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Part I. Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of novel 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles targeting FtsZ as antitubercular agents

Part II. Development of novel taxoid-based drug conjugates and theranostic imaging agents towards tumor-targeted chemotherapy

A Dissertation Presented

by

Bora Park

to

The Graduate School

in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements

for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

in

Chemistry

Stony Brook University

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2014

Stony Brook University

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Part I. Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of novel 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles targeting FtsZ as antitubercular agents

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Part I. Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of novel 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles targeting FtsZ as antitubercular agents

Filamenting temperature-sensitive protein Z (FtsZ), an essential cell division protein, is a promising target for the drug discovery of new-generation antibacterial agents against various bacterial pathogens. As a part of SAR studies on benzimidazoles, we have synthesized a library of 376 novel 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles, bearing ether or thioether linkage at the 6-position. In a preliminary HTP screening against *Mtb* H37Rv, 108 compounds were identified as hits at a cut off values of 5 µg/mL. Among those hits, 10 compounds exhibited MIC values in the range of 0.63-12.5 µg/mL. Light scattering assay and TEM analysis with the most potent compound clearly indicate that its molecular target is *Mtb* FtsZ. In addition, we have identified number of hits against *M. Smeg*. Further optimization of the lead compound is currently on going in our lab based on rational drug design.

Part II. Development of novel taxoid-based drug conjugates and theranostic imaging agents towards tumor-targeted chemotherapy

The second part of my dissertation pertains to development of new generation of taxoids and taxoid-based imaging probes for tumor-targeted drug delivery. The folate-linker-taxoid (FLT) conjugate which contains spacers to promote aqueous solubility and promote tumor-specific uptake and a mechanism-based self-immolative disulfide linker for site-specific prodrug activation was designed and synthesized. The conjugate was evaluated *in vitro* against a series of FR-positive cancer cell lines, L1210FR, MX-1, and ID8 and FR-negative cell line, WI-38. Folate conjugate demonstrated almost equally high potency against FR-positive cell lines as the parent taxoid, indicating rapid internalization and efficient drug release. However, against FR- normal lung fibroblast cell line WI-38, the folate conjugate was virtually non-toxic ($IC_{50} > 5 \mu M$).

In addition, we have identified a novel class of 3'-vinylido taxoids to develop a better understanding of their biodistribution and PK profiles since radioactive isotopes of ^{123}I and ^{124}I can be used for PET and SPECT studies. 3'-Vinylido taxoid has been evaluated *in vitro* against various cancer cell lines, ID8, NCI/ADR-RES, HCT-116, MX-1 and MCF-7 with high potency. We also have developed conditions for their synthesis via site-specific iodination amenable to radiolabeling.

Furthermore, we have been exploring synergistic combinations between new-generation taxoids and other drugs, i.e. CMC2.24, EGCG, MMP inhibitors, against various cell lines including cancer stem cells (CSCs). Preliminary screening showed very promising results.

Dedicated to my parents and sisters

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List of Abbreviations

°C	Degrees Celsius
Ac	Acetyl
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Gu
BLT	Biotin-linker-taxoid
BMS	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Bn	Benzyl
Boc	Butoxycarbonyl
BR	Biotin Receptor
Bu	Butyl
C	Centigrade; Carbon
Cbz	Carboxybenzyl
CDC	Center for disease control and prevention
CDI	Carbonyldiimidazole
CFM	Confocal fluorescence microscopy
CFU	Colony forming unit
CPT	Camptothecin
d	Day, doublet
DAB	10-deacetylbaccatin III
dd	Doublet of doublets
DIC	<i>N,N'</i> -diisopropylcarbodiimide
DIPEA	<i>N,N</i> -diisopropylethylamine
DMAP	4-(dimethylamino)pyridine
DMEM	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle medium
DMF	<i>N,N</i> -dimethylformamide
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid

DPBS	Dulbecco's Phosphate buffered saline
dt	Doublet of triplets
<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
EDC	1-Ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide
EM	Electron microscopy
ESI	Electrospray ionization
Et	Ethyl
EtOH	Ethanol
<i>F. tularensis</i>	<i>Fransicella tularensis</i>
FA	Folic acid
FBS	Fetal Bovine Serum
FDA	Food and drug administration
FLT	Folate-linker-taxoid
FR	Folate receptor
FtsZ	Filamenting temperature-sensitive protein Z
g	Gram
GDP	Guanosine diphosphate
GSH	Glutathion reduced form
GSH-OEt	Glutathion ethyl ester
GTP	Guanoside-5'-triphosphate
GTPase	Guanosine triphosphate
h	Hour
<i>H37Rv</i>	<i>M. tuberculosis representing virulent</i>
HCl	Hydrochloric acid
His	histitine
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HNMR	Proton nuclear magnetic resonance
HPLC	High-performance liquid chromatography
HRMS	High-resolution mass spectrometry
HT-29	Human colon cancer cell line
HTP	High throughput

Hz	Hertz
IC ₅₀	Half-maximum inhibitory concentration
ID8	Murine ovarian cancer cell line
INH	Isoniazid
IPA	Osopropanol
<i>J</i>	Coupling constant
k	Kilo- (scale)
K ₂ CO ₃	Potassium carbonate
KOH	Potassium hydroxide
L	Liter
L1210	Murine leukemia cell line
L1210-FR	Murine leukemia cell line
LC	Liquid chromatography
M	Mega- (scale); molar
m	Milli- (scale); multiplet (NMR)
<i>M. Smeg</i>	Mycobacterium smegmatis
m.p.	Melting point
m/z	Mass-to-charge ratio
MABA	Microplate Alamar Blue Assa
MCF-7	Human breast carcinoma cell line
MDR	Multidrug resistant
MDR-TB	Multi-drug resistant tuberculosis
Me	Methyl
MeOH	Methanol
mg	Milligram
MHz	Megahertz
MIC	Minimum inhibitory concentration
min	Minute
mL	Milliliter
mmol	Millimole
mol	Mole

MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
<i>Mtb</i>	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>
MTT	3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide
MX-1	Human breast carcinoma cell line
n	Nano- (scale)
NCI	National Cancer Institute
NCI/ADR-RES	Platinum-resistant metastatic ovarian cancer cell line
NHS	<i>N</i> -hydroxysuccinimide
NIAID	National institute of allergy and infectious diseases
nM	Nanomolar
NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance
OD	Optical density
p	Para
PBS	Phosphate buffered saline
PEG	Polyethylene glycol
PET	Positron emission tomography
Ph	Phenyl
pM	Picomolar
PMP	<i>p</i> -Methoxyphenyl
ppm	Parts per million
Pr	Propyl
q	Quartet
Rf	Retention factor
RIF	Rifampicin
RME	Receptor-mediated endocytosis
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
RPMI	Roswell Park Memorial Institute medium
s	Singlet
<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
SAR	structure-activity relationship
SB-P	Stony Brook Plate

SB-T	Stony Brook taxoid
SEM	Scanning electron microscopy
SPECT	Single-photon emission computed tomography
SRI	Southern Research Institute
SS	Disulfide bond
t	time; triplet (NMR)
<i>t</i>	<i>tert</i>
TB	Tuberculosis
TEM	Transmission electron microscopy
TFA	Trifluoroacetic acid
THF	Tetrahydrofuran
TLC	Thin-layer chromatography
TOF	Time-of-flight
topo I	Topoisomerase I
TTDDS	Tumor-targeted drug system
TTM	Tumor-targeted module
UV	Ultraviolet
WHO	World Health Organization
WI-38	Normal human lung fibroblast
XDR	Extensively drug resistant
XDR-TB	Extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis
<i>Y. pestis</i>	<i>Yersinia pestis</i>
δ	Chemical shift
Δ	Difference
λ	Wavelength
μ	Micro- (scale)
μM	Micromolar

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- Multistep synthesis on milligram to decagram scales
- Reaction scheme optimization for scale up synthesis
- Contributing to SAR of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles
- Synthesis, purification and characterization of drug candidates for biological testing
- Automated system developing for bioassays
- Design and synthesis of chemical tools to facilitate pharmacological studies
- Active agent formulation and stability profiling
- Compounds purified by recrystallization, distillation and flash chromatography
- Compound identification by ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{19}F NMR, melting point analysis, mass spectrometry: FIA and LCMS, IR, and HRMS

- Cell based biological evaluation of new generation of taxoids *in vitro* utilizing MTT assay
- Management of multiple collaborative projects involving cell biologists, polymer chemists and biochemists
- Exploration of synergistic combinations with new-generation taxoids against various cancer cell lines including cancer stem cells (CSCs)

PUBLICATIONS

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- Bora Park, Divya Awasthi, Soumy R. Chowdhury, Eduard Melief, Kunal Kumar, Susan E. Knudson, Richard A. Slayden, and Iwao Ojima, A New Series of 2,5,6-Trisubstituted Benzimidazoles for Tuberculosis Drug Discovery Targeting FtsZ, The New York Academy of Sciences: World TB Day Symposium: Countdown to 2015, 2014, NY.
- Bora Park, Kunal Kumar, Divya Awasthi, Eduard Melief, Susan Knudson, Richard A. Slayden, Iwao Ojima, Design, synthesis, and evaluation of novel trisubstituted benzimidazoles targeting FtsZ as antimicrobial agents, 245th ACS National Meeting and Exposition. 2013, New Orleans, LA.
- Bora Park; Kunal Kumar; Divya Awasthi; Edward Melief; Jason Cummings; Richard A Slayden; Iwao Ojima. Synthesis and Evaluation of Novel Trisubstituted Benzimidazoles Targeting FtsZ as Antimicrobial Agents, 243rd ACS National Meeting & Exposition, 2012, San Diego, CA.
- Bora Park, Joshua D. Seitz, Jacob G. Vineberg, Iwao Ojima, Next-Generation Taxoids as Potent Theranostic Agents for Targeted Cancer Therapy, ICB&DD 8th Annual Symposium, 2014, Stony Brook University, NY

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Chapter 1

Design and Synthesis of Novel 2,5,6-Trisubstituted Benzimidazoles

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§ 1.1 Introduction

§ 1.1.1 Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious bacterial infection which is caused by mycobacteria of the “tuberculosis complex”, including *Mycobacterium bovis*, *Mycobacterium africanum* and mainly *Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb)*.^{1,2} This bacteria typically attacks the lungs, but it can also damage almost any organ of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain.³ It spreads by the air when people have an active TB infection. People who are infected by TB may not notice any symptoms of illness until the disease is advanced since the symptoms are very common. The symptoms of TB are somewhat similar to such as loss of weight, fever, cough, and night sweats except severe coughing up of blood.

When *Mtb* enters the human body via the respiratory track through the inhalation of respiratory droplet, the host and pathogen can have any of the four outcomes.⁴

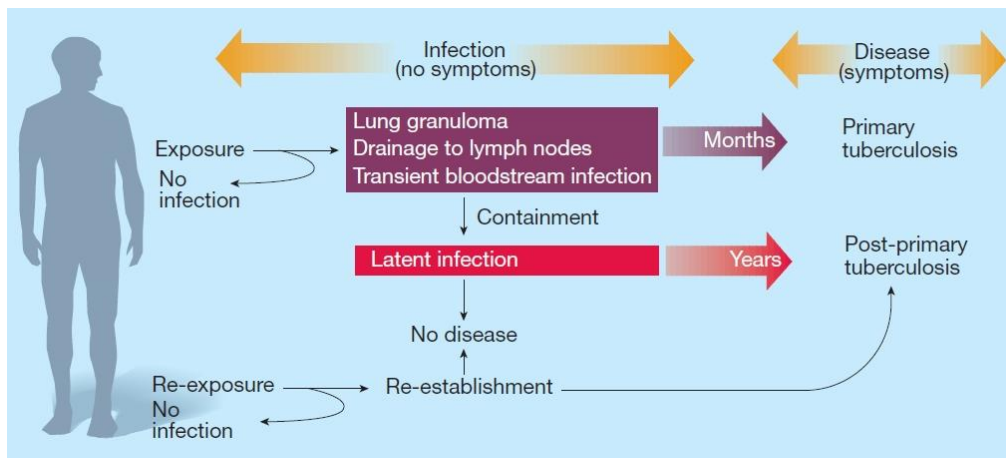


Figure 1- 1: Tuberculosis in humans (adapted from [5])

First, the initial host response may be completely effective and kill the bacilli; Second, the organisms can grow and multiply immediately after infection, resulting in primary TB; Third, the bacilli may become dormant state, this is called latent TB infection³ and in this state, the body does not realize sickness or any other symptoms; and last, the latent bacilli can eventually become active and progress to fully grown disease condition. Possible outcomes of disease are described in **Figure 1- 1**.⁵

TB is curable and preventable disease, however, it is still a challenging disease for clinical researchers for over 50 years due to poor chemotherapeutics and inadequate local-control programs.⁶ It has been estimated that about two billion people, almost one-third of the world's total population, are infected with TB.¹ World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that there were 8.6 million new cases of TB globally (13% co-infected with HIV) resulting in 1.3 million deaths in 2013 alone.¹ The five countries with the largest number of incident cases in 2012 are showing in **Figure 1-2**. The disease is particular interest to India (2.0 million - 2.4 million), followed by China (0.9 million - 1.1 million), South Africa (0.4 million - 0.6 million), Indonesia (0.4 million - 0.5 million) and Pakistan (0.3 million - 0.5 million).¹

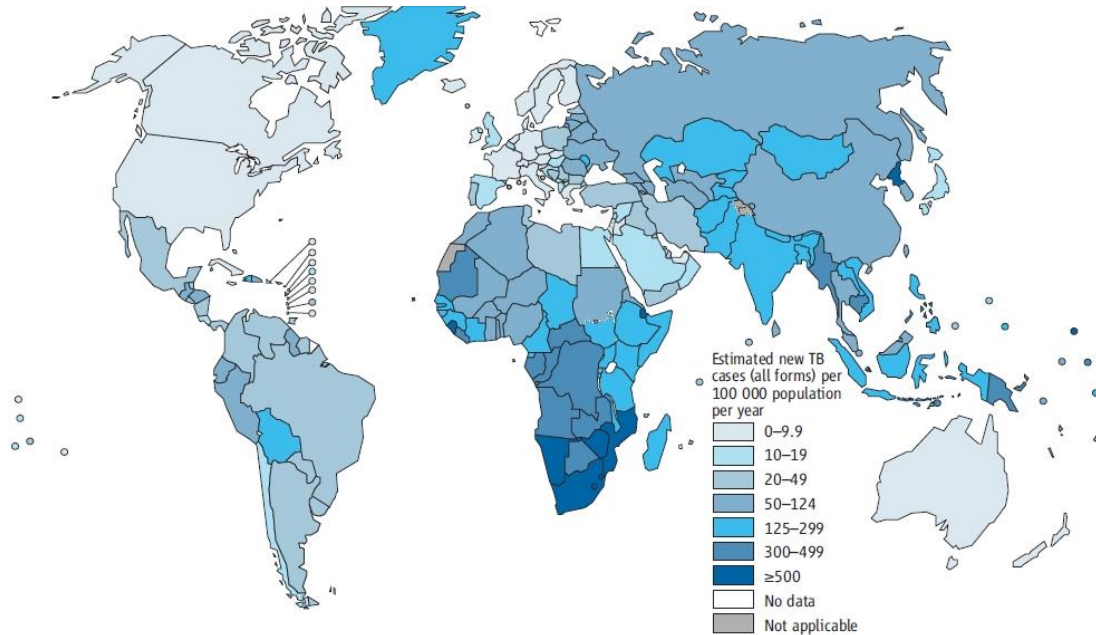


Figure 1- 2 Estimated TB incidence rates, 2012 (adapted from [1])

TB is especially the huge problem among those people who are weakened their immune systems such as in case of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), aging, or other medical conditions.³ Thus, co-infection with HIV has added to the seriousness of TB as global pandemic. As the immune system is compromised, the probability of developing TB increases by up to 30 times for those who are HIV-positive people and co-infected with TB.² The proportion of TB

cases co-infected with HIV was highest in countries in the African Region (**Figure 1-3**). Overall, 37% of TB cases were estimated to be co-infected with HIV in this region, which accounted for 75% of TB cases among people living with HIV worldwide. In parts of southern Africa, more than 50% of TB cases were co-infected with HIV.¹

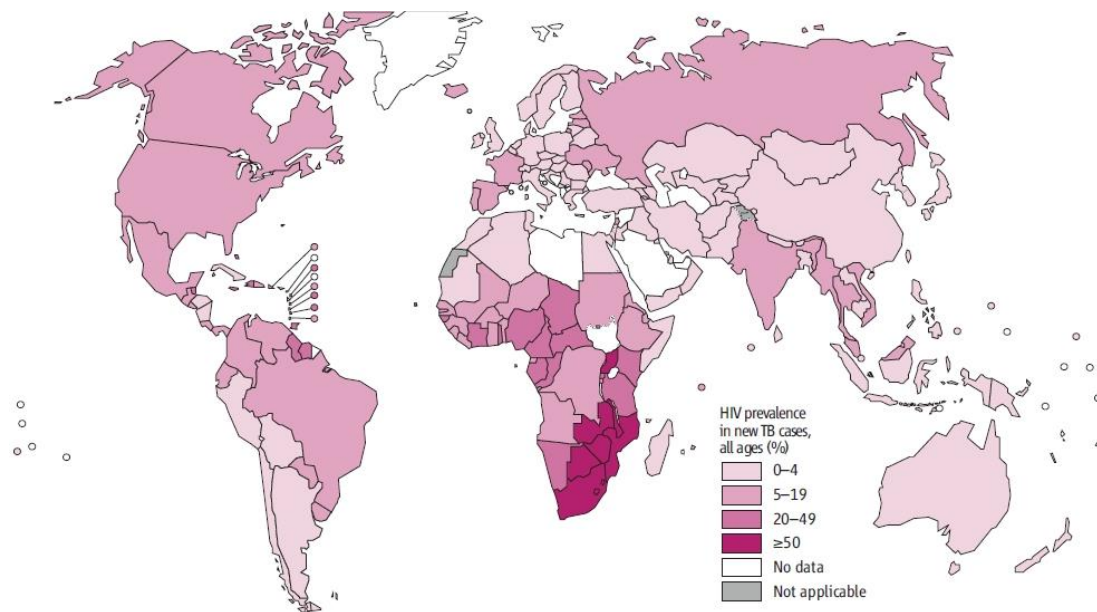


Figure 1- 3: Estimated HIV prevalence in new TB cases, 2012 (adapted from [1])

In addition to co-infection with other health condition, multidrug-resistant (MDR-TB) and extensively drug resistant TB (XDR-TB) are contributing to the rise in TB and responsible for a significant public health threat for TB control efforts.^{7, 8}

§ 1.1.2 Current Treatments of TB

Despite the availability of several drugs and the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine,⁹ TB still remains a major health concern worldwide, warranting the identification of new drug targets for the design of more effective drugs. BCG is currently the only available vaccine against TB, and it is widely administered within the WHO expanded program for immunization.

The protective efficacy of BCG has been shown to be highly variable across different populations.⁹

There are 10 drugs currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating TB.³ Current therapy for TB is dependent on a combination of various potent antibiotics, such as isoniazid (INH), rifampicin (RIF) and pyrazinamide, in a treatment of six months' duration. Treatment completion is determined by the number of doses ingested over a given period of time (**Figure 1-4**).³ It may be necessary to add other first-line drugs such as ethambutol and streptomycin to the treatment, if initial resistance to INH is observed.

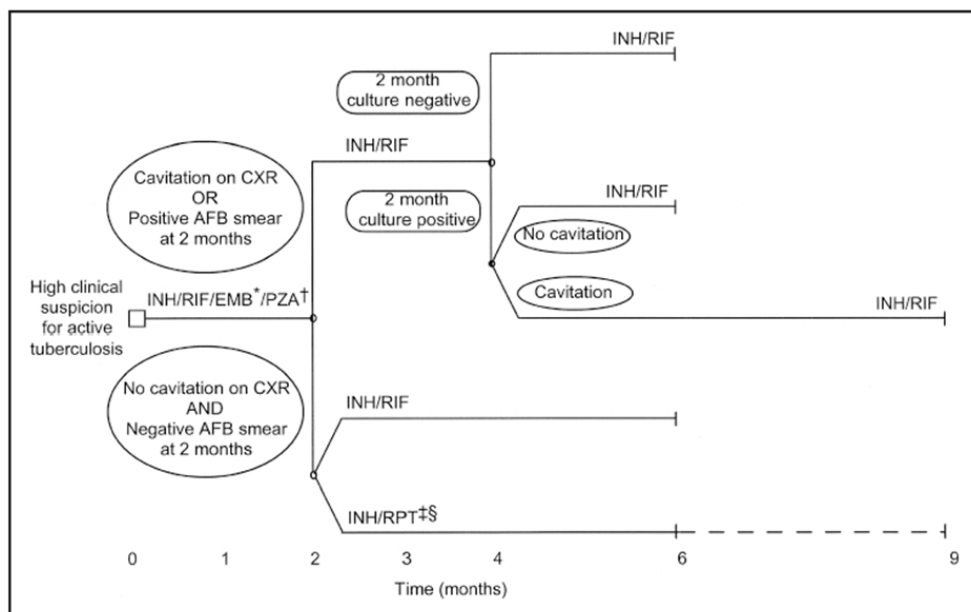


Figure 1- 4: Treatment algorithm for active, culture-negative pulmonary tuberculosis and inactive tuberculosis (adapted from [3])

Patients who proved or strongly suspected has TB are should treat with first-line anti-TB agents for the initial 2 months. When 2 months of treatment has been completed, INH and RIF are given daily or twice weekly for 4 months to complete a total of 6 months of treatment.³ Patients receiving INH and RIF, and whose 2-month cultures are positive, should have treatment extended by an additional 3 months (total of 9 months).³

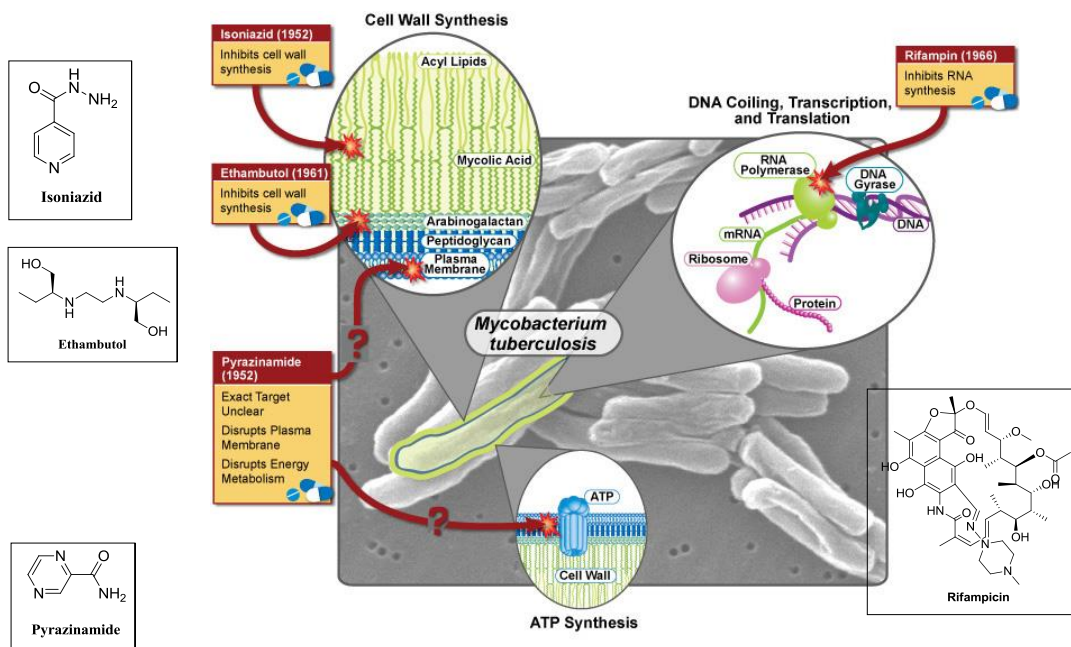


Figure 1- 5: First-line treatment of TB for drug-sensitive TB (adapted from [3]) and modified

When there is resistant to two or more of the first line antibiotics, such as INH, and RIF it is defined as MDR-TB. It is necessary to extend of the treatment period and frequent the use of second and/or third-line drugs despite their increased toxicity.¹⁰ Typical MDR-TB treatment duration is about 18 to 24 months. Furthermore, when TB disease is resistant to any fluoroquinolone and at least one of the three injectable drugs, kanamycin, capreomycin, and amikacin, used to treat TB is classified as extensively drug resistant TB, XDR-TB. XDR-TB is widespread, including occurrence in the developed countries such as United States of America, where TB had been considered to be under control.

Drug-resistant TB is arising from a combination of physician error and patient non-compliance during treatment.¹¹ In order to figure out the mechanisms of resistance to the main anti-TB drugs, many advances in genome sequence of *Mtb* were developed.¹² Studies showed that specific gene mutations were associated with drug resistance.¹³ Traditionally, intrinsic drug resistance of *Mtb* is known to the unusual structure of its mycolic acid-containing cell wall that gives the bacteria a low permeability for many antibiotics.¹⁴

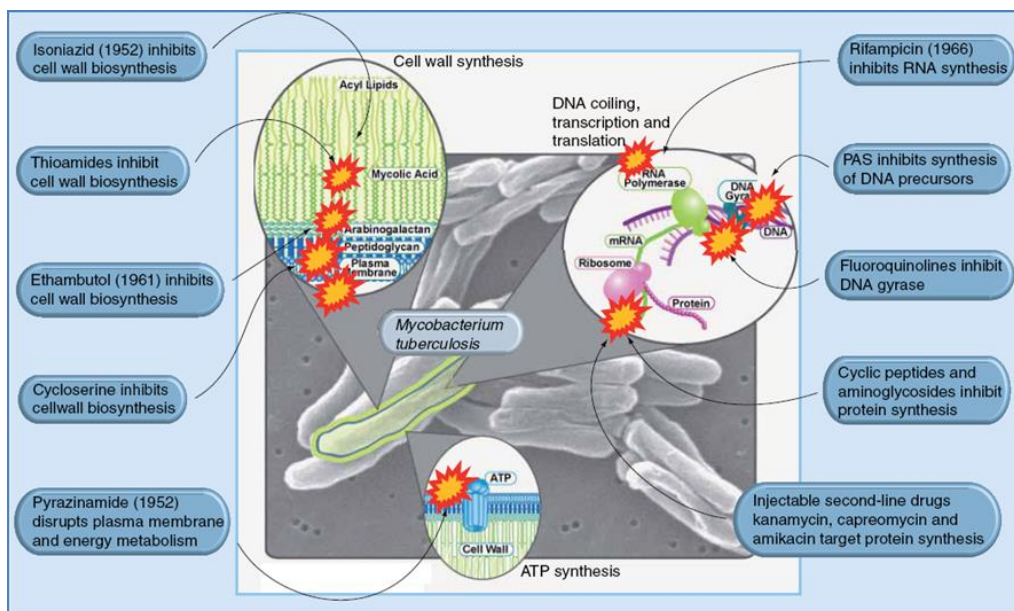


Figure 1- 6: Current drugs and their target (adapted from [21])

Unlike other bacteria, *Mtb* acquired drug resistance is caused by spontaneous mutation in chromosomal genes at a low rate of 0.0033 per replication.^{12, 15} The majority of *Mtb* resistant to INH is a complex process including several genes, *katG*, *ahpC*, *inhA*, *kasA* and *ndh*.^{16, 17} Resistance to RIF is due to mutation in the gene *rpoB* that encodes the β -subunit of RNA polymerase resulting in conformational changes.¹⁸ Resistance to fluoroquinolones is associated with mutations with *gryA* and *gyrB*.¹⁹ The other second line drugs, kanamycin and amikacin, their mutations are associated with an A1201G mutation in the *rrs* gene coding for 16S rRNA. The mutation of gene *tlyA* is involved in the resistance to capreomycin and viomycin.²⁰

Despite efforts in last 50 years, development of new TB treatments (**Figure 1-6**) have been limited to drug targets like cell wall biosynthesis, ATP synthesis, RNA synthesis etc., leading to resistance in these areas.²¹ Emergence of drug resistant strains of *Mtb* makes many of the currently available anti-TB drugs much less effective.⁷ Therefore, there is an urgent necessity to discover novel drugs that target other bacterial processes in order to counter the developed bacterial resistance.^{6, 21}

§ 1.1.3 FtsZ: A Novel TB Drug Target

Identification of a novel drug target is the first step in the development of new series of anti TB drugs. Filamenting temperature-sensitive protein Z (FtsZ) is not only crucial and the most abundant protein which acts early in bacterial cell division,²² but it also shares also several similarities with tubulin.²³ Although the primary sequence homology is limited and mainly centered around the GTP-binding motif, the crystal structures of FtsZ and tubulin demonstrate extensive similarities.²⁴ In addition to structural similarities, FtsZ, like tubulin, it can bind and hydrolyze GTP and it can assemble into protofilaments.²⁴

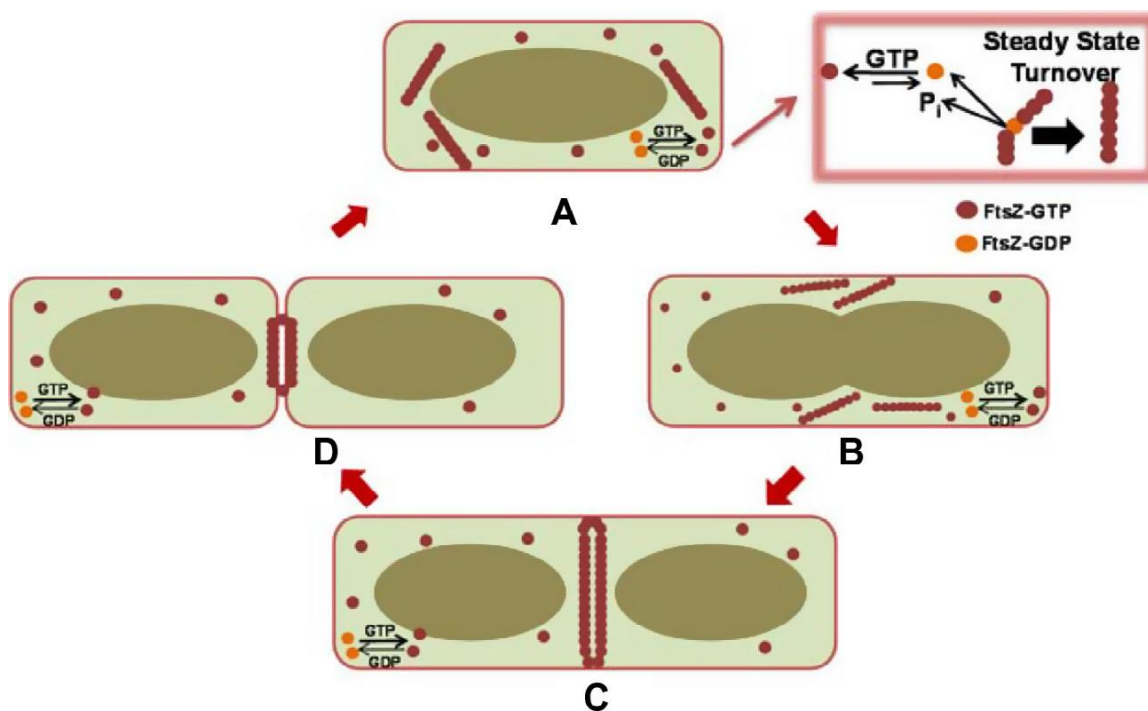


Figure 1- 7: Self-assembly of FtsZ to form Z-ring (adapted from [27])

FtsZ polymerizes in the presence of GTP to form a highly dynamic structure, the Z-ring at the cell division site.^{22, 25} With the recruitment of several other cell division proteins, Z-ring constriction proceeds resulting in septum formation and subsequent cell division²⁶ (**Figure 1-7**).²⁷ Due to the crucial role of FtsZ in bacterial cytokinesis, inactivation of FtsZ is an attractive target for novel drug discovery.^{28, 29} Since FtsZ is a homologue of tubulin with less than 10-18%

sequence identity,³⁰ known tubulin inhibitors could be a good starting point for developing FtsZ specific inhibitor.

§ 1.1.4 Drug Design

Previously, the researchers at the Southern Research Institute (SRI) studied about known tubulin inhibitors based on the premise that they can inhibit FtsZ assembly.³¹ They screened their library of 200 2-alkoxycarbonylaminopyridines for antimicrobial activity against *Mtb*.³² They found out that SRI-3072 and SRI-7614 (**Figure 1-8**) inhibited *Mtb* FtsZ polymerization in a dose-dependent manner.^{32, 33} These two compounds also inhibited the GTPase activity by 20-25 % at 100 μ M concentration.

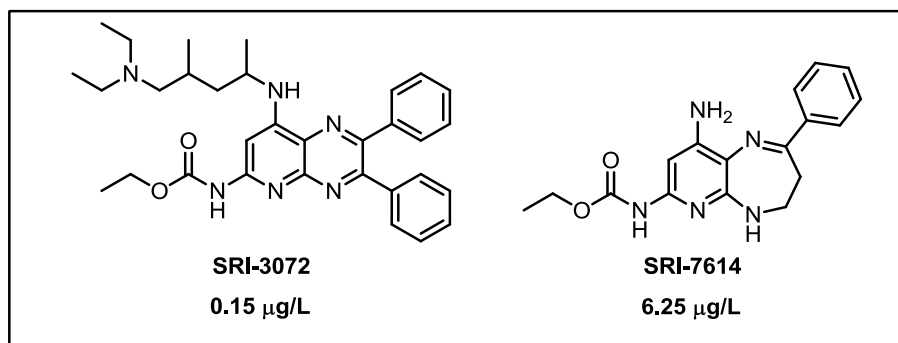


Figure 1- 8: Inhibitor of *Mtb* FtsZ

Moreover, Taxanes were first screened against *Mtb* FtsZ with the same hypothesis that known tubulin inhibitor could also affect bacterial cell division.⁶ Since taxanes were known as microtubules stabilizing agent, 120 taxanes were synthesized in Ojima's lab and screened against drug-sensitive and drug-resistant *Mtb* strains.⁶ Several compounds were found to be a highly promising non-cytotoxic anti-TB activity against drug-resistant along with drug sensitive *Mtb* strains from the MIC₉₉ values and IC₅₀ values (**Table 1-1**).

Table 1- 1: Antimicrobial activities of taxanes

Entry	Taxane	MIC (μM)		Cytotoxicity (IC_{50} , μM)	
		<i>Mtb</i> H37Rv ^a	<i>Mtb</i> IMCJ946.K2 ^b	MCF-7 ^c	A549 ^d
1	Paclitaxel	40	40	0.019	0.028
2	SB-T-0032	5	1.25	0.65	0.065
3	SB-RA-2001	5	2.5	4.5	15.7
4	SB-RA-5001	2.5	1.25	> 80	> 80
5	SB-RA-5001MeO6	2.5	2.5	> 80	> 80
6	SB-RA-5011	2.5	1.25	> 80	> 80
7	SB-RA-5012	2.5	1.25	> 80	> 80

^a drug-sensitive strain; ^b drug sensitive strain; ^c human breast cancer cell line; ^d non-small-cell lung cancer cell lines

SB-T-0032 and SB-RA-2001 were chosen for further optimization and also a new library of taxanes with modification of 10-deacetylbaaccatin III (DAB).⁶ Moreover, it has been proven that novel and effective anti-angiogenic taxoid with C-seco-baccatin moiety has less cytotoxicity than paclitaxel. Therefore, C-seco taxanes (**Figure 1-9**) were designed and synthesized in our lab.

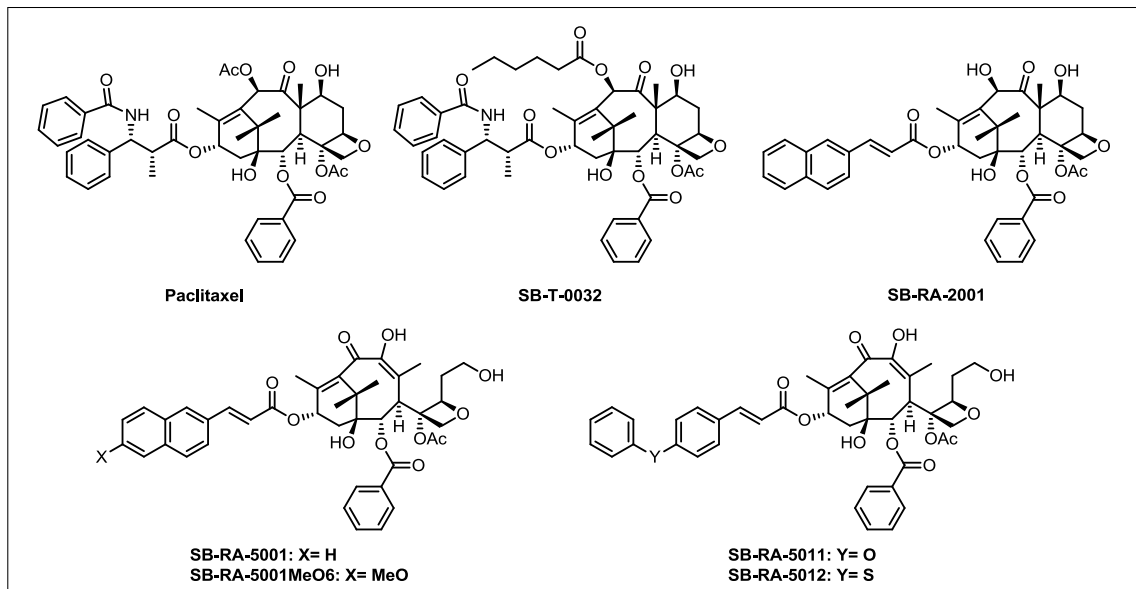


Figure 1- 9: Chemical structures of *Mtb* FtsZ inhibitors, taxanes

In addition, the scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images (**Figure 1-10**) of *Mtb* cells treated with SB-RA-20018 and SB-RA-5001 (**Figure 1-11**) showed that cell elongation and filamentation which is a phenotypic response to FtsZ inactivation.

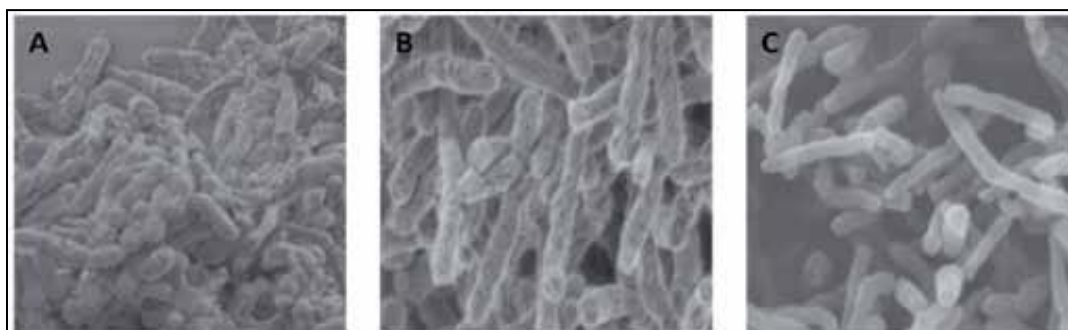


Figure 1- 10: SEM images of *Mtb* cells

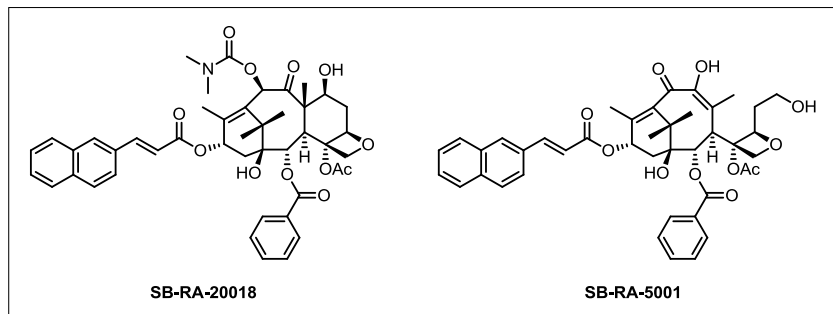


Figure 1- 11: Further chemical structures of *Mtb* FtsZ inhibitors, taxanes

In addition, various groups have explored known tubulin inhibitors based on the importance of FtsZ assembly in cell division to identify their ability to inhibit FtsZ polymerization or de-polymerization.^{28, 32, 33} Following on this principle, albendazole and thiabendazole (**Figure 1-12**), fungicide and parasiticide, were tested for their anti-TB activities.³⁴ The main mechanism of action of these two compounds was known to cause degenerative alterations in the intestinal cells of worms by binding to the colchicine-sensitive site of tubulin and inhibiting its polymerization or assembly into microtubules. Slayden and co-workers found that these two compounds inhibit FtsZ polymerization that led to the absence of septum formation based on ultra-structural analysis and gene expression profiling. MIC₉₉ values of albendazole and thiabendazole were determined to be 61 μM and 80 μM , respectively.

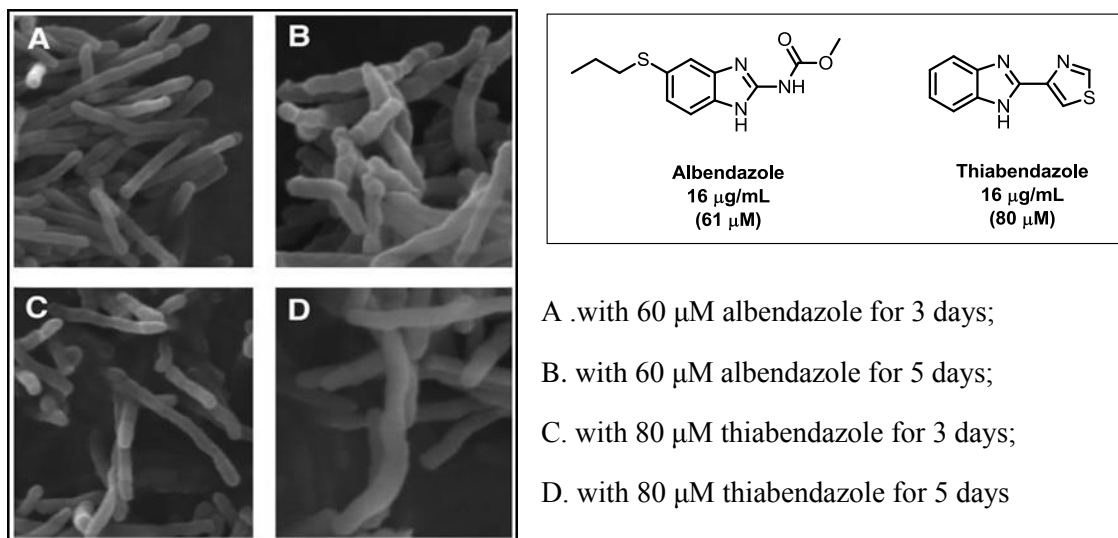


Figure 1- 12: Inhibition of FtsZ polymerization

Since both of these compounds share a common benzimidazole moiety, we chose benzimidazole as the scaffold for development of novel anti-TB agents. In our previous work,³⁵⁻³⁷ based on rational drug design, libraries of 2,5,6- and 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazoles (**Figure 1-13**) were synthesized and evaluated for anti-TB activities

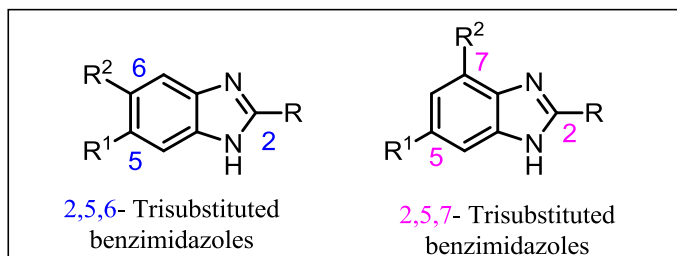


Figure 1- 13: Structures of 2,5,6- and 2,5,7-trisubstituted benzimidazoles

A large number of compounds were identified with MICs in the range of 0.39-6.2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ against drug sensitive as well as drug resistant *Mtb* strains (**Figure 1-14**).

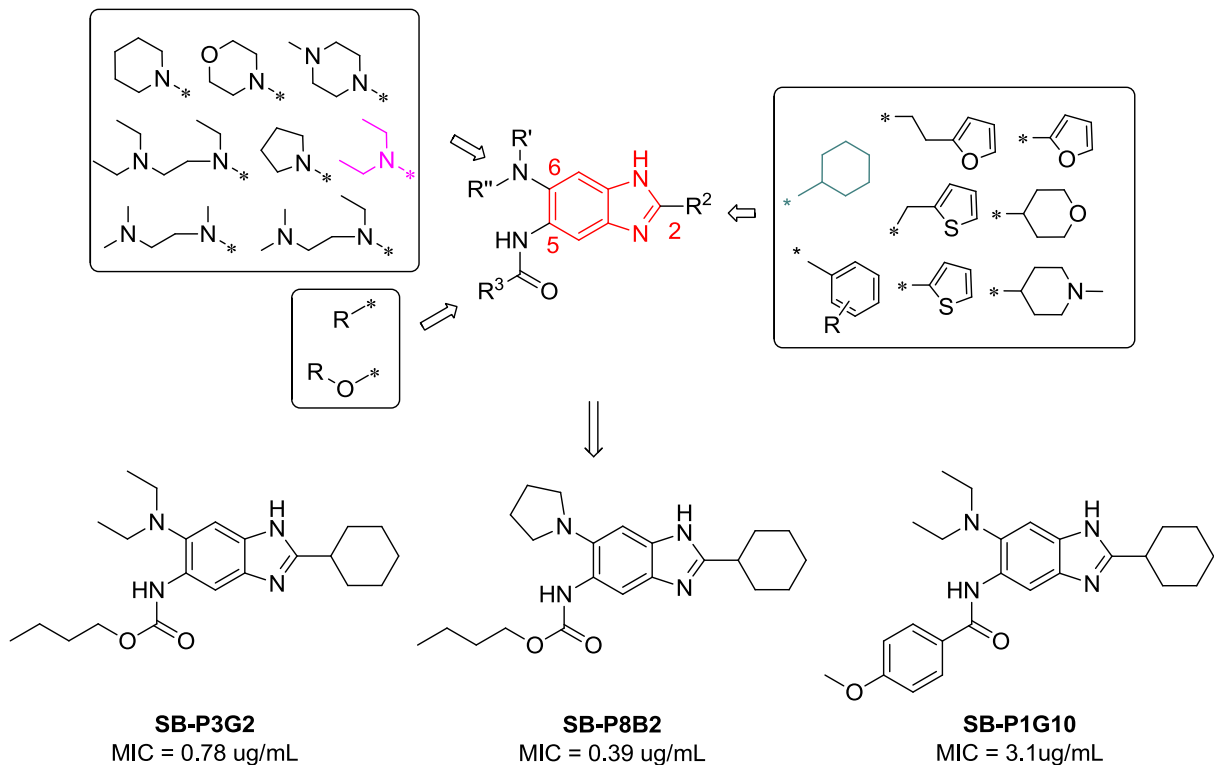


Figure 1- 14: Previously reported anti-TB 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles

Previously, FtsZ polymerization assay³⁸ was carried out to validate the hypothesis that the lead compounds exhibit antibacterial activity by interacting with FtsZ. In the light scattering experiment (**Figure 1-15**), some of these novel lead compounds, **SB-P3G2** and **SB-P1G8** exhibited inhibition of FtsZ assembly in a dose dependent manner while enhancing the GTPase activity³⁶ of *Mtb* FtsZ. These results confirmed the hypothesis that the lead benzimidazoles target FtsZ.

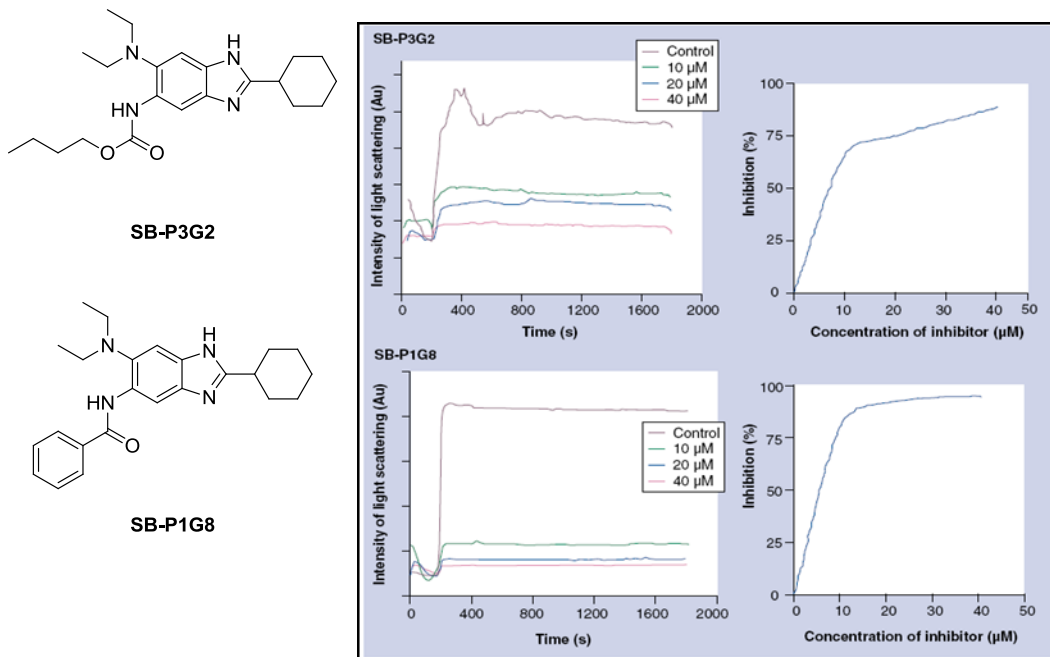


Figure 1- 15: Effect of bezimidazoles on FtsZ polymerization

Moreover, the scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images (**Figure 1-16**) of *Mtb* cells treated with **SB-P8B2** clearly show that cell elongation and filamentation which indicates that cell division was inhibited.

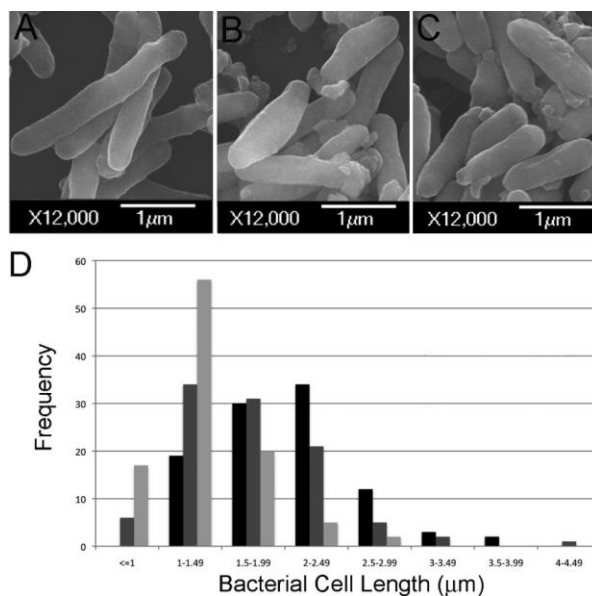


Figure 1- 16: SEM images of *Mtb* cells treated with SB-P8B2

The SEM images showed inhibition of FtsZ leading to disruption in septum formation and recruitment of septum associated proteins involved in later steps of division and septum resolution.

The preliminary SAR studies of lead compounds indicate that cyclohexyl group at the 2-position and diethyl amino/dimethyl amino group at the 6-position play important role for antibacterial activity.^{36, 37} Building upon three representative compounds bearing alkyl carbamate or benzamide at the 5-position, we planned to expand our novel trisubstituted benzimidazole libraries with a substitution pattern different from the previous series for high throughput (HTP) screening.³⁹ [Note: In the 6-amino series, we have very recently found that the 6-dimethylamino series exhibit excellent activities up to the MIC value of 0.06 μg/mL.³⁷]

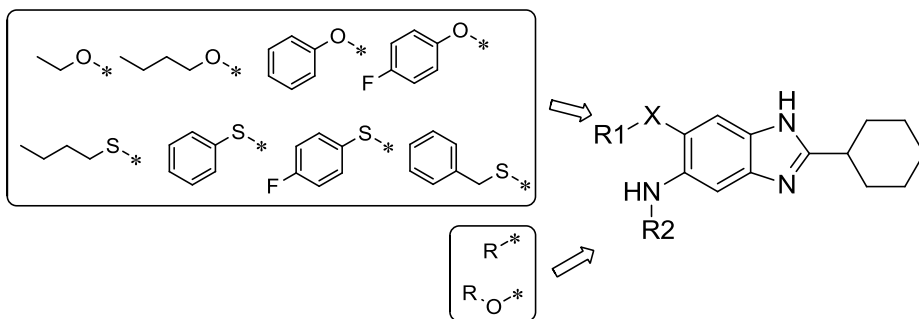


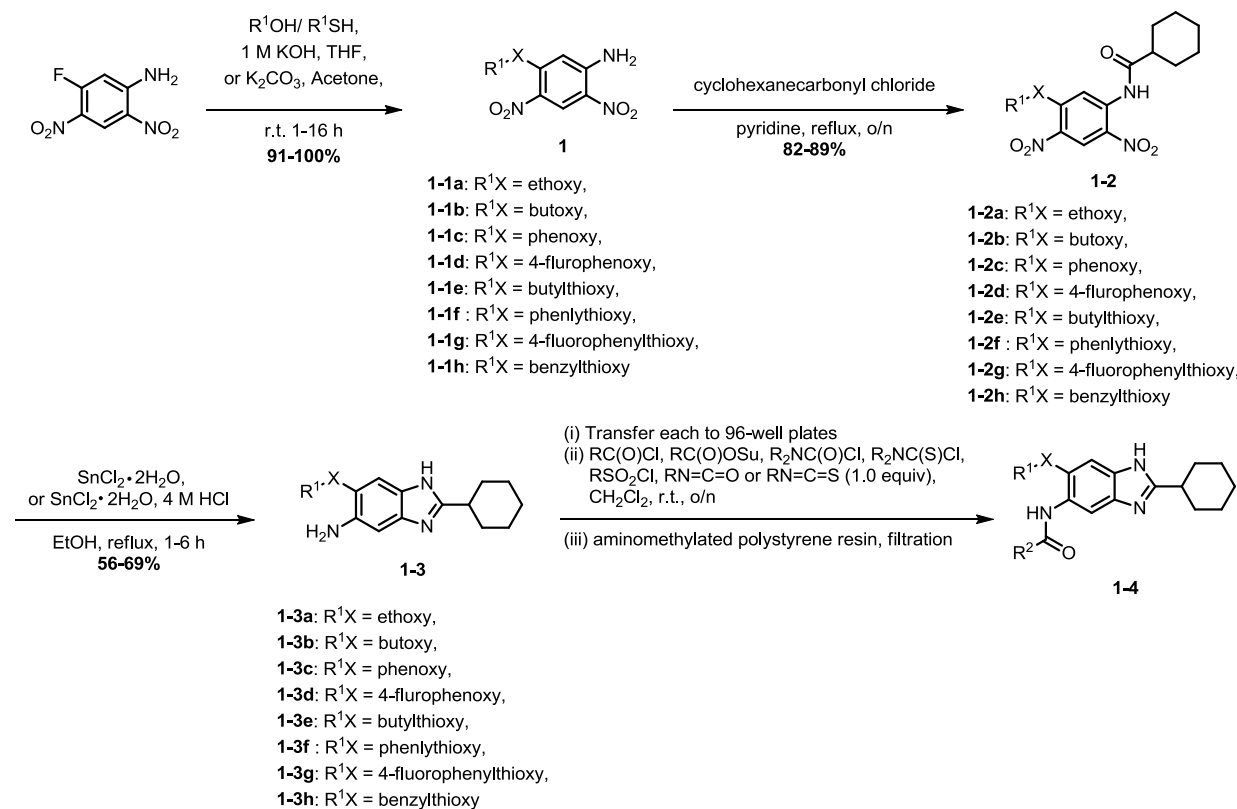
Figure 1- 17: Novel 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles bearing an ether or thioether substituent at the 6-position

In order to investigate the effect of substituents other than amines at the 6-position on antibacterial activity, a new series of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazole library was designed and synthesized with ether/thioether groups at the 6-position (**Figure 1-17**). Based on previous SAR studies, the cyclohexyl group at the 2-position was fixed and various substituents at the 5-position were examined.

§ 1.2 Results and discussion

§ 1.2.1 Synthesis of 2,5,6-Trisubstituted Benzimidazole Library

General procedure for the synthesis of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles bearing an ether/thioether moiety at the 6-position is illustrated in **Scheme 1-1**.⁶



Scheme 1- 1: Synthesis of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazole library

The first step was the nucleophilic aromatic substitution of commercially available 2,4-dinitro-5-fluoroaniline with various alkyl or aryl alcohol/thiols. Compounds **1-1a**, **1-1b** and **1-1e** were prepared by using 1 M KOH while **1-1c**, **1-1d** and **1-1f** ~ **1-1h** were obtained by using 1 M K₂CO₃ to afford compounds **1-1a** ~ **1-1h** in 91–100 % yields. The acylation of compounds **1-1a** ~ **1-1h** with the cyclohexanecarbonyl chloride gave **1-2a** ~ **1-2h** in 82–89 % yields. Compounds **1-2a** ~ **1-2d** were treated with tin(II) chloride dihydrate while **1-2e** ~ **1-2h** were reacted with tin(II) chloride dihydrate and 4 M HCl to afford benzimidazoles **1-3a** ~ **1-3h** in 56–69 % yields.

5-Aminobenzimidazoles **1-3a** ~ **1-3h** (0.01 mM) were dissolved in dichloromethane and transferred into 96 well plates. Then, 47 different acyl chlorides, hydroxysuccinimide esters of chloroformates, isocyanates, isothiocyanates and sulfonyl chlorides (1.0 equiv) in dichloromethane were added to the individual wells. These 47 different reagents are shown in **Figure 1-18**. The plates were gently shaken for a day. Then, aminomethylated polystyrene resin EHL/2% DVB (200–400 mesh) (10 equiv) was added to scavenge excess or unreacted acyl chloride, isocyanates, isothiocyanate and sulfonyl chlorides. After reacting for 24 h, the resin was filtered to afford a library of 376 novel 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles **1-4**.

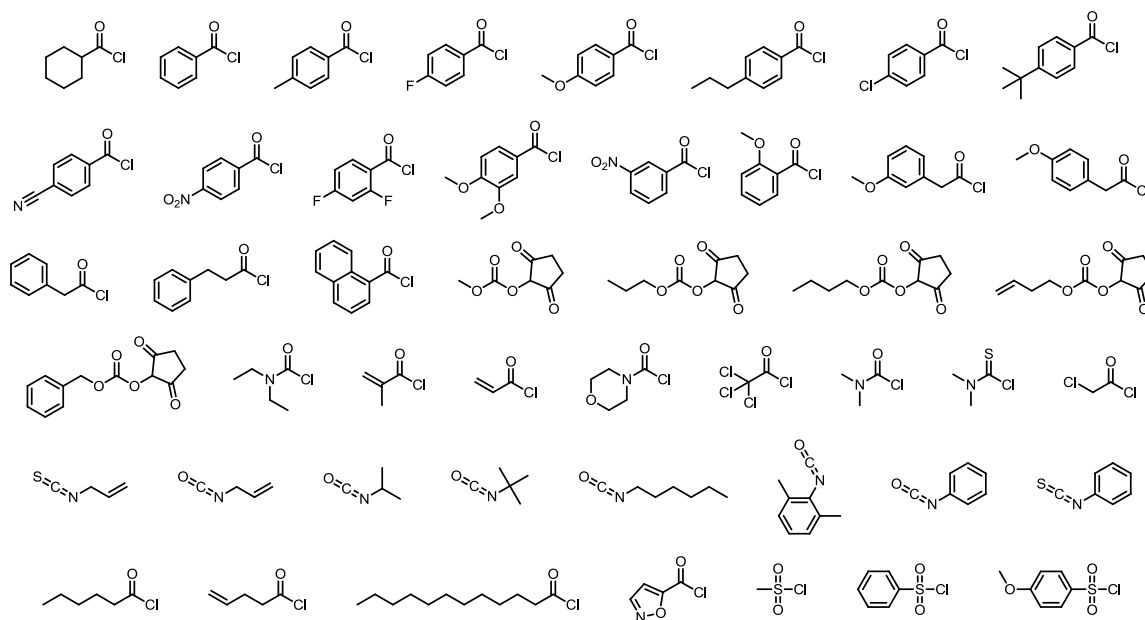


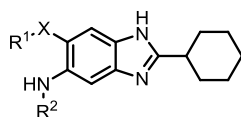
Figure 1- 18: List of 47 reagents for creation of a library of 376 novel 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles

§ 1.2.2 Preliminary Screening Result

The library of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles **1-4** (376 compounds) was screened against drug sensitive *Mtb* H37Rv strain using ‘Microplate Alamar Blue Assay’ (MABA) and then, growth inhibition was measured in percentage. Among these compounds, 108 compounds were identified to inhibit the growth of *Mtb* H37Rv by 22–79% at 5 µg/mL concentration and 22 compounds (**Table 1-2**) exhibited 28-65% growth inhibition at 1.0 µg/mL concentration.⁴⁰ From

the preliminary screening, the butylthio group, followed by the benzylthio group at the 6-position appeared to be rather preferred, but 4-fluorophenoxy, 4-fluorophenylthio, and phenylthio groups did not seem to be much different. However, no compounds with a phenoxy group at the 6-position were included in the hit list. Also, no benzimidazoles bearing sulfoxide, urea or thiourea groups at the 5-position were found in the hit list. Thus, only amide or carbamate groups appear to be preferred at this position.

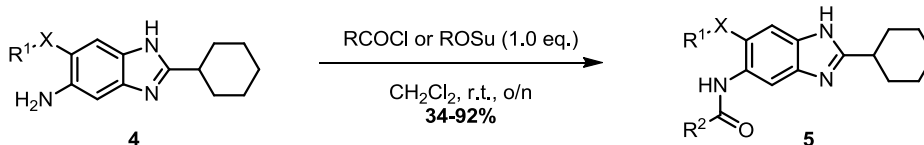
Table 1- 2: Hit compounds from the preliminary screening against Mtb H37Rv strain at 1.0 µg/mL concentration (adapted from [40])



Compound	R ¹ X	R ²	% Growth inhibition	Compound	R ¹ X	R ²	% Growth inhibition
1	EtO	4-MeC ₆ H ₄ CO	65	12	BuS	Ph(CH ₂) ₂ CO	33
2	BuO	CH ₂ =CH(CH ₂) ₂ CO	28	13	PhS	4-MeC ₆ H ₄ CO	31
3	4-FC ₆ H ₄ O	2,4-F ₂ C ₆ H ₃ CO	44	14	PhS	4- <i>t</i> -BuC ₆ H ₄ CO	42
4	4-FC ₆ H ₄ O	4-MeC ₆ H ₄ CO	36	15	PhS	CH ₂ =CH(CH ₂) ₂ CO	56
5	4-FC ₆ H ₄ O	CH ₂ =CH(CH ₂) ₂ CO	54	16	4-FC ₆ H ₄ S	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₂ OCO	46
6	BuS	2,4-F ₂ C ₆ H ₃ CO	51	17	4-FC ₆ H ₄ S	PhSO ₂	30
7	BuS	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₂ OCO	38	18	4-FC ₆ H ₄ S	CH ₂ =CH(CH ₂) ₂ CO	41
8	BuS	PhSO ₂	42	19	PhCH ₂ S	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₂ OCO	28
9	BuS	4- <i>t</i> -BuC ₆ H ₄ CO	45	20	PhCH ₂ S	PhSO ₂	30
10	BuS	4-MeC ₆ H ₄ CO	53	21	PhCH ₂ S	4- <i>t</i> -BuC ₆ H ₄ CO	52
11	BuS	CH ₂ =CH(CH ₂) ₂ CO	52	22	PhCH ₂ S	CH ₂ =CH(CH ₂) ₂ CO	64

§ 1.2.3 Re-synthesis of Hit Compounds for Their Accurate MIC determination

These hit compounds were resynthesized (**Scheme 1-2**) in analytically pure form and examined for their accurate MIC values.



1-3a: R¹X = ethoxy,

1-3b: R¹X = butoxy,

1-3c: R¹X = phenoxy,

1-3d: R¹X = 4-fluorophenoxy,

1-3e: R¹X = butylthioxy,

1-3f: R¹X = phenylthioxy,

1-3g: R¹X = 4-fluorophenylthioxy,

1-3h: R¹X = benzylthioxy

1-4a: R¹X = 4-fluorophenoxy, R² = butoxy,

1-4b: R¹X = 4-fluorophenoxy, R² = 4-methoxybenzyl,

1-4c: R¹X = 4-fluorophenoxy, R² = 4-methylbenzyl,

1-4d: R¹X = 4-fluorophenoxy, R² = 2,4-difluorobenzyl,

1-4e: R¹X = 4-fluorophenoxy, R² = 4-pentenoyl,

1-4f: R¹X = phenylthioxy, R² = 4-methylbenzyl,

1-4g: R¹X = benzylthioxy, R² = 4-*tert*-butylbenzyl,

1-4h: R¹X = butylthioxy, R² = 2,4-difluorobenzyl,

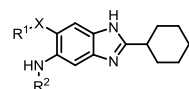
1-4i: R¹X = butylthioxy, R² = 4-methylbenzyl,

1-4j: R¹X = butylthioxy, R² = propoxy

Scheme 1- 2: Re-synthesis of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles

Then, it turned out that the MIC values did not necessarily correlate with the percent inhibition at the fixed concentration of the test compounds, as anticipated. This would be due to, for example, inaccuracy in the actual weight and purity of a test compound in a 96-well plate, as well as false positives in the HTP screening. As **Table 1-3** shows, some of the hit compounds with a 4-fluorophenoxy or buthylthio group exhibit promising activities, but those with a 6-phenylthio or 6-benzylthio group appear to be less potent among the compounds examined so far.

Table 1- 3: MIC values of selected hit compounds against *Mtb* H37Rv^a strain



compound	R ¹ X	R ²	MIC (µg/mL) <i>Mtb</i> H37Rv	cytotoxicity (µM) Vero Cells	compound	R ¹ X	R ²	MIC (µg/mL) <i>Mtb</i> H37Rv	cytotoxicity (µM) Vero Cells
1-4a			0.63	60 ± 7.2	1-4f			6.25	> 200
1-4b			3.13	40 ± 8.5	1-4g			12.5	> 200
1-4c			1.56	26 ± 9.5	1-4h			1.25	> 200
1-4d			12.5	> 200	1-4i			1.25	> 200
1-4e			12.5	> 200	1-4j			1.25	75 ± 21

^a *Mtb* H37Rv: drug-sensitive strain

Although **1-4a**, bearing a n-butoxycarbonylamino group at the 5-position, was not among the 22 hit compounds, we added this compound for the MIC determination, since this carbamate group gave the best potency in the 6-dialkylamino series of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles in our another study. Indeed, **1-4a** exhibited the best potency (MIC 0.63 µg mL) against *Mtb* H37Rv in this series (**Table x**). The cytotoxicity of **1-4a** ~ **1-4j** was evaluated in vitro against Vero cells using the MTT assay. Compounds **1-4a**, **1-4b**, **1-4c** and **1-4j** showed cytotoxicity with IC₅₀ values in the range of 26-75 µM. However, most of the analytically pure compounds did not show appreciable cytotoxicity against Vero cells.

§ 1.3 Conclusion

New library of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles bearing sulfide and ether linkage at the 6-position have been synthesized. Among 376 compounds from preliminary HTP screening, 108 benzimidazoles were active at 5 µg/mL concentration and 22 compounds were identified at less than 1 µg/mL concentration. A number of hit compounds have been identified against *Mtb* H37Rv strain with good MIC values in the range of 0.63-12.5 µg/mL. Further SAR study is necessary to obtain more detailed information for the substituent effects at 5 and 6-positions of the 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles in this series. Nevertheless, 4-fluorophenoxy and butylthio groups were found to be preferred substituents at the 6-position. For the compounds, bearing a 4-fluorophenoxy group at the 6-position, a carbamate group at the 5-position gave the most potent compound (**1-4a**), but there is no difference between a carbamate group and benzamide groups for their potency (**1-4j** vs **1-4h** and **1-4i**) for the compounds, bearing a butylthio group at the 6-position. This is a unique feature in this series of benzimidazoles since a carbamate group at the 5-position provides, in general, more potent compounds than the corresponding 5- amidobenzimidazoles in the 5-dialkylamino-benzimidazole series. Further optimization and biological evaluation of the lead compounds will be carried out to investigate pathogen specific as well as broad spectrum antibacterial activities.

§ 1.4 Experimental Section

§ 1.4.1 General Methods

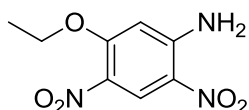
^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker 400 or 500 MHz NMR spectrometer. Melting points were measured on a Thomas Hoover Capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. TLC was performed on Sorbtech with UV254 and column chromatography was carried out on silica gel 60 (Merck; 230-400 mesh ASTM). High-resolution mass spectra were obtained on Agilent-TOF instrument.

§ 1.4.2 Materials

The chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich Co., Synquest Inc., Alfa Aesar and purified before use by standard methods. Tetrahydrofuran was freshly distilled from sodium metal and benzophenone. Dichloromethane was also distilled immediately prior to use under nitrogen from calcium hydride. Aminomethylated polystyrene resin EHL (200-400 mesh) 2 % DVB was purchased from Novagen Biochem.

§ 1.4.3 Experimental Procedures

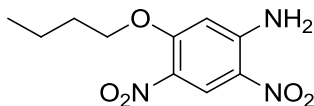
2,4-Dinitro-5-ethoxyaniline (1-1a)



To a magnetically stirred solution of 2,4-dinitro-5-fluoroaniline (4.0 g, 19.9 mmol) in 50 mL of THF and excess ethanol was added 1 M KOH aqueous solution drop wise until a yellow precipitate appeared. The reaction mixture was stirred for additional 1 h. The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo* to give **1-1a** as a yellow solid (4.8 g, 100 % yield): mp 162-165 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.53 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 4.18 (q, 2 H, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 6.23 (s, 1 H), 8.95 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.3, 66.1, 99.7, 127.2, 148.8, 158.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5^+$ 228.0615 Found: 228.0615 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm)

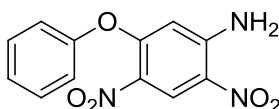
In a similar manner, intermediate **1-1b** and **1-1e** were synthesized and characterized.

5-Butoxy-2,4-dinitroaniline (**1-1b**)



Yellow solid; 76 % yield; mp 176-178 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.99 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 1.21-1.33 (m, 3 H), 1.41-1.46 (m, 2 H), 1.53 (dd, 2 H, $J = 15.1, 7.5$ Hz), 1.63-1.66 (m, 2 H), 1.75-1.78 (m, 2 H), 1.86 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 1.92-1.95 (m, 2 H), 2.32-2.36 (m, 1 H), 4.10 (t, 2 H, $J = 6.4$ Hz), 6.24 (s, 1 H), 8.95 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.7, 19.0, 25.3, 25.7, 28.8, 30.6, 42.8, 70.0, 99.7, 124.5, 127.2, 130.2, 148.8, 158.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5^+$ 256.0928 Found: 256.0931 ($\Delta = 1.17$ ppm).

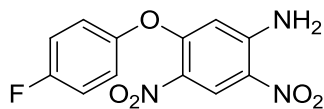
2,4-Dinitro-5-phenoxyaniline (**1-1c**)



To a magnetically stirred solution of 2,4-dinitro-5-fluoroaniline **1** (3.0 g, 14.9 mmol) in 45 mL of acetone were phenol (1.68 g, 17.9 mmol) and anhydrous K_2CO_3 (4.12 g, 29.8 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred mechanically at room temperature for at least 16 h until the total disappearance of **1** by MS (FIA) analysis. The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated in vacuo to give **2c** as a yellow solid (3.7 g, 91 % yield): mp 148-150 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.97 (s, 1 H), 7.56 (m, 3 H), 7.60 (dd, 2 H, $J = 7.57, 1.83$ Hz), 9.05 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 114.6, 126.4, 128.4, 129.7, 130.5, 130.9, 134.7, 136.2, 146.3, 148.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5^+$ 276.0615 Found: 276.0622 ($\Delta = 2.54$ ppm).

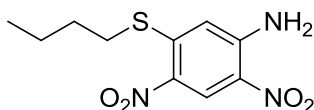
In a similar manner, intermediate **1-1d**, **1-1f**, **1-1g**, and **1-1h** were synthesized and characterized.

2,4-Dinitro-5-(4-fluorophenoxy)aniline (**1-1d**)



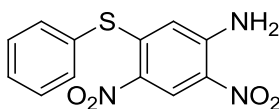
Yellow solid; 93% yield; mp 164- 165.5 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.01 (s, 1 H), δ 7.11-7.19 (m, 4 H), δ 9.05 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 103.7, 117.2, 117.4, 122.5, 122.6, 127.6, 148.5, 149.2, 157.8, 159.5, 161.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{FN}_3\text{O}_5^+$ 294.0521 Found: 294.0521 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm)

5-(Butylthio)-2,4-dinitroaniline (1-1e)



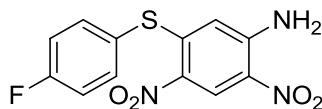
Yellow solid; 99% yield; mp 148- 149 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.99 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 1.53-1.57 (m, 2 H), 1.74-2.05 (m, 2 H), 2.01 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 6.55 (s, 1 H), 9.18 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.7, 22.3, 29.2, 32.4, 112.6, 126.6, 127.8, 135.4, 146.3, 147.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$ 272.0700 Found: 272.0701 ($\Delta = 0.35$ ppm)

2,4-Dinitro-5-(phenylthio)aniline (1-1f)



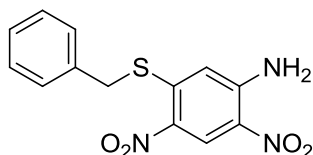
Yellow solid; 100% yield; mp 214-217 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.97 (s, 1 H), 7.21-7.24 (m, 3 H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 2 H), 9.02 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 126.4, 127.2, 127.5, 129.1, 130.5, 130.8, 136.2, 137.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$ 292.0387 Found: 292.0387 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

2,4-Dinitro-5-(4-fluorophenylthio)aniline (1-1g)



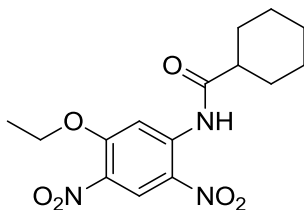
Yellow solid; 100 % yield; m,p 217-219 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.96 (s, 1 H), 7.04 (t, 1 H, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 7.27 (d, 1 H, $J = 8.53$), 7.49-7.46 (m, 1 H), 7.62 (dd, 1 H, $J = 8.5, 5.3$ Hz), 9.23 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 114.4, 116.2, 116.4, 117.8, 118.0, 126.5, 131.2, 131.3, 138.3, 138.4, 146.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{FN}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$ 310.0292 Found: 310.0292 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

5-(Benzylthio)-2,4-dinitroaniline (1-1h)



Yellow solid; 100 % yield; mp 188.5-190 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.17 (s, 2 H), δ 6.62 (s, 1 H), δ 7.36-7.44 (m, 5 H), 9.19 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 37.8, 113.0, 126.5, 128.2, 129.0, 129.1, 133.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$ 306.0543 Found: 306.0543 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

1-(Cyclohexanecarboxamido)-5-ethoxy-2,4-dinitro-benzene (1-2a)

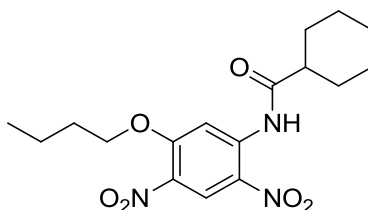


To a solution of **1-1a** (0.71 g, 3.13 mmol) in 12 mL of pyridine was added cyclohexanecarbonyl chloride (0.54 mL, 1.3 eq.), and the mixture was magnetically stirred and refluxed overnight. After completion of the reaction by TLC analysis, the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and then washed with CuSO_4 solution twice to get rid of the leftover pyridine.

The reaction mixture was washed with brine and then diluted with ethyl acetate and dichloromethane, and washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated to afford **1-2a** as a yellow solid (0.9 g, 89 % yield): mp 109-109.5 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.28-1.31 (m, 1 H), 1.38-1.42 (m, 2 H), 1.51 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.41 Hz), 1.59-1.60 (m, 2 H), 1.76-1.79 (m, 1 H), 1.88-1.93 (m, 2 H), 2.05-2.09 (m, 2 H), 2.44 (tt, 1 H, *J* = 11.6, 3.5 Hz), 3.12 (q, 2 H, *J* = 7.44 Hz), 9.19 (s, 1 H), 9.24 (s, 1 H), 10.9 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.2, 25.4, 25.5, 27.1, 29.4, 47.4, 116.9, 124.9, 130.7, 138.1, 149.7, 176.0; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₂₀N₃O₆⁺ 338.1347 Found: 338.1351 (Δ = 1.18 ppm).

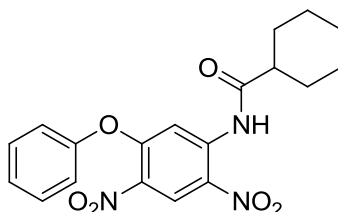
In a similar manner, compounds **1-2b** ~ **1-2h** were synthesized and characterized.

1-(Cyclohexanecarboxamido)-5-butoxy-2,4-dinitro-benzene (**1-2b**)



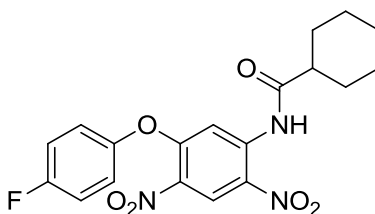
Yellow solid; 100 % yield; mp 187.5-189°C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.99 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 1.21-1.33 (m, 3 H), 1.45 (d, 2 H, *J* = 11.5 Hz), 1.50-1.56 (m, 2 H), 1.6401.66 (m, 1 H), 1.75-1.78 (m, 2 H), 1.86 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 8.4, 6.8 Hz), 1.93 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.8 Hz), 2.32-2.36 (m, 1 H), 4.09 (t, 2 H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 6.24 (s, 1 H), 8.95 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.7, 19.0, 25.3, 25.3, 28.8, 30.6, 42.8, 70.0, 99.7, 124.5, 127.2, 130.2, 148.8, 158.2; MS (ESI) *m/z* 366.1 (M+1).

1-(Cyclohexanecarboxamido)-5-phenoxyphenyl-2,4-dinitro-benzene (**1-2c**)



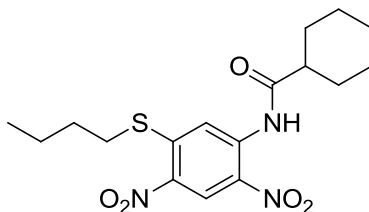
Yellow solid; 97 % yield; mp 150.5-152 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.21 (tt, 1 H, *J* = 12.3, 3.2 Hz), 1.26-1.35 (m, 2 H), 1.43 (qd, 2 H, *J* = 12.3, 3.1), 1.68-1.72 (m, 1 H), 1.81 (dt, 2 H, *J* = 13.1, 3.3 Hz), 1.95 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 13.5, 1.9 Hz), 2.23-2.33 (m, 1 H), 7.15-7.17 (m, 2 H), 7.35 (t, 1 H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.49-7.52 (m, 2 H), 8.53 (s, 1 H), 9.06 (s, 1 H), 10.8 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.5, 29.3, 47.3, 108.8, 120.6, 121.6, 125.6, 126.7, 128.8, 129.4, 130.6, 133.2, 140.4, 153.2, 157.7, 175.4; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₀N₃O₆⁺ 386.1347 Found: 386.1345 (Δ = -0.52 ppm).

1-(Cyclohexanecarboxamido)-5-(4-fluorophenoxy)-2,4-dinitrobenzene (1-2d)



Yellow solid; mp 147-149 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.18-1.20 (m, 1 H), 1.27-1.32 (m, 2 H), 1.40 (d, 2 H, *J* = 11.6 Hz), 1.71 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 1.69, 1.42 Hz), 1.78-1.83 (m, 2 H), 1.90-1.94 (m, 2 H), 2.22-2.30 (m, 1 H), 7.23-2.30 (m, 2 H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 2 H), 8.47 (s, 1 H), δ 9.21 (s, 1 H), δ 10.6 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.2, 25.4, 29.1, 29.3, 47.2, 117.9, 118.1, 119.0, 123.9, 124.1, 124.7, 138.1, 138.2, 150.4, 165.8, 174.8; MS (ESI) *m/z* 404.0 (M+1)⁺.

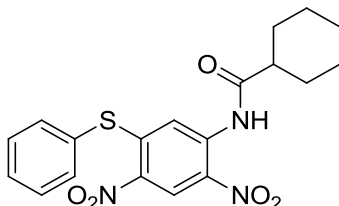
1-(Cyclohexanecarboxamido)-5-(butylthio)-2,4-dinitrobenzene (1-2e)



Yellow solid; 100 % yield; mp 118-119 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.99 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 1.25-1.32 (m, 1 H), 1.33-1.42 (m, 2 H), 1.55-1.59 (m, 4 H), 1.74-1.78 (m, 1 H), 1.80-1.83 (m, 2 H), 1.88 (dt, 2 H, *J* = 13.3, 3.4 Hz), 2.05 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 13.4, 2.2 Hz), 2.42 (tt, 1 H, *J* = 11.7,

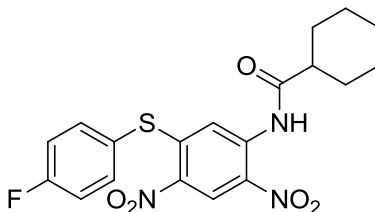
3.5 Hz), 3.07 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 9.16 (s, 1 H), 9.21 (s, 1 H), 10.9 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.7, 22.1, 25.5, 29.5, 32.7, 47.5, 117.0, 124.9, 138.1, 150.0, 175.9; MS (ESI) m/z 382.1 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

1-(Cyclohexanecarboxamido)-5-(phenylthio)phenyl-2,4-dinitrobenzene (1-2f)



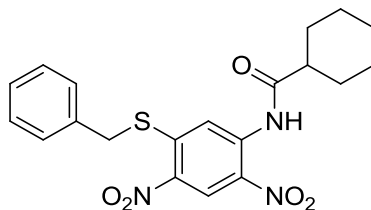
Yellow solid; 100 % yield; mp 217-218 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.18-1.22 (m, 2 H), 1.24-1.32 (m, 2 H), 1.37(qd, 2 H, $J = 12.2, 2.8$ Hz), 1.67 (dd, 1 H, $J = 12.8, 0.8$ Hz), 1.78-1.82 (m, 2 H), 1.89-1.92 (m, 2 H), 2.24 (tt, 1 H, $J = 11.7, 3.5$ Hz), 7.60 (q, 5 H, $J = 6.1$ Hz), 8.46 (s, 1 H), 9.22 (s, 1 H), 10.6 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.4, 29.3, 30.9, 47.3, 119.1, 124.7, 128.6, 130.6, 131.1, 135.9, 137.5, 138.0, 150.7, 174.8; MS (ESI) m/z 402.1 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

1-(Cyclohexanecarboxamido)-5-(4-fluorophenylthio)-2,4-dinitrobenzene (1-2g)



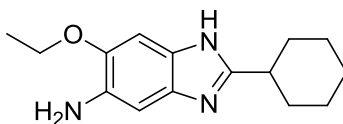
Yellow solid; 96 % yield; mp 186-189 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.16-1.23 (m, 1 H), 1.25-1.31 (m, 2 H), 1.34-1.42 (m, 2 H), 1.68-1.74 (m, 1 H), 1.79-1.83 (m, 2 H), 1.94 (dd, 2 H, $J = 12.9, 2.1$ Hz), 2.25-2.31 (m, 1 H), 7.25-7.29 (m, 2 H), 7.62 (dd, 2 H, $J = 8.8, 5.2$ Hz), 8.49 (s, 1 H), 9.24 (s, 1 H), 10.6 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.5, 29.3, 31.0, 47.3, 119.1, 124.7, 128.7, 130.6, 131.1, 131.5, 135.9, 137.6, 138.1, 150.8, 174.8; MS (ESI) m/z 420.1 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

1-(Cyclohexanecarboxamido)-5-(benzylthio)-2,4-dinitro-benzene (1-2h)



Yellow solid; 96 % yield: mp 150-153 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.27-1.30 (m, 1 H), 1.37-1.44 (m, 2 H), 1.52-1.62 (m, 2 H), 1.74-1.77 (m, 1 H), 1.87-1.90 (m, 2 H), 2.04-2.07 (m, 2 H), 2.39-2.47 (m, 1 H), 4.30 (s, 2 H), 7.26-7.37 (m, 3 H), 7.45 (d, 2 H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 9.21 (s, 1 H), 9.29 (s, 1 H), 10.9 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.4, 25.5, 29.4, 38.1, 43.3, 47.4, 117.1, 124.8, 127.4, 128.2, 128.5, 128.8, 129.4, 129.6, 130.9, 133.5, 137.4, 138.1, 138.2, 149.1, 175.9; MS (ESI) m/z 416.0 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

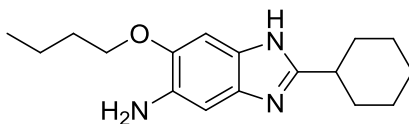
5-Amino-6-ethoxy-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol (1-3a)



A solution of **1-2a** (100 mg, 0.30 mmol), tin(II) chloride dihydrate (0.47 g, 2.1 mmol) in 10 mL of EtOH was magnetically stirred and refluxed at 90 °C under nitrogen for 1 h. The reaction mixture was cooled, quenched with 30 % KOH, and pH adjusted to ~13. The solution was diluted with dichloromethane and washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound **1-3a** as a pale red color solid (69 g, 89 % yield): mp 89-90 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.23 (ddd, 1 H, $J = 14.2, 10.8, 3.3$ Hz), 1.32 (ddd, 2 H, $J = 14.2, 11.1, 3.1$ Hz), 1.37-1.42 (m, 3 H), 1.60 (qd, 2 H, $J = 12.4, 3.1$ Hz), 1.69-1.71 (m, 1 H), 1.79-1.81 (m, 2 H), 2.08 (d, 2 H, $J = 12.4$ Hz), 2.80 (tt, 1 H, $J = 11.8, 3.51$ Hz), 3.79 (br, 2 H), 3.99 (dd, 2 H, $J = 8.3, 3.3$ Hz), 6.78 (s, 1 H), 6.96 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 15.0, 25.9, 26.1, 32.0, 38.5, 64.4, 132.9, 133.0, 144.5, 157.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ 260.1757 Found: 260.1758 ($\Delta = 0.38$ ppm).

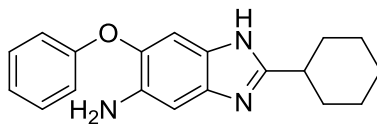
In a similar manner, compounds **1-3b** ~ **1-3d** were synthesized and characterized.

5-Amino-6-butoxy-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol (1-3b)



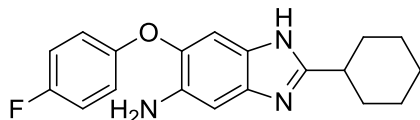
Reddish solid; 69 % yield; mp 113-115 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.97 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 1.23-1.28 (m, 1 H), 1.35-1.40 (m, 2 H), 1.50 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 15.0, 7.5 Hz), 1.60 (qd, 2 H, *J* = 12.4, 3.2 Hz), 1.70-1.75 (m, 1 H), 1.76-1.86 (m, 4 H), 2.08-2.12 (m, 2 H), 2.78-2.84 (m, 1 H), 3.76 (br, 2 H), 3.98 (t, 2 H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 6.80 (s, 1 H), 7.00 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 19.4, 25.9, 26.1, 31.4, 32.0, 38.4, 68.6, 133.1, 144.6, 156.7; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₂₆N₃O⁺ 288.2070 Found: 288.2071 (Δ = 0.35 ppm).

5-Amino-6-phenoxy-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol (1-3c)



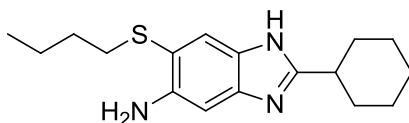
Pale yellow solid; 46 % yield; mp 136-138 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.25-1.32 (m, 1 H), 1.35-1.44 (m, 2 H), 1.56-1.66 (m, 2 H), 1.72-1.77 (m, 1 H), 1.83-1.88 (m, 2 H), 2.09-2.14 (m, 2 H), 2.80-2.86 (m, 1 H), 3.73 (br, 2 H), 6.93-6.97 (m, 2 H), 7.01-7.05 (m, 1 H), 7.12 (s, 1 H), 7.26-7.29 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.9, 26.0, 31.9, 38.5, 116.7, 122.4, 129.7, 135.3, 140.3, 158.1; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₂N₃O⁺ 308.1757 Found: 308.1758 (Δ = 0.32 ppm).

5-Amino-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo-[d]imidazol (1-3d)



Beige solid; 70 % yield; mp 195-196 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.26-2.30 (m, 1 H), 1.38-1.43 (m, 2 H), 1.61 (dd, 2 H, $J = 12.4, 3.1$ Hz), 1.72-1.77 (m, 1 H), 1.86 (dt, 2 H, $J = 13.1, 3.3$ Hz), 2.12 (dd, 2 H, $J = 13.6, 2.0$ Hz), 2.83 (tt, 1 H, $J = 11.8, 3.6$ Hz), 3.74 (br, 2 H), 6.95 (m, 5 H), 8.89 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.8, 26.0, 31.8, 38.5, 116.0, 116.2, 118.1, 118.2, 154.0, 157.1, 159.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{FN}_3\text{O}^+$ 326.1663 Found: 326.1667 ($\Delta = 1.2$ ppm).

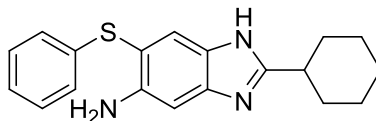
5-Amino-6-(butylthio)-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]-imidazol (1-3e)



A solution of **1-2e** (1.97 g, 5.16 mmol), tin(II) chloride dihydrate (15.5 g, 36.1 mmol), and 4 M HCl (80 mL) in 200 mL of EtOH was magnetically stirred and refluxed for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled, quenched with 1M NaOH, and pH was adjusted to ~10. Tin salts precipitated in solution upon addition of 1 M NaOH. The reaction mixture was filtered to remove the tin salts. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound **4e** as a pale greenish gray solid (0.413g): 71 % yield; mp 110-112 °C; ^1H NMR 500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.88 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 1.25-1.30 (m, 1 H), 1.36-1.42 (m, 4 H), 1.55 (dt, 2 H, $J = 14.0, 7.4$ Hz), 1.64 (qd, 2 H, $J = 12.4, 3.2$ Hz), 1.72-1.76 (m, 1 H), 1.85 (dt, 2 H, $J = 13.2, 3.3$ Hz), 2.13 (dd, 2 H, $J = 13.7, 1.9$ Hz), 2.72 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 2.86 (tt, 1 H, $J = 11.8, 3.5$ Hz), 4.35 (br, 2 H), 6.83 (s, 1 H), 7.66 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.7, 21.9, 25.8, 26.0, 31.6, 31.9, 35.5, 38.5, 114.5, 144.0, 158.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_3\text{S}^+$ 304.1842 Found: 304.1842 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

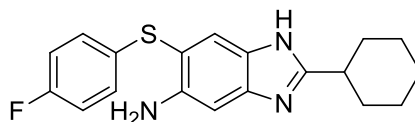
In a similar manner, compounds **1-3f** ~ **1-3h** were synthesized and characterized.

5-Amino-6-(phenylthio)-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]-imidazol (1-3f)



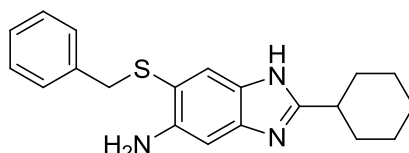
Brownish solid; 57 % yield; mp 116-118 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.27-1.35 (m, 1 H), 1.42 (qt, 2 H, $J = 12.79, 3.29$ Hz), 1.66 (qd, 2 H, $J = 12.4, 3.29$ Hz), 1.76-1.80 (m, 1 H), 1.89 (dt, 2 H, $J = 13.3, 3.38$ Hz), 2.16 (dd, 2 H, $J = 13.7, 2.01$ Hz), 2.88 (tt, 1 H, $J = 11.8, 3.55$ Hz), 4.22 (br, 2 H), 6.92 (s, 1 H), δ 7.08-7.13 (m, 3 H), δ 7.20-7.23 (m, 2 H), δ 7.67 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.8, 26.0, 31.8, 38.5, 110.6, 125.3, 126.1, 128.9, 137.6, 144.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{S}^+$ 324.1529 Found: 324.1529 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

5-Amino-6-(4-fluorophenylthio)-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]-imidazol (1-3g)



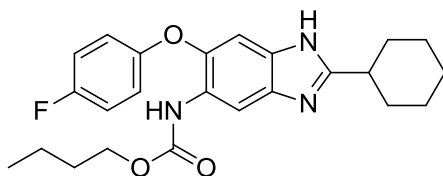
Pale green solid; 61 % yield; mp 107-108 °C; ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.25 (ddd, 1 H, $J = 13.8, 7.1, 3.6$ Hz), 1.33-1.40 (m, 2 H), 1.62 (qd, 2 H, $J = 12.4, 3.1$ Hz), 1.71-1.74 (m, 1 H), 1.82-1.84 (m, 2 H), 2.85 (tt, 1 H, $J = 11.8, 3.5$ Hz), 6.86-6.89 (m, 3 H), 7.02-7.05 (m, 2 H), 7.70 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.8, 26.0, 31.8, 38.5, 98.8, 111.2, 115.9, 116.1, 124.2, 128.2, 132.4, 144.4, 159.3, 160.2, 162.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{S}^+$ 342.1435 Found: 342.1435 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

5-Amino-6-(benzylthio)-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]-imidazol (1-3h)



Pale beige solid; 56 % yield; mp 129.5-131 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.18-1.23 (m, 1 H), 1.27-1.35 (m, 2 H), 1.60 (qd, 2 H, $J = 12.4, 3.2$ Hz), 1.69 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.7$ Hz), 1.78 (dt, 2 H, $J = 13.1, 3.0$ Hz), 2.07 (dd, 2 H, $J = 14.2, 2.5$ Hz), 2.80-1.85 (m, 1 H), 3.86 (s, 2 H), 6.77 (s, 1 H), 7.10-7.12 (m, 2 H), 7.17 (td, 3 H, $J = 6.5, 2.8$ Hz), 7.49 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.7, 26.0, 31.7, 38.4, 40.7, 64.4, 98.4, 114.0, 123.1, 126.9, 128.3, 128.7, 132.8, 138.2, 139.1, 144.2, 159.1, 176.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{S}^+$ 338.1685 Found: 338.1686 ($\Delta = 0.3$ ppm).

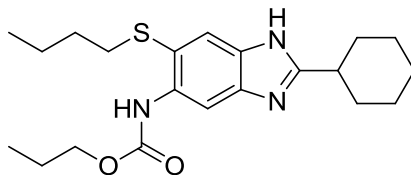
5-Butoxycarbonylamino-2-cyclohexyl-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (1-4a)



To a solution of **1-3a** (100 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of dichloromethane was added *N*-butoxycarbonyloxysuccinimide (68 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of dichloromethane and the mixture was magnetically stirred under nitrogen atmosphere in an ice bath. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 16 h. The solution was diluted with dichloromethane and basified with NaHCO_3 and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound **1-4a** as an off-white solid (54 mg, 47 % yield): mp 91-92 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 0.97 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 1.28-1.30 (m, 1 H), 1.39-1.45 (m, 4 H), 1.61-1.65 (m, 2 H), 1.67 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 1.76 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.5$ Hz), 1.85-1.88 (m, 2 H), 2.12 (d, 2 H, $J = 12.5$ Hz), 2.83-2.88 (m, 1 H), 4.19 (t, 2 H, $J = 6.7$ Hz), 6.96-7.05 (m, 4 H), 7.13 (s, 1 H), 8.23 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.8, 19.1, 25.8, 26.0, 31.0, 31.8, 38.5, 65.3, 116.5, 119.5, 125.6, 142.3, 153.1, 154.0, 157.8, 159.5, 159.6, 159.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{29}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_3^+$ 426.2187 Found: 426.2187 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

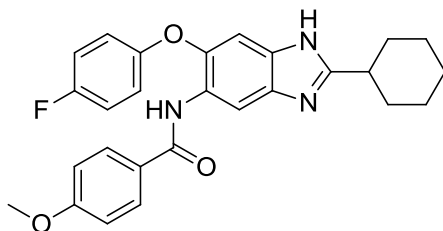
In a similar manner, compound **1-4j** was synthesized and characterized.

6-(Butylthio)-2-cyclohexyl-5-propoxycarbonylamino-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (1-4j)



Off-white solid; 62 % yield; mp 133-134.5 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.87 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.32$ Hz), 1.00 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.43$ Hz), 1.30 (dt, 1 H, $J = 3.51, 12.5$ Hz), 1.38-1.43 (m, 3 H), 1.50-1.53 (m, 2 H), 1.59-1.67 (m, 4 H), 1.74 (q, 2 H, $J = 7.11$ Hz), 1.88 (dt, 2 H, $J = 3.41, 13.3$ Hz), 2.13 (dd, 2 H, $J = 2.29, 13.4$ Hz), 2.69 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.35$ Hz), 2.84-2.89 (m, 1 H), 4.26 (t, 2 H, $J = 6.74$ Hz), 7.88 (s, 1 H), 8.20 (s, 1 H), 8.27 (s, 1 H), 8.95 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.4, 13.6, 21.8, 22.3, 25.8, 26.0, 29.7, 31.4, 31.7, 36.9, 38.4, 66.8, 98.5, 100.2, 126.5, 126.6, 134.9, 153.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}^+$ 390.2210 Found: 390.2214 ($\Delta = 1.0$ ppm).

2-Cyclohexyl-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-5-(4-methoxybenzamido)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (1-4b)

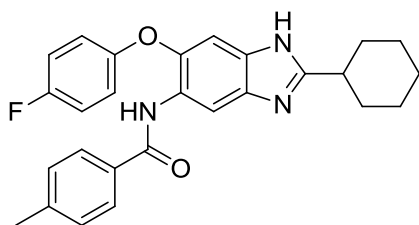


To a solution of **1-3d** (100 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of dichloromethane was added 4-methoxybenzoyl chloride (42 μL , 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of dichloromethane, and magnetically stirred in the ice bath. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 16 h. The solution was diluted with dichloromethane, basified with NaHCO_3 and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound **1-4b** as an off-white solid (152 mg, 92 % yield): mp > 230 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.22-1.33 (m, 3 H), 1.59 (dd, 2 H, $J = 12.1, 2.9$ Hz), 1.68-1.71 (m, 1 H), 1.78-1.81 (m, 2 H), 2.01-2.08 (m, 2 H), 2.76-2.82 (m, 1 H), 3.87 (s, 3 H), 6.96 (d,

2 H, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 7.03 (d, 3 H, $J = 6.3$ Hz), 7.78 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 8.55 (s, 1 H), 8.83 (s, 1 H), 9.81 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.8, 19.1, 25.8, 26.0, 31.0, 31.8, 38.5, 65.3, 116.5, 119.5, 125.6, 142.3, 153.1, 154.0, 157.8, 159.5, 159.6, 159.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{27}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_3^+$ 460.2031 Found: 460.2028 ($\Delta = -0.7$ ppm).

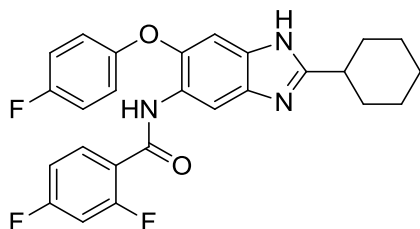
In a similar manner, compounds **1-4c** ~ **1-4g** were synthesized and characterized.

2-Cyclohexyl-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-5-(4-methyl-benzamido)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**1-4c**)



Off-white solid; 47 % yield; mp 166-168 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.81-1.23 (m, 1 H), 1.26-1.34 (m, 2 H), 1.56-1.64 (qd, 2 H, $J = 12.4, 2.6$ Hz), 1.71 (m, 1 H), 1.78-1.81 (d, 2 H, $J = 12.8$ Hz), 2.01 (dd, 2 H, $J = 12.5, 0.6$ Hz), 2.45 (t, 3 H), 2.79 (t, 1 H, $J = 11.5$ Hz), 7.05 (d, 3 H, $J = 6.4$ Hz), 7.24 (s, 1 H), 7.31 (d, 2 H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.74 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 8.63 (s, 1 H), 8.90 (s, 1H), 10.2 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.5, 25.7, 25.9, 29.7, 31.7, 38.5, 116.4, 116.6, 119.4, 119.5, 125.3, 126.9, 132.2, 142.6, 153.0, 153.1, 137.9, 159.9, 160.2, 165.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{27}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ 442.2082 Found: 442.2082 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

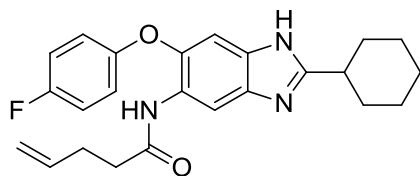
2-Cyclohexyl-5-(2,4-difluorobenzamido)-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**1-4d**)



Off-white solid; 92 % yield; mp 184-185 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) 0.83-0.88 (m, 1 H), 1.25-1.32 (m, 2 H), 1.59 (dd, 2 H, $J = 12.3, 3.0$ Hz), 1.68-1.70 (m, 1 H), 1.78-1.80 (m, 2 H), 2.07

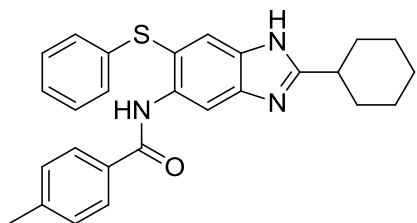
(d, 2 H, $J = 12.8$ Hz), 2.80-2.84 (m, 1 H), 6.90 (ddd, 1 H, $J = 11.7, 8.8, 2.6$ Hz), 6.99 (d, 3 H, $J = 6.3$ Hz), 7.02-7.06 (m, 1 H), 7.21 (s, 1 H), 8.21 (td, 1 H, $J = 8.9, 6.6$ Hz), 8.81 (s, 1 H), 9.26 (d, 1 H, $J = 15.7$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.9, 26.2, 31.9, 38.2, 101.1, 105.2, 112.5, 112.6, 112.7, 116.5, 116.7, 120.8, 120.9, 126.4, 128.8, 138.4, 144.8, 151.7, 158.4, 161.0, 163.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$ 466.1737 Found: 466.1743 ($\Delta = 1.29$ ppm).

2-Cyclohexyl-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-5-(pent-4-enimido)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (1-4e)



White solid; 63 % yield; mp 180.5-181.5 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.24-1.30 (m, 2 H), 1.36-1.44 (m, 2 H), 1.59-1.64 (m, 2 H), 1.73-1.76 (m, 1 H), 1.86 (dq, 2 H, $J = 3.34, 9.98$ Hz), 2.11 (dd, 2 H, $J = 2.28, 13.3$ Hz), 2.48 (dt, 3 H, $J = 5.88, 11.7$ Hz), 2.82-2.87 (m, 1 H), 4.99 (d, 1 H, $J = 10.2$ Hz), 5.07 (d, 1 H, $J = 16.1$ Hz), 5.82 (ddt, 1 H, $J = 6.27, 10.5, 16.9$ Hz), 6.95-7.04 (m, 3 H), 7.17 (s, 1 H), 7.87 (s, 1 H), 8.58 (s, 1 H), 9.58 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.2, 25.8, 26.0, 29.5, 31.7, 37.3, 38.5, 60.4, 102.7, 108.0, 116.1, 116.3, 116.5, 119.5, 125.2, 136.4, 142.4, 157.9, 159.8, 170.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ 408.2082 Found: 408.2090 ($\Delta = 1.96$ ppm).

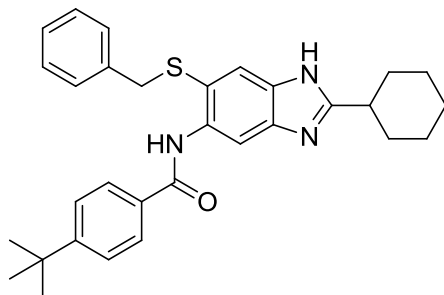
2-Cyclohexyl-5-(4-methylbenzamido)-6-(phenylthio)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (1-4f)



Off-white solid; 79 % yield; mp 184.5-186 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06-1.20 (m, 3 H), 1.53-1.63 (m, 3 H), 1.70 (d, 2 H, $J = 9.5$ Hz), 2.00 (d, 2 H, $J = 11.3$ Hz), 2.44 (s, 3 H), 2.73 (t, 1

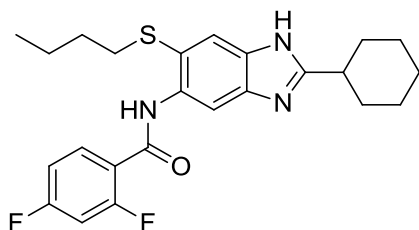
H, $J = 9.6$ Hz), 7.14 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.62$ Hz), 7.22-7.27 (m, 4 H), 7.59 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 8.06 (s, 1 H), 9.01 (s, 1 H), 9.39 (s, 1 H), 11.0 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.5, 25.6, 25.9, 29.7, 31.6, 38.5, 103.3, 113.6, 126.0, 126.3, 126.4, 126.9, 129.0, 129.3, 129.6, 132.2, 134.2, 136.6, 142.6, 160.9, 166.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{N}_3\text{OS}^+$ 436.2417 Found: 436.2417 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

6-(Benzylthio)-2-cyclohexyl-5-(4-(*tert*-butyl)benzamido)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (1-4g)



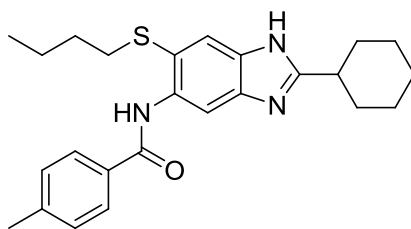
Off-white solid; 92 % yield; mp 173-173.5 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06-1.23 (m, 3 H), 1.40 (s, 9 H), 1.51-1.59 (m, 3 H), 1.68 (d, 2 H, $J = 11.3$ Hz), 1.97 (d, 2 H, $J = 11.8$ Hz), 2.67-2.72 (m, 1 H), 3.90 (s, 2 H), 6.98 (dd, 2 H, $J = 7.1, 2.3$ Hz), 7.04 (dd, 3 H, $J = 5.0, 1.9$ Hz), 7.52 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.70 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.96 (s, 1 H), 8.93 (s, 1 H), 9.38 (s, 1 H), 11.1 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.6, 25.9, 31.2, 31.7, 35.1, 38.5, 43.4, 102.2, 116.4, 125.8, 126.9, 127.1, 127.3, 128.5, 132.3, 135.3, 138.0, 140.2, 155.5, 160.8, 165.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_3\text{OS}^+$ 498.2574 Found: 498.2574 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

6-(Butylthio)-5-(2,4-difluorobenzamido)-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (1-4h)



Off-white solid; 93 % yield; mp 170-170.5 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.83 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.33$ Hz), 1.17-1.29 (m, 3 H), 1.36 (dd, 2 H, $J = 15.0, 7.37$ Hz), 1.49-1.60 (m, 4 H), 1.67 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.1$ Hz), 1.77 (d, 2 H, $J = 12.3$ Hz), 2.06 (d, 2 H, $J = 11.9$ Hz), 2.73 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.42$ Hz), 2.79 (m, 1 H), 6.96-7.09 (m, 2 H), 7.93 (s, 1 H), 8.23 (td, 1 H, $J = 8.85, 6.54$ Hz), 8.87 (s, 1 H), 10.1 (s, 1 H), 10.3 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.6, 21.7, 25.7, 25.9, 31.3, 31.7, 37.0, 38.5, 104.7, 112.5, 112.7, 117.8, 118.3, 118.4, 133.8, 134.3, 160.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{28}\text{F}_2\text{N}_3\text{OS}^+$ 444.1916 Found: 444.1922 ($\Delta = 1.35$ ppm).

6-(Butylthio)-5-(4-methylbenzamido)-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (1-4i)



Off-white solid; 34 % yield; mp 155-156 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.81 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.38$ Hz), 1.05-1.15 (m, 3 H), 1.24 (s, 1 H), 1.34 (q, 2 H, $J = 7.34$ Hz), 1.49-1.60 (m, 4 H), 1.66 (d, 2 H, $J = 12.1$ Hz), 1.97 (d, 2 H, 11.9 Hz), 2.46 (s, 3 H), 2.71-2.75 (m, 3 H), 7.36 (d, 2 H, $J = 7.79$ Hz), 7.92 (d, 3 H, $J = 7.73$ Hz), 8.99 (s, 1 H), 9.84 (s, 1 H), 11.4 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 13.5, 21.5, 21.8, 25.5, 25.8, 29.6, 31.4, 31.6, 37.2, 38.4, 102.7, 117.1, 126.2, 127.0, 129.7, 132.3, 133.8, 135.2, 140.1, 142.6, 160.7, 165.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_3\text{OS}^+$ 422.2261 Found: 422.2265 ($\Delta = 0.9$ ppm).

§ 1.4.4 Bacterial Strains and Growth

For evaluation of drug sensitivity, *Mtb* H37Rv was grown in 7H9 media containing 10% oleic acid/albumin/catalase (OADC) enrichment and 0.05% Tween-80 and assessed at mid log phase growth.

§ 1.4.5 Antibacterial Activity Determination

The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) was determined by the microplate Alamar Blue assay (MABA)³⁹ as described previously. Briefly, stock solutions of the compounds were prepared in DMSO and were serially diluted 2-fold in 96-well microtiter plates, and *Mtb* H37Rv strain was added to each well to an OD600 of 0.005. Plates were incubated for 6 days at 37 °C. Alamar Blue (Invitrogen) was added to the plates, and the plates were incubated for an additional 24 h at 37 °C. Plates were monitored for color change, and MIC₉₉ was determined in triplicate.

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Chapter 2

Target Confirmation and Biological Evaluation of Lead Compounds

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§ 2.1 Introduction

As previously discussed, FtsZ is a cell division protein which forms the cytokinetic Z-ring at the division site (**Figure 2-1**).^{1, 2} Once a normal cell is ready to divide, GTP-FtsZ initiates polymerization with recruitment of several non-essential accessory proteins such as FtsA, ZapA, EzrA and SepF at mid-cell.³ Then, Z-ring starts forming when steady-state turnover equilibrium reached with GTP-FtsZ in the cytoplasm.⁴

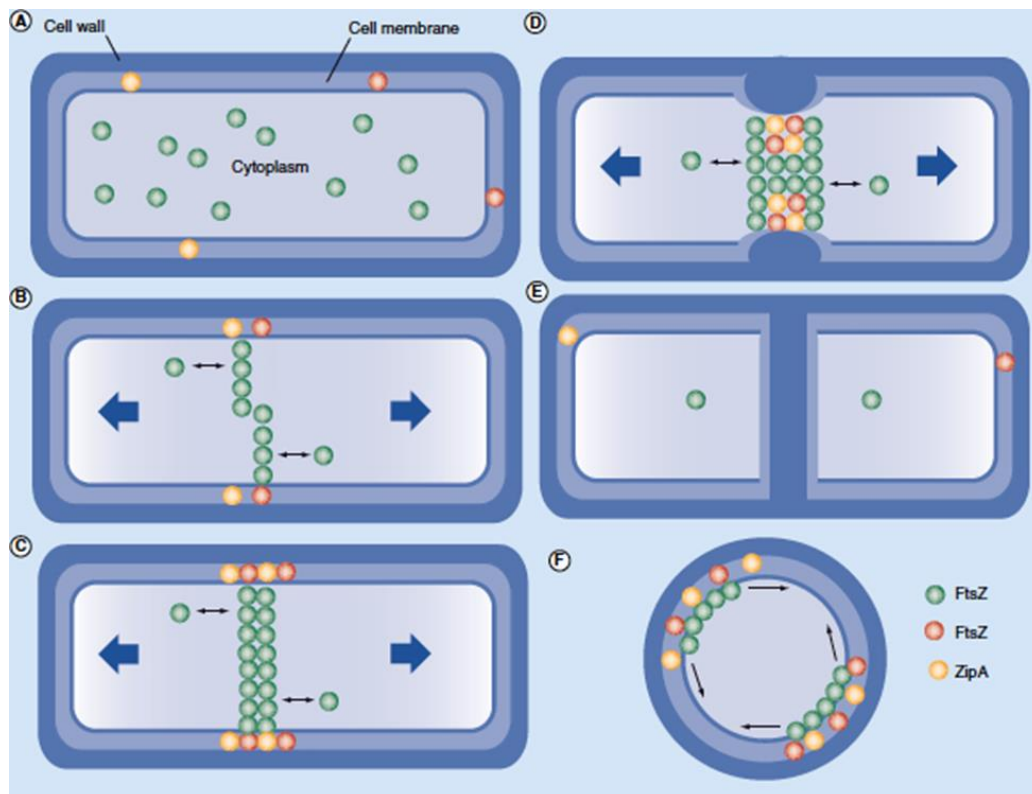


Figure 2- 1: Bacterial cell division (adapted from [4])

Construction of the Z-ring results in septum formation and gives two daughter cells, as well as depolymerization of the Z-ring. The FtsZ ring behaves dynamically during the cell division and remains attached to the leading edge of the constricting septum.⁵ It has been suggested that FtsZ polymers generate the membrane constriction force through iterative cycles of GTP hydrolysis, depolymerization, and polymerization again.⁶ Therefore, we hypothesized that inhibiting FtsZ polymerization or depolymerization could prevent septum formation resulting in cell death.

To validate the hypothesis, a library of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles was synthesized as described in the previous chapter. Among 376 preliminary screened compounds 108 compounds had activity at the 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ and 22 compounds had activity at the 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ concentration.

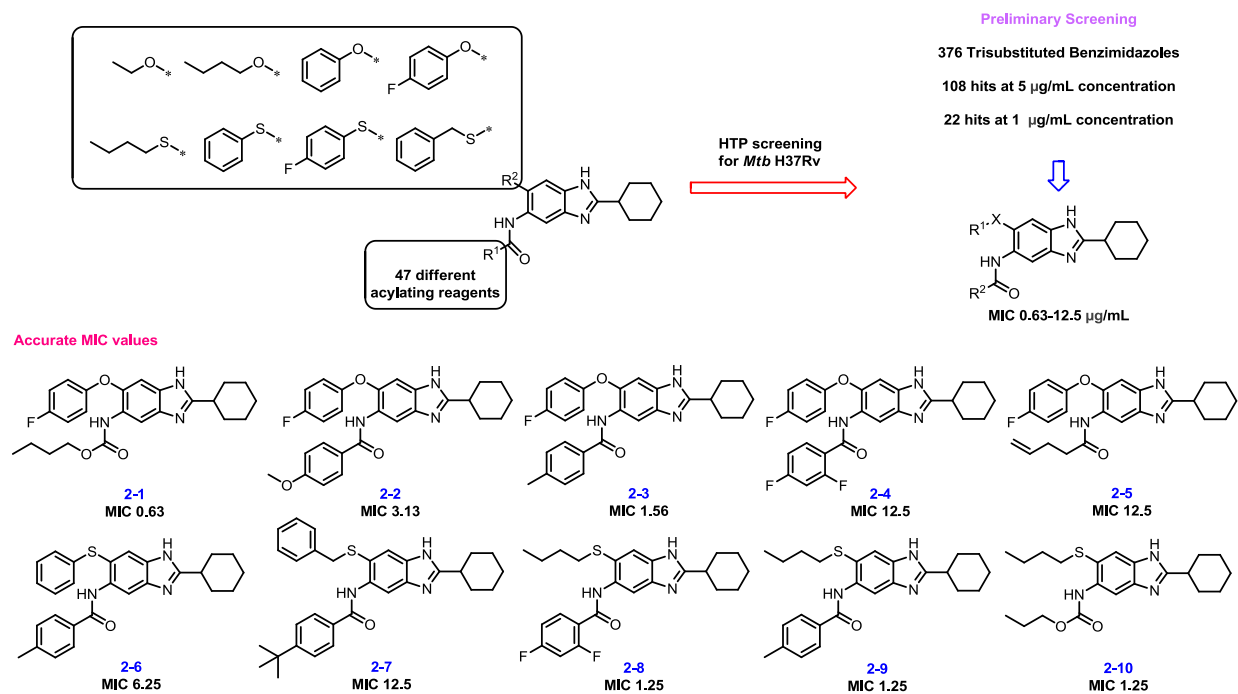


Figure 2- 2: Chemical structure of 10 lead compounds and their accurate MIC values

These hit compounds were resynthesized in analytically pure form and examined for their accurate MIC values and the structure of 10 lead compounds are described in **Figure 2-2**. In order to validate lead compounds inhibit bacterial growth by interfering with FtsZ assembly, light scattering assay based on FtsZ polymerization and TEM images of FtsZ upon compound treatment was measures.

§ 2.2 Results and discussion

§ 2.2.1 Inhibition of FtsZ polymerization

Two benzimidazoles **2-1** and **2-2** (**Figure 2-3**) were evaluated for their ability to inhibit the *Mtb* FtsZ polymerization. A light scattering assay was carried out to examine the effect of these compounds on inhibition of the FtsZ polymerization. The amount of the FtsZ polymer formed after addition of GTP was monitored by the intensity of light scattered by the sample. As **Figure 2-4** illustrates, **2-1** (MIC = 0.63 $\mu\text{g/mL}$; 1.2 μM) and **2-4** (MIC = 12.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$; 12.2 μM) inhibited FtsZ polymerization in a dose-dependent manner.

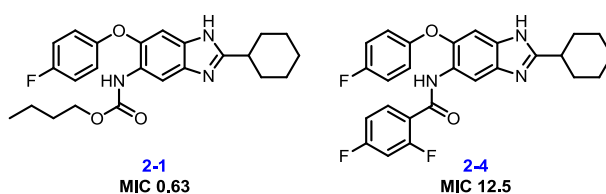
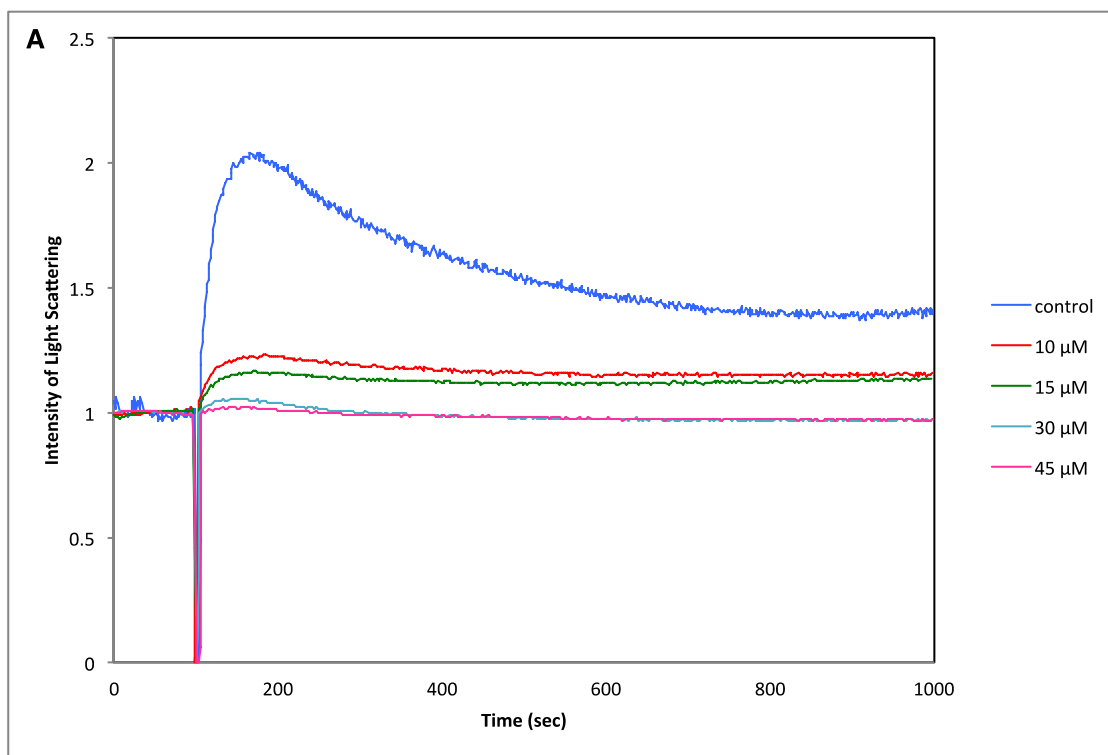


Figure 2- 3: Chemical structure of compound 2-1 and 2-4



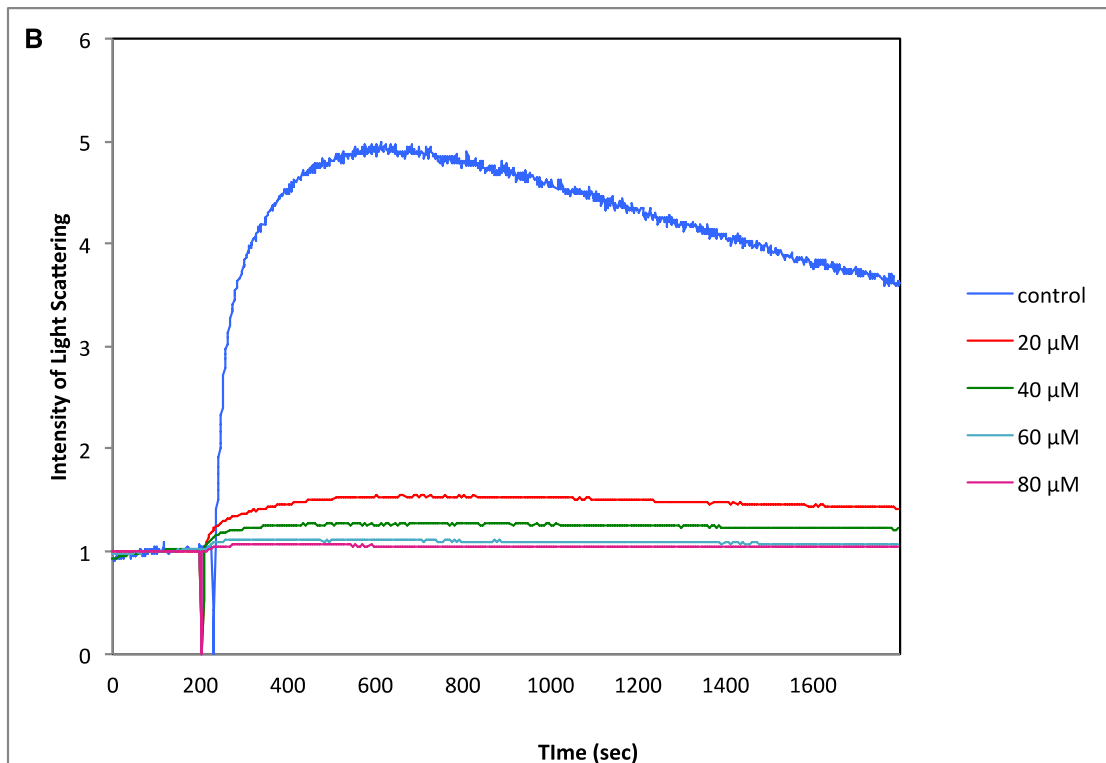


Figure 2- 4: Polymerization assay of (A) compound 2-1 and (B) compound 2-2

The inhibitory activity of two lead benzimidazoles **2-1** and **2-4** for *Mtb* FtsZ polymerization was determined by means of light scattering on a PTI-QM4 Fluorescence Master system. The 90° light scattering was measured at 30 °C, using excitation and emission wavelength of 400 nm with slit width of 2 nm. The gain was set at 875 V. *Mtb* FtsZ (15 μM) was incubated in the polymerization buffer (50 mM MES pH 6.5, 100 mM KCl, 5mM MgC₁₂) for up to 300 sec. Polymerization was initiated with 100 μM GTP and monitored for up to 30 min. Benzimidazole stocks were prepared in DMSO and incubated with FtsZ enzyme prior to initiation of polymerization with GTP.

This light scattering assay confirmed that two lead benzimidazoles inhibited polymerization of FtsZ in a dose dependent manner as anticipated. A reduction in the intensity of light scattering was observed as the concentration of compound was increased. In the case of compound **2-1**, almost no FtsZ polymerization was observed at 30 μM concentration. For compound **2-4**, a significant reduction of FtsZ formation and similar patterns in inhibition of FtsZ polymerization were observed.

§ 2.2.2 Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) of FtsZ assembly

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) imaging of *Mtb* FtsZ treated with **2-1** demonstrated in **Figure 2-5** showed the ability of the compound to inhibit FtsZ polymerization and aggregation.

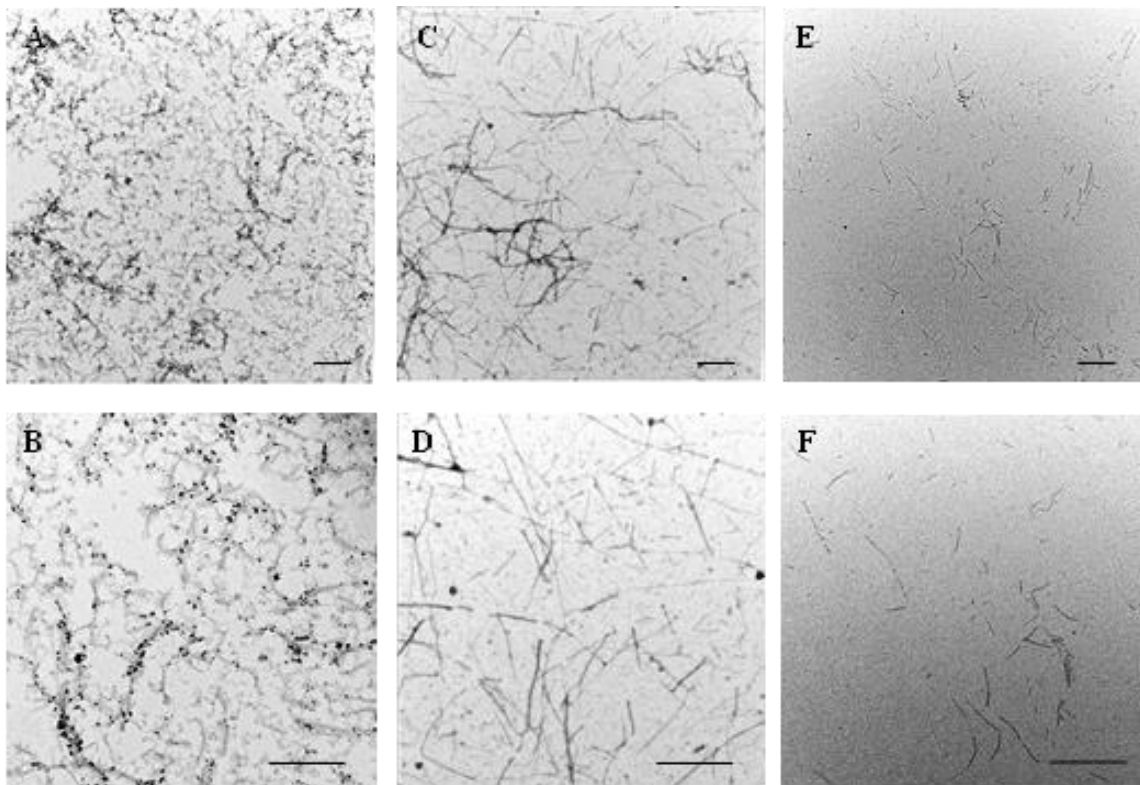


Figure 2- 5: TEM images of FtsZ

FtsZ (5 μM) was polymerized by GTP (25 μM) in the absence (A, B) and presence of **2-1** at 40 μM (C, D) and 80 μM (E, F). Images (A, C, E) are at 23,000 x magnification (scale bar 500 nm) and (B, D, F) are at 49,000 x magnification (scale bar 500 nm). Stock solution of compound **2-1** was prepared in ethanol. *Mtb* FtsZ (5 μM) was incubated with 40 or 80 μM of 5a in the polymerization buffer (50 mM MES, 5 mM MgCl_2 , 100 mM KCl, pH 6.5) for 15 min on ice. To each solution was added GTP to the final concentration of 25 μM . The resulting solution was incubated at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 min. The incubated solution was diluted 2 times with the polymerization buffer and immediately transferred to carbon coated 300 mesh formvar copper grid and negatively stained with 1% uranyl acetate. The samples were viewed with a FEI

Tecnai12 BioTwinG transmission electron microscope at 80 kV. Digital images were acquired with an AMT XR-60 CCD digital camera system.⁷ *Mtb* FtsZ (5 μ M) incubated with **2-1** at 40 μ M and 80 μ M concentration on addition of GTP (25 μ M) formed shorter and thinner FtsZ polymers when compared to the untreated polymerized *Mtb* FtsZ. In the absence of inhibitor, *Mtb* FtsZ formed a dense network of long polymers which tend to aggregate (**Figure 2-5: A, B**) while in the presence of **2-1** (40 μ M), the length, density and aggregation was visibly reduced (**Figure 2-5: C, D**). The effect was more apparent at 80 μ M treatment where very short and dispersed FtsZ polymers were observed (**Figure 2-5: E, F**).

In combination with the light scattering assay, TEM images confirm the target of compound **2-1** as *Mtb* FtsZ and gives insight into the mode of action of these new series of trisubstituted benzimidazoles bearing an ether or thioether linkage at 6-position.

§ 2.2.3 Dissociation Constant

The binding study was performed by our former group member, Dr. Soumya R. Chowdhury. The fluorescence intensity of the compound was measured in the presence of increasing FtsZ concentrations, in 50 mM MES, 100 mM KCl, 5 mM MgCl₂ in absence of GTP by exciting the compound at 316nm and monitoring the change of fluorescence at 427.9 nm using a PTI-QM4 spectrofluorometry. The change in fluorescence (ΔF) at 427.9 nm was fitted into the equation $\Delta F = (\Delta F_{max} \times L)/(K_d + L)$.⁸ Results are shown in **Figure 2-6**.

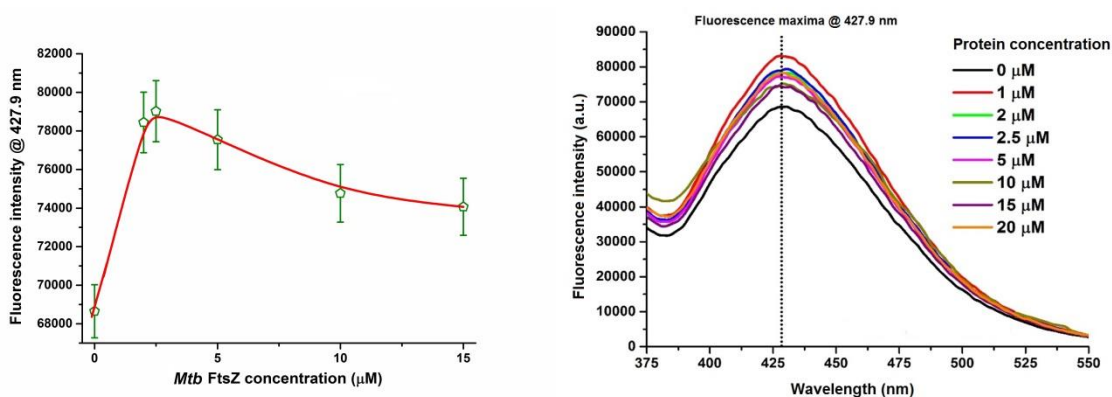


Figure 2- 6: Determination of binding parameter of 2-1 with *Mtb* FtsZ

The fluorescence intensity of **2-1**, the most active compound, was used to determine its dissociation constant (K_d) with the *Mtb* FtsZ.⁸ Compound **2-1** has an emission maximum at 427.9 nm with the excitation maximum at 316 nm. A Fixed concentration of **2-1** (100 μ M) was excited at 316 nm with varying concentration of *Mtb* FtsZ (as shown in the graph) and fluorescence monitored at 427.9 nm and plotted against wavelength. Increase in fluorescence intensity observed on addition of increasing concentration of protein. Fluorescence profiles of emission intensity at 427 nm for the titration of *Mtb* FtsZ. The peak saturation was observed at 2.5 μ M and then there is a progressive decrease in fluorescence emotion. The K_d of **2-1** was calculated to be $1.32 \pm 0.5 \mu$ M

§ 2.2.4 Cytotoxicity Assay against Vero Cells

The cytotoxicity of the compounds was tested against Vero cells utilizing MTT assay showed in **Table 2-1**.^{9, 10}

Table 2- 1: Cytotoxicity of 10 Lead Compounds against Vero^a Cells

compound	R ¹ X	R ²	MIC (μ g/mL) <i>Mtb</i> H37Rv	cytotoxicity (μ M) Vero Cells	compound	R ¹ X	R ²	MIC (μ g/mL) <i>Mtb</i> H37Rv	cytotoxicity (μ M) Vero Cells
2-1			0.63	60 \pm 7.2	2-6			6.25	> 200
2-2			3.13	40 \pm 8.5	2-7			12.5	> 200
2-3			1.56	26 \pm 9.5	2-8			1.25	> 200
2-4			12.5	> 200	2-9			1.25	> 200
2-5			12.5	> 200	2-10			1.25	75 \pm 21

^a kidney epithelial cells

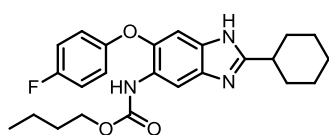
The cells were grown in DMEM media supplemented with 5 % Calf Bovine Serum and 1 % Penn Strip and incubated at 37 °C with 5 % CO₂. 5,000 cells added to each well of a 96-well

plate in 200 μ M aliquots. The cells were incubated at 37 $^{\circ}$ C for 1-2 days until 50 % cell confluency. A serial dilution of benzimidazoles dissolved in sterile DMSO was added to the 96-well plates in 200 μ M aliquots. The plates were incubated at 37 $^{\circ}$ C for 3 days. The medium was aspirated and then 40 μ L of 0.5 mg/mL MTT in DPBS was added to each well. The plates were then incubated at 37 $^{\circ}$ C for 3 hours. Then, 40 μ L of 0.8 M HCl solution were added to dissolve the remaining crystals. Each experiment was run in triplicate. The optical density data was used to calculate IC₅₀ values using the Hill slope equation. The IC₅₀ values and their standard errors were calculated from the viability-concentration curve using the Four Parameter Logistic Model of Sigmaplot.

Compounds **2-1**, **2-2**, **2-3** and **2-10** showed cytotoxicity in the range of 26-75 μ M. However, most of the analytically pure compounds did not show appreciable cytotoxicity against Vero cells.

§ 2.2.5 Early Metabolism Study on compound 2-1

The metabolism study on compound **2-1** was carried out in our collaboration, Sanofi, and the result is shown in **Table 2-2**.



2-1
MIC 0.63
SB code: SB-P26D2
Sanofi code: SAR429567

Table 2- 2: Metabolism Result

EME (% lability in liver microsomes)	
Human	77% (61% without NADPH)
	49% + Ketoconazole (3A4)
Rat	74% + Quinidine (2D6)
	88% (0% without NADPH)
Mouse	100% (97% without NADPH)

In vivo activity of the compound is low due to fast hydrolysis of the carbamate at 5-position. Systematic modification of the carbamate will be required to the identification of compounds with relatively improved stability.

§ 2.3 Conclusion

Compound **2-1** and **2-2** were chosen for FtsZ polymerization assays and compound **2-1** was used for TEM images for target validation. These results showed that the two selected compounds inhibit FtsZ assembly in a dose dependent manner. Further optimization of the lead compounds for their anti-TB activities is actively underway in our laboratory. Also biological evaluations of the hit/lead compounds of this series against various other pathogens will be carried out to investigate their pathogen specific as well as broad spectrum antibacterial activities. For the metabolism study of compound **2-1** revealed that the further optimization at the 5-position needed to improve stability.

To clearly see the effects of the compounds on FtsZ protein, higher concentration of compounds were used for the target validation compared to that of MIC determination. Even though we cannot exclude the fact that there is possible other mechanism of action for our compounds to show the activity in terms of MIC determination, FtsZ polymerization and TEM studies showed that the two selected compounds inhibit FtsZ assembly in a dose dependent manner. The polymerization assay and TEM imaging conditions used 40-80 μM of these FtsZ-inhibitors, but MIC values are submicro M concentration, which may look strange at a glance. However, we must be aware of a huge difference between the enzymatic assay and the polymerization/depolymerization assay of cell-division proteins. The in vitro conditions with proteins are very different from cells (antibacterial effect) and tubulin/microtubules or FtsZ-monomer/FtsZ-polymer (clear structural changes). Thus, the conditions that we used are norm to see the clear effects on the structure of the protein. These compounds, however, exert antibacterial effect (or cytotoxicity effect of taxane drugs for microtubules) at much lower concentrations. Nevertheless, it is true that these FtsZ-inhibitors may have secondary target(s) in bacterial cells. Thus, we need further investigation into the target validation and identification of possible additional molecular target(s).

§ 2.4 Experimental Section

§ 2.4.1 General Methods

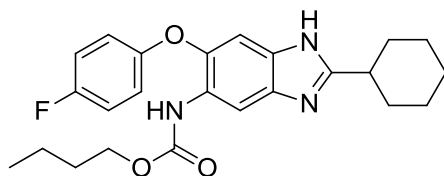
^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker 400 or 500 MHz NMR spectrometer. Melting points were measured on a Thomas Hoover Capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. TLC was performed on Sorbtech with UV254 and column chromatography was carried out on silica gel 60 (Merck; 230-400 mesh ASTM). High-resolution mass spectra were obtained on Agilent-TOF instrument.

§ 2.4.2 Materials

The chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich Co., Synquest Inc., Alfa Aesar and purified before use by standard methods. Tetrahydrofuran was freshly distilled from sodium metal and benzophenone. Dichloromethane was also distilled immediately prior to use under nitrogen from calcium hydride. Aminomethylated polystyrene resin EHL (200-400 mesh) 2 % DVB was purchased from Novagen Biochem.

§ 2.4.3 Experimental Procedures

5-Butoxycarbonylamino-2-cyclohexyl-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (2-1)

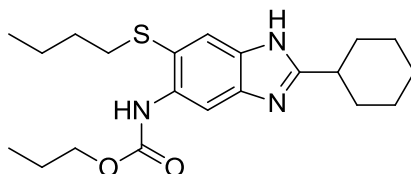


To a solution of **1-3a** (100 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of dichloromethane was added *N*-butoxycarbonyloxysuccinimide (68 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of dichloromethane and the mixture was magnetically stirred under nitrogen atmosphere in an ice bath. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 16 h. The solution was diluted with dichloromethane and basified with NaHCO_3 and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound **2-1** as an off-white solid (54 mg, 47 % yield): mp 91-92 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl₃) 0.97 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 1.28-1.30 (m, 1 H), 1.39-1.45 (m, 4 H), 1.61-1.65 (m, 2 H), 1.67 (t, 2 H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 1.76 (d, 1 H, *J* = 12.5 Hz), 1.85-1.88 (m, 2 H), 2.12 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.5 Hz), 2.83-2.88 (m, 1 H), 4.19 (t, 2 H, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 6.96-7.05 (m, 4 H), 7.13 (s, 1 H), 8.23 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.8, 19.1, 25.8, 26.0, 31.0, 31.8, 38.5, 65.3, 116.5, 119.5, 125.6, 142.3, 153.1, 154.0, 157.8, 159.5, 159.6, 159.7; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₄H₂₉FN₃O₃⁺ 426.2187 Found: 426.2187 (Δ = 0.0 ppm).

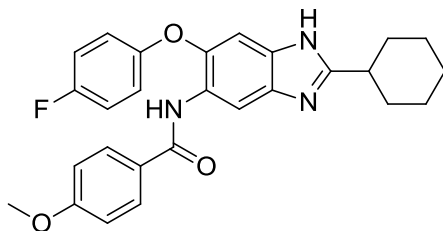
In a similar manner, compound **2-10** was synthesized and characterized.

6-(Butylthio)-2-cyclohexyl-5-propoxycarbonylamino-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (2-10)



Off-white solid; 62 % yield; mp 133-134.5 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.32 Hz), 1.00 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.43 Hz), 1.30 (dt, 1 H, *J* = 3.51, 12.5 Hz), 1.38-1.43 (m, 3 H), 1.50-1.53 (m, 2 H), 1.59-1.67 (m, 4 H), 1.74 (q, 2 H, *J* = 7.11 Hz), 1.88 (dt, 2 H, *J* = 3.41, 13.3 Hz), 2.13 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 2.29, 13.4 Hz), 2.69 (t, 2 H, *J* = 7.35 Hz), 2.84-2.89 (m, 1 H), 4.26 (t, 2 H, *J* = 6.74 Hz), 7.88 (s, 1 H), 8.20 (s, 1 H), 8.27 (s, 1 H), 8.95 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.4, 13.6, 21.8, 22.3, 25.8, 26.0, 29.7, 31.4, 31.7, 36.9, 38.4, 66.8, 98.5, 100.2, 126.5, 126.6, 134.9, 153.9; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₃₂N₃O₂S⁺ 390.2210 Found: 390.2214 (Δ = 1.0 ppm).

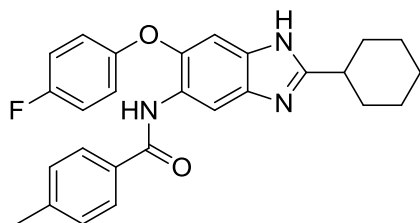
2-Cyclohexyl-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-5-(4-methoxy-benzamido)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (2-2)



To a solution of **1-3d** (100 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of dichloromethane was added 4-methoxybenzoyl chloride (42 μ L, 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of dichloromethane, and magnetically stirred in the ice bath. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 16 h. The solution was diluted with dichloromethane, basified with NaHCO₃ and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound **2-2** as an off-white solid (152 mg, 92 % yield): mp > 230 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.22-1.33 (m, 3 H), 1.59 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 12.1, 2.9 Hz), 1.68-1.71 (m, 1 H), 1.78-1.81 (m, 2 H), 2.01-2.08 (m, 2 H), 2.76-2.82 (m, 1 H), 3.87 (s, 3 H), 6.96 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.03 (d, 3 H, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 7.78 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 8.55 (s, 1 H), 8.83 (s, 1 H), 9.81 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.8, 19.1, 25.8, 26.0, 31.0, 31.8, 38.5, 65.3, 116.5, 119.5, 125.6, 142.3, 153.1, 154.0, 157.8, 159.5, 159.6, 159.8; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₇H₂₇FN₃O₃⁺ 460.2031 Found: 460.2028 (Δ = -0.7 ppm).

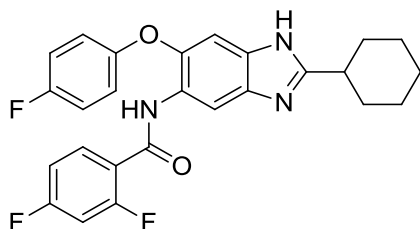
In a similar manner, compounds **2-3** ~ **2-9** were synthesized and characterized.

2-Cyclohexyl-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-5-(4-methylbenzamido)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**2-3**)



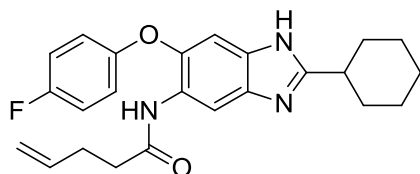
Off-white solid; 47 % yield; mp 166-168 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.81-1.23 (m, 1 H), 1.26-1.34 (m, 2 H), 1.56-1.64 (qd, 2 H, *J* = 12.4, 2.6 Hz), 1.71 (m, 1 H), 1.78-1.81 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.8 Hz), 2.01 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 12.5, 0.6 Hz), 2.45 (t, 3 H), 2.79 (t, 1 H, *J* = 11.5 Hz), 7.05 (d, 3 H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 7.24 (s, 1 H), 7.31 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.74 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 8.63 (s, 1 H), 8.90 (s, 1H), 10.2 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.5, 25.7, 25.9, 29.7, 31.7, 38.5, 116.4, 116.6, 119.4, 119.5, 125.3, 126.9, 132.2, 142.6, 153.0, 153.1, 137.9, 159.9, 160.2, 165.8; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₇H₂₇FN₃O₂⁺ 442.2082 Found: 442.2082 (Δ = 0.0 ppm).

2-Cyclohexyl-5-(2,4-difluorobenzamido)-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (2-4)



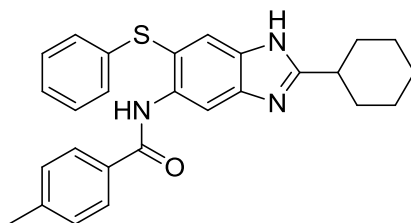
Off-white solid; 92 % yield; mp 184-185 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) 0.83-0.88 (m, 1 H), 1.25-1.32 (m, 2 H), 1.59 (dd, 2 H, $J = 12.3, 3.0$ Hz), 1.68-1.70 (m, 1 H), 1.78-1.80 (m, 2 H), 2.07 (d, 2 H, $J = 12.8$ Hz), 2.80-2.84 (m, 1 H), 6.90 (ddd, 1 H, $J = 11.7, 8.8, 2.6$ Hz), 6.99 (d, 3 H, $J = 6.3$ Hz), 7.02-7.06 (m, 1 H), 7.21 (s, 1 H), 8.21 (td, 1 H, $J = 8.9, 6.6$ Hz), 8.81 (s, 1 H), 9.26 (d, 1 H, $J = 15.7$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.9, 26.2, 31.9, 38.2, 101.1, 105.2, 112.5, 112.6, 112.7, 116.5, 116.7, 120.8, 120.9, 126.4, 128.8, 138.4, 144.8, 151.7, 158.4, 161.0, 163.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$ 466.1737 Found: 466.1743 ($\Delta = 1.29$ ppm).

2-Cyclohexyl-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-5-(pent-4-enimido)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (2-5)



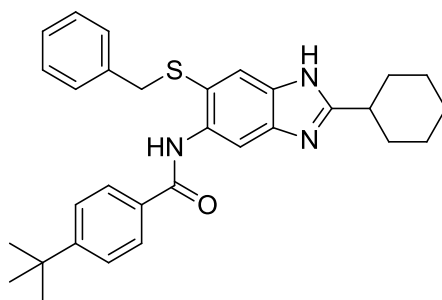
White solid; 63 % yield; mp 180.5-181.5 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.24-1.30 (m, 2 H), 1.36-1.44 (m, 2 H), 1.59-1.64 (m, 2 H), 1.73-1.76 (m, 1 H), 1.86 (dq, 2 H, $J = 3.34, 9.98$ Hz), 2.11 (dd, 2 H, $J = 2.28, 13.3$ Hz), 2.48 (dt, 3 H, $J = 5.88, 11.7$ Hz), 2.82-2.87 (m, 1 H), 4.99 (d, 1 H, $J = 10.2$ Hz), 5.07 (d, 1 H, $J = 16.1$ Hz), 5.82 (ddt, 1 H, $J = 6.27, 10.5, 16.9$ Hz), 6.95-7.04 (m, 3 H), 7.17 (s, 1 H), 7.87 (s, 1 H), 8.58 (s, 1 H), 9.58 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.2, 25.8, 26.0, 29.5, 31.7, 37.3, 38.5, 60.4, 102.7, 108.0, 116.1, 116.3, 116.5, 119.5, 125.2, 136.4, 142.4, 157.9, 159.8, 170.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ 408.2082 Found: 408.2090 ($\Delta = 1.96$ ppm).

2-Cyclohexyl-5-(4-methylbenzamido)-6-(phenylthio)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (2-6)



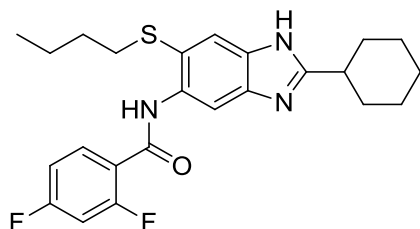
Off-white solid; 79 % yield; mp 184.5-186 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06-1.20 (m, 3 H), 1.53-1.63 (m, 3 H), 1.70 (d, 2 H, $J = 9.5$ Hz), 2.00 (d, 2 H, $J = 11.3$ Hz), 2.44 (s, 3 H), 2.73 (t, 1 H, $J = 9.6$ Hz), 7.14 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.62$ Hz), 7.22-7.27 (m, 4 H), 7.59 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 8.06 (s, 1 H), 9.01 (s, 1 H), 9.39 (s, 1 H), 11.0 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.5, 25.6, 25.9, 29.7, 31.6, 38.5, 103.3, 113.6, 126.0, 126.3, 126.4, 126.9, 129.0, 129.3, 129.6, 132.2, 134.2, 136.6, 142.6, 160.9, 166.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{N}_3\text{OS}^+$ 436.2417 Found: 436.2417 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

6-(Benzylthio)-2-cyclohexyl-5-(4-(*tert*-butyl)benzamido)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (2-7)



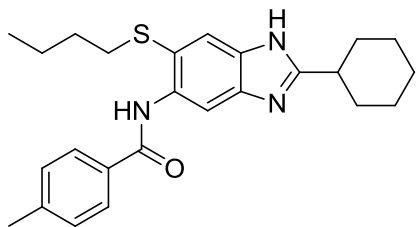
Off-white solid; 92 % yield; mp 173-173.5 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06-1.23 (m, 3 H), 1.40 (s, 9 H), 1.51-1.59 (m, 3 H), 1.68 (d, 2 H, $J = 11.3$ Hz), 1.97 (d, 2 H, $J = 11.8$ Hz), 2.67-2.72 (m, 1 H), 3.90 (s, 2 H), 6.98 (dd, 2 H, $J = 7.1, 2.3$ Hz), 7.04 (dd, 3 H, $J = 5.0, 1.9$ Hz), 7.52 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.70 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.96 (s, 1 H), 8.93 (s, 1 H), 9.38 (s, 1 H), 11.1 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.6, 25.9, 31.2, 31.7, 35.1, 38.5, 43.4, 102.2, 116.4, 125.8, 126.9, 127.1, 127.3, 128.5, 132.3, 135.3, 138.0, 140.2, 155.5, 160.8, 165.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_3\text{OS}^+$ 498.2574 Found: 498.2574 ($\Delta = 0.0$ ppm).

6-(Butylthio)-5-(2,4-difluorobenzamido)-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (2-8)



Off-white solid; 93 % yield; mp 170-170.5 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.83 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.33 Hz), 1.17-1.29 (m, 3 H), 1.36 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 15.0, 7.37 Hz), 1.49-1.60 (m, 4 H), 1.67 (d, 1 H, *J* = 12.1 Hz), 1.77 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.3 Hz), 2.06 (d, 2 H, *J* = 11.9 Hz), 2.73 (t, 2 H, *J* = 7.42 Hz), 2.79 (m, 1 H), 6.96-7.09 (m, 2 H), 7.93 (s, 1 H), 8.23 (td, 1 H, *J* = 8.85, 6.54 Hz), 8.87 (s, 1 H), 10.1 (s, 1 H), 10.3 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.6, 21.7, 25.7, 25.9, 31.3, 31.7, 37.0, 38.5, 104.7, 112.5, 112.7, 117.8, 118.3, 118.4, 133.8, 134.3, 160.5; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₄H₂₈F₂N₃OS⁺ 444.1916 Found: 444.1922 (Δ = 1.35 ppm).

6-(Butylthio)-5-(4-methylbenzamido)-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (2-9)



Off-white solid; 34 % yield; mp 155-156 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.81 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.38 Hz), 1.05-1.15 (m, 3 H), 1.24 (s, 1 H), 1.34 (q, 2 H, *J* = 7.34 Hz), 1.49-1.60 (m, 4 H), 1.66 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.1 Hz), 1.97 (d, 2 H, 11.9 Hz), 2.46 (s, 3 H), 2.71-2.75 (m, 3 H), 7.36 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.79 Hz), 7.92 (d, 3 H, *J* = 7.73 Hz), 8.99 (s, 1 H), 9.84 (s, 1 H), 11.4 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ; 13.5, 21.5, 21.8, 25.5, 25.8, 29.6, 31.4, 31.6, 37.2, 38.4, 102.7, 117.1, 126.2, 127.0, 129.7, 132.3, 133.8, 135.2, 140.1, 142.6, 160.7, 165.7; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₃₂N₃OS⁺ 422.2261 Found: 422.2265 (Δ = 0.9 ppm).

§ 2.4.4 Protein Purification

A. Protein Purification for Inhibitory Assay

E. coli expression plasmid encoding the *ftsZ* gene (pET 15b vector) was transformed into 100 μ L of BL21 (DE3) cells. The transformed cells were plated onto LB plates, containing 100 μ g/mL ampicillin. The antibiotic concentration was kept the same for the following steps. The plates were incubated overnight at 37 °C. The colonies were picked and grown in 10 mL of LB media at 37 °C at 250 rpm shake rate. The inoculum was transferred to 1 L of LB media in a 4 L flask and grown to an OD of 0.6 at A600. Then, 1 mM IPTG was added to induce protein expression overnight at 20 °C at 250 rpm shake rate. Cells were then pelleted by centrifugation at 3000 \times g, flash frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80 °C until further purification steps. Thawed cells were suspended in 40 mL 50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 500 mM NaCl, 100 mM KCl, 0.1% NP-40 per liter cell culture growth and passed through 3 rounds of cell disrupter (French press) at 27 psi to disrupt cells. Lysed cells were centrifuged at 27,000 \times g for 20 min to clear insoluble cellular components and cell wall fractions. Thawed cells were re-suspended in 40 mL 50 mM sodium phosphate pH 7.5, 300 mM sodium chloride, 10 mM imidazole, per liter cell culture growth and sonicated at 15 W 6 times for 30 seconds each with 1 minute pauses in between to disrupt cells. Lysed cells were centrifuged at 44,000 \times g for one hour to clear insoluble cellular components. Cleared lysate was applied to Ni²⁺ charged His-bind resin and washed with double the volume of resuspension buffer of 50 mM sodium phosphate pH 7.5, 300 mM sodium chloride, then double the volume of re-suspension buffer of 50 mM sodium phosphate pH 7.5, 300 mM sodium chloride, 60 mM imidazole. FtsZ protein was eluted with 4 \times 5 mL portions of 50 mM sodium phosphate pH 7.5, 300 mM NaCl, 500 mM imidazole. Protein was loaded onto a Sephadex G25 size exclusion column to remove excess imidazole and to exchange protein into 25 mM HEPES pH 7.2, 1 mM DTT, 0.1 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol (or other buffer as indicated). Resulting protein fractions were pooled and the N-terminal 6xHis affinity tag was removed by biotin tagged thrombin treatment overnight at 4 °C (0.25 Units biotinylated thrombin per mg tagged FtsZ protein). Successive passes through streptavidin agarose and fresh Ni²⁺ charged His-bind resin removed biotinylated thrombin, uncut FtsZ protein, and free cut off affinity tag. A final cleanup was performed through an Akta driven Sephadex 200 60/16 size exclusion column in 25 mM HEPES pH 7.2, 1 mM DTT, 0.1 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol or other buffer as indicated. Protein was then concentrated to 10 mg/mL

(~250 μ M) with centrifugal 30 kDa molecular weight cutoff filters, aliquoted 150 μ L, flash frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C.

B. Protein Purification for TEM Analysis

For TEM analysis the following procedure was followed for protein purification. The cells were suspended in approximately 20-30 mL binding buffer (500 mM NaCl, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.8) and lysed using cell disruptor. The lysate was centrifuged in an ultracentrifuge at $126603 \times g$, 4 °C for 90 min. The supernatant was filtered and loaded onto Ni²⁺-NTA column washed with 50 mL of binding buffer and eluted using a gradient of binding buffer with 30-500 mM imidazole. The eluted protein was dialyzed against buffer containing 50 mM Tris, 5mM MgCl₂, 50 mM KCl, pH 7.2 followed by buffer containing 10 % v/v glycerol. The protein after dialysis was concentrated and stored at -80 °C for further use. Since the number of aromatic residues in *Mtb* FtsZ protein are low (Tyr: 1, Trp: 0), it is not reliable to follow concentration of protein by scanning at A280. The concentration of protein was therefore ascertained using the Bradford kit from Sigma.

C. Protein Purification for Binding Studies

For K_d studies the protein was purified as follows. Cleared lysate was applied to Ni⁺² charged His-bind resin and made to equilibrate for one hour followed by washing in two volumes of wash buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 300 mM NaCl, 100 mM KCl, 0.1% NP-40, and 10 mM Imidazole). Bound protein was eluted with 10 mL of Elution buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 500 mM NaCl, 100 mM KCl, and 500 mM imidazole). The eluted protein was first dialysed against 2 L Storage buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.8, 200 mM NaCl, 100 mM KCl,) overnight followed by 3hrs dialysis against Storage buffer with 10% glycerol. Post dialysis, the concentration of the protein was checked by Bradford assay and purity of the purified protein determined by SDS page. If necessary, protein was further concentrated to 10mg/mL (~250 μ M) with centrifugal 10 kDa molecular weight cutoff filters, aliquoted 500 μ L, and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80 °C till further use.

§ 2.4.5 FtsZ Inhibitory Polymerization Assay

The inhibitory activity of lead benzamidazoles for *Mtb*-FtsZ polymerization was determined by means of light scattering on a PTI-QM4 Fluorescence Master system. The 90° light scattering was measured at 30 °C, using excitation and emission wavelength of 400 nm with slit width of 2 nm. The gain was set at 875 V. *Mtb* FtsZ (15 µM) was incubated in the polymerization buffer (50 mM MES pH 6.5, 100 mM KCl, 5 mM MgCl₂) for up to 300 sec. Polymerization was initiated with 100 µM GTP and monitored for up to 30 min. Benzimidazole stocks were prepared in DMSO and incubated with FtsZ enzyme prior to initiation of polymerization with GTP.

§ 2.4.6 TEM Analysis

Stock solution of compound 5a was prepared in ethanol. *Mtb*-FtsZ (5 µM) was incubated with 40 or 80 µM of 5a in the polymerization buffer (50 mM MES, 5mM MgCl₂, 100 mM KCl, pH 6.5) for 15 min on ice. To each solution was added GTP to the final concentration of 25 µM. The resulting solution was incubated at 37 °C for 30 min. The incubated solution was diluted 2 times with the polymerization buffer and immediately transferred to carbon coated 300 mesh formvar copper grid and negatively stained with 1% uranyl acetate. The samples were viewed with a FEI Tecnai12 BioTwinG transmission electron microscope at 80 kV. Digital images were acquired with an AMT XR-60 CCD digital camera system.

§ 2.4.7 MTT assay for Cytotoxicity

The cytotoxicity of the compounds was tested against VERO cells using MTT assay (MTT = 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide). Vero cells were obtained from Stony Brook University Cell Culture/Hybridoma Facility. The cells were grown in DMEM media supplemented with 5 % FBS and 1 % Penn Strip and incubated at 37 °C in a humidified incubator with 5 % CO₂. The cells were washed with DPBS and dissociated using TrypLe. The cells were incubated at 37 °C until the cells were detached from the plate, transferred to centrifuge vial and pelleted via centrifugation at 1000 rpm for 5 min. The cells were counted per 2 mL media. The desired amount of media was added to the cell solution so that 5,000 cells can be added to each well of a 96-well plate in 200 µM aliquots. After the

addition, the cells were incubated at 37 °C for 1-2 days. A serial dilution of the benzimidazoles dissolved in sterile DMSO was prepared by the addition of fully-supplemented DMEM. The residual medium in each well was aspirated and the different compounds concentrations were added to each well of every column of the 96-well plate in 100 µM aliquots. After the addition of the solution, the cells were incubated at 37 °C for 3 days. After the incubation period, the medium was aspirated and then 40 µL of 0.5 mg/mL MTT (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) in DPBS was added to each well. The cells were then incubated at 37 °C for 3 hours. After the incubation period, 40 µL of 0.8 M HCl solution were added to dissolve the remaining crystals. The plates were shaken for 8 minutes to assure that all of the crystals are dissolved. The optical density was determined from the resulting solutions using the Acsent Multiskan optical density reader. Each experiment was run in triplicate. The optical density data was used to calculate IC₅₀ values for each compound on VERO cells using the Hill slope equation. The IC₅₀ values and their standard errors were calculated from the viability-concentration curve using the Four Parameter Logistic Model of Sigmaplot. The concentration of DMSO per well was ≤ 1 % in all cases. The control experiment, i.e., adding 1 % DMSO to the cells, indicated that 1 % DMSO was not cytotoxic, and thus, all the cells treated remained virtually 100 % positive.

§ 2.5 References

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Chapter 3

Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of New Series of Benzimidazoles

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§ 3.1 Introduction

The preliminary SAR studies of lead compounds indicate that cyclohexyl group at the 2-position and diethyl amino/dimethyl amino group at the 6-position play a critical role for antibacterial activity (**Figure 3-1**).^{1, 2} Building upon three representative compounds bearing alkyl carbamate or benzamide at the 5-position, we planned to expand our novel trisubstituted benzimidazole with a substitution pattern different from the previous series for high throughput (HTP) screening.³ Especially, we have very recently found that the 6-dimethylamino series exhibit excellent activities up to the MIC value of 0.06 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. Therefore, we planned to synthesize smaller substituent, methoxy group, at the 6-position.¹

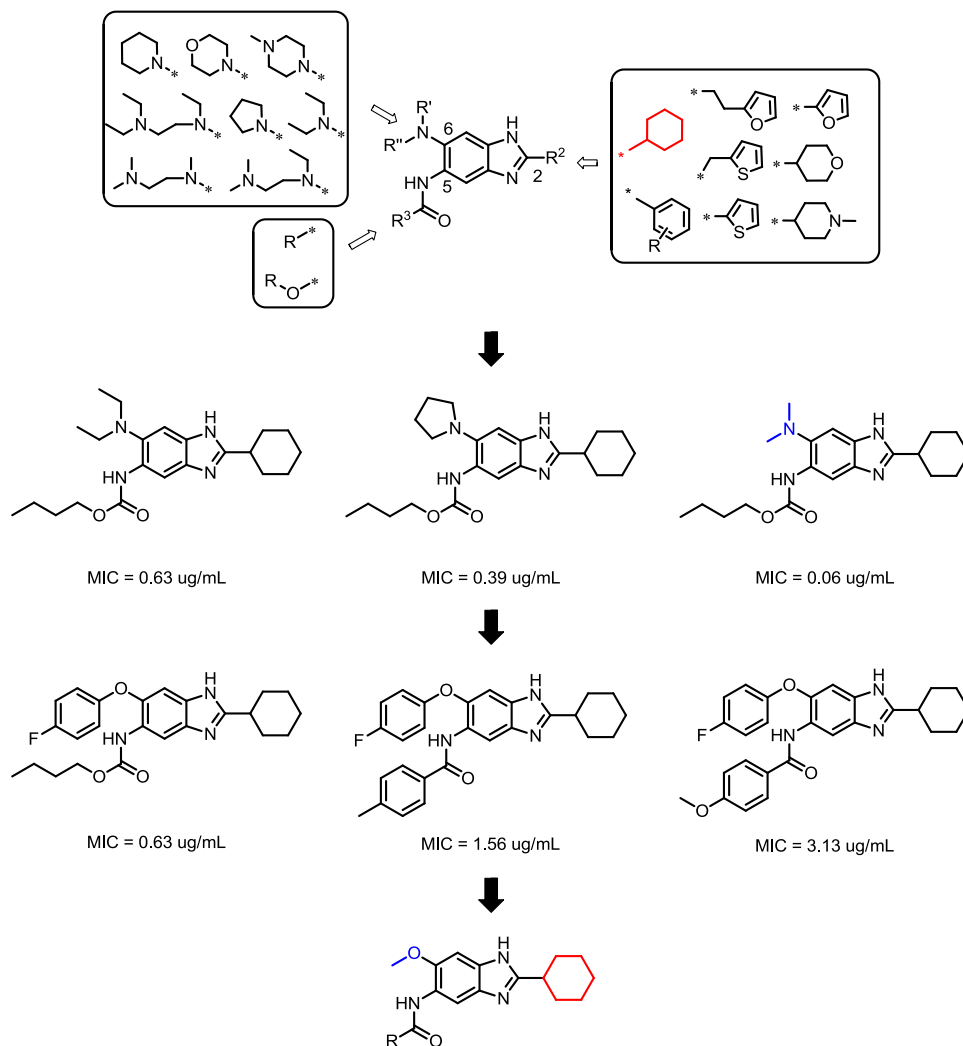
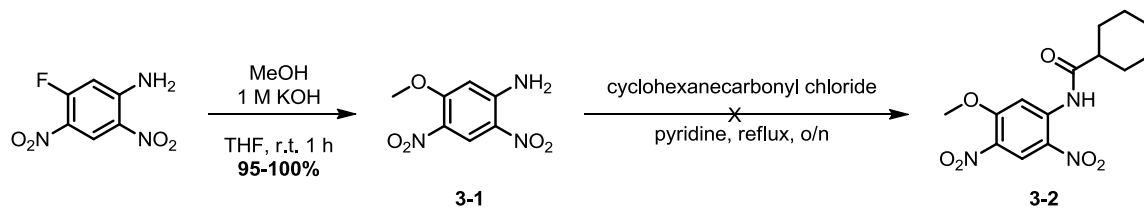


Figure 3- 1: Preliminary SAR studies and optimization of the 6-position

§ 3.2 Results and discussion

§ 3.2.1 Synthesis of Novel 2,5,6-Trisubstituted Benzimidazole

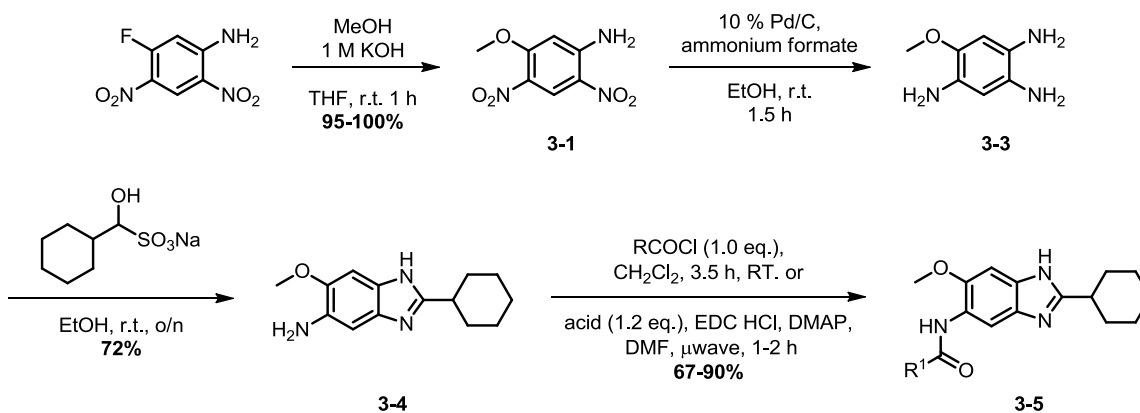
The first attempt to synthesize 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles with methoxy group at the 6-position described in **Scheme 3-1**.



Scheme 3- 1: First synthesis of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles

The first step is the nucleophilic aromatic substitution of commercially available 2,4-dinitro-5-fluoroaniline with methanol. Compound **3-1** was prepared by addition of 1 M KOH solution dropwise to afford compounds **3-1** in 95–100% yields. Earlier, the acylation of **3-1** carried out with the cyclohexanecarbonyl chloride. Unfortunately, the reaction did not proceed as expected. After overnight reaction, based on the NMR analysis, compound **3-2** was not obtained. Instead, demethoxyl acylated compound was found. Demethylation happened at the 6-position since HCl was generated when the reaction proceeded. To avoid the demethylation, we set up the different route.

General procedure for the second synthesis method of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles bearing an methoxy moiety at the 6-position is illustrated in **Scheme 3-2**.



Scheme 3- 2: synthesis of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles

The first step is the nucleophilic aromatic substitution of commercially available 2,4-dinitro-5-fluoroaniline with methanol. Reduction of intermediate **3-3** with 10 % Pd/C and ammonium formate to afford compound **3-2**. Formation of compound **3-2** was confirmed by FIA and went to the next step without further purification. After FIA confirmation, compound **3-2** was treated with bisulfate salts of aldehyde afforded compound **3-4**. Final novel benzimidazoles **3-5** were generated with acylchloride or EDC•DMAP coupling with corresponding acid in 67 -90 % yield.

§ 3.2.2 MIC Determination of Selected Compounds

To determine the accurate MIC values, 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazole bearing methoxy group at the 6-position were prepared in analytically pure form (HPLC purity > 97 %). The MIC values are shown in **Figure 3-2**.

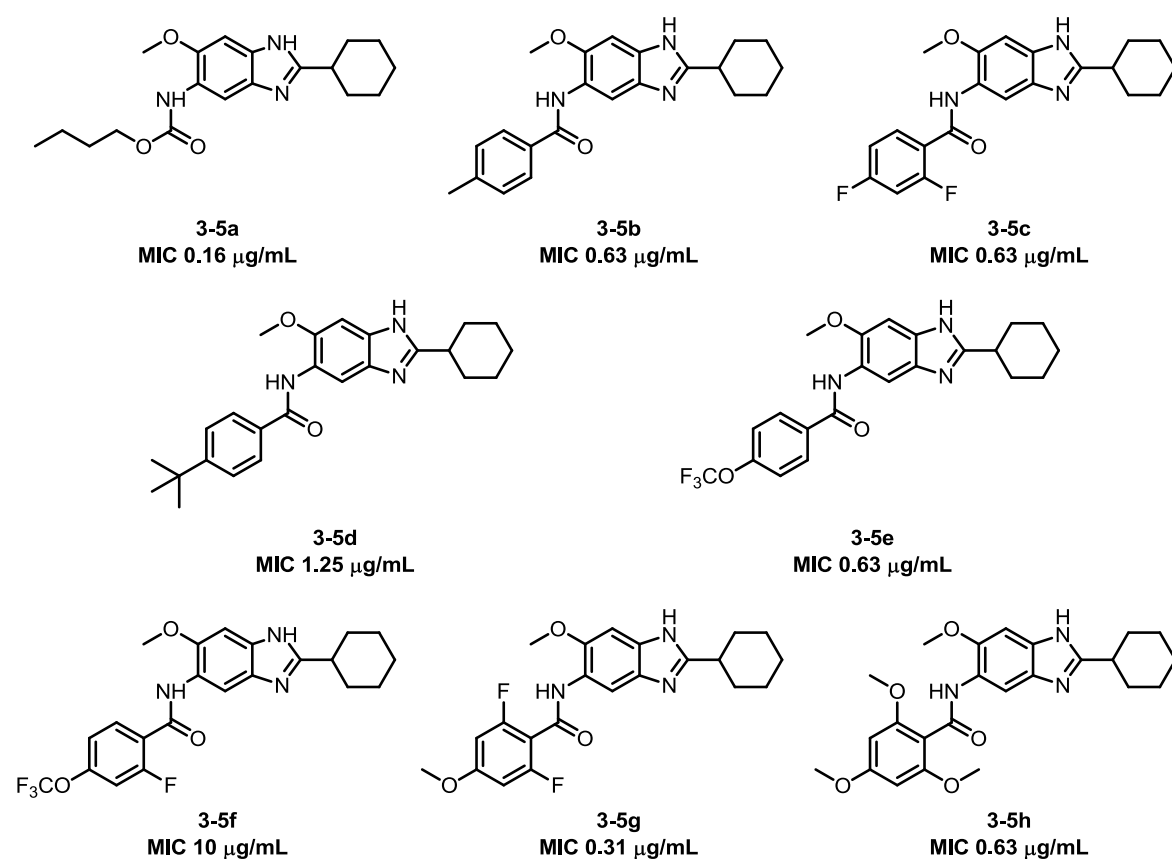


Figure 3- 2: Accurate MIC values and their chemical structures

As anticipated, butyl carbamate at the 5-position exhibited the best MIC values among this series. All the compounds which were tested showed excellent activities against drug-resistant clinical isolates of *Mtb* with MIC values in the range of 0.16-0.63 µg/mL. Accurate MIC values of more compounds in this series will be determined.

§ 3.2.3 Metabolism Results

The metabolism study on compound **3-5b**, **3-5c** and **3-5e** were carried out in our collaboration, Sanofi, and the result is shown in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3- 1: Metabolism result

Metabolism - Reference	3-5b OMe	NMe ₂	3-5c OMe	NMe ₂	3-5e OMe	NMe ₂	3-5i F10
human (hydrolysis)	46 (29)	61 (37)	68	55 (16)	26 (28)	39 (23)	100 (100)
human +ketoconazole (3A4)	35	60	58	45	20	12	98
human + Quinidine (2D6)	44	61	65	53	27	34	100
rat (hydrolysis)	64	47	69	40	27	14	100
mouse (hydrolysis)	96 (95)	81 (73)	98 (43)	64 (18)	76 (66)	45 (33)	100 (100)

Since *in vivo* activity of among our most potent compound in terms of MIC values is low due to fast hydrolysis of the carbamate at 5-postion. Systematic modification of the carbamate was done to the identification of compounds with relatively improved stability. Three of the compounds were compared to our lead series with dimethylamino group at the 6-position. Compared to dimethylamino moiety series, methoxy group at the 6-position tends to improve human metabolism, but not rodent one. Further modification will be needed to the identification of compounds with relatively improved stability.

§ 3.3 Conclusion

Novel 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles, which bears methoxy group at the 6-position, were synthesized with good yield and test their activity against *Mtb* H37Rv strain. All of the compounds have been tested exhibited better activity compared to previous compounds which bearing bigger sulfide and ether linkage at the 6-position. Some of the compounds were tested their metabolism and somewhat improve human metabolism, but not the rodent one. Several other compounds in this series were sent to CSU to measure the accurate MIC values. For the metabolism study in this series, methoxy group at the 6-position tends to improve human metabolism, but not rodent one compared to dimethylamino moiety series. Also, more compounds will be tested their activity *in vitro* to improve their metabolism.

§ 3.4 Experimental Section

§ 3.4.1 General Methods

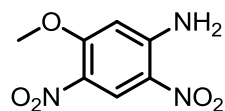
¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker 400 or 500 MHz NMR spectrometer. Melting points were measured on a Thomas Hoover Capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. TLC was performed on Sorbtech with UV254 and column chromatography was carried out on silica gel 60 (Merck; 230-400 mesh ASTM). High-resolution mass spectra were obtained on Agilent-TOF instrument.

§ 3.4.2 Materials

The chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich Co., Synquest Inc., Alfa Aesar and purified before use by standard methods. Tetrahydrofuran was freshly distilled from sodium metal and benzophenone. Dichloromethane was also distilled immediately prior to use under nitrogen from calcium hydride. Aminomethylated polystyrene resin EHL (200-400 mesh) 2 % DVB was purchased from Novagen Biochem.

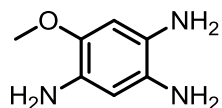
§ 3.4.3 Experimental Procedures

5-methoxy-2,4-dinitroaniline (3-1)



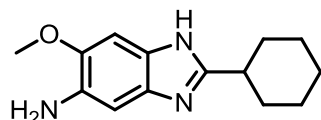
To a magnetically stirred solution of 2,4-dinitro-5-fluoroaniline (3.16 g, 15.7 mmol) in 40 mL methanol, 1 M KOH aqueous solution was added dropwise until a yellow precipitate appeared. The reaction mixture was stirred for additional 1 h. The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and evaporated to give desired compound as a yellow solid in **98 %** yield; mp 200-200.5 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.94 (s, 3 H), 6.22 (s, 1 H), 8.96 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 57.0, 99.2, 127.4, 148.8

5-methoxybenzene-1,2,4-triamine (3-2)



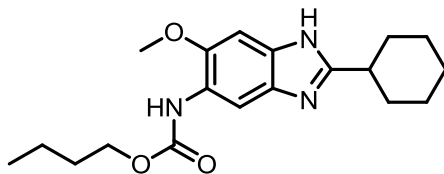
To a solution of 5-methoxy-2,4-dinitroaniline **3-1** (752 mg, 3.53 mmol) in 6 mL of ethanol, 10 % Pd/C and 1.5 eq. of ammonium formate was added magnetically stirred in room temperature. The reaction mixture turned from yellow to red and then to colorless in 1.5 hours at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by FIA analysis. The crude reaction mixture was carried out for the next step.

2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-amine (**3-4**)



To the reaction mixture that contained compound **3-2** a solution of cyclohexylbisulfate salt in water was added directly. After stirring at room temperature overnight it had been confirmed with FIA that all the starting material had been consumed. The solution was diluted ethyl acetate and washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried with sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound **3i** as off-white solid (622 mg, 72 % yield); mp 68-70 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.24-1.31 (m, 1 H), 1.35-1.43 (m, 2 H), 1.61 (qd, 2 H, *J* = 12.4, 3.11 Hz), 1.74 (d, 1 H, *J* = 12.6 Hz), 1.85 (d, 2 H, *J* = 13.2 Hz), 2.11 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 13.2, 1.72 Hz), 2.81 (tt, 1 H, *J* = 11.8, 3.51 Hz), 3.86 (s, 3 H), 6.82 (s, 1 H), 7.03 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 22.6, 25.9, 26.0, 31.6, 31.9, 38.4, 56.0, 132.9, 133.0, 145.3, 156.6, 156.7

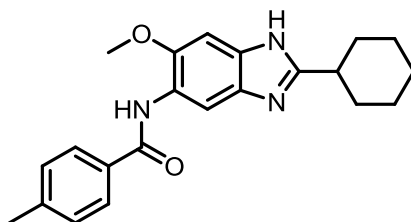
Butyl (2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)carbamate (**3-5a**)



To a solution of **3e** (49 mg, 0.2 mmol) in 6 mL of DCM, 1.1 eq. of CDI was added and refluxed for 9 hours and magnetically stirred. 1-butanol (1.0 eq.) was added and stirred for 16 hours. The solution was diluted with DCM and basified with NaHCO₃ and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried with sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford

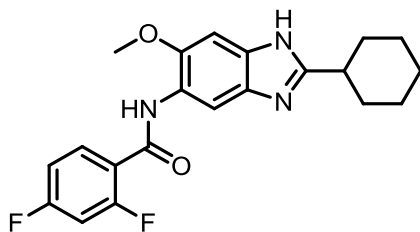
compound as off-white solid (46 mg, 67 % yield); mp 79-80.5 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.93 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.29 Hz), 1.25-1.48 (m, 5 H), 1.56-1.73 (m, 5 H), 1.82 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.5 Hz), 2.09 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.1 Hz), 2.78-2.85 (m, 1 H), 3.86 (s, 3 H), 4.18 (t, 2 H, *J* = 6.57 Hz), 7.12 (s, 1 H), 7.30 (s, 1 H), 8.19 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.7, 19.1, 25.8, 26.0, 29.7, 31.0, 31.8, 38.4, 56.1, 65.0, 123.8, 145.0, 154.0, 158.4

***N*-(2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)-4-methylbenzamide (3-5b)**



To a solution of **4i** (91 mg, 0.37 mmol) in 6 mL of DCM, *p*-toluoyl chloride (1.0 eq.) in 6 mL of DCM was added and magnetically stirred in the ice bath. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 3.5 hours. The solution was diluted with DCM and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried with sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound as off-white solid (112 mg, 83 % yield); mp 122.5-123 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.10-1.25 (m, 3 H), 1.51-1.64 (m, 3 H), 1.71 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 10.1, 2.91 Hz), 1.99 (d, 2 H, *J* = 11.9 Hz), 2.45 (s, 3 H), 2.67-2.75 (m, 1 H), 3.94 (s, 3 H), 7.22 (s, 1 H), 7.33 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.84 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.15 Hz), 8.76 (s, 1 H), 8.85 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.5, 25.7, 25.9, 38.4, 56.3, 123.4, 127.0, 129.5, 132.7, 142.3, 145.3, 159.4, 165.8

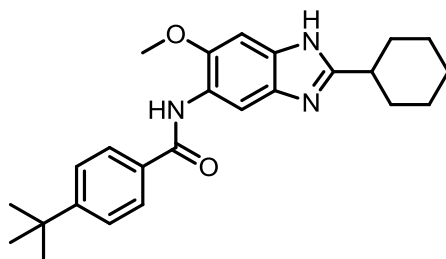
***N*-(2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)-2,4-difluorobenzamide (3-5c)**



To a solution of **4i** (75 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of DCM, 2,4-difluorobenzoyl chloride (1.0 eq.) in 6 mL of DCM was added and magnetically stirred in the ice bath. The reaction mixture was

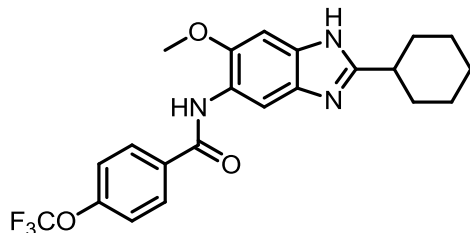
slowly warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 4 hours. The solution was diluted with DCM and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried with sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound as off-white solid (83 mg, 70 % yield); mp 112-112.5 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.20-1.34 (m, 3 H), 1.56-1.70 (m, 3 H), 1.78 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.95 Hz), 2.08 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.3 Hz), 2.81 (tt, 1 H, *J* = 11.7, 3.26 Hz), 3.95 (s, 3 H), 6.95 (ddd, 1 H, *J* = 11.5, 8.79, 2.42 Hz), 7.05-7.09 (m, 1 H), 7.23 (s, 1 H), 8.25 (td, 1 H, *J* = 8.70, 6.83 Hz), 8.79 (s, 1 H), 9.38 (d, 1 H, *J* = 14.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.7, 26.0, 38.5, 56.4, 104.2, 104.5, 104.8, 112.4, 112.6, 118.2, 118.3, 118.4, 123.4, 133.6, 133.7, 145.5, 159.3, 159.4, 159.5, 160.1, 161.9, 162.0, 163.6, 163.7, 166.1, 166.3

4-(*tert*-butyl)-*N*-(2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)benzamide (3-5d)



To a solution of **4i** (74 mg, 0.30 mmol) in 6 mL of DCM, *t*-butylbenzoyl chloride (1.0 eq.) in 6 mL of DCM was added and magnetically stirred in the ice bath. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 3.5 hours. The solution was diluted with DCM and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried with sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound as off-white solid (109 mg, 90 % yield); mp > 230 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.10-1.13 (m, 1 H), 1.24-1.27 (m, 2 H), 1.38 (s, 9 H), 1.53-1.60 (m, 3 H), 1.68 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.4 Hz), 1.98 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.3 Hz), 2.67-2.73 (m, 1 H), 3.95 (s, 3 H), 7.24 (s, 1 H), 7.56 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.41 Hz), 7.89 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.42 Hz), 8.81 (s, 1 H), 8.92 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.2, 21.0, 25.7, 25.9, 29.7, 31.2, 31.8, 35.0, 38.4, 56.3, 60.4, 123.4, 125.9, 126.8, 132.8, 145.2, 145.2, 155.3, 159.3, 159.5, 165.9, 171.1

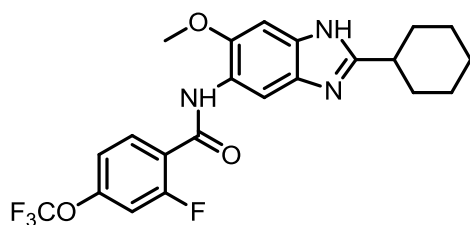
***N*-(2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzamide (3-5e)**



To a solution of **4i** (65 mg, 0.27 mmol) in 6 mL of DMF, 4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzoic acid (1.2 eq.), EDC (1.2 eq.) and DMAP (1.2 eq.) were added and magnetically stirred and carried in the microwave for 1 hour. The solution was diluted with EA and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried with sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound as off-white solid (81 mg, 70 % yield); mp 175-176 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.13-1.25 (m, 3 H), 1.54-1.66 (m, 3 H), 1.74 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.1 Hz), 2.03 (d, 2 H, *J* = 11.5 Hz), 2.75 (t, 1 H, *J* = 11.4 Hz), 3.94 (s, 3 H), 7.23 (s, 1 H), 7.36 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.95 Hz), 7.98 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.33 Hz), 8.74 (s, 1 H), 8.77 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.7, 25.9, 29.7, 31.8, 38.5, 56.3, 119.3, 120.9, 121.3, 123.1, 128.9, 133.9, 145.4, 151.6, 159.4, 164.2

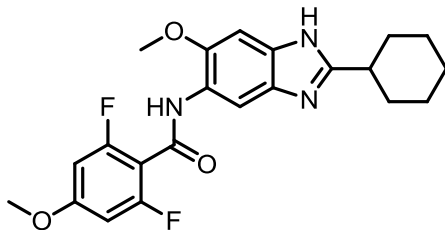
In a similar manner, compounds **3-5f** ~ **3-5h** were synthesized and characterized.

***N*-(2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)-2-fluoro-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzamide (3-5f)**



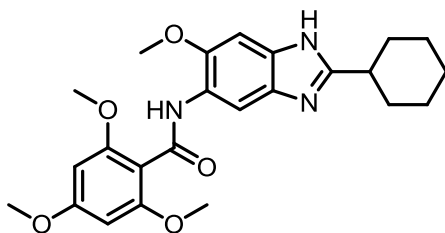
Off-white solid; 55 % yield; mp 175-176 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.20-1.36 (m, 3 H), 1.57-1.65 (m, 2 H), 1.69-1.71 (m, 1 H), 1.79-1.81 (m, 2 H), 2.09-2.10 (d, 2 H, *J* = 5 Hz), 2.79-2.84 (m, 1 H), 3.95 (s, 3 H), 7.10 (d, 1 H, *J* = 10 Hz), 7.19 (d, 1 H, *J* = 10 Hz), 8.27 (t, 1 H, *J* = 10 Hz), 8.76 (s, 1 H), 9.37 (d, 1 H, *J* = 10 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.8, 26.0, 31.8, 39.5, 56.4, 108.8, 109.0, 116.8, 119.1, 120.3, 120.4, 121.2, 123.4, 133.5, 145.5, 152.1, 159.3, 159.7, 161.3

***N*-(2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)-2,6-difluoro-4-methoxybenzamide (3-5g)**



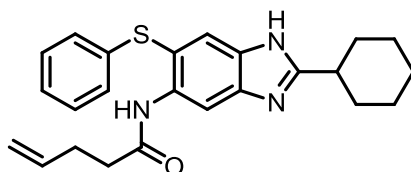
Off-white solid; 33 % yield; mp 112-112.5 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.17-1.34 (m, 3 H), 1.55-1.63 (m, 2 H), 1.69-1.70 (m, 1 H), 1.77-1.80 (m, 2 H), 2.04-2.06 (d, 2 H, *J* = 10 Hz), 2.74-2.80 (m, 1 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 3.91 (s, 3 H), 6.55 (s, 1 H), 6.57 (s, 1 H), 7.22 (s, 1 H), 8.56 (s, 1 H), 8.79 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.8, 26.0, 29.7, 31.7, 56.1, 56.4, 99.6, 99.8, 107.2, 123.2, 145.2, 159.2, 159.3, 160.2, 162.3, 162.4, 162.5, 162.6

***N*-(2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)-2,4,6-trimethoxybenzamide (3-5h)**



Off-white solid; mp 109-112 °C; 73 % yield: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.20-1.32 (m, 2 H), 1.53-1.63 (m, 2 H), 1.66-1.72 (m, 1 H), 1.75-1.82 (m, 3 H), 2.01-2.07 (m, 3 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 3.86 (s, 3 H), 3.87 (s, 3 H), 3.90 (s, 3 H), 6.29 (s, 2 H), 7.20 (s, 2 H), 8.97 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.8, 26.0, 26.1, 38.4, 55.5, 56.0, 56.2, 56.3, 90.6, 90.8, 109.4, 122.5, 124.1, 145.0, 145.1, 157.4, 158.7, 158.8, 159.0, 161.8, 162.4, 163.7

***N*-(2-cyclohexyl-6-(phenylthio)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)pent-4-enamide (3-5i)**



To a solution of **4f** (30 mg, 0.09 mmol) in 6 mL of DMF, 4-pentenoic acid (1.2 eq.), EDC (1.2 eq.) and DMAP (1.2 eq.) were added and magnetically stirred in the microwave for 1.5 hours.

The solution was diluted with EA and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried with sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound as off-white solid (25 mg, 69 % yield): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.25-1.36 (m, 3 H), 1.60-1.72 (m, 3 H), 1.84 (dd, 2 H, $J = 10.1, 3.14$ Hz), 2.11 (d, 2 H, $J = 11.6$ Hz), 2.30-2.41 (m, 4 H), 2.85 (ddd, 1 H, $J = 15.5, 8.01, 3.80$ Hz), 4.92-5.01 (m, 2 H), 5.71 (ddt, 1 H, $J = 16.9, 10.4, 6.44$ Hz), 7.04 (d, 2 H, $J = 7.53$ Hz), 7.12 (t, 1 H, $J = 7.33$ Hz), 7.20 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.57$ Hz), 7.97 (s, 1 H), 8.51 (s, 1 H), 8.67 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) 25.8, 26.0, 29.6, 29.7, 31.7, 37.6, 39.6, 116.1, 125.9, 126.5, 129.2, 133.9, 136.1, 136.8, 160.7, 170.9

§ 3.4.4 Bacterial Strains and Growth

For evaluation of drug sensitivity, *Mtb* H37Rv was grown in 7H9 media containing 10% oleic acid/albumin/catalase (OADC) enrichment and 0.05% Tween-80 and assessed at mid log phase growth.

§ 3.4.5 Antibacterial Activity Determination

The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) was determined by the microplate Alamar Blue assay (MABA)⁴ as described previously. Briefly, stock solutions of the compounds were prepared in DMSO and were serially diluted 2-fold in 96-well microtiter plates, and *Mtb* H37Rv strain was added to each well to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.005. Plates were incubated for 6 days at 37 °C. Alamar Blue (Invitrogen) was added to the plates, and the plates were incubated for an additional 24 h at 37 °C. Plates were monitored for color change, and MIC₉₉ was determined in triplicate.

§ 3.5 References

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Chapter 4

Biological Evaluation of 2,5,6-TrisubstituedBenzimidazoles against *M. Smeg*

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§ 4.1 Introduction

With the emergence of drug resistant bacteria (MDR-TB, XDR-TB, VRE, MRSA), co-infection with HIV-immune compromised individuals,¹⁻³ current available antibiotics are much less effective. Moreover, the potential of weaponizable existing pathogens (*B. pseudomallei*, *Y. pestis*, *F. tularensis*),²⁻⁸ there is a pressing need to develop new and novel classes of drugs to combat these pathogens.

Current representative antibiotic targets include cellular mechanisms involved in fatty-acid biosynthesis for cell membrane and cell wall synthesis (Isoniazid, Ethambutol, etc), RNA polymerase (Rifampicin), ribosomal protein synthesis (Kanimycin, Capreomycin), and DNA replication/maintenance (Ciprofloxacin and other quinolones); all of which have shown levels of bacterial resistance.⁹⁻¹¹

As discussed previous chapters, one possible target for new drug development is cell division. Especially, the bacterial tubulin homolog FtsZ which is a GTP-dependent, cell division protein required for bacterial survival and proliferation.¹²⁻¹⁹

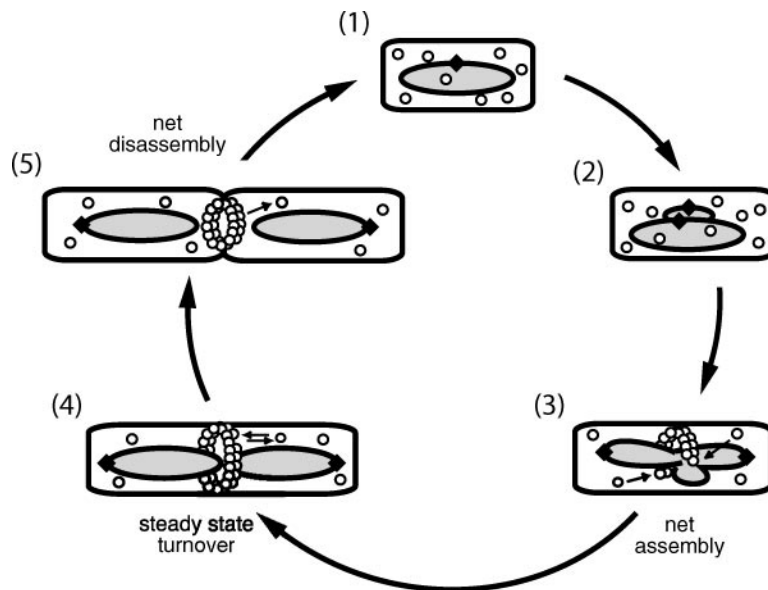


Figure 4- 1: The bacterial division cycle

Figure 4-1 illustrated the bacterial division cell cycle. FtsZ assembly is coordinated with DNA replication and segregation. Step 1: In newborn cells FtsZ (O) is unassembled. A circular chromosome with a single origin of replication (r) is located at midcell. Steps 2–4: After

chromosome replication initiates, the polymerase machinery remains at midcell, but origins of replication separate and move to opposite poles of the cell. Once replication is complete, the condensed chromosomes separate, leaving a nucleoid-free space. Step 3: Z ring formation coincides with chromosome segregation. Assembly starts from a single point at midcell and extends bidirectionally. Step 5: During cytokinesis the Z ring constricts at the leading edge of the invaginating septum. Small arrows indicate the assembly and disassembly of FtsZ subunits.²⁰

Mycobacterium smegmatis (*M. Smeg.*) is recognized as a good model of *M. tuberculosis*, due to their conserved transcriptional machinery, sigma factors, and two-component systems. *M. smegmatis* was originally isolated from human smegma in 1885 and it is known to have approximately 1.7-fold larger genome than that of *M. tuberculosis*.^{21, 22} Free access to the unfinished DNA sequence of *M. smegmatis* (<http://www.tigr.org>) has enabled *in silico* comparisons to be made between the annotated genome of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and the sequence of *M. smegmatis*.²³ Studies showed that 6 of 11 two-component systems and 5 of seven orphan response-regulator/histidine kinases of *M. tuberculosis* had homologues in *M. smegmatis* cut off values of 50 % identity over 90% length of the protein.²⁴ A recent report had cited the conservation of 10 out of 11 two-component systems and 5 out of 7 orphan response-regulator/sensor kinase proteins, however, the identity criteria for homology were not specified by the authors.²⁴ It is considered as good mycobacteria model since it grows fast and non-pathogenic. Even though there are several other fast growing species within the mycobacterium family has been evaluated as surrogates for *Mtb* in vitro, we chose *M. Smeg* since it was shown to respond most similarly to *Mtb*, especially MDR-TB phenotype.⁵ Since it is not pathogenic, it only requires biosafety level 1 laboratory. Given the fact that *Mtb* grows slow (doubling time between 18 and 54 hours) and pathogenic, MIC determination with *M. Smeg* was employed.¹ Screen of lead compounds was carried out using established protocols via Alamar Blue assay²⁵ at first. Later on, we hypothesized that this dye could interact with our compounds and gave us the un-explainable random results. Therefore, we removed dye and determined the MIC result by clarity of the media.

§ 4.2 Results and discussion

§ 4.2.1 *M. Smeg* Assay

2,5,6-Trisubstituted benzimidazoles were used for evaluating their MIC values. All of the compounds were dissolved in ethanol and then serially diluted. Compounds were incubated with the cells for 48 hours and evaluated for viability using Alamar Blue. Structures of intermediate compounds shown in Figure 4-2 with observed MIC values.

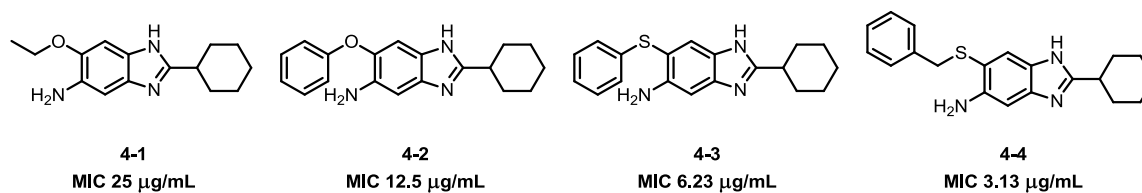


Figure 4- 2: Chemical structures and their MIC values

Fig. 4-2 shows the MIC values with **4-1**, **4-2**, **4-3** and **4-4**. The two compounds, **4-1** and **4-2** which are bearing ether linkage at the 6-position, were determined MIC values 25 and 12.5 µg/mL, respectively. The two other benzimidazoles, which are bearing thiophenoxy, and benzylthioxy group at the 6-position, were determined their MIC values as 6.25 and 3.13 µg/mL respectively.

§ 4.2.2 Optimizing *M. Smeg* Assay

As we proceed to determine the MIC values of our lead 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles, we found the inconsistency of the assay. There were problems with the assay such as contamination and/or possible cross reaction with Alamar blue dye. At this point, we tried to reduce the chance from the bacteria contamination. As a result, we removed the step for adding the Alamar Blue dye since it might cause the problems to reduce the inconsistency. Instead of color change, we decide to determine the MIC values by clarity of the media. When the drug is active after the drug treatment, the media remains clear. However, when the bacteria alive, then the media becomes murky and unclear since bacteria keep growing. In each experiment, we prepare the two controls which only media and only cells and media to compare

the clarity. To validate this assay condition is reliable, 5 known antibiotics were determined.

Table 4-1 shows the MIC result testing against *M. Smeg* using known inhibitors, rifampin, ampicillin, isoniazid, ethambutol, and tricolsan. As **Table 4-1** indicates this assay is reliable compared to the reference values.^{5, 26-29}

Table 4- 1: Reference values

Compounds	MIC
Rifampin	3.125 µg/µL
Ampicilin	> 100 µg/µL
Isoniazid	12.5 µg/µL
Ethambutol	< 0.625 µg/µL
Tricolsan	25 µg/µL

After we validate the assay works with many trials and errors, the lead compound was test to determine their MIC values against *M. Smeg* along with reference compounds.

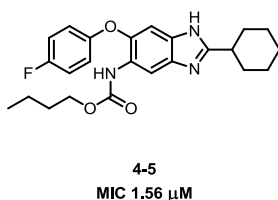


Figure 4- 3: Chemical structure of lead compound and its MIC values

The compound 4-5 exhibited MIC value of 1.56 µM against *M. smegmatis* strain.

§ 4.2.3 Introducing the automatic system to *M. Smeg* assay

With the optimized condition, we tried to apply the *M. Smeg* assay into the robotic system. First, we need to confirm that this assay works since the bacteria had been frozen at -78 °C for about 3 months. After confirmed the bacteria strain had no issues such as contamination, we

carried forward the assay with the known antibiotics. To apply the automated system, we needed to serially dilute compounds from the most concentrated one resulting in reducing the total DMSO amount. Therefore we fixed the 1 % DMSO for the most concentrated stock solution, and serially dilute the drug concentration from there. As we expected, the results shows the same. Isoniazid determined the MIC value of 50 μM and ampicilin determined as $> 100 \mu\text{M}$ as similar as literature values.

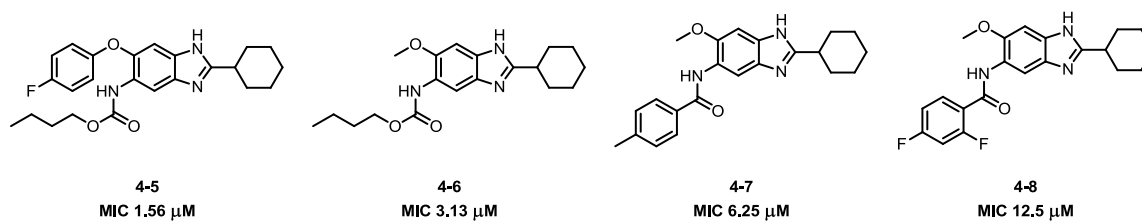


Figure 4- 4: Chemical structures of lead compounds and their MIC values

After we validated the automated system worked with the assay, we carried out our compounds to confirm their MIC values. **Figure 4-4** illustrated the chemical structures and their MIC values against *M. Smegmatis* strain. The compounds **4-6**, **4-7** and **4-8** which are bearing methoxy group at the 6-position were tested and they exhibited MIC values 3.13 to 12.5 μM . Compound **4-5** was tested as a positive control and exhibited the same value as previously reported. With significant benefit of time saving, this system will be further used with our other trisubstituted benzimidazoles not only against *M smegmatis* but also other pathogens such as *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Even though, previous evaluation of 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles bearing amino moiety at the 6-position did not show correlation between *Mtb* and *M. Smeg.*, most of our hit compounds especially bearing 6-methoxy group exhibited good MIC values against both pathogens. The lack of correlation for some of our compounds between *Mtb* and *M. smegmatis* is mainly due to their basic physiological differences between *M. smegmatis* and pathogenic *Mycobacterium*. *M. smegmatis* lacks properties of pathogen, and cannot enter epithelial cells and persists in professional phagocytes which are equipped with receptor molecules that are attracted to certain chemicals that signal the presence of an infection. Even though the difference and similarity in structures between *Mtb* FtsZ and *M. Smeg* FtsZ are largely unclear, there might be substantial difference in the binding site structure between *Mtb* FtsZ and *M. Smeg* FtsZ despite

the fact that those two pathogens are categorized as very close *Micobacterium* species. Underlying genetic basis for such remarkable difference remains to be determined.

§ 4.3 Conclusion

In-house libraries of trisubstituted benzimidazoles were screened against other pathogens, *M. smegmatis*, since FtsZ is a highly conserved bacteria cell division protein. Remarkably, most of our hit compounds exhibited good MIC values. To resolve the unclear problems with alamar blue assay, we developed the new method to determine MIC values. With many trials and errors, the reproducible *M. Smeg* assay was successfully introduced. Moreover, this assay can further prepared by the robotic system. Further optimaization of the lead compounds for their activity against *M. smegmatis* strain with the robotic system is actively underway in our laboratory.

§ 4.4 Experimental Section

§ 4.4.1 General Methods

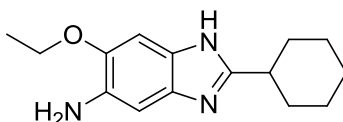
¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker 400 or 500 MHz NMR spectrometer. Melting points were measured on a Thomas Hoover Capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. TLC was performed on Sorbtech with UV254 and column chromatography was carried out on silica gel 60 (Merck; 230-400 mesh ASTM). High-resolution mass spectra were obtained on Agilent-TOF instrument.

§ 4.4.2 Materials

The chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich Co., Synquest Inc., Alfa Aesar and purified before use by standard methods. Tetrahydrofuran was freshly distilled from sodium metal and benzophenone. Dichloromethane was also distilled immediately prior to use under nitrogen from calcium hydride. Aminomethylated polystyrene resin EHL (200-400 mesh) 2 % DVB was purchased from Novagen Biochem.

§ 4.4.3 Experimental Procedures

5-Amino-6-ethoxy-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol (4-1)

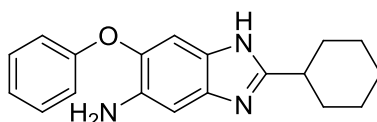


A solution of **1-2a** (100 mg, 0.30 mmol), tin(II) chloride dihydrate (0.47 g, 2.1 mmol) in 10 mL of EtOH was magnetically stirred and refluxed at 90 °C under nitrogen for 1 h. The reaction mixture was cooled, quenched with 30 % KOH, and pH adjusted to ~13. The solution was diluted with dichloromethane and washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound **1-3a** as a pale red color solid (69 g, 89 % yield): mp 89-90 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (ddd, 1 H, *J* = 14.2, 10.8, 3.3 Hz), 1.32 (ddd, 2 H, *J* = 14.2, 11.1, 3.1 Hz), 1.37-1.42 (m, 3 H), 1.60 (qd, 2 H, *J* = 12.4, 3.1 Hz), 1.69-1.71 (m, 1 H), 1.79-1.81 (m, 2 H), 2.08 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.4 Hz), 2.80 (tt, 1 H, *J* = 11.8, 3.51 Hz), 3.79 (br, 2 H), 3.99 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 8.3, 3.3 Hz), 6.78 (s, 1 H), 6.96 (s, 1 H);

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 15.0, 25.9, 26.1, 32.0, 38.5, 64.4, 132.9, 133.0, 144.5, 157.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ 260.1757 Found: 260.1758 ($\Delta = 0.38$ ppm).

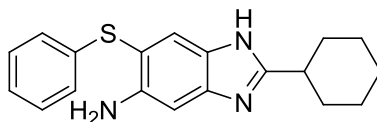
In a similar manner, compounds **4-2** were synthesized and characterized.

5-Amino-6-phenoxy-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol (**4-2**)



Pale yellow solid; 46 % yield; mp 136-138 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.25-1.32 (m, 1 H), 1.35-1.44 (m, 2 H), 1.56-1.66 (m, 2 H), 1.72-1.77 (m, 1 H), 1.83-1.88 (m, 2 H), 2.09-2.14 (m, 2 H), 2.80-2.86 (m, 1 H), 3.73 (br, 2 H), 6.93-6.97 (m, 2 H), 7.01-7.05 (m, 1 H), 7.12 (s, 1 H), 7.26-7.29 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.9, 26.0, 31.9, 38.5, 116.7, 122.4, 129.7, 135.3, 140.3, 158.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ 308.1757 Found: 308.1758 ($\Delta = 0.32$ ppm).

5-Amino-6-(phenylthio)-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol (**4-3**)

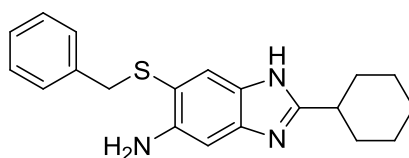


A solution of **1-2f** (1.97 g, 5.16 mmol), tin(II) chloride dihydrate (15.5 g, 36.1 mmol), and 4 M HCl (80 mL) in 200 mL of EtOH was magnetically stirred and refluxed for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled, quenched with 1M NaOH, and pH was adjusted to ~10. Tin salts precipitated in solution upon addition of 1 M NaOH. The reaction mixture was filtered to remove the tin salts. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to

afford compound **4-3** as a pale brownish solid in 57 % yield; mp 116-118 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.27-1.35 (m, 1 H), 1.42 (qt, 2 H, *J* = 12.79, 3.29 Hz), 1.66 (qd, 2 H, *J* = 12.4, 3.29 Hz), 1.76-1.80 (m, 1 H), 1.89 (dt, 2 H, *J* = 13.3, 3.38 Hz), 2.16 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 13.7, 2.01 Hz), 2.88 (tt, 1 H, *J* = 11.8, 3.55 Hz), 4.22 (br, 2 H), 6.92 (s, 1 H), δ 7.08-7.13 (m, 3 H), δ 7.20-7.23 (m, 2 H), δ 7.67 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.8, 26.0, 31.8, 38.5, 110.6, 125.3, 126.1, 128.9, 137.6, 144.6; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₂N₃S⁺ 324.1529 Found: 324.1529 (Δ = 0.0 ppm).

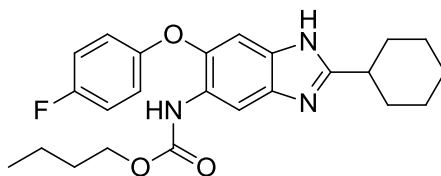
In a similar manner, compounds **4-4** were synthesized and characterized.

5-Amino-6-(benzylthio)-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]-imidazol (**4-4**)



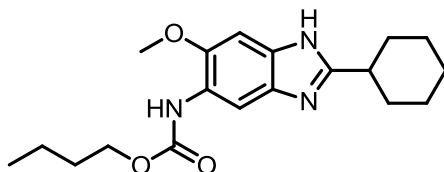
Pale beige solid; 56 % yield; mp 129.5-131 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.18-1.23 (m, 1 H), 1.27-1.35 (m, 2 H), 1.60 (qd, 2 H, *J* = 12.4, 3.2 Hz), 1.69 (d, 1 H, *J* = 12.7 Hz), 1.78 (dt, 2 H, *J* = 13.1, 3.0 Hz), 2.07 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 14.2, 2.5 Hz), 2.80-1.85 (m, 1 H), 3.86 (s, 2 H), 6.77 (s, 1 H), 7.10-7.12 (m, 2 H), 7.17 (td, 3 H, *J* = 6.5, 2.8 Hz), 7.49 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.7, 26.0, 31.7, 38.4, 40.7, 64.4, 98.4, 114.0, 123.1, 126.9, 128.3, 128.7, 132.8, 138.2, 139.1, 144.2, 159.1, 176.3; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₂₄N₃S⁺ 338.1685 Found: 338.1686 (Δ = 0.3 ppm).

5-Butoxycarbonylamino-2-cyclohexyl-6-(4-fluorophenoxy)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**4-5**)



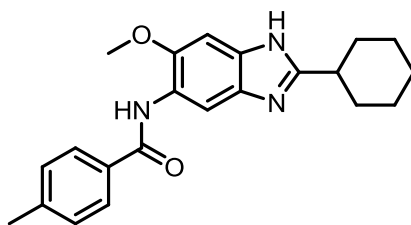
To a solution of **1-3a** (100 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of dichloromethane was added *N*-butoxycarbonyloxysuccinimide (68 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of dichloromethane and the mixture was magnetically stirred under nitrogen atmosphere in an ice bath. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 16 h. The solution was diluted with dichloromethane and basified with NaHCO₃ and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound **4-5** as an off-white solid (54 mg, 47 % yield): mp 91-92 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 0.97 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 1.28-1.30 (m, 1 H), 1.39-1.45 (m, 4 H), 1.61-1.65 (m, 2 H), 1.67 (t, 2 H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 1.76 (d, 1 H, *J* = 12.5 Hz), 1.85-1.88 (m, 2 H), 2.12 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.5 Hz), 2.83-2.88 (m, 1 H), 4.19 (t, 2 H, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 6.96-7.05 (m, 4 H), 7.13 (s, 1 H), 8.23 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.8, 19.1, 25.8, 26.0, 31.0, 31.8, 38.5, 65.3, 116.5, 119.5, 125.6, 142.3, 153.1, 154.0, 157.8, 159.5, 159.6, 159.7; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₄H₂₉FN₃O₃⁺ 426.2187 Found: 426.2187 (Δ = 0.0 ppm).

Butyl (2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)carbamate (4-6)



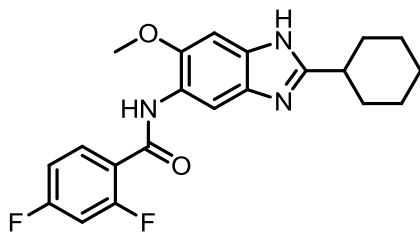
To a solution of **3e** (49 mg, 0.2 mmol) in 6 mL of DCM, 1.1 eq. of CDI was added and refluxed for 9 hours and magnetically stirred. 1-butanol (1.0 eq.) was added and stirred for 16 hours. The solution was diluted with DCM and basified with NaHCO₃ and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried with sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound as off-white solid (46 mg, 67 % yield): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.93 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.29 Hz), 1.25-1.48 (m, 5 H), 1.56-1.73 (m, 5 H), 1.82 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.5 Hz), 2.09 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.1 Hz), 2.78-2.85 (m, 1 H), 3.86 (s, 3 H), 4.18 (t, 2 H, *J* = 6.57 Hz), 7.12 (s, 1 H), 7.30 (s, 1 H), 8.19 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.7, 19.1, 25.8, 26.0, 29.7, 31.0, 31.8, 38.4, 56.1, 65.0, 123.8, 145.0, 154.0, 158.4

***N*-(2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)-4-methylbenzamide (4-7)**



To a solution of **4i** (91 mg, 0.37 mmol) in 6 mL of DCM, *p*-toluoyl chloride (1.0 eq.) in 6 mL of DCM was added and magnetically stirred in the ice bath. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 3.5 hours. The solution was diluted with DCM and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried with sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound as off-white solid (112 mg, 83 % yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.10-1.25 (m, 3 H), 1.51-1.64 (m, 3 H), 1.71 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 10.1, 2.91 Hz), 1.99 (d, 2 H, *J* = 11.9 Hz), 2.45 (s, 3 H), 2.67-2.75 (m, 1 H), 3.94 (s, 3 H), 7.22 (s, 1 H), 7.33 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.84 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.15 Hz), 8.76 (s, 1 H), 8.85 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.5, 25.7, 25.9, 38.4, 56.3, 123.4, 127.0, 129.5, 132.7, 142.3, 145.3, 159.4, 165.8

***N*-(2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-5-yl)-2,4-difluorobenzamide (4-8)**



To a solution of **4i** (75 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 6 mL of DCM, 2,4-difluorobenzoyl chloride (1.0 eq.) in 6 mL of DCM was added and magnetically stirred in the ice bath. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 4 hours. The solution was diluted with DCM and then washed with water three times. The organic layers were dried with sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient 20-40 % EtOAc/hexanes) to afford compound as off-white solid (83 mg, 70 % yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.20-1.34 (m, 3 H), 1.56-1.70 (m, 3 H), 1.78 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.95 Hz), 2.08 (d, 2 H, *J* = 12.3 Hz), 2.81 (tt, 1 H, *J* = 11.7, 3.26 Hz), 3.95 (s, 3 H), 6.95 (ddd, 1 H, *J* =

11.5, 8.79, 2.42 Hz), 7.05-7.09 (m, 1 H), 7.23 (s, 1 H), 8.25 (td, 1 H, $J = 8.70, 6.83$ Hz), 8.79 (s, 1 H), 9.38 (d, 1 H, $J = 14.4$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.7, 26.0, 38.5, 56.4, 104.2, 104.5, 104.8, 112.4, 112.6, 118.2, 118.3, 118.4, 123.4, 133.6, 133.7, 145.5, 159.3, 159.4, 159.5, 160.1, 161.9, 162.0, 163.6, 163.7, 166.1, 166.3

§ 4.4.4 *M. Smegmatis* Assay with Alamar Blue

*M. smegmatis mc*² 155 cells (ATCC# 700084) were obtained and cultured on Middlebrook 7H10 agar supplemented with 0.5% v/v glycerol at 35.5°C until good colonies resulted. Isolated colonies were picked and inoculated into 10 mL of Middlebrook 7H9 media supplemented with 0.05% v/v Tween 80 and 0.2% v/v glycerol (7H9-TG) and grown for 48 hours at 35.5°C at 200-250 RPM. Cells were then diluted to OD600 of 0.15 for microplate MIC assays. Compounds under evaluation were dissolved to 4 mg/mL in ethanol and then serially diluted with 7H9-TG media across or down the microplate to make 100 μL in each well. 100 μL of diluted *M.smeg.* cells are then added to each well to make 200 μL final in each well. Final ethanol content in each well was 10% or less and did not affect cell growth. Microplates were incubated at 35.5°C shaking 50 RPM for 24 or 48 hours as indicated, after which cells were evaluated for viability with the addition of 20 μL Alamar Blue reagent (Invitrogen) and readings were taken after another 12 to 24 hours of incubation at 35.5°C shaking 50 RPM. MIC was recorded as the lowest concentration of inhibitor that did not show a color change in the Alamar Blue reagent from blue to pink.

§ 4.4.5 *M. Smegmatis* Assay based on the Clarity

Grow *M. smeg* on 7H10 + 0.5 % glycerol agar plates for 3-4 days until good colonies. Inoculate 10 mL 7H9-TH (supplemented with 0.05 % v/v tween 80, 0.2 % glycerol to prevent aggregation) with one colony in a sterile tube and grow until mid log phase (OD600 0.5 to 0.9: about 2 days). When cells are ready, dilute cells to OD600 0.001 with media 7H9 + tween 80 + glycerol for addition to 96 plates. Add 100 μL of the diluted cells to each well and then add media to column 2 to 11. Add 200 μL cells and 2 μL DMSO to column 1. Add 200 μL media to column 12. Add 2 μL of drug stock solution that dissolved in DMSO. Prepare the hydration

plates by filling all of the wells of 2 96 well plates with sterile water and put one on top and the other at the bottom of the plates that are used for testing.

§ 4.5 References

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Chapter 5

Biological Evaluation of Folate-Linker-Taxoid

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§ 5.1 Introduction

§ 5.1.1 Cancer

Cancer is the general name for a group of more than 100 diseases. Cancer cases the second most death in the US, followed by heart disease, accounting for nearly 1 of every 4 deaths.¹ In 2014, it has been estimated about 585,720 Americans are expected to die of cancer, almost 1,600 people per day (Figure 5-1).^{1,2}

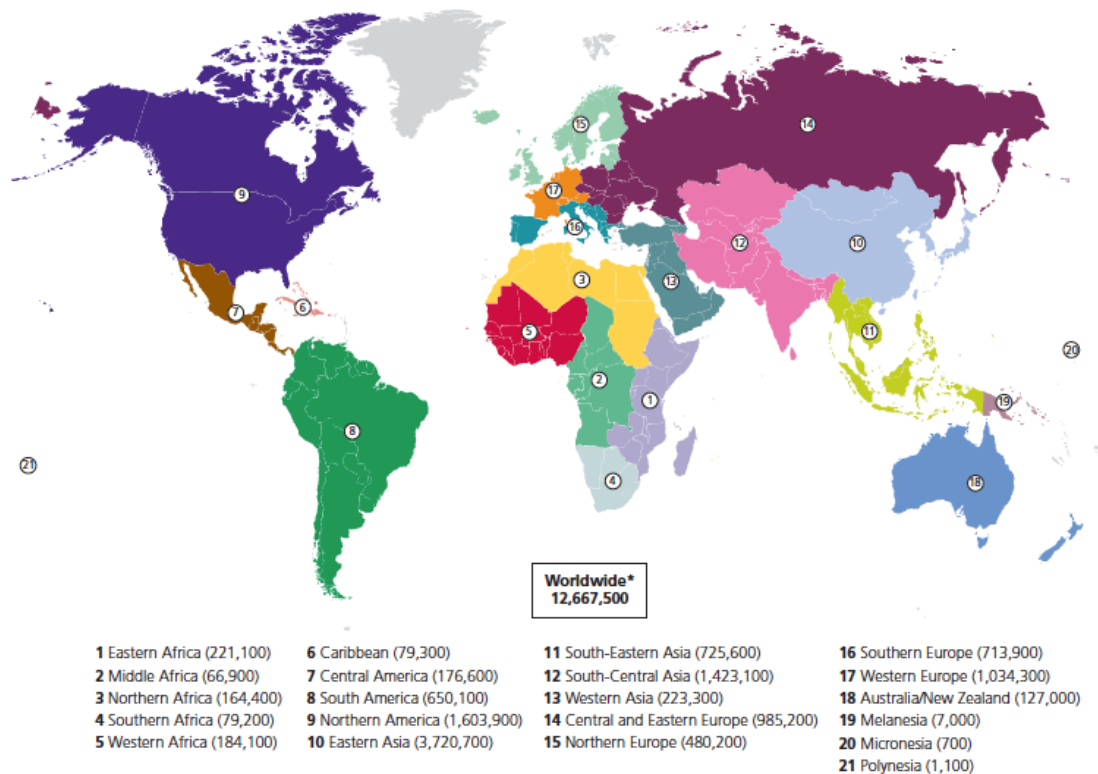


Figure 5- 1: Worldwide cancer statistics (Adapted from [2])

Even though there is an outstanding improvement in the area of anticancer research, a cure for cancer has not been found. Therefore, there is an urgent need for better anticancer treatments. Since there is no cure-all treatment, combination of treatments, are used in common such as, surgery, radiation therapy, biological therapy, gene therapy, anti-angiogenic therapy, and chemotherapy.

§ 5.1.2 Chemotherapy

Every treatment has its advantages and disadvantages. Current chemotherapy (**Figure 5-2**) uses highly potent cytotoxic agents to differentiate rapid proliferating malignant cells from normal cells. There are several classes of chemotherapeutics each with different mechanisms of action.³⁻⁵

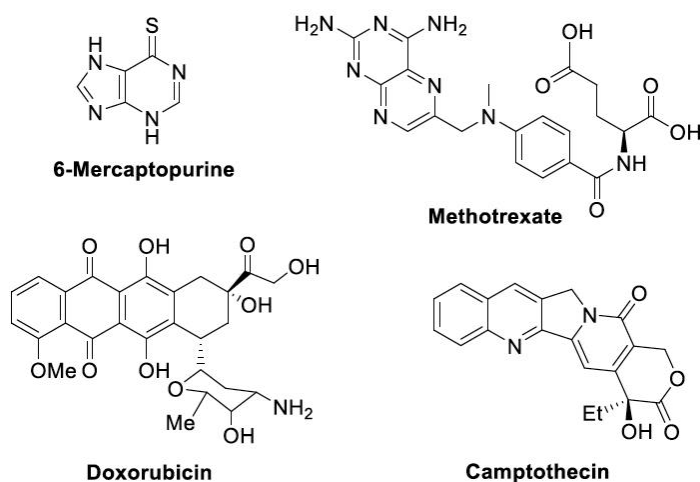


Figure 5- 2: Examples of traditional chemotherapeutics

However, the lack of specificity leads to adverse effects. In addition, the drug dosage required for effective tumor suppression is often intolerable to the patients. To conquer these problems associated with conventional chemotherapy, cytotoxic agents or their prodrugs with higher selectivity to tumors should be developed. One of the most important strategies is the tumor-specific delivery of cytotoxic agents by recognizing the differences between normal cells and cancer cells. It is conceivable that a prodrug with minimal systemic toxicity can be constructed by conjugating a cytotoxic agent to a tumor-targeting molecule.

§ 5.1.3 Paclitaxel and Taxanes

Paclitaxel (Taxol®) is a potent anticancer agent and known to inhibit cell growth and trigger significant apoptosis in various cancer cells.⁶ Taxol was extracted from the bark of the pacific yew tree, *Taxus brevifolia*, in 1962.⁷ Since then, numerous paclitaxel derivatives have been synthesized, and their effect on microtubules stabilization and cytotoxicity were investigated in terms of structure-activity relationships (SAR).⁸ Extensive SAR studies have been done on paclitaxel and their analogs and it is summarized in **Figure 5-3**.

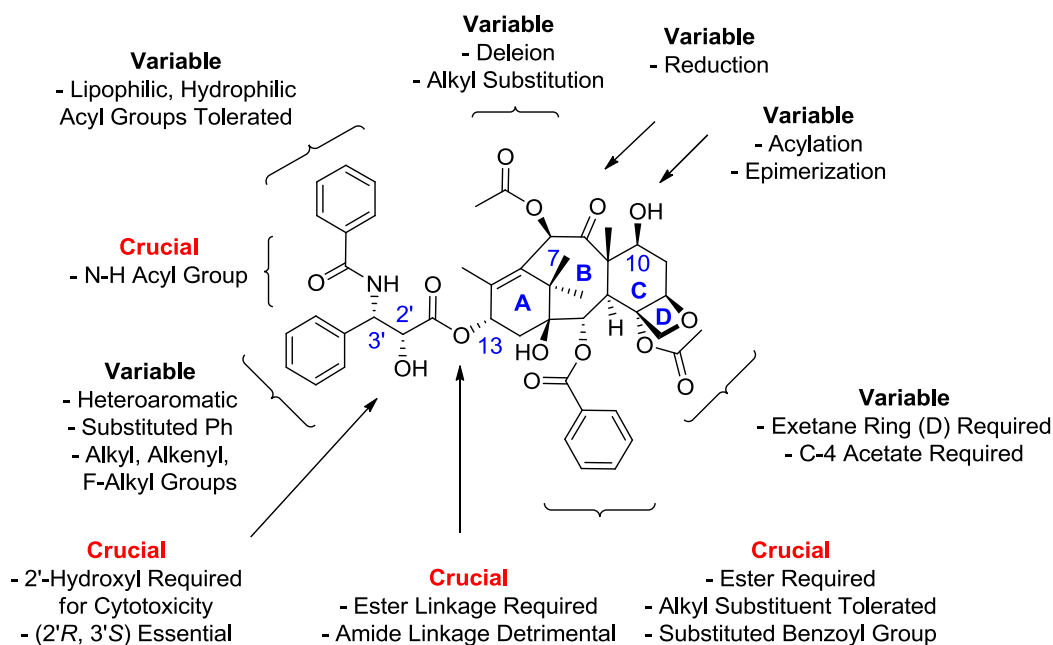


Figure 5- 3: Summary of SAR studies of paclitaxel

Throughout the years, the Ojima laboratory has developed a series of highly potent new generation taxoids through extensive SAR studies.⁹⁻¹³ A number of these taxoids exhibited 1 to 2 orders of magnitude greater potencies in drug-sensitive cancer cell lines. Moreover, 2 to 3 orders of magnitude greater potencies in drug-resistant cell lines compared to that of paclitaxel and docetaxel.¹³⁻¹⁶ It has been determined that the amide bond has been shown to be optimal at C13 position, and both primary and secondary R1 substituents have been shown to be detrimental to activity, whereas tertiary and aromatic groups at this position tend to improve efficacy. Furthermore, introducing an alkenyl or alkyl group at the C-3' position, a *t*-Boc moiety at the C-3'-N, modifications at the C-10 position and substituted phenyl rings at the C-2 benzoate increase the anticancer activity of the taxoid.

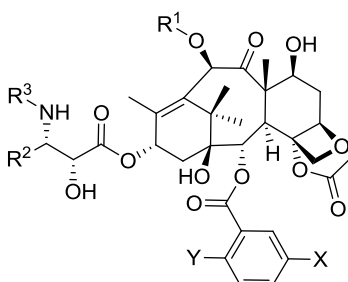
§ 5.1.4 Next Generation Taxoid

Based on our extensive SAR study of taxoids, we developed a series of highly potent new-generation taxoids (**Table 5-1**).¹³ SAR studies indicated that taxoids with meta-substituted C2-benzoate modifications demonstrated remarkable potency against drug-sensitive and drug-

resistant (Pgp+) cancer cell lines. Some of these C2-benzoate modified taxoids exhibited 3 orders of magnitude higher potency than paclitaxel and docetaxel against drug-resistant cell lines. SB-T-121602, has demonstrated picomolar activity against human colon cancer cell line, HT-29, as well as excellent activity against breast and pancreatic cancer.

Multidrug resistance (MDR) is the phenomenon where the tumor cells is resistance to a cytotoxic agent and develop broad cross resistance. A number of transmembrane transporter proteins, ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporters or efflux pumps, for involved in tumor resistance to chemotherapeutic agents.¹⁷ MDR is usually caused by the overexpression of ATP-binding cassettes, most notably P-glycoprotein (Pgp), a broad spectrum multidrug efflux pump that has 12 transmembrane domains and two ATP-binding sites.¹⁷ Pgp acts as an efflux pump and binds to and removes hydrophobic molecules from the cell.¹⁸ Due to the overexpression of superfamily proteins, several types of drugs lost their efficacy.¹⁹ Therefore, new drugs are being developed with increased efficacy against MDR cancer.

Table 5- 1: Selected new-generation taxoids



Taxane	R¹	R²	R³	X	Y
Paclitaxel	Ac	Ph	PhCO	H	H
Docetaxel	H	Ph	<i>t</i> -Boc	H	H
SB-T-1213	EtCO	<i>i</i> -butenyl	<i>t</i> -Boc	H	H
SB-T-1214	<i>c</i> -PrCO	<i>i</i> -butenyl	<i>t</i> -Boc	H	H
SB-T-1216	Me ₂ NCO	<i>i</i> -butenyl	<i>t</i> -Boc	H	H
SB-T-11033	EtCO	<i>i</i> -Bu	<i>t</i> -Boc	MeO	H
SB-T-121303	EtCO	<i>i</i> -butenyl	<i>t</i> -Boc	MeO	H
SB-T-121313	EtCO	<i>i</i> -butenyl	<i>t</i> -Boc	MeO	MeO
SB-T-121602	Me ₂ NCO	<i>i</i> -butenyl	<i>t</i> -Boc	Me	H

Table 5- 2: Cytotoxicity (IC₅₀; nM) of new-generation taxoids against selected cancer cell lines

Taxane	MCF-7 ^a	NCI/ADR ^b	LCC6-MRK ^c	CFPAC-1 ^d	HT-29 ^e	DLD-1 ^f
Paclitaxel	1.7	550	346	68	12	300
Docetaxel	1.0	723	120	-	-	-
SB-T-1213	0.18	4.0	-	4.6	0.37	3.9
SB-T-1214	0.2	3.9	-	0.38	0.73	3.8
SB-T-1216	0.13	7.4	-	0.66	0.052	5.4
SB-T-11033	0.36	0.61	0.80	-	-	-
SB-T-121303	0.36	0.79	0.90	0.89	-	-
SB-T-121313	0.30	-	-	0.025	0.56	-
SB-T-121602	0.08	-	-	0.31	0.003	0.46

^a Human mammary cancer cell line (Pgp-); ^b Human ovarian cancer cell line (Pgp+); ^c *mdr1* transduced human breast cancer cell line (Pgp+); ^d Human pancreatic cancer cell line; ^e Human colon cancer cell line (Pgp-); ^f Human colon cancer cell line (Pgp+)

New-generation taxoids show magnitudes greater activity (**Table 5-2**) in a series of cancer cell lines compared to paclitaxel and docetaxel. In most cases, the IC₅₀ of the new-generation taxoids is subnanomolar with some taxoids exhibited picomolar activity.¹³ Thus, new-generation taxoids are promising candidates for possible use as chemotherapeutic agents and for use as warhead for tumortargeting drug conjugates.

§ 5.1.5 Folic Acid as Tumor Targeting Drug Conjugate

Vitamins are necessary to all living cells for survival, but the rapidly dividing cancer cells in particular need certain vitamins to sustain their rapid growth and proliferation.¹⁴ Many tumor cells overexpress tumor-specific receptors such as biotin and folate receptors that have been used as targets to deliver the cytotoxic drug. Vitamin B12, folic acid, biotin and riboflavin are essential for cell division. Therefore, the vitamin receptors are overexpressed on the cancer cell surface for uptake of necessary vitamins.²⁰ Consequently, these vitamin receptors serve as appropriate targets for tumor-targeting drug delivery in addition to biomarkers for identification

and imaging of cancer cells.¹⁴ Among various vitamin receptors, folate and biotin receptors have been identified as significant and relevant targets in numerous cancer cell lines.⁷

Folic acid (**Figure 5-4**) is important for targeted cancer therapies since it is essential for DNA synthesis, repair, and methylation, and biological reaction involving folate required vitamin B6 and B12 as cofactors.²¹

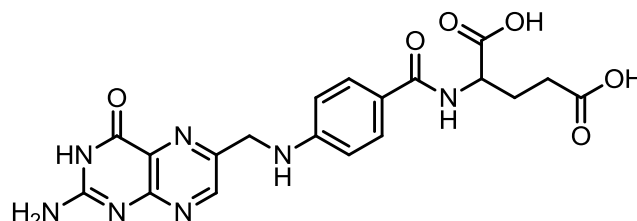


Figure 5- 4: Chemical structure of folic acid

Since the folate receptor (FR) has been known to be overexpressed in tumor cells²² folate-drug conjugates can deliver therapeutic drugs specifically to FR-positive tumor cells. Folic acid is known to have a remarkably high affinity to the FR.²³ The cancer cell lines which are known to overexpress the FR included ovarian, lung, kidney, endometrial, breast, brain, colon carcinomas and myeloid cells (**Table 5-4**).²⁴

Table 5- 3: The Internalization of Vitamin-Targeted Rhodamine-Labeled Polymers in Various Cancer Cell Lines (adapted from [17])

Tumour	Mouse	Type	Folate	Cbl	Biotin
O157	Balb/C	Bcell lymph	+/-	+/-	+/-
BW5147	AKR/J	Lymphoma	+/-	+/-	+/-
B16	C57/Bl	Melanoma	-	-	-
LL-2	C57/Bl	Lung	-	-	-
HCT-116	Balb/C-Nu	Colon	-	-	-
L1210	DBA/2	Leukemia	+/-	+/-	-
L1210FR	DBA/2	Leukemia	++	+	+++
Ov 2008	Balb/C-Nu	Ovarian	+++	-	++
ID8	C57/Bl	Ovarian	+++	-	++
Ovcar-3		Ovarian	+++	-	++
Colo-26	Balb/C	Colon	+/-	++	+++
P815	DBA/2	Mastocytoma	+/-	++	+++
M109	Balb/C	Lung	+	+++	+++
RENCA	Balb/C	Renal cell	+	+++	+++
RD995	C3H/HeJ	Renal cell	+	++	+++
4T1	Balb/C	Breast	+	++	+++
JC	Balb/C	Breast	+	++	+++
MMT060562	Balb/C	Breast	+	++	+++

Folate is a nutrient required by all living cells, and it is essential for cellular division. As illustrated in the image below (**Figure 5-5**), folate enters human cells via two distinct transport systems: (1) the reduced folate carrier pathway (RFC) which has low affinity for folate, (2) the folate receptor pathway, which has high-affinity for folate.²⁵

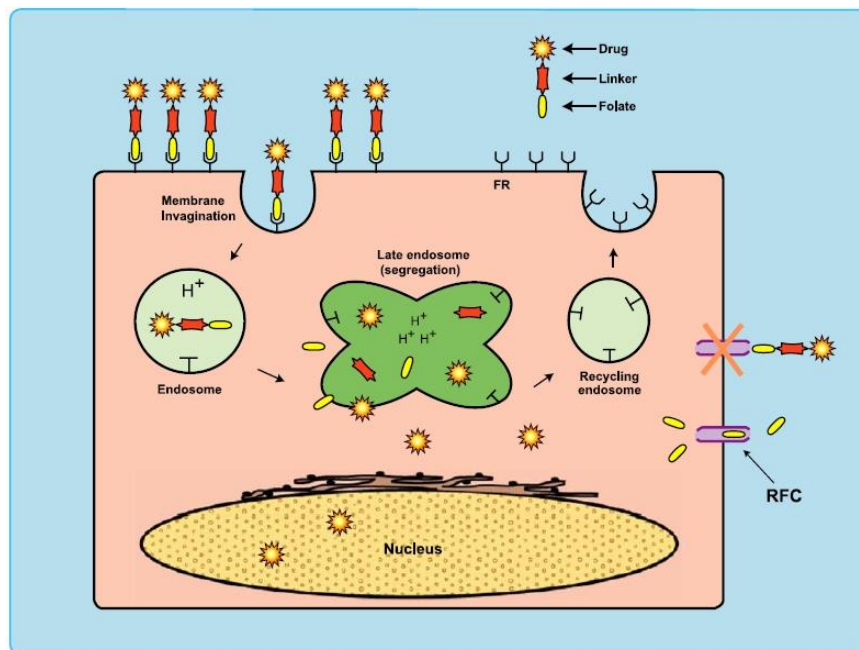


Figure 5- 5: FR-mediated endocytosis (adapted from [22])

The RFC is the major route by which normal cells access folate circulating in the body. The RFC is a transport protein that is expressed on virtually all cells in the body.²⁵ On the other hands, rapidly dividing cancer cells over-express the high-affinity folate receptor.²⁵ The folate receptor captures folate from outside the cell and transports it inside by engulfing it within a vesicle, an endosome. Once folate is internalized, the FR releases the folate and FR is then recycled back to the cell surface where it resumes its function.²⁵

§ 5.1.6 Disulfide Linkers

Disulfide linkers can efficiently release a taxoid inside cancer cells when the disulfide bond is cleaved by an intracellular thiol, such as glutathione (GSH), which is 1,000 times greater in concentration in cancer cells than in blood plasma.²⁶ Studies suggest that antioxidant could provide a promising treatment for cancer since oxidative stress has long been concerned in

cancer development and progression.²⁷ Among the enzymatic systems to maintain the intracellular redox balance, GSH plays a major role, not only in antioxidant defense systems, but also in many metabolic processes.^{28, 29} Elevated GSH levels are observed in several types of tumors, and this makes the neoplastic tissues more resistant to chemotherapy.^{30, 31} Moreover, the content of GSH in some tumor cells is typically associated with higher levels of GSH-related enzymes, such as γ -glutamylcysteine ligase (GCL) and γ -glutamyl-transpeptidase (GGT) activities, as well as a higher expression of GSH-transporting export pumps.

There are two forms of GSH are possible: the reduced form, the majority of GSH, and the oxidized form (GSSG) that is estimated to be less than 1 % of the total GSH.³² It has been known that the reversible thiolation of proteins regulate several metabolic processes including enzyme activity, transport activity, signal transduction and gene expression through redox-sensitive nuclear transcription factors.³² The important GSH function is the maintenance of the intracellular redox balance and the essential thiol status of proteins.³³ The equilibrium of this balance depends on the concentrations of GSH and GSSG. Studies showed that increased GSH level in many malignant cells, i.e. 1000 times higher than that of bloodstream,³⁴ were found since tumor cells with high GSH content were able to survive in the presence of the nitrosative and oxidative stress.³² Therefore, the GSH system has an attractive target for medical intervention against cancer progression and chemoresistance.^{30, 35}

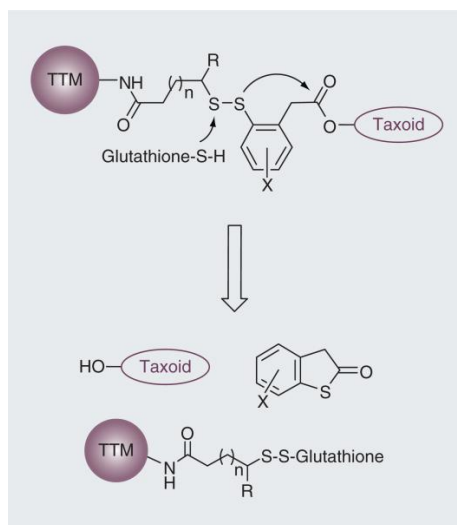


Figure 5- 6: Second-generation self- immolative disulfide linkers and their drug-release mechanism (adapted from [14])

The Ojima lab has developed a selfimmolative disulfide linker, specifically designed to release the unmodified taxoid upon linker cleavage (**Figure 5-6**), to prevent loss of potency of the active agent. Upon the disulfide exchange, the thiolate is positioned by the aromatic ring which can rapidly react with the C2' ester bond.^{14, 36} After thiolactonization, the free drug is released. The second-generation disulfide linkers have been successfully incorporated into various tumor-targeting drug conjugates and their efficacy has been evaluated in vitro.¹³

§ 5.1.7 Folate-Linker-Taxoids

As previous mentioned, the FR has shown considerable promise as a therapeutic target in targeted drug delivery and has been extensively recognized as a tumor-specific biomarker. Folic acid is an attractive candidate for receptor-mediated delivery of highly potent cytotoxic agents since FA has small size, low cost, synthetic versatility, and lack of immunogenicity. Folate-based small molecule drug conjugates (SMDCs) have demonstrated excellent target specificity for the α -folate receptor and numerous drug conjugates and imaging agents have emerged in clinical trials with positive results. While significant advances in folate-based conjugates have been made, there is still need for improvements in design of the tumor-targeted drug delivery system.

A novel synthetic route to a solubilized folate-linker-taxoid conjugate was developed via solid phase peptide synthesis and Cu-free click chemistry previously in our lab by Dr. Joshua D. Seitz.³⁷ This conjugate consists of second-generation taxoid (SB-T-1214), self-immolative disulfide linkers for drug release, folate as the TTM.

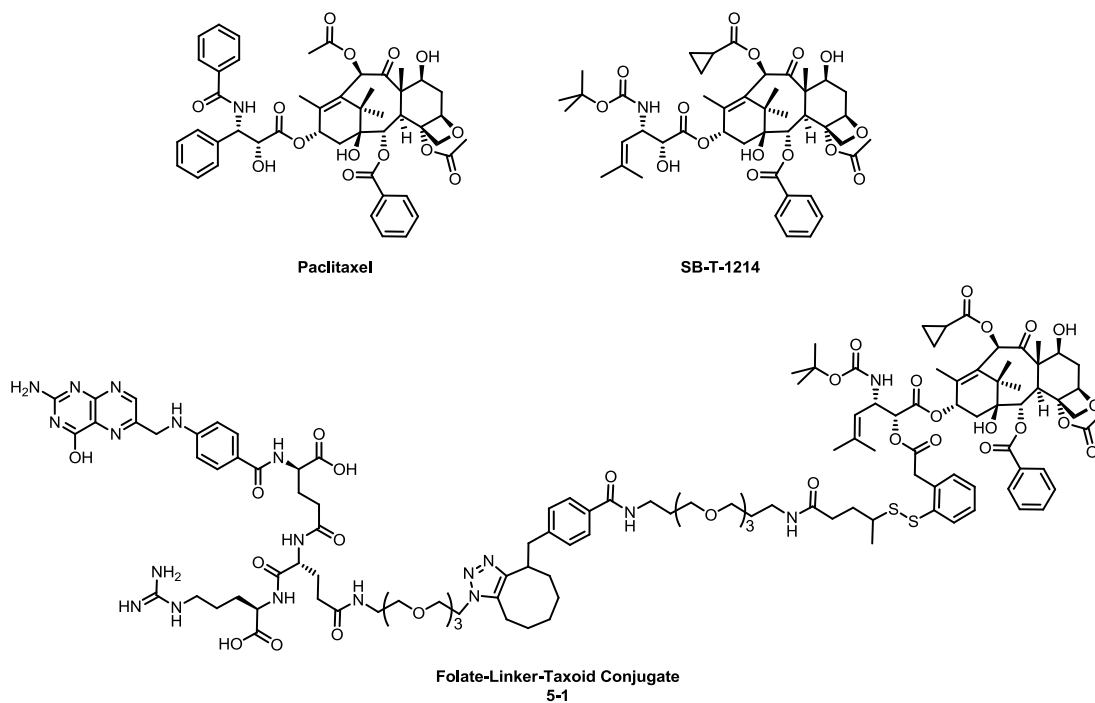


Figure 5- 7: Chemical Structures of paclitaxel, SB-T-1214 and FLT (5-1)

Chemical structure for The detailed method development for synthesis of **5-1** was described previously.³⁷ Compound were prepared by Dr. Seitz and used as received. Chemical structure of the compounds for evaluation of potency and efficacy of FLT are shown in **Figure 5-7**.

§ 5.2 Results and discussion

§ 5.2.1 Biological Evaluation of Folate Linker Taxoid

The potency and efficacy of FLT was evaluated in vitro against various FR+ cell lines and FR- cell line. The cytotoxicity assays of FLT against L1210FR (FR++), MX-1 (FR++), ID8 (FR+++), and WI-38 (FR-) were performed by MTT method. As controls for comparison, paclitaxel and parent taxoid SB-T-1214 were evaluated as well. The results for 72 h drug incubation with or without supplemental GSH, and GSH-OEt are given in **Table 5-5**.

Table 5- 4: Cytotoxicities (IC₅₀, nM) of Paclitaxel, SB-T-1214, and Folate Linker Taxoid (FLT) in the Presence of GSH-OEt or GSH Following Internalization.

Compound	L1210-FR ^a (FR+++)	MX-1 ^b (FR++)	ID8 ^c (FR+++)	WI-38 ^d (FR-)
Paclitaxel ^e	27.6 ± 7.48	5.59 ± 2.12	30.2 ± 1.77	44.4 ± 21
SB-T-1214 ^e	2.66 ± 1.33	1.89 ± 0.80	4.85 ± 0.62	1.20 ± 0.1
FLT ^e	3.51 ± 1.16	3.43 ± 2.33	7.73 ± 1.25	> 5000
FLT (GSH-OEt) ^f	3.35 ± 3.00	2.08 ± 1.30	7.43 ± 2.93	14.4 ± 2.20
FLT (GSH) ^g	3.87 ± 2.61	3.42 ± 2.98	7.78 ± 1.77	36.6 ± 12

^a Murine lymphocytic leukemia cell line (FR+++); ^b Human breast carcinoma cell line (FR++); ^c Murine ovarian carcinoma cell line (FR+++); ^d normal human lung fibroblast cell line (FR-); ^e Cells were incubated with a drug for 72 h at 37 °C; ^f Cells were incubated FLT at a given concentration for 24 h at 37 °C. Then, 6 equiv. of GSH-OEt was added to conjugate for drug release and additional incubation for 48 h at 37 °C; ^g Cells were incubated FLT at a given concentration for 24 h at 37 °C. Then, 6 equiv. of GSH was added to conjugate for drug release and additional incubation for 48 h at 37 °C followed by addition of GSH-OEt (6 equiv. to conjugate) for drug release. Total drug or conjugate incubation was 72 h for all experiments; ^{a,c} the drugs were treated in FA-free RPMI media; ^{b,d} the drugs were treated in normal RPMI.

In the first experiment, L1210FR, MX-1, and ID8 (FR+) cancer cell lines were incubated with FLT for 72 h, and the corresponding IC₅₀ values were determined. As **Table 5-5** shows, the cytotoxicity of FLT based on its IC₅₀ values was determined to be in a range of 3.51 - 7.73 nM, while that against normal cell line WI38 (IC₅₀ > 5000 nM) was not show appreciate cytotoxicity. The results indicate that FLT (**5-1**) was selectively internalized into FR+ cancer cells and release of the taxoid within the cancer cells. As expected, both paclitaxel and the parent taxoid, SB-T-

1214 showed nonspecific activity against FR+ and FR- cell lines in the range of 5.6 - 44 nM, and 1.2 – 4.9 nM, respectively.

In the second experiment, glutathione and glutathione ethyl ester (GSH, and GSH-OEt; 6 mole equivalents to conjugate) were added to the resuspended cancer cells after the cells were incubated with compound **5-1** for 24 h, and an additional incubation period of 48 h, i.e., 72 h total incubation. It should be noted that in this experiment the resuspended cancer cells only included conjugate internalized in the first 24 h period. As indicated in **Table 5-5**, addition of GSH or GSH-OEt did not make any appreciable difference in the cytotoxicity of these conjugates against FR+ cell lines. However, WI38 normal fibroblast cells, upon the addition of GSH or GSH-OEt, the conjugate showed slightly less cytotoxicity in the range of 14 – 37 nM compared to SB-T-1214.

§ 5.3 Conclusion

Folic acid is essential for the longevity and maintenance of rapidly dividing cells. A novel folate-based drug conjugate of next-generation taxoid SB-T-1214 was designed and synthesized previously (by Dr. Seitz) using a combination of solid-phase peptide synthesis with synthetically modified amino acids and copper-free “click” chemistry. The folate-linker-taxoid (FLT) conjugate contains spacers to promote aqueous solubility and promote tumor-specific uptake. Also, it contains a mechanism-based self-immolative disulfide linker for site-specific prodrug activation. The cleavage of disulfide linkers is attributed to the abundance of intracellular glutathione found in cancer cells. The conjugate was evaluated *in vitro* against a series of FR-positive cancer cell lines, L1210FR, MX-1, and ID8.

As anticipated, SB-T-1214 was found to be highly potent against all cell lines tested with IC_{50} values ranging from 1-5 nM. Folate conjugate demonstrated almost equally high potency against L1210FR, MX-1 and ID8 as the parent taxoid, indicating rapid internalization and efficient drug release. However, against FR- normal lung fibroblast cell line WI38, the folate conjugate was virtually non-toxic ($IC_{50} > 5 \mu M$). The difference in cytotoxicity of FLT against FR-positive and FR-negative cell lines was of at least three orders of magnitude. These results indicate that this folate-based conjugate **5-1** design vastly reduces non-specific internalization.

§ 5.4 Experimental Section

§ 5.4.1 Caution

Taxoids have been identified as potent cytotoxic agents. Thus, all drugs and structurally related compounds and derivatives must be considered mutagens and potential reproductive hazards for both males and females. All appropriate precautions, such as the use of gloves, goggles, labware, and fume hood, must be taken while handling the compounds at all times.

§ 5.4.2 Materials

The chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Fisher Scientific, and VWR International, and used as received or purified before use by standard methods. Tetrahydrofuran was freshly distilled from sodium and benzophenone. Dichloromethane was also distilled immediately prior to use under nitrogen from calcium hydride. 3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) was obtained from Sigma Chemical Co. Biological materials including RPMI-1640 and DMEM cell culture media, fetal bovine serum, NuSerum, PenStrep, and TrypLE were obtained from Gibco and VWR International, and used as received for cell-based assays.

§ 5.4.3 Cell culture system for MTT assay

All cell lines were obtained from ATCC unless otherwise noted. Cells were cultured in RPMI-1640 cell culture medium (Gibco) in the absence of folic acid, supplemented with 10% (v/v) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 1% (v/v) penicillin and streptomycin (PenStrep) at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO₂. Murine leukemia cell line L1210FR (a gift from Dr. Gregory Russell-Jones, Access Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd., Australia) was grown as a suspension in supplemented RPMI-1640. Human breast carcinoma, MX-1, murine ovarian carcinoma, ID8, and normal lung fibroblast, WI-38, cell lines were cultured as monolayers on 100 mm tissue culture dishes in a supplemented RPMI-1640 cell culture medium. Cells were harvested, collected by centrifugation at 850 rpm for 5 min, and resuspended in fresh culture medium. Cell cultures were routinely divided by treatment with trypsin (TrypLE, Gibco) as needed every 2-4 days and collected by centrifugation at 850 rpm for 5 min, and resuspended in fresh cell culture medium, containing varying cell densities for subsequent biological experiments and analysis.

§ 5.4.4 Single drug MTT assay

The cytotoxicities (IC₅₀, nM) of paclitaxel, SB-T-1214, and folate-linker- SB-T-1214 were evaluated against various cancer cell lines by means of the standard quantitative colorimetric MTT assay. The inhibitory activity of each compound is represented by the IC₅₀ value, which is defined as the concentration required for inhibiting 50 % of the cell growth. Cells were harvested, collected, and resuspended in 100 µL cell culture medium (RPMI-1640, folate-free) at a concentrations ranging from 0.5-1.5 x 10⁴ cells per well in a 96-well plate. For adhesive cell types, cells were allowed to descend to the bottom of the wells overnight, and appropriate fresh medium was added to each well upon removal of the old medium.

For the MTT assay of paclitaxel, SB-T-1214, and FLT, cells were resuspended in 200 µL medium with 8,000 to 10,000 cells per well of a 96-well plate and incubated at 37 °C for 24 h before drug treatment. In DMSO stock solutions, each drug or conjugate was diluted to a series of concentrations in cell culture medium to prepare test solutions. After removing the old medium, these test solutions were added to the wells in the 96-well plate to give the final concentrations ranging from 0.5 to 5,000 nM (100 µL), and the cells were subsequently cultured at 37 °C for 48 of 72 h. For the leukemia cell lines, cells were harvested, collected, and resuspended in the test solutions ranging from 0.5 to 5,000 nM (100 µL) at 0.5 to 0.8 x 10⁴ cells per well in a 96-well plate and subsequently incubated at 37 °C for 72 h.

In another experiment, cells were incubated with FLT at 37 °C for 24 h, and GSH or GSH-OEt (6 equivalents) in cell culture medium (100 µL) was directly added to the wells. These cells were incubated at 37 °C for an additional 48 h; i.e. the total incubation time was also 72 h.

For all experiments, after removing the test medium, fresh solution of MTT in PBS (40 µL of 0.5 mg MTT/mL) was added to the wells, and the cells were incubated at 37 °C for 3 h. The MTT solution was then removed, and the resulting insoluble violet formazan crystals were dissolved in 0.1 N HCl in isopropanol with 10% Triton X-100 (40 µL) to give a violet solution.

§ 5.4.5 Data analysis for MTT assay

The spectrophotometric absorbance measurement of each well in the 96-well plate was run at 570 nm using a Labsystems Multiskan Ascent microplate reader. The IC₅₀ values and their standard errors were calculated from the viability-concentration curve using Four Parameter

Logistic Model of Sigmaplot. The concentration of DMSO per well was $\leq 1\%$ in all cases. Each experiment was run in triplicate.

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Chapter 6

3'-Vinylido Taxoids for PET- and SPECT-Based Theranostics

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§ 6.1 Introduction

§ 6.1.1 Positron Emission Tomography

There are two nuclear imaging modalities: single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) and positron emission tomography (PET). PET is a powerful nuclear imaging technique that gives detailed three dimensional images of functional processes in the body. A PET radiopharmaceutical is administered to a patient and then given time (depending on the type of scan) to distribute through the body, accumulate at sites of interest. Therefore, PET is an efficient imaging technique in the area such as, oncology, cardiology and neurology for monitoring tumors or visualizing disease.

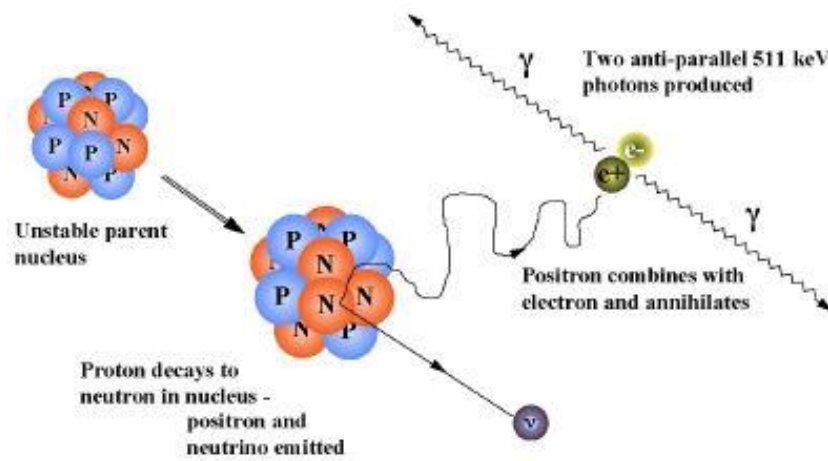


Figure 6- 1: β^+ decay and positron/electron annihilation (adapted from [1])

The radionuclide has an unstable nucleus. It decays to reach a stable state by emitting positrons (an antimatter counterpart of an electron). Once it expelled from the nucleus, a positron travels a short distance (~ 1 mm) and collides with an electron in the surrounding tissues (**Figure 6-1**).¹ This mutual annihilation results in production of two high energy (511 KeV) photons or γ -rays, which are emitted at almost 180° to each other. The detection of two simultaneous photons by the PET scanner by a process called coincidence detection, is subsequently used to reconstruct tomographic PET images.¹

§ 6.1.2 Radiolabeling of Taxanes in Clinical Use

The principal component of imaging with PET is the radiopharmaceutical agent (also known as a ligand or tracer). The tracer molecule is formed by incorporating a positron emitting isotope (radionuclide) into a metabolically active molecule.

Table 6- 1: The properties of radionuclides (adapted from [2])

Nuclide	Application	Decay mode	Energy (keV)	Half-life
¹⁸ F	PET	β+ (97%)	633.5	109 min
¹³ N	PET	β+ (100%)	1198.2	9.97 min
⁷⁴ As	PET	β+ (26.1%) β- (18.6%)	944.61353	17.77 d
⁶⁴ Cu	PET	β+ (17.8%)	653	12.7 h
⁸⁹ Zr	PET	β+ (23%)	2400	78.4 h
¹²⁴ I	PET	β+ (11.7%)	1534	4.17 d
⁶⁸ Ga	PET	β+ (88%)	1899	67.6 m
¹³¹ I	SPECT	β- (89.9%) γ (81.7%)	606 364	8.02 d
⁹⁰ Y	Radiotherapy	β- (99.9%)	2280	64 h
³² P	Radiotherapy	β- (100%)	1710	14.26 d
¹⁹⁸ Au	Radiotherapy	β- (98.9%)	960.7	2.69 d
¹¹¹ In	Radiotherapy	β- (100%)	448.3	2.8 d
¹⁷⁷ Lu	Radiotherapy	β- (78.6%)	498.3	6.73 d
²²⁵ Ac	Radiotherapy	α (50.7%)	5830	10 d
* ^{99m} Tc	SPECT	γ (89%)	140.5	6.01 h

**^{99m}Tc has shown to have no significant CR.*

¹⁵O, ¹³N, ¹¹C and ¹⁸F are frequently used positron-emitting isotopes.² The latter is often used as a substitute for hydrogen in the molecule of interest. ¹⁴O, ⁶⁴Cu, ⁶²Cu, ¹²⁴I, ⁷⁶Br, ⁸²Rb and ⁶⁸Ga are also used occasionally.² **Table 6-1** illustrated some of radionuclides and their properties.³

Paclitaxel and docetaxel and have been labeled with β+ emitting nuclei for PET (**Figure 6-2**). Paclitaxel employed ¹¹C labeling at the C3'-N- carbonyl and ¹⁸F, ⁷⁶Br and ¹²⁴I labeling at the para position of the C3'-phenyl ring.^{4,5} In addition, ¹²³I labeling had been introduced at the C3'-phenyl ring for SPECT imaging.⁶

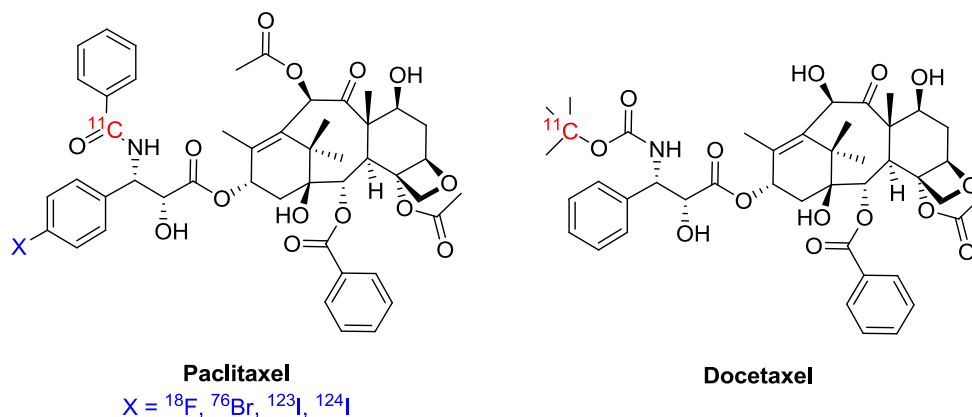


Figure 6- 2: Examples of clinical use of paclitaxel and docetaxel

Docetaxel has been labeled with ^{11}C at the quaternary carbon of the C3'N-*t*-Boc group for biodistribution in patients with advanced solid tumors.^{7, 8}

§ 6.1.3 Radiolabeling with Iodine

Recently, the positron emitting halogen has become an attractive long-lived radionuclide for the design and synthesis of novel PET radiotracers.⁹ Especially, iodine has been frequently used as an imaging agent for the labeling of proteins and peptides. The two most common metastable isotopes are ^{123}I and ^{124}I since both isotopes possess long half-life (^{123}I , $t_{1/2} = 13$ h and 4.2 days and ^{124}I , $t_{1/2} = 4.2$ d).^{9, 10} They can be used for long-term biodistribution studies of pharmaceuticals such as PET and SPECT.¹⁰ Therefore, a handy method for the site-specific iodine labeling of taxoid conjugates is highly desirable for preclinical and clinical use of taxoid-based tumor-targeting drug conjugates.

§ 6.1.4 Biotin as Tumor Targeting Moiety

As described in previous chapter, vitamin is an attractive tumor-targeting moiety. In addition to folic acid, biotin (**Figure 6-3**) is essential for cell division, cell growth, fatty acid production, metabolism of fats and amino acids energy production.¹¹ Since biotin plays a significant role for rapidly dividing cancer cells, it is recognized as an attractive target for tumor-targeting drug delivery.¹²

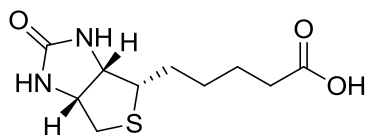


Figure 6- 3: Chemical Structure of Biotin

It has been reported that numerous types of cancer cells overexpressed the biotin receptors by Russell-Jones *et al.* They also reported those cell lines in which folate and vitamin B12 were overexpressed.¹³

§ 6.1.5 3'-Vinylido taxoids for PET- and SPECT-Based Theranostics

Iodine is commonly used to via nucleophilic or electrophilic substitution reactions.⁹ In addition, methods have been worked out for the specific labeling.¹⁴

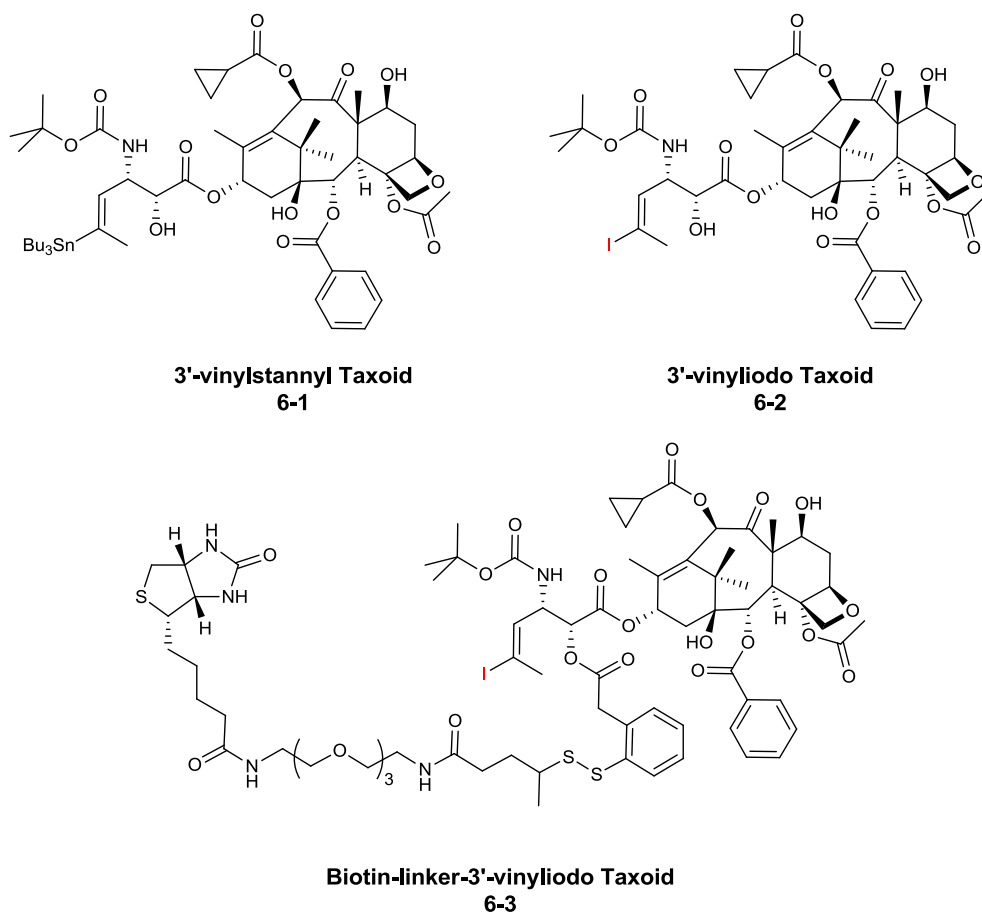


Figure 6- 4: Chemical Structures of

Since electrophilic iodine can react rapidly with organostannanes in a high yielding and highly regioselective manner, it is preferred methods for the radiolabeling of organic compounds. Using this methodology, various molecules have been labeled; morphine (analgesic), purpurinimide (a porphyrine derivative) and IML06-08 (EGFR inhibitors).¹⁵⁻¹⁷ It was envisioned that 3'-vinylstannyl taxoid **6-1** could be converted to 3'-vinyliodo taxoid **6-2** and synthesized previously in our lab by Dr. Joshua D. Seitz. The detailed method development for synthesis of **6-1**, **6-2** and **6-3** were described previously.¹⁴ Compounds were prepared by Dr. Seitz and used as received.

Preliminary in vitro studies against VERO cells showed that **6-2** possesses cytotoxicity within the same order of magnitude as SB-T-1214. Therefore, it would be worthwhile to test the potency of **6-2** against a small panel of cancer cell lines to assess its potential as a theranostic agent.

§ 6.2 Results and discussion

§ 6.2.1 Biological Evaluation of 3'-vinyliodo taxoid

The potency and efficacy of 3'-vinyliodotaxoid **6-2** was evaluated *in vitro* against various cancer cell lines. The cytotoxicity assays of 3'-vinyliodo taxoid against ID8 and NCI/ADR-RES (murine ovarian carcinoma cell line), HCT-116 (human colon cancer cell line), and MX-1 and MCF-7 (human breast carcinoma cell line) were performed by MTT method. As controls for comparison, paclitaxel and parent taxoid SB-T-1214 were evaluated as well. The results for 72 h drug incubation are given in **Table 6-2**.

Table 6- 2: Cytotoxicities (IC₅₀, nM) of paclitaxel, SB-T-1214, and 3'-vinyliodotaxoid (6-2)

Compound	ID8 ^a	NCI/ADR-RES ^a	HCT-116 ^b	MX-1 ^c	MCF-7 ^c
Paclitaxel	22.9 ± 0.75	634 ± 41	4.31 ± 0.14	1.73 ± 0.42	157 ± 6.0
SB-T-1214	3.23 ± 0.75	10.3 ± 1.35	2.41 ± 0.38	3.05 ± 0.74	7.14 ± 0.18
6-2	4.22 ± 0.40	15.4 ± 1.60	6.58 ± 1.07	3.01 ± 0.30	12.8 ± 3.33

^a murine ovarian carcinoma cell line; ^b human colon cancer cell line; ^c human breast carcinoma cell line; Cells were incubated with drugs at 37 °C in a 5% CO₂ atmosphere for 72 h

ID8, NCI/ADR-RES, HCT-116, MX-1 and MCF-7 cancer cell lines were incubated with compound paclitaxel, SB-T-1214 and compound **6-2** for 72 h, and the corresponding IC₅₀ values were determined. As **Table 6-2** shows, the cytotoxicity of compound **6-2** exhibited as almost same activity *in vitro* as the parent taxoid SB-T-1214. Compound **6-2** showed single nanomolar scale (3.01 – 6.58 nM) against ID8, HCT-116 and MCF-7 cell lines and it exhibited low double digit nanomolar scale (12.8 – 15.4 nM) against MCI/ADR-RES and MCF-7 cell lines. Since the 3'-vinyliodo taxoid is active, compound **6-2** can be used as imaging agent and provide an excellent clinical theranostic tool for tumor-targeted chemotherapy. Therefore, the attempts to find the condition for labeling compound **6-2** were carried forward.

§ 6.2.2 Cold Labeling of 3'-Vinylido taxoid

Compound **6-1** (Figure 6-5: A, B) and compound **6-2** (Figure 6-5: C, D) were confirmed by LC-HRMS.

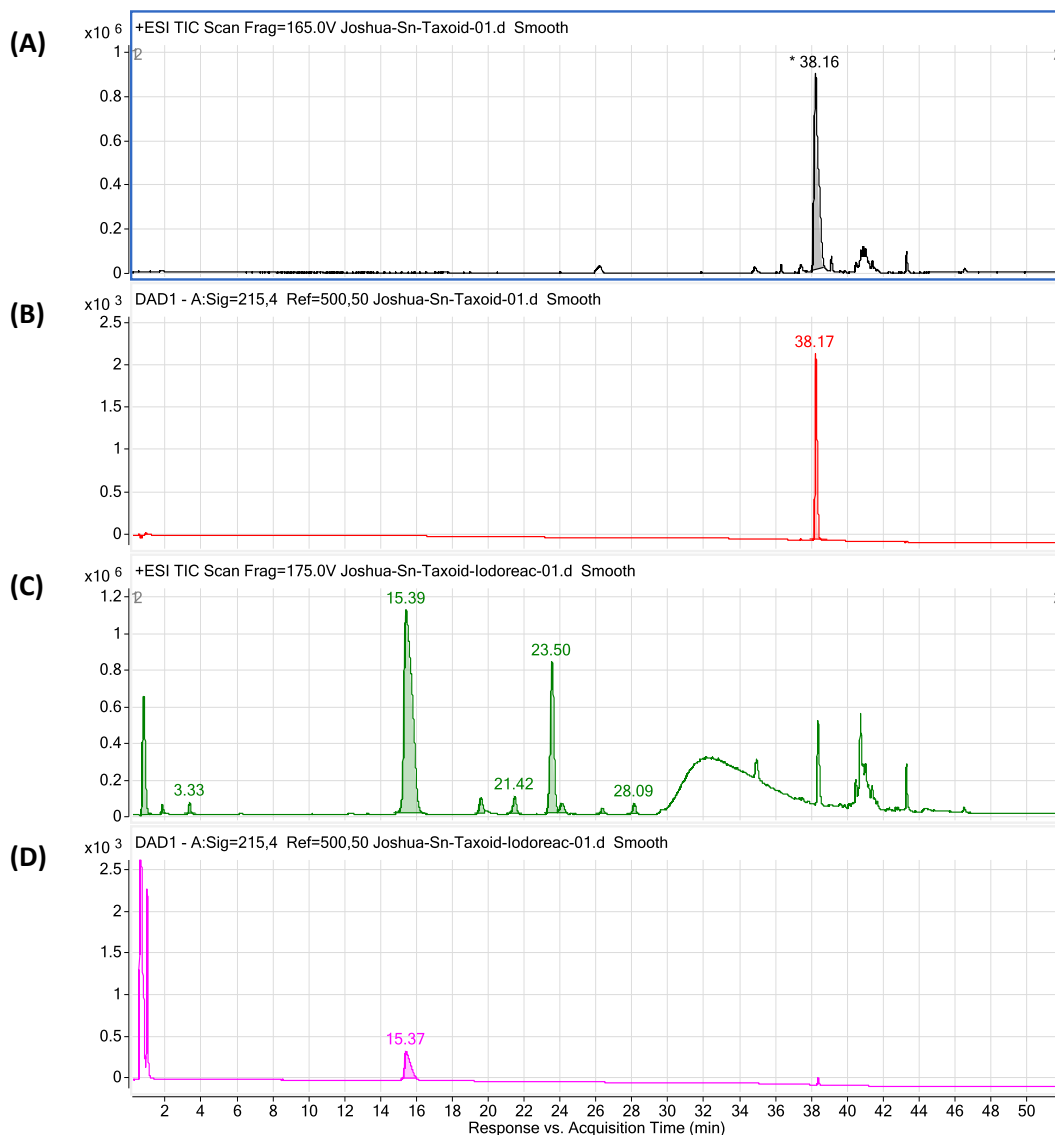


Figure 6- 5: Compound 6-1 and 6-2 confirmation by mass chromatogram

(A) and (B) shows mass chromatogram and the UV (@ 215 nm) trace of compound **6-1**. (C) and (D) represent for compound **6-2**, mass trace and UV trace, respectively. The mass chromatogram shows one predominant peak at $R_t = 38.16$ min with several minor peaks (Figure 6-5: (A)). The analysis of compound **6-1** shows one peak, $R_t = 38.16$ min in the UV-215nm chromatogram (Figure 6-5: (A)). Analysis of the extracted mass spectra from $R_t = 38.16$ min indicates that m/z ions are observed consistent with the target formula (Figure 6-6: (A), and (B)).

The TIC mass and UV-@ 215 chromatograms of compound **6-2** are shown **Figure 6-5**: (C) and (D). Analysis of the extracted mass spectra from peak, $R_t = 15.38$ min indicates that m/z ions are observed consistent with the target formula (**Figure 6-6**: (C), and (D)).

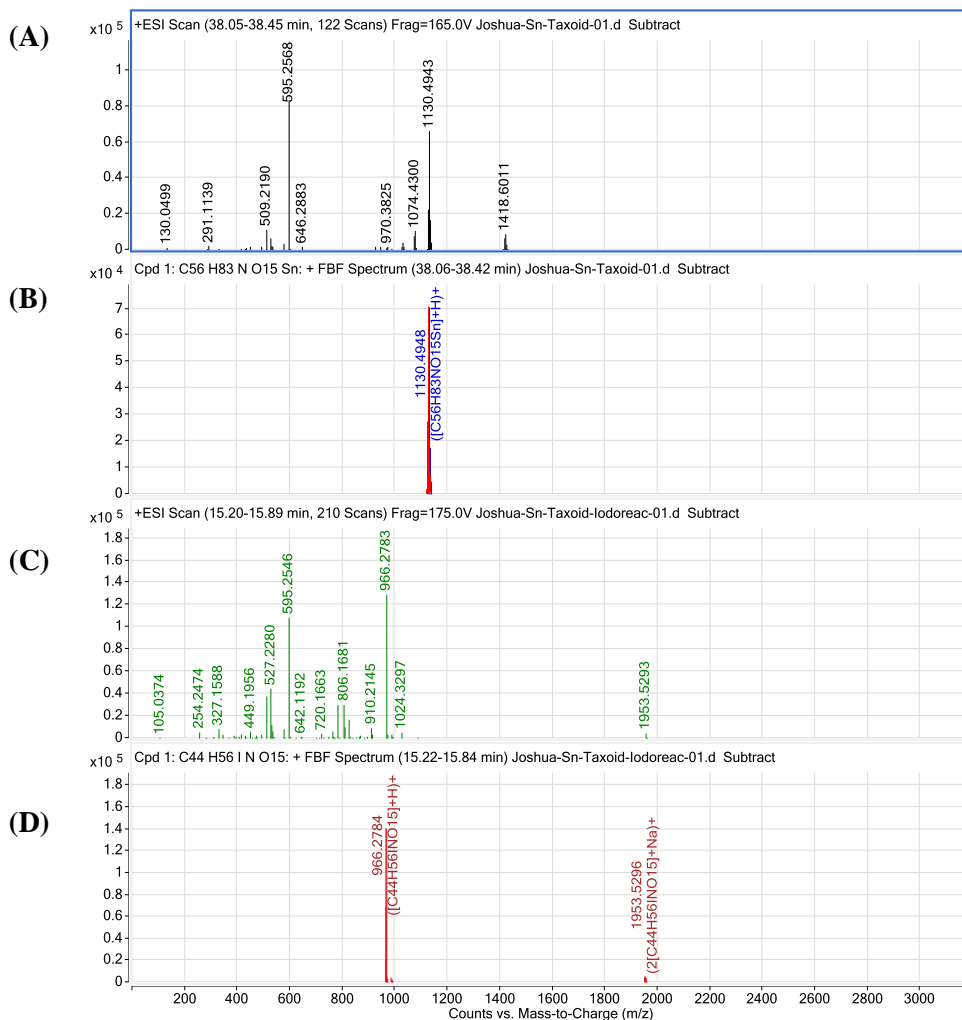
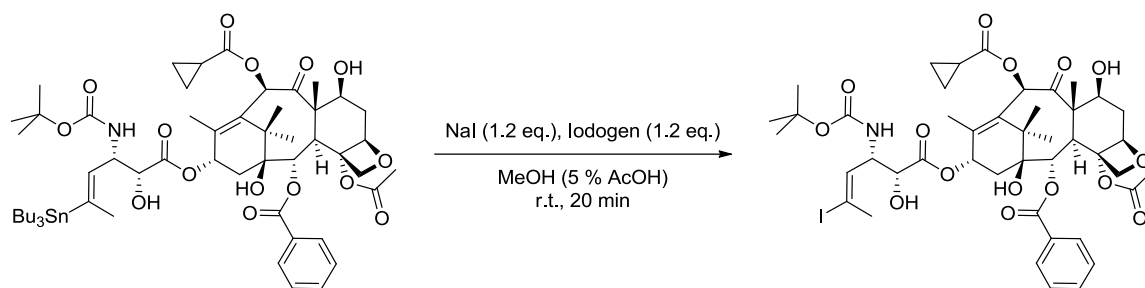


Figure 6- 6: Confirmation of desired product by LC/HRMS

Figure 6-6: (A) shows extracted mass spectra for peak $R_t = 38.16$ min of compound **6-1** and **Figure 6-6:** (B) m/z ions assigned to target compound, $C_{56}H_{83}NO_{15}Sn$, by Agilent FBF algorithm. Also, **Figure 6-6:** (C) represents extracted mass spectra for peak $R_t = 15.39$ min of compound **6-2** and **Figure 6-6:** (D) shows m/z ions assigned to target compound, $C_{44}H_{56}INO_{15}$, by Agilent FBF algorithm.



Scheme 6- 1: Cold iodination to form 3'-vinyliodo taxoid (6-2)

Scheme 6-1 shows the cold iodination to form compound **6-2**. In this system, electrophilic iodine is generated in situ using Iodogen® beads as an oxidizing agent.

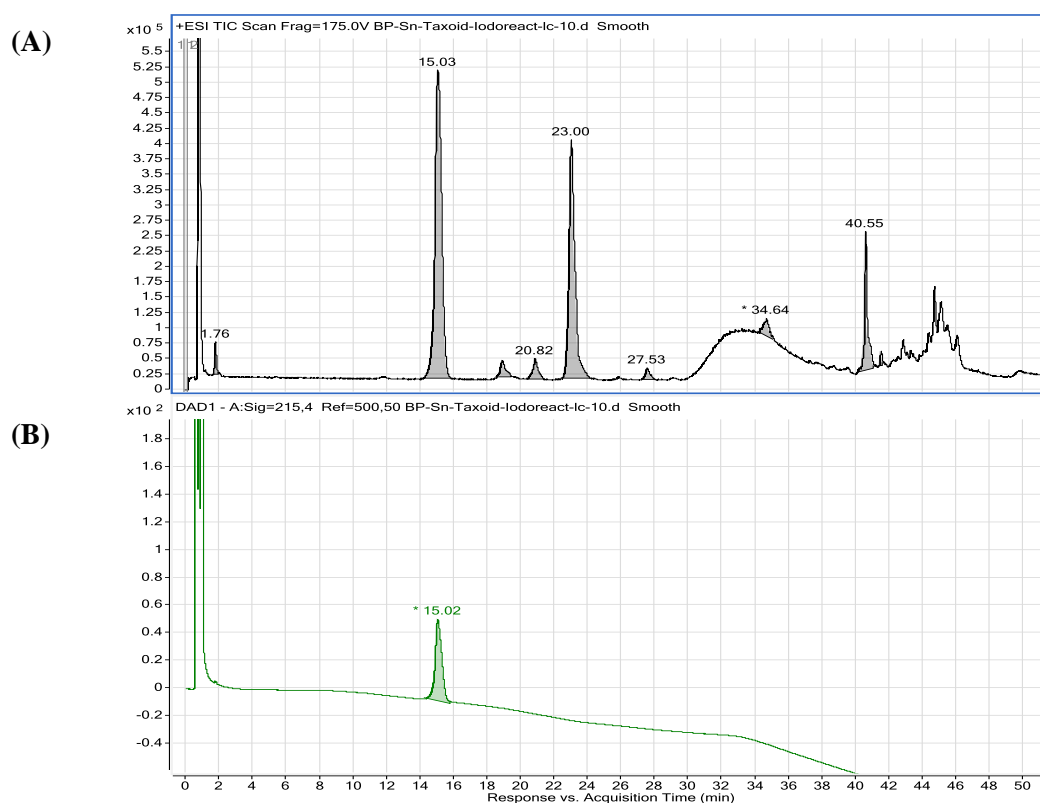


Figure 6- 7: Full HPLC trace of iodination

The TIC mass and UV @215 nm chromatograms of reaction mixture are shown in **Figure 6-7**: (A) and (B), respectively. Analysis of the extracted mass spectra from peak, $R_t = 15.01$ min indicates that m/z ions are observed consistent with the target formula (**Figure 6-8**). It should be noted that there is no evidence of the starting compound **6-1**.

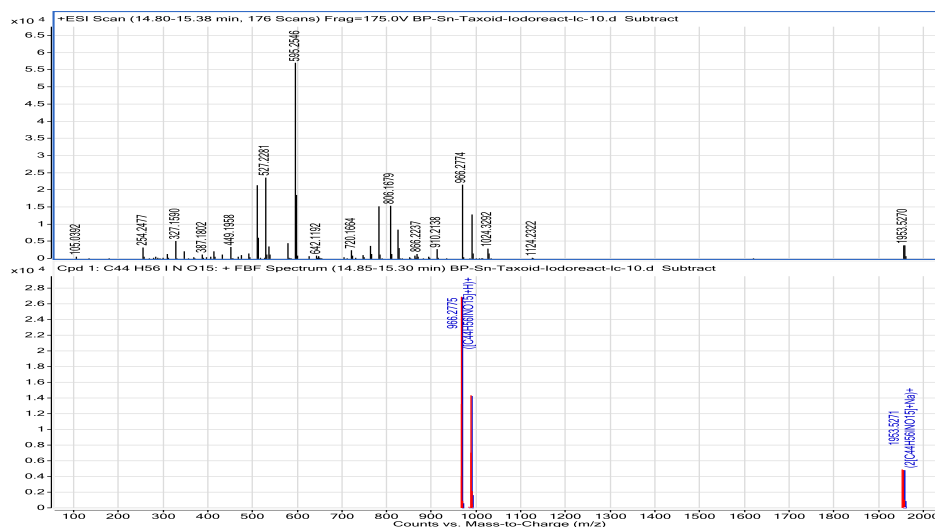


Figure 6- 8: Confirmation of desired product by LC/HRMS of the reaction mixture

Extracted mass was confirmed and the spectra show in Figure 6-8. The desired compound was found at peak $R_t = 15.03$ min and m/z ions assigned to target compound, $C_{44}H_{56}INO_{15}$, by Agilent FBF algorithm.

Moreover, the biotin linker stannyl taxoid, compound **6-3** was determined.

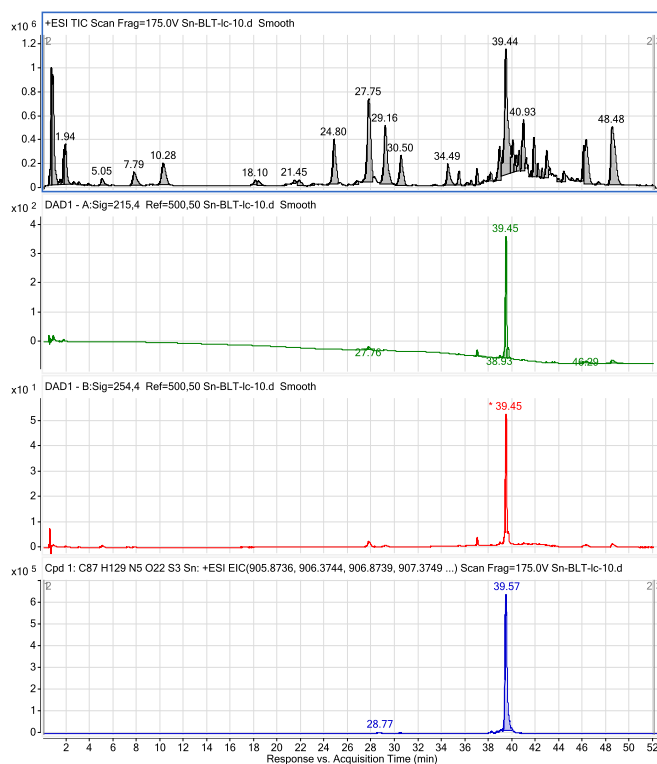


Figure 6- 9: Compound 6-3 confirmation by mass chromatogram

The TIC mass and UV chromatograms of compound **6-3** are shown in **Figure 6-9**. The UV chromatograms show one predominant peak. However, the ESI+ mass chromatogram shows numerous peaks. Analysis of the extracted mass spectra from peak, $R_t = 39.45$ min indicates that m/z ions are observed consistent with the target formula (**Figure 6-10**). The compound identification is shown below.

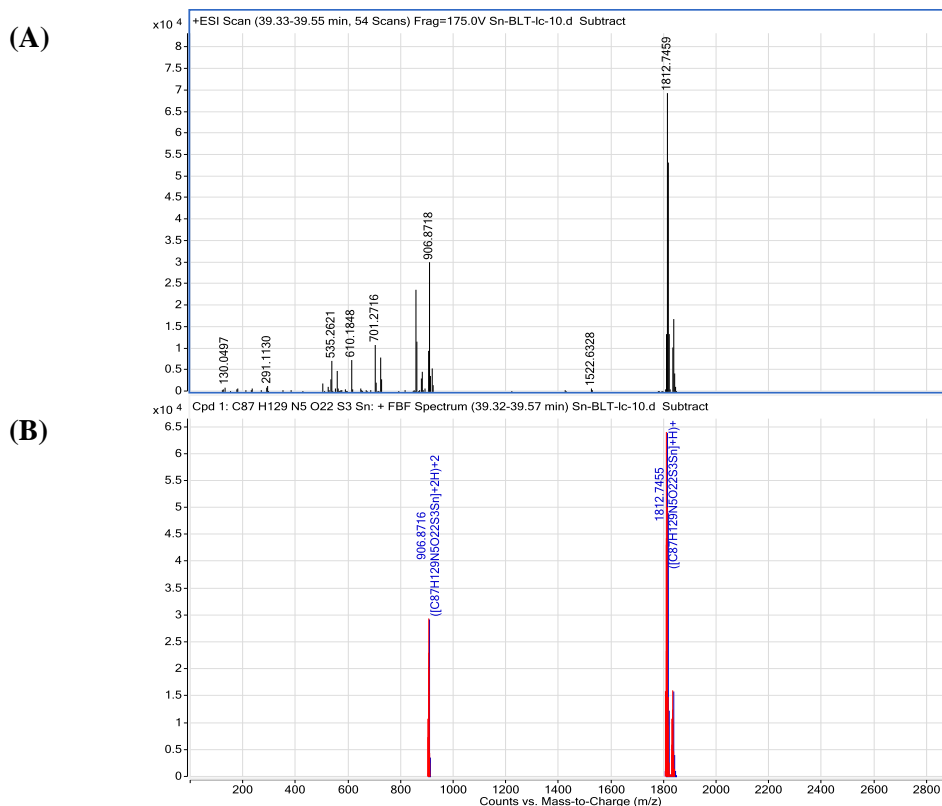


Figure 6- 10: Target confirmation

Extracted mass spectra for peak $R_t = 39.45$ min of compound **6-3** shown in **Figure 6-10:** (A) and **Figure 6-10:** (B) illustrated Agilent MFE, m/z ions assigned to target formula. The same condition described in **Scheme 6-1** was applied to the biotin conjugate, **6-3**. However, the desired compound was not found on LC/HRMS, even though the starting material was gone. Further method will be developed for iodination of compound **6-3**.

§ 6.3 Conclusion

Radiolabeling of potent drugs is an extensively used strategy to develop a better understanding of their biodistribution and PK profiles. The radioactive isotopes of ^{123}I and ^{124}I can be used for PET and SPECT studies. A novel taxoid **6-1**, bearing 3'-vinyltrialkylstannanes, 3'-vinyliodo taxoid, **6-2**, and biotin conjugate **6-3**, bearing 3'-vinyltributylstannanes, have been designed and synthesized previously (by Dr. Seitz). In addition, biotin conjugates bearing this 3'-vinylstannyl taxoids has been designed and synthesized. 3'-Vinyliodo taxoid, **6-2**, was evaluated *in vitro* against various cancer cell lines, ID8, NCI/ADR-RES, HCT-116, MX-1 and MCF-7. Compound **6-2** exhibited a little less but similar activity compared to the parent taxoid, SB-T-1214. Therefore, 3'-vinyliodo taxoid can be used as imaging agent and also provide an excellent clinical theranostic tool for tumor-targeted chemotherapy. Condition for cold iodination of 3'-stannyl taxoid, **6-2** was successfully developed and further optimization for the cold labeling of biotin conjugate is actively on the way in our lab.

§ 6.4 Experimental Section

§ 6.4.1 Caution

Taxoids have been identified as potent cytotoxic agents. Thus, all drugs and structurally related compounds and derivatives must be considered mutagens and potential reproductive hazards for both males and females. All appropriate precautions, such as the use of gloves, goggles, labware, and fume hood, must be taken while handling the compounds at all times.

§ 6.4.2 Materials

The chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Fisher Scientific, and VWR International, and used as received or purified before use by standard methods. Tetrahydrofuran was freshly distilled from sodium and benzophenone. Dichloromethane was also distilled immediately prior to use under nitrogen from calcium hydride. 3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) was obtained from Sigma Chemical Co. Biological materials including RPMI-1640 and DMEM cell culture media, fetal bovine serum, NuSerum, PenStrep, and TrypLE were obtained from Gibco and VWR International, and used as received for cell-based assays.

§ 6.4.3 Cell culture system for MTT assay

All cell lines were obtained from ATCC unless otherwise noted. Cells were cultured in RPMI-1640 cell culture medium (Gibco), supplemented with 10% (v/v) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 1% (v/v) penicillin and streptomycin (PenStrep) at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO₂. Murine leukemia cell line L1210FR (a gift from Dr. Gregory Russell-Jones, Access Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd., Australia) was grown as a suspension in supplemented RPMI-1640. Human breast carcinoma, MX-1 and MFC-7, murine ovarian carcinoma, ID8, and normal lung fibroblast, WI-38, cell lines were cultured as monolayers on 100 mm tissue culture dishes in a supplemented RPMI-1640 cell culture medium. Cells were harvested, collected by centrifugation at 850 rpm for 5 min, and resuspended in fresh culture medium. Cell cultures were routinely divided by treatment with trypsin (TrypLE, Gibco) as needed every 2-4 days and collected by centrifugation at 850 rpm for 5 min, and resuspended in fresh cell culture medium, containing varying cell densities for subsequent biological experiments and analysis.

§ 6.4.4 Single drug MTT assay

The cytotoxicities (IC₅₀, nM) of paclitaxel, SB-T-1214, and 3'-vinyliodo taxoid were evaluated against various cancer cell lines by means of the standard quantitative colorimetric MTT assay. The inhibitory activity of each compound is represented by the IC₅₀ value, which is defined as the concentration required for inhibiting 50 % of the cell growth. Cells were harvested, collected, and resuspended in 100 µL cell culture medium (RPMI-1640) at a concentrations ranging from 0.5-1.5 x 10⁴ cells per well in a 96-well plate. For adhesive cell types, cells were allowed to descend to the bottom of the wells overnight, and appropriate fresh medium was added to each well upon removal of the old medium.

For the MTT assay of paclitaxel, SB-T-1214, and 3'-vinyliodo taxoid, cells were resuspended in 200 µL medium with 8,000 to 10,000 cells per well of a 96-well plate and incubated at 37 °C for 24 h before drug treatment. In DMSO stock solutions, each drug or conjugate was diluted to a series of concentrations in cell culture medium to prepare test solutions. After removing the old medium, these test solutions were added to the wells in the 96-well plate to give the final concentrations ranging from 0.5 to 5,000 nM (100 µL), and the cells were subsequently cultured at 37 °C for 48 or 72 h. For the leukemia cell lines, cells were harvested, collected, and resuspended in the test solutions ranging from 0.5 to 5,000 nM (100 µL) at 0.5 to 0.8 x 10⁴ cells per well in a 96-well plate and subsequently incubated at 37 °C for 72 h. For all experiments, after removing the test medium, fresh solution of MTT in PBS (40 µL of 0.5 mg MTT/mL) was added to the wells, and the cells were incubated at 37 °C for 3 h. The MTT solution was then removed, and the resulting insoluble violet formazan crystals were dissolved in 0.1 N HCl in isopropanol with 10% Triton X-100 (40 µL) to give a violet solution.

§ 6.4.5 Data analysis for MTT assay

The spectrophotometric absorbance measurement of each well in the 96-well plate was run at 570 nm using a Labsystems Multiskan Ascent microplate reader. The IC₅₀ values and their standard errors were calculated from the viability-concentration curve using Four Parameter Logistic Model of Sigmaplot. The concentration of DMSO per well was ≤ 1% in all cases. Each experiment was run in triplicate.

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Chapter 7

Combination Chemotherapy

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§ 7.1 Introduction

§ 7.1.1 Cancer Stem Cells

Stem cells are characterized as cells that can renew themselves and to generate mature cells of a particular tissue through differentiation.^{1, 2} In most tissues, stem cells are rare and they divide asymmetrically.^{2, 3} When stem cells divide producing two daughter cells, one daughter remains a stem cell and the other becomes a progenitor cell that undergoes differentiation into specialized cells.^{3, 4}

Cancer stem cells (CSCs) are very similar to normal stem cells. CSCs can renew themselves and they are built to last a lifetime to be able to slumber for prolonged periods of time and to colonize other parts of the body.¹ CSCs are tumor-initiating cells that possess the capacity to self-renew and differentiate into non-stem cell cancer progeny.⁴⁻⁶

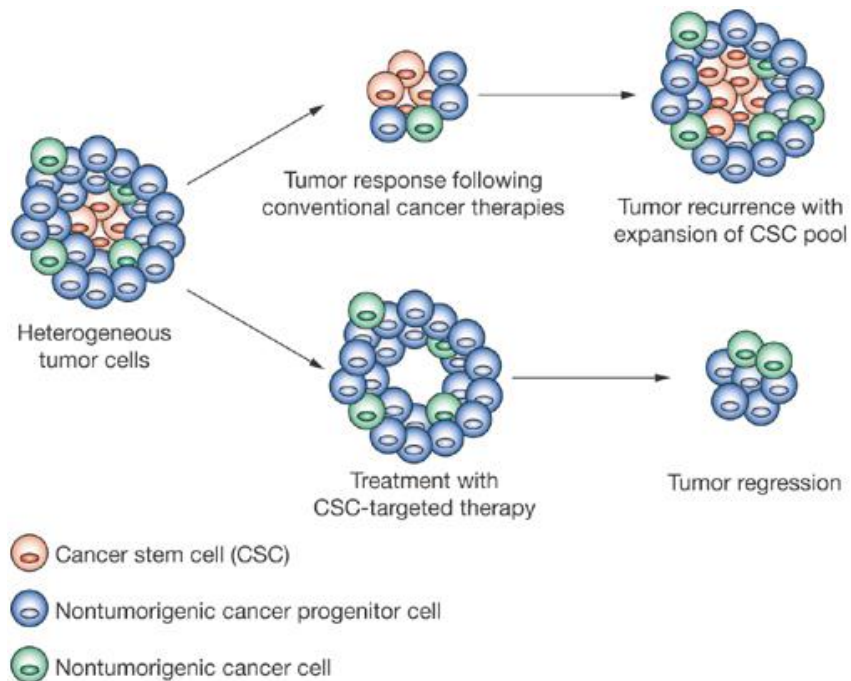


Figure 7- 1: The cancer stem cell hypothesis (adapted from [7])

CSCs have been implicated not only in tumor initiation, but also in tumor recurrence and progression.⁷ CSCs are also multipotent and can give rise to the diverse set of cells that make up a given tumor. Inherent within this hypothesis is the assumption that current treatments for cancer can considerably diminish tumor burden, but have a decreased effect on CSCs, which are later capable of driving tumor recurrence and regrowth. Nontumorigenic cancer progenitor cells

are capable of cell division, but their capability to divide is limited, and they are unable to match the rates of tumor cell apoptosis and senescence. To achieve cancer remission or cure, it will be necessary to develop novel therapies that are cytotoxic to CSCs.

§ 7.1.2 Combination Chemotherapy with SB-T-1214

Chemotherapy drugs increase their efficacy when they are given in combination. The rationale for combination chemotherapy is to use drugs that work by different mechanisms, thereby decreasing the likelihood that resistant cancer cells will develop. When drugs with different effects are combined, each drug can be used at its optimal dose, without intolerable side effects. We planned to explore synergistic combinations of new-generation taxoids with other agents to further potentiate the taxoid warheads with lesser amounts and enhance the overall efficacy of chemotherapy.

Table 7- 1: Biological evaluation of chemotherapeutic agents against CSC-enriched cancer cells (adapted from [10])

Drugs	Average IC₅₀ (nM)
cisplatin	4540 ± 276
doxorubicin	78.0 ± 28.2
methotrexate	32.7 ± 11.2
paclitaxel	33.8 ± 3.33
topotecan	451 ± 12
SB-T-1214	0.28 ± 0.13

Recently, SB-T-1214 was shown to possess outstanding activity against highly drug resistant CSC-derived tumor spheroids.⁸ The surviving cells exhibited compromised clonogenic capacity and significantly impaired ability to generate secondary spheroids. In addition, colon CSC treated with SB-T-1214 showed down-regulation of stem cell related genes.⁸ As CSCs are considered as important factor for tumor reoccurrence and metastasis,⁹ the ability of next generation taxoids such as SB-T-1214 to critically damage CSC populations *in vitro* and *in vivo*. This strongly supports the use of these compounds as efficacious anticancer agents.

To assess the potency of selected next-generation taxoids against CSC-enriched cell populations, they were compared to standard chemotherapeutic agents in an *in vitro* MTT assay against HCT-116++ (CD133+ colon) by Dr. Edison Zuniga in the Ojima laboratory.¹⁰ The screening results are shown in **Table 7-1**. Next-generation taxoids clearly retain their high potency against this CSC-enriched cell population. These next-generation taxoids are two orders of magnitude more active than paclitaxel, methotrexate and doxorubicin.

§ 7.1.3 Camptothecin (CPT)

Camptothecin (CPT) is a quinoline alkaloid that inhibits DNA topoisomerase I by preventing the cleavage and reannealing of single-strand DNA (ssDNA) during replication and transcription.¹¹ In preliminary clinical trials, CPT showed excellent anticancer activity. However, the compound also showed low solubility and adverse side effects. The anticancer activity of CPT has been attributed to its planar structure (**Figure 7-2**).^{12, 13} CPT contains a planar pentacyclic ring structure and one chiral center with (S) configuration. Two camptothecin derivatives, irinotecan and topotecan which have been approved by the FDA for the treatment of cancer, are shown in **Figure 7-2**.

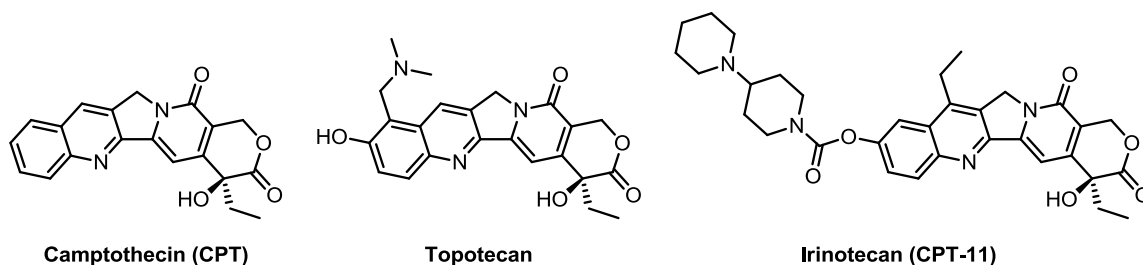


Figure 7- 2: Chemical structures of camptothecin (CPT), topotecan, and irinotecan (CPT-11)

The mechanism of action by camptothecin is highly cell-cycle dependent, rendering cells in S phase 100- to 1000-times more sensitive than those cells in the remaining phases of the cell cycle.^{11, 14, 15} Pretreatment *in vitro* with taxanes and other microtubule stabilizing agents can increase the potency of topoisomerase I inhibitors by increasing topoisomerase I levels and the fraction of cells in the S phase, the target phase of the cell cycle by such inhibitors.¹⁶

§ 7.1.4 CMC2.24

Curcumin is a natural product found in turmeric and it is derived from the perennial herb *Curcuma longa L.* Curcumin has been used as an herbal medicine in various conditions such as, pulmonary, gastrointestinal and liver diseases, and also as a remedy for non-healing wounds and in the treatment of cancer.¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Curcumin was found to possess a variety of therapeutic efficacies including the ability to inhibit proliferation and metastasis of various carcinomas, the down-regulation of transcription factors including nuclear factor kappa-lightchain-enhancer of activated B cells (NF- κ B), the down-regulation of the expression of chemokines and cytokines including TNF- α , and the suppression of protein kinases and growth factors.

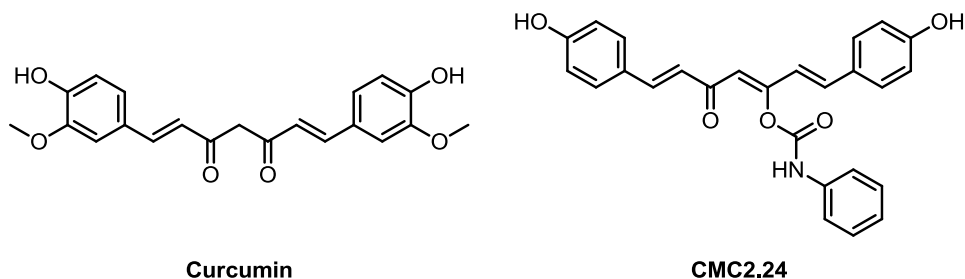


Figure 7- 3: Chemical structure of curcumin and CMC2.24

Since curcumin is highly symmetric and very insoluble, modifications were made to the synthetic method to prepare the unsymmetrical curcumin analogue. Previous studies revealed that chemically modified curcumin 2.24 (CMC2.24) (**Figure 7-3**) is tremendously potent in both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. To study the potential interactions between SB-T-1214 and paclitaxel with CMC2.24, the effectiveness of various drug concentrations and their combination with CMC2.24 was evaluated in the tumorigenic fractions of the PPT2 and PC3MM2 cell lines.²⁰ It has been demonstrated that a combination of S-BT-1214 with CMC2.24 exerts more profound pleiotropic, pan-inhibitory effects on a large number of stemness genes and transcription factors.²⁰ In particular, modulation of multiple stem cell-relevant transcription factors and the pro-apoptotic p21 and p53 “gene wake-up” mechanism can potentially reverse resistance of CSCs to anti-cancer treatment and improve clinical outcome.²⁰

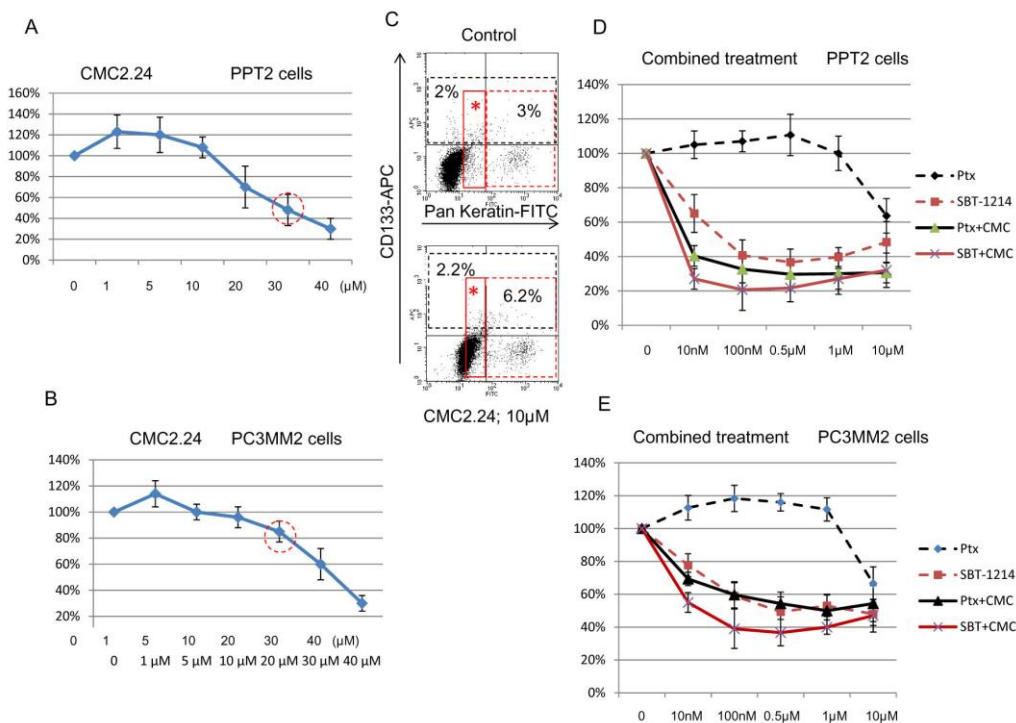


Figure 7- 4: Cytotoxic effects of the SBT-1214/CMC2.24 combination against prostate CD133+ cells (adapted from [20])

As **Figure 5A**, and **B** indicates, CMC2.24 often exerted biphasic effects on prostate CD133+ cells: lower concentrations of it promoted proliferation, whereas higher ones were cytotoxic. FACS analysis revealed that in contrast to SBT-1214, treatment with CMC2.24 did not induce an increase in the ratio of CD133+ cells (**Figure 5C**, black dotted areas), but similarly to SBT-1214, increased expression of the differentiation marker pan-keratin (**Figure 5C**, red dotted areas) and shifted the entire cell population toward differentiation (**Figure 5C**, areas with asterisks). A combination of the two agents induced more significant cell death of the CD133+ PPT2 (**Figure 5D**) and PC3MM2 (**Figure 5E**) cells compared to each compound as a single agent.

§ 7.1.5 Epigallocatechin Gallate (EGCG)

A variety of studies have shown that green tea or its constituents can either inhibit carcinogenesis or the growth of established cancers at various organ sites including the colon.²¹ Green tea contains chemicals known as polyphenols, which have antioxidant properties. The major polyphenols in green tea are called catechins, and the most important catechin seems to be

epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG). Studies suggested that EGCG may promote certain types of cancer cells to die in much the same way that normal cells do.²²

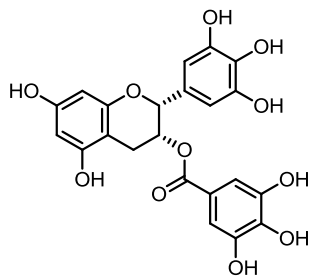


Figure 7- 5: Chemical Structure of Epigallocatechin Gallate (EGCG)

In an attempt to widen the curative therapeutic window of EGCG, researchers explored a combination therapy that consisted of combining EGCG with chemotherapeutic agents. It was found that EGCG in combination with taxanes exert a synergistic effects against human prostate cancer cells (**Figure 7-6**).

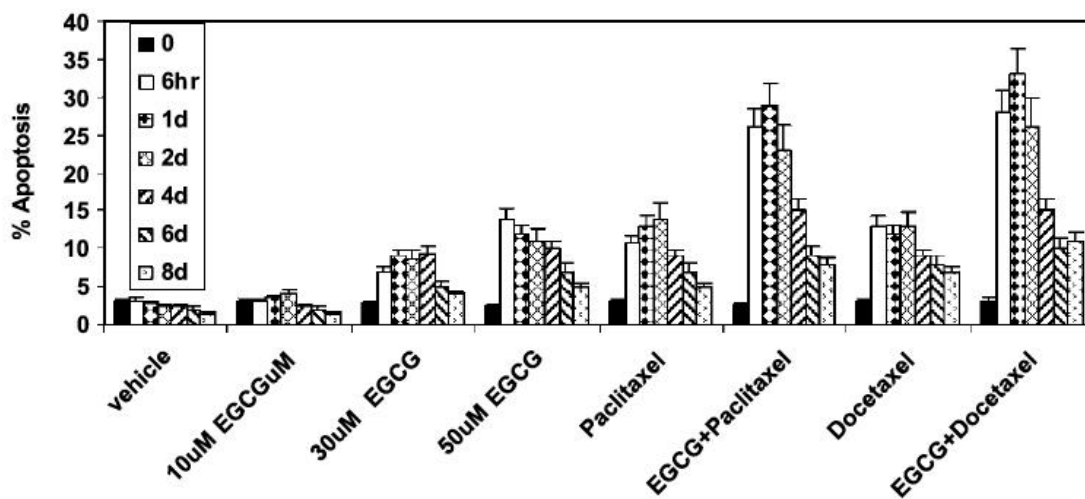


Figure 7- 6: Percent apoptosis by PC-3ML cells (adapted from [22])

As **Figure 7-6** illustrates, treatment with EGCG (30 μ M) combined with either paclitaxel (6.25 nM) or docetaxel (3.12 nM) against PC-3ML cell line resulted in more than 25% apoptosis after 6 hours, 1 day, and 2 days compared with ~ 6% to 10% apoptosis in the presence of the individual agents alone. However, the percent apoptosis observed decreased to less than 10% in the presence of EGCG and taxane or the individual agents alone after 6 to 8 days (**Figure 7-6**). Note that higher EGCG levels (50 μ M) alone induced more than 10% apoptosis after 6 hours to 4

days compared with less than 8% apoptosis observed in the presence of 30 μM EGCG (**Figure 7-6**), indicating that higher dosages of EGCG may be more efficacious.

§ 7.1.6 MMP inhibitors

Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) are a group of more than 25 structurally-related zinc-containing endopeptidases that play an essential role in the degradation of the main components of the extracellular matrix (ECM).^{23, 24} MMPs are classified as their different substrate specificities which were observed *in vitro* studies of the individual enzymes. There are five sub-groups of MMPs in total: collagenases, gelatinases, stomelysins, membrane-type, and unclassified.²⁵⁻²⁷

Since MMPs play a crucial role in the degradation of the ECM and are related to a variety of diseases, MMP inhibitors has been an attractive target over the years.^{28, 29} Most of the synthetic inhibitors target the zinc ions in the catalytic domains of MMPs, and some of them showed great potency *in vitro*, but failed in clinical trials due to their lack of specificity.³⁰ To overcome this problem, the development of new-generation inhibitors has to be made with a novel approach. One of very promising approach is to disrupt protease signaling function with binding to the non-catalytic domain of MMPs.

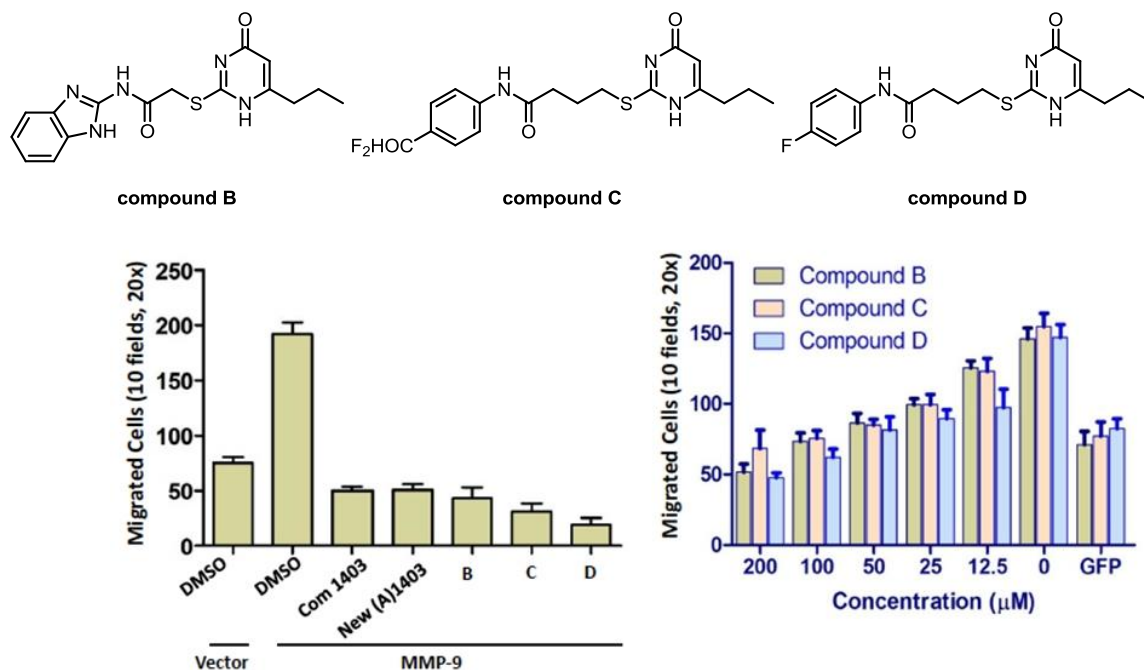


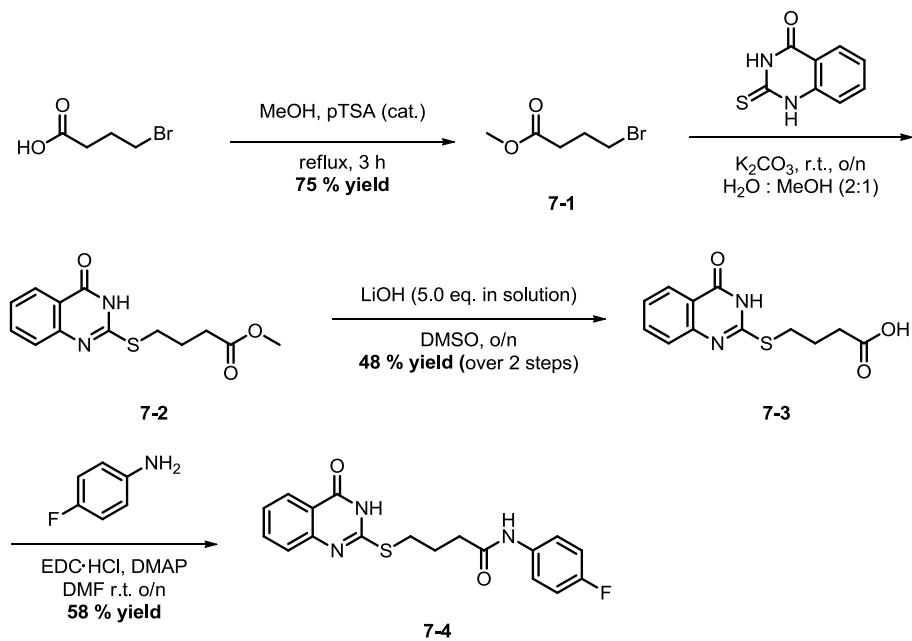
Figure 7- 7: Development of novel MMP-9 inhibitory compounds

Recently, the Cao's laboratory, one of our collaborators, has discovered a new class of MMP inhibitors (MMPi) that interact with the hemopexin (PEX) domain of MMP-9 (**Figure 7-7**).³¹ In a tumor xenograft model, this pyrimidinone suppressed MDA-MB-435 tumor growth and inhibited its lung metastasis.³¹ Following up this discovery, the optimization of the lead compounds is currently ongoing in our lab for their synergistic effect with SB-T-1214.

§ 7.2 Results and discussion

§ 7.2.1 Synthesis of MMP inhibitors

General procedure for the synthesis of MMP inhibitor (MMPi), **7-4**, is illustrated in **Scheme 7-1**.³²



Scheme 7- 1: Synthetic route for MMP inhibitor, 7-4

The first step was methylation of commercially available 4-bromobutanoic acid in the presence of p-toluenesulfonic acid (p-TSA) as a catalyst. Compound **7-1** was obtained in 75 % yield. A mixture of 2-mercaptoquinazolinone and compound **7-1** in H₂O/MeOH (2:1) mixture was stirred in room temperature in the presence of potassium carbonate to afford the desired compound **7-2**. Compound **7-2** was carried forward with to the next step without further purification. Removal of the methyl group with LiOH gave the corresponding carboxylic acid **7-3** in 48 % yield over two steps. Treatment of carboxylic acid **7-3** with 4-fluoroaniline in the presence of EDC·HCl and DMAP in DMF gave the desired compound **7-4** in 58 % yield.

§ 7.2.2 Biological Evaluation of combination therapy

Next-generation taxoid, SB-T-1214, was selected as the microtubule-stabilizing agent, as it exhibits two to three orders of magnitude greater potency than paclitaxel and docetaxel against multidrug resistant and paclitaxel-resistant cancer cell lines and tumors. The combination with

other agents, CMC2.24, MMP inhibitor and EGCG was performed to explore synergistic combinations of new-generation toxoids, SB-T-1214. The effect of equimolar combinations of SB-T-1214 with other agents was evaluated in single administration as well as combination agents for *in vitro* cytotoxicity studies. Single-drug administrations and combinations were evaluated against HCT-116 and PPT2 cancer initiate cell lines (CICs). The results are summarized in **Table 7-2**.

Table 7- 2: Preliminary screening against CICs

Compound	HCT-116 ^a	PPT2 ^a
Paclitaxel ^b	13.8 ± 3.0 nM	5.26 ± 0.3 nM
SB-T-1214 ^b	31.9 ± 13 nM	4.03 ± 1.9nM
CMC2.24 ^b	50.6 ± 4.61 μM	36.5 ± 3.5 μM
MMPi ^b	> 160 μM	> 160 μM
EGCG ^b	> 160 μM	> 160 μM
SB-T-1214 + CMC 2.24 ^c	19.1 ± 9.0 nM	1.89 ± 0.75 nM
SB-T-1214 + MMPi ^d	13.6 ± 11 nM	1.49 ± 0.59 nM
SB-T-1214 + EGCG ^e	21.5 ± 7.8 nM	0.21 ± 0.06 nM

^a Enriched colorectal cancer stem cell; ^b single drug administration; ^c cells were incubated with SB-T-1214 and 40 μM of CMC2.24; ^d cells were incubated with SB-T-1214 and 40 μM of MMPi; ^e cells were incubated with SB-T-1214 and 40 μM of EGCG; All cells were incubated with drugs at 37 °C in a 5% CO₂ atmosphere for 72 h

As **Table 7-2** describes, the cytotoxicity assays of single administration of each drug against HCT-116 and PPT2 were performed by MTT method. As controls for comparison, paclitaxel and parent taxoid SB-T-1214 were evaluated as well. The corresponding cancer cell lines were incubated with each drug for 48 h, and the corresponding IC₅₀ values were determined. As **Table 7-2** shows, the cytotoxicity of single administration of CMC2.24 was exhibited IC₅₀ value of 50.6 and 36.5 μM against HCT-116 and PPT2, respectively. Interestingly, MMPi and EGCG based on its IC₅₀ values were not show appreciate cytotoxicity (IC₅₀ > 160 μM). However, when the cells were exposed to an equimolar mixture of the two drugs, the IC₅₀ values were lower than as those for the single-drug administration of SB-T-1214 against two prostate CIC

lines. The most exciting data was when SB-T-1214 was treated with EGCG, the cytotoxicity was 20 times more potent than that of SB-T-1214 single administration against PPT2 cell line.

Although there is some questionable point - more effective inhibition of CICs with paclitaxel than SB-T-1214, (we can check more carefully all the dilution steps) - there is a solid biological reason for such a resistance. Since this HCT116 subpopulation represents extremely aggressive, practically purified "educated" CICs, which have produced 3D spheroids even on adherent surfaces. For the future study, we can repeat MTT assay on regular HCT-116 with more gradual increase in drug concentrations. Moreover, molecular biological and functional analyses can be done after drug treatment to determine the shift of stemness gene expression toward differentiation is much more important.

In addition to CSCs, normal cancer cells were included to study combination effects of SB-T-1214 and other agents, CMC2.24, MMPi, and EGCG. Camptothecin, the topoisomerase I inhibitor was also included.

Table 7- 3: Cytotoxicities (IC₅₀) of single and combination administration

Compound	ID8 ^a	MX-1 ^b
Paclitaxel ^c	42.0 ± 3.79 nM	5.59 ± 2.12 nM
SB-T-1214 ^c	2.41 ± 0.08 nM	1.89 ± 0.80 nM
Camptothecin ^c	74.2 ± 5.68 nM	36.3 ± 5.85 nM
CMC2.24 ^c	29.7 ± 0.85 μM	14.7 ± 1.28 μM
MMPi ^c	36.1 ± 10.8 μM	> 160 μM
EGCG ^c	36.9 ± 0.76 μM	19.8 ± 1.78 μM
SB-T-1214 + CPT ^d	3.36 ± 0.31 nM	< 500 pM
SB-T-1214 + CMC 2.24 ^e	< 500 pM	< 500 pM
SB-T-1214 + MMPi ^f	0.62 ± 0.07 nM	< 500 pM
SB-T-1214 + EGCG ^g	0.37 ± 0.05 nM	< 500 pM

^a murine ovarian carcinoma cell line; ^b human breast carcinoma cell line Enriched colorectal cancer stem cell; ^c single drug administration; ^d cells were incubated with SB-T-1214 and equimolar of CPT ^e cells were incubated with SB-T-1214 and 40 μM of CMC2.24; ^f cells were incubated with SB-T-1214 and 40 μM of MMPi; ^g cells were incubated with SB-T-1214 and 40 μM of EGCG; All cells were incubated with drugs at 37 °C in a 5% CO₂ atmosphere for 72 h

To evaluate the effects that combination drug administration of SB-T-1214, SB-T-1214 with camptothecin, CMC2.24, MMPi, and EGCG were treated with SB-T-1214 and incubated for 72 hours at 37 °C. As controls for comparison, single drug administration and paclitaxel were evaluated as well. For these experiments ID8 and MX-1 cancer cell lines were used. These results are listed in **Table 7-3**.

As seen from **Table 7-3**, in general, combinational administration with SB-T-1214 with other agents leads to lower IC₅₀ values. Also listed in the table, when the cancer cells are treated with SB-T-1214 and other agents, there is a significant increase in activity against ID8 and MX-1 cancer cell lines compared to treatment with SB-T-1214 as a single agent. In the preliminary *in vitro* results clearly show the benefits of treating cells with an equimolar combination of SB-T-1214 with camptothecin. More importantly when the cells were treated with combination of SB-T-1214 with 40 μM of CMC2.24, MMPi, and EGCG shows a lot higher potency.

§ 7.3 Conclusion

Combination chemotherapy has considered as a major treatment option for many types of cancers. The use of two or more properly selected drugs in combination can lead to a decrease in systemic toxicity and an increase in efficacy, compared to the use of a single cytotoxic agent due to synergistic or cooperative effects of the drugs on tumor eradication. Exploration of synergistic combinations between SB-T-1214 and MMP inhibitors as well as EGCG, CMC2.24 and camptothecin had been done against various cell lines, ID8 and MX-1 including CSCs, HCT-116, PPT2. From the preliminary screening, the combination of a taxoid with other agents was shown promising activity. These findings were shown in an *in vitro* biological evaluation using an MTT assay against a number of cancer cell lines. These experiments demonstrated that the combination of SB-T-1214, a potent new-generation taxoid, and cother agents have increased potent in certain cancer cell lines. Further study on the combination of SB-T-1214 will be carried forward in our laboratory.

§ 7.4 Experimental Section

§ 7.4.1 General Methods

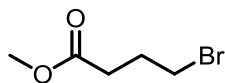
¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker 400 or 500 MHz NMR spectrometer. Melting points were measured on a Thomas Hoover Capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. TLC was performed on Sorbtech with UV254 and column chromatography was carried out on silica gel 60 (Merck; 230-400 mesh ASTM). High-resolution mass spectra were obtained on Agilent-TOF instrument.

§ 7.4.2 Materials

The chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich Co., Synquest Inc., Alfa Aesar and purified before use by standard methods. Tetrahydrofuran was freshly distilled from sodium metal and benzophenone. Dichloromethane was also distilled immediately prior to use under nitrogen from calcium hydride. 3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) was obtained from Sigma Chemical Co. Biological materials including RPMI-1640 and DMEM cell culture media, fetal bovine serum, NuSerum, PenStrep, and TrypLE were obtained from Gibco and VWR International, and used as received for cell-based assays.

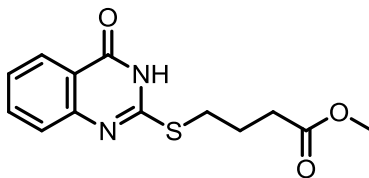
§ 7.4.3 Experimental Procedures

Methyl 4-bromobutanoate (7-1)



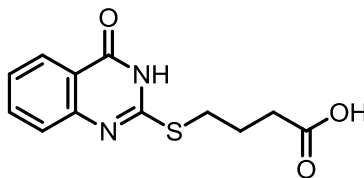
A mixture of 4-bromobutanoic acid (1.47 g, 8.77 mmol) and catalytic amount of p-TSA was stirred in MeOH and refluxed for 6 hours. After the completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the reaction mixture was washed extracted with EA. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo* to give **7-1** as a colorless oil (1.19 g, 75 % yield): ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.17 (m, 2 H), 2.51 (t, 2 H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.47 (t, 2 H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 3.69 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 27.6, 32.0, 32.55, 51.6, 172.7. All data are in agreement with literature values.³³

Methyl 4-((4-oxo-3,4-dihydroquinazolin-2-yl)thio)butanoate (7-2)



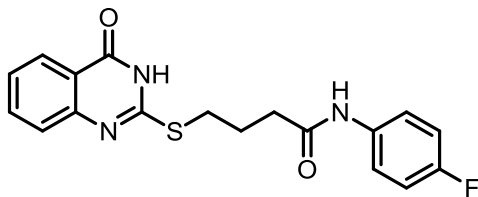
To a mixture of compound **7-1** (1.06 g, 5.84 mmol) and potassium carbonate in H₂O:MeOH (2:1) 2-mercaptoquinazolin-4(3*H*)-one was added. The mixture was stirred in room temperature for 14 hours. After the completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the solid was filtered to provide the desired compound **7-2** as a white solid (807 mg, crude). The crude material was used directly to the further reaction: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.93 (m, 2 H), 2.38 (t, 2 H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.24 (t, 2 H, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 3.32 (s, 3 H), 7.41 (t, 1 H, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 7.53 (d, 1 H, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 7.75 (t, 1 H, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 8.03 (d, 1 H, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 12.6 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.3, 29.9, 32.1, 51.3, 115.8, 116.2, 124.3, 126.7, 135.4, 140.4, 159.6, 172.7, 174.3.

4-((4-oxo-3,4-dihydroquinazolin-2-yl)thio)butanoic acid (**7-3**)



To a mixture of compound **7-2** in DMSO, LiOH (5.0 eq. in solution) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. After the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was acidified with 1 M of HCl and the precipitation was filtered and dried to give the desired compound **7-3** as a white solid (747 mg, 48 % yield over two steps): mp 177.5-179 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.93 (s, 2 H), 2.39-2.50 (m, 2 H), 3.35-3.49 (m, 2 H), 7.41-7.52 (dd, 2 H), 7.74 (s, 1 H), 8.03 (s, 1 H), 12.1 (s, 1 H), 12.5 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.7, 29.5, 32.9, 120.5, 126.0, 126.4, 126.5, 135.0, 149.9, 155.9, 161.6, 174.3; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₃N₂O₃S⁺ 265.0641 Found: 265.0661 (Δ = 7.5 ppm).

N-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-((4-oxo-3,4-dihydroquinazolin-2-yl)thio)butanamide (**7-4**)



To a mixture of compound **7-3** and EDC•HCl and DMAP in DMF, 4-fluoroaniline (2.0 eq.) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was treated with DCM to precipitate and give the desired compound **7-4** as a white solid (97 mg, 58 % yield): mp 217-218 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.00-2.05 (m, 2 H), 2.45-2.50 (m, 2 H), 3.29 (t, 2 H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.12 (t, 2 H, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 7.40 (t, 1 H, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 7.45 (d, 1 H, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 7.59 (m, 2 H), 7.71 (t, 1 H, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 8.02 (dd, 1 H), 9.97 (s, 1 H), 12.6 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.7, 29.2, 34.9, 115.1, 115.2, 119.9, 120.7, 125.5, 125.5, 126.0, 134.4, 135.6, 135.7, 149.3, 156.9, 159.7, 161.3, 170.3; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₇FN₃O₂S⁺ 358.1020 Found: 358.1027 (Δ = 1.9 ppm).

§ 7.4.4 Cell culture system for MTT assay

All cell lines were obtained from ATCC unless otherwise noted. Cells were cultured in RPMI-1640 cell culture medium (Gibco), supplemented with 10% (v/v) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 1% (v/v) penicillin and streptomycin (PenStrep) at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO₂. CSC-enriched HCT-116 and PPT2 cells were grown as a suspension in supplemented DMEM. Human breast carcinoma, MX-1 and murine ovarian carcinoma, ID8, cell lines were cultured as monolayers on 100 mm tissue culture dishes in a supplemented RPMI-1640 cell culture medium. Cells were harvested, collected by centrifugation at 850 rpm for 5 min, and resuspended in fresh culture medium. Cell cultures were routinely divided by treatment with trypsin (TrypLE, Gibco) as needed every 2-4 days and collected by centrifugation at 850 rpm for 5 min, and resuspended in fresh cell culture medium, containing varying cell densities for subsequent biological experiments and analysis.

§ 7.4.5 Drug Treatment for MTT assay

The cytotoxicities (IC₅₀, nM) of paclitaxel, SB-T-1214, camptothecin and combination of SB-T-1214 and other agents, camptothecin, CMC2.24, MMPi, and EGCG were evaluated

against various cancer cell lines by means of the standard quantitative colorimetric MTT assay. The inhibitory activity of each compound is represented by the IC₅₀ value, which is defined as the concentration required for inhibiting 50 % of the cell growth. Cells were harvested, collected, and resuspended in 200 µL cell culture medium (DMEM or RPMI-1640) at a concentrations ranging from 0.5-1.5 x 10⁴ cells per well in a 96-well plate at 37 °C for 24 h. For adhesive cell types, cells were allowed to descend to the bottom of the wells overnight, and appropriate fresh medium was added to each well upon removal of the old medium.

For single drug administration, each drug was diluted to a series of concentrations in cell culture medium to prepare test solutions. For paclitaxel, SB-T-1214 and camptothecin, after removing the old medium, these test solutions were added to the wells in the 96-well plate to give the final concentrations ranging from 0.5 to 5,000 nM (200 µL). For CMC2.24, MMPi and EGCG, after removing the old medium, these test solutions were added to the wells in the 96-well plate to give the final concentrations ranging from 0.5 to 5,000 nM (200 µL). For the combinational administration, the cells were treated with an equimolar combination of SB-T-1214 with camptothecin in the range from 0.5 to 5,000 nM (total 200 µL) at the final concentration. For the combinational administration of SB-T-1214 with other agents, CMC2.24, MMPi and EGCG, SB-T-1214 was treated in the range from 0.5 to 5,000 nM (100 µL) at the final concentration and the other agents were treated at the 40 µM concentration (100 µL). The cells were cultured at 37 °C for 72 h.

For all experiments, after removing the test medium, fresh solution of MTT in PBS (40 µL of 0.5 mg MTT/mL) was added to the wells, and the cells were incubated at 37 °C for 3 h. The MTT solution was then removed, and the resulting insoluble violet formazan crystals were dissolved in 0.1 N HCl in isopropanol with 10% Triton X-100 (40 µL) to give a violet solution.

§ 7.4.6 Data analysis for MTT assay

The spectrophotometric absorbance measurement of each well in the 96-well plate was run at 570 nm using a Labsystems Multiskan Ascent microplate reader. The IC₅₀ values and their standard errors were calculated from the viability-concentration curve using Four Parameter Logistic Model of Sigmaplot. The concentration of DMSO per well was ≤ 1% in all cases. Each experiment was run in triplicate.

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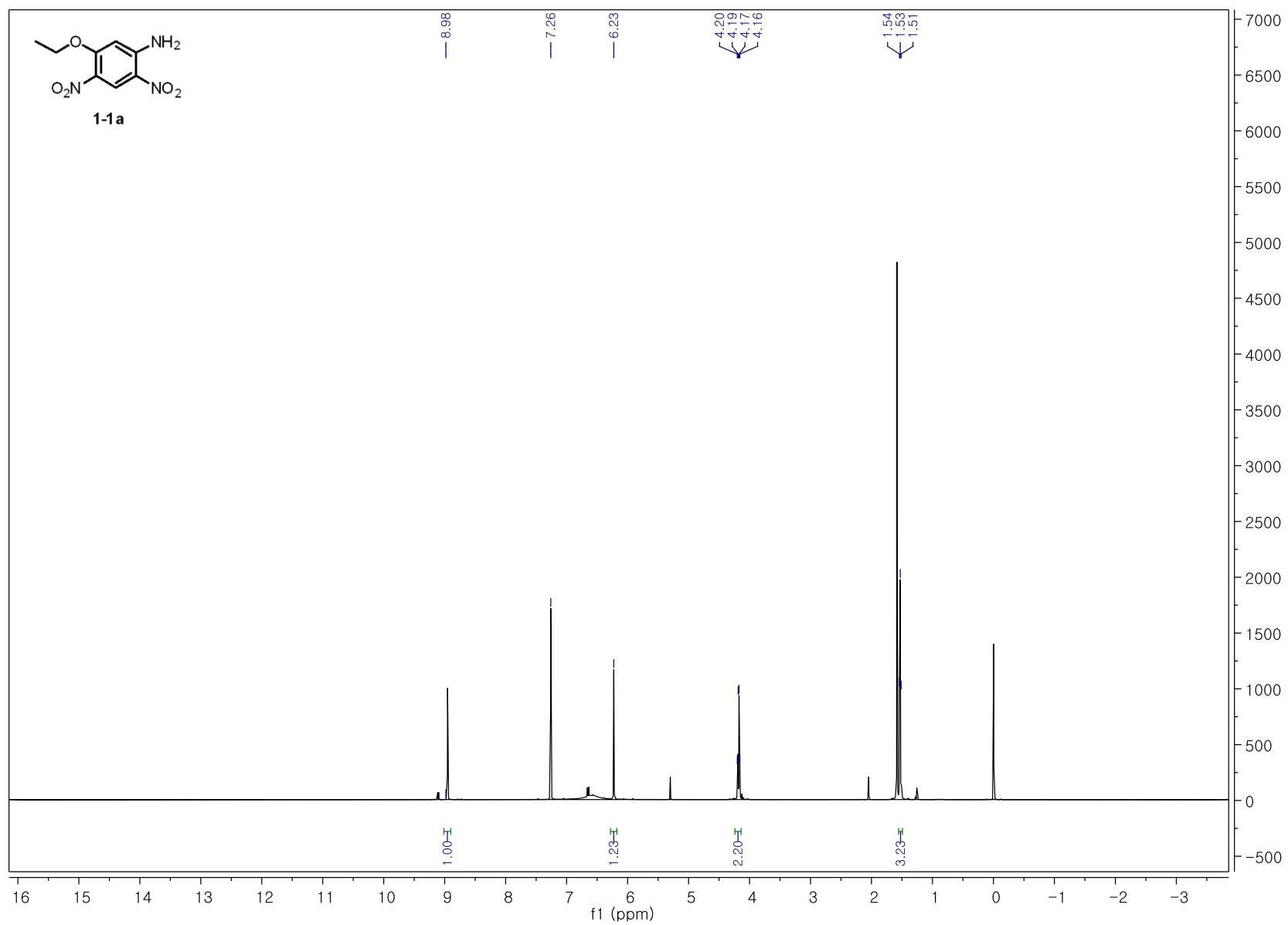
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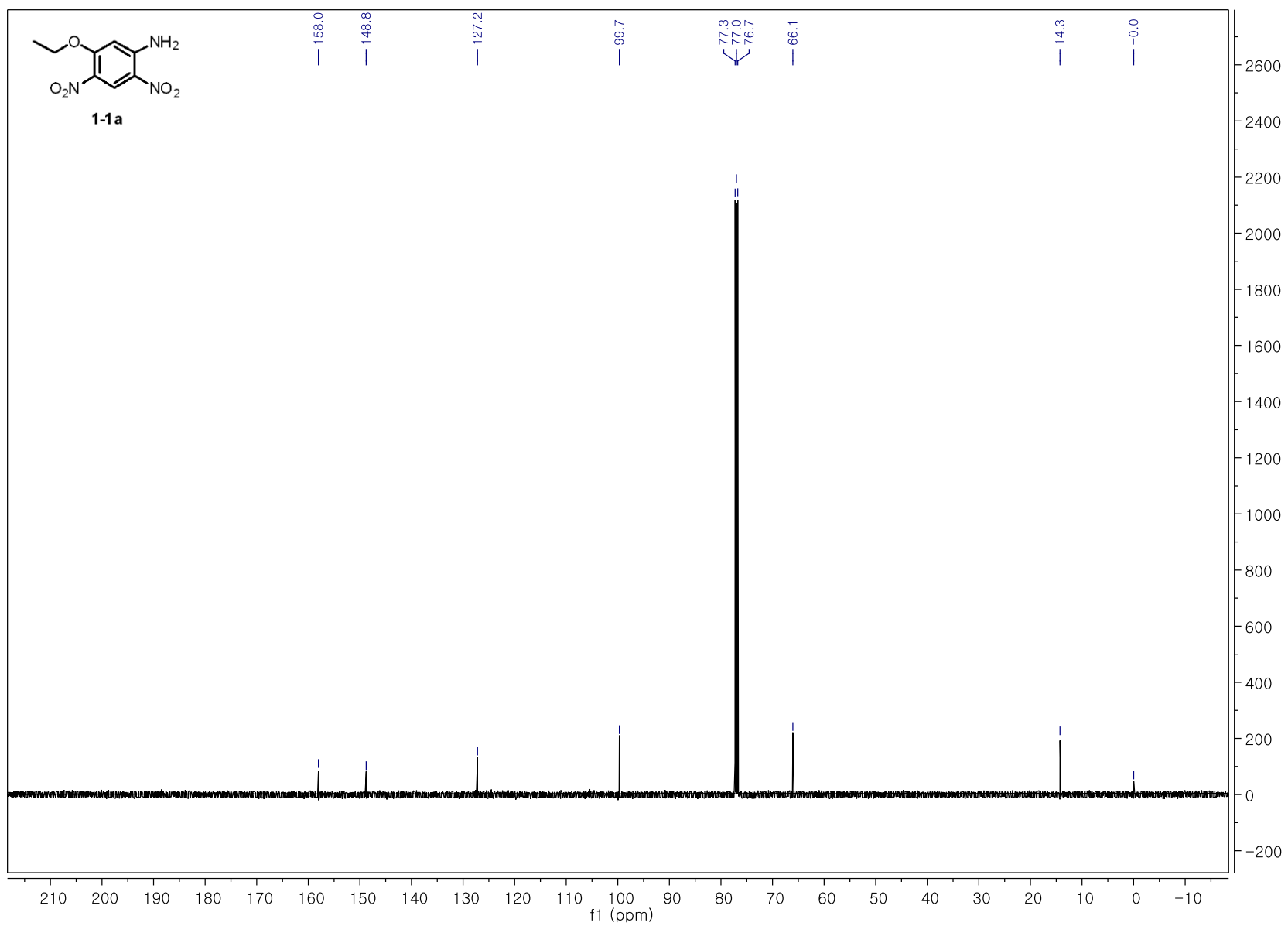
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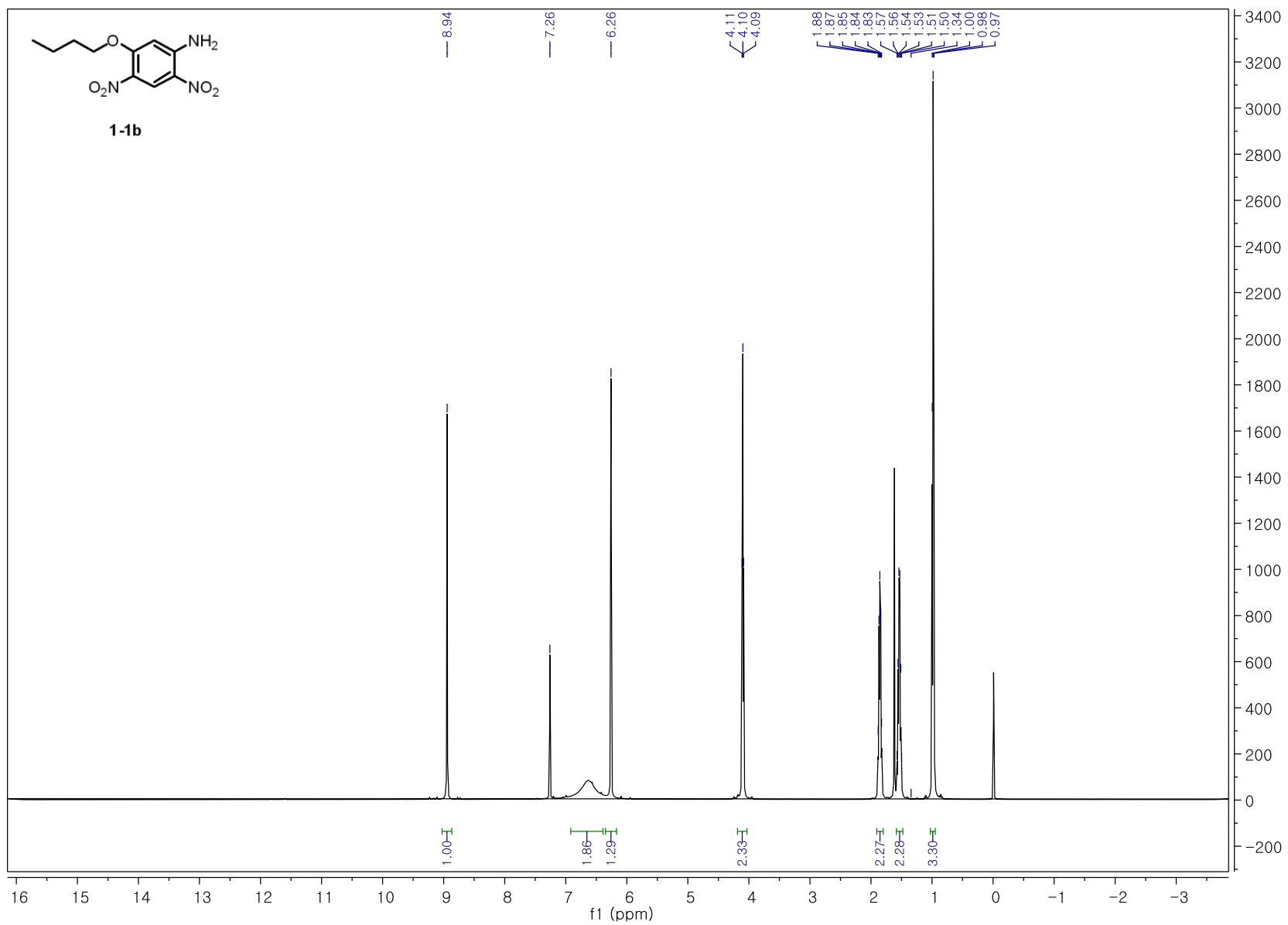
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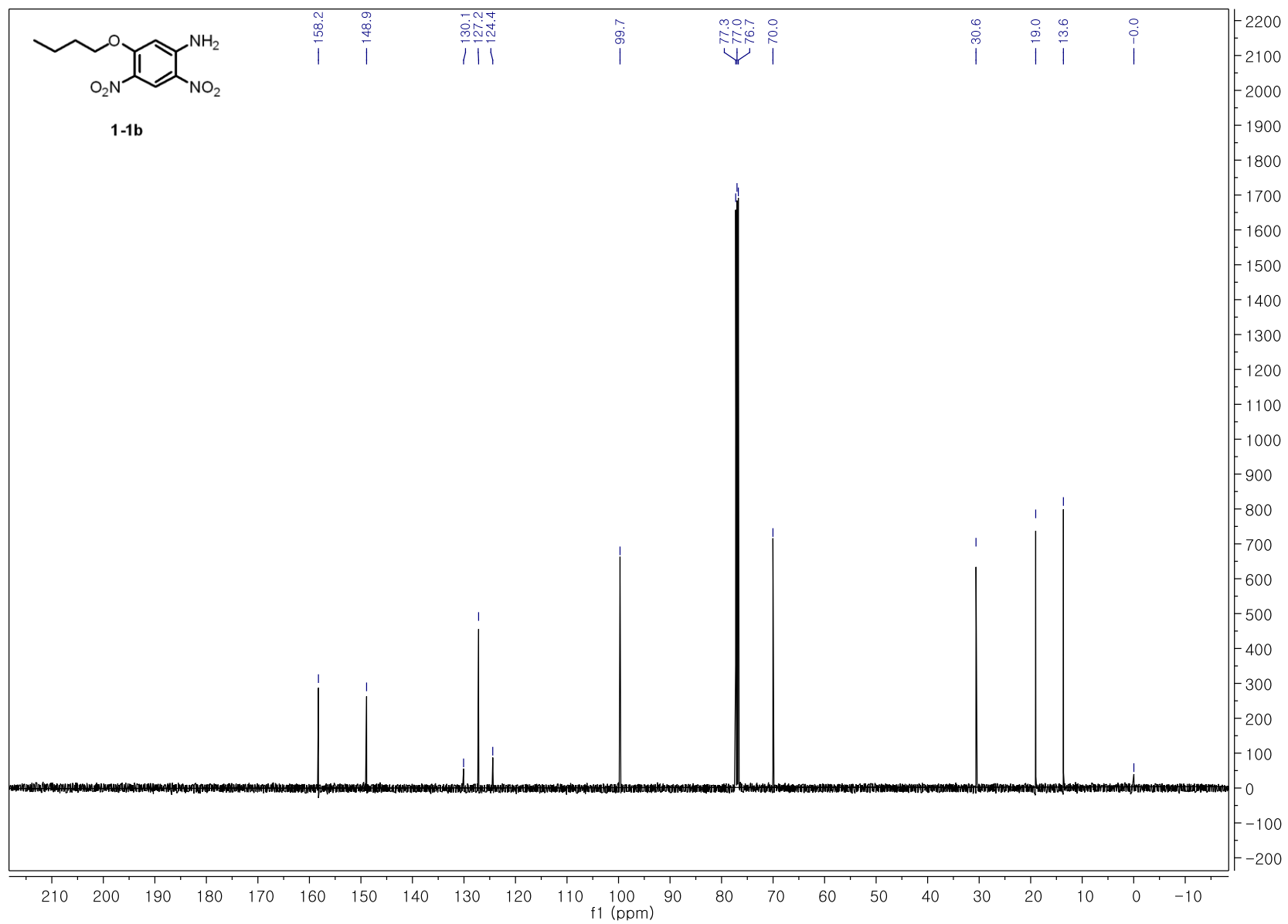
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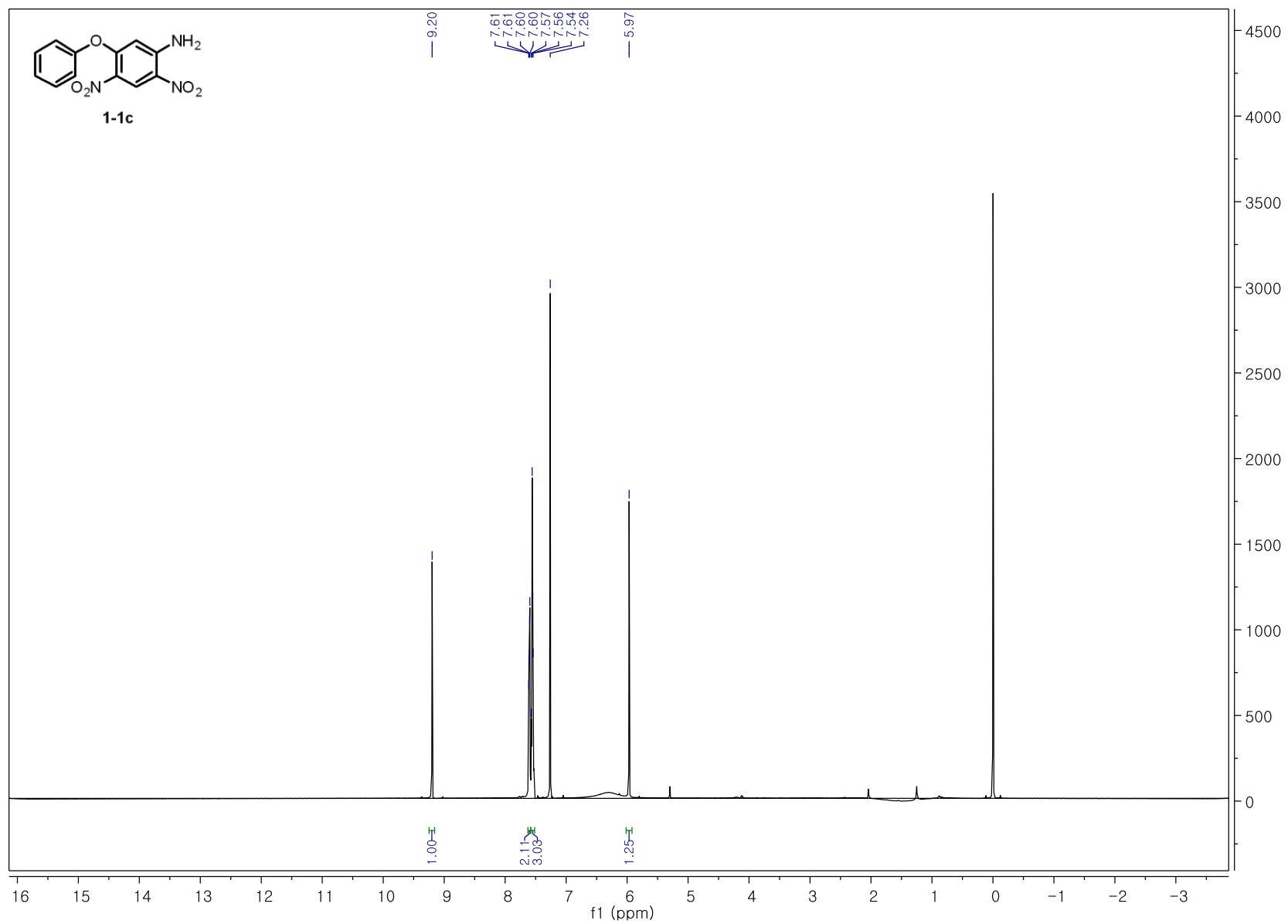
Chapter 1

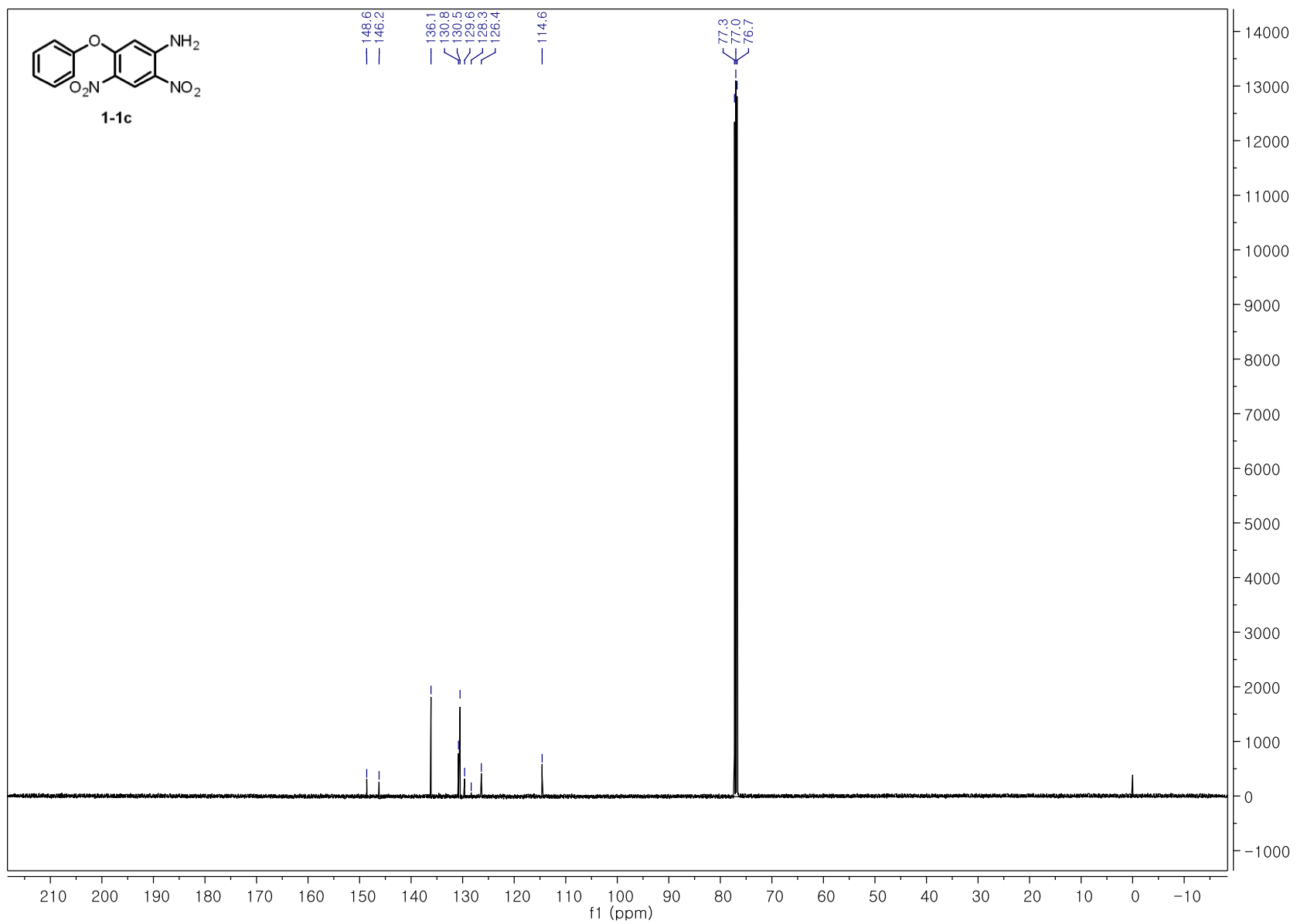


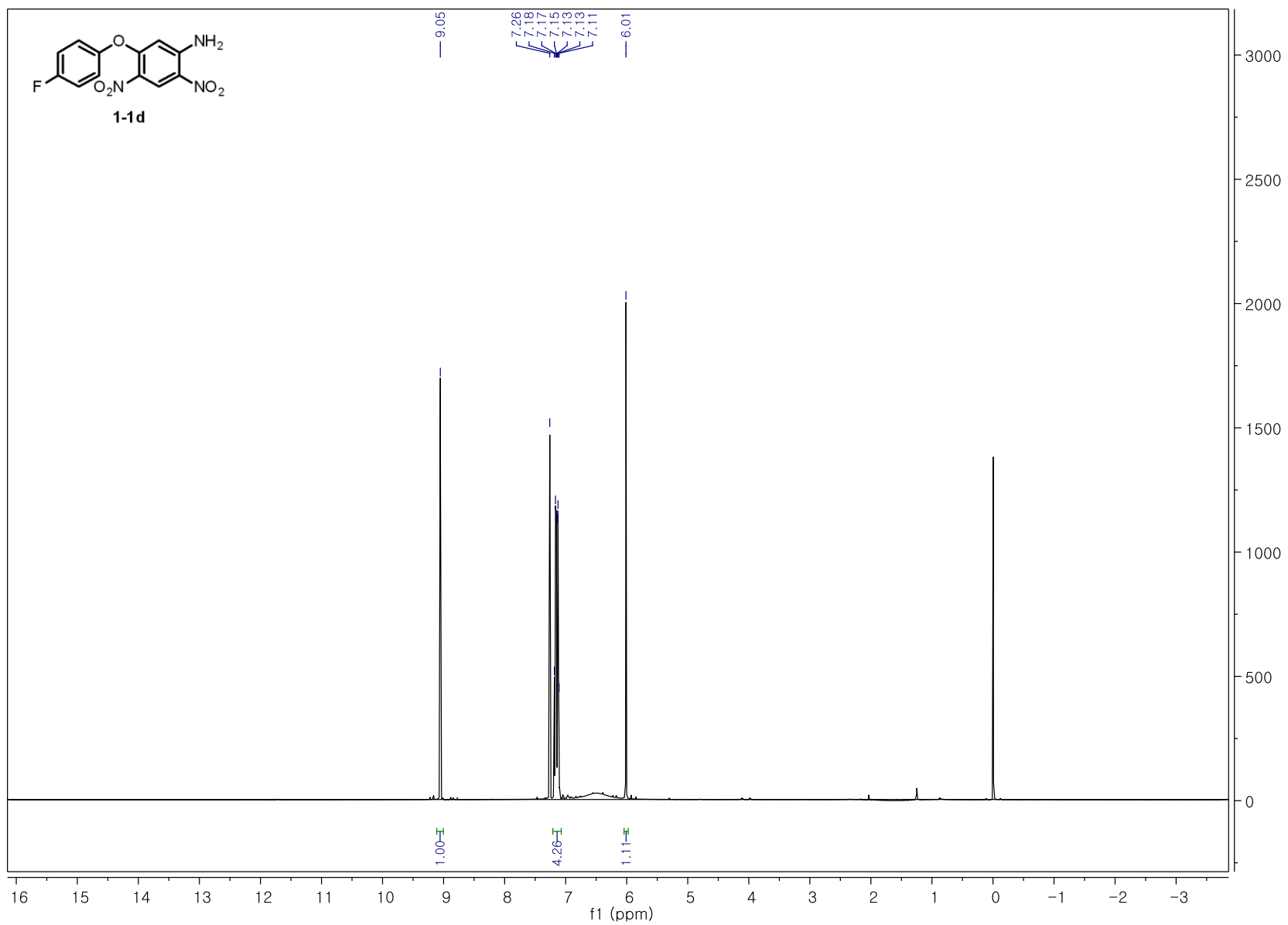


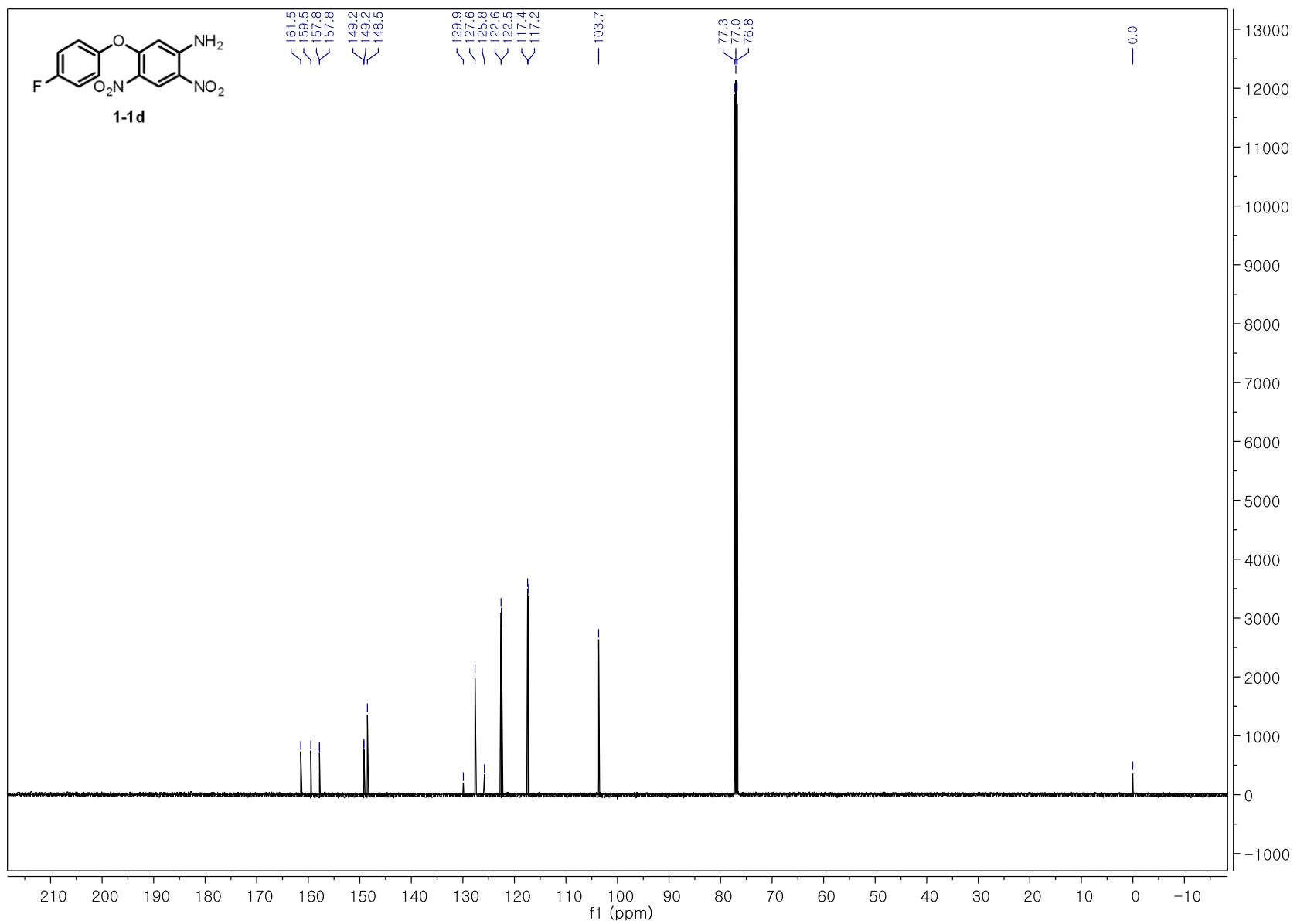


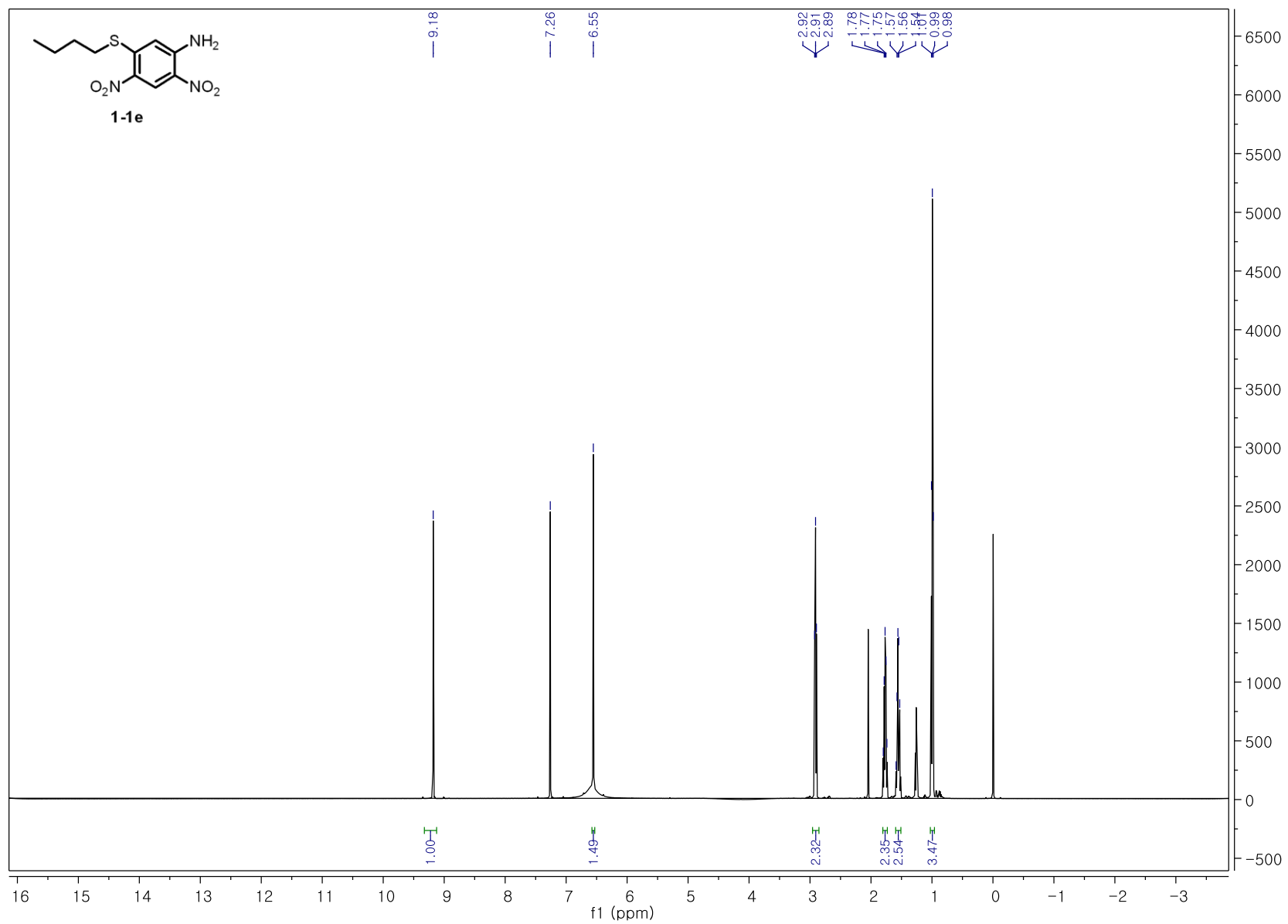


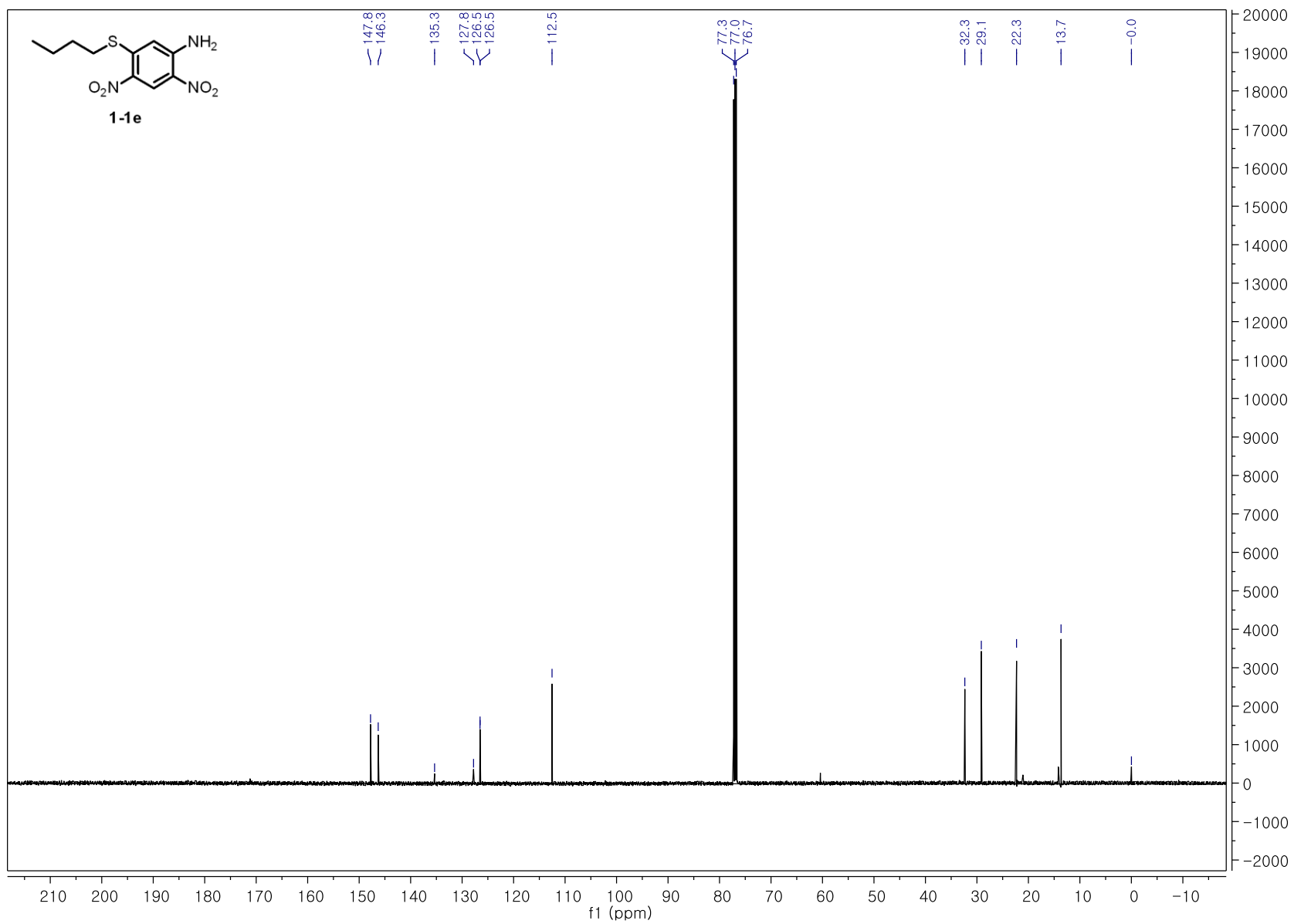


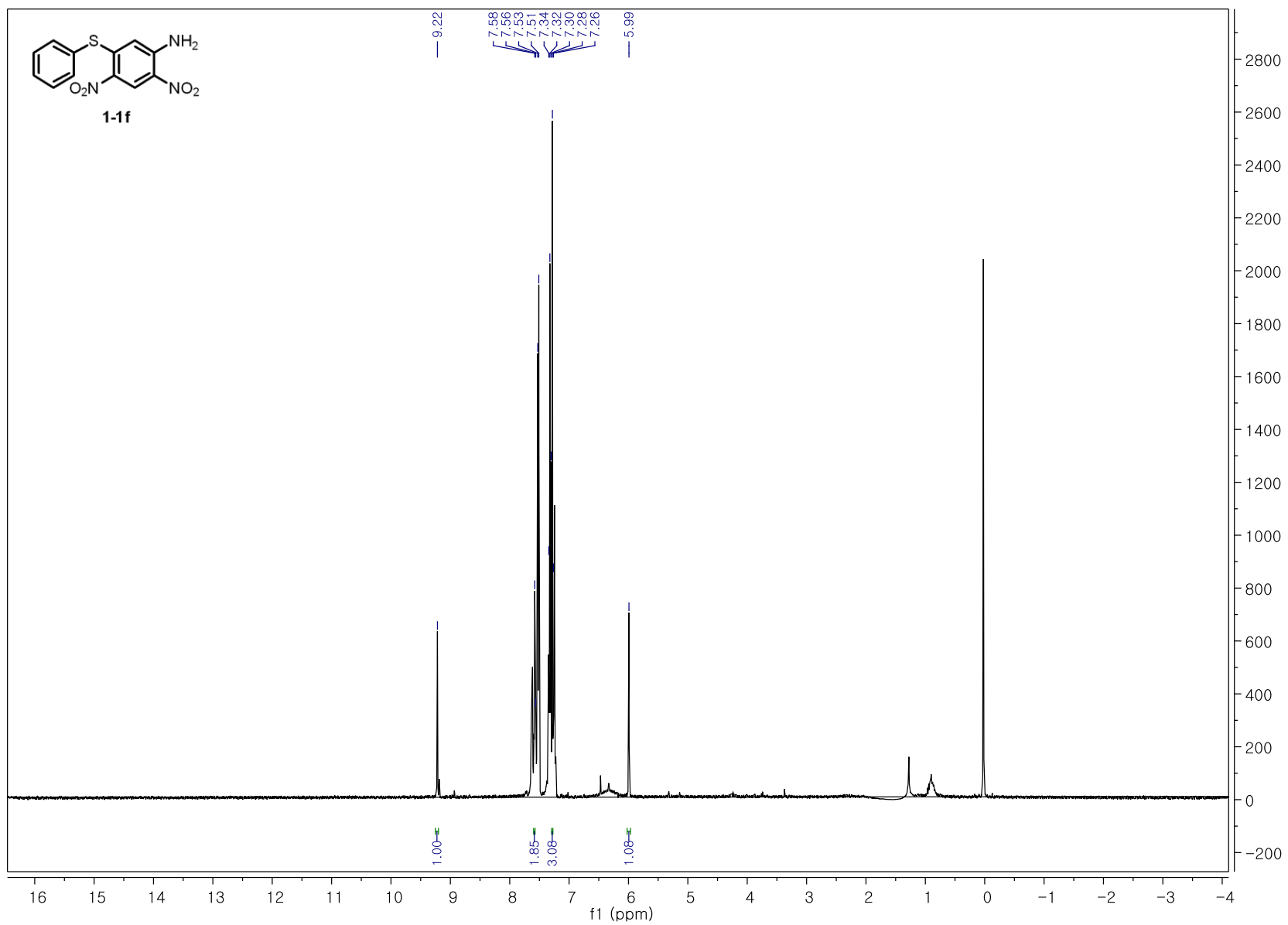


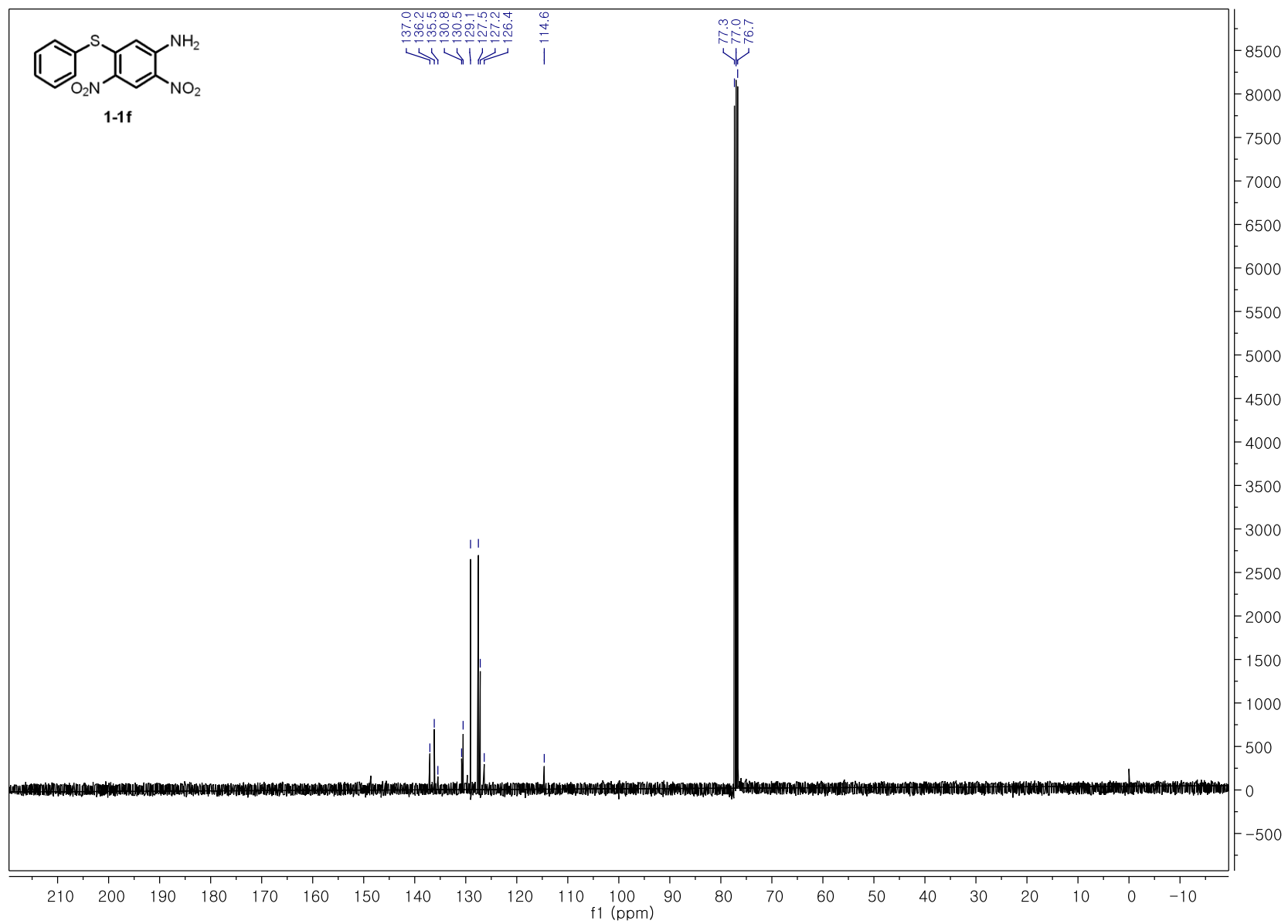


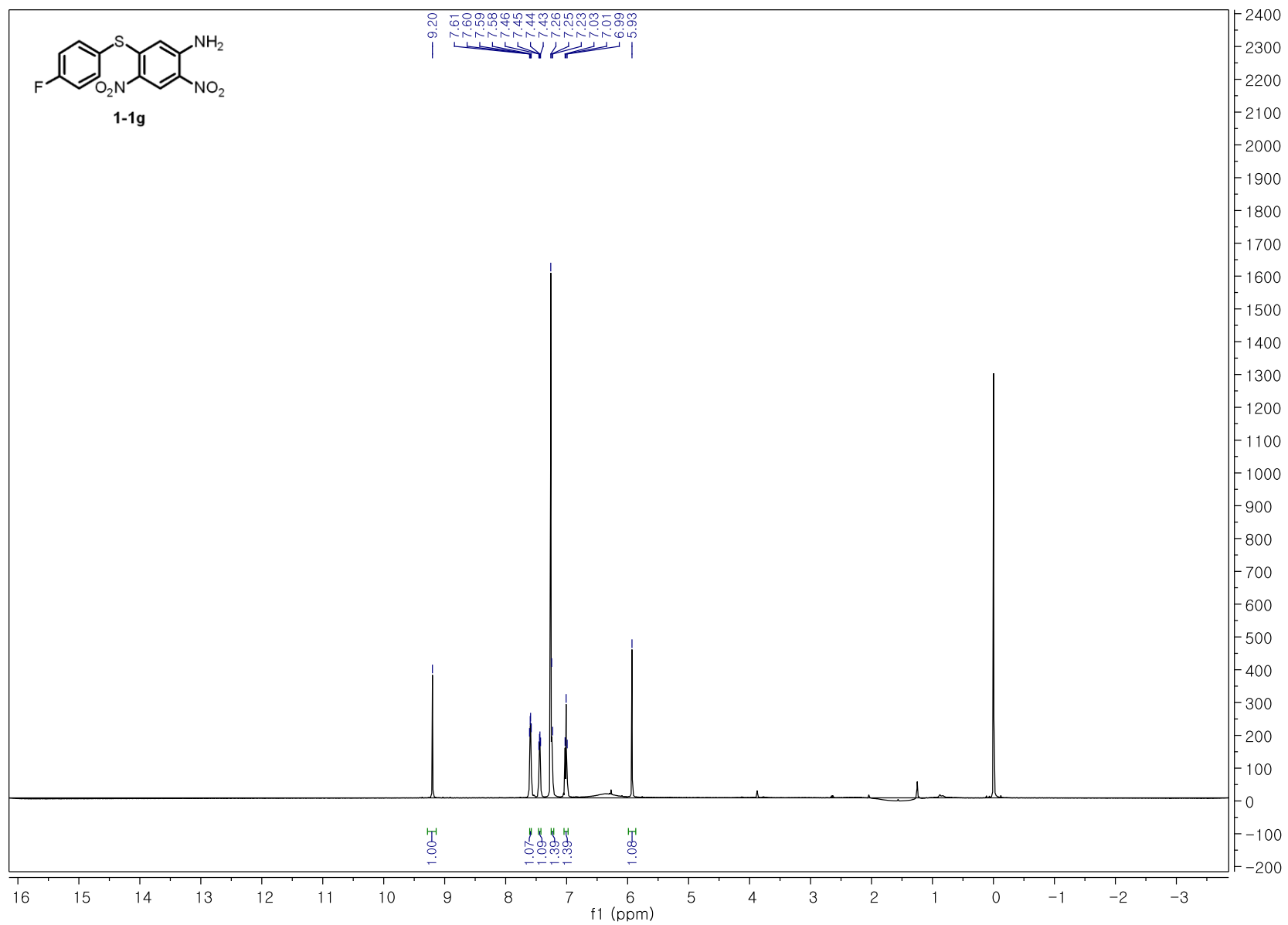


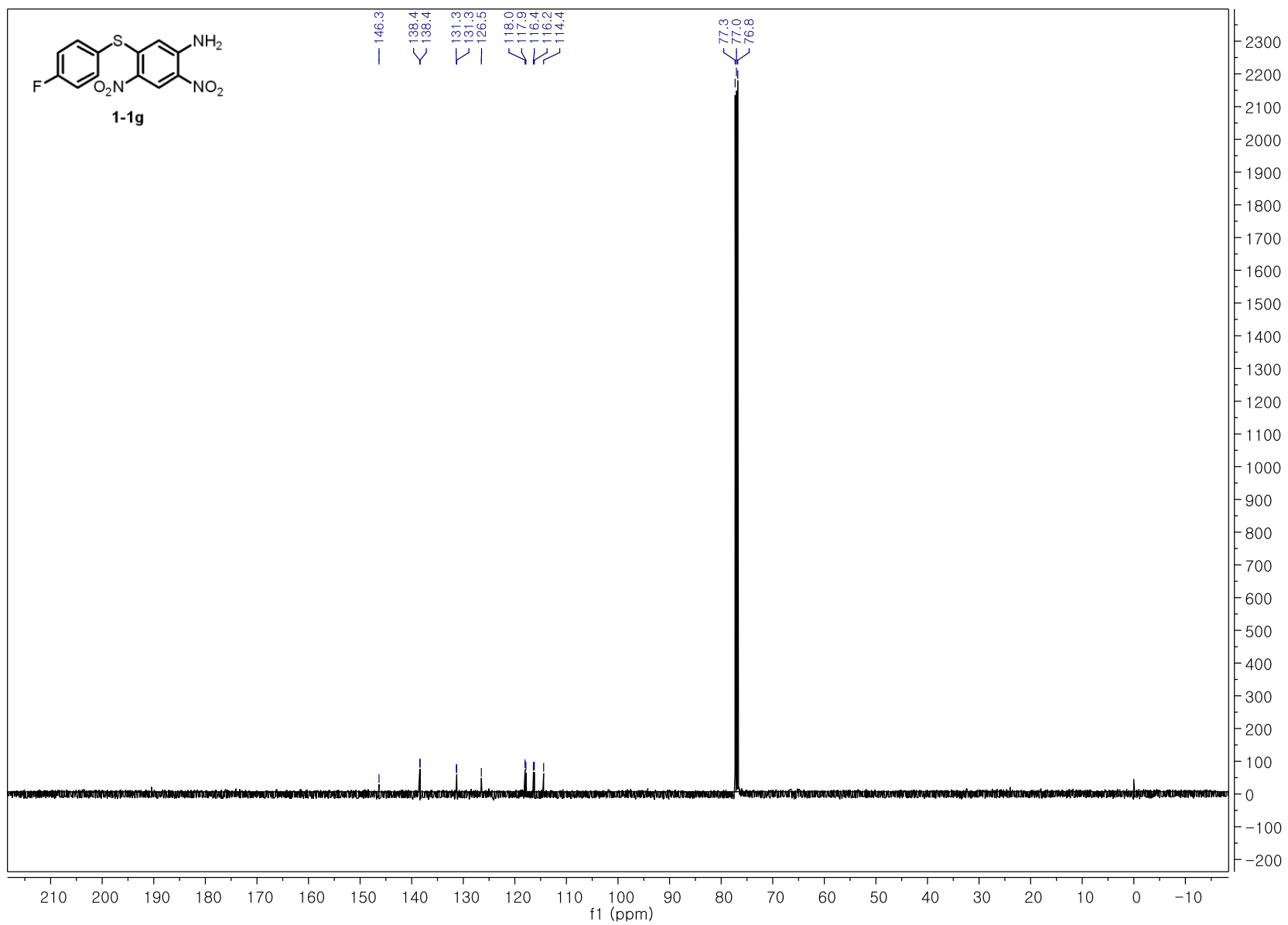


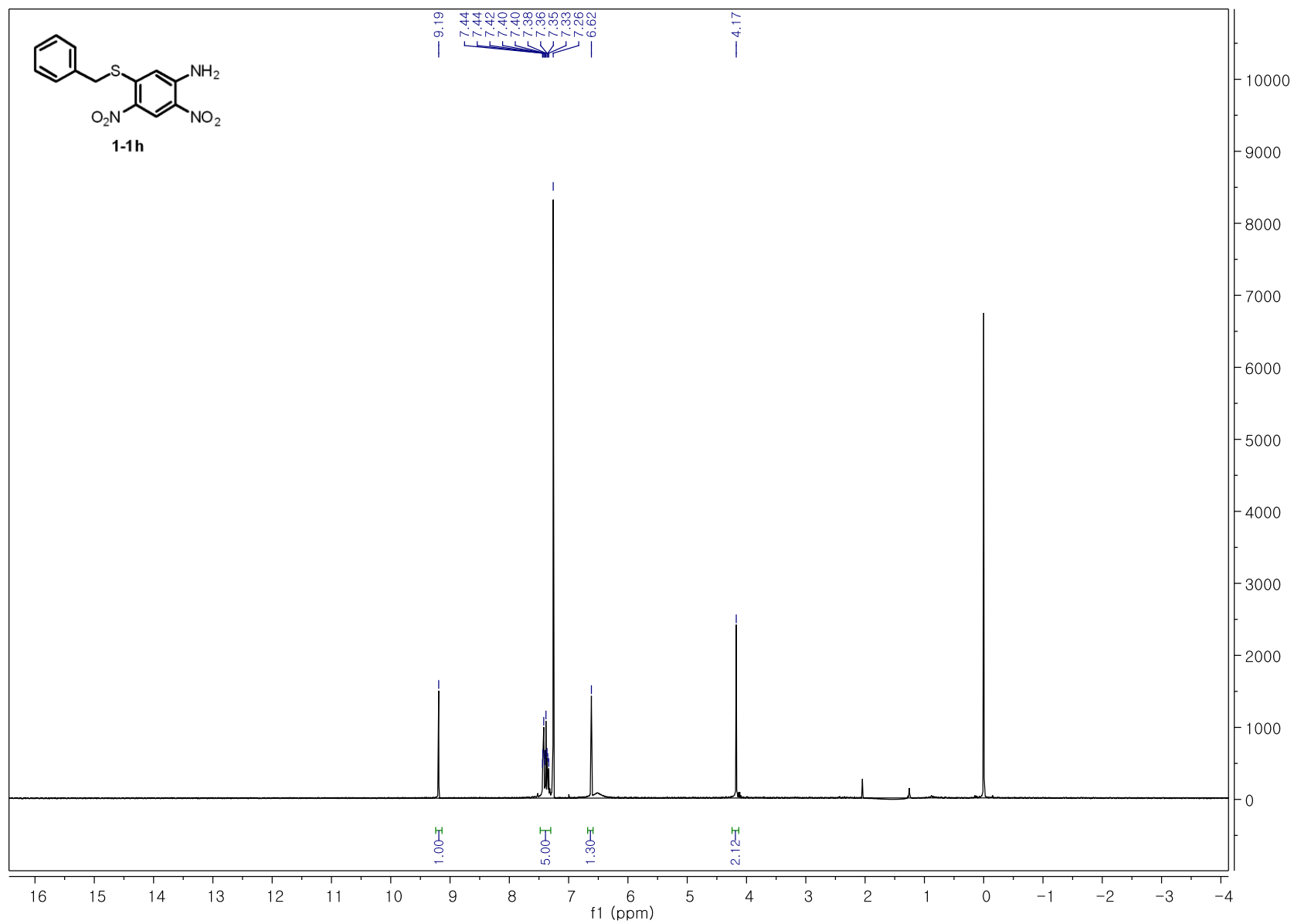


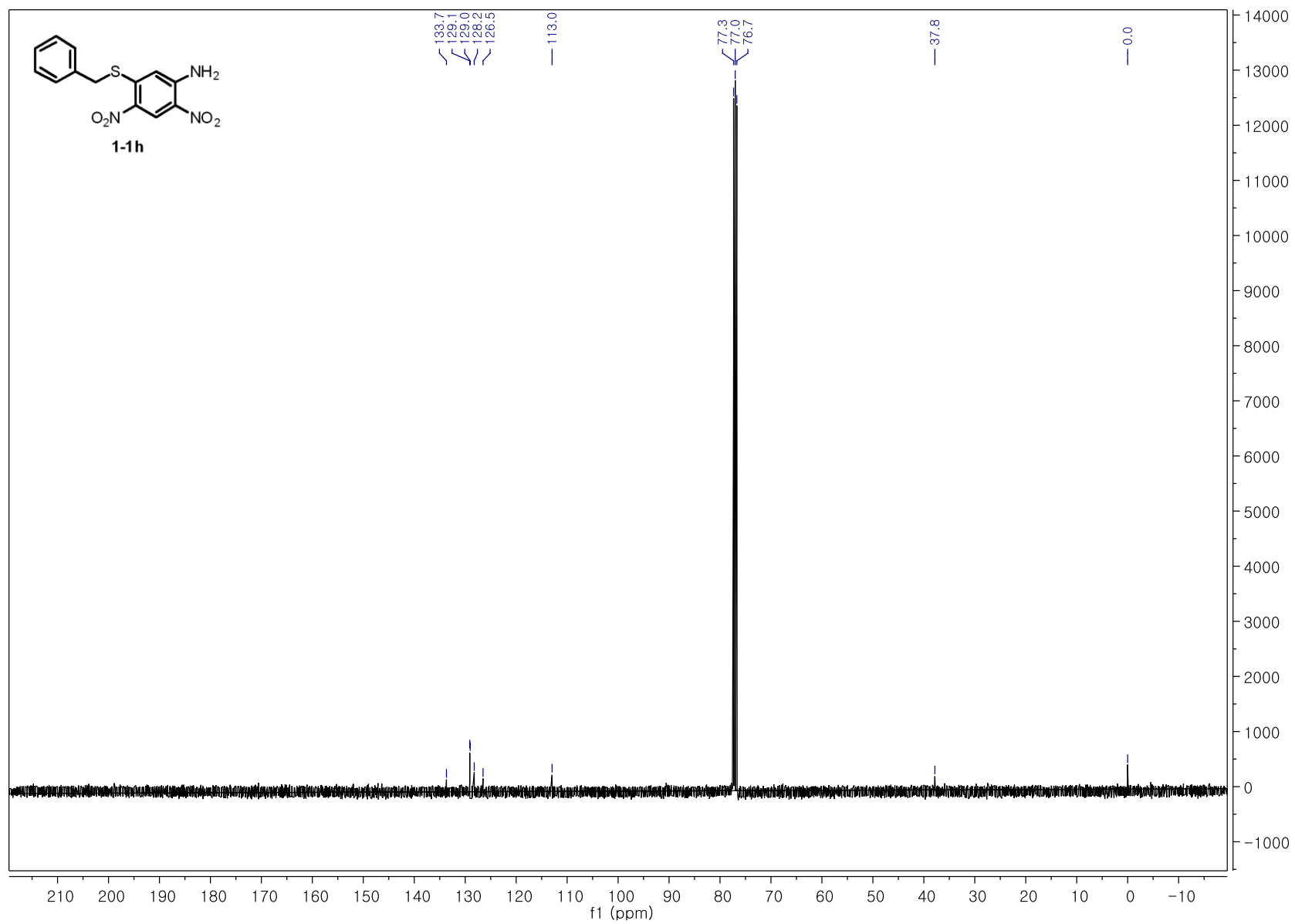


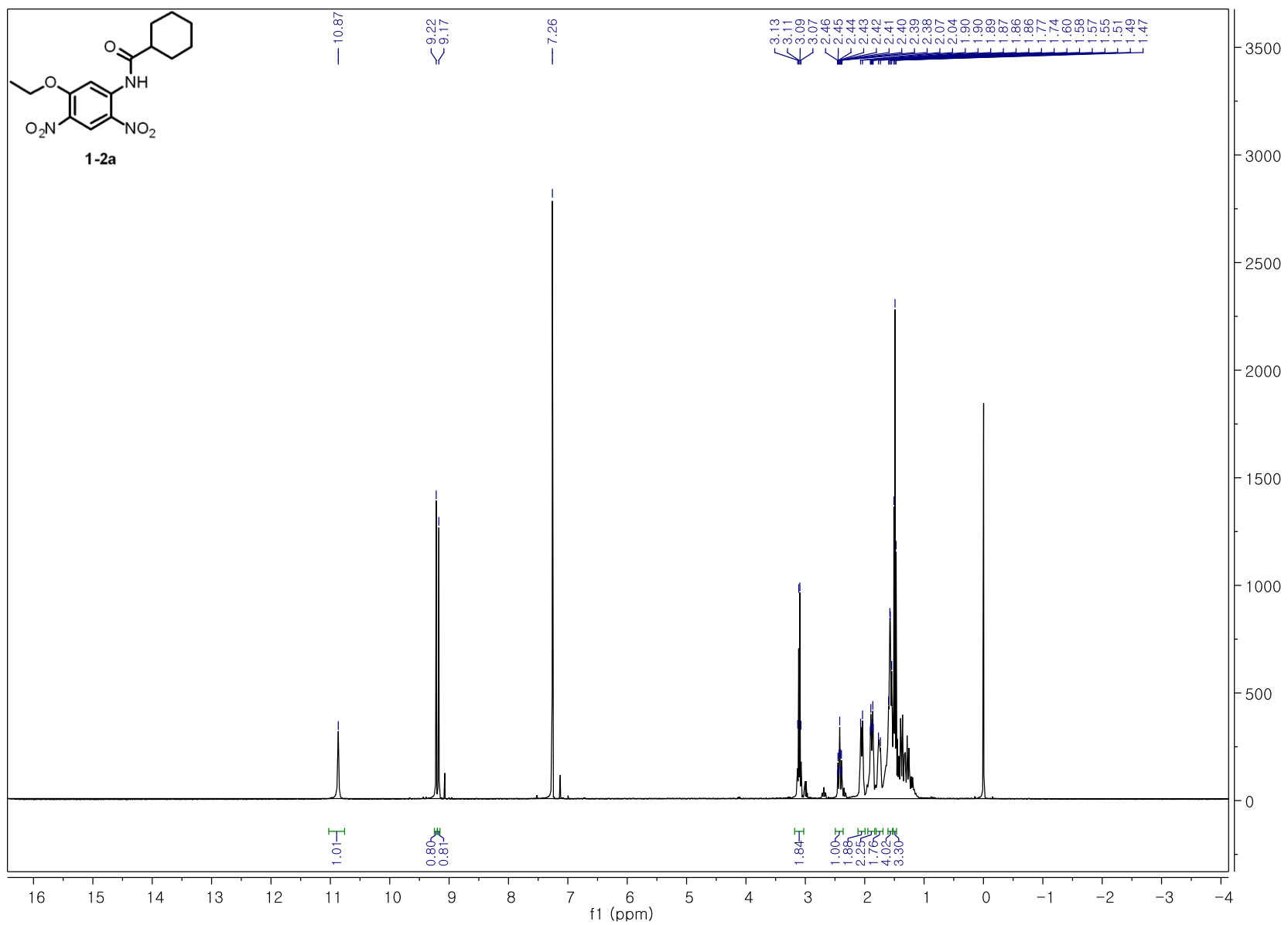


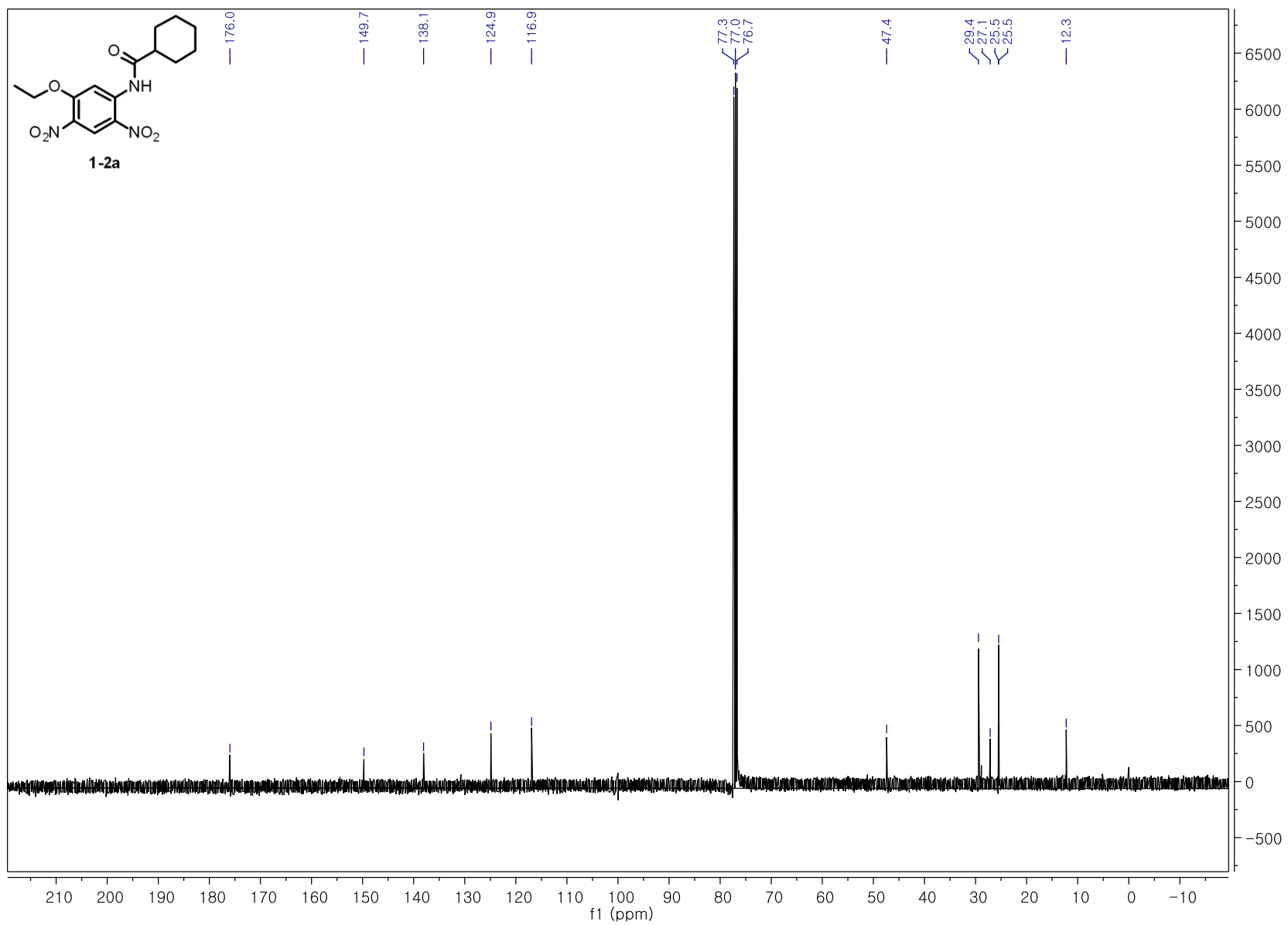


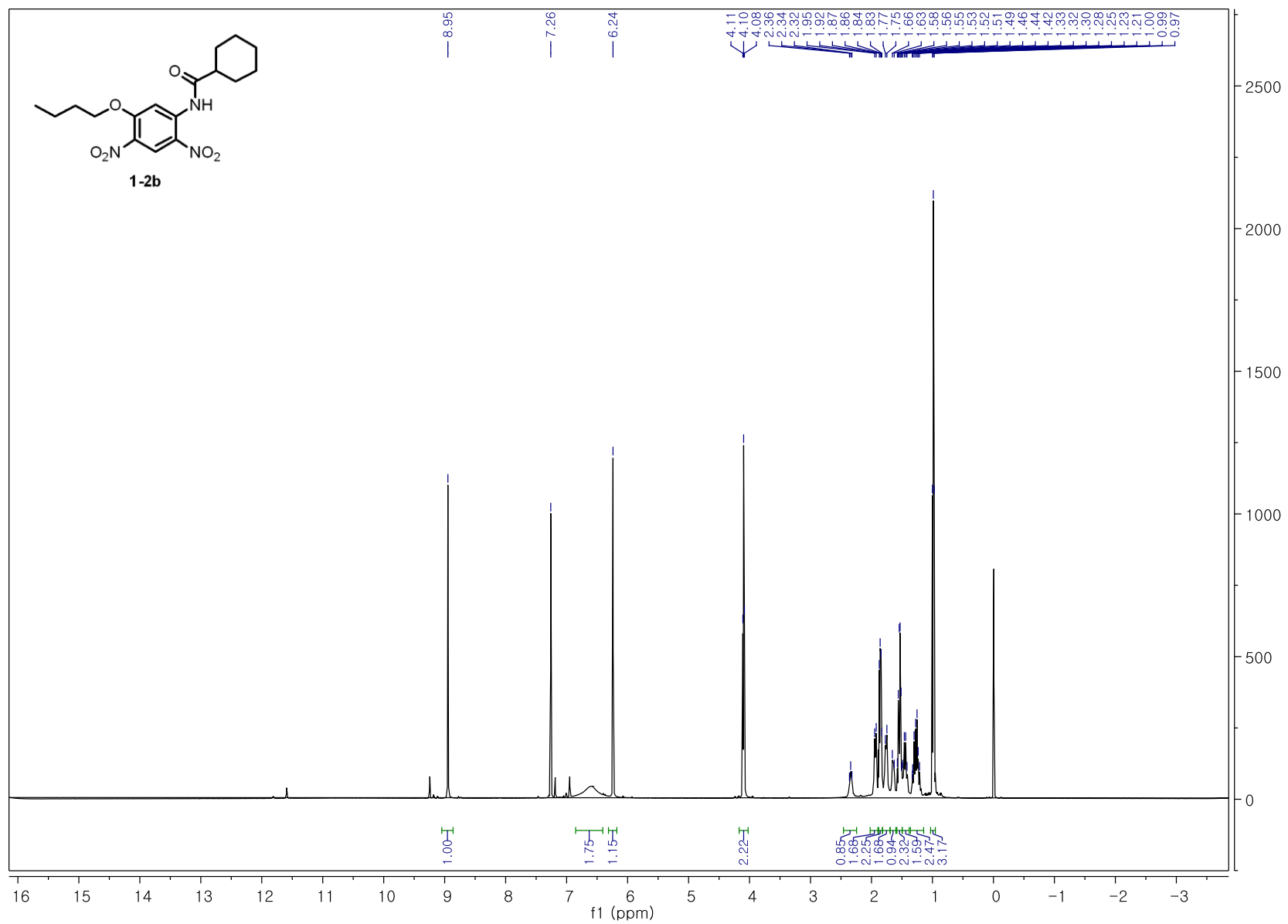


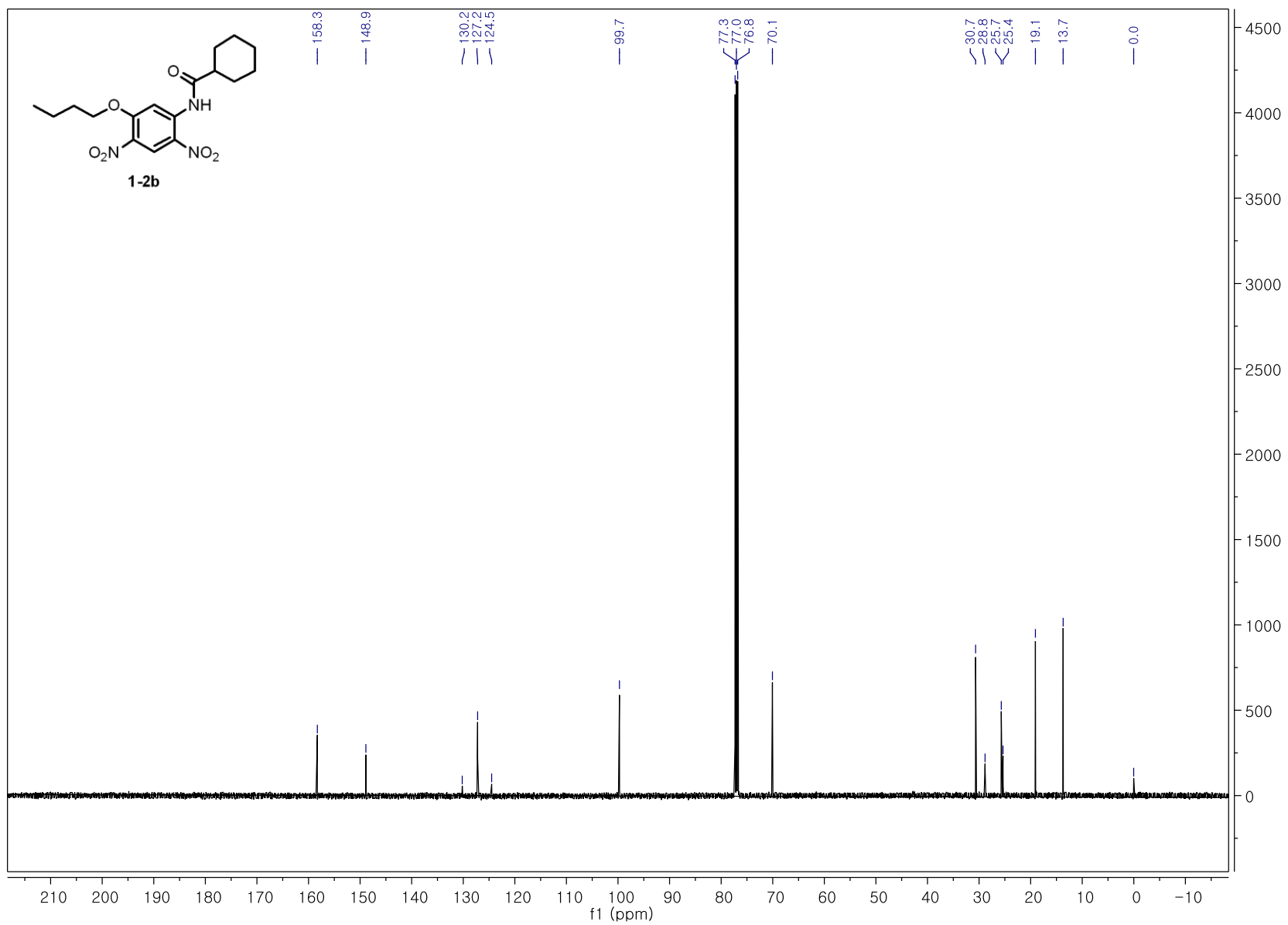


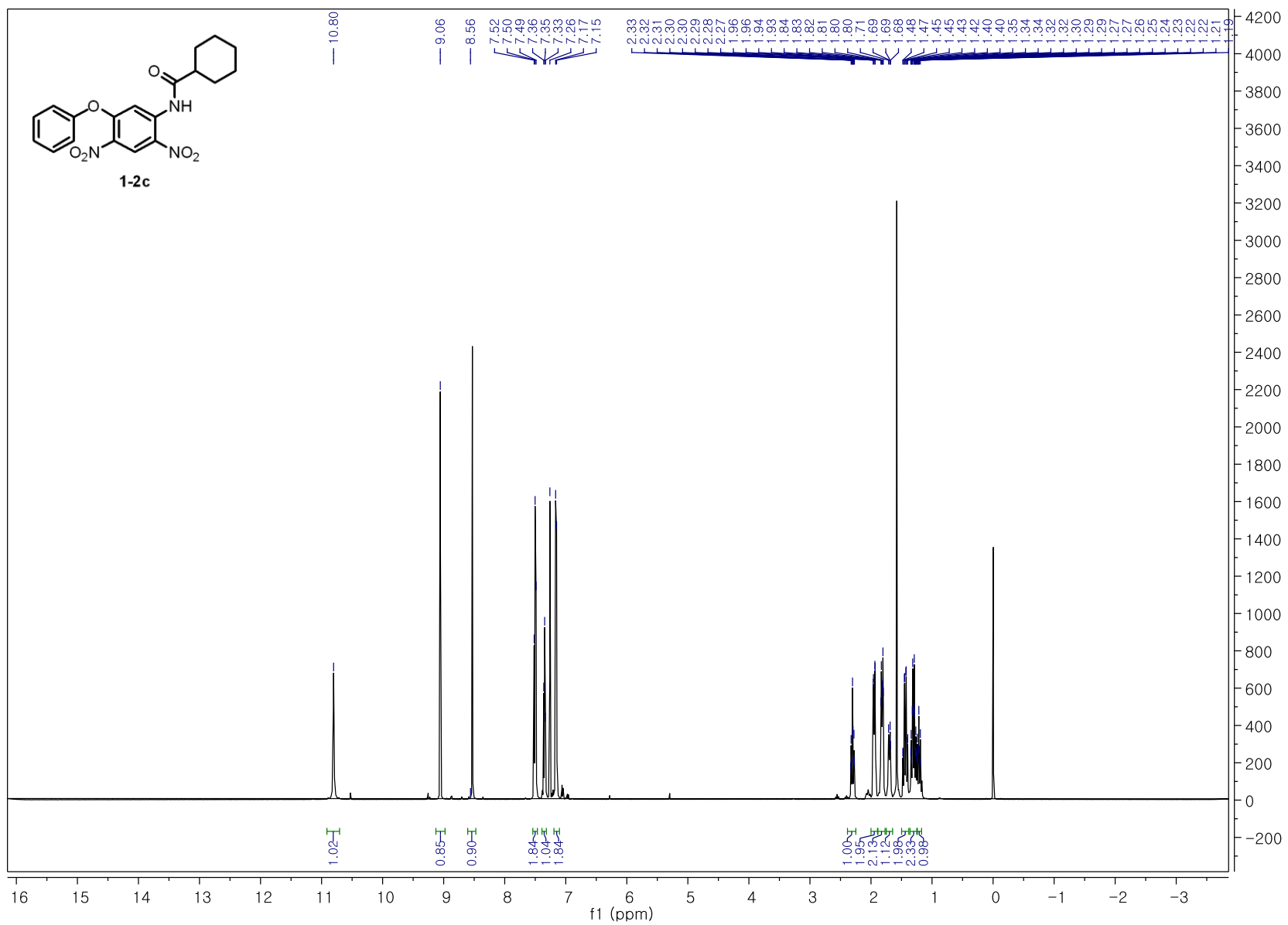


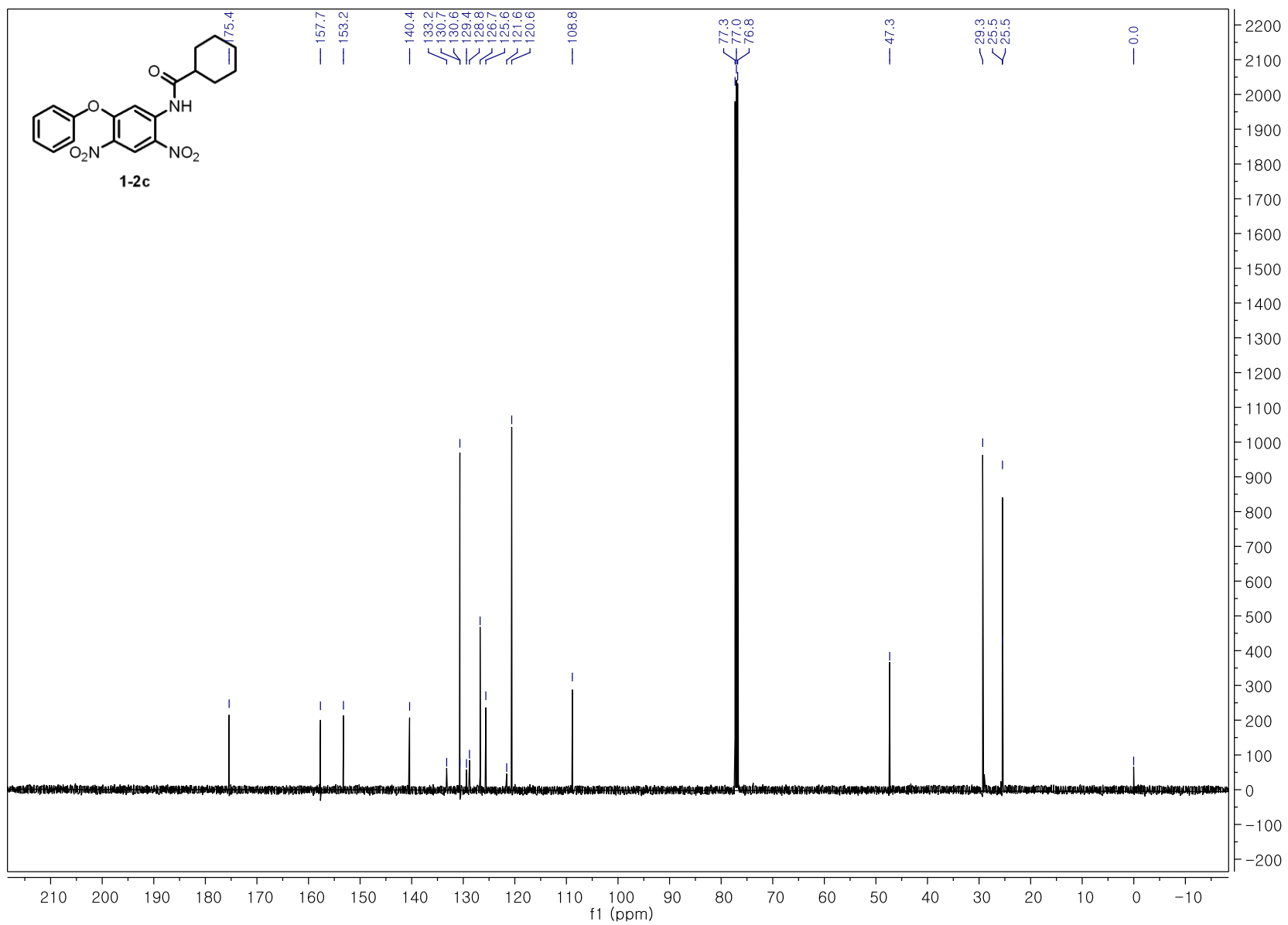


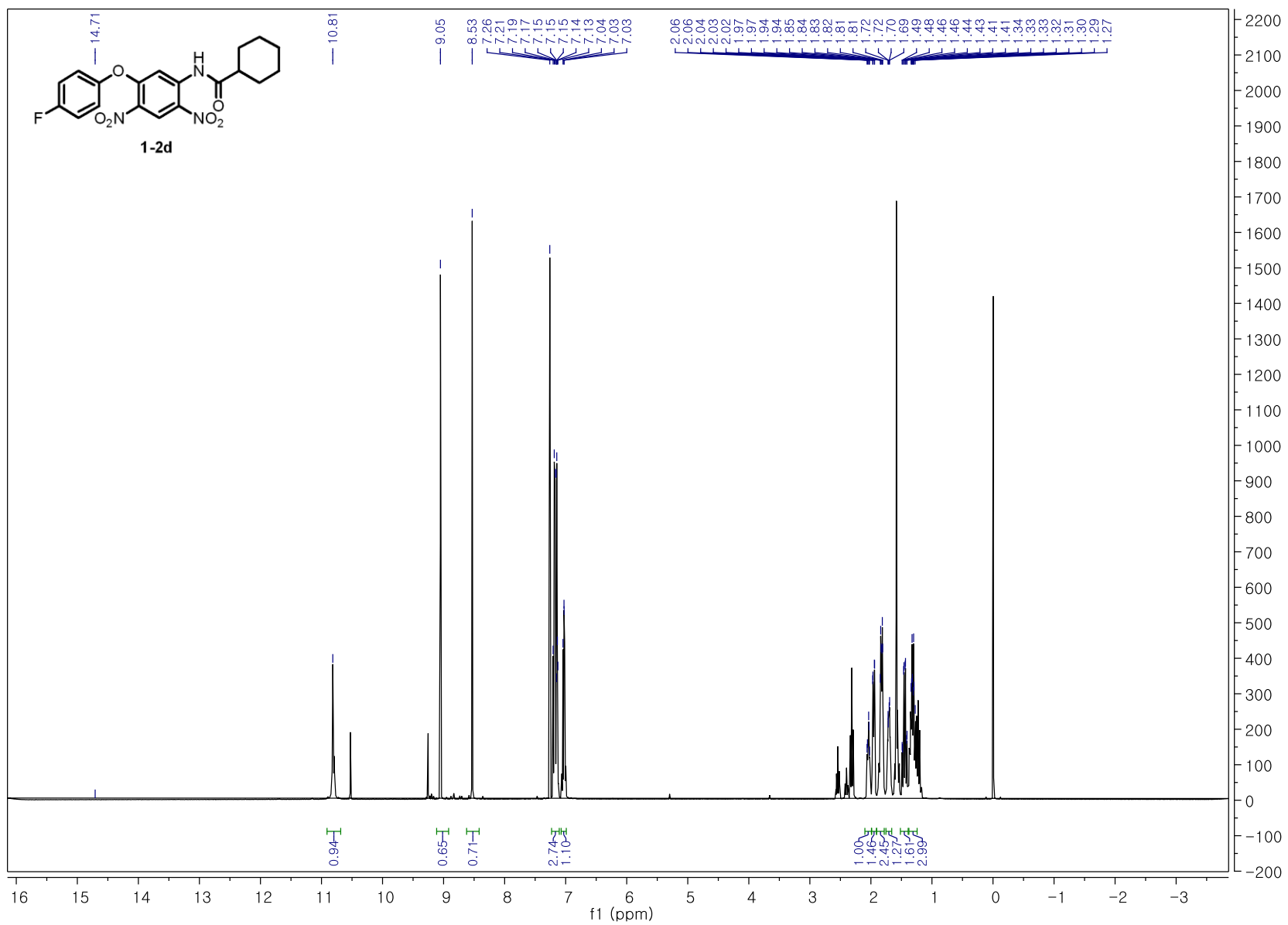


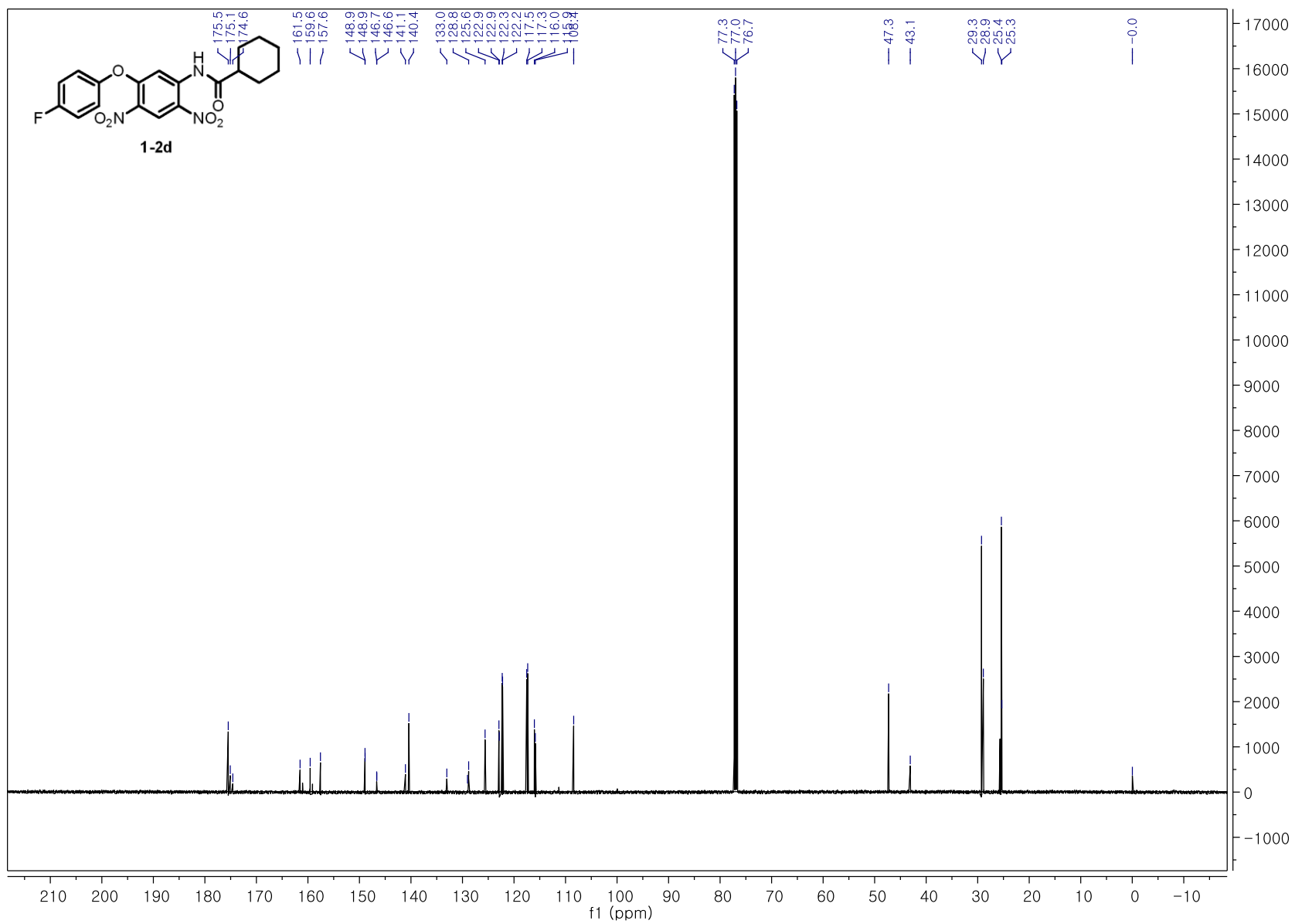


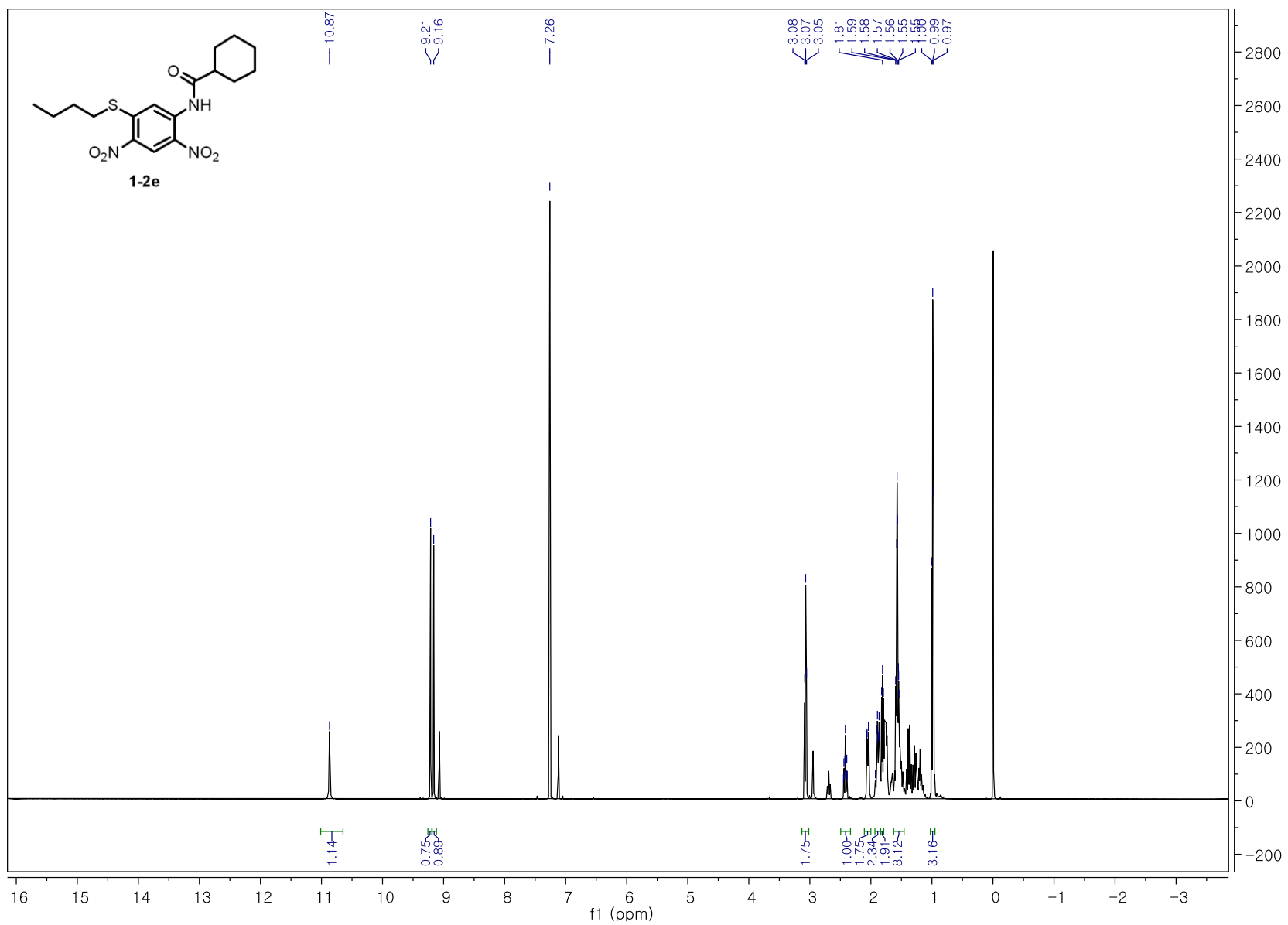


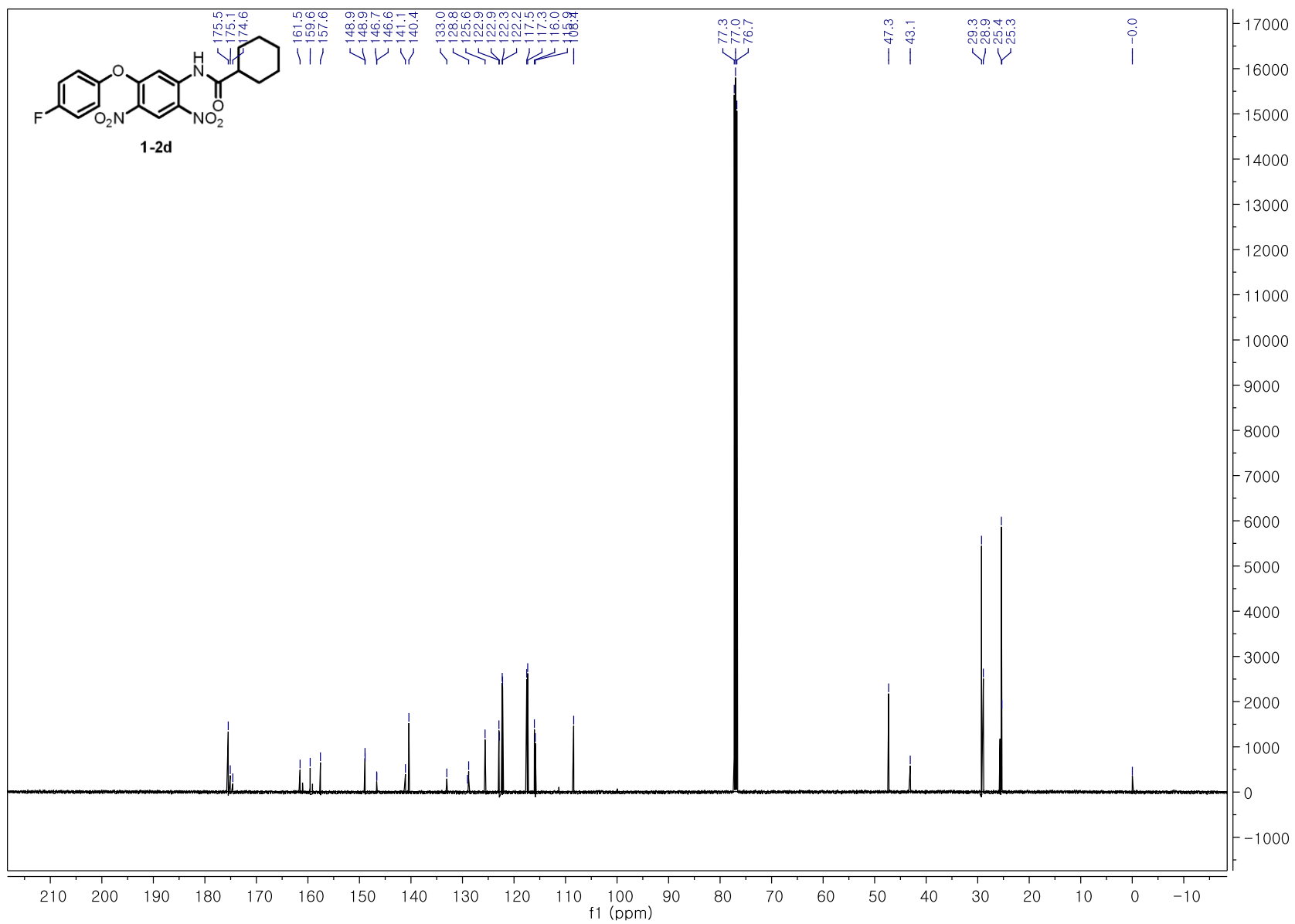


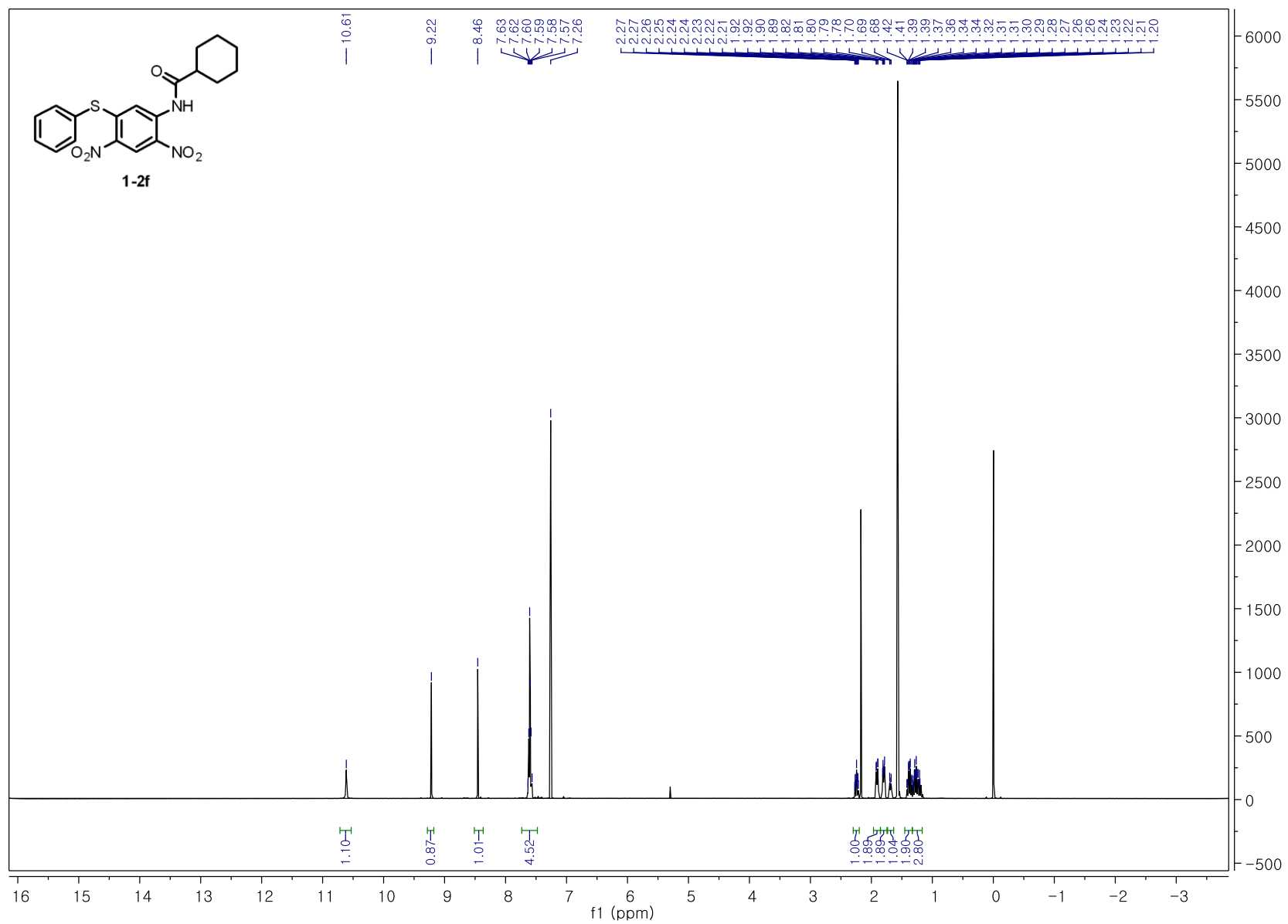


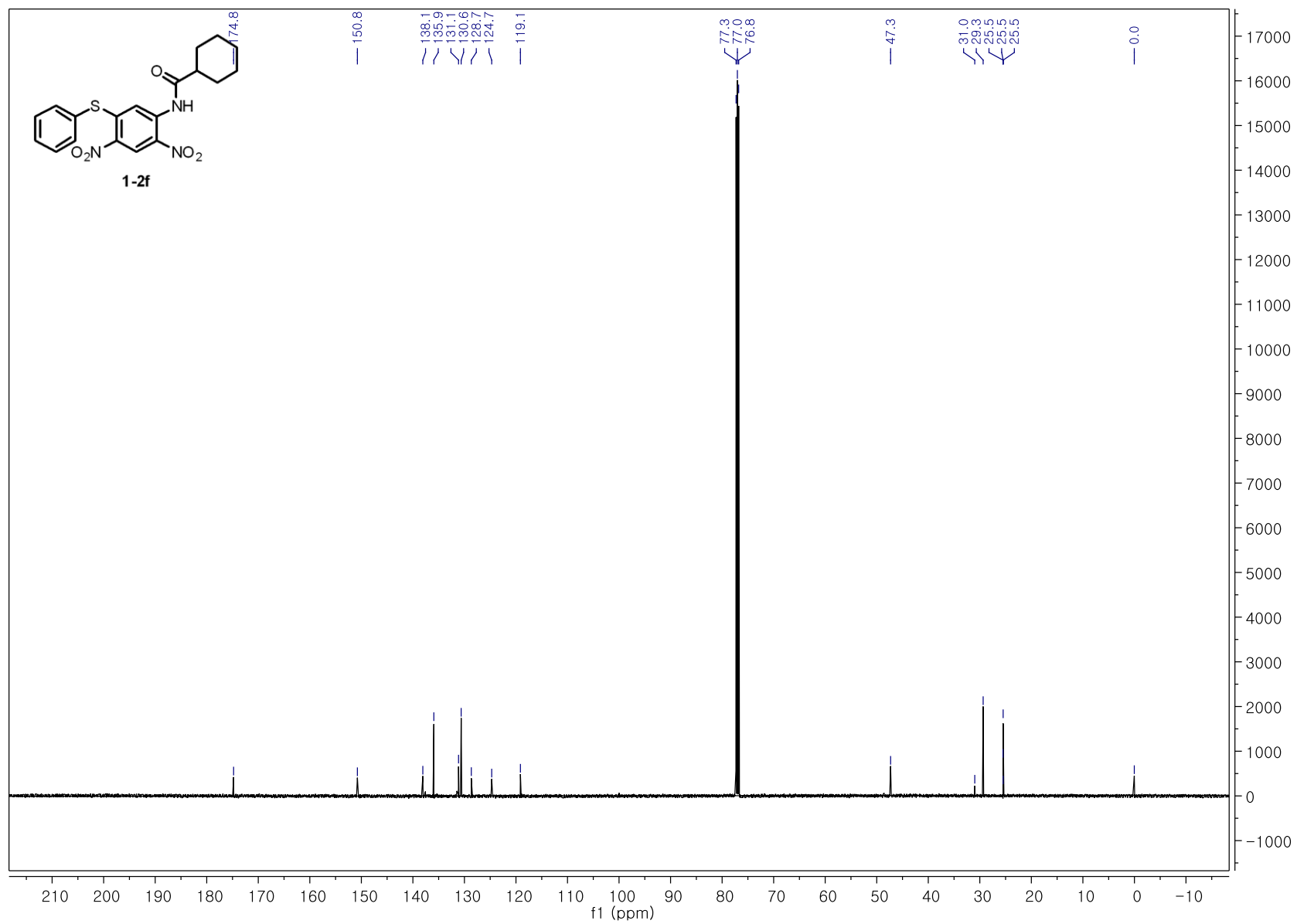


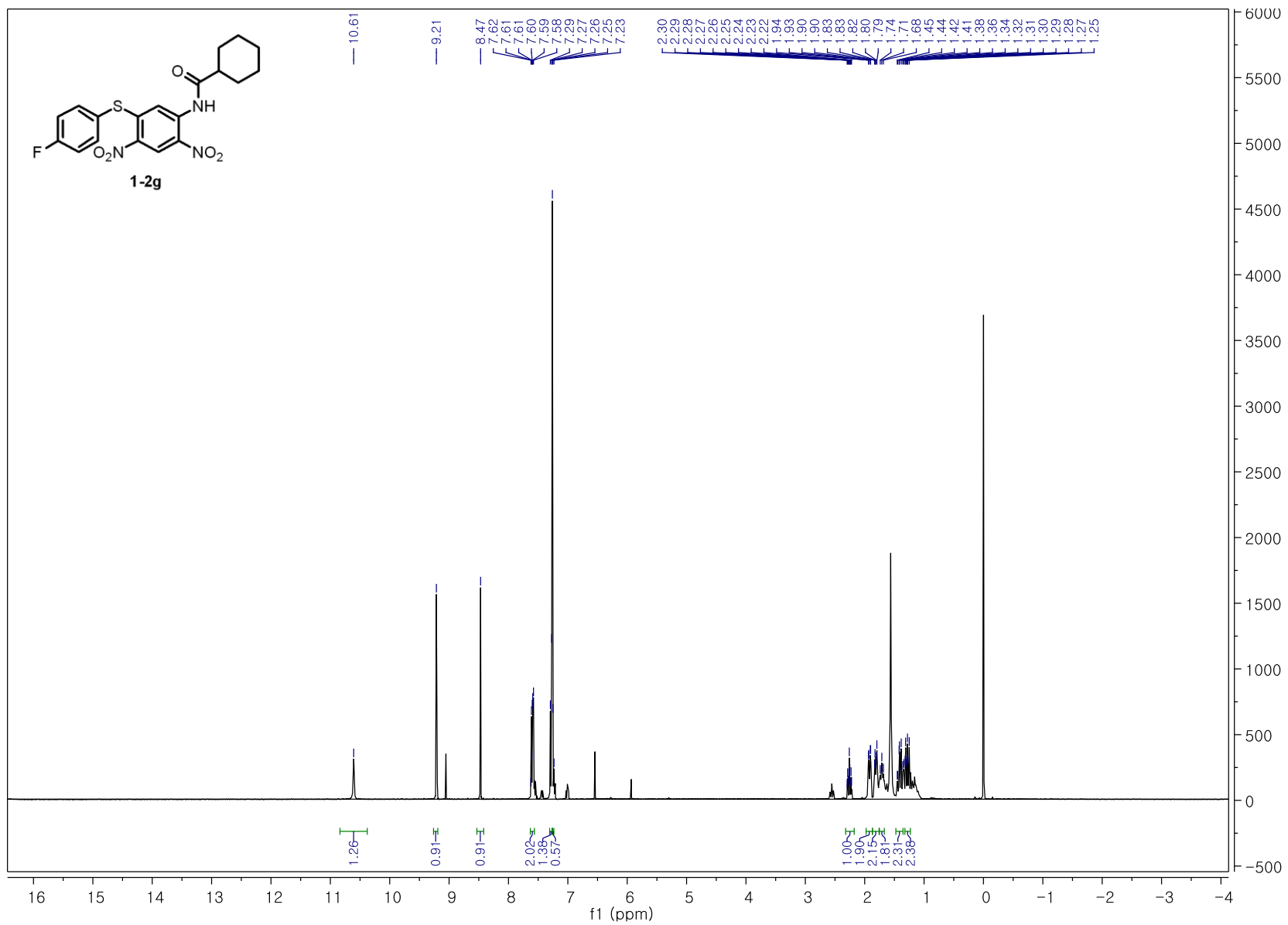


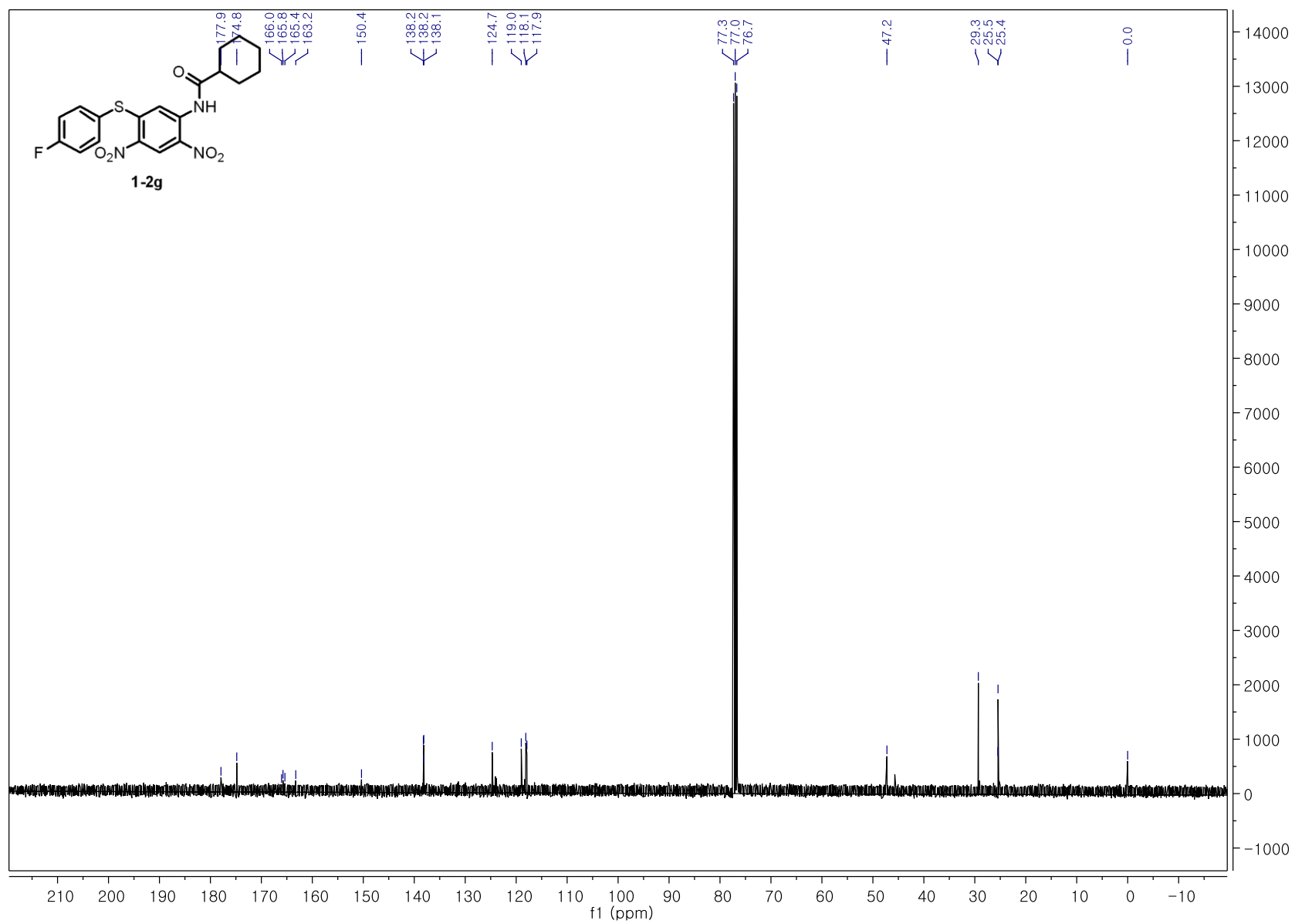


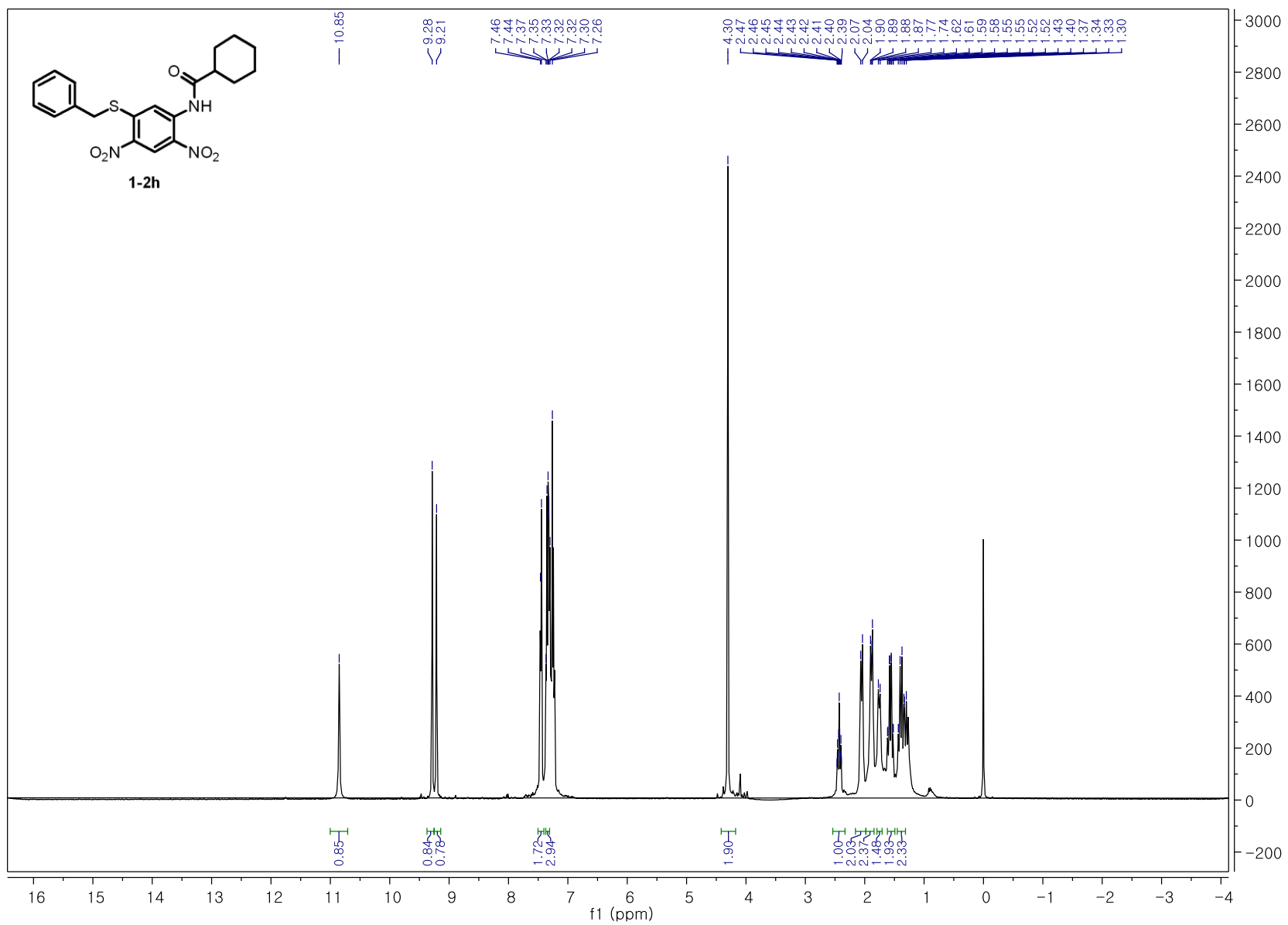


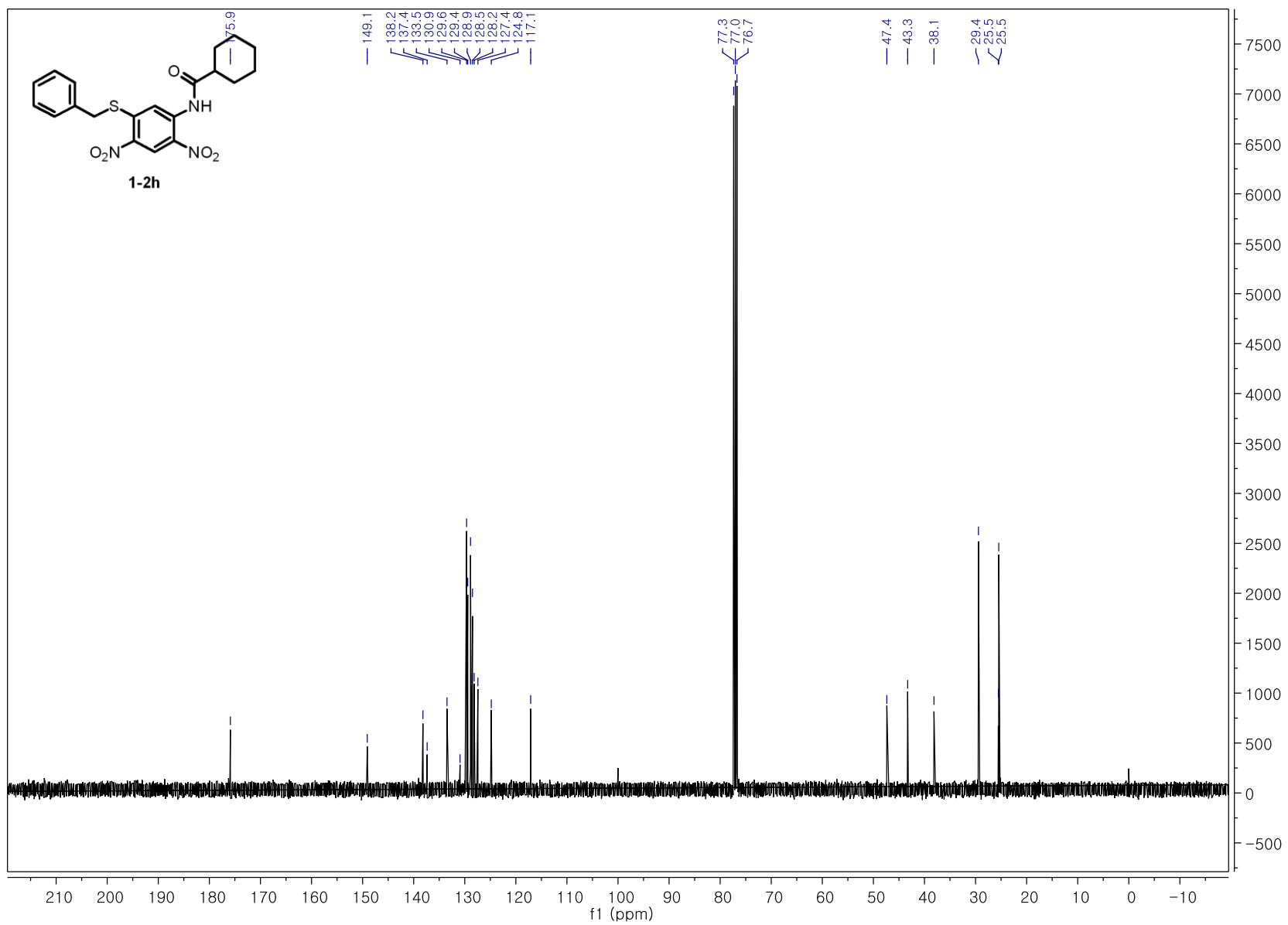


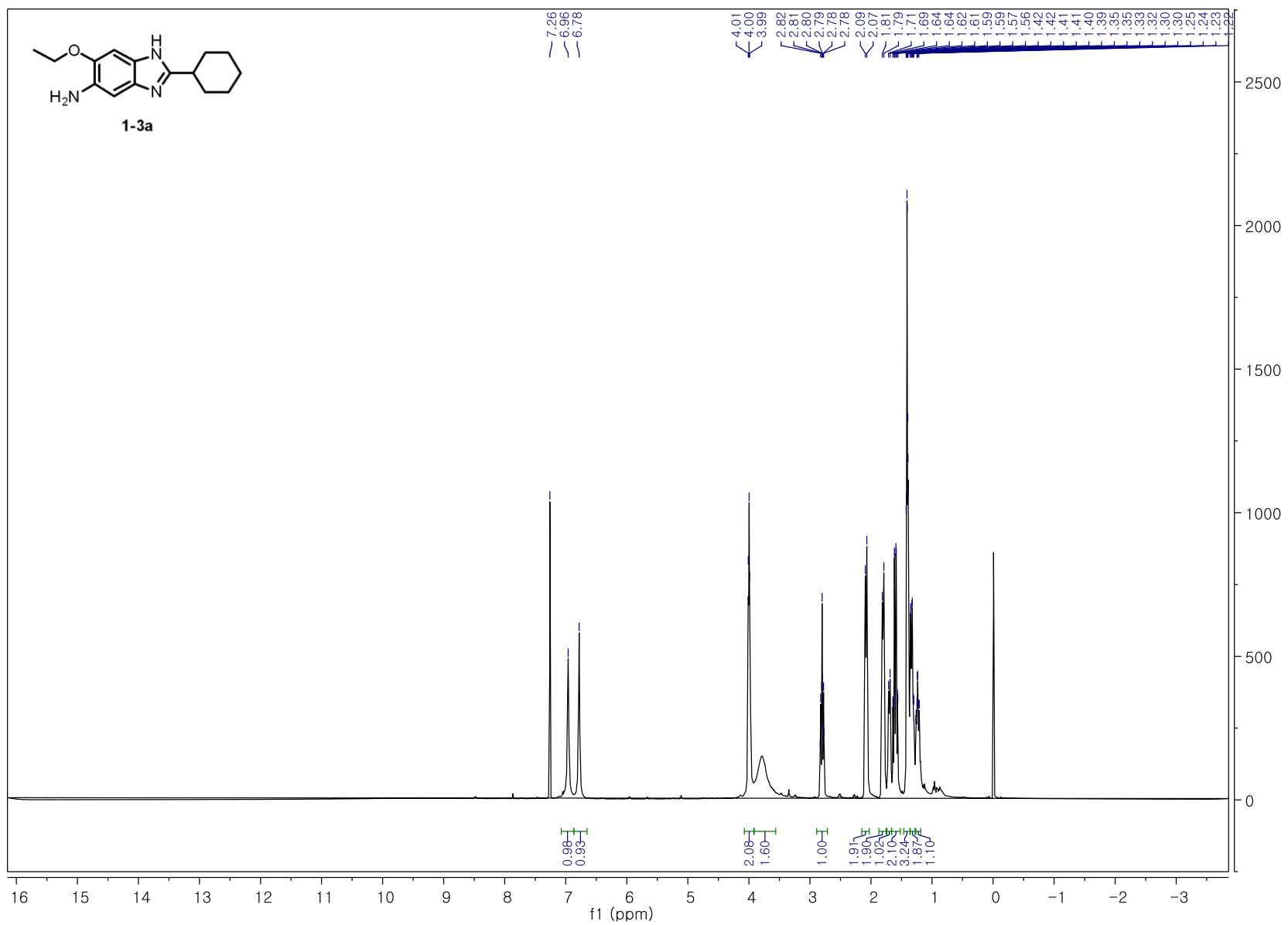


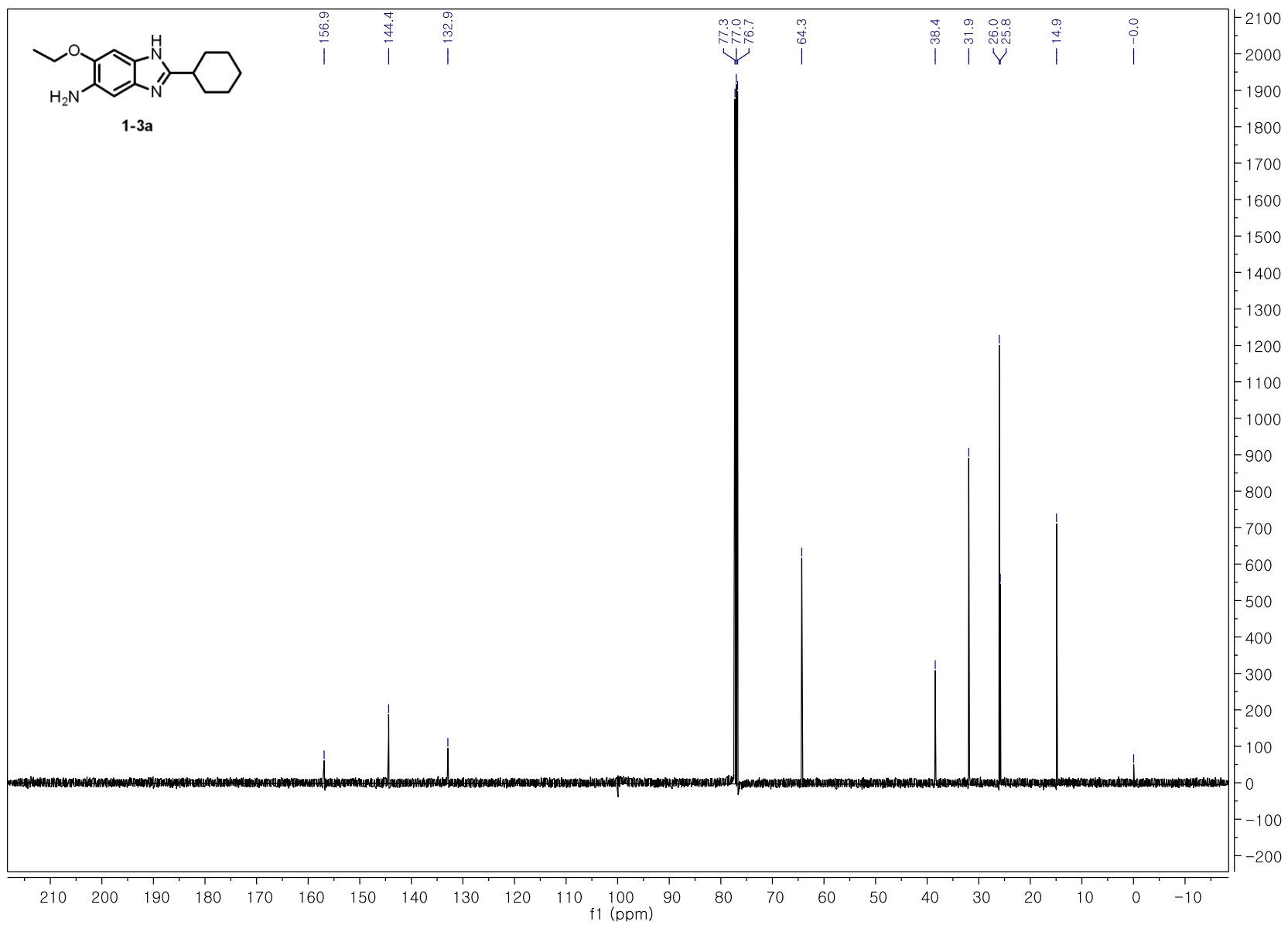


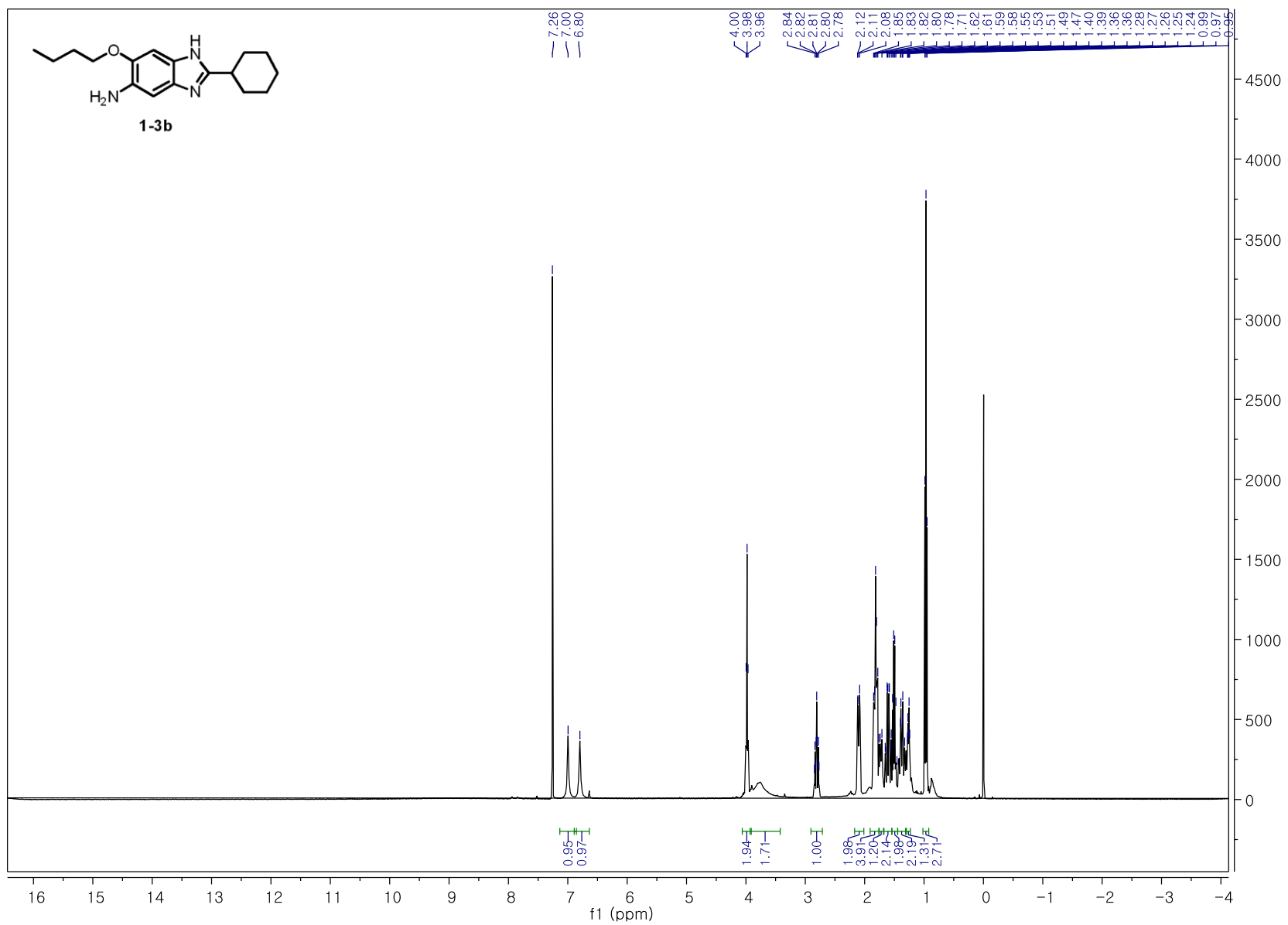


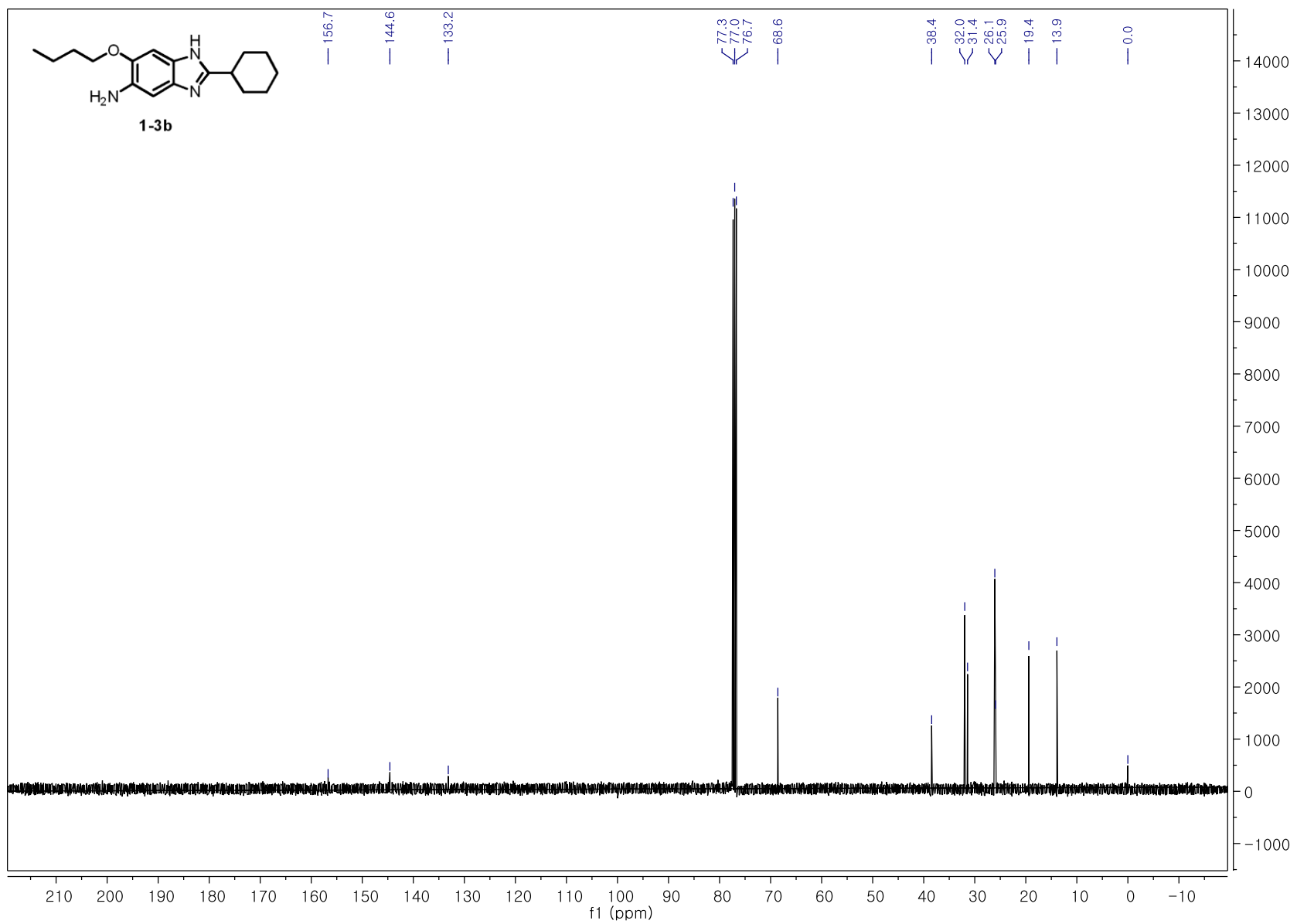


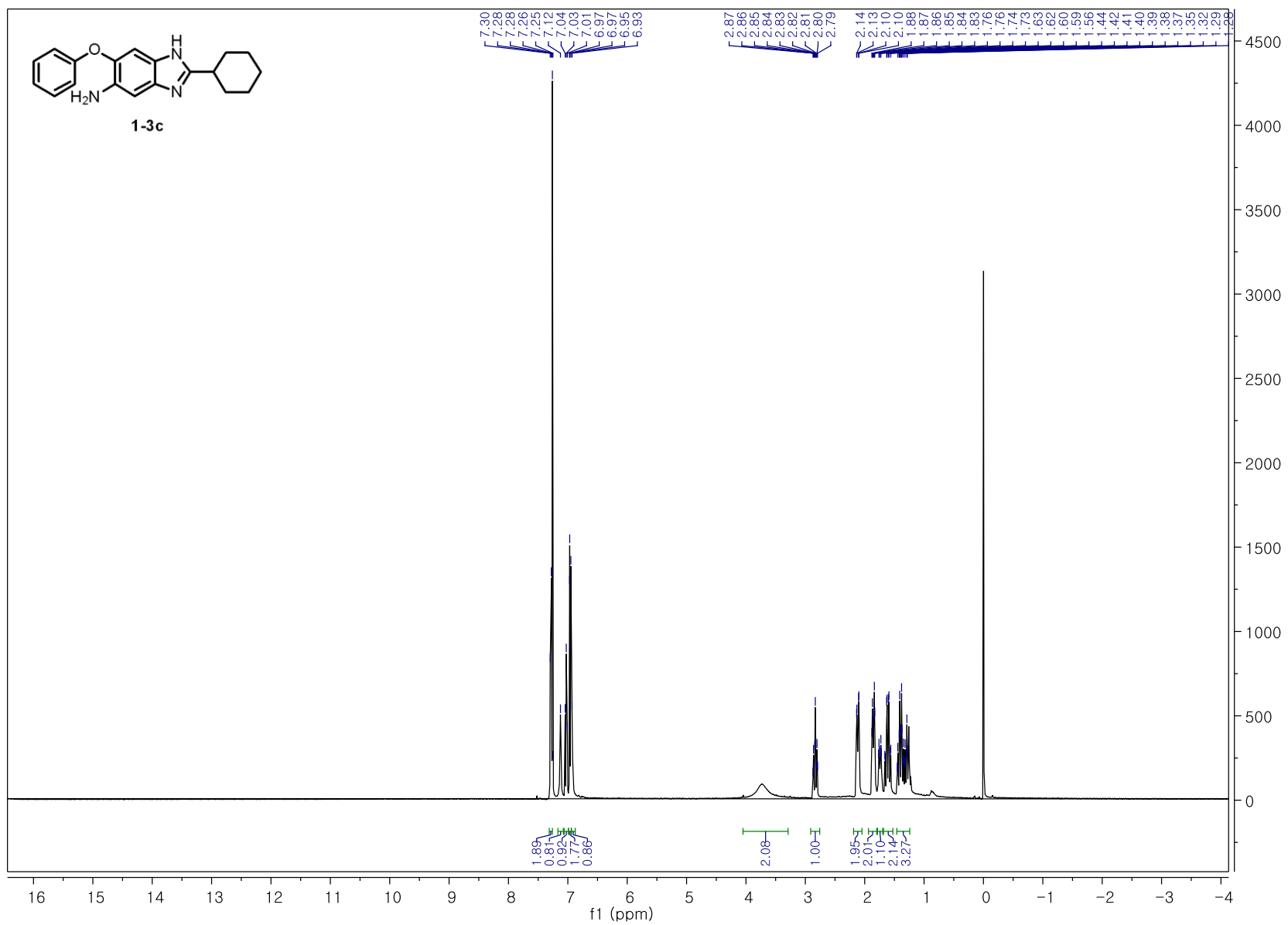


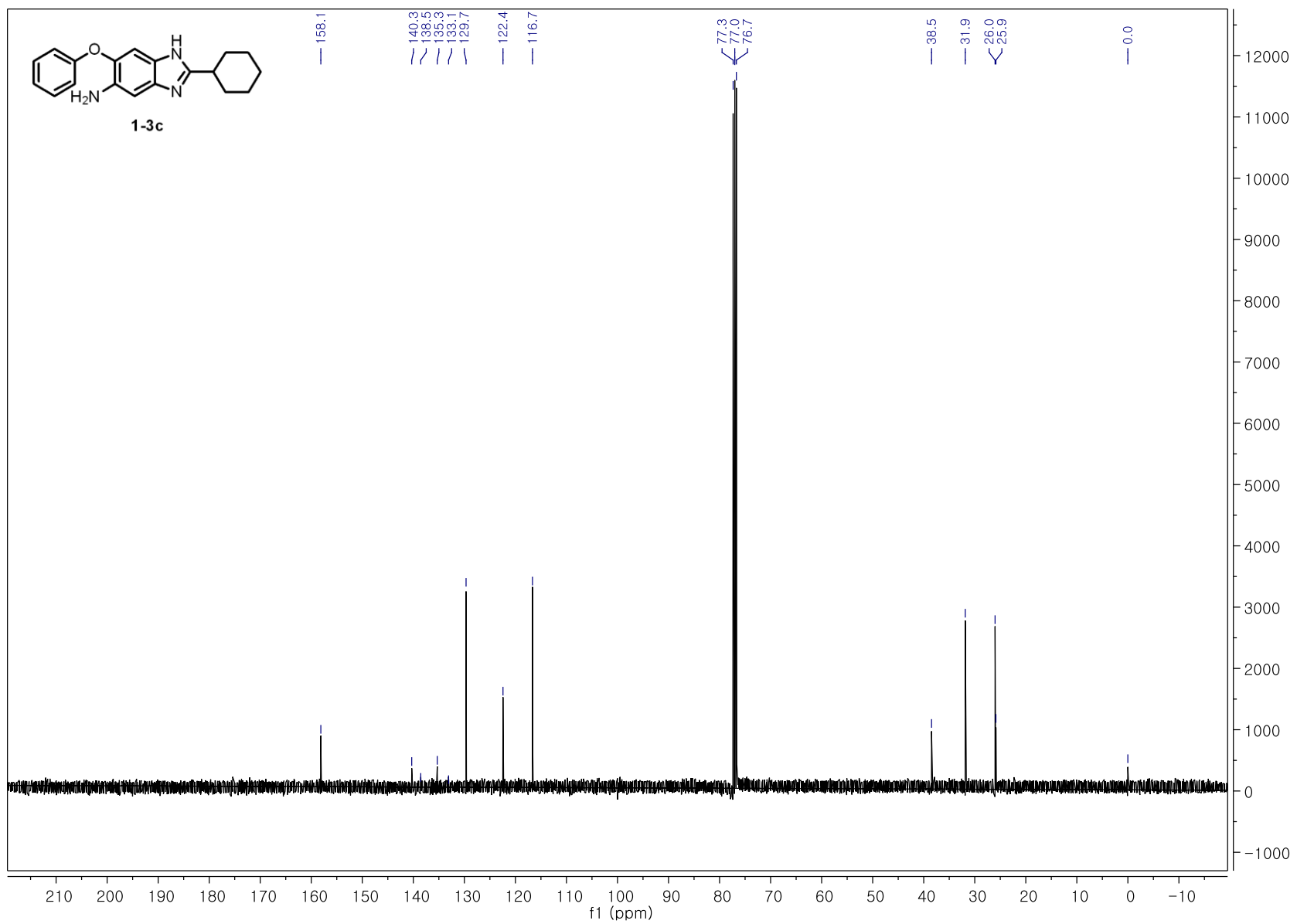


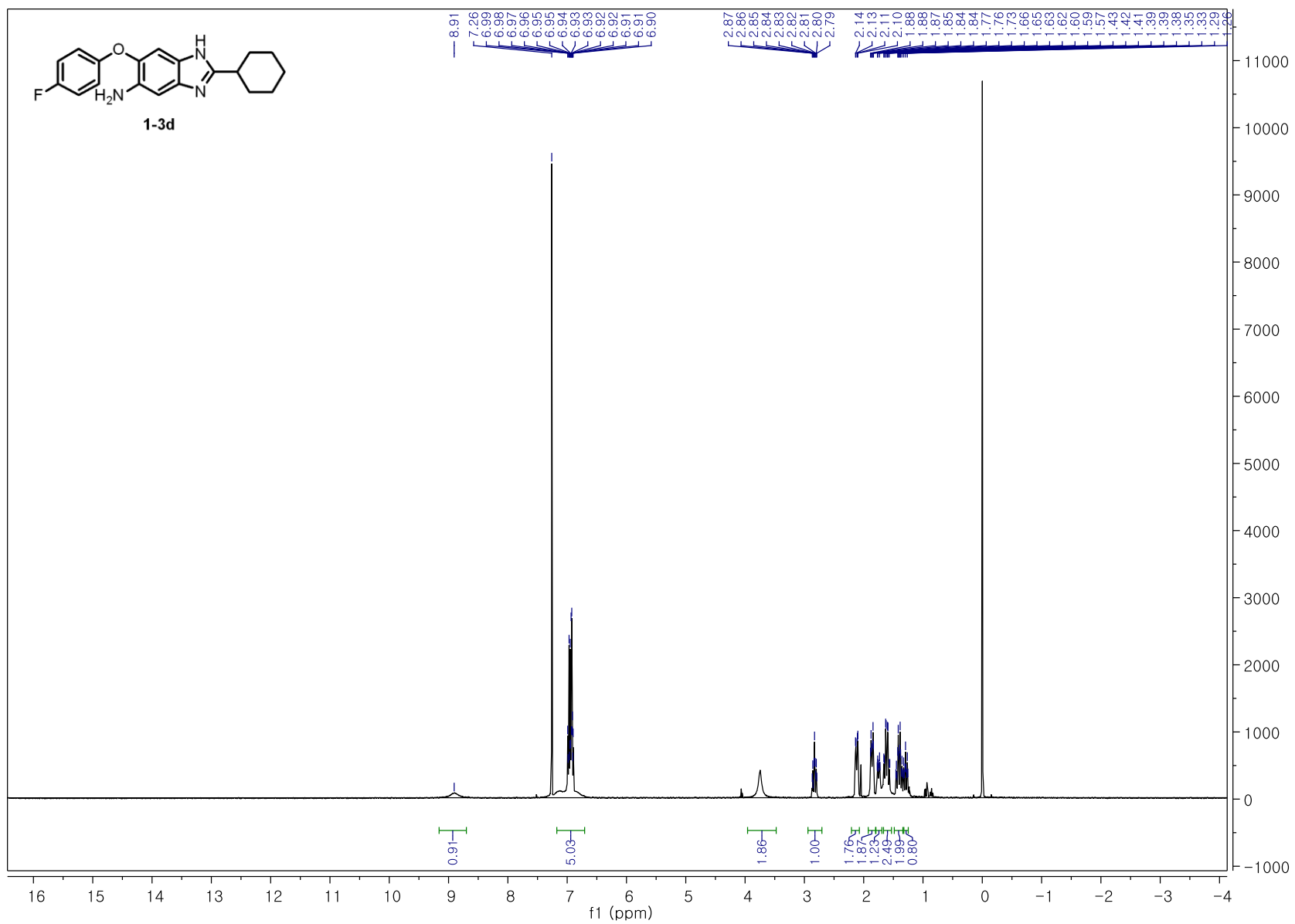


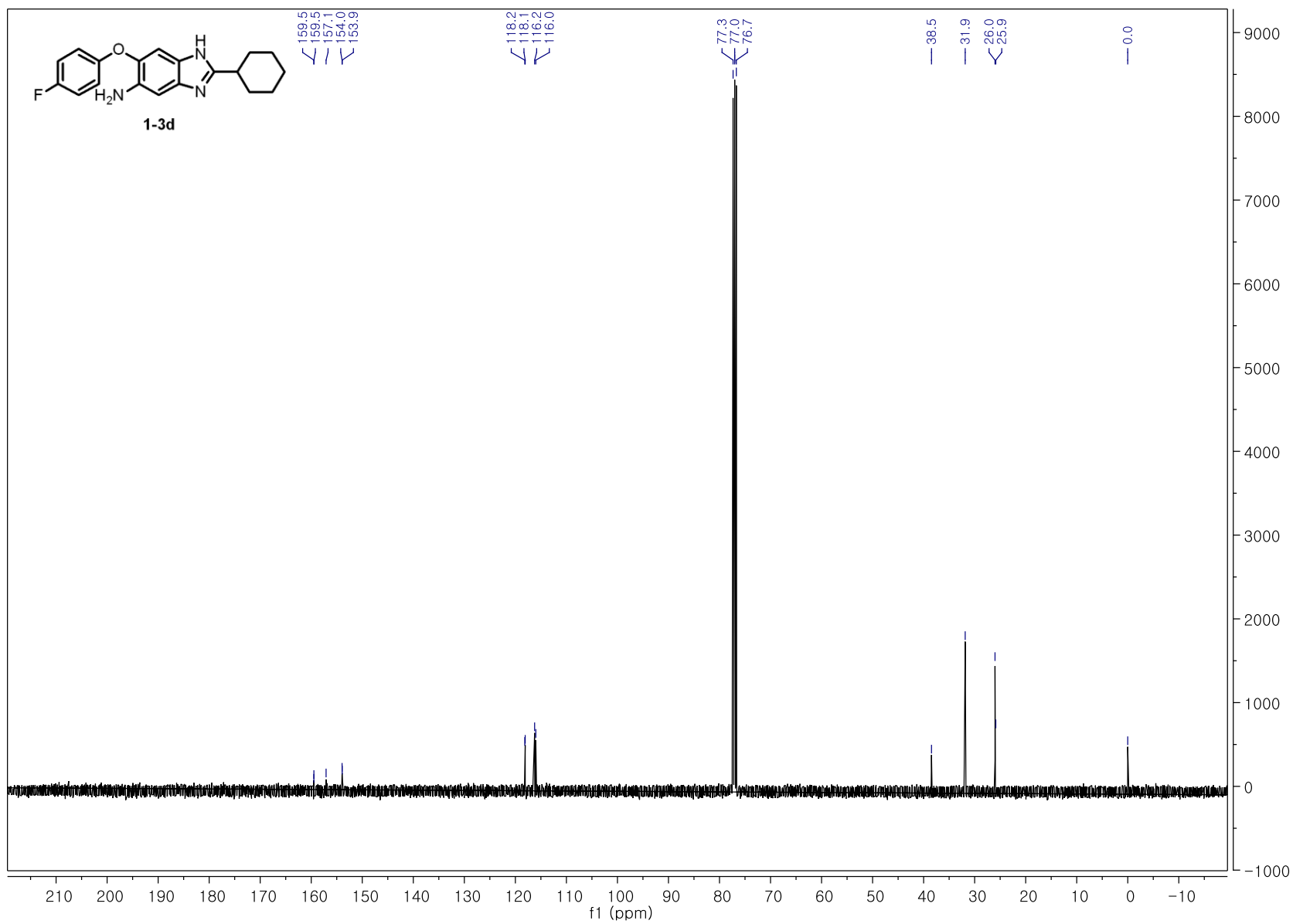


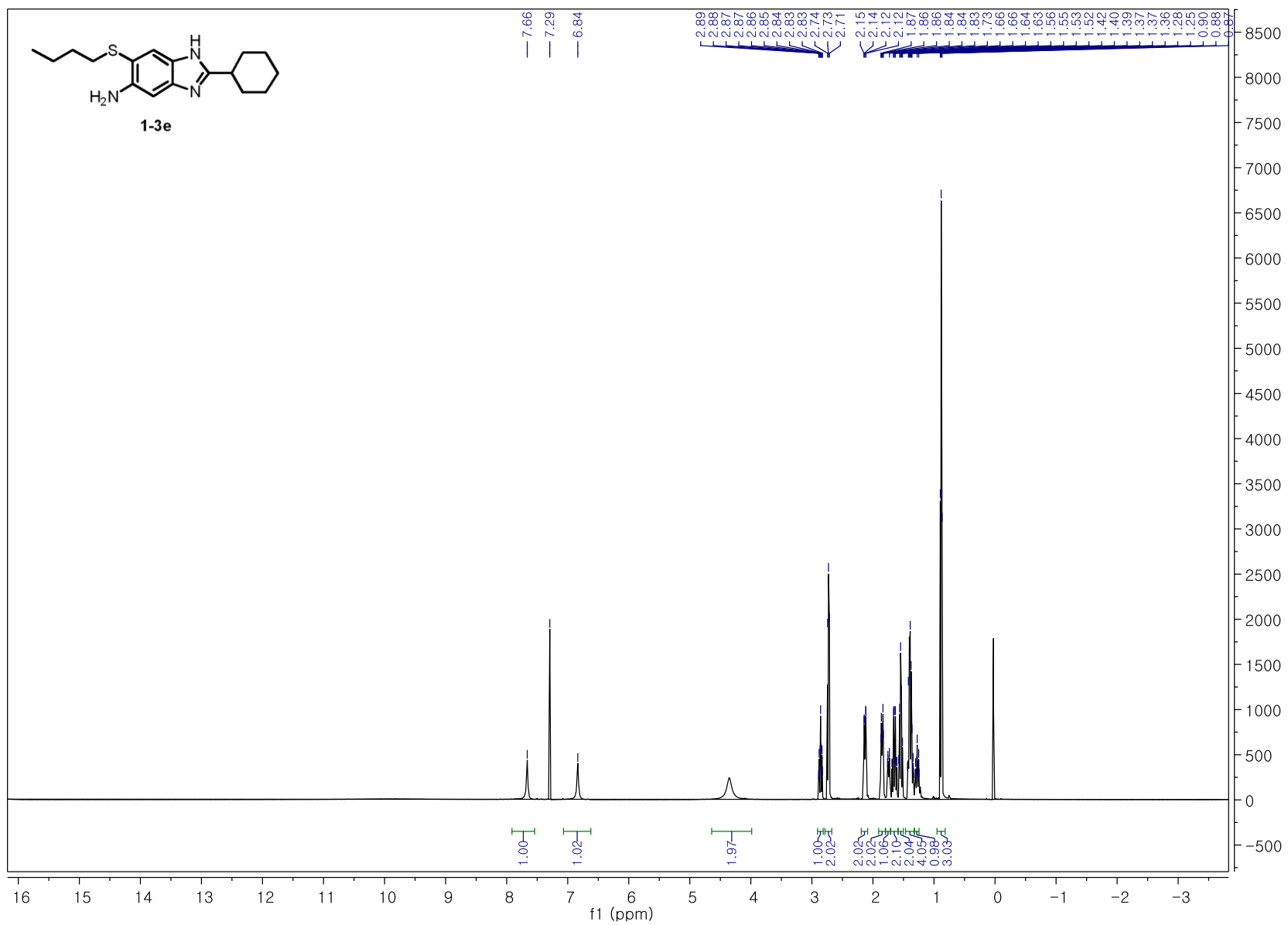


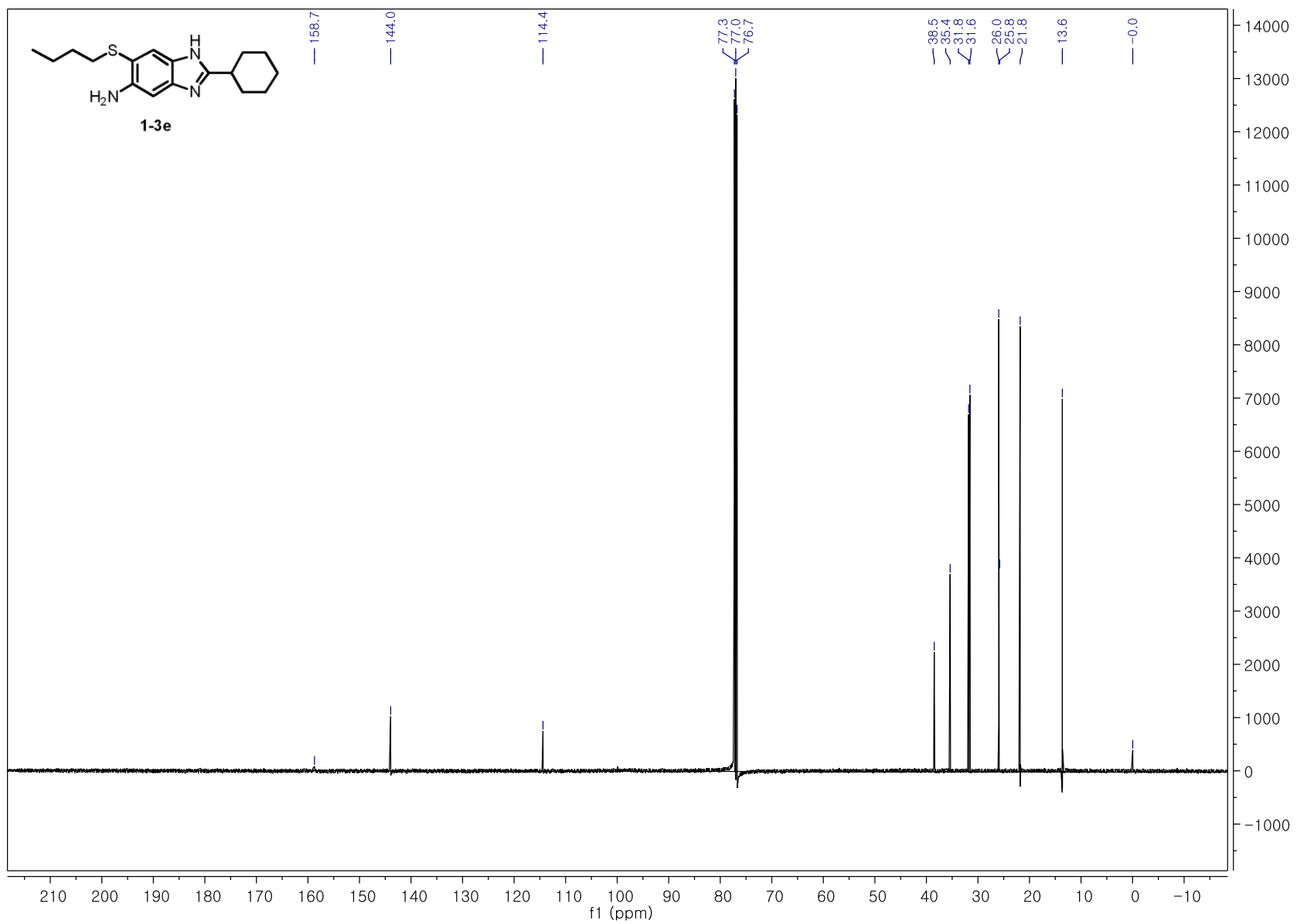


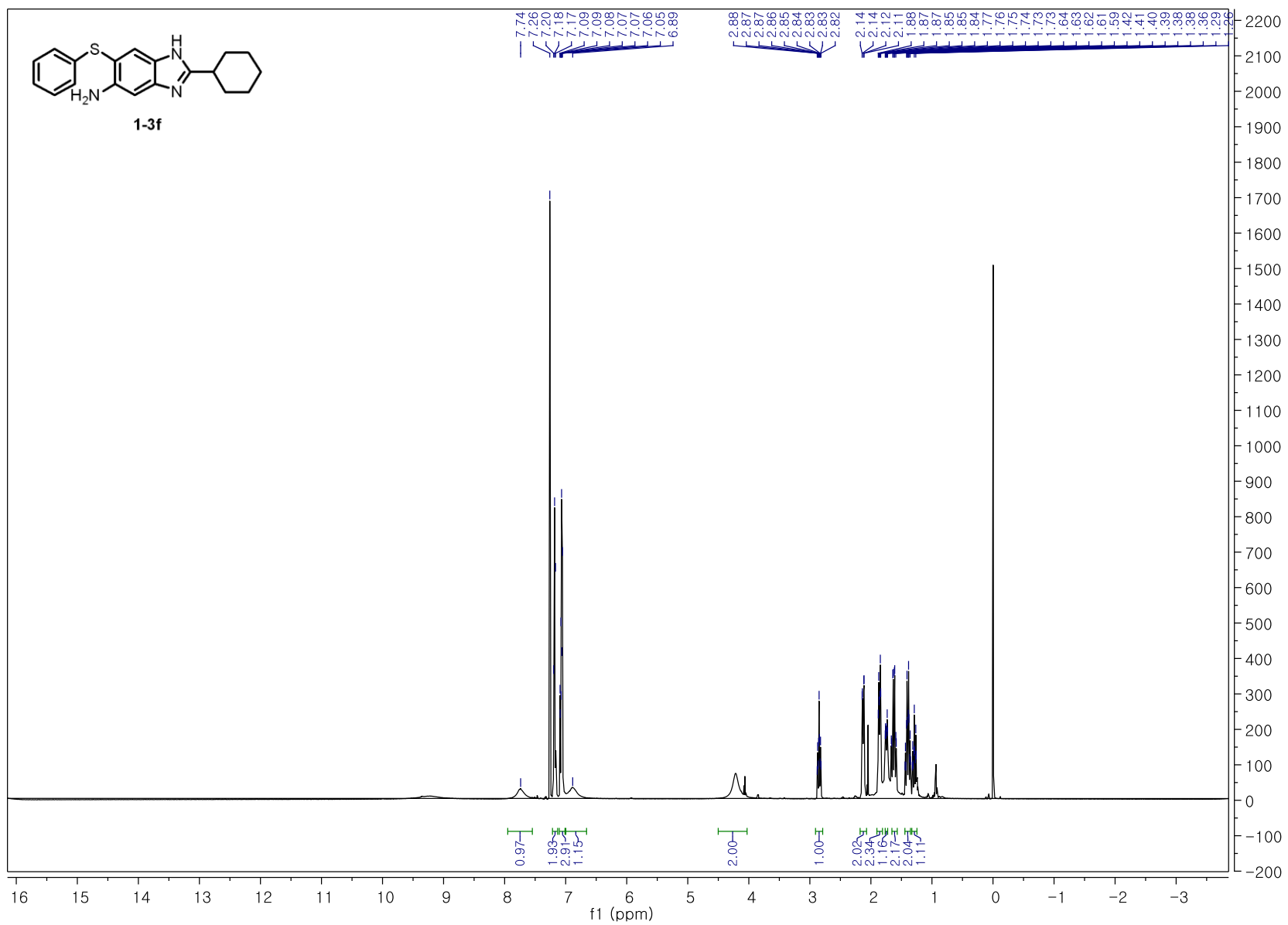


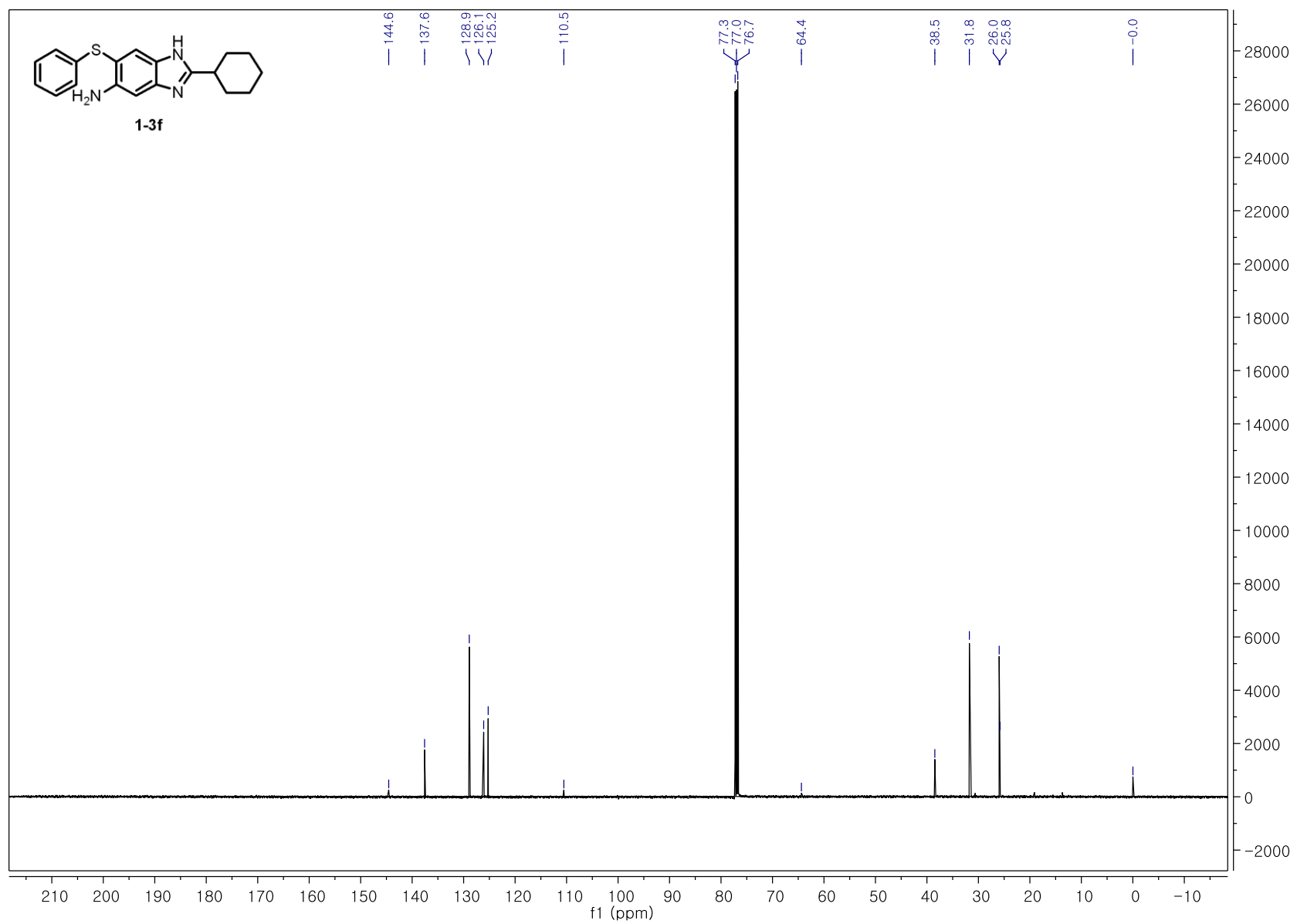


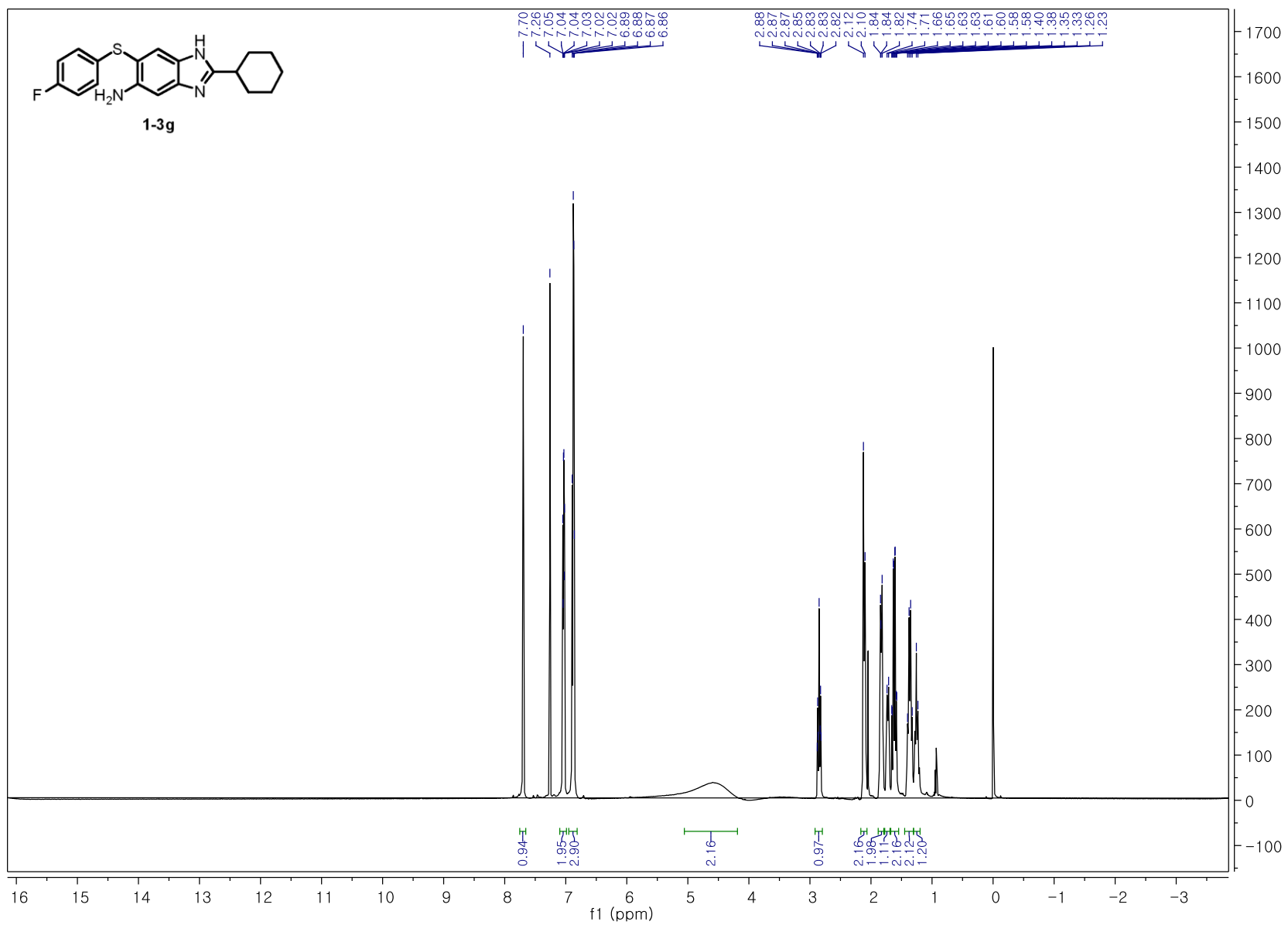


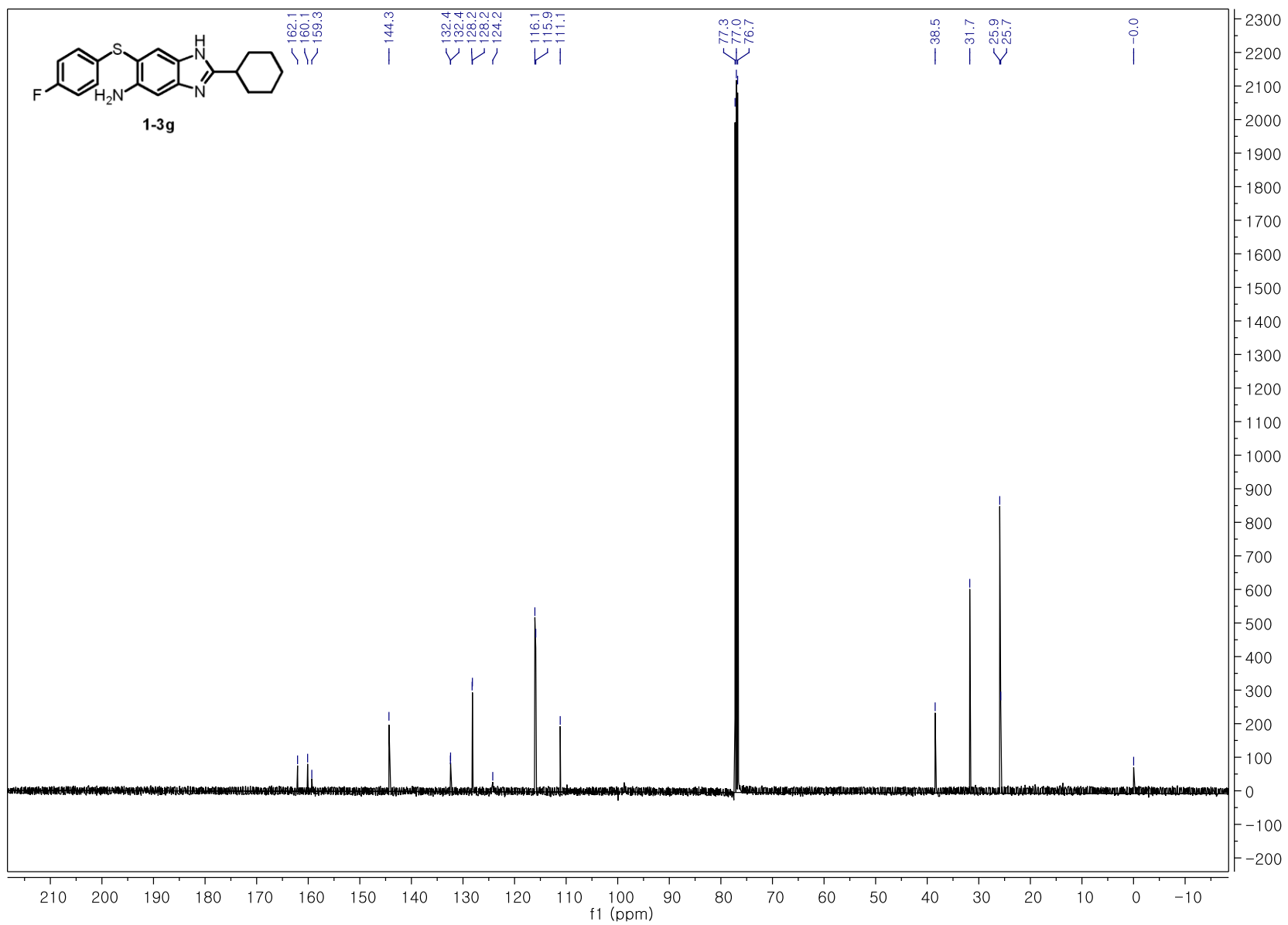


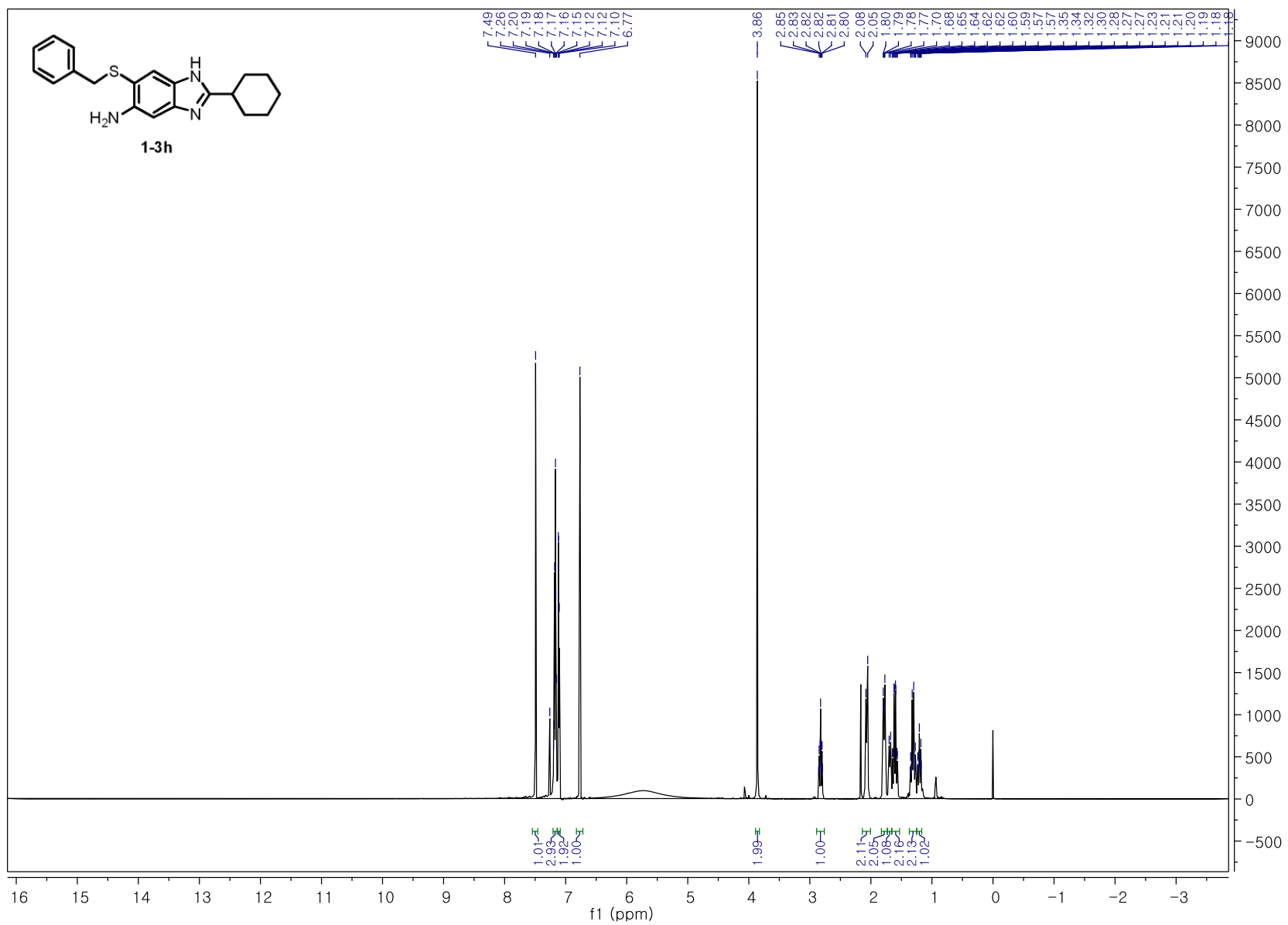


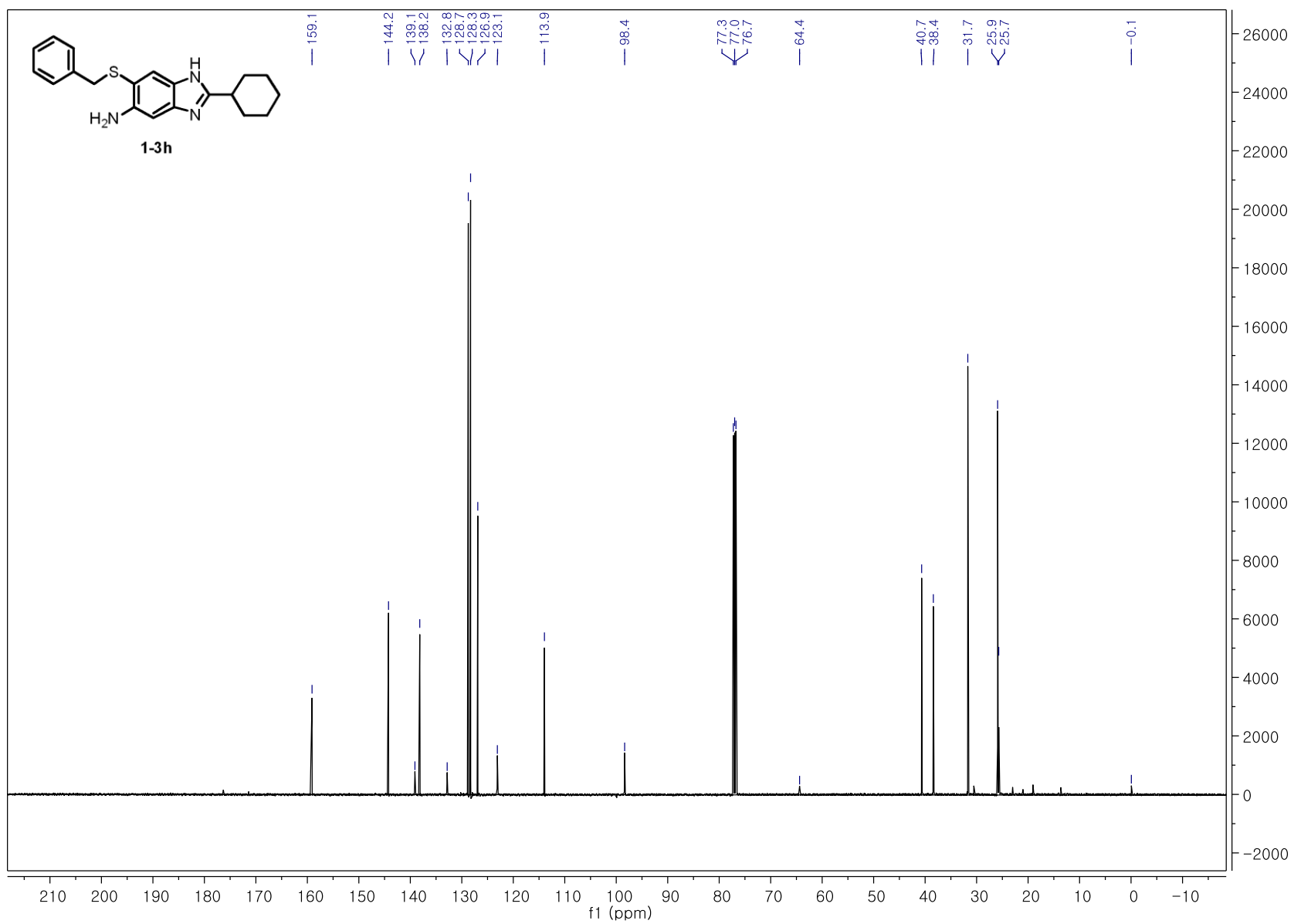


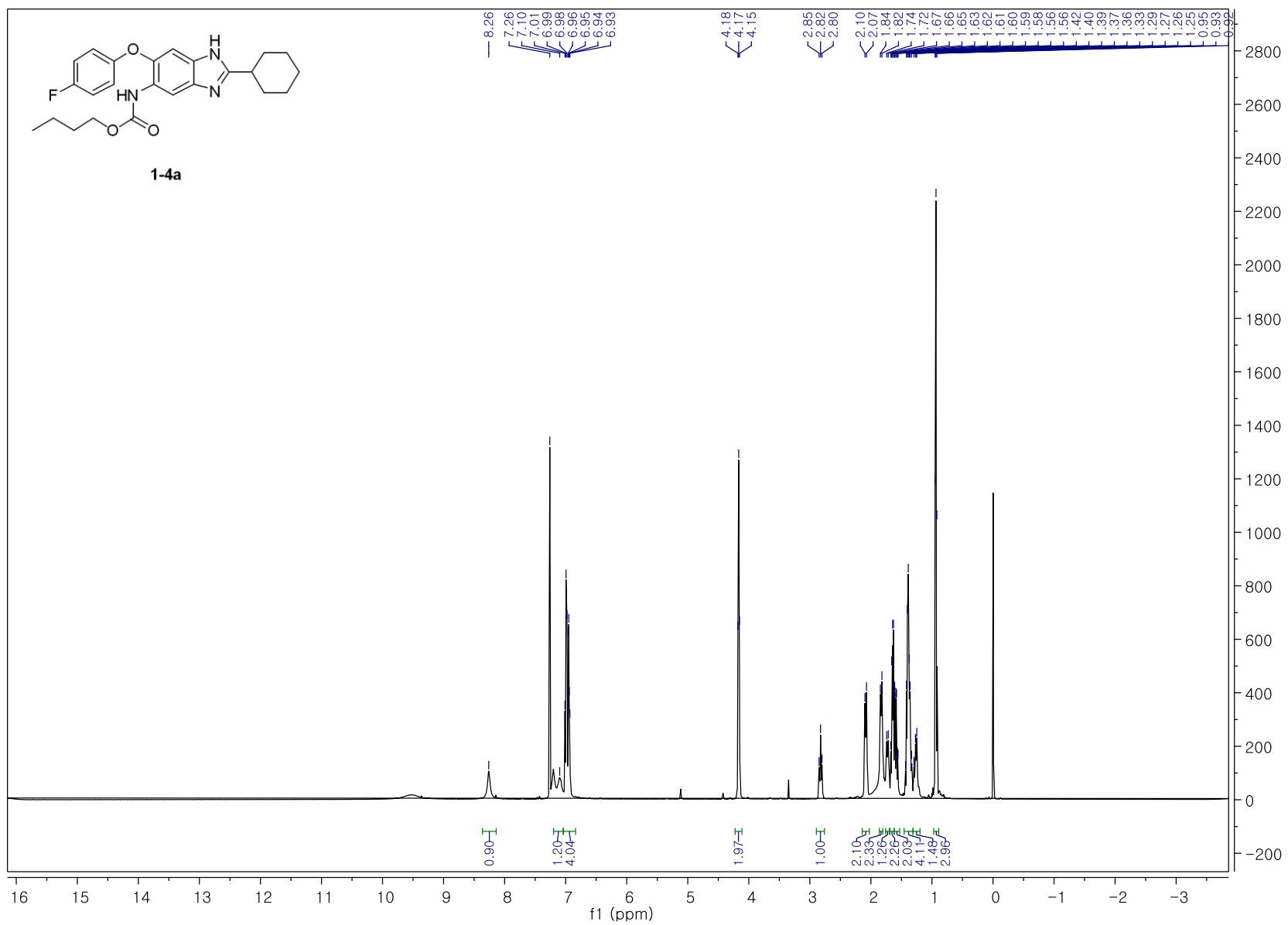


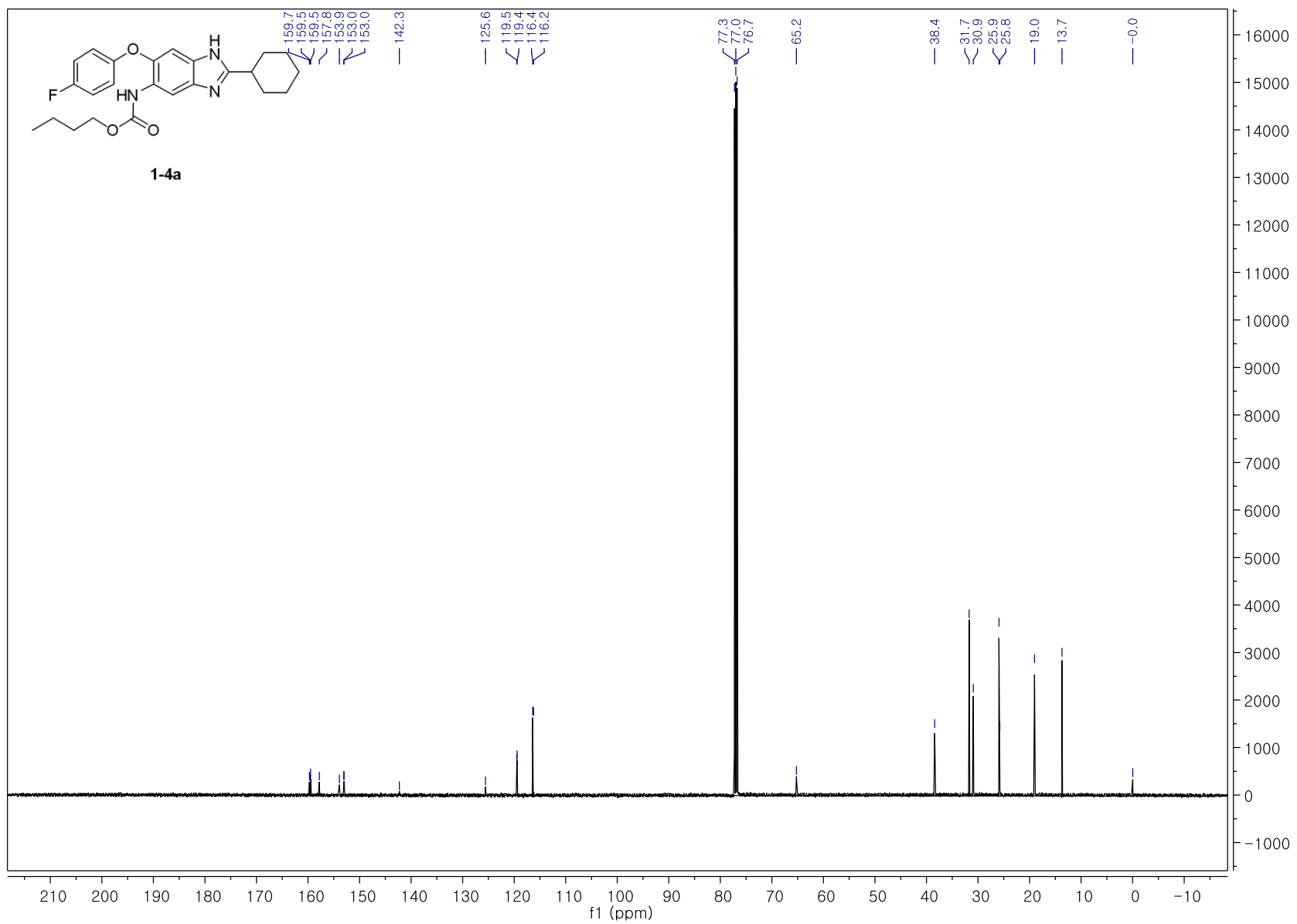


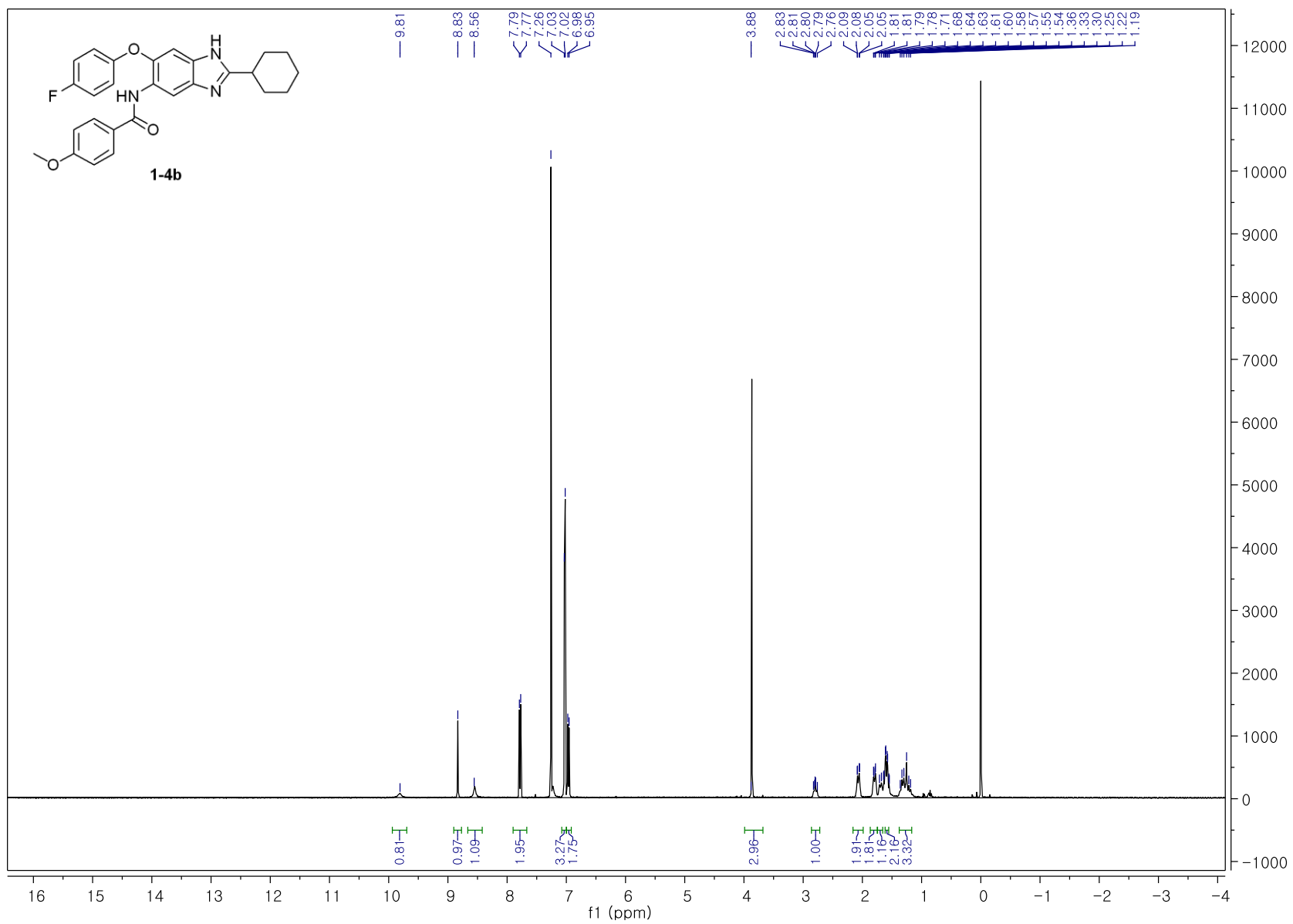


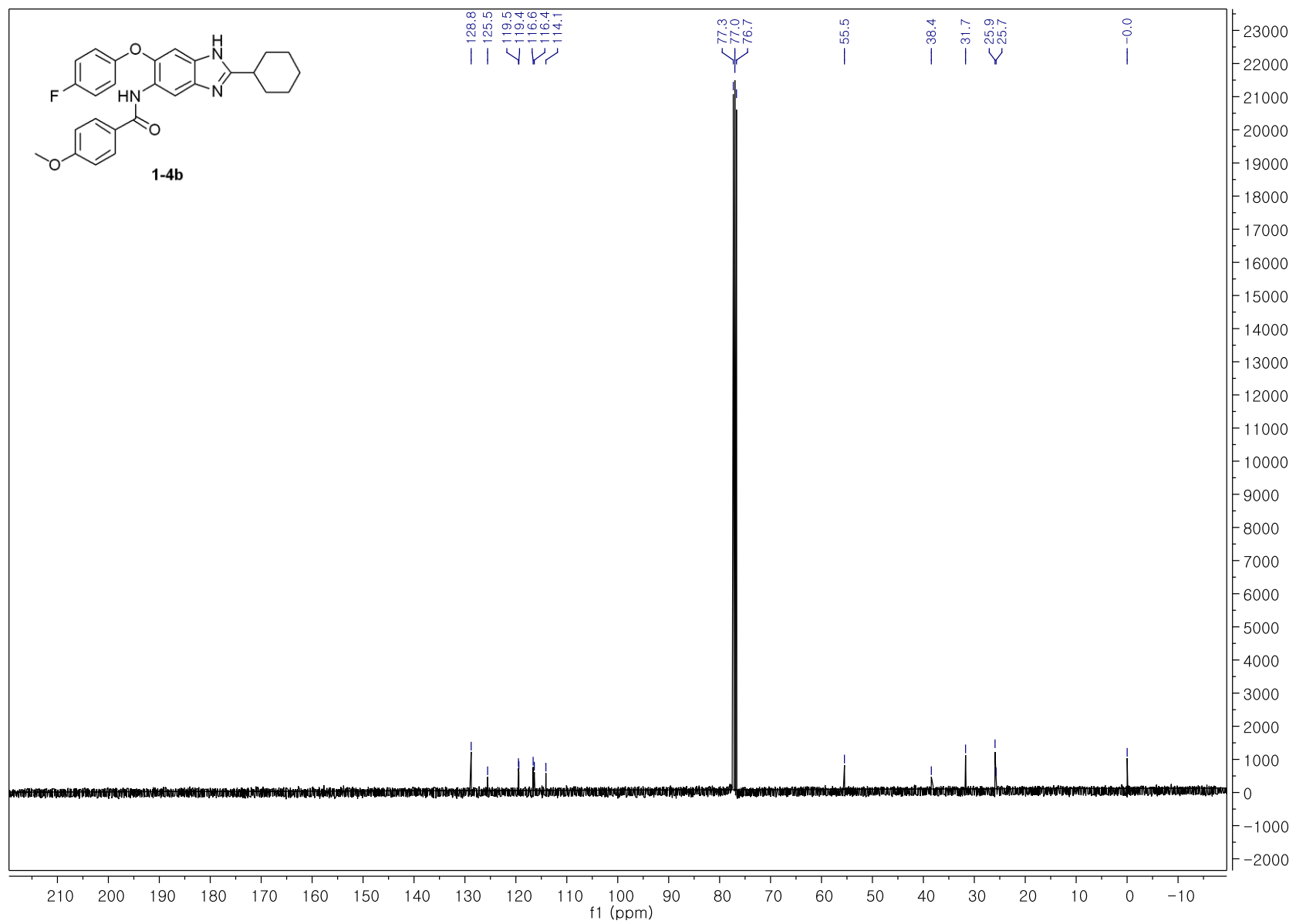


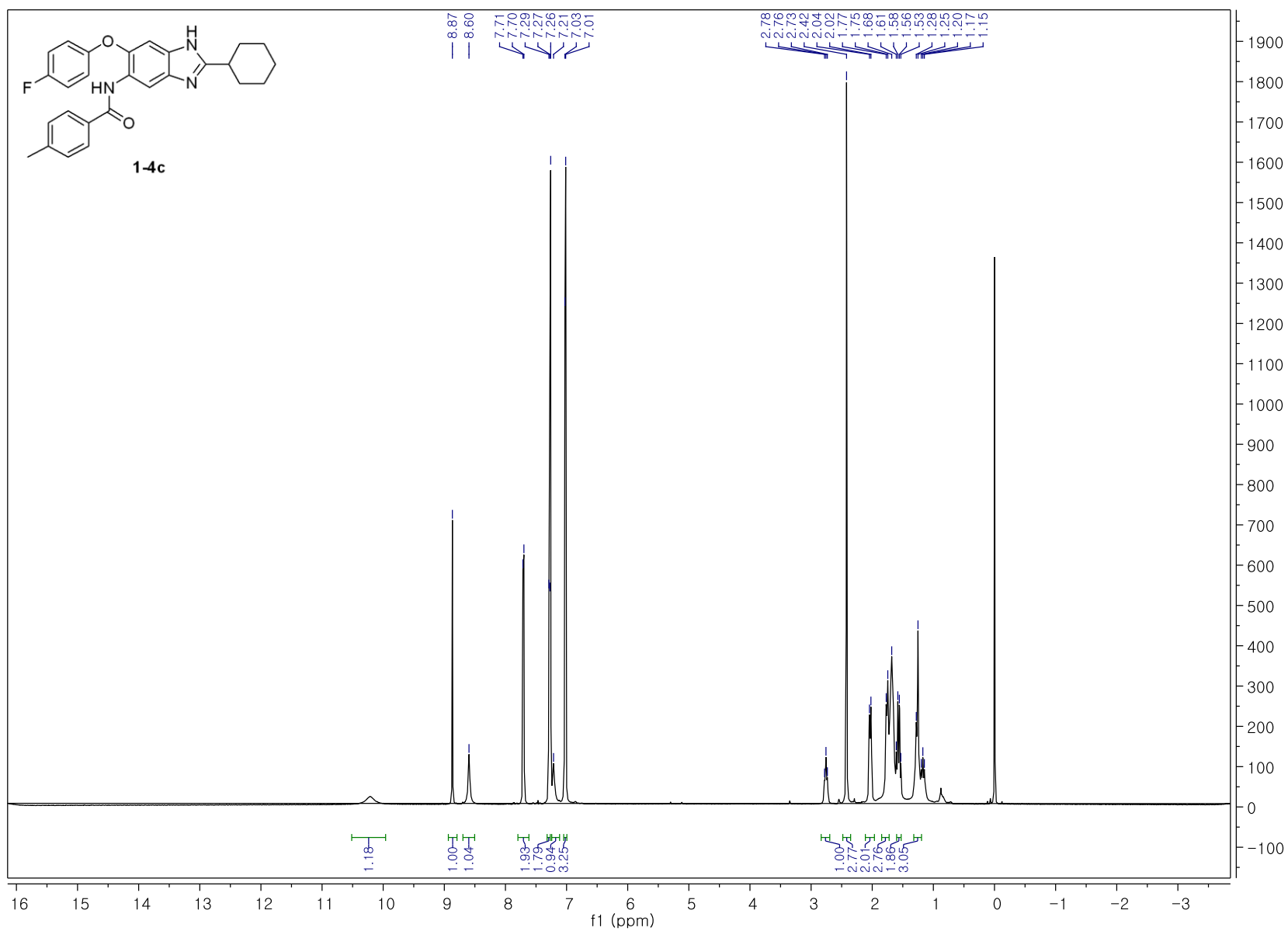


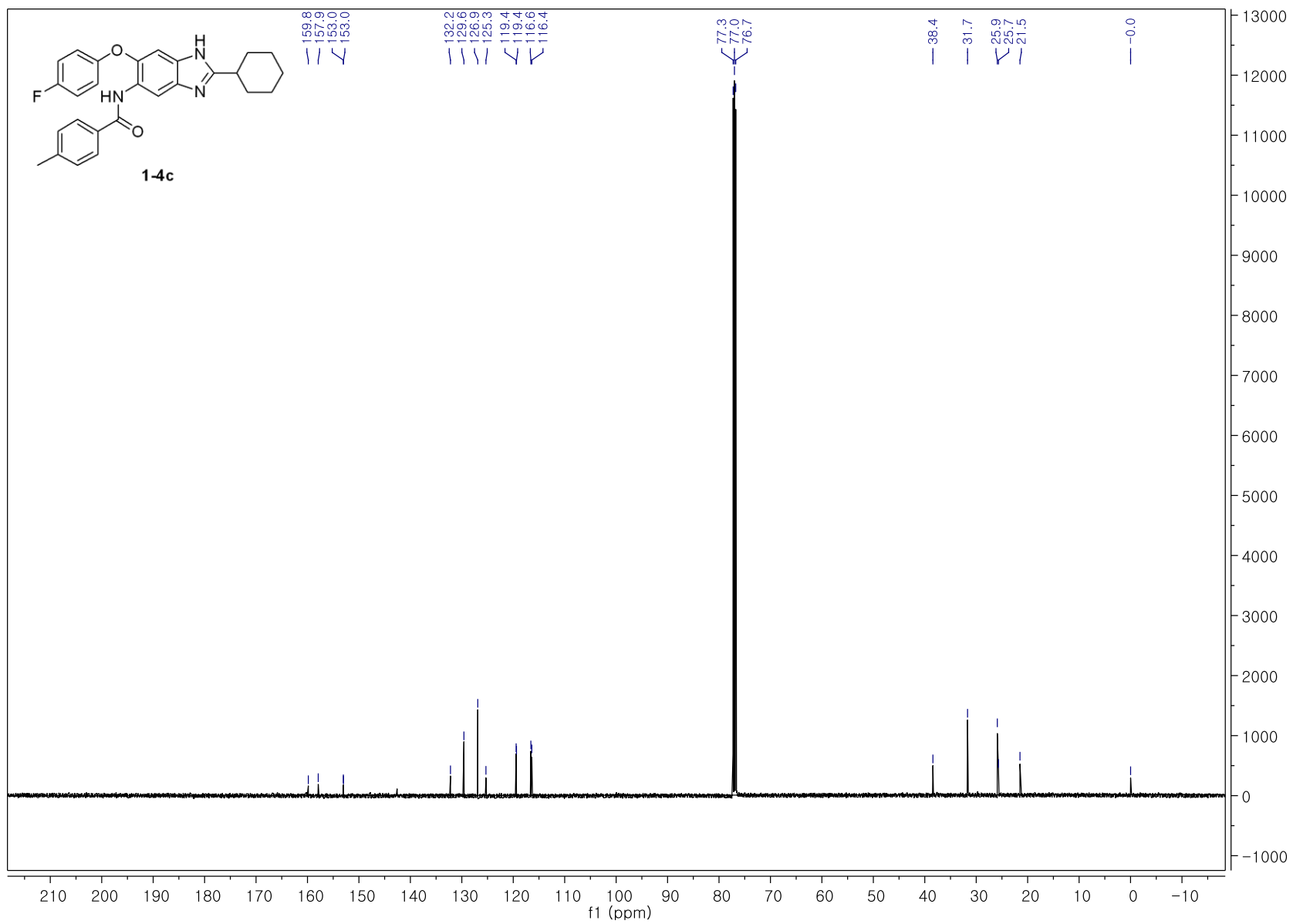


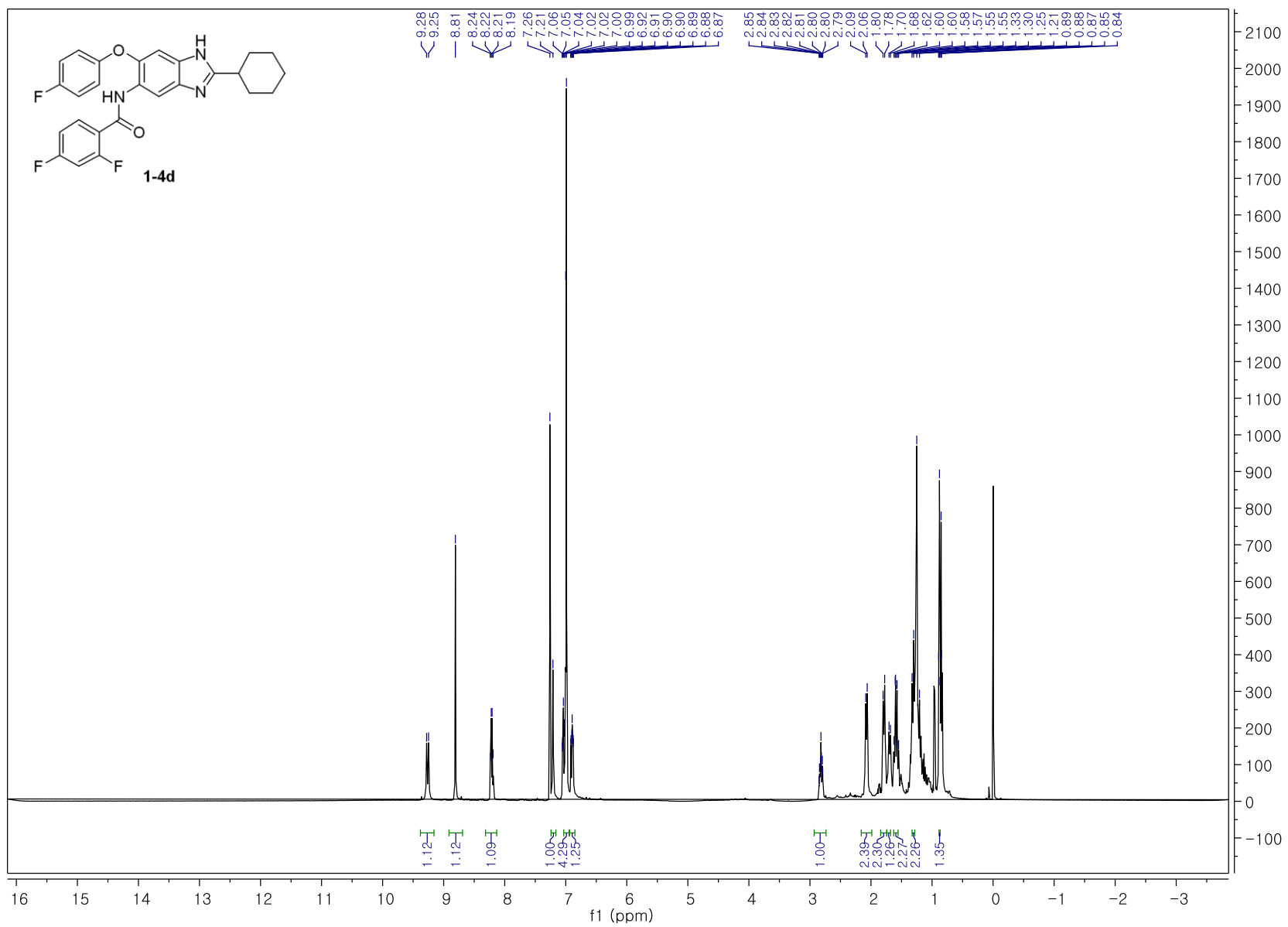


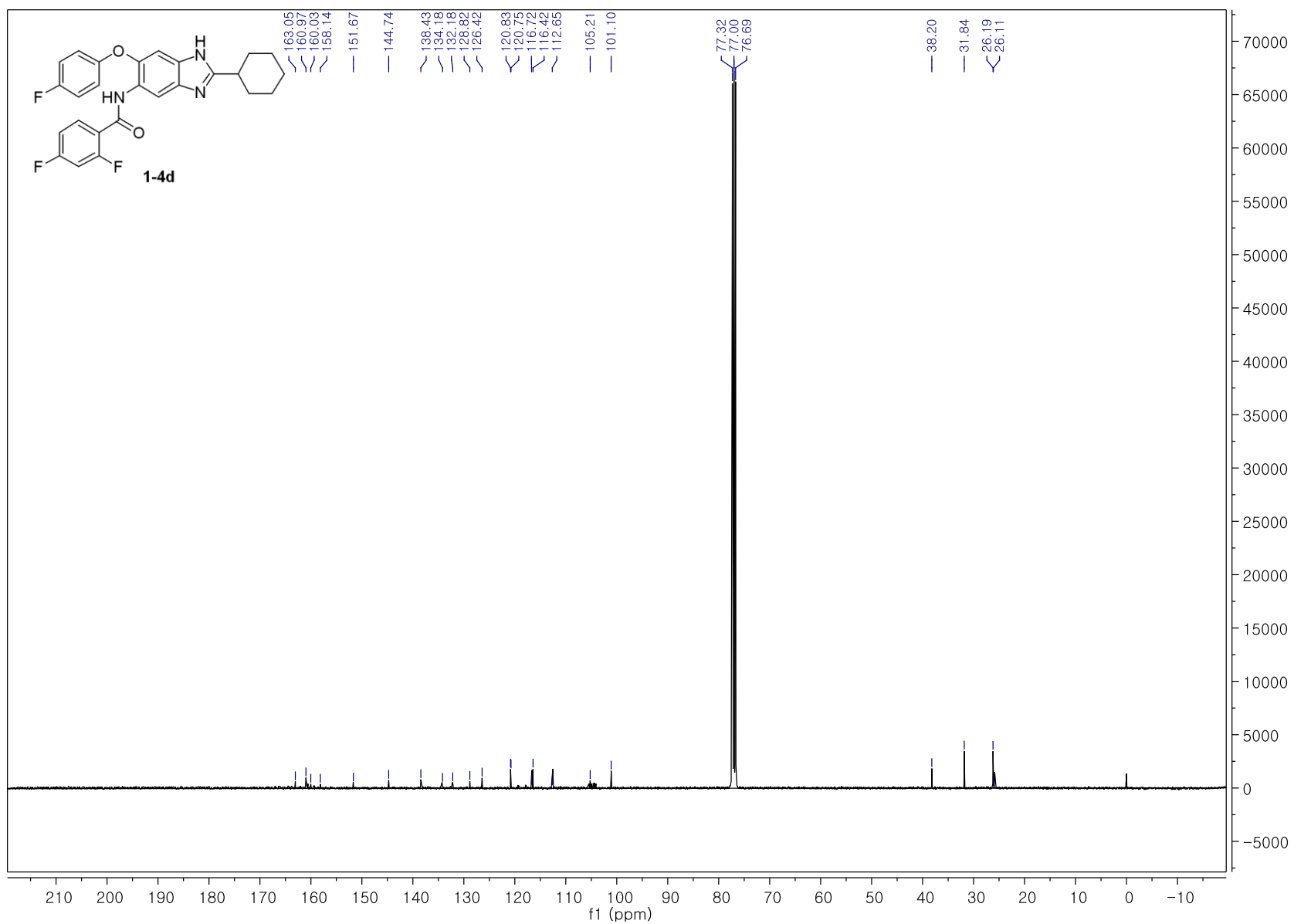


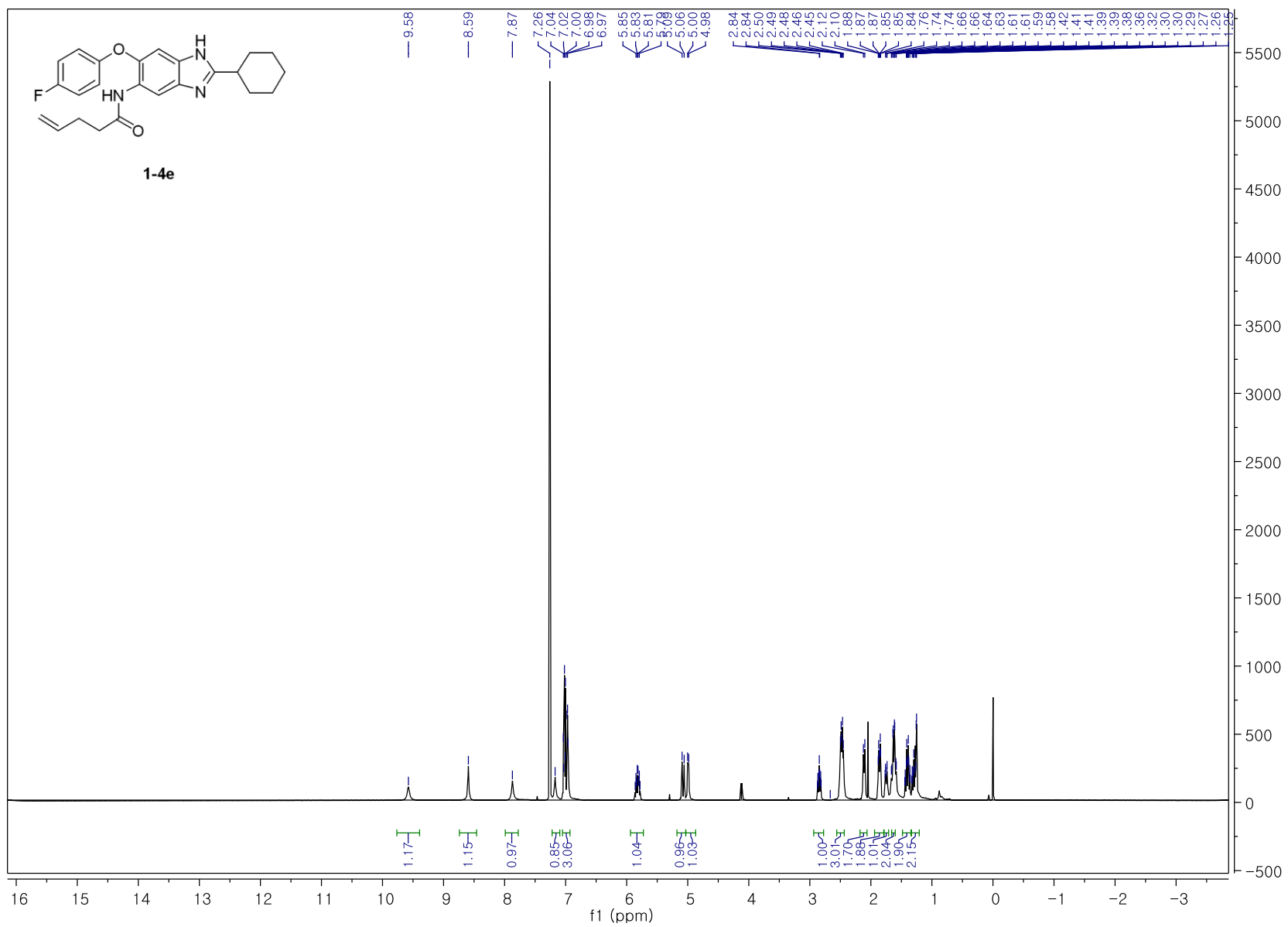


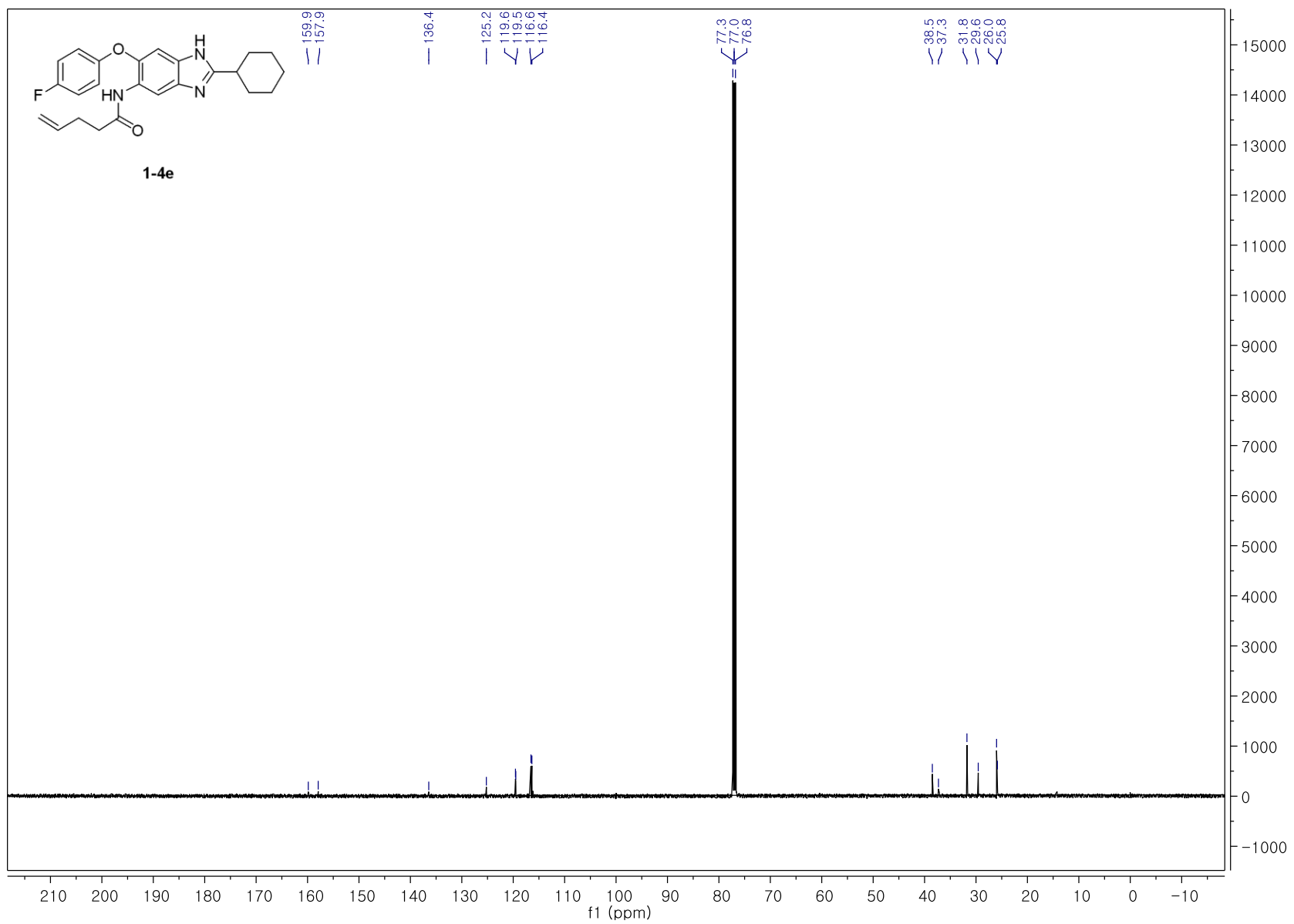


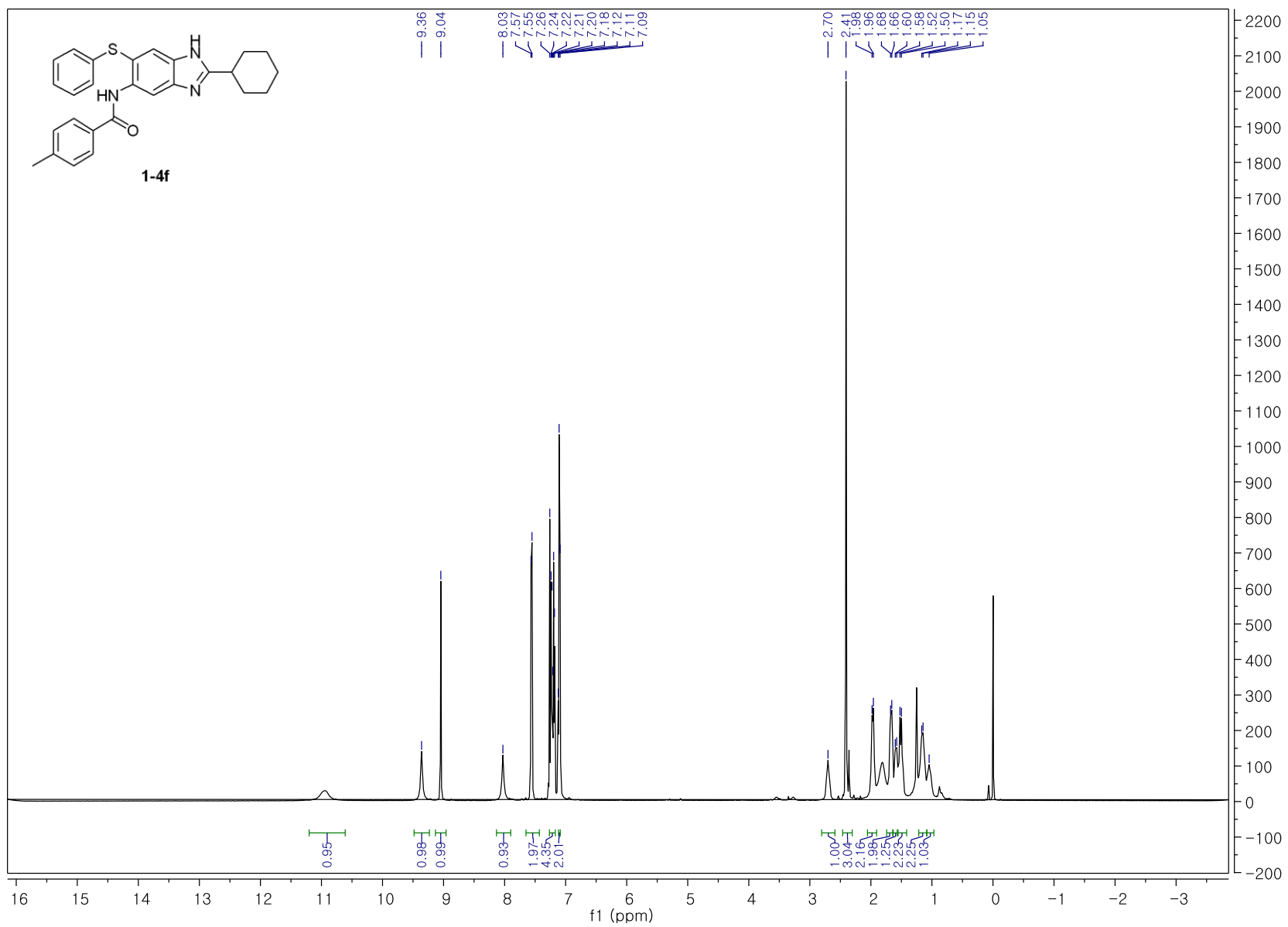


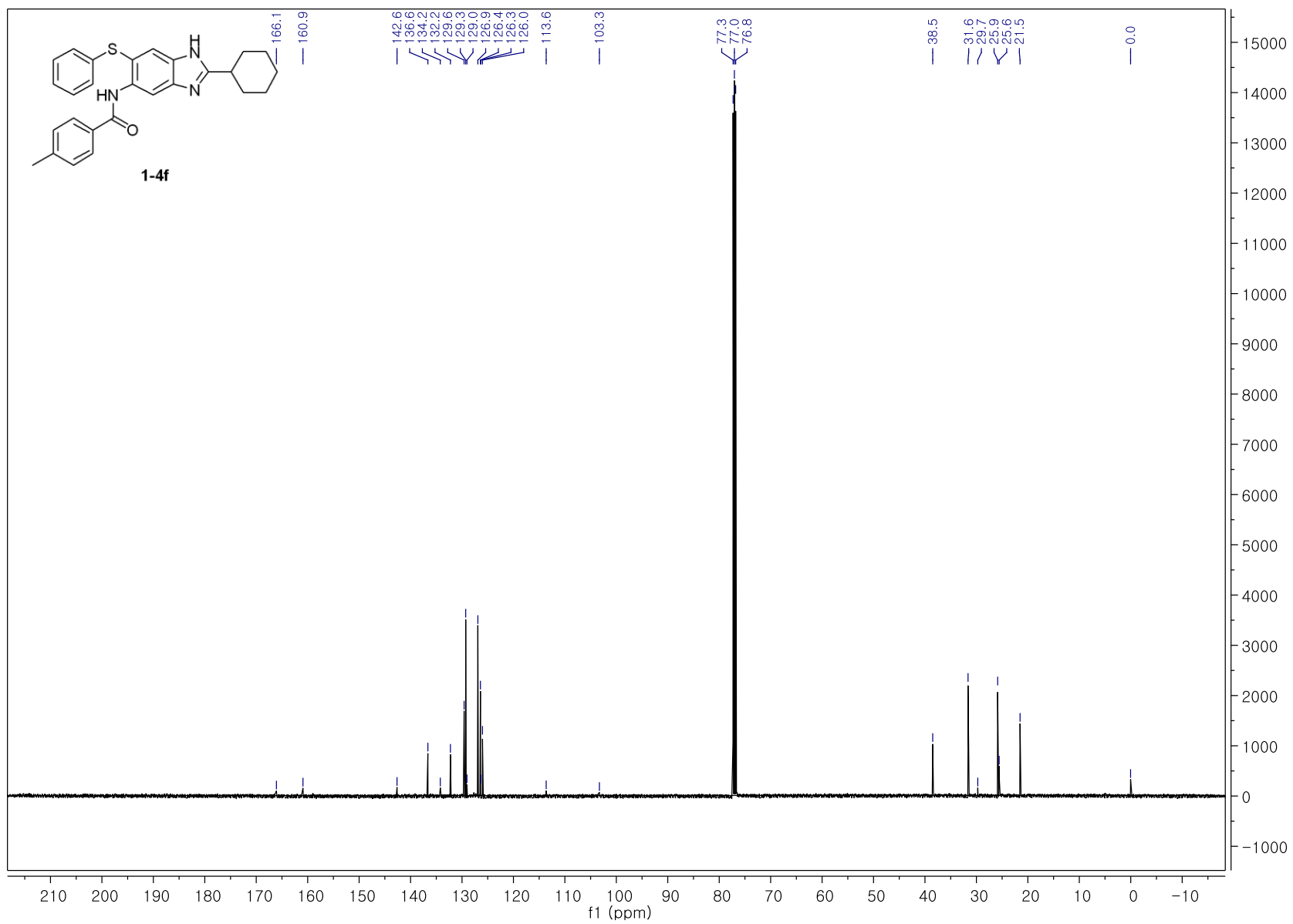


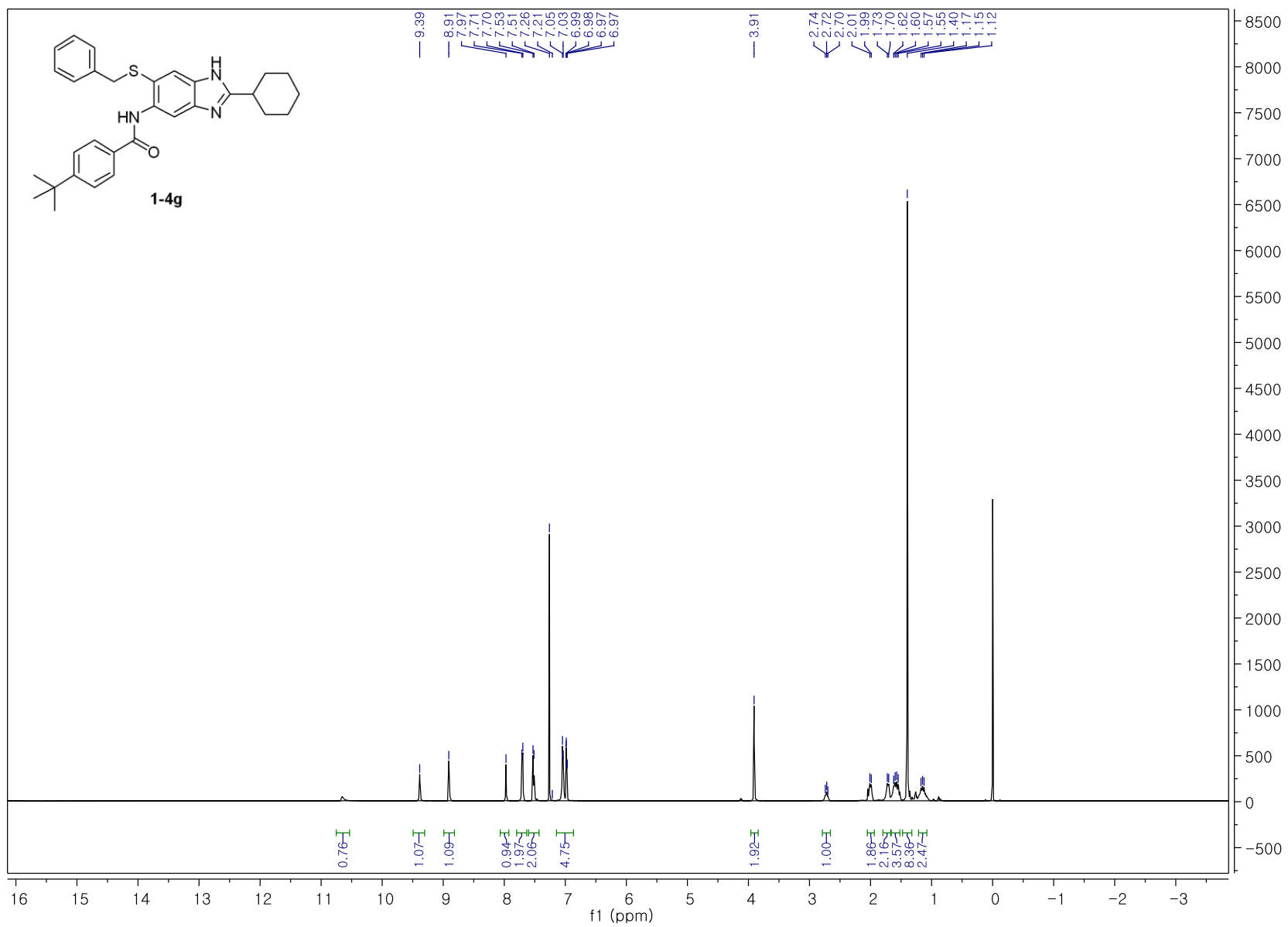


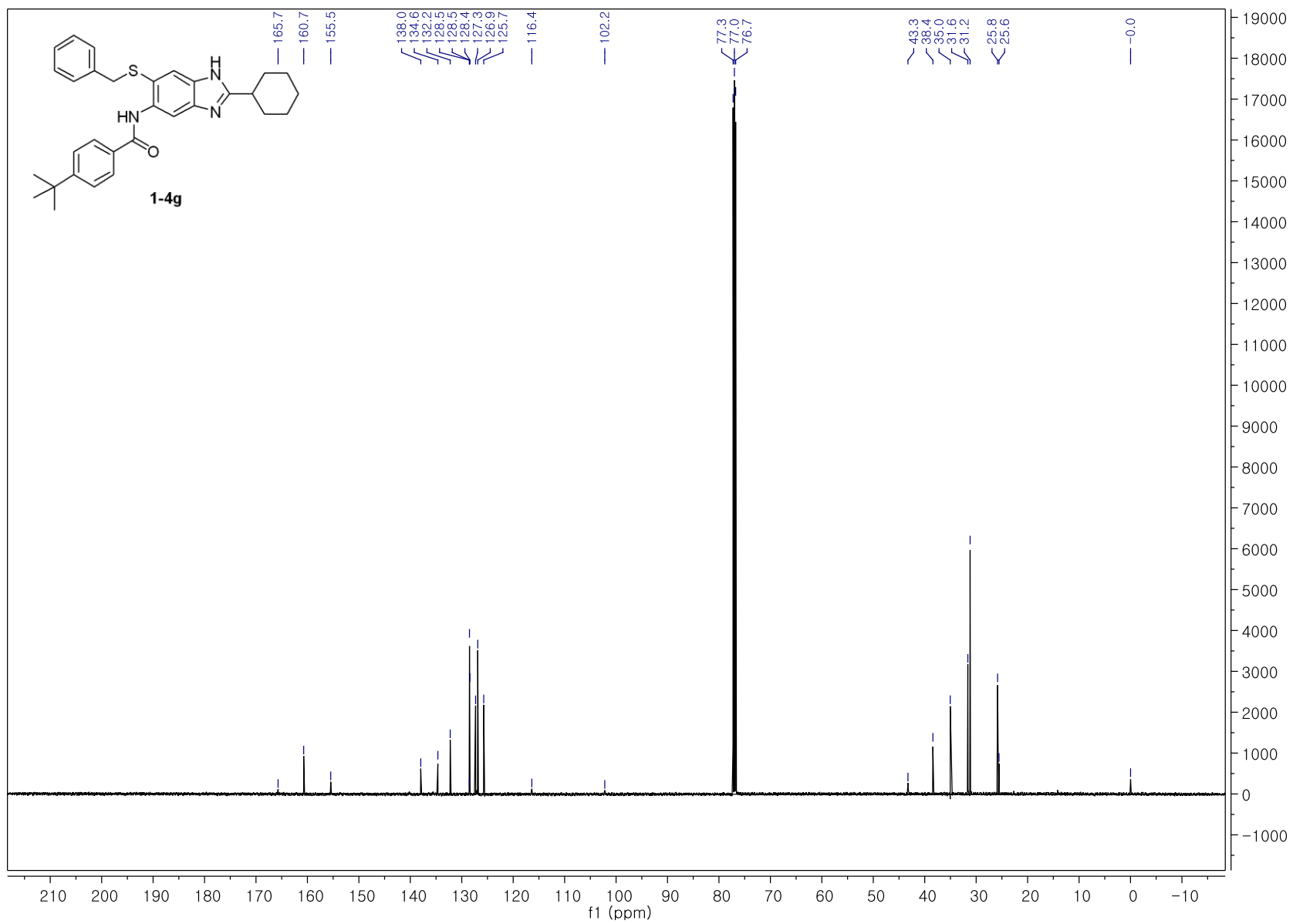


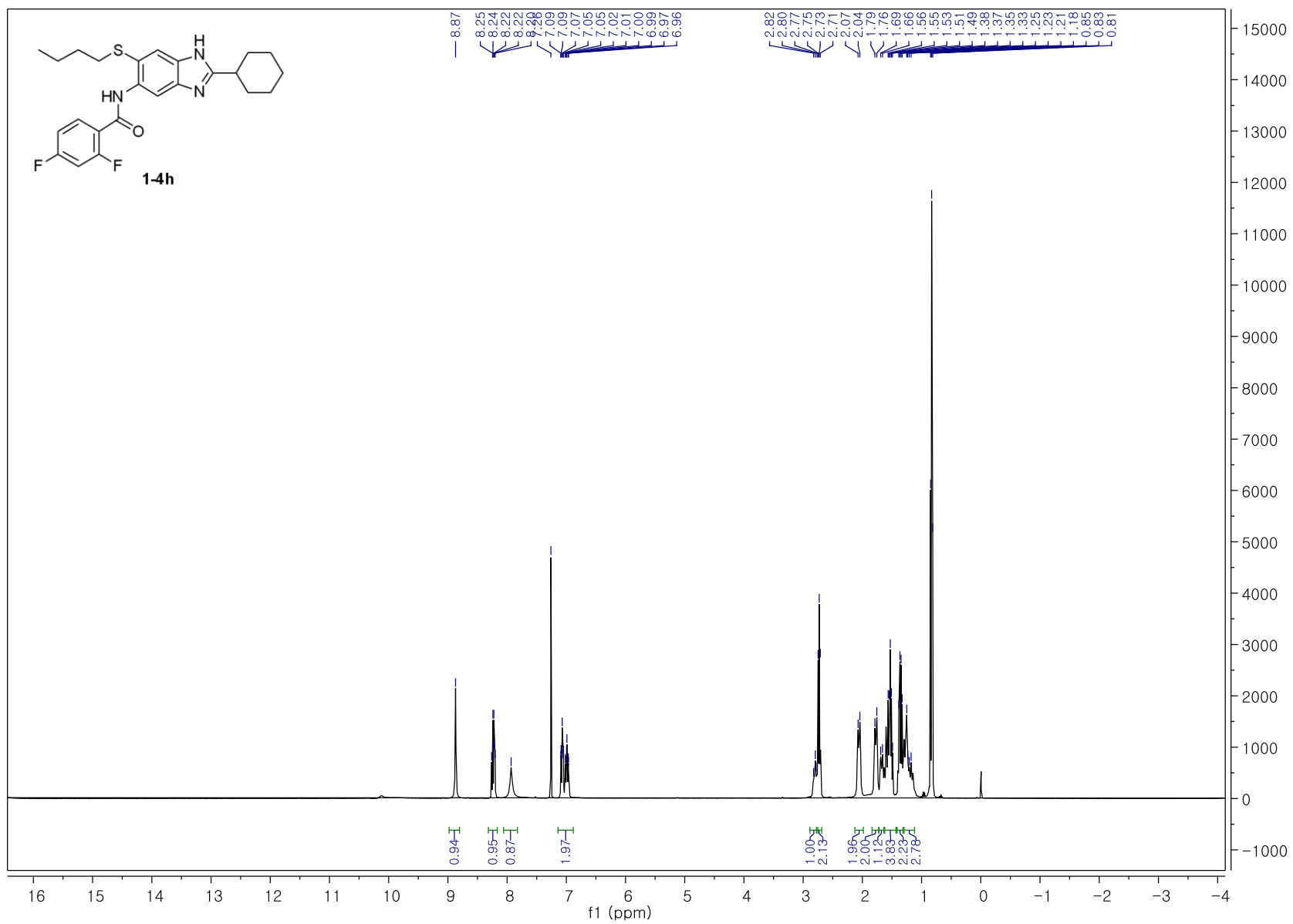


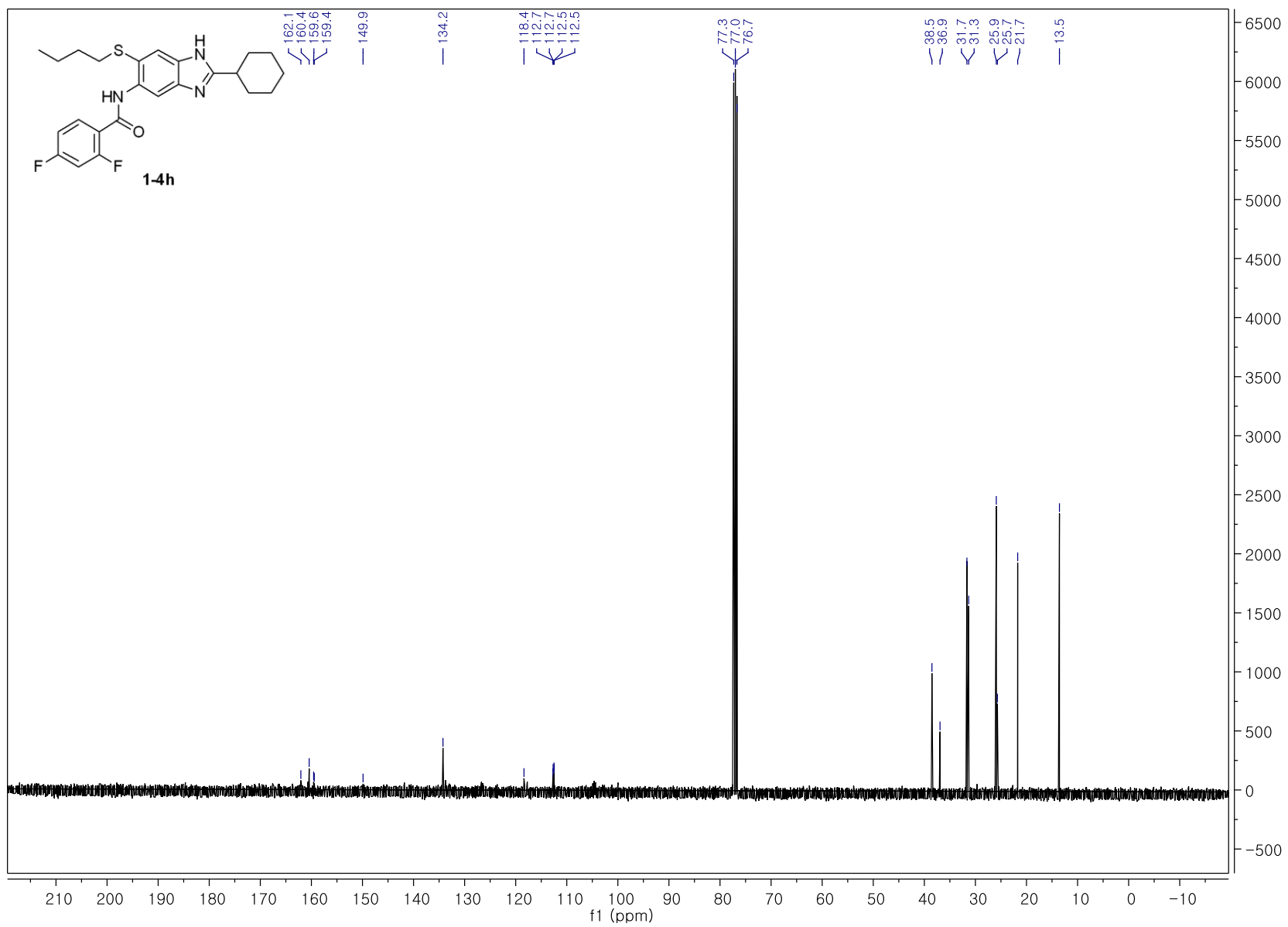


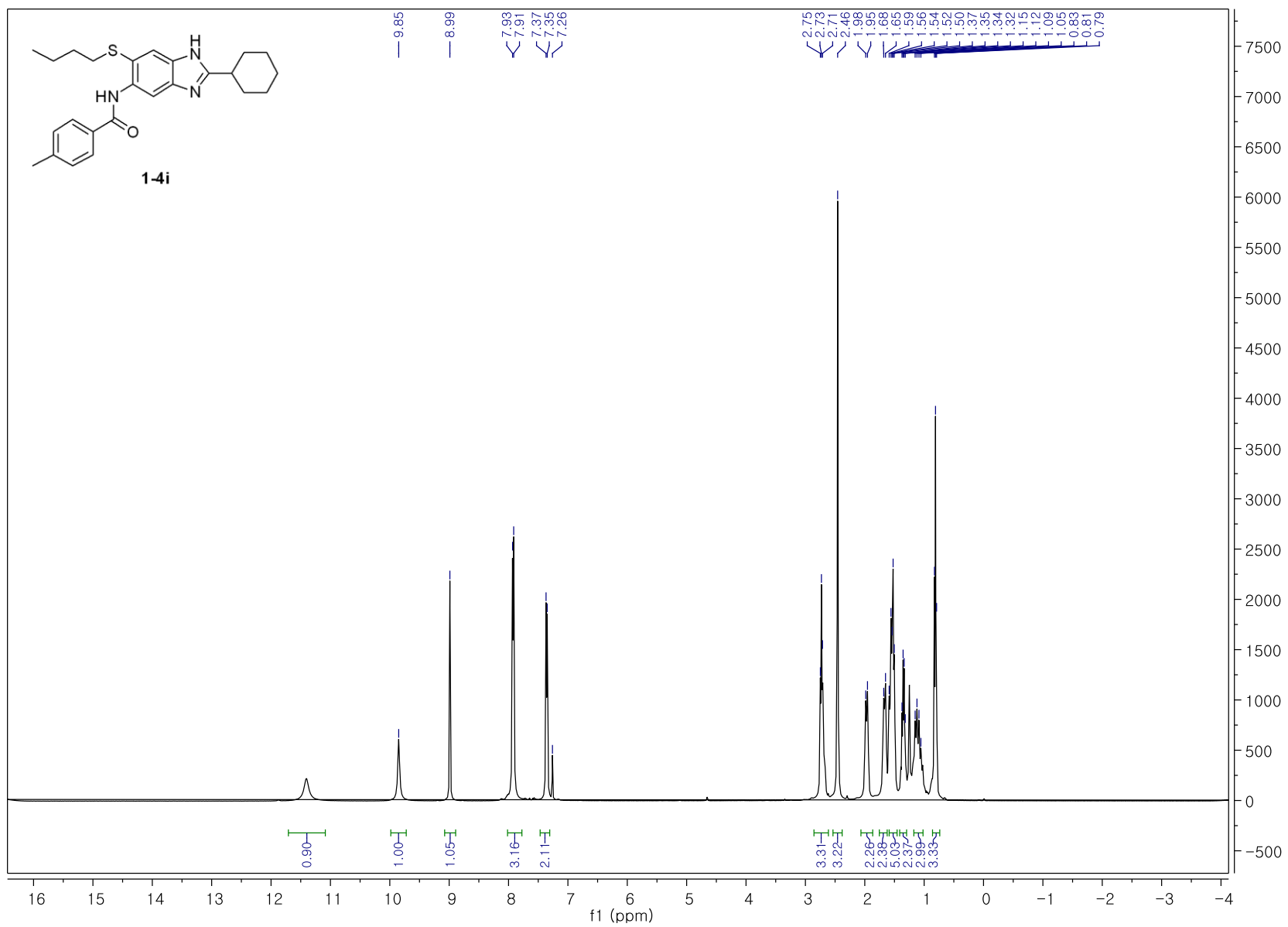


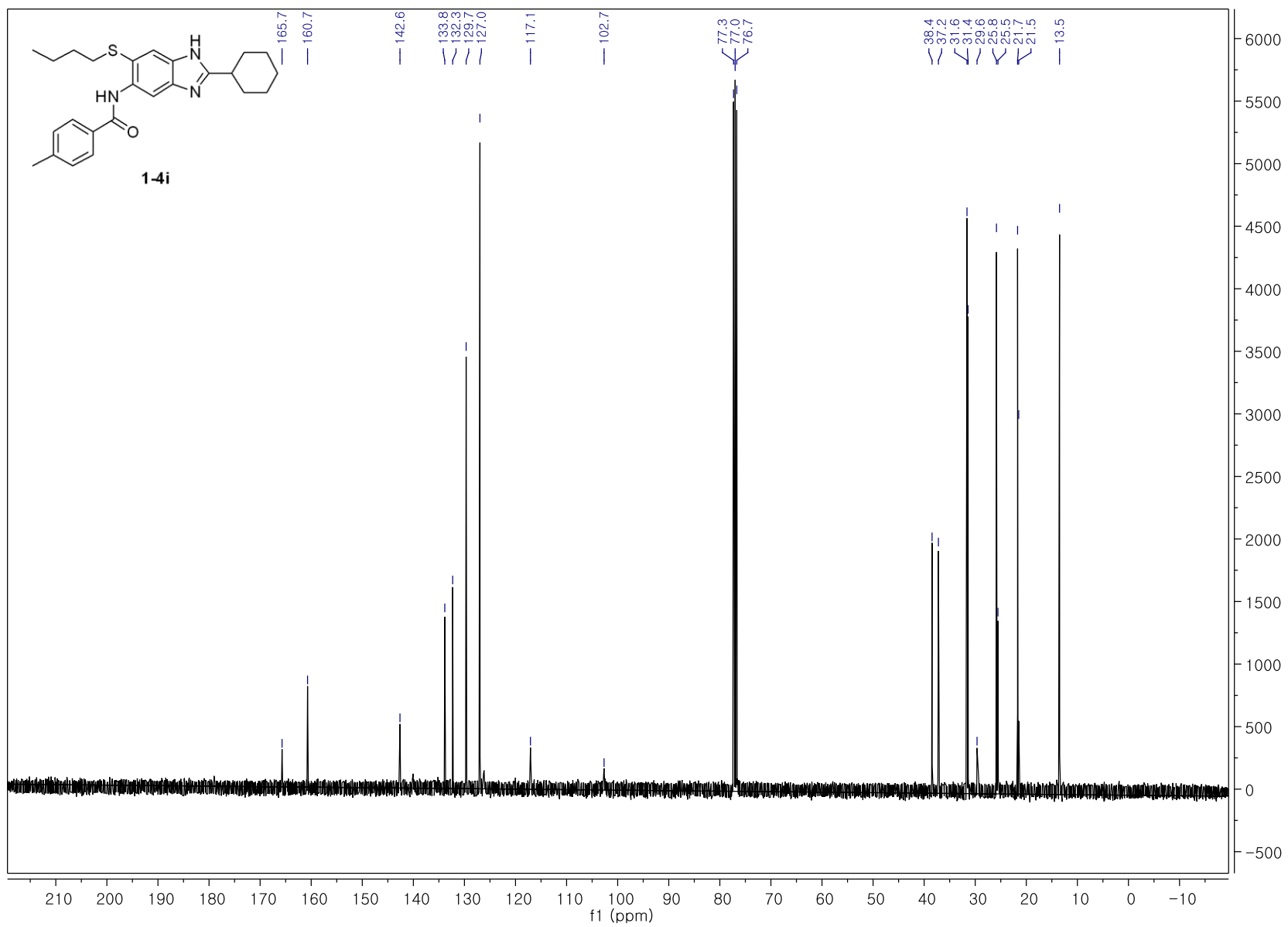


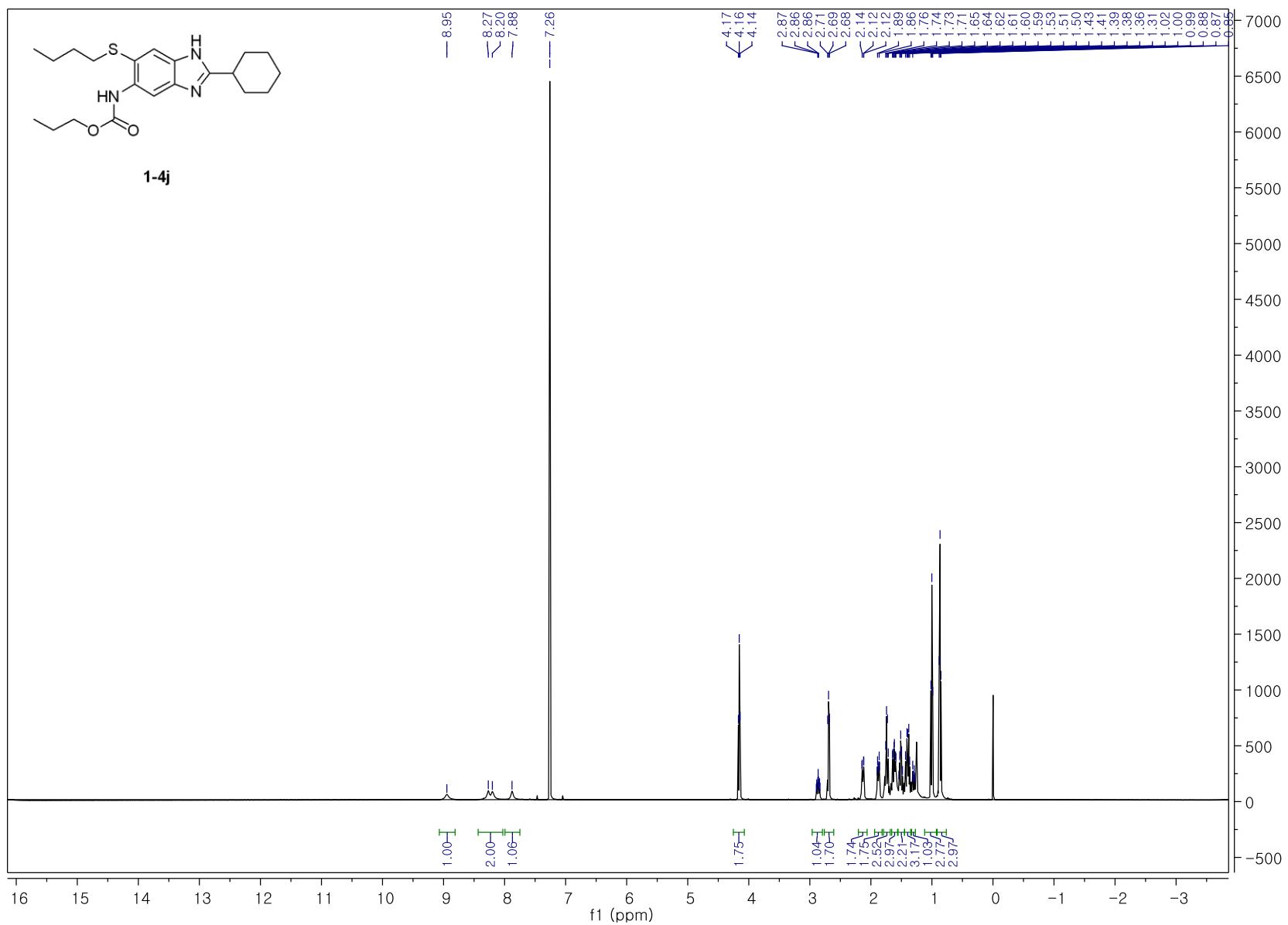


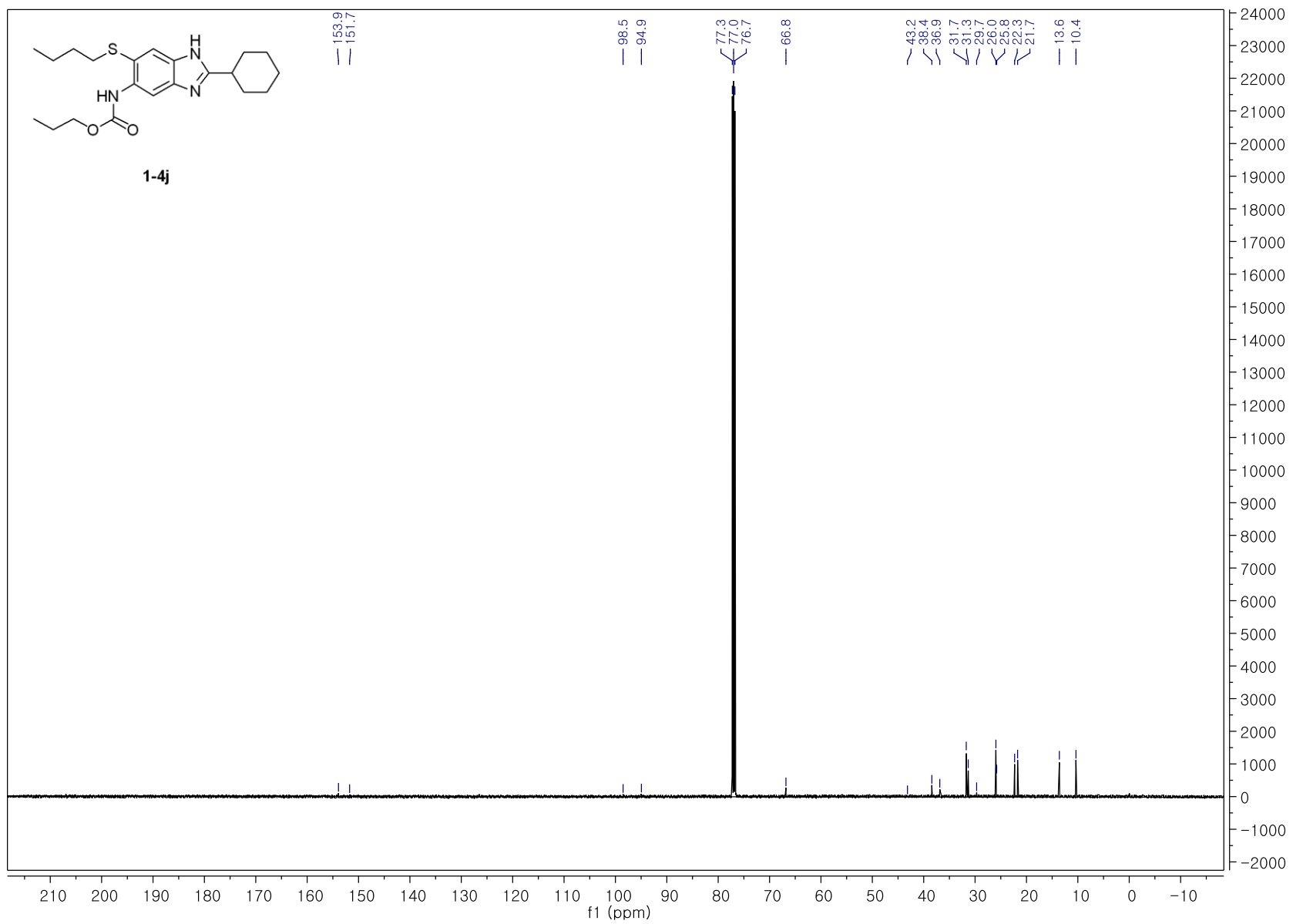




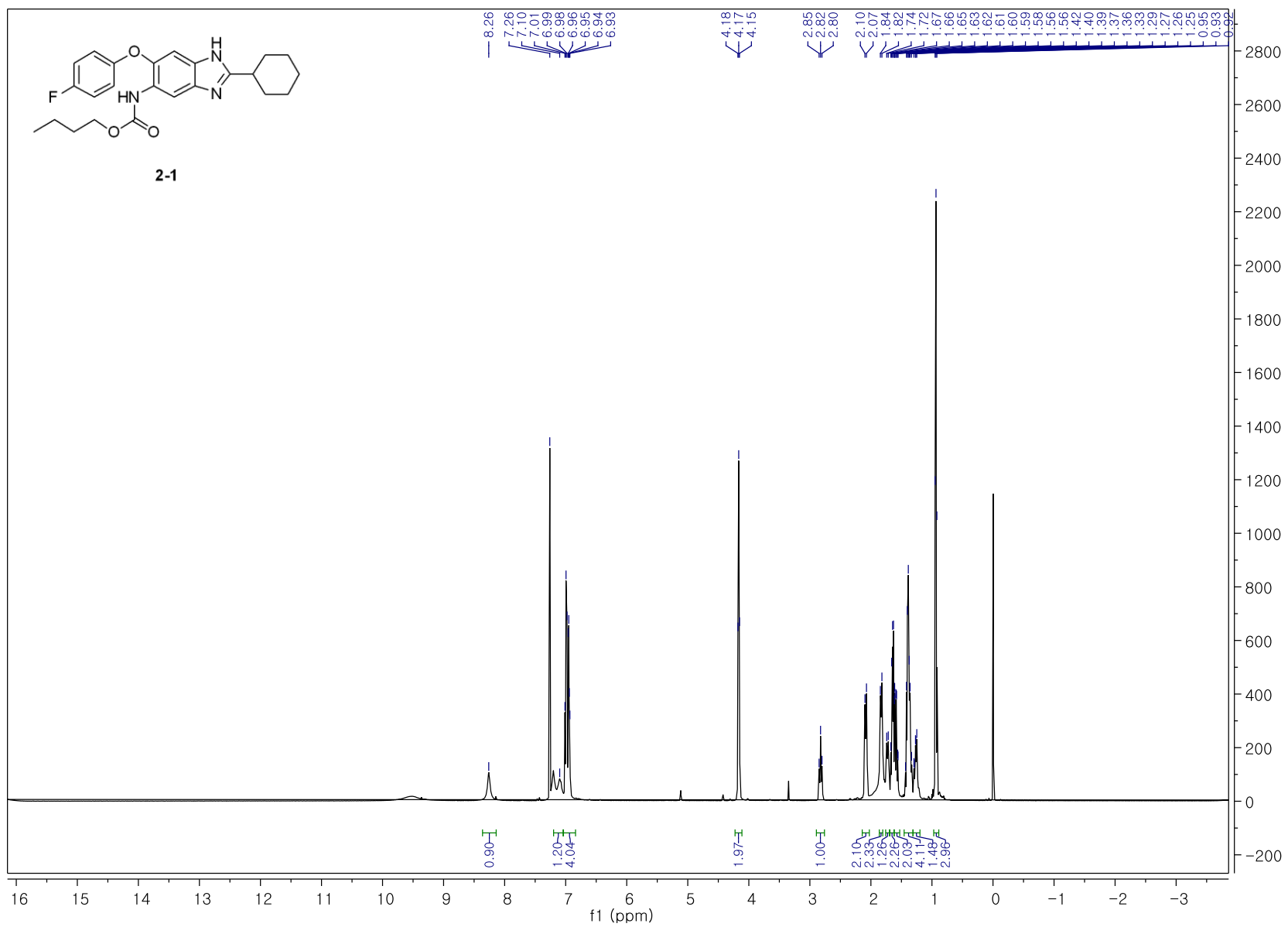


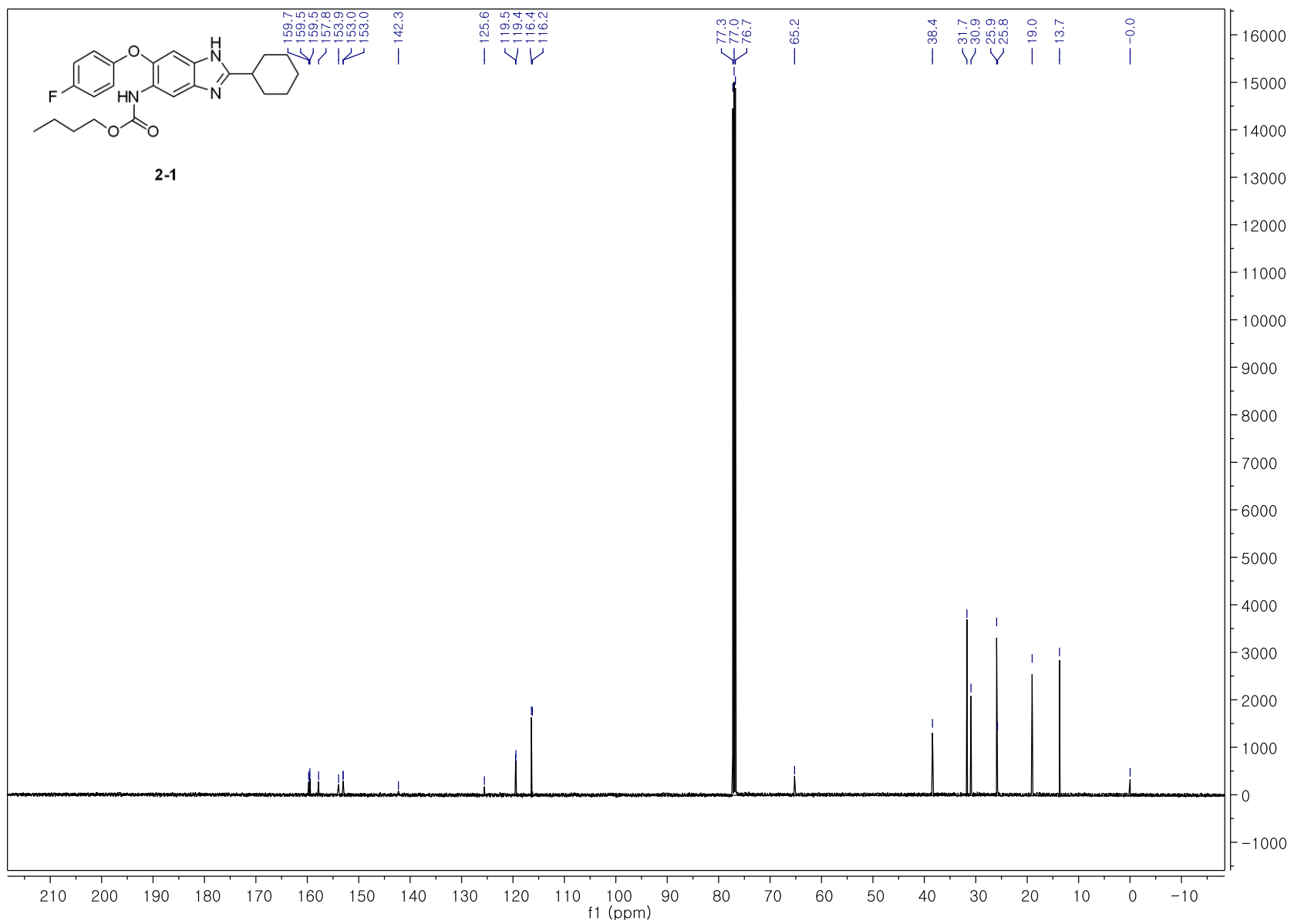


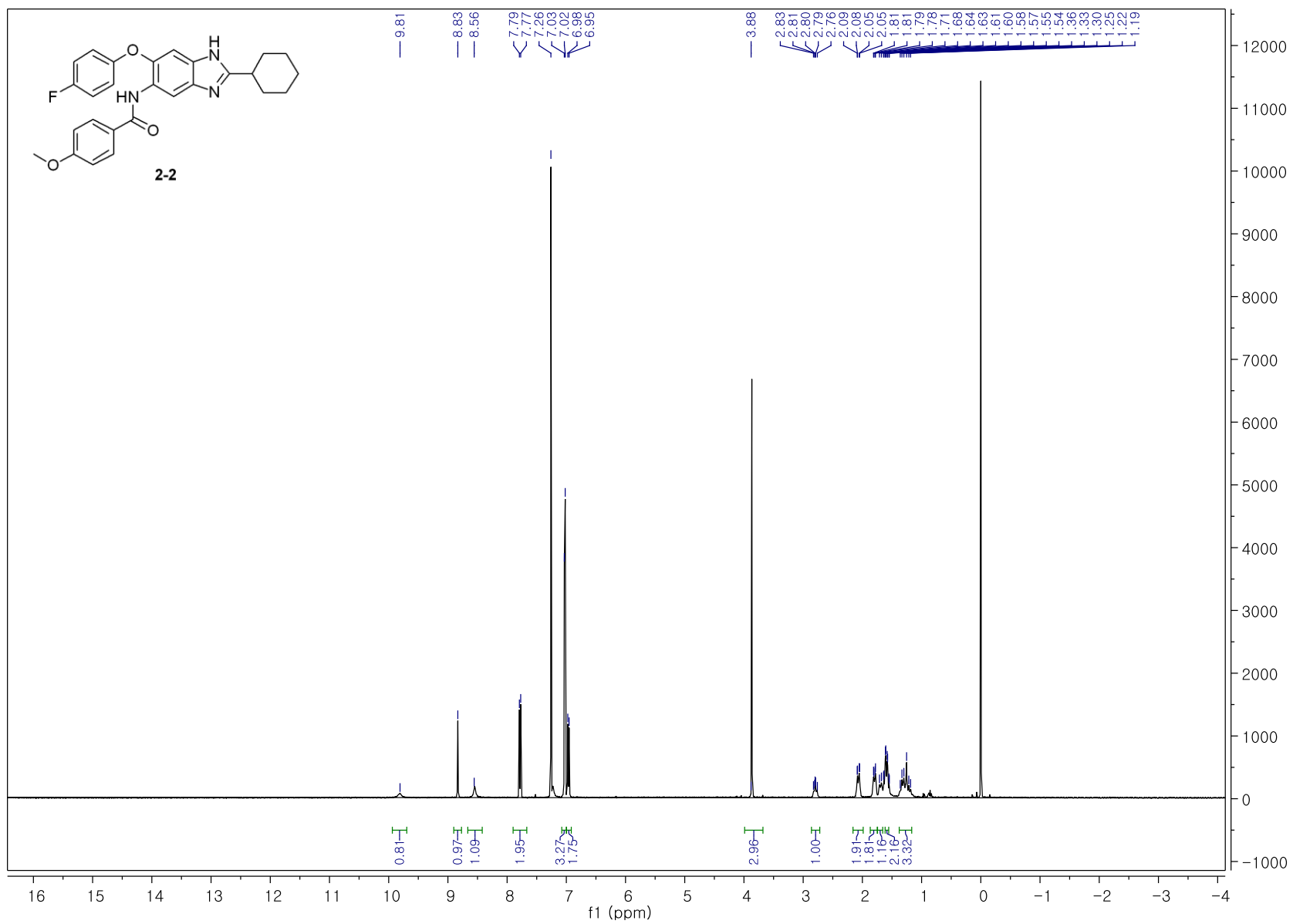


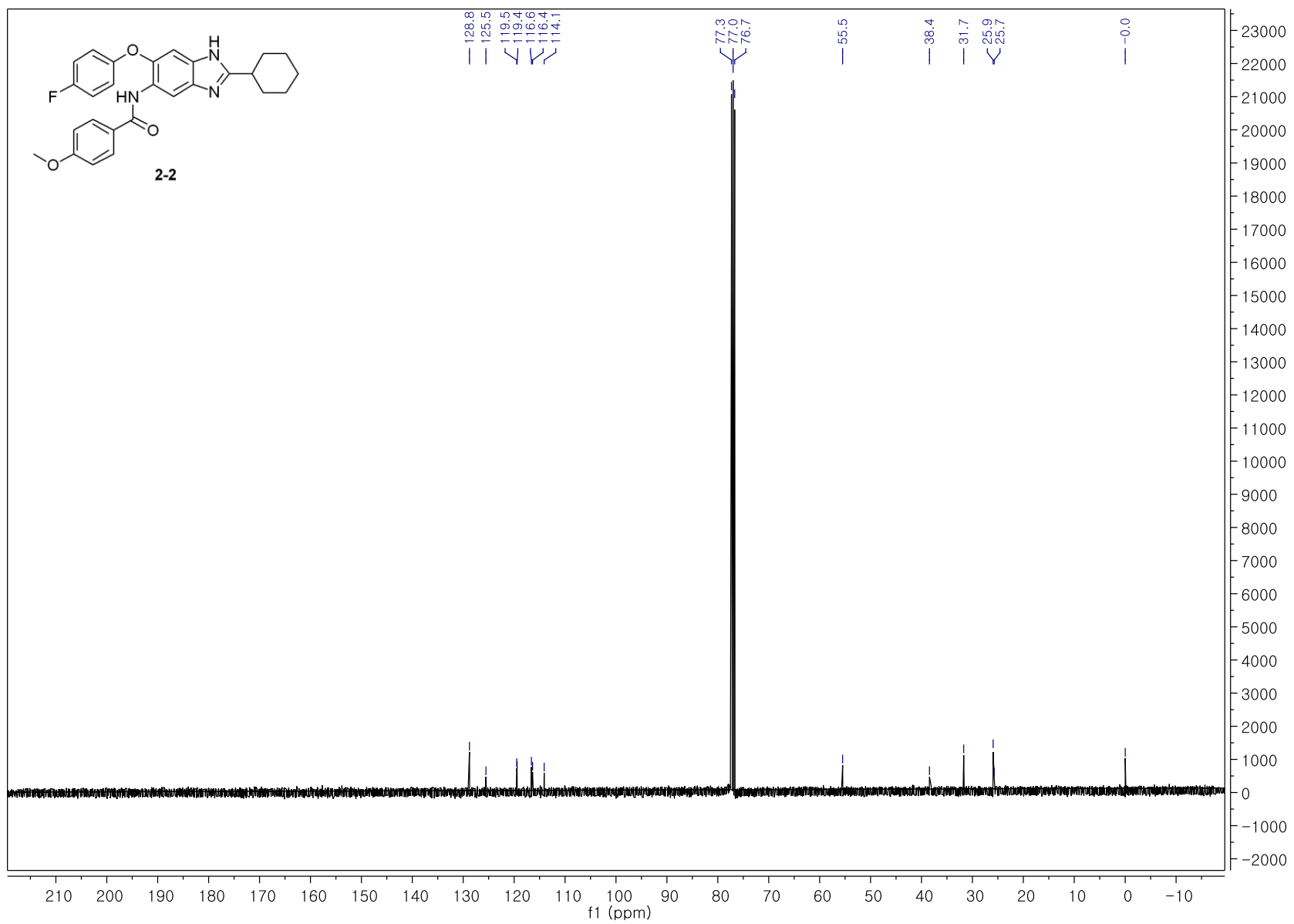


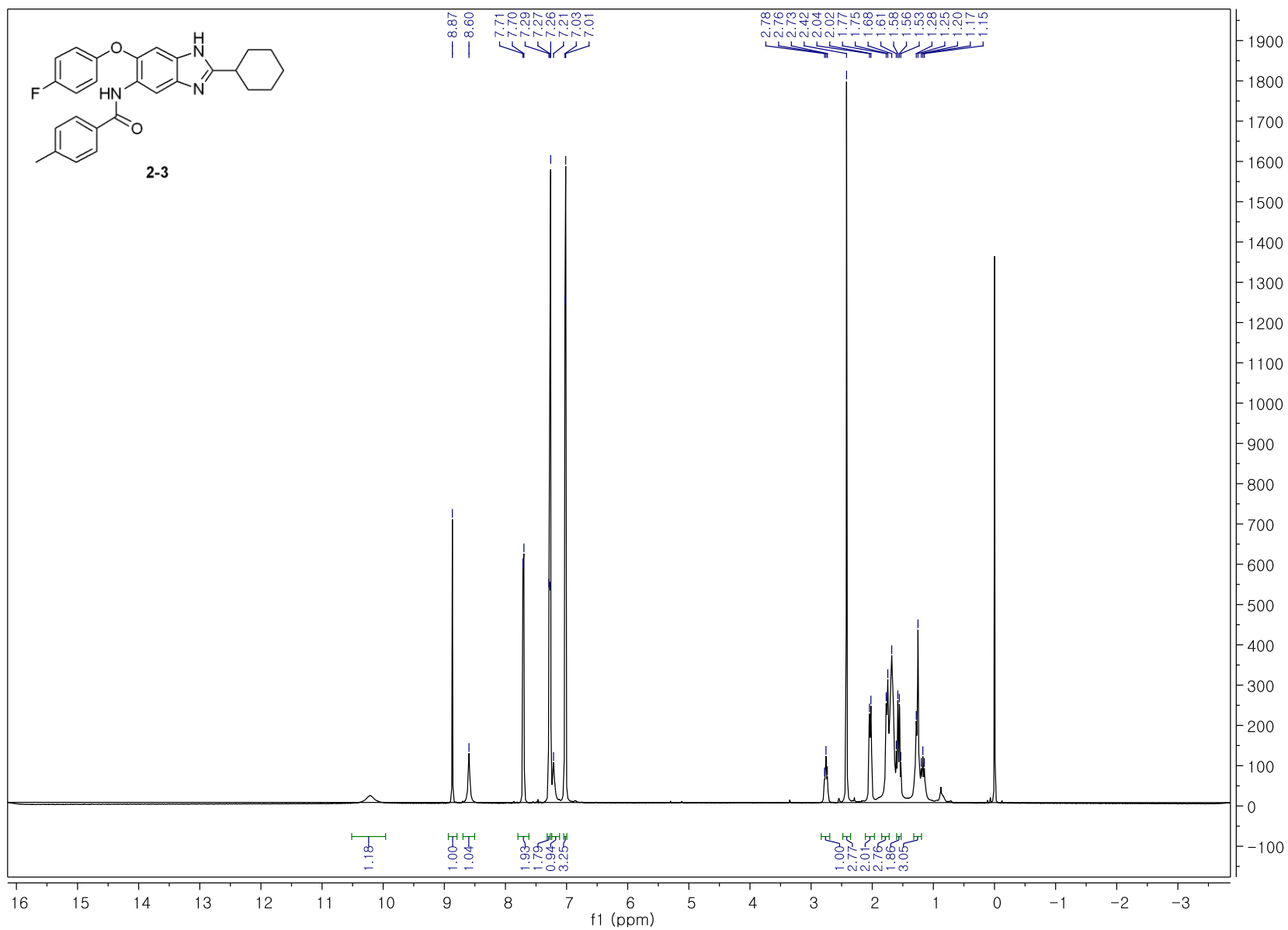
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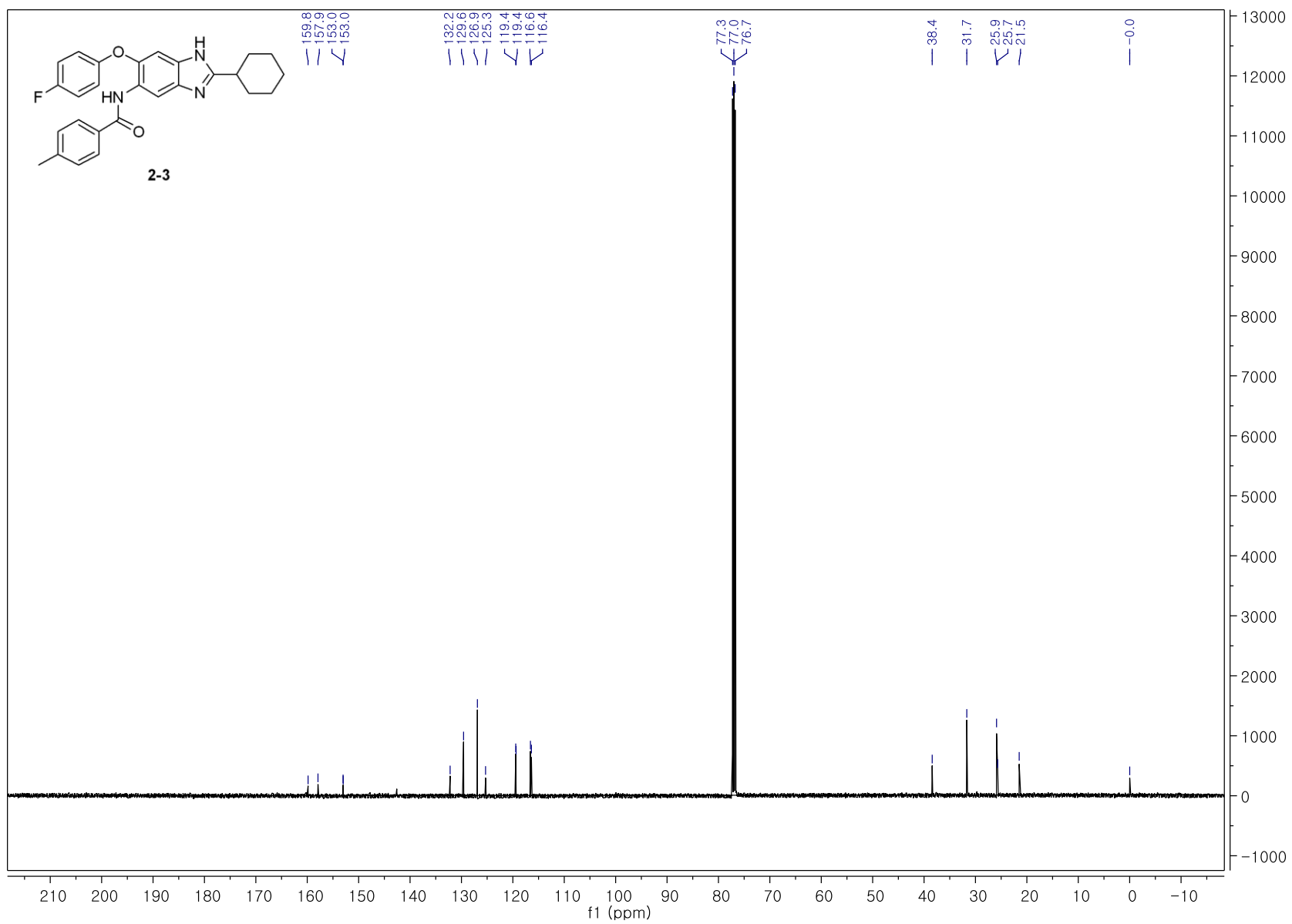


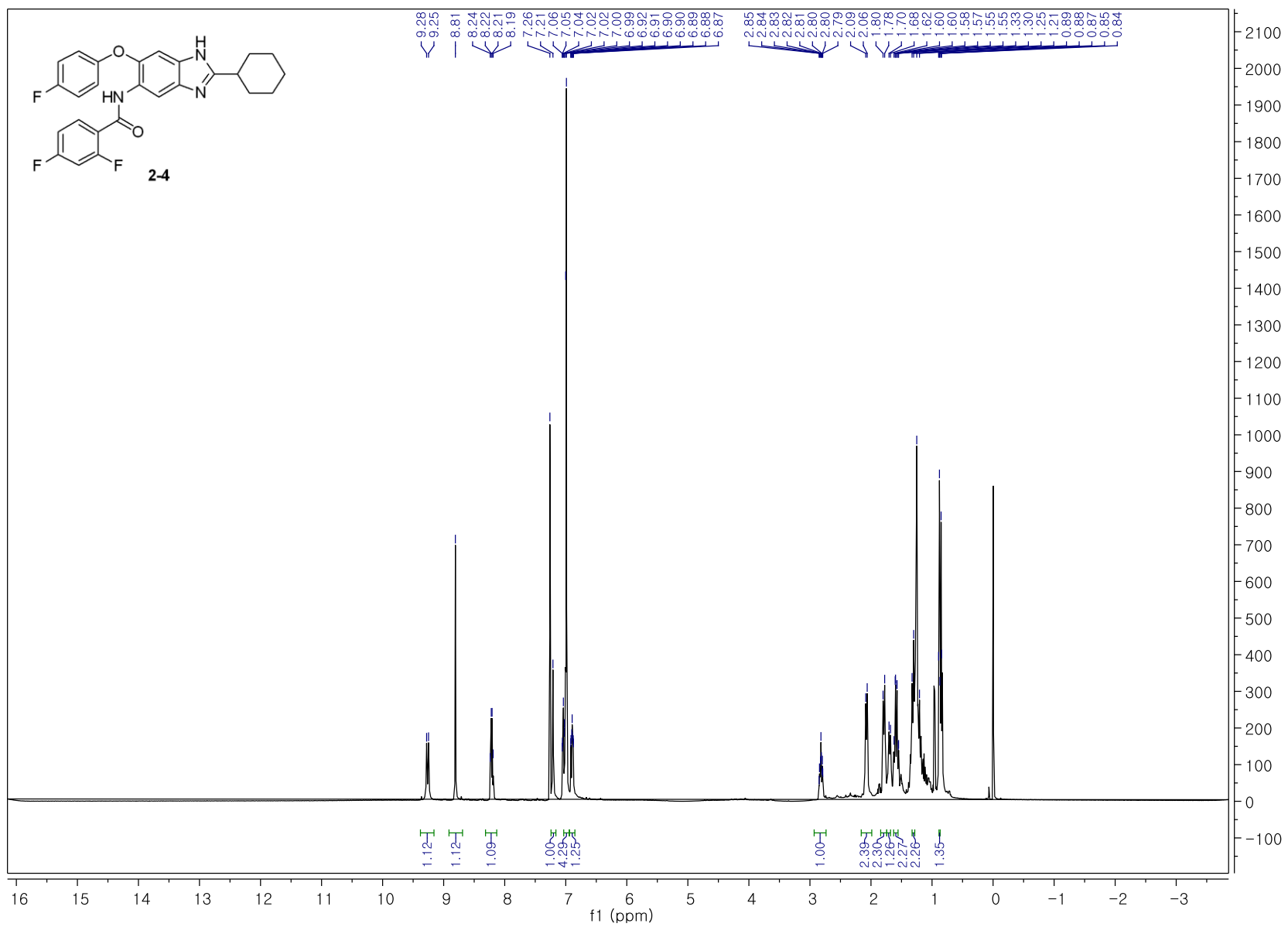


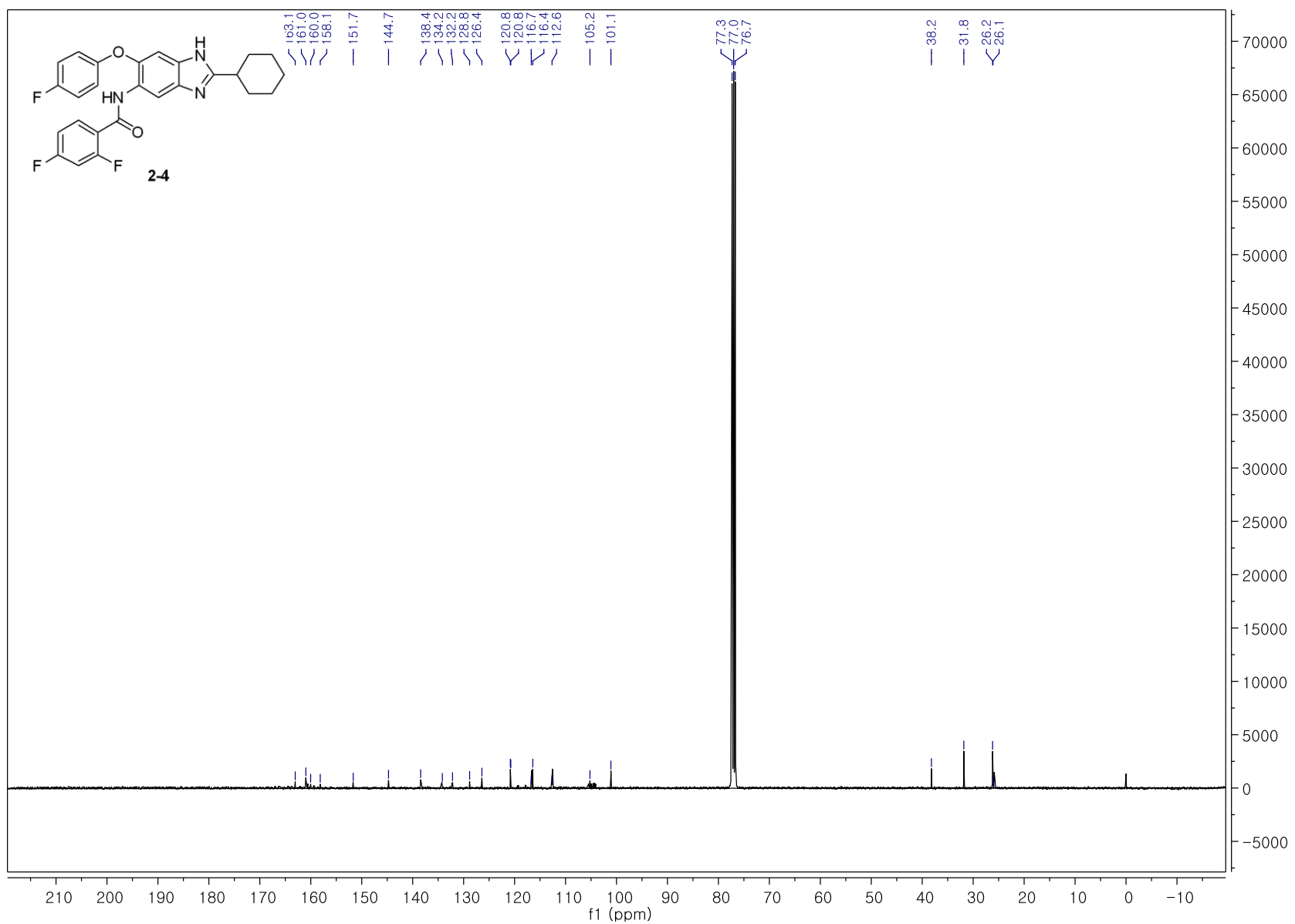


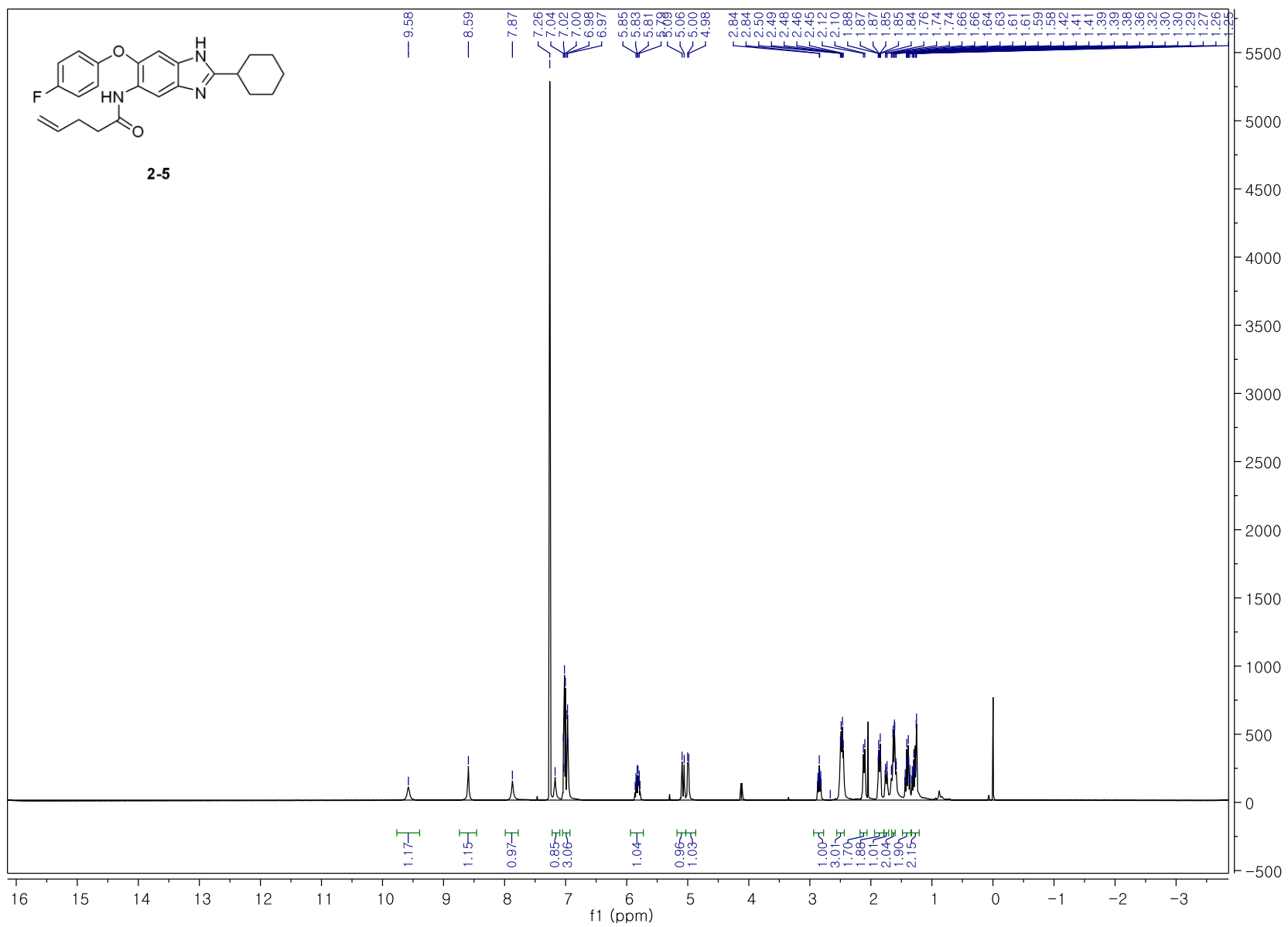


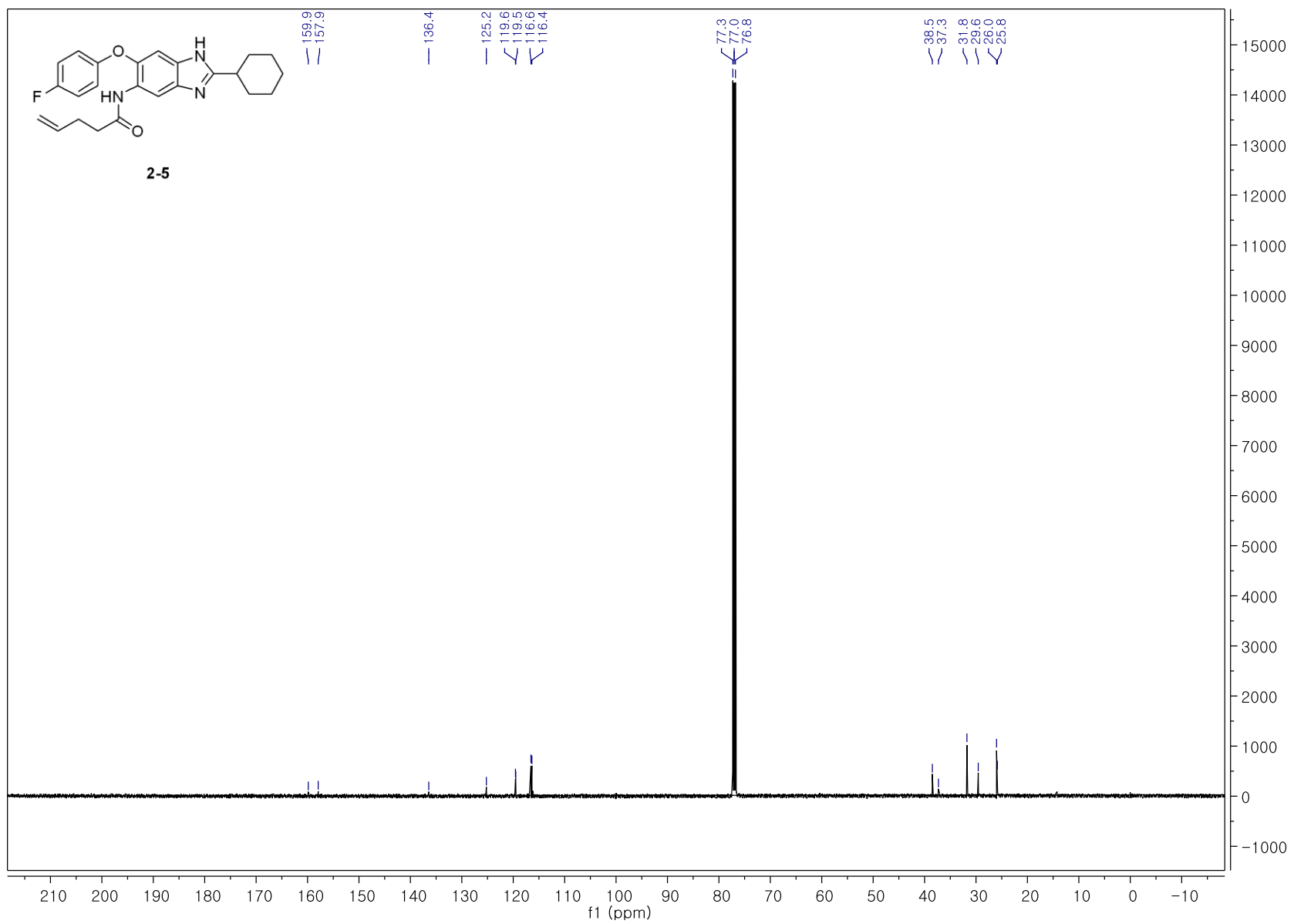


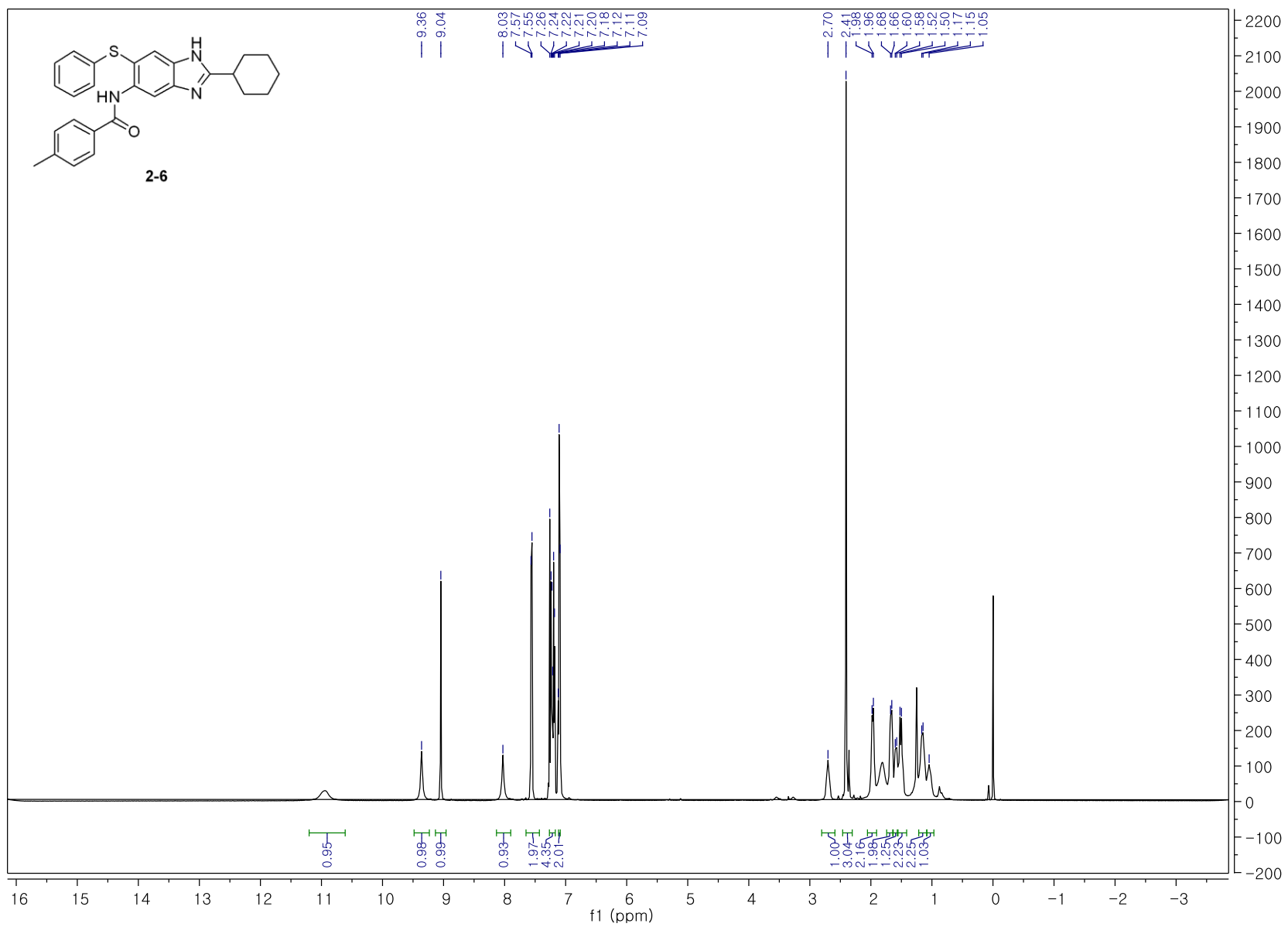


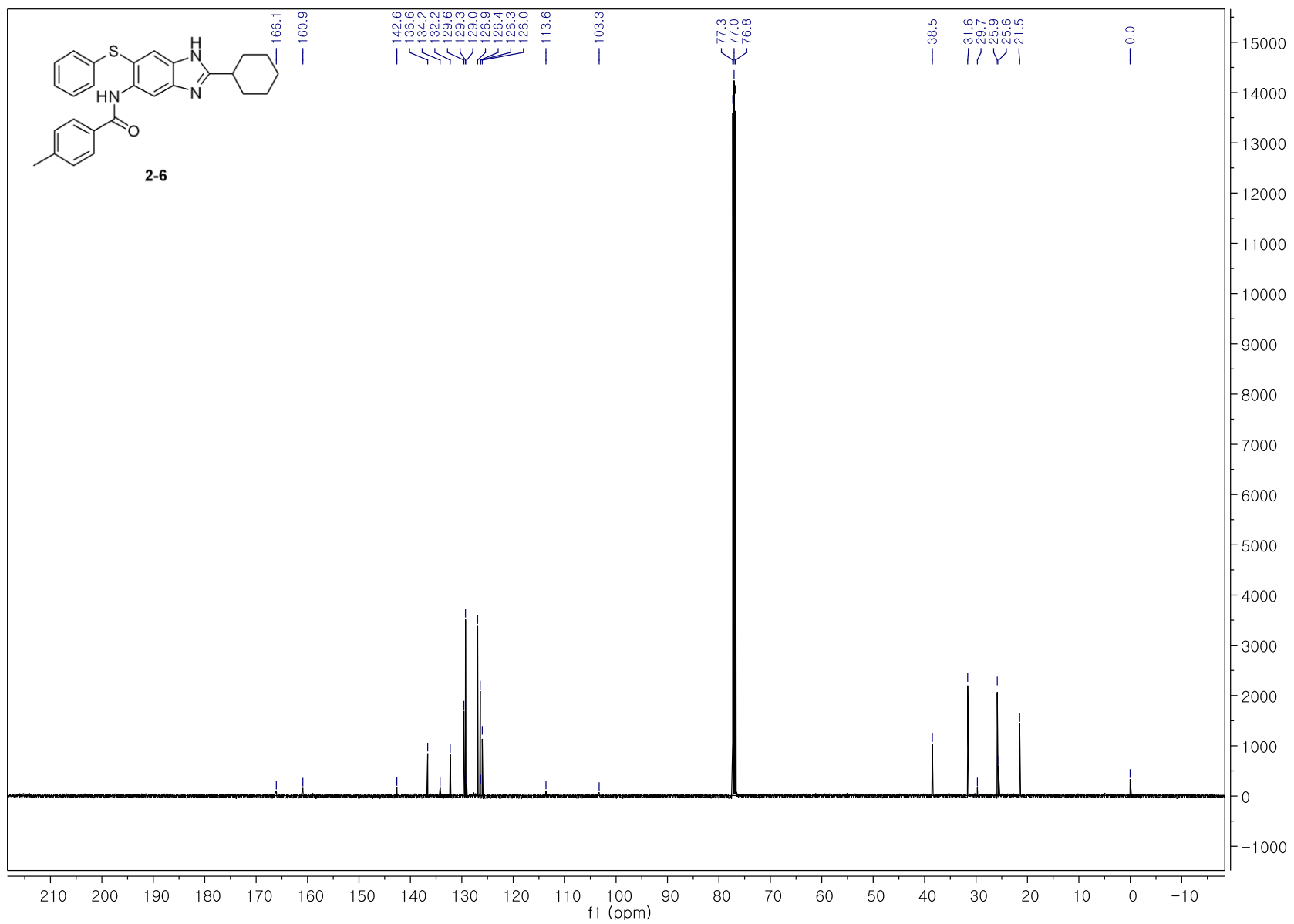


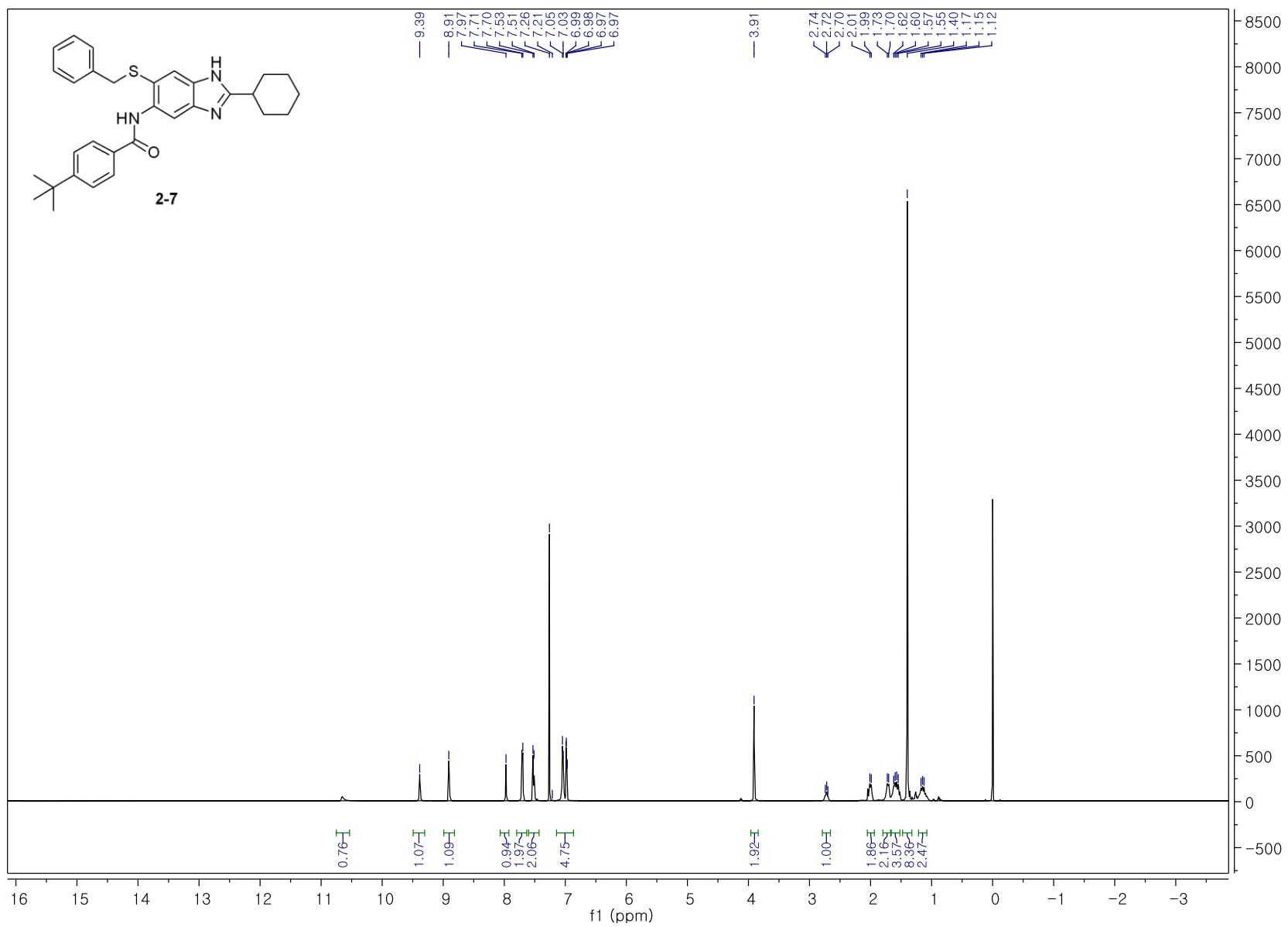


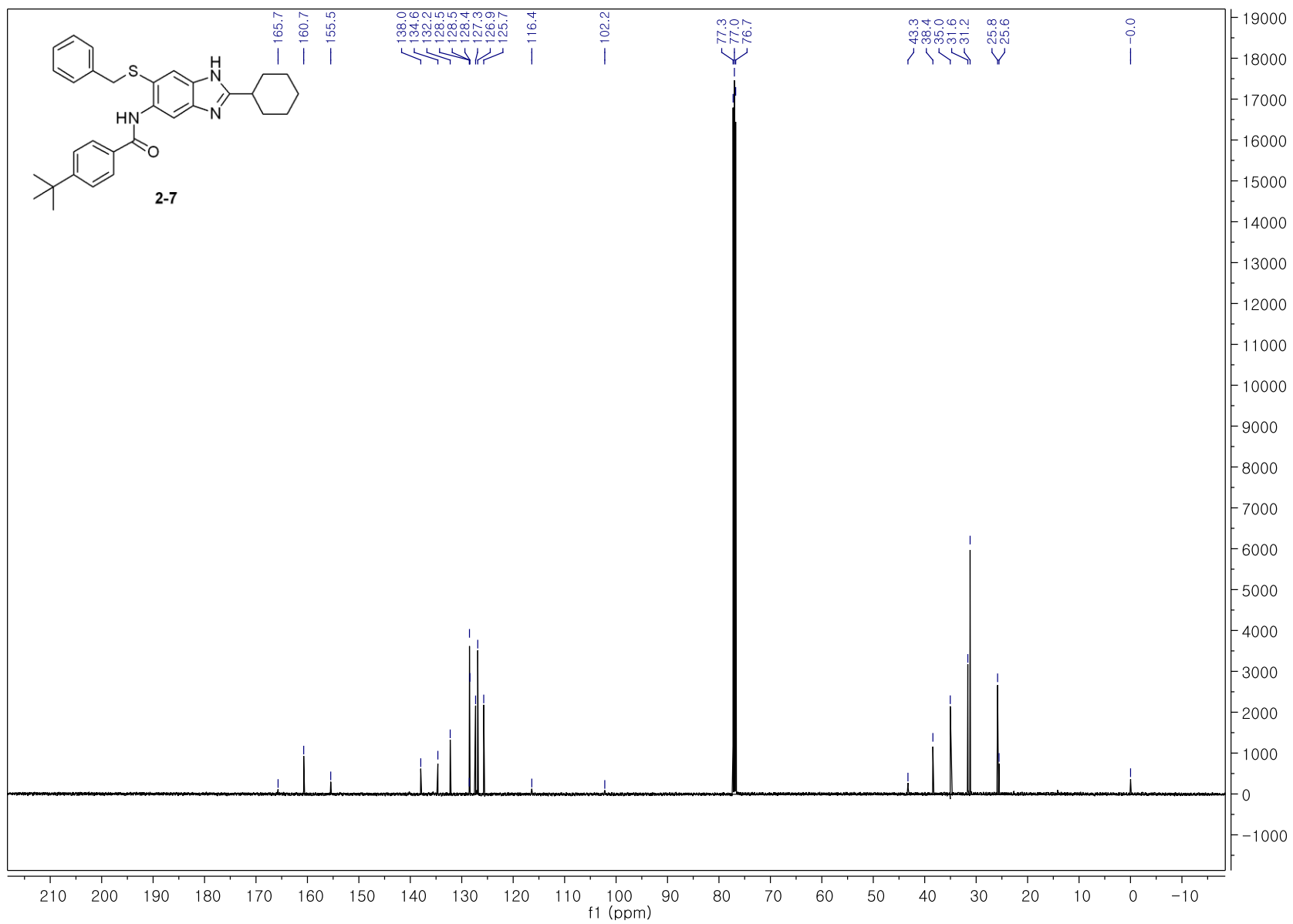


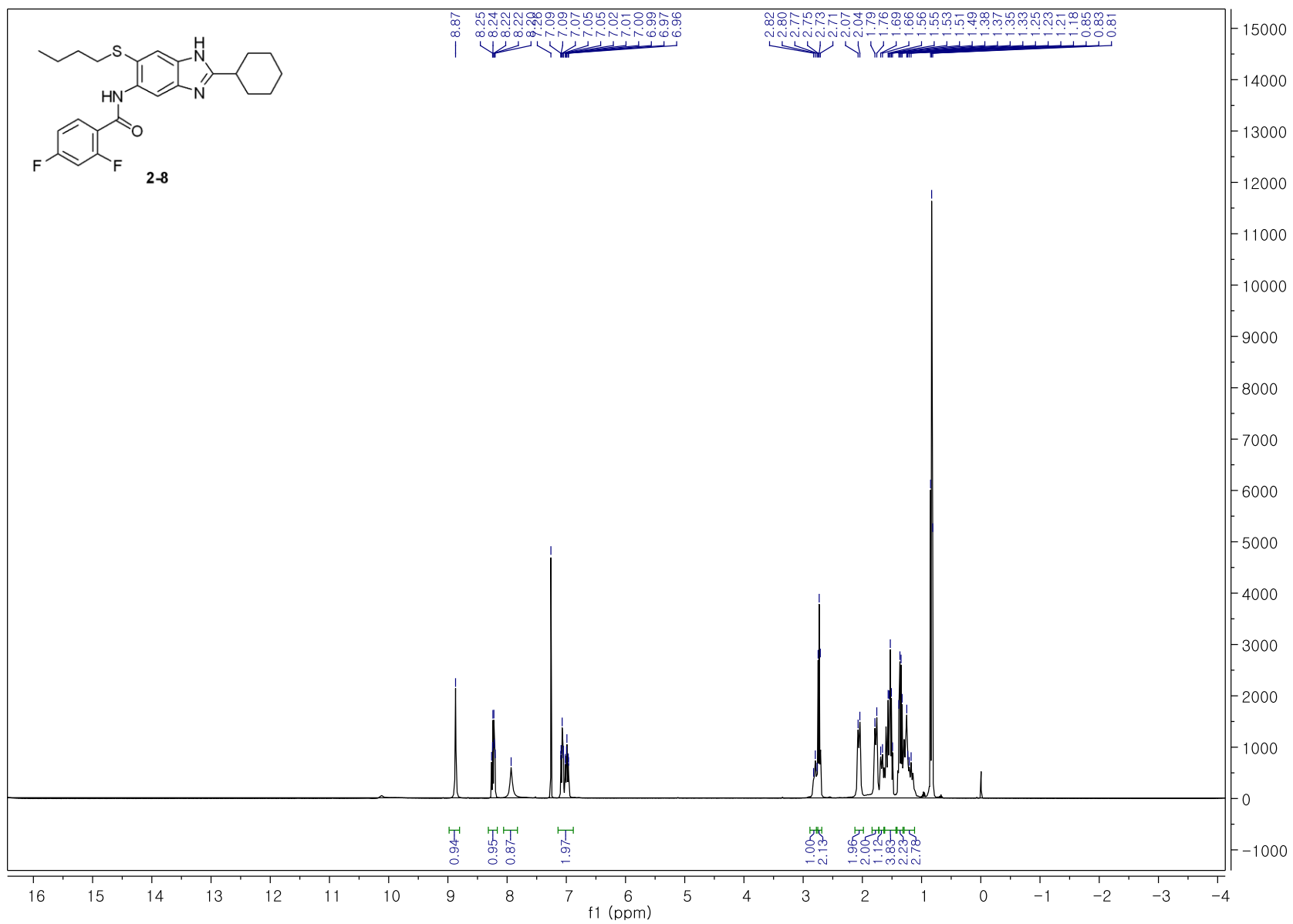


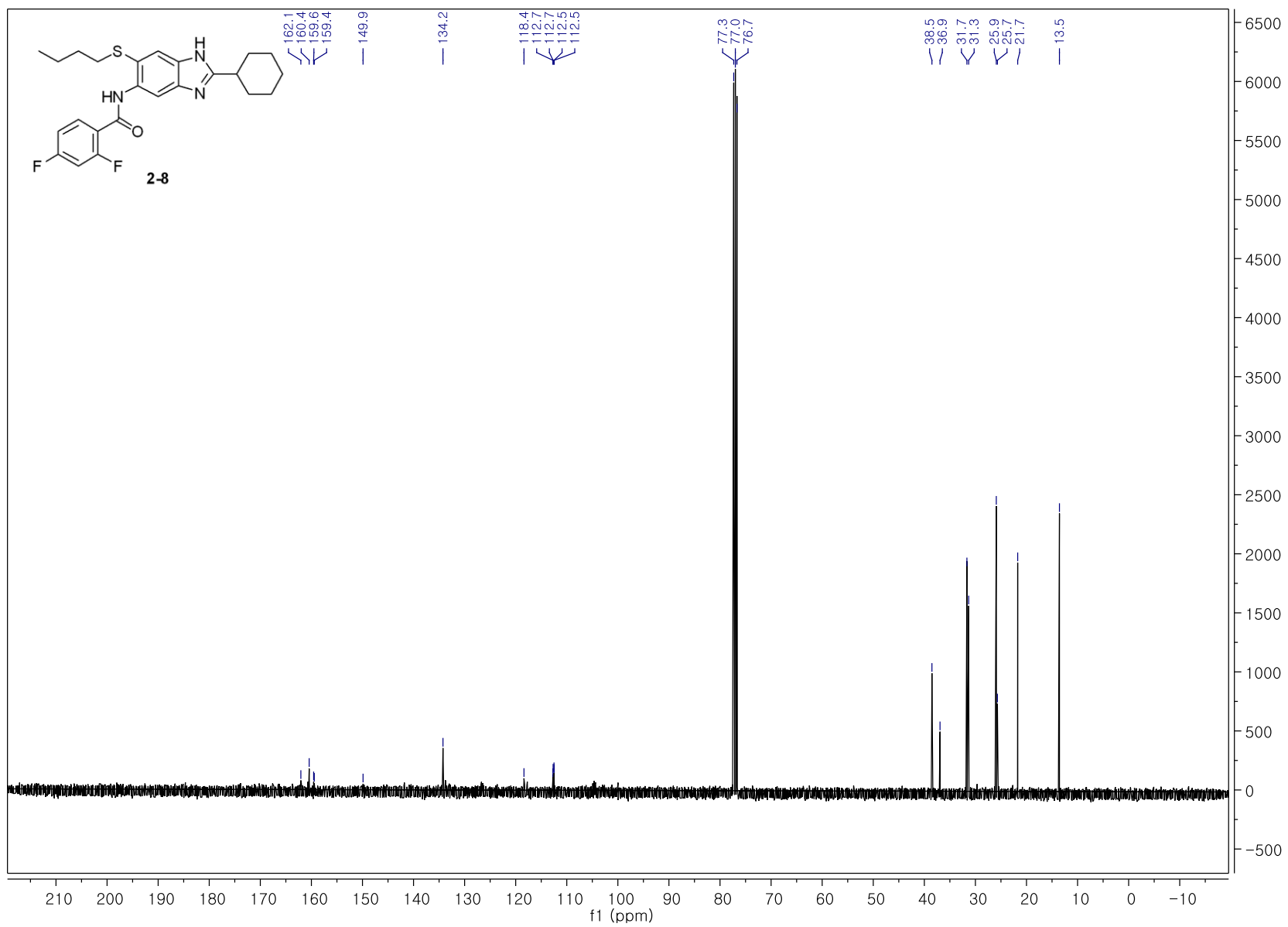


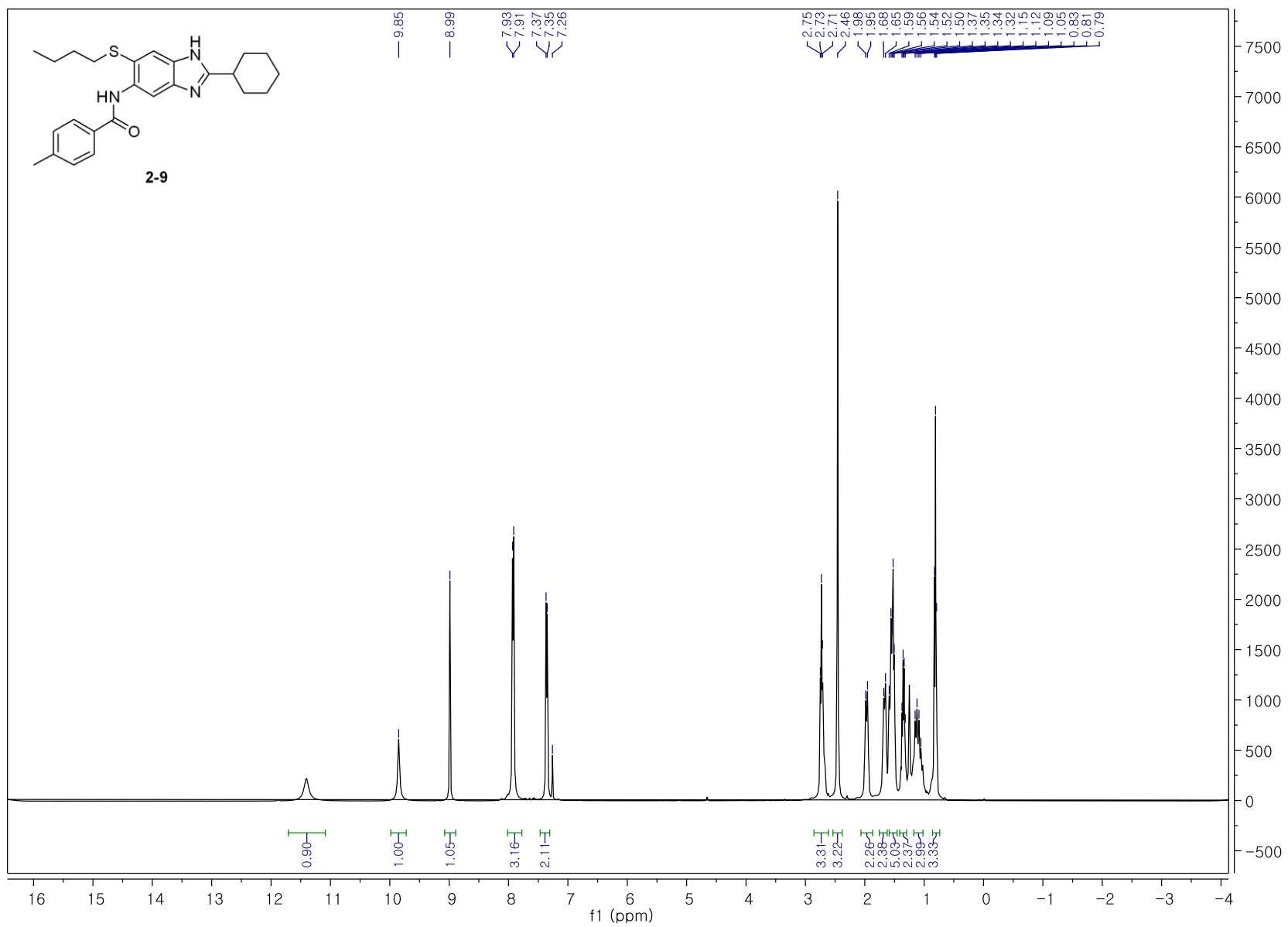


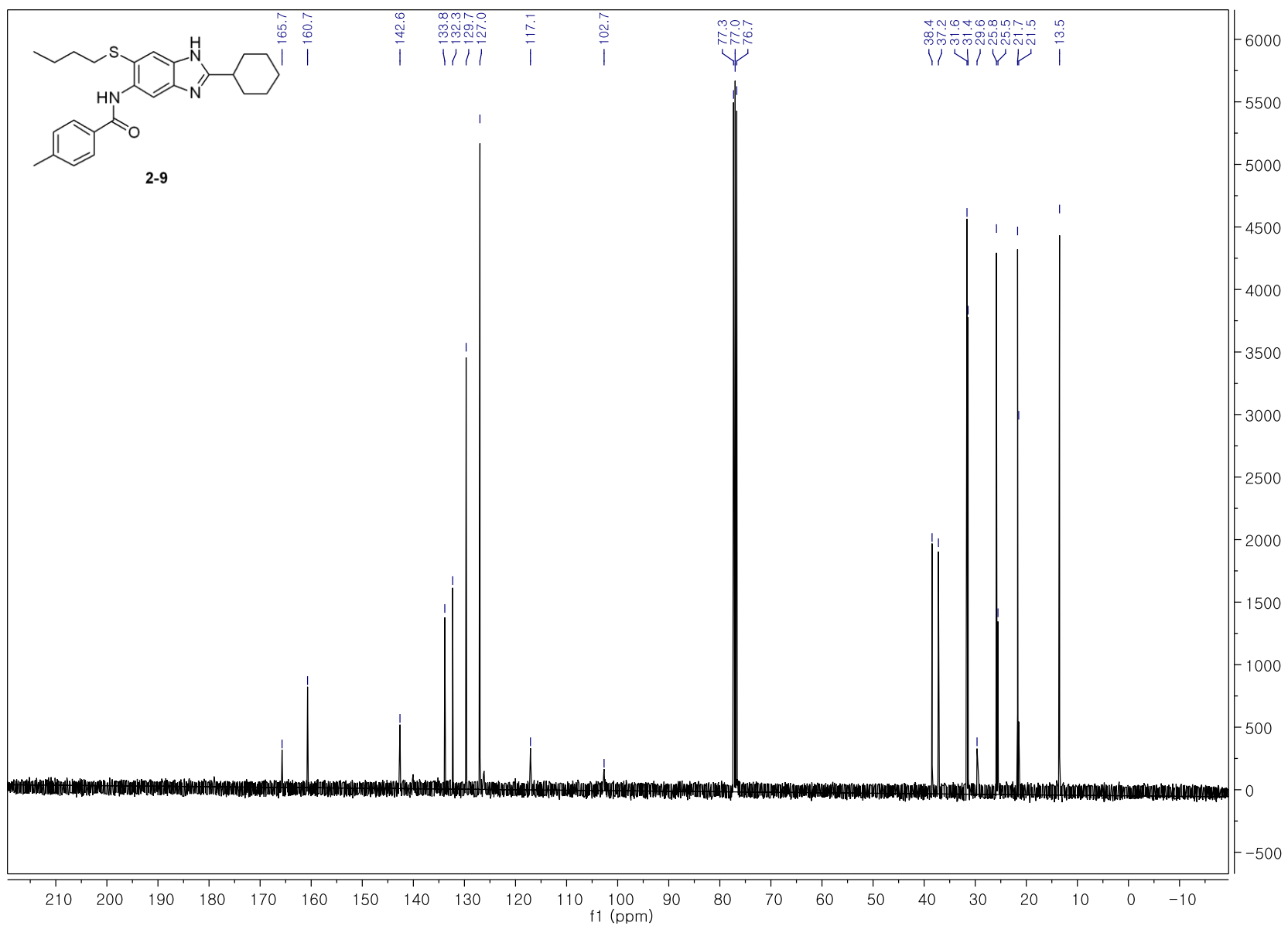


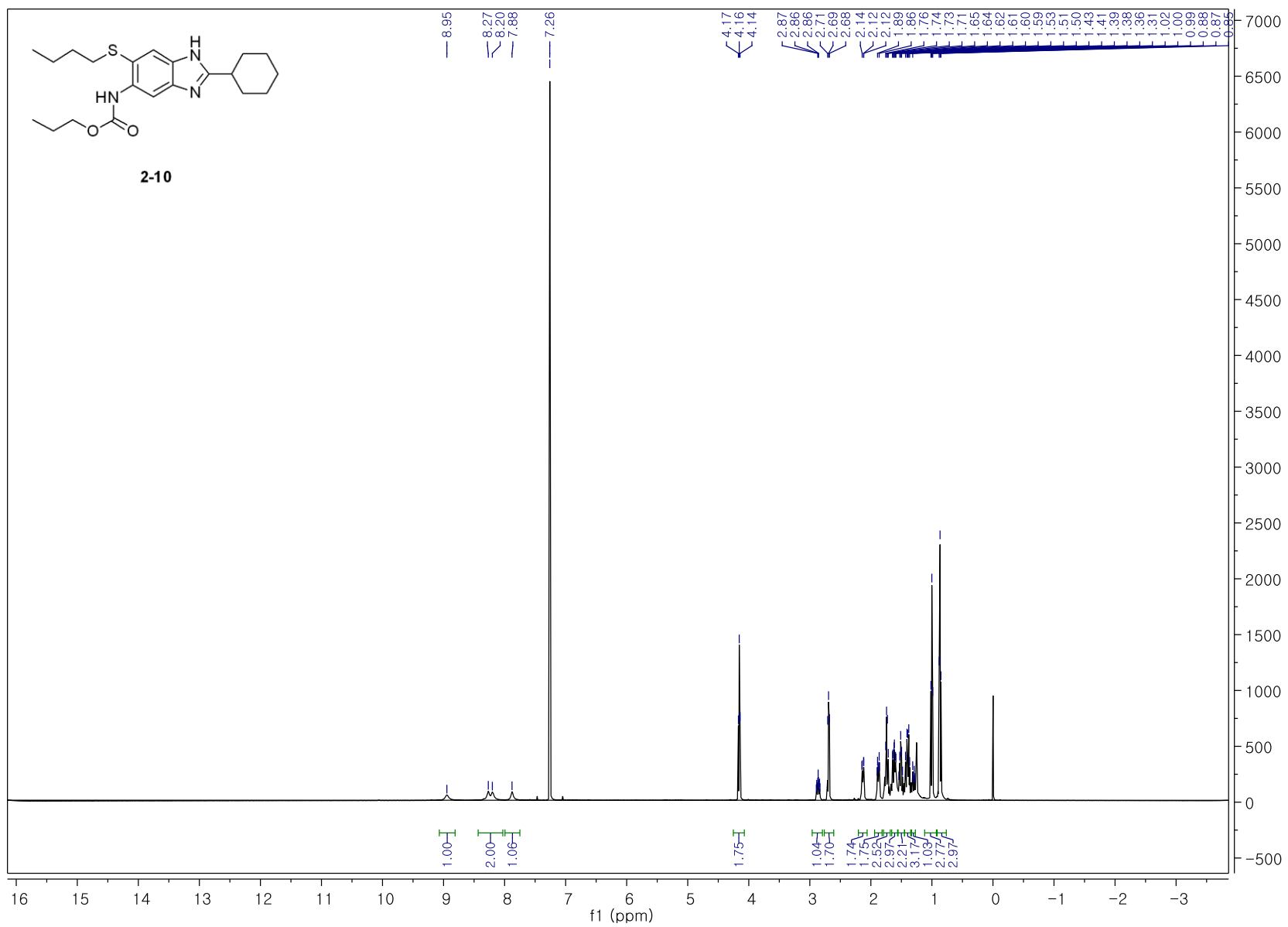


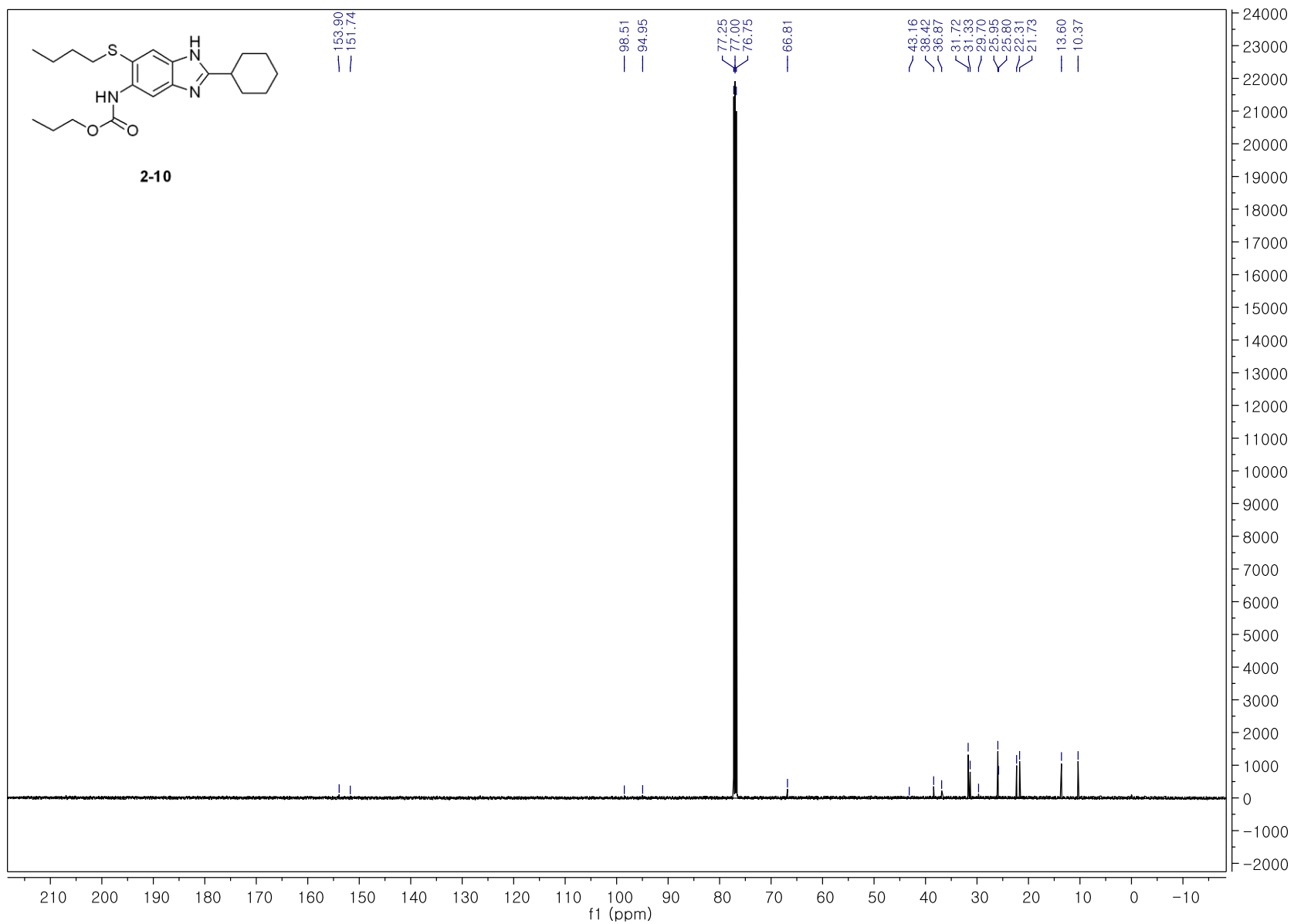




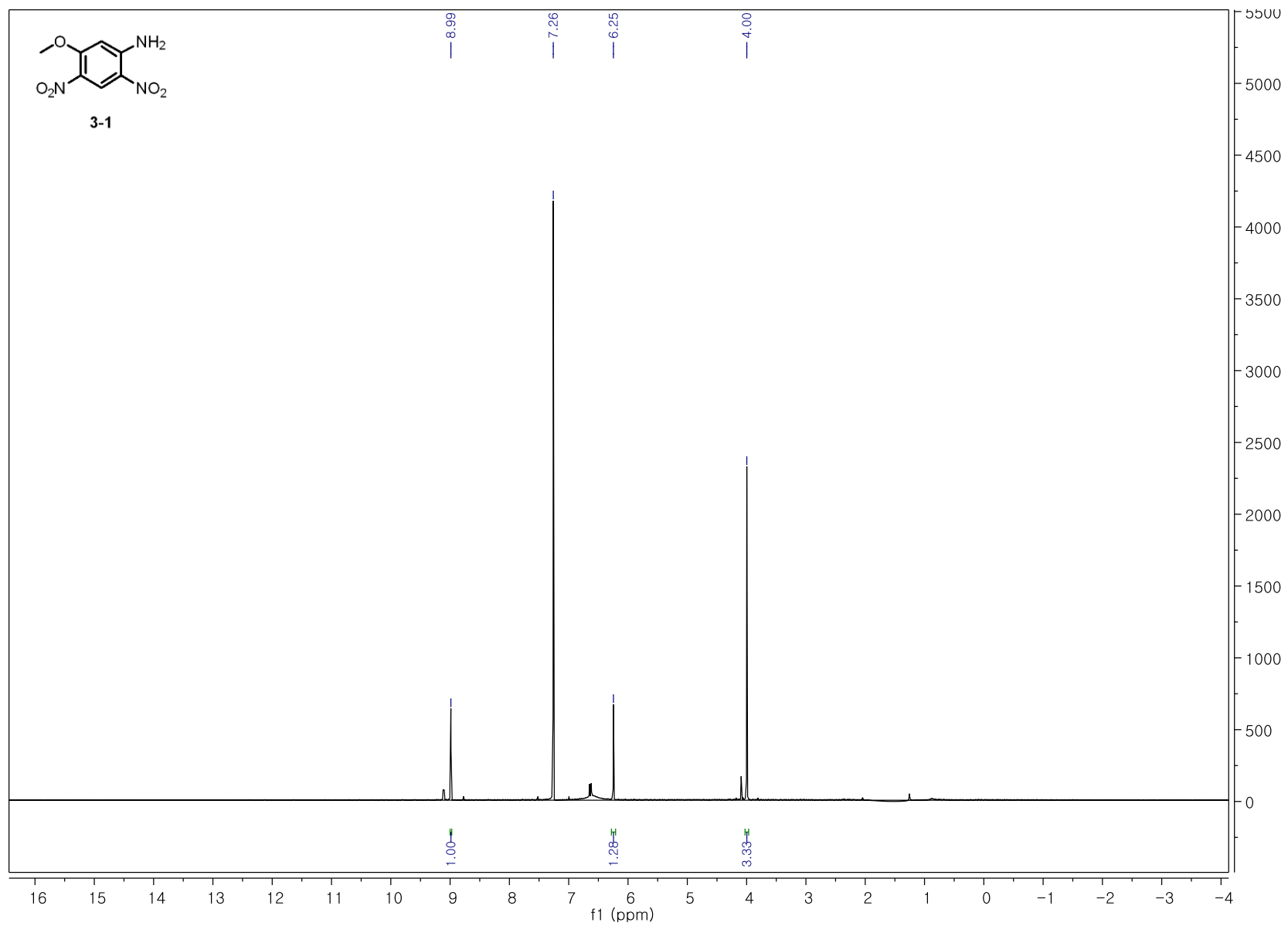


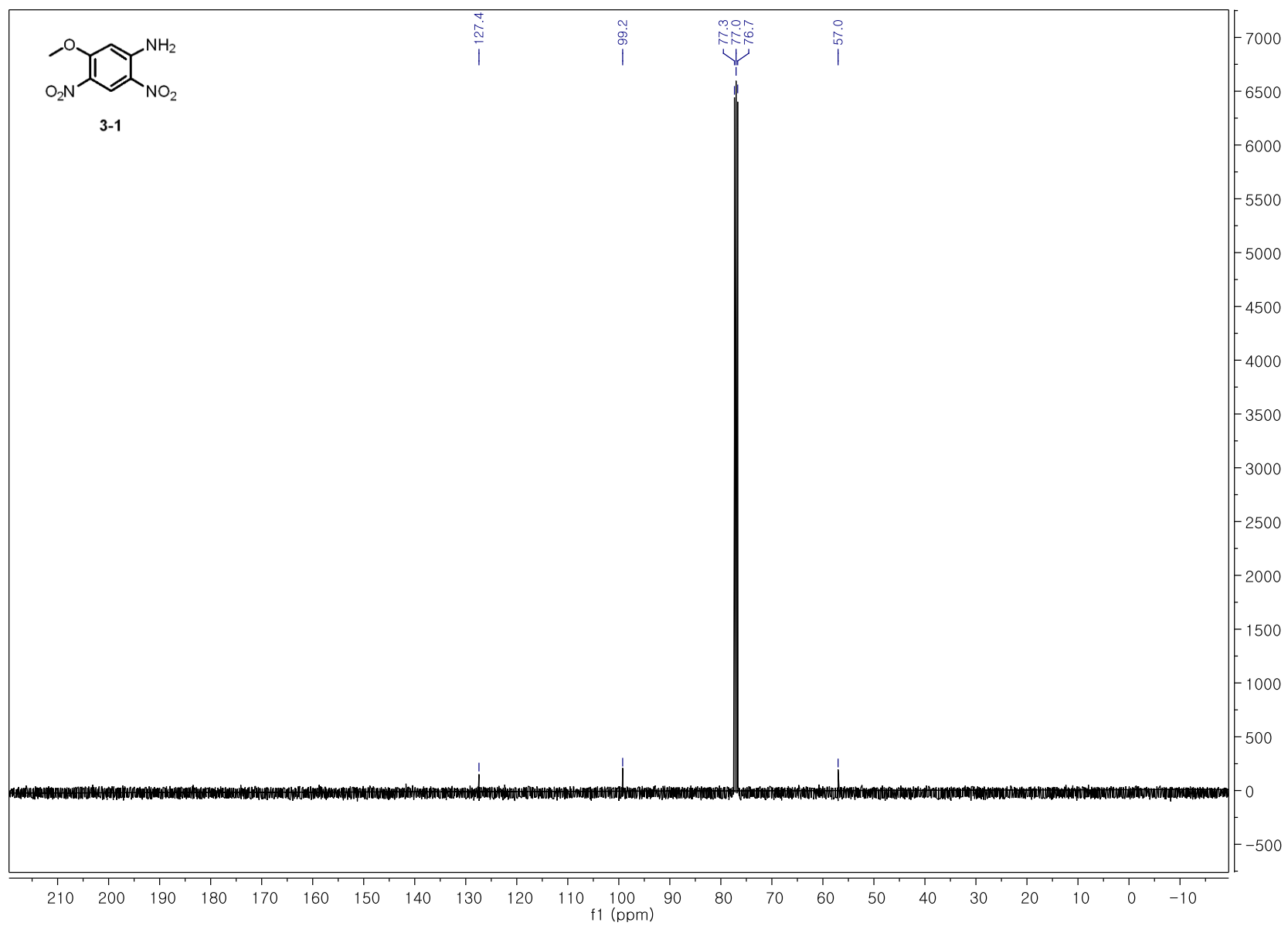


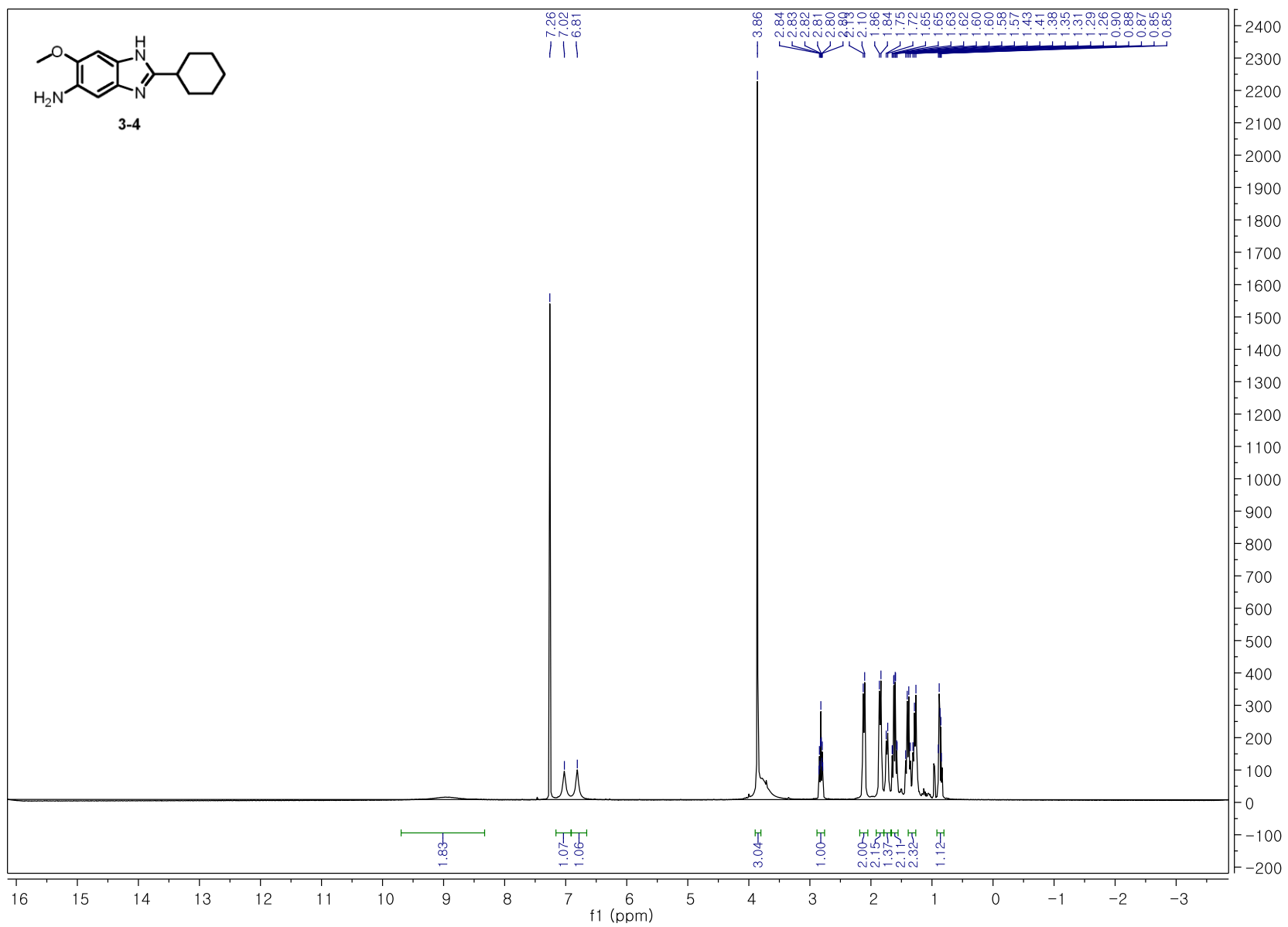


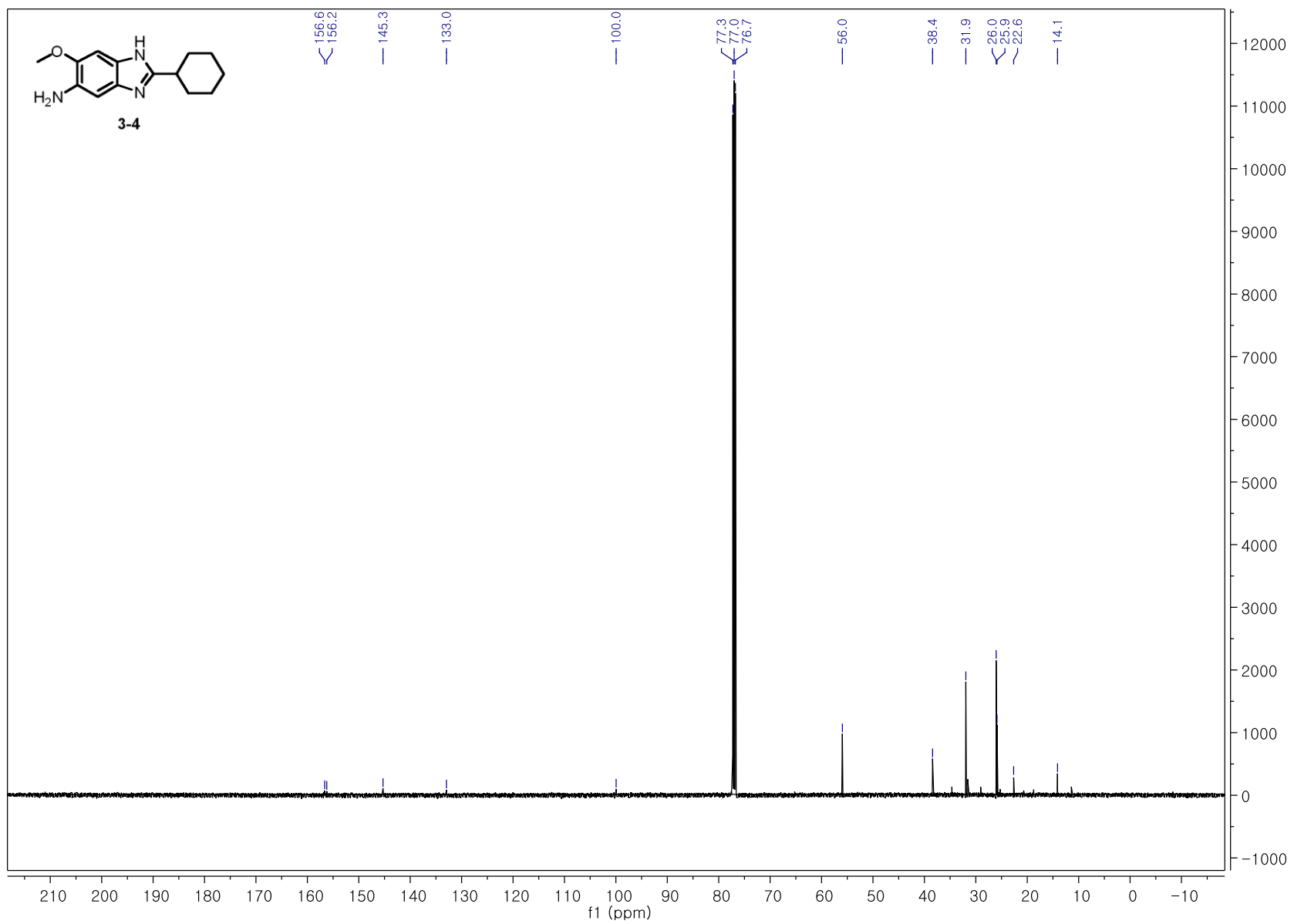


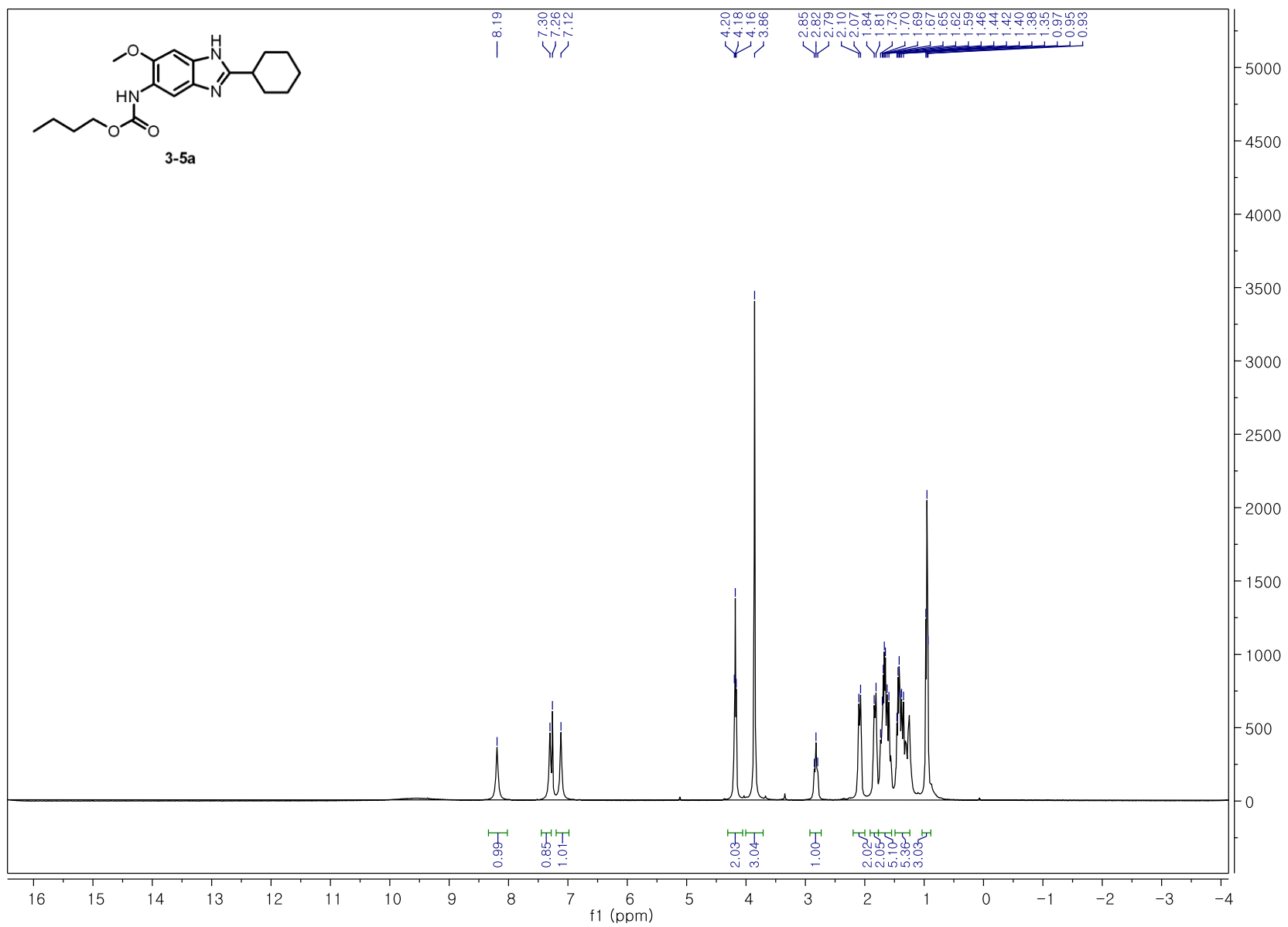
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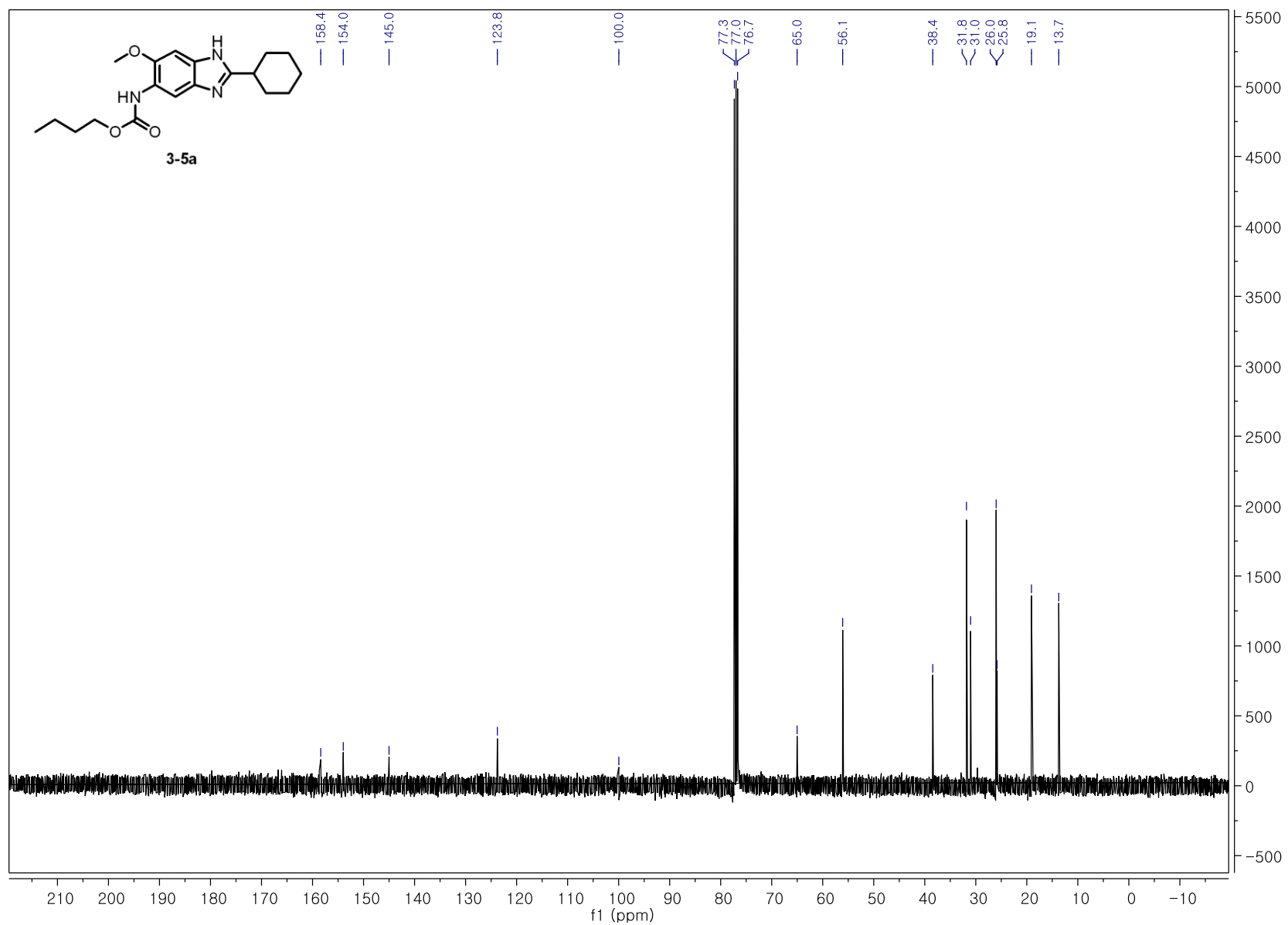


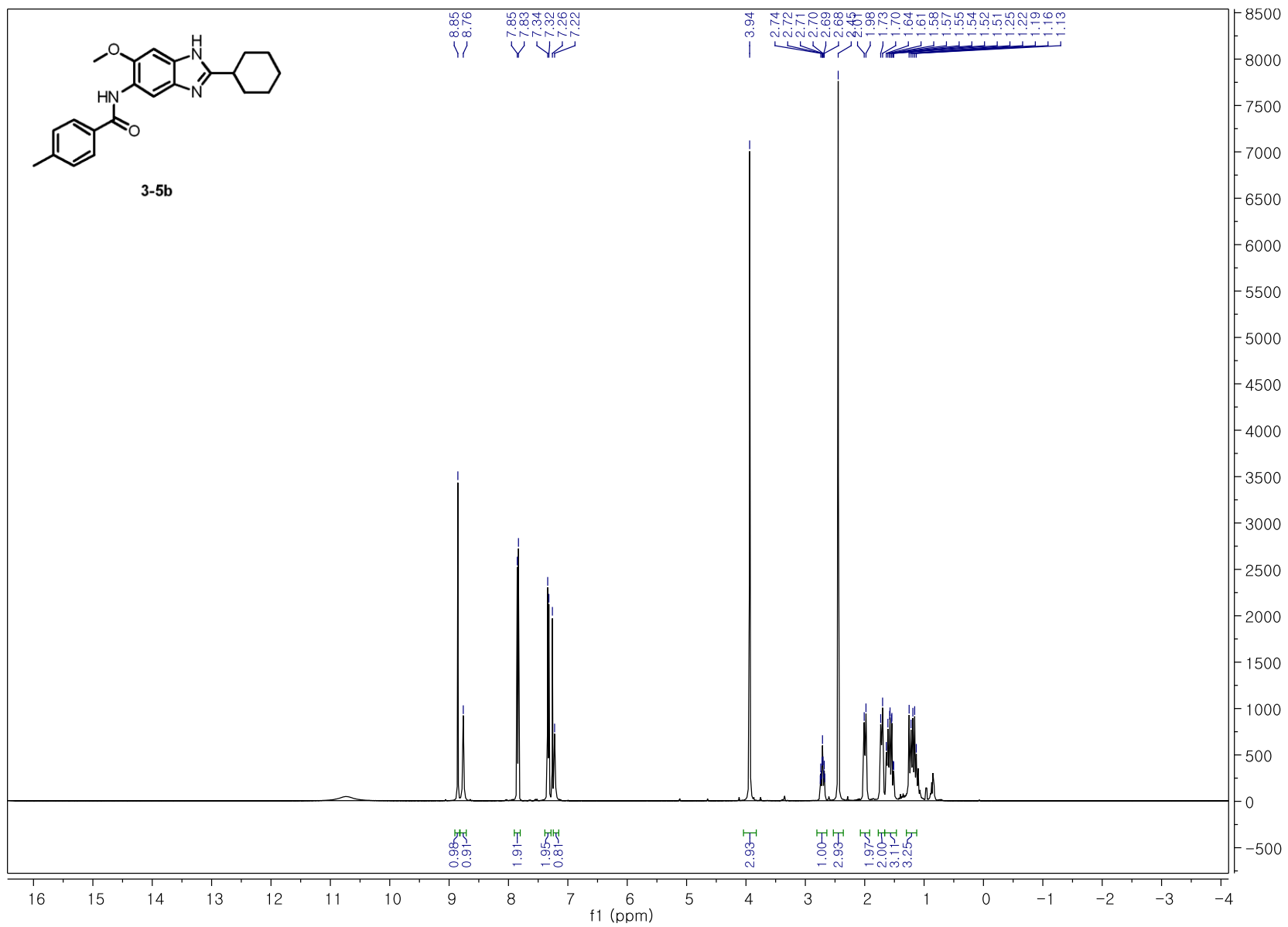


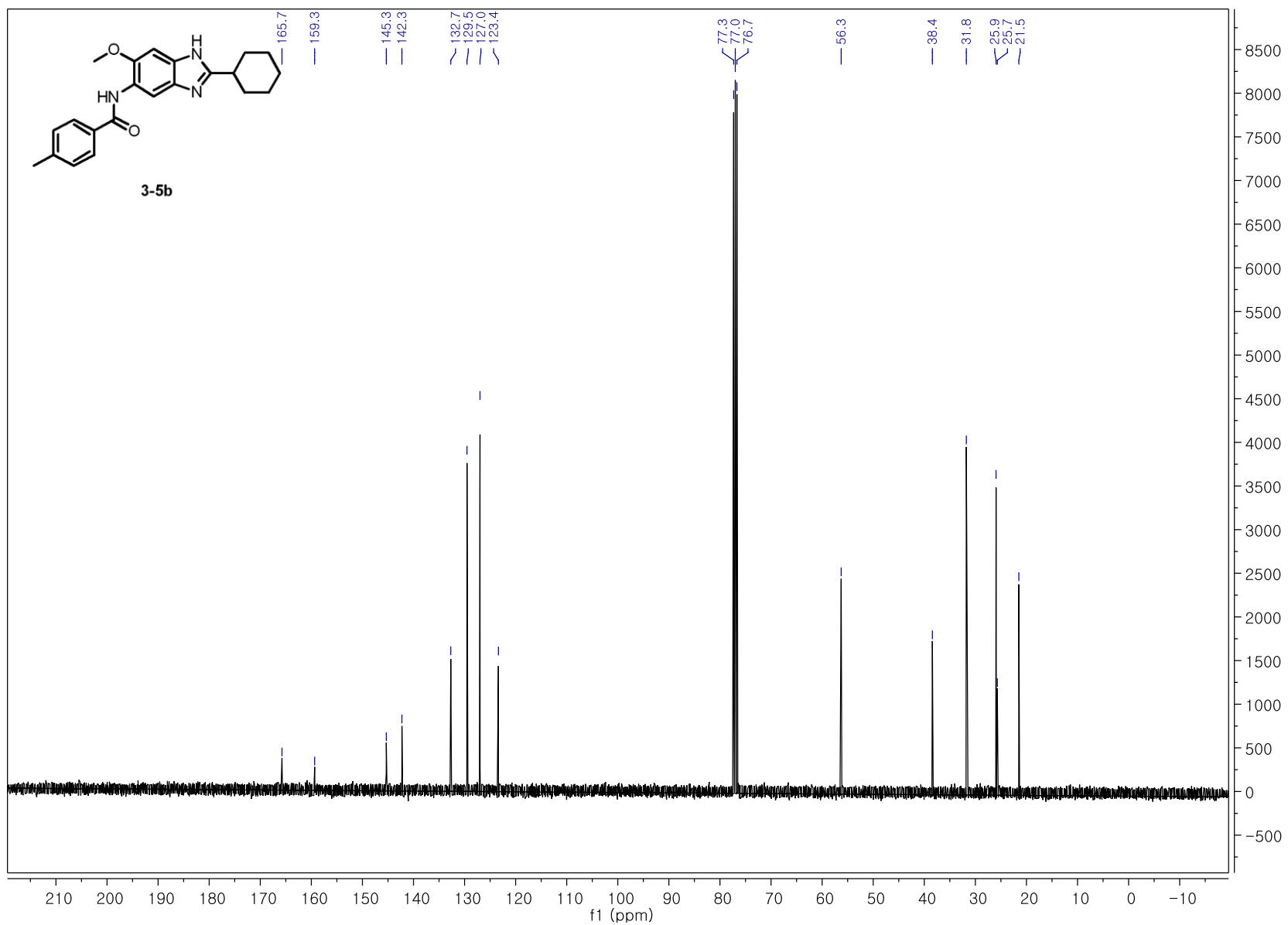


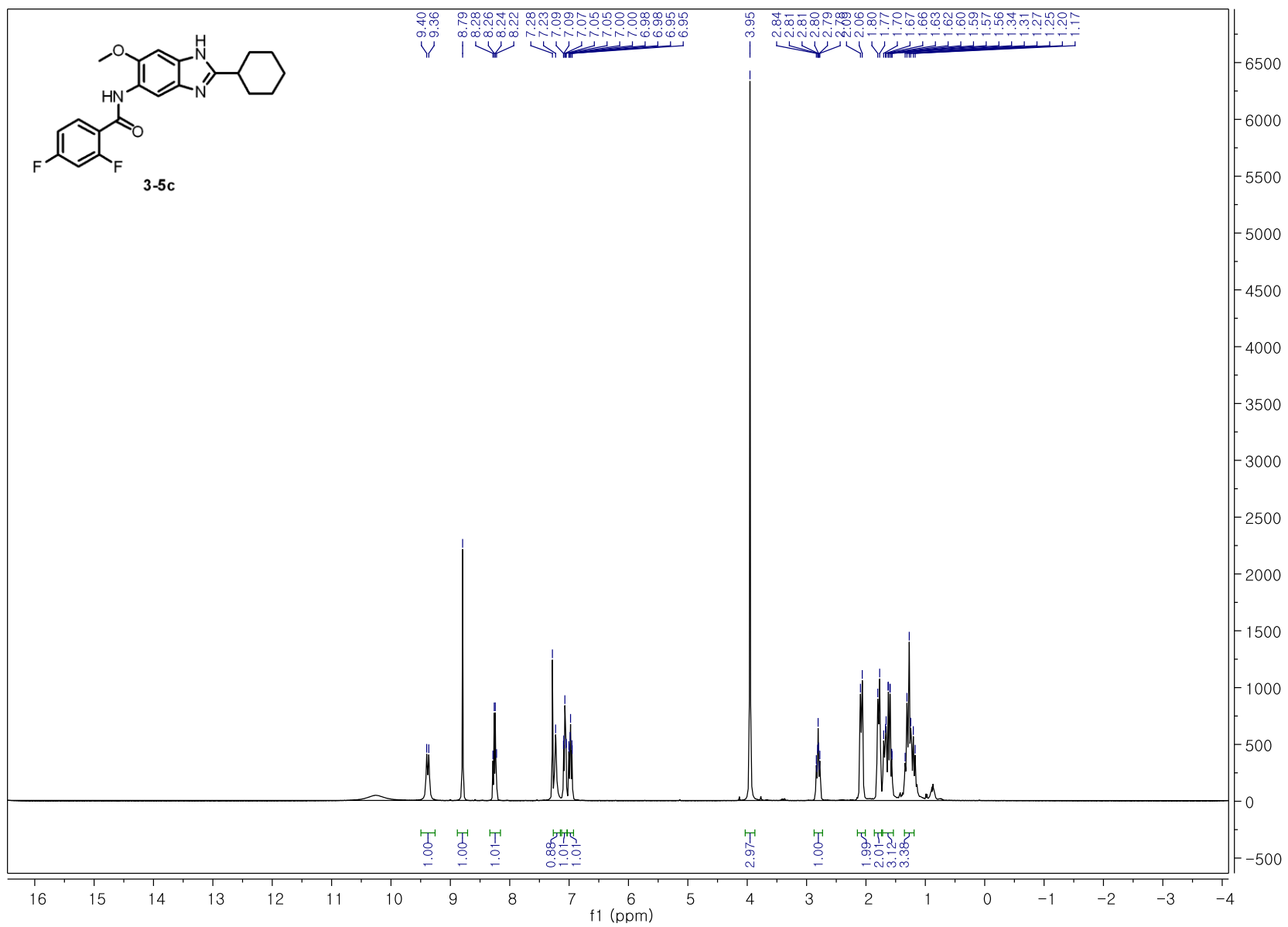


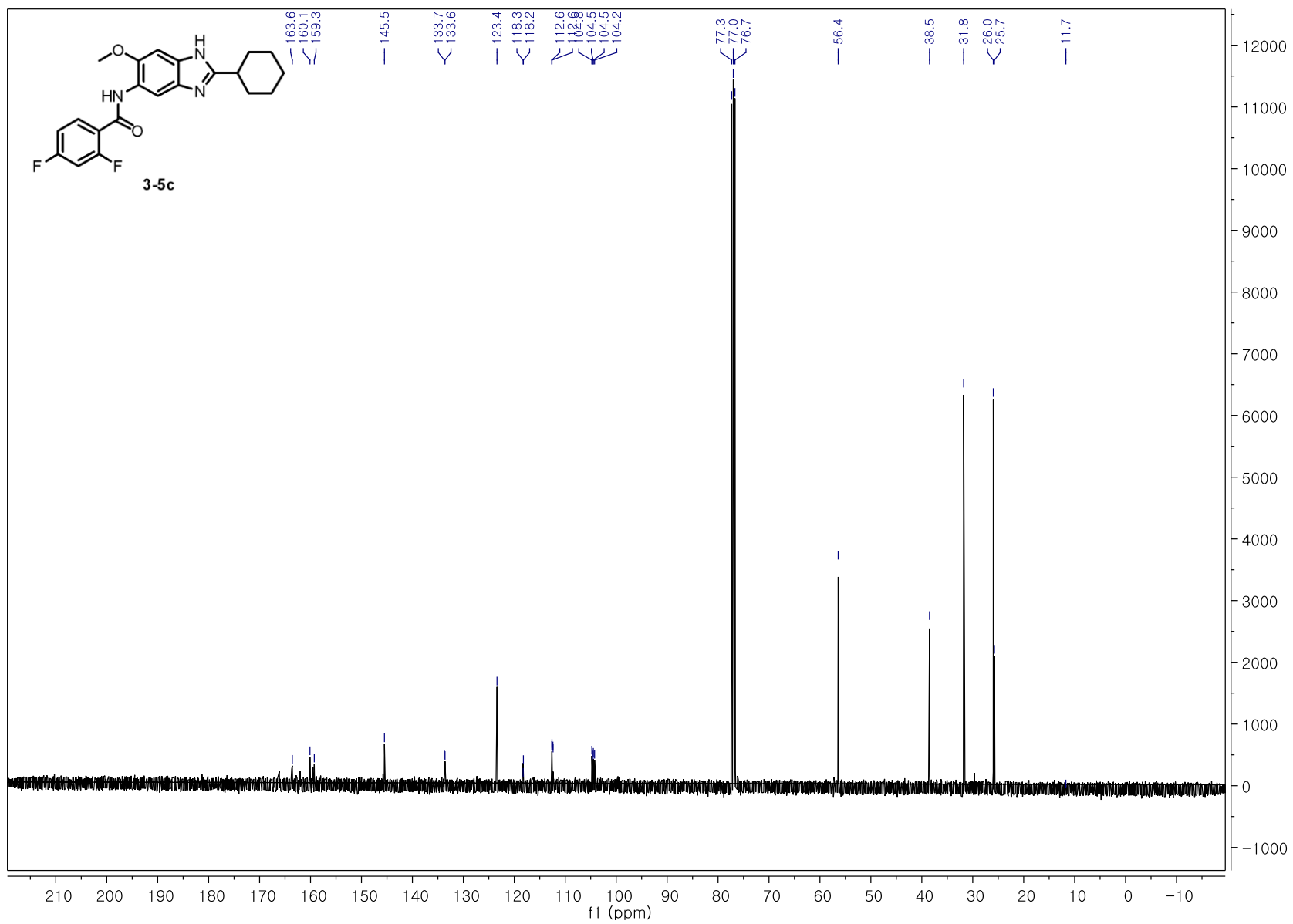


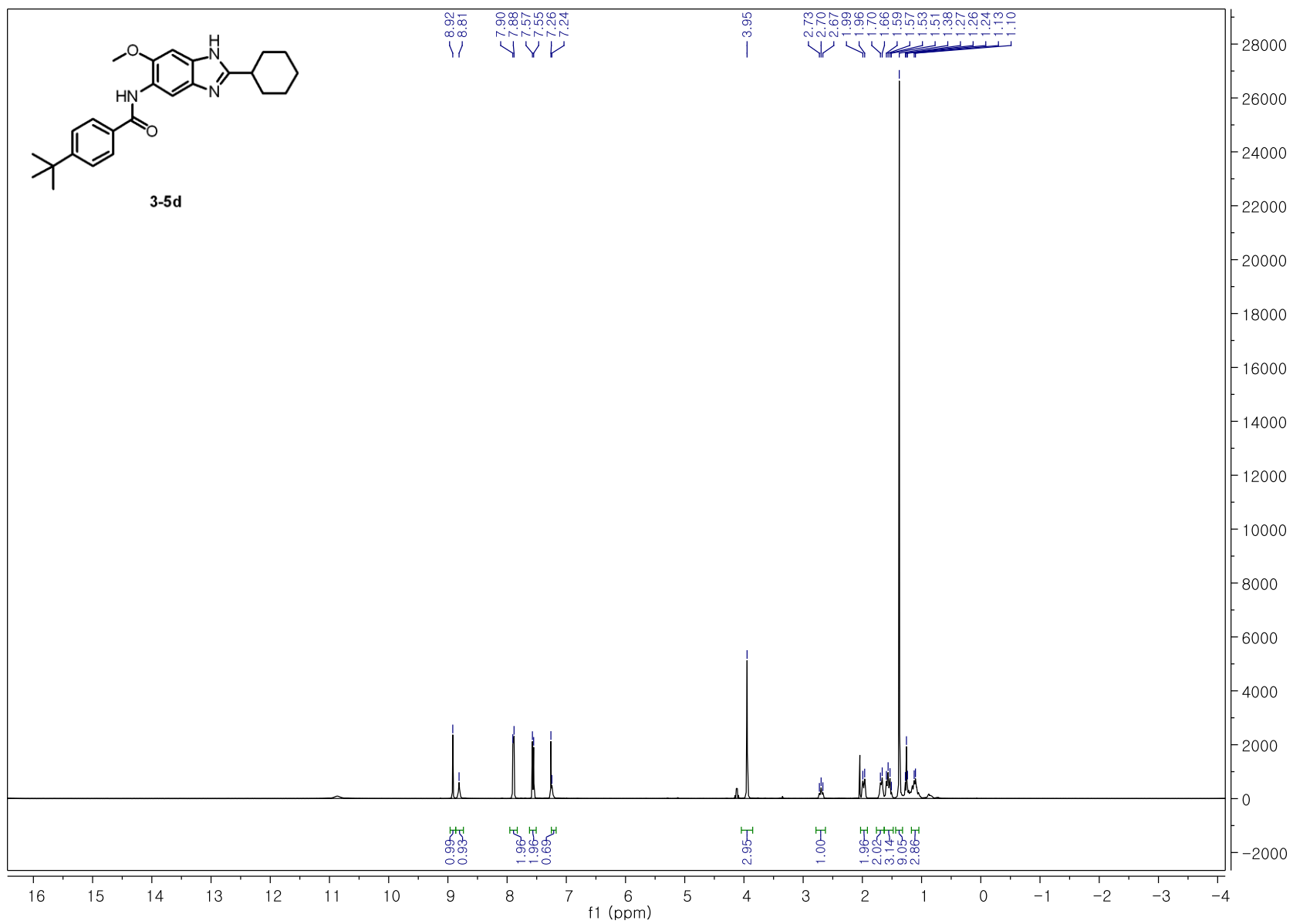


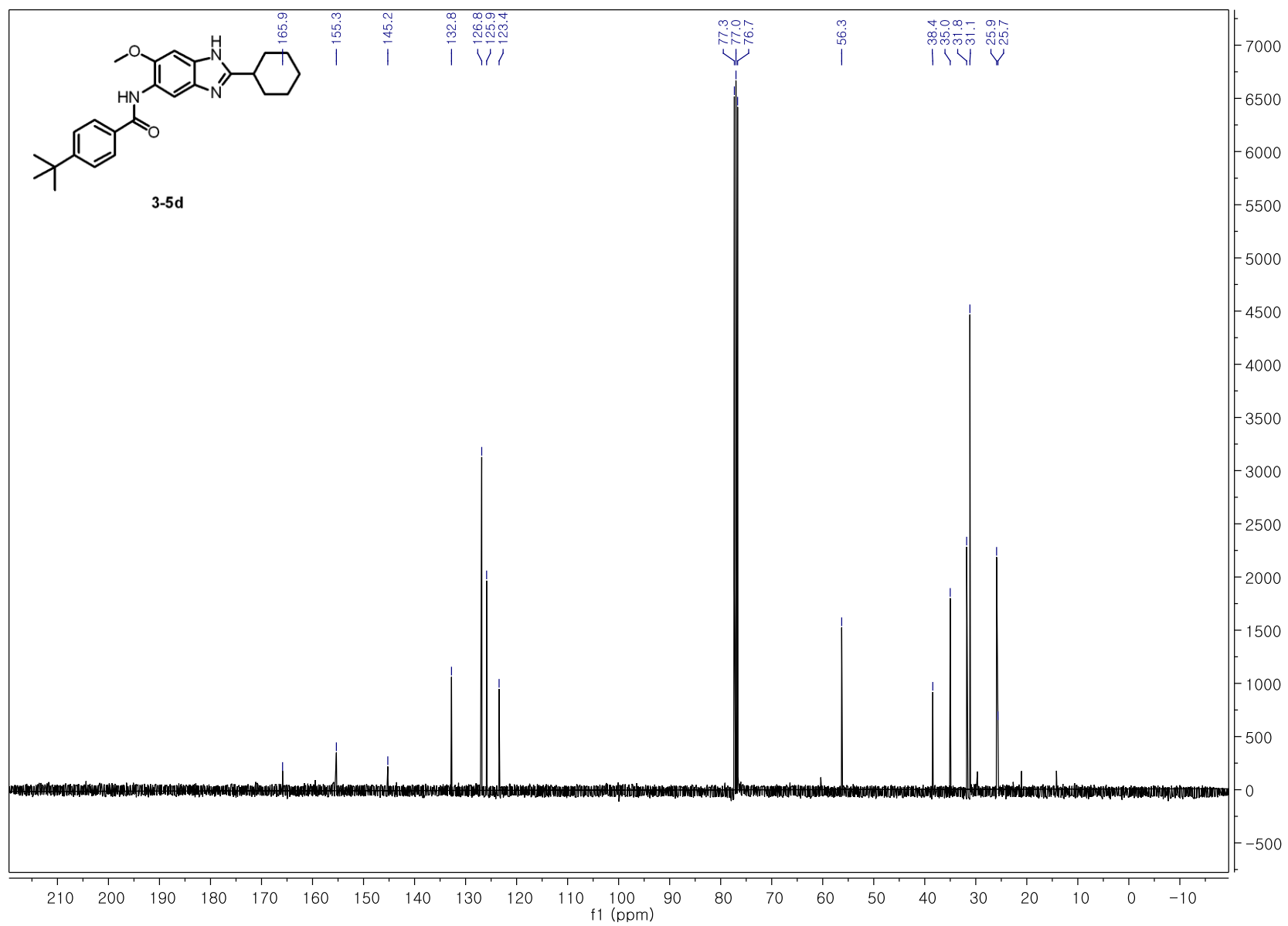


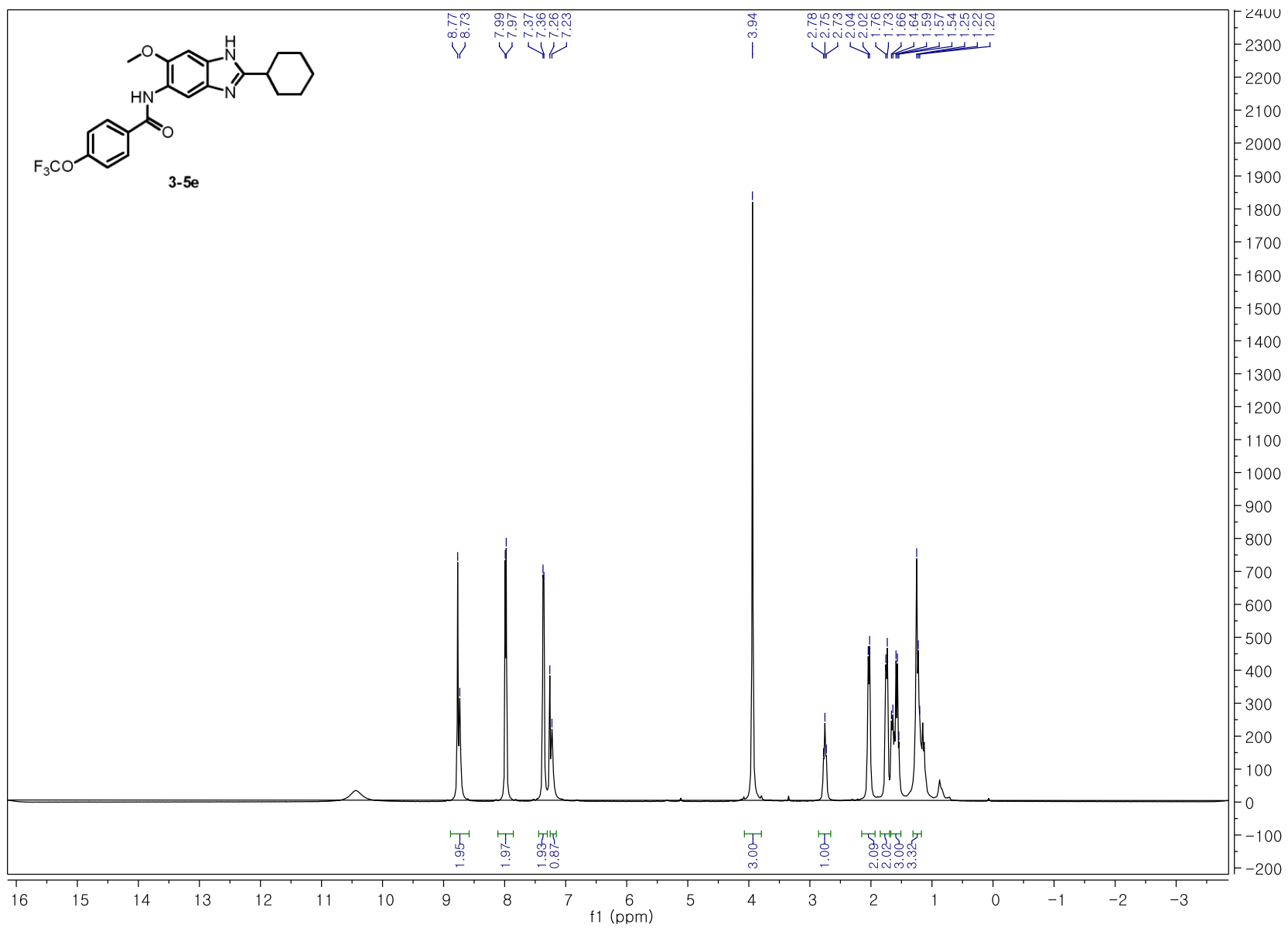


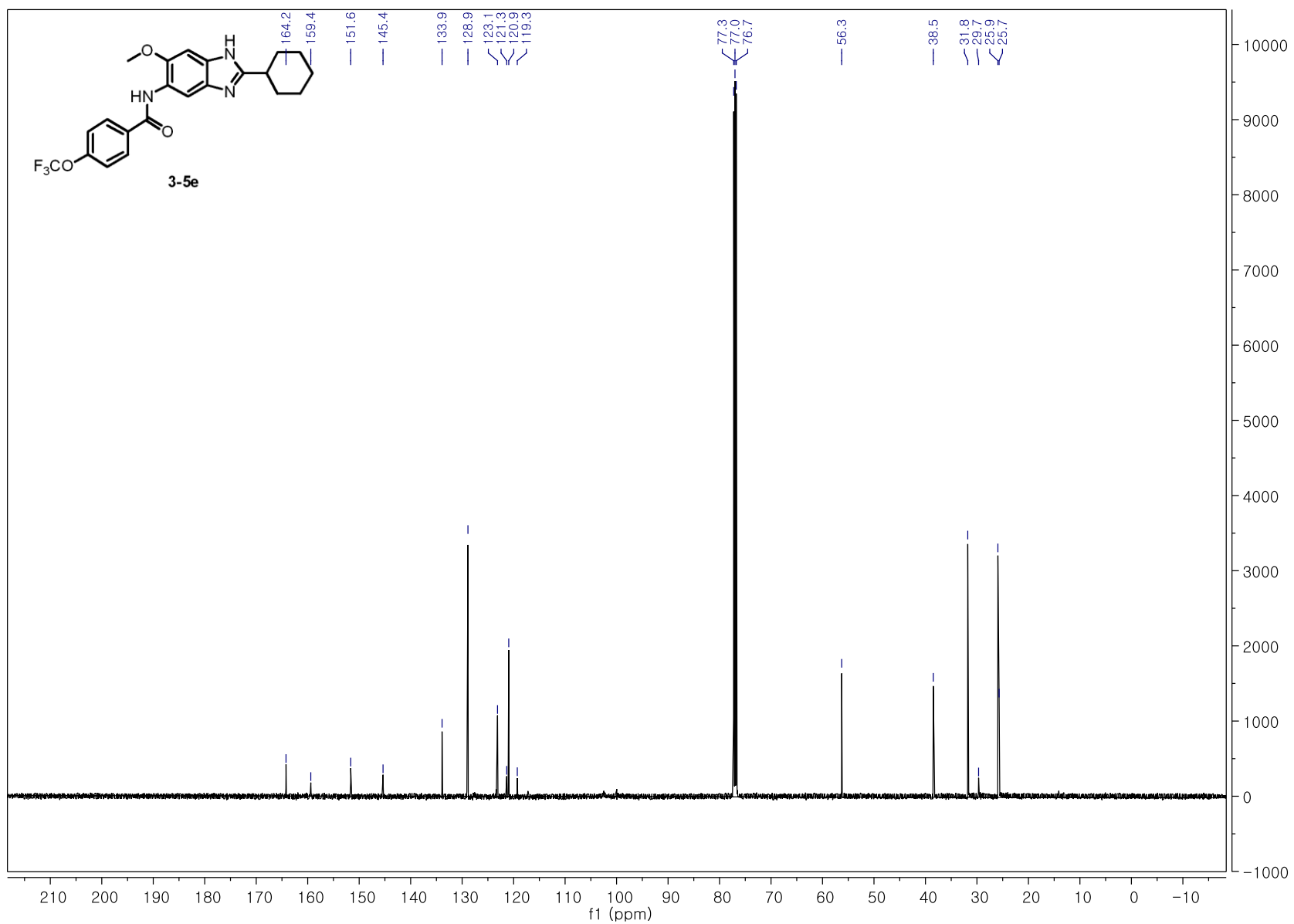


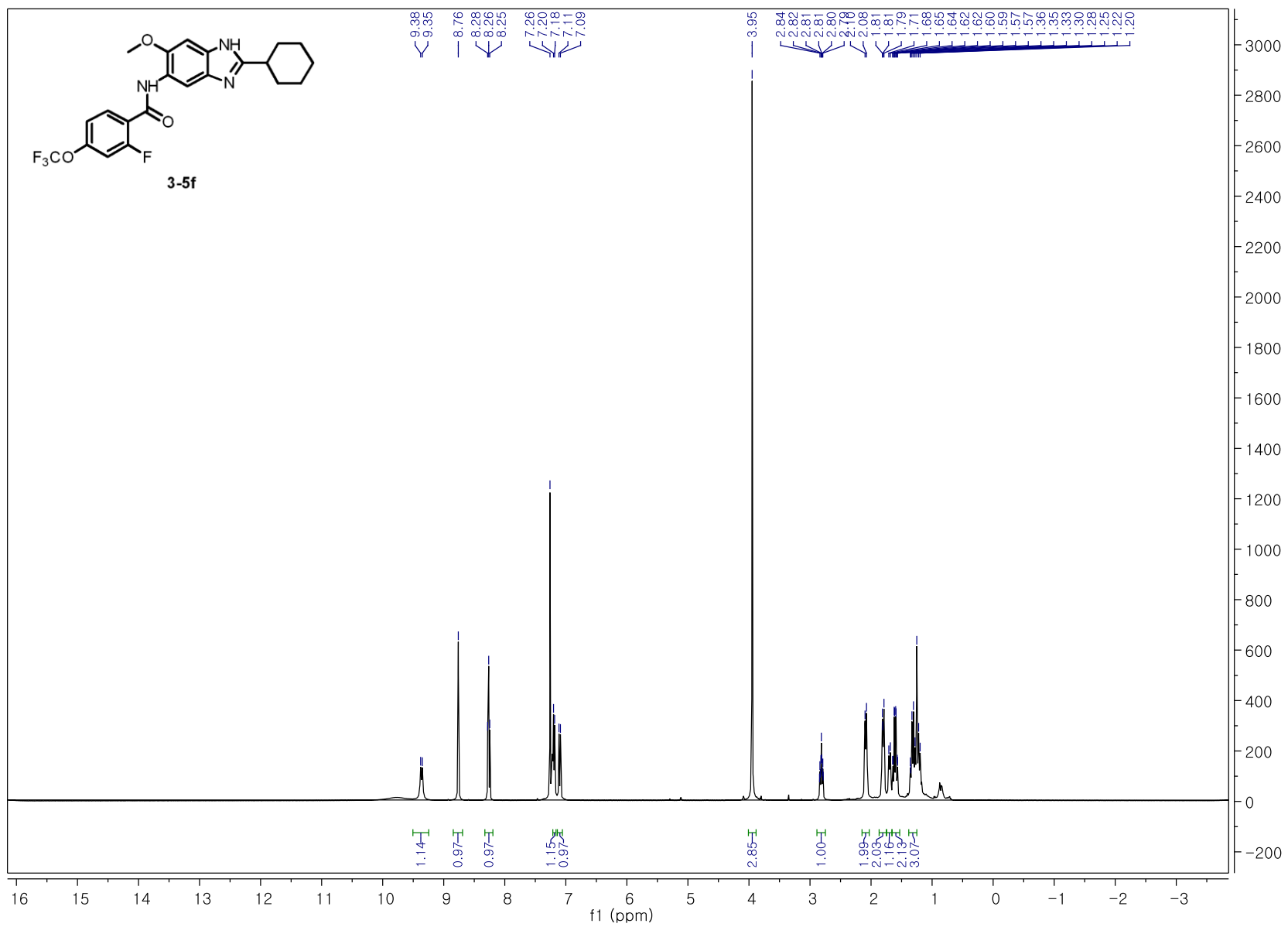


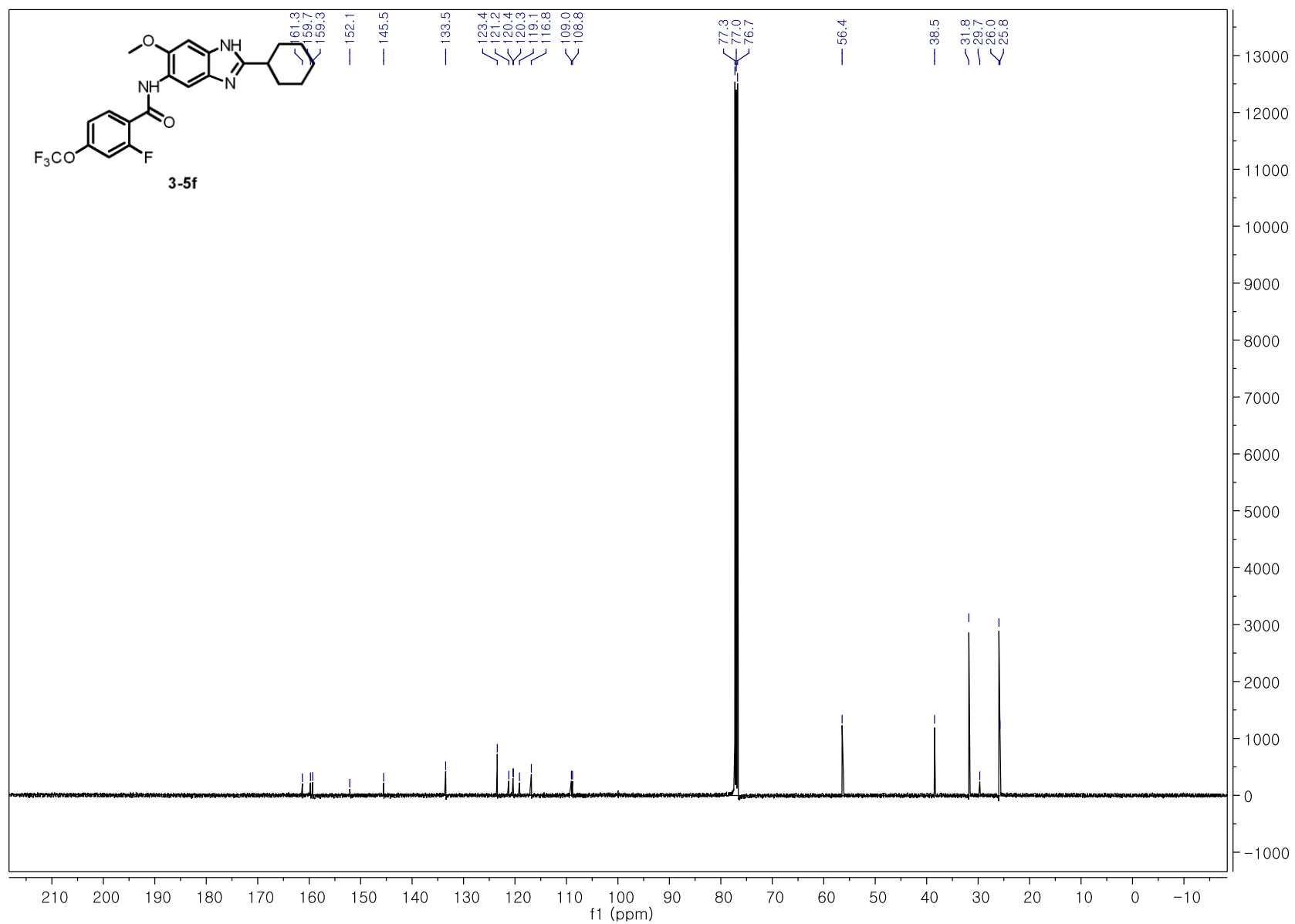


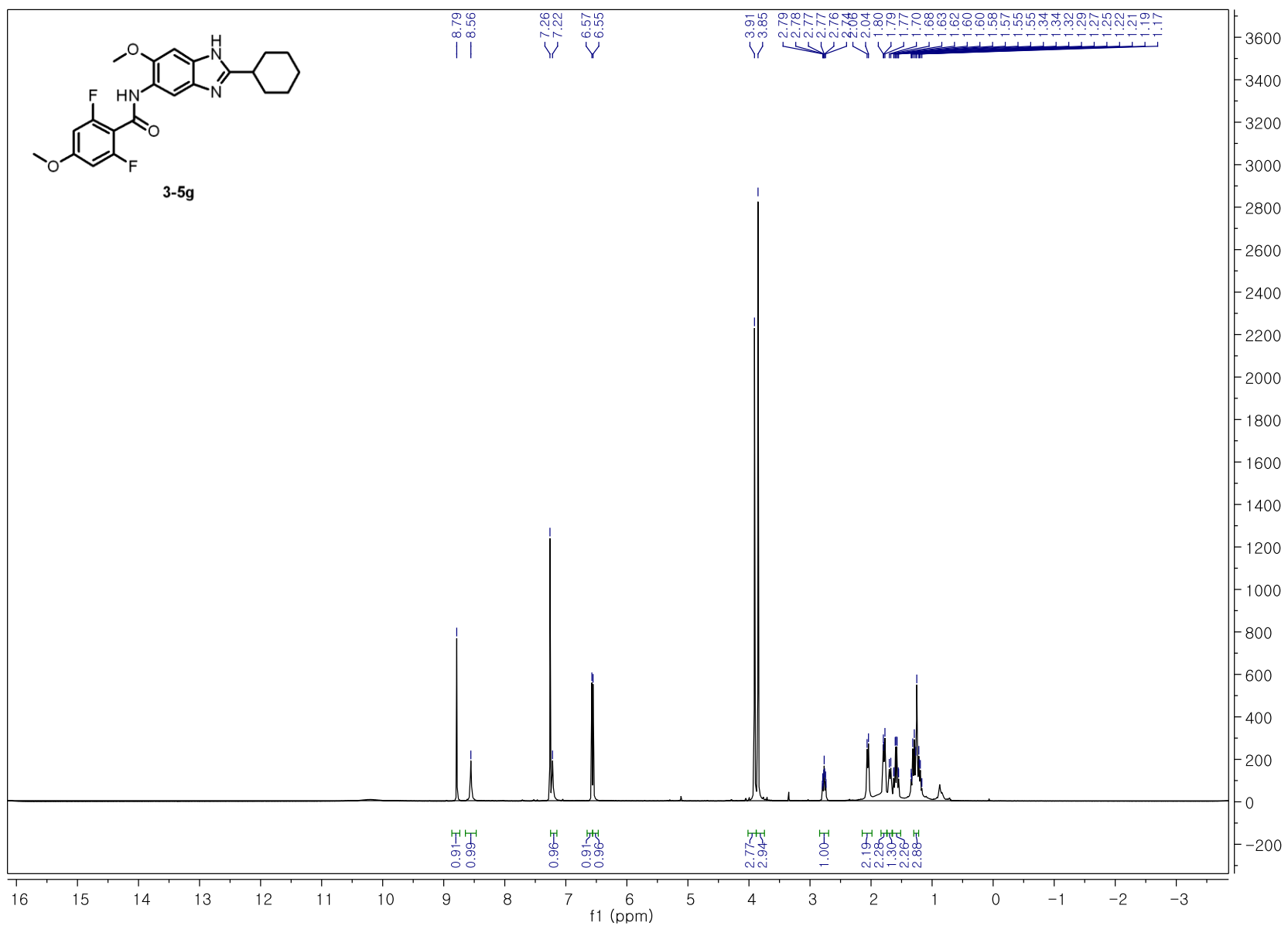


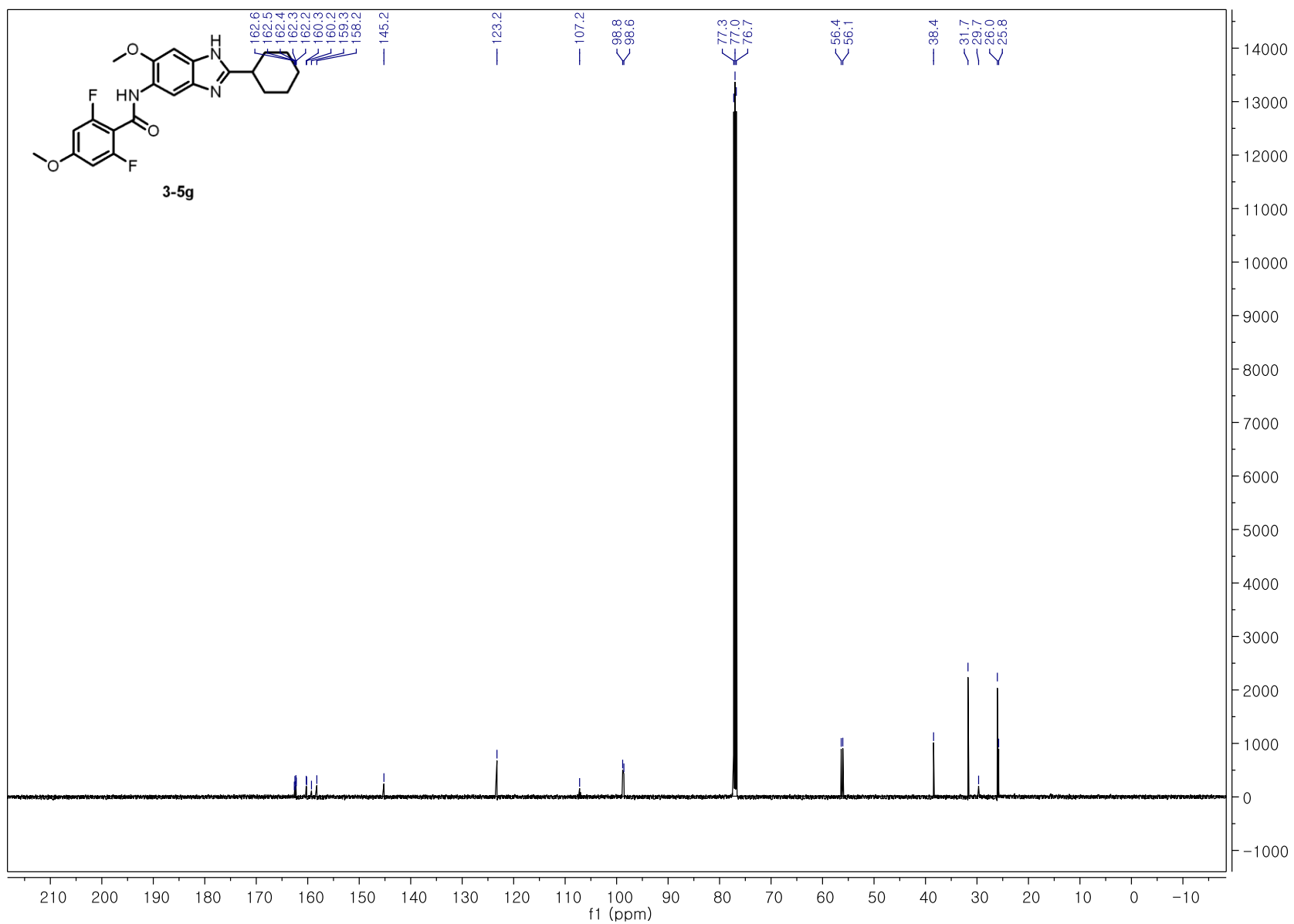


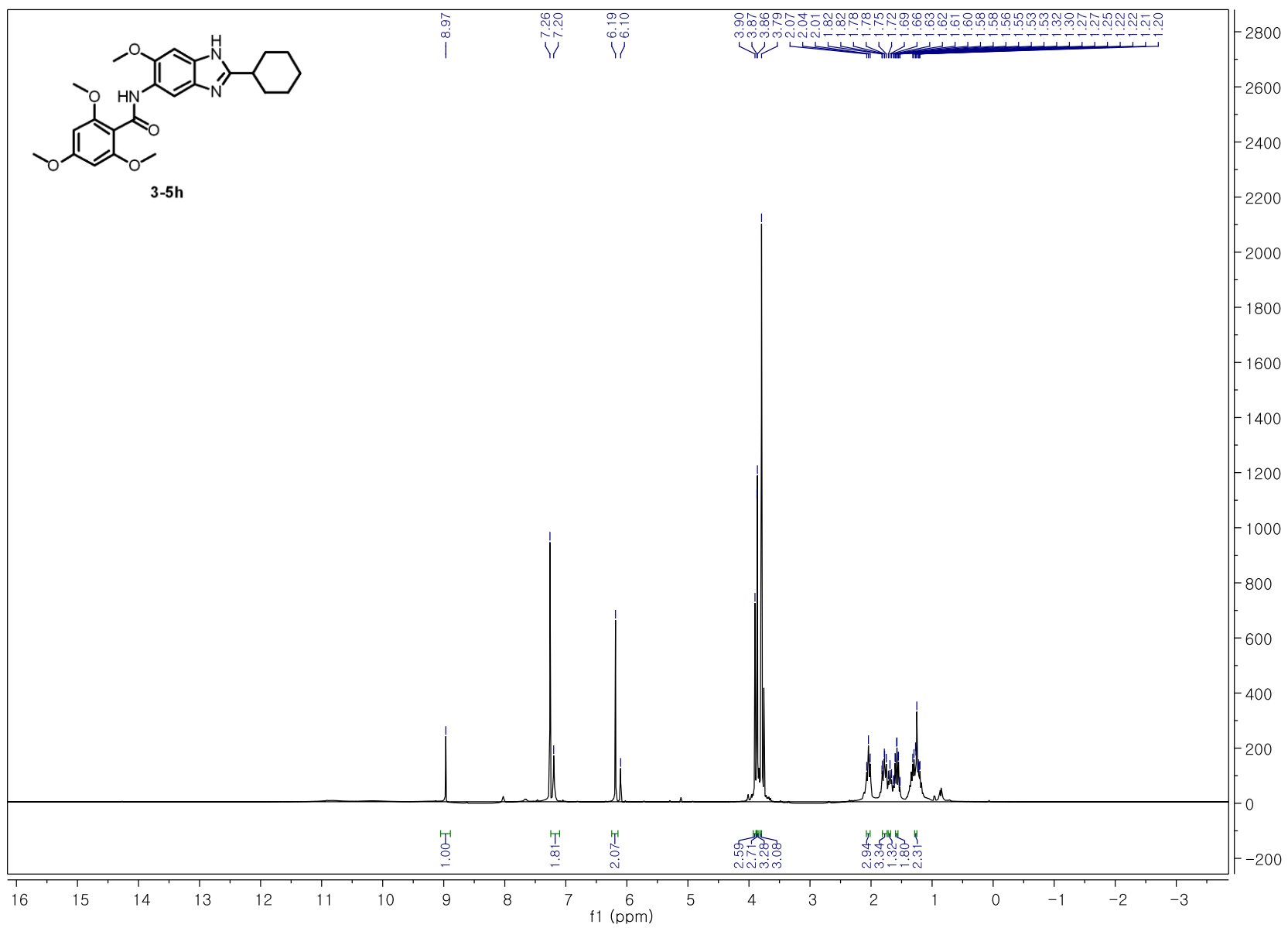


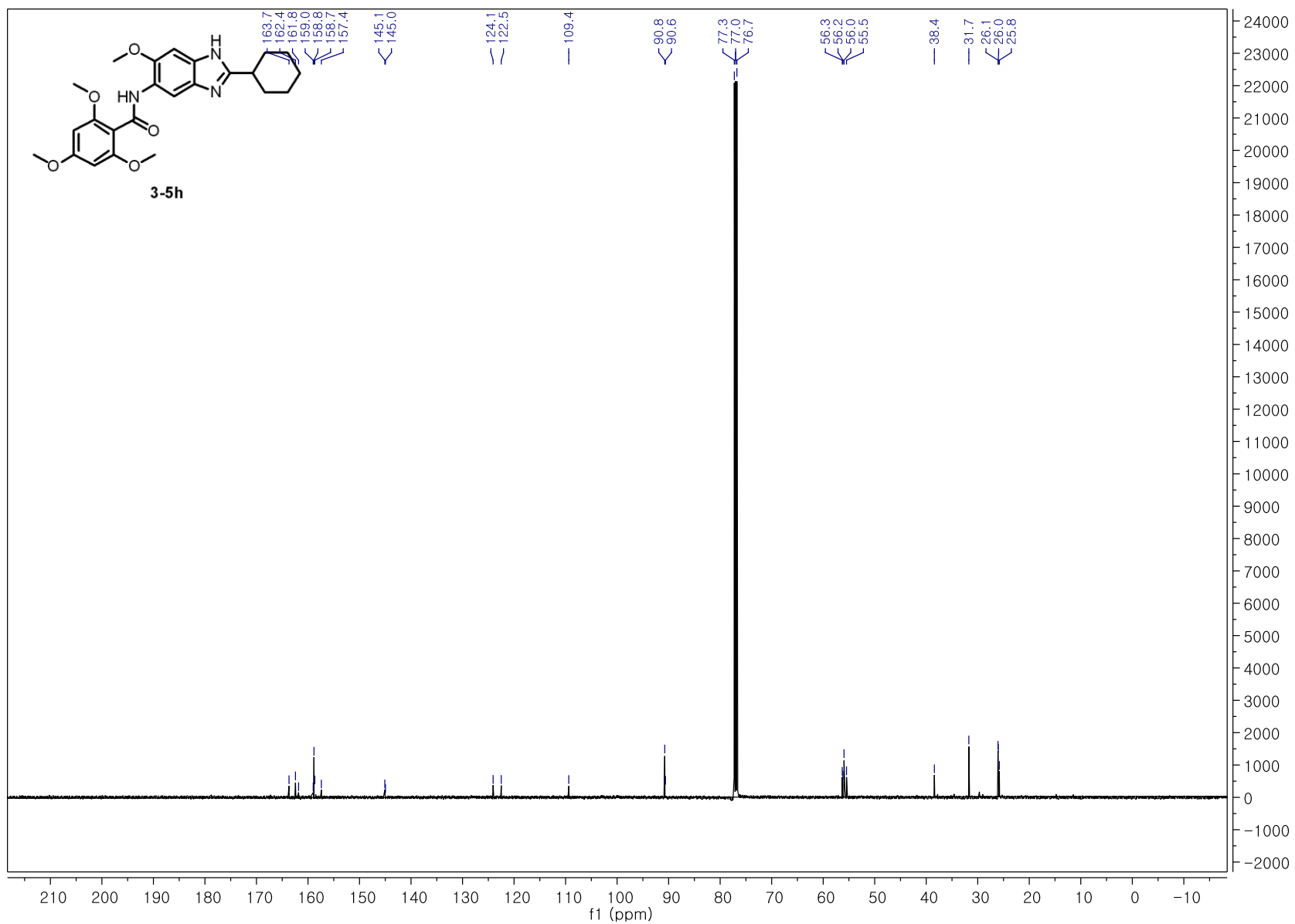


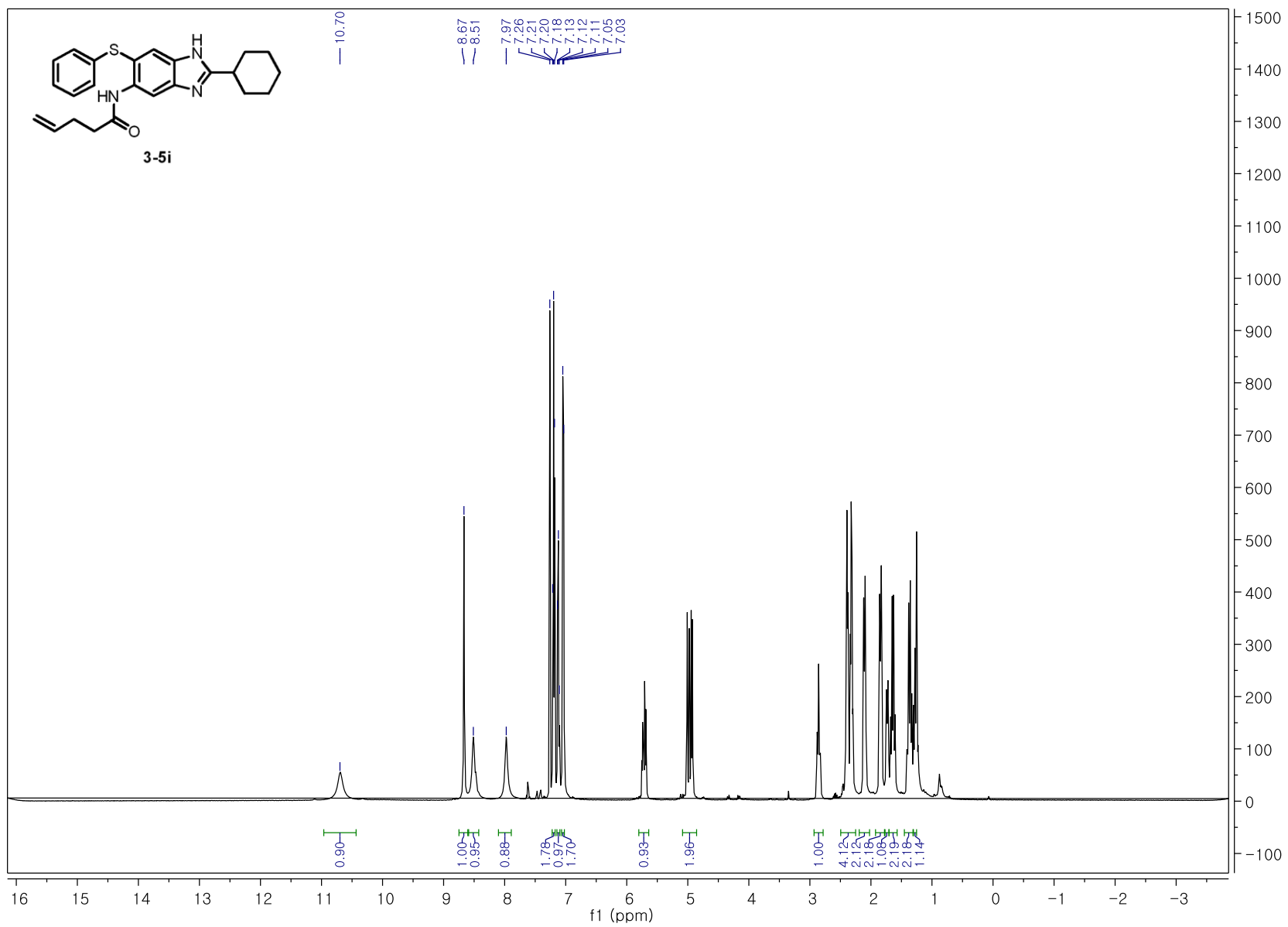


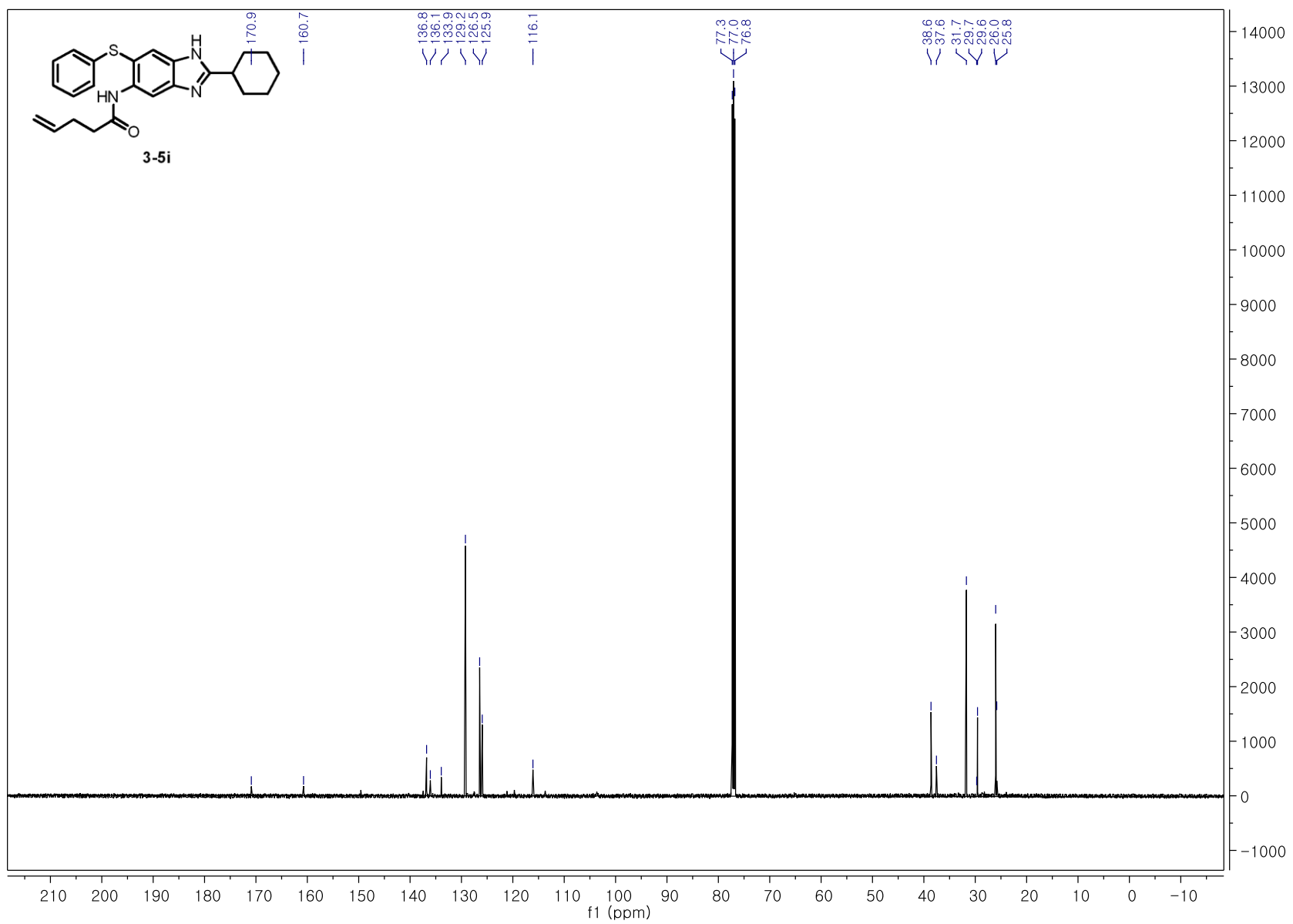




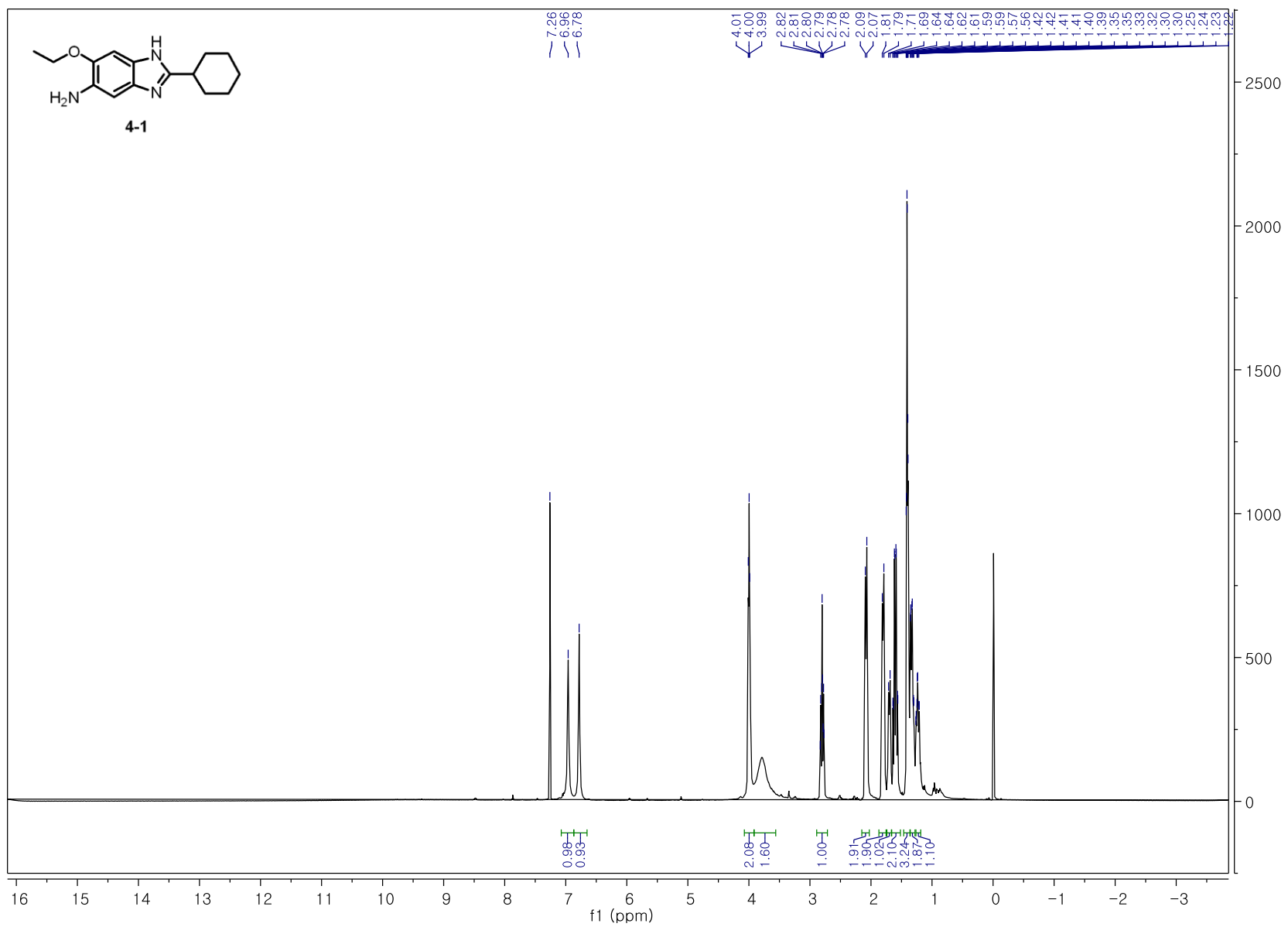


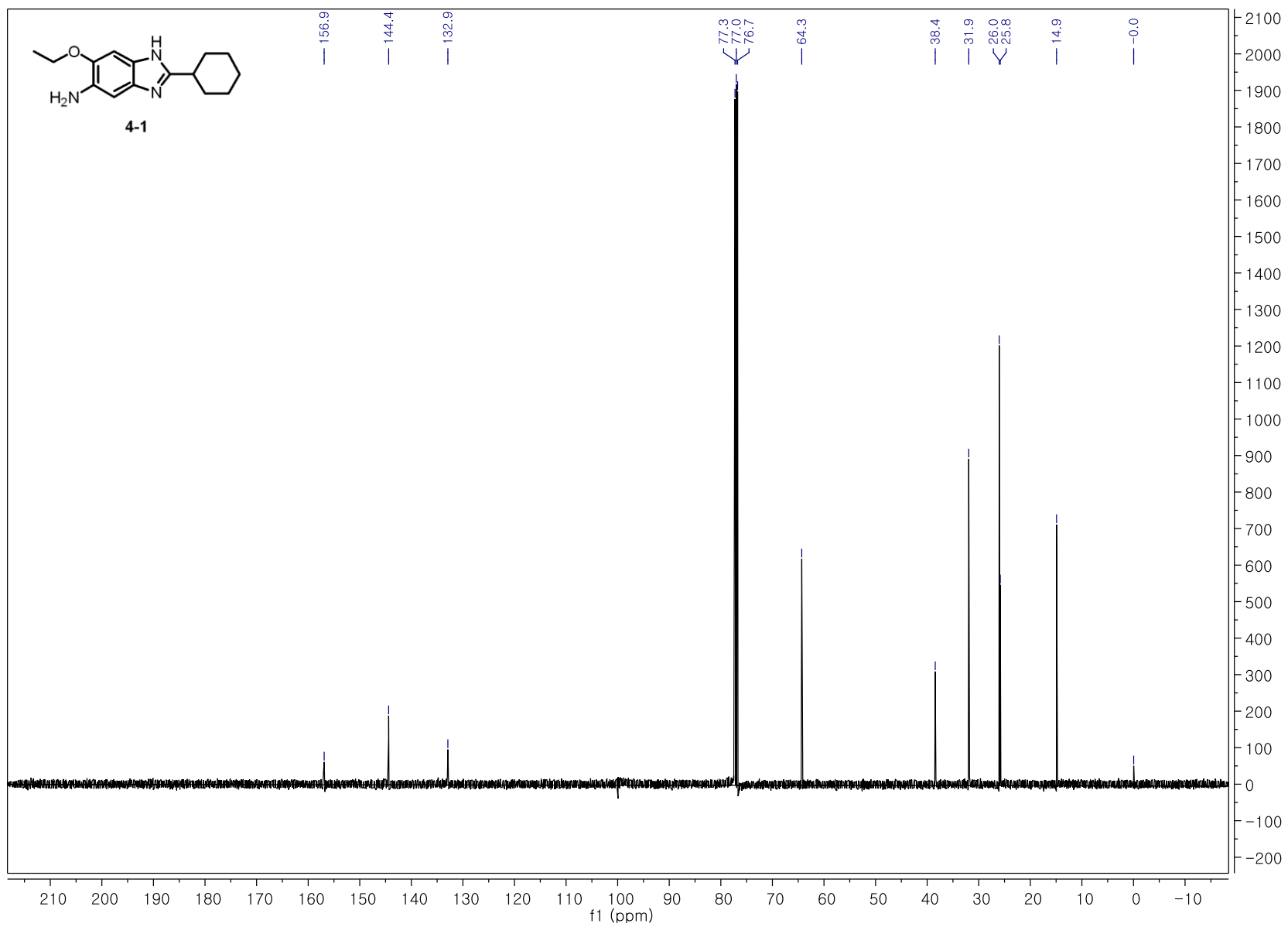


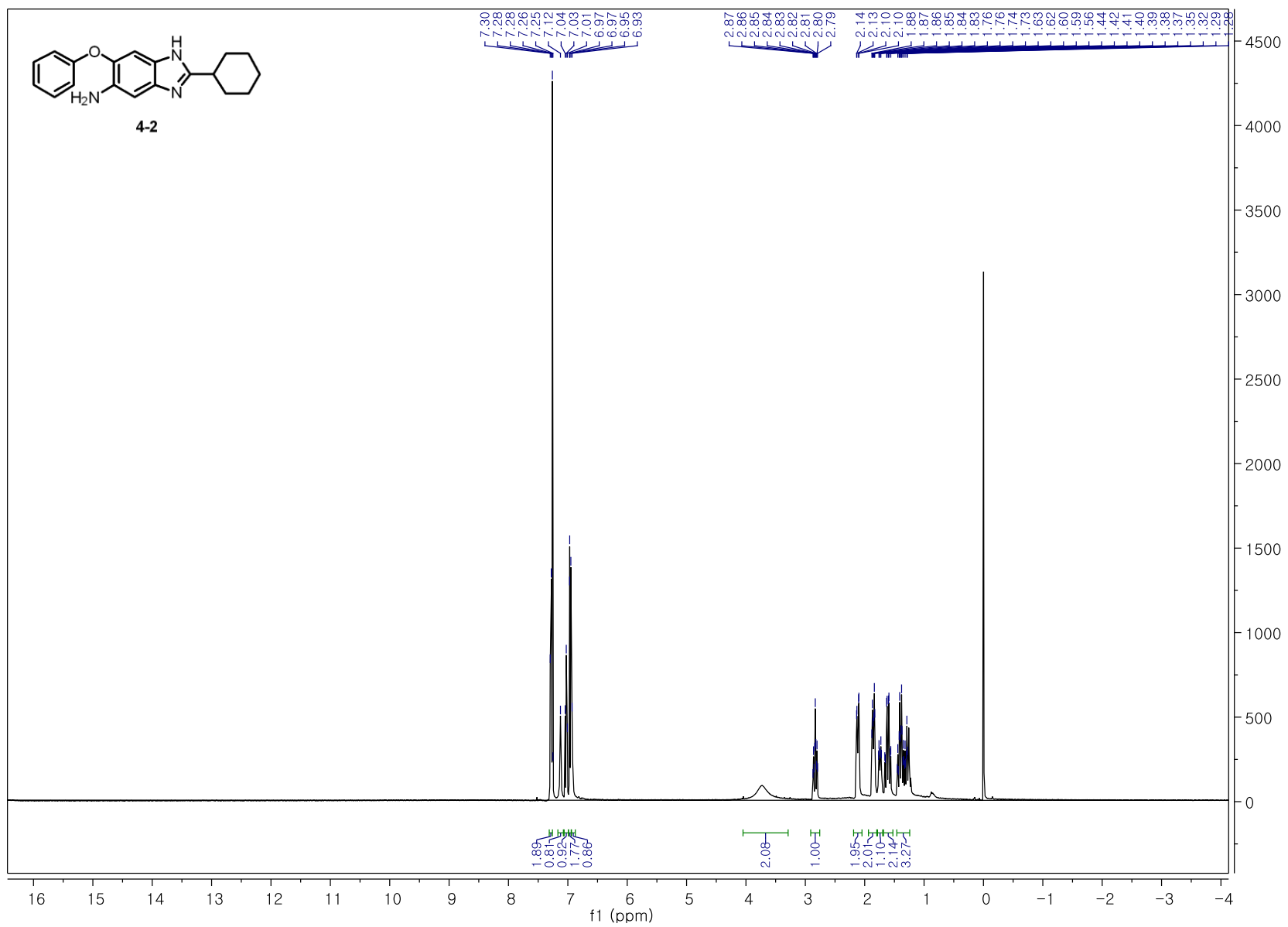


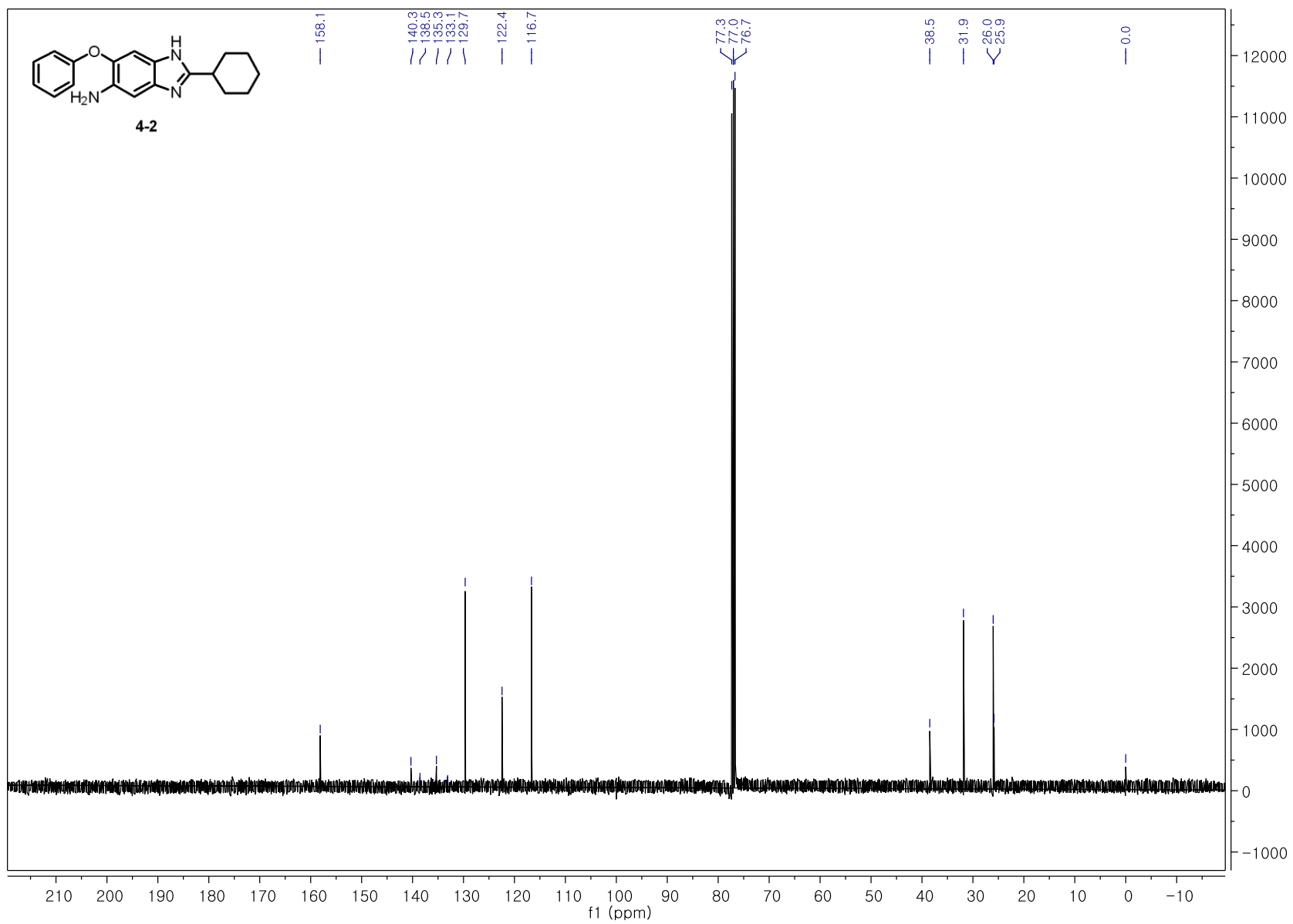


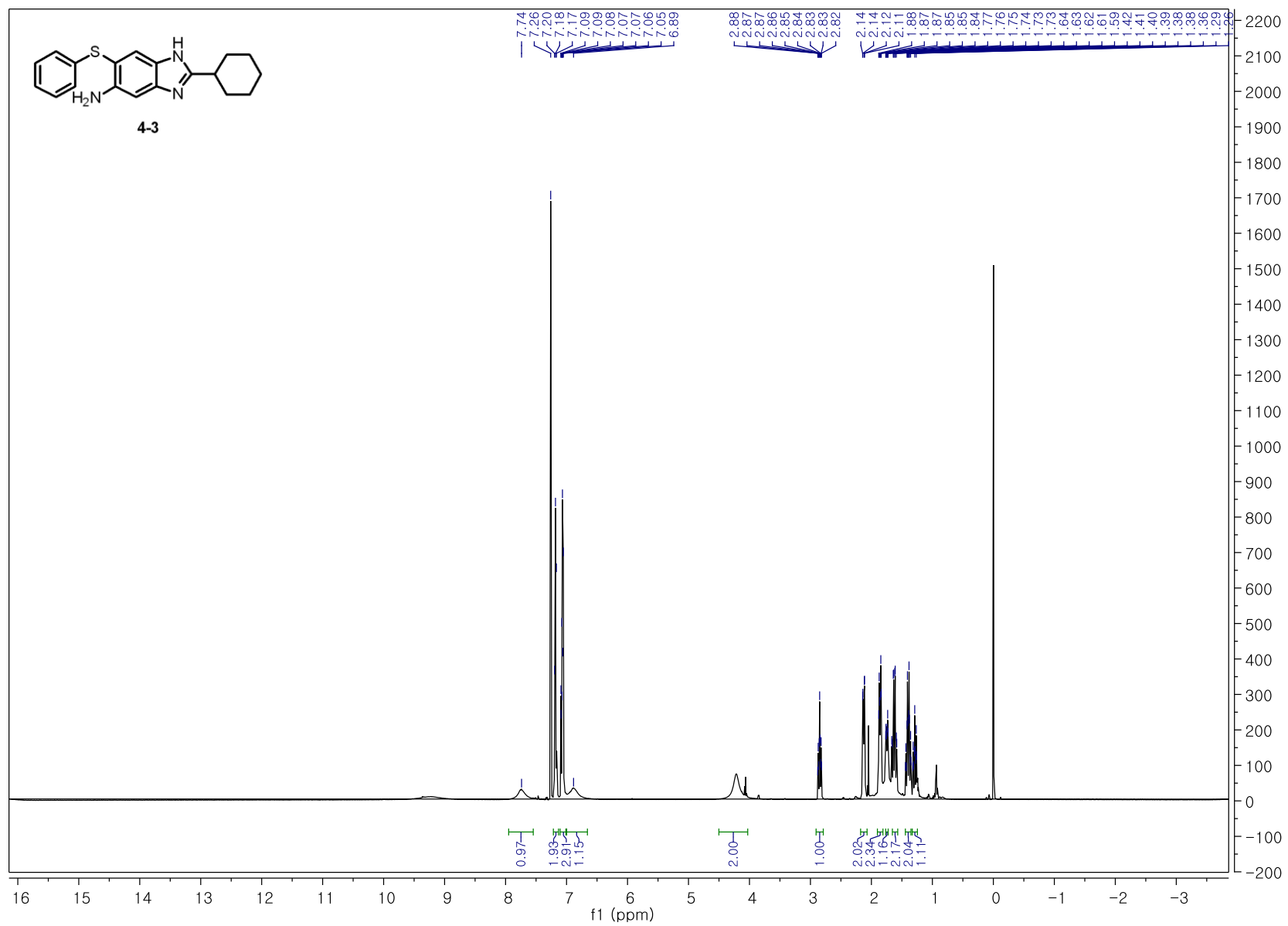
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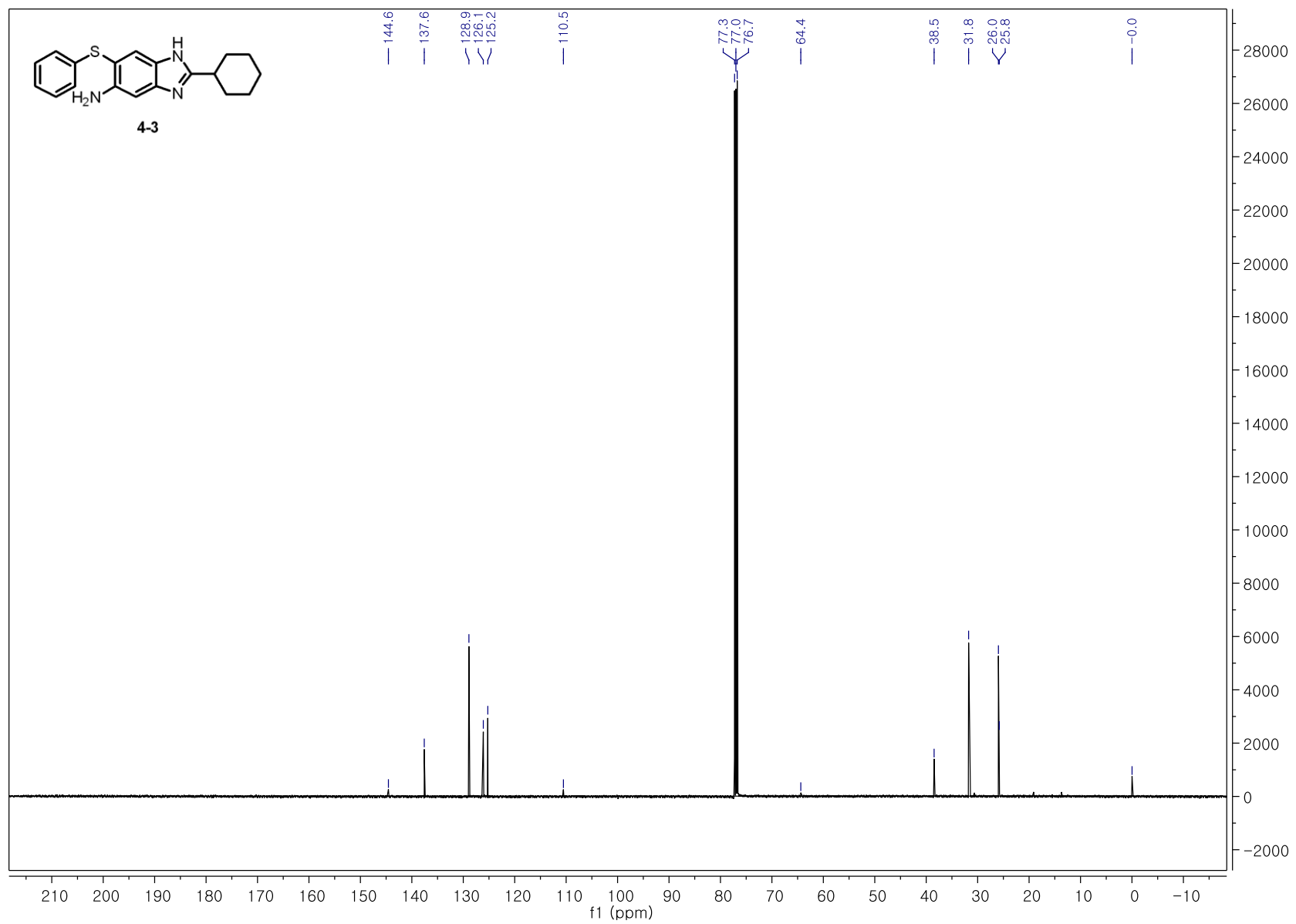


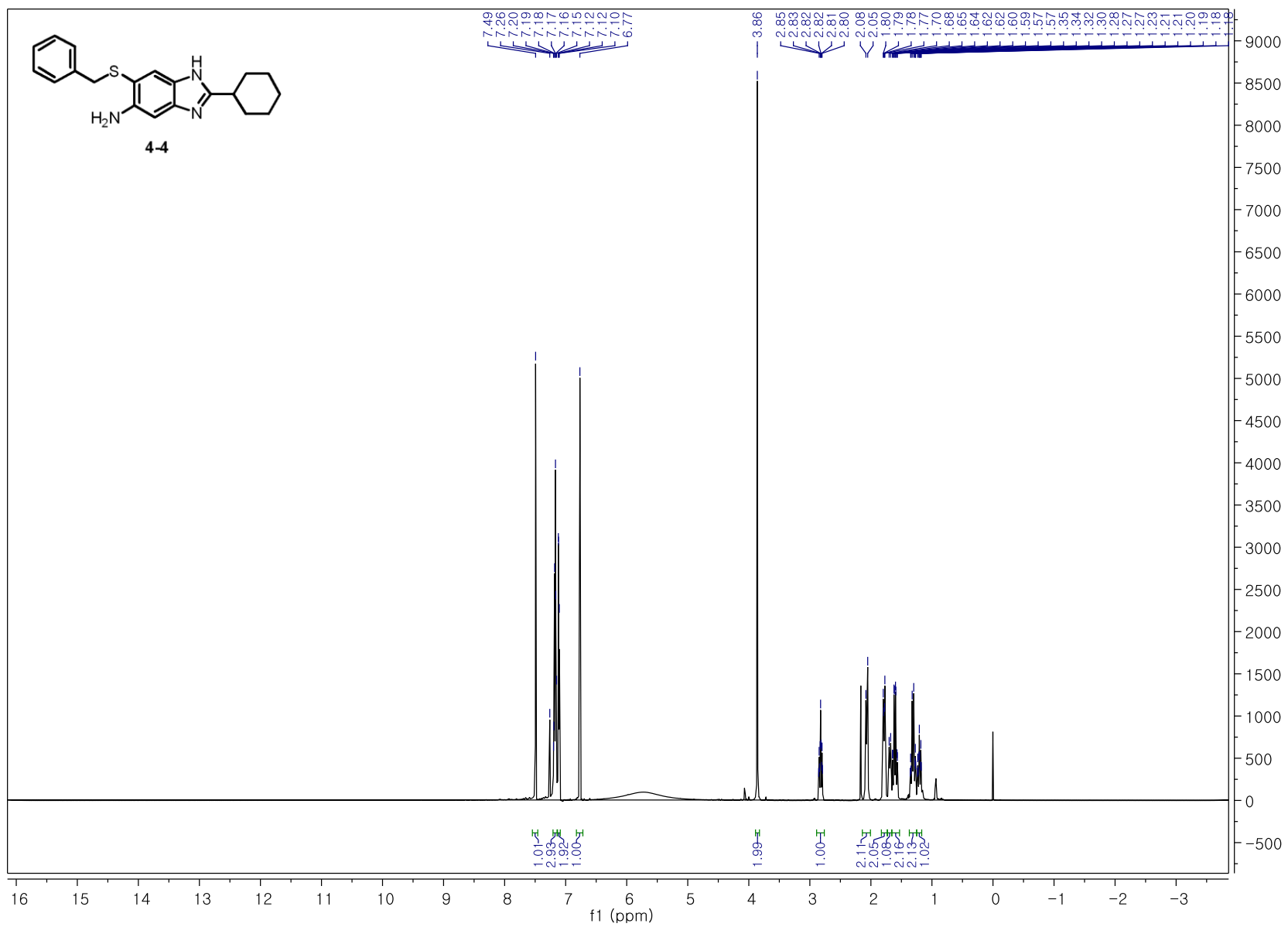


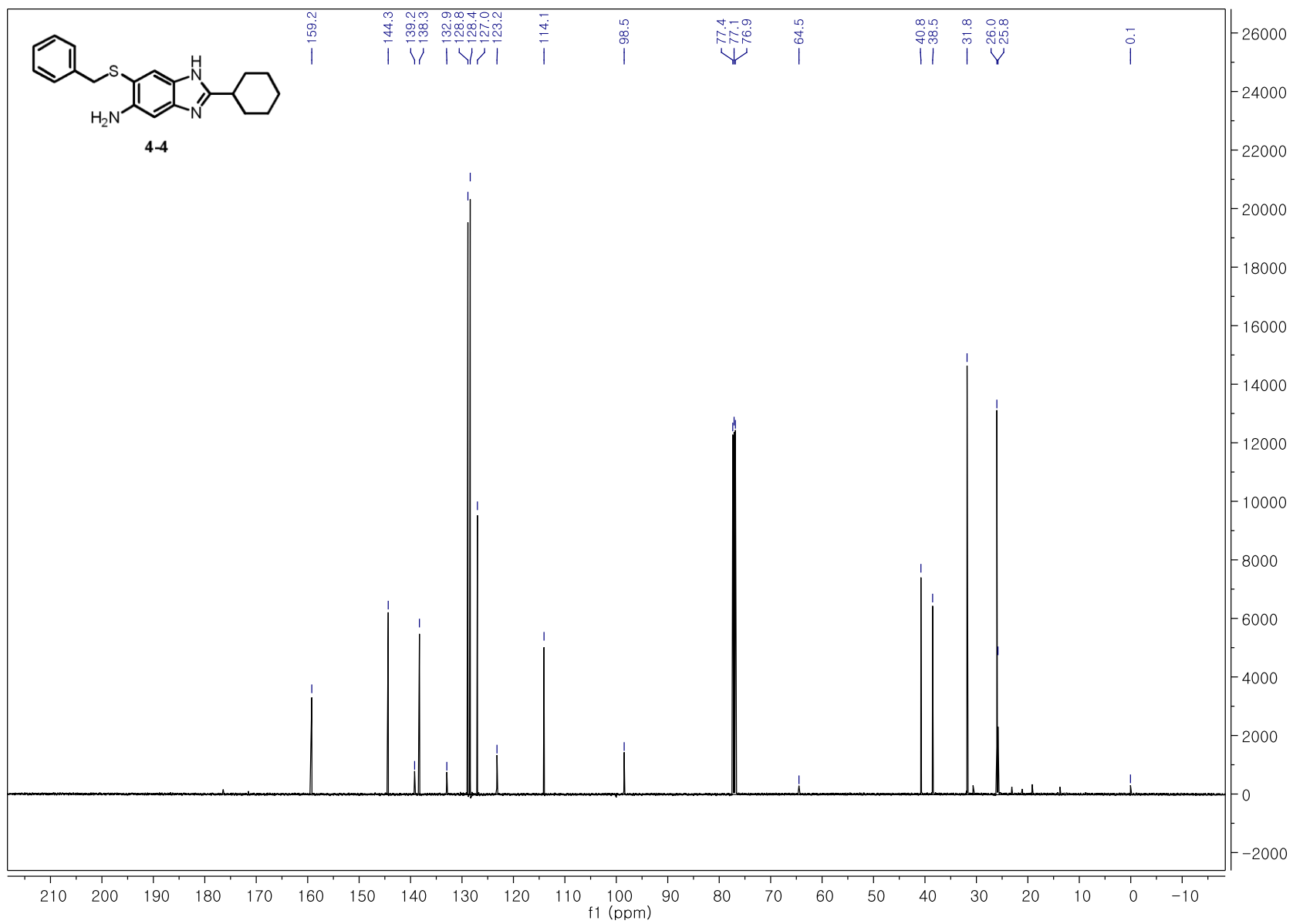


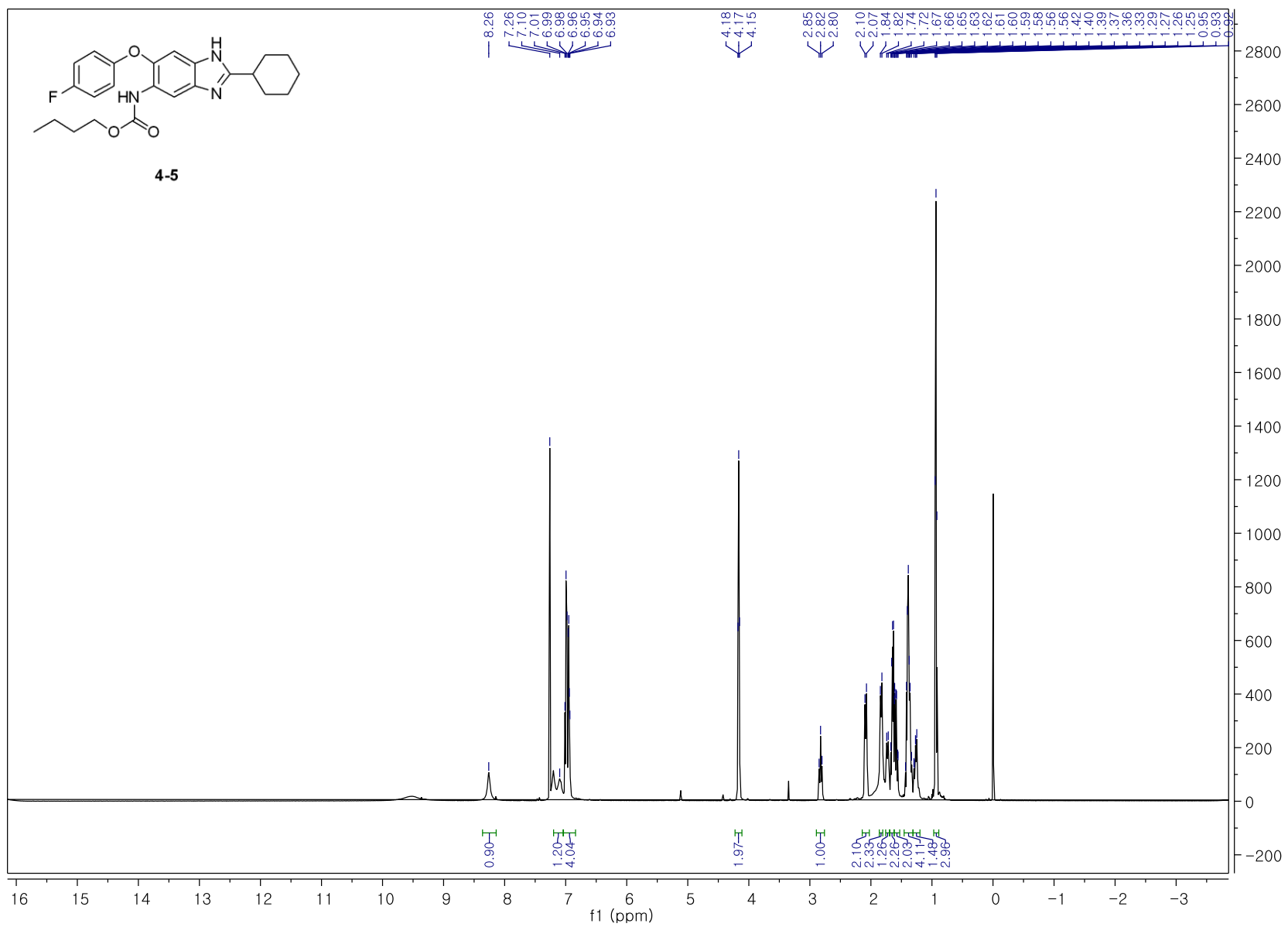


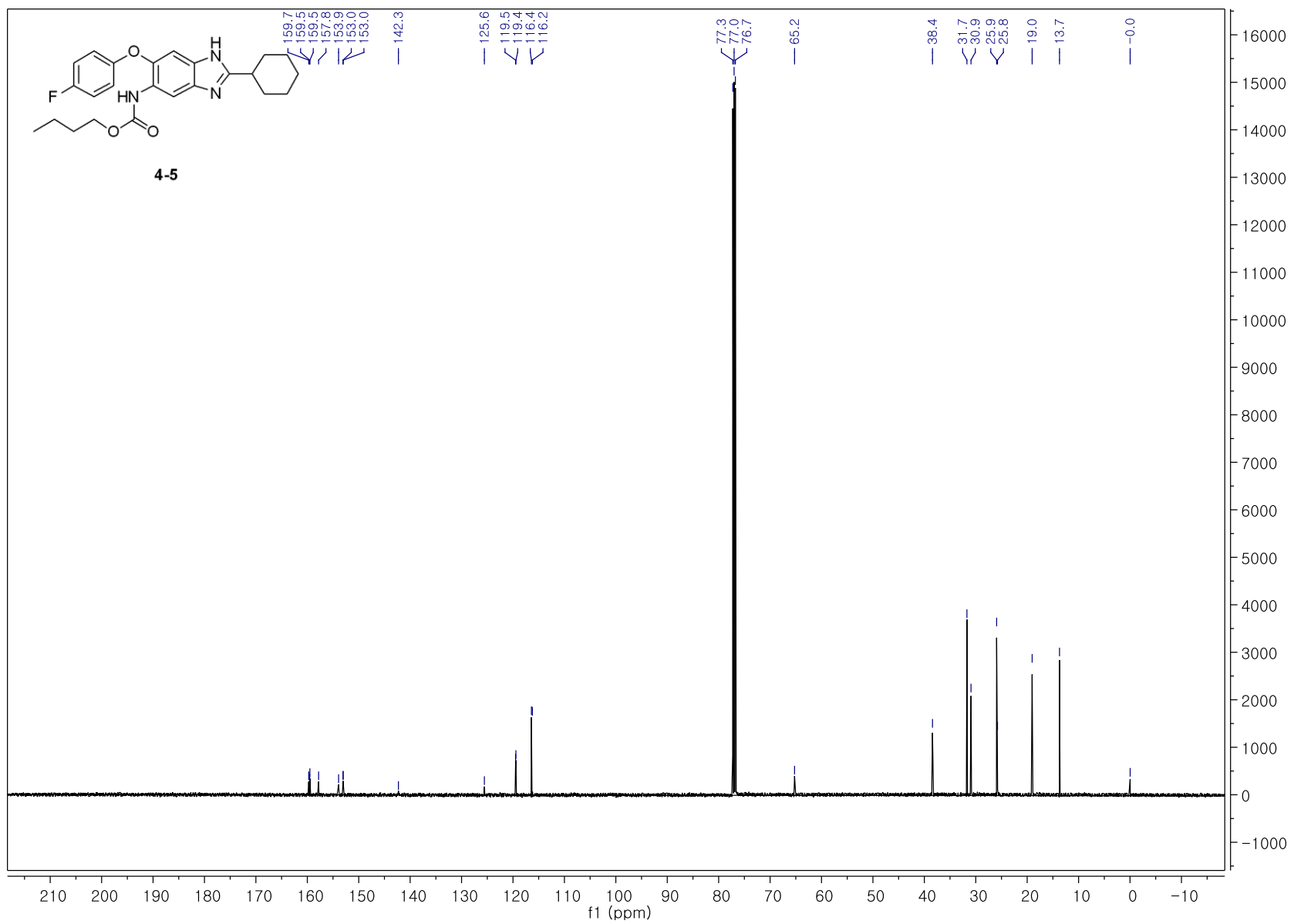


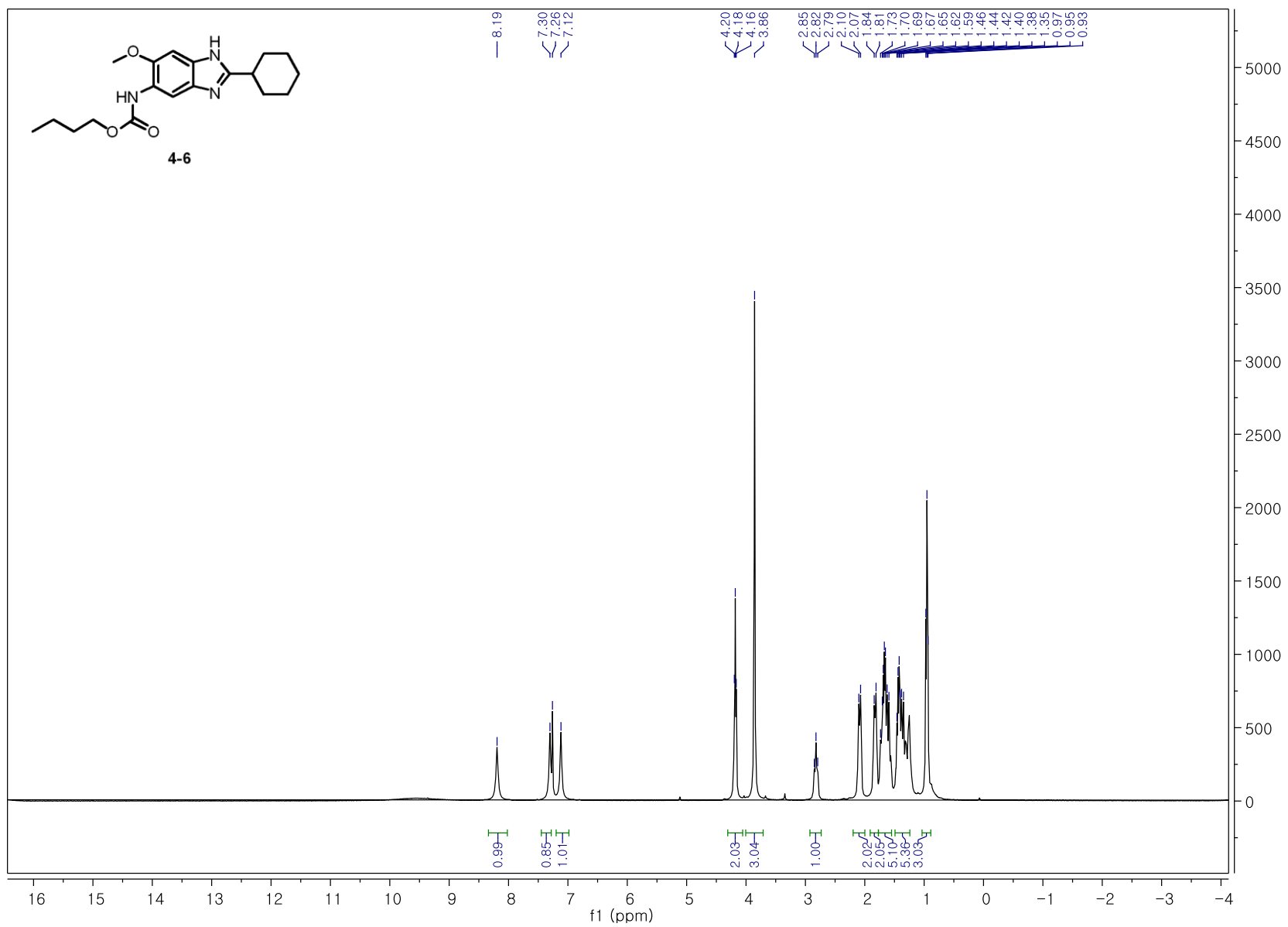


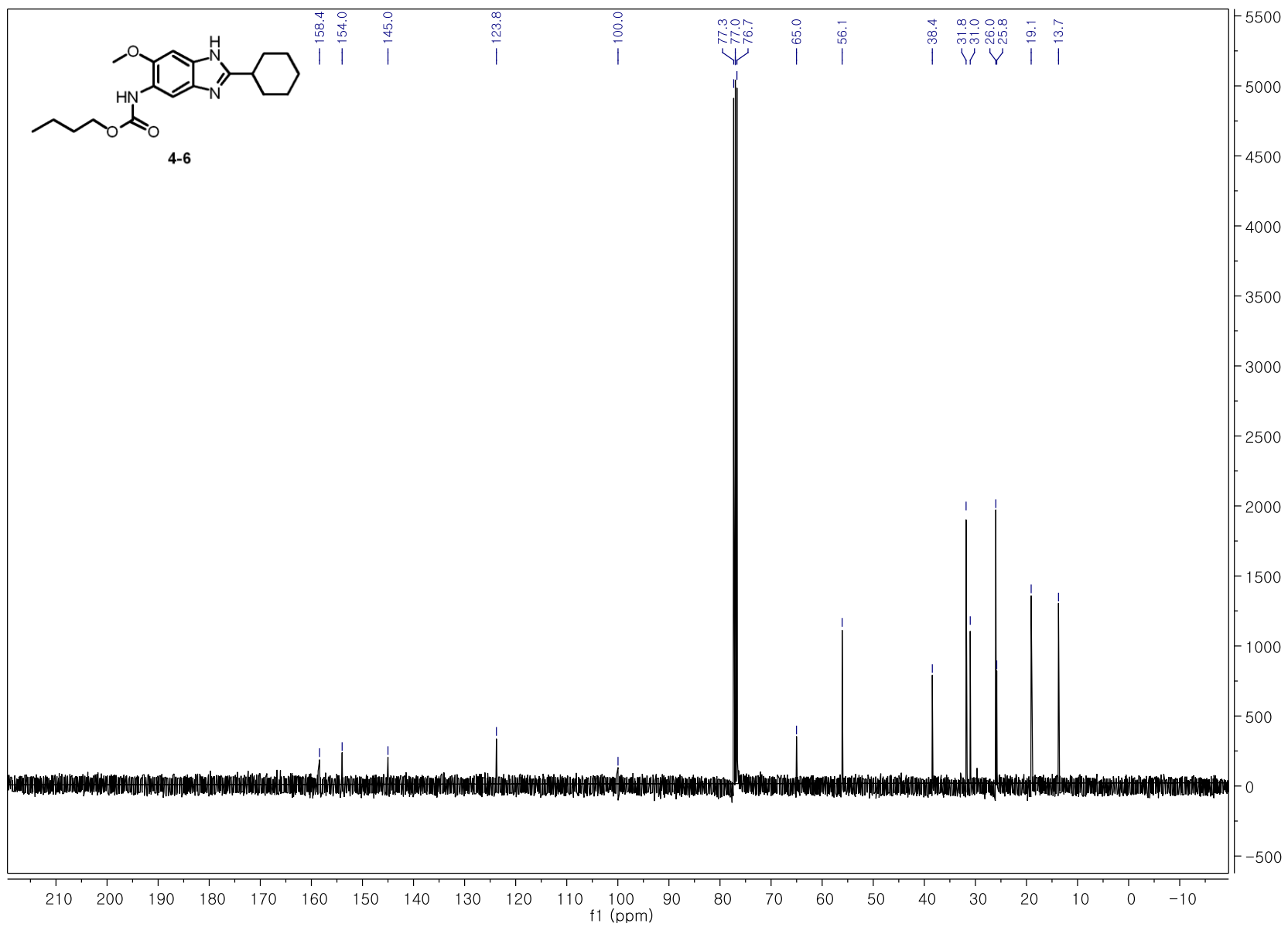


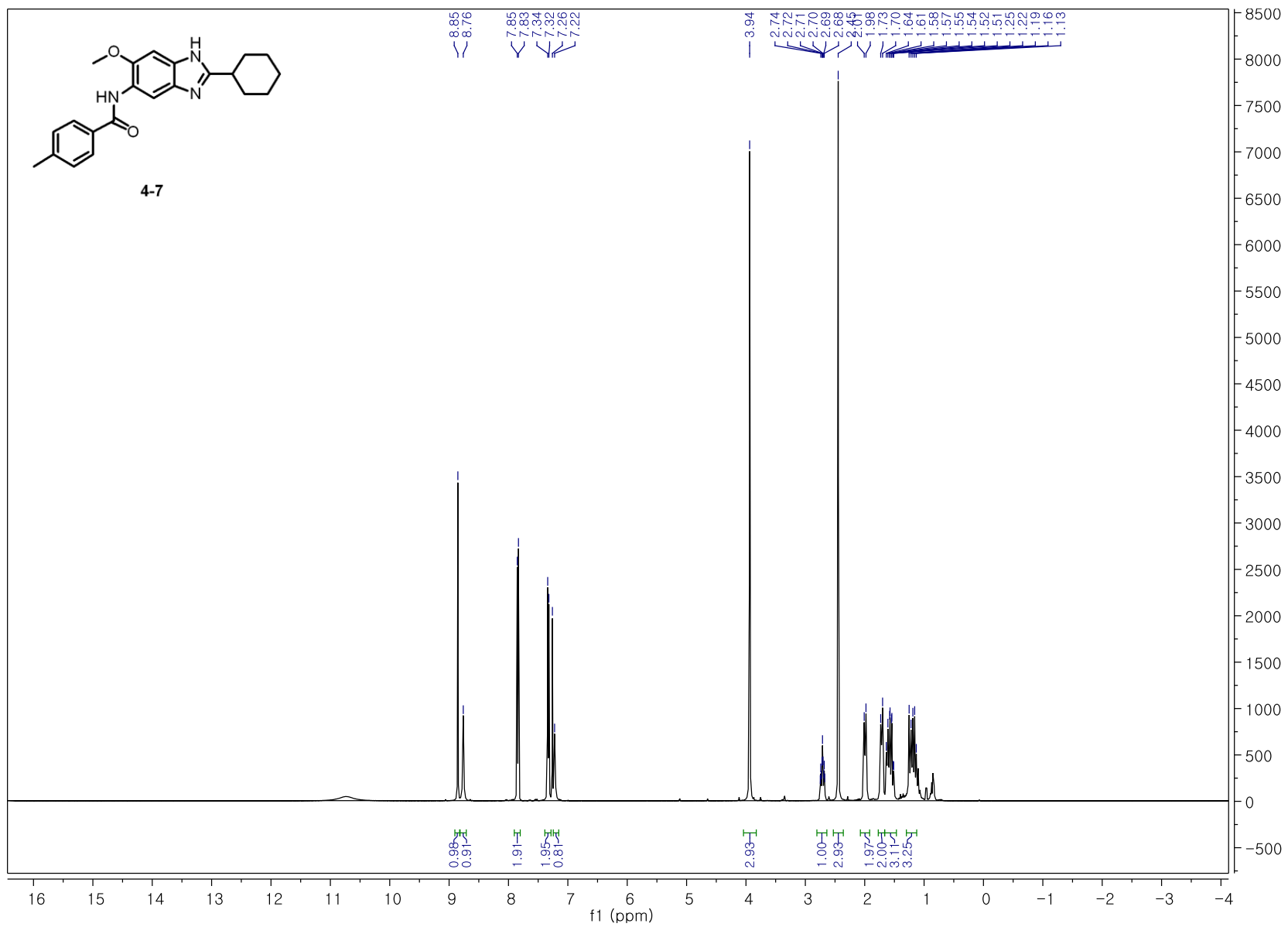


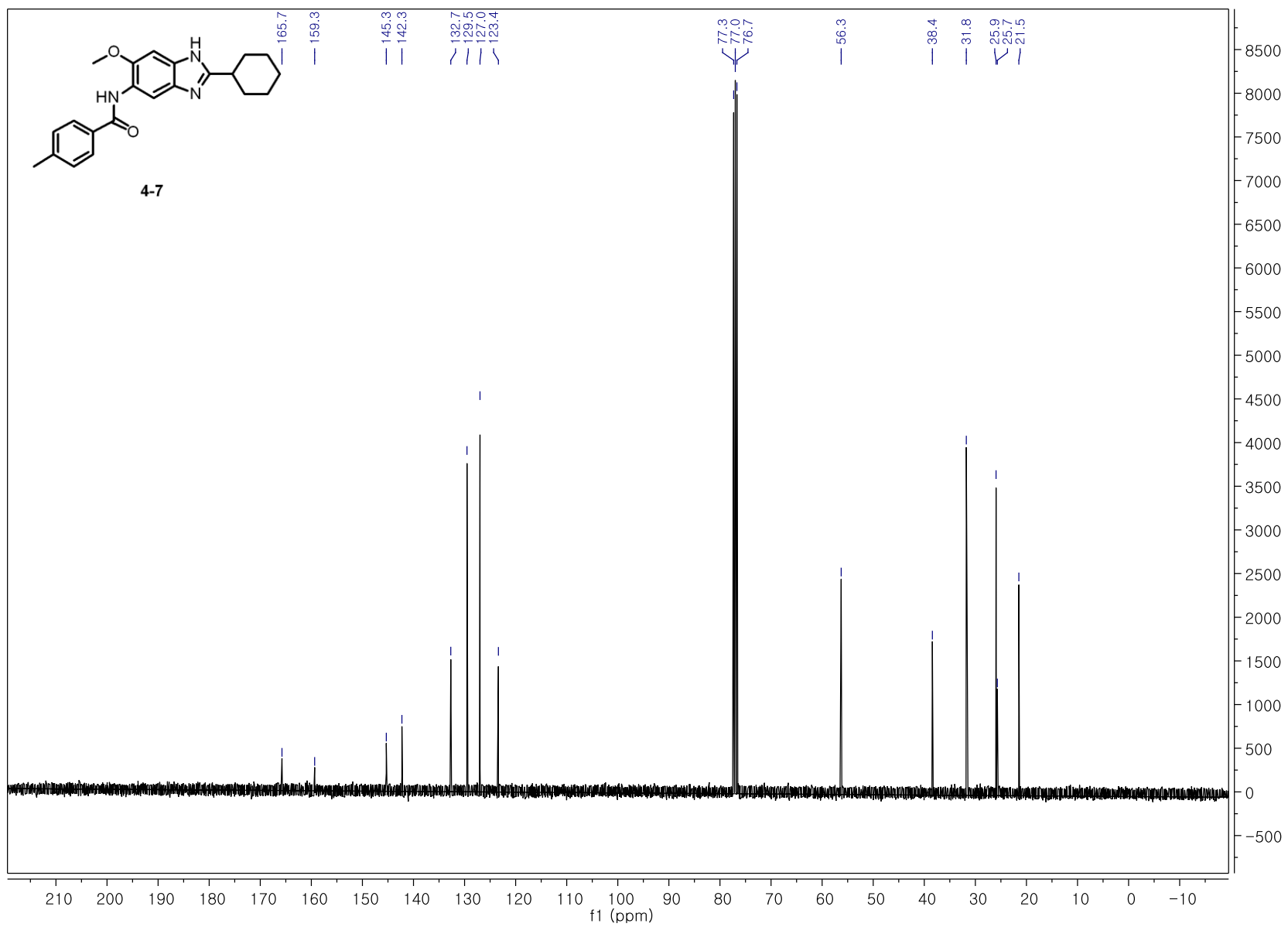


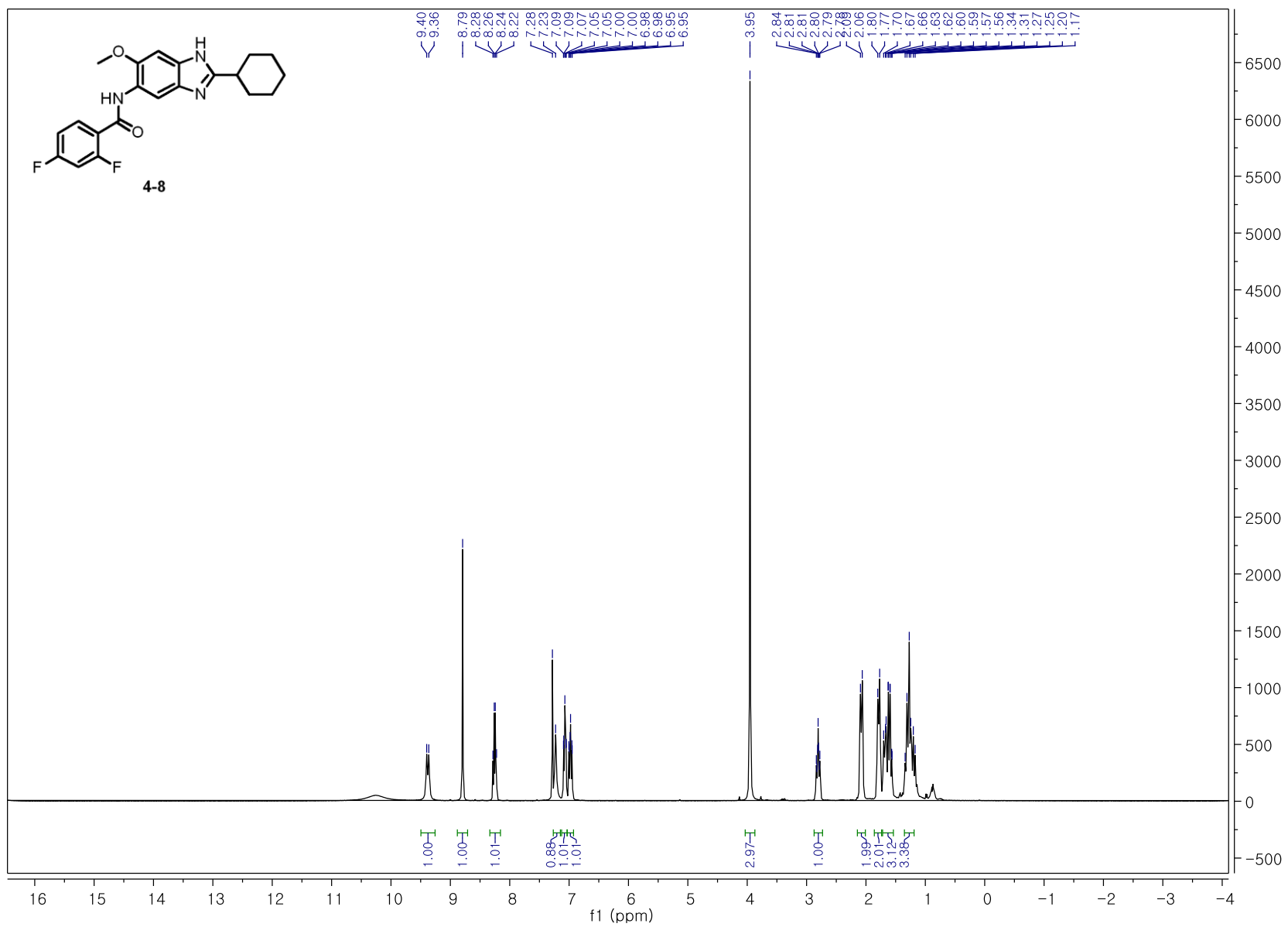


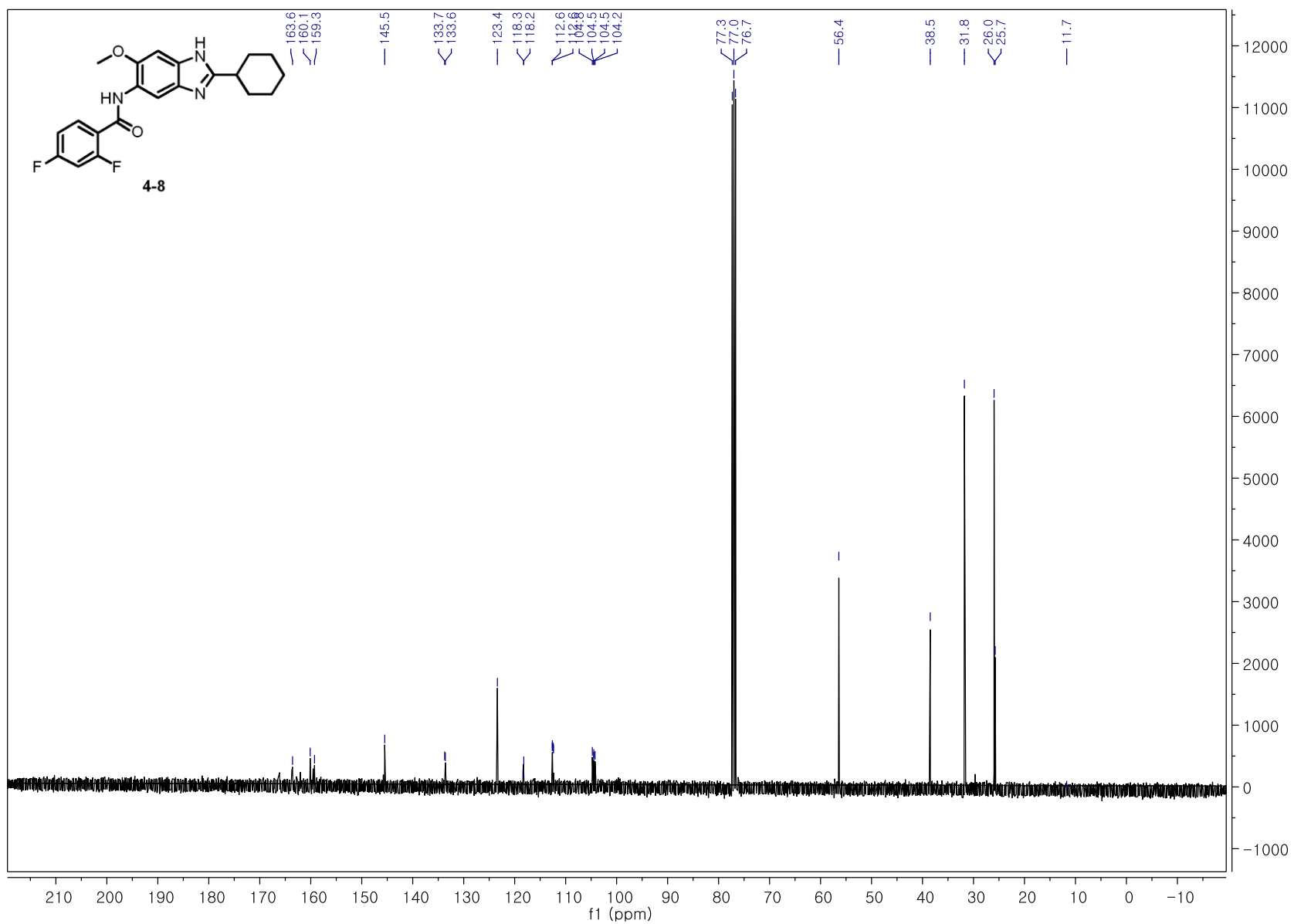












Chapter 7

