

# Aluminum-Catalyzed Cross Selective C3–N1' Coupling Reactions of *N*-Methoxyindoles with Indoles

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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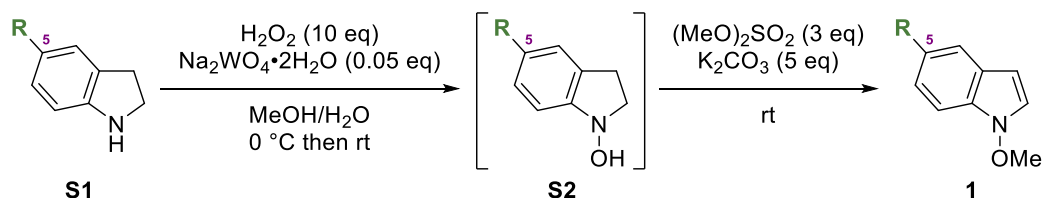
## 1. General Experimental

High-resolution MS spectra were recorded with a Bruker micrOTOF mass spectrometers (ESI-TOF-MS). The NMR experiments were performed with JEOL JNM-ECZ600R ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR: 600 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR: 151 MHz) spectrometer, Varian 600-MR ASW ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR: 600 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR: 151 MHz) spectrometer and Varian 400-MR ASW ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR: 400 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR: 100 MHz) spectrometer, and chemical shifts are expressed in ppm ( $\delta$ ) using residual undeuterated solvent as an internal reference ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  7.25,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  77.1). The following abbreviations were used to explain NMR peak multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, sep = septet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublets, ddd = doublet of doublet of doublets, br = broad; coupling constants in Hz; integration. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) carried out on a silica gel plates (60F-254) and visualized under UV illumination at 254 or 365 nm depending on the compounds. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (WAKO Gel 75–150 mesh, WAKO Co., Ltd.).

## 2. Experimental Procedure

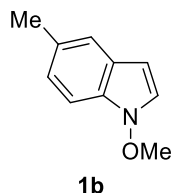
### 2-1. Preparation of NMeOINs

The *N*-MeOINs **1** were prepared by reported method.<sup>[S1]</sup> All substrates were used as received from commercial suppliers (Sigma-Aldrich, Kanto Chemical, TCI and Wako) and all reagents were weighed and handled in air at room temperature. Analytical data are in accordance with the literature values.<sup>[S2]</sup>



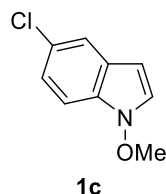
A solution with the indoline (**2** mmol) and  $\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.1 mmol, 0.05 eq) in  $\text{MeOH}$  (6 mL) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.6 mL) was cooled to  $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . 30%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (2.24 mL, 20 mmol) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred for 5–10 minutes at room temperature. Then,  $(\text{MeO})_2\text{SO}_2$  (6 mmol, 3 eq) and  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (10 mmol, 5 eq) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred until the complete disappearance of **S2** indicated by TLC. After  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (20 mL) was added to the mixture, the whole was extracted with  $\text{AcOEt}$  (3 x 20 mL), washed with brine (20 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography ( $\text{AcOEt}/\text{hexane} = 1/20\text{--}1/5$ ) to give **1**.

### 5-Methyl-1-methoxyindole (**1b**)



167 mg, 52% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.43 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.25 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.14–7.11 (m, 1H), 6.31 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 2.49 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 130.4, 129.3, 124.7, 124.1, 123.2, 120.9, 108.1, 97.6, 65.8, 21.5; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 162.0920 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 162.0919).

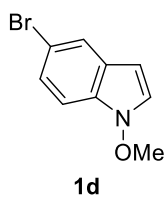
### 5-Chloro-1-methoxyindole (**1c**)



184 mg, 51% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.56 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.31 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.08 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 130.2, 125.6, 125.1, 124.2, 122.6, 120.5, 109.3, 97.6, 65.9; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 182.0373, 184.0344 (Calcd

for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClNO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 182.0373, 184.0343).

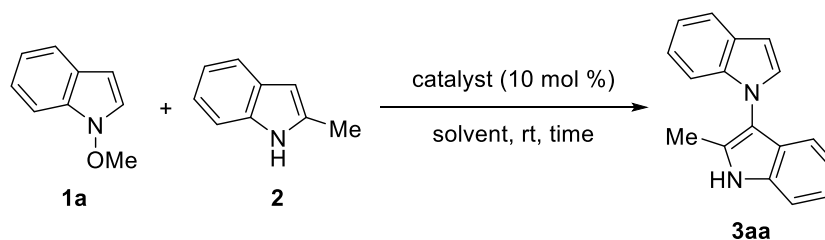
### 5-Bromo-1-methoxyindole (1d)



230 mg, 51% yield. colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.31–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.25 (m, 1H), 6.29 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 130.5, 125.9, 125.3, 124.1, 123.7, 113.2, 109.7, 97.6, 66.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: 225.9867, 227.9847 (Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 225.9868, 227.9847).

## 2-2. Optimization of reaction conditions

### ■ Optimization of reaction conditions (Table 1)

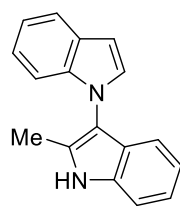


run	catalyst	solvent	time (h)	yield (%) of <b>3aa</b> <sup>a</sup>
1	In(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	1.5	72
2	InF <sub>3</sub> •3H <sub>2</sub> O	MeCN	1.5	14
3	InBr <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	1.5	18
4	InCl <sub>3</sub> •4H <sub>2</sub> O	MeCN	1.5	8
5	Ga(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	1.5	79
6	La(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	1.5	31
7	Bi(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	1.5	60
8	AgOTf	MeCN	1.5	15
9	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	1.5	0
10	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	MeCN	1.5	72
11	Zn(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	MeCN	1.5	7
<b>12</b>	<b>Al(OTf)<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>MeCN</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>83 (87)<sup>b</sup></b>
13	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	1.5	23
14	Al(O- <i>i</i> Pr) <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	1.5	9
15	Al(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	PhCl	1.5	69
16	Al(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	1,4-dioxane	1.5	43
17	Al(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	1.5	71
18	TfOH	MeCN	1.5	54
19	---	MeCN	24	nr

<sup>a</sup> NMR yields. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields.

To a solution of **1a** (0.1 mmol) and **2a** (0.1 mmol, 1 eq) in solvent (1 mL, 0.1 M) was added catalyst (0.1 mmol, 10 mol %) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 1.5 h. After H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) was added to the mixture, the whole was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3 x 20 mL), washed with brine (20 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The yields were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (0.1 mmol, 1 eq) as internal standard material. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt/hexane = 1/20–1/5) to give **3aa**.

### 2'-Methyl-1,3'-bisindole (**3aa**)

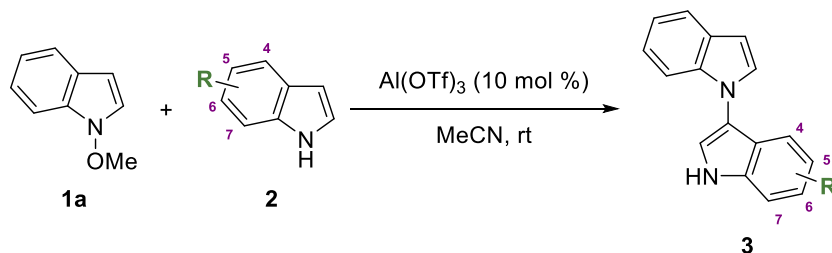


**3aa**

**Run 12:** 21.4 mg, 87% yield. colorless solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.91 (br s, 1H), 7.77–7.75 (m, 1H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.17 (m, 4H), 7.15–7.13 (m, 1H), 7.09 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.8, 133.8, 130.7, 130.0, 128.5, 125.5, 122.2, 121.9, 120.9, 120.4, 119.9, 117.7, 113.7, 111.0, 110.9, 102.5, 11.3; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 247.1235 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 247.1235).

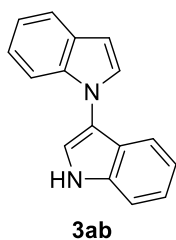
## 2-3. Substrate scope

### ■ General procedure for the reaction of **1a** with **2** (Scheme 2: indoles)



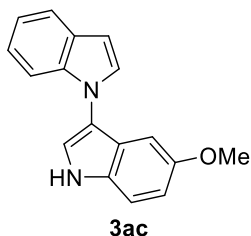
To a solution of **1a** (1 mmol) and **2** (1 mmol, 1 eq) in MeCN (10 mL, 0.1 M) was added  $\text{Al}(\text{OTf})_3$  (0.1 mmol, 10 mol %) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred until the complete disappearance of starting material indicated by TLC. After  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (20 mL) was added to the mixture, the whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 20 mL), washed with brine (20 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt/hexane = 1/20–1/5) to give **3**.

### 1,3'-bisindole (**3ab**)



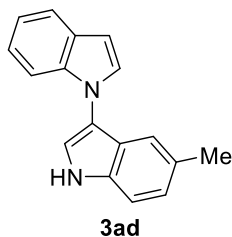
105 mg, 45% yield. colorless solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 8.17 (br s, 1H), 7.73–7.71 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.28 (m, 4H), 7.21–7.13 (m, 3H), 6.71–6.70 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.5, 134.7, 129.6, 128.6, 123.7, 123.1, 122.0, 120.9, 120.5, 120.0, 119.2, 118.6, 117.6, 111.7, 110.9, 102.5; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 233.1079 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 233.1079).

### 5'-Methoxy-1,3'-bisindole (**3ac**)



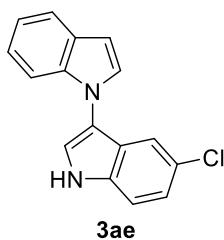
143 mg, 55% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 8.04 (br s, 1H), 7.82–7.78 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.99 (dd,  $J$  = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd,  $J$  = 3.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 154.7, 137.5, 129.8, 129.7, 128.5, 124.2, 122.0, 120.9, 120.2, 120.0, 117.2, 114.0, 112.7, 110.9, 102.4, 99.5, 55.8; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 263.1185 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 263.1184).

### 5'-Methyl-1,3'-bisindole (3ad)



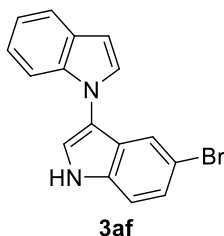
166 mg, 67% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.95–7.93 (m, 1H), 7.76 (br s, 1H), 7.52–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.36 (m, 3H), 7.33 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd,  $J$  = 3.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.7, 133.2, 130.1, 130.0, 128.7, 124.9, 124.1, 122.2, 121.1, 120.2, 119.7, 118.0, 116.9, 111.6, 111.1, 102.5, 21.6; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 247.1234 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 247.1235).

### 5'-Chloro-1,3'-bisindole (3ae)



55.0 mg, 21% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 8.16 (br s, 1H), 7.75–7.72 (m, 1H), 7.43 (d,  $J$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36–7.29 (m, 4H), 7.25–7.18 (m, 3H), 6.72 (dd,  $J$  = 3.0, 0.6 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.5, 133.2, 129.5, 128.7, 126.5, 124.9, 123.8, 122.3, 121.1, 120.8, 120.2, 119.1, 117.3, 112.9, 110.7, 102.9; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 267.0690, 269.0666 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{ClN}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 267.0689, 269.0660).

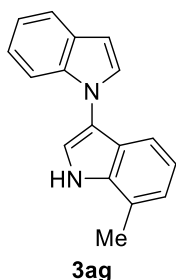
### 5'-Bromo-1,3'-bisindole (3af)



61.1 mg, 20% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 8.07 (br s, 1H), 7.78–7.75 (m, 1H), 7.60–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.37 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.21 (m, 4H), 6.75 (dd,  $J$  = 3.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.4, 133.3, 129.5, 128.6, 126.2, 125.4, 122.2, 121.0, 121.0, 120.6, 120.2, 116.9, 113.9, 113.2, 110.6, 102.9; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 311.0183, 313.0164 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrN}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 311.0184, 313.0163).

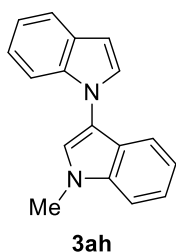


### 7'-Methyl-1,3'-bisindole (3ag)



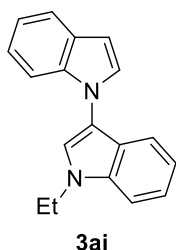
108 mg, 44% yield. colorless solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 8.17 (br s, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.35 (m, 4H), 7.21–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.14–7.08 (m, 2H), 6.72 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.6, 134.4, 129.7, 128.6, 123.7, 123.4, 122.0, 120.9, 120.8, 120.0, 119.0, 118.1, 116.5, 111.0, 102.5, 16.4; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 247.1234 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 247.1235).

### 1'-Methyl-1,3'-bisindole (3ah)



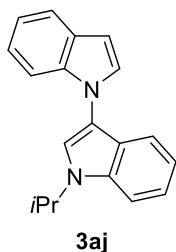
157 mg, 64% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.73–7.71 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.29 (m, 4H), 7.21–7.13 (m, 3H), 6.71–6.70 (m, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.5, 135.6, 129.7, 128.5, 124.1, 123.7, 122.7, 121.9, 120.8, 120.0, 119.9, 118.7, 116.0, 110.8, 109.7, 102.3, 33.0; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 247.1235 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 247.1235).

### 1'-Ethyl-1,3'-bisindole (3ai)



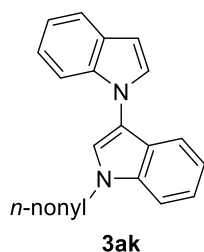
146 mg, 56% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.75–7.72 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.22–7.13 (m, 3H), 6.71 (dd,  $J = 3.2, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.27 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.57 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.5, 134.6, 129.7, 128.5, 124.2, 122.5, 121.9, 121.8, 120.8, 119.9, 119.9, 118.8, 116.1, 110.8, 109.7, 102.3, 41.2, 15.5; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 261.1392 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 261.1392).

### 1'-Isopropyl-1,3'-bisindole (3aj)



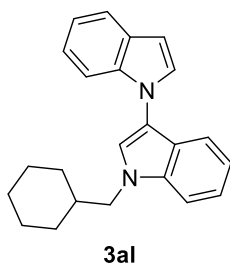
227 mg, 83% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.73–7.71 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.20–7.13 (m, 3H), 6.70 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.80 (sep,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.61 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.8, 134.6, 129.9, 128.8, 124.4, 122.5, 122.0, 121.0, 120.1, 120.0, 119.0, 116.5, 111.0, 110.1, 102.5, 47.5, 23.0; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 275.1548 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 275.1548).

### 1'-*n*-Nonyl-1,3'-bisindole (3ak)



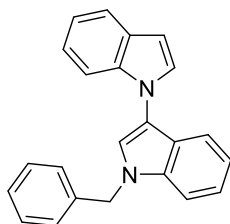
243 mg, 68% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.74 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.31 (m, 4H), 7.22–7.19 (m, 2H), 7.15 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.21 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.96–1.91 (m, 2H), 1.42–1.30 (m, 12H), 0.92–0.90 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.6, 135.0, 129.8, 128.6, 124.3, 122.8, 122.6, 121.9, 120.9, 120.0, 118.9, 116.0, 110.9, 110.0, 102.4, 46.7, 31.9, 30.3, 29.6, 29.3, 27.1, 22.8, 14.2; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 359.2486 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 359.2487).

### 1'-(Cyclohexylmethyl)-1,3'-bisindole (3al)



225 mg, 69% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.72–7.71 (m, 1H), 7.47 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.20–7.12 (m, 3H), 6.70 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.20 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.95–1.90 (m, 2H), 1.42–1.27 (m, 6H), 0.90–0.88 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.7, 135.3, 129.8, 128.7, 124.2, 123.6, 122.5, 122.0, 120.9, 120.0, 119.9, 118.9, 115.9, 111.0, 110.3, 102.4, 53.3, 38.9, 31.2, 26.4, 25.9; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 329.2017 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 329.2018).

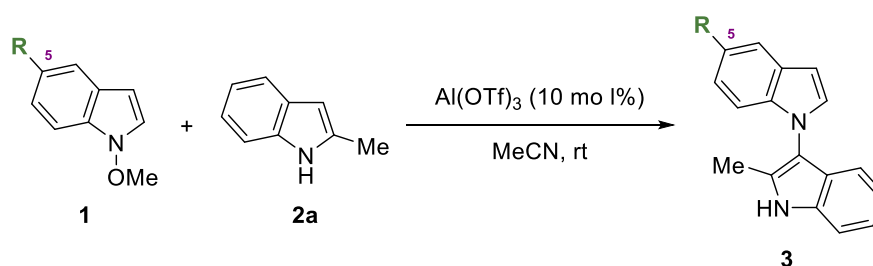
**1'-Benzyl-1,3'-bisindole (3am)**



**3am**

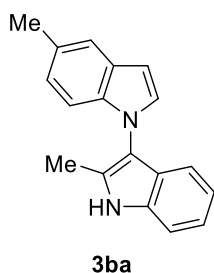
173 mg, 54% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.74–7.72 (m, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.28 (m, 7H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.21–7.15 (m, 3H), 6.71 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.40 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.6, 137.0, 135.4, 129.7, 129.1, 128.7, 128.1, 127.1, 124.4, 123.1, 123.0, 122.0, 120.9, 120.3, 120.0, 119.0, 116.8, 110.9, 110.3, 102.5, 50.4; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 323.1546 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 323.1548).

### ■General procedure for the reaction of **1** with **2a** (Scheme 2: NMeOINs)



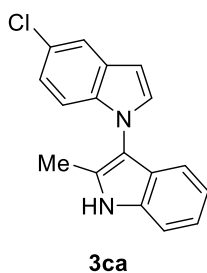
To a solution of **1** (0.3 mmol) and **2a** (0.3 mmol, 1 eq) in MeCN (3 mL, 0.1 M) was added  $\text{Al}(\text{OTf})_3$  (0.03 mmol, 10 mol %) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred until the complete disappearance of starting material indicated by TLC. After  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (20 mL) was added to the mixture, the whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 20 mL), washed with brine (20 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt/hexane = 1/20–1/5) to give **3**.

### 2',5-Dimethyl-1,3'-bisindole (**3ba**)



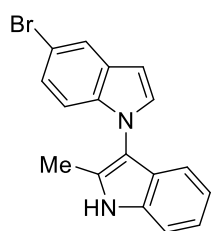
33.6 mg, 43% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.90 (br s, 1H), 7.56–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.36 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28–7.21 (m, 2H), 7.12–7.05 (m, 3H), 6.67 (d,  $J$  = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 136.3, 133.8, 130.6, 130.1, 129.1, 128.7, 125.6, 123.5, 122.1, 120.6, 120.4, 117.7, 113.8, 110.9, 110.7, 102.0, 21.6, 11.2; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 261.1392 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 261.1392).

### 5-Chloro-2'-methyl-1,3'-bisindole (**3ca**)



72.9 mg, 87% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.95 (br s, 1H), 7.72 (d,  $J$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.14–7.10 (m, 2H), 7.04 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (dd,  $J$  = 3.6, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 136.3, 133.8, 131.3, 130.8, 129.5, 125.6, 125.4, 122.4, 122.3, 120.6, 120.3, 117.5, 113.3, 112.0, 111.0, 102.2, 11.2; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 281.0845, 283.0815 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 281.0846, 283.0816).

### 5-Bromo-2'-methyl-1,3'-bisindole (3da)

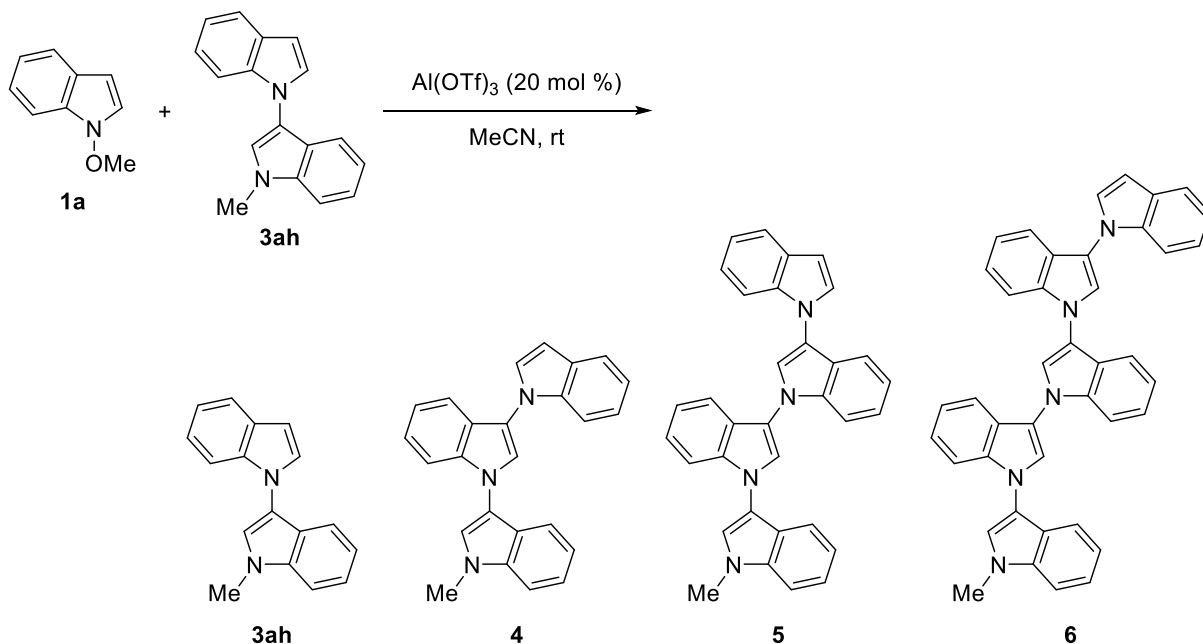


**3da**

86.9 mg, 89% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.98 (br s, 1H), 7.89 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 4H), 7.11 (ddd,  $J = 8.0, 6.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d,  $J = 3.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 136.5, 133.8, 131.2, 130.7, 130.1, 125.3, 124.8, 123.3, 122.3, 120.6, 117.4, 113.2, 112.5, 111.0, 102.1, 11.2; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 325.0342, 327.0320 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 325.0340, 327.0320).

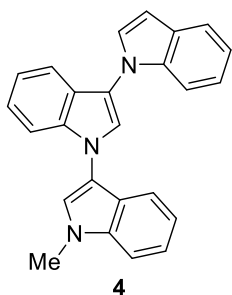
## 2-4. Oligomerization

### ■Oligomerization (Scheme 3)



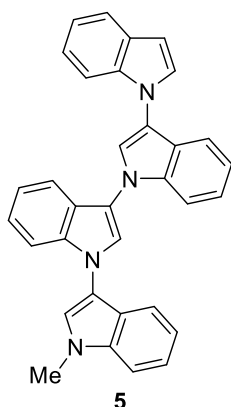
To a solution of **1a** (53.0 mg, 0.36 mmol) and **3ah** (73.9 mg, 0.3 mmol) in MeCN (3 mL, 0.1 M) was added  $\text{Al}(\text{OTf})_3$  (28.5 mg, 0.06 mmol) under reflux. The mixture was stirred until the complete disappearance of starting material indicated by TLC. After  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL) was added to the mixture, the whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 10 mL), washed with brine (10 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt/hexane = 1/20–1/5) and PTLC (acetone/hexane = 1/5) to give **3ah** (24.4 mg, 33% yield), **4** (16.3 mg, 15% yield), **5** (7.2 mg, 5% yield) and **6** (1.0 mg, 1% yield).

### 1''-Methyl-1,3':1',3''-terindole (**4**)



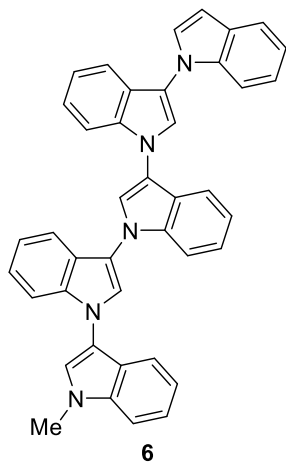
16.3 mg, 15% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.73 (dd,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.53 (m, 3H), 7.48–7.42 (m, 4H), 7.37–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.26 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.8, 6.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 4H), 6.73 (dd,  $J$  = 3.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.5, 136.6, 135.7, 129.7, 128.7, 124.5, 124.2, 124.1, 124.1, 123.1, 123.0, 122.1, 120.9, 120.6, 120.4, 120.0, 118.8, 118.6, 117.5, 115.3, 111.5, 111.0, 109.9, 102.6, 33.3; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 362.1658 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 362.1657).

**1'''-Methyl-1,3':1',3'':1'',3'''-quaterindole (5)**



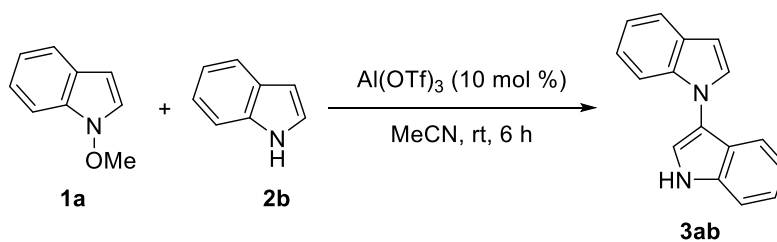
7.2 mg, 5% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.73 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.53 (m, 3H), 7.50–7.44 (m, 4H), 7.37–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.16 (m, 5H), 6.73 (dd,  $J = 3.0, 0.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 137.5, 136.6, 136.5, 135.7, 129.7, 128.7, 124.7, 124.3, 124.1, 124.1, 123.4, 123.2, 123.1, 122.1, 120.9, 120.7, 120.4, 120.1, 118.8, 118.6, 117.6, 116.7, 115.2, 111.6, 111.5, 111.0, 110.0, 102.6, 33.3; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 477.2075 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_4$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 477.2079).

**1'''-Methyl-1,3':1',3'':1'',3''':1''':3'''-quinquindole (6)**



1.0 mg, 1% yield. colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.66–7.64 (m, 3H), 7.60–7.59 (m, 3H), 7.56–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.46 (m, 3H), 7.39–7.29 (m, 6H), 7.24–7.17 (m, 5H), 6.74 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H); HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 592.2505 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{41}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_5$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 592.2501).

### ■Gram-scale synthesis



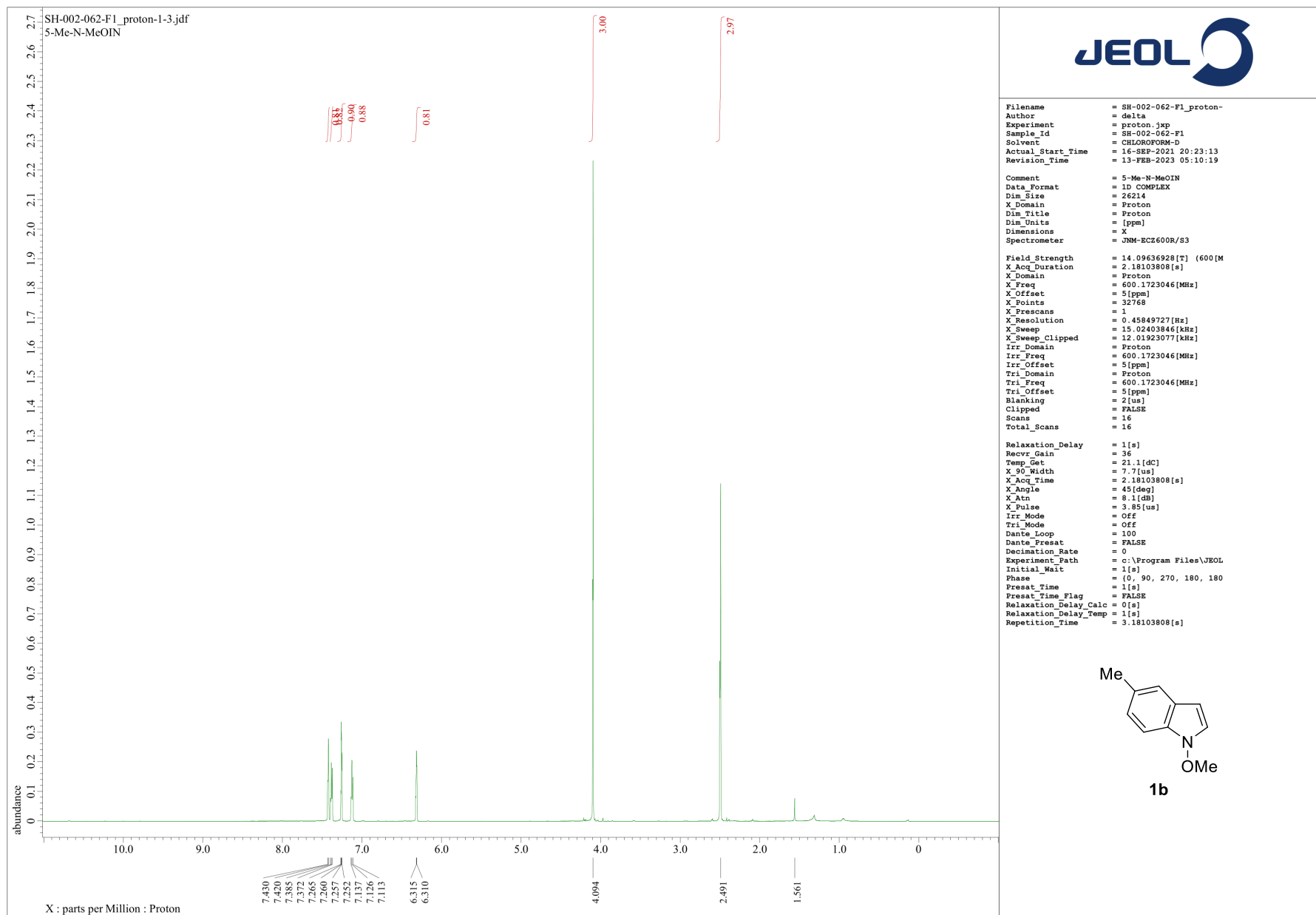
To a solution of **1a** (1.47 g, 10 mmol) and **2b** (1.17 g, 10 mmol) in MeCN (100 mL, 0.1 M) was added  $\text{Al(OTf)}_3$  (474 mg, 1.0 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 6 h. After  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (200 mL) was added to the mixture, the whole was extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (3 x 200 mL), washed with brine (200 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt/hexane = 1/20–1/5) to give **3aa** (884 mg, 38%).

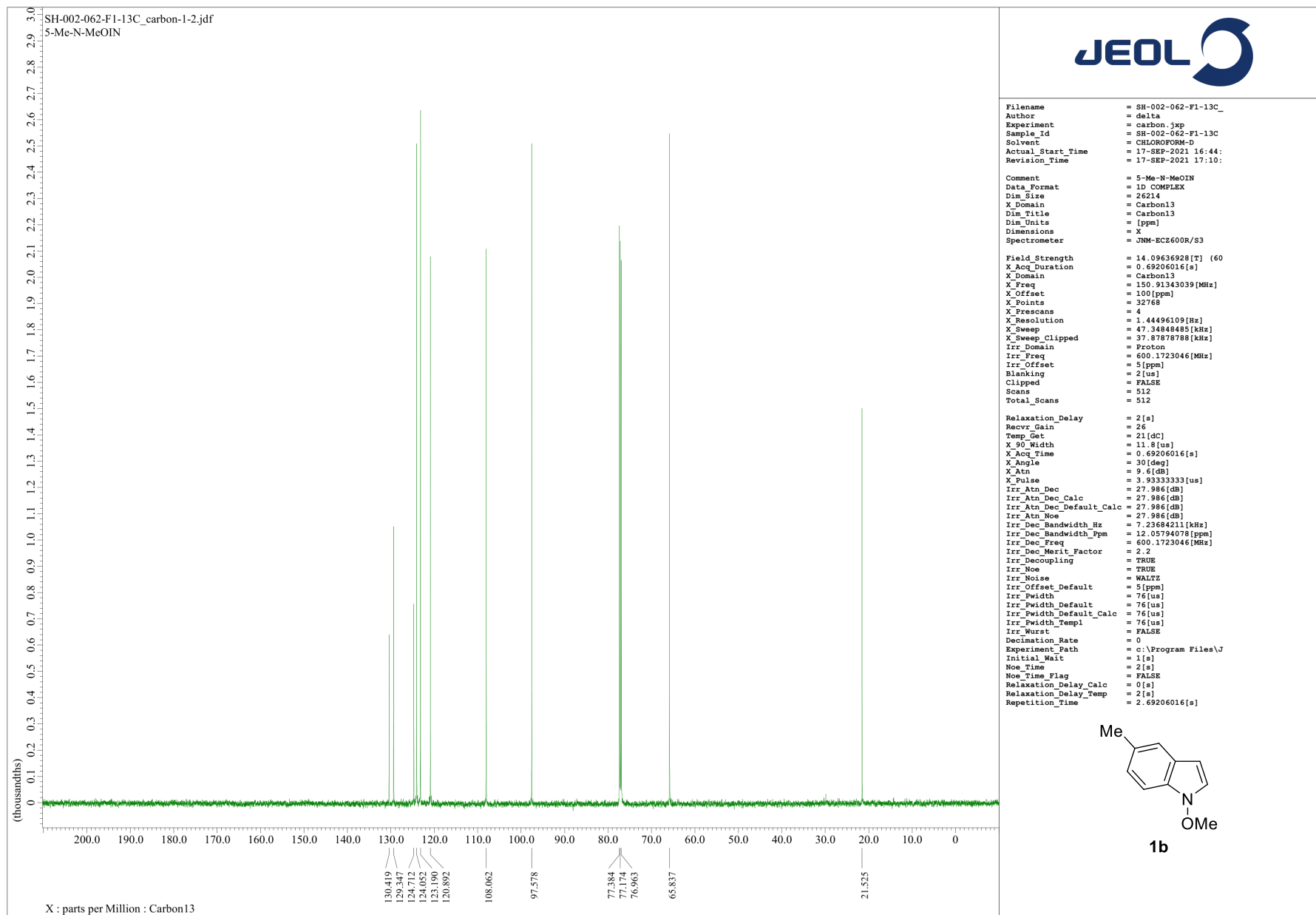


#### 4. Supplementary References

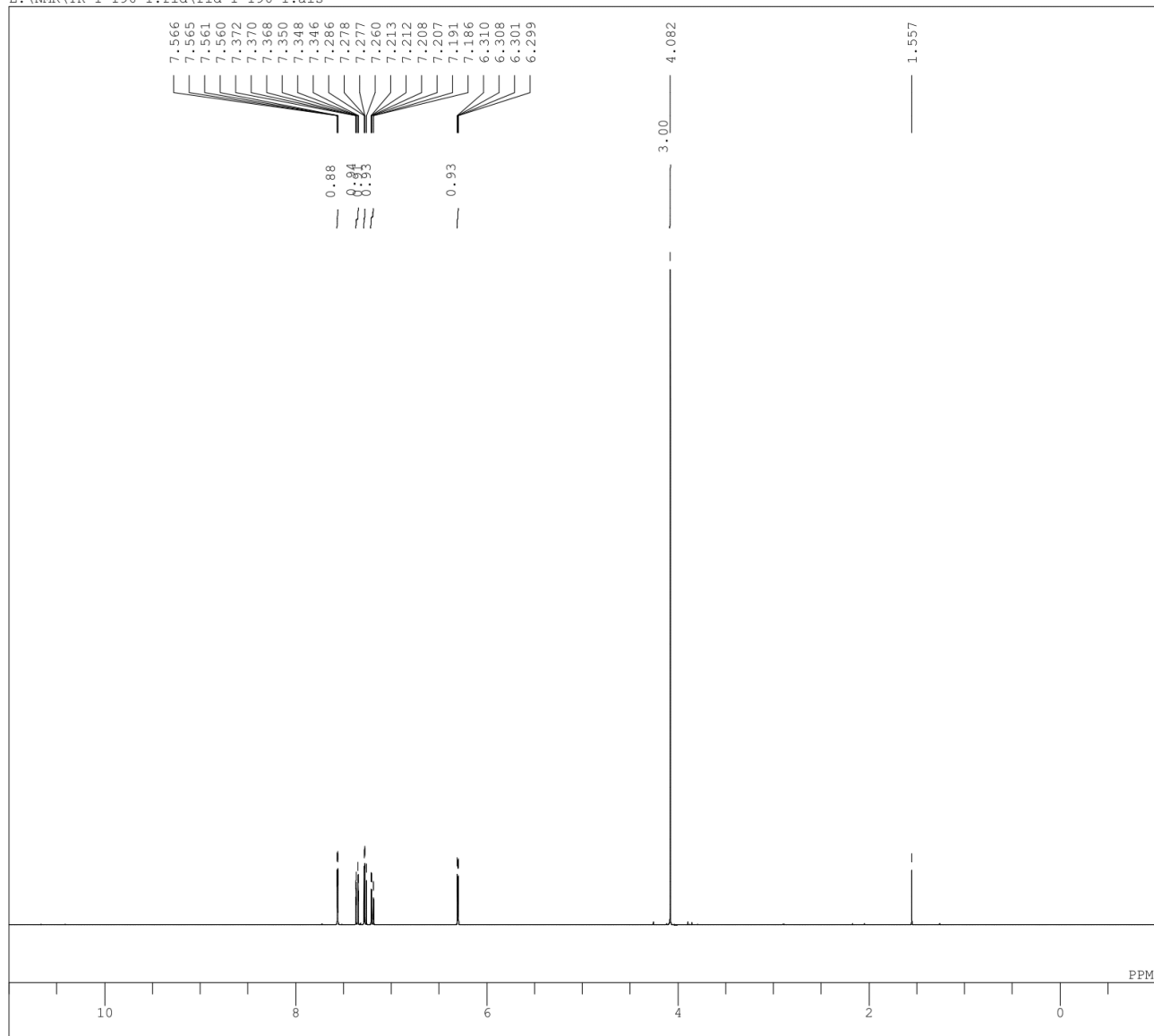
[S1] **Synthesis of 1a:** Kawasaki, T.; Kodama, A.; Nishida, T.; Shimizu, K.; Somei, M. *Heterocycles* **1991**, 32, 221–227.

[S2] **1a:** Vo, Q. V.; Trenerry, C.; Rochfort, S.; Wadespm, J.; Leyton, C.; Hughes, A. B. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2014**, 22, 856–864.

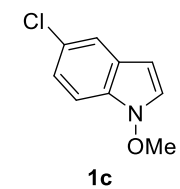




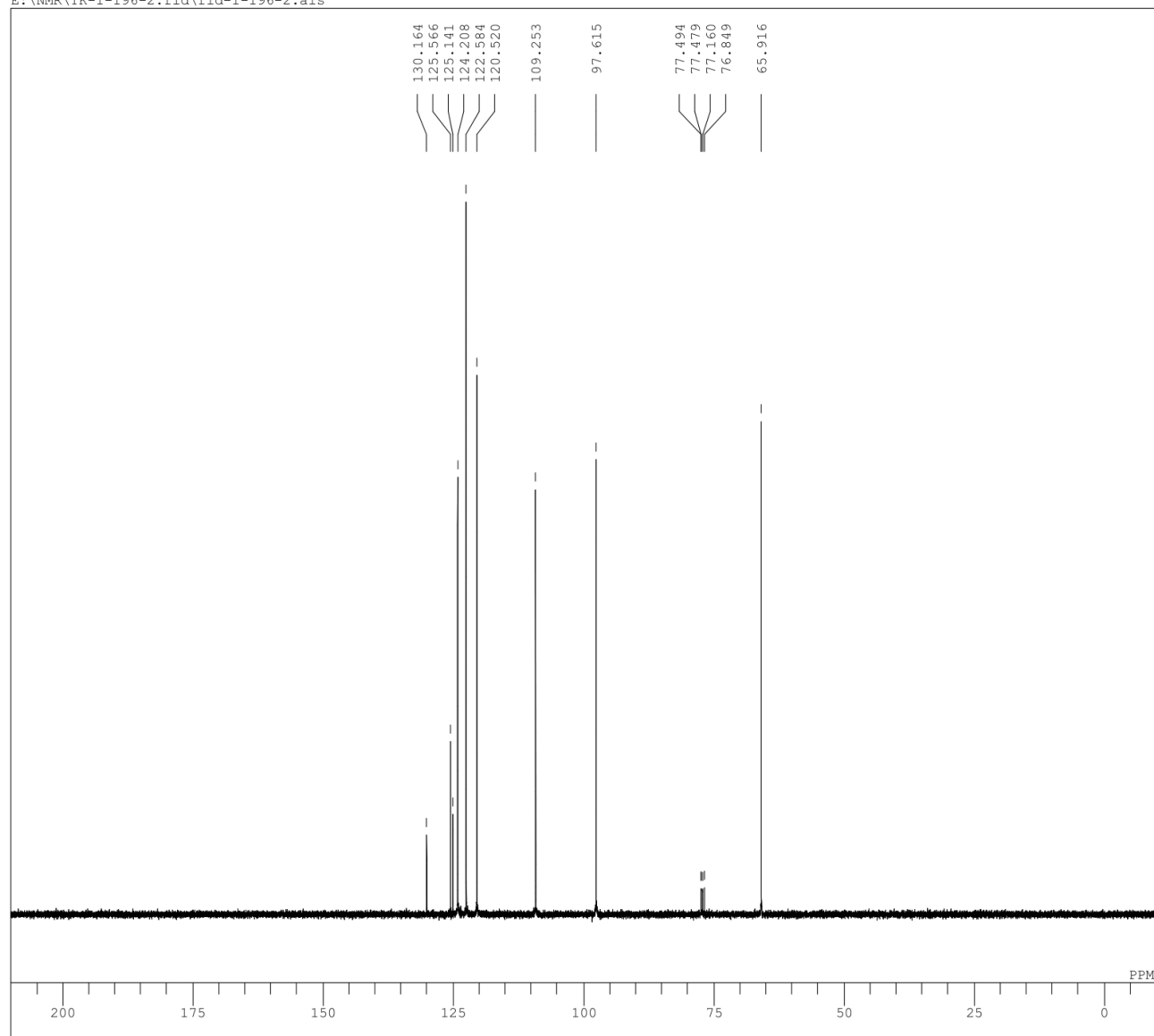
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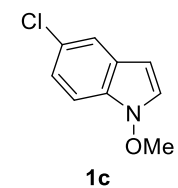
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 OBSET 1.99 KHz  
 OBFIN 2.00 Hz  
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 FREQU 6410.26 Hz  
 SCANS 32  
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 PD 1.5000 sec  
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 EXREF 7.26 ppm  
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 RGAIN 44

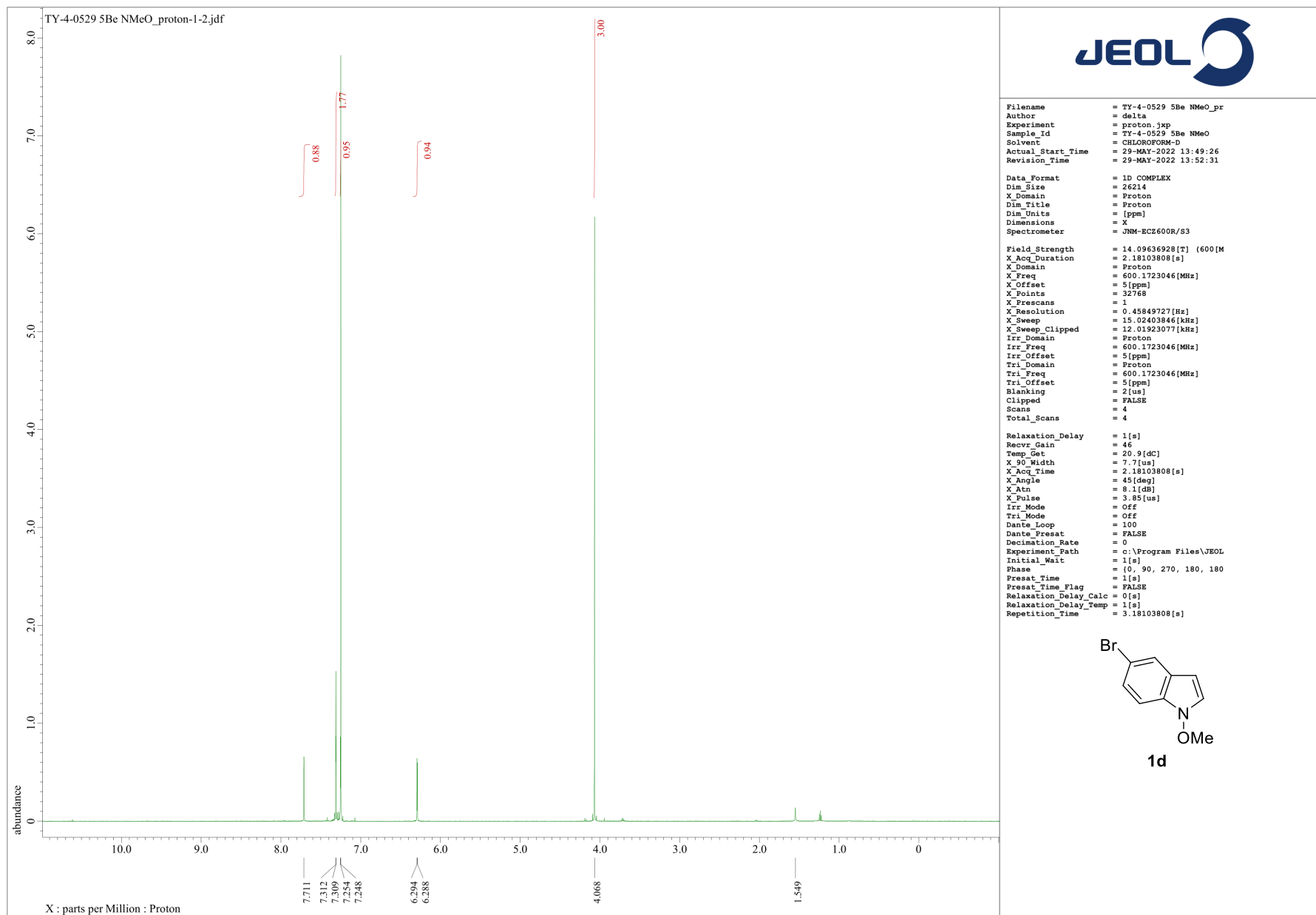


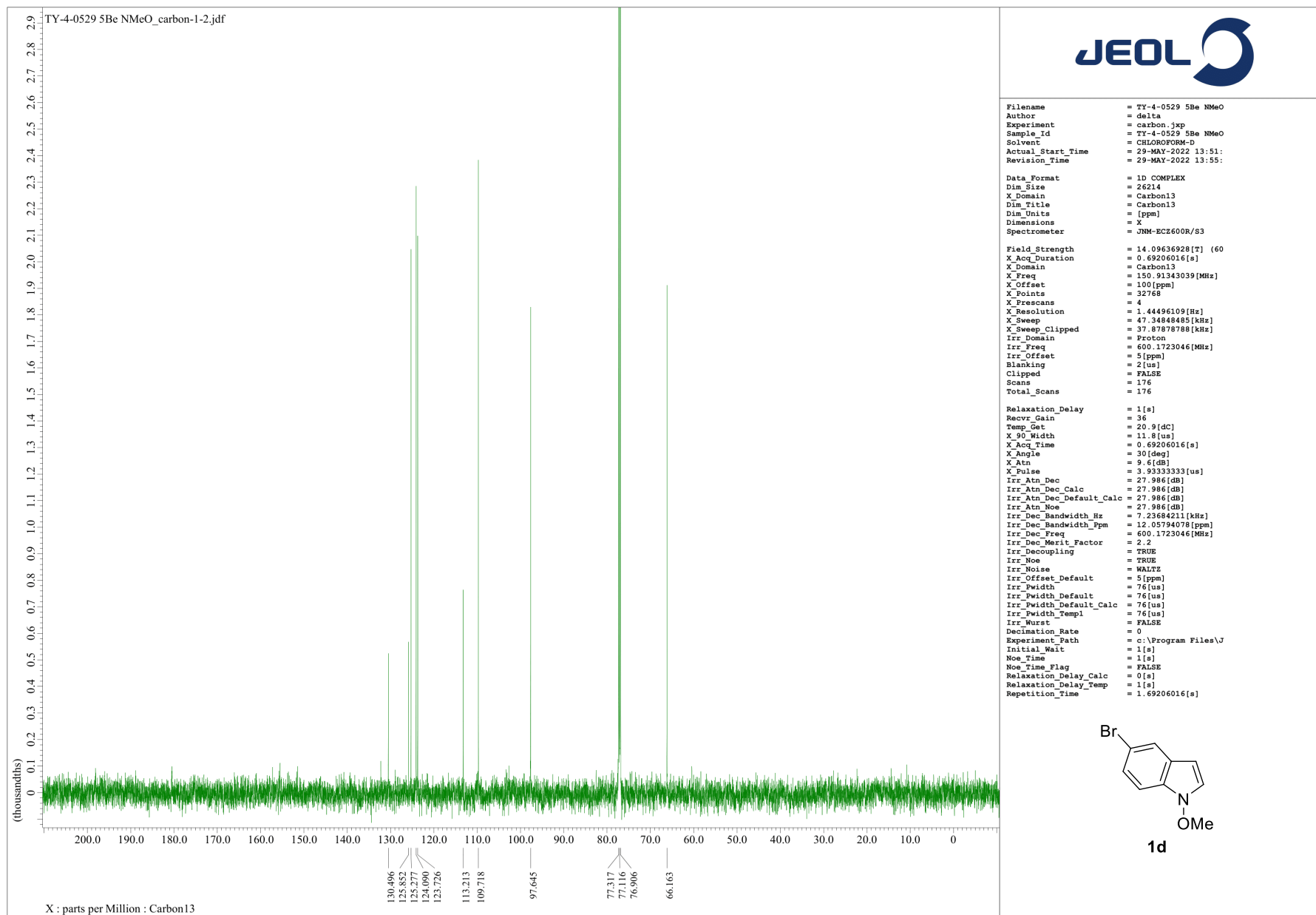
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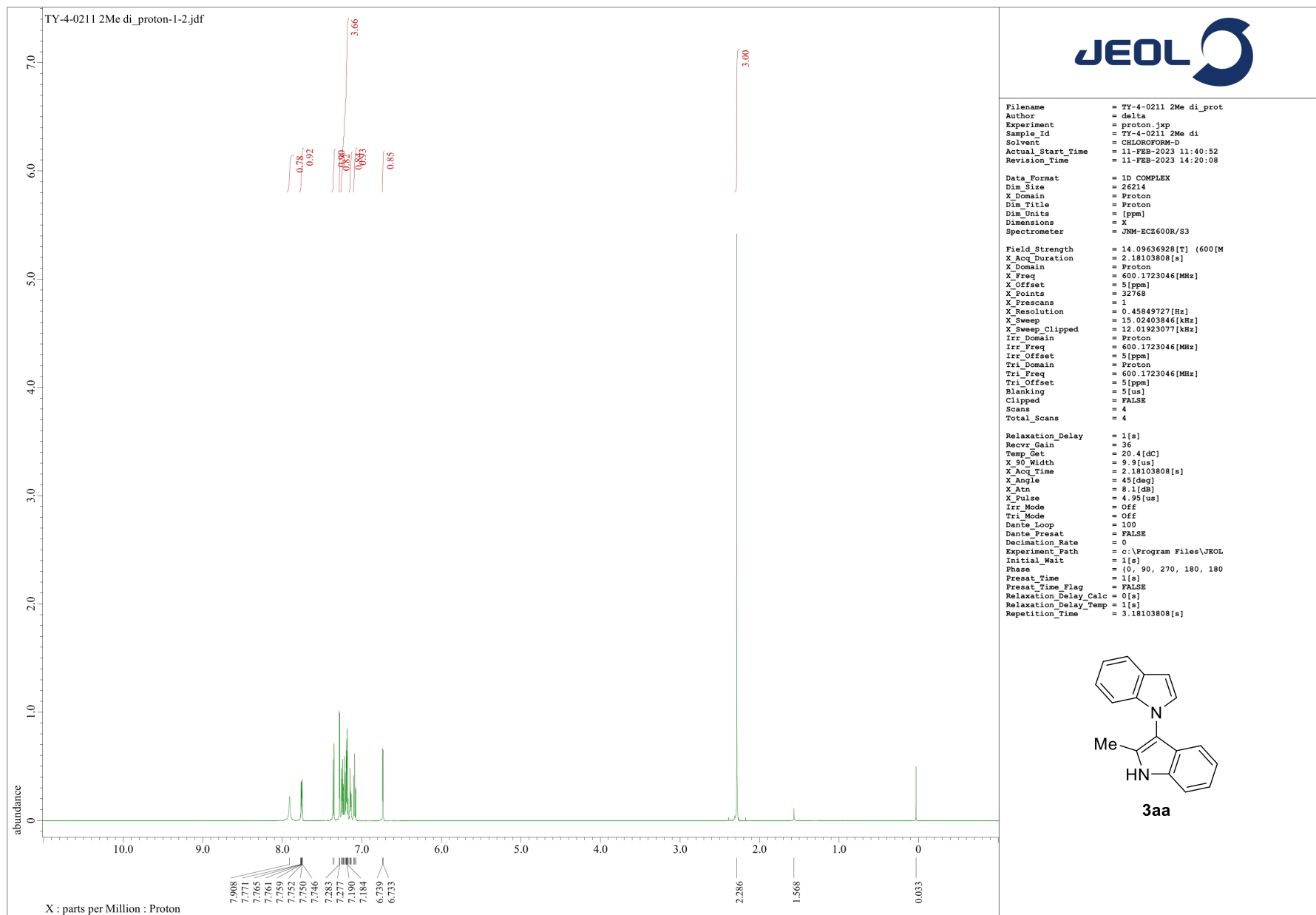


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OBFIN 8.30 Hz  
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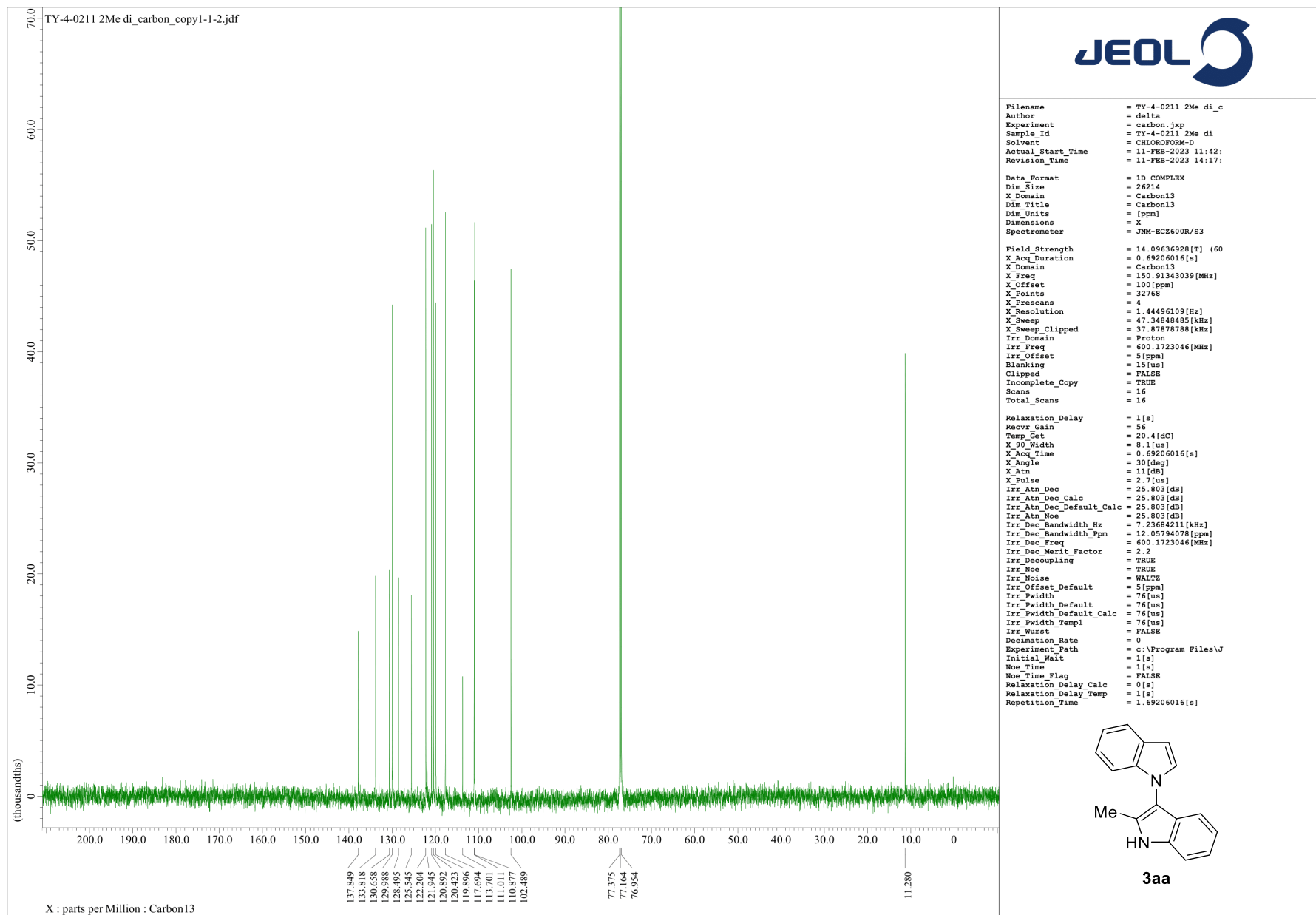


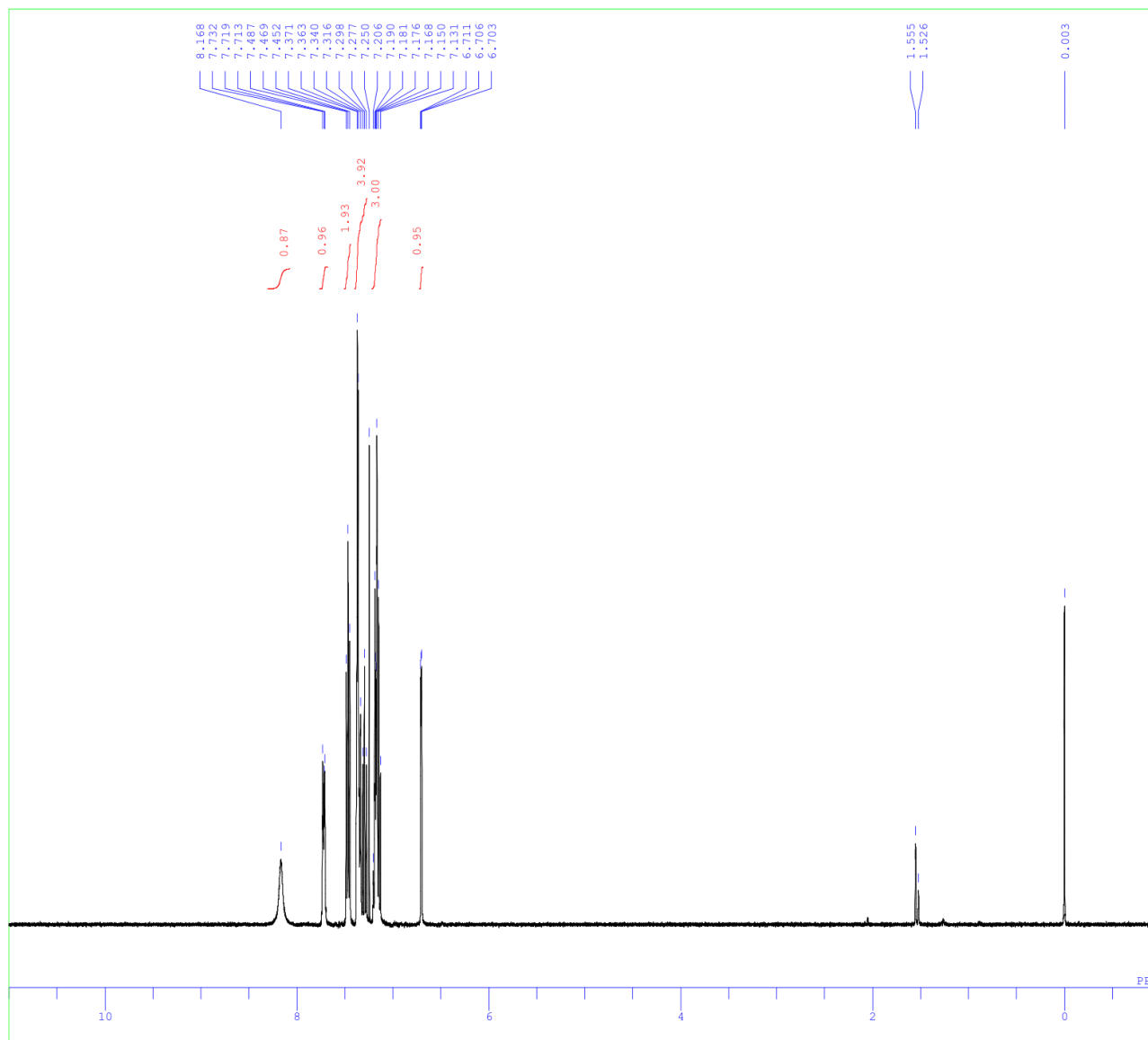




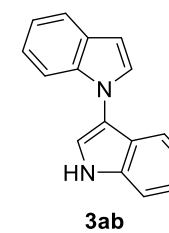


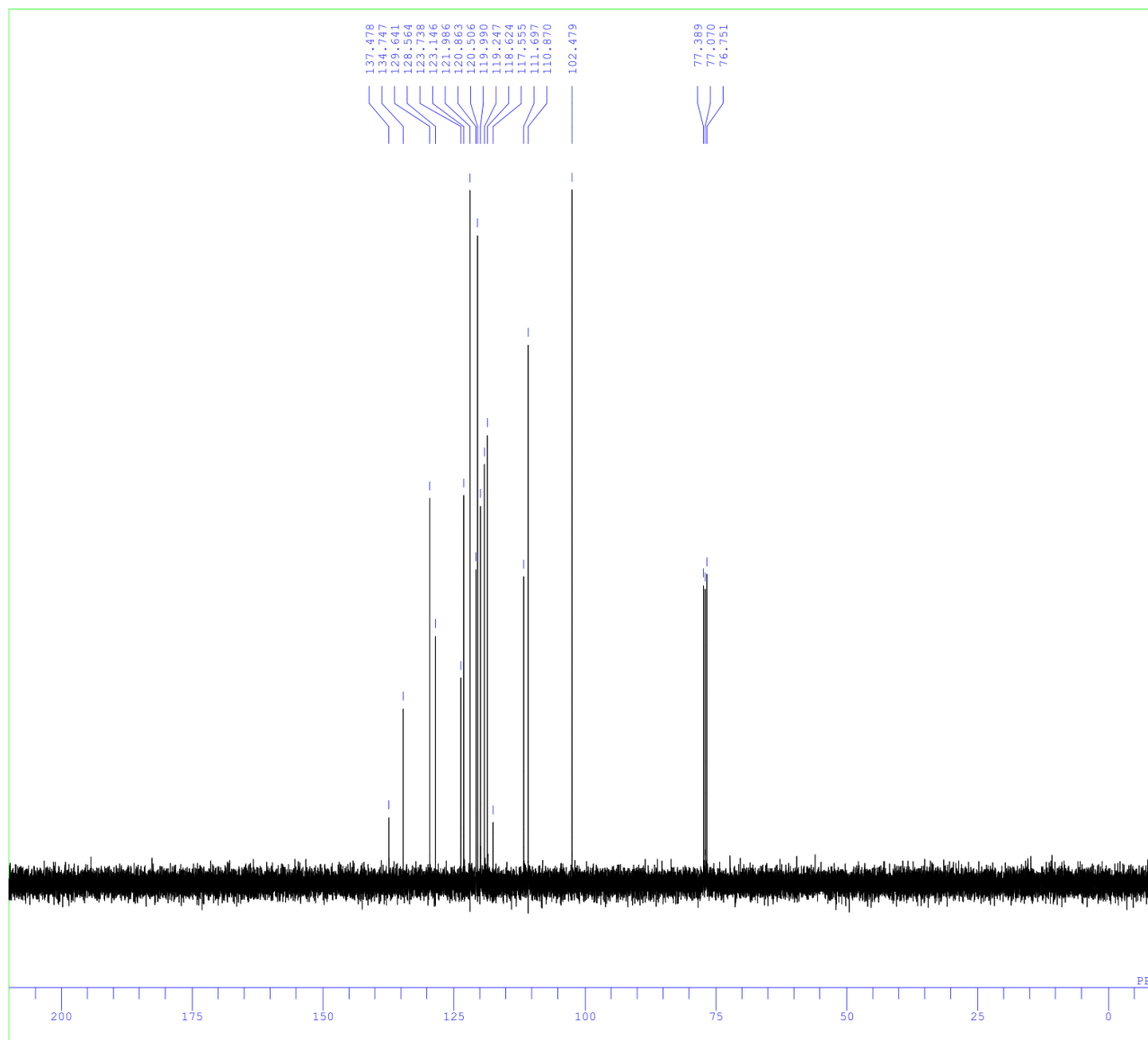






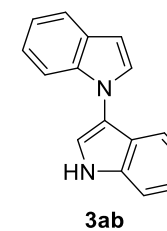
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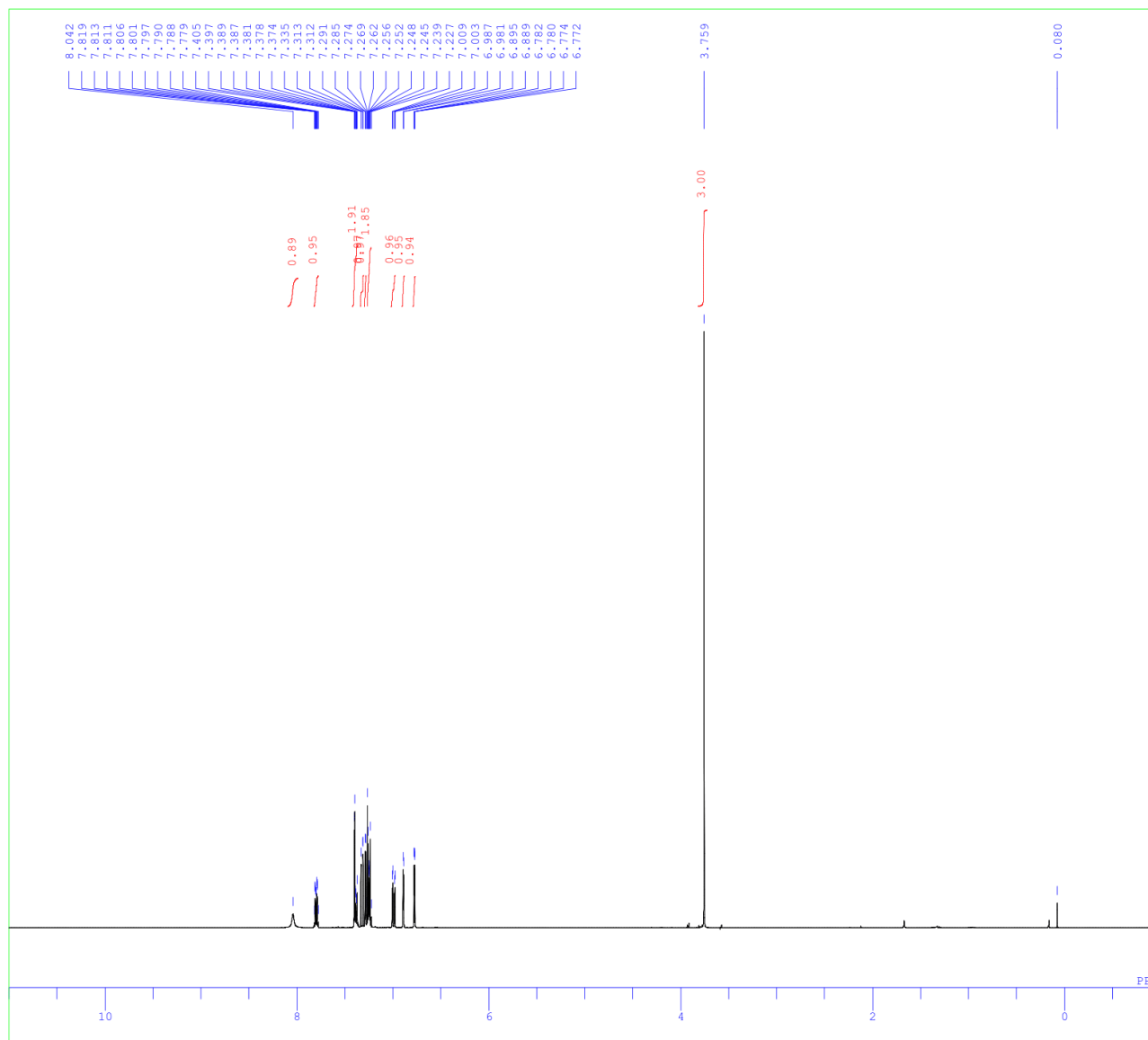




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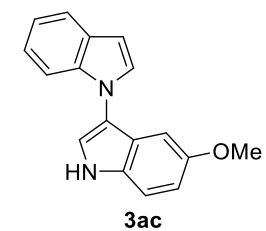


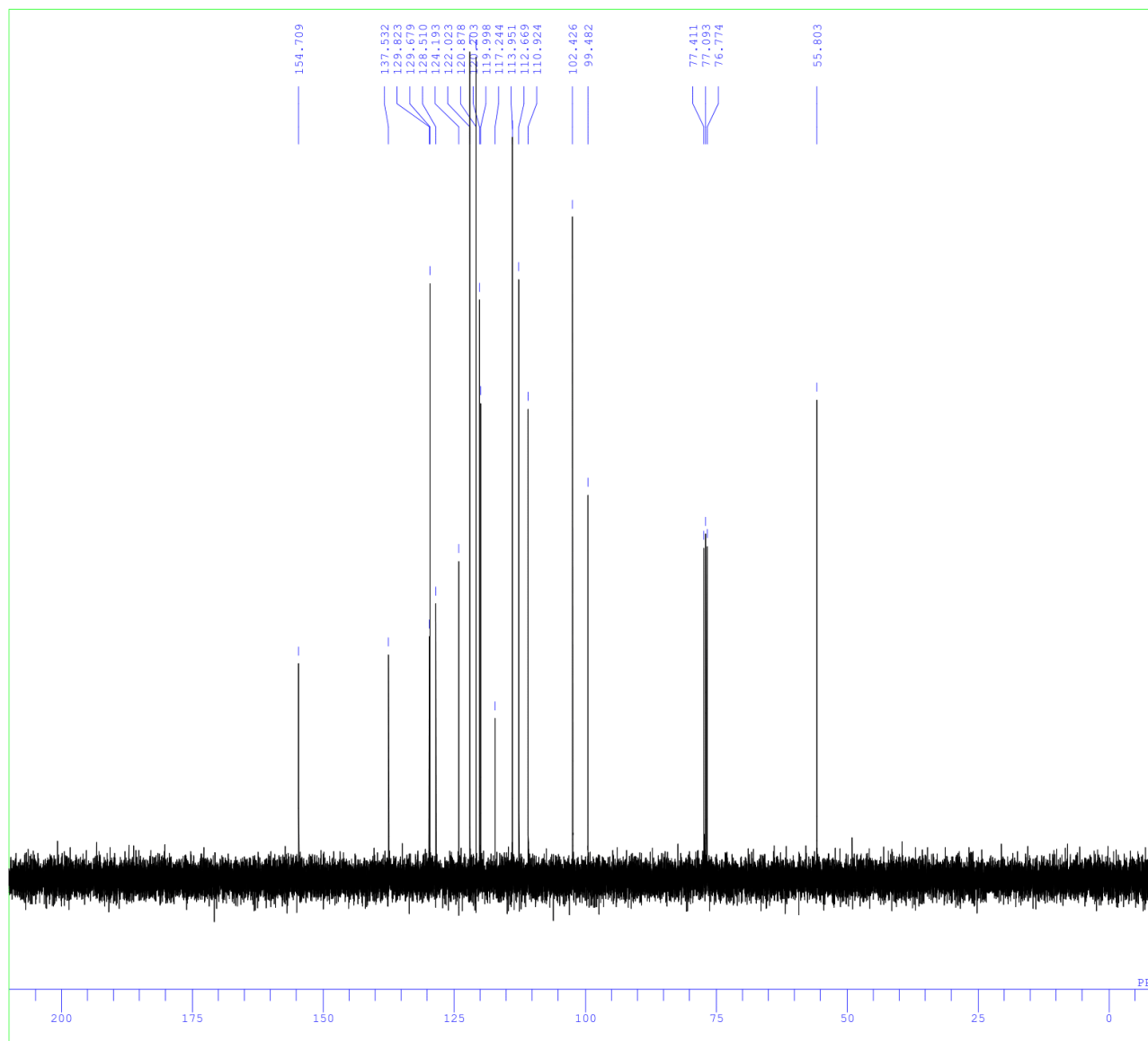


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RGAIN 36

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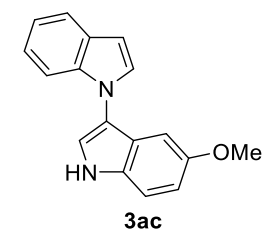




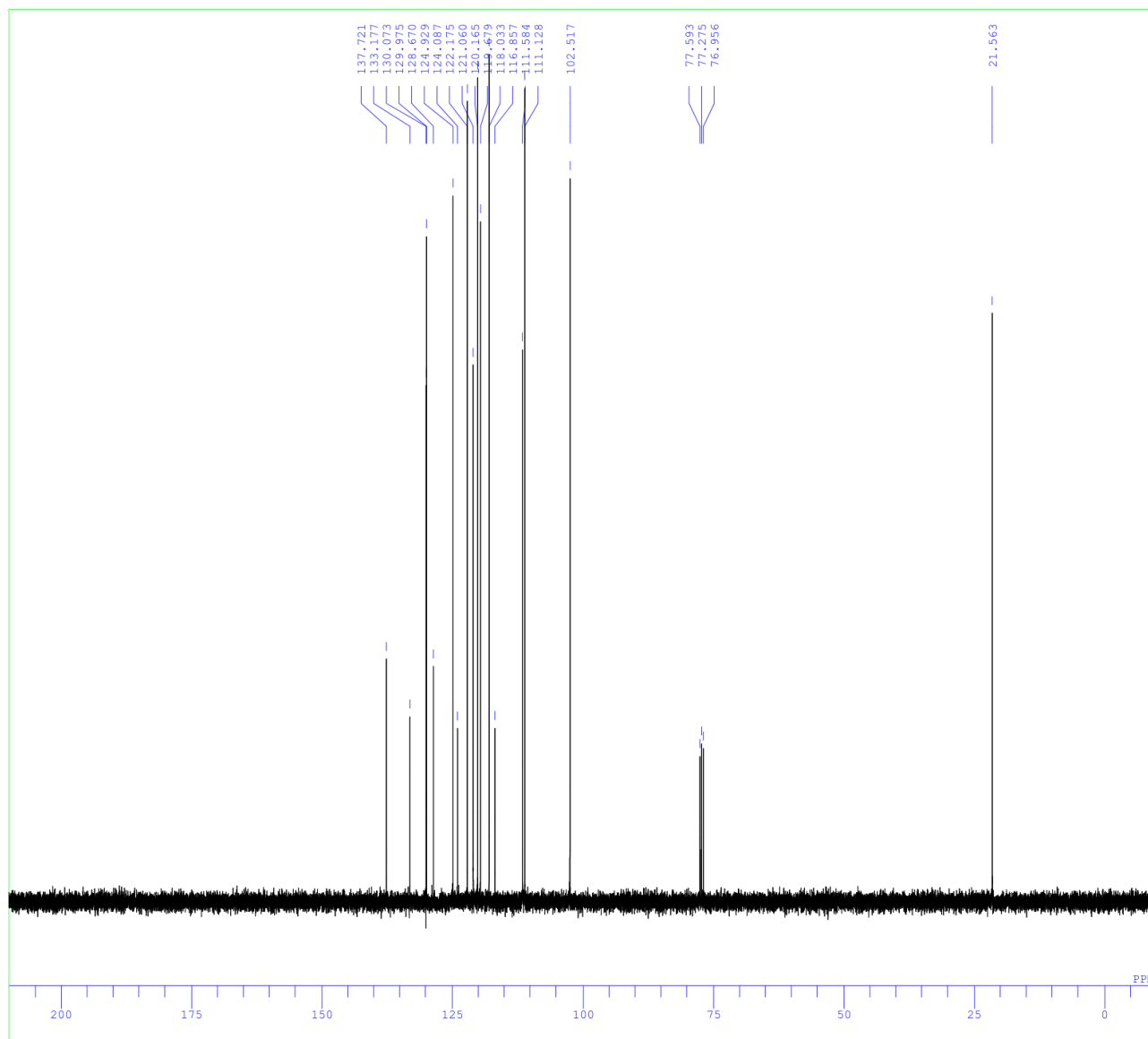
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RGAIN 48

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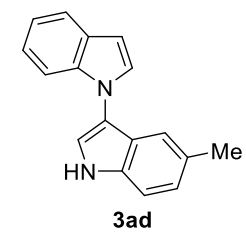


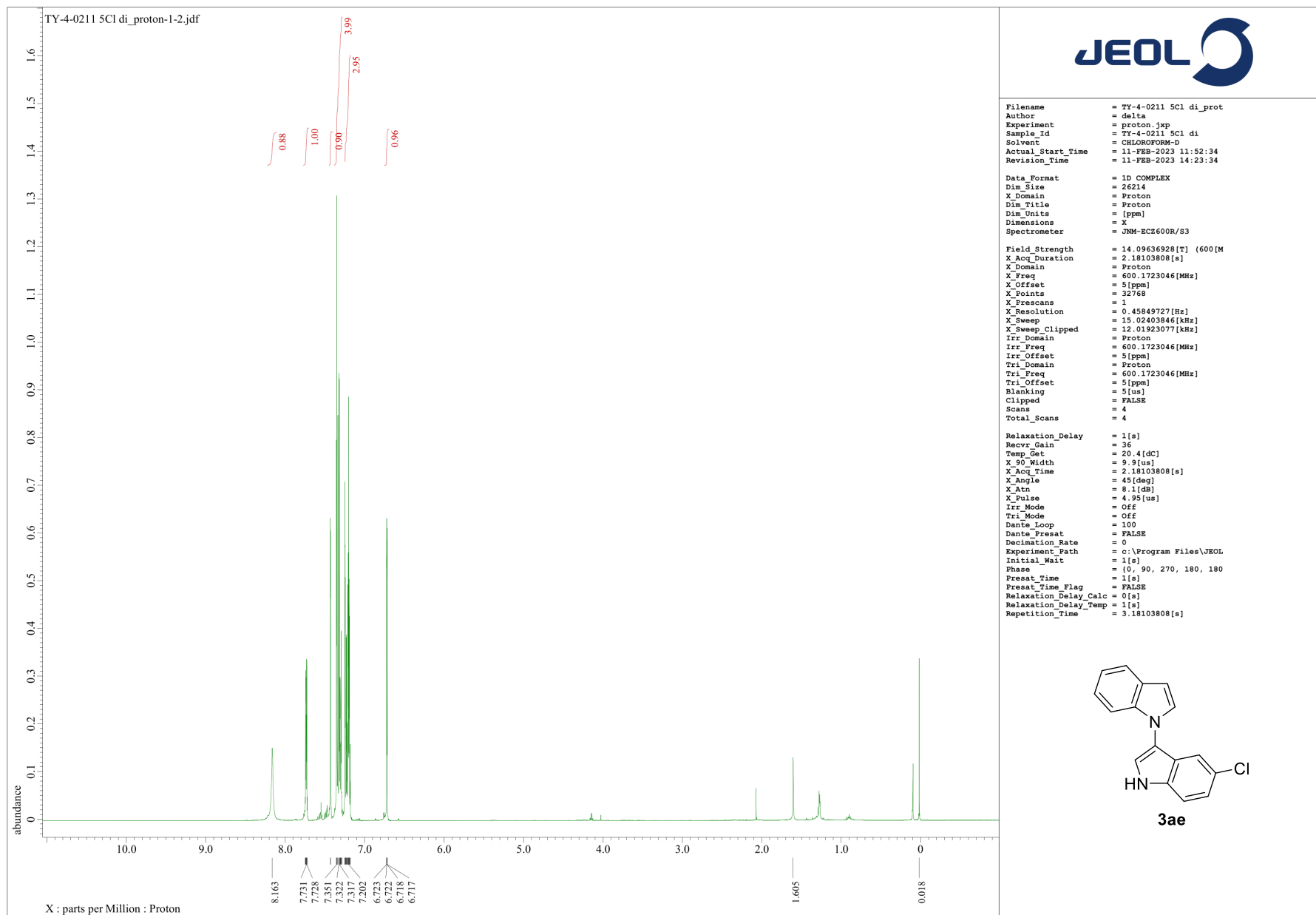


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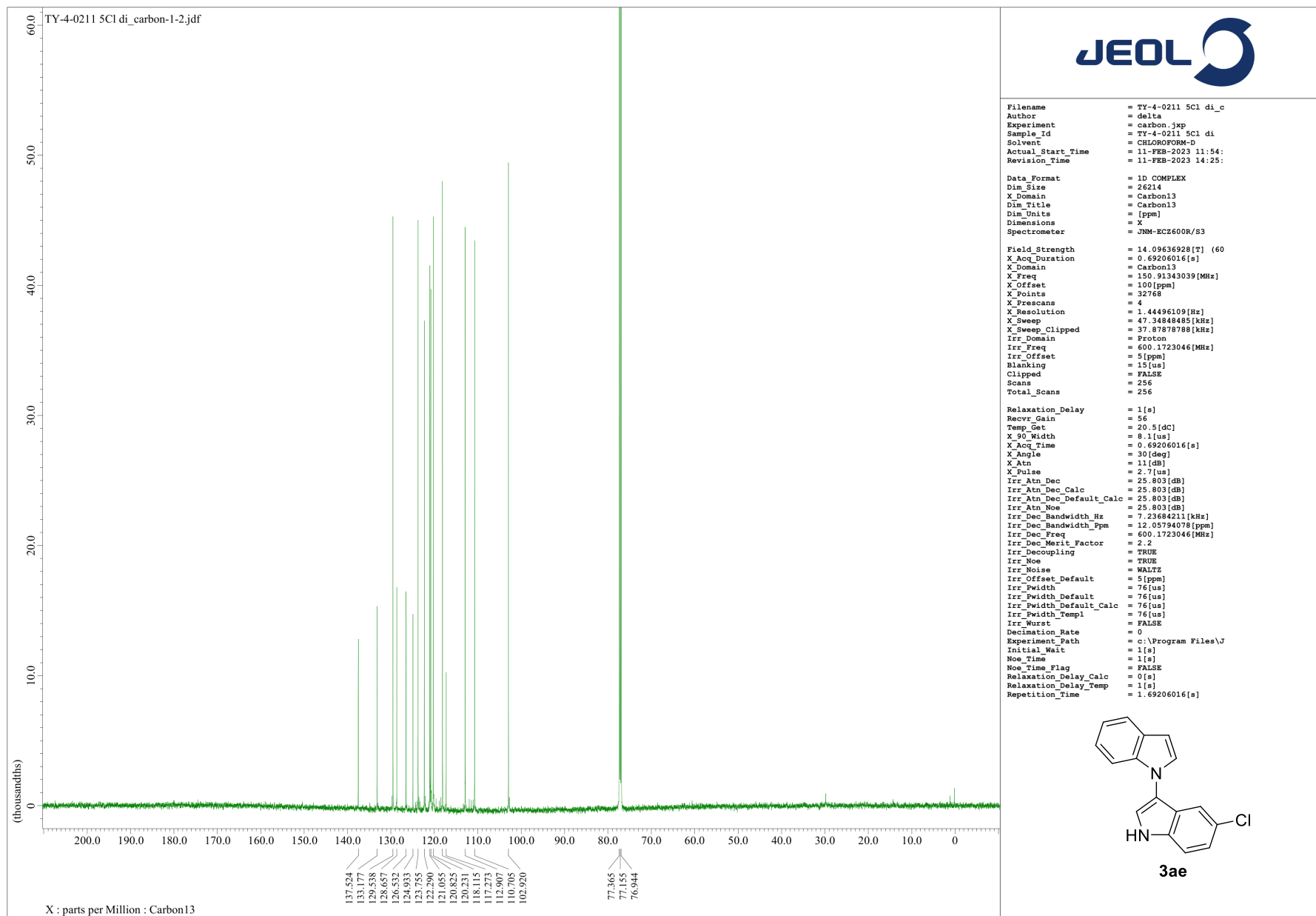
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PW1 5.95 usec
IRNUC
CTEMP 37.0 c
SLVNT cdc13
EXREF 0.00 ppm
BF 0.00 Hz
RGAIN 48

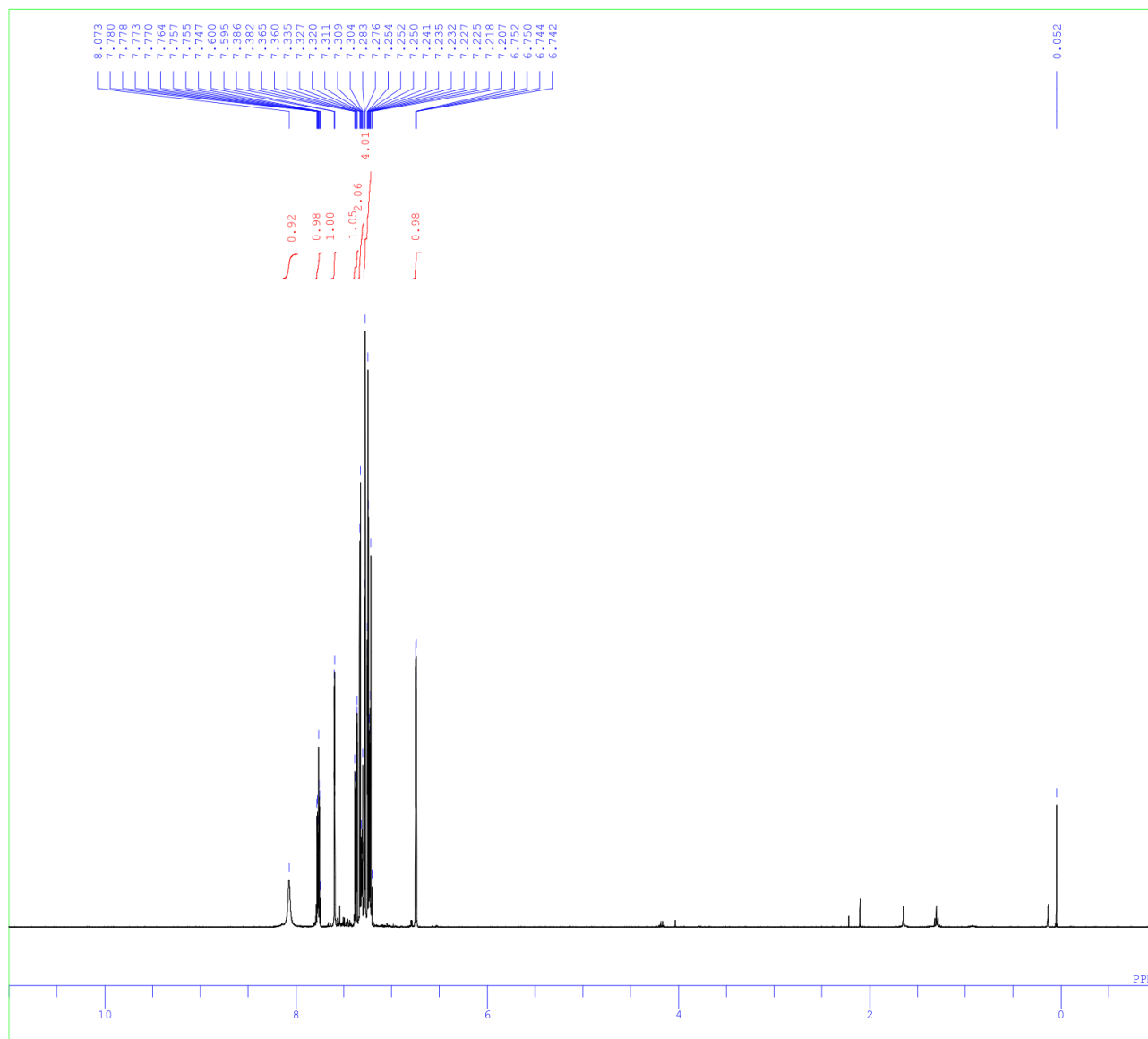
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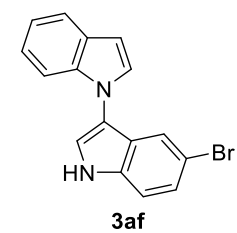


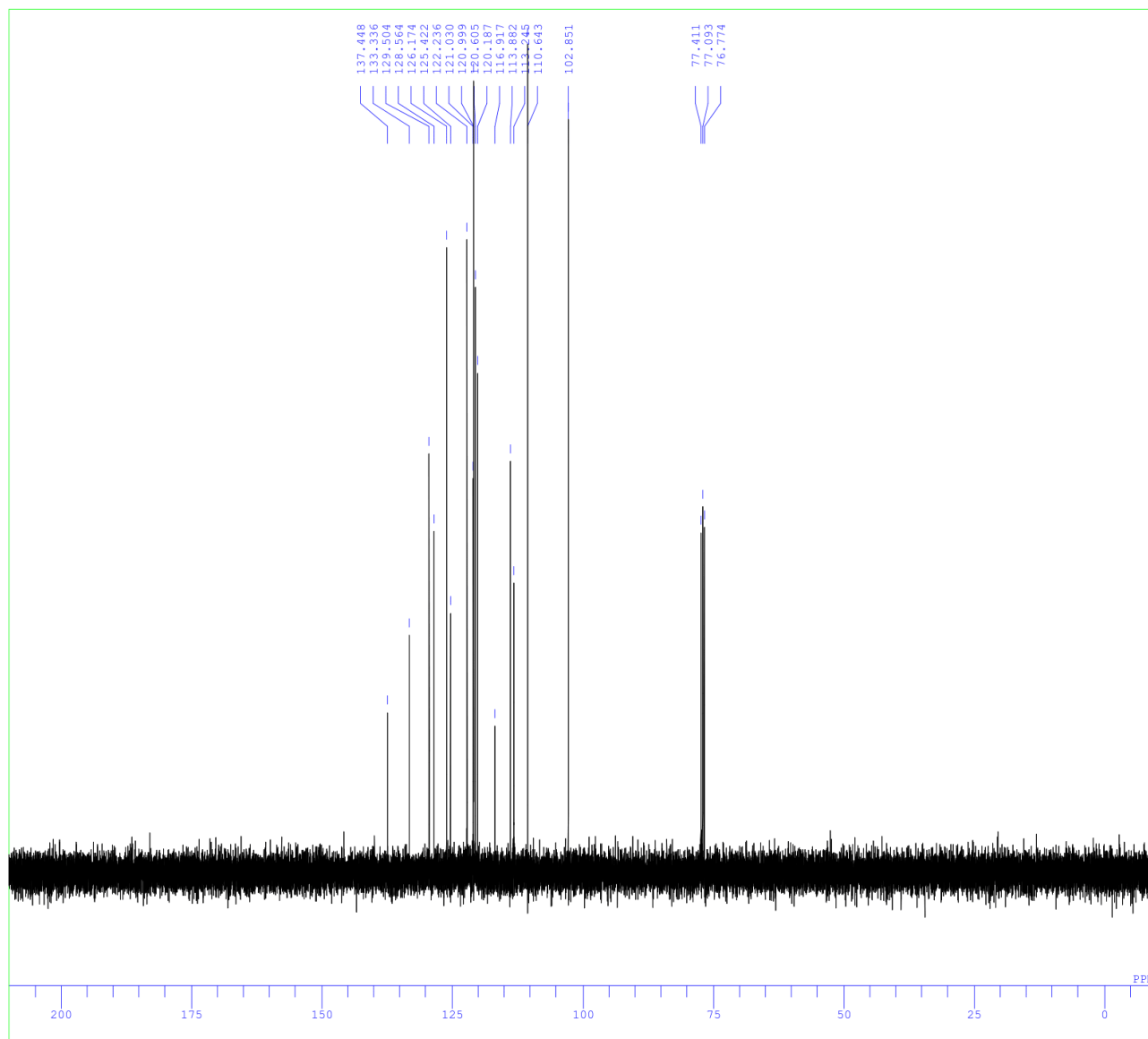


```

DFILE fid
COMNT
DATIM 2023-02-06 18:28:44
OBNUC H1
EXMOD s2pul
OBFRO 399.91 MHz
OBSET 1.99 KHz
OBFIN 2.00 Hz
POINT 32768
FREQU 6410.26 Hz
SCANS 4
AQTM 3.5000 sec
PD 1.0000 sec
PW1 7.15 usec
IRNUC
CTEMP 37.0 c
SLVNT cdcl3
EXREF 7.25 ppm
BF 0.00 Hz
RGAIN 36

```

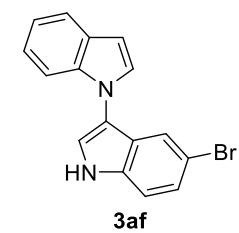


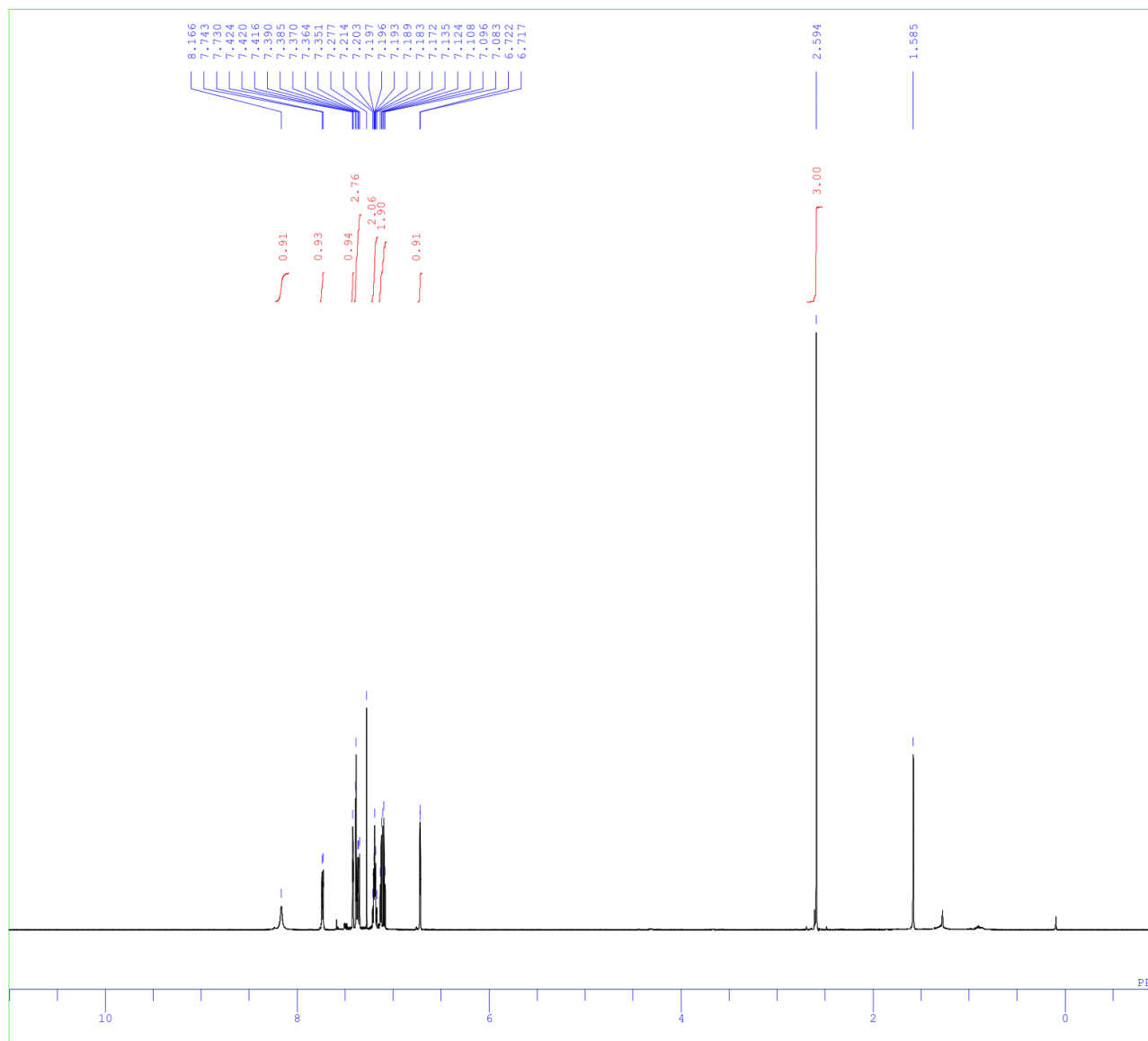


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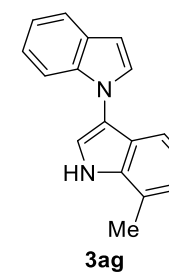
DFILE fid
COMNT 20230207KND16-26
DATIM 2023-02-07 10:55:11
OBNUC C13
EXMOD s2pul
OBFRQ 100.56 MHz
OBSET 8.40 KHz
OBFIN 8.30 Hz
POINT 32768
FREQU 25000.00 Hz
SCANS 32
AQTM 1.3107 sec
PD 1.6893 sec
PW1 5.95 usec
IRNUC
CTEMP 37.0 c
SLVNT cdc13
EXREF 0.00 ppm
BF 0.00 Hz
RGAIN 48

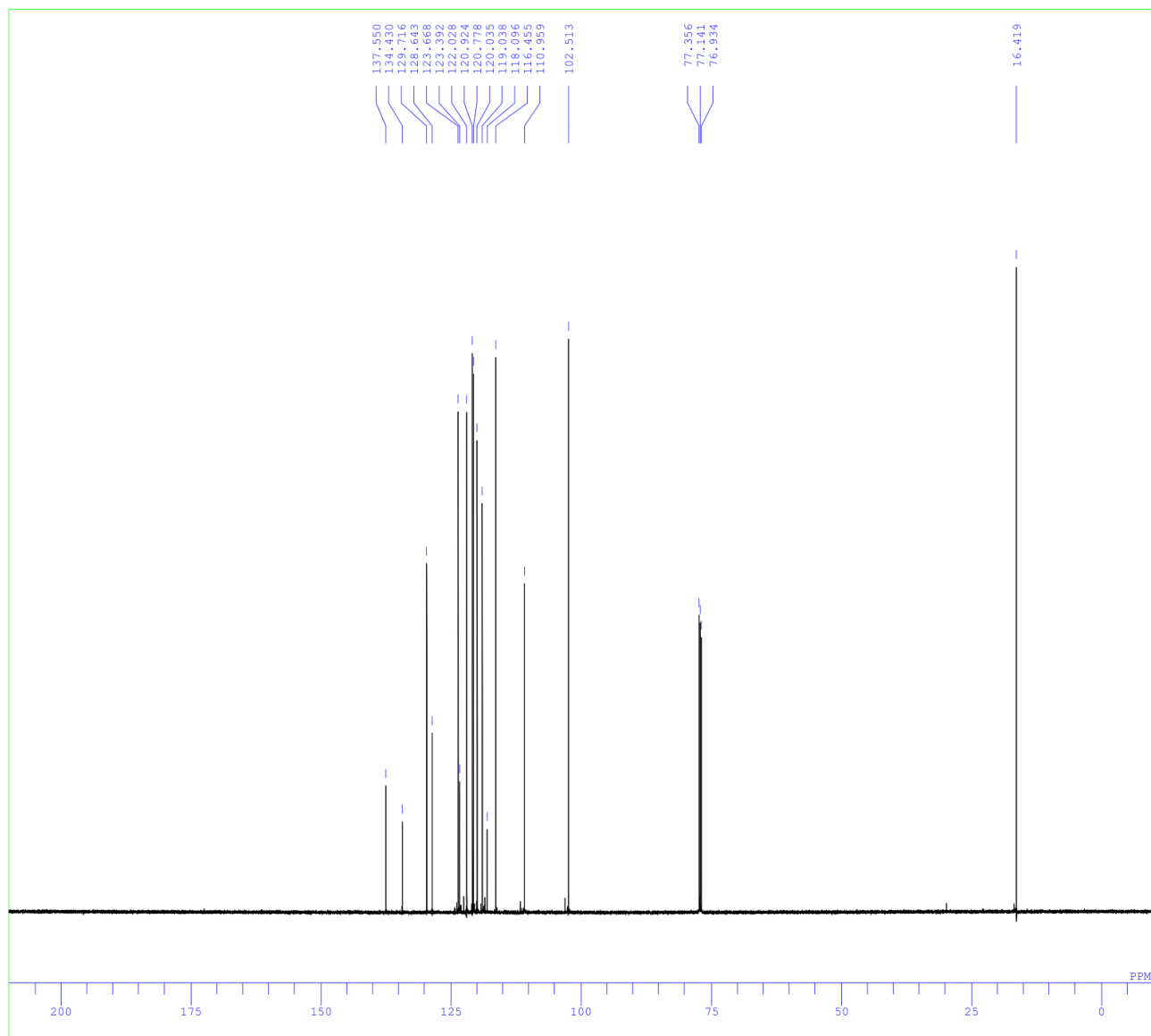
```





DFILE 7Me dimer 1H.als  
 COMNT TIT/1803-B  
 DATIM 2021-08-17 13:44:41  
 OBNUC H1  
 EXMOD s2pul  
 OBFRQ 599.76 MHz  
 OBSET 5.06 KHz  
 OBFIN 0.60 Hz  
 POINT 32768  
 FREQU 9615.38 Hz  
 SCANS 32  
 ACQTM 3.4079 sec  
 PD 1.0000 sec  
 PW1 5.40 usec  
 IRNUC  
 CTEMP 20.0 c  
 SLVNT cdcl3  
 EXREF 0.00 ppm  
 BF 0.00 Hz  
 RGAIN 42

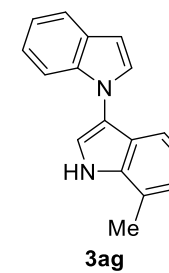


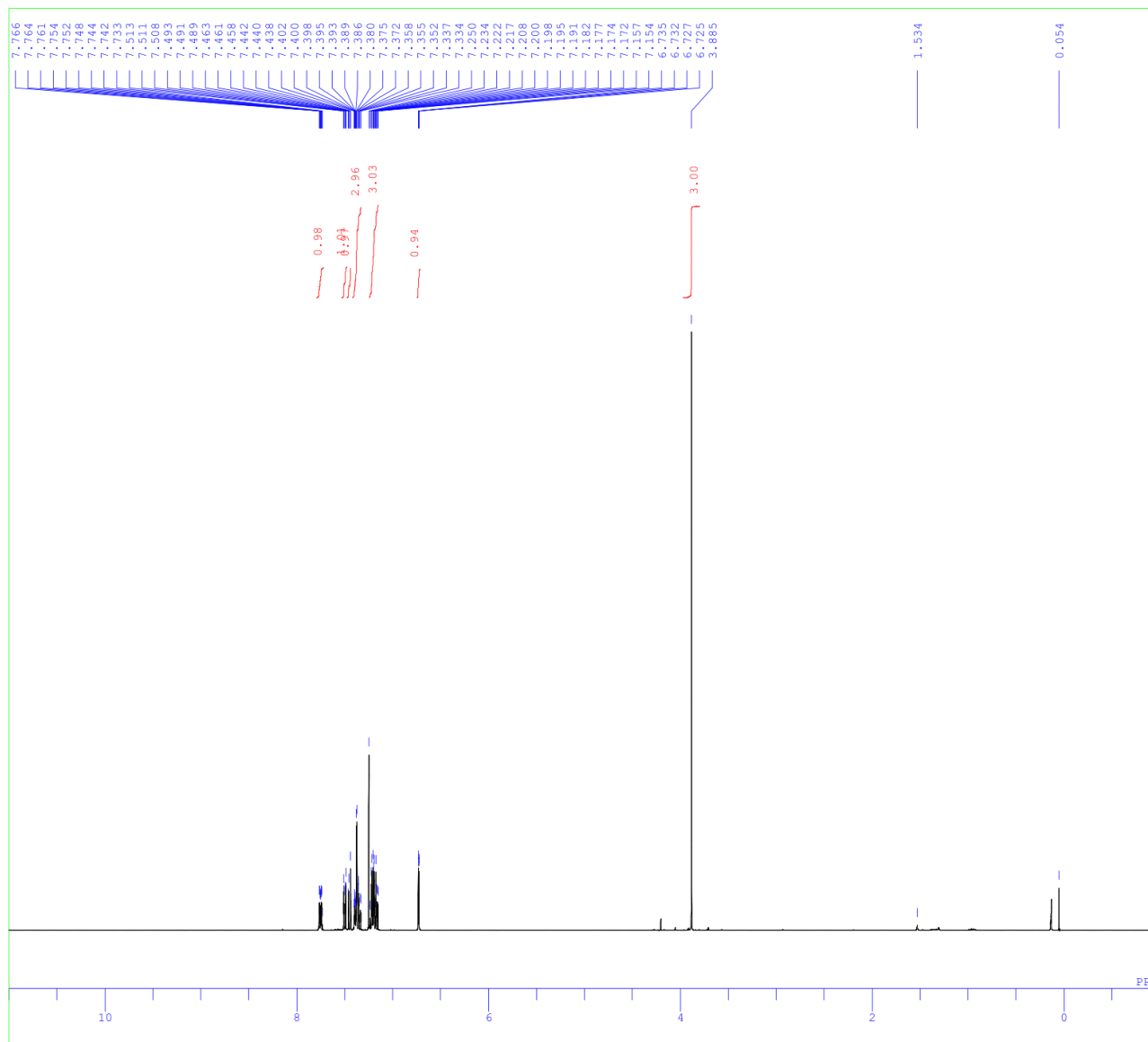


```

DFILE 7Me 13C.als
COMNT
DATIM 2021-08-15 15:54:34
OBNUC C13
EXMOD s2pul
OBFRQ 150.82 MHz
OBSET 6.72 KHz
OBFIN 8.70 Hz
POINT 32768
FREQU 37878.79 Hz
SCANS 64
ACQTM 0.8651 sec
PD 2.1349 sec
PW1 6.05 usec
IRNUC
CTEMP 30.0 c
SLVNT cdc13
EXREF 0.00 ppm
BF 0.00 Hz
RGAIN 60

```

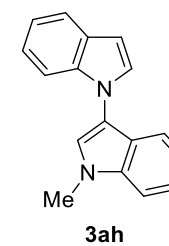


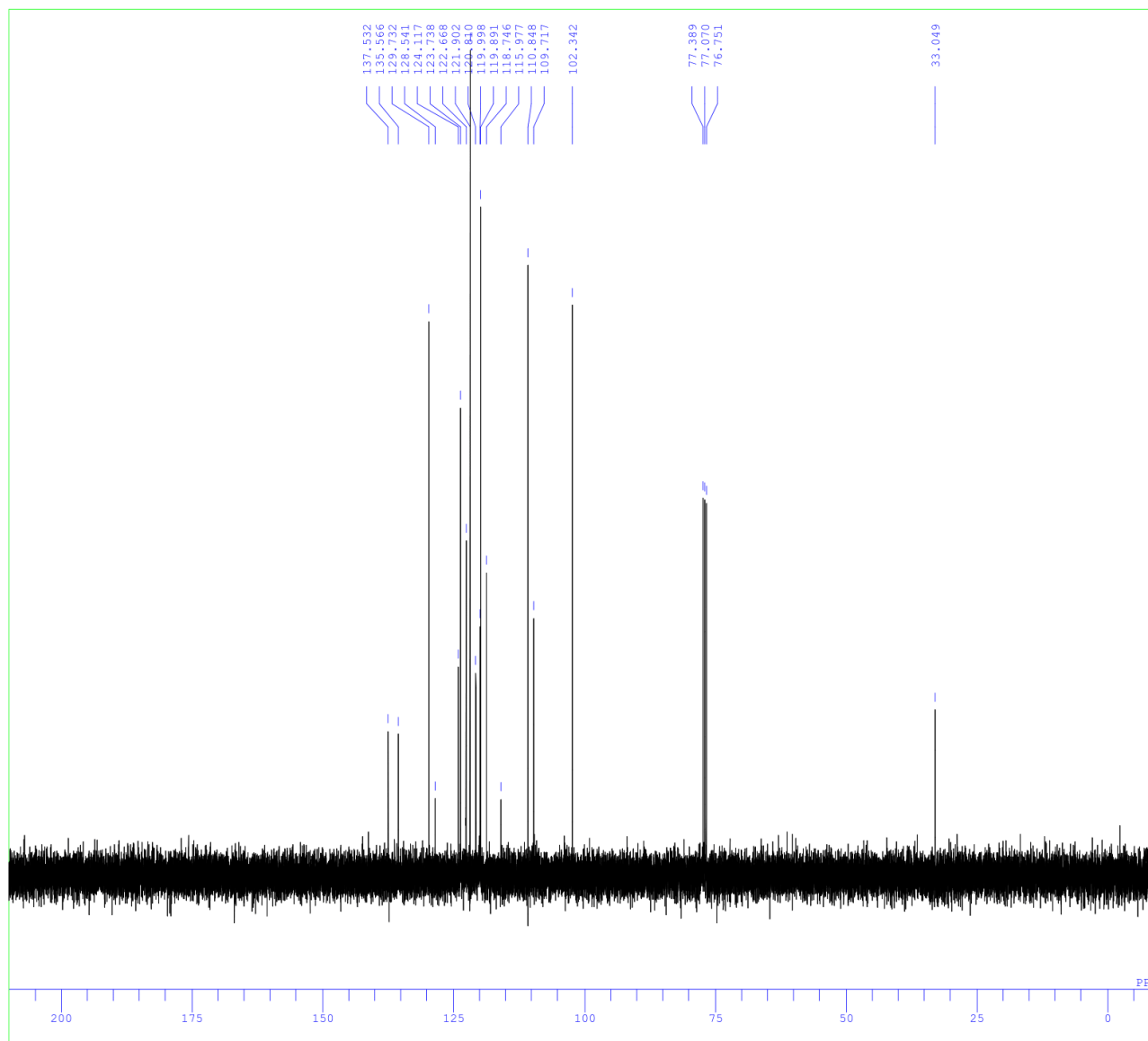


```

DFILE fid
COMNT 2023-02-06 18:18:48
DATIM H1
OBNUC s2pul
EXMOD 399.91 MHz
OBFRQ 1.99 KHz
OBSET 2.00 Hz
OBFIN 32768
POINT 6410.26 Hz
FREQU 4
SCANS 3.5000 sec
ACQTM 1.0000 sec
PD 7.15 usec
PW1
IRNUC 37.0 c
CTEMP cdc13
SLVNT 7.25 ppm
EXREF 0.00 Hz
BF 36
RGAIN

```

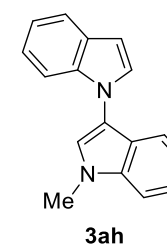


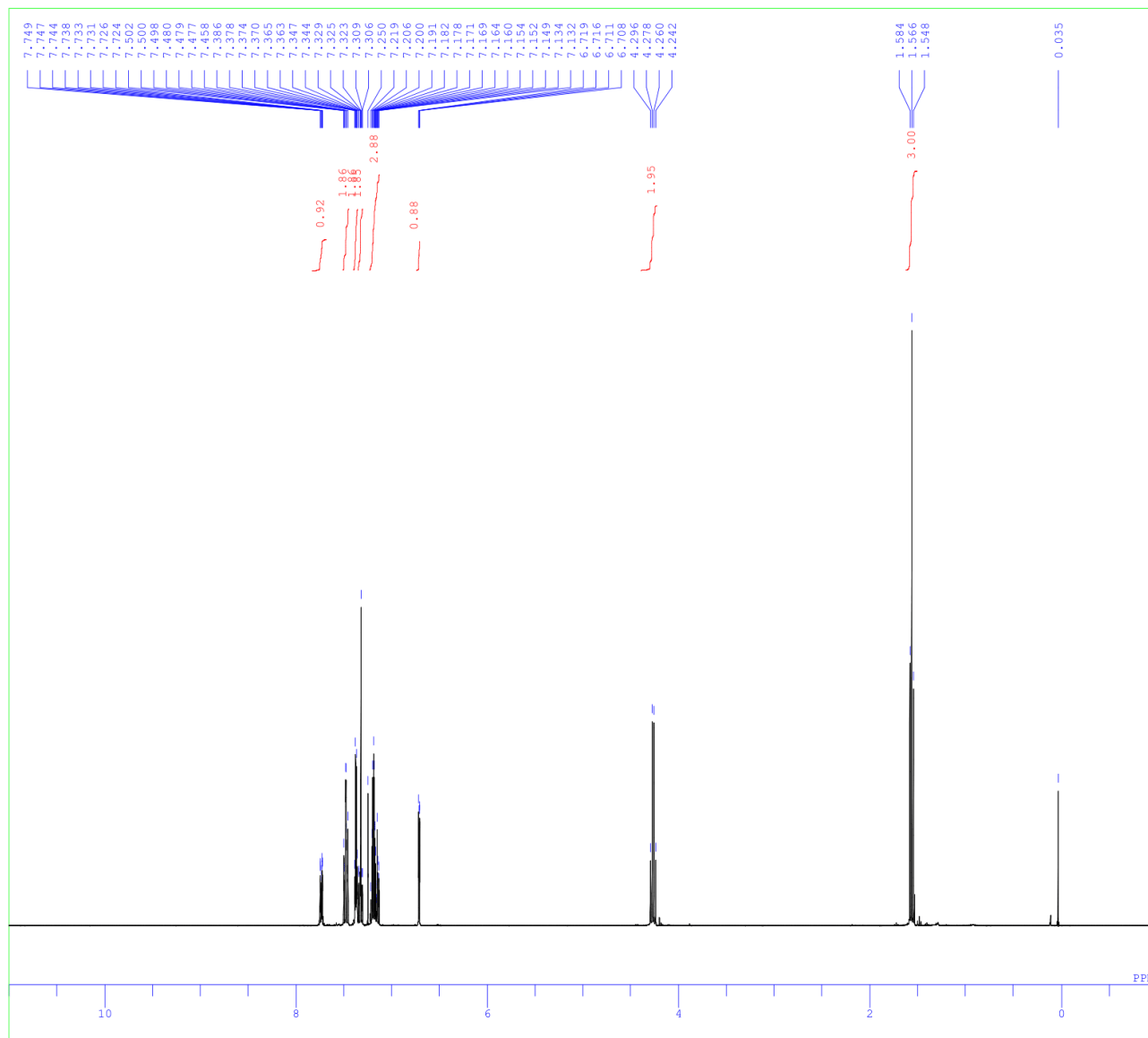


```

DFILE fid
COMNT 20230207KND16-26
DATIM 2023-02-07 10:38:53
OBNUC C13
EXMOD s2pul
OBFRQ 100.56 MHz
OBSET 8.40 KHz
OBFIN 8.30 Hz
POINT 32768
FREQU 25000.00 Hz
SCANS 32
AQTM 1.3107 sec
PD 1.6893 sec
PW1 5.95 usec
IRNUC
CTEMP 37.0 c
SLVNT cdc13
EXREF 0.00 ppm
BF 0.00 Hz
RGAIN 48

```

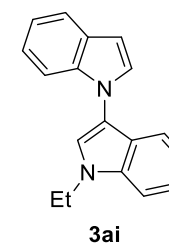




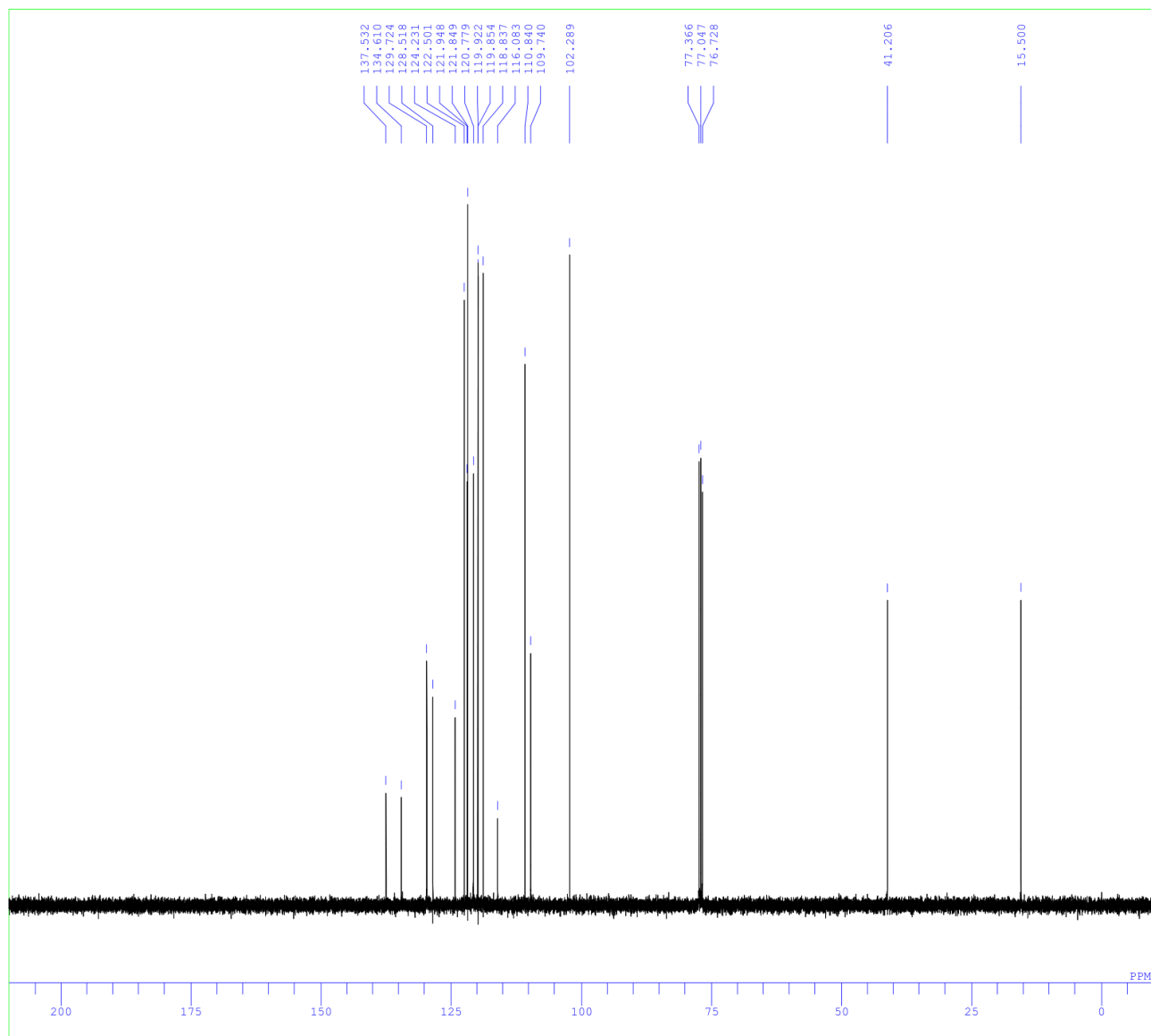
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D1FILE  NET dimer 1H.als
COMNT   2023-02-06 18:22:01
DATIM   H1
OBNUC   s2pul
EXMOD   399.91 MHz
OBSEF   1.99 KHz
OBFIN   2.00 Hz
POINT   32768
FREQU   6410.26 Hz
SCANS   4
AQTM    3.5000 sec
PD       1.0000 sec
PW1     7.15 usec
IRNUC   cdc13
CTEMP   37.0 c
SLVNT   EXREF
EXREF   7.25 ppm
BF       0.00 Hz
RGAIN   36

```



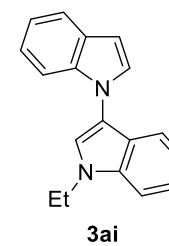


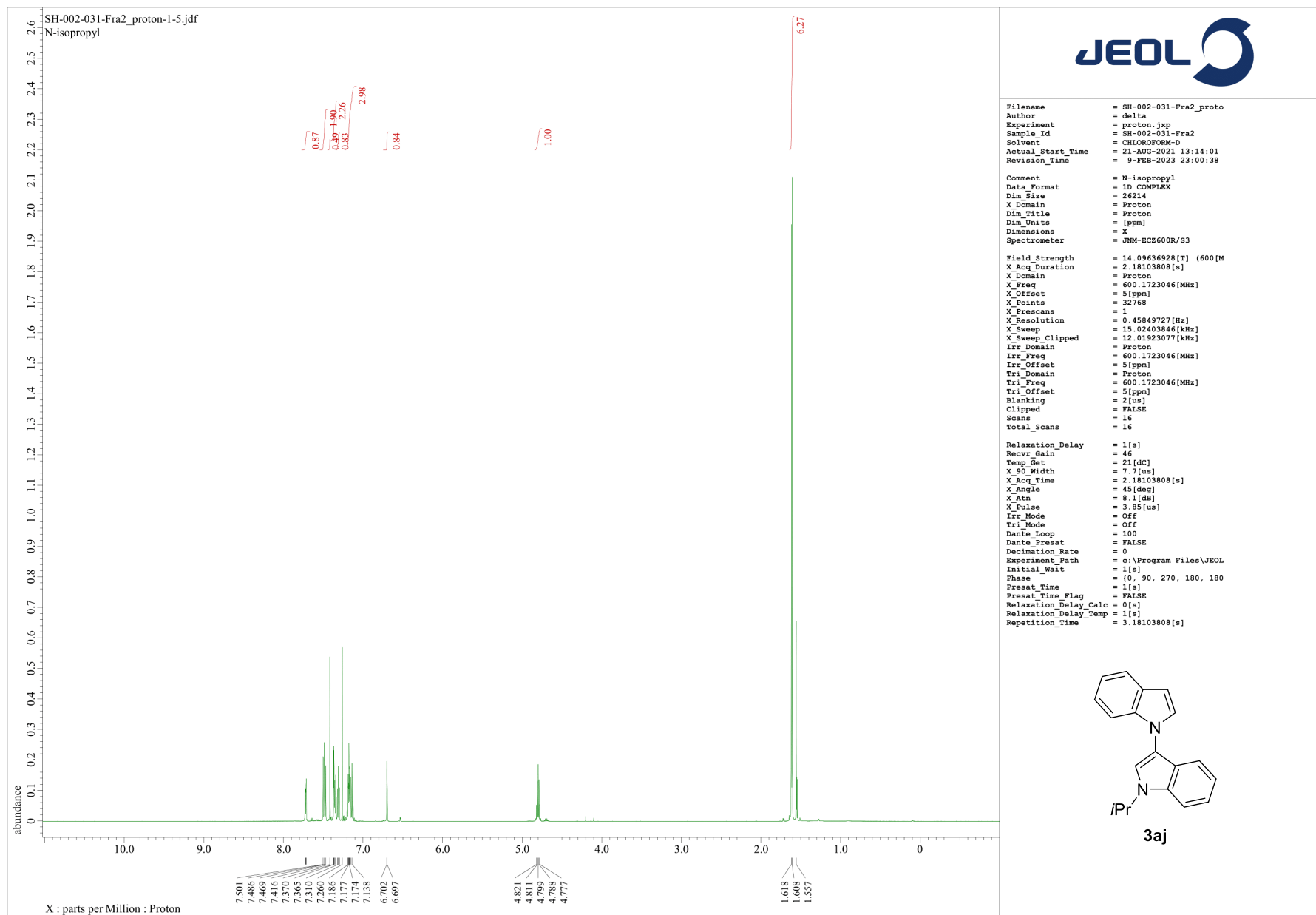


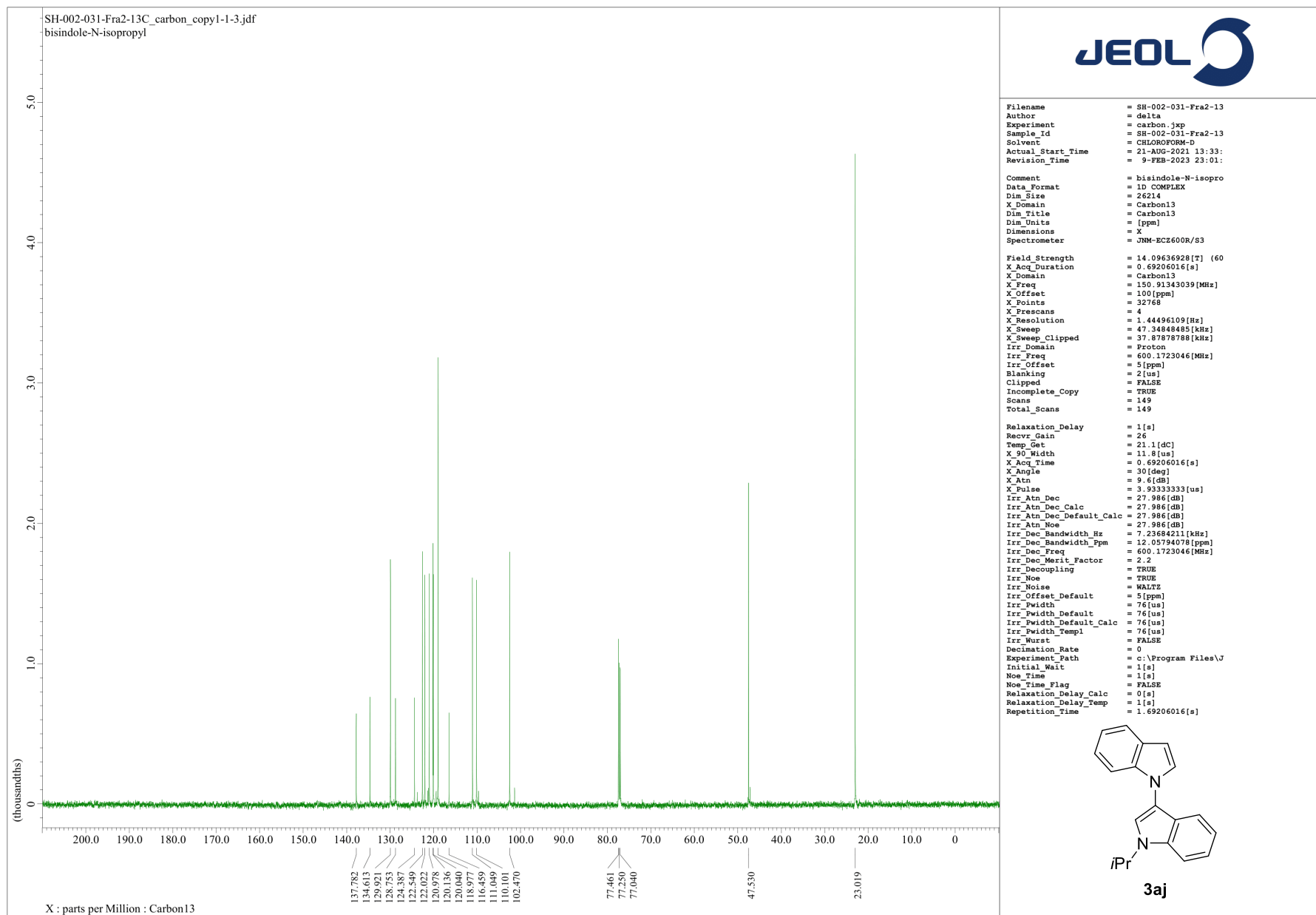
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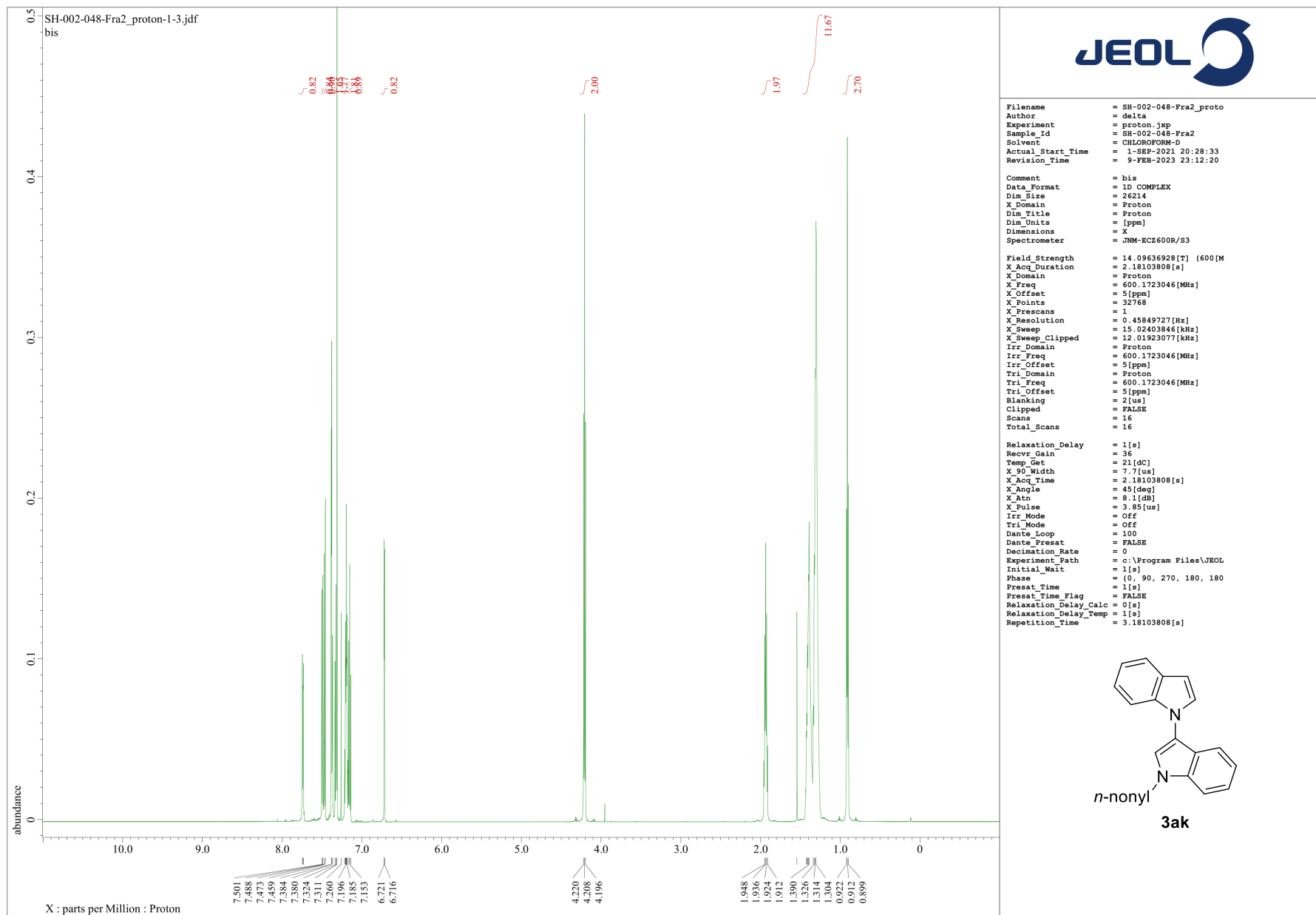
DfFILE fid
COMNT YN-I-53-Crude DMSO-d6
DATIM 2023-02-10 12:32:18
OBNUC C13
EXMOD s2pul
OBFRO 100.56 MHz
OBSET 8.40 KHz
OBFIN 8.30 Hz
POINT 32768
FREQU 25000.00 Hz
SCANS 32
ACQTM 1.3107 sec
PD 1.6893 sec
PW1 5.95 usec
IRNUC
CTEMP 37.0 c
SLVNT cdc13
EXREF 0.00 ppm
BF 0.00 Hz
RGAIN 48

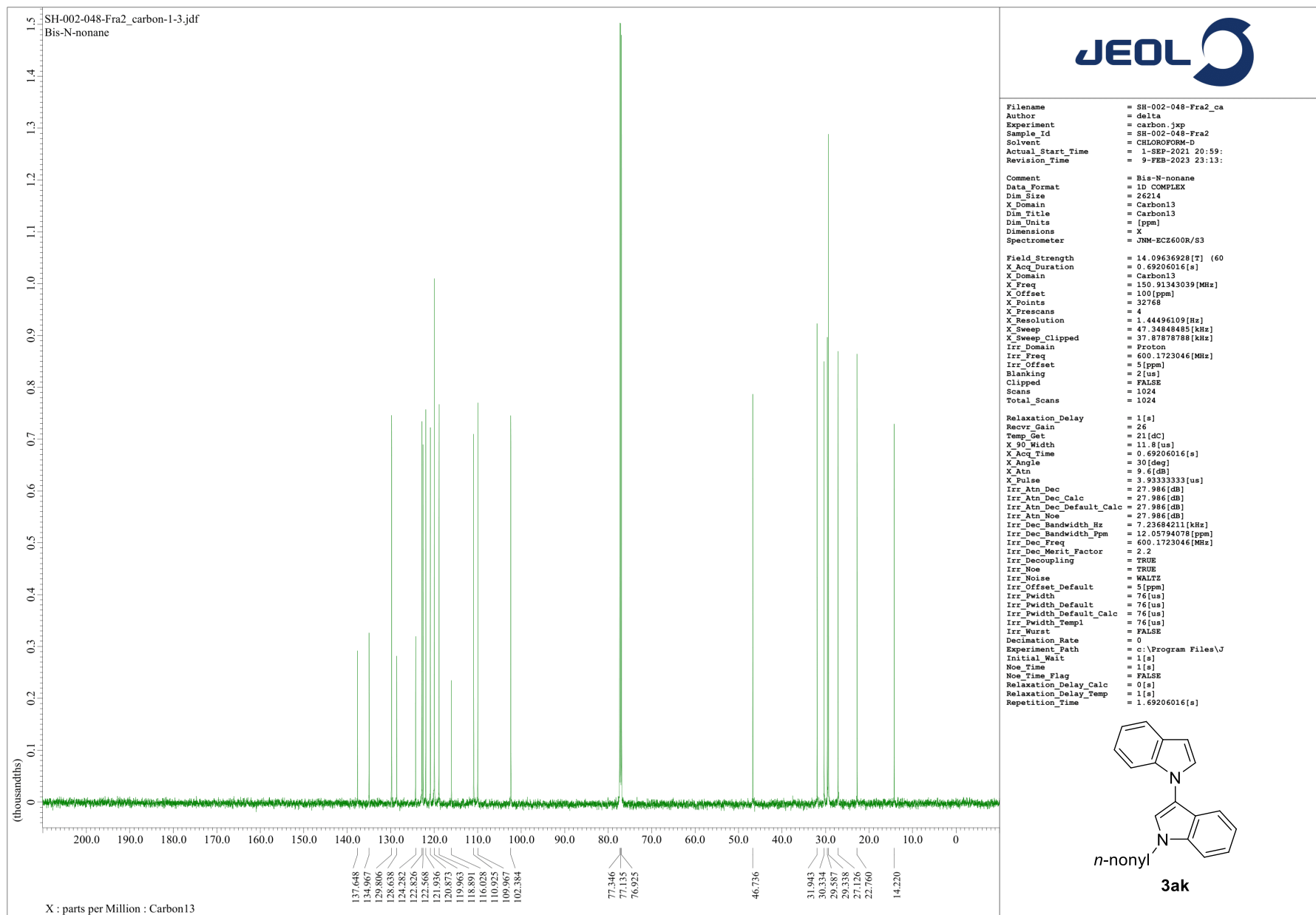
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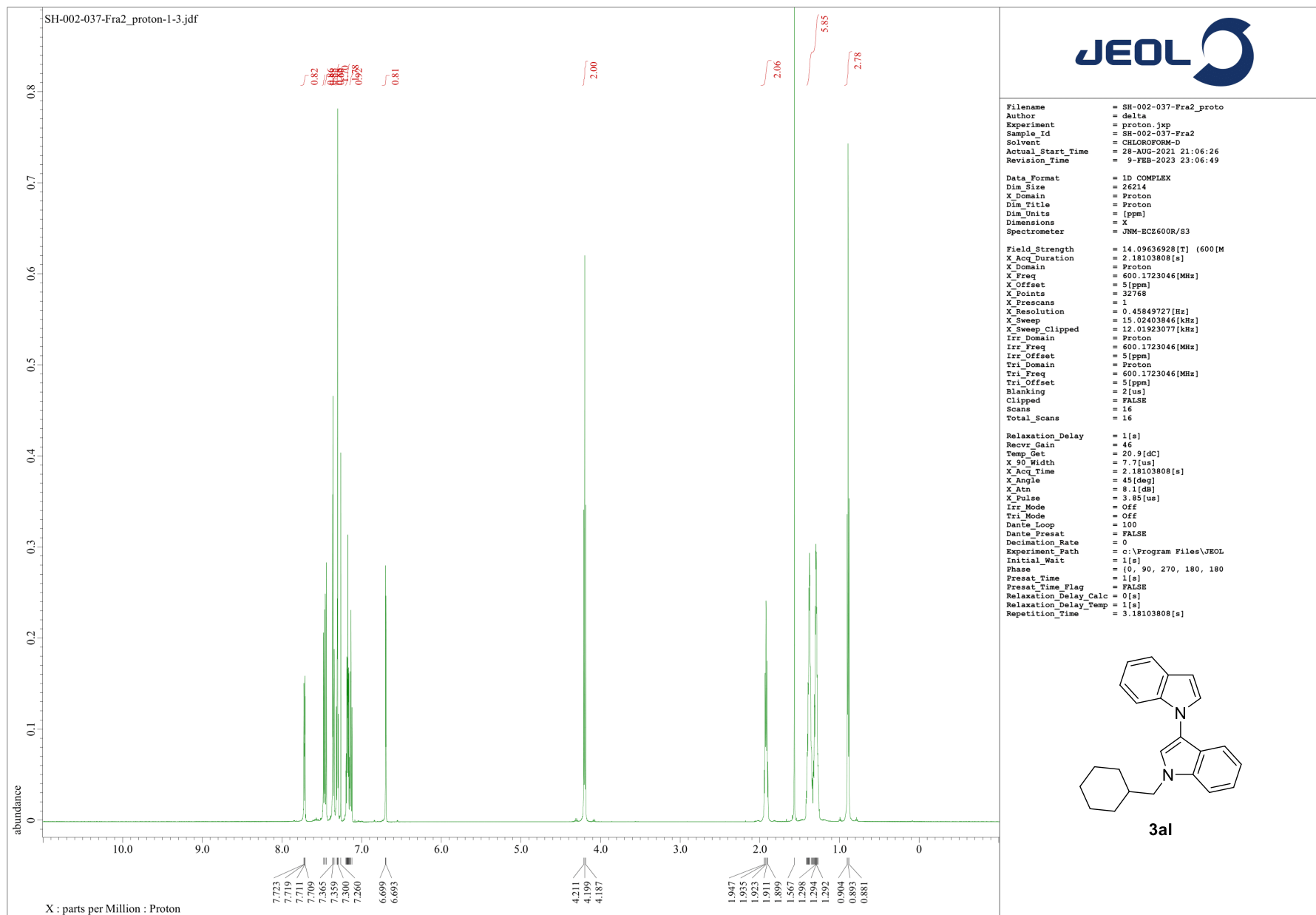


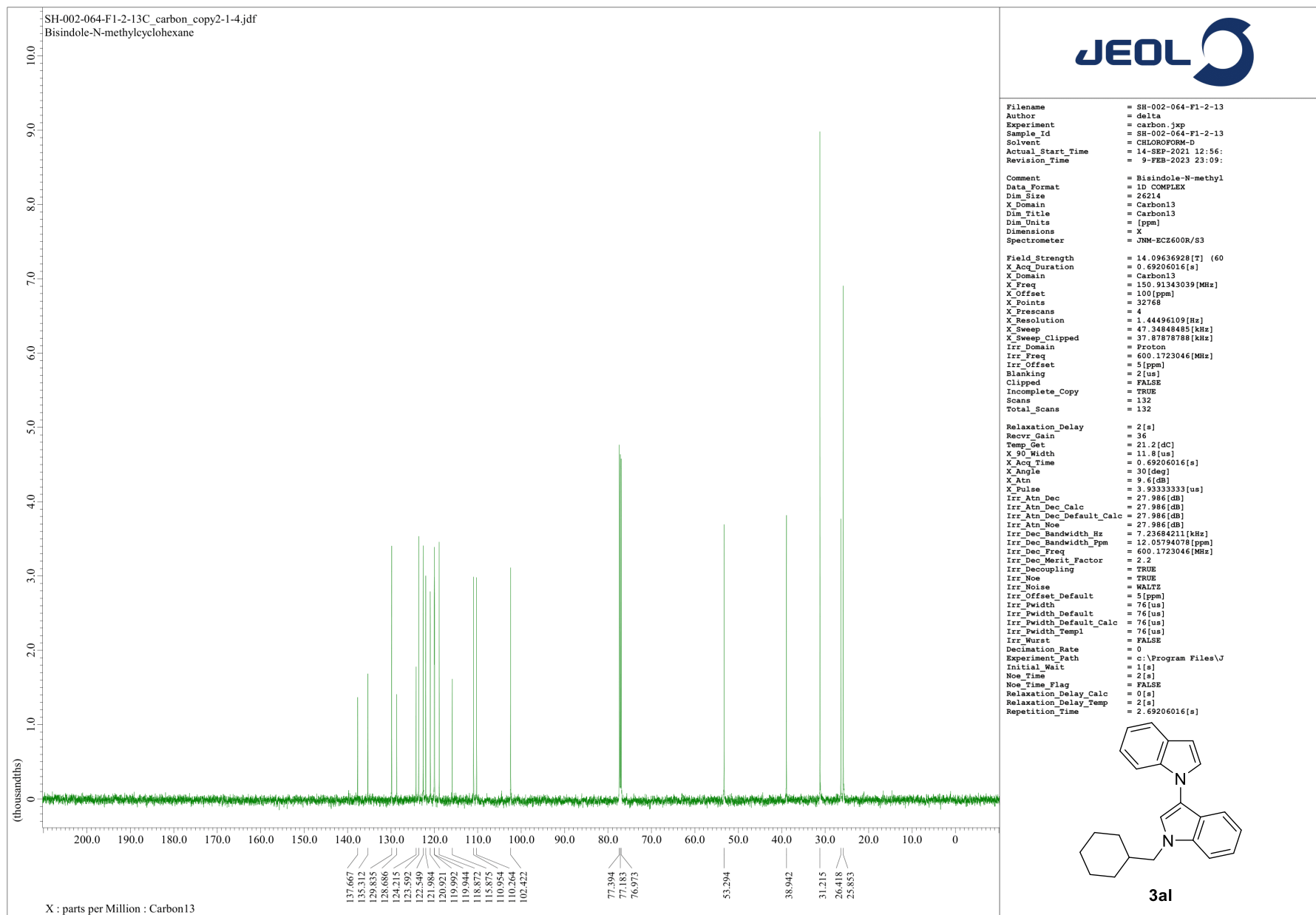


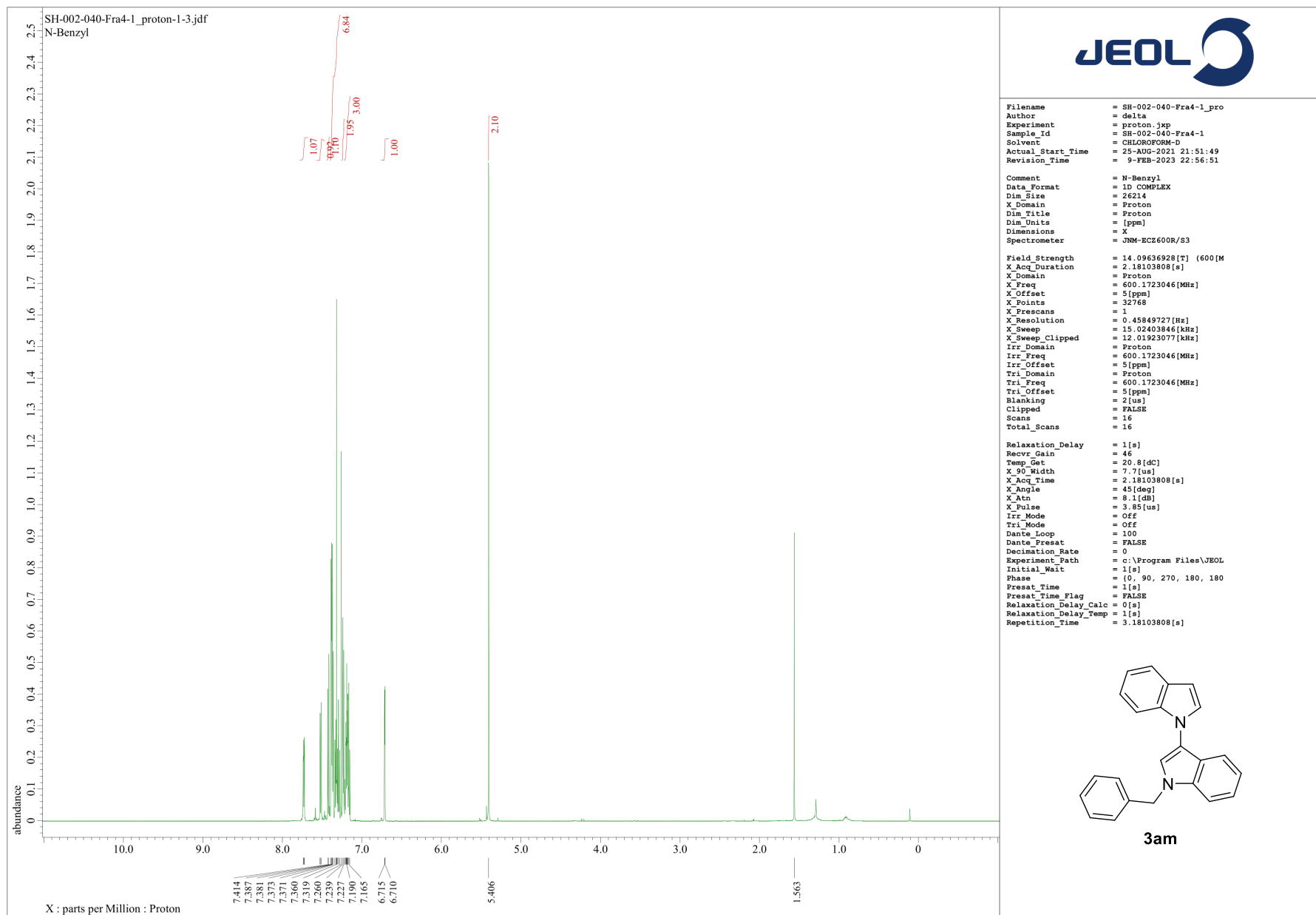




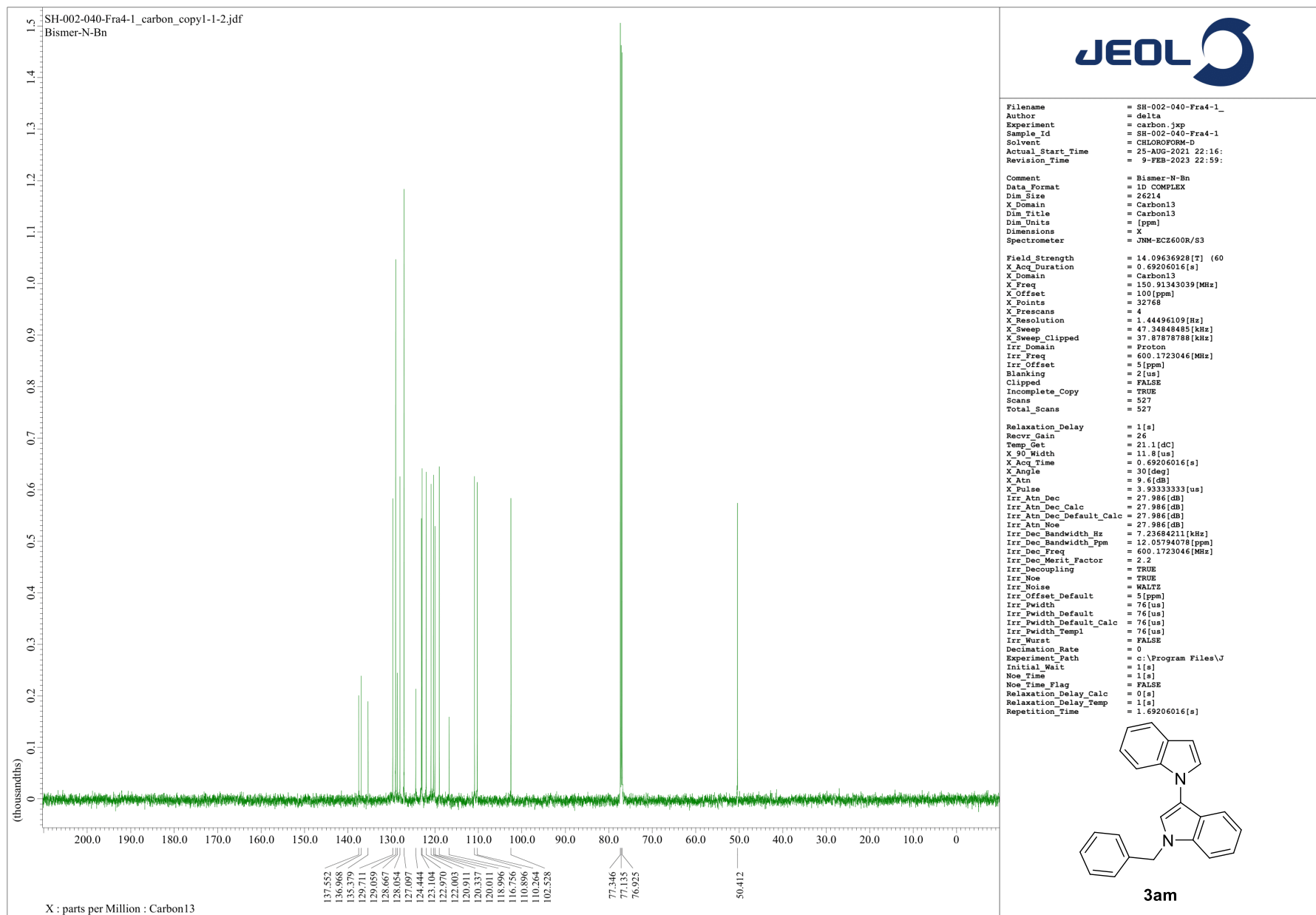




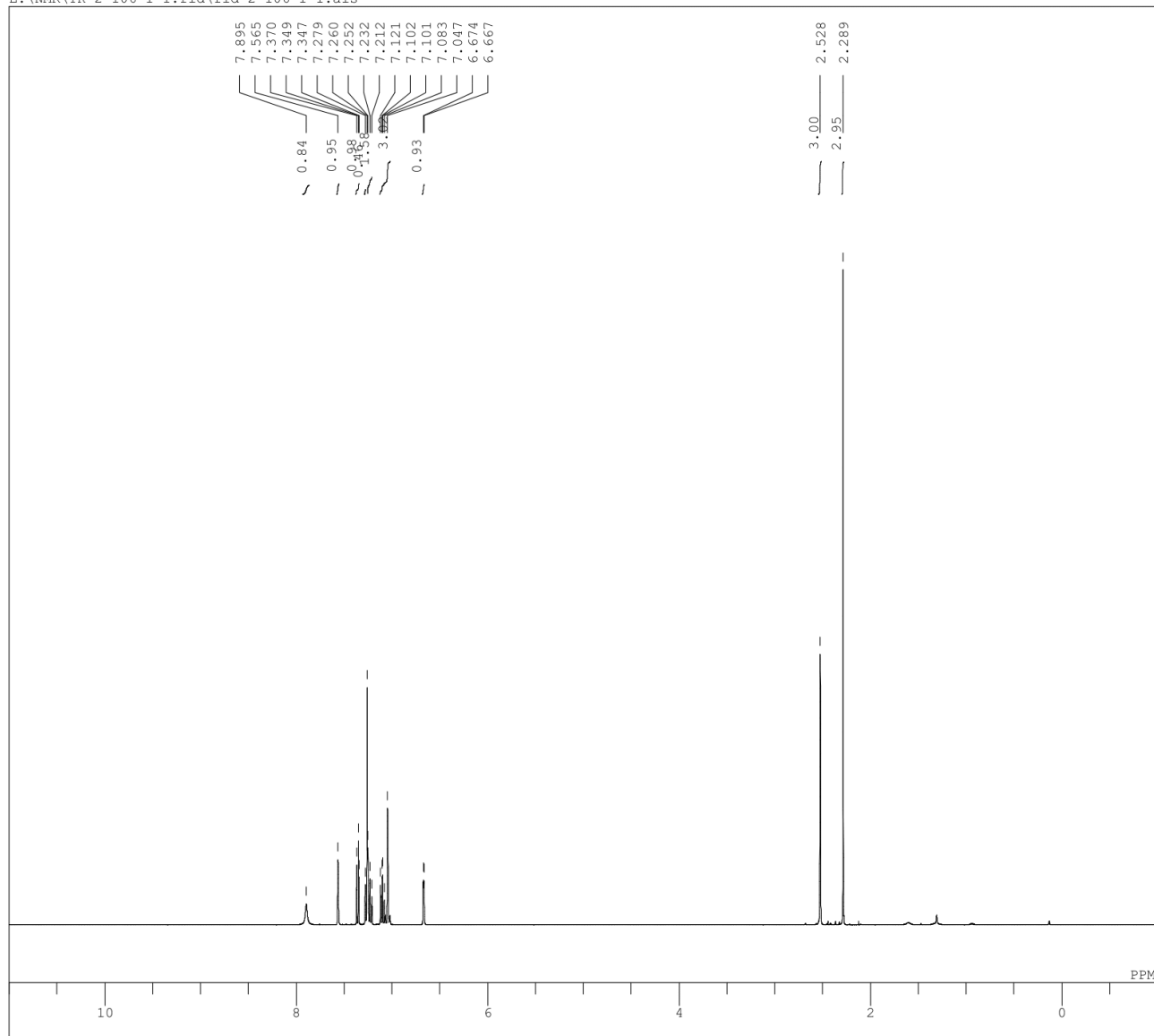




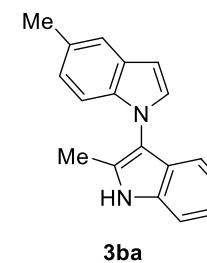




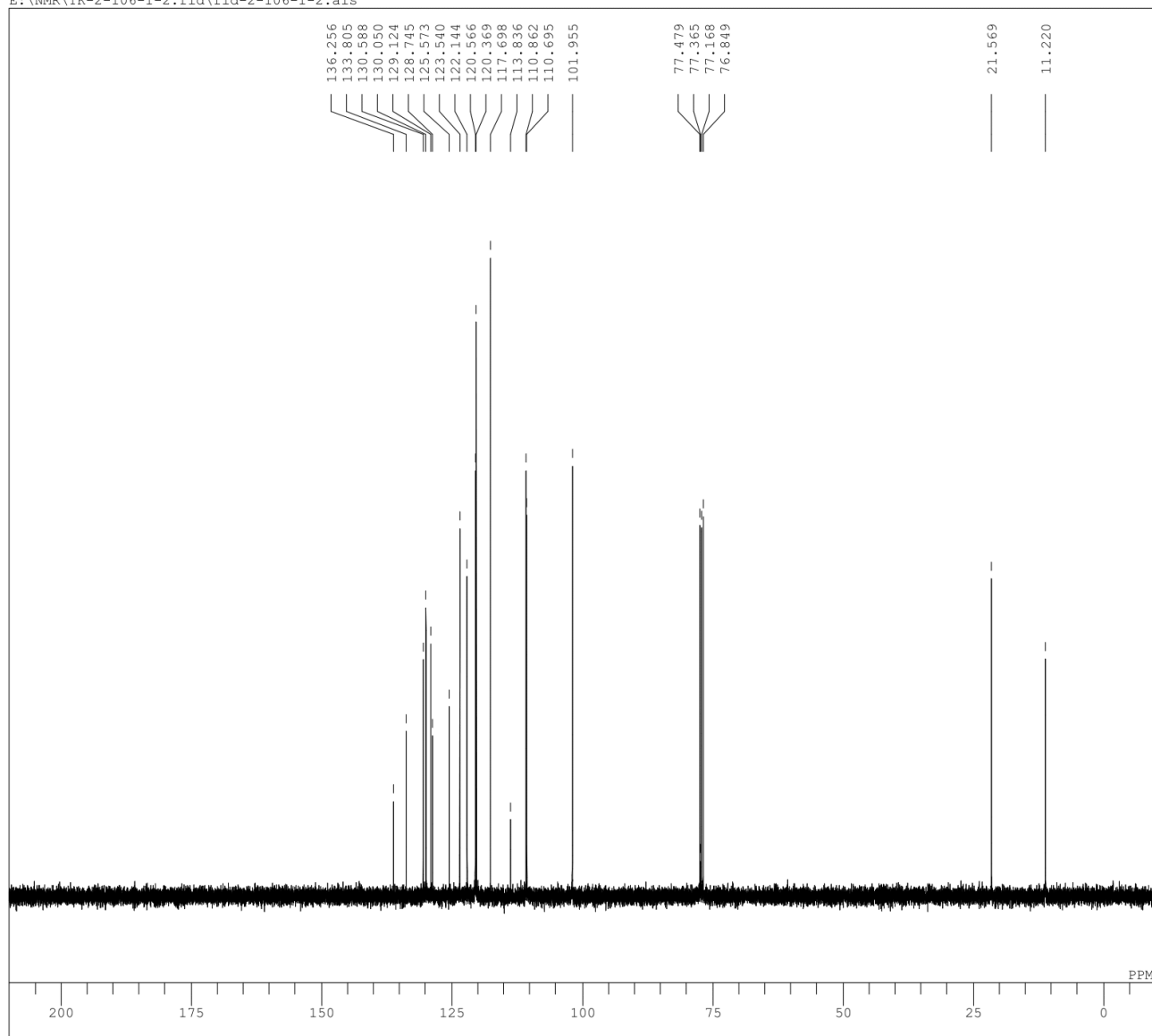
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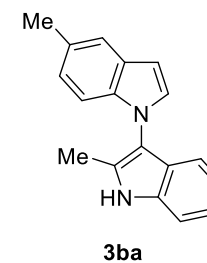
DFILE fid-2-106-1-1.als  
 COMNT TK-2-106-1-1 (5-methyl-2-methyl-indoledimer) 1H  
 DATIM 2023-02-12 23:02:23  
 OBNUC H1  
 EXMOD s2pul  
 OBFRQ 399.91 MHz  
 OBSEF 1.99 KHz  
 OBFIN 2.00 Hz  
 POINT 32768  
 FREQU 6410.26 Hz  
 SCANS 32  
 ACQTM 3.5000 sec  
 PD 1.5000 sec  
 PW1 7.15 usec  
 IRNUC  
 CTEMP 37.0 c  
 SLVNT cdcl3  
 EXREF 7.26 ppm  
 BF 0.10 Hz  
 RGAIN 36

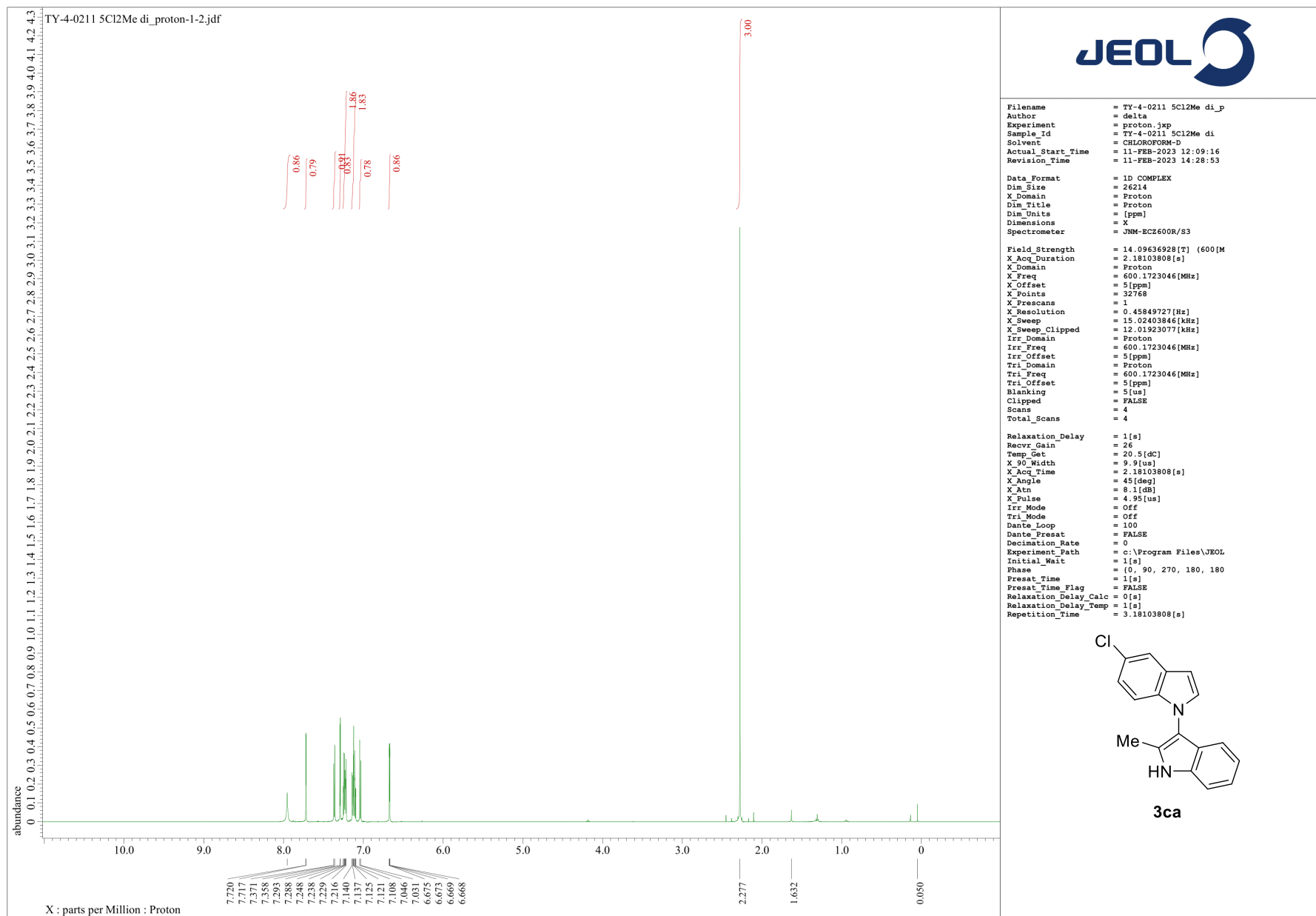


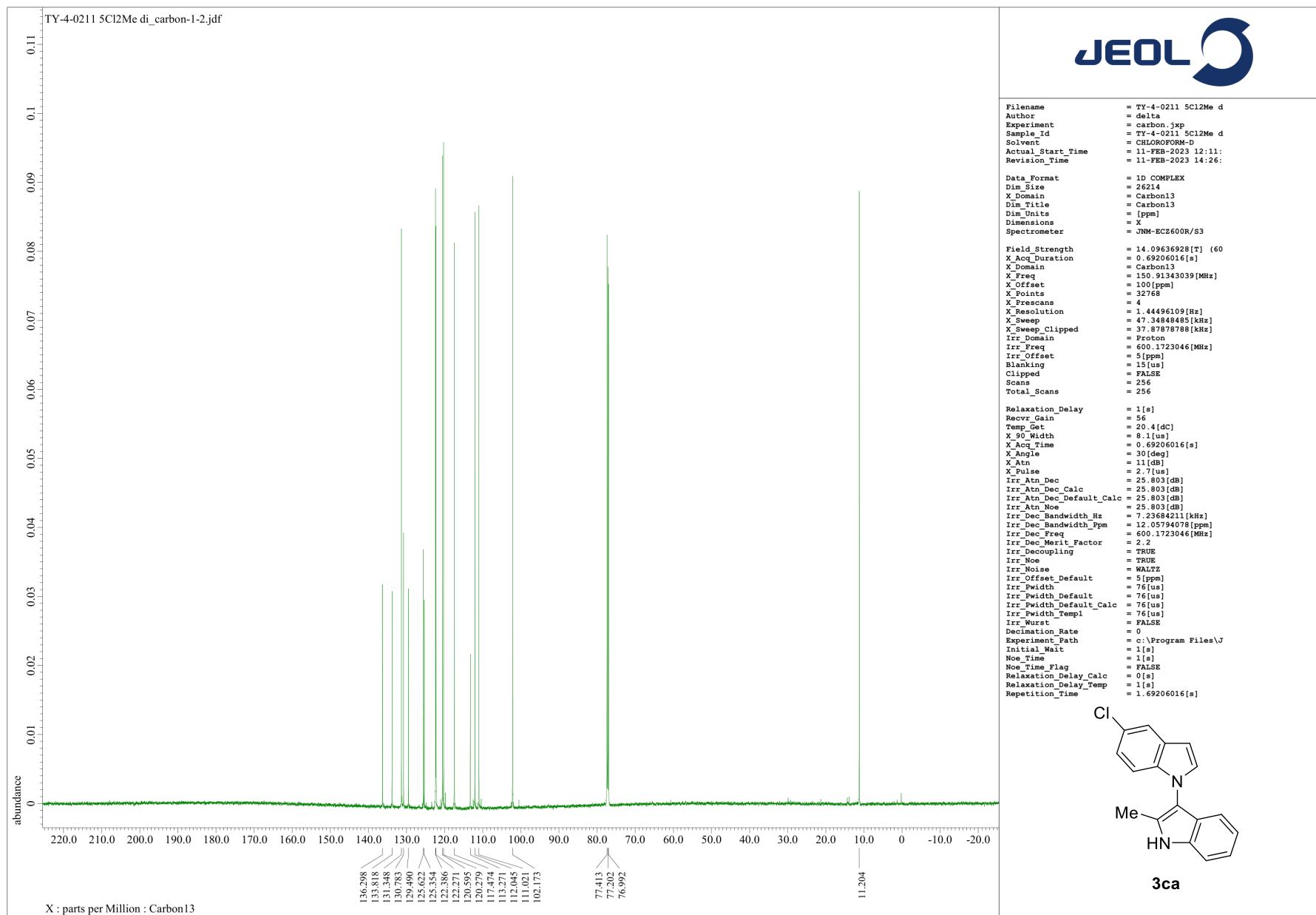
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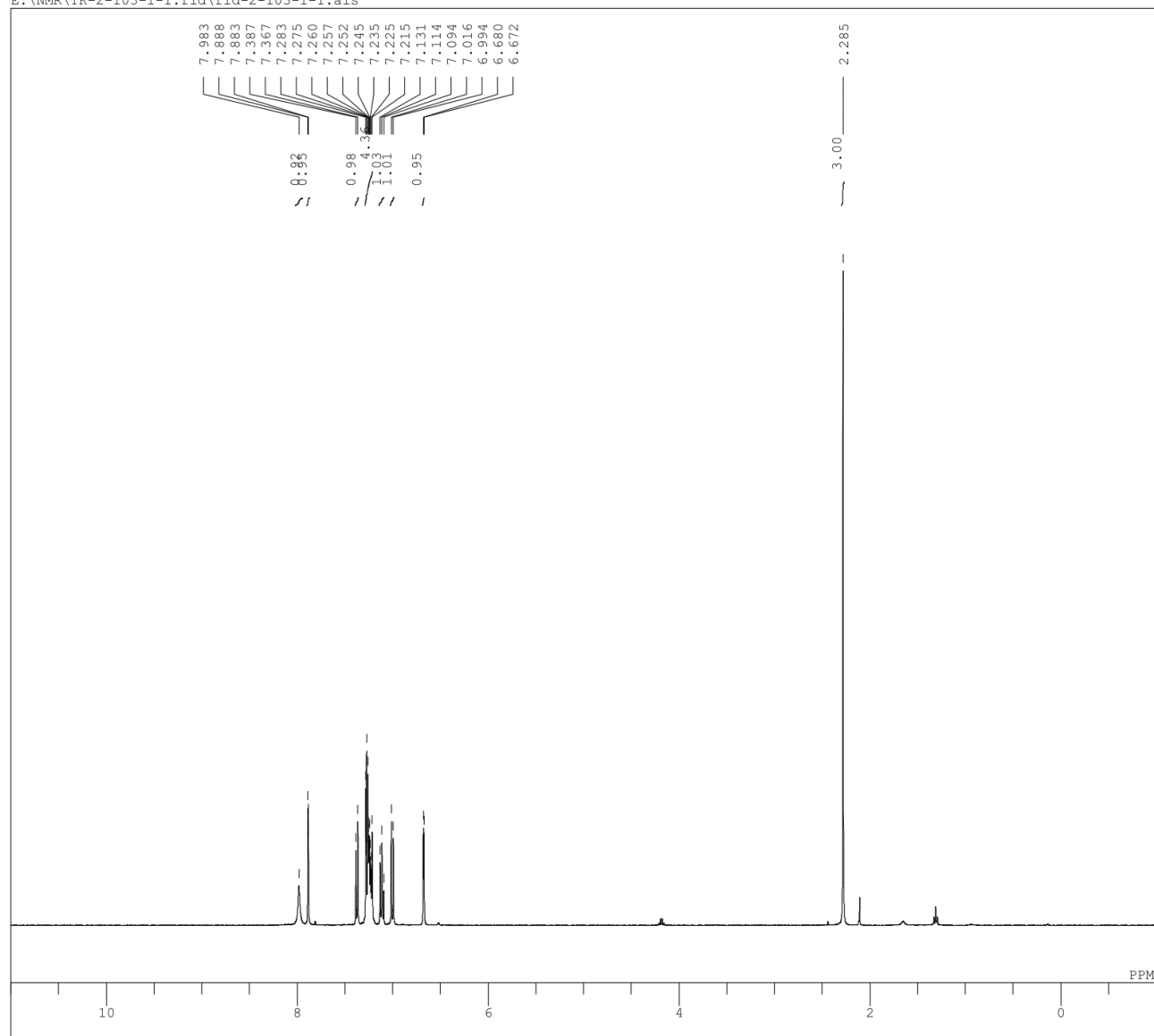
DFILE fid-2-106-1-2.als  
 COMNT TK-2-106-1-2 (5-methyl-2-methyl-indoledimer) 13  
 DATIM 2023-02-12 22:49:01  
 OBNUC C13  
 EXMOD s2pul  
 OBFREQ 100.56 MHz  
 OBSET 8.40 KHz  
 OBFIN 8.30 Hz  
 POINT 32768  
 FREQU 25000.00 Hz  
 SCANS 64  
 ACQTM 1.3107 sec  
 PD 1.6893 sec  
 PW1 5.95 usec  
 IRNUC  
 CTEMP 37.0 c  
 SLVNT cdcl3  
 EXREF 77.16 ppm  
 BF 0.10 Hz  
 RGAIN 48



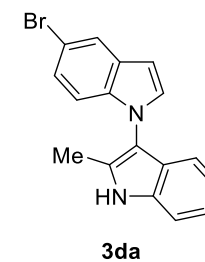




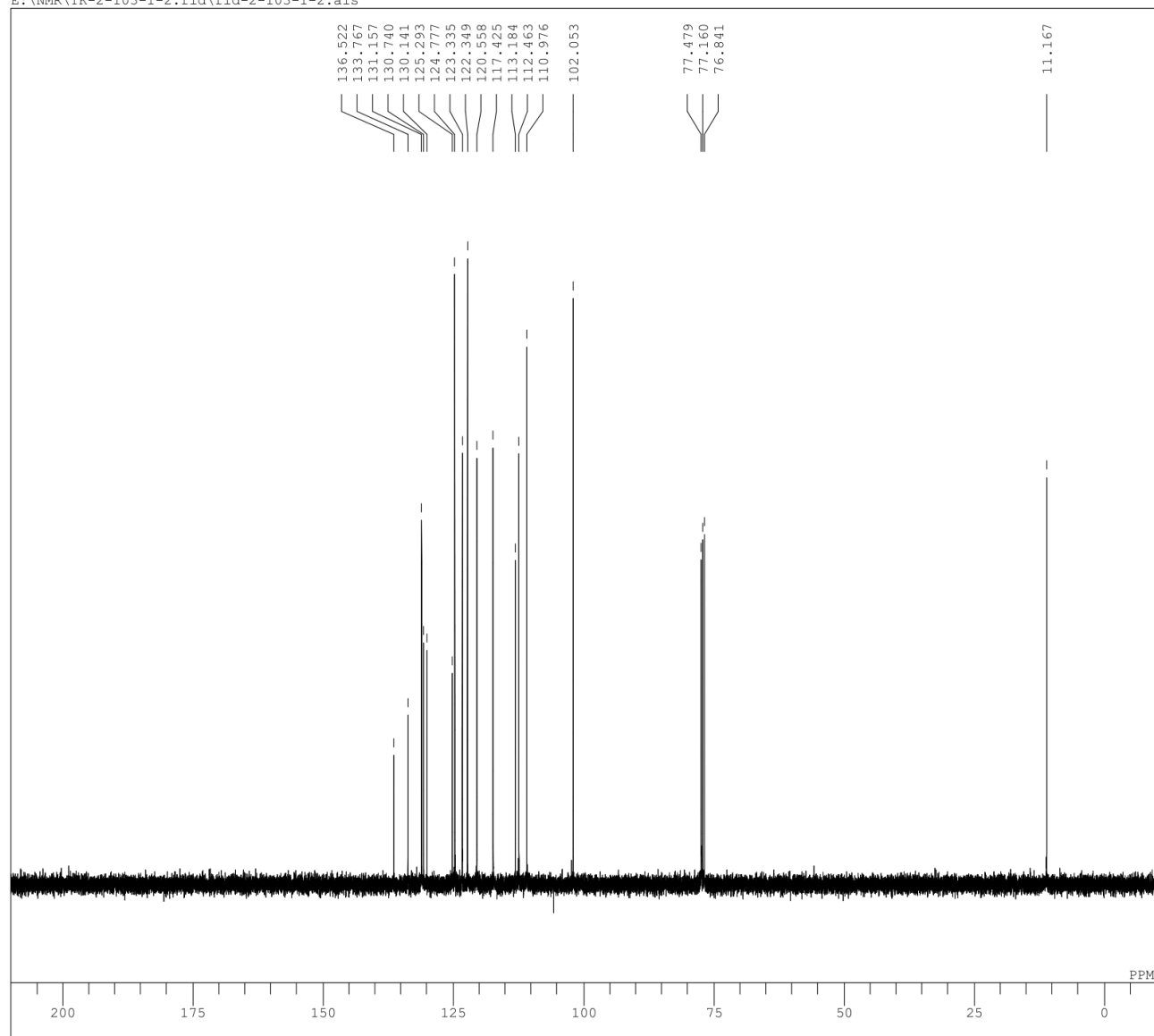
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DFILE fid-2-103-1-1.als  
 COMNT TK-2-103-1-1 (5-Br-2'-Me-indoledimer) 1H  
 DATIM 2023-02-10 22:45:03  
 OBNUC H1  
 EXMOD s2pul  
 OBFRQ 399.91 MHz  
 OBSET 1.99 KHz  
 OBFIN 2.00 Hz  
 POINT 32768  
 FREQU 6410.26 Hz  
 SCANS 32  
 ACQTM 3.5000 sec  
 PD 1.5000 sec  
 PW1 7.15 usec  
 IRNUC  
 CTEMP 37.0 c  
 SLVNT cdcl3  
 EXREF 7.26 ppm  
 BF 0.10 Hz  
 RGAIN 34



E:\NMR\TK-2-103-1-2.fid\fid-2-103-1-2.als



DFILE fid-2-103-1-2.als  
 COMNT TK-2-103-1-1 (5-Br-2'-Me-indoledimer)13C  
 DATIM 2023-02-10 22:29:39  
 OBNUC C13  
 EXMOD s2pul  
 OBFRQ 100.56 MHz  
 OBSET 8.40 KHz  
 OBFIN 8.30 Hz  
 POINT 32768  
 FREQU 25000.00 Hz  
 SCANS 64  
 ACQTM 1.3107 sec  
 PD 1.6893 sec  
 PW1 5.95 usec  
 IRNUC  
 CTEMP 37.0 c  
 SLVNT cdcl3  
 EXREF 77.16 ppm  
 BF 0.10 Hz  
 RGAIN 54

