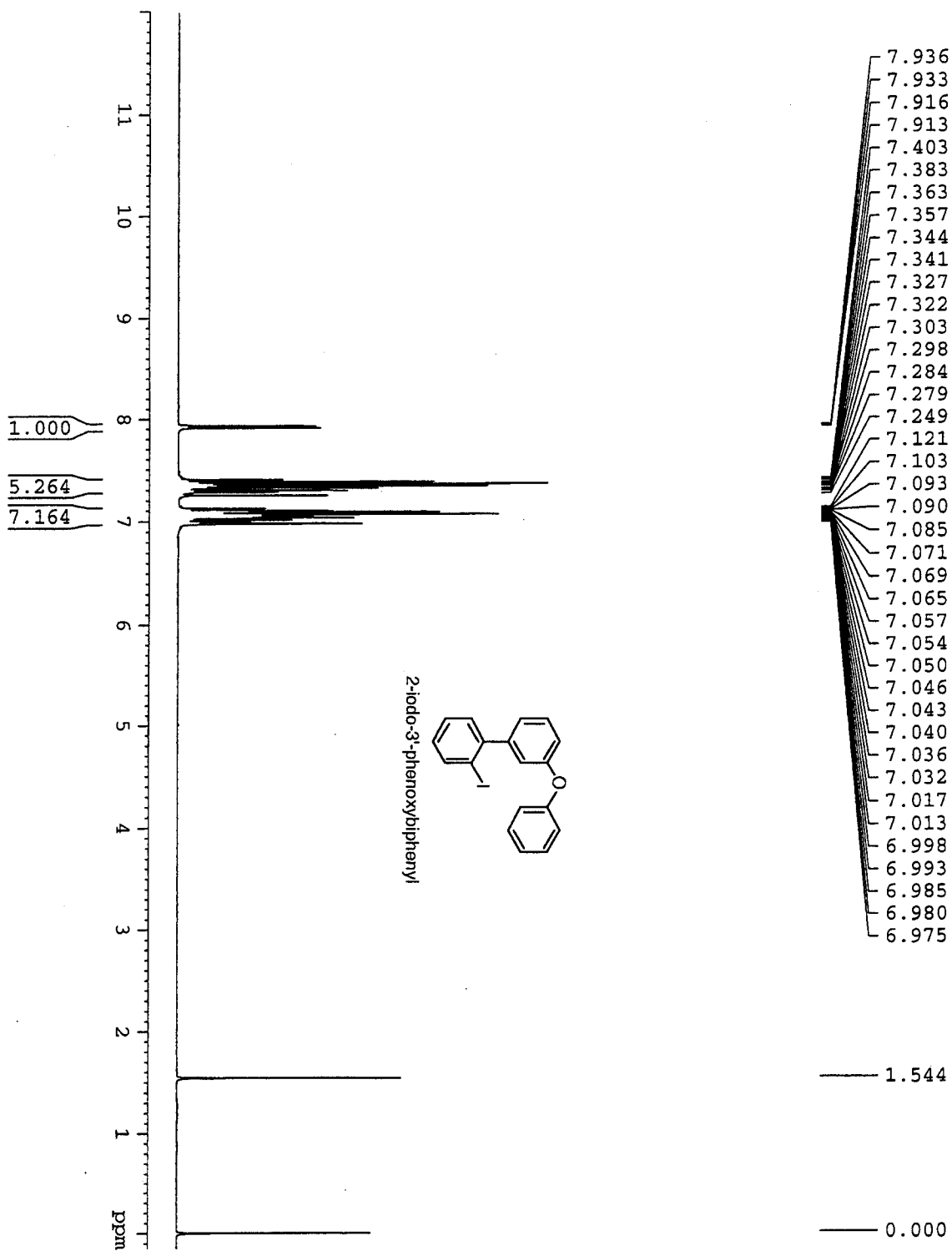


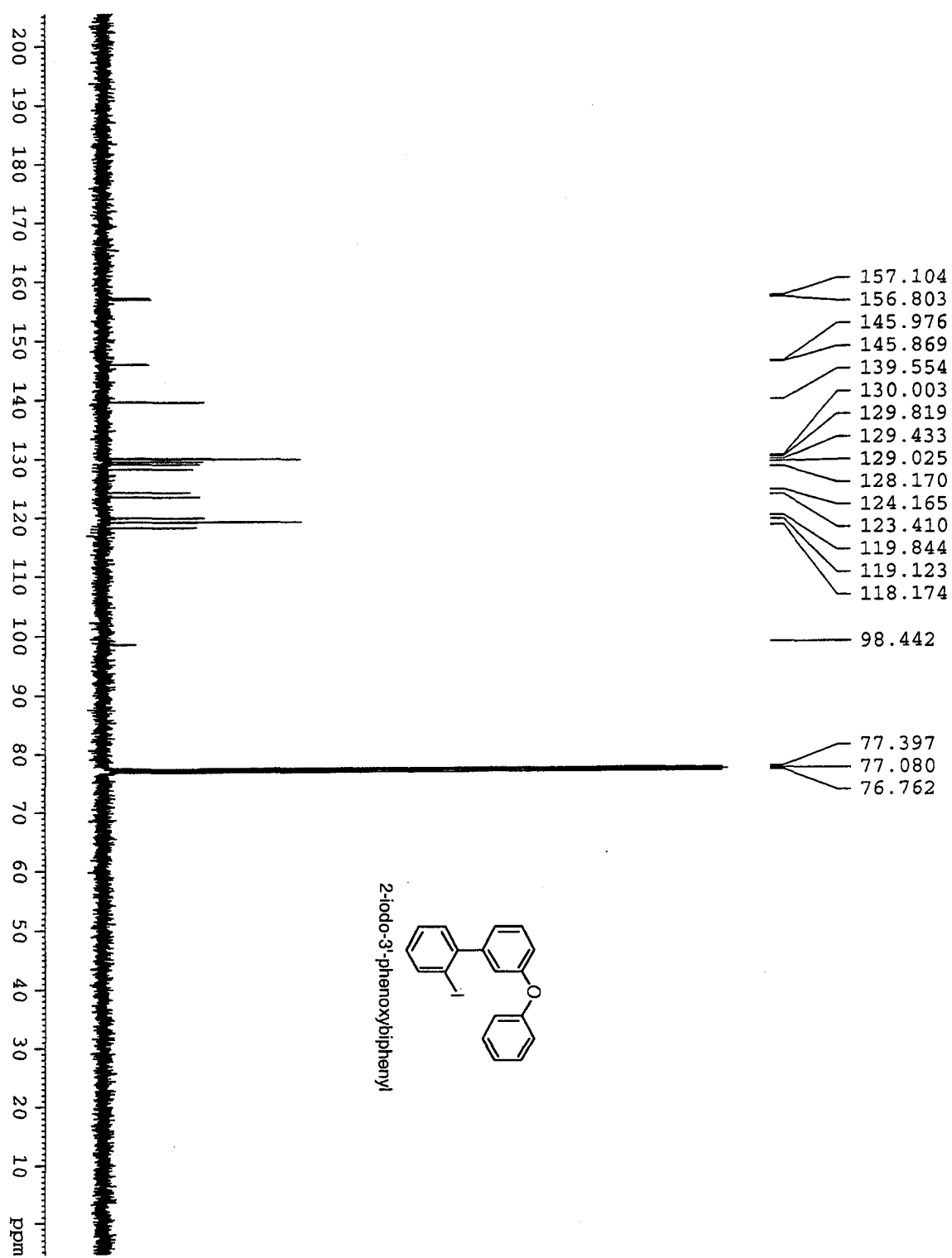
APPENDIX C. CHAPTER 3  $^1\text{H}$  AND  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR SPECTRA

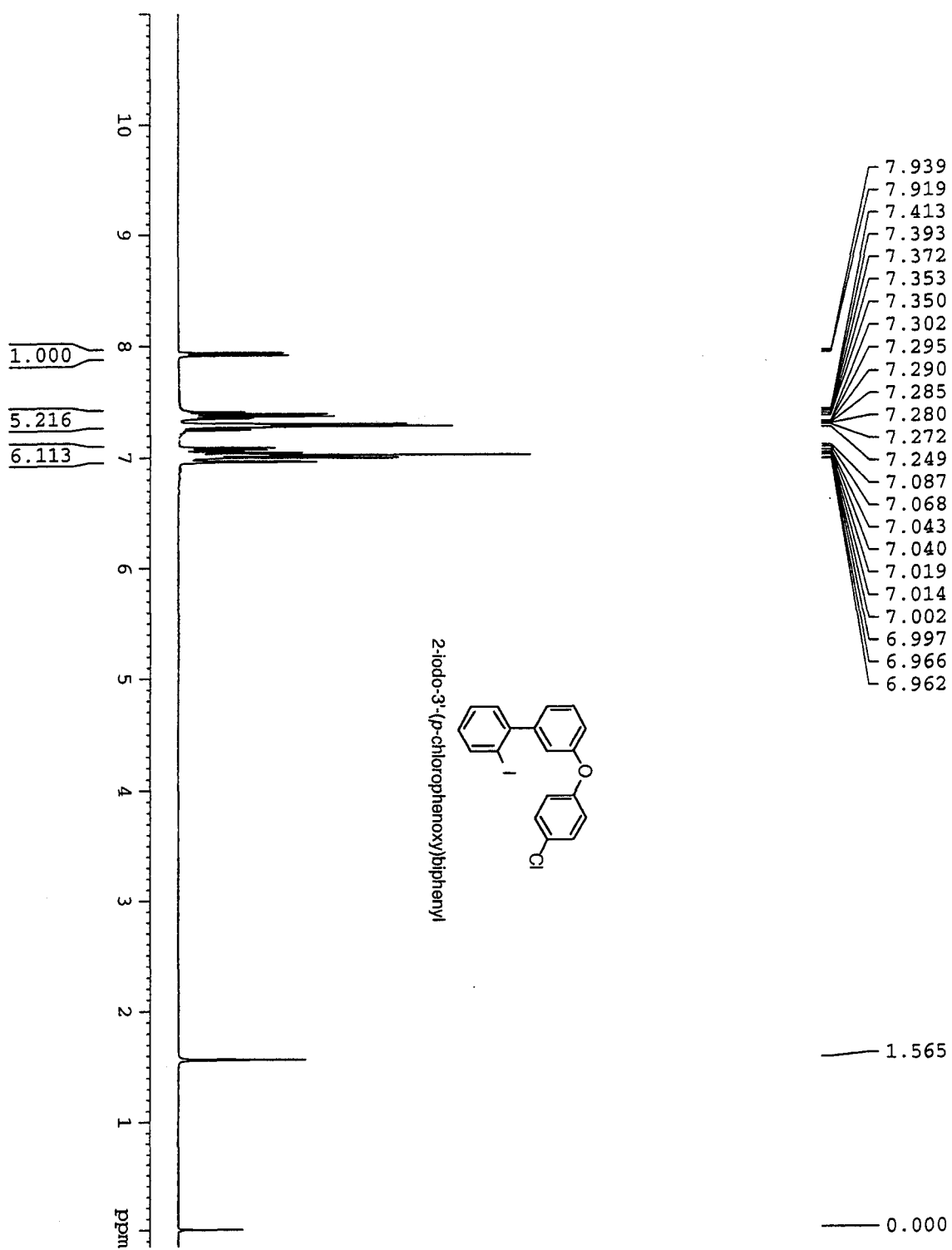


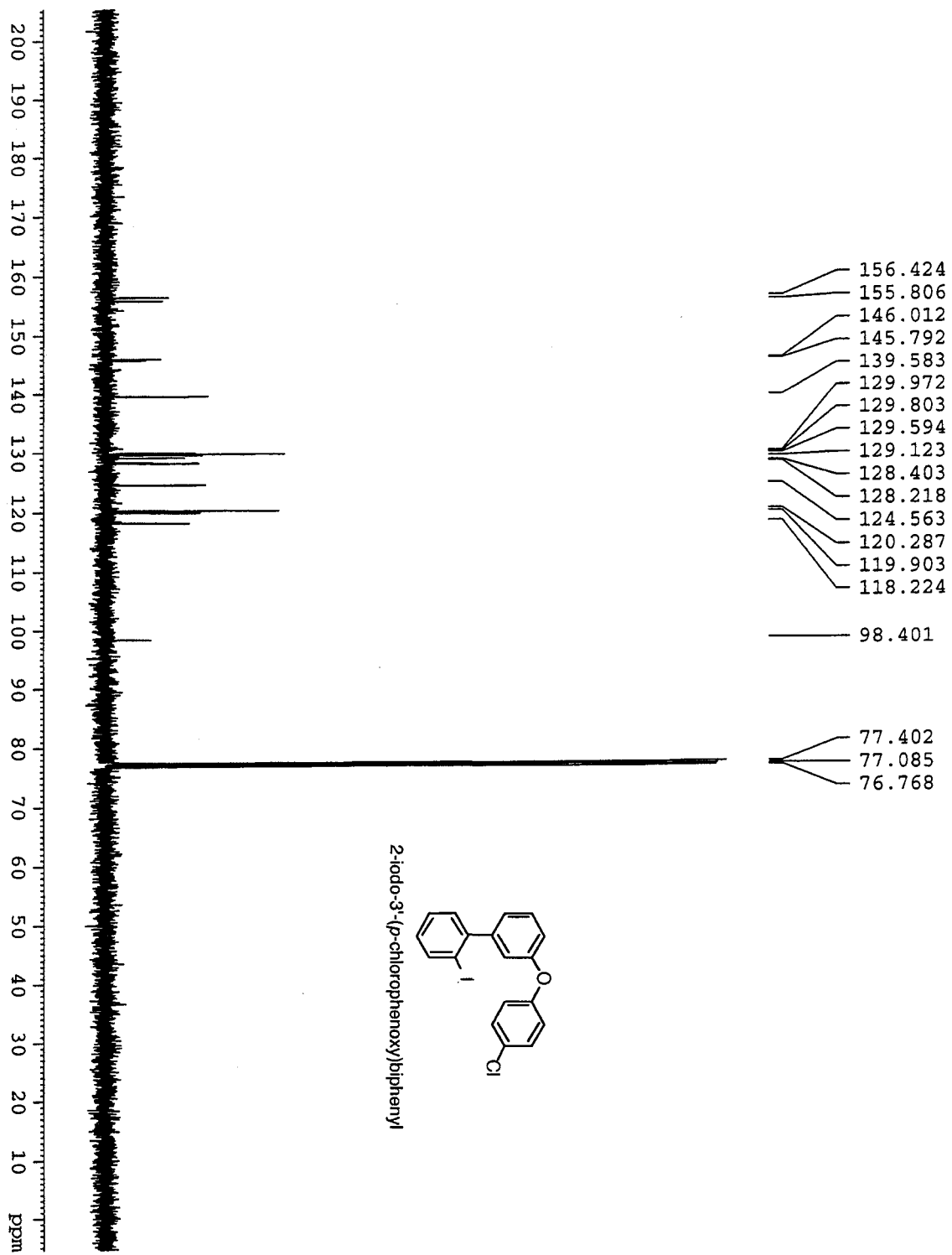


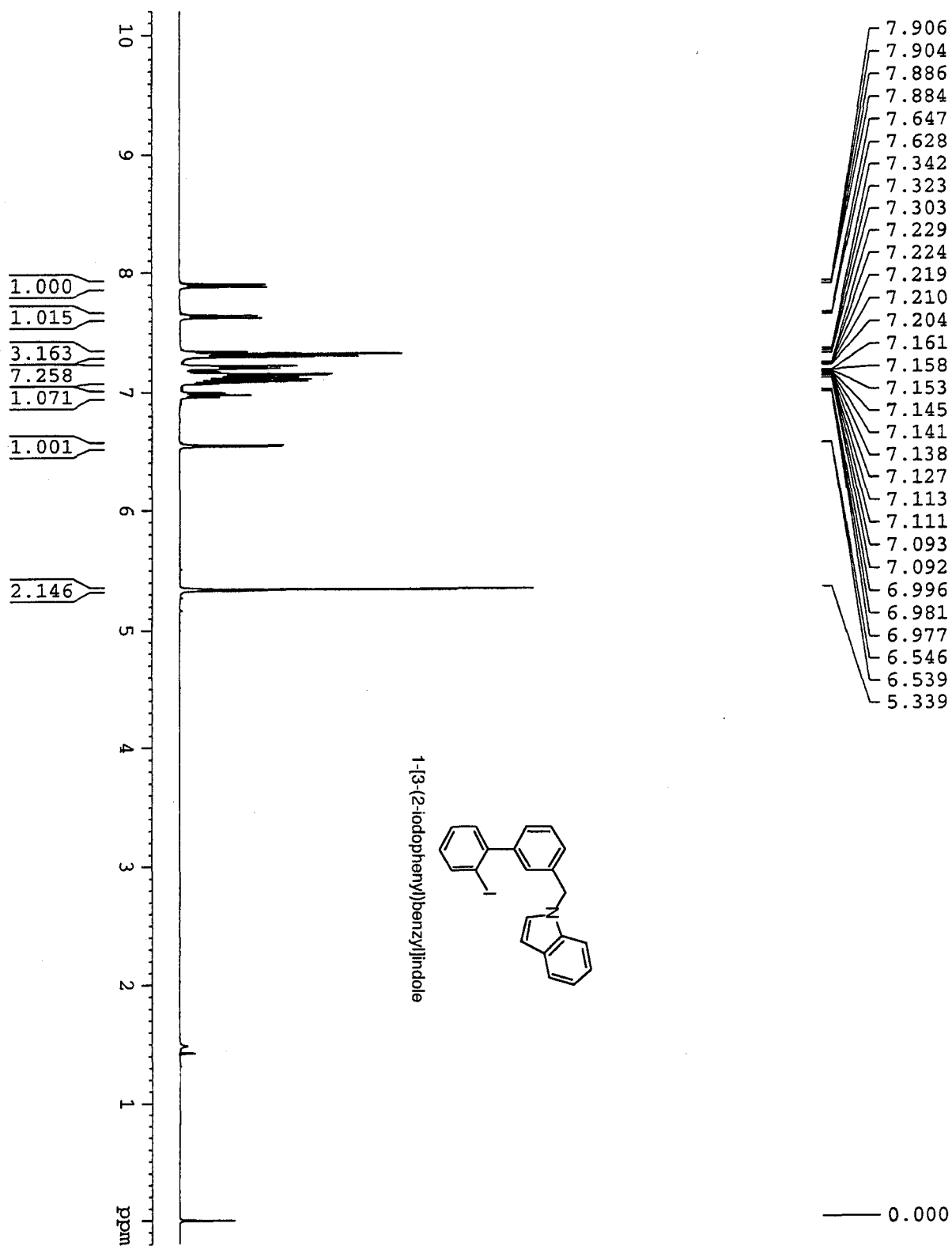


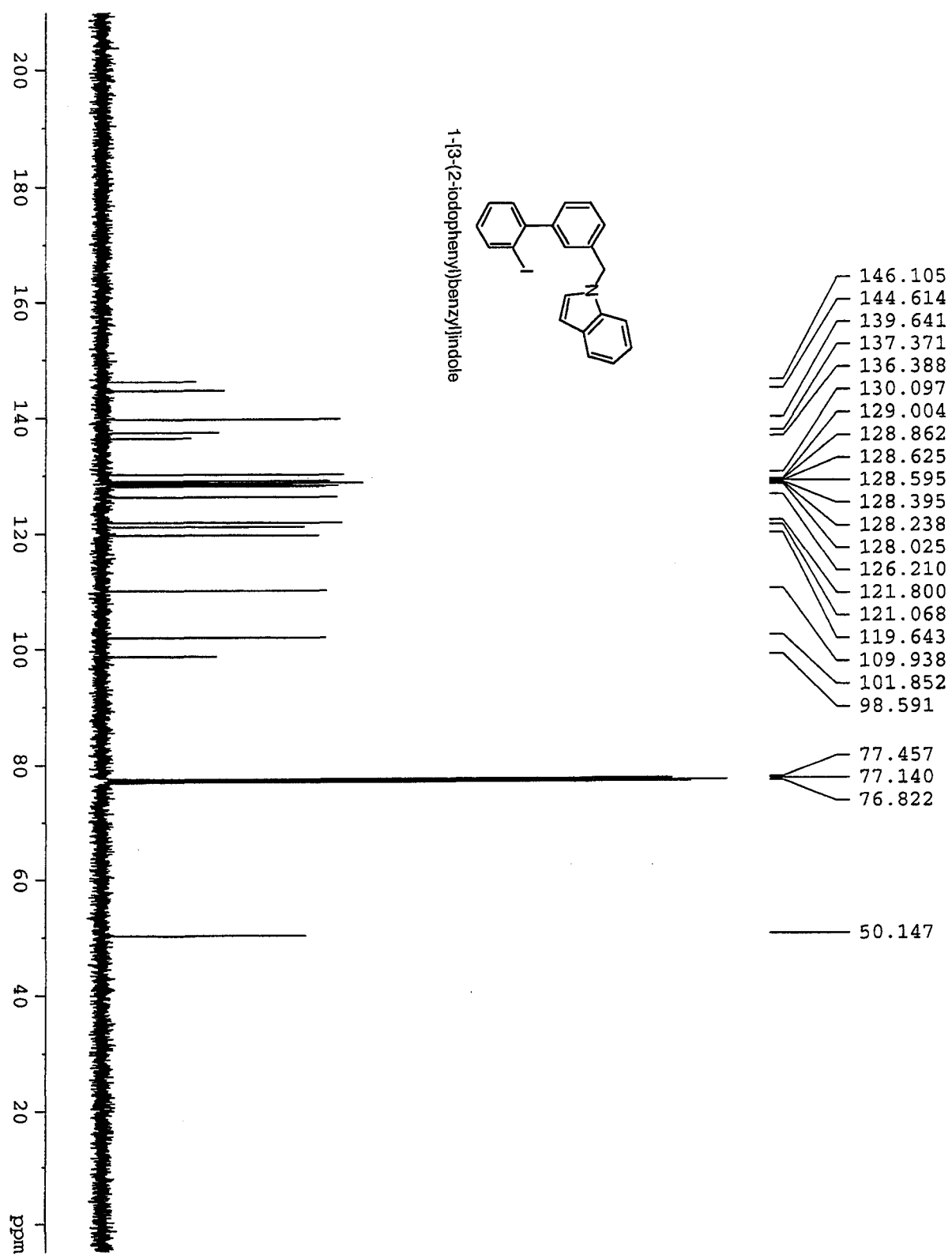


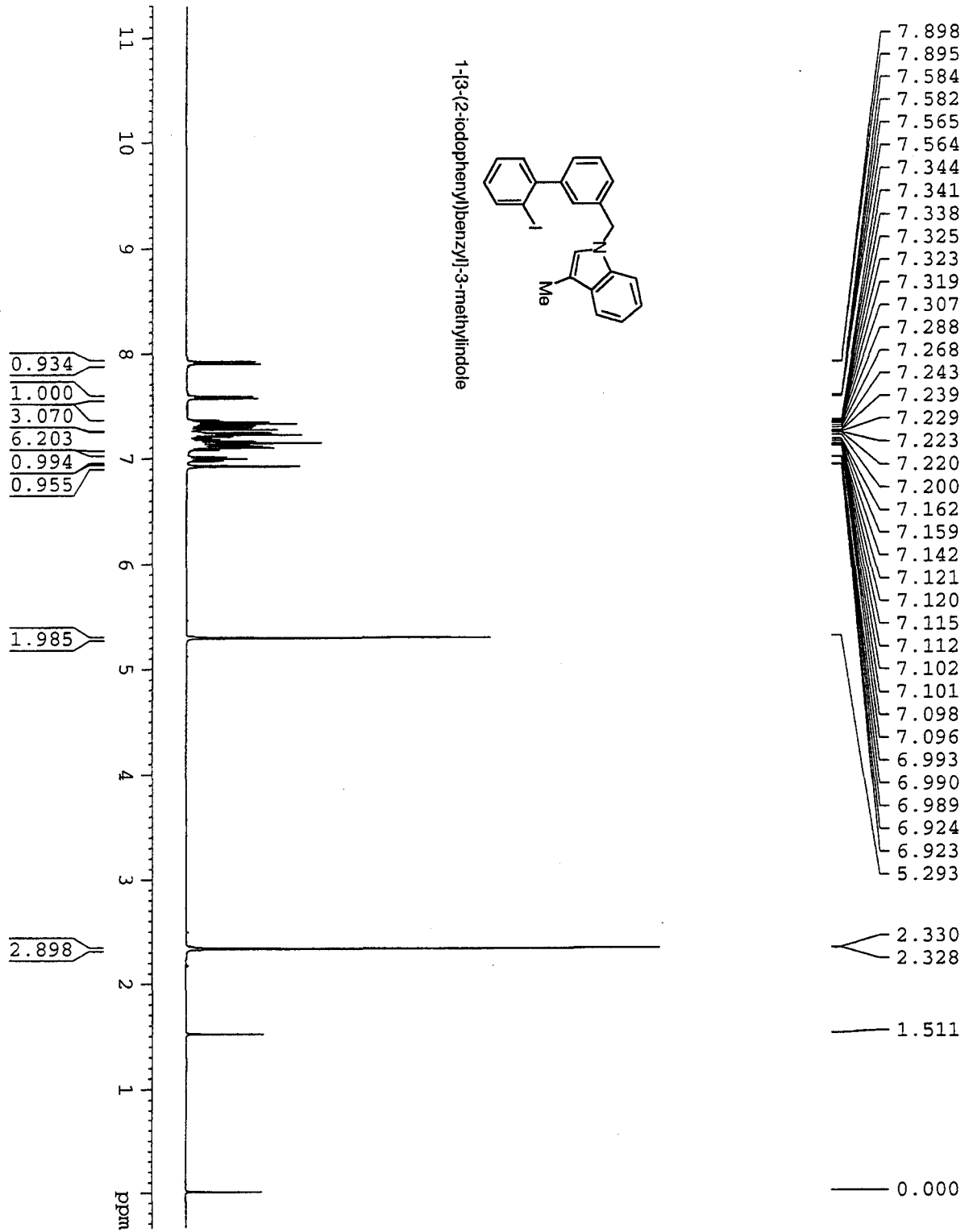




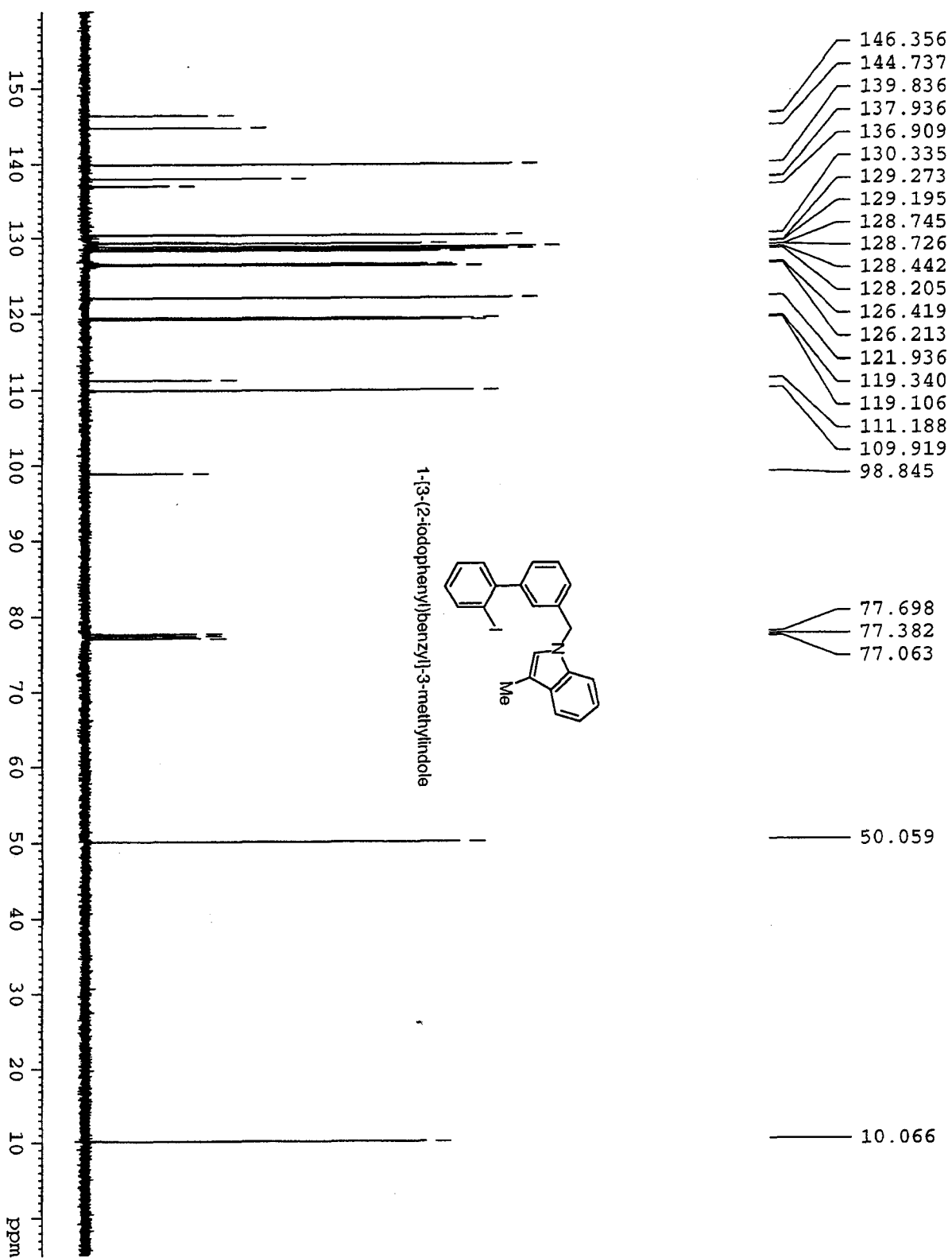


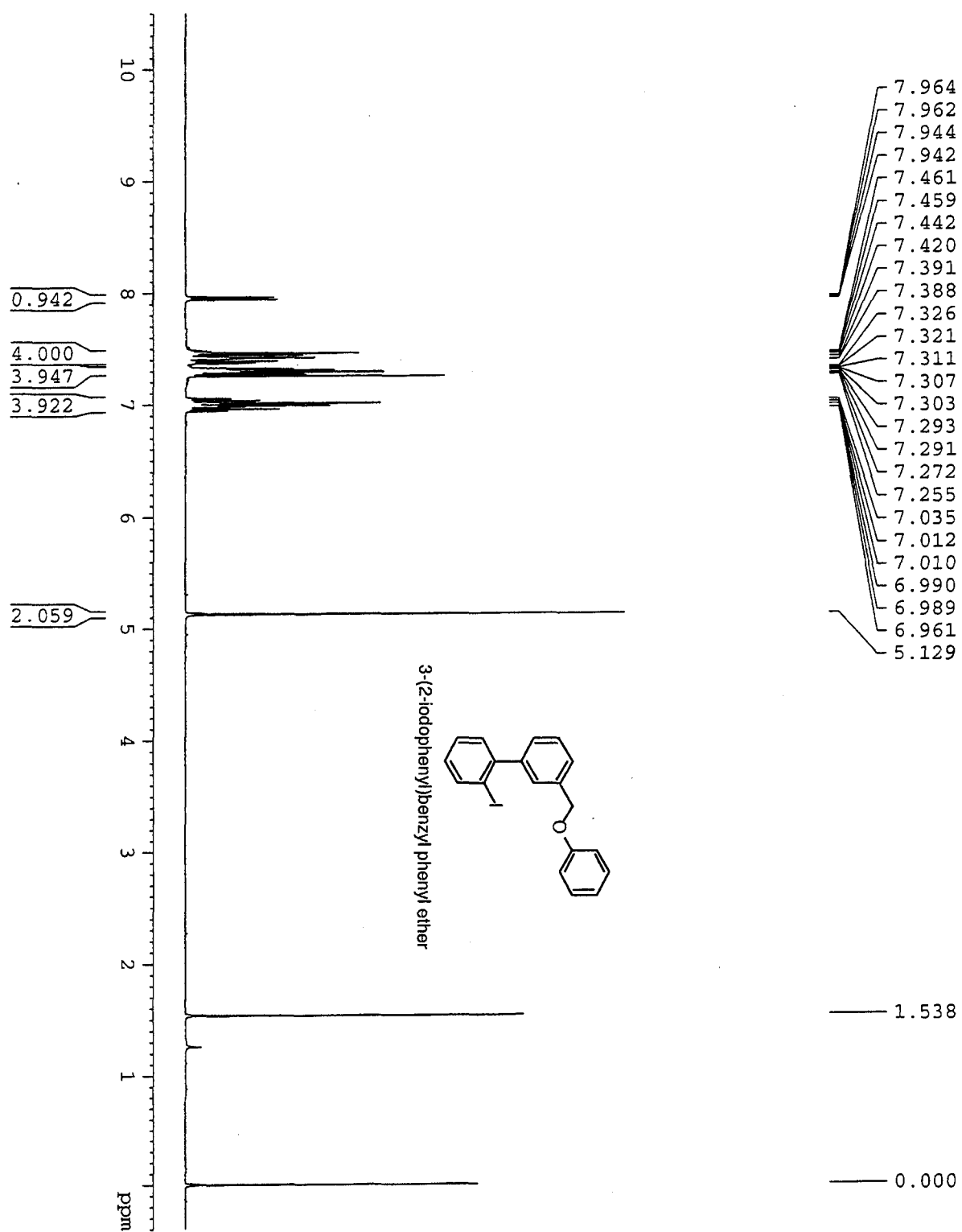


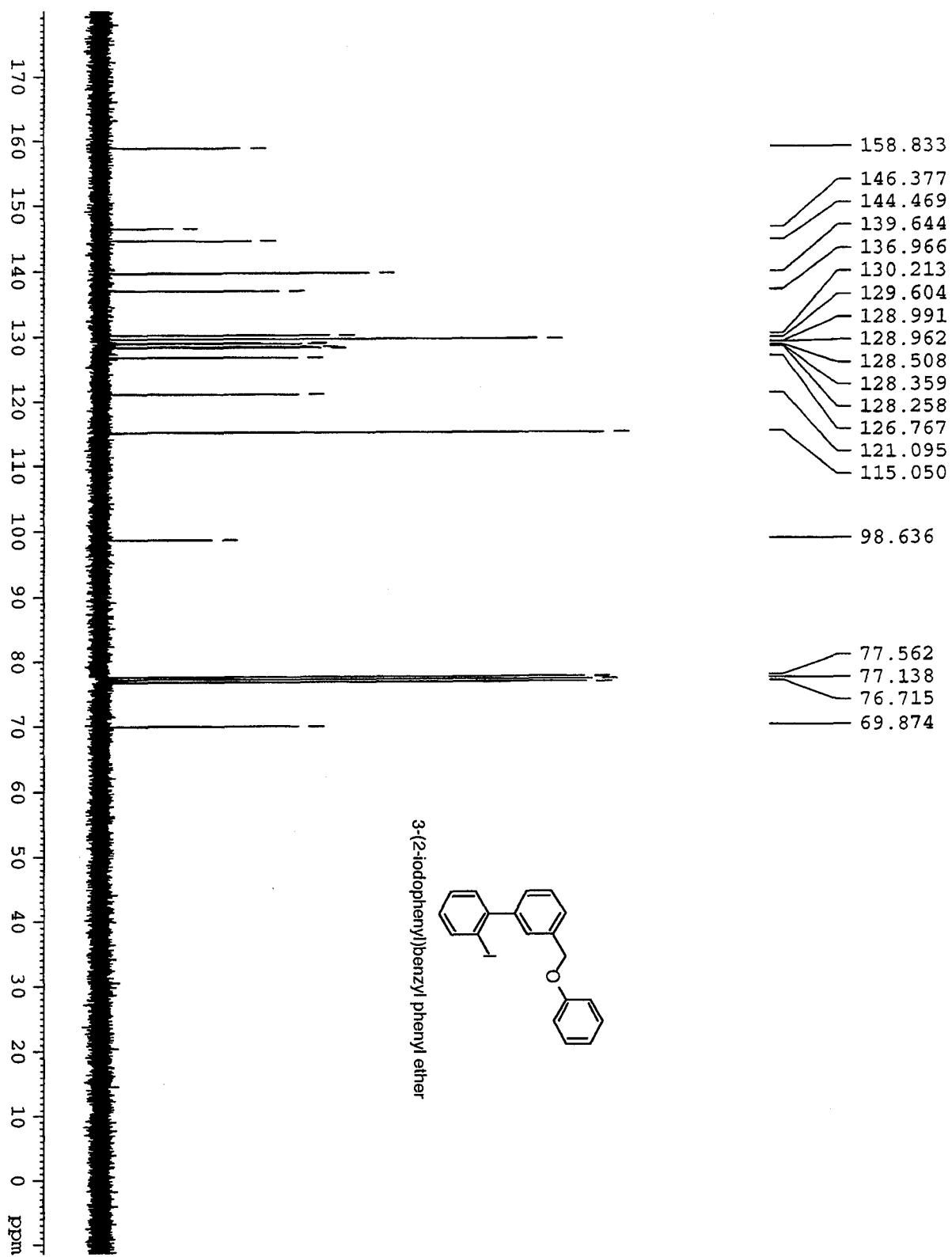


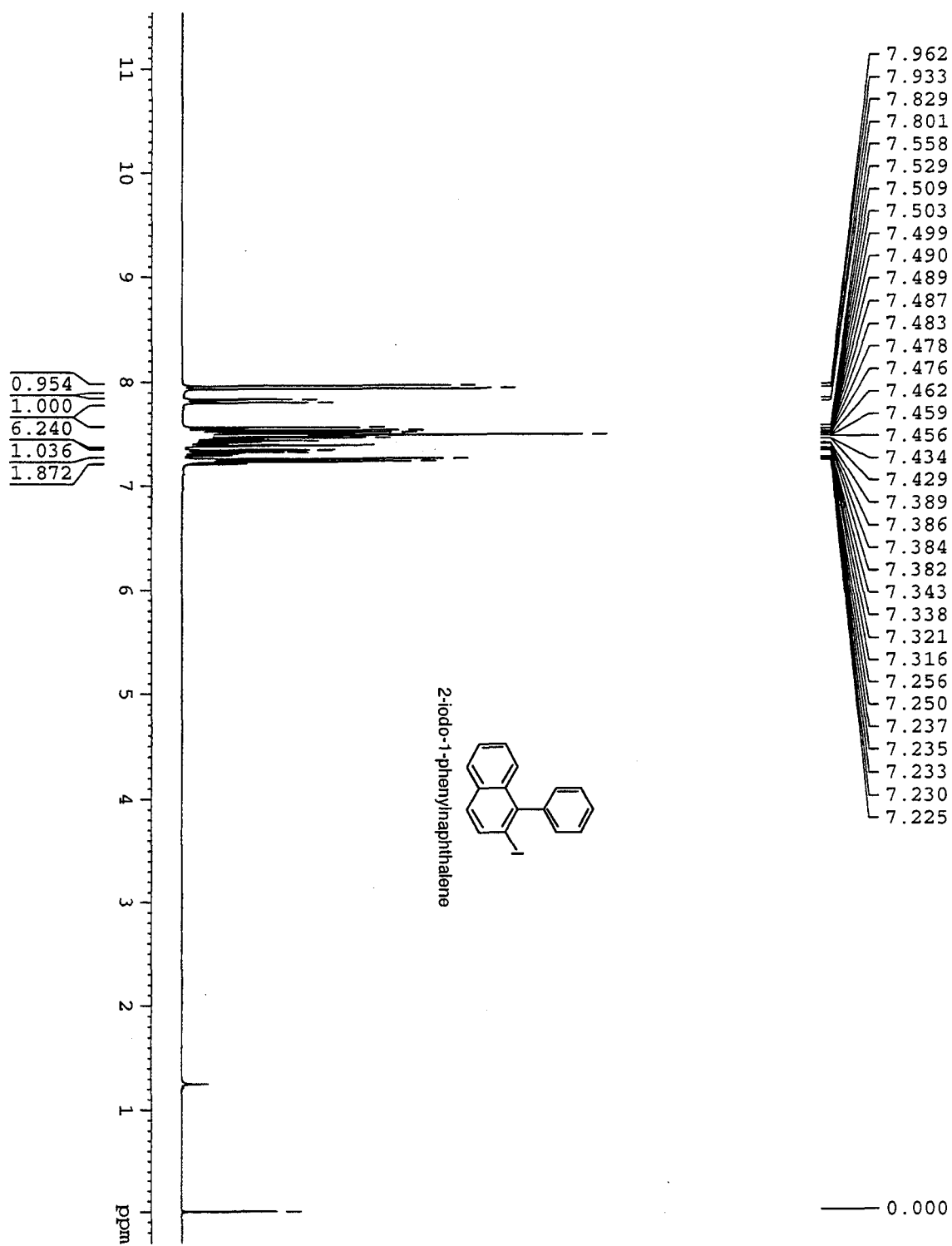


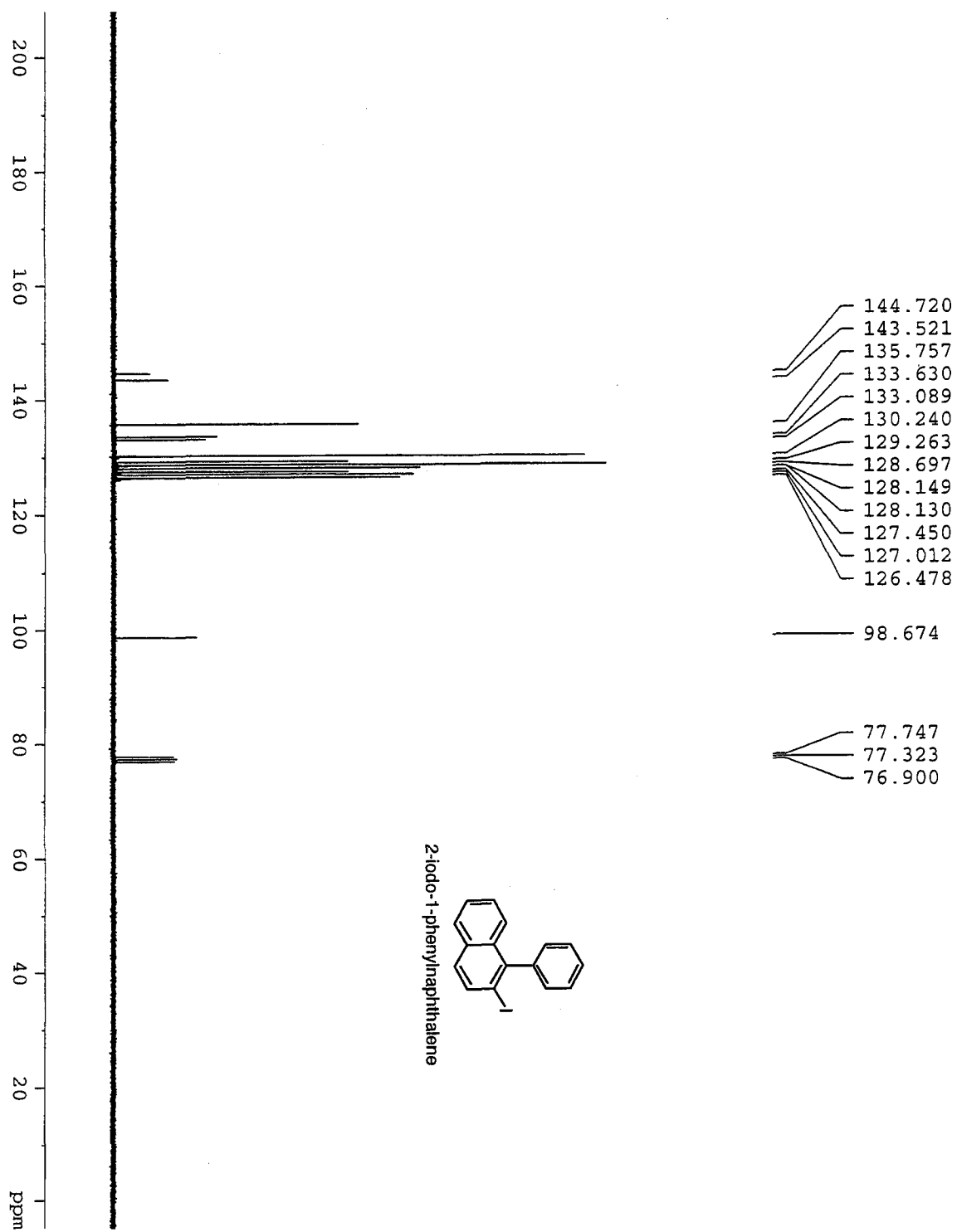


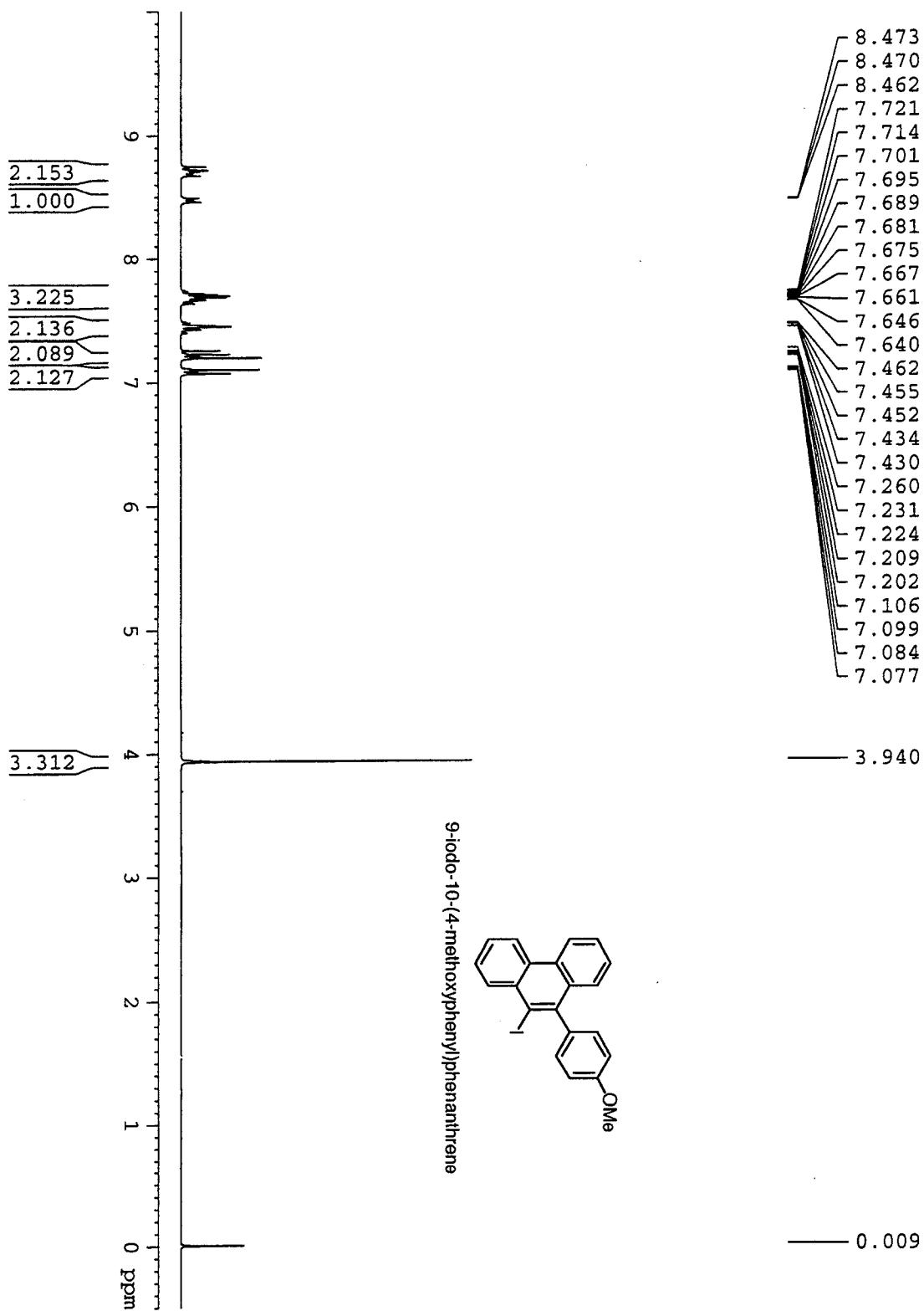


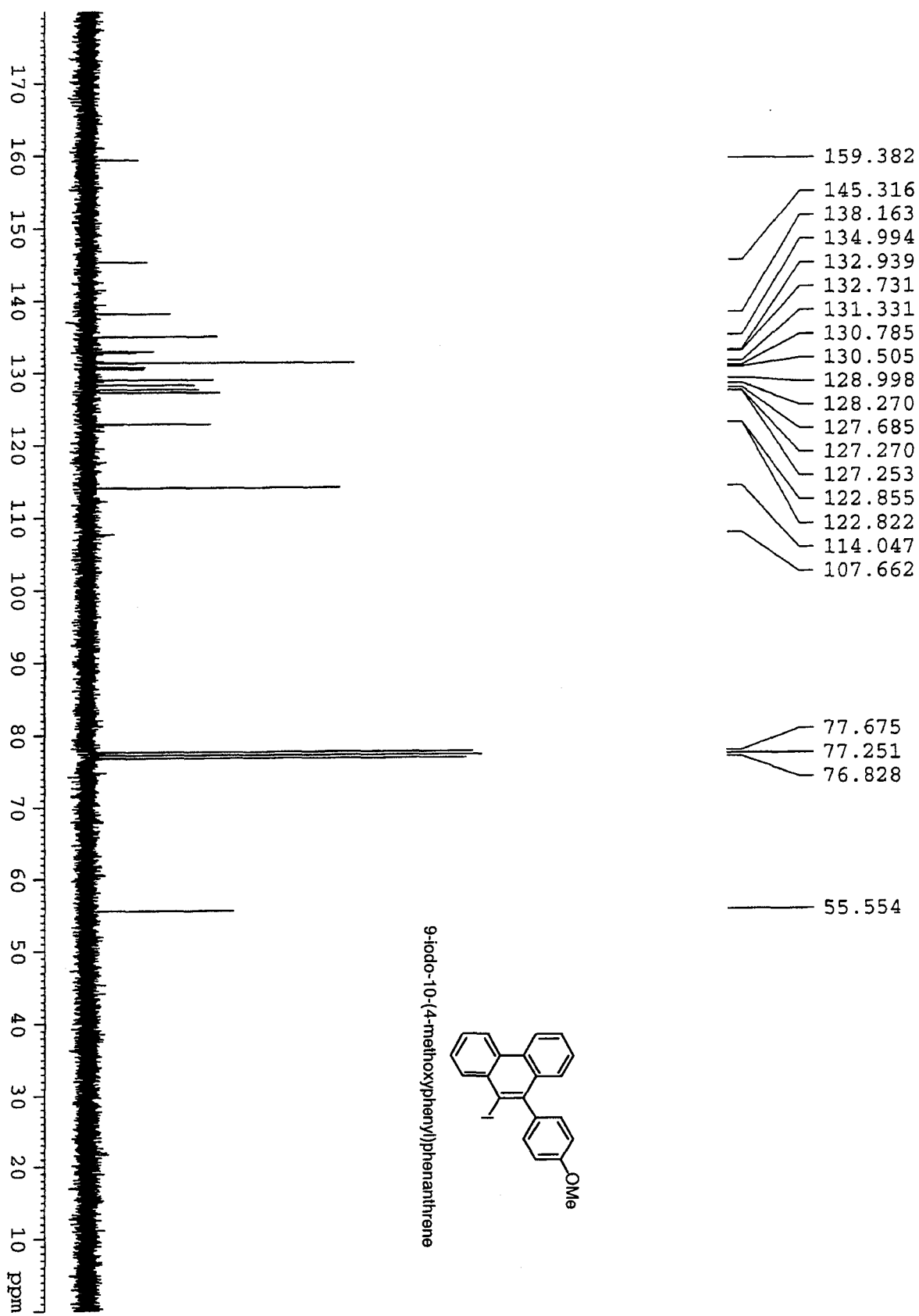


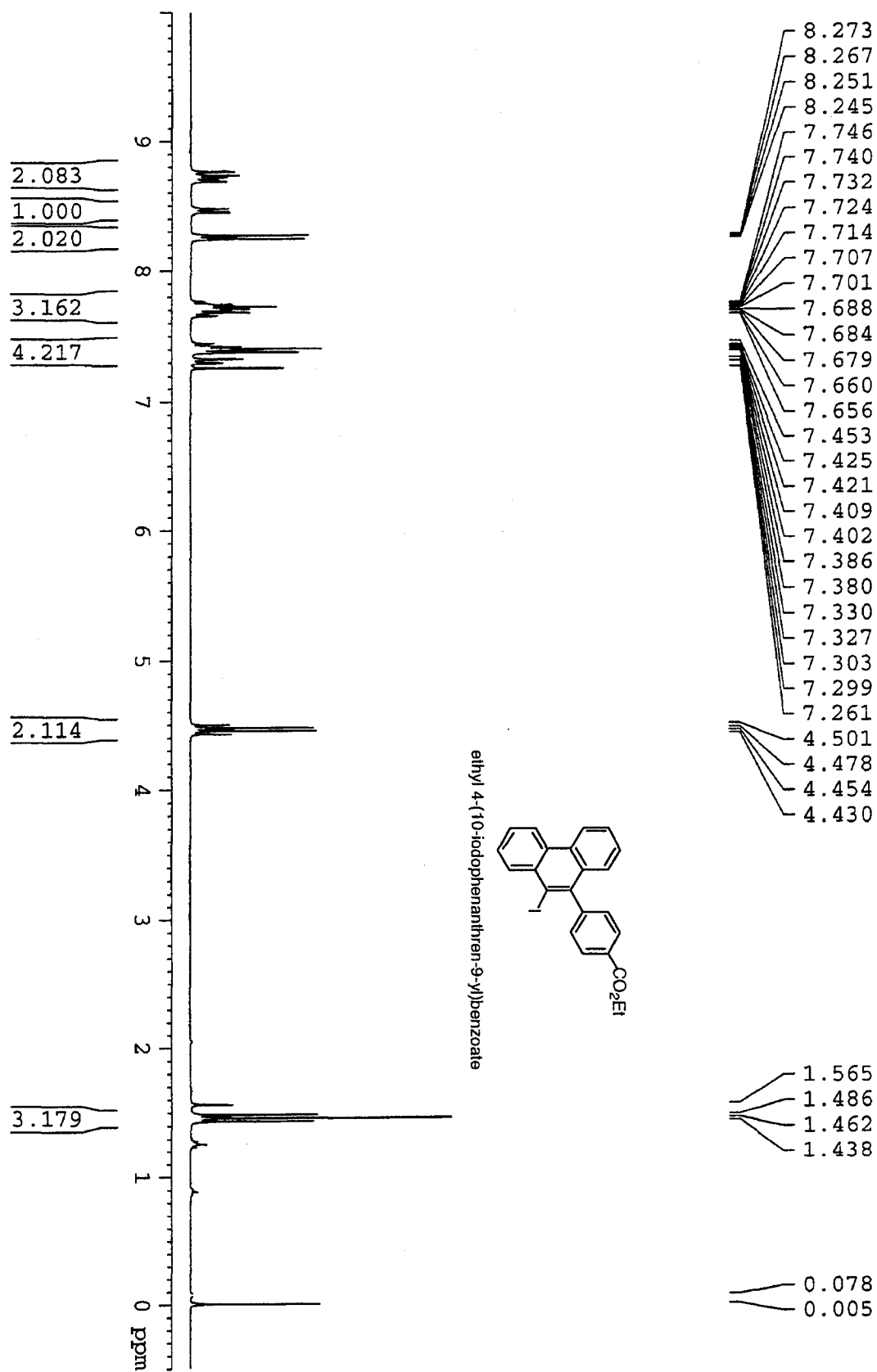




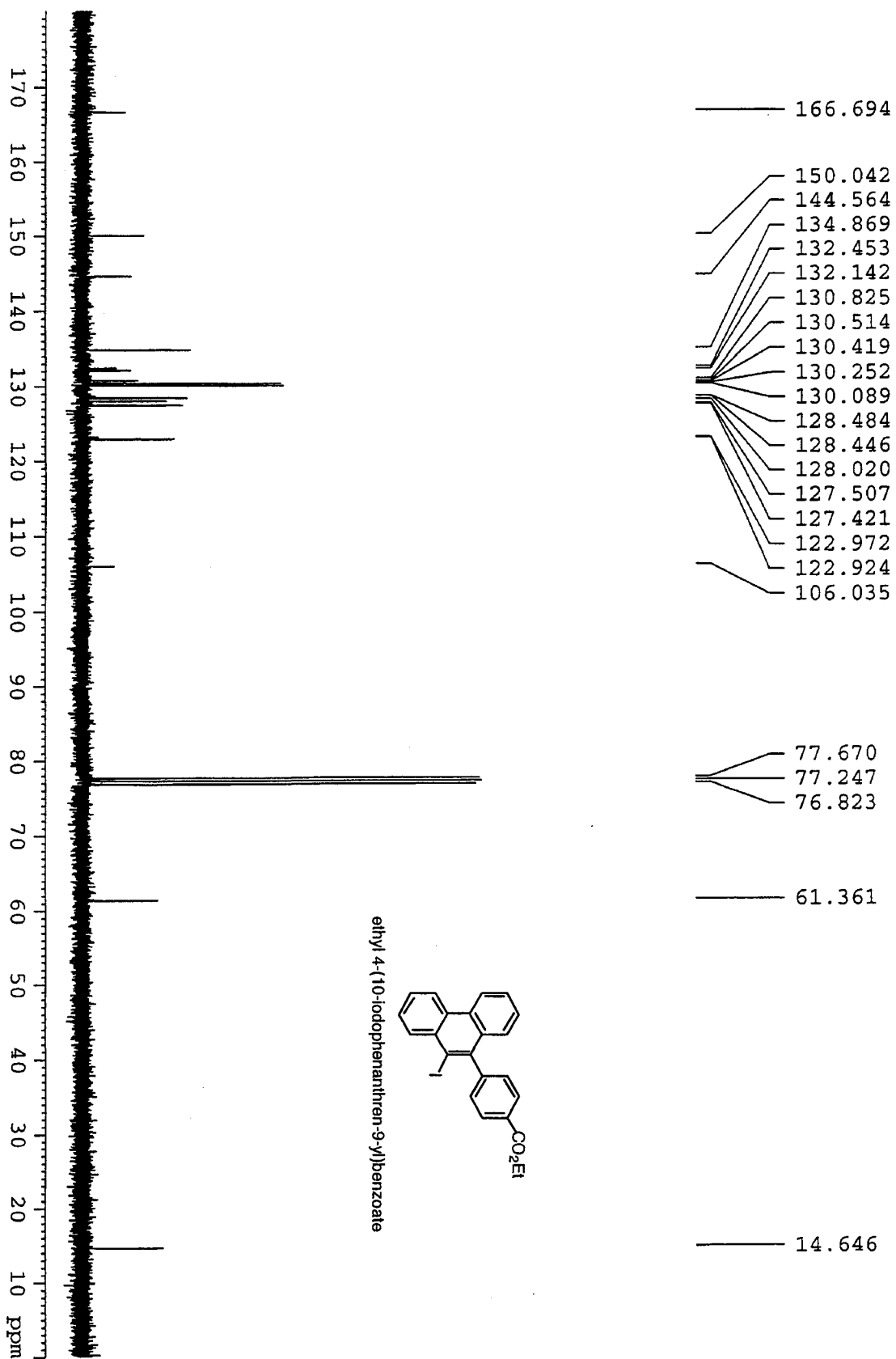


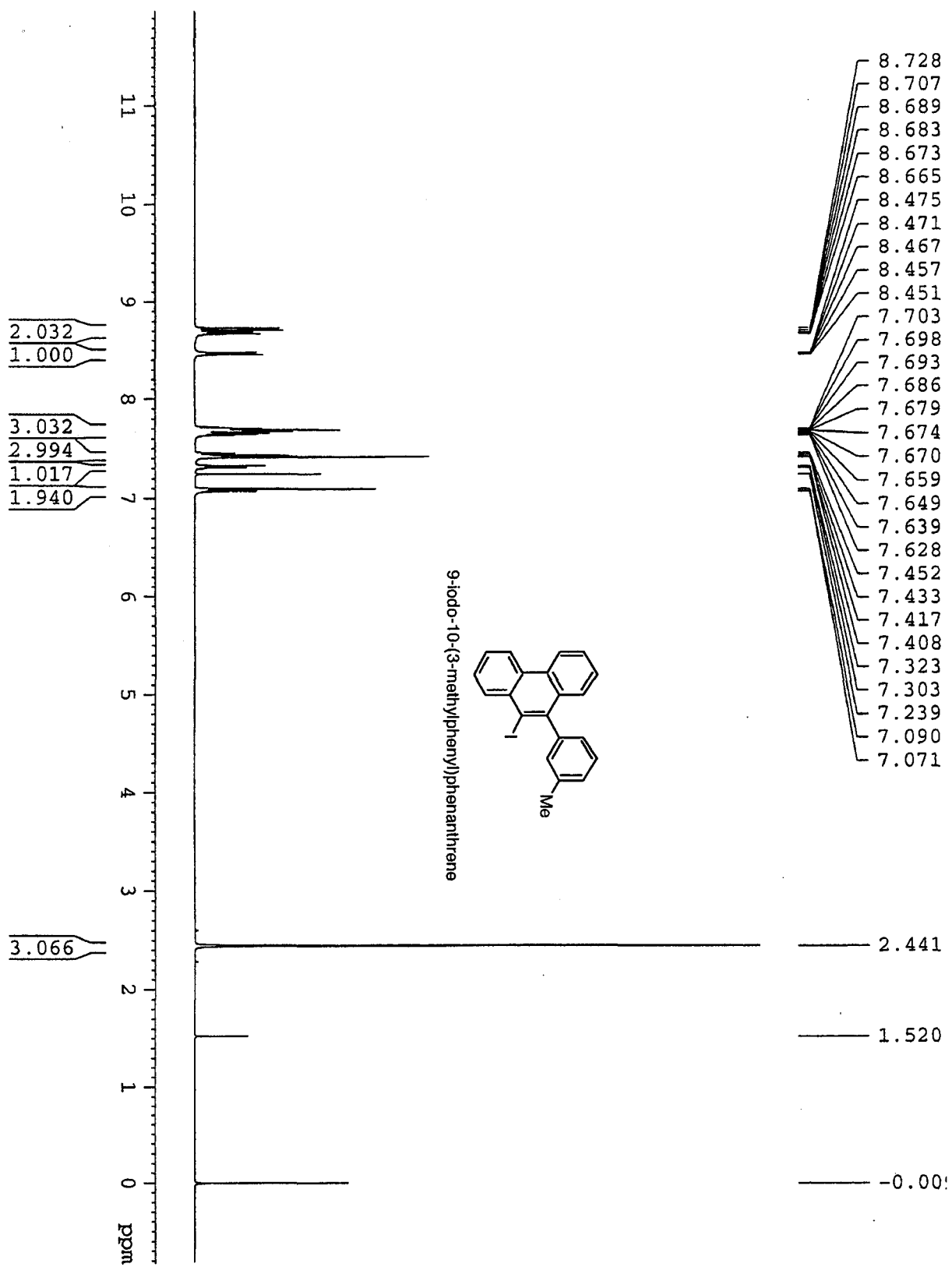


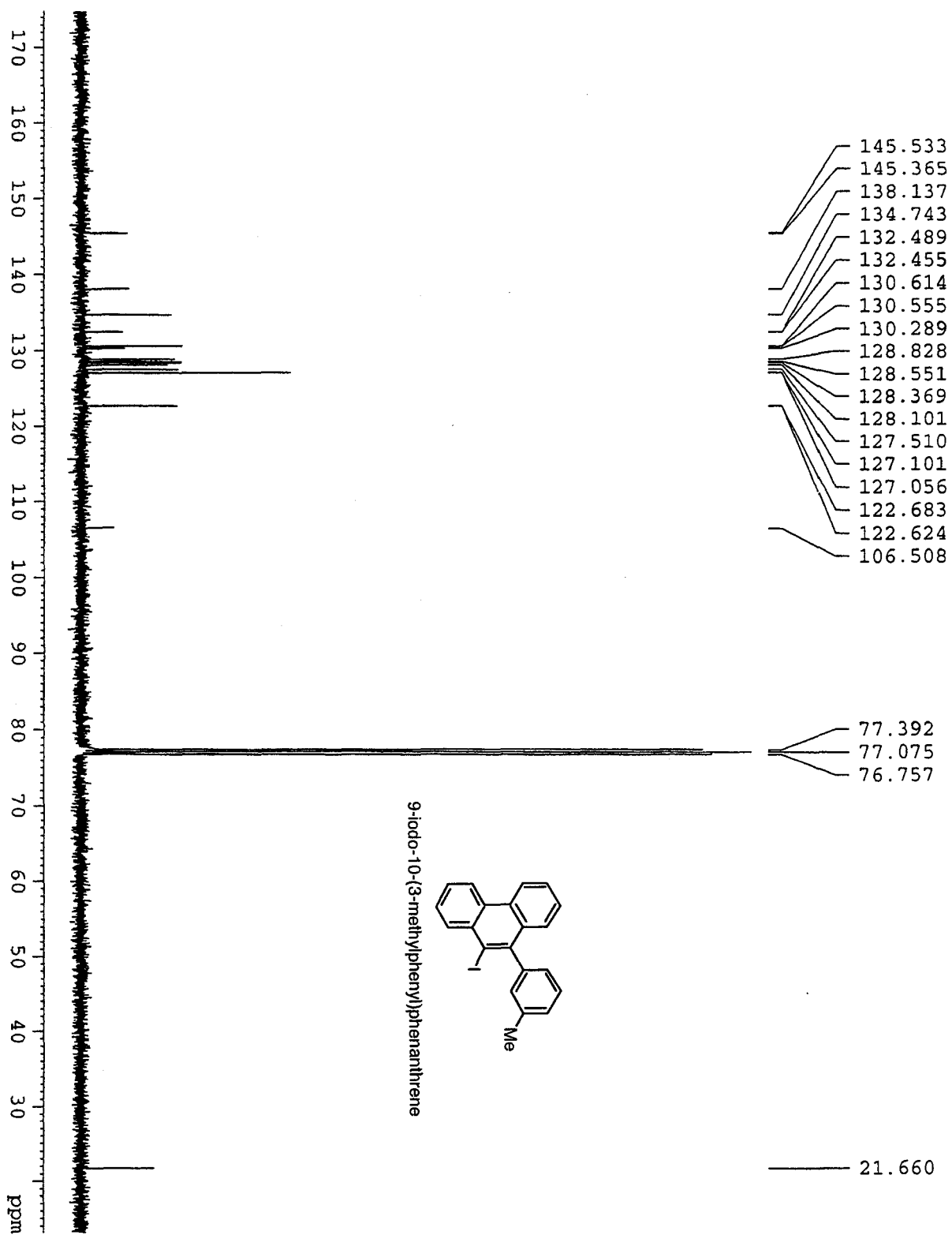


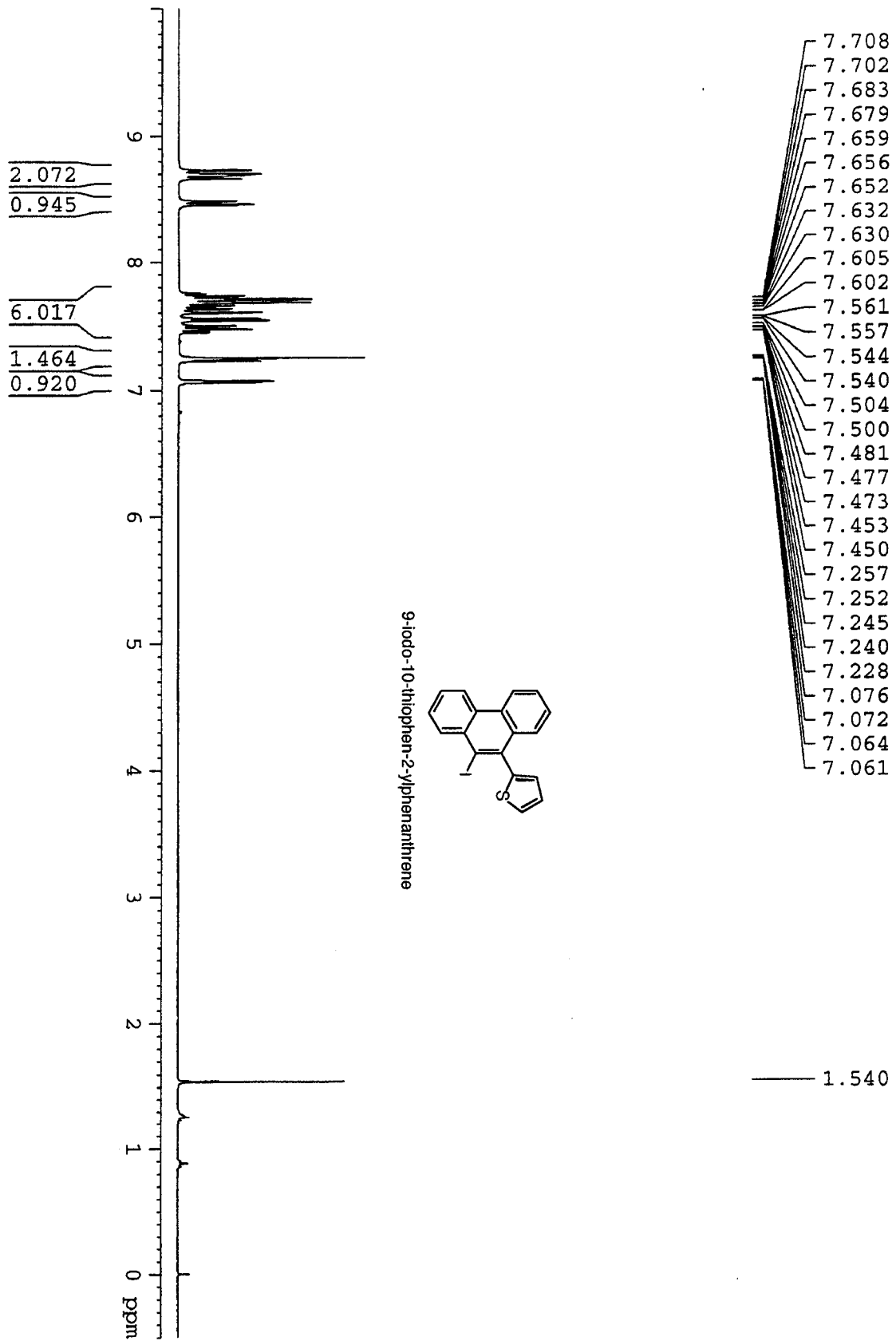


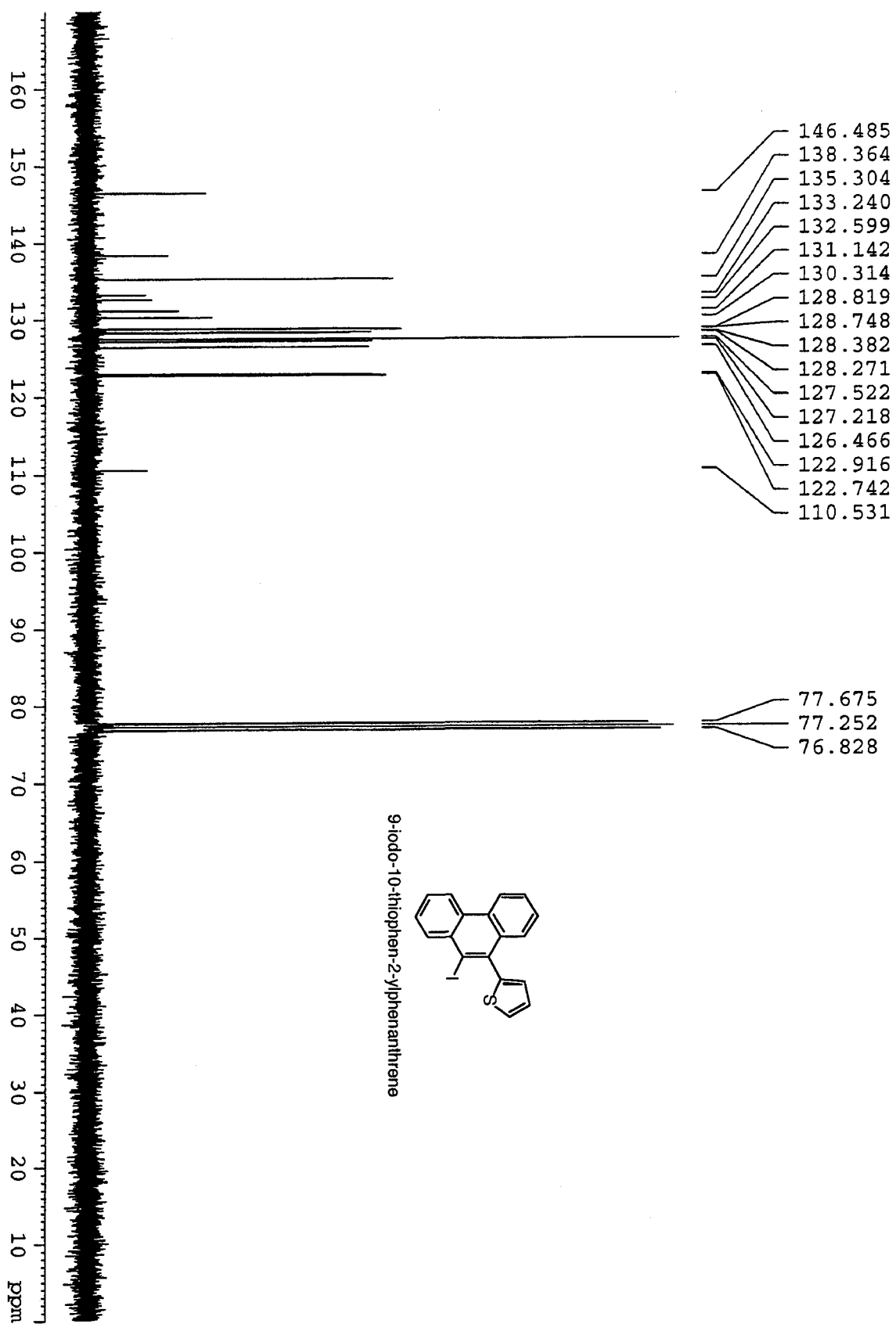


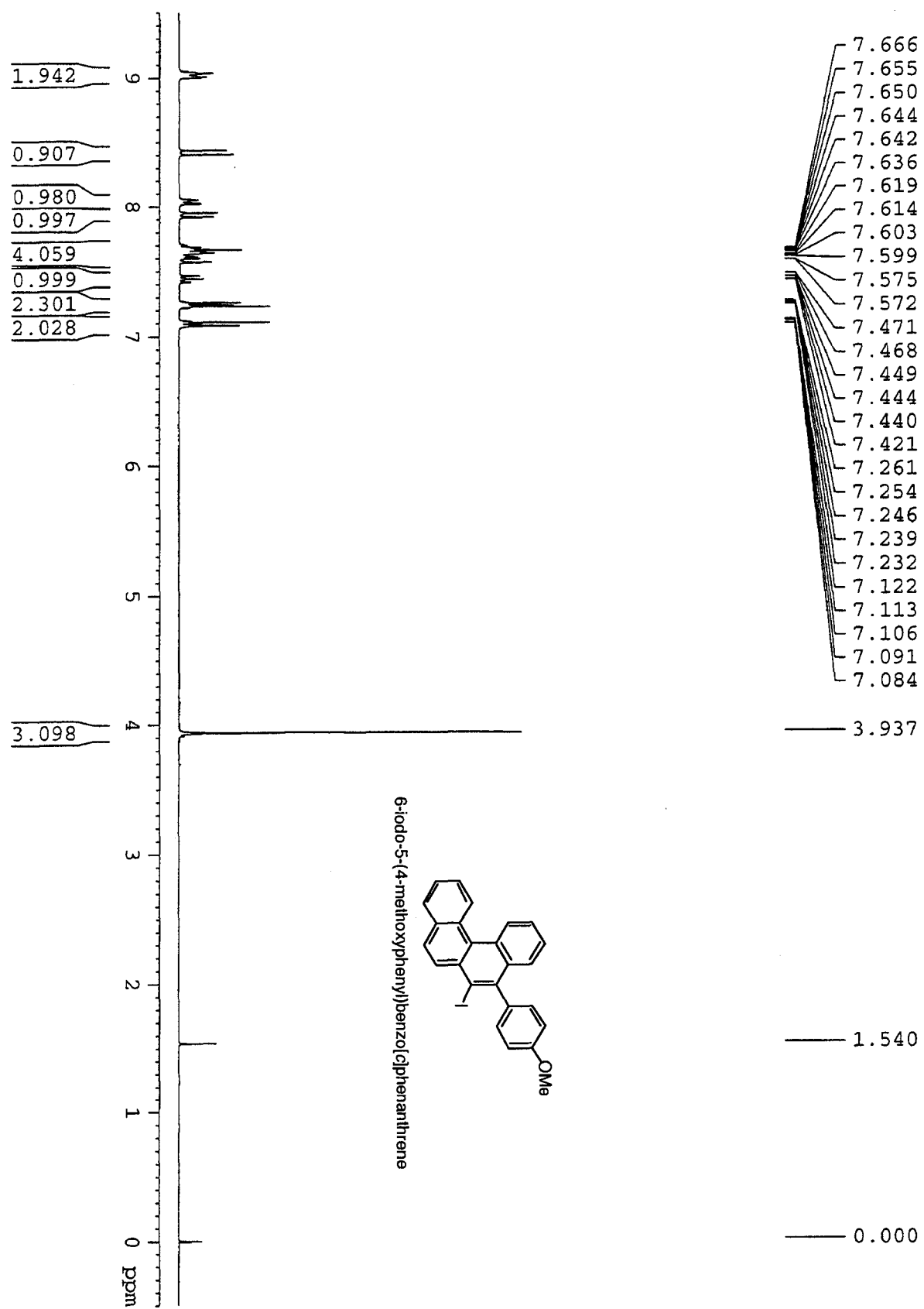


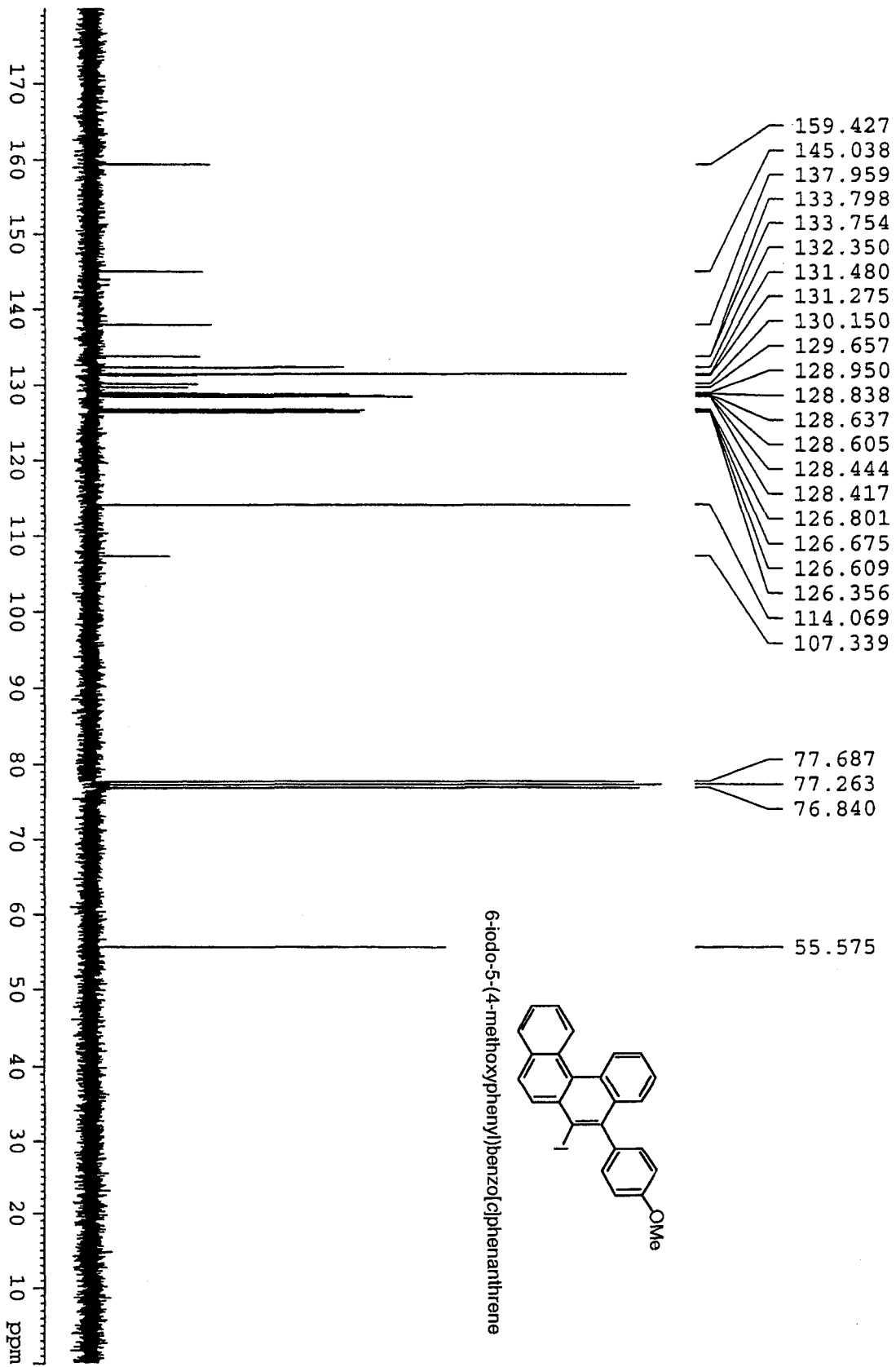


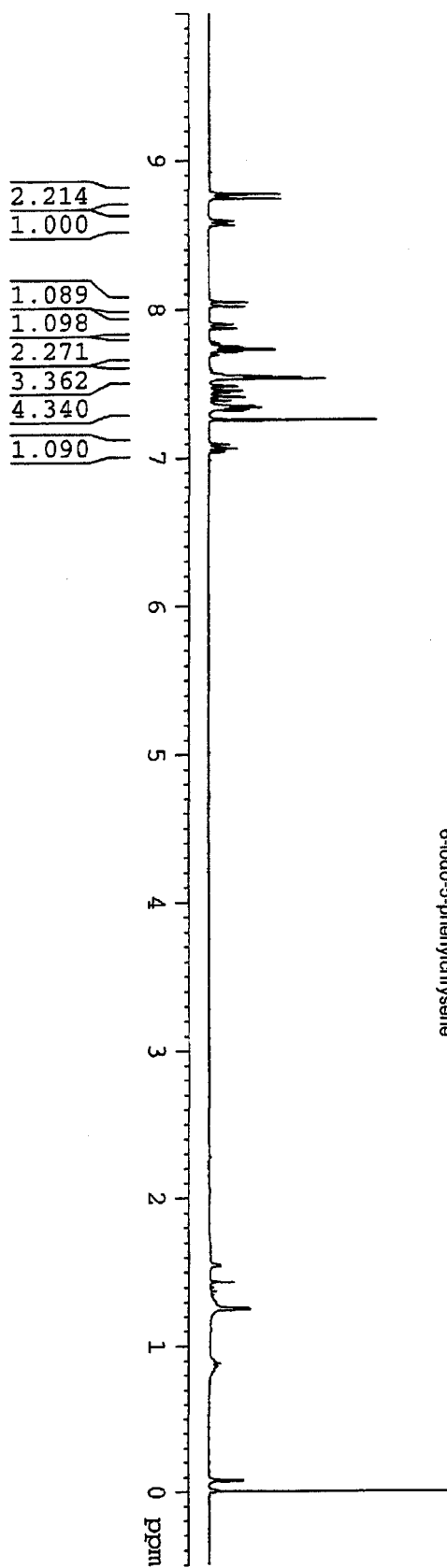




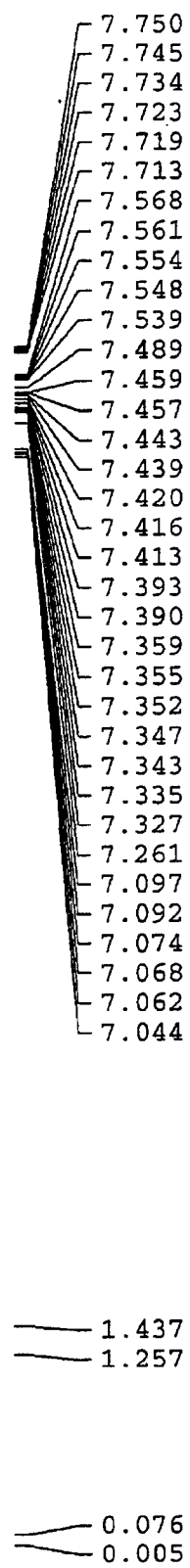
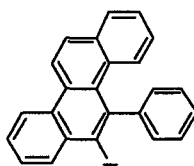




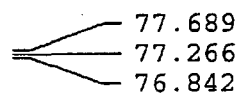
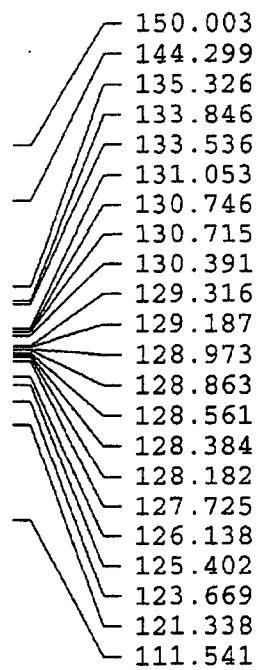
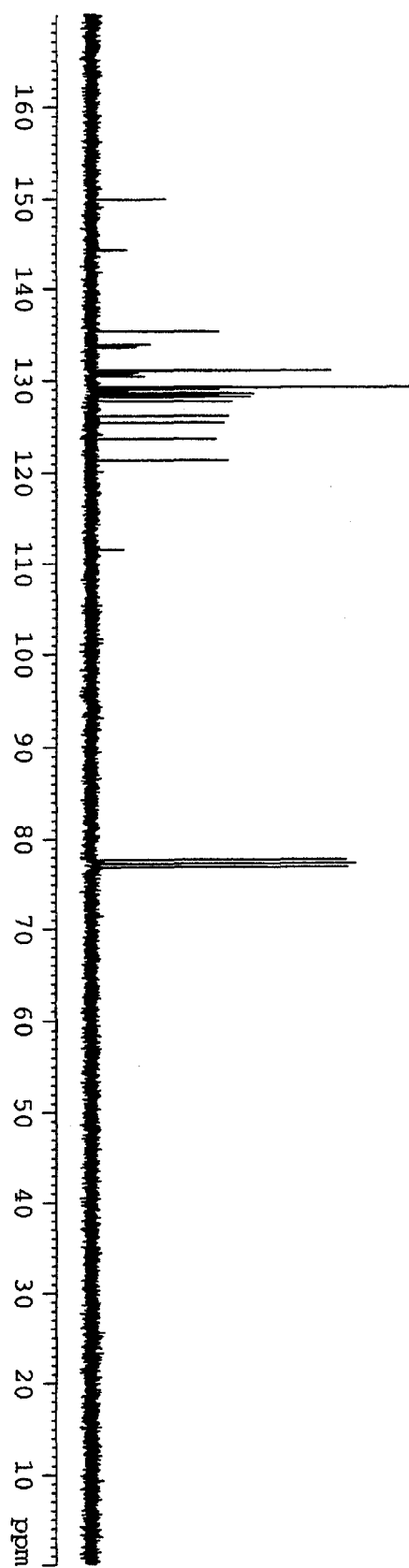




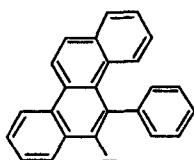
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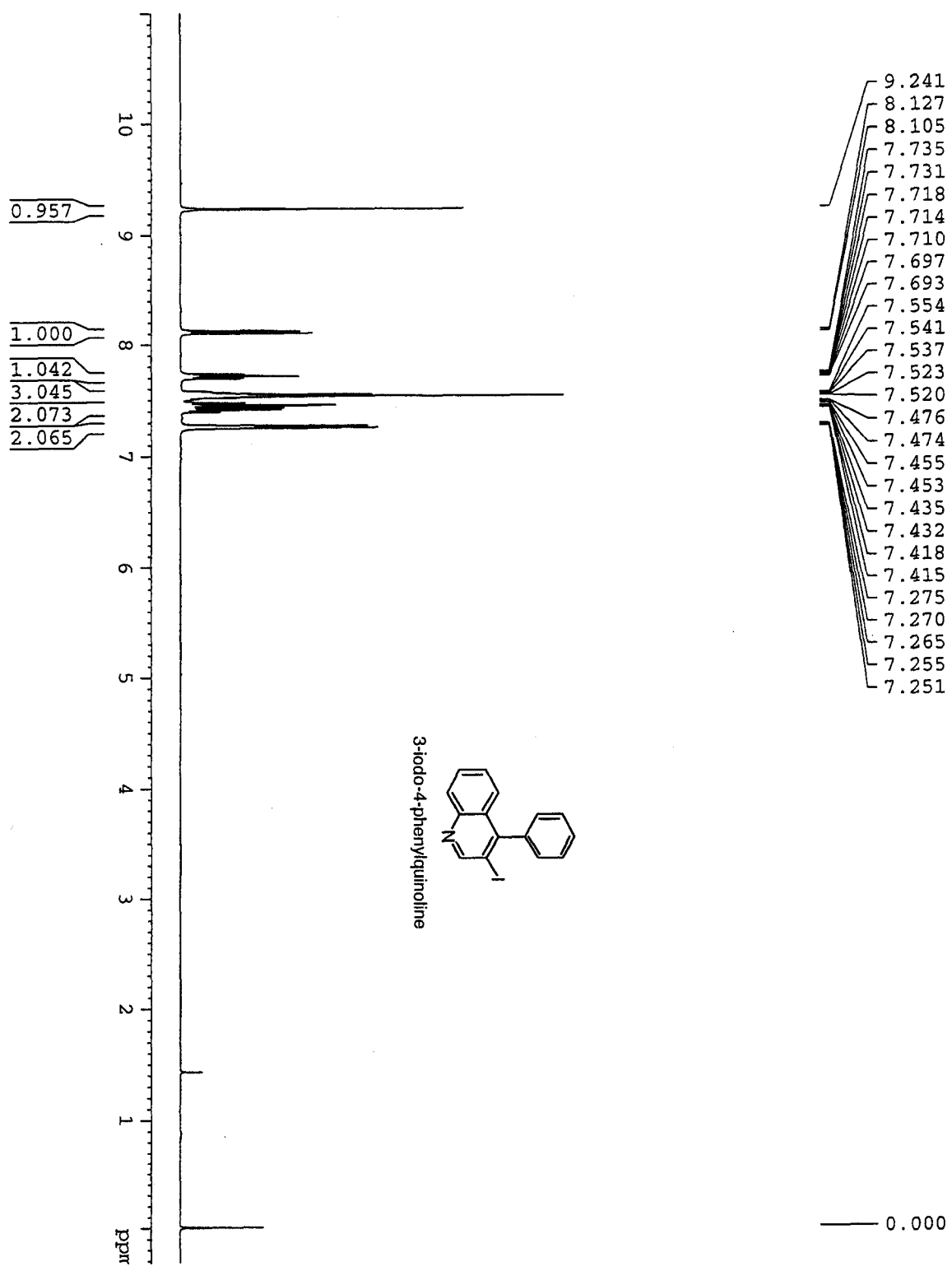


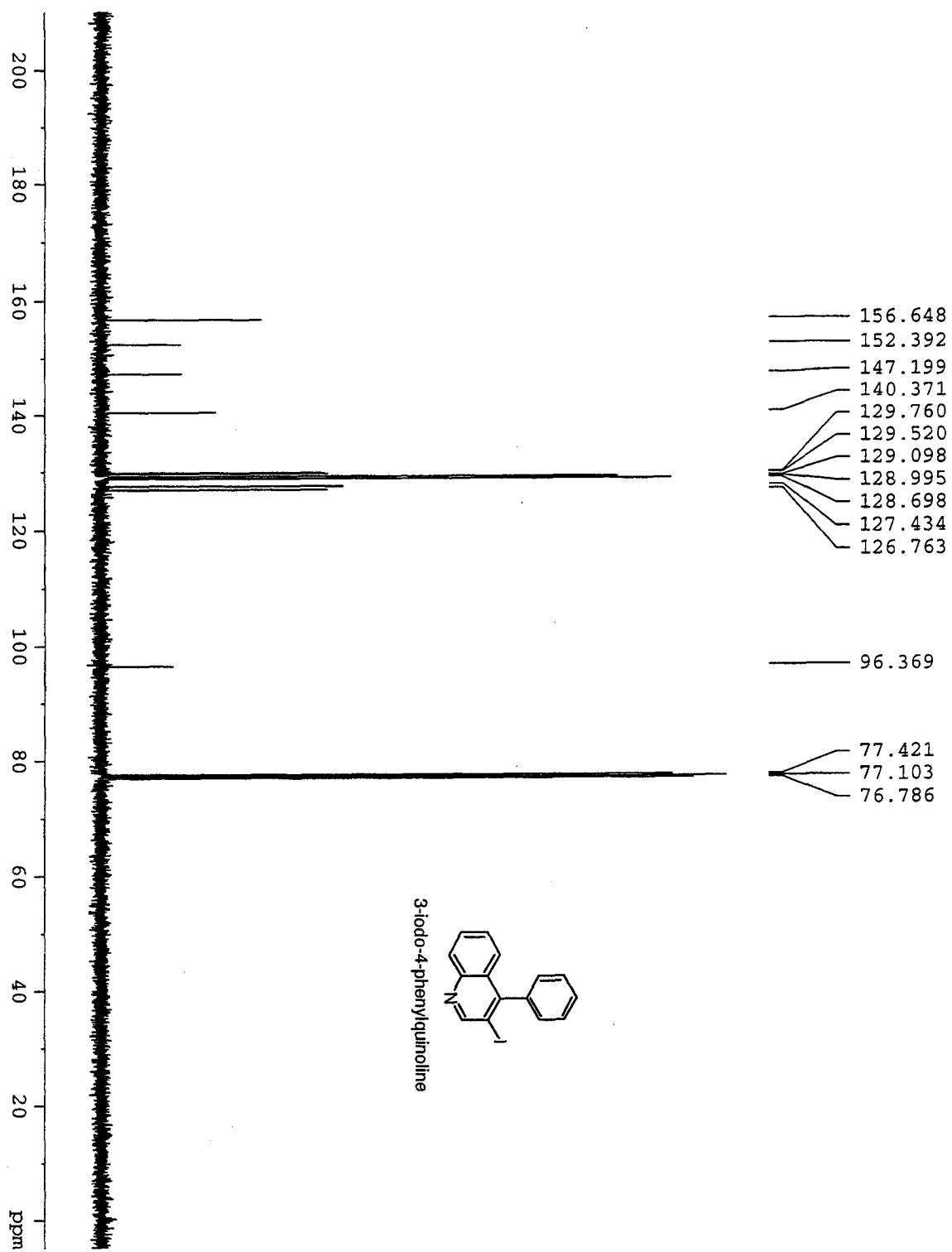


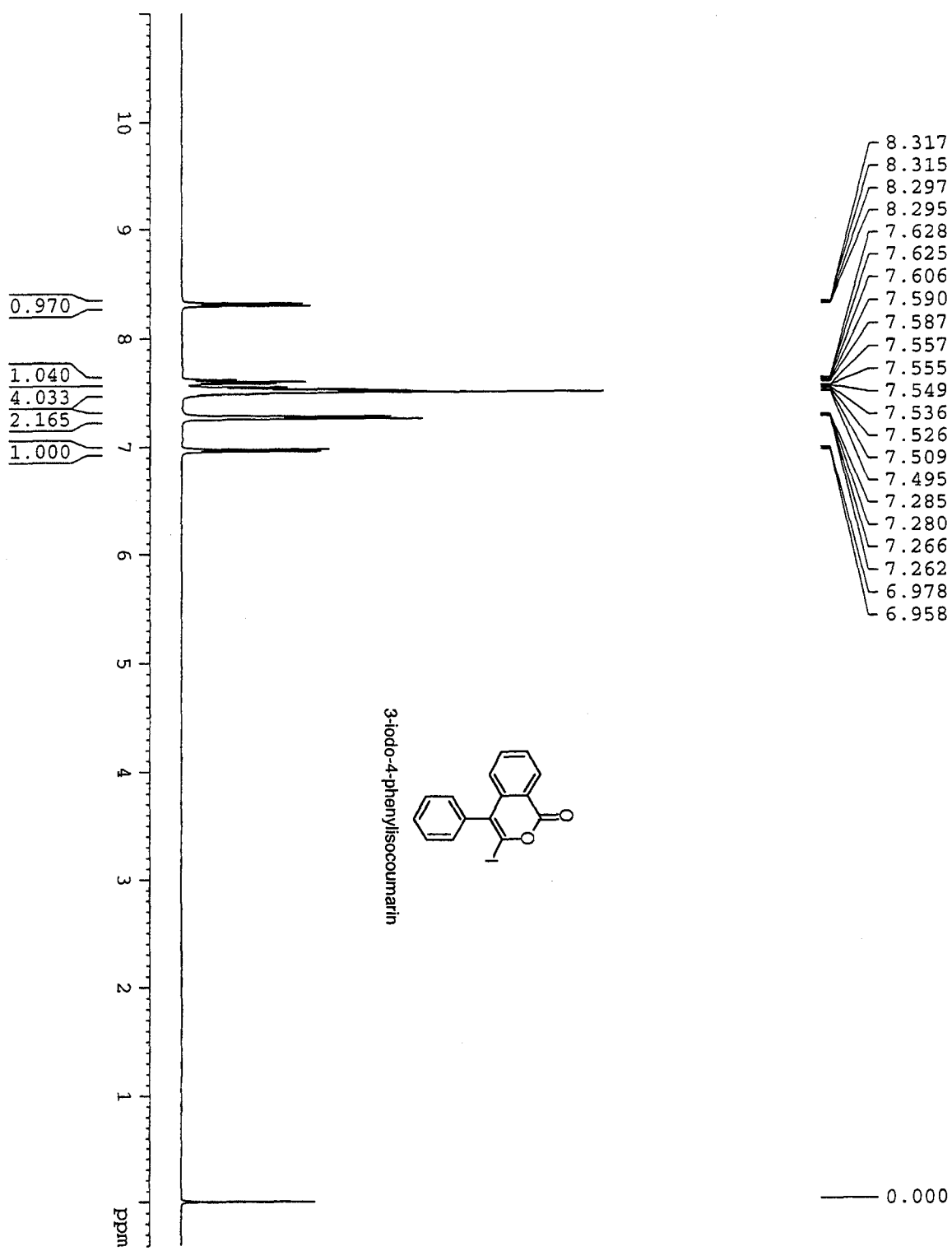


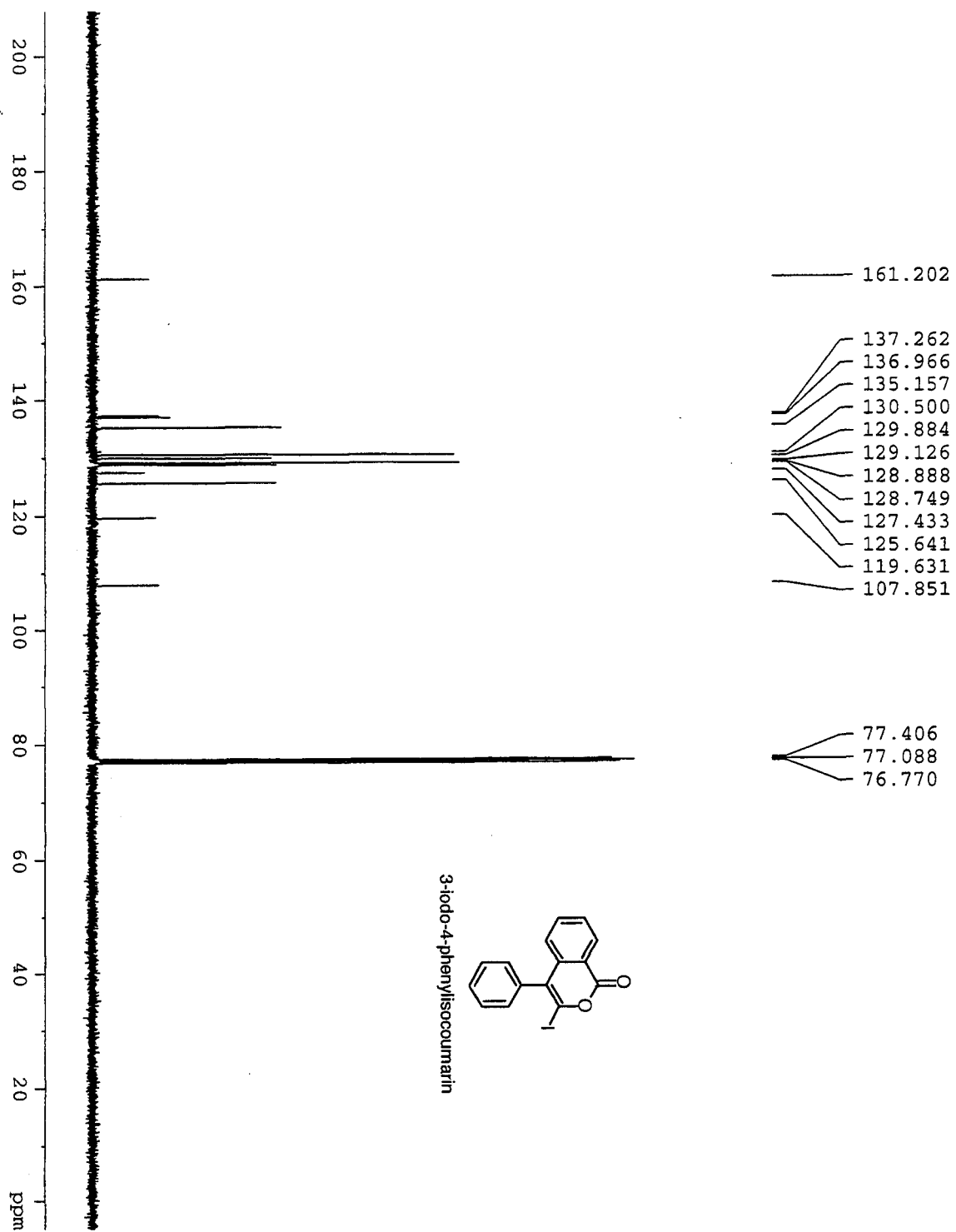
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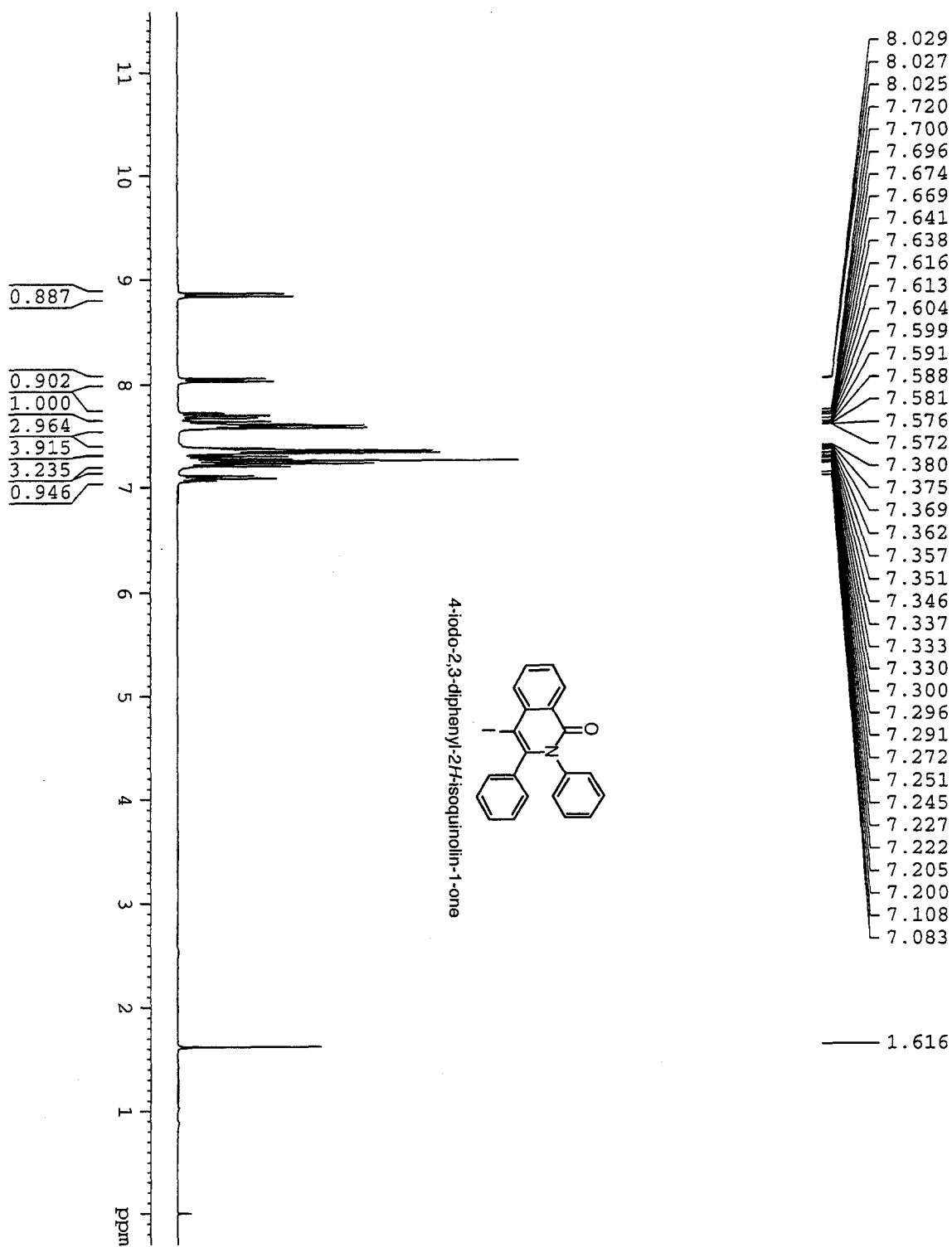


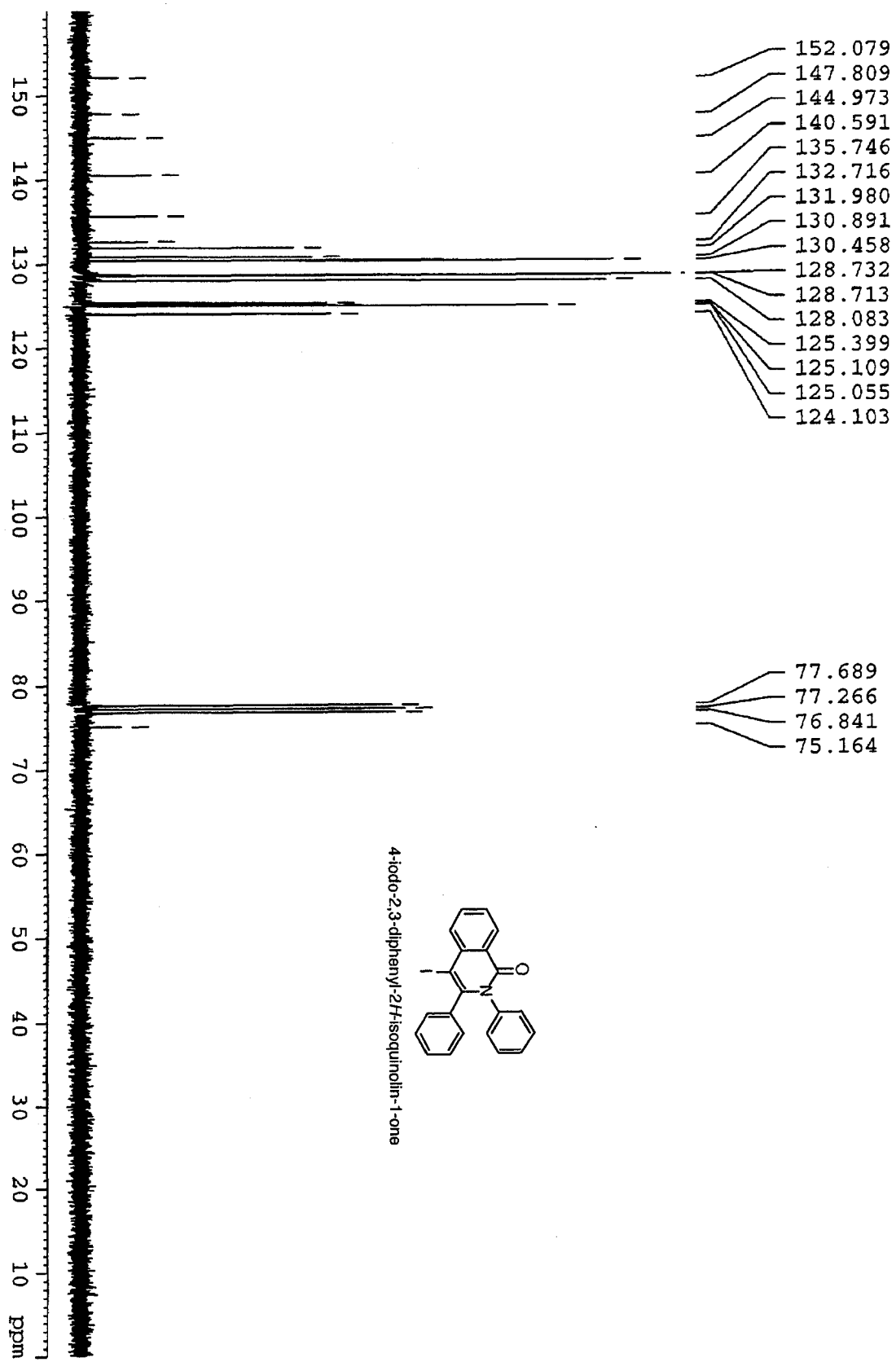


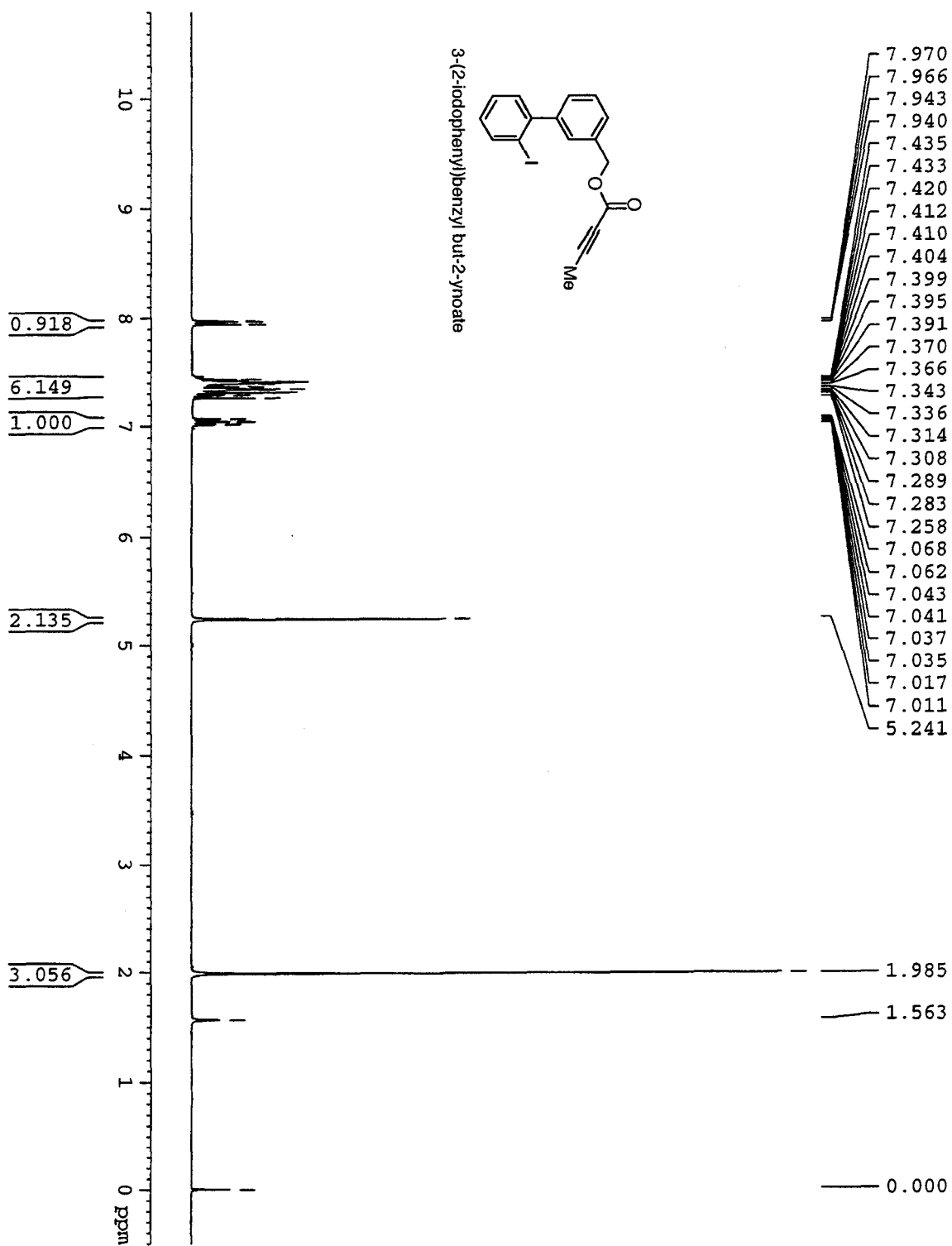




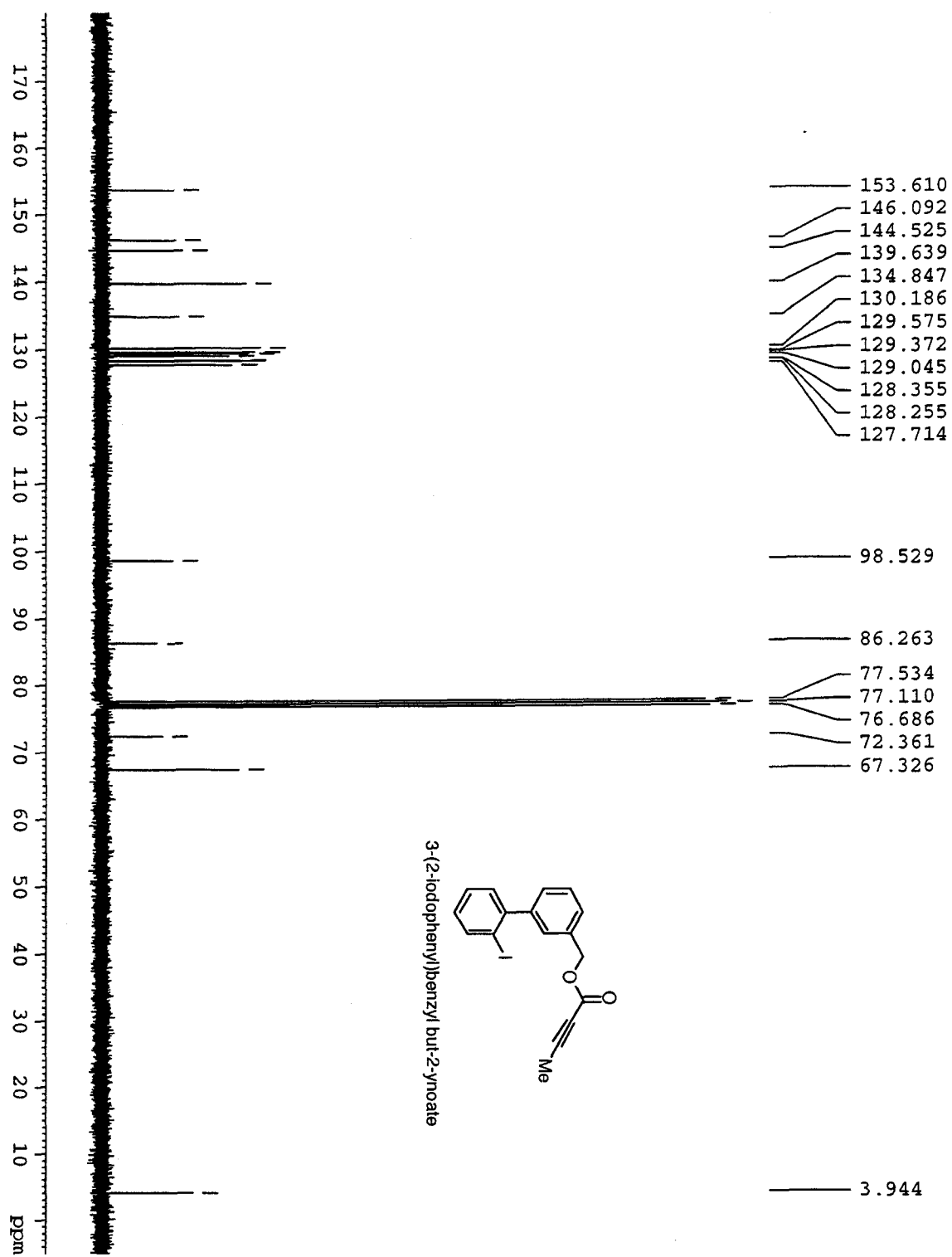


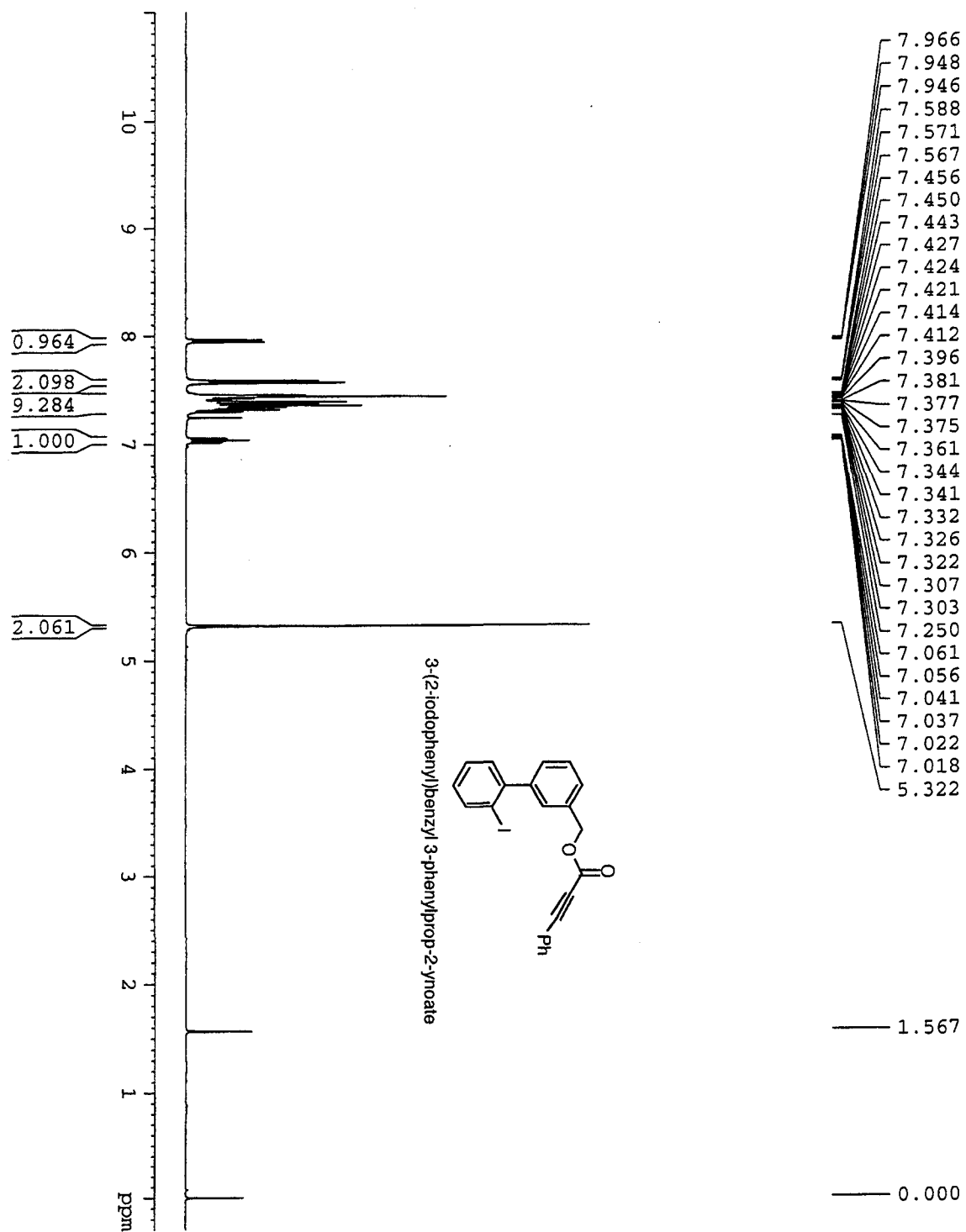


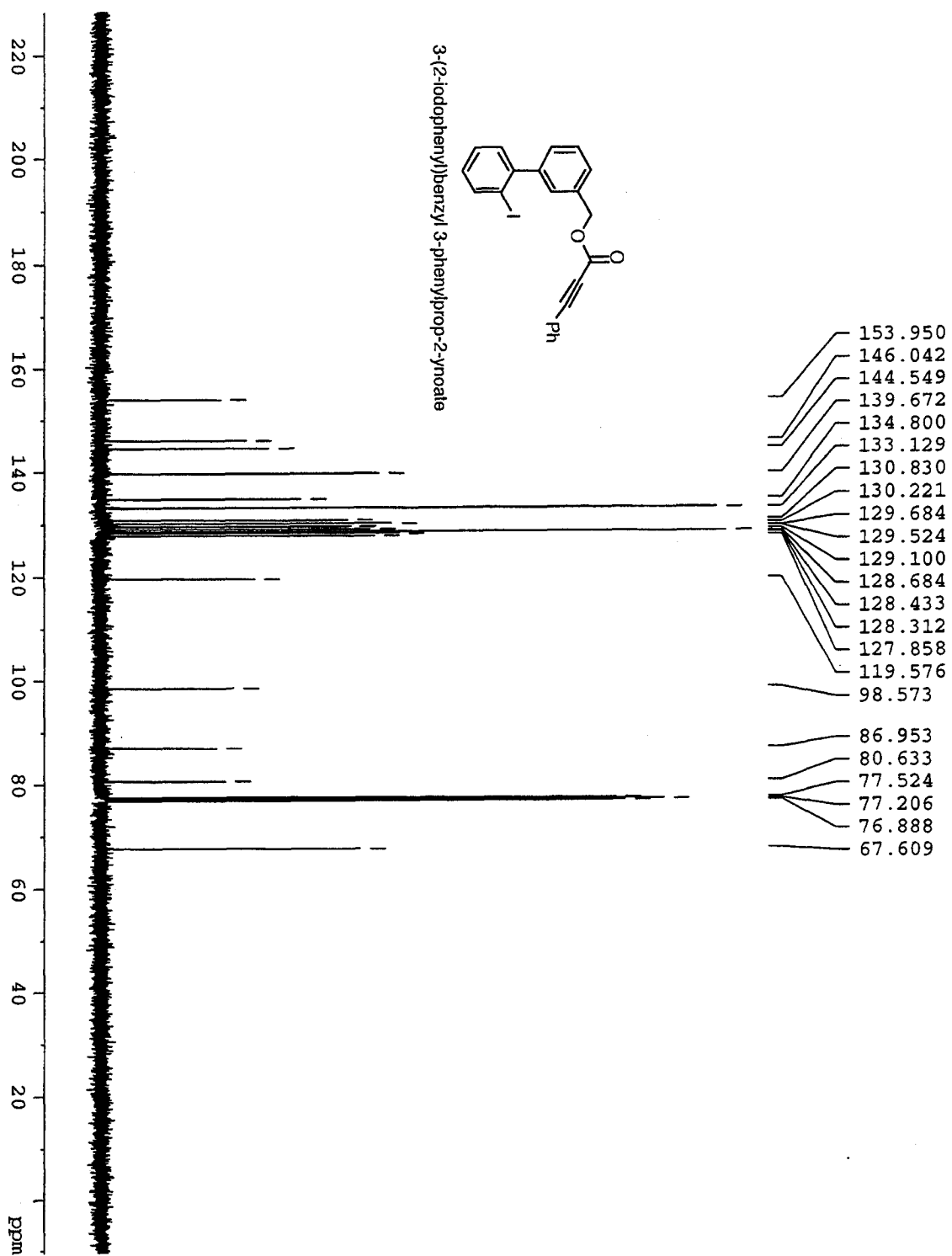


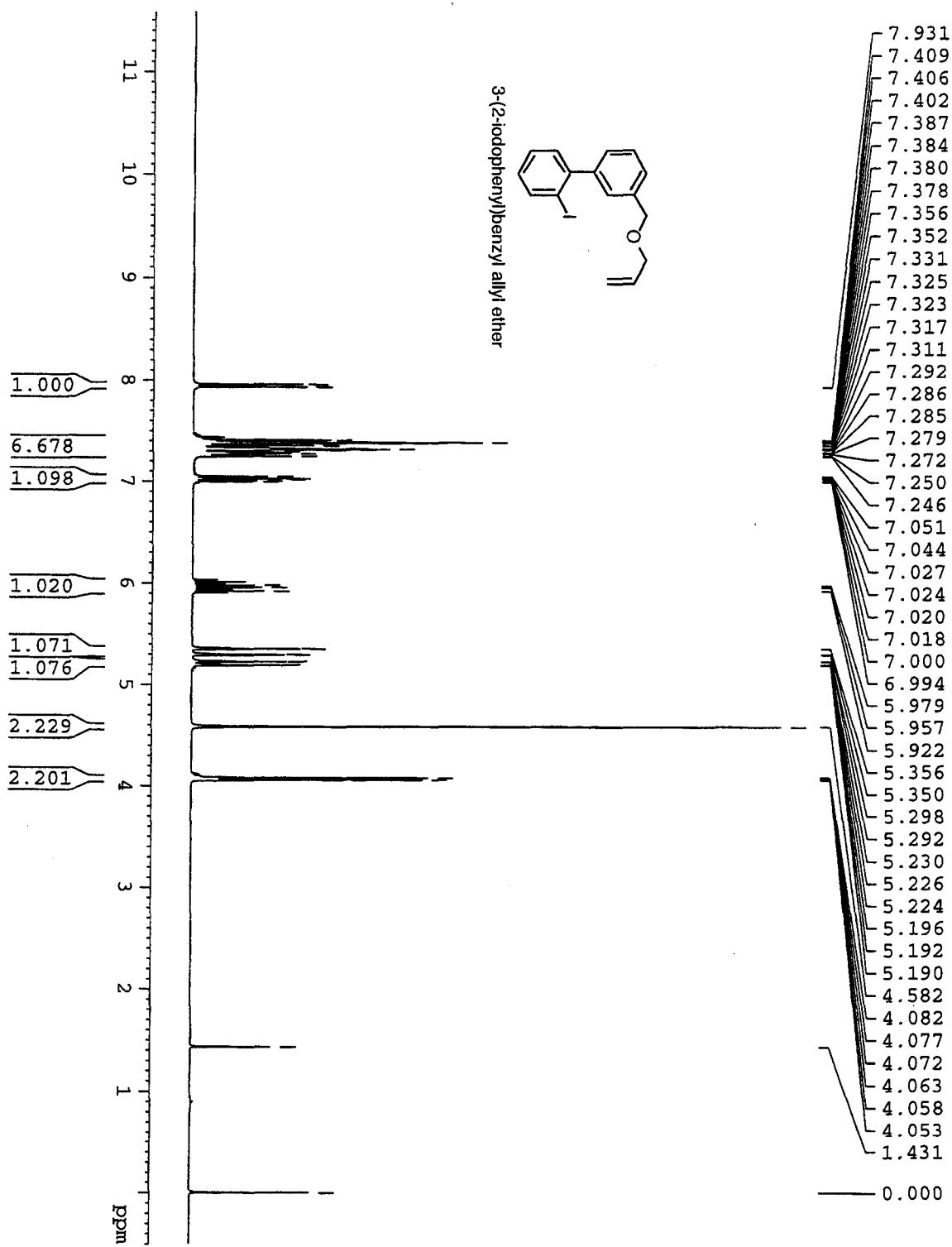




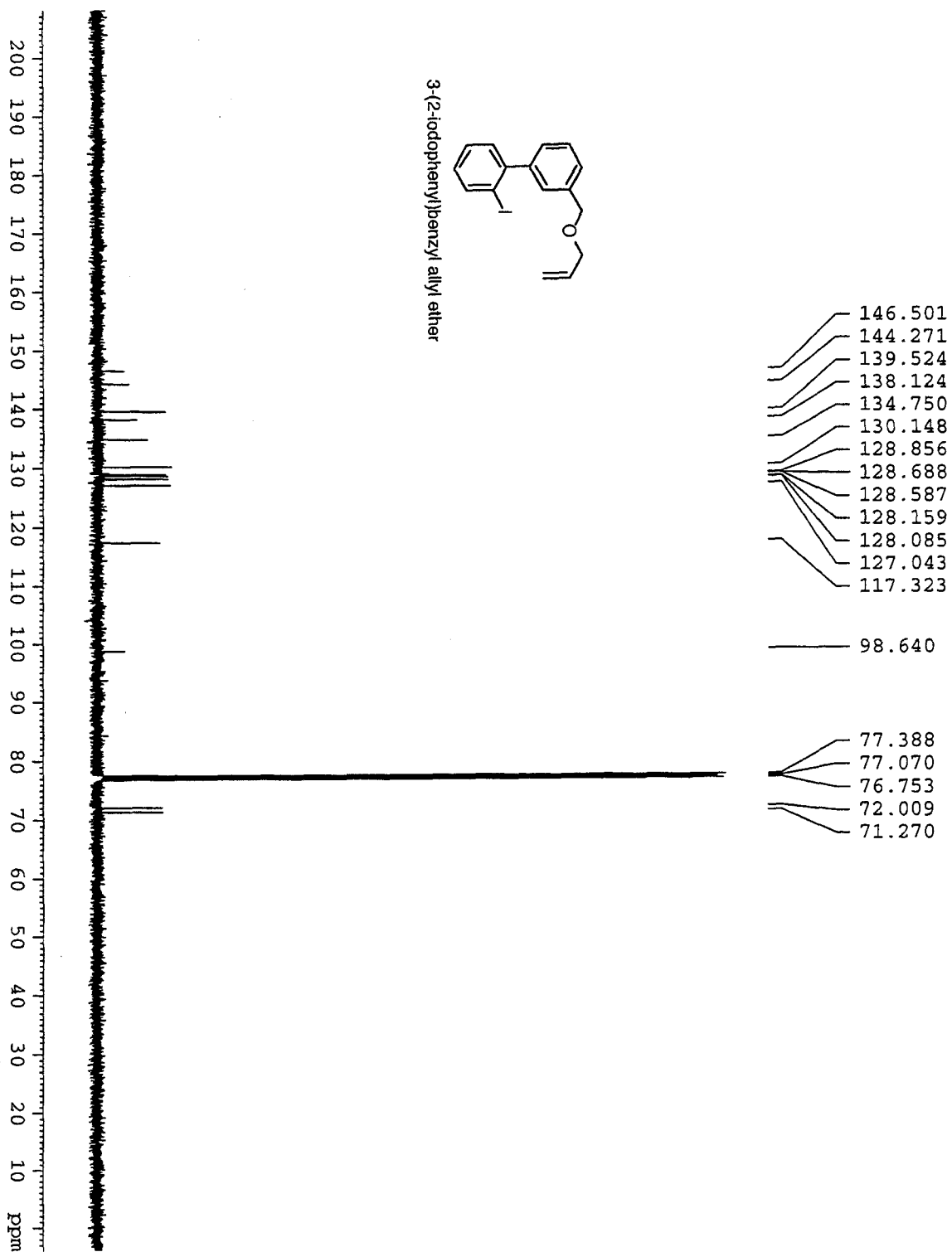
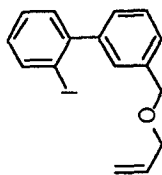


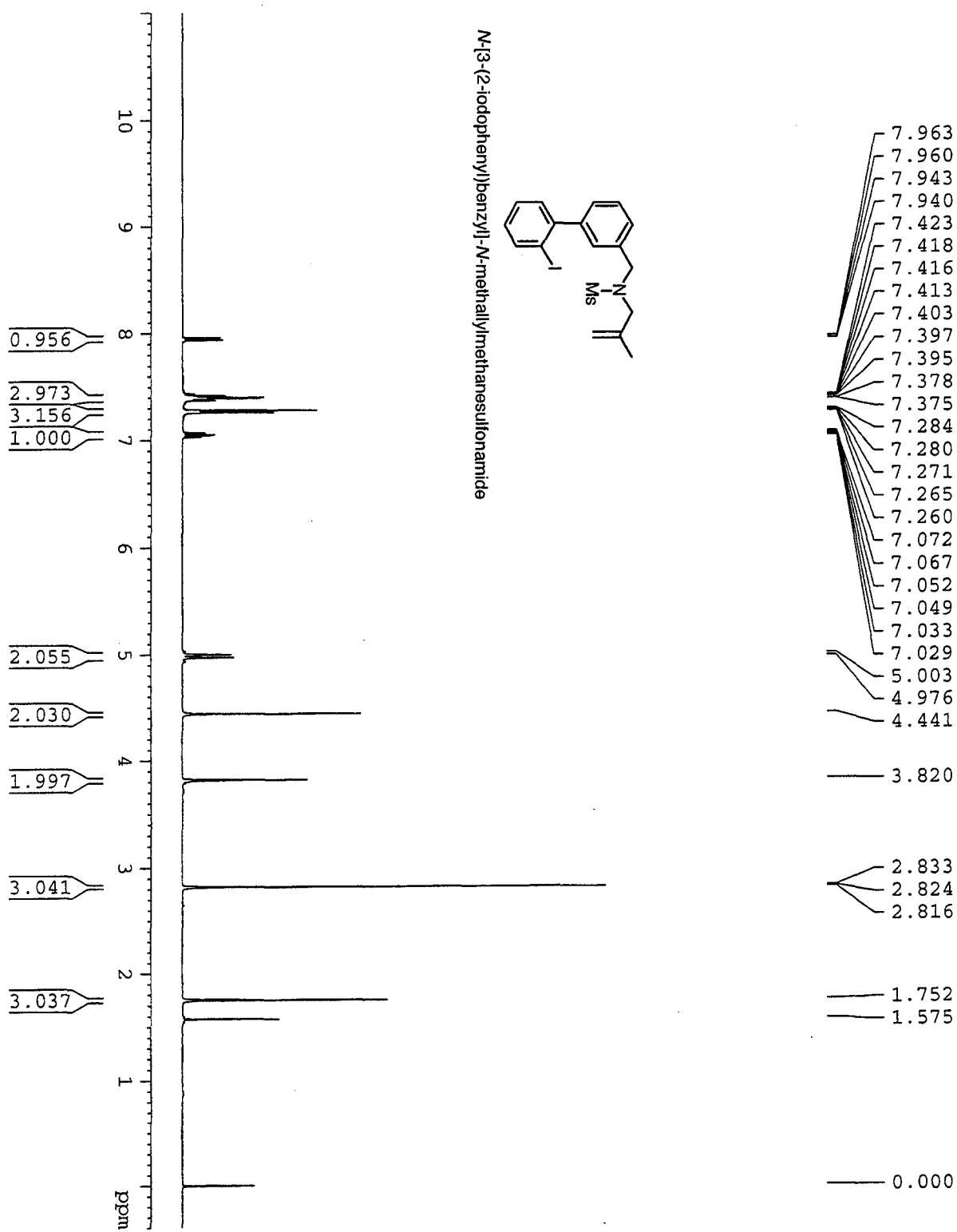


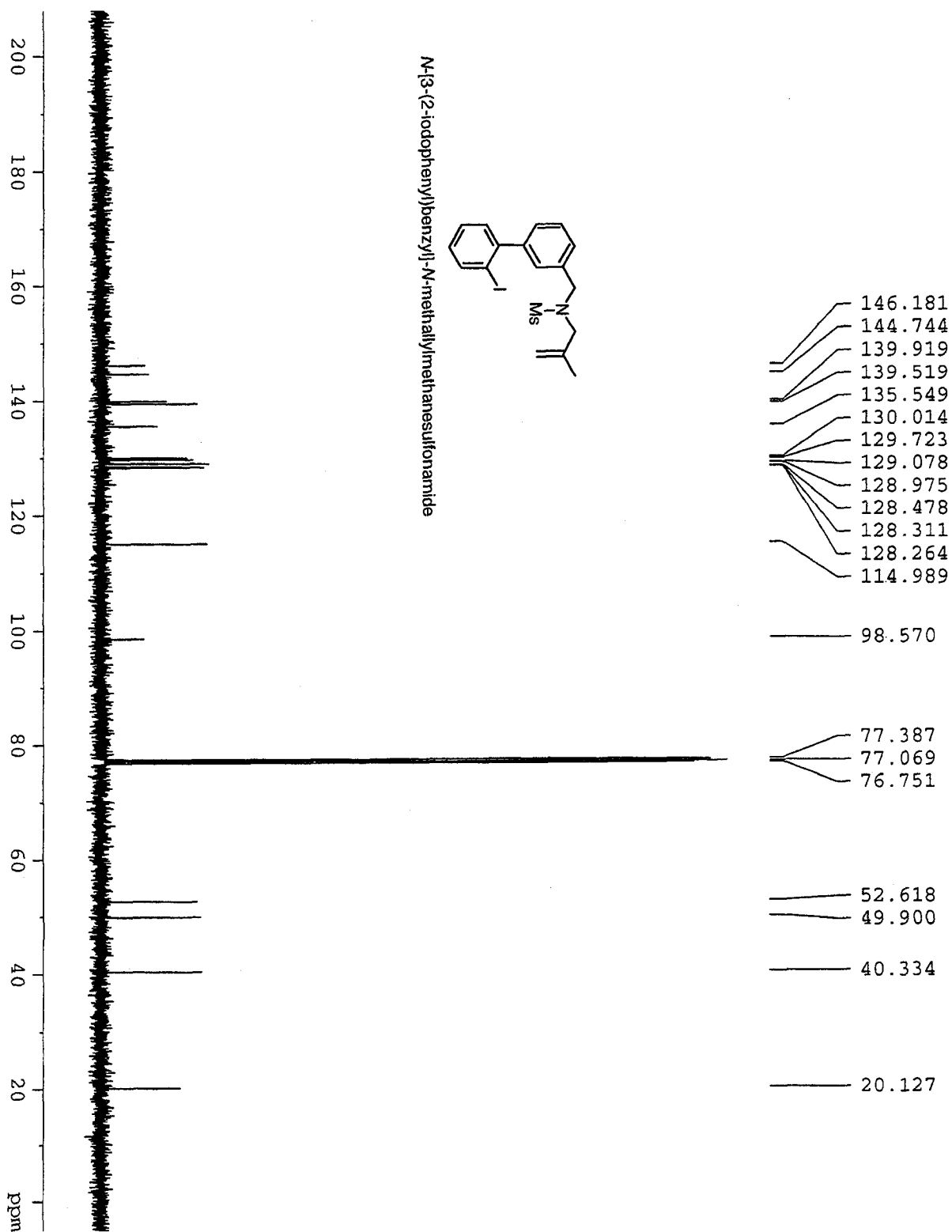


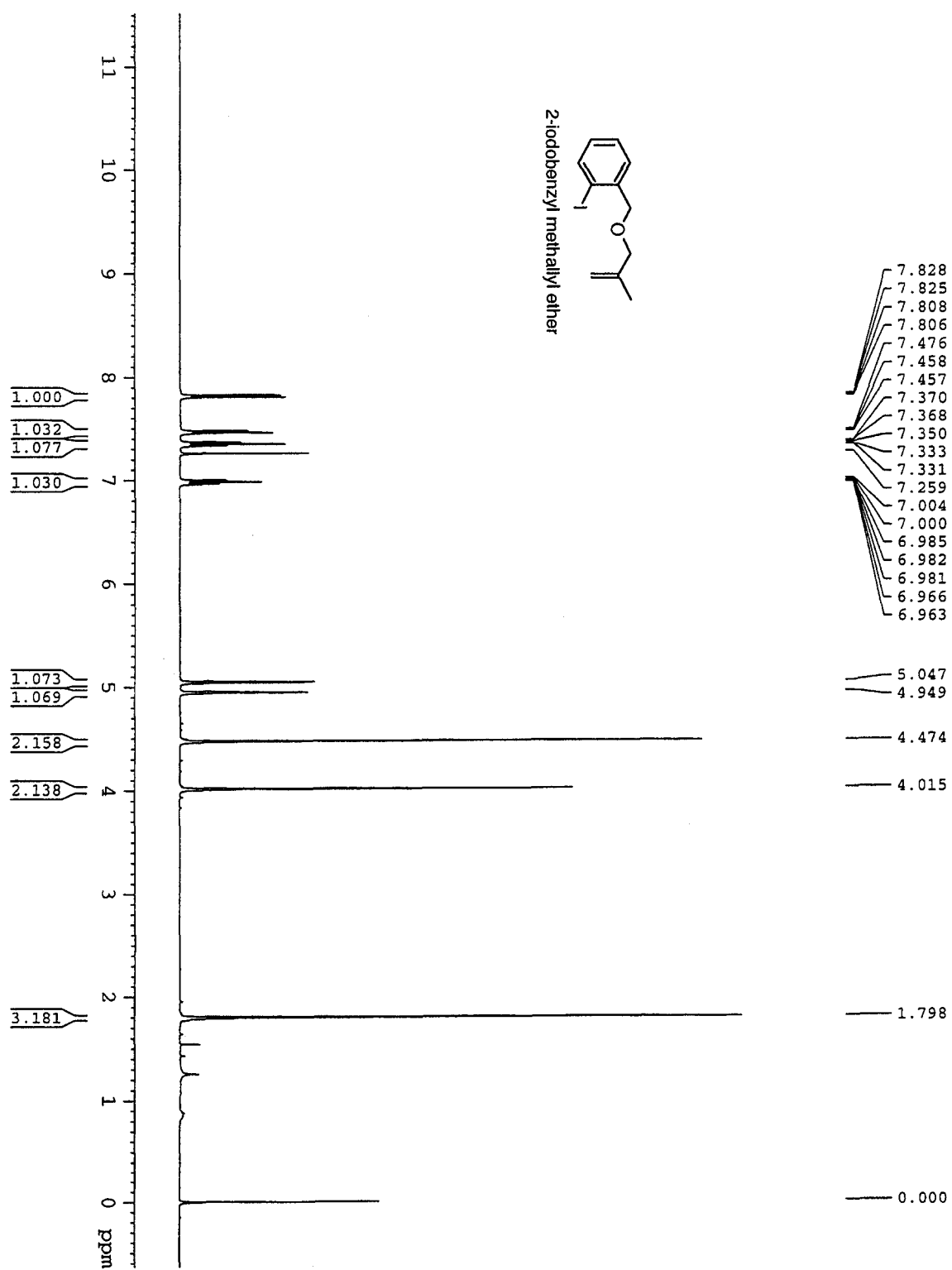


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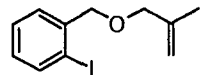




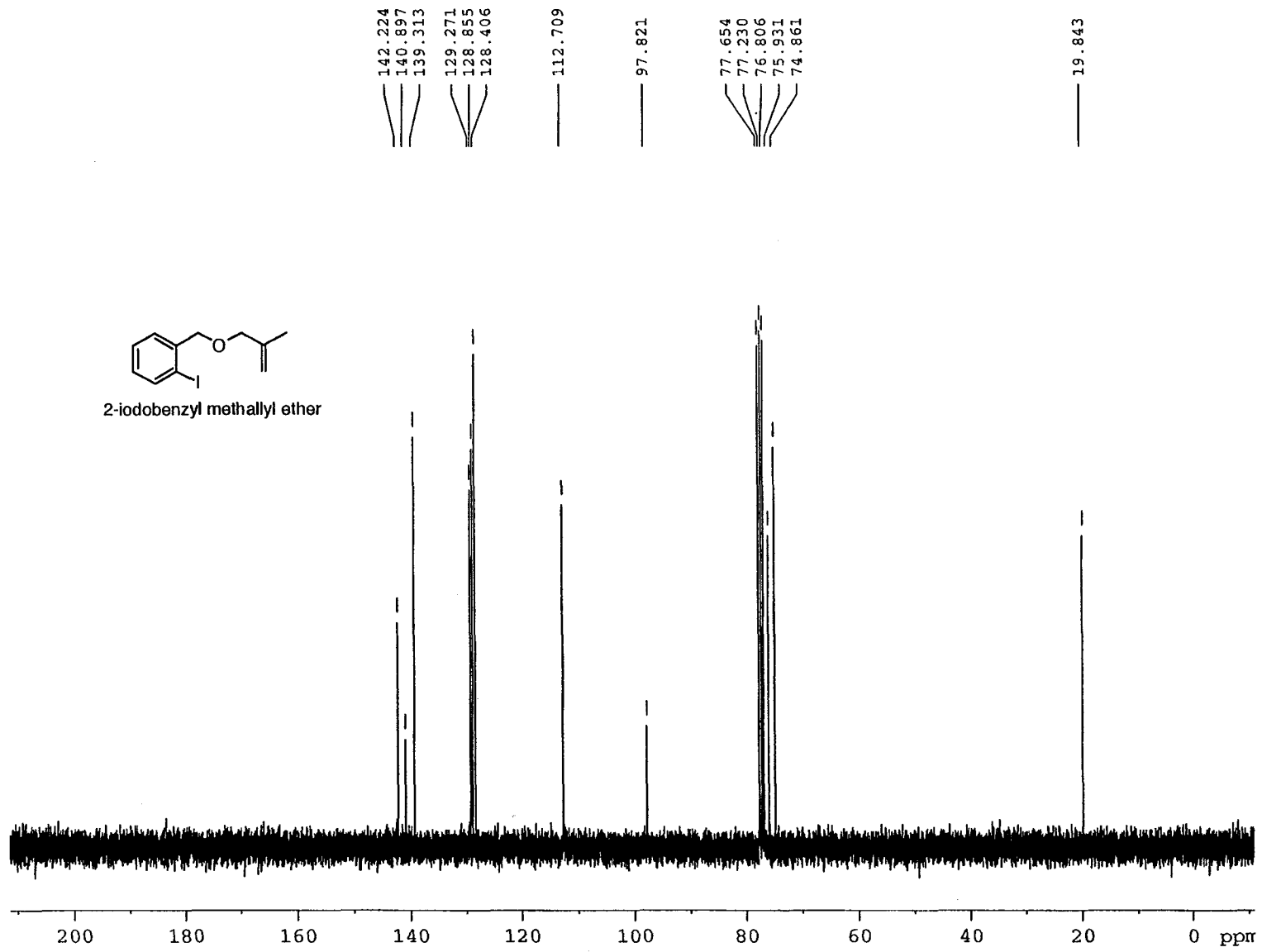


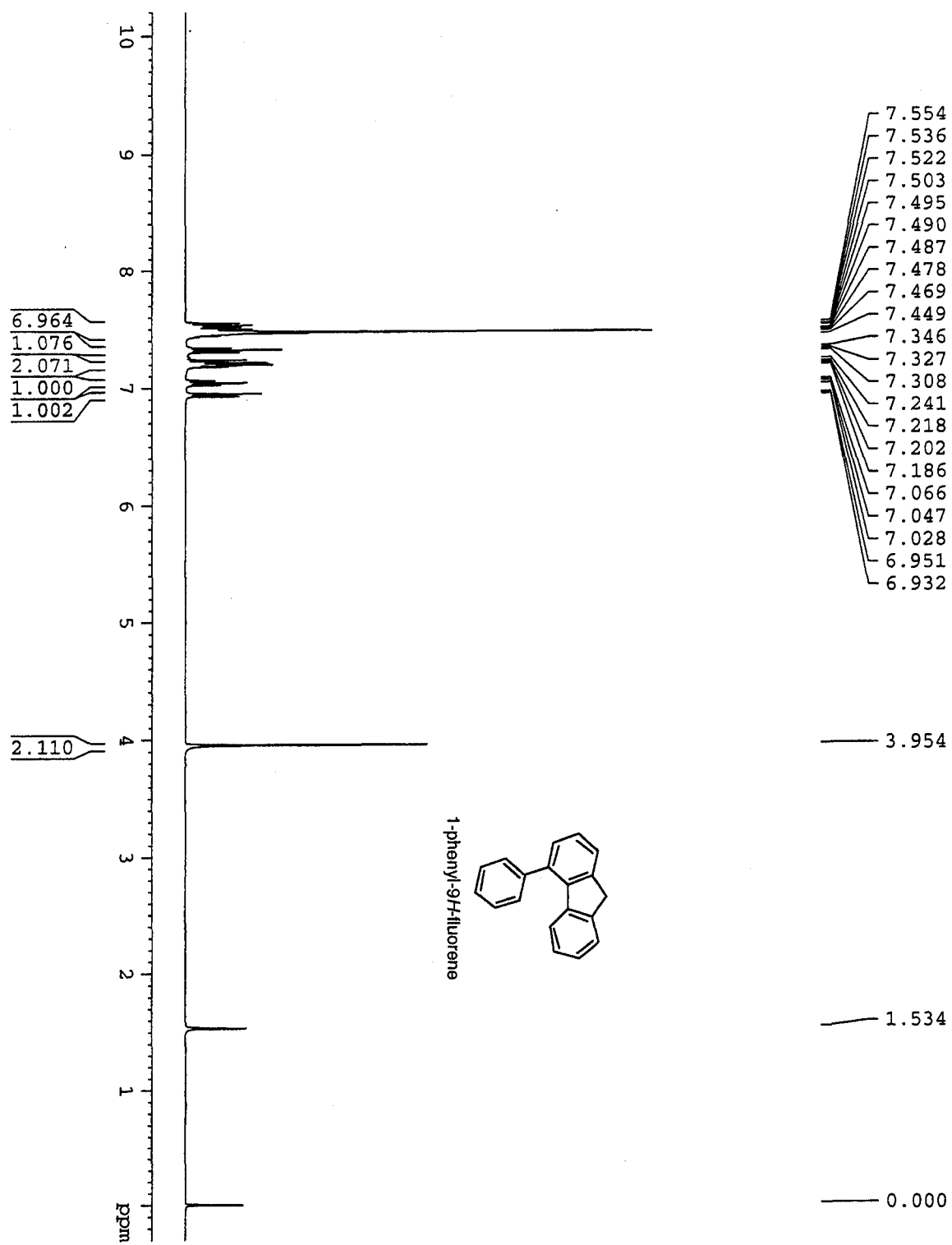


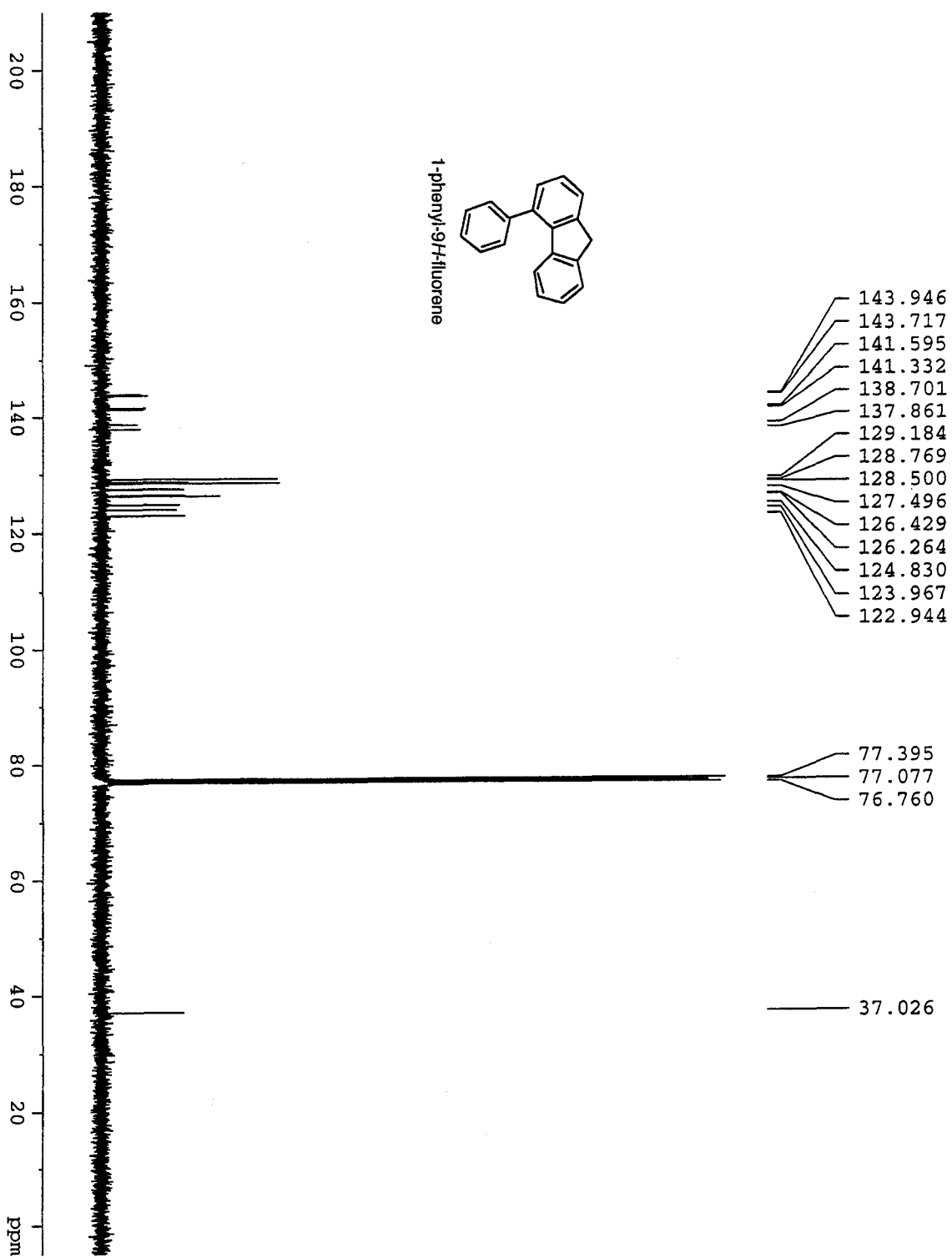
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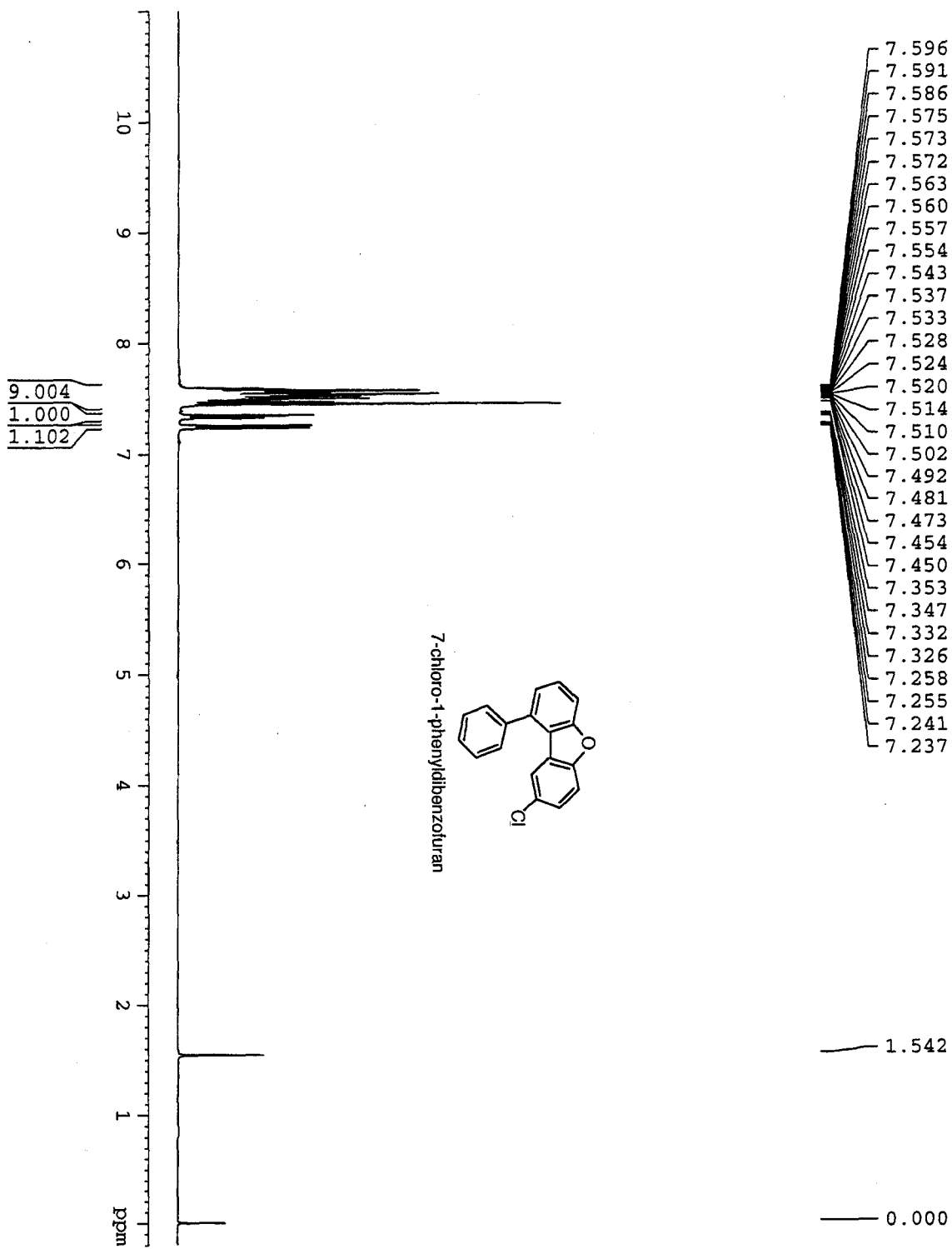


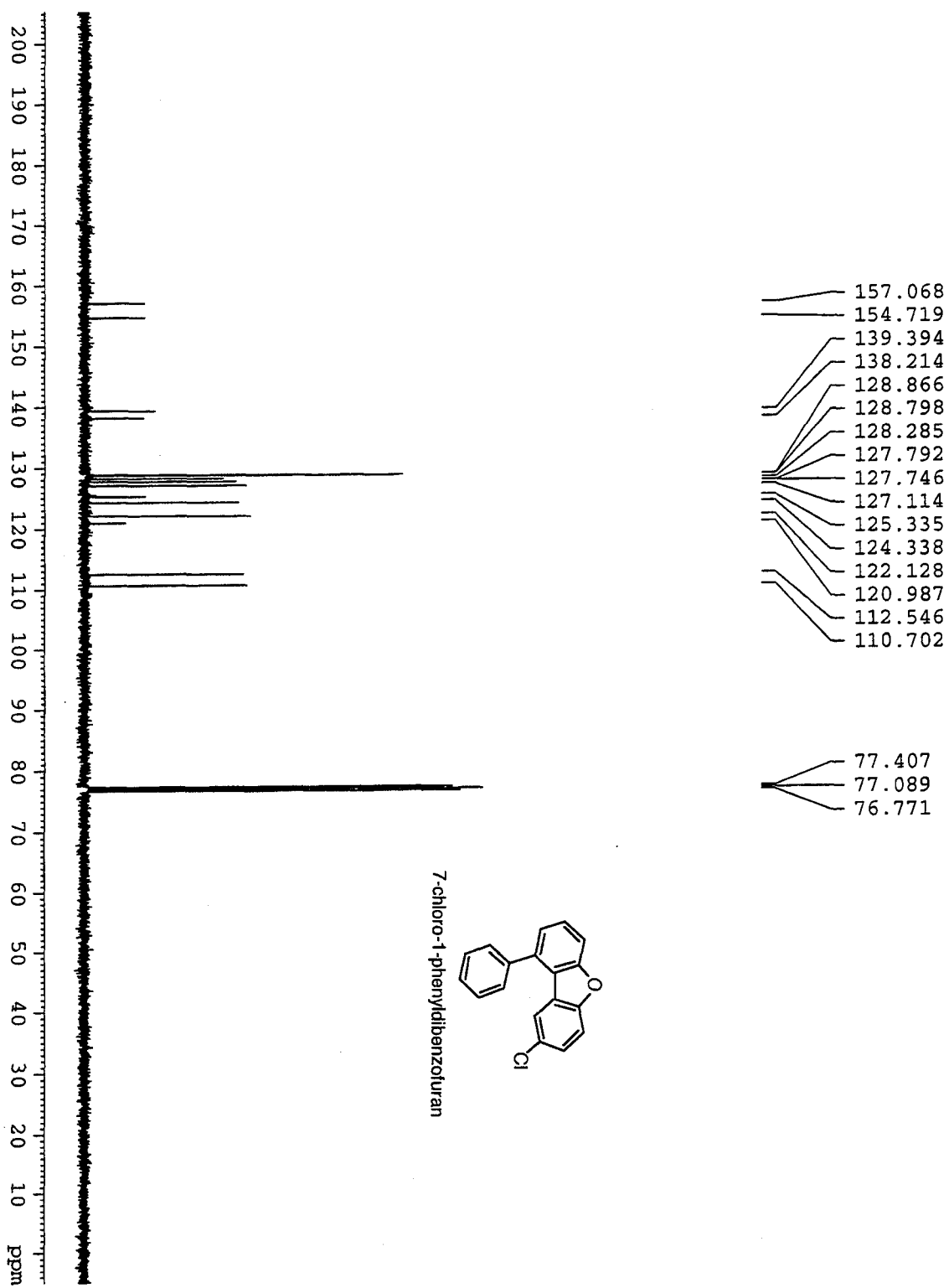
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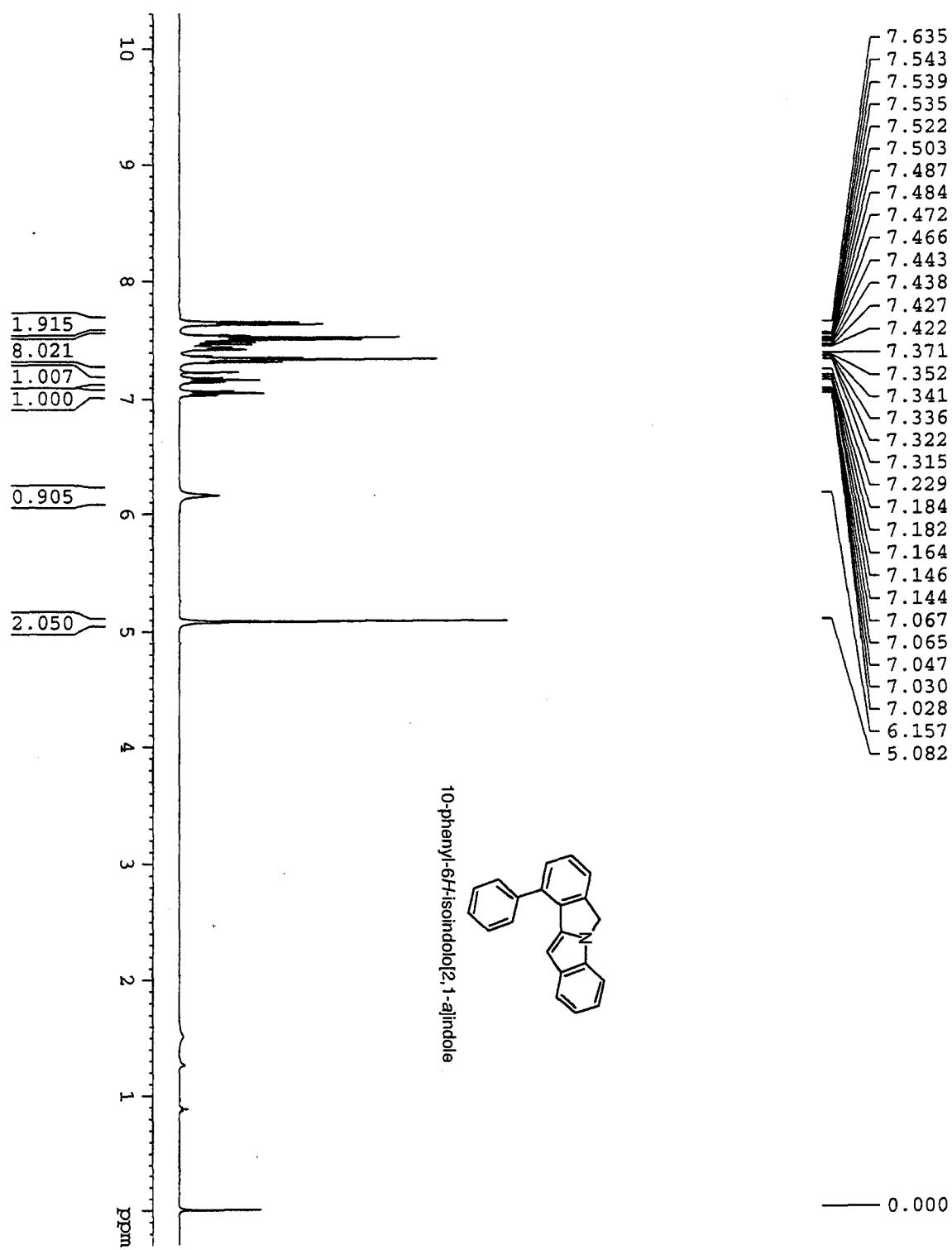


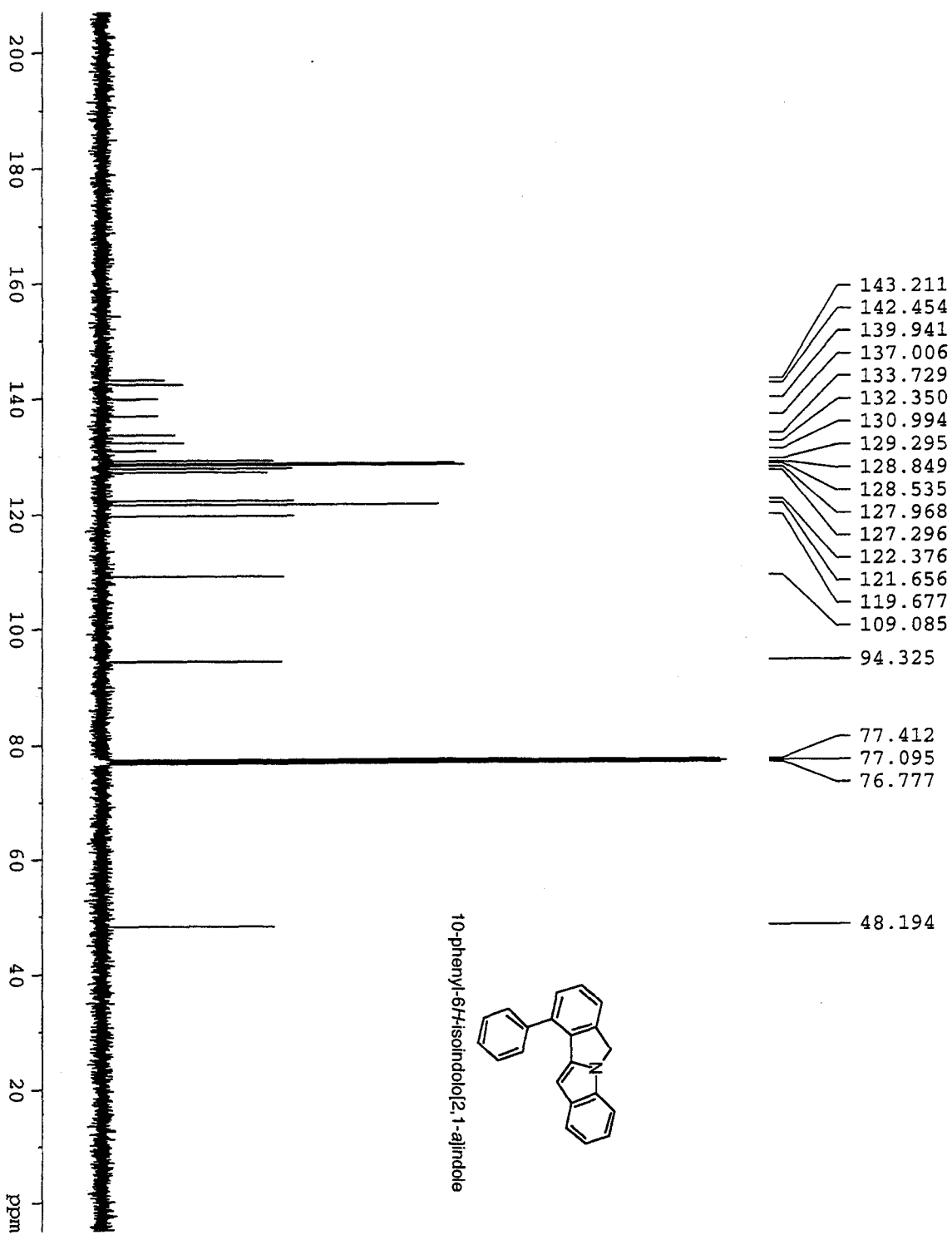


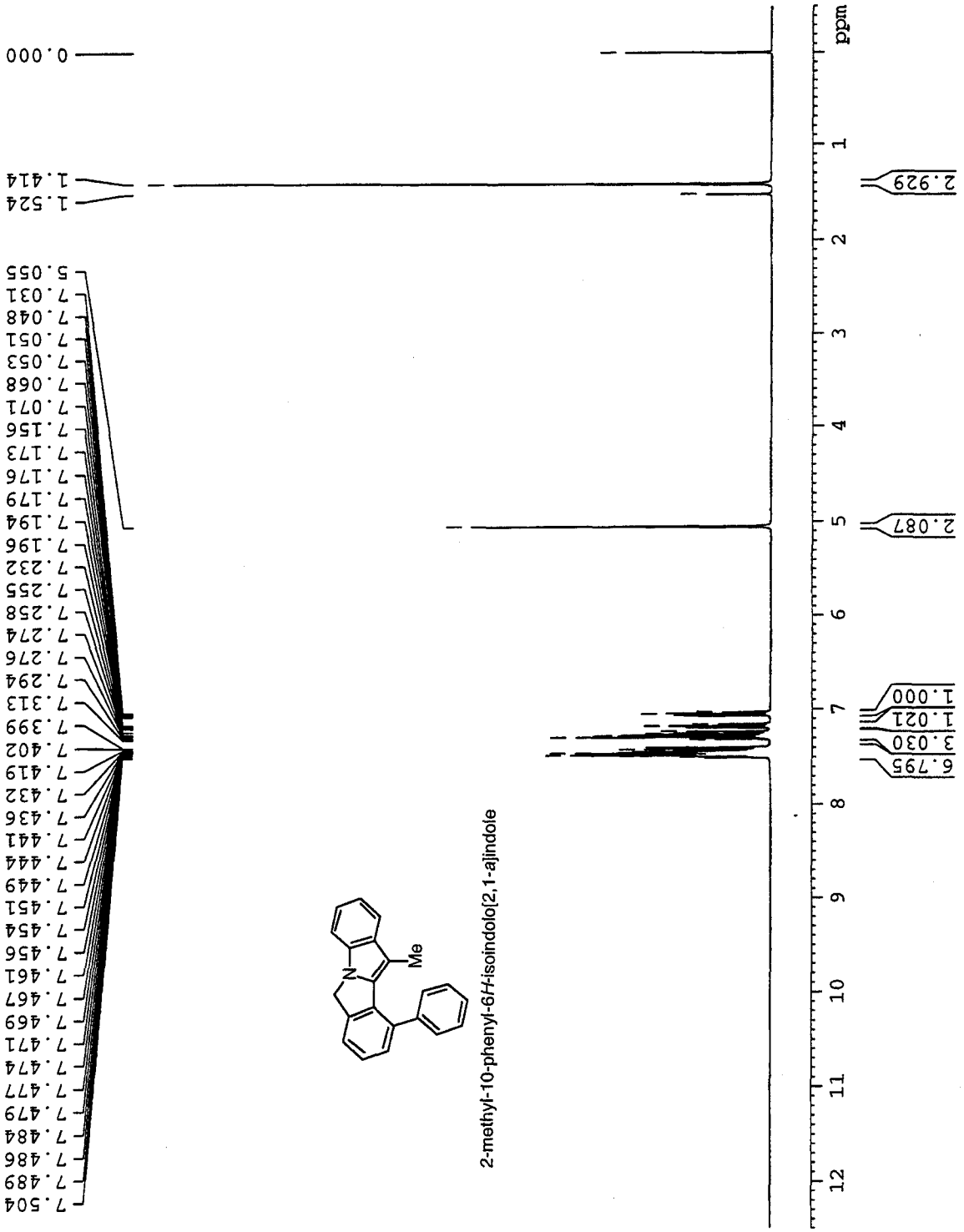




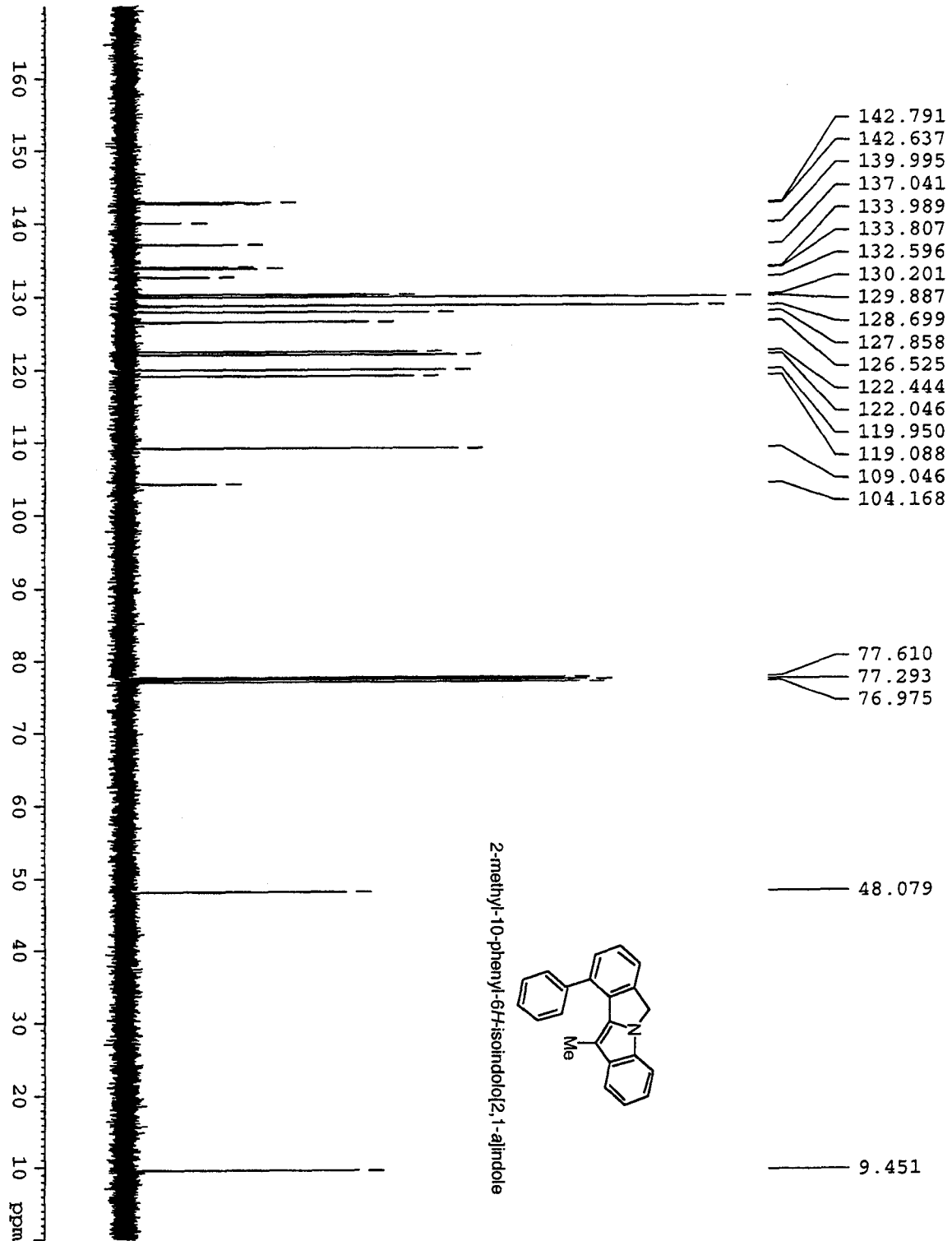


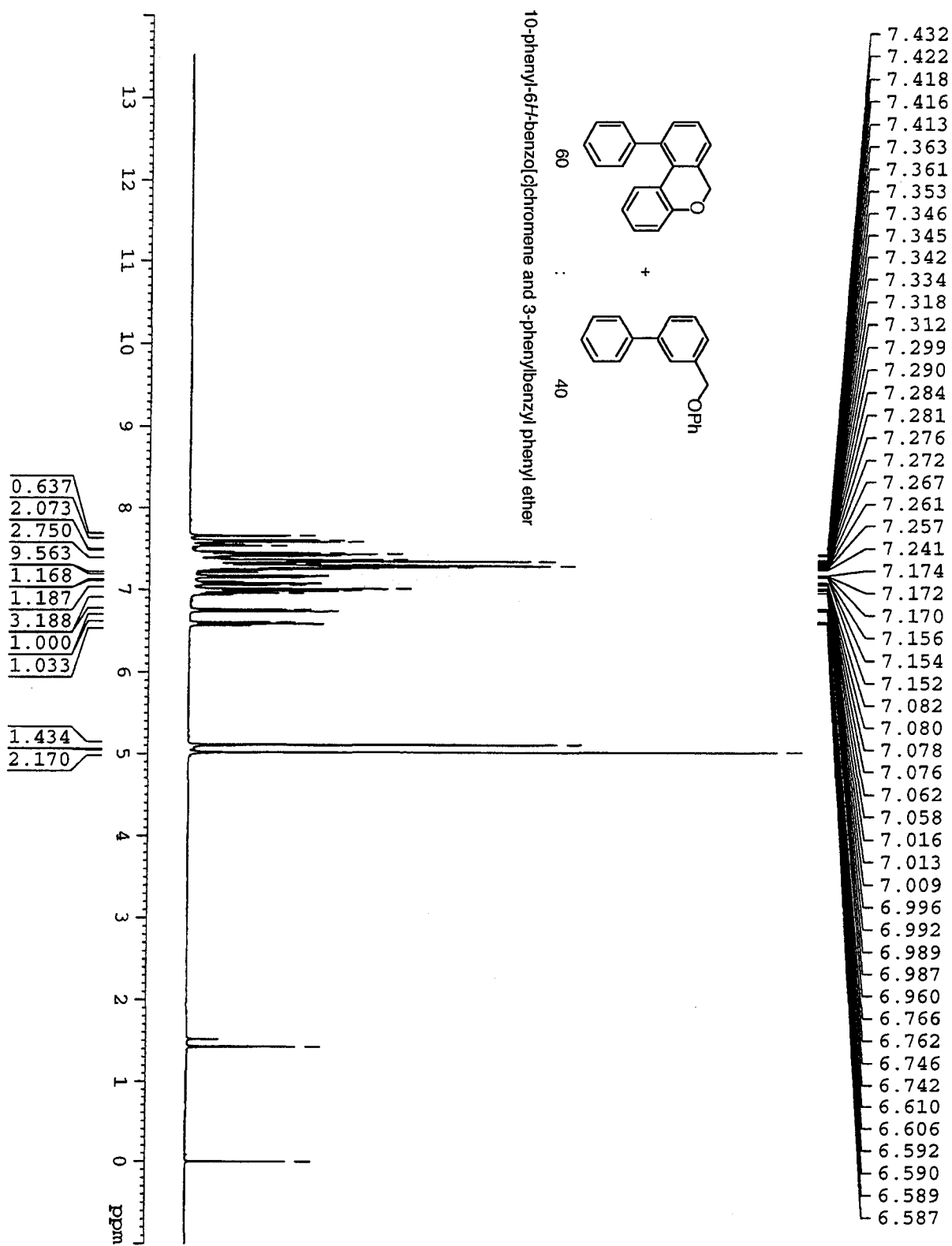


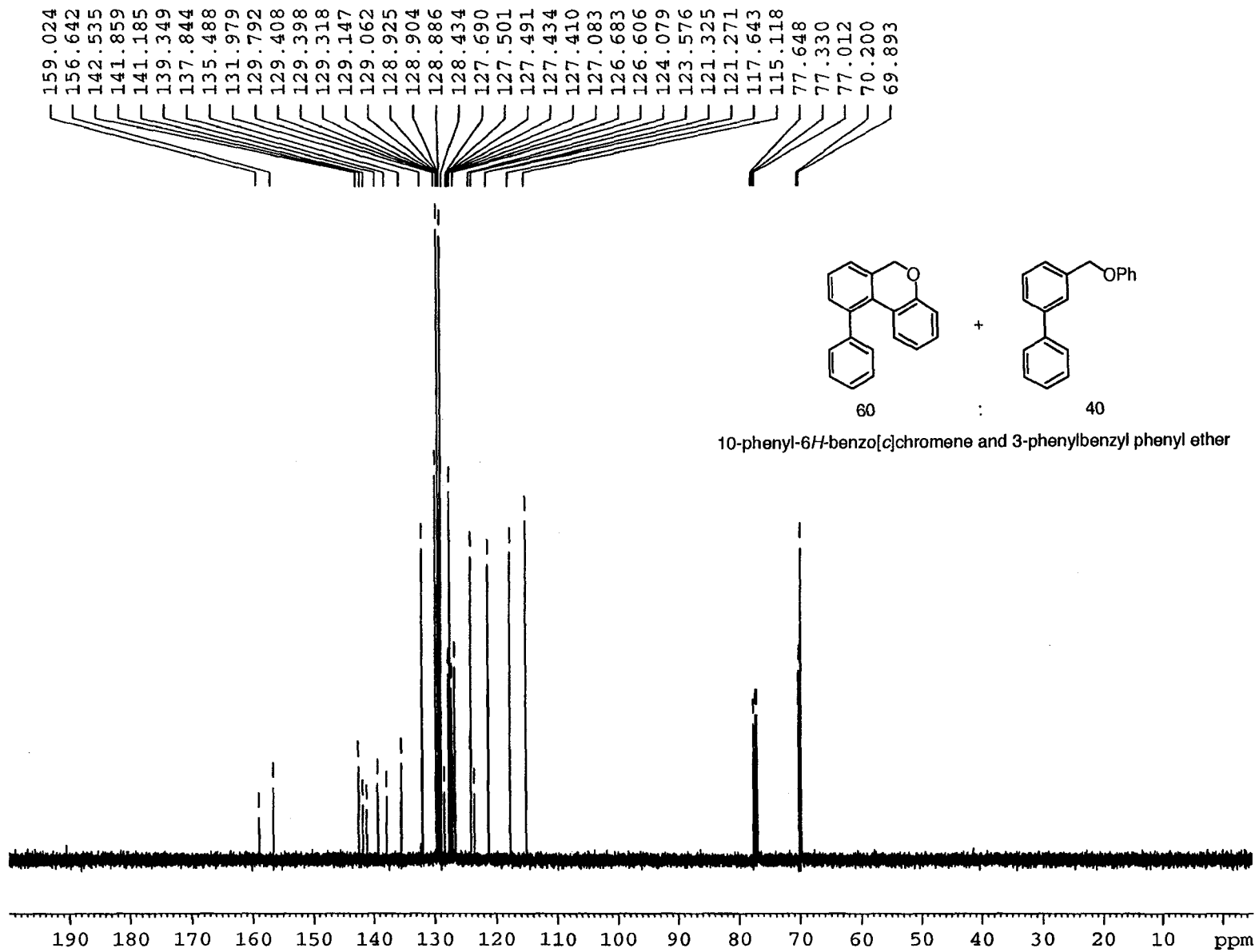


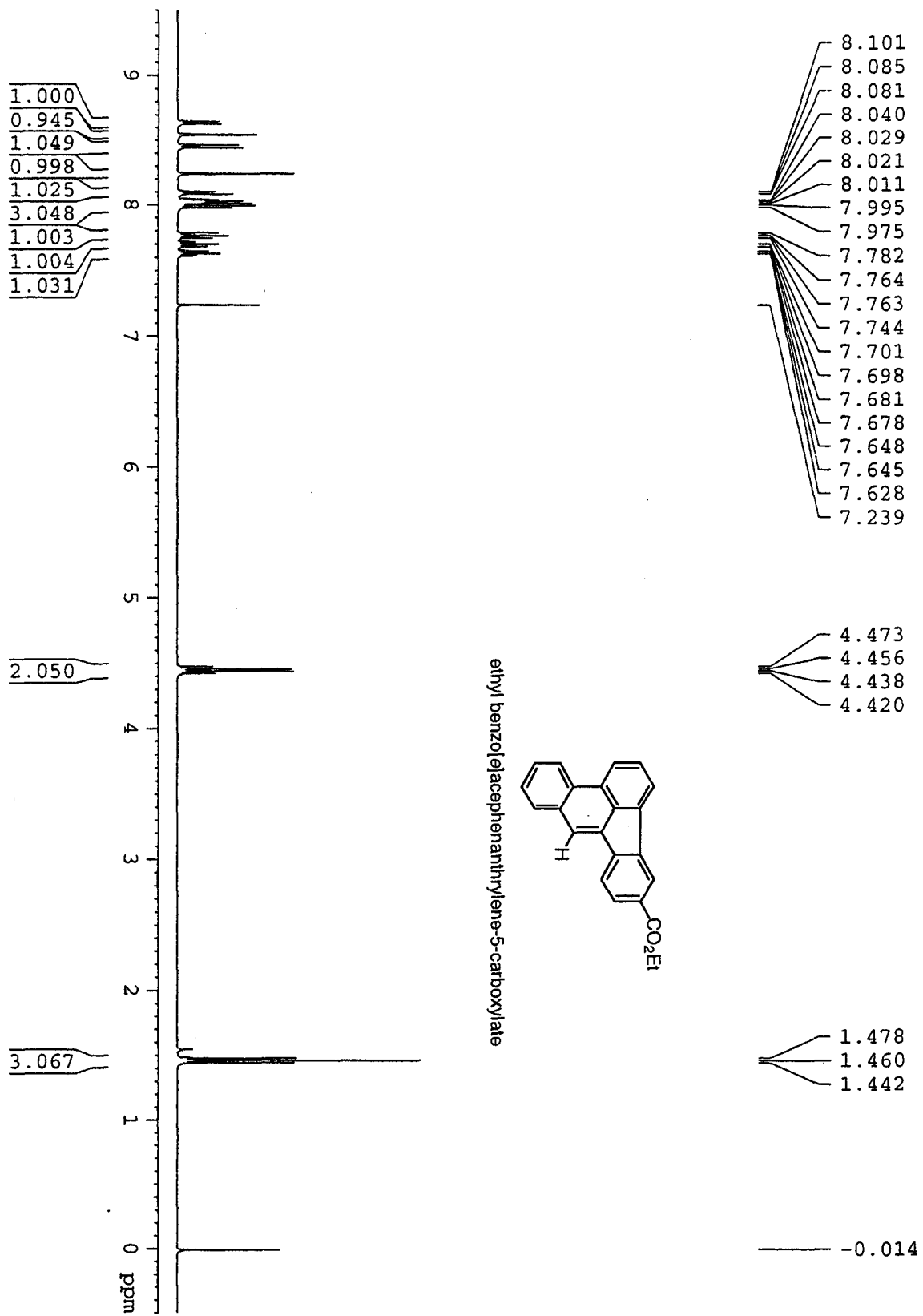


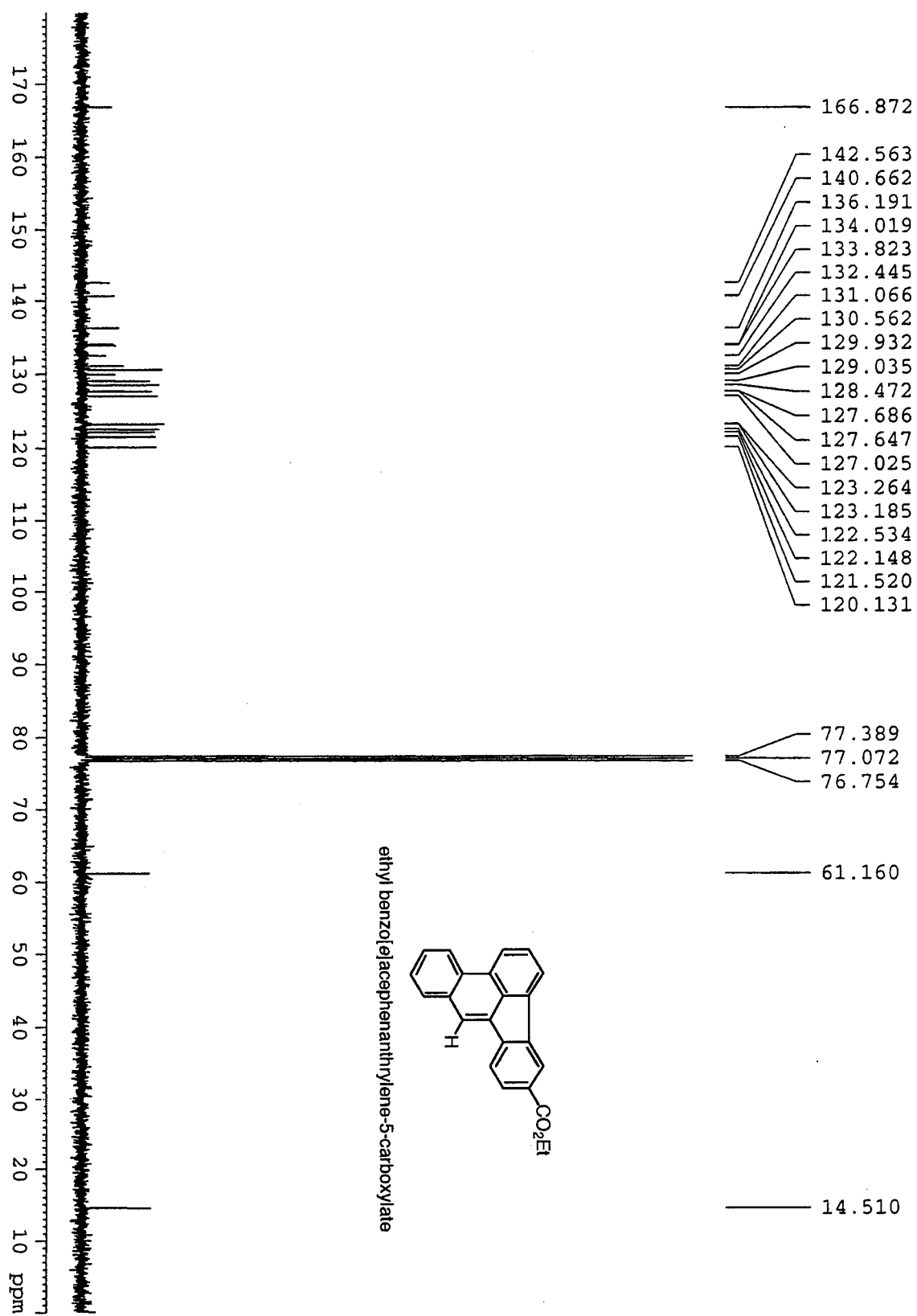


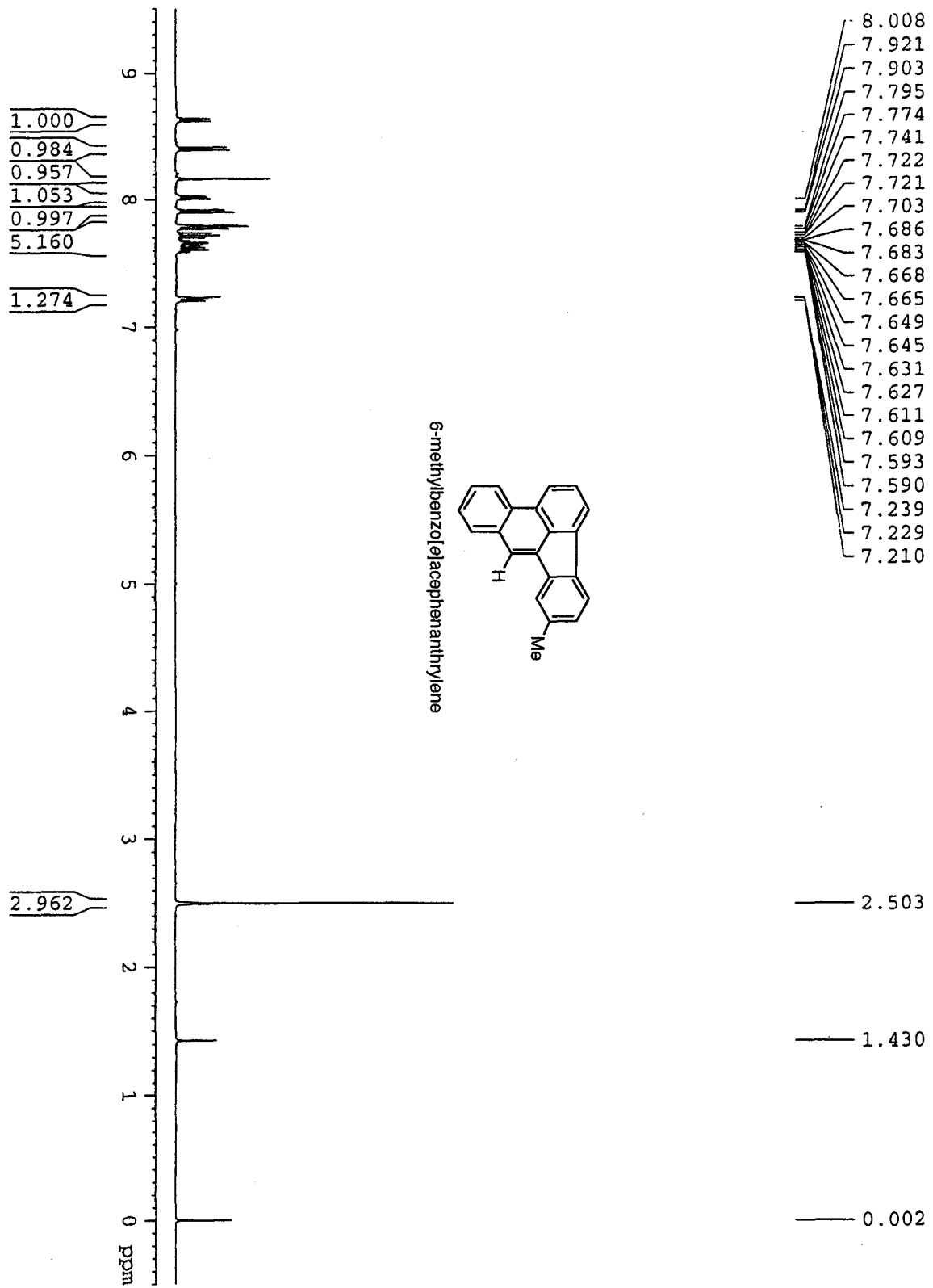


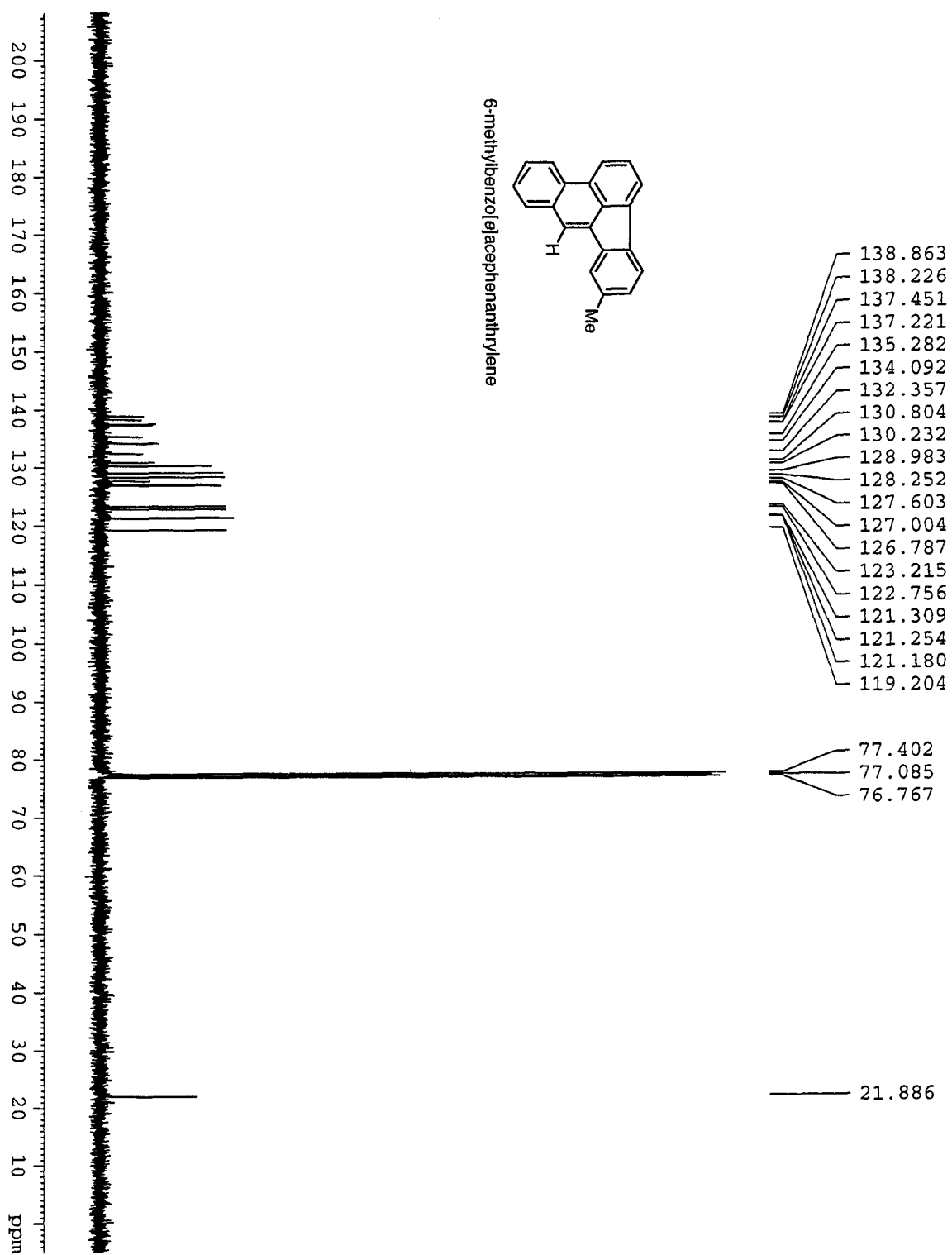


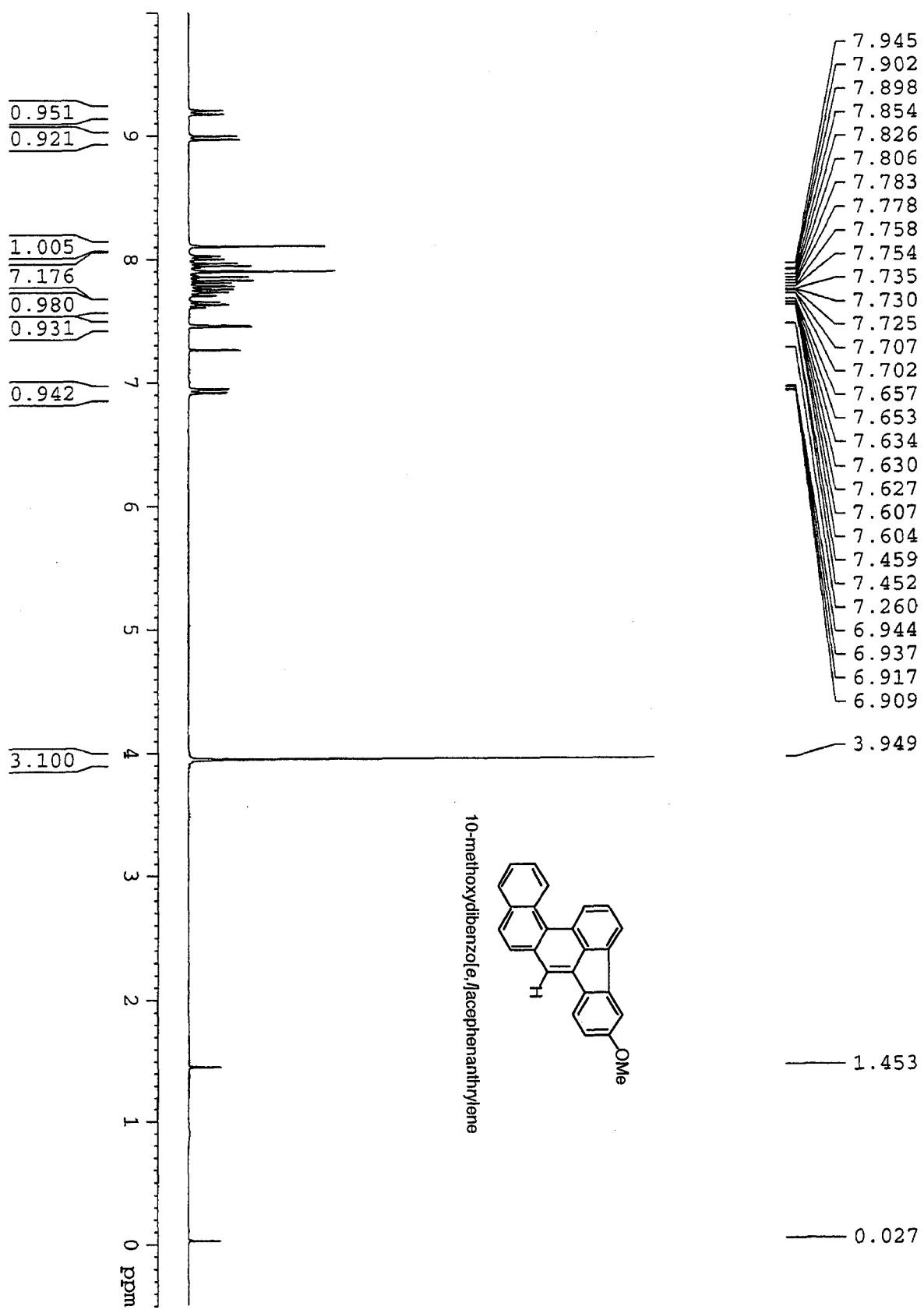




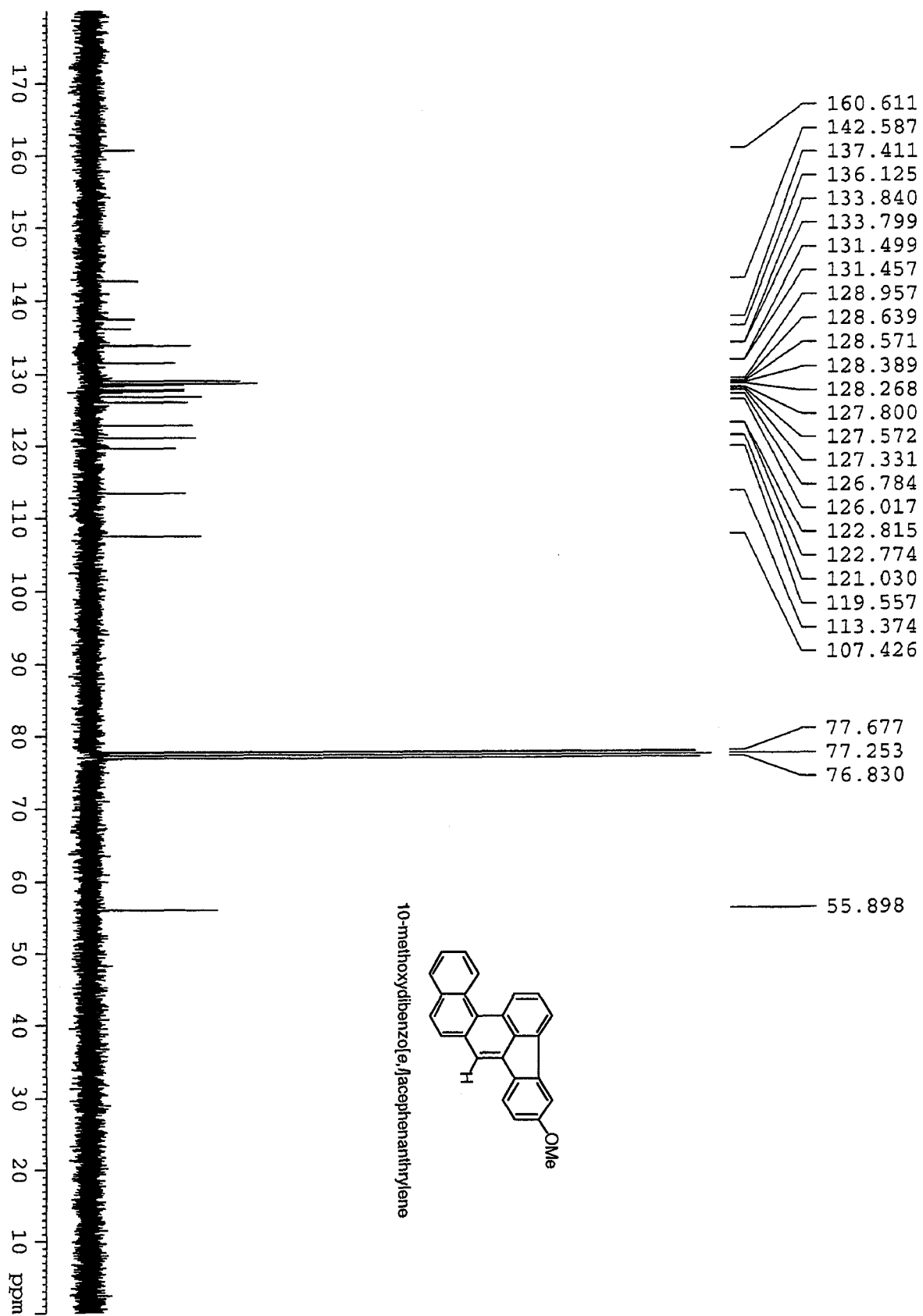


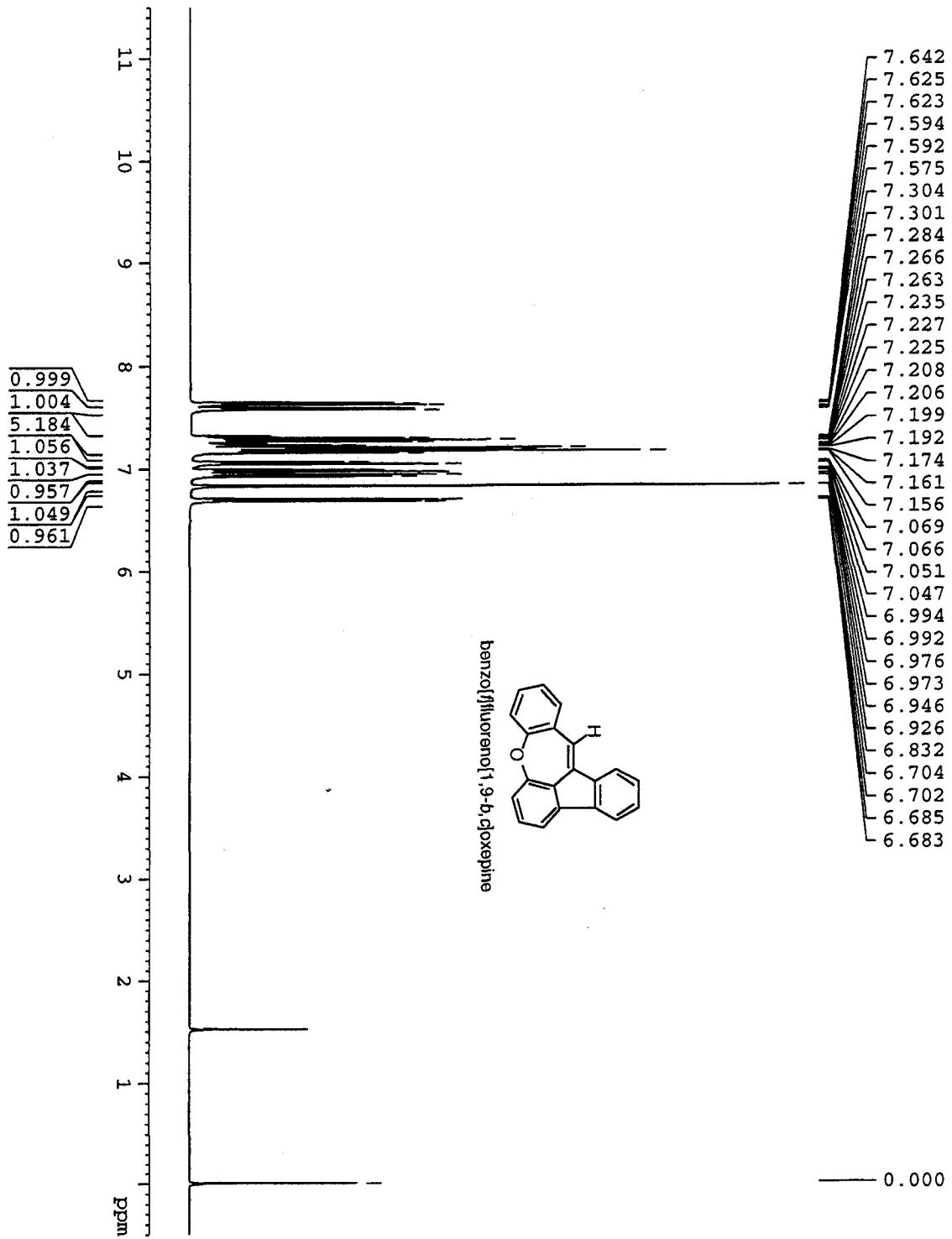


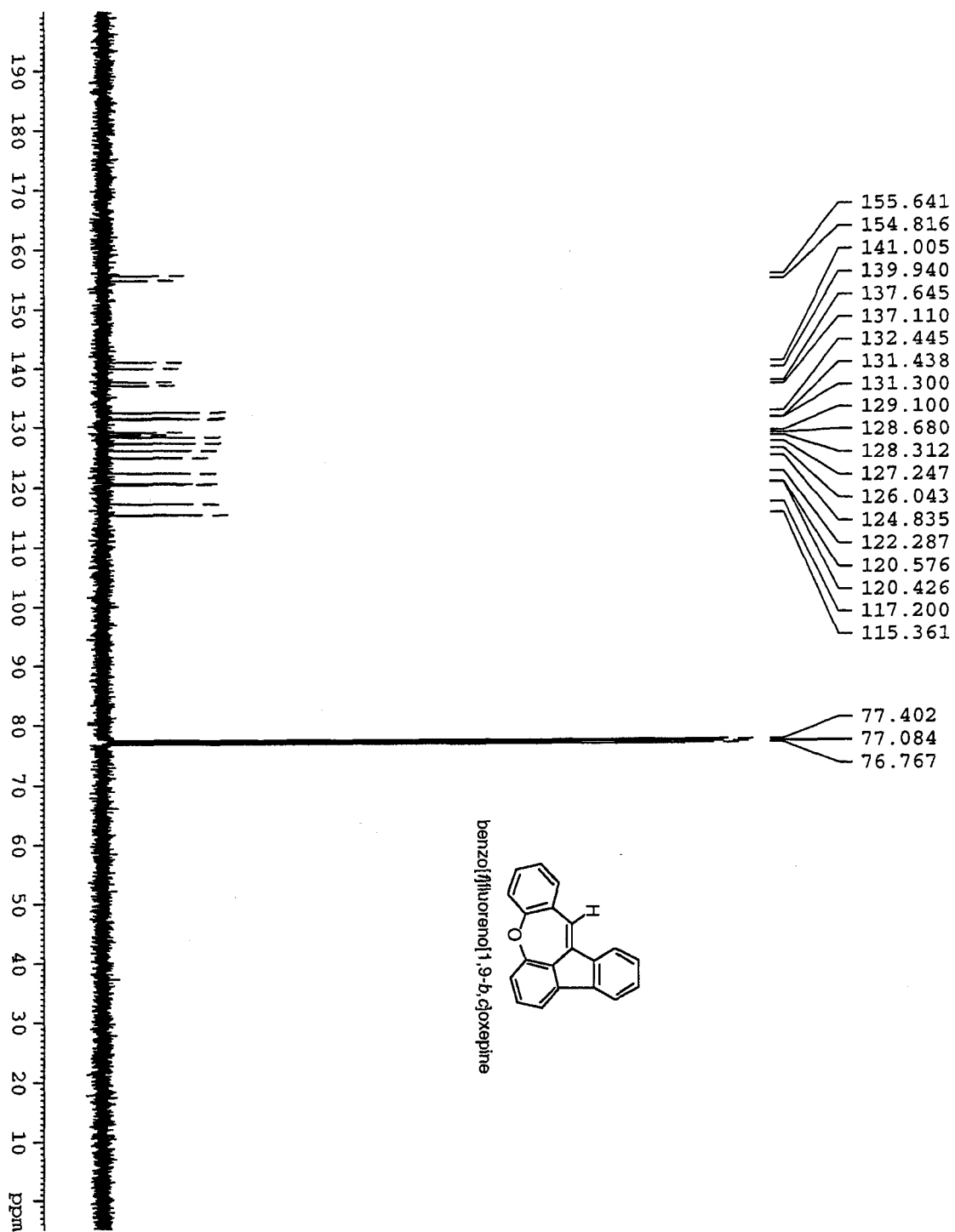


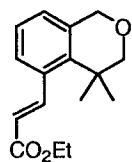
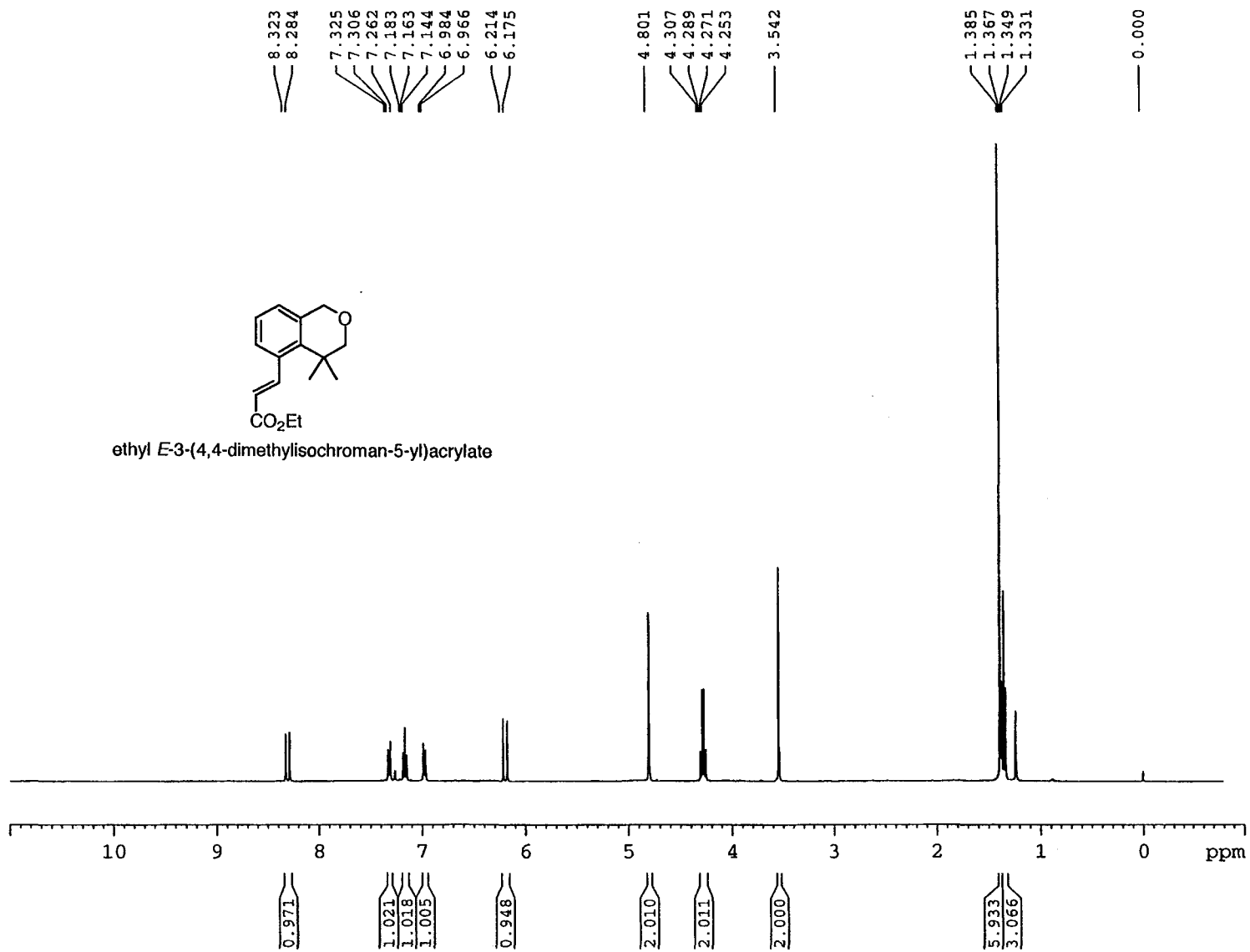


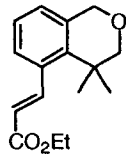
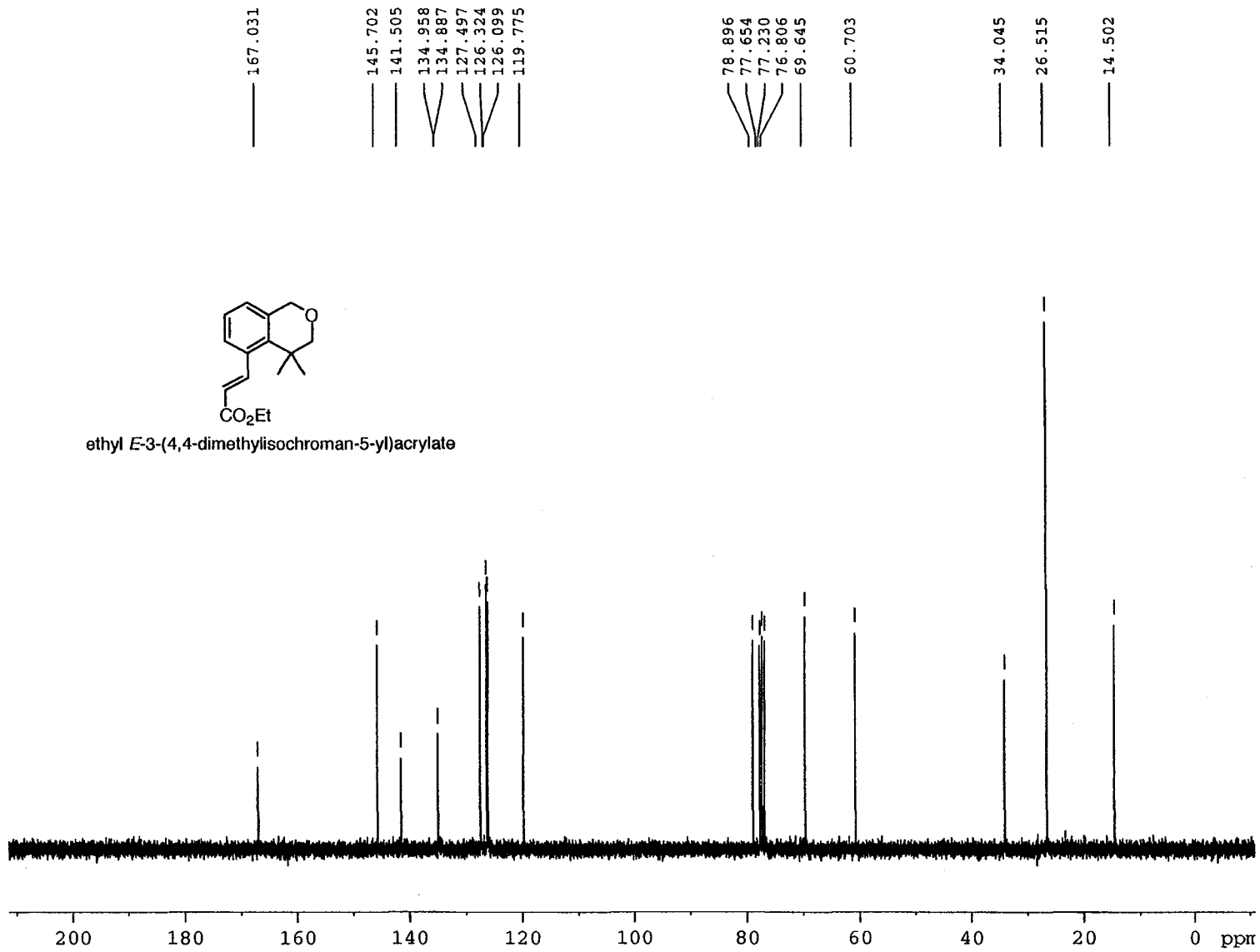


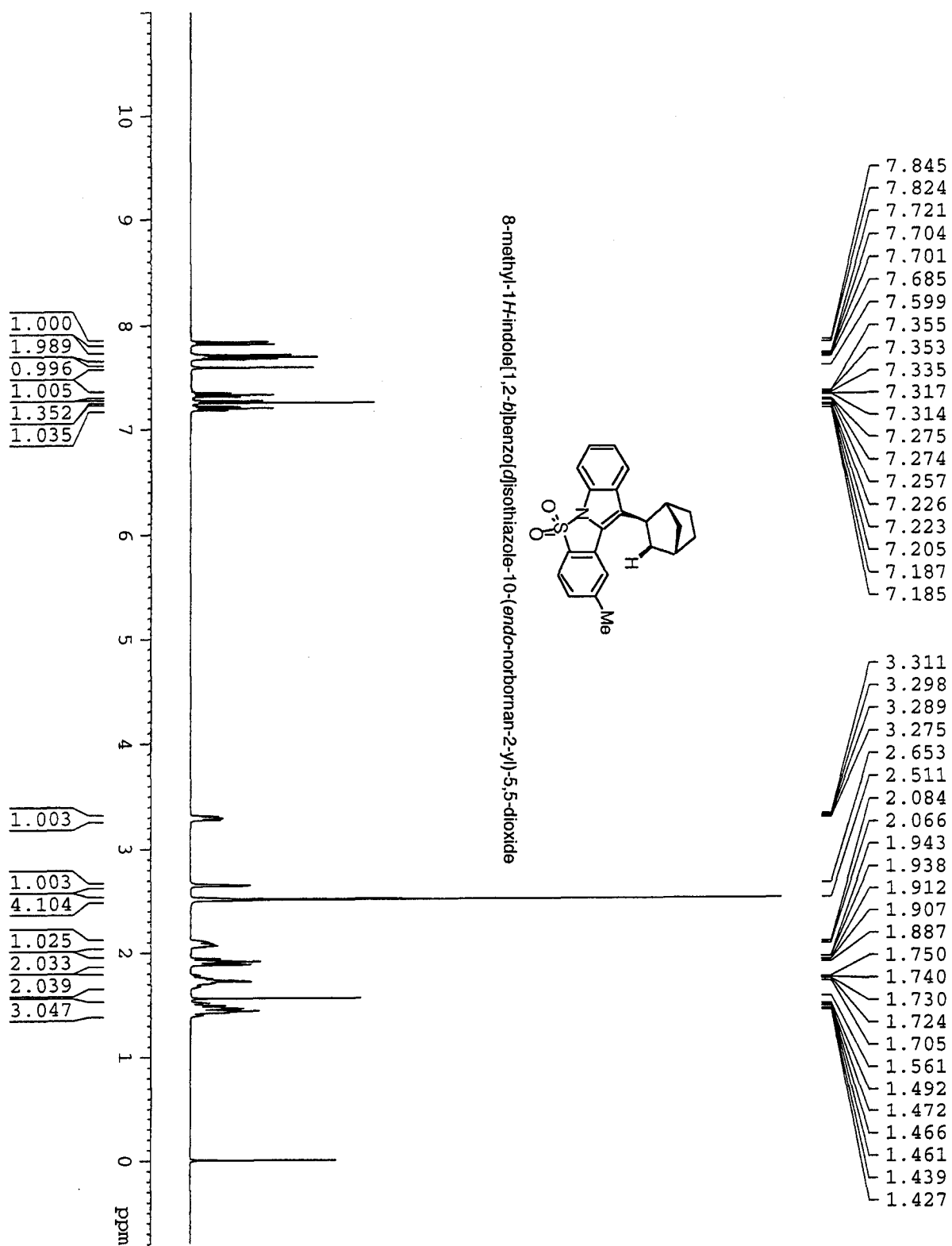


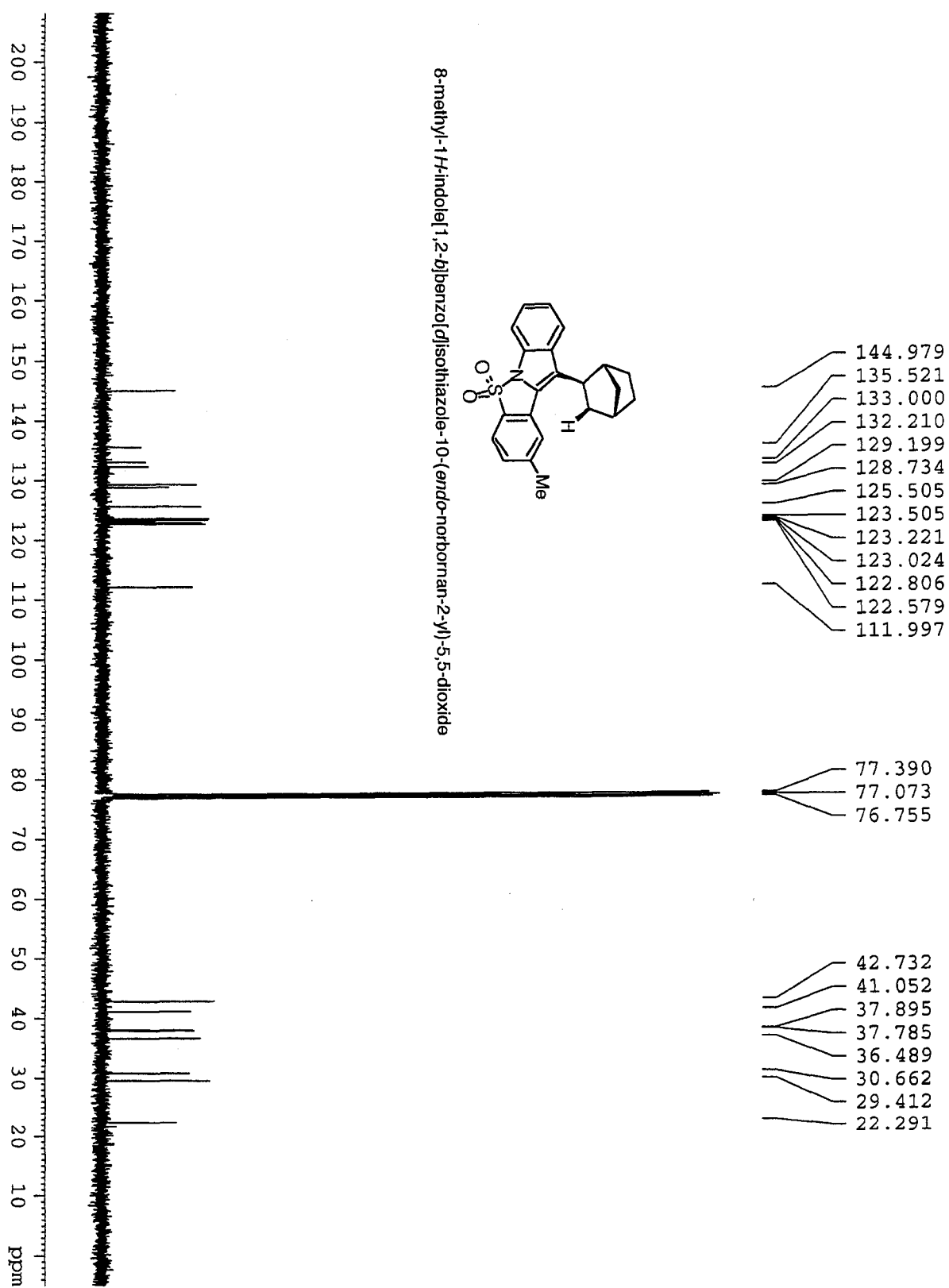


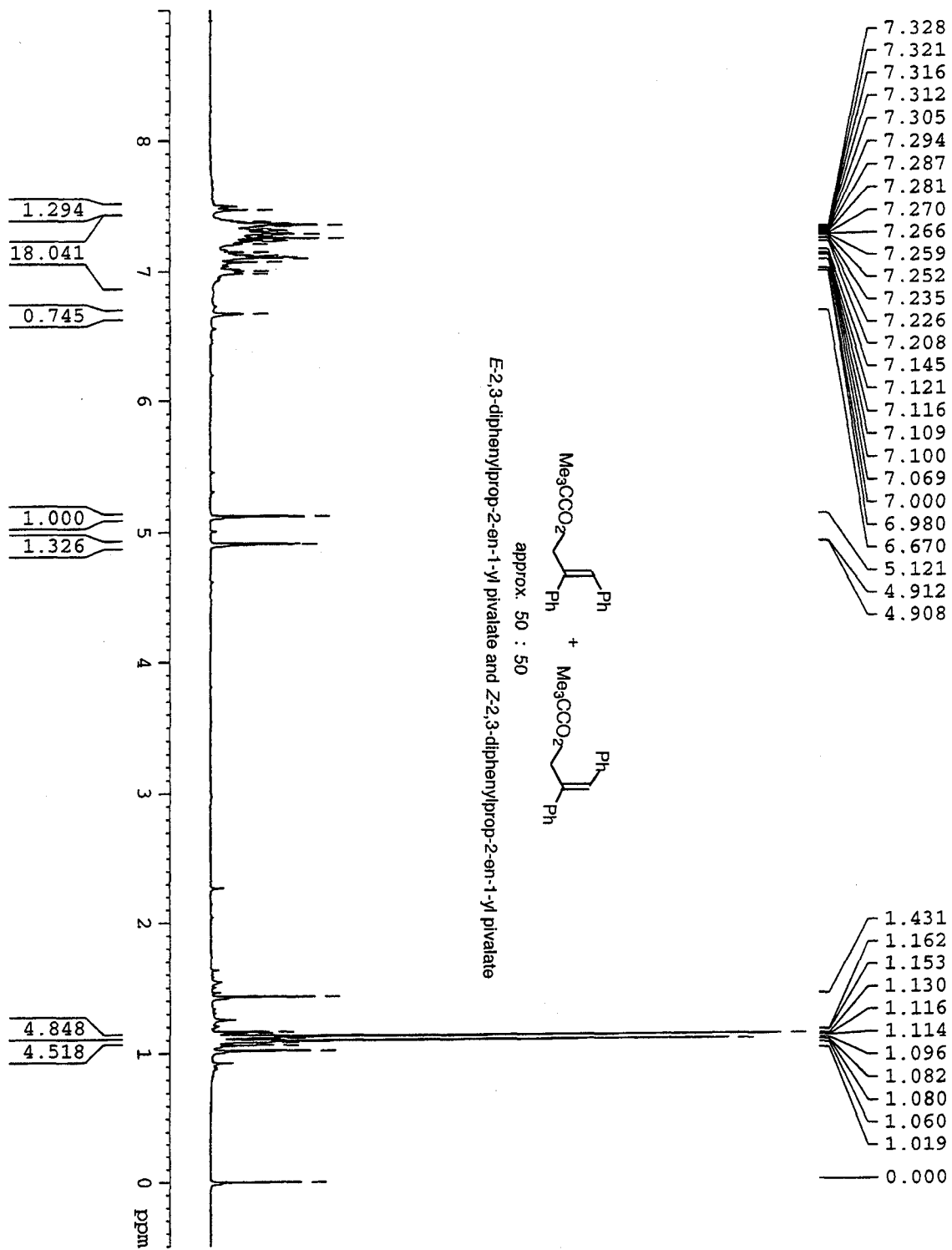


ethyl *E*-3-(4,4-dimethylisochroman-5-yl)acrylate

ethyl *E*-3-(4,4-dimethylisochroman-5-yl)acrylate









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