

Supporting Information  
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*Supporting Information for:*

**One-pot, Three-Component Synthesis of Novel Pyrroloacridinones via  
Intramolecular *Ips*o-De aromatization / Intramolecular Aza-Michael  
Addition Sequence**

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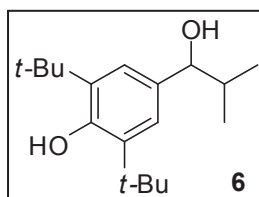
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## 1. General Information.

All commercial reagents were used directly as obtained. Thin-layer chromatography was performed using commercially prepared Sorbfil UV-254 silica gel plates. Compounds on TLC were visualized under UV light (254 nm) and with a 0.5% *p*-chloranil solution in toluene. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (0.06-0.20 mm, 70-230 mesh, Lancaster). Melting points (mp) were determined on a PTP apparatus and are uncorrected. Infra-red spectra (IR) were recorded on a Bruker IFS 66 FTIR spectrometer.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury Plus 300 spectrometer ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300.06 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75.46 MHz) and a Bruker AVANCE-500 spectrometer ( $^1\text{H}$ : 500.13 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$ : 125.76 MHz). The  $^1\text{H}$  chemical shifts were measured from internal  $\text{SiMe}_4$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  — from the solvent signal ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.0 ppm). All the signals in the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of the compounds **4g**, **5h**, **5h'**, **5i**, **5i'**, **5j'**, and **7** were assigned on the basis of 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY and NOESY,  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC and HMBC experiments. The stereochemistry of **5a** was determined by 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  NOESY experiment. Mass spectra (MS) were obtained on an Agilent 6890N/5975B GC-MS system (column: HP-5ms, 30 m  $\times$  0.25 mm, 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$ ; helium as a carrier gas, electron impact ionization mode (200°C, 70 eV)). Elemental analyses were carried out on a Leco CHNS-932 analyzer. X-ray data were collected at 295(2) K with an XCALIBUR-3 diffractometer, CCD detector ( $\omega$ -scanning technique,  $\text{MoK}\alpha$  radiation, graphite monochromator). Structures were solved by direct method and refined with SHELX-97 program package<sup>1</sup>. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Crystallographic data and data collection parameters are summarized in Table 1.

## 2. Experimental procedures and Characterization Data

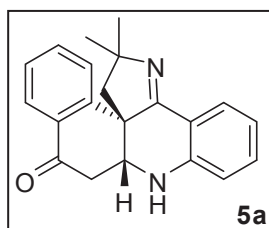
**2,6-Di-*tert*-butyl-4-(1-hydroxy-2-methylpropyl)phenol (6).** To a stirred suspension of



sodium borohydride (1.75 g, 46 mmol) in 15 ml of ethanol was added a solution of 1-(3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-methylpropan-1-one<sup>2</sup> (11.56 g, 42 mmol) in 15 ml of ethanol dropwise at such a rate that the temperature of the reaction mixture was maintained at 20-30 °C. The

reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. Then ethanol was removed on a rotary evaporator and 10 ml of a 10% NaOH solution was added. The aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3×50 ml). The combined organic phases were washed with water, dried under Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate 20:1) to give pure compound **6** (8.01 g, 69%) as a colorless solid: *R*<sub>f</sub> 0.44 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 10:1); mp: 92.5-94.5 °C; **IR** (film) *v*: 3398, 2957, 2872, 1435, 1365 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), *δ*, ppm, *J*/Hz: 0.76 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.7, Me), 1.01 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.7, Me), 1.44 (s, 18H, C<sup>2</sup>C(Me)<sub>3</sub>, C<sup>6</sup>C(Me)<sub>3</sub>), 1.87 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.9, OH-C<sup>1'</sup>), 1.91 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.23 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.5, 2.9, H-1'), 5.15 (s, 1H, OH-C<sup>1'</sup>), 7.09 (s, 2H, H-3 and H-5); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), *δ*, ppm: 18.59 (Me), 19.09 (Me), 30.27 (2C(Me)<sub>3</sub>), 34.23 (2C(Me)<sub>3</sub>), 35.05 (C-2'), 80.53 (C-1'), 123.13 (C-3, C-5), 134.20 (C-4), 135.38 (C-2, C-6), 152.93 (C-1); **MS** (EI) *m/z* (%): 278 [M]<sup>+</sup> (3), 260 [M-H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup> (7), 245 (9), 235 [M-CH(Me)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (100); Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C 77.65, H 10.85; found: C 77.65, H 10.86.

**(6a*R*\*,14a*S*\*)-13,13-Dimethyl-6a,7,13,14-tetrahydrobenzo[*a*]pyrrolo[2,3-*m*]acridin-**

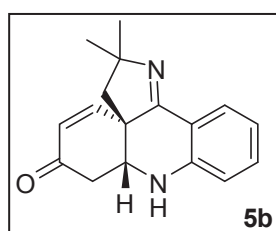


**5(6H)-one (5a).** A mixture of 1-methoxynaphthalene **1a** (316 mg, 2.0 mmol), isobutyric aldehyde **2** (216 mg, 3.0 mmol), and 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (236 mg, 2.0 mmol) was added dropwise to stirred concentrated sulfuric acid (92%, 1 ml, 17 mmol) at 5-7 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 25 min and poured into a

mixture of ice (25 g) and NH<sub>3</sub> (aq) (7 mL). The product was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3×15 ml), and the combined organic layers were washed with water, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and filtered. After the solvent was removed, the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate, 4:1 to 2:1) to give pure **5a** (516 mg, 82%). **Data for 5a:** Pale yellow solid; *R*<sub>f</sub> 0.63 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 2:1); mp: 267-269 °C; **IR** (film) *v*: 3364, 3066, 3026, 2964, 2867, 1674, 1610 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), *δ*, ppm, *J*/Hz: 1.42 (s, 3H, Me-C<sup>13</sup>), 1.47 (s, 3H, Me-C<sup>13</sup>), 2.05 (d, 1H, *J* = 13.1, H-14<sup>B</sup>), 2.10 (d, 1H, *J* = 13.1, H-14<sup>A</sup>), 2.79 (dd, 1H, *J* = 18.0, 3.0, H-6<sup>B</sup>), 3.02 (dd, 1H, *J* = 18.0, 3.0, H-6<sup>A</sup>),

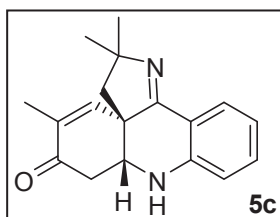
3.96 (t, 1H,  $J = 3.0$ , H-6a), 4.32 (br s, 1H, NH), 6.41 (br d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$ , H-8), 6.72 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 7.1, 1.2$ , H-10), 7.06-7.10 (m, 2H, H-1 and H-9), 7.29 (td, 1H,  $J = 7.6, 1.0$ , H-3), 7.41 (td, 1H,  $J = 7.6, 1.4$ , H-2), 7.92 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 1.5$ , H-11), 8.03 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.8, 1.4$ , H-4);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 29.29 ( $\text{Me-C}^{13}$ ), 32.46 ( $\text{Me-C}^{13}$ ), 40.53, 48.41 (C-6, C-14), 56.30 (C-14a), 58.45 (C-6a), 72.87 (C-13), 114.75 (C-8), 115.62 (C-11a), 118.32 (C-10), 126.85, 127.00, 127.31 and 127.90 (C-1, C-4, C-9, and C-11), 131.08 (C-4a), 131.81 and 134.17 (C-2, C-3), 143.59 and 147.00 (C-7a and C-14b), 166.59 (C-11b), 195.23 (C-5); **MS** (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 316  $[\text{M}]^+$  (78), 316  $[\text{M-Me}]^+$  (100); **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : C 79.72, H 6.37, N 8.85; found: C 79.42, H 6.43, N 8.64.

**(3aS\*,7aR\*)-2,2-Dimethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-6(7H)-one (5b).** The



title compound was prepared from anisole **1b** (216 mg, 2.0 mmol), isobutyric aldehyde **2** (216 mg, 3.0 mmol), and 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** in a similar manner as described for the preparation of **5a**. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate, 2:1) to give starting 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (71 mg, 30%), and **5b** (213 mg, 40%). **Data for 5b**: Yellow solid;  $R_f$  0.30 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 1:1); mp: 230.5-232 °C; **IR** (film)  $\nu$ : 3265, 3030, 2968, 2924, 1670, 1605  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm,  $J/\text{Hz}$ : 1.40 (s, 3H,  $\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 1.48 (s, 3H,  $\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 2.04 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.9$ , H-3<sup>B</sup>), 2.19 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.9$ , H-3<sup>A</sup>), 2.56 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 17.1, 3.0, 0.9$ , H-7<sup>B</sup>), 2.75 (dd, 1H,  $J = 17.1, 2.7$ , H-7<sup>A</sup>), 3.85 (q, 1H,  $J = 2.6$ , H-7a), 4.39 (s, 1H, NH), 5.96 (dd, 1H,  $J = 10.0, 0.9$ , H-5), 6.57 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.3, 1.0$ , H-9), 6.63 (dd, 1H,  $J = 10.0, 2.3$ , H-4), 6.72 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 7.1, 1.0$ , H-11), 7.18 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.3, 7.1, 1.5$ , H-10), 7.85 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 1.5$ , H-12);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 30.02 and 31.27 ( $2\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 40.85 (C-7), 49.24 (C-3), 53.71 (C-3a), 58.26 (C-7a), 72.13 (C-2), 114.69 (C-9), 114.97 (C-12a), 118.20 (C-11), 126.98 and 128.27 (C-12 and C-5), 132.51 (C-10), 146.40 (C-8a), 148.40 (C-4), 166.08 (C-12b), 195.80 (C-6); **MS** (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 266  $[\text{M}]^+$  (100); **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : C 76.66, H 6.81, N 10.52; found: C 76.83, H 6.58, N 10.48.

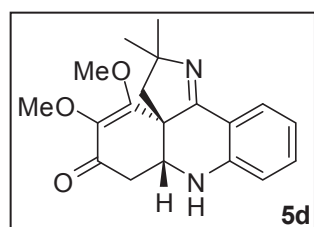
**(3aS\*,7aR\*)-2,2,5-Trimethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-6(7H)-one (5c).**



The title compound was prepared from 2-methylanisole **1c** (244 mg, 2.0 mmol), isobutyraldehyde **2** (216 mg, 3.0 mmol), and 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (236 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a similar manner as described for the preparation of **5a**. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate, 2:1) to give pure **5c** (406 mg, 73%).

**Data for 5c:** Yellow solid;  $R_f$  0.33 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 2:1); mp: 202-203.5 °C; **IR** (film)  $\nu$ : 3332, 2956, 1668, 1606  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  **$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm,  $J/\text{Hz}$ : 1.41 (s, 3H, Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 1.47 (s, 3H, Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 1.74 (d, 3H,  $J = 1.5$ , Me- $\text{C}^5$ ), 2.02 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.8$ , H-3 $^B$ ), 2.17 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.8$ , H-3 $^A$ ), 2.57 (dd, 1H,  $J = 17.1$ , 3.2, H-7 $^B$ ), 2.76 (dd, 1H,  $J = 17.1$ , 2.7, H-7 $^A$ ), 3.81 (q, 1H,  $J = 2.7$ , H-7a), 4.37 (s, 1H, NH), 6.38 (qd, 1H,  $J = 1.7$ , 1.5, H-4), 6.56 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.2$ , 1.0, H-9), 6.71 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 7.9$ , 7.0, 1.0, H-11), 7.18 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.2$ , 7.0, 1.5, H-10), 7.85 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.9$ , 1.5, H-12);  **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 15.93 (Me- $\text{C}^5$ ), 30.00 and 31.28 (2Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 40.84 (C-7), 49.25 (C-3), 53.96 (C-3a), 58.60 (C-7a), 71.91 (C-2), 114.66 (C-9), 114.94 (C-2a), 117.92 (C-11), 126.95 (C-12), 132.30 (C-10), 134.51 (C-5), 143.35 (C-4), 146.57 (C-8a), 166.59 (C-12b), 196.29 (C-6); **MS** (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 280  $[\text{M}]^+$  (100); **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : C 77.11, H 7.19, N 9.99; found: C 76.92, H 7.06, N 9.93.

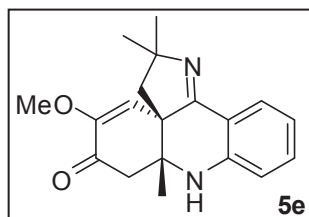
**(3aS\*,7aR\*)-4,5-Dimethoxy-2,2-dimethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-**



**6(7H)-one (5d).** A solution of 1,2,3-trimethoxybenzene **1d** (336 mg, 2.0 mmol) and isobutyric aldehyde **2** (216 mg, 3.0 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.5 ml) was added dropwise to stirred solution of 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (236 mg, 2.0 mmol) in concentrated sulfuric acid (92%, 1 ml, 17 mmol) at 5-7 °C. The reaction mixture was

stirred at room temperature for 1.5 h and poured into a mixture of ice (25 g) and  $\text{NH}_3$  (aq) (7 mL). The product was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3×15 ml), and the combined organic layers were washed with water, dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and filtered. After the solvent was removed, the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate, 3:1 to 1:1) to give starting 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (89 mg, 38%) and **5d** (290 mg, 44%). **Data for 5d:** Pale yellow solid;  $R_f$  0.25 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 1:1); mp: 197-199 °C; **IR** (film)  $\nu$ : 3348, 3245, 3004, 2962, 1665, 1632, 1612  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  **$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm,  $J/\text{Hz}$ : 1.41 (s, 3H, Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 1.44 (s, 3H, Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 2.02 (d, 1H,  $J = 13.4$ , H-3 $^B$ ), 2.13 (d, 1H,  $J = 13.4$ , H-3 $^A$ ), 2.53 (dd, 1H,  $J = 17.2$ , 3.0, H-7 $^B$ ), 2.74 (dd, 1H,  $J = 17.2$ , 3.0, H-7 $^A$ ), 3.59 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.74 (t, 1H,  $J = 3.0$ , H-7a), 3.93 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.40 (s, 1H, NH), 6.55 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.2$ , 0.9, H-9), 6.69 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 7.8$ , 7.1, 0.9, H-11), 7.15 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.2$ , 7.1, 1.5, H-10), 7.75 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.8$ , 1.5, H-12);  **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 28.65 and 31.86 (2Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 40.21 (C-7), 48.02 (C-3), 57.05 (OMe), 57.98 (C-7a), 60.89 (C-3a), 60.92 (OMe), 72.96 (C-2), 114.18 (C-9), 115.75 (C-12a), 117.77 (C-11), 126.79 (C-12), 131.85 (C-10), 135.72 (C-5), 145.96 (C-8a), 162.85 (C-4), 163.87 (C-12b), 192.41 (C-6); **MS** (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 326  $[\text{M}]^+$  (98), 311  $[\text{M}-\text{Me}]^+$  (59), 208 (16), 193 (40), 183 (17), 159 (100); **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ : C 69.92, H 6.79, N 8.58; found: C 70.03, H 6.68, N 8.51.

**(3aS\*,7aR\*)-5-Methoxy-2,2,7a-trimethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-6(7H)-**

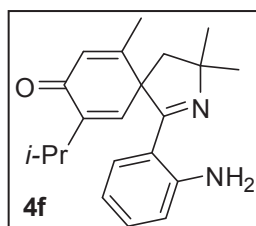


**one (5e).** The title compound was prepared from 1,2-dimethoxy-4-methylbenzene **1e** (304 mg, 2.0 mmol), isobutyric aldehyde **2** (216 mg, 3.0 mmol) and 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (236 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a similar manner as described for the preparation of **5a**. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate, 2:1) to give starting 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (77 mg, 33%) and **5e** (340 mg, 55%).

**Data for 5e:** Pale yellow solid;  $R_f$  0.18 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 2:1); mp: 245-247 °C; IR (film)  $\nu$ : 3322, 2967, 1687, 1617  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm,  $J/\text{Hz}$ : 1.23 (s, 3H, Me- $\text{C}^{7a}$ ), 1.45 (s, 3H, Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 1.47 (s, 3H, Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 1.97 (d, 1H,  $J = 13.4$ , H- $3^B$ ), 2.26 (d, 1H,  $J = 13.4$ , H- $3^A$ ), 2.62 (d, 1H,  $J = 16.9$ , H- $7^B$ ), 2.71 (d, 1H,  $J = 16.9$ , H- $7^A$ ), 3.50 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.14 (s, 1H, NH), 5.45 (s, 1H, H-4), 6.53 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$ , H-9), 6.71 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 7.9$ , 7.1, 0.9, H-11), 7.18 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.3$ , 7.1, 1.5, H-10), 7.91 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.9$ , 1.5, H-12);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 23.15 (Me- $\text{C}^{7a}$ ), 30.59 and 31.54 (2Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 45.81 (C-3), 48.35 (C-7), 54.91 (OMe), 57.81, 57.84 (C-3a, C-7a), 71.90 (C-2), 114.19 (C-12a), 115.14 (C-9), 117.04 and 117.67 (C-4, C-11), 126.96 (C-12), 132.24 (C-10), 145.16 (C-8a), 149.60 (C-5), 165.69 (C-12b), 192.18 (C-6); **MS** (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 310 [ $\text{M}$ ] $^+$  (95), 295 [ $\text{M-Me}$ ] $^+$  (100); **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ : C 73.52, H 7.14, N 9.03; found: C 73.60, H 7.05, N 8.94.

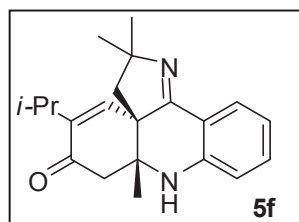
**1-(2-aminophenyl)-9-isopropyl-3,3,6-trimethyl-2-azaspiro[4.5]deca-1,6,9-trien-8-one (4f) and (3aS\*,7aR\*)-5-isopropyl-2,2,7a-trimethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-6(7H)-one (5f).** The title compounds were prepared from 1-isopropyl-2-methoxy-4-methylbenzene **1f** (328 mg, 2.0 mmol), isobutyric aldehyde **2** (216 mg, 3.0 mmol) and 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (236 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a similar manner as described for the preparation of **5a**. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate, 4:1 to 1:1) to give **4f** (59 mg, 9%) and **5f** (340 mg, 53%).

**Data for 4f:** Colorless solid;  $R_f$  0.75 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 2:1); mp: 136-138 °C; IR (film)  $\nu$ : 3426, 3254, 2964, 2874, 1656, 1616  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm,  $J/\text{Hz}$ : 1.04 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$ , Me- $\text{C}^9$ ), 1.09 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$ , Me- $\text{C}^9$ ), 1.47 (s, 3H, Me- $\text{C}^3$ ), 1.53 (s, 3H, Me- $\text{C}^3$ ), 1.83 (d, 3H,  $J = 1.3$ , Me- $\text{C}^6$ ), 1.98 (d, 1H,  $J = 13.8$ , H- $4^B$ ), 2.15 (d, 1H,  $J = 13.8$ , H- $4^A$ ), 3.07 (spd, 2H,  $J = 6.9$ , 1.1, H- $9'$ ), 6.24 (q, 1H,  $J = 1.3$ , H-7), 6.40 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.1$ , 7.0, 1.2, H- $5'$ ), 6.55 (br s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 6.66 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.3$ , 1.2, H- $3'$ ), 6.77 (d, 1H,  $J = 1.1$ , H-10), 7.02 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.1$ , 1.5, H- $6'$ ), 7.08 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.3$ , 7.0, 1.5, H- $4'$ );  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$



(75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 19.94 (Me-C<sup>6</sup>), 21.36 and 21.59 (2Me-C<sup>9'</sup>), 25.84 (C-9'), 31.16 and 31.61 (2Me-C<sup>3</sup>), 49.47 (C-4), 65.29 (C-5), 72.06 (C-3), 114.11 (C-1'), 115.66 and 116.16 (C-3', C-5'), 127.69 and 128.65 (C-4', C-6'), 131.25 (C-7), 142.32 (C-9), 145.31 (C-10), 149.22 (C-2'), 160.28 (C-6), 167.36 (C-1), 185.41 (C-8); **MS** (EI) *m/z* (%): 322 [M]<sup>+</sup> (14), 204 [M-H<sub>2</sub>NC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CN]<sup>+</sup> (79), 189 [M-H<sub>2</sub>NC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CN-Me]<sup>+</sup> (100); **Anal. Calcd for** C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C 78.22, H 8.13, N 8.69; found: C 78.22, H 8.02, N 8.64.

**Data for 5f:** Pale yellow solid; *R<sub>f</sub>* 0.38 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 2:1); mp: 166.5-167 °C; **IR**

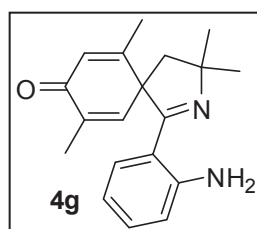


(film) *v*: 3359, 3316, 2963, 2876, 1669, 1618 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm, *J*/Hz: 0.87 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.9, Me-C<sup>5'</sup>); 0.96 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.9, Me-C<sup>5'</sup>); 1.22 (s, 3H, Me-C<sup>7a</sup>), 1.43 (s, 3H, Me-C<sup>2</sup>), 1.46 (s, 3H, Me-C<sup>2</sup>), 1.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 13.4, H-3<sup>B</sup>), 2.22 (d, 1H, *J* = 13.4, H-3<sup>A</sup>), 2.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.7, H-7<sup>B</sup>), 2.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.7, H-7<sup>A</sup>),

2.80 (spd, 1H, *J* = 6.9, 1.1, H-5'), 3.86 (s, 1H, NH), 6.25 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.1, H-4), 6.49 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.3, 0.9, H-9), 6.70 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 7.9, 7.1, 0.9, H-11), 7.16 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 8.3, 7.1, 1.5, H-10), 7.87 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.9, 1.5, H-12); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 21.35 and 21.63 (2Me-C<sup>5'</sup>), 23.30 and 26.00 (C5' and Me-C<sup>7a</sup>), 30.58 and 31.56 (2Me-C<sup>2</sup>), 45.40 (C-3), 45.51 (C-7), 57.68 and 58.51 (C-3a and C-7a), 71.88 (C-2), 114.12 (C-12a), 114.80 (C-9), 117.37 (C-11), 126.84 (C-12), 132.23 (C-10), 142.49, 142.83 and 145.19 (C-4, C-5, C-8a), 165.72 (C-12b), 196.92 (C-6); **MS** (EI) *m/z* (%): 322 [M]<sup>+</sup> (74), 307 [M-Me]<sup>+</sup> (100); **Anal. Calcd for** C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C 78.22, H 8.13, N 8.69; found: C 78.20, H 8.12, N 8.66.

**1-(2-Aminophenyl)-3,3,6,9-tetramethyl-2-azaspiro[4.5]deca-1,6,9-trien-8-one (4g) and (3aS\*,7aR\*)-2,2,5,7a-tetramethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-6(7H)-one (5g).** The title compounds were prepared from 2-methoxy-1,4-dimethylbenzene **1f** (272 mg, 2.0 mmol), isobutyric aldehyde **2** (216 mg, 3.0 mmol), and 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (236 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a similar manner as described for the preparation of **5a**. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate, 3:1 to 1:1) to give **4g** (67 mg, 11%) and **5g** (372 mg, 63%).

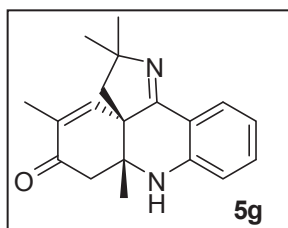
**Data for 4g:** Colorless solid; *R<sub>f</sub>* 0.75 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 2:1); mp: 193-197 °C; **IR** (film) *v*:



3348, 3245, 3004, 2942, 2962, 1665, 1632, 1612 cm<sup>-1</sup>; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm, *J*/Hz: 1.46 (s, 3H, Me-C<sup>3</sup>), 1.53 (s, 3H, Me-C<sup>3</sup>), 1.84 (d, 3H, *J* = 1.3, Me-C<sup>6</sup>), 1.94 (d, 3H, *J* = 1.5, Me-C<sup>9</sup>), 2.03 (d, 1H, *J* = 13.9, H-4<sup>B</sup>), 2.14 (d, 1H, *J* = 13.9, H-4<sup>A</sup>), 6.25 (q, 1H, *J* = 1.3, H-7), 6.42 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2, H-5'), 6.56 (br s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.66 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.2, 1.2, H-3'), 6.88 (q, 1H, *J* = 1.5, H-10), 7.04 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 1.4, H-6'), 7.09 (ddd,

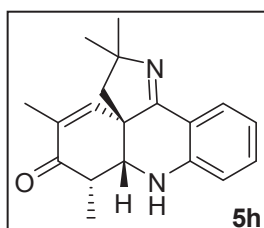
1H,  $J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.4, \text{H-4}'$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 15.70 ( $\text{Me-C}^9$ ), 20.11 ( $\text{Me-C}^6$ ), 31.23 and 31.64 ( $2\text{Me-C}^3$ ), 49.29 (C-4), 65.60 (C-5), 72.18 (C-3), 114.16 (C-1'), 115.88 (C-5'), 116.21 (C-3'), 127.22 (C-7), 128.69 (C-6'), 131.33 (C-4'), 132.92 (C-9), 148.33 (C-10), 149.29 (C-2'), 161.31 (C-6), 167.17 (C-1), 186.47 (C-8); MS (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 294  $[\text{M}]^+$  (10), 176  $[\text{M-H}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{CN}]^+$  (60), 161  $[\text{M-H}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{CN-Me}]^+$  (62), 118  $[\text{H}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{CN}]^+$  (100); **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : C 77.52, H 7.53, N 9.52; found: C 77.70, H 7.42, N 9.50.

**Data for 5g:** Yellow solid;  $R_f$  0.38 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 2:1); mp: 228-229 °C; IR (film)  $\nu$ :



3325, 2967, 1661, 1612  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm,  $J/\text{Hz}$ : 1.23 (s, 3H,  $\text{Me-C}^{7a}$ ), 1.43 (s, 3H,  $\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 1.46 (s, 3H,  $\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 1.72 (d, 3H,  $J = 1.5$ ,  $\text{Me-C}^5$ ), 1.93 (d, 1H,  $J = 13.5$ ,  $\text{H-3}^B$ ), 2.22 (d, 1H,  $J = 13.5$ ,  $\text{H-3}^A$ ), 2.54 (d, 1H,  $J = 16.8$ ,  $\text{H-7}^B$ ), 2.60 (d, 1H,  $J = 16.8$ ,  $\text{H-7}^A$ ), 4.18 (s, 1H, NH), 6.36 (q, 1H,  $J = 1.5$ , H-4), 6.52 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.3, 1.0$ , H-9), 6.70 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 7.0, 1.0$ , H-11), 7.17 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.3, 7.0, 1.5$ , H-10), 7.88 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 1.5$ , H-12);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 15.51 ( $\text{Me-C}^5$ ), 23.38 ( $\text{Me-C}^{7a}$ ), 30.56 and 31.54 ( $2\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 45.08 (C-3), 48.06 (C-7), 58.19 and 58.79 (C-3a and C-7a), 71.97 (C-2), 114.24 (C-12a), 114.97 (C-9), 117.50 (C-11), 126.88 and 132.25 (C10 and C12), 133.04 (C-5), 145.39 (C-8a), 145.52 (C-4), 165.44 (C-12b), 197.73 (C-6); MS (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 294  $[\text{M}]^+$  (79), 279  $[\text{M-Me}]^+$  (100); **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : C 77.52, H 7.53, N 9.52; found: C 77.26, H 7.52, N 9.48.

**(3aS\*,7S\*,7aR\*)-2,2,5,7-Tetramethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-6(7H)-one (5h) and (3aS\*,7R\*,7aR\*)-2,2,5,7-tetramethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-6(7H)-one (5h')**. 2,6-Dimethylphenol **1h** (244 mg, 2.0 mmol), isobutyric aldehyde **2** (216 mg, 3.0 mmol), and 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (236 mg, 2.0 mmol) were combined in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.5 ml) and the mixture was added dropwise to stirred concentrated sulfuric acid (92%, 1 ml, 17 mmol) at 5-7 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 25 min and poured into mixture of ice (25 g) and  $\text{NH}_3$  (aq) (7 mL). The product was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $3 \times 15$  ml), and the combined organic layers were washed with water, dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and filtered. After the solvent was removed, the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/acetone, 7:1) to give a mixture of diastereomers **5h** and

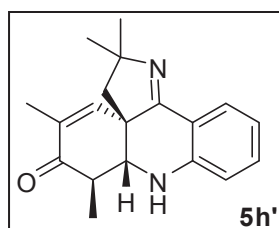


**5h'** (390 mg, 66%; **5h:5h'** = 84:16). Pure **5h** was obtained after recrystallization of the mixture of diastereomers from ethyl acetate.

**Data for 5h:** Pale yellow solid;  $R_f$  0.25 (hexane/acetone, 7:1); mp: 248-250 °C; IR (film)  $\nu$ : 3372, 2956, 2861, 1669, 1611  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm,  $J/\text{Hz}$ : 1.29 (d, 3H,  $J = 7.2$ ,  $\text{Me-C}^7$ ), 1.41 (s, 3H,

Me-C<sup>2</sup>), 1.48 (s, 3H, Me-C<sup>2</sup>), 1.73 (d, 3H,  $J = 1.5$ , Me-C<sup>5</sup>), 2.06 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.7$ , H-3<sup>B</sup>), 2.19 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.7$ , H-3<sup>A</sup>), 2.82 (qd, 1H,  $J = 7.2, 2.2$ , H-7), 3.65 (t, 1H,  $J = 2.3$ , H-7a), 4.12 (s, 1H, NH), 6.31 (dq, 1H,  $J = 2.5, 1.5$ , H-4), 6.55 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.3, 1.0$ , H-9), 6.72 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 7.0, 1.0$ , H-11), 7.18 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.3, 7.0, 1.5$ , H-10), 7.86 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 1.5$ , H-12); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm: 11.43 (Me-C<sup>5</sup>), 16.01 (Me-C<sup>7</sup>), 30.00 and 31.37 (2Me-C<sup>2</sup>), 42.16 (C-7), 49.07 (C-3), 54.87 (C-3a), 64.20 (C-7a), 71.90 (C-2), 114.85 (C-9), 115.43 (C-12a), 118.01 (C-11), 126.90 (C-12), 132.21 (C-10), 134.30 (C-5), 142.09 (C-4), 146.32 (C-8a), 166.60 (C-12b), 198.80 (C-6); MS (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 294 [M]<sup>+</sup> (100); Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C 77.52, H 7.53, N 9.52; found: C 77.44, H 7.31, N 9.46.

**Data for 5h'**:  $R_f$  0.13 (hexane/acetone, 7:1). 1.26 (d, 3H,  $J = 7.6$ , Me-C<sup>7</sup>), 1.40 (s, 3H, Me-

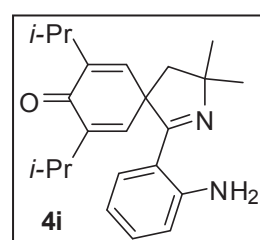


C<sup>2</sup>), 1.47 (s, 3H, Me-C<sup>2</sup>), 1.75 (d, 3H,  $J = 1.5$ , Me-C<sup>5</sup>), 2.07 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.8$ , H-3<sup>B</sup>), 2.24 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.8$ , H-3<sup>A</sup>), 2.54 (qd, 1H,  $J = 7.6, 2.6$ , H-7), 3.66 (t, 1H,  $J = 2.5$ , H-7a), 4.00 (s, 1H, NH), 6.33 (m, 1H, H-4), 6.51 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.3, 1.0$ , H-9), 6.69 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 7.3, 1.0$ , H-11), 7.17 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.3, 7.3, 1.5$ , H-10), 7.86 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 1.5$ , H-

12); MS (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 294 [M]<sup>+</sup> (100).

**1-(2-Aminophenyl)-7,9-diisopropyl-3,3-dimethyl-2-azaspiro[4.5]deca-1,6,9-trien-8-one (4i), (3aS\*,7S\*,7aR\*)-5,7-diisopropyl-2,2-dimethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-6(7H)-one (5i) and (3aS\*,7R\*,7aR\*)-5,7-diisopropyl-2,2-dimethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-6(7H)-one (5i')**. The title compounds were prepared from 2,6-diisopropylphenol **1i** (356 mg, 2.0 mmol), isobutyric aldehyde **2** (216 mg, 3.0 mmol), and 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (236 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a similar manner as described for the preparation of **5h/5h'**. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate, 5:1) to give **4i** (155 mg, 22%), starting 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (60 mg, 25%), and mixture of diastereomers **5i** and **5i'** (305 mg, 44%; **5i:5i'**=25:75). The mixture **5i+5i'** (305 mg) was separated by using silica gel column chromatography (hexane/isopropanol, 30:1) to give **5i** (60 mg), **5i+5i'** (27 mg), and **5i'** (204 mg).

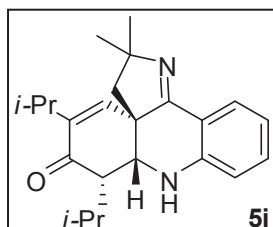
**Data for 4i**: Colorless solid;  $R_f$  0.70 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 5:1); mp: 118-122 °C; IR (film)  $\nu$ :



3439, 3252, 2964, 2873, 1623, 1611, 1550 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm,  $J$ /Hz: 1.03 and 1.08 (both d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$ , Me-C<sup>7</sup> and Me-C<sup>9</sup>), 1.49 (s, 6H, 2Me-C<sup>3</sup>), 2.07 (s, 2H, H-4), 3.10 (sp, 2H,  $J = 6.9$ , H-7', H-9'), 6.37 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2$ , H-5'), 6.55 (br s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.65 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.2, 1.2$ , H-3'), 6.72 (s, 2H, H-6, H-10), 7.06 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.5$ , H-4'), 7.09 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.2, 1.5$ , H-6'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ , ppm:

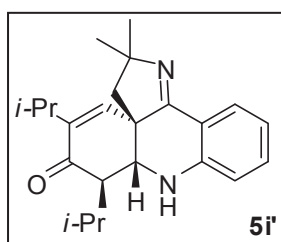
21.48 and 21.68 ( $2\text{Me-C}^{7'}$ ,  $2\text{Me-C}^{9'}$ ), 26.31 (C-7', C-9'), 31.24 ( $2\text{Me-C}^3$ ), 49.68 (C-4), 61.36 (C-5), 71.82 (C-3), 114.51 (C-1'), 115.30, 116.09 (C-3', C-5'), 129.49, 131.13 (C-4', C-6'), 143.56 (C-7, C-9), 144.32 (C-6, C-10), 149.19 (C-2'), 167.82 (C-1), 184.29 (C-8); **MS** (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 350  $[\text{M}]^+$  (11), 232  $[\text{M-H}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{CN}]^+$  (100); **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : C 78.82, H 8.63, N 7.99; found: C 78.62, H 8.50, N 7.92.

**Data for 5i:** Pale yellow solid;  $R_f$  0.25 (hexane/isopropanol, 30:1); mp: 169-171°C; **IR** (film)



$\nu$ : 3391, 3326, 2961, 2871, 1677, 1618  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm,  $J/\text{Hz}$ : 0.89 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$ ,  $\text{Me-C}^{5'}$ ), 0.95 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$ ,  $\text{Me-C}^{5'}$ ), 1.01 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.5$ ,  $\text{Me-C}^{7'}$ ), 1.16 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.5$ ,  $\text{Me-C}^{7'}$ ), 1.42 (s, 3H,  $\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 1.49 (s, 3H,  $\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 2.00 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.8$ ,  $\text{H-3}^{\text{B}}$ ), 2.15 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.8$ ,  $\text{H-3}^{\text{A}}$ ), 2.31 (dsp, 1H,  $J = 8.2$ , 6.5,  $\text{H-7'}$ ), 2.34 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.2$ , 1.7,  $\text{H-7}$ ), 2.82 (spd, 1H,  $J = 6.9$ , 1.1,  $\text{H-5'}$ ), 3.84 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.1$ , 1.7,  $\text{H-7a}$ ), 4.06 (s, 1H, NH), 6.13 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.1$ , 1.1,  $\text{H-4}$ ), 6.49 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.4$ , 1.0,  $\text{H-9}$ ), 6.69 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 7.8$ , 7.0, 1.0,  $\text{H-11}$ ), 7.14 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.4$ , 7.0, 1.5,  $\text{H-10}$ ), 7.85 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.8$ , 1.5,  $\text{H-12}$ );  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 19.73 ( $\text{Me-C}^{7'}$ ), 21.65 and 21.68 ( $2\text{Me-C}^{5'}$ ), 23.32 ( $\text{Me-C}^{7'}$ ), 24.05 (C-7'), 26.49 (C-5'), 30.00 and 31.45 ( $2\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 49.29 (C-3), 53.80 (C-7), 54.66 (C-3a), 60.65 (C-7a), 71.65 (C-2), 114.58 (C-9), 115.27 (C-12a), 117.76 (C-11), 126.88 (C-12), 132.11 (C-10), 137.27 (C-4), 144.78 (C-5), 146.30 (C-8a), 166.89 (C-12b), 197.98 (C-6); **MS** (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 350  $[\text{M}]^+$  (100); **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : C 78.82, H 8.63, N 7.99; found: C 78.61, H 8.69, N 7.85.

**Data for 5i':** Pale yellow solid;  $R_f$  0.20 (hexane/isopropanol, 30:1); mp: 187-189 °C; **IR**

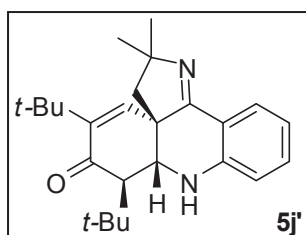


(film)  $\nu$ : 3255, 2964, 2871, 1667, 1612  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm,  $J/\text{Hz}$ : 0.90 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.4$ ,  $\text{Me-C}^{7'}$ ), 0.91 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$ ,  $\text{Me-C}^{5'}$ ), 0.96 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$ ,  $\text{Me-C}^{5'}$ ), 1.08 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.4$ ,  $\text{Me-C}^{7'}$ ), 1.43 (s, 3H,  $\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 1.48 (s, 3H,  $\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 1.99 (dsp, 1H,  $J = 11.2$ , 6.4,  $\text{H-7'}$ ), 2.07 (dd, 1H,  $J = 11.2$ , 2.9,  $\text{H-7}$ ), 2.16 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.9$ ,  $\text{H-3}^{\text{B}}$ ), 2.28 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.9$ ,  $\text{H-3}^{\text{A}}$ ), 2.82 (spd, 1H,  $J = 6.9$ , 1.1,  $\text{H-5'}$ ), 3.98 (t, 1H,  $J = 2.5$ ,  $\text{H-7a}$ ), 4.25 (s, 1H, NH), 6.12 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.3$ , 1.1,  $\text{H-4}$ ), 6.49 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.3$ , 1.0,  $\text{H-9}$ ), 6.63 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 7.9$ , 7.0, 1.0,  $\text{H-11}$ ), 7.10 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.3$ , 7.0, 1.5,  $\text{H-10}$ ), 7.84 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.9$ , 1.5,  $\text{H-12}$ );  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 20.98 ( $\text{Me-C}^{5'}$ ), 21.57 ( $\text{Me-C}^{7'}$ ), 21.91 and 21.94 ( $\text{Me-C}^{5'}$ ,  $\text{Me-C}^{7'}$ ), 26.26 (C-7'), 26.46 (C-5'), 29.79 and 31.78 ( $2\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 51.10 (C-3), 53.28 (C-3a), 59.36 (C-7a), 61.05 (C-7), 71.65 (C-2), 114.13 (C-9), 114.20 (C-12a), 117.19 (C-11), 126.60 (C-12), 132.05 (C-10), 138.04 (C-4), 142.76 (C-5), 146.17 (C-8a), 166.50 (C-12b), 199.21 (C-6); **MS** (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 350  $[\text{M}]^+$  (100); **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : C 78.82, H 8.63, N 7.99; found: C 78.68, H 8.64, N 7.95.

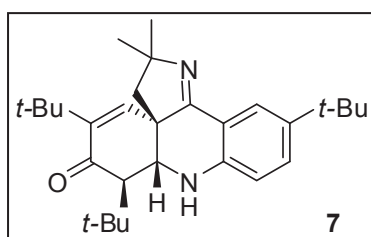
**1-(2-aminophenyl)-7,9-di-*tert*-butyl-3,3-dimethyl-2-azaspiro[4.5]deca-1,6,9-trien-8-one (4j), (3aS\*,7R\*,7aR\*)-5,7-Di-*tert*-butyl-2,2-dimethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-6(7H)-one (5j'), and (3aS\*,7R\*,7aR\*)--5,7,11-tri-*tert*-butyl-2,2-dimethyl-2,3,7a,8-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,2-l]acridin-6(7H)-one (7). Method A.** The title compounds were prepared from 2,6-di-*tert*-butylphenol (416 mg, 2.0 mmol), isobutyric aldehyde (216 mg, 3.0 mmol), and 2-aminobenzonitrile (236 mg, 2.0 mmol) in a similar manner as described for the preparation of **5h/5h'**. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate, 7:1) to give starting 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (52 mg, 22 %), spirodienone **4j'** (56 mg, 7 %) and **5j** (36 mg, 5 %). **Method B.** 2,6-Di-*tert*-butyl-4-(1-hydroxy-2-methylpropyl)phenol **6** (556 mg, 2.0 mmol) and 2-aminobenzonitrile **3** (236 mg, 2.0 mmol) were combined in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 ml) and the mixture was added dropwise to stirred concentrated sulfuric acid (92%, 1 ml, 17 mmol) at 5-7 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 25 min and poured into a mixture of ice (25 g) and NH<sub>3</sub> (aq) (7 mL). The product was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3×15 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with water, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and filtered. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/acetone, 7:1) to give **4j** (100 mg, 13%), a mixture of **5j'** and **7** (120 mg) and pure **5j'** (310 mg, 41%). The mixture of **5j'** and **7** (120 mg) was separated by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/acetone, 15:1) to give pure compound **7** (60 mg, 7%).

**Data for 4j:** Colorless solid; *R*<sub>f</sub> 0.63 (hexane/acetone, 7:1); mp: 156-158 °C; **IR** (film) *v*: 3451, 3253, 2968, 2947, 2867, 1652, 1616, 1586, 1549 cm<sup>-1</sup>; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ, ppm, *J*/Hz: 1.23 (s, 18H, *t*-Bu-C<sup>7</sup>, *t*-Bu-C<sup>9</sup>), 1.48 (s, 6H, 2Me-C<sup>3</sup>), 2.06 (s, 2H, H-4), 6.39 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2, H-5'), 6.54 (br s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.65 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.3, 1.20, H-3'), 6.73 (s, 2H, H-6, H-10), 7.06 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 8.3, 7.0, 1.5, H-4'), 7.11 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 1.5, H-6'); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ, ppm: 29.20 (6C, *t*-Bu-C<sup>7</sup>, *t*-Bu-C<sup>9</sup>), 31.22 (2Me-C<sup>3</sup>), 34.83 (C-7', C-9'), 50.02 (C-4), 61.18 (C-5), 71.80 (C-3), 114.53 (C-1'), 115.34 and 116.22 (C-3', C-5'), 129.50 and 131.13 (C-4', C-6'), 143.95 (C-6, C-10), 145.55 (C-2'), 149.16 (C-7, C-9), 168.38 (C-1), 185.78 (C-8); **MS** (EI) *m/z* (%): 378 [M]<sup>+</sup> (11), 260 [M-H<sub>2</sub>NC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CN]<sup>+</sup> (100); **Anal. Calcd for** C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C 79.32, H 9.05, N 7.40; found: C 79.38, H 8.99, N 7.34.

**Data for 5j':** Pale yellow solid; *R*<sub>f</sub> 0.37 (hexane/acetone, 7:1); mp: 217-218 °C. **IR** (film) *v*: 3383, 3260, 2960, 2871, 1658, 1614, 1520 cm<sup>-1</sup>; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ, ppm, *J*/Hz: 1.11 (s, 18H, *t*-Bu-C<sup>5</sup>, *t*-Bu-C<sup>7</sup>), 1.38 (s, 3H, Me-C<sup>2</sup>), 1.46 (s, 3H, Me-C<sup>2</sup>), 2.10 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0, H-7), 2.07 (d, 1H, *J* = 12.6, H-3<sup>B</sup>), 2.19 (d, 1H, *J* = 12.6, H-3<sup>A</sup>), 3.76 (s, 1H, NH), 3.91 (t,

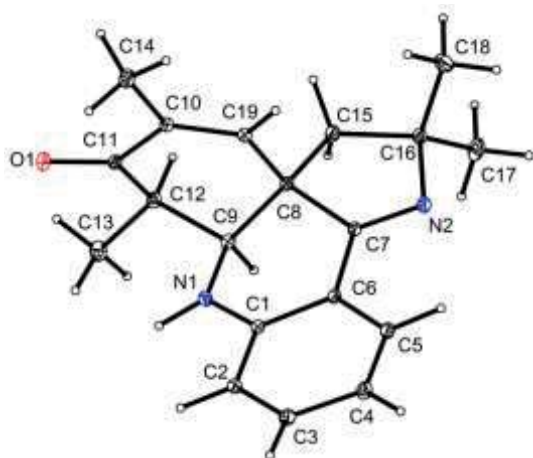


1H,  $J = 2.0$ , H-7a), 6.16 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.1$ , H-4), 6.48 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$ , H-9), 6.66 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 7.0, 1.0$ , H-11), 7.14 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.3, 7.0, 1.4$ , H-10), 7.86 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 1.4$ , H-12);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 29.31 and 29.36 ( $t\text{-Bu-C}^5$ ,  $t\text{-Bu-C}^7$ ); 29.75 and 31.67 ( $2\text{Me-C}^2$ ), 32.77 (C-7'), 34.89 (C-5'), 52.74 (C-3a), 52.97 (C-3), 58.65 (C-7a), 65.12 (C-7), 71.08 (C-2), 113.89 (C-12a), 113.96 (C-9), 117.42 (C-11), 126.78 (C-12), 132.23 (C-10), 138.41 (C-4), 146.02 (C-8a), 146.94 (C-5), 166.59 (C-12b), 199.71 (C-6); MS (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 378  $[\text{M}]^+$  (100). **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{34}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : C 79.32, H 9.05, N 7.40; found: C 79.09, H 9.27, N 7.44.



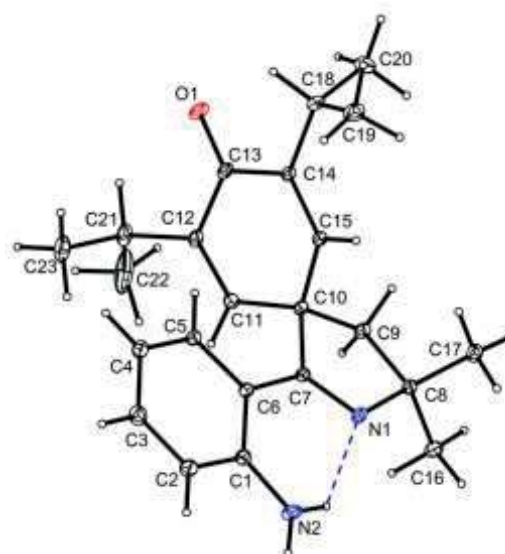
**Data for 7:** pale yellow solid;  $R_f$  0.46 (hexane/acetone, 7:1); mp: 215-217 °C; IR (film)  $\nu$ : 3378, 3269, 2958, 2871, 1664, 1617, 1506  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm,  $J/\text{Hz}$ : 1.11 (s, 9H, t-Bu), 1.12 (s, 9H, t-Bu), 1.29 (s, 9H, t-Bu- $\text{C}^{11}$ ), 1.37 (s, 3H, Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 1.46 (s, 3H, Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 2.02 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.4$ , H-3 $^B$ ), 2.07 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.0$ , H-7), 2.13 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.4$ , H-3 $^A$ ), 3.64 (s, 1H, NH), 3.85 (t, 1H,  $J = 2.0$ , H-7a), 6.17 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.0$ , H-4), 6.45 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.6$ , H-9), 7.22 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.6, 2.3$ , H-10), 7.83 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.3$ , H-12);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ , ppm: 29.29 and 29.34 ( $t\text{-Bu-C}^5$ ,  $t\text{-Bu-C}^7$ ), 29.72 (Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 31.41 ( $t\text{-Bu-C}^{11}$ ), 31.66 (Me- $\text{C}^2$ ), 32.71 (C-7'), 34.08 (C-11'), 34.90 (C-5'), 52.99 (C-3a), 53.35 (C-3), 58.64 (C-7a), 65.28 (C-7), 70.98 (C-2), 113.50 (C-12a), 114.03 (C-9), 122.72 (C-12), 129.99 (C-10), 138.52 (C-4), 140.36 (C-11), 144.05 (C-8a), 147.15 (C-5), 166.96 (C-12b), 200.11 (C-6); MS (EI)  $m/z$  (%): 434  $[\text{M}]^+$  (60), 419  $[\text{M-Me}]^+$  (100); **Anal. Calcd for**  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{34}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : C 80.13, H 9.74, N 6.44; found: C 80.12, N 9.57, H 6.69.

### 3. ORTEP Drawing and Crystallographic Data



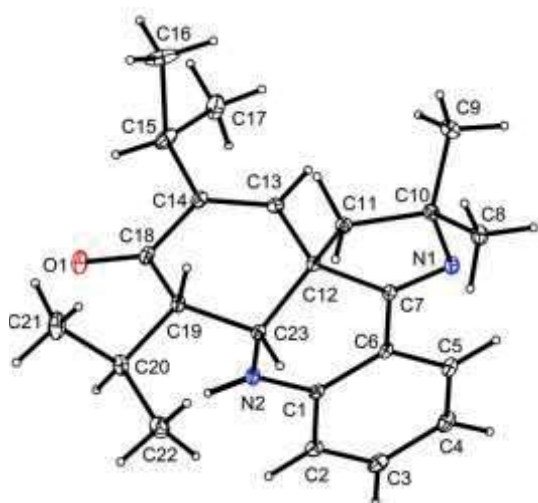
**Figure 1.**

ORTEP drawing of ( $\pm$ )-**5h** (CDCC No 988502)



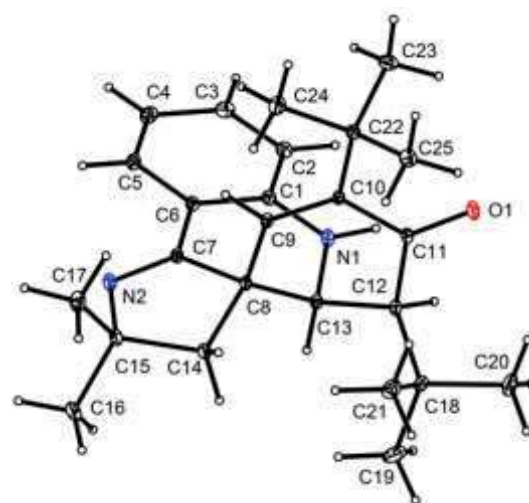
**Figure 2.**

ORTEP drawing of **4i** (CDCC No 988501)



**Figure 3.**

ORTEP drawing of ( $\pm$ )-**5i** (CDCC No 988503)



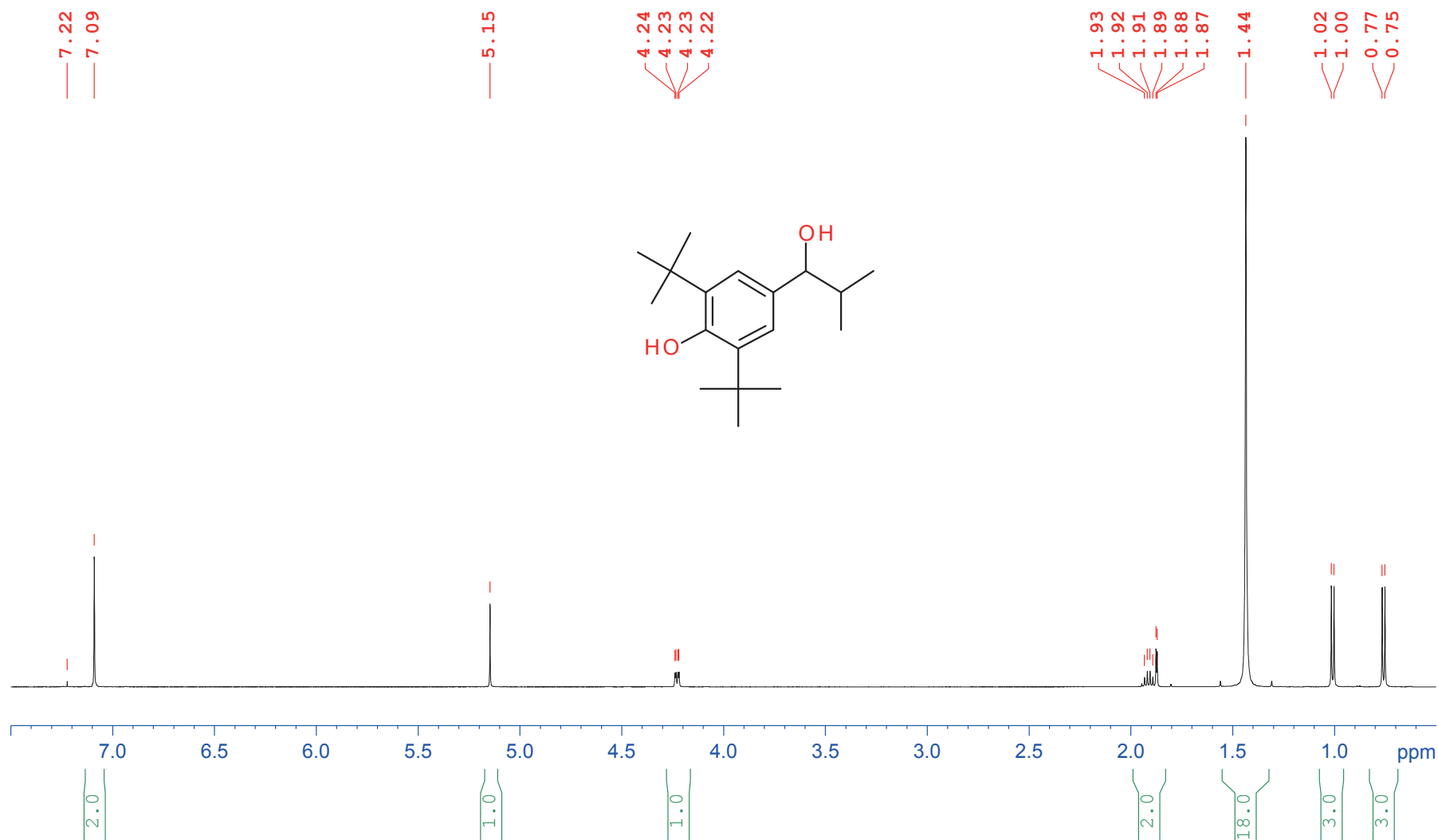
**Figure 4.**

ORTEP drawing of ( $\pm$ )-**5j'** (CDCC No 988504)

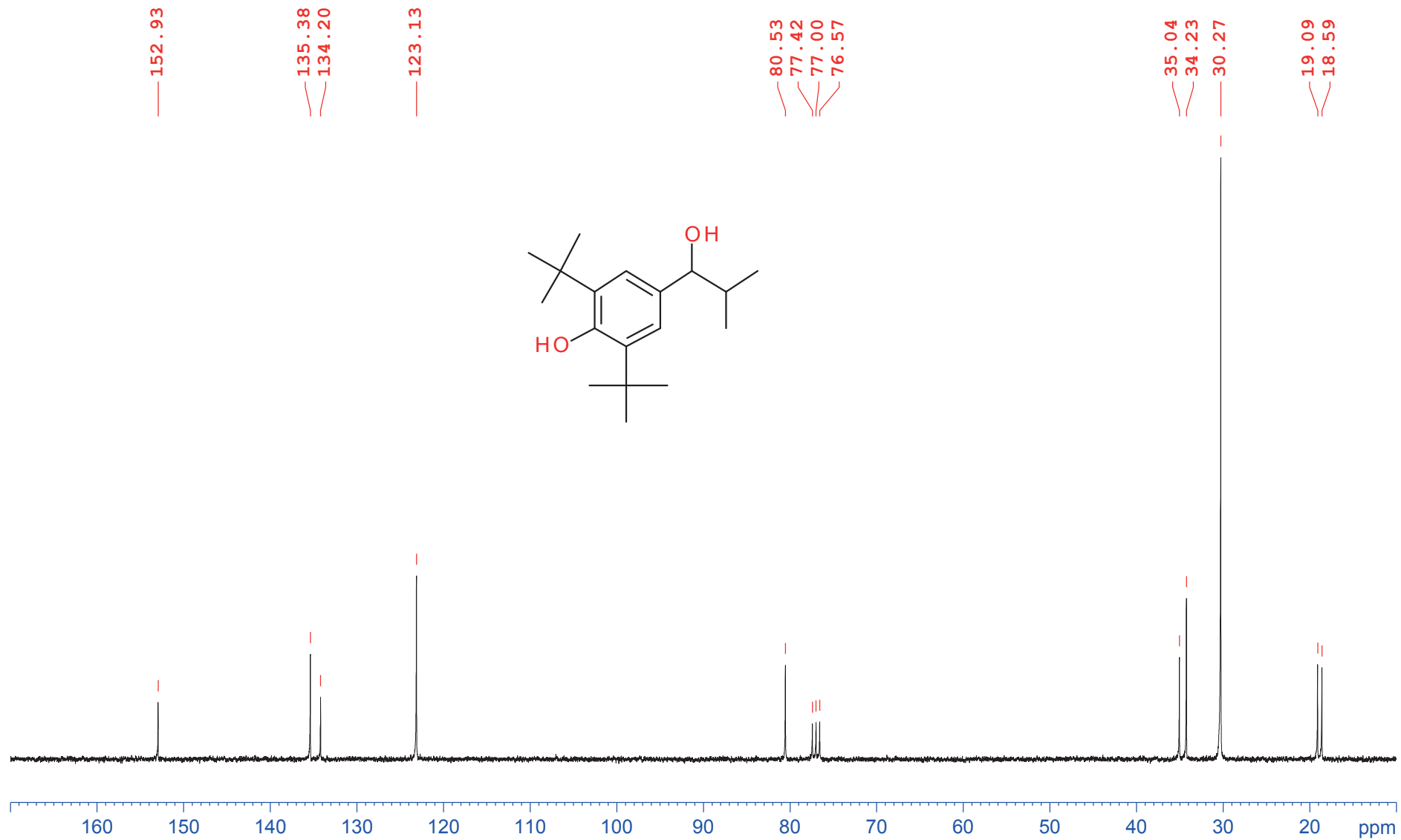
**Table 1**Crystallographic Data and Structure Refinement for **5h**, **4i**, **5i** and **5j'**

Identification code	<b>5h</b>	<b>4i</b>	<b>5i</b>	<b>5j'</b>
CDCC No	988502	988501	988503	988504
Empirical formula	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>22</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	C <sub>25</sub> H <sub>34</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O
Formula weight	294.39	350.49	350.49	378.54
Crystal description	prism	prism	prism	prism
Crystal colour	colorless	colorless	yellow	colorless
Crystal size, mm	0.25×0.19×0.16	0.21×0.16×0.09	0.21×0.15×0.09	0.25×0.20×0.15
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	P 2 <sub>1</sub> /n	P 2 <sub>1</sub> /c	C 2/c	P 2 <sub>1</sub> /c
<i>a</i> , Å	12.2990(9)	9.5020(15)	19.2894(4)	9.7929(7)
<i>b</i> , Å	10.4923(8)	21.727(3)	9.7066(9)	9.9455(10)
<i>c</i> , Å	12.5948(12)	10.9938(11)	22.2610(18)	22.885(2)
$\alpha$ , °	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00
$\beta$ , °	97.493(7)	113.802(12)	98.072(13)	93.459(7)
$\gamma$ , °	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00
<i>V</i> , Å <sup>3</sup>	1611.4(2)	2076.7(5)	4126.7(5)	2224.8(4)
<i>Z</i>	4	4	8	4
$\rho_{\text{calcd}}$ , g/cm <sup>-3</sup> ,	1.213	1.121	1.128	1.130
$\mu$ , mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.075	0.068	0.069	0.068
F(000)	632	760	1520	824
Theta range for data collection	2.92- 28.28	3.00- 26.38	2.90-26.40	2.66-26.41
Reflections collected	8823	15767	9782	13376
Independent reflections ( <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> )	3899 (0.0311)	4193 (0.0704)	4156 (0.0418)	4511 (0.0457)
Data / restraints / parameter	3899/0/231	4193/0/243	4156/0/257	4511/0/265
Goodness-of-Fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.005	1.000	1.000	1.006
Final <i>R</i> indices [ <i>I</i> >2σ( <i>I</i> )]	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> =0.0400 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.0774	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> =0.1344 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.1562	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> =0.1045 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.0888	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> =0.0989 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.0885
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> =0.0998 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.0825	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> =0.0600 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.1426	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> =0.0414 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.0835	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0440 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.0817
Completeness to theta (deg)	97.5 (28.28)	98.8 (26.38)	98.2 (26.40)	98.5 (26.41)
Largest diff. peak and hole, e <sup>-</sup> Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.134 and -0.140	0.344 and -0.206	0.182 and -0.176	0.192 and -0.187

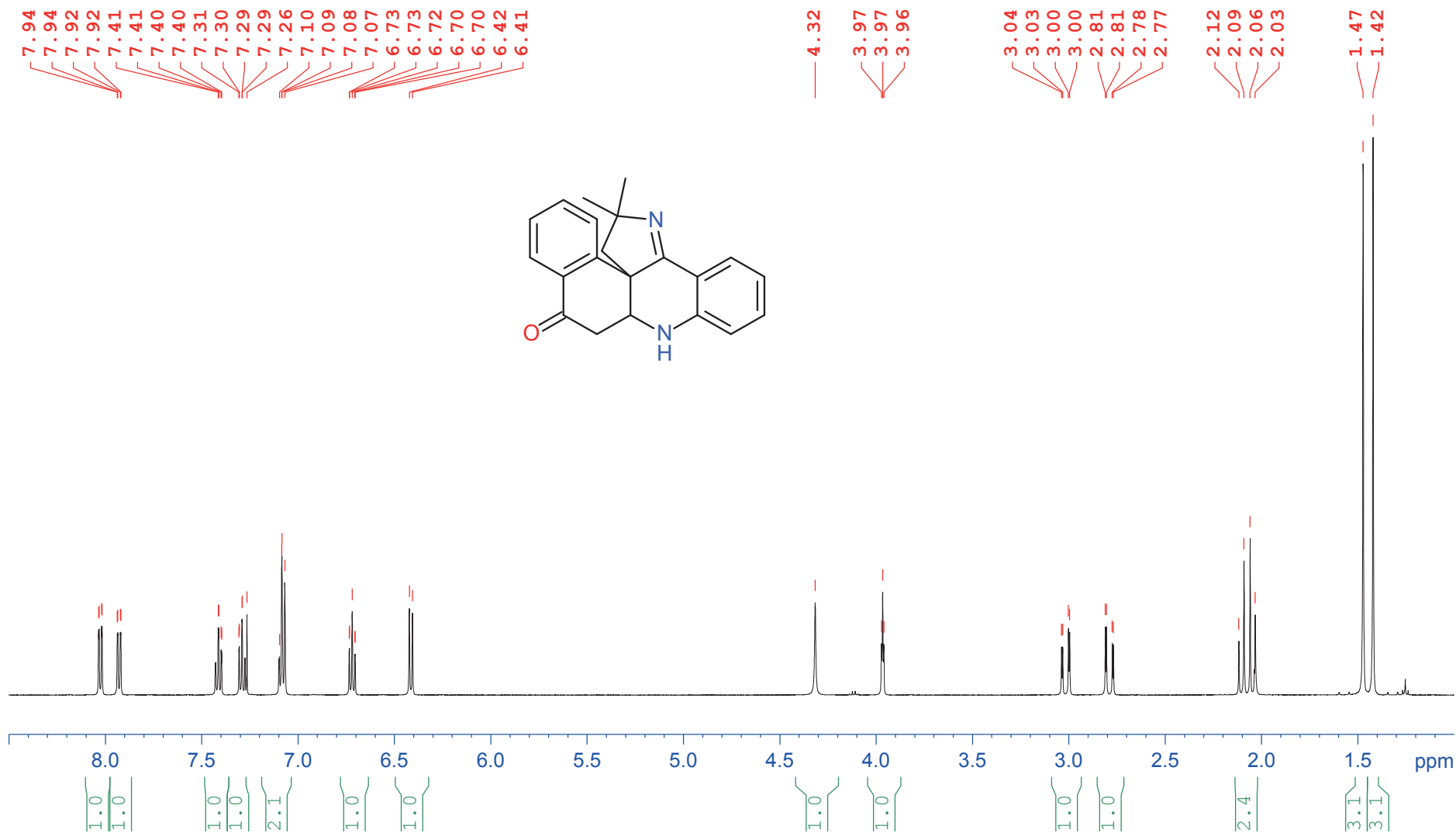
#### 4. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Spectra



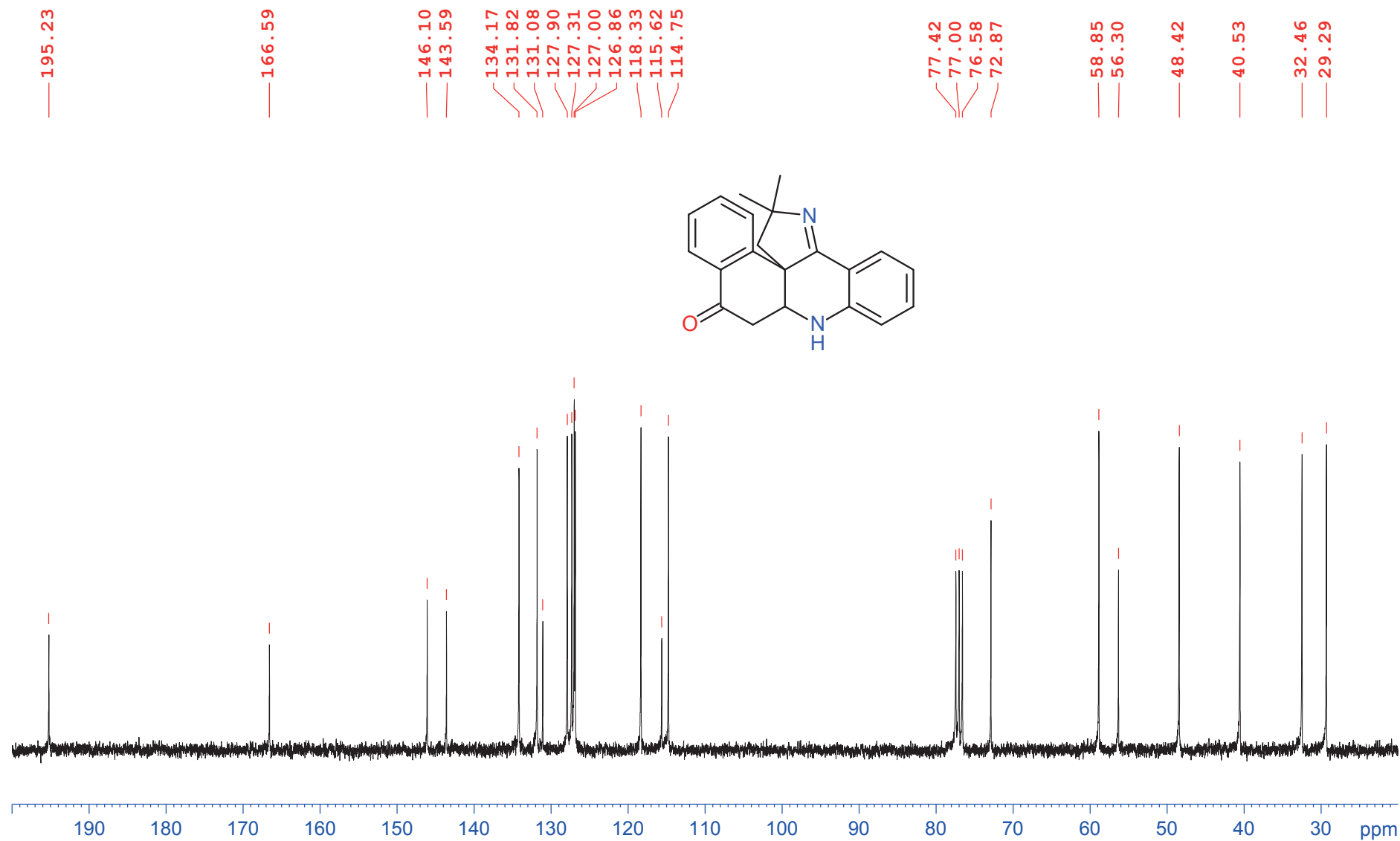
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound 6.



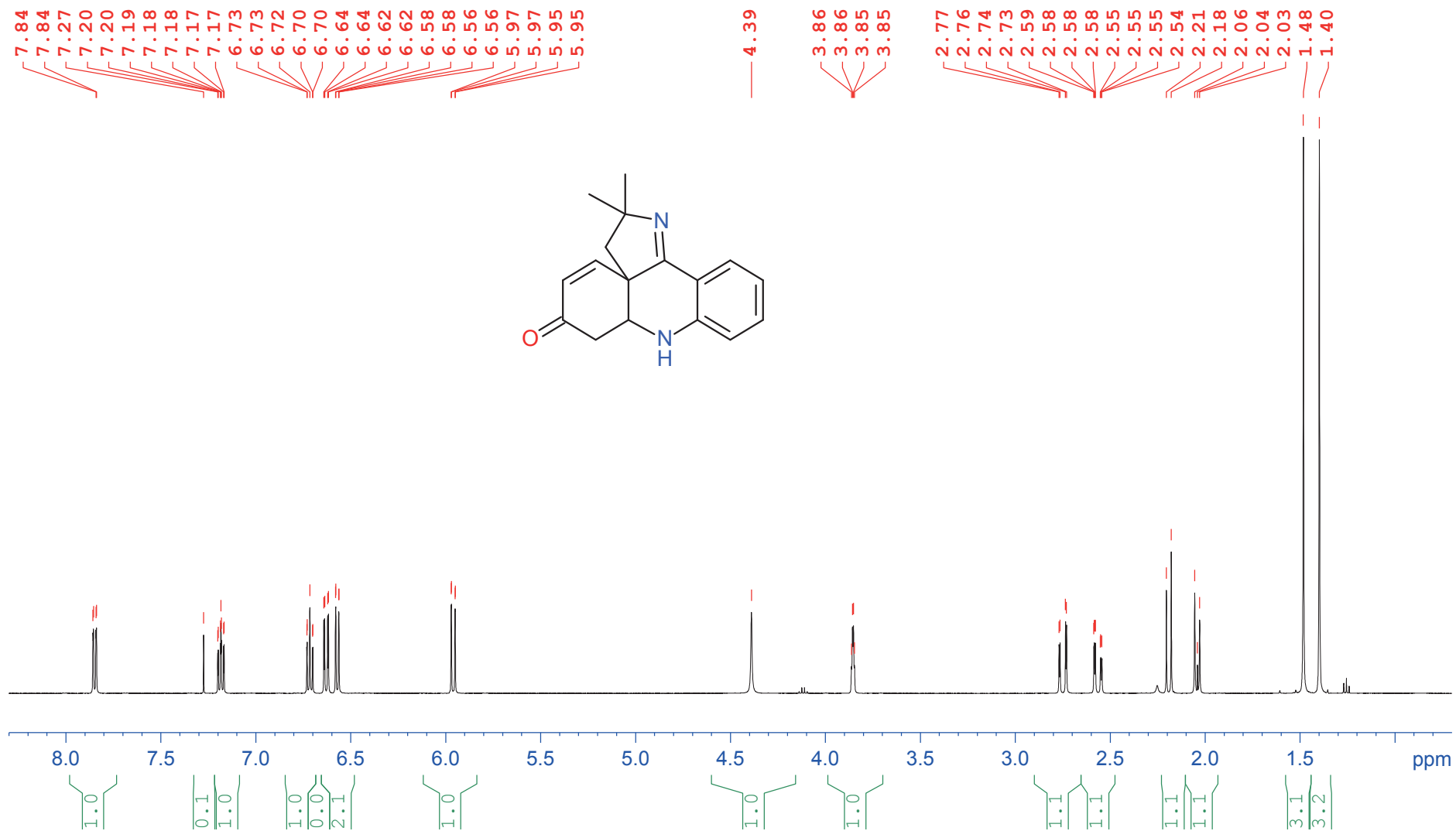
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound 6.



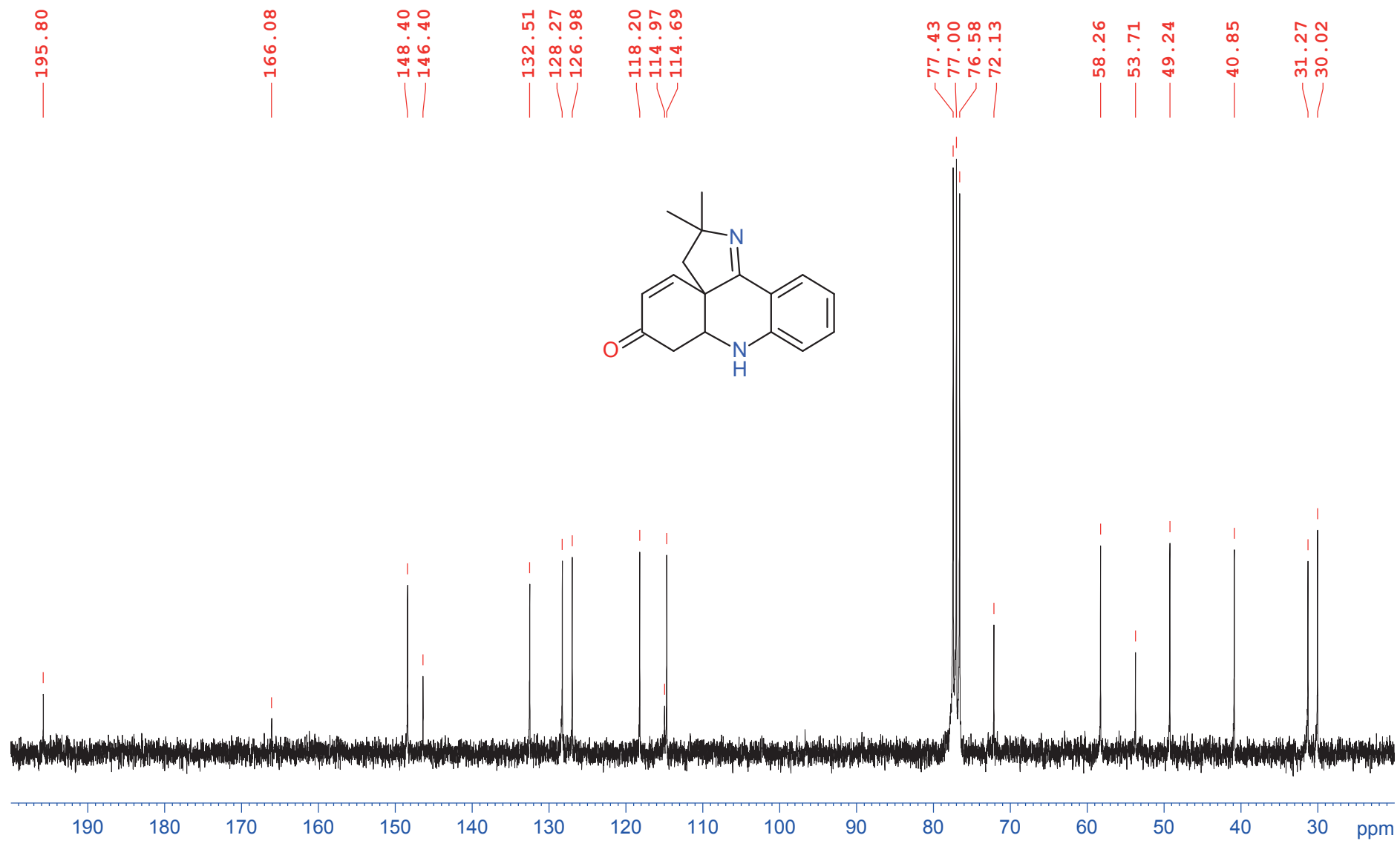
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **5a**.



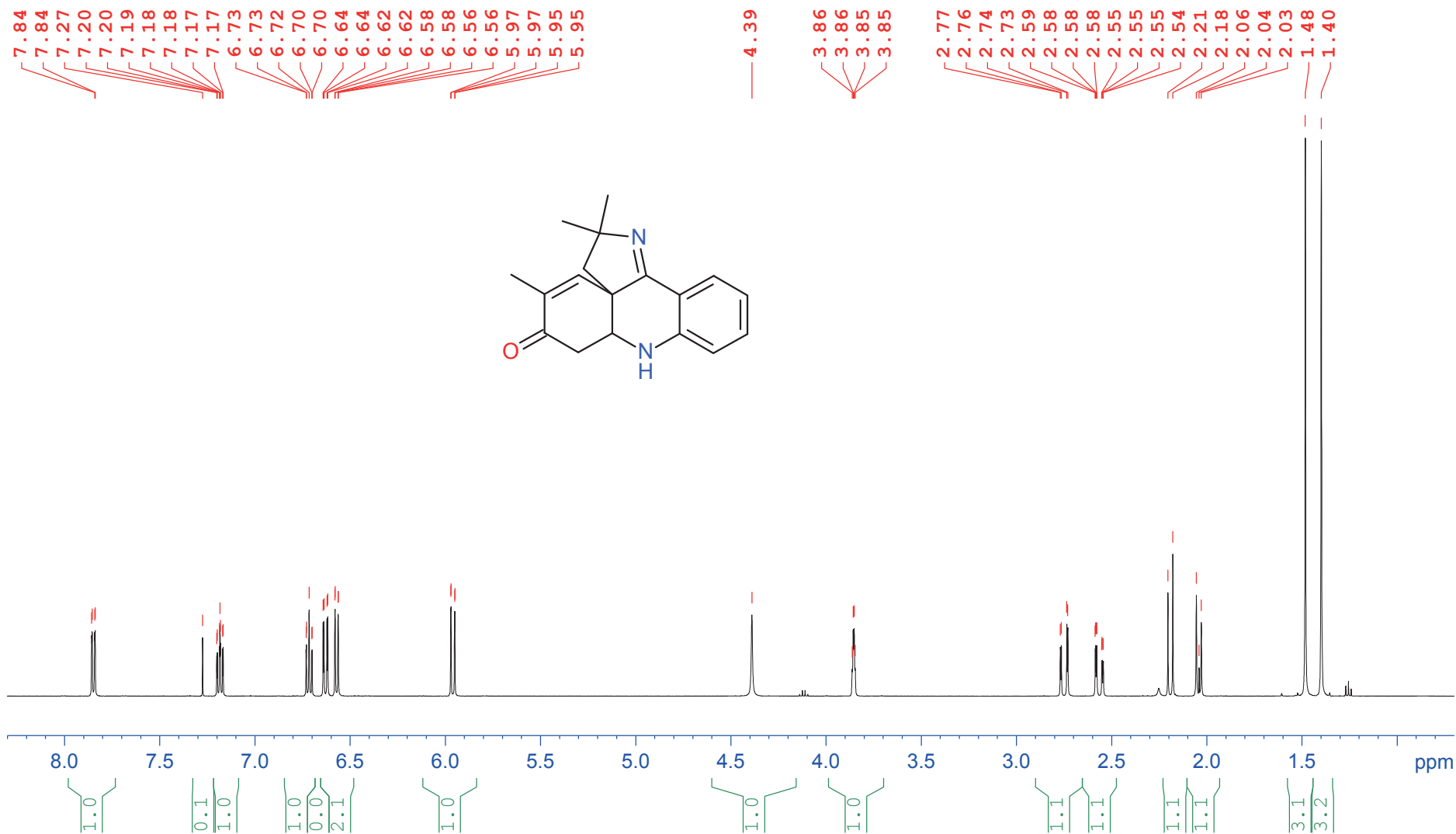
<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 5a.



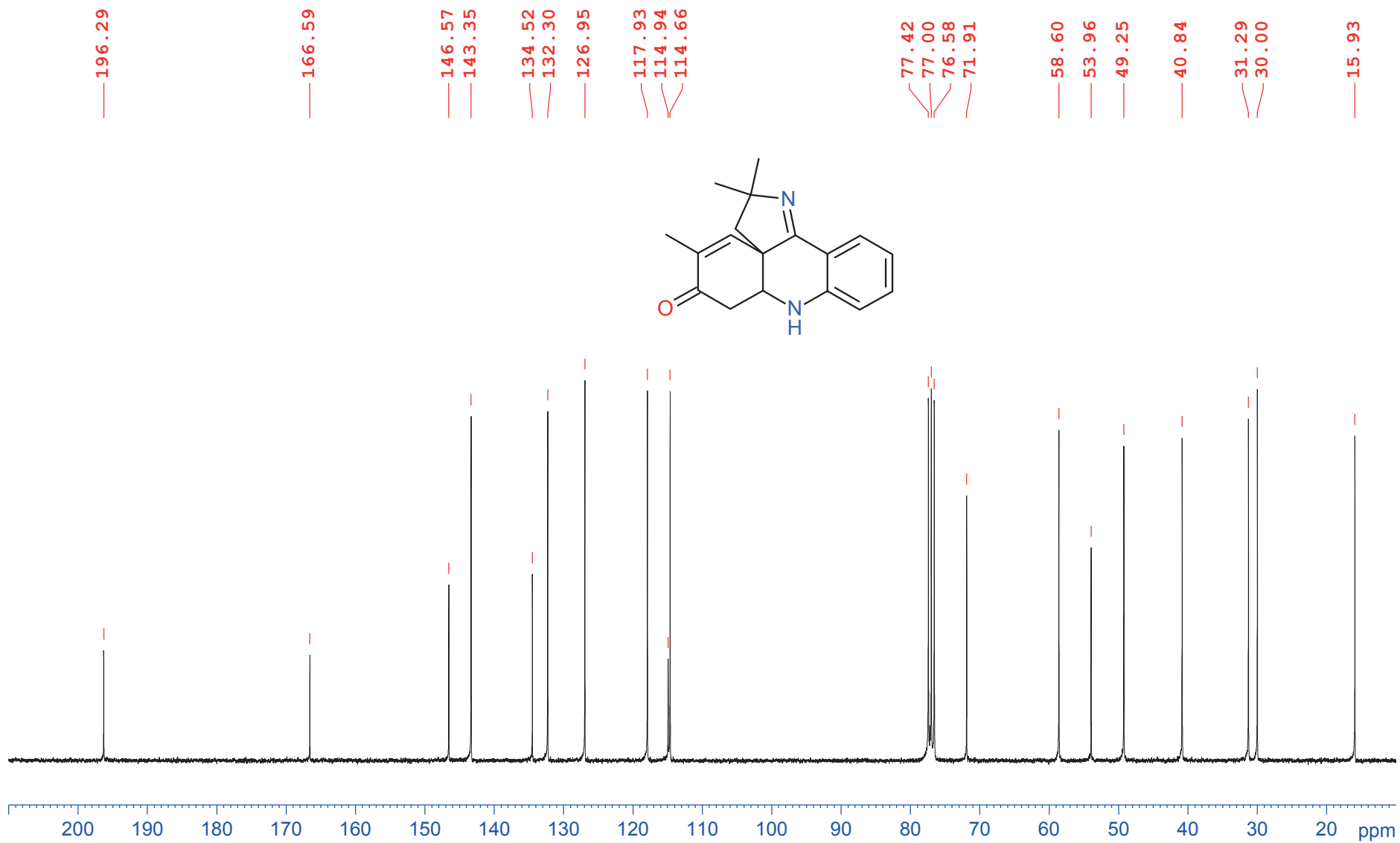
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **5b**.



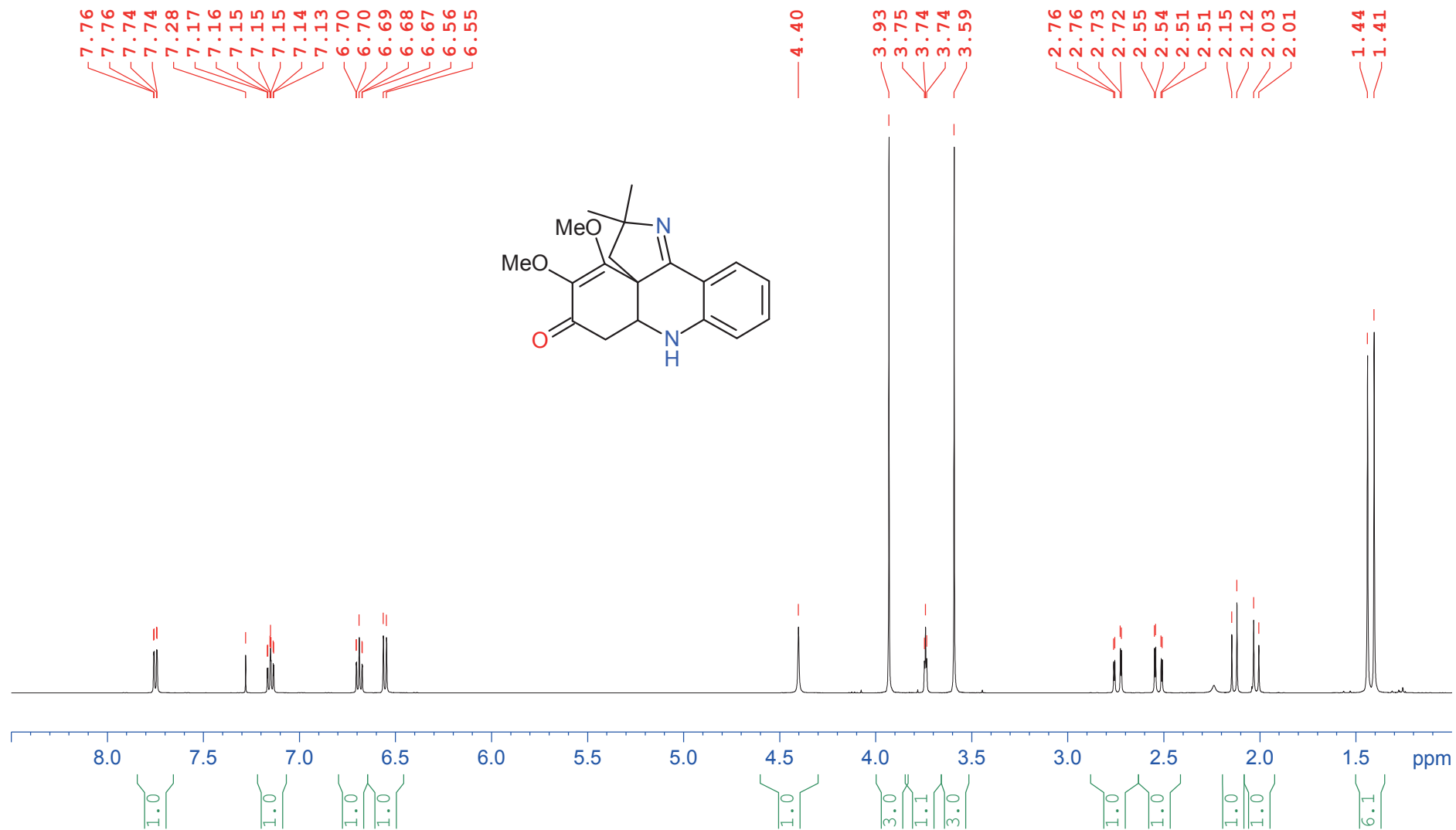
<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **5b**.



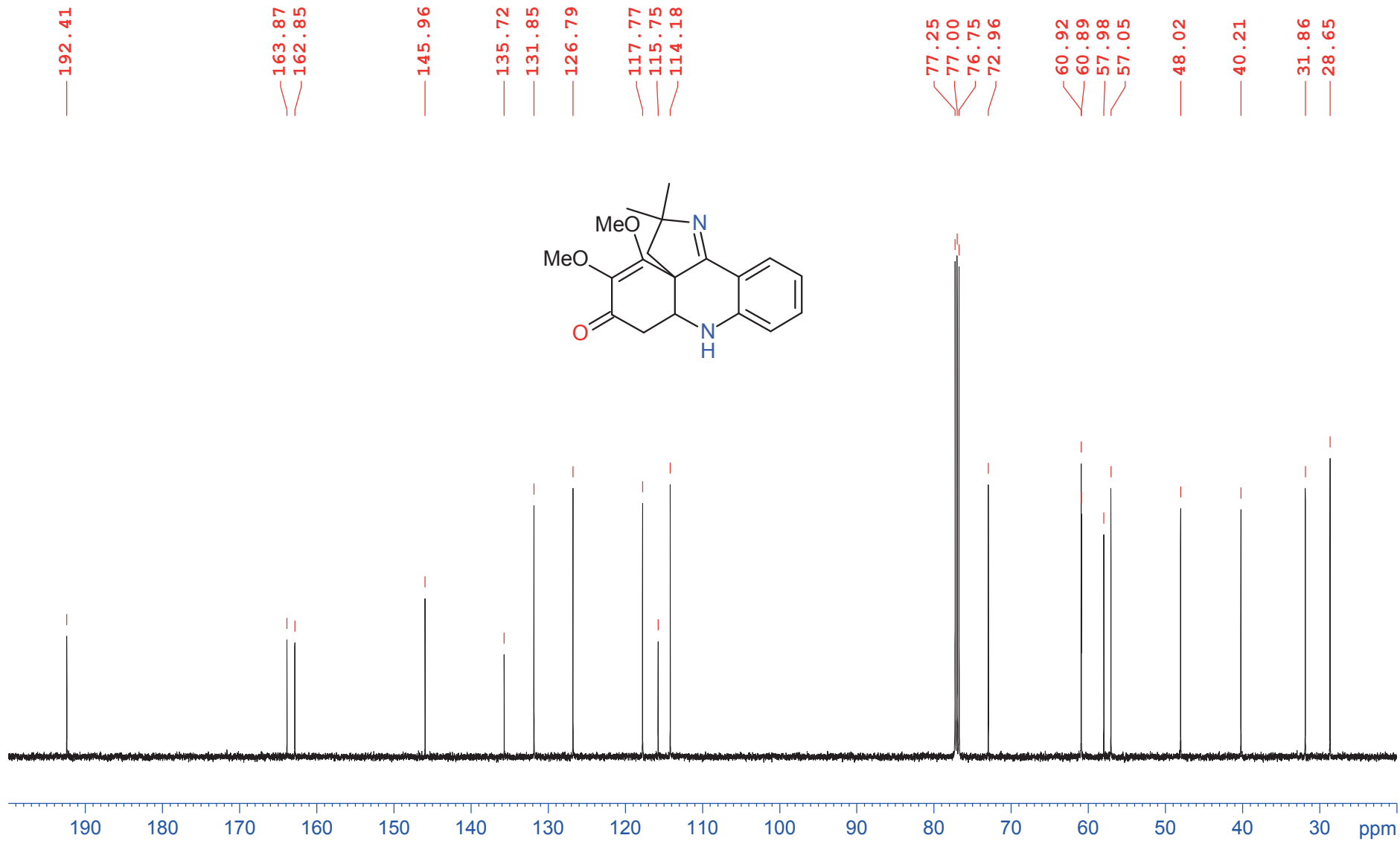
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **5c**.



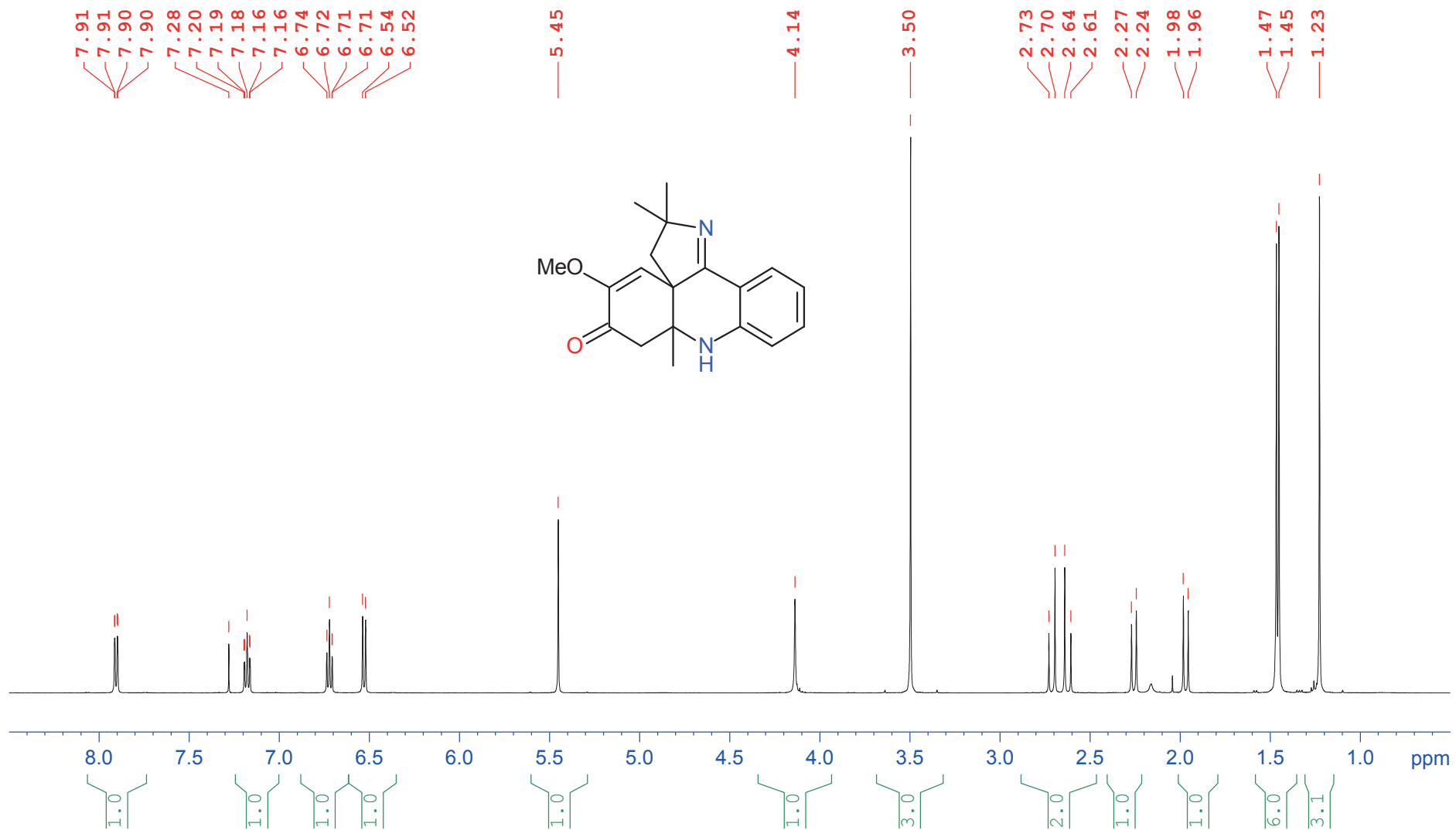
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound 5c.



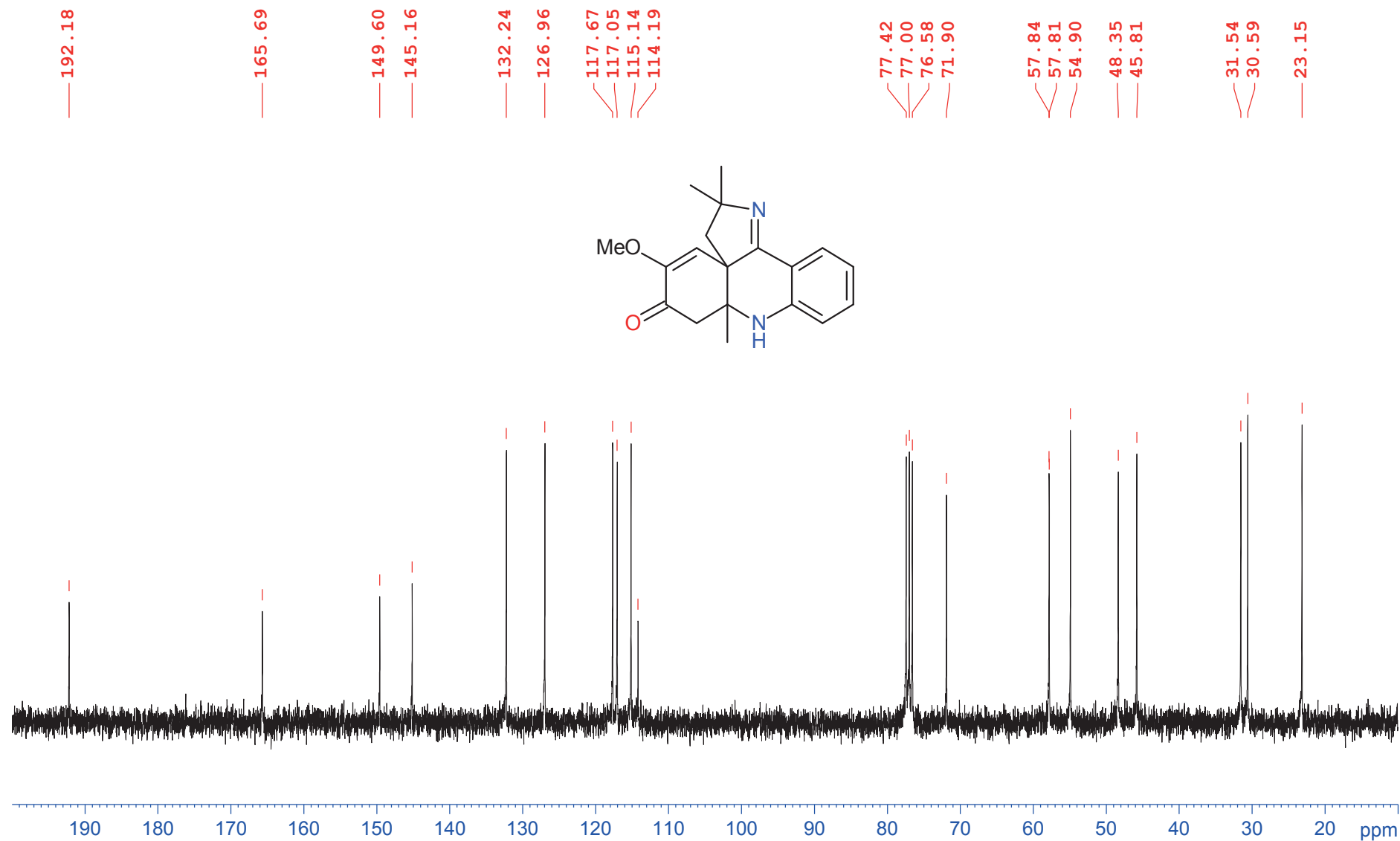
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **5d**.



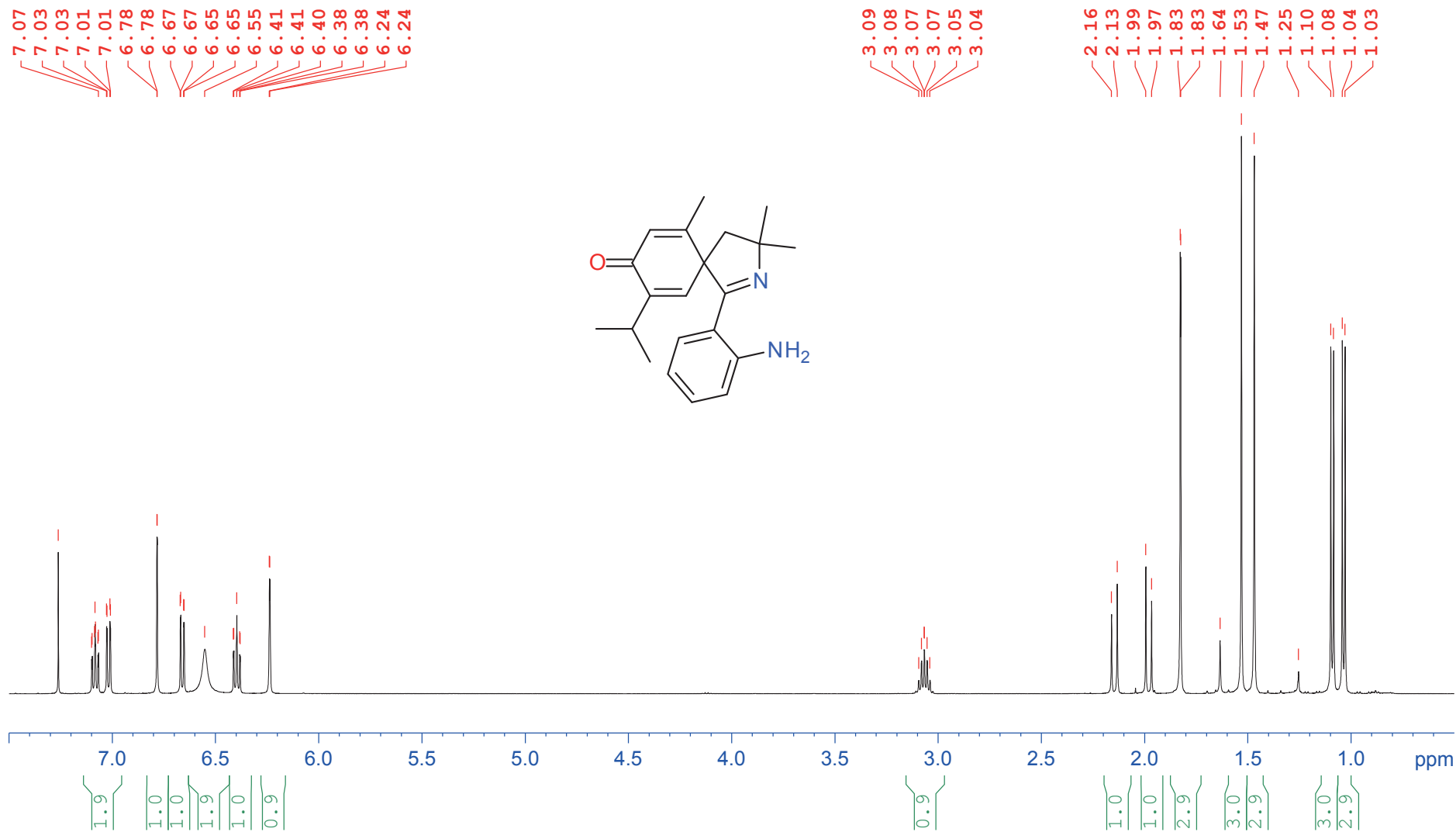
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **5d**.



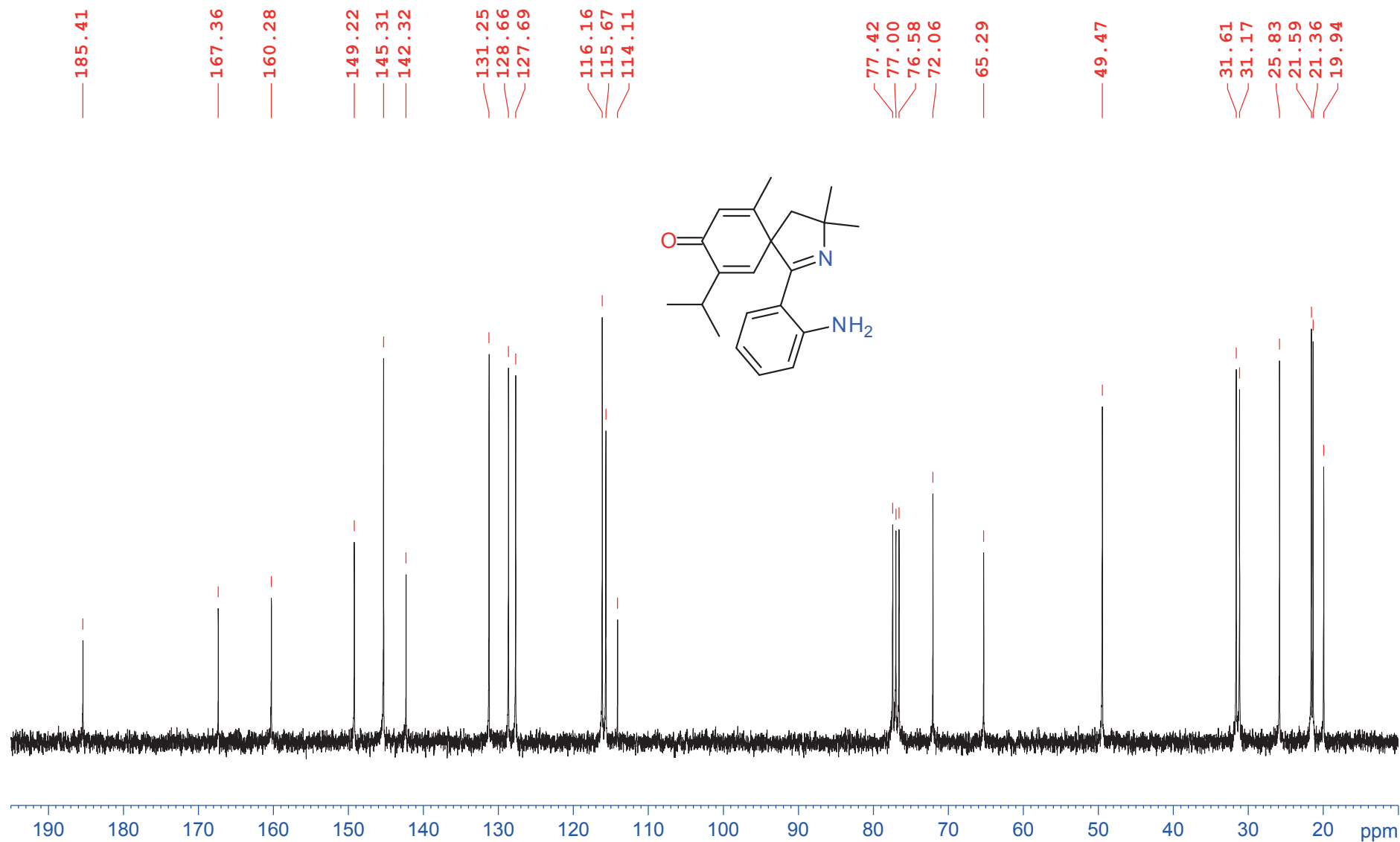
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **5e**.



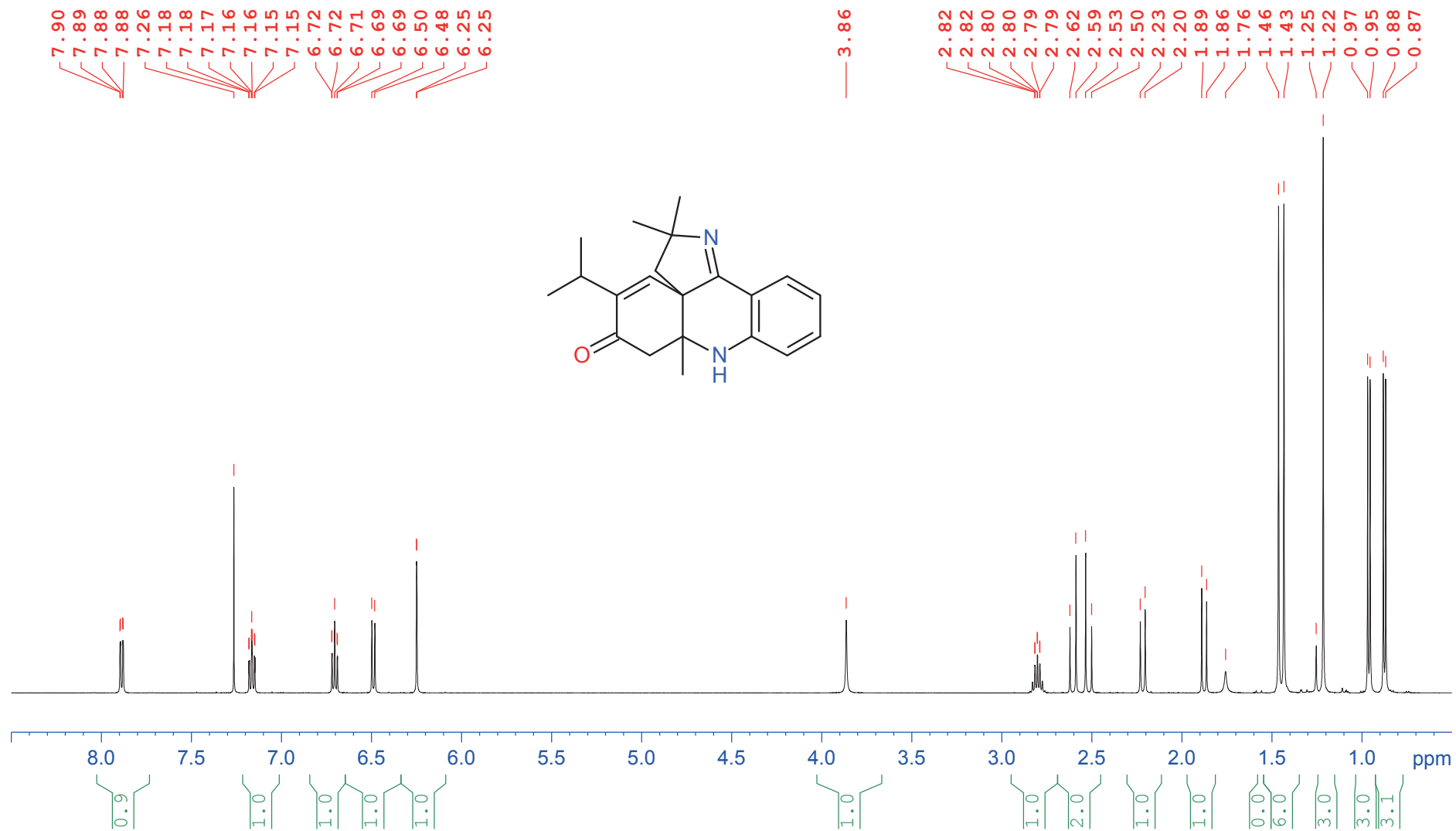
<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 5e.



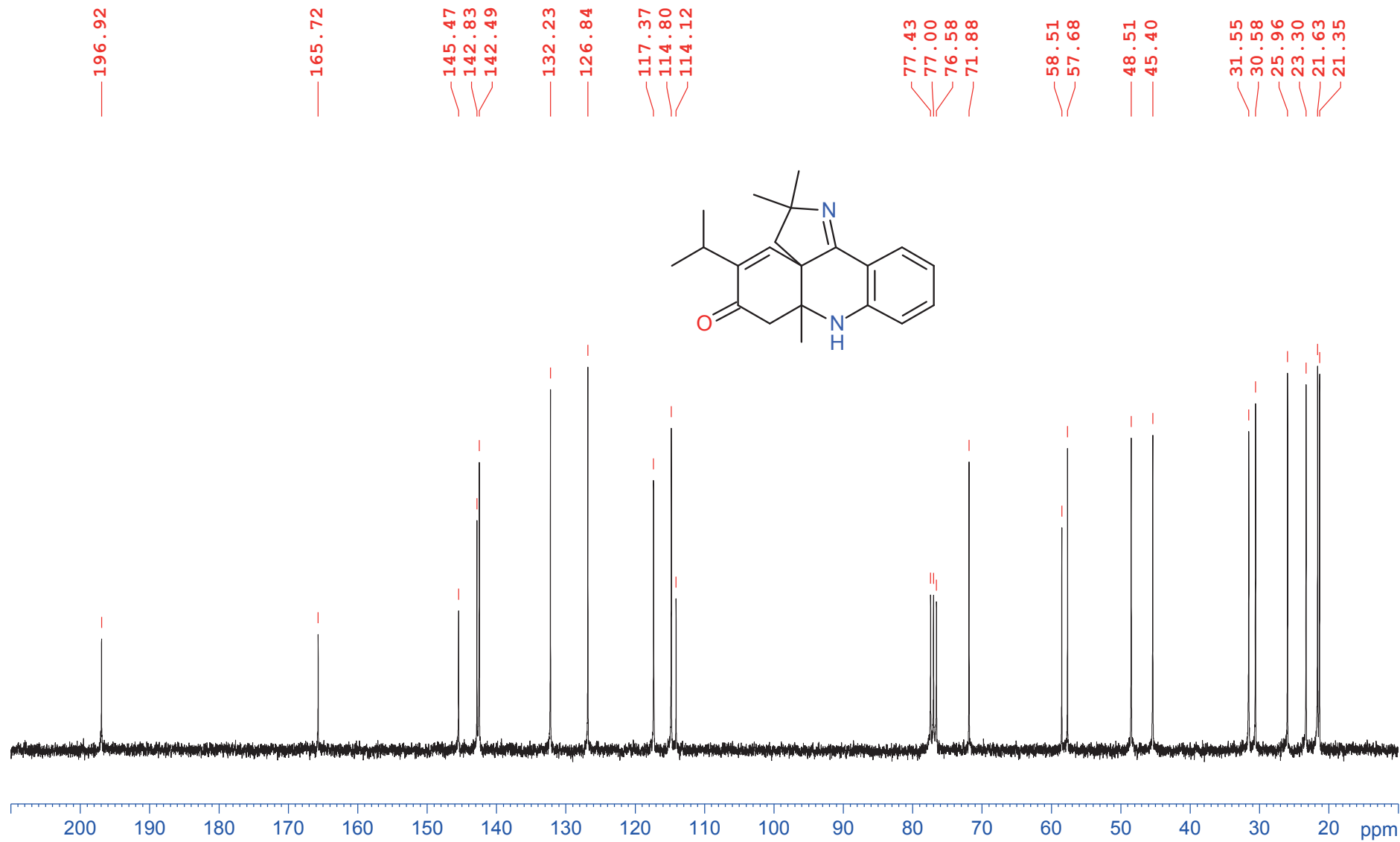
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **4f**.



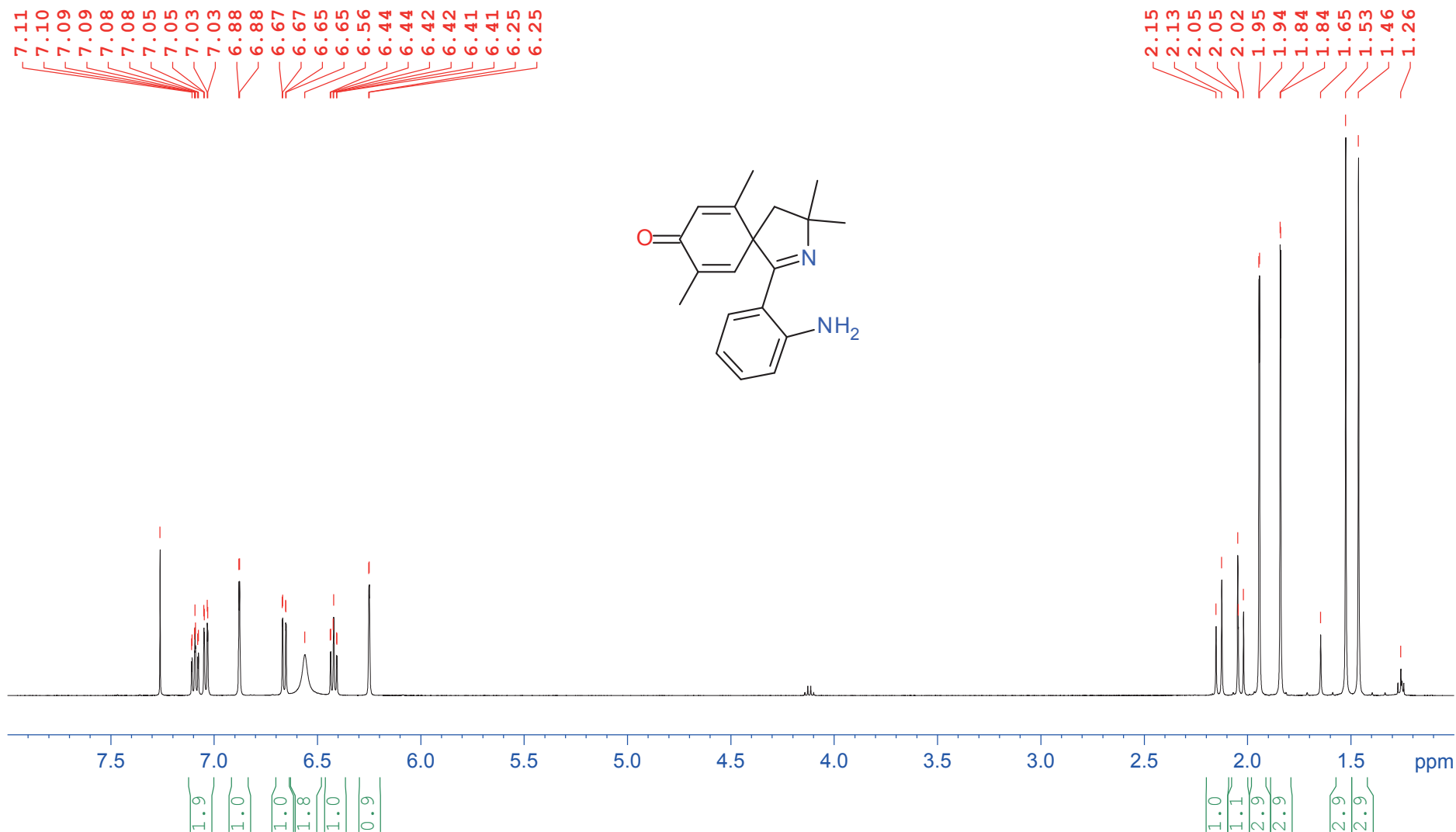
<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **4f**.



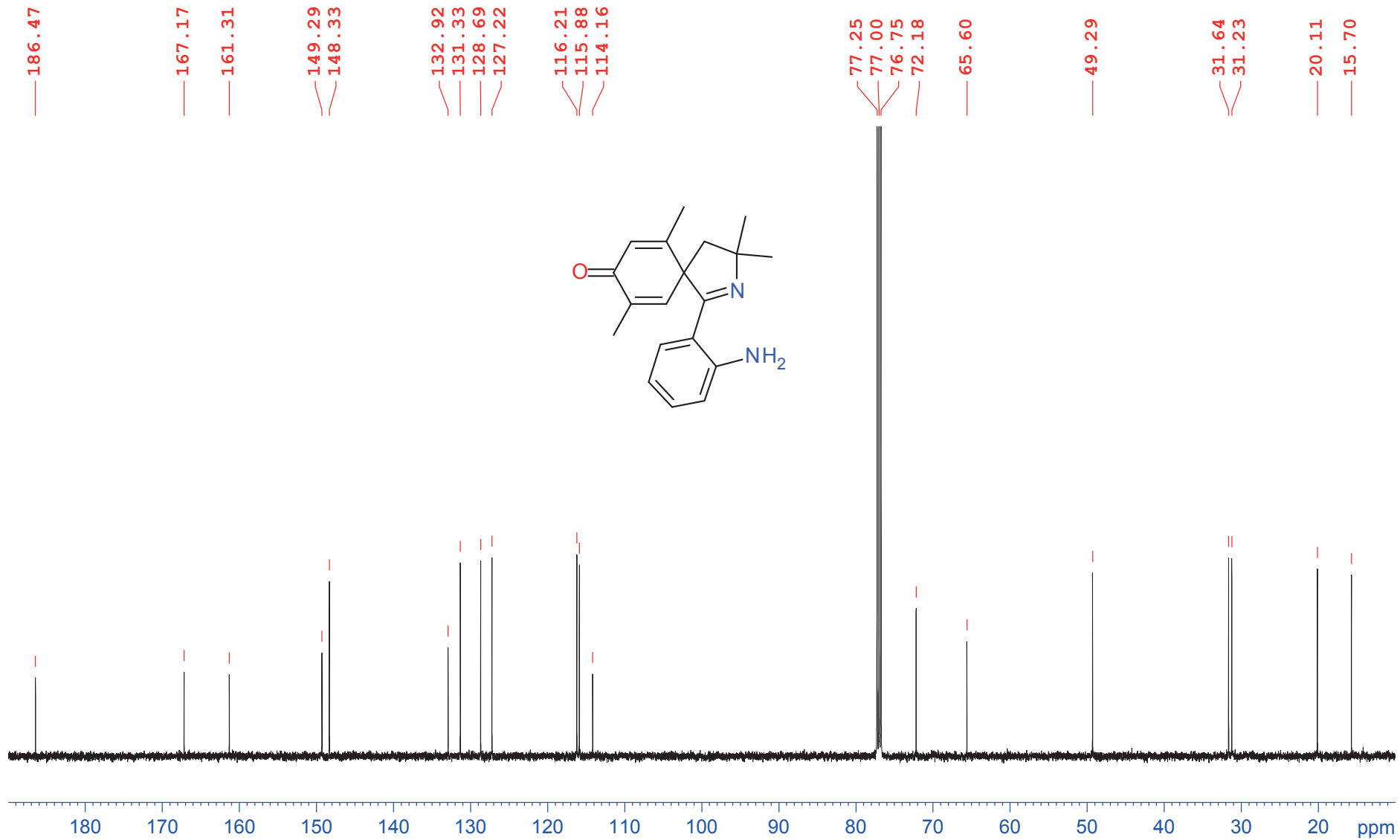
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **5f**.



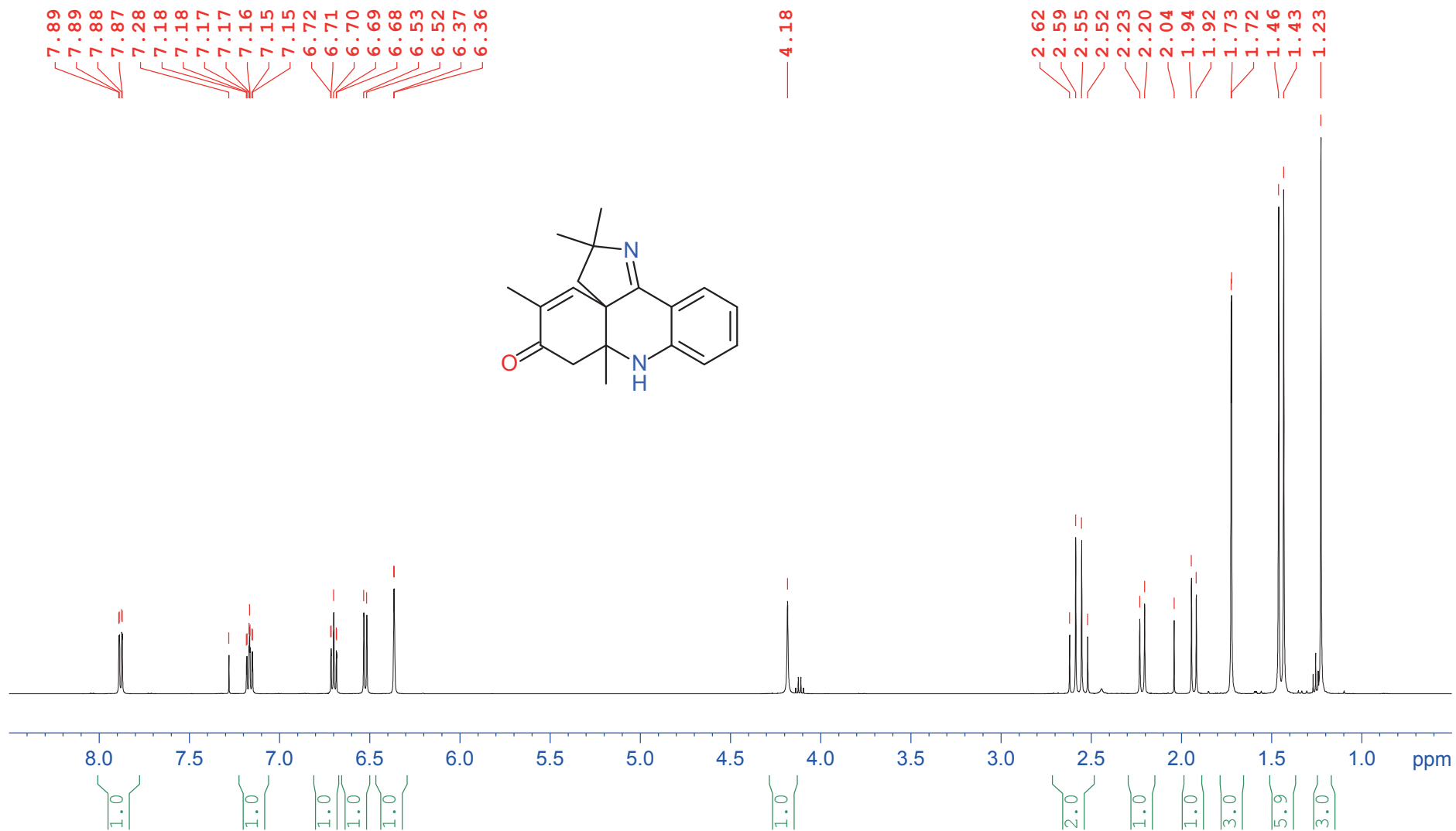
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **5f**.



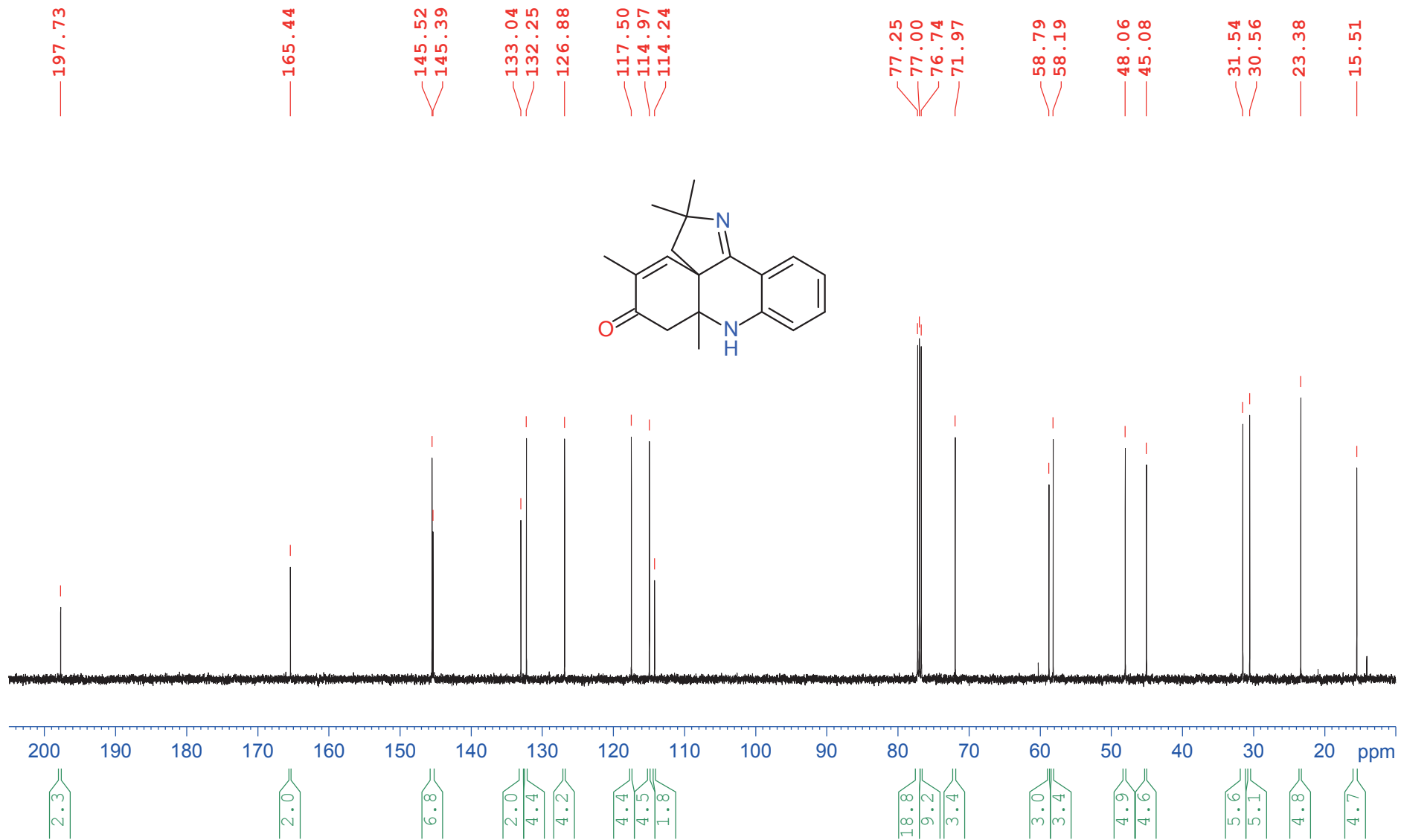
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **4g**.



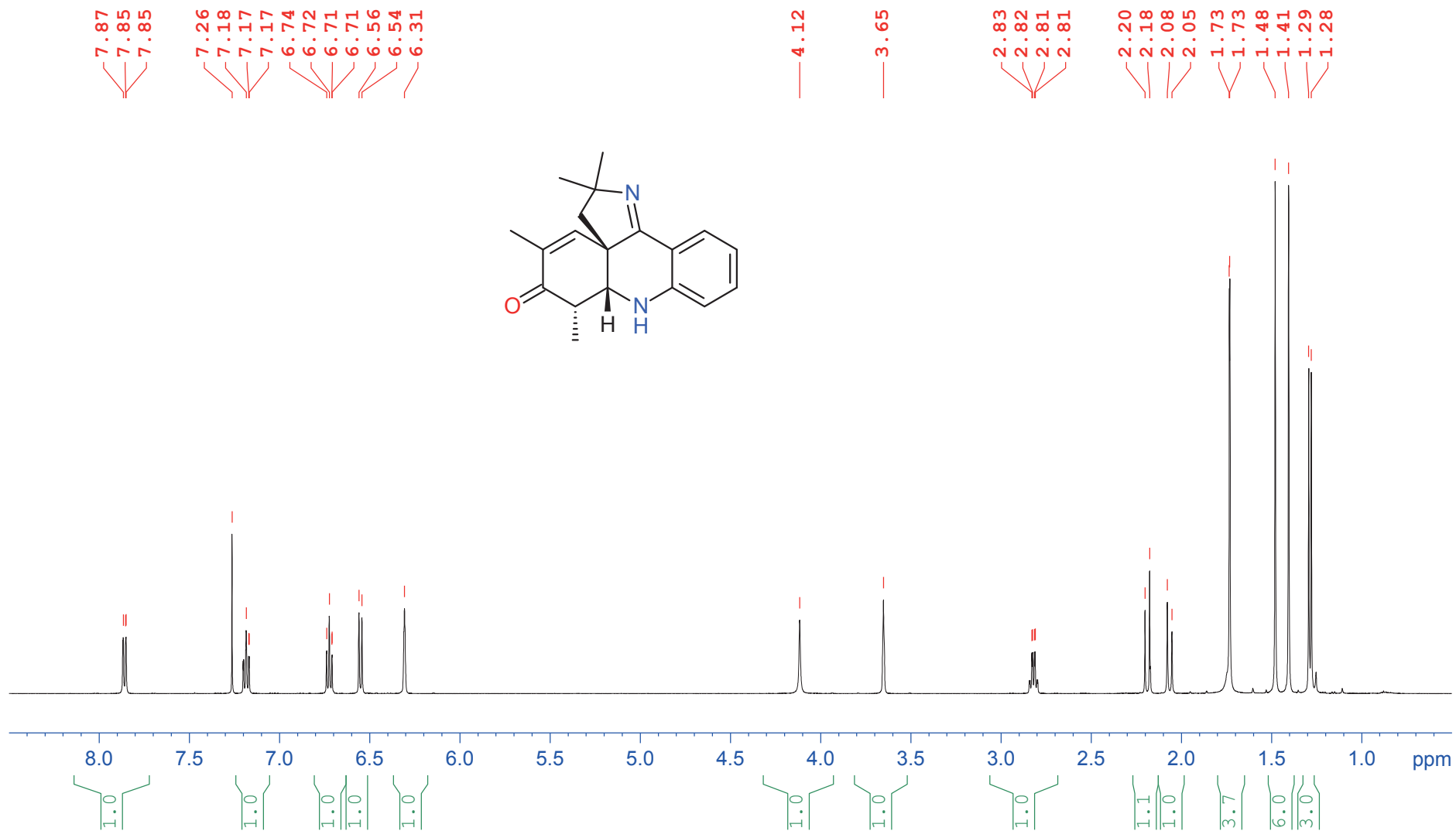
<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 4g.



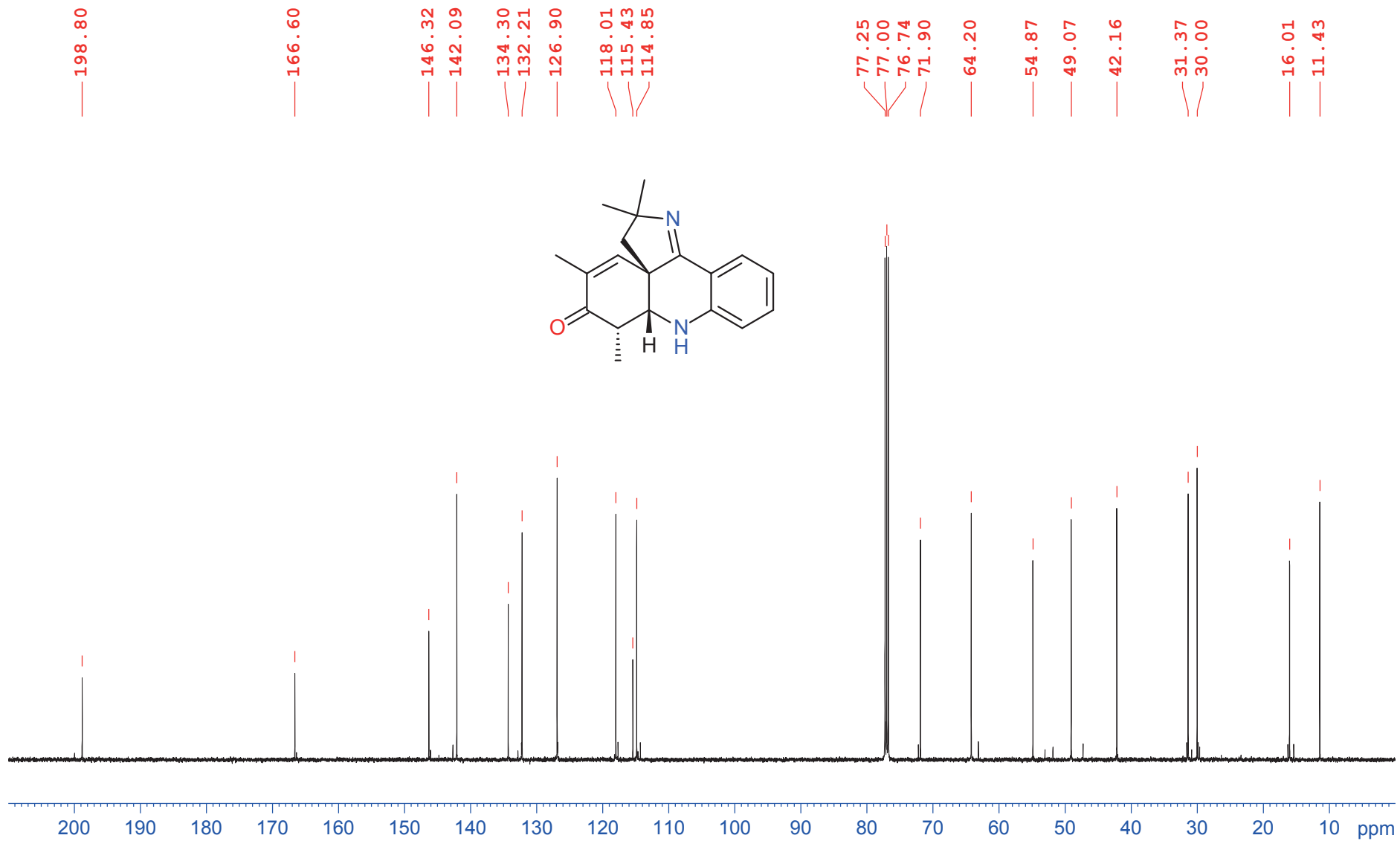
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **5g**.



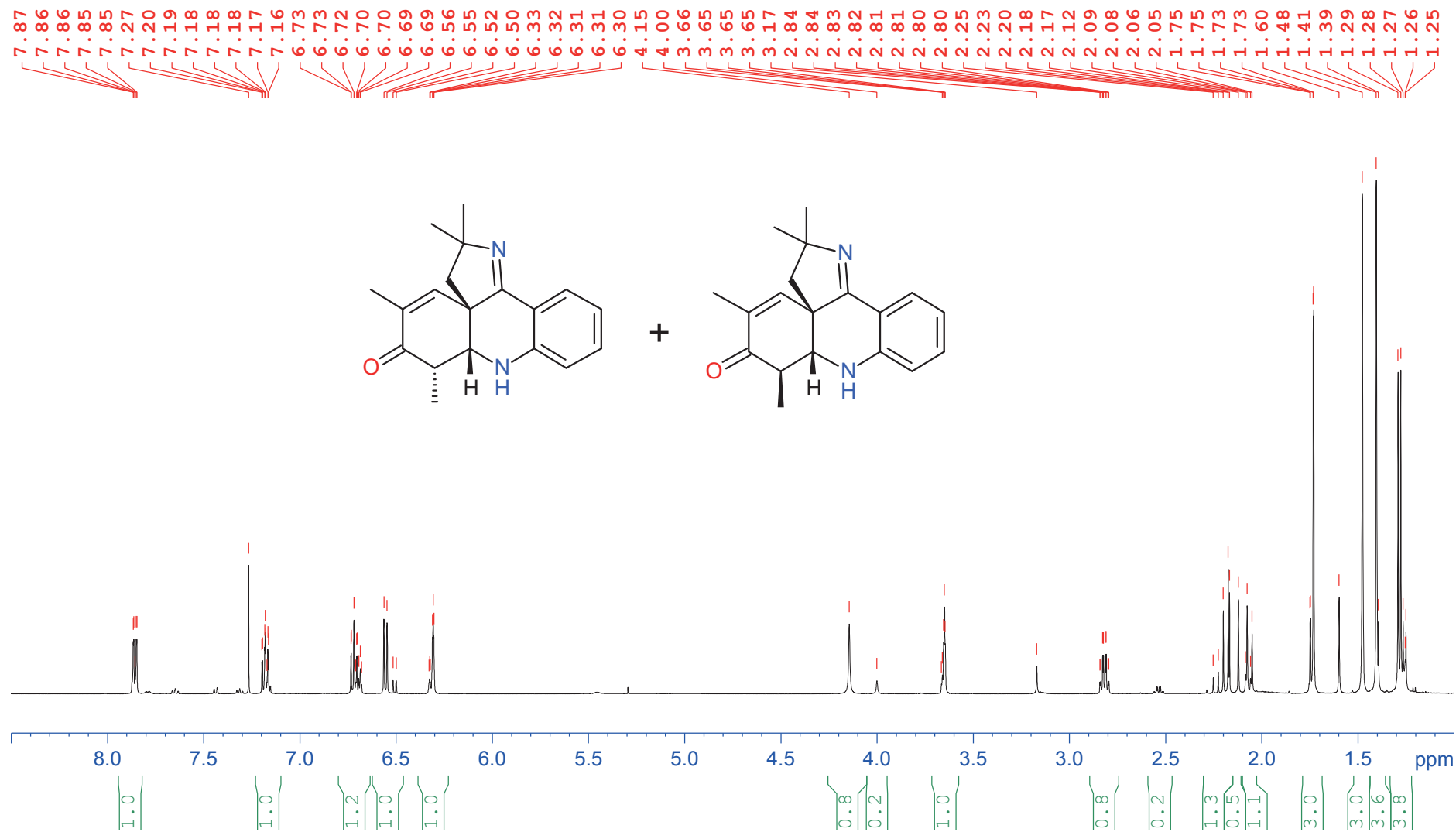
<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 5g.



$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **5h**.



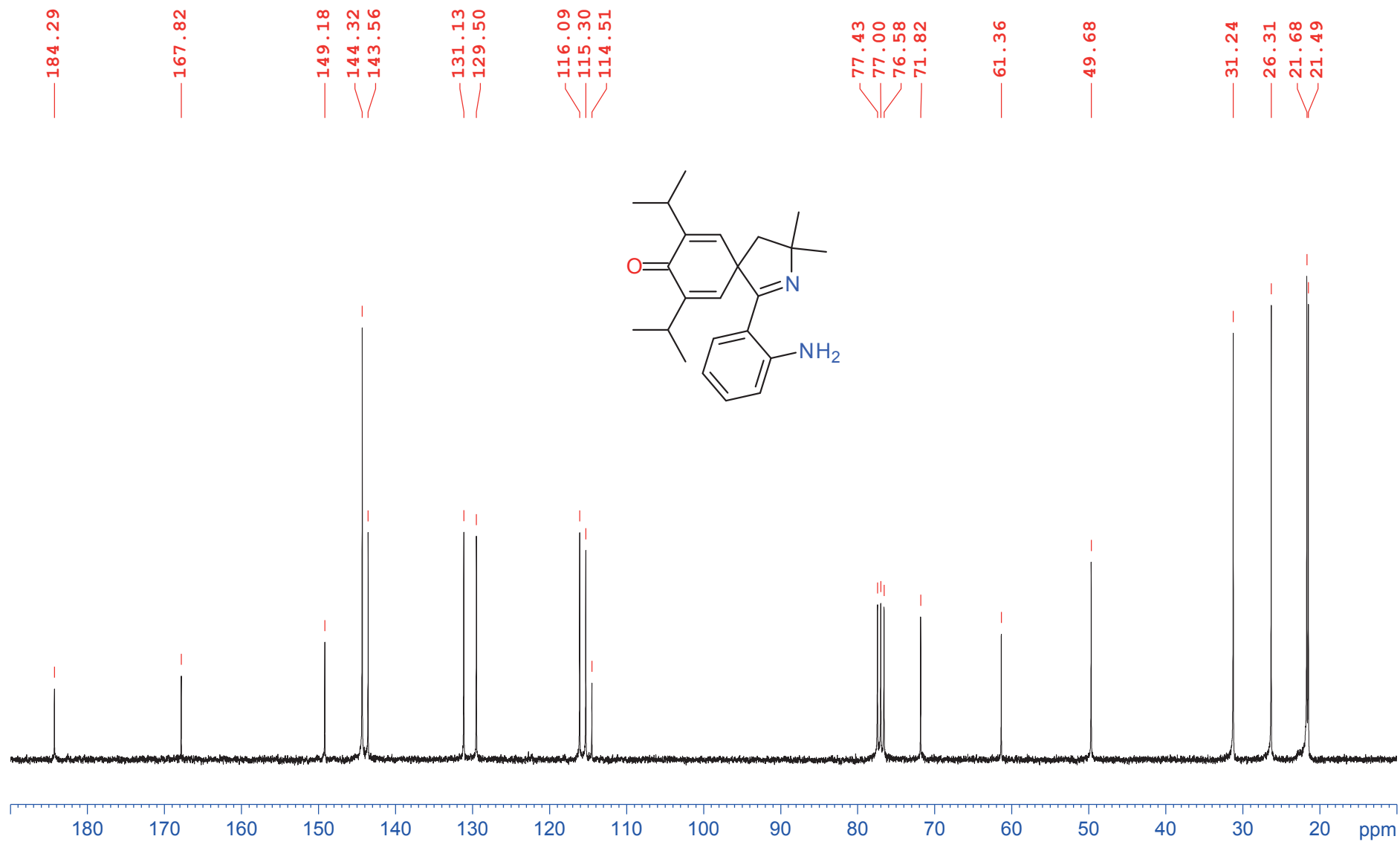
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **5h**.



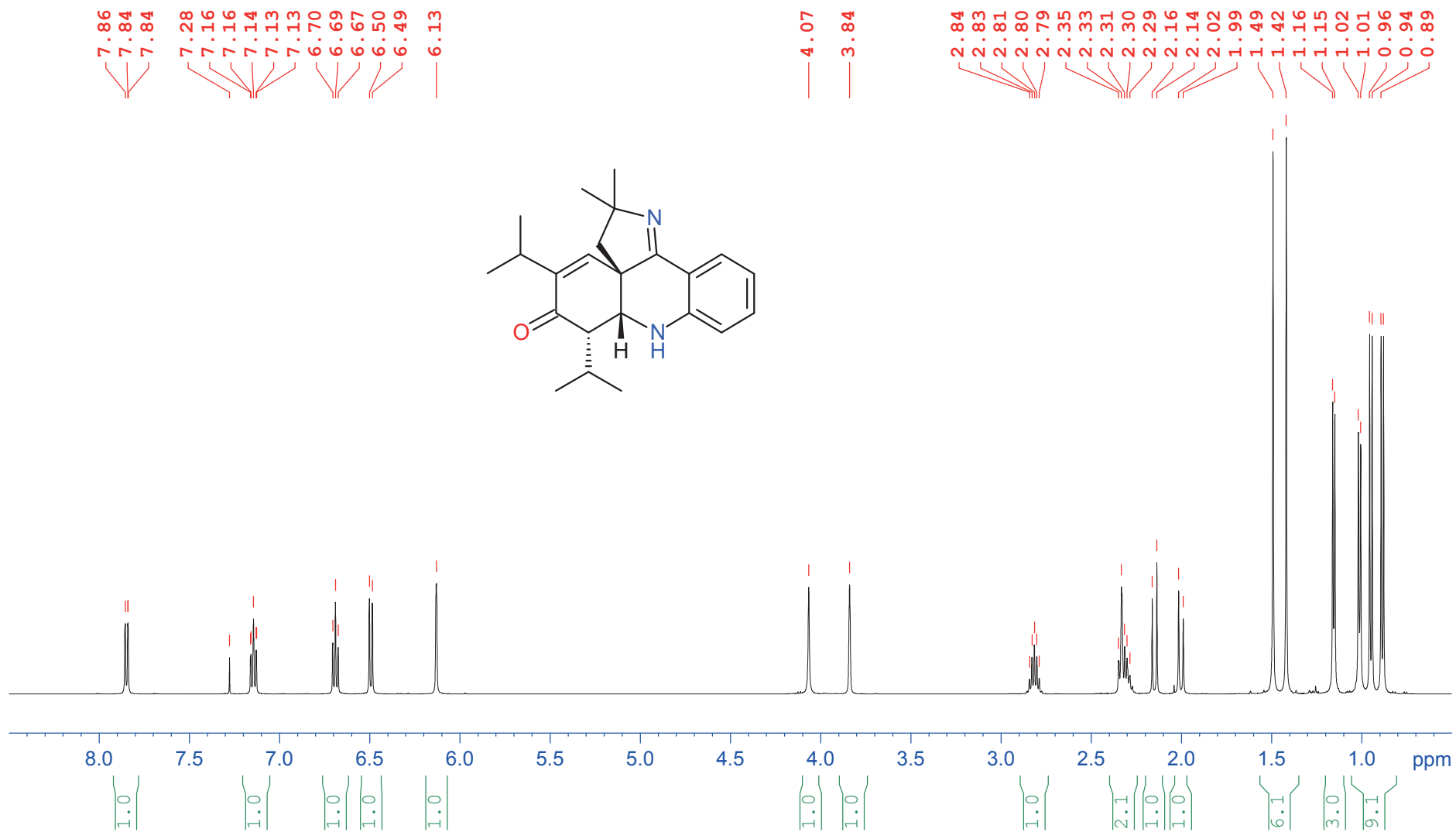
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of mixture of diastereomers **5h** and **5h'**.



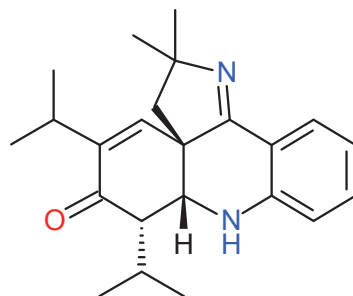
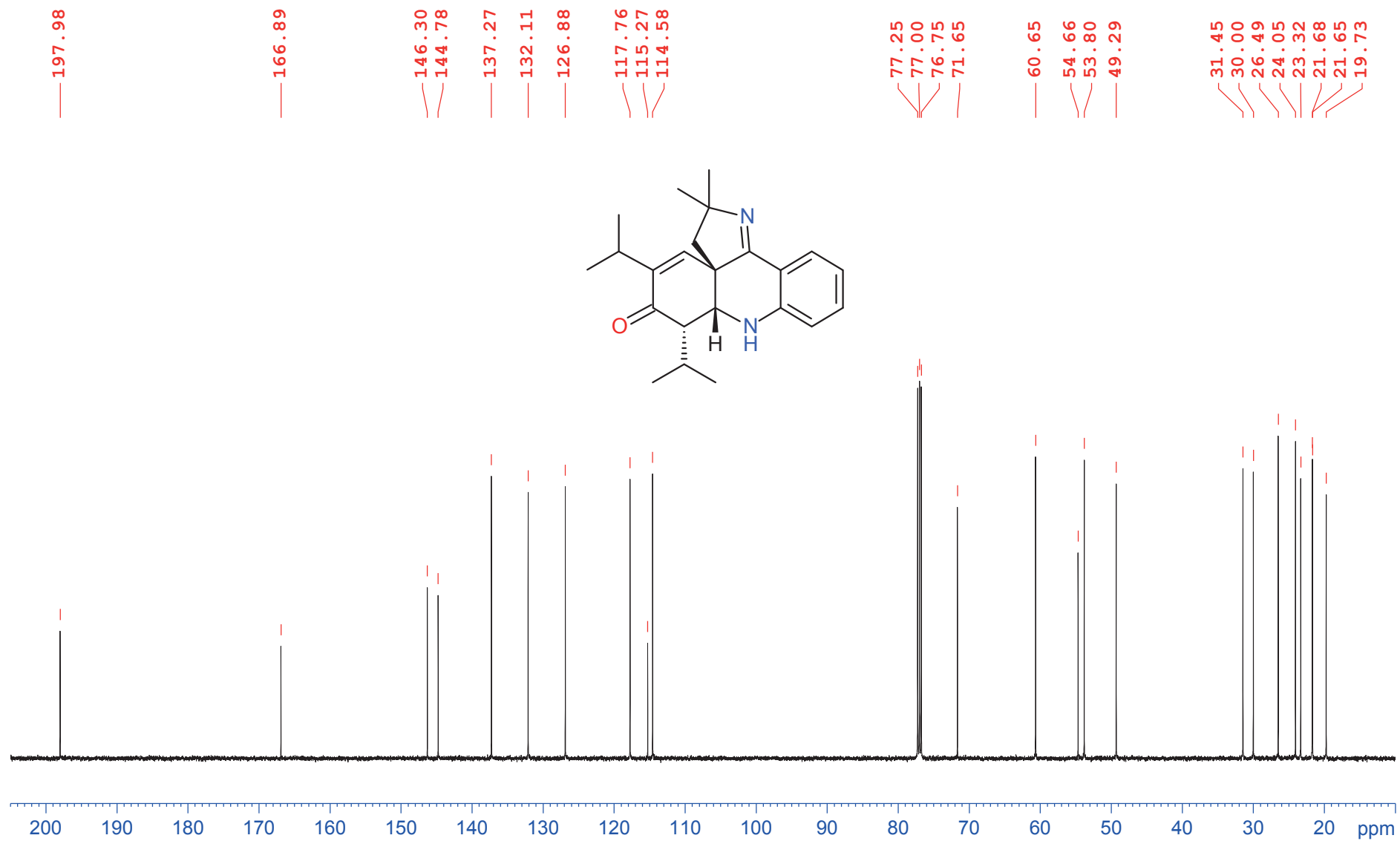
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **4i**.



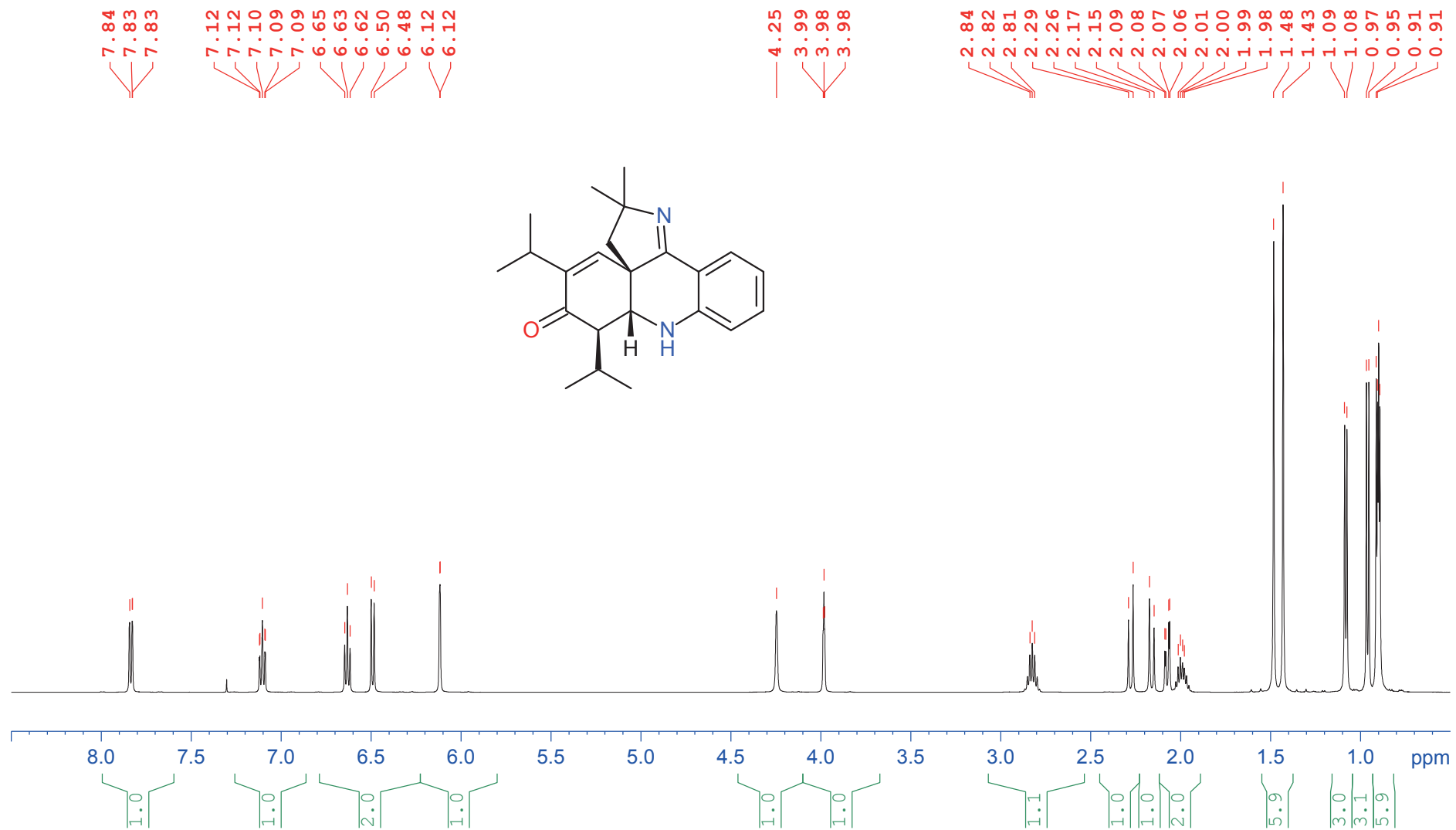
<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **4i**.



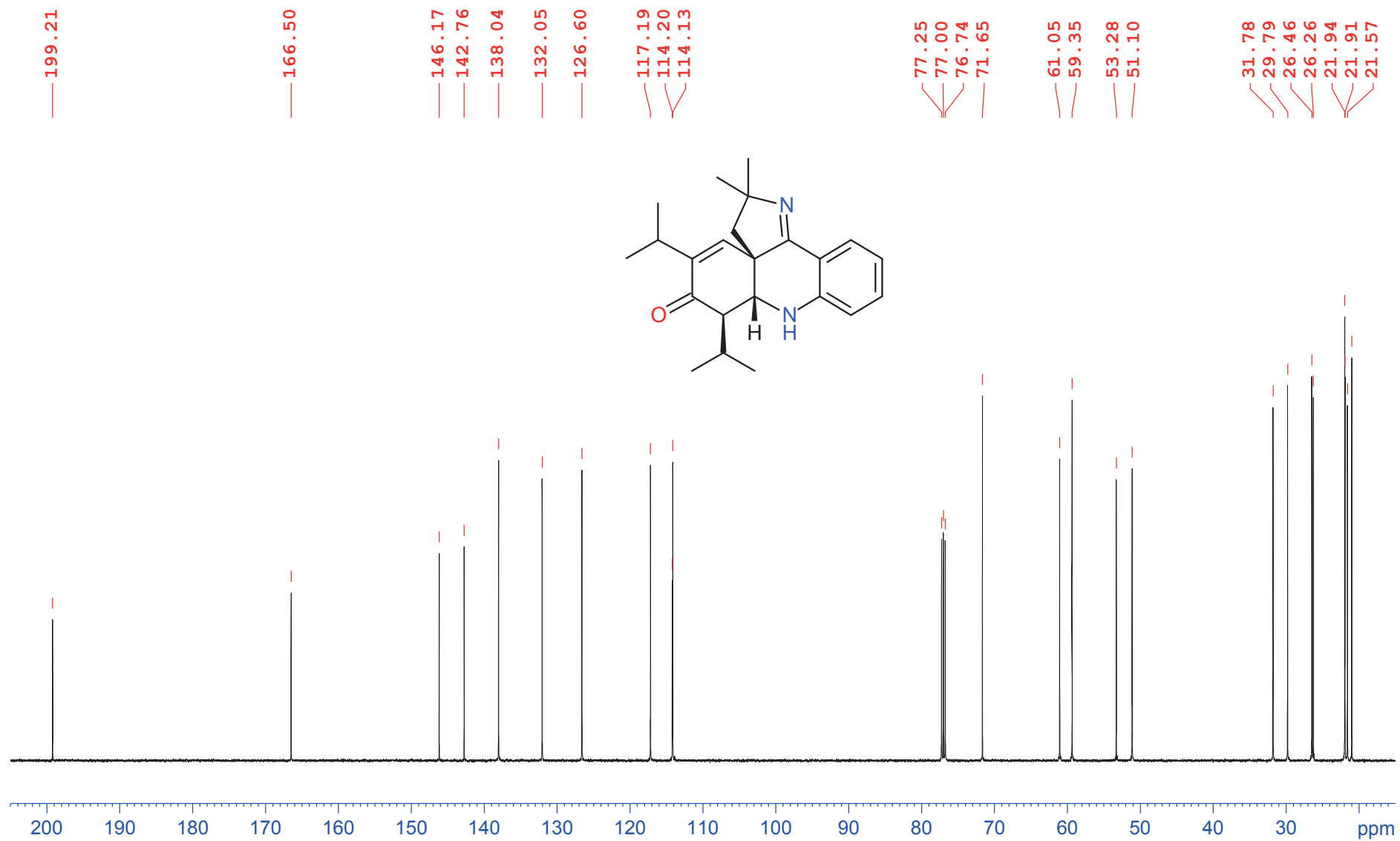
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **5i**.



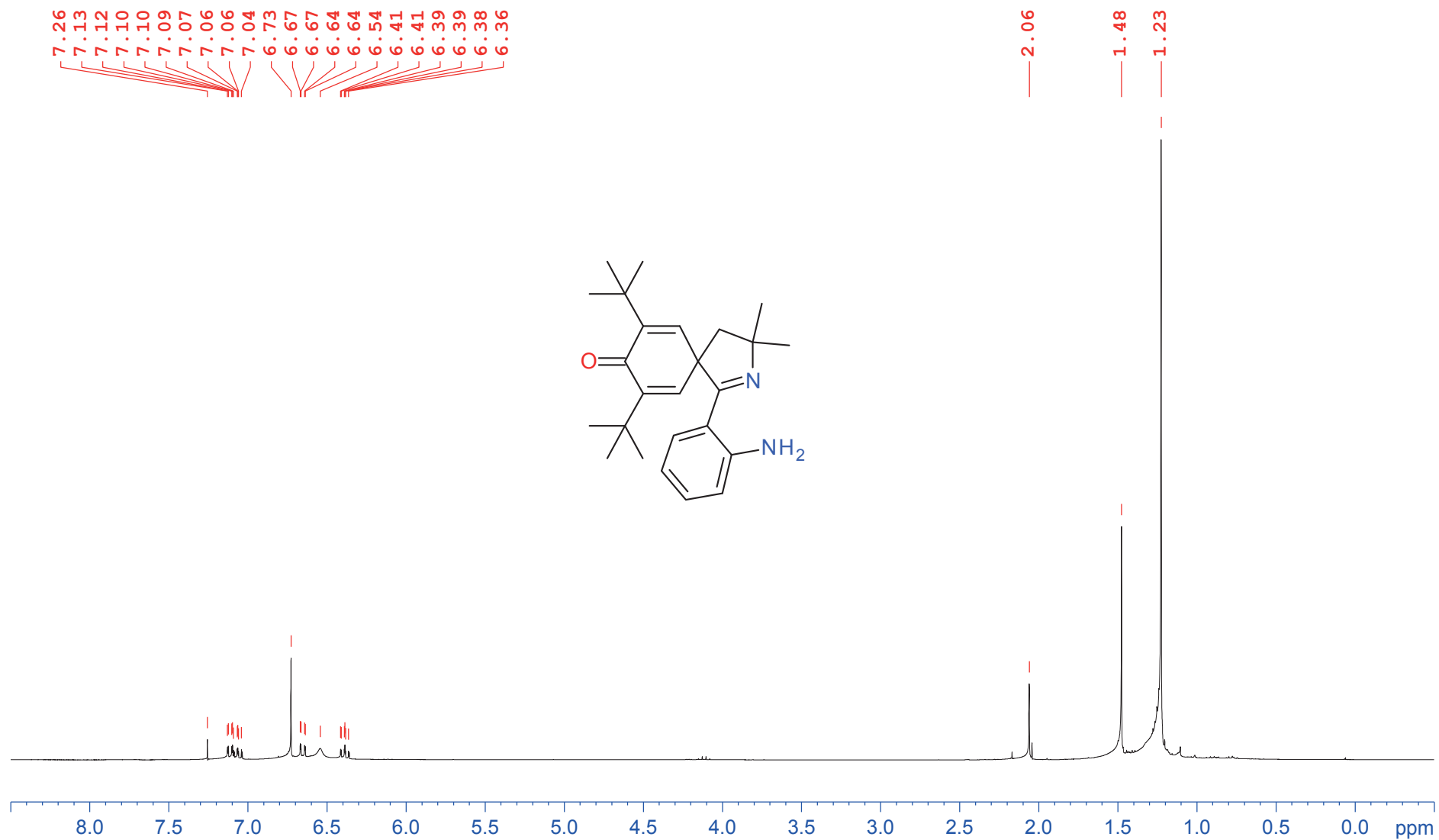
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **5i**.



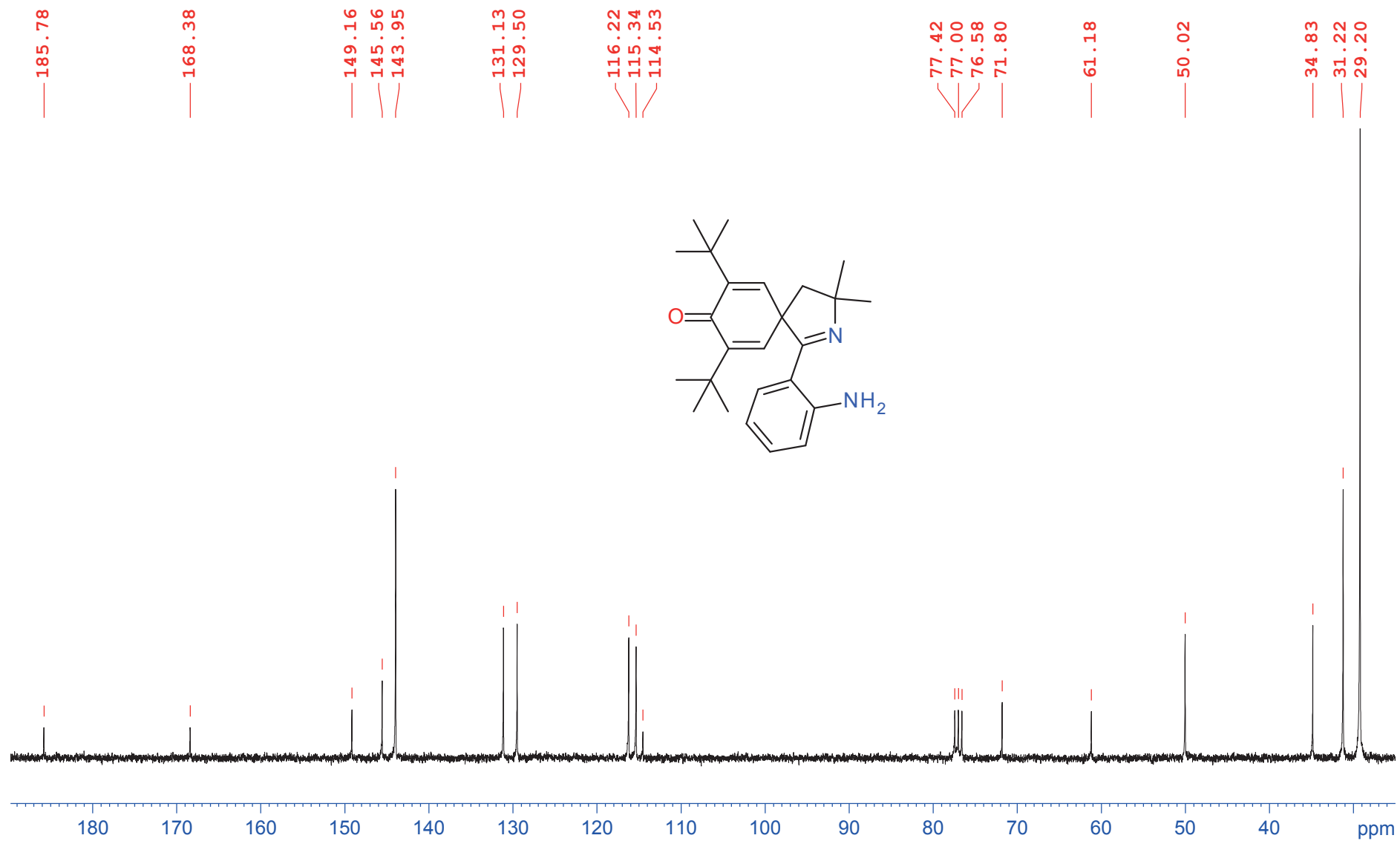
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **5i'**.



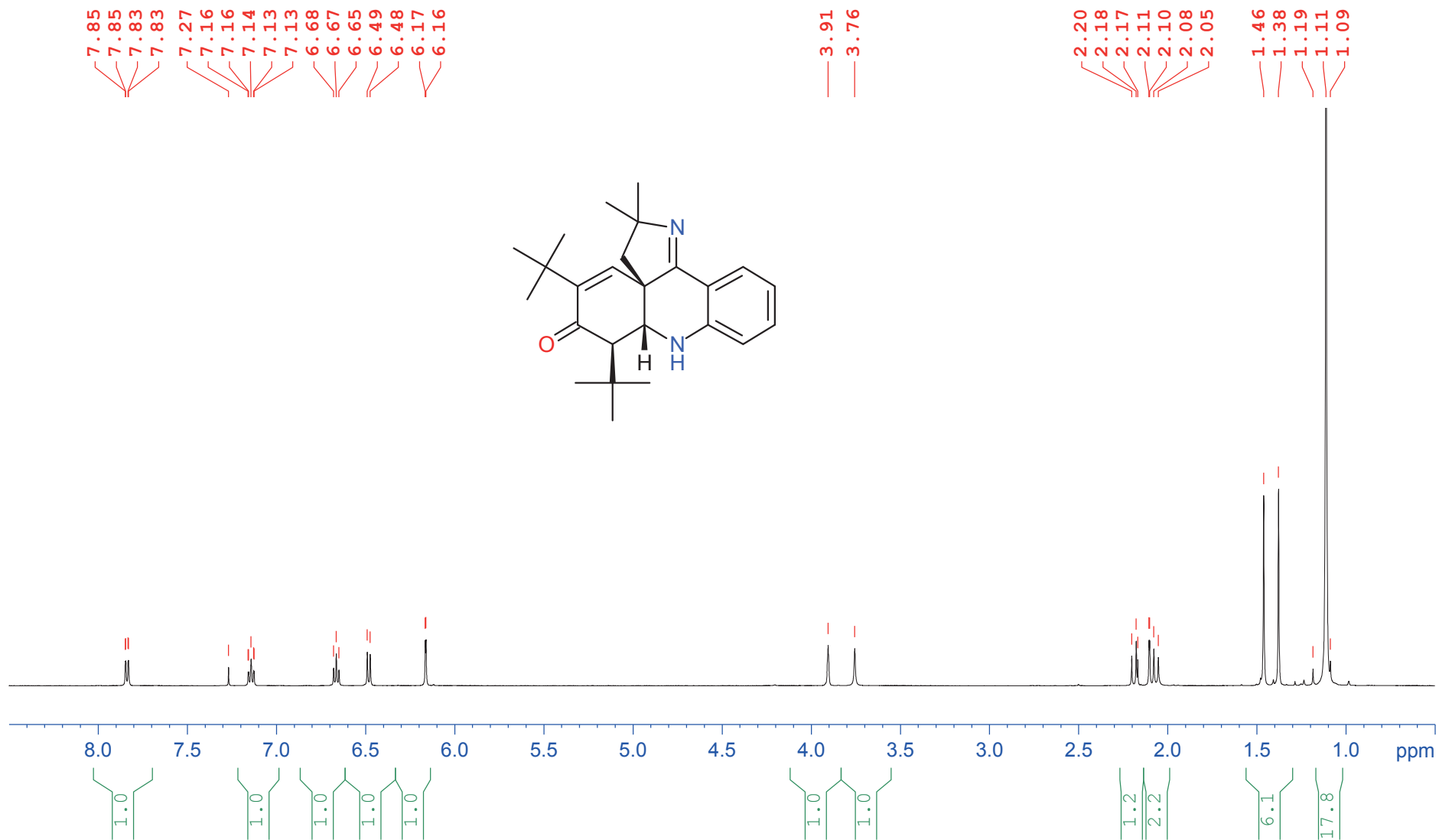
<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **5i'**.



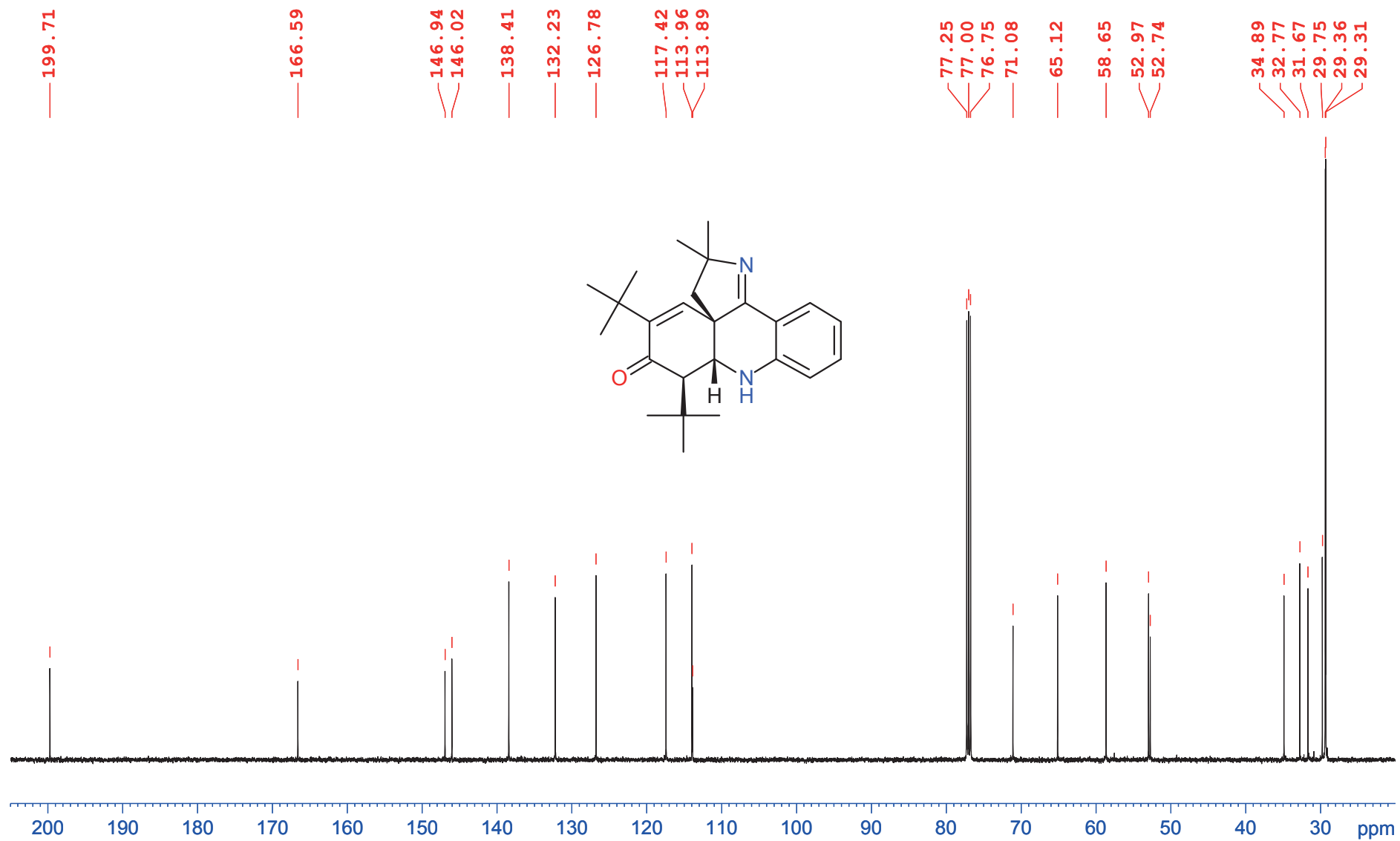
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound **4j**.



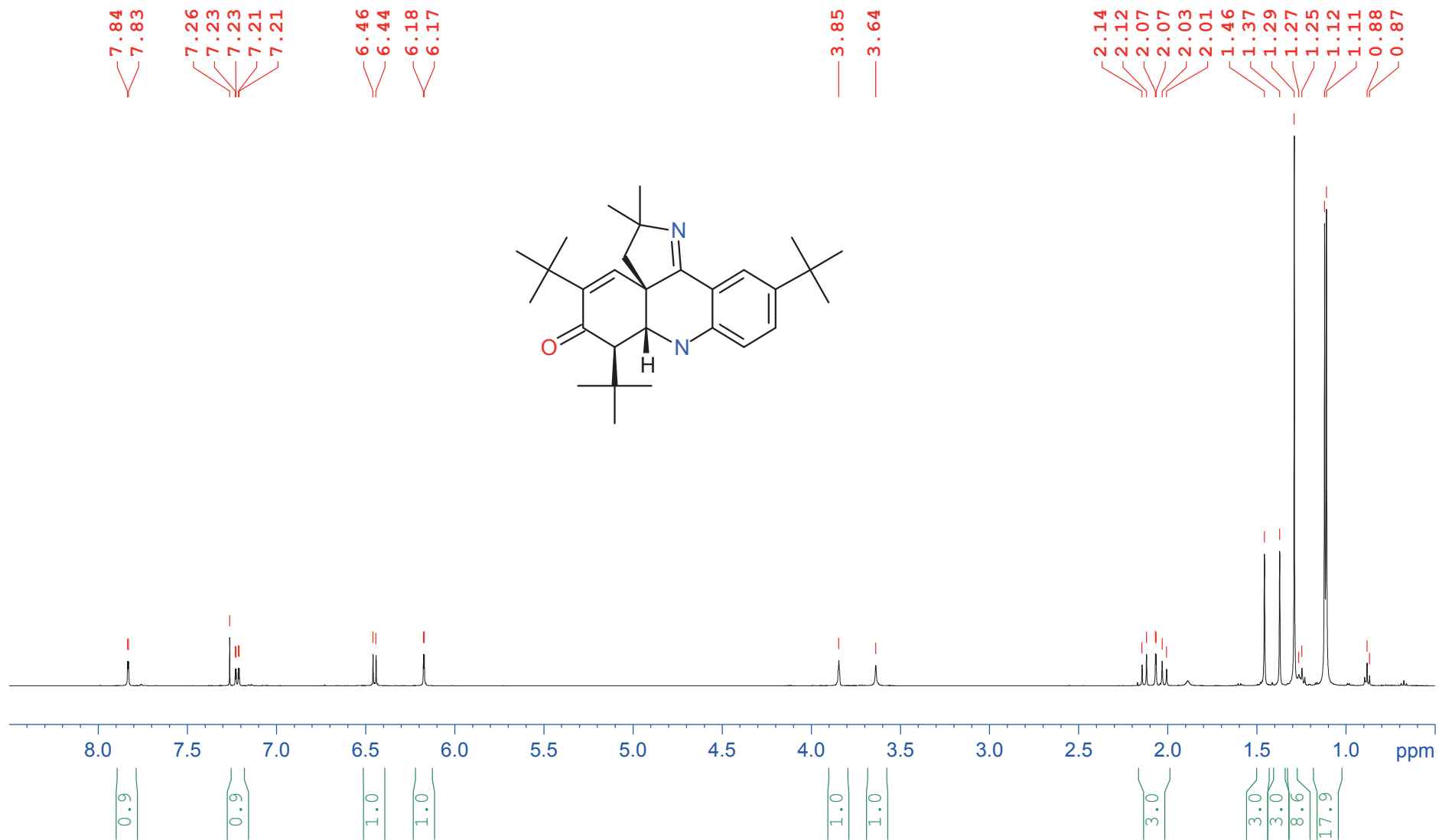
<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 4j.



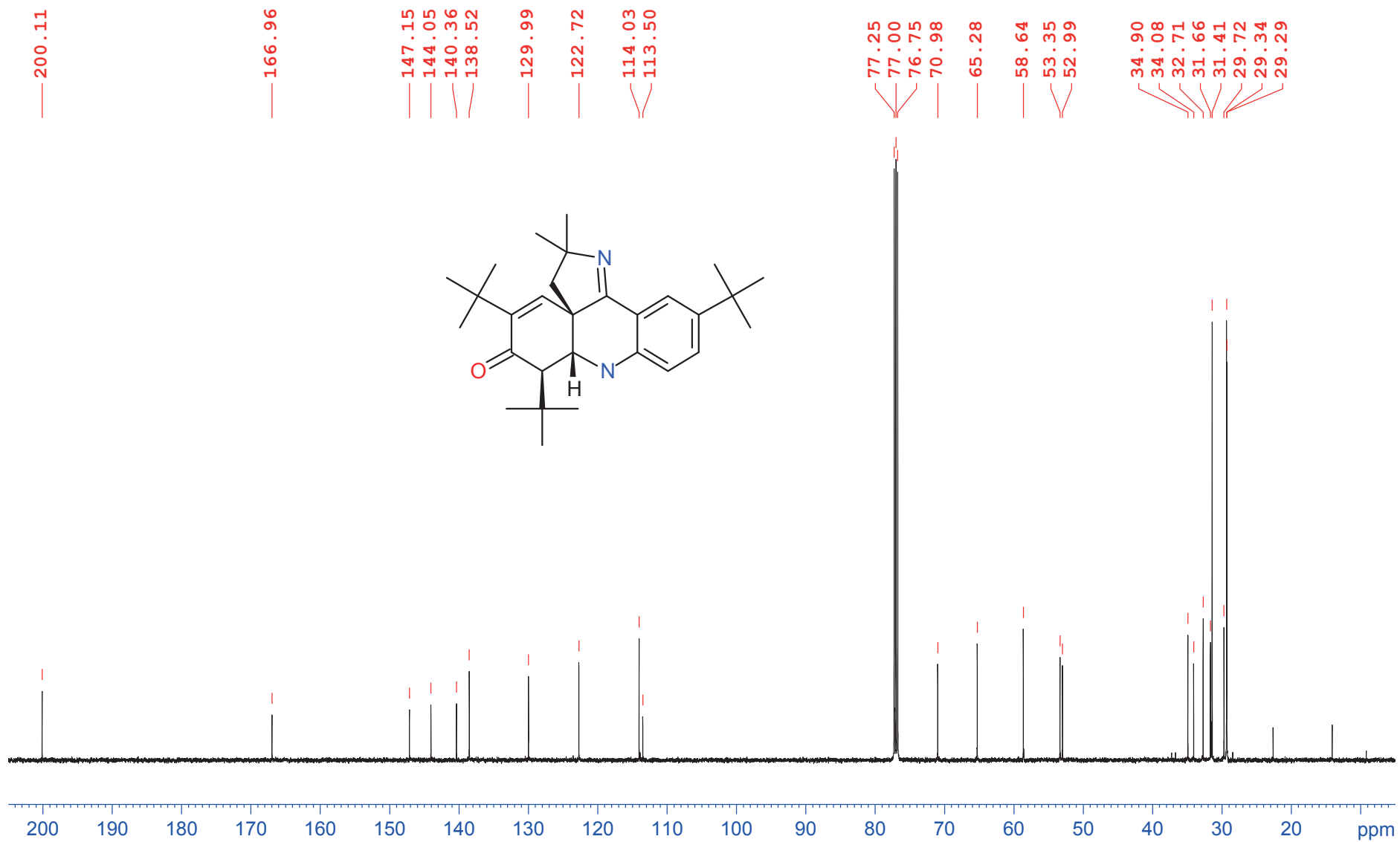
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **5j'**.



<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **5j'**.



$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound 7.



$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound 7.

## 5. References and notes

1. Sheldrick, G. M. *Acta Crystallogr., Sect. A* **2008**, *64*, 112.
2. The 1-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-methylpropan-1-one was synthesized as previously reported. Nishinaga A.; Shimizu T.; Toyoda Y.; Matsuura T. *J. Org. Chem.* **1982**, *47*, 2283.