

# Synthesis of 2-oxazolidinones from $\beta$ -lactams: Stereospecific total synthesis of (-)-Cytosaxone and all of its stereoisomers.

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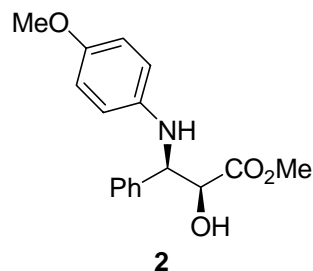
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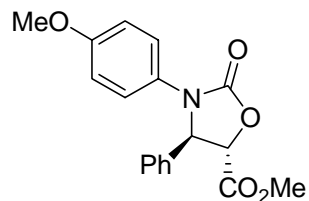
## Supporting Information

**General:** THF was distilled from sodium/benzophenone.  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  and diisopropylamine were freshly distilled from  $\text{CaH}_2$ . All other solvents and reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. Organic extracts were dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and evaporated by rotary evaporation. Non-volatile oils and solids were vacuum dried prior to characterization. Optical rotations were measured on a digital polarimeter. Melting points are uncorrected. Flash column chromatography was performed using commercial grades of silica gel finer than 220 mesh. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on precoated Merck silica gel 60  $\text{F}_{254}$  plates, and compounds were visualized by UV illumination (254 nm).

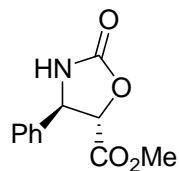
**(±)-(2*S*, 3*R*)-Methyl 2-hydroxy-3-(4-methoxyphenylamino)-3-phenylpropanoate (2):**



Chlorotrimethylsilane (11.6 mL, 93 mmol) was added dropwise at 0 °C to a stirred solution of hydroxy  $\beta$ -lactam **1** (5 g, 18.6 mmol) in anhydrous methanol (100 mL). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 5 hours, cooled to room temperature and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The crude residue was dissolved in water and neutralized with 5% aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ , followed by extraction with ethyl acetate (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , concentrated under vacuum and purified by flash column chromatography to afford the title compound **2** (5.3 g, 95 %) as a white solid; mp 69-71 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (250 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.38-7.28 (5H, m), 6.71 (2H, d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.55 (2H, d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 4.88 (1H, d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz), 4.52 (1H, d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 3.81 (3H, s), 3.71 (3H, s);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (62.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 173.4, 152.3, 140.4, 139.4, 128.5, 127.5, 127.0, 115.4, 114.7, 74.7, 60.0, 55.6, 53.0.

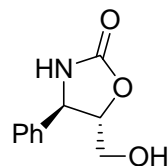
**(±)-(4*R*, 5*S*)-Methyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxo-4-phenyloxazolidine-5-carboxylate (3):****3**

To a stirred solution of amino ester **2** (4 g, 13.2 mmol) in anhydrous  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (100 mL) at 0 °C was added Hunig's base (5.6 mL, 39.8 mmol) dropwise and the reaction mixture was stirred for 15 minutes at 0 °C. A solution of triphosgene (4.7 g, 15.8 mmol) in anhydrous  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (50 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 3 hours. The mixture was diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , washed with water, brine, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and the solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography to yield oxazolidinone **3** (3.4 g, 80%) as a white solid; mp 109-111 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (250 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.40-7.27 (7H, m), 6.81 (2H, dd,  $J = 7.0, 2.3$  Hz), 5.38 (1H, d,  $J = 4.5$  Hz), 4.80 (1H, d,  $J = 4.3$  Hz), 3.92 (3H, s), 3.75 (3H, s);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (62.5 Hz MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 168.8, 157.1, 154.4, 137.6, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 126.3, 123.1, 114.3, 76.5, 64.1, 55.4, 53.2.

**(±)-(4*R*, 5*S*)-Methyl 2-oxo-4-phenyloxazolidine-5-carboxylate:****4**

To a stirred solution of oxazolidinone **3** (2.0 g, 6.1 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN and water (50 mL, 7:3) at 0°C was added drop wise a solution of ceric ammonium nitrate (10.0 g, 18.2 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN and water (50 mL, 1:10 v:v) over a period of 30 minutes. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for another two hours. The reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with 10 % aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (3 x 100 mL), brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated by rotary evaporation. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography to afford the compound **4** (946 mg, 70%) as a white solid; mp 112-115 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.45-7.41 (5H, m), 6.00 (1H, br s), 5.02 (1H, d, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 4.80 (1H, d, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 3.90 (3H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.5 Hz MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 168.8, 158.3, 138.9, 129.2, 129.0, 125.8, 80.2, 59.1, 53.13.

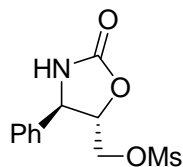
**(±)-(4R, 5S)-5-(Hydroxymethyl)-4-phenyloxazolidin-2-one (5):**



**5**

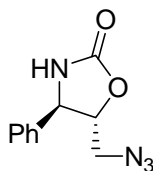
To a stirred solution of methyl ester **4** (0.8 g, 3.6 mmol) in aqueous THF (25 mL) at 0 °C was added NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.4 g, 10.8 mmol) in one portion and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for six hours and quenched with saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated by rotary evaporation. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography to afford alcohol **5** (0.64 g, 92%) as a white solid; mp 106-108 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ: 7.44-7.35 (5H, m), 7.09 (1H, br s), 4.87 (1H, d, *J*=6.3 Hz), 4.45 (1H, br s), 4.29 (1H, dt, *J*= 2.5, 6.3 Hz), 3.80 (2H, ddd, *J*= 4.0, 6.3, 12.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.5 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ: 159.0, 142.2, 129.7, 128.9, 127.1, 85.4, 62.5, 58.1.

**(±)-((4R, 5S)-2-Oxo-4-phenyloxazolidin-5-yl)methyl methanesulfonate (6):**

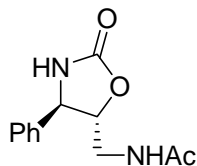


**6**

To a solution of alcohol **5** (0.50 g, 2.5 mmol) in freshly distilled  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (50 mL) at 0 °C was added triethylamine (1.0 mL, 7.7 mmol) under the atmosphere of nitrogen. The reaction was stirred for 30 minutes, followed by addition of methanesulfonyl chloride (300  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3.8 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for six hours at room temperature. It was diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , washed with water, brine, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated by rotary evaporation. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography to afford mesylate **6** (0.68 g, 98%) as a yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (250 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.34-7.24 (5H, m), 7.04 (1H, br s), 4.71 (1H, d,  $J=6.5$  Hz), 4.47-4.35 (3H, m), 3.06 (3H, s).

**(±)-(4R, 5S)-5-(Azidomethyl)-4-phenyloxazolidin-2-one (7):****7**

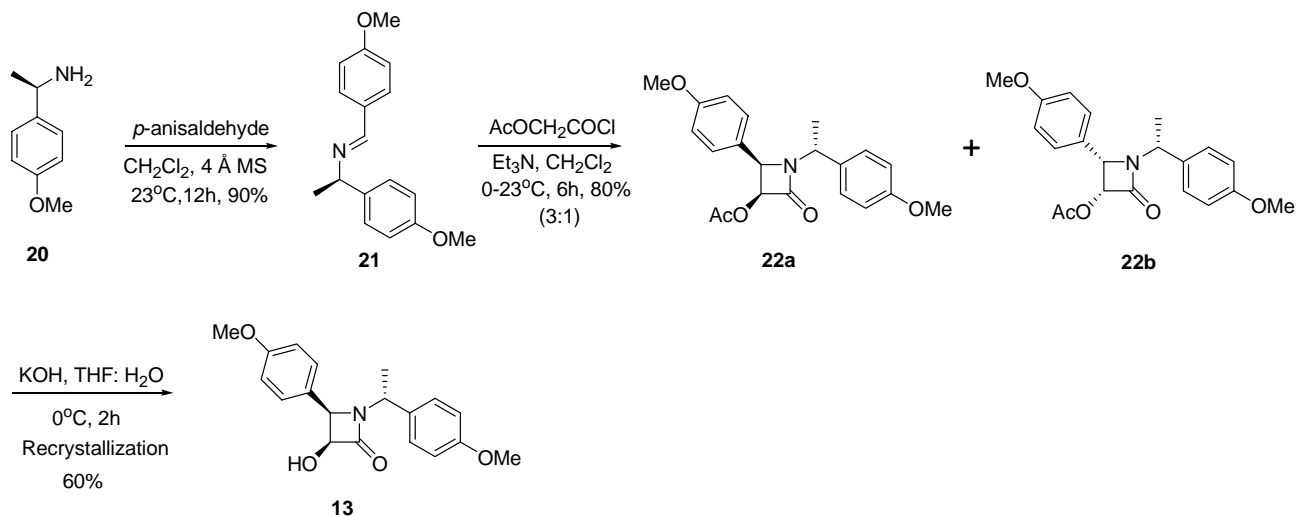
A mixture of mesylate **6** (0.5 g, 1.8 mmol) and NaN<sub>3</sub> (0.14 g, 2.2 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (10 mL) was refluxed for 12 hours under the atmosphere of nitrogen. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and dilute with ice cold water. The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL) and the combine organic extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography to afford azide **7** (0.29 g, 72%) as a white solid; mp 82-85 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.49-7.29 (5H, m), 6.29(1H, br s), 4.65 (1H, d, *J*= 6.0 Hz), 4.52-4.46 (1H, m), 3.75-3.52 (2H, m); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.5 Hz MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 158.4, 138.6, 129.3, 129.0, 126.1, 82.7, 58.8, 51.9.

**(±)- ((4R, 5R)-2-Oxo-4-phenyloxazolidin-5-yl)methyl)acetamide (8):****8**

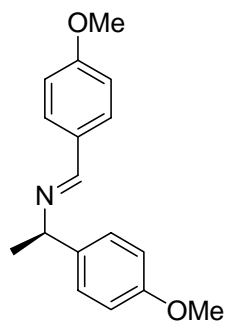
To a solution of azide **7** (0.1 g, 0.4 mmol) in ethyl acetate (10 mL) was added a catalytic amount of 10% Pd/C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours under the atmosphere of hydrogen. The reaction mixture was evacuated and flushed with nitrogen. The mixture was cooled to 0°C and pyridine (147 μL, 1.8 mmol) and acetic anhydride (173 μL, 1.8 mmol) were added sequentially and further stirred for 6 hours. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with water, brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated by rotary evaporation. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography to afford **8** (0.08 g, 75%) as a white solid; mp 118-120 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.40-7.31 (5H, m), 6.23 (1H, br s), 5.60 (1H, br s), 4.64 (1H, d, *J*= 7.3 Hz), 4.44-4.38 (1H, m), 3.67-3.57 (2H, m), 2.01 (3H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.5 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.1, 158.6, 138.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 126.0, 83.7, 58.6, 40.2, 23.1.



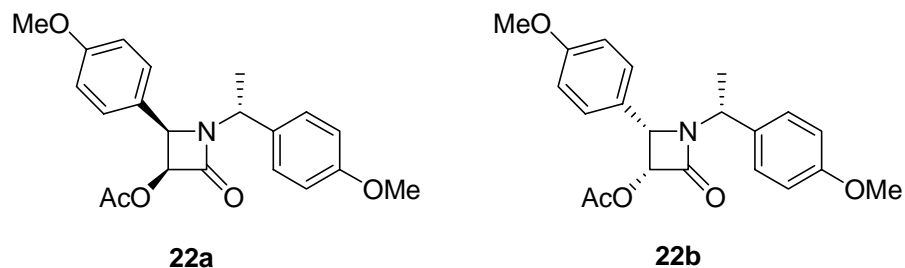
### Synthesis of Optically Pure Hydroxy $\beta$ -Lactam **13**:



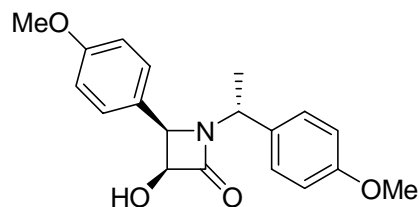
The above reaction scheme was used to prepare enantiomerically-pure lactam **13** in a manner similar to that previously reported (see Brown, S.; Jordan, A. M.; Lawrence, N. J.; Pritchard, R. G.; McGown, A. T. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, *39*, 3559; Bourzat, J.D.; Commercon, A.; *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1993**, *34*, 6042; Ojima, I.; Habus, I.; Zhao, M.; Zucco, M.; Park, Y. H.; Sun, C. M.; Brigaud, T. *Tetrahedron.* **1992**, *48*, 6985). *p*-Anisaldehyde was combined with an equimolar amount of amine **20** to afford chiral imine **21**, which was immediately subjected to Staudinger reaction with acetoxyacetyl chloride (one molar equivalent) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (3 molar equivalents) in methylene chloride to afford azetidinones **22** in 80% yield as a 3:1 diastereomeric mixture. Although the minor diastereomer could in principle be removed at this stage, it was easier to do the separation after the next step. Thus, the acetate functionality was hydrolyzed with one equivalent of KOH in THF: H<sub>2</sub>O (7:3) and the resultant diastereomeric mixture of hydroxy  $\beta$ -lactams was recrystallized with EtOAc: hexane (7:3) to afford a 60% yield of hydroxy  $\beta$ -lactam **13** as a single diastereomer.

**(E)-(R)-N-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethanamine (21):****21**

To a solution of 4-methoxybenzaldehyde (10.0 g, 73.4 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (250 mL) was added amine **20** (11.0 g, 73.4 mmol) and powdered 4Å molecular sieves (5 g). The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 hours at room temperature and then filtered through a sintered glass vacuum filtration funnel containing a ½” pad of Celite. The pad was washed three times with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and the filtrate was concentrated to dryness by rotary evaporation to give imine **21** (17.7 g, 90%) as an opalescent oil. This imine was used in the next step without further purification.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 250 MHz):  $\delta$  8.33 (1H, s), 7.78-7.74(2H, m), 7.41-7.36 (2H, m), 6.97-6.90 (4H, m), 4.52 (1H, q,  $J=6.5$  Hz), 3.86 (3H, s), 3.83 (3H, s), 1.61 (3H, d,  $J=6.5$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (62.5 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  161.5, 158.5, 158.4, 137.6, 129.7, 129.4, 127.6, 113.9, 113.8, 58.9, 55.3, 55.2, 24.8.

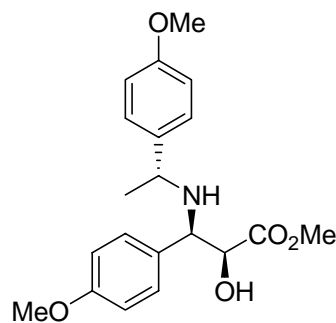
**3-Acetoxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-[(R)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl] azetidin-2-ones (22a and 22b):**

To a solution of imine **21** (10 g, 37.1 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (250 mL) was added triethylamine (15.6 mL, 111.3 mmol) under a nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature. The reaction mixture was cooled to  $0^\circ\text{C}$  and a solution of acetoxyacetyl chloride (5.1 mL, 44.5 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (100 mL) was added dropwise over a period of one hour. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours and then diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , washed with water, brine, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and then concentrated by rotary evaporation to afford a brownish yellow oil. This oil was purified by flash column chromatography to afford a 3:1 diastereomeric mixture of  $\beta$ -lactams **22a** and **22b** (10.9 g, 80 %). This mixture was carried forward to the next step without any further purification.

**(3*S*, 4*R*)-3-Hydroxy-4(methoxyphenyl)-1-[(*R*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl) ethyl] azetidin-2-one (13):****13**

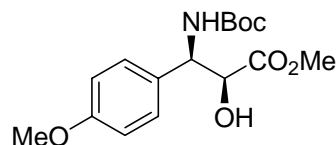
To a solution of solid KOH (2.7 g, 48.7 mmol) in THF: H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL, 7:3 v:v) at 0°C was added dropwise a solution of a mixture (3: 1 molar ratio) of the two diastereomers **22a** and **22b** (6 g, 16.2 mmol) in THF (25 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for two hours and then diluted with water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and then concentrated to dryness by rotary evaporation to give a white solid, which was recrystallized from 40 mL of a 3:1 mixture of ethyl acetate: hexane to give compound **13** (3.0 g, 58%) as a single diastereomer; mp 128-130 °C; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> -227.0 (c=0.5 M, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.32-7.17 (4H, m), 6.98-6.88 (4H, m), 5.06 (1H, q, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 4.90 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.0, 7.5 Hz), 4.53 (1H, d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 3.88 (3H, s), 3.83 (3H, s), 2.50 (1H, br s), 1.40 (3H, d, *J* = 7.3 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 169.1, 159.9, 159.1, 131.6, 129.7, 128.5, 126.8, 113.9, 76.5, 61.3, 55.3, 51.3, 19.4.

**(2*S*, 3*R*)-methyl 2-hydroxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(*R*)-(4-methoxyphenyl) ethyl amino) propionate (14):**

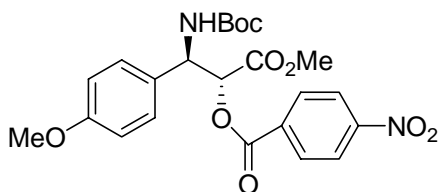


**14**

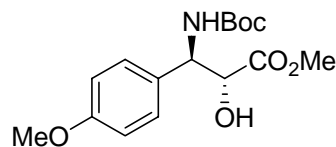
Compound **14** was synthesized from compound **13** employing the same procedure as described for compound **2**. mp 88-90 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  -28.1 (c=0.5 M, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.24 (2H, d, *J*= 8.5 Hz), 7.17 (2H, d, *J*= 8.5 Hz), 6.90 (2H, d, *J*=8.5 Hz), 6.85 (2H, d, *J*= 8.5 Hz), 4.26 (1H, d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 4.14 (1H, d, *J*= 3.5 Hz), 3.85 (3H, s), 3.81 (3H, s), 3.79 (3H,s), 3.77 (3H, s), 3.63 (1H, q, *J*= 5.5 Hz), 1.29 (3H, d, *J*= 6.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 174.0, 159.0, 158.6, 137.9, 132.3, 128.5, 127.5, 113.9, 113.8, 76.6, 74.5, 61.0, 55.2, 54.0, 53.8, 52.3, 22.4.

**(2*S*, 3*R*)-methyl 3-(tert-butoxycarbonylamino-2-hydroxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoate (15):****15**

To a solution of compound **14** (1.0 g, 2.7 mmol) in anhydrous methanol (25 mL) was added a catalytic amount of Pearlman's catalyst [Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C] and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours under an atmosphere of hydrogen (balloon). The flask was evacuated and flushed with nitrogen. It was then charged with powdered NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (0.7 g, 8.3 mmol) and Boc<sub>2</sub>O (0.72 g, 3.3 mmol). The resultant reaction mixture was sonicated at room temperature for six hours, then filtered through a sintered funnel containing a pad of Celite. The pad was washed three times with methanol and the filtrate was concentrated to dryness by rotary evaporation. The crude product was partitioned between water and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated by rotary evaporation. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography to afford the compound **15** (0.72 g, 80%) as a white solid; mp 110-112°C; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> -3.8 (c=0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.21 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.81 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 5.30 (1H d, *J* = 9.5 Hz), 5.07 (1H, d, *J* = 9.5 Hz), 4.35 (1H, d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 3.74 (3H, s), 3.71 (3H, s), 3.16 (1H, d, *J* = 4.3 Hz), 1.37 (9H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 173.4, 159.1, 155.1, 131.3, 127.9, 113.9, 79.8, 76.5, 73.6, 55.2, 52.9, 28.3.

**(1*R*, 2*R*)-1-(tert-Butoxycarbonylamino)-3-methoxy-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropan-2-yl-4-nitrobenzoate (15a):****15a**

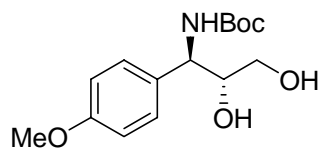
To a stirred solution of compound **15** (0.5 g, 1.5 mmol) in anhydrous THF (25 mL) were added PPh<sub>3</sub> (1.2 g, 4.6 mmol) and 4-nitrobenzoic acid (0.77 g, 4.6 mmol). The solution was cooled to 0 °C and DIAD (932 μL, 4.6 mmol) was slowly added. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for six hours under a nitrogen atmosphere. THF was removed by rotary evaporation and the crude product was partitioned between water and ethyl acetate. The combine organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated by rotary evaporation. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give compound **15a** (0.5 g, 70%) as a yellowish syrup. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.22 (2H, d, *J*= 8.8 Hz), 8.10 (2H, d, *J*= 8.8 Hz), 7.21 (2H, d, *J*=8.8 Hz), 6.82 (2H, d, *J*= 8.8 Hz). 5.58 (1H, d, *J*= 4.3 Hz), 5.25 (1H, br s), 5.23 (1H, d, *J*= 7.0 Hz), 3.73 (3H, s), 3.61 (3H, s), 1.35 (9H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.7, 163.8, 159.6, 154.8, 150.8, 134.5, 131.0, 128.6, 128.3, 123.6, 114.1, 80.4, 76.5, 75.3, 55.2, 54.5, 52.6, 28.2.

**(2*R*, 3*R*)-Methyl 3-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-2-hydroxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoate (16) :****16**

Triethylamine (446  $\mu$ L, 3.1 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of compound **15a** (0.5 g, 1.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for one hour and concentrated to dryness by rotary evaporation. The crude product was partitioned between water and ethyl acetate then extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated by rotary evaporation. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography to afford compound **16** (0.33 g, 98%) as a pale yellow solid; mp 150-152  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23}$  -1.8 ( $c=0.5$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (250 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.09 (2H, d,  $J=8.5$  Hz), 6.76 (2H, d,  $J=8.8$  Hz), 5.49 (1H, d,  $J=8.3$  Hz), 4.97 (1H, d,  $J=6.3$  Hz), 4.50 (1H, dd,  $J=3.3, 6.5$  Hz), 3.70 (3H, s), 3.65 (3H, s), 2.85 (1H, d,  $J=6.5$  Hz), 1.37 (9H, s);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (62.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 172.4, 159.3, 154.9, 128.9, 128.4, 113.8, 79.8, 76.5, 73.3, 56.1, 55.1, 52.5, 28.3.

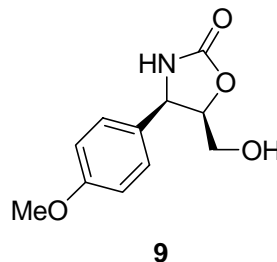


***tert*-Butyl (1*R*, 2*R*)-2,3-dihydroxy-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)propylcarbamate (**17**):**



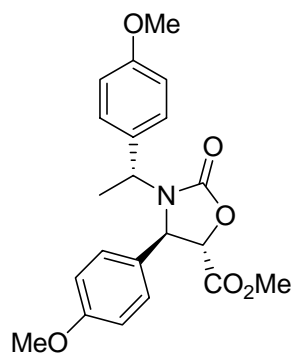
**17**

To an ice-cooled solution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.08 g, 2.3 mmol) in anhydrous methanol (10 mL) was added dropwise a solution of compound **16** (0.25 g, 0.7 mmol) in anhydrous methanol (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for four hours and the solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The crude product was partitioned between water and ethyl acetate then extracted with ethyl acetate, washed with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution, brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated by rotary evaporation. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography to give compound **17** (0.21 g, 92%) as a white solid; mp 116-118 °C (Lit, mp 118 °C); [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> -50.2 (c= 0.5 M, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) [Lit, [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> -51.2 (c=1 M, CHCl<sub>3</sub>)]. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.17 (2H, d, *J*= 8.8 Hz), 6.82 (2H, dd, *J*= 2.8, 5.0 Hz), 5.18 (1H, br s), 4.55 (1H, m), 3.76-3.70 (1H, m), 3.72 (3H, s), 3.59 (2H, d, *J*= 2.5 Hz), 2.52 (2H, d, *J*= 2.5 Hz), 1.39 (9H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.5 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ: 160.6, 158.9, 133.9, 128.4, 115.0, 85.8, 62.4, 57.6, 55.6, 28.9.

**(4*R*, 5*R*)-5-(Hydroxymethyl)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (9):**

To a solution of compound **17** (0.1 g, 0.3 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added sodium hydride [0.04 g, 1.0 mmol (60% w/w in mineral)] at room temperature and the mixture was stirred under a nitrogen atmosphere for two hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added, washed with aqueous saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution, brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The organic layer was concentrated by rotary evaporation and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give compound **9** (0.07 g, 92%) as a white solid; mp 117-118 °C; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> -68.2 (c= 0.5 M, MeOH) [Lit: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> -69.7 (c=0.5 M in MeOH)]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.26 (2H, d, *J*= 8.8 Hz), 6.96 (2H, dd, *J*= 2.8, 6.8 Hz), 5.04(1H, d, *J*= 8.3 Hz), 4.83 (1H, ddd, *J*= 4.4, 7.3, 8.1 Hz), 3.87-3.80 (1H, m), 3.82 (3H, s), 3.19-3.26 (2H, m), 2.88 (1H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.5 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$ : 160.6, 159.5, 130.2, 129.0, 114.6, 81.5, 62.6, 57.8, 55.5.

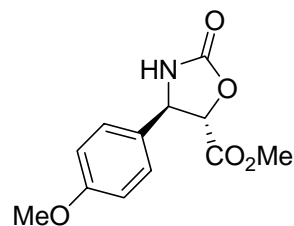
**(4*R*, 5*S*)-Methyl 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-((*R*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)-2-oxazolidine-5-carboxylate (**18**):**



**18**

Compound **18** was synthesized from compound **14** employing a similar procedure as described for the synthesis of compound **3**. mp 140-142 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{23} +42.8$  ( $c=0.5$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (250 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.04-7.00 (4H, m), 6.82-6.76 (4H, m), 5.10 (1H, q,  $J = 8.7$  Hz), 4.51 (1H, d,  $J = 4.3$  Hz), 4.14 (1H, d,  $J = 4.3$  Hz), 3.73 (6H, s), 3.61 (3H, s), 1.07 (3H, d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (62.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 168.9, 160.2, 159.2, 156.5, 131.4, 130.6, 128.7, 128.2, 114.4, 113.8, 78.3, 60.4, 55.3, 55.2, 52.7, 52.6, 17.9.

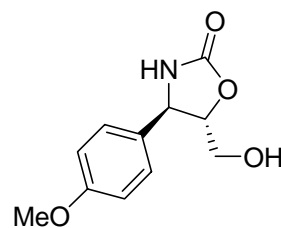
**(4*R*, 5*S*)-Methyl 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)oxazolidin-2-one-5-carboxylate (**19**):**



**19**

Compound **19** was synthesized from compound **18** employing a similar procedure as described for the synthesis of compound **4**. mp 88-90°C;  $[\alpha]_D^{23} +87.4$  (c=0.5, MeOH);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (250 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.26 (2H, d,  $J= 8.3$  Hz), 6.88 (2H, d,  $J= 8.3$  Hz), 6.50 (1H, s), 4.85 (1H, d,  $J= 4.3$  Hz), 4.65 (1H, d,  $J= 4.3$  Hz), 3.82 (3H, s), 3.72(3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (250 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 167.8, 159.1, 157.0, 129.8, 126.2, 113.6, 79.4, 57.7, 54.3, 52.0.

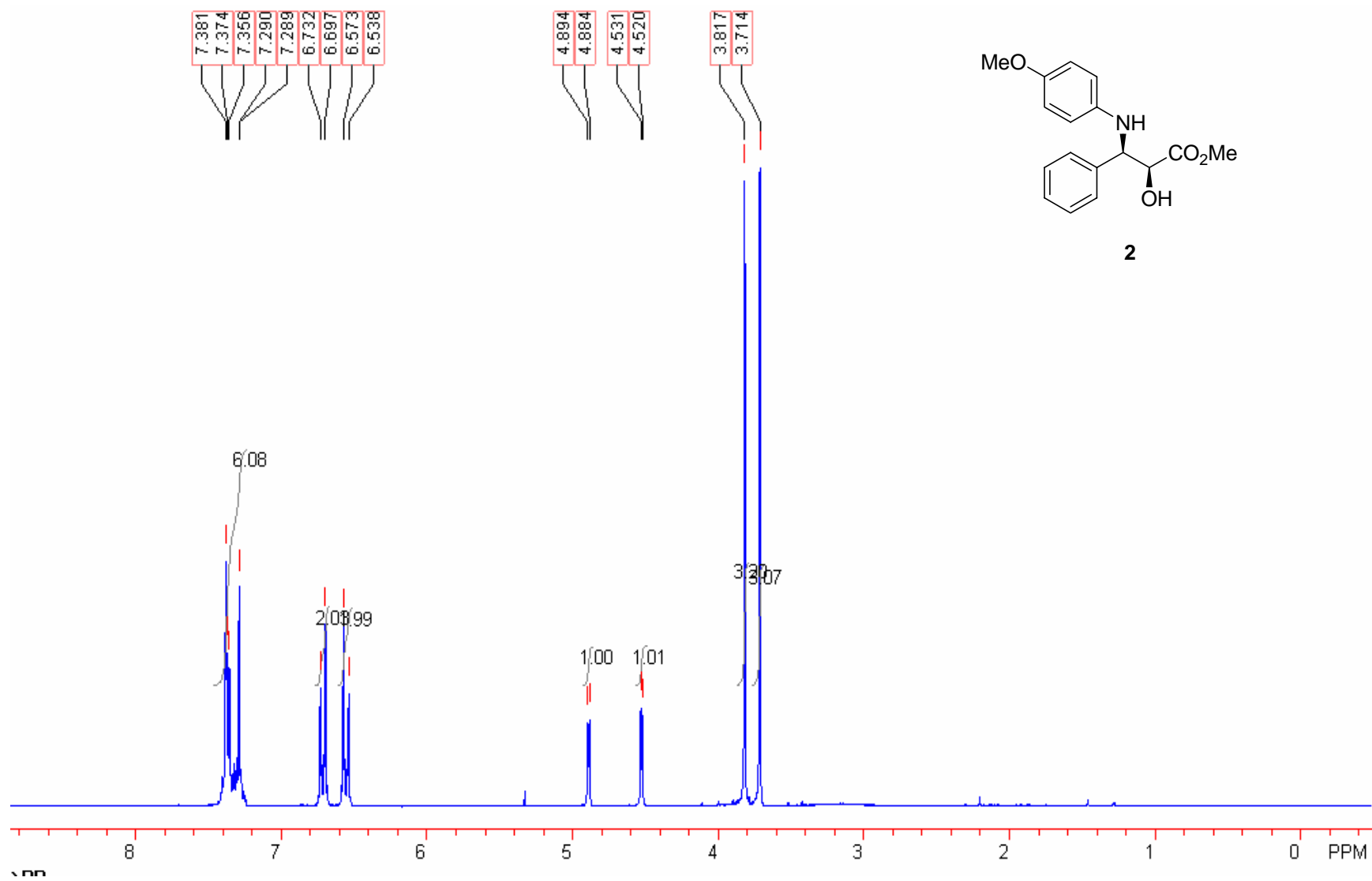
**(4*R*, 5*S*)-5-(Hydroxymethyl)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (10):**

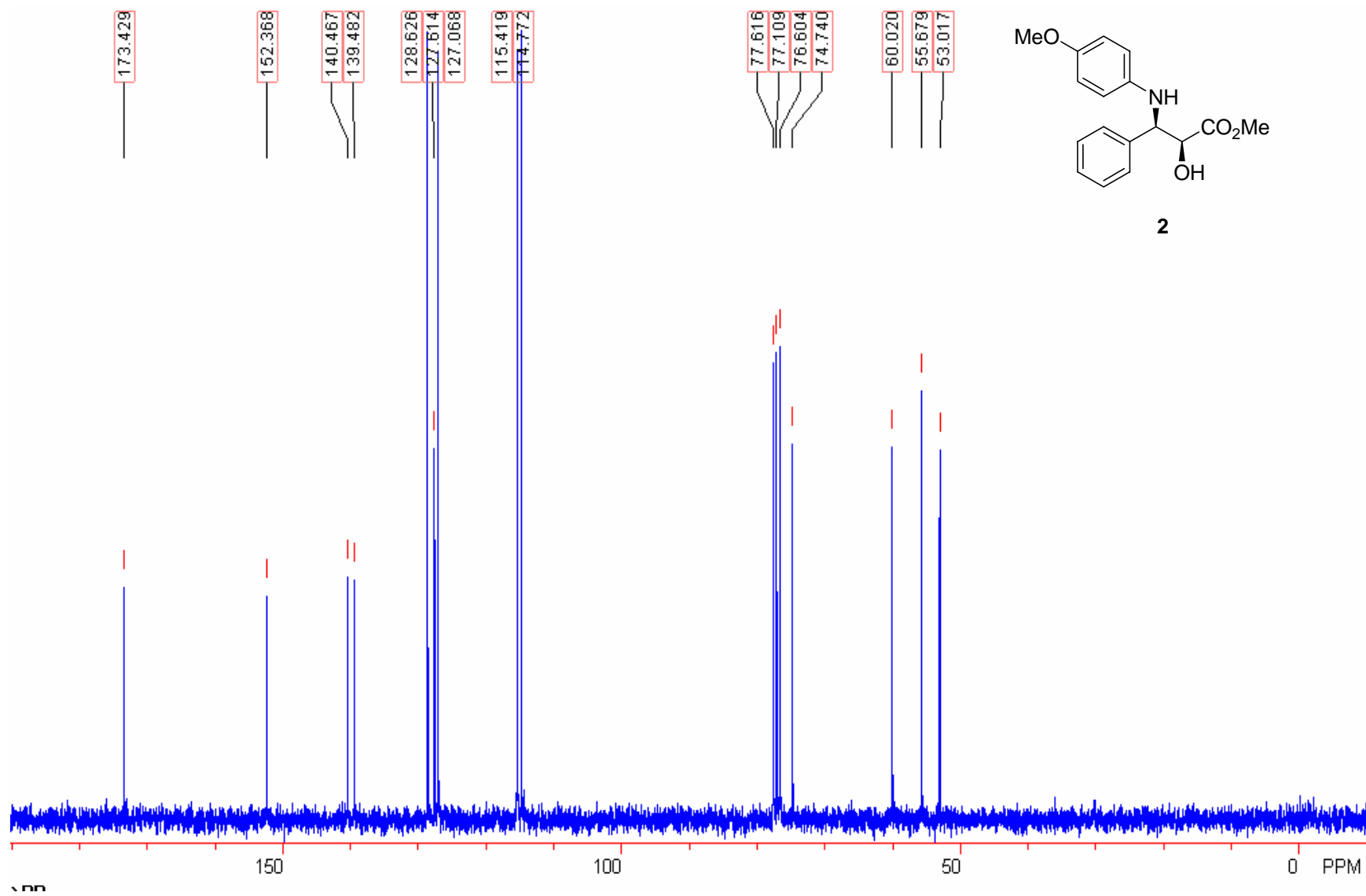


**10**

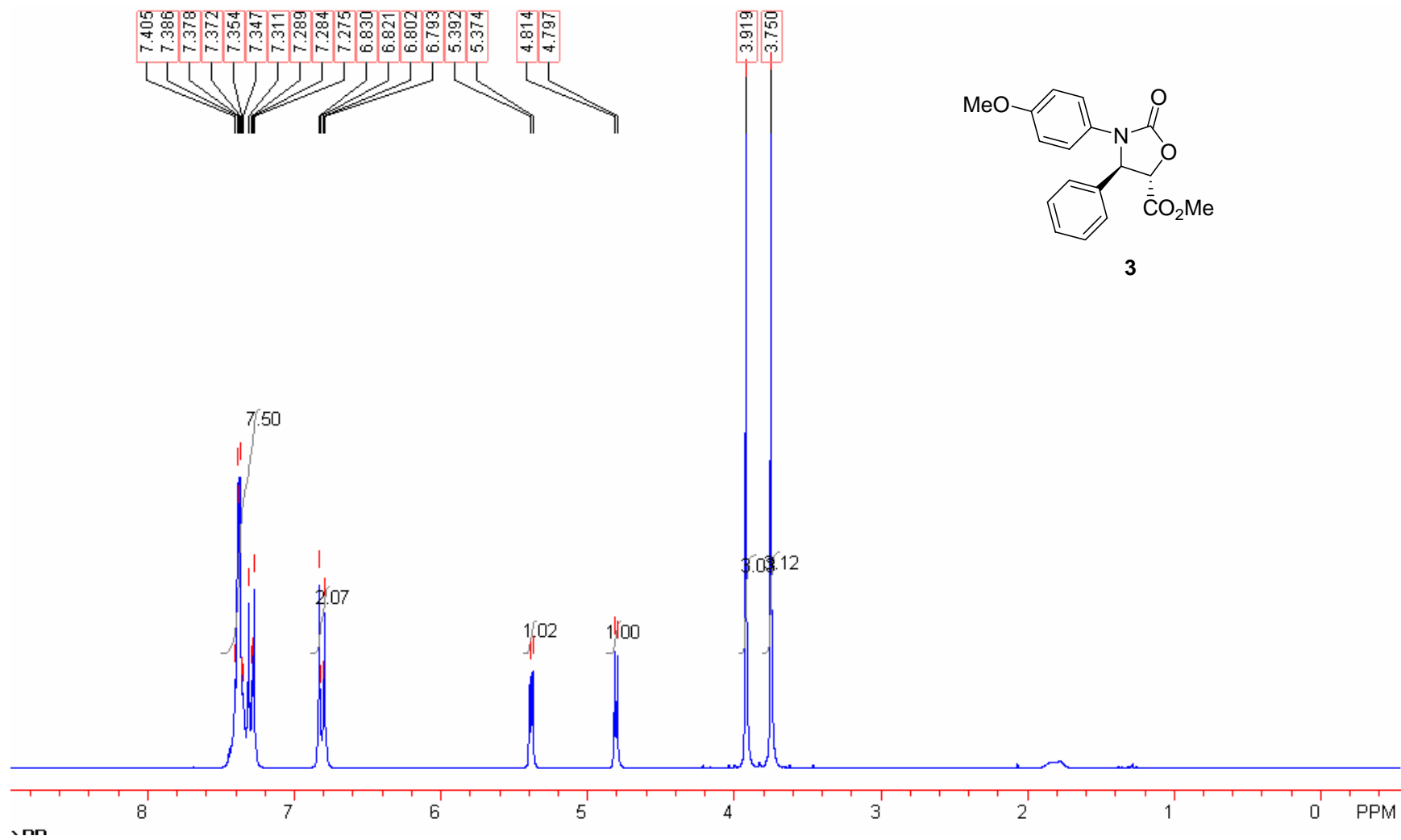
Compound **10** was synthesized from compound **19** employing the similar procedure as described for the synthesis of compound **5**. mp 159-160 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{23} +30$  ( $c=0.5$ , MeOH);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (250 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OH}$ )  $\delta$ : 7.20 (2H, d,  $J= 8.5$  Hz), 6.80 (2H, d,  $J= 8.5$  Hz), 4.65 (1H, d,  $J= 6.5$  Hz), 4.09-4.20 (2H, m), 3.78-3.52 (2H, m), 3.75 (3H, s), 2.72 (1H, s);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (250 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OH}$ )  $\delta$ : 161.5, 161.3, 133.6, 128.6, 115.4, 86.8, 62.5, 58.5, 55.8.

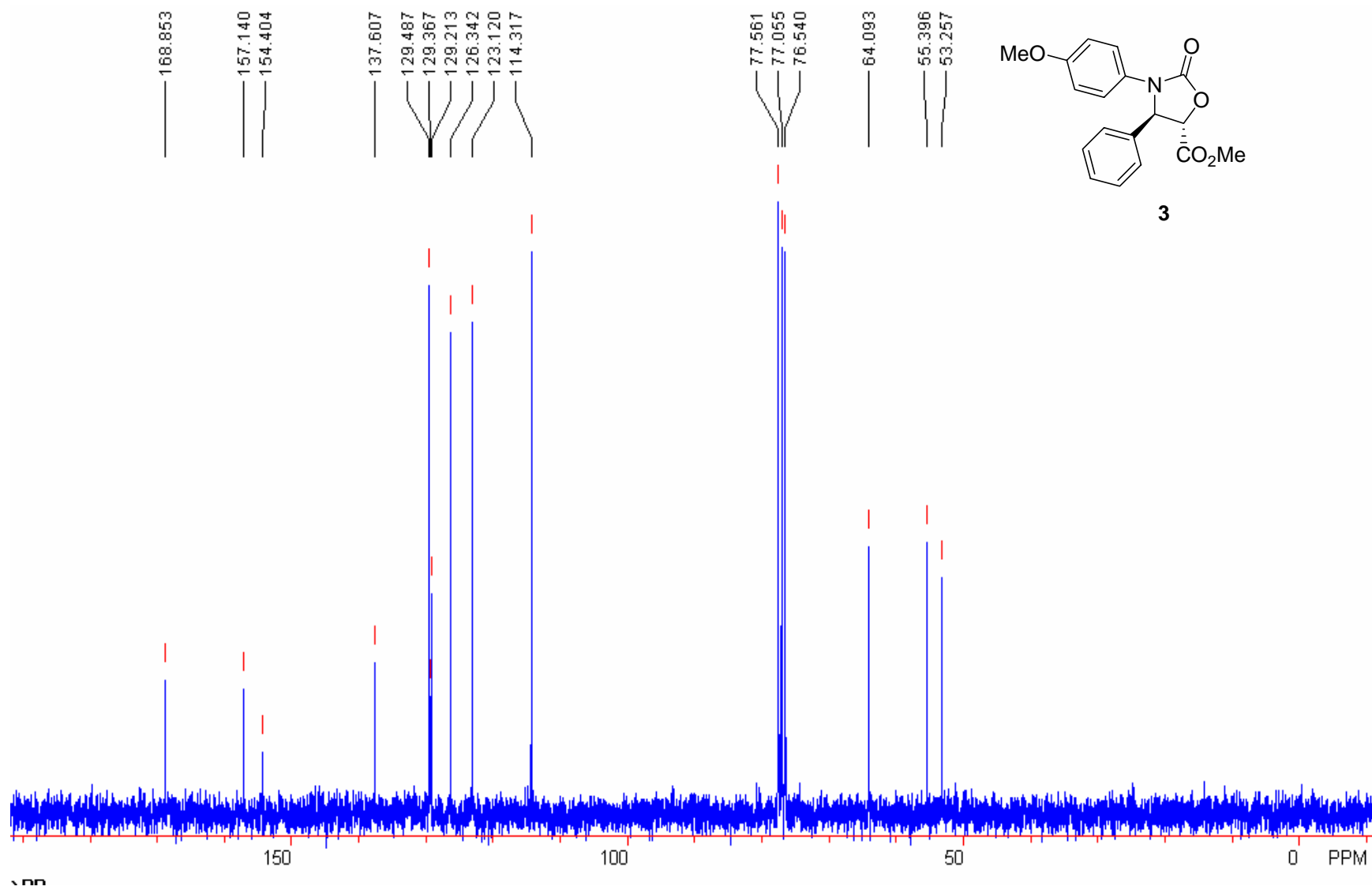
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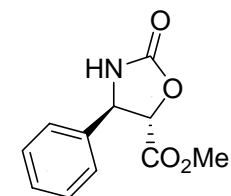










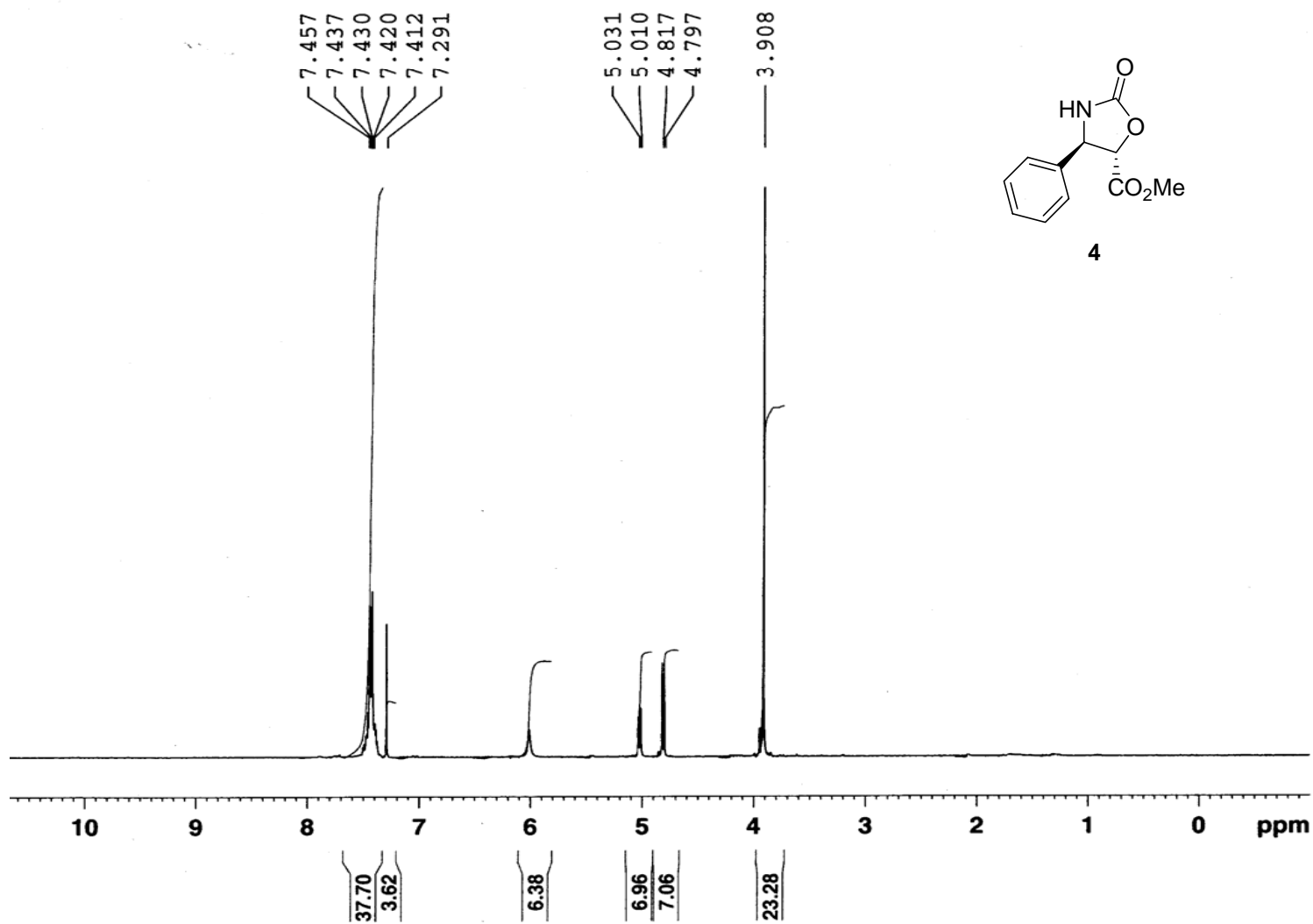
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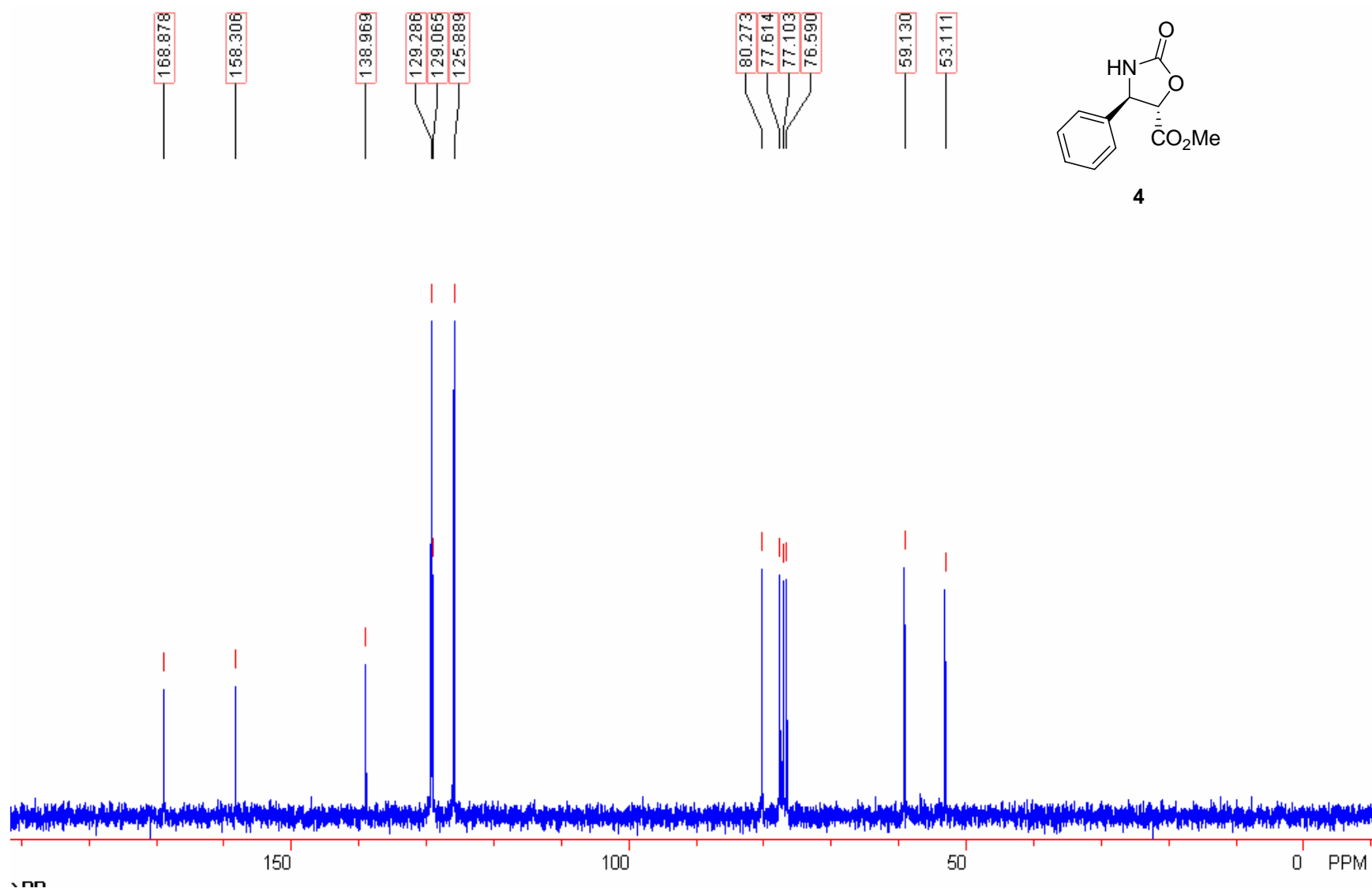
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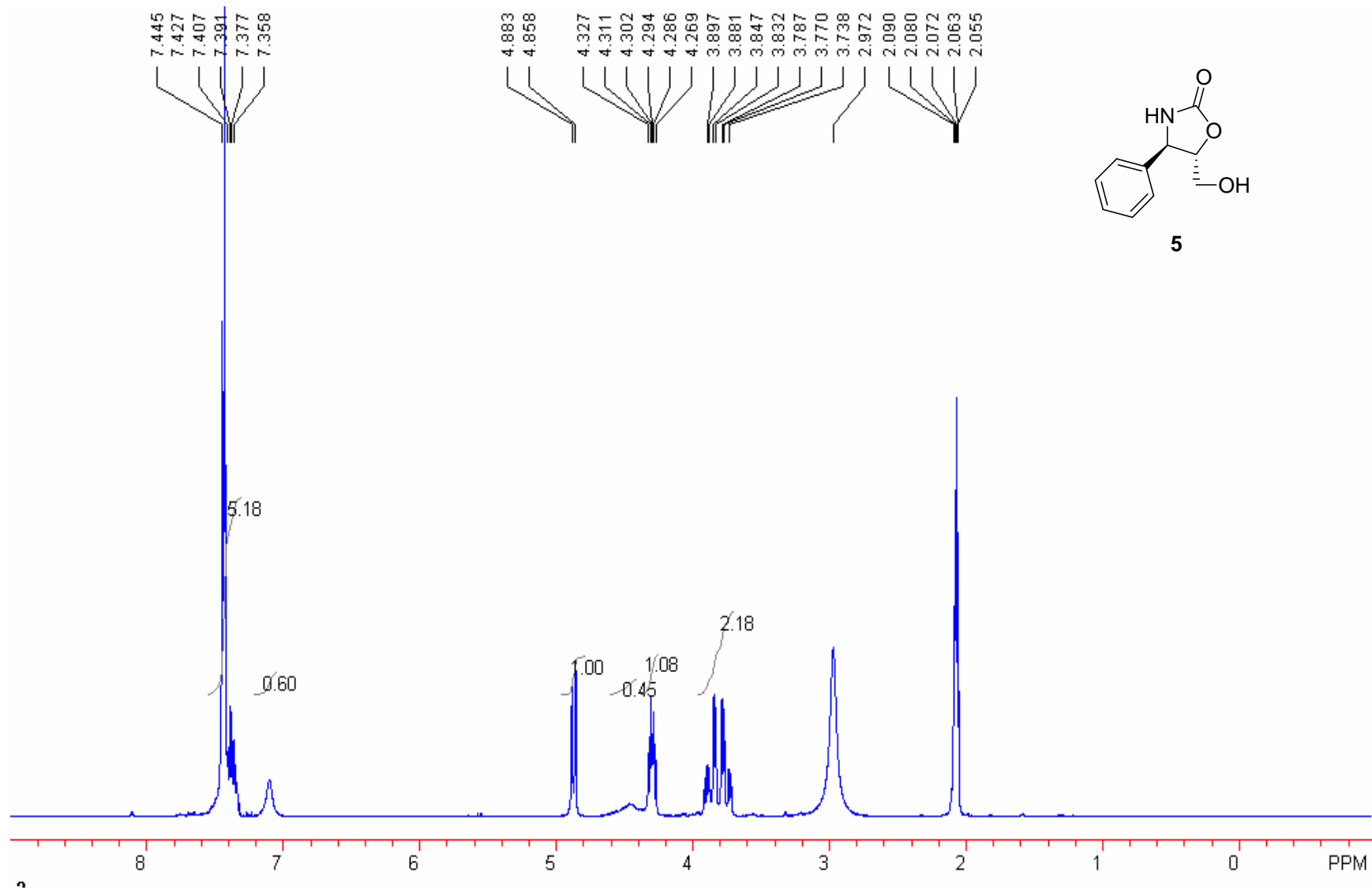
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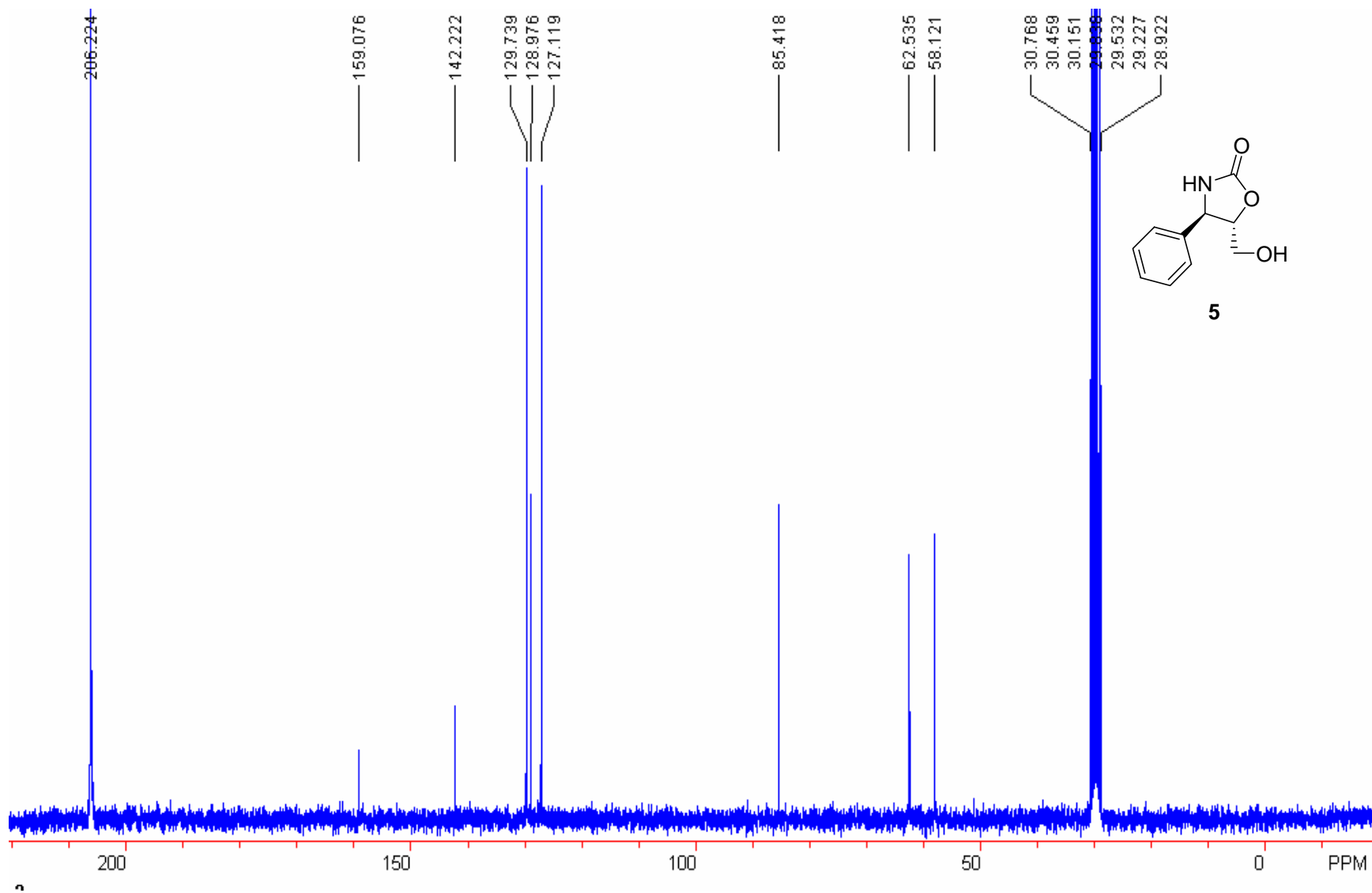
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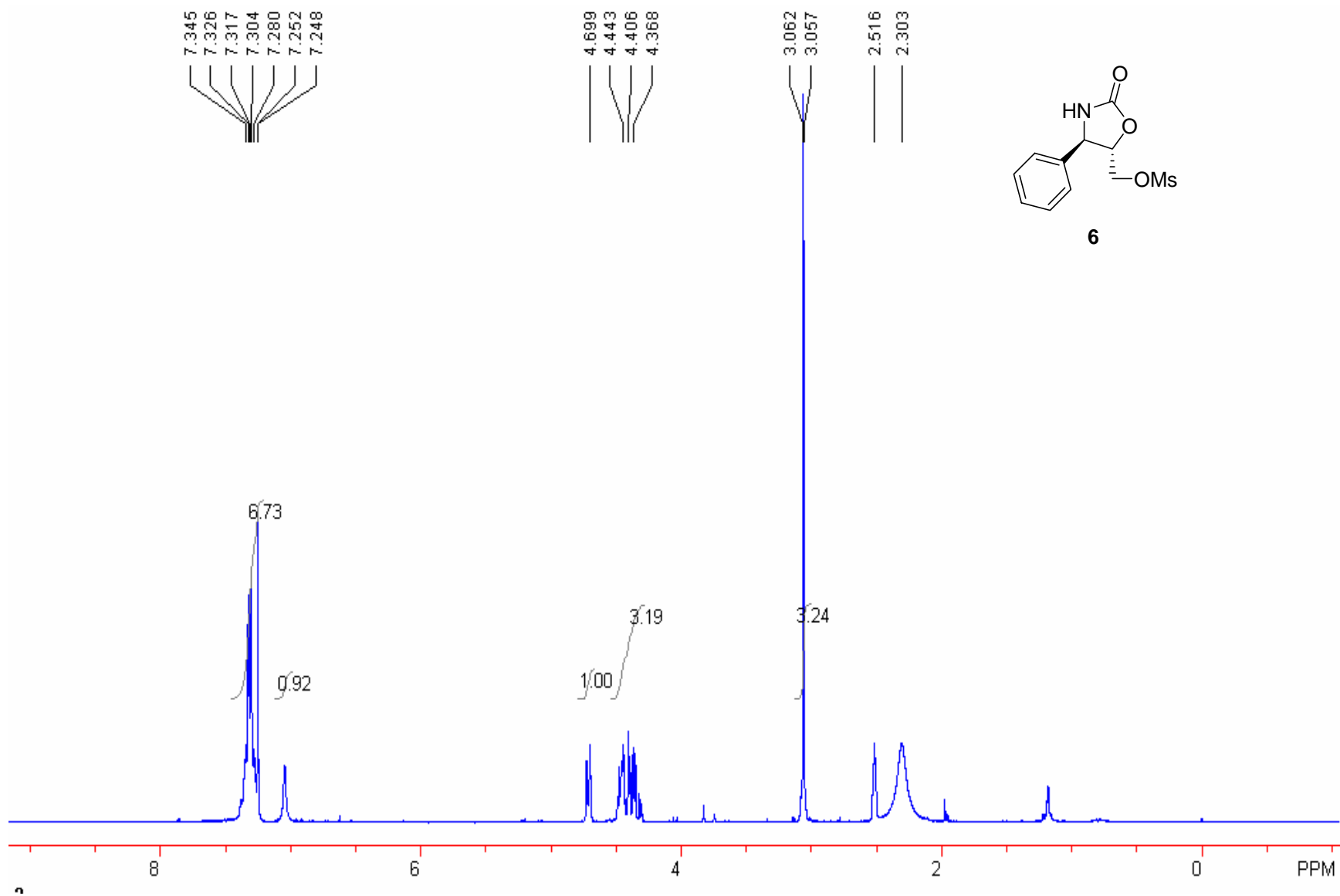
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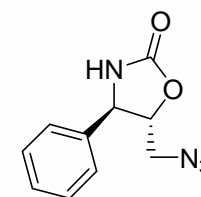
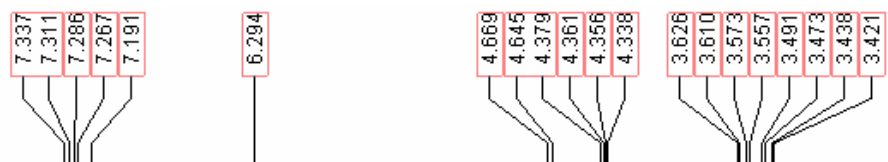




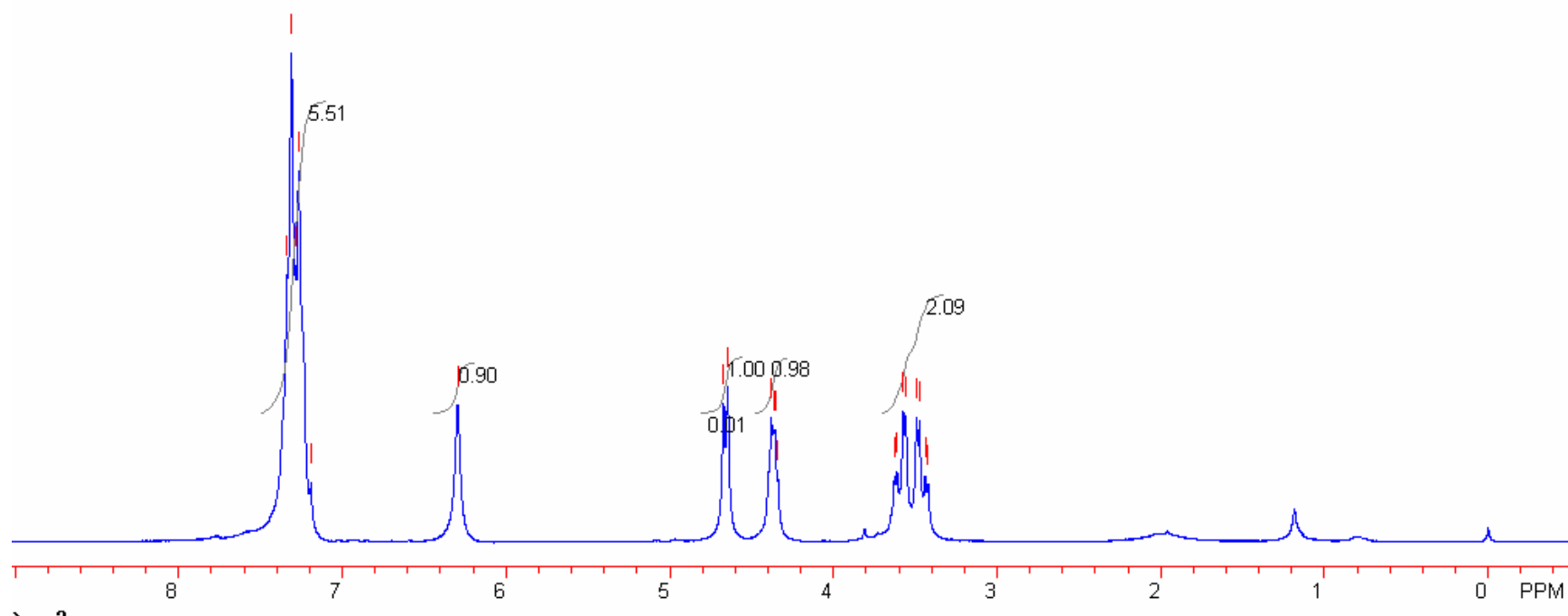




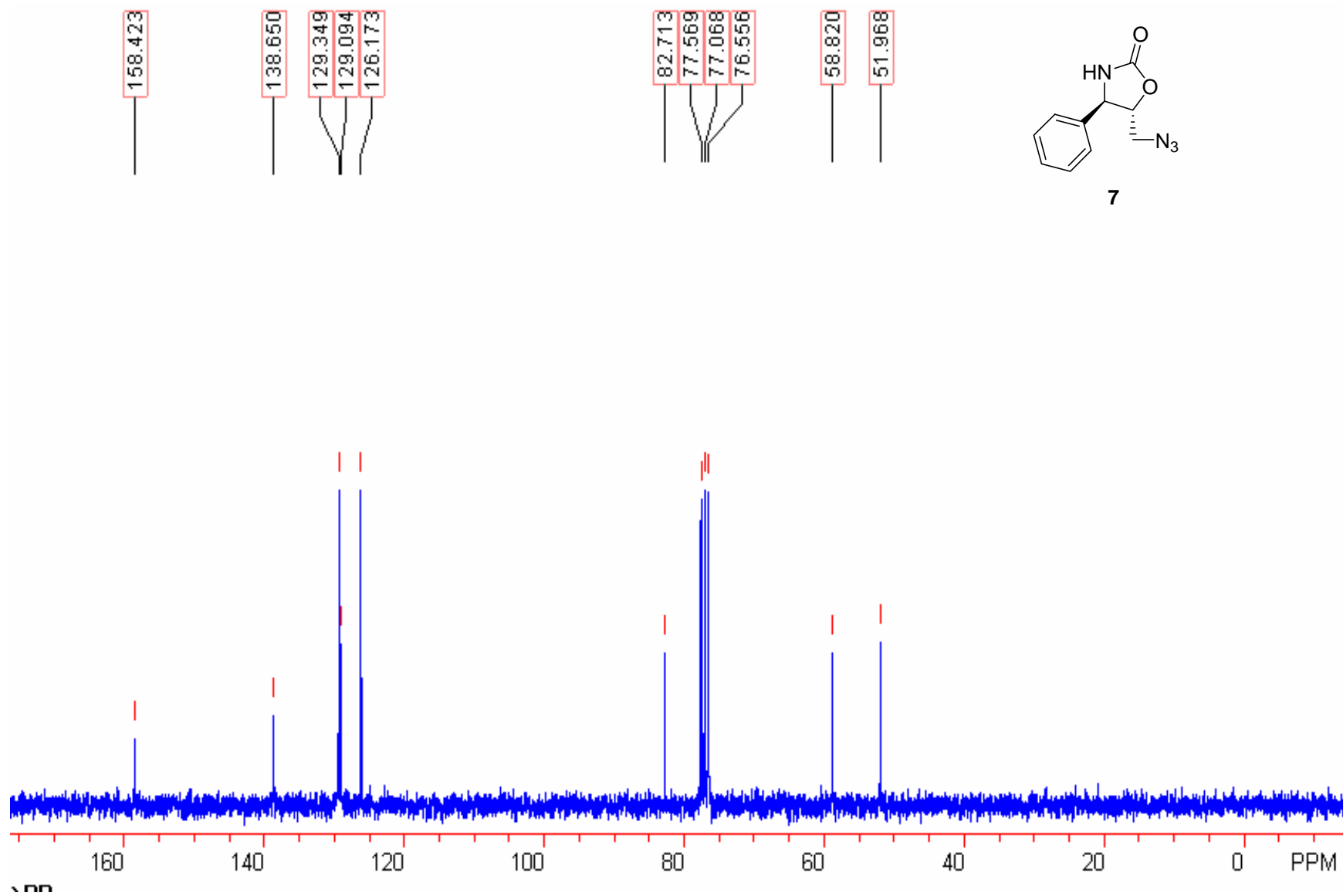


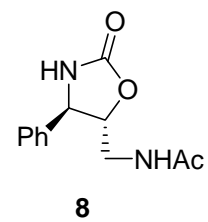
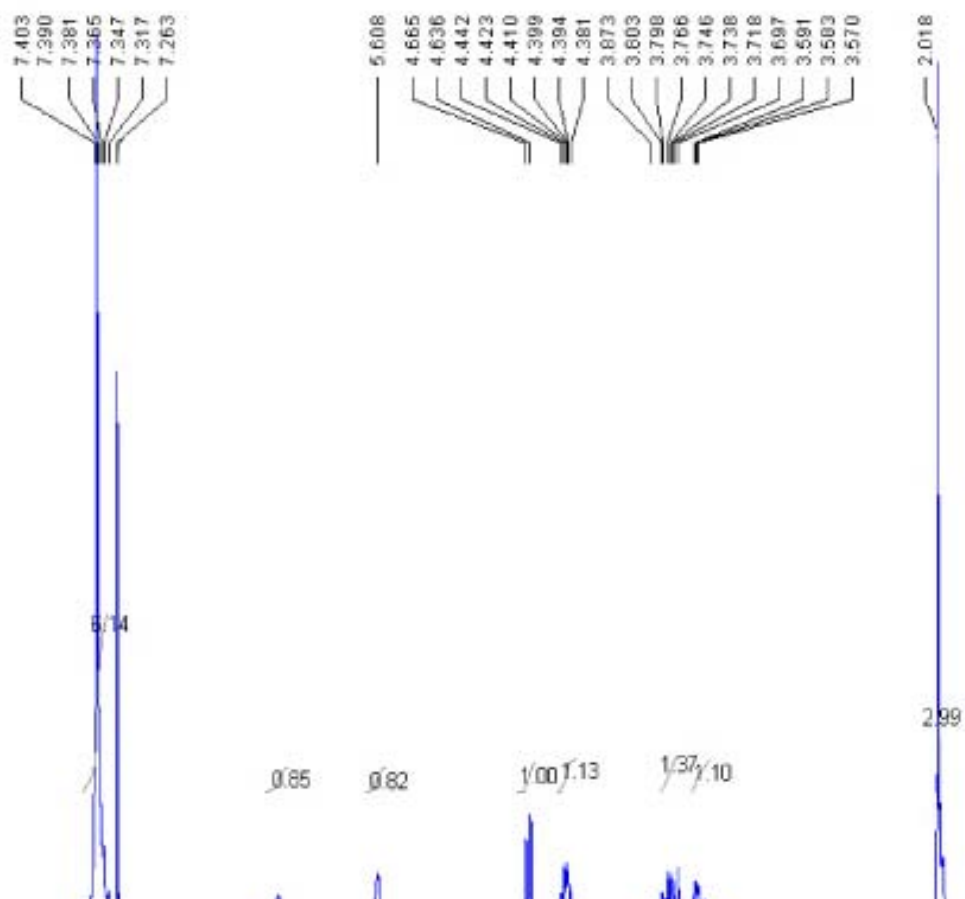


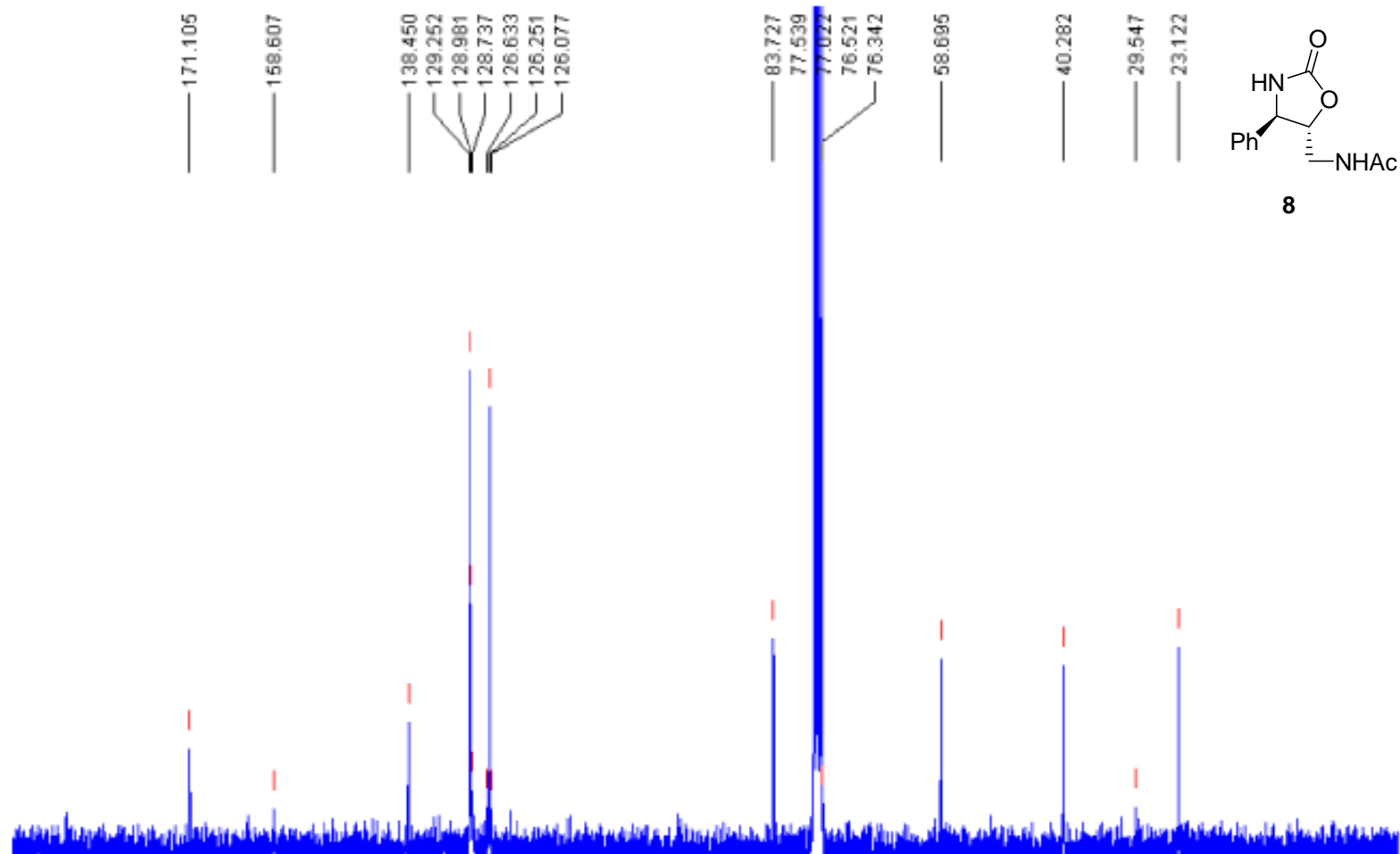
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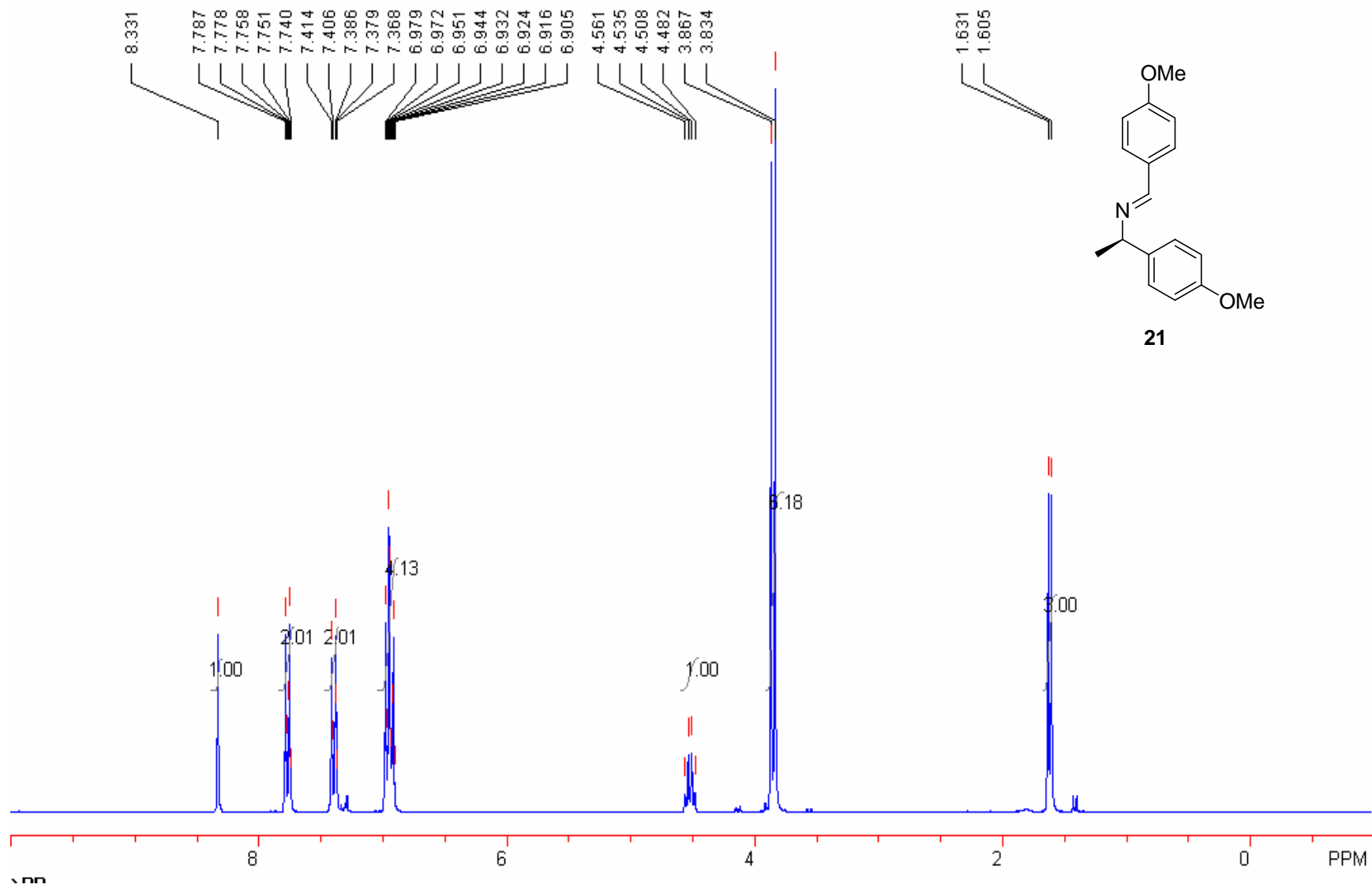


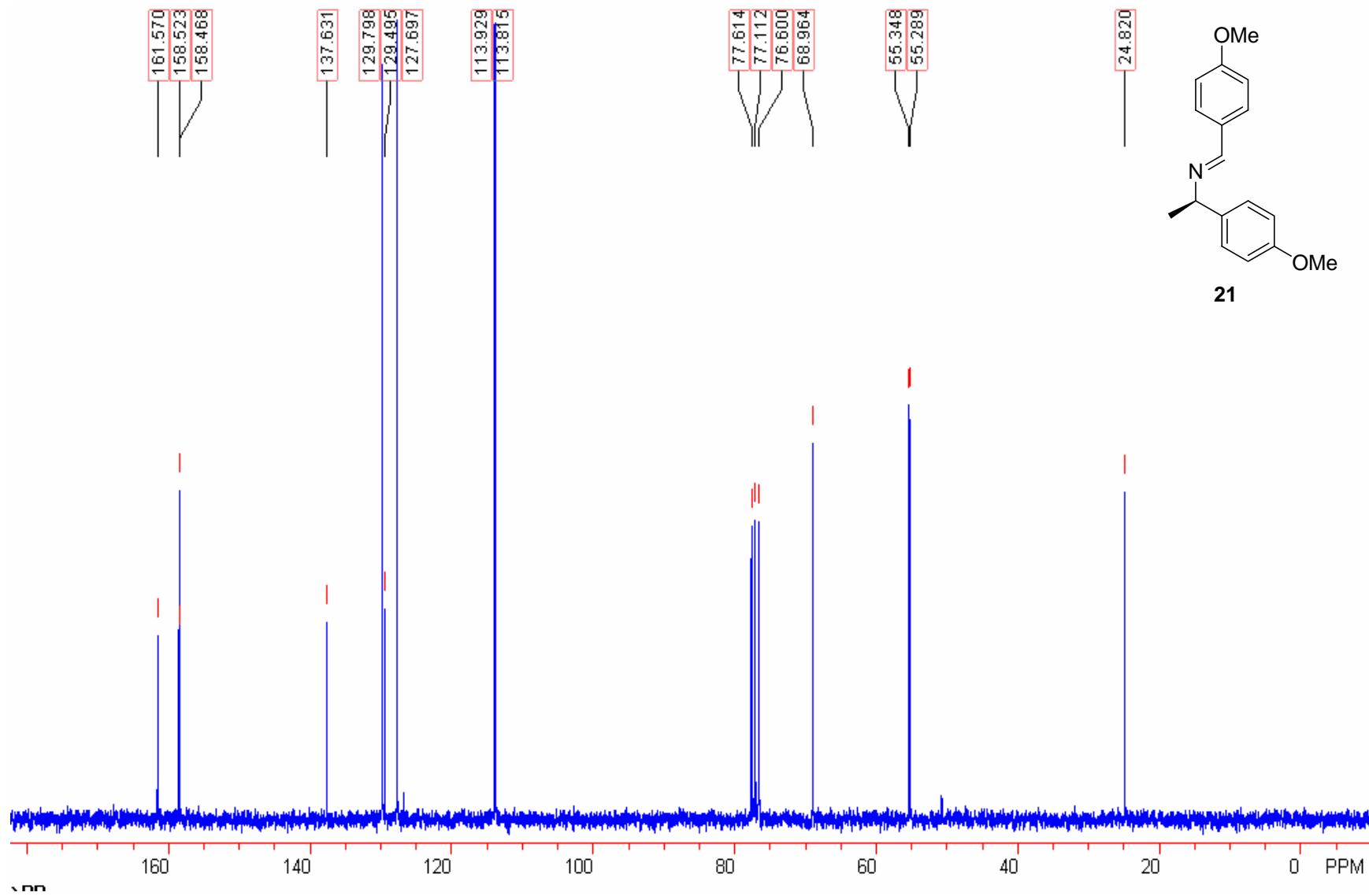


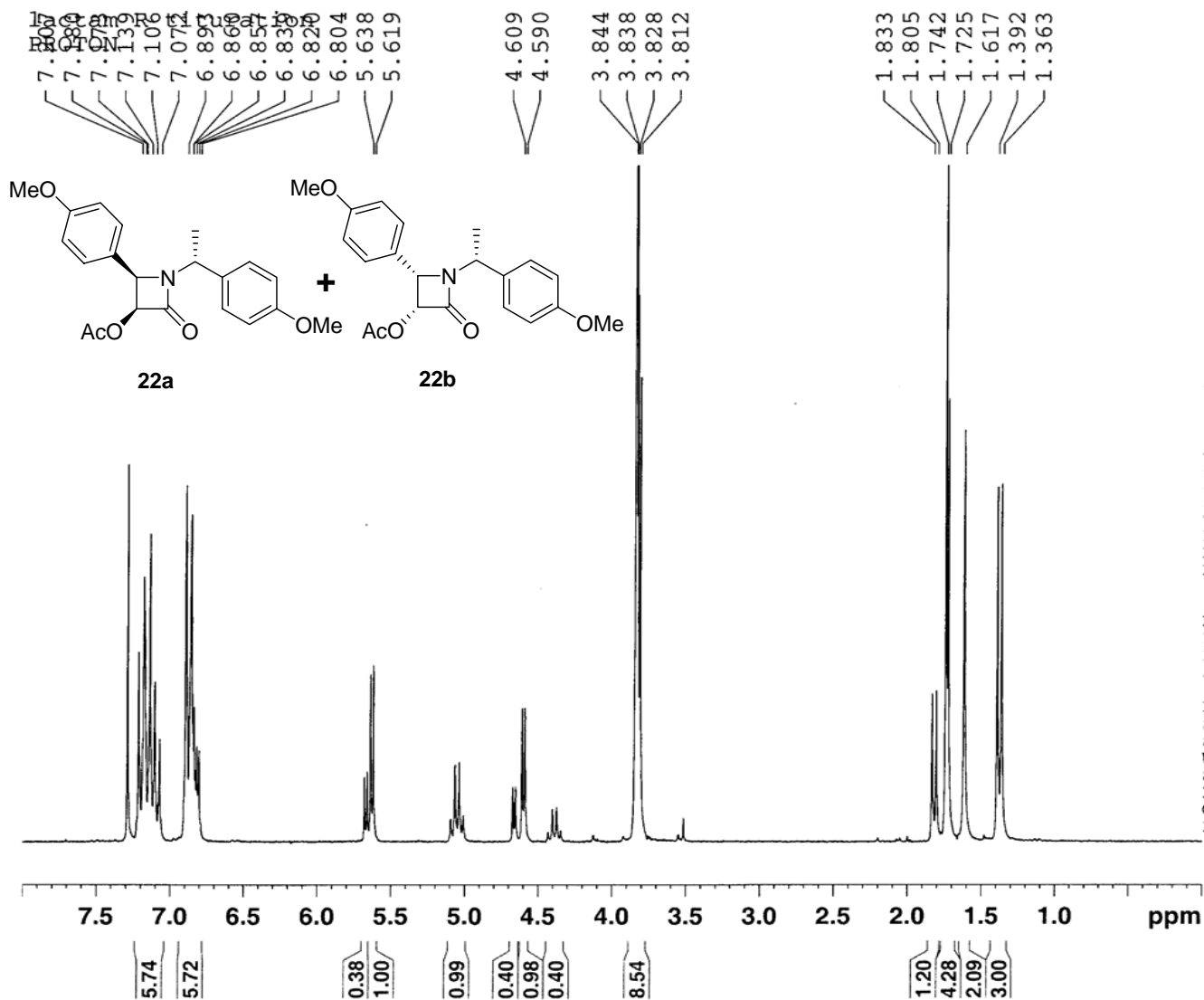










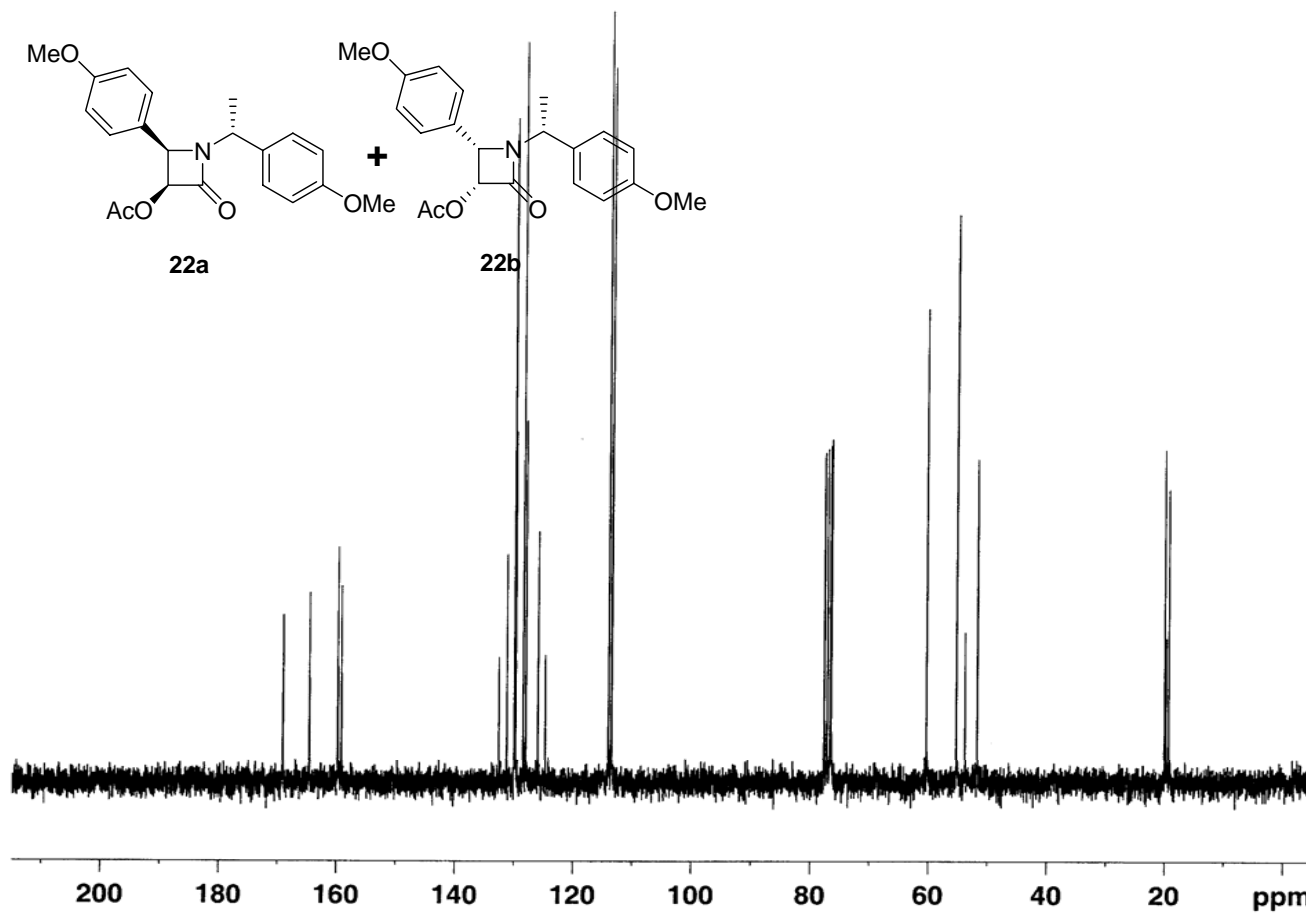
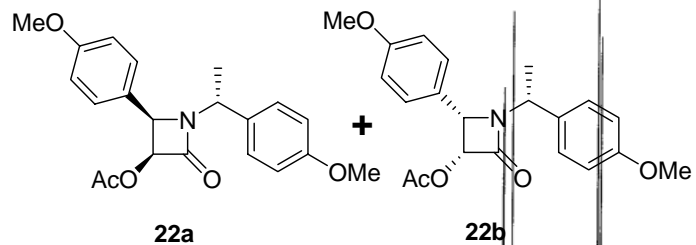


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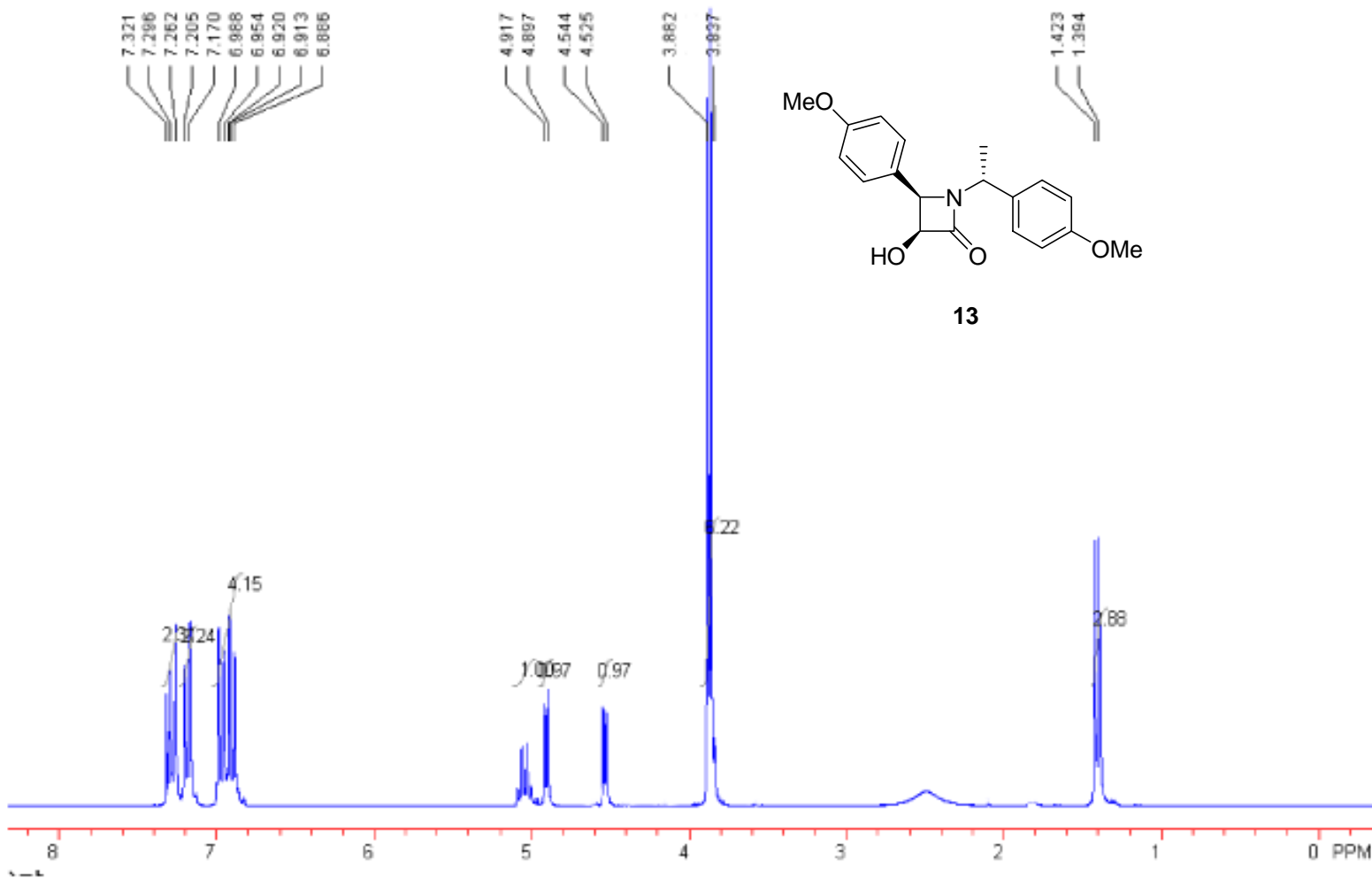
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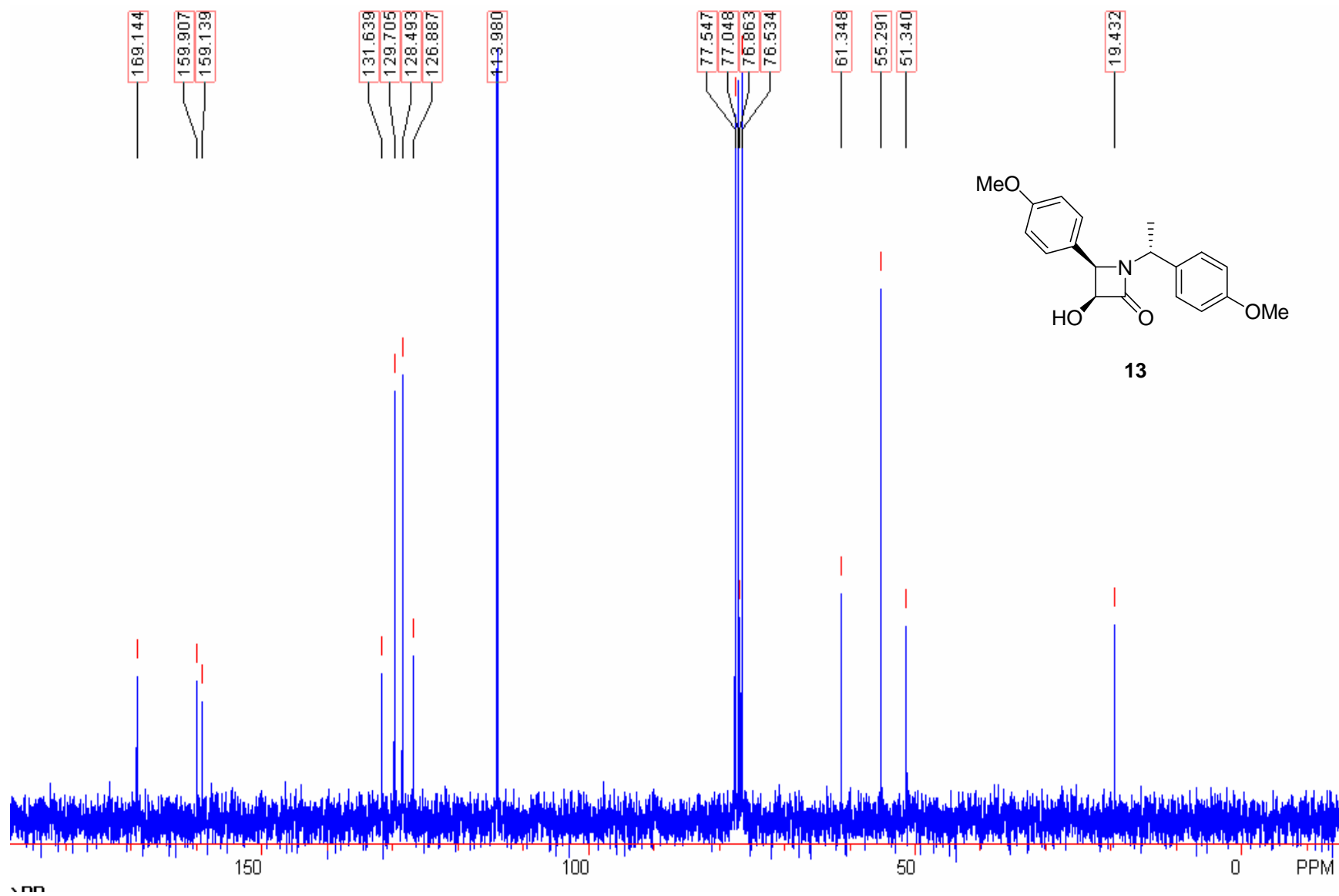
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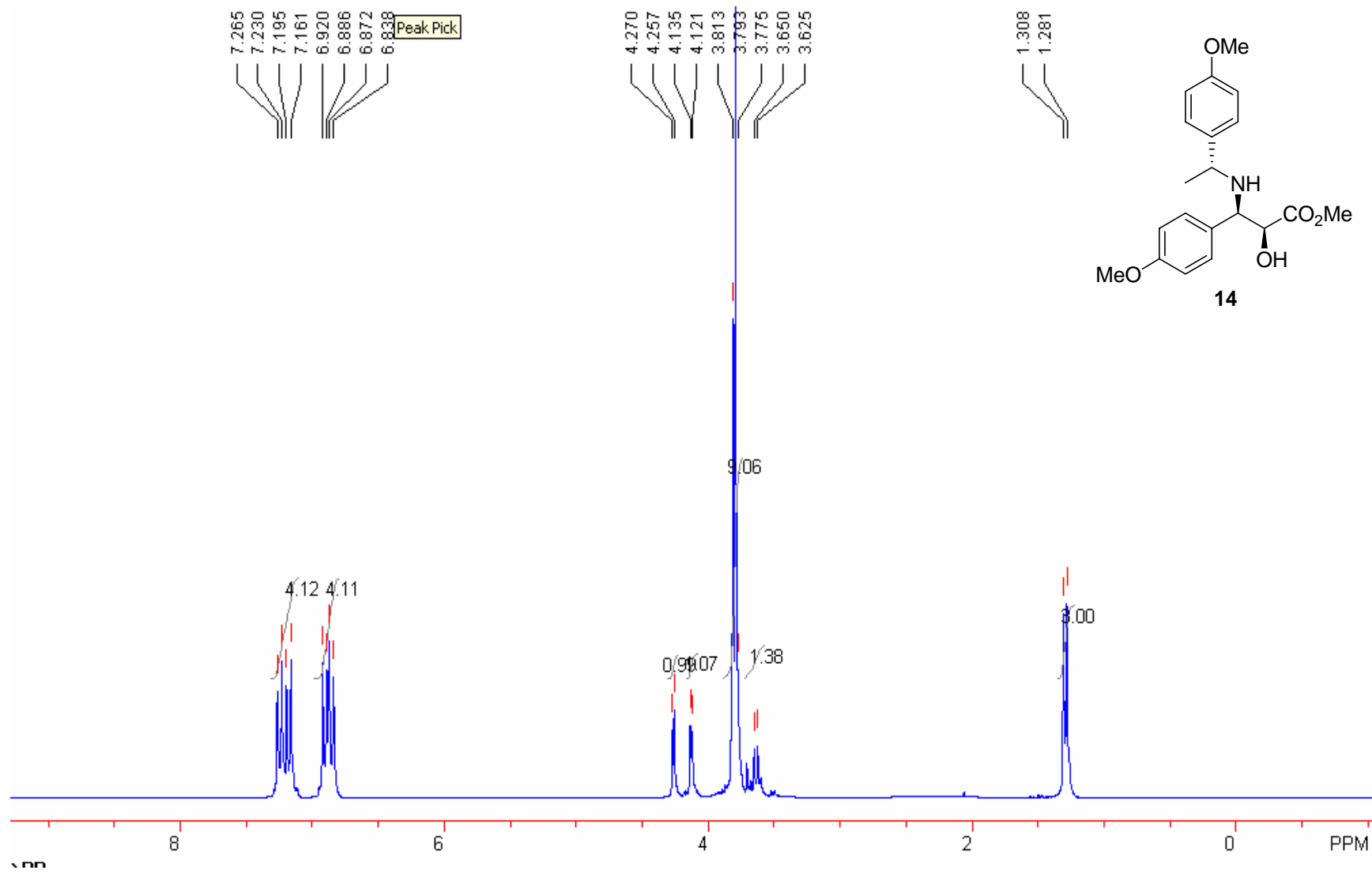
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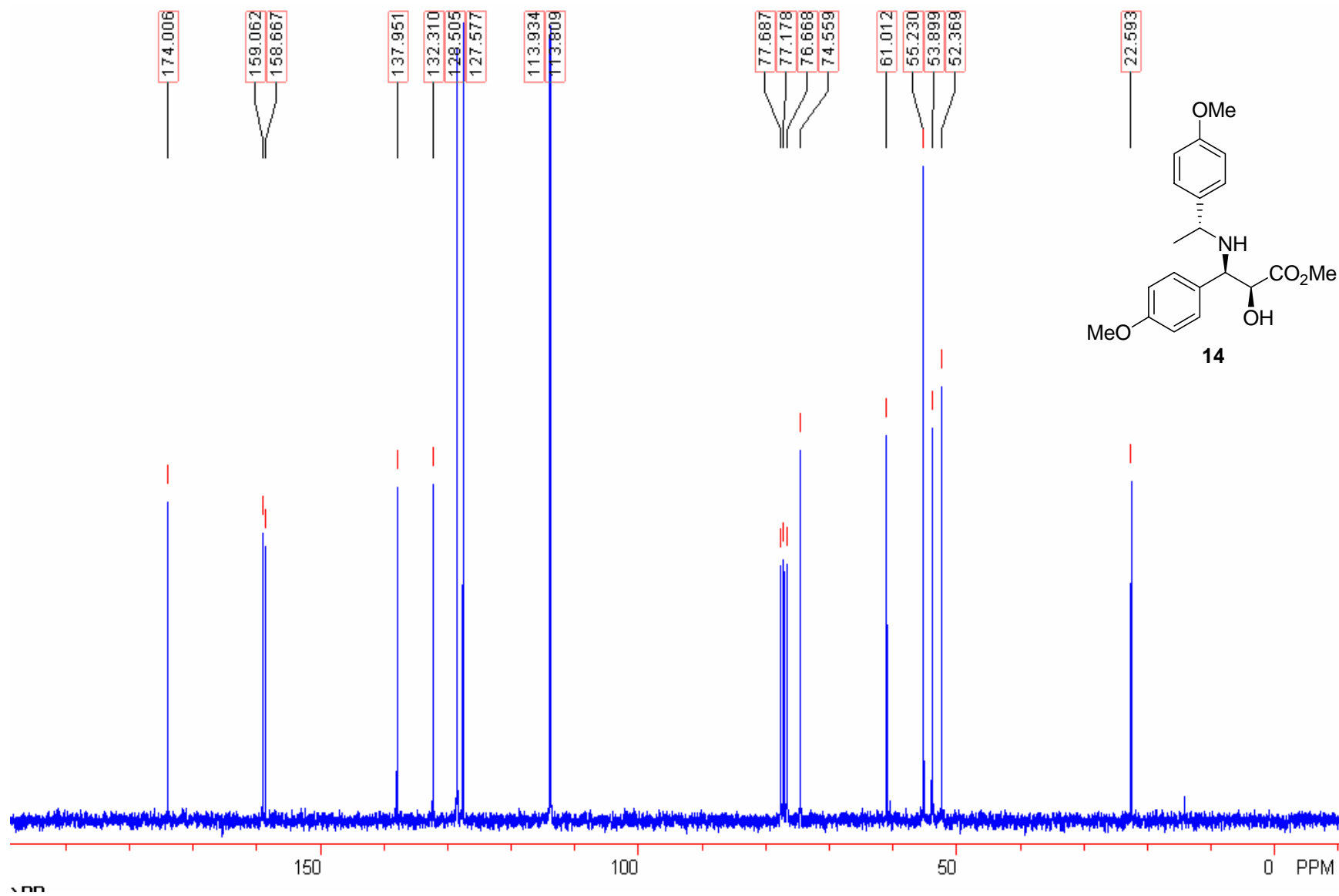
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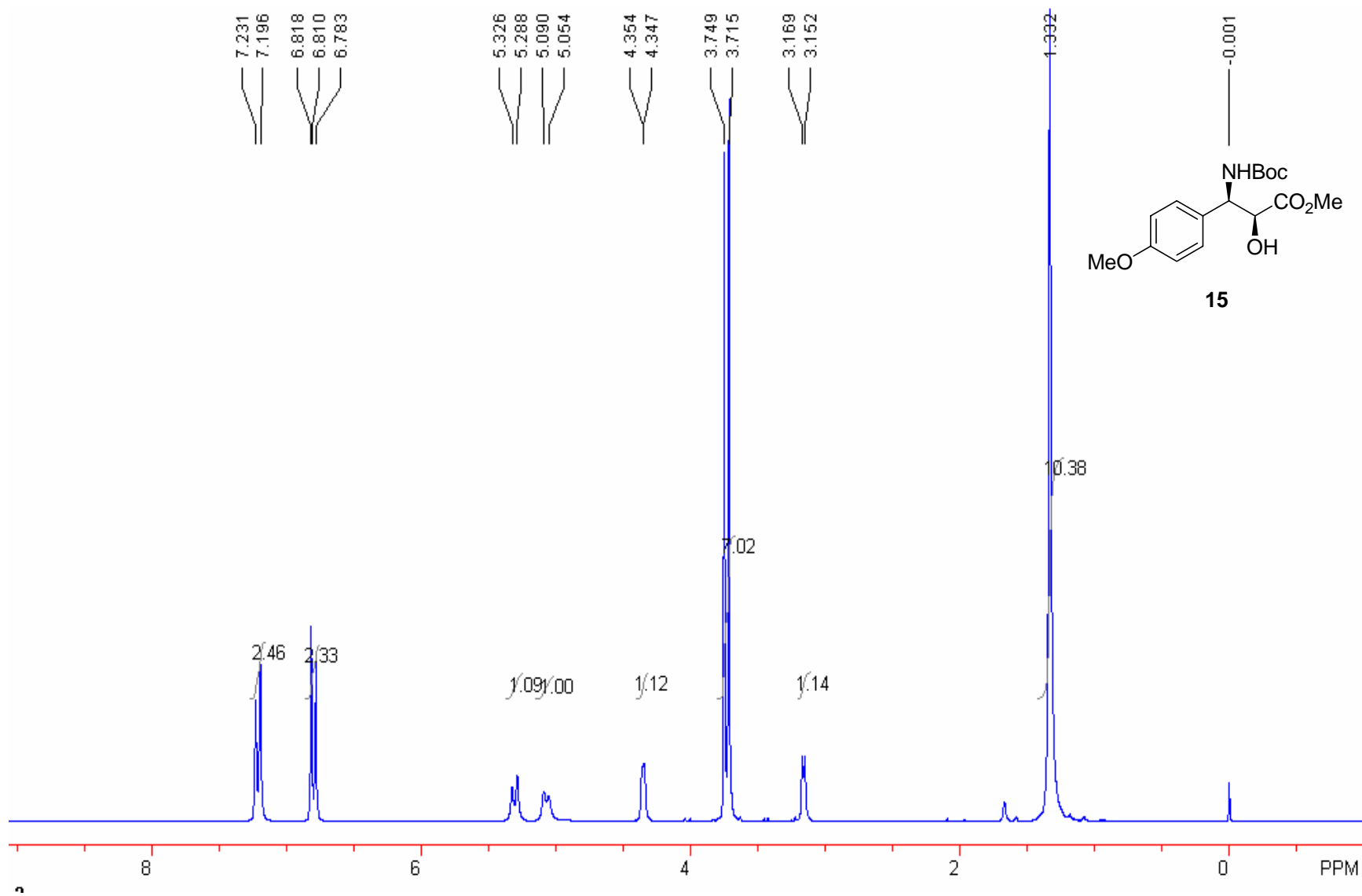


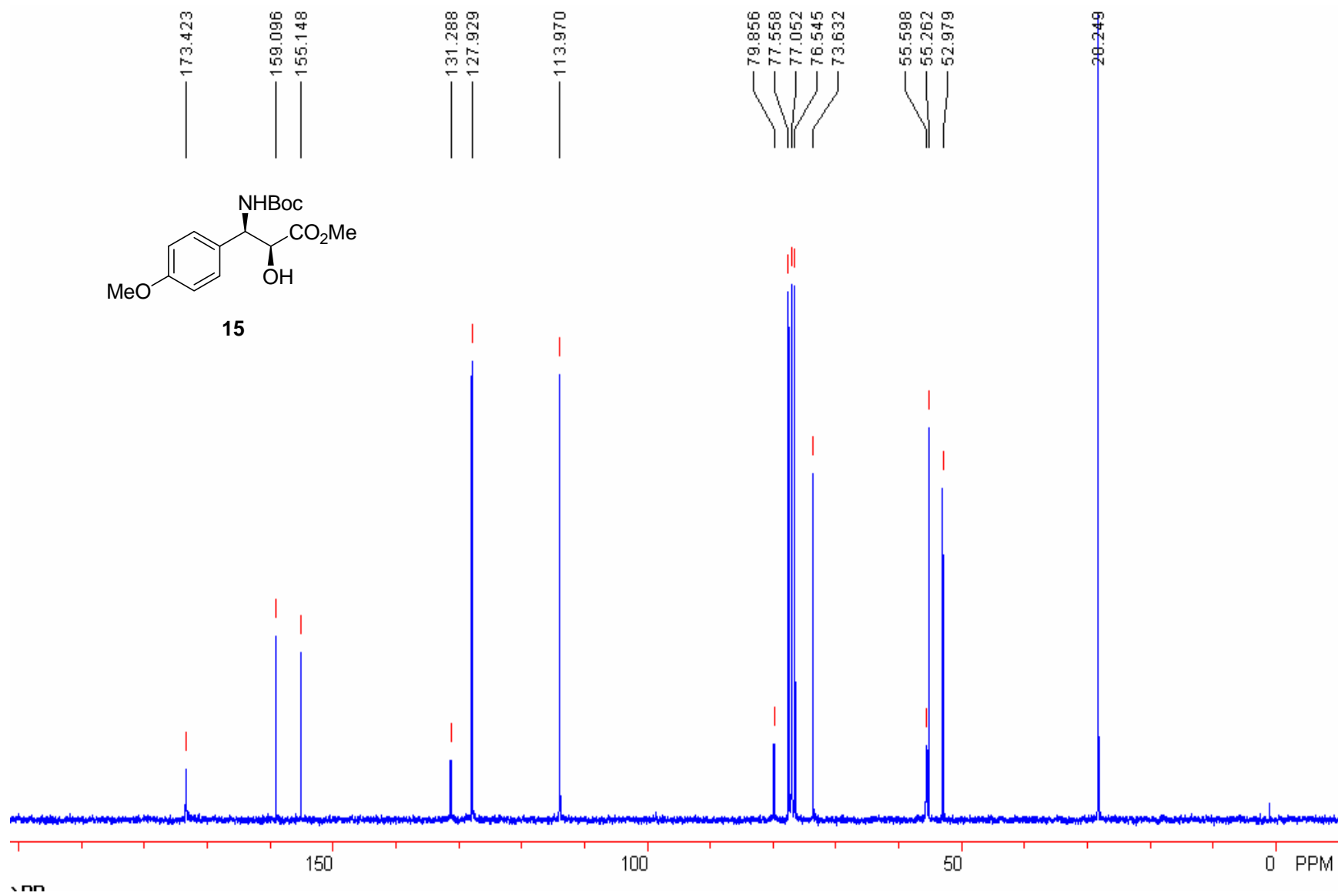


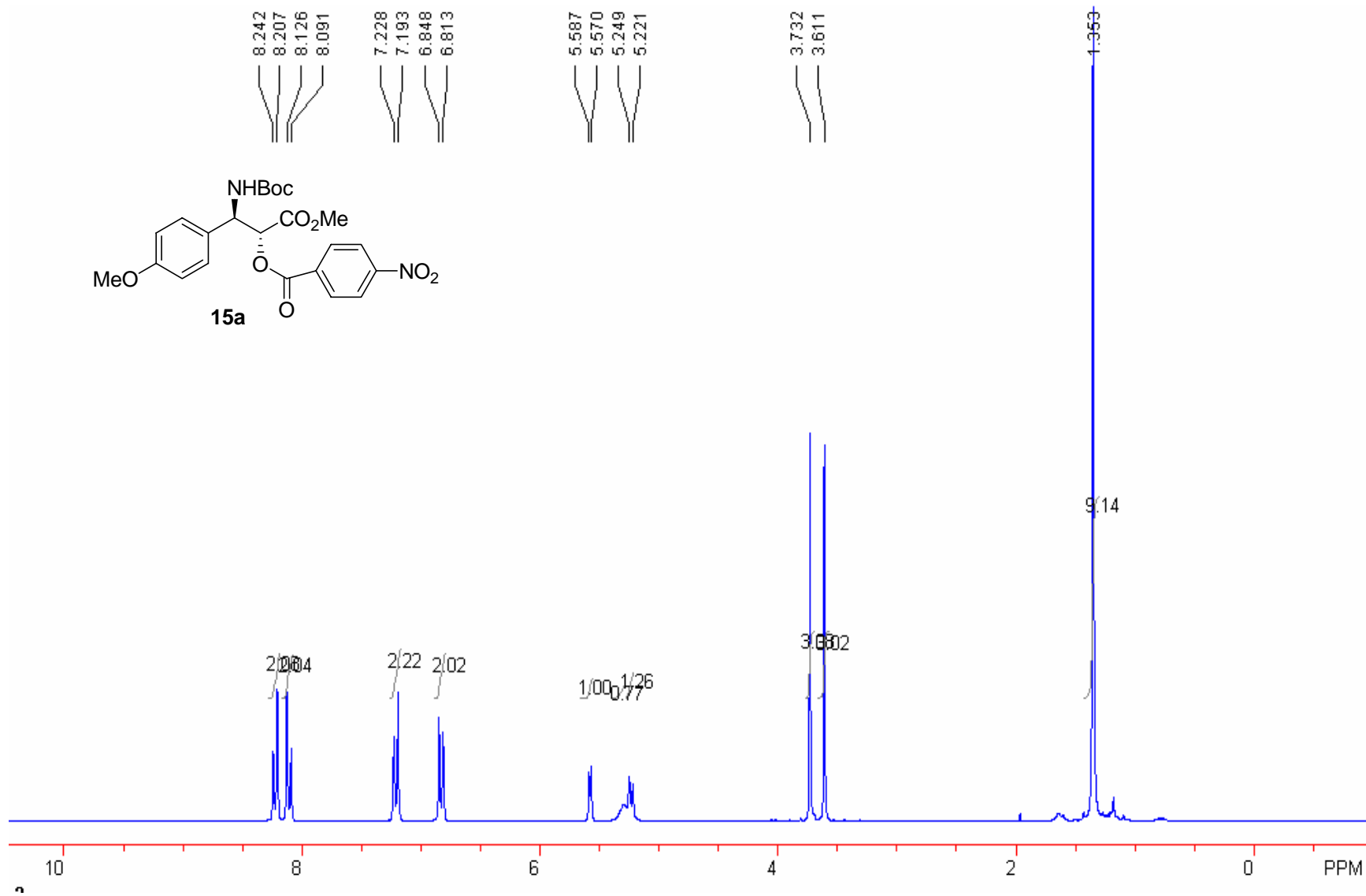


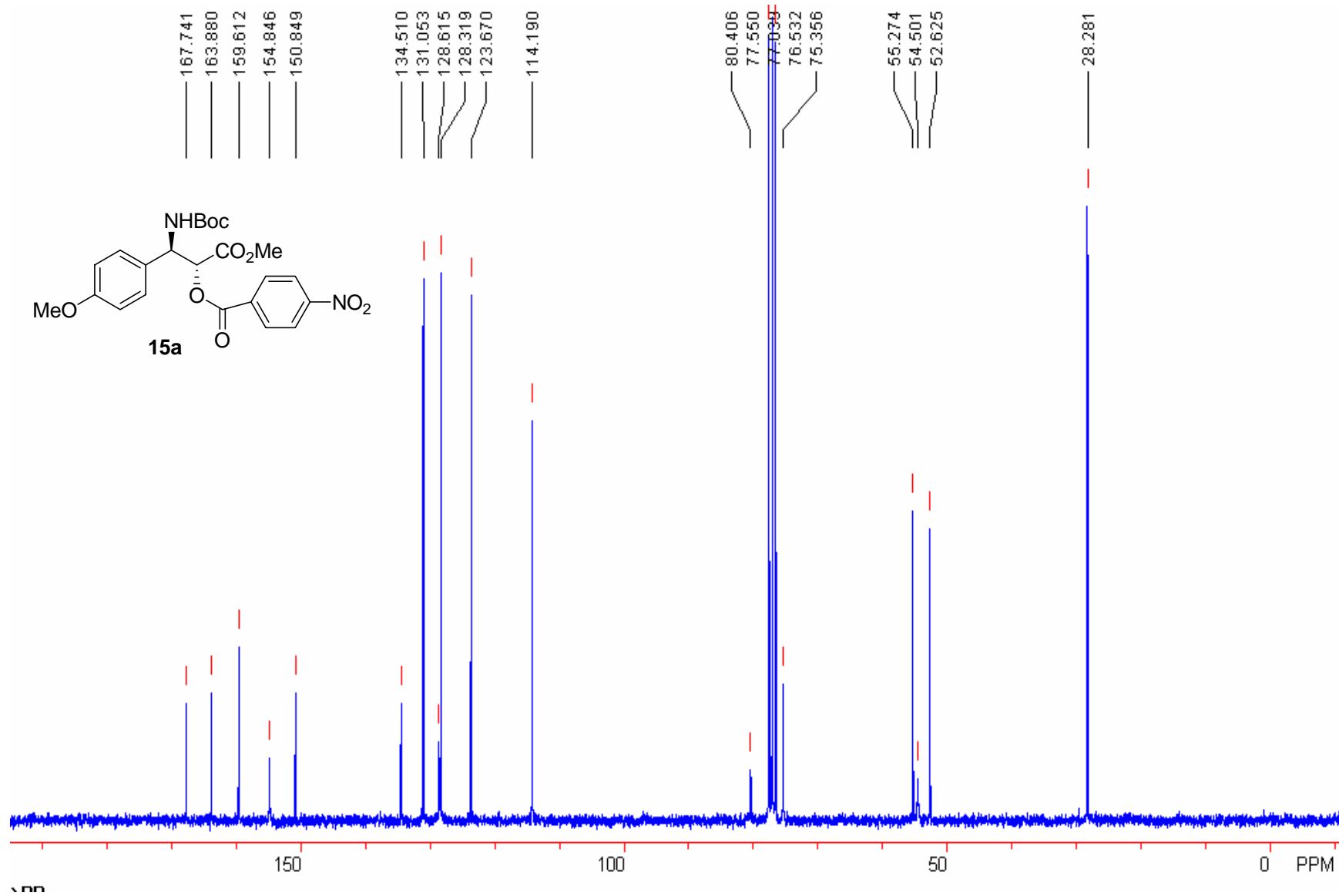


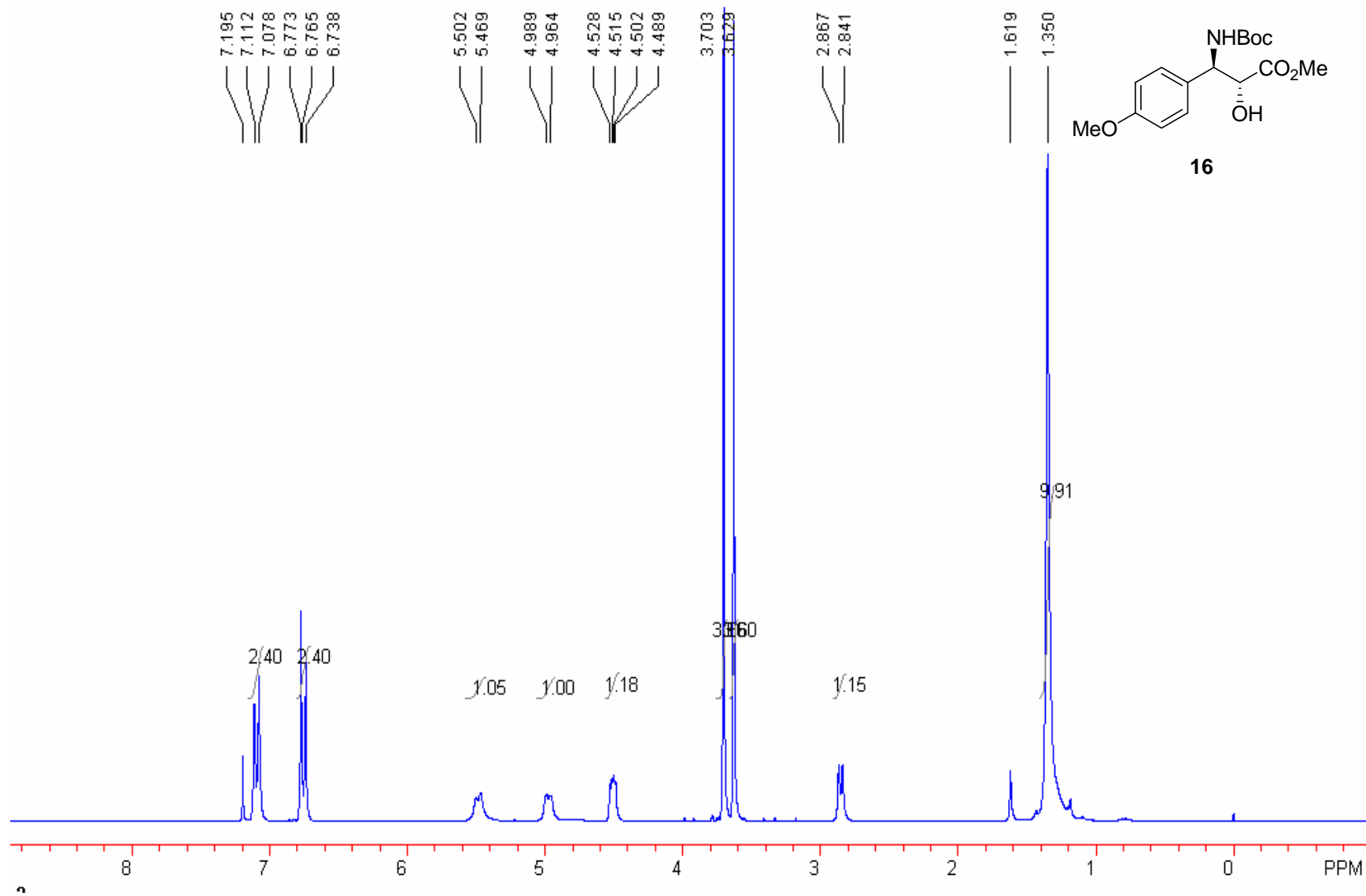






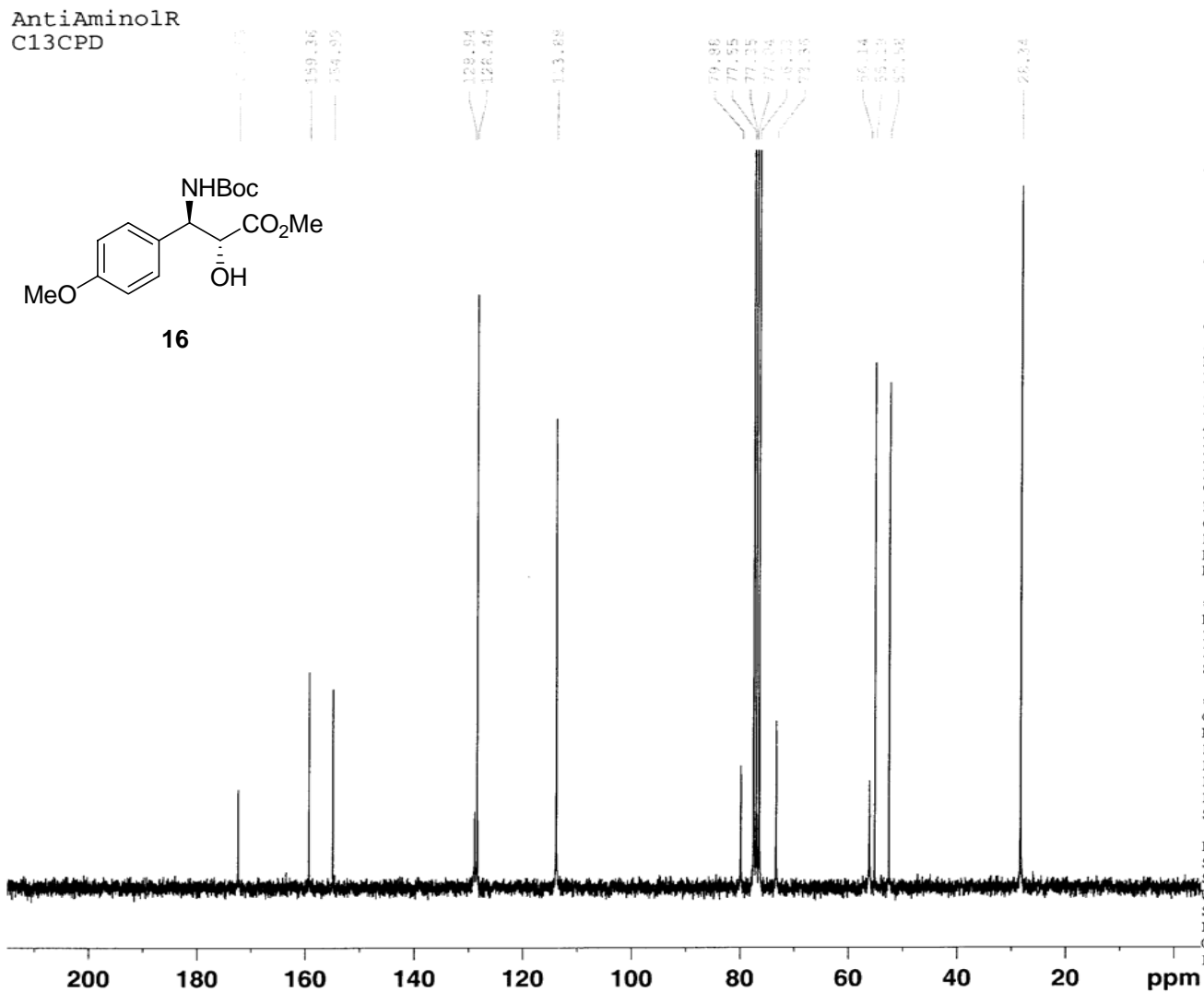
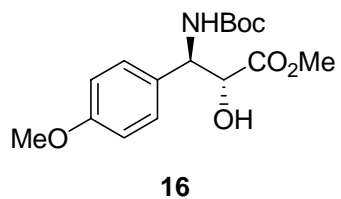








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