

NHC-Iron catalysed Aerobic Oxidative Aromatic Esterification of Aldehydes using Boronic Acids

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General Remarks

Dioxane was freshly distilled over sodium. All reactions were performed in oven-dried glassware under air. Preparative thin layer chromatography plates were prepared with silica gel 60 GF₂₅₄ Merck (Ref. 1.07730.1000). Reaction mixtures were analysed by TLC using ALUGRAM[®] SIL G/UV₂₅₄ from MN (Ref. 818133, silica gel 60), and visualisation of TLC spots was effected using UV and KMnO₄ solution. NMR spectra were recorded in a Bruker AMX 400 using CDCl₃ as solvent and (CH₃)₄Si (¹H) as internal standard. All coupling constants are expressed in Hz. Mass spectrometer (Micromass Quattro Micro API, Waters, Milford, USA) with a Triple Quadrupole (TQ) and an electrospray ion source (ESI) operating in positive mode was used. Iron sources: Fe(TfO)₂ (Solchemar, >99.5 %); Fe(NO₃)₃·9H₂O (Merck, 99 %); FeCl₃ (Aldrich, 97 %); TPPFeCl (Aldrich, 95 %); FeCl₃·6H₂O and FeCl₂·4H₂O (Aldrich, 97 %, 99 %, 99 %); Fe(acac)₂ (Aldrich, 99.95 %). NHC ligands used were prepared following reported procedures: 1,3-bis(*t*-butyl) imidazolium chloride,¹ 1,3-bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl) imidazolium chloride and 1,3-bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl) imidazolinium chloride,² were prepared according to literature procedures, except 1,3-bis(2, 4, 6-trimethy-phenyl) imidazolinium chloride which was purchased from Aldrich. The aldehydes and boronic acids were purchased from Aldrich and used without further purification.

General procedure:

Typically the reactions were performed as follows: To a round bottom flask under N₂ were added freshly dried dioxane over sodium (1.5 mL), NHC ligand precursor (20 mol%) and sublimed KO^tBu (0.247 mmol). The mixture was allowed to react at room temperature for 20 min. after which the iron source (20 mol%) was also added. The mixture was left reacting 5 min. at room temperature and then the boronic acid (0.247 mmol) and the aldehyde (0.247 mmol) were sequentially added. The N₂

¹ Arduengo A. J. III; Dias H. V. R.; Harlow R. L.; Kline M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1992**, *114*, 5530-5534.

² Arduengo A. J. III; Krafczyk R.; Schmutzer R. *Tetrahedron*, **1999**, *55*, 14523-14534.

³ Qin C.; Wu H.; Chen J.; Liu M.; Cheng J.; Su W.; Ding J. *Org. Lett.* **2008**, *10*, 1537-1540.

⁴ Iranpoor N.; Firouzabadi H.; Khalili D.; Motevalli S. *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, *73*, 4882-4887.

⁵ Chen C.-T.; Munot Y. S. *J. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *70*, 8625-8627.

⁶ Graffner-Nordberg M.; Sjodin K.; Tunek A.; Hallberg A. *Chem. & Pharmaceutical Bulletin*, **1998**, *46*, 591-601.

⁷ Liu J.; Chen J.; Xia C. *J. of Catalysis* **2008**, *253*, 50-56.

⁸ Shintou T.; Fukumoto K.; Mukaiyama T. *Bull. Chem. Soc. of Japan*, **2004**, *77*, 1569-1579.

⁹ Zhang L.; Zhang J. Y. *J. Comb. Chem.* **2006**, *8*, 361-367.

¹⁰ Krause M.; Rouleau A.; Stark H.; Garbarg M.; Schwartz J.C.; Schunack W. *Pharmazie*, **1996**, *51*, 720-726.

¹¹ Coulthard; Charles E.; Marshall, Joseph; Payman, Frank L. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1930**, 280-291.

¹² Qian C.; Zhang X.; Li J.; Xu F.; Zhang Y.; Shen Q. *Organometallics* **2009**, *28*, 3856-3862.

atmosphere was removed and the mixture was heated at 90 °C. Typically, after a reaction time of 24 h the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the product isolated by preparative thin layer chromatography (Hexanes:AcOEt).

(10, 15, 21, 22, 24)³; 12⁴; 13⁵; 14⁶; 16⁷; (17, 23)⁸; (18, 19)⁹; 26¹⁰; 11¹¹; (30, 31)¹²

4-fluorophenyl benzoate (10)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.23 (2H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.68 (1H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.55 (2H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.24-7.19 (2H, m), 7.17-7.12 (2H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.2, 160.3 (d, *J*_{CF} = 244.4 Hz), 146.8 (d, *J*_{CF} = 2.8 Hz), 133.8, 130.2, 129.3, 128.7, 123.1 (d, *J*_{CF} = 8.5 Hz), 116.2 (d, *J*_{CF} = 23.6 Hz).

4-(*n*-butyl)-phenyl benzoate (11)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (2H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.67 (1H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.55 (2H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.27 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.16 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 2.67 (2H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 1.66 (2H, quint, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 1.42 (2H, sext, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 0.98 (3H, t, *J* = 7.3 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.4, 148.9, 140.6, 133.5, 130.2, 129.8, 129.4, 128.6, 121.4, 35.1, 33.7, 22.4, 14.0.

4-methoxyphenyl benzoate (12)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.23 (2H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.66 (1H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.54 (2H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.16 (2H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 6.97 (2H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 3.85 (3H, s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.6, 157.3, 144.4, 133.5, 130.2, 129.7, 128.6, 122.5, 114.5, 55.6.

2-naphthyl benzoate (13)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.33 (2H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.96 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 7.91 (2H, m), 7.76 (1H, d, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 7.70 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.59 (2H, d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 7.57-7.53 (2H, m), 7.43 (1H, dd, *J*₁ = 8.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.3 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.5, 148.7, 133.9, 133.7, 131.6, 130.3, 129.6, 129.5, 128.7, 127.9, 127.8, 126.7, 125.8, 121.3, 118.8.

phenyl 2-naphthenate (14)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.8 (1H, s), 8.24 (1H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 8.04 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.98 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.95 (1H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.64 (2H, m), 7.50 (2H, t, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 7.32 (3H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.5, 151.1, 135.8, 132.5, 132.0, 129.6, 129.5, 128.7, 128.4, 127.9, 126.9, 126.8, 126.0, 125.5, 121.8.

phenyl 4-methylbenzoate (15)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (2H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.47 (2H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.35 (2H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.31 (1H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.26 (2H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 1.55 (3H, s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.3, 151.1, 144.5, 130.3, 129.5, 129.3, 126.8, 125.8, 121.8, 21.8.

phenyl 4-chlorobenzoate (16)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.17 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.52 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.47 (2H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.32 (1H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.24 (2H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.4, 150.8, 140.2, 131.6, 129.6, 129.0, 128.0, 126.1, 121.7.

phenyl 4-bromobenzoate (17)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.68 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.46 (2H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.31 (1H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.23 (2H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.5, 150.8, 132.0, 131.7, 129.6, 128.9, 128.5, 126.1, 121.6.

4-methylphenyl 4-bromobenzoate (18)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (2H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.68 (2H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.26 (2H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.12 (2H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 2.41 (3H, s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.7, 148.5, 135.7, 131.9, 131.7, 130.1, 128.8, 128.6, 121.3, 21.0.

4-methoxyphenyl 4-bromobenzoate (19)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.67 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.15 (2H, d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 6.97 (2H, d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 3.85 (3H, s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.9, 157.4, 144.2, 131.9, 131.6, 128.8, 128.5, 122.4, 114.6, 55.6.

4-fluorophenyl 4-bromobenzoate (20)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.68 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.20 (2H, dd, *J*_{HH} = 9.2 Hz, *J*_{HF} = 4.8 Hz), 7.14 (2H, dd, *J*_{HH} = 9.2 Hz, *J*_{HF} = 9.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.5, 160.4 (d, *J*_{CF} = 244.5 Hz), 146.5 (d, *J*_{CF} = 3.0 Hz), 132.0, 131.7, 129.0, 128.2, 123.1 (d, *J*_{CF} = 8.5 Hz), 116.2 (d, *J*_{CF} = 23.4 Hz).

phenyl 4-cyanobenzoate (21)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.33 (2H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.84 (2H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.48 (2H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.33 (1H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.25 (2H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.6, 150.5, 133.4, 132.4, 130.7, 129.7, 126.4, 121.5, 117.9, 117.0.

phenyl 4-fluorobenzoate (22)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 (2H, dd, *J*_{HH} = 8.7 Hz, *J*_{HF} = 5.6 Hz), 7.47 (2H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.32 (1H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.24 (2H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.22 (2H, t, *J*_{HH} = *J*_{HF} = 8.7 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.2 (d, *J*_{CF} = 255.4 Hz), 164.3, 150.8, 132.8 (d, *J*_{CF} = 9.7 Hz), 129.6, 126.0, 125.8 (d, *J*_{CF} = 2.8 Hz), 121.7, 115.8 (d, *J*_{CF} = 22.1 Hz).

2-naphthyl 4-methoxybenzoate (23)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.25 (2H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 7.93 (1H, d, $J = 8.9$ Hz), 7.89 (2H, m), 7.72 (1H, d, $J = 2.3$ Hz), 7.53 (2H, m), 7.40 (1H, dd, $J_1 = 8.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.3$ Hz), 7.04 (2H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 3.92 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.2, 164.0, 148.8, 133.9, 132.4, 131.5, 129.4, 127.8, 127.7, 126.6, 127.7, 121.9, 121.5, 118.8, 113.9, 55.6.

phenyl 3,4-methylenedioxybenzoate (24)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (1H, dd, $J_1 = 8.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.5$ Hz), 7.65 (1H, d, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 7.45 (2H, t, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.29 (1H, t, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.23 (2H, d, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 6.93 (1H, d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 6.10 (2H, s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.6, 152.2, 151.0, 147.9, 129.5, 126.2, 125.8, 123.4, 121.8, 110.0, 108.2, 102.0.

4-fluorophenyl cyclohexanecarboxylate (26)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.10-7.01 (4H, m), 2.57 (1H, tt, $J_1 = 11.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.7$ Hz), 2.07 (2H, br d, $J = 13.0$ Hz), 1.88-1.81 (2H, m), 1.74-1.68 (1H, m), 1.60 (2H, q of d, $J_1 = 11.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.3$ Hz), 1.44-1.27 (3H, m); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.6, 160.1 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 246.0$ Hz), 146.7 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 2.7$ Hz), 122.9 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 8.2$ Hz), 116.0 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 23.5$ Hz), 43.1, 28.9, 25.7, 25.4.

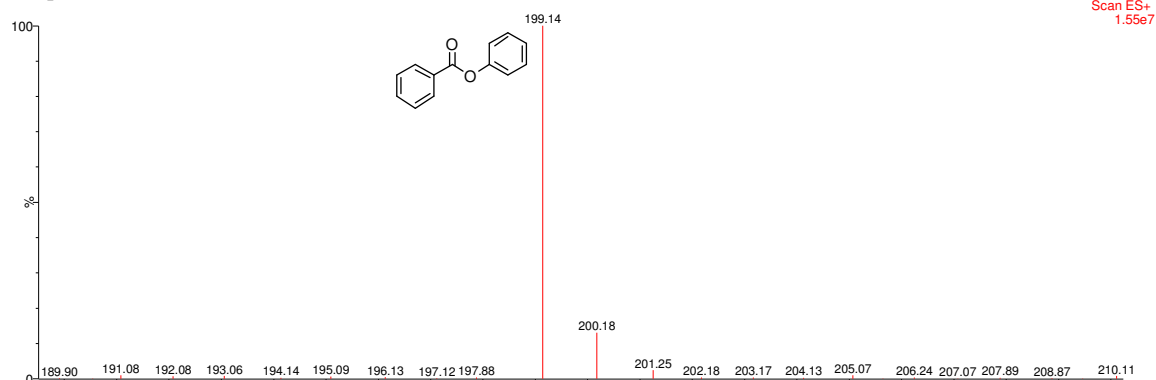
General procedure for the synthesis of 30 and 31:

Typically the reactions were performed as follows: To a round bottom flask under N_2 were added freshly dried dioxane over sodium (1.5 mL), NHC ligand precursor (20 mol%) and sublimed KO^tBu (0.247 mmol). The mixture was allowed to react at room temperature for 20 min. after which the iron source (20 mol%) was also added. The mixture was left reacting 5 min. at room temperature and then the boronic acid (0.247 mmol), the aldehyde (0.247 mmol) and the amine (2 eq.) were sequentially added. The N_2 atmosphere was removed and the mixture was heated at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$. Typically, after a reaction time of 24 h the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the product isolated by preparative thin layer chromatography (Hexanes:AcOEt). The ^1H and ^{13}C of the synthesised products are in agreement with the literature.

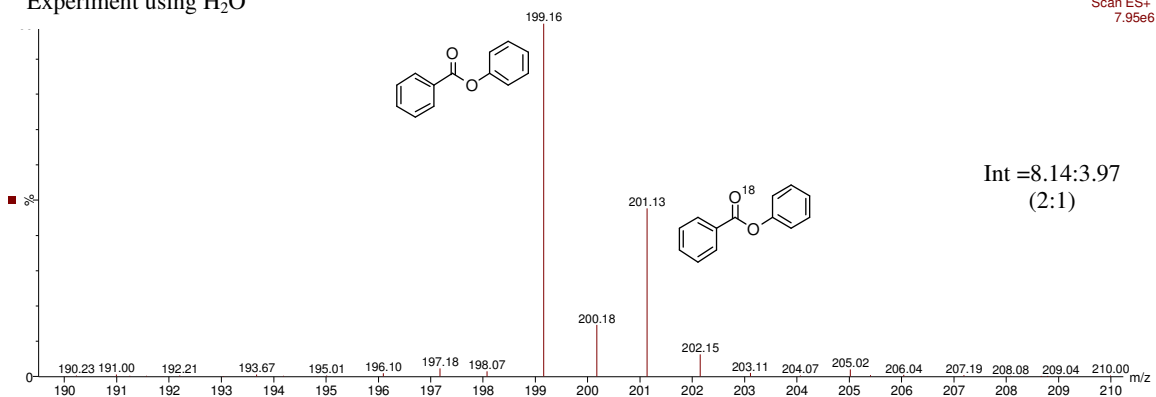
Amide **30**: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.82-1.88 (2H, m), 1.91-1.98 (2H, m), 3.61-3.65 (2H, t, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 7.34-7.41 (3H, m), 7.47-7.51 (3H, m); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 24.71, 26.64, 46.43, 49.88, 127.32, 128.50, 137.43, 170.00.

Amide **31**: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.49 (2H, m), 1.65 (4H, m), 3.31 (2H, m), 3.69 (2H, m), 7.34-7.38 (5H, m); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 24.83, 25.86, 26.79, 43.36, 49.01, 127.02, 128.65, 129.61, 136.71, 170.58.

Experiment without H₂O

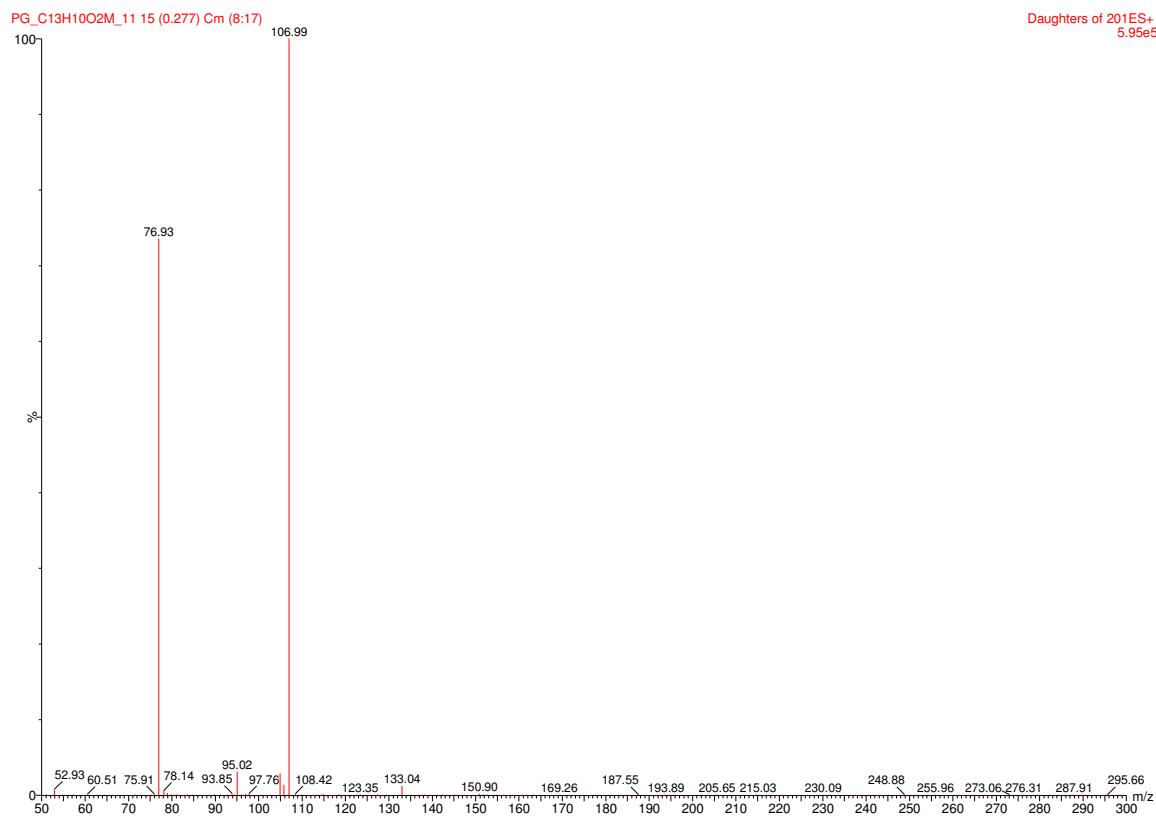


Experiment using H₂O¹⁸

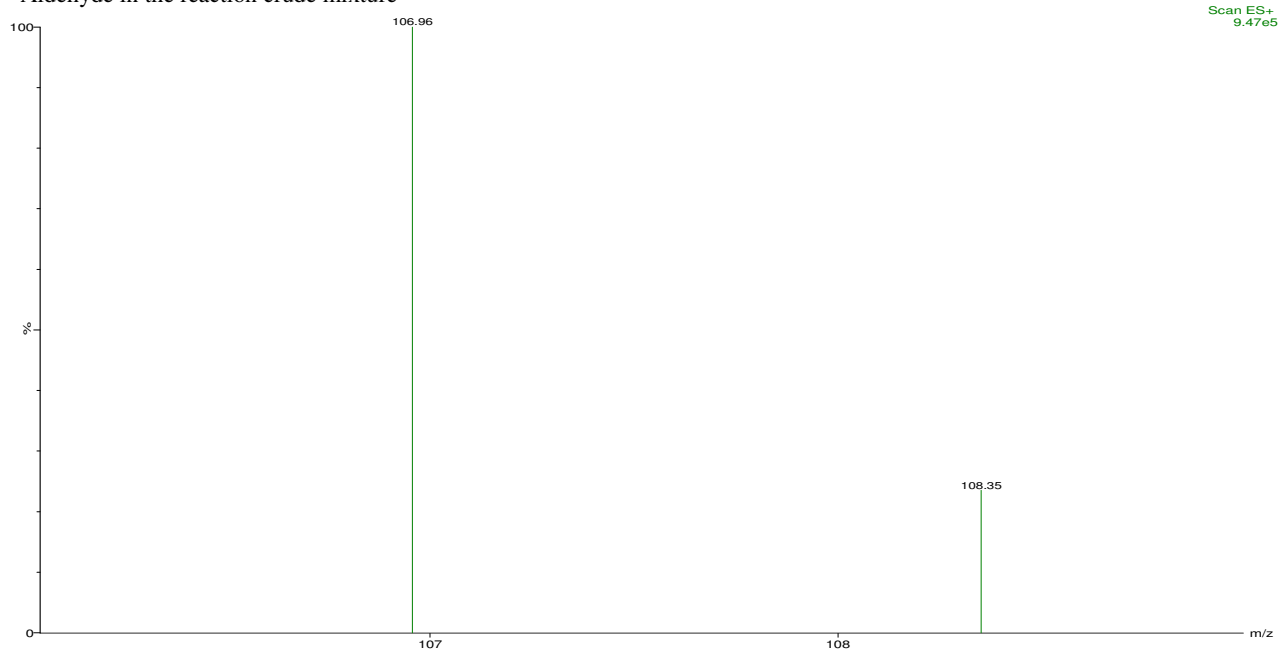


PG_C13H10O2_4 11 (0.203) Cm (5:12)

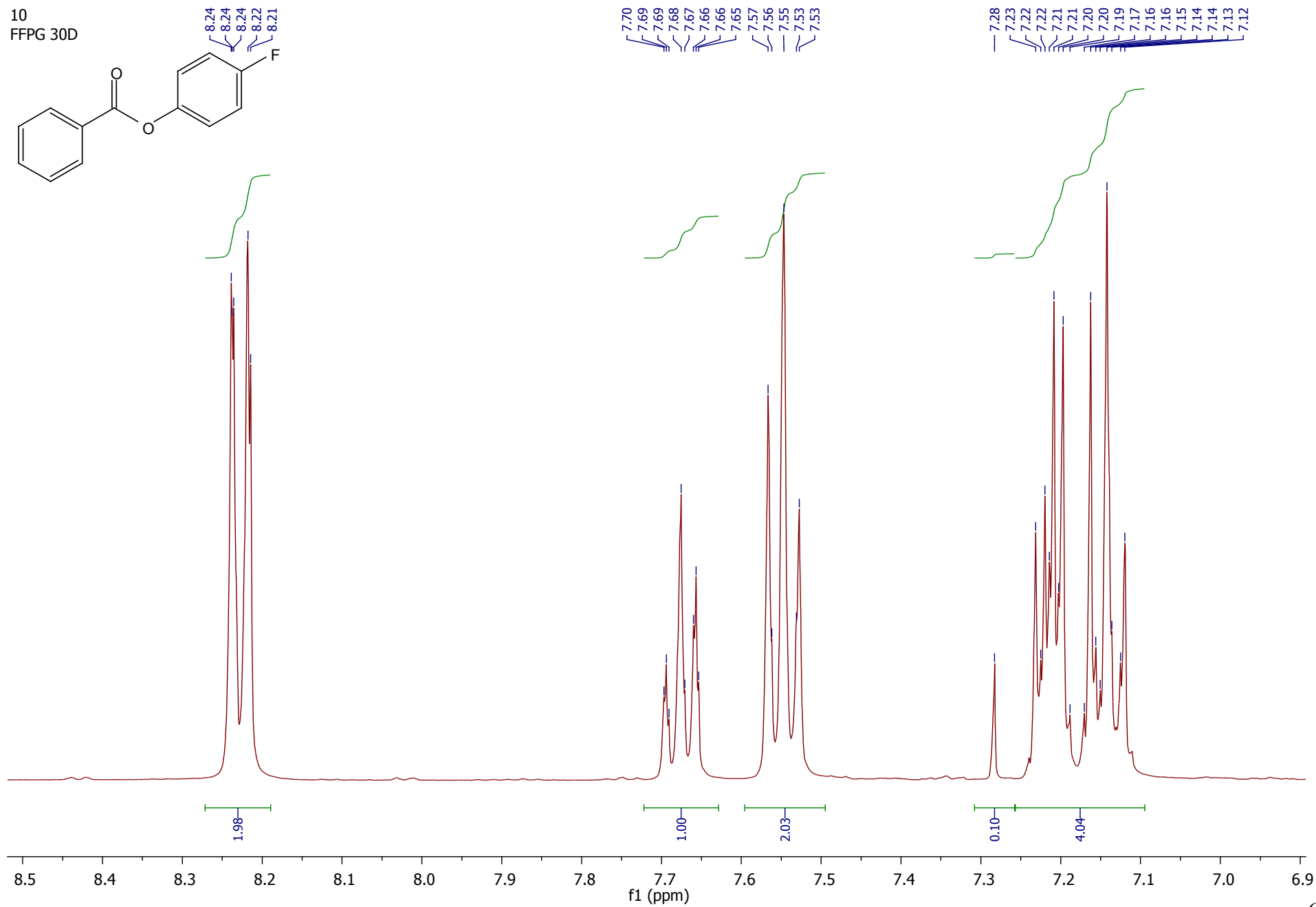
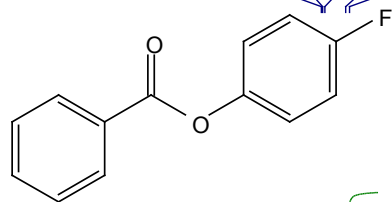




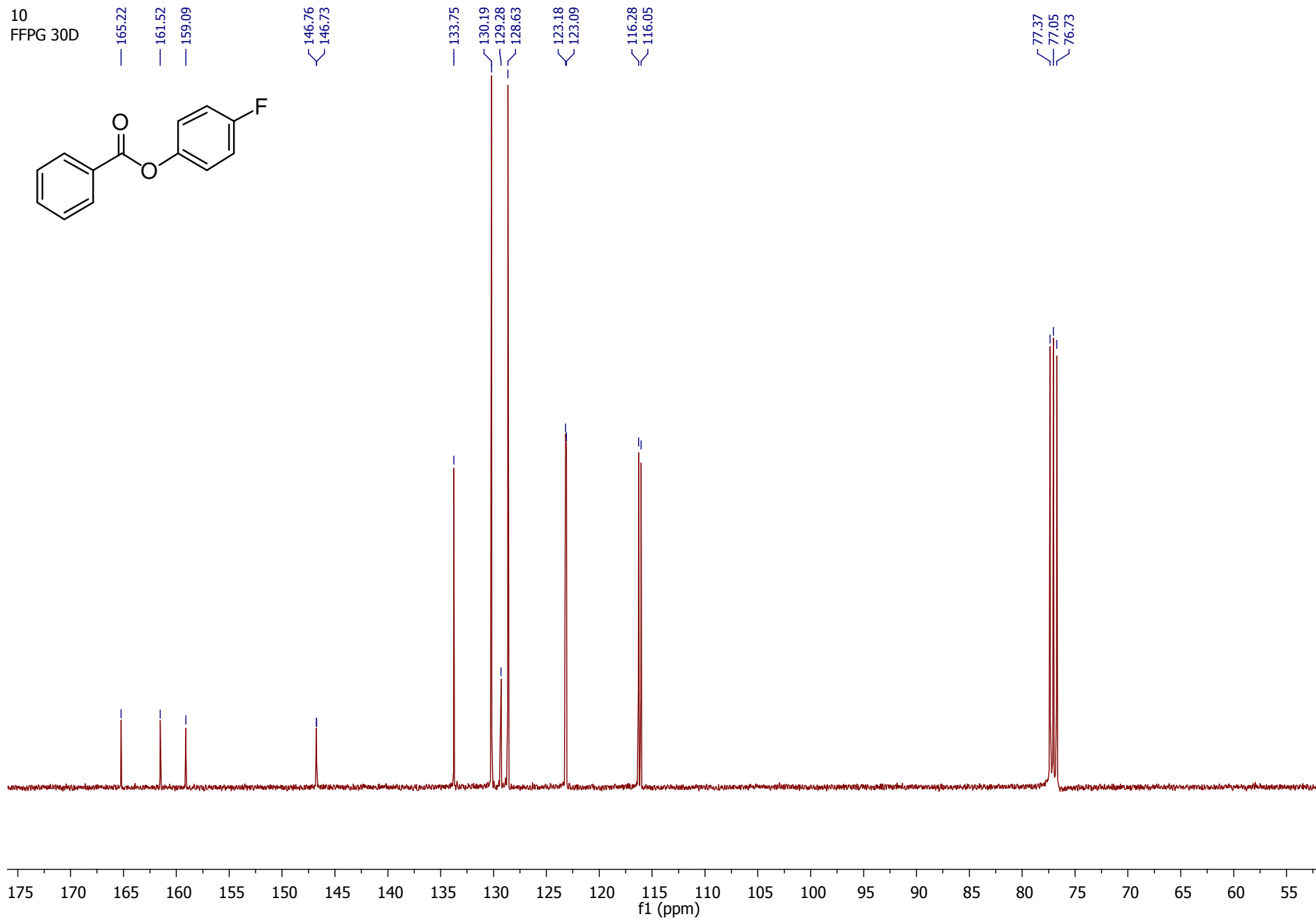
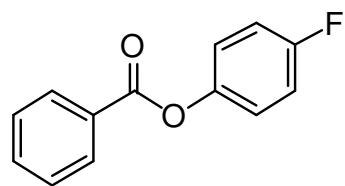
Aldehyde in the reaction crude mixture



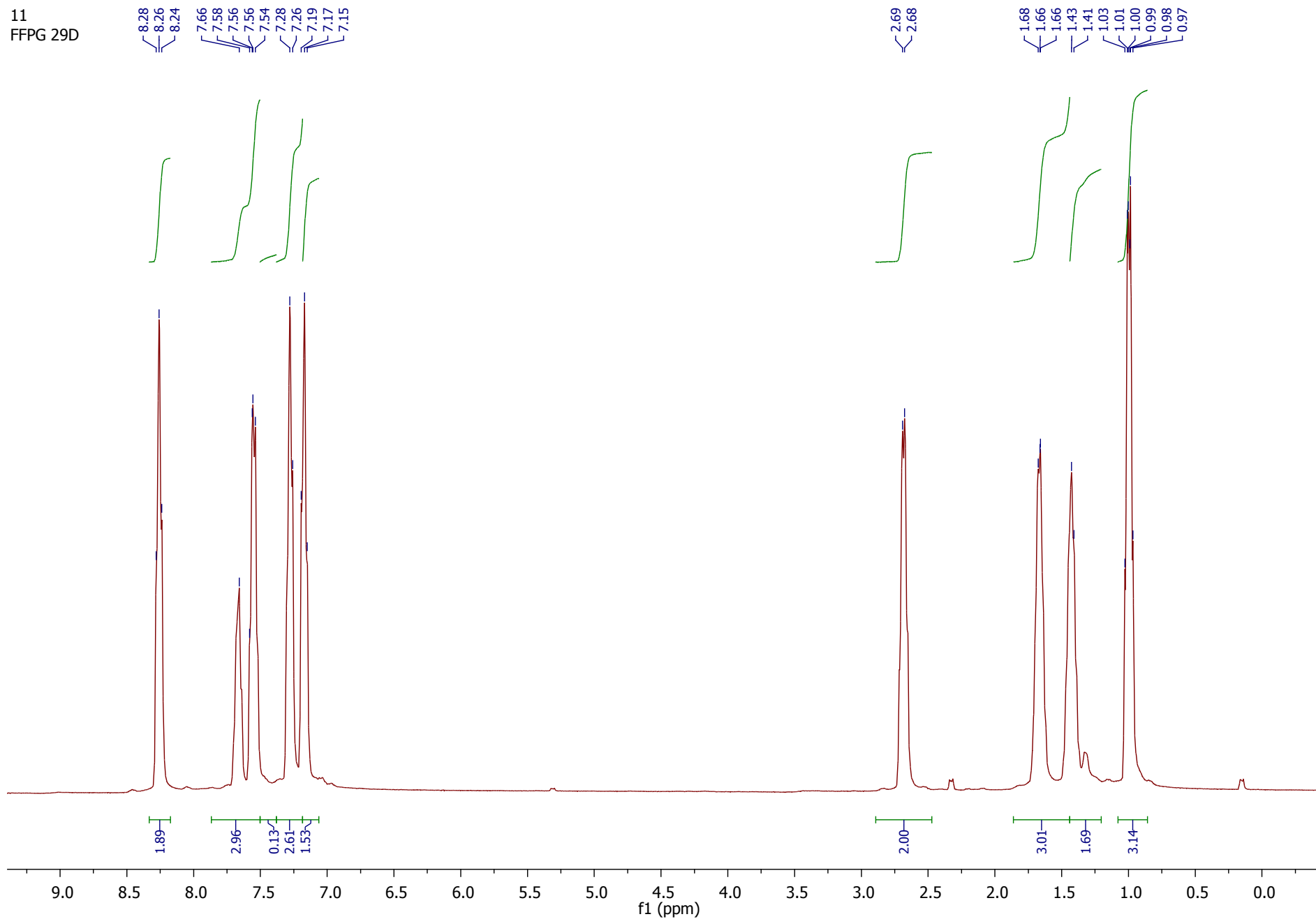
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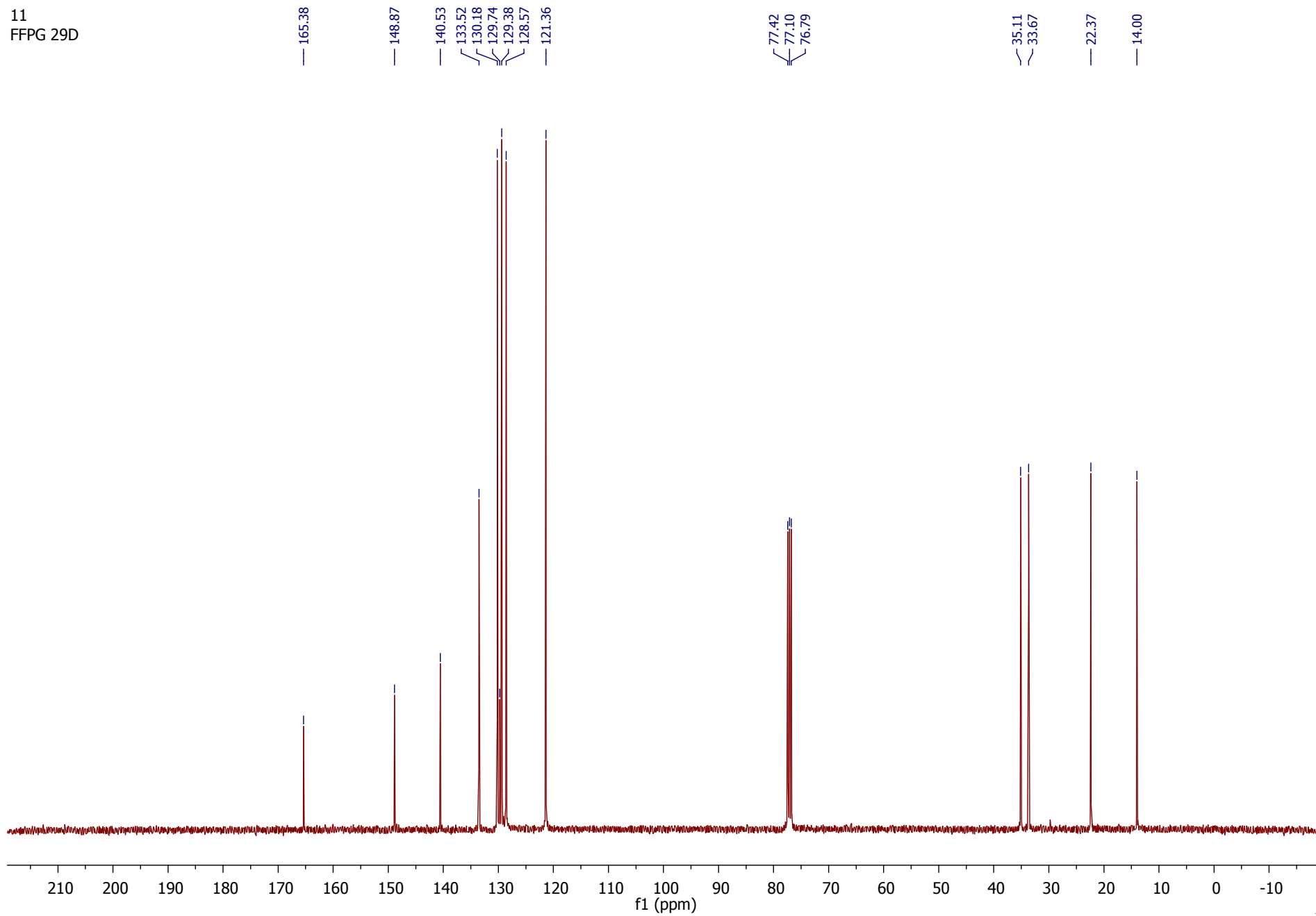
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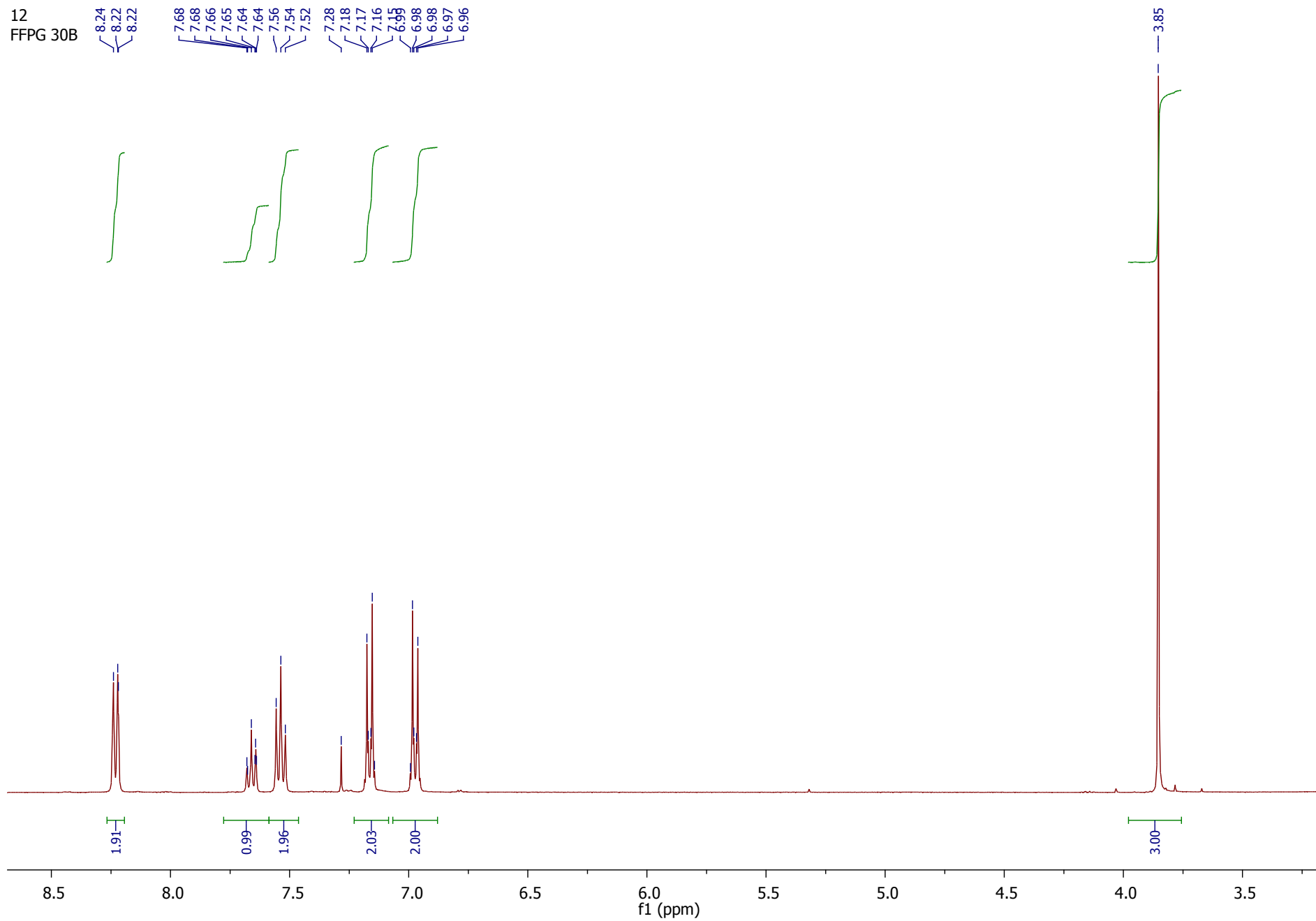
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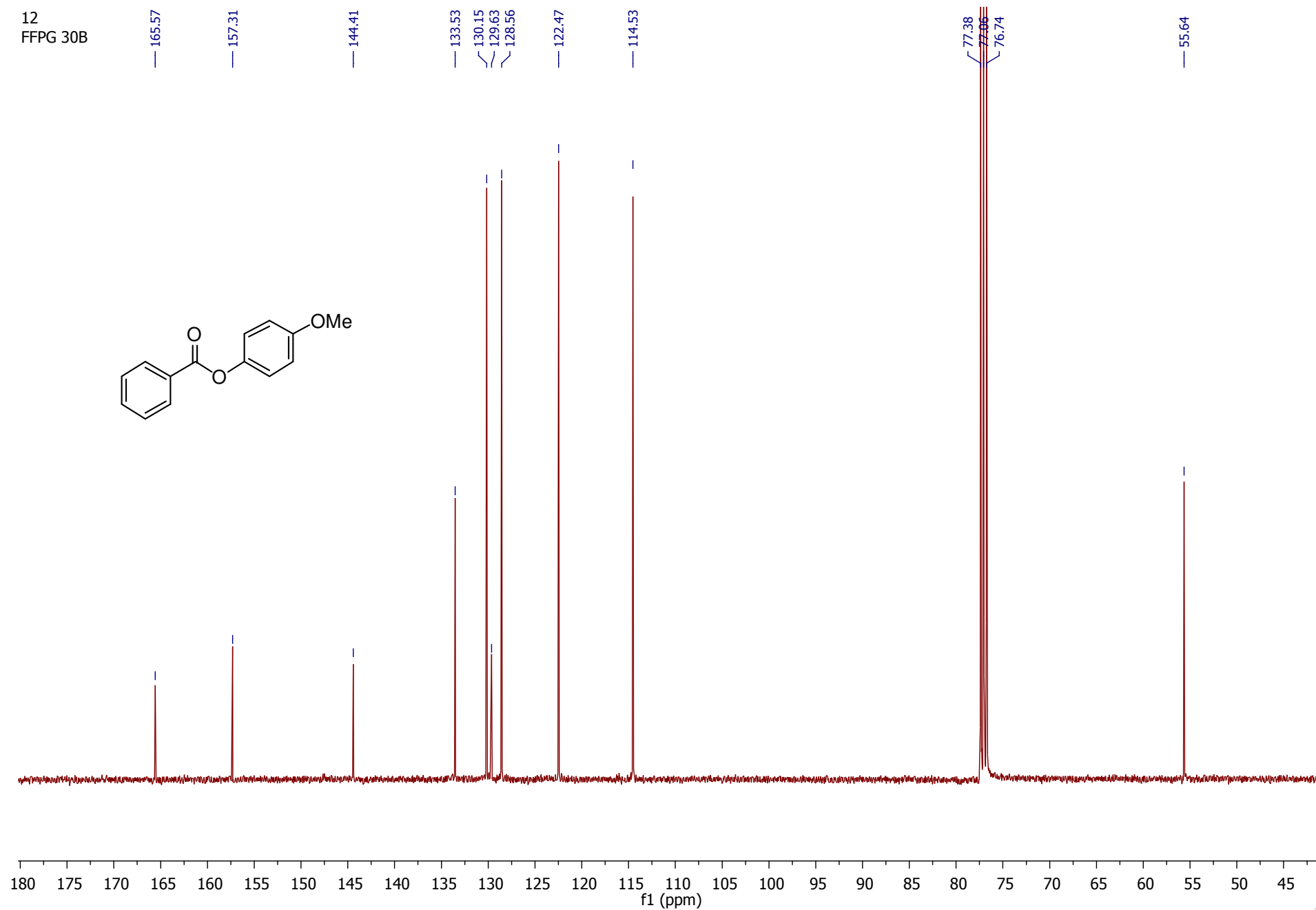
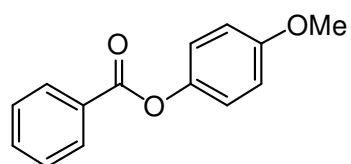
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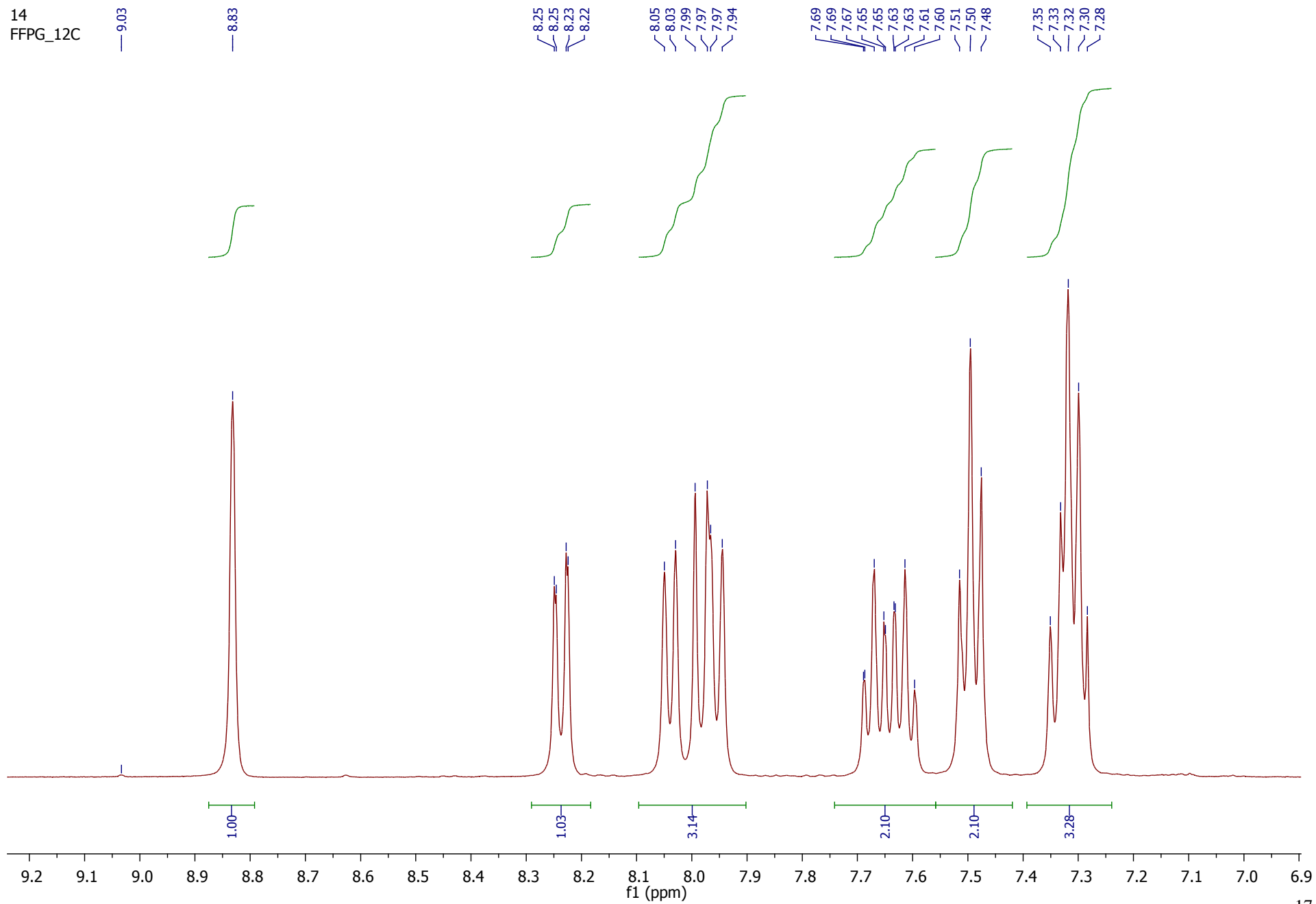
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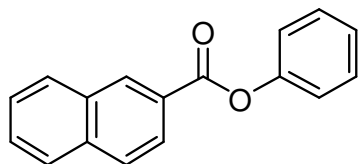
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14
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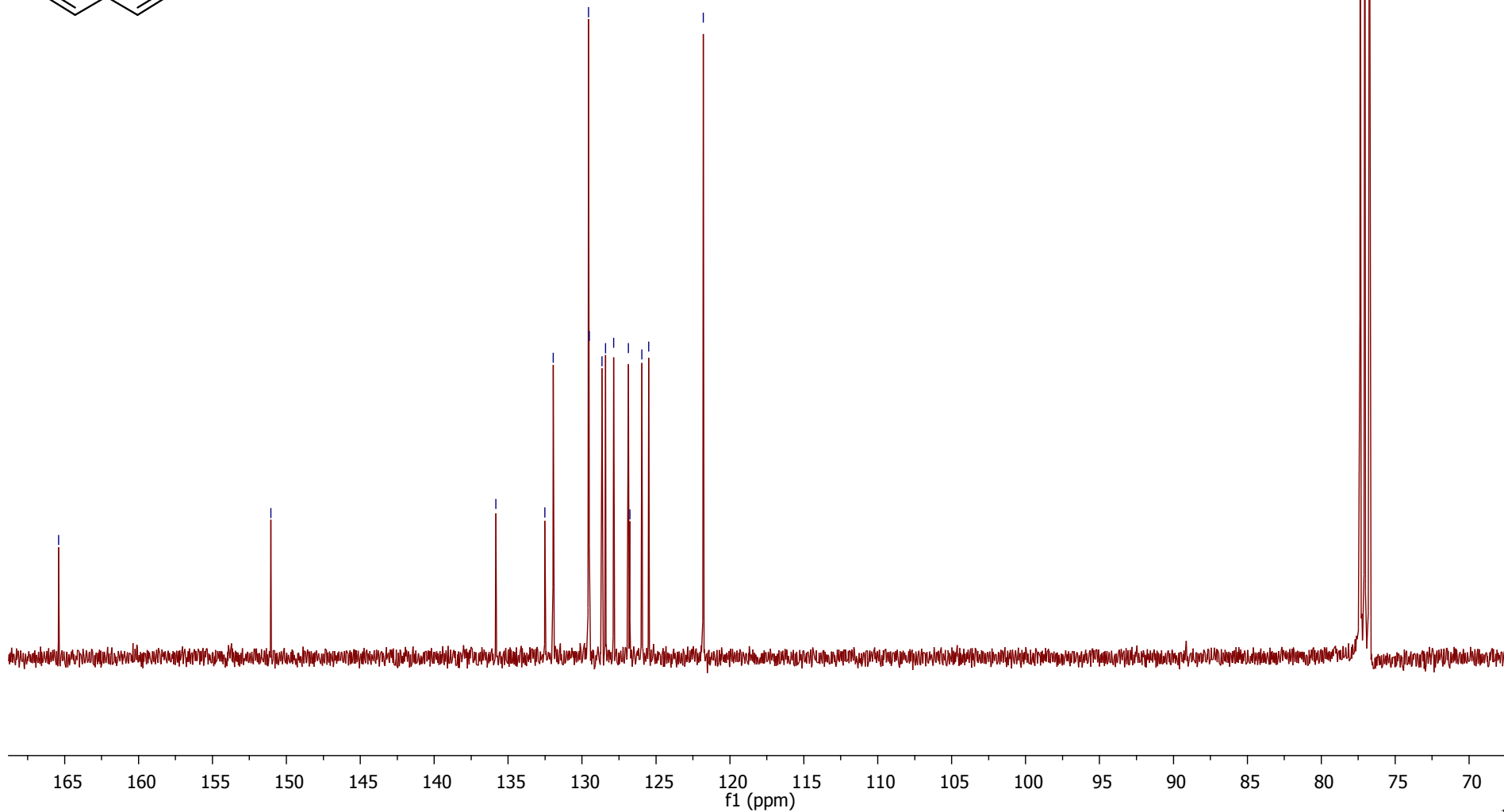


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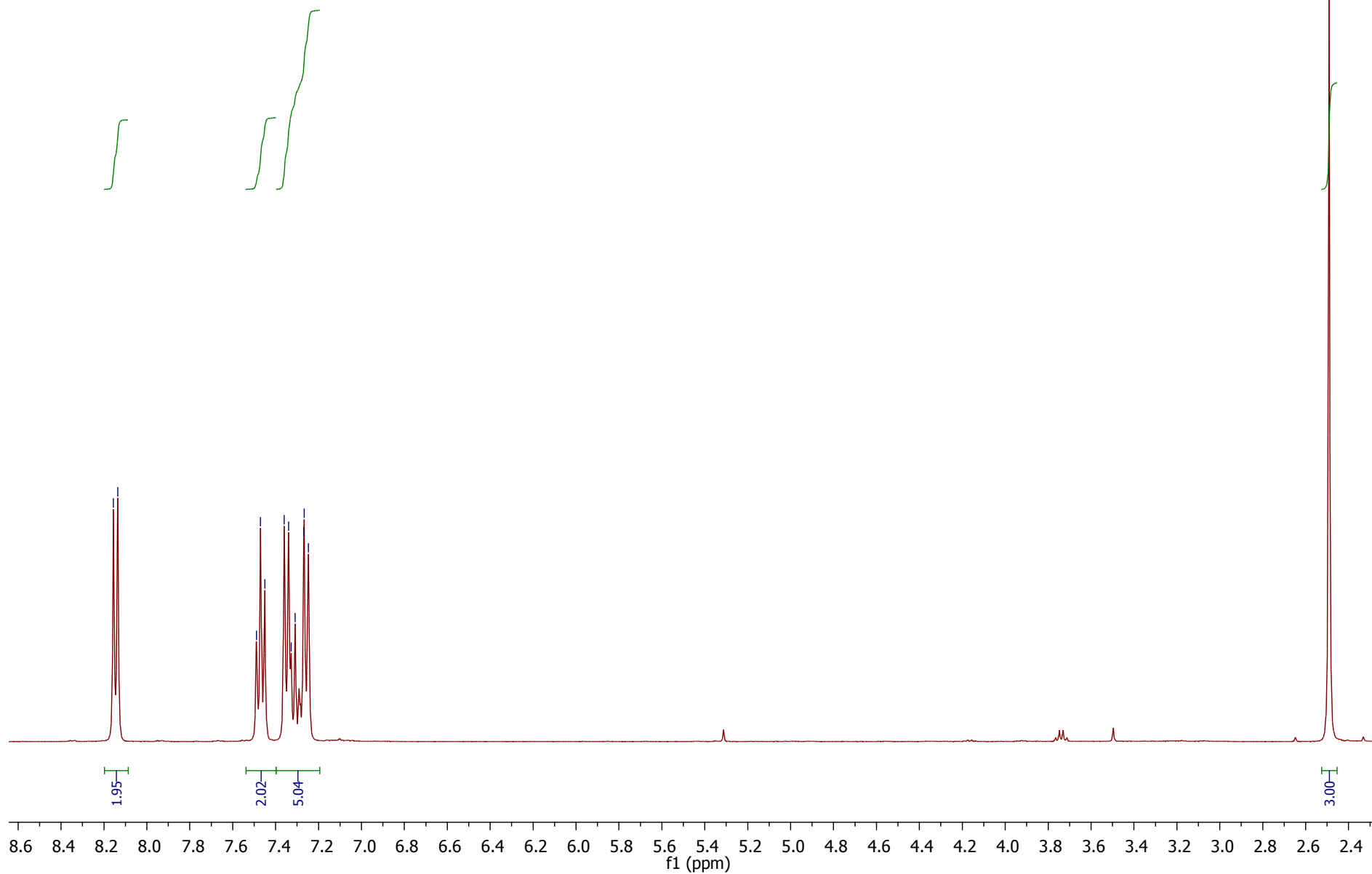


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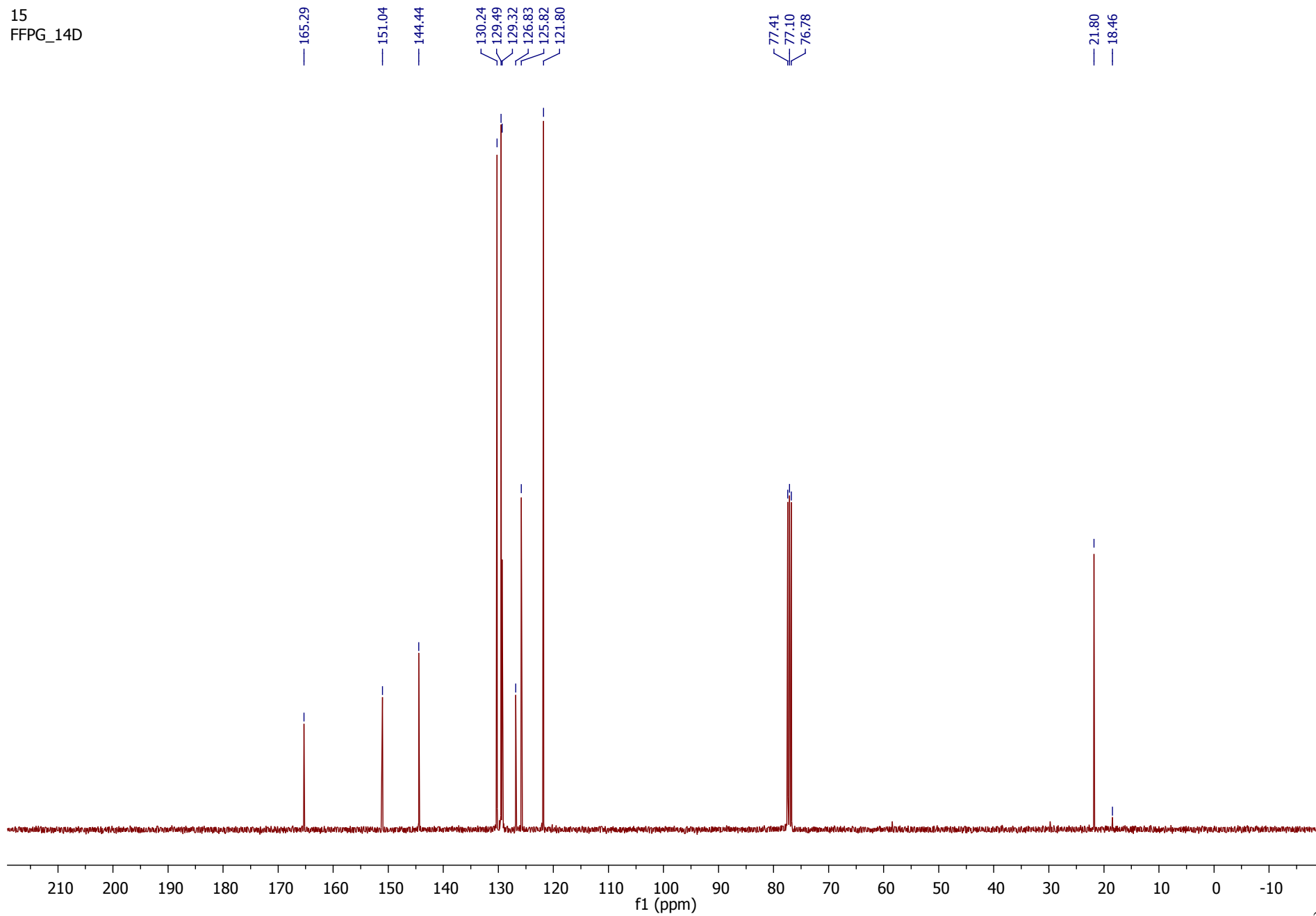
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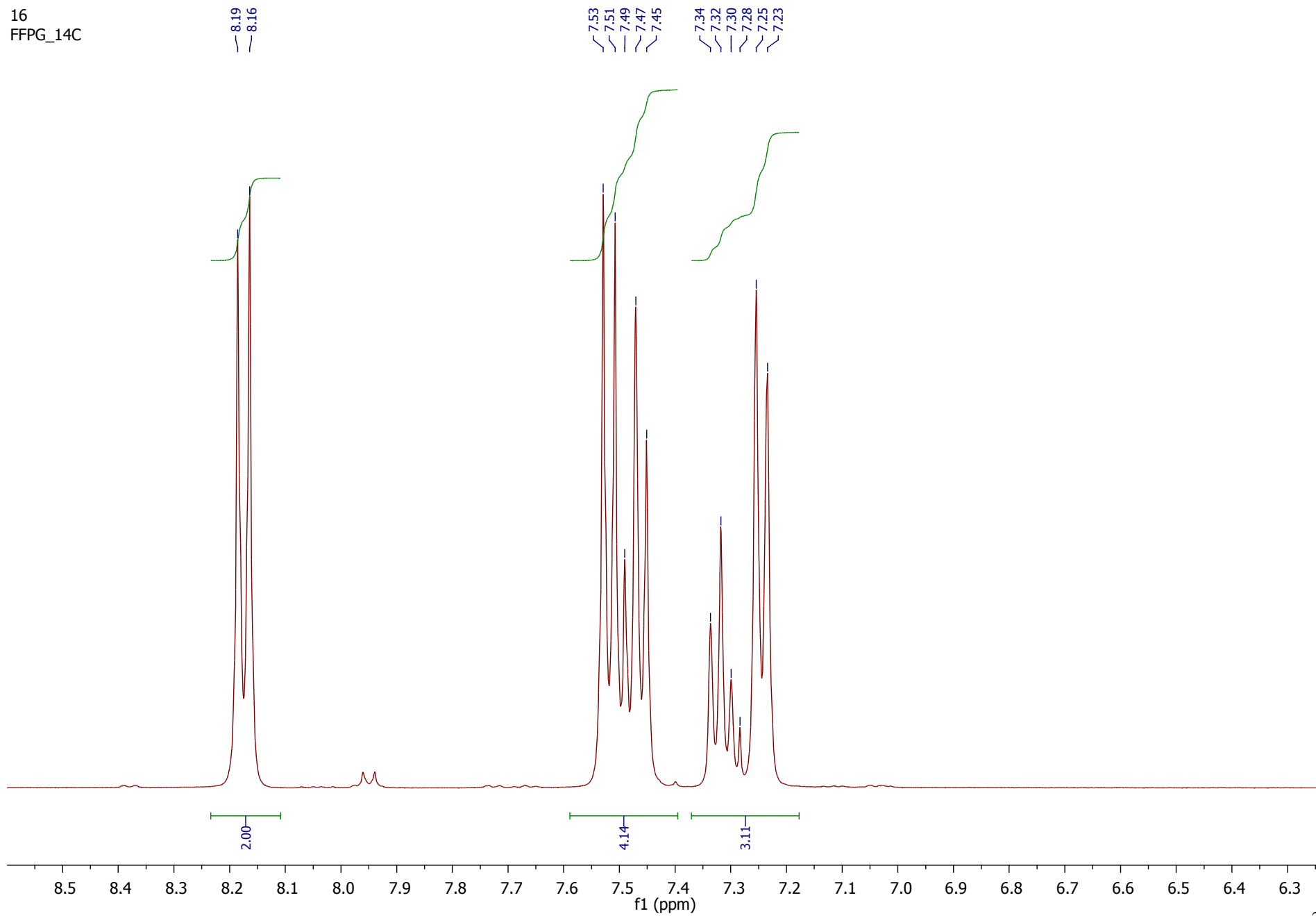
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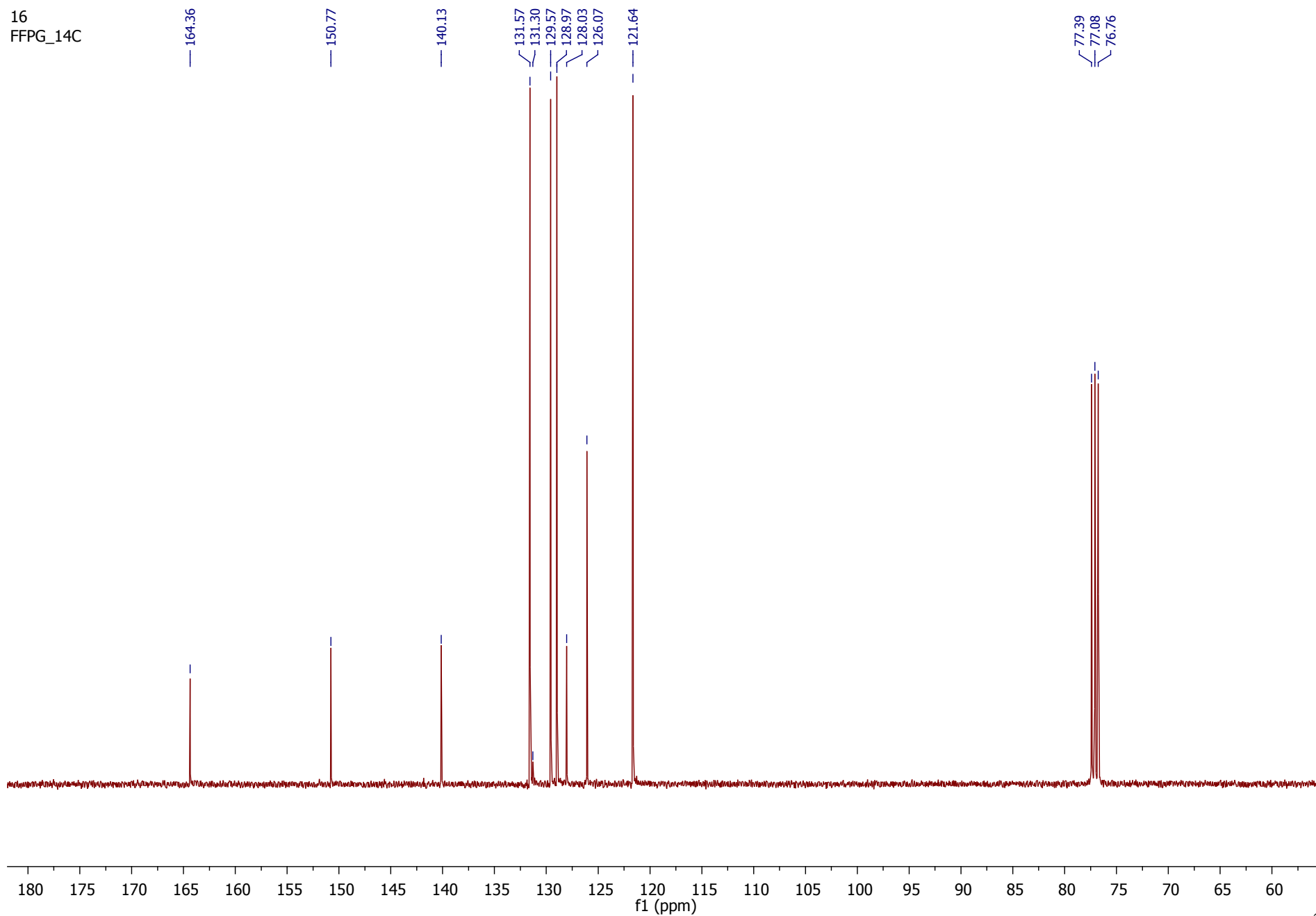
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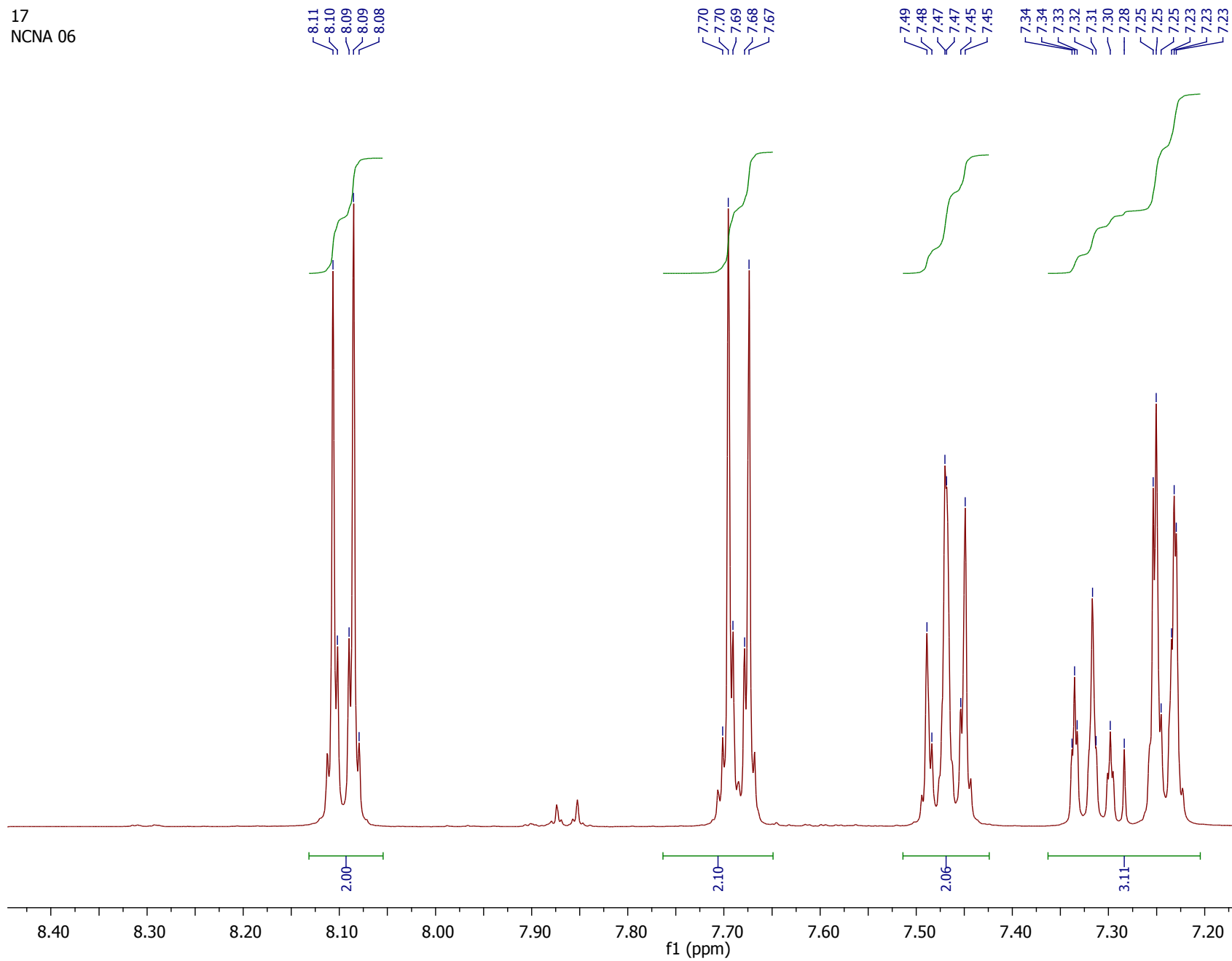
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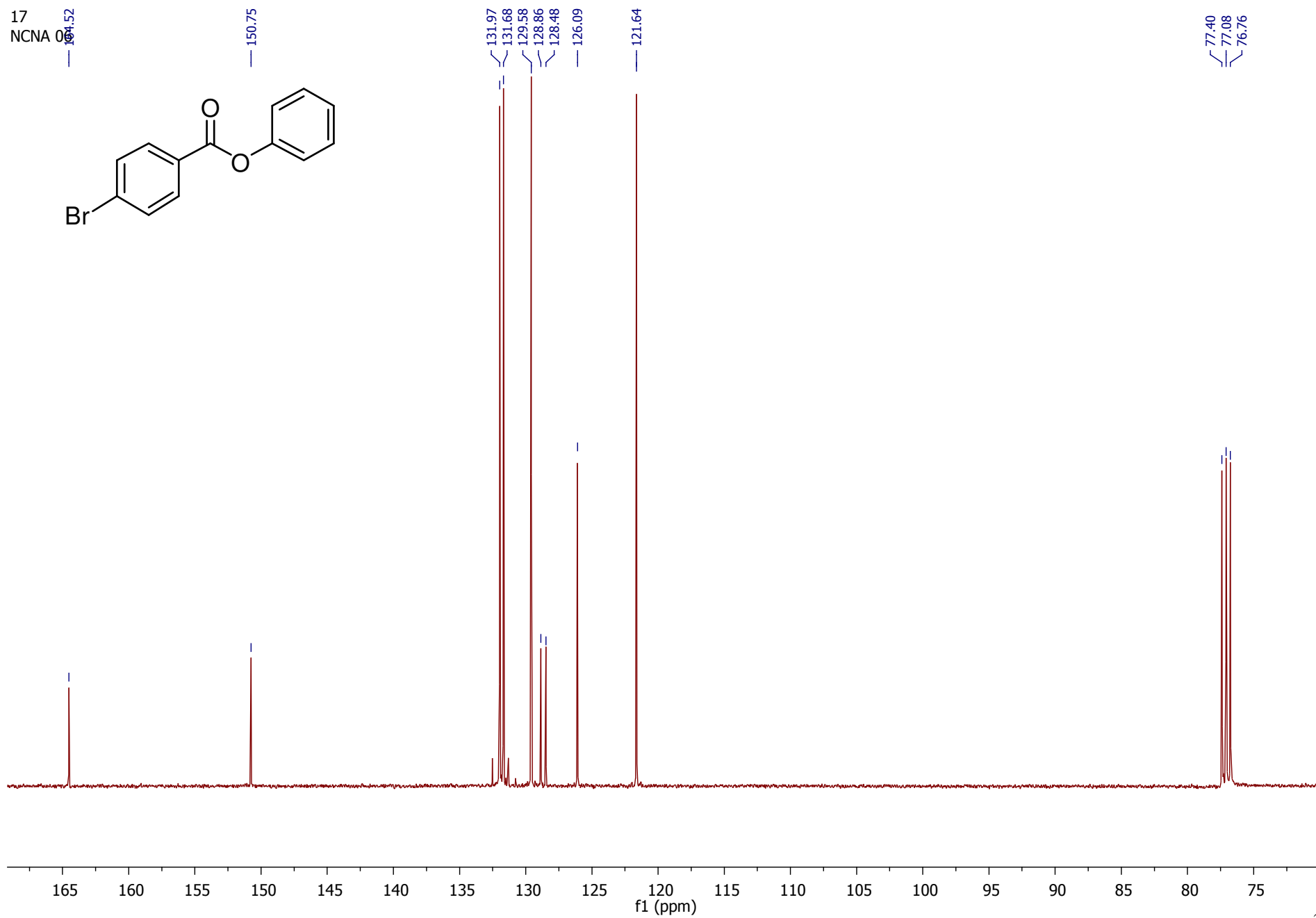


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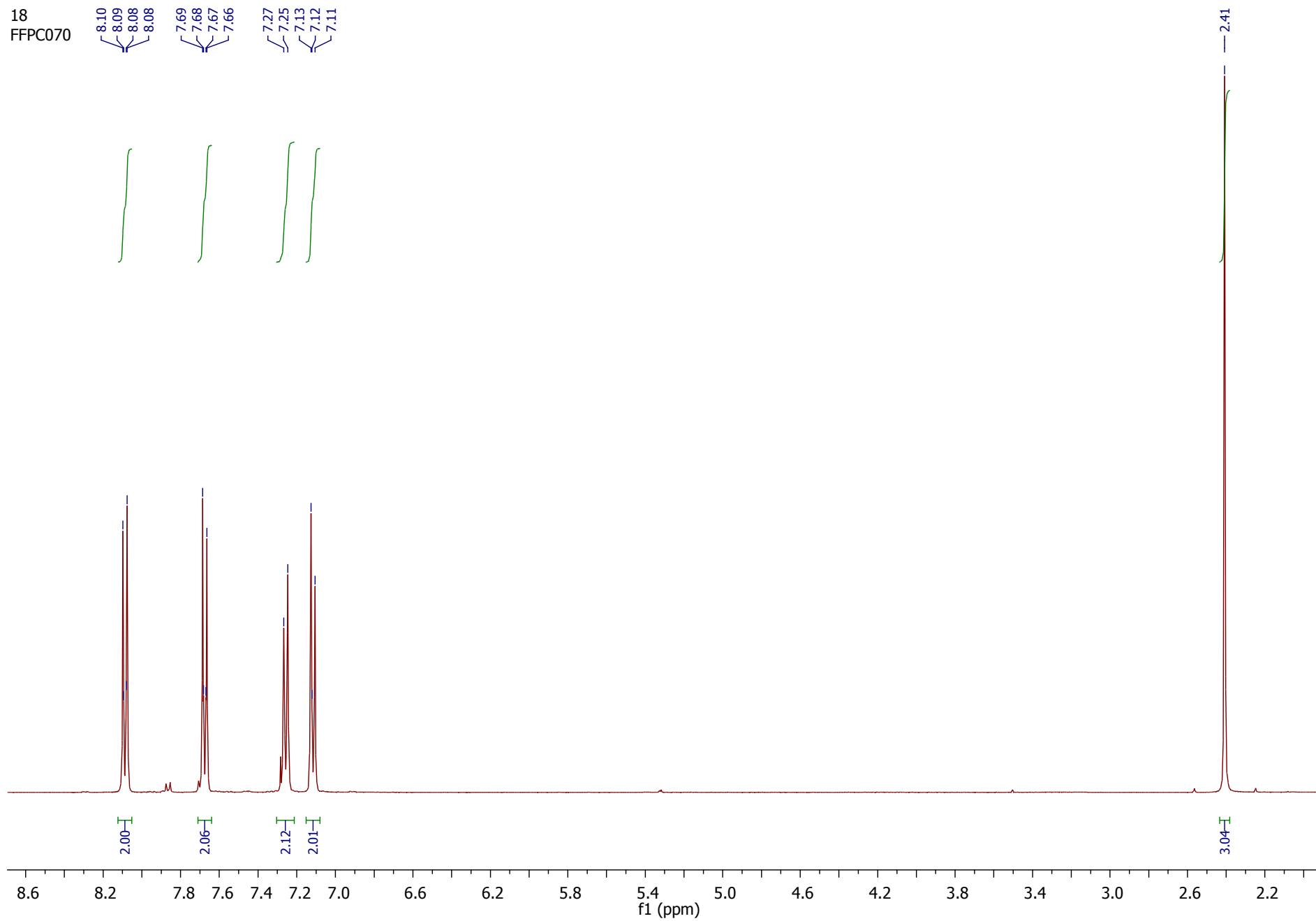


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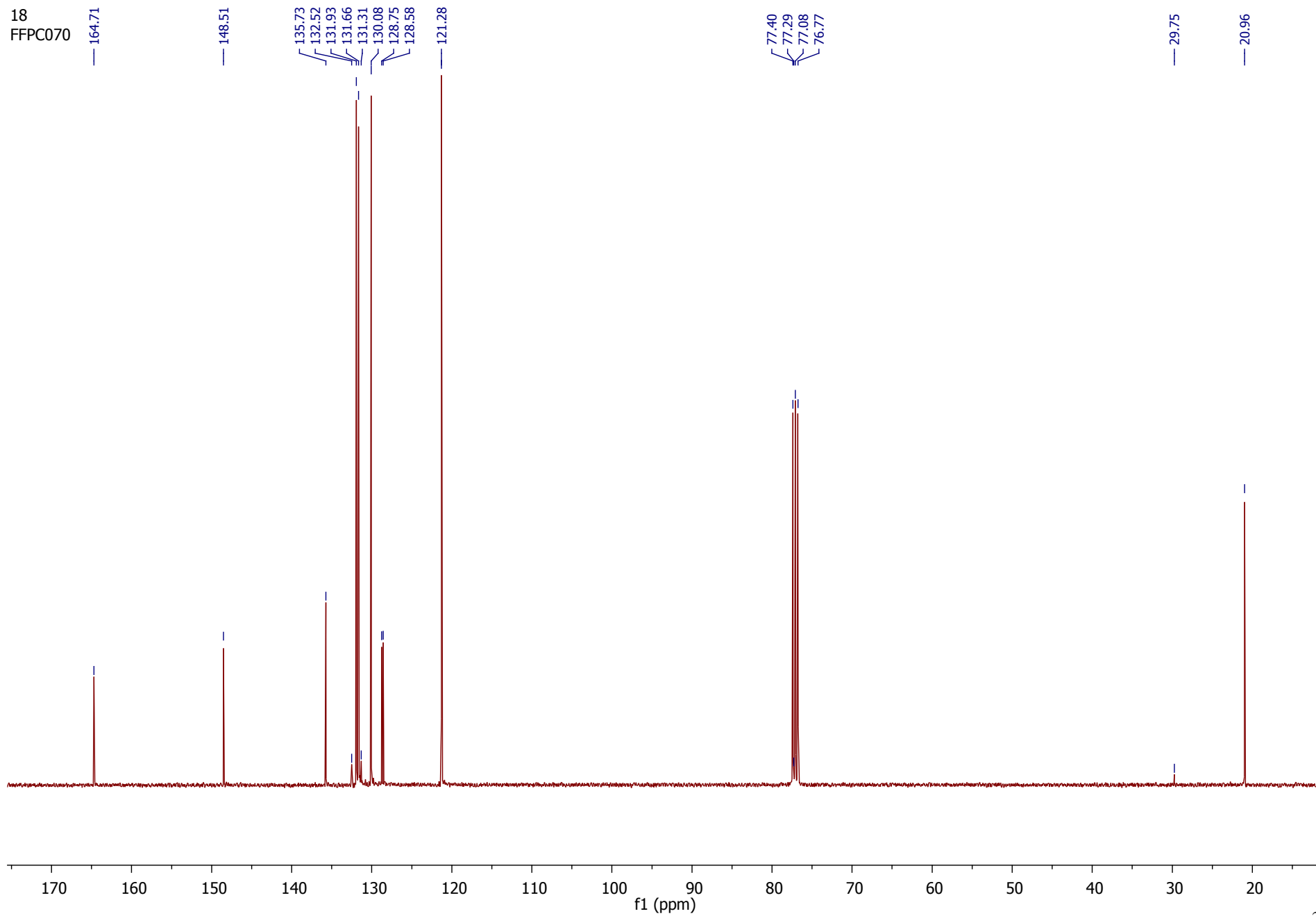




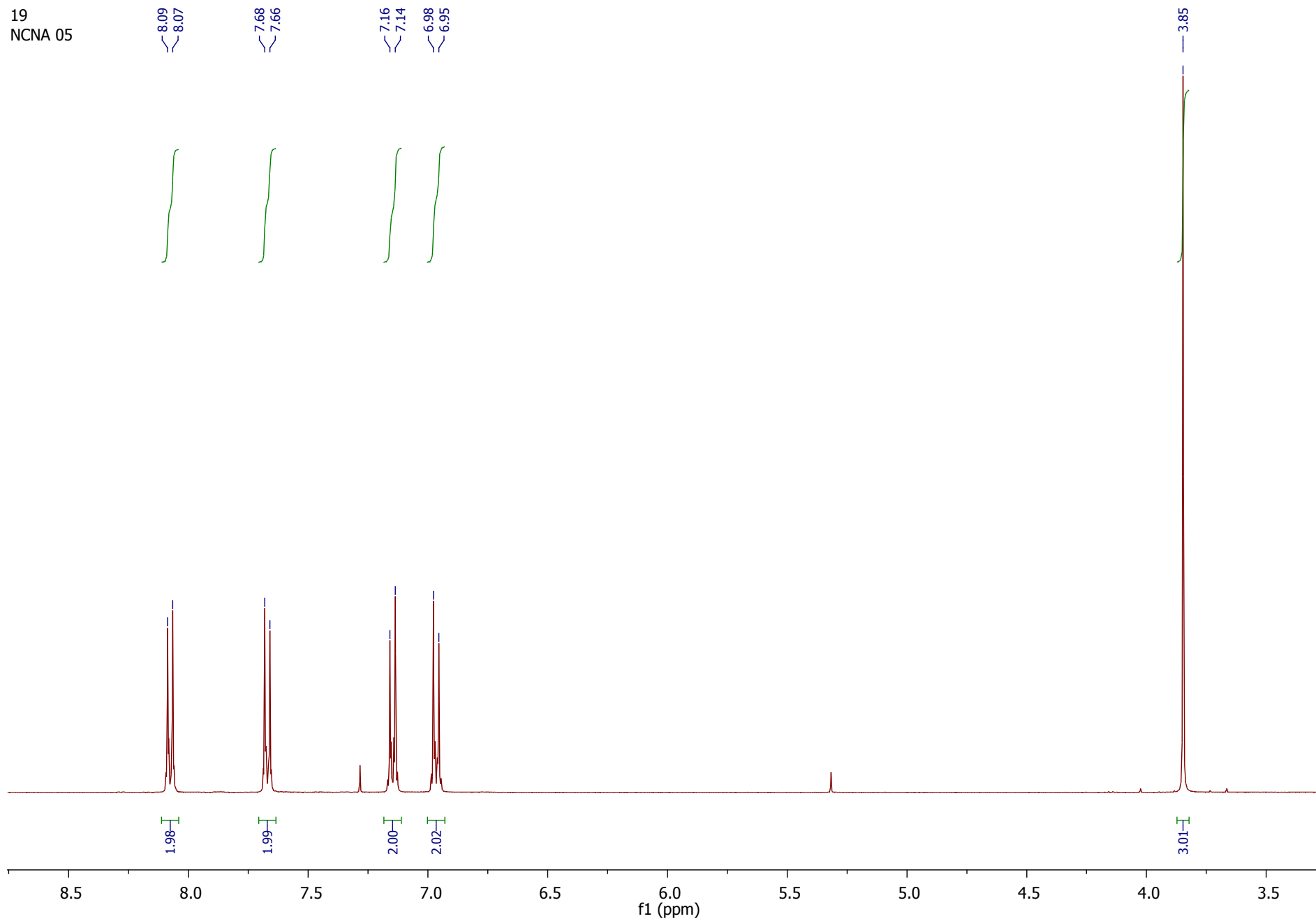
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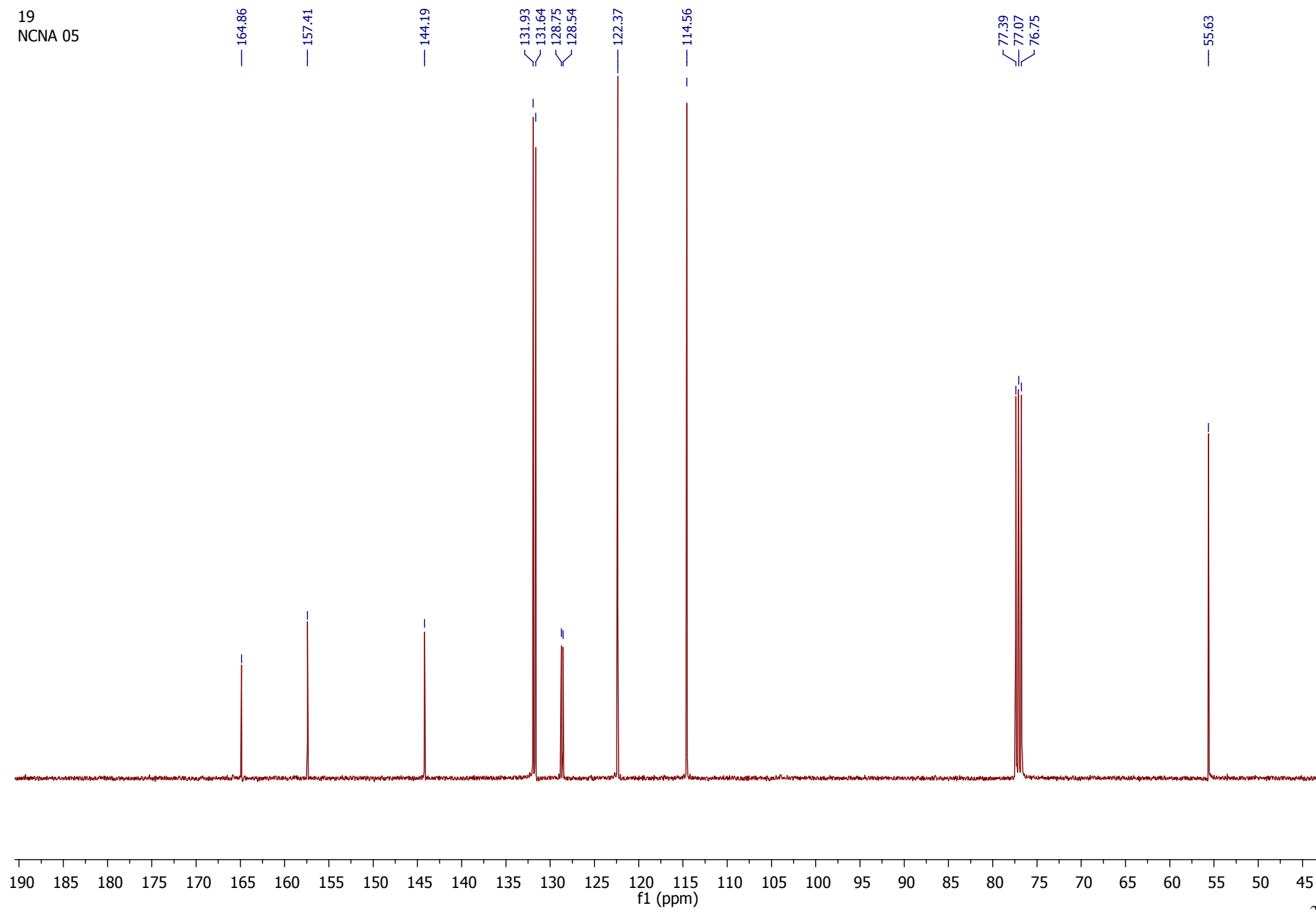
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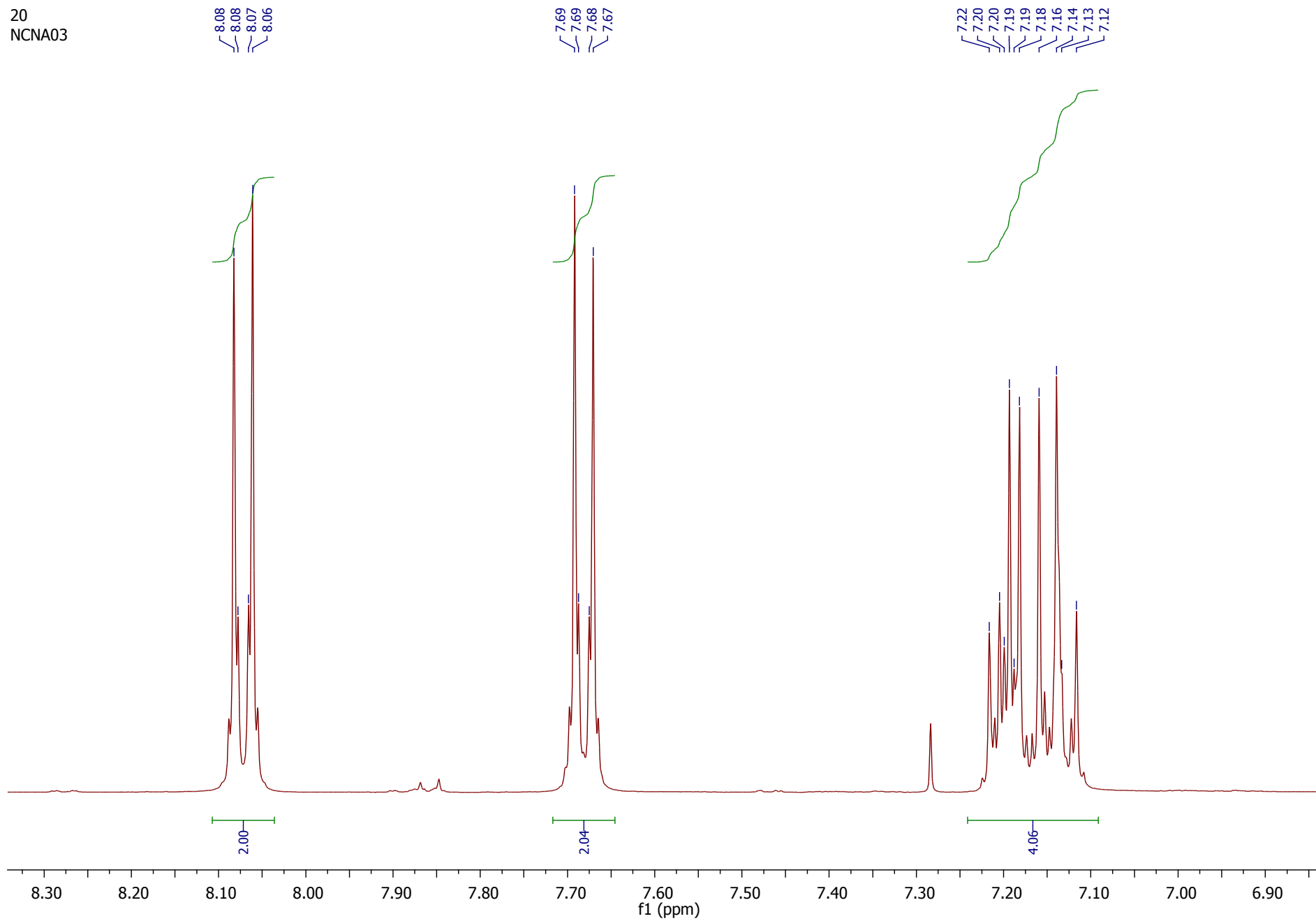
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NCNA 05



19
NCNA 05



20
NCNA03



20
NCNA03

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— 161.58

— 159.15

— 146.54
— 146.51

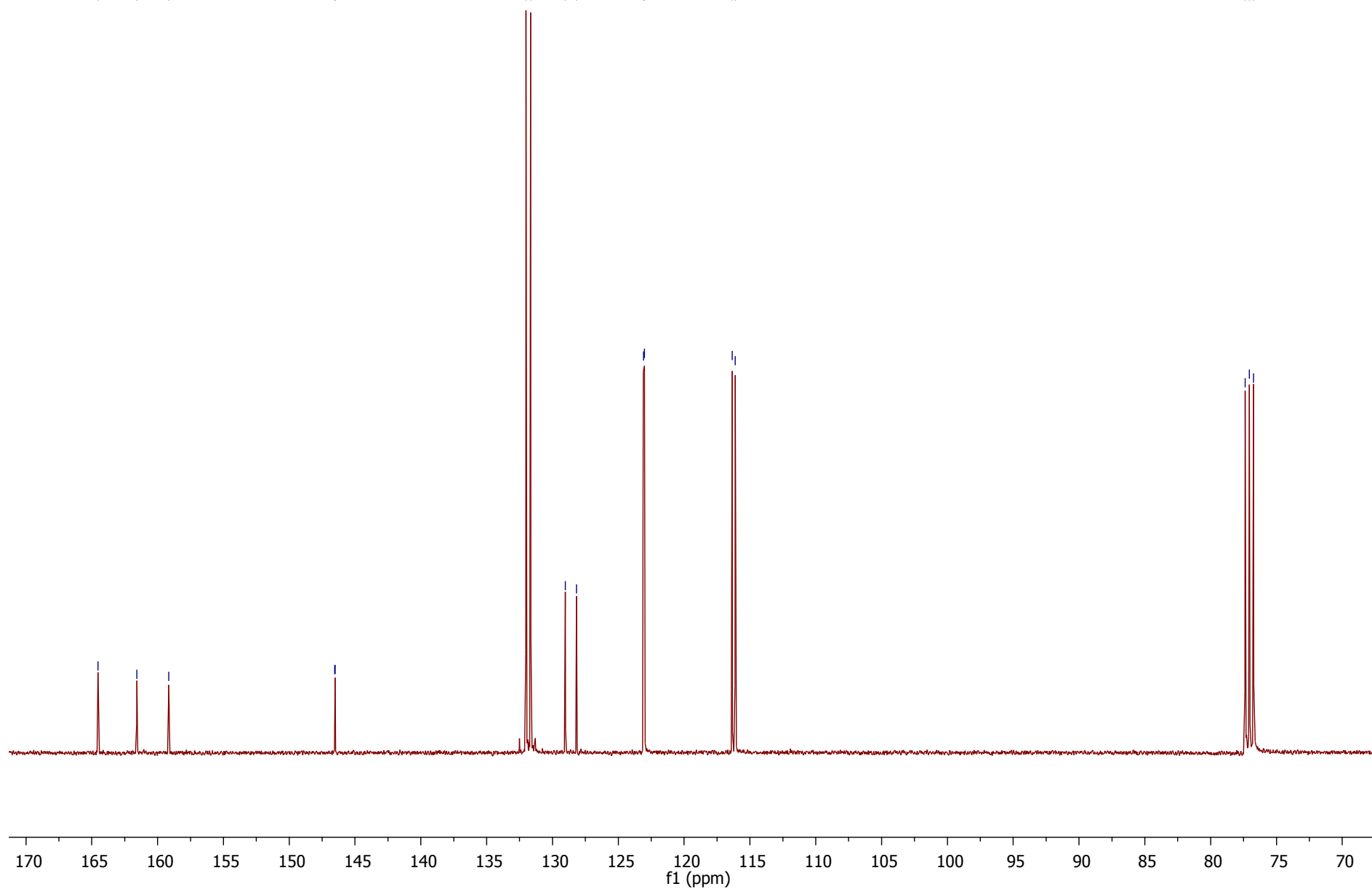
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— 129.02
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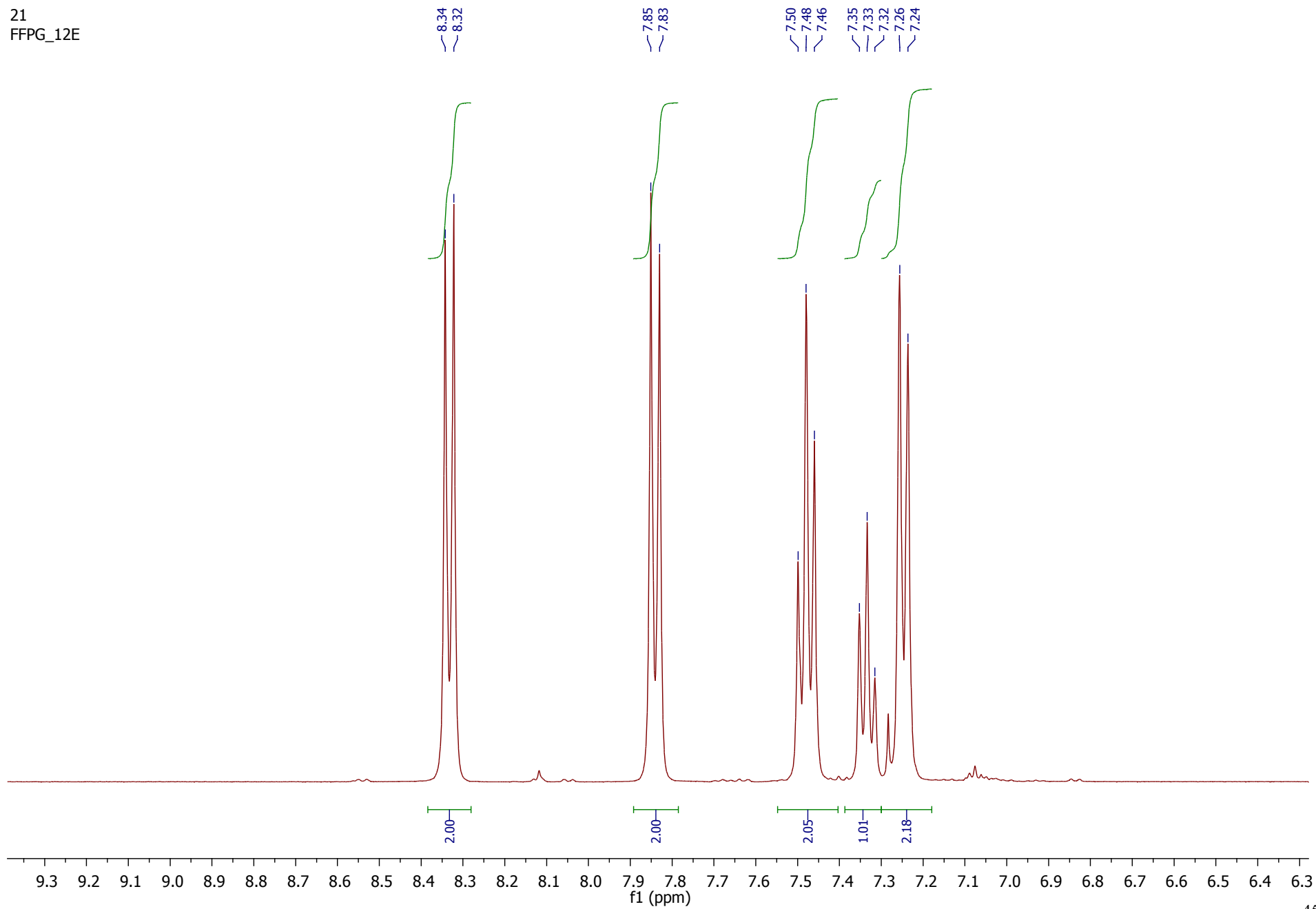
— 123.09
— 123.01

— 116.35
— 116.12

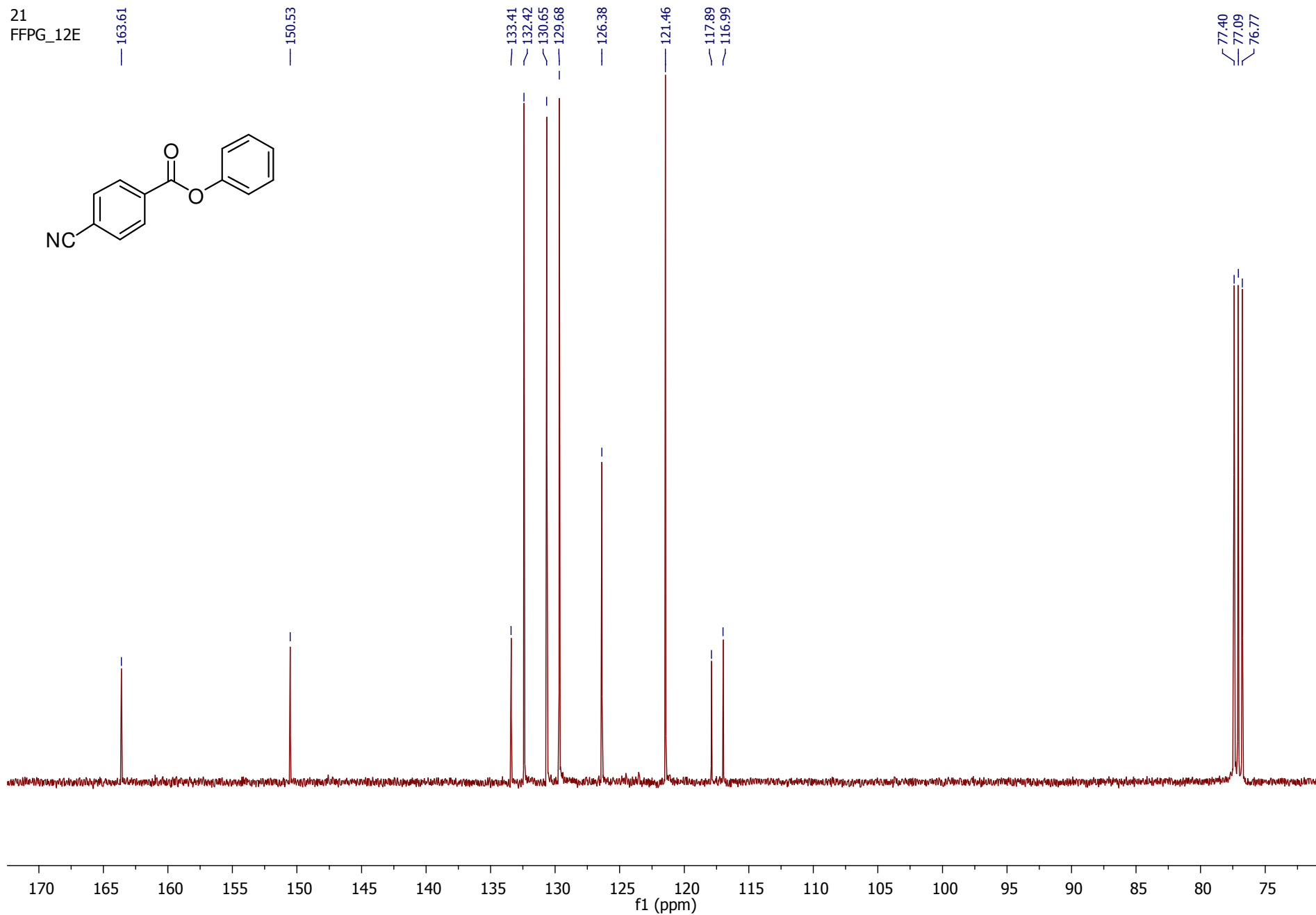
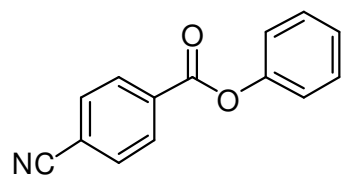
— 77.38
— 77.06
— 76.75



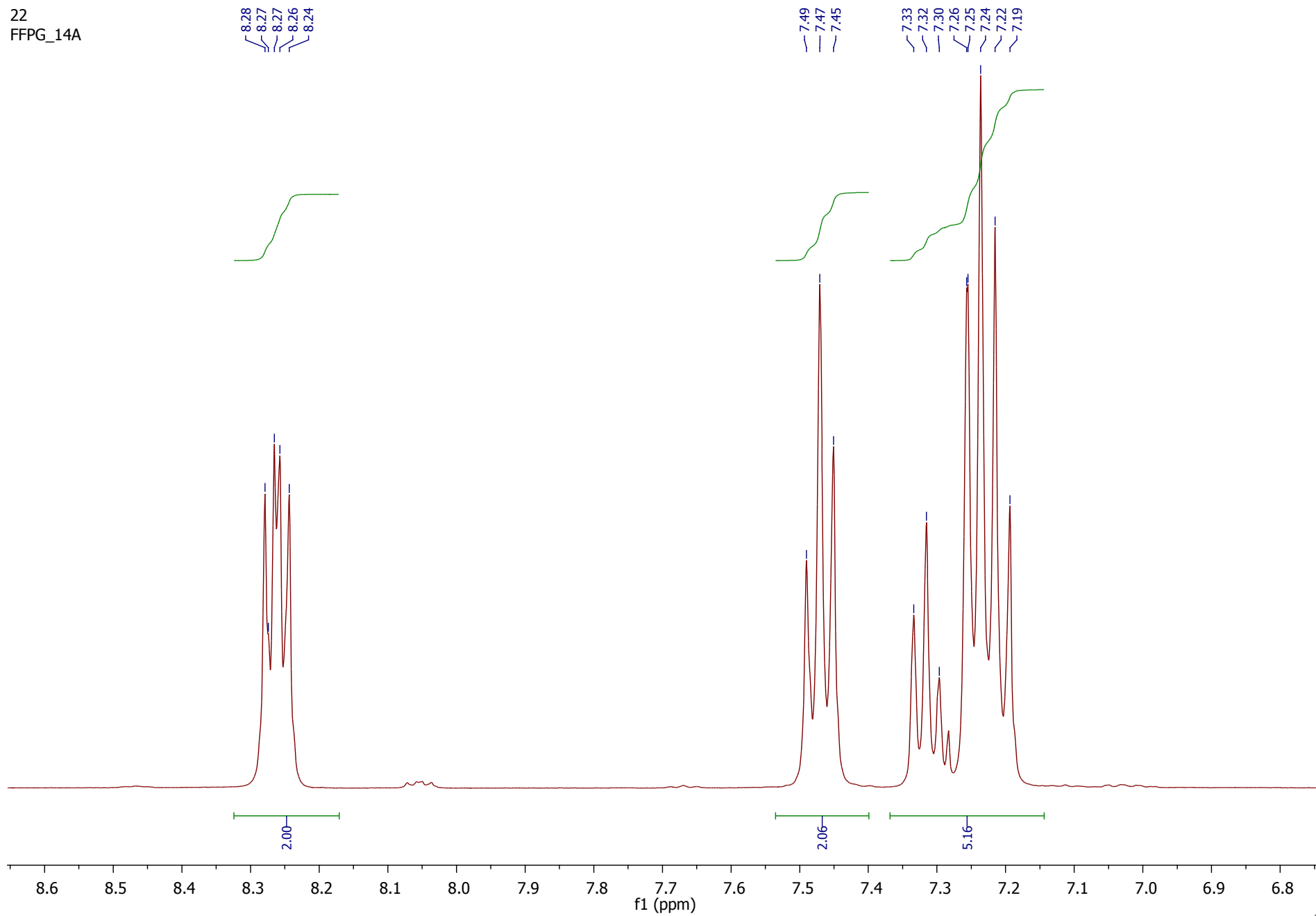
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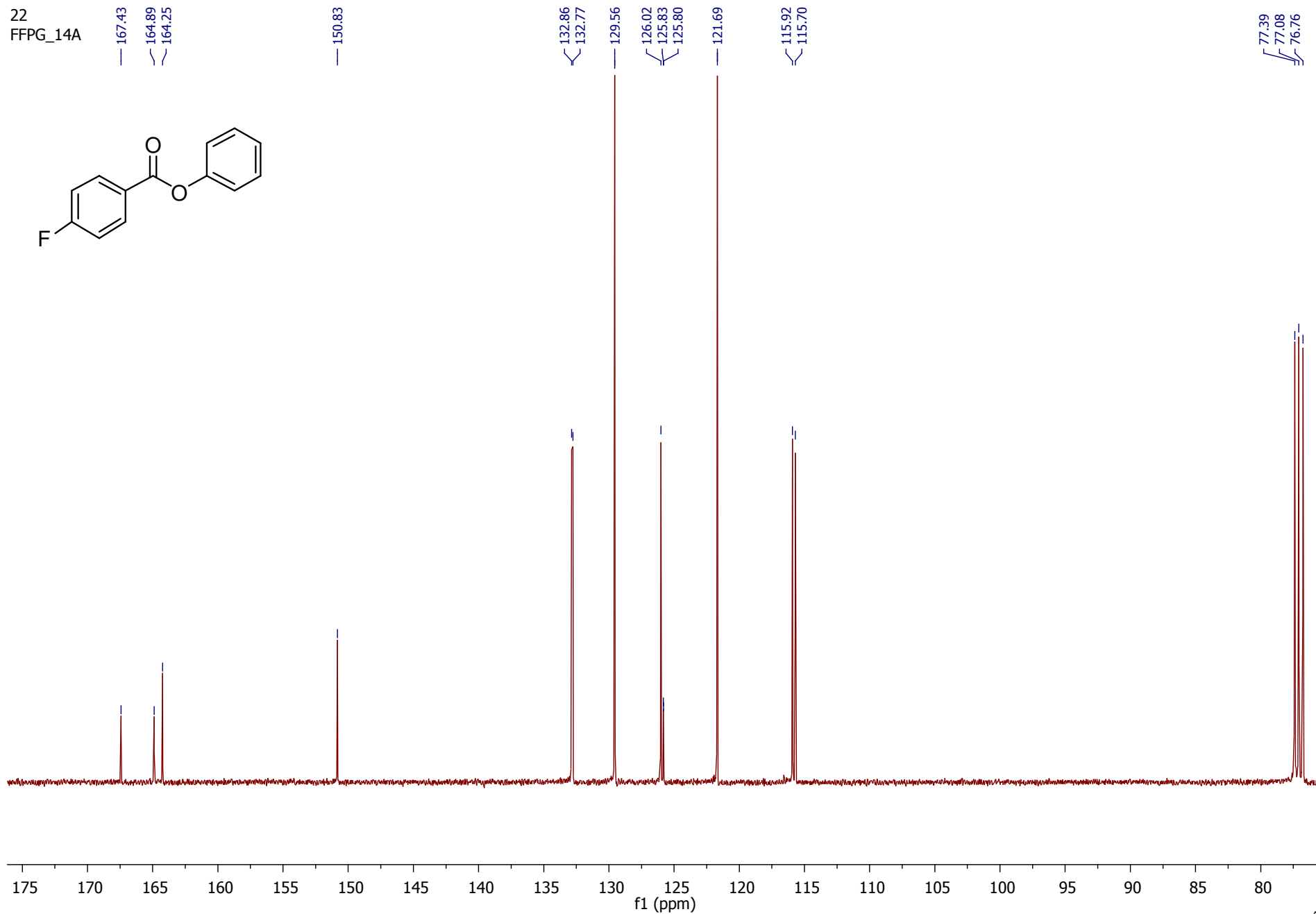
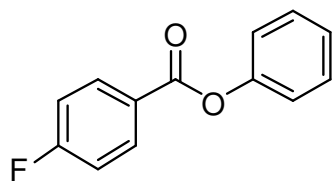
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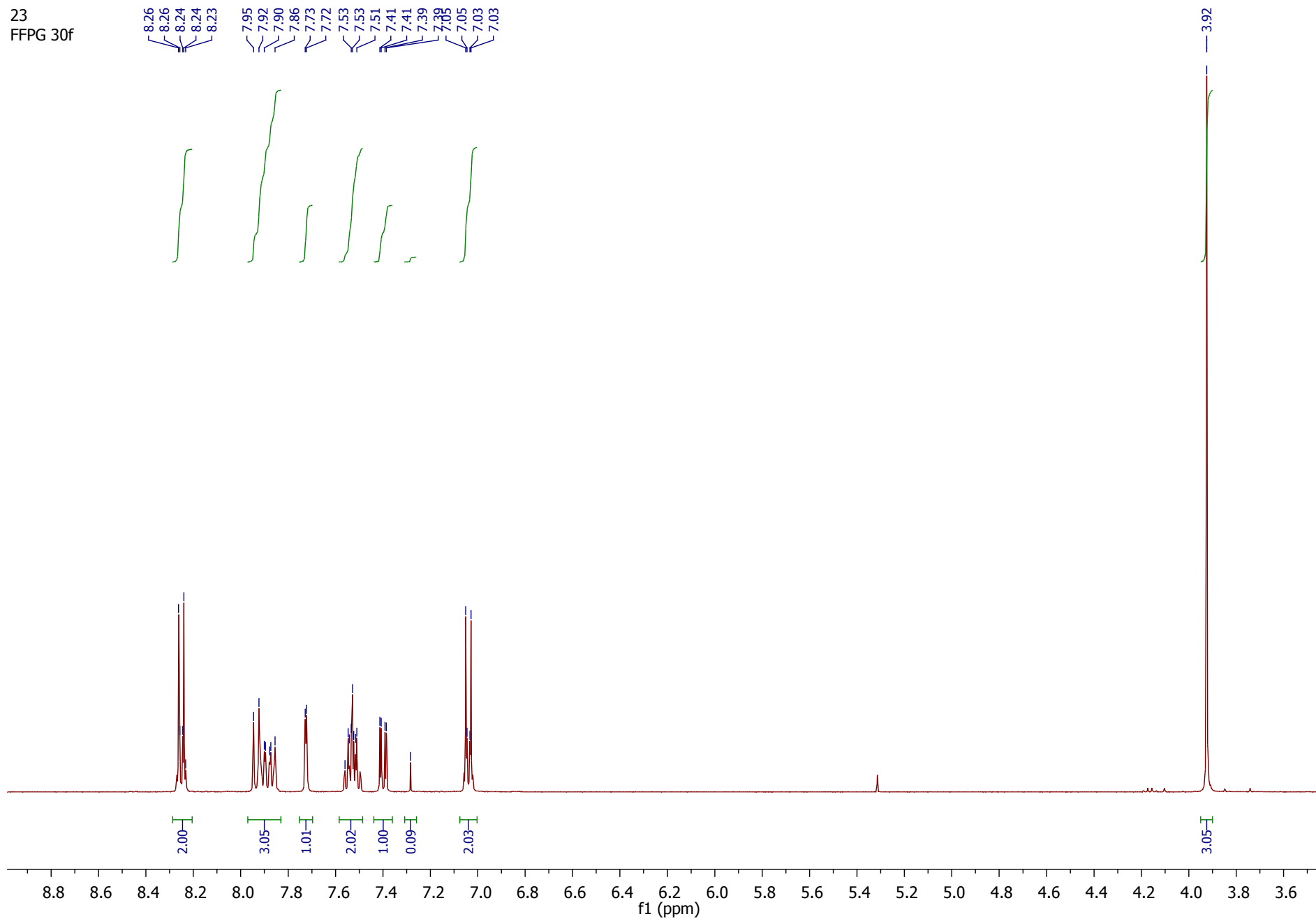
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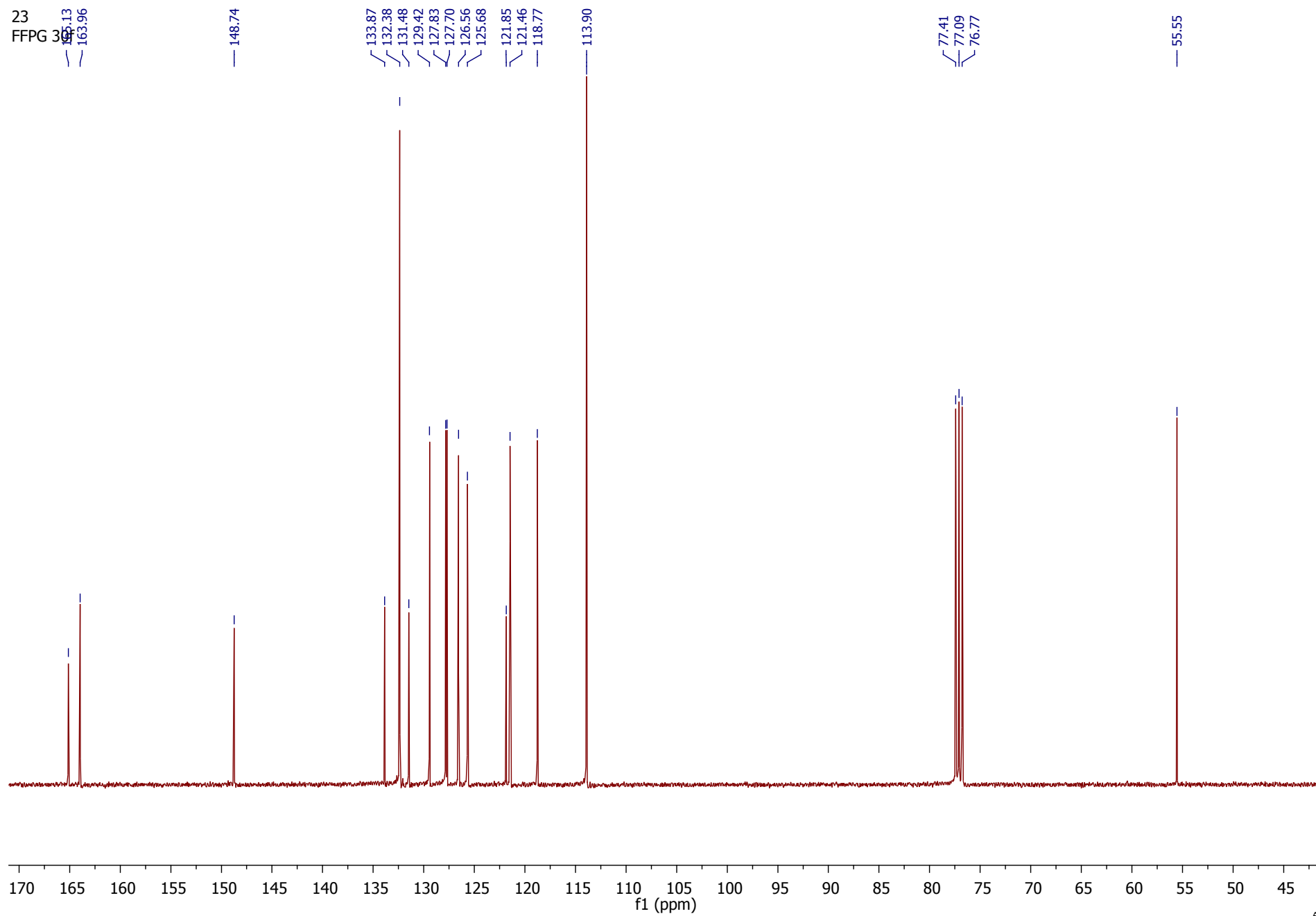


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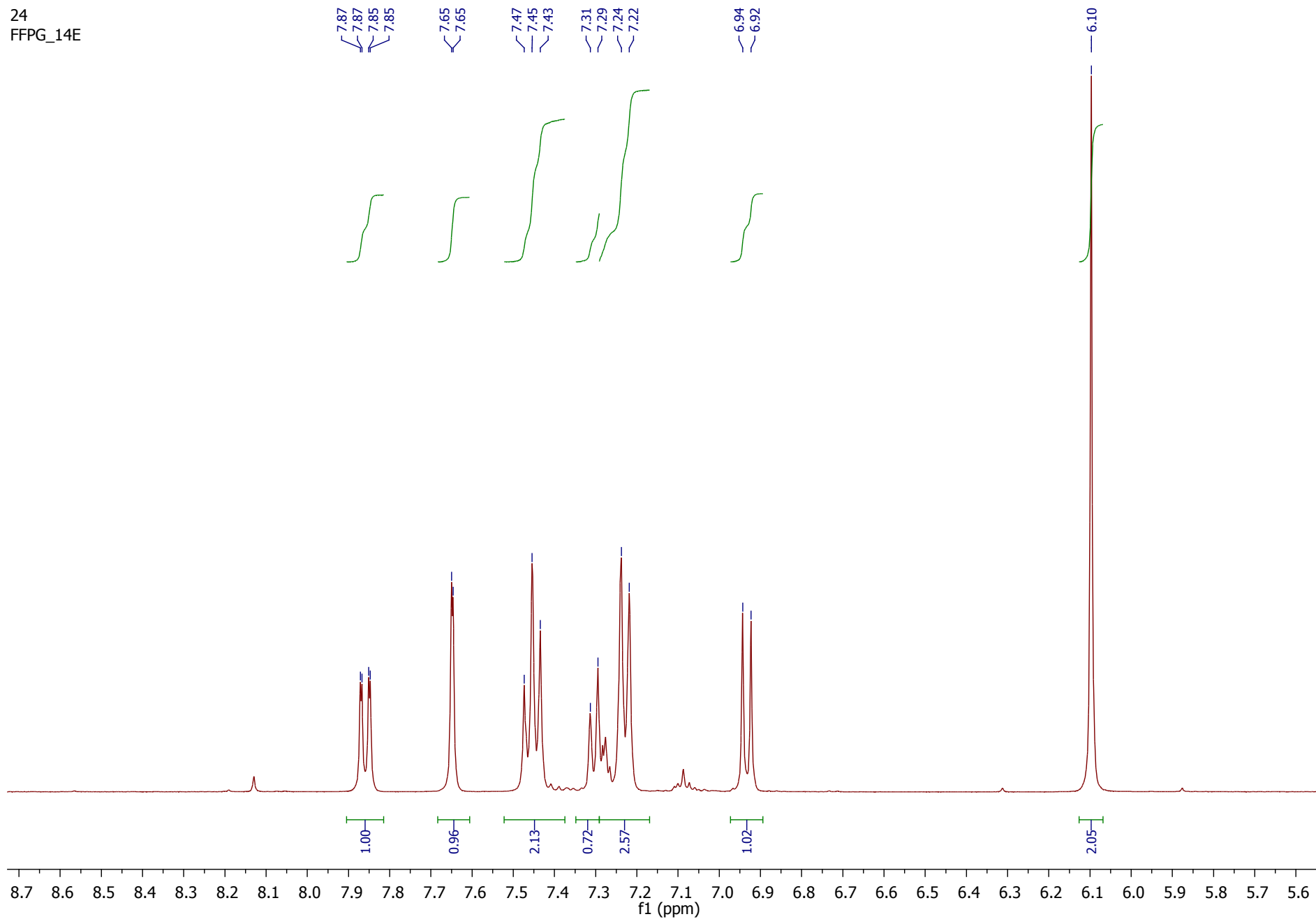


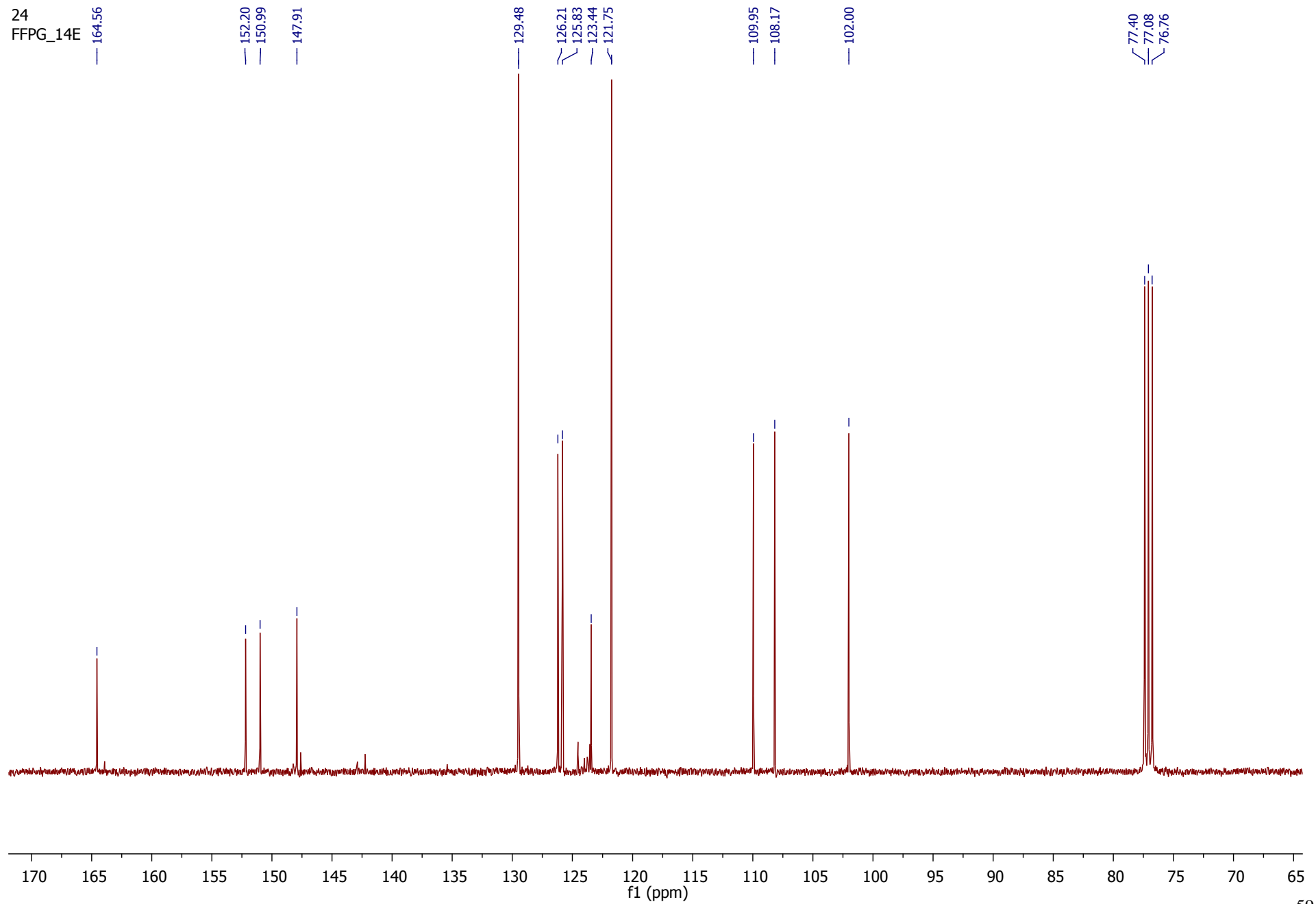
23
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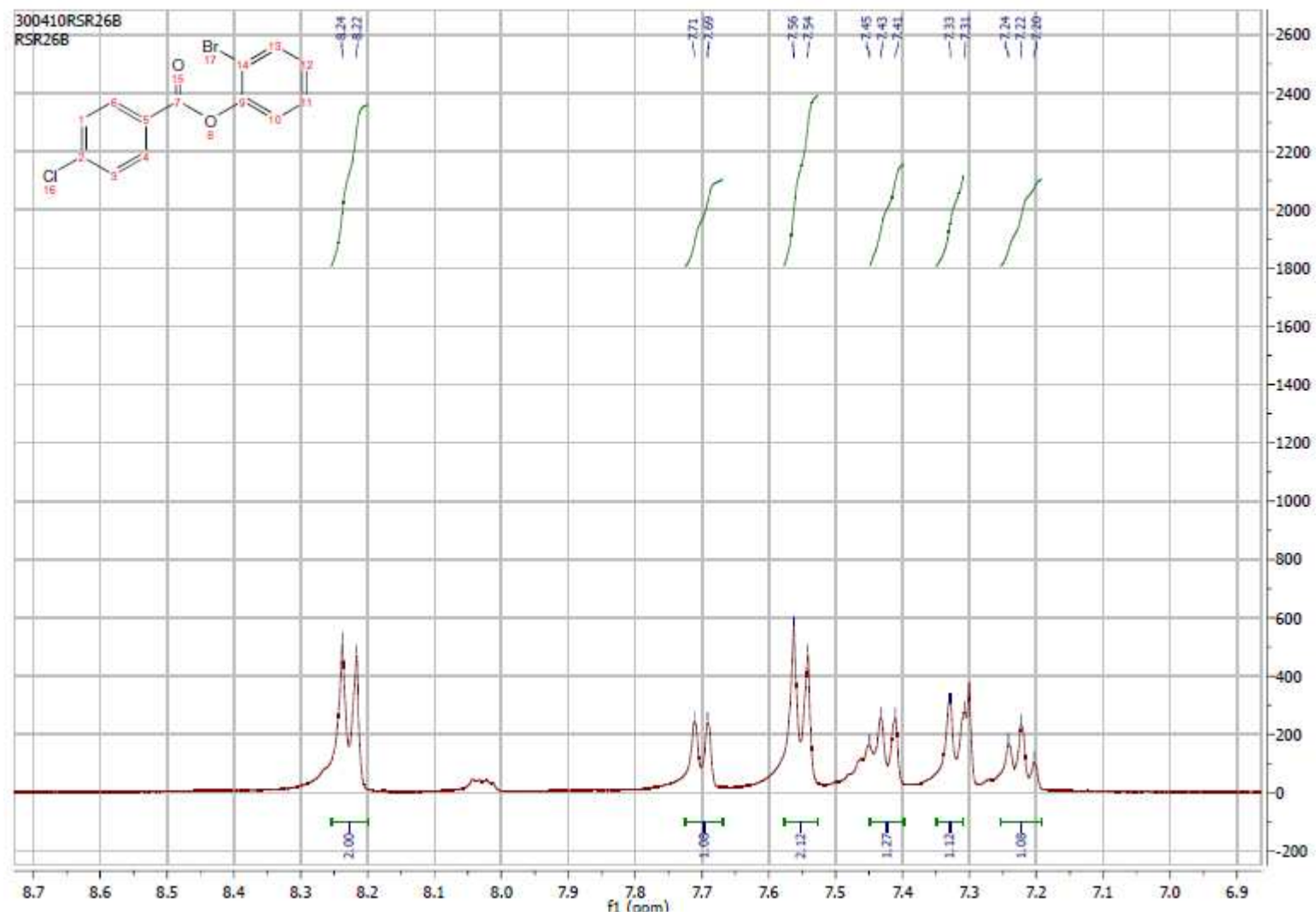


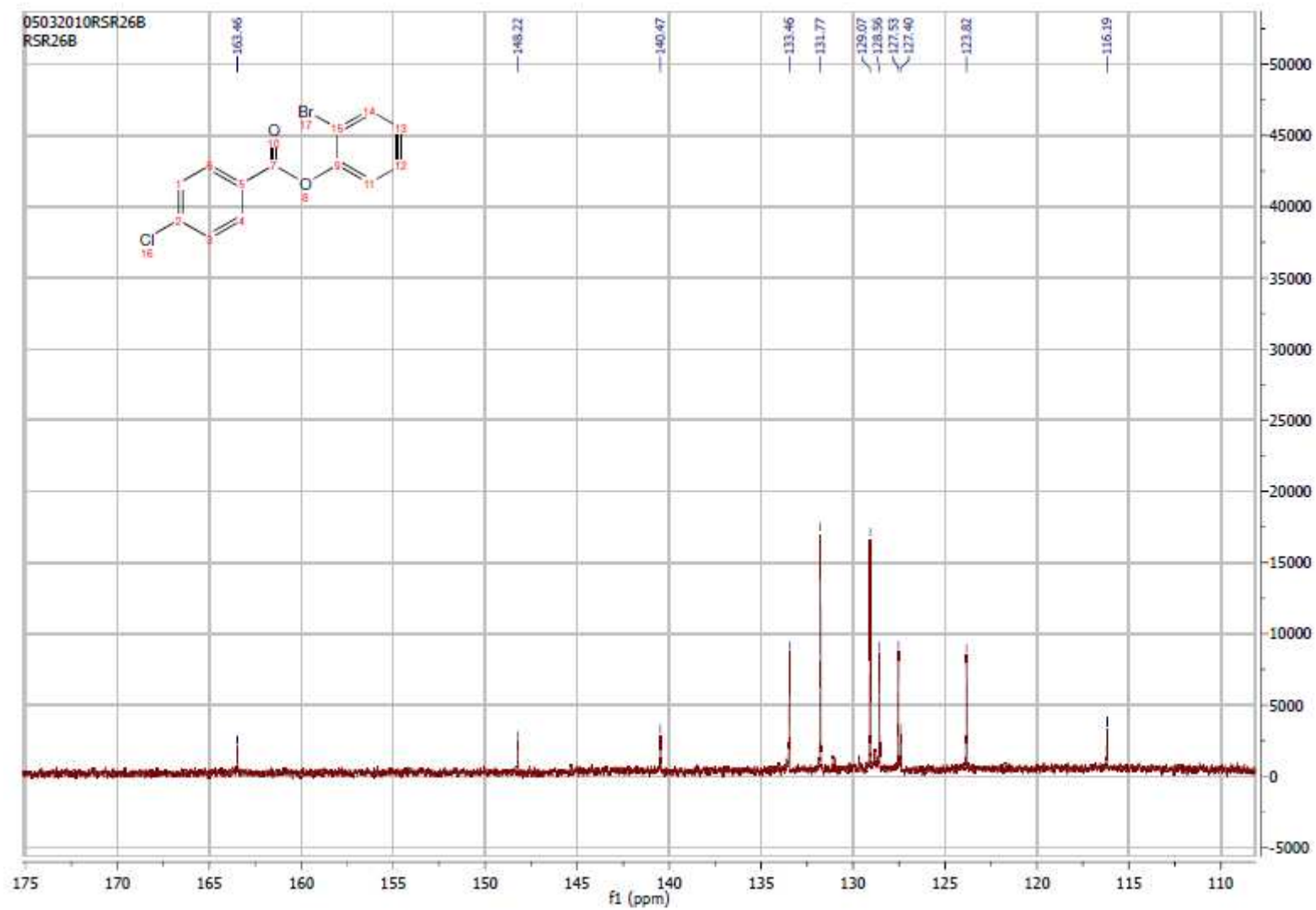


24
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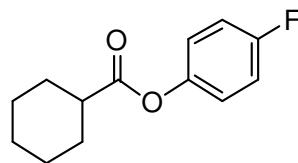




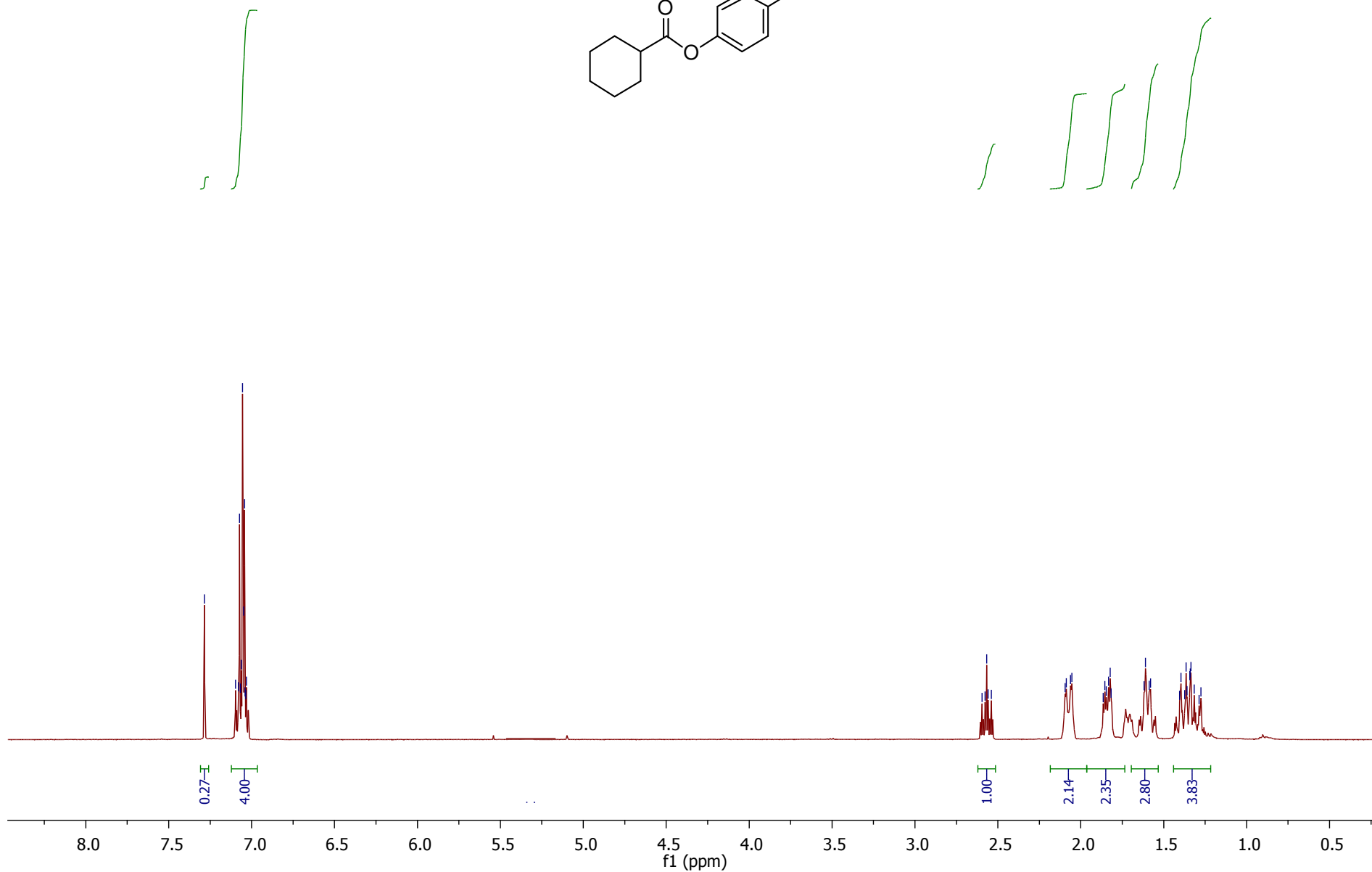


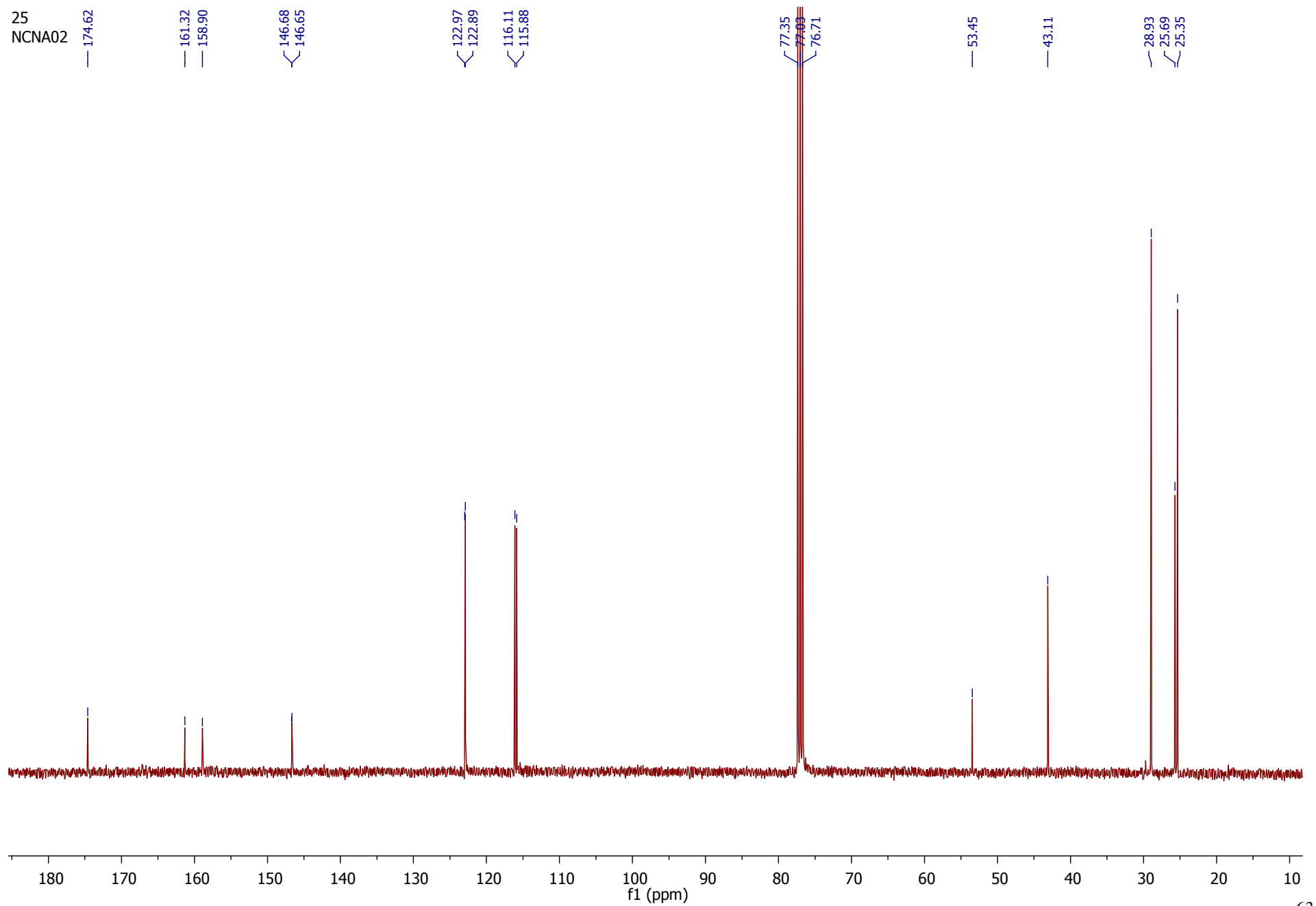
25
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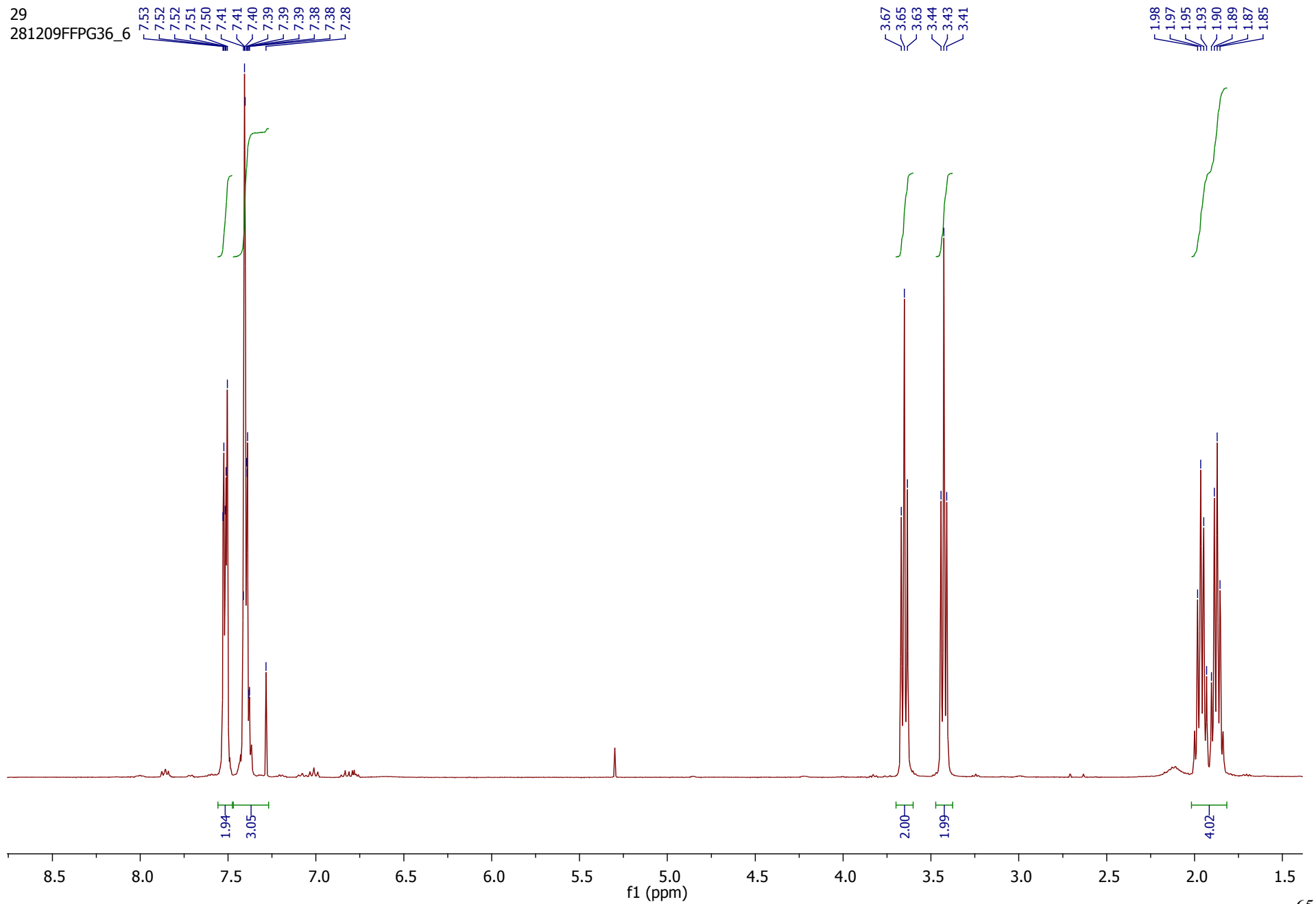
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7.08
7.07
7.06
7.05
7.05
7.04
7.04
7.04
7.03



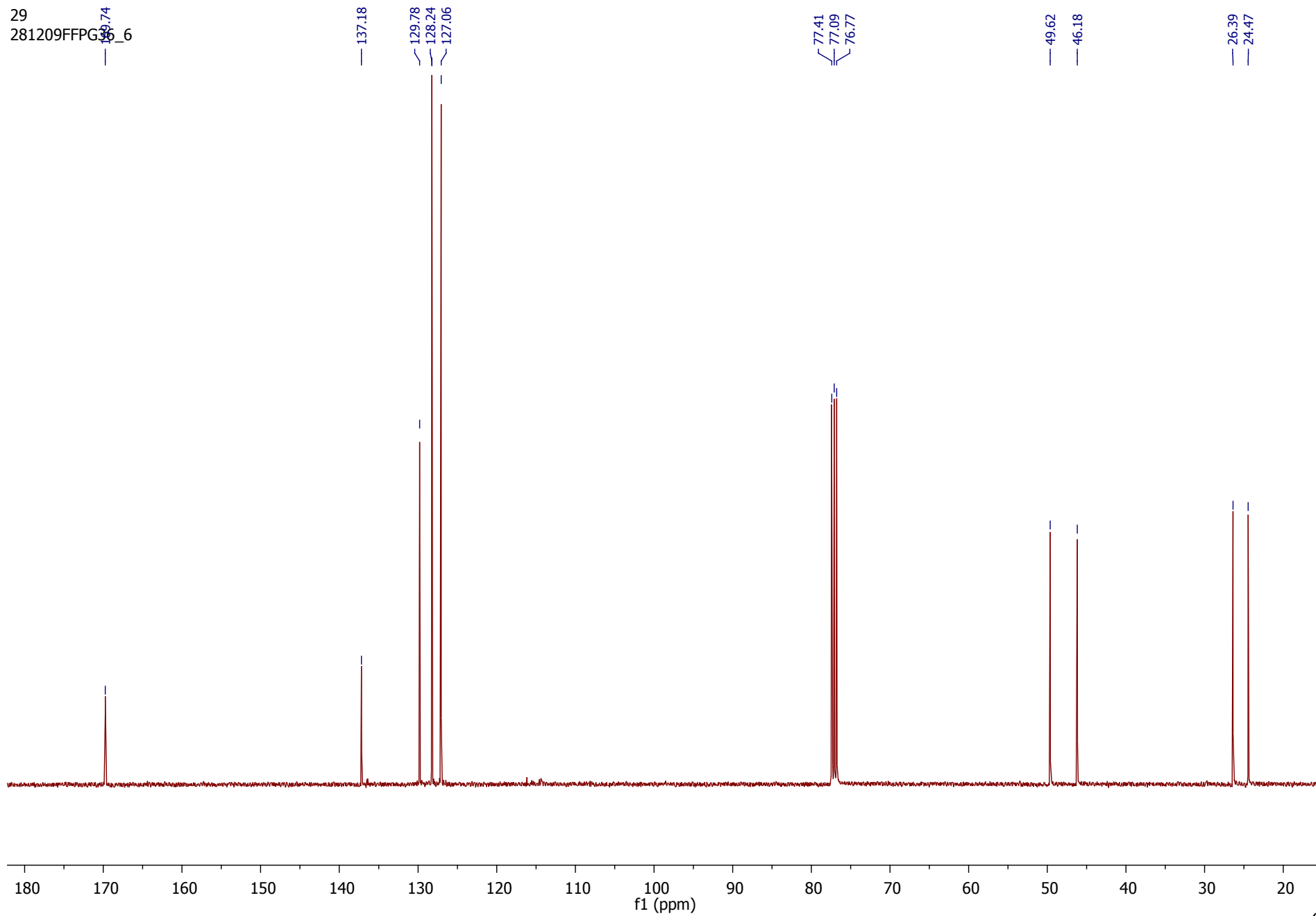
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2.58
2.57
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2.09
2.06
2.05
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1.82
1.61
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1.36
1.34
1.34
1.34
1.32
1.29
1.28



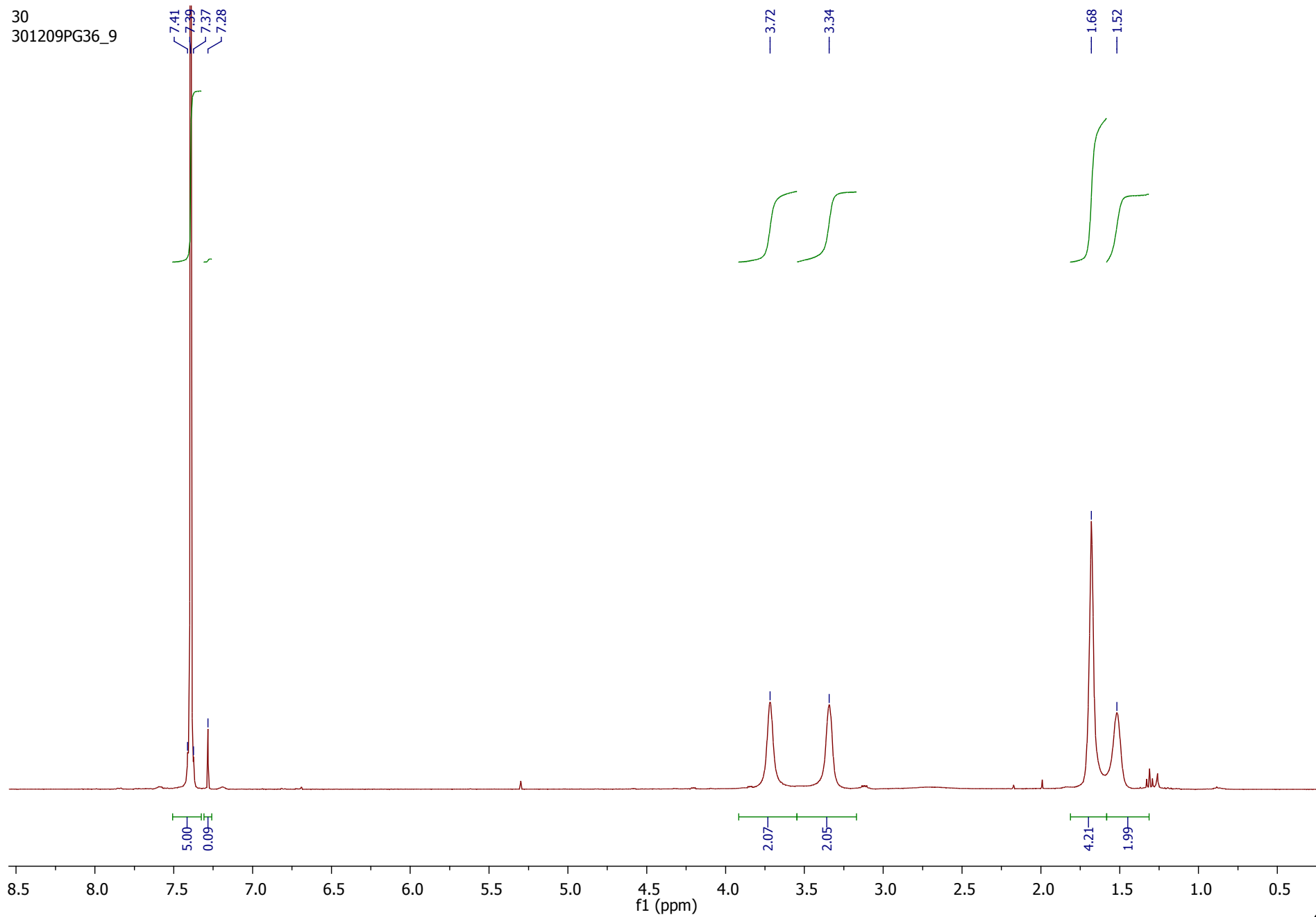




29
281209FFPG36_6



30
301209PG36_9



30
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