

## Supporting Materials

### **1,2,4-Triazole-tethered indolinones as new cancer-fighting small molecules targeting VEGFR-2: Synthesis, biological evaluations and molecular docking**

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## 1. Anti-proliferative activity against HepG2 and PANC1 cancer cell lines

The examined human cancer HepG2 and PANC1 cell lines have been obtained from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC). Cells lines were maintained as monolayers in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% FBS, 2 mM L-glutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin and 100 µg/ml streptomycin sulfate. Cells were sub-cultured with trypsin /EDTA solution, counted with haemocytometer and plated onto 96-well plates (5000 cells/well) and left overnight to form a semi-confluent monolayer. Cell monolayers were treated in quadrates with vehicle (DMSO, 0.1% v/v), and test samples 1,2,4-triazole-tethered indolin-2-ones **11a-l** and **14a-d** for an exposure time of 48 h. At the end of exposure, MTT solution in PBS (5 mg/ml) was then added to all well including no cell blank and left to incubate for 90 min. The formation of formazan crystals were visually confirmed using phase contract microscopy. DMSO (100 µl/well) was added to dissolve the formazan crystals with shaking for 10 min after which the absorbance was read at 590 nm against no cell blanks on a FLuo Star Optima microplate reader (BMG technologies, Germany). Cell proliferation was calculated comparing the OD values of the DMSO control wells and those of the samples represented as % proliferation to the control. Dose-response experiment was performed on samples producing > or =50% loss of cell proliferation using five serial 2-fold dilutions (50, 25, 12.5, 6.25 and 3.125 µM) of the sample. IC<sub>50</sub> values (concentration of sample causing 50% loss of cell proliferation of the vehicle control) were calculated using non-linear regression curve fitting of the dose response plots on GraphPad Prism V.6.0 software.

## 2. VEGFR-2 Kinase Assay

*In vitro* VEGFR-2 inhibitory activity of indolin-2-one derivatives **11d**, **11e**, **11g**, **11k** and **14c** was evaluated using serial dilutions (10, 5, 2.5, 1, 0.1, 0.01  $\mu$ M) against VEGFR-2 Kinase Assay Kits (Cat. No.# 40325 BPS Bioscience) according to manufacturer's instructions. In brief, the master mixture was produced (25  $\mu$ L per well) and poured into each well. Each well received 5  $\mu$ L of inhibitor solution designated as "Test Inhibitor". The "Positive Control" and "Blank" groups received 5  $\mu$ L of the same solution without the inhibitor (Inhibitor buffer). In order to prepare 3 mL of kinase buffer, 600  $\mu$ L of kinase buffer were combined with 2400  $\mu$ L of water. The blank wells received 20  $\mu$ L of kinase buffer. The amount of VEGFR-2 required for the test was measured and the enzyme was diluted to 1 ng/  $\mu$ L with kinase buffer. 20  $\mu$ L of diluted VEGFR-2 enzymes was added to the wells designated as "Test Inhibitor Control" and "Positive Control" to start the reaction and the mixtures were incubated at 30  $^{\circ}$ C for 45 minutes. After the 45 minutes, each well received 50  $\mu$ L of KinaseGlo Max reagent and the plate was incubated at room temperature for 15 minutes. The luminescence was measured with a microplate reader.

The autophosphorylation percentage inhibition by compounds was calculated using the following equation:

$$100\% - [(negative\ control)/(positive\ control) - (negative\ control)]$$

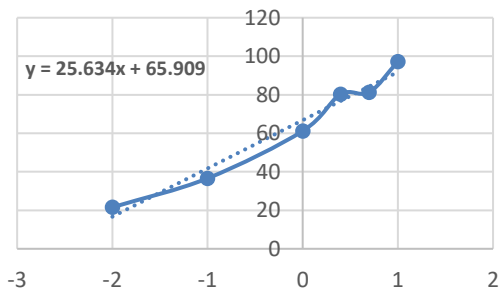
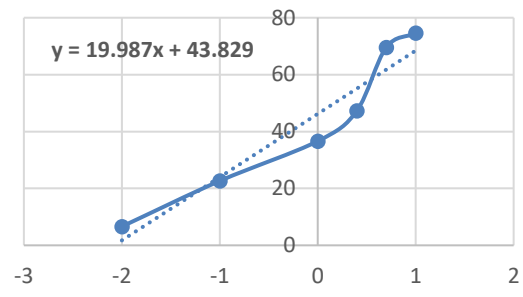
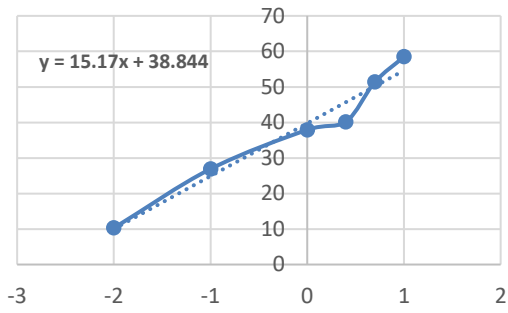
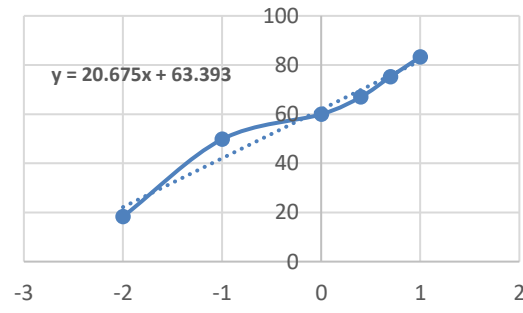
Using the curves of percentage inhibition of five concentrations of each compound, IC<sub>50</sub> was calculated.

### 3. Molecular Docking

The complete docking analysis utilized Vina Autodock software to predict binding affinities and protein-ligand interactions. The \*.pdb format of the 3D crystal structure of 4ASD complexed with Sorafenib was obtained from RCSB PDB. The protein structural file was subsequently dehydrated and separated from its cocrystallized ligand to save them individually in \*.pdb format. MarvinSketch was used to draw the proposed compound **11d**. Since Vina Autodock necessitates the target protein and ligands to be in pdbqt format, MGL tools were created to generate the required \*.pdbqt files. The exhaustiveness parameter was set to 32, and the grid box size was 20Åx20Åx20Å, with the center based on the co-crystallized ligand's position in the VEGFR-2 active site. Protocol validation was conducted by the re-docking of the co-crystallized ligand, and the RMSD values were calculated using AutoDock Tools. The previous steps resulted in an RMSD value of 1.15 Å, highlighting the docking validity. Finally, compound **11d** was docked into the VEGFR-2 pre-established active site. The screened compound results were analyzed and visualized using Discovery Studio Visualizer software which generated 2D and 3D interactions for the docked poses.

### 3. Molecular Dynamics

Three 100 ns molecular dynamic simulations (MDS) were executed using GROMACS 2023.2 software. Input structures for MDS were derived from the docking results and crystal coordinates of the VEGFR-2 enzyme complexed with compound **11d** and Sorafenib, respectively, as well as the apo VEGFR-2. PDB2gmX within GROMACS and AcPype Server, respectively, generated receptor and ligand topologies using the AMBER force field. The ligands and receptor topologies were rejoined to create three distinct systems. The standard GROMACS molecular dynamics protocol was then applied to all systems, encompassing solvation, neutralization, energy minimization under the AMBER force field, and two equilibration stages (NVT and NPT). Subsequently, a 100 ns unrestricted production stage was initiated for the two systems, utilizing the Particle Mesh Ewald (PME) method to compute long-range electrostatic values with a 12 Å cut-off and 12 Å Fourier spacing. The stability of the complexes was assessed through RMSD, RMSF, and hydrogen bond stability calculations derived from MDS trajectories during the production phase.

**11d****11e****11g****11k**

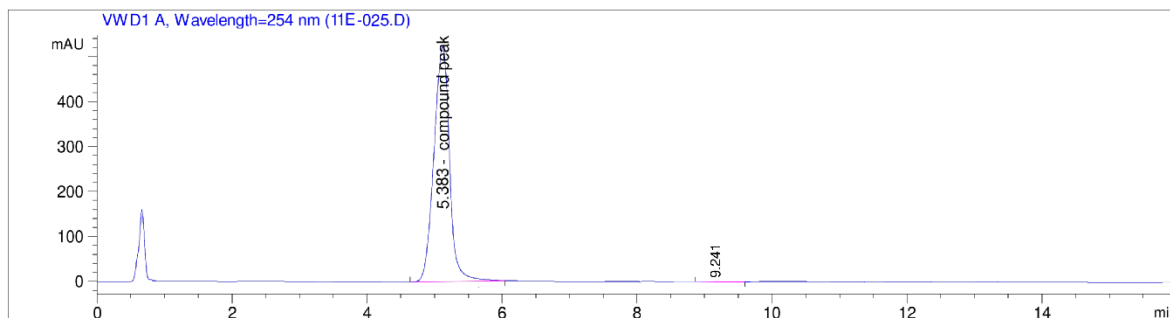
## HPLC Purity Analysis

**Table S1.** HPLC purity of the synthesized compounds **11e**, **11g**, **11k**, and **14c**.

| <b>Compound</b> | <b>Retention Time (minutes)</b> | <b>Purity (%)</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>11e</b>      | 06:38                           | 99.71             |
| <b>11g</b>      | 06:52                           | 97.41             |
| <b>11k</b>      | 05:80                           | 96.81             |
| <b>14c</b>      | 07:50                           | 99.70             |

Data File C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\11E-025.D  
Sample Name: 11e

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Acq. Instrument : HPLC                      Location : Vial 6
Injection Date  : 12/16/2023 5:29:36 AM
                                           Inj Volume : 5.000 µl
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Last changed    : 12/16/2023 5:45:00 AM by SYSTEM
                  (modified after loading)
Sample Info     : 40 ACN:60 phosphate buffer pH 3.7, Flow 1.50 mL/min, 254 nm, 5 µl injection
=====
```



```
=====
                          Area Percent Report
=====
```

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Dilution       :      1.0000
Sample Amount:      :      0.500 [mg/ml] (not used in calc.)
Do not use Multiplier & Dilution Factor with ISTDs
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Signal 1: VWD1 A, Wavelength=254 nm

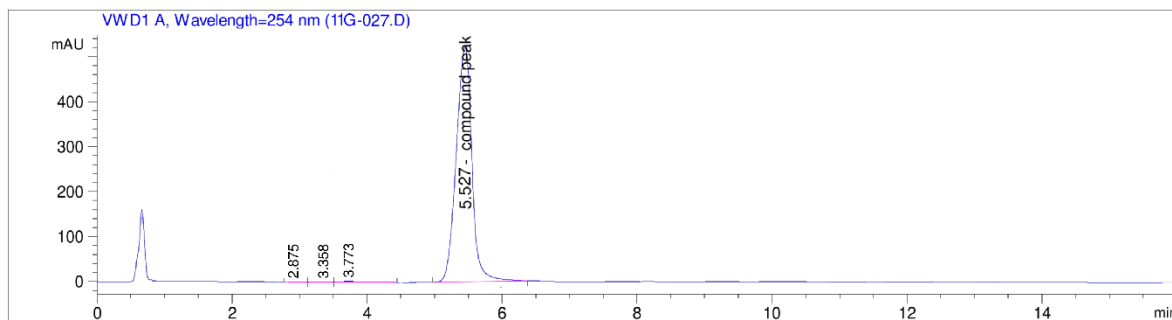
| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Area %  | Name          |
|--------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| 1      | 6.383         | BBA  | 1.0098      | 1.94119e4    | 99.7154 | Compound Peak |

Totals : 1.94119e4 99.7154

\*\*\* End of Report \*\*\*

Data File C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\11G-027.D  
Sample Name: 11g

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Sample Operator : SYSTEM
Acq. Instrument : HPLC                      Location : Vial 7
Injection Date  : 12/16/2023 5:45:23 AM
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                  (modified after loading)
Sample Info     : 40 ACN:60 phosphate buffer pH 3.7, Flow 1.50 mL/min, 254 nm, 5 ul injection
=====
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```
=====
                        Area Percent Report
=====
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Do not use Multiplier & Dilution Factor with ISTDs
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Signal 1: VWD1 A, Wavelength=254 nm

| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Area %  | Name          |
|--------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| 1      | 6.527         | BBA  | 1.0108      | 1.99119e4    | 97.4151 | Compound Peak |

Totals : 1.99119e4 97.4151

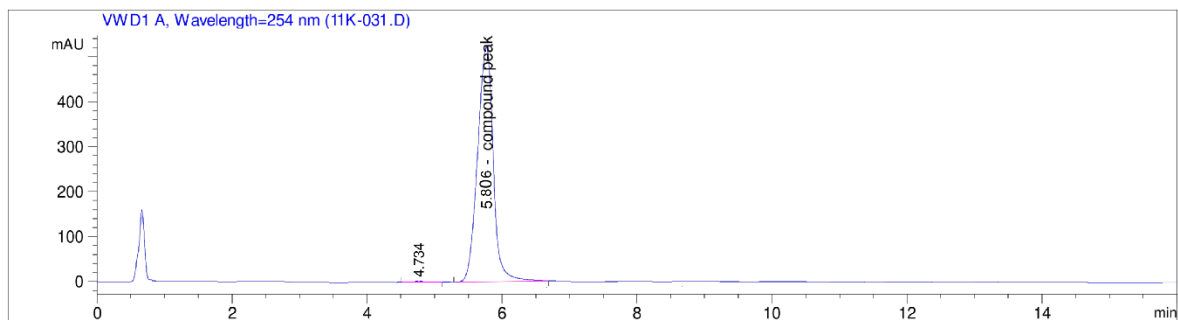
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Data File C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\11K-031.D

Sample Name: 11K

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Sample Operator : SYSTEM
Acq. Instrument : HPLC                      Location : Vial 12
Injection Date  : 12/16/2023 9:03:20 AM      Inj Volume : 5.000 µl
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Sample Info     : 40 ACN:60 phosphate buffer pH 3.7, Flow 1.50 mL/min, 254 nm, 5 µl injection
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```
=====
                        Area Percent Report
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Do not use Multiplier & Dilution Factor with ISTDs
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Signal 1: VWD1 A, Wavelength=254 nm

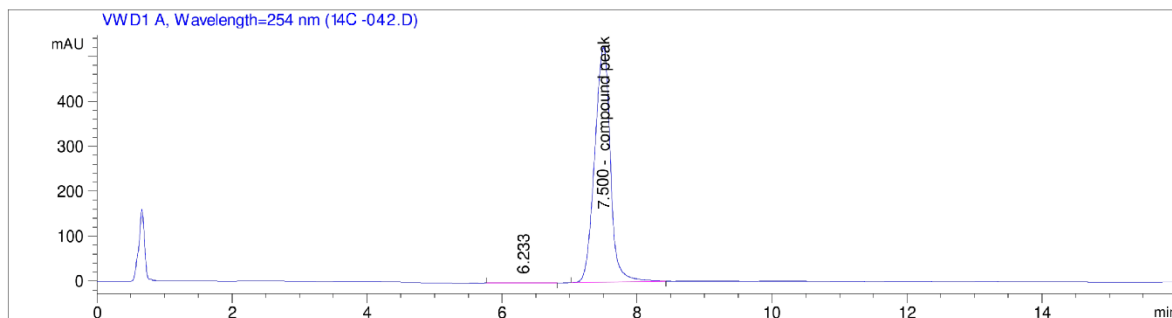
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|--------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| 1      | 5.806         | BBA  | 0.8918      | 1.19169e4    | 96.8145 | Compound Peak |

Totals : 1.19169e4 96.8145

\*\*\* End of Report \*\*\*

Data File C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\14C-042.D  
Sample Name: 14c

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Sample Operator : SYSTEM
Acq. Instrument : HPLC                      Location : Vial 16
Injection Date  : 12/16/2023 10:12:20 AM
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Analysis Method : C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\DEF_LC.MCYANO COLUMN.M
Last changed    : 12/16/2023 10:31:00 AM by SYSTEM
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Sample Info     : 40 ACN:60 phosphate buffer pH 3.7, Flow 1.50 mL/min, 254 nm, 5 ul injection
=====
```



```
=====
                        Area Percent Report
=====
```

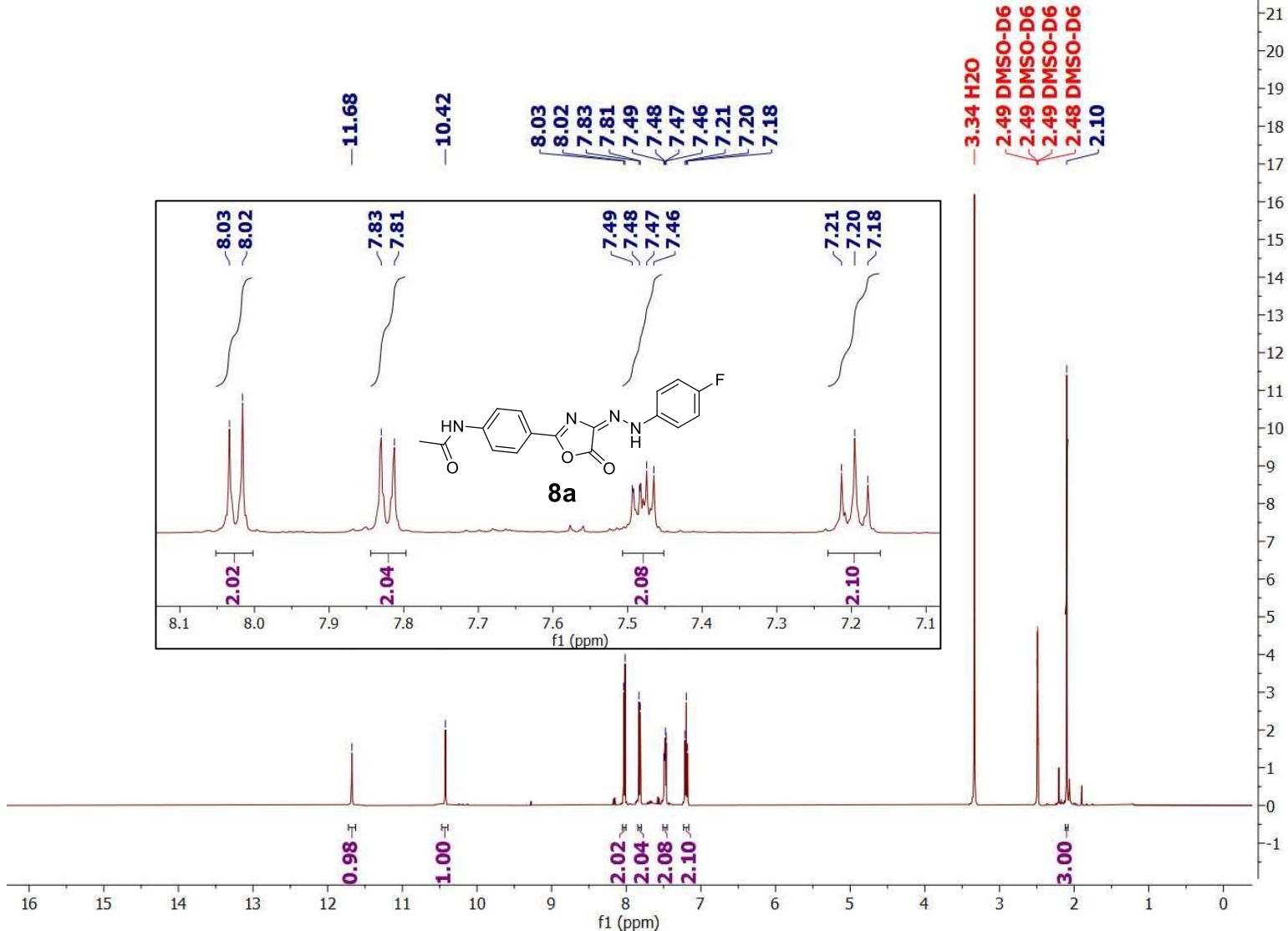
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Sample Amount:      :      0.500 [mg/ml] (not used in calc.)
Do not use Multiplier & Dilution Factor with ISTDs
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Signal 1: VWD1 A, Wavelength=254 nm

| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Area %  | Name          |
|--------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
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Totals : 2.09105e4 99.7750

\*\*\* End of Report \*\*\*

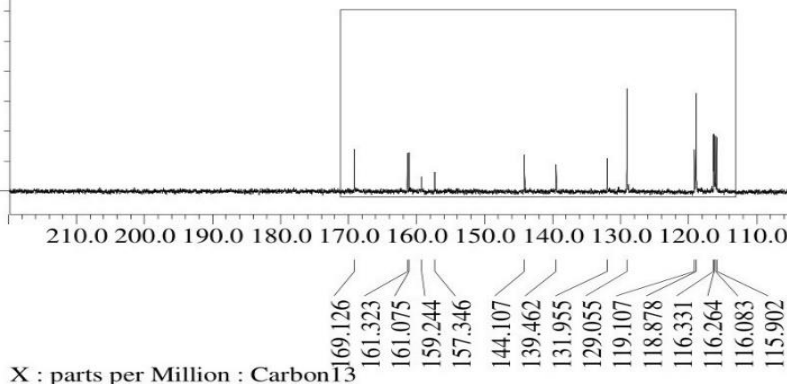
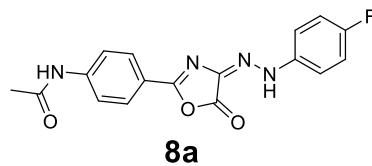
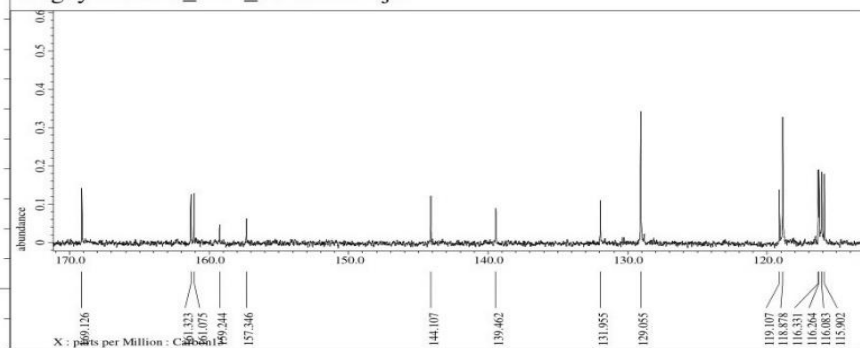


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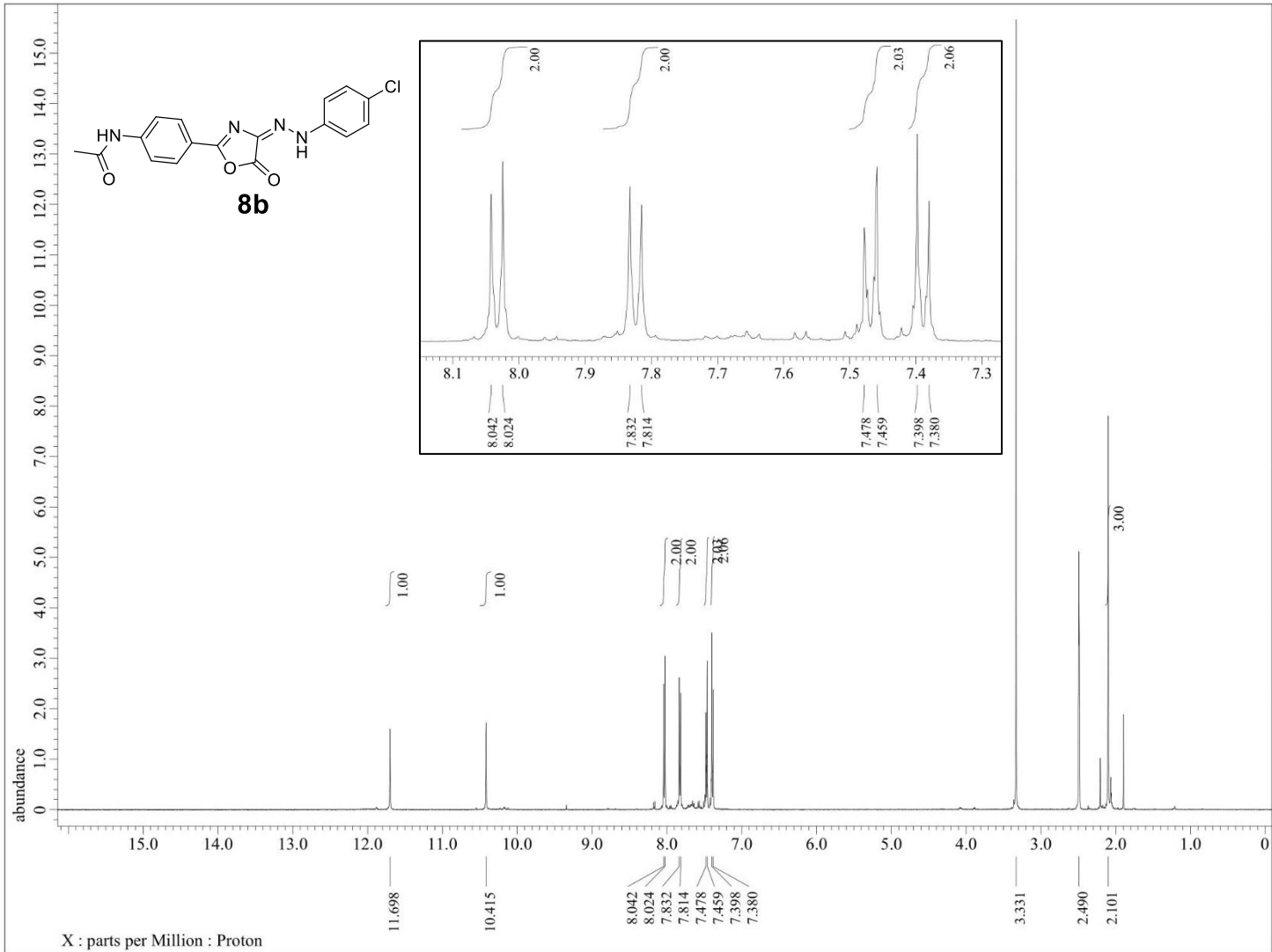
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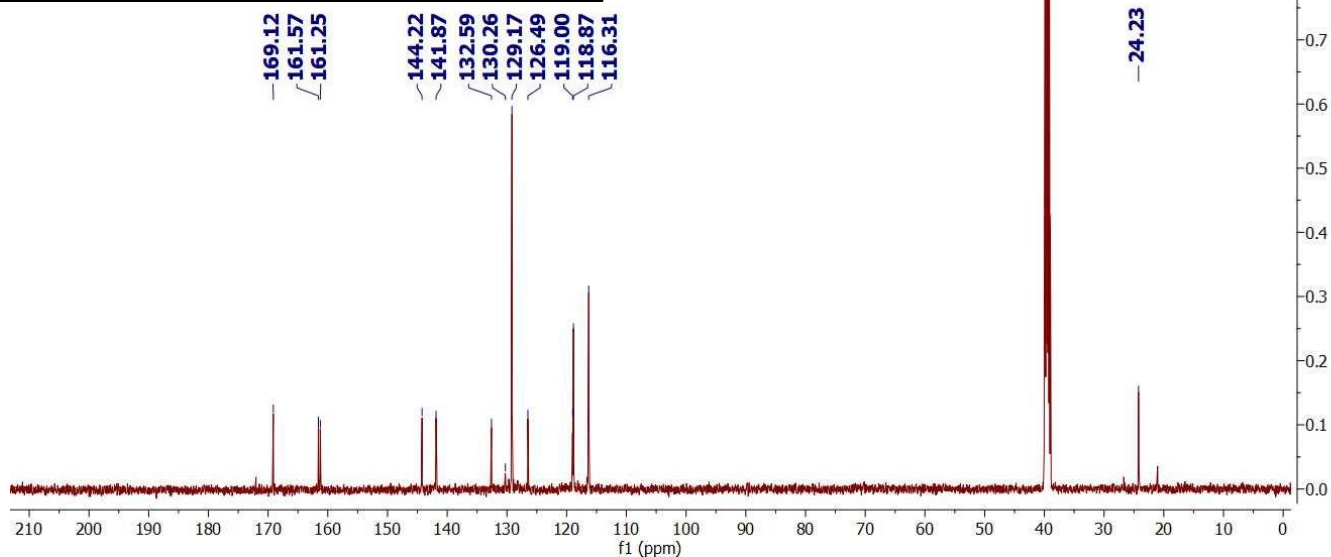
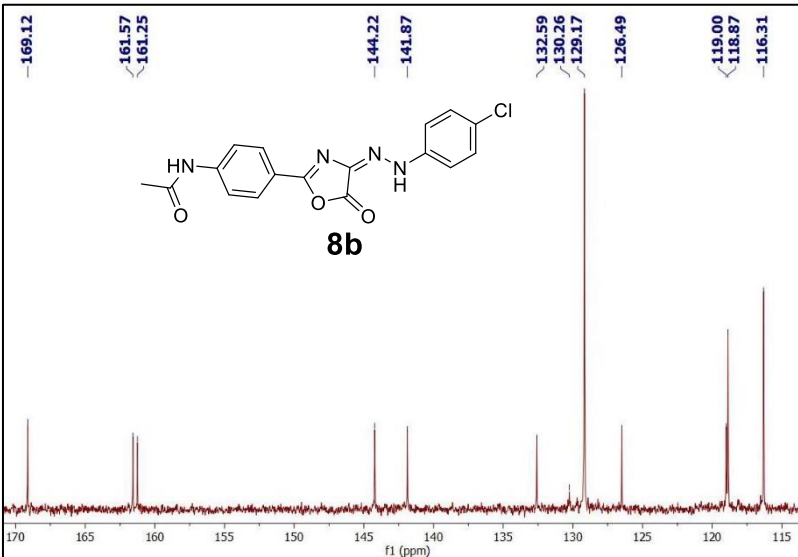
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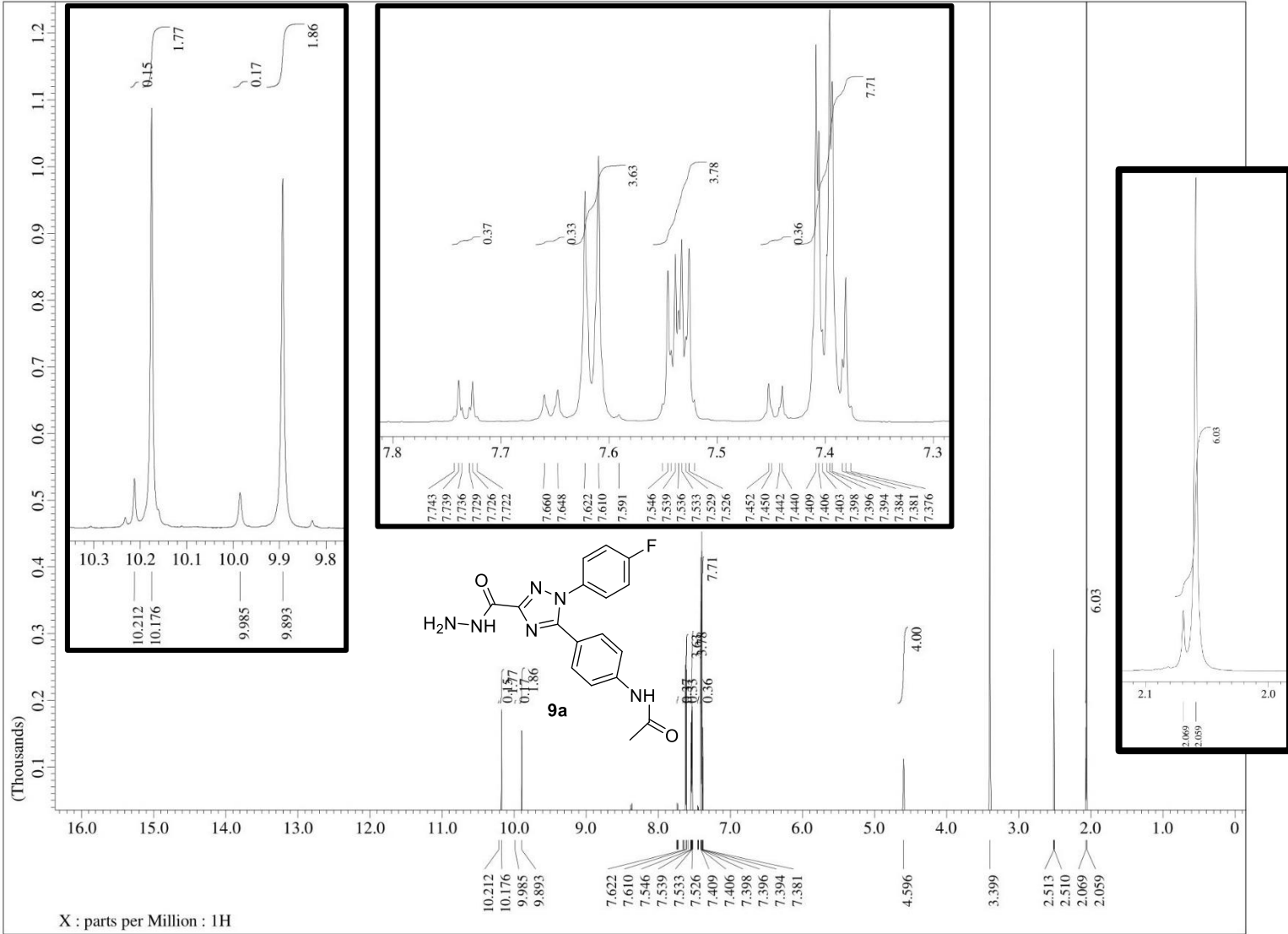


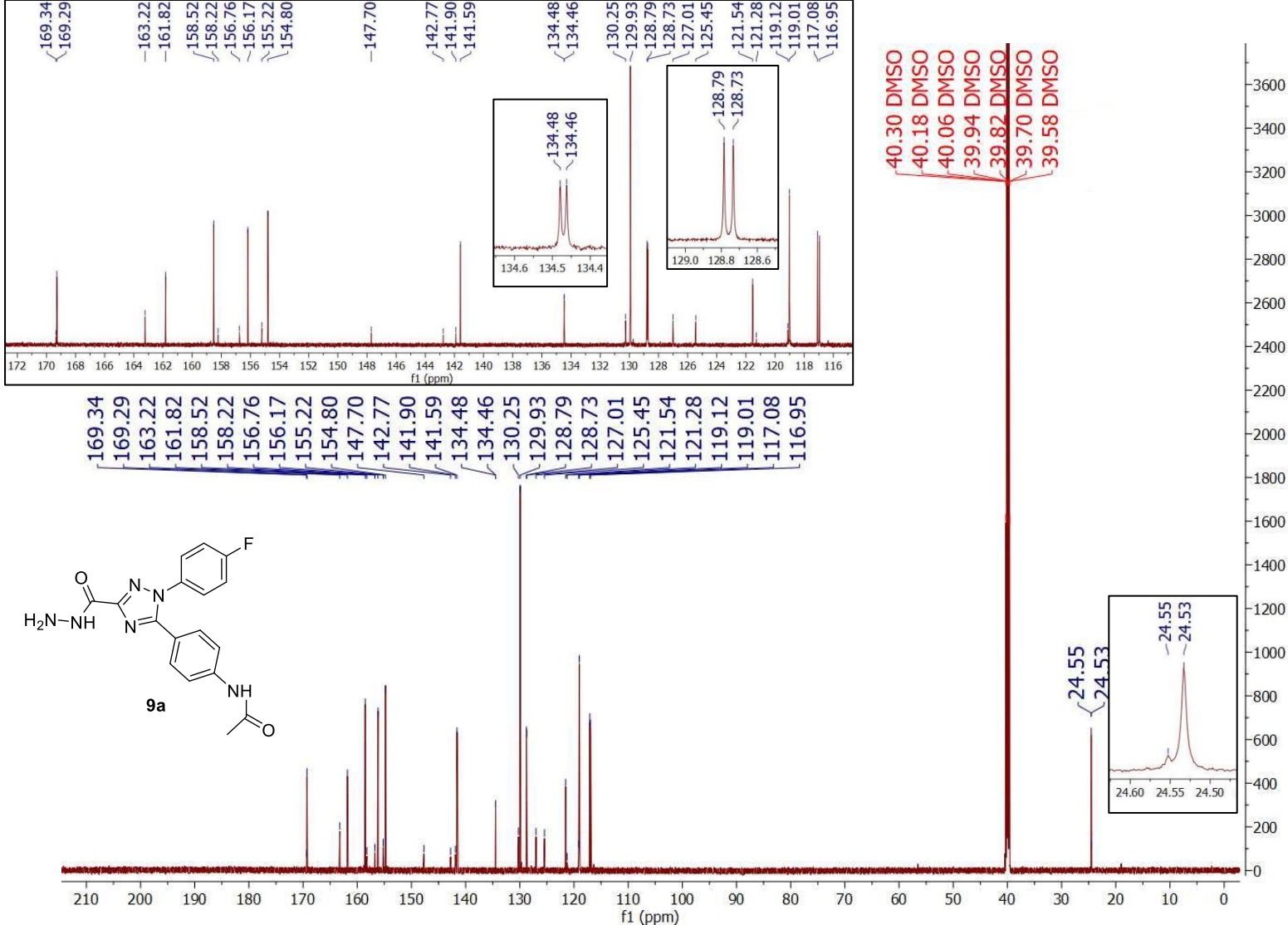
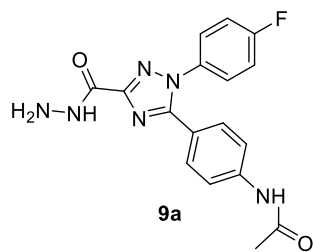
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24.239







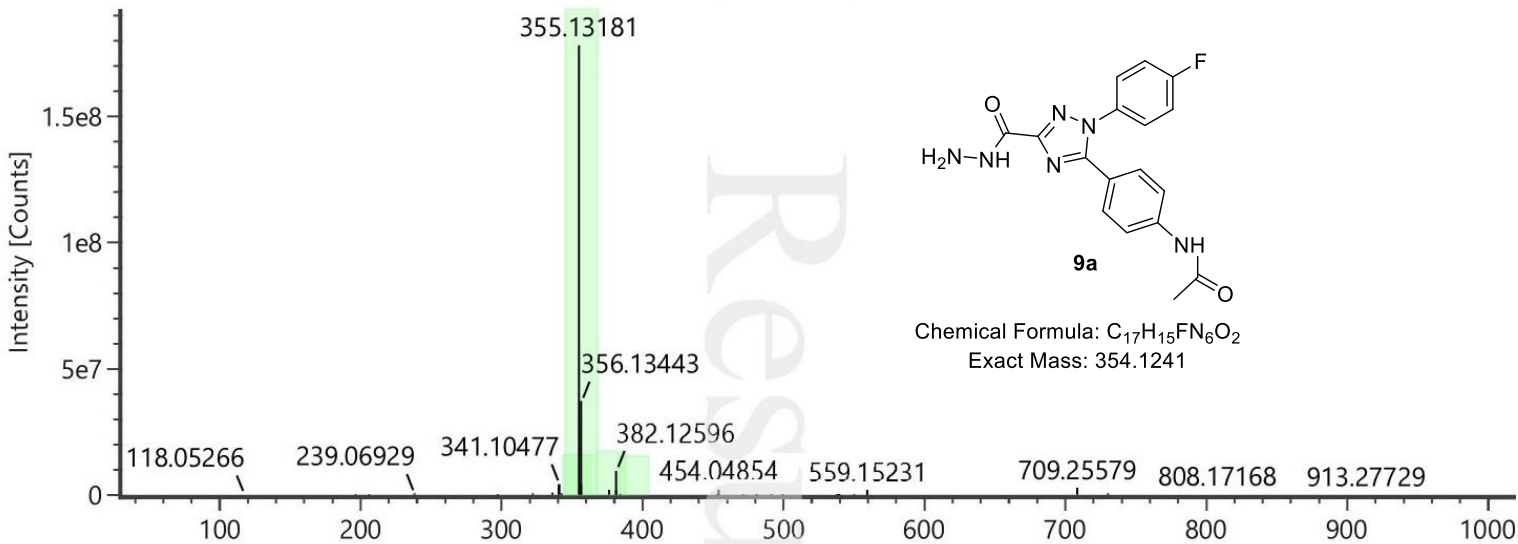


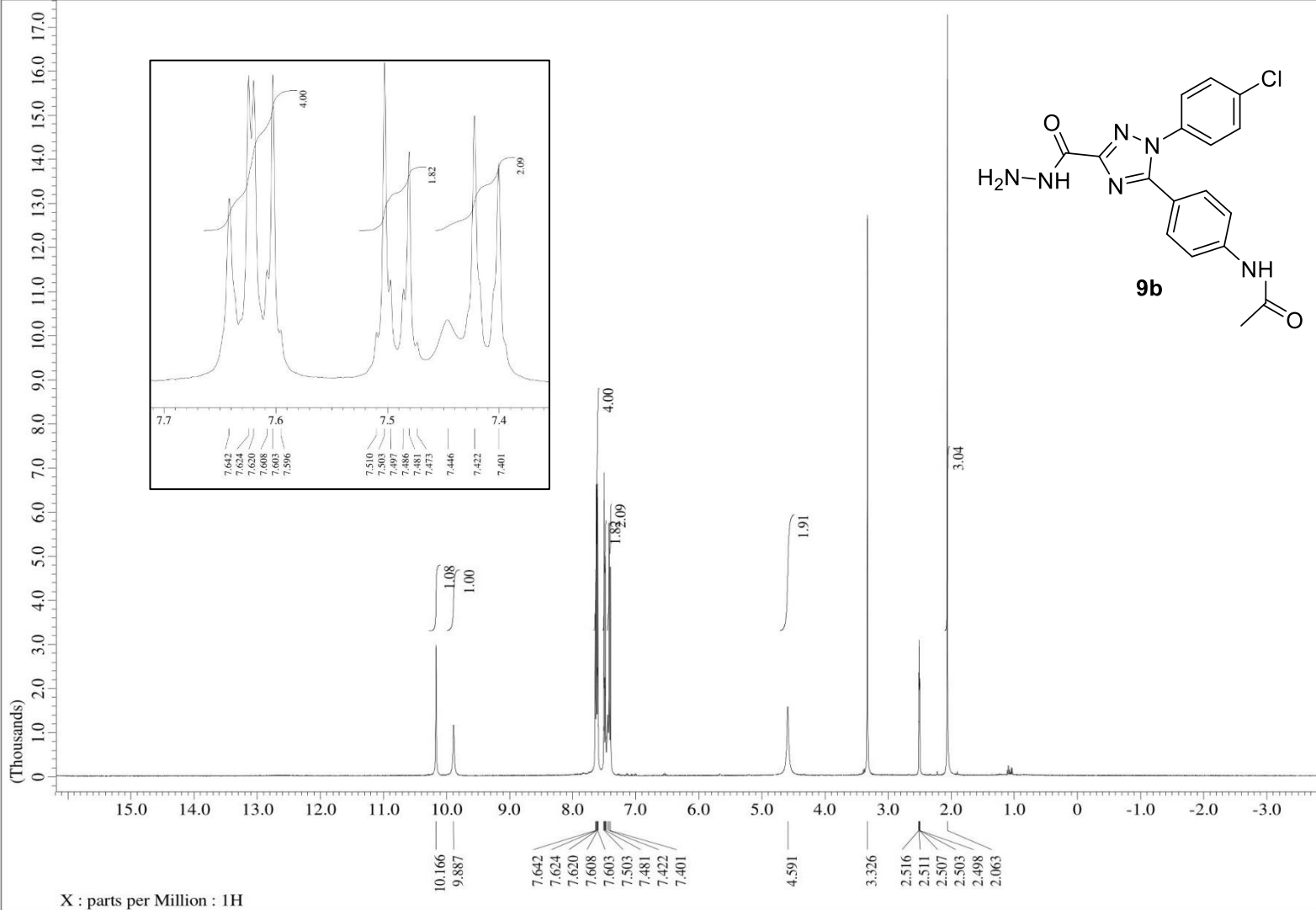
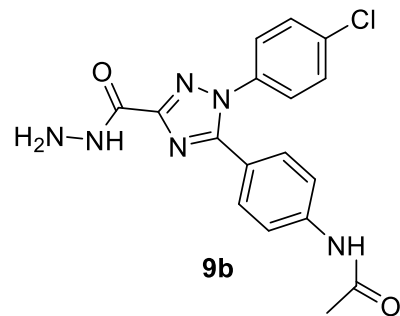


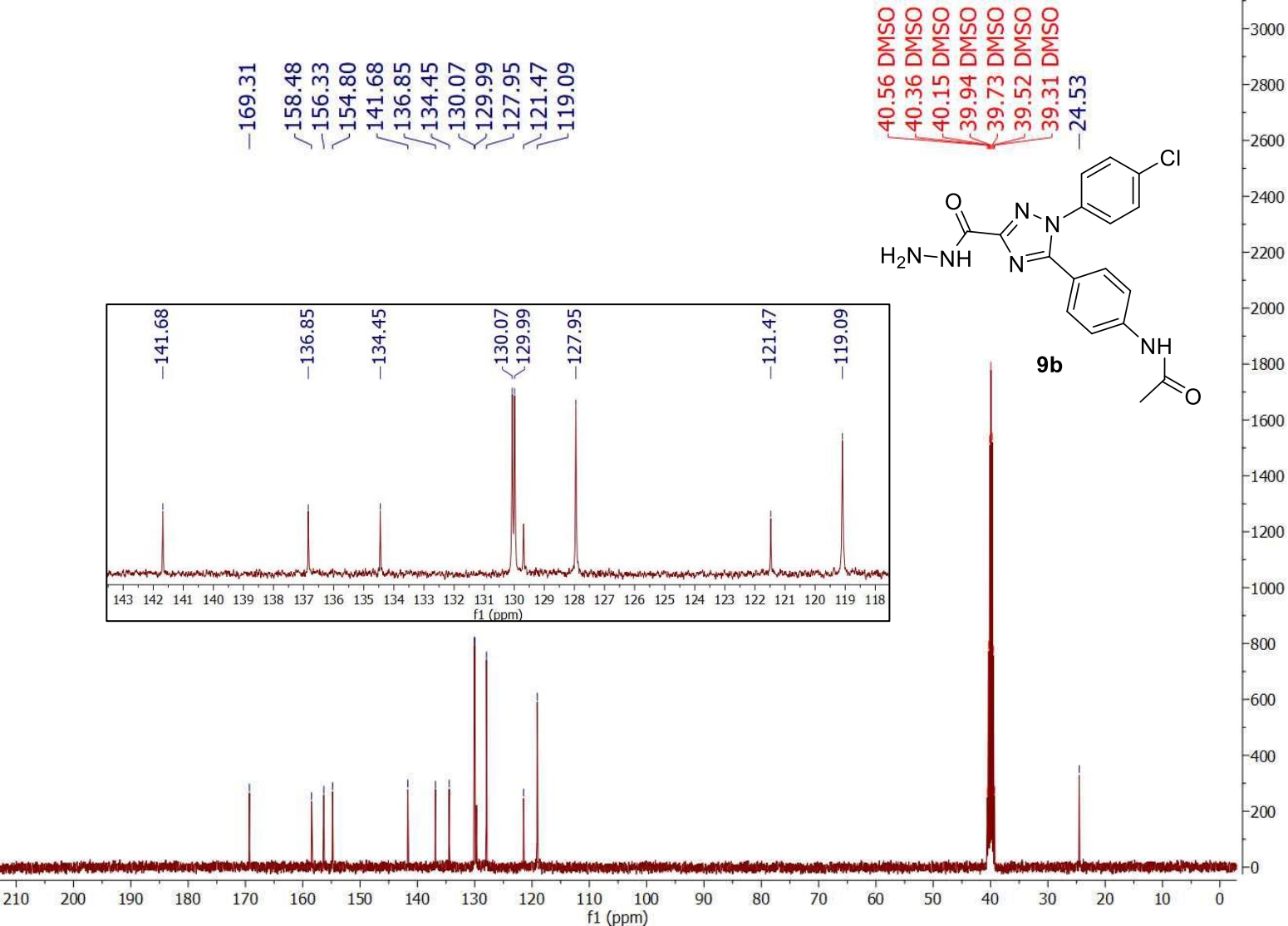
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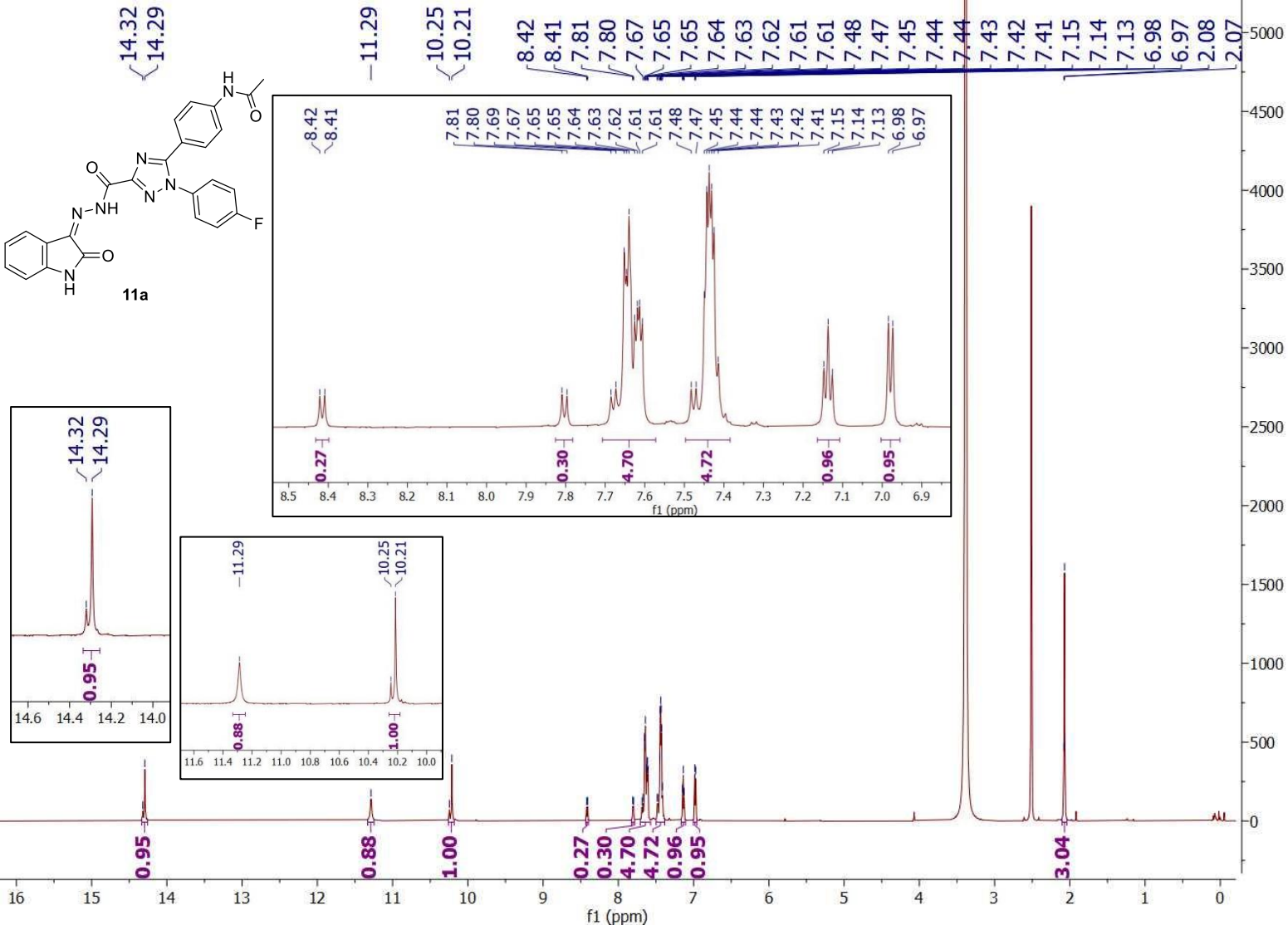
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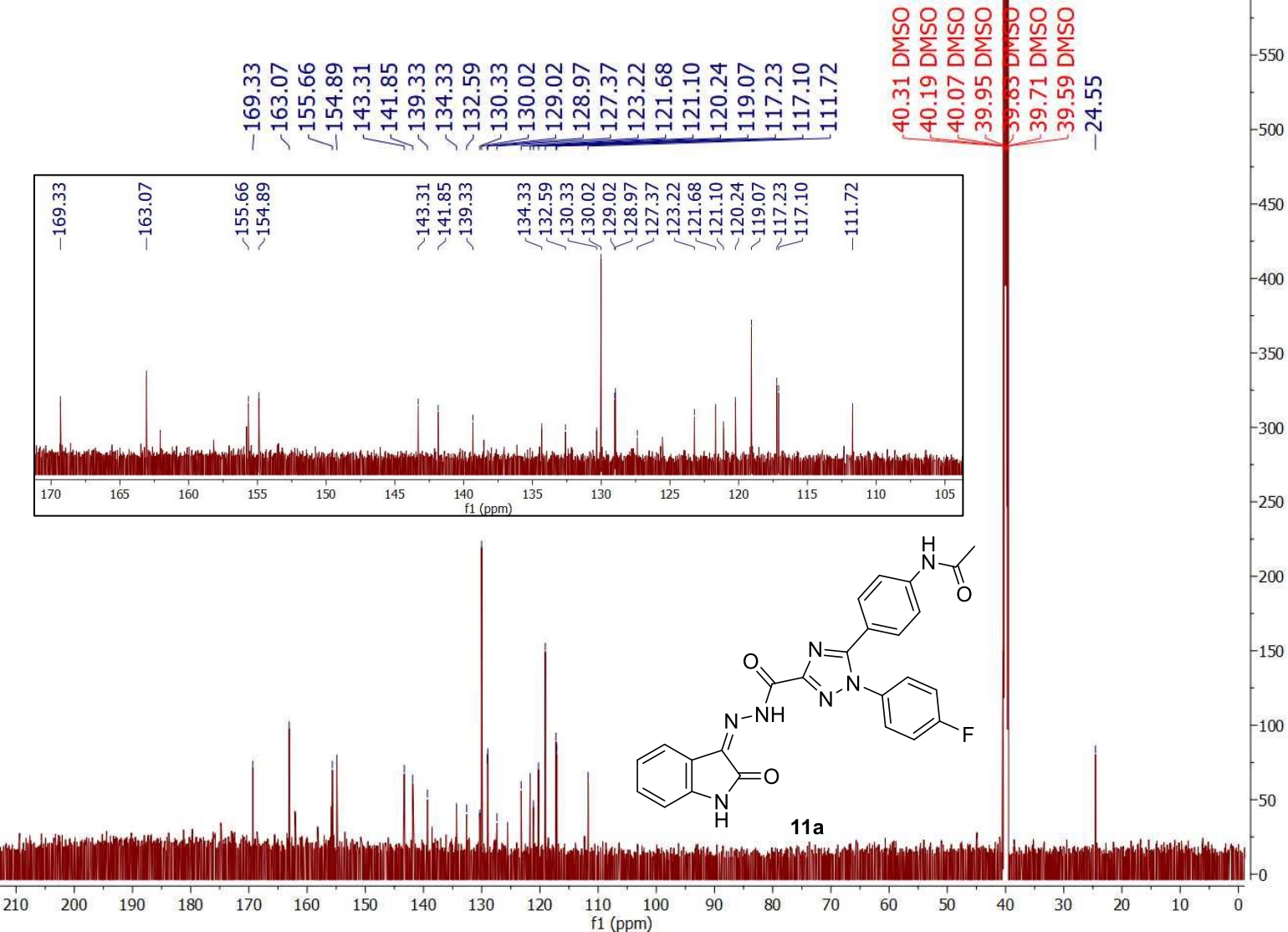
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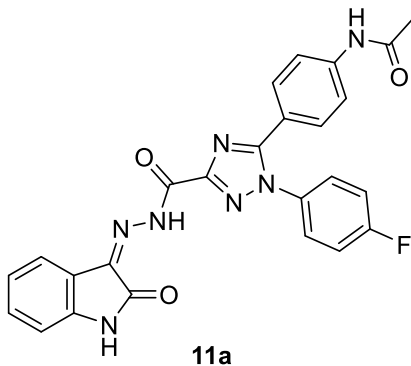
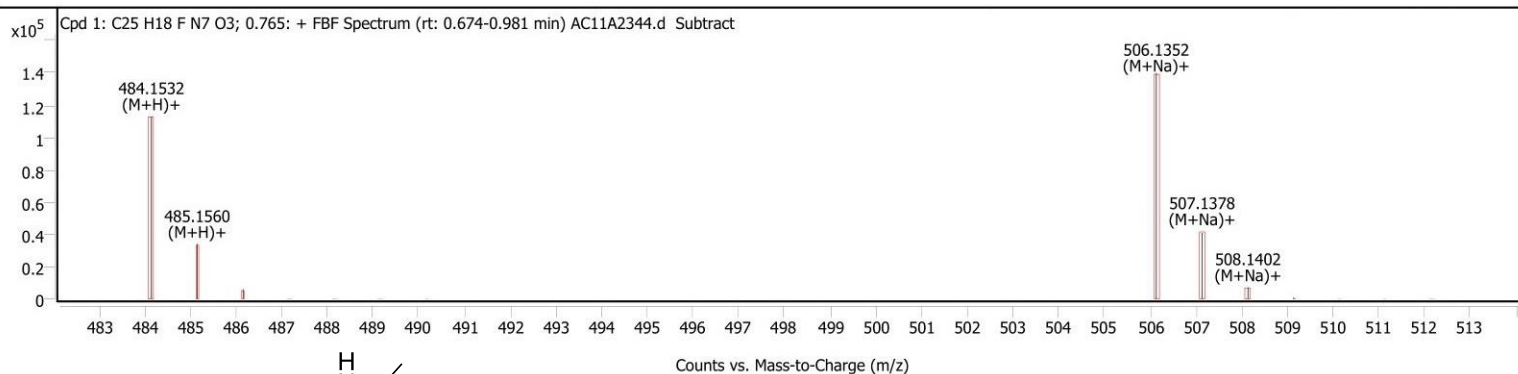




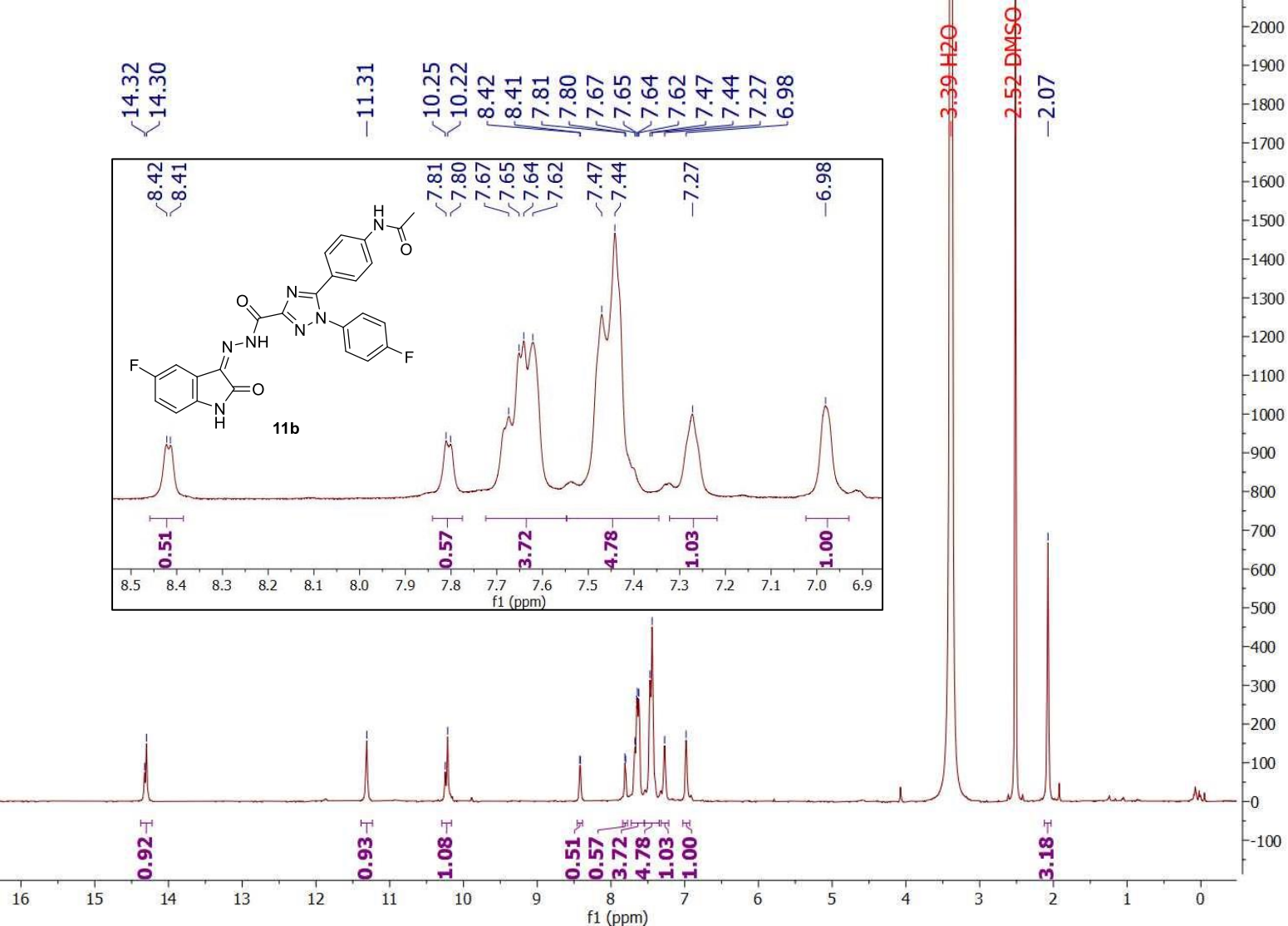


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| 1   |      | C25 H18 F N7 O3 | 0.765 | 483.1459 |     | FBF       | 99.54 |             |            |             | FBF       |

**Cpd. 1: C<sub>25</sub> H<sub>18</sub> F N<sub>7</sub> O<sub>3</sub>**

[illegible]

Chemical Formula: C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>18</sub>FN<sub>7</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
Exact Mass: 483.1455



Compound Summary

| Cpd | Name | Formula          | RT    | Mass     | CAS | ID Source | Score | Score (Lib) | Score (DB) | Score (MFG) | Algorithm |
|-----|------|------------------|-------|----------|-----|-----------|-------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
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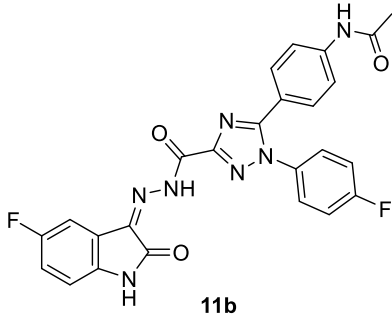
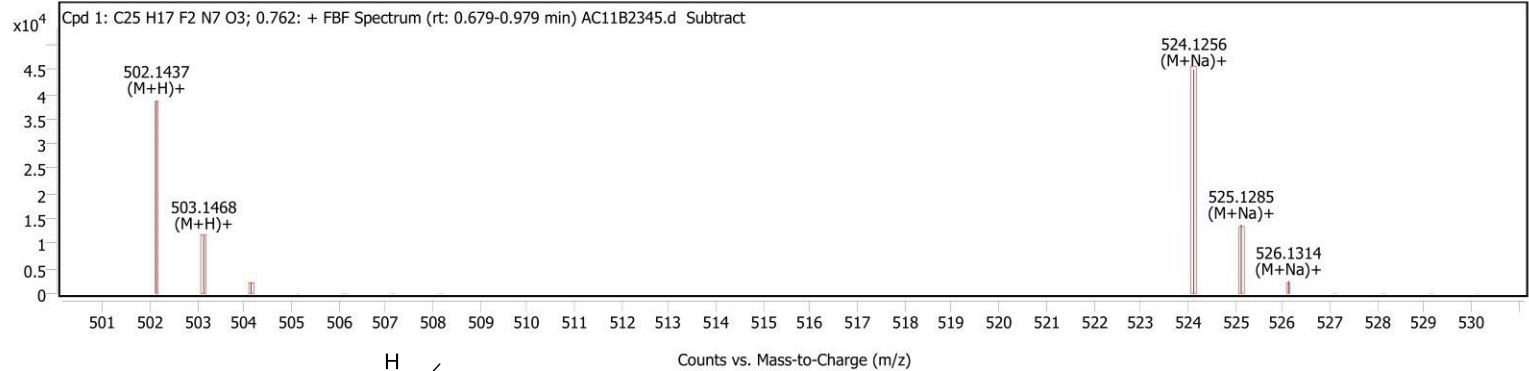
Compound Details

Cpd. 1: C25 H17 F2 N7 O3

| Name | Formula          | RT    | RI | Mass     | Score | Algorithm | Lib/DB |
|------|------------------|-------|----|----------|-------|-----------|--------|
|      | C25 H17 F2 N7 O3 | 0.762 |    | 501.1365 | 99.48 | FBF       |        |

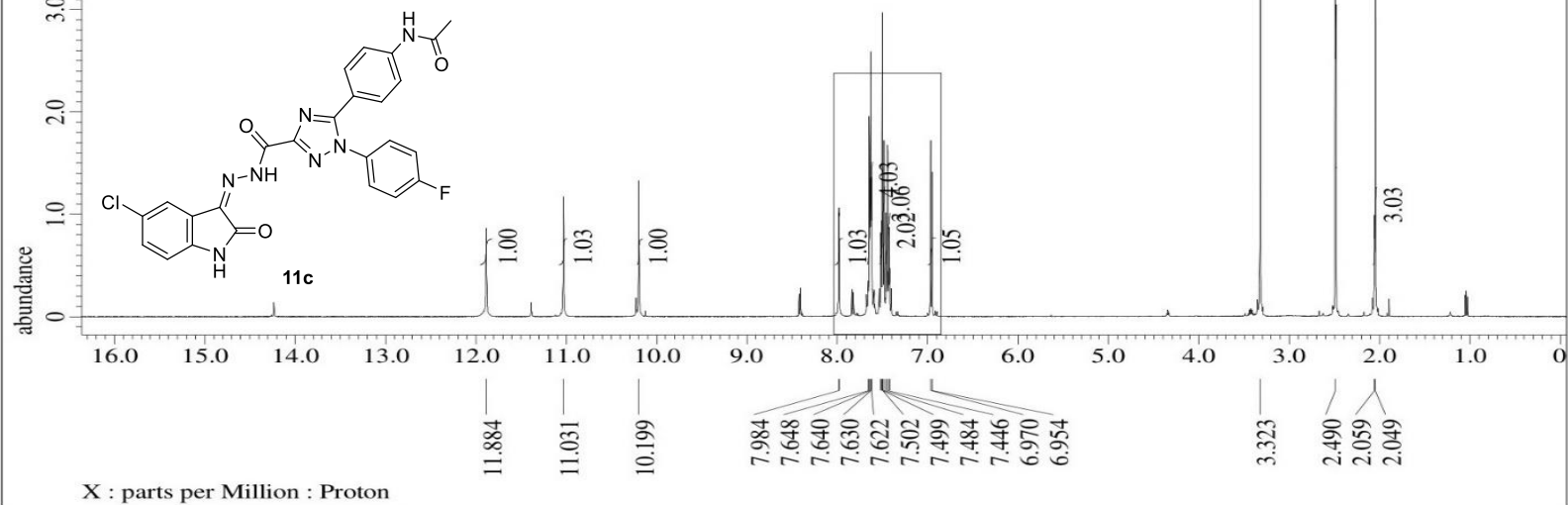
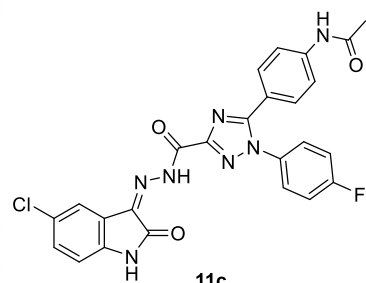
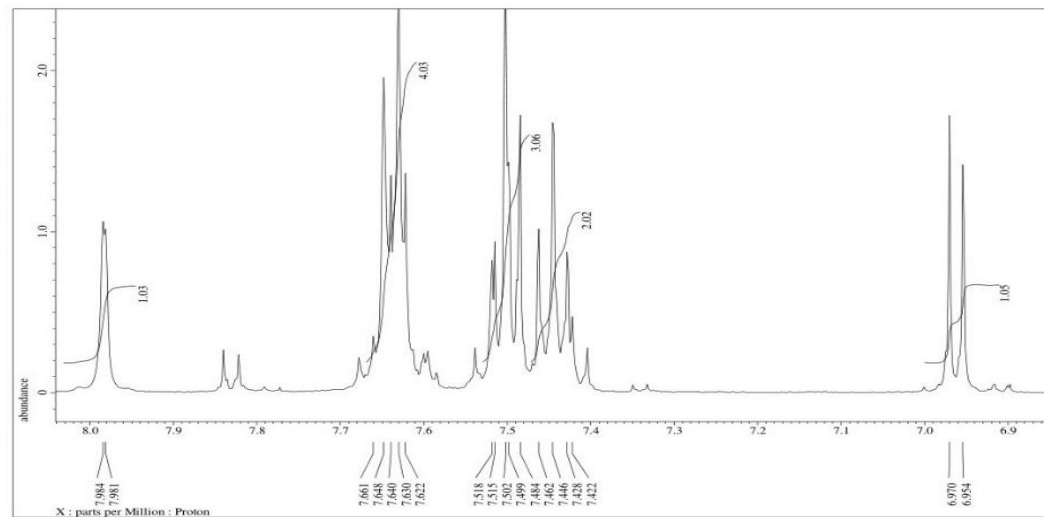
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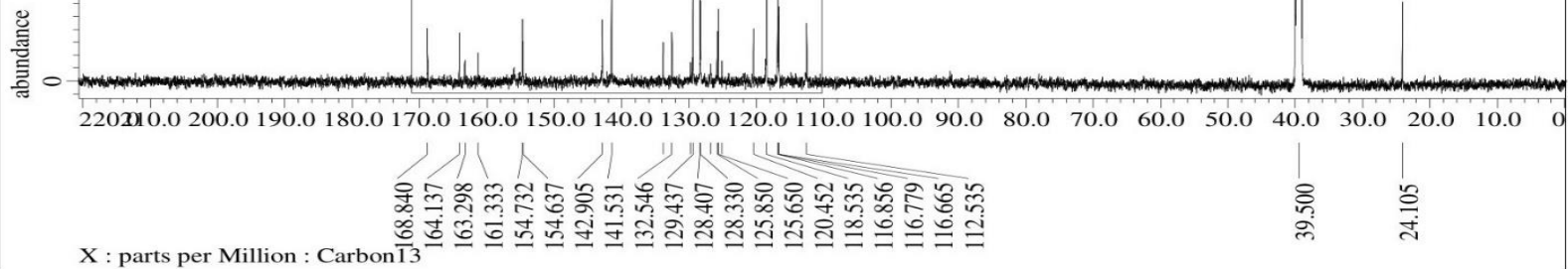
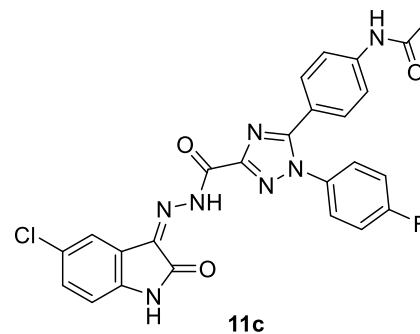
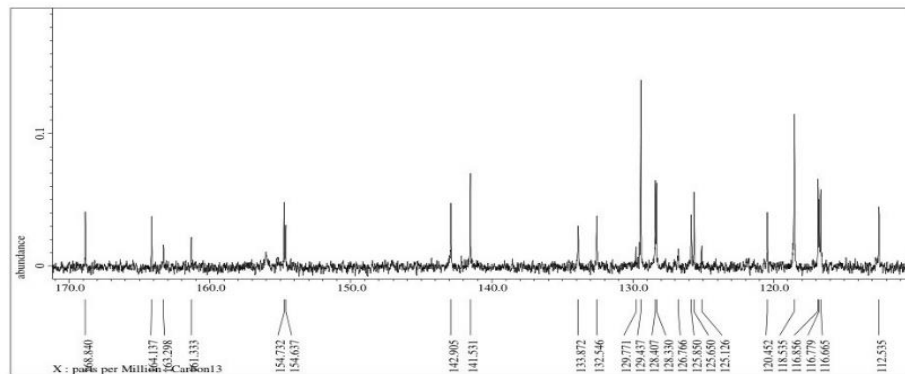
Compound Spectra

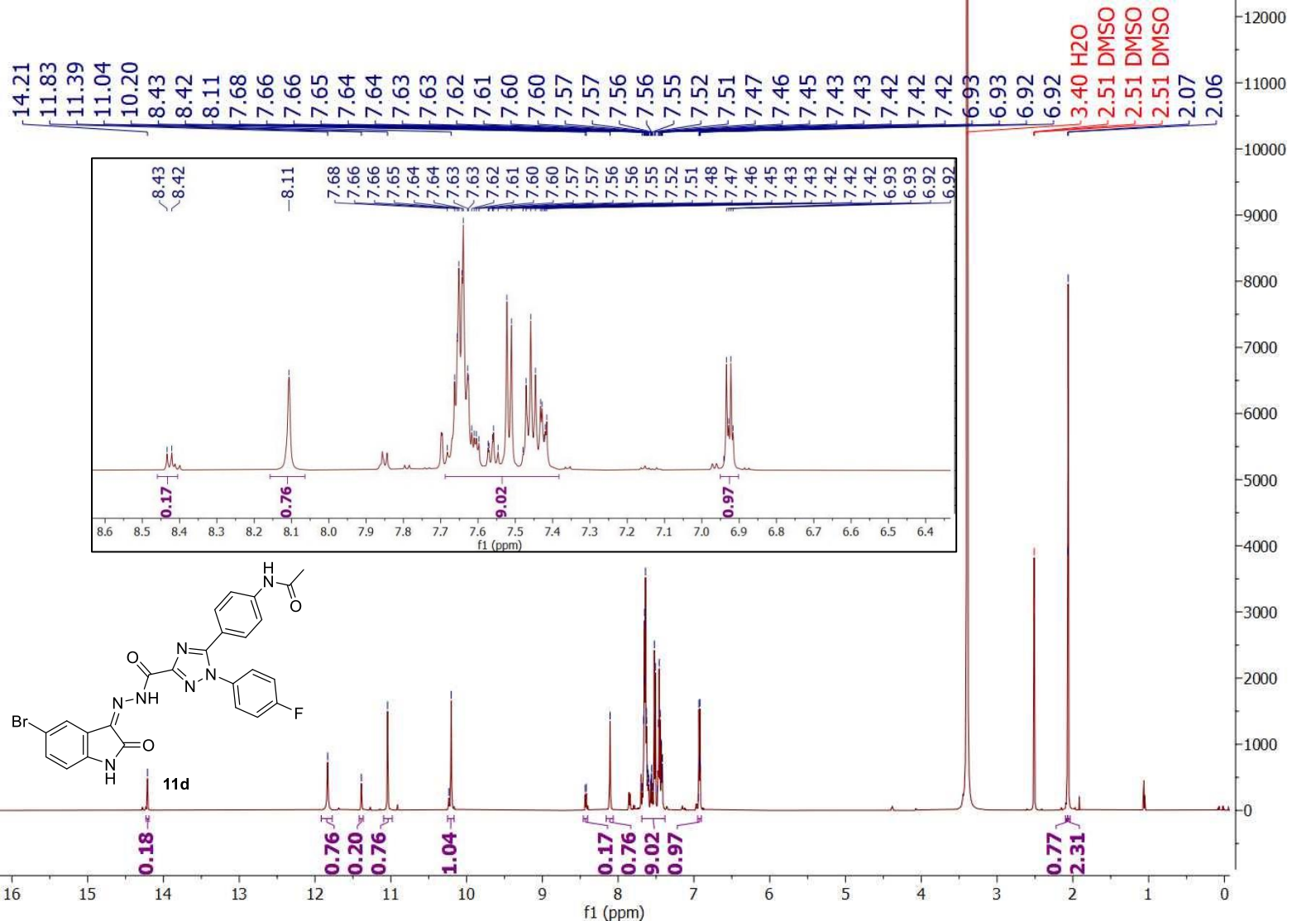


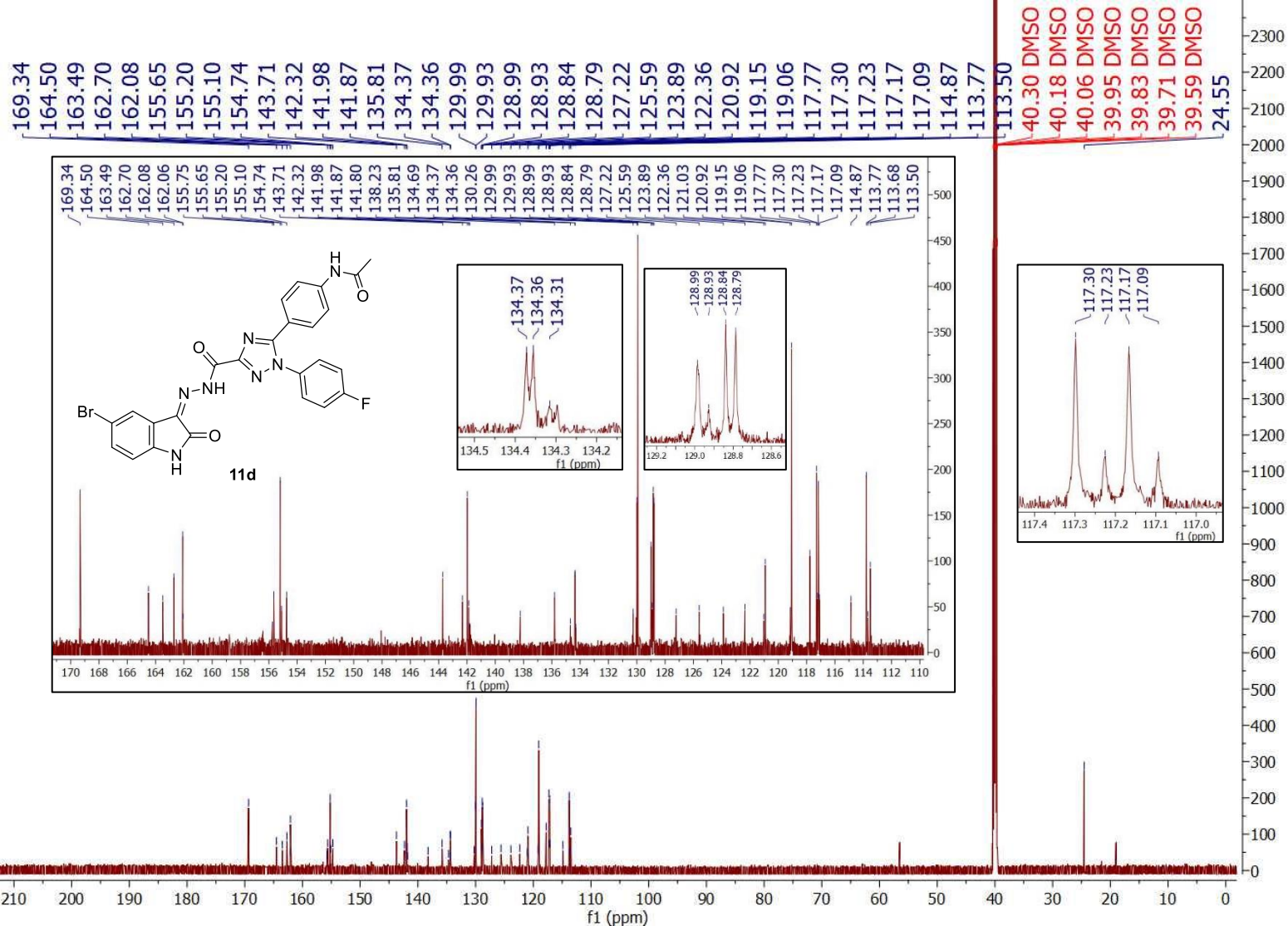
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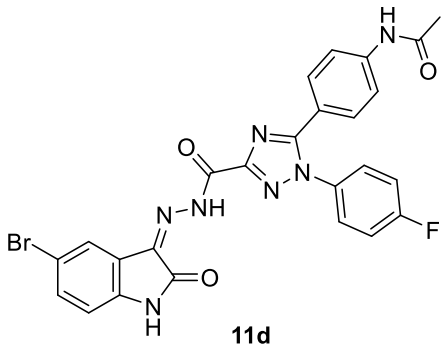
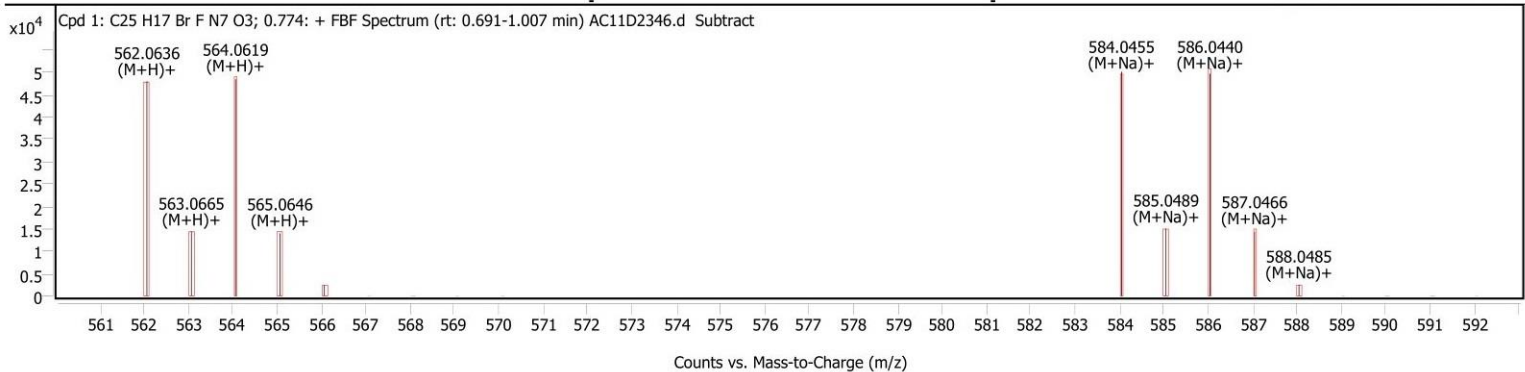
Compound Summary

| Cpd | Name | Formula            | RT    | Mass     | CAS | ID Source | Score | Score (Lib) | Score (DB) | Score (MFG) | Algorithm |
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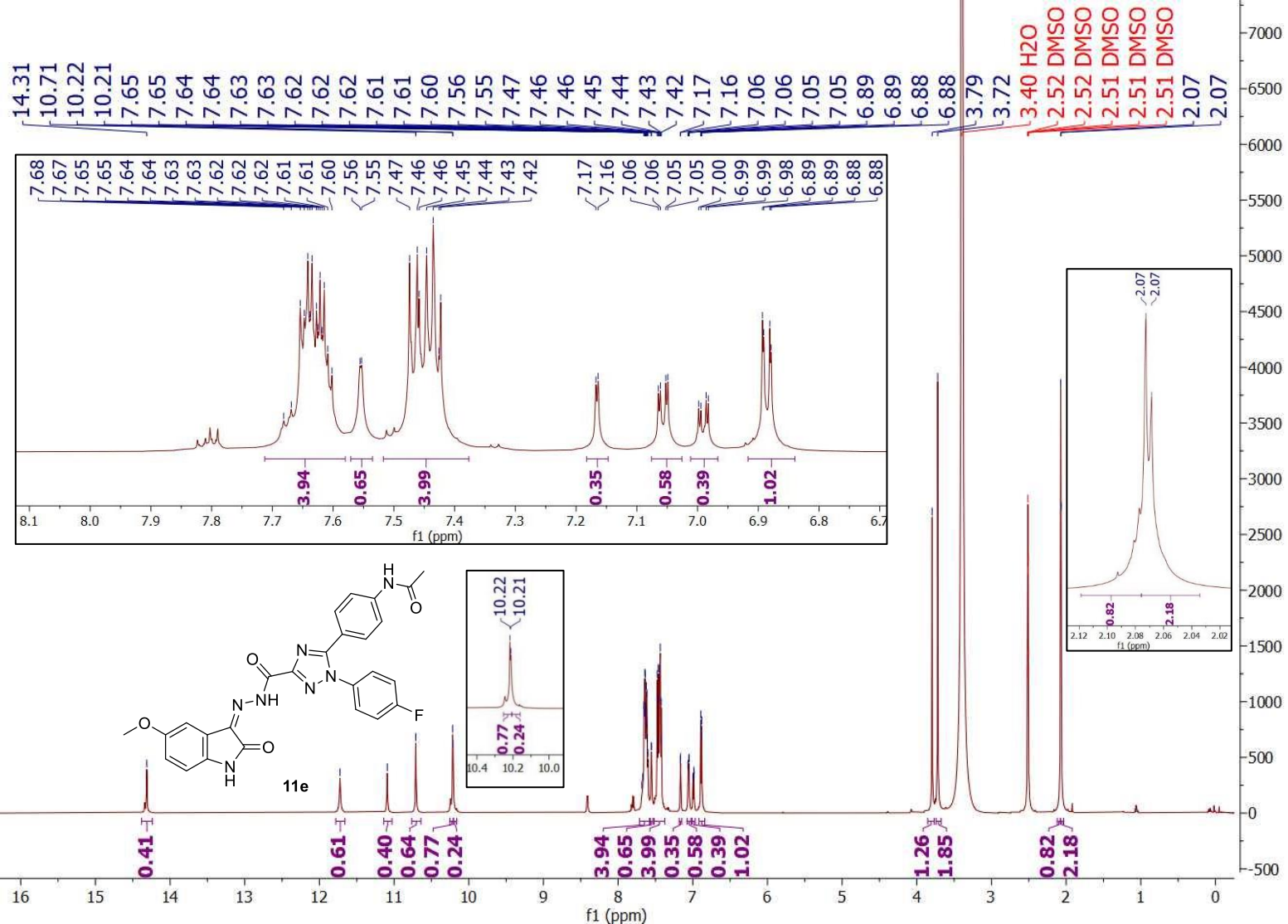
Compound Details

Cpd. 1: C25 H17 Br F N7 O3

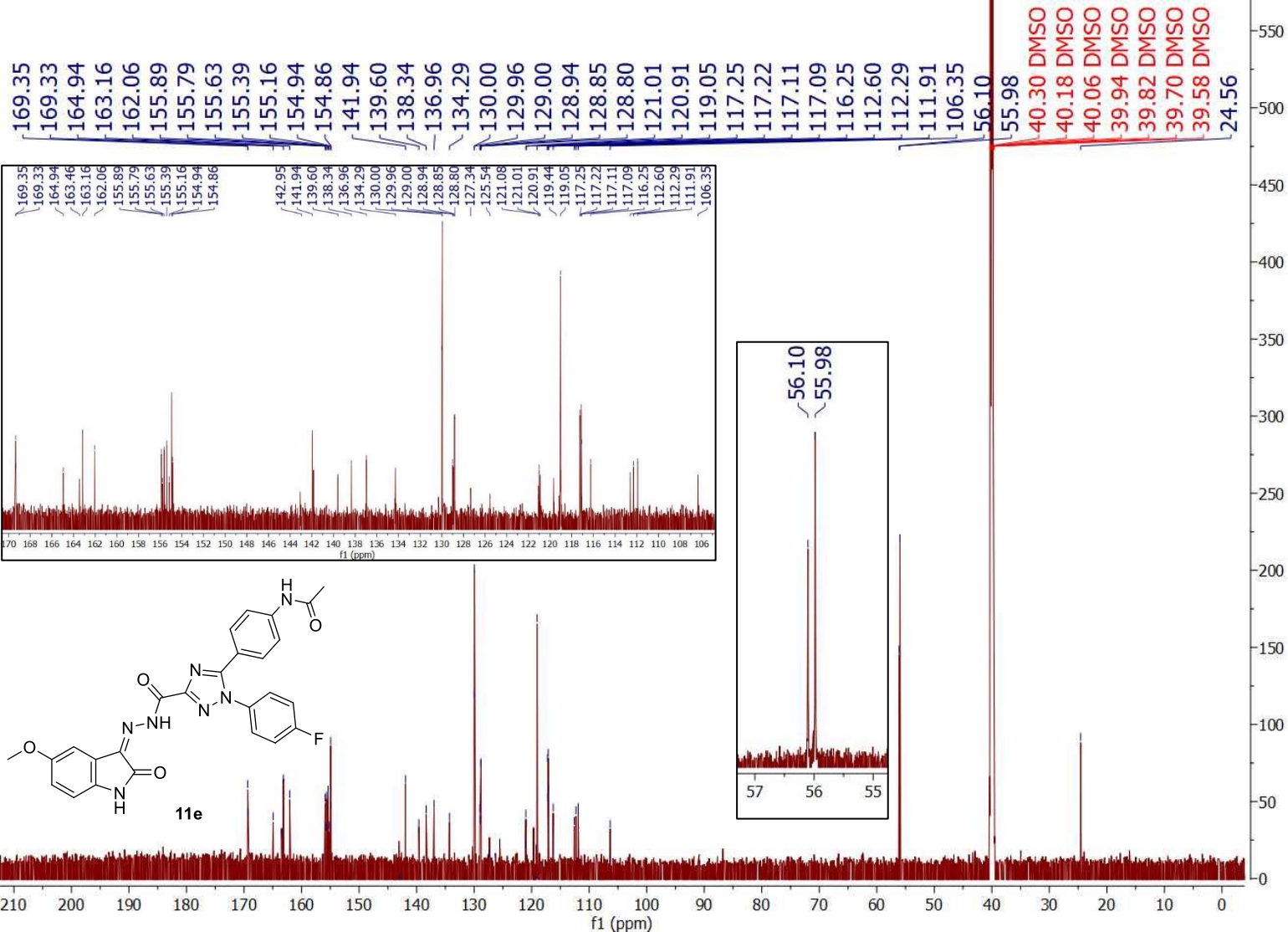
| Name           | Formula            | RT                | RI          | Mass        | Score      | Algorithm   | Lib/DB     |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|                | C25 H17 Br F N7 O3 | 0.774             |             | 561.0564    | 99.73      | FBF         |            |
| Species        |                    | m/z               | Score (Lib) | Num Spectra | Score (DB) | Score (MFG) | Score (RT) |
| (M+H)+ (M+Na)+ |                    | 562.0636 584.0455 |             |             |            |             |            |



Chemical Formula: C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>17</sub>BrFN<sub>7</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
Exact Mass: 561.0560







## Compound Summary

| Cpd | Name | Formula   | RT    | Mass     | CAS | ID Source | Score | Score (Lib) | Score (DB) | Score (MFG) | Algorithm |
|-----|------|---|-------|----------|-----|-----------|-------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1   |      | C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>20</sub> F N <sub>7</sub> O <sub>4</sub> | 0.763 | 513.1566 |     | FBF       | 99.45 |             |            |             | FBF       |

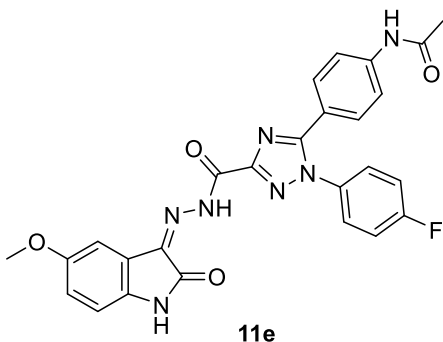
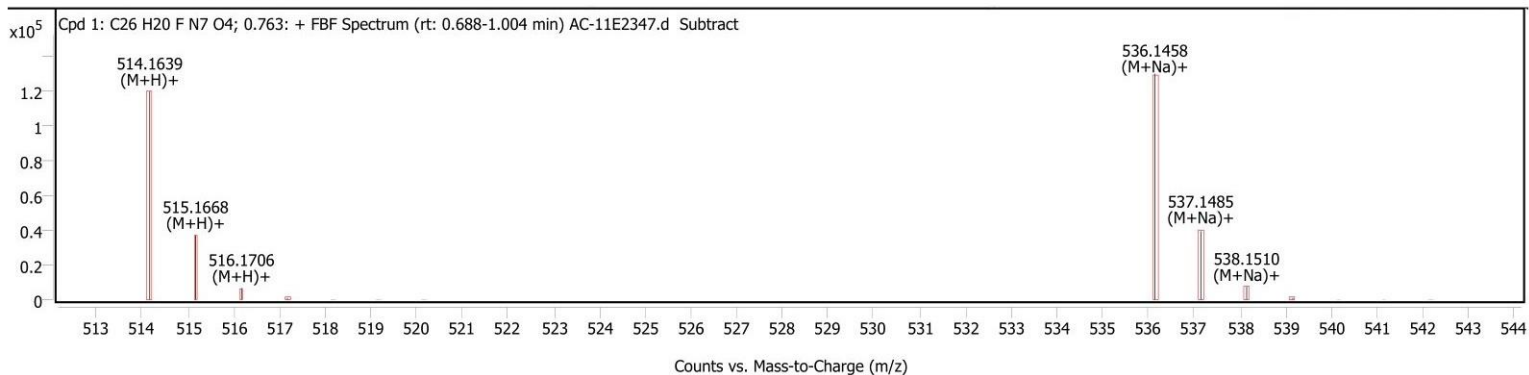
## Compound Details

### Cpd. 1: C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F N<sub>7</sub> O<sub>4</sub>

| Name | Formula   | RT    | RI | Mass     | Score | Algorithm | Lib/DB |
|------|---|-------|----|----------|-------|-----------|--------|
|      | C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>20</sub> F N <sub>7</sub> O <sub>4</sub> | 0.763 |    | 513.1566 | 99.45 | FBF       |        |

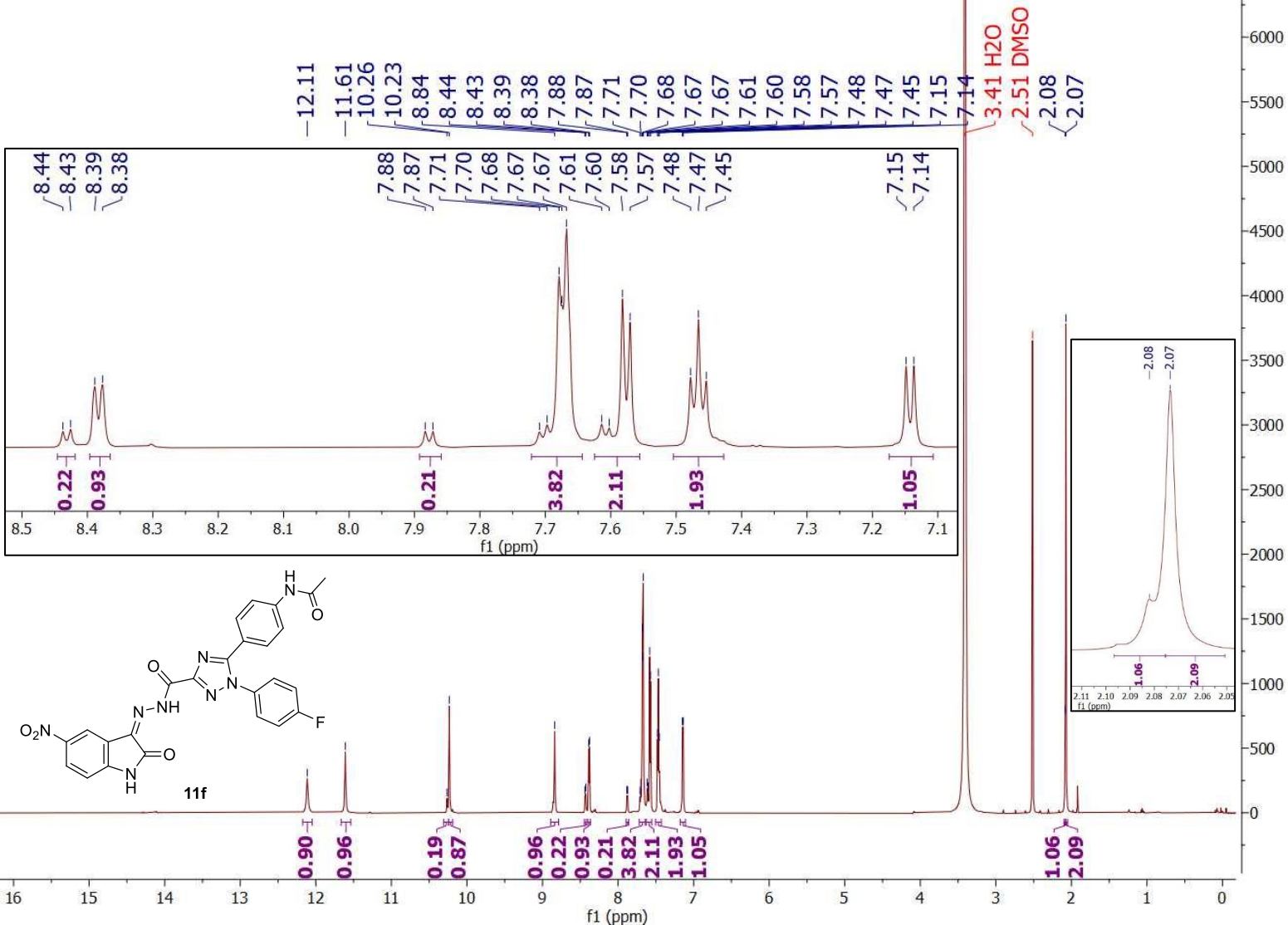
| Species                                | m/z               | Score (Lib) | Num Spectra | Score (DB) | Score (MFG) | Score (RT) |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| (M+H) <sup>+</sup> (M+Na) <sup>+</sup> | 514.1639 536.1458 |             |             |            |             |            |

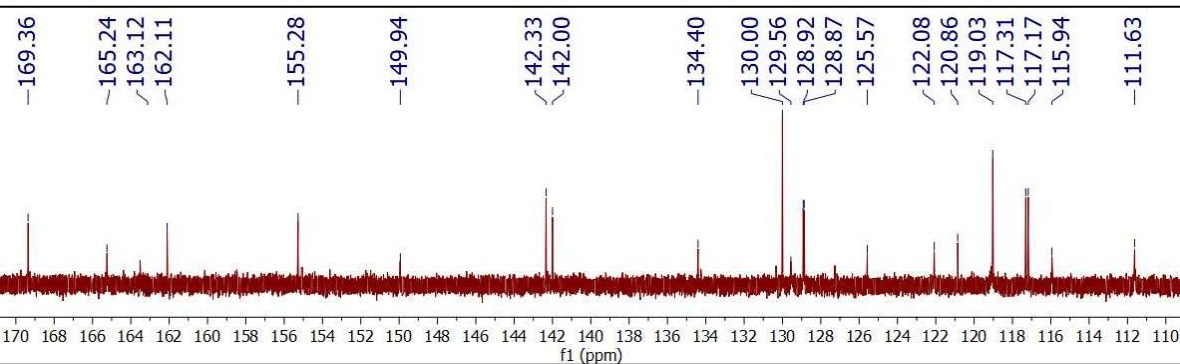
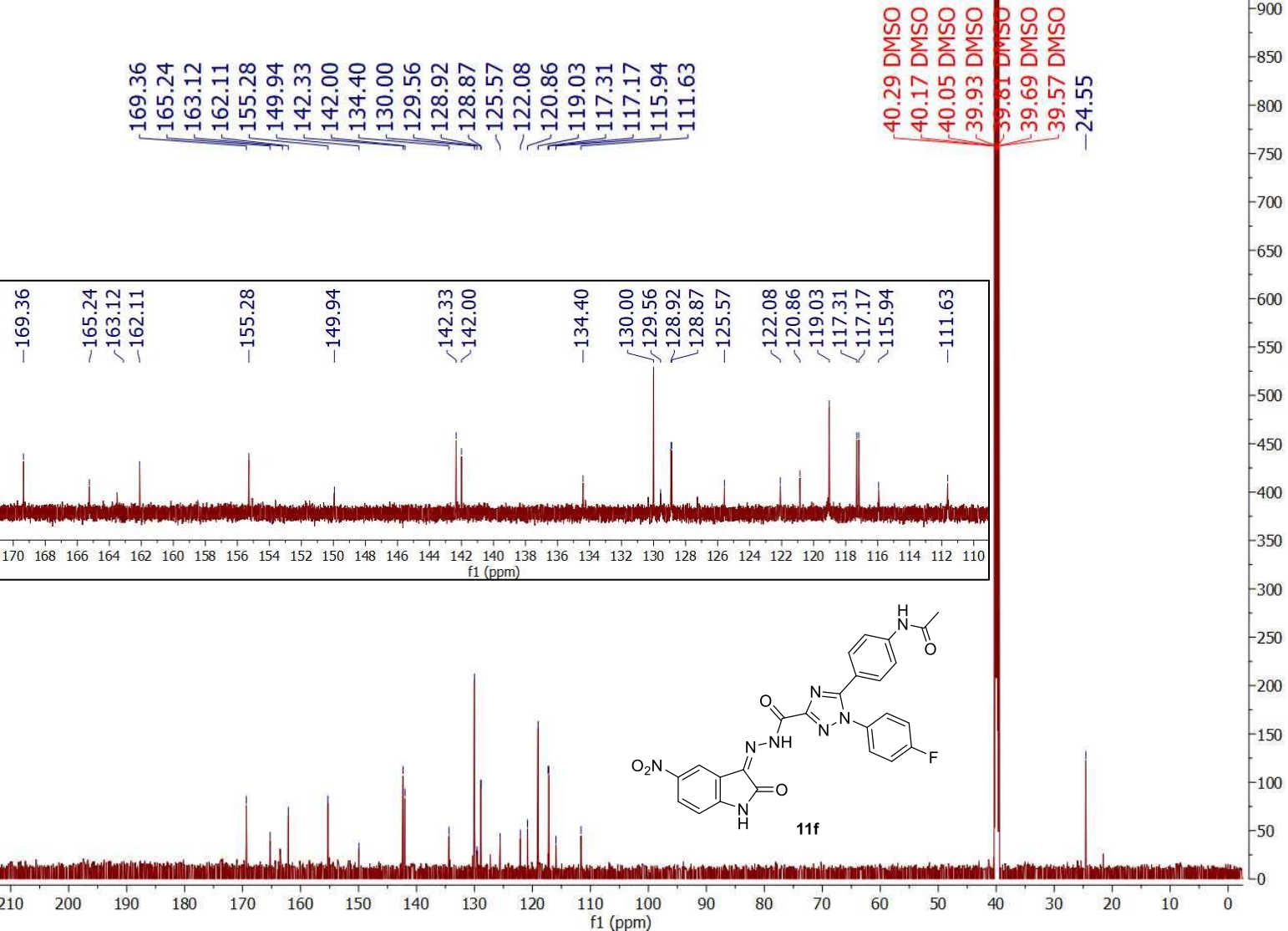


Chemical Formula: C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>20</sub>FN<sub>7</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

Exact Mass: 513.1561







## Compound Summary

| Cpd | Name | Formula         | RT    | Mass     | CAS | ID Source | Score | Score (Lib) | Score (DB) | Score (MFG) | Algorithm |
|-----|------|-----------------|-------|----------|-----|-----------|-------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1   |      | C25 H17 F N8 O5 | 0.775 | 528.1310 |     | FBF       | 99.47 |             |            |             | FBF       |

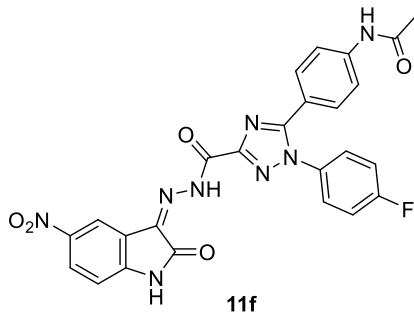
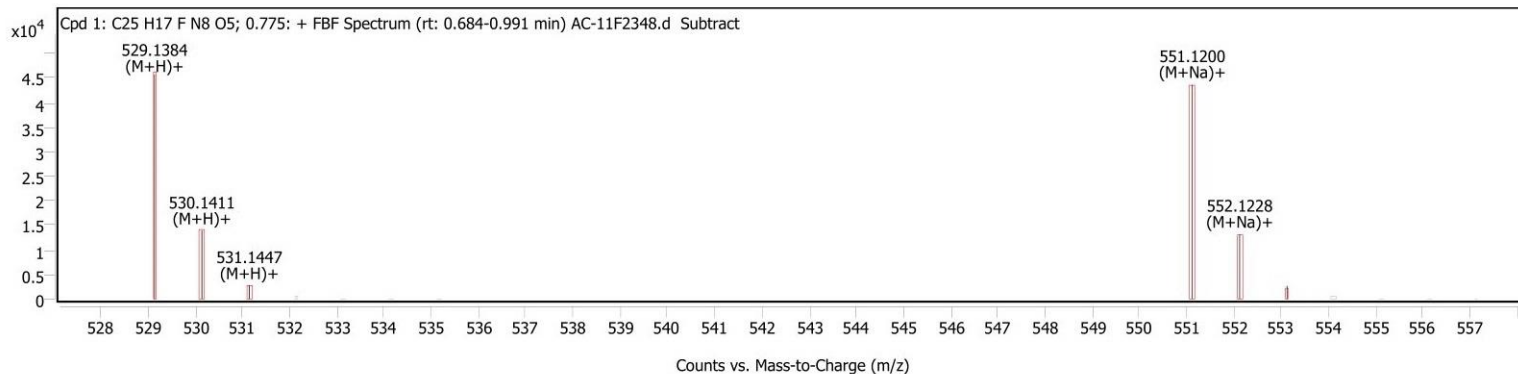
## Compound Details

### Cpd. 1: C25 H17 F N8 O5

| Name | Formula         | RT    | RI | Mass     | Score | Algorithm | Lib/DB |
|------|-----------------|-------|----|----------|-------|-----------|--------|
|      | C25 H17 F N8 O5 | 0.775 |    | 528.1310 | 99.47 | FBF       |        |

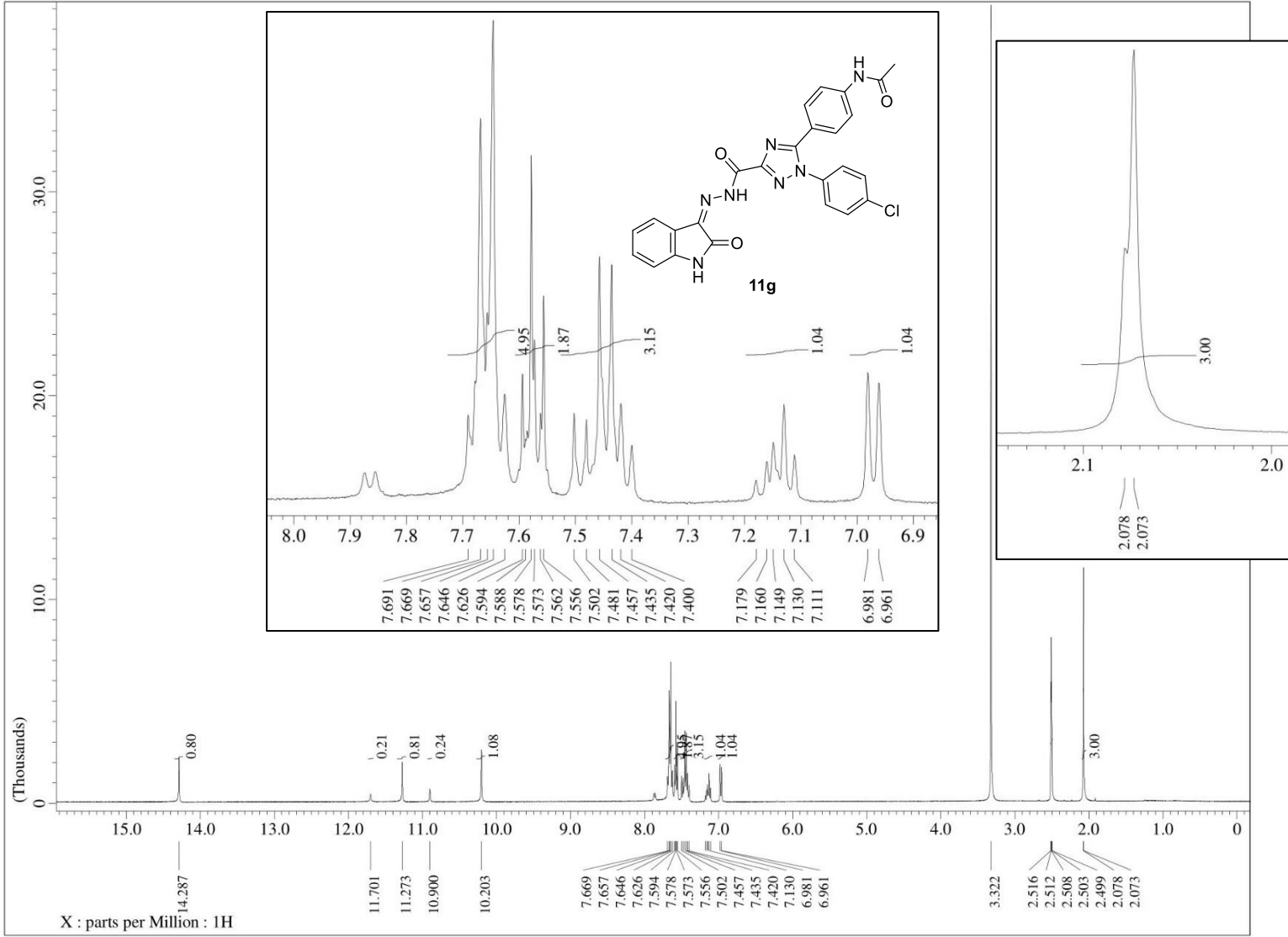
| Species        | m/z               | Score (Lib) | Num Spectra | Score (DB) | Score (MFG) | Score (RT) |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| (M+H)+ (M+Na)+ | 529.1384 551.1200 |             |             |            |             |            |

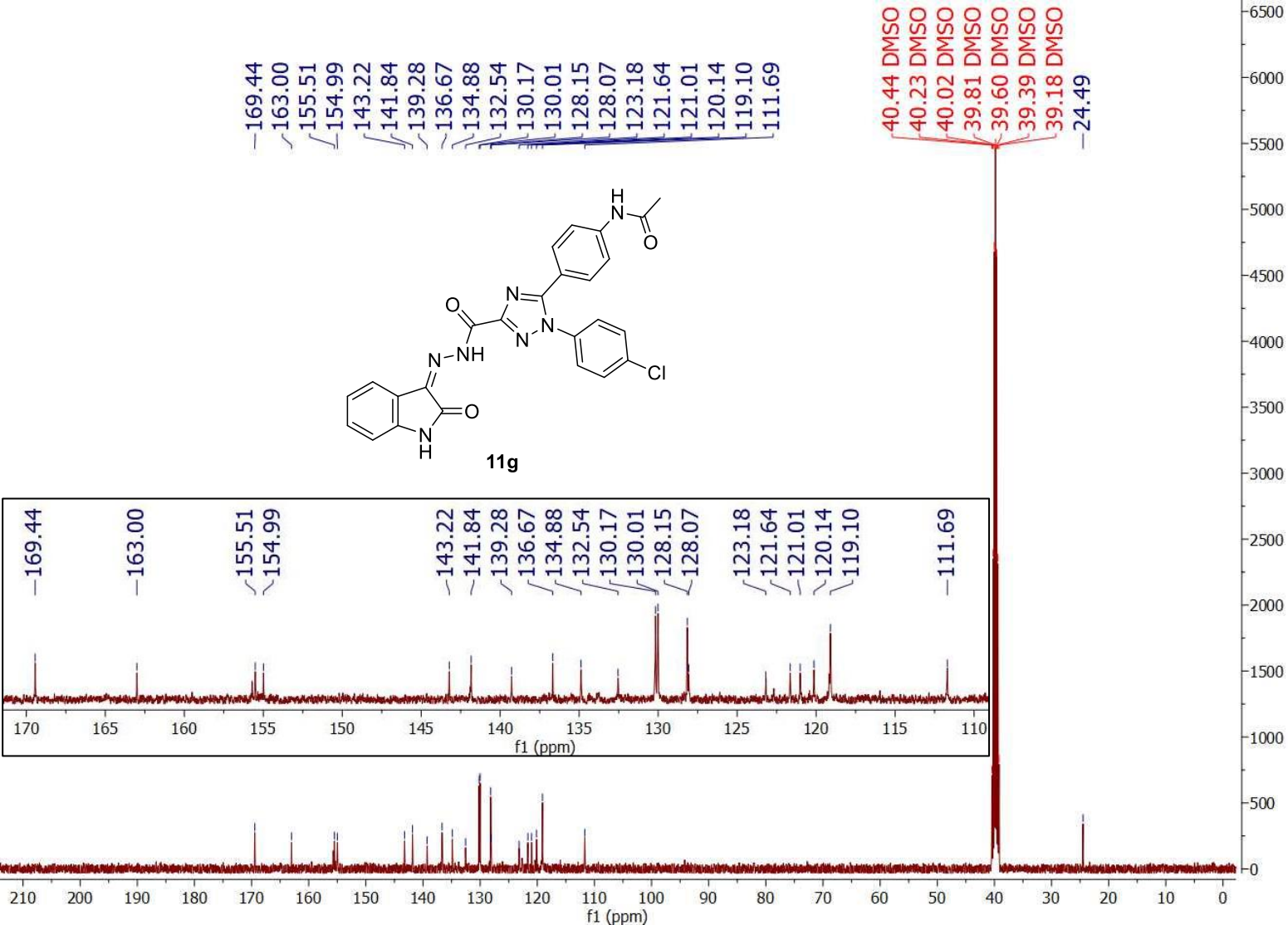
### Compound Spectra

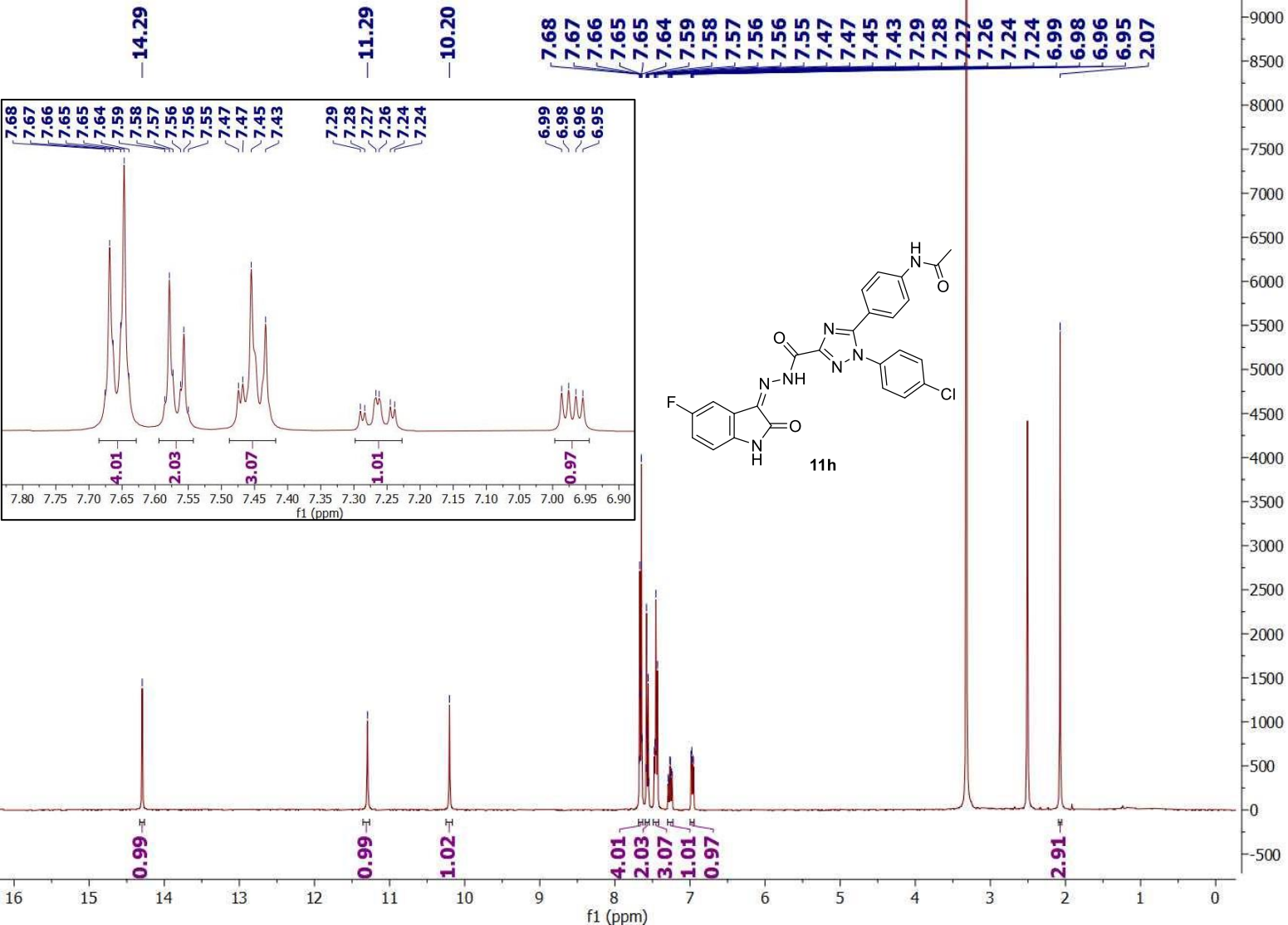


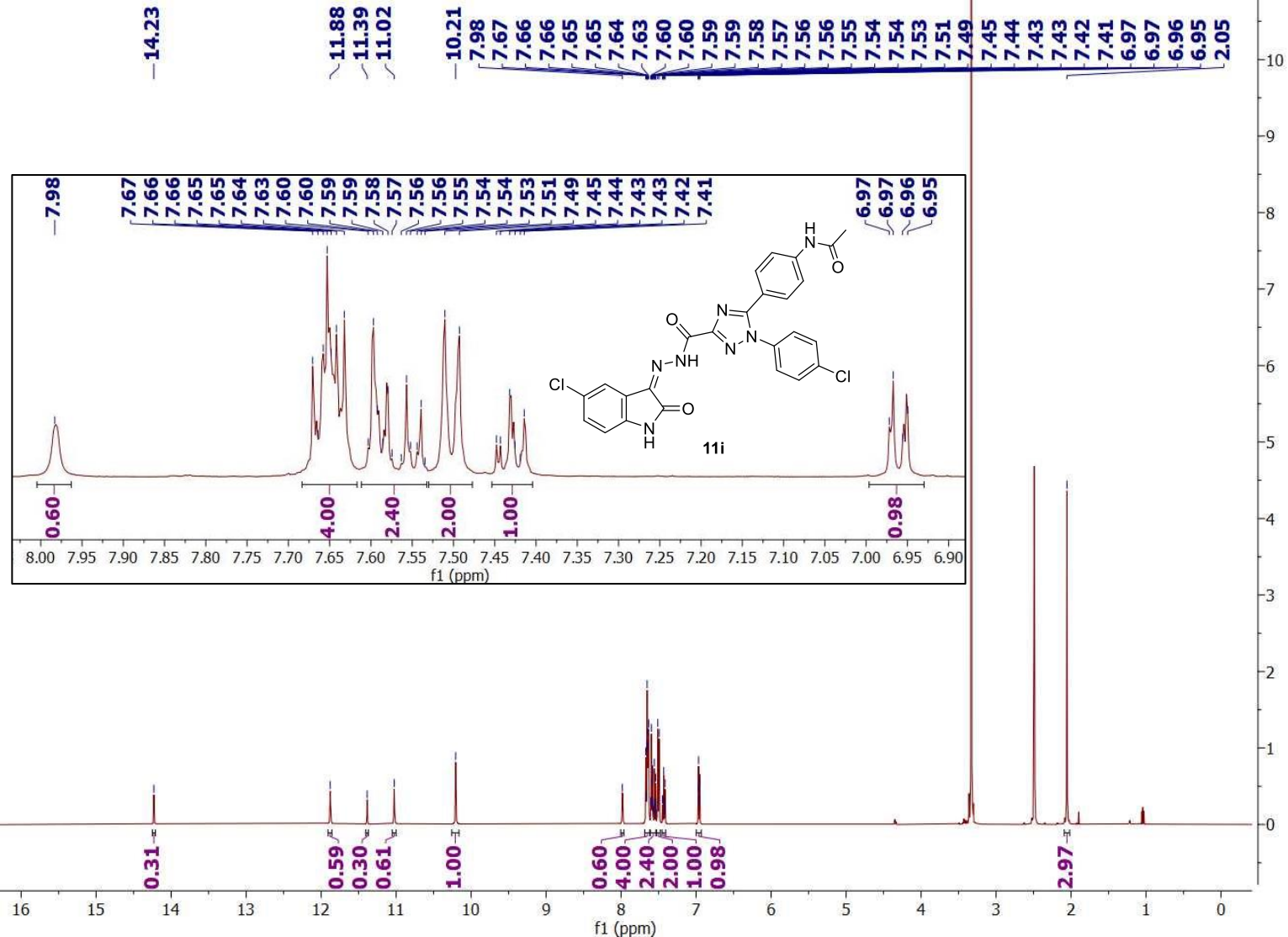
Chemical Formula: C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FN<sub>8</sub>O<sub>5</sub>

Exact Mass: 528.1306

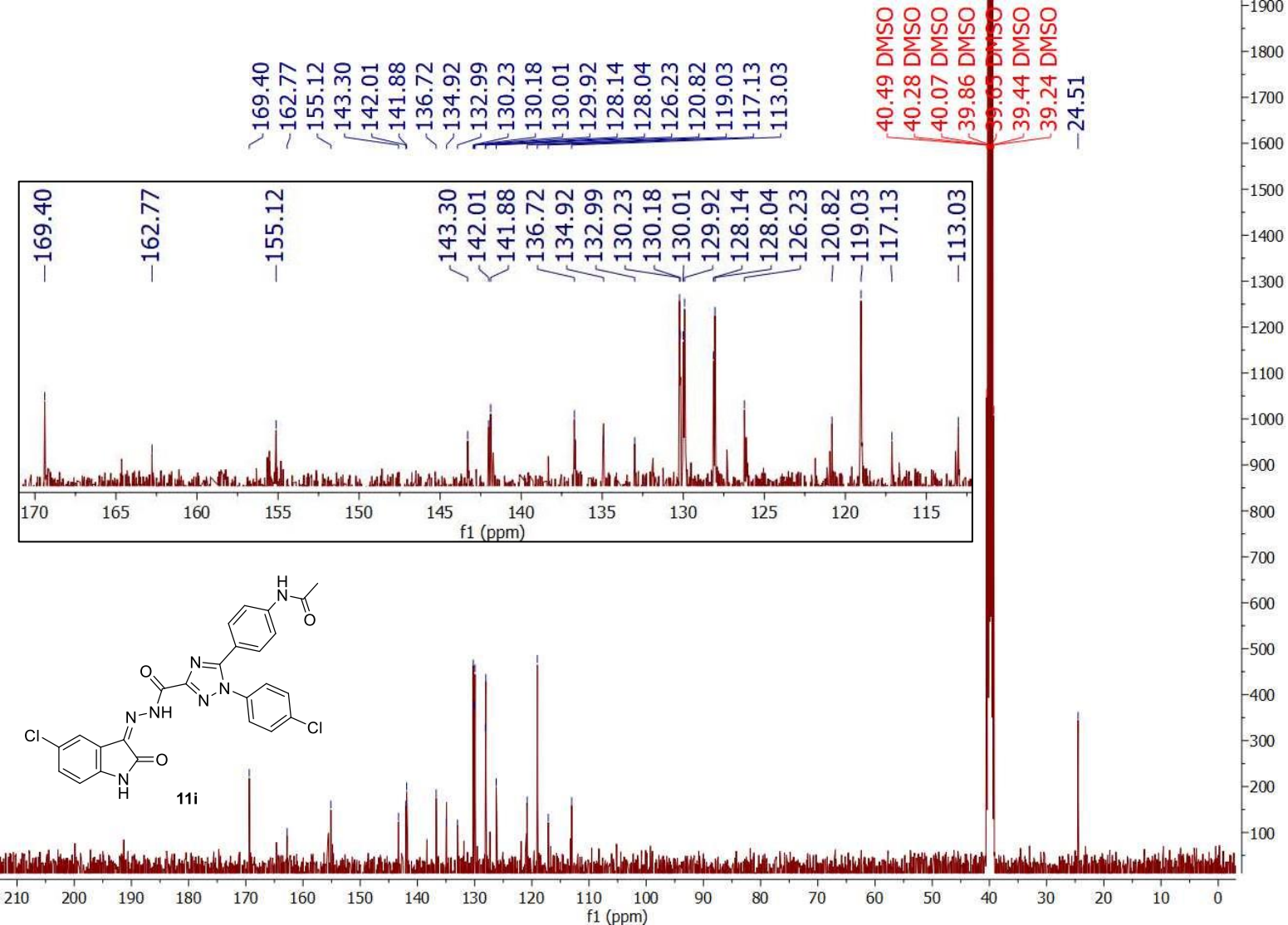




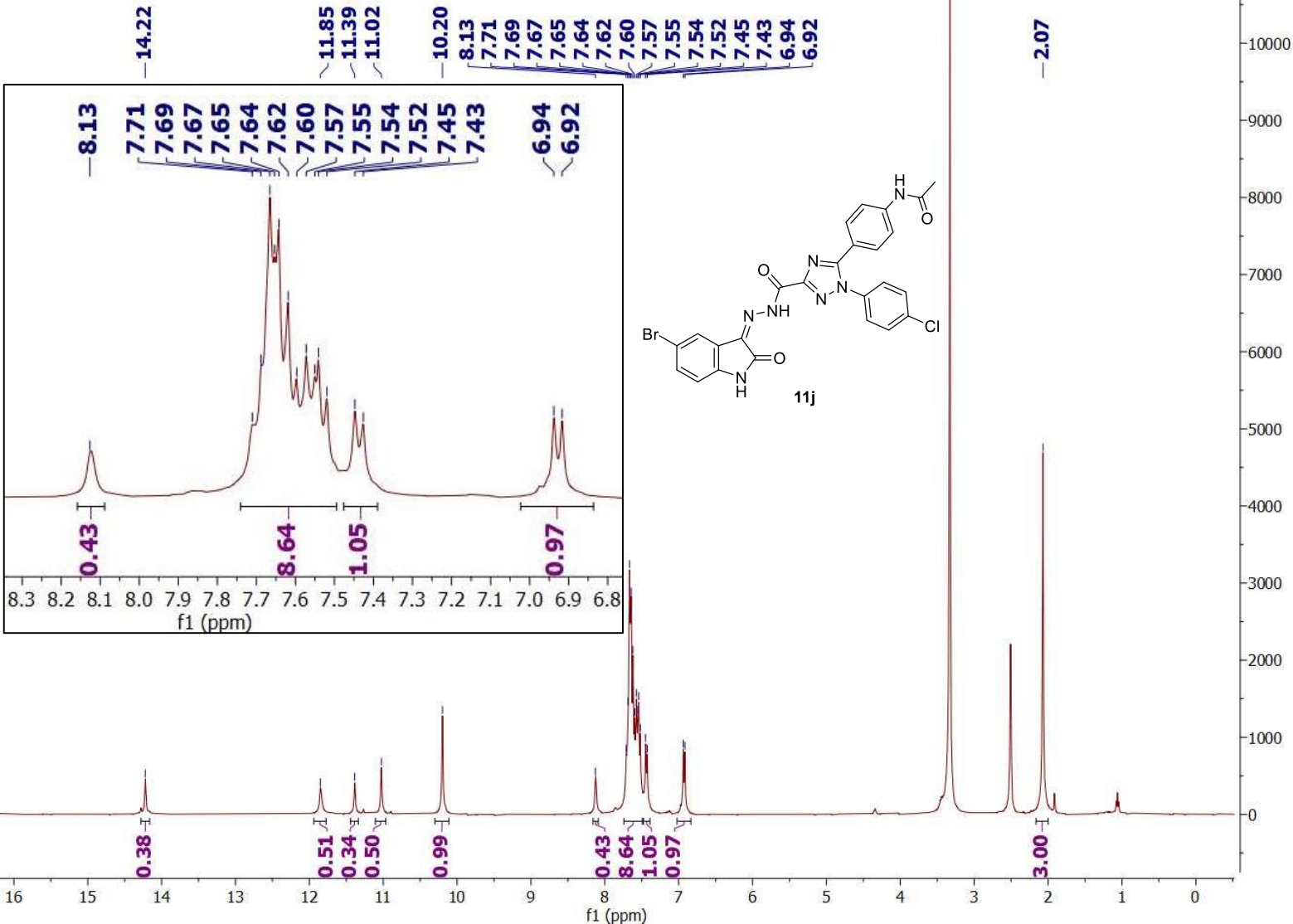


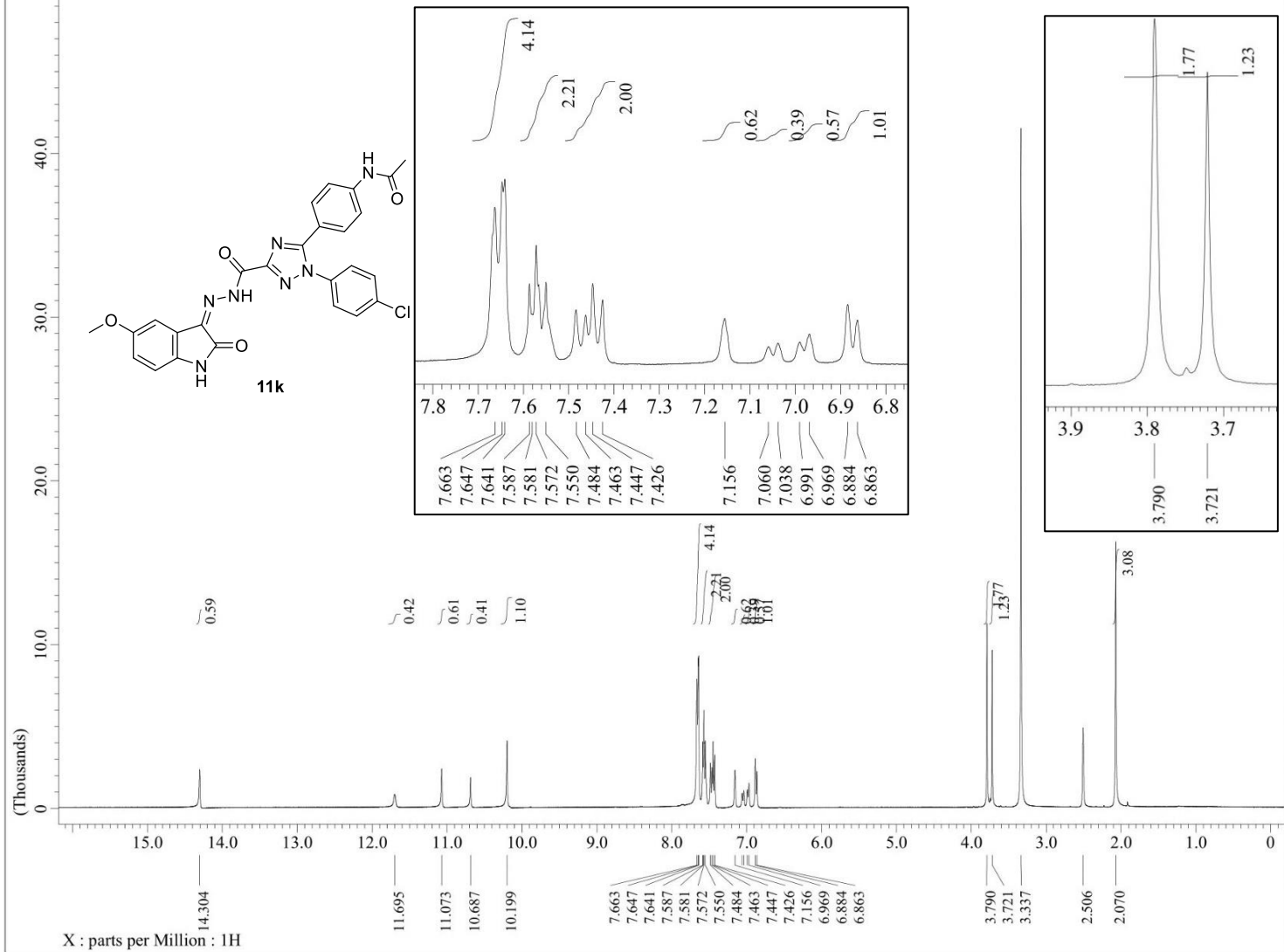


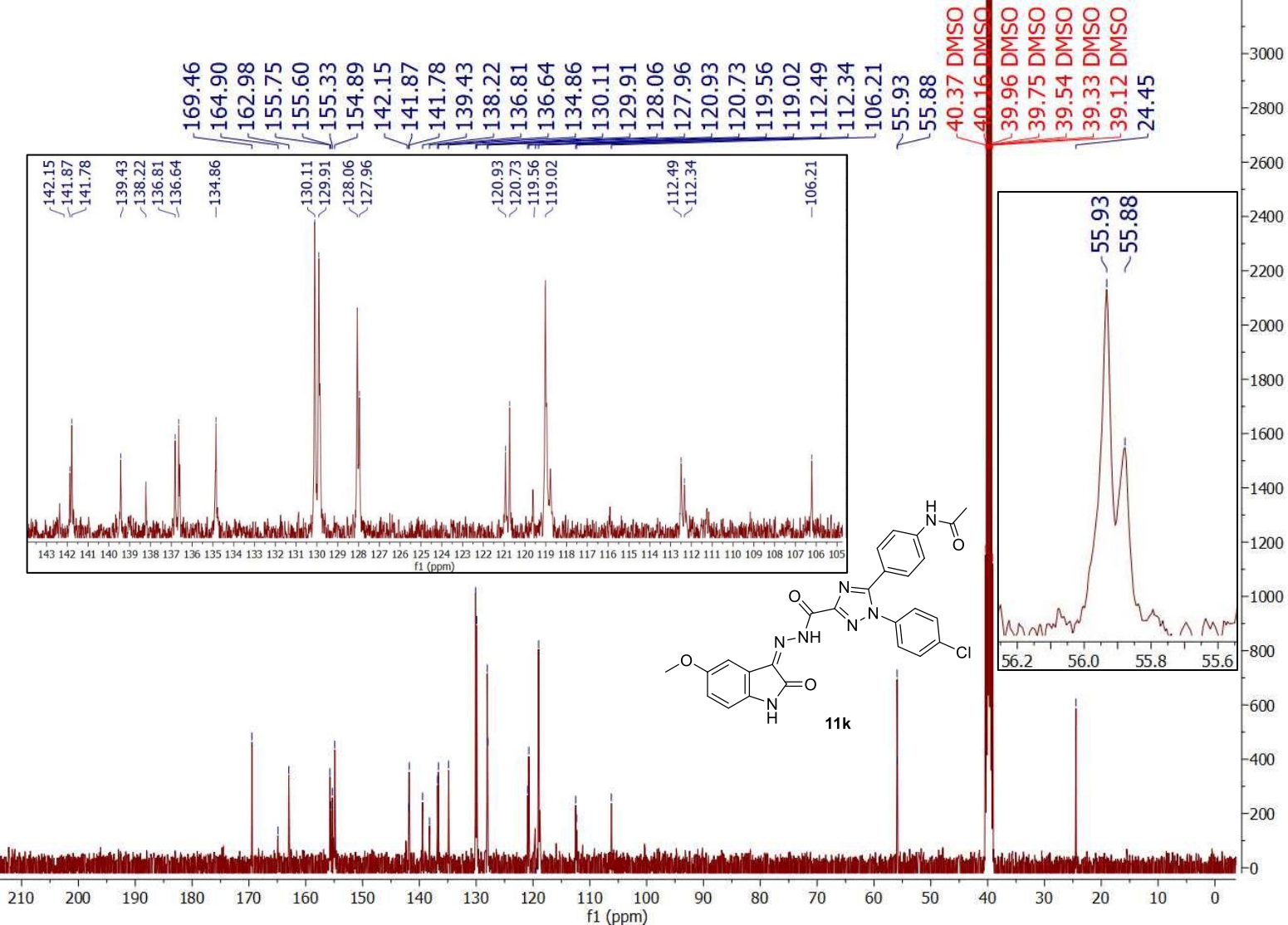


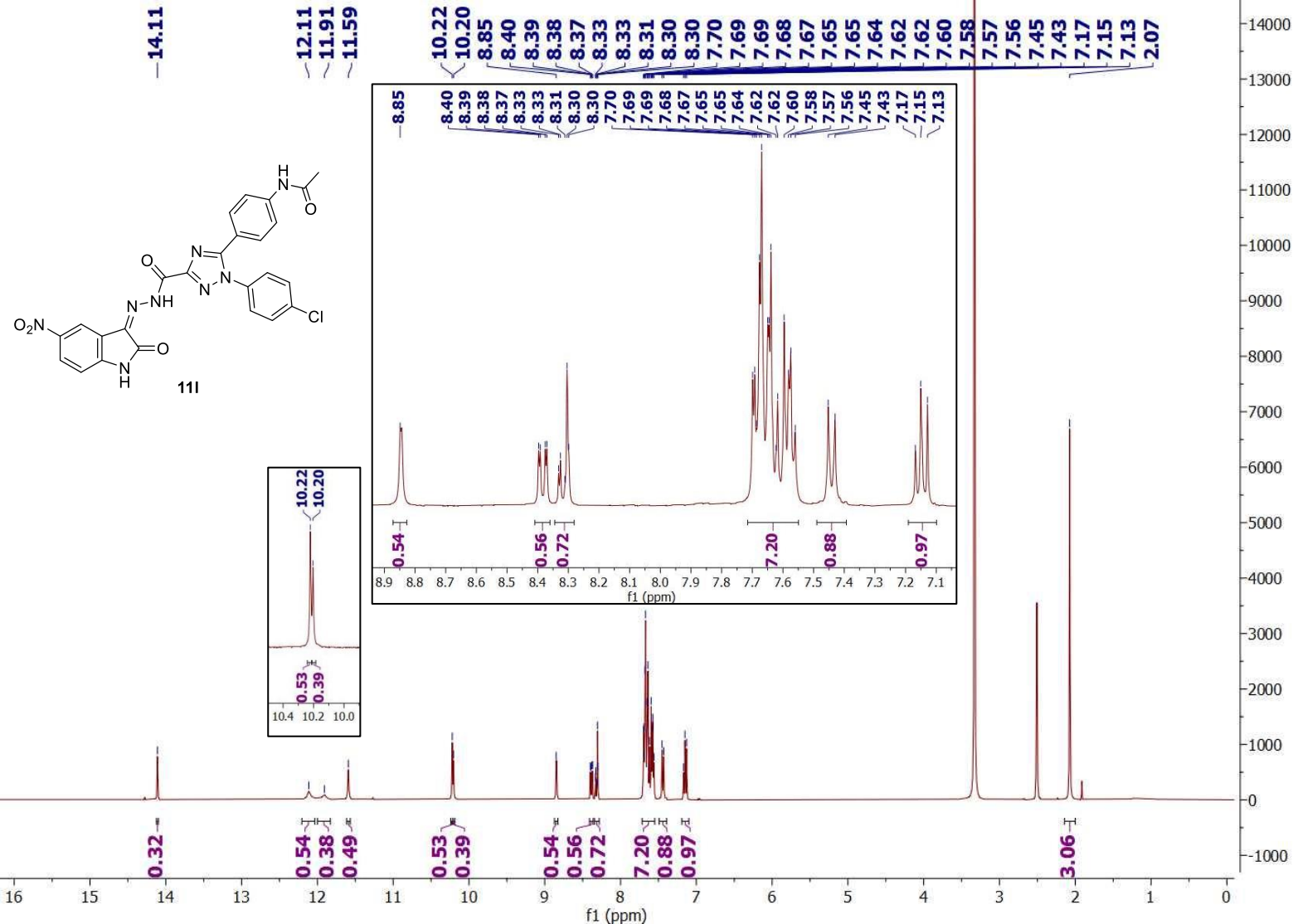


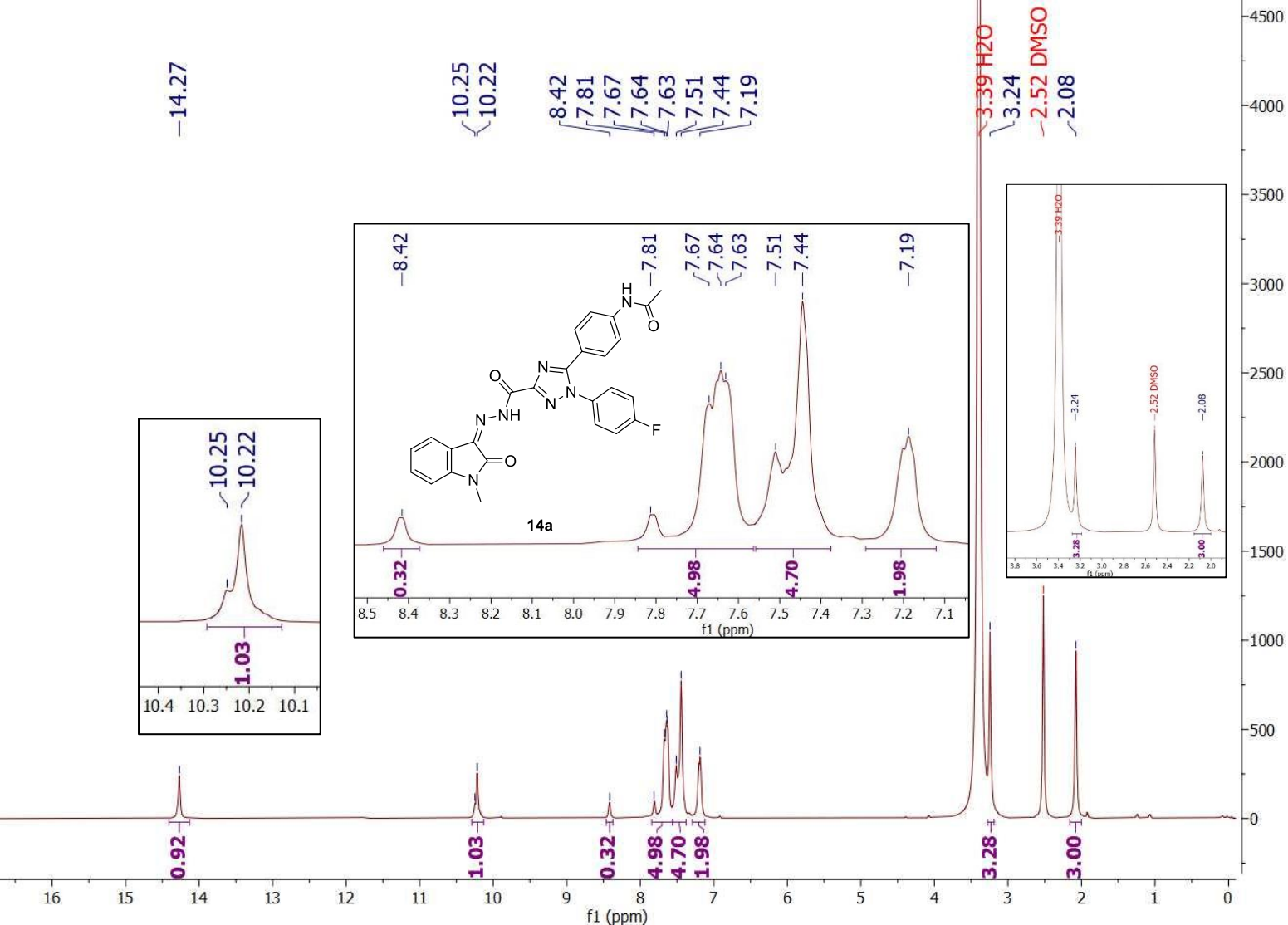


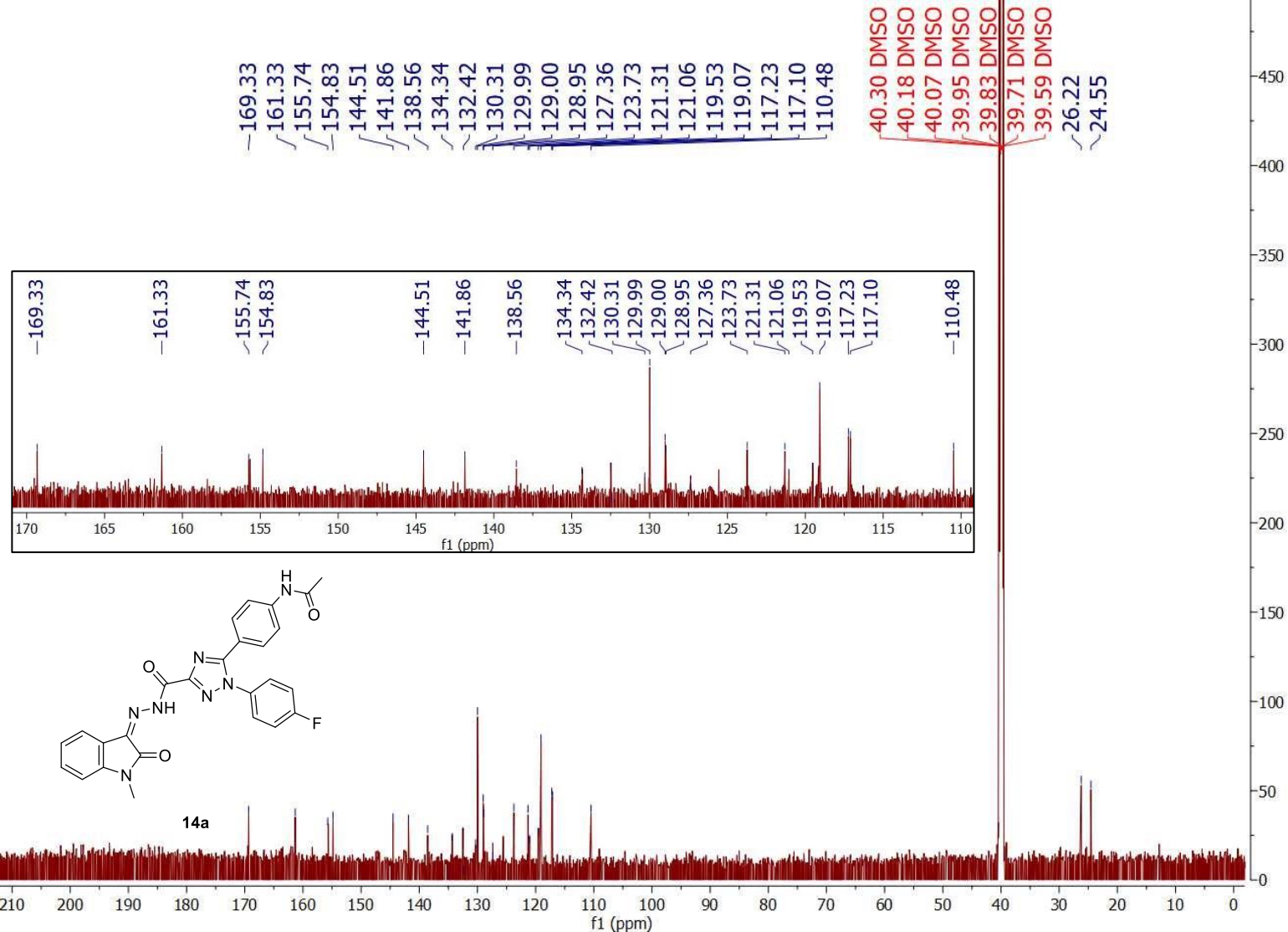












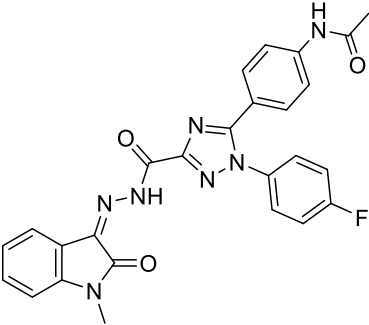
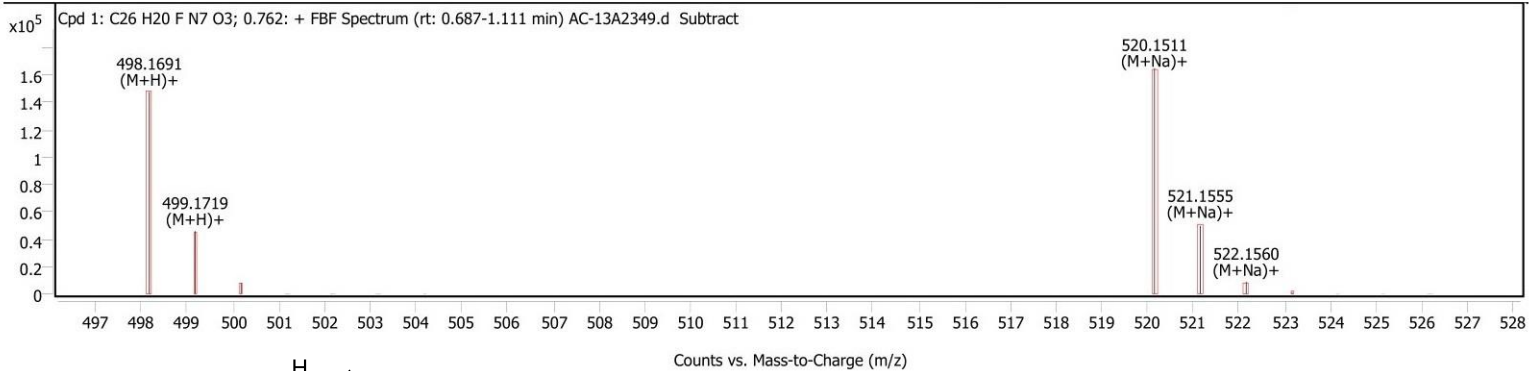
Compound Summary

| Cpd | Name | Formula         | RT    | Mass     | CAS | ID Source | Score | Score (Lib) | Score (DB) | Score (MFG) | Algorithm |
|-----|------|-----------------|-------|----------|-----|-----------|-------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1   |      | C26 H20 F N7 O3 | 0.762 | 497.1620 |     | FBF       | 98.98 |             |            |             | FBF       |

Compound Details

Cpd. 1: C26 H20 F N7 O3

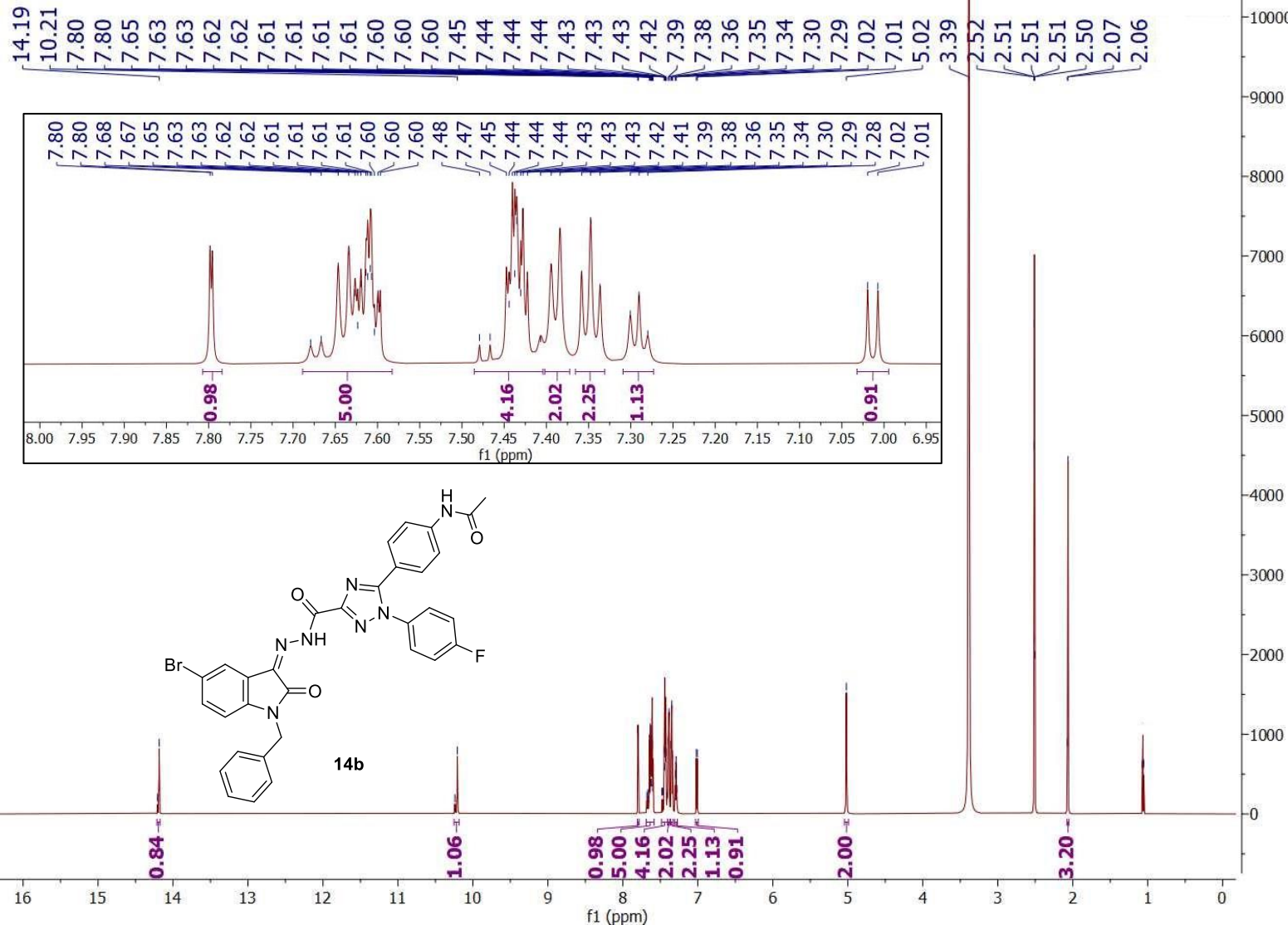
| Name           | Formula         | RT                | RI          | Mass        | Score      | Algorithm   | Lib/DB     |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|                | C26 H20 F N7 O3 | 0.762             |             | 497.1620    | 98.98      | FBF         |            |
| Species        |                 | m/z               | Score (Lib) | Num Spectra | Score (DB) | Score (MFG) | Score (RT) |
| (M+H)+ (M+Na)+ |                 | 498.1691 520.1511 |             |             |            |             |            |



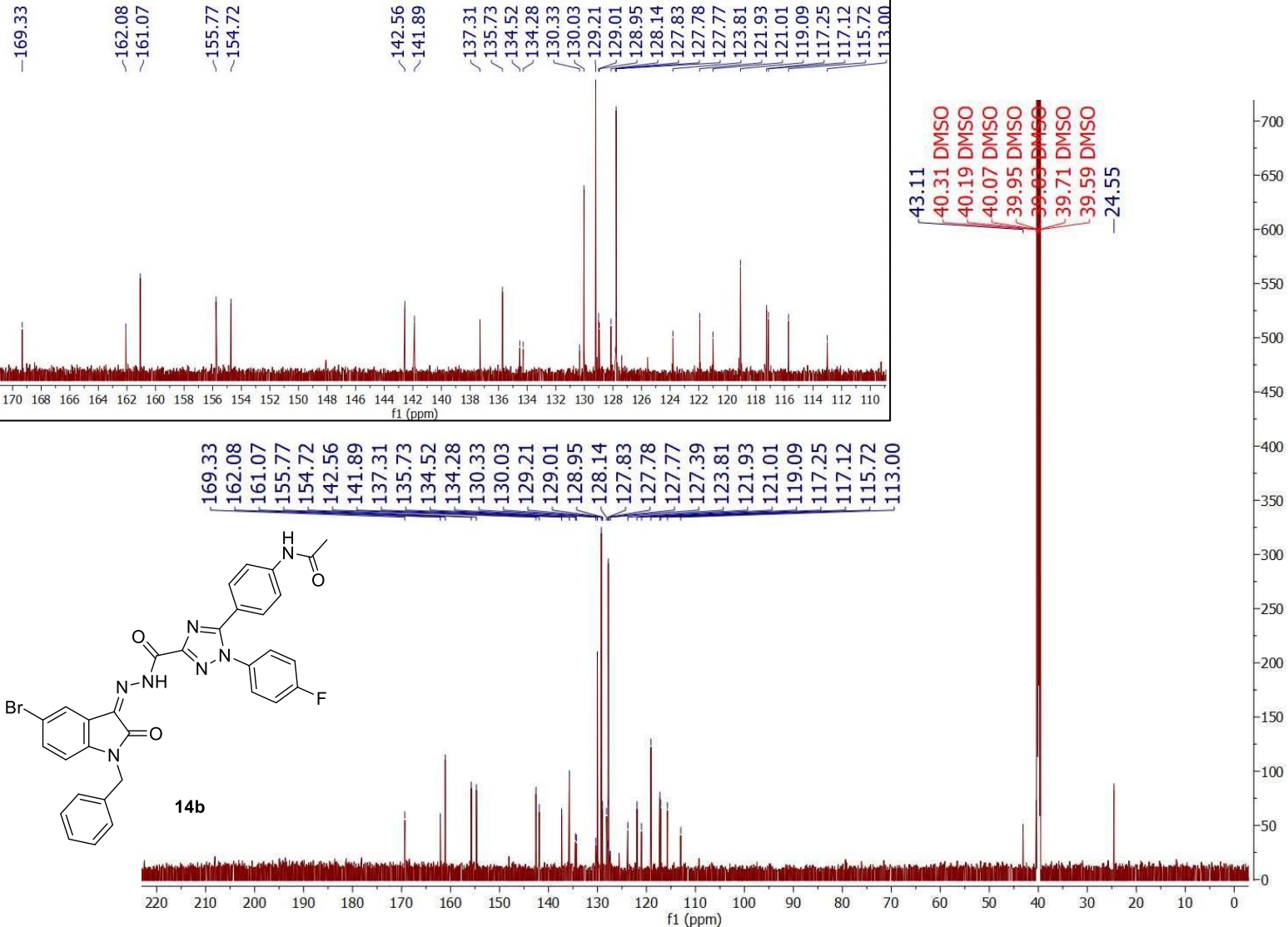
14a

Chemical Formula: C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>20</sub>FN<sub>7</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
Exact Mass: 497.1612





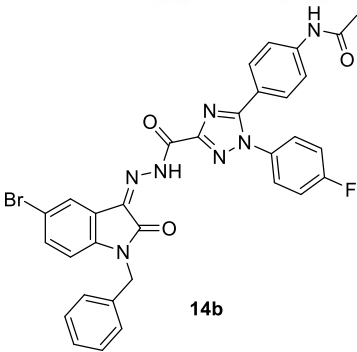
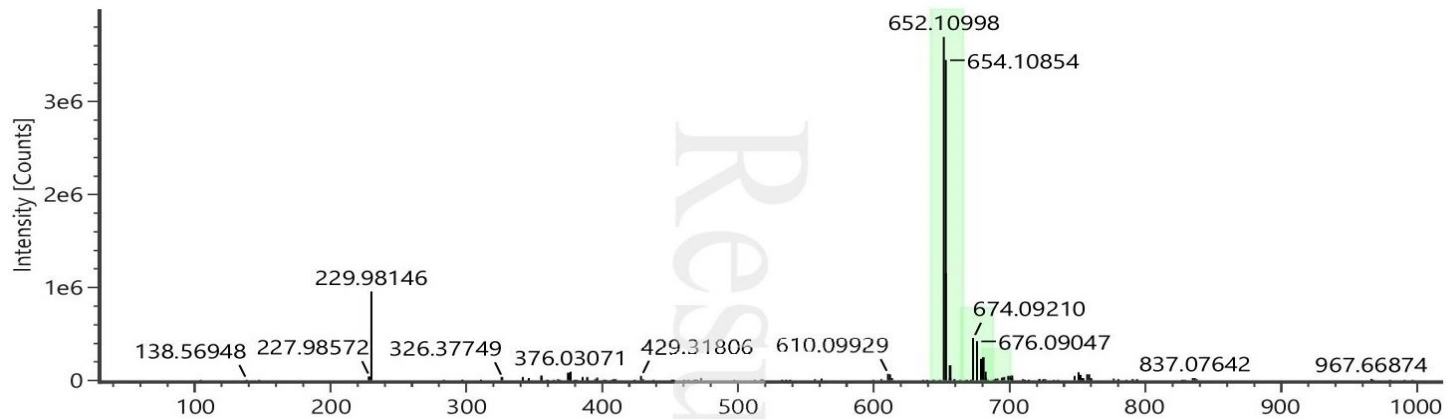




Item name: **AC13B**

Item name: AC13B, Sample position: 1:B,2, Replicate number: 1

|   | Component name | Identification status | Formula       | Neutral mass (Da) | Observed neutral mass (Da) | Observed m/z | Mass error (mDa) |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1 | AC13B          | Identified            | C32H23BrFO3N7 | 651.10298         | 651.1027                   | 652.1100     | -0.3             |



**14b**

Chemical Formula: C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>23</sub>BrFN<sub>7</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
Exact Mass: 651.1030

