

# Synthesis of Polycyclic Aromatics and Heteroaromatics via Electrophilic Cyclization

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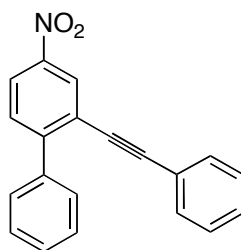
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## Supporting Information

**General.**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded at 300 and 75 MHz. Thin-layer chromatography was performed using commercially prepared 60-mesh silica gel plates (Whatman K6F), and visualization was effected with short wavelength UV light (254 nm) and a basic  $\text{KMnO}_4$  solution [3 g of  $\text{KMnO}_4$  + 20 g of  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  + 5 mL of  $\text{NaOH}$  (5%) + 300 mL of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ]. All melting points are uncorrected. All reagents were used directly as commercially obtained unless otherwise noted. Compounds **1**, **2**, **6-17**, **32-37**, and **49-56** were reported in our earlier communication.<sup>1</sup>

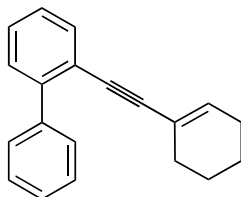
**General procedure for preparation of the 2-(arylethynyl)biphenyls.** To a solution of the corresponding aryl iodide (1.0 mmol) and the terminal alkyne (1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (4 mL), were added  $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$  (14 mg, 2 mol %) and  $\text{CuI}$  (2 mg, 1 mol %). The resulting mixture was then heated under an  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere at 55 °C for 3 h. The mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and the ammonium salt was removed by filtration. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the corresponding product.



**18**

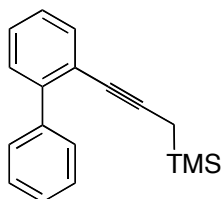
**2-Phenylethynyl-4-nitrobiphenyl (18).** 2-Iodo-4-nitrobiphenyl and phenylacetylene were employed. Purification by flash chromatography (10:1 hexane/ $\text{EtOAc}$ ) afforded 254 mg (85%) of the product as a yellow solid: mp 129-130 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.31-

7.38 (m, 5H), 7.48-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.58 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.71 (m, 2H), 8.21 (dd,  $J = 8.7, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.50 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  87.4, 94.7, 122.6, 123.2, 123.5, 128.0, 128.5, 128.7, 129.1, 129.2, 129.4, 130.6, 131.8, 138.7, 147.0, 150.0; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3630, 1514, 1343; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_2$ : 299.0946. Found: 299.0950.



**20**

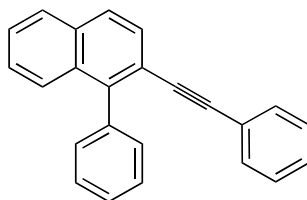
**2-(Cyclohex-1-en-1ylethynyl)biphenyl (20).** 2-Iodobiphenyl and 1-ethynylcyclohexene were employed. Purification by flash chromatography (40:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 146 mg (70%) of the product as a clear liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.53-1.65 (m, 4H), 2.07-2.13 (m, 4H), 6.03-6.06 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.47 (m, 6H), 7.53-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.66 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  21.8, 22.5, 26.0, 29.0, 86.9, 94.4, 121.2, 122.3, 127.2, 127.5, 128.0, 128.2, 129.59, 129.61, 133.0, 135.1, 140.9, 143.7; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3059, 3023, 2931, 2199, 1475; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}$ : 258.1409. Found: 258.1412.



**26**

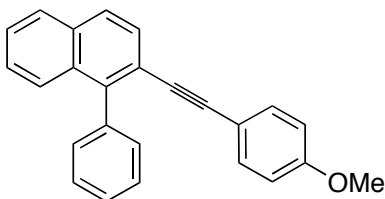
**[3-(Biphenyl-2-yl)prop-2-ynyl](trimethyl)silane (26).** 2-Iodobiphenyl and prop-2-ynyl(trimethyl)silane were employed. Purification by flash chromatography (30:1

hexane/EtOAc) afforded 128 mg (49%) of the product as a clear liquid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.00 (s, 9H), 1.59 (s, 2H), 7.24-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.58 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -1.9, 8.3, 78.9, 91.5, 123.2, 126.9, 127.1, 127.2, 127.9, 129.3, 129.5, 133.2, 141.2, 143.4; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3060, 2955, 2205, 1476, 1249; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{Si}$ : 264.1334. Found: 264.1339.



**28**

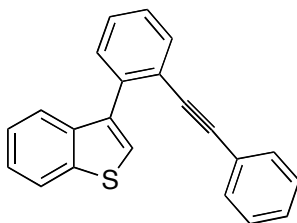
**1-Phenyl-2-(phenylethynyl)naphthalene (28).** 2-Iodo-1-phenylnaphthalene and phenylacetylene were employed. Purification by flash chromatography (40:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 301 mg (99%) of the product as a yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.16-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.55 (m, 5H), 7.65-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.82-7.89 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  90.2, 93.4, 120.4, 123.7, 126.6, 126.7, 126.9, 127.68, 127.7, 128.18, 128.22, 128.23, 128.4, 128.6, 130.9, 131.6, 132.4, 133.4, 139.2, 143.3; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3056, 1950, 1598, 1505, 1490; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{16}$ : 304.1252. Found: 304.1257.



**30**

**2-[(4-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl]-1-phenylnaphthalene (30).** 2-Iodo-1-phenylnaphthalene and *p*-methoxyphenyl acetylene were employed. Purification by flash

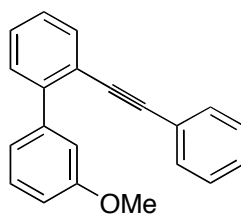
chromatography (20:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 276 mg (82%) of the product as a white solid: mp 109-111 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.81 (s, 3H), 6.82 (dd,  $J = 2.1, 6.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.17 (dd,  $J = 2.1, 6.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.57 (m, 7H), 7.68-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.92 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.4, 88.9, 93.5, 114.1, 115.7, 120.7, 126.4, 126.6, 126.8, 127.60, 127.62, 128.1, 128.2, 128.4, 130.9, 132.4, 133.0, 133.1, 139.3, 142.8, 159.7; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3055, 2956, 2836, 2207, 1605, 1511; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}$ : 334.1358. Found: 334.1365.



**40**

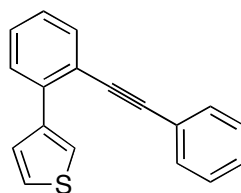
**3-[2-(Phenylethynyl)phenyl]-benzothiophene (40).** To a solution of 2-bromophenyl phenyl acetylene (1.5 mmol, 386 mg) and 1-benzothiophen-3-ylboronic acid (320 mg, 1.2 equiv) in 7.5 mL of DME were added  $\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2$  (43.2 mg, 5 mol %),  $\text{PPh}_3$  (39 mg, 10 mol %) and CsF (456 mg, 2.0 equiv). The resulting mixture was heated under an  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere at 100 °C for 24 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with 70 mL of ether, washed with 25 mL of satd NaCl, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was chromatographed using 50:1 hexane/EtOAc to afford 145 mg (31%) of the product as a yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.02-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.52-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.70-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.76-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.94-7.98 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  89.3, 93.3, 122.9, 123.3, 123.4, 123.8, 124.3, 124.5, 125.6, 127.8, 128.3,

128.4, 128.5, 130.3, 131.5, 132.9, 136.5, 138.3, 138.7, 140.2; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3057, 1597, 1492, 1441; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{14}\text{S}$ : 310.0816. Found: 310.0821.



**43**

**3'-Methoxy-2-(phenylethynyl)biphenyl (43).** This alkyne was prepared from 2-(phenylethynyl)phenylboronic acid and 3-iodoanisole by following the same procedure as compound **40** at 80 °C. 2-(Phenylethynyl)phenylboronic acid (133 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-methoxy-3-iodobenzene (126 mg, 0.9 equiv),  $\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2$  (14.4 mg, 0.05 equiv),  $\text{PPh}_3$  (13 mg, 0.1 equiv), CsF (182 mg, 2.0 equiv) and DME (2.5 mL) afforded, after purification by flash column chromatography (silica gel, 20:1 hexane/EtOAc), 76 mg (50%) of the indicated compound **43** as a light yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.86 (s, 3H), 6.97-7.00 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.33 (m, 5H), 7.36-7.49 (m, 6H), 7.67-7.71 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.5, 89.6, 92.7, 113.7, 115.0, 121.8, 122.2, 123.7, 127.4, 128.4, 128.5, 128.8, 129.2, 129.7, 131.7, 133.2, 142.2, 144.0, 159.4; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3058, 3023, 2955, 2936, 2833, 1599, 1581, 1490; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}$ : 284.1201. Found: 284.1206.

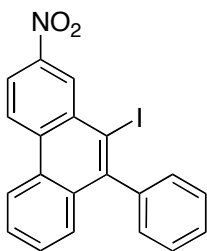


**46**

**3-[2-(Phenylethynyl)phenyl]thiophene (46).** This alkyne was prepared from 2-bromophenyl phenyl acetylene and 3-thiopheneboronic acid by following the same

procedure as compound **40** at 90 °C. 1-Bromo-2-(phenylethynyl)benzene (257 mg, 1 mmol), 3-thiopheneboronic acid (154 mg, 1.2 equiv), Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (24 mg, 0.05 equiv), PPh<sub>3</sub> (22 mg, 0.1 equiv), CsF (304 mg, 2.0 equiv) and DME (4 mL) afforded, after purification by flash column chromatography (silica gel, 20:1 hexane/EtOAc), 235 mg (90%) of the indicated compound **46** as a light yellow oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.26-7.39 (m, 6H), 7.42-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 0.9, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 0.9, 2.1 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 89.7, 92.7, 121.2, 123.5, 123.7, 124.8, 127.0, 128.3, 128.4, 128.6, 128.7, 129.1, 131.5, 133.3, 138.2, 141.0; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3103, 3058, 3028, 1597, 1492, 1442; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>S: 260.0660. Found: 260.0663.

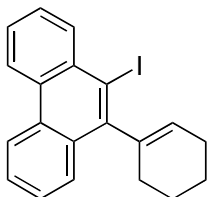
**General procedure for the electrophilic cyclization of 2-(arylethynyl)biphenyls by ICl.** To a solution of 2-(arylethynyl)biphenyl (0.30 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> was added ICl (1.2 equiv) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL) at -78 °C. The reaction mixture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



**19**

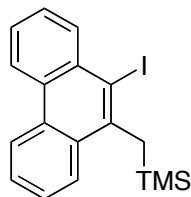
**10-Iodo-2-nitro-9-phenylphenanthrene (19).** Purification by flash chromatography (7:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 112 mg (88%) of the product as a yellow solid: mp 182-183 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.25-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.62 (m, 5H), 7.75 (dt, *J* = 1.2, 7.8

Hz, 1H), 8.45 (td,  $J = 2.7, 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.73 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.81 (dd,  $J = 3.3, 9.3$  Hz, 1H), 9.42 (t,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  105.5, 121.3, 123.8, 124.7, 128.3, 128.5, 128.9, 129.28, 129.33, 129.4, 129.8, 131.1, 132.9, 133.8, 134.8, 144.8, 147.2, 148.0; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3080, 3059, 3025, 1577, 1515, 1345; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{12}\text{INO}_2$ : 424.9913. Found: 424.9921.



**21**

**9-(Cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-10-iodophenanthrene (21).** Purification by flash chromatography (50:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 79 mg (70%) of the product as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.85-2.01 (m, 4H), 2.19-2.26 (m, 1H), 3.35-2.48 (m, 3H), 5.71-5.74 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.70 (m, 3H), 8.06 (dd,  $J = 0.9, 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 8.41-8.46 (m, 1H), 8.61-8.64 (m, 1H), 8.69 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  22.3, 23.2, 25.7, 29.5, 105.4, 122.8, 123.0, 127.2, 127.28, 127.33, 128.0, 128.2, 129.2, 130.5, 130.7, 131.4, 132.8, 134.5, 142.4, 147.2; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3067, 3025, 2926, 1562, 1482, 1445; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{I}$ : 384.0375. Found: 384.0380.

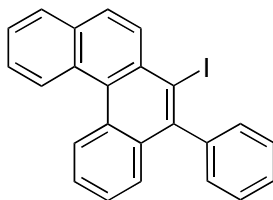


**27**

**[(10-Iodo-9-phenanthryl)methyl](trimethyl)silane (27).** Purification by flash chromatography (50:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 54 mg (50%) of the product as a white

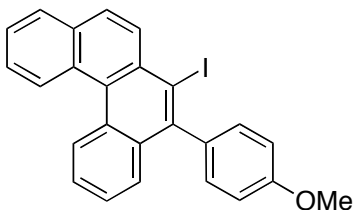


solid: mp 70-72 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.11 (s, 9H), 3.24 (s, 2H), 7.56-7.71 (m, 4H), 8.09 (dd,  $J$  = 0.8, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.39-8.42 (m, 1H), 8.58-8.62 (m, 1H), 8.70-8.73 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.00, 31.1, 106.0, 122.2, 122.9, 125.9, 126.54, 126.57, 126.64, 127.5, 129.2, 130.1, 130.7, 133.0, 134.2, 141.8; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3068, 2951, 1562, 1485, 1445; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{ISi}$ : 390.0301. Found: 390.0310.



**29**

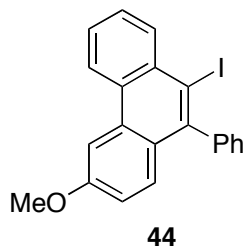
**6-Iodo-5-phenylbenzo[*c*]phenanthrene (29).** Purification by flash chromatography (3:1 hexane/ $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) afforded 61 mg (48%) of the product as a white solid: mp 159-160 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.32-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.62-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.95 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.03-8.07 (m, 1H), 8.43 (m,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 9.04 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  106.4, 126.4, 126.6, 126.7, 126.8, 128.1, 128.3, 128.4, 128.6, 128.67, 128.71, 128.8, 129.0, 129.6, 130.1, 130.3, 131.2, 132.2, 133.4, 133.8, 145.2, 145.4; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3057, 1599, 1503, 1488; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{15}\text{I}$ : 430.0219. Found: 430.0228.



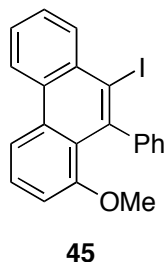
**31**

**5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-6-iodobenzo[*c*]phenanthrene (31).** Purification by flash chromatography (20:1 hexane/ EtOAc) afforded 134 mg (97%) of the product as a green solid: mp 186-187 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.94 (s, 3H), 7.10 (d,  $J$  = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 7.23-

7.26 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.69 (m, 4H), 7.94 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.02-8.06 (m, 1H), 8.42 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 9.01-9.05 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.6, 107.3, 114.1, 126.4, 126.6, 126.7, 126.8, 128.41, 128.44, 128.61, 128.64, 128.8, 129.0, 129.7, 130.2, 131.3, 131.5, 132.4, 133.75, 133.80, 138.0, 145.0, 159.4; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3065, 2961, 2838, 1607, 1510, 1247; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{17}\text{IO}$ : 460.0324. Found: 460.0334.

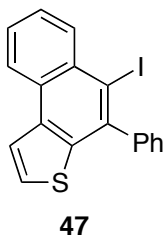


**9-Iodo-3-methoxy-10-phenylphenanthrene (44).** Purification by flash chromatography (30:1 hexane/ EtOAc) afforded 83 mg (66%) of the product as a white solid: mp 136-138 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.02 (s, 3H), 7.05 (dd,  $J = 2.5, 9.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.51-7.58 (m, 3H), 7.68-7.71 (m, 2H), 8.09 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.43-8.47 (m, 1H), 8.59-8.62 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  55.7, 103.3, 104.3, 117.0, 122.9, 127.3, 127.5, 128.0, 128.4, 128.7, 130.2, 130.4, 130.5, 132.0, 133.0, 134.9, 145.3, 145.7, 158.9; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3056, 3025, 2957, 2933, 2834, 1613, 1576, 1519; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{IO}$ : 410.0168. Found: 410.0175.

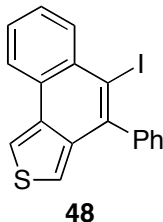


**9-Iodo-1-methoxy-10-phenylphenanthrene (45).** Purification by flash chromatography (30:1 hexane/ EtOAc) afforded 26 mg (20%) of the product as a light

yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.34 (s, 3H), 6.94 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.18-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.58-7.69 (m, 3H), 8.38 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.48-8.52 (m, 1H), 8.64-8.67 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  56.2, 109.5, 110.0, 115.8, 123.4, 123.5, 126.5, 127.4, 127.6, 128.0, 128.5, 129.0, 130.4, 132.7, 133.0, 135.3, 142.9, 151.1, 156.6; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3056, 3021, 2929, 1601, 1575, 1455; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{IO}$ : 410.0168. Found: 410.0172.



**5-Iodo-4-phenylnaphtho[2,1-*b*]thiophene (47).** Purification by flash chromatography (20:1 hexane/ EtOAc) afforded 58 mg (50%) of the product as a light yellow solid: mp 98-99  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.41-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.63-7.68 (m, 2H), 8.01 (d,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.30-8.35 (m, 1H), 8.43-8.49 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  101.18, 122.2, 124.2, 127.3, 127.4, 127.9, 128.8, 128.9, 129.0, 129.6, 132.8, 134.4, 136.3, 139.7, 141.2, 144.8; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3102, 3059, 3025, 1551, 1492, 1442; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{11}\text{IS}$ : 385.9626. Found: 385.9633.



**5-Iodo-4-phenylnaphtho[1,2-*c*]thiophene (48).** Purification by flash chromatography (20:1 hexane/ EtOAc) afforded 43 mg (37%) of the product as a white solid: mp 149-150  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.36-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.67 (m, 6H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 8.12-8.17 (m,

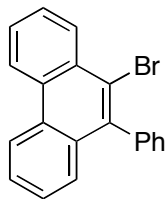
1H), 8.40-8.44 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  101.1, 121.4, 124.0, 127.6, 127.7, 128.1, 129.0, 129.4, 132.9, 133.8, 134.5, 135.2, 138.2, 140.4, 144.1 (one  $\text{sp}^2$  carbon missing due to overlap); IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3057, 3022, 1554, 1496; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{11}\text{IS}$ : 385.9626. Found: 385.9632.

**General procedure for the electrophilic cyclization of 2-(1-alkynyl)biphenyls by  $\text{I}_2$ .**

To a solution of 2-(1-alkynyl)biphenyl (0.30 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 mL) was added  $\text{I}_2$  (3.0 equiv) and  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (3.0 equiv) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h unless otherwise indicated. The reaction mixture was then diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL), washed with satd aq  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  (25 mL), dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the product was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column.

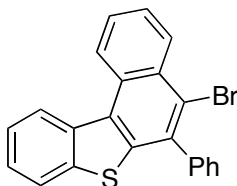
**9-Iodo-10-phenylphenanthrene (2).** Purification by flash chromatography (50:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 92 mg (80%) of the product as a white solid with a melting point and spectral properties identical to those previously reported.<sup>2</sup>

**General procedure for the electrophilic cyclization of 2-(1-alkynyl)biphenyls by NBS.** To a solution of 2-(1-alkynyl)biphenyl (0.30 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 mL) was added NBS (1.2 equiv) and silica gel (50 mg) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 144 h unless otherwise indicated. The reaction mixture was then diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL), washed with satd aq  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  (25 mL), dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the product was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column.



**3**

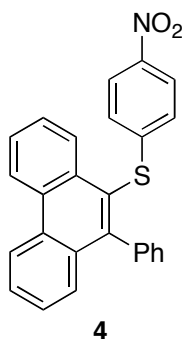
**9-Bromo-10-phenylphenanthrene (3).** Purification by flash chromatography (40:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 86 mg (86%) of the product as a white solid: mp 108-109 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.34-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.64-7.77 (m, 3H), 8.53-8.57 (m, 1H), 8.72-8.77 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  122.9, 123.8, 127.1, 127.3, 127.7, 127.9, 128.0, 128.2, 128.7, 129.2, 129.3, 130.2, 130.7, 131.2, 132.9, 139.9, 141.3; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3070, 3058, 3027, 1583, 1567, 1484; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{Br}$ : 332.0201. Found: 332.0209.



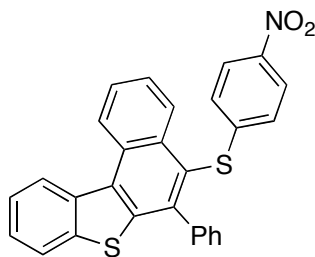
**41**

**5-Bromo-6-phenylbenzo[*b*]naphtha[1,2-*d*]thiophene (41).** Purification by flash chromatography (40:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 102 mg (88%) of the product as a yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.46-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.63 (m, 4H), 7.68-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.78-7.83 (m, 1H), 7.88 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 0.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.64 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.86 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 9.07 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  122.7, 123.3, 123.6, 125.1, 125.3, 125.8, 126.5, 127.9, 128.9, 129.0, 129.70, 129.74, 130.9, 131.0, 136.4, 136.6, 140.6, 141.0, 141.4; IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3059, 2921, 1558, 1494, 1442; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrS}$ : 387.9921. Found: 387.9930.

**General procedure for the electrophilic cyclization of 2-(1-alkynyl)biphenyls by *p*-O<sub>2</sub>NC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>SCl.** To a solution of 2-(1-alkynyl)biphenyl (0.30 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) was added *p*-O<sub>2</sub>NC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>SCl (1.2 equiv) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 0.5 h unless otherwise indicated. The reaction mixture was then diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL), washed with satd aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (25 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the product was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column.

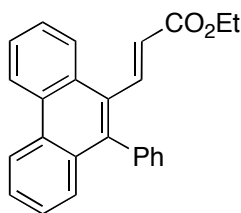


**9-(4-Nitrophenylsulfenyl)-10-phenylphenanthrene (4).** Purification by flash chromatography (30:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 112 mg (92%) of the product as a yellow solid: mp 192-193 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.94-6.98 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.50-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.93 (dt, *J* = 9.3, 2.1 Hz, 2H), 8.46 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.83 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 123.0, 123.4, 124.1, 125.0, 125.9, 127.3, 127.4, 127.8, 128.1, 128.3, 128.4, 128.6, 129.2, 129.4, 131.3, 131.6, 131.7, 132.3, 139.9, 145.1, 148.0, 149.2; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3066, 3024, 2834, 1610; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S: 407.0980. Found: 407.0989.



**42**

**5-(4-Nitrophenylthio)-6-phenylbenzo[*b*]naphtha[1,2-*d*]thiophene (42).** Purification by flash chromatography (9:1 hexane/EtOAc) afforded 101 mg (91%) of the product as a yellow solid: mp > 215 °C (decomposed);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.93-6.97 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.61-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.79-7.85 (m, 1H), 7.92-7.95 (m, 3H), 8.63 (dd,  $J = 8.7, 0.9$  Hz, 1H), 8.94 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 9.17 (d,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  123.4, 124.2, 125.5, 125.6, 126.0, 126.5, 126.9, 128.03, 128.04, 128.7, 129.0, 129.0, 131.2, 131.7, 132.8, 136.6, 139.9, 141.3, 141.4, 143.3, 145.2, 149.1 (two  $\text{sp}^2$  carbons missing due to overlap); IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3060, 2924, 1579, 1513, 1336; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2$ : 463.0701 Found: 463.0713.



**57**

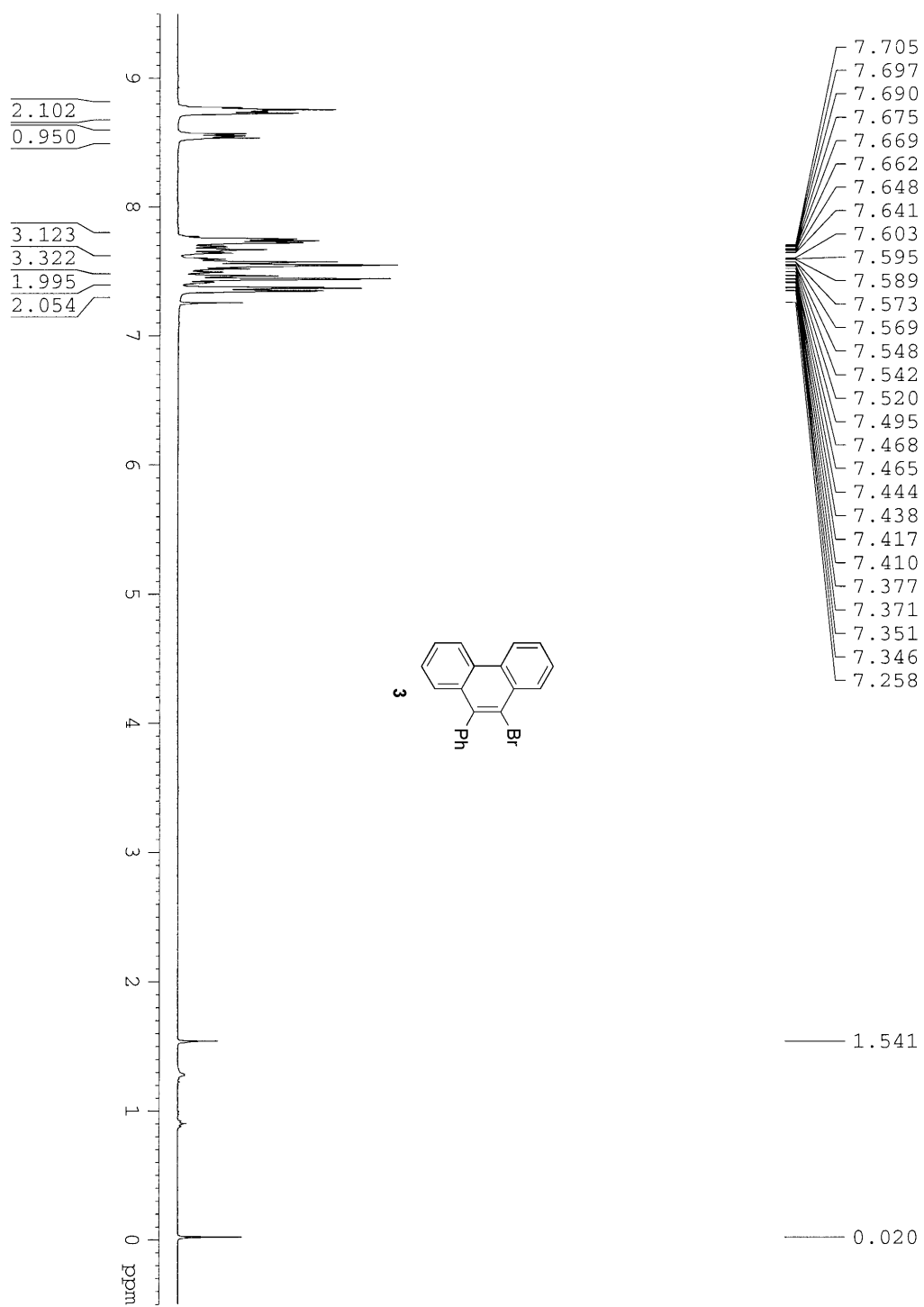
**Ethyl (2*E*)-3-(10-phenyl-9-phenanthryl)acrylate (57).** To a solution of 9-iodo-10-phenylphenanthrene (0.20 mmol) and ethyl acrylate (1.0 mmol, 5.0 equiv) in DMF (0.8 mL) were added  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (2.2 mg, 5 mol %),  $n\text{-Bu}_4\text{NCl}$  (0.20 mmol, 1 equiv) and  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv). The resulting mixture was heated under a  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere at 100 °C for 3 d. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with 70 mL

of ether, washed with 25 mL of satd aq NaCl, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed using 7:1 hexane/EtOAc to afford 69.0 mg (98%) of the product as a yellow solid: mp 135-136 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.02 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.55 (m, 5H), 7.62-7.75 (m, 3H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.73-8.81 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 14.5, 60.7, 122.7, 123.2, 126.1, 126.5, 127.0, 127.1, 127.31, 127.34, 127.8, 128.3, 128.6, 129.9, 130.2, 130.4, 130.6, 130.9, 131.7, 138.3, 139.0, 143.5, 166.6; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3066, 2982, 1712, 1642, 1488; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 352.1463. Found: 352.1469.

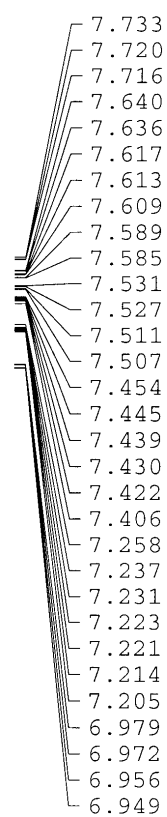
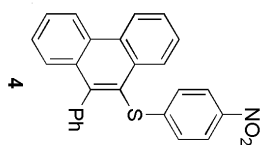
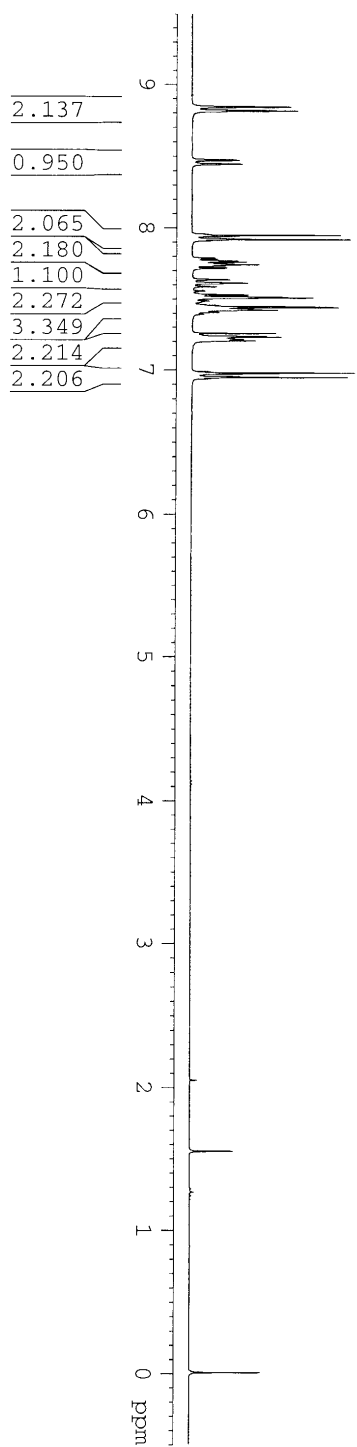
## References

1. Yao, T. Campo, M. A.; Larock, R. C. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, 6, 2677.
2. Campo, M. A.; Larock, R. C. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, 2, 3675.



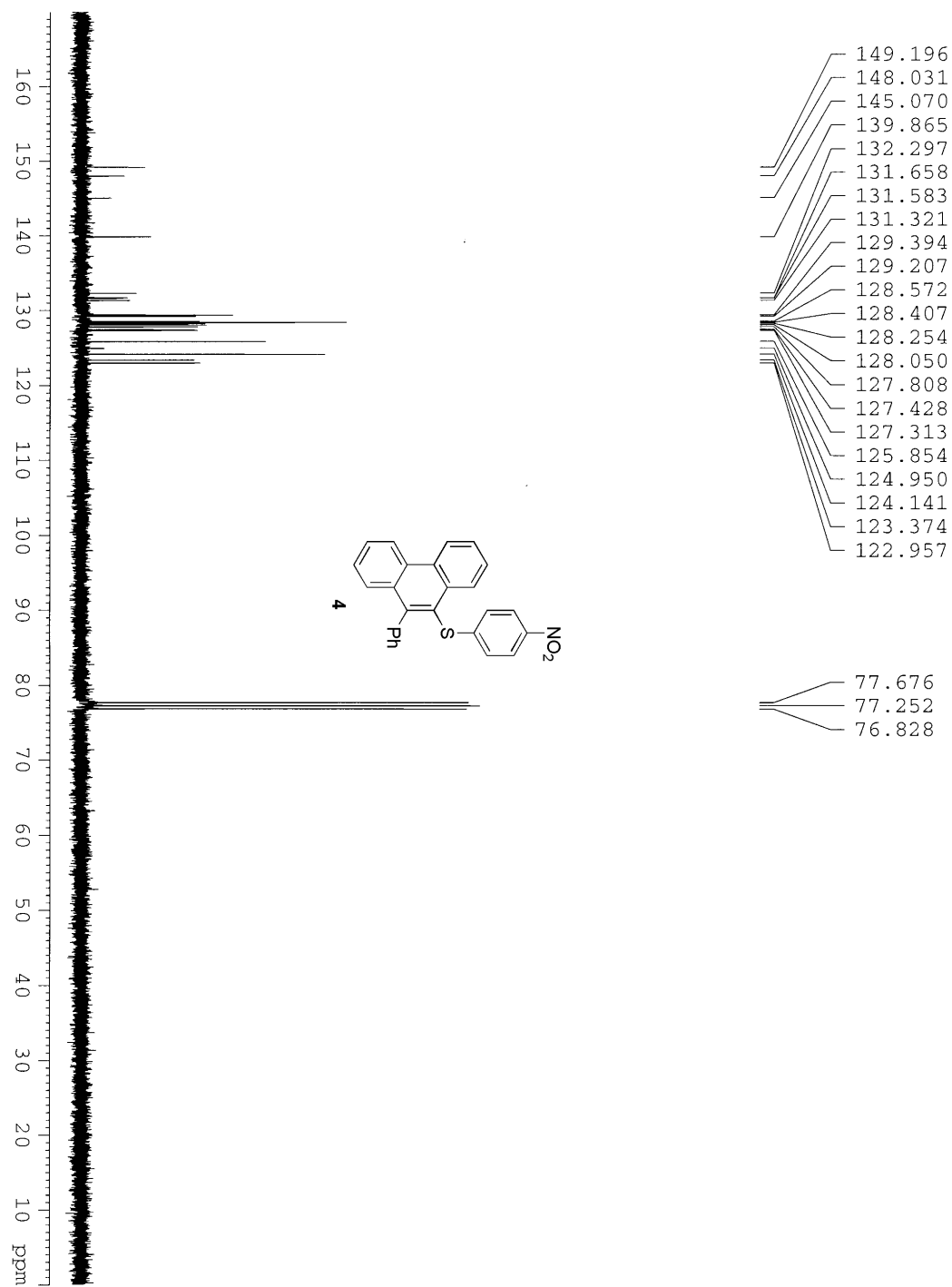


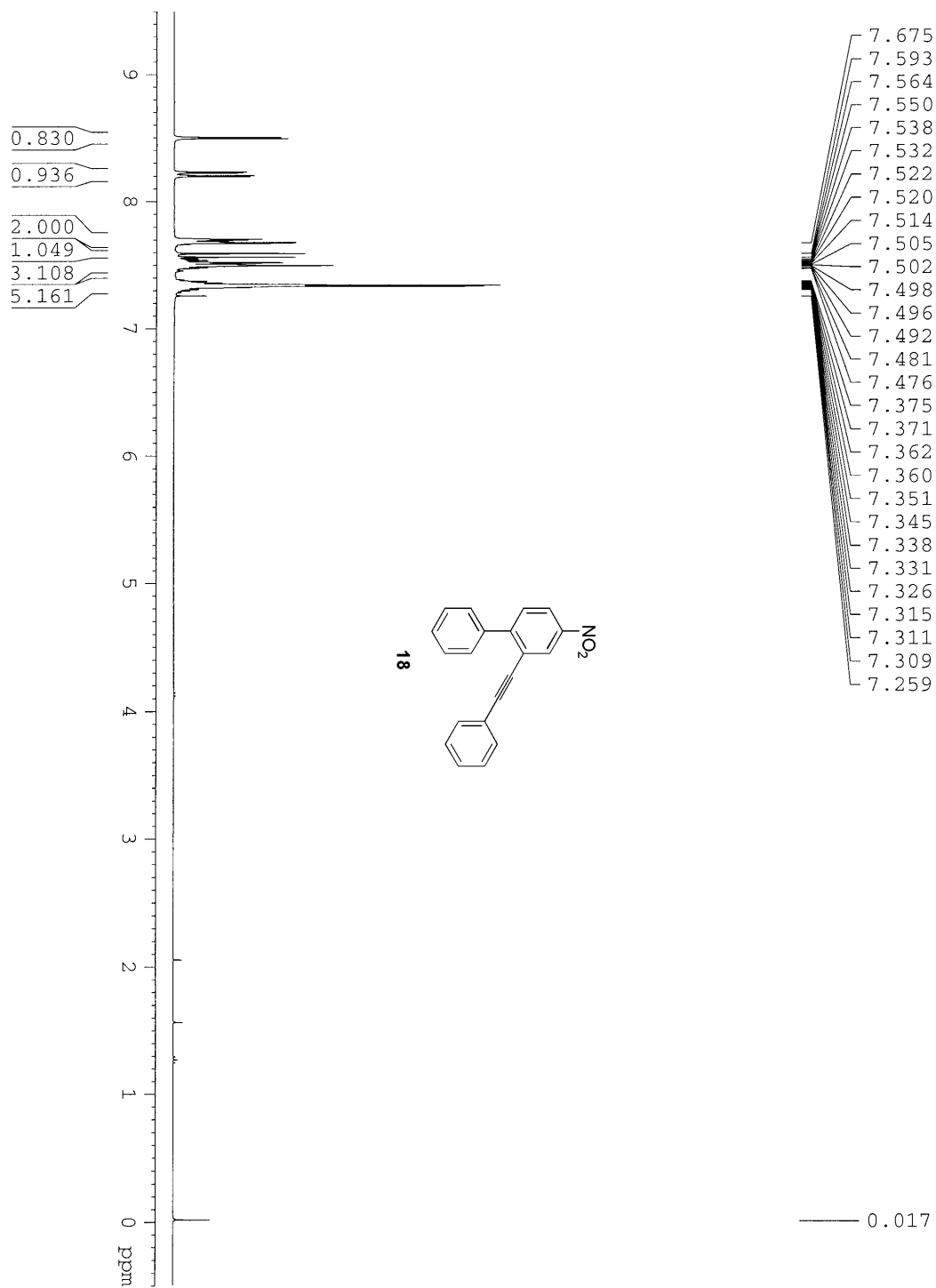


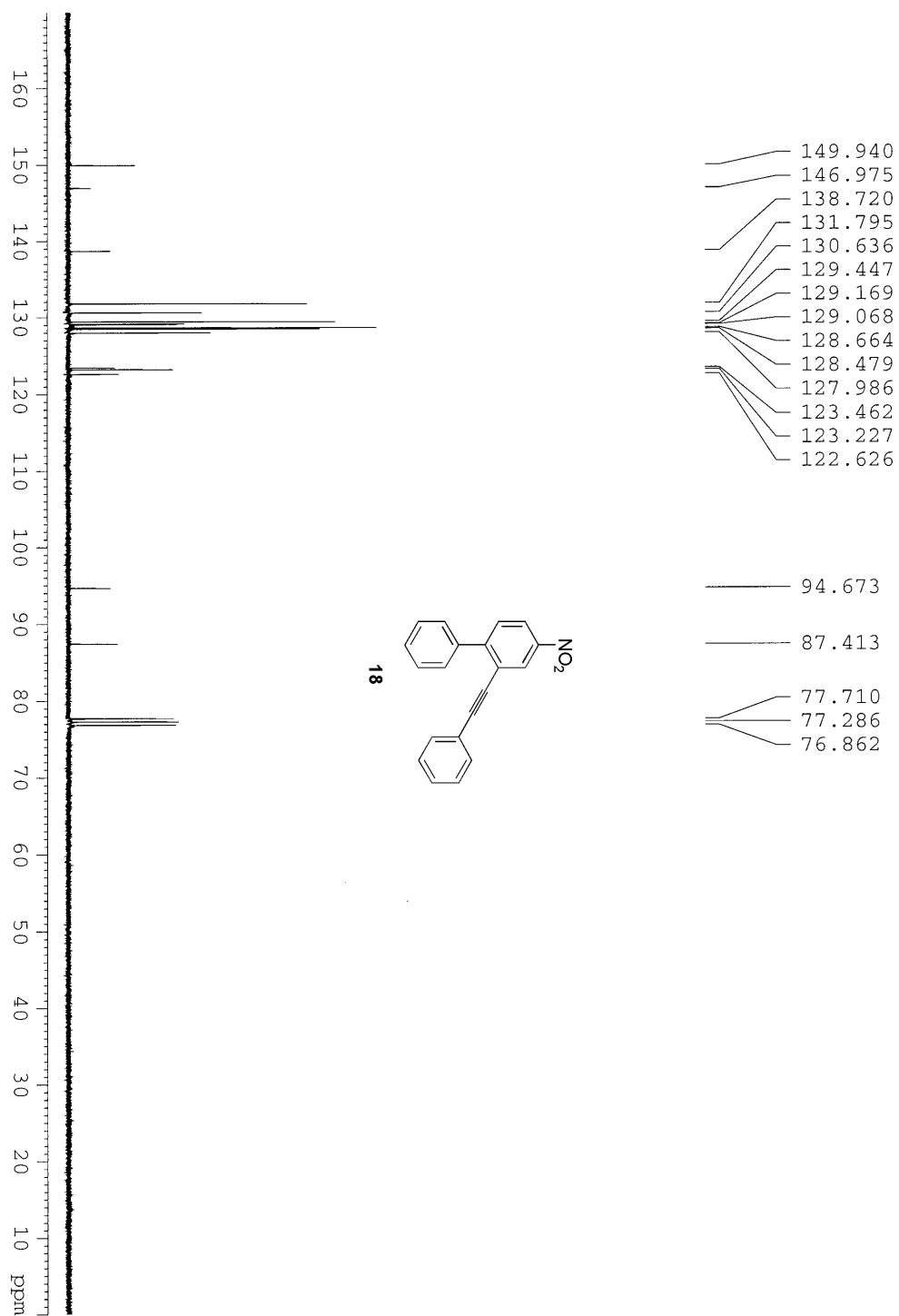


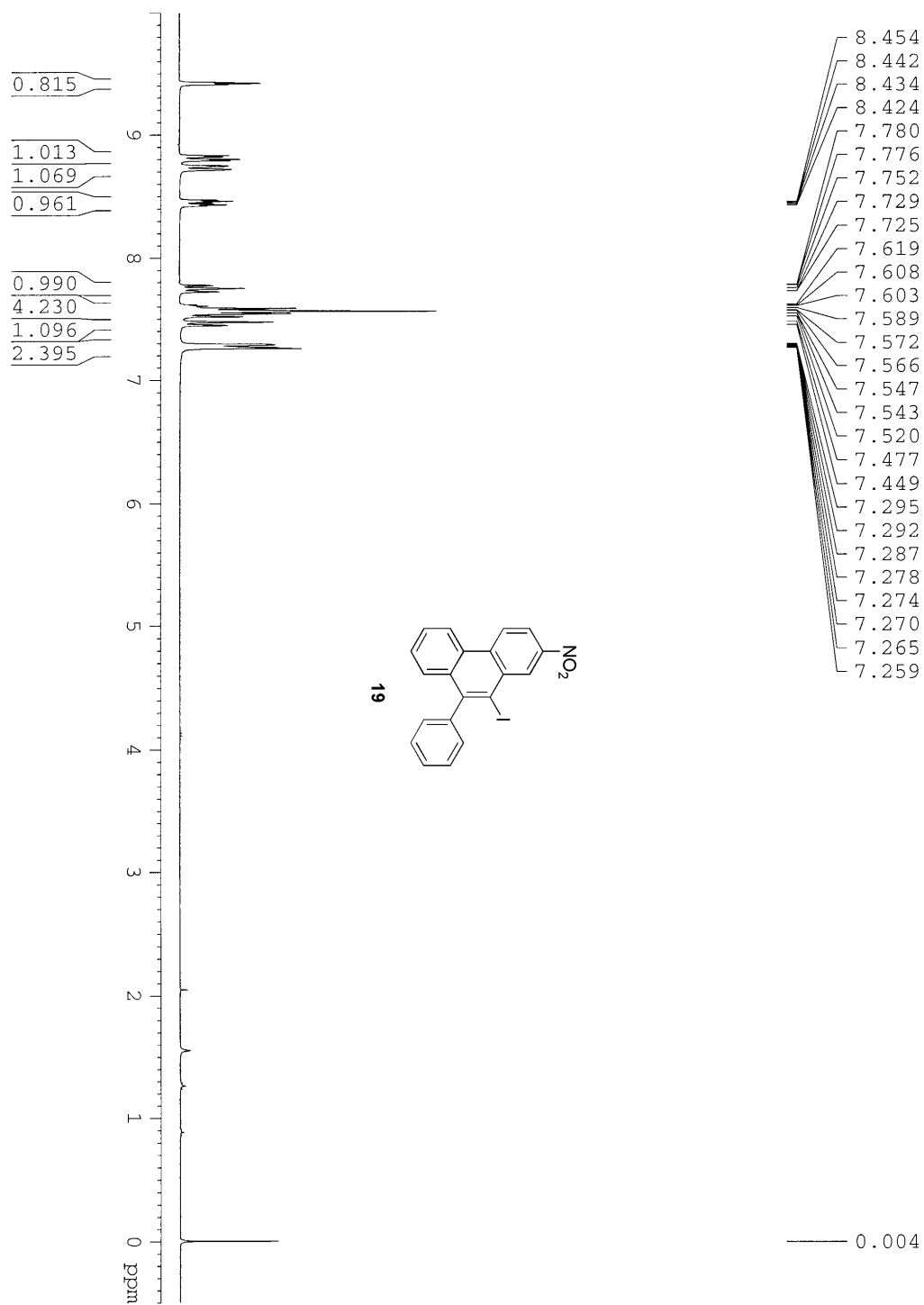
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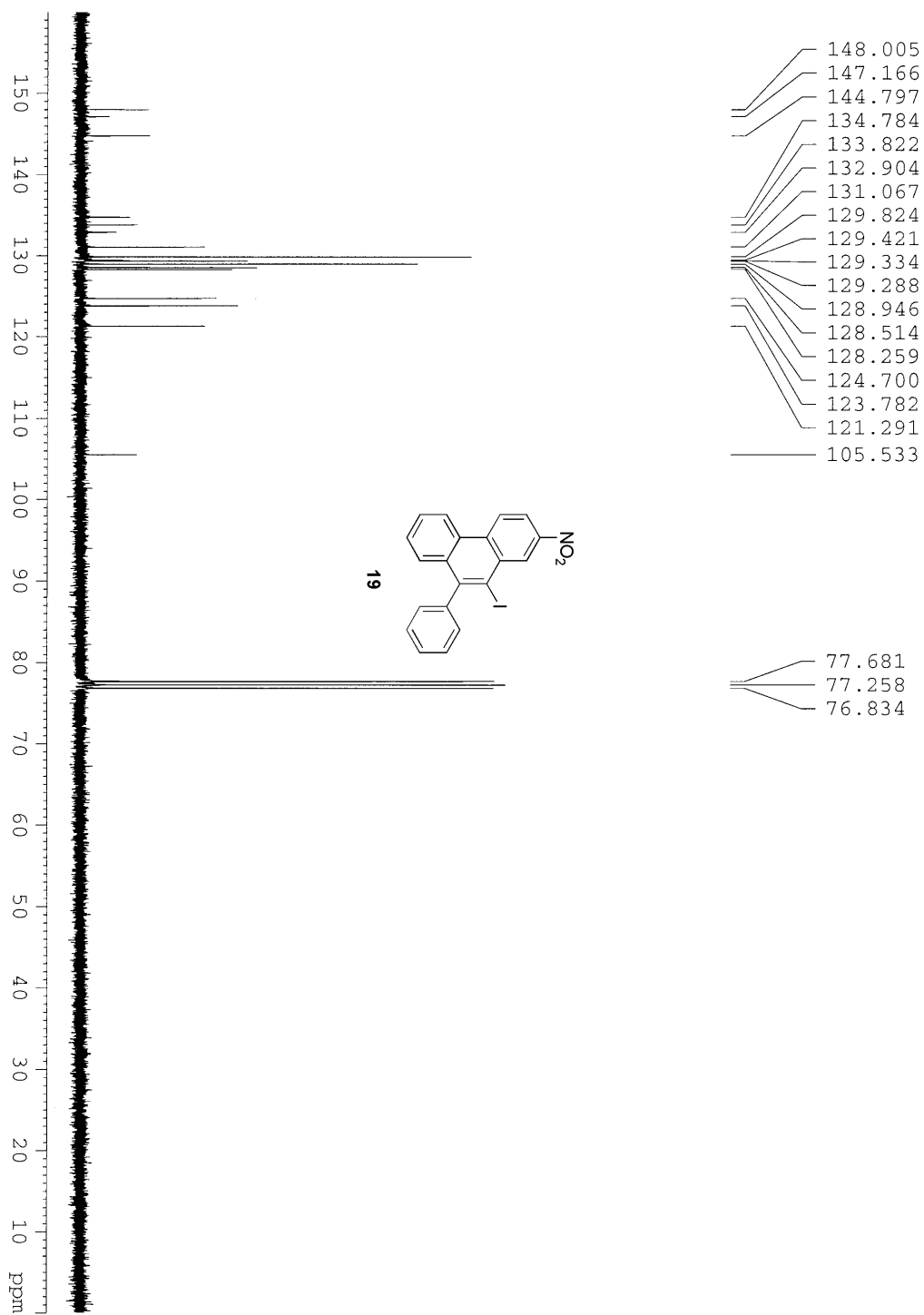
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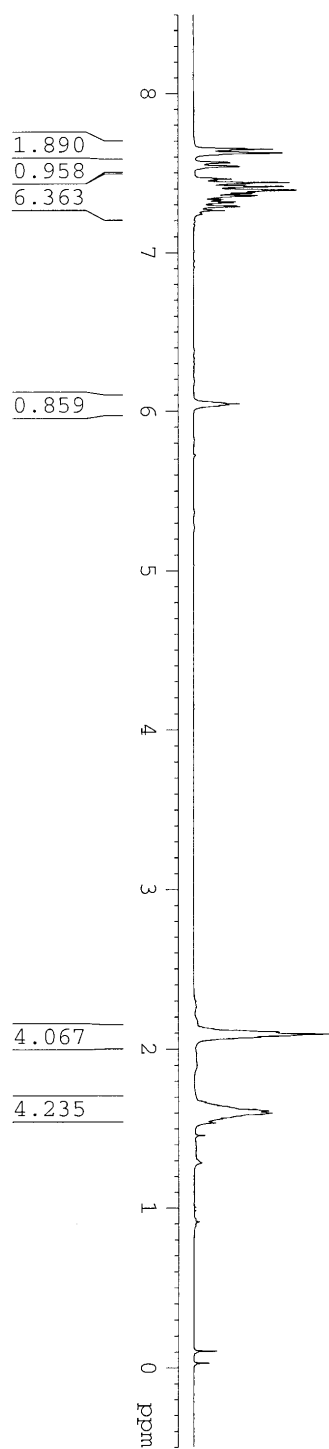




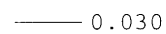
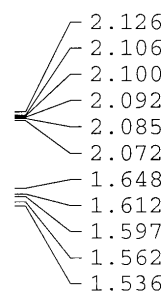
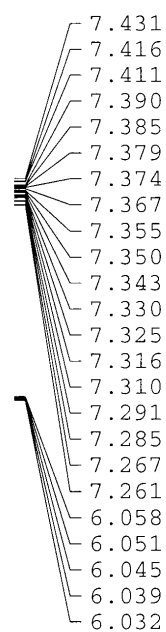
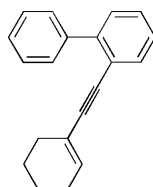


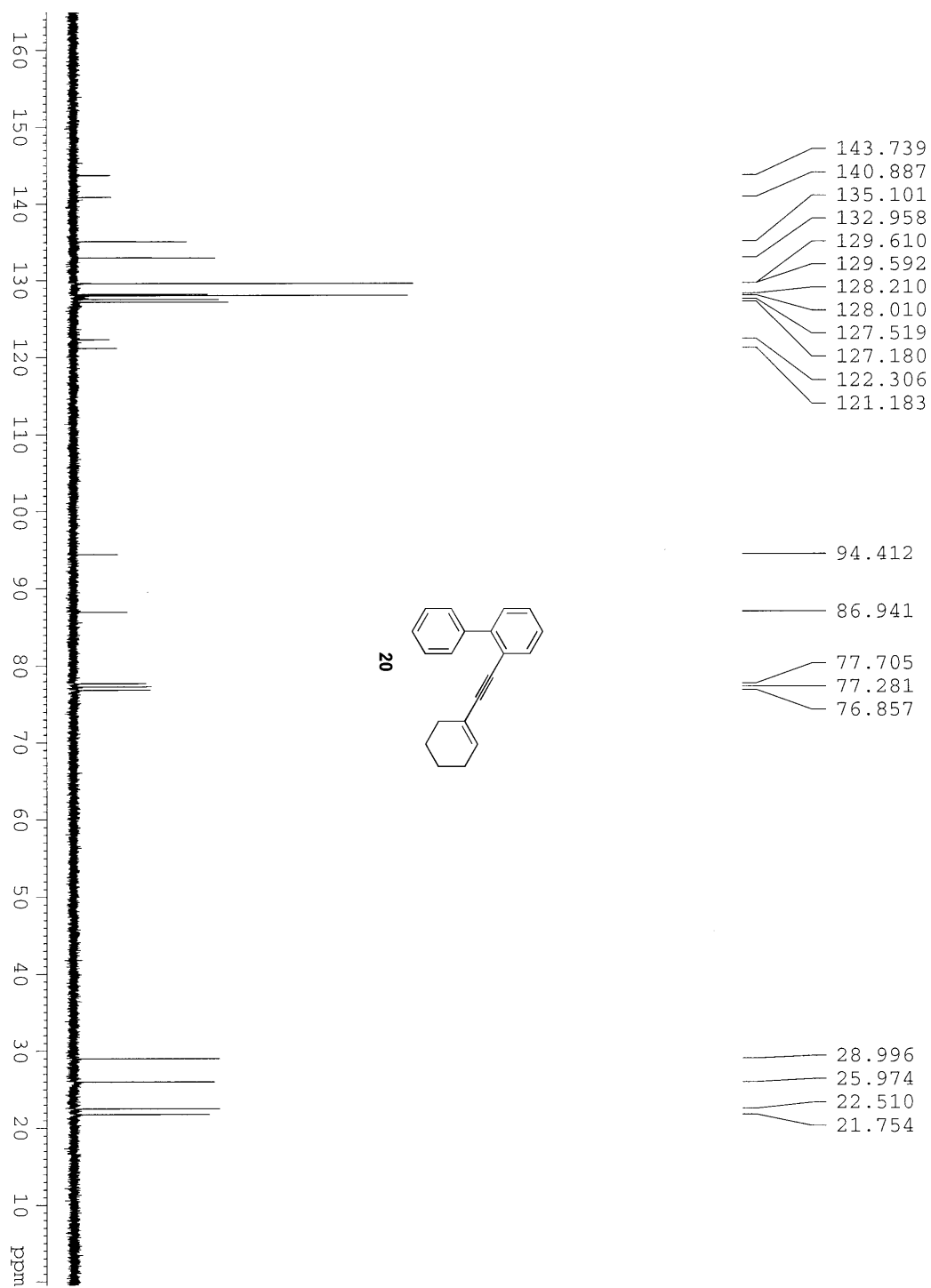


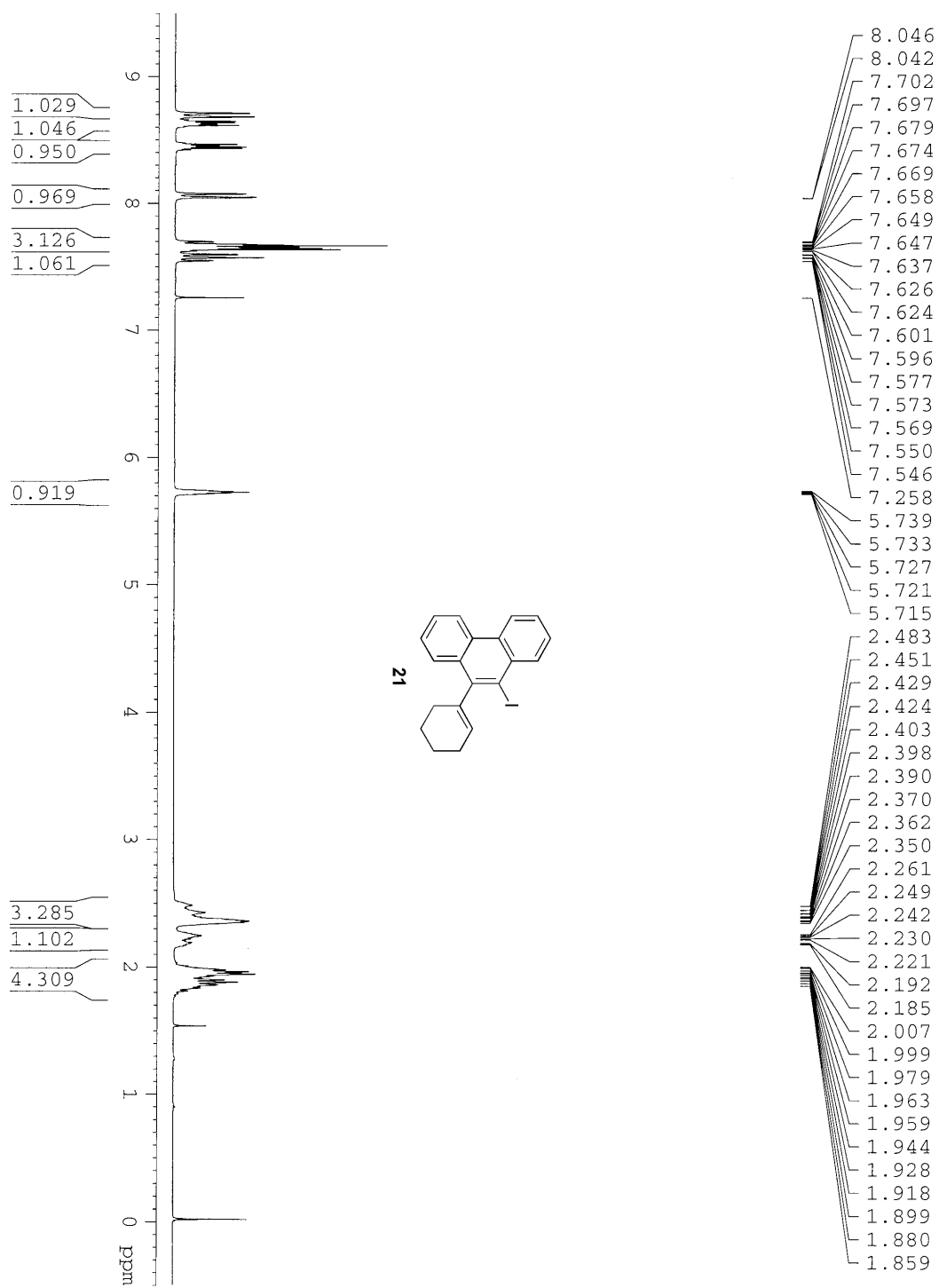


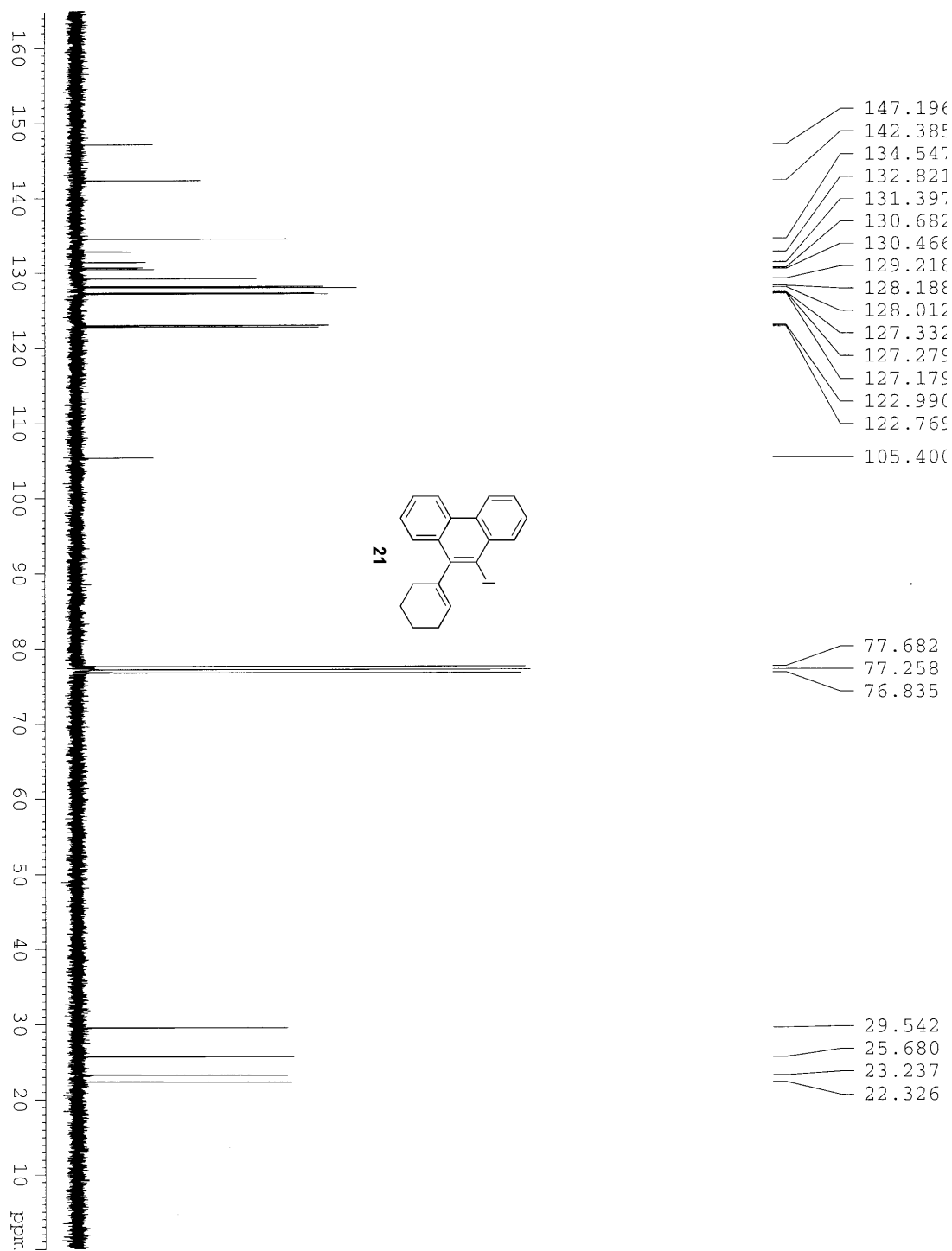


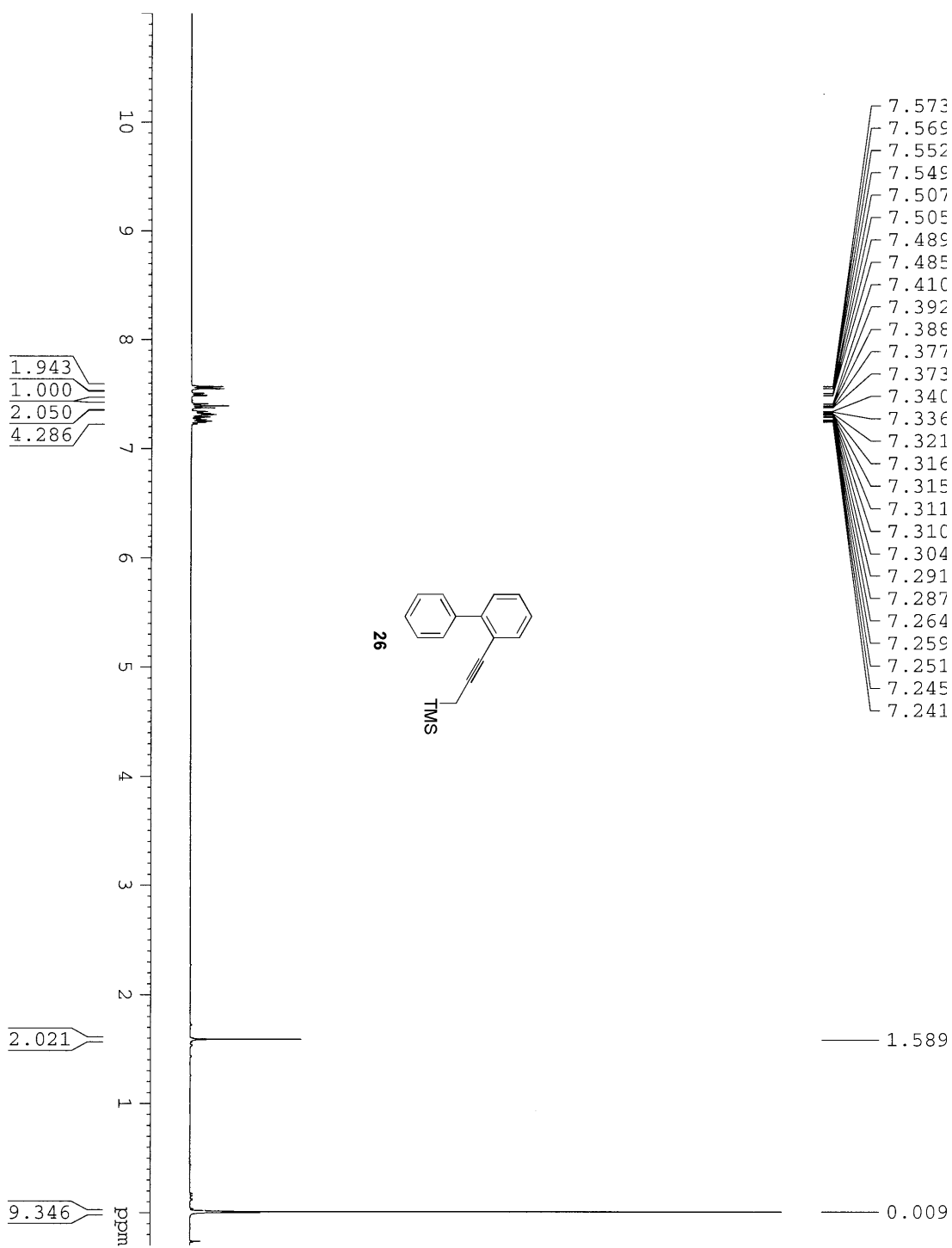
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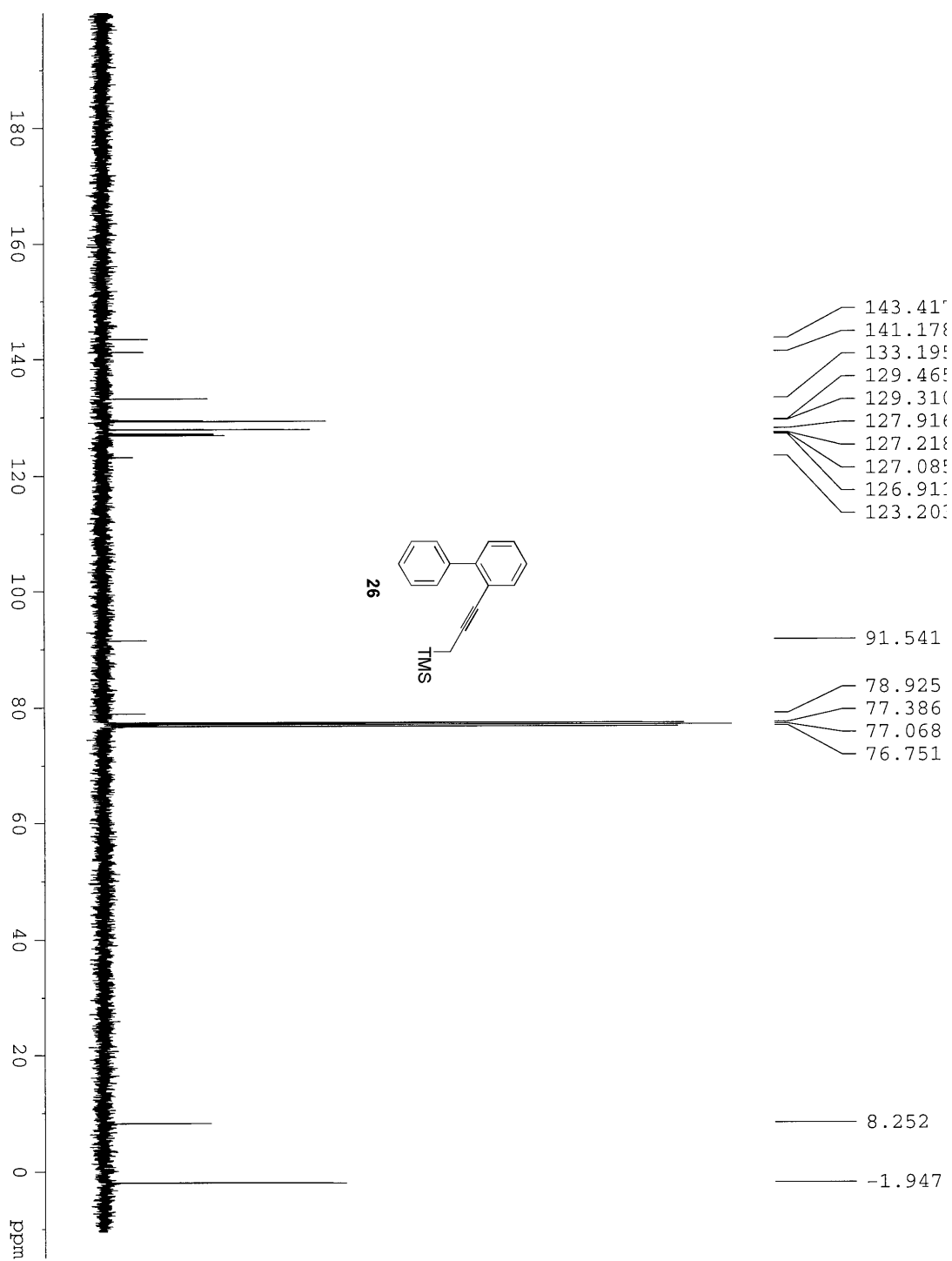


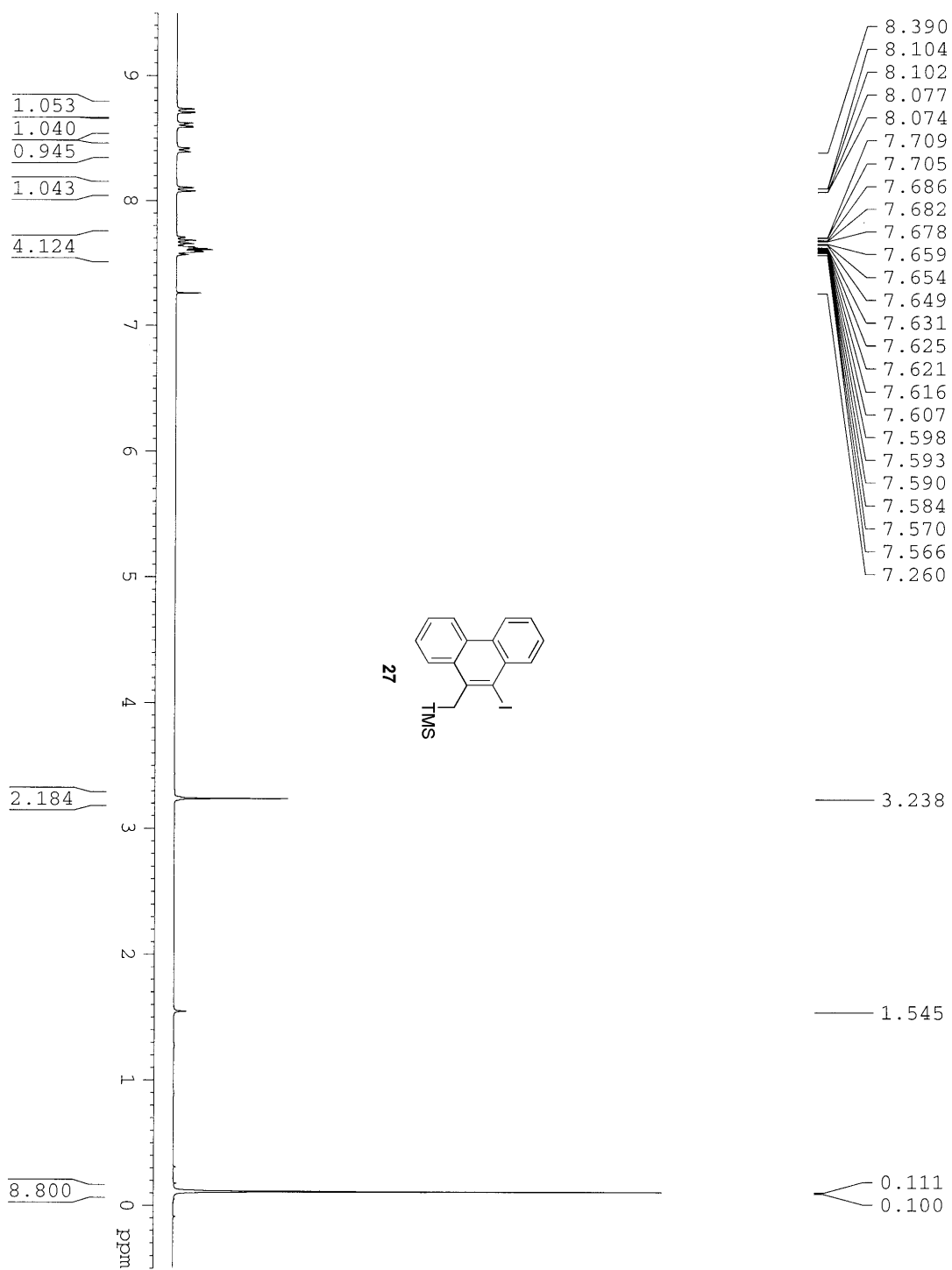


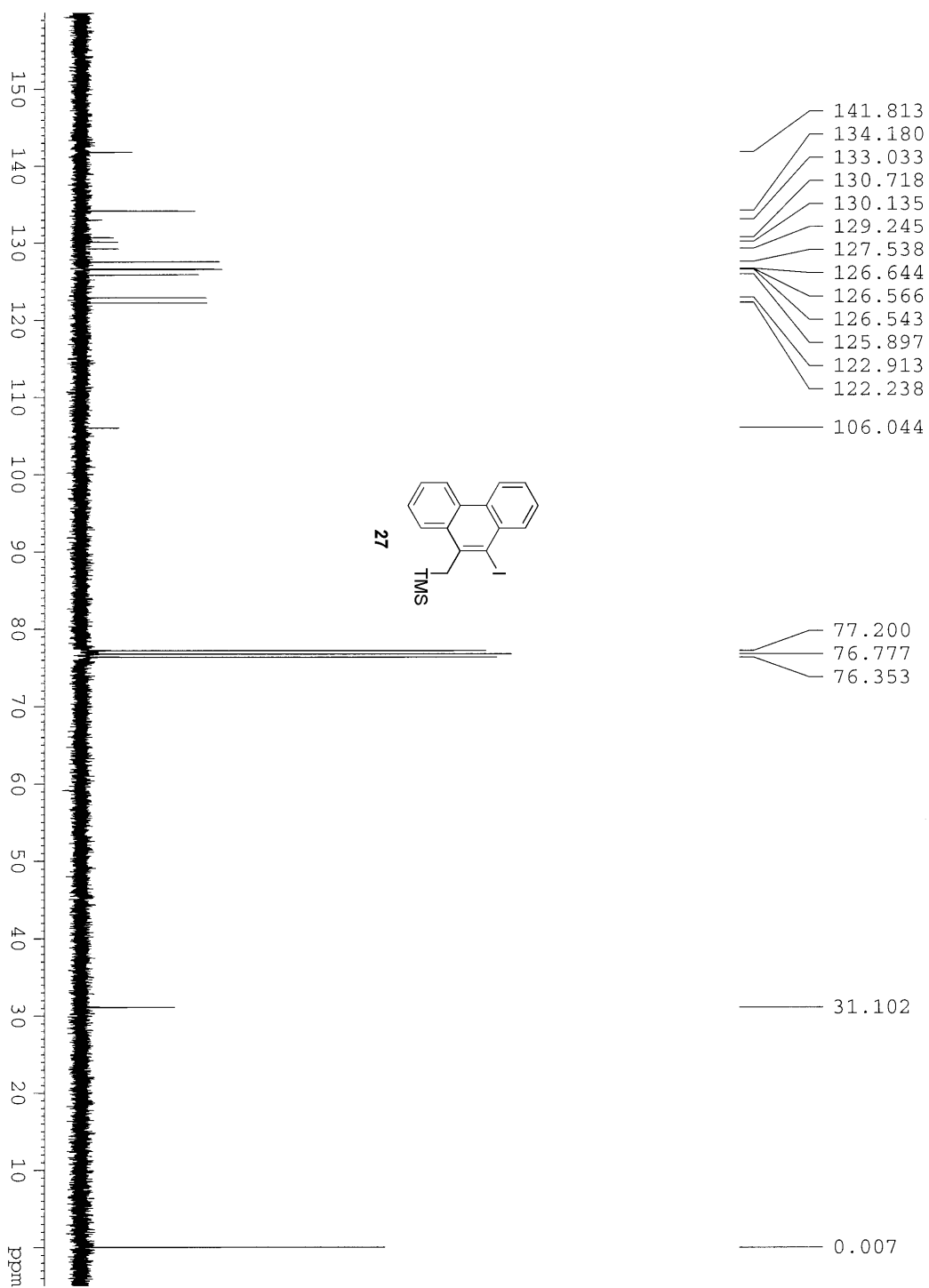




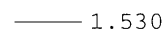
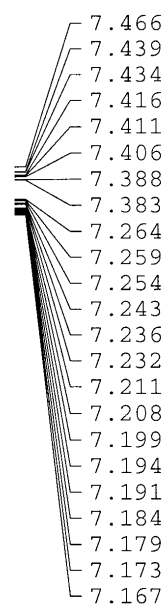
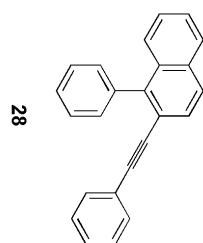
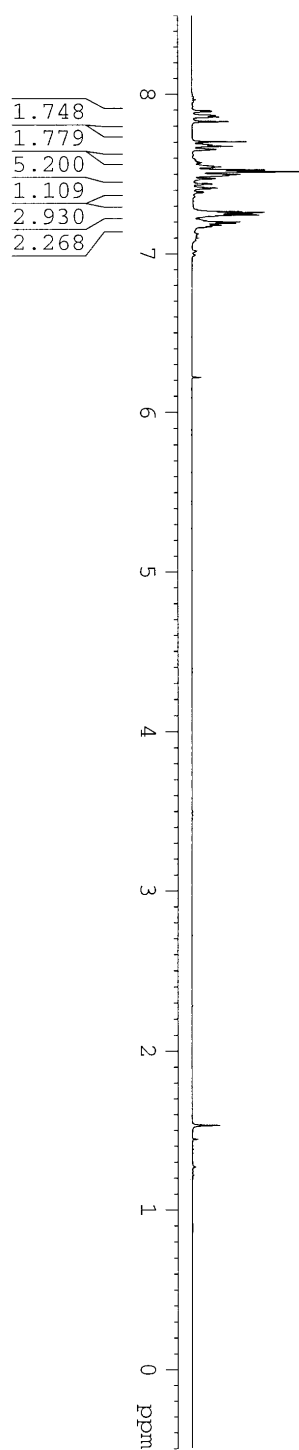


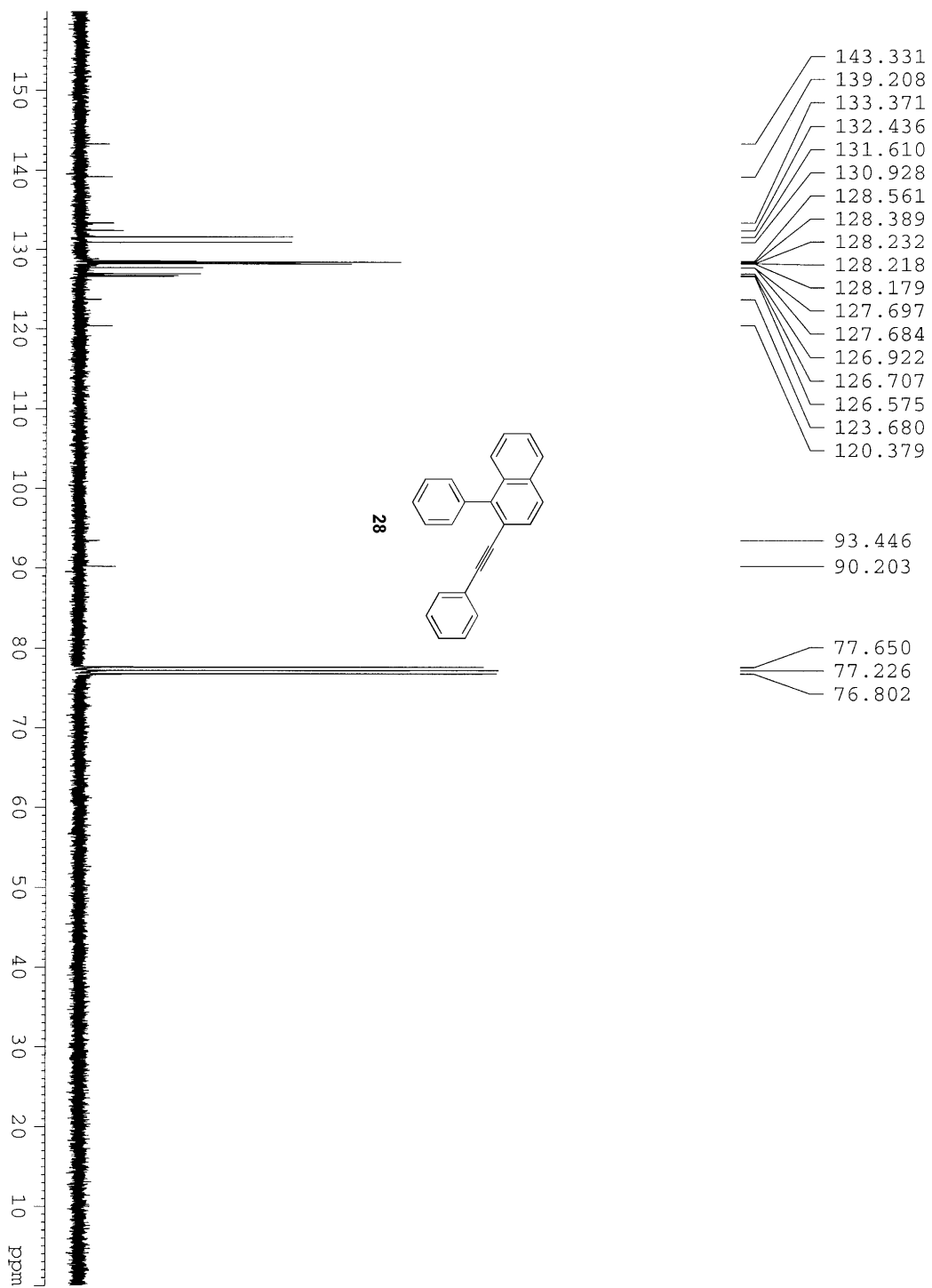


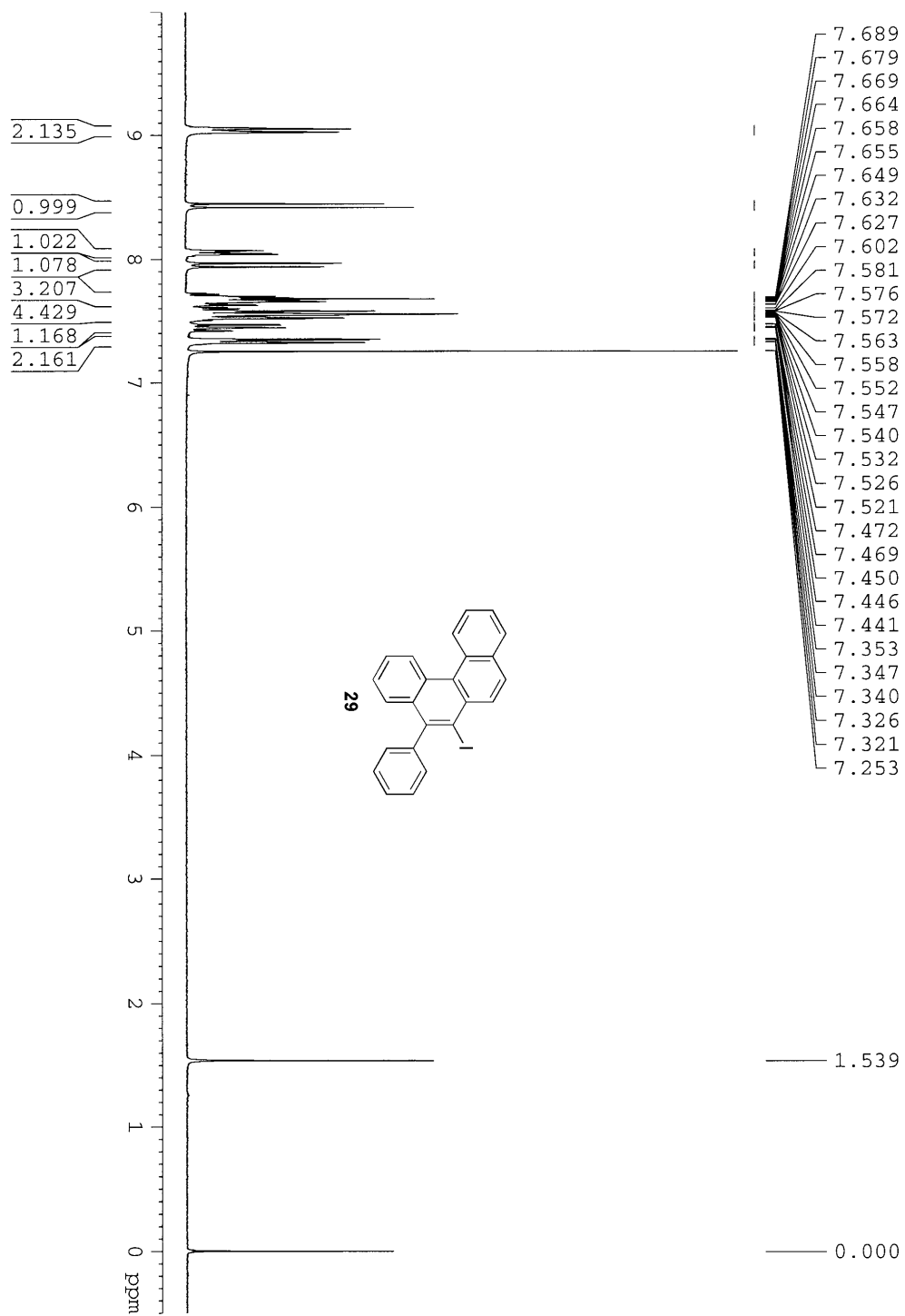


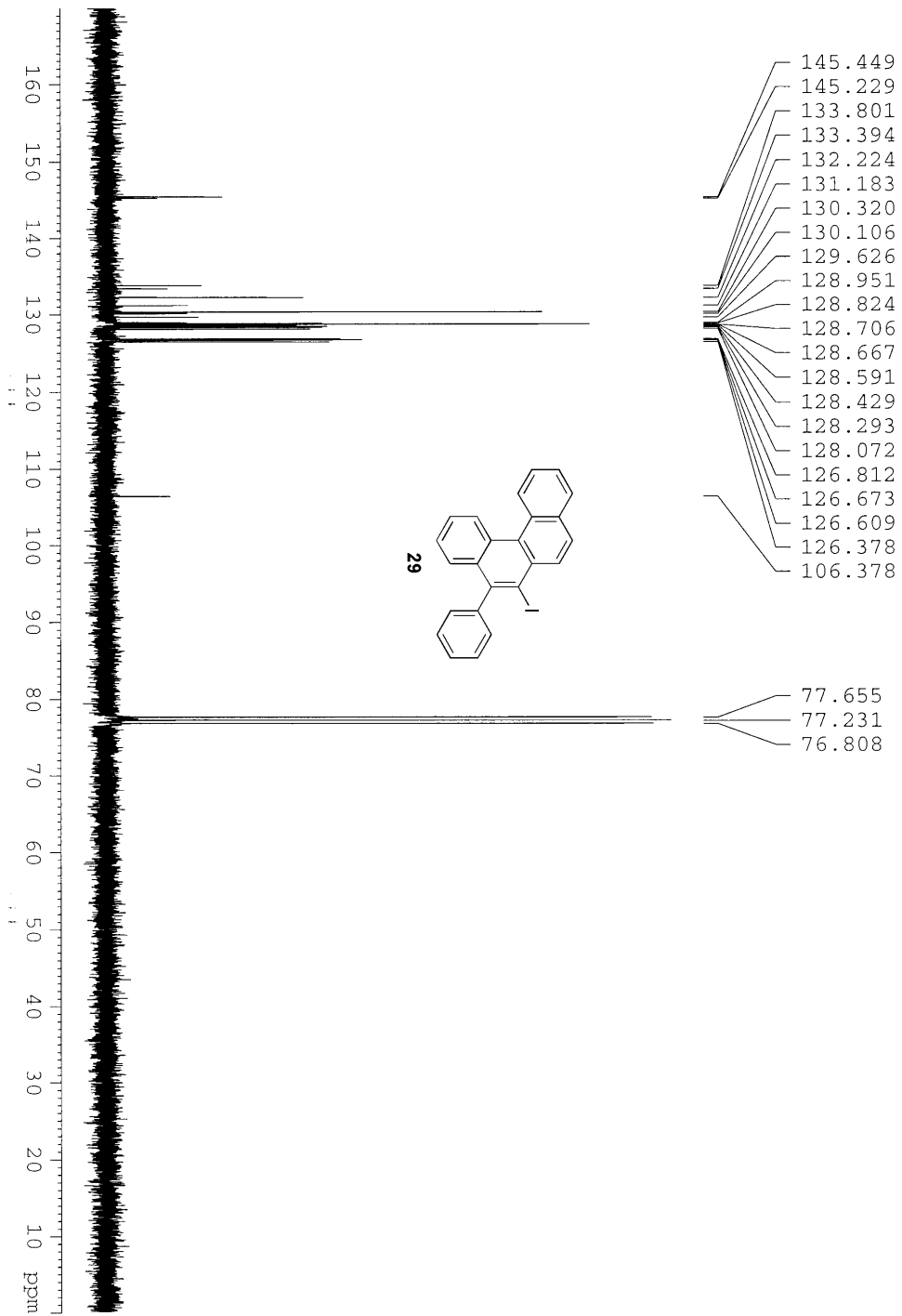


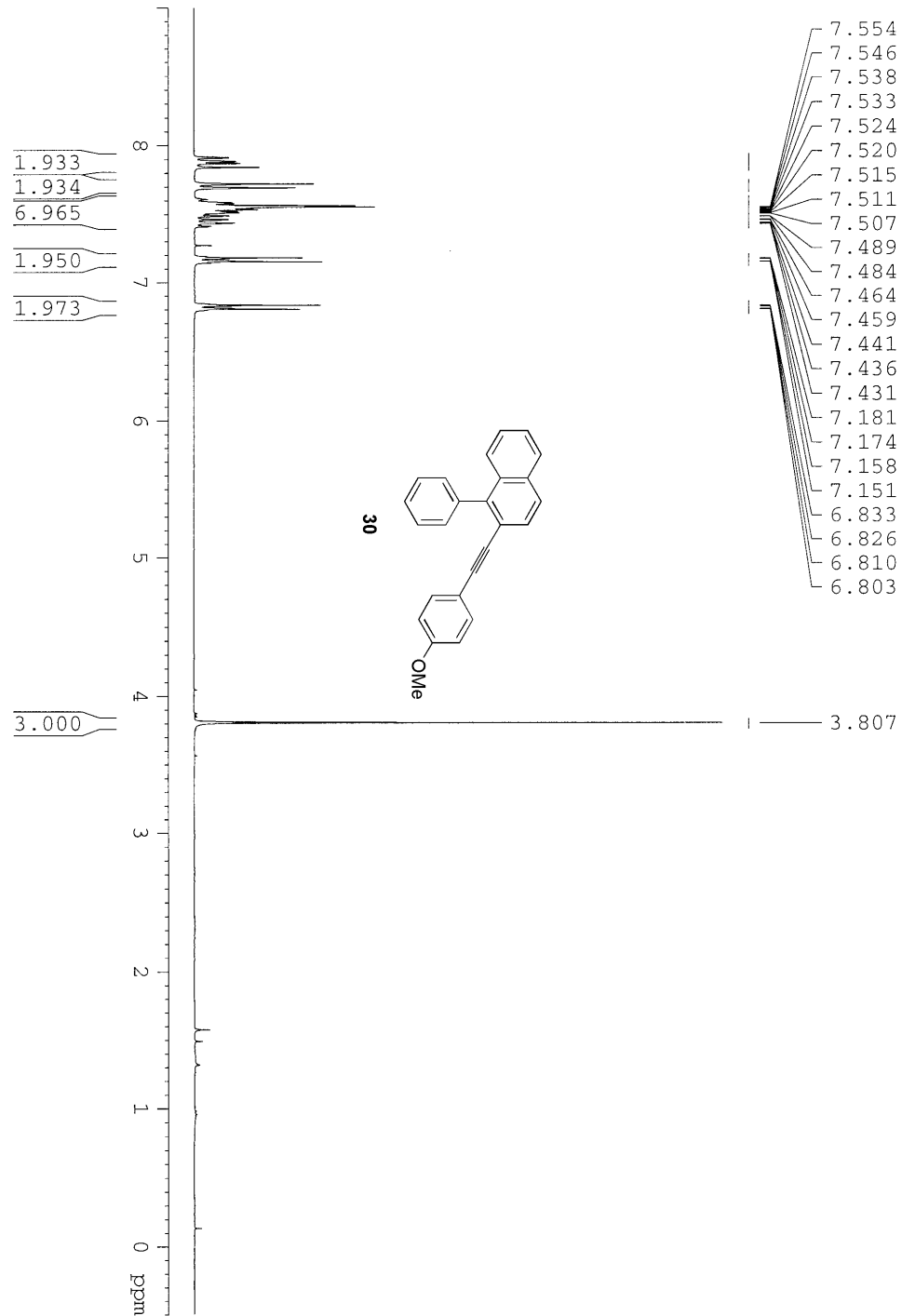


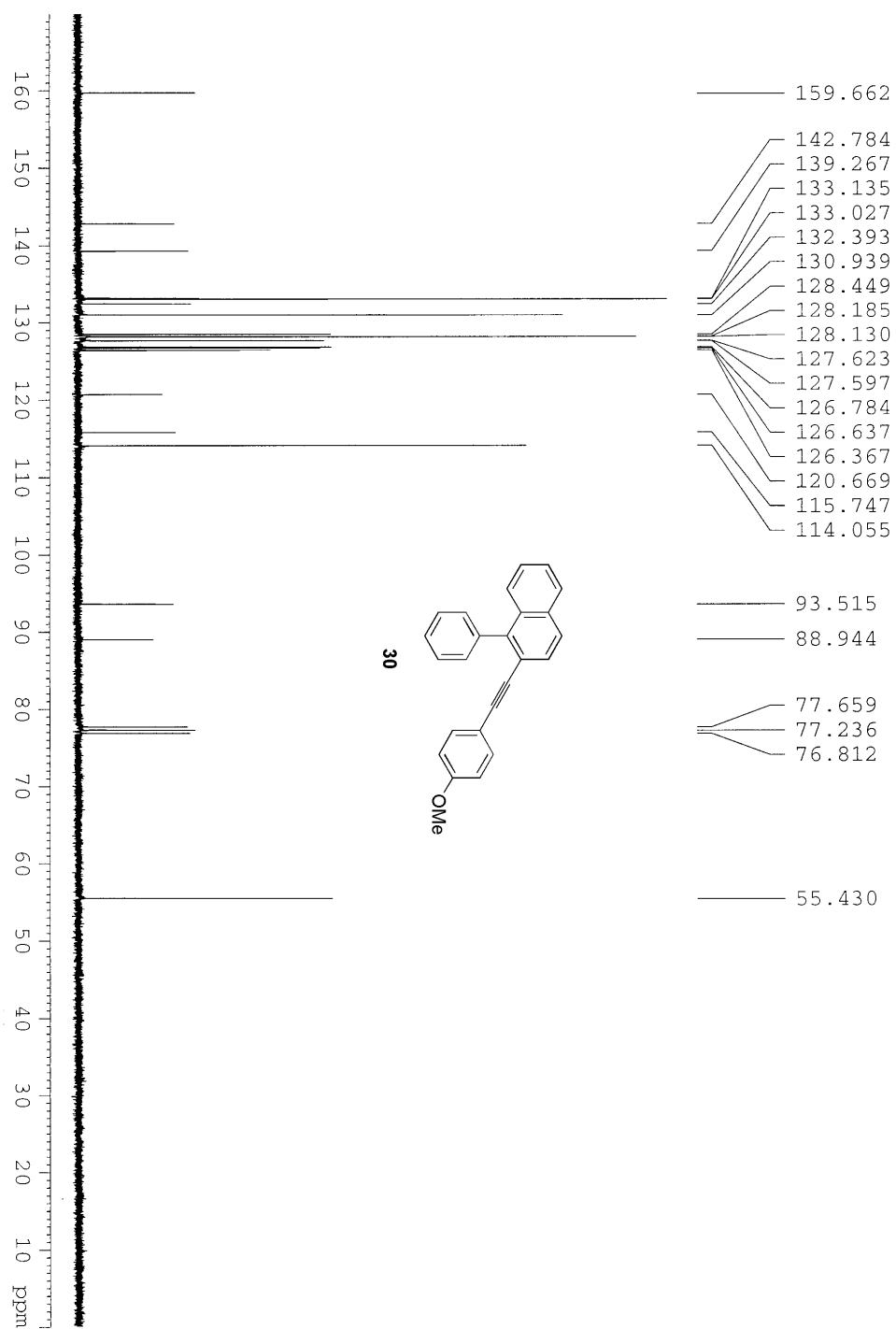


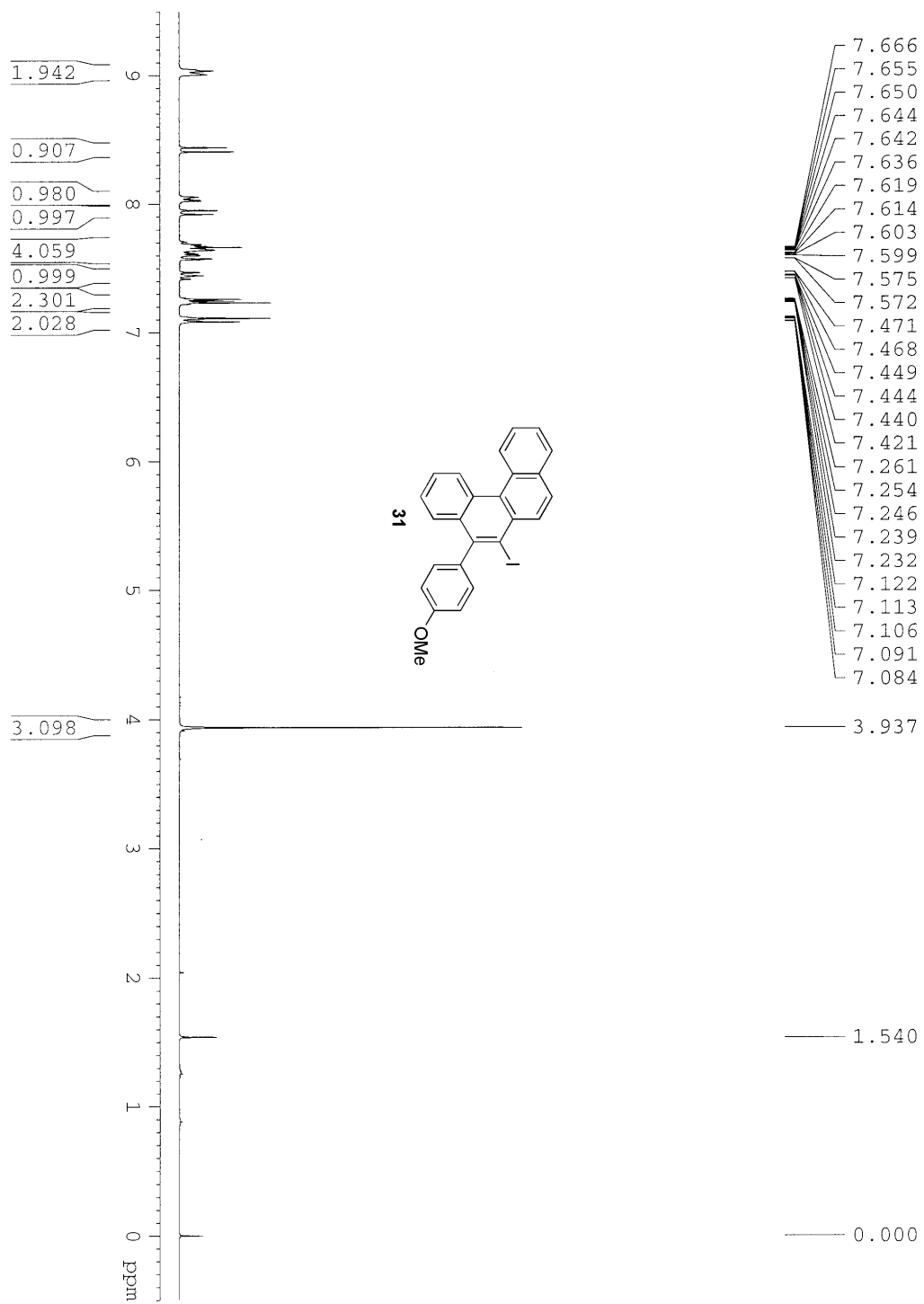


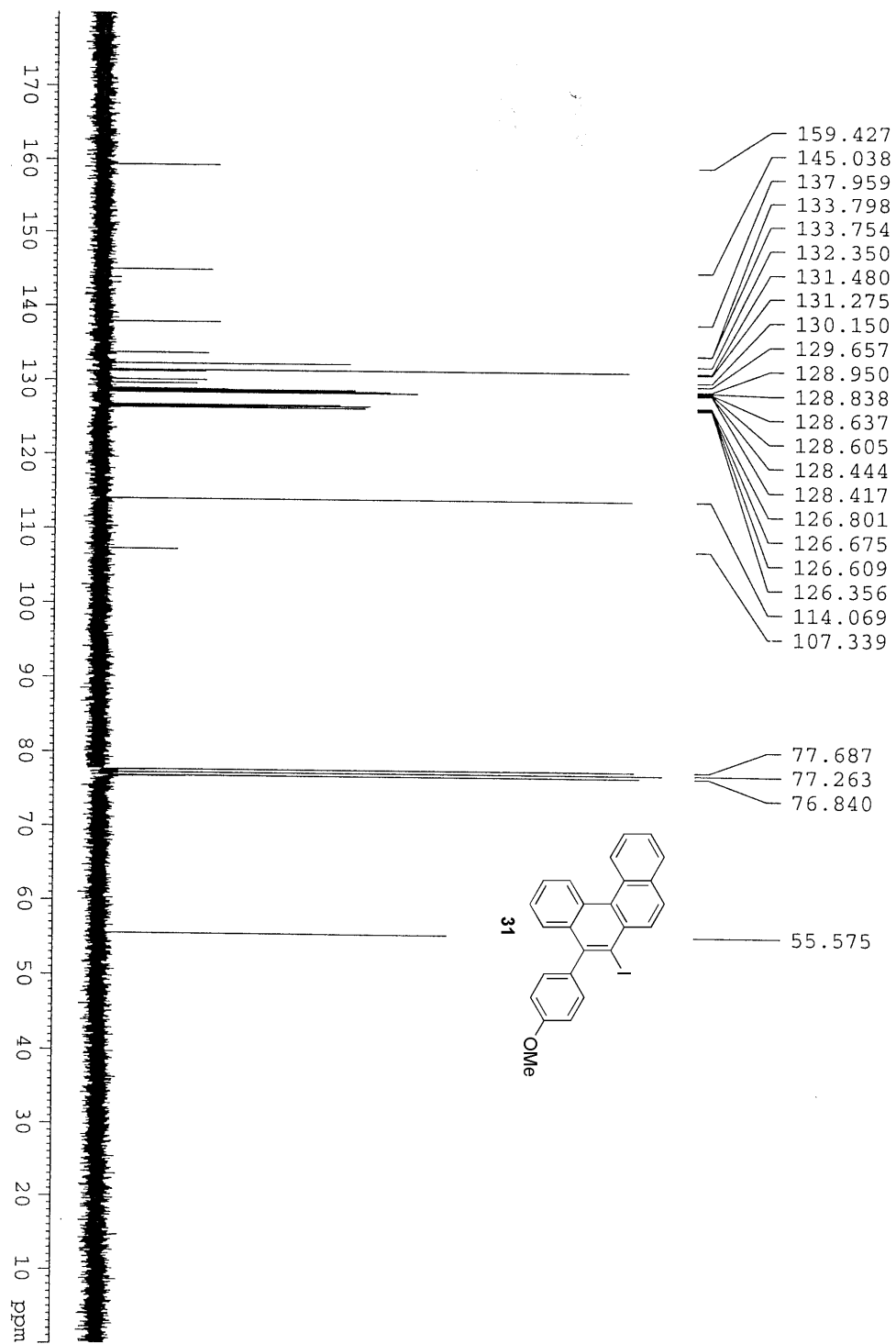




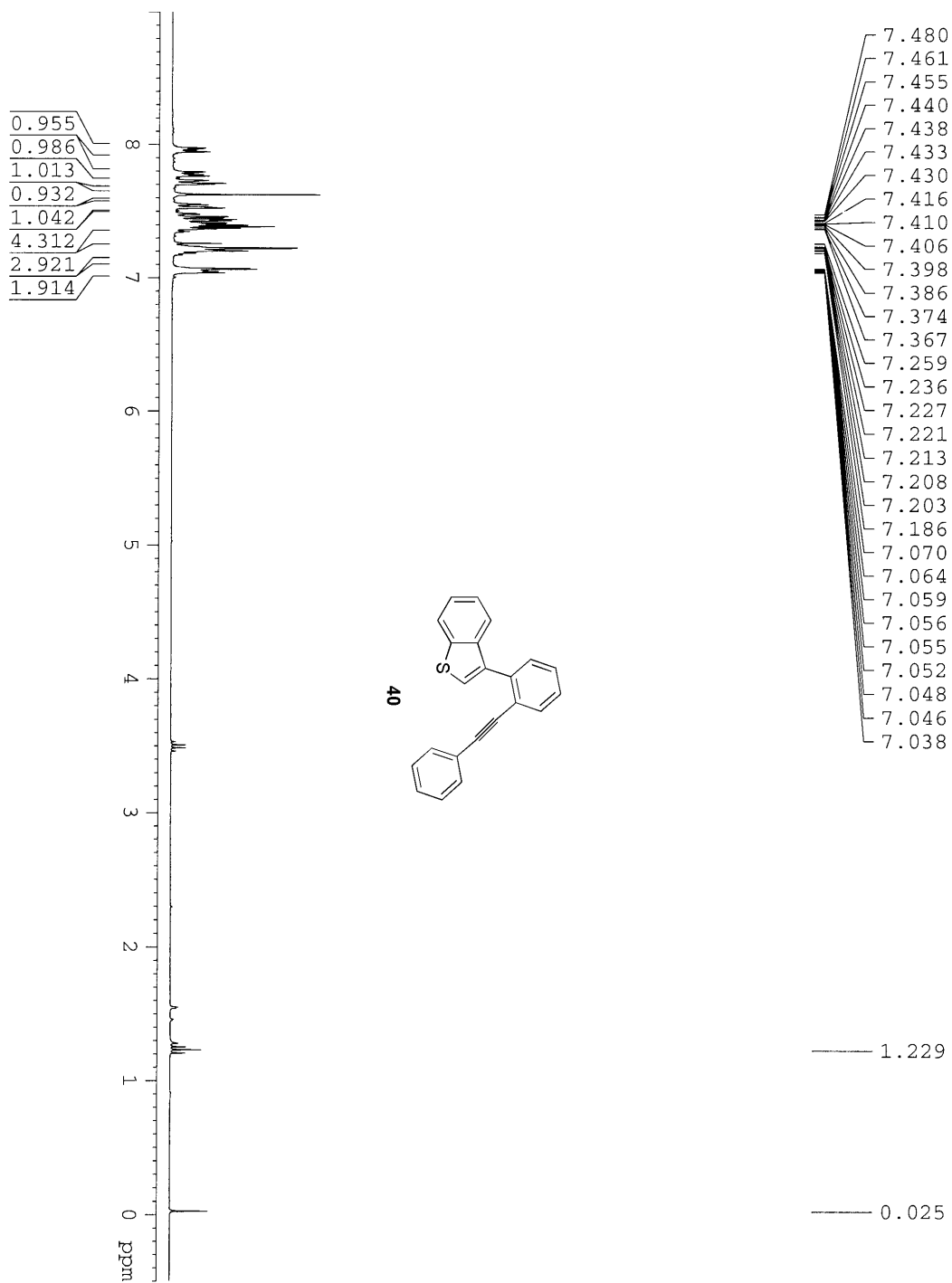


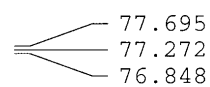
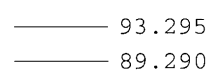
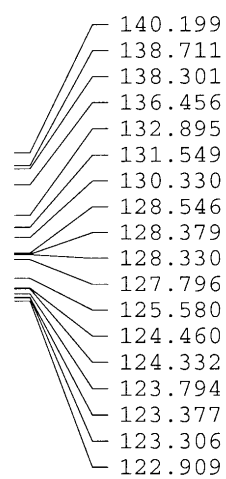
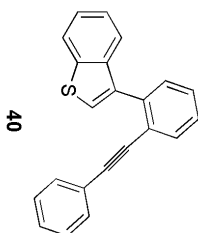
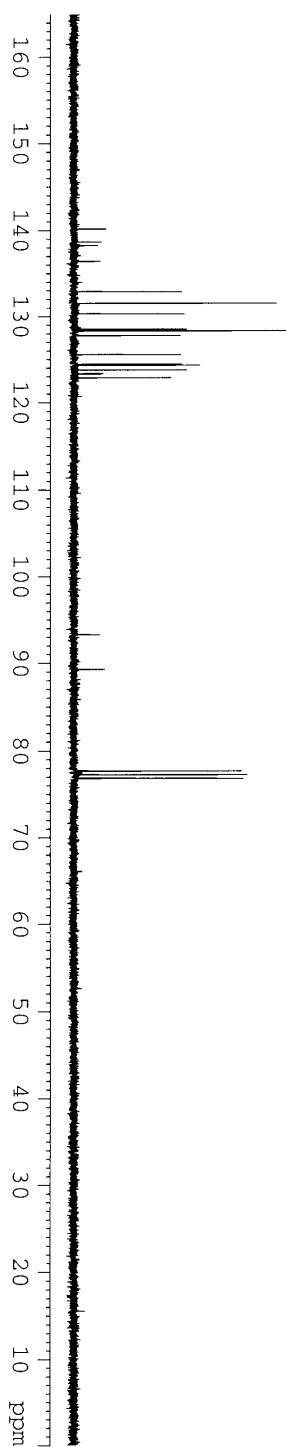


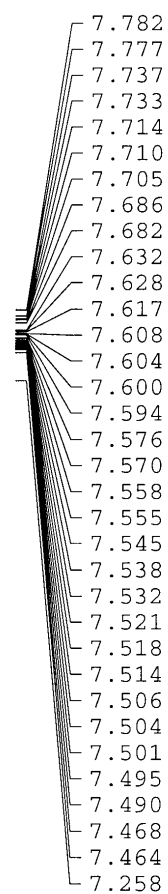
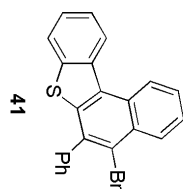
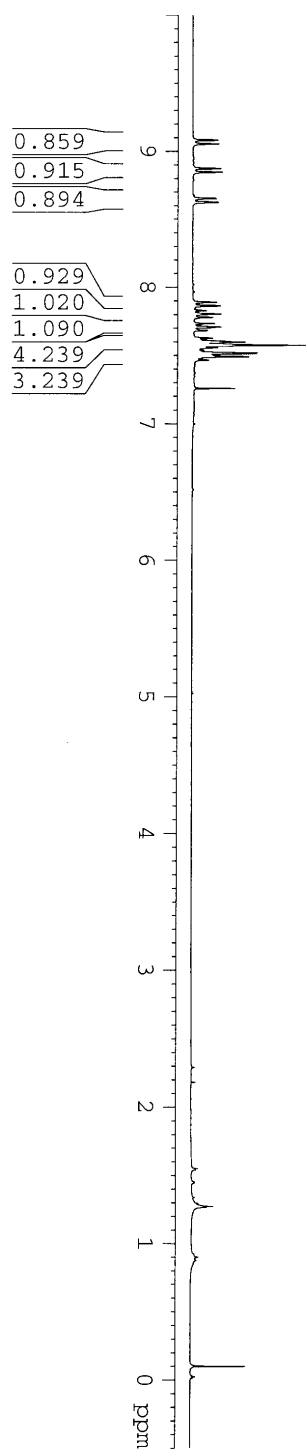




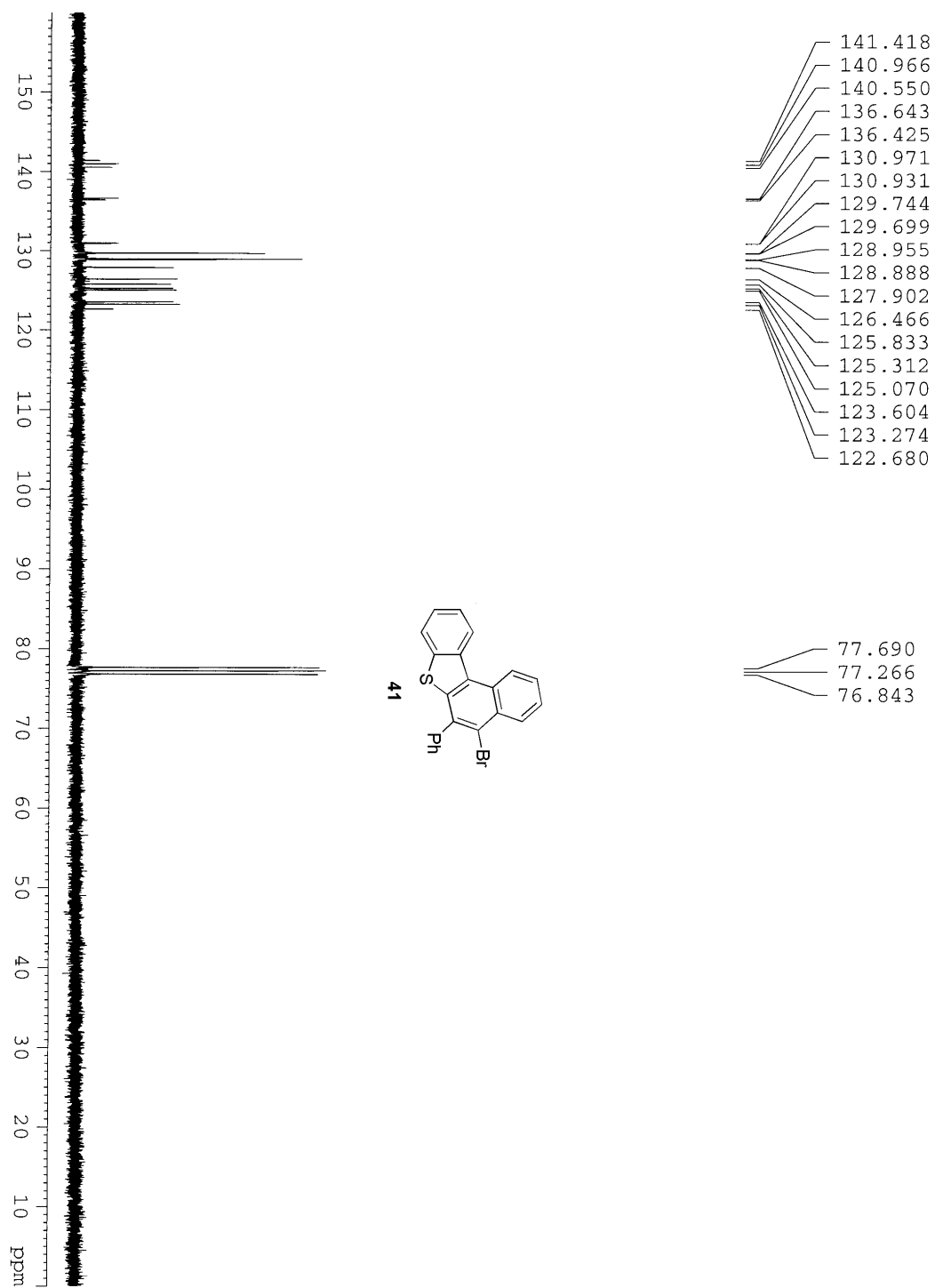


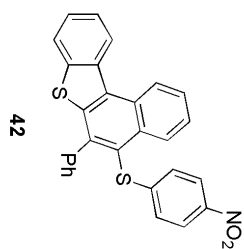


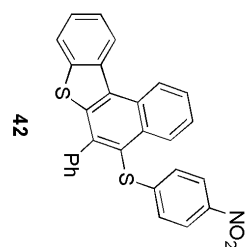


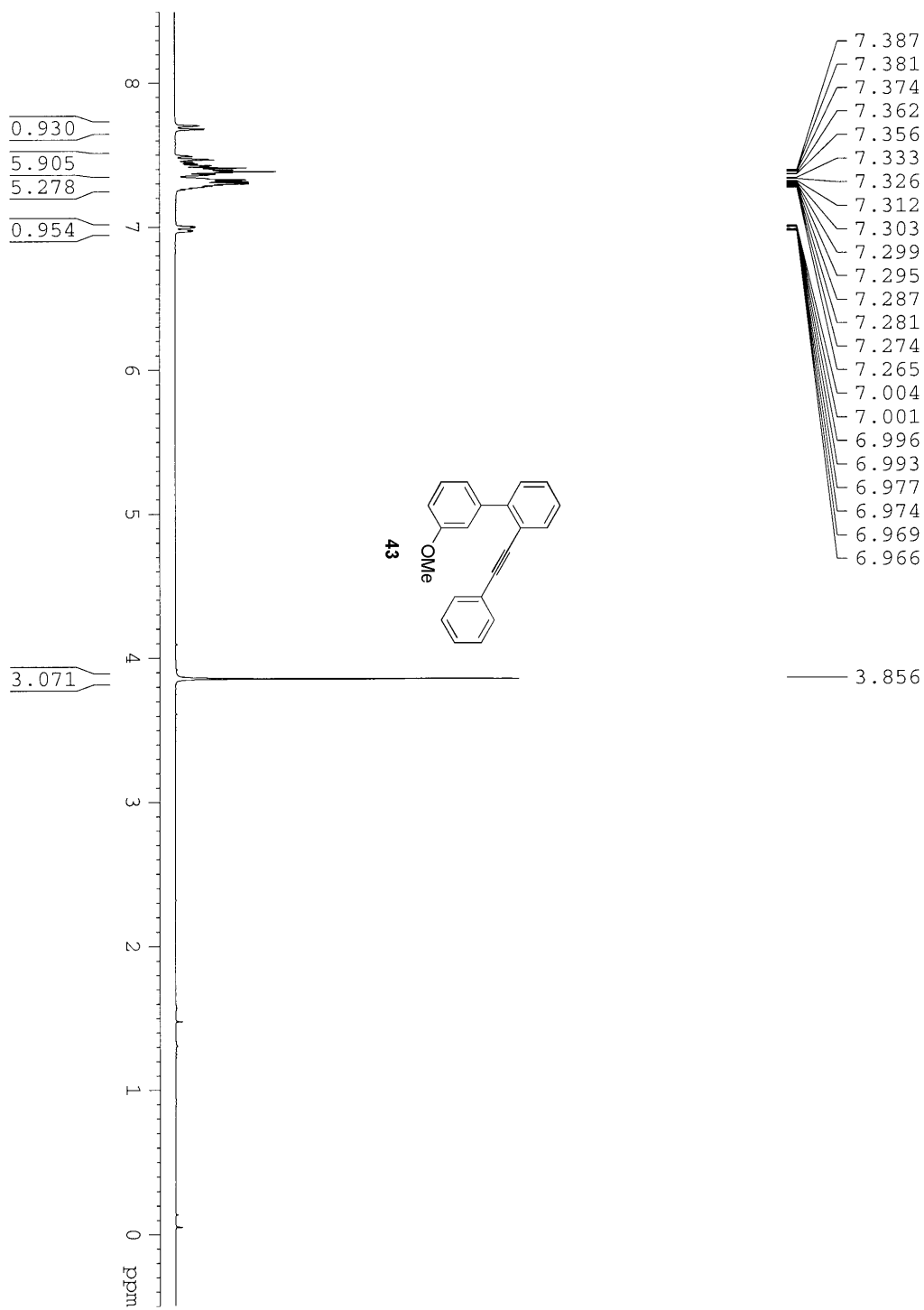


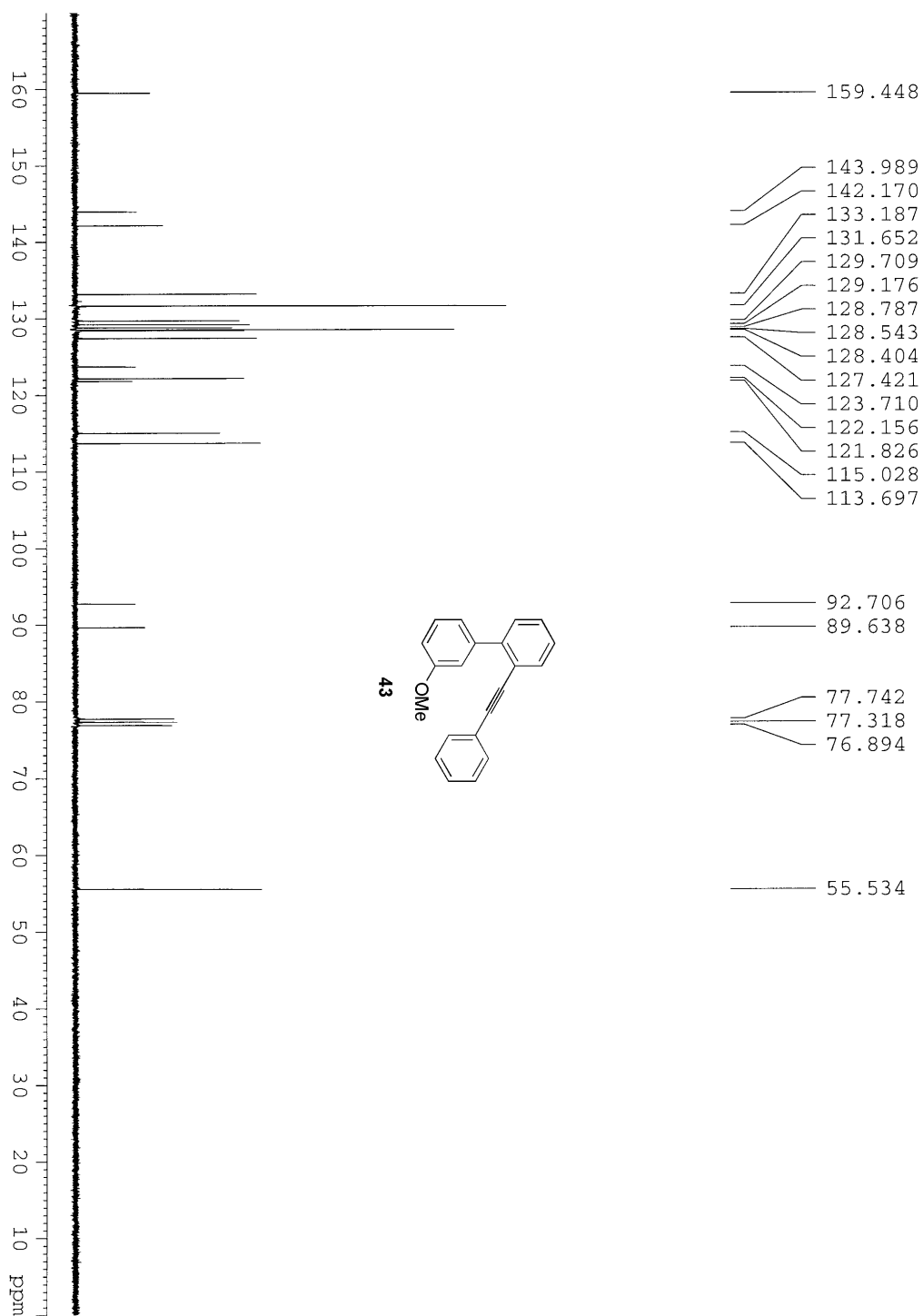
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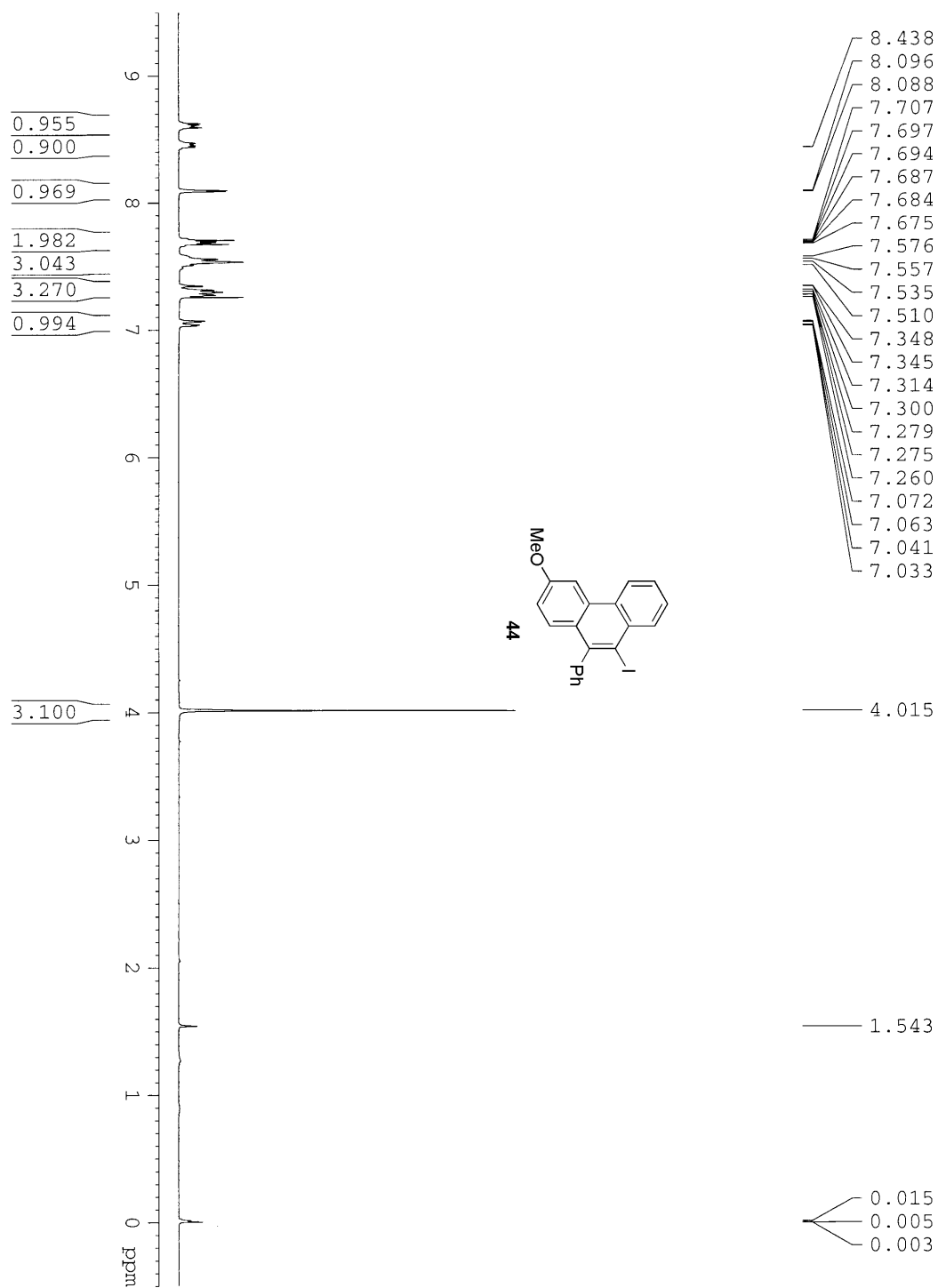


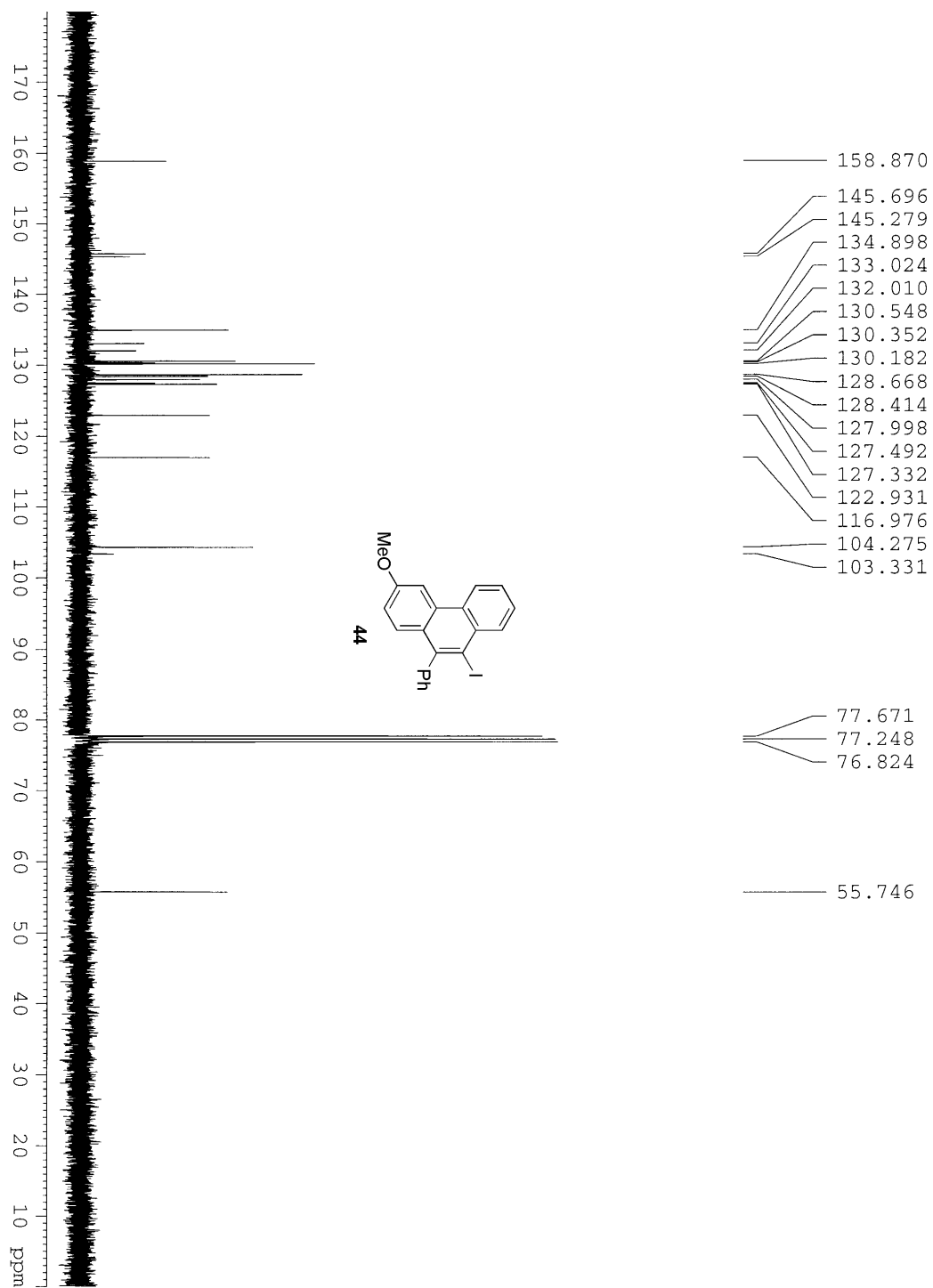


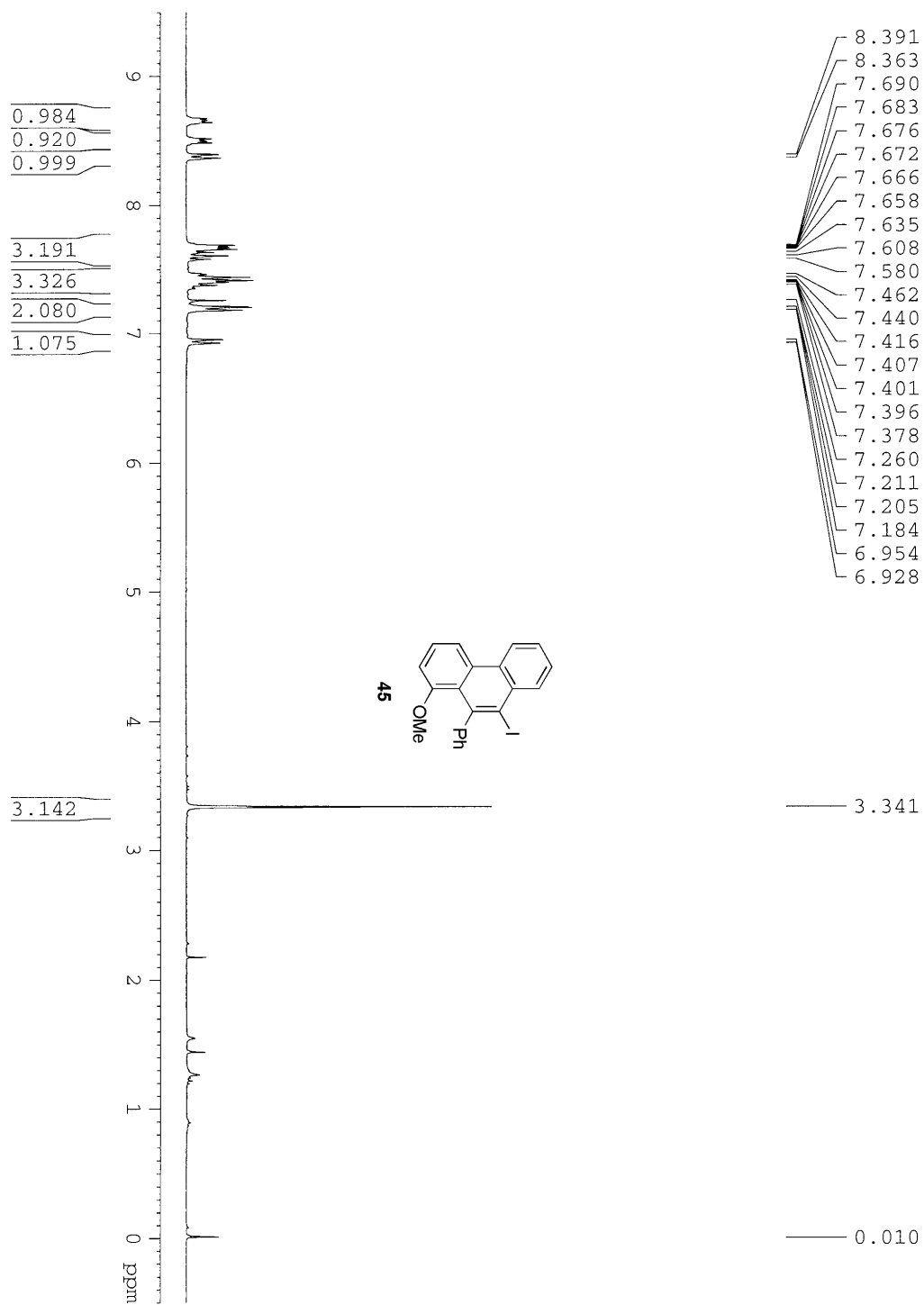


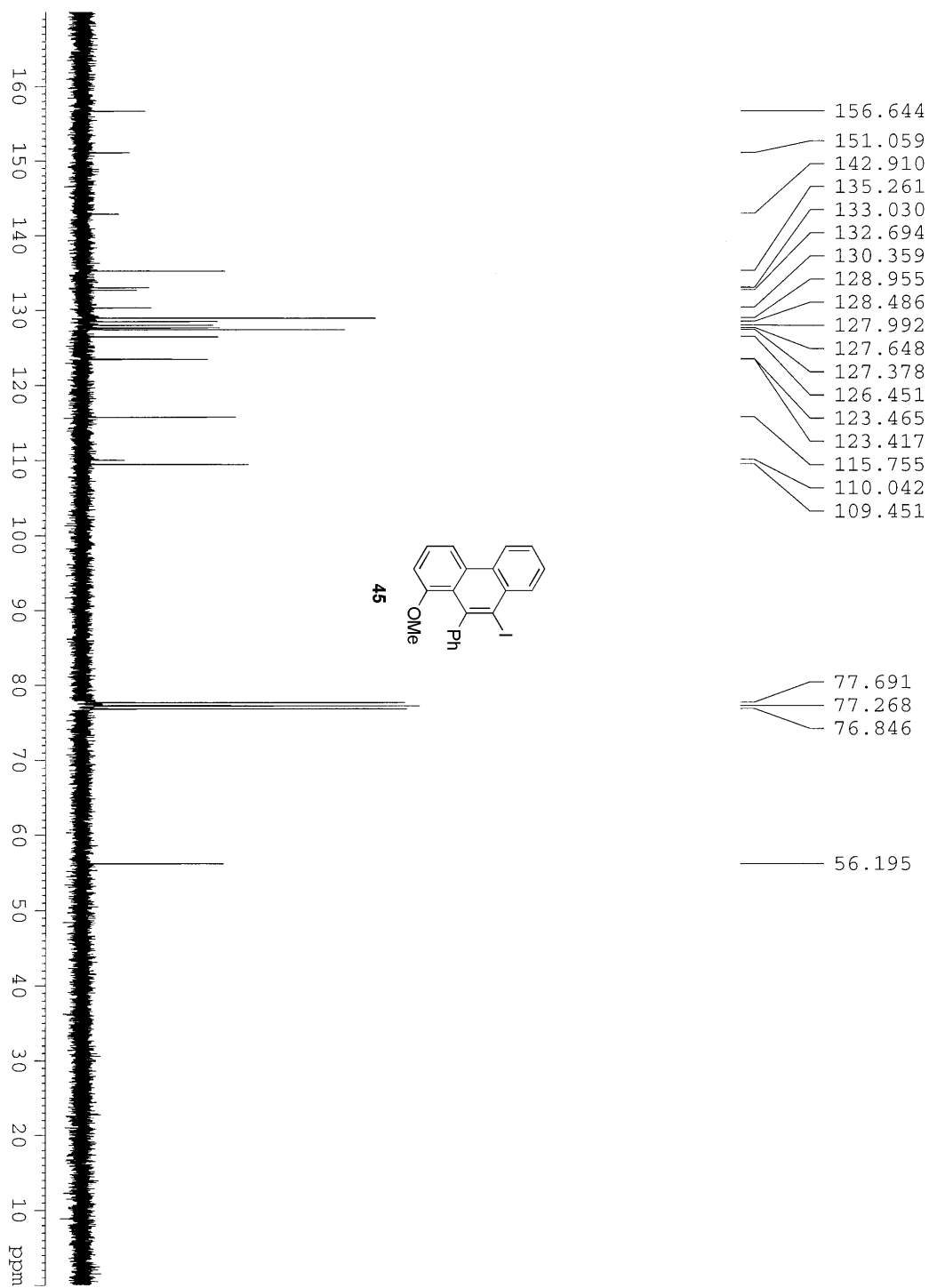


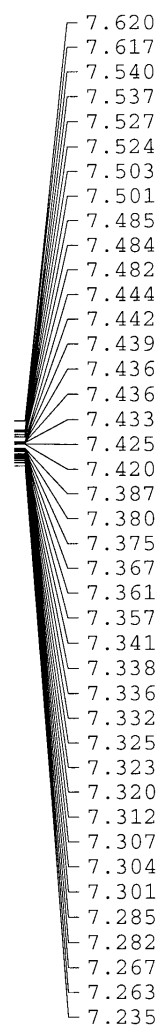
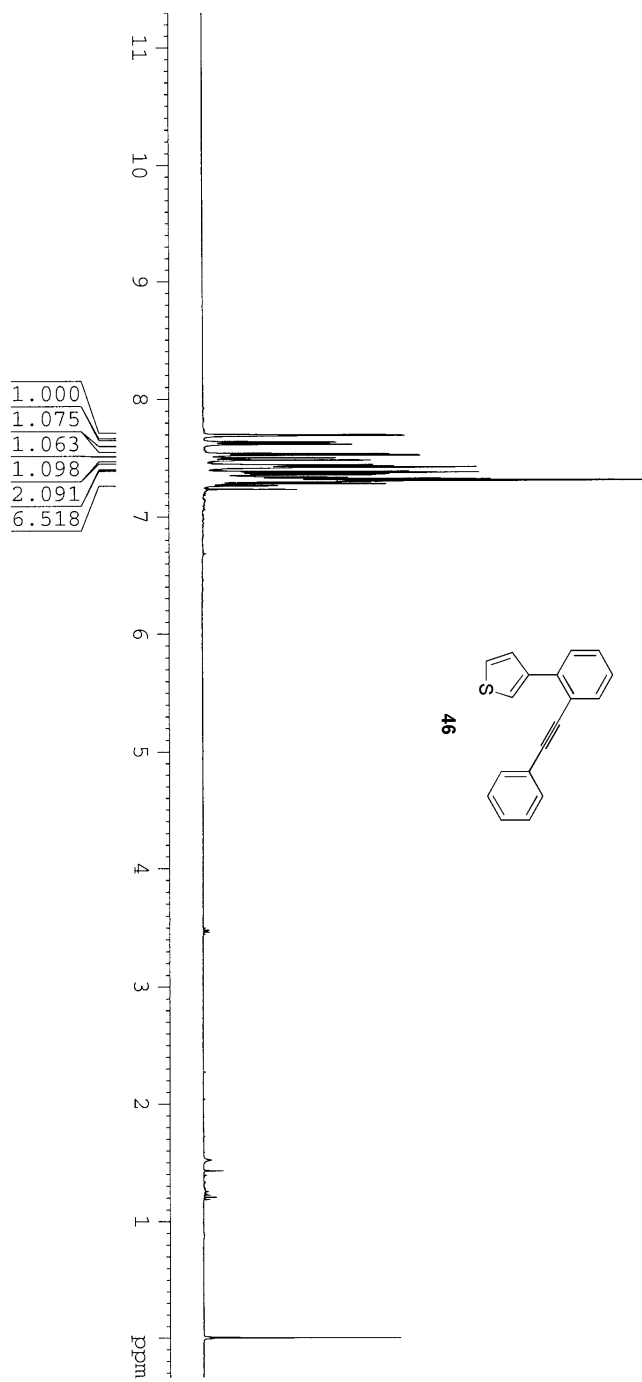












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