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1. General

Commercially available reagents were used without additional purification. E. Merck Kieselgel 60 was used for column chromatography.

Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel 60 F254 glass-backed plates (MERCK). Visualization was performed using UV light (254 or 312 nm) or staining with KMnO_4 .

NMR spectra (except NMR study from Part 4) were recorded on a 700 MHz Bruker Avance III NMR at 303K, Bruker Avance III 800 (with a 5-mm CPTXI cryoprobe) and Bruker Fourier 300. Chemical shifts were reported relative to residue peaks of DMSO-d_6 (2.51 ppm for ^1H and 39.5 ppm for ^{13}C).

Melting points were measured on a SMP 30 apparatus without correction.

High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) spectra were recorded on AB Sciex TripleTOF® 5600+ System using electrospray ionization (ESI). The measurements were done in a positive ion mode (interface capillary voltage – 5500 V); mass range from m/z 50 to m/z 3000; external or internal calibration was done with ESI Tuning Mix, Agilent. A syringe injection was used for solutions in acetonitrile, methanol, or water (flow rate 20 $\mu\text{l}/\text{min}$). Nitrogen was applied as a dry gas; interface temperature was set at 180 °C. IUPAC compound names were generated using ChemDraw Software.

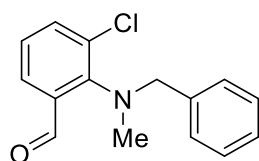
2. Synthesis of starting aldehydes

General method

Mixture of the corresponding 2-fluorobenzaldehyde (10 mmol), benzylamine (13 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (2.07 g, 15 mmol) in of freshly distilled DMF (50 mL) was heated at 100°C for 12 h. EtOAc (200 mL) was added and the resulted mixture was washed with brine (3×30 mL). Organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , all volatiles were removed in vacuo and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (eluent – mixture of hexane and EtOAc, v/v 10:1).

2-(Benzyl(methyl)amino)benzaldehyde, 2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-5-methylbenzaldehyde,^[1] 2-(benzyl(ethyl)amino)benzaldehyde,^[2] 2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-5-methoxybenzaldehyde,^[3] 2-(diethylamino)benzaldehyde^[4] and 2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-5-nitrobenzaldehyde^[5] were synthesized by the same method, the spectral properties corresponded to the literature data.

2-(Benzyl(methyl)amino)-3-chlorobenzaldehyde



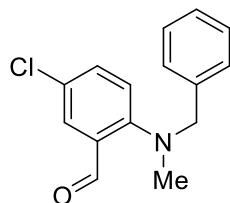
Yield 1.35 g (52%), yellow viscous oil.

1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.88 (s, 3H), 4.35 (s, 2H), 7.21 - 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.27 - 7.33 (m, 5H), 7.62 (dd, $J=7.7$, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (dd, $J=7.8$, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 10.27 (d, $J=0.6$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 41.3, 59.3, 126.7, 127.2, 127.3, 128.3, 128.6, 133.9, 135.8, 136.3, 138.3, 150.6, 191.6.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 260.0836 $[M+H]^+$. $C_{15}H_{15}ClNO^+$. Calculated, m/z : 260.0837.

2-(Benzyl(methyl)amino)-5-chlorobenzaldehyde



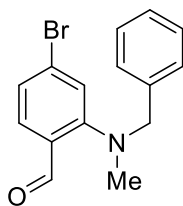
Yield 2.43 g (94%), yellow viscous oil.

1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.81 (s, 3H), 4.38 (s, 2H), 7.20 (d, $J=9.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 - 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.33 (t, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.54 (dd, $J=8.9$, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J=2.7$ Hz, 1H), 10.17 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 42.5, 60.7, 121.7, 125.0, 127.3, 127.7, 128.0, 128.5, 129.0, 134.1, 137.3, 153.3, 189.5.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 260.0838 $[M+H]^+$. $C_{15}H_{15}ClNO^+$. Calculated, m/z : 260.0837.

2-(Benzyl(methyl)amino)-4-bromobenzaldehyde



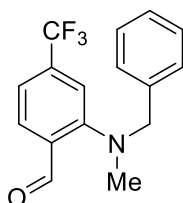
Yield 2.45 g (81%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.81 (s, 3H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 7.22 (dd, $J=8.3$, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25 - 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, $J=1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, $J=7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J=8.2$ Hz, 1H), 10.13 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (176 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 42.2, 60.4, 122.0, 123.5, 125.7, 127.2, 127.6, 128.4, 128.6, 132.1, 137.2, 155.2, 189.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 304.0337 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNO}^+$. Calculated, m/z : 304.0332.

2-(Benzyl(methyl)amino)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde



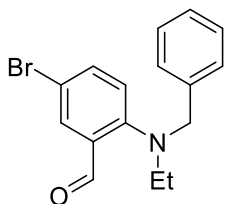
Yield 2.20 g (75%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.81 (s, 3H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 7.22 (dd, $J=8.3$, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25 - 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, $J=1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, $J=7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J=8.2$ Hz, 1H), 10.13 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (201 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 42.4, 60.2, 115.7 (q, $J=4.4$ Hz), 116.4 (q, $J=4.4$ Hz), 123.6 (q, $J=272.9$ Hz), 127.3, 127.6, 128.5, 129.1, 131.4, 133.7 (q, $J=32.3$ Hz), 137.2, 154.2, 190.1.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 294.1102 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{NO}^+$. Calculated, m/z : 294.1100.

2-(Benzyl(ethyl)amino)-5-bromobenzaldehyde



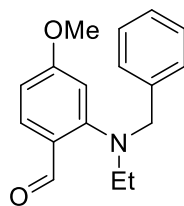
Yield 2.95 g (93%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 1.04 (t, $J=7.1$ Hz, 3H), 3.18 (q, $J=7.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.36 (s, 2H), 7.20 - 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.26 - 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.66 (dd, $J=8.8$, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J=2.5$ Hz, 1H), 10.21 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 11.8, 50.3, 56.3, 114.1, 124.5, 127.1, 128.1, 128.4, 130.7, 131.0, 136.7, 137.8, 152.7, 189.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 318.0486 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrNO}^+$. Calculated, m/z : 318.0488.

2-(Benzyl(ethyl)amino)-4-methoxybenzaldehyde



Yield 2.37 g (88%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 1.04 (t, $J=7.1$ Hz, 3H), 3.18 (q, $J=7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.35 (s, 2H), 6.67 (dd, $J=8.6, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, $J=2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, $J=7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 - 7.32 (m, 4H), 7.65 (d, $J=8.6$ Hz, 1H), 10.15 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 11.7, 50.4, 55.5, 56.0, 106.9, 108.4, 123.0, 127.0, 128.1, 128.3, 131.3, 138.3, 155.8, 164.3, 189.1.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 270.1491 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2^+$. Calculated, m/z : 270.1489.

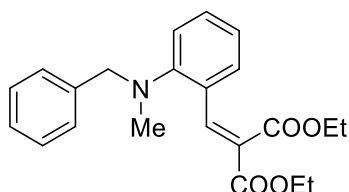
3. Synthesis of benzylmalonates 1a-p

General method

5 Mmol of corresponding aldehyde and 5 mmol of dimethyl or diethyl malonate were dissolved in 40 mL of toluene, 20 mg of benzoic acid and 20 mg of piperidine were added and the resulted mixture was refluxed in argon for 24 h. All volatiles were removed in vacuo and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (eluent – mixture of hexane and EtOAc, v/v 8:1).

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)benzylidene)malonate (**1a**)^[2] and dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(ethyl)amino)benzylidene)malonate (**1o**)^[6] were synthesized by the same method, the spectral properties corresponded to the literature data.

Diethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)benzylidene)malonate (**1b**)



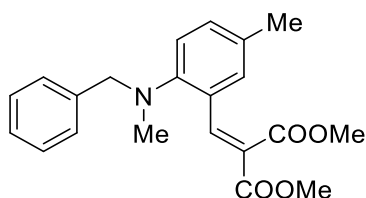
Yield 1.27 g (69%), yellow viscous oil.

¹H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm: 1.13 (t, *J*=7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.23 (t, *J*=7.1 Hz, 3H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 4.20 (qd, *J*=7.1, 5.3 Hz, 4H), 7.05 (t, *J*=7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J*=7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 - 7.29 (m, 4H), 7.32 (t, *J*=7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.36 - 7.40 (m, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm: 13.7, 14.0, 40.4, 61.0, 61.2, 61.3, 119.7, 122.3, 125.4, 126.7, 127.3, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 131.3, 137.5, 141.0, 152.4, 163.6, 165.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, *m/z*: 368.1865 [M+H]⁺. C₂₂H₂₆NO₄⁺. Calculated, *m/z*: 368.1856.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-5-methylbenzylidene)malonate (**1c**)



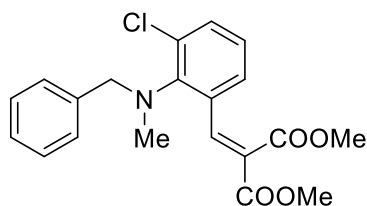
Yield 1.32 g (75%), yellow viscous oil.

¹H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm: 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 4.03 (s, 2H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J*=8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, *J*=8.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 - 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.32 (t, *J*=7.4 Hz, 2H), 8.08 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm: 20.3, 41.0, 52.5, 52.6, 61.1, 120.0, 124.5, 126.6, 127.2, 128.3, 128.5, 131.5, 132.1, 137.6, 141.2, 150.3, 164.1, 166.3.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, *m/z*: 354.1701 [M+H]⁺. C₂₁H₂₄NO₄⁺. Calculated, *m/z*: 354.1700.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-3-chlorobenzylidene)malonate (1d)



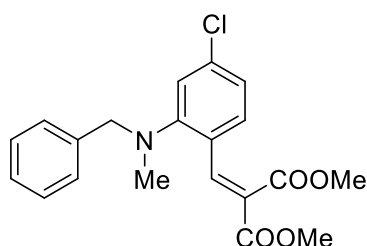
Yield 1.31 g (70%), yellow solid, m.p. 61–63 °C.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.72 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 7.17 (dd, $J=7.8, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, $J=7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 - 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.30 - 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.53 (dd, $J=8.0, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 40.0, 52.5, 52.8, 59.0, 126.6, 126.8, 127.2, 127.3, 128.3, 128.5, 132.8, 133.2, 134.6, 138.4, 141.8, 147.6, 163.7, 165.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 374.1158 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClNO}_4^+$. Calculated, m/z : 374.1154.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-4-chlorobenzylidene)malonate (1e)



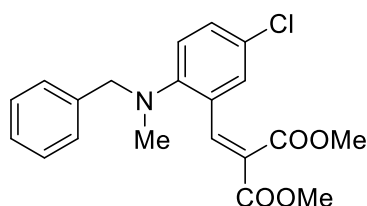
Yield 1.73 g (93%), yellow solid, m.p. 62–64 °C.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.65 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 4.13 (s, 2H), 7.09 - 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.20 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 - 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.32 - 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.92 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 40.4, 52.6, 52.6, 60.5, 119.7, 122.1, 125.0, 125.0, 127.4, 128.1, 128.4, 130.0, 135.8, 137.1, 140.6, 153.6, 163.9, 166.0

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 374.1158 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClNO}_4^+$. Calculated, m/z : 374.1154.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-5-chlorobenzylidene)malonate (1f)



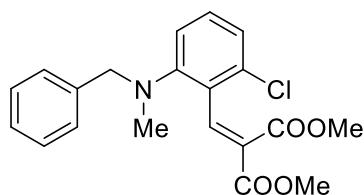
Yield 1.29 g (69%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.63 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 4.10 (s, 2H), 7.12 (d, $J=8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, $J=2.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, $J=7.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 - 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.33 (t, $J=7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (dd, $J=8.6, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 40.6, 52.6, 52.7, 60.6, 121.7, 125.8, 125.9, 127.3, 127.6, 128.1, 128.2, 128.4, 130.8, 137.1, 140.1, 151.1, 163.7, 165.8.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 374.1159 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClNO}_4^+$. Calculated, m/z : 374.1154.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-6-chlorobenzylidene)malonate (1f)



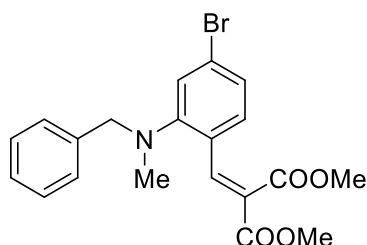
Yield 0.97 g (52%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ ppm: 2.58 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 4.06 (s, 2H), 7.04 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.22 - 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.27 - 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.84 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ ppm: 39.7, 52.2, 52.6, 60.3, 118.4, 123.0, 126.4, 127.1, 127.9, 128.2, 128.5, 130.6, 132.0, 137.3, 142.3, 153.0, 164.3, 164.5

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 374.1159 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClNO}_4^+$. Calculated, m/z : 374.1154.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-4-bromobenzylidene)malonate (1g)



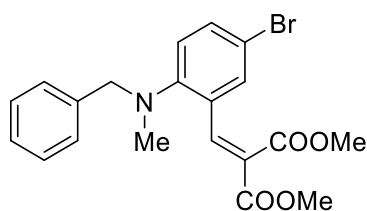
Yield 1.88 g (90%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ ppm: 2.65 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 4.13 (s, 2H), 7.11 - 7.14 (m, 1H), 7.23 - 7.30 (m, 5H), 7.34 (t, $J=7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.91 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ ppm: 40.4, 52.6, 52.6, 60.5, 122.6, 124.7, 125.1, 125.4, 127.4, 128.1, 128.4, 130.1, 137.1, 140.7, 153.6, 163.9, 165.9.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 418.0651 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{BrNO}_4^+$. Calculated, m/z : 418.0648.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-5-bromobenzylidene)malonate (1h)



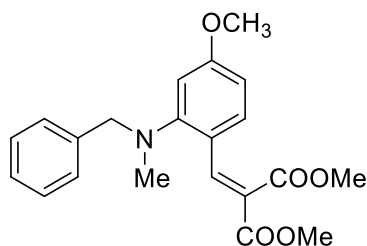
Yield 1.71 g (82%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ ppm: 2.63 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 4.10 (s, 2H), 7.06 (d, $J=8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, $J=2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, $J=7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.54 (dd, $J=8.8, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ ppm: 40.5, 52.6, 52.7, 60.5, 113.7, 122.0, 125.8, 127.3, 128.2, 128.4, 128.4, 130.6, 133.7, 137.1, 140.1, 151.5, 163.7, 165.9

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 418.0653 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{BrNO}_4^+$. Calculated, m/z : 418.0648.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-4-methoxybenzylidene)malonate (1i)



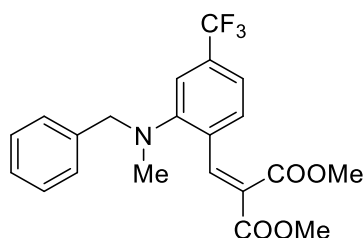
Yield 1.55 g (84%), yellow solid, m.p. 64–66 °C.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.63 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 4.10 (s, 2H), 6.63 (d, $J=2.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.67 (dd, $J=8.7$, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J=8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 - 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.34 (t, $J=7.4$ Hz, 2H), 8.01 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 40.9, 52.4, 52.4, 55.3, 60.9, 105.9, 108.1, 118.7, 122.1, 127.3, 128.2, 128.4, 129.9, 137.5, 140.7, 154.7, 162.1, 164.4, 166.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 370.1657 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_5^+$. Calculated, m/z : 370.1649.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzylidene)malonate (1j)



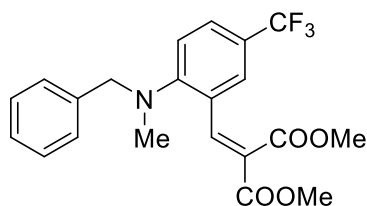
Yield 1.32 g (65%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.70 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 7.25 - 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.32 - 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.39 (s, 2H), 7.96 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (176 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 40.3, 52.5, 52.6, 60.3, 115.8 (q, $J=3.7$ Hz), 118.3 (q, $J=3.3$ Hz), 123.8 (q, $J=272.7$ Hz), 126.5, 127.3, 128.0, 128.3, 129.5, 130.2, 130.9 (q, $J=31.8$ Hz), 137.0, 140.6, 152.5, 163.6, 165.5.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 408.1423 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_4^+$. Calculated, m/z : 408.1417.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzylidene)malonate (1k)



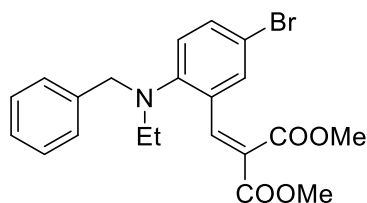
Yield 0.96 g (47%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.75 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 7.23 (d, $J=8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, $J=7.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, $J=1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dd, $J=8.8, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (176 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 40.2, 52.4, 52.7, 59.9, 119.5, 121.2 (q, $J=32.5$ Hz), 124.2 (q, $J=271.0$ Hz), 125.3, 125.4 (q, $J=3.7$ Hz), 125.8, 127.3, 127.8 (q, $J=3.7$ Hz), 127.8, 128.4, 137.0, 140.8, 155.0, 163.6, 165.8.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 408.1415 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_4^+$. Calculated, m/z : 408.1417.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(ethyl)amino)-5-bromobenzylidene)malonate (1l)



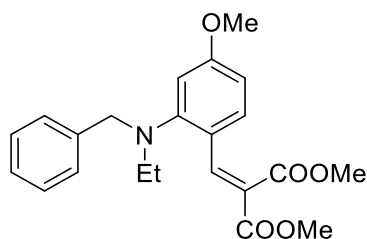
Yield 1.53 g (71%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 1.01 (t, $J=7.0$ Hz, 3H), 3.00 (q, $J=7.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.20 (s, 2H), 7.11 (d, $J=8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, $J=7.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.27 - 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.50 (dd, $J=8.7, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 12.1, 48.2, 52.6, 52.8, 56.1, 114.0, 123.7, 125.8, 127.1, 128.1, 128.3, 129.9, 130.5, 133.3, 137.8, 140.0, 149.9, 163.7, 165.9.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 432.0812 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{BrNO}_4^+$. Calculated, m/z : 432.0805.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(ethyl)amino)-4-methoxybenzylidene)malonate (1m)



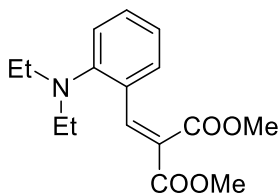
Yield 1.72 g (90%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 1.02 (t, $J=7.0$ Hz, 3H), 3.00 (q, $J=7.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 6.64 (dd, $J=8.6, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, $J=2.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, $J=8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 - 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.27 - 7.31 (m, 4H), 8.03 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 12.0, 48.8, 52.4, 55.3, 56.0, 107.5, 108.4, 120.1, 122.0, 127.0, 128.0, 128.3, 129.7, 138.3, 140.6, 153.0, 161.8, 164.4, 166.8.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 384.1813 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_5^+$. Calculated, m/z : 384.1805.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(diethylamino)benzylidene)malonate (1n)



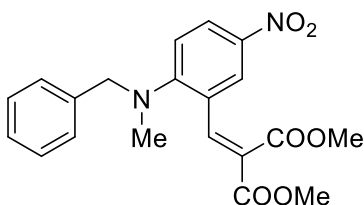
Yield 1.32 g (91%), yellow viscous oil.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 0.98 (t $J=7.1$ Hz, 6H), 3.03 (q, $J=7.1$ Hz, 4H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 7.05 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J=6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 - 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 12.4, 47.3, 52.4, 52.5, 121.0, 122.3, 124.1, 128.0, 128.4, 131.0, 141.3, 151.2, 164.2, 166.4.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 292.1543 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_4^+$. Calculated, m/z : 292.1543.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-5-nitrobenzylidene)malonate (1p)



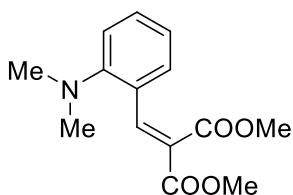
Yield 1.40 g (73%), yellow solid, m.p. 89–91 °C.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.89 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J=9.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J=7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, $J=2.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.16 (dd, $J=9.2, 2.7$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 40.3, 52.6, 52.7, 59.4, 118.0, 122.8, 125.0, 125.7, 126.2, 127.4, 128.6, 136.8, 139.2, 141.1, 156.8, 163.5, 165.6.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 385.1399 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6^+$. Calculated, m/z : 385.1394.

Dimethyl 2-(2-(dimethylamino)benzylidene)malonate (1r)



Yield 1.20 g (91%), yellow solid, m.p. 79–81 °C.

^1H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 2.70 (s, 6 H), 3.71 (s, 3 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 6.99 - 7.04 (m, 1 H), 7.13 (d, $J=7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.20 (dd, $J=7.8, 1.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.37 - 7.42 (m, 1 H), 7.85 (s, 1 H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm: 44.5, 52.4, 52.6, 118.2, 121.8, 124.0, 125.6, 128.5, 131.5, 141.3, 153.6, 164.3, 166.3.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) found, m/z : 264.1232 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_4^+$. Calculated, m/z : 264.1230.

4. NMR study on the reaction intermediates

1a (20.0 mg, 0.059 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in dry degassed C₂H₄Cl₂ (0.6 mL) in a standard NMR tube in argon. Then freshly distilled BF₃·Et₂O (16.7 mg, 0.118 mmol, 2 eq.) was carefully added and the reaction vessel was sealed. The resulted solution was shaken for 3 min and the sample was stored for 24 h at 25 °C. ¹H NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture was recorded on a 300 MHz Bruker Avance Neo at 293 K without any additional deuterated solvents. ¹¹B and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a 300 MHz Bruker Avance III-HD at 293 K. 3D shimming was made on C₂H₄Cl₂ signal.

We also recorded ¹H NMR spectrum of **1a** in C₂H₄Cl₂ and ¹¹B and ¹⁹F NMR spectra of BF₃·Et₂O in C₂H₄Cl₂ in the similar manner.

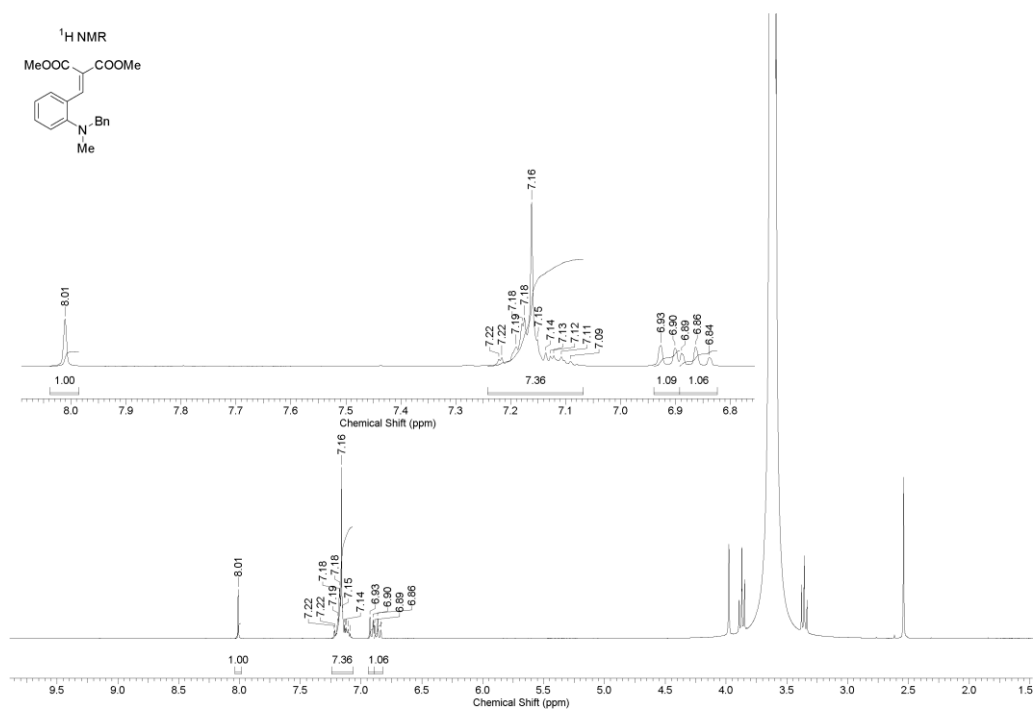


Figure S1. ¹H NMR spectrum of the compound **1a** in C₂H₄Cl₂.

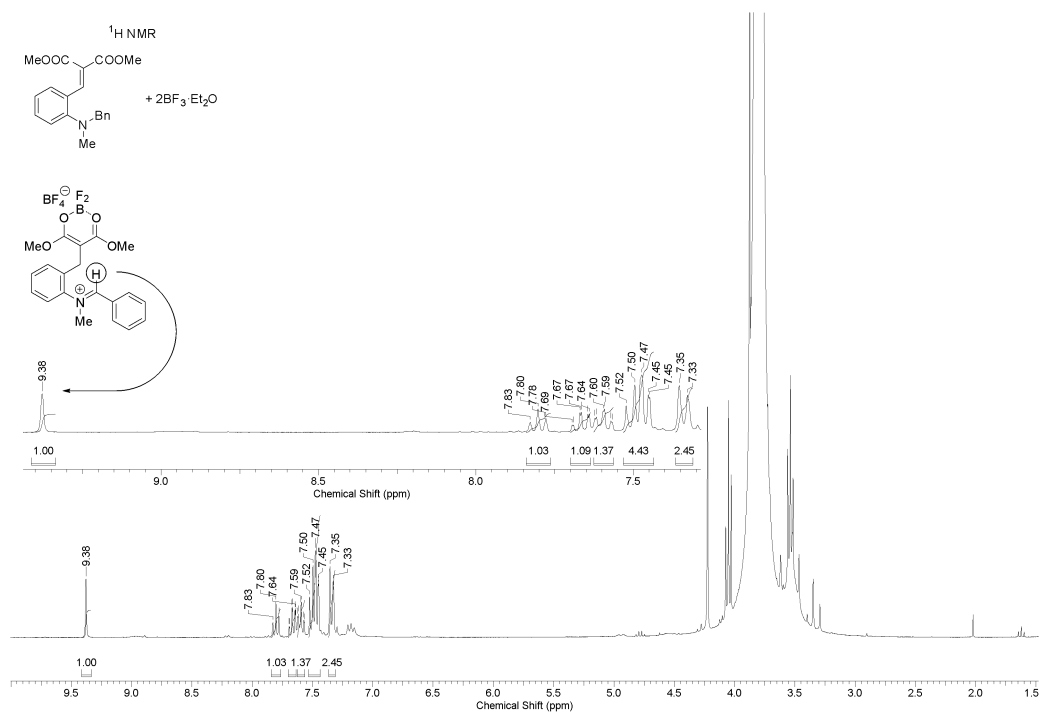


Figure S2. ¹H NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture in C₂H₄Cl₂.

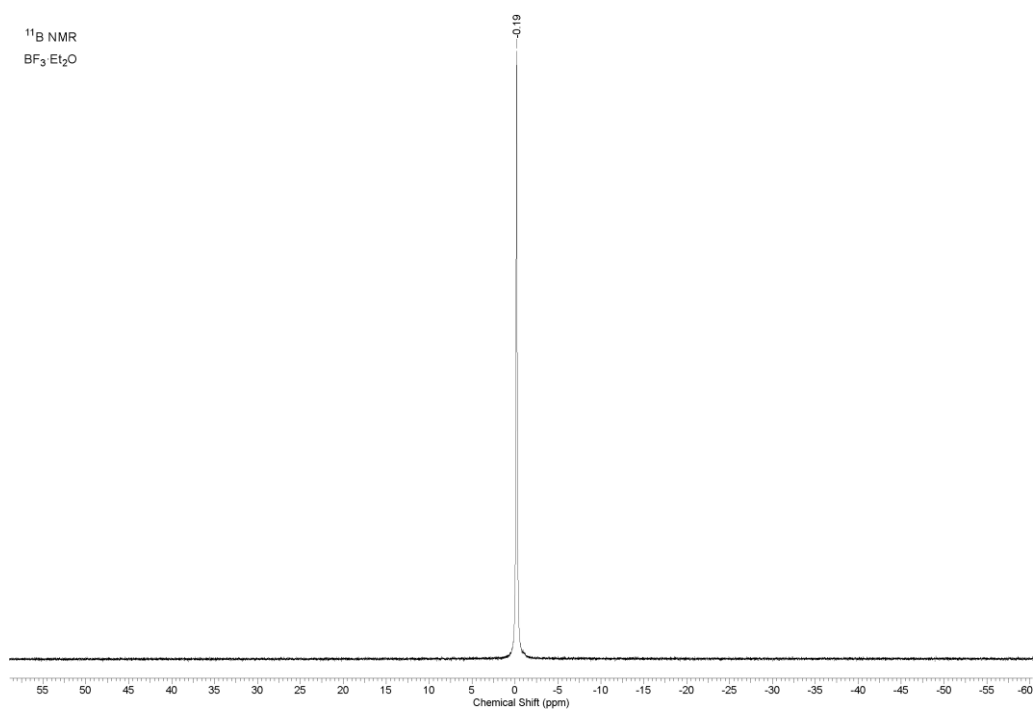


Figure S3. ¹¹B NMR spectrum of BF₃ in C₂H₄Cl₂.

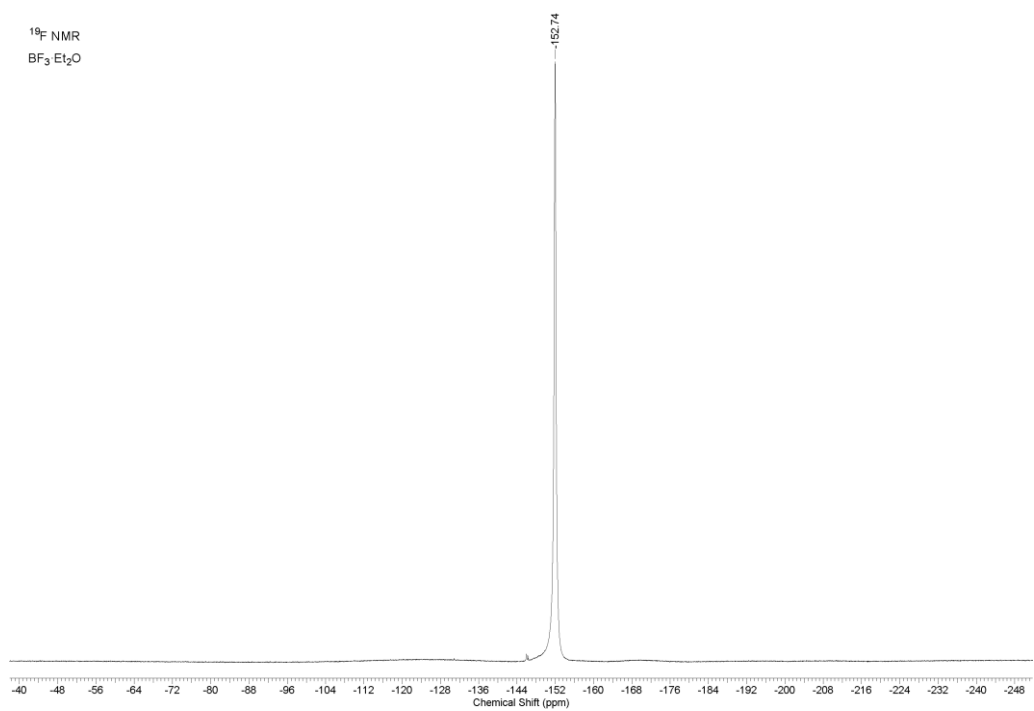


Figure S4. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum of BF₃ in C₂H₄Cl₂.

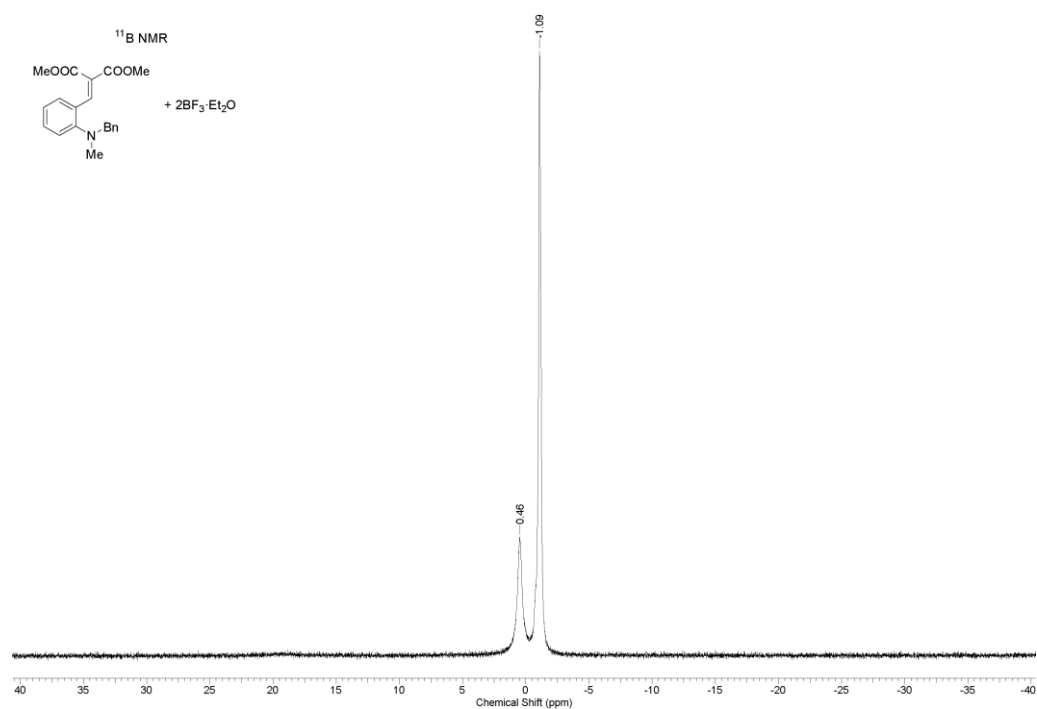


Figure S5. ¹¹B NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture in C₂H₄Cl₂.

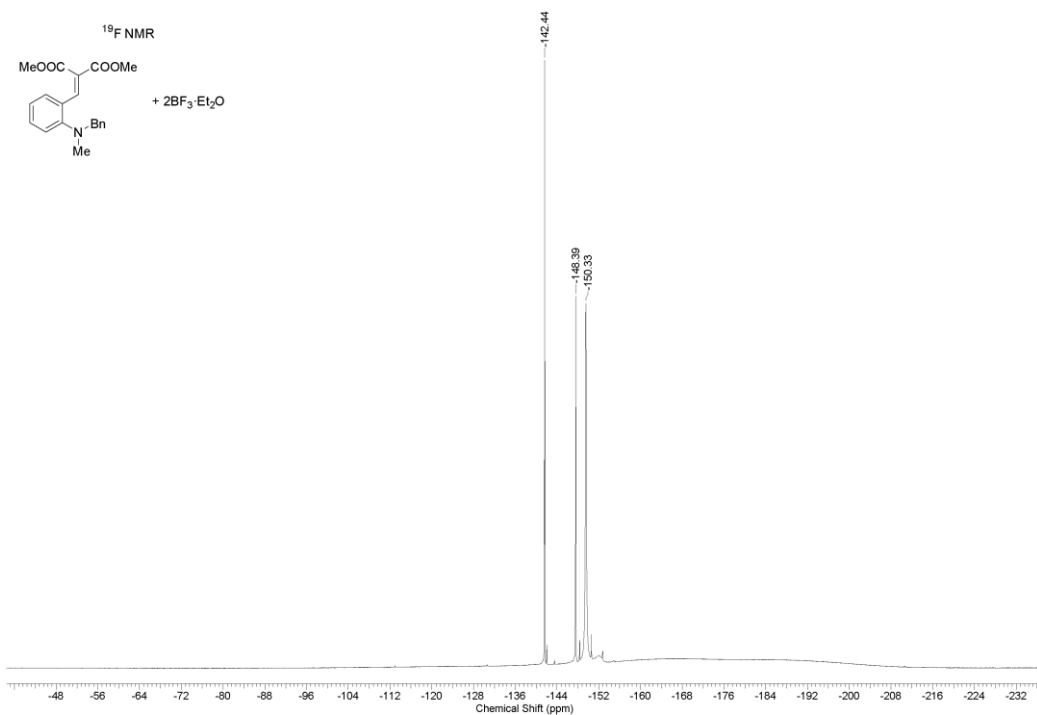
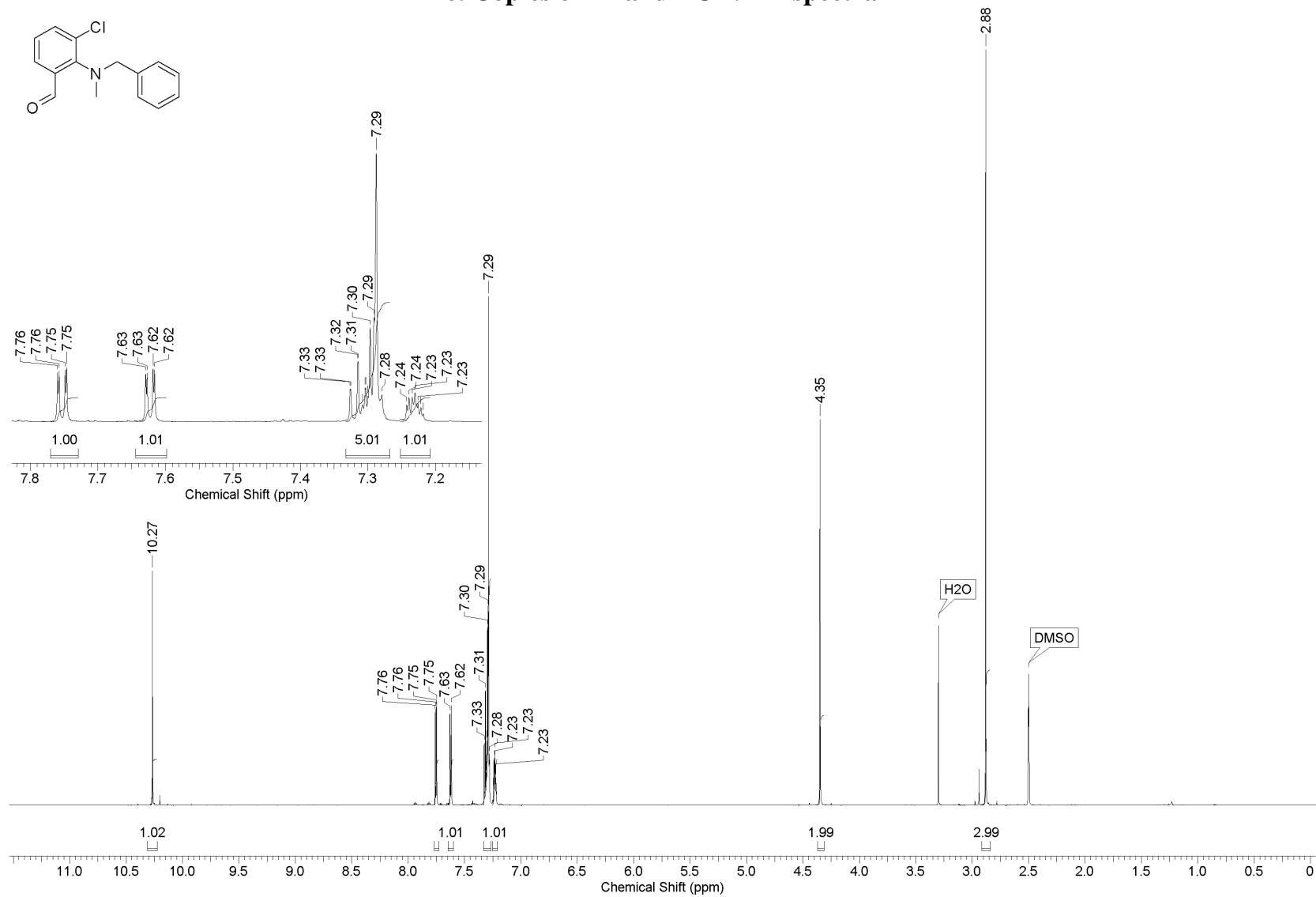


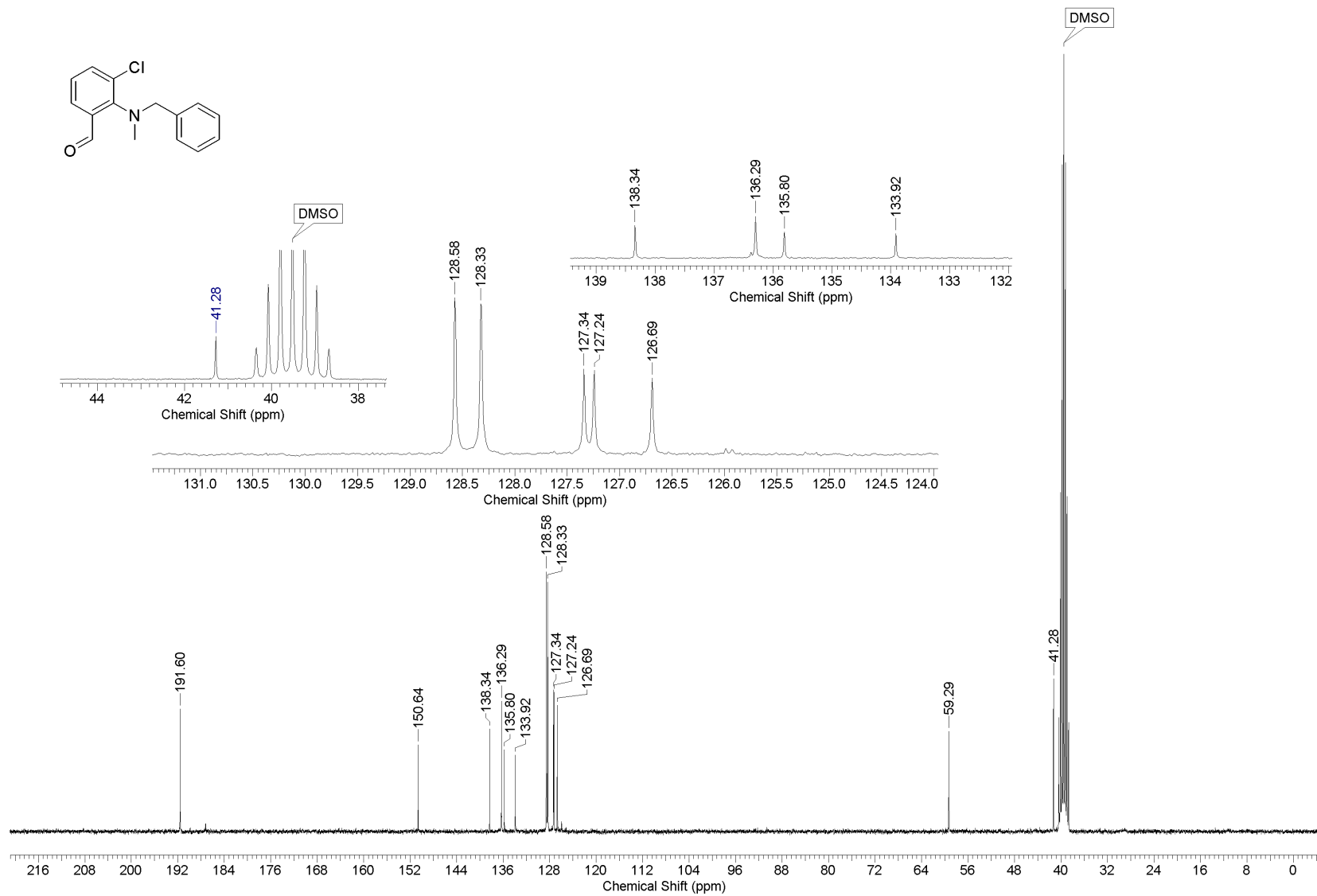
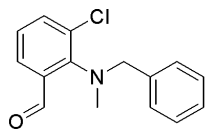
Figure S6. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture in C₂H₄Cl₂.

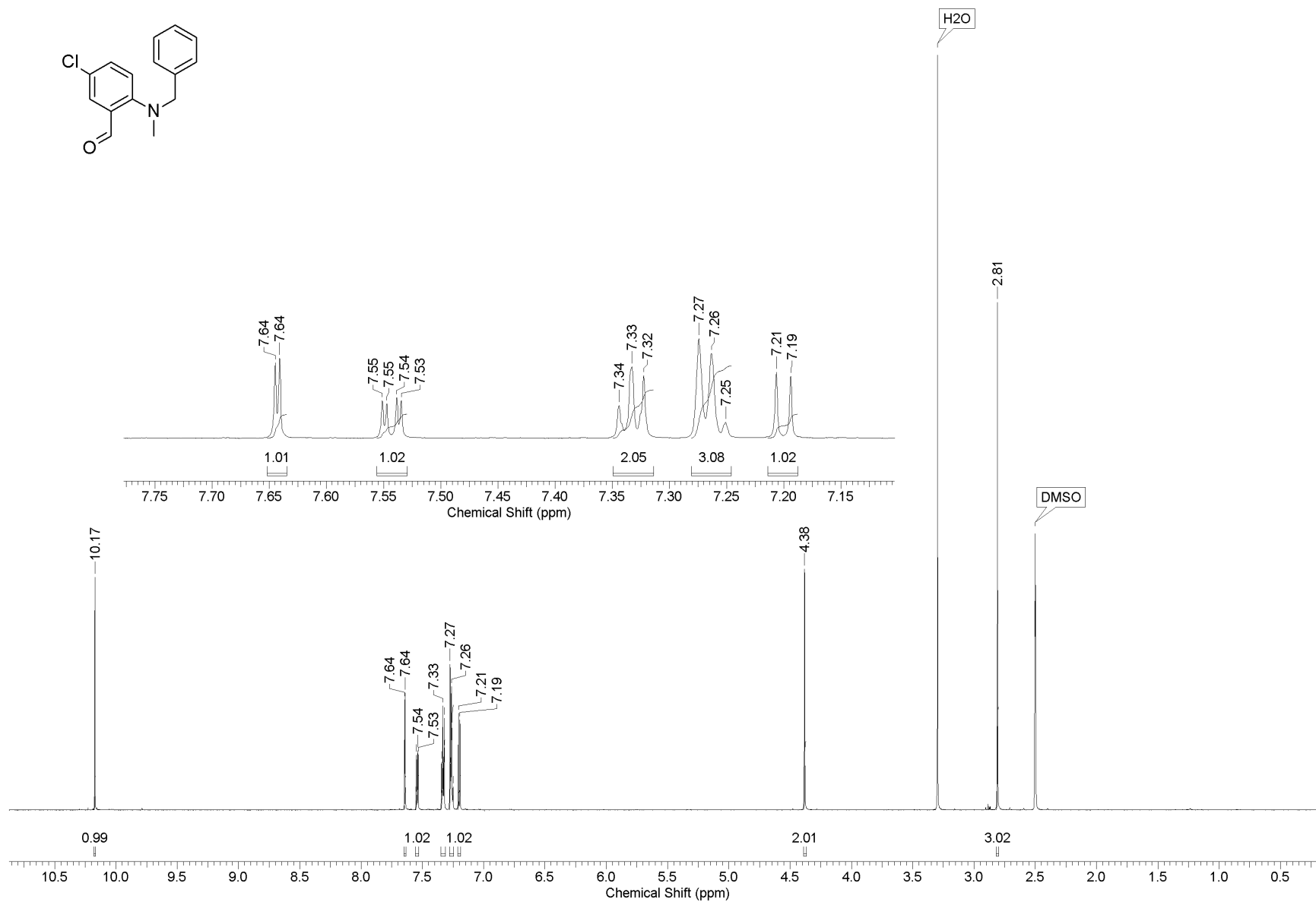
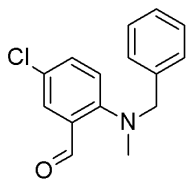
5. References

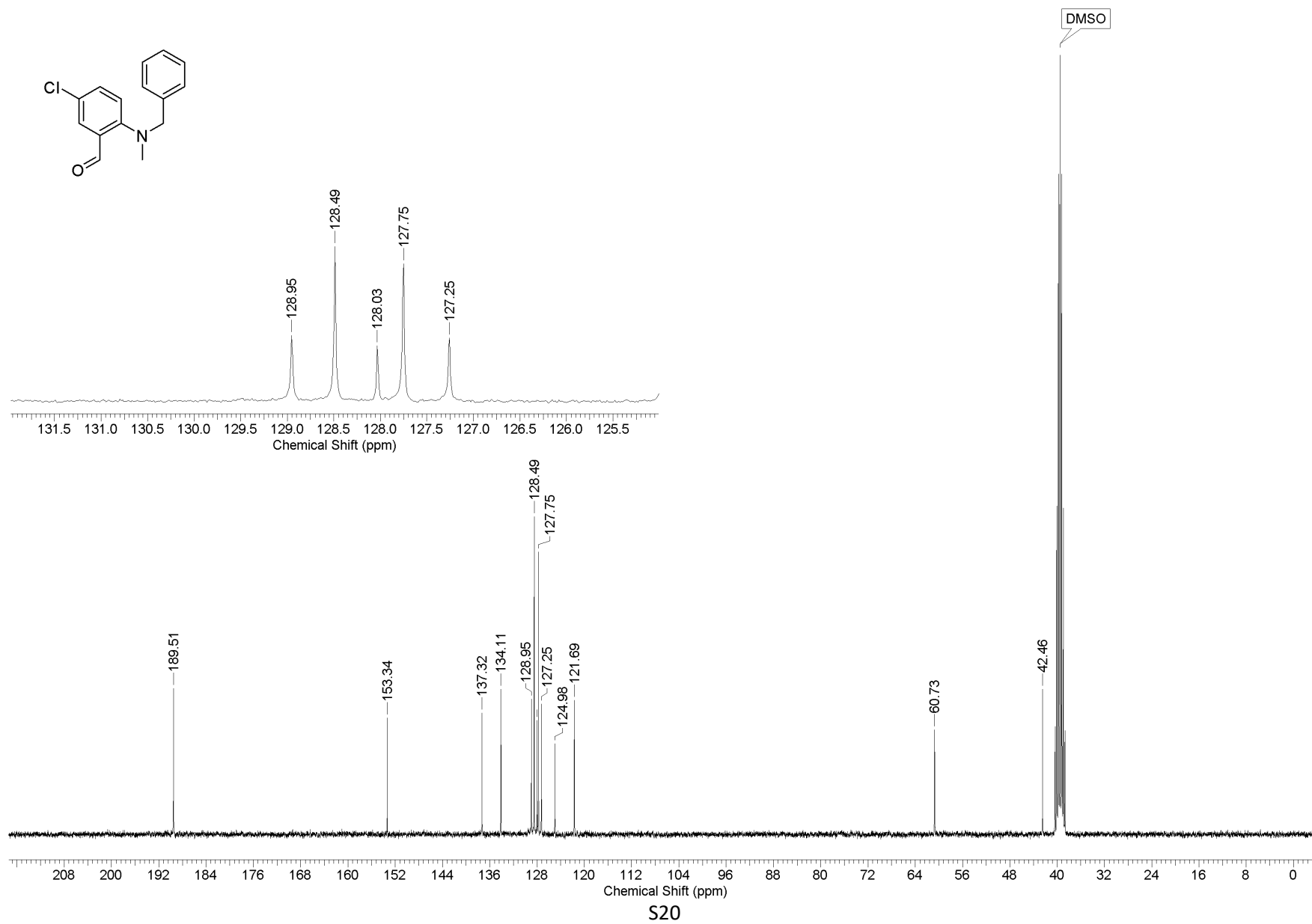
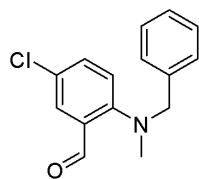
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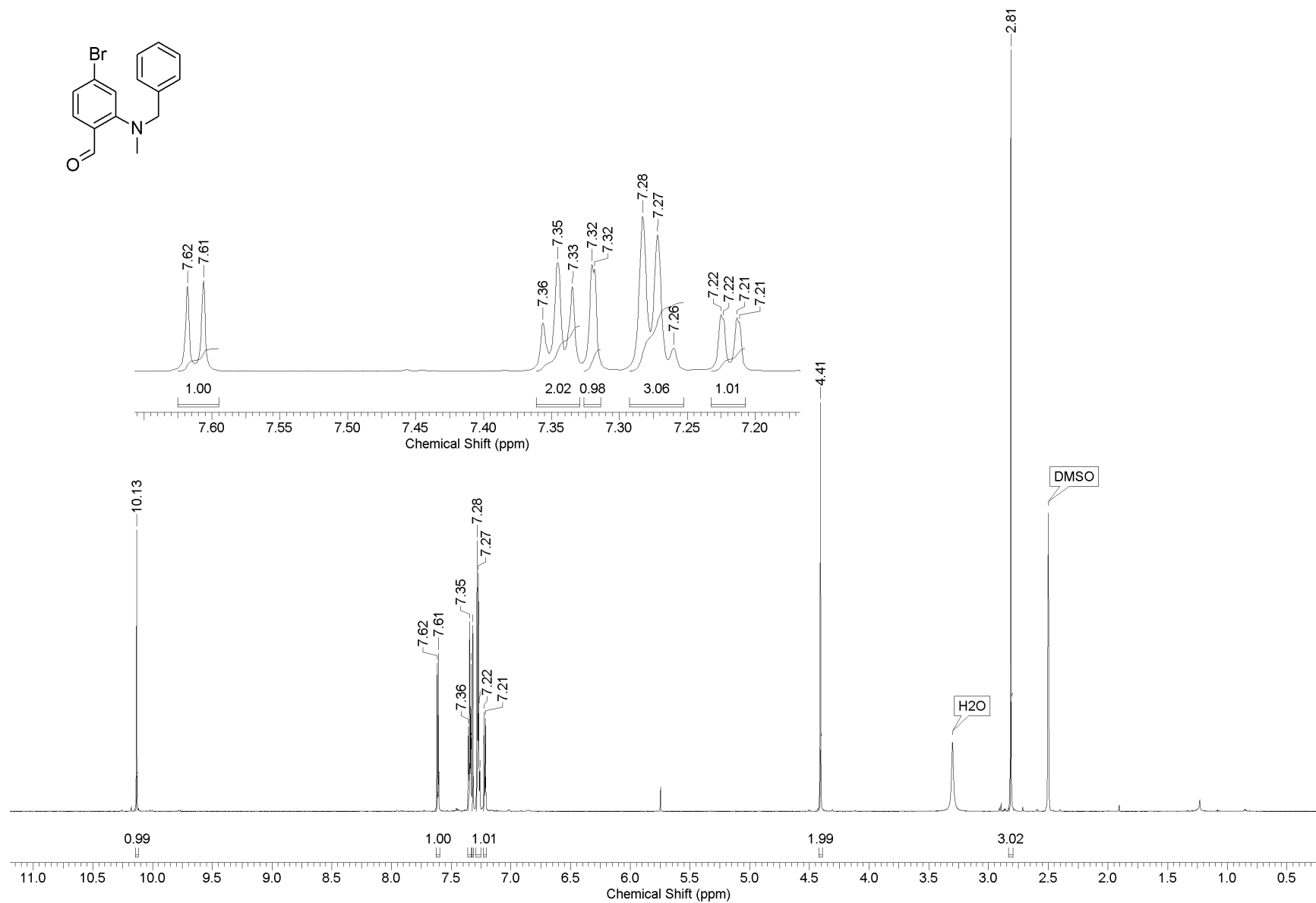
6. Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra

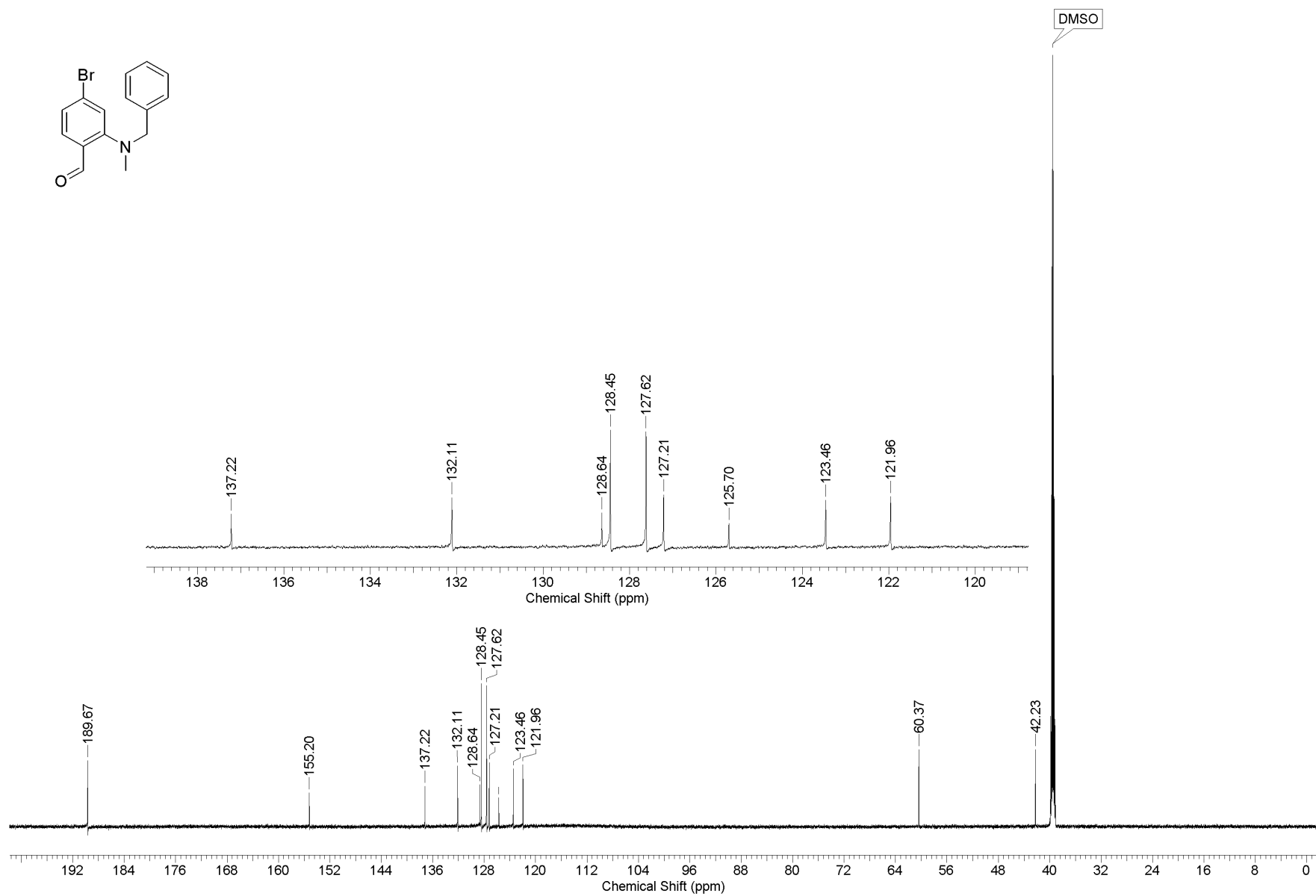
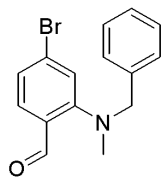


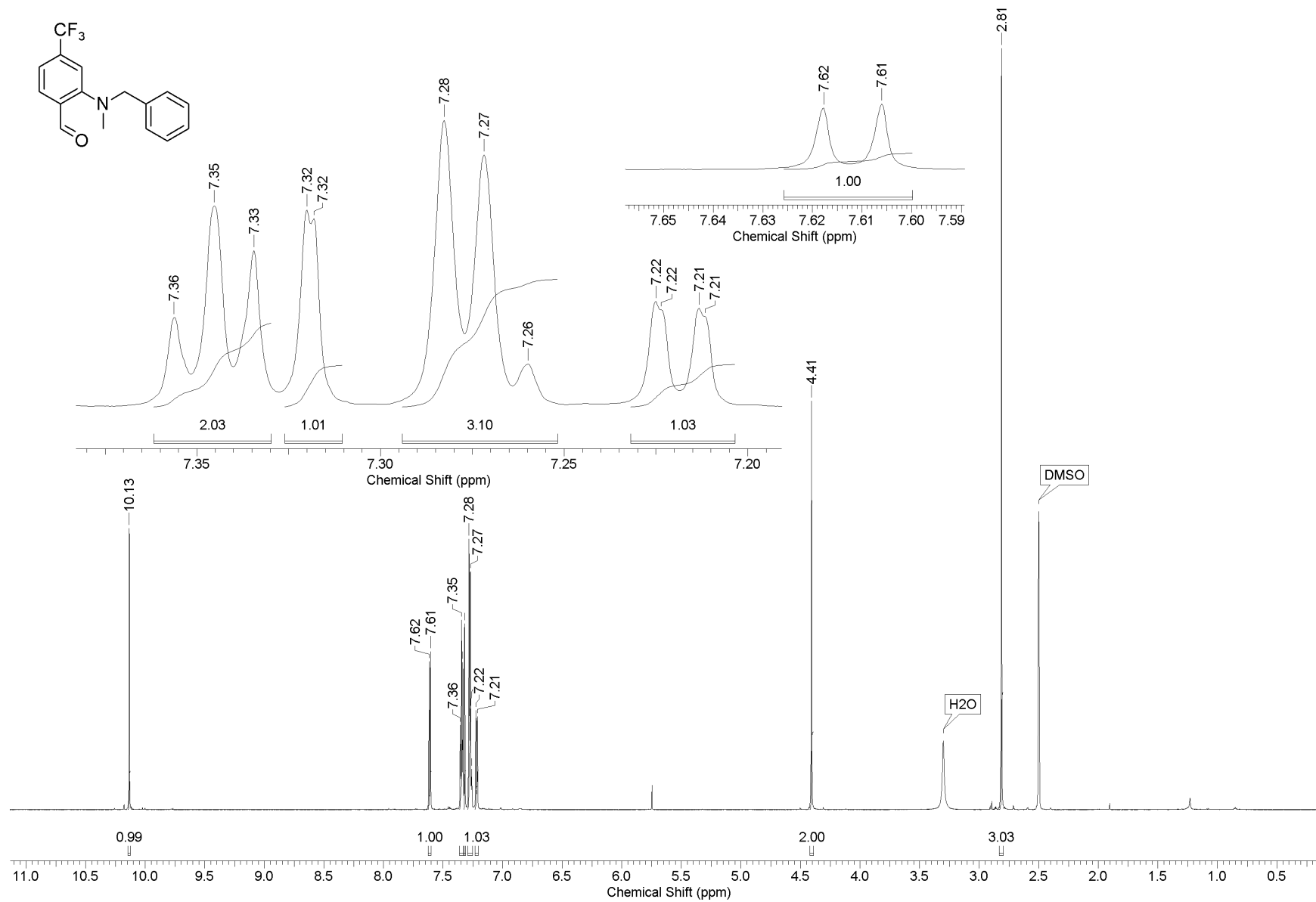


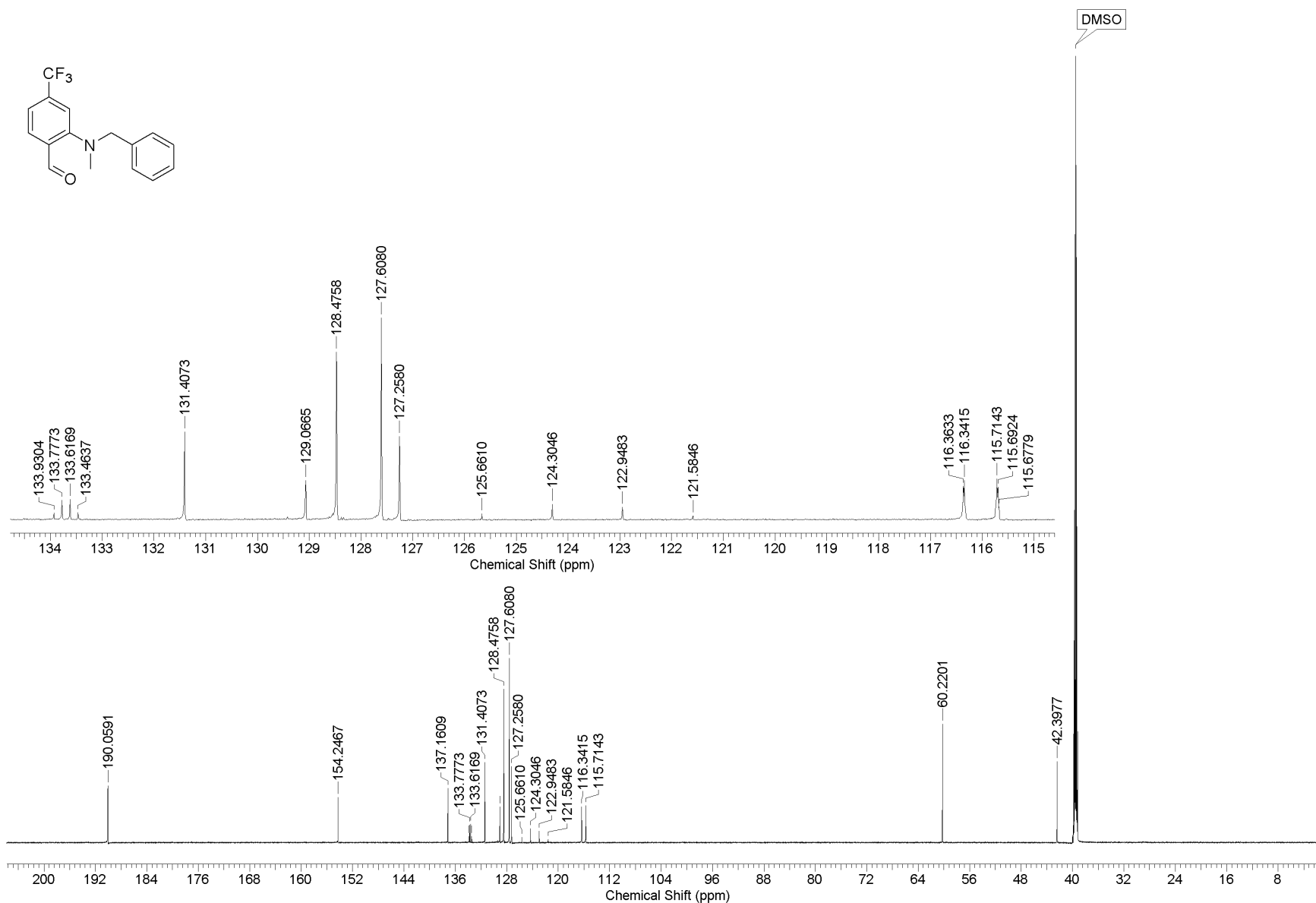
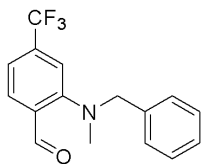


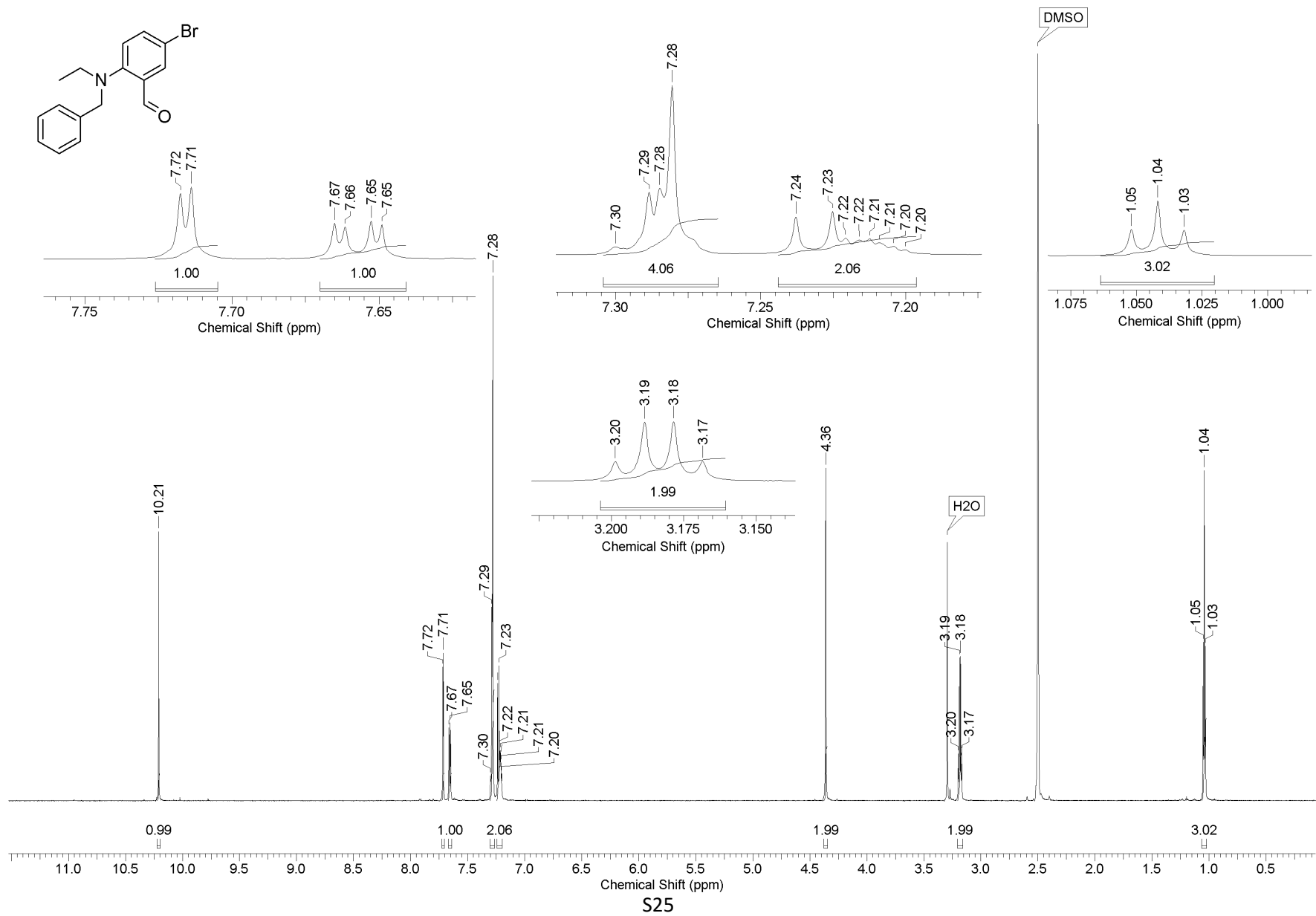


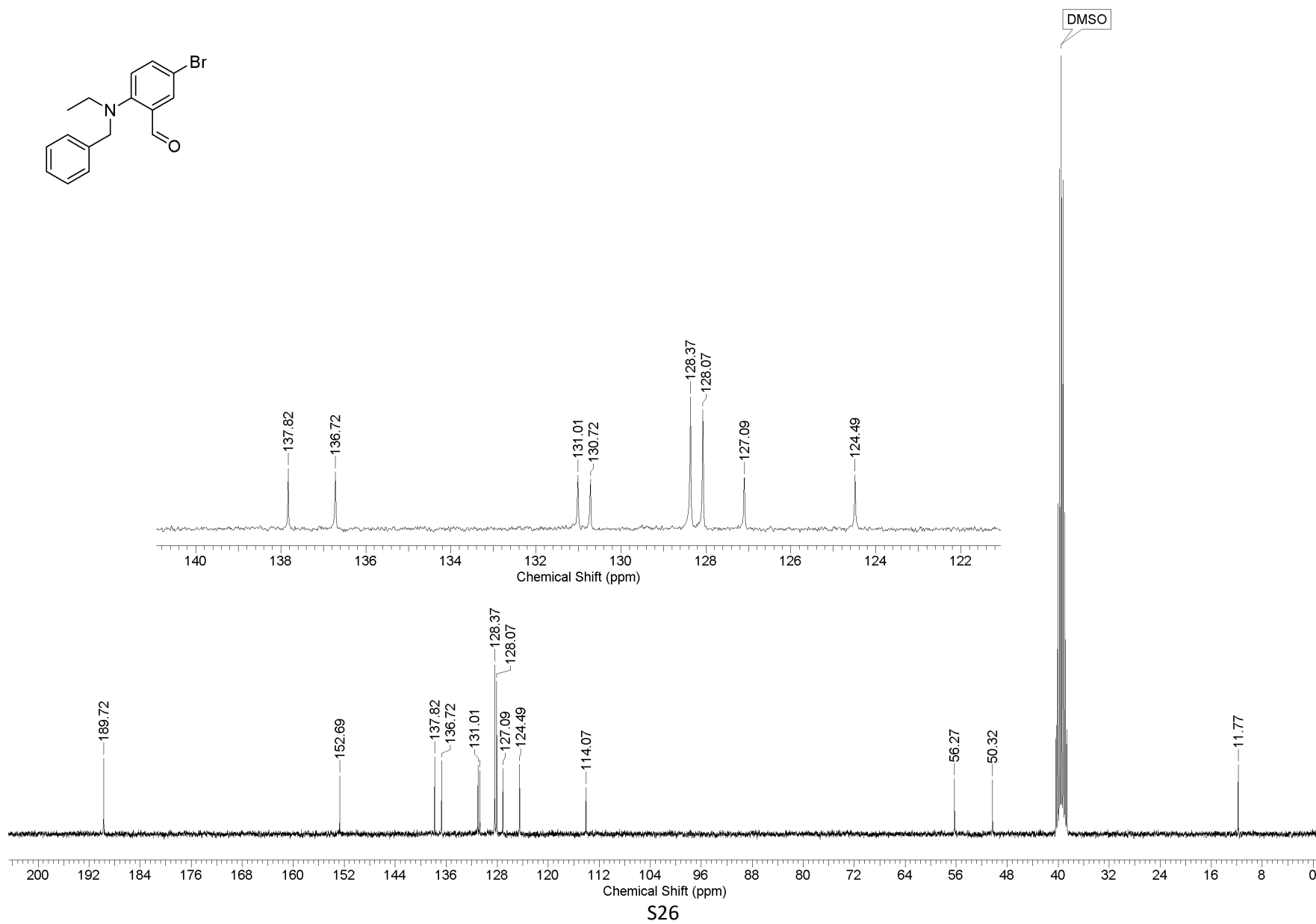
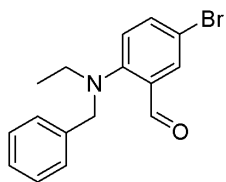


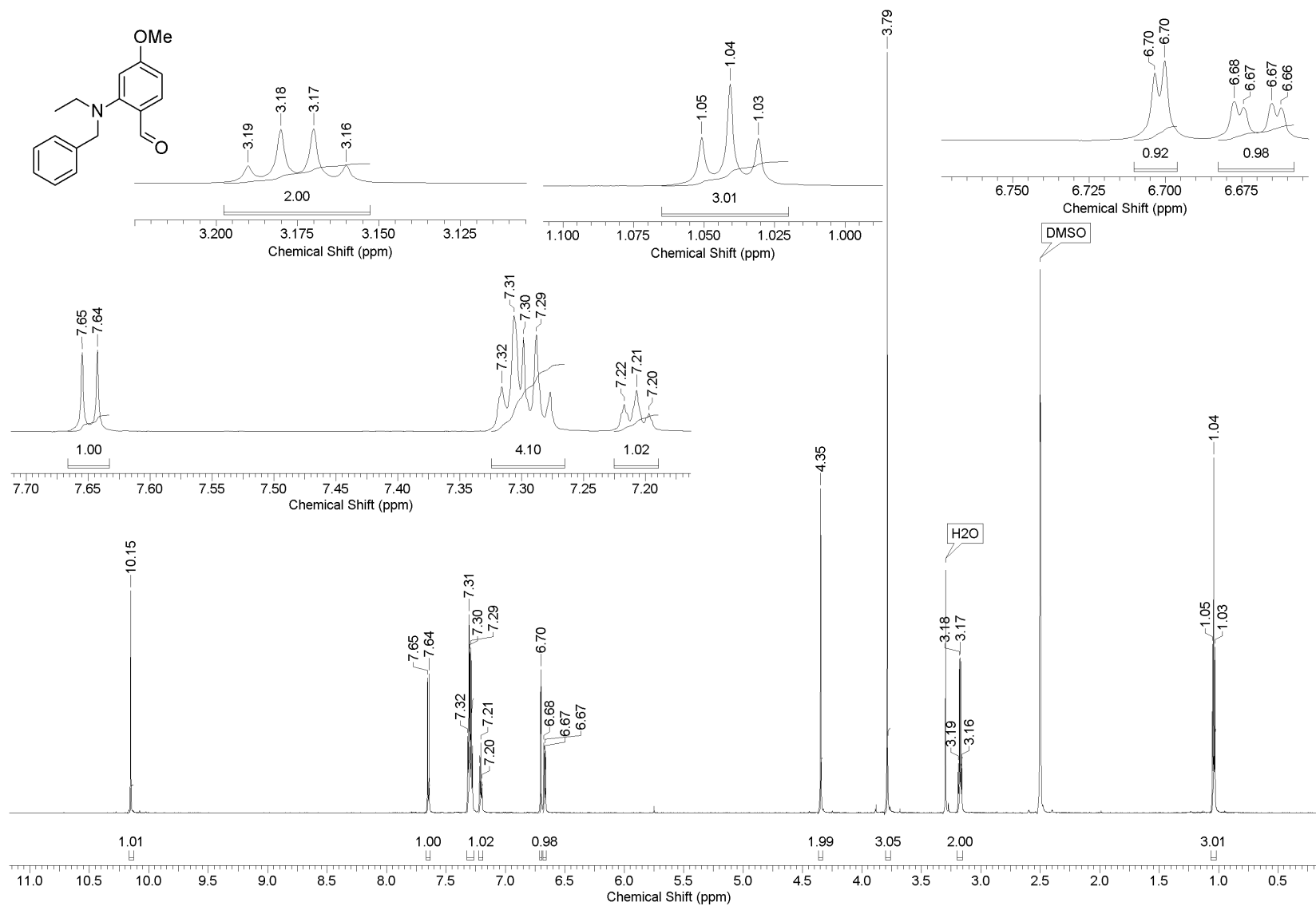


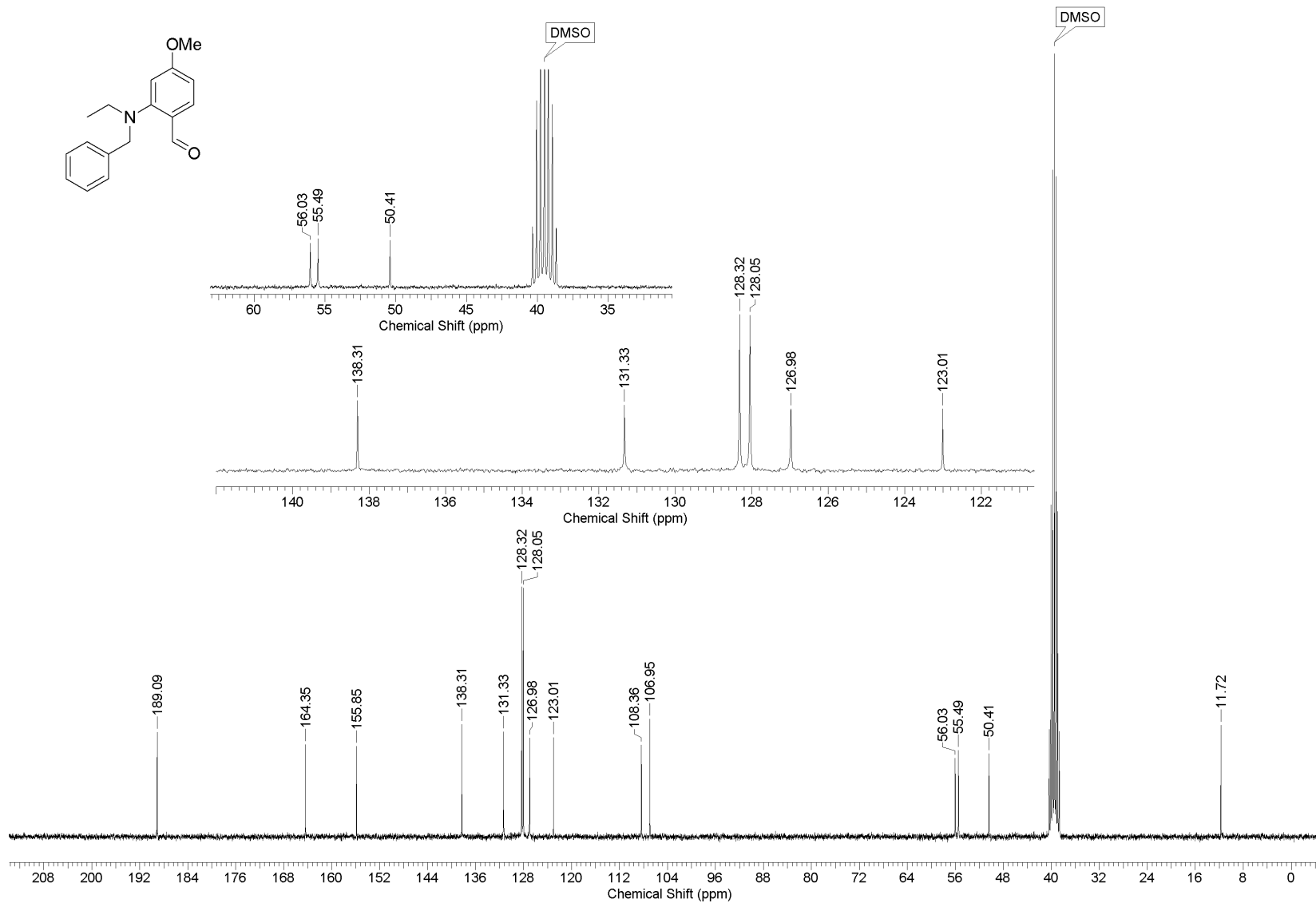
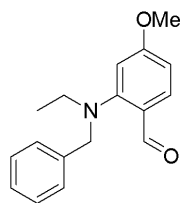


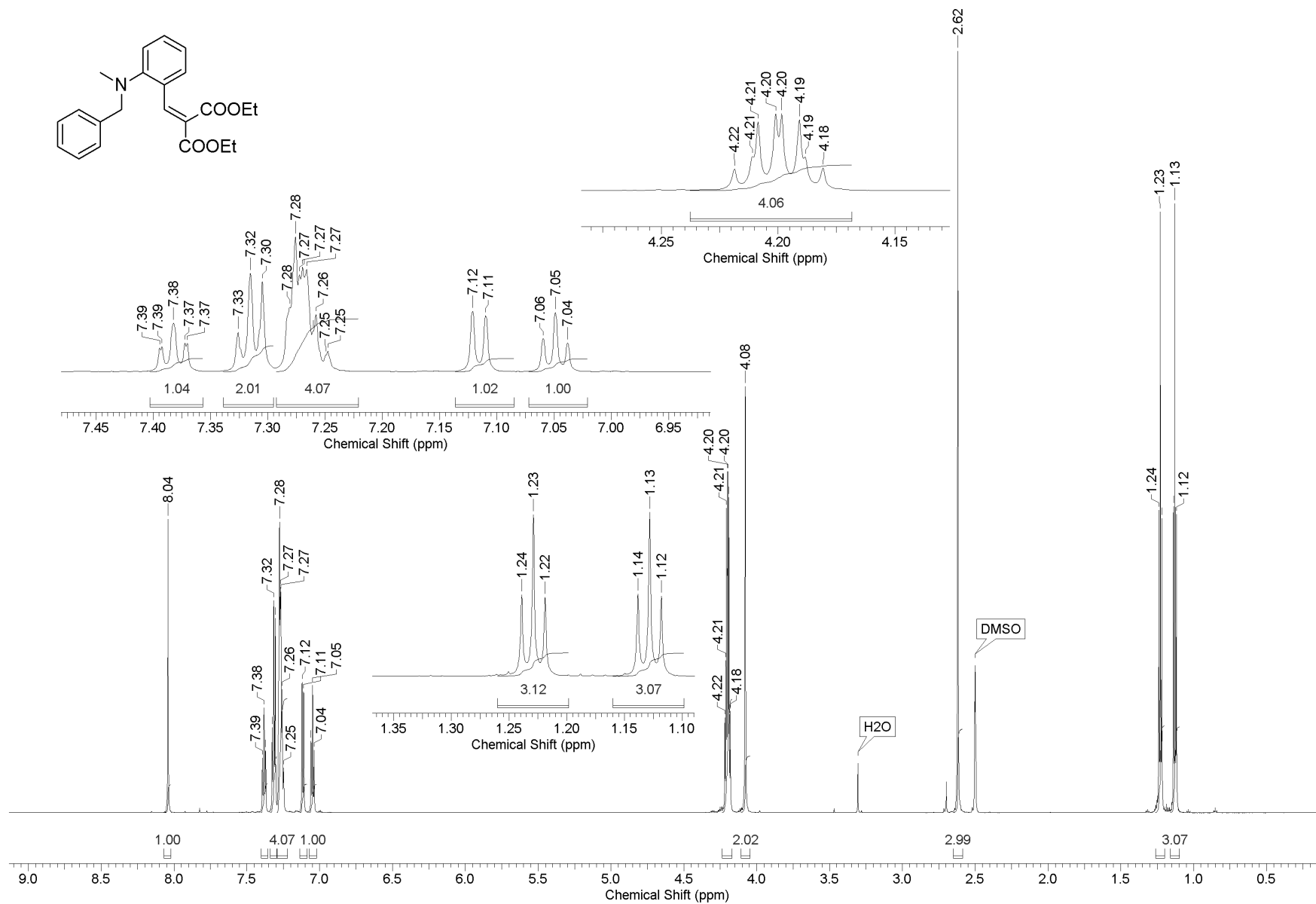
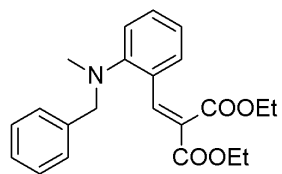


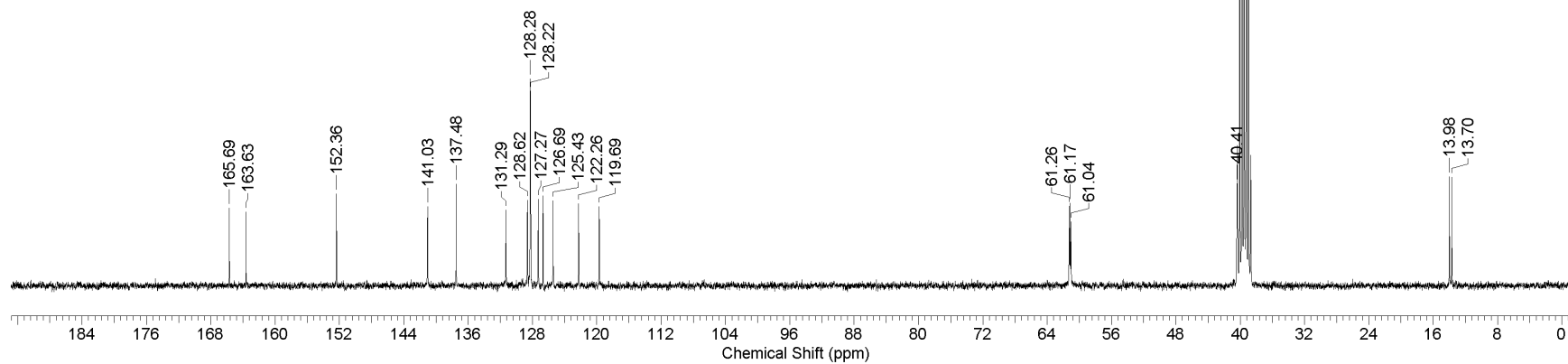
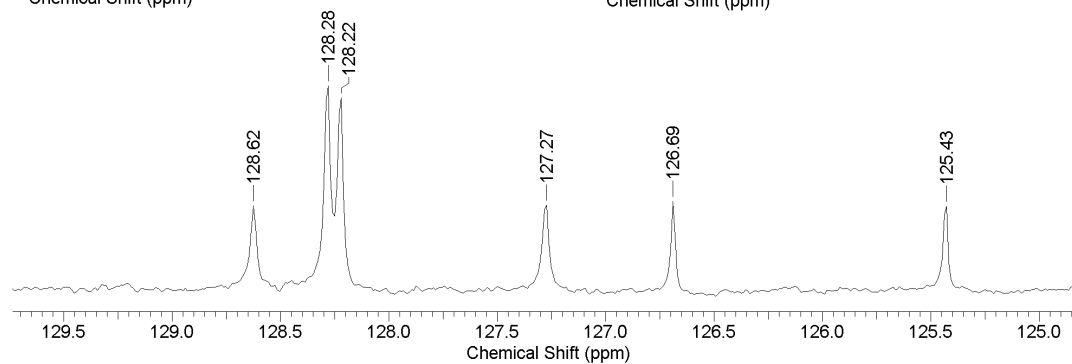
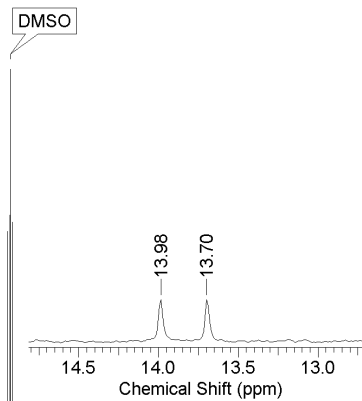
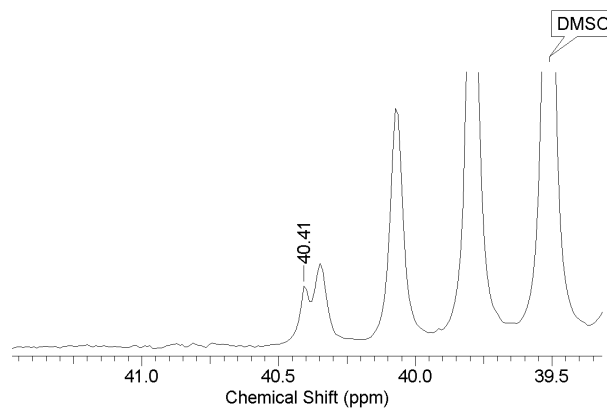
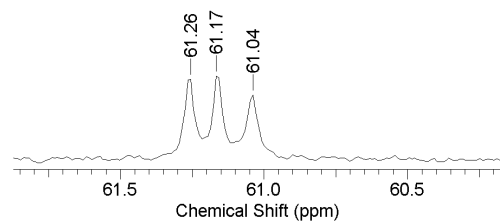
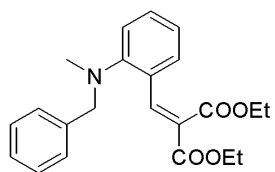


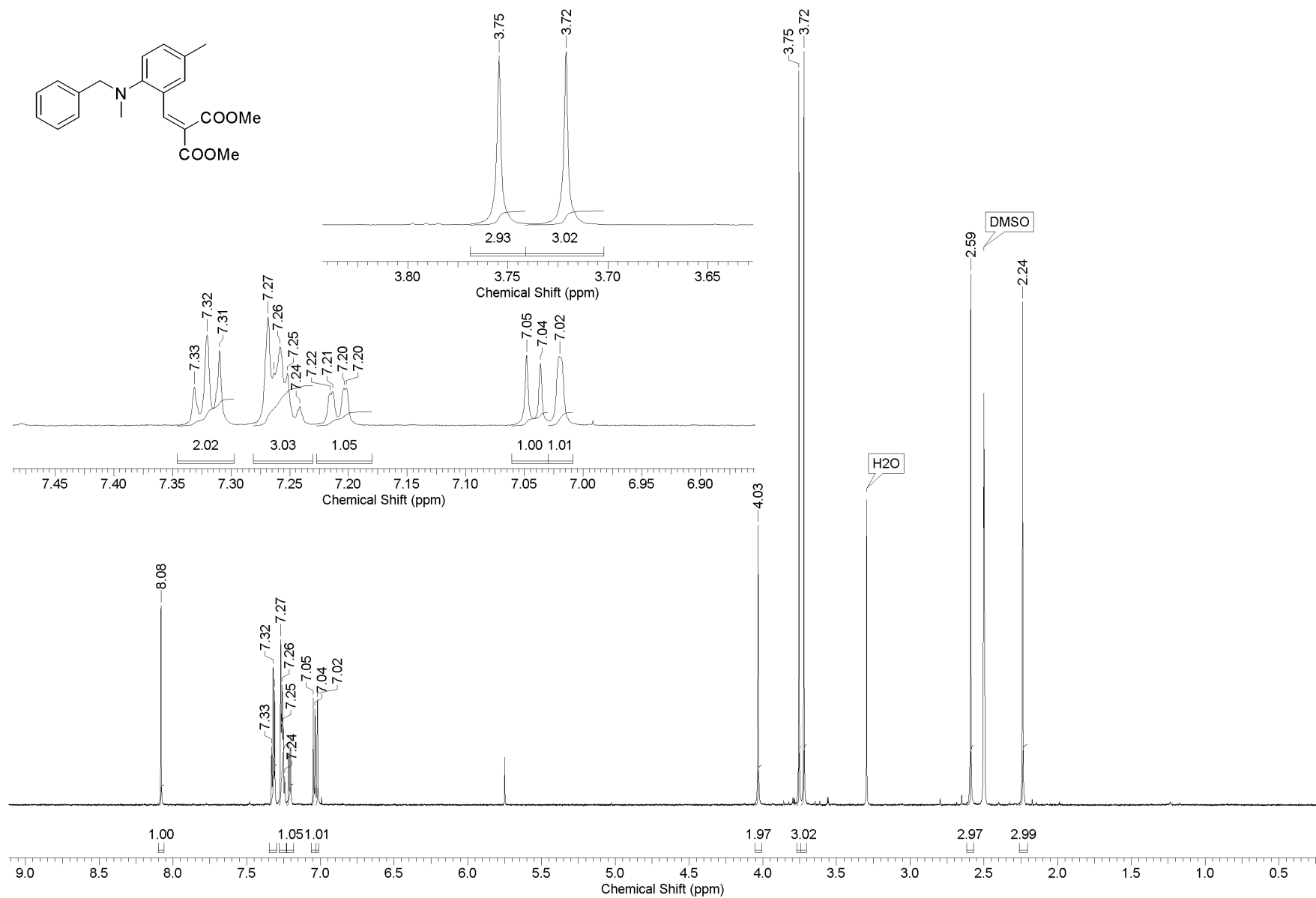


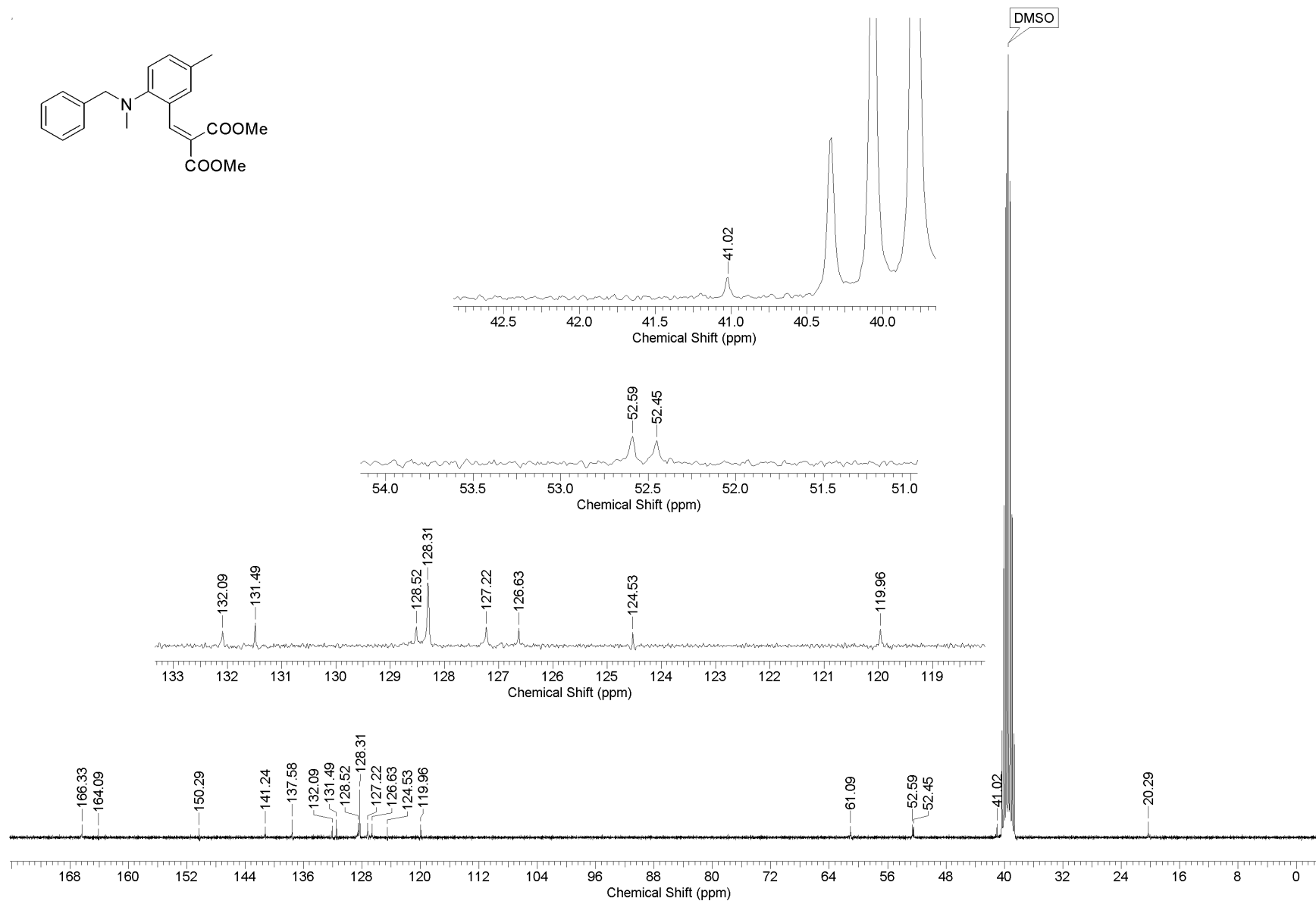
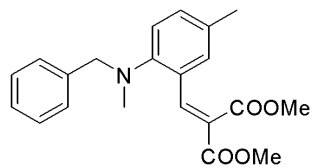


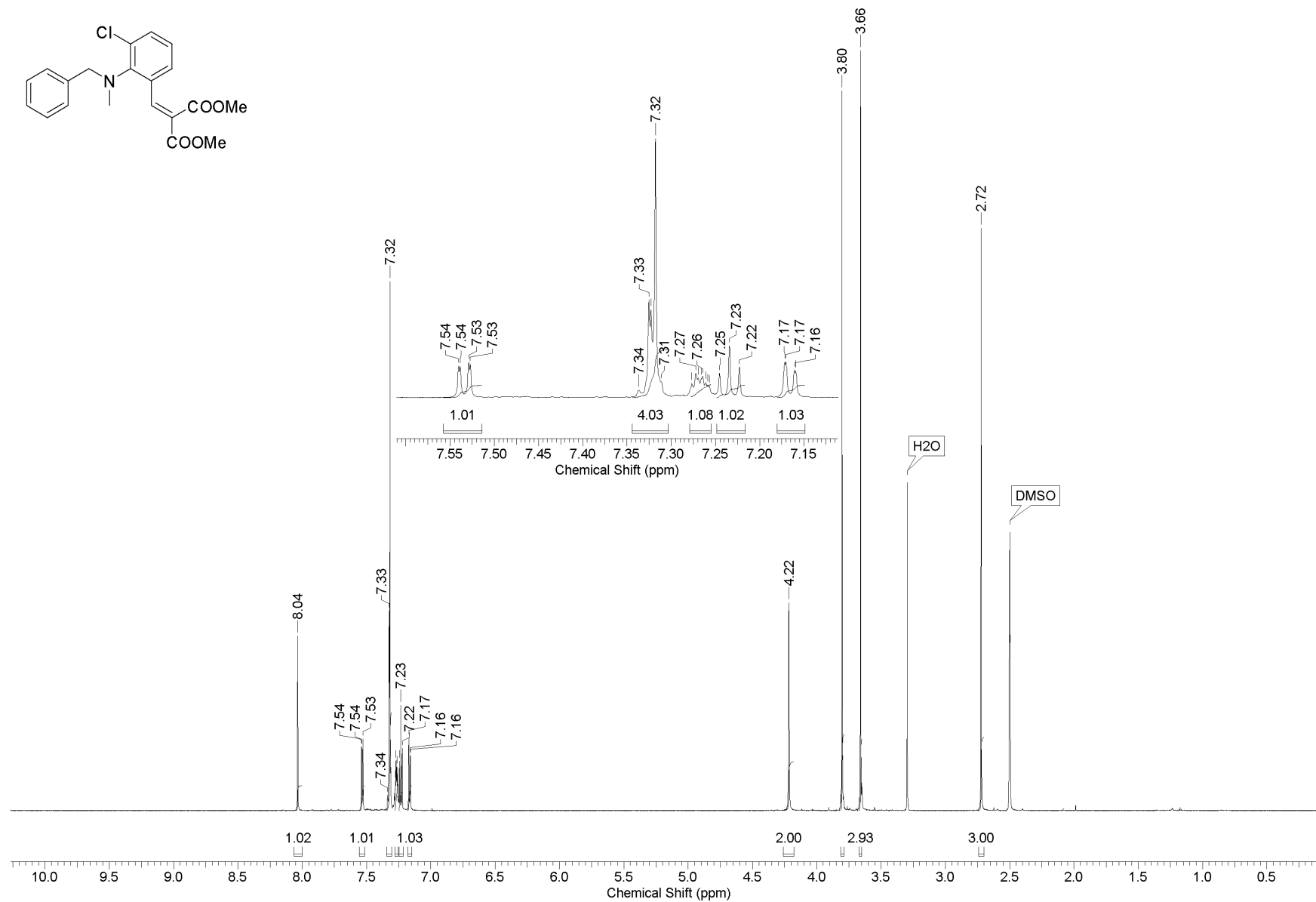
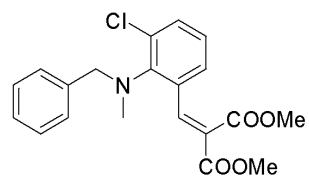


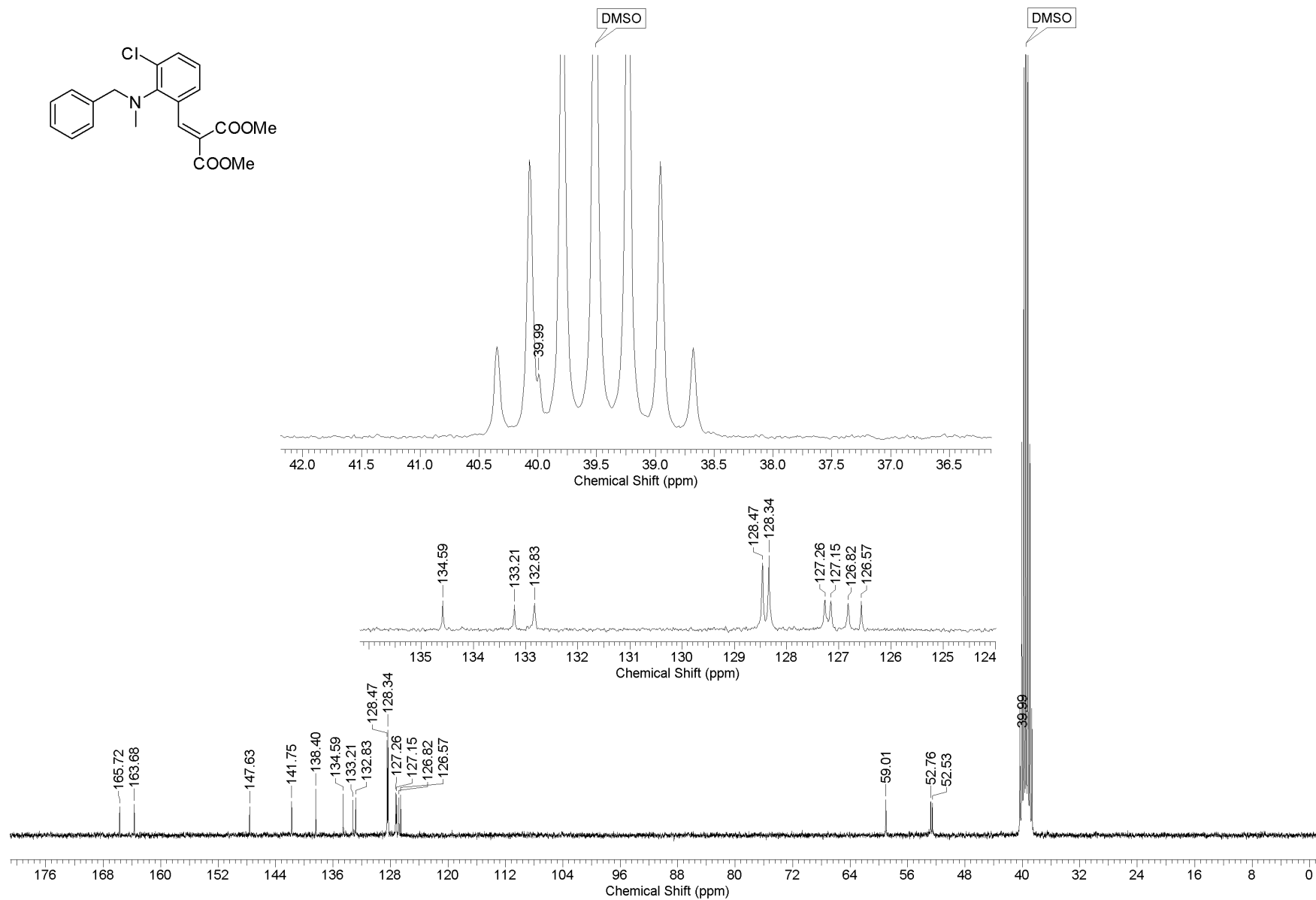
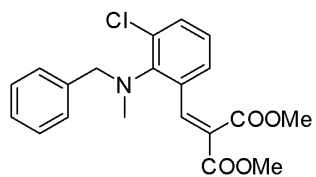


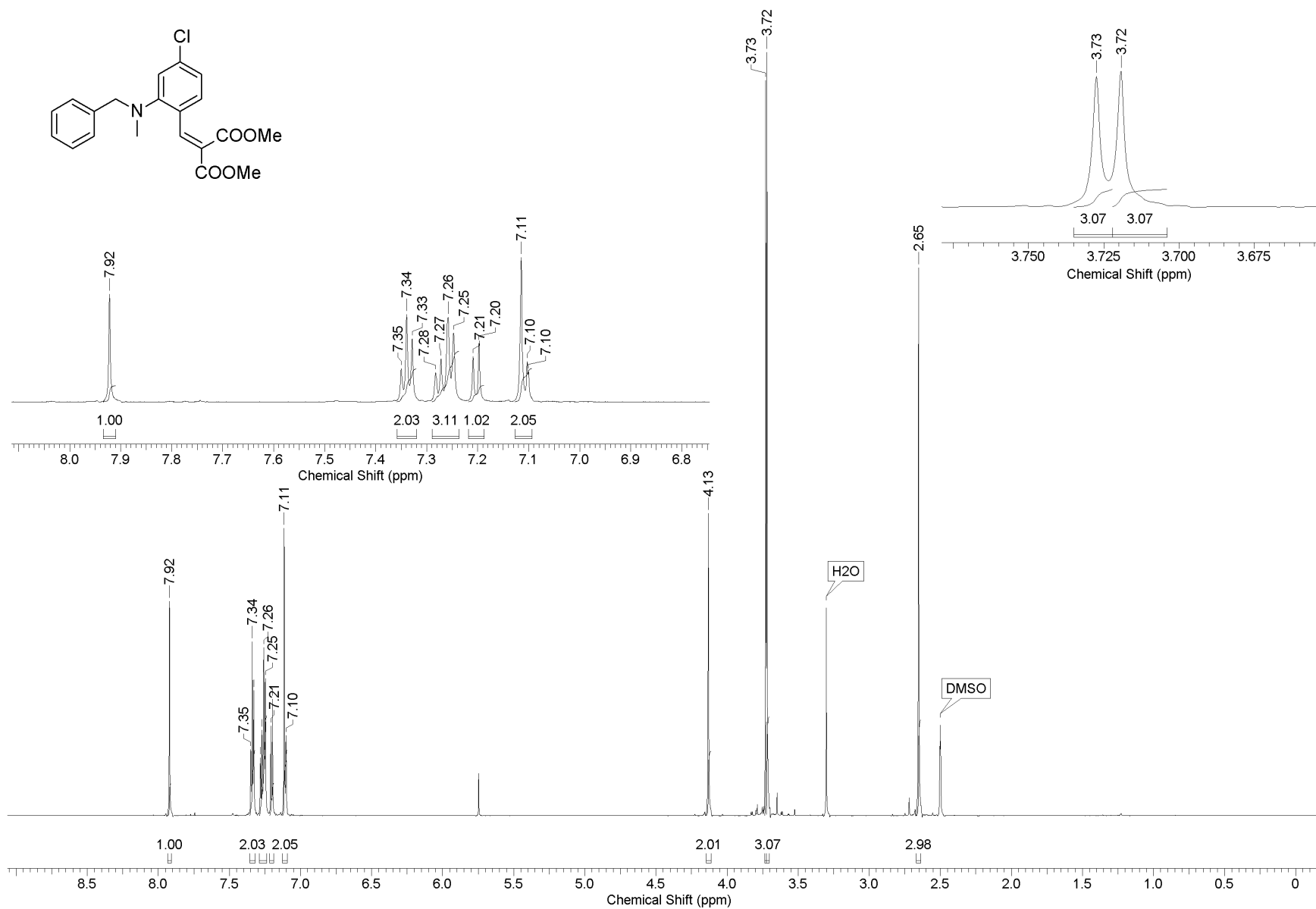
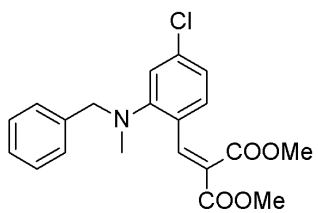


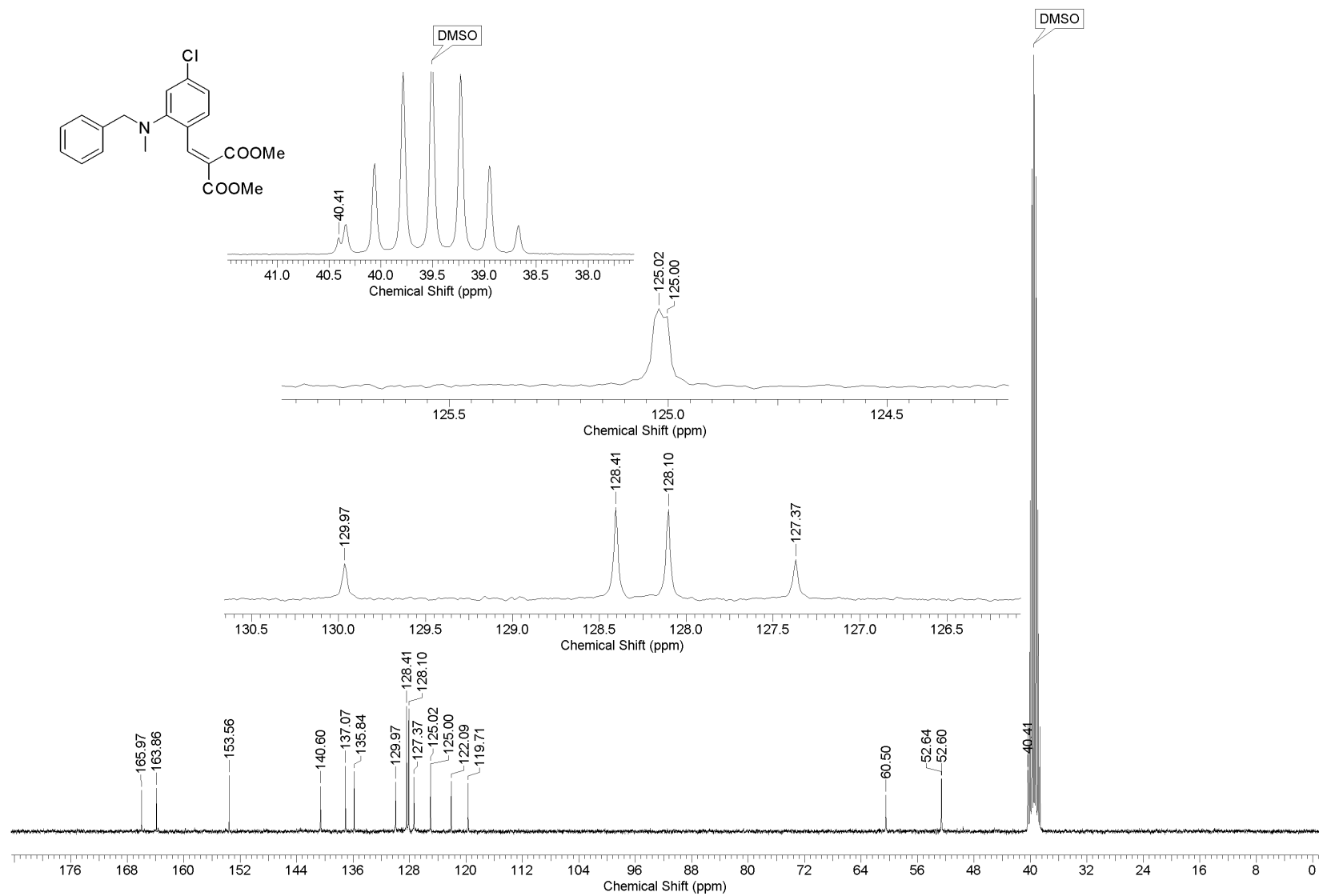


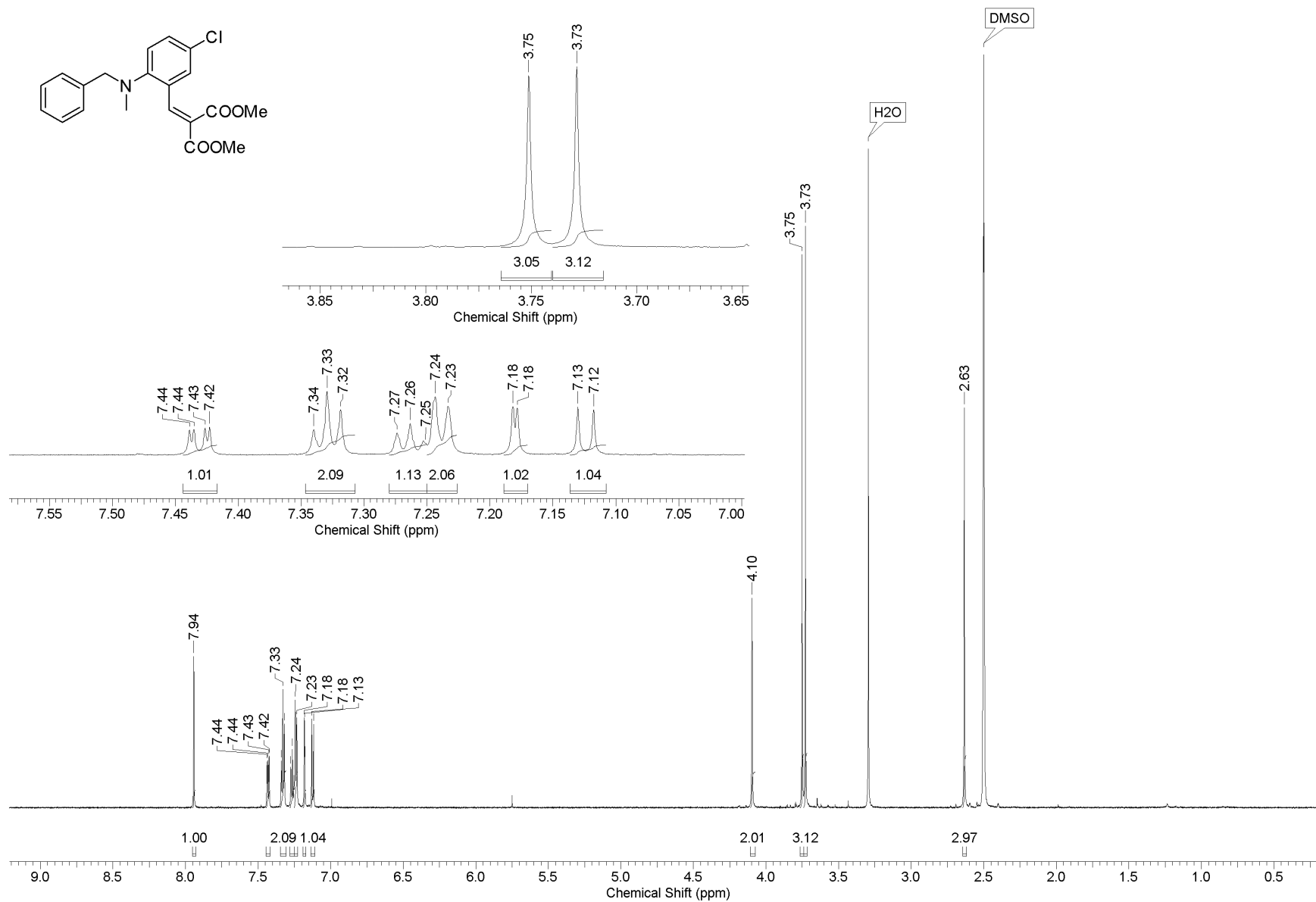
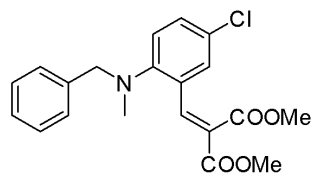


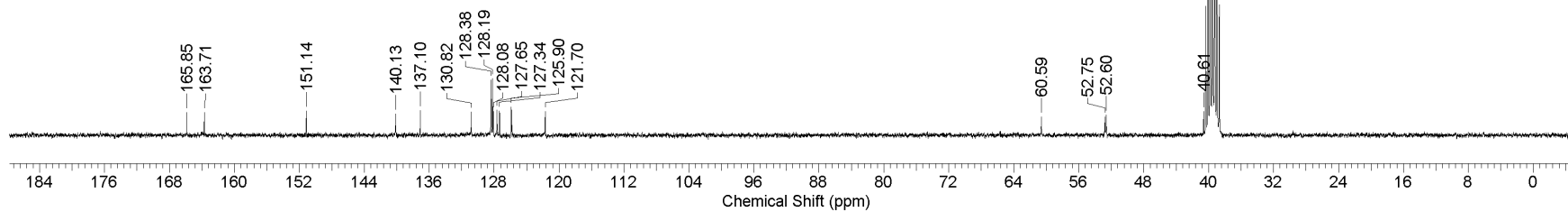
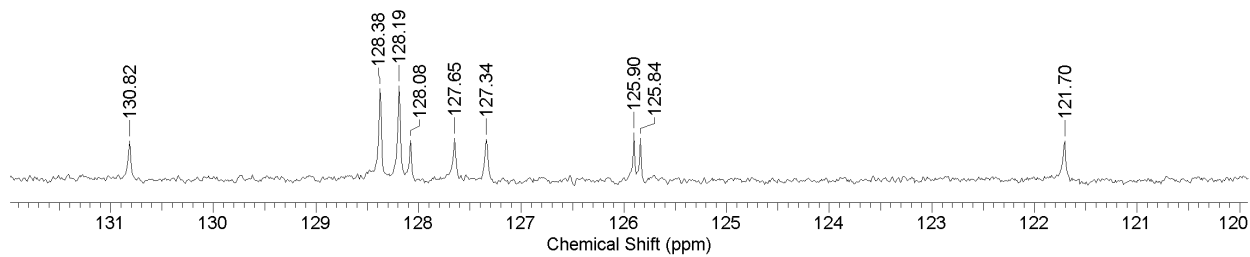
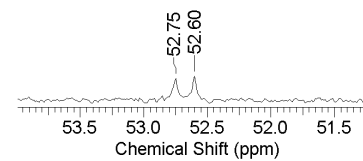
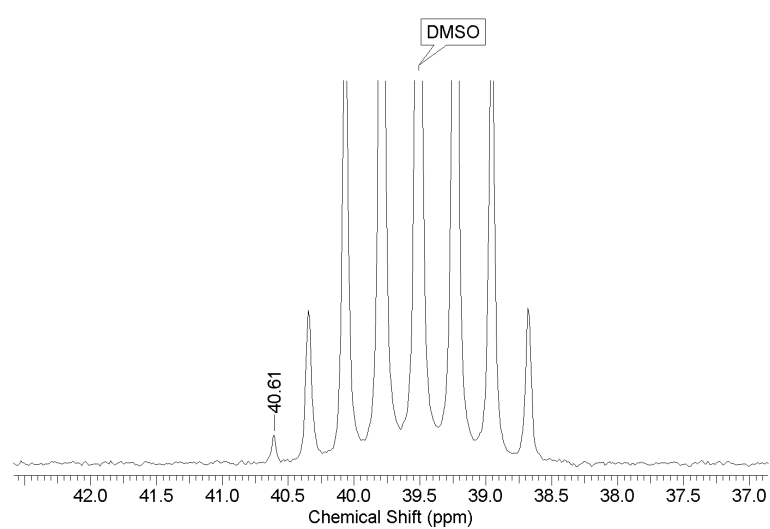
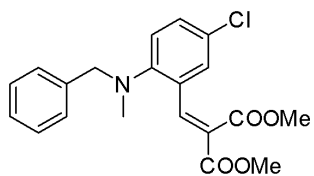


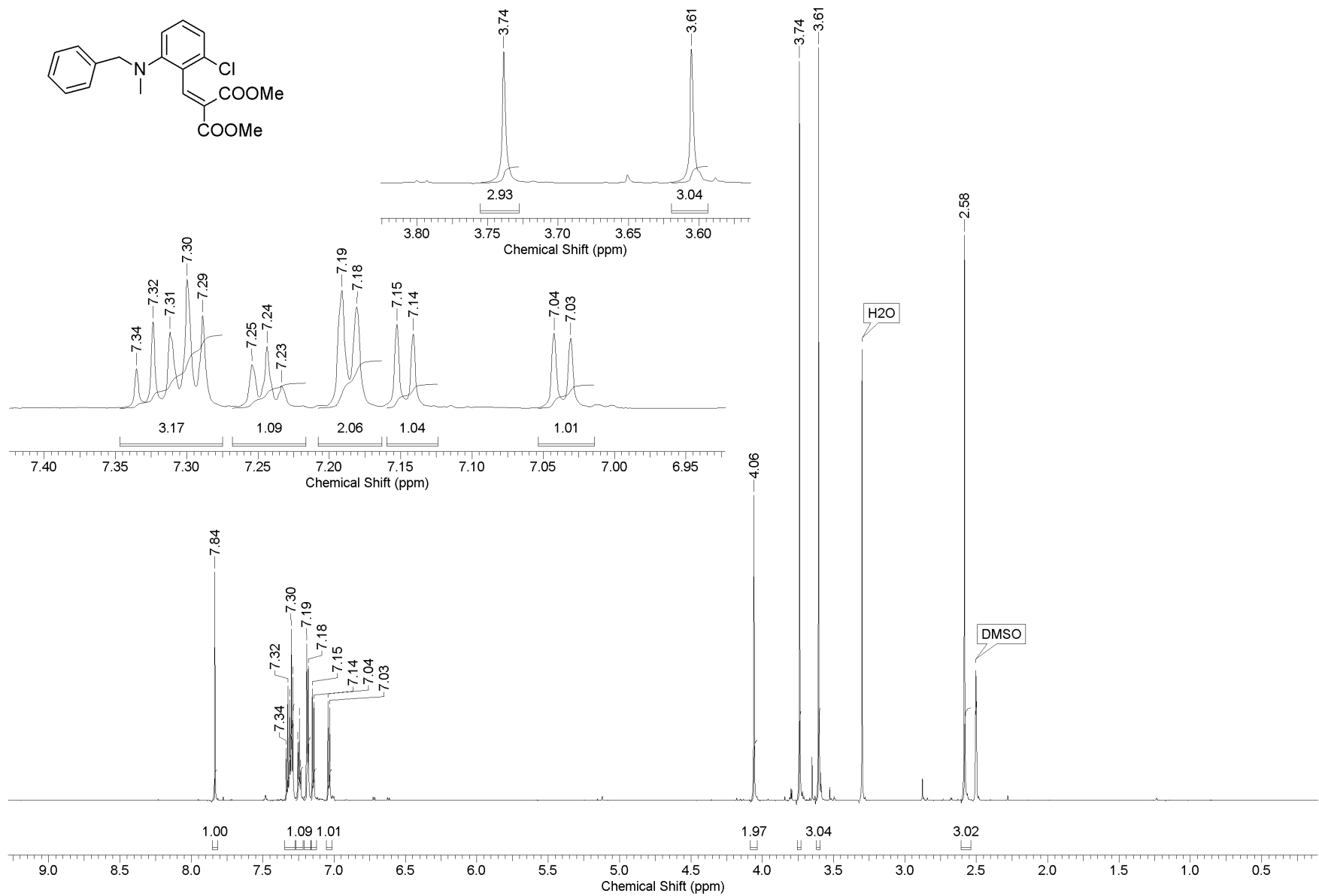


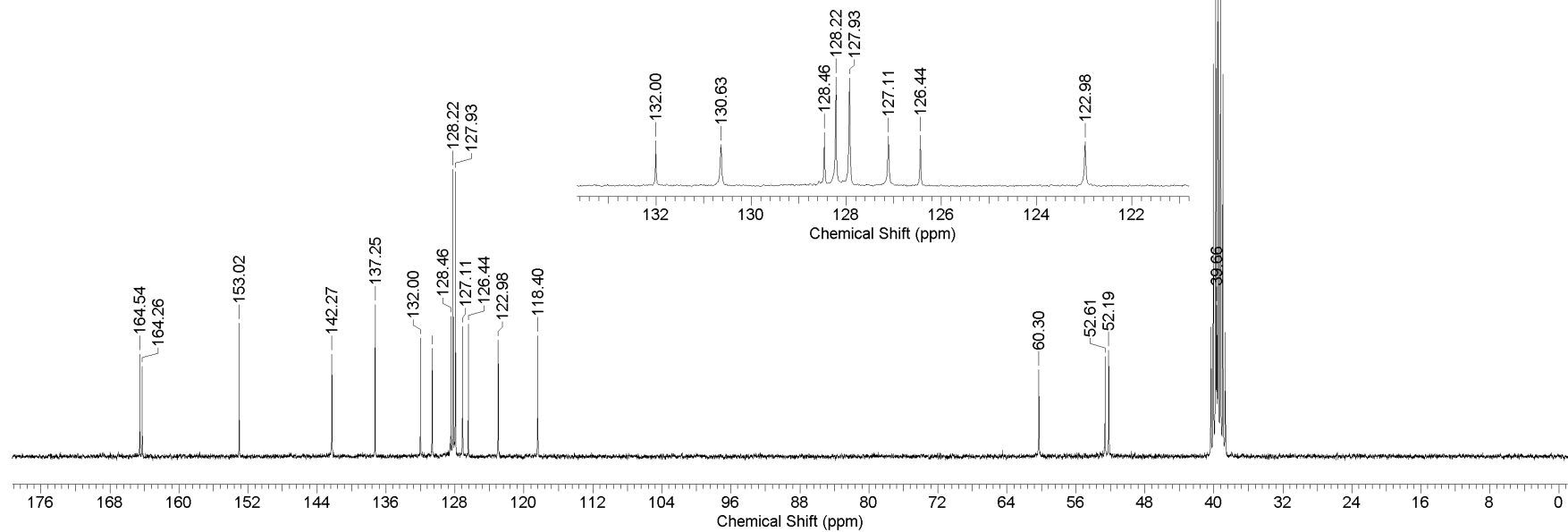
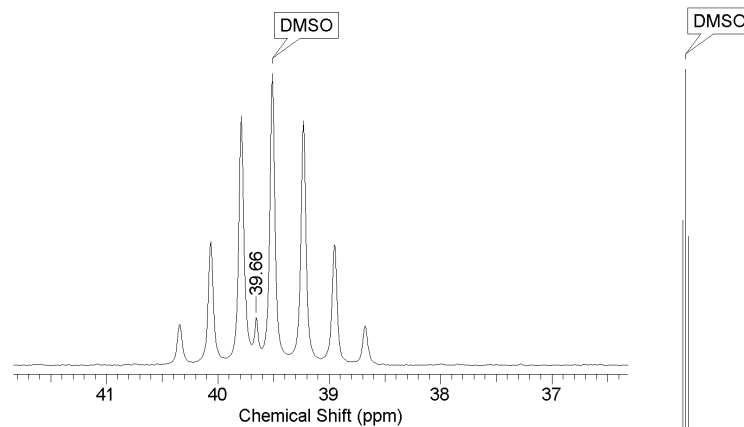
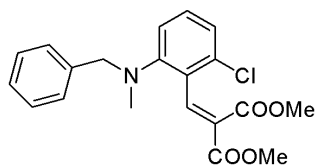


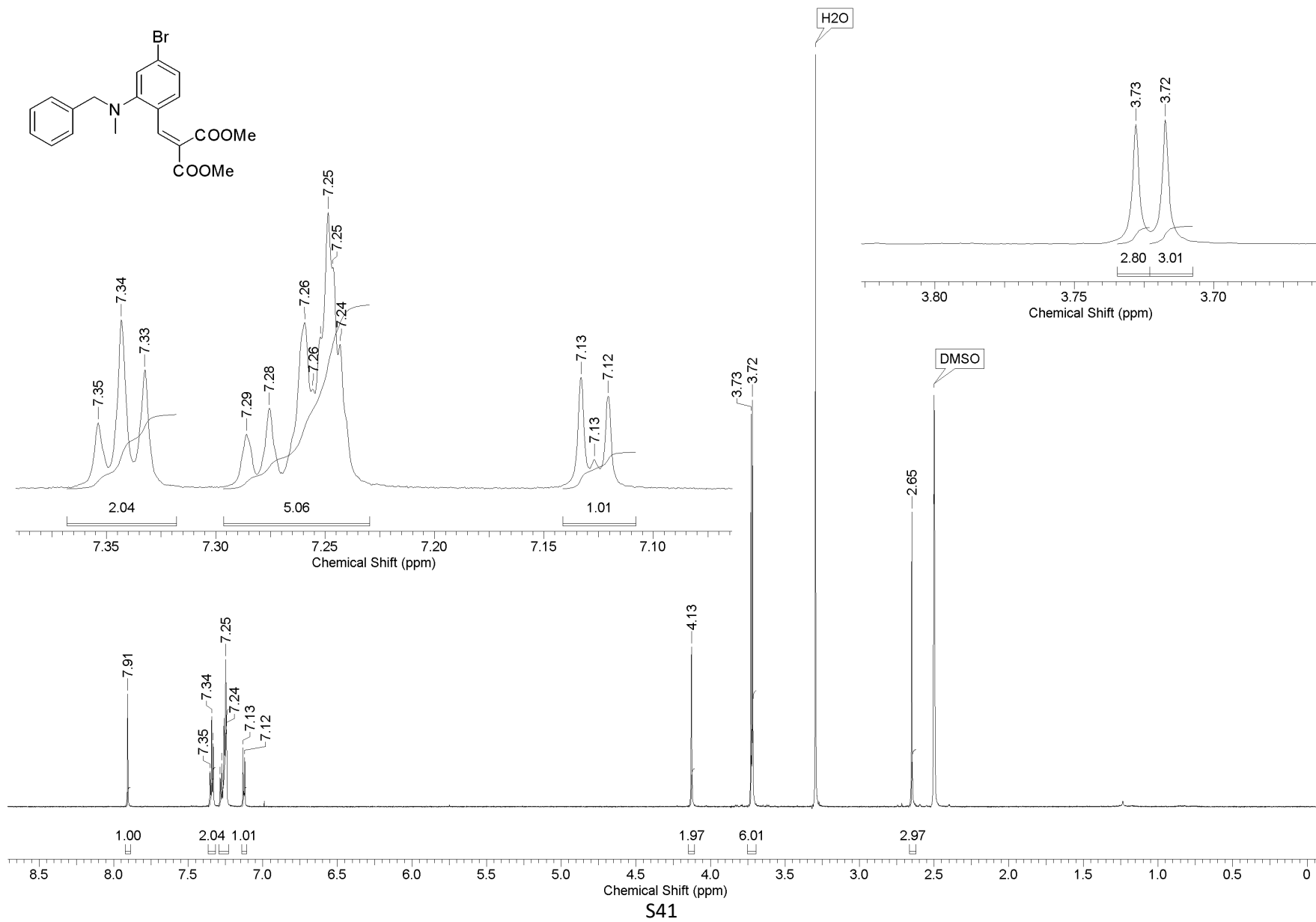


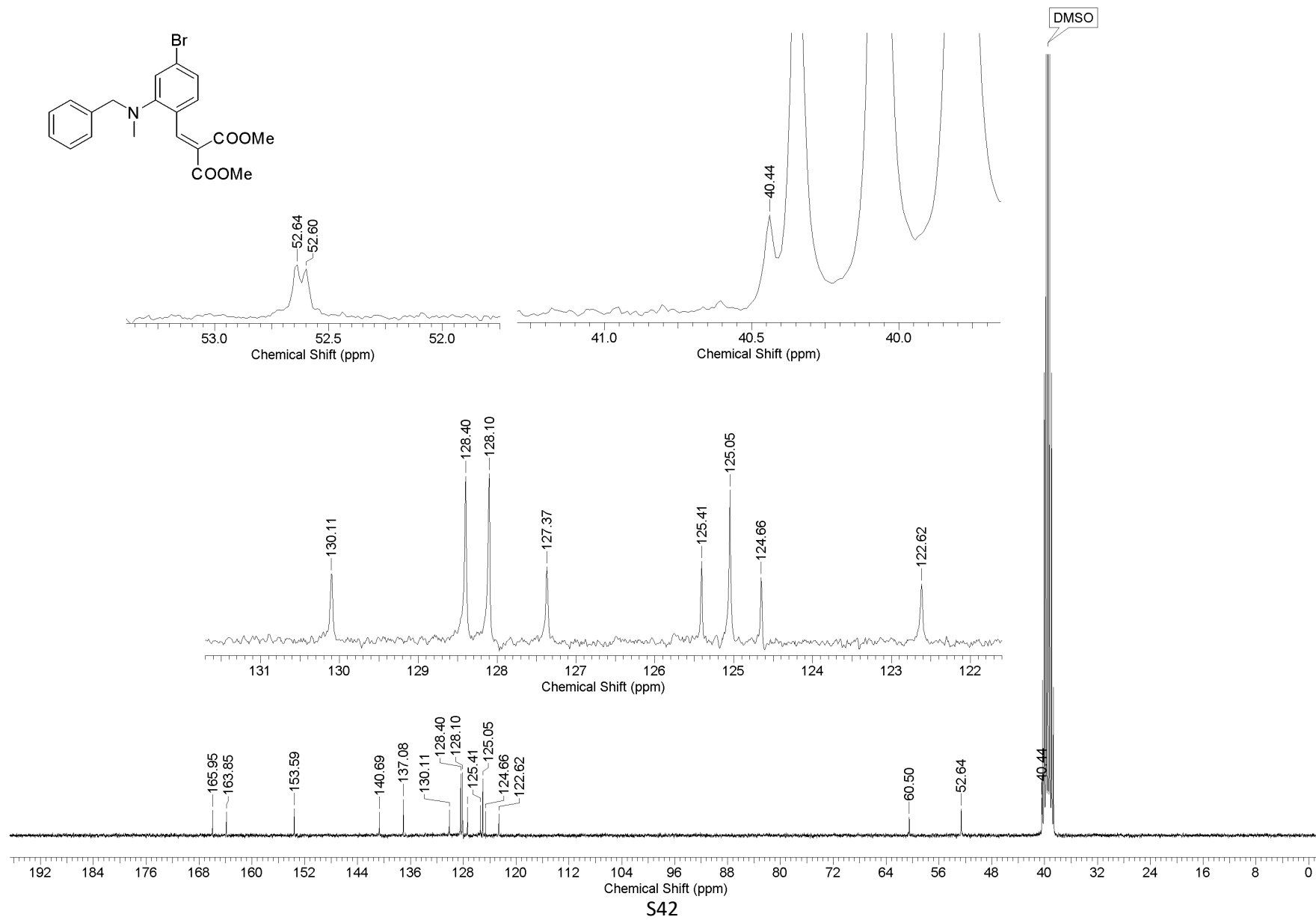


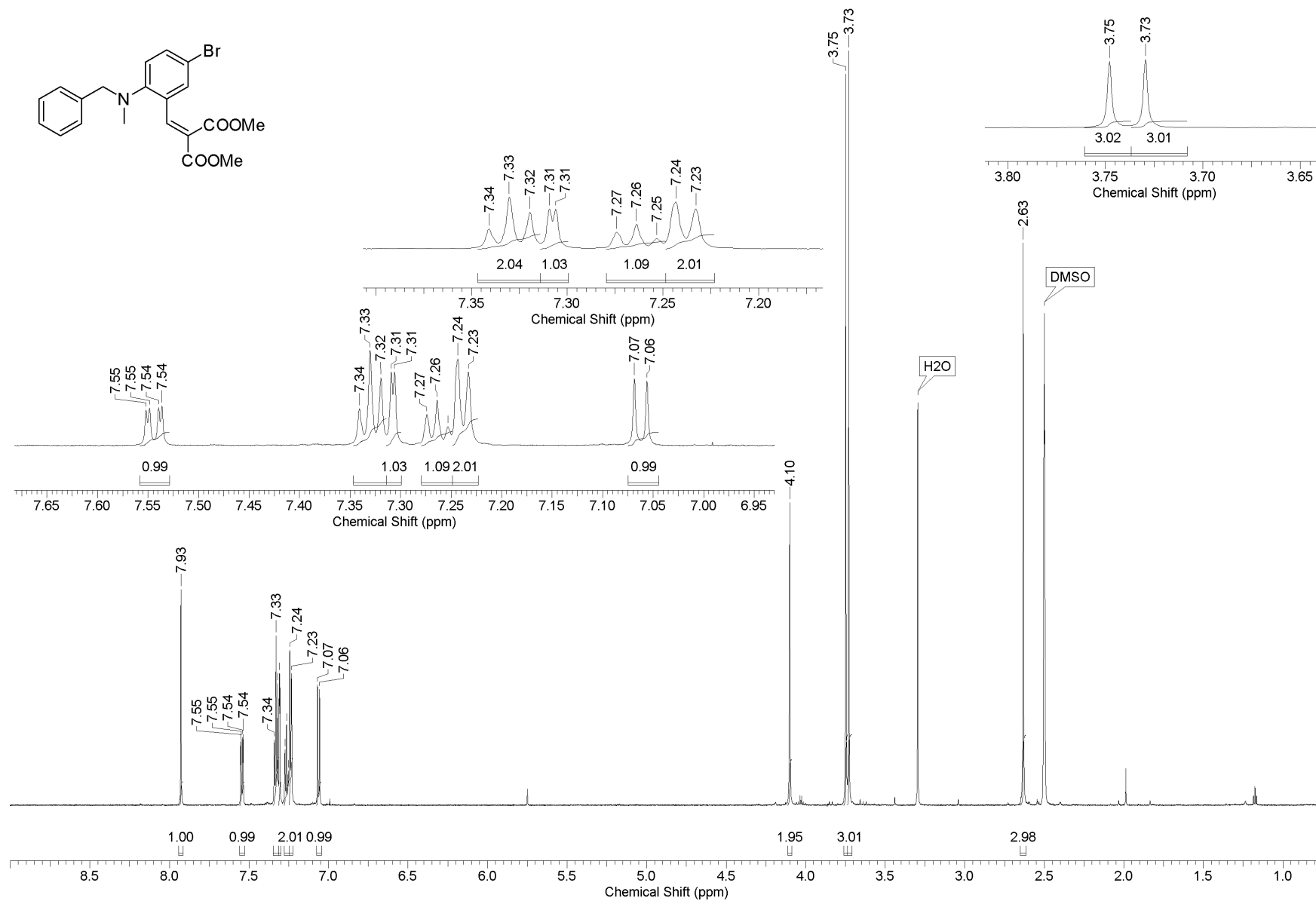
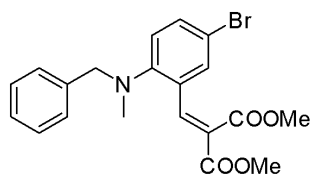


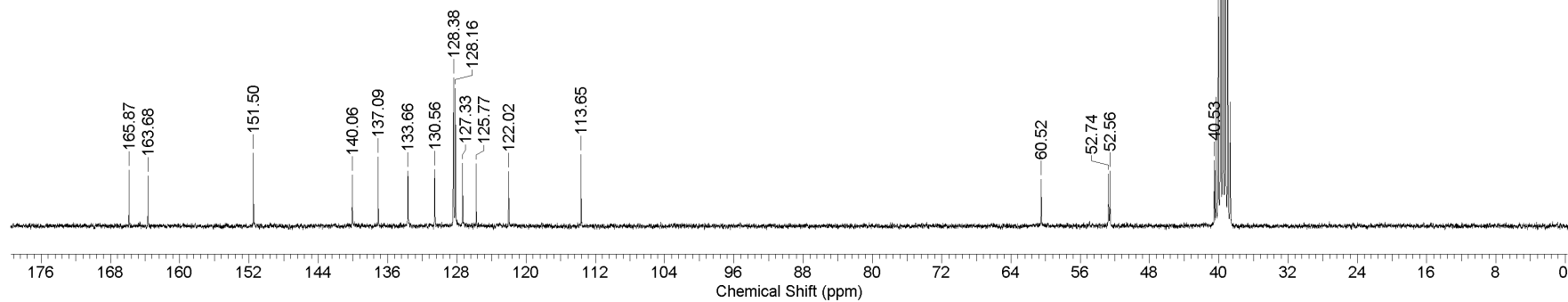
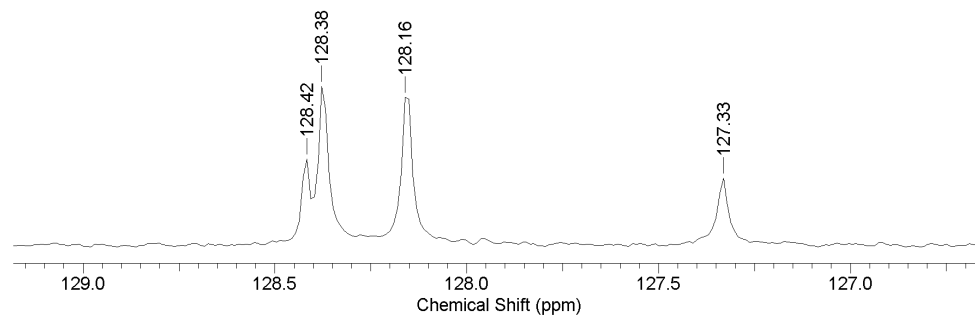
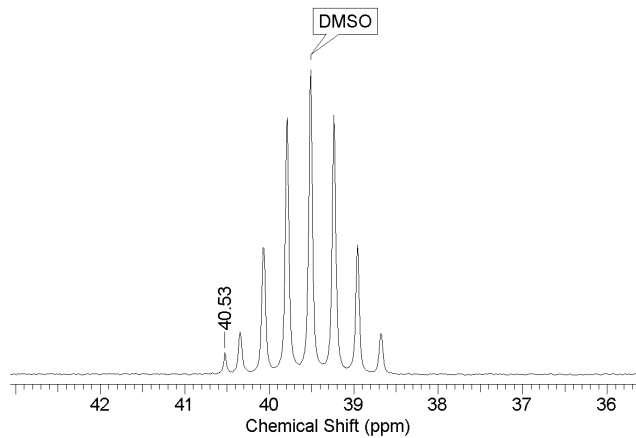
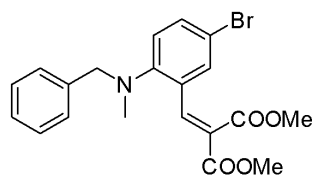


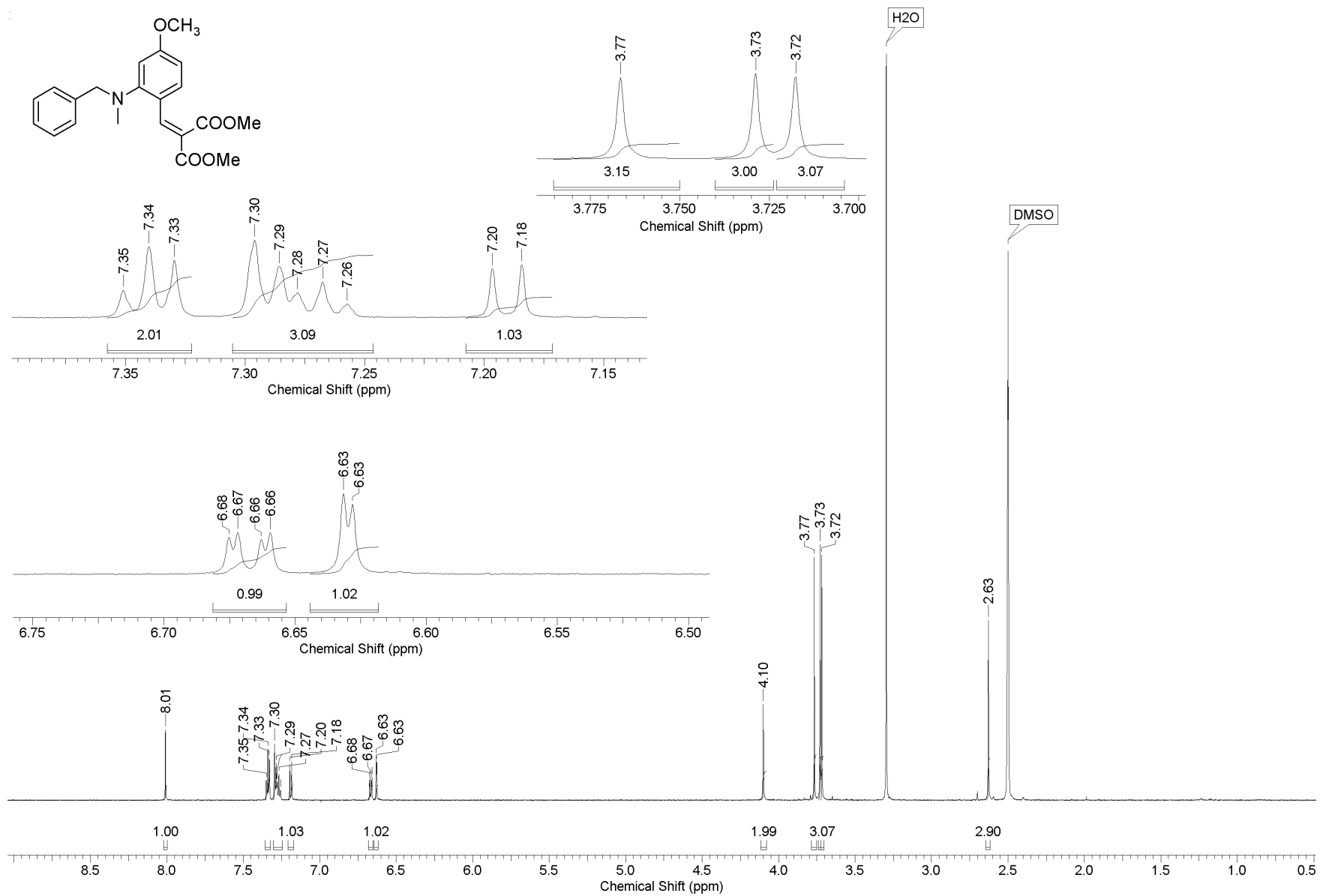


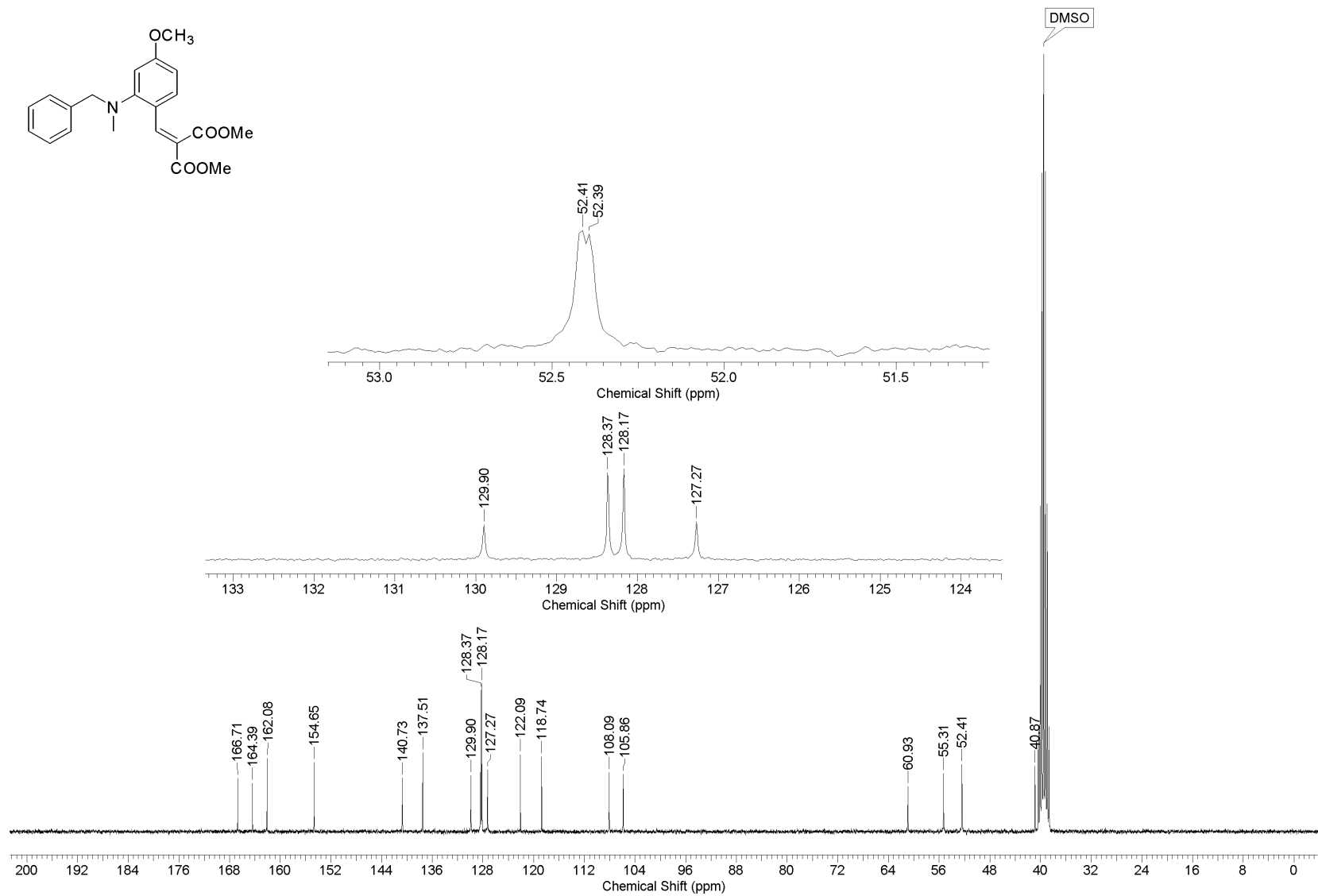
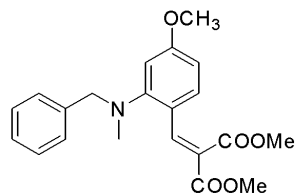


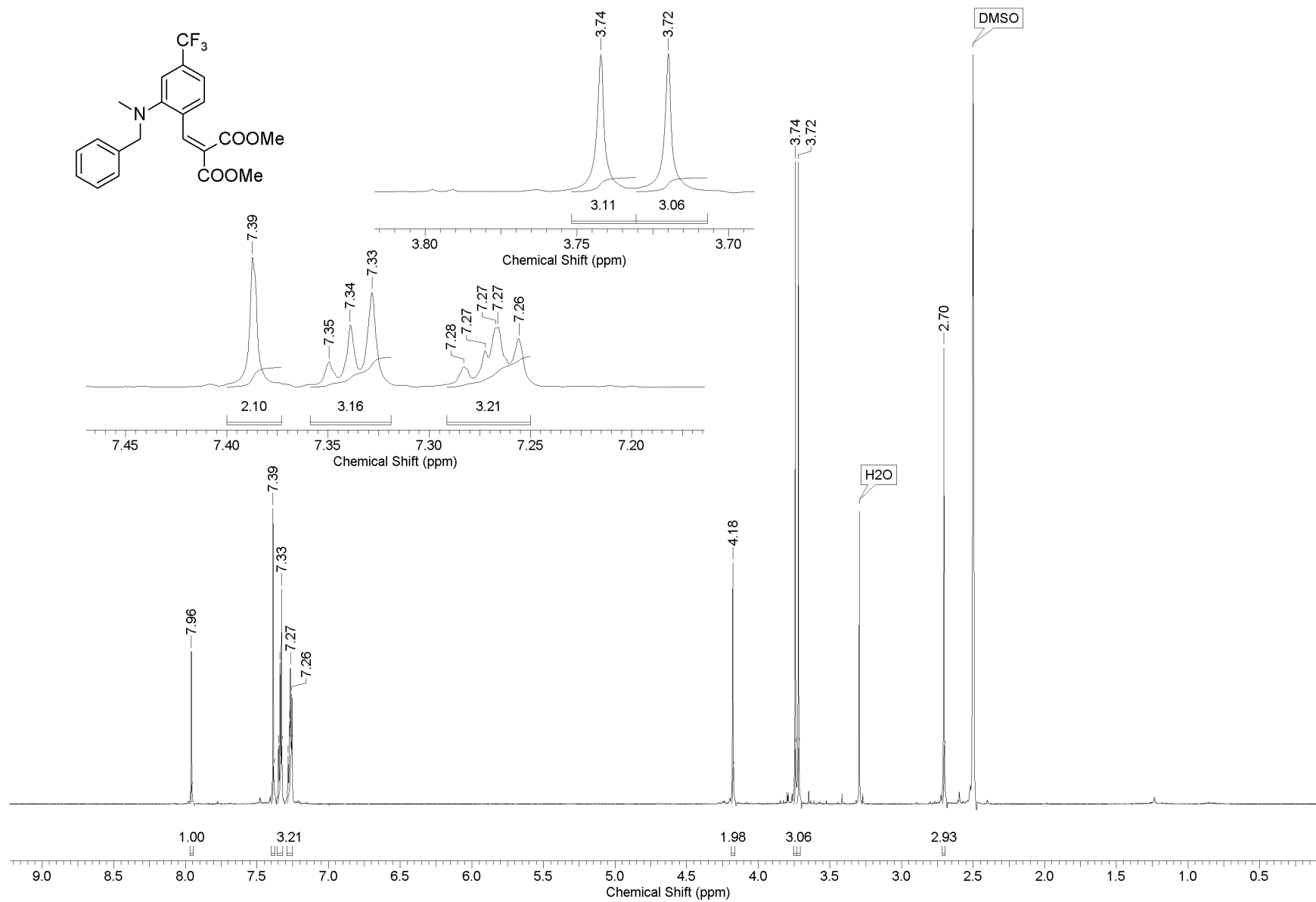


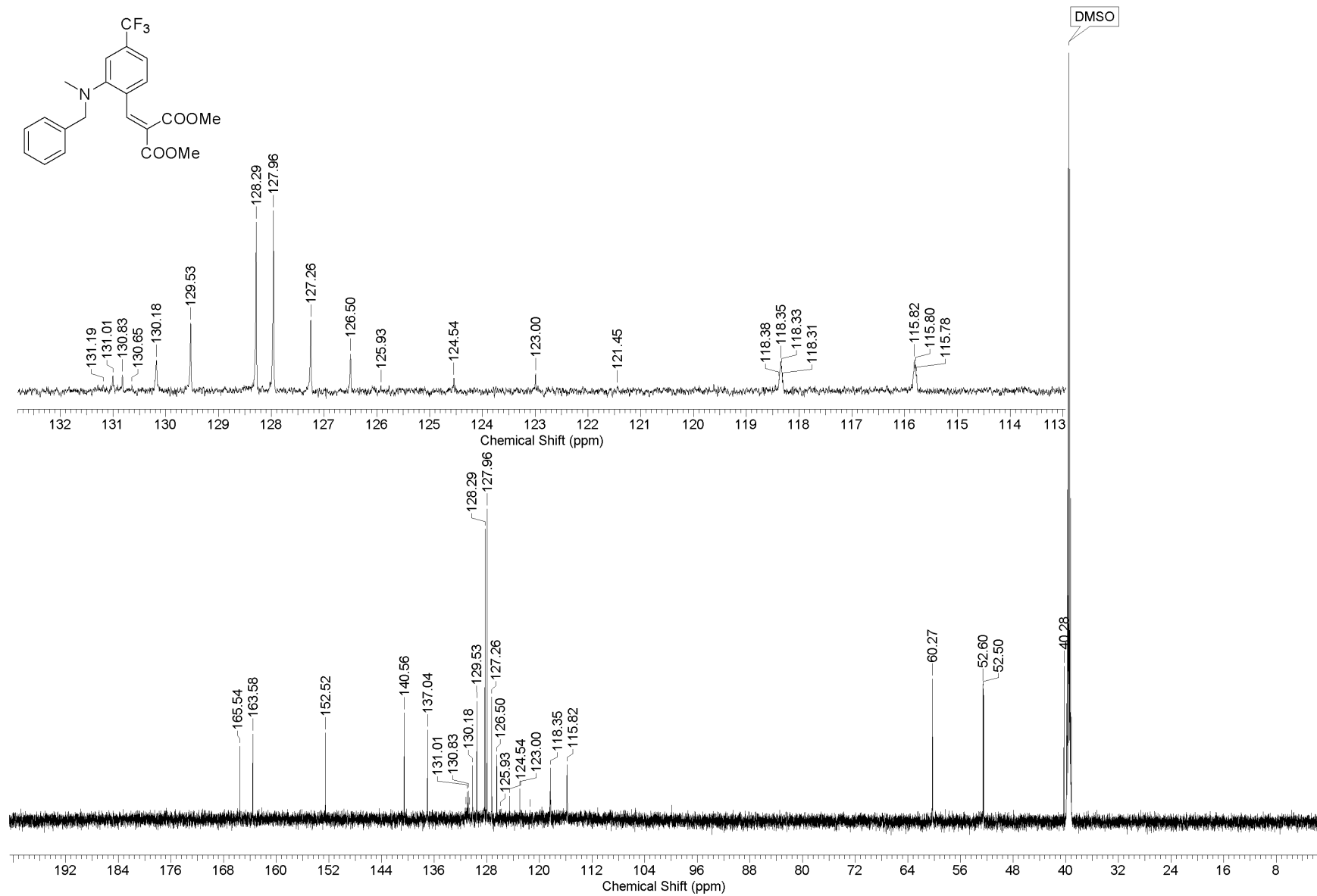


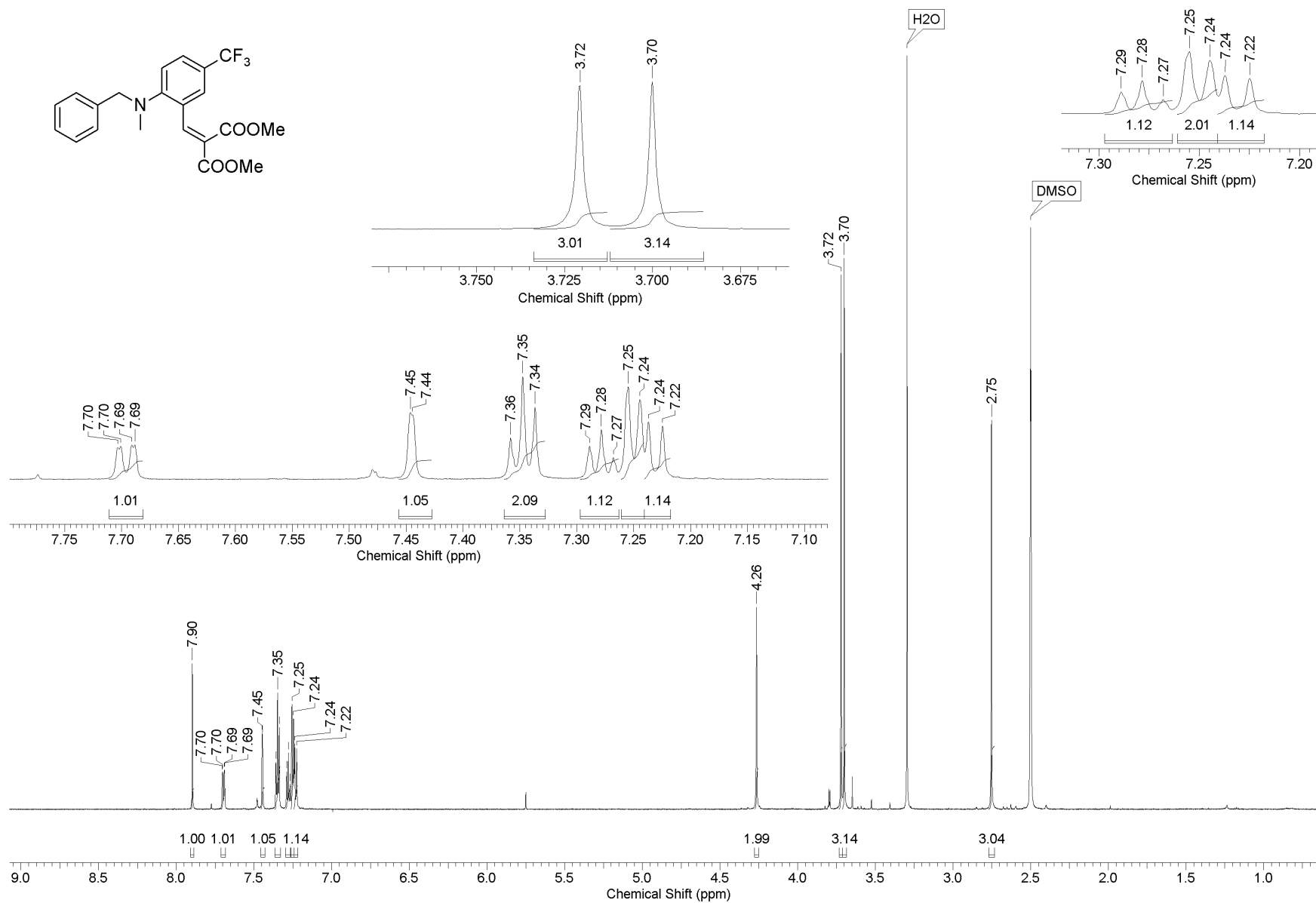
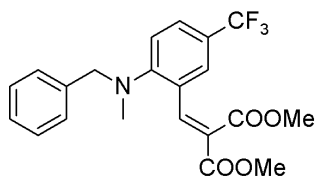


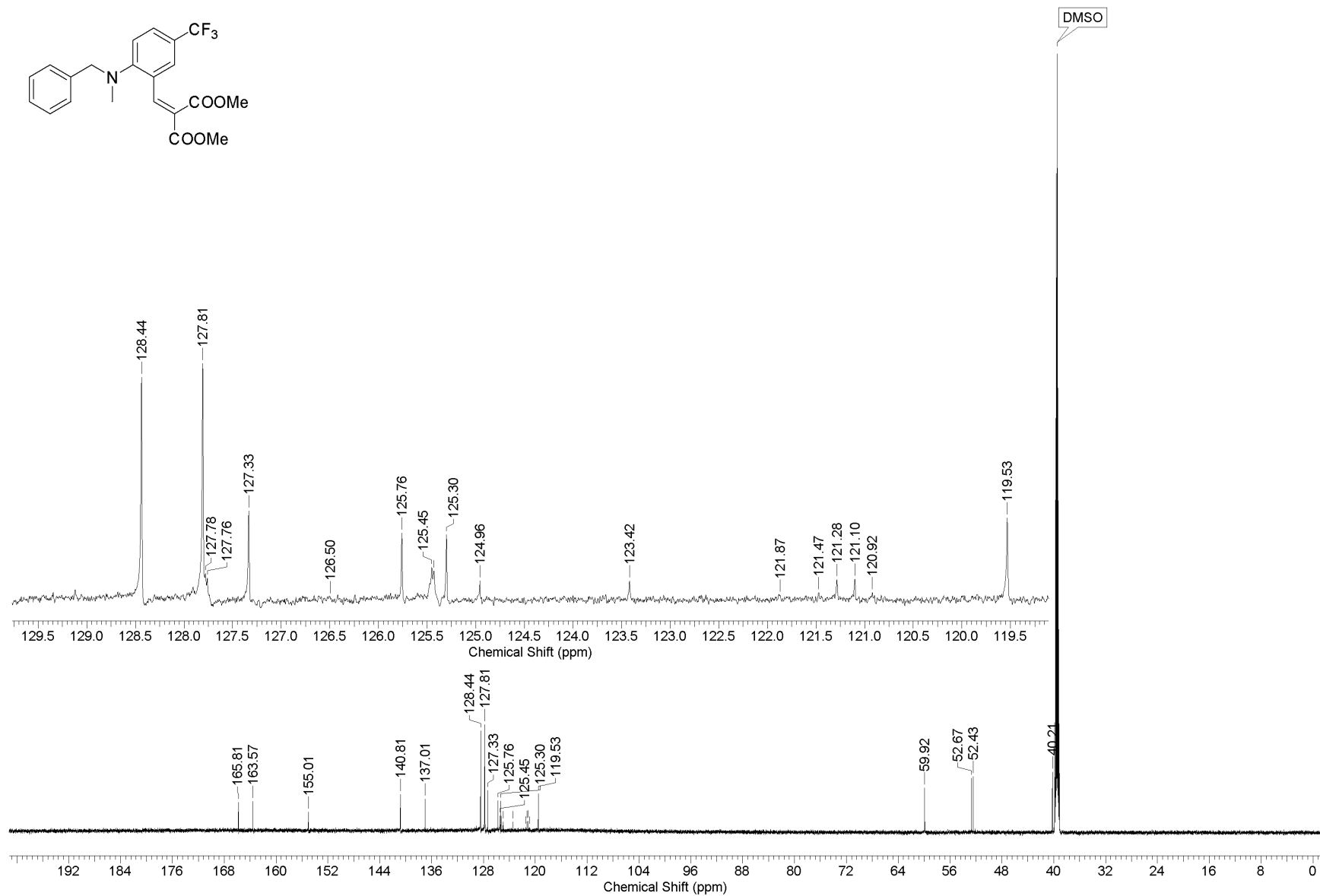
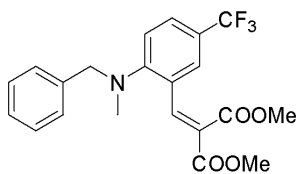


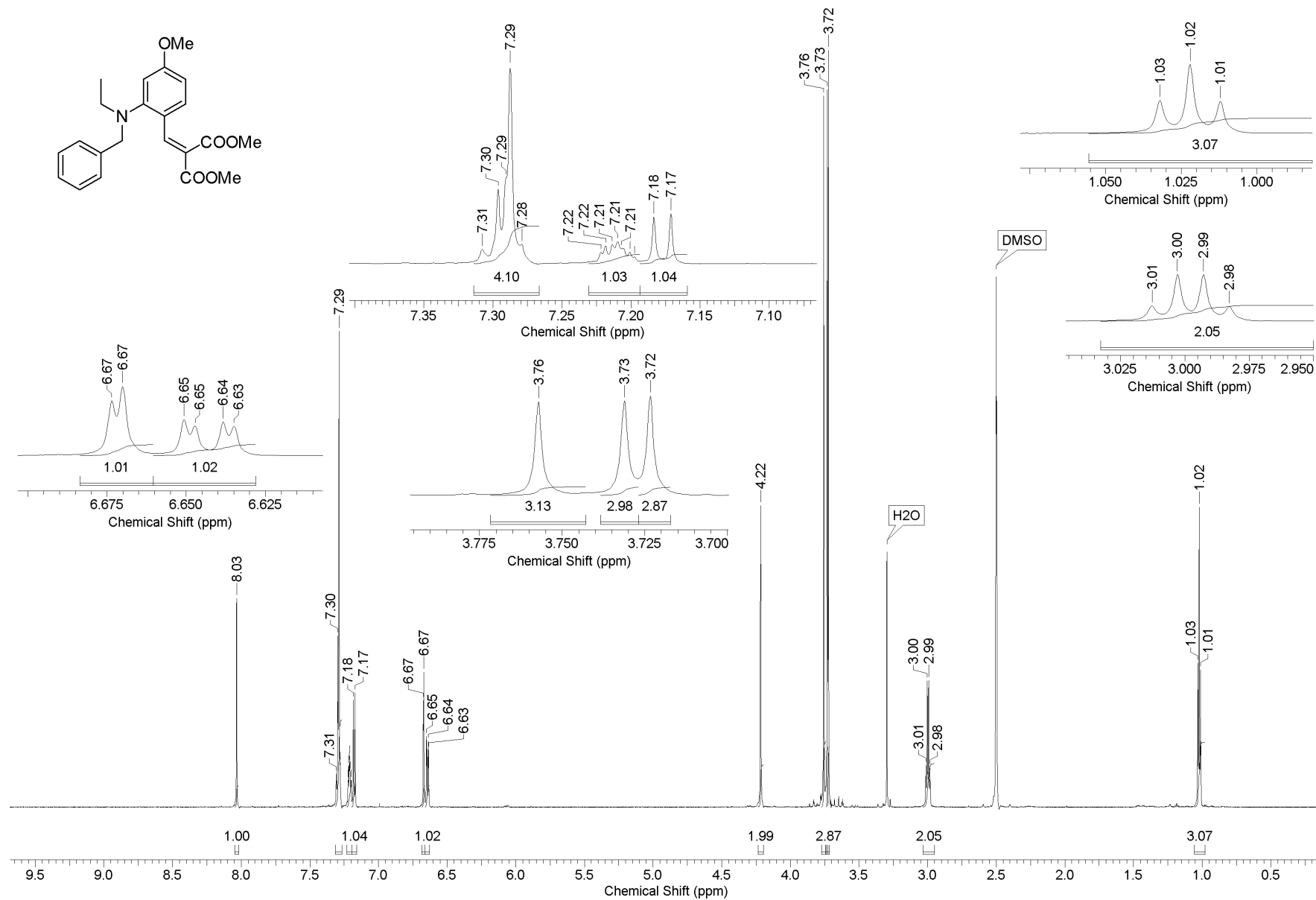
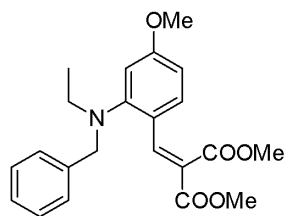


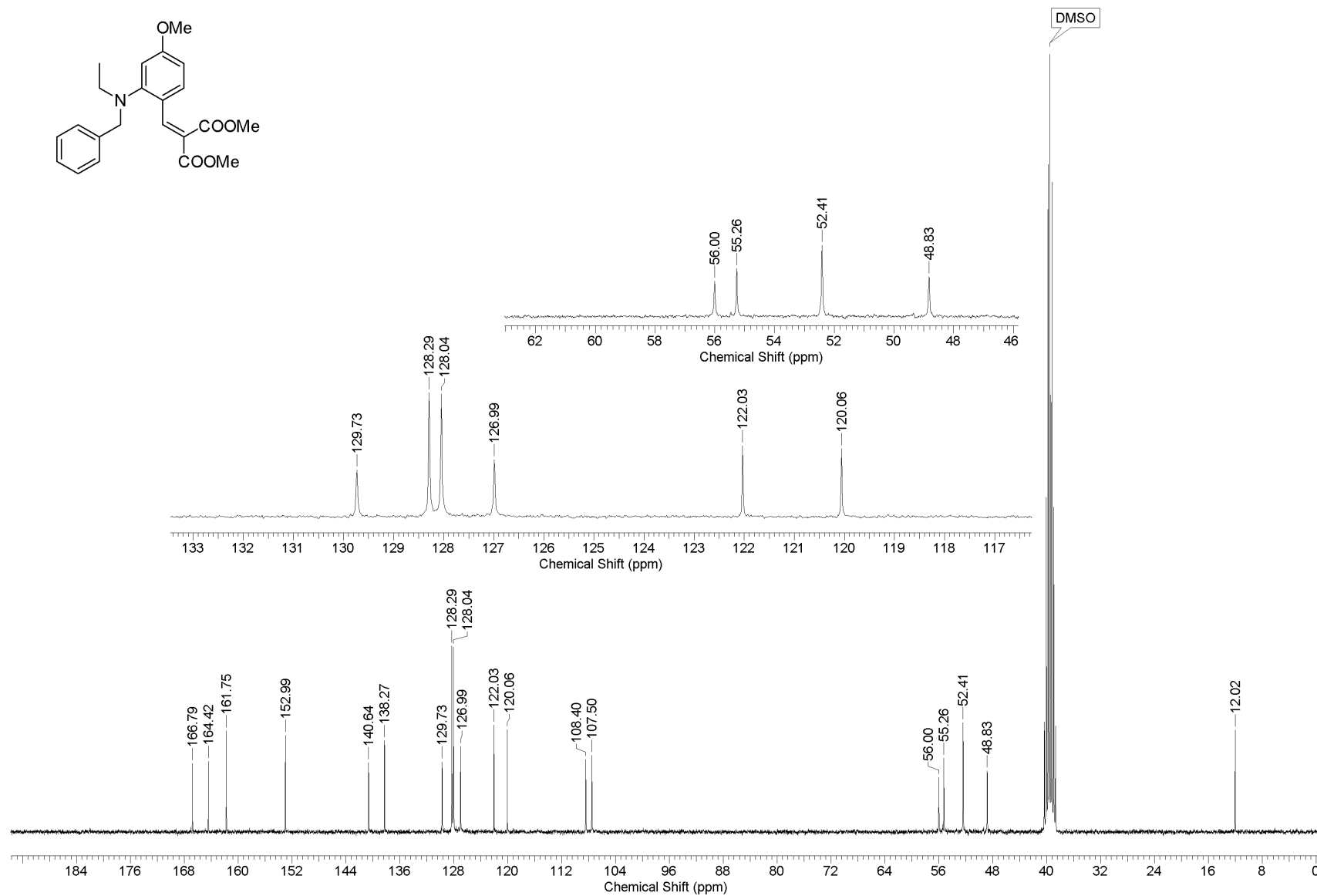
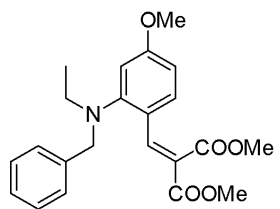


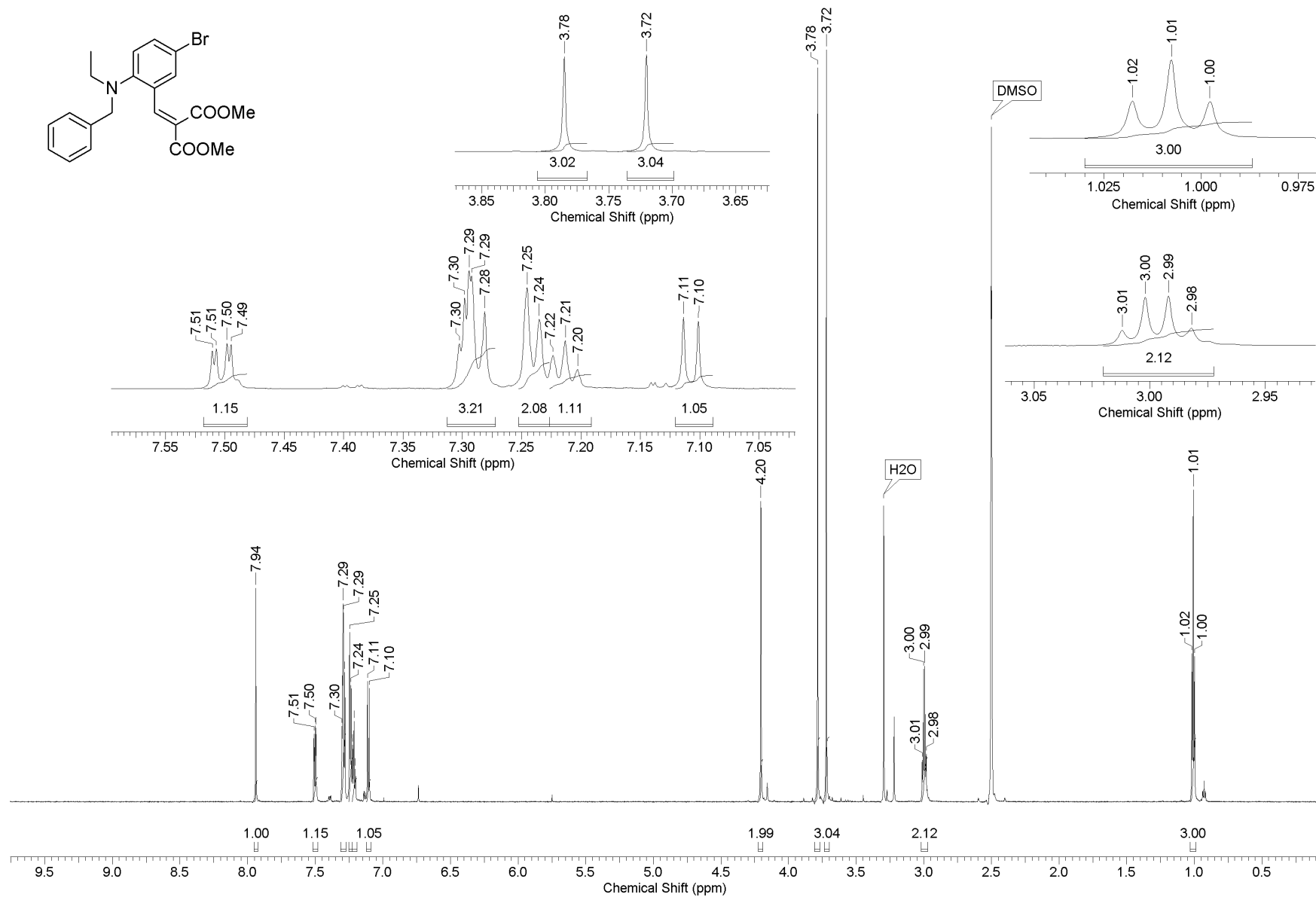
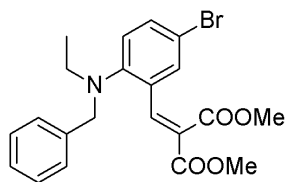


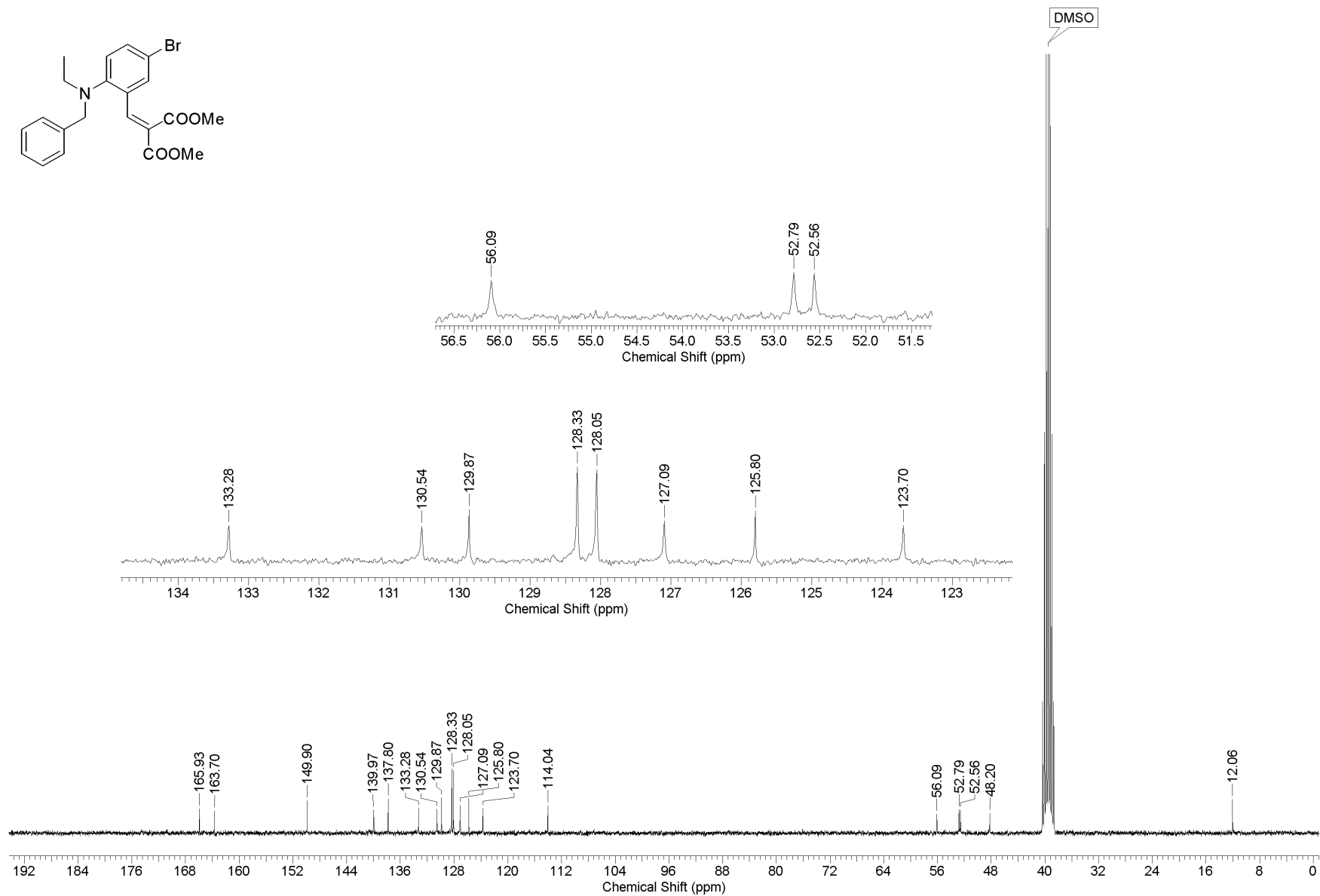
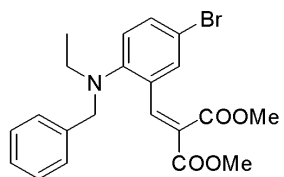


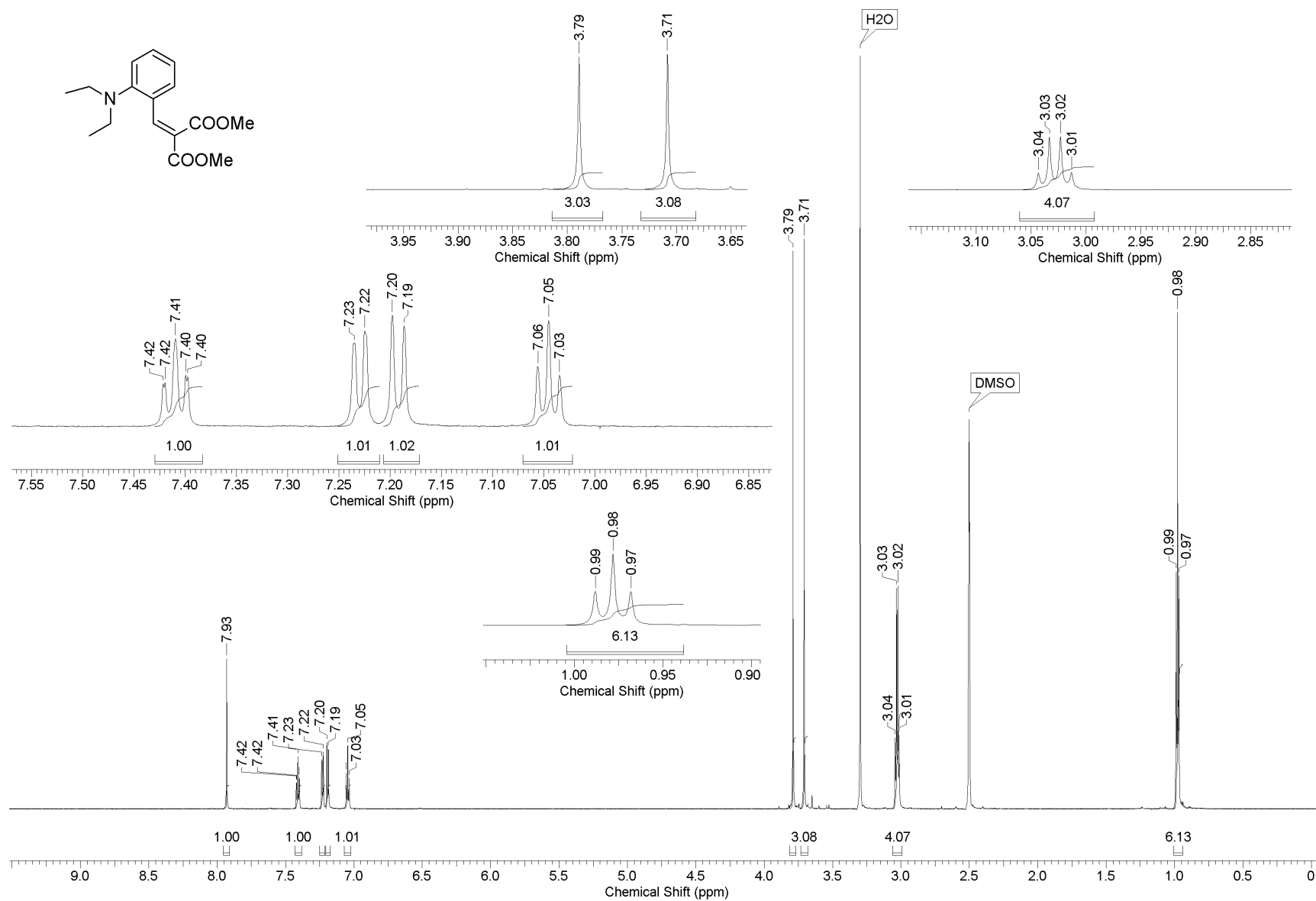


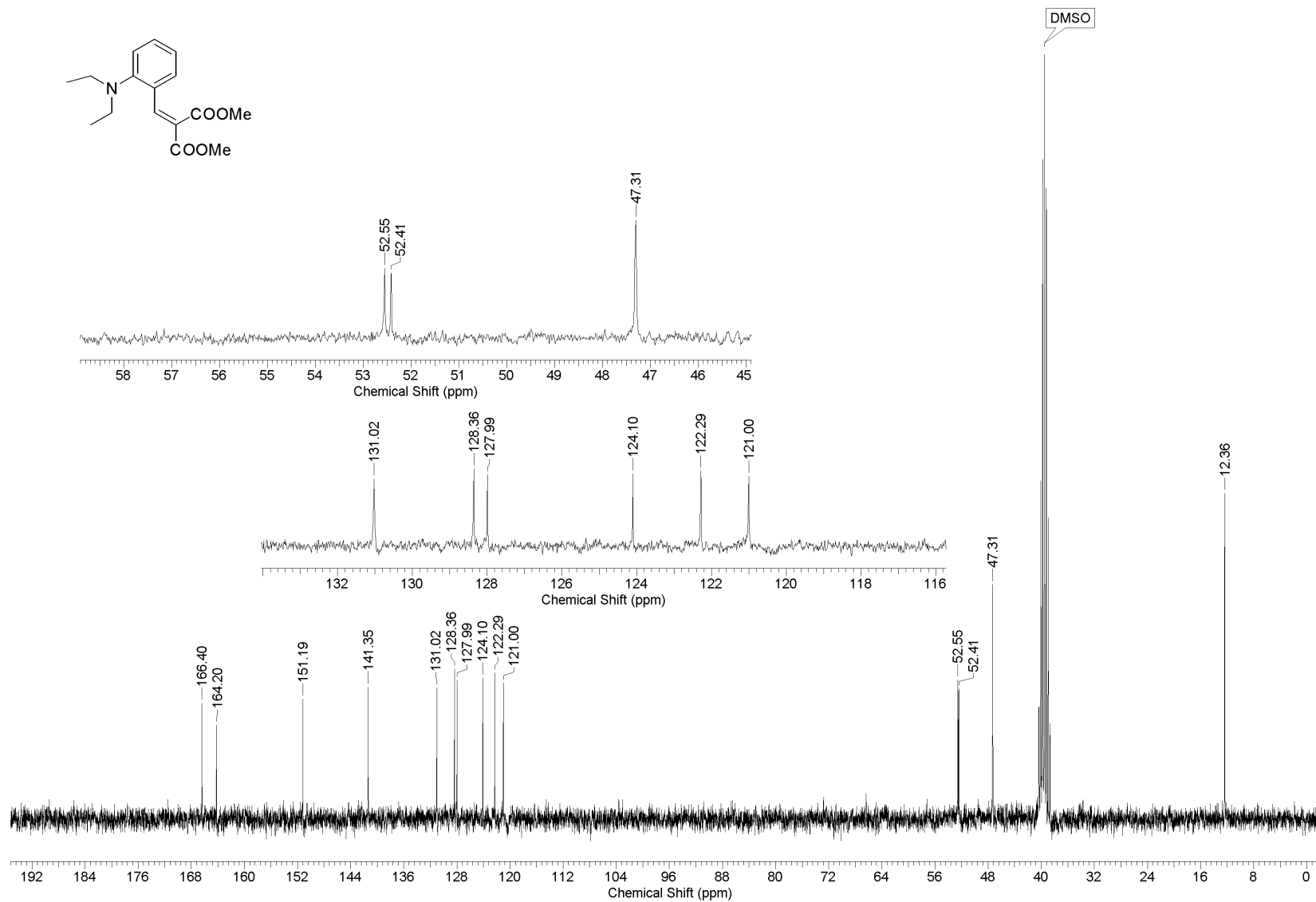
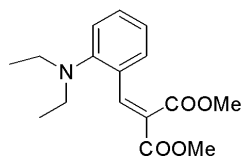


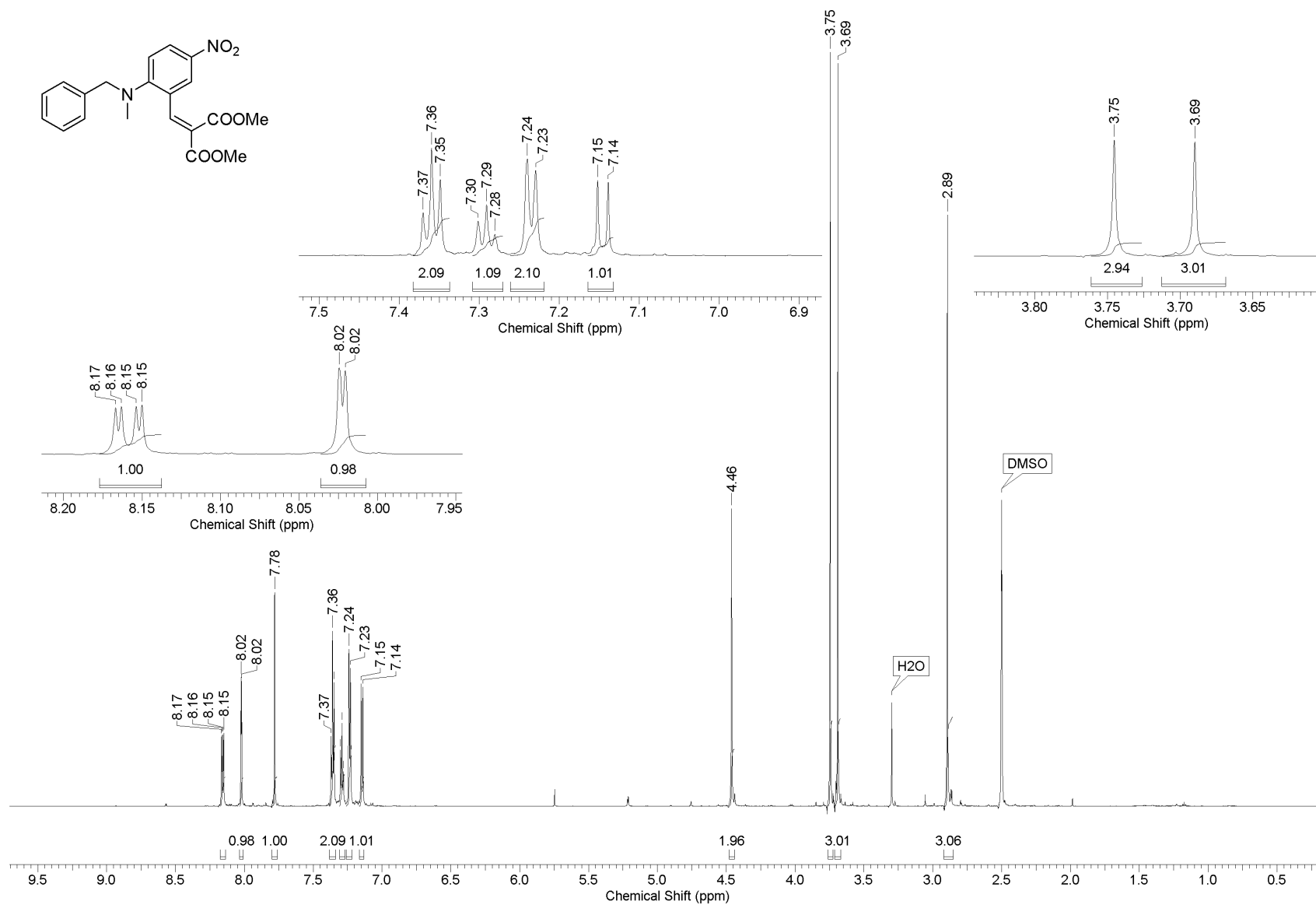
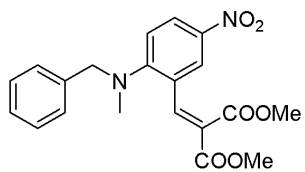




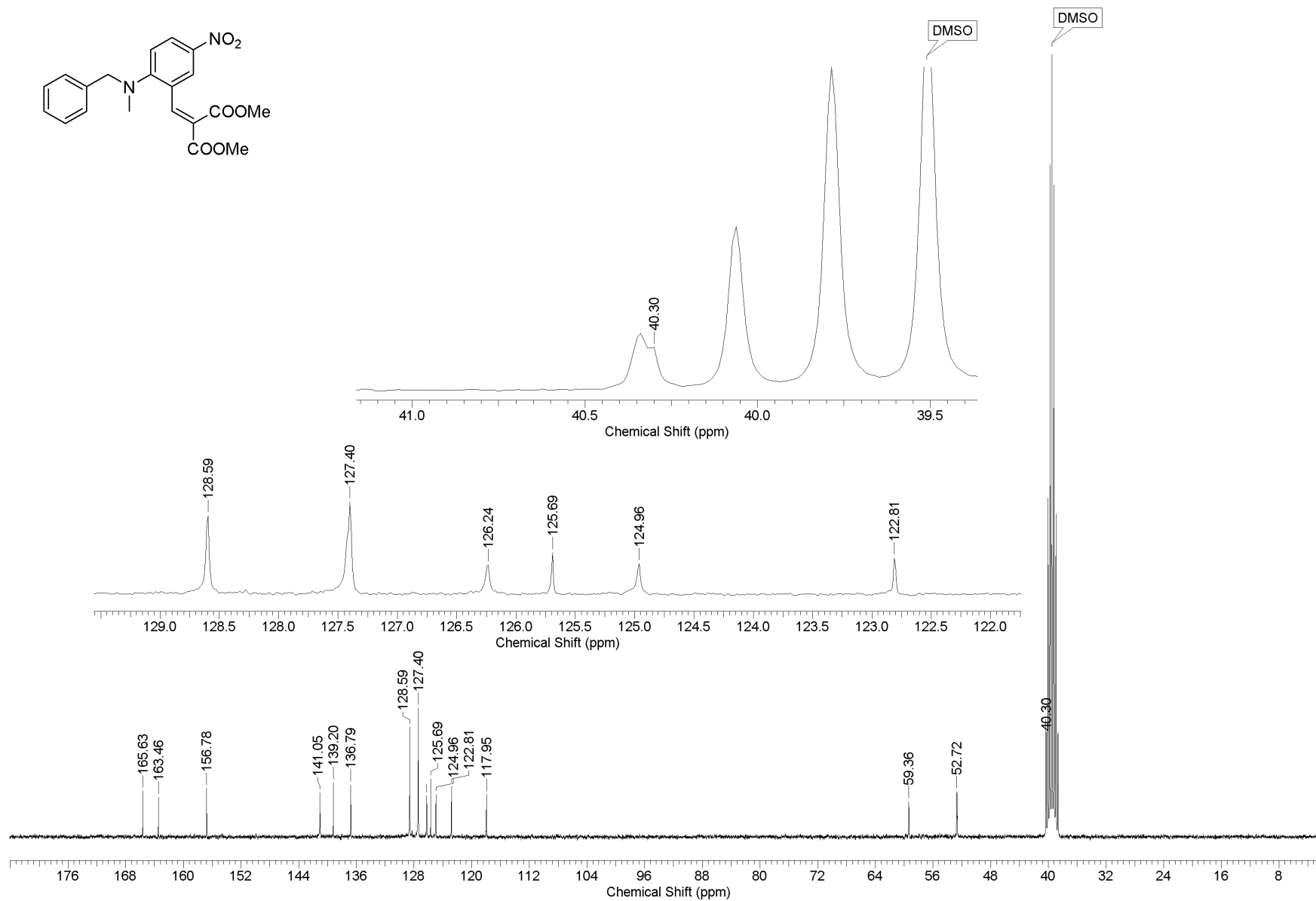
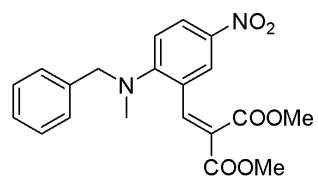




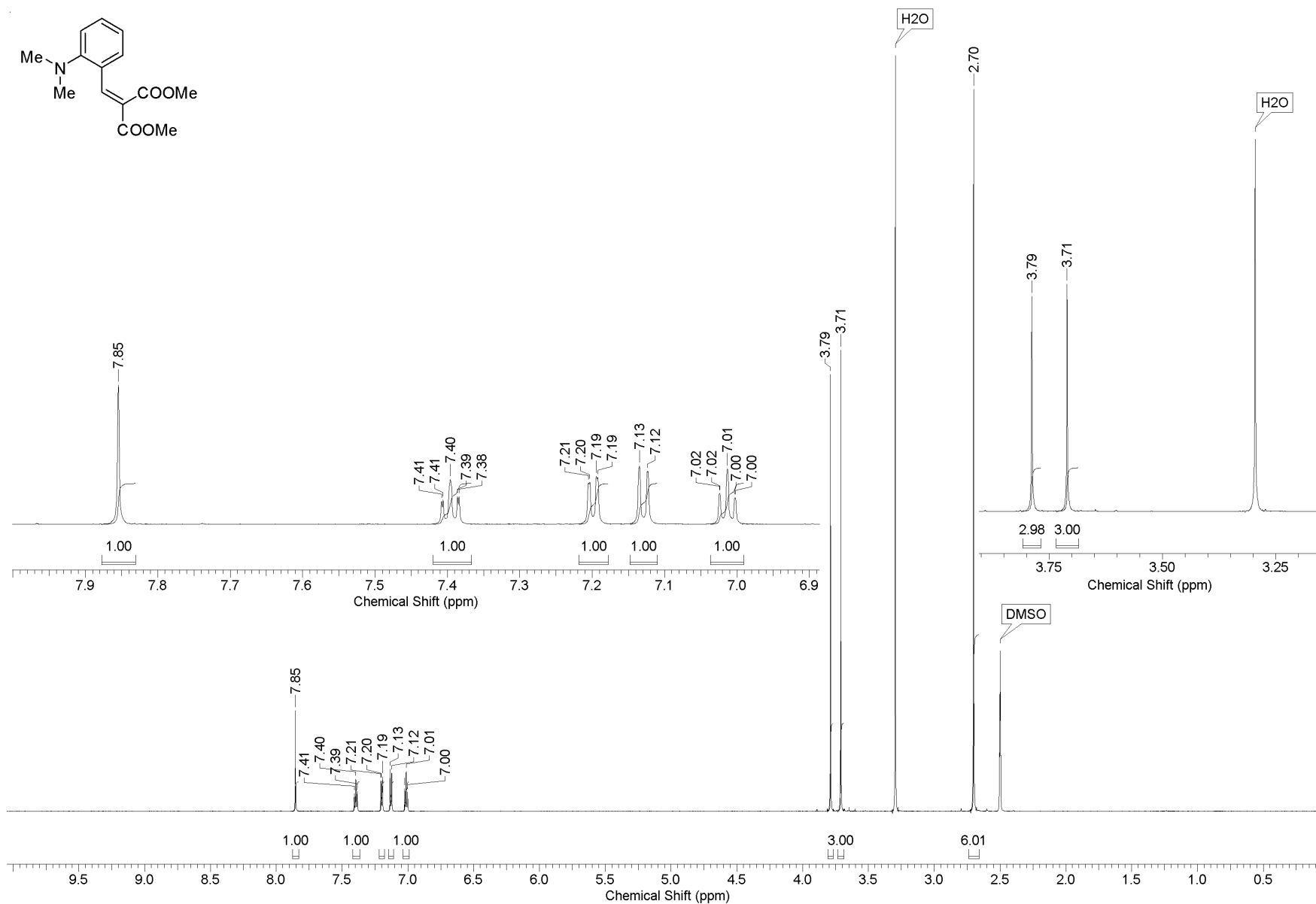
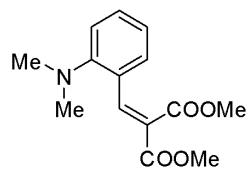




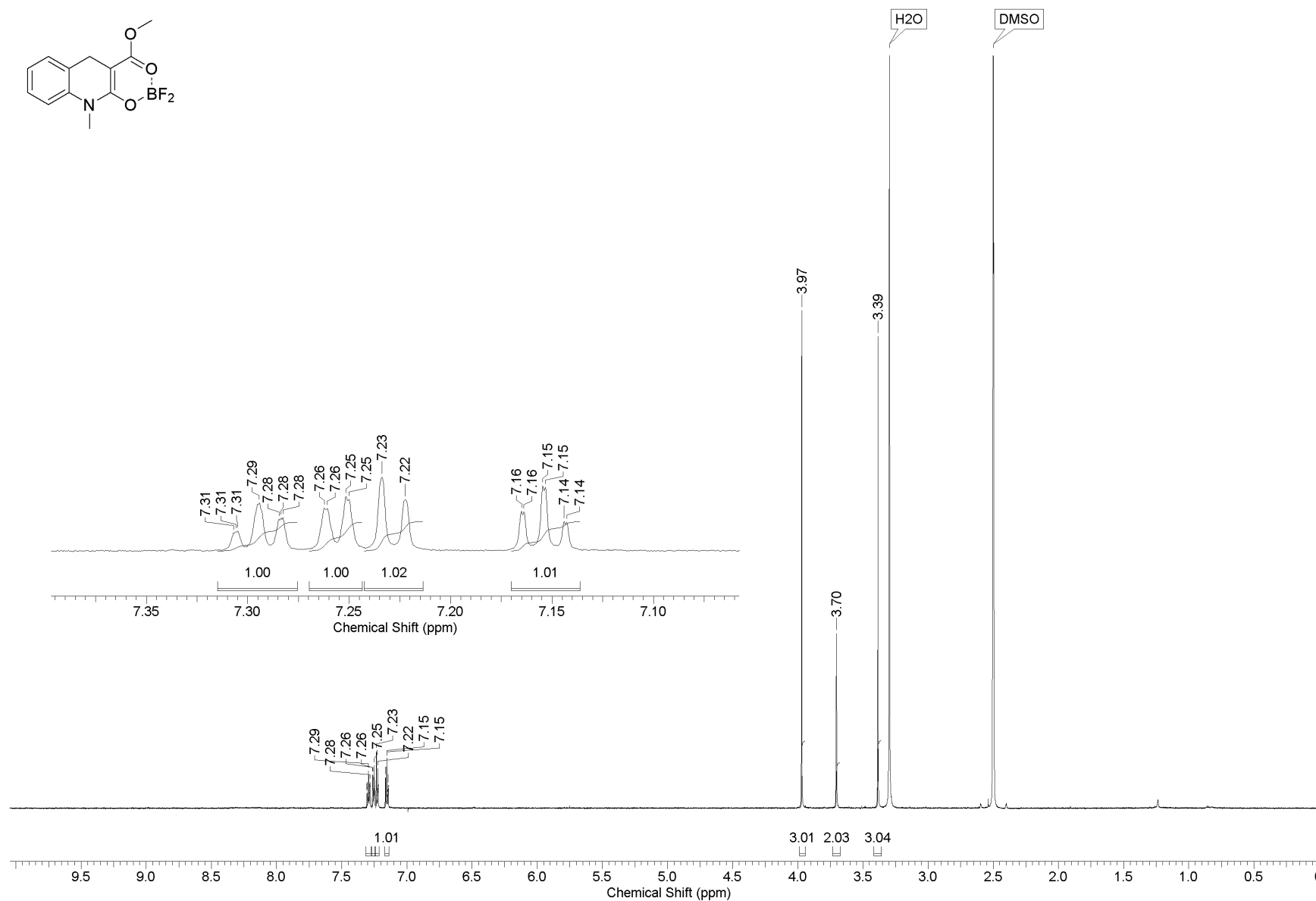
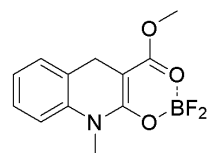
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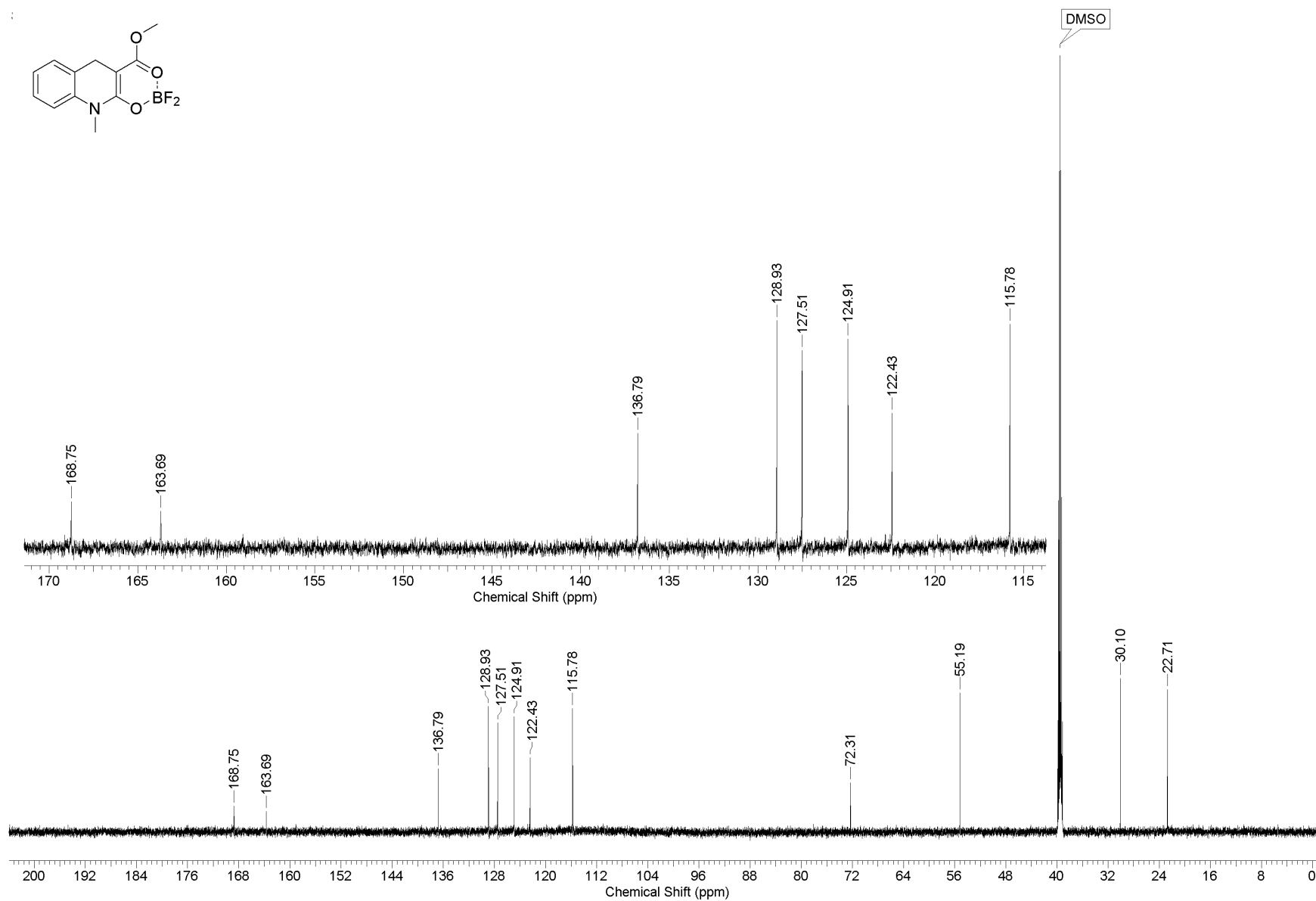
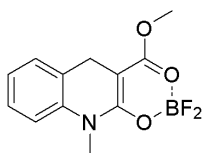


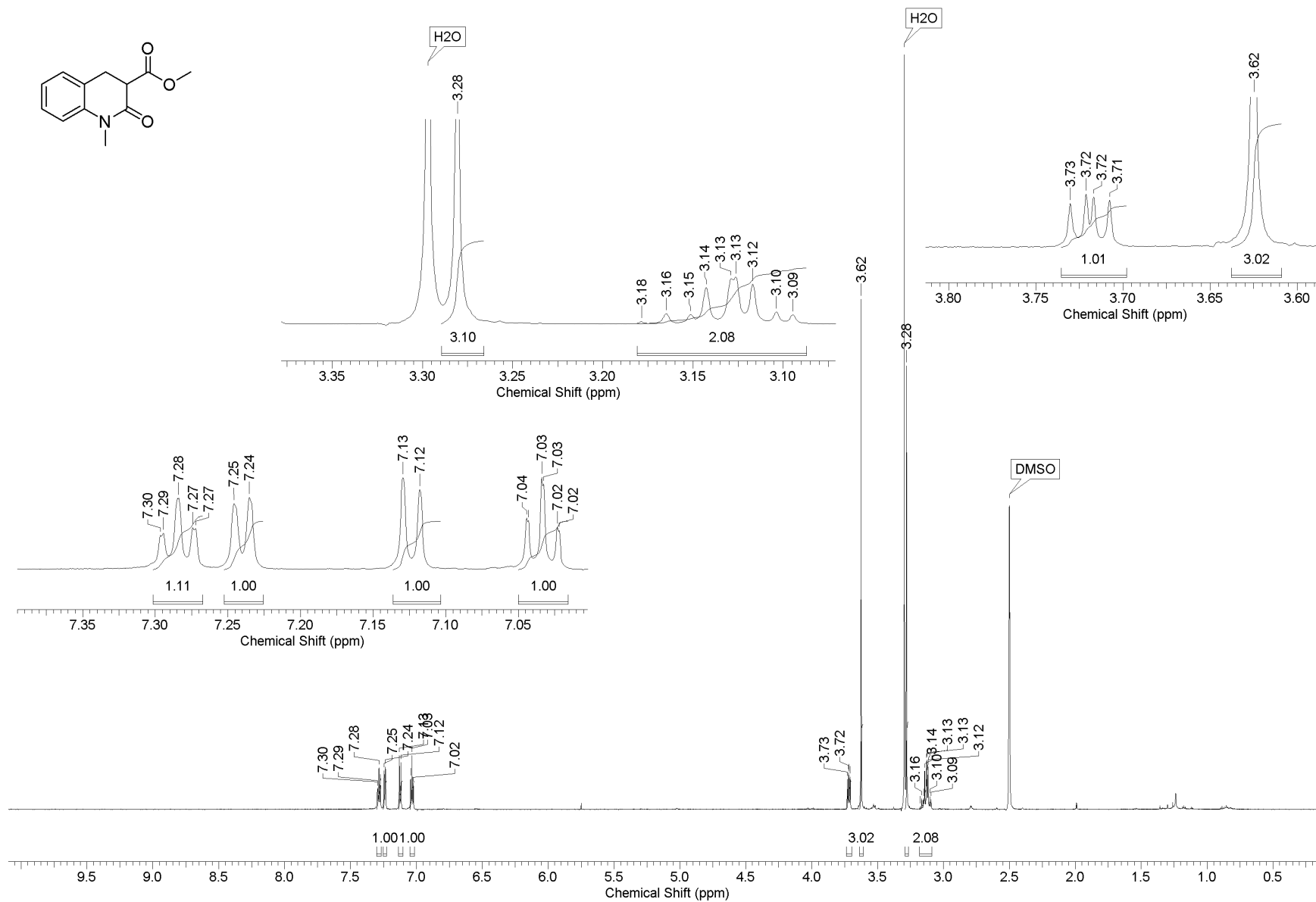
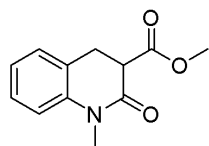
S58

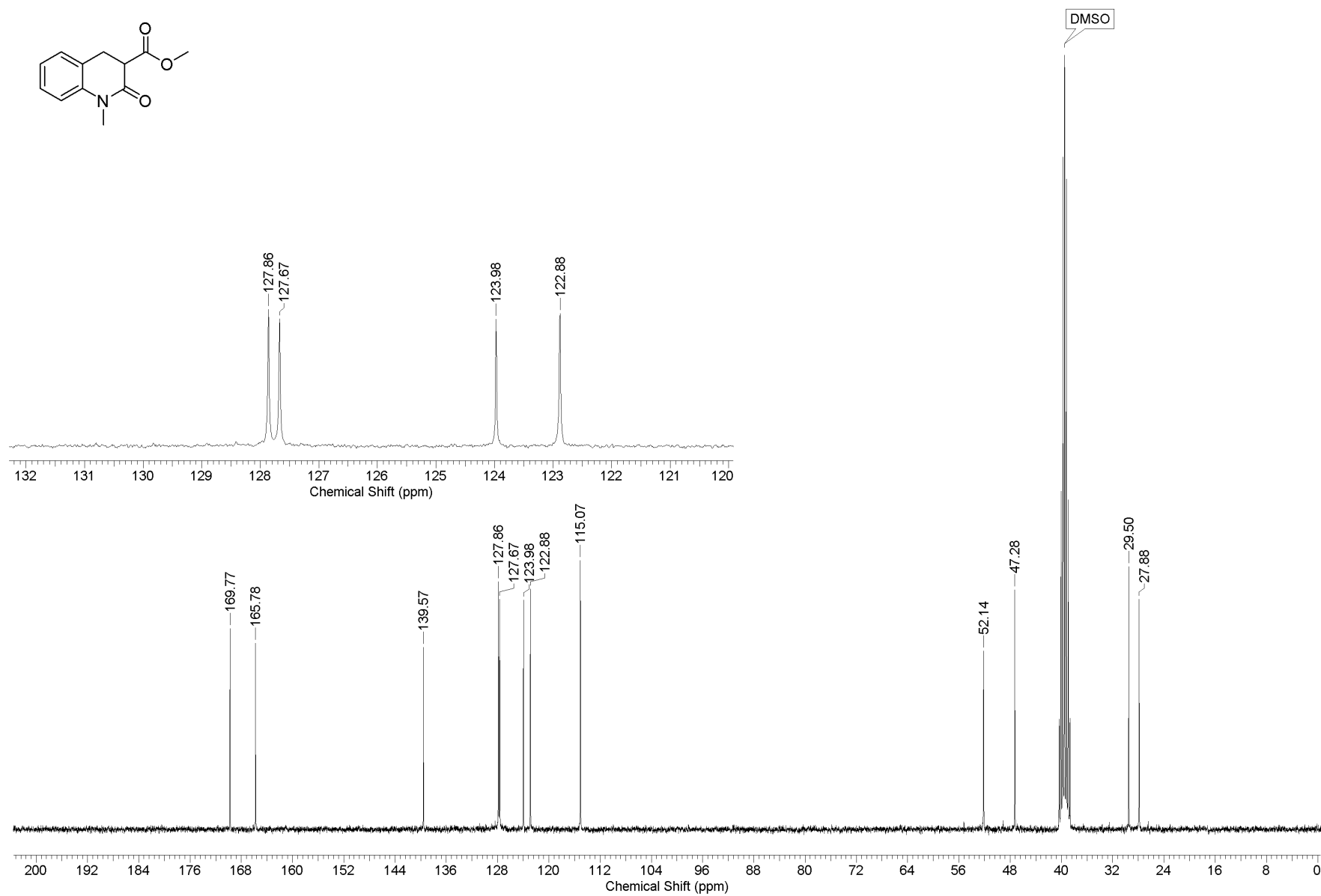
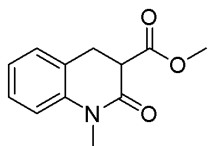


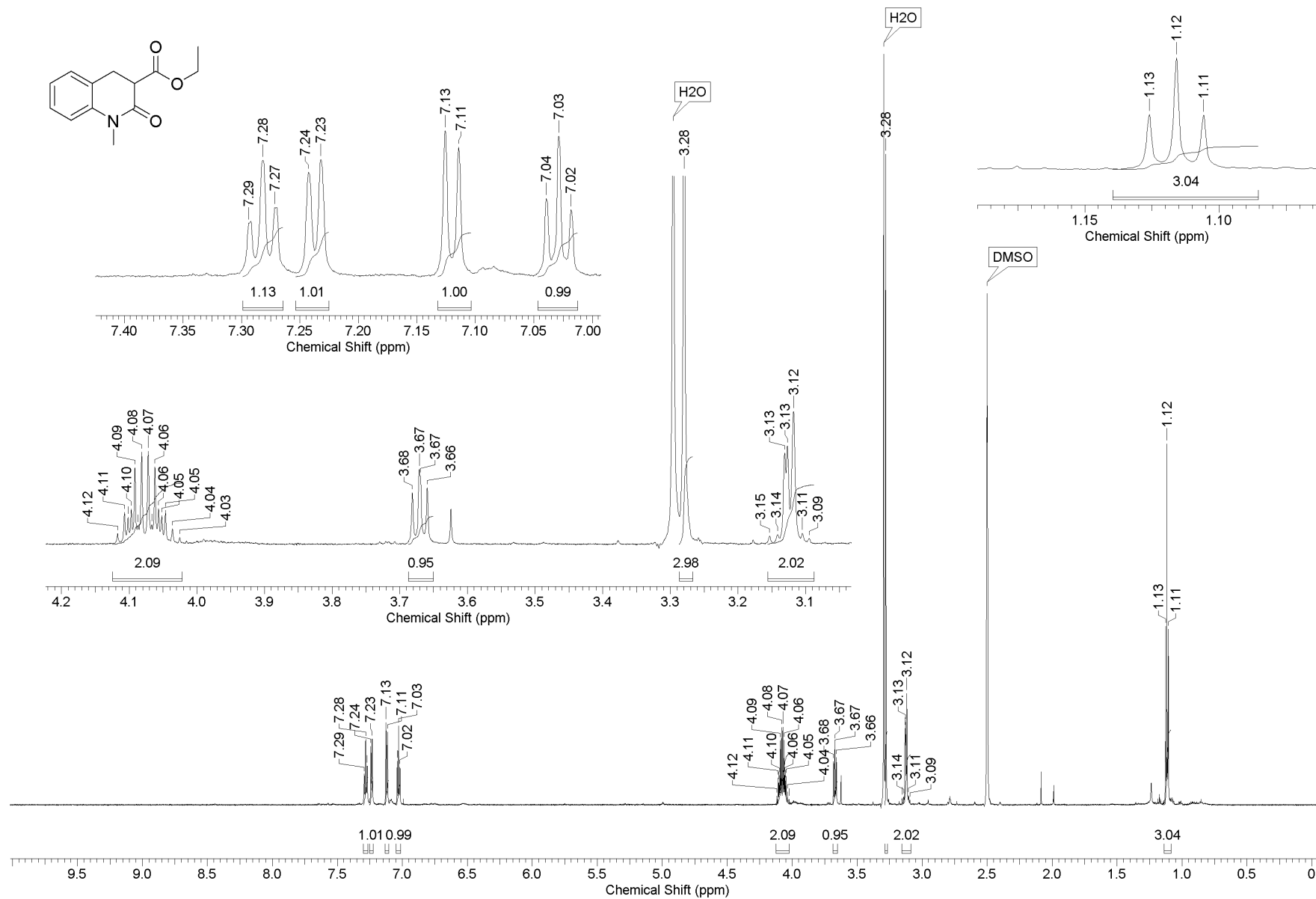


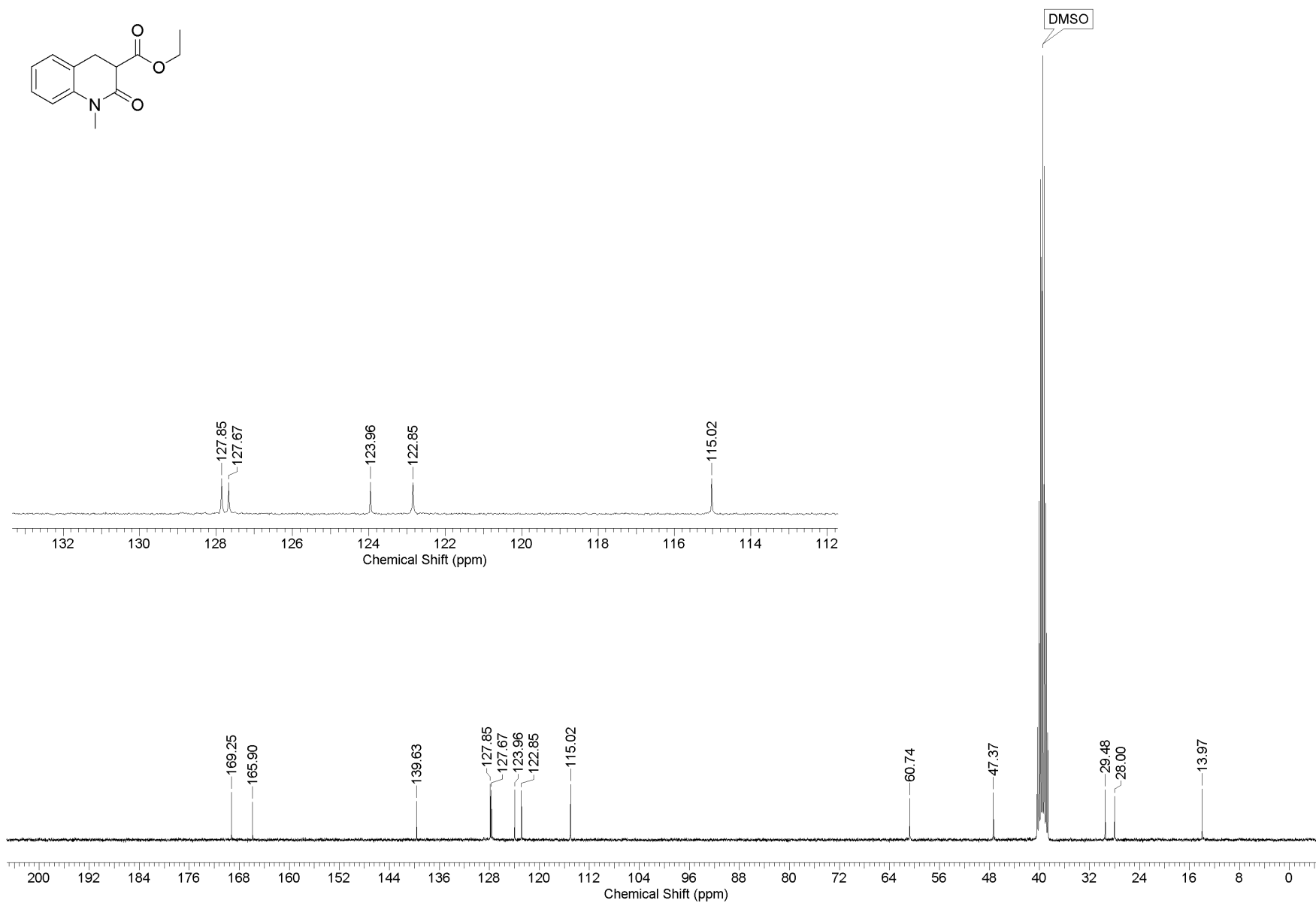
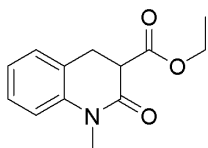


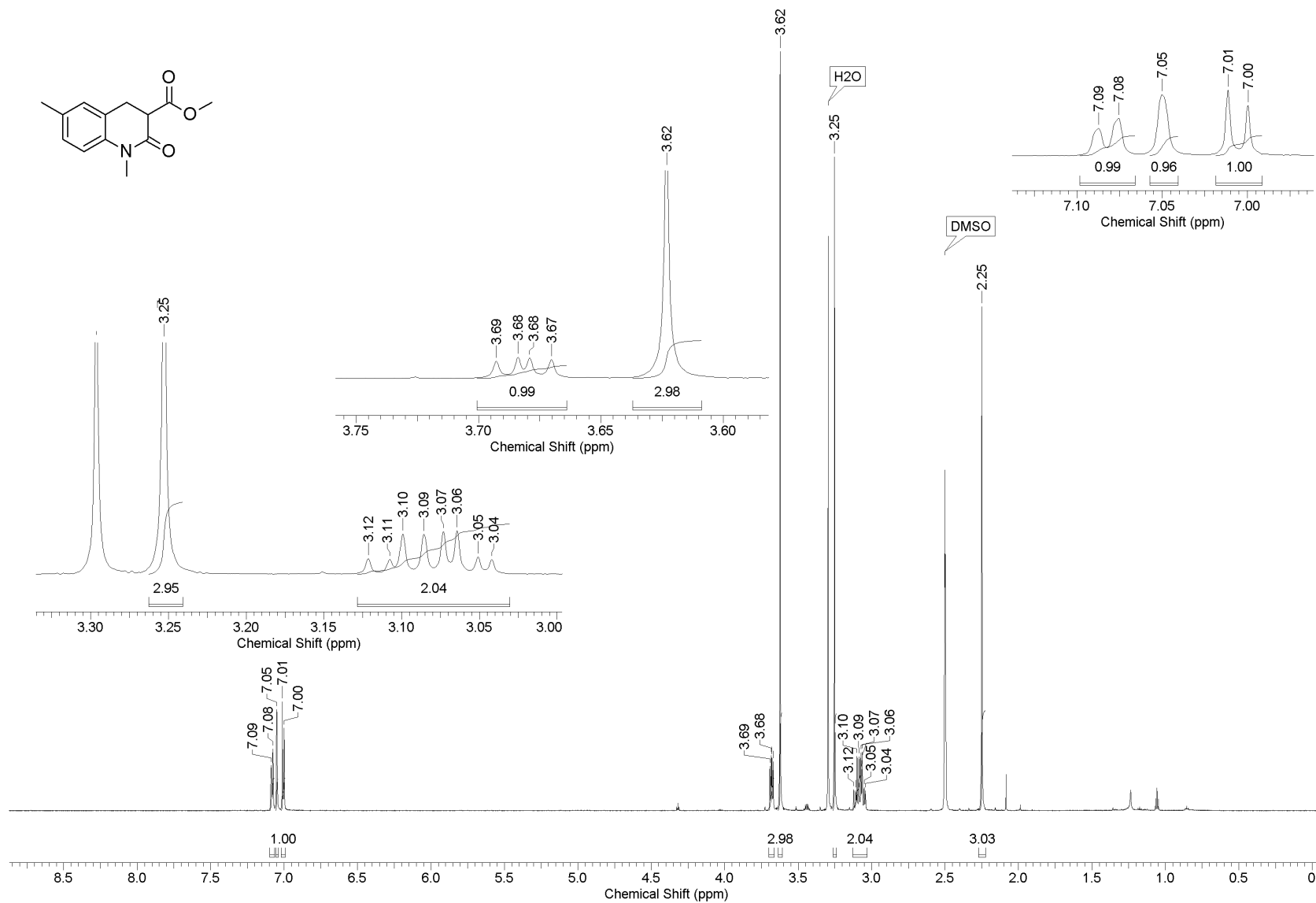
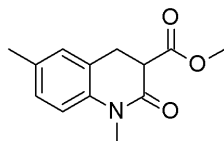


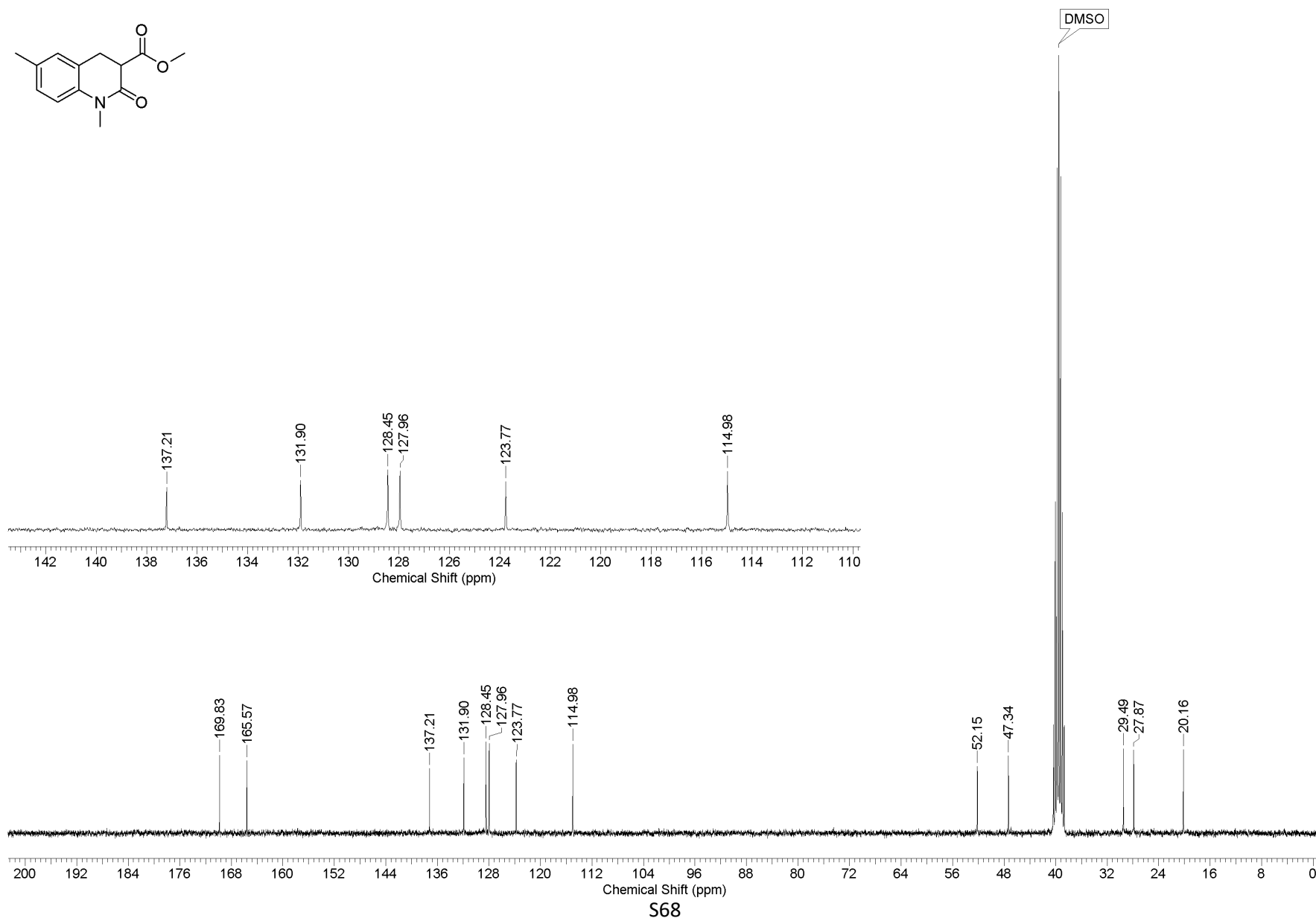
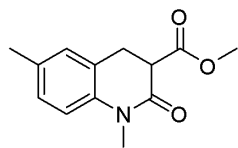


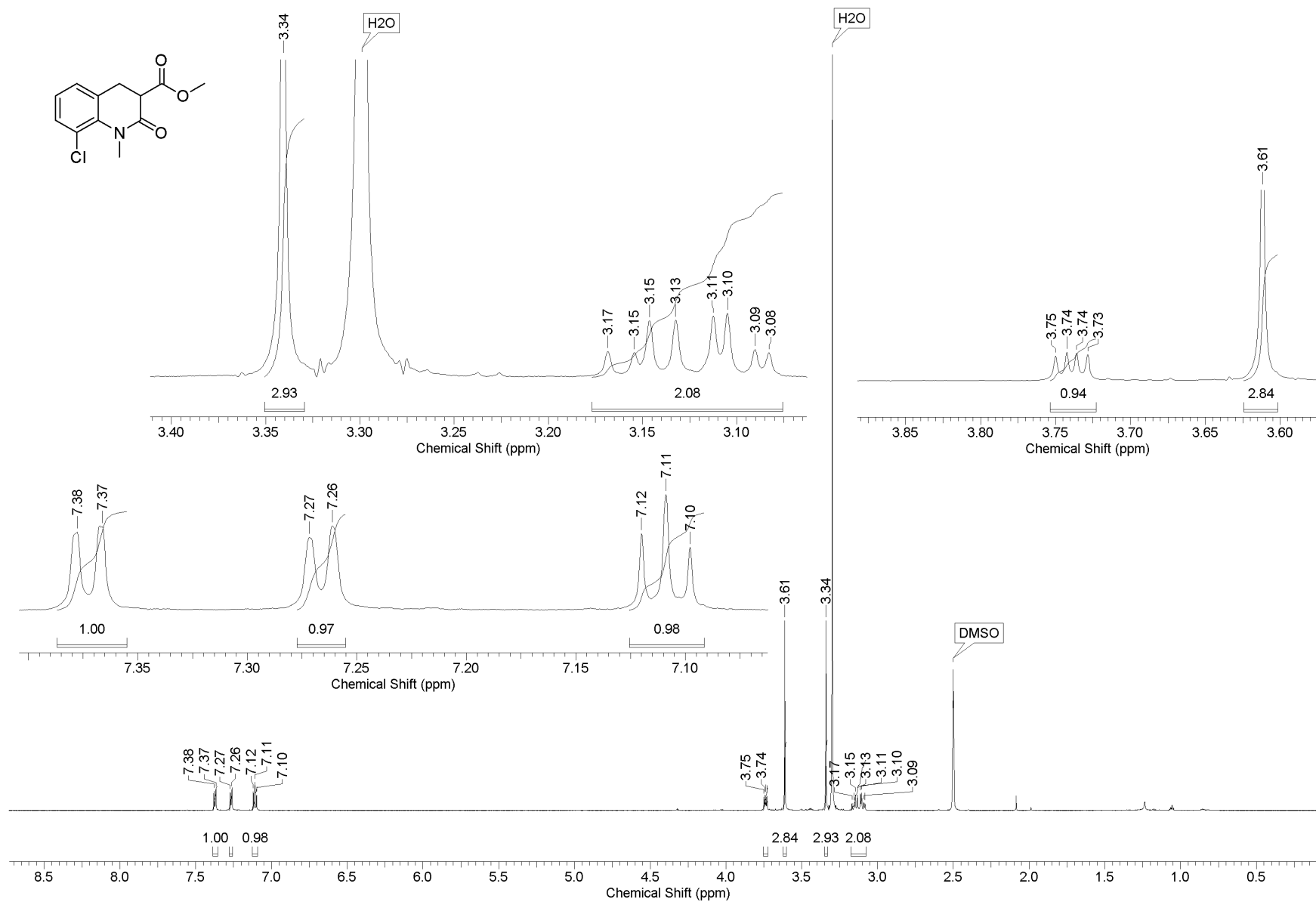


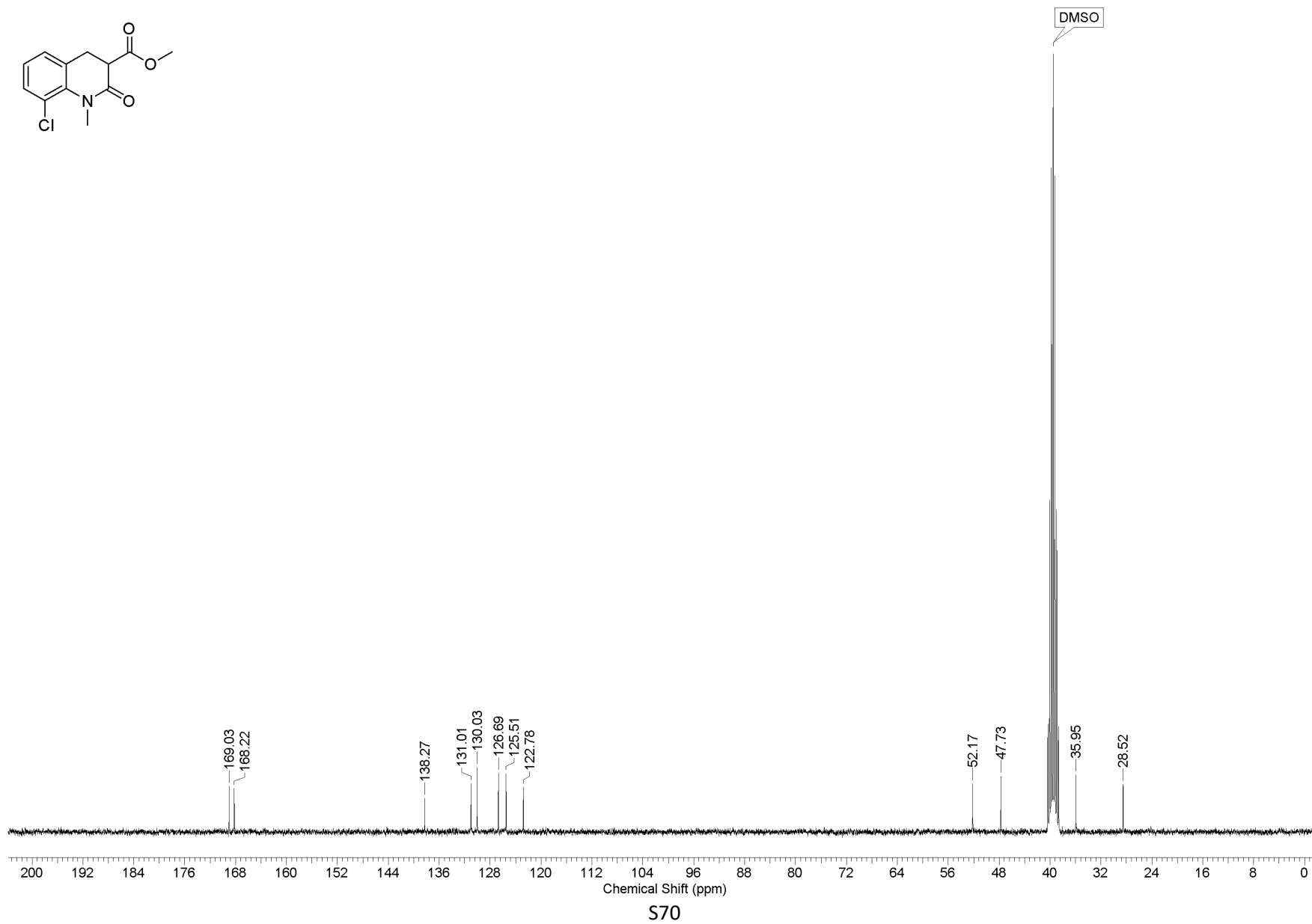
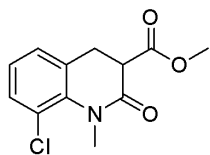


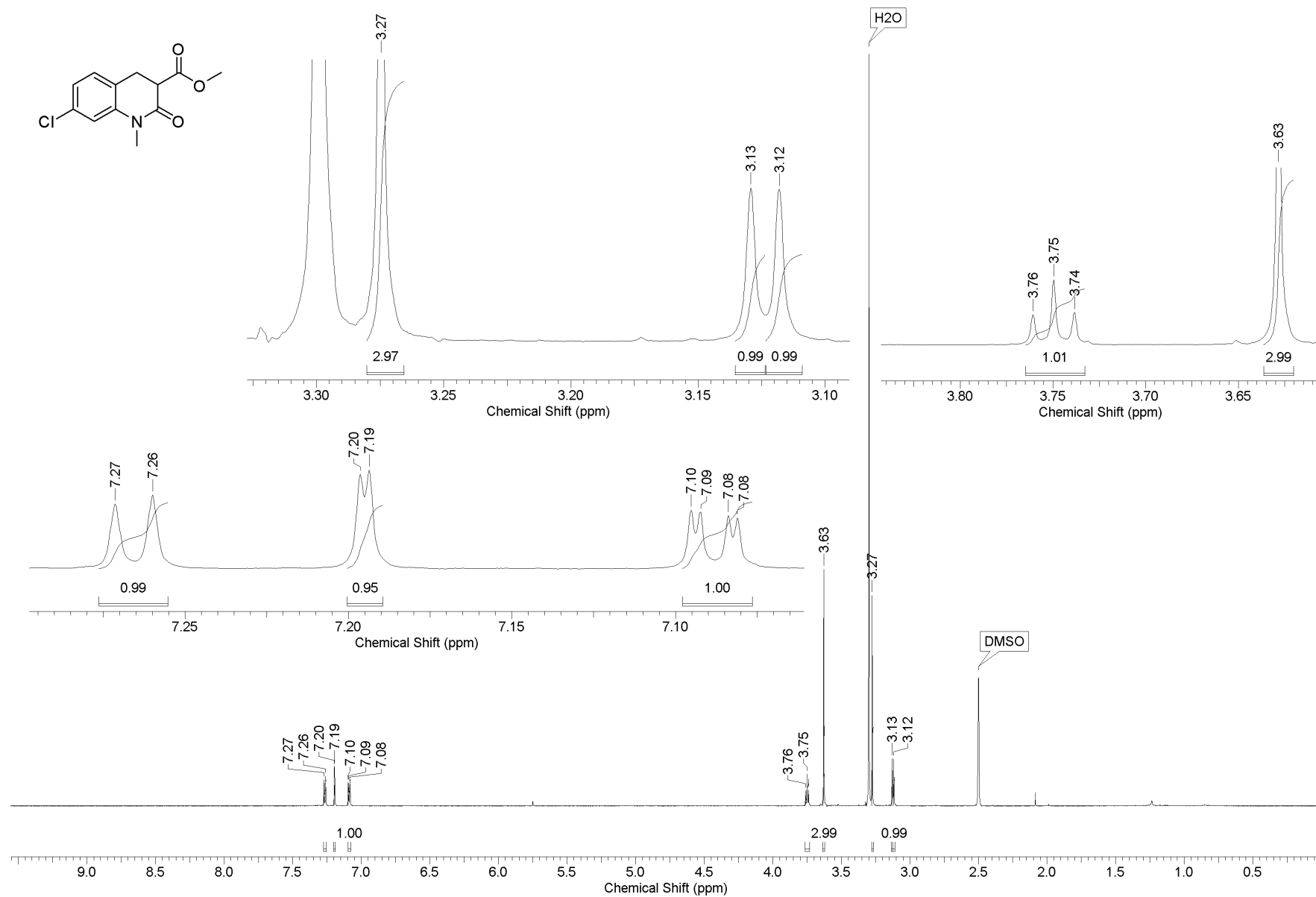
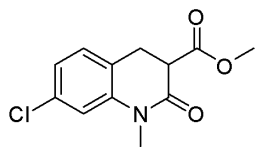


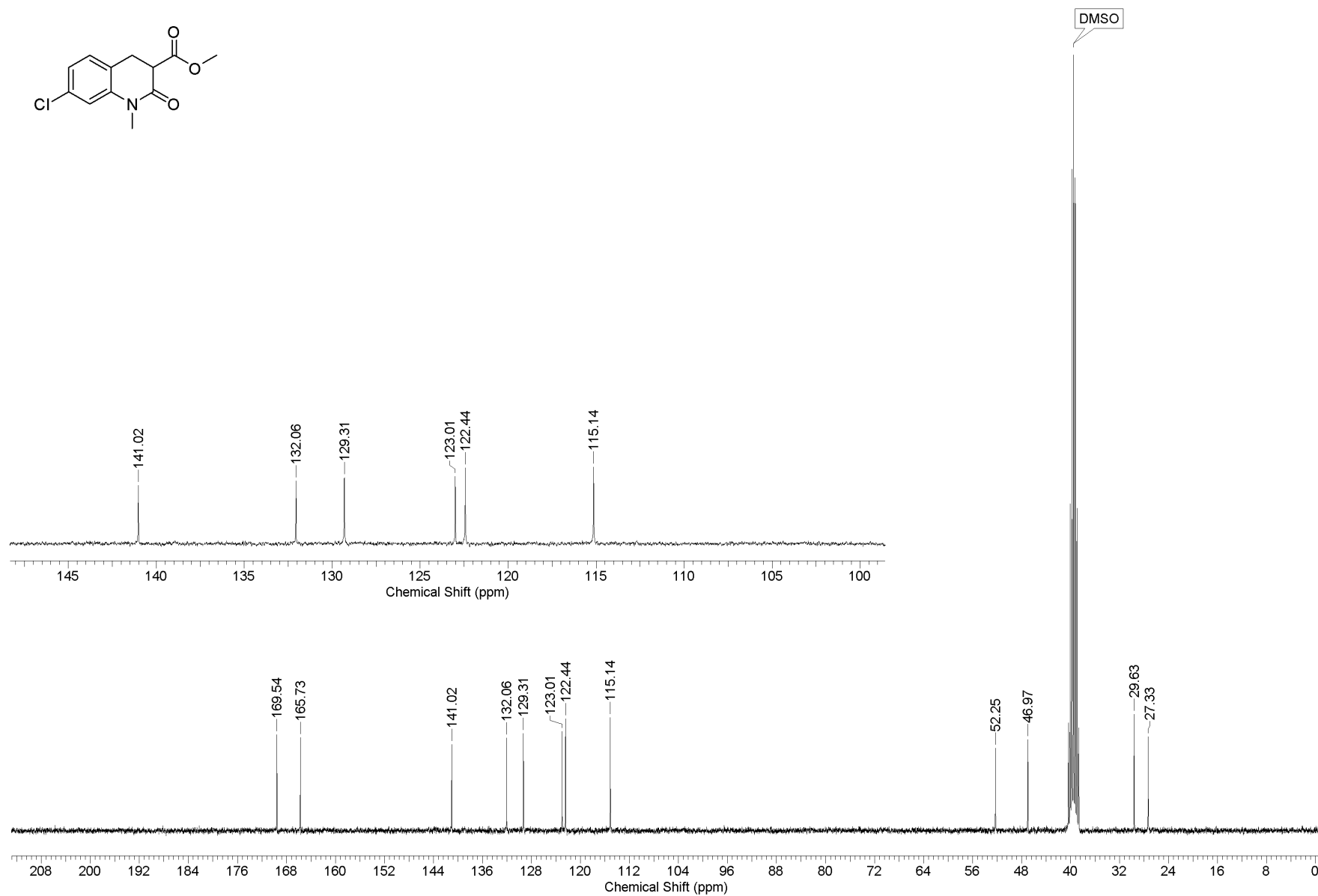
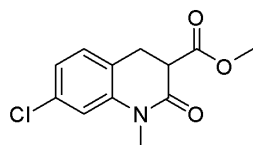


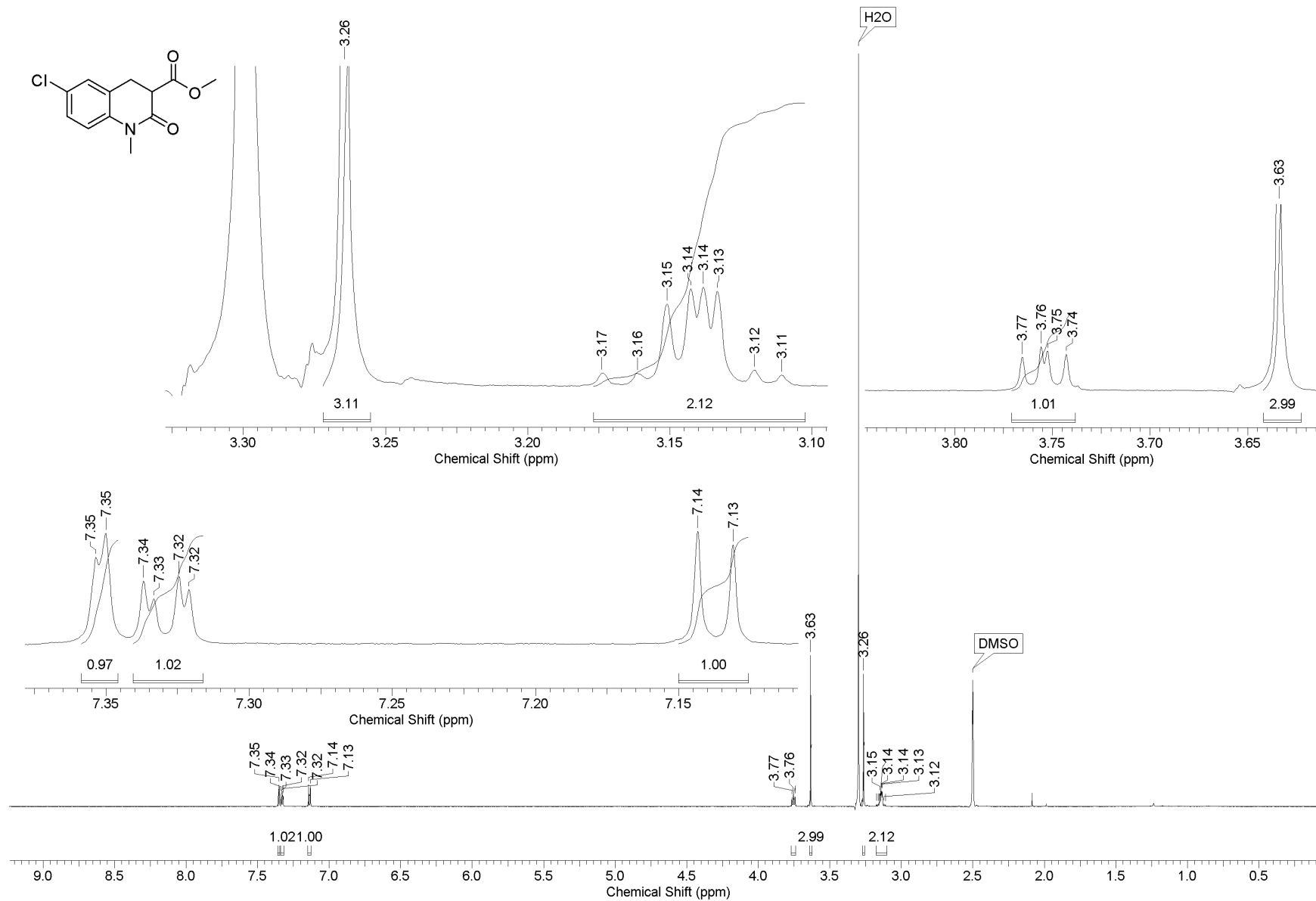
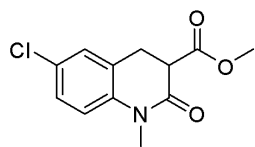


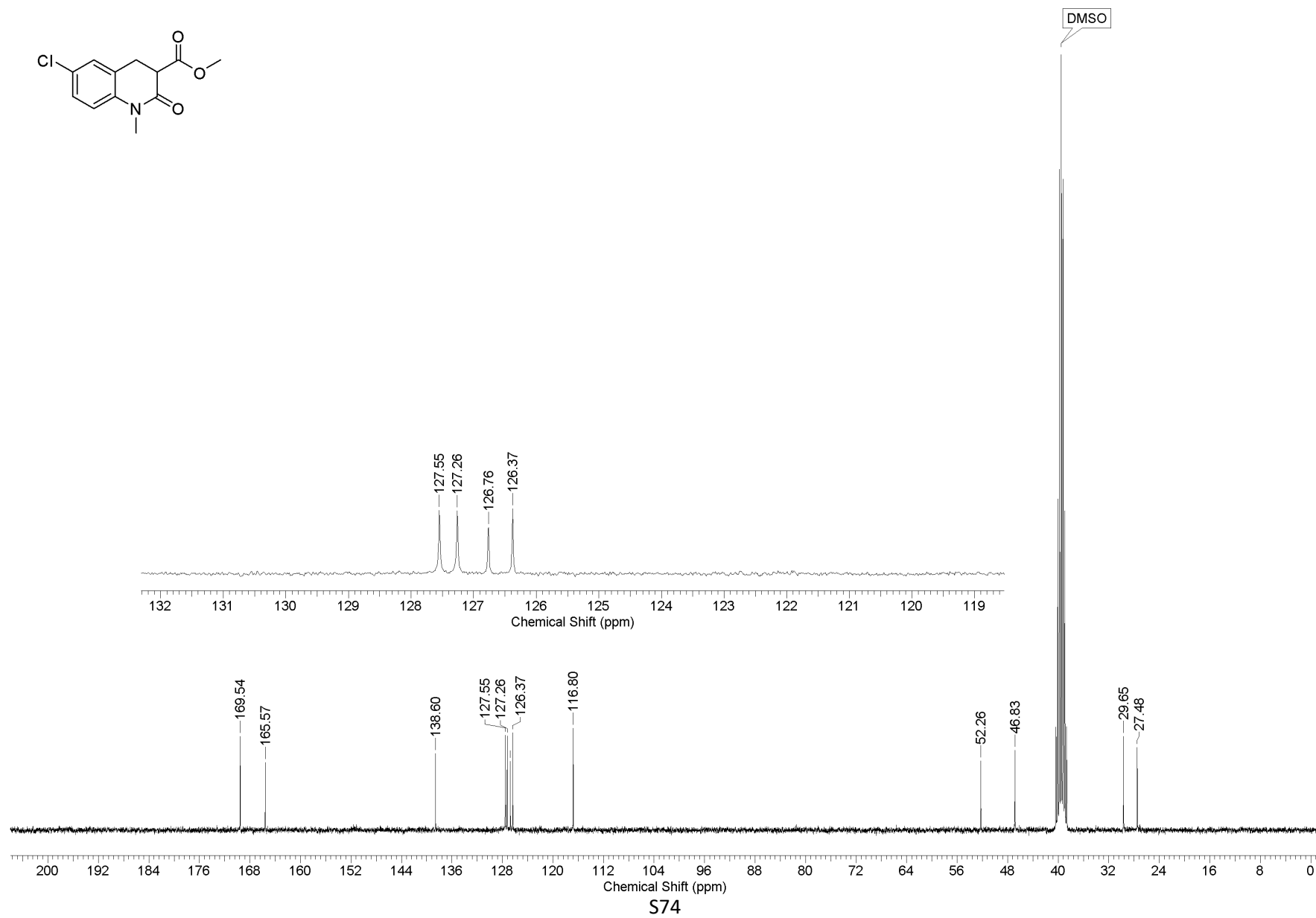
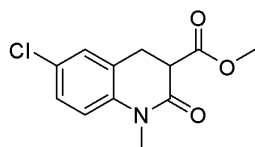


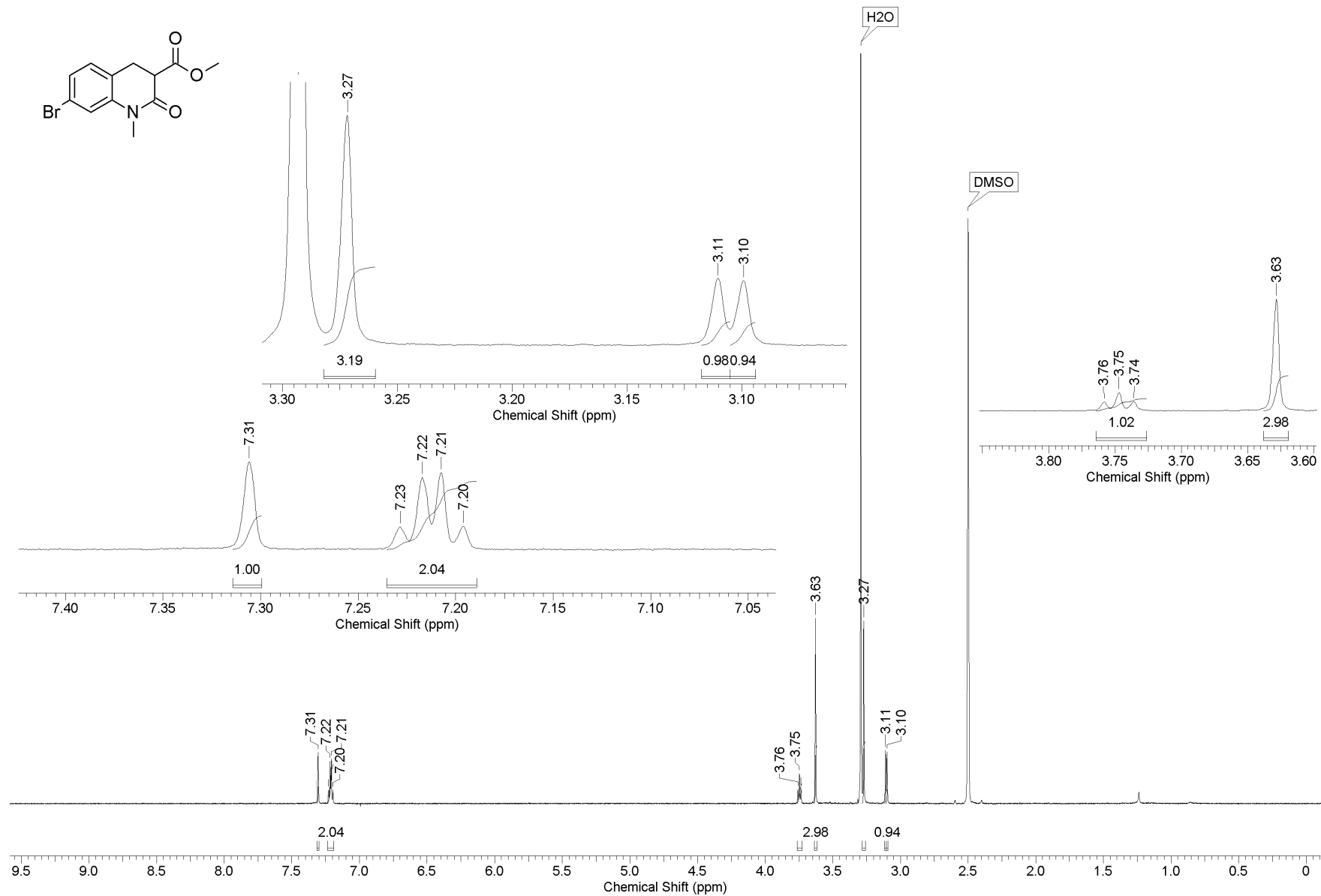
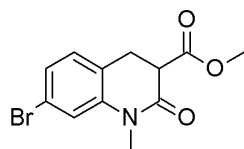


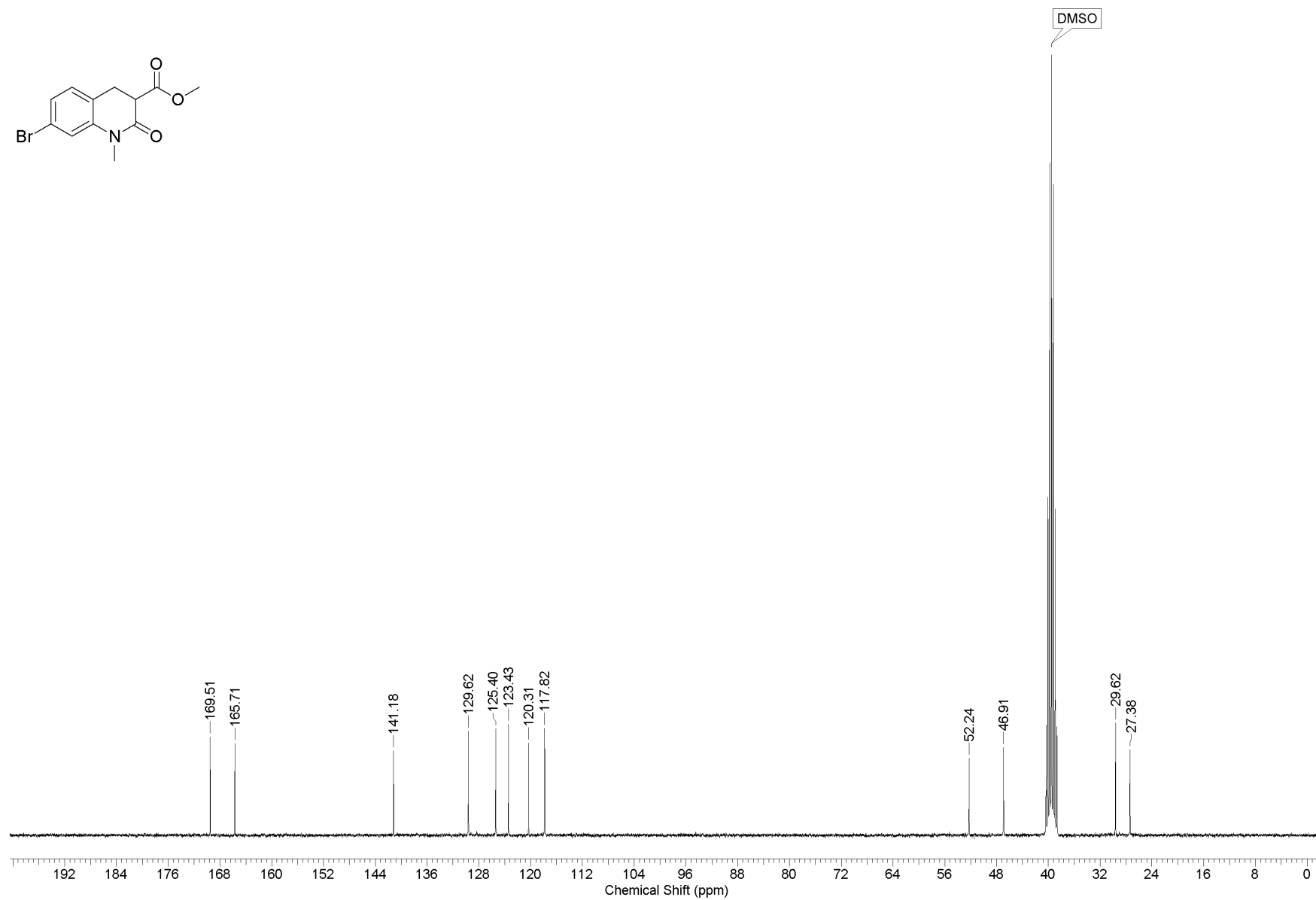
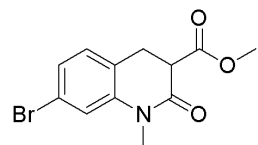


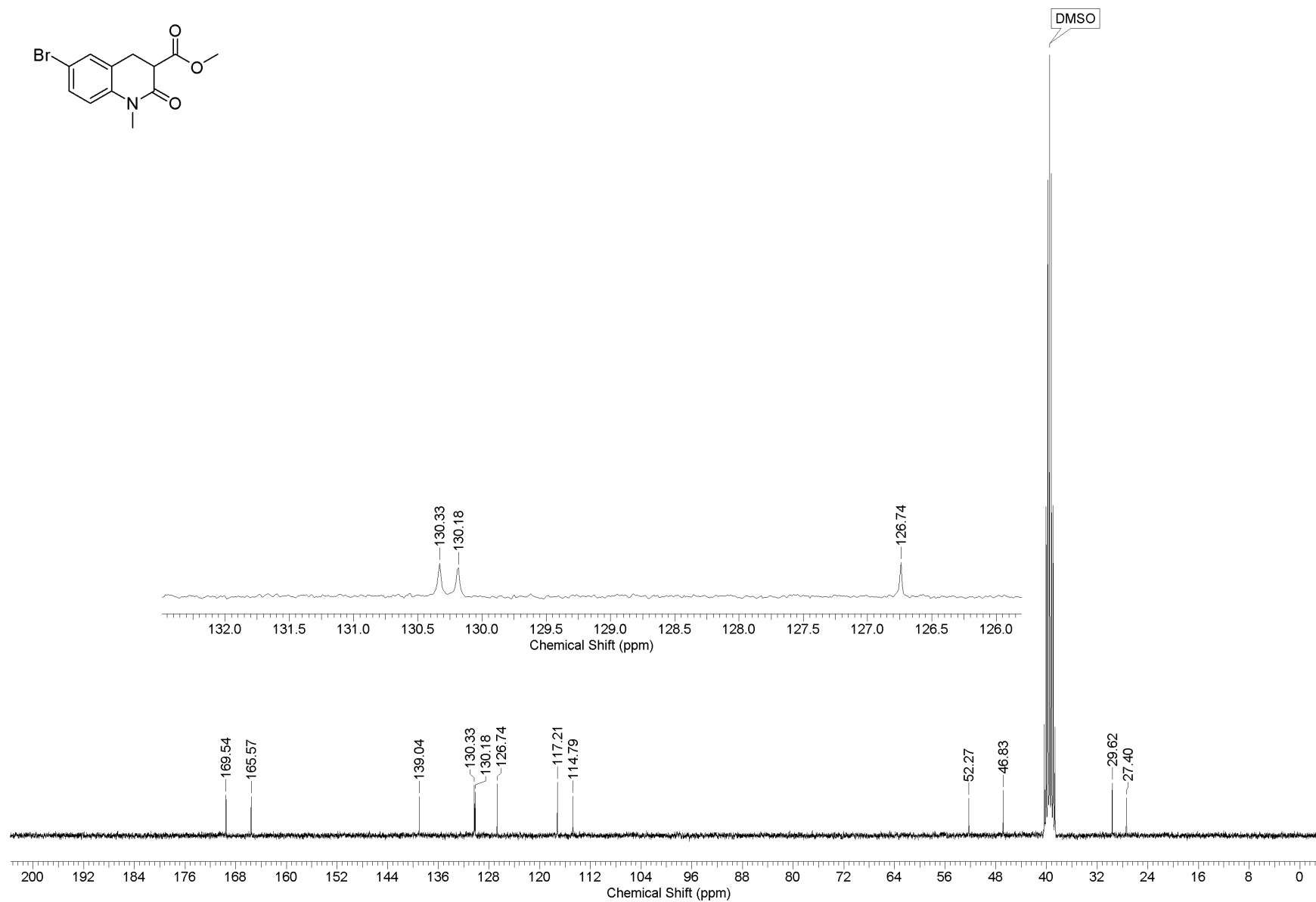
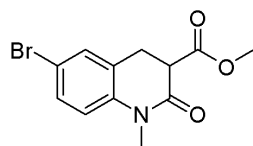


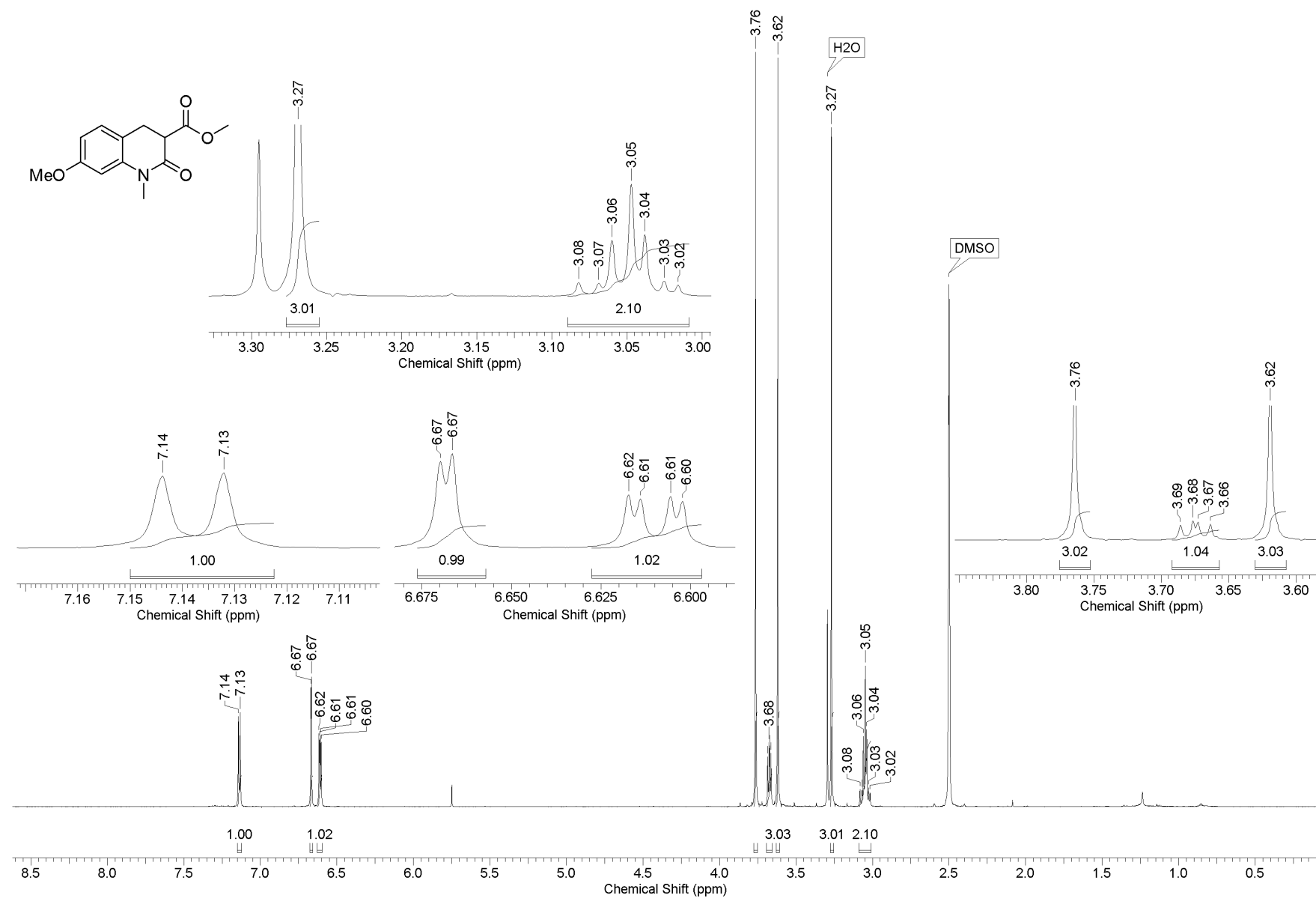


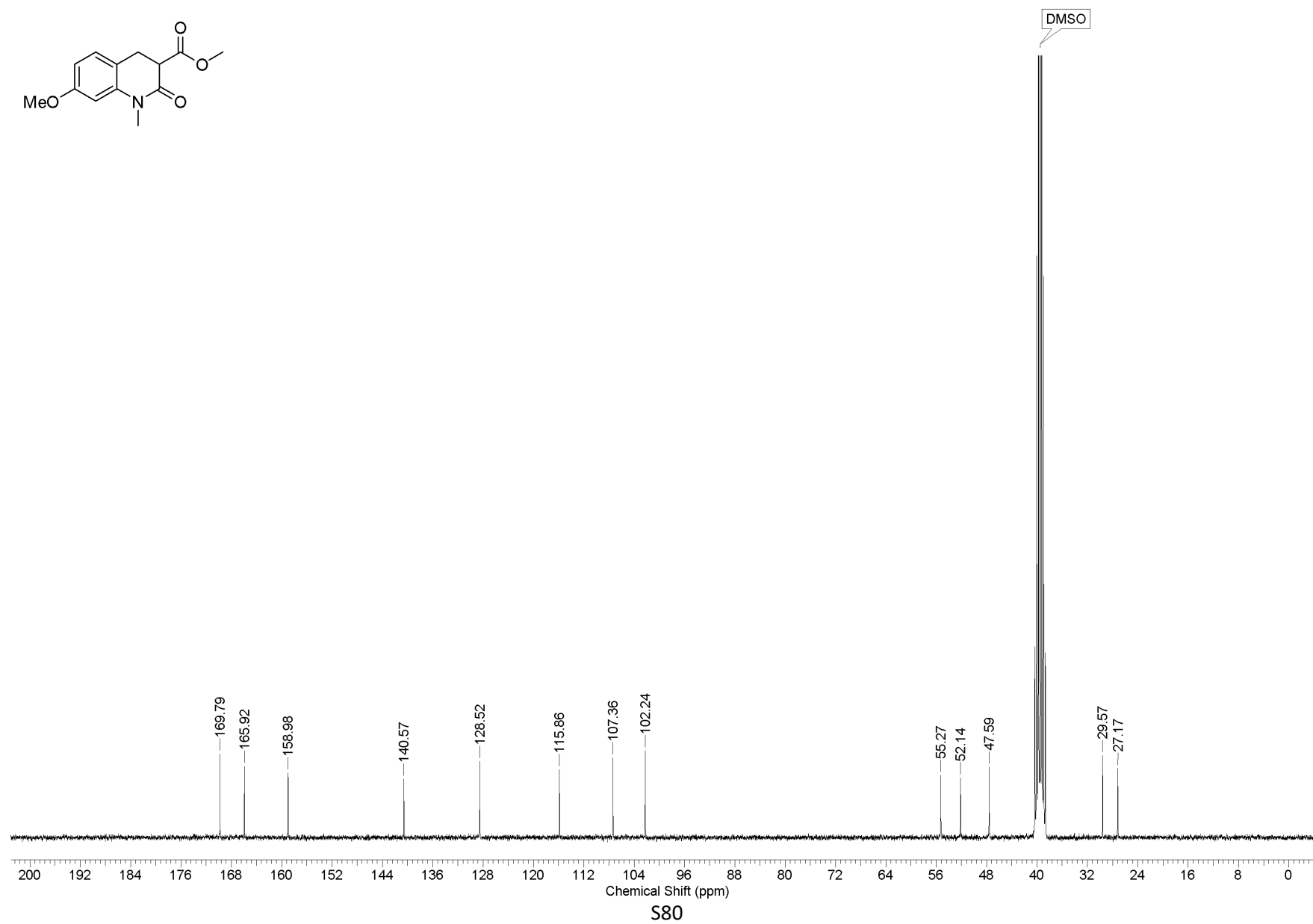
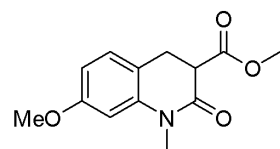


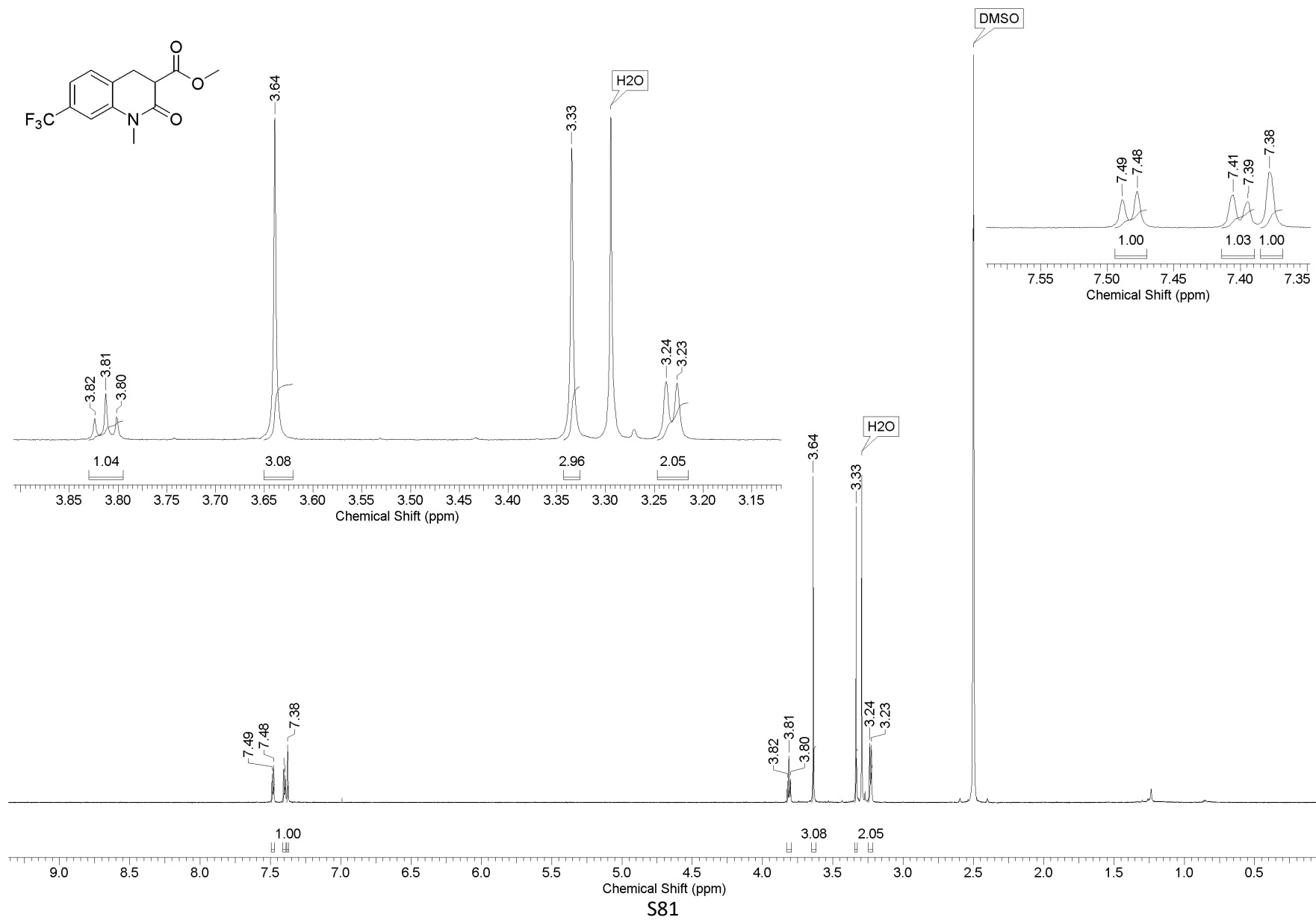


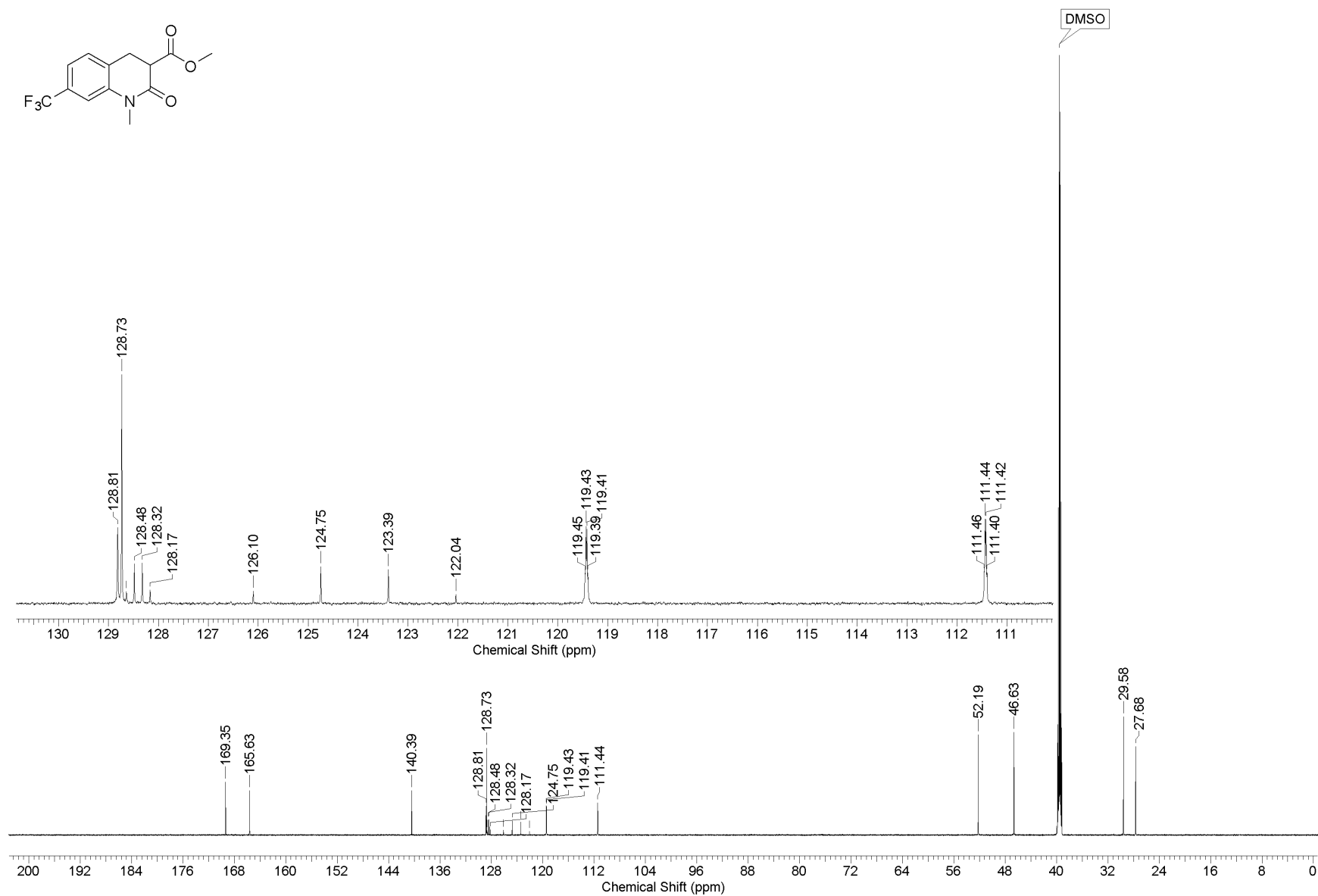
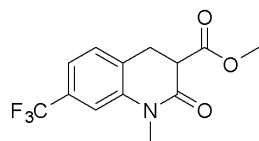


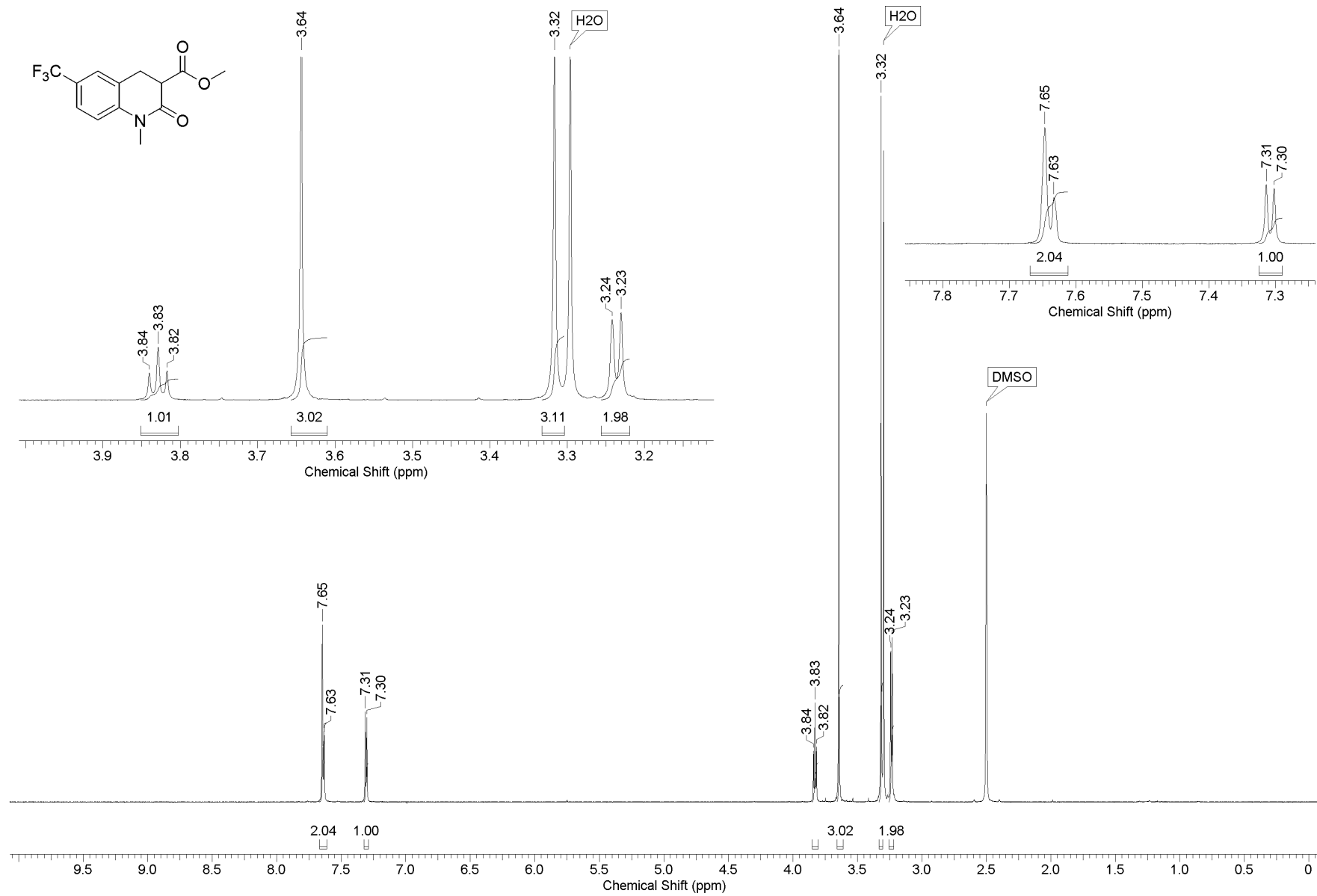


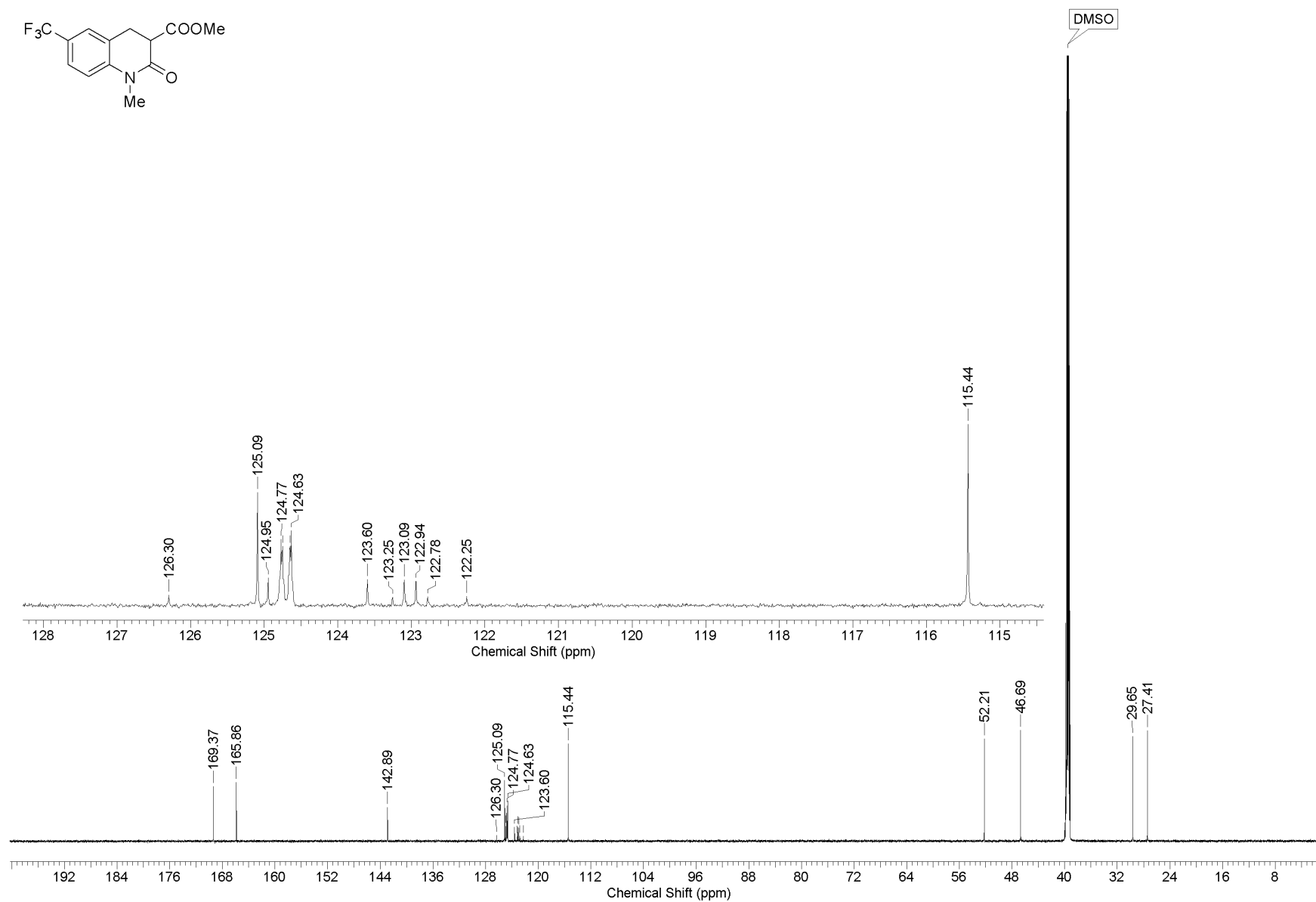
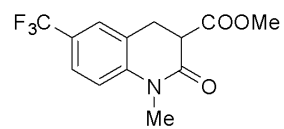


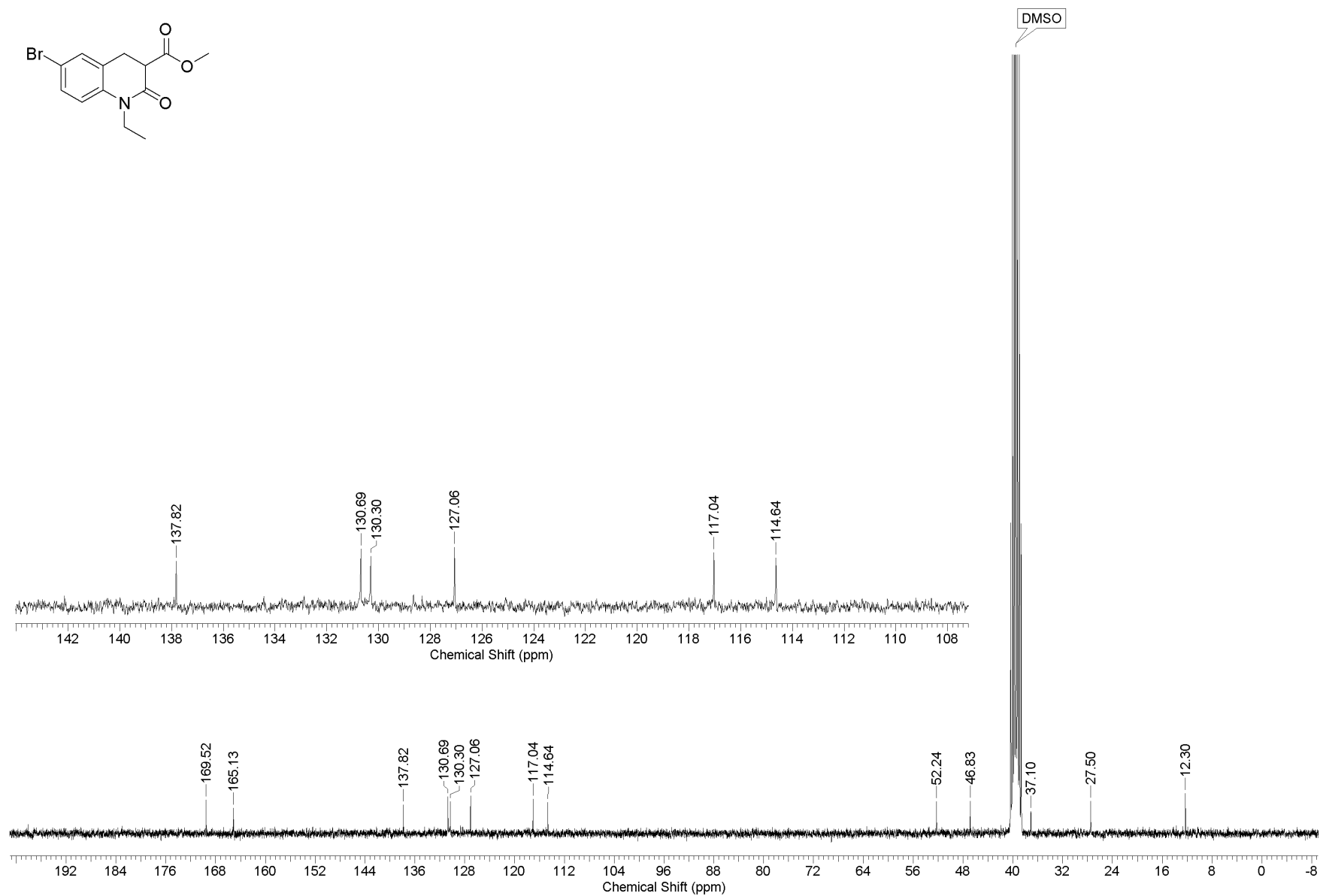
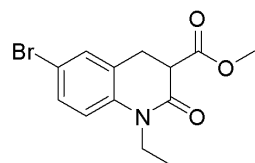


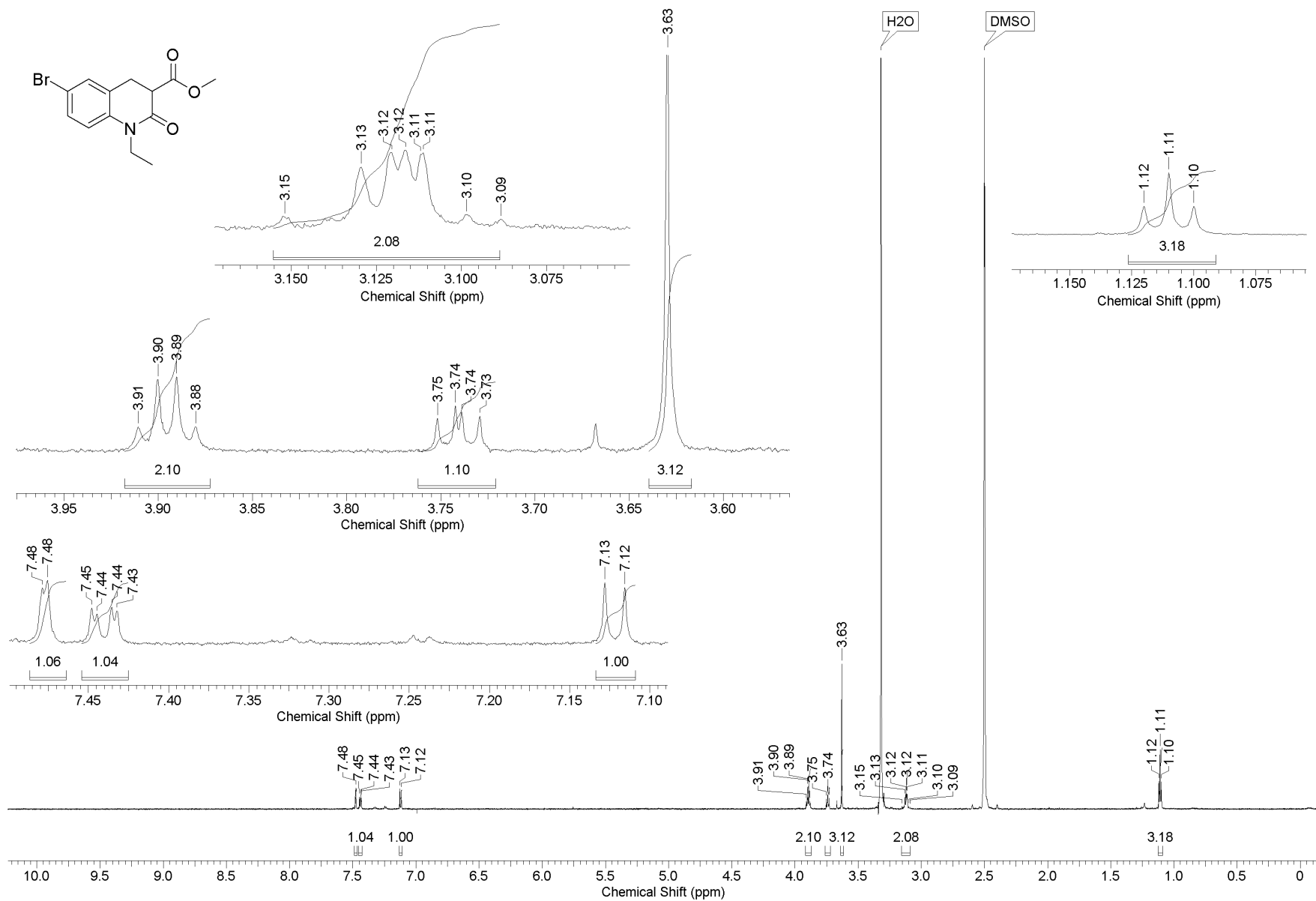


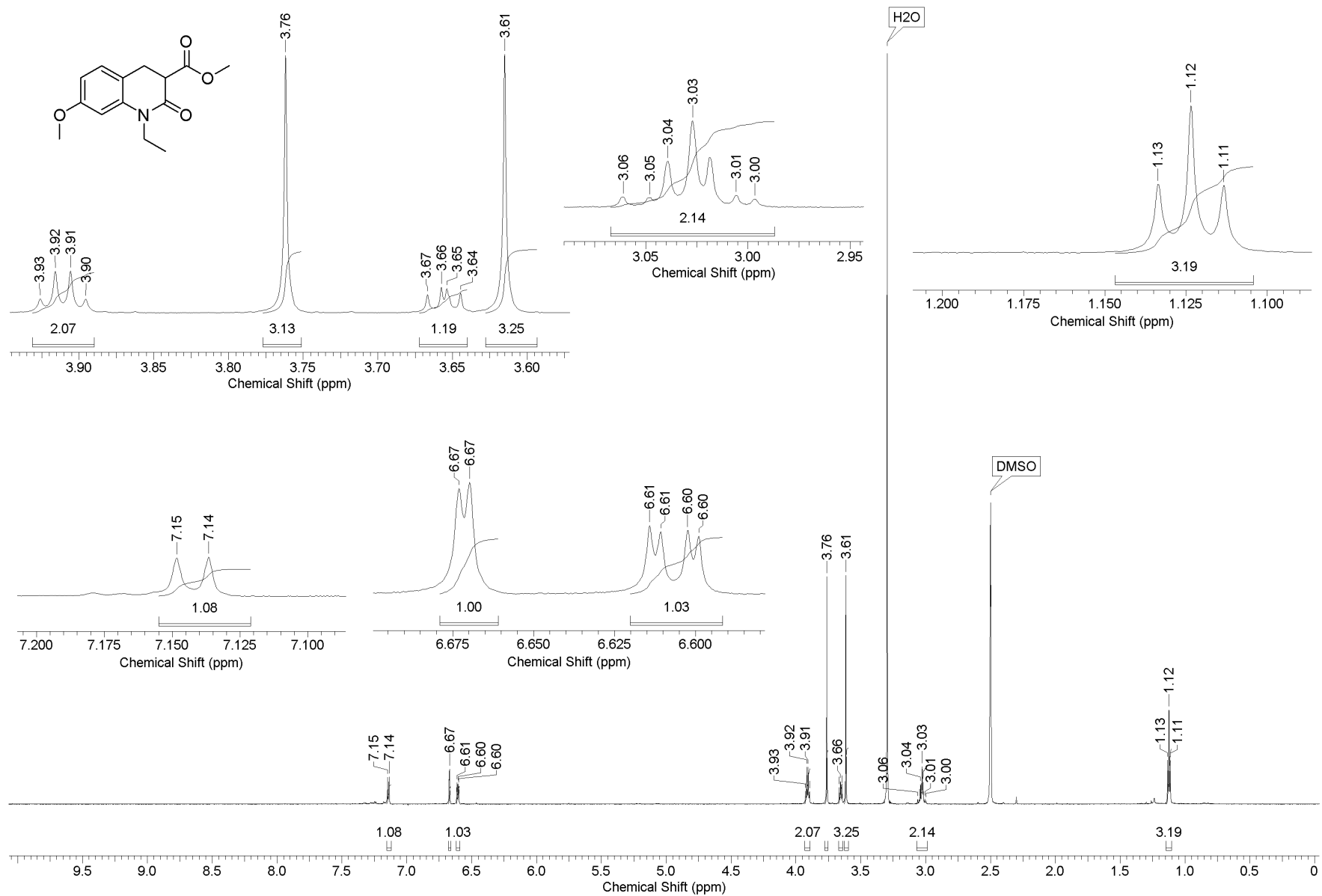


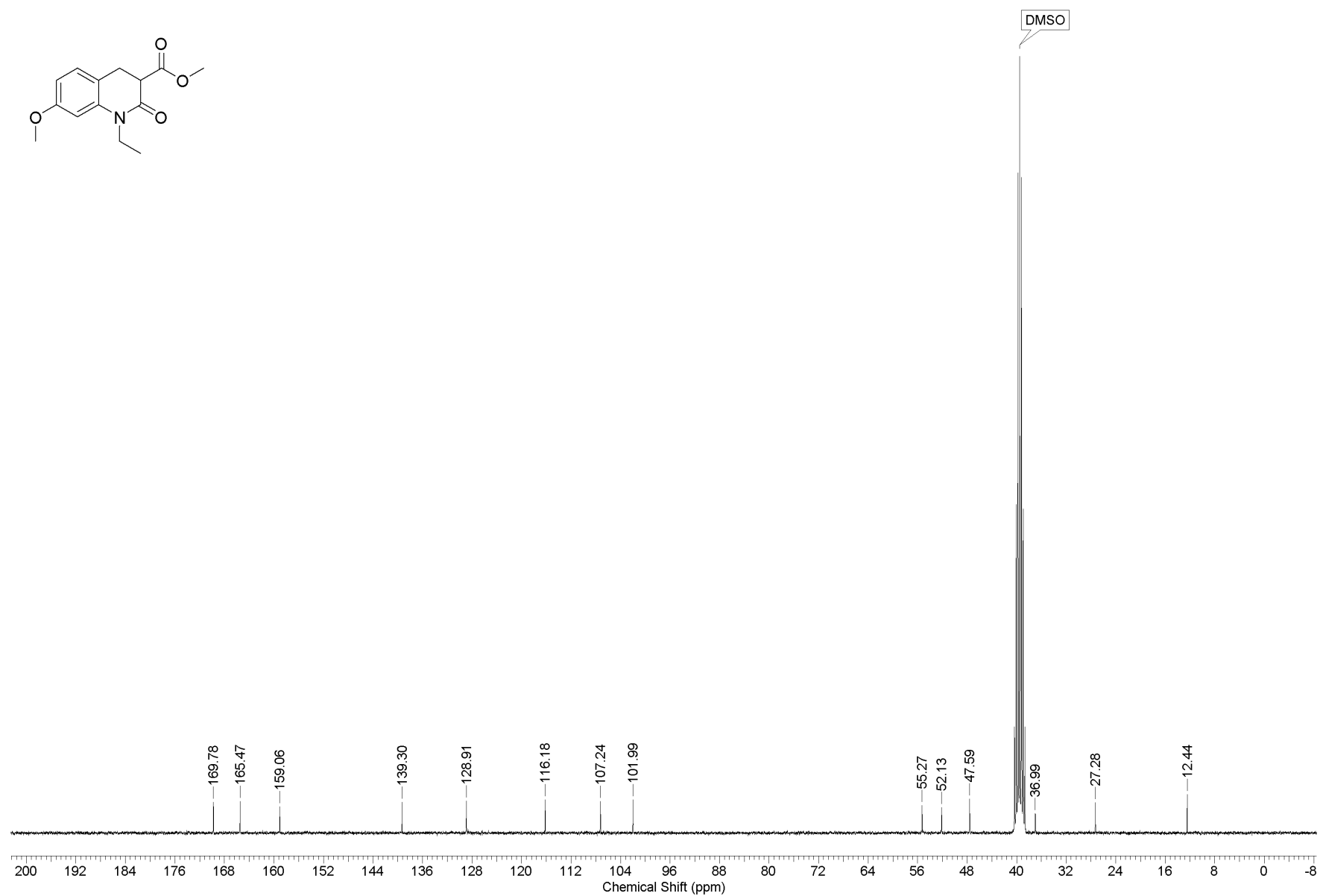
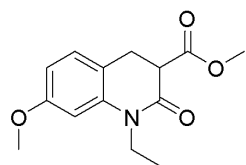












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