

Supporting Information
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Cycloaddition of Benzyne with Alkoxy-Substituted Pyrroline-*N*-oxides: Unexpected Rearrangement to an *N*-Phenylpyrrole

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Supporting Information

General Information	page S1
Experimental procedures and spectroscopic data for all new compounds	page S1
references	page S3
¹ H and ¹³ C NMR spectra:	
compound 3a	page S4
compound 4a	page S6
compound 5a	page S8
compound 5b	page S10
compound 6a	page S12
compound 6b	page S14
compound 7b	page S16

General Information. Reactions requiring anhydrous conditions were carried out under nitrogen, and the solvents were appropriately dried before use. *R_f* values refer to TLC on 0.25 mm silica gel plates with the same eluant indicated for column chromatography unless otherwise stated. Melting points (Mp) were determined on a Thiele Electrothermal apparatus. Polarimetric measurements were performed on a JASCO DIP-370 polarimeter. NMR spectra were measured on Varian Gemini (¹H, 200 MHz, ¹³C, 50 MHz), Varian Mercury (¹H, 400 MHz, ¹³C, 100 MHz) and Varian INOVA (¹H, 400 MHz, ¹³C, 100 MHz), nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometers. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data are reported in δ (ppm) relative to CDCl₃ (7.26 and 77.0 ppm), and peak assignments were made on the basis of ¹H–¹H COSY, HSQC and HMBC experiments. IR spectra were recorded with a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum BX FT-IR System spectrophotometer. Elemental analyses were performed with a Perkin-Elmer 2400 analyzer. MS (ESI): were recorded on a LCQ Fleet Ion Trap Mass Spectrometer with Surveyor Plus LC System (Thermo Scientific) operating in positive (+ESI): and negative (−ESI): ion mode by direct infusion of a sample solution in methanol or acetonitrile. Accurate mass spectra were recorded on a LTQ-Orbitrap high-resolution mass spectrometer (Thermo, San Jose, CA, USA),

equipped with a conventional ESI source. Chromatographic purifications were performed on silica gel 60 (0.040–0.063 mm, 230–400 mesh ASTM, Merk) using flash-column technique.

(1*R*,2*R*,9*bR*)- and (1*R*,2*R*,9*bS*)-1,2-Di-*tert*-butoxy-1,2,3,9*b*-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]pyrrolo[1,2-*b*]isoxazole [(3*a*) and (4*a*)], and 2-(3-(*tert*-butoxy)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)phenol (5*a*). A mixture of **1a**¹ (300 mg, 1.3 mmol), **2** (0.476 mL, 1.96 mmol) and Bu₄NF (1 M in THF, 1.55 mL) in anhydrous DMF (12 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 2.5 h. DMF was evaporated under a flow of nitrogen. Purification by chromatography on silica gel (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether from 1:99 to 5:95) of the crude mixture afforded the two diastereomeric cycloadducts **3a** (154 mg, 39% yield) and **4a** (116 mg, 29% yield) as pale yellow oils and pyrrole **5a** (51 mg, 13% yield) as a pale yellow solid.

3a: *R_f* = 0.33 (EtOAc/petroleum ether 1:16). [α]_D²⁴ = −90.6 (c = 0.25, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.25 (dm, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 7.17–7.12 (m, 1H, 7-H), 6.90 (pseudo dt, *J* = 0.9, 7.4 Hz, 1H, 8-H), 6.73 (br d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, 6-H), 4.77 (br s, 1H, 9*b*-H), 4.13–4.10 (m, 1H, 1-H), 3.96 (ddd, *J* = 6.0, 4.9, 3.6 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 3.58 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 4.9 Hz, 1H, 3-Ha), 3.16 (ddm, *J* = 11.6, 6.0

Hz, 1H, 3-Hb), 1.29 (s, 9H, CH₃x3), 1.06 (s, 9H, CH₃x3) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz): δ = 156.3 (s; C-5a), 128.5 (d; C-7), 127.1 (s; C-9a), 123.4 (d; C-9), 120.9 (d; C-8), 107.1 (d; C-6), 82.0 (d; C-1), 76.6 (d; C-2), 75.6 (d; C-9b), 74.5 (s, CMe₃), 73.6 (s, CMe₃), 62.1 (t; C-3), 28.7 (q; 3C, CH₃x3), 28.3 (q; 3C, CH₃x3) ppm. IR (CDCl₃): ν = 2977, 2871, 1597, 1480, 1456, 1390, 1365, 1253, 1190, 1099, 1079 cm⁻¹. MS (⁺ESI): *m/z* = 306 [M+H]⁺; 250 [M+H-(isobutene)]⁺; 194 [M+H-2(isobutene)]⁺. C₁₈H₂₇NO₃ (305.41): calcd. C, 70.79; H, 8.91; N, 4.59; found C, 70.56; H, 8.69; N, 4.98.

4a: *R_f* = 0.23 (EtOAc/petroleum ether 1:16). [α]_D²¹ = -12.7 (c = 0.22, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.32 (br d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 7.17 (pseudo tm, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, 7-H), 6.91 (pseudo dt, *J* = 0.8, 7.4 Hz, 1H, 8-H), 6.76 (br d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H, 6-H), 4.87 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, 9b-H), 4.24 (pseudo t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, 1-H), 3.82 (pseudo q, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 3.49 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 7.6 Hz, 1H, 3-Ha), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 8.6 Hz, 1H, 3-Hb), 1.28 (s, 9H, CH₃x3), 1.11 (s, 9H, CH₃x3) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz): δ = 157.2 (s; C-5a), 128.4 (d; C-7), 125.9 (d; C-9), 125.2 (s; C-9a), 120.8 (d; C-8), 107.2 (d; C-6), 77.6 (d; C-1), 74.3 (s, CMe₃), 73.7 (s, CMe₃), 73.0 (d; C-2), 68.4 (d; C-9b), 62.5 (t; C-3), 28.5 (q; 6C, CH₃x6) ppm. IR (CDCl₃): ν = 2977, 2935, 1593, 1474, 1458, 1390, 1365, 1236, 1192, 1119 cm⁻¹. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 306 [M+H]⁺; 250 [M+H-(isobutene)]⁺; 194 [M+H-2(isobutene)]⁺. C₁₈H₂₇NO₃ (305.41): calcd. C, 70.79; H, 8.91; N, 4.59; found C, 70.51; H, 9.12; N, 4.56.

5a: *R_f* = 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether 1:32), one orange spot with *p*-anisaldehyde stain. Mp = 110-112 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 8.18 (s, 1H, OH, disappears on addition of D₂O), 7.30-7.25 (m, 2H, H_{Ar}), 7.24-7.18 (m, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.11-7.01 (m, 4H, H_{Ar}), 6.84 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 6.60-6.51 (m, 2H, H_{Ar}), 6.14 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 1.23 (s, 9H, CH₃x3) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 153.7 (s; C_{Ar}), 140.7 (s; C_{Ar}), 139.5 (s; C_{Ar}), 130.8 (d; CH_{Ar}), 128.9 (d; 2C, CH_{Ar}), 128.0 (d; CH_{Ar}), 126.3 (d; CH_{Ar}), 125.3 (d; 2C, CH_{Ar}), 122.4 (d; C-5), 120.9 (s; C_{Ar}), 119.6 (d; CH_{Ar}), 119.0 (s; C_{Ar}), 118.3 (d; CH_{Ar}), 105.1 (d; C-4), 81.6 (s; CMe₃), 28.0 (q; 3C, CH₃x3) ppm. C/H coupled ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ: (selection of signals) 122.4 (dd, *J* = 187.6, 7.0 Hz; C-5), 105.1 (dd, *J* = 173.3, 7.2 Hz; C-4) ppm. IR (CDCl₃): ν = 3255 (broad), 3075, 2981, 2934, 1599, 1556, 1502, 1352, 1235, 1164 cm⁻¹. MS (⁺ESI): *m/z* = 330 [M+Na]⁺. MS (⁻ESI): *m/z* = 307 [M]⁻. HRMS (⁺ESI): *m/z* [MH]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₂₂NO₂⁺: 308.16451; found: 308.16444.

2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-3,4-Di-*tert*-butoxypyrrolidin-2-

yl)phenol (**6a**). A mixture of isoxazolidine **3a** (167 mg, 0.55 mmol) and zinc powder (1.43 g) in AcOH:H₂O [1:1 (v/v), 16.4 mL) was heated in an oil bath at 70 °C for 2 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with MeOH, filtered through cotton wool and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and the solution was basified to pH = 9 with a saturated aq. NaHCO₃ solution and solid Na₂CO₃ at 0 °C. The two phases were separated. The aqueous phase was sequentially extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3x30 mL) and EtOAc (2x30 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the crude product by chromatography on silica gel [eluent: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (1% NH₄OH) 98:2] afforded **6a** (127 mg, 0.41 mmol) in 75% yield as a white solid.

6a: *R_f* = 0.31. Mp = 124-125 °C. [α]_D²¹ = -43.4 (c = 0.43, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.13 (pseudo dt, *J* = 1.7, 7.7 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.00 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 6.80 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 6.74 (pseudo dt, *J* = 1.1, 7.4 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 5.3 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 3.99 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 5.3 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 3.30 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 7.4 Hz, 1H, 5-Ha), 3.01 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 4.4 Hz, 1H, 5-Hb), 1.19 (s, 9H, CH₃x3), 0.93 (s, 9H, CH₃x3) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 158.0 (s; C_{Ar}), 129.6 (d; CH_{Ar}), 128.7 (d; CH_{Ar}), 123.3 (s; C_{Ar}), 118.4 (d; CH_{Ar}), 116.7 (d; CH_{Ar}), 80.7 (d; C-3), 76.3 (d; C-4), 74.6 (s, CMe₃), 73.8 (s, CMe₃), 66.6 (d; C-2), 50.9 (t; C-5), 28.7 (q; 3C, CH₃x3), 28.6 (q; 3C, CH₃x3) ppm. IR (CDCl₃): ν = 2977, 2935, 1589, 1489, 1392, 1367, 1257, 1190, 1106, 1068 cm⁻¹. MS (⁺ESI): *m/z* = 308 [M+H]⁺. MS (⁻ESI): *m/z* = 306 [M-H]⁻. C₁₈H₂₉NO₃ (307.43): calcd. C, 70.32; H, 9.51; N, 4.56; found C, 70.53; H, 9.66; N, 4.17.

2-(3-(Benzoyloxy)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)phenol (**5b**), 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)- and 2-((2*S*,3*R*,4*R*)-3,4-bis(benzoyloxy)pyrrolidin-2-yl)phenol [(**6b**) and (**7b**)].

A mixture of **1b**^{6c} (300 mg, 0.92 mmol), **2** (0.336 mL, 1.38 mmol) and Bu₄NF (1 M in THF, 1.1 mL) in anhydrous DMF (9 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 2.5 h. DMF was evaporated under a flow of nitrogen. The residue was filtered through a short pad of silica gel [eluent: petroleum ether/EtOAc (1% Et₃N), 1:9] to afford a mixture of **3b**, **4b** and **5b** in ca 1.1:1:0.4 ratio (305 mg) that was used in the next step without further purification.

(1R,2R,9bR)-1,2-Bis(benzoyloxy)-1,2,3,9b-tetrahydrobenzo[d]pyrrolo[1,2-b]isoxazole (3b): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = (discernible signals), 5.67 (pseudo dt, *J* = 3.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 5.61-5.60 (m, 1H, 1-H), 5.27 (br s, 1H, 9b-H), 3.94 (dd, *J* = 15.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H, 3-H_b) ppm. **(1R,2R,9bS)-1,2-bis(benzoyloxy)-1,2,3,9b-tetrahydrobenzo[d]pyrrolo[1,2-b]isoxazole (4b):** ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = (discernible signals), 5.89 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 4.5 Hz, 1H, 1-H), 5.77 (pseudo dt, *J* = 4.6, 5.8 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 5.51 (br d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H, 9b-H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 6.0 Hz, 1H, 3-Ha), 3.73 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 5.7 Hz, 1H, 3-Hb) ppm.

AcOH (0.83 mL) and Pd/C (10% in weight, 15 mg) were added to a solution of the cycloaddition reaction mixture (305 mg) in MeOH (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred in a H₂ atmosphere (1 atm) at room temperature for 4 h, then filtered through a short pad of Celite® and washing with MeOH. Purification by chromatography on silica gel [eluent: EtOAc (1% Et₃N)/petroleum ether 1:3] afforded the two diastereomeric pyrrolidines **6b** (109 mg, 29% yield) and **7b** (100 mg, 27% yield) as white solids and pyrrole **5b** (25 mg, 8% yield) as a pale yellow solid.

5b: *R_f* = 0.52 (EtOAc/petroleum ether 1:4), one red spot with *p*-anisaldehyde stain. Mp = 135-137 °C (dec). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 8.15-8.09 (m, 2H, H_{Bz}), 7.62-7.56 (m, 1H, H_{Bz}), 7.49-7.42 (m, 2H, H_{Bz}), 7.31-7.11 (m, 6H, H_{Ar}), 7.03 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 6.93 (dm, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 6.88 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 6.76-6.69 (m, 1H, H_{Ar}), 6.44 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 6.06 (br s, 1H, OH) ppm. ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 165.8 (s; CO), 154.8 (s; C_{Ar}), 139.6 (s; C_{Ar}), 136.8 (s; C_{Ar}), 133.6 (d; CH_{Bz}), 132.1 (d; CH_{Ar}), 130.3 (d; 2C, CH_{Bz}), 130.1 (d; CH_{Ar}), 129.0 (d; 2C, CH_{Ar}), 128.9 (s; CH_{Bz}), 128.5 (d; 2C, CH_{Bz}), 126.8 (d; CH_{Ar}), 124.9 (d; 2C, CH_{Ar}), 121.6 (d; C-5), 120.1 (d; CH_{Ar}), 117.3 (s; C_{Ar}), 116.4 (s; C_{Ar}), 116.1 (d; CH_{Ar}), 103.3 (d; C-4) ppm. IR (CDCl₃): ν = 3072, 2927, 1726, 1600, 1502, 1356, 1267, 1228, 1068, 1025 cm⁻¹. MS (+ESI): *m/z* = 356 [M+1]⁺. MS (-ESI): *m/z* = 354 [M-1]⁻. HRMS (+ESI): *m/z* [MH]⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₁₈NO₃⁺: 356.12812; found: 356.12788.

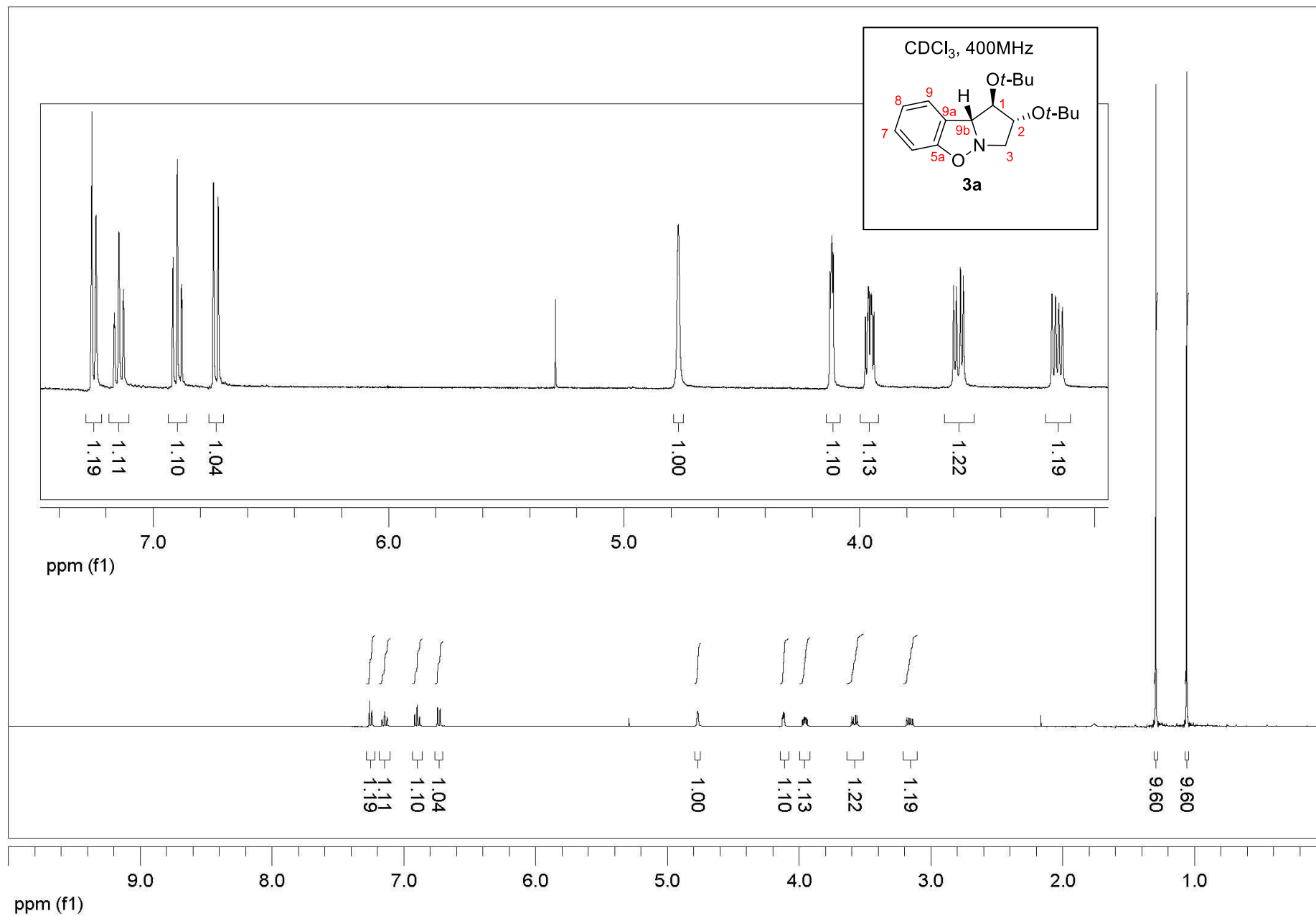
6b: *R_f* = 0.15 (EtOAc/petroleum ether 1:4). Mp = 162-164 °C. [α]_D²⁷ = -57.4 (c = 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 8.08-8.03 (m, 2H, H_{Bz}), 8.96-7.91 (m, 2H, H_{Bz}), 7.63-7.58 (m, 1H, H_{Bz}), 7.57-7.52 (m, 1H, H_{Bz}), 7.50-7.44 (m, 2H, H_{Bz}), 7.43-7.37 (m, 2H, H_{Bz}), 7.23 (dd,

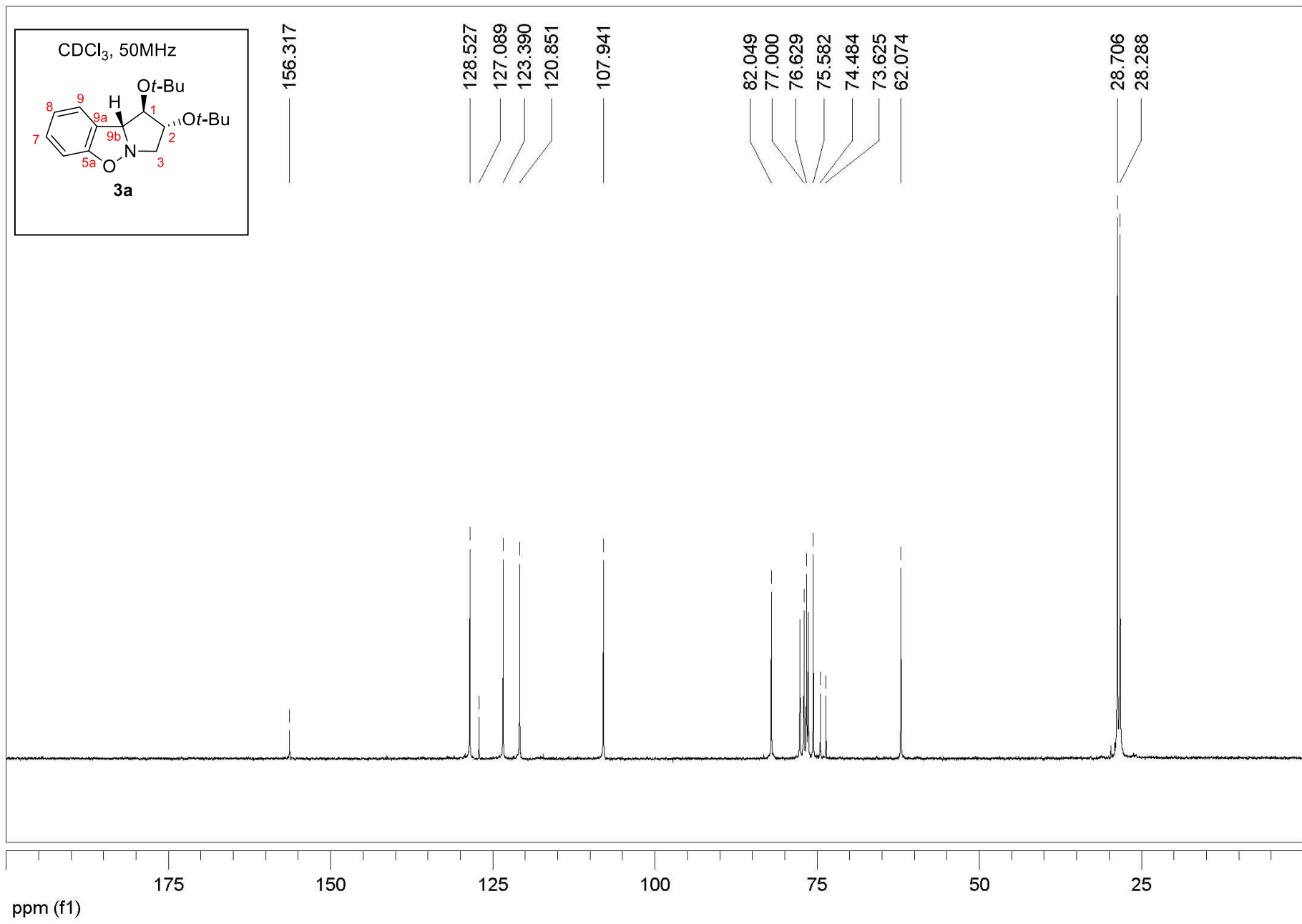
J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.18 (pseudo dt, *J* = 1.6, 7.7 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 6.88 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 6.80 (pseudo dt, *J* = 1.2, 7.4 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 5.71 (dd, *J* = 4.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 5.62 (pseudo dt, *J* = 5.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 3.70 (dd, *J* = 12.1, 5.5 Hz, 1H, 5-Ha), 3.44 (dm, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H, 5-Hb) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 165.7 (s; CO), 165.3 (s; CO), 157.8 (s; C_{Ar}), 133.5 (d; CH_{Bz}), 133.3 (d; CH_{Bz}), 129.9 (d; 2C, CH_{Bz}), 129.7 (d; 2C, CH_{Bz}), 129.3 (s; C_{Bz}), 129.2 (s; C_{Bz}), 129.1 (d; CH_{Ar}), 128.5 (d; 2C, CH_{Bz}), 128.4 (d; CH_{Ar}), 128.3 (d; 2C, CH_{Bz}), 121.1 (s; C_{Ar}), 119.2 (d; CH_{Ar}), 117.4 (d; CH_{Ar}), 83.0 (d; C-3), 77.3 (d; C-4), 67.0 (d; C-2), 51.2 (t; C-5) ppm. IR (CDCl₃): ν = 3348, 3065, 2959, 2858, 1719, 1602, 1585, 1491, 1451, 1278, 1258, 1110 cm⁻¹. MS (+ESI): *m/z* = 404 [M+H]⁺. MS (-ESI): *m/z* = 402 [M-H]⁻. C₂₄H₂₁NO₅ (403.43): calcd. C, 71.45; H, 5.25; N, 3.47; found C, 71.08; H, 5.07; N, 3.44.

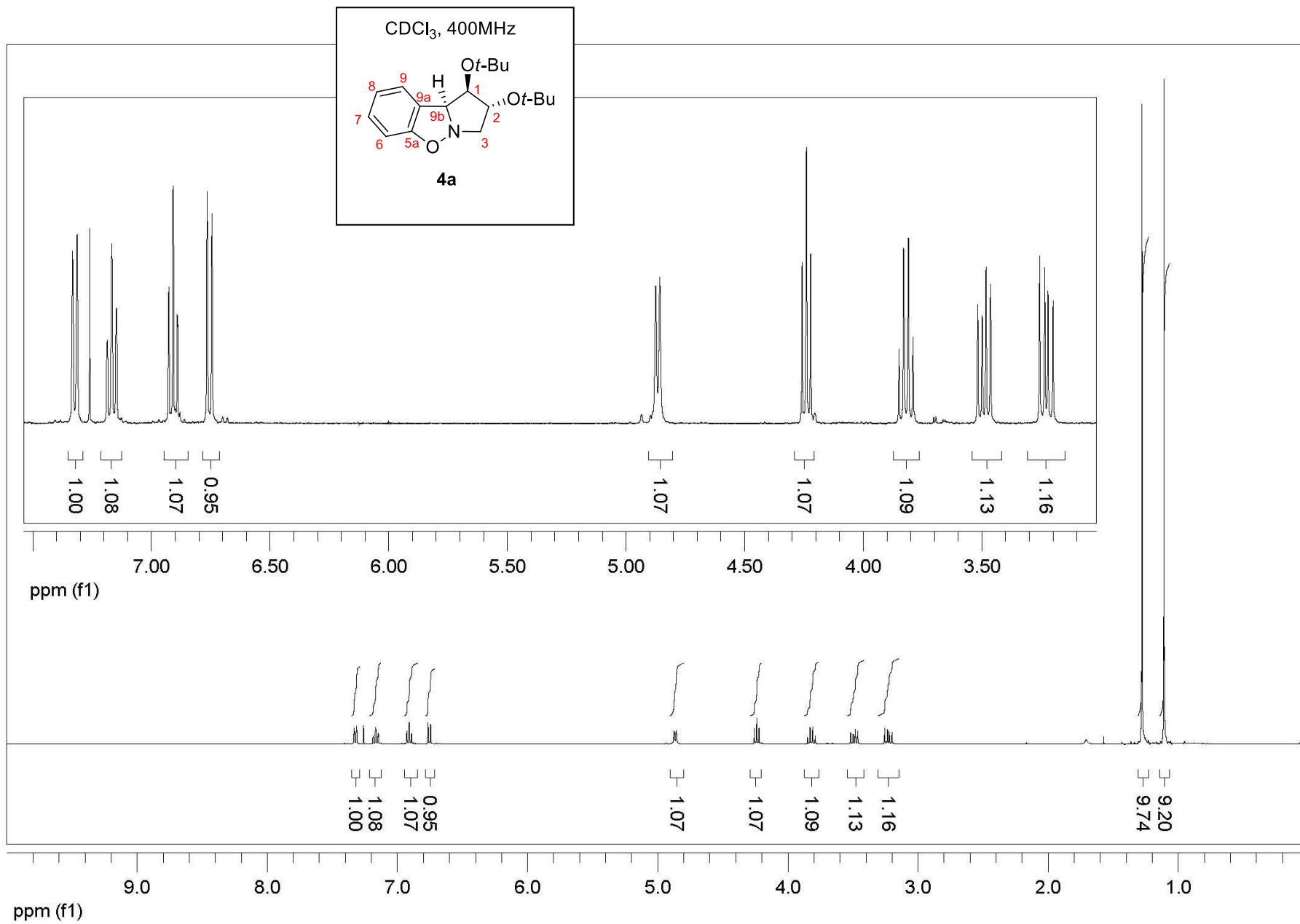
7b: *R_f* = 0.34 (EtOAc/petroleum ether 1:4). Mp = 60-62 °C. [α]_D²⁶ = -45.3 (c = 0.5, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 8.11-8.07 (m, 2H, H_{Bz}), 7.97-7.93 (m, 2H, H_{Bz}), 7.66-7.60 (m, 1H, H_{Bz}), 7.54-7.47 (m, 3H, H_{Bz}), 7.40-7.35 (m, 2H, H_{Bz}), 7.08-7.00 (m, 2H, H_{Ar}), 6.76 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 6.72 (pseudo dt, *J* = 1.2, 7.4 Hz, 1H, H_{Ar}), 5.77 (dd, *J* = 4.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 5.55 (dm, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 4.97 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 3.85 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 5.1 Hz, 1H, 5-Ha), 3.35 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H, 5-Hb) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 165.3 (s; CO), 165.2 (s; CO), 159.2 (s; C_{Ar}), 133.6 (d; CH_{Bz}), 133.2 (d; CH_{Bz}), 129.9 (d; 2C, CH_{Bz}), 129.8 (d; 2C, CH_{Bz}), 129.3 (s; C_{Bz}), 129.1 (s; C_{Bz} + d; CH_{Ar}), 128.6 (d; 2C, CH_{Bz}), 128.5 (d; CH_{Ar}), 128.3 (d; 2C, CH_{Bz}), 118.8 (d; CH_{Ar}), 118.4 (s; C_{Ar}), 117.1 (d; CH_{Ar}), 78.8 (d; C-3), 77.1 (d; C-4), 65.0 (d; C-2), 50.3 (t; C-5) ppm. IR (CDCl₃): ν = 3366, 3065, 2958, 2871, 1721, 1601, 1586, 1492, 1452, 1316, 1260, 1109 cm⁻¹. MS (+ESI): *m/z* = 404 [M+H]⁺. MS (-ESI): *m/z* = 402 [M-H]⁻. C₂₄H₂₁NO₅ (403.43): calcd. C, 71.45; H, 5.25; N, 3.47; found C, 71.44; H, 5.13; N, 3.37.

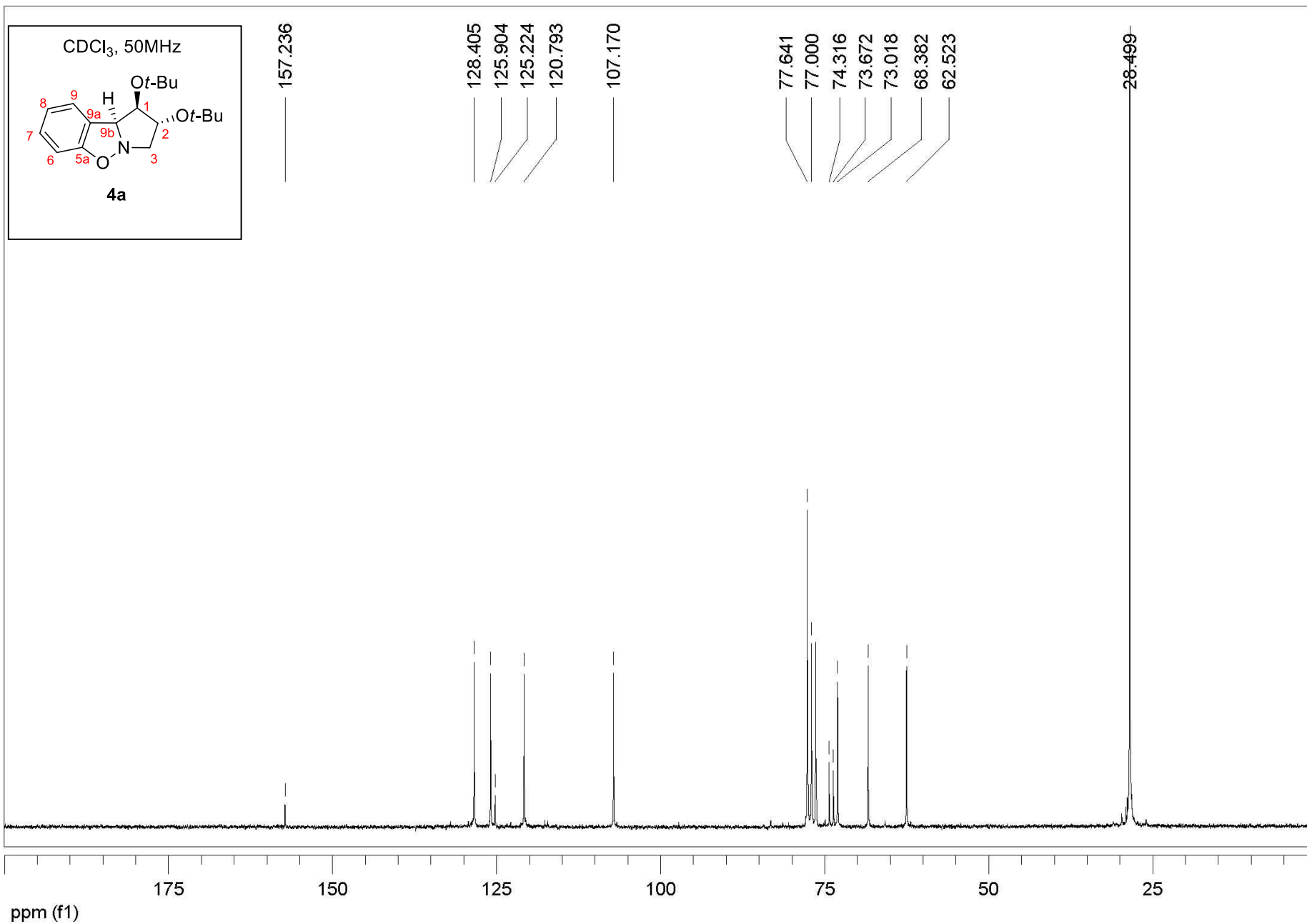
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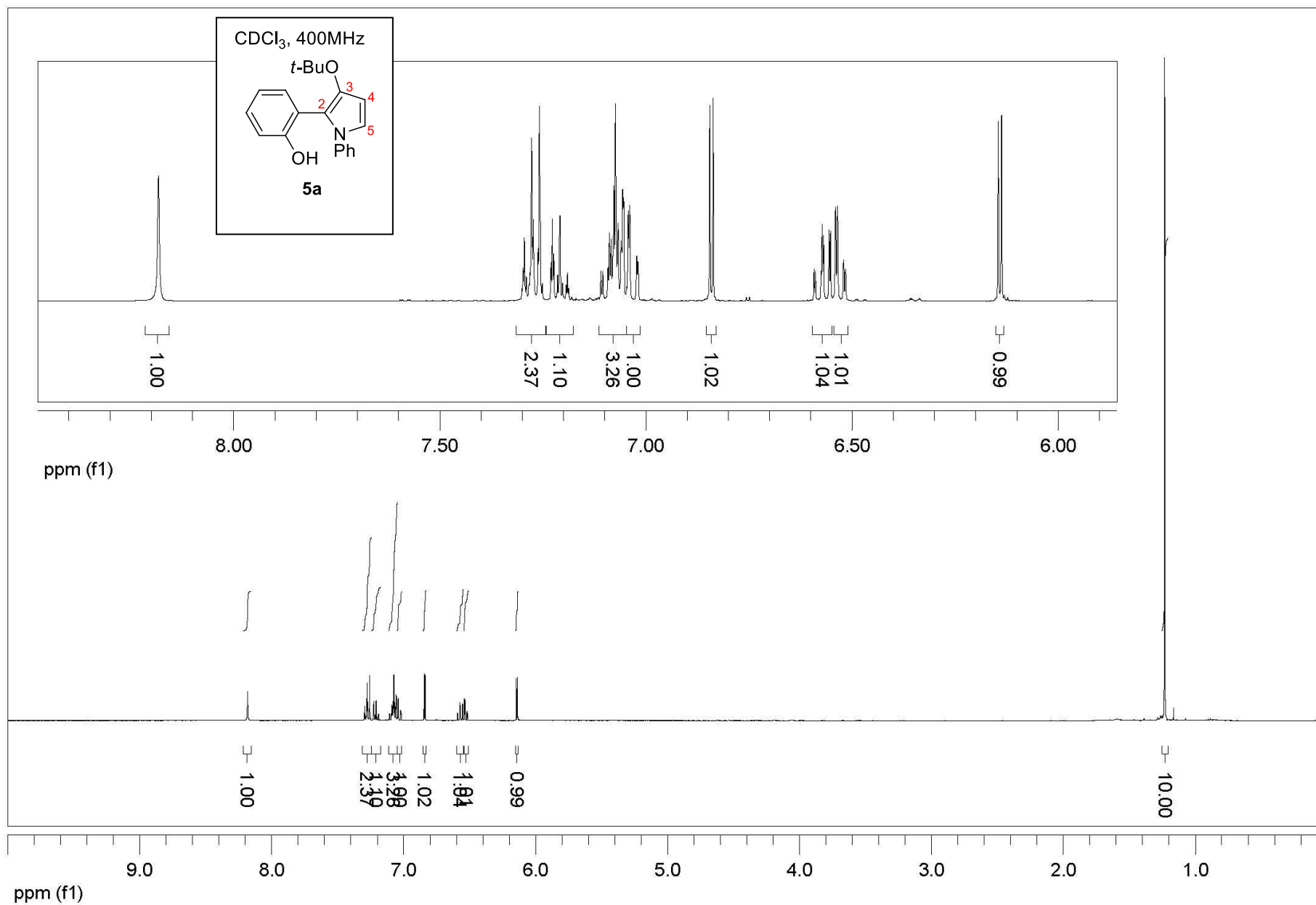
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- (2) Cordero, F. M.; Bonanno, P.; Neudeck, S.; Vurchio, C.; Brandi, A. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2009**, *351*, 1155.

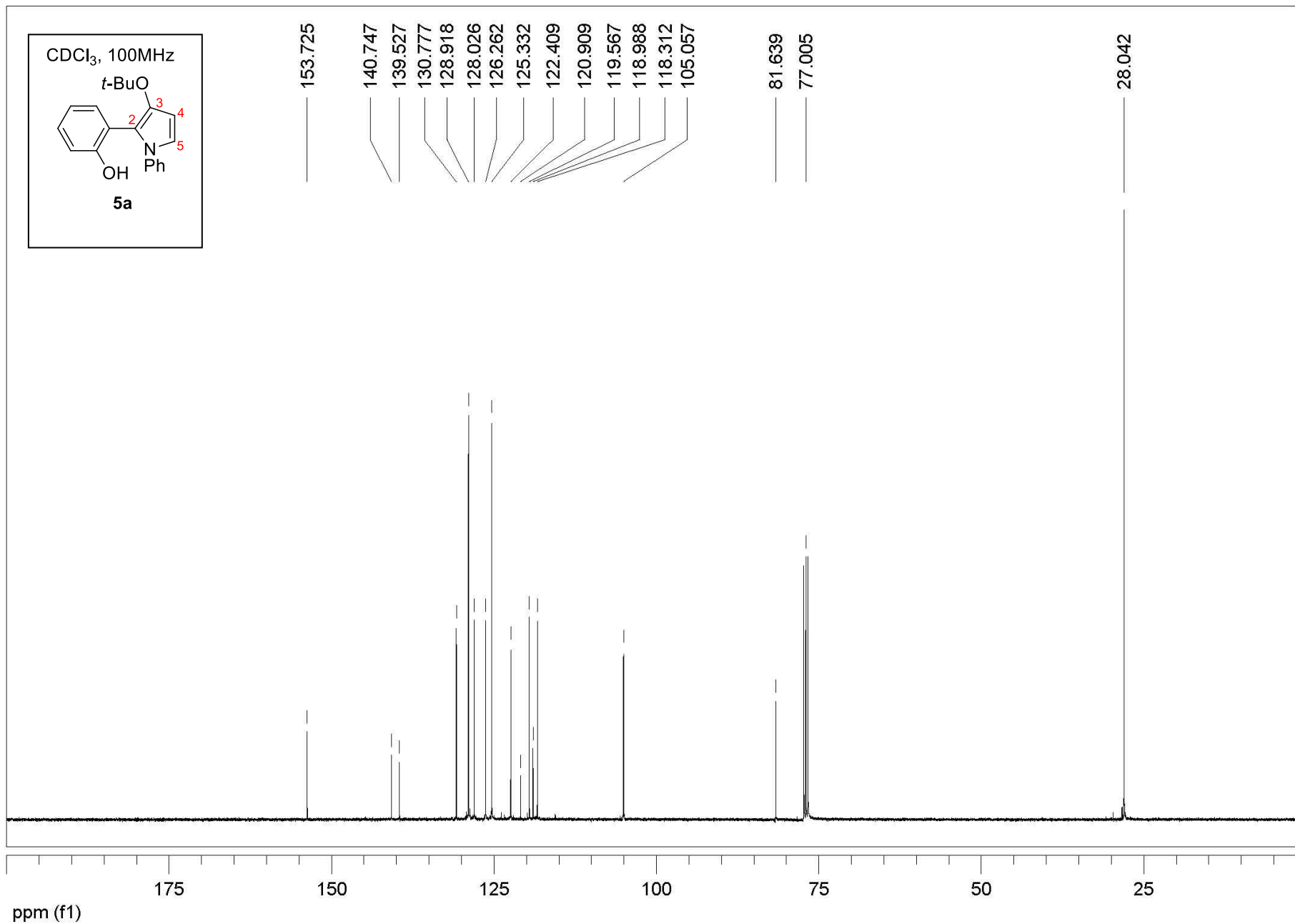




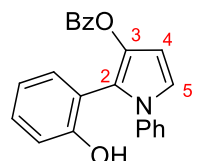




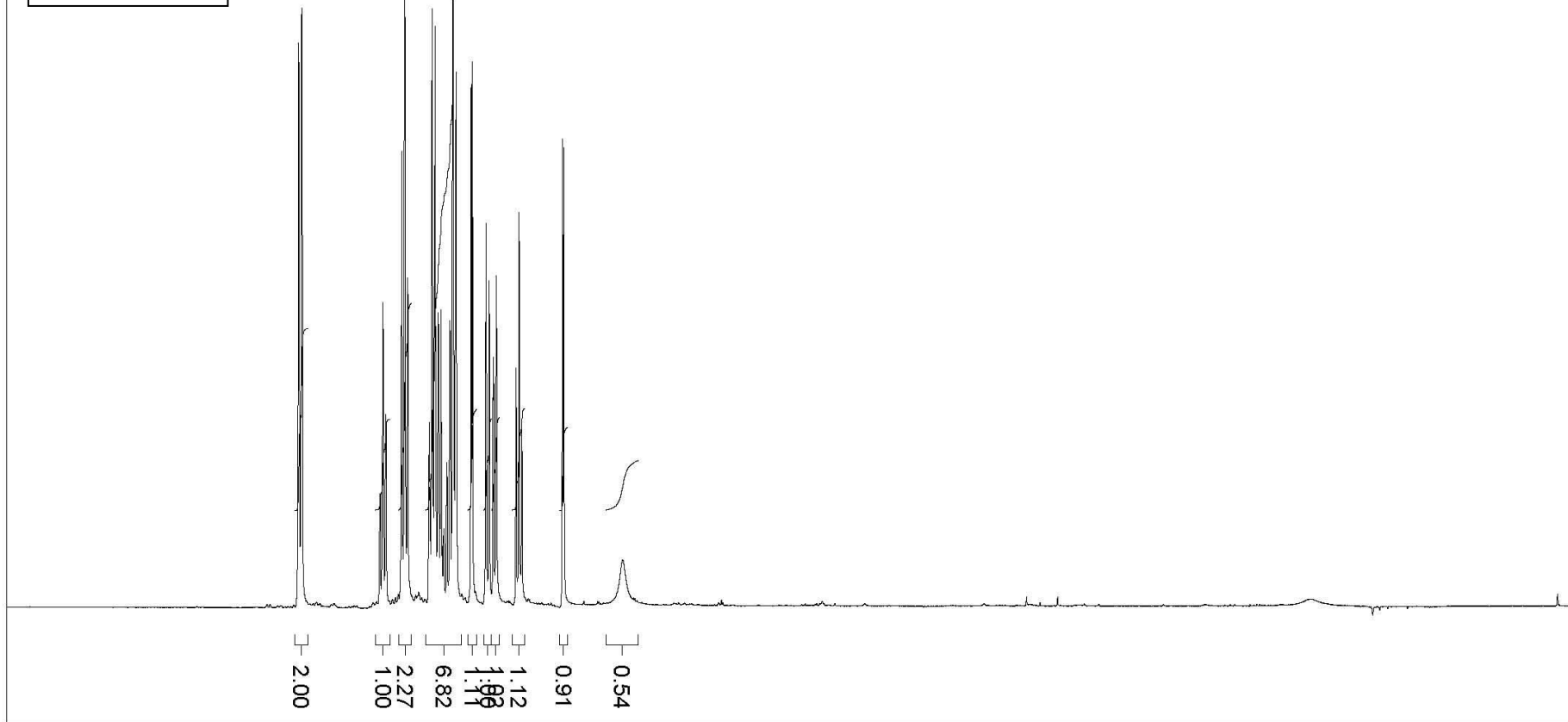




CDCl₃, 400MHz



5b



ppm (f1)

5.0

