

Supplementary data

Sesquiterpenoids from the florets of *Carthamus tinctorius* (safflower) and their anti-atherosclerotic activity

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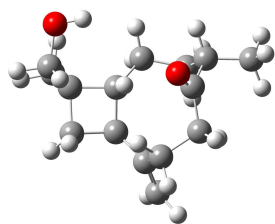
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Text S1. General experimental details.

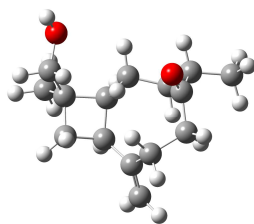
NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE NEO 600 instrument (Bruker Corporation, MA, USA) with the solvent peaks as reference standards. HR-ESI-MS analyses were measured on a Bruker timsTOF-MS instrument (Bruker Corporation, MA, USA). IR spectra were obtained on a Spectrum One FT-IR spectrometer (Perkin-Elmer, Inc., CA, USA). ECD spectra were measured by an Applied Photophysics Chirascan and Chirascan-plus circular dichroism spectrometer (Applied Photophysics Ltd., Leatherhead, England). Optical rotations were recorded by an Anton Paar MCP 200 polarimeter (Anton Paar GmbH, Graz, Austria). Absorbance was measured with a Molecular Devices SpectraMax iD3 microplate reader (Molecular Devices, LLC., CA, USA). Cells were observed with a Leica DMI1 Inverted microscope (Leica Microsystems GmbH, Wetzlar, Germany).

Text S2. ECD calculation of compound 1.

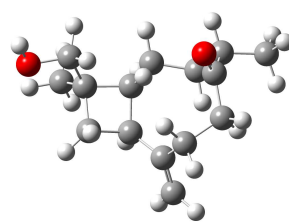
ECD calculation of (1*R*, 4*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-1 Conformation searches based on molecular mechanics with MMFF94s force field were performed for (1*R*, 4*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-**1** and gave 21 conformers with relative energies within 2 kcal/mol ^[1]. The selected conformers were optimized using DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G (d) level in a vacuum with the Gaussian 16 program (Table S1) ^[2]. The B3LYP/6-31G (d)-optimized conformers (Boltzmann distribution $\geq 1\%$) were then reoptimized at the ω B97XD/DGDZVP level in acetonitrile. ECD computations for the ω B97XD/DGDZVP-optimized conformers (Figure S1) were conducted at the CAM-B3LYP/DGDZVP level in acetonitrile ^[3]. According to the Boltzmann distribution theory and the relative Gibbs free energy (ΔG), the ECD spectrum for (1*R*, 4*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-**1** was generated using SpecDis 1.71 with $\sigma = 0.3$ eV and a UV shift of +13 nm ^[4]. The results showed that the theoretically calculated ECD spectrum of (1*R*, 4*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-**1** was in good agreement with the experimental ECD spectrum of **1**.



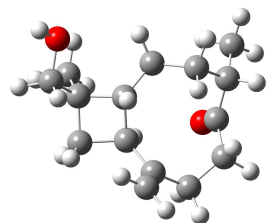
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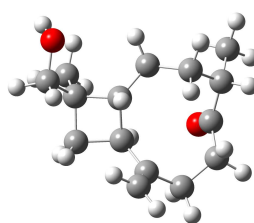
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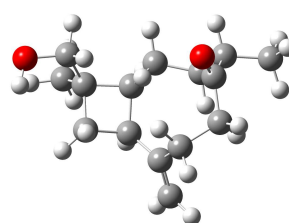
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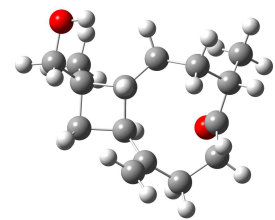
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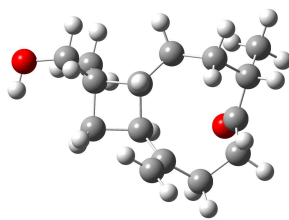
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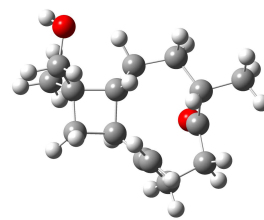
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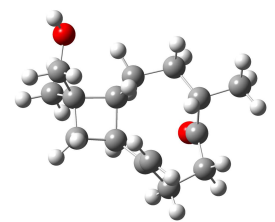
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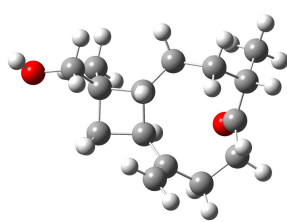
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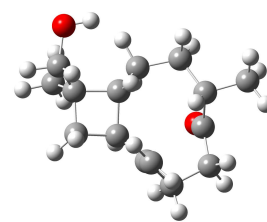
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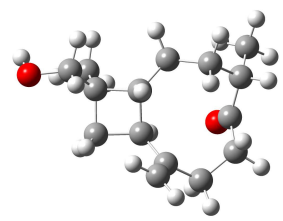
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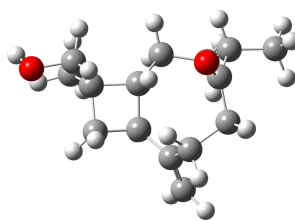
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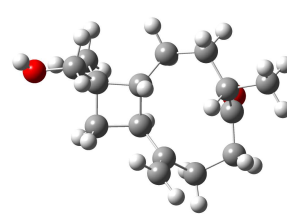
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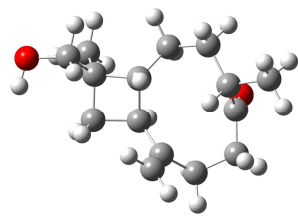
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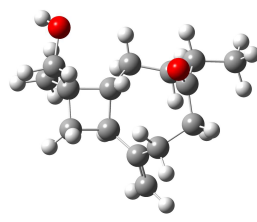
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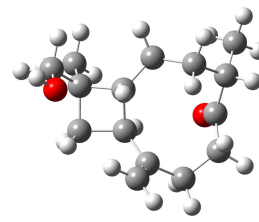
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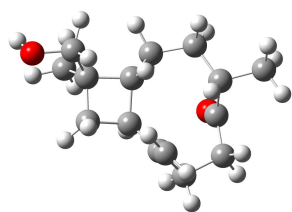
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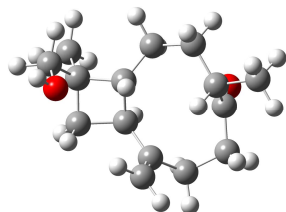
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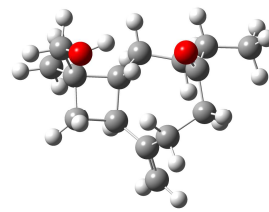
1C18



1C19



1C20



1C21

Figure S1. ω B97XD/DGDZVP optimized 21 conformers of (1*R*, 4*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-1.

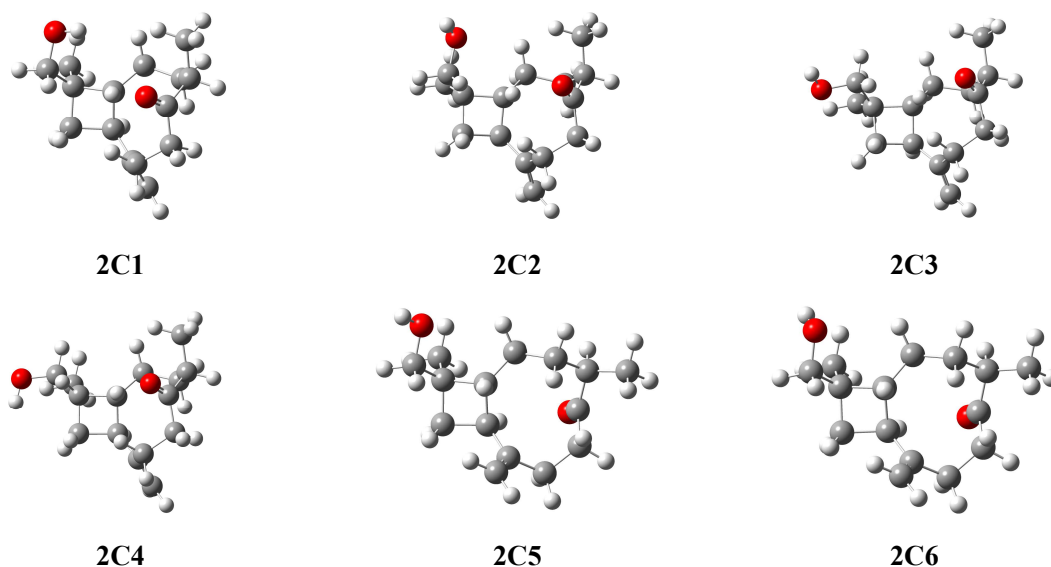
Table S1. Energy analysis for the conformers of (1*R*, 4*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-1.

Conf.	MMFF energy	B3LYP/6-31G(d) Gibbs free energy (298.15 K)			ω B97XD/DGDZVP Gibbs free energy (298.15 K)		
	ΔE (Kcal/mol)	G (Hartree)	ΔG (Kcal/mol)	Boltzmann distribution	G (Hartree)	ΔG (Kcal/mol)	Boltzmann distribution
1C1	0.00	-736.120131	0.0000	0.038	-735.993738	0.0000	0.114
1C2	0.16	-736.119346	0.4930	0.017	-735.99282	0.5760	0.043
1C3	0.40	-736.118774	0.8520	0.009	-735.992528	0.7590	0.031
1C4	0.47	-736.120513	-0.2400	0.057	-735.992023	1.0760	0.018
1C5	0.51	-736.120747	-0.3870	0.073	-735.992547	0.7470	0.032
1C6	0.59	-736.119514	0.3870	0.02	-735.993129	0.3820	0.06
1C7	0.76	-736.120614	-0.3030	0.063	-735.992599	0.7150	0.034
1C8	0.87	-736.120654	-0.3280	0.066	-735.993147	0.3710	0.061
1C9	0.92	-736.119893	0.1490	0.03	-735.992893	0.5300	0.046
1C10	0.95	-736.119634	0.3120	0.022	-735.992012	1.0830	0.018
1C11	1.08	-736.119532	0.3760	0.02	-735.992223	0.9510	0.023
1C12	1.10	-736.119958	0.1090	0.032	-735.992869	0.5450	0.045
1C13	1.14	-736.11987	0.1640	0.029	-735.992499	0.7770	0.031
1C14	1.25	-736.118636	0.9380	0.008	-735.992687	0.6600	0.037
1C15	1.26	-736.11911	0.6410	0.013	-735.992166	0.9860	0.021
1C16	1.28	-736.120036	0.0600	0.034	-735.993091	0.4060	0.057
1C17	1.29	-736.118713	0.8900	0.008	-735.993125	0.3850	0.059
1C18	1.36	-736.121206	-0.6750	0.119	-735.992631	0.6950	0.035

1C19	1.37	-736.119432	0.4390	0.018	-735.99256	0.7390	0.033
1C20	1.47	-736.120841	-0.4460	0.081	-735.99252	0.7640	0.031
1C21	1.64	-736.121888	-1.1030	0.244	-735.99412	-0.2400	0.17

Text S3. ECD calculation of compound 2.

ECD calculation of (1*R*, 4*R*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-2 Conformation searches based on molecular mechanics with MMFF94s force field were performed for (1*R*, 4*R*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-**2** and gave 18 conformers with relative energies within 2 kcal/mol ^[1]. The selected conformers were optimized using DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G (d) level in a vacuum with the Gaussian 16 program ([Table S2](#)) ^[2]. The B3LYP/6-31G (d)-optimized conformers (Boltzmann distribution $\geq 1\%$) were then reoptimized at the ω B97XD/DGDZVP level in acetonitrile. ECD computations for the ω B97XD/DGDZVP-optimized conformers ([Figure S2](#)) were conducted at the CAM-B3LYP/DGDZVP level in acetonitrile ^[3]. According to the Boltzmann distribution theory and the relative Gibbs free energy (ΔG), the ECD spectrum for (1*R*, 4*R*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-**2** was generated using SpecDis 1.71 with $\sigma = 0.3$ eV and a UV shift of +15 nm ^[4]. The results showed that the theoretically ECD spectrum of (1*R*, 4*R*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-**2** was in good agreement with the experimental ECD spectrum of **2**.



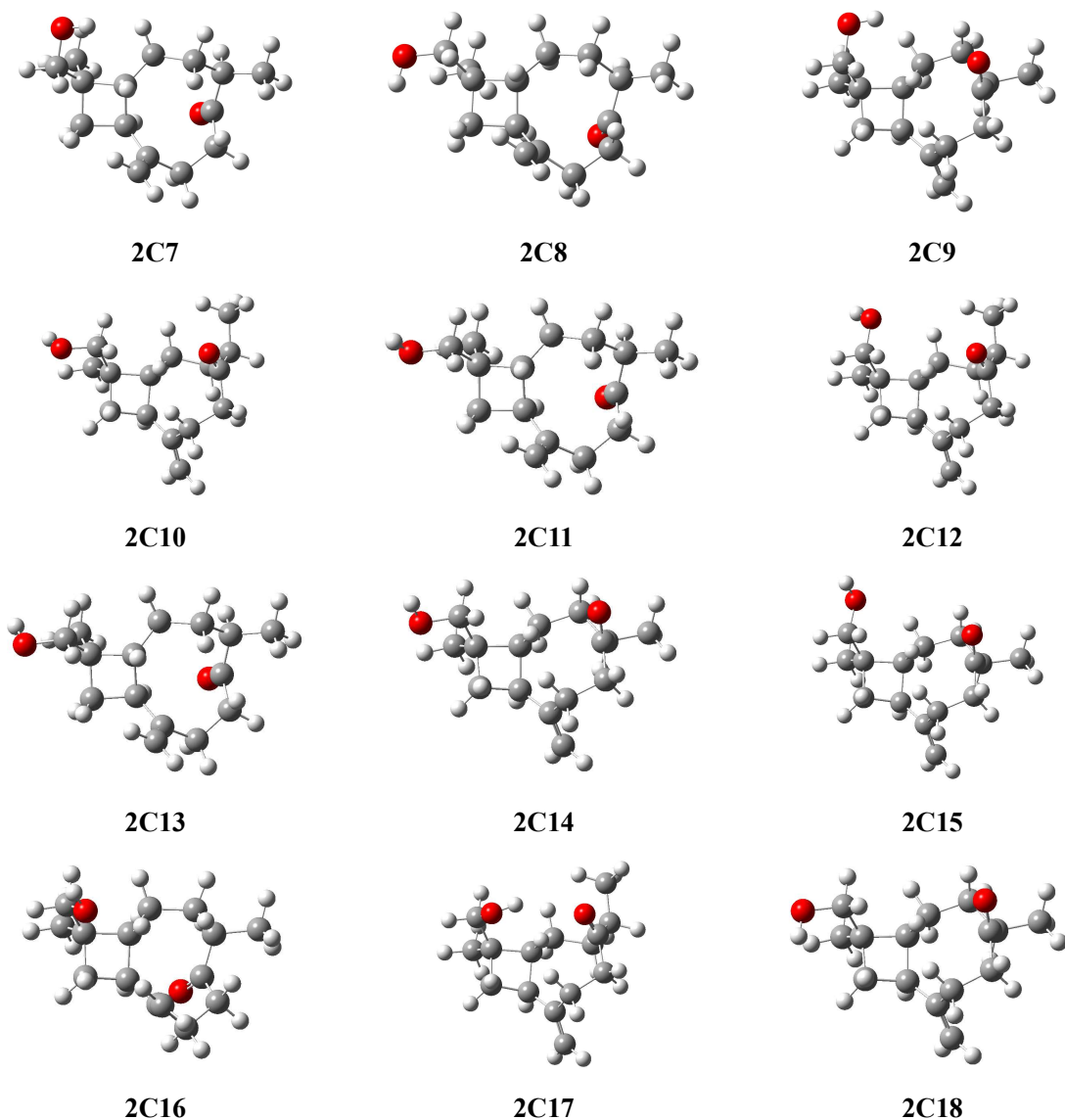


Figure S2. ω B97XD/DGDZVP optimized 18 conformers of (1*R*, 4*R*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-2.

Table S2. Energy analysis for the conformers of (1*R*, 4*R*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-2.

Conf.	MMFF	B3LYP/6-31G(d) Gibbs free energy			ω B97XD/DGDZVP Gibbs free energy		
	energy	(298.15 K)			(298.15 K)		
	ΔE (Kcal/mol)	G (Hartree)	ΔG (Kcal/mol)	Boltzmann distribution	G (Hartree)	ΔG (Kcal/mol)	Boltzmann distribution
2C1	0.00	-736.120507	0.0000	0.068	-735.993915	0.0000	0.136
2C2	0.20	-736.119977	0.3330	0.039	-735.99335	0.3550	0.075
2C3	0.45	-736.11906	0.9080	0.015	-735.992955	0.6020	0.049
2C4	0.64	-736.119804	0.4410	0.032	-735.993786	0.0810	0.119

2C5	0.72	-736.119923	0.3660	0.036	-735.991848	1.2970	0.015
2C6	0.77	-736.120159	0.2180	0.047	-735.992384	0.9610	0.027
2C7	1.04	-736.119934	0.3600	0.037	-735.992441	0.9250	0.028
2C8	1.14	-736.120013	0.3100	0.04	-735.992683	0.7730	0.037
2C9	1.16	-736.120064	0.2780	0.042	-735.992956	0.6020	0.049
2C10	1.31	-736.118916	0.9980	0.013	-735.993362	0.3470	0.076
2C11	1.34	-736.118922	0.9950	0.013	-735.991792	1.3320	0.014
2C12	1.35	-736.119393	0.6990	0.021	-735.993884	0.0190	0.131
2C13	1.42	-736.119274	0.7740	0.018	-735.992171	1.0940	0.021
2C14	1.46	-736.118962	0.9700	0.013	-735.991468	1.5360	0.01
2C15	1.50	-736.119222	0.8060	0.017	-735.99156	1.4780	0.011
2C16	1.61	-736.120593	-0.0540	0.074	-735.992337	0.9900	0.026
2C17	1.65	-736.122288	-1.1180	0.447	-735.994022	-0.0670	0.152
2C18	1.73	-736.119673	0.5230	0.028	-735.992251	1.0440	0.023

Text S4. ECD calculation of compound 3a.

ECD calculation of (1*R*, 5*S*, 8*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-3a Conformation searches based on molecular mechanics with MMFF94s force field were performed for (1*R*, 5*S*, 8*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-**3a** and gave 9 conformers with relative energies within 2 kcal/mol ^[1]. The selected conformers were optimized using DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G (d) level in a vacuum with the Gaussian 16 program (Table S3) ^[2]. The B3LYP/6-31G (d)-optimized conformers (Boltzmann distribution $\geq 1\%$) were then reoptimized at the ω B97XD/DGDZVP level in acetonitrile. ECD computations for the ω B97XD/DGDZVP-optimized conformers (Figure S3) were conducted at the CAM-B3LYP/DGDZVP level in acetonitrile ^[3]. According to the Boltzmann distribution theory and the relative Gibbs free energy (ΔG), the ECD spectrum for (1*R*, 5*S*, 8*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-**3a** was generated using SpecDis 1.71 with $\sigma = 0.3$ eV and a UV shift of +19 nm ^[4]. The results showed that the theoretically calculated ECD

spectrum of (1*R*, 5*S*, 8*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-**3a** was in good agreement with the experimental ECD spectrum of **3a**.

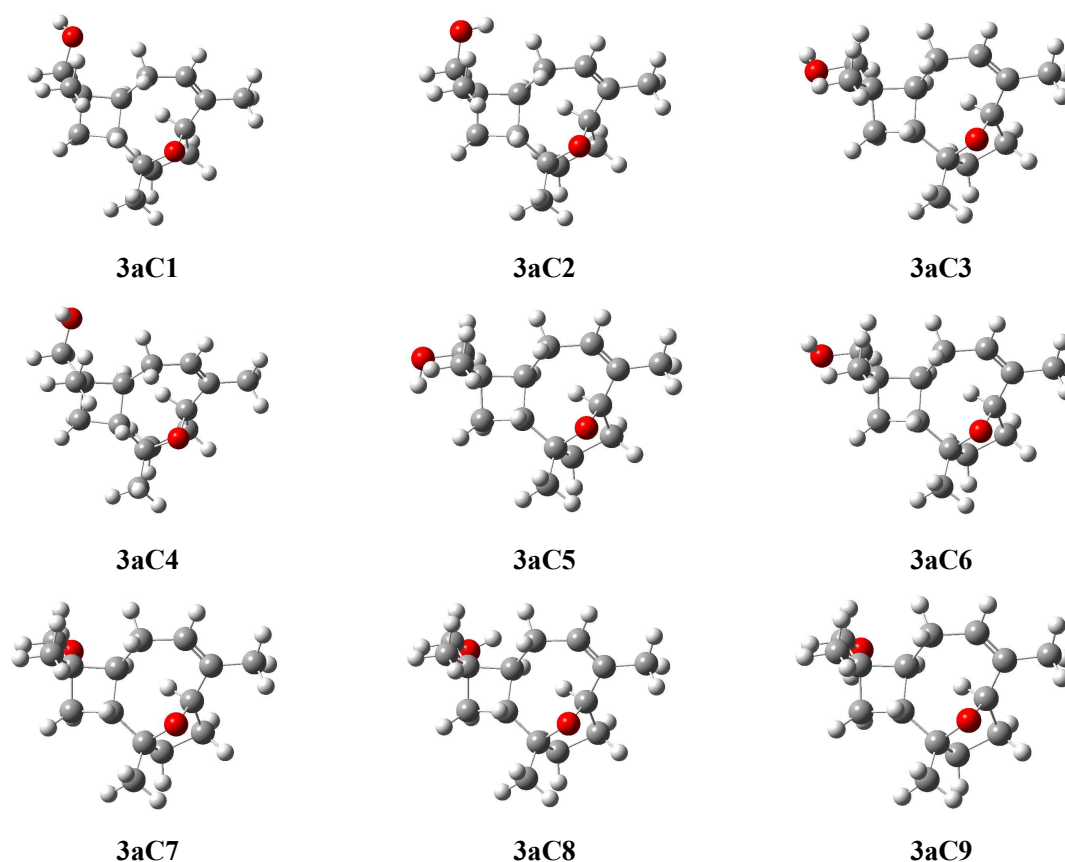


Figure S3. ω B97XD/DGDZVP optimized 9 conformers of (1*R*, 5*S*, 8*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-**3a**.

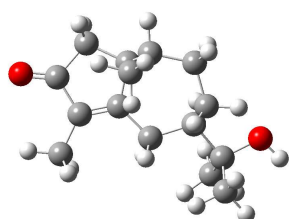
Table S3. Energy analysis for the conformers of (1*R*, 5*S*, 8*S*, 9*S*, 11*R*)-**3a**.

Conf.	MMFF	B3LYP/6-31G(d) Gibbs free energy			ω B97XD/DGDZVP Gibbs free energy		
	energy	(298.15 K)			(298.15 K)		
	ΔE (Kcal/mol)	G (Hartree)	ΔG (Kcal/mol)	Boltzmann distribution	G (Hartree)	ΔG (Kcal/mol)	Boltzmann distribution
3aC1	0.00	-736.066449	0.0000	0.082	-735.937248	0.0000	0.085
3aC2	0.20	-736.066724	-0.1730	0.109	-735.937345	-0.0610	0.094
3aC3	0.21	-736.065589	0.5400	0.033	-735.9369	0.2180	0.059
3aC4	0.31	-736.06658	-0.0820	0.094	-735.937423	-0.1100	0.102
3aC5	0.46	-736.066703	-0.1590	0.107	-735.937879	-0.3960	0.165
3aC6	0.46	-736.06581	0.4010	0.042	-735.937225	0.0140	0.083

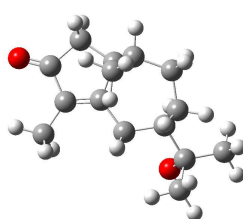
3aC7	0.86	-736.067086	-0.4000	0.161	-735.937281	-0.0210	0.088
3aC8	1.65	-736.066985	-0.3360	0.144	-735.937459	-0.1320	0.106
3aC9	1.77	-736.067418	-0.6080	0.228	-735.938146	-0.5640	0.219

Text S5. ECD calculation of compound 4a.

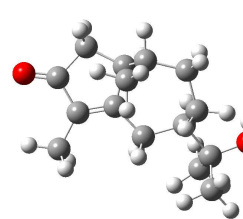
ECD calculation of (1*S*, 7*R*, 10*S*)-4a Conformation searches based on molecular mechanics with MMFF94s force field were performed for (1*S*, 7*R*, 10*S*)-**4a** and gave 8 conformers with relative energies within 2 kcal/mol ^[1]. The selected conformers were optimized using DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G (d) level in a vacuum with the Gaussian 16 program (Table S4) ^[2]. The B3LYP/6-31G (d)-optimized conformers (Boltzmann distribution $\geq 1\%$) were then reoptimized at the ω B97XD/DGDZVP level in acetonitrile. ECD computations for the ω B97XD/DGDZVP-optimized conformers (Figure S4) were conducted at the CAM-B3LYP/DGDZVP level in acetonitrile ^[3]. According to the Boltzmann distribution theory and the relative Gibbs free energy (ΔG), the ECD spectrum for (1*S*, 7*R*, 10*S*)-**4a** was generated using SpecDis 1.71 with $\sigma = 0.3$ eV and a UV shift of +16 nm ^[4]. The results showed that the theoretically calculated ECD spectrum of (1*S*, 7*R*, 10*S*)-**4a** was in good agreement with the experimental ECD spectrum of **4a**.



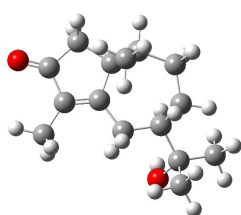
4aC1



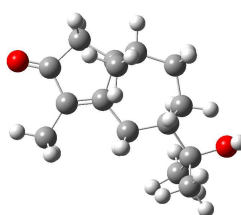
4aC2



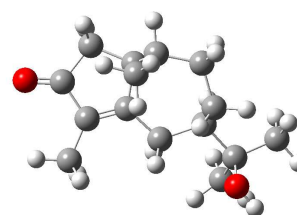
4aC3



4aC4



4aC5



4aC6

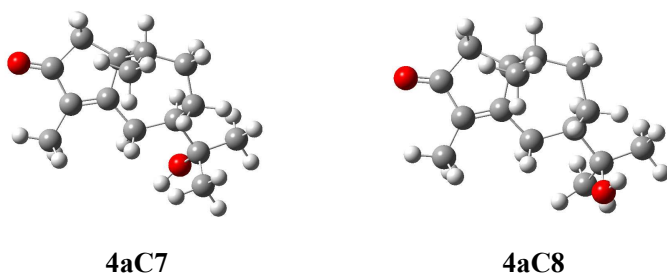


Figure S4. ω B97XD/DGDZVP optimized 8 conformers of (1*S*, 7*R*, 10*S*)-**4a**.

Table S4. Energy analysis for the conformers of (1*S*, 7*R*, 10*S*)-**4a**.

Conf.	MMFF energy	B3LYP/6-31G(d) Gibbs free energy (298.15 K)			ω B97XD/DGDZVP Gibbs free energy (298.15 K)		
	ΔE (Kcal/mol)	G (Hartree)	ΔG (Kcal/mol)	Boltzmann distribution	G (Hartree)	ΔG (Kcal/mol)	Boltzmann distribution
4aC1	0	-736.176582	0.0000	0.155	-736.047219	0.0000	0.104
4aC2	0.0389	-736.176914	-0.2080	0.221	-736.047702	-0.3030	0.173
4aC3	0.1623	-736.176889	-0.1930	0.215	-736.047793	-0.3600	0.191
4aC4	0.2522	-736.177044	-0.2900	0.253	-736.048114	-0.5620	0.268
4aC5	0.9967	-736.175895	0.4310	0.075	-736.047176	0.0270	0.099
4aC6	1.2134	-736.174519	1.2950	0.017	-736.04495	1.4240	0.009
4aC7	1.5069	-736.175496	0.6810	0.049	-736.047492	-0.1710	0.139
4aC8	1.7133	-736.174371	1.3870	0.015	-736.045443	1.1140	0.016

Text S6. ECD calculation of compound **5a**.

ECD calculation of (2*R*, 5*R*, 10*R*)-5a**** Conformation searches based on molecular mechanics with MMFF94s force field were performed for (2*R*, 5*R*, 10*R*)-**5a** and gave 15 conformers with relative energies within 2 kcal/mol ^[1]. The selected conformers were optimized using DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G (d) level in a vacuum with the Gaussian 16 program (Table S5) ^[2]. The B3LYP/6-31G (d)-optimized conformers (Boltzmann distribution $\geq 1\%$) were then reoptimized at the ω B97XD/DGDZVP level in acetonitrile. ECD computations for the ω B97XD/DGDZVP-optimized

conformers (Figure S5) were conducted at the CAM-B3LYP/DGDZVP level in acetonitrile [3]. According to the Boltzmann distribution theory and the relative Gibbs free energy (ΔG), the ECD spectrum for (2*R*, 5*R*, 10*R*)-**5a** was generated using SpecDis 1.71 with $\sigma = 0.3$ eV and a UV shift of +9 nm [4]. The results showed that the theoretically calculated ECD spectrum of (2*R*, 5*R*, 10*R*)-**5a** was in good agreement with the experimental ECD spectrum of **5a**.

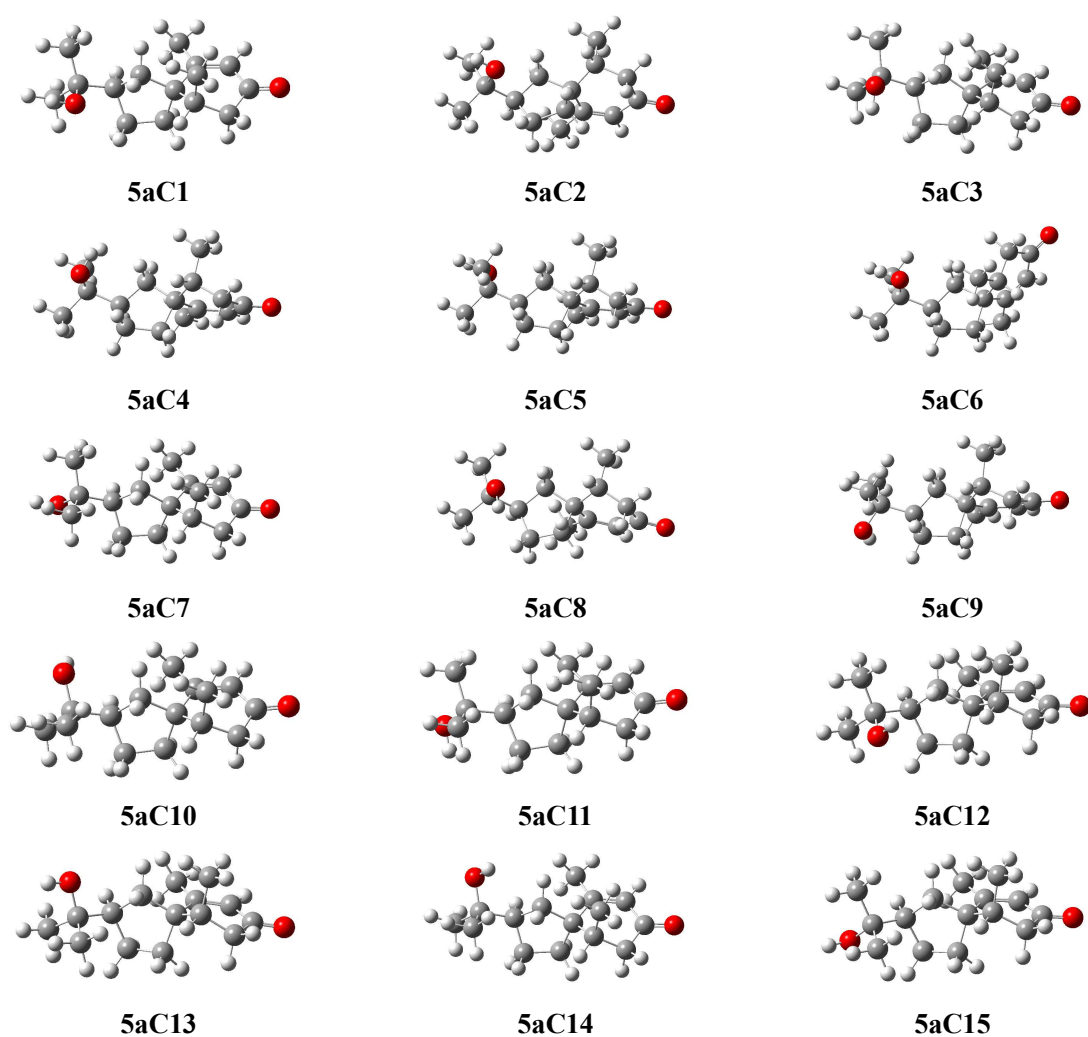


Figure S5. ω B97XD/DGDZVP optimized 15 conformers of (2*R*, 5*R*, 10*R*)-**5a**.

Table S5. Energy analysis for the conformers of (2*R*, 5*R*, 10*R*)-**5a**.

Conf.	MMFF	B3LYP/6-31G(d) Gibbs free energy			ω B97XD/DGDZVP Gibbs free energy		
	energy	(298.15 K)			(298.15 K)		
	ΔE (Kcal/mol)	G (Hartree)	ΔG (Kcal/mol)	Boltzmann distribution	G (Hartree)	ΔG (Kcal/mol)	Boltzmann distribution

5aC1	0	-736.166712	0.0000	0.311	-736.039067	0.0000	0.154
5aC2	0.7747	-736.164429	1.4330	0.028	-736.037554	0.9490	0.031
5aC3	0.7816	-736.166339	0.2340	0.21	-736.039224	-0.0990	0.182
5aC4	1.0086	-736.165815	0.5630	0.12	-736.038724	0.2150	0.107
5aC5	1.4622	-736.164902	1.1360	0.046	-736.037867	0.7530	0.043
5aC6	1.5295	-736.165654	0.6640	0.102	-736.037916	0.7220	0.046
5aC7	1.5659	-736.164635	1.3030	0.034	-736.037907	0.7280	0.045
5aC8	1.5704	-736.163803	1.8250	0.014	-736.037796	0.7980	0.04
5aC9	1.8365	-736.164467	1.4090	0.029	-736.038403	0.4170	0.076
5aC10	1.8523	-736.164605	1.3220	0.033	-736.03853	0.3370	0.087
5aC11	1.9233	-736.164398	1.4520	0.027	-736.03815	0.5750	0.058
5aC12	1.9348	-736.163543	1.9890	0.011	-736.037611	0.9140	0.033
5aC13	2.0118	-736.162627	2.5630	0.004	-736.037236	1.1490	0.022
5aC14	2.0247	-736.164395	1.4540	0.027	-736.037984	0.6800	0.049
5aC15	2.0311	-736.162542	2.6170	0.004	-736.037384	1.0560	0.026

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[4] Bruhn, T.; Schaumlöffel, A.; Hemberger, Y.; Bringmann, G. Spec Dis, version 1.71, University of Würzburg, Germany, **2017**.

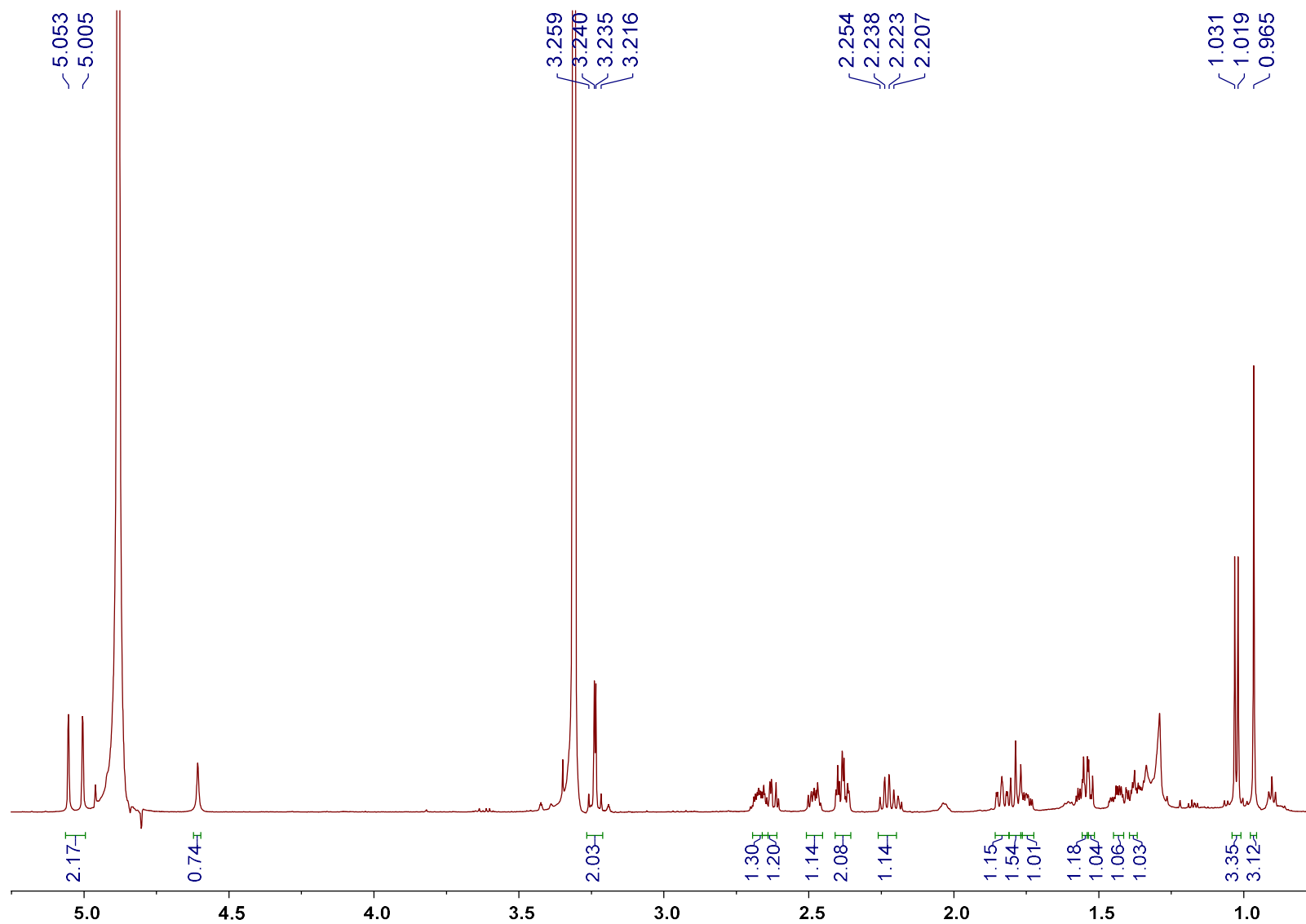


Figure S6. The ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **1** in CD_3OD

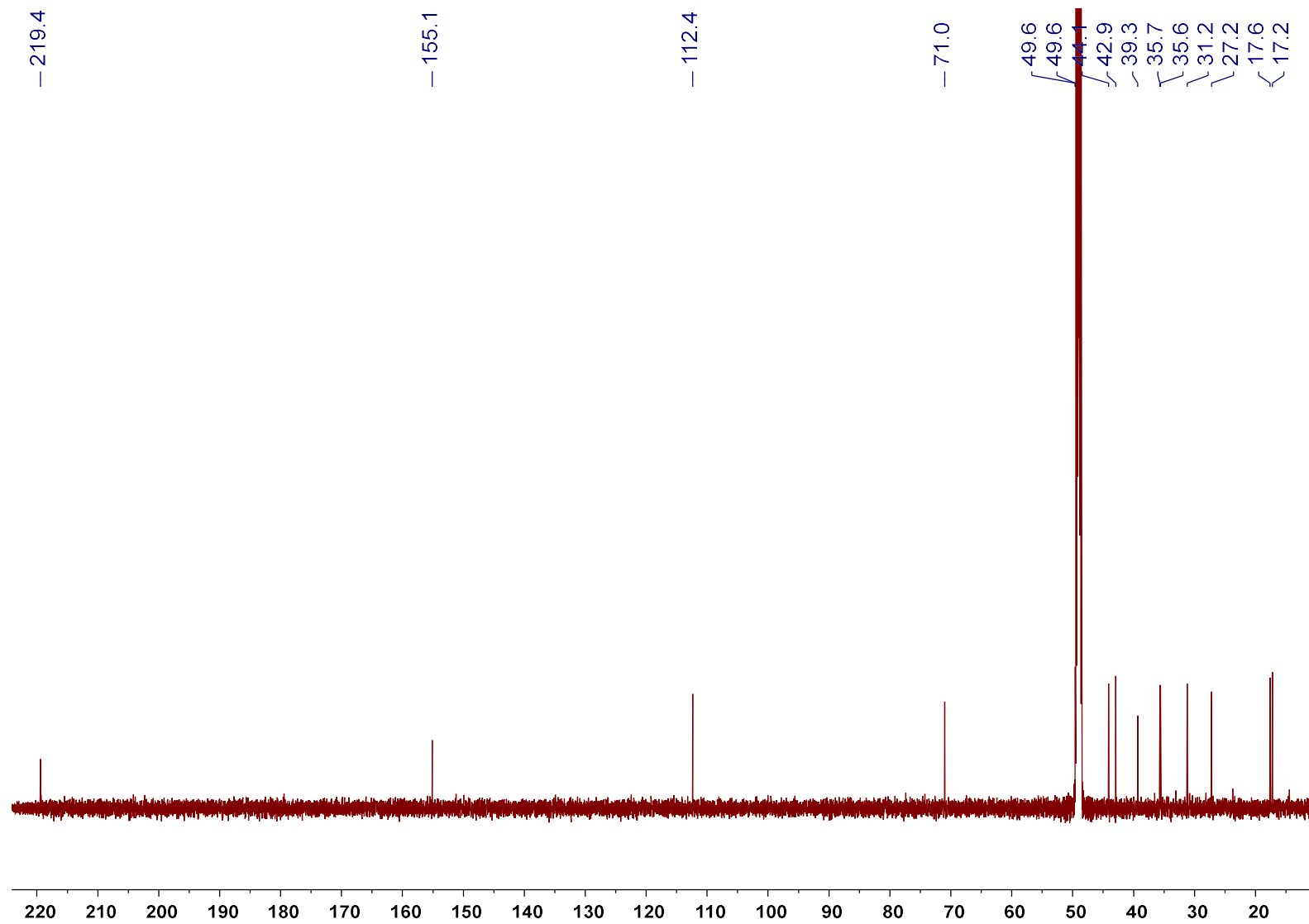


Figure S7. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **1** in CD_3OD

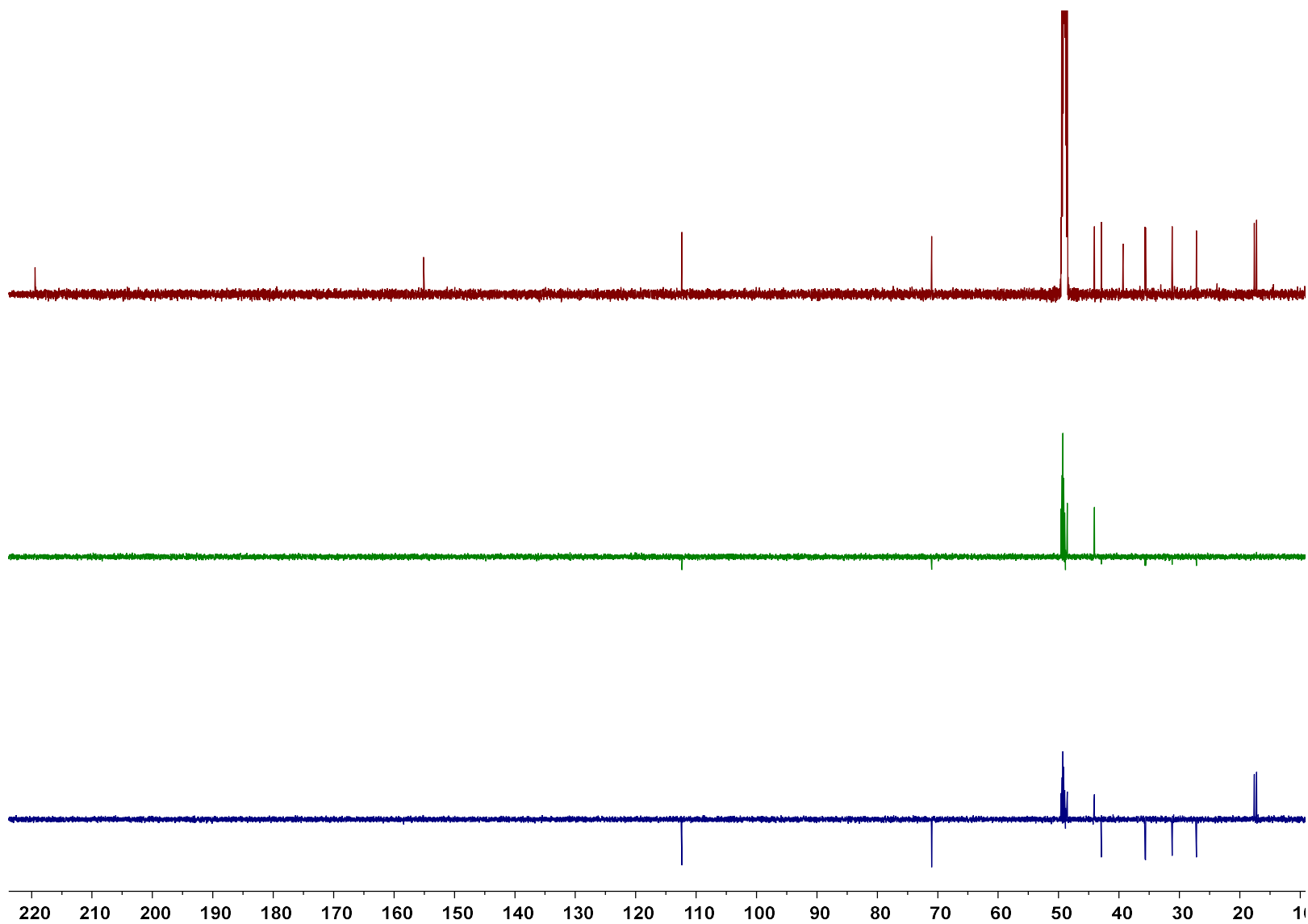


Figure S8. The DEPT spectrum of compound **1** in CD₃OD

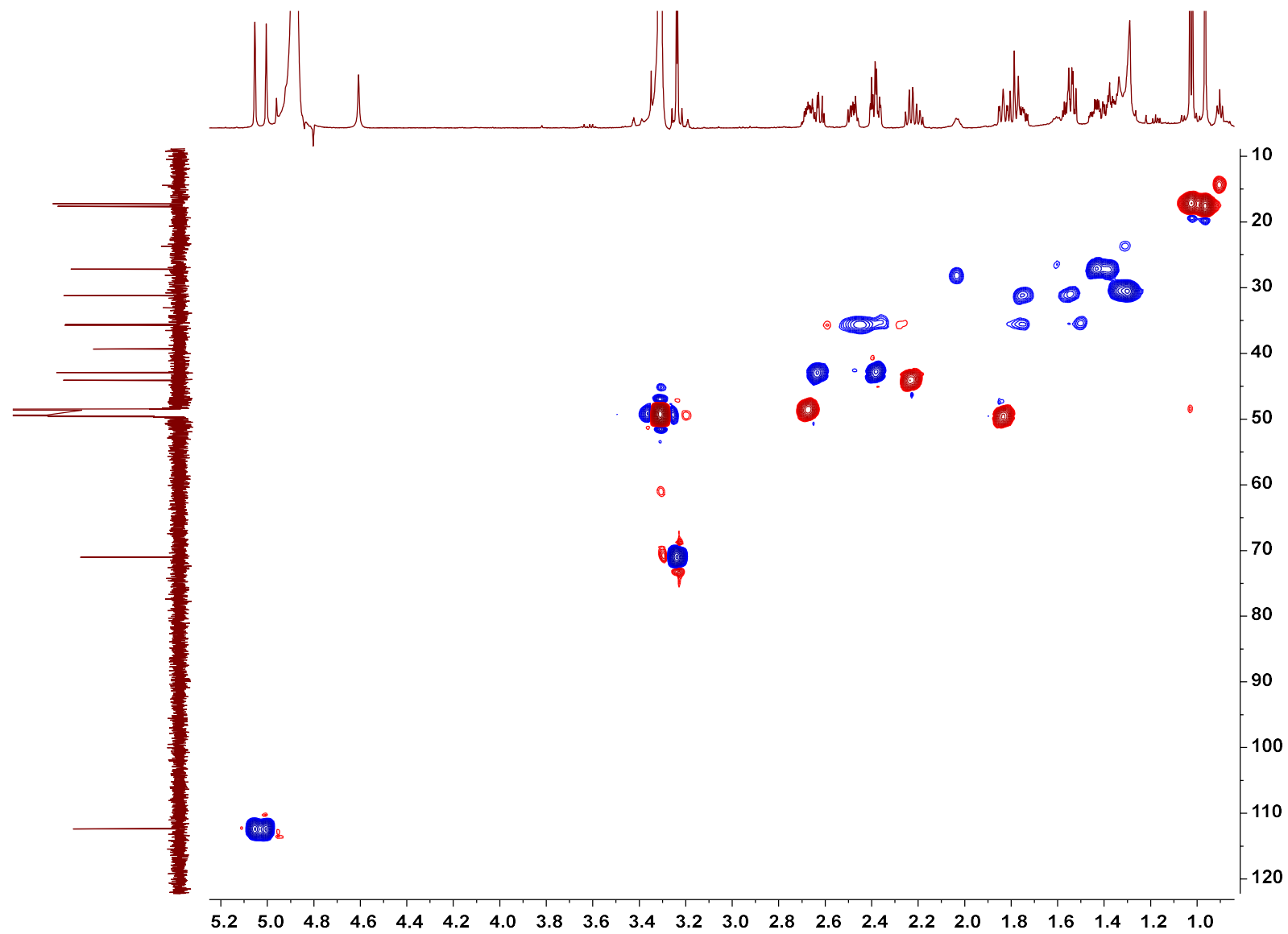


Figure S9. The HSQC spectrum of compound **1** in CD₃OD

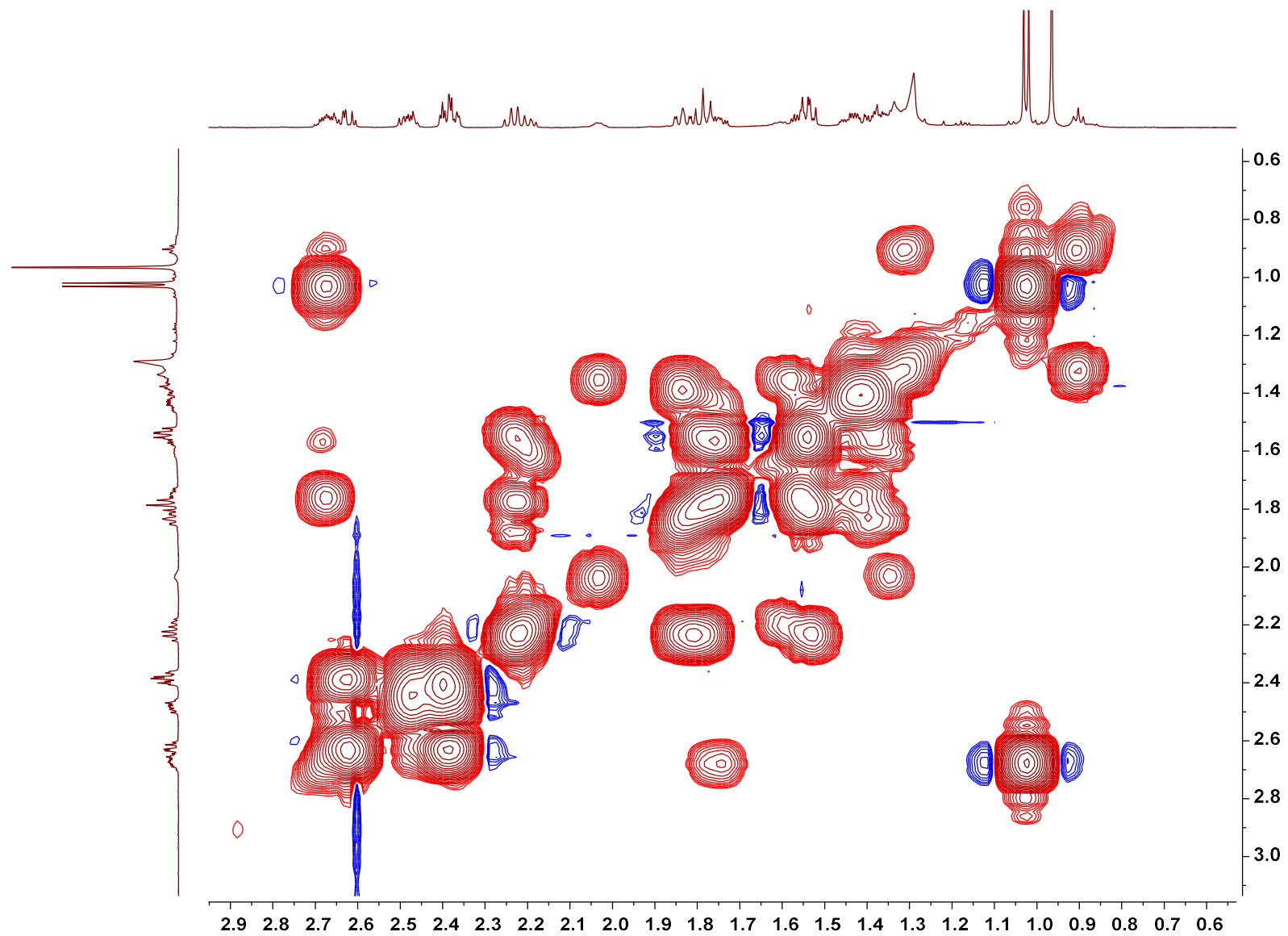


Figure S10. The ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of compound **1** in CD_3OD

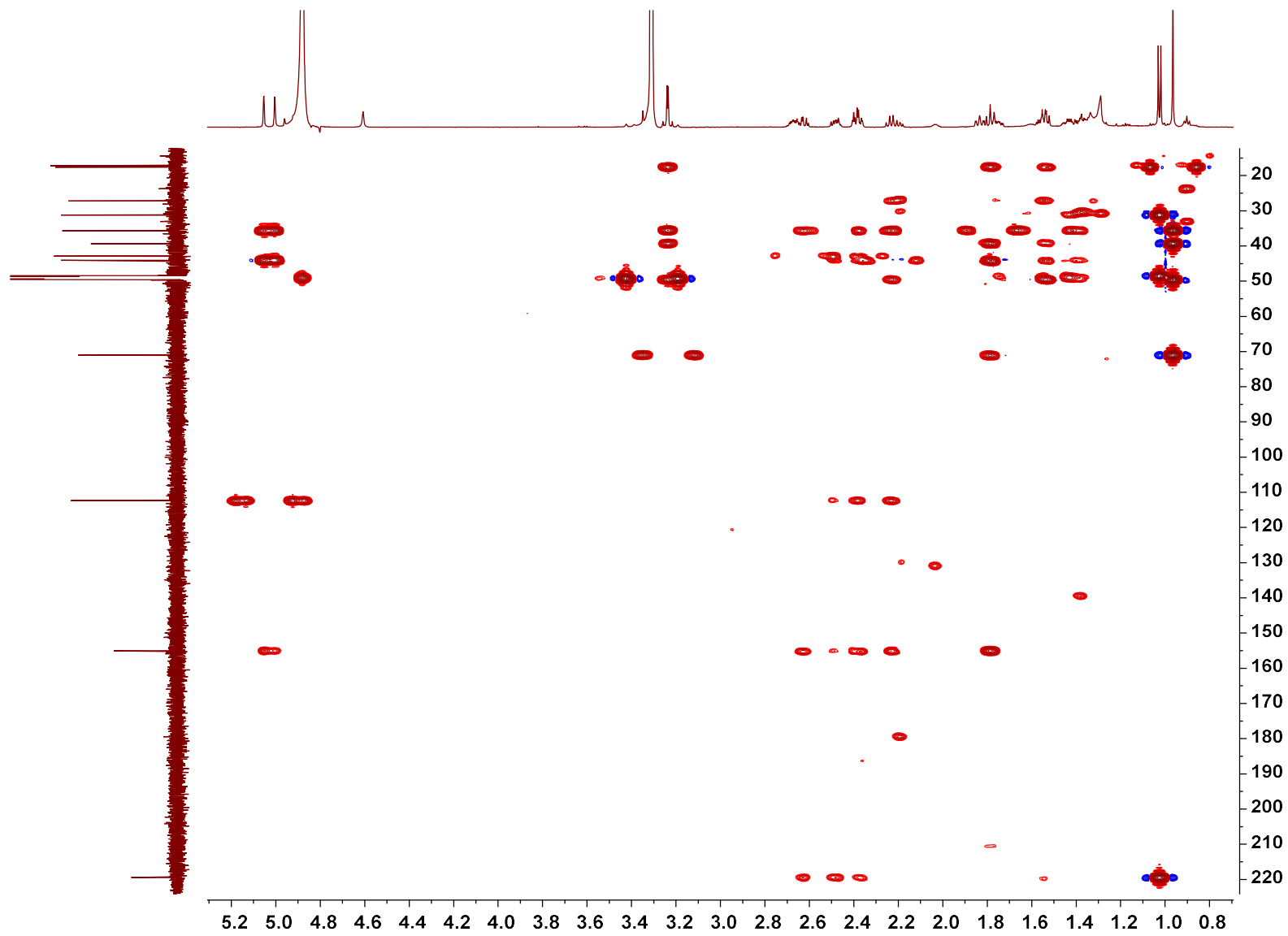


Figure S11. The HMBC spectrum of compound **1** in CD₃OD

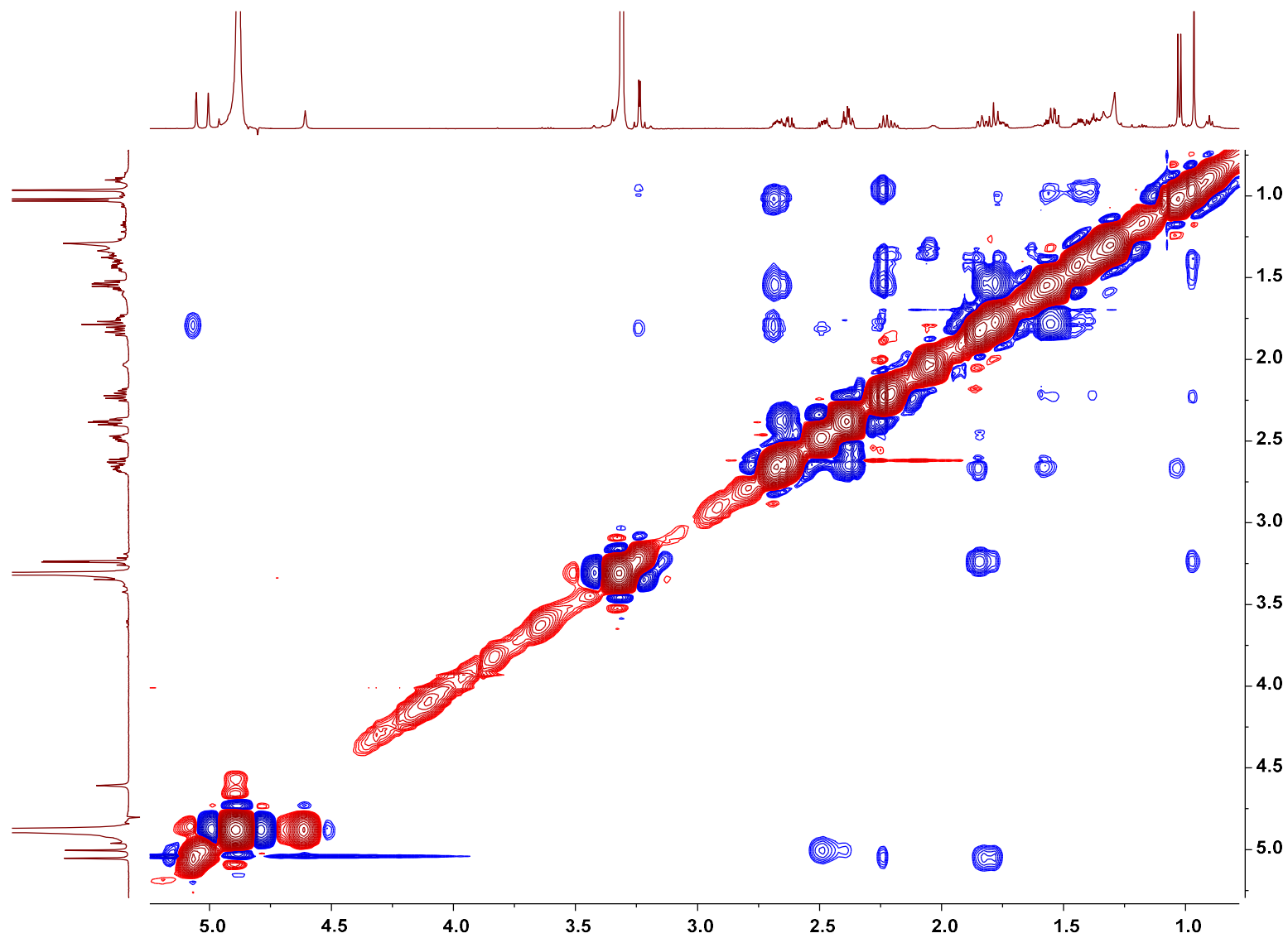


Figure S12. The NOESY spectrum of compound **1** in CD₃OD

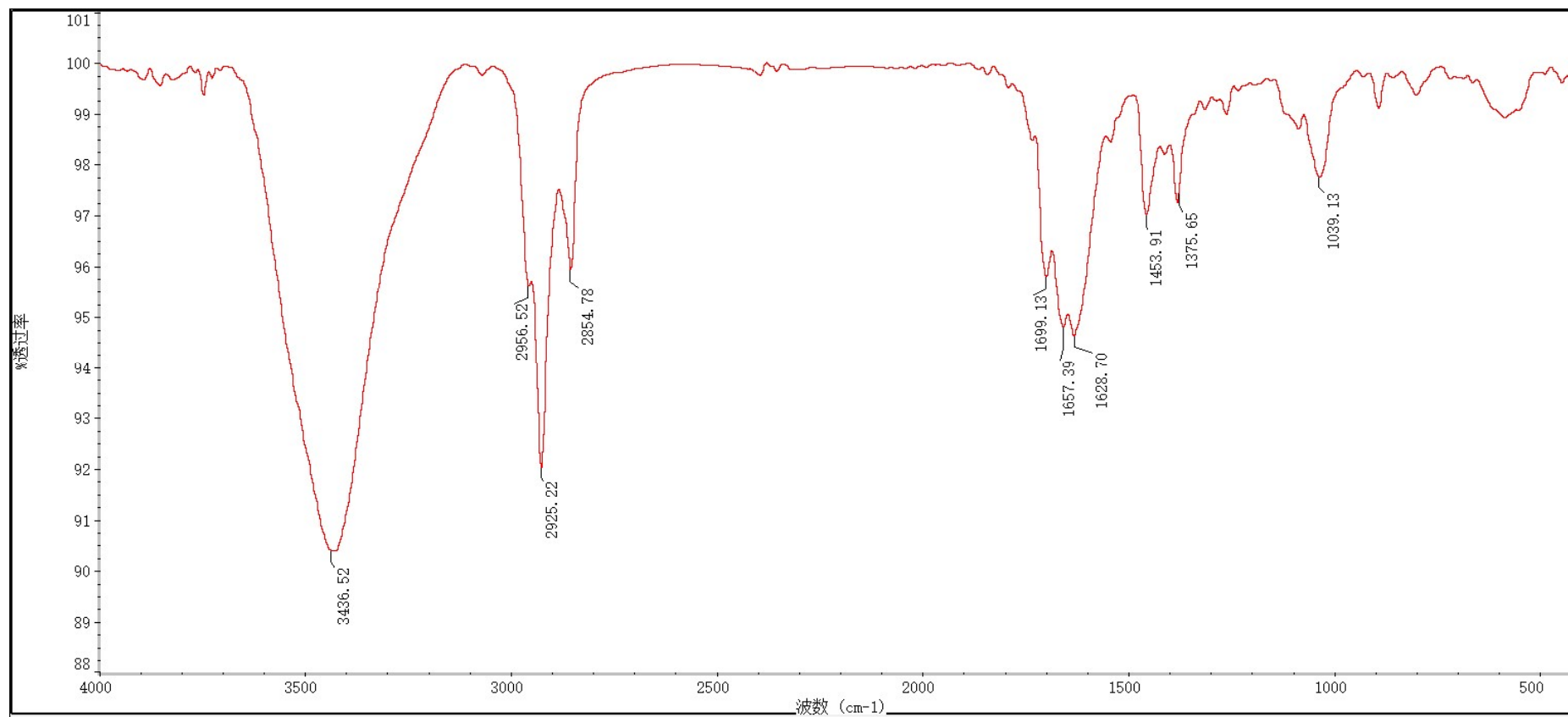


Figure S13. The IR spectrum of compound **1**

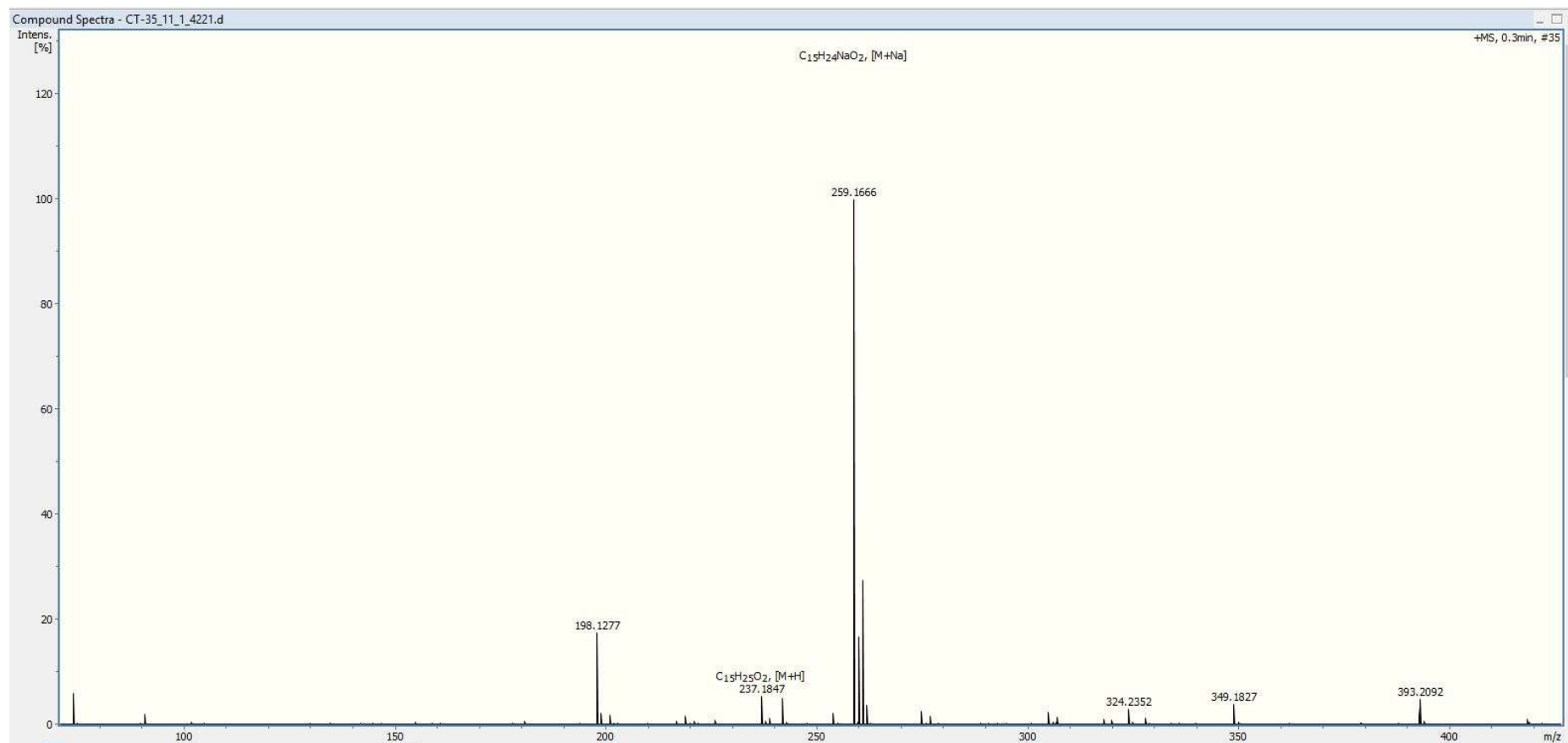


Figure S14. The (+)-HR-ESI-MS spectroscopic data of compound **1**

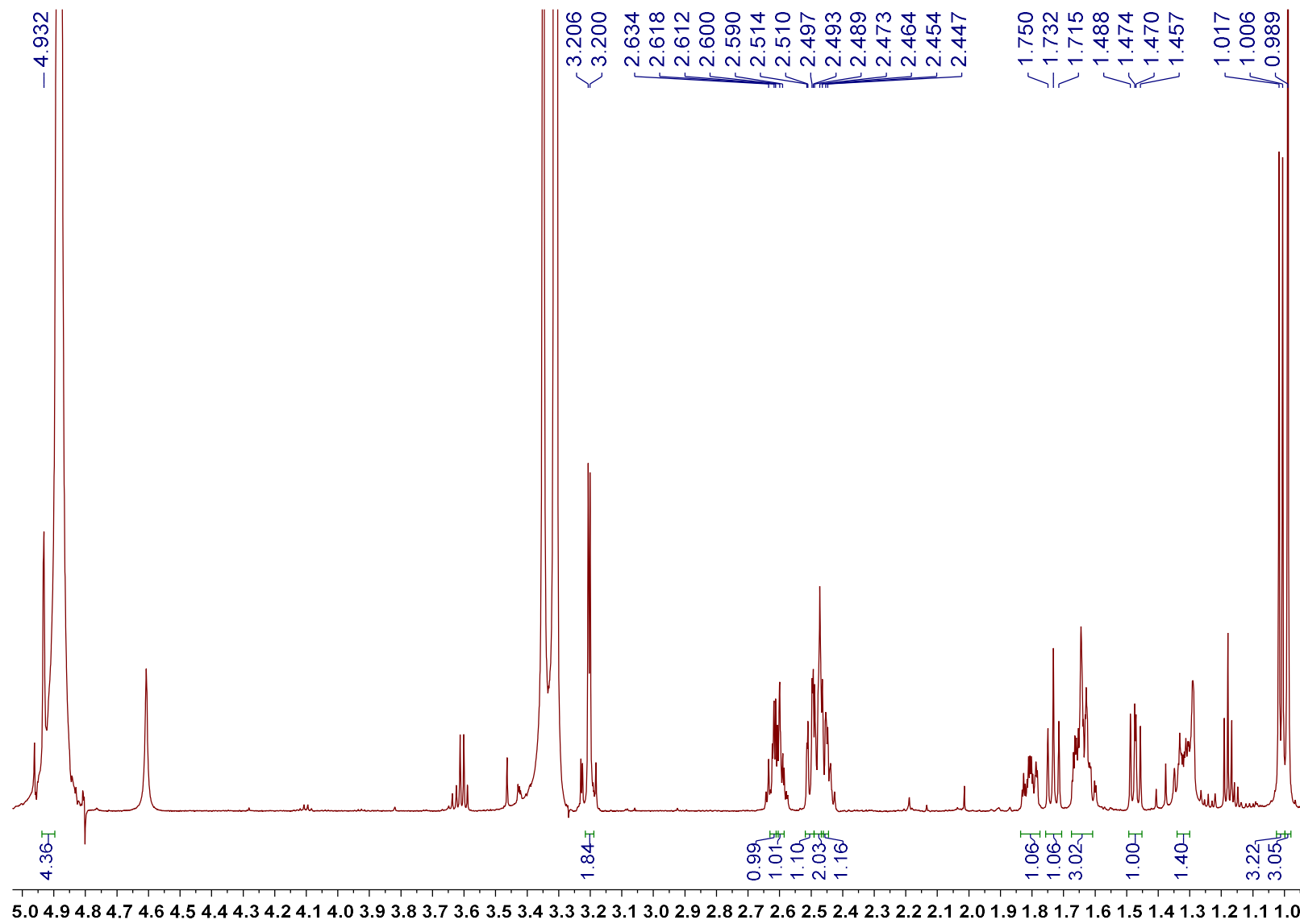


Figure S15. The ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **2** in CD_3OD

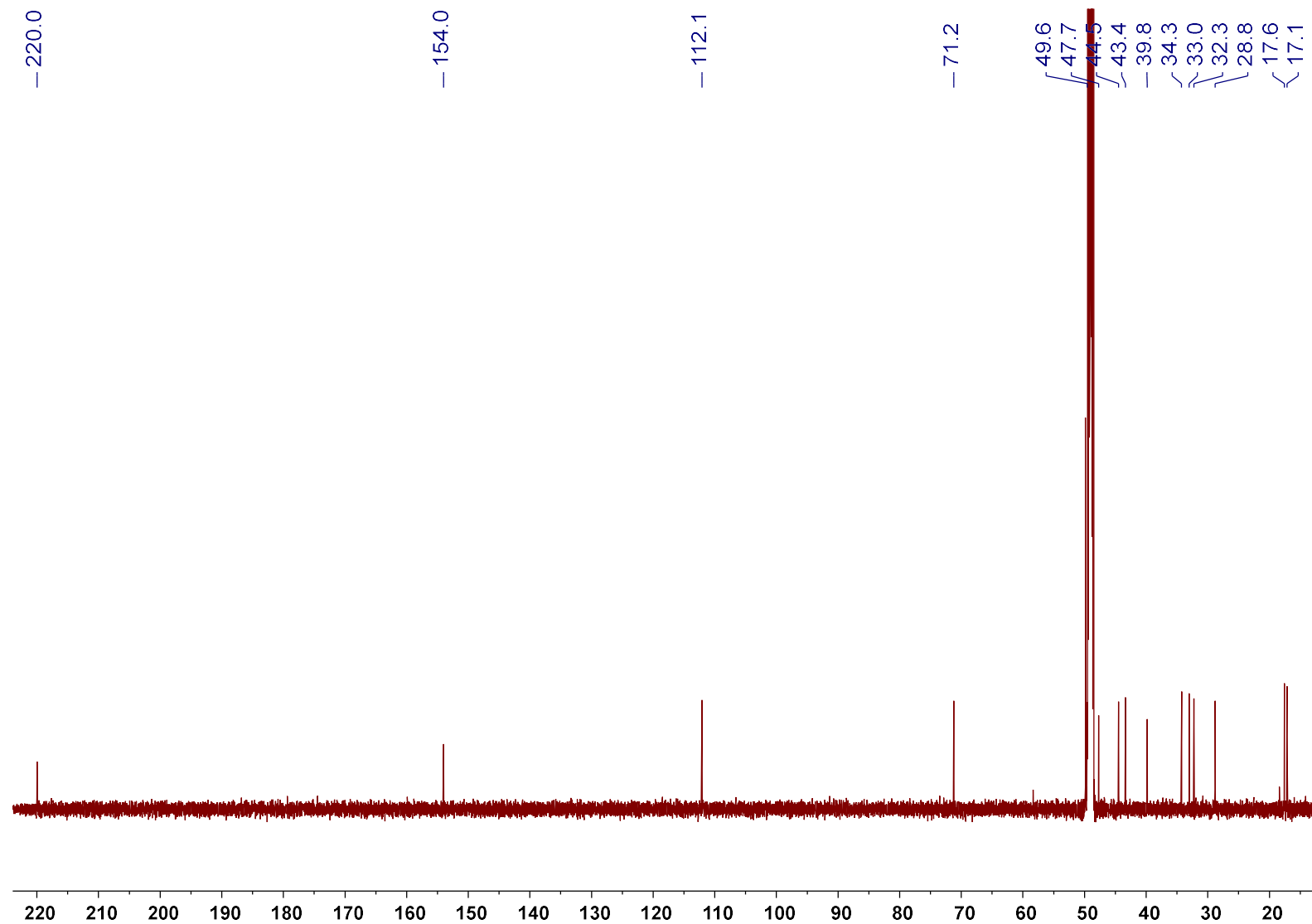


Figure S16. The ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **2** in CD₃OD

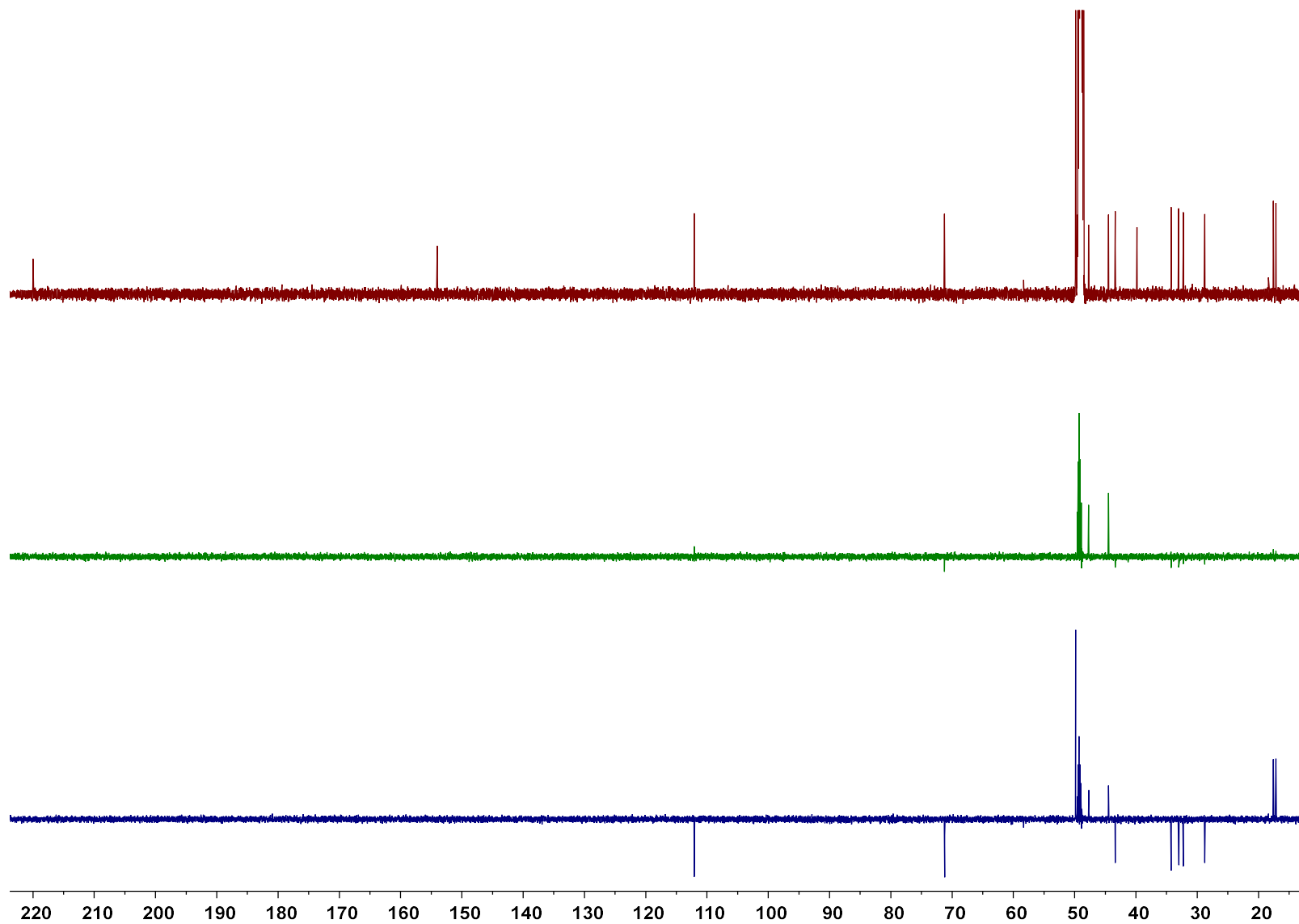


Figure S17. The DEPT spectrum of compound **2** in CD₃OD

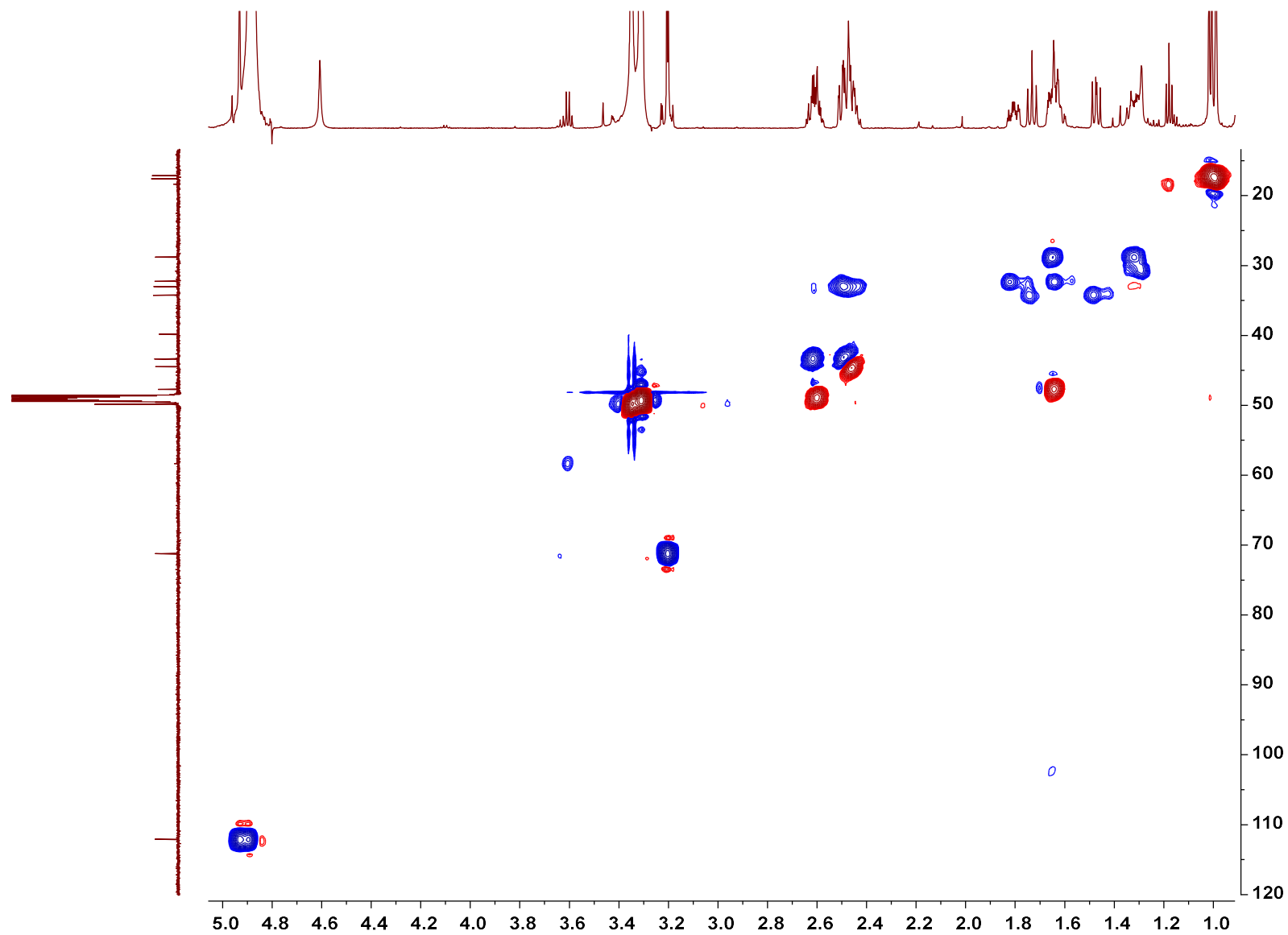


Figure S18. The HSQC spectrum of compound **2** in CD₃OD

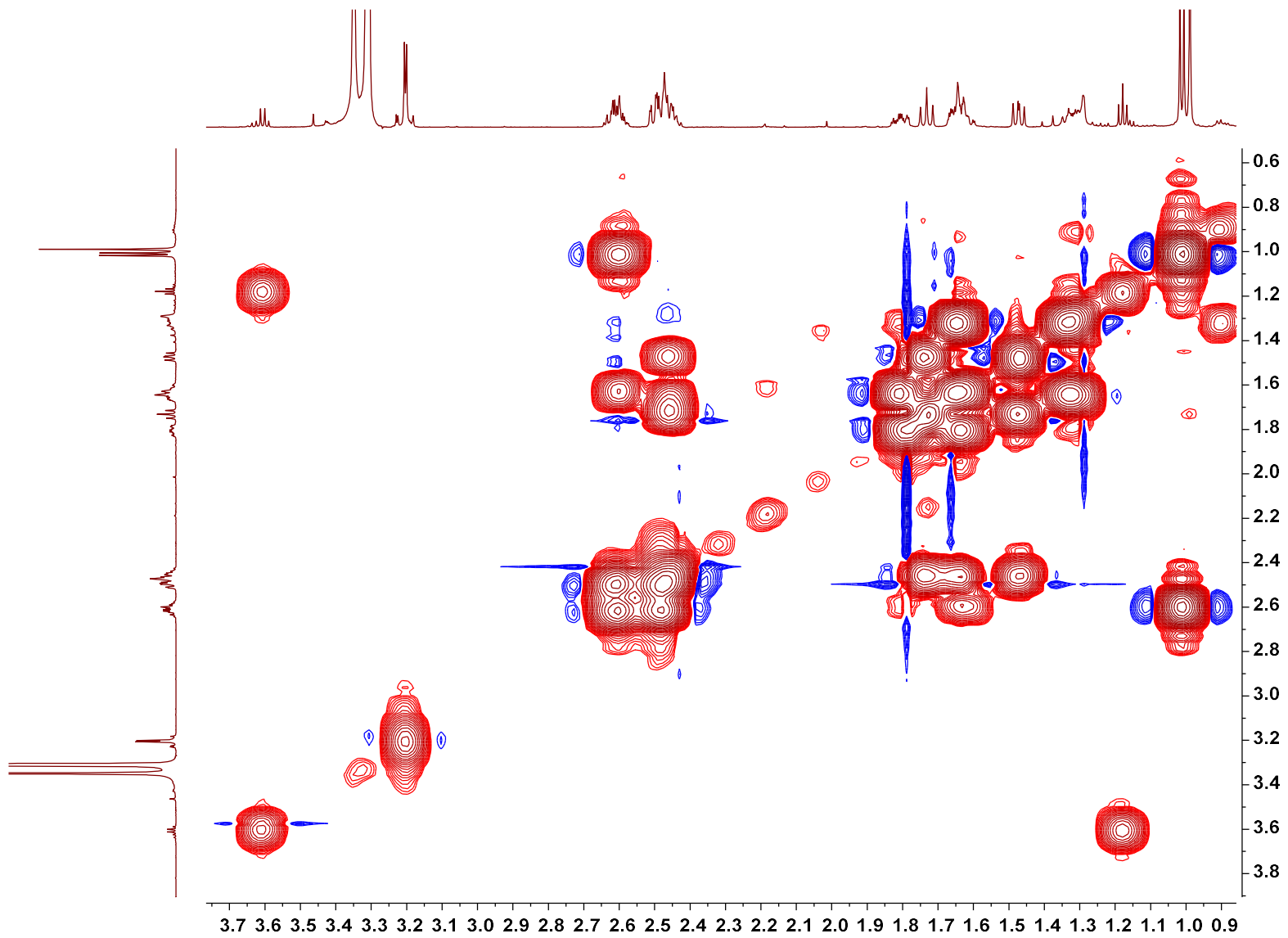


Figure S19. The ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of compound **2** in CD_3OD

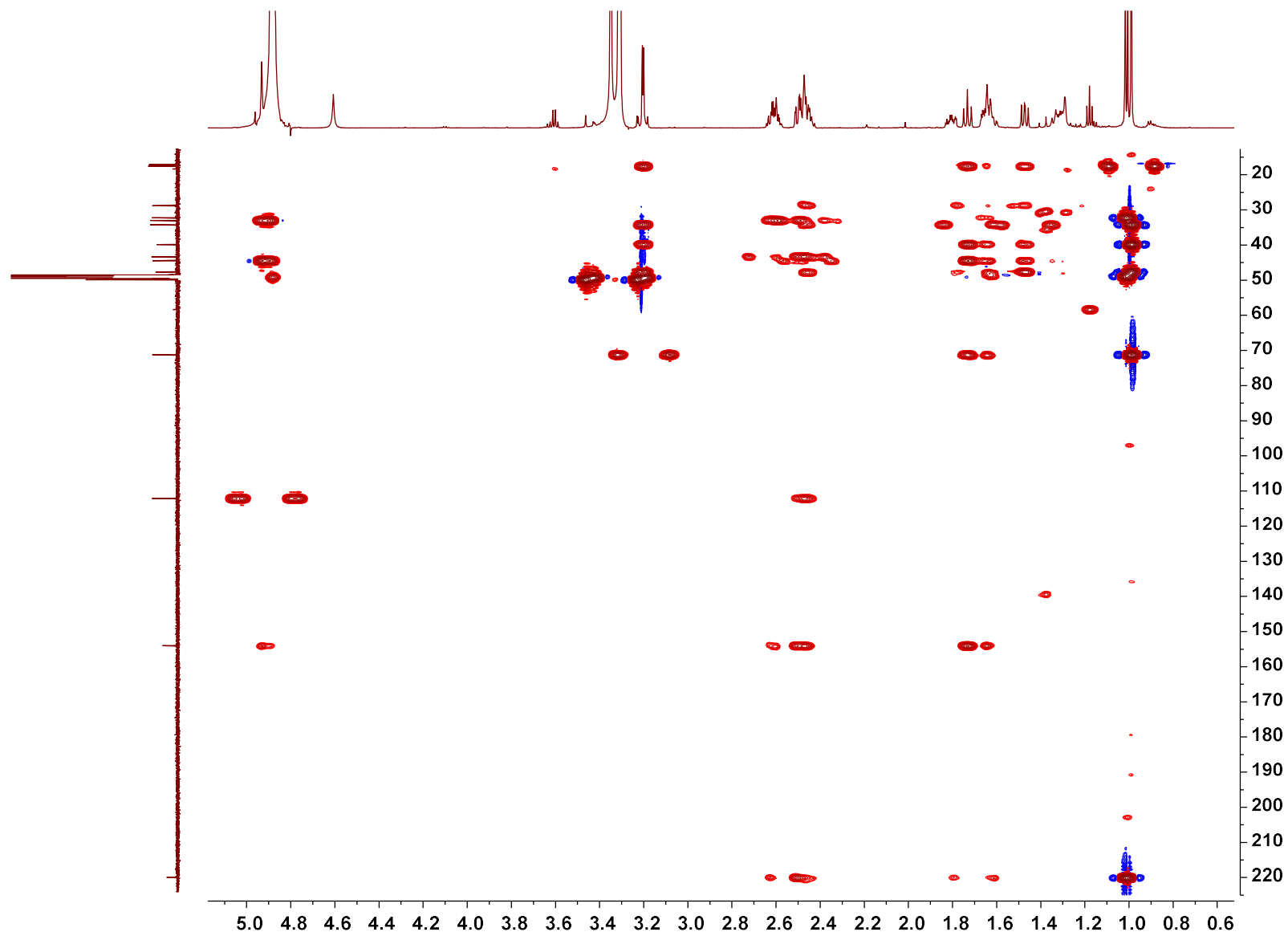


Figure S20. The HMBC spectrum of compound **2** in CD₃OD

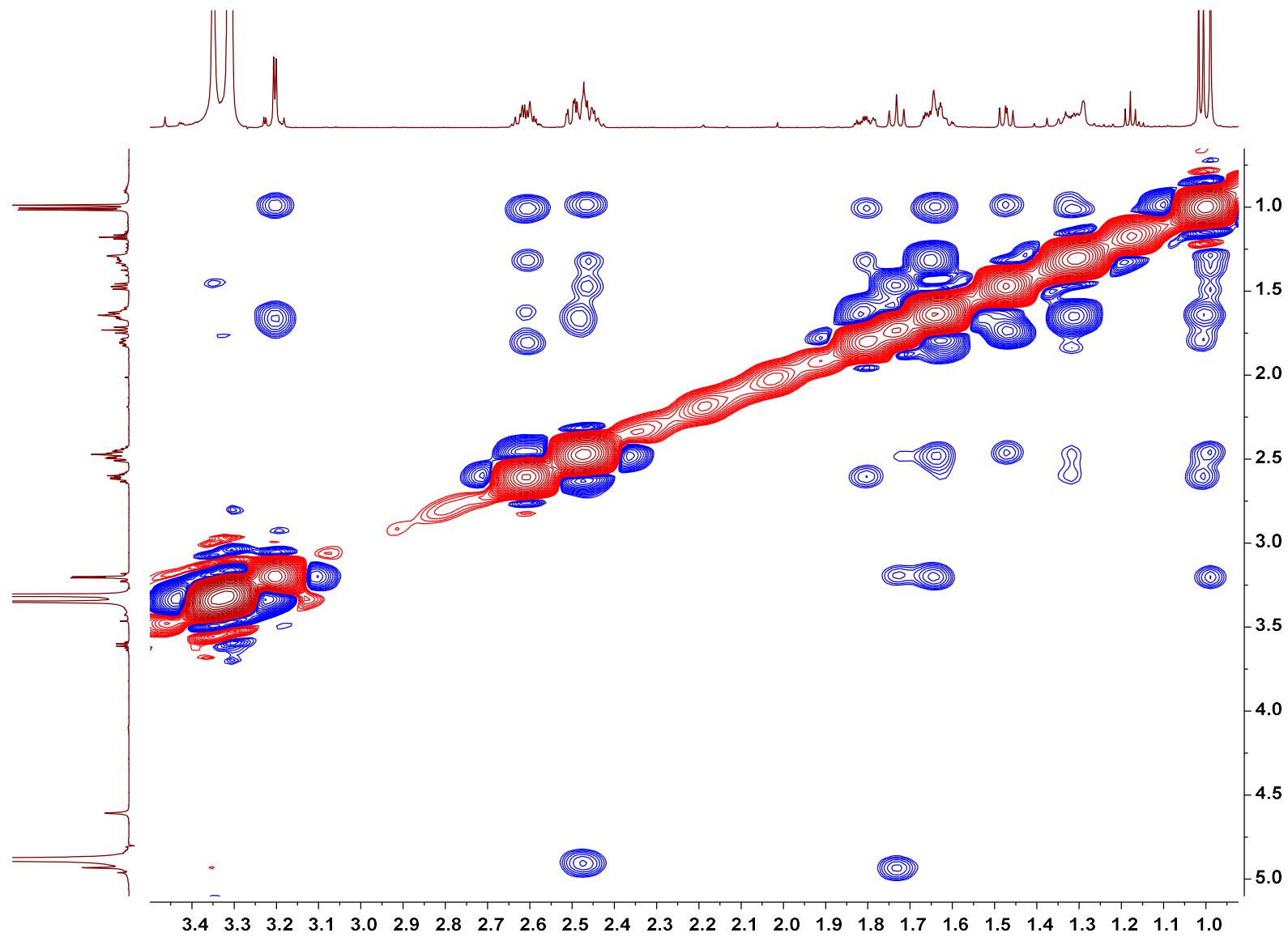


Figure S21. The NOESY spectrum of compound **2** in CD₃OD

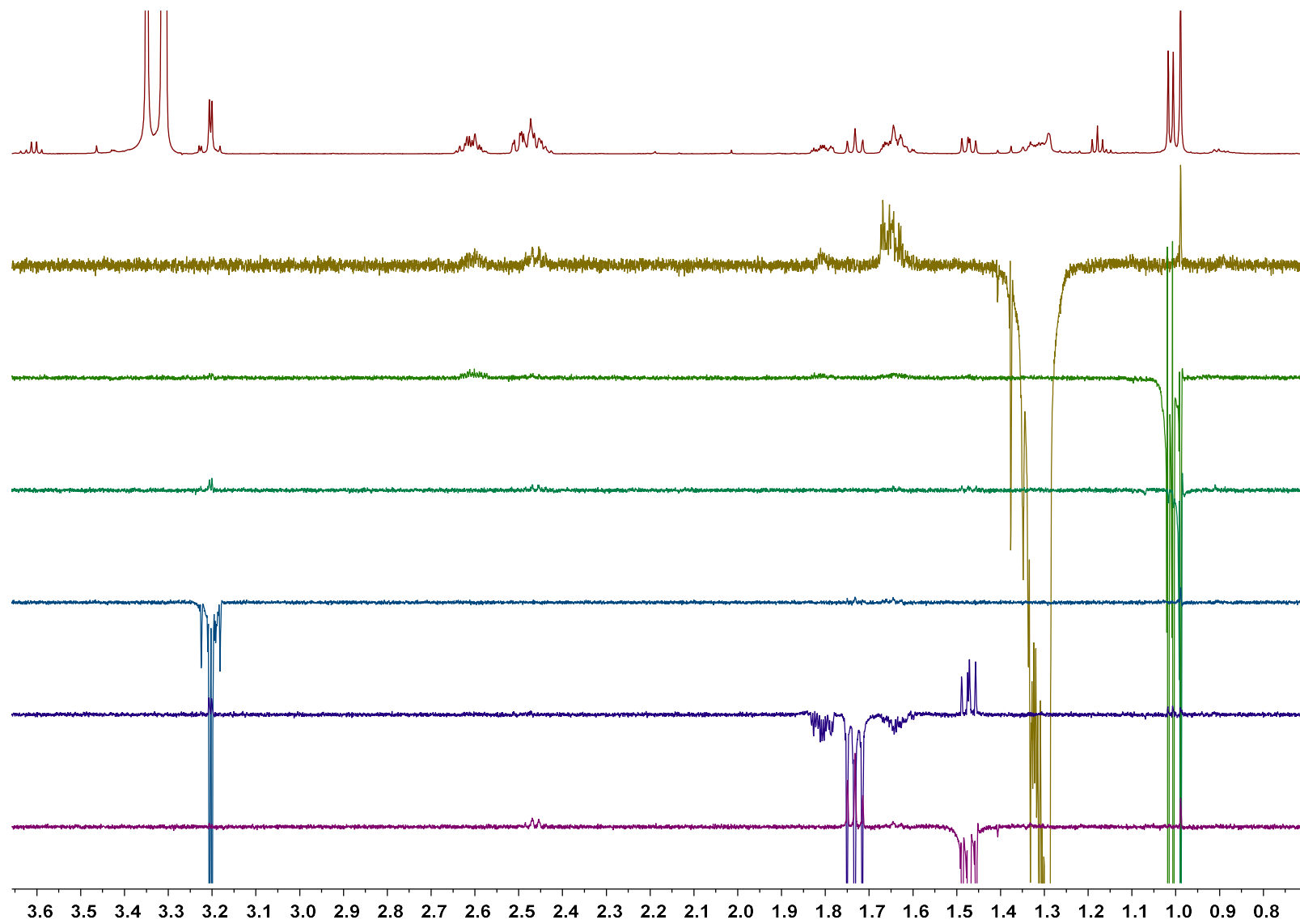


Figure S22. The 1D NOE spectrum of compound **2** in CD₃OD

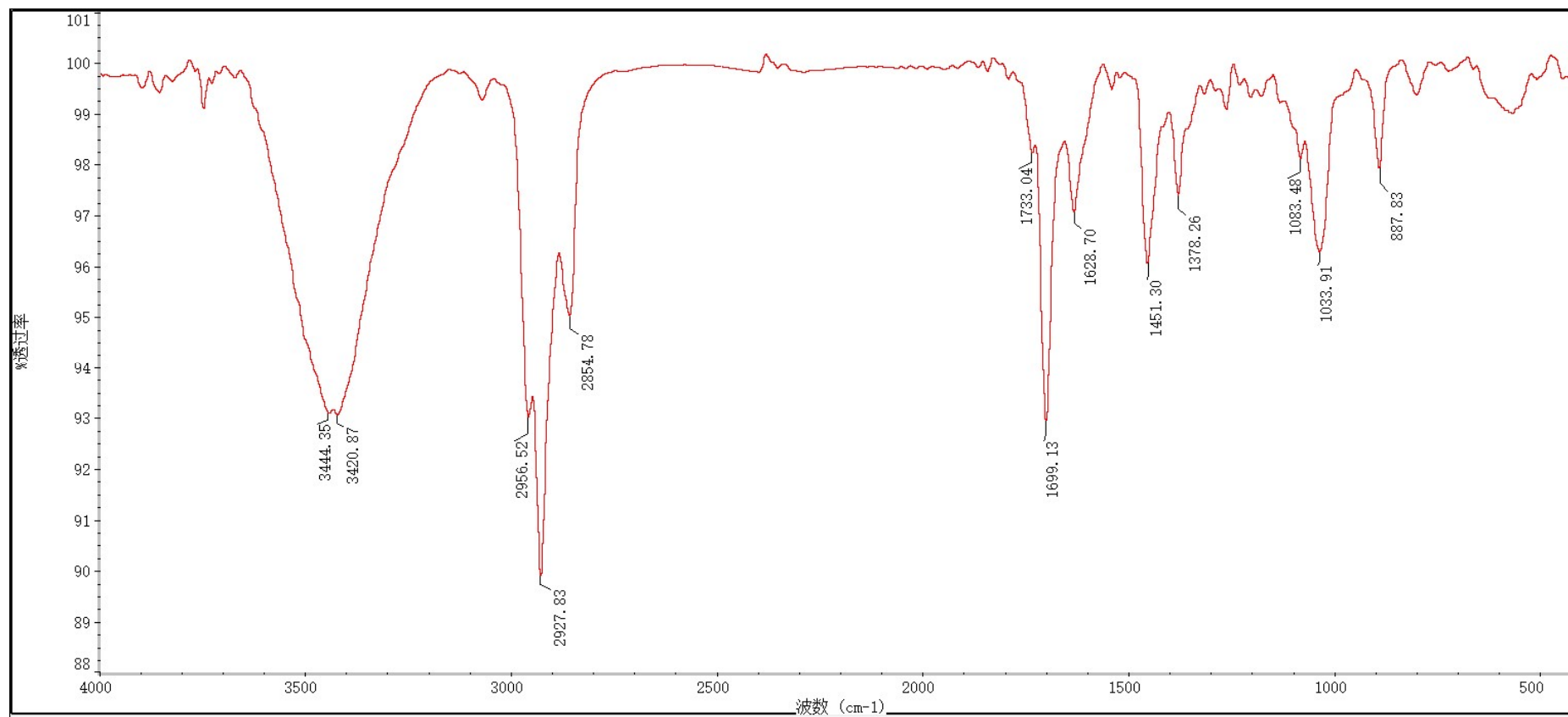


Figure S23. The IR spectrum of compound **2**

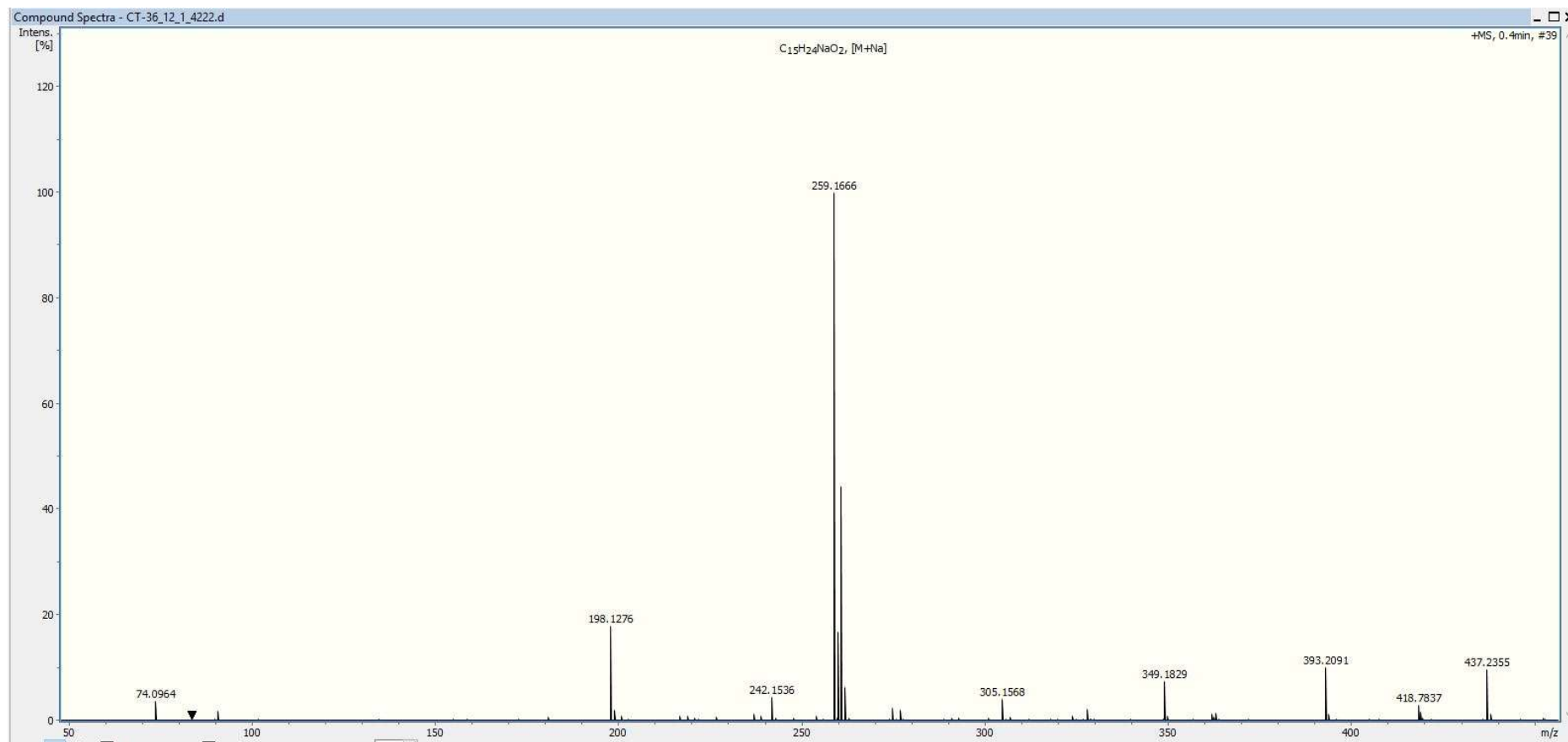


Figure S24. The (+)-HR-ESI-MS spectroscopic data of compound **2**

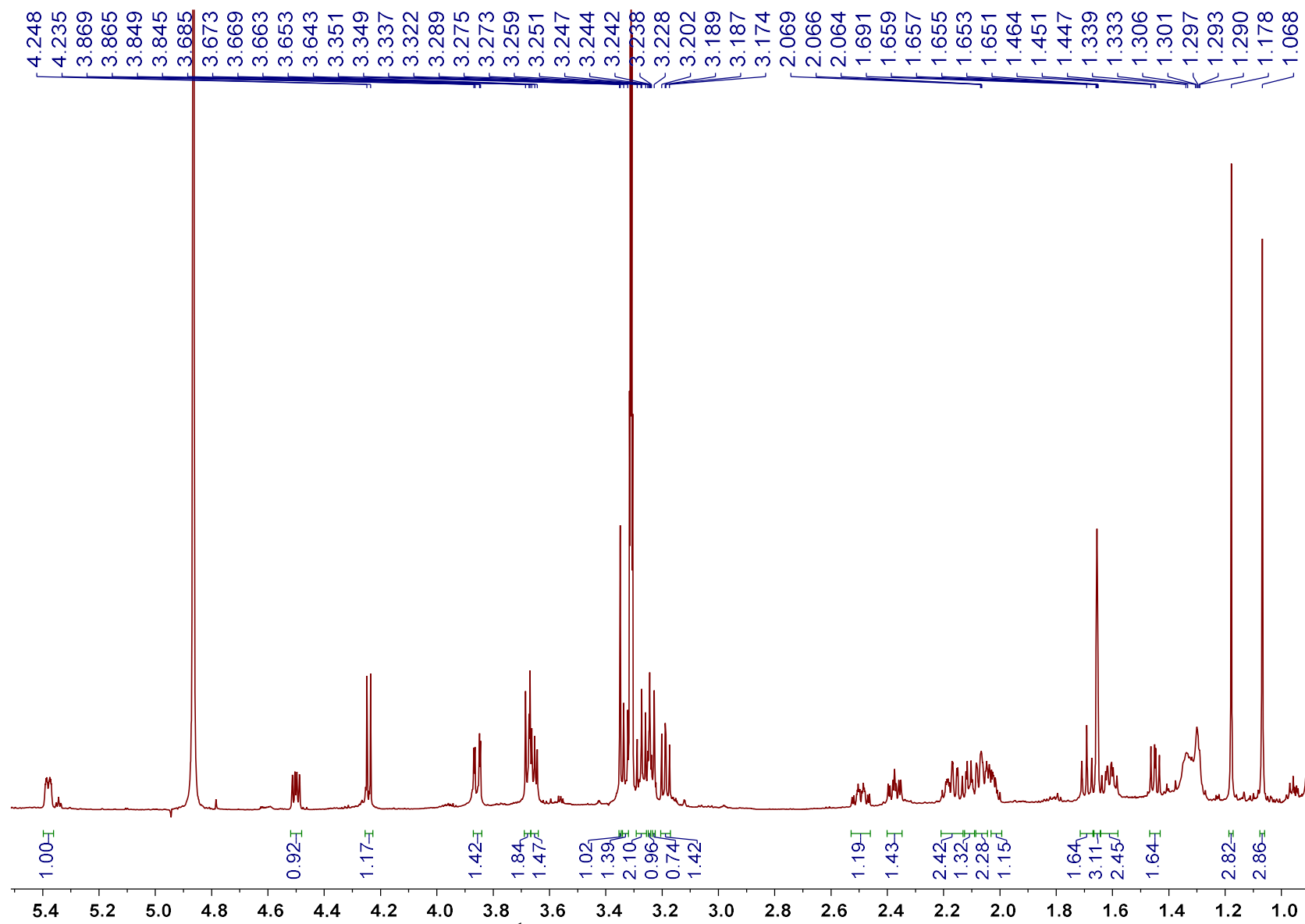


Figure S25. The ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **3** in CD_3OD

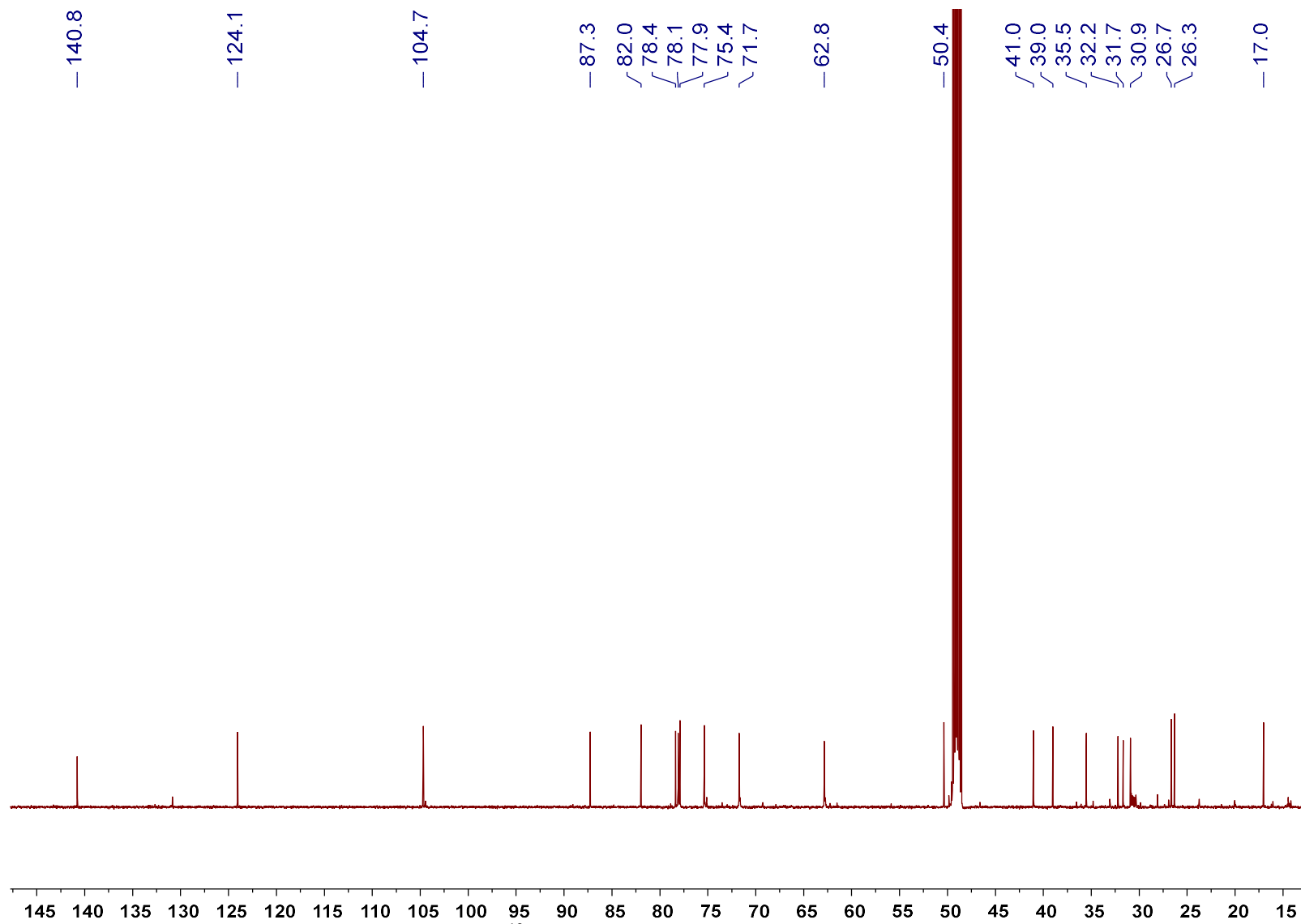


Figure S26. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **3** in CD_3OD

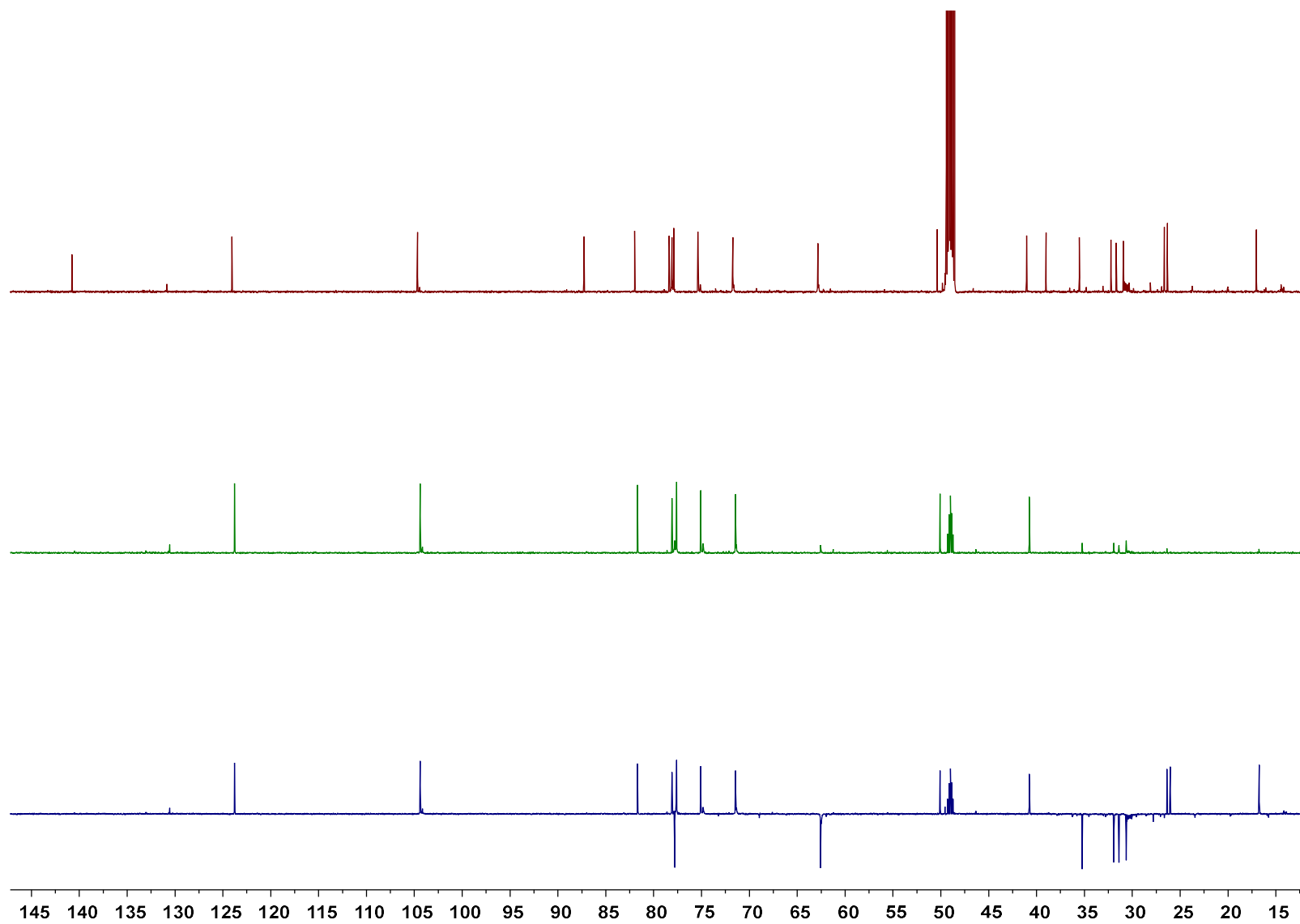


Figure S27. The DEPT spectrum of compound **3** in CD₃OD

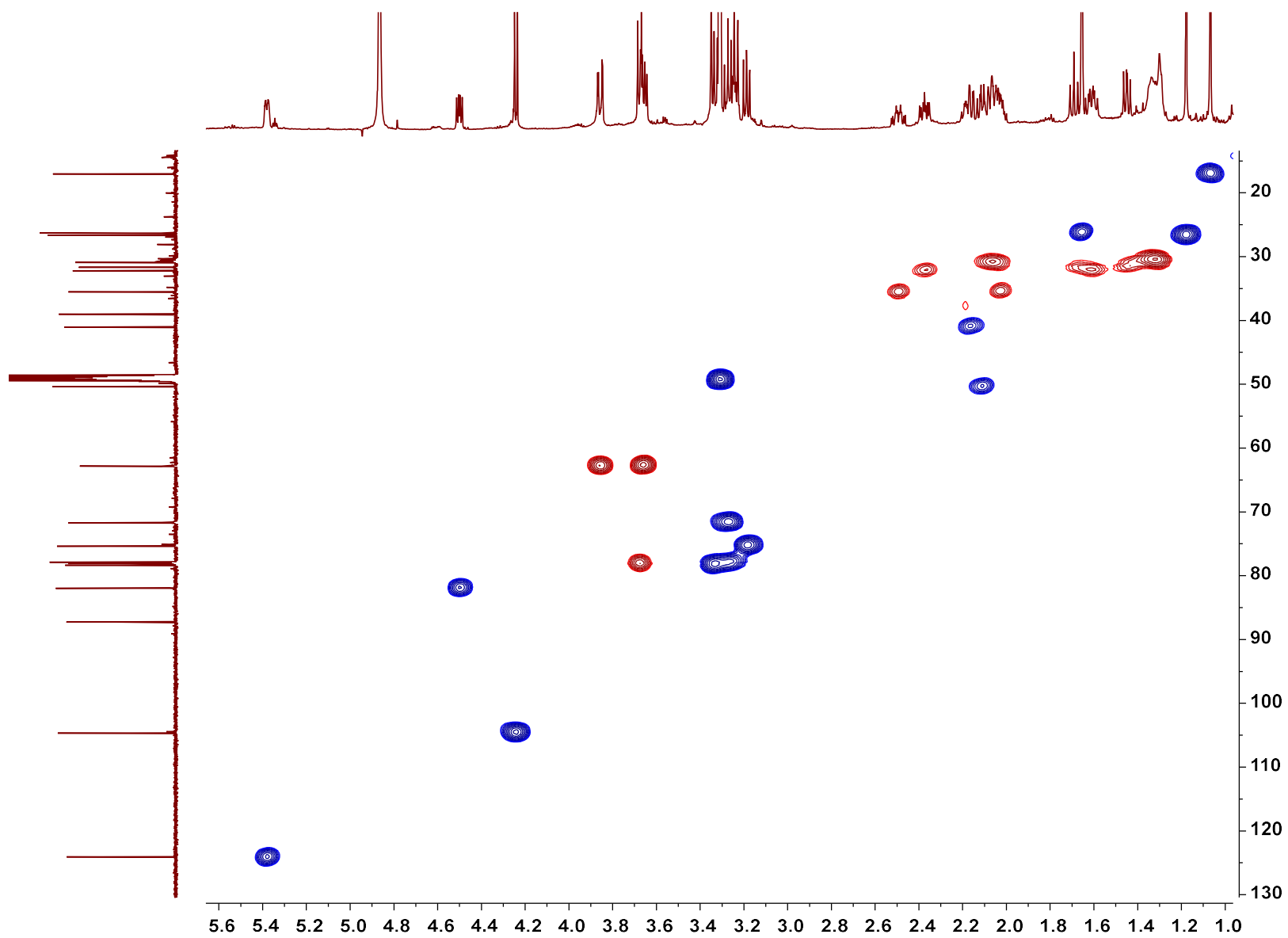


Figure S28. The HSQC spectrum of compound **3** in CD_3OD

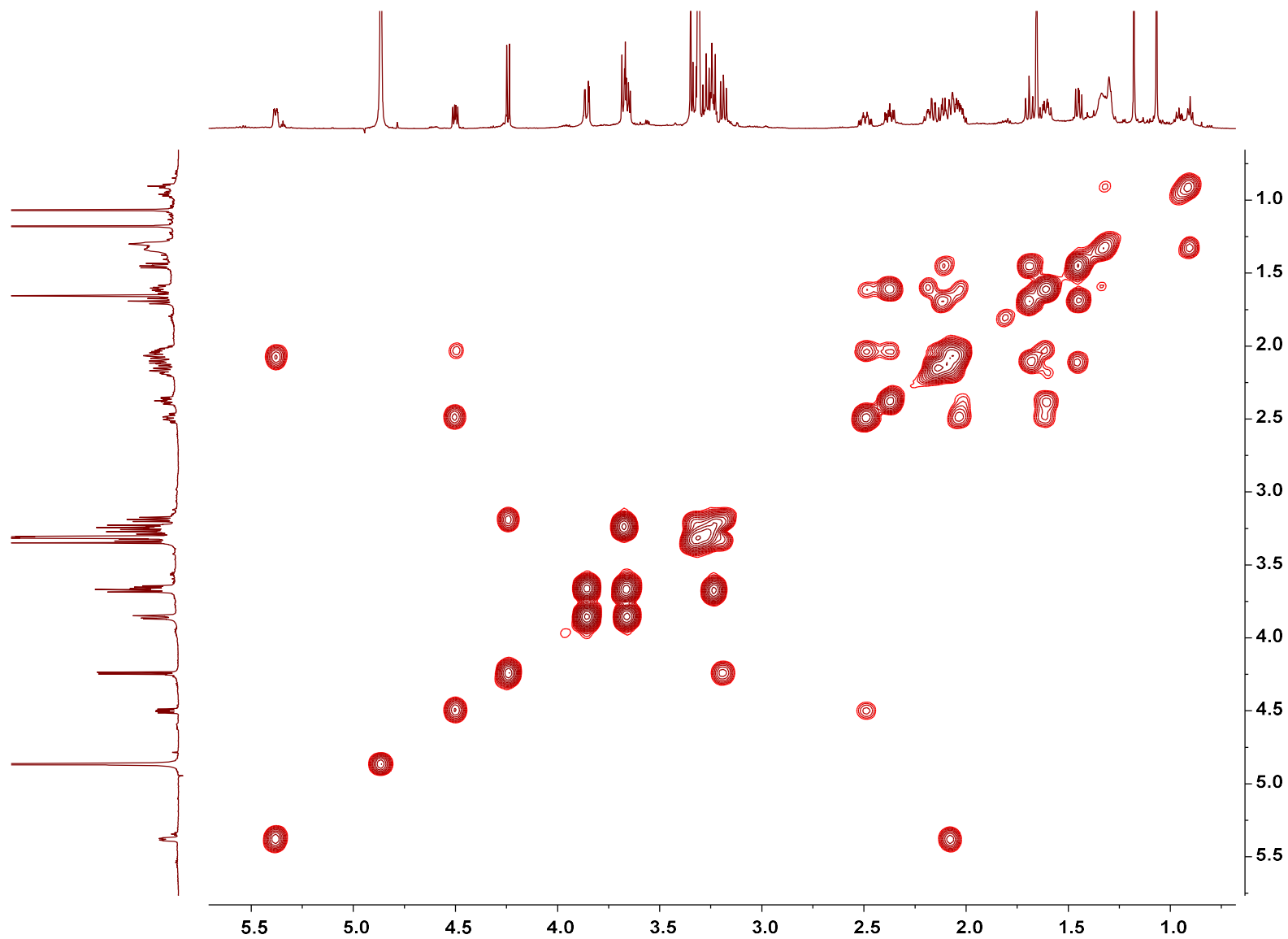


Figure S29. The ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of compound **3** in CD_3OD

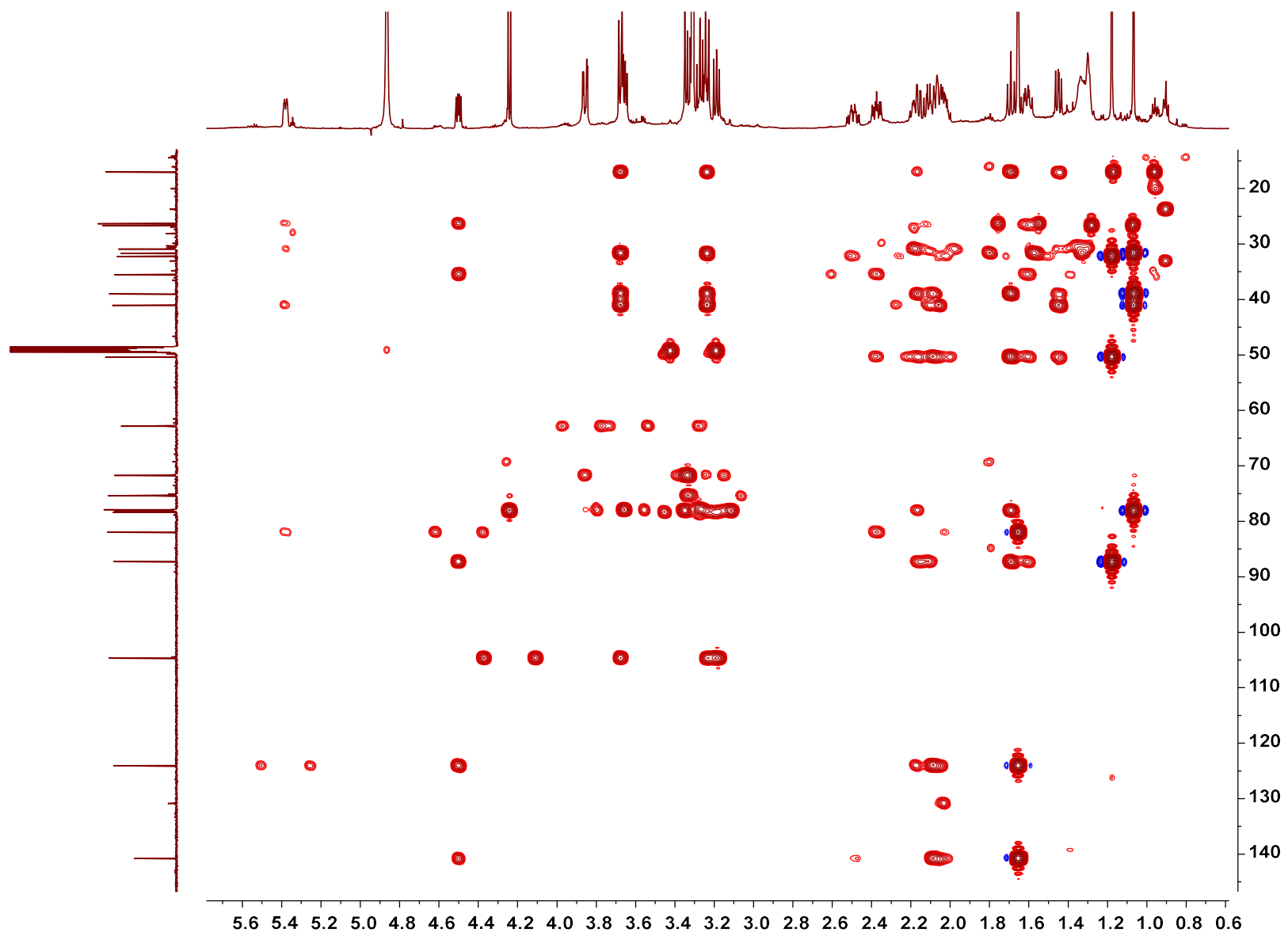


Figure S30. The HMBC spectrum of compound **3** in CD₃OD

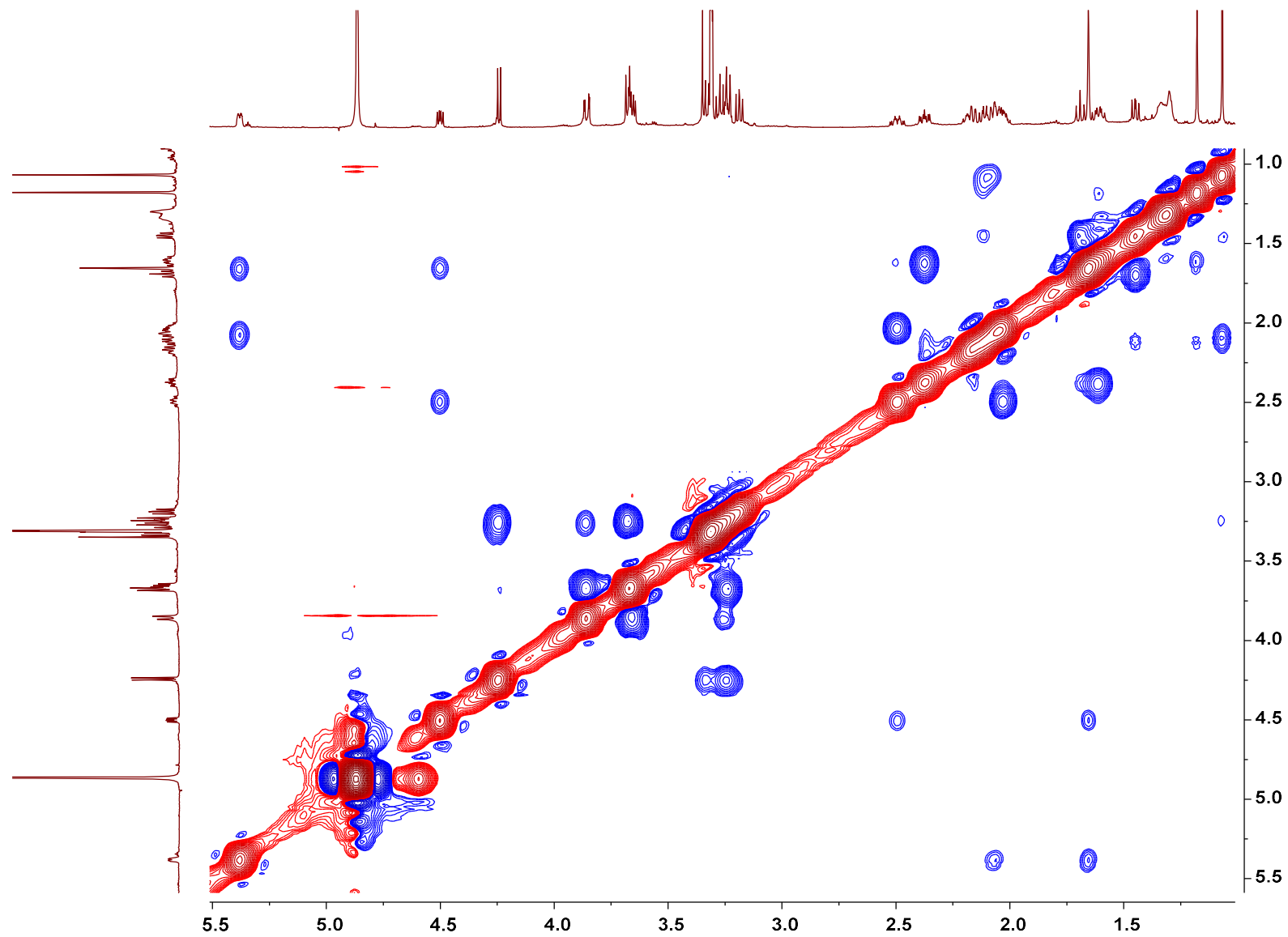


Figure S31. The NOESY spectrum of compound **3** in CD₃OD

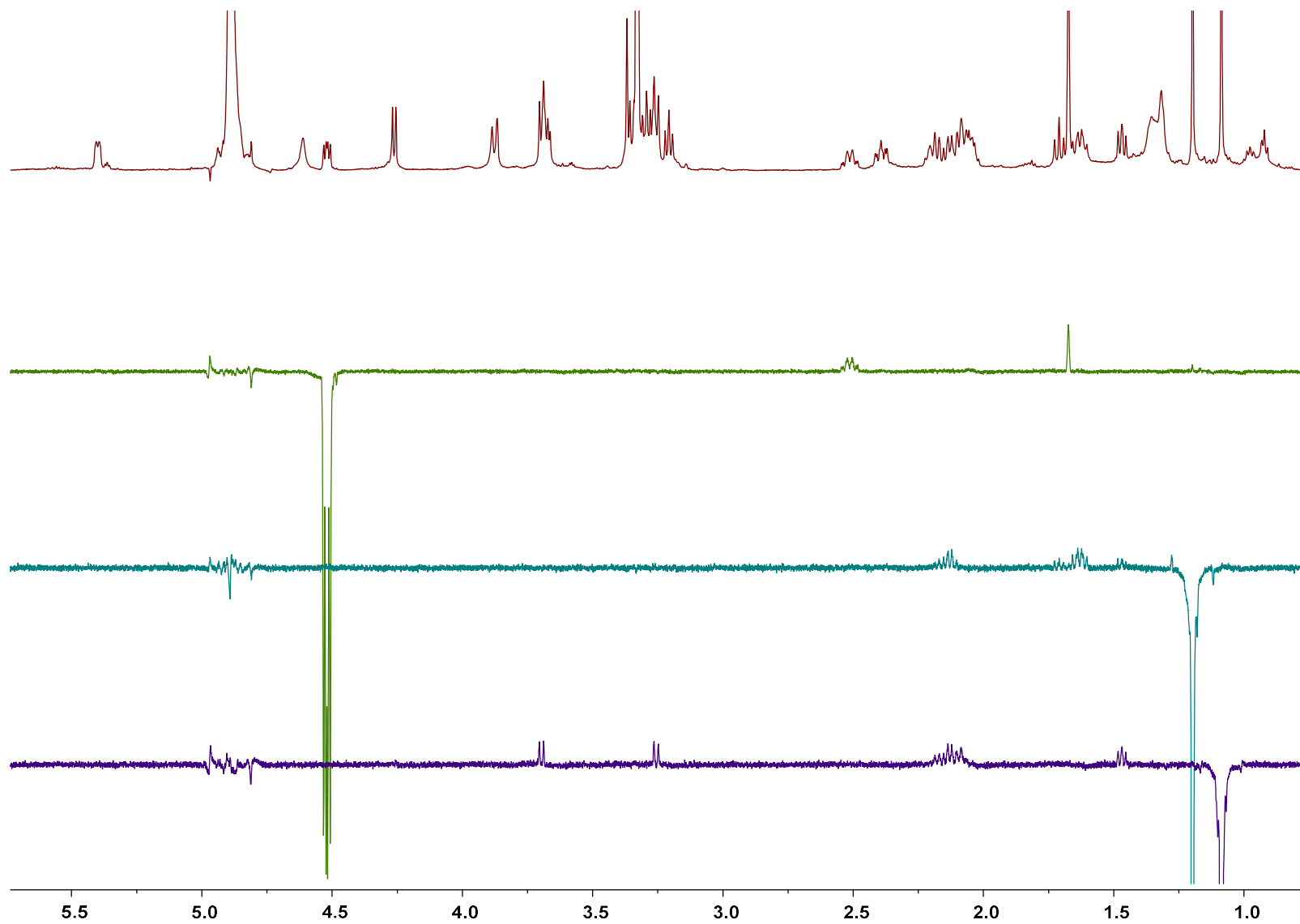


Figure S32. The 1D NOE spectrum of compound **3** in CD₃OD

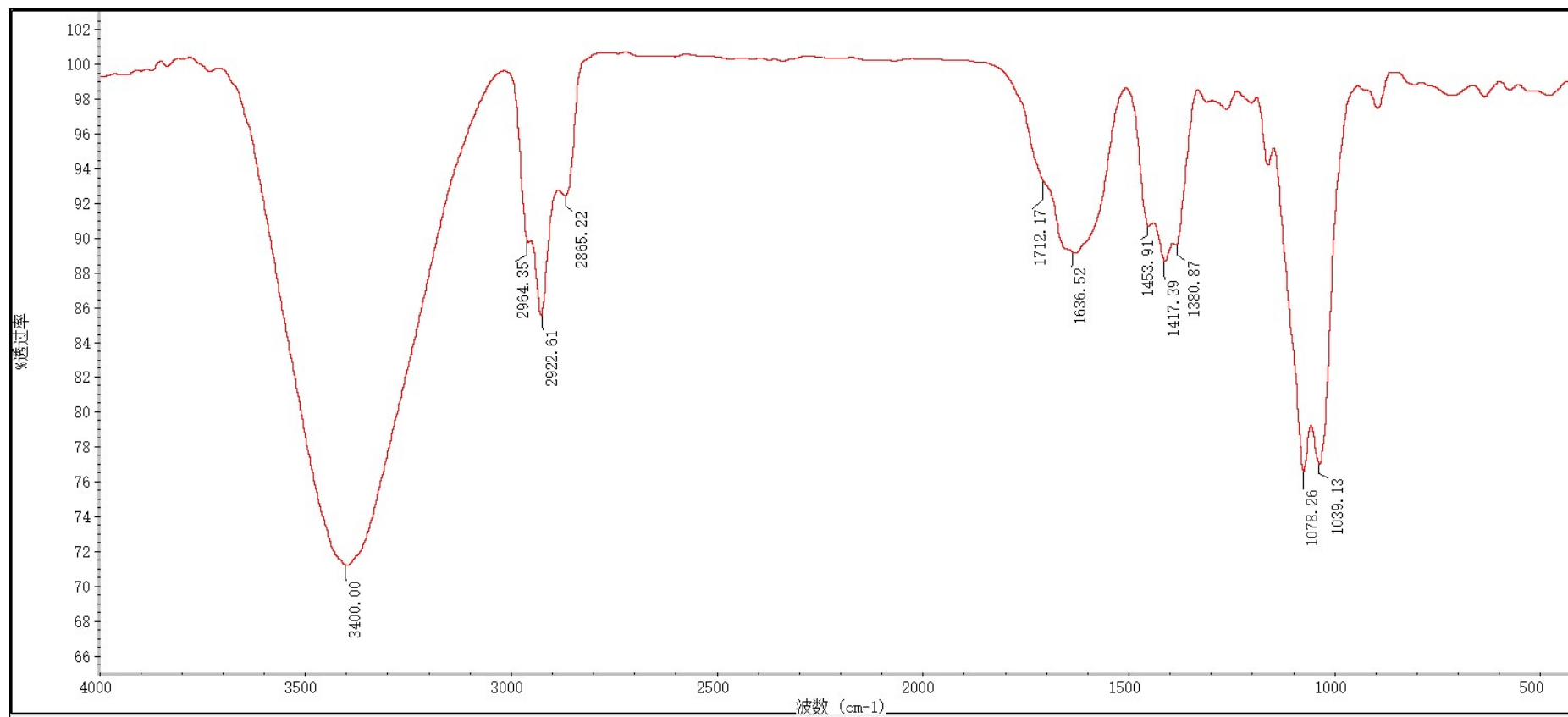


Figure S33. The IR spectrum of compound **3**

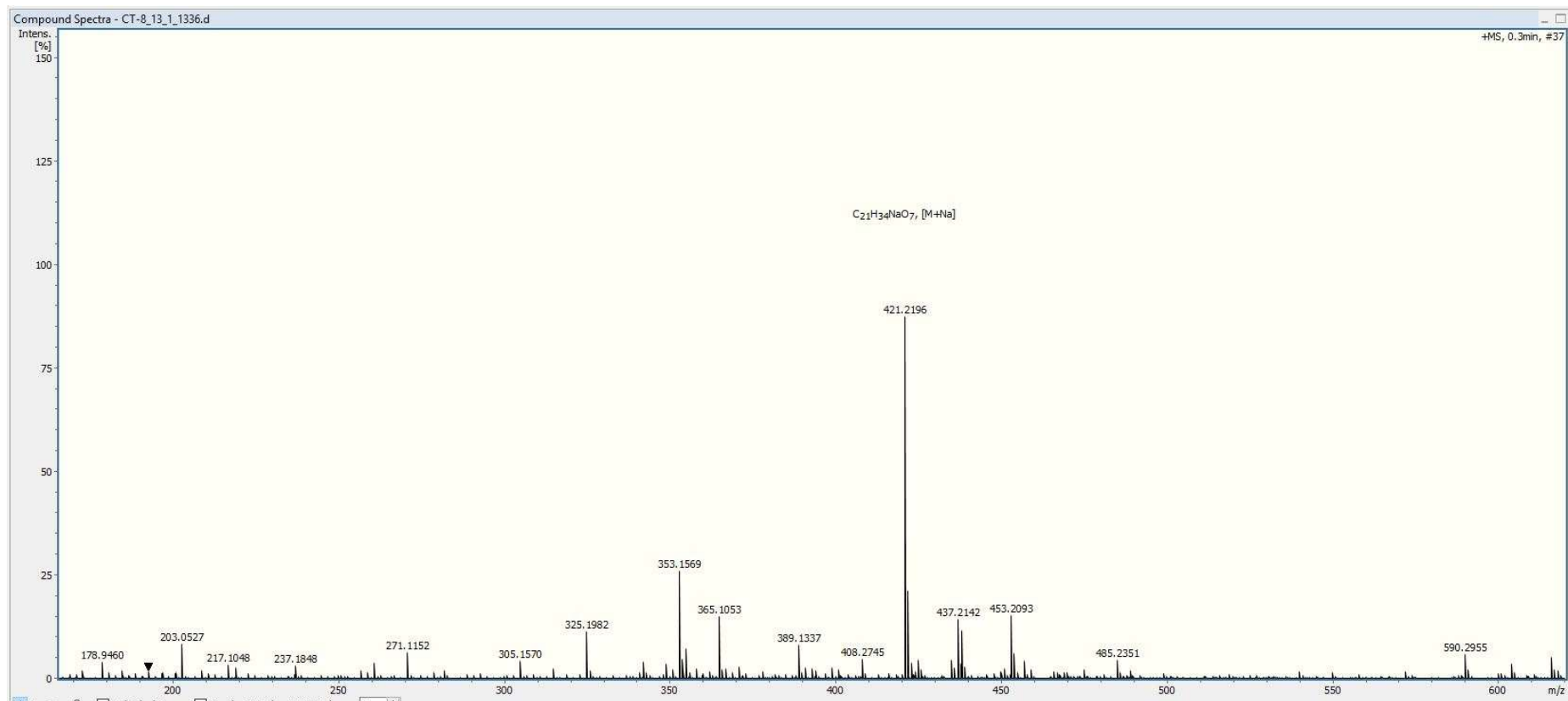


Figure S34. The (+)-HR-ESI-MS spectroscopic data of compound **3**

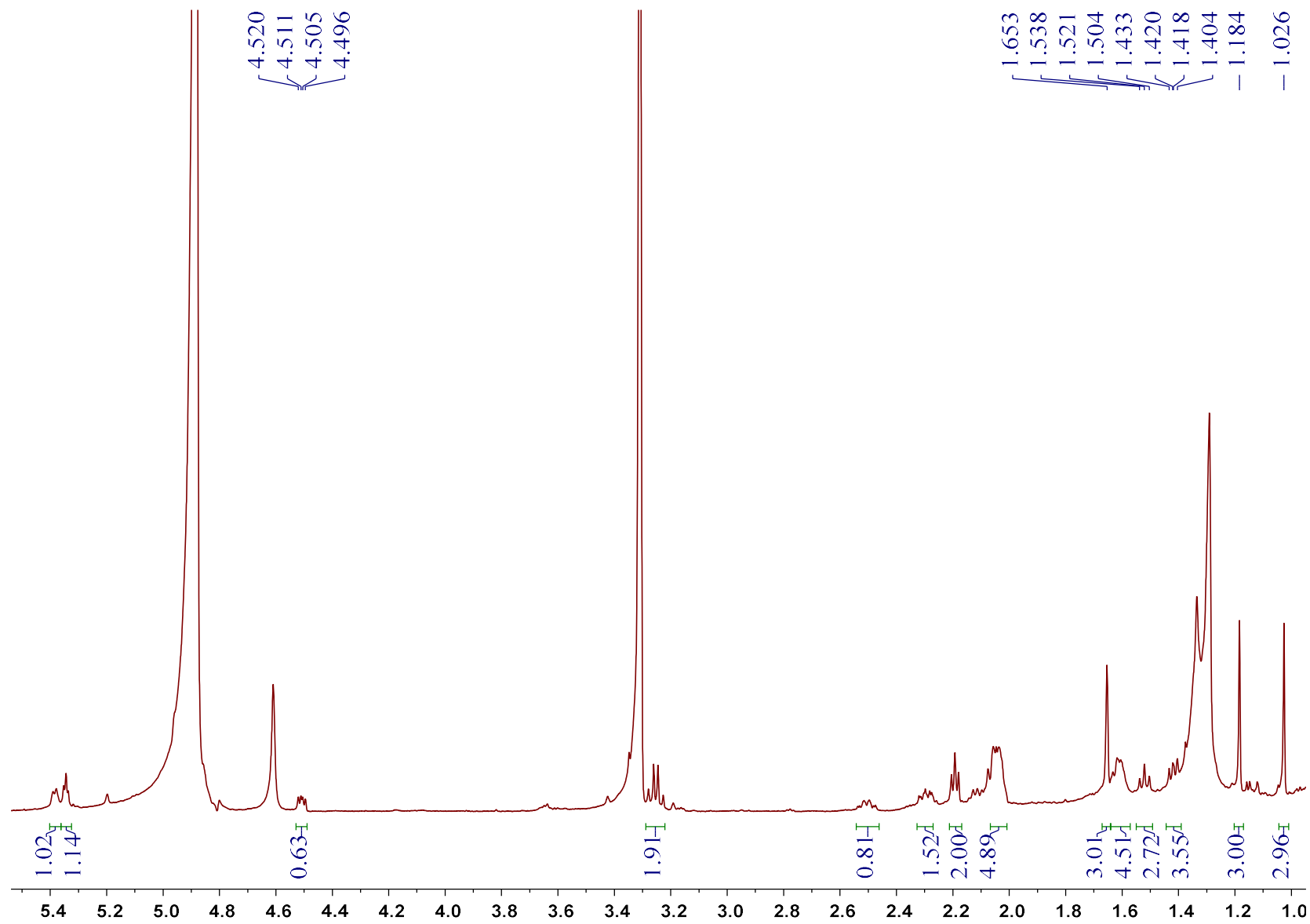


Figure S35. The ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **3a** in CD_3OD

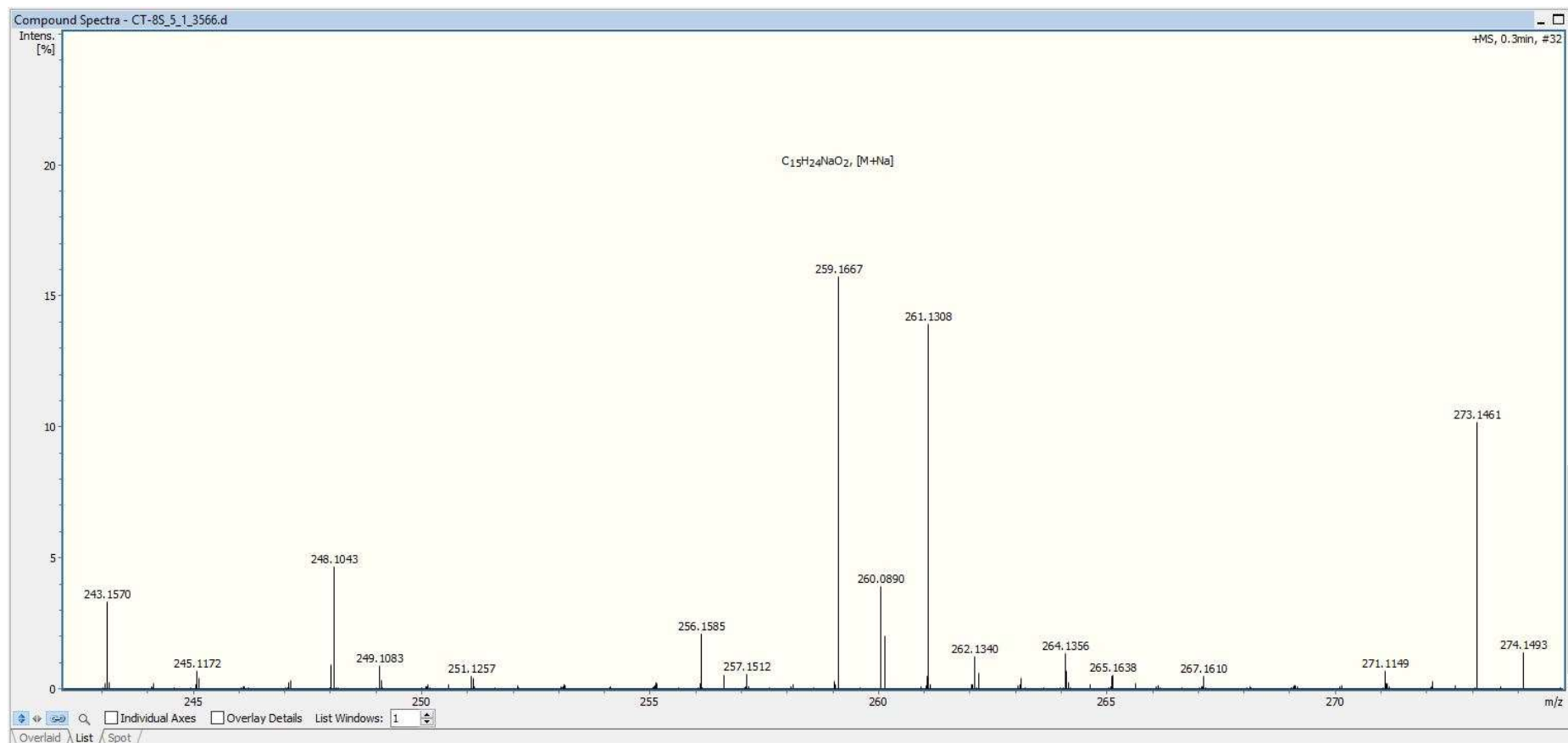


Figure S36. The (+)-HR-ESI-MS spectroscopic data of compound **3a**

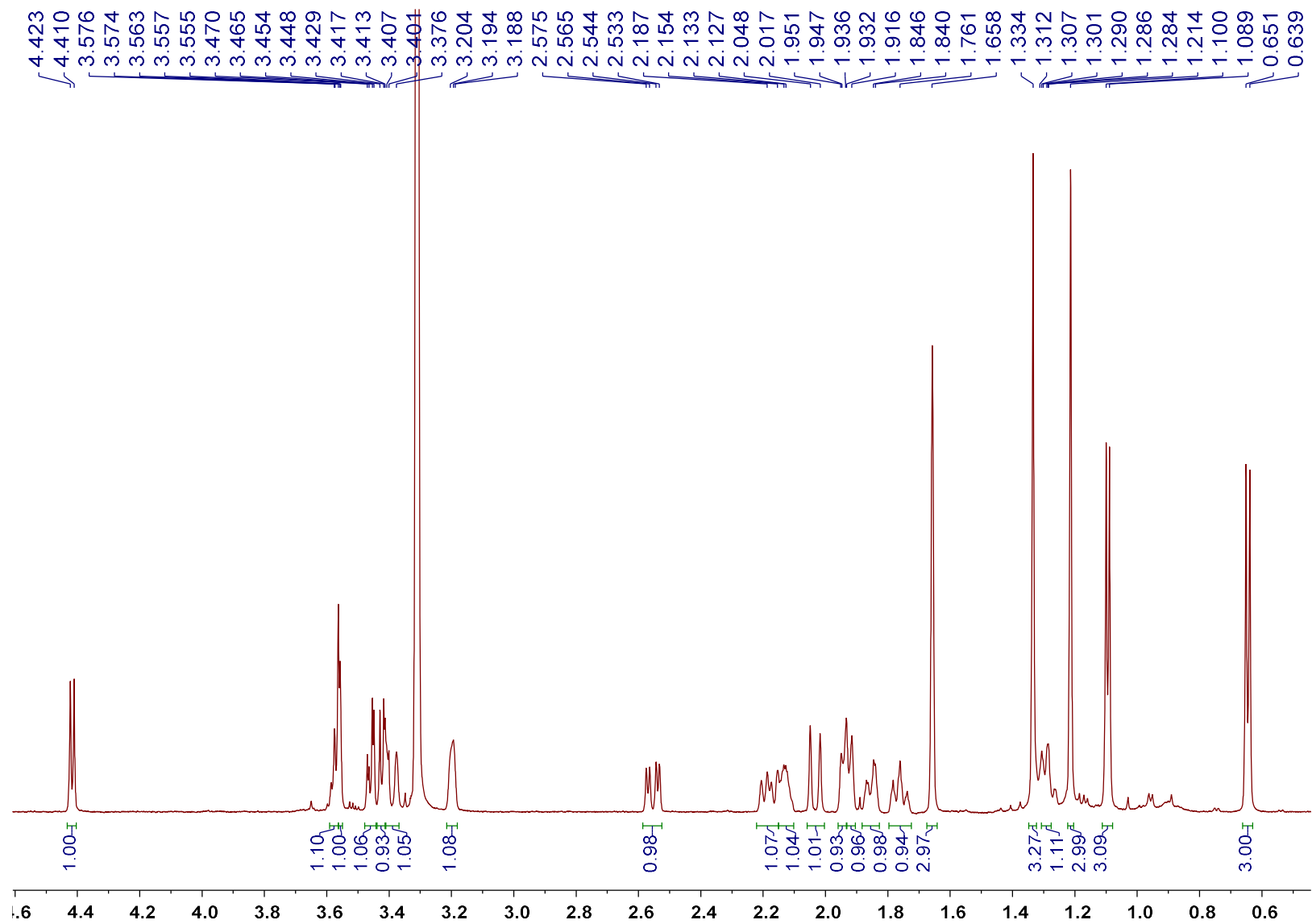


Figure S37. The ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **4** in CD_3OD

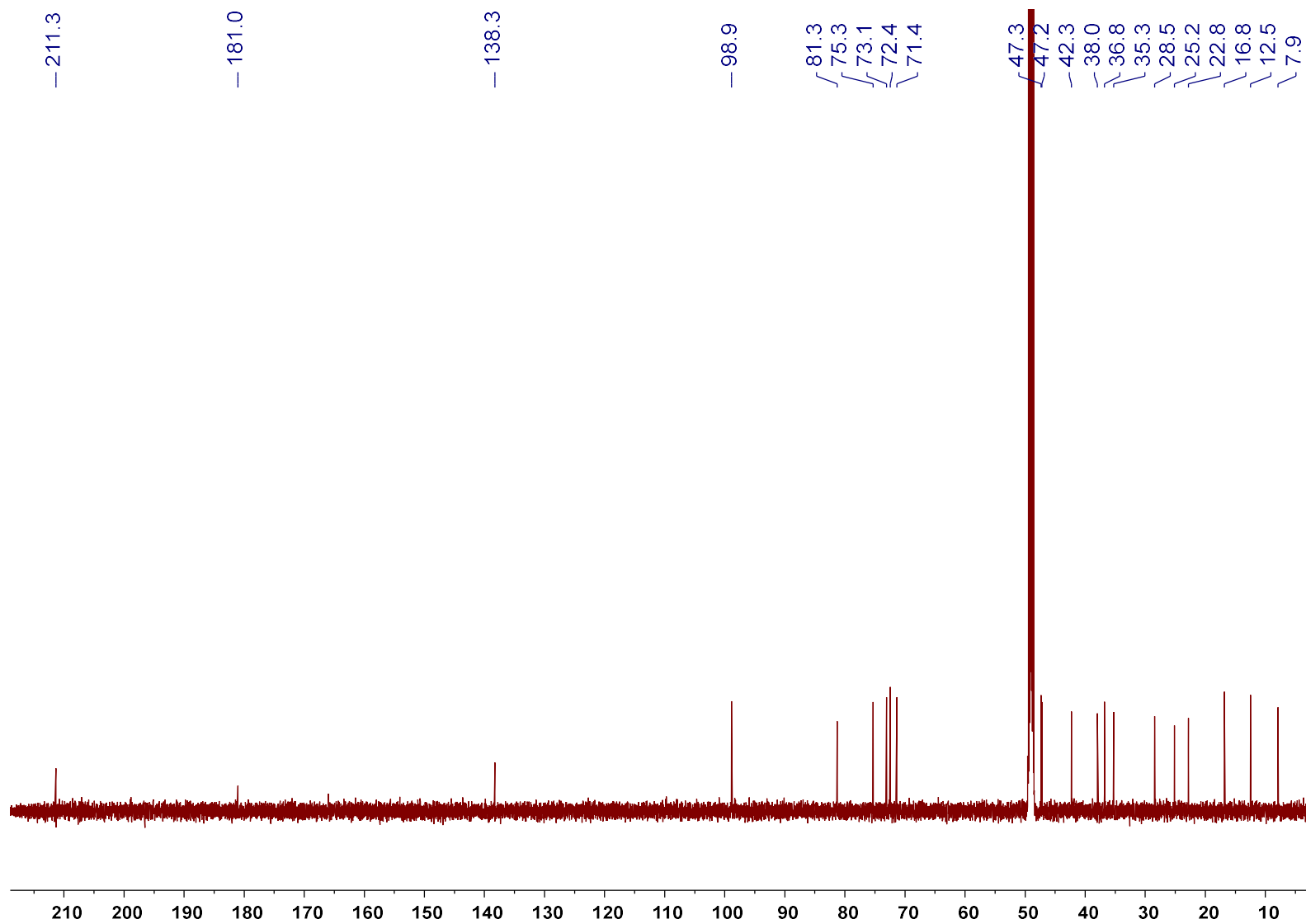


Figure S38. The ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 4 in CD₃OD

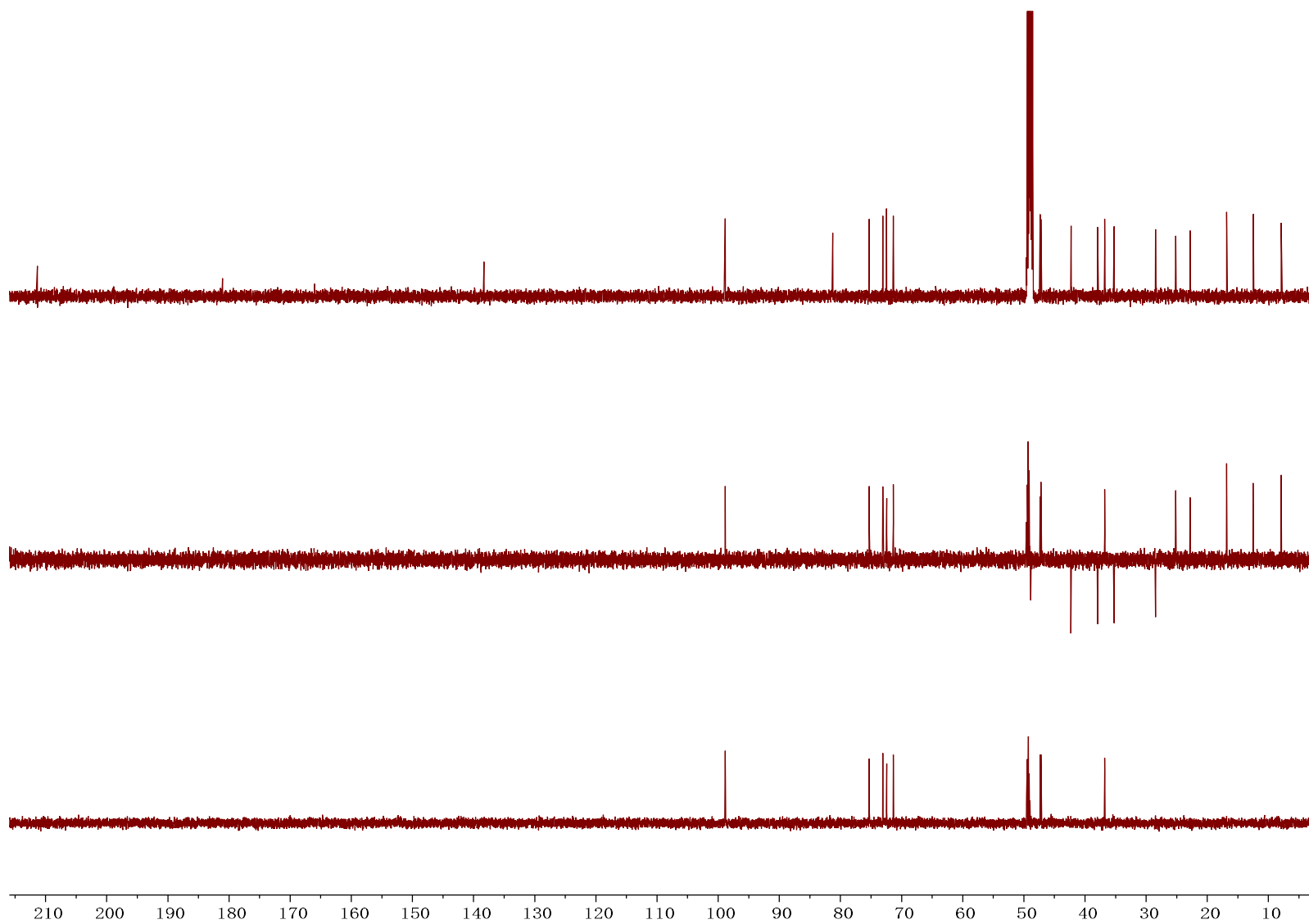


Figure S39. The DEPT spectrum of compound **4** in CD₃OD

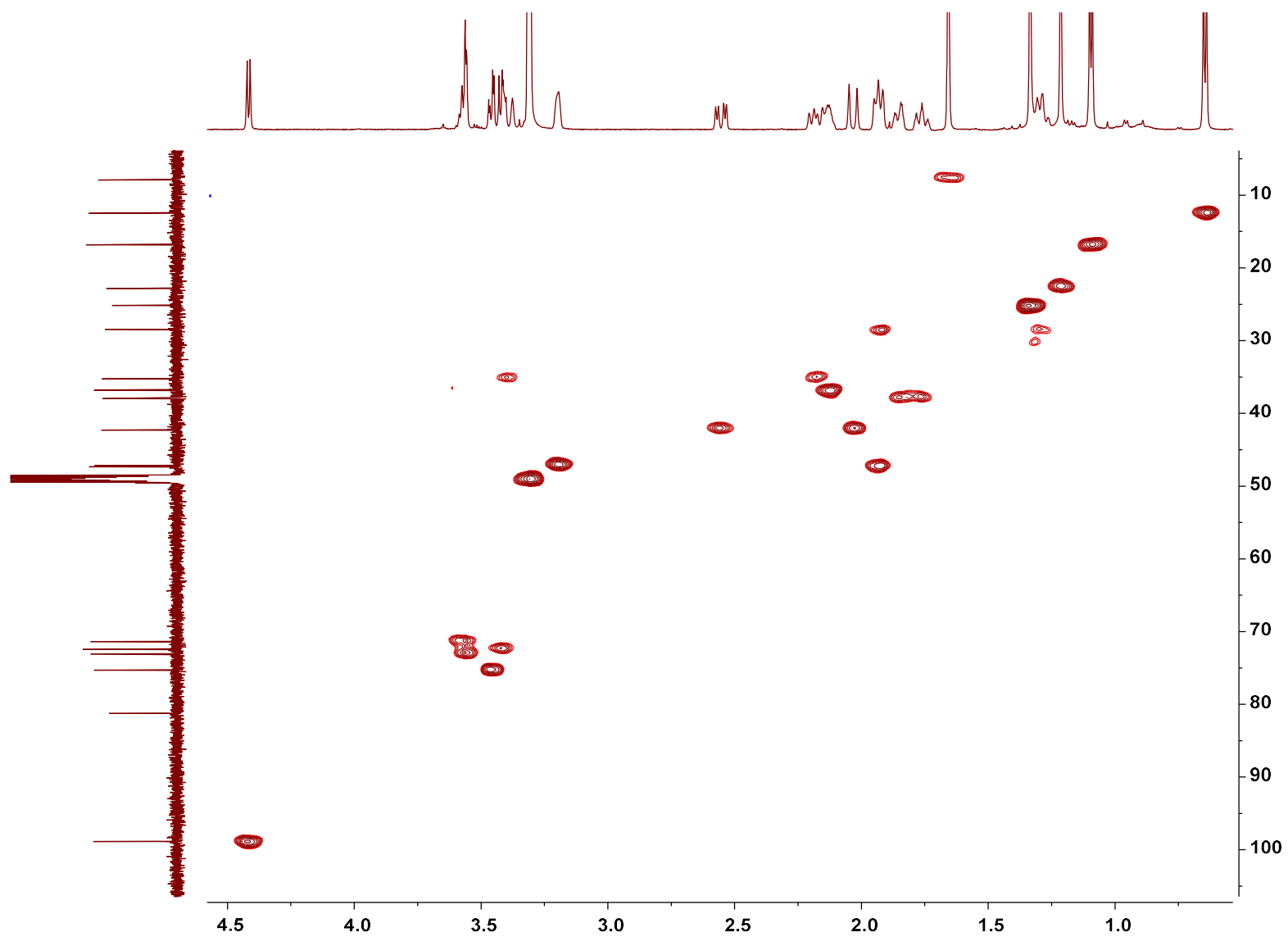
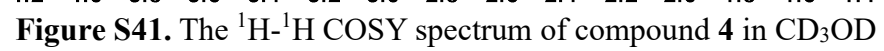


Figure S40. The HSQC spectrum of compound **4** in CD_3OD



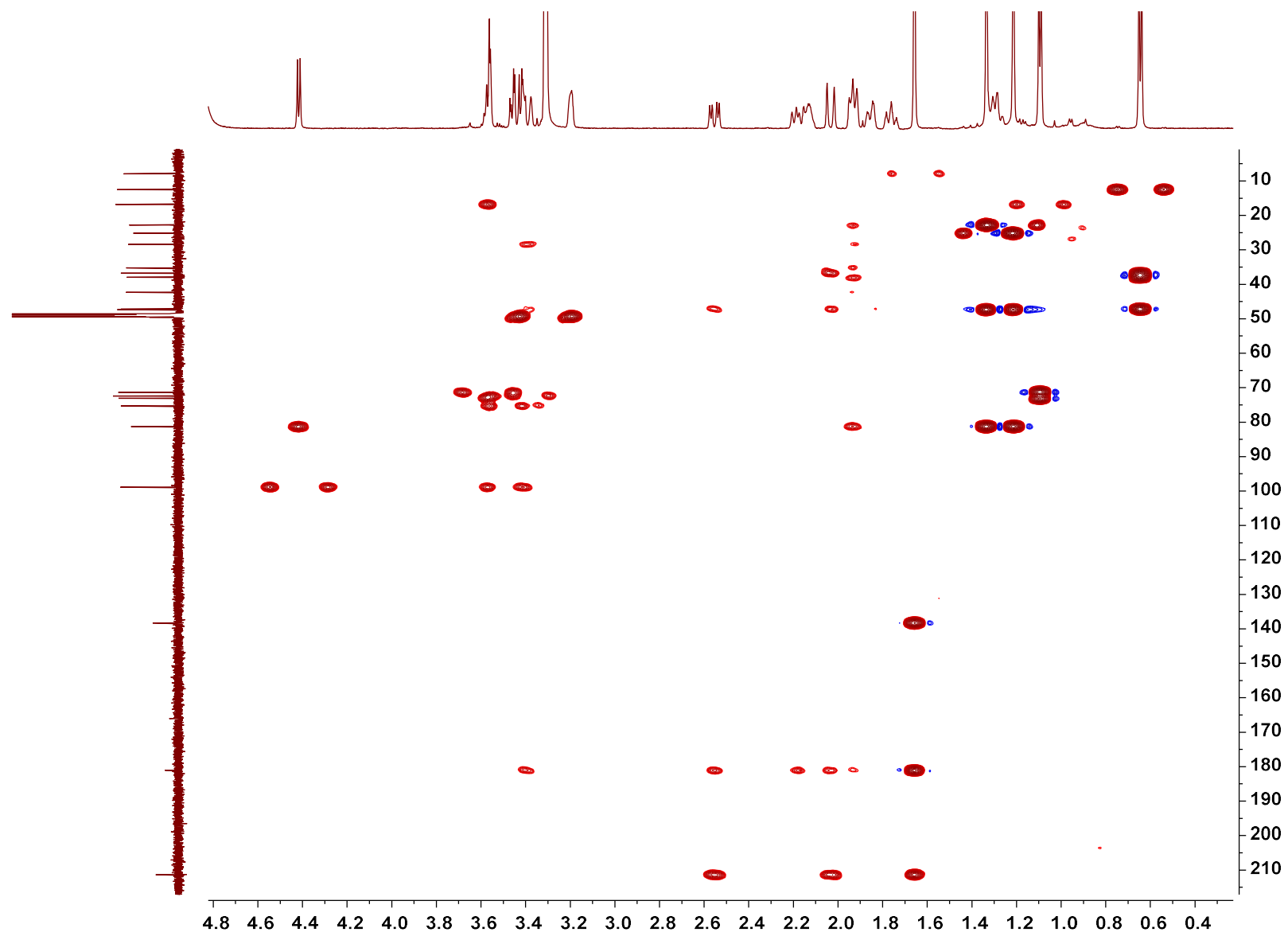


Figure S42. The HMBC spectrum of compound 4 in CD₃OD

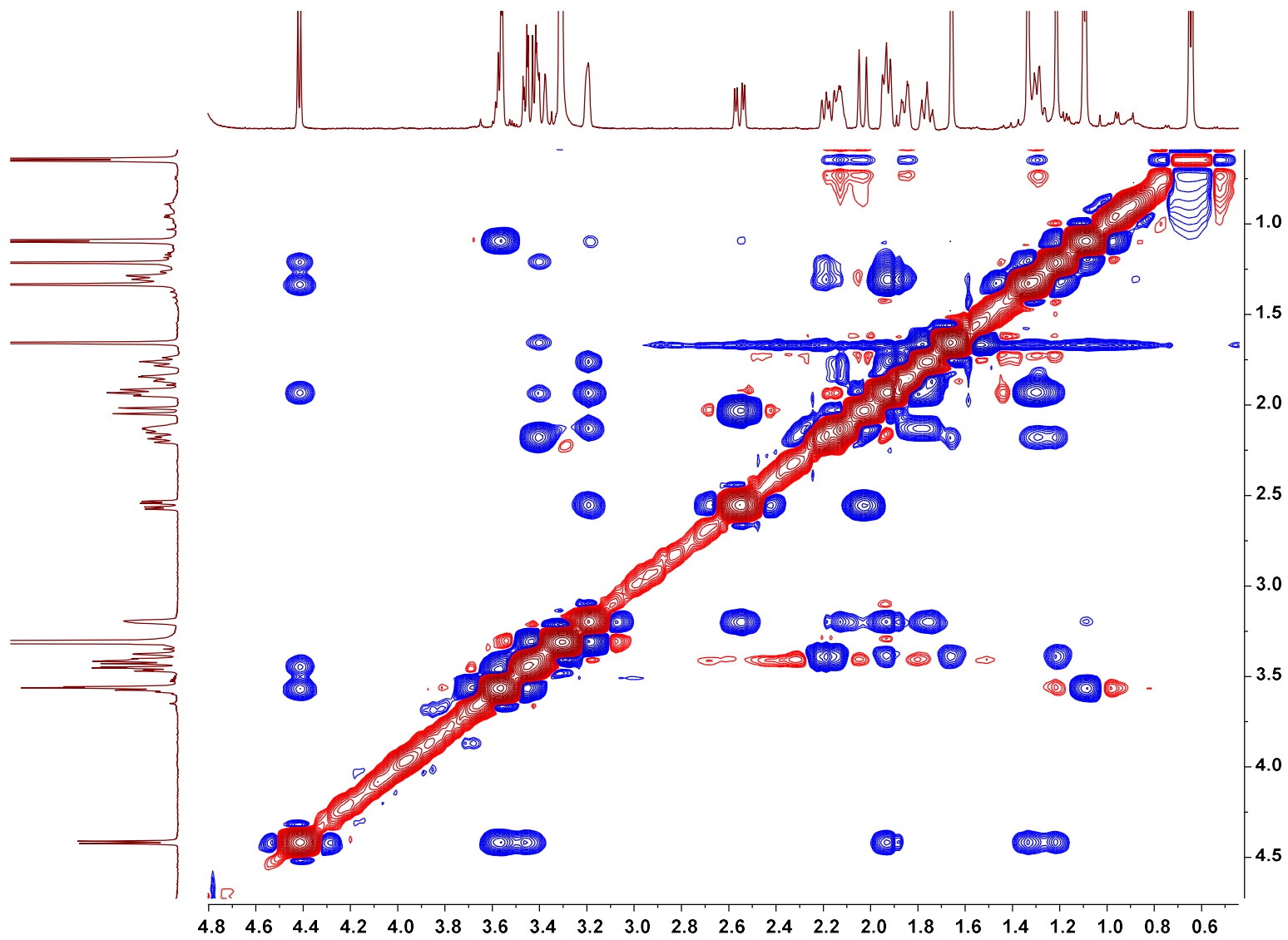


Figure S43. The NOESY spectrum of compound **4** in CD₃OD

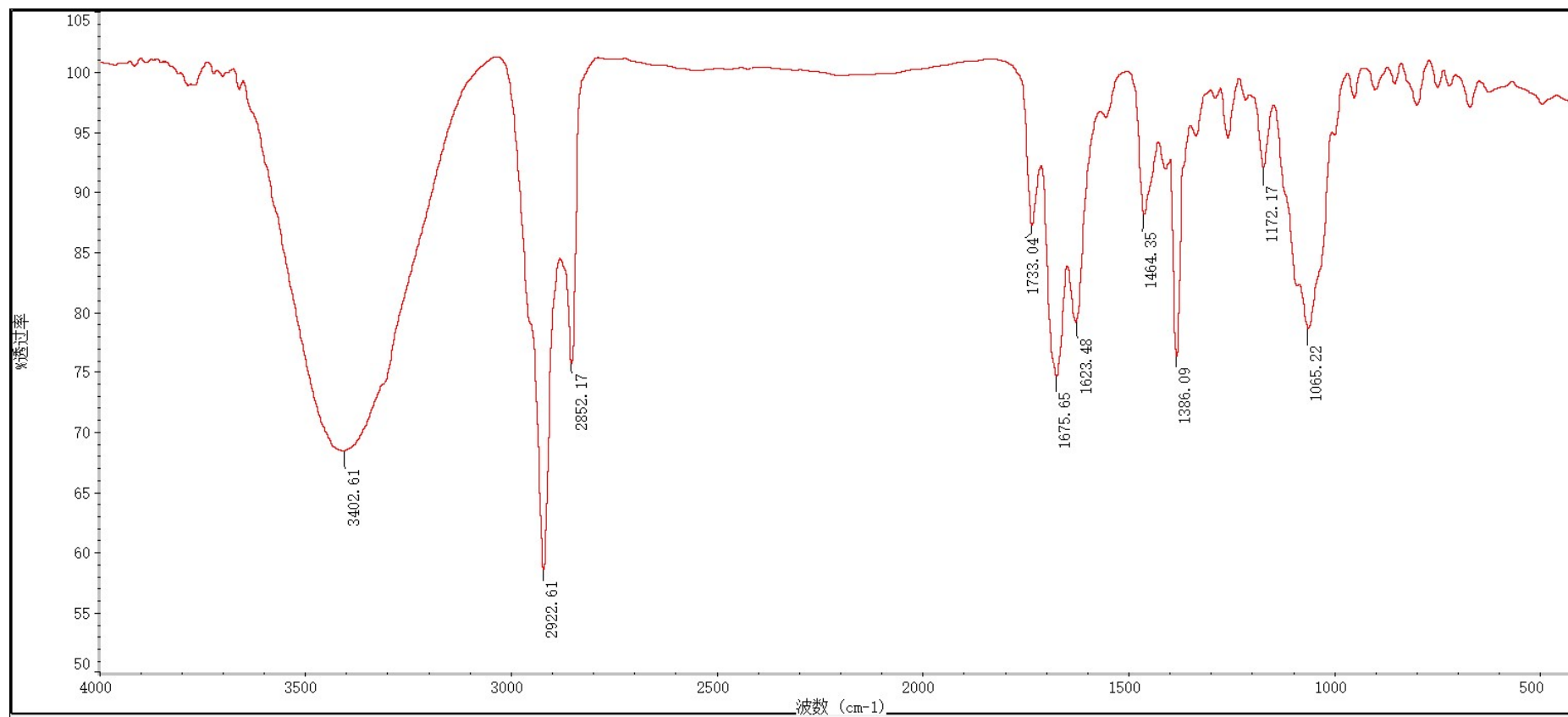


Figure S44. The IR spectrum of compound **4**

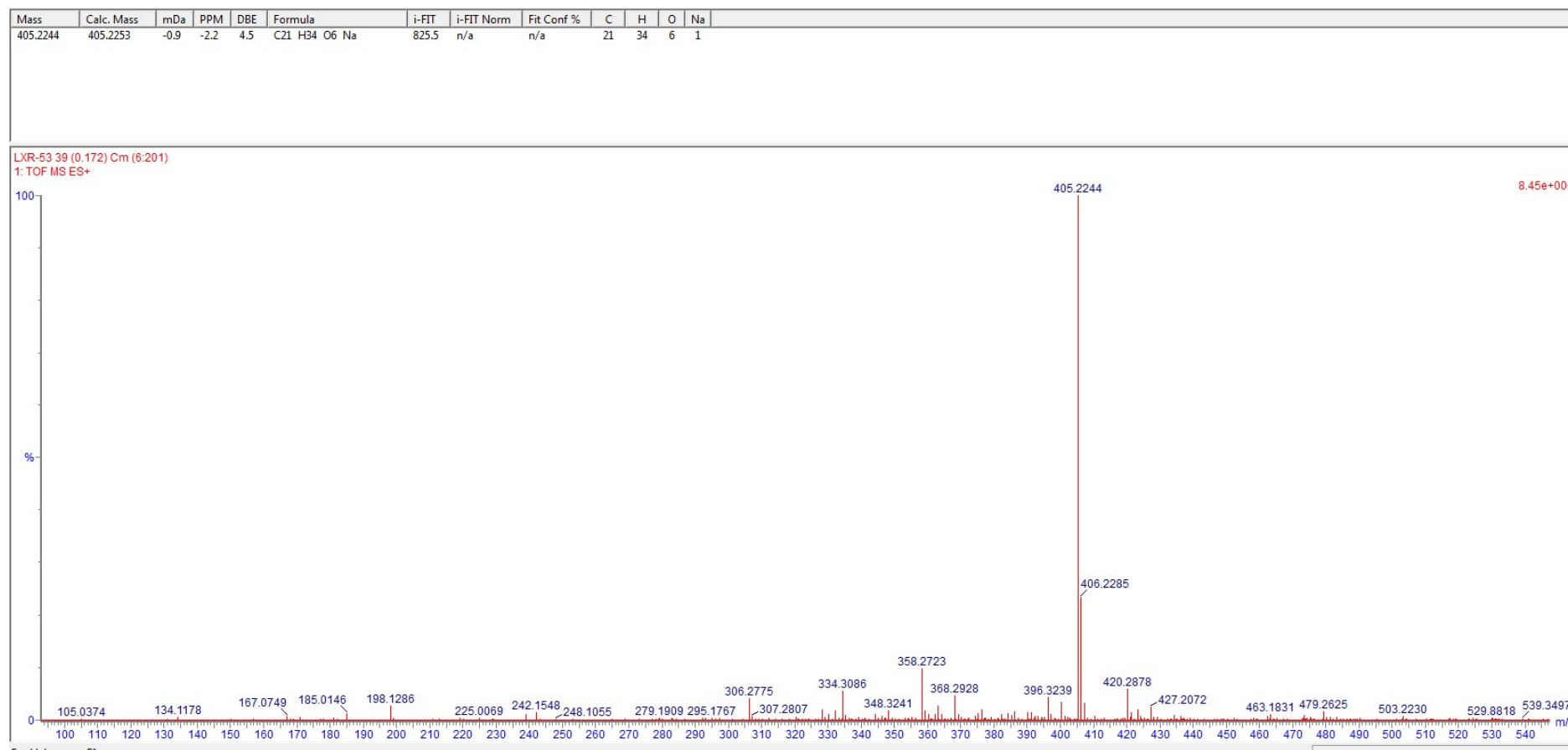


Figure S45. The (+)-HR-ESI-MS spectroscopic data of compound **4**

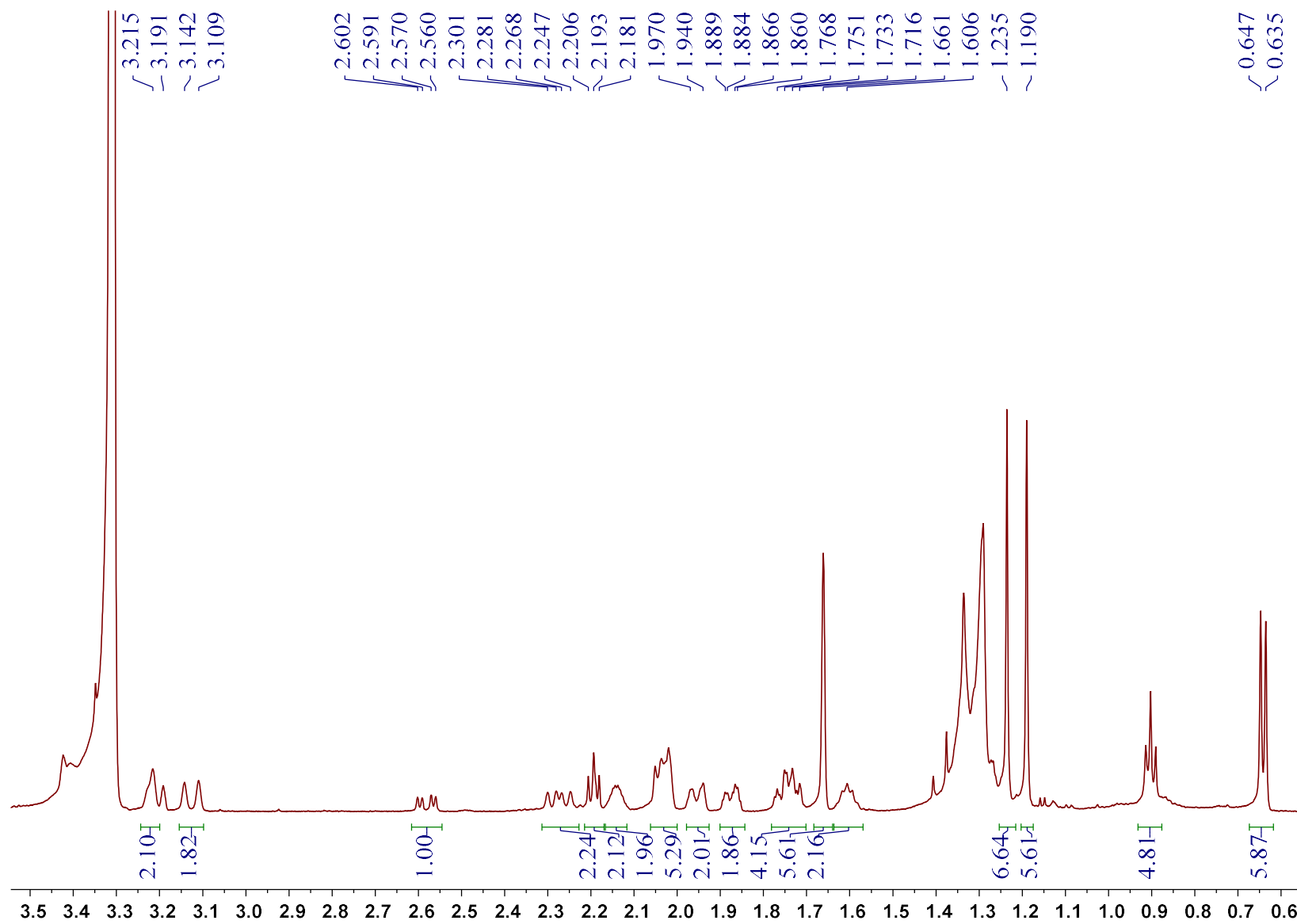


Figure S46. The ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **4a** in CD_3OD

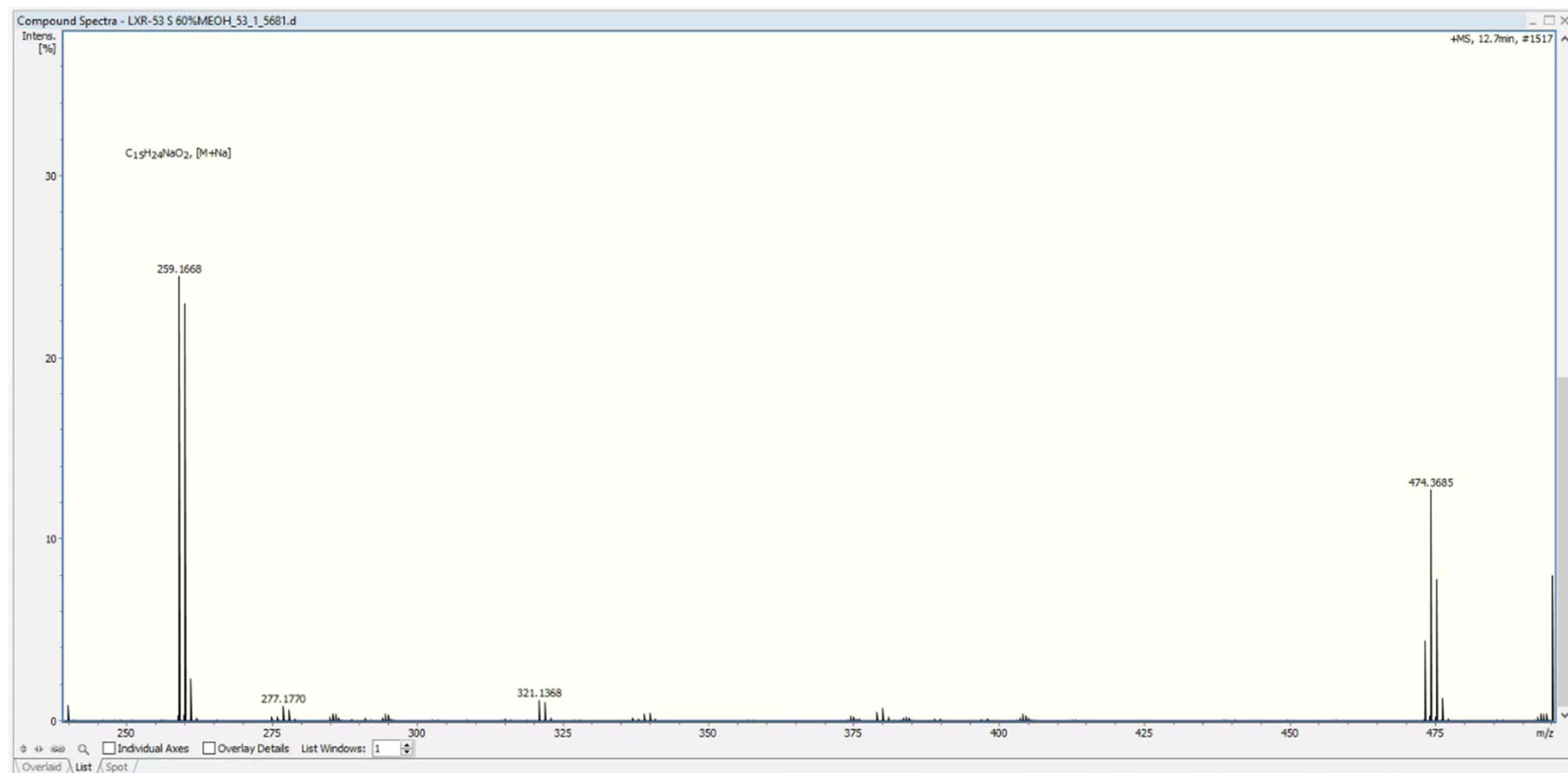


Figure S47. The (+)-HR-ESI-MS spectroscopic data of compound **4a**

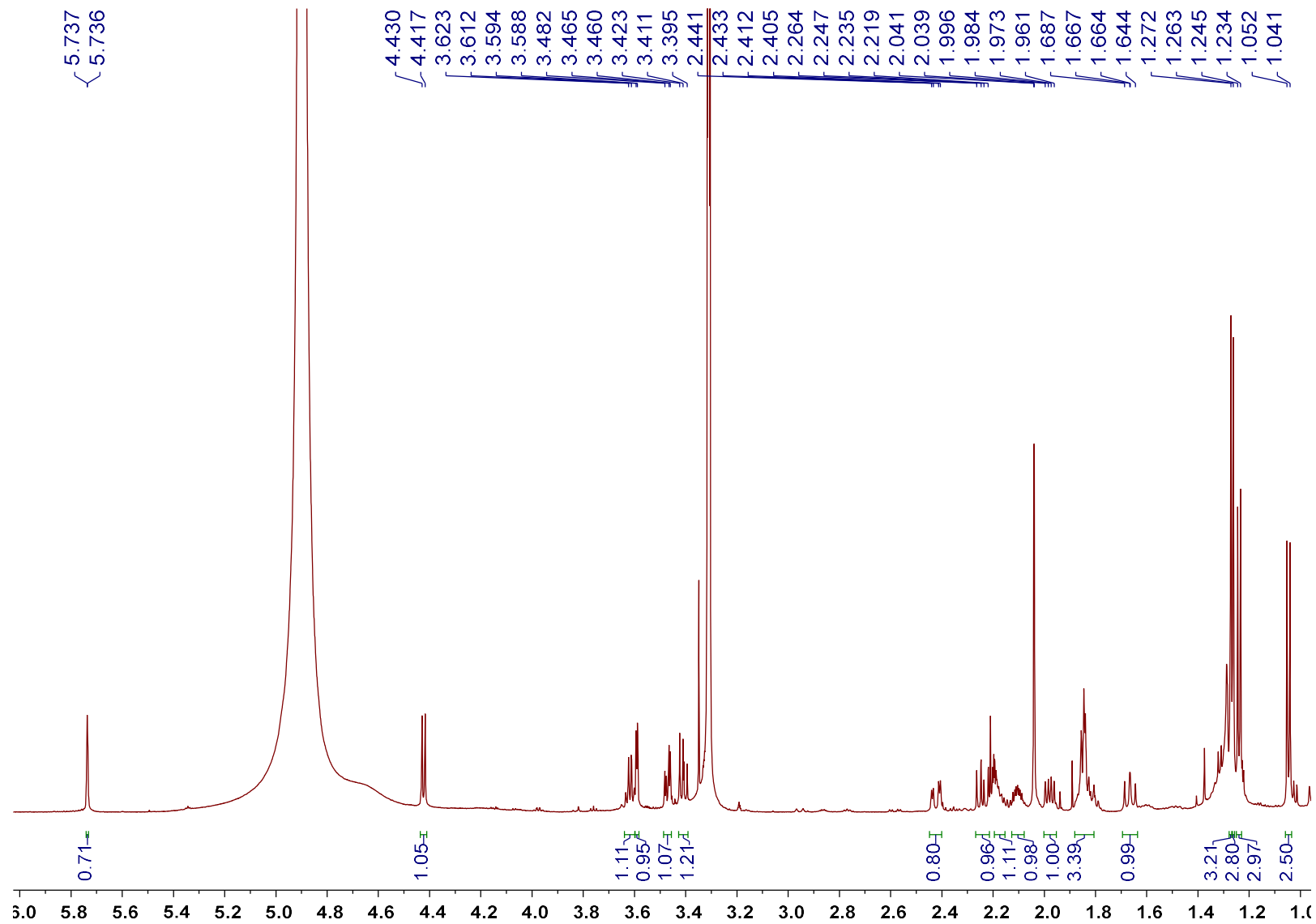


Figure S48. The ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **5** in CD_3OD

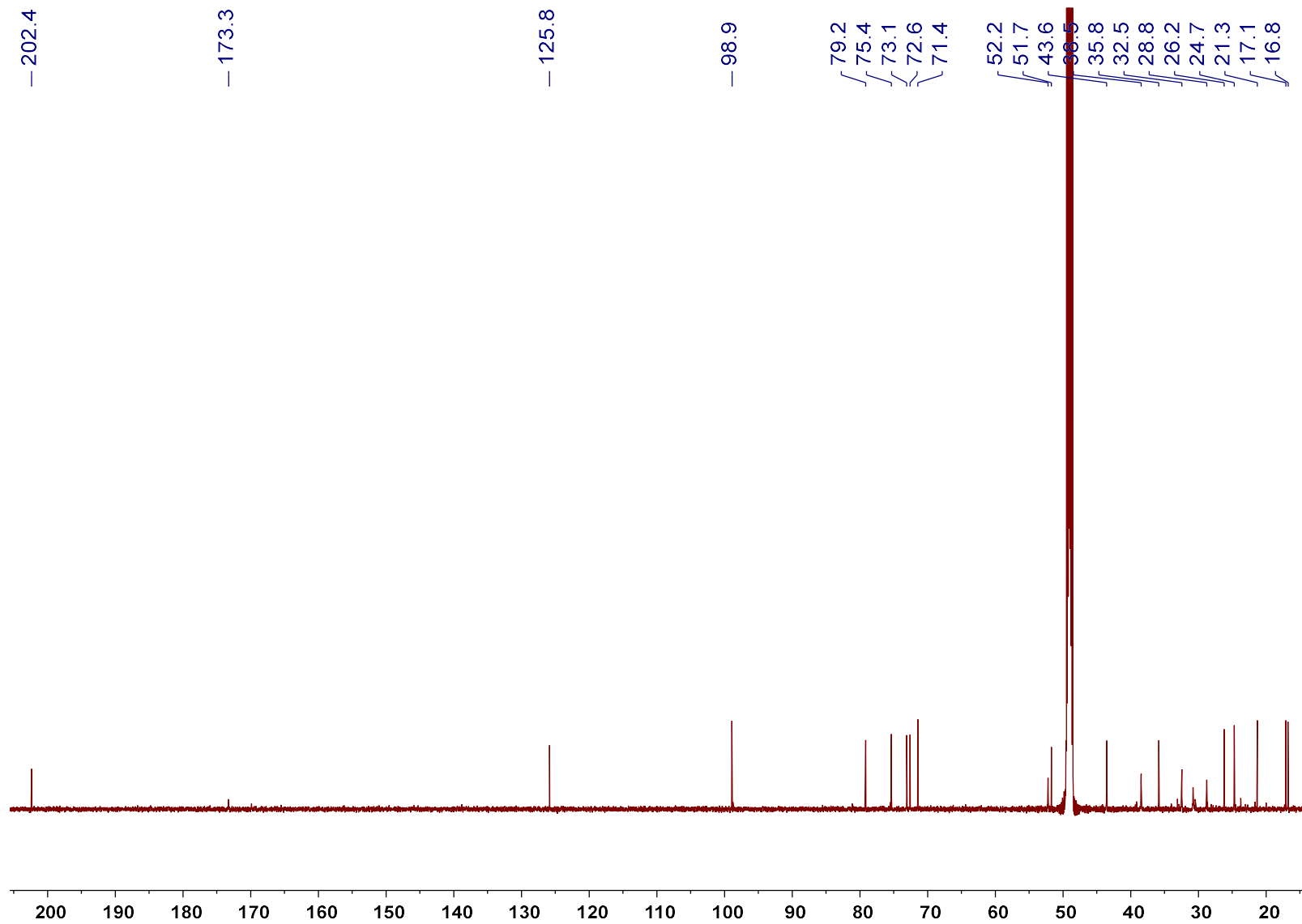


Figure S49. The ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **5** in CD₃OD

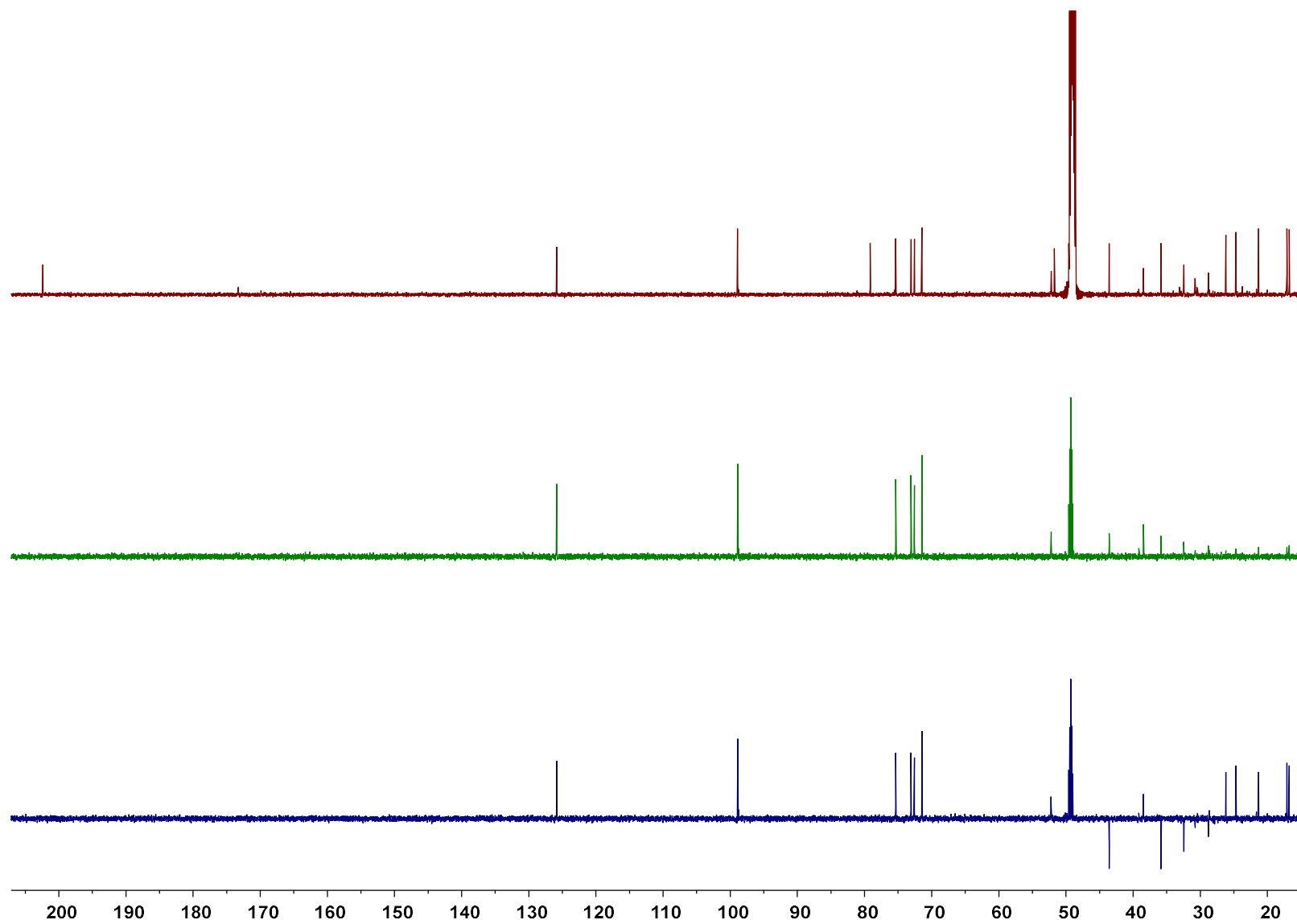


Figure S50. The DEPT spectrum of compound **5** in CD₃OD

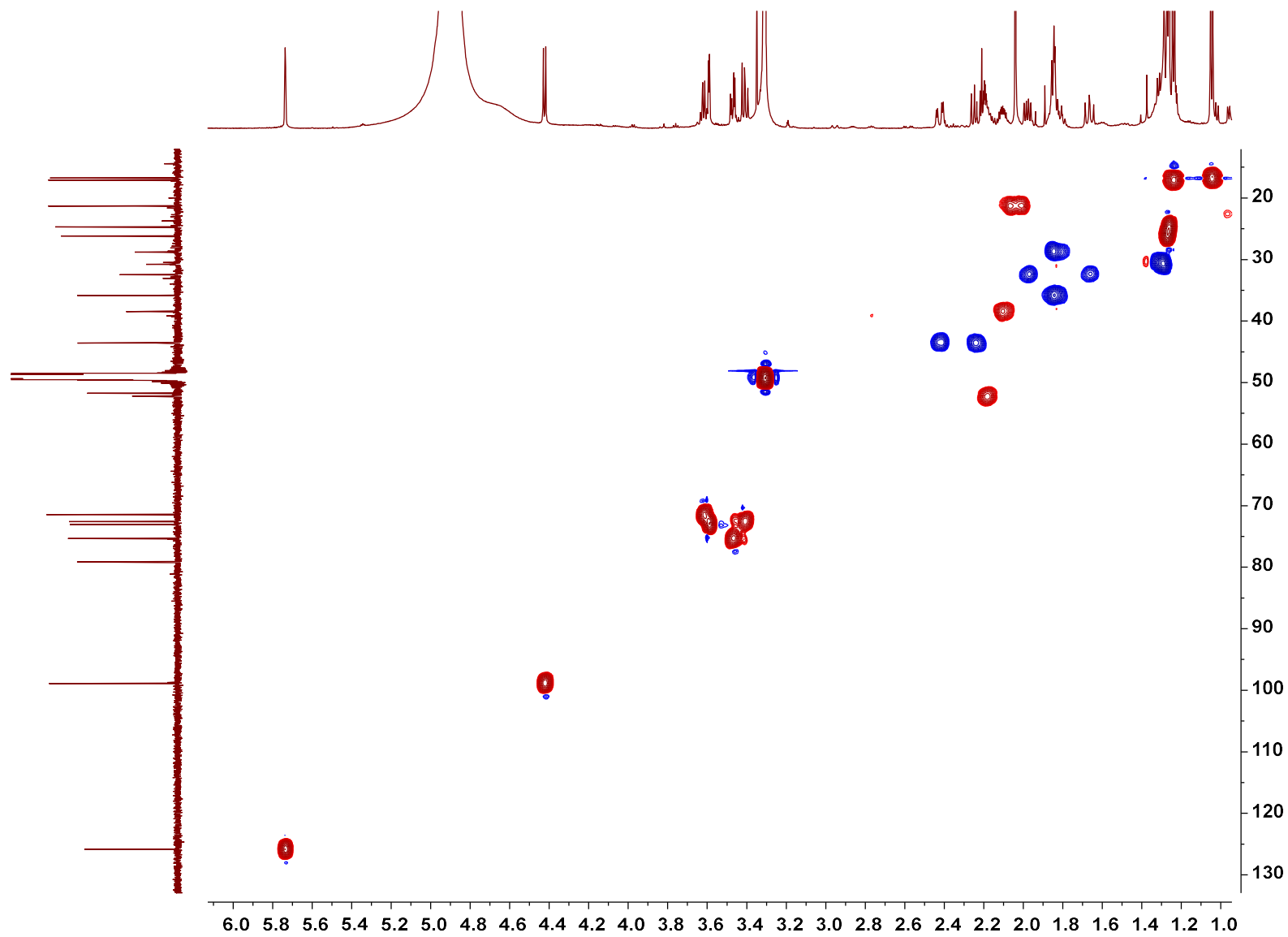


Figure S51. The HSQC spectrum of compound **5** in CD₃OD

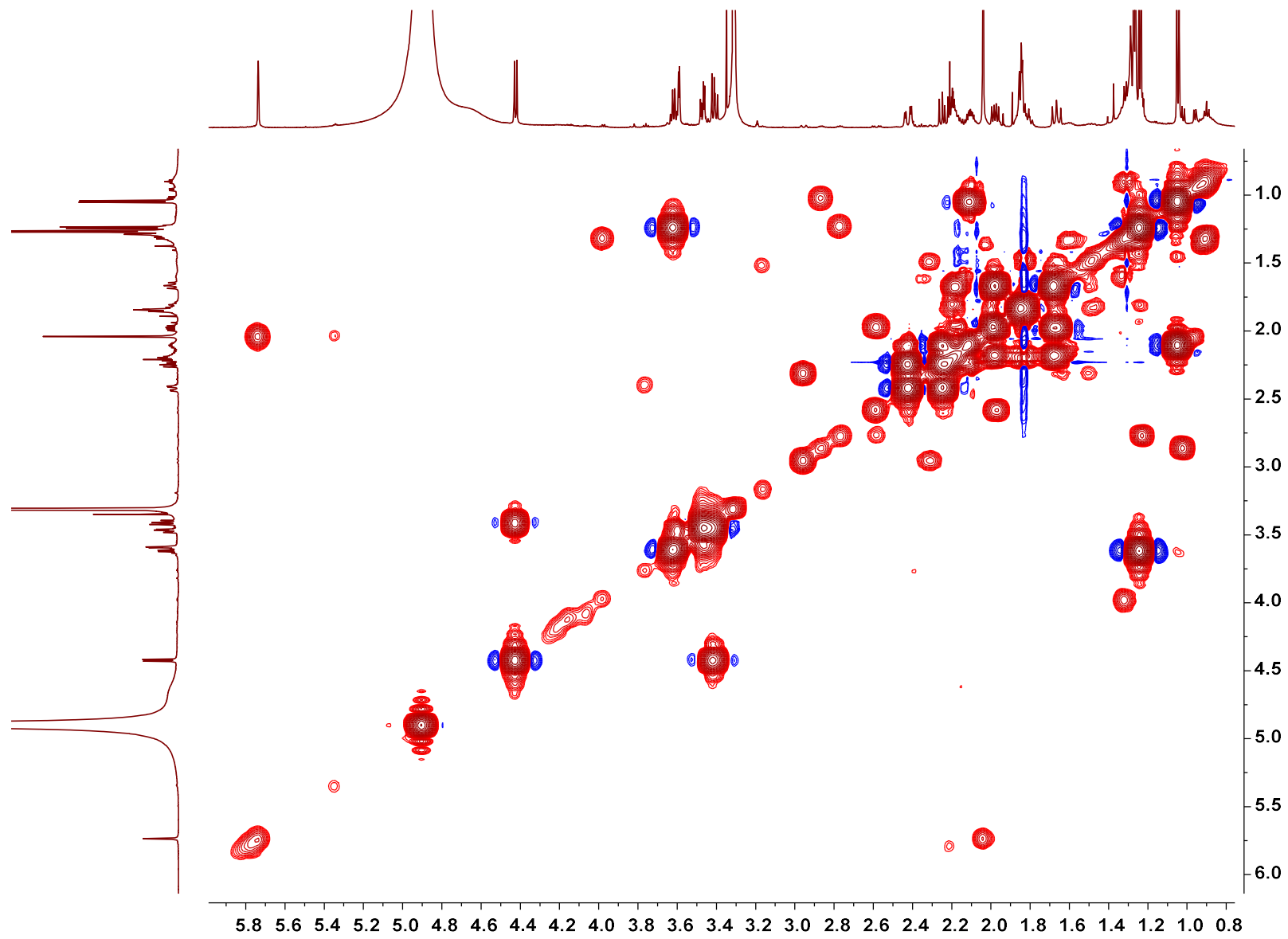


Figure S52. The ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of compound **5** in CD_3OD

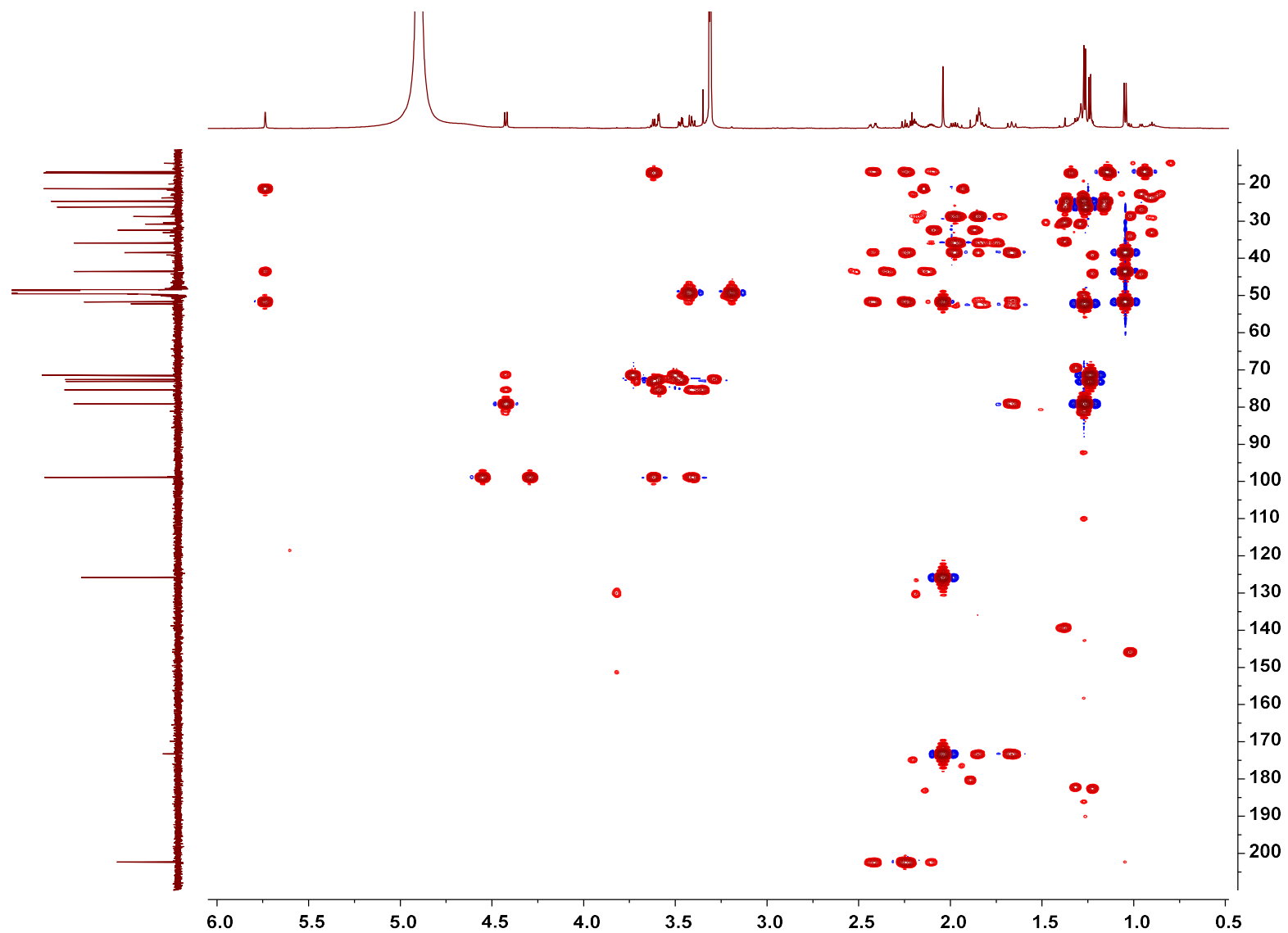


Figure S53. The HMBC spectrum of compound **5** in CD₃OD

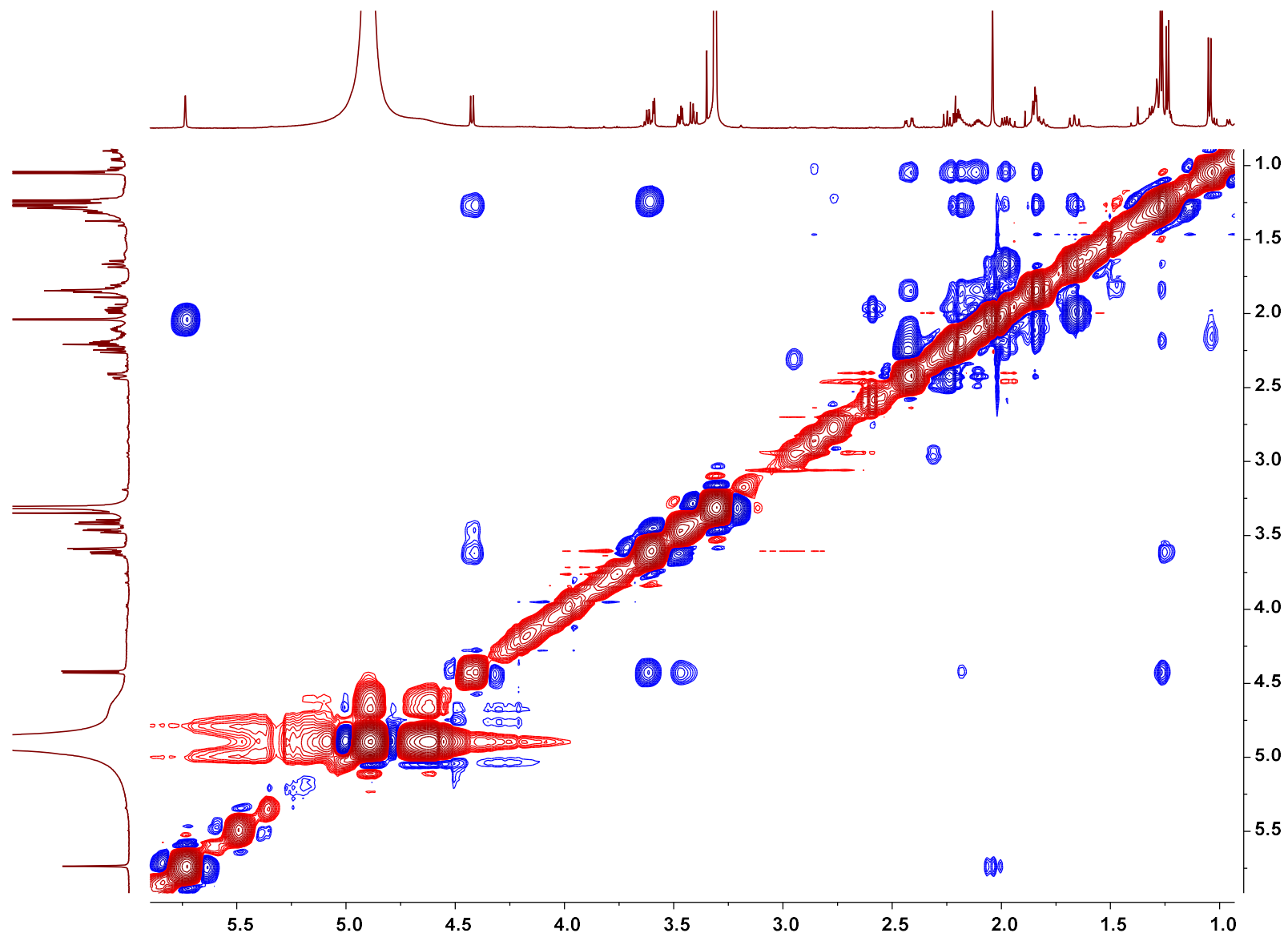


Figure S54. The NOESY spectrum of compound **5** in CD₃OD

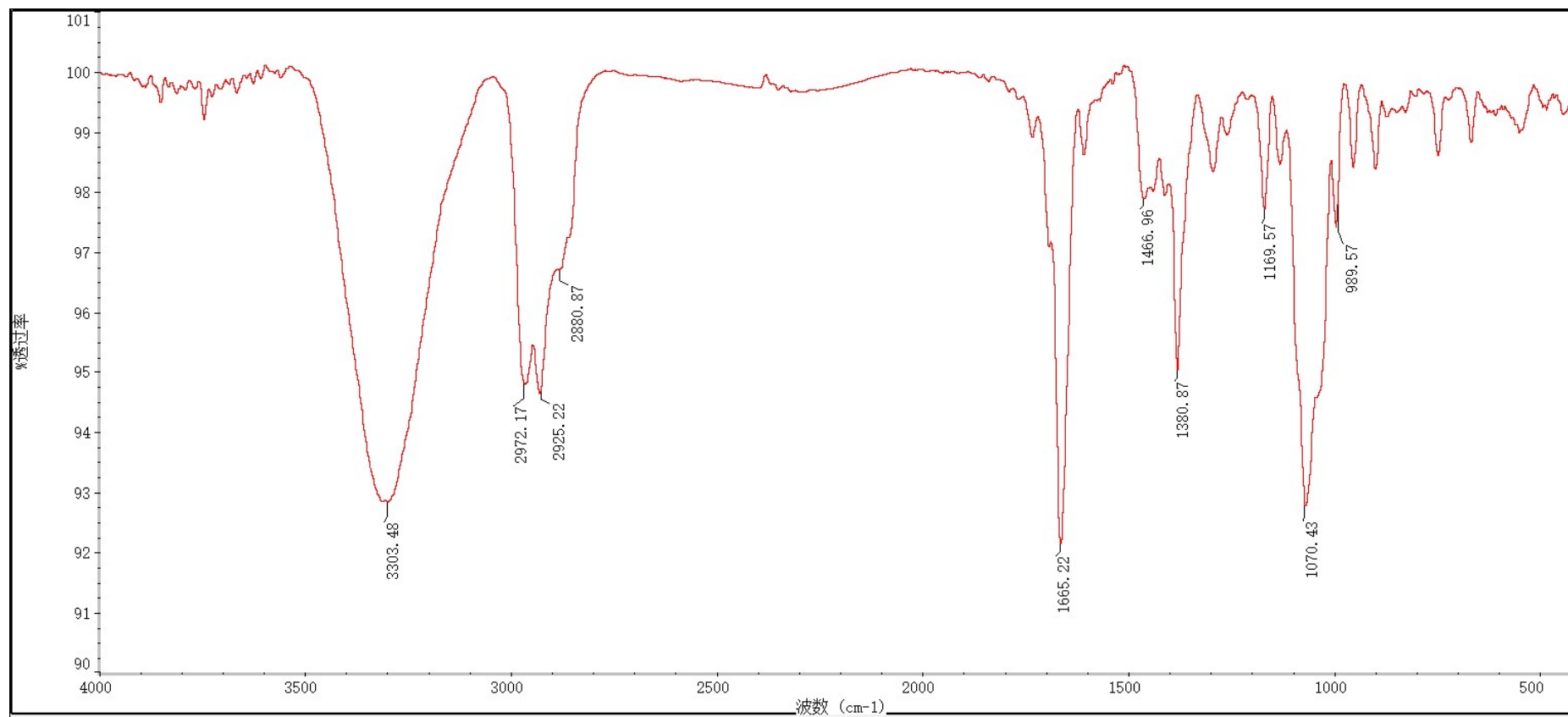


Figure S55. The IR spectrum of compound **5**

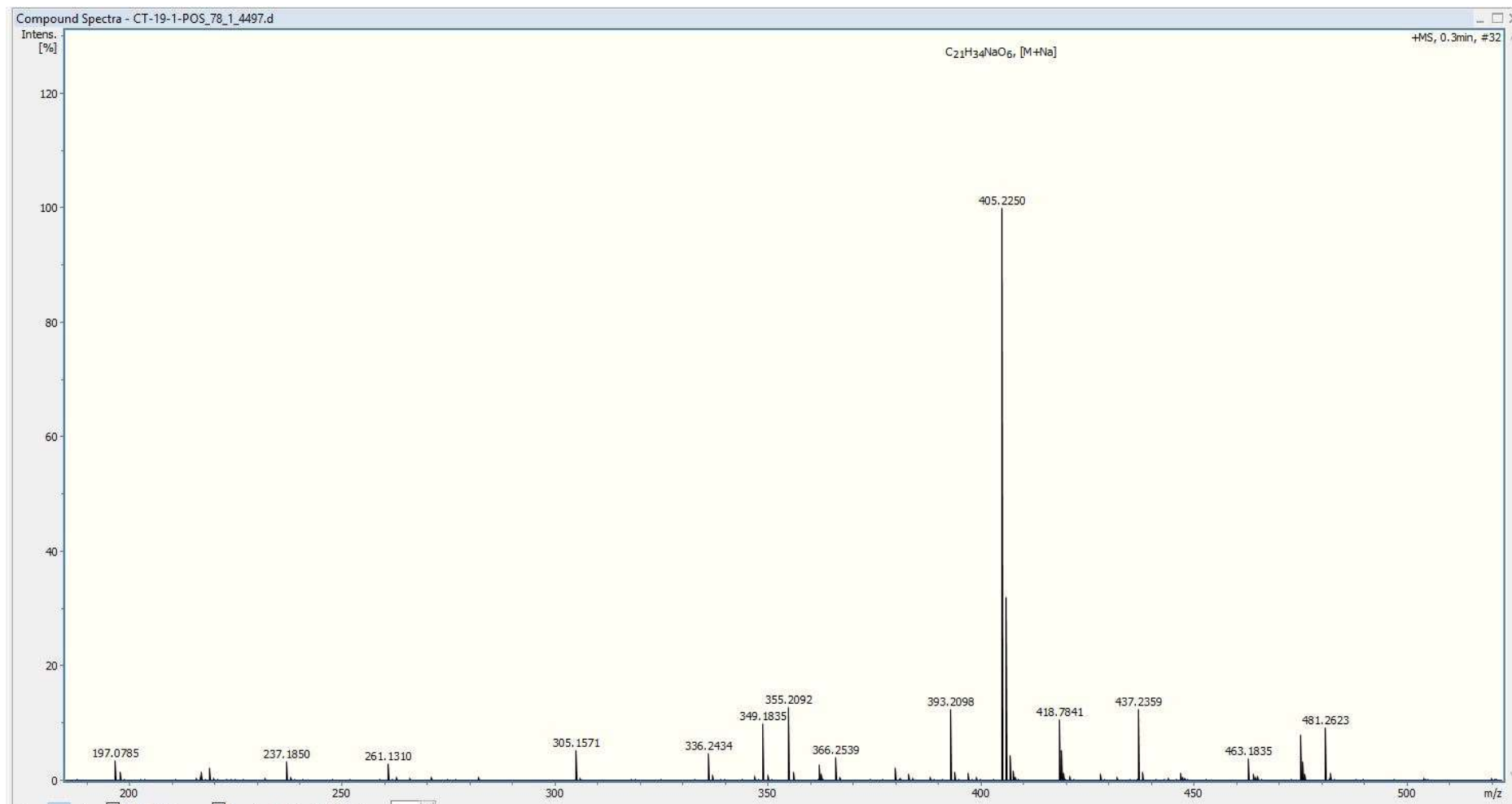


Figure S56. The (+)-HR-ESI-MS spectroscopic data of compound **5**

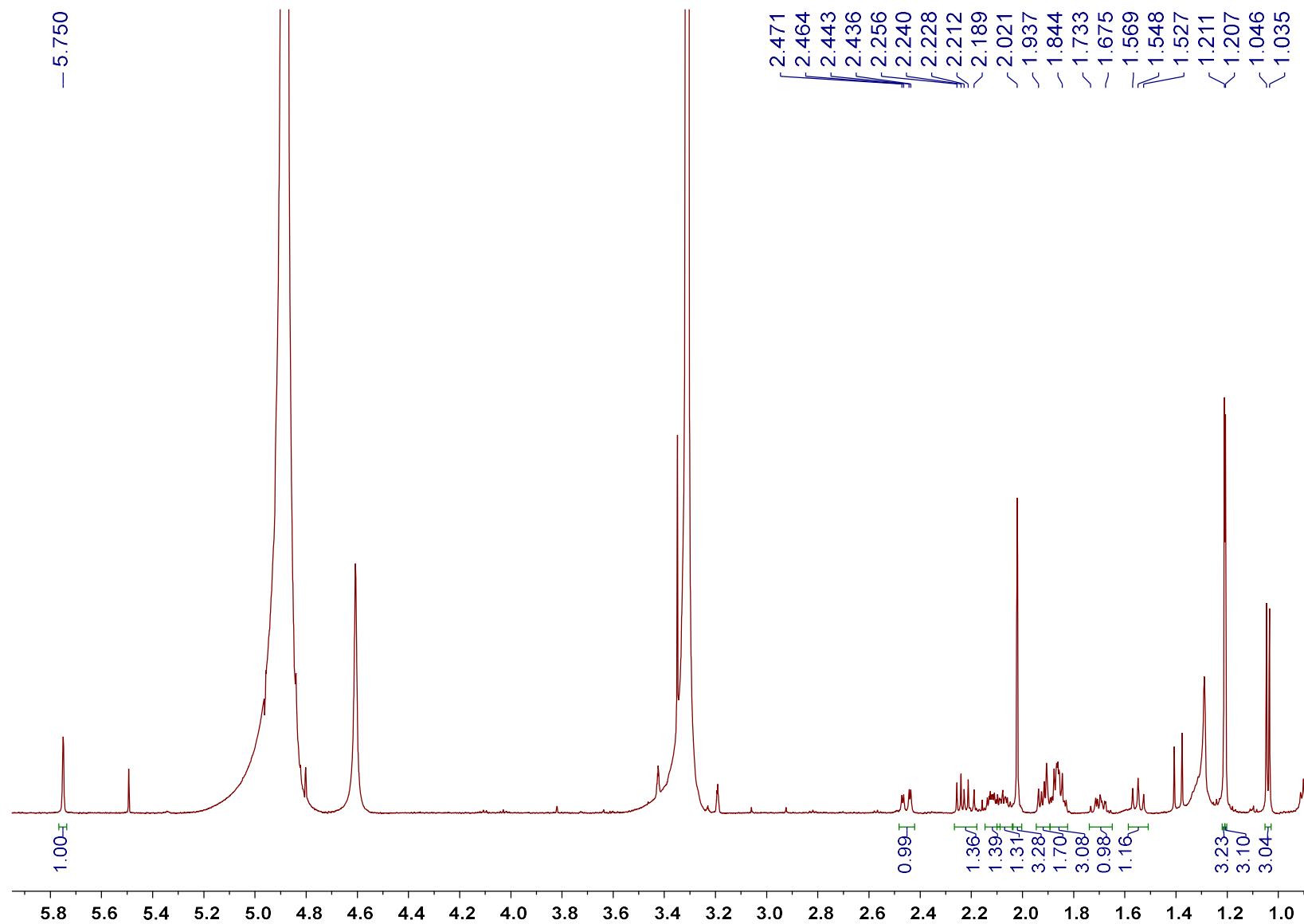


Figure S57. The ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **5a** in CD_3OD

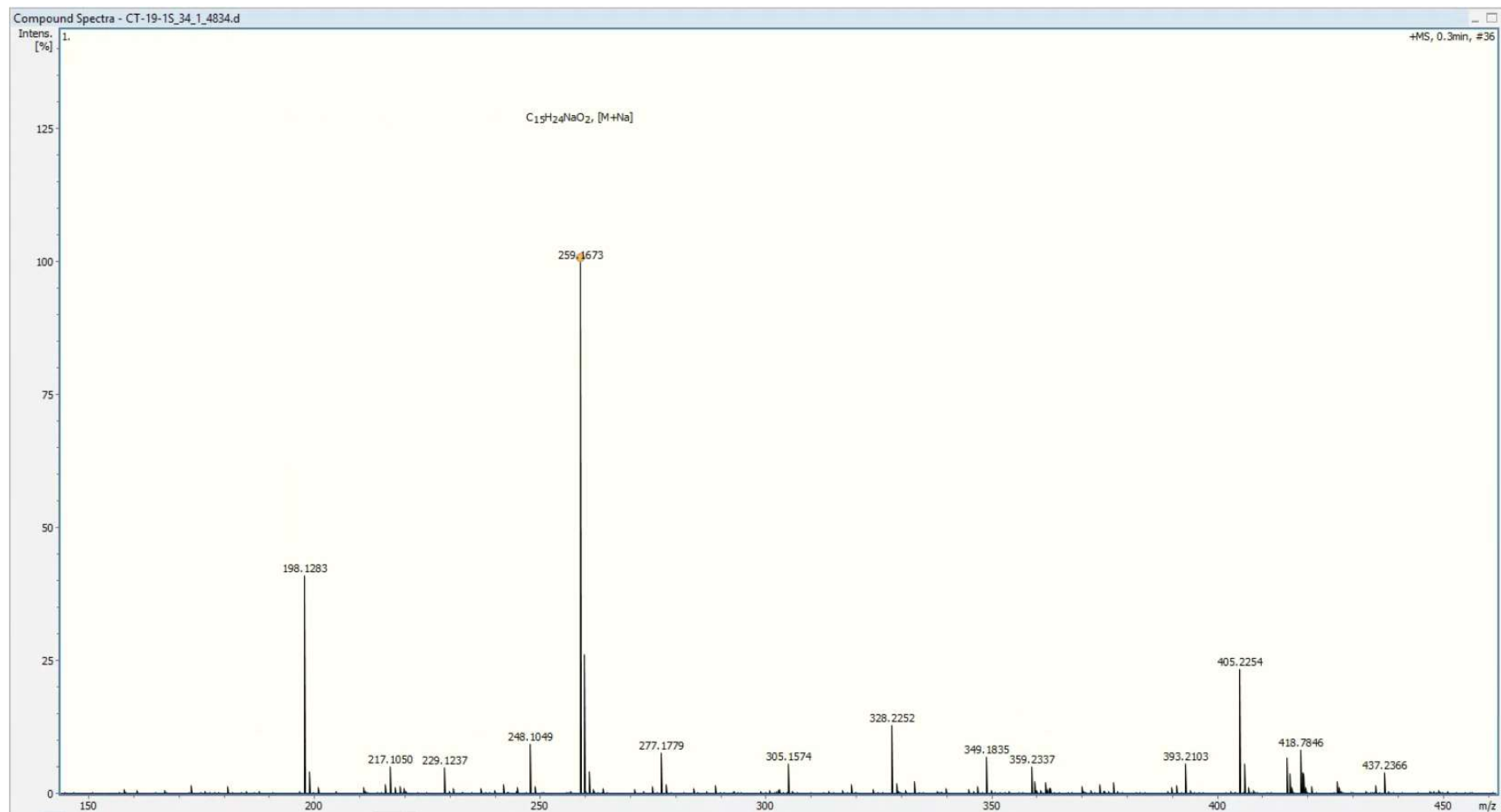


Figure S58. The (+)-HR-ESI-MS spectroscopic data of compound **5a**