

# Silver comes into play: Henry reaction and domino cycloisomerisation sequence catalysed by [Ag(I)(Pc-L)] complexes

Giorgio Tseberlidis,<sup>a</sup> Monica Dell'Acqua,<sup>b</sup> Daniele Valcarenghi,<sup>a</sup> Emma Gallo,<sup>a</sup> Elisabetta Rossi,<sup>b</sup> Giorgio Abbiati<sup>b\*</sup> and Alessandro Caselli<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Dipartimento di Chimica, Università degli Studi di Milano, and CNR – Istituto di Scienze e Tecnologie Molecolari, via Golgi 19 – 20133 Milano – Italy.

<sup>b</sup> Dipartimento di Scienze Farmaceutiche, Sezione di Chimica Generale e Organica “A. Marchesini”, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Venezian 21, 20133 Milano, Italy.

Corresponding authors: [giorgio.abbiati@unimi.it](mailto:giorgio.abbiati@unimi.it), [alessandro.caselli@unimi.it](mailto:alessandro.caselli@unimi.it)

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### PART I (Yields and <sup>1</sup>H NMR tabulated spectra for all known compounds)

**General Experimental details** p. S2

**Henry reactions.** Yields and <sup>1</sup>H spectra of products **4-9** p. S3

**Henry reactions cycloisomerisation sequence.** Yields and <sup>1</sup>H spectra of products **11, 12** p. S5  
and **13**

**Notes and references** p. S7

### PART II (Figures reporting full NMR spectra for all compounds.)

#### Synthesis of the ligands.

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of products **5-7** p. S8

#### Reaction of ligand **7c** with Mosher's chloride and MPA.

<sup>19</sup>F spectrum of **7c** + (*R*)-(–)-α-Methoxy-α-(trifluoromethyl)phenylacetyl chloride. p. S20

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **7c** + (*S*)-(+)-α-Methoxyphenylacetic acid. p. S21

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **7c** + (*R*)-(–)-α-Methoxyphenylacetic acid. p. S22

#### Silver complexes.

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of silver complexes **8a-d**. p. S25

#### Henry reaction.

<sup>1</sup>H spectra of products **4** and **9** and <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **4j**. p. S38

#### Henry reaction/cycloisomerisation sequence.

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of products **11, 12** and **13**. p. S59

**General experimental details.** All of the reactions that involved the use of reagents sensitive to oxygen or hydrolysis were carried out under an inert atmosphere. The glassware was previously dried in an oven at 110 °C and was set with cycles of vacuum and nitrogen. Also syringes, used to transfer reagents and solvents, were previously set under a nitrogen atmosphere. The syntheses of the silver complexes were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere by employing standard Schlenk techniques. All chemicals and solvents were commercially available and were used after distillation or treatment with drying agents. The chromatographic column separations were performed by a flash technique, using silica gel (pore size 60 Å, particle size 230–400 mesh, Merck grade 9385). For TLC, silica was used on TLC Alu foils with fluorescent indicator (254 nm) and the detection was performed by irradiation with UV light ( $\lambda = 254$  nm or 366 nm).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analyses were performed with 200, 300, 400 or 600 MHz spectrometers at room temperature. The coupling constants ( $J$ ) are expressed in hertz (Hz), and the chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) in ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR analyses were performed with the same instruments at 75.5, 100 or 150 MHz, and attached proton test (APT) sequence was used to distinguish the methine and methyl carbon signals from those arising from methylene and quaternary carbon atoms. All  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded with complete proton decoupling. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR signals of the ligand described in the following have been attributed by correlation spectroscopy (COSY) and nuclear Overhauser effect spectroscopy (NOESY) techniques. Assignments of the resonance in  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR were made using the APT pulse sequence and heteronuclear single quantum correlation (HSQC) and heteronuclear multiple bond correlation (HMBC) techniques. Low resolution MS spectra were recorded with instruments equipped with electron ionization (EI), ESI/ion trap (using a syringe pump device to directly inject sample solutions), or fast atom bombardment (FAB) (for *Pc-L* and metal complexes) sources. The values are expressed as mass–charge ratio and the relative intensities of the most significant peaks are shown in brackets. UV–vis spectra of the ligand and its silver complexes were recorded in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Elemental analyses were recorded in the analytical laboratories of Università degli Studi di Milano. Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin Elmer instruments model 343 plus;  $[\alpha]_D$  values are given in  $10^{-1}$  deg  $\text{cm}^2$   $\text{g}^{-1}$ . Silver complex **1**<sup>1</sup>, *N*-tosyl-aziridine and copper complex **2**<sup>2</sup> and 2,6-pyridinedimethanol 2,6-dimesylate<sup>3</sup> were synthetized as previously reported.

**Henry reaction.** Yields and  $^1\text{H}$  spectra of products **4** and **9**

*2-nitro-1-(4-nitrophenyl)ethanol* **4a**. Yield 90% (62 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 8.27 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.63 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.60 (dd,  $J$  = 7.7, 3.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.68 – 4.40 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.12 (bs, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>4</sup>

*4-(1-hydroxy-2-nitroethyl)benzonitrile* **4b**. Yield 80% (49 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 7.71 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.56 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.55 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.68 – 4.43 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.11 (bs, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>4</sup>

*2-nitro-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethanol* **4c**. Yield 92% (69 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 7.68 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.56 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.56 (d,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.70 – 4.45 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.96 (bs, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>5</sup>

*1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-nitroethanol* **4d**. Yield 82% (65 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 7.54 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.29 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.44 (dd,  $J$  = 9.2, 3.3 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.61 – 4.46 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.88 (bs, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>4</sup>

*1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-nitroethanol* **4e**. Yield 80% (52 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 7.38 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.34 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.44 (d,  $J$  = 9.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.57 (dd,  $J$  = 13.3, 9.5 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.49 (dd,  $J$  = 13.3, 3.1 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.01 (d,  $J$  = 3.6 Hz, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>4</sup>

*1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-nitroethanol* **4f**. Yield 64% (38 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 7.39 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 5.2 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.10 (pst,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.46 (d,  $J$  = 9.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.63 – 4.47 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.82 (bs, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>4</sup>

*2-nitro-1-phenylethanol* **4g**. Yield 55% (29 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 7.42 – 7.29 (m, 5H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.48 (dd,  $J$  = 9.3, 3.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.66 – 4.50 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.56 (bs, 1H, OH exchanging with water). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>4</sup>

*2-nitro-1-(perfluorophenyl)ethanol* **4i**. Yield 68% (56 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 5.87 (ddd,  $J$  = 9.2, 5.8, 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.02 (dd,  $J$  = 13.9, 9.4 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.61 (dd,  $J$  = 14.0, 3.4 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.08 (d,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>6</sup>

*2-nitro-1-(2-nitrophenyl)ethanol* **4k**. Yield 95% (65 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 8.07 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.95 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.75 (pst,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.56 (pst,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.05 (dd,  $J$  = 9.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.87 (dd,  $J$  = 13.8, 2.3 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.55 (dd,  $J$  = 13.8, 9.1 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.23 (bs, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>4</sup>

*1-(2-bromophenyl)-2-nitroethanol* **4l**. Yield 65% (51 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 7.67 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.57 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.41 (pst,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.22 (pst,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.96 – 5.70 (m, 1H, CH), 4.70 (dd,  $J = 13.7, 2.3$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.44 (dd,  $J = 13.7, 9.6$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.94 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>4</sup>

*1-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-2-nitroethanol* **4m**. Yield 68% (51 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 7.37 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.32 – 7.20 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.38 – 6.21 (m, 1H, CH), 5.17 (dd,  $J = 13.1, 10.1$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.56 (dd,  $J = 13.1, 3.4$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.24 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>5</sup>

*1-(furan-2-yl)-2-nitroethanol* **4o**. Yield 62% (31 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 7.40 (s, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.55 – 6.23 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.51 – 5.38 (m, 1H, CH), 4.76 (dd,  $J = 13.4, 9.0$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.65 (dd,  $J = 13.4, 3.6$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.18 (bs, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>4</sup>

*2-nitro-1-(4-nitrophenyl)propan-1-ol* **4q**. Yield 90% (65 mg); Diastereomeric ratio (*syn/anti* 60:40) determined by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. *Syn* isomer:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 8.25 – 8.21 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.60 – 7.56 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.18 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.79 – 4.72 (m, 1H, CH), 3.15 (bs, 1H, OH), 1.37 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). *Anti* isomer:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 8.25 – 8.21 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.60 – 7.56 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.55 (m, 1H, CH), 4.79 – 4.72 (m, 1H, CH), 3.15 (bs, 1H, OH), 1.48 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>4</sup>

*2-nitro-1-(2-nitrophenyl)propan-1-ol* **4r**. Yield 93% (67 mg); Diastereomeric ratio (*syn/anti* 45:55) determined by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. *Syn* isomer:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 8.00 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 0.9$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.73 – 7.69 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.56 – 7.53 (m, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.71 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1H, CH), 5.01 – 4.95 (m, 1H, CH), 3.34 (bs, 1H, OH), 1.56 – 1.51 (m, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). *Anti* isomer:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 8.08 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.4$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.93 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.73 – 7.69 (m, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.56 – 7.53 (m, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.09 (d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.79 – 4.72 (m, 1H, CH), 3.15 (bs, 1H, OH), 1.56 – 1.51 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>4</sup>

*2-nitro-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propan-1-ol* **4s**. Yield 71% (89 mg); Diastereomeric ratio (*syn/anti* 51:49) determined by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. *Syn* isomer:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 7.69 – 7.66 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.54 – 7.51 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.13 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.76 (dq,  $J = 8.6, 6.9$  Hz, 1H, CH), 1.37 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). *Anti* isomer:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ) 7.69 – 7.66 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.54 – 7.51 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.50 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.70 (qd,  $J = 6.8, 3.4$  Hz, 1H, CH), 1.50 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). OH signal appeared as a very broad signal around 3.5 – 1.8 ppm. Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>7</sup>

*2-nitro-1-(4-chlorophenyl)propan-1-ol* **4t**. Yield 75% (52 mg); Diastereomeric ratio (*syn/anti* 61:39) determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. *Syn* isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 7.39 – 7.35 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.02 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.76 – 4.70 (m, 1H, CH), 2.67 (br, 1H, OH), 1.33 (dd,  $J$  = 6.8, 1.6 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). *Anti* isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 7.39 – 7.35 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.37 (br, 1H, CH), 4.68 – 4.62 (m, 1H, CH), 2.77 (br, 1H, OH), 1.49 (dd,  $J$  = 6.8, 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>8</sup>

*2-nitro-1-phenylpropan-1-ol* **4u**. Yield 60% (35 mg); Diastereomeric ratio (*syn/anti* 55:45) determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. *Syn* isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 7.41 – 7.36 (m, 5H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.03 (dd,  $J$  = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.77 (dq,  $J$  = 9.0, 6.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.58 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz, 1H, OH), 1.32 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). *Anti* isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 7.41 – 7.36 (m, 5H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.40 (pst,  $J$  = 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.70 (qd,  $J$  = 6.8, 3.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.70 (d,  $J$  = 3.5 Hz, 1H, OH), 1.51 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>8</sup>

*3-hydroxy-3-(nitromethyl)indolin-2-one* **9a**. Yield 80% (53 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 10.54 (s, 1H, NH), 7.40 (dd,  $J$  = 7.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.27 (m, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.10 – 6.82 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.74 (d,  $J$  = 1.0 Hz, 1H, OH), 5.15 – 4.82 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>9</sup>

*3-hydroxy-3-(nitroethyl)indolin-2-one* **9b**. The product was not isolated; the yield and the diastereoisomeric ratio (6:4) were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR (internal standard 2,4-dinitrotoluene). Major isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 8.12 – 6.75 (m, 4H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.03 (m, 1H, CH), 1.34 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>). Minor isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 8.12 – 6.75 (m, 4H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.04 (m, 1H, CH), 1.66 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>9</sup>

**Henry reaction/cycloisomerisation sequence.** Yields and <sup>1</sup>H spectra of products **11**, **12** and **13**.

*1-((2-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-2-nitroethanol* **11a**. Yield 18% (13 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 7.62 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.55 – 7.44 (m, 3H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.37 (td,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.31 (td,  $J$  = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.88 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.98 (dd,  $J$  = 9.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.79 (dd,  $J$  = 13.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.50 (dd,  $J$  = 13.0, 9.9 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.81 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.94 (s, 1H, OH). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>10</sup>

*3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(nitromethyl)-1*H*-isochromene* **12a**. Yield 30% (22 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 7.62 – 7.55 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.31 (td,  $J$  = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.20 (td,  $J$  = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.12 (dd,  $J$  = 11.4, 7.6 Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.93 – 6.86 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.37 (s, 1H, Csp<sup>2</sup>-H),

6.11 (dd,  $J = 10.3, 3.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.95 (dd,  $J = 12.3, 10.3$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.35 (dd,  $J = 12.3, 3.2$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.82 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>10</sup>

**2-nitro-1-(2-(*p*-tolylethynyl)phenyl)ethanol 11c.** Yield 32% (23 mg) Table 5, entry 4; yield 60% (42 mg) Table 5, entry 5; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 7.59 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.49 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 1.1$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.43 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.35 (td,  $J = 7.6, 1.3$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.28 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.2$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.14 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 5.94 (dd,  $J = 9.8, 2.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.74 (dd,  $J = 13.1, 2.4$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.45 (dd,  $J = 13.1, 9.9$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.95 (s, 1H, OH), 2.34 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>10</sup>

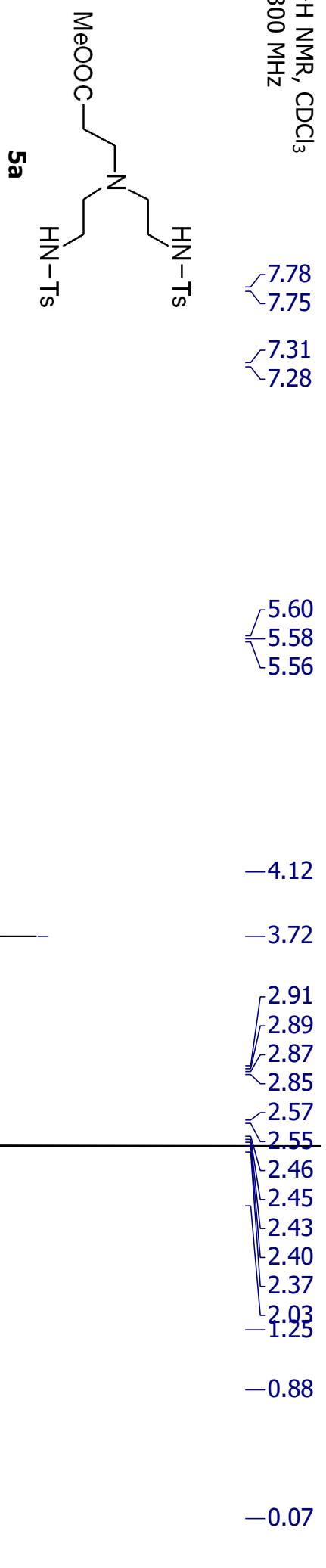
**1-(nitromethyl)-3-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-isochromene 12c.** Yield 31% (22 mg) Table 5, entry 4; yield 5% (4 mg) Table 5, entry 5; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 7.55 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.32 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.27 – 7.04 (m, 5H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.45 (s, 1H, Csp<sup>2</sup>-H), 6.13 (dd,  $J = 10.2, 2.7$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.95 (dd,  $J = 12.3, 7.2$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.36 (dd,  $J = 12.3, 3.0$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.37 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>10</sup>

**3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-isochromen-1-one 13.** Yield 29% (18 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ) 8.29 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.83 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.70 (td,  $J = 7.7, 1.1$  Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.50 – 7.42 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.98 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.84 (s, 1H, Csp<sup>2</sup>-H), 3.87 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). Spectral data are consistent with literature values.<sup>11</sup>

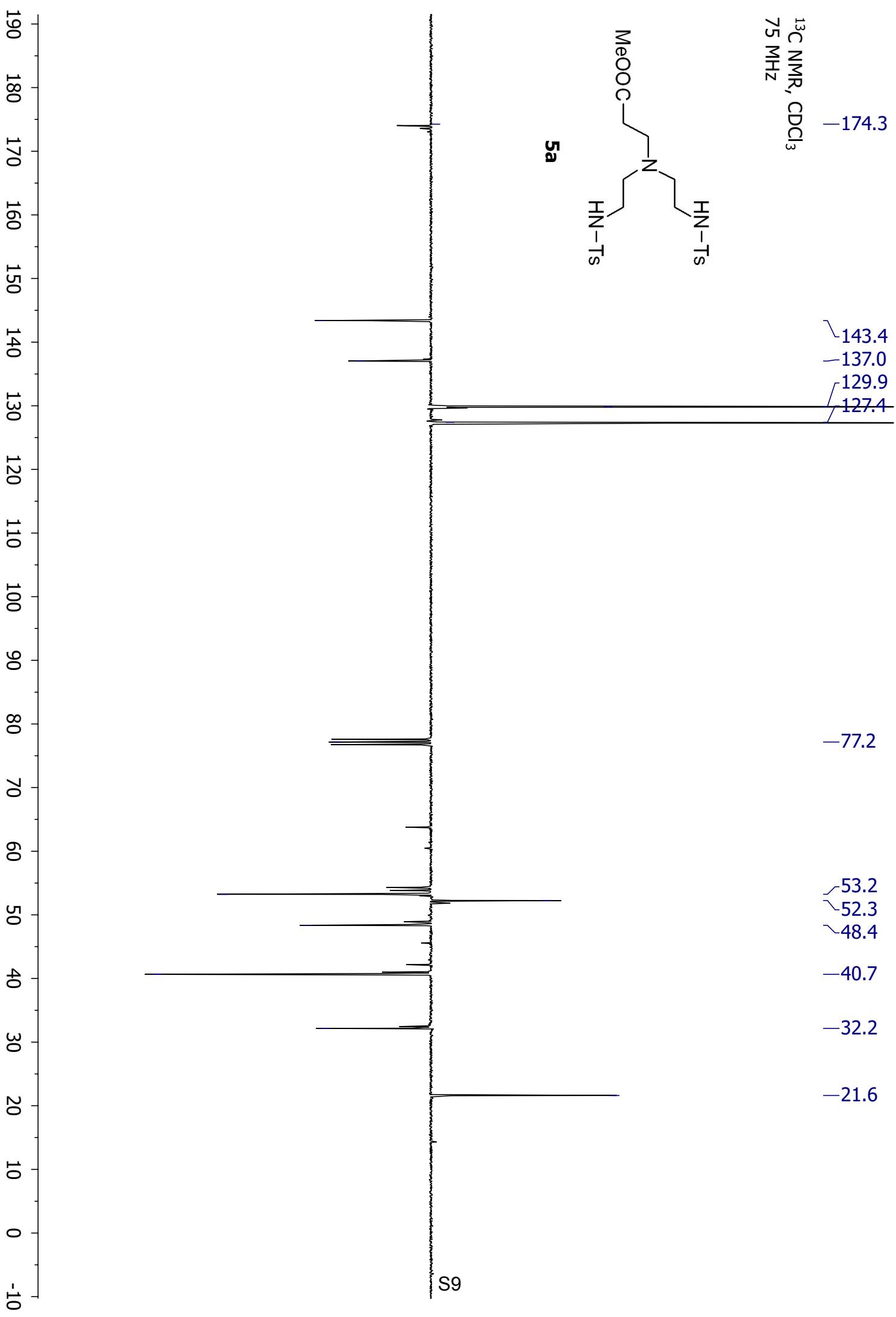
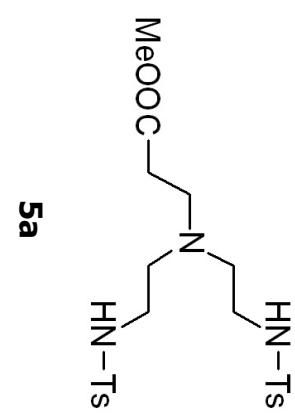
## Notes and references

1. T. Pedrazzini, P. Pirovano, M. Dell'Acqua, F. Ragaini, P. Illiano, P. Macchi, G. Abbiati and A. Caselli, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* , 2015, **2015**, 5089-5098.
2. B. Castano, S. Guidone, E. Gallo, F. Ragaini, N. Casati, P. Macchi, M. Sisti and A. Caselli, *Dalton Trans.*, 2013, **42**, 2451-2462.
3. M. Dell'Acqua, B. Castano, C. Cecchini, T. Pedrazzini, V. Pirovano, E. Rossi, A. Caselli and G. Abbiati, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2014, **79**, 3494-3505.
4. R. Boobalan, G.-H. Lee and C. Chen, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* , 2012, **354**, 2511-2520.
5. J. D. White and S. Shaw, *Org. Lett.* , 2012, **14**, 6270-6273.
6. M. Bandini, M. Benaglia, R. Sinisi, S. Tommasi and A. Umani-Ronchi, *Org. Lett.* , 2007, **9**, 2151-2153.
7. D. Didier, C. Magnier-Bouvier and E. Schulz, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* , 2011, **353**, 1087-1095.
8. W. Jin, X. Li and B. Wan, *J. Org. Chem.* , 2011, **76**, 484-491.
9. B. Castano, T. Pedrazzini, M. Sisti, E. Gallo, F. Ragaini, N. Casati and A. Caselli, *Appl. Organomet. Chem.*, 2011, **25**, 824-829.
10. D. Lu, Y. Zhou, Y. Li, S. Yan and Y. Gong, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2011, **76**, 8869-8878.
11. S. A. Shahzad, C. Venin and T. Wirth, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2010, **2010**, 3465-3472.

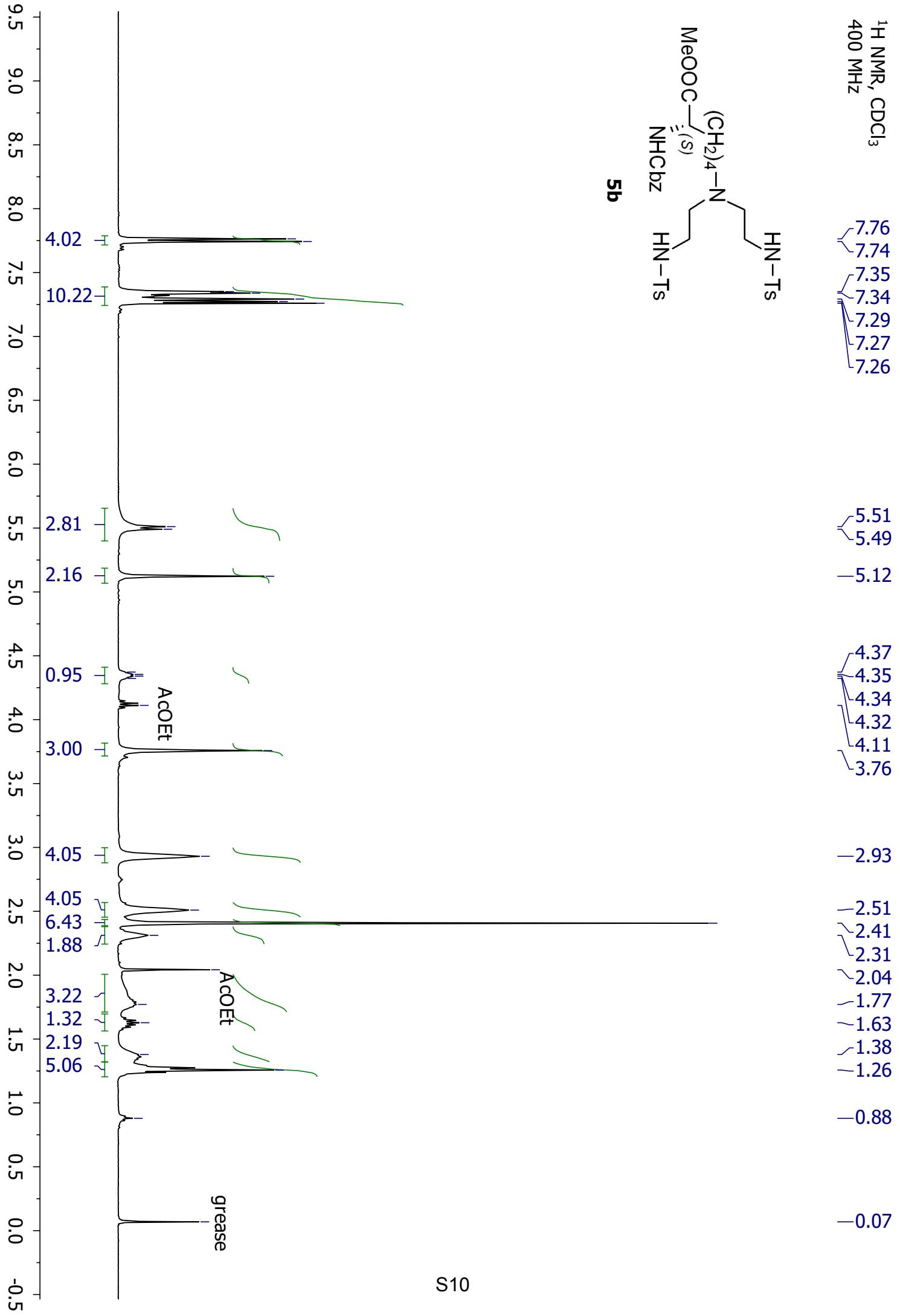
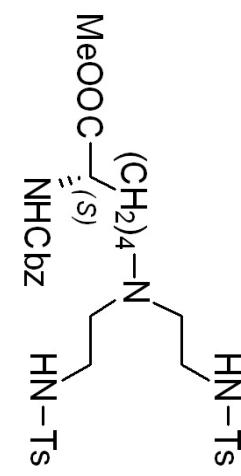
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
300 MHz



<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
75 MHz



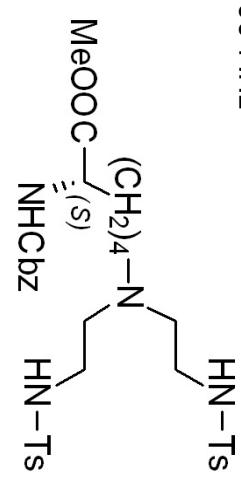
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
400 MHz



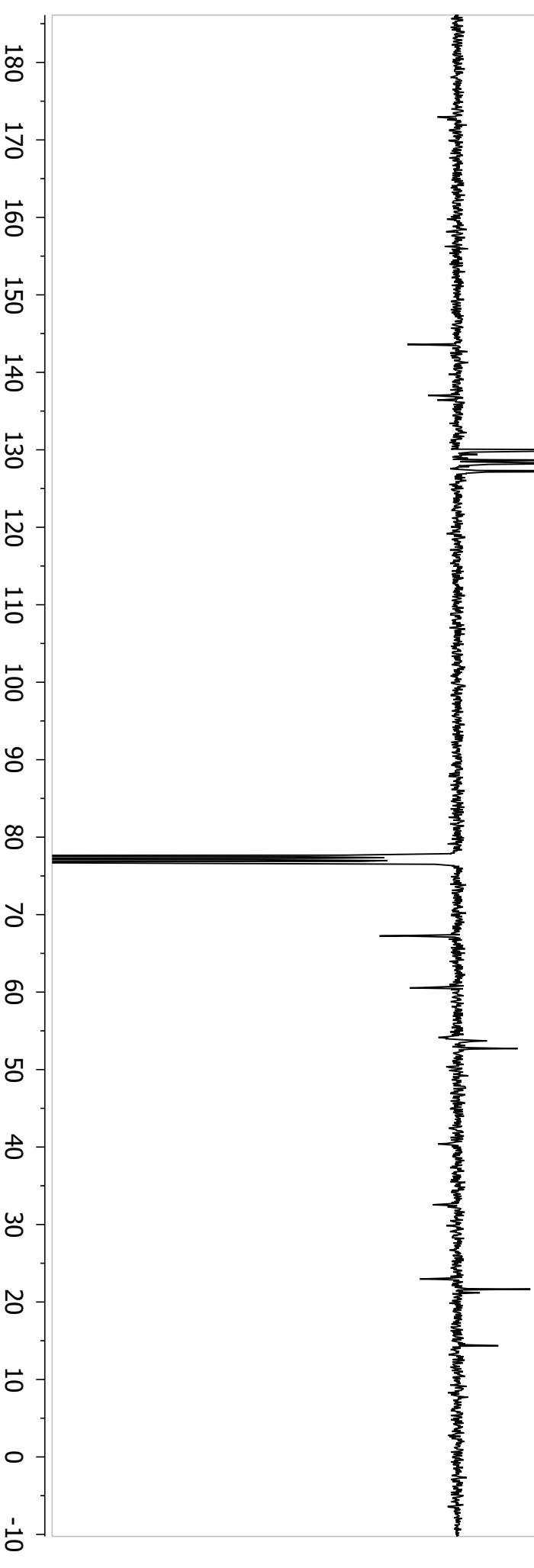
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
100 MHz

173.0  
158.5  
143.6  
137.0  
136.4  
129.9  
128.7  
128.3  
128.2  
127.3

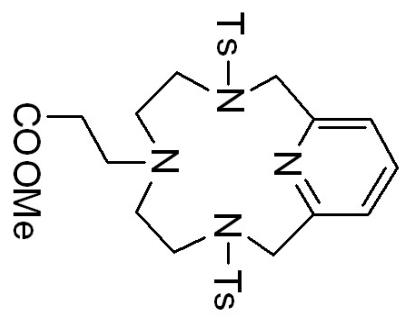
67.2  
60.5  
54.1  
53.7  
52.7  
40.3  
32.5  
23.0  
 $\sim$ 21.7



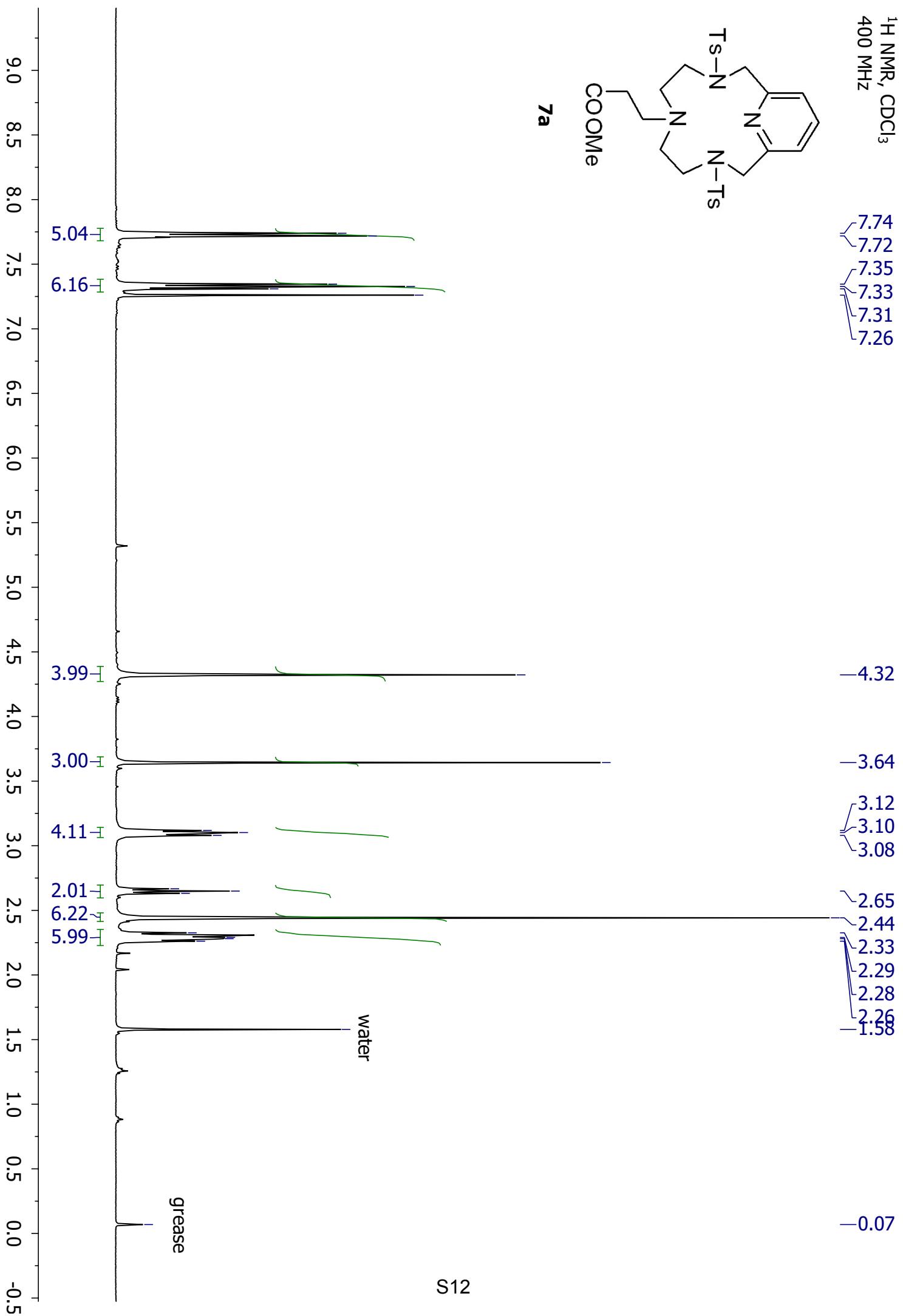
**5b**



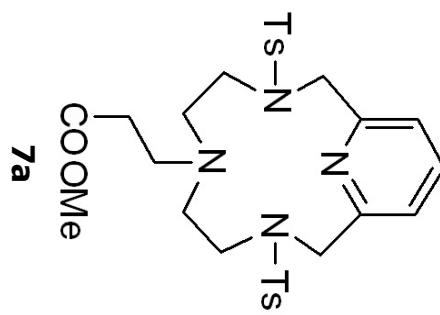
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
400 MHz



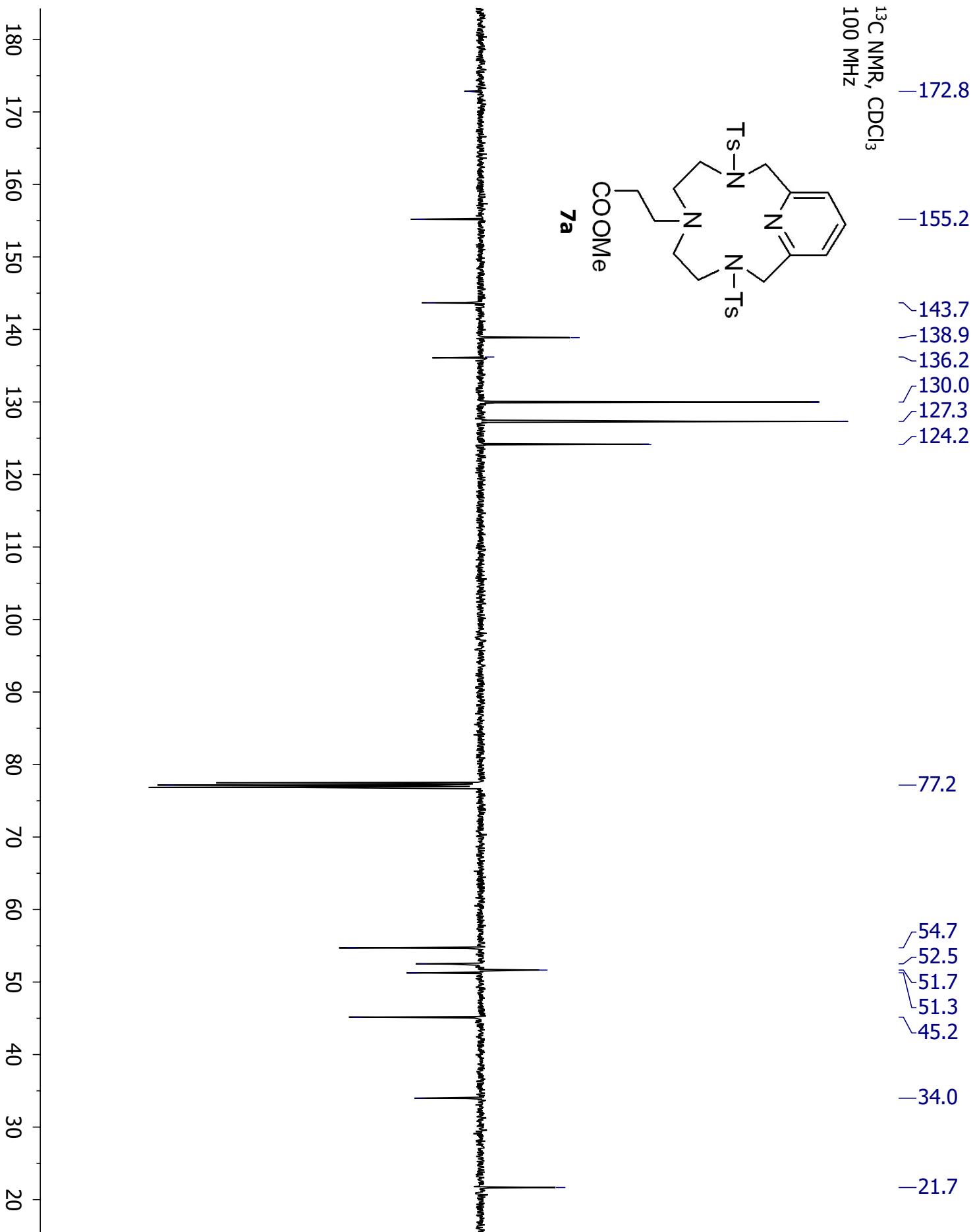
7a



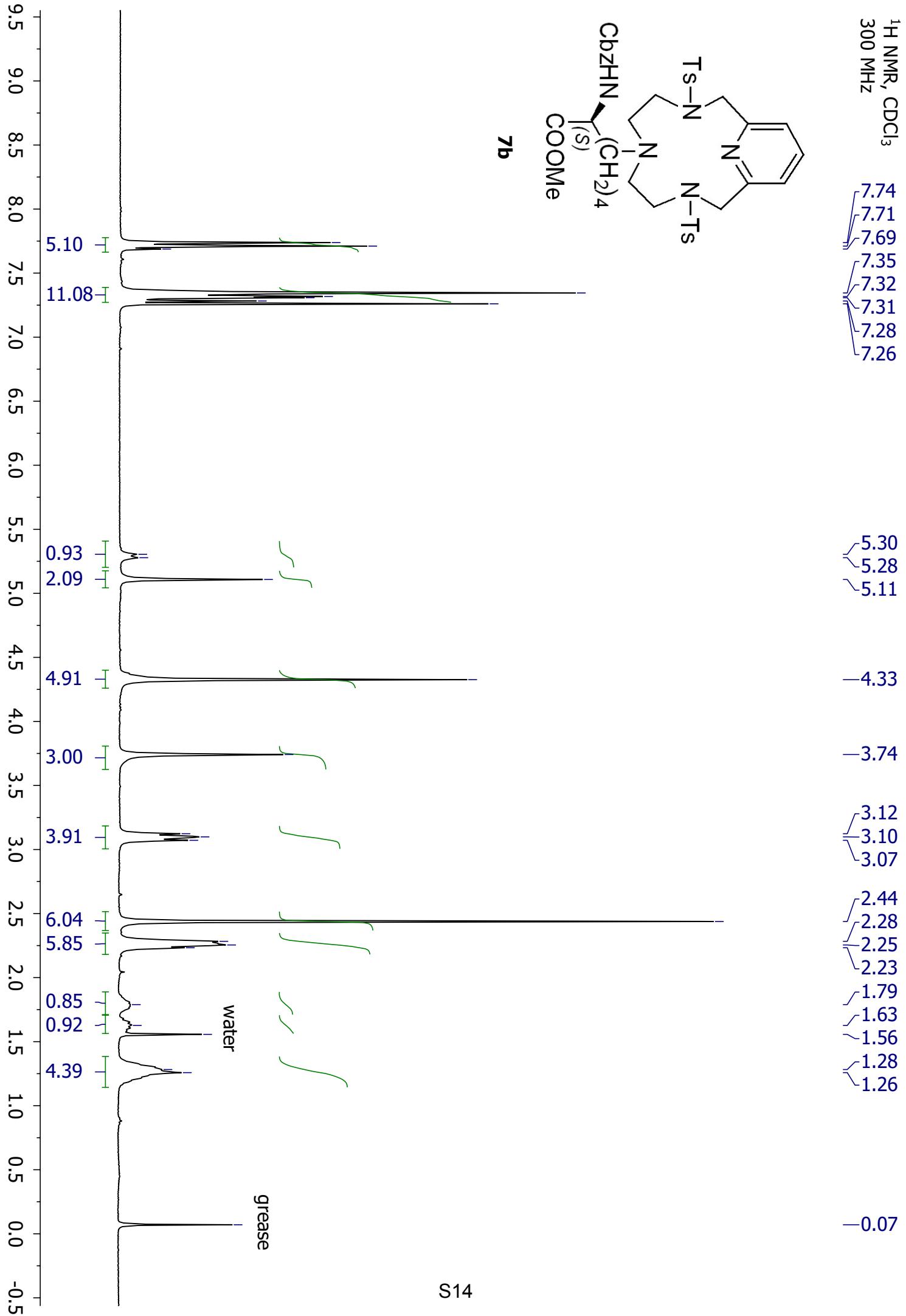
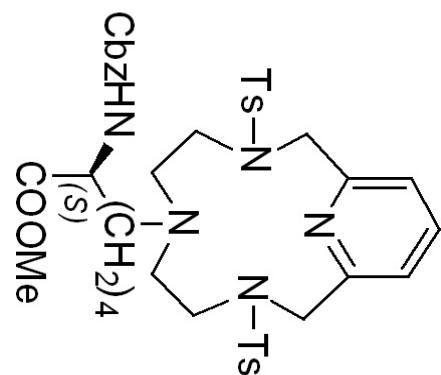
<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
100 MHz



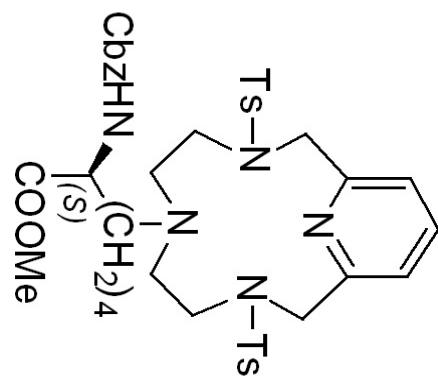
7a



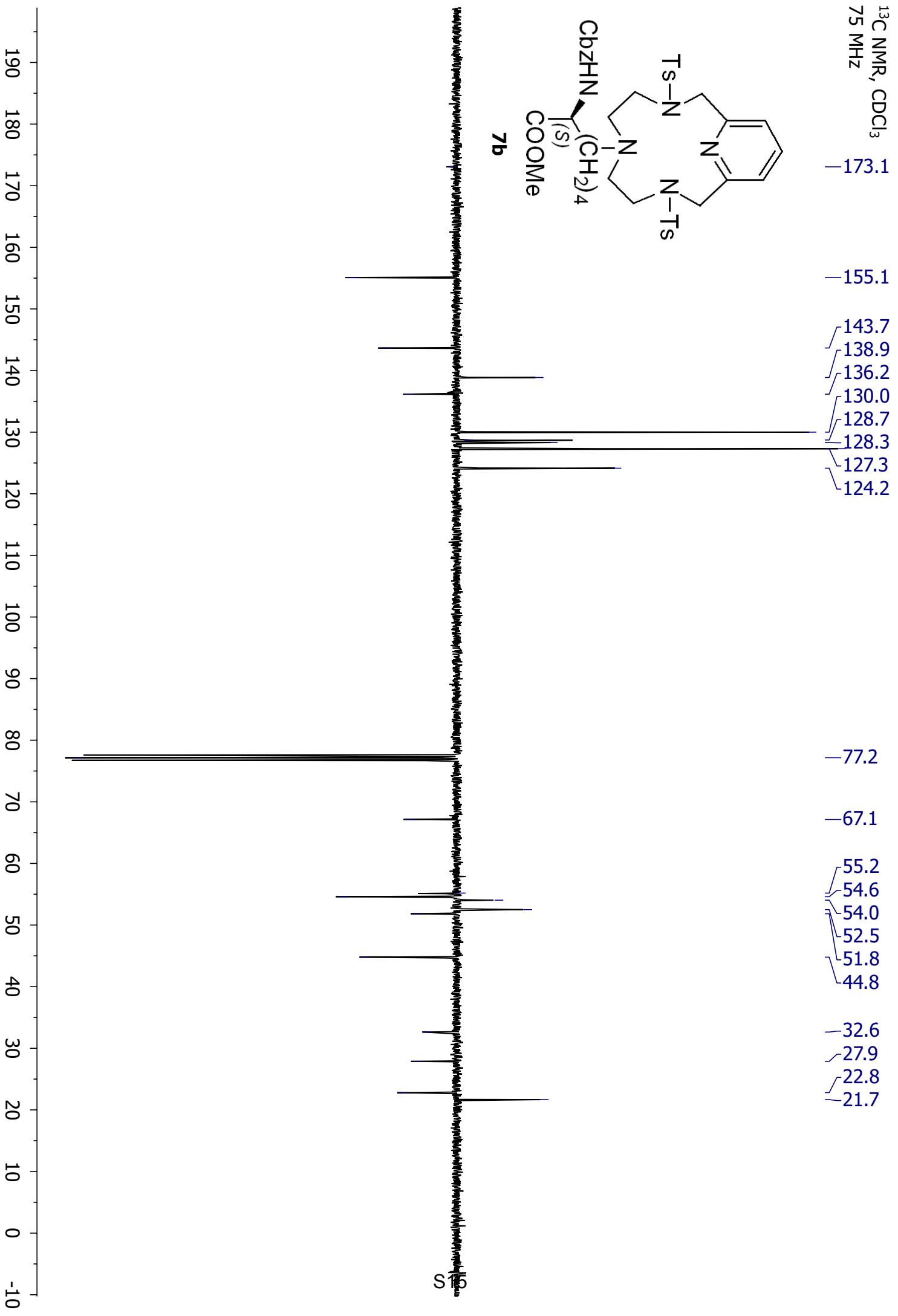
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
300 MHz



<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
75 MHz

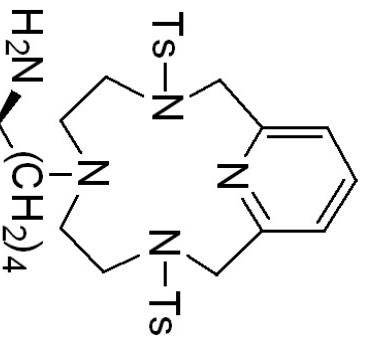


7b



$^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$   
300 MHz

7.85  
7.83  
7.78  
7.75  
7.72  
7.49  
7.47  
7.45  
7.28  
7.25



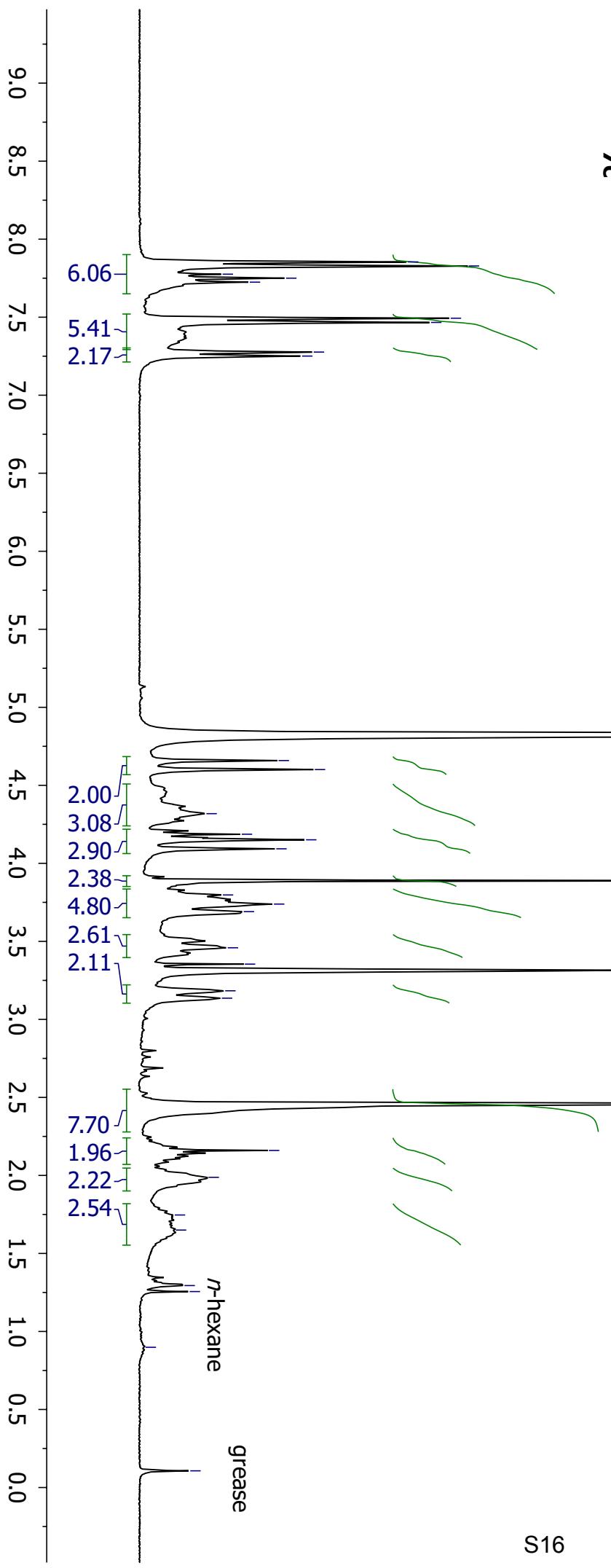
*7c*

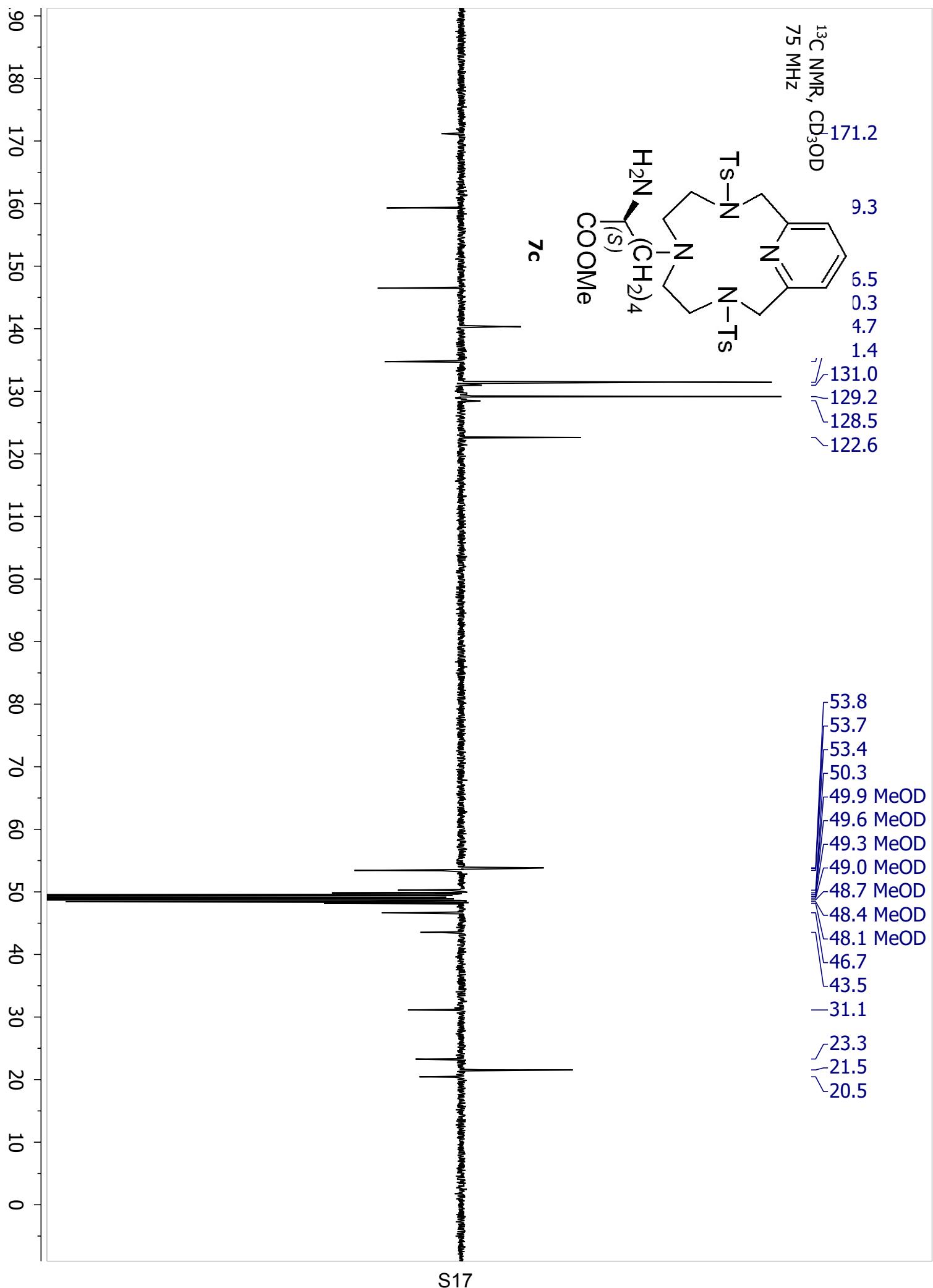
$\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$

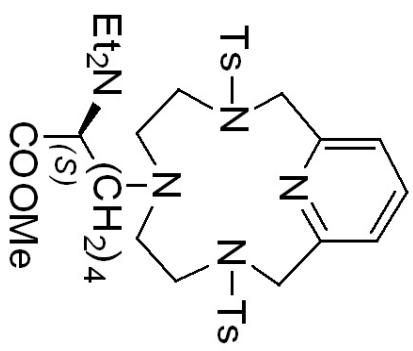
water

4.83  
4.66  
4.60  
4.32  
4.19  
4.15  
4.09  
3.89  
3.80  
3.74  
3.69  
3.61  
3.55  
3.35  
3.32  
3.18  
3.14

-0.11

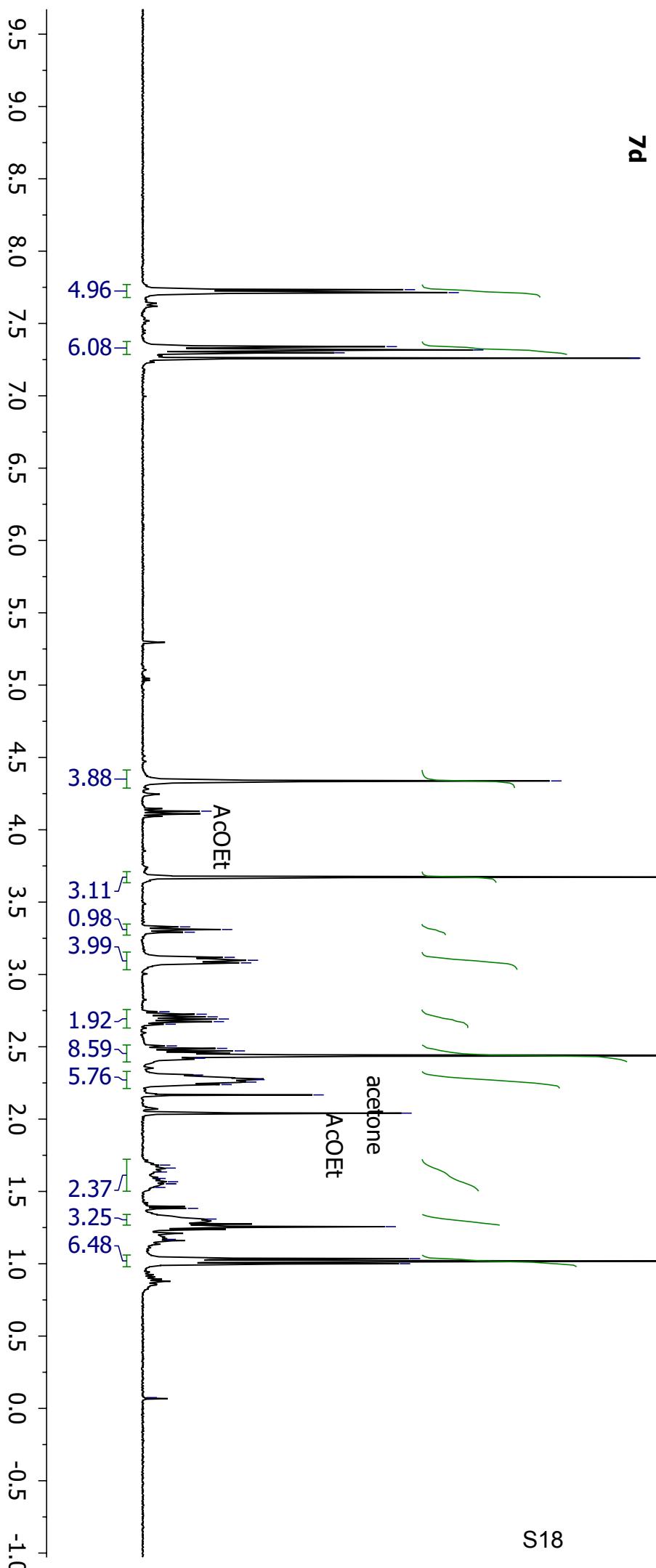






7.73  
7.71  
7.34  
7.32  
7.30  
7.26

4.34  
4.13  
3.67  
3.31  
3.12  
3.10  
3.08  
2.69  
2.67  
2.49  
2.47  
2.44  
2.44  
2.27  
2.26  
2.24  
2.17  
2.04  
1.26  
1.04  
1.02  
1.00  
0.89



<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
75 MHz

— 174.2

— 155.1

~ 143.6

— 138.9

~ 136.2

— 130.0

— 127.3

— 124.2

— 110.7

— 77.2

— 63.2

— 55.5

— 54.8

— 51.7

— 51.1

— 44.7

— 44.6

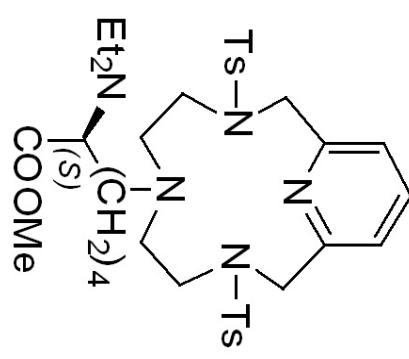
— 29.9

— 28.3

— 24.1

— 21.7

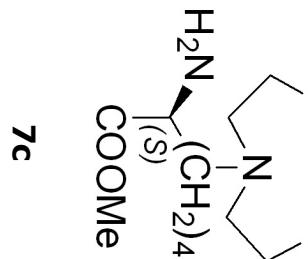
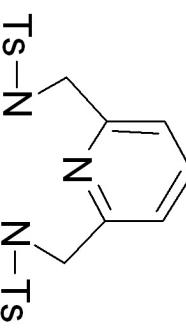
— 14.1



7d

190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10

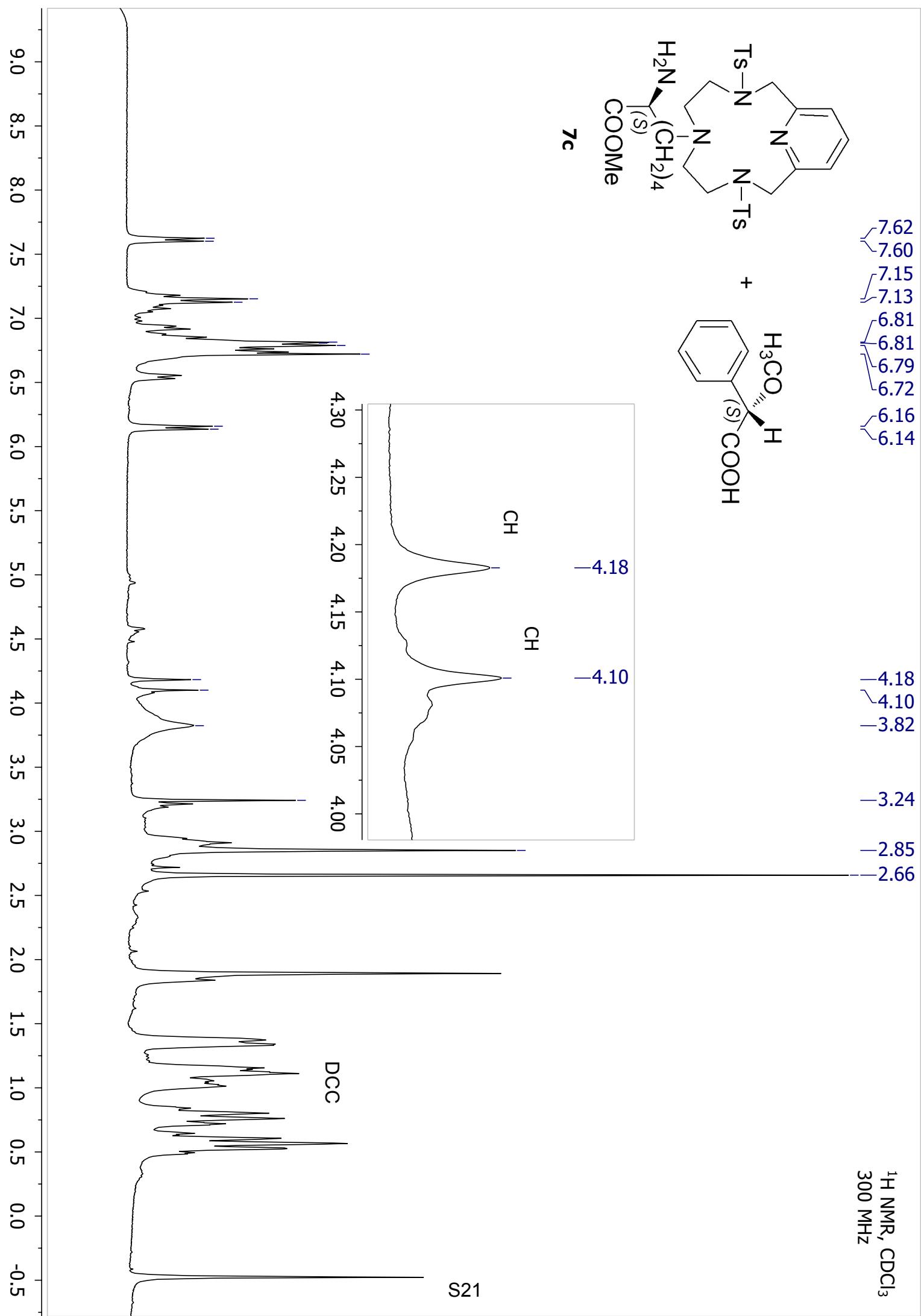
<sup>19</sup>F NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
282 MHz



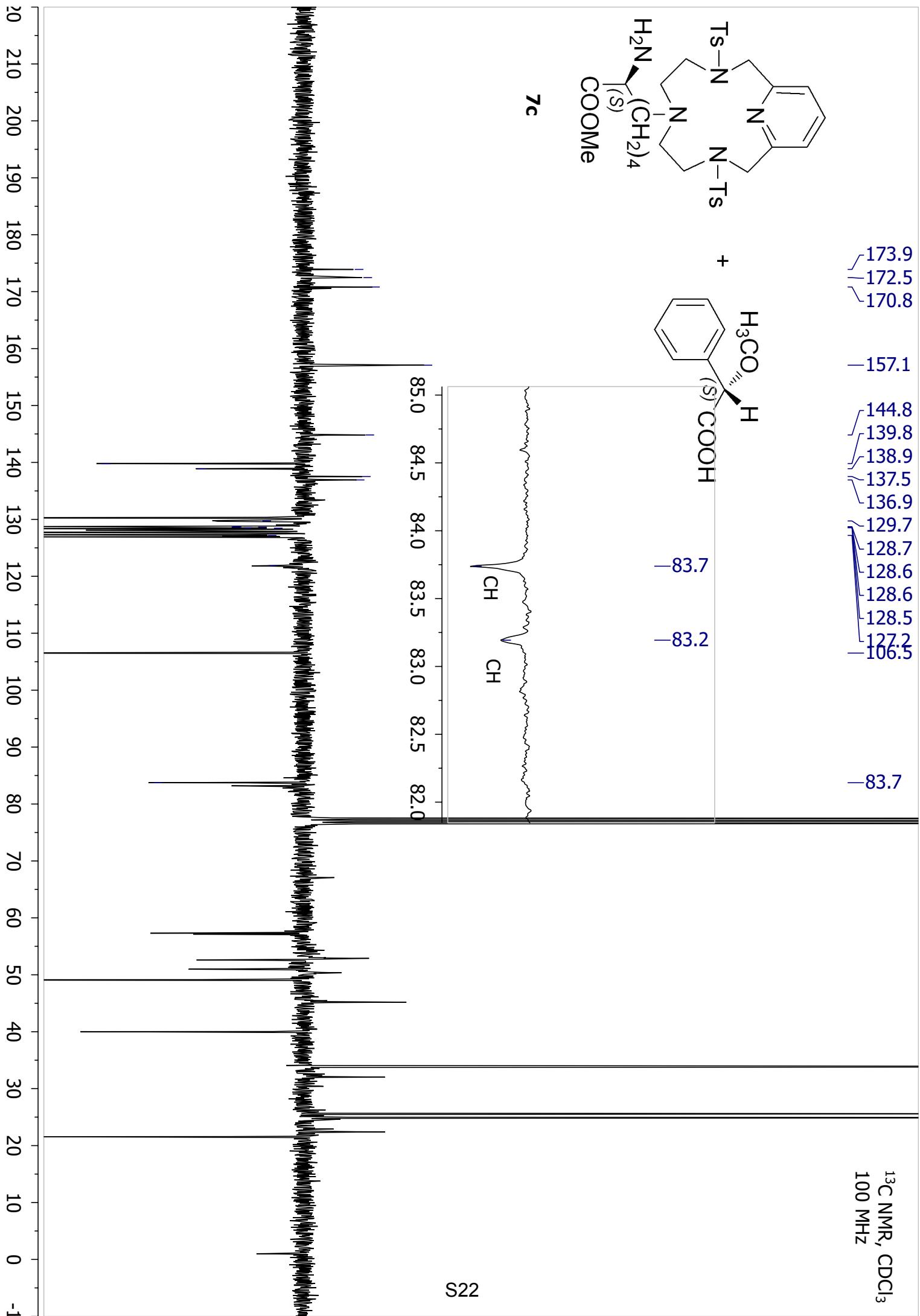
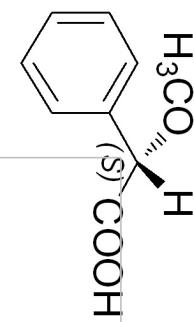
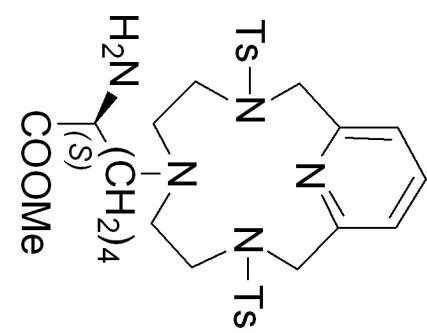
7c

-71.24

<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
300 MHz

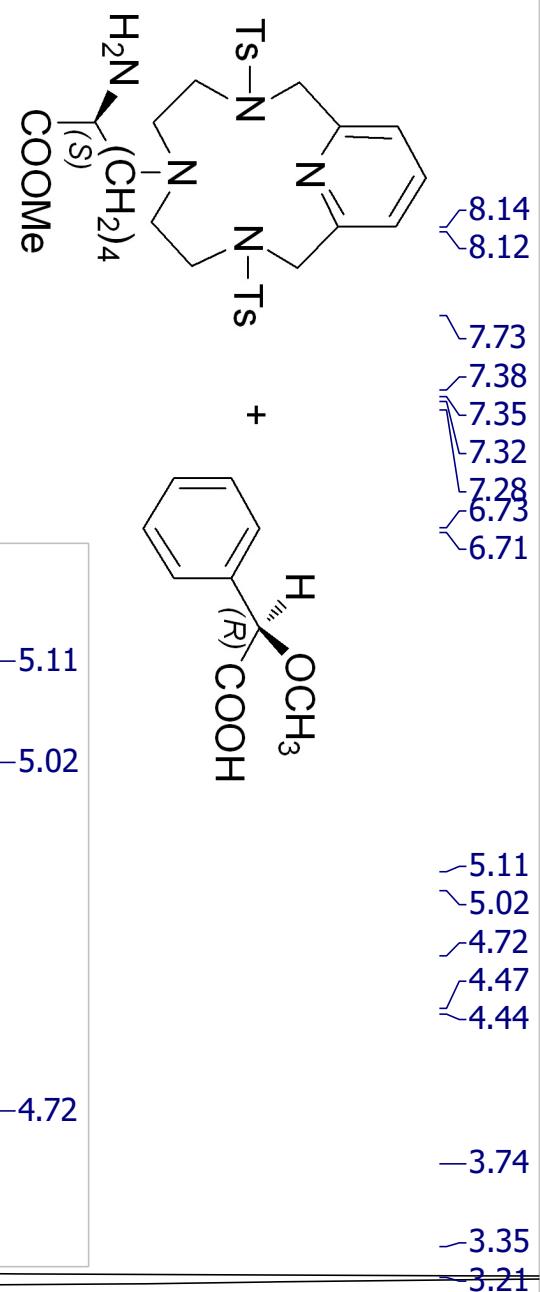


<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
100 MHz



<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
300 MHz

DCC



S23

<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
100 MHz

-172.3

-157.0

139.8

136.8

130.2

128.7

128.6

128.6

127.5

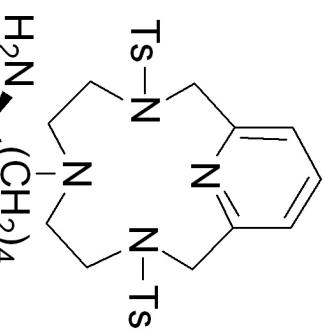
127.5

127.4

127.3

-106.6

-83.5



7c

S24

CH  
CH

86.5 85.5 84.5 83.5 82.5 81.5

20 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -1

<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
300 MHz

7.89  
7.86  
7.84  
7.77  
7.75  
7.47  
7.44  
7.33  
7.30  
7.26

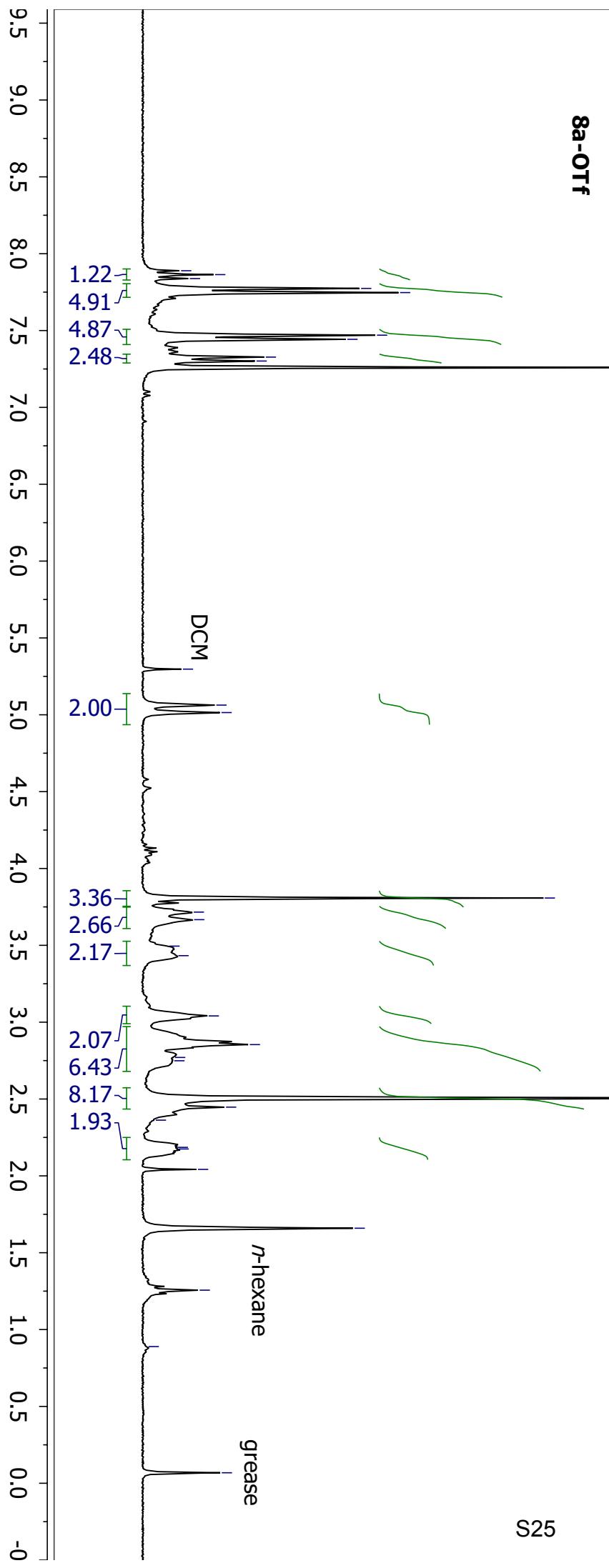
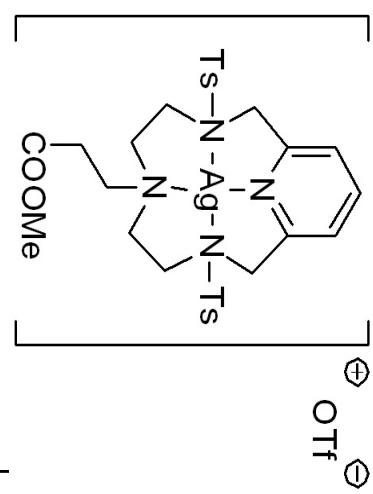
5.30  
5.06  
5.01

3.81  
3.72  
3.67  
3.49  
3.43

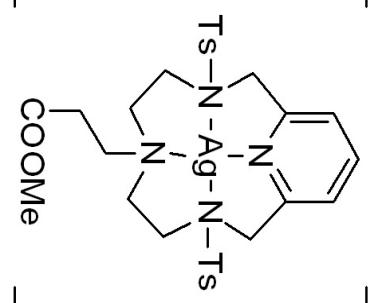
3.04  
2.85  
2.77  
2.51  
2.45  
2.19  
2.18  
2.04  
1.66

-1.26  
-0.89

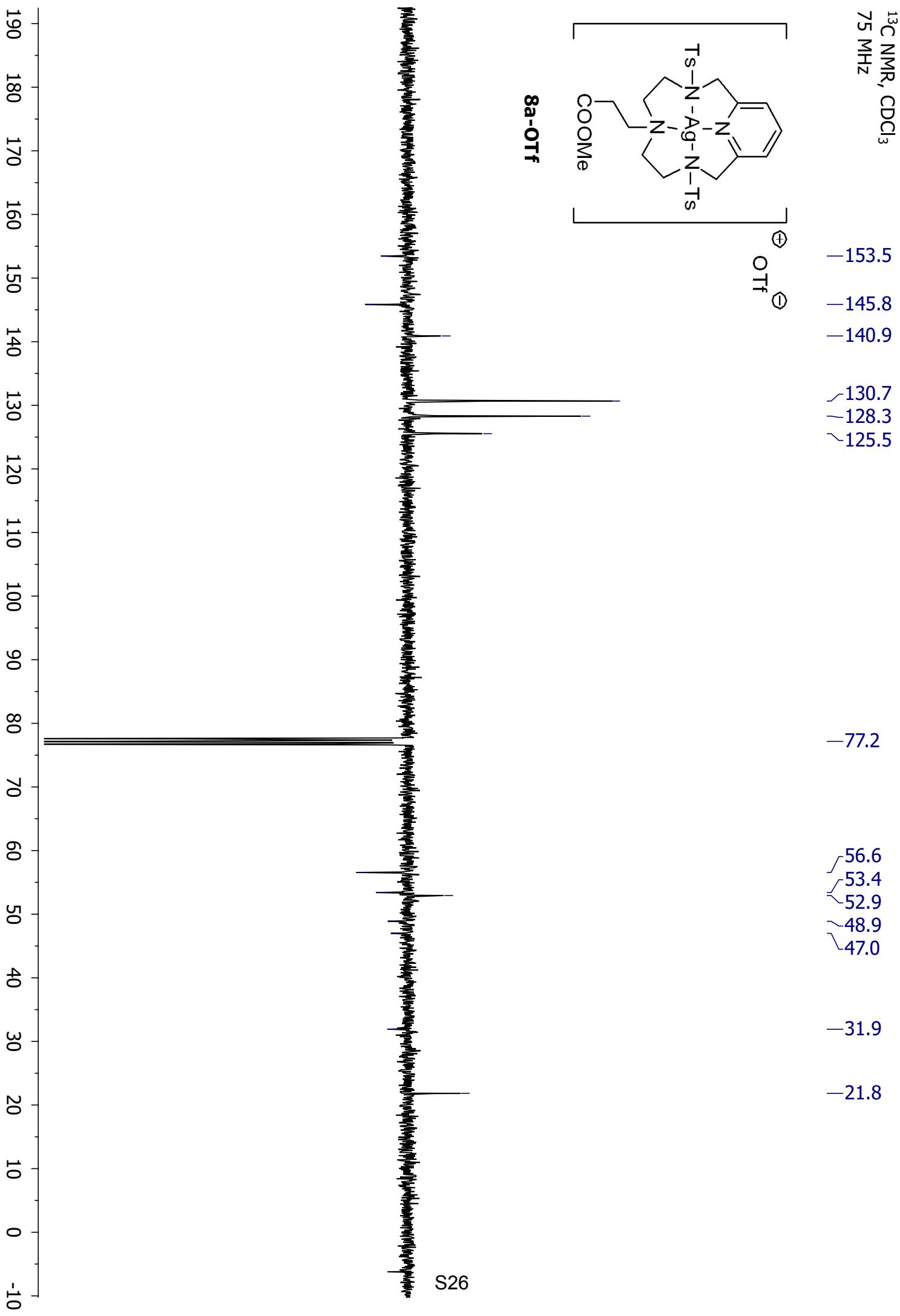
-0.07

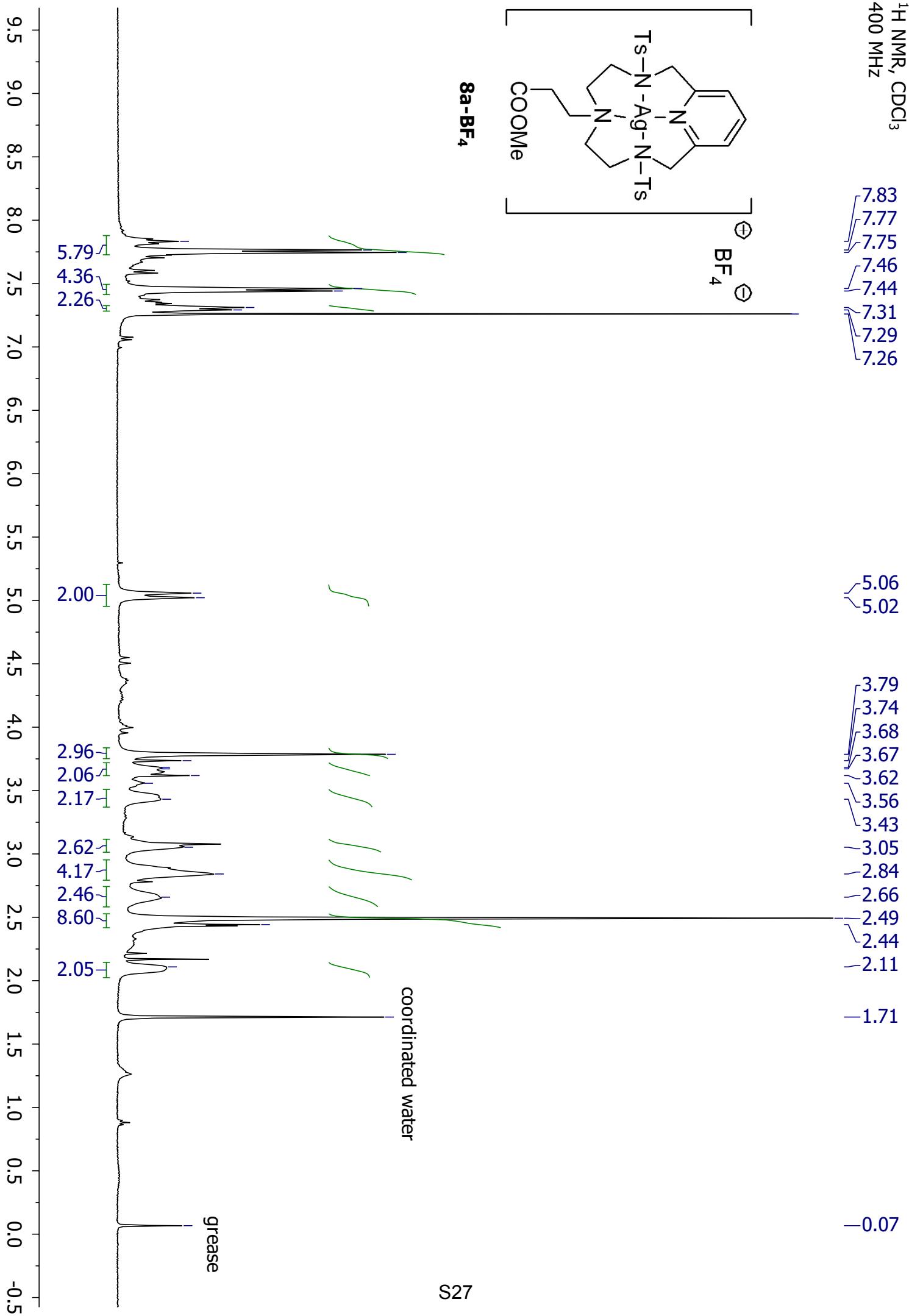
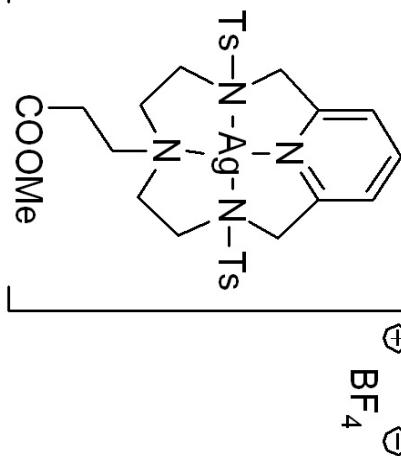


<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
75 MHz

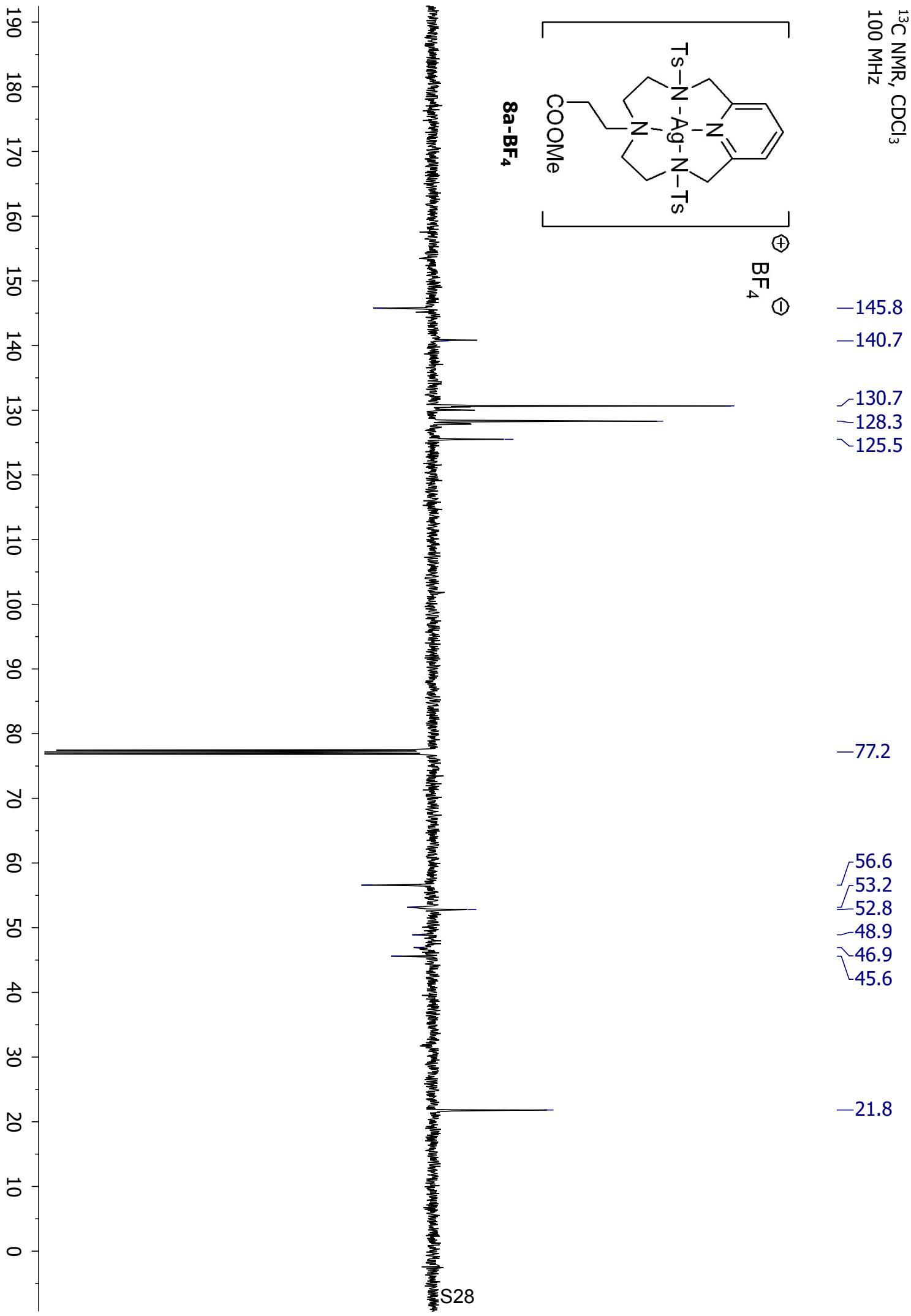
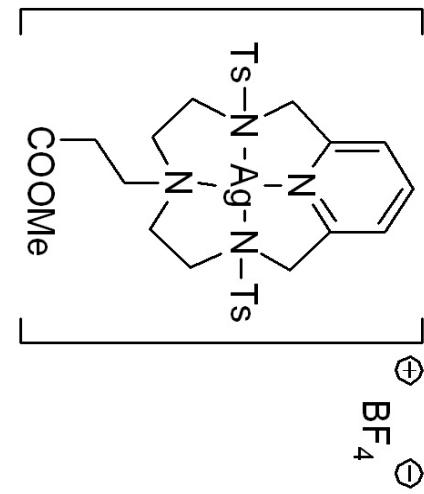


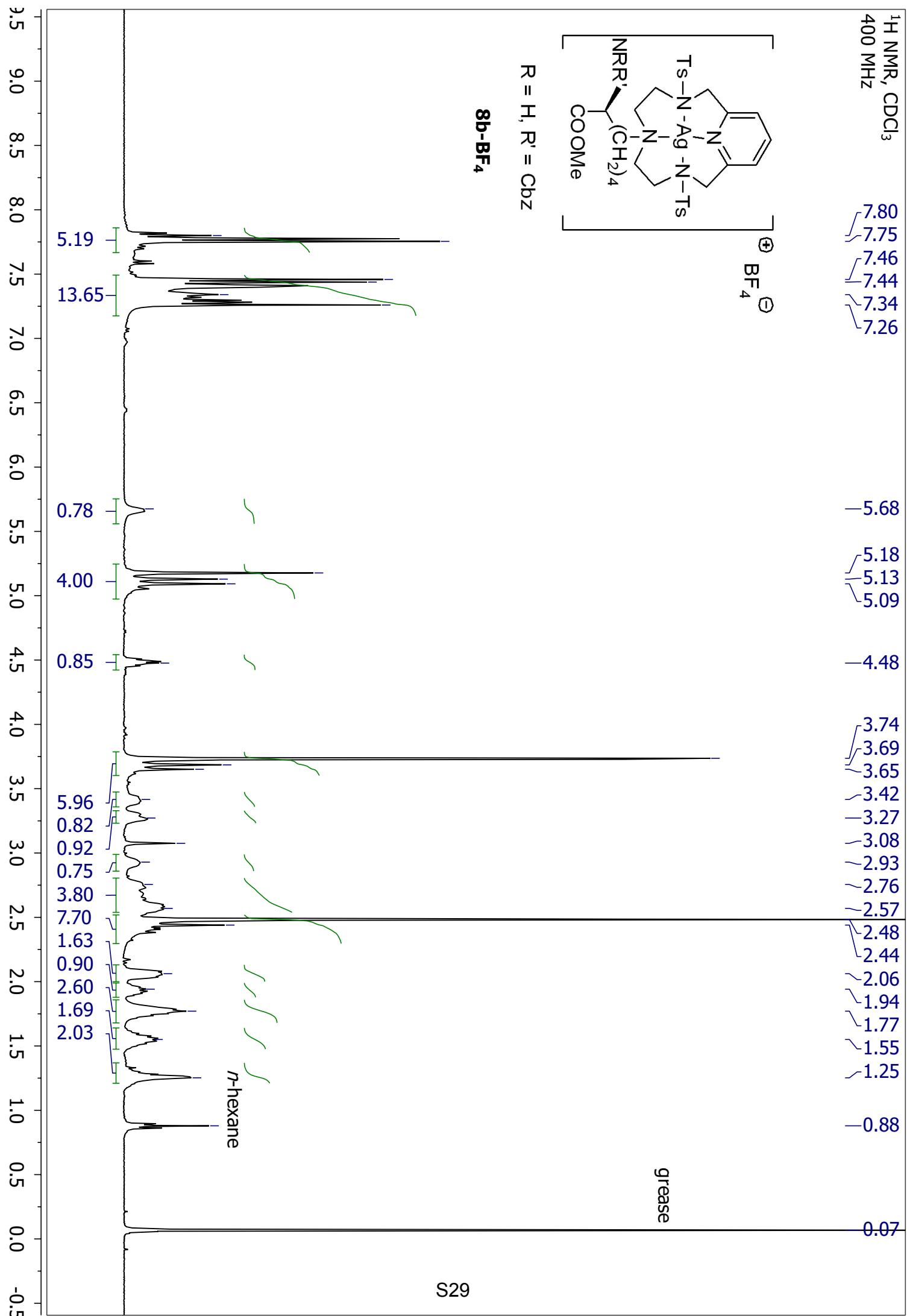
8a-OTf



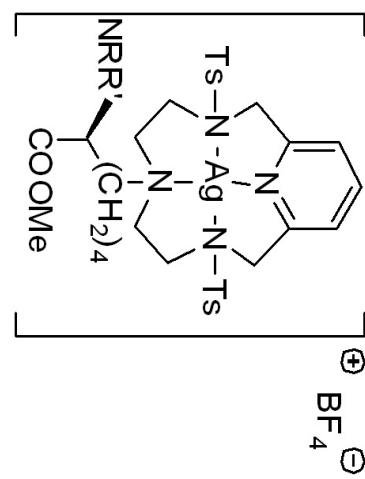


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
100 MHz





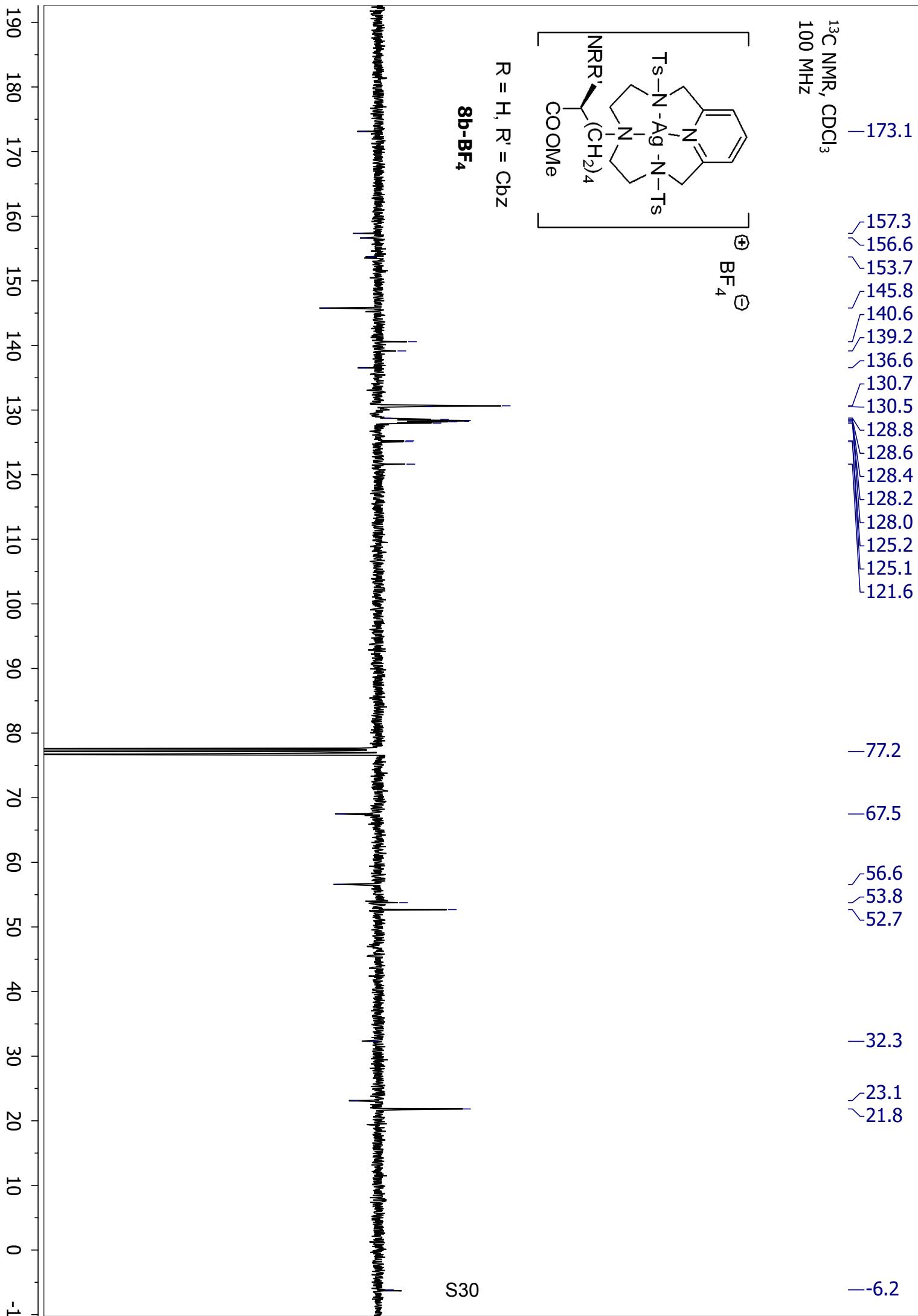
<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
100 MHz

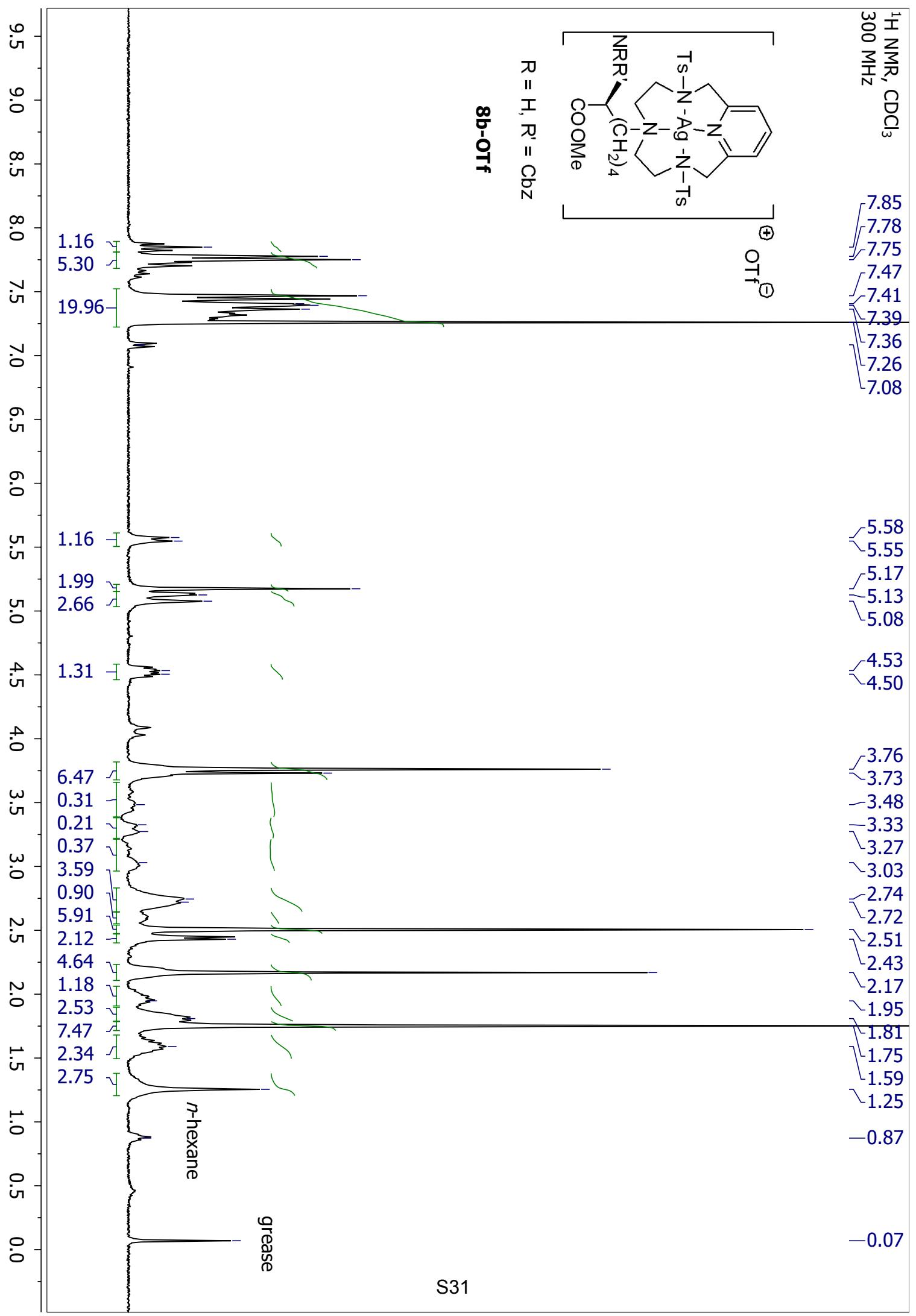


R = H, R' = Cbz

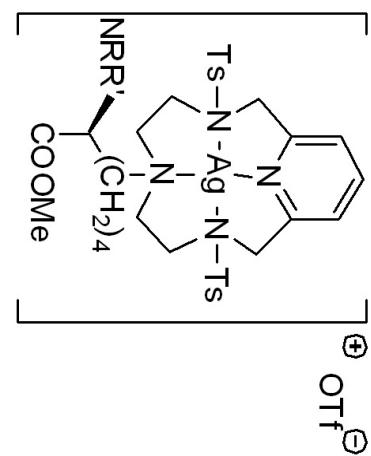
**8b-BF<sub>4</sub>**

S30





$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
75 MHz



-145.8

~130.6  
~128.3

-77.2

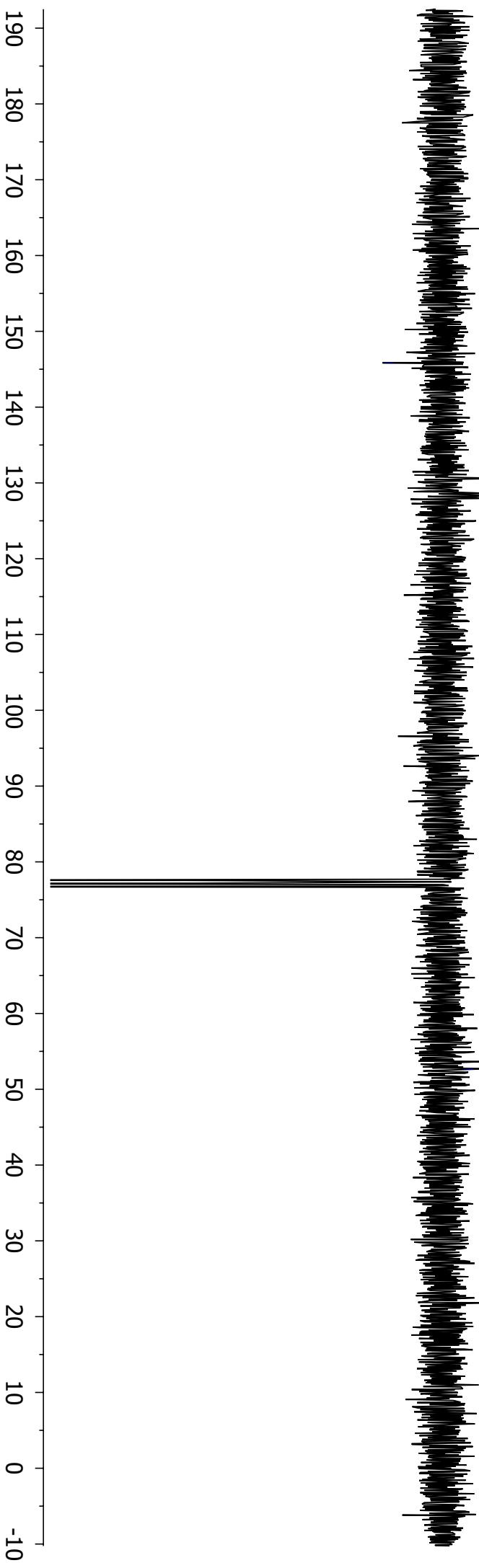
~53.7  
~52.7

-21.8

$\text{R} = \text{H}, \text{R}' = \text{Cbz}$

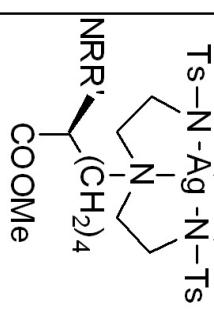
**8b-OTf**

S32



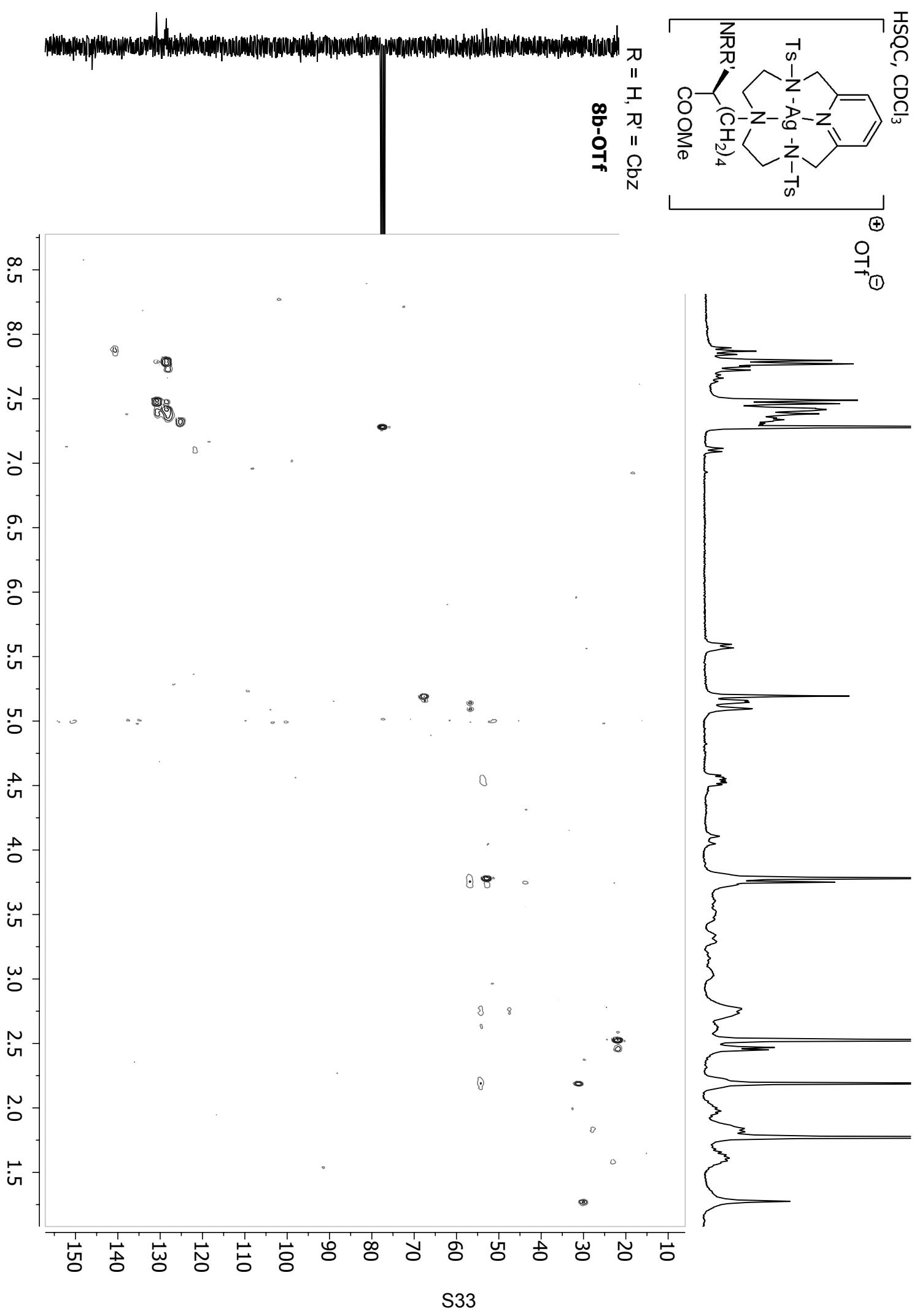
HSQC,  $\text{CDCl}_3$

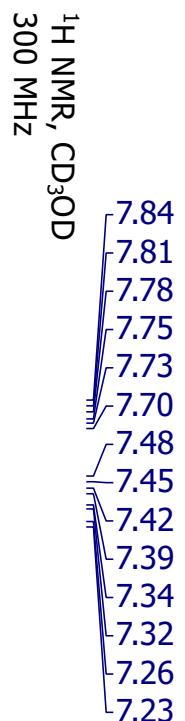
$\text{OTf}^\ominus$



$\text{R} = \text{H}, \text{R}' = \text{Cbz}$

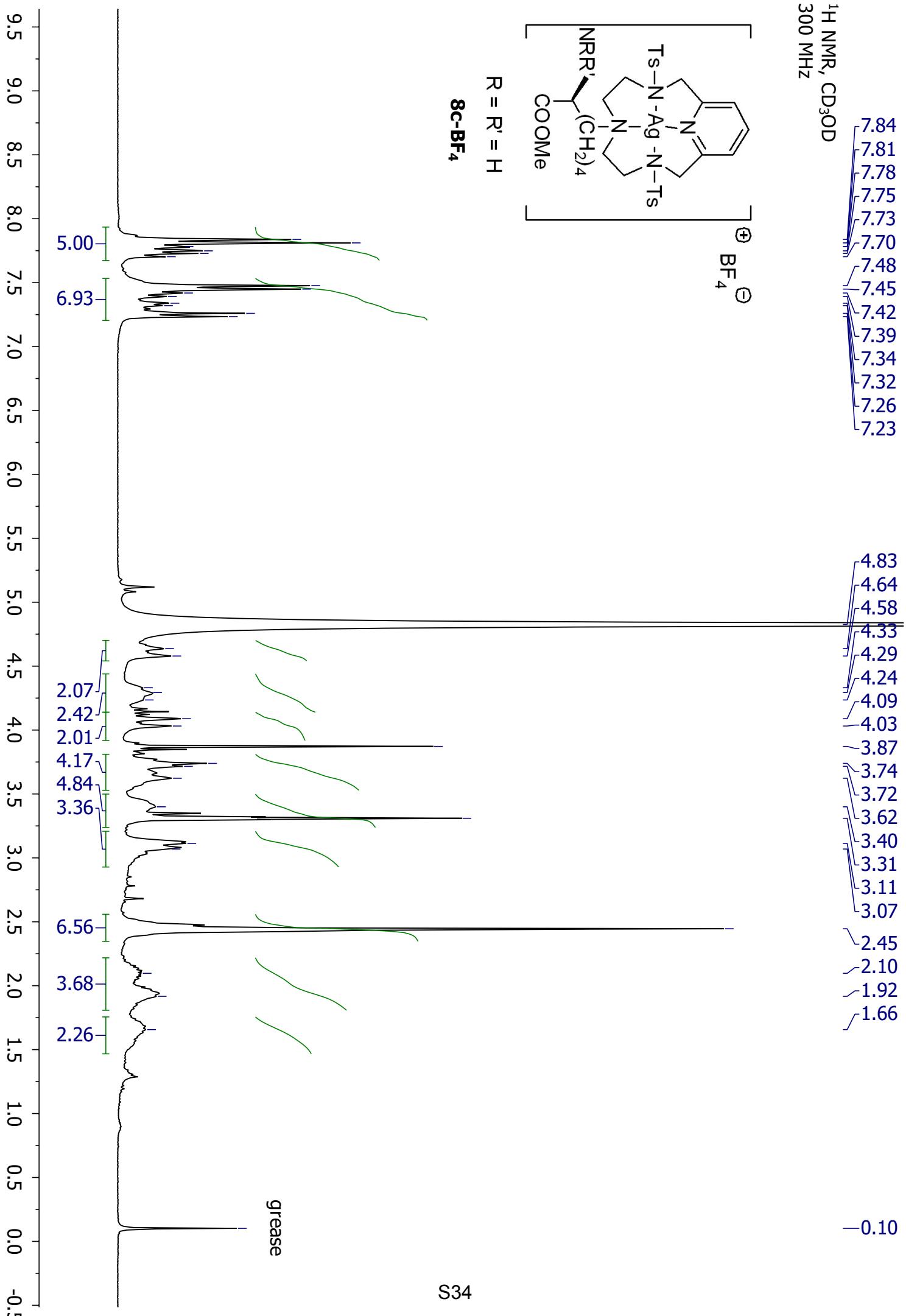
**8b-OTf**



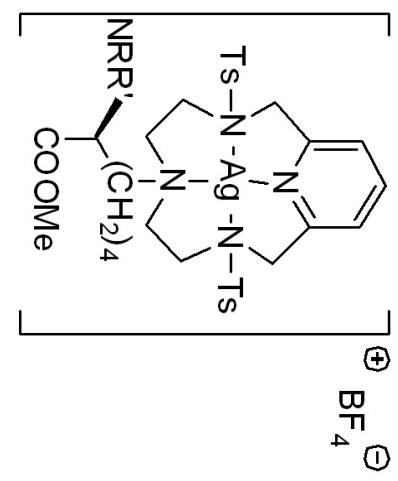


R = R' = H

**8c-BF<sub>4</sub>**



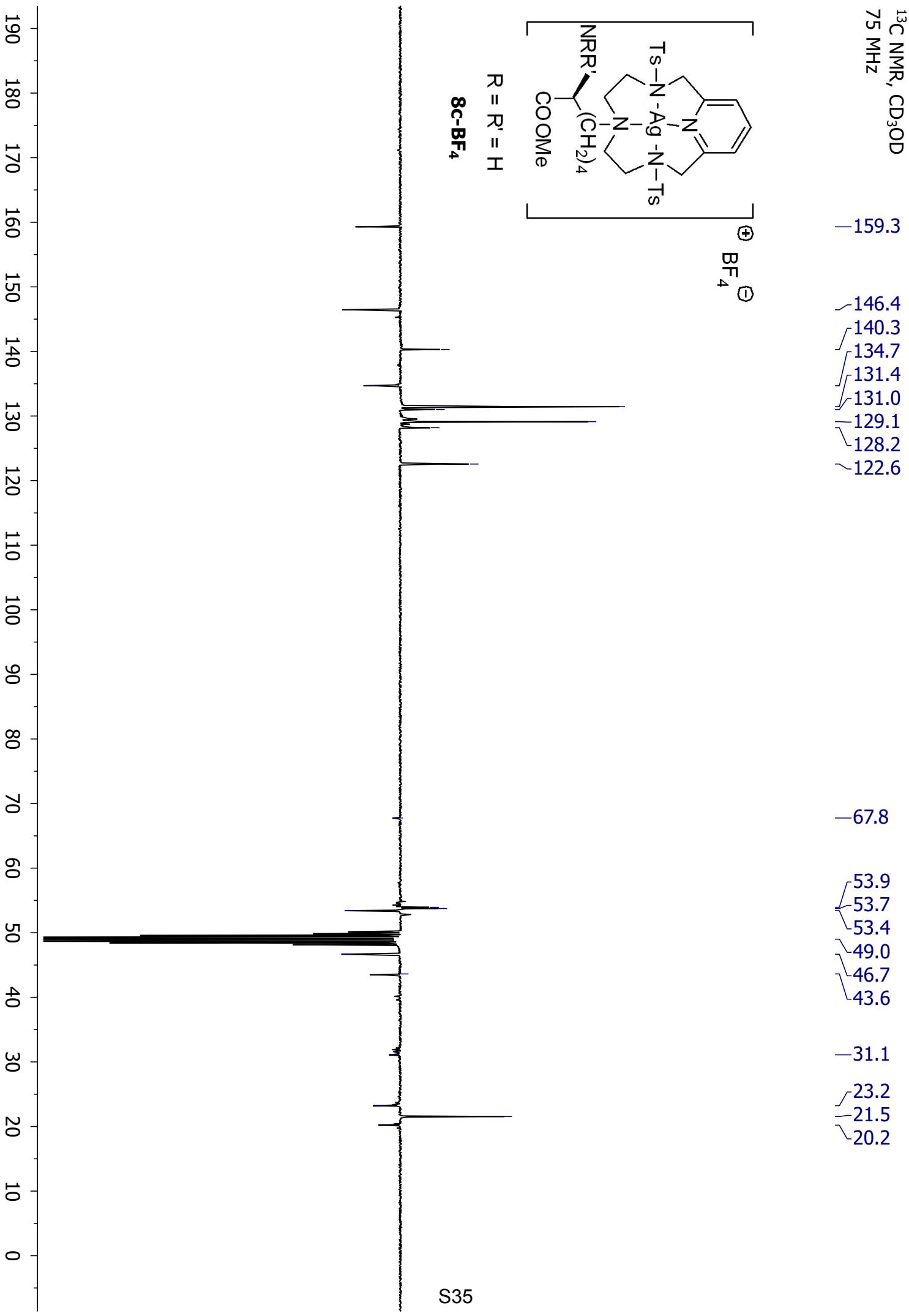
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$   
75 MHz



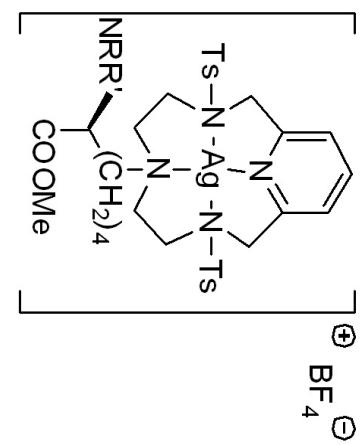
$\text{R} = \text{R}' = \text{H}$

**8c-BF<sub>4</sub>**

S35



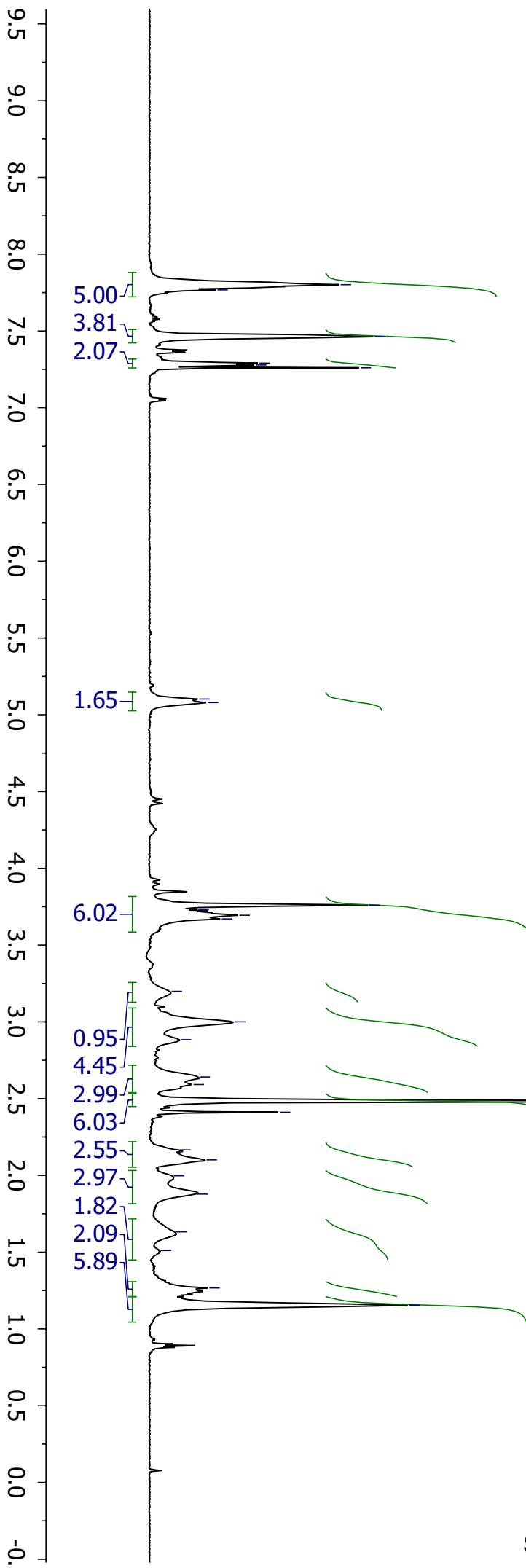
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
600 MHz



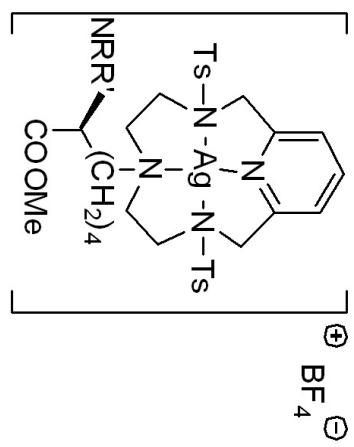
7.80  
7.77  
7.46  
7.29  
7.28  
7.26

5.10  
5.08

3.76  
3.73  
3.69  
3.67  
3.20  
3.00  
2.88  
2.64  
2.59  
2.48  
2.41  
2.17  
2.10  
2.00  
1.88  
1.63  
1.51  
1.27  
1.15

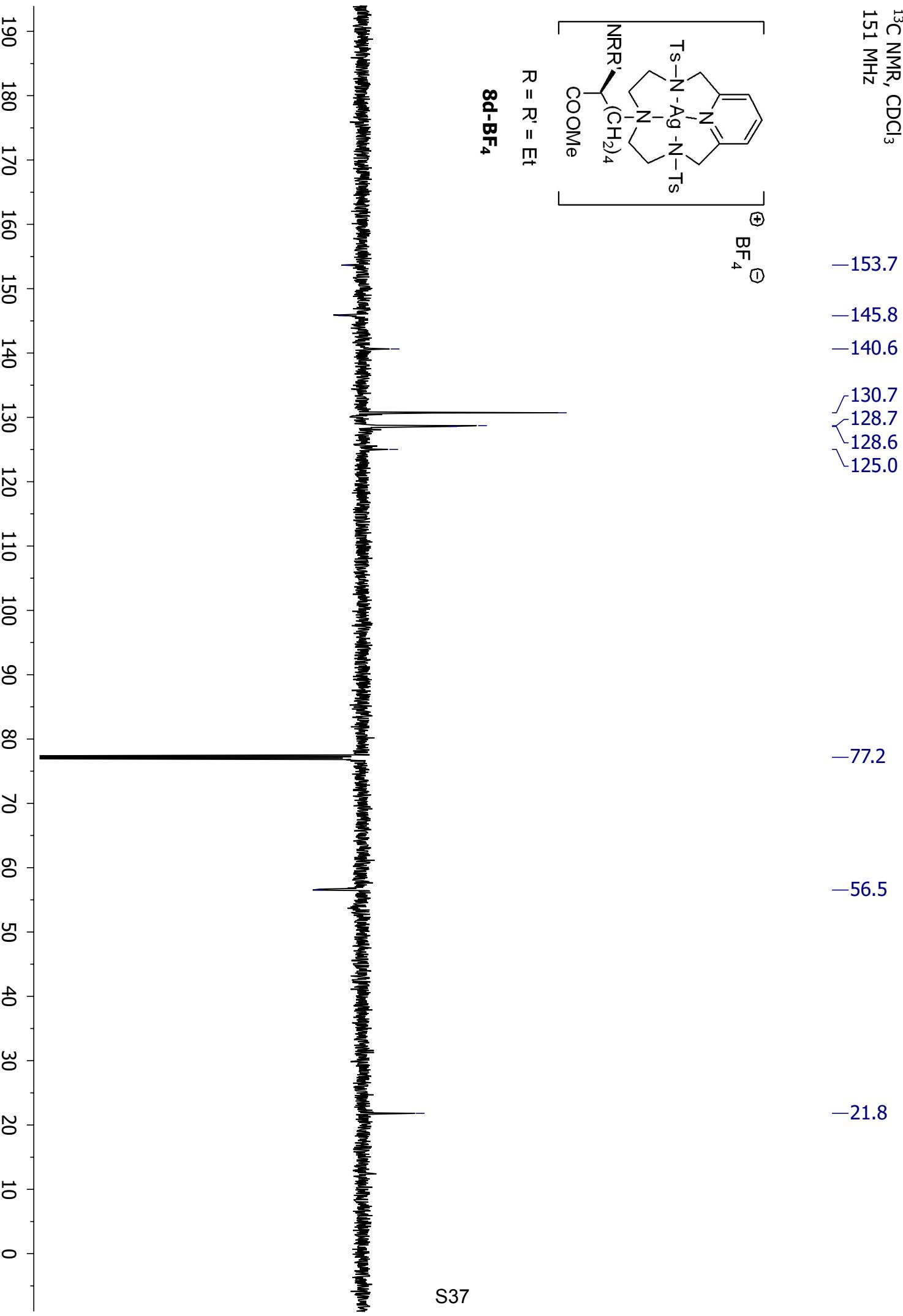


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
151 MHz

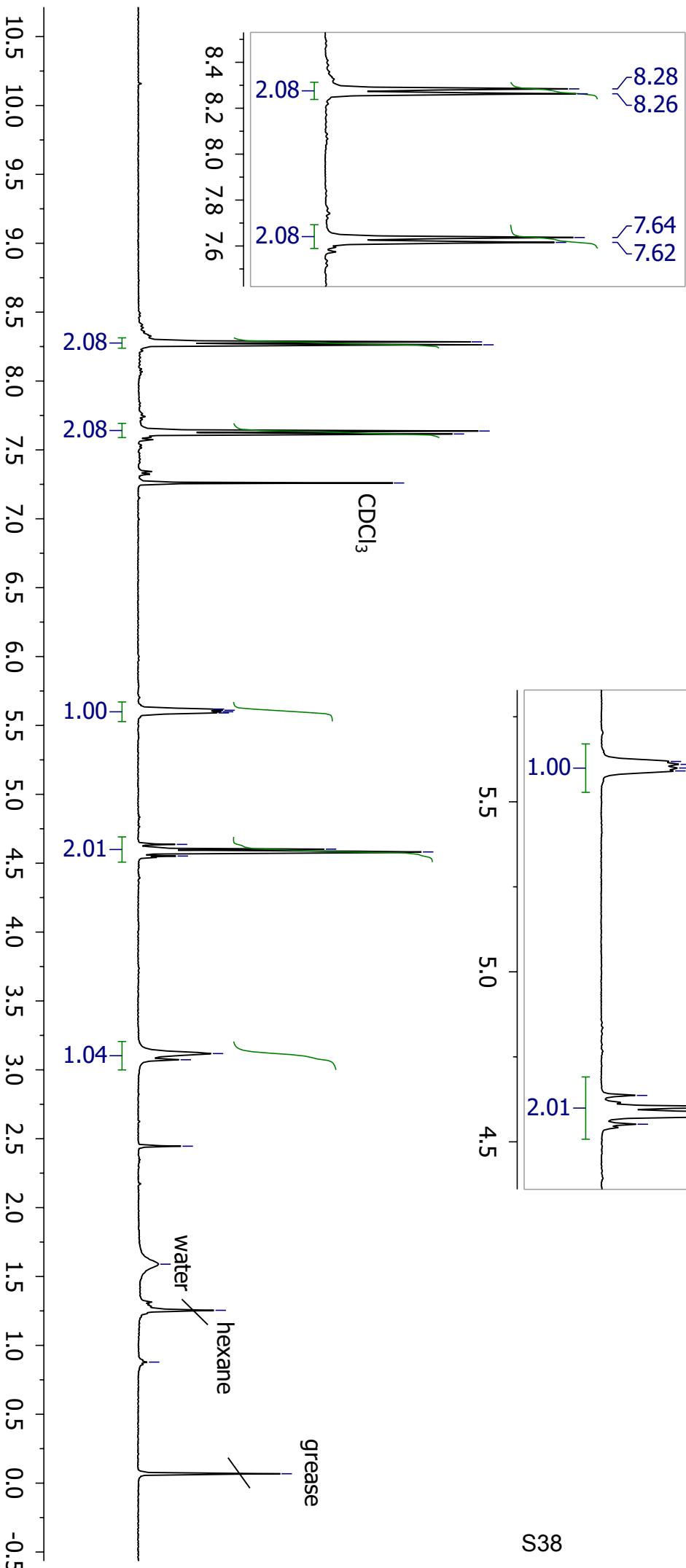
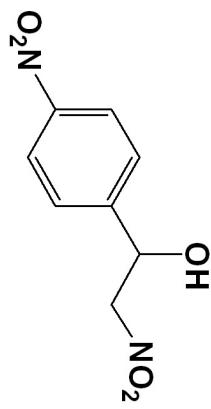


$\text{R} = \text{R}' = \text{Et}$

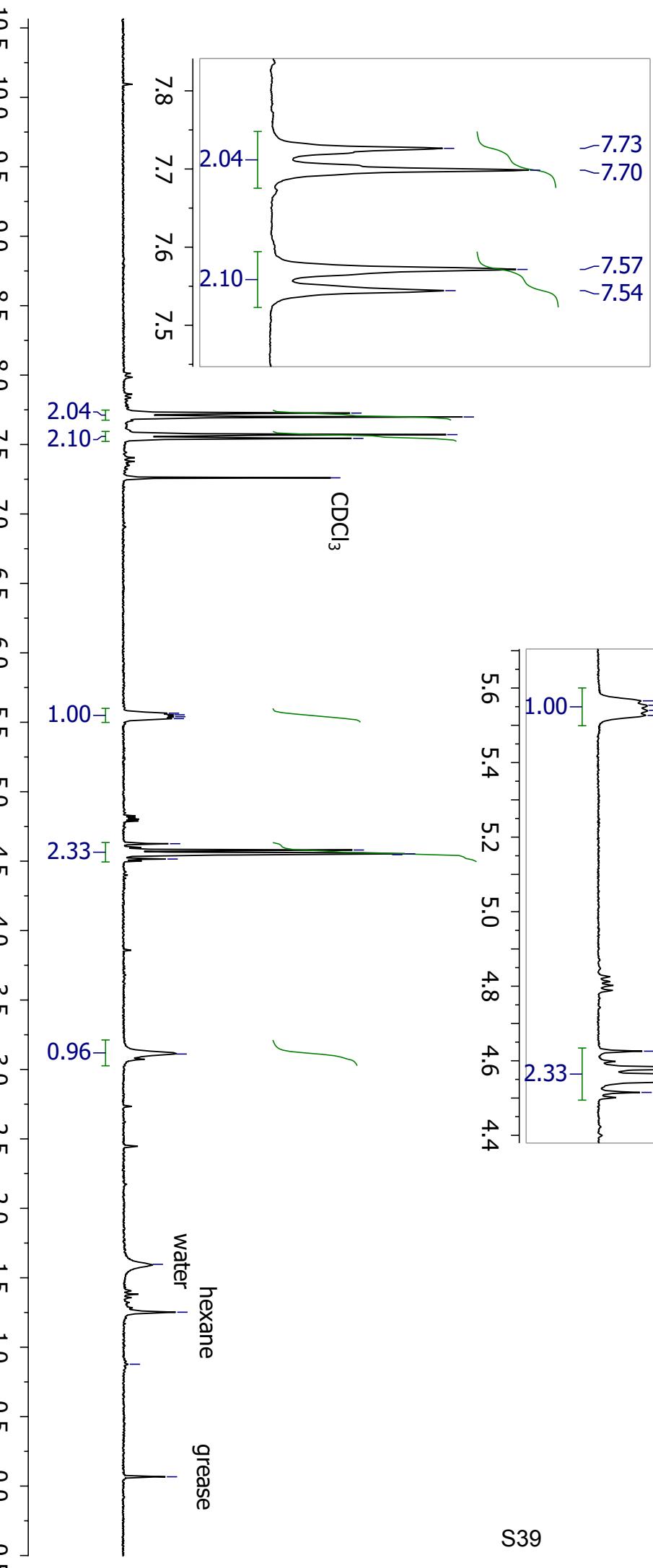
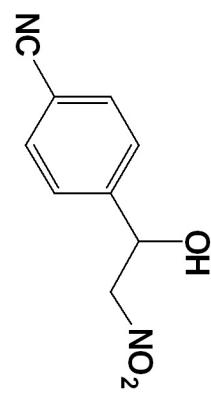
**8d-BF<sub>4</sub>**



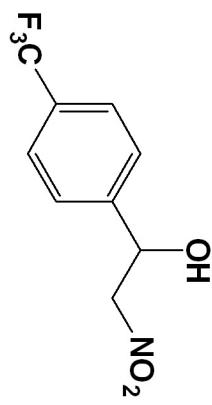
$^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
400 MHz



$^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
300 MHz

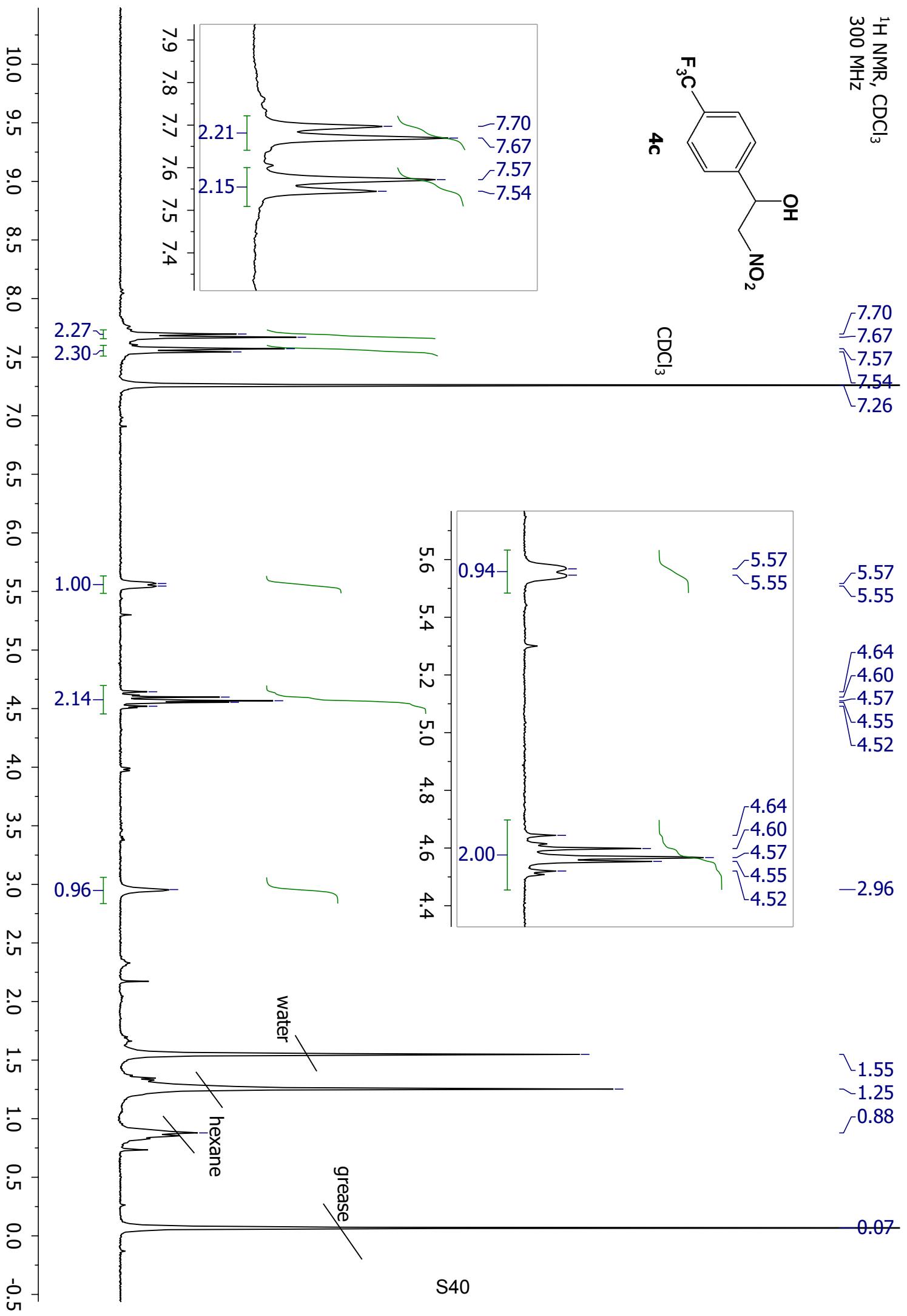


$^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
300 MHz

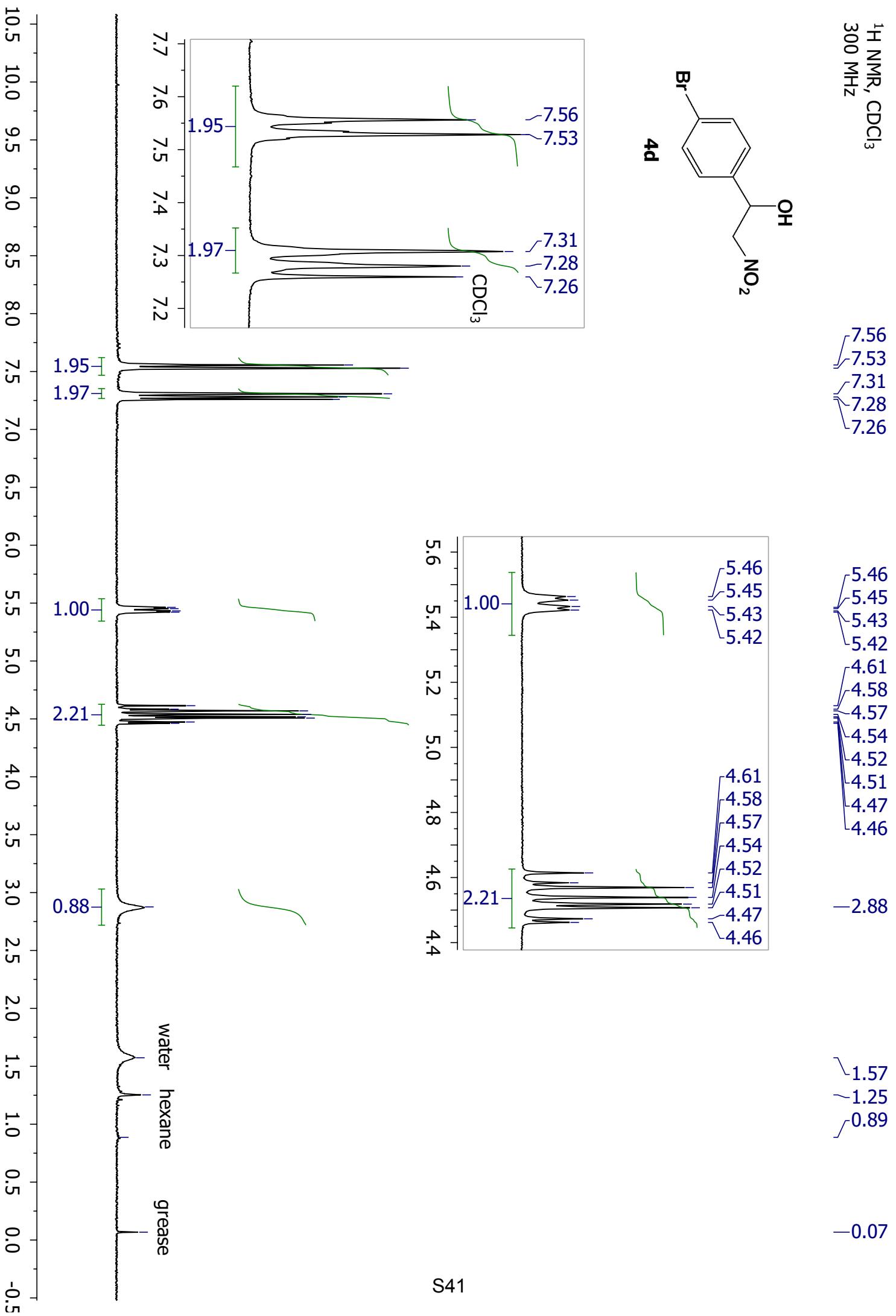
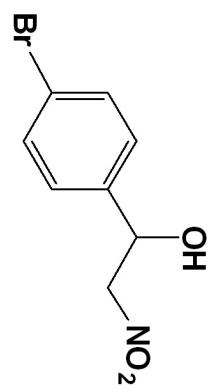


$\text{CDCl}_3$

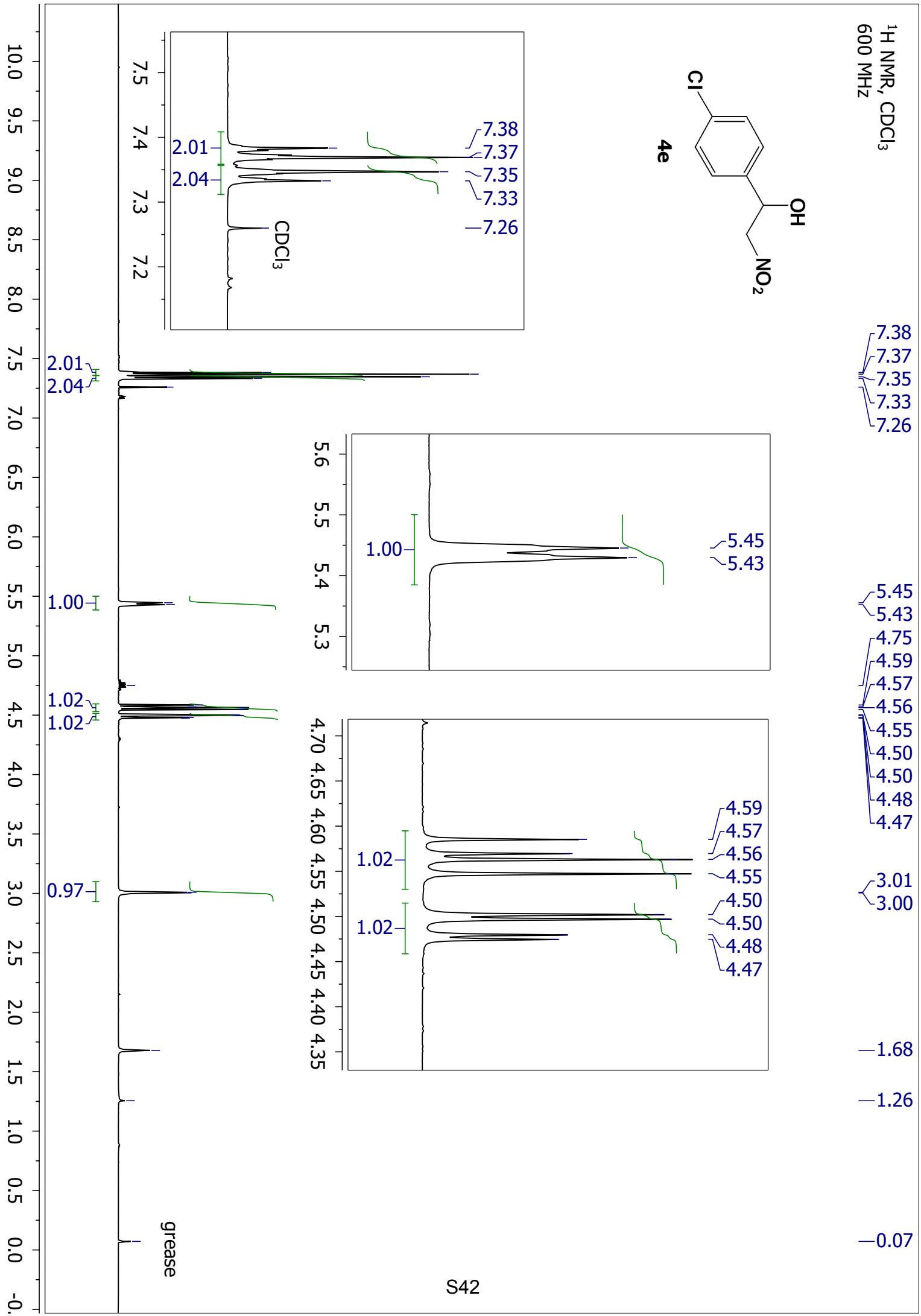
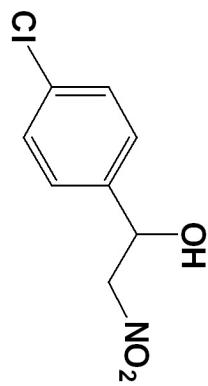
7.70  
7.67  
7.57  
7.54  
7.26



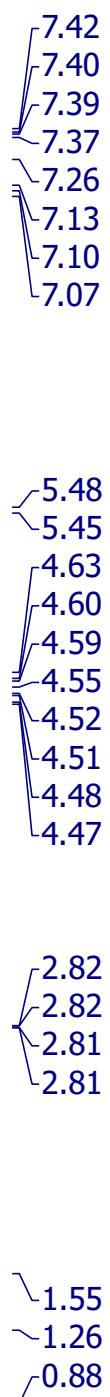
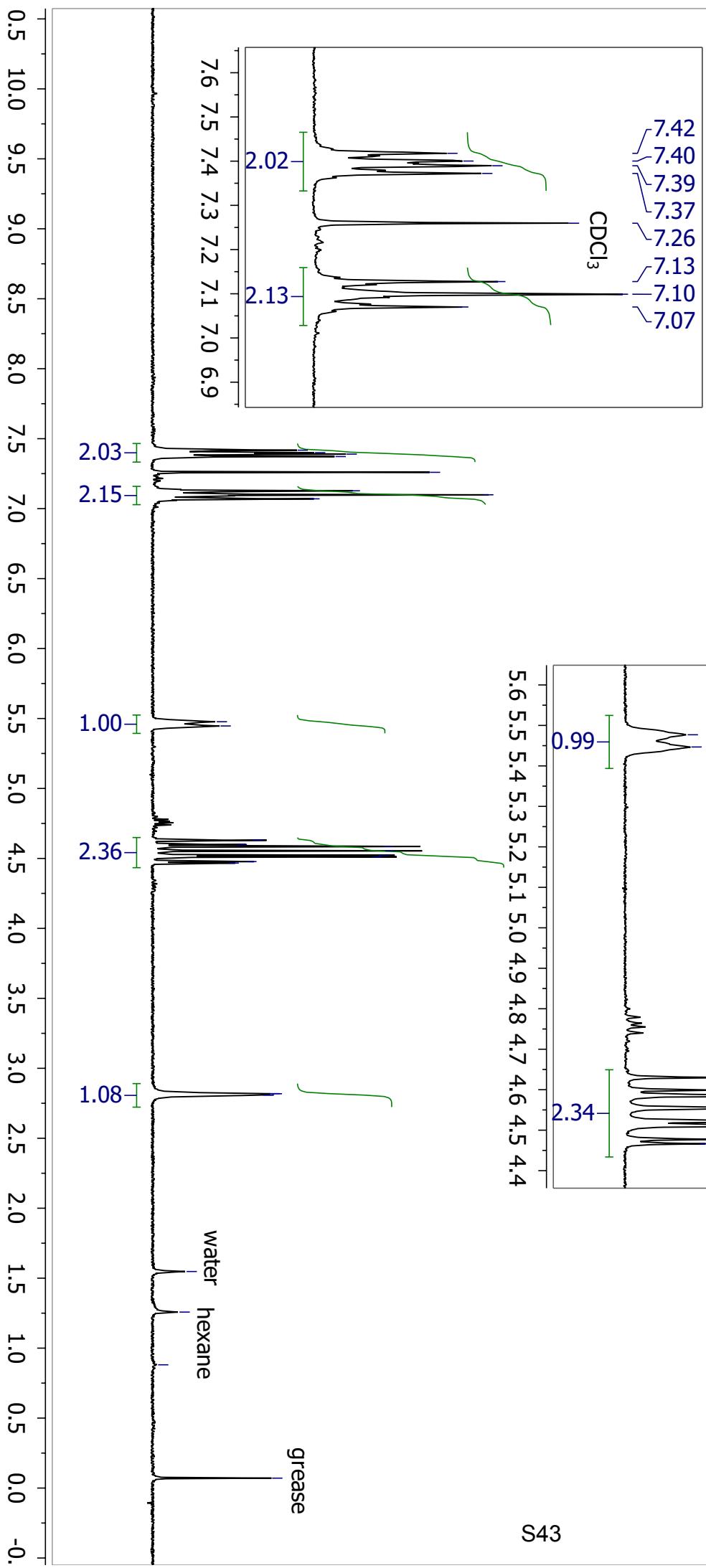
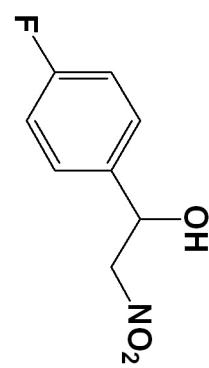
$^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
300 MHz



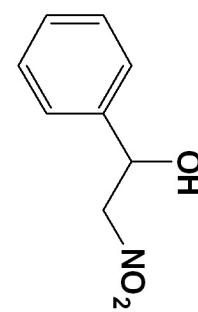
$^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
600 MHz



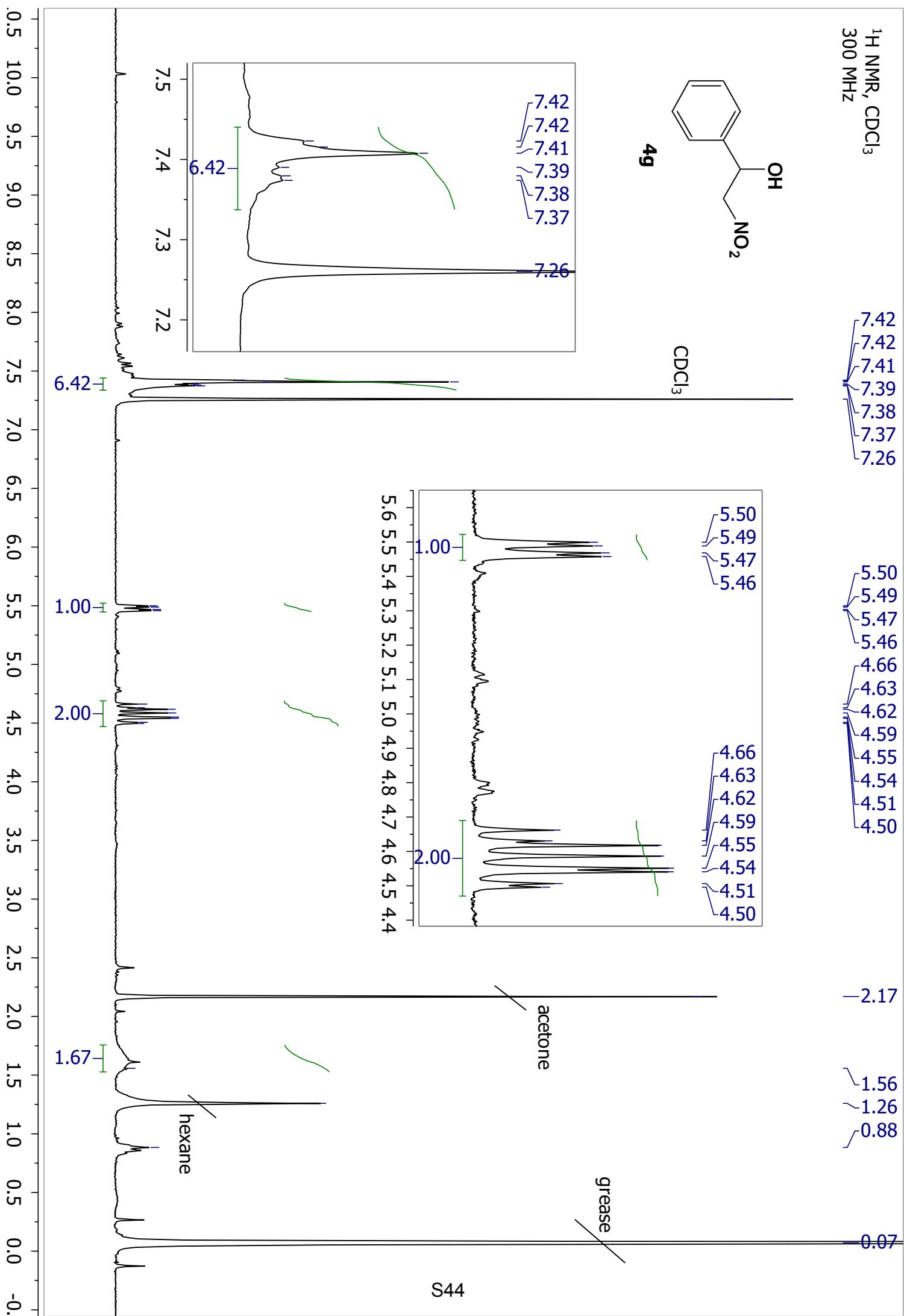
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
300 MHz



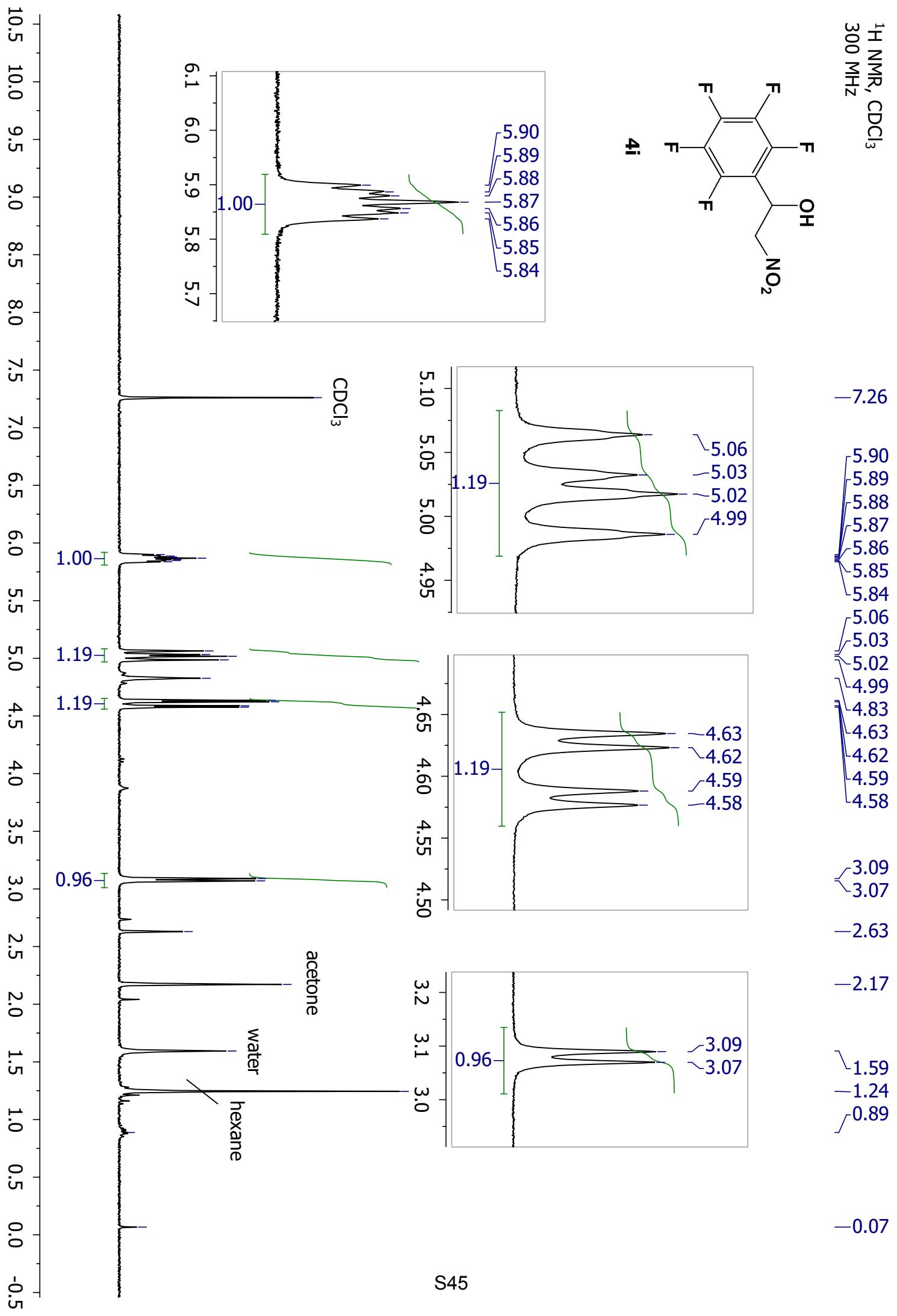
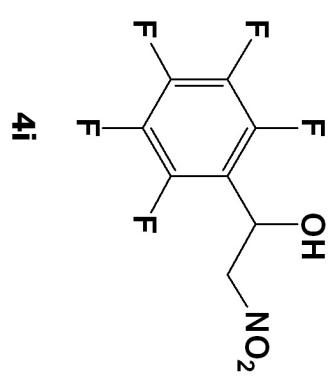
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
300 MHz



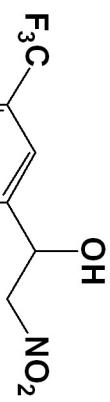
CDCl<sub>3</sub>



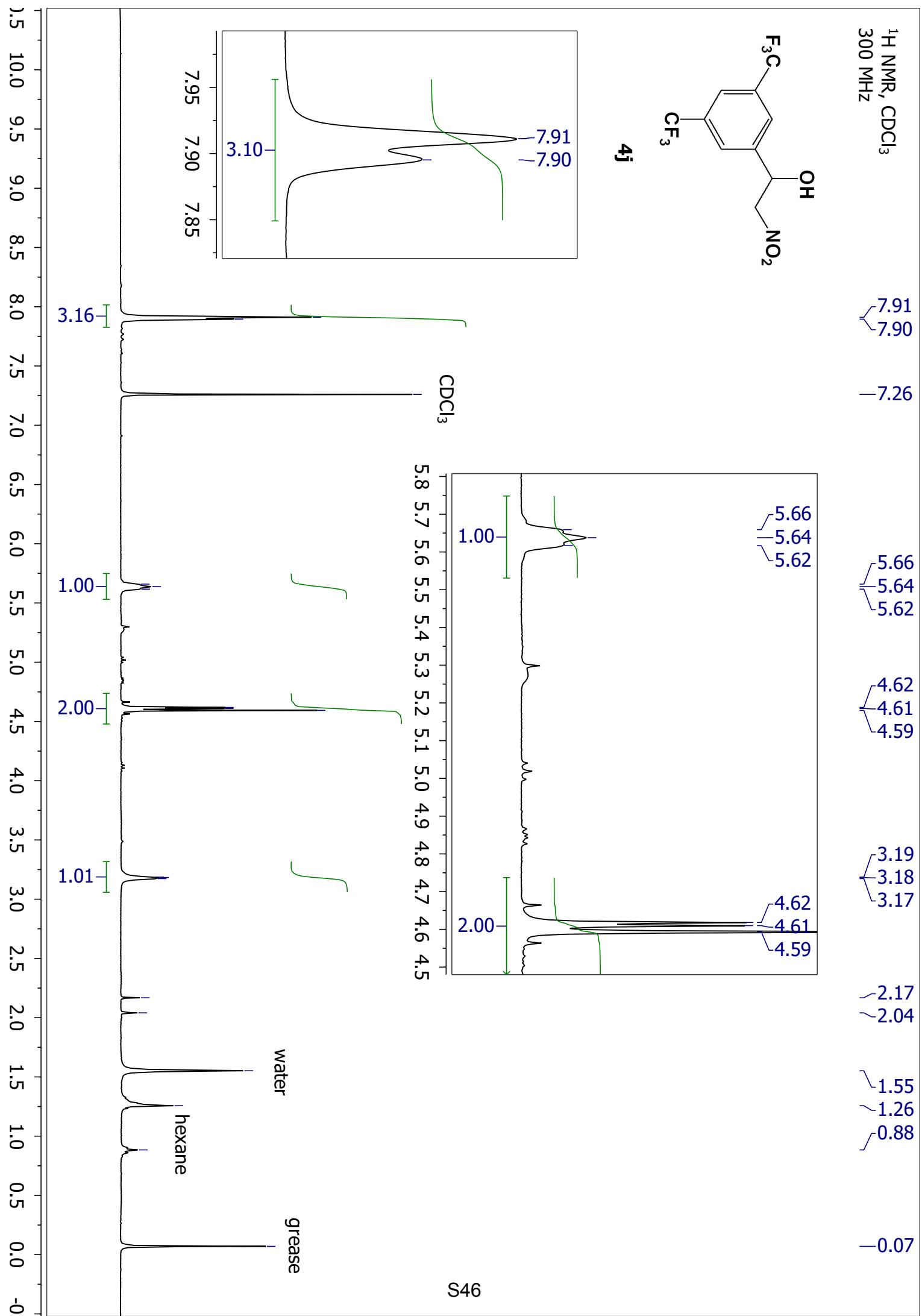
$^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
300 MHz



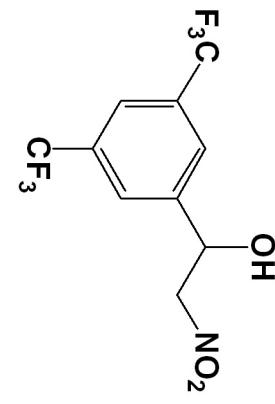
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
300 MHz



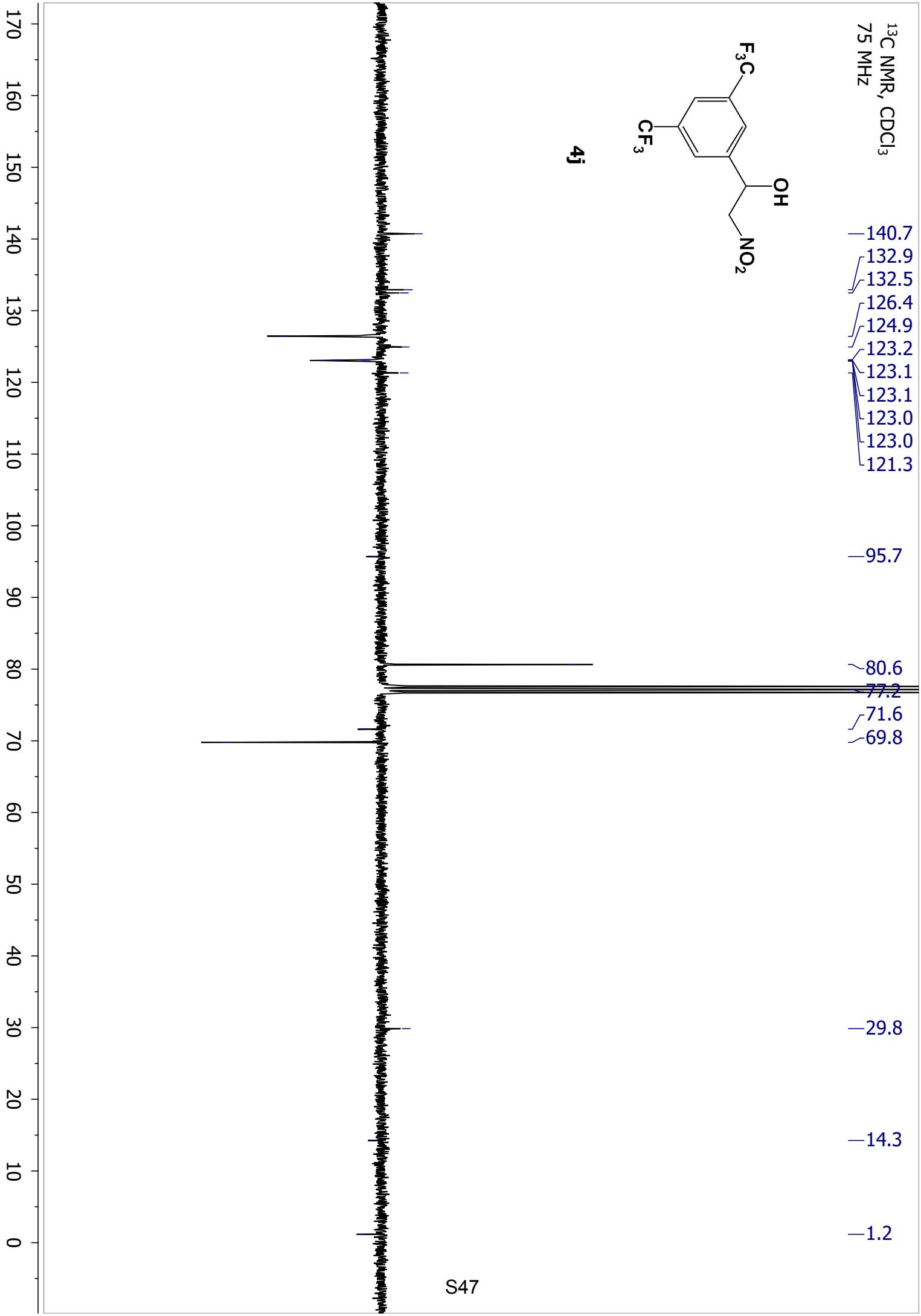
**4j**



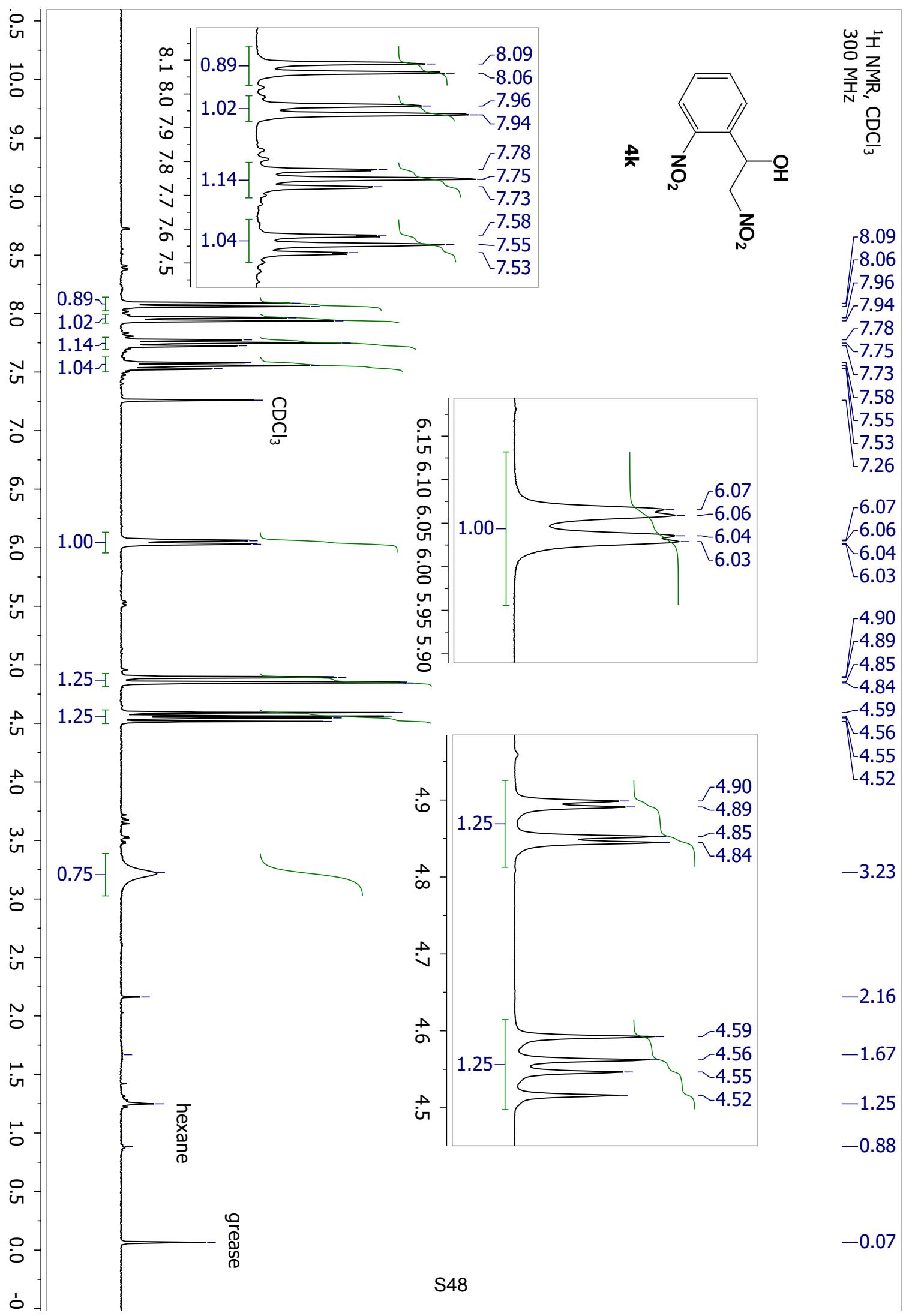
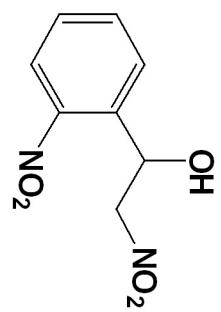
<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
75 MHz



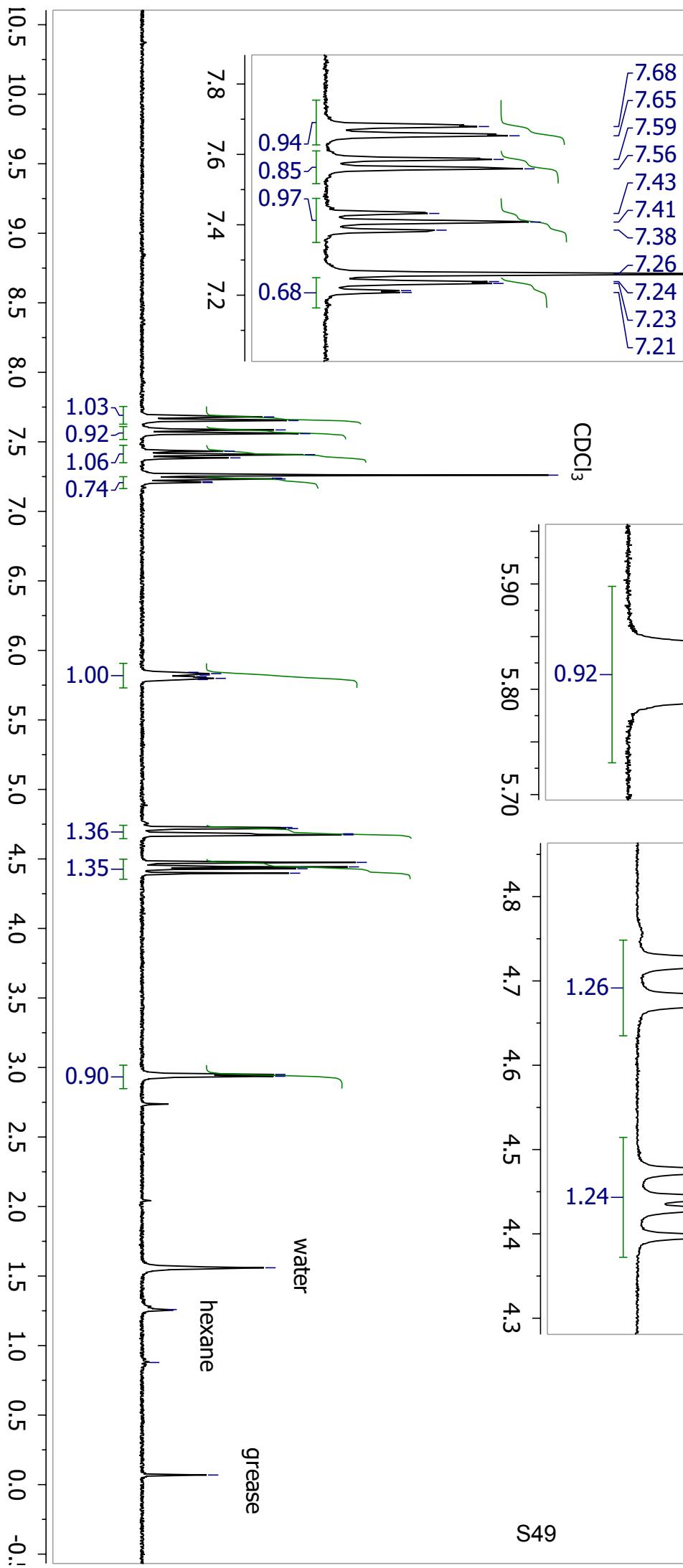
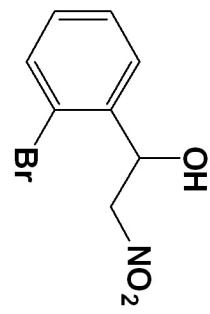
4j



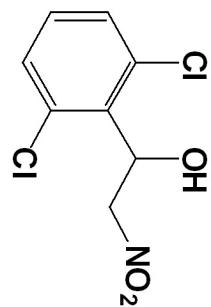
$^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
300 MHz



$^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
300 MHz

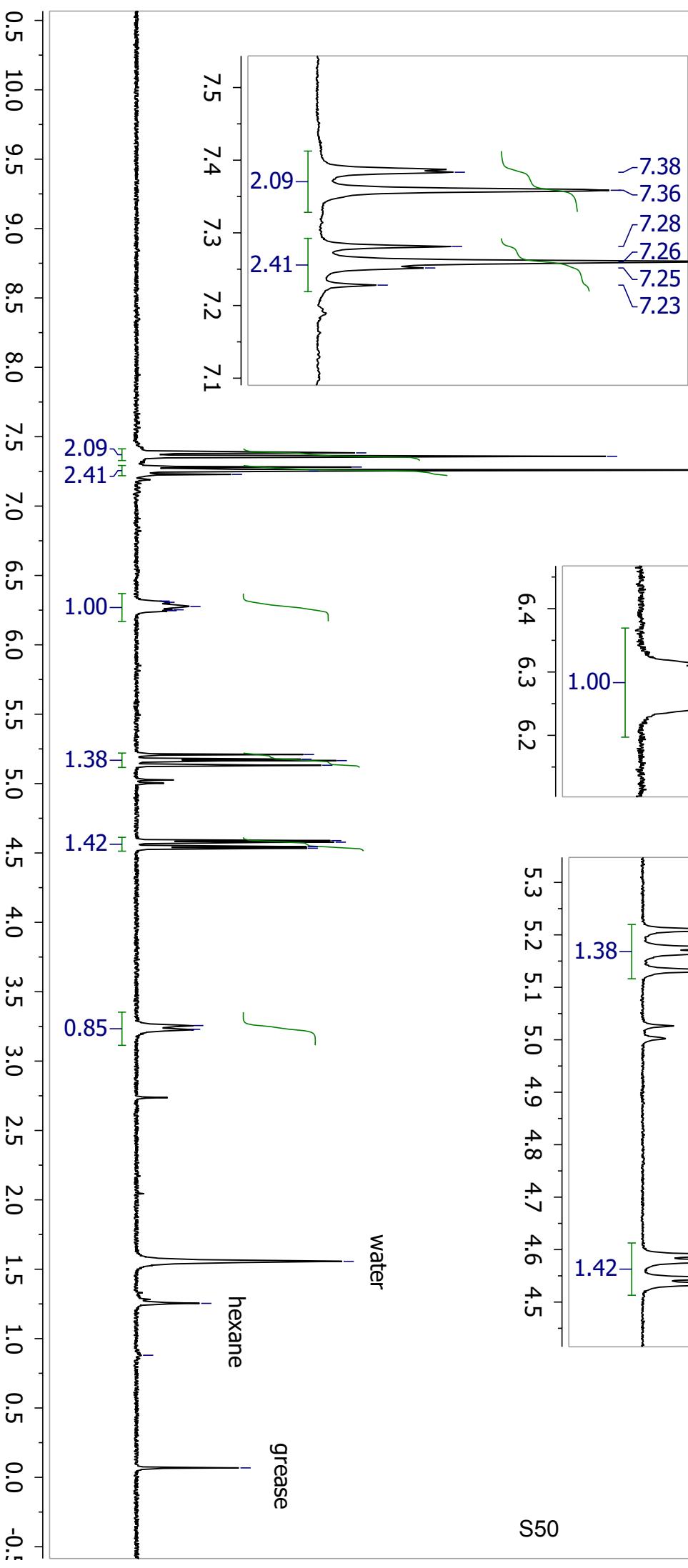


<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
300 MHz



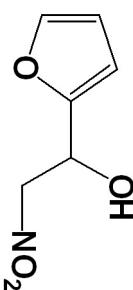
**4m**

CDCl<sub>3</sub>

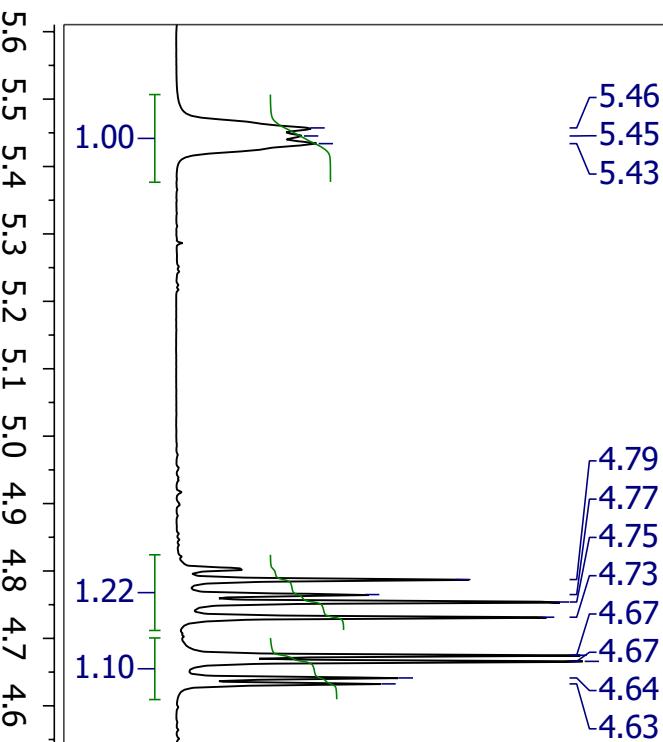
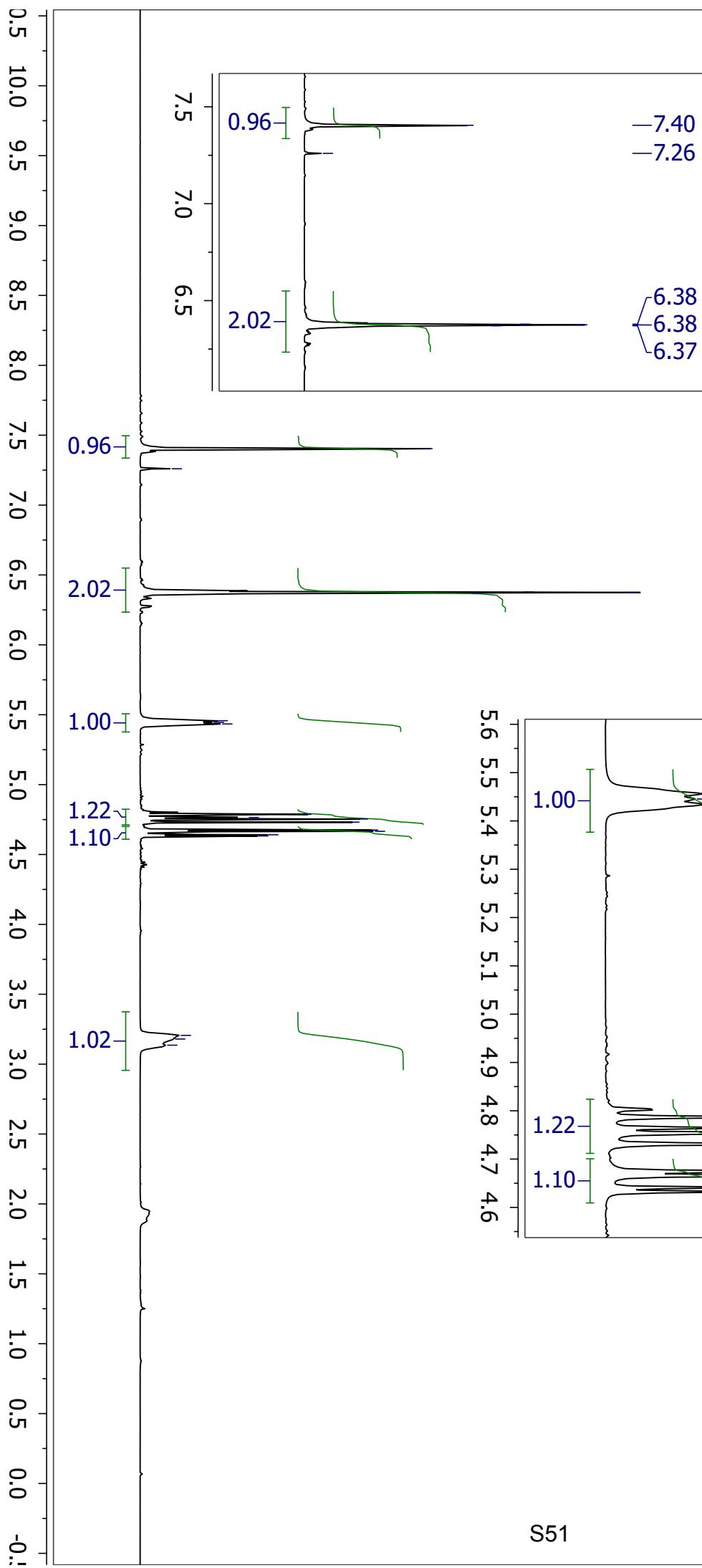


S50

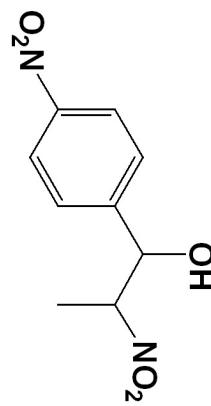
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
400 MHz



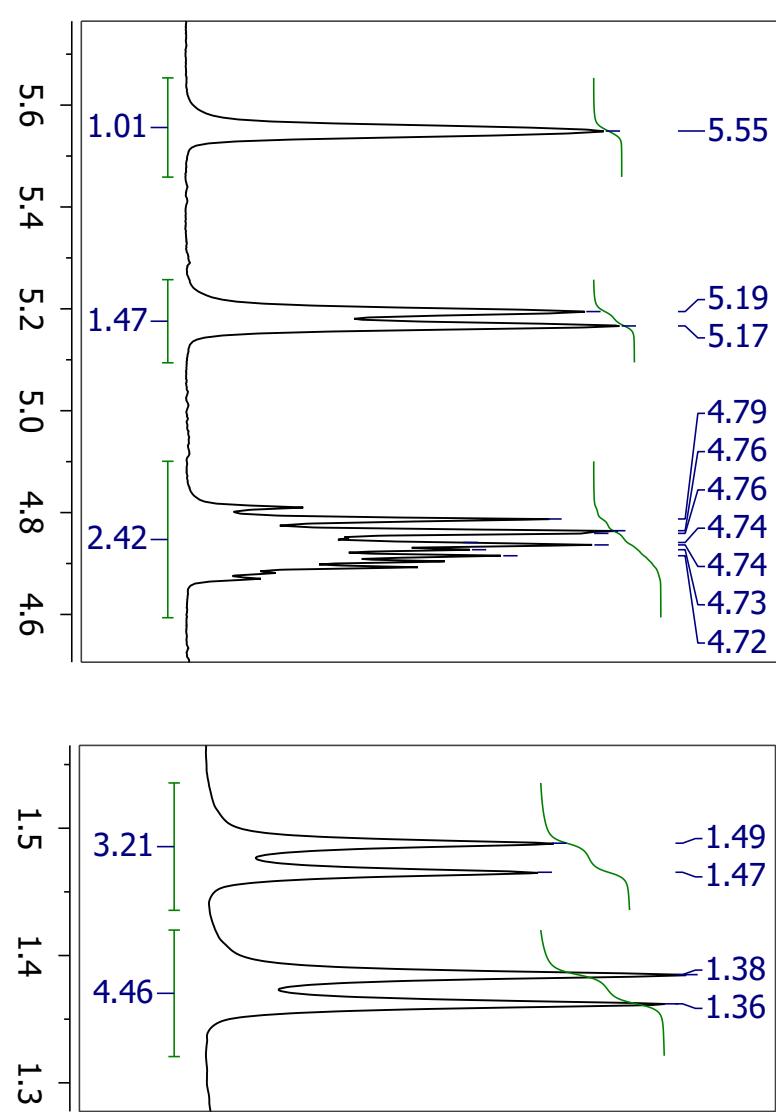
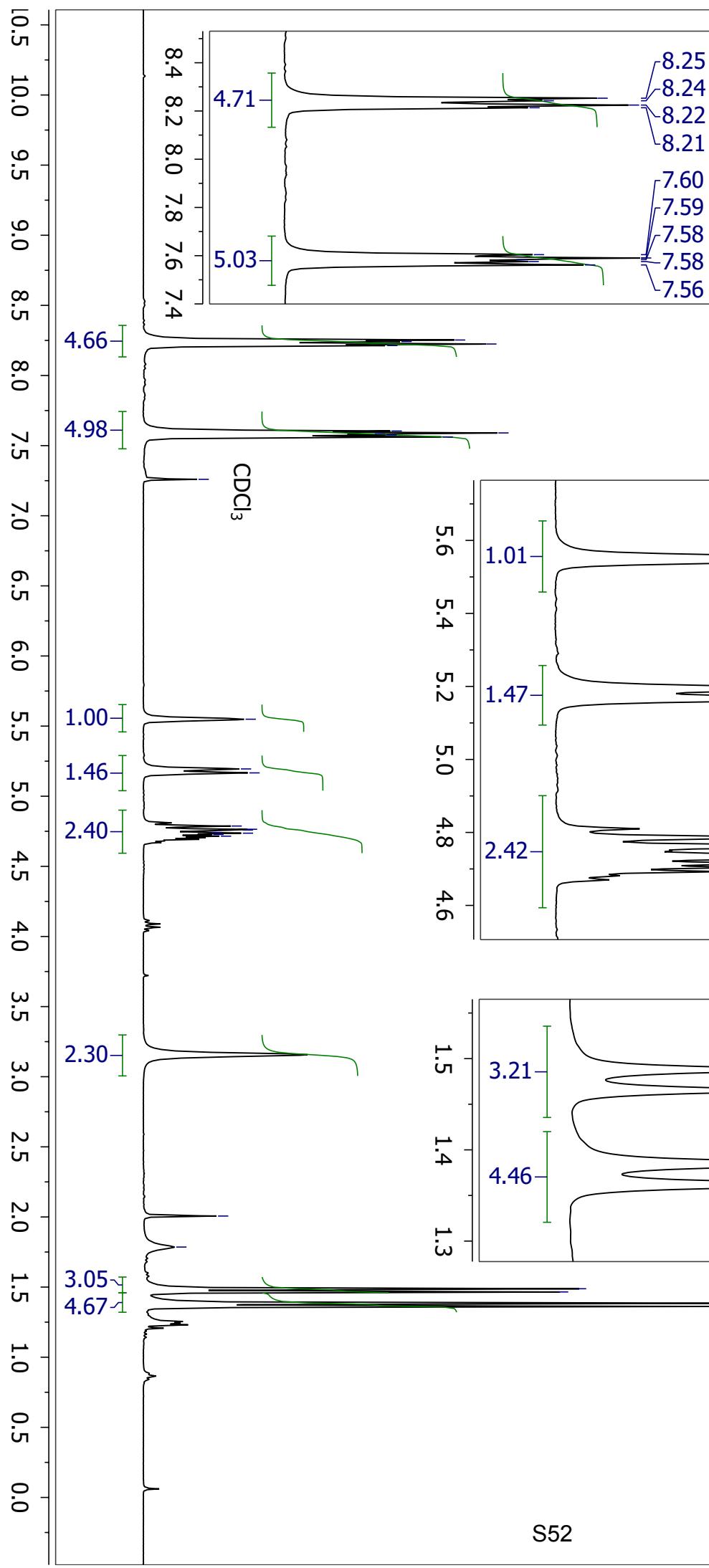
**4o**

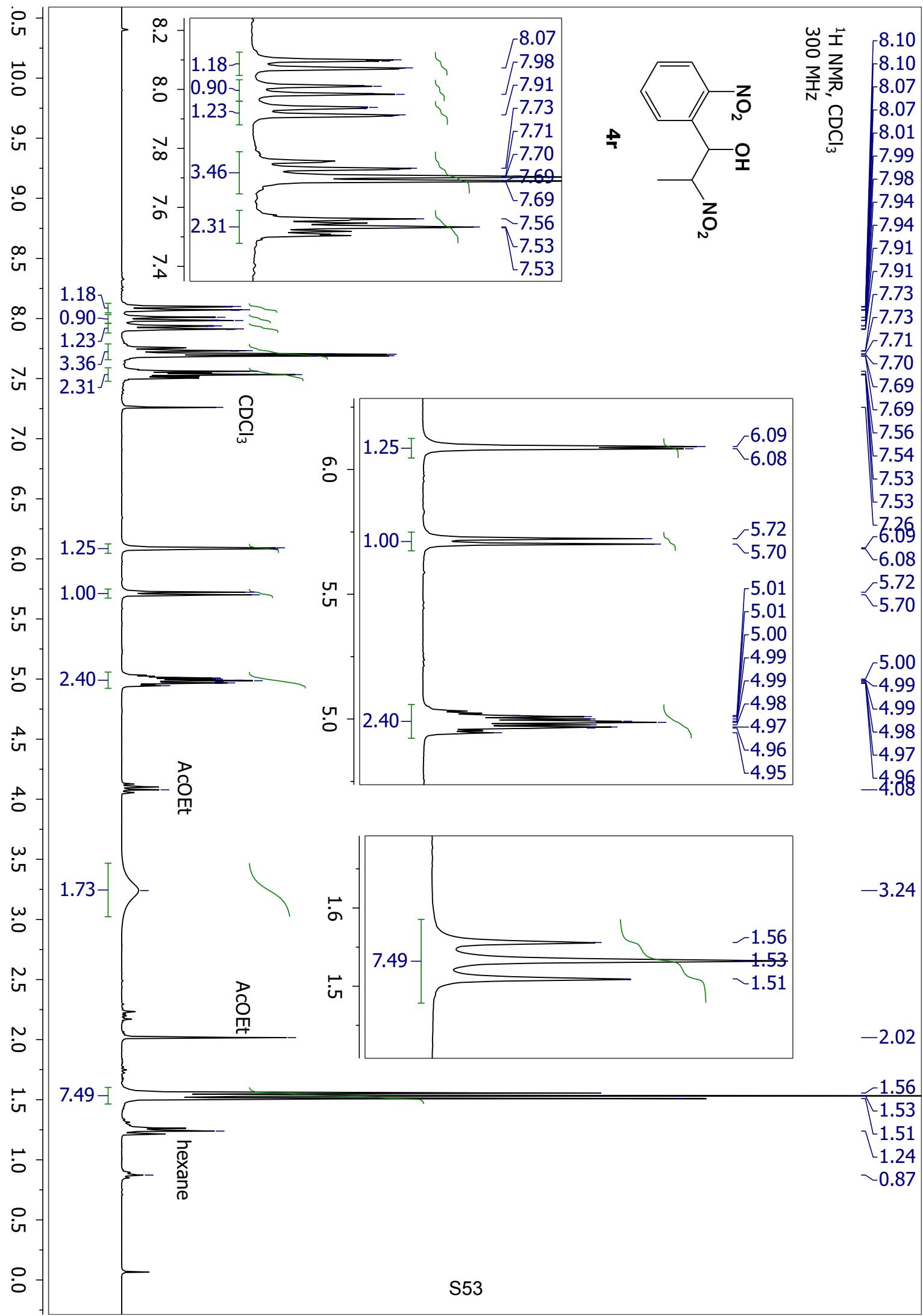


<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
300 MHz

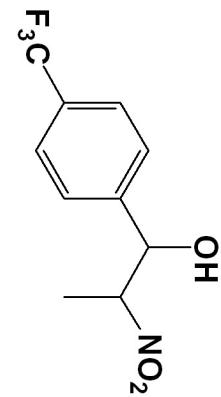


**4q**





$^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
600 MHz



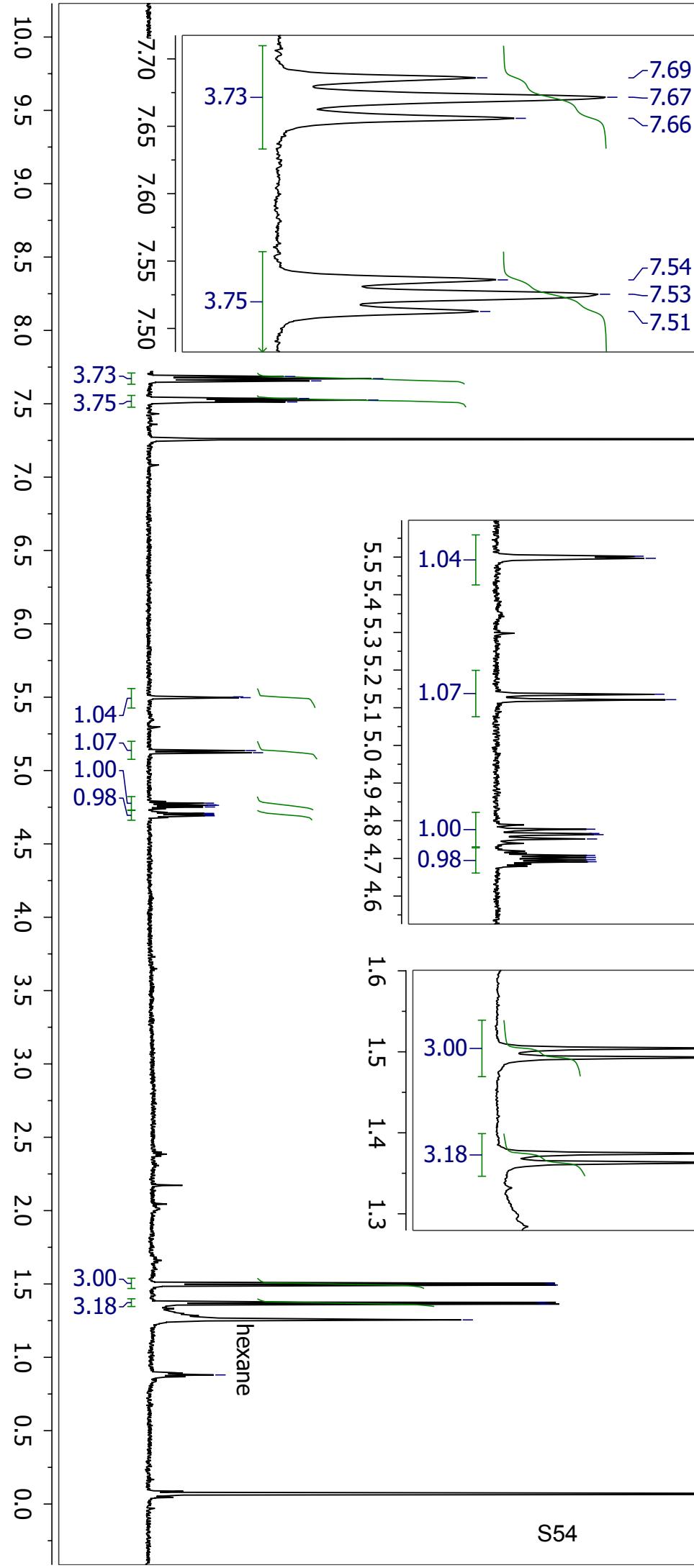
$\text{CDCl}_3$

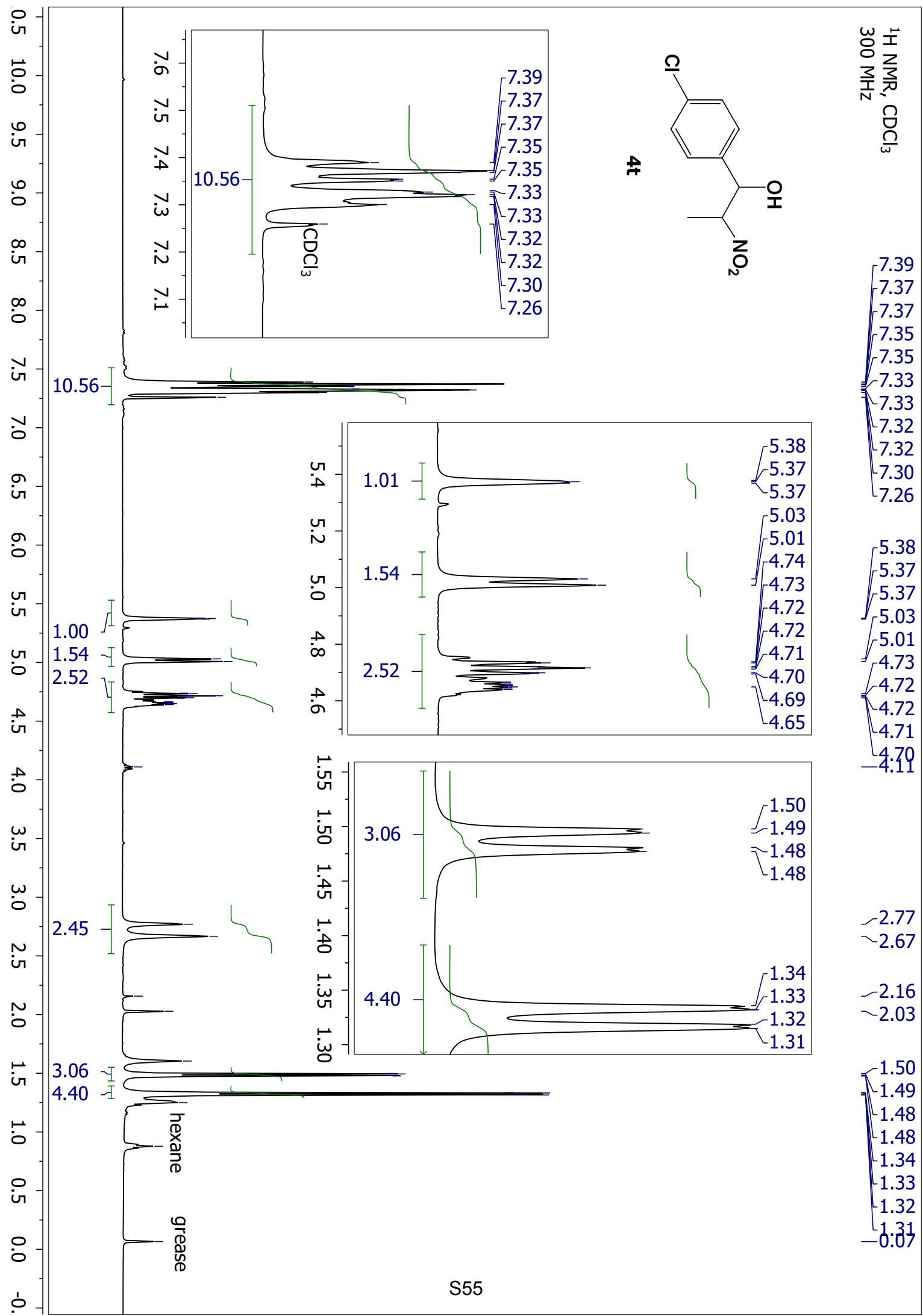
7.69  
7.67  
7.66  
7.54  
7.53  
7.51  
7.26

5.50  
5.50  
5.14  
5.12  
4.78  
4.77  
4.76  
4.75  
4.70  
4.70  
4.69

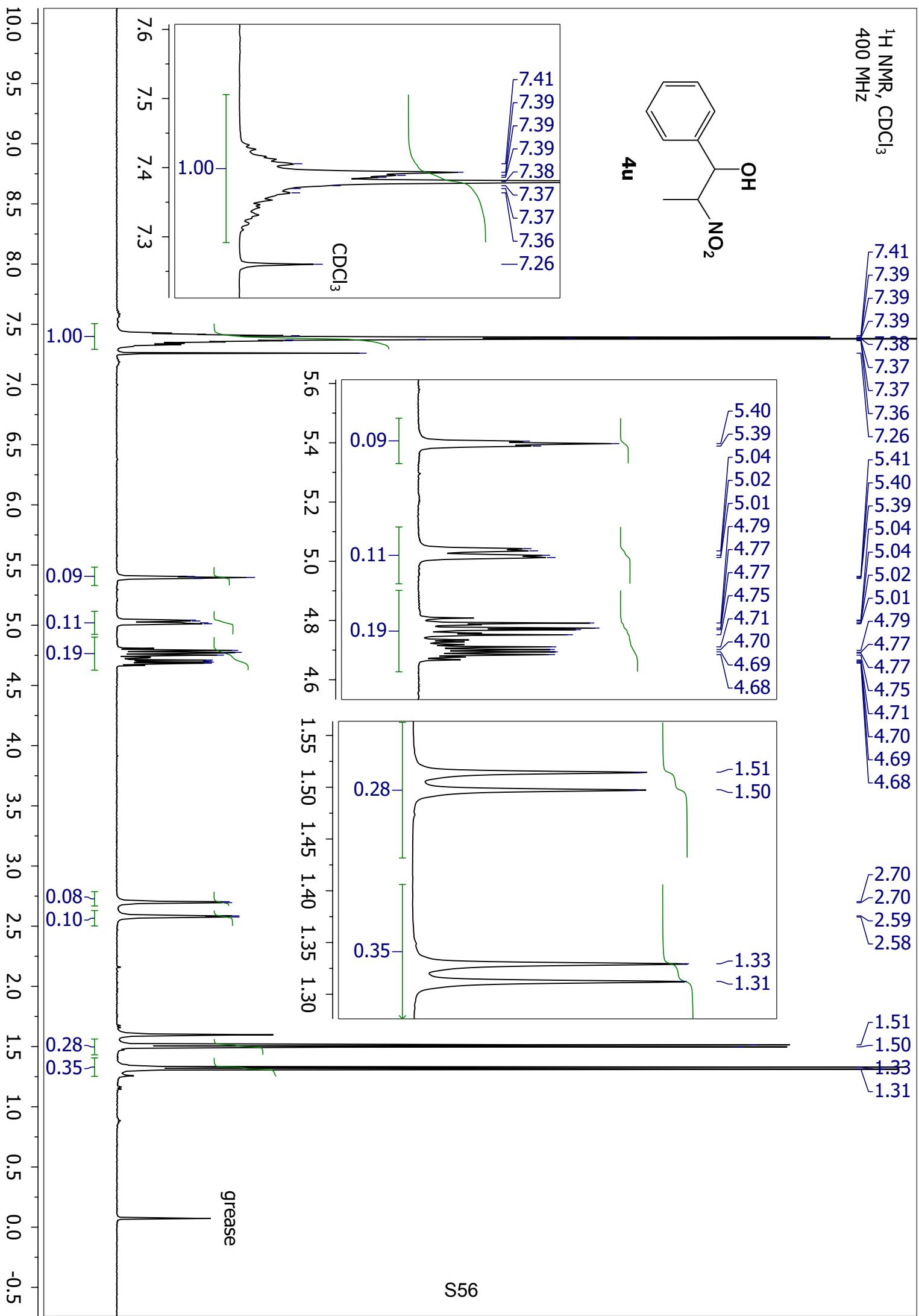
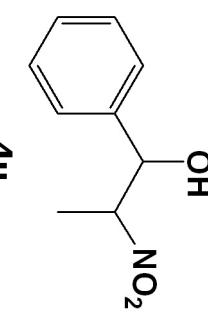
1.50  
1.49  
1.37  
1.36

0.07

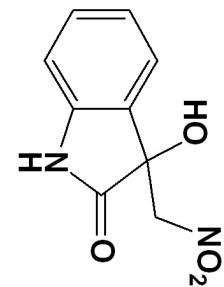




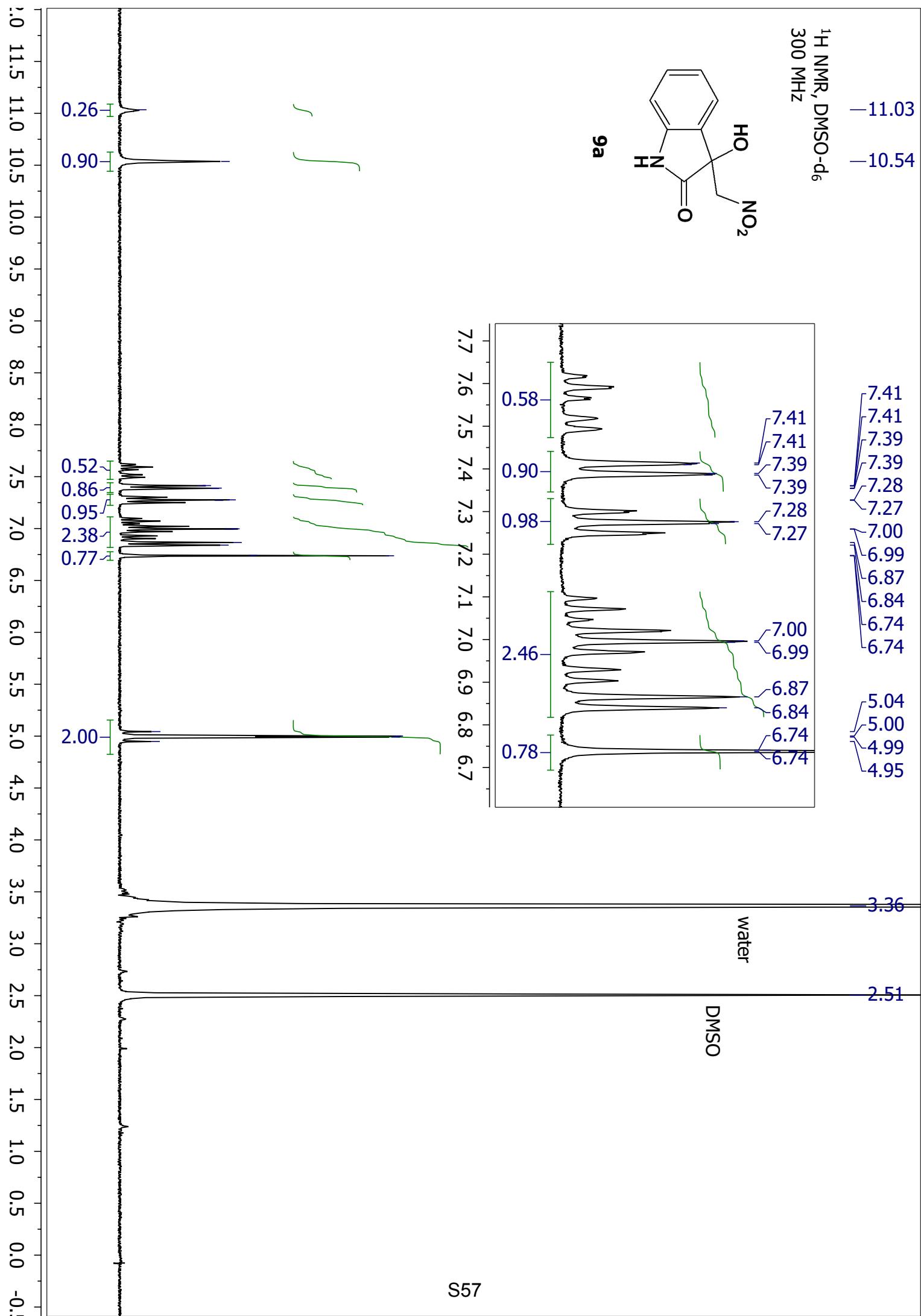
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
400 MHz



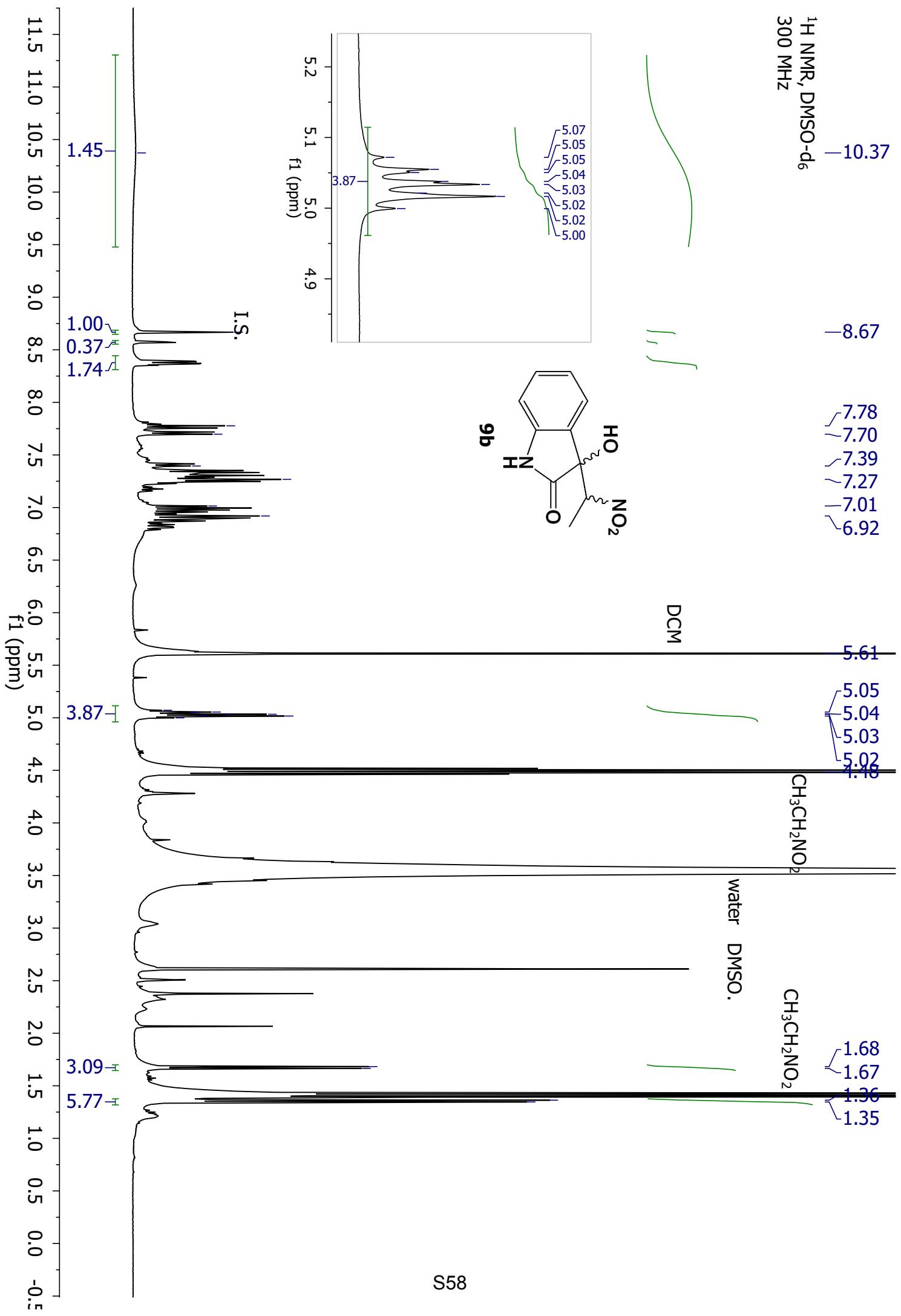
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>  
300 MHz

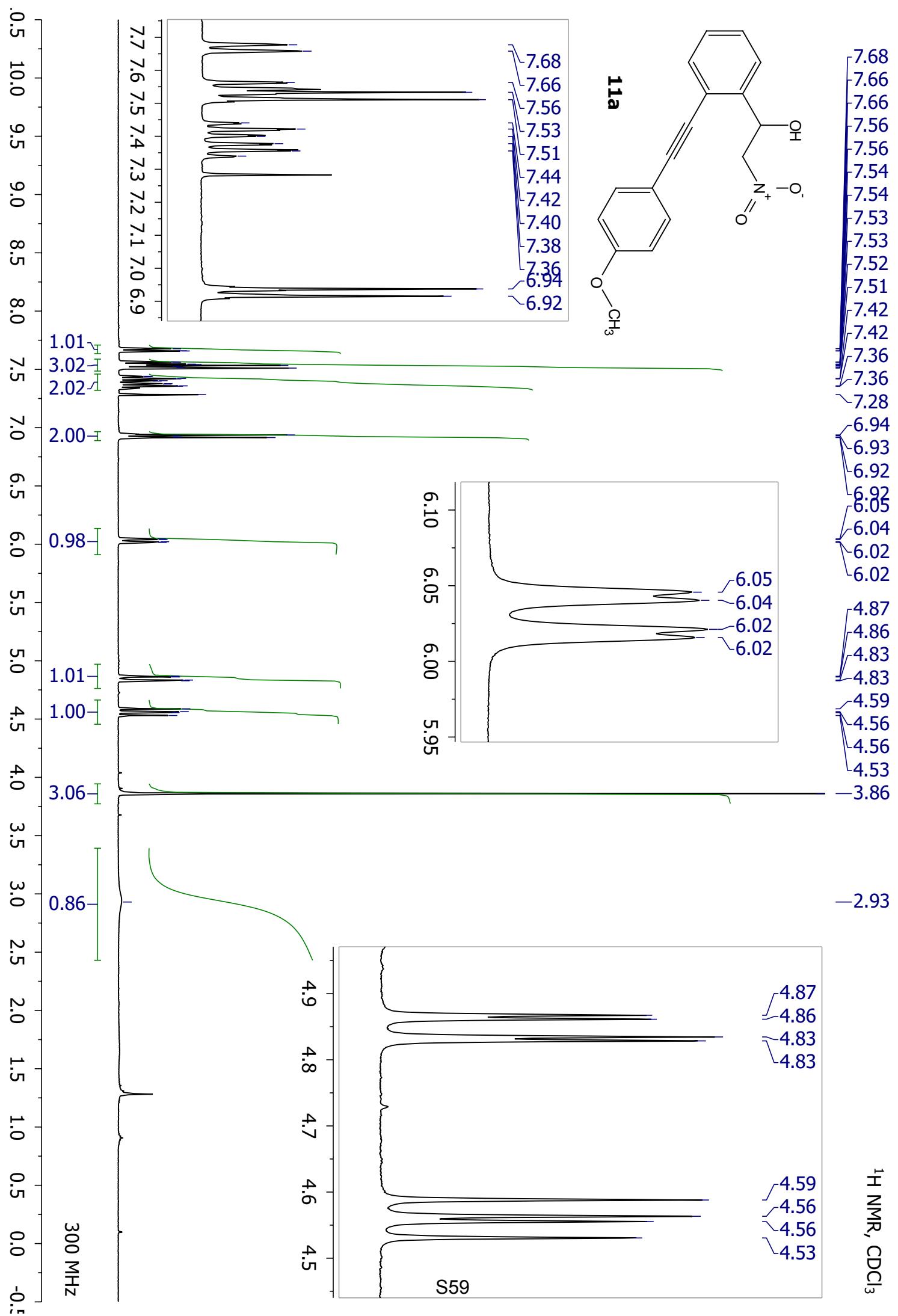


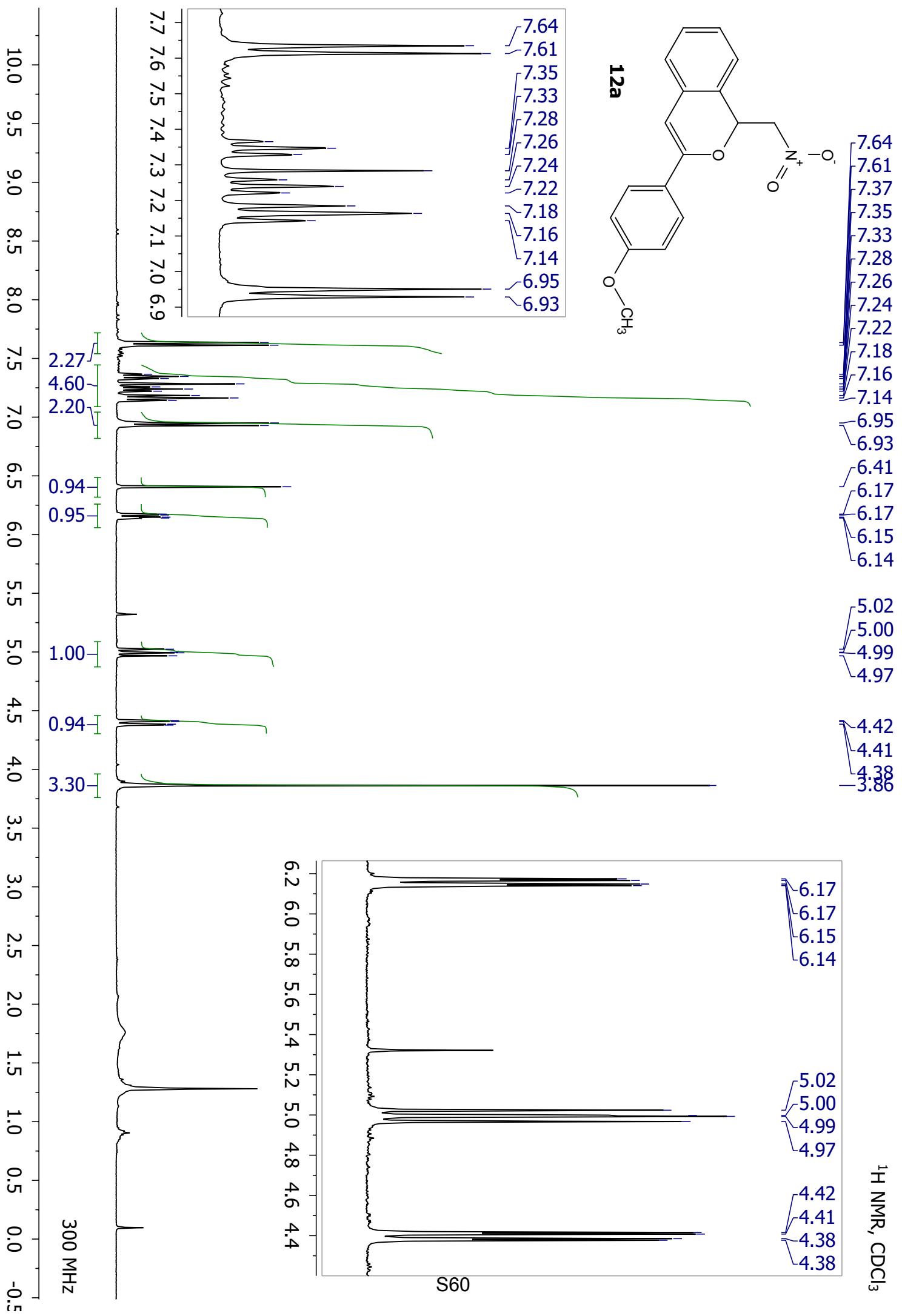
9a

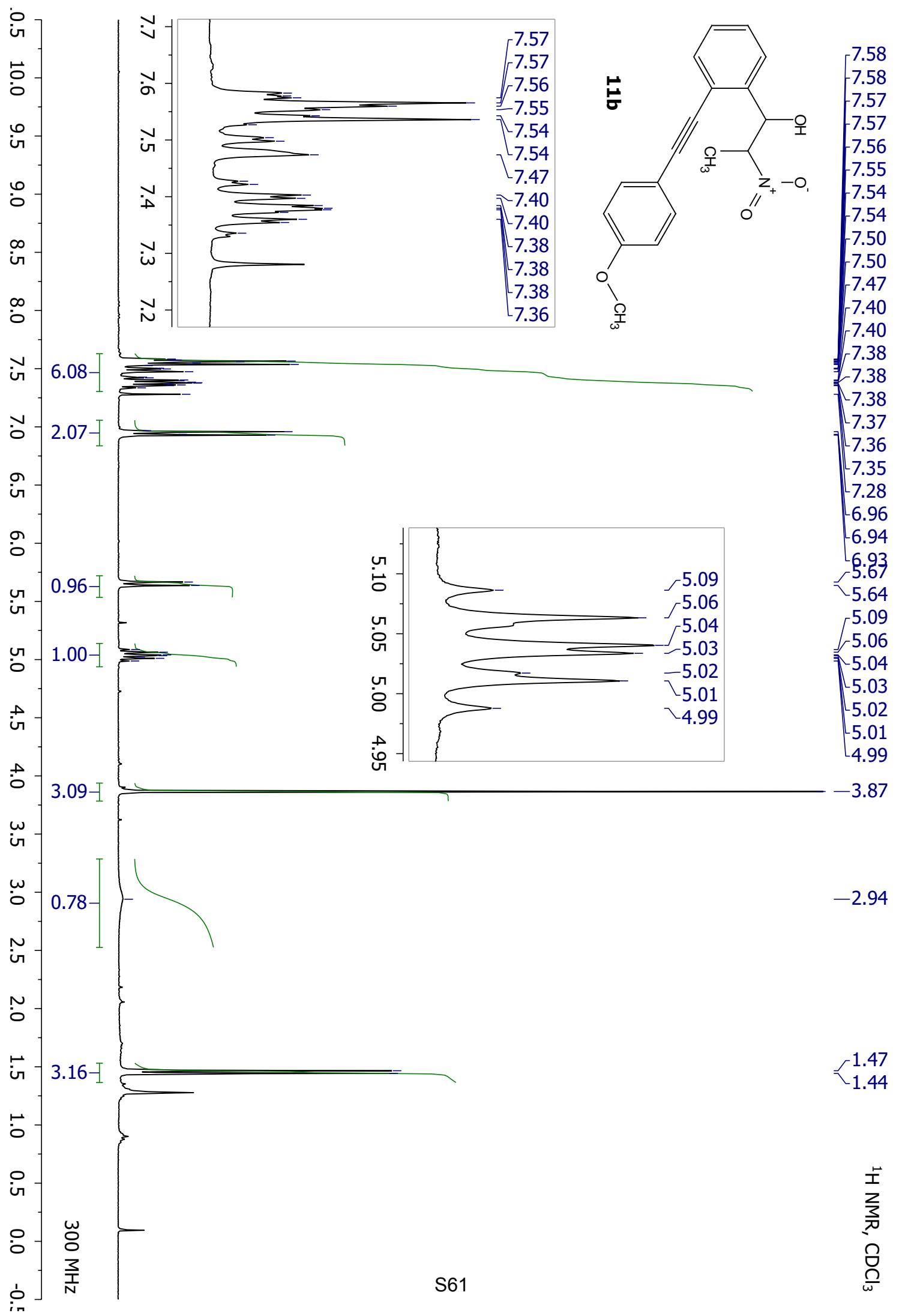


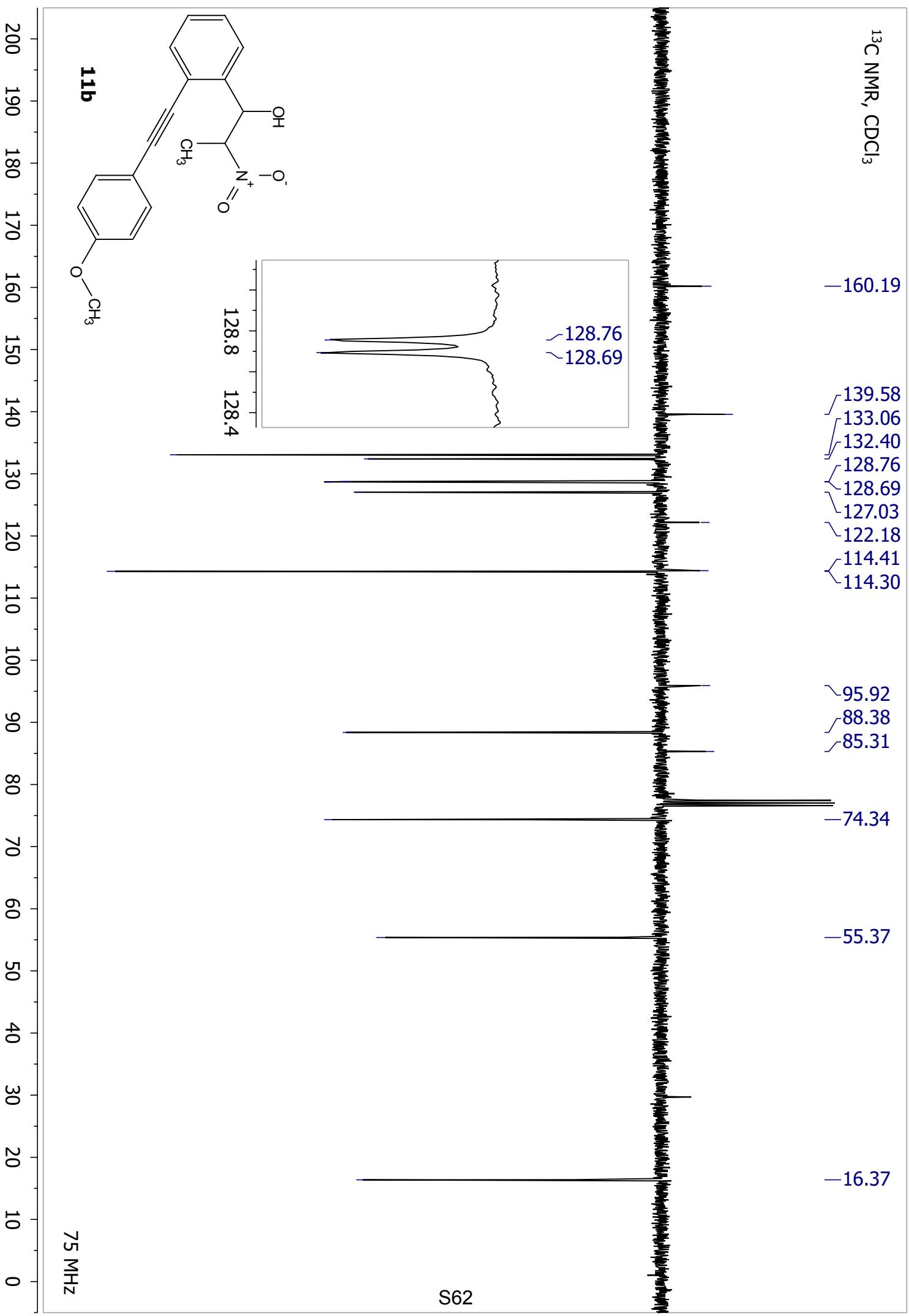
<sup>1</sup>H NMR, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>  
300 MHz

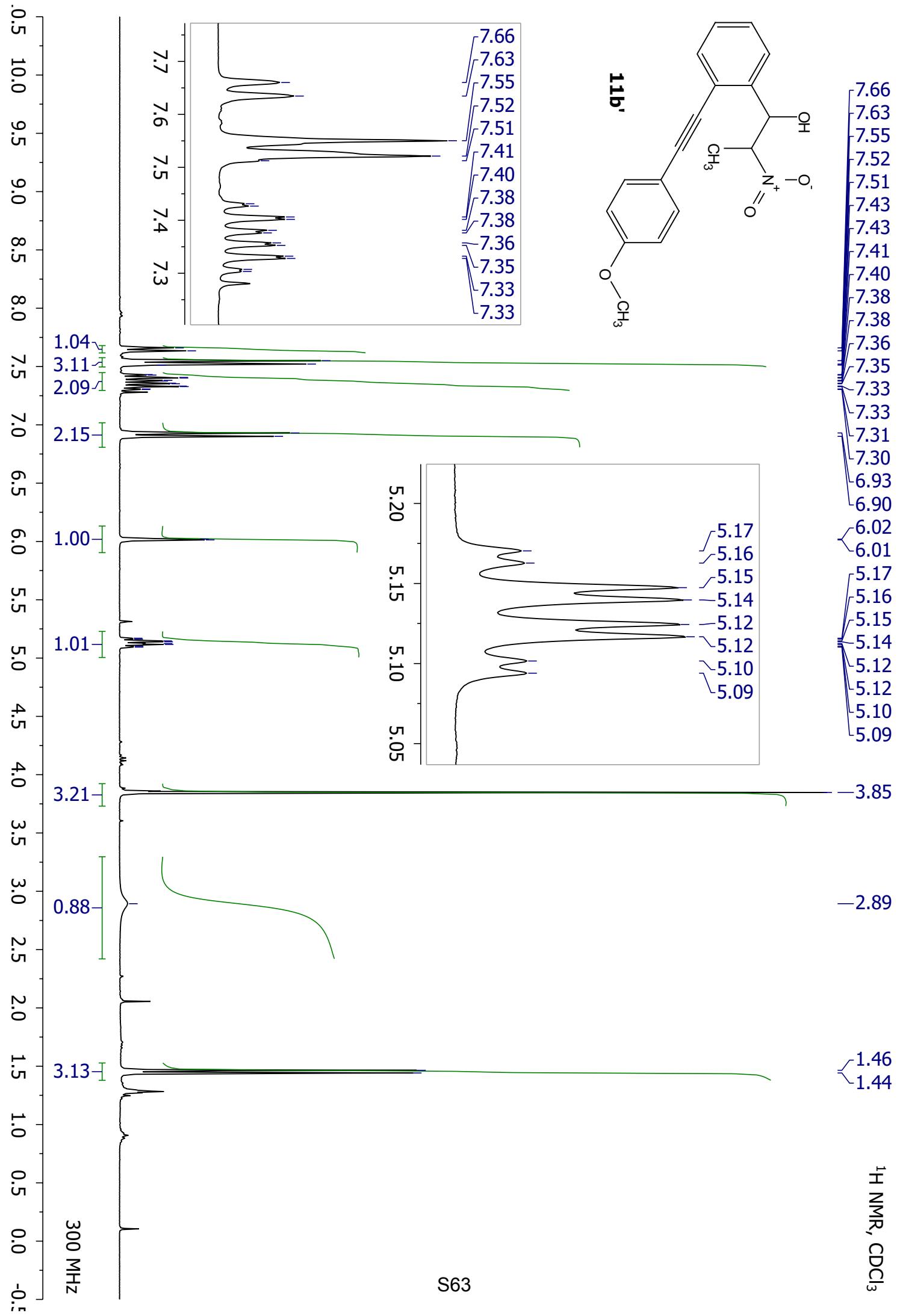




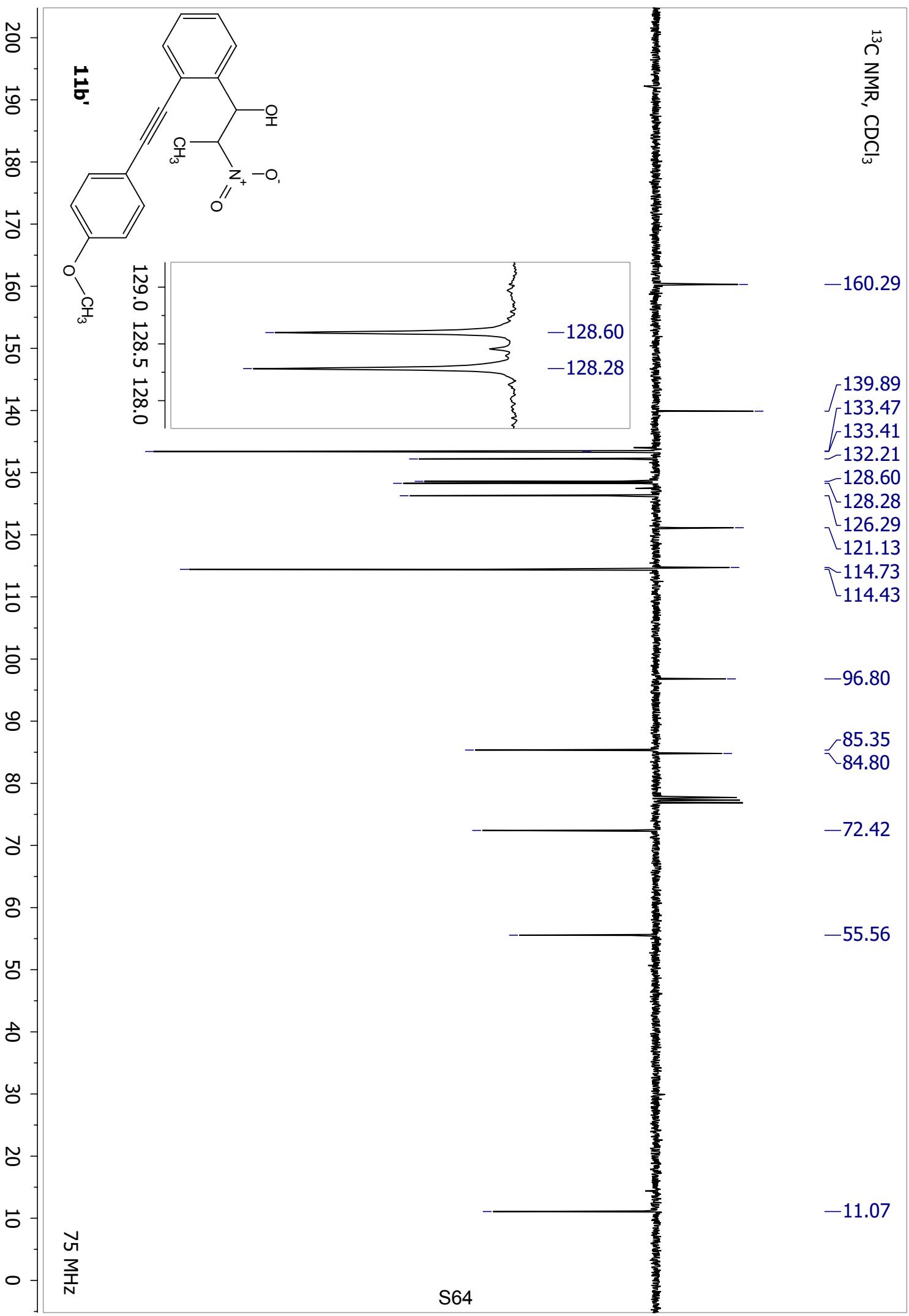


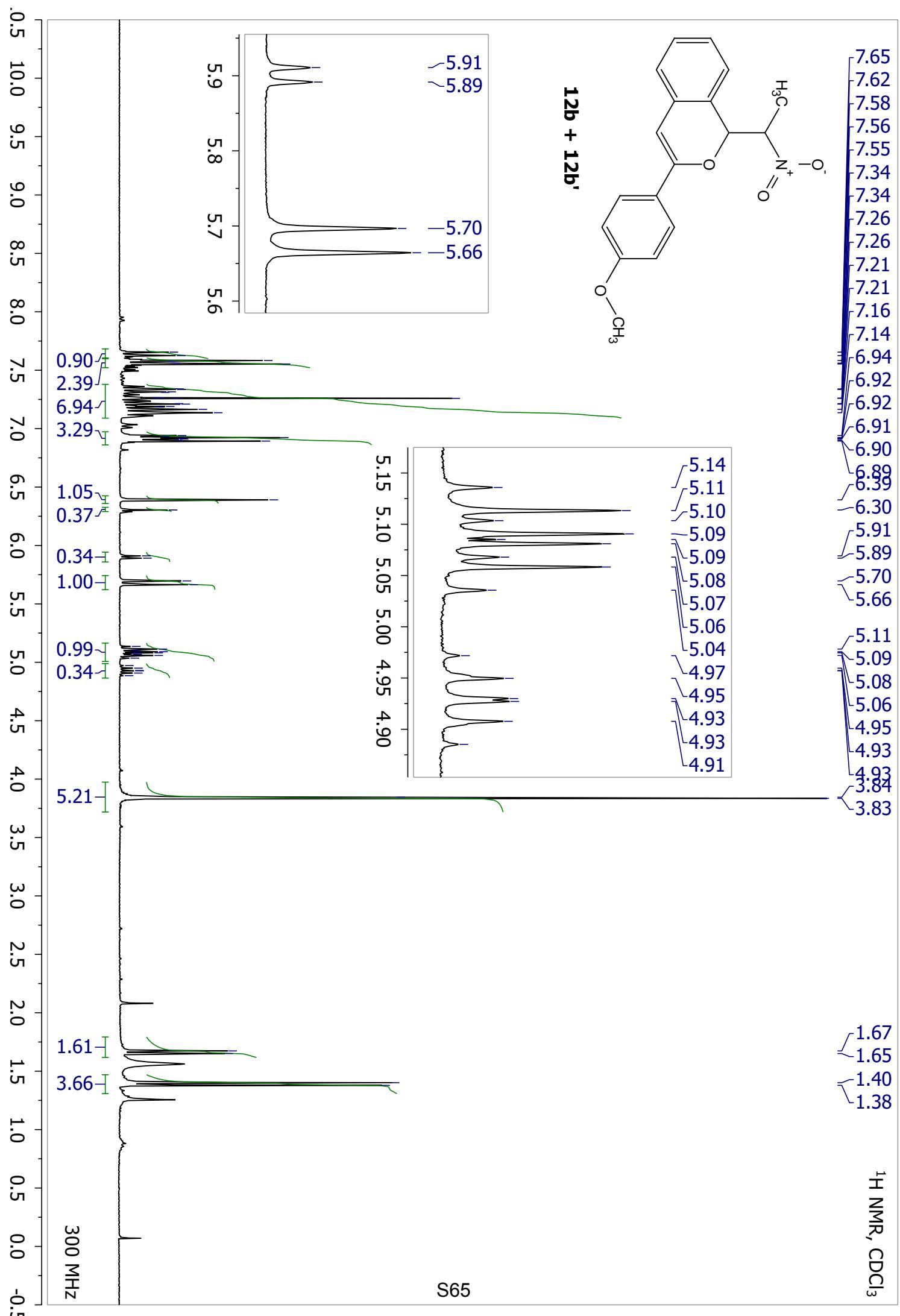






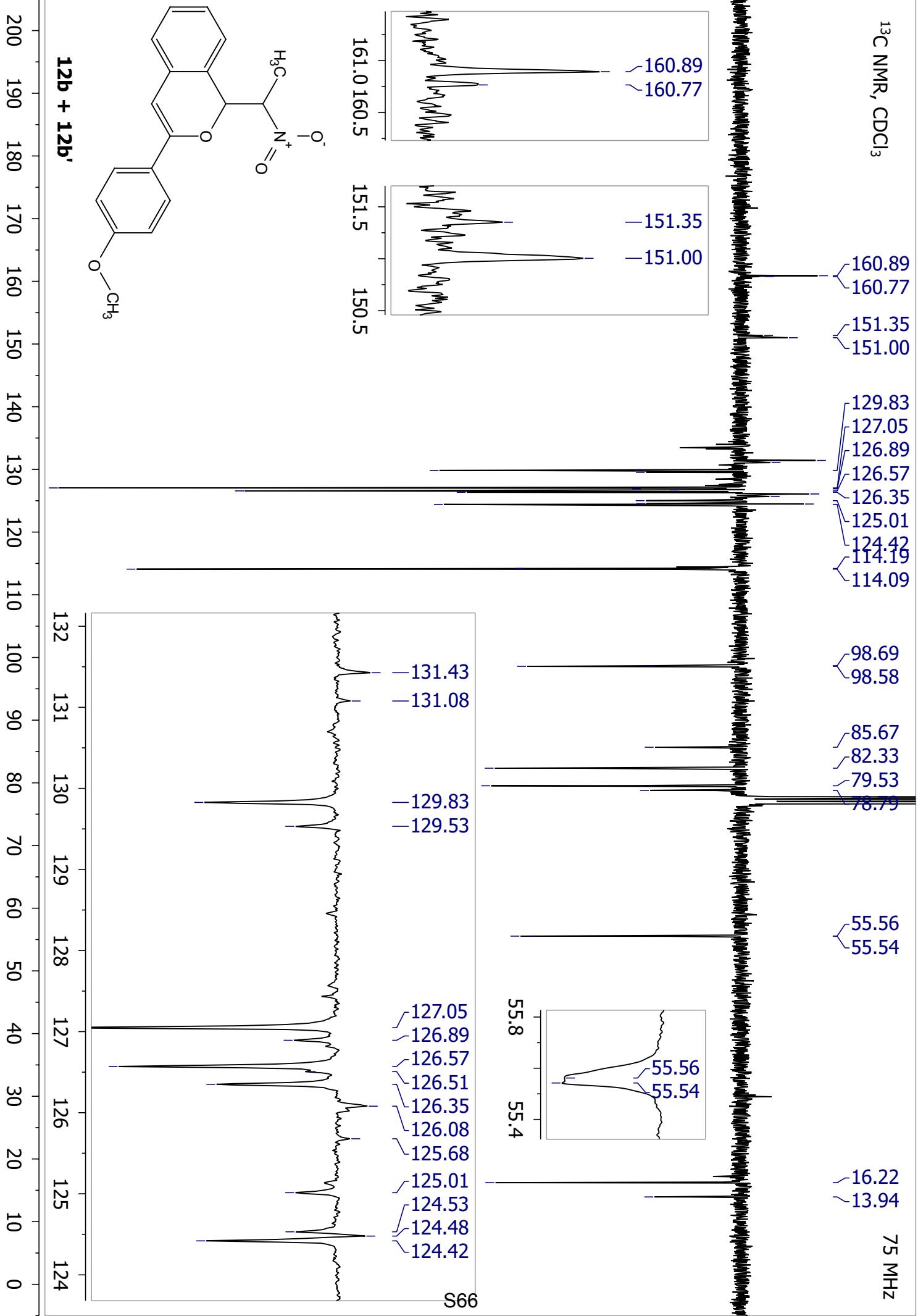
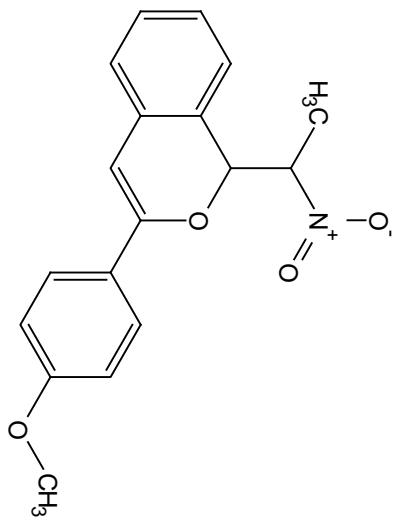
S63

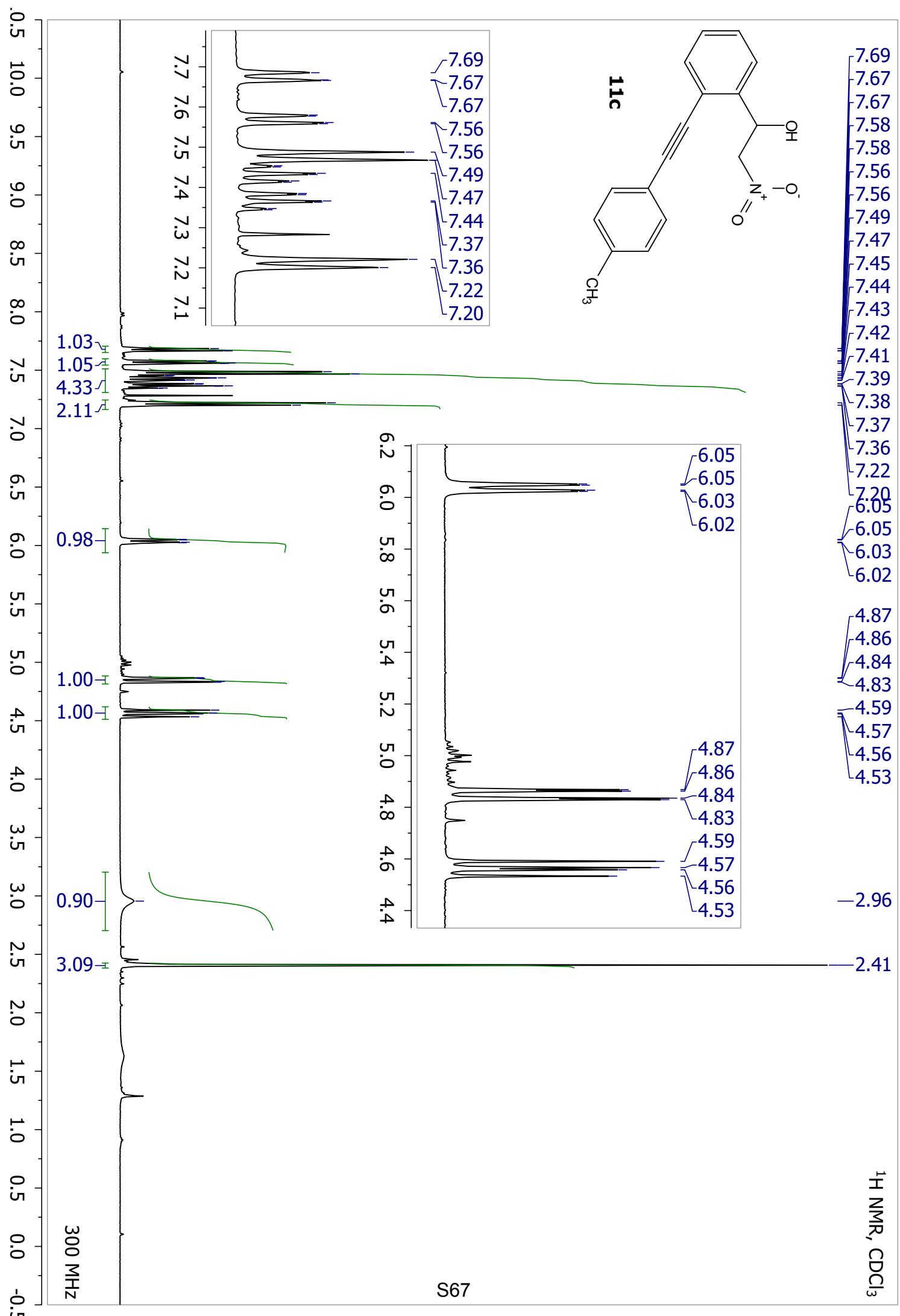


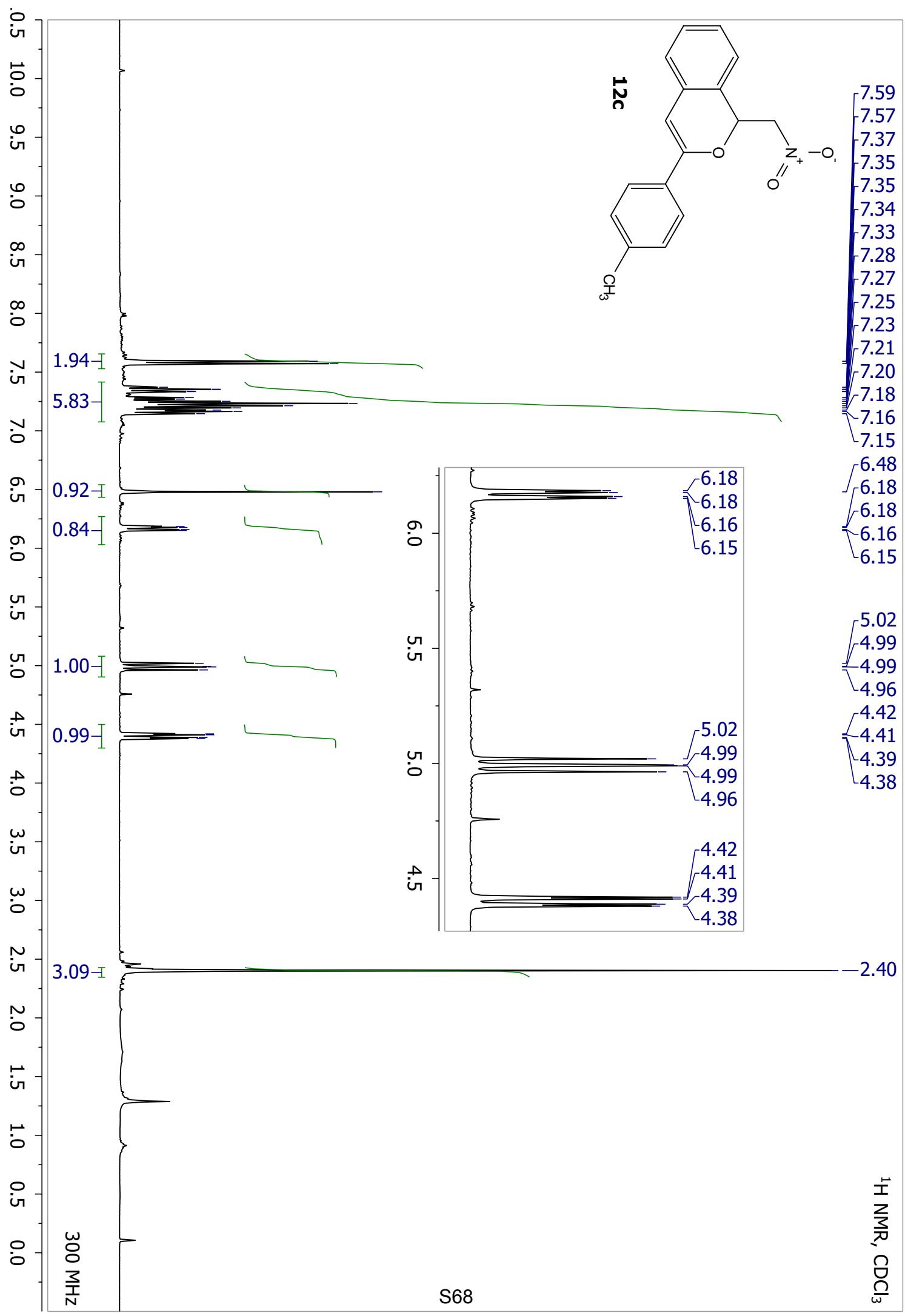


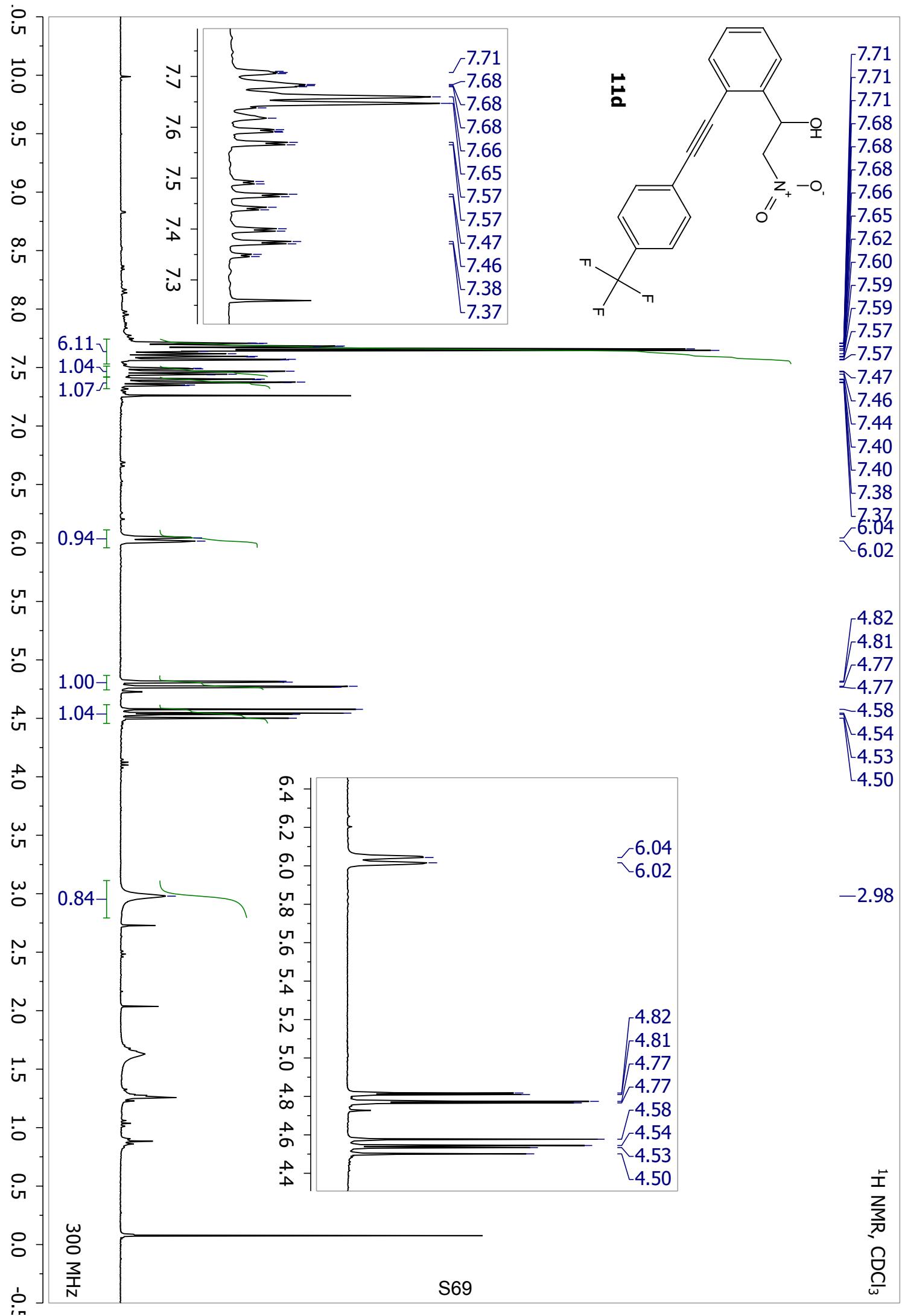
<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>

75 MHz

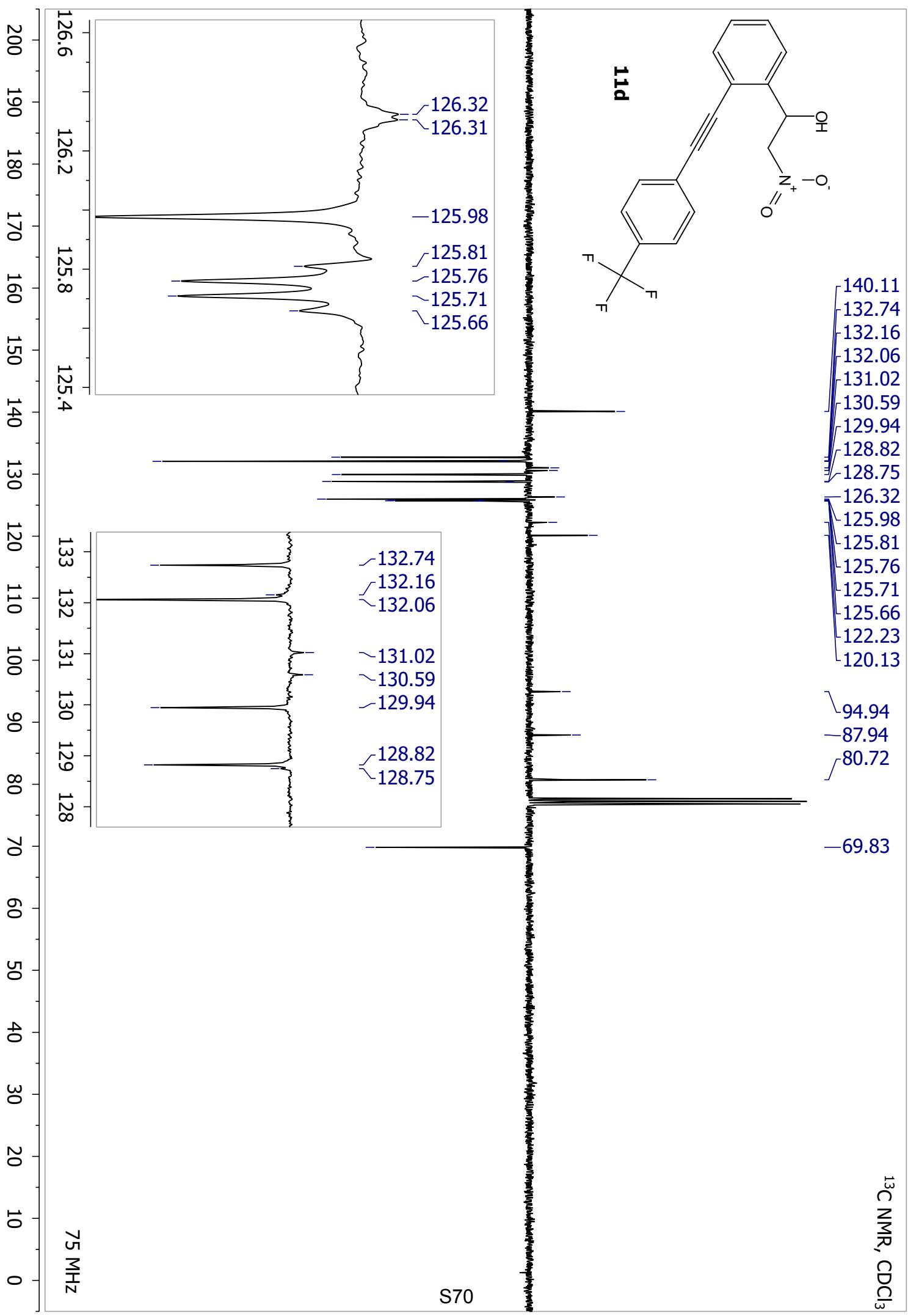


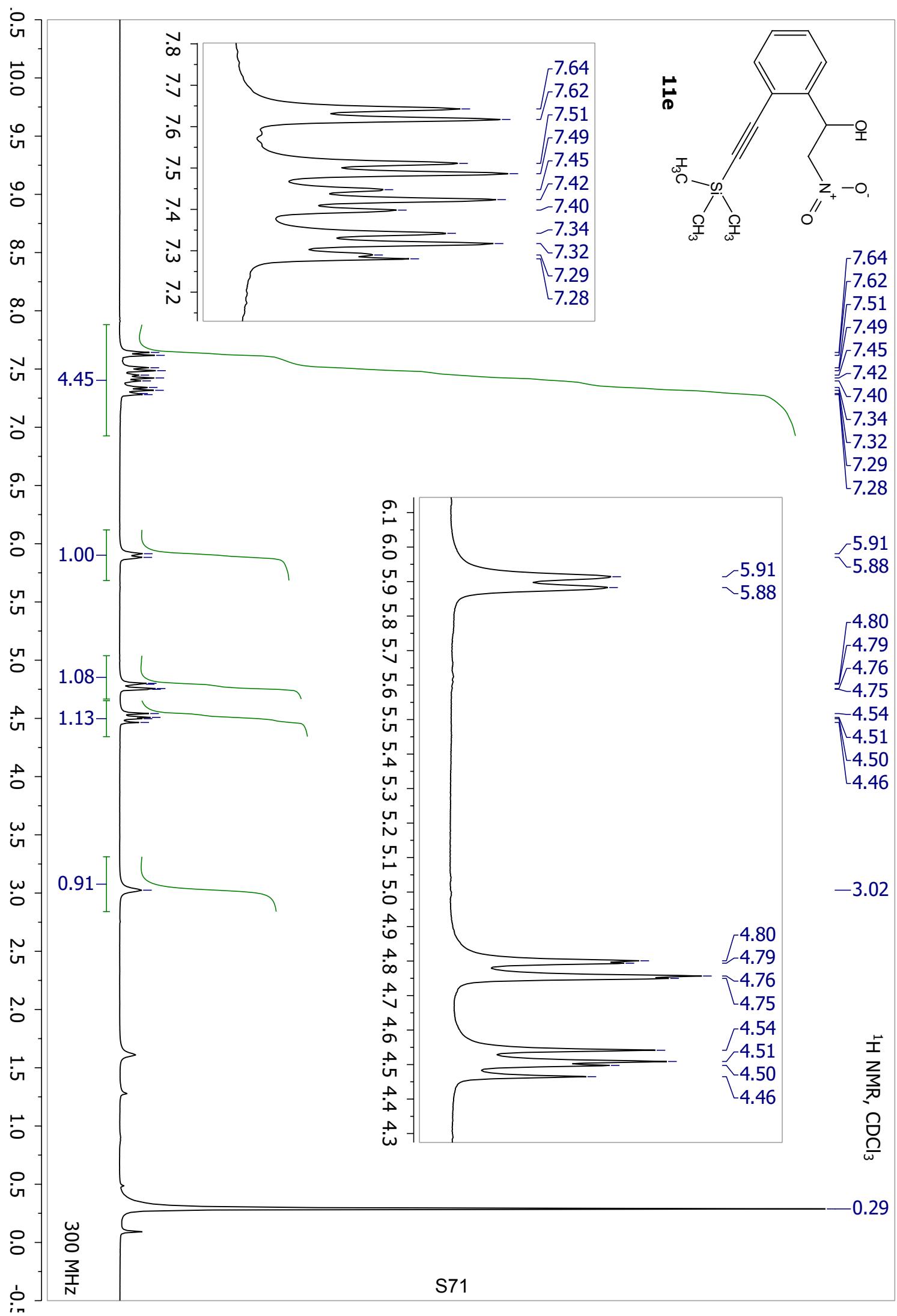






<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>





$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$

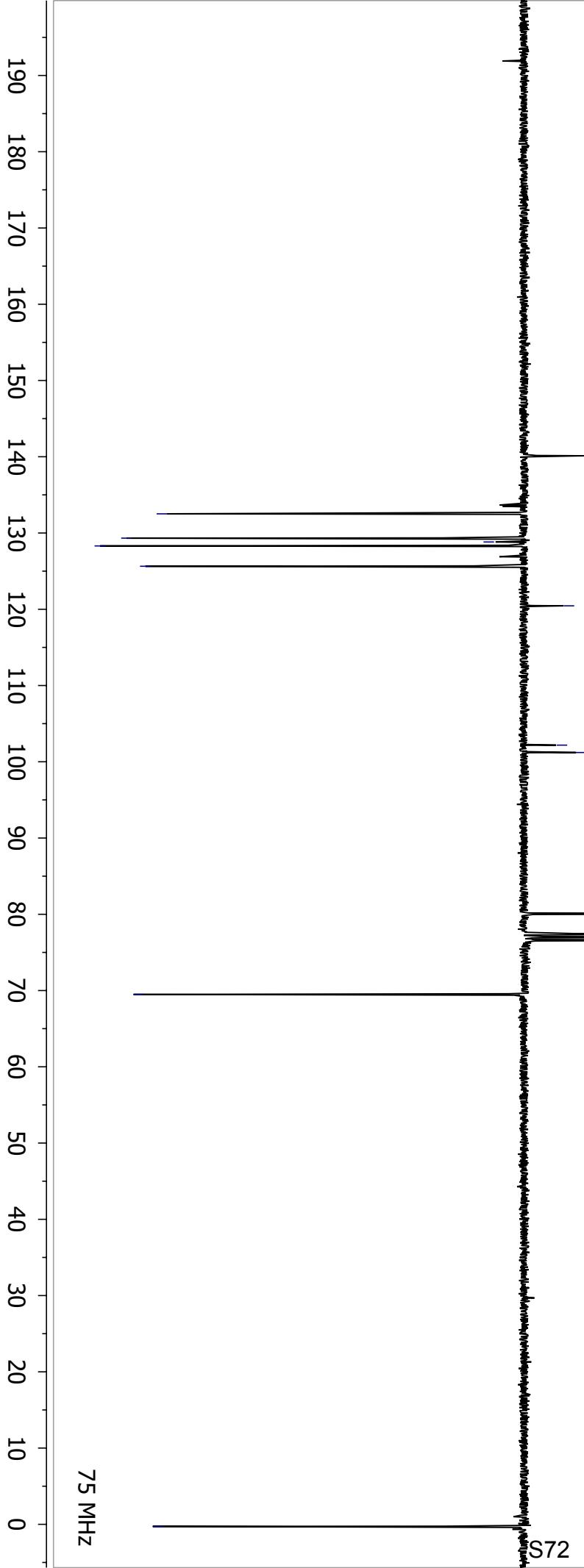
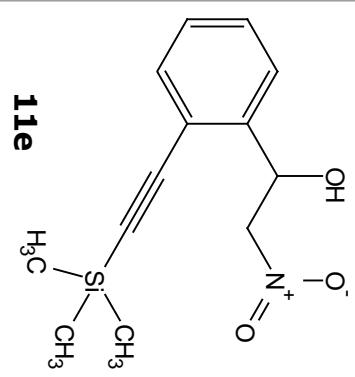
-0.28

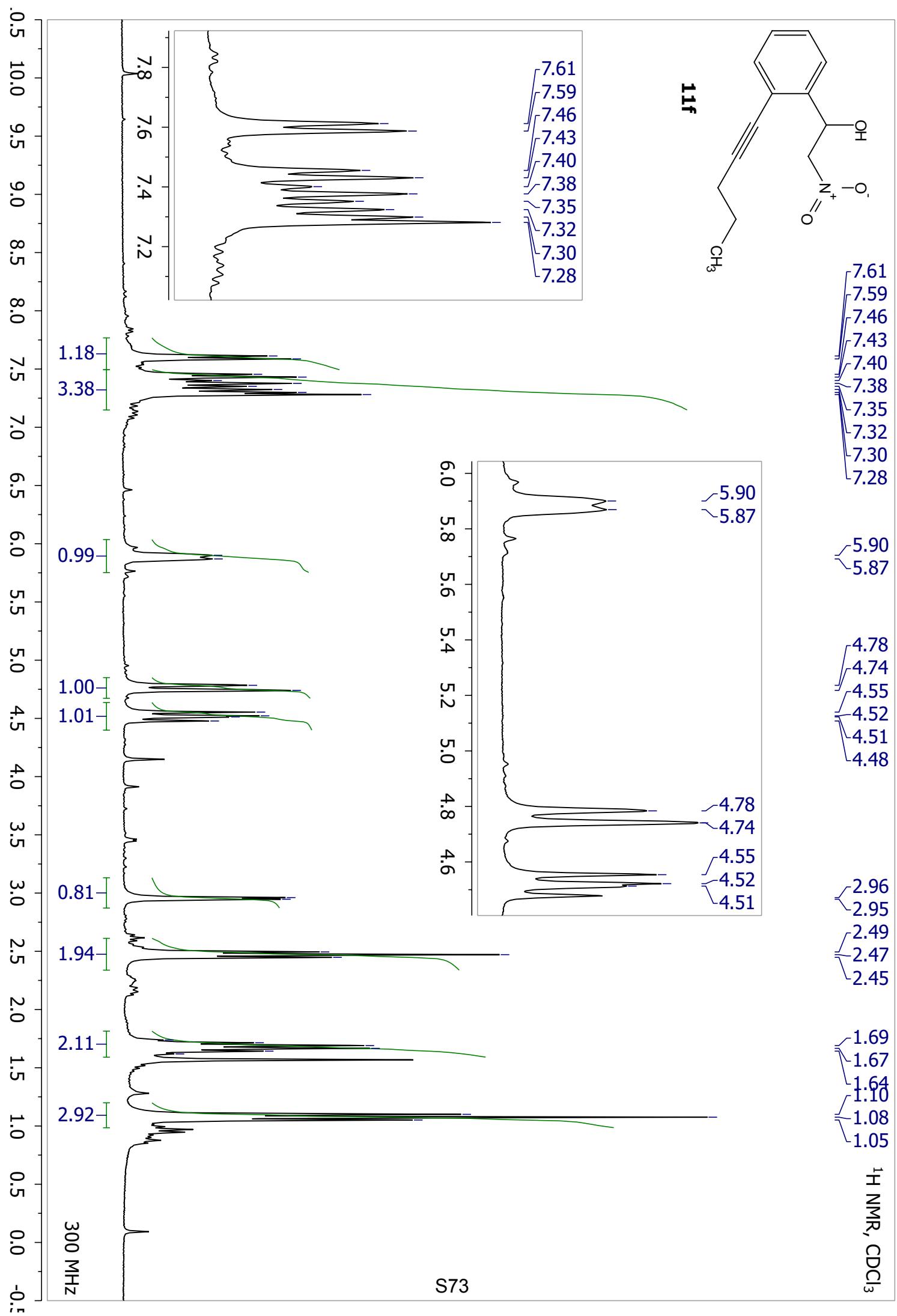
-69.49

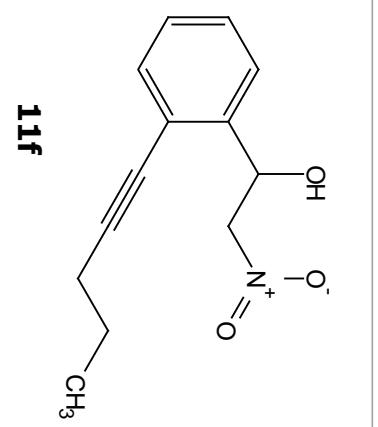
102.18  
101.21

140.13  
132.51  
129.33  
128.82  
128.30  
125.64  
120.45

—S72







139.39  
 132.41  
 128.33  
 125.54  
 121.44

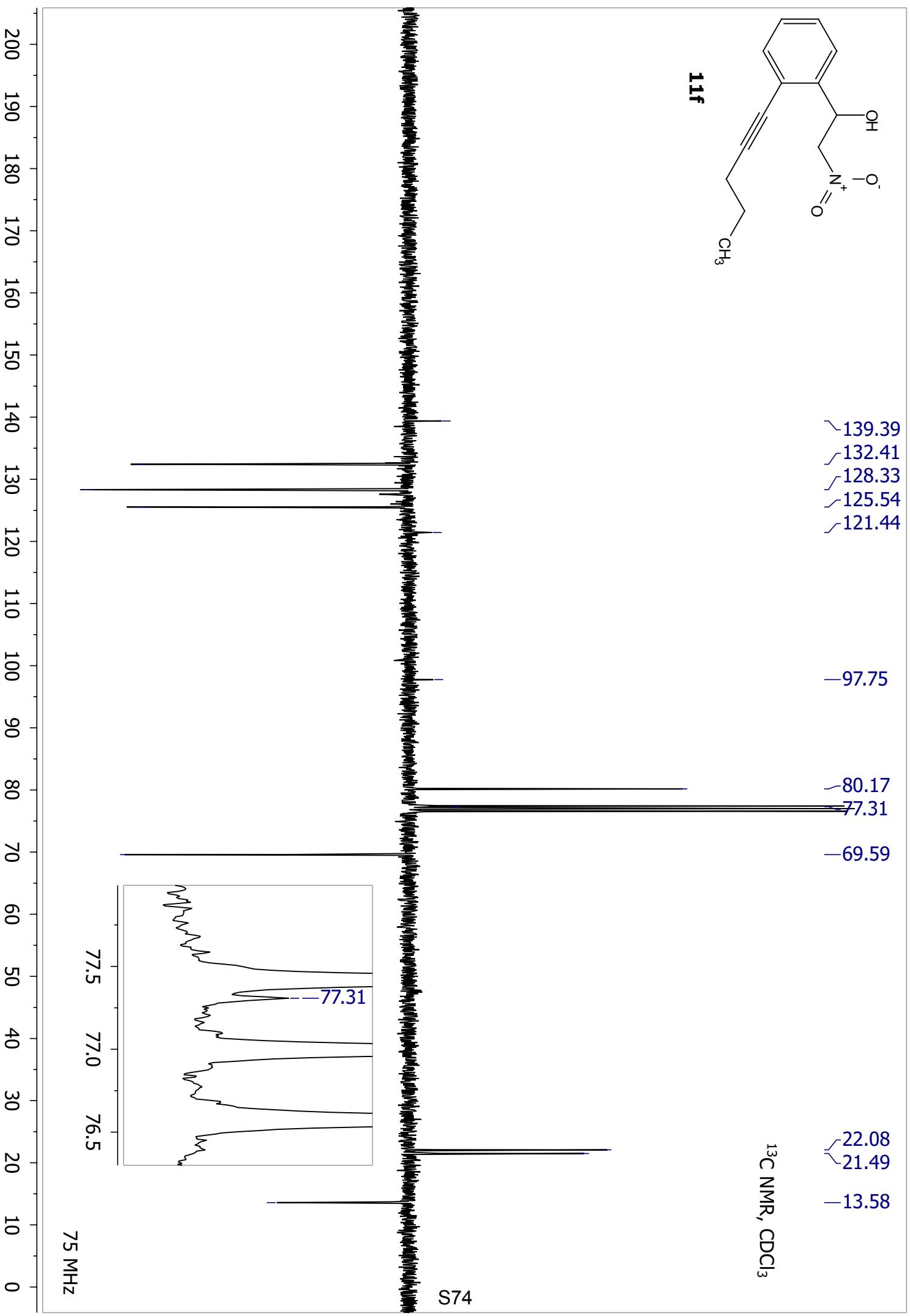
— 97.75

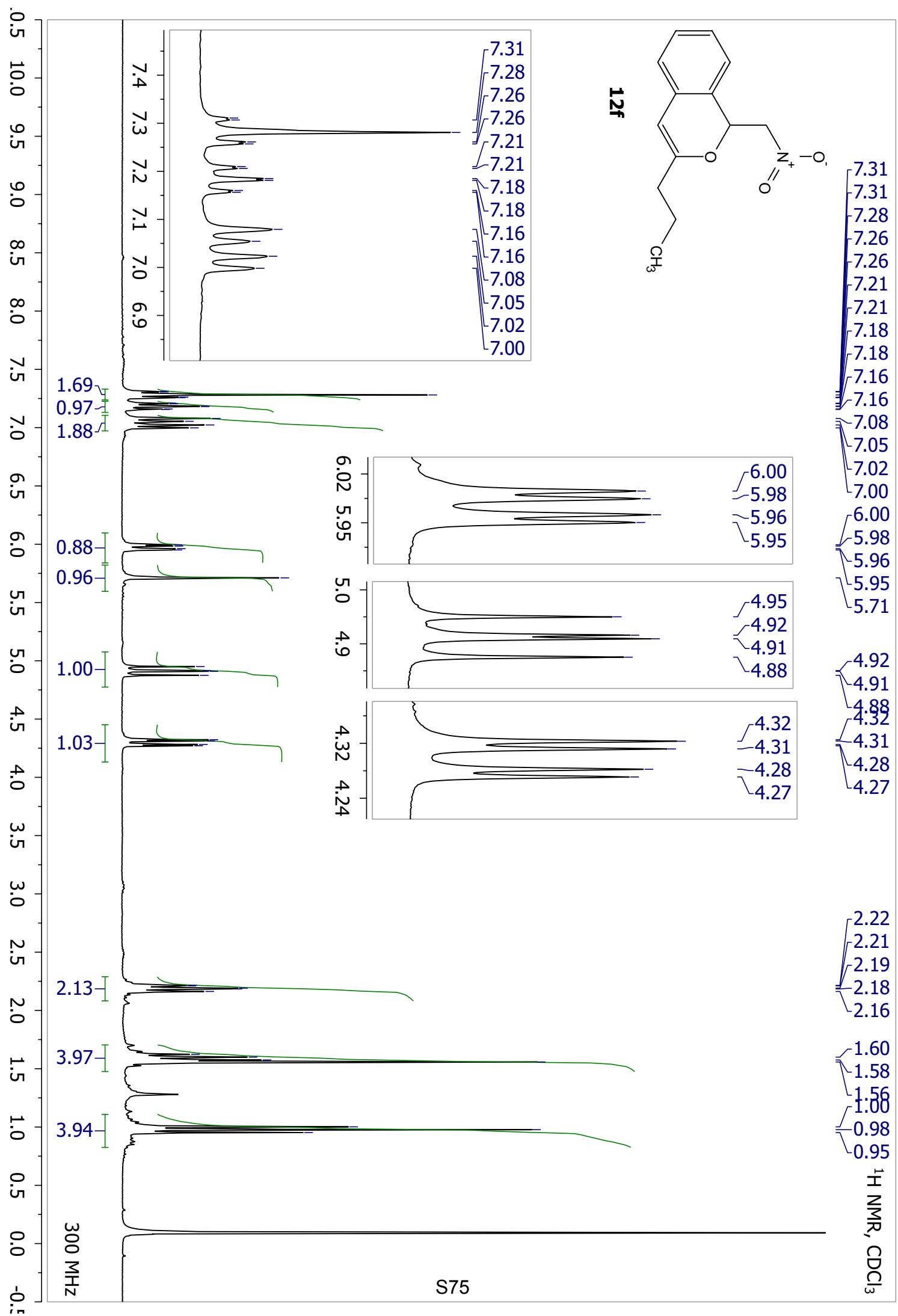
— 80.17  
— 77.31

— 69.59

22.08  
 21.49  
 — 13.58

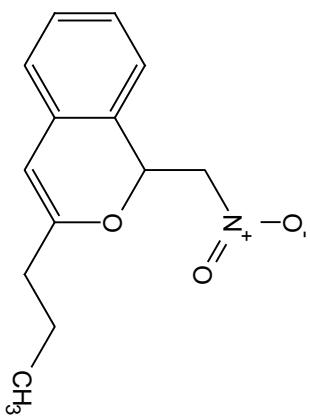
<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>





$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR,  $\text{CDCl}_3$

**12f**



—155.04

130.79  
129.41  
126.49  
124.39  
124.37  
123.62

—100.38

—76.68  
~74.44

—35.61

—19.69  
—13.69

S76

