

## Supplementary information

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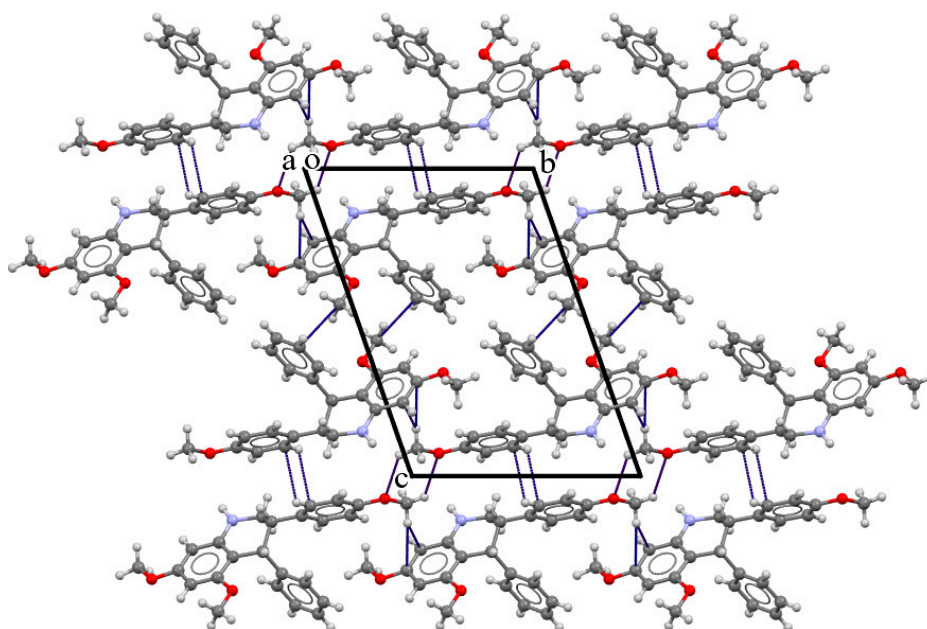
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### 1.1 X-ray data for compound 3c

CCDC: 957124



**Figure S1:** Packing of molecules of **3c** looking down a-axis

Packing of molecules is dominated by CH<sub>3</sub>- $\pi$  and slipped  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions as shown in the Figure 1. The presence of three aromatic rings in the molecule essentially involves their association with weaker interactions of the said types.

## 1.2 Biological data

**Table S1.** Cell viability of cancer cell lines after treatment with tetrahydroquinolines.

Entry	H460	DU145	A-431	HT-29	MCF-7
<b>4b</b>	94.3 ± 4.2	91.1 ± 0.9	89.6 ± 1.8	105.7 ± 1.0	85.1 ± 4.8
<b>3b</b>	30.7 ± 0.8	104.5 ± 1.1	62.0 ± 1.6	63.4 ± 2.5	25.4 ± 1.6
<b>3c</b>	2.6 ± 0.1	11.9 ± 0.5	1.1 ± 0.2	3.3 ± 0.4	4.9 ± 0.2
<b>3e</b>	32.5 ± 0.3	100.2 ± 2.5	63.6 ± 1.0	50.1 ± 1.3	23.9 ± 1.5

### 1.3 NMR Spectra

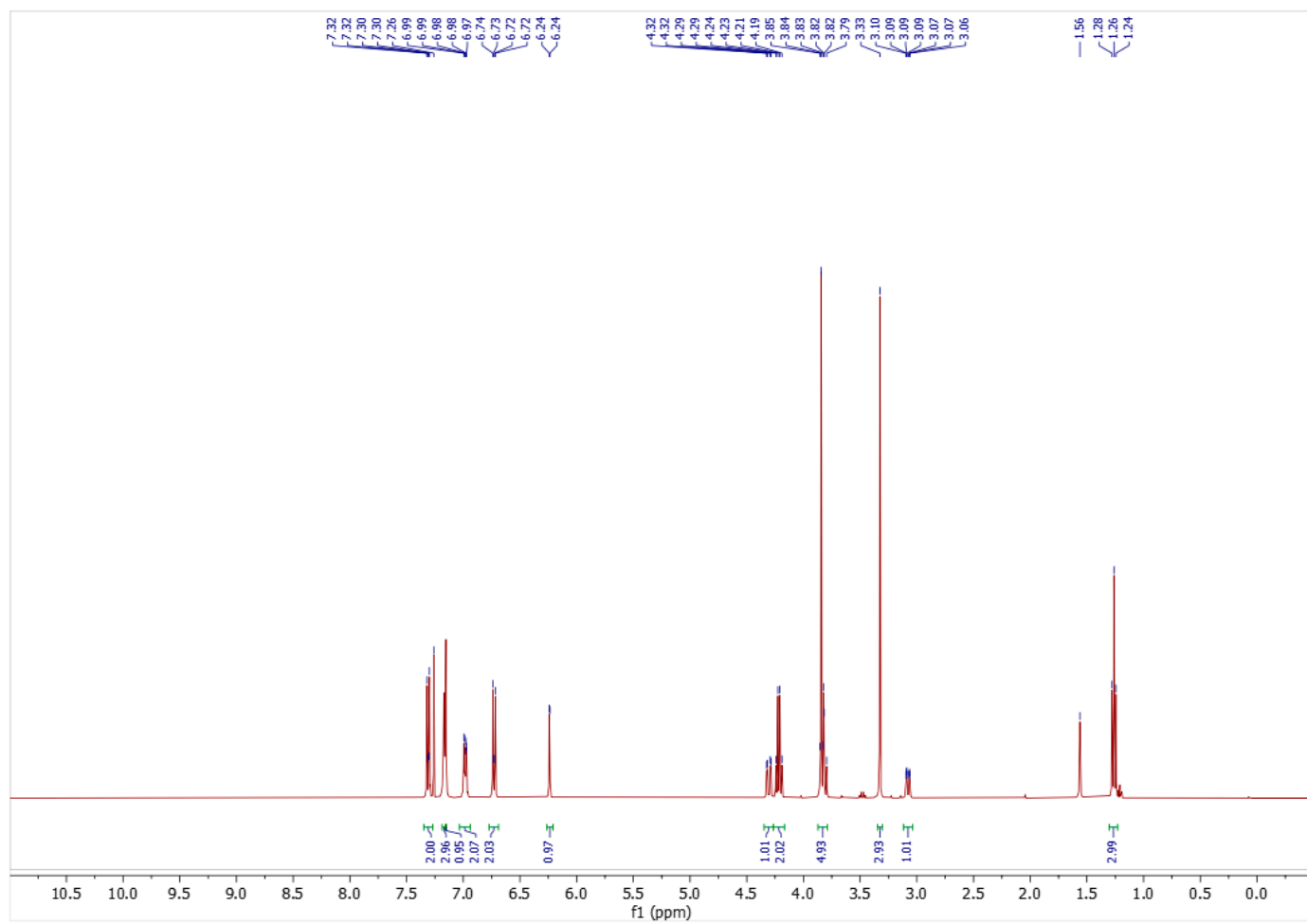
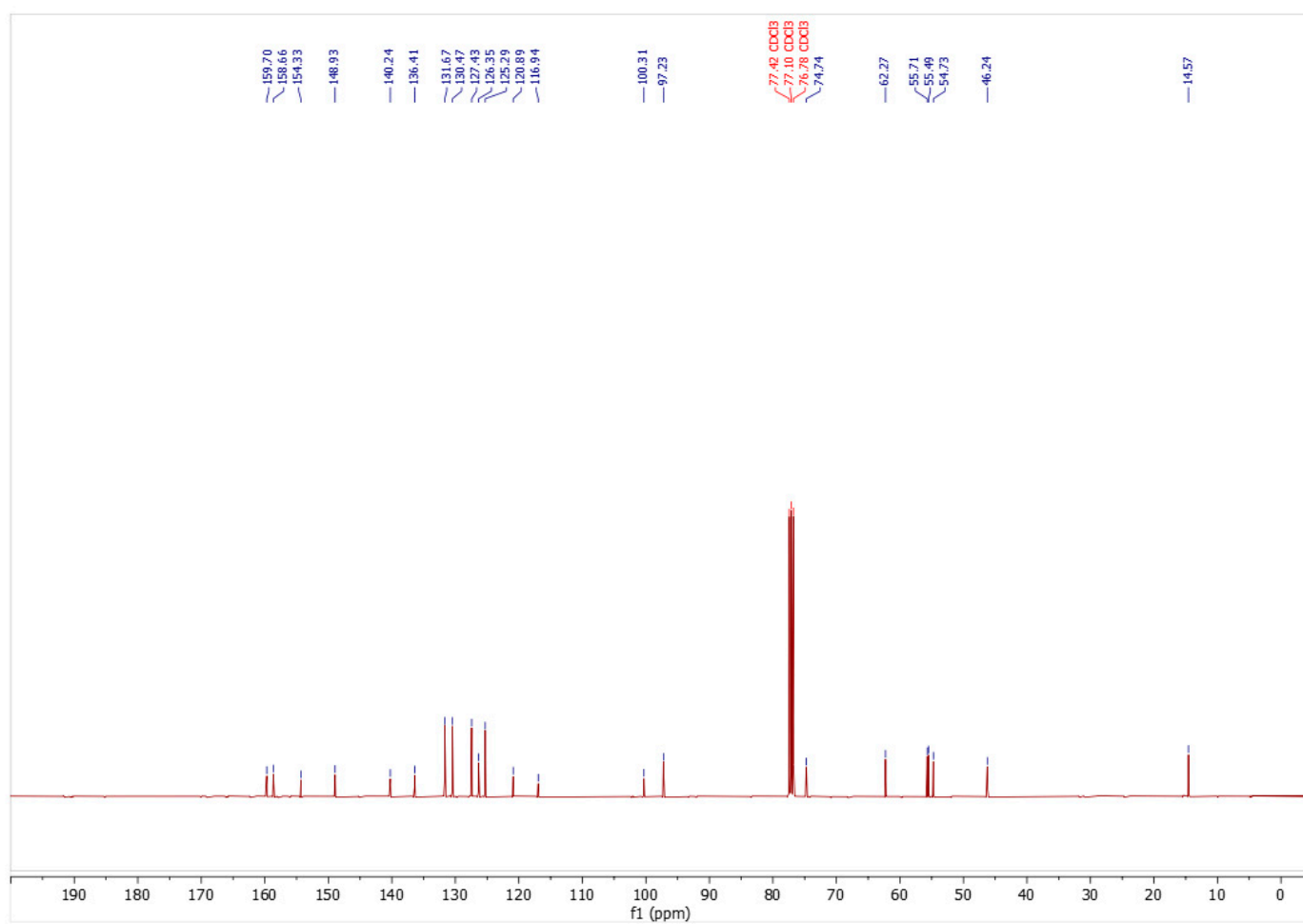


Figure S2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of 8a



**Figure S3.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR of 8a

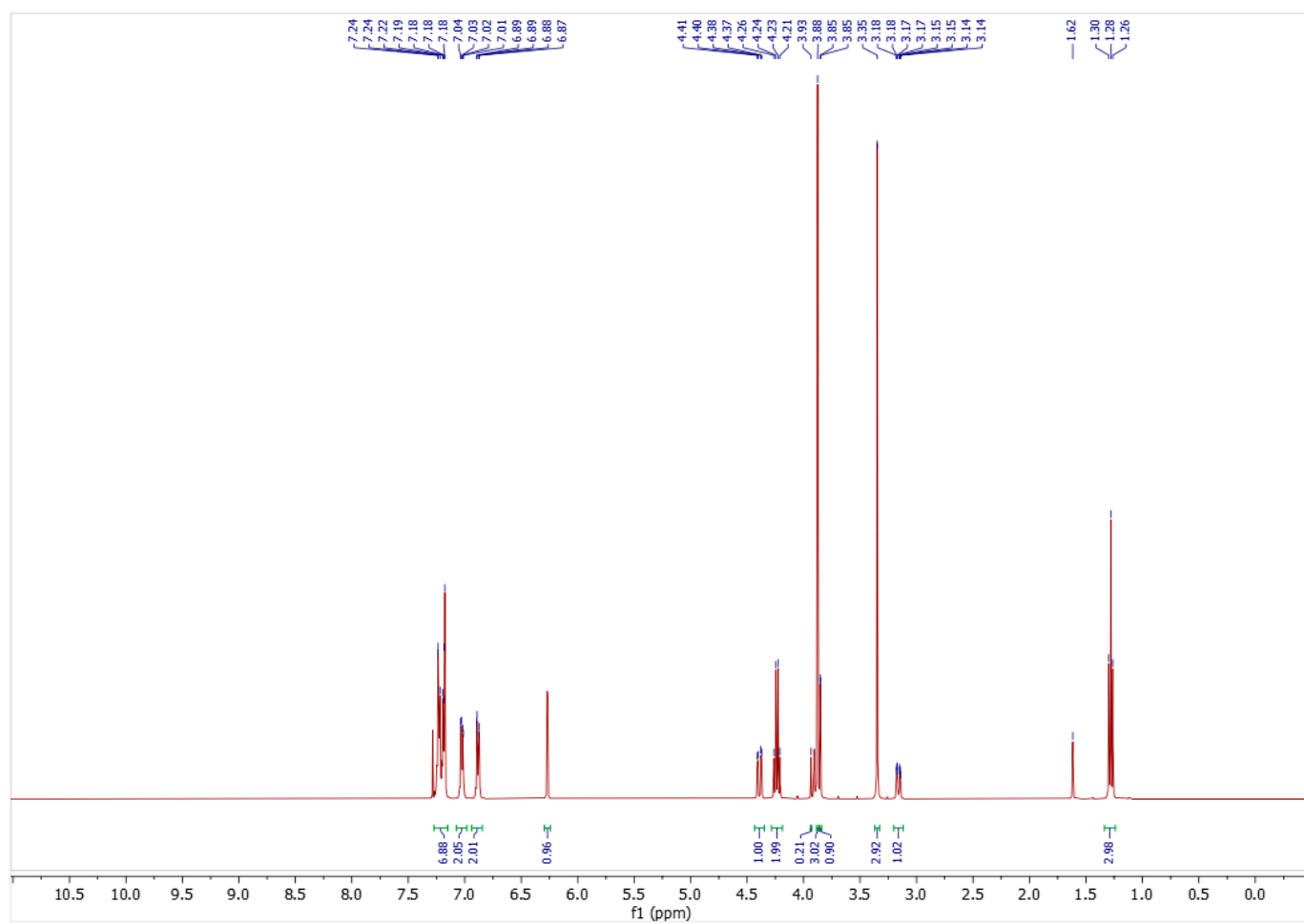
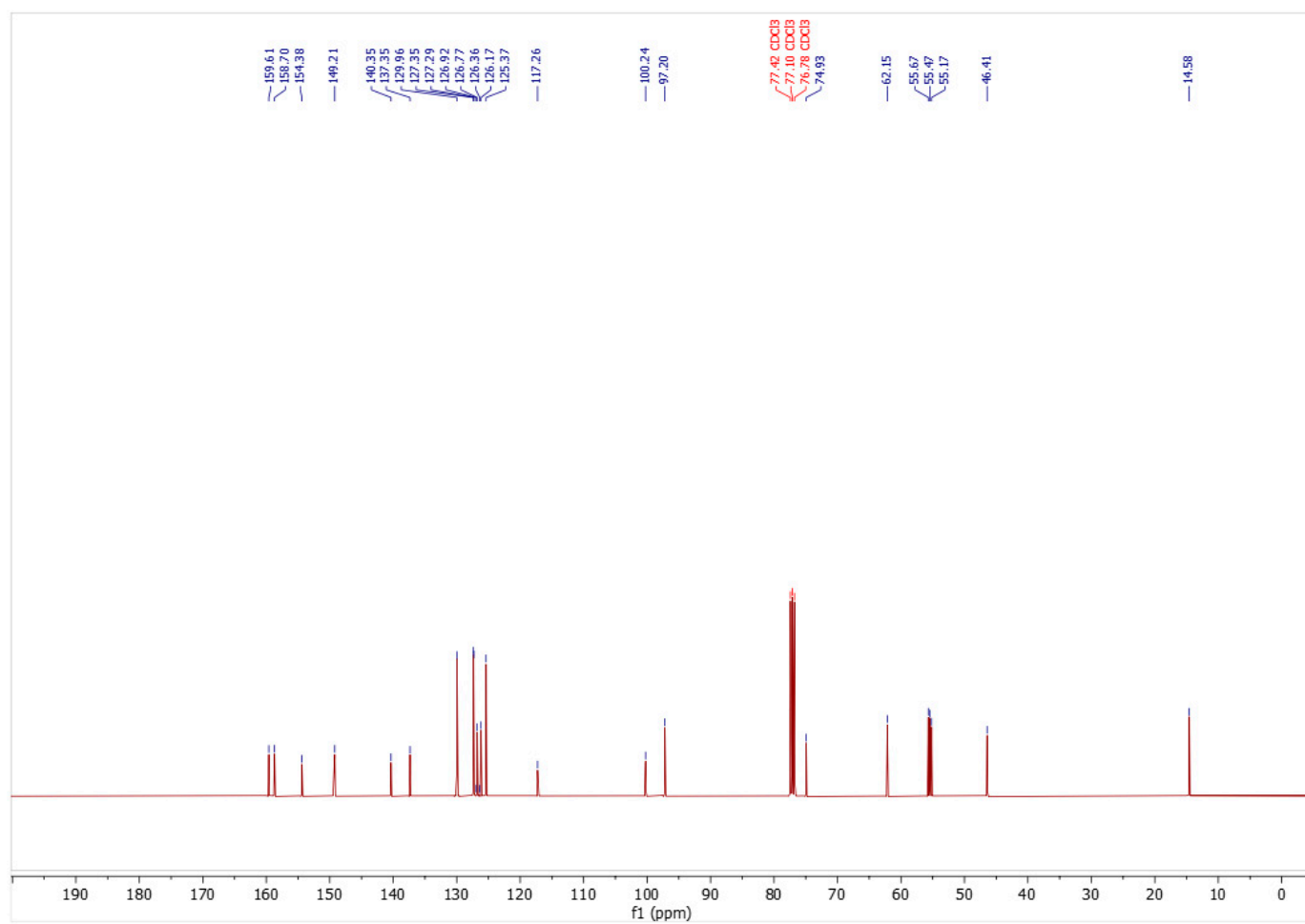
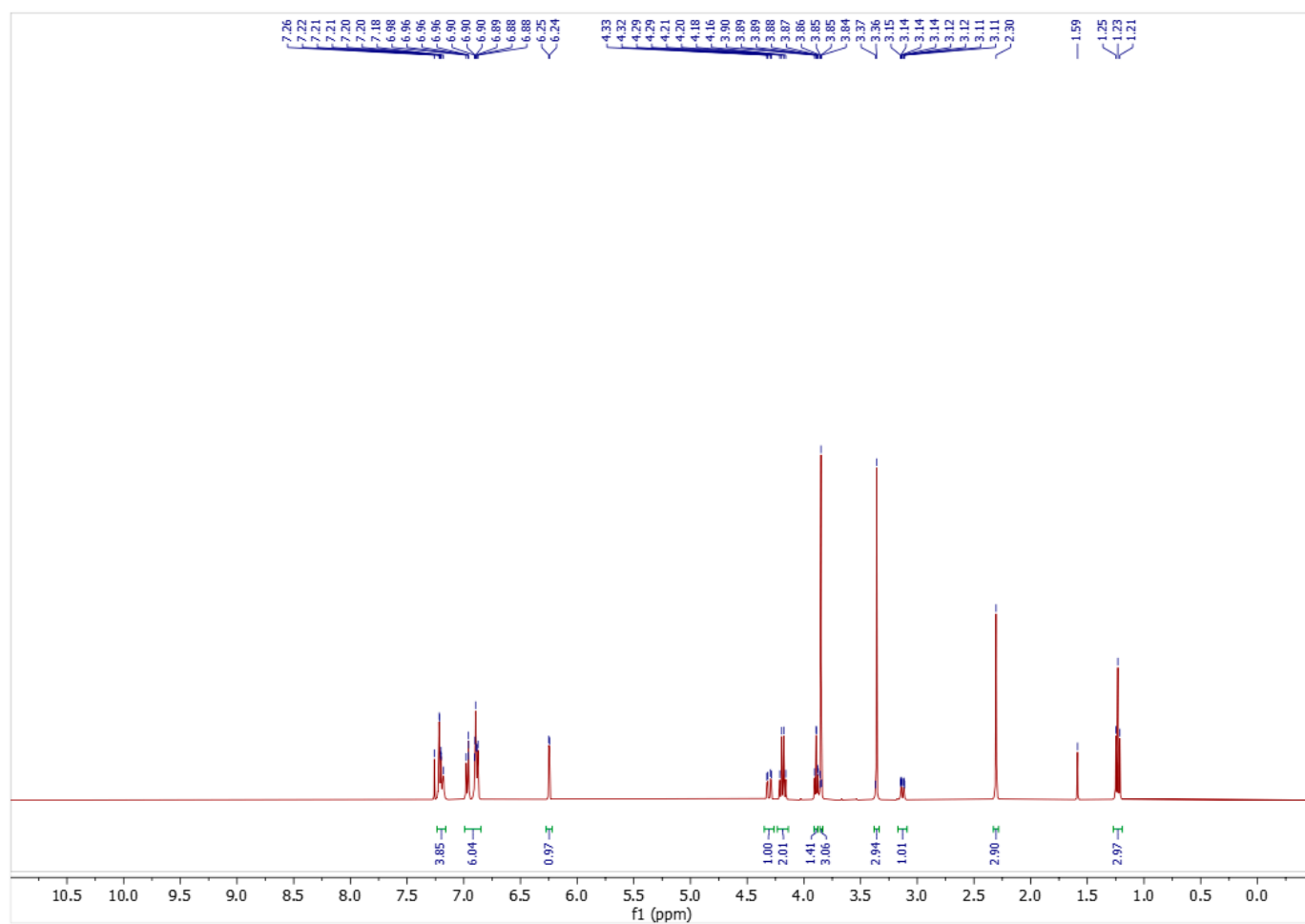


Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 8f



**Figure S5.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **8f**

Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 8g

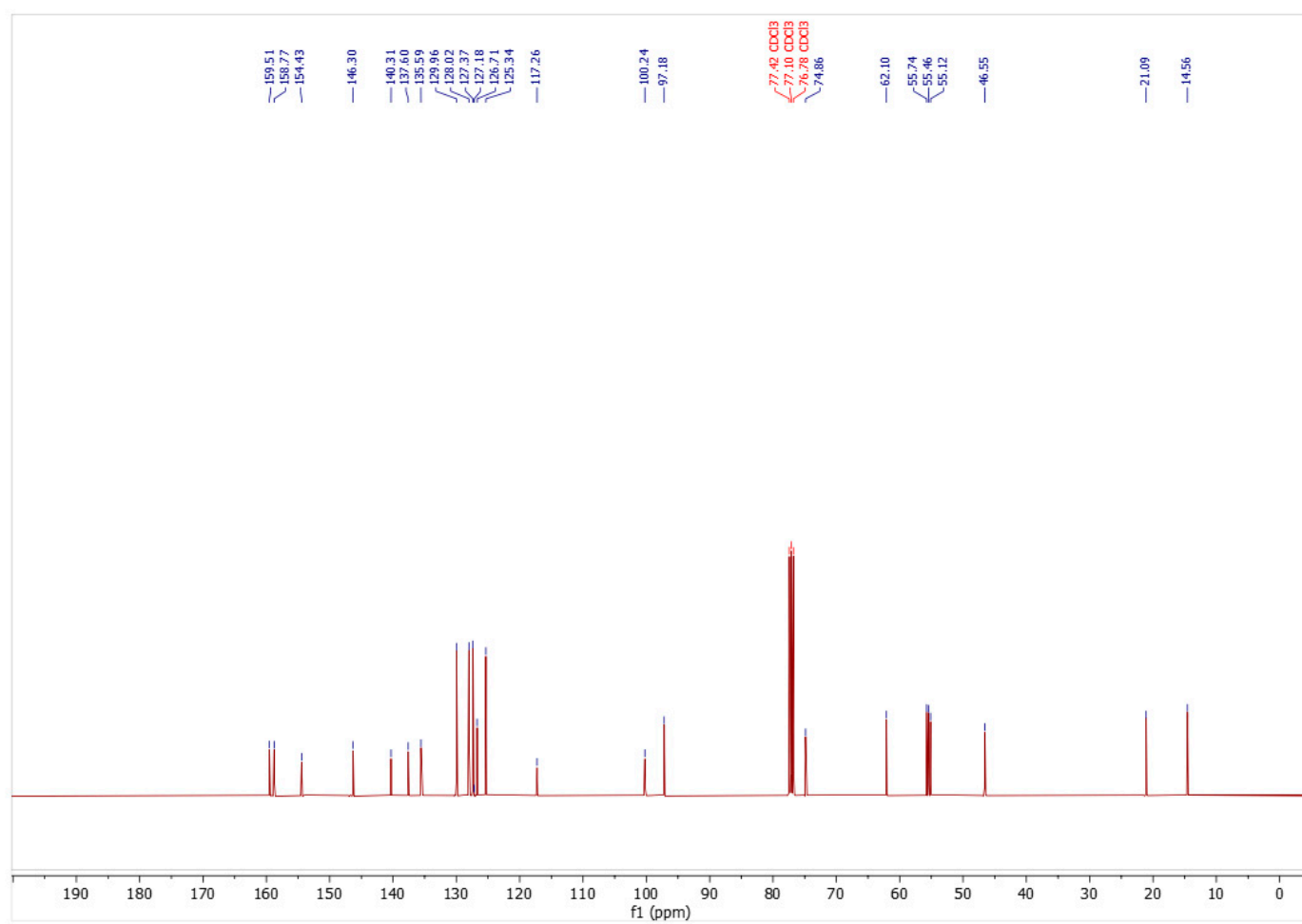


Figure S7. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 8g



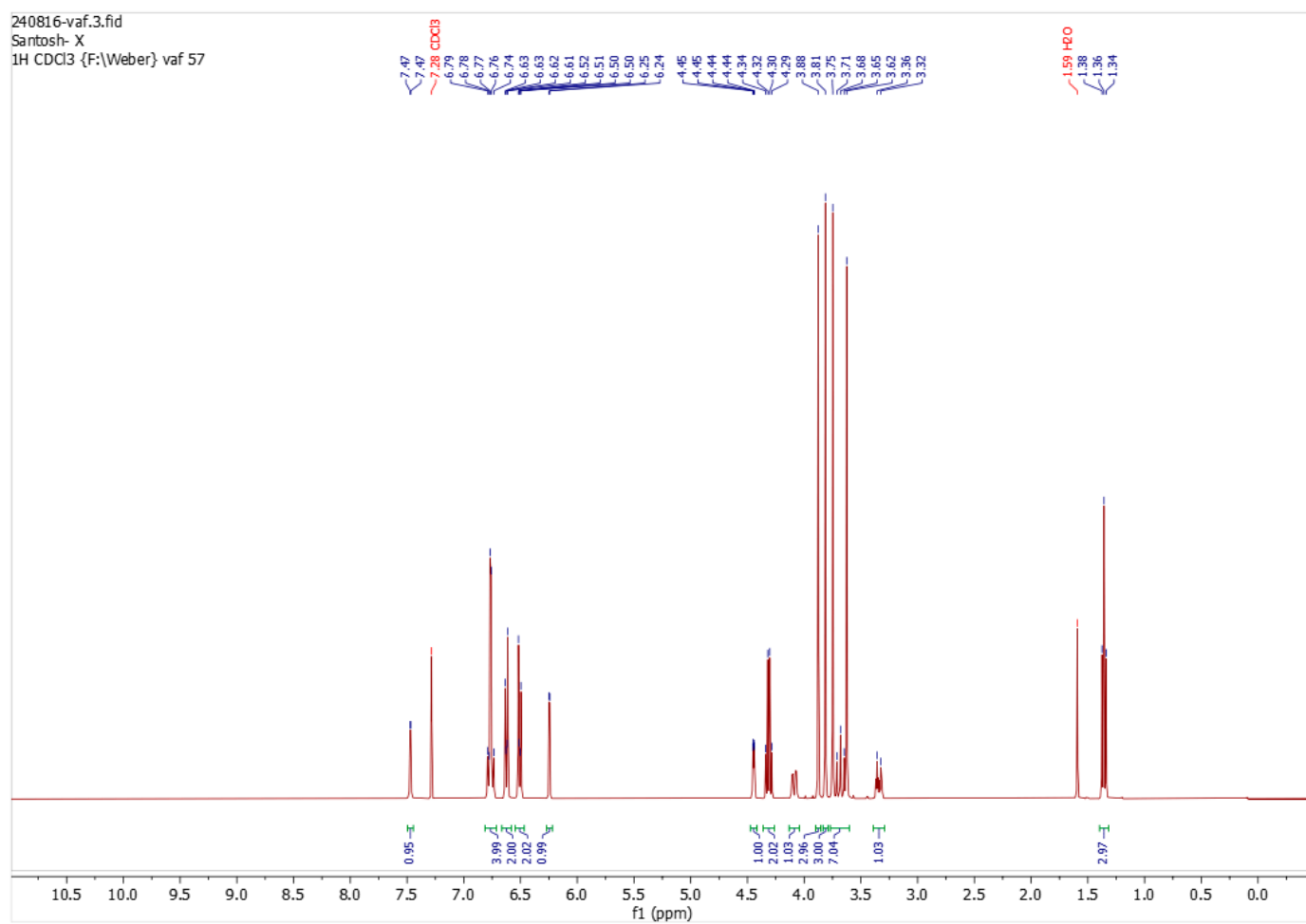


Figure S8.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of 10b

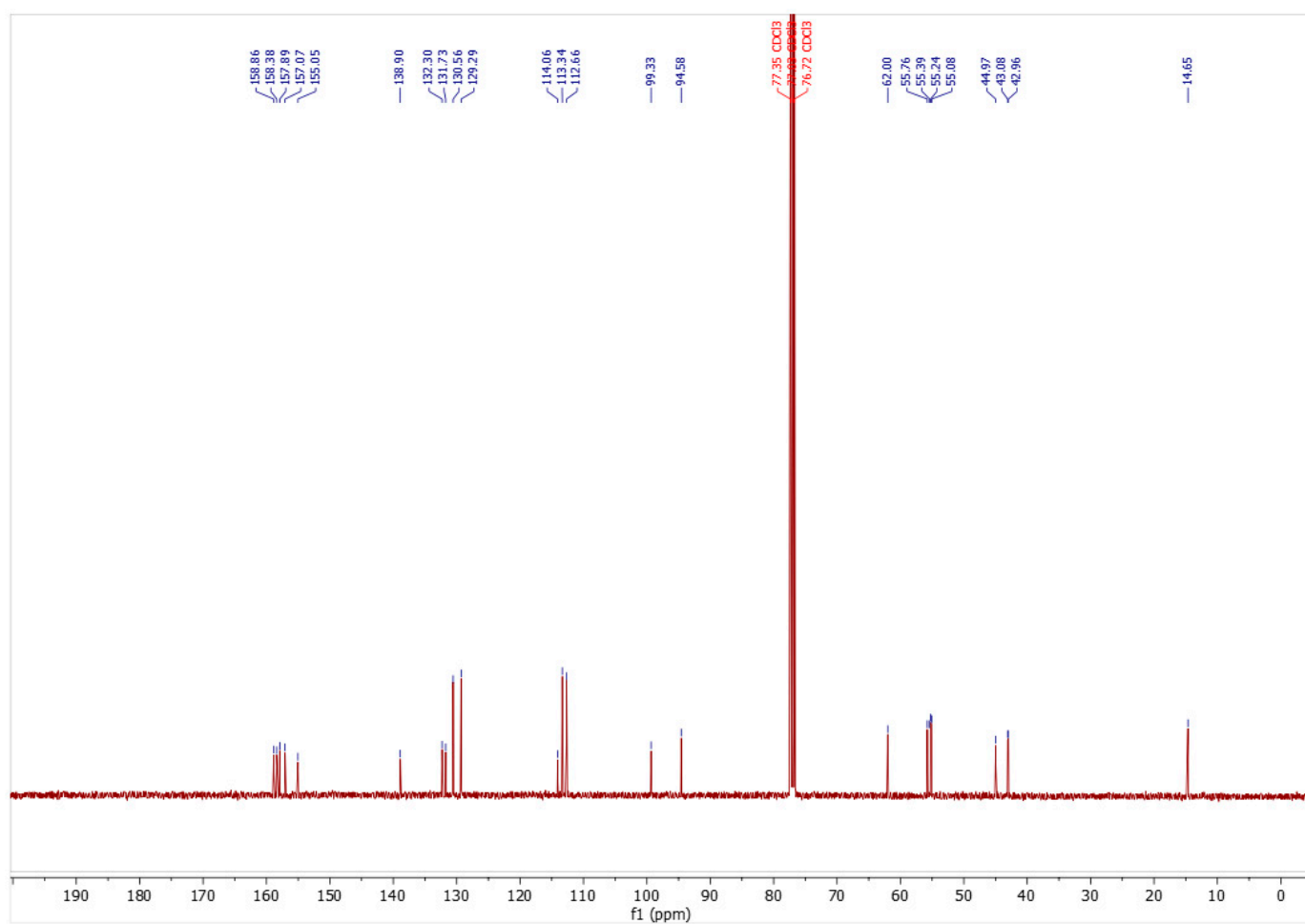
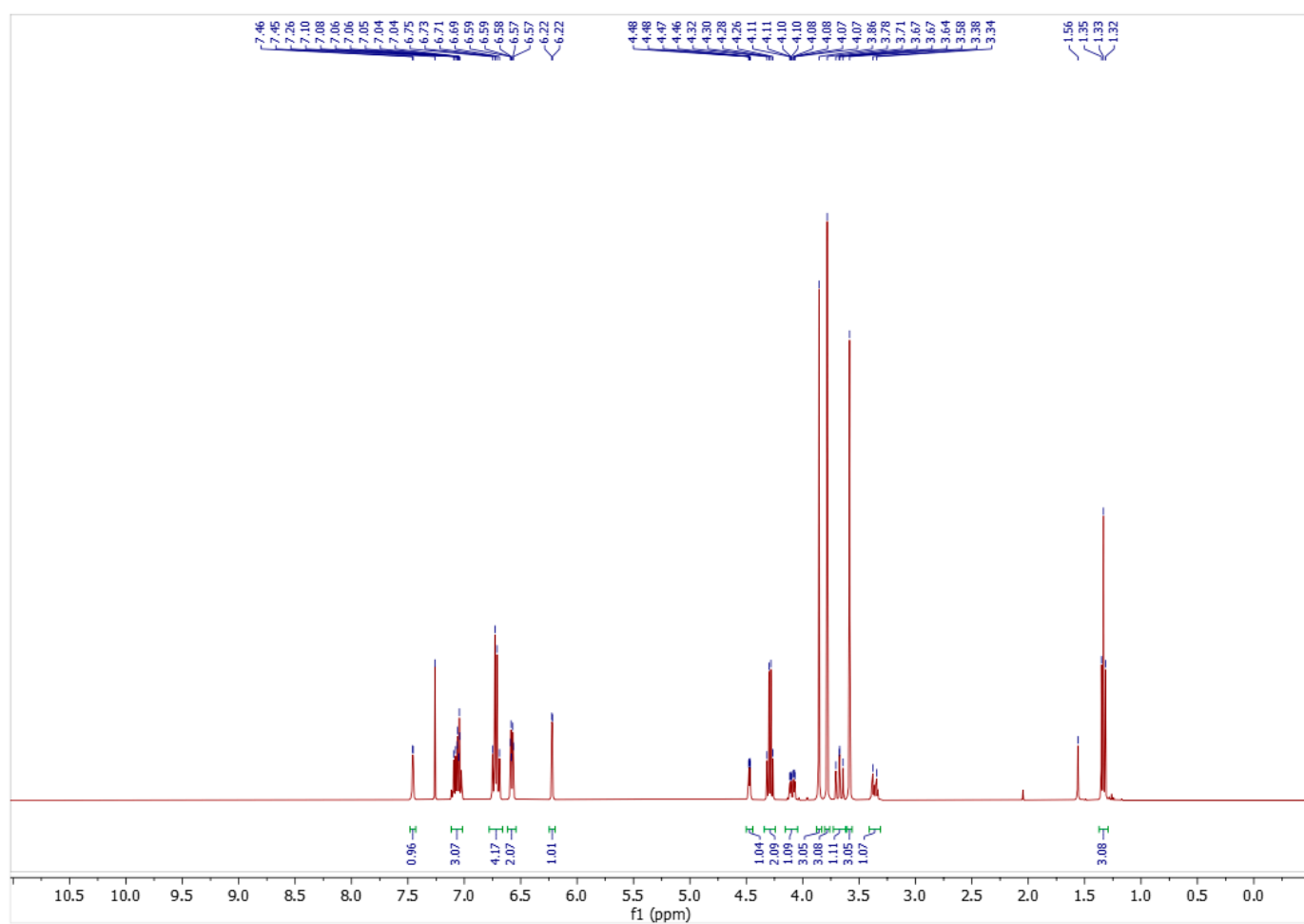
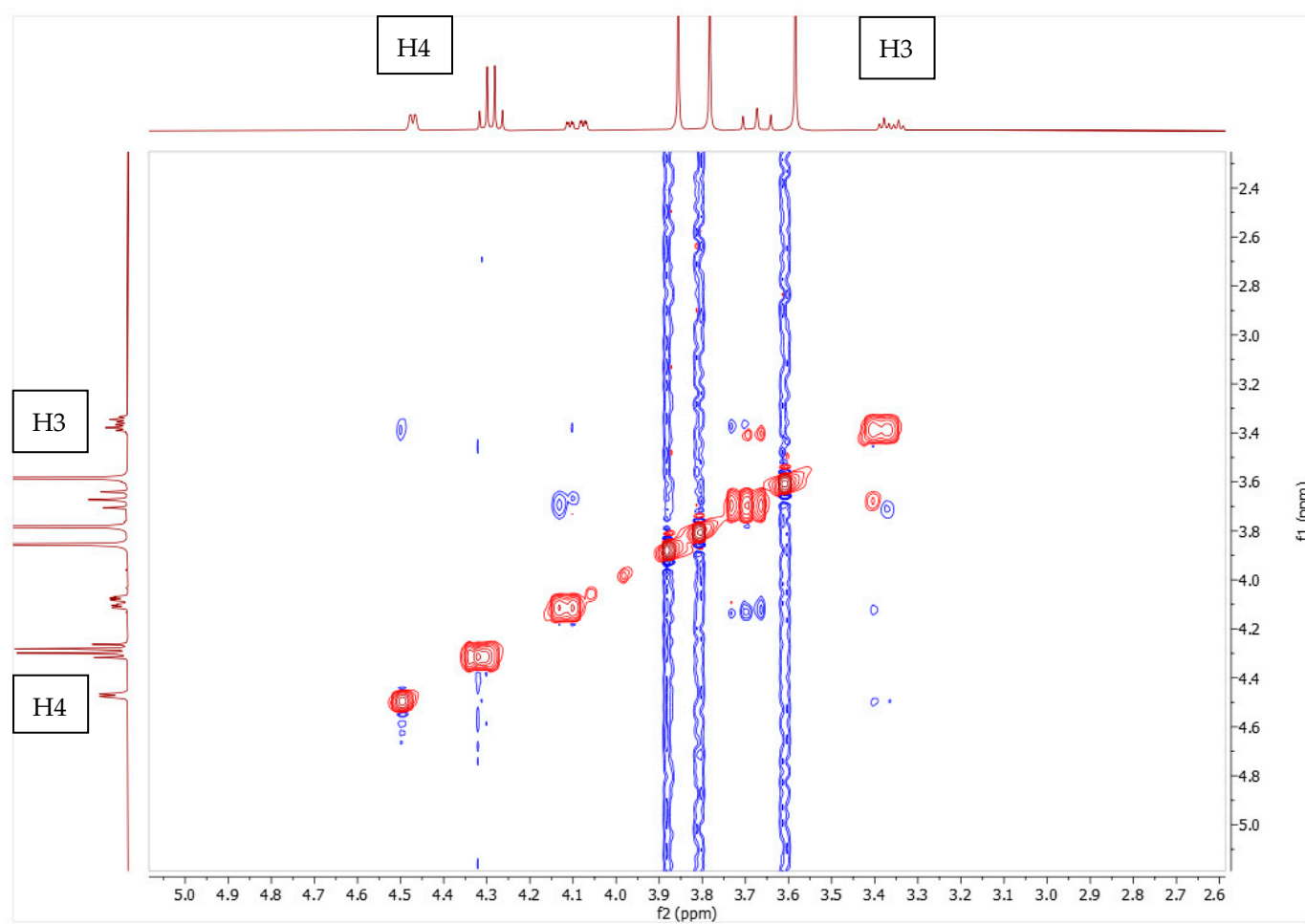
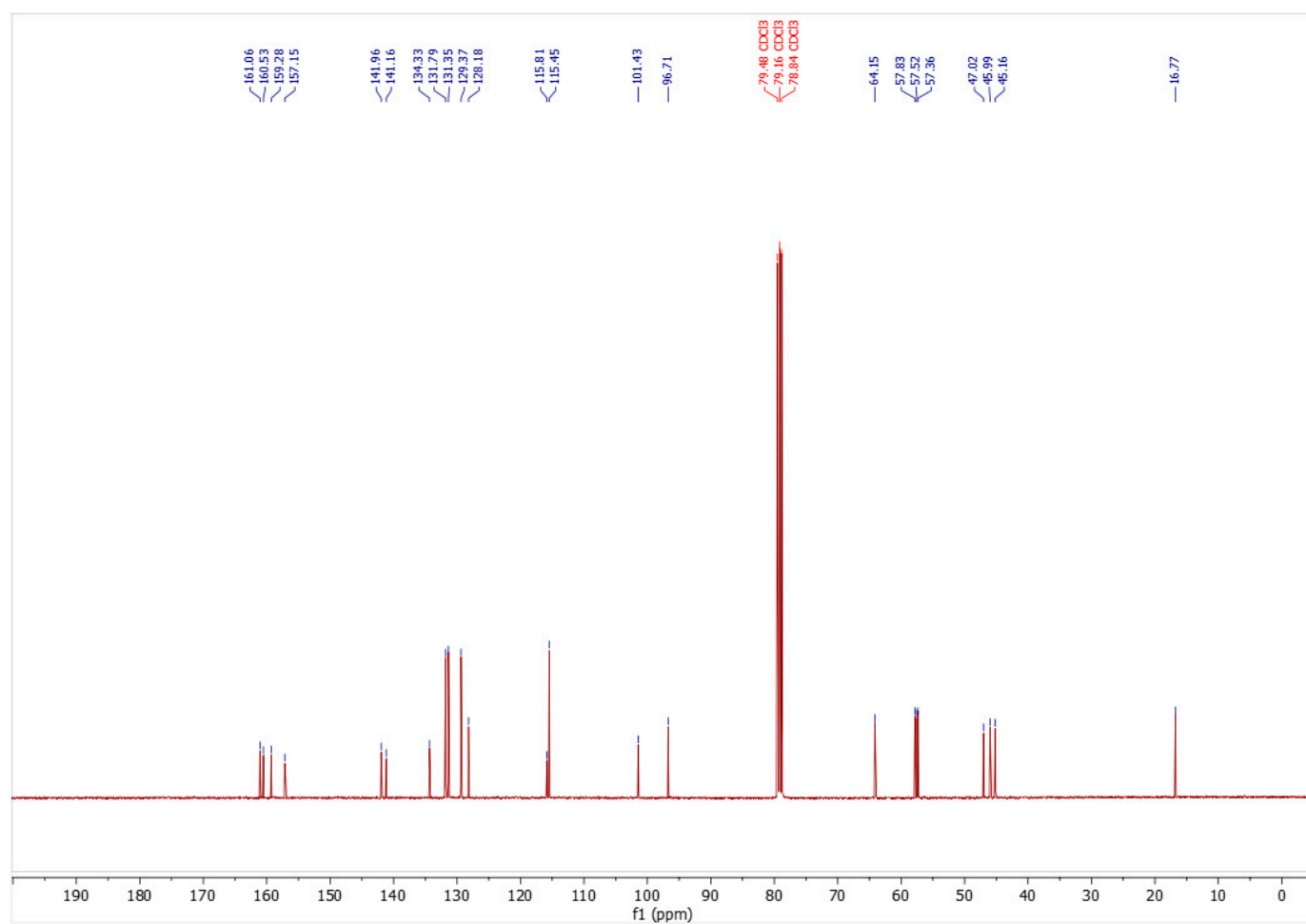


Figure S9. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 10b

Figure S10.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of 10c



**Figure S11.** NOESY NMR of **10c** showing interaction between H3 and H4



**Figure S12.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 10c

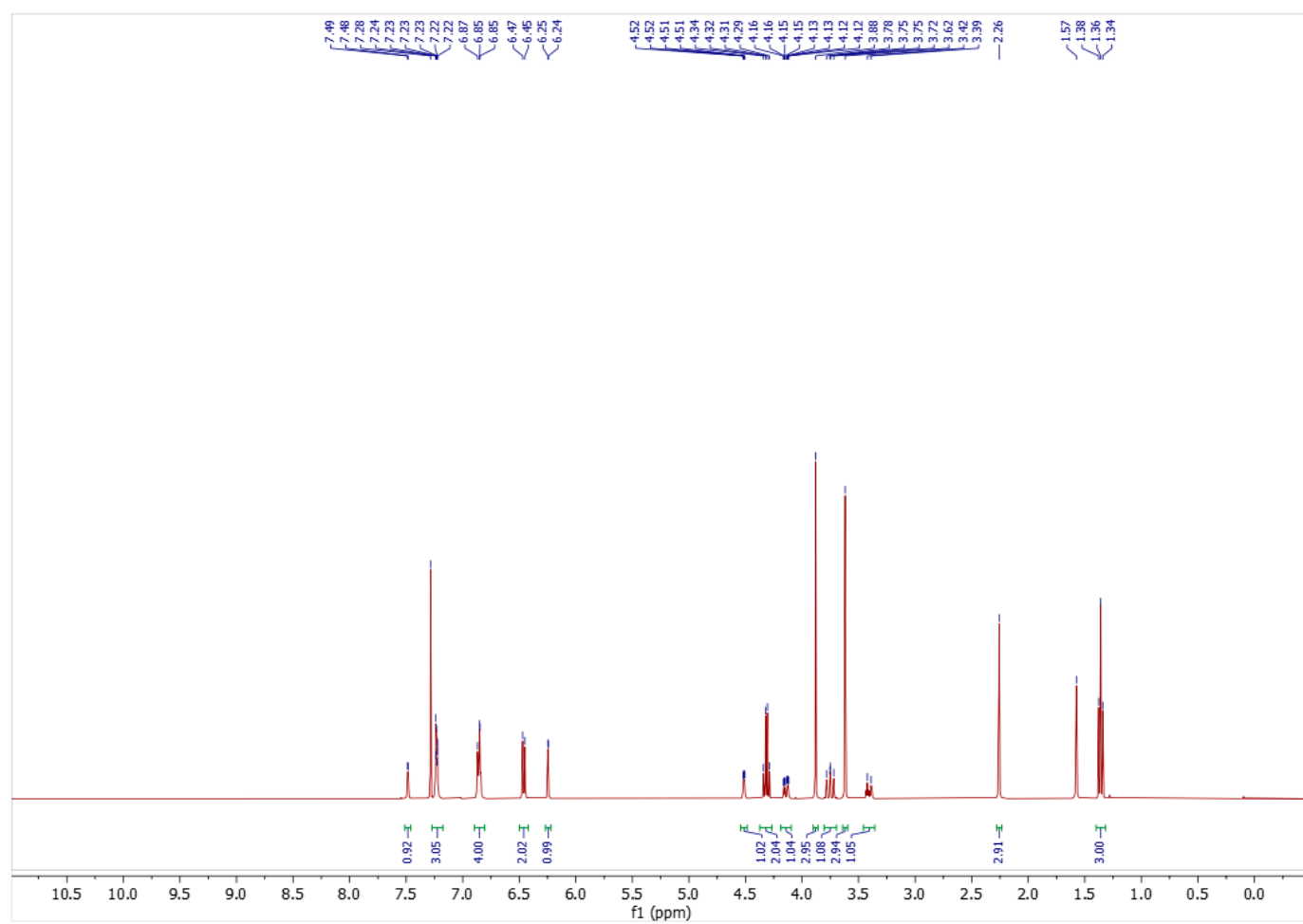


Figure S13. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 10g

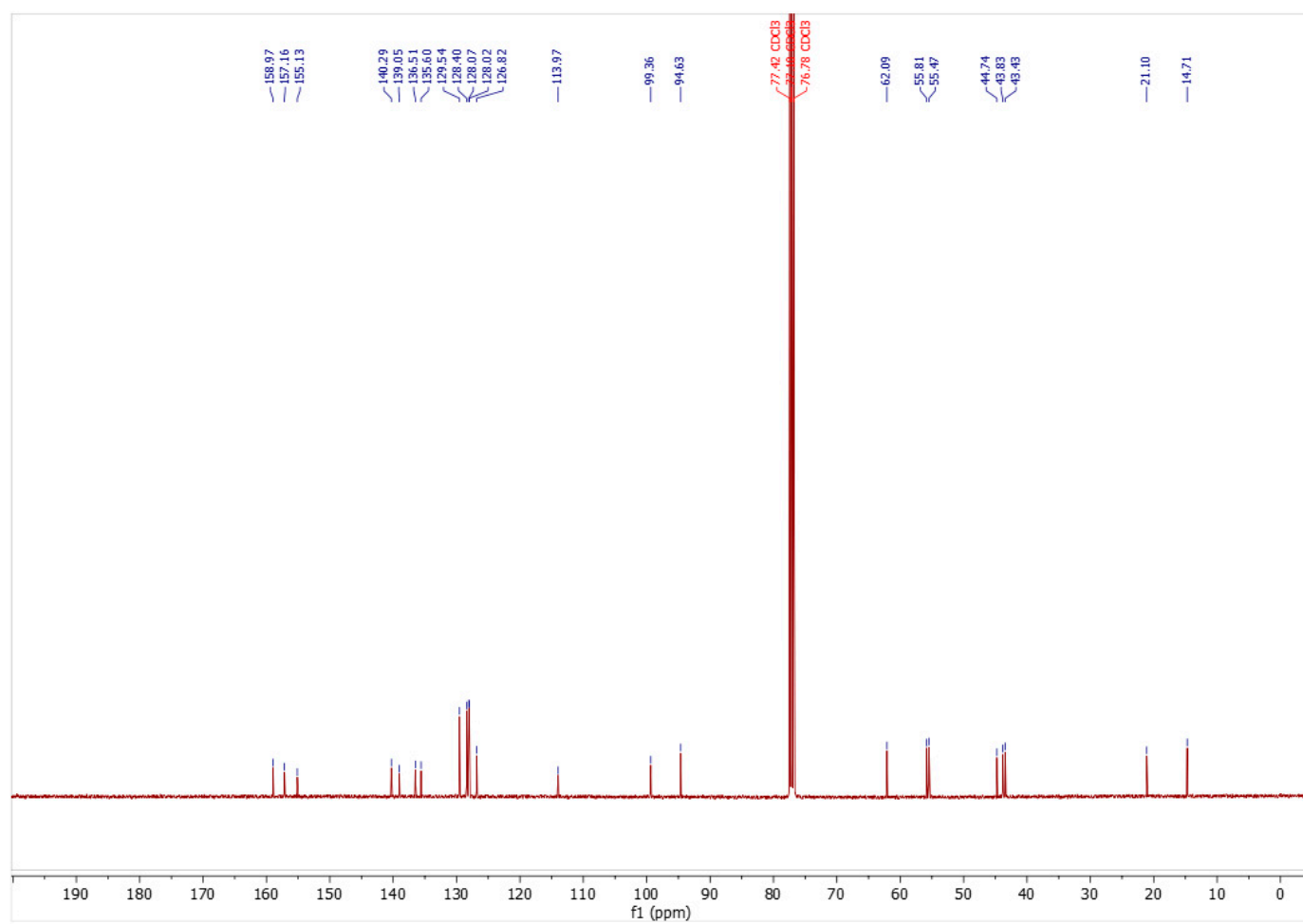


Figure S14. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 10g

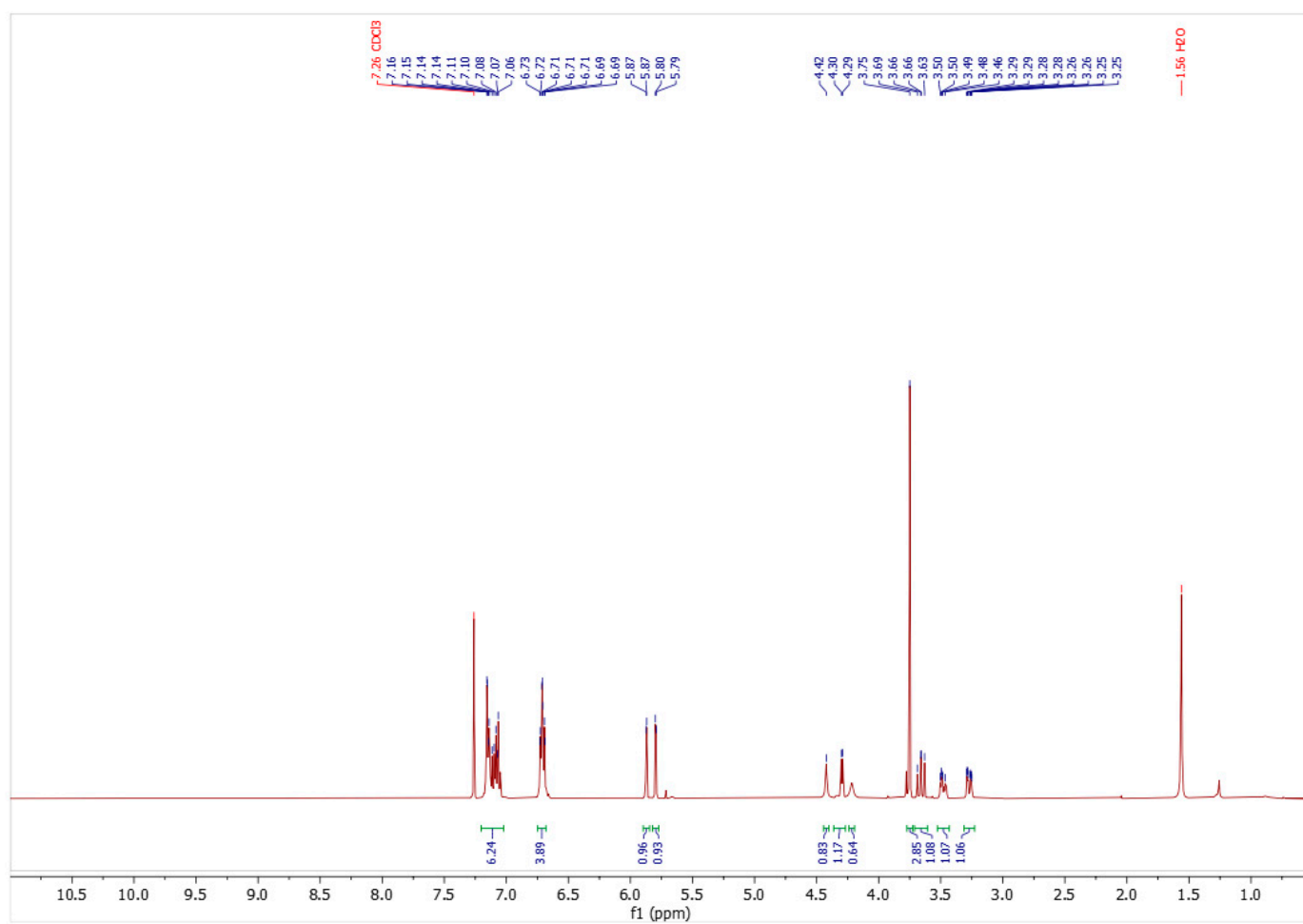


Figure S15. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 13f



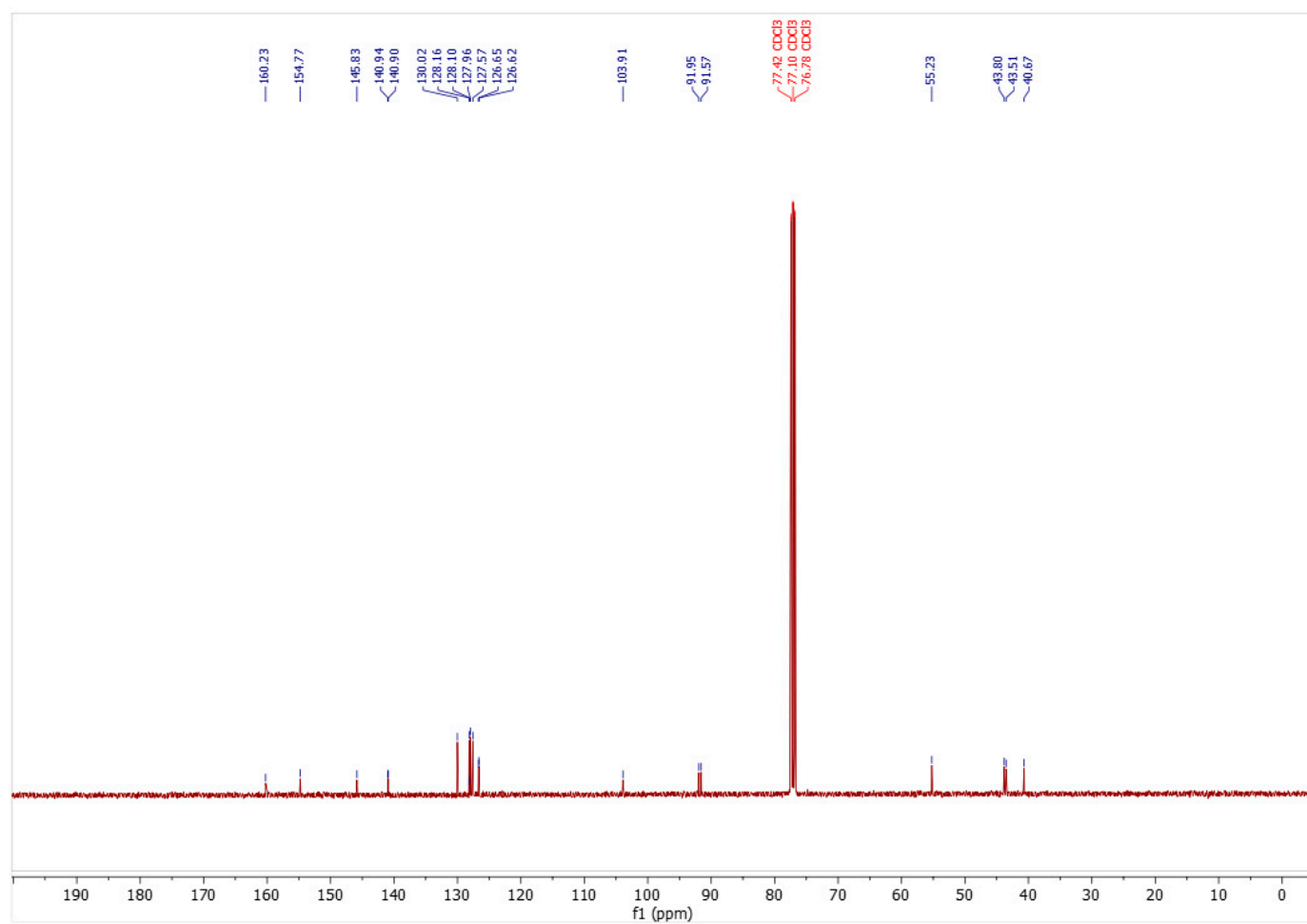


Figure S16. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 13f