

# Dimerization/elimination of $\beta$ -styrylmalonates under action of $\text{TiCl}_4$

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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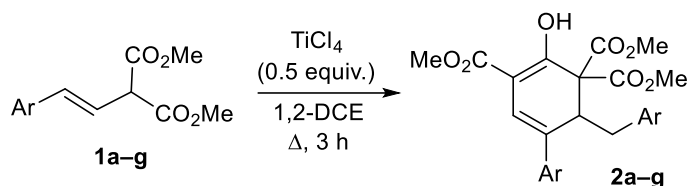
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## 1. Experimental section

### 1.1. General experimental details

All reagents and solvents were used commercial grade chemicals without additional purification. All operations with  $\text{TiCl}_4$  were carried out under dry argon atmosphere. TLC analysis was performed on Silufol chromatographic plates. For preparative chromatography, silica gel 60 (0.040–0.063 mm) was used.  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE II 300 MHz (300.1, 75.5 MHz and 282.4 MHz respectively) and a Bruker AMX III 400 MHz (400.1, 100.6 MHz and 376.5 MHz respectively) spectrometers in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , containing 0.05%  $\text{Me}_4\text{Si}$  as the internal standard. Determinations of structures and stereochemistry of obtained compounds and assignments of  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  signals were made with the aid of 1D and 2D DEPT, COSY, TOCSY, NOESY, HSQC, HMBC spectra. IR spectra were obtained on a FT-IR spectrometer in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  solution (1%). Mass spectra were recorded using electron impact ionization (EI, 70 eV, direct inlet probe). High resolution mass spectra were obtained using simultaneous electrospray (ESI TOF). The melting points were determined on Kofler hot-stage microscope. Starting  $\beta$ -styrylmalonates **1a–g** were synthesized from the corresponding donor–acceptor cyclopropanes through isomerisation reactions.<sup>S1-2</sup>

## 1.2. General synthetic procedure and spectroscopic data for trimethyl 2-(arylmethyl)-4-hydroxy-[1,1'-biaryl]-3,3,5(2H)-tricarboxylates (**2**)

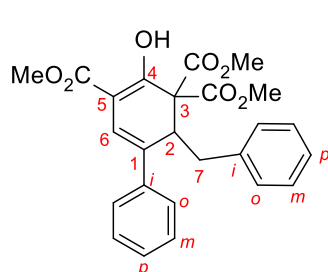


All operations were performed under dry argon atmosphere. A solution of styrylmalonate **1a–g** (0.34 mmol, 1 equiv.) and  $\text{TiCl}_4$  (0.17 mmol, 0.5 equiv.) in dry 1,2-DCE (3 mL) was stirred at reflux for 3 h. Then an aqueous solution of HCl (10%) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3×10 mL). The organic layer washed the brine and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The products **2a–e** were obtained without any purification. The compounds **2f,g** were purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: benzene to benzene–EtOAc, 20:1).

The resulting compounds can be additionally purified on a Silufol chromatographic plate (20×20 cm) using hexane–acetone (4:1) as eluent to afford the pure products.

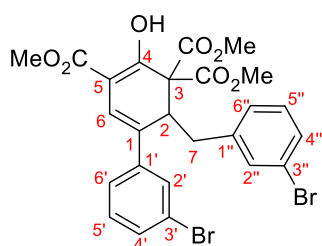
### Trimethyl 2-benzyl-4-hydroxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3,3,5(2H)-tricarboxylate (**2a**)

The compound **2a** was prepared in yield 69 mg (93%). Colorless thick oil. IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3174 (OH), 3067, 3055, 3039, 3032, 3016, 1740 br (C=O), 1656, 1590, 1497, 1437, 1269, 12382  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.88 (dd, 1H,  $\text{H}_a(7)$ ,  $^2J = 14.2$  Hz,  $^3J = 6.6$  Hz), 3.08 (dd, 1H,  $\text{H}_b(7)$ ,  $^2J = 14.2$  Hz,  $^3J = 6.6$  Hz), 3.62, 3.75 and 3.88 (all s, 3 × 3H, 3  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ ), 4.17 (t, 1H,  $\text{H}(2)$ ,  $^3J = 6.6$  Hz), 6.45 (s, 1H,  $\text{H}(6)$ ), 6.90–7.54 (m, 10H, 4  $\text{H}(o)$ , 4  $\text{H}(m)$  and 2  $\text{H}(p)$ ), 12.86 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  34.1 (C(7)), 43.4 (C(2)), 52.1, 52.8 and 53.5 (3 OMe), 63.6 (C(3)), 100.9 (C(5)), 116.0 (C(6)), 125.8 (C( $p$ )), 126.3 (2 C( $o$ )), 126.9 (C( $p$ )), 127.5 (2 C( $m$ )), 128.1 (2 C( $m$ )), 129.4 (2 C( $o$ )), 134.1 (C(1)), 138.1 (C( $i$ )), 139.2 (C( $i$ )), 165.8 (C(4)), 166.5, 167.8 and 170.7 (3 COO). MS ( $m/z$ , %): 436 (1,  $\text{M}^+$ ), 384 (1), 345 (2), 328 (2), 313 (5), 286 (5), 269 (7), 254 (7), 226 (7), 215 (15), 196 (16), 178 (7), 165 (10), 152 (9), 139 (27), 127 (9), 115 (28), 105 (75), 91 (100), 77 (16), 59 (10), 44 (8). HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_7$  ( $M$ ):  $M+\text{Na}$ , 459.1414. Found:  $m/z$  459.1336.

### Trimethyl 3'-bromo-2-(3-bromobenzyl)-4-hydroxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3,3,5(2H)-tricarboxylate (**2b**)



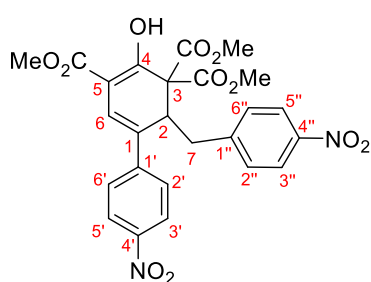
The compound **2b** was prepared in yield 84 mg (83%). Colorless thick oil. IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3169 (OH), 3088, 3066, 3050, 3026, 1739 br (C=O), 1655, 1587, 1474, 1435, 1266, 1246, 1182  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.82 (dd, 1H,  $\text{H}_a(7)$ ,  $^2J = 13.6$  Hz,  $^3J$

= 9.1 Hz), 3.05 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>(7), <sup>2</sup>J = 13.6 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 5.4 Hz), 3.76, 3.82 and 3.91 (all s, 3 × 3H, 3 CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 4.00 (dd, 1H, H(2), <sup>3</sup>J = 9.1 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 5.4 Hz), 6.46 (s, 1H, H(6)), 6.78–7.53 (m, 8H, 8 H<sub>Ar</sub>), 12.90 (s, 1H, OH) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 34.0 (C(7)), 43.5 (C(2)), 52.2, 53.1 and 53.6 (3 OMe), 63.8 (C(3)), 100.5 (C(5)), 117.5 (C(6)), 121.7 and 122.3 (C(3′) and C(3′′)), 124.8 and 129.8 (C(6′) and C(6′′)), 128.8 and 129.0 (C(5′) and C(5′′)), 129.1 and 132.7 (C(2′) and C(2′′)), 129.1 and 132.7 (C(4′) and C(4′′)), 132.3 (C(1)), 140.1 and 141.5 (C(1′) and C(1′′)), 166.3 (C(4)), 166.5, 167.6 and 170.5 (3 COO). MS (*m/z*, for <sup>79</sup>Br, %): 594 (1, M<sup>+</sup>), 503 (1), 391 (11), 379 (3), 347 (25), 301 (16), 274 (21), 246 (3), 234 (3), 219 (20), 202 (10), 171 (61), 159 (14), 139 (15), 115 (42), 85 (100), 71 (50), 59 (21). HRMS calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>22</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (*M*, for <sup>79</sup>Br): *M*+Na, 614.9624. Found: *m/z* 614.9513.

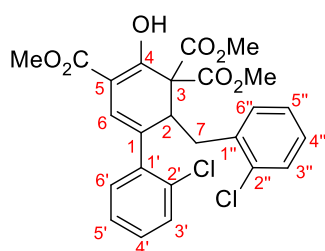
**Trimethyl 4-hydroxy-4′-nitro-2-(4-nitrobenzyl)-[1,1′-biphenyl]-3,3,5(2H)-tricarboxylate (2c)**

The compound was prepared in yield 79 mg (88%). Red thick oil. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3170 (OH), 3053, 3028, 3023, 2957, 2928, 2855, 1738 br (C=O), 1658, 1581, 1523 br (N=O), 1447, 1347 br (N=O), 1258, 1182 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.04 (dd, 1H, H(7), <sup>2</sup>J = 13.6 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.6 Hz), 3.19 (dd, 1H, H(7), <sup>2</sup>J = 13.6 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 5.3 Hz), 3.74, 3.84 and 3.87 (all s, 3 × 3H, 3 CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 4.13 (dd, 1H, H(2), <sup>3</sup>J = 8.6 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 5.3 Hz), 6.62 (s, 1H, H(6)), 7.18 (d, 2H, H(2′) and H(6′), <sup>3</sup>J = 8.6 Hz), 7.43 (d, 2H, H(2′) and H(6′), <sup>3</sup>J = 8.9 Hz), 7.87 (d, 2H, H(3′) and H(5′), <sup>3</sup>J = 8.6 Hz), 8.02 (d, 2H, H(3′) and H(5′), <sup>3</sup>J = 8.9 Hz), 13.02 (s, 1H, OH) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 34.2 (C(7)), 42.7 (C(2)), 52.4, 53.4 and 53.9 (3 OMe), 63.6 (C(3)), 100.5 (C(5)), 120.5 (C(6)), 122.7 (C(3′) and C(5′)), 123.6 (C(3′) and C(5′)), 126.4 (C(2′) and C(6′)), 130.4 (C(2′) and C(6′)), 130.8 (C(1)), 145.2 and 145.6 (C(1′) and C(1′)), 146.4 and 146.5 (C(4′) and C(4′)), 166.3, 167.3 and 170.2 (C(4) and 3 COO). MS (*m/z*, %): 526 (14, M<sup>+</sup>), 468 (3), 435 (25), 403 (3), 358 (18), 346 (20), 326 (21), 314 (66), 300 (11), 268 (21), 256 (3), 241 (16), 222 (9), 203 (3), 191 (30), 152 (11), 138 (14), 115 (22), 91 (45), 78 (22), 59 (100). HRMS calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>11</sub> (*M*): *M*+H, 527.1296. Found: *m/z* 527.1289.

**Trimethyl 2'-chloro-2-(2-chlorobenzyl)-4-hydroxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3,3,5(2H)-tricarboxylate (2d)**

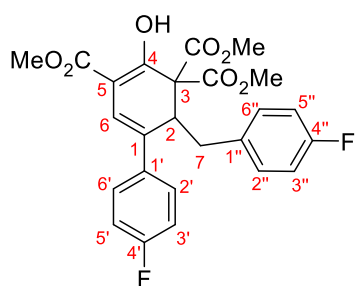


The compound **2d** was prepared in yield 72 mg (84%). Colorless thick oil. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3168 (OH), 3046, 3003, 2955, 1740 br (C=O), 1594, 1571, 1474, 1437, 1373, 1260, 1221, 1181 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.84 (dd, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>(7), <sup>2</sup>J = 14.0 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 9.3 Hz), 3.23 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>(7), <sup>2</sup>J = 14.0 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.3 Hz), 3.66, 3.76

and 3.88 (all s,  $3 \times 3\text{H}$ , 3  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ ), 4.35 (dd, 1H, H(2),  $^3J = 9.3\text{ Hz}$ ,  $^3J = 6.3\text{ Hz}$ ), 6.61 (s, 1H, H(6)), 6.82–7.22 (m, 7H, 7  $\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 7.51 (dd, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ,  $^3J = 7.8\text{ Hz}$ ,  $^4J = 1.6\text{ Hz}$ ), 12.95 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  32.8 (C(7)), 42.3 (C(2)), 52.3, 53.0 and 53.4 (3 OMe), 63.9 (C(3)), 100.3 (C(5)), 121.1 (C(6)), 126.2, 126.3, 127.5, 127.6, 128.7, 129.8, 130.4 and 131.7 (8  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 128.7 and 135.6 (C(1') and C(1'')), 132.2 and 134.1 (C(2') and C(2'')), 137.7 (C(1)), 166.2 (C(4)), 166.6, 167.5 and 170.9 (3 COO). MS ( $m/z$ , for  $^{35}\text{Cl}$ , %): 504 (6,  $\text{M}^+$ ), 413 (28), 381 (2), 347 (10), 335 (3), 303 (22), 289 (4), 275 (9), 257 (4), 230 (4), 215 (2), 202 (3), 173 (7), 159 (4), 149 (14), 139 (10), 125 (54), 115 (13), 89 (23), 59 (82), 15 (100). HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_7$  ( $M$ , for  $^{35}\text{Cl}$ ):  $M+\text{Na}$ , 527.0635. Found:  $m/z$  527.0623.

**Trimethyl 4'-fluoro-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-4-hydroxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3,3,5(2H)-tricarboxylate (2e)**

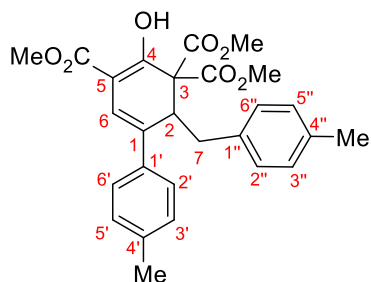


The compound **2e** was prepared in yield 59 mg (74%). Colorless thick oil. IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3170 (O-H), 3048, 3027, 2956, 1737 br ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), 1659, 1603, 1511, 1438, 1376, 1250, 1228, 1182, 1159  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.83 (dd, 1H,  $\text{H}_a(7)$ ,  $^2J = 14.0\text{ Hz}$ ,  $^3J = 7.9\text{ Hz}$ ), 3.00 (dd, 1H,  $\text{H}_b(7)$ ,  $^2J = 14.0\text{ Hz}$ ,  $^3J = 5.7\text{ Hz}$ ), 3.72, 3.74 and 3.85 (all s,  $3 \times 3\text{H}$ , 3  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ ), 3.99 (dd, 1H, H(2),  $^3J = 7.9$

Hz,  $^3J = 5.7\text{ Hz}$ ), 6.34 (s, 1H, H(6)), 6.70 (t, 2H, H(3') and H(5')),  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = ^3J_{\text{HF}} = 8.7\text{ Hz}$ ), 6.79–7.74 (m, 6H, 6  $\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 12.82 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  33.3 (C(7)), 43.9 (C(2)), 52.1, 53.0 and 53.6 (3 OMe), 63.7 (C(3)), 100.7 (C(5)), 114.1 (d, C(3') and C(5')),  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.2\text{ Hz}$ ), 114.9 (d, C(3') and C(5')),  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.5\text{ Hz}$ ), 116.2 (C(6)), 127.8 (d, C(2') and C(6')),  $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 8.0\text{ Hz}$ ), 130.9 (d, C(2') and C(6')),  $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 7.8\text{ Hz}$ ), 132.8 (C(1)), 133.7 (d, C(1')),  $^4J_{\text{CF}} = 3.1\text{ Hz}$ ), 135.5 (d, C(1')),  $^4J_{\text{CF}} = 3.2\text{ Hz}$ ), 161.3 (d, C(4')),  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 244.1\text{ Hz}$ ), 161.9 (d, C(4')),  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 246.7\text{ Hz}$ ), 165.8 (C(4)), 166.6, 167.8 and 170.6 (3 COO).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (282.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -115.3 (tt, 1F, F(4')),  $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 8.4\text{ Hz}$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HF}} = 5.3\text{ Hz}$ ), -117.2 (tt, 1F, F(4'')),  $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 8.7\text{ Hz}$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HF}} = 5.4\text{ Hz}$ ). MS ( $m/z$ , %): 472 (23,  $\text{M}^+$ ), 414 (14), 382 (21), 355 (41), 331 (40), 319 (15), 287 (80), 267 (35), 253 (15), 241 (45), 213 (40), 201 (11), 170 (12), 157 (51), 146 (20), 133 (71), 123 (54), 109 (100), 95 (26), 83 (45), 59 (100), 45 (56), 15 (100). HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{F}_2\text{O}_7$  ( $M$ ):  $M+\text{Na}$ , 495.1226. Found:  $m/z$  495.1209.

**Trimethyl 4-hydroxy-4'-methyl-2-(4-methylbenzyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3,3,5(2H)-tricarboxylate (2f)**

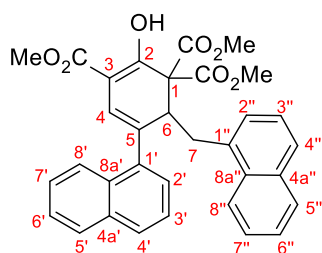


The compound **2f** was prepared in yield 37 mg (47%). Colorless thick oil. IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3165 (OH), 3050, 3003, 2956, 2926, 1736 br ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), 1671, 1611, 1514, 1437, 1346, 1251, 1182  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.18 and 2.30 (both s,  $2 \times 3\text{H}$ , 2 Me), 2.83 (dd, 1H,  $\text{H}_a(7)$ ,  $^2J = 14.4\text{ Hz}$ ,  $^3J = 6.3\text{ Hz}$ ), 2.98 (dd, 1H,

H<sub>b</sub>(7),  $^2J = 14.4$  Hz,  $^3J = 6.3$  Hz), 3.56, 3.70 and 3.83 (all s,  $3 \times 3H$ , 3 CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 4.09 (t, 1H, H(2),  $^3J = 6.3$  Hz), 6.37 (s, 1H, H(6)), 6.86 (d, 2H, H(3') and H(5')),  $^3J = 7.9$  Hz), 6.93 (d, 2H, H(2') and H(6')),  $^3J = 7.9$  Hz), 7.04 (d, 2H, H(3') and H(5'),  $^3J = 8.1$  Hz), 7.29 (d, 2H, H(2') and H(6')),  $^3J = 8.1$  Hz), 12.76 (s, 1H, OH) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  20.8 and 21.0 (2 Me), 33.5 (C(7)), 43.4 (C(2)), 52.0, 52.7 and 53.5 (3 OMe), 63.5 (C(3)), 100.9 (C(5)), 115.2 (C(6)), 126.2 (C(2') and C(6')), 128.1 (C(3') and C(5')), 128.9 (C(3') and C(5')), 129.2 (C(2') and C(6')), 134.0 (C(1)), 135.1 and 135.2 (C(4') and C(4')), 136.2 and 136.8 (C(1') and C(1')), 165.5, 166.6, 167.9 and 170.7 (C(4) and 3 COO). MS ( $m/z$ , %): 464 (25, M<sup>+</sup>), 406 (19), 374 (14), 347 (100), 327 (55), 315 (36), 304 (19), 283 (72), 268 (19), 259 (44), 237 (39), 215 (30), 202 (25), 184 (14), 165 (8), 153 (25), 141 (14), 128 (50), 115 (28), 105 (80), 91 (25), 77 (19), 59 (50), 15 (42). HRMS calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (*M*): *M*+Na, 487.1727. Found:  $m/z$  487.1711.

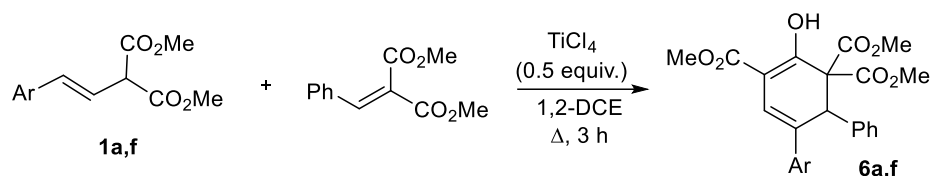
**Trimethyl 2-hydroxy-5-(naphthalen-1-yl)-6-(naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)cyclohexa-2,4-diene-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (2g)**



The compound **2g** was prepared in yield 19 mg (21%). Colorless thick oil. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3175 (OH), 3044, 3020, 2955, 2928, 2854, 1735 br (C=O), 1659, 1597, 1510, 1438, 1369, 1370, 1258, 1183 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

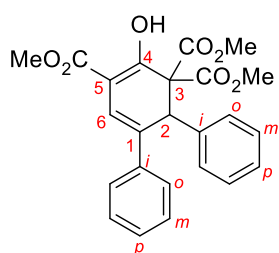
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.23 (dd, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>(7),  $^2J = 16.4$  Hz,  $^3J = 7.3$  Hz), 3.51 (s, 3H, CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 3.67 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>(7),  $^2J = 16.4$  Hz,  $^3J = 7.3$  Hz), 3.88 and 3.91 (both s,  $2 \times 3H$ , 2 CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 4.59 (t, 1H, H(6),  $^3J = 7.3$  Hz), 6.43 (s, 1H, H(4)), 6.89 (t, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>,  $^3J = 6.8$  Hz), 7.14 (d, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>,  $^3J = 6.8$  Hz), 7.19–8.13 (m, 12H, 12 H<sub>Ar</sub>), 12.90 (s, 1H, OH) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  30.9 (C(7)), 45.0 (C(6)), 52.2, 52.7 and 53.3 (3 OMe), 64.0 (C(1)), 100.6 (C(3)), 120.2 (C(4)), 123.5–128.4 (14 CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 131.3, 131.7, 131.8, 133.3, 133.7 and 133.9 (6 C<sub>Ar</sub>), 137.5 (C(5)), 166.4 (C(2)), 166.8, 167.8 and 170.9 (3 COO). MS ( $m/z$ , %): 536 (4, M<sup>+</sup>), 363 (14), 351 (4), 319 (22), 304 (60), 289 (7), 273 (10), 246 (5), 210 (9), 189 (27), 165 (50), 152 (33), 141 (100), 127 (11), 115 (36), 100 (9), 59 (34), 44 (21). HRMS calcd for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (*M*): *M*+Na, 559.1727. Found:  $m/z$  559.1708.

### 1.3. Cross-reaction of $\beta$ -styrylmalonates **1a,f** with benzylidenemalonate



All operations were performed under dry argon atmosphere. A solution of styrylmalonate **1a,f** (0.34 mmol, 1 equiv.), dimethyl 2-benzylidenemalonate **5** (0.68 mmol, 2 equiv.) and  $\text{TiCl}_4$  (0.17 mmol, 0.5 equiv.) in dry 1,2-DCE (3 mL) was stirred at reflux for 3 h. Then an aqueous solution of HCl (10%) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 $\times$ 10 mL). The organic layer washed the brine and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The products **6a,f** were purified by column chromatography on silica gel (benzene to benzene–EtOAc, 20:1). The resulting compounds can be additionally purified on a Silufol chromatographic plate (20 $\times$ 20 cm) using hexane–acetone (5:1) eluent to afford the pure products.

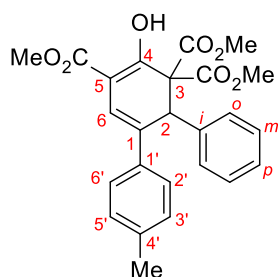
#### Trimethyl 4'-hydroxy-[1,1':2',1''-terphenyl]-3',3',5'-(2'H)-tricarboxylate (**6a**)



The compound **6a** was prepared from **1a** and **5** in yield 65 mg (45%) after several purifications on a Silufol chromatographic plate (20 $\times$ 20 cm) using hexane–acetone (5:1) as eluent. Colorless thick oil. IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3169 (O-H), 3050, 3003, 2956, 1737 br (C=O), 1521, 1495, 1437, 1249, 1181  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.42, 3.84 and 3.96 (all s, 3  $\times$  3H, 3  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ ), 4.99 (s, 1H, H(2)), 6.78 (s, 1H, H(6)), 6.94–7.57 (m, 10H, 4 H(o), 4 H(m) and 2 H(p)), 12.88 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  49.6 (C(2)), 52.2, 52.5 and 53.8 (3 OMe), 65.7 (C(3)), 101.5 (C(5)), 116.2 (C(6)), 125.9 (2 C(o)), 127.3 and 127.9 (2 C(p)), 128.4, 128.5 and 128.8 (2 C(o) and 4 C(m)), 132.2 (C(1)), 135.8 (C(i)), 138.9 (C(i)), 165.1 (C(4)), 166.4, 167.1 and 170.9 (3 COO). MS ( $m/z$ , %): 422 (4,  $\text{M}^+$ ), 331 (54), 322 (20), 313 (7), 299 (73), 287 (4), 273 (5), 262 (18), 231 (11), 215 (32), 204 (100), 191 (16), 165 (15), 152 (11), 139 (36), 129 (5), 115 (18), 105 (11), 91 (11), 77 (6), 59 (23). HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_7$  ( $\text{M}$ ):  $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ , 445.1258. Found:  $m/z$  445.1155.

#### Trimethyl 4'-hydroxy-4-methyl-[1,1':2',1''-terphenyl]-3',3',5'-(2'H)-tricarboxylate (**6f**)

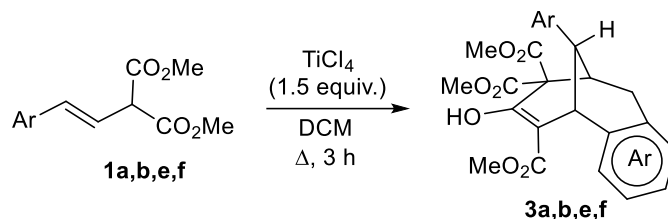


The compound **6f** was prepared from **1f** and **5** in yield 73 mg (49%). Light green thick oil. IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3034, 3012, 2955, 2927, 1737 br (C=O), 1659, 1594, 1514, 1494, 1441, 1376, 1350, 1253, 1181, 1165  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.26 (s, 3H, Me), 3.39, 3.81 and 3.93 (all s, 3  $\times$  3H, 3  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ ), 4.95 (s, 1H, H(2)), 6.72 (s, 1H, H(6)), 6.94–7.36 (m, 9H, 9  $\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 12.82 (s, 1H, OH) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  21.0 (Me), 49.4 (C(2)), 52.2, 52.5 and 53.8 (3 OMe), 65.7 (C(3)), 101.5 (C(5)), 115.3 (C(6)), 125.8 (C(2') and C(6')), 127.9

(C(*p*)), 128.5 and 128.8 (2 C(*o*) and 2 C(*m*)), 129.1 (C(3') and C(5')), 132.1 (C(1)), 135.8 and 135.9 (C(*i*) and C(1')), 137.1 (C(4')), 164.8 (C(4)), 166.4, 167.1 and 170.9 (3 COO). MS (*m/z*, %): 436 (12, M<sup>+</sup>), 364 (29), 345 (40), 313 (58), 286 (8), 273 (9), 258 (8), 245 (17), 232 (54), 215 (31), 202 (21), 189 (17), 165 (10), 153 (17), 129 (33), 115 (21), 105 (22), 91 (19), 77 (12), 59 (100), 15 (29). HRMS calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (*M*): *M*+*Na*, 459.1414. Found: *m/z* 459.1395.

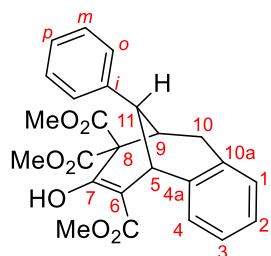
#### 1.4. General synthetic procedure and spectroscopic data for trimethyl 7-hydroxy-11-aryl-9,10-dihydro-5,9-methanobenzo[8]annulene-6,8,8(5*H*)-tricarboxylates (**3**)



All operations were performed under dry argon atmosphere. A solution of styrylmalonate **1a,b,e** (0.34 mmol, 1 equiv.) and TiCl<sub>4</sub> (0.51 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) in dry DCM (3 mL) was stirred at reflux for 3 hours. Then an aqueous solution of HCl (10%) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3×10 mL). The organic layer washed the brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (benzene to benzene–EtOAc, 10:1) to afford title compounds **3a,b,e**. The compound **3f** was obtained and isolated as by-product from reaction of styrylmalonate **1f** in the presence of TiCl<sub>4</sub> (0.5 equiv.) in dry DCE (3 mL) at reflux as described in the section 1.2 under synthesis of compound **2f**.

The resulting compounds can be additionally purified on a Silufol chromatographic plate (20×20 cm) using hexane–acetone (2:1) eluent to afford the pure products.

##### *Trimethyl 7-hydroxy-11-phenyl-9,10-dihydro-5,9-methanobenzo[8]annulene-6,8,8(5*H*)-tricarboxylate (3a)*



The title compound was prepared in yield 22 mg (30%). Colorless thick oil. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3180 (O–H), 3053, 3027, 3015, 1737 br (C=O), 1659, 1620, 1496, 1437, 1357, 1249, 1183 cm<sup>–1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.04 (s, 3H, CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 3.10 (d, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>(10), <sup>2</sup>*J* = 18.5 Hz), 3.44 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>(10), <sup>2</sup>*J* = 18.5 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.4 Hz), 3.58 (br.s, 1H, H(11)), 3.69 and 3.99 (both s, 2 × 3H, 2 CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 3.74–3.90

(m, 1H, H(9)), 4.30 (br.s, 1H, H(5)), 6.95–7.48 (m, 9H, 9 H<sub>Ar</sub>), 12.43 (s, 1H, OH) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  34.7 (C(5)), 34.9 (C(10)), 41.0 (C(9)), 42.7 (C(11)), 52.2, 52.6 and 52.7 (3 OMe), 62.5 (C(8)), 105.4 (C(6)), 125.6, 126.6, 126.8 and 127.1 (4 CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 128.0 (2 C(*m*)), 128.3 (2



**NOEs**

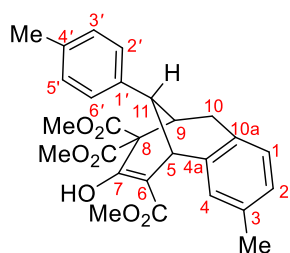
**2D  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^1\text{H}$ -NOESY NMR data:**

The chemical structure of compound 10 is shown, a complex polycyclic molecule featuring a benzene ring fused to a cyclohexene ring, which is further fused to a cyclopropane ring. The structure includes several methoxy ester groups ( $\text{MeO}_2\text{C}$ ) and a hydroxyl group ( $\text{HO}$ ). Blue arrows indicate NOE correlations between specific protons, including those on the phenyl group ( $\text{Ph}$ ), the cyclopropane ring, and the cyclohexene ring.

The title compound was prepared in yield 37 mg (37%). Colorless thick oil. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3179 (O-H), 3050, 3022, 3015, 1738 br (C=O), 1660, 1569, 1477, 1437, 1251, 1182 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

***Trimethyl 3-fluoro-11-(4-fluorophenyl)-7-hydroxy-9,10-dihydro-5,9-methanobenzo[8]-annulene-6,8,8(5H)-tricarboxylate (3e)***

**Trimethyl 7-hydroxy-3-methyl-11-(*p*-tolyl)-9,10-dihydro-5,9-methanobenzo[8]annulene-6,8,8(5*H*)-tricarboxylate (3f)**



The compound **3f** was isolated from reaction mixture under preparation of cyclohexadienol **2f** in yield 6.5 mg (9%). Light yellow thick oil. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  3160 (O-H), 3050, 3002, 2954, 2926, 1735 br (C=O), 1658, 1616, 1515, 1437, 1357, 1248, 1182 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

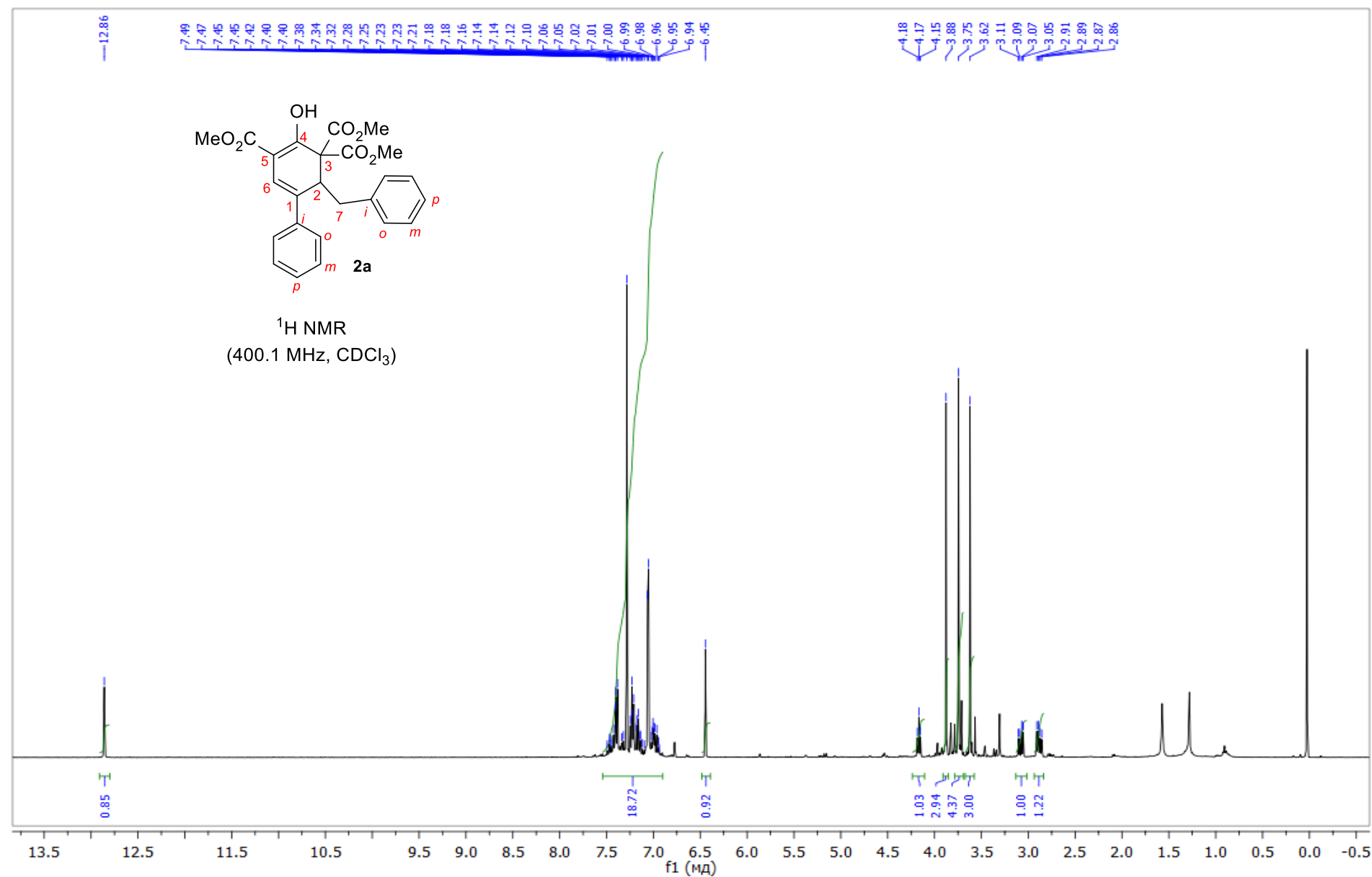
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.29 (s, 3H, Me), 2.30 (s, 3H, Me), 3.04 (d, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>(10), <sup>2</sup>*J* = 18.7 Hz), 3.05 (s, 3H, CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 3.37 (dd, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>(10), <sup>2</sup>*J* = 18.7 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.7 Hz), 3.50–3.58 (m, 1H, H(11)), 3.68 and 3.99 (both s, 2 × 3H, 2 CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 3.79–3.90 (m, 1H, H(9)), 4.23 (br.s, 1H, H(5)), 5.98–7.81 (m, 7H, 7 H<sub>Ar</sub>), 12.40 (s, 1H, OH) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  20.9 and 21.1 (2 Me), 34.6 and 34.7 (C(5) and C(10)), 41.2 (C(9)), 42.4 (C(11)), 51.7, 52.3 and 52.4 (3 OMe), 62.6 (C(8)), 105.5 (C(6)), 128.2 (C(2') and C(6')), 128.4, 128.7 and 128.9 (3 CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 128.6 (C(3') and C(5')), 135.0 and 141.2 (C(4a) and C(10a)), 135.9 and 136.7 (C(3) and C(4')), 137.4 (C(1')), 165.7 (C(7)), 168.2, 170.8 and 171.9 (3 COO). MS (*m/z*, %): 464 (10, M<sup>+</sup>), 432 (12), 400 (6), 364 (100), 345 (6), 313 (12), 304 (34), 285 (6), 272 (14), 257 (6), 245 (16), 232 (70), 215 (14), 202 (6), 185 (16), 159 (6), 145 (7), 128 (40), 115 (24), 105 (30), 83 (48), 59 (62), 41 (30), 15 (62). HRMS calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (*M*): *M*+*H*, 465.1908; *M*+*Na*, 487.1727. Found: *m/z* 465.1899, 487.1718.

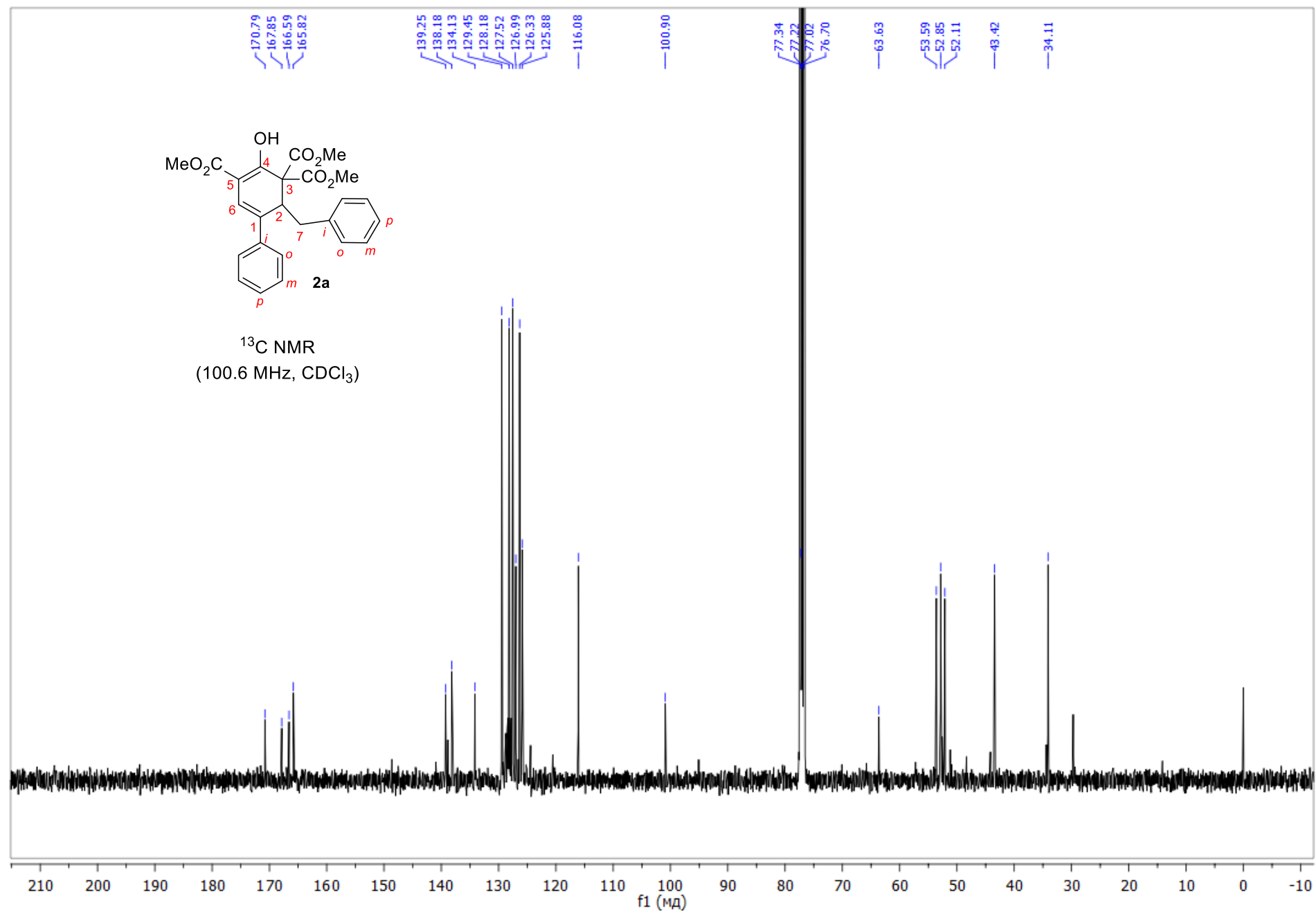
## 2. References

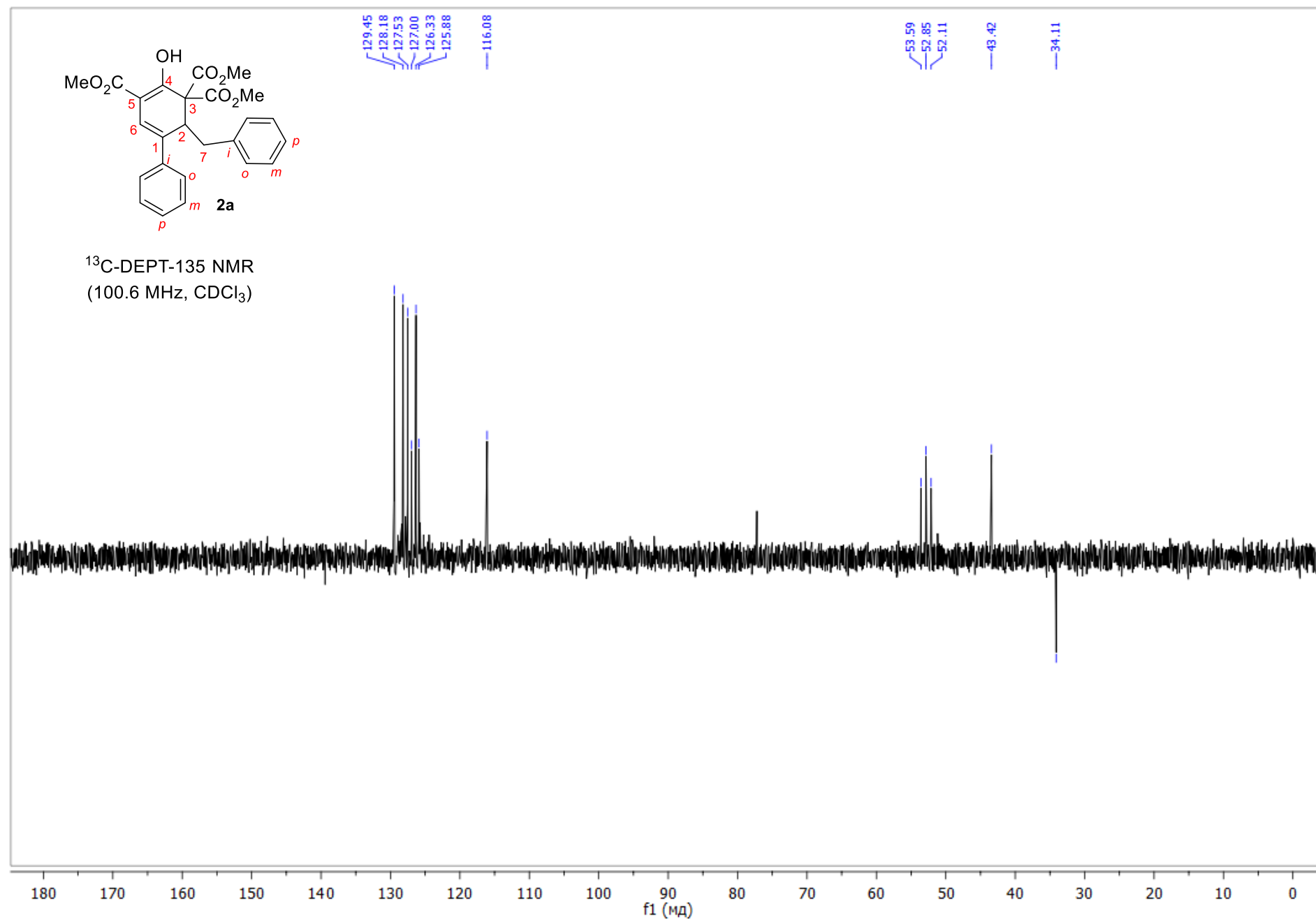
[S1] A. O. Chagarovskiy, O. A. Ivanova, E. R. Rakhmankulov, E. M. Budynina, I. V. Trushkov, M. Y. Melnikov, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2010**, 352, 3179.

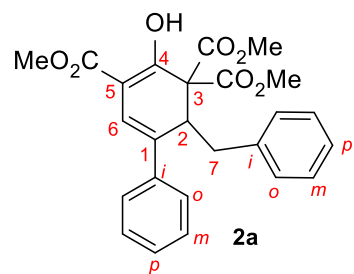
[S2] D. D. Borisov, G. R. Chermashentsev, R. A. Novikov, Y. V. Tomilov, *Synthesis* **2021**, 53, 2253.

### 3. NMR spectra for the new compounds:

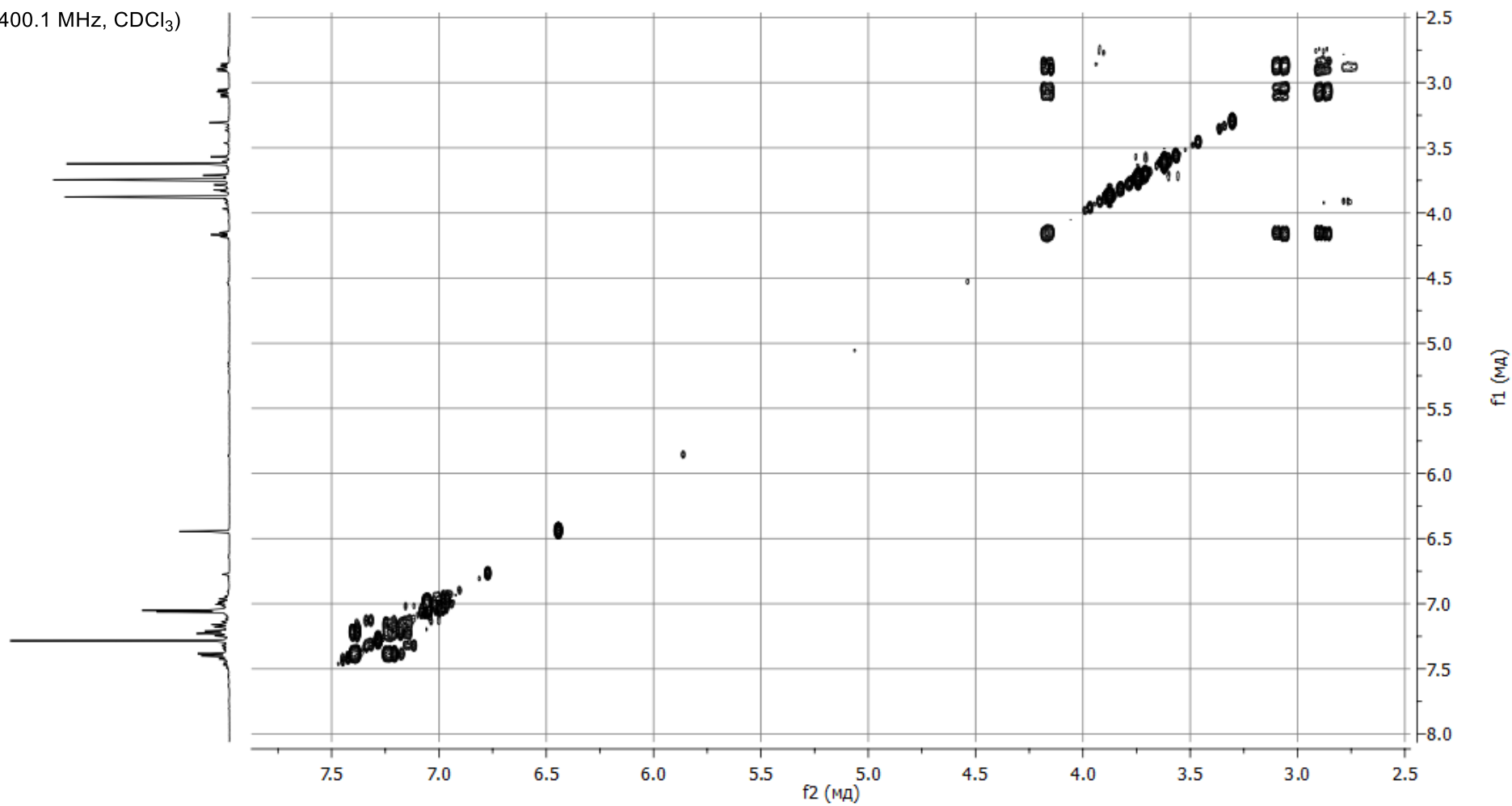


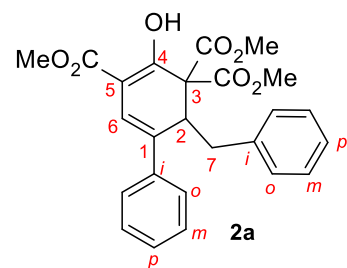




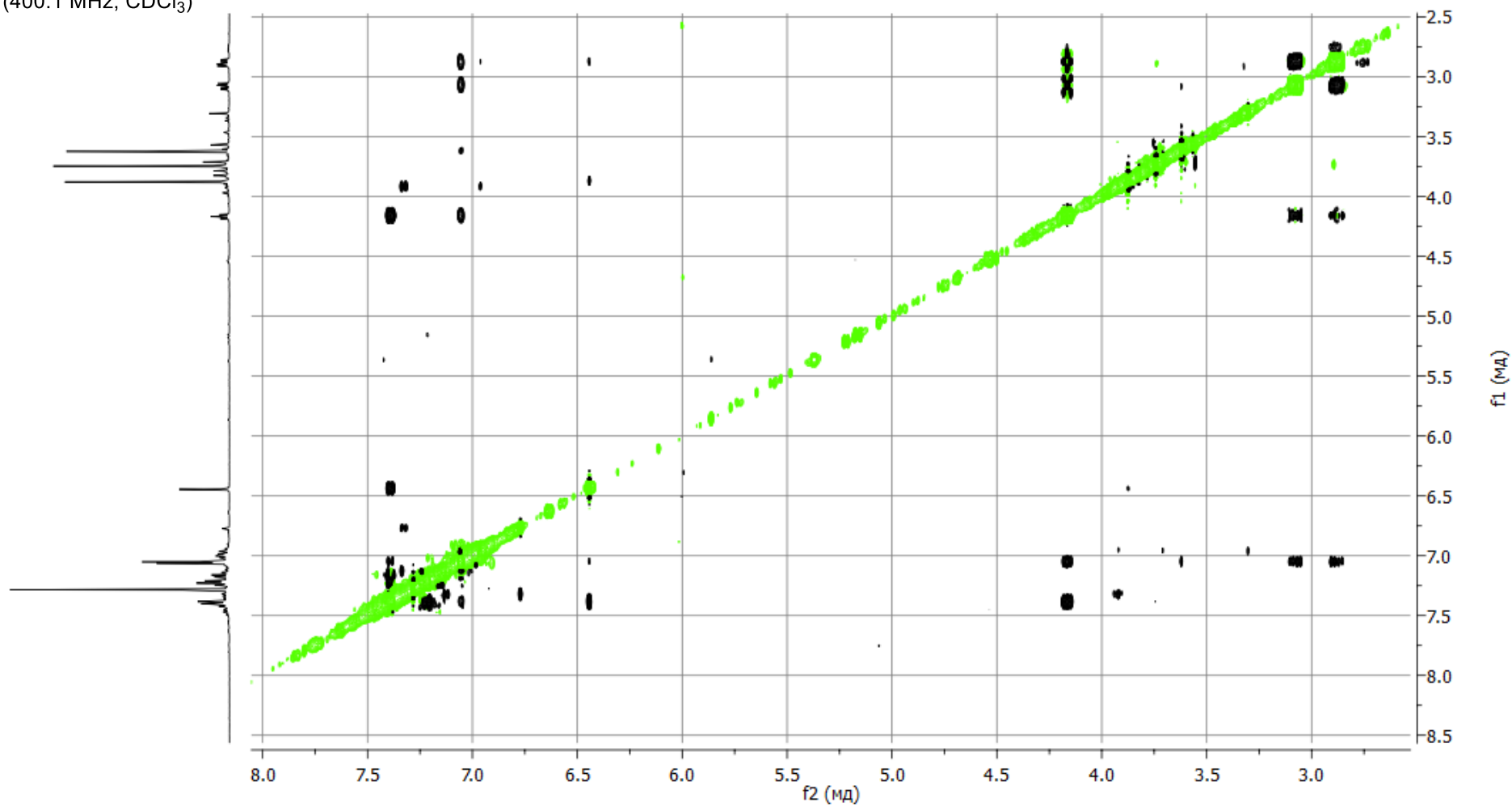


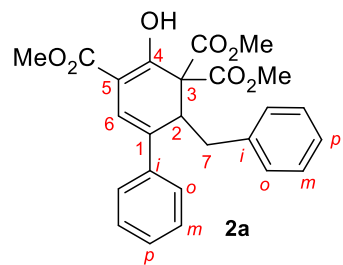
$^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ -COSY  
(400.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



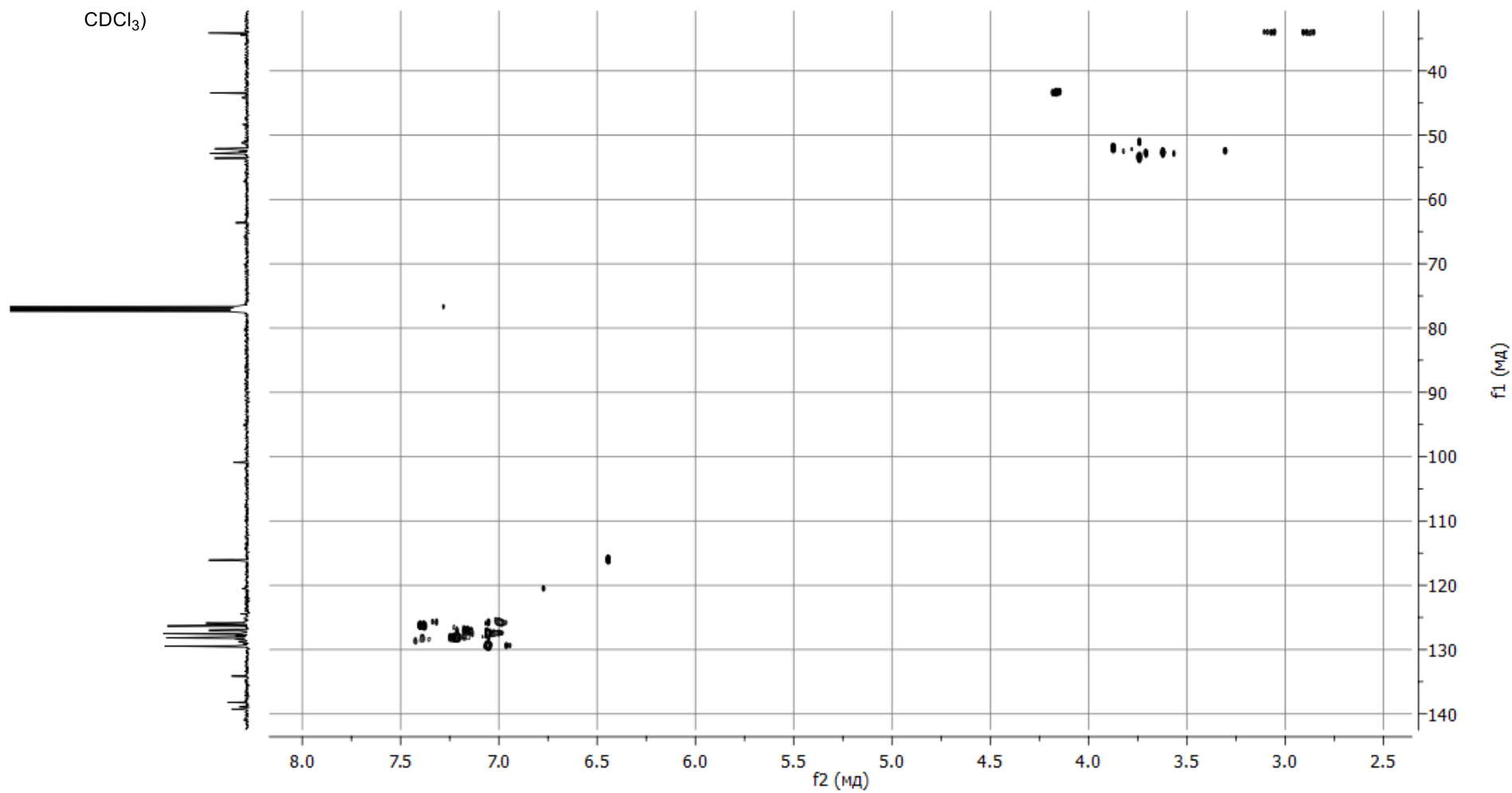


<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H-NOESY  
(400.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

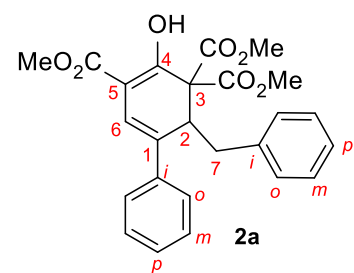




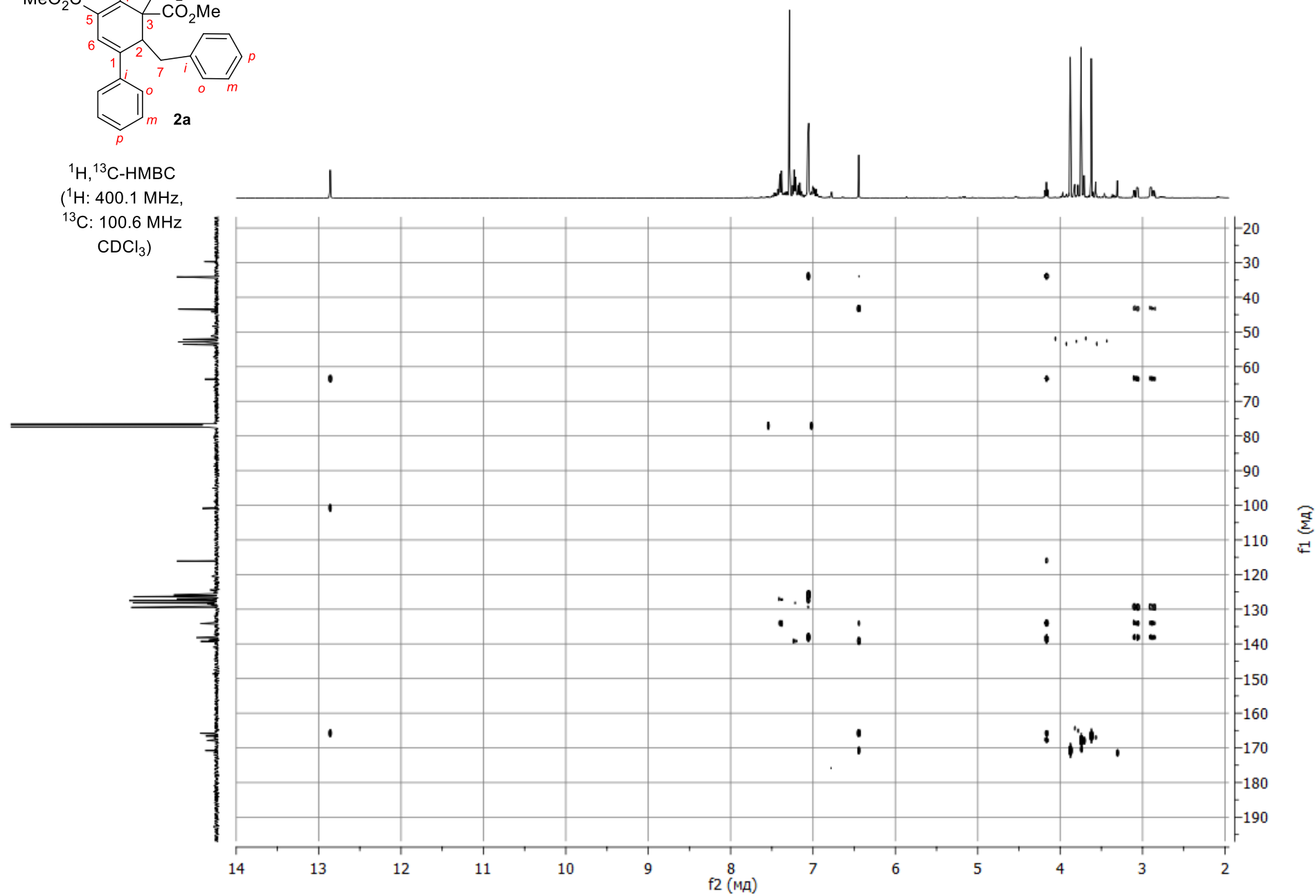
$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HSQC  
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 $^{13}\text{C}: 100.6 \text{ MHz}$   
 $\text{CDCl}_3)$

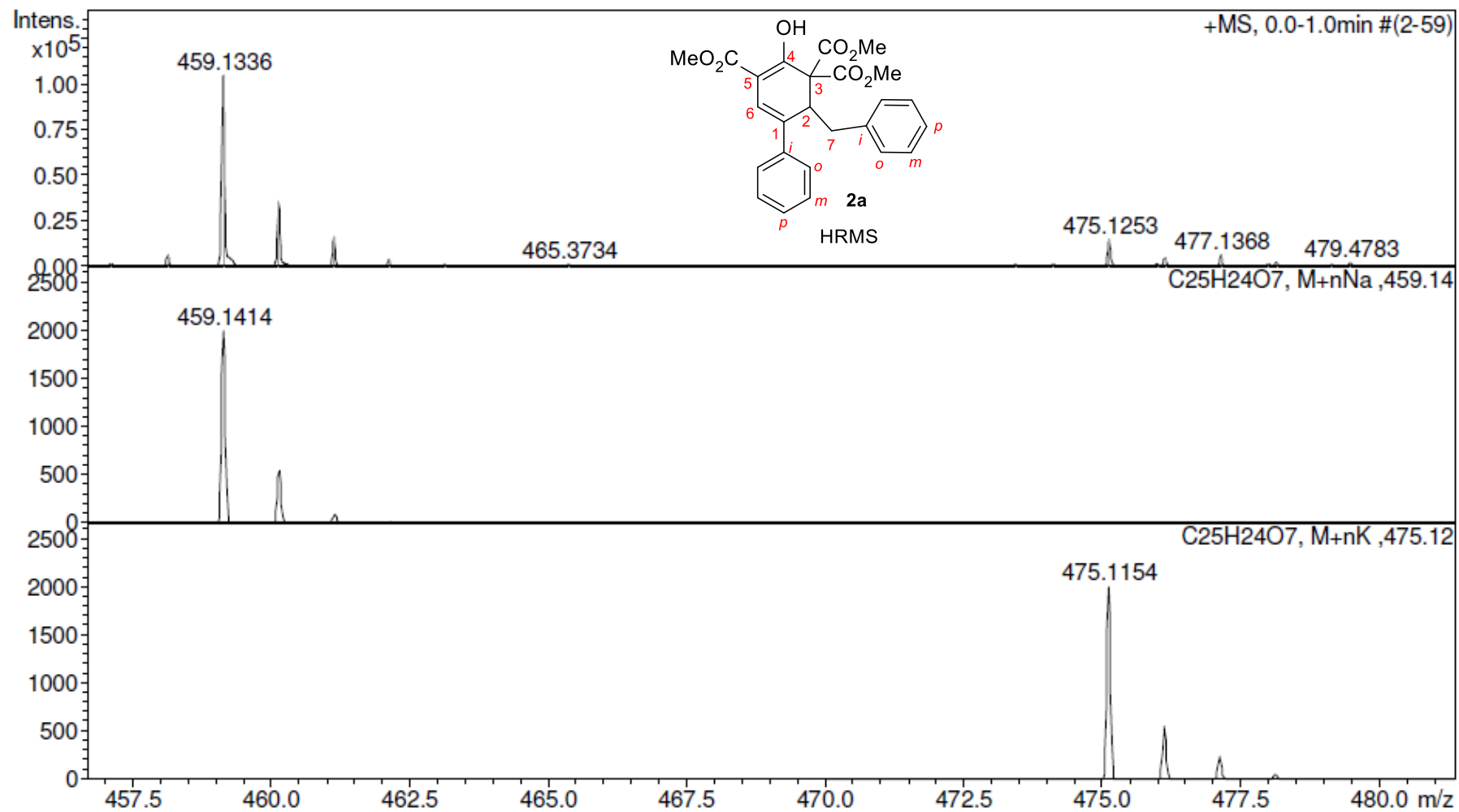


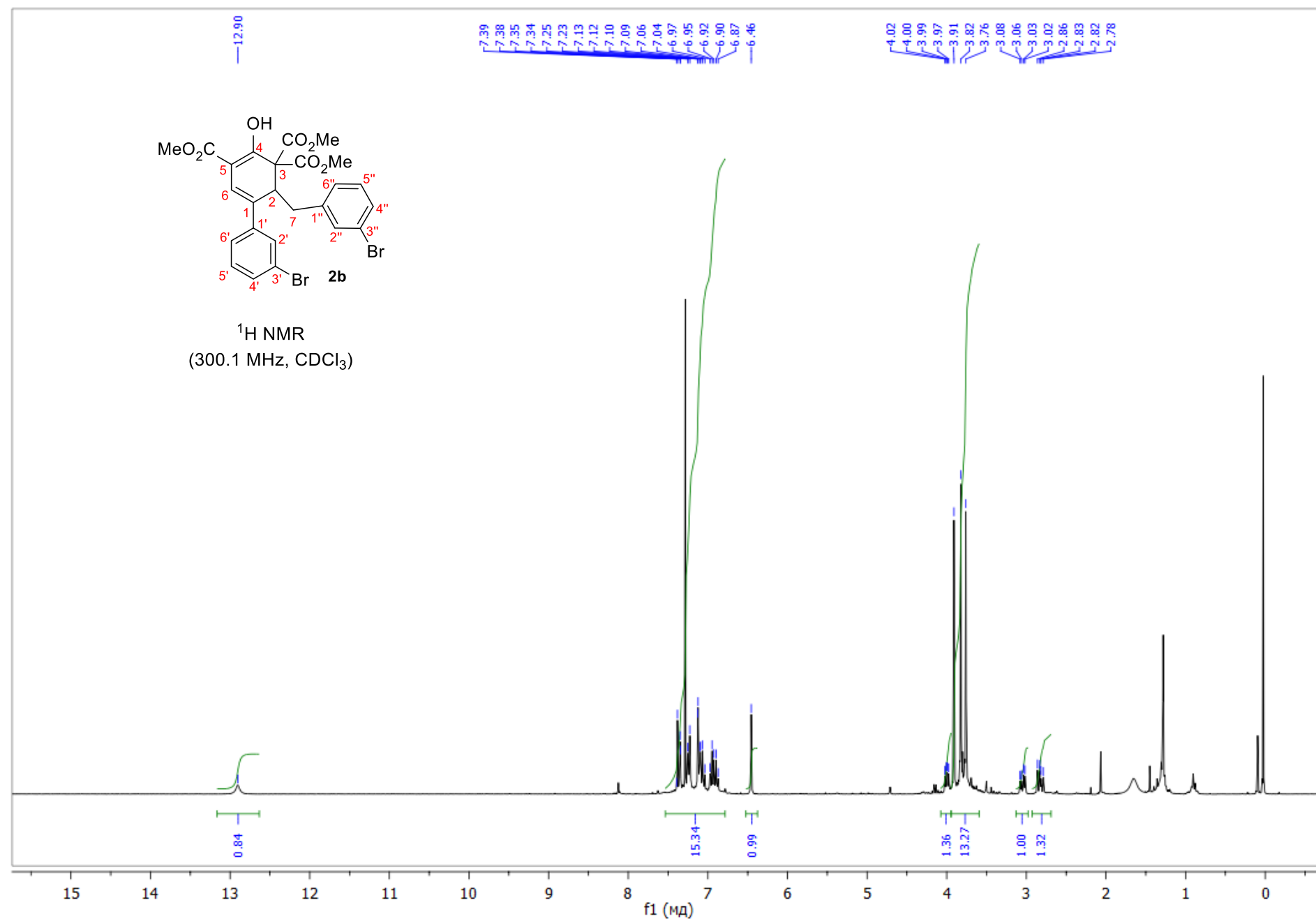


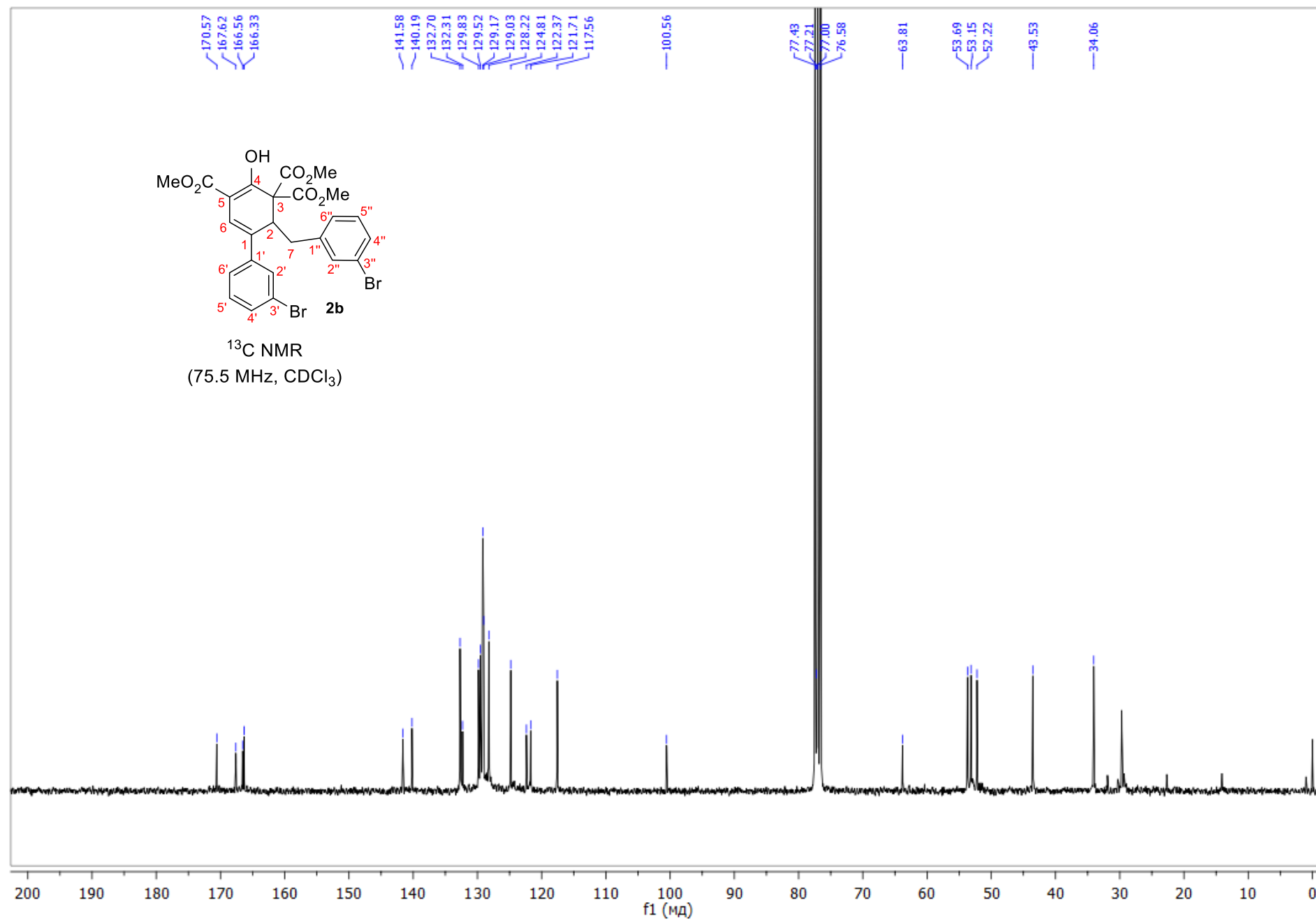


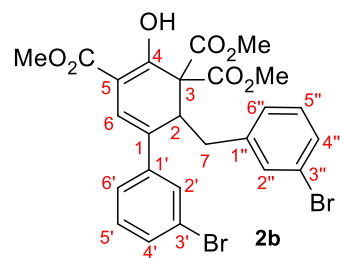
<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C-HMBC  
 (1H: 400.1 MHz,  
 13C: 100.6 MHz  
 CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



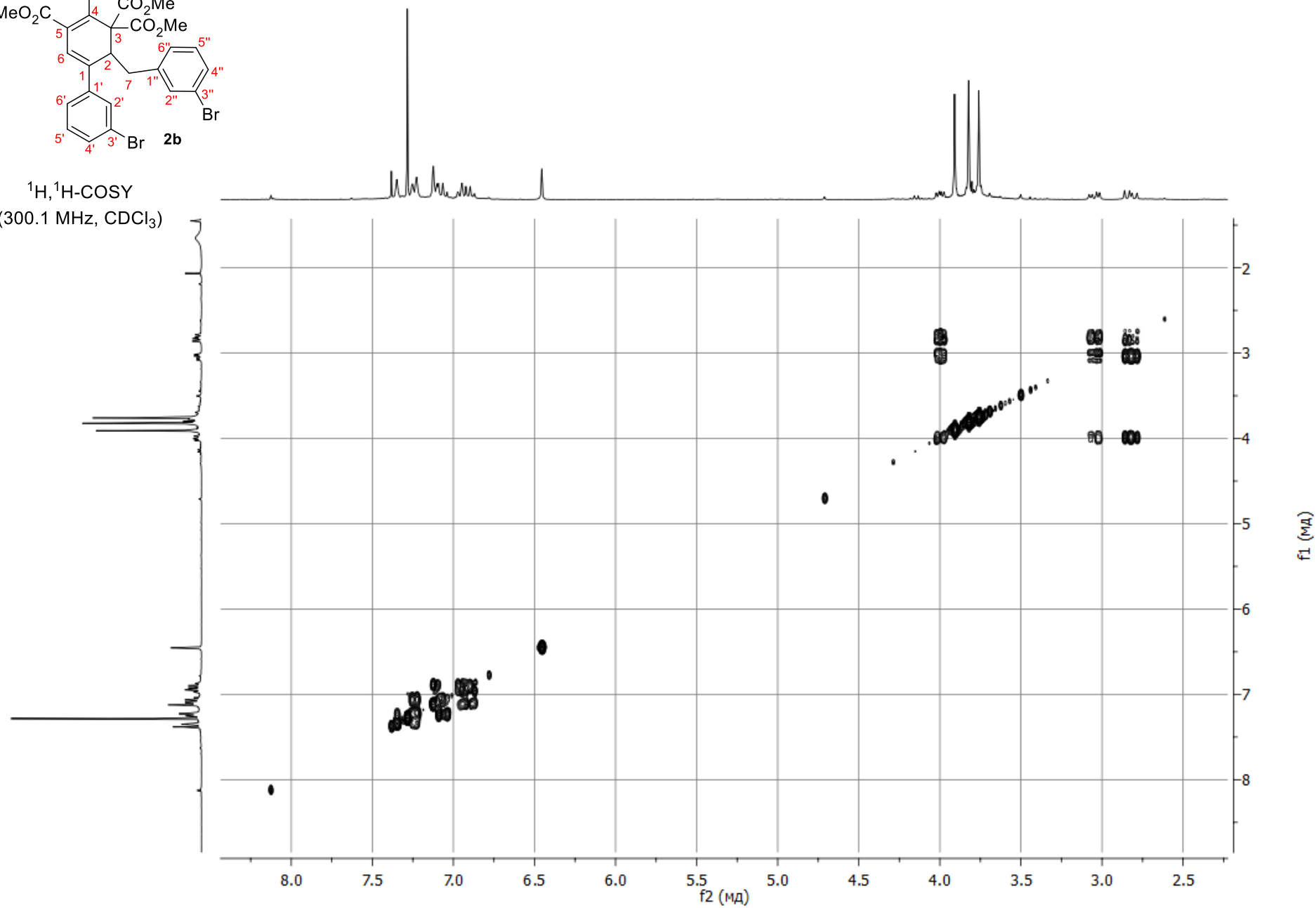


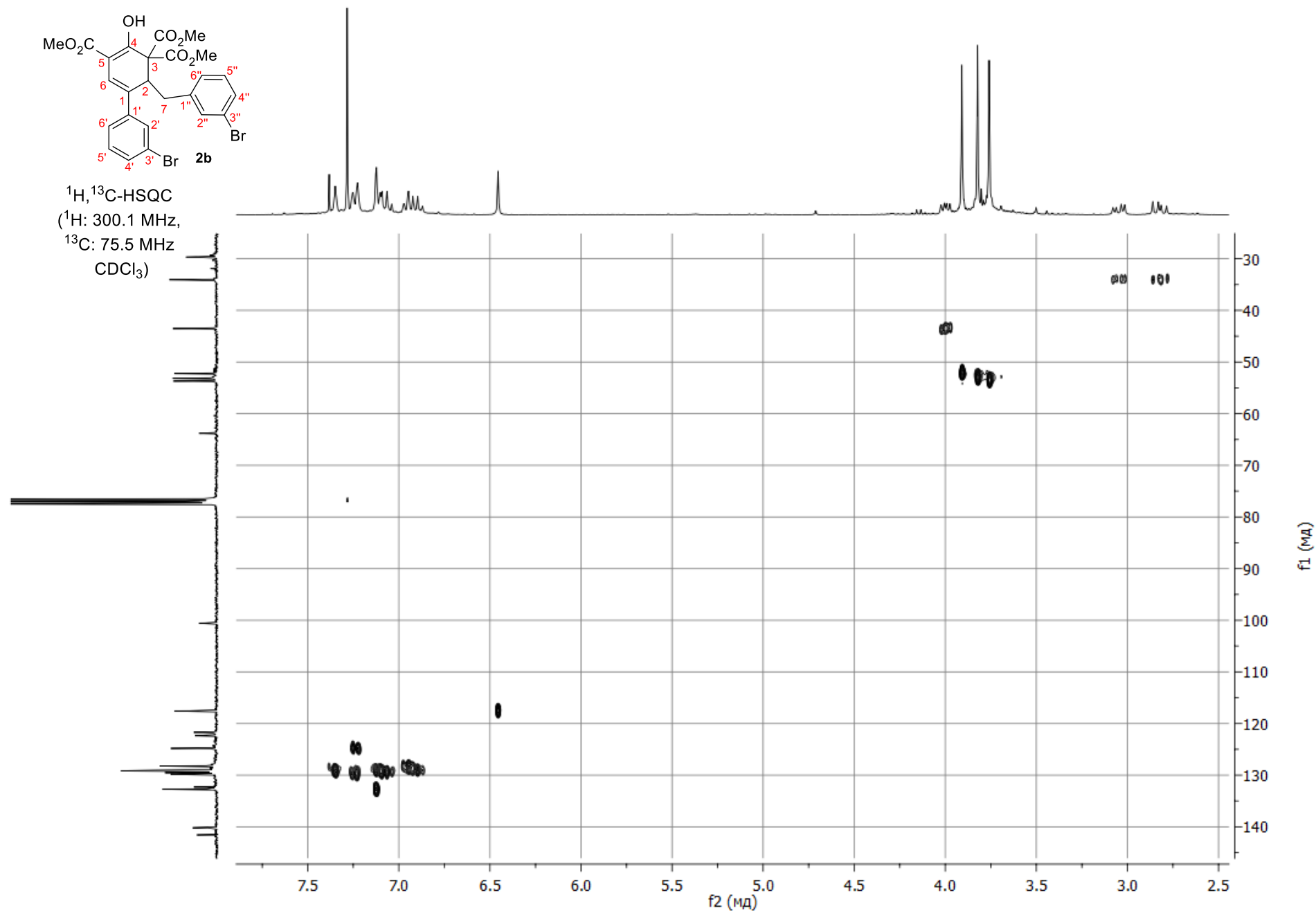


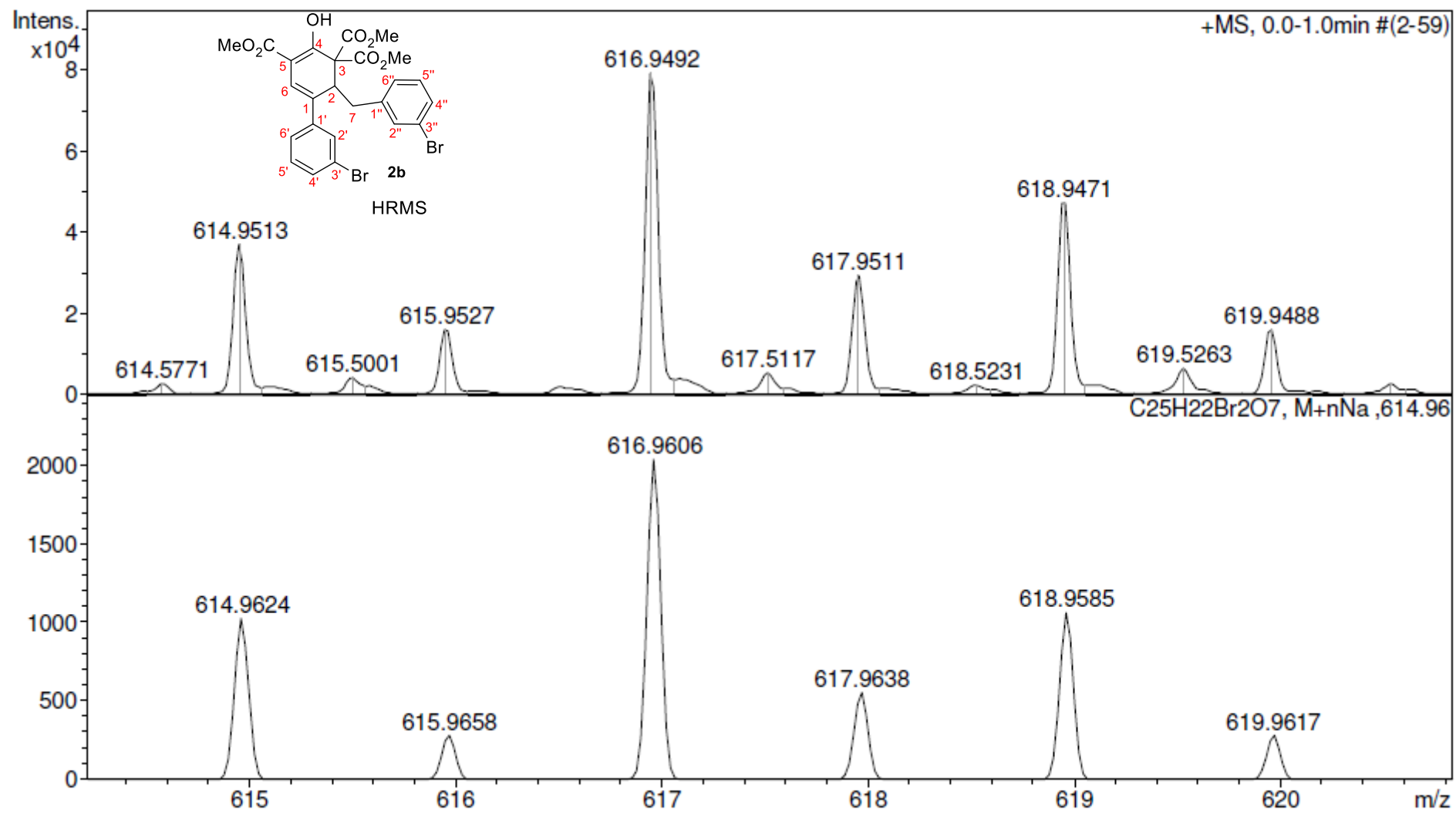


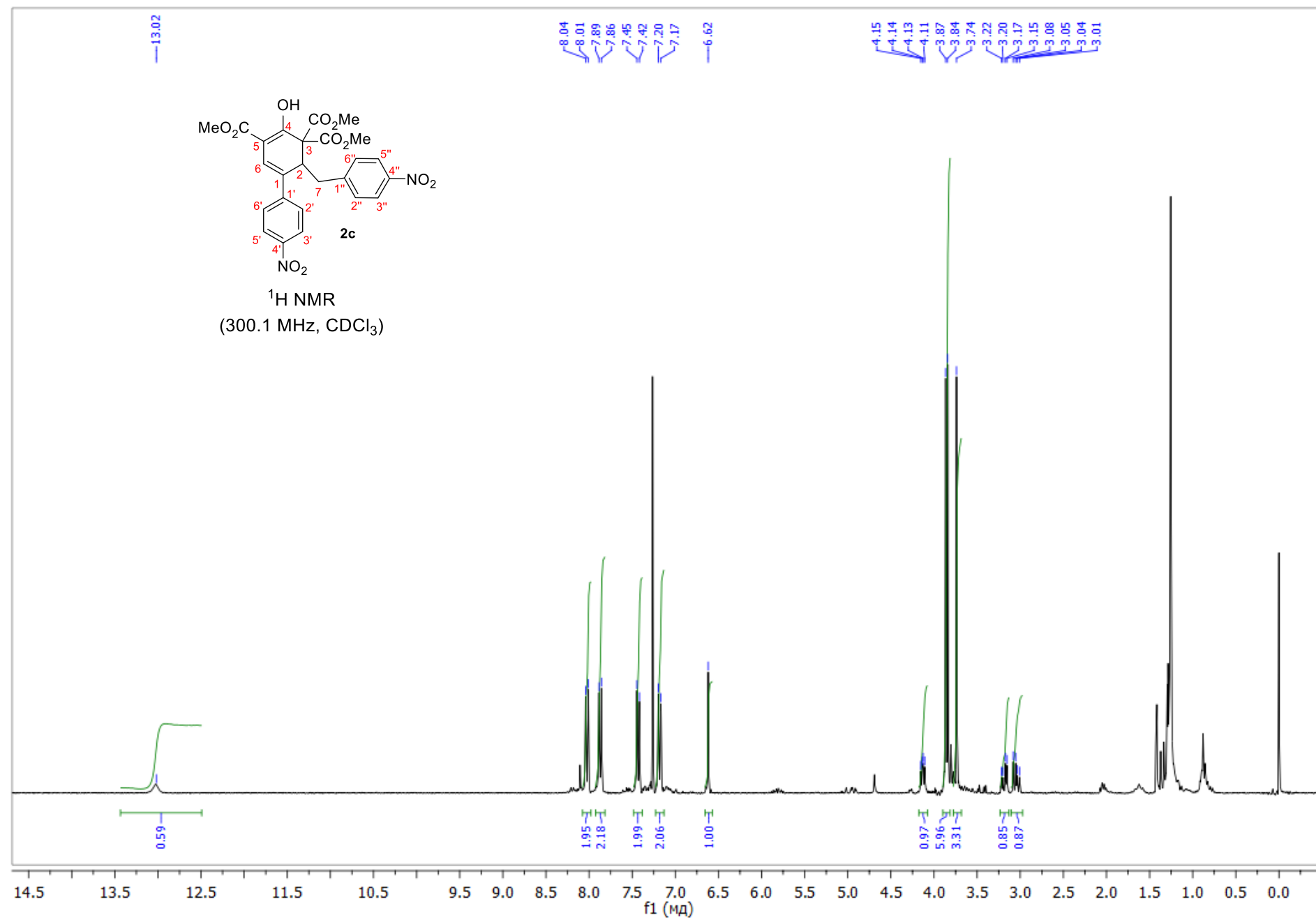


<sup>1</sup>H,<sup>1</sup>H-COSY  
(300.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

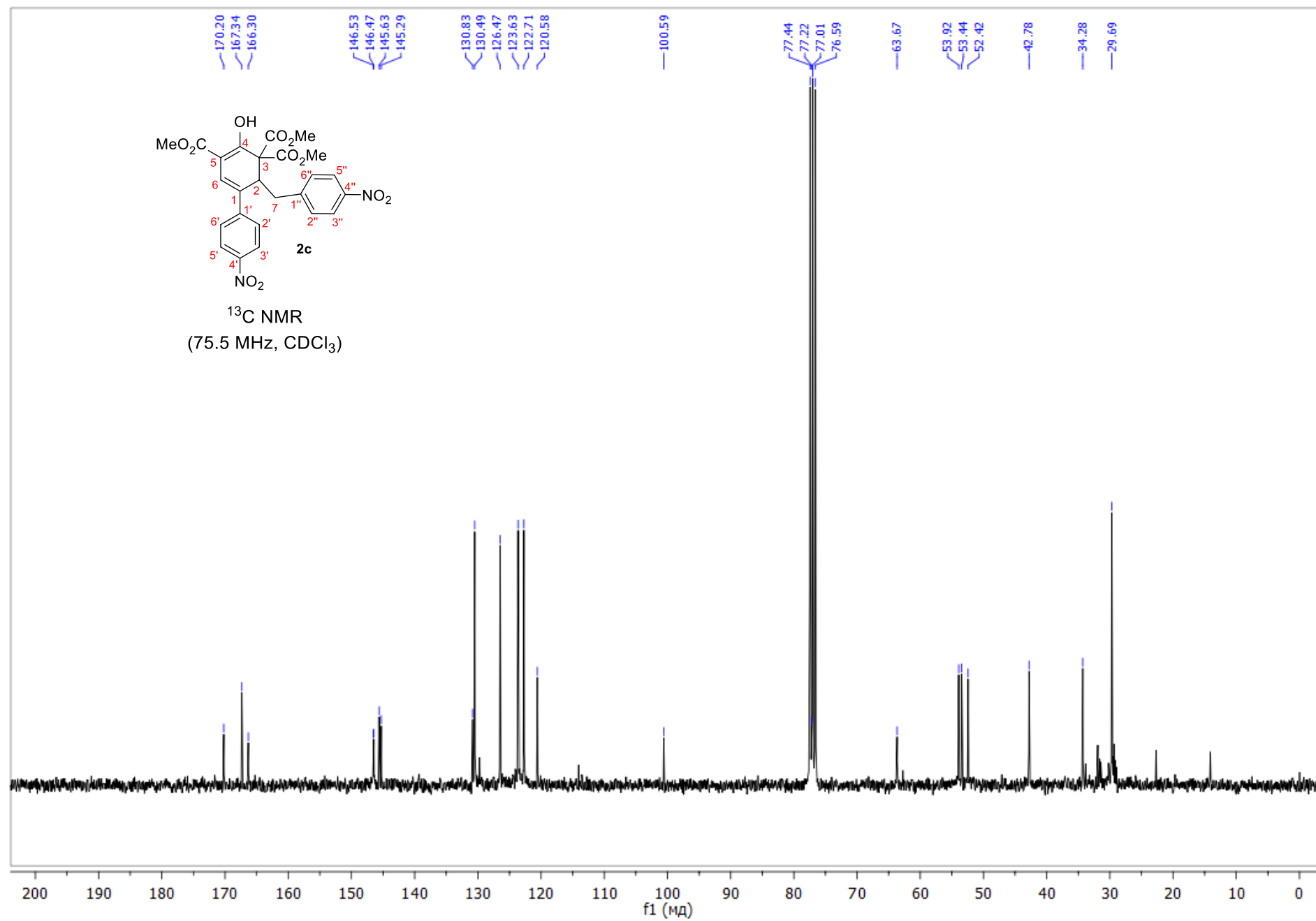


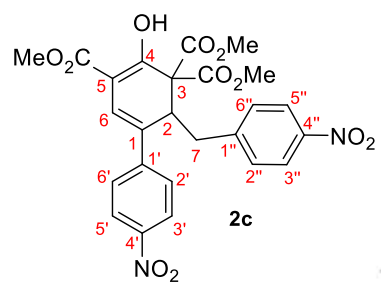




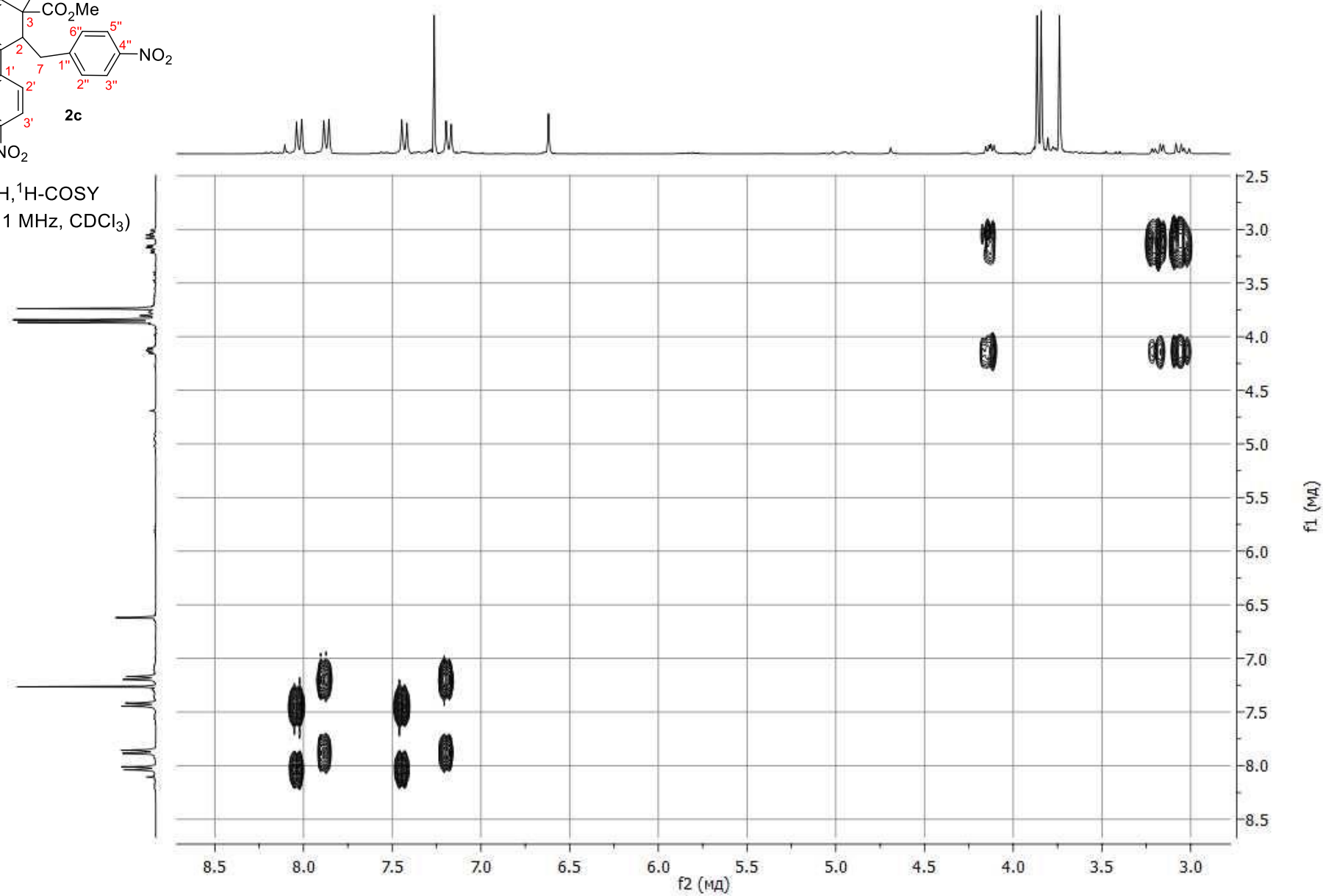


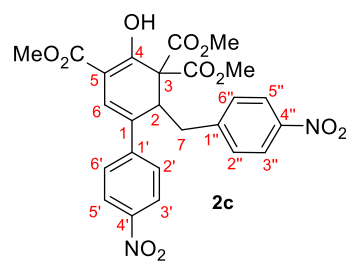




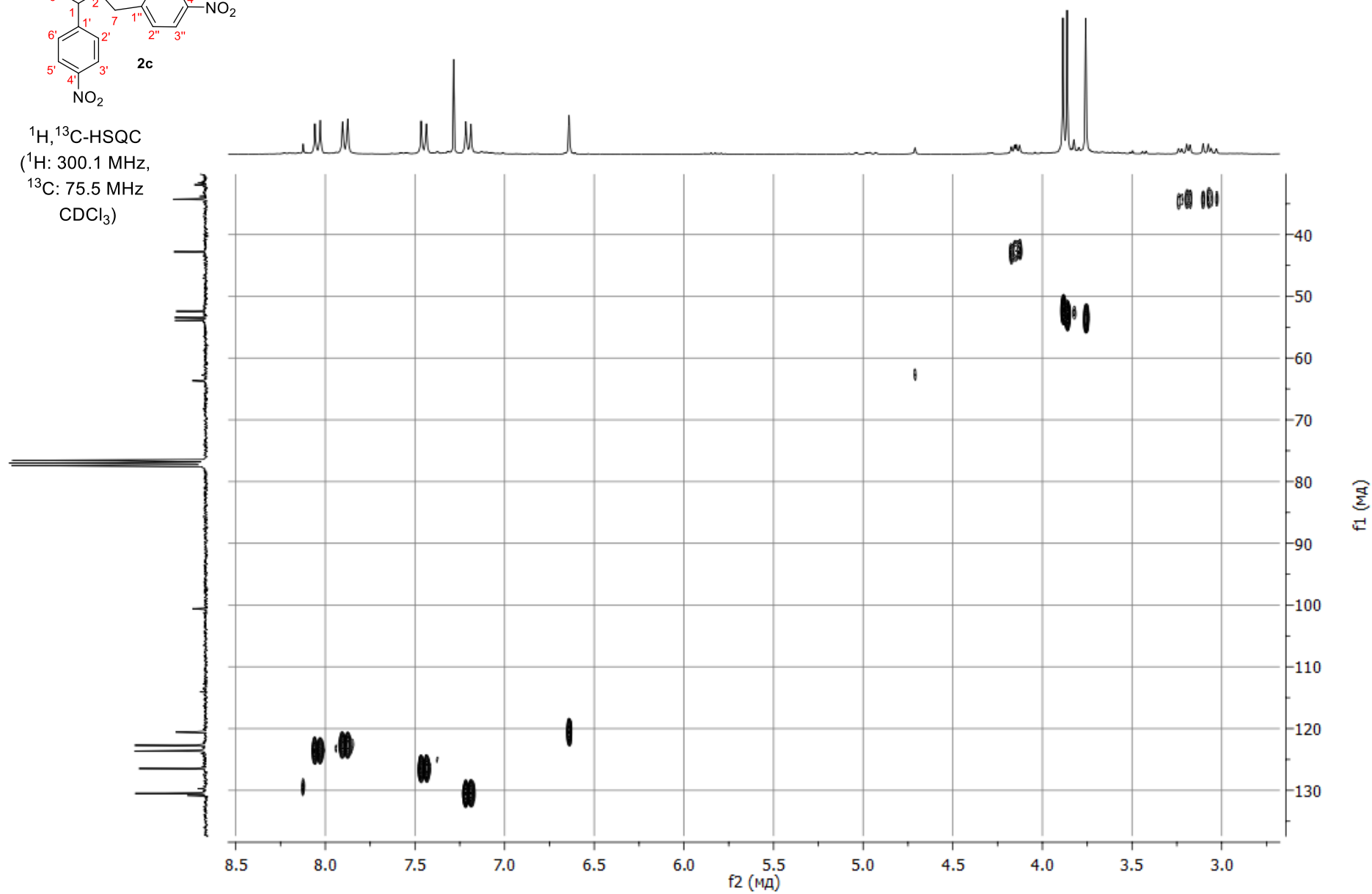


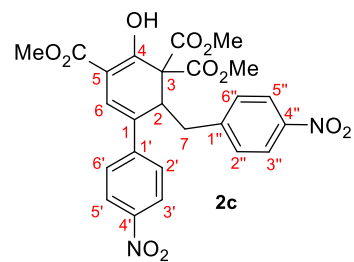
$^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ -COSY  
(300.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



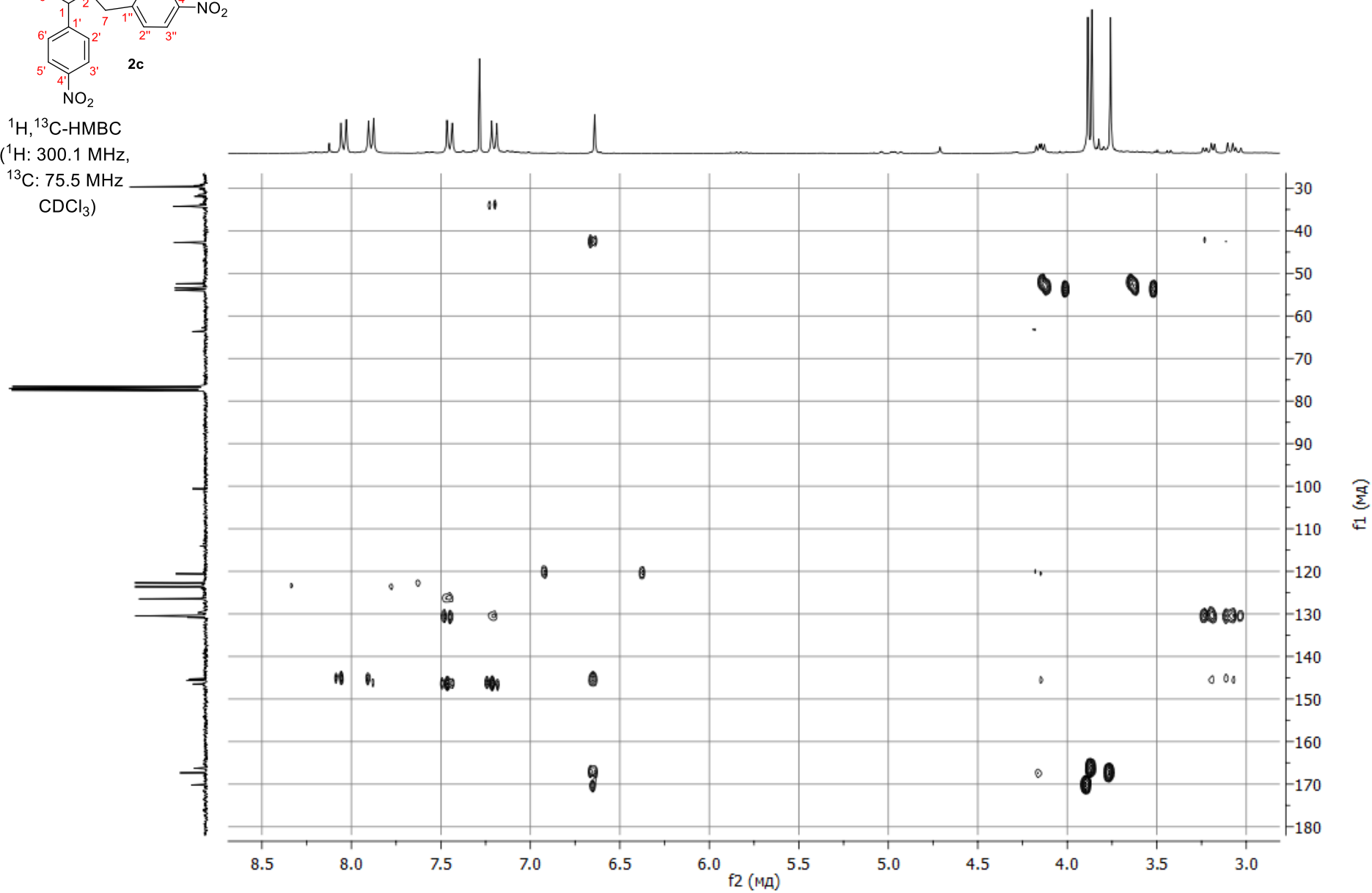


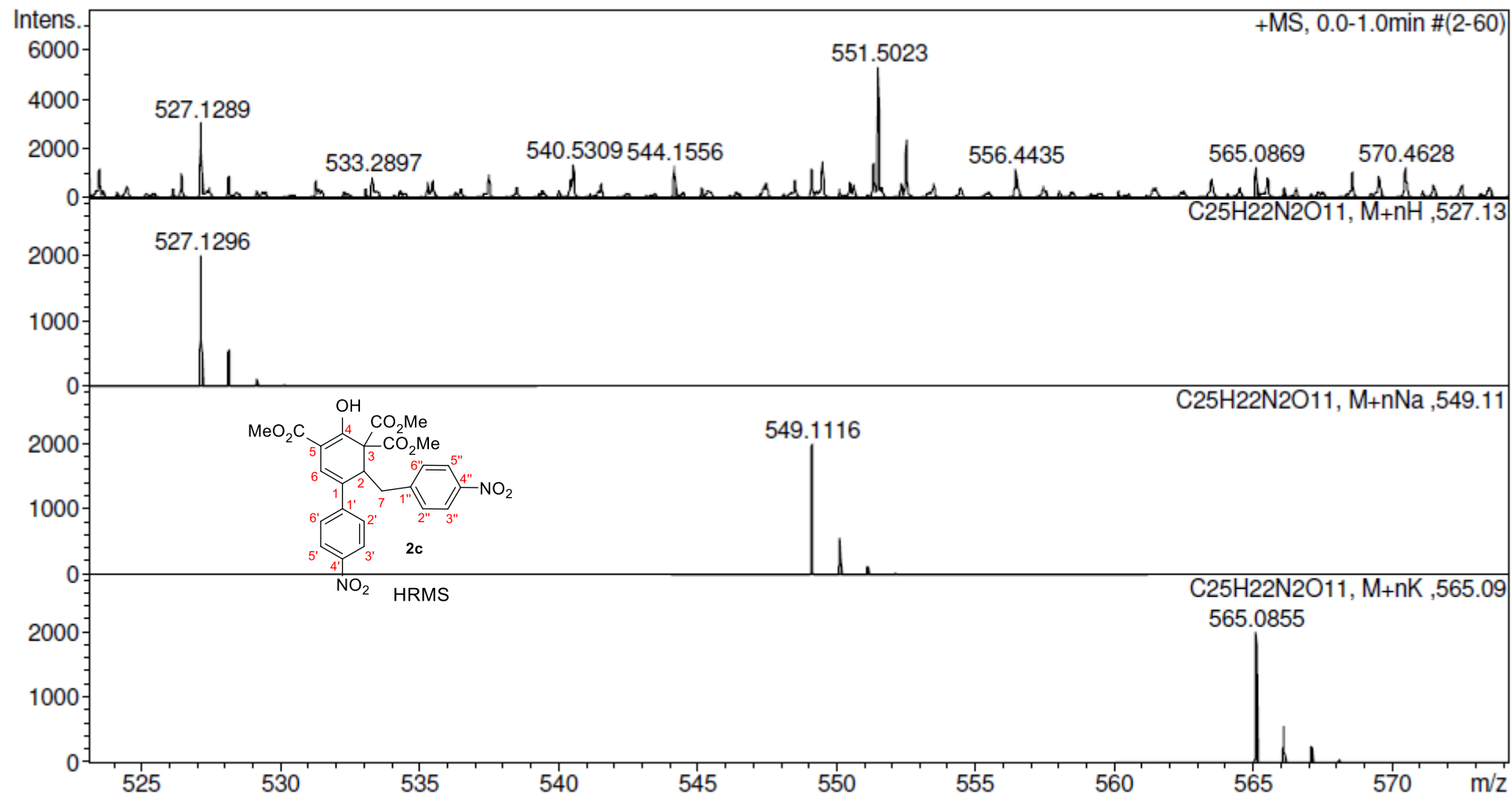
<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C-HSQC  
(<sup>1</sup>H: 300.1 MHz,  
<sup>13</sup>C: 75.5 MHz  
CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

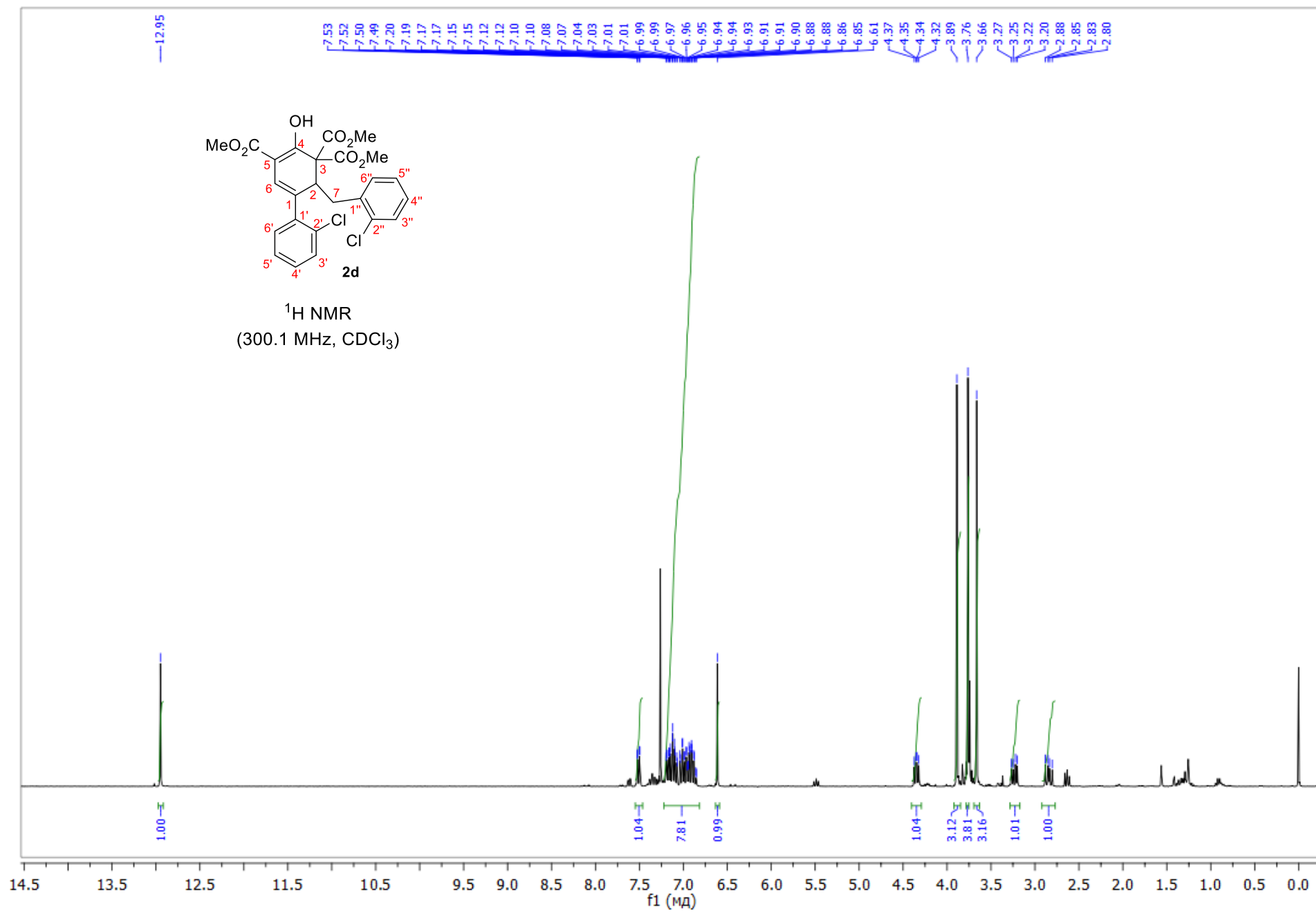


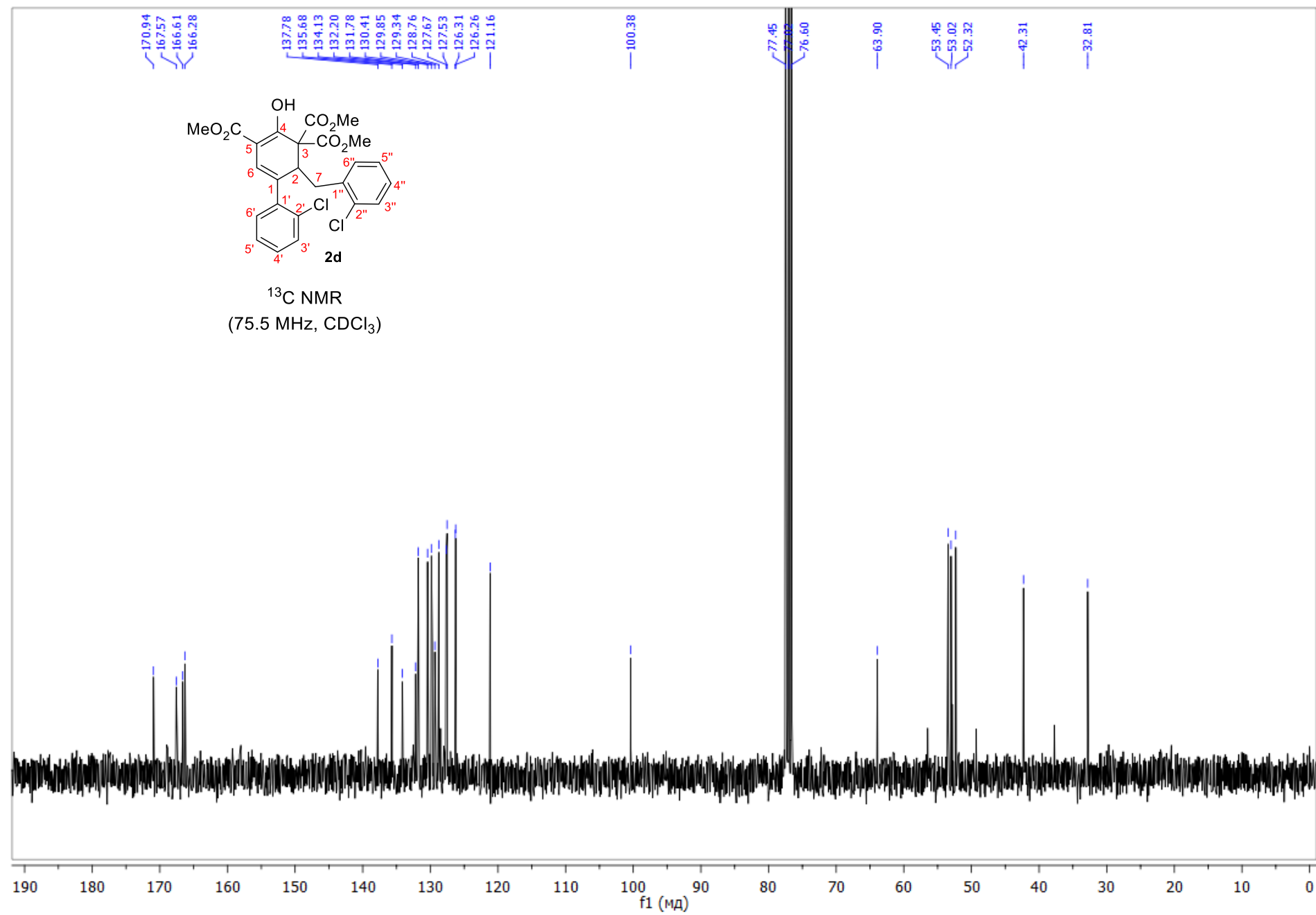


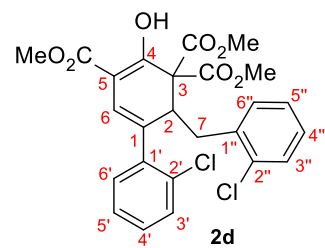
$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HMBC  
 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300.1 MHz,  
 $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75.5 MHz  
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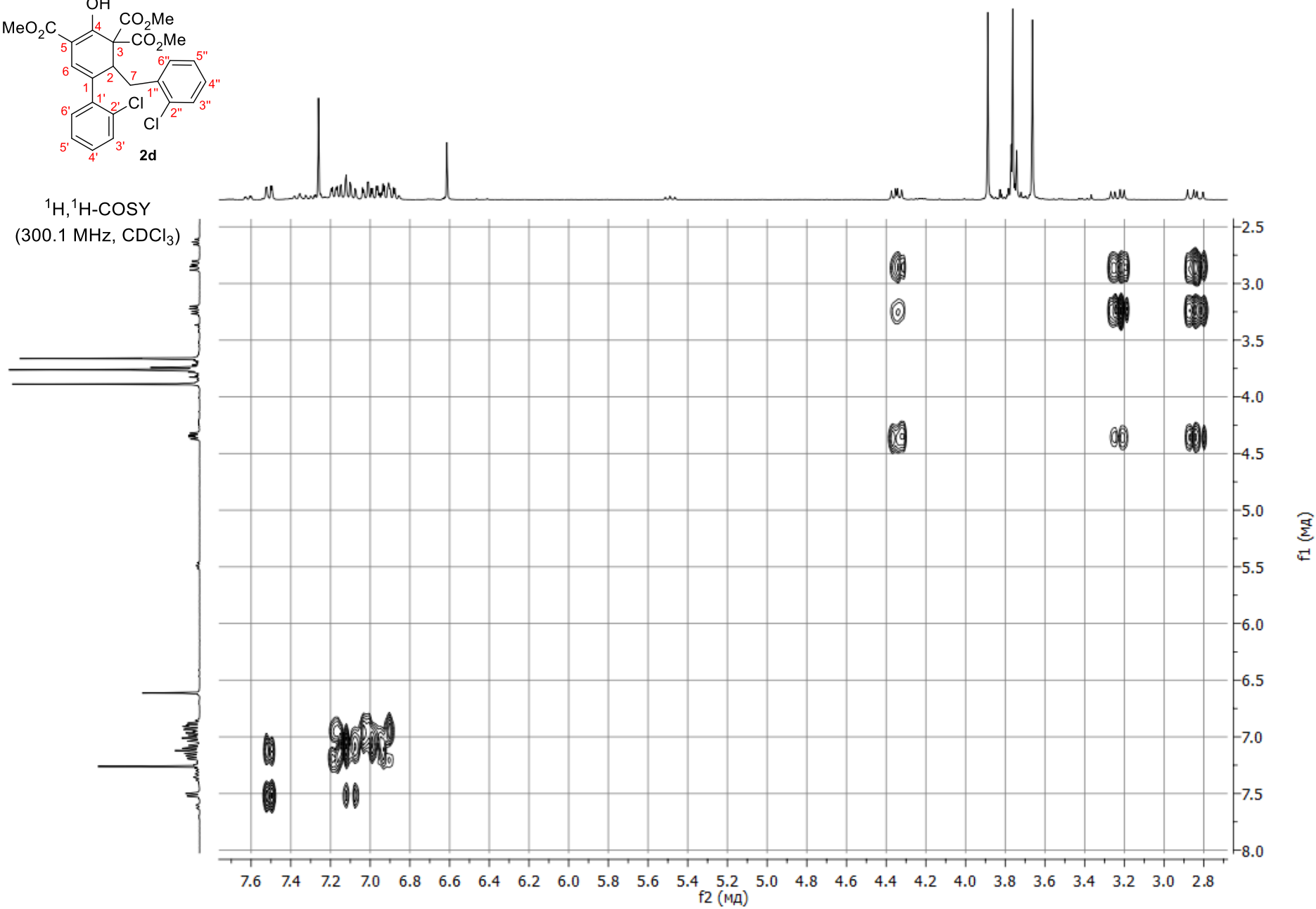




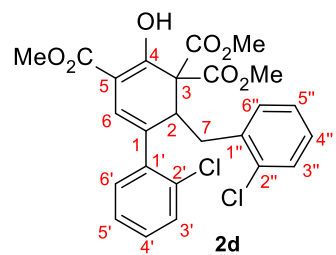




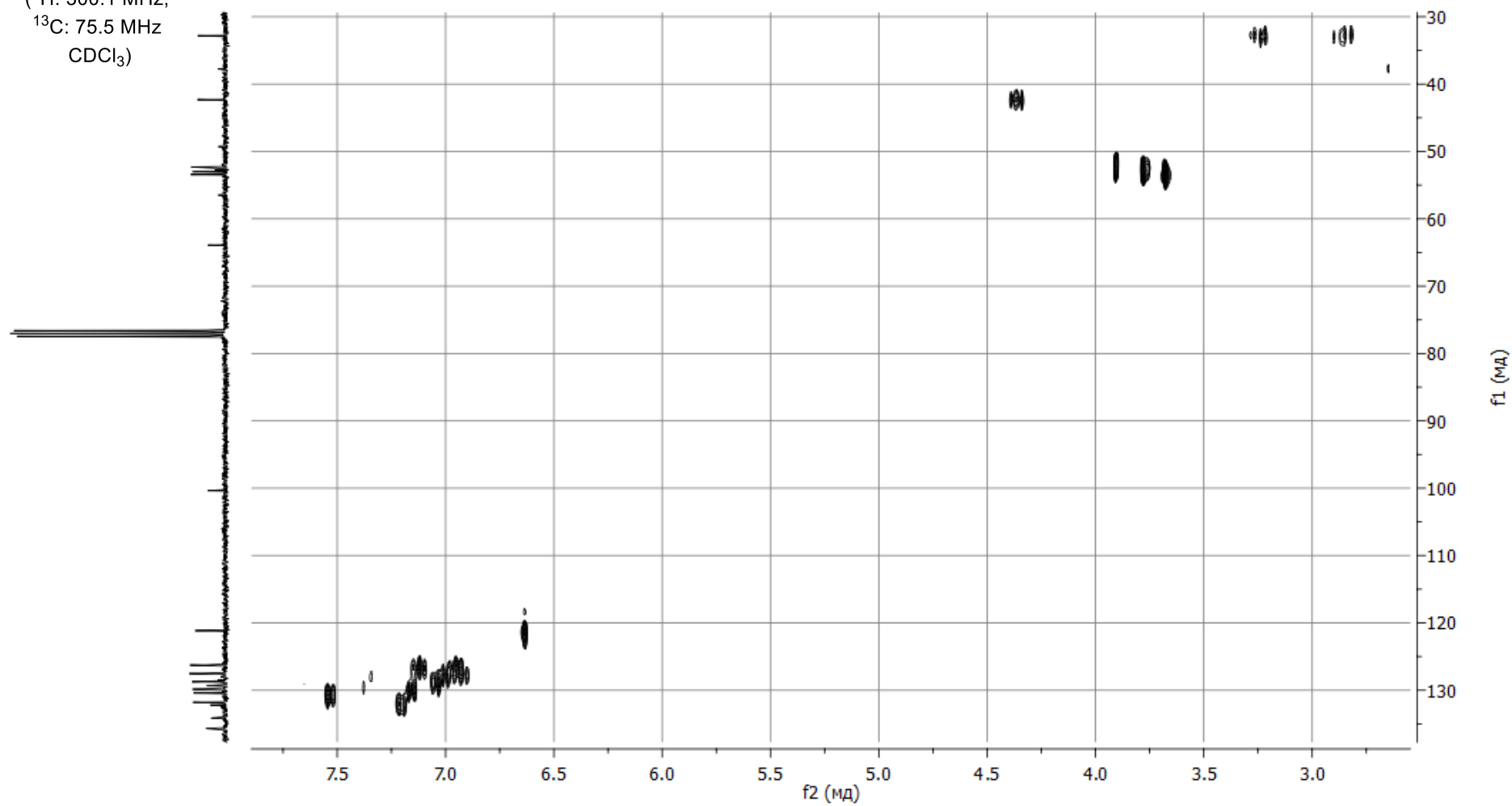
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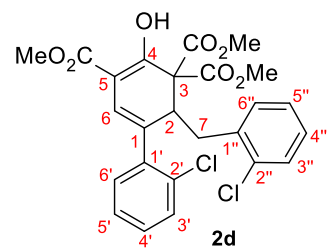




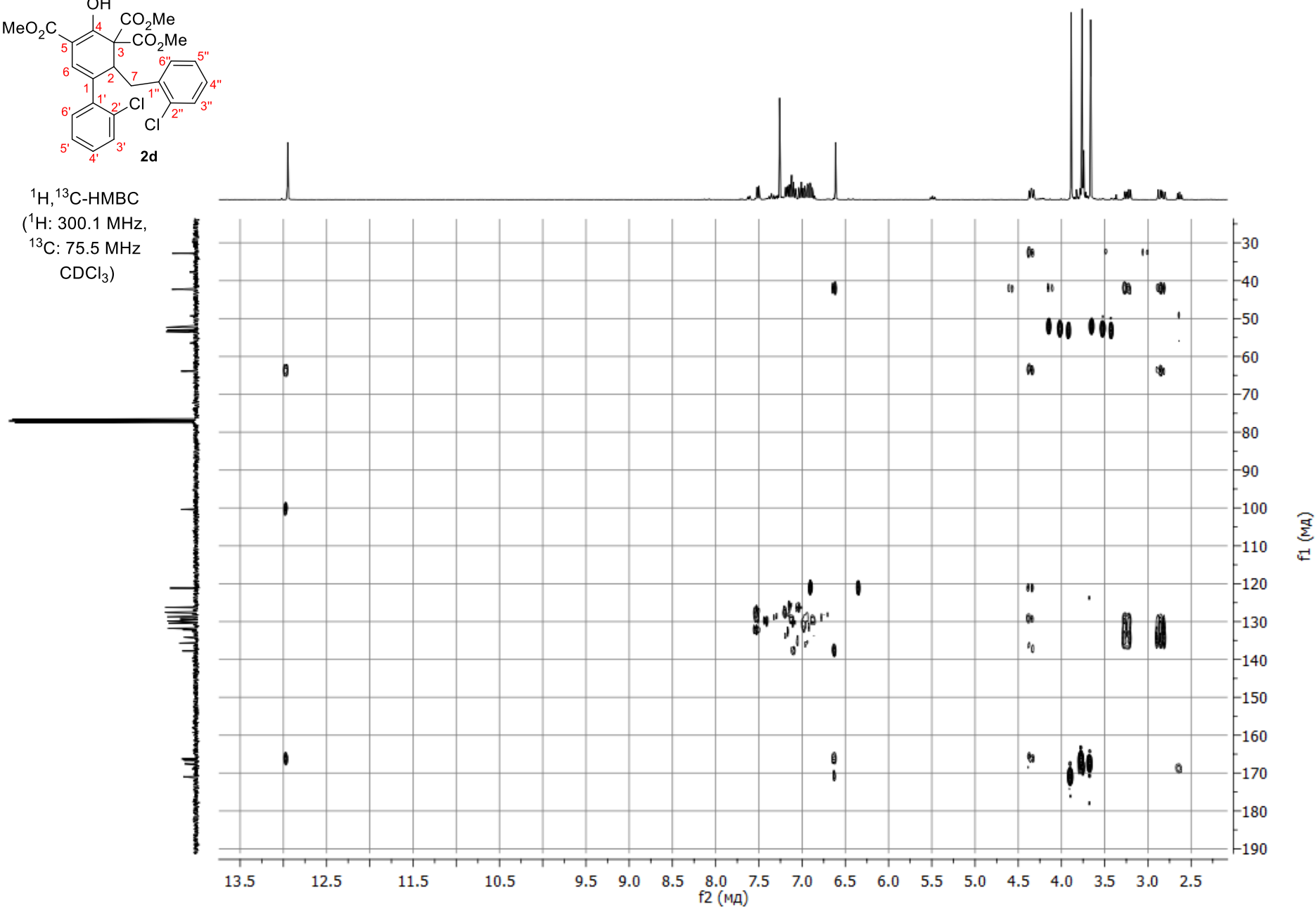


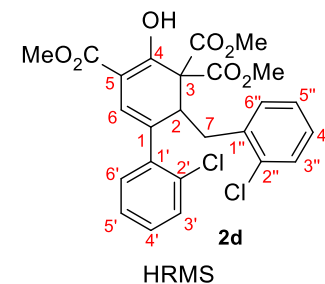
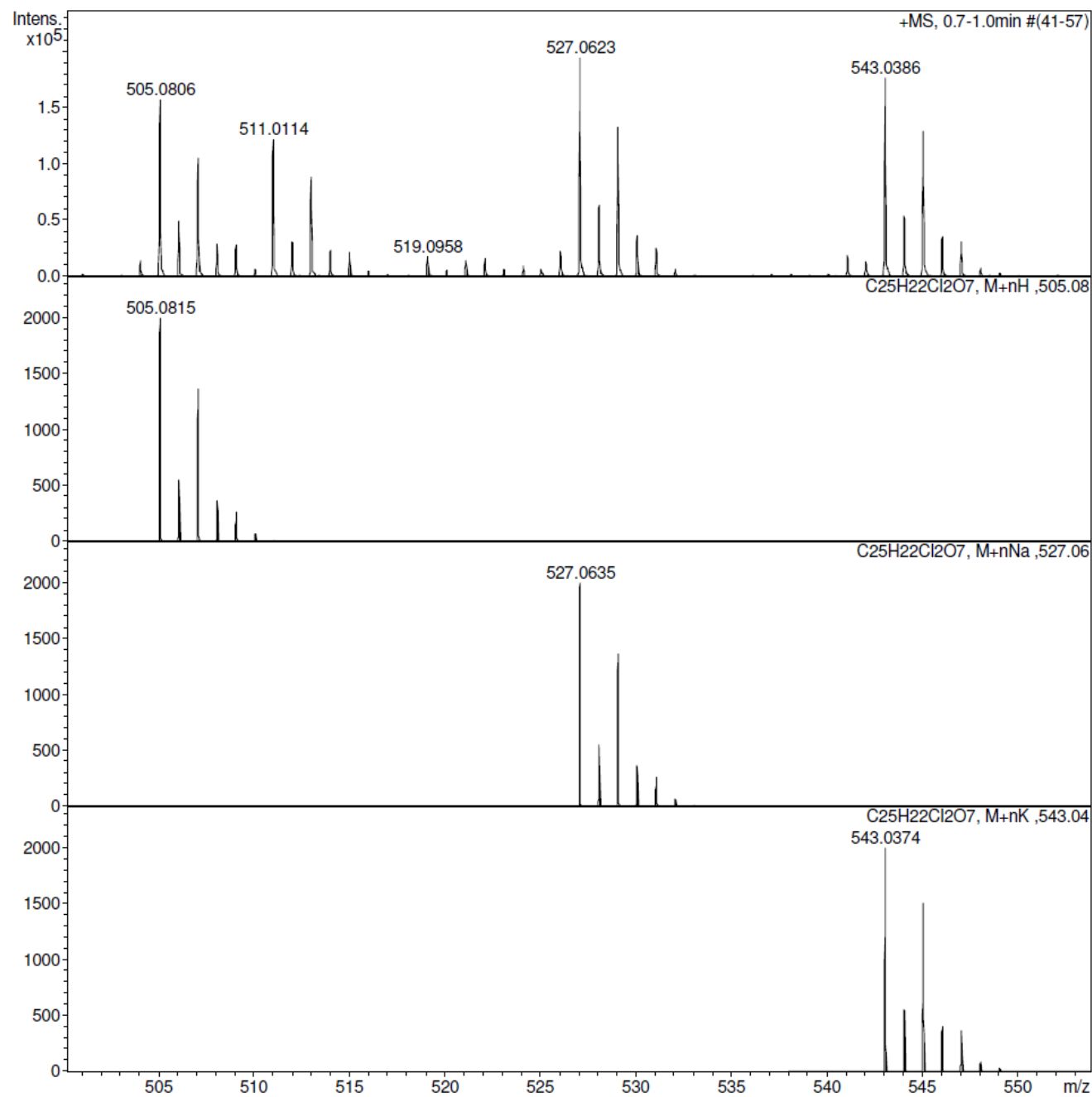
$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HSQC  
 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300.1 MHz,  
 $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75.5 MHz  
 $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

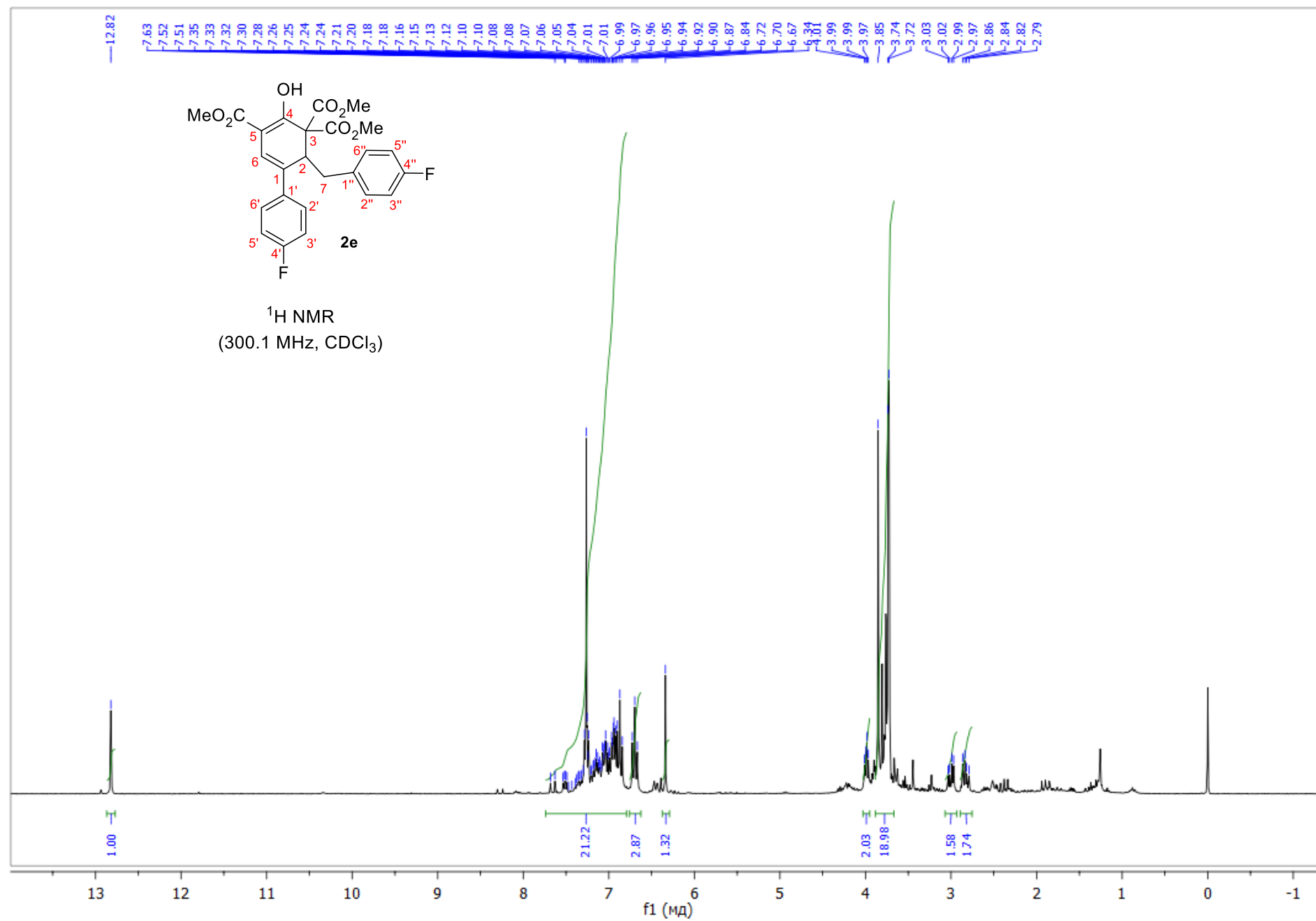


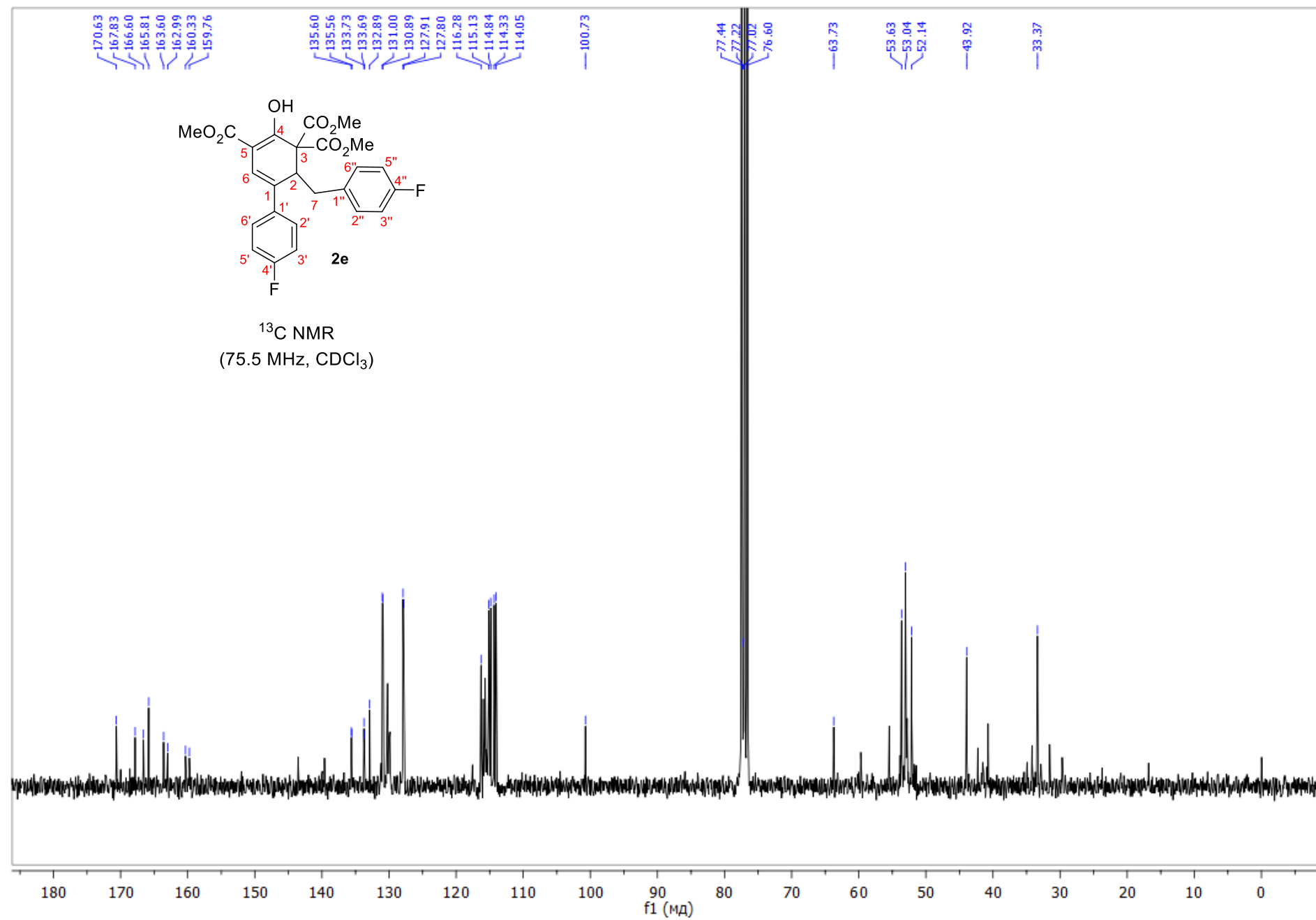


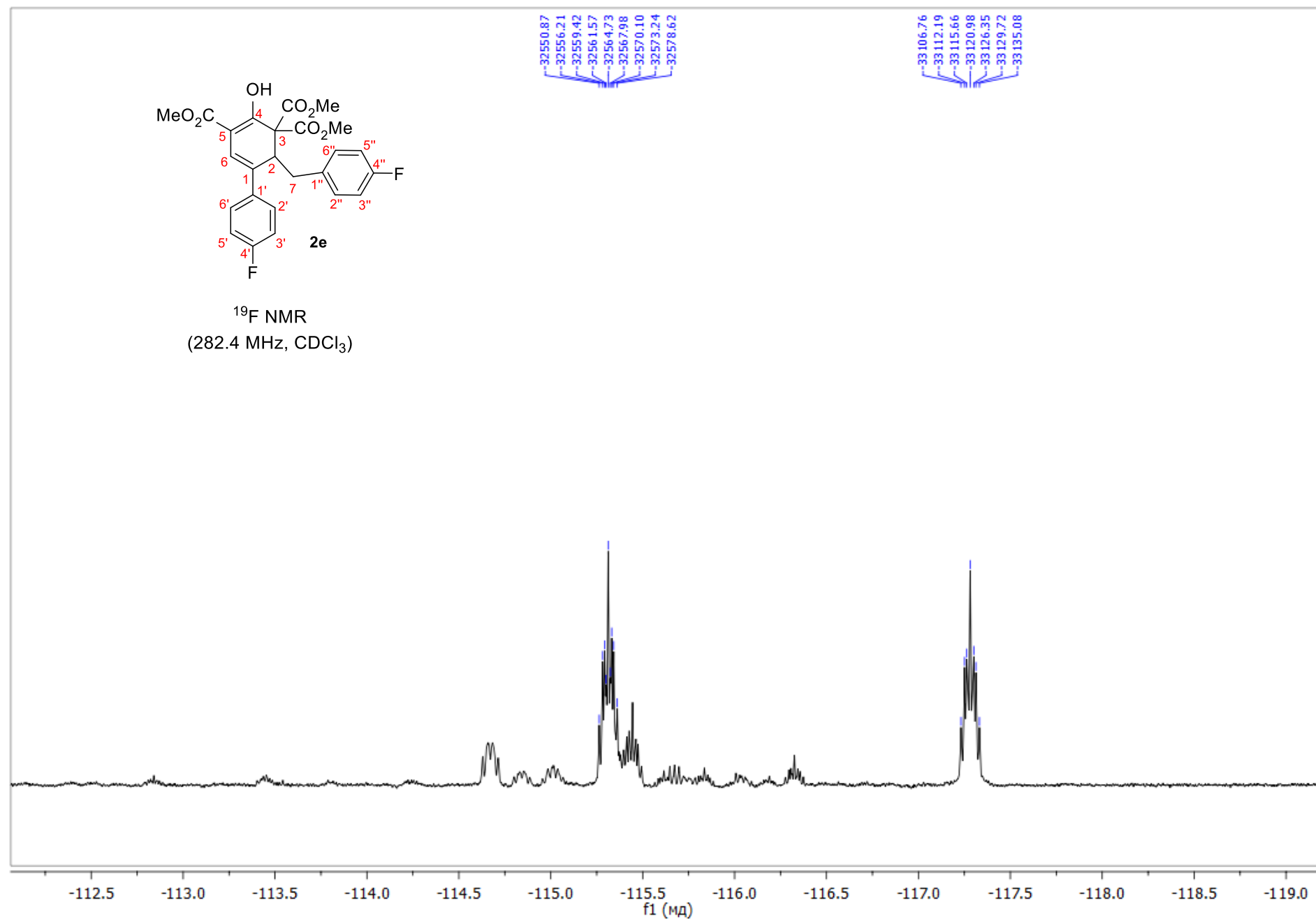
$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HMBC  
 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300.1 MHz,  
 $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75.5 MHz  
 $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

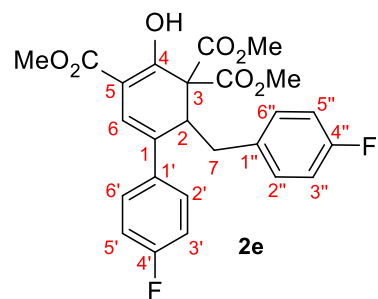




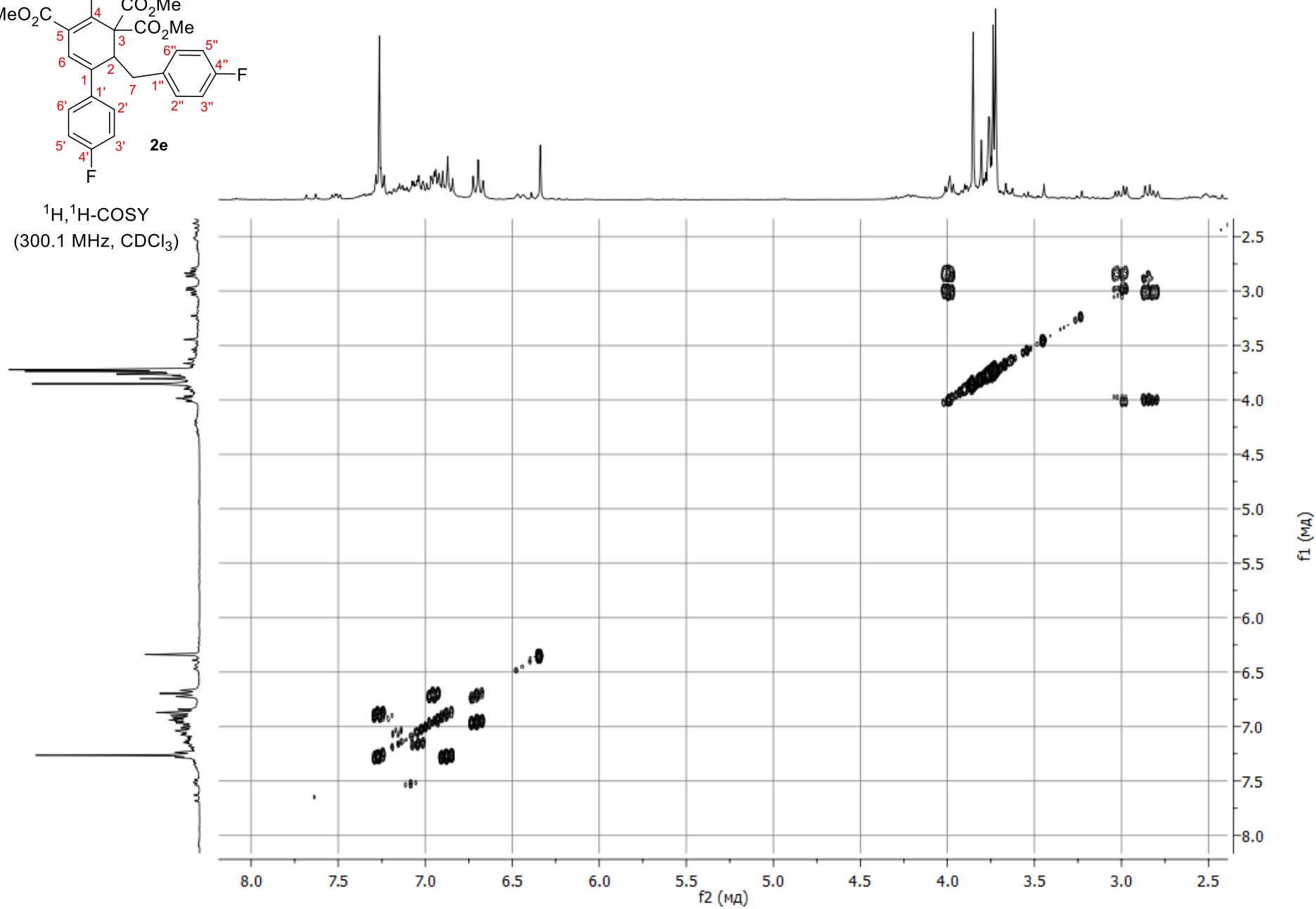


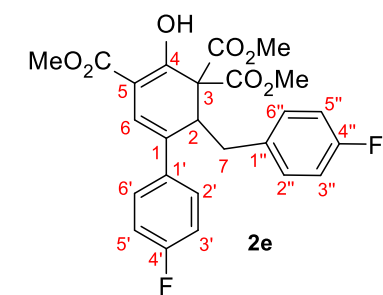




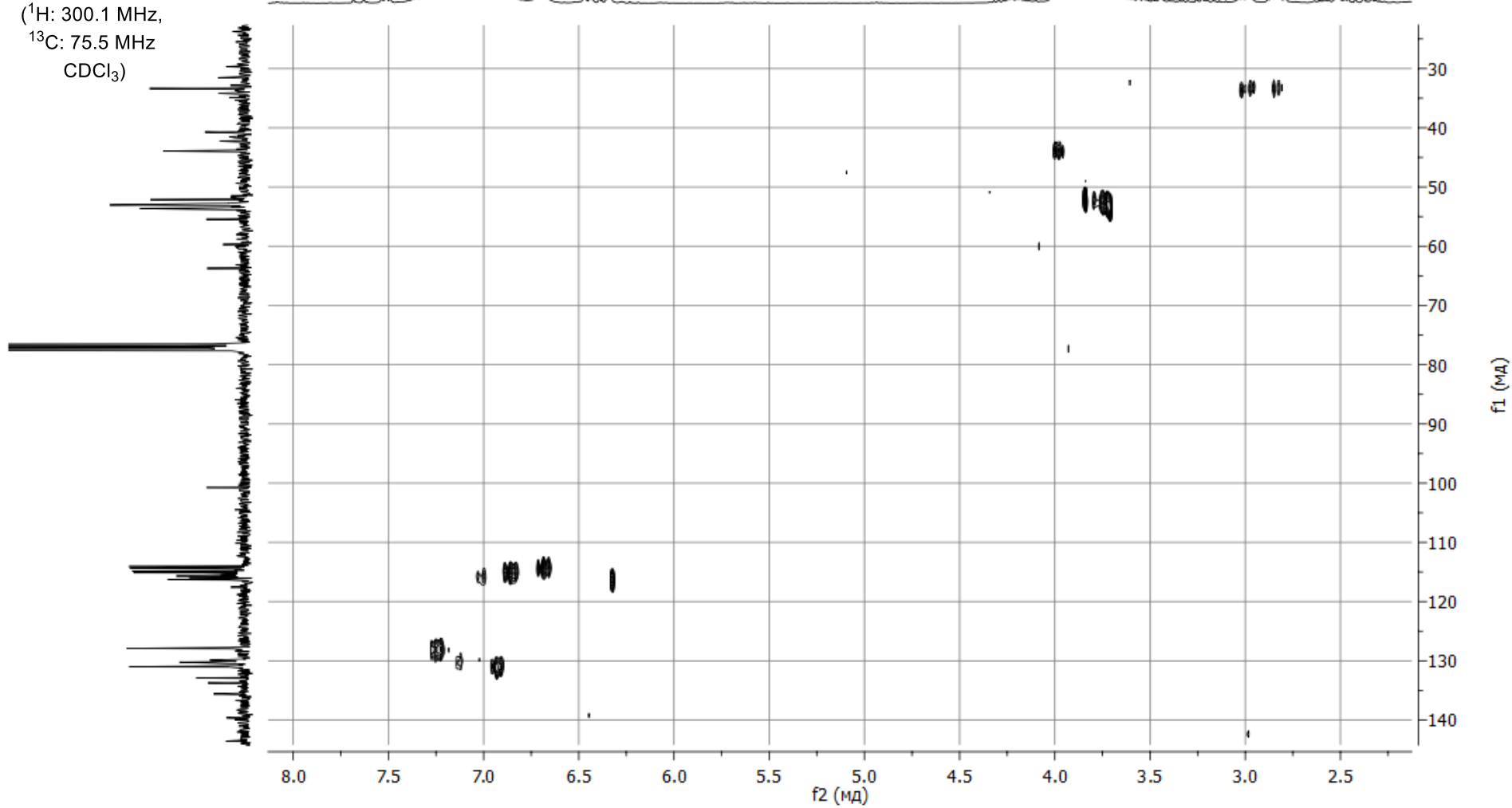


$^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ -COSY  
(300.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

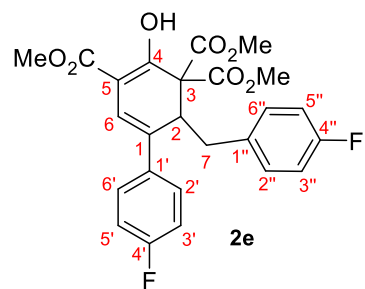




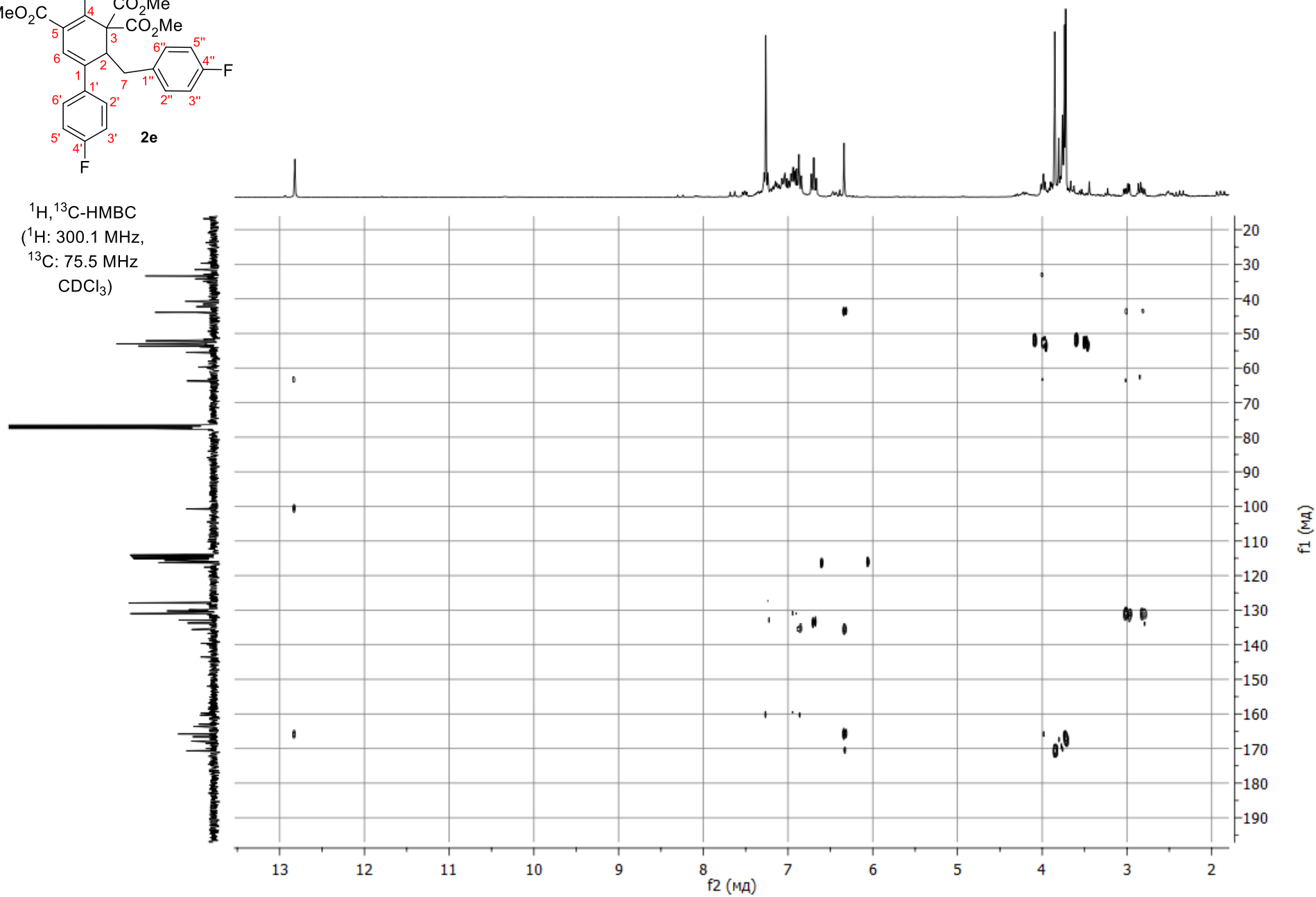
$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HSQC  
 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300.1 MHz,  
 $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75.5 MHz  
 $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

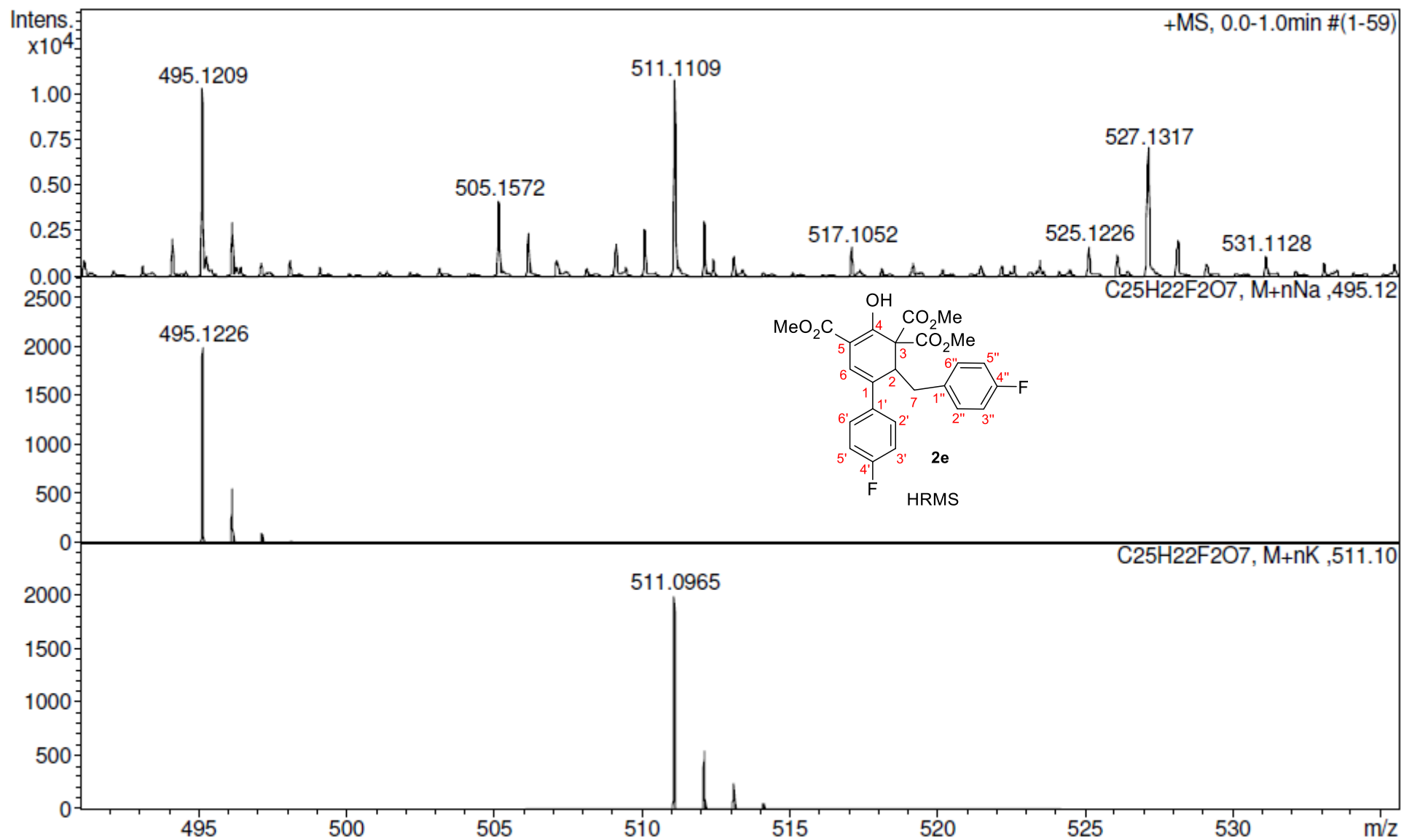


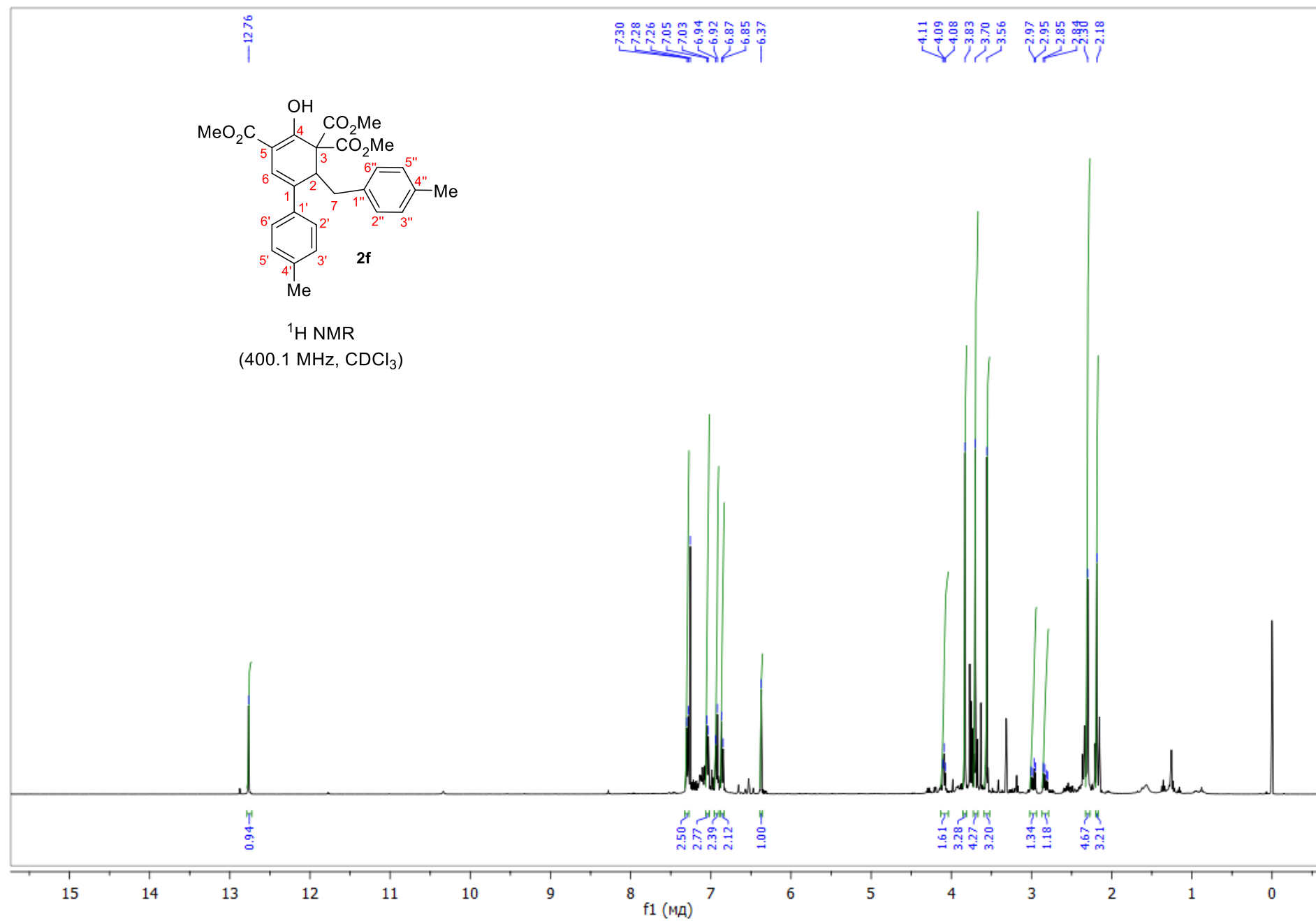


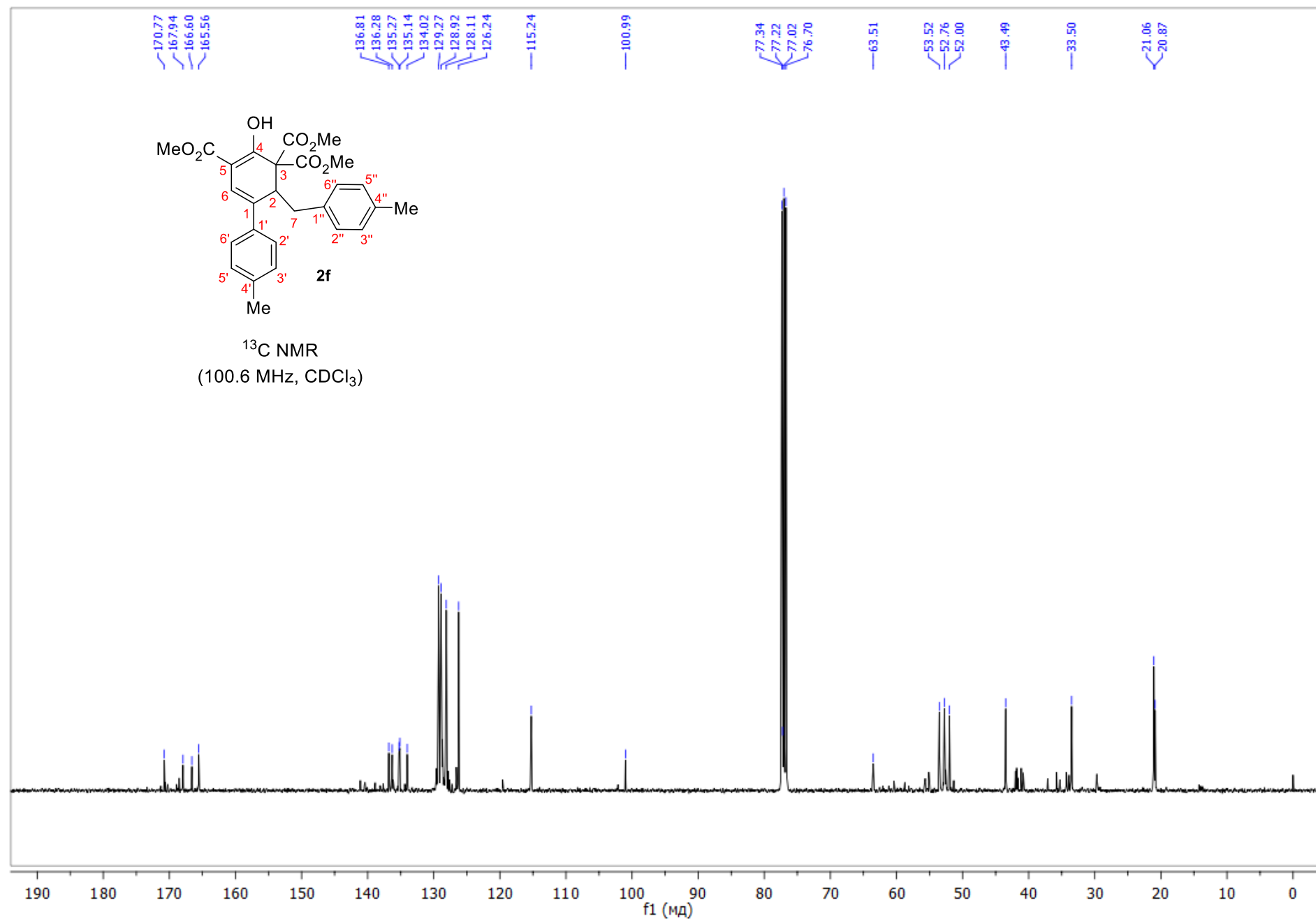


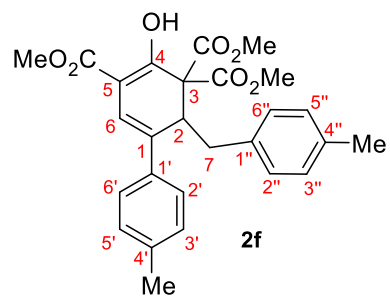
<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C-HMBC  
 (<sup>1</sup>H: 300.1 MHz,  
<sup>13</sup>C: 75.5 MHz  
 CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



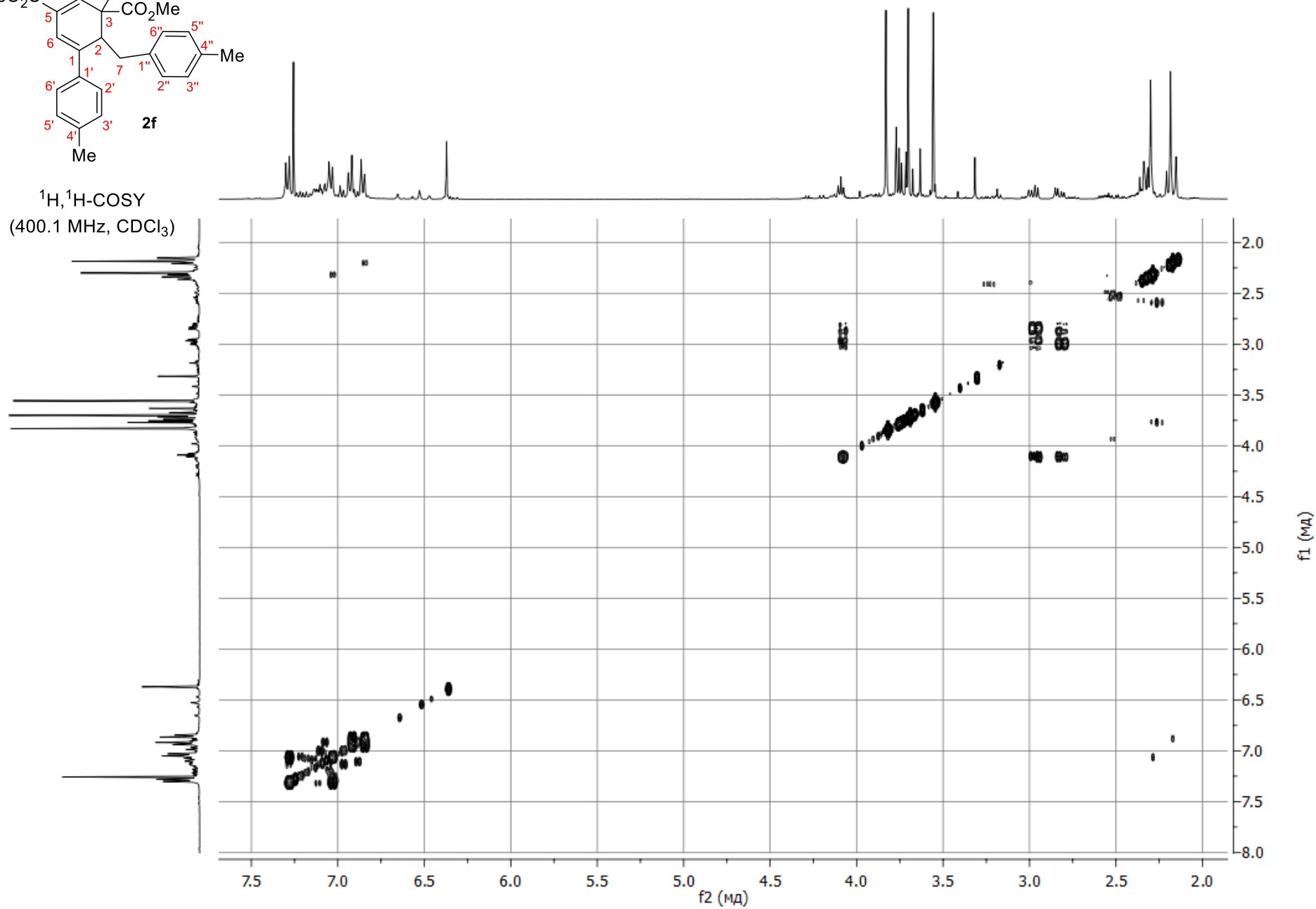


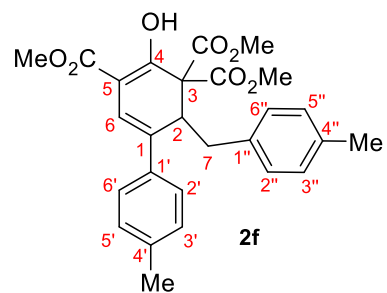




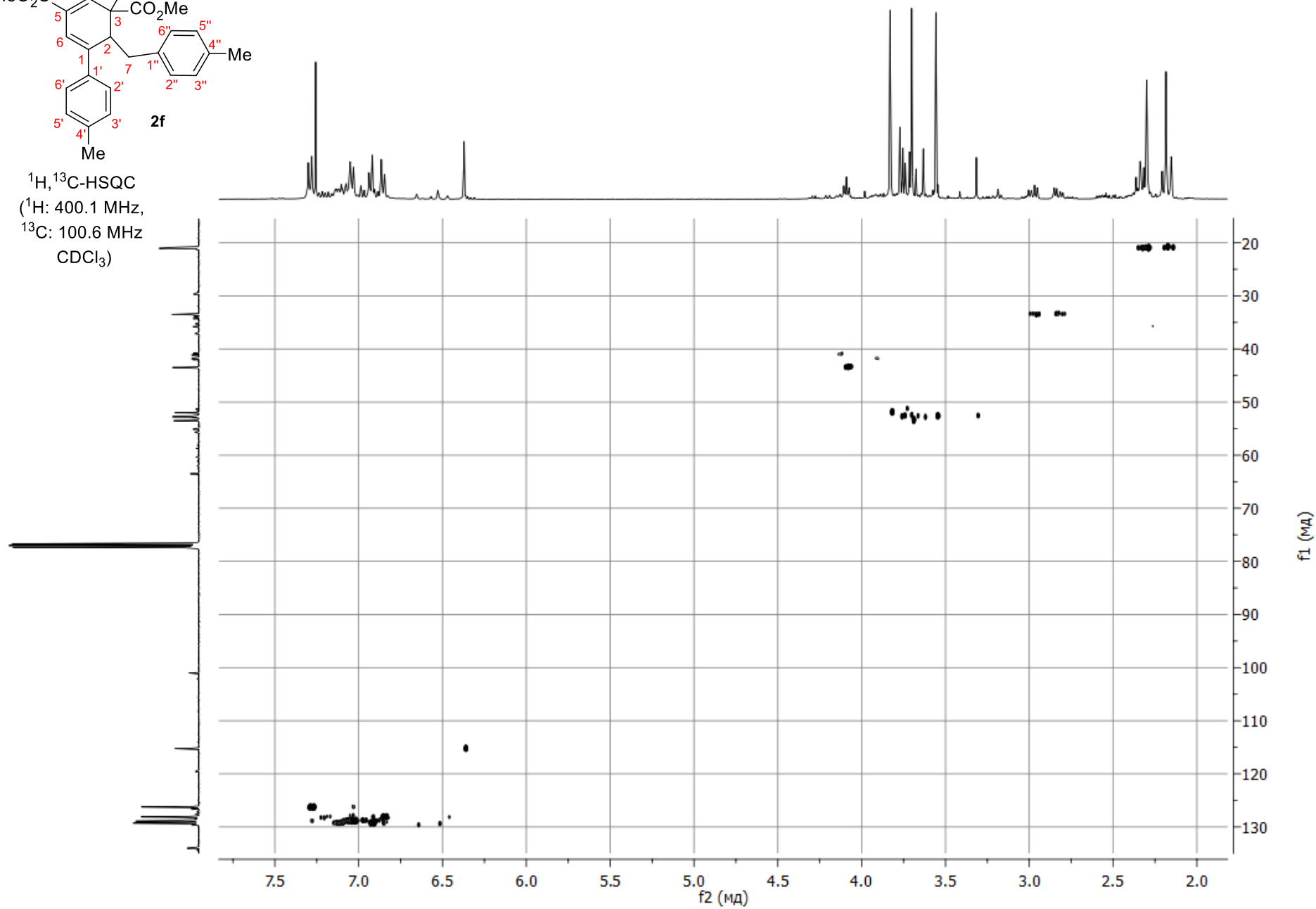


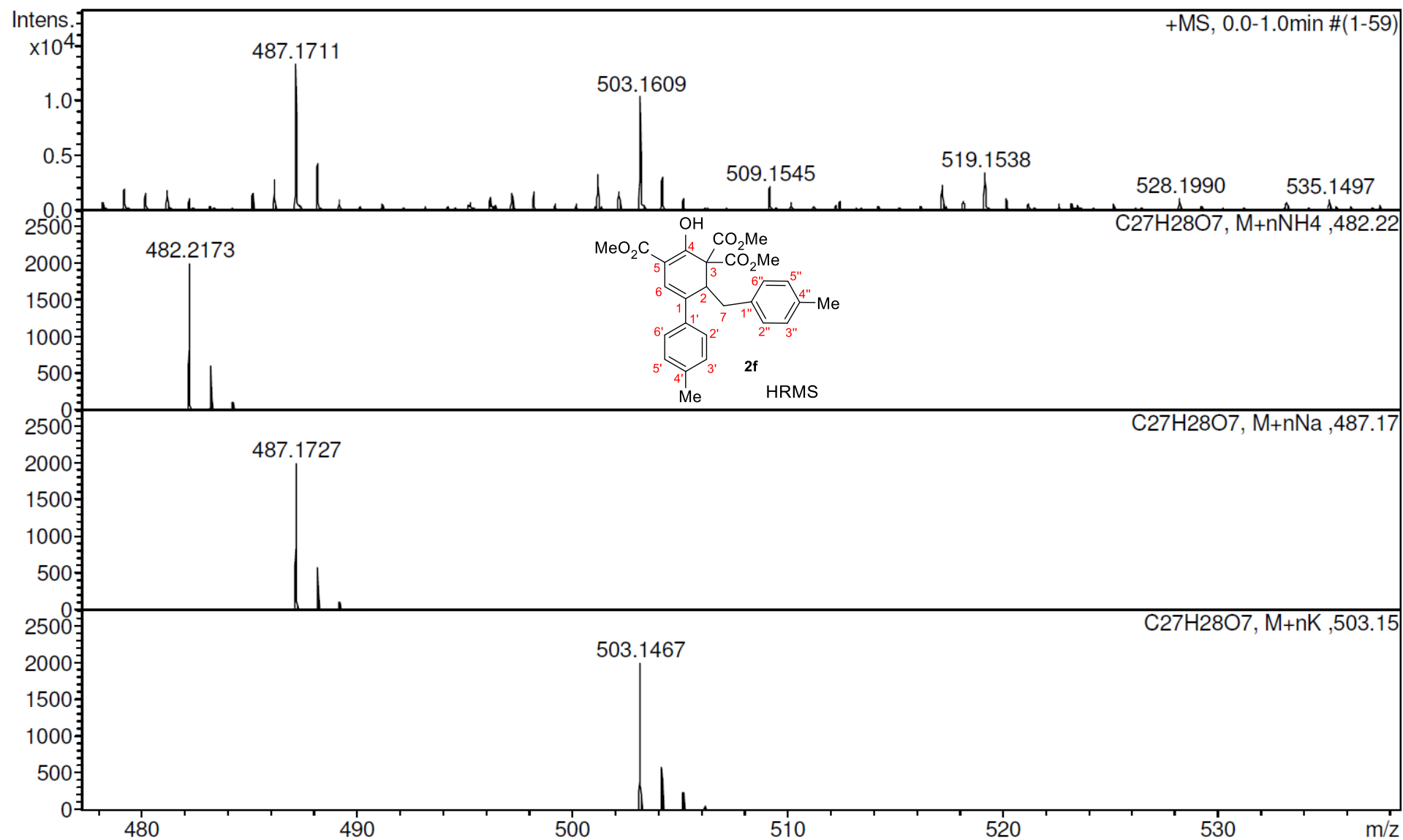
$^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ -COSY  
(400.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

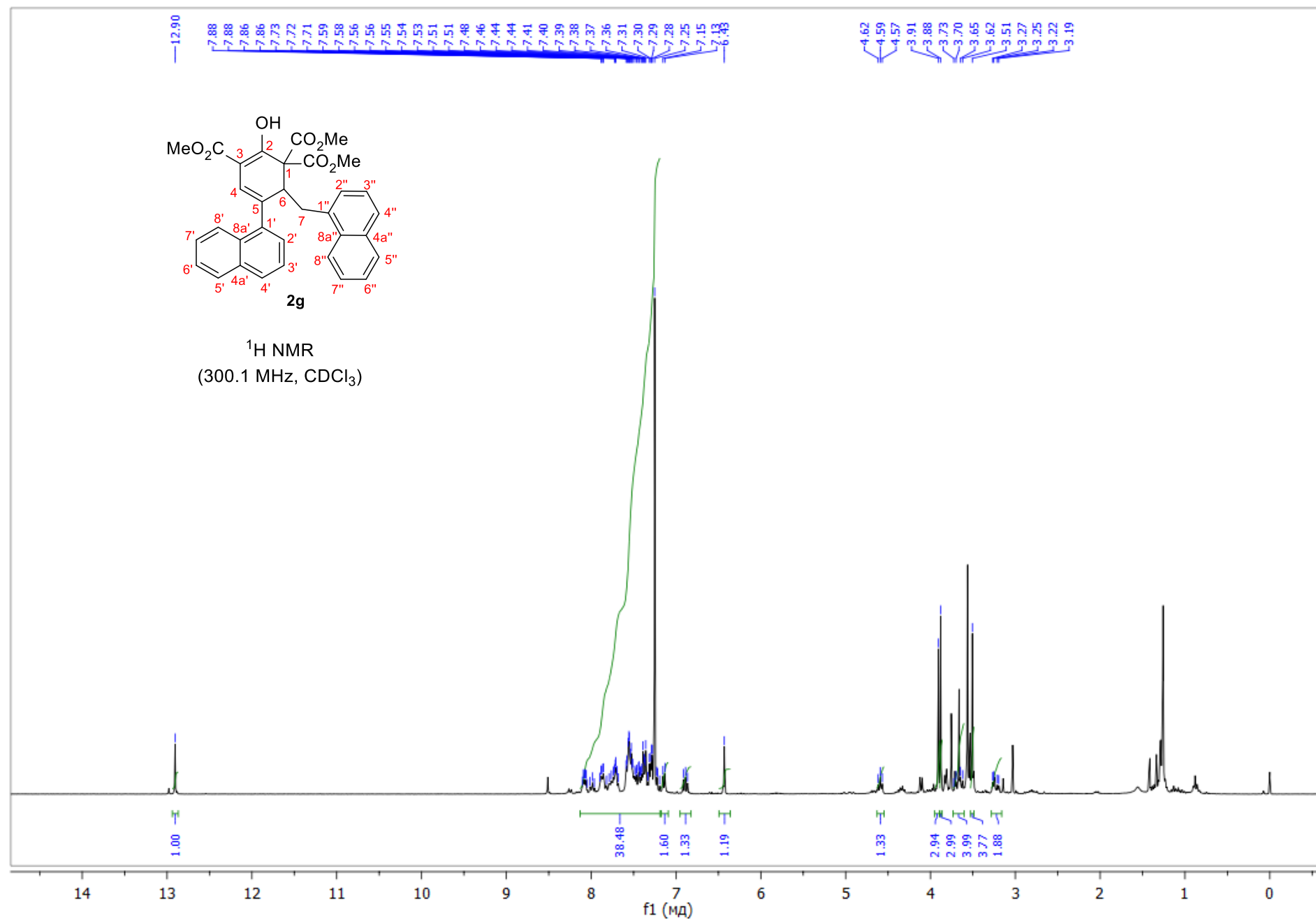




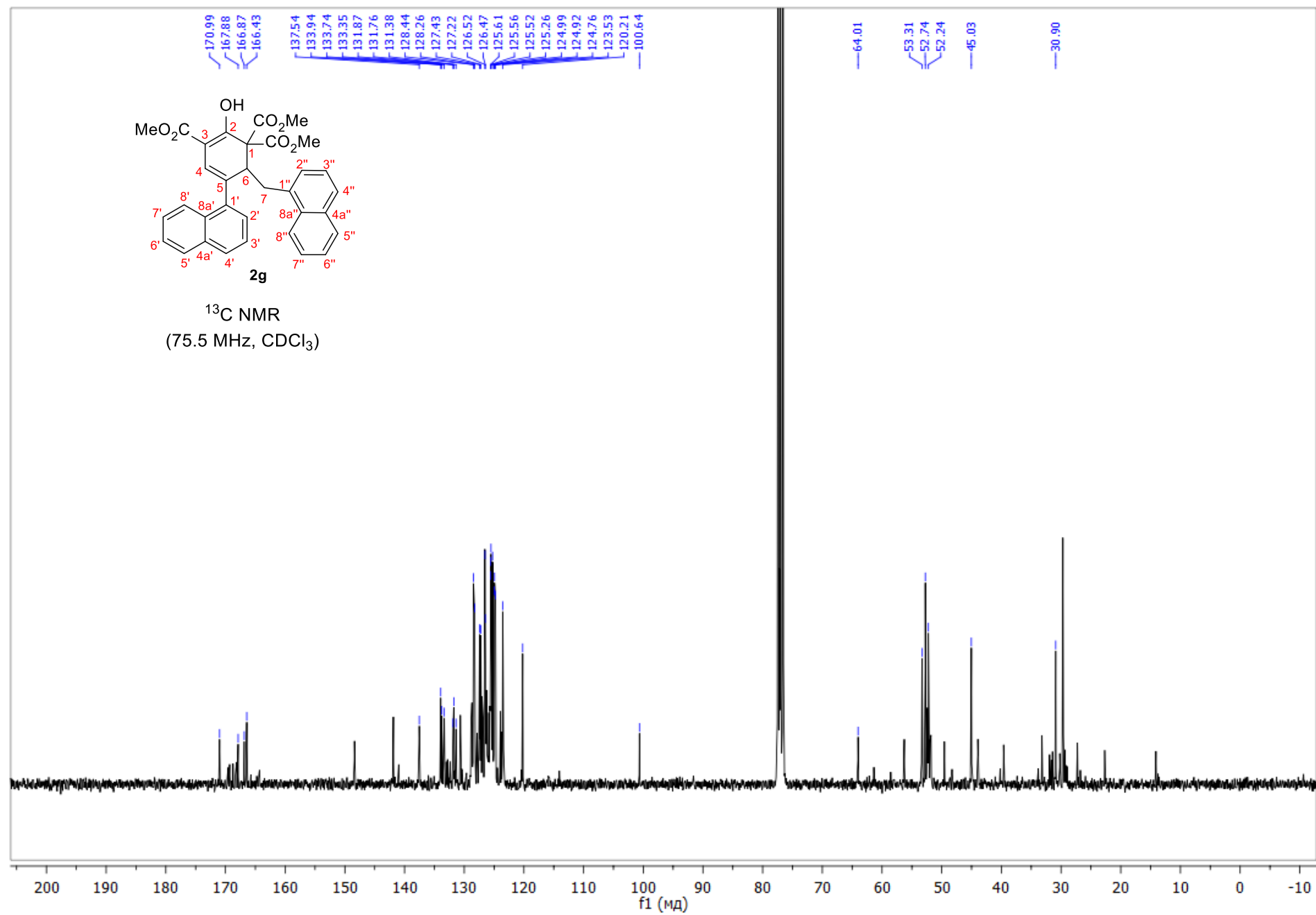
<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C-HSQC  
 (1H: 400.1 MHz,  
 13C: 100.6 MHz  
 CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

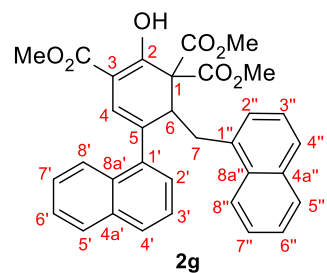




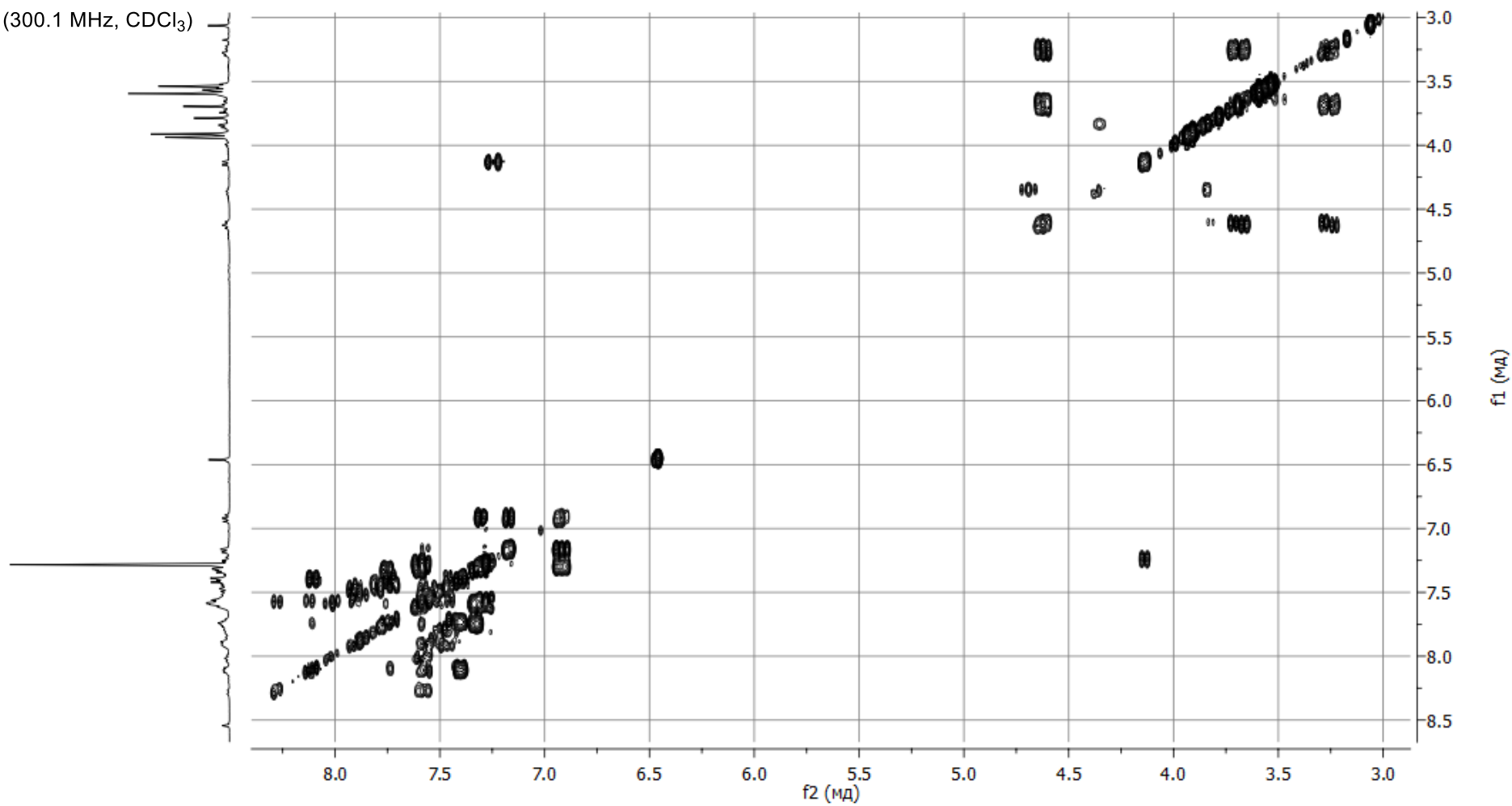


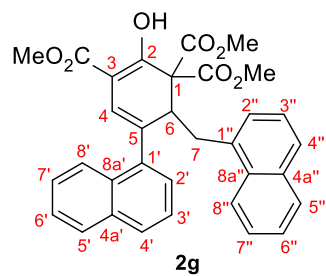




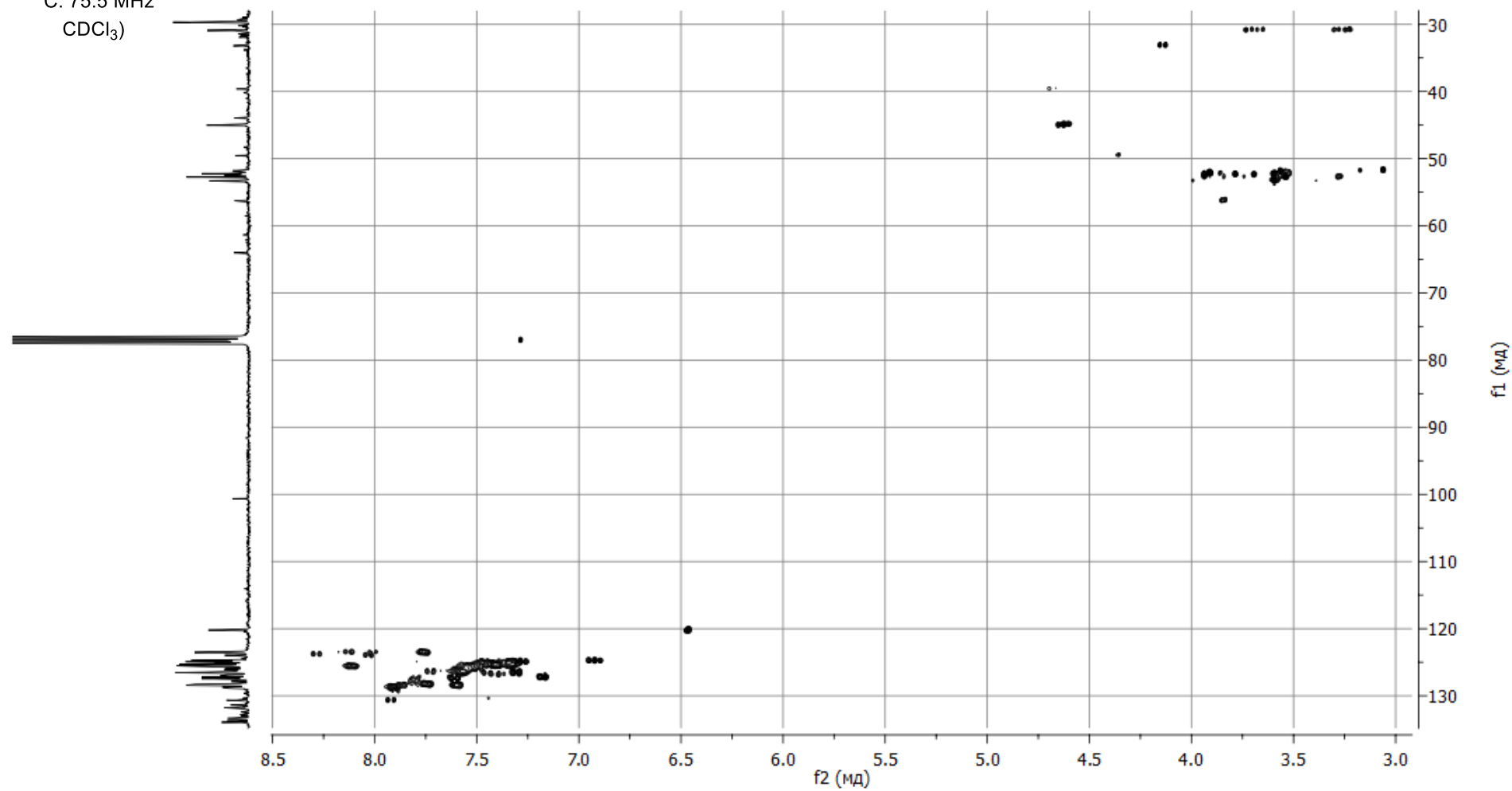


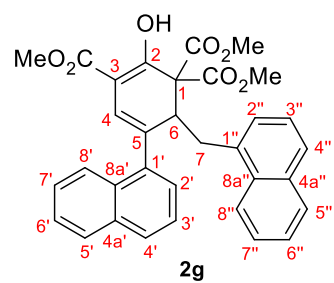
<sup>1</sup>H,<sup>1</sup>H-COSY  
(300.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



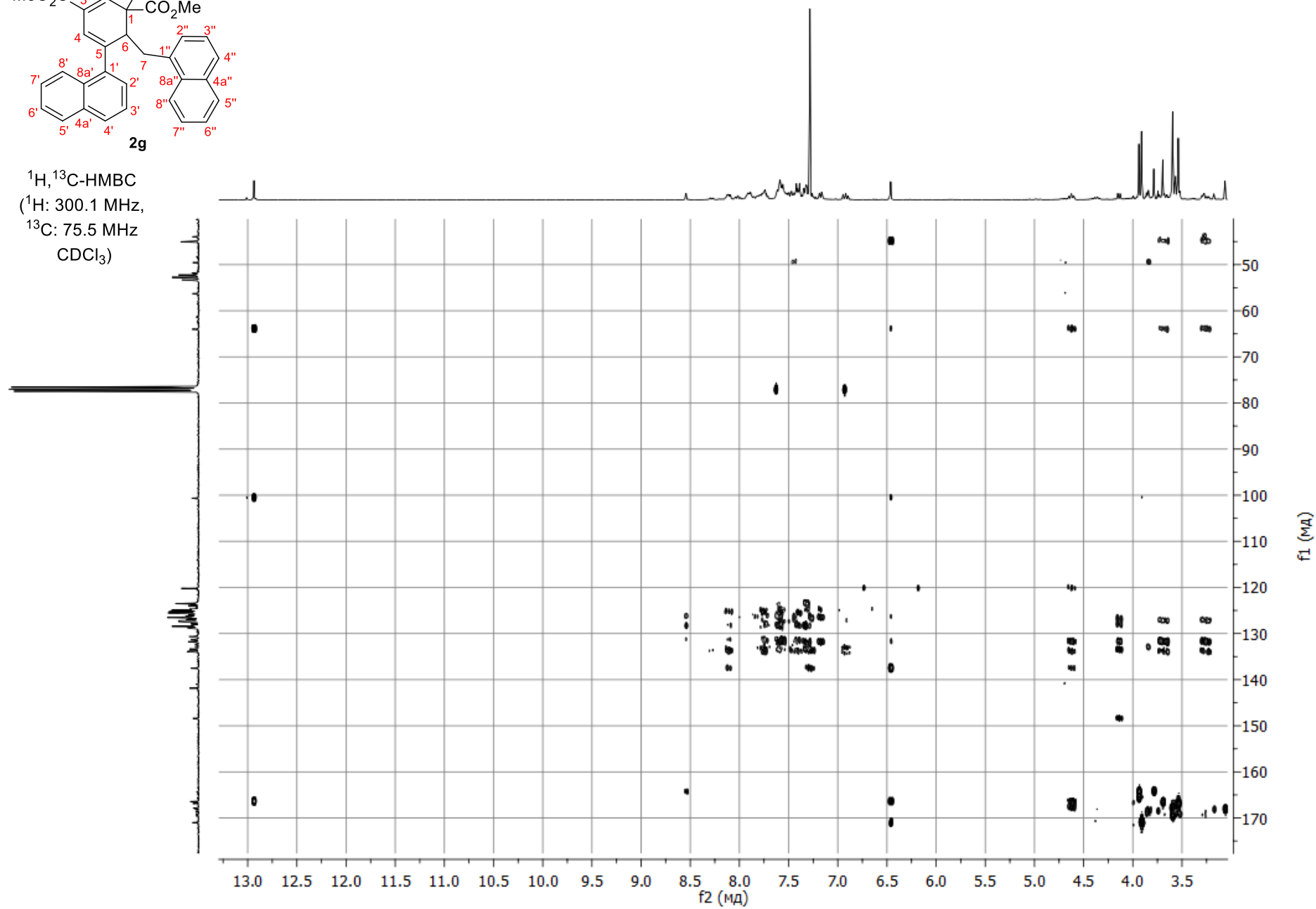


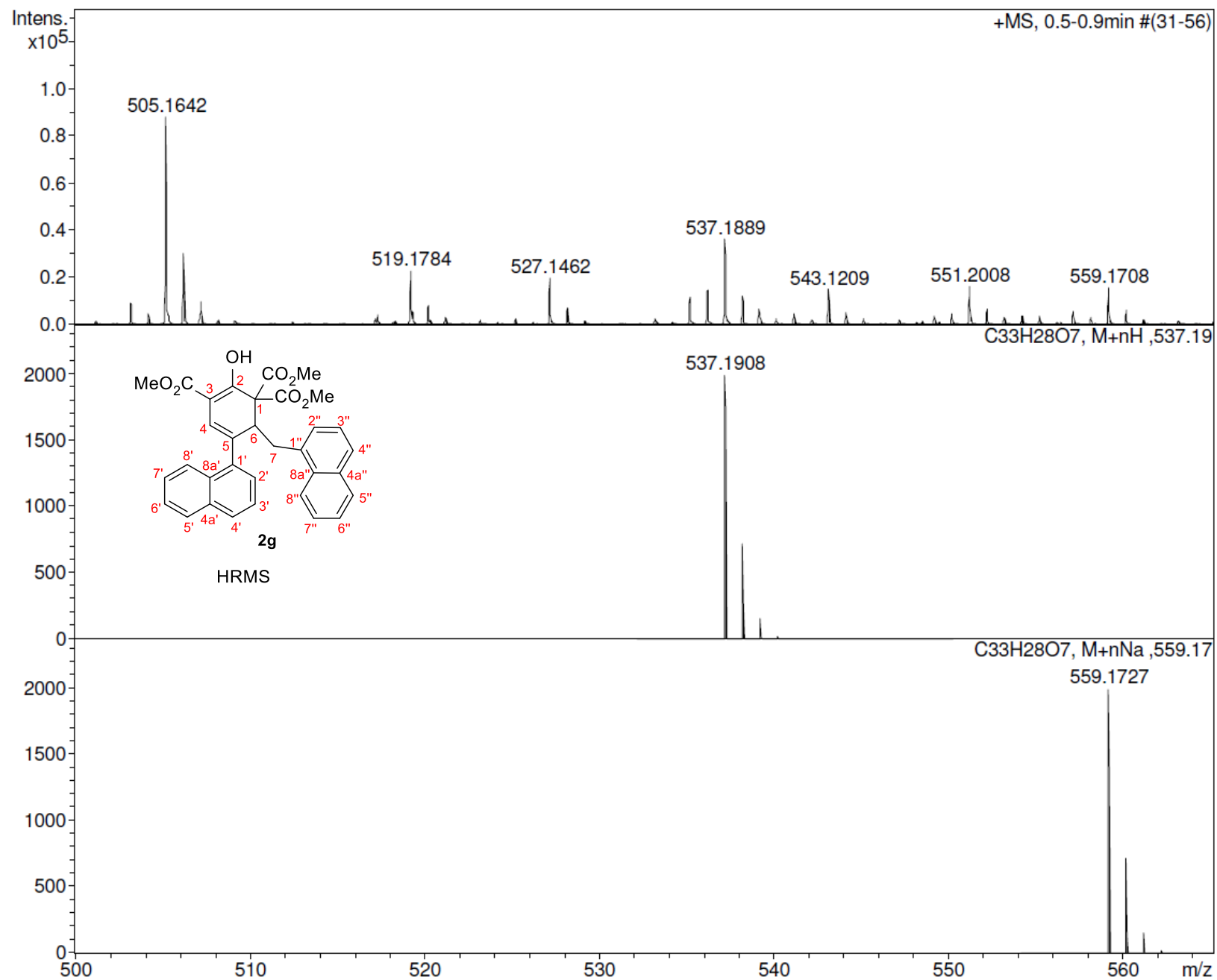
<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C-HSQC  
 (1H: 300.1 MHz,  
 13C: 75.5 MHz  
 CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

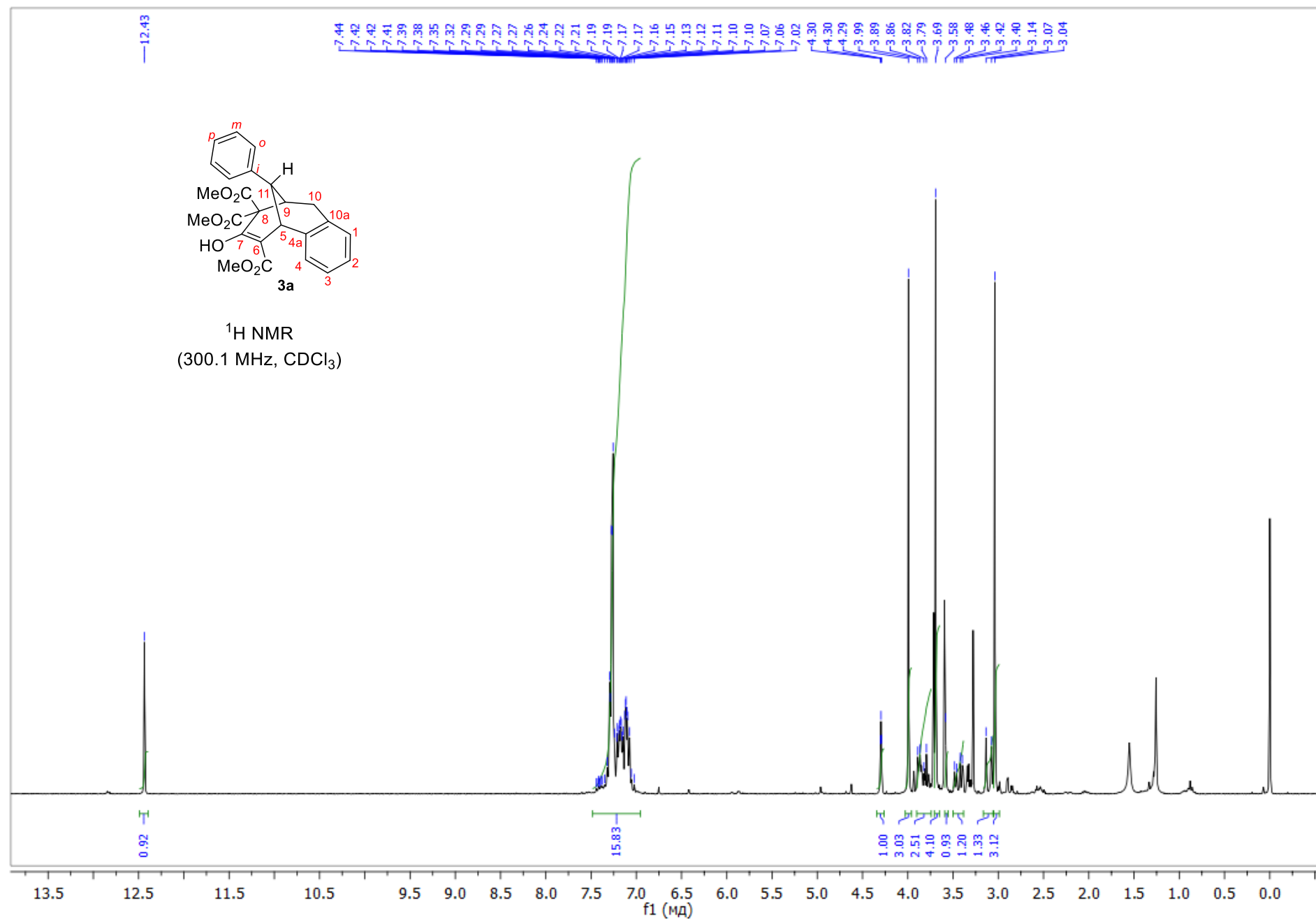


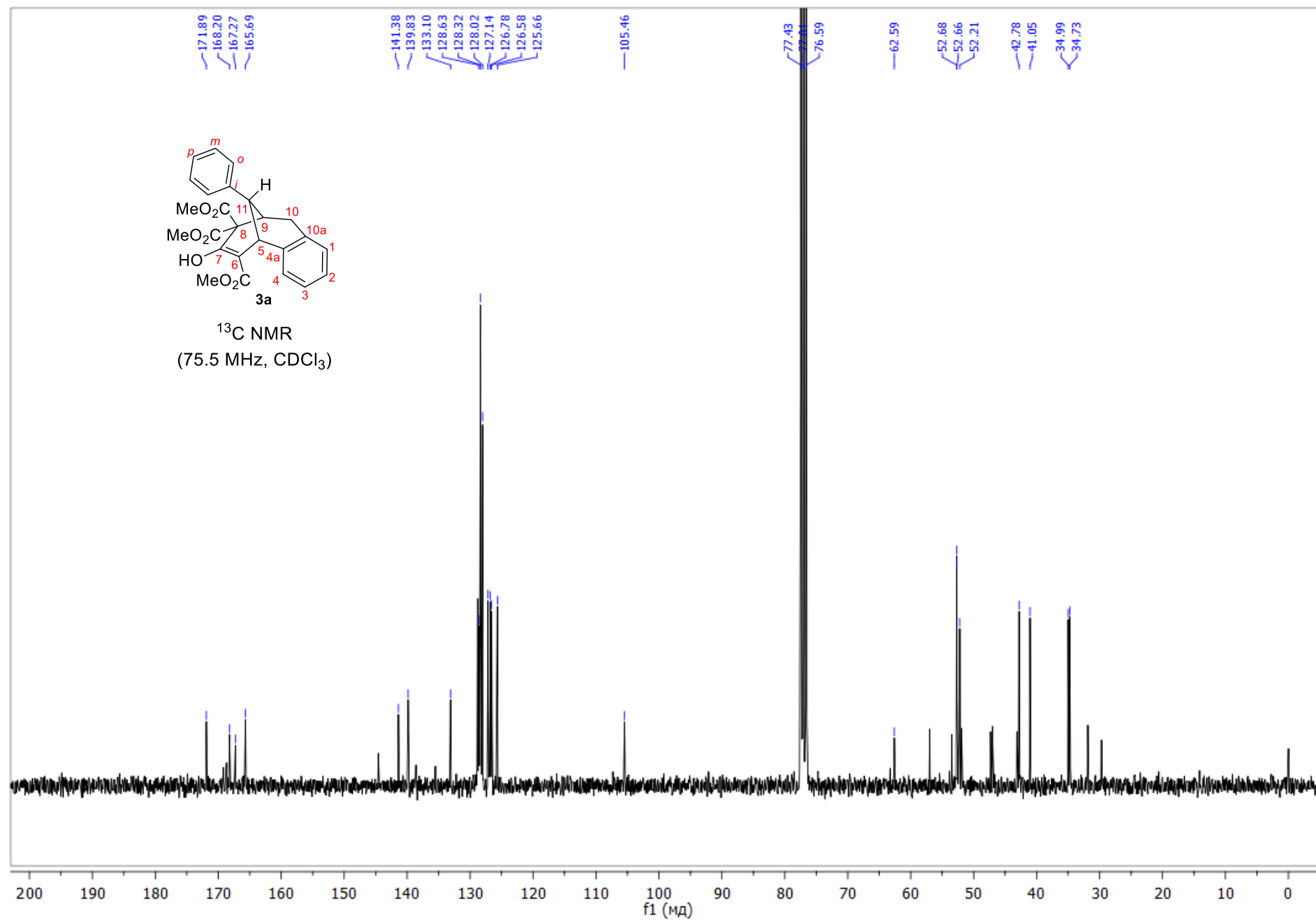


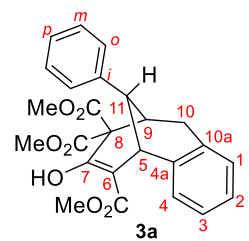
$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HMBC  
 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300.1 MHz,  
 $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75.5 MHz  
 $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



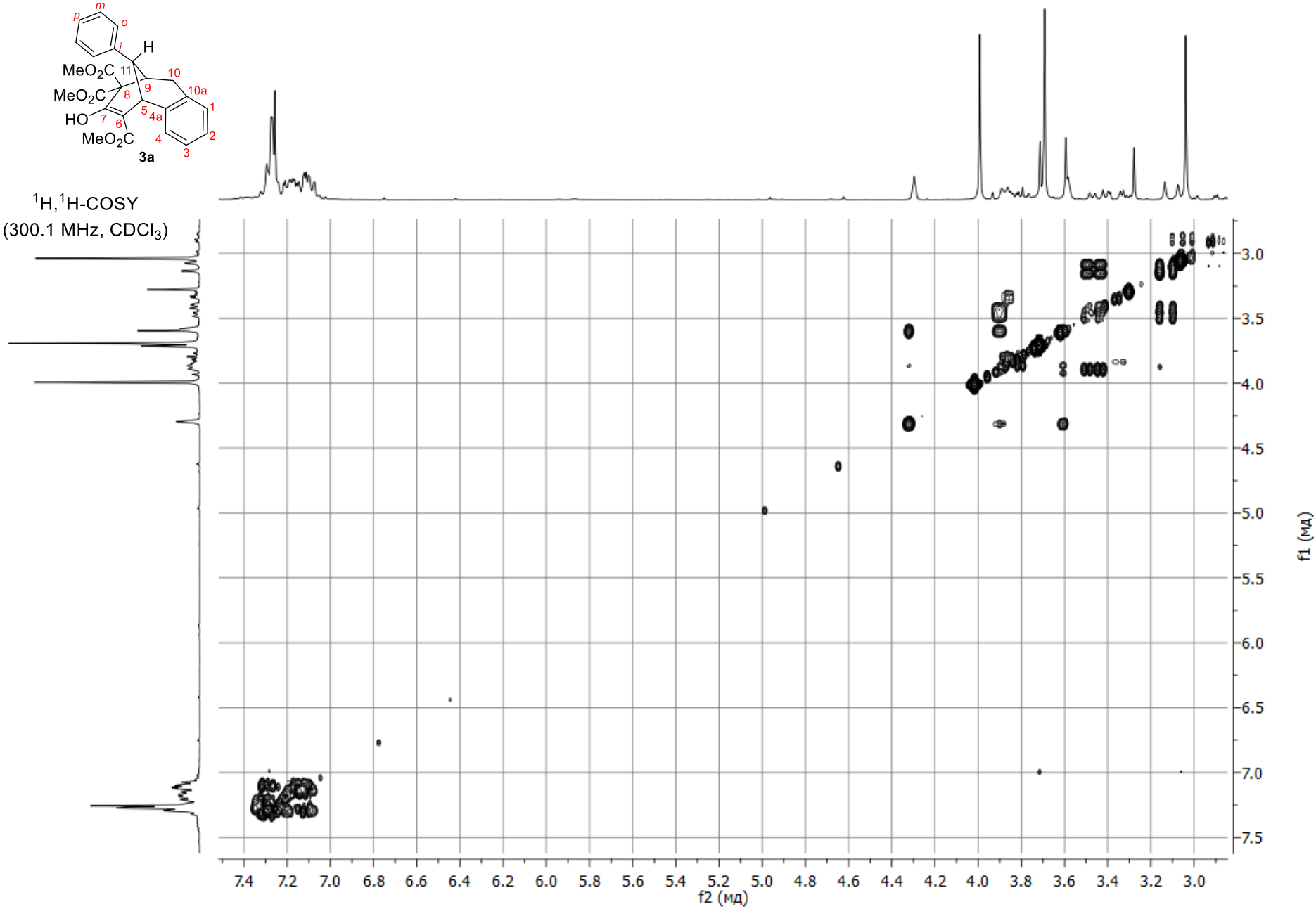




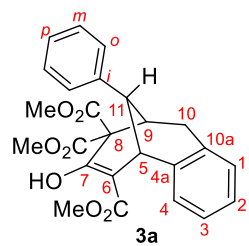




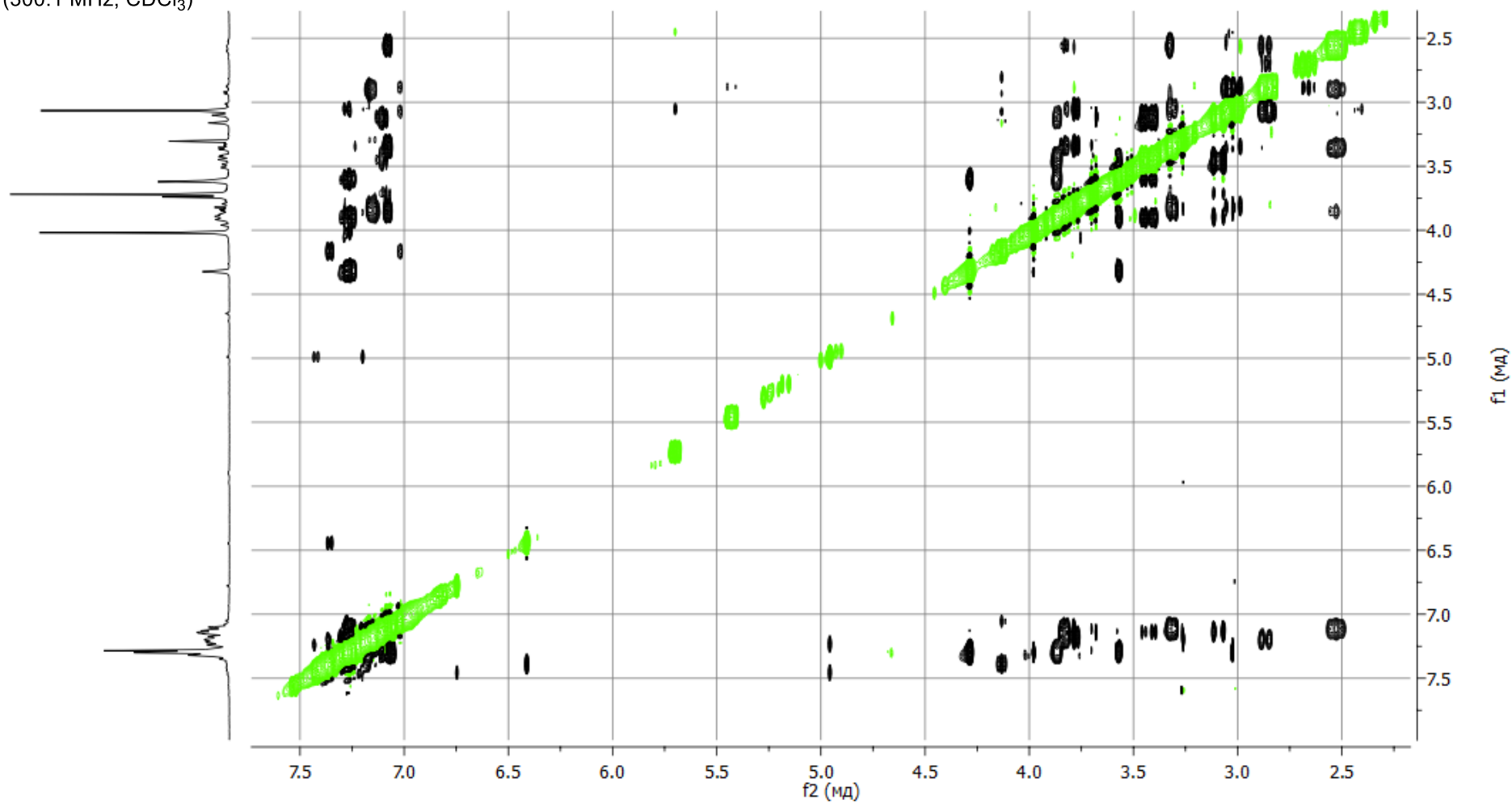
<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H-COSY  
(300.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

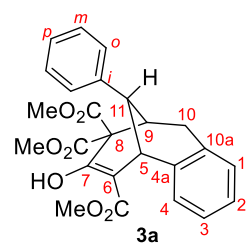




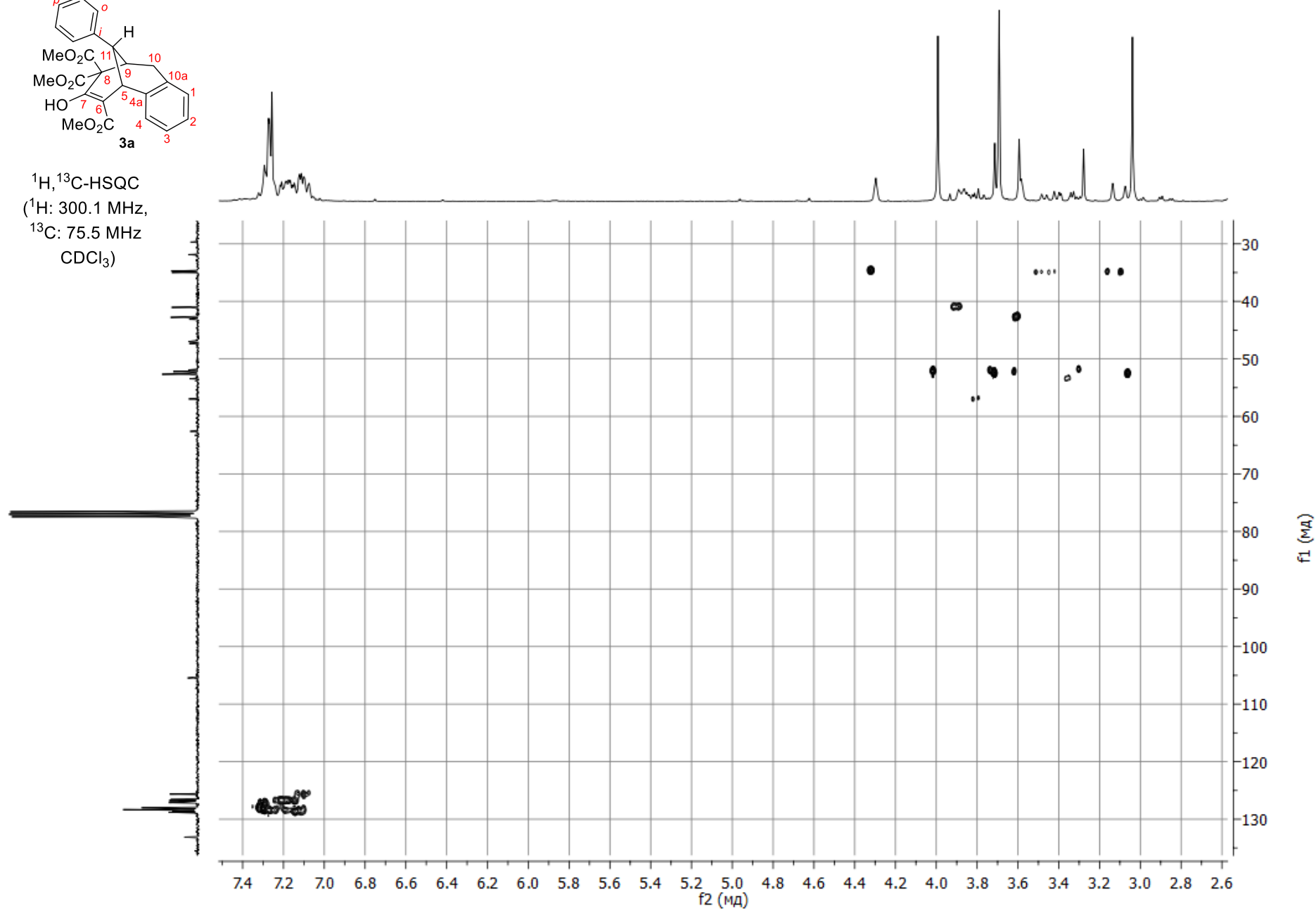


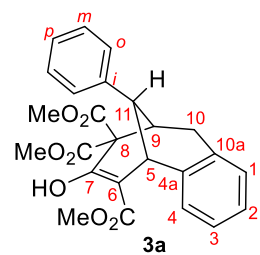
$^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ -NOESY  
(300.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



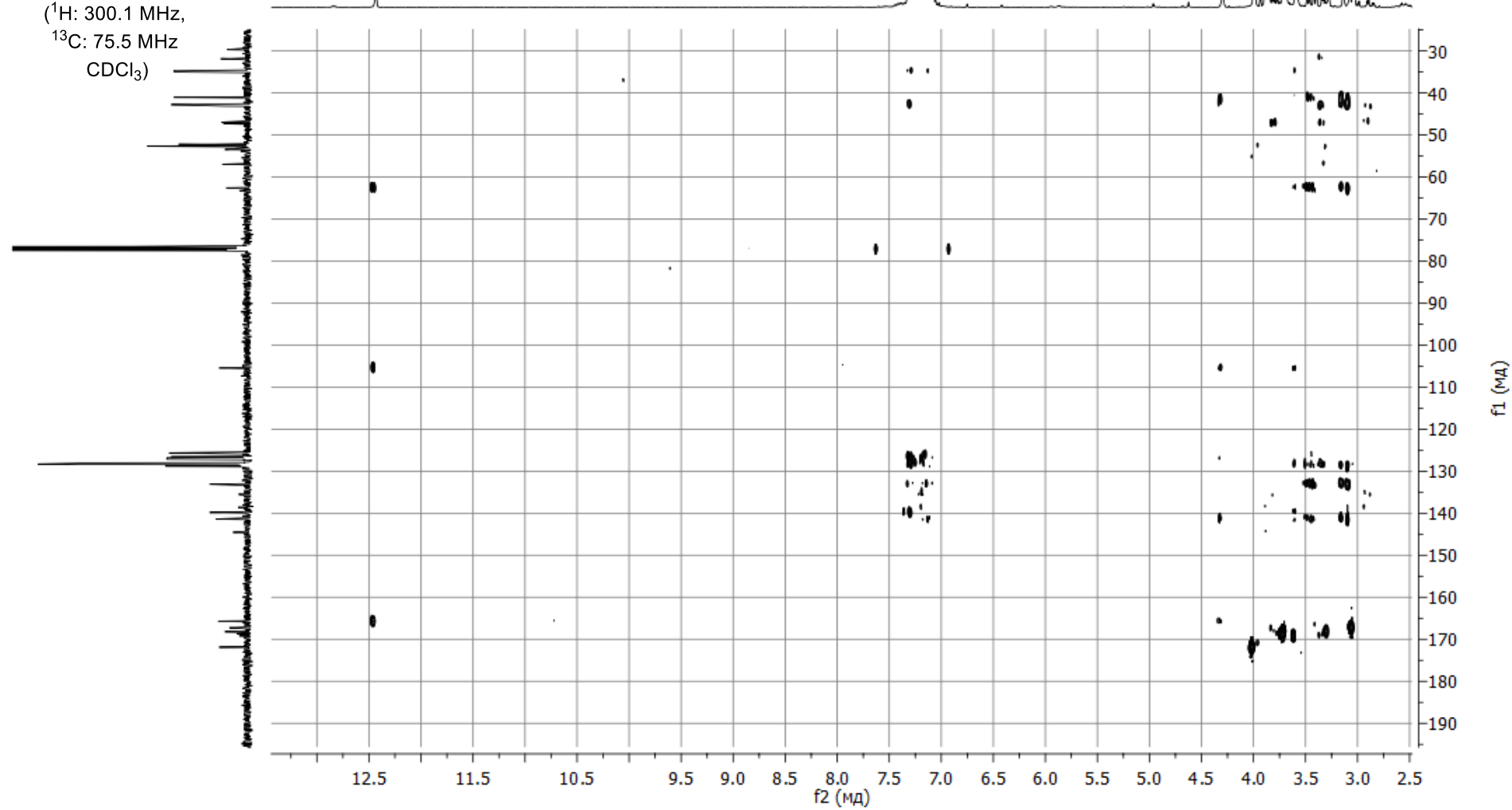


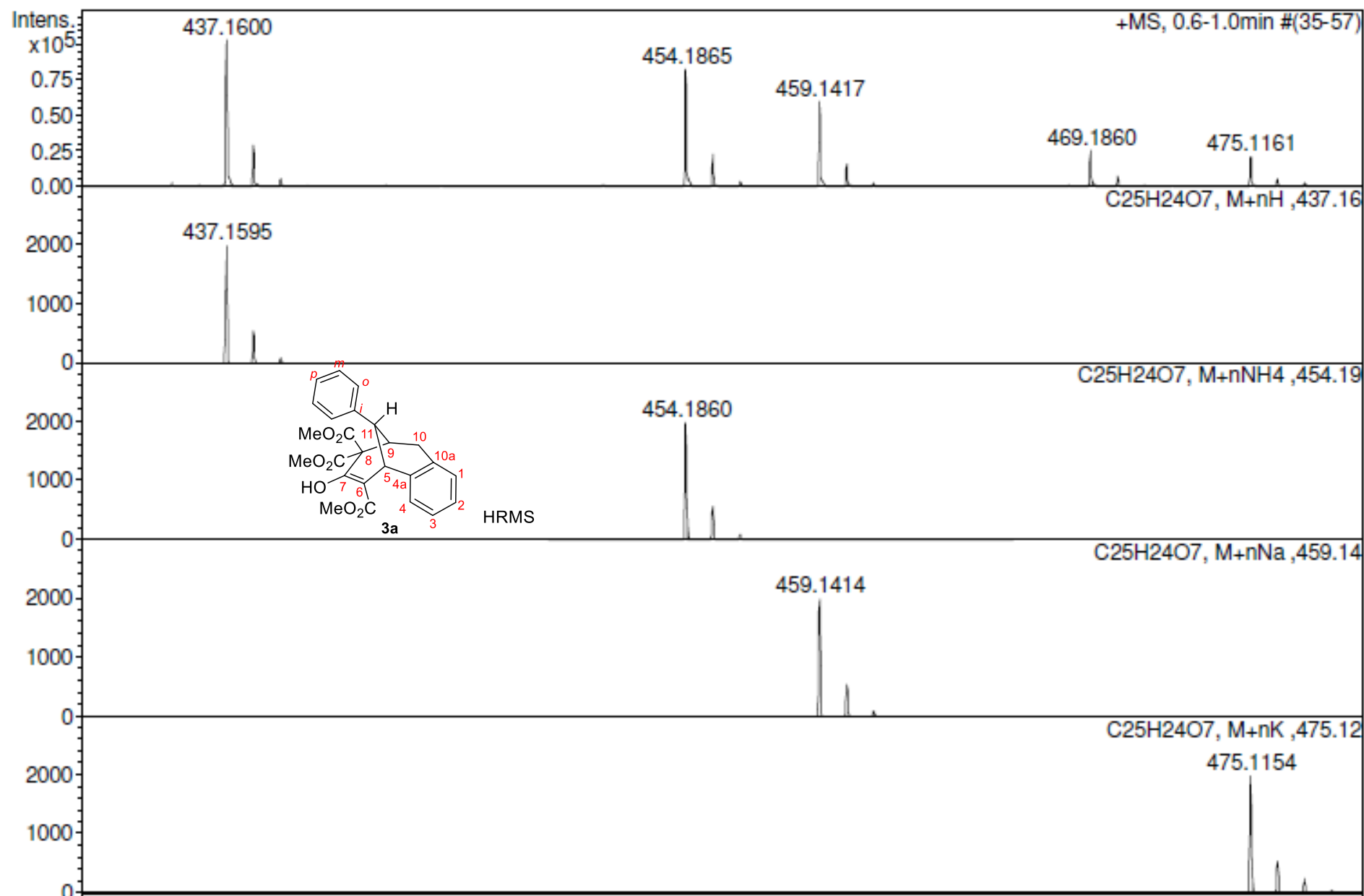
<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C-HSQC  
(<sup>1</sup>H: 300.1 MHz,  
<sup>13</sup>C: 75.5 MHz  
CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

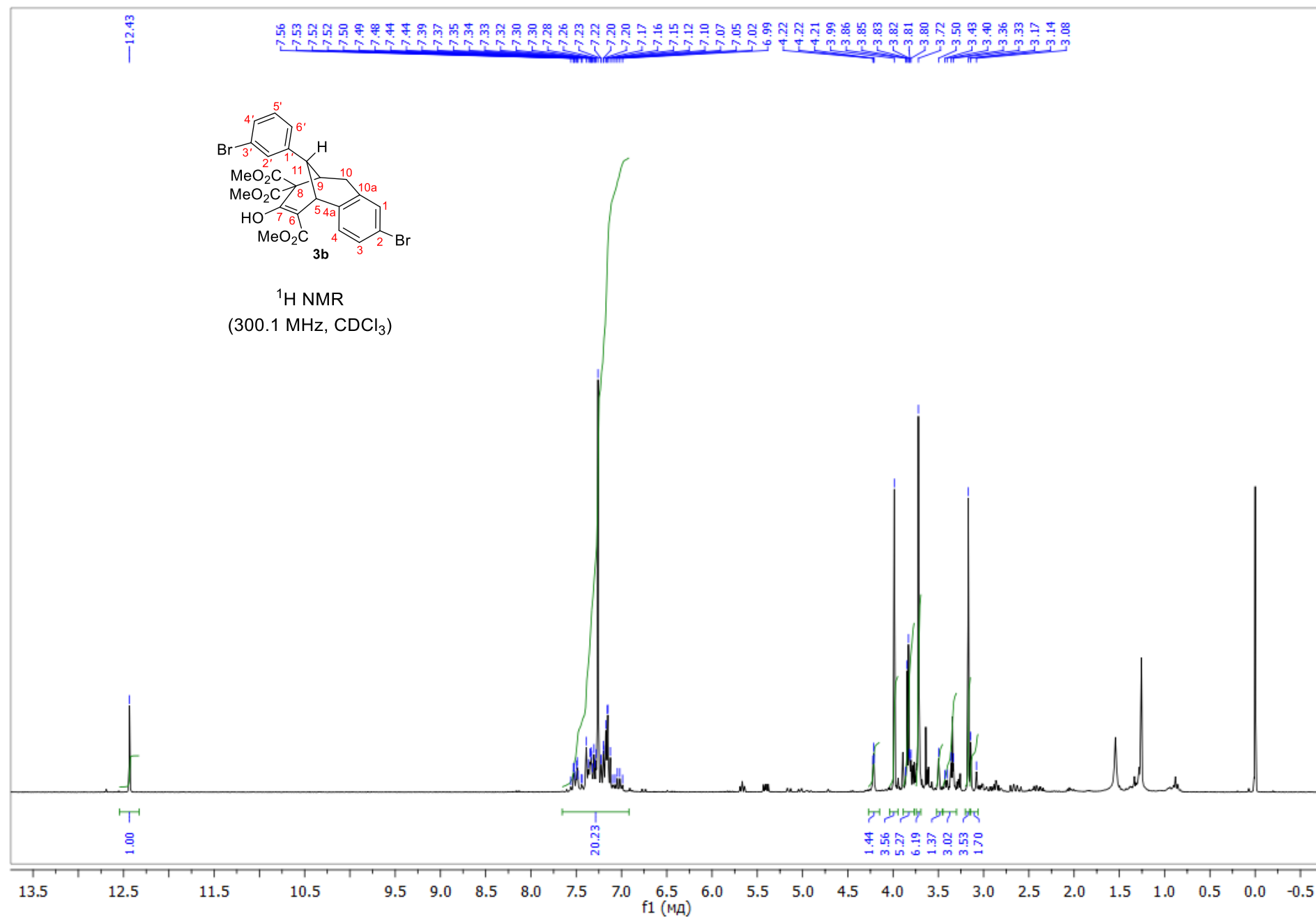


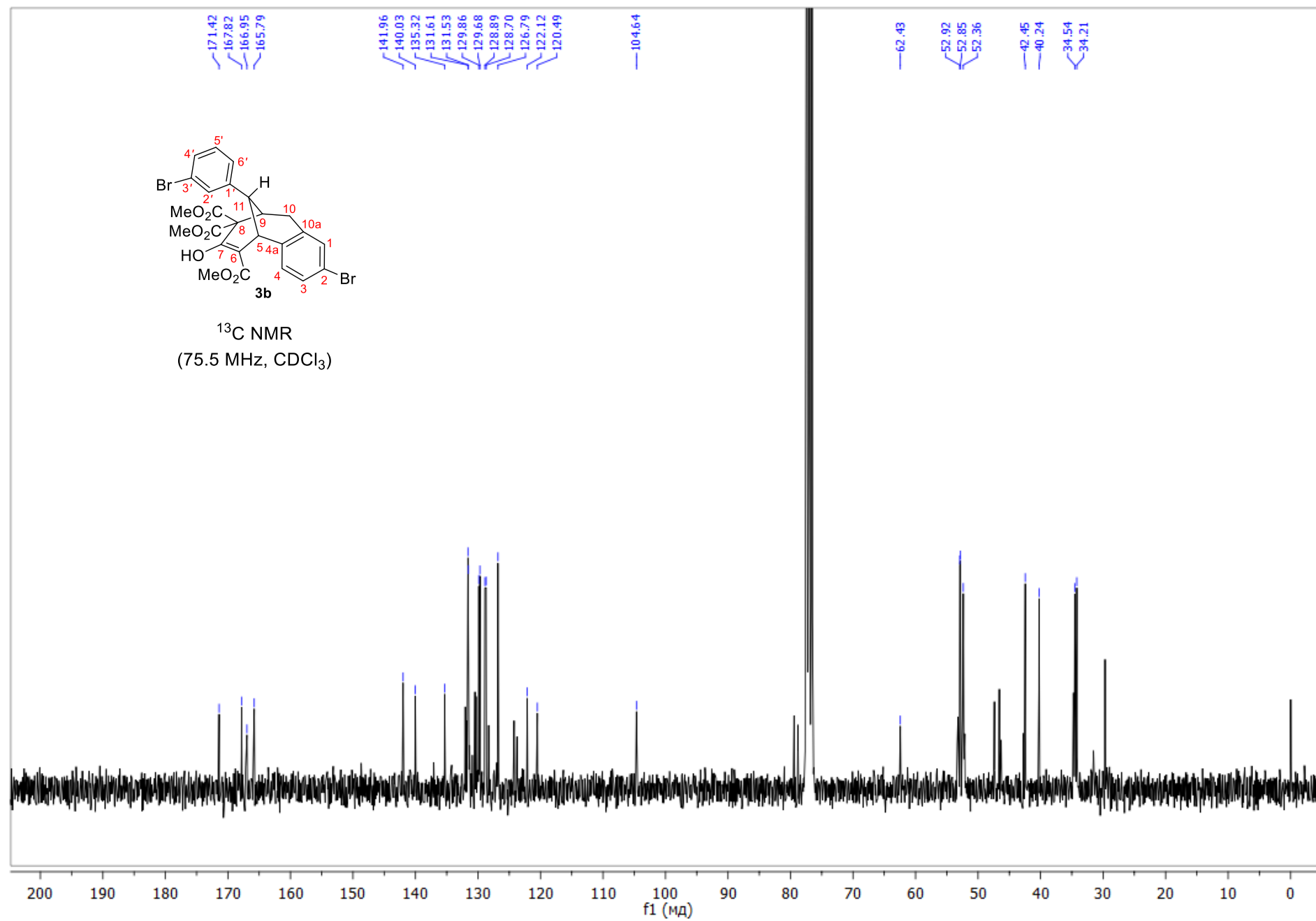


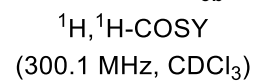
$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HMBC  
 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300.1 MHz,  
 $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75.5 MHz  
 $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

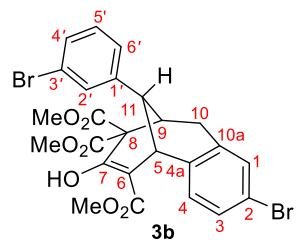




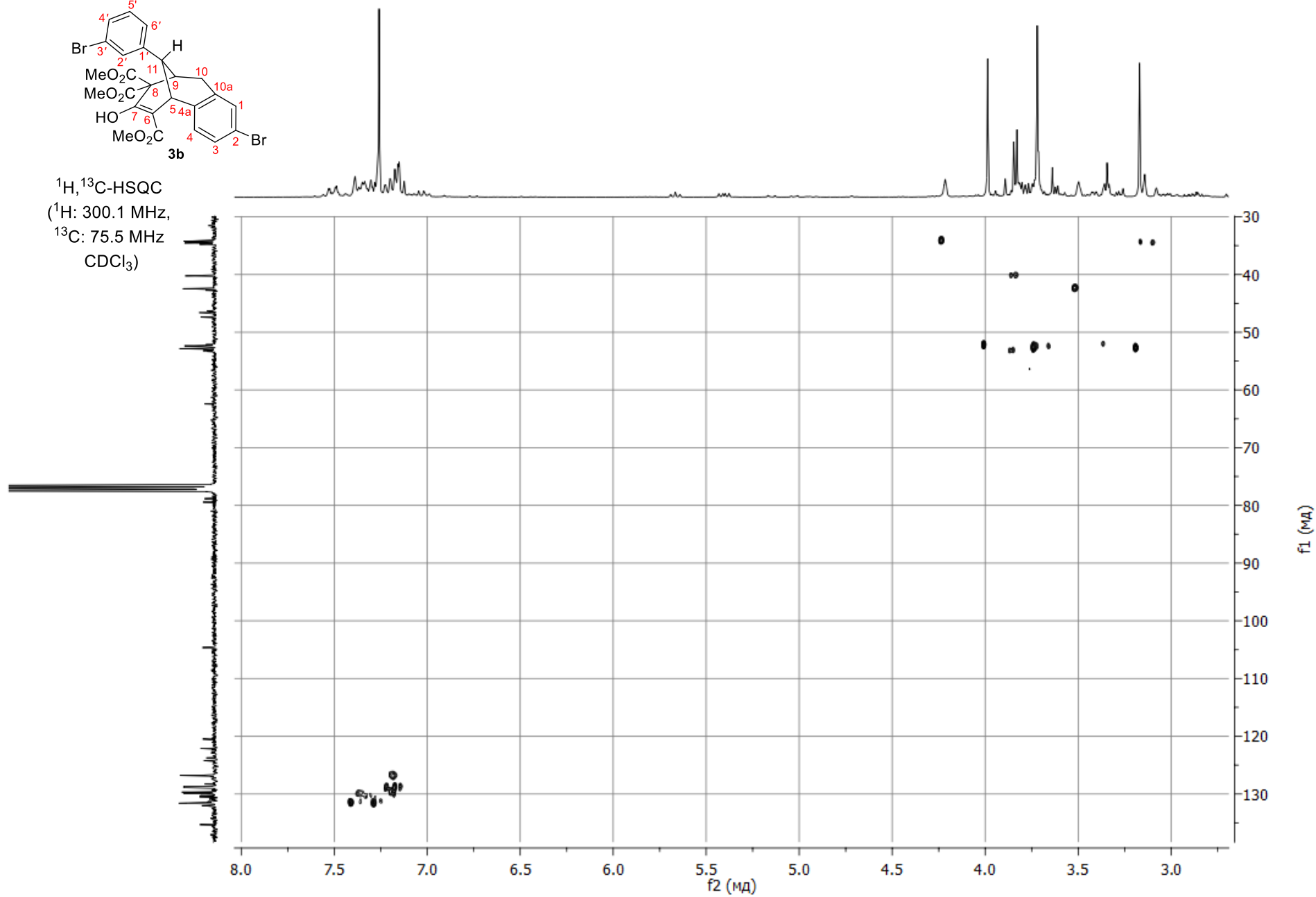




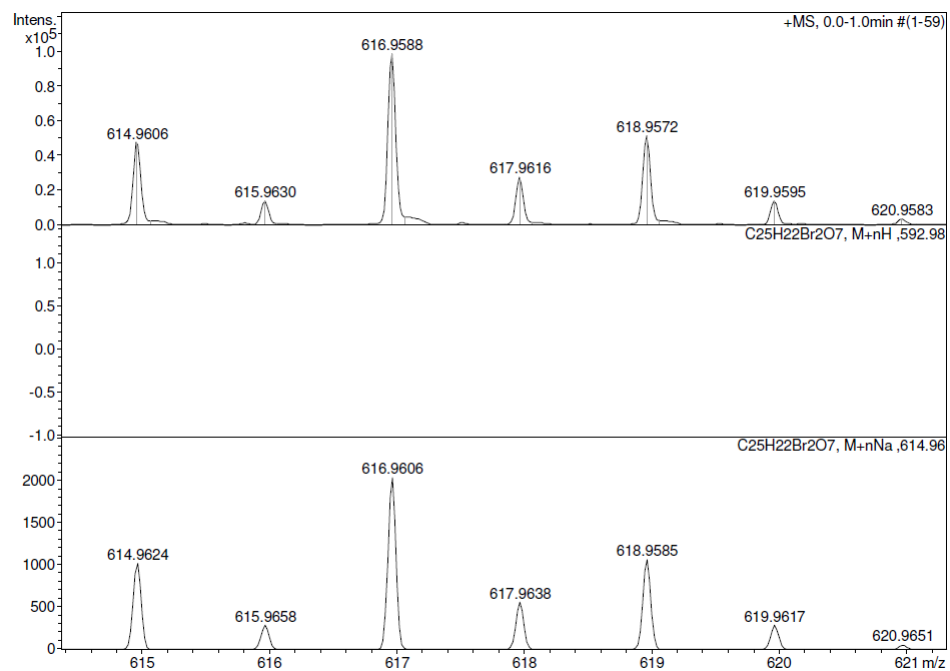
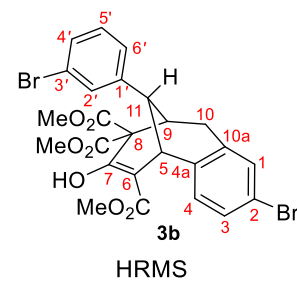
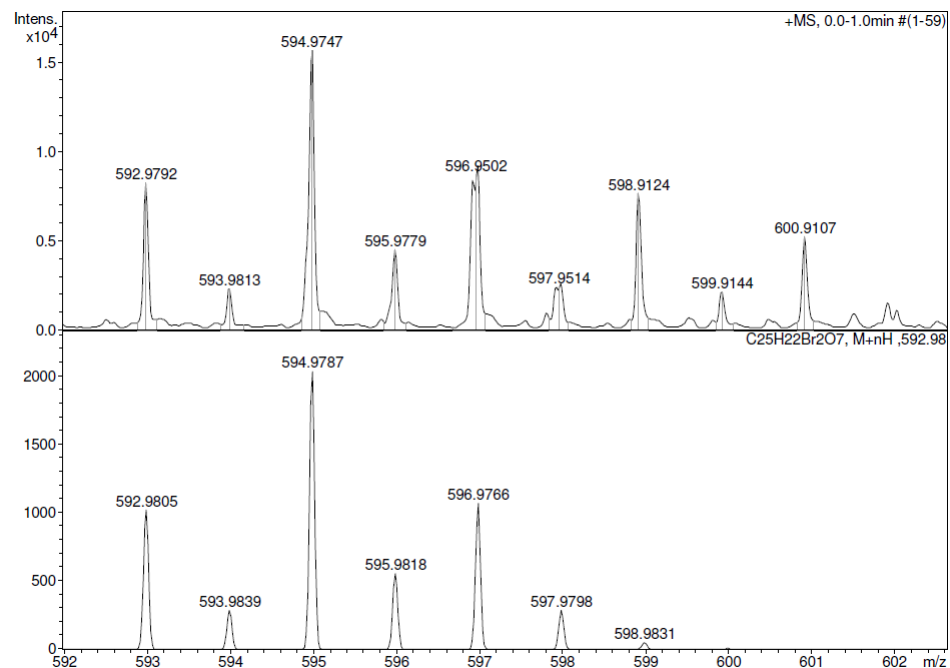


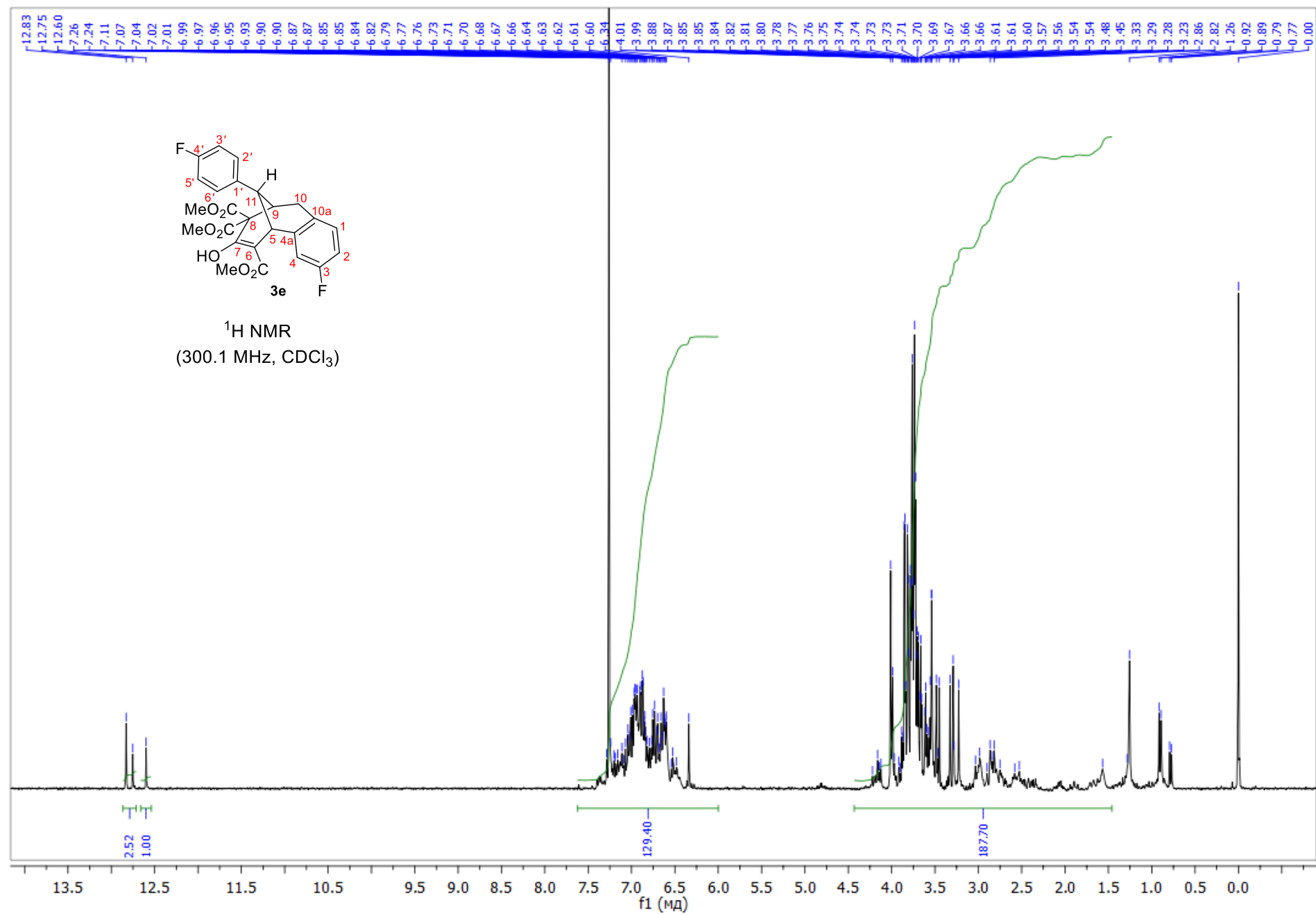


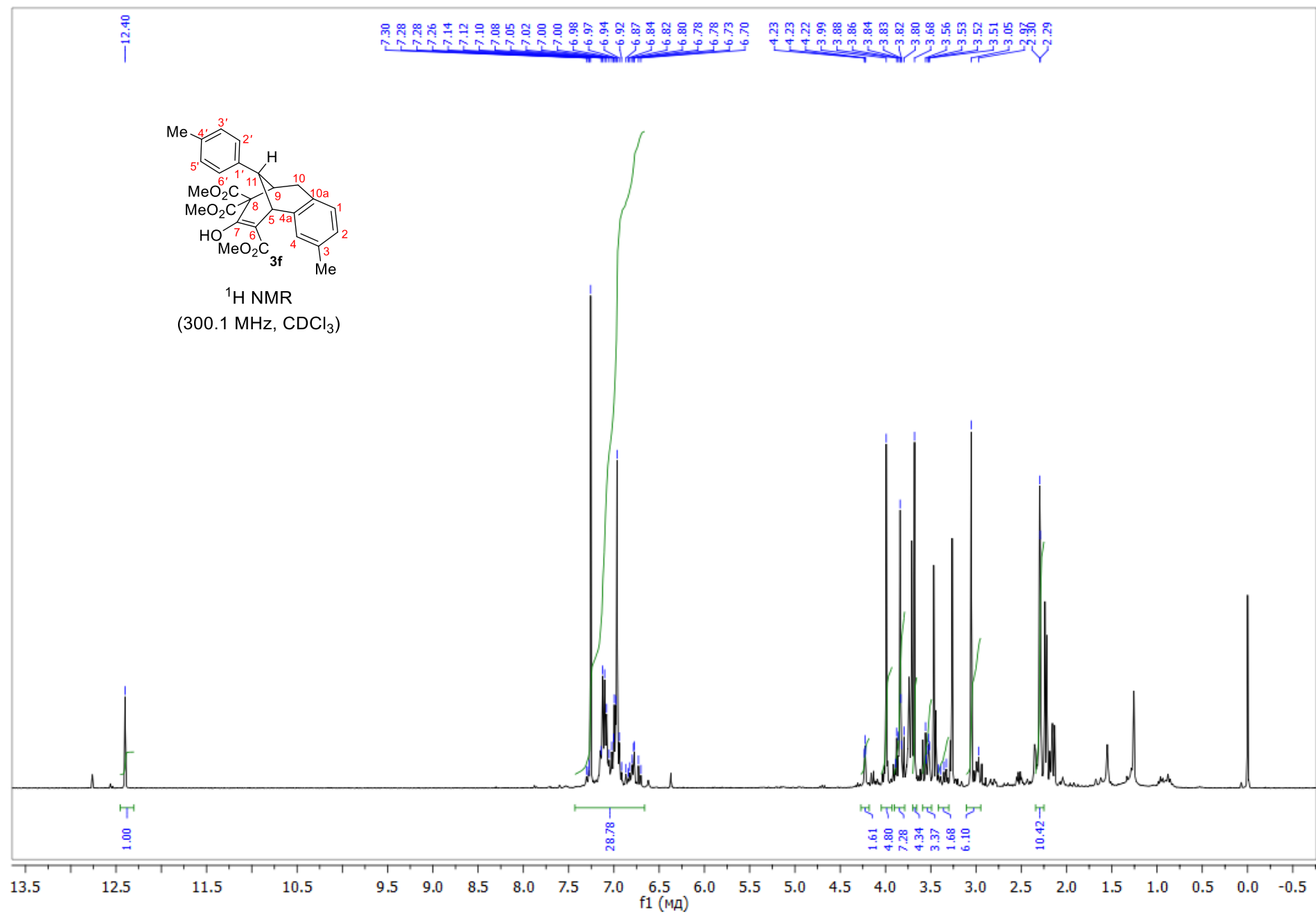
<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C-HSQC  
(<sup>1</sup>H: 300.1 MHz,  
<sup>13</sup>C: 75.5 MHz  
CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

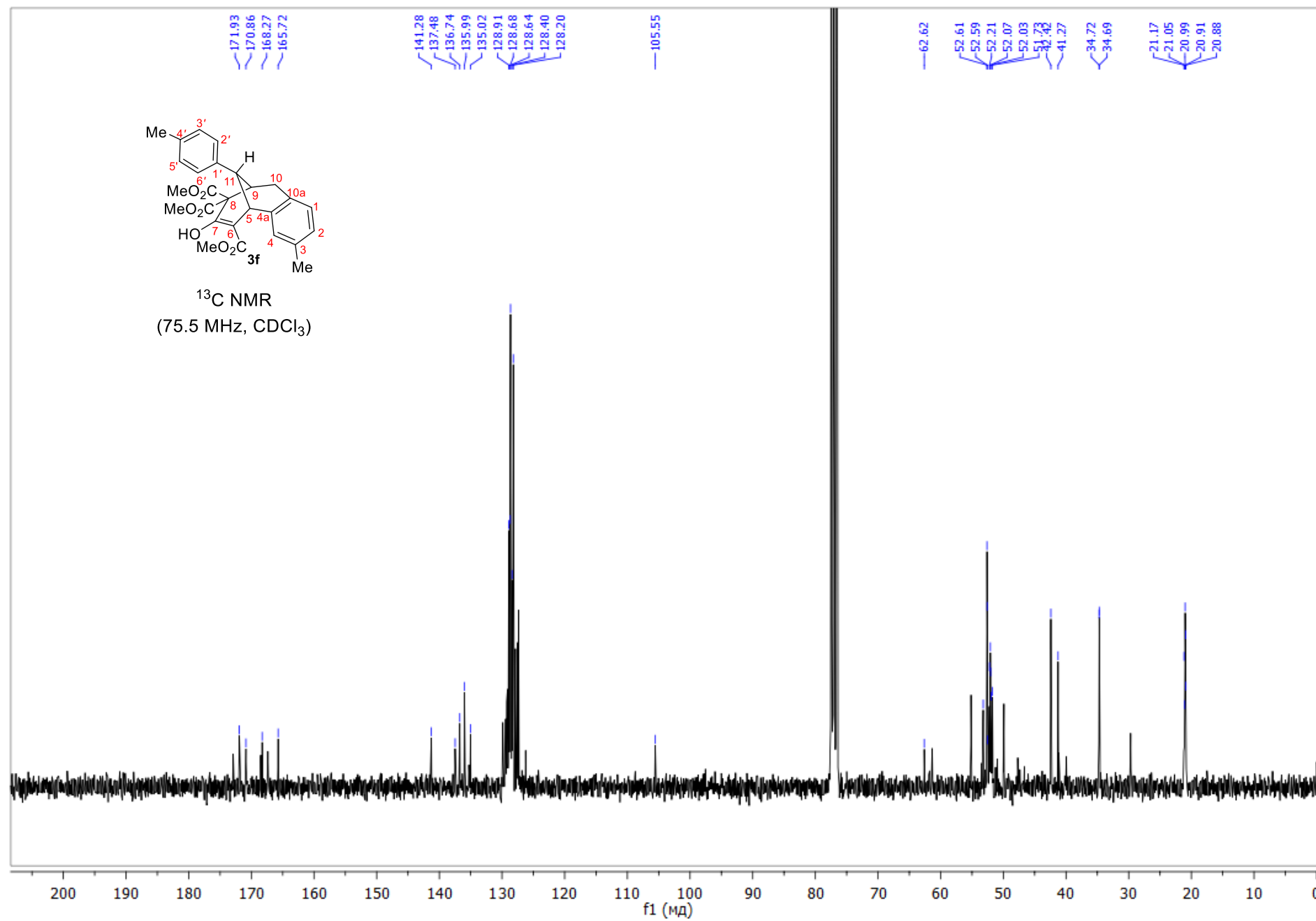


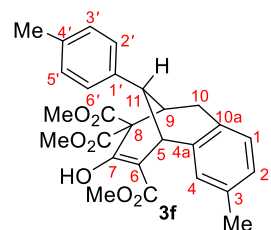




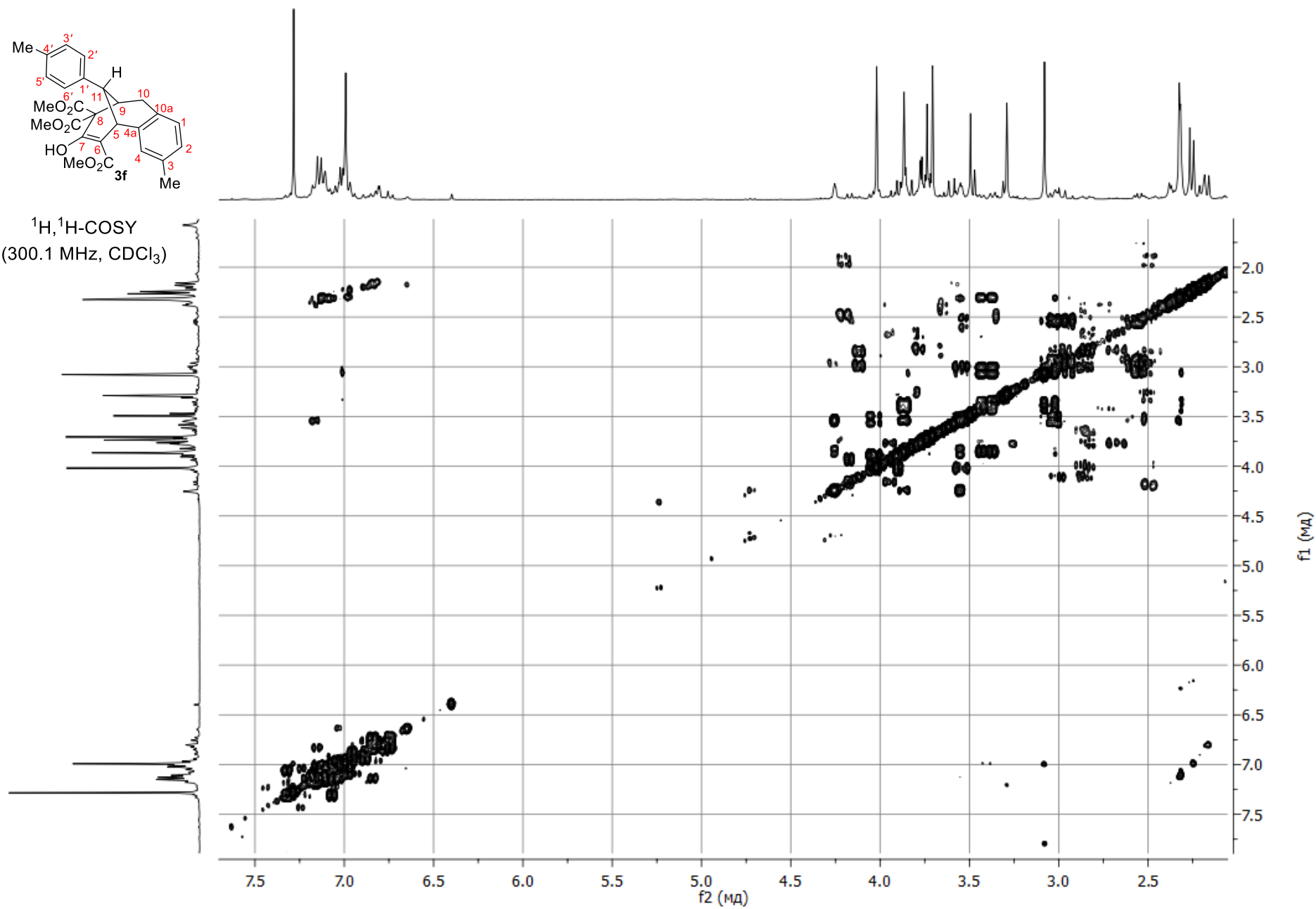


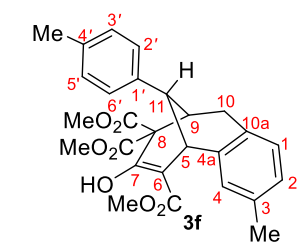




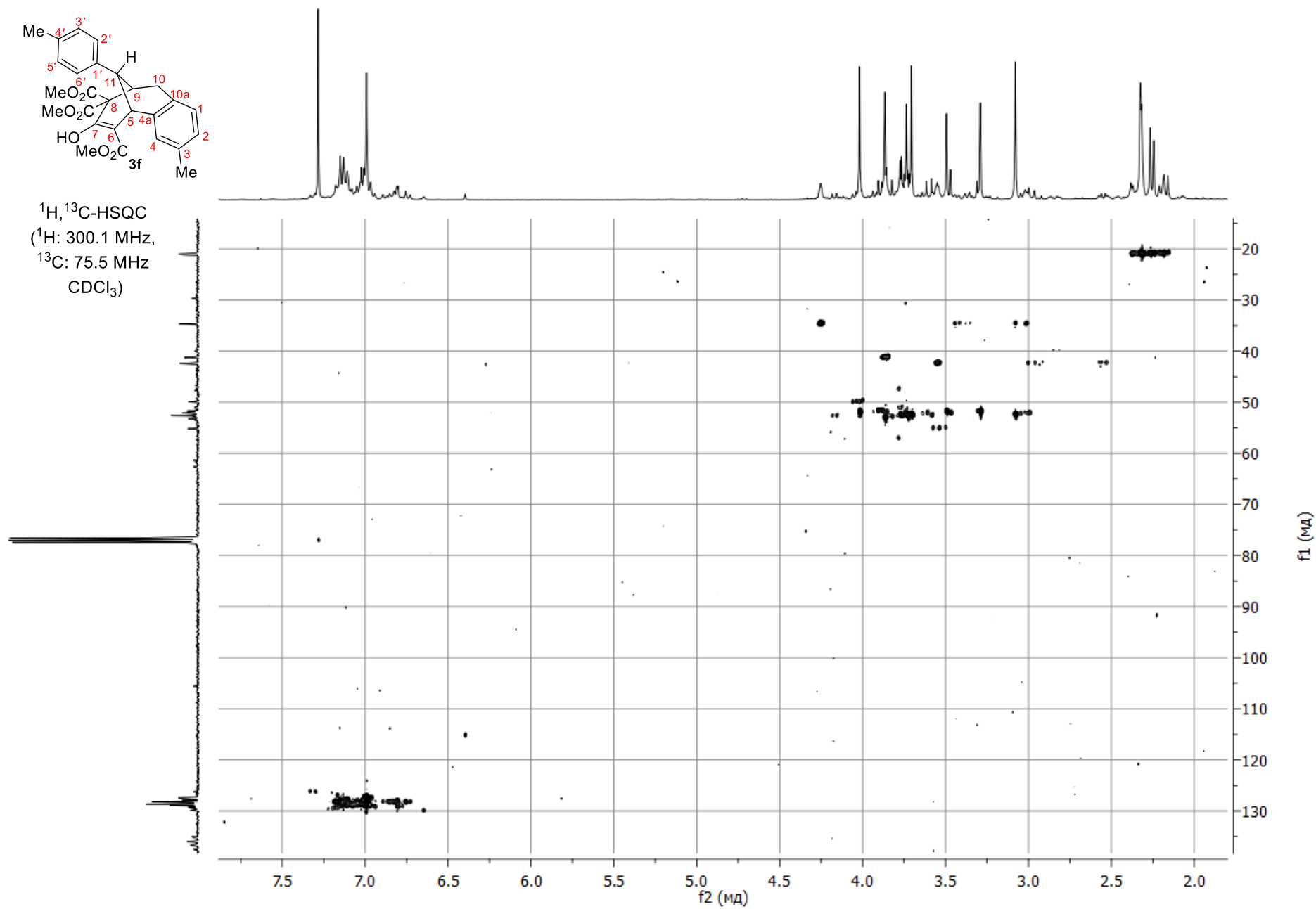


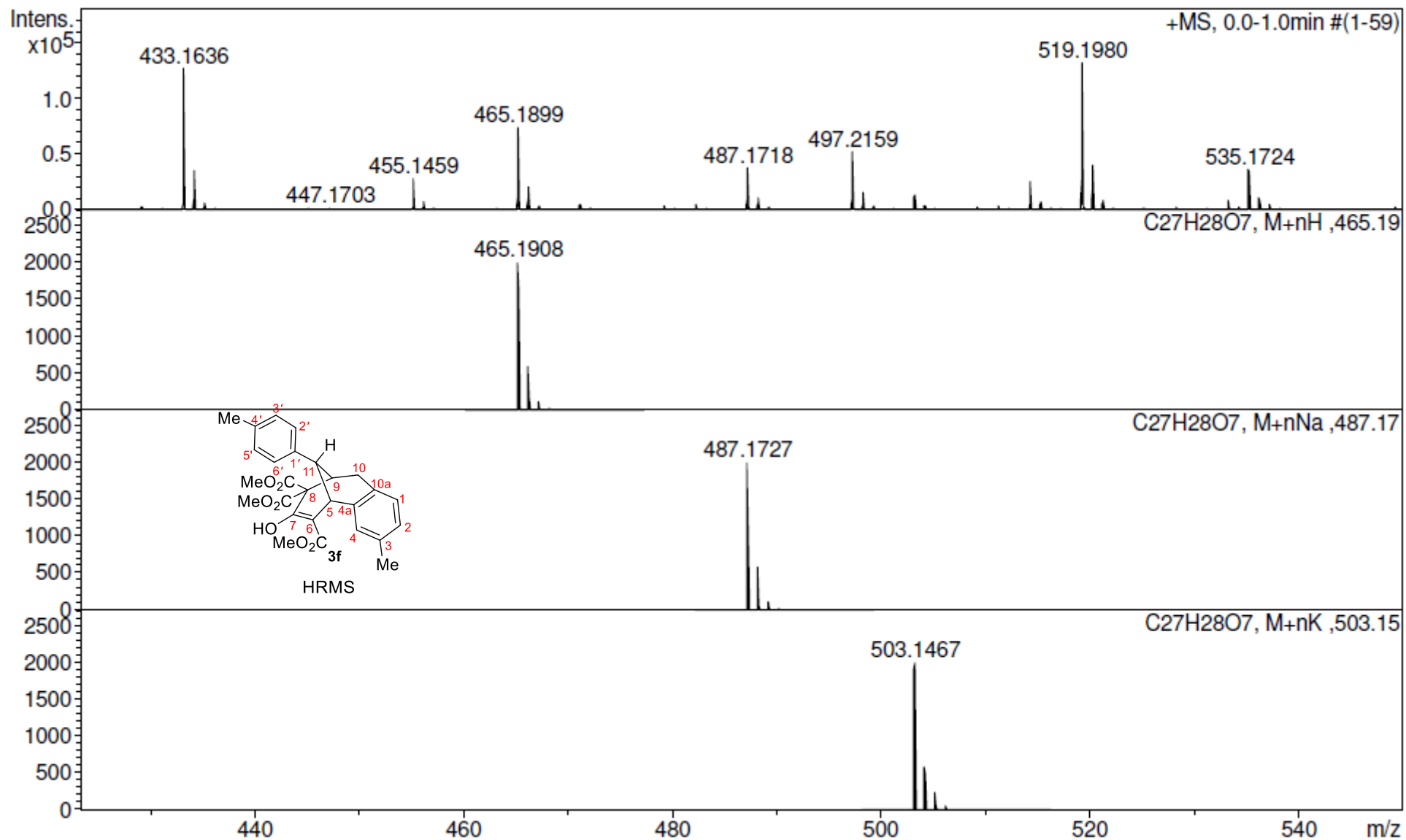
$^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ -COSY  
(300.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

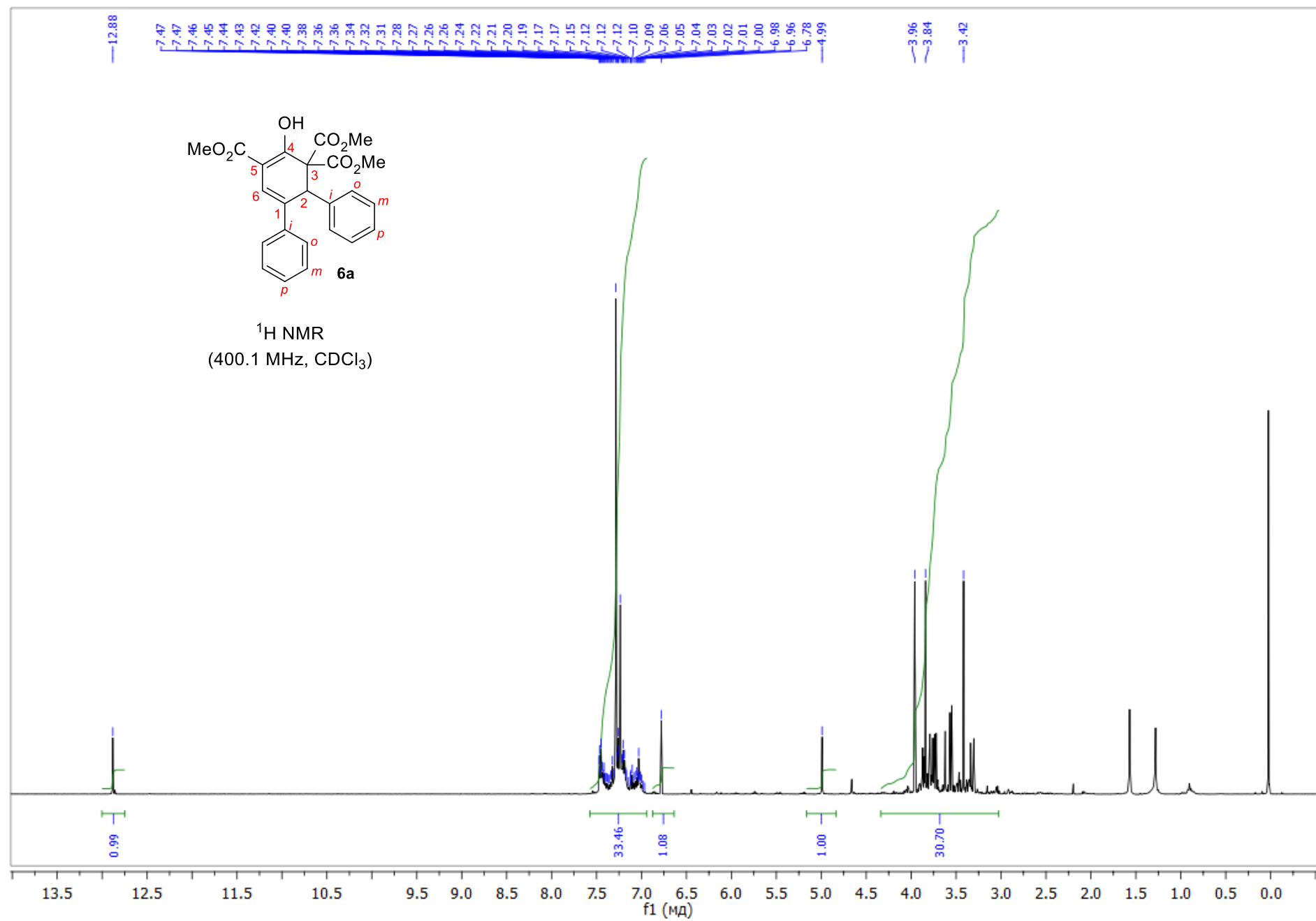




$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HSQC  
 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300.1 MHz,  
 $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75.5 MHz  
 $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

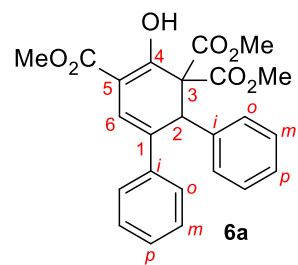




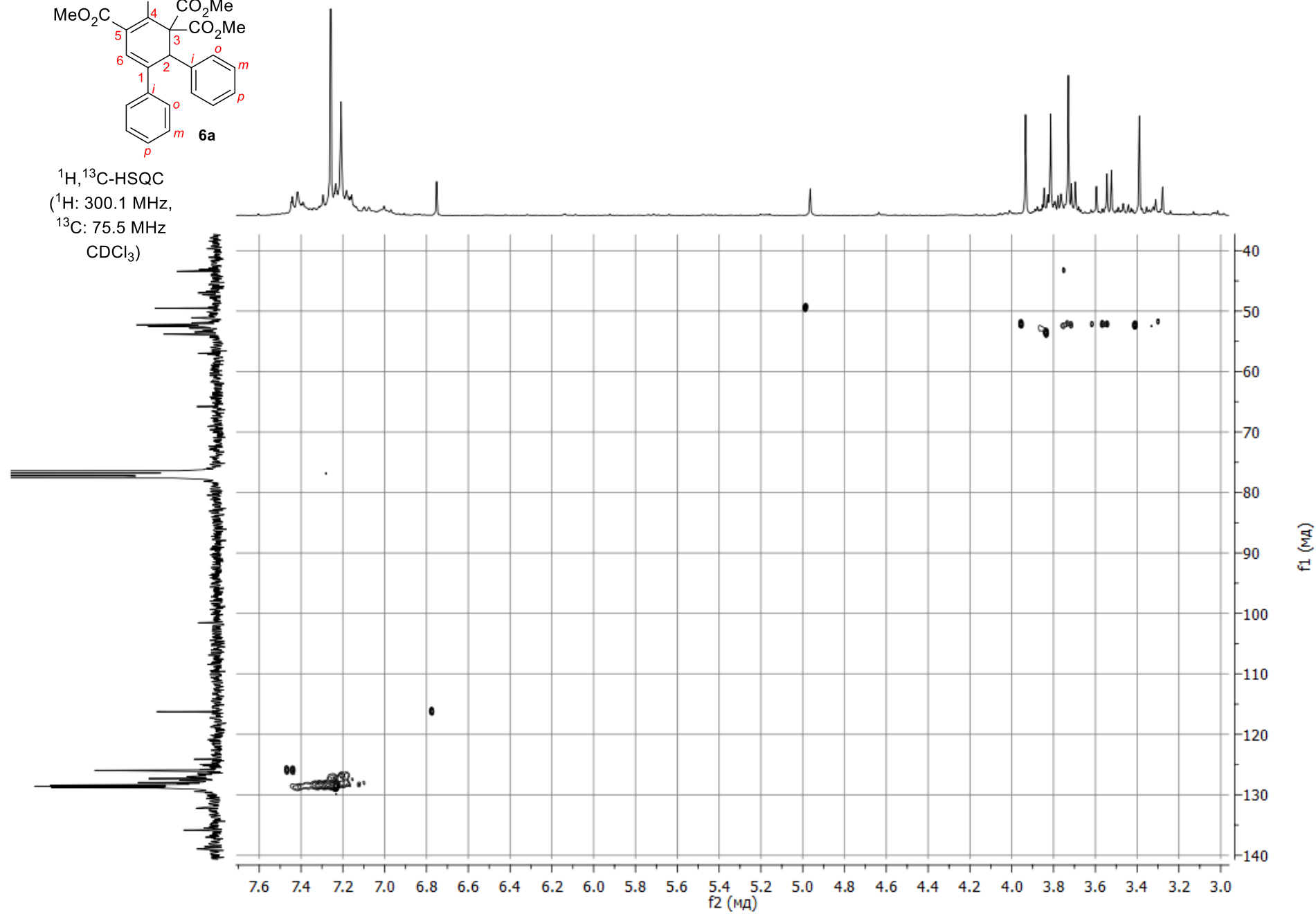


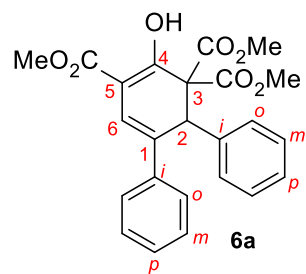




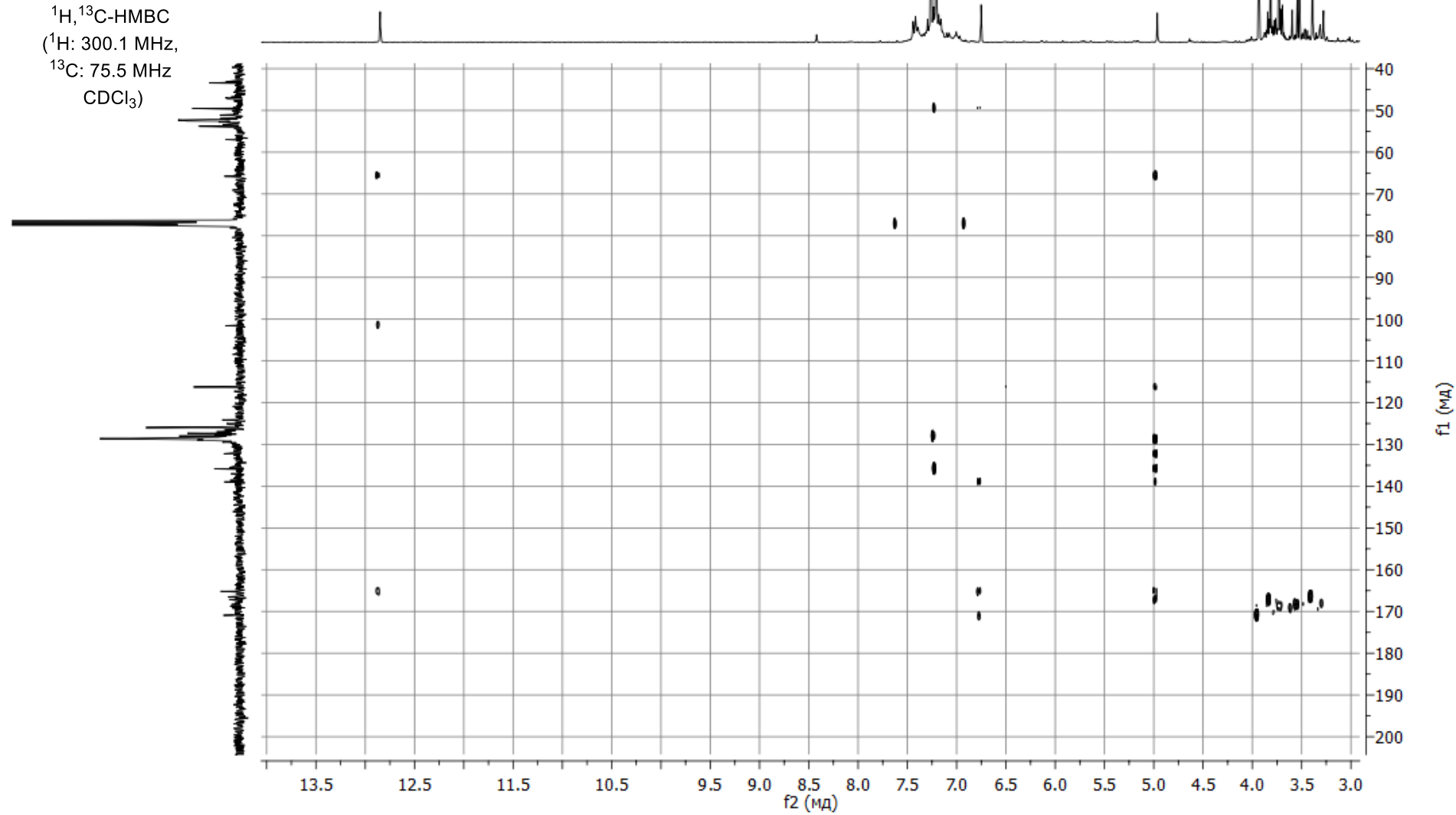


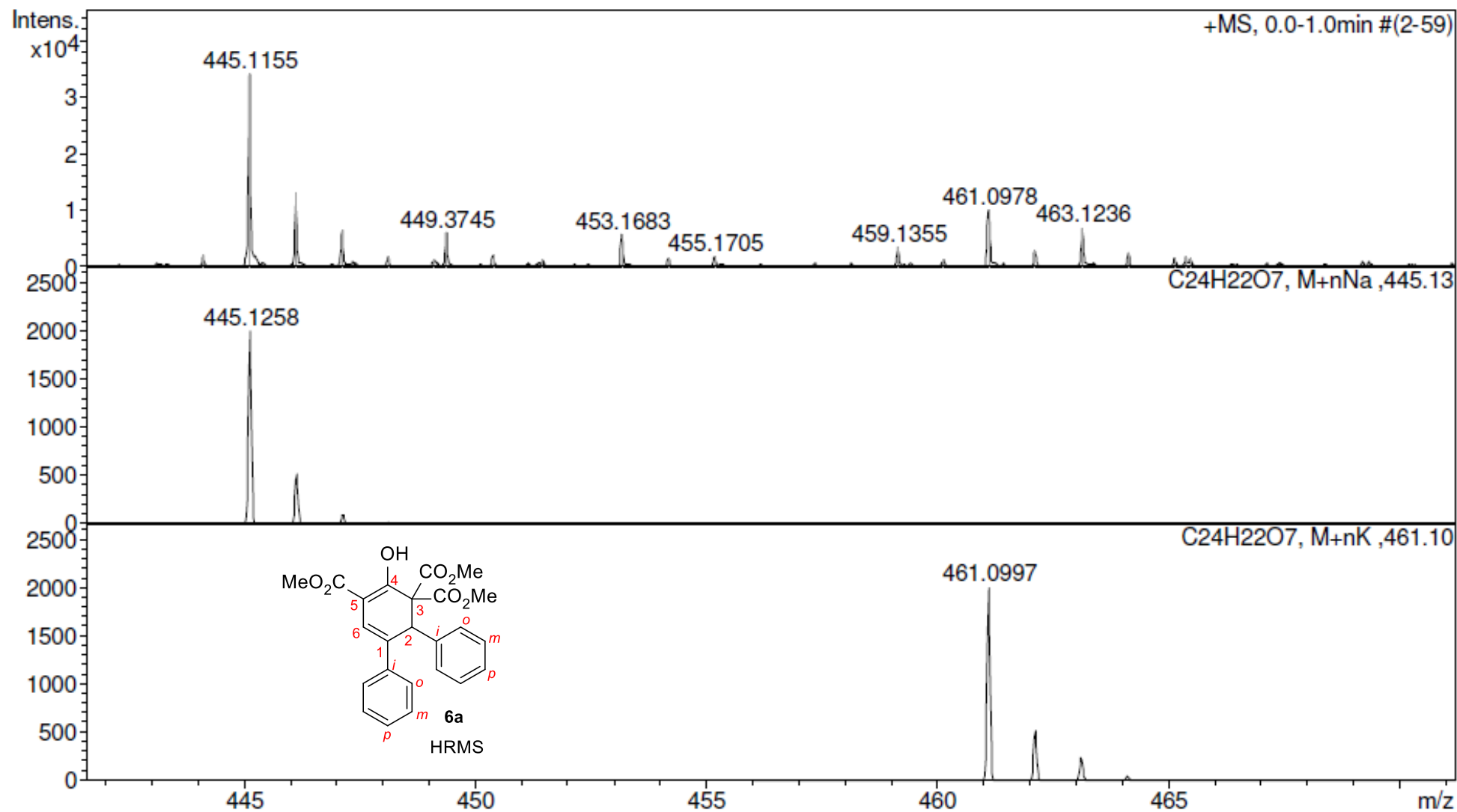
<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C-HSQC  
(<sup>1</sup>H: 300.1 MHz,  
<sup>13</sup>C: 75.5 MHz  
CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

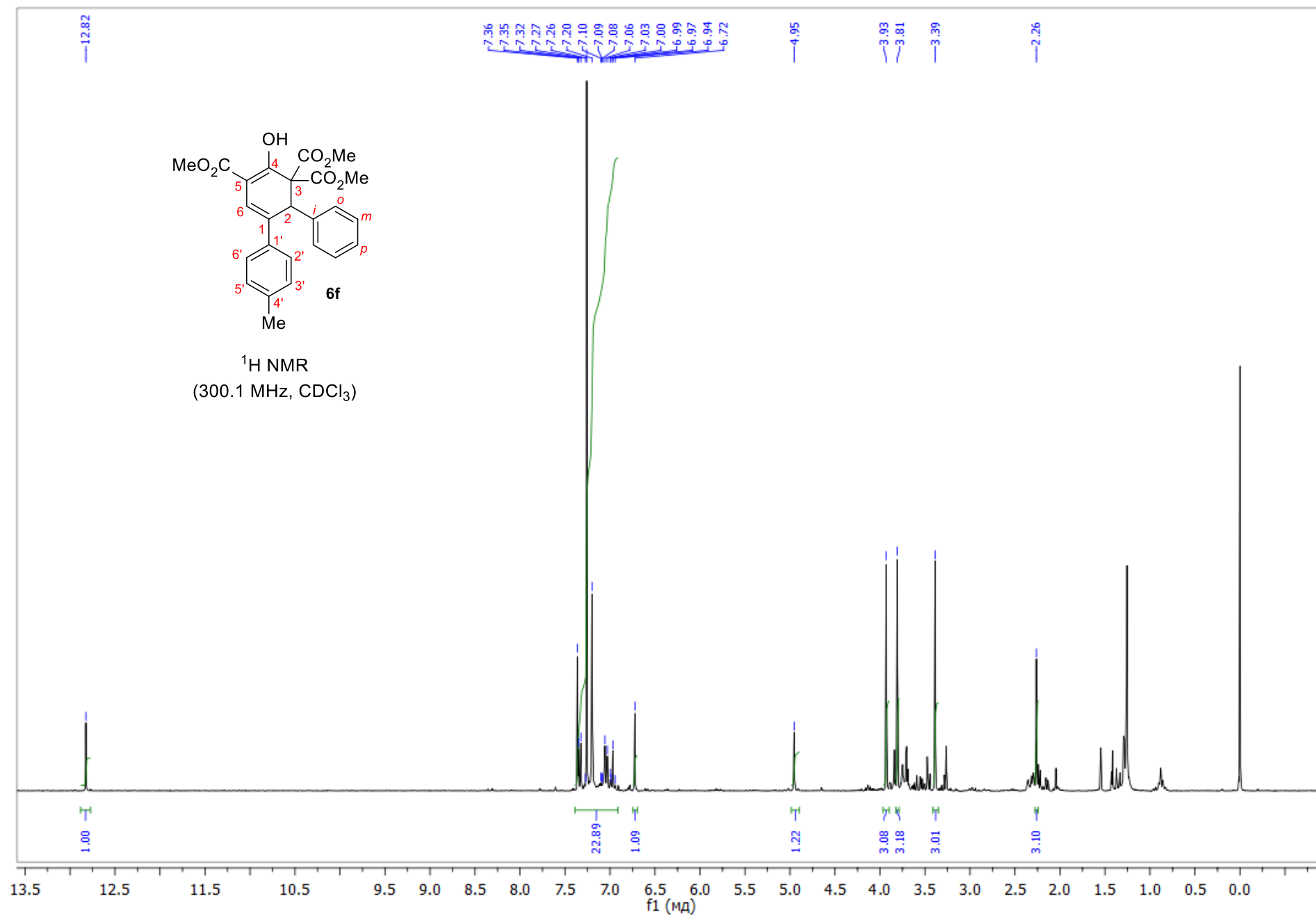


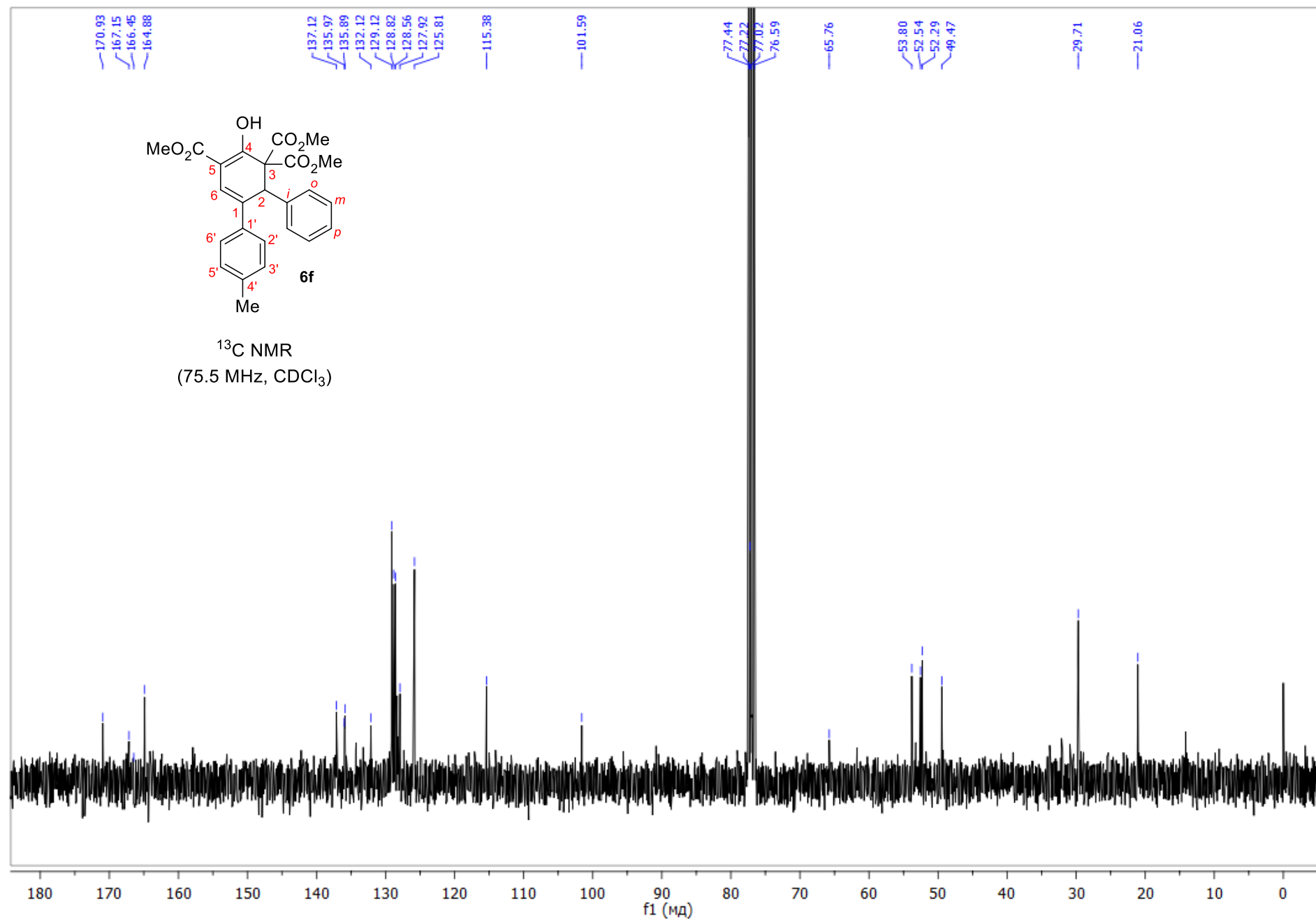


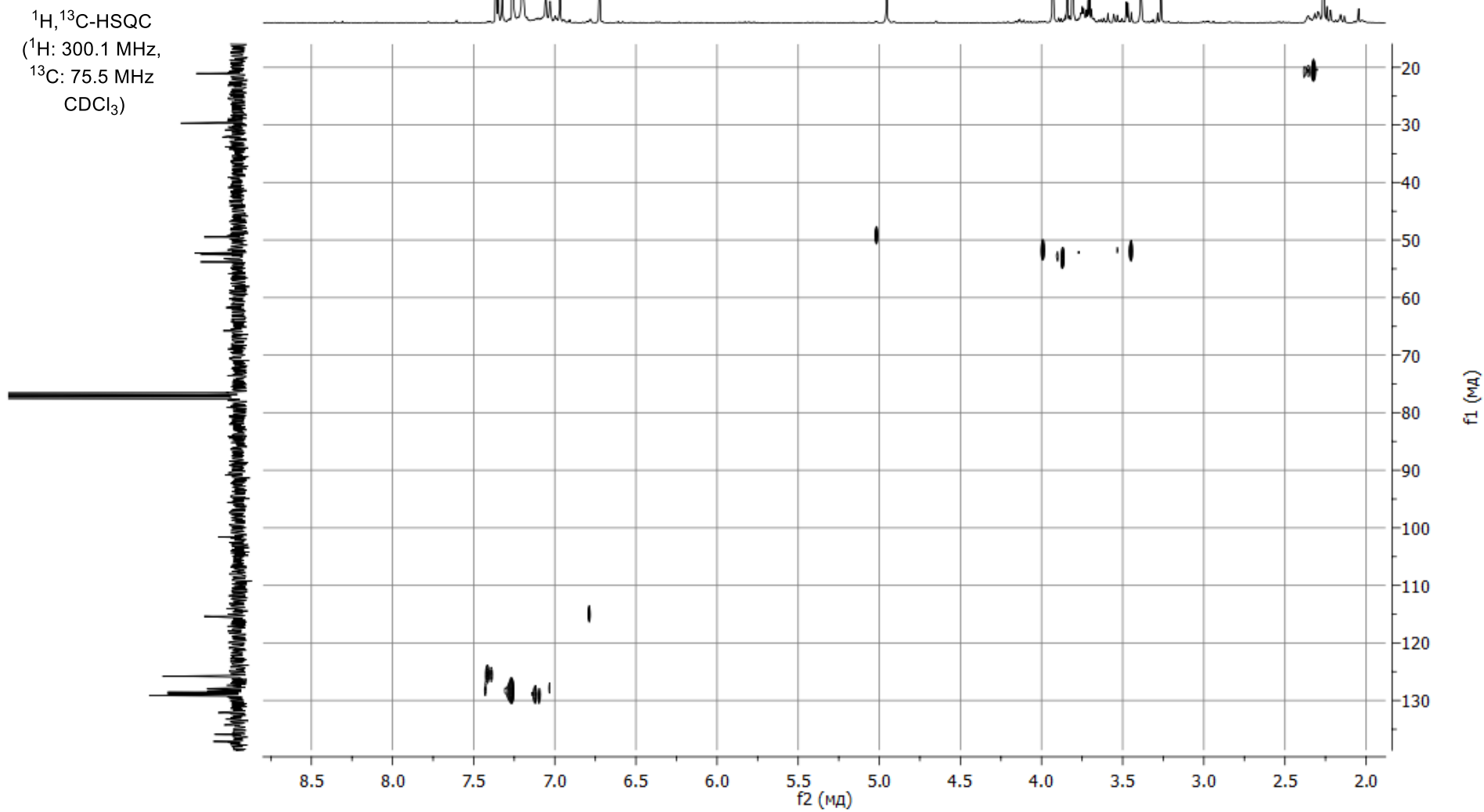
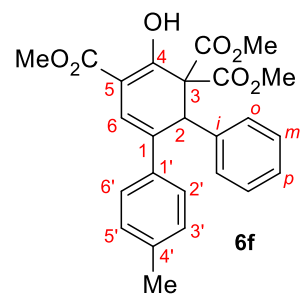
$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HMBC  
 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300.1 MHz,  
 $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75.5 MHz  
 $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

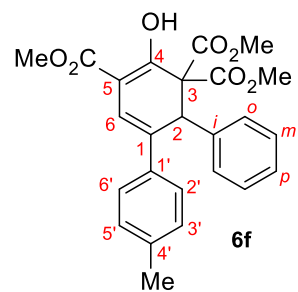












$^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ -HMBC  
( $^1\text{H}$ : 300.1 MHz,  
 $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75.5 MHz  
 $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

