

Supporting Information

Cobalt- and Iron- Catalyzed Redox Condensation of *o*-Substituted Nitrobenzenes with Alkylamines: A Step- and Redox- Economical Synthesis of Diazaheterocycles

Thanh Binh Nguyen, Julie Le Bescont, Ludmila Ermolenko, and Ali Al-Mourabit*

General information

Reagents were obtained from commercial supplier and used without further purification. Analytical thinlayer chromatography (TLC) was purchased from Merck KGaA (silica gel 60 F254). Visualization of the chromatogram was performed by UV light (254 nm) or phosphomolybdic acid or vanilline stains. Flash column chromatography was carried out using kieselgel 35-70 μm particle sized silica gel (230-400 mesh). NMR Chemical shifts are reported in (δ) ppm relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) with the residual solvent as internal reference (CDCl_3 , δ 7.26 ppm for ^1H and δ 77.0 ppm for ^{13}C ; DMSO-d_6 , δ 2.50 ppm for ^1H and δ 39.5 ppm for ^{13}C ; CD_3OD , δ 3.31 ppm for ^1H and δ 49.0 ppm for ^{13}C). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. We note that some quaternary carbon signals are not observable in some cases of NH-benzimidazoles possibly due to tautomerism.

General procedures

Metal-catalyzed redox condensation reaction

A mixture of *o*-substituted nitrobenzene **1** (5 mmol), amine **2** (15 mmol) and metal salt (2-5 mol %, see Tables 1-4 of the Manuscript) and sulfur (20 mol %, 1 mmol, 32.1 mg for examples given in Table 4 of the Manuscript) was stirred in a 20-mL tube under an argon atmosphere for 24 h at indicated temperatures (See Tables 1-4 of the Manuscript). The crude

mixture was stirred vigorously with CH₂Cl₂ (5-10 mL) then filtered. Other portions of CH₂Cl₂ could be used to remove thoroughly all the CH₂Cl₂ soluble materials from the solid residue.

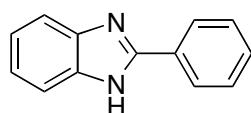
(i) The combined filtrate was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (heptane:EtOAc or CH₂Cl₂:MeOH) to afford a portion of the desired product **3**.

(ii) The solid residue was dissolved in MeOH, then filtered through a short pad of Celite (5 cm). The filtrate thus obtained was concentrated to afford another portion of the desired product **3**.

In the cases of **3ha**, **3ia** and **3ka**, due to their higher solubilities in CH₂Cl₂, the crude mixtures were totally soluble when treated with CH₂Cl₂.

Characterizations of Products

2-Phenylbenzimidazole (**3aa**)¹



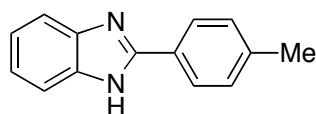
Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 99:1.

Gray solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.09-8.07 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.22 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 153.5, 140.3, 131.5, 131.1, 130.2, 127.9, 124.0, 116.0.

2-(*p*-Tolyl)benzimidazole (**3ab**)¹



Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 99:1.

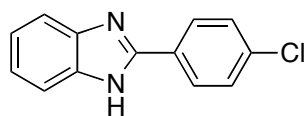
Gray solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 153.8, 142.0, 130.9, 128.5, 127.9, 123.9, 118.6, 113.1, 21.6.

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)benzimidazole (**3ac**)¹

¹ Nguyen, T. B., Ermolenko, L.; Dean, W. A. Al-Mourabit, A. *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 5948.



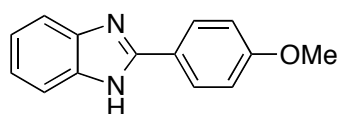
Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5.

Gray solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.07-8.03 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 152.2, 137.3, 130.3, 129.7, 129.3, 124.2, 115.3.

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)benzimidazole (3ad)¹



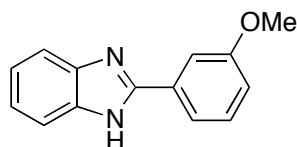
Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5.

Gray solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.03-8.00 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.05 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 163.1, 153.6, 129.5, 123.7, 123.5, 115.8, 56.0.

2-(3-Methoxyphenyl)benzimidazole (3ae)²



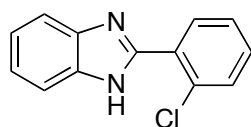
Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5.

Gray solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.68-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.06-7.03 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 161.8, 153.4, 132.3, 131.4, 124.1, 120.1, 117.5, 113.0, 56.0

2-(2-Chlorophenyl)benzimidazole (3af)³



² Savall, B. M.; Fontimayor, J. R. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2008**, 49, 6667.

³ Nguyen, T. B.; Ermolenko, L.; Al-Mourabit, A. *Green Chem.* **2013**, 15, 2713.

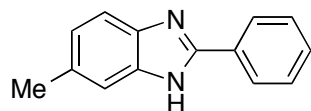
Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 98:2.

Gray solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.84-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.42 (m, 5H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 151.2, 139.9, 134.0, 133.2, 132.6, 131.6, 131.1, 128.5, 124.2, 116.2.

6-Methyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ba)¹

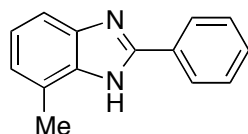


Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 99:1.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.07-8.04 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.38 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 153.2, 134.0, 131.3, 130.2, 127.8, 125.6, 114.9, 21.9.

7-Methyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ca)⁴



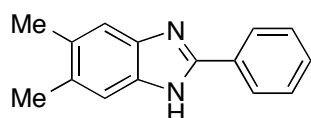
Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 98:2.

Gray solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.13-8.10 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.43 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 153.3, 131.3, 130.2, 128.1, 124.6, 124.1, 113.8, 113.7, 113.7, 17.3.

5,6-Dimethyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3da)¹



Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5.

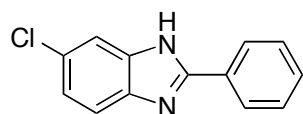
Pale yellow solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.04-8.01 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.34 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 5H).

⁴ Kim, J.; Kim, J.; Lee, H.; Kim, Byeong H.; Lee, B. M. *Tetrahedron* **2011**, 67, 8027.

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 152.4, 138.5, 133.4, 131.3, 131.0, 130.2, 127.7, 115.9, 20.6.

6-Chloro-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ea)¹



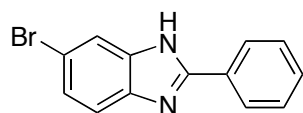
Eluent for column chromatography: CH_2Cl_2 to CH_2Cl_2 :MeOH 98:2.

Gray solid.

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 8.07-8.02 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.49 (m, 5H), 7.21 (dd, $J = 8.6, 2.0$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 154.8, 131.8, 130.8, 130.3, 129.8, 129.5, 128.4, 128.0, 124.4, 116.8, 115.9.

6-Bromo-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3fa)³



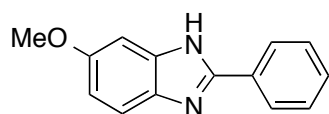
Eluent for column chromatography: CH_2Cl_2 .

Yellow solid.

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 8.07-8.02 (m, 2H), 7.72 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.32 (dd, $J = 8.6, 1.7$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 154.6, 131.8, 130.7, 130.3, 128.0, 127.1, 119.3, 116.8.

6-Methoxy-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ga)⁵



Eluent for column chromatography: CH_2Cl_2 to CH_2Cl_2 :MeOH 95:5.

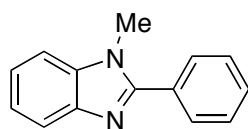
Yellow solid.

^1H NMR (300 MHz, MeOD) δ 8.05-8.02 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.08 (broad peak, 1H), 6.89 (dd, $J = 8.7, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, MeOD) δ some characteristic signals 158.4, 131.3, 131.2, 130.2, 127.6, 113.8, 56.3.

⁵ Diao, X.; Wang, Y.; Jiang, Y.; Ma, D. *J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, 74, 7974.

1-Methyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ha)¹



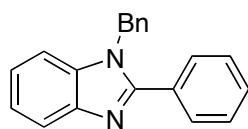
Eluent for column chromatography: heptane:EtOAc 4:1 to 2:1.

Pale yellow solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.77-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, MeOD) δ 155.2, 143.2, 137.6, 131.3, 131.0, 130.6, 129.9, 124.3, 123.9, 119.6, 111.4, 32.1.

1-Benzyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ia)⁶

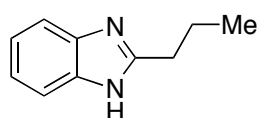


Eluent for column chromatography: heptane:EtOAc 5:1.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.73-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.21 (m, 6H), 7.14-7.11 (m, 2H), 5.48 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.9, 154.4, 143.4, 136.6, 136.2, 130.3, 130.1, 129.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.0, 126.2, 123.2, 122.9, 120.2, 110.7, 48.6.

2-Propylbenzimidazole (3ah)¹



Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5.

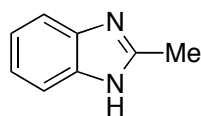
Brown solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.49-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 2.85 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.85 (sextet, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, MeOD) δ 156.9, 123.2, 114.8, 31.8, 22.8, 14.2. One quaternary carbon signals was not observed possibly due to tautomerism.

2-Methylbenzimidazole (3ai)¹

⁶ Sadig, J. E. R.; Foster, R.; Willis, M. C.; Wakenhut, F. J. *Org. Chem.* **2012**, 77, 9473.



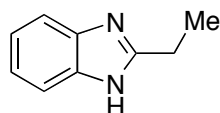
Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5.

Brown solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.49-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, MeOD) δ 152.9, 139.2, 123.0, 115.3, 14.2.

2-Ethylbenzimidazole (3aj)¹



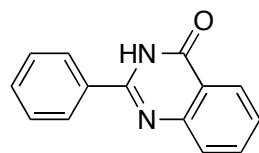
Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂ to CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5.

Brown solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.49-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 2.91 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, MeOD) δ 123.2, 115.0, 23.3, 12.9. Two quaternary carbon signals were not observed possibly due to tautomerism.

2-Phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ja)³



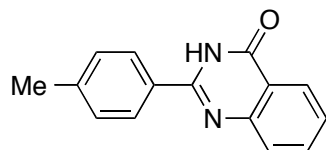
Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂:EtOAc 99:1 to 95:5.

Pale yellow solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃SOCD₃) δ 11.51 (s, 1H), 8.19-8.15 (m, 3H), 7.87-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.50 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃SOCD₃) δ 162.2, 152.4, 148.6, 134.6, 132.7, 131.4, 128.6, 127.8, 127.4, 126.6, 125.8, 120.9.

2-(*p*-Tolyl)quinazolin-4(3H)-one (3jb)³



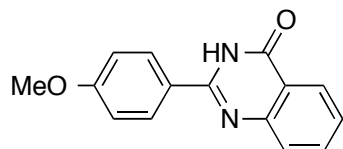
Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂:EtOAc 99:1 to 95:5.

Pale yellow solid.

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3SOCD_3) δ 12.48 (s, 1H), 8.16-8.09 (m 3H), 7.84-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3SOCD_3) δ 162.1, 152.2, 148.8, 141.4, 134.6, 129.9, 129.2, 127.7, 127.4, 126.4, 125.8, 120.9, 21.0.

2-(*p*-Methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one (3jd)³



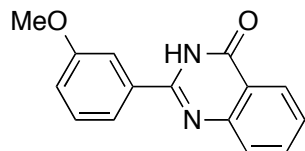
Eluent for column chromatography: CH_2Cl_2 :EtOAc 99:1 to 95:5.

Gray solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CD_3SOCD_3) δ 12.35 (broad s, 1H), 8.19 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 8.13-8.11 (m, 1H), 7.81-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.70-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.07 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3SOCD_3) δ 162.3, 161.9, 151.8, 148.9, 134.5, 129.5, 127.3, 126.1, 125.8, 124.8, 120.7, 114.0, 55.5.

2-(*m*-Methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one (3je)⁷



Eluent for column chromatography: CH_2Cl_2 :EtOAc 99:1 to 95:5.

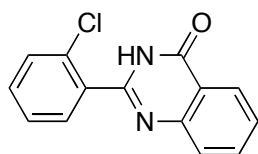
Gray solid.

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3SOCD_3) δ 8.15-8.12 (m, 1H), 7.80-7.68 (m, 4H), 7.49-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3SOCD_3) δ 162, 162.3, 159.3, 152.1, 148.6, 134.6, 134.0, 129.8, 127.5, 126.6, 125.9, 121.0, 120.1, 117.6, 112.5, 55.4.

2-(*o*-Chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one (3jf)³

⁷ Lopez, S. E.; Romero, A. H.; Salazar, J. *Synthesis*, **2013**, 45, 2043.



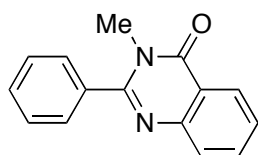
Eluent for column chromatography: CH₂Cl₂:EtOAc 99:1 to 95:5.

Gray solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃SOCD₃) δ 12.65 (s, 1H), 8.20-8.17 (m, 1H), 7.88-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.73-7.47 (m, 6H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃SOCD₃) δ 162, 161.4, 152.2, 148.6, 134.6, 133.8, 131.6, 131.5, 130.9, 129.6, 127.5, 127.2, 127.1, 125.8, 121.2.

3-Methyl-2-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ka)⁸



Eluent for column chromatography: heptane:EtOAc 4:1.

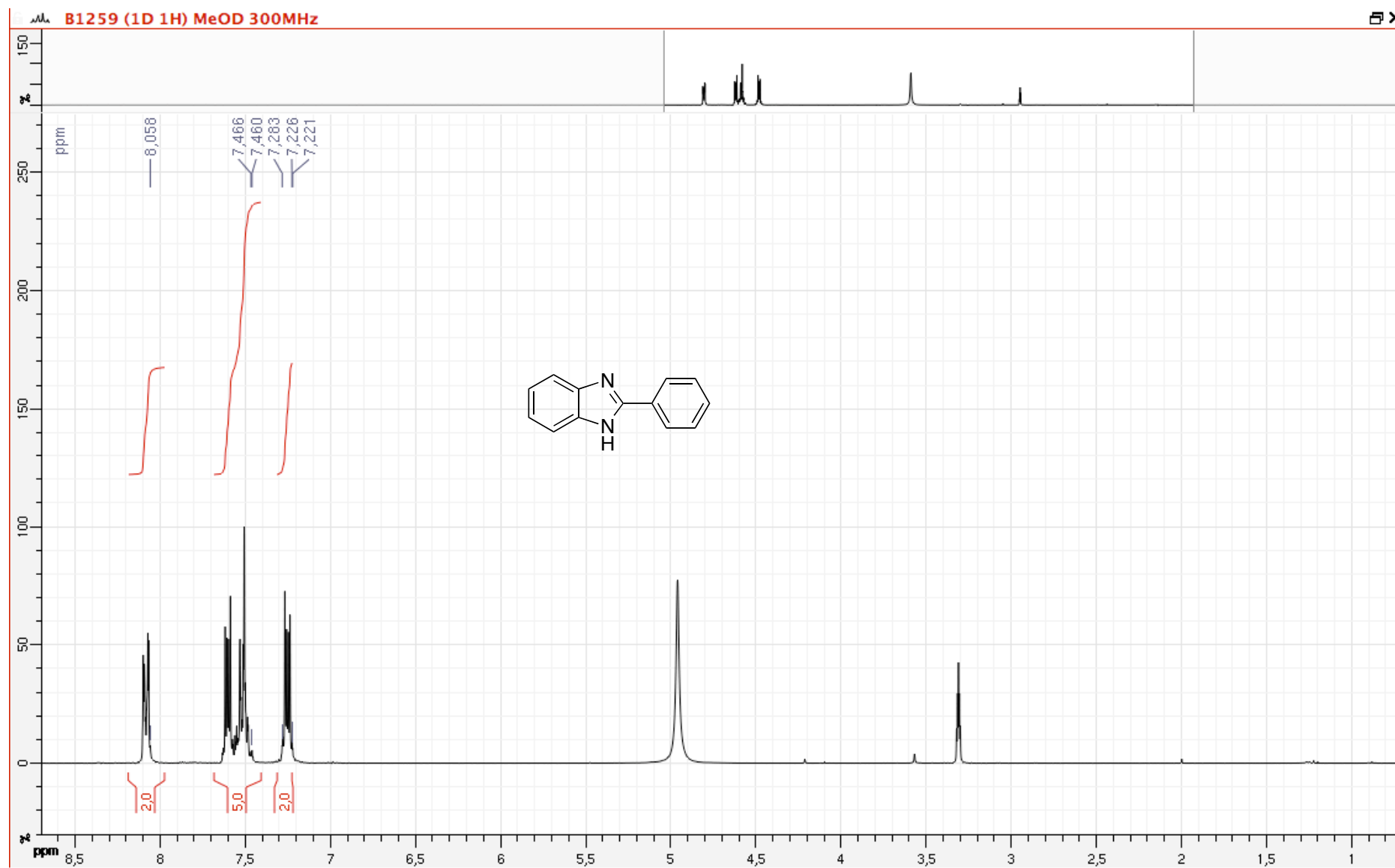
Gray solid.

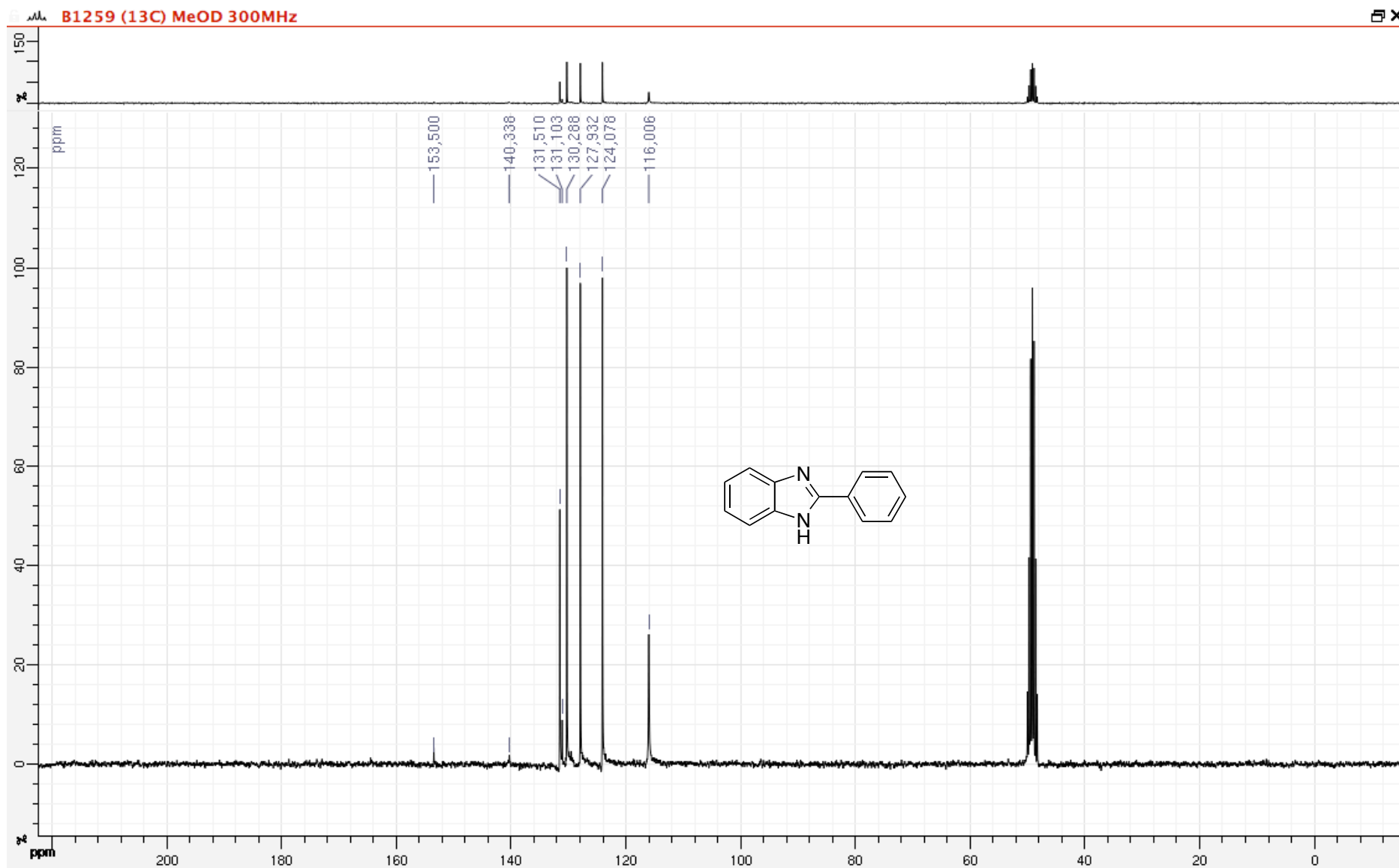
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃SOCD₃) δ 8.18 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.86-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.69-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.58-7.53 (m, 4H), 3.36 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃SOCD₃) δ 161.6, 156.1, 147.0, 135.4, 134.3, 129.8, 128.4, 128.3, 127.2, 126.9, 126.1, 120.1, 33.9.

⁸ Hikawa, H.; Ino, Y.; Suzuki, H.; Yokoyama, Y. *J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, *77*, 7046.

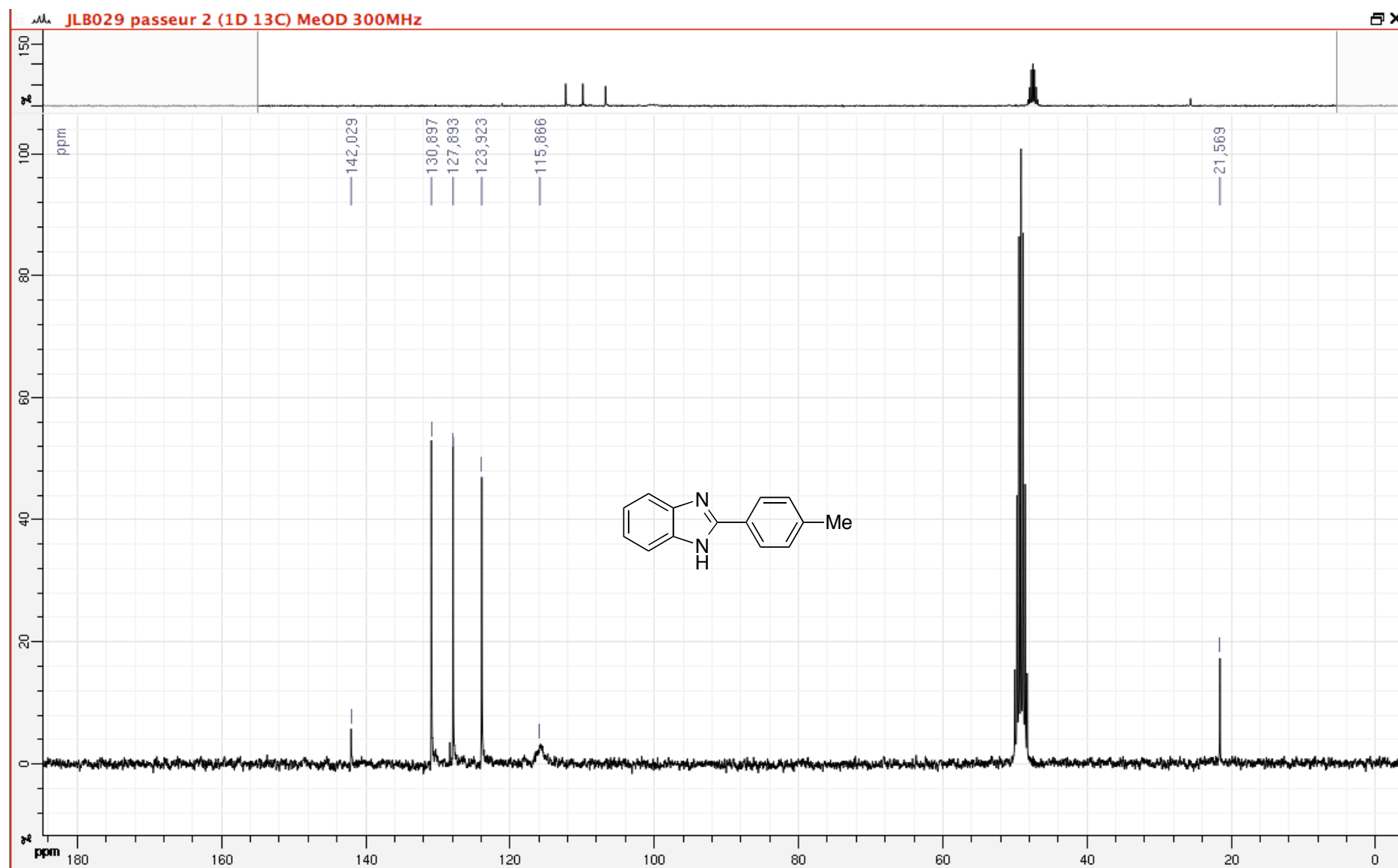
2-Phenylbenzimidazole (3aa)



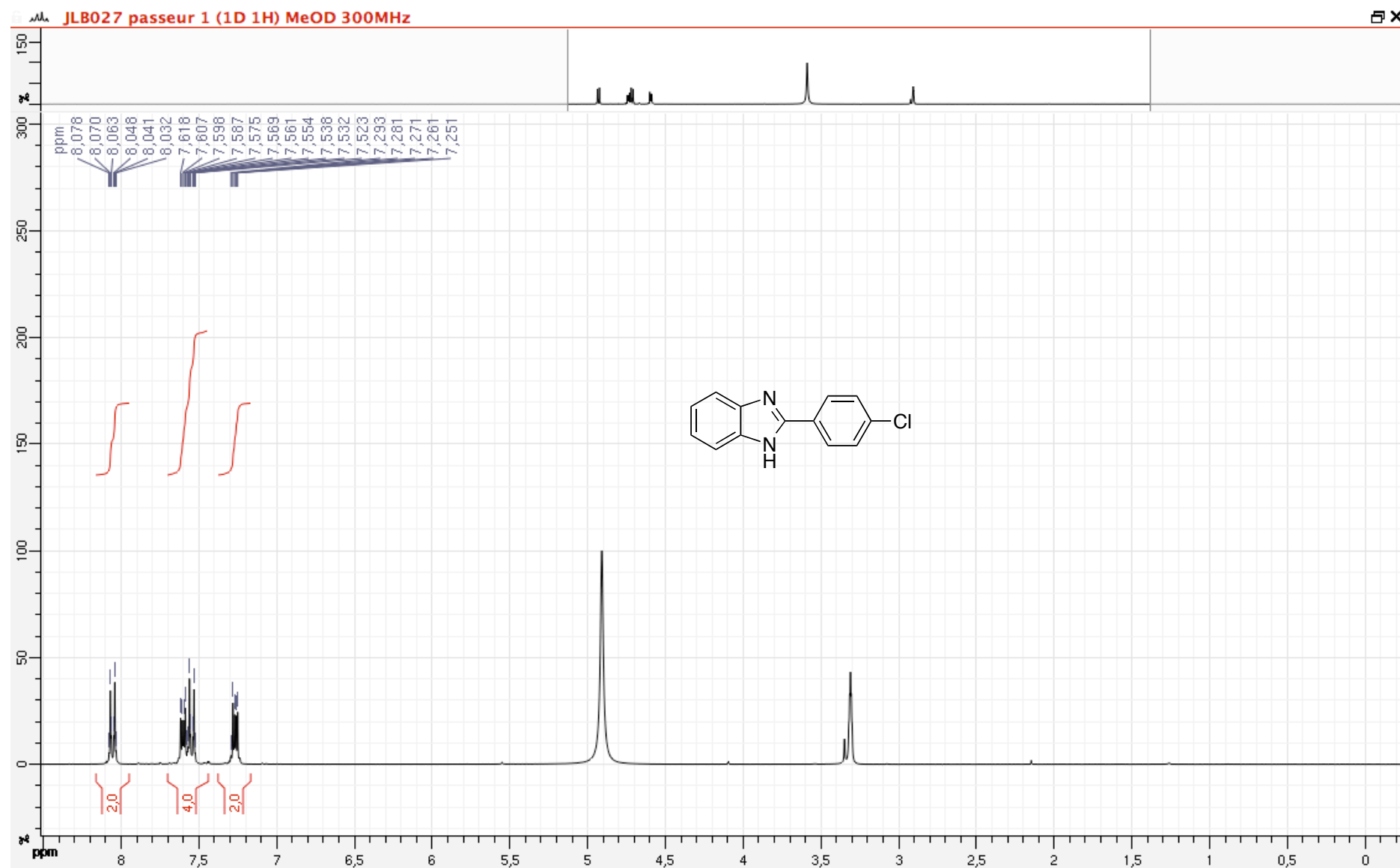


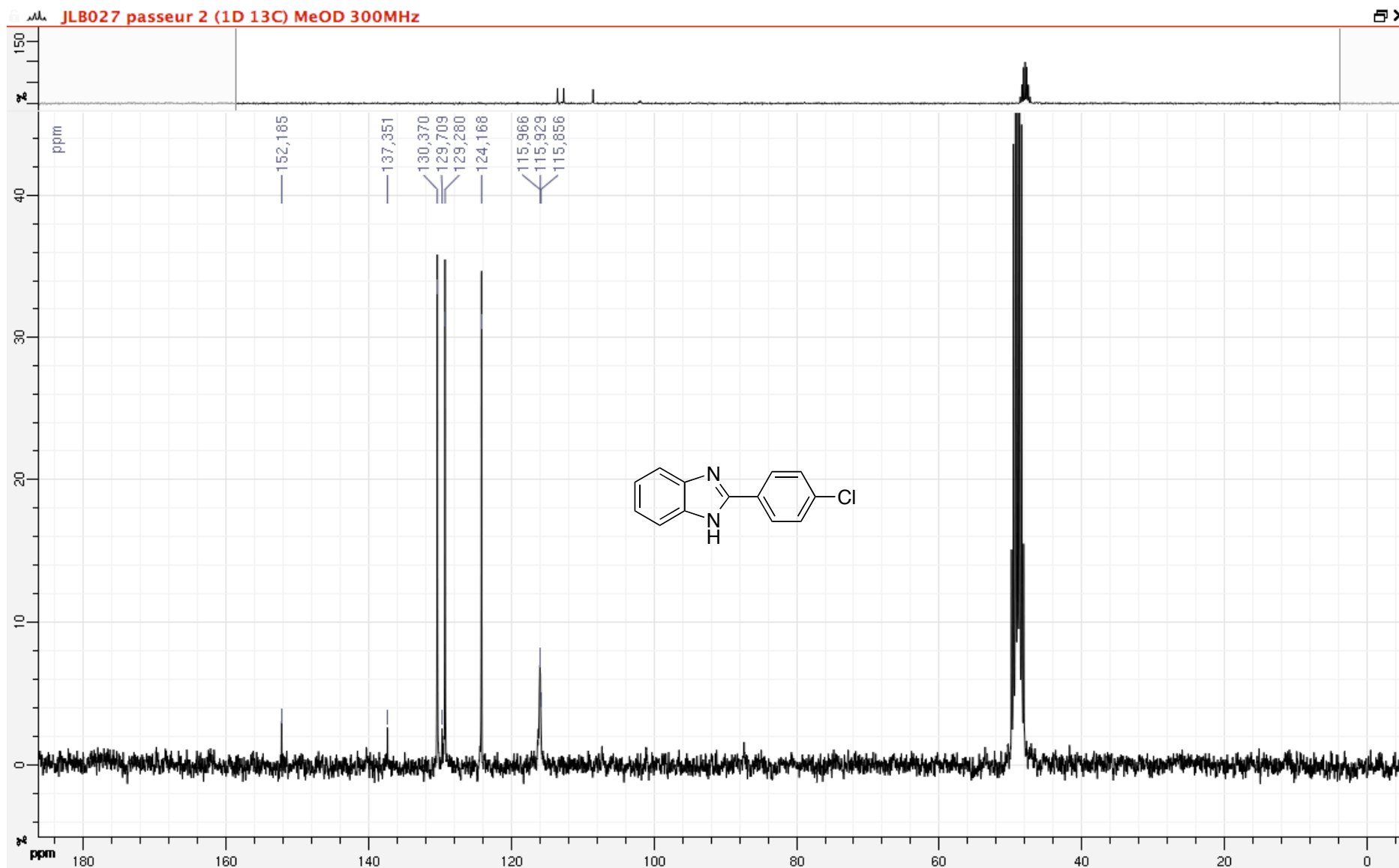
2-(*p*-Tolyl)benzimidazole (3ab)



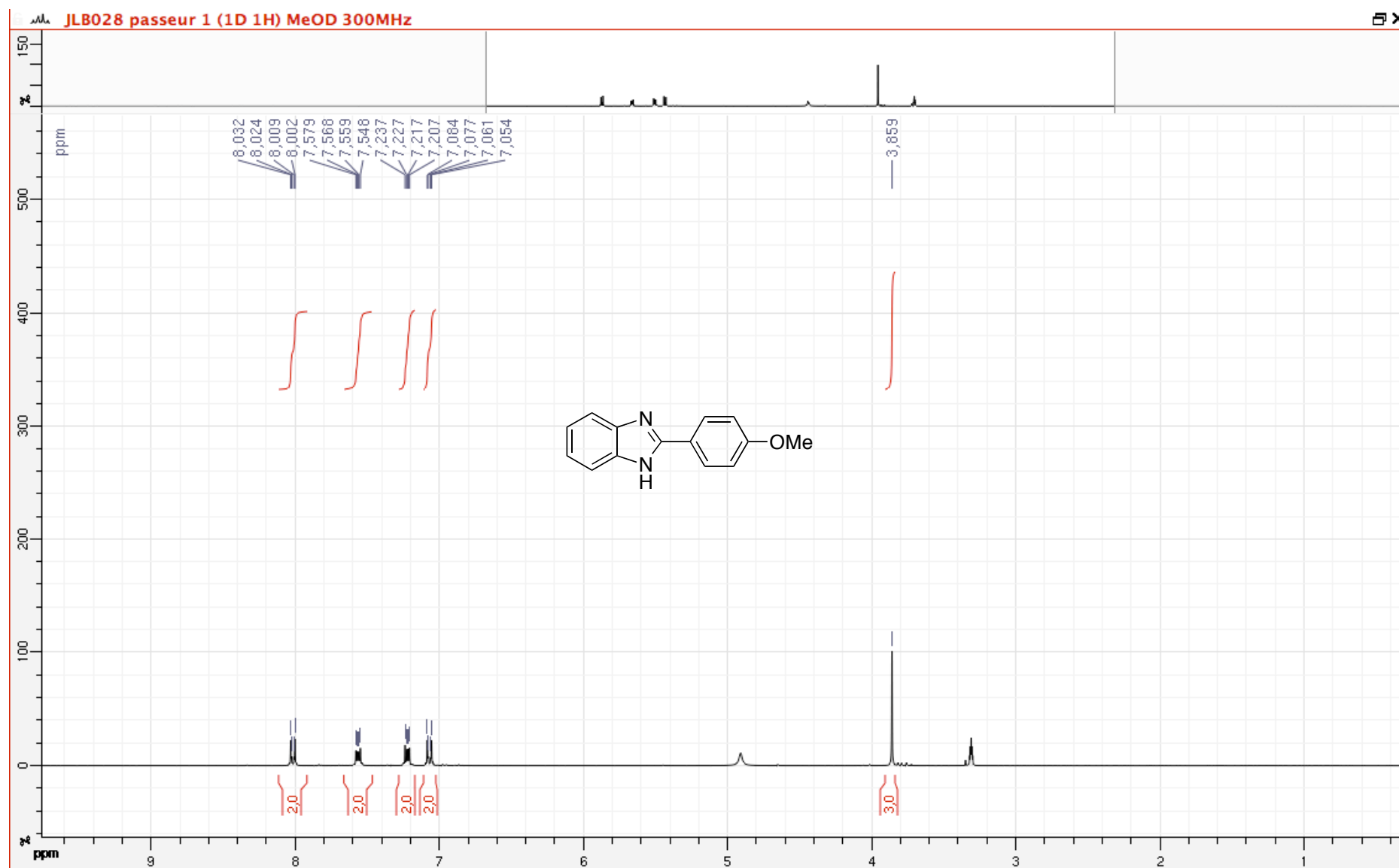


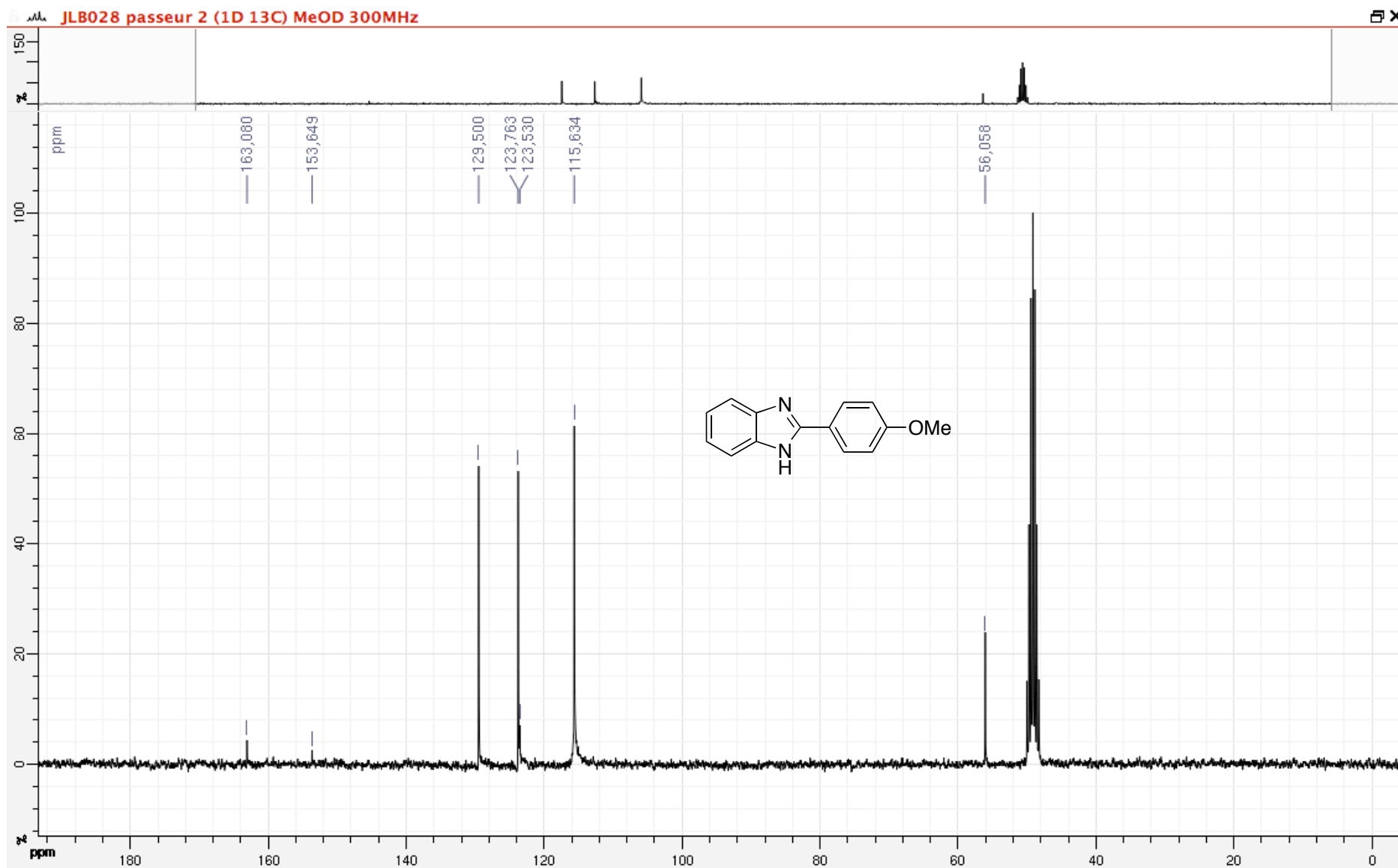
2-(4-Chlorophenyl)benzimidazole (3ac)



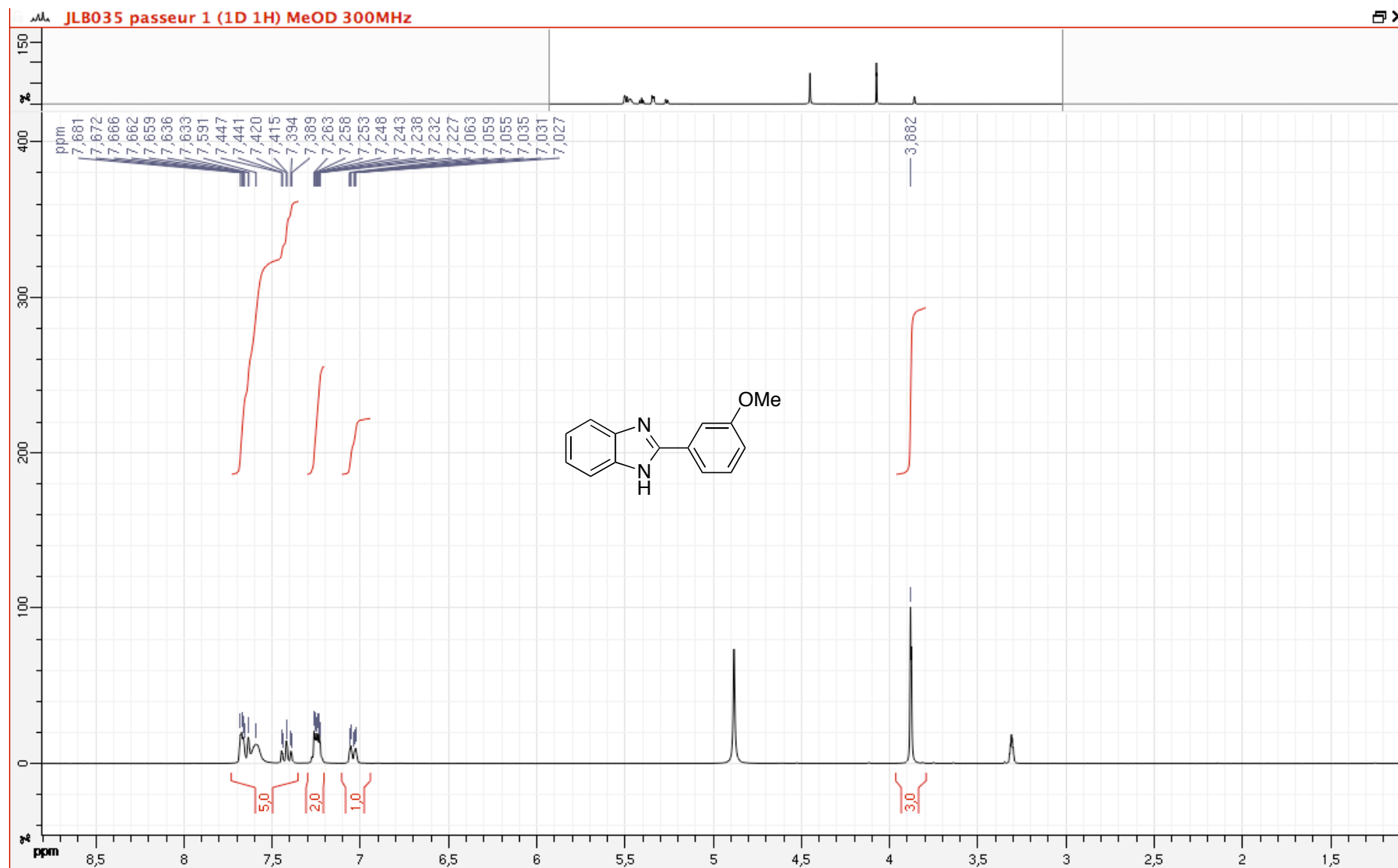


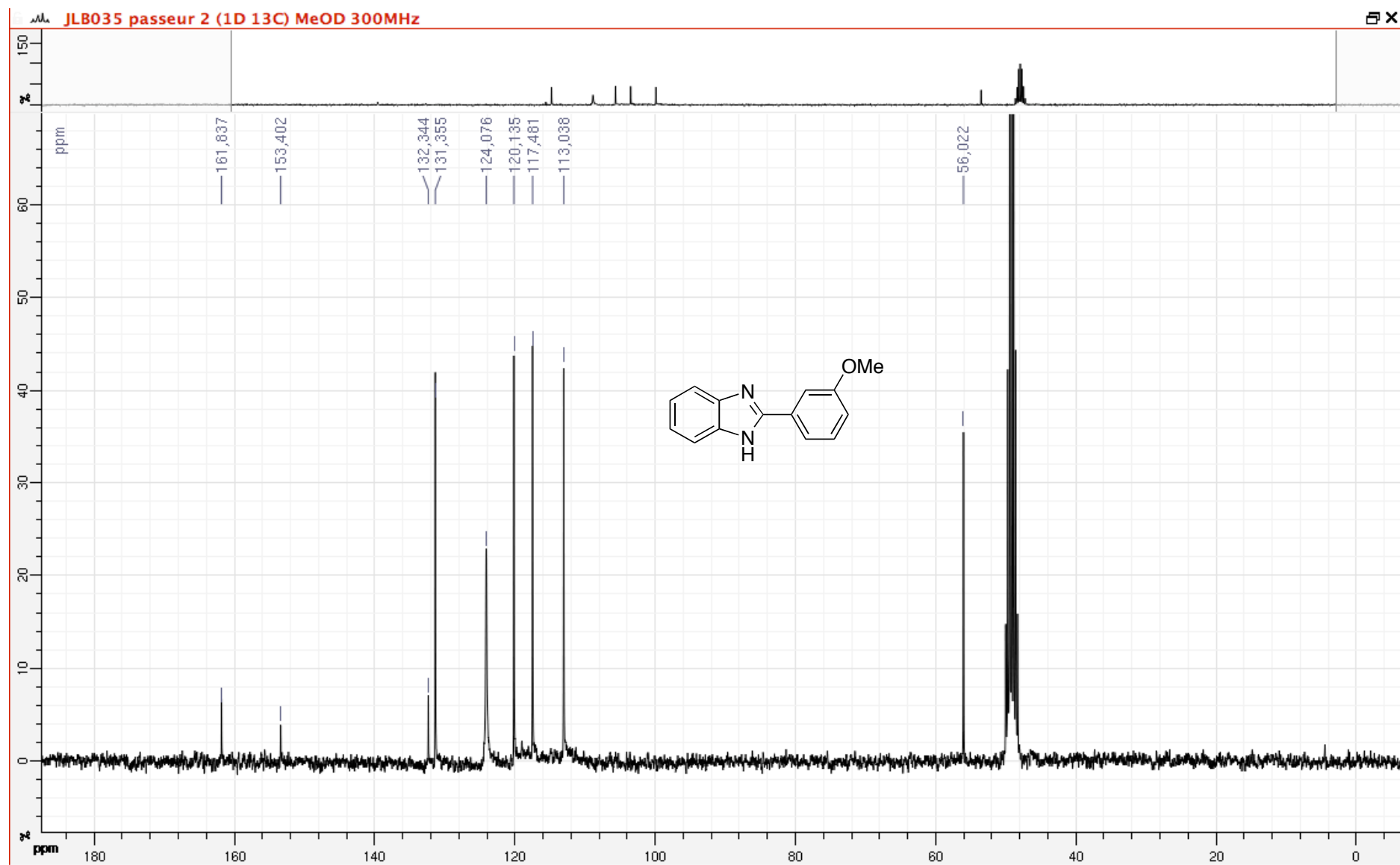
2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)benzimidazole (3ad)



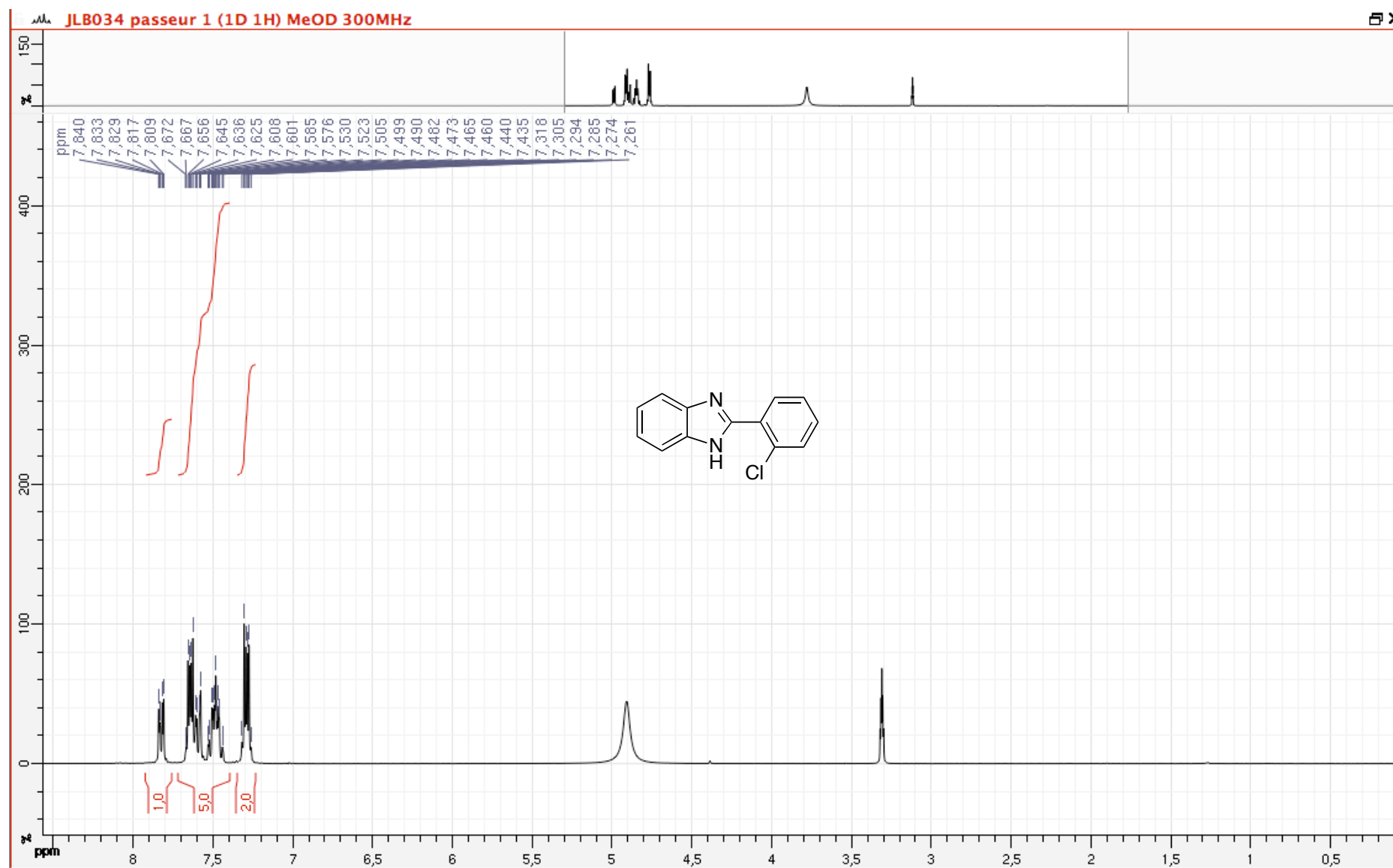


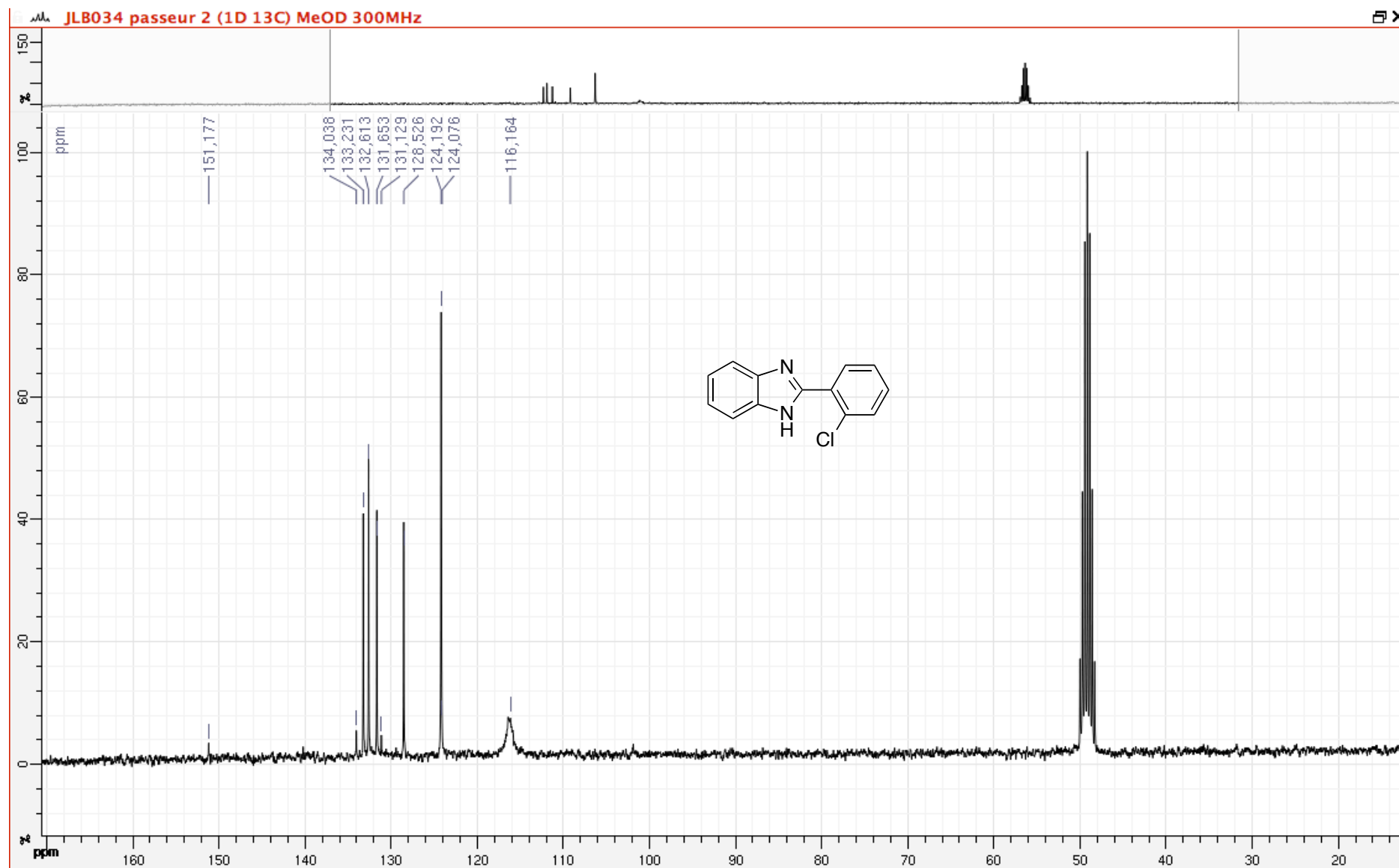
2-(3-Methoxyphenyl)benzimidazole (3ae)



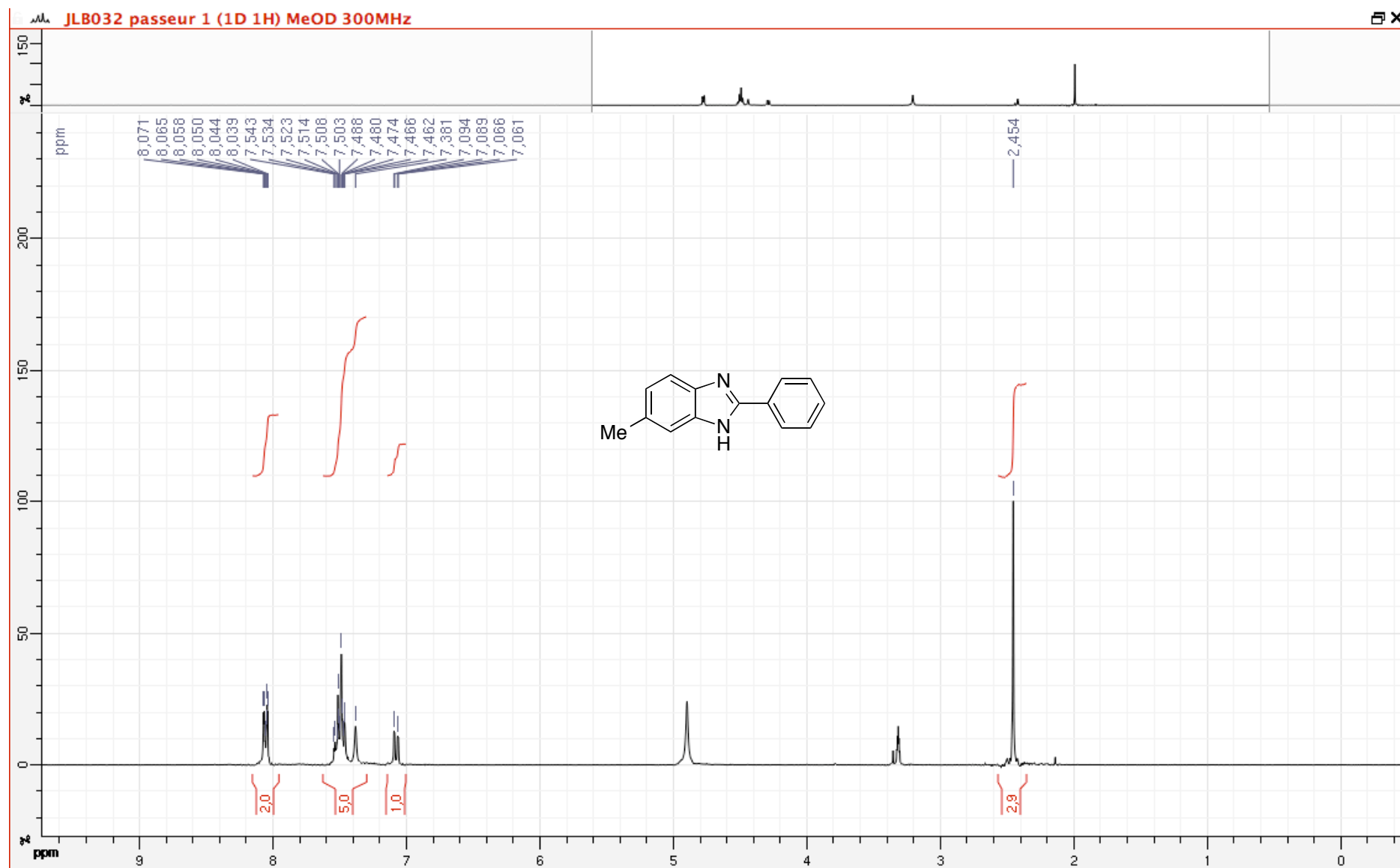


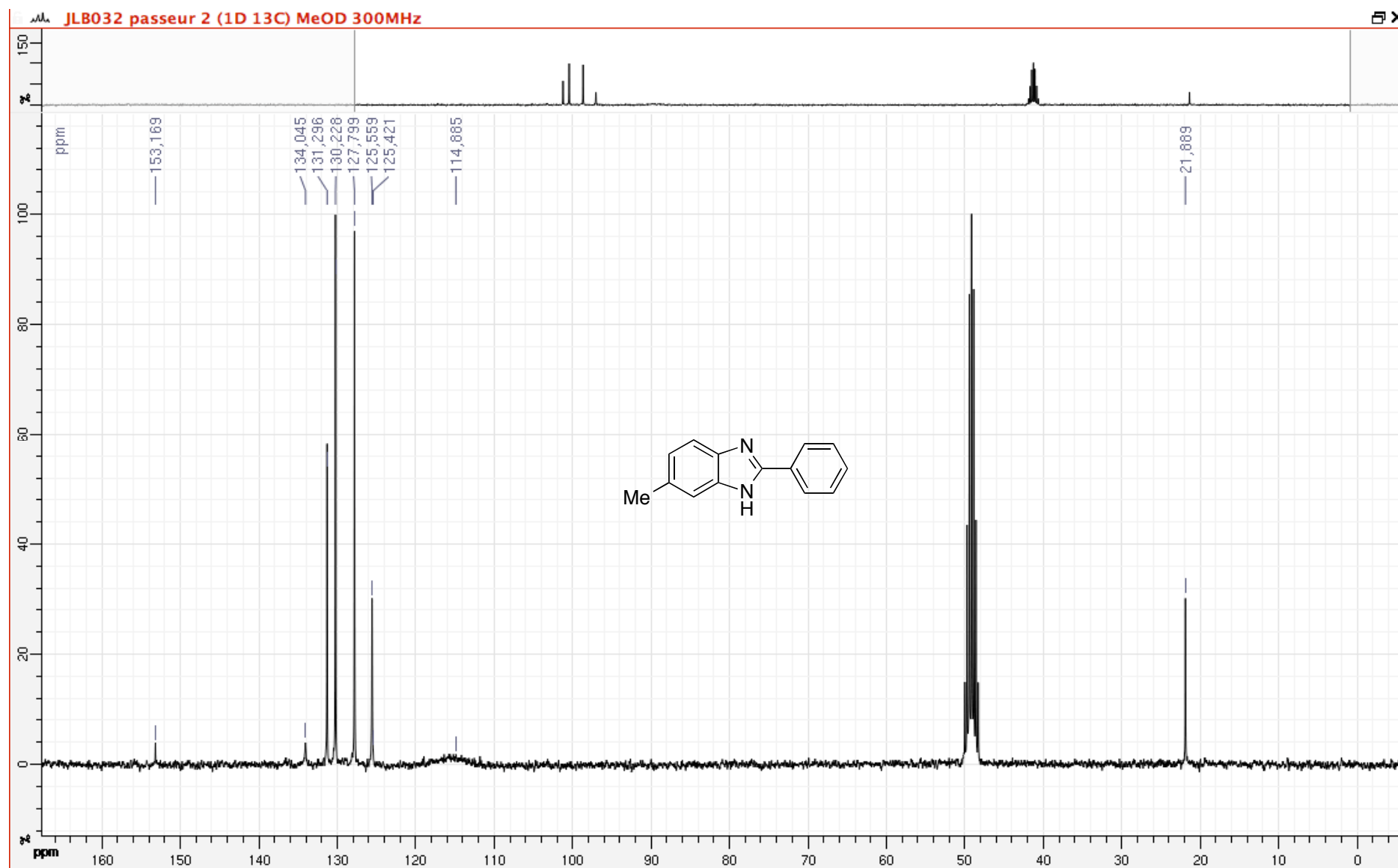
2-(2-Chlorophenyl)benzimidazole (3af)



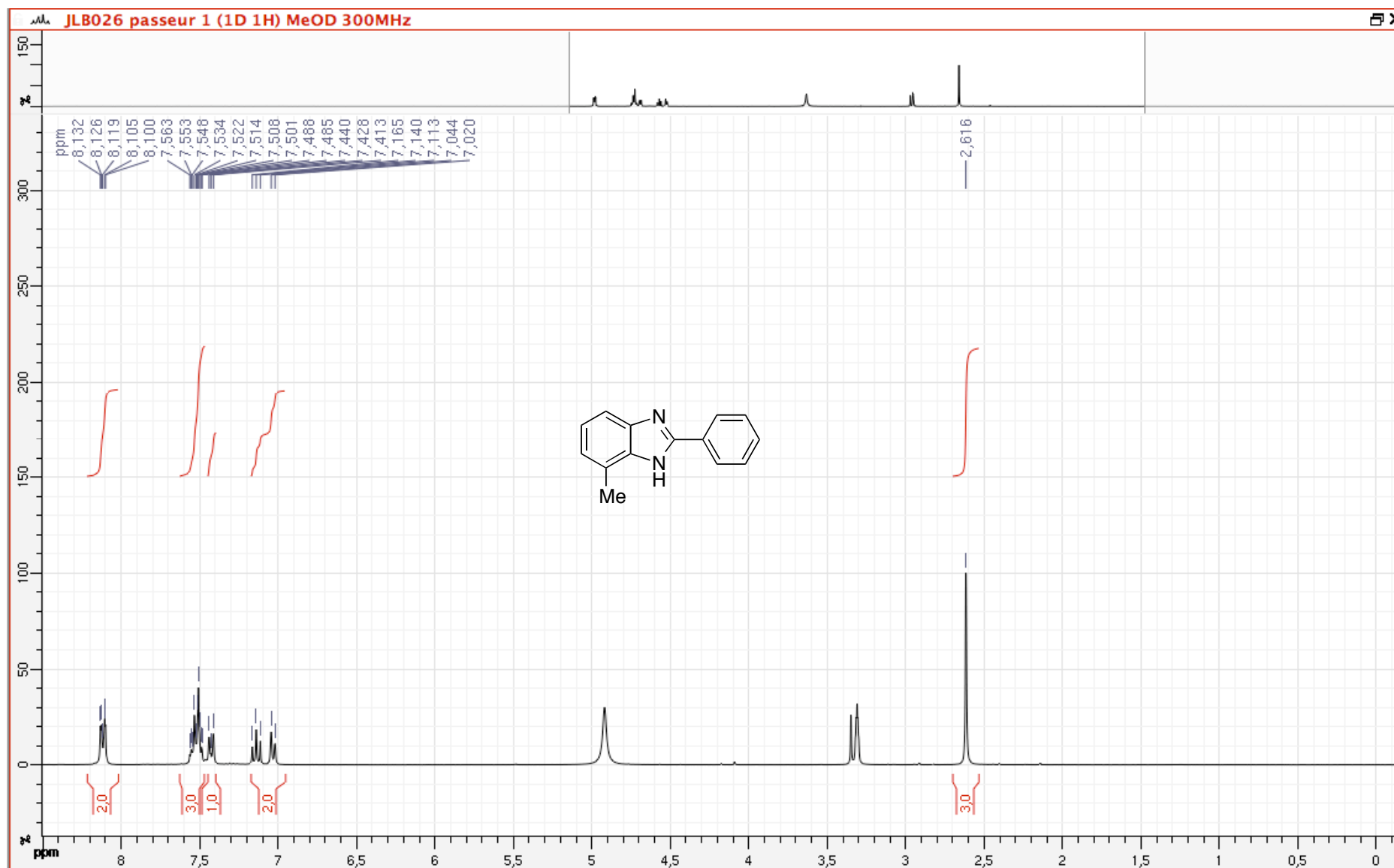


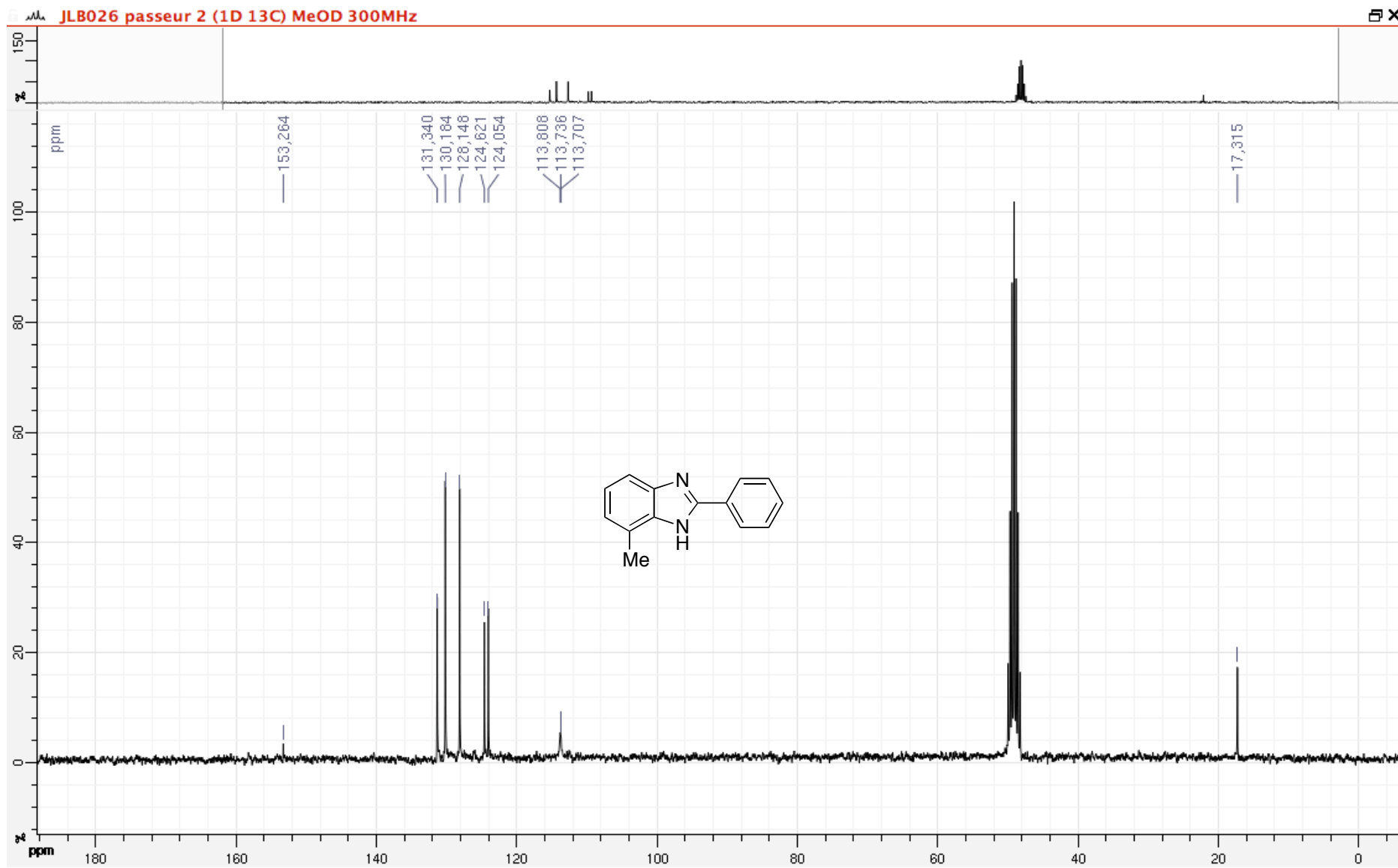
6-Methyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ba)



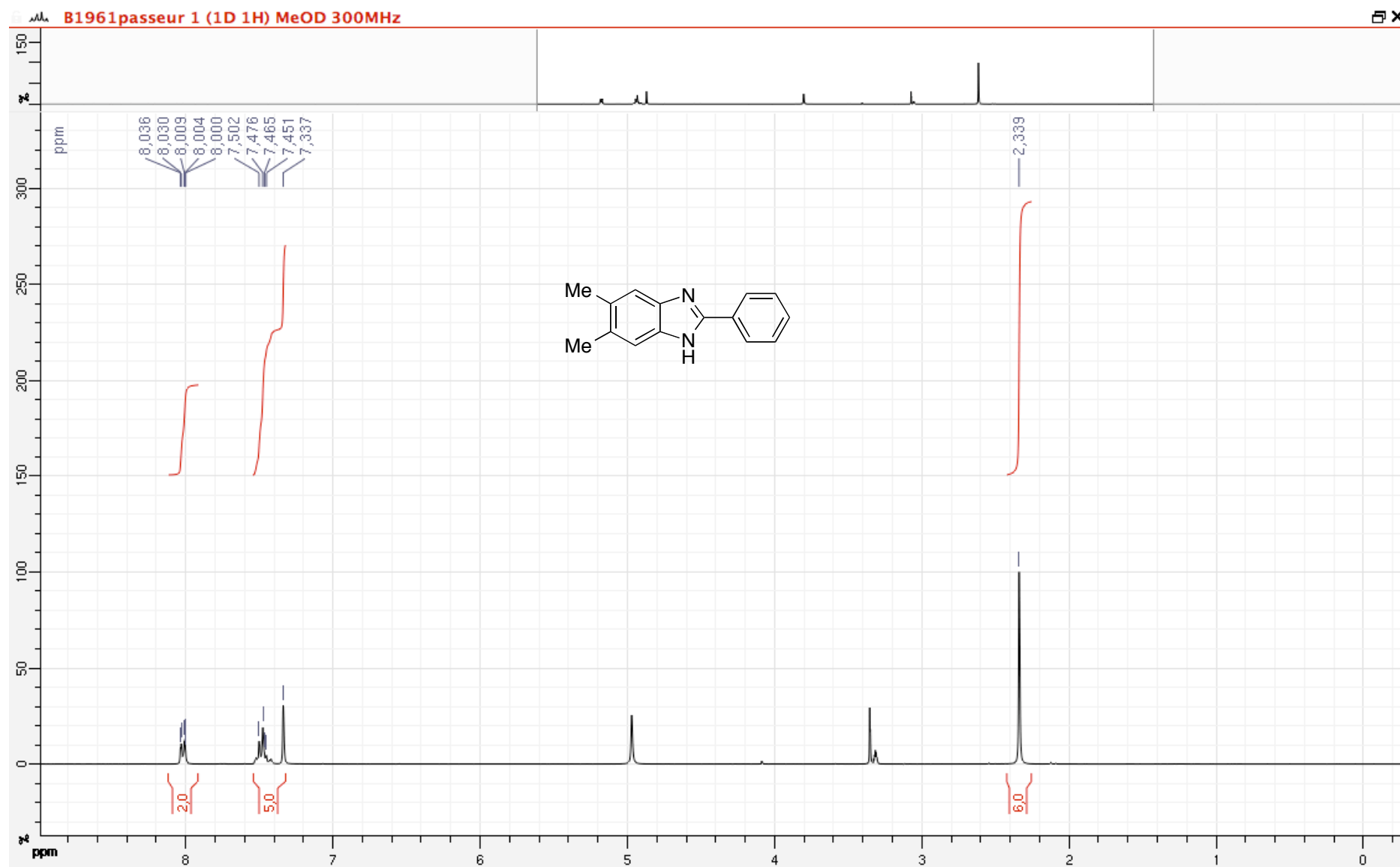


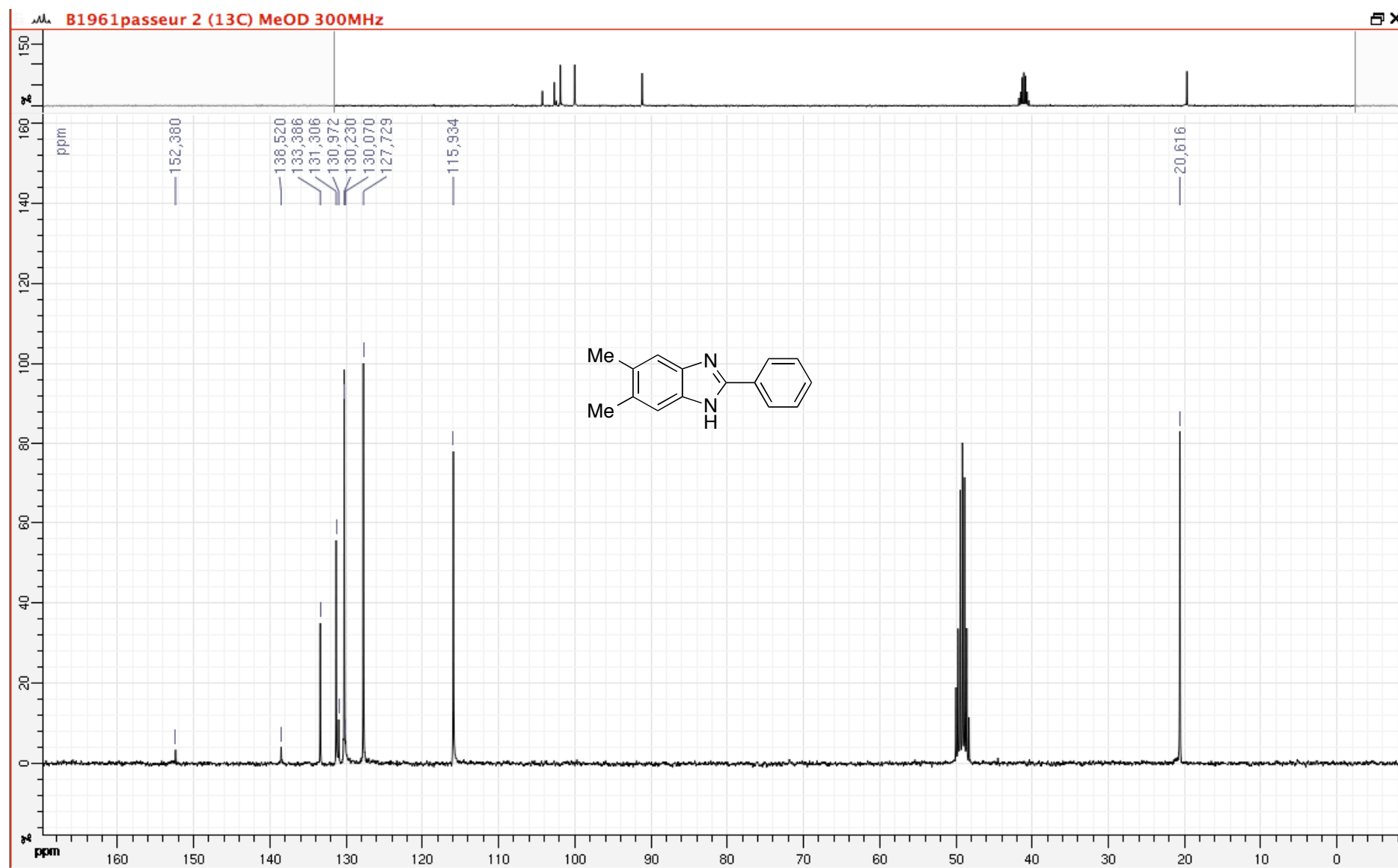
7-Methyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ca)



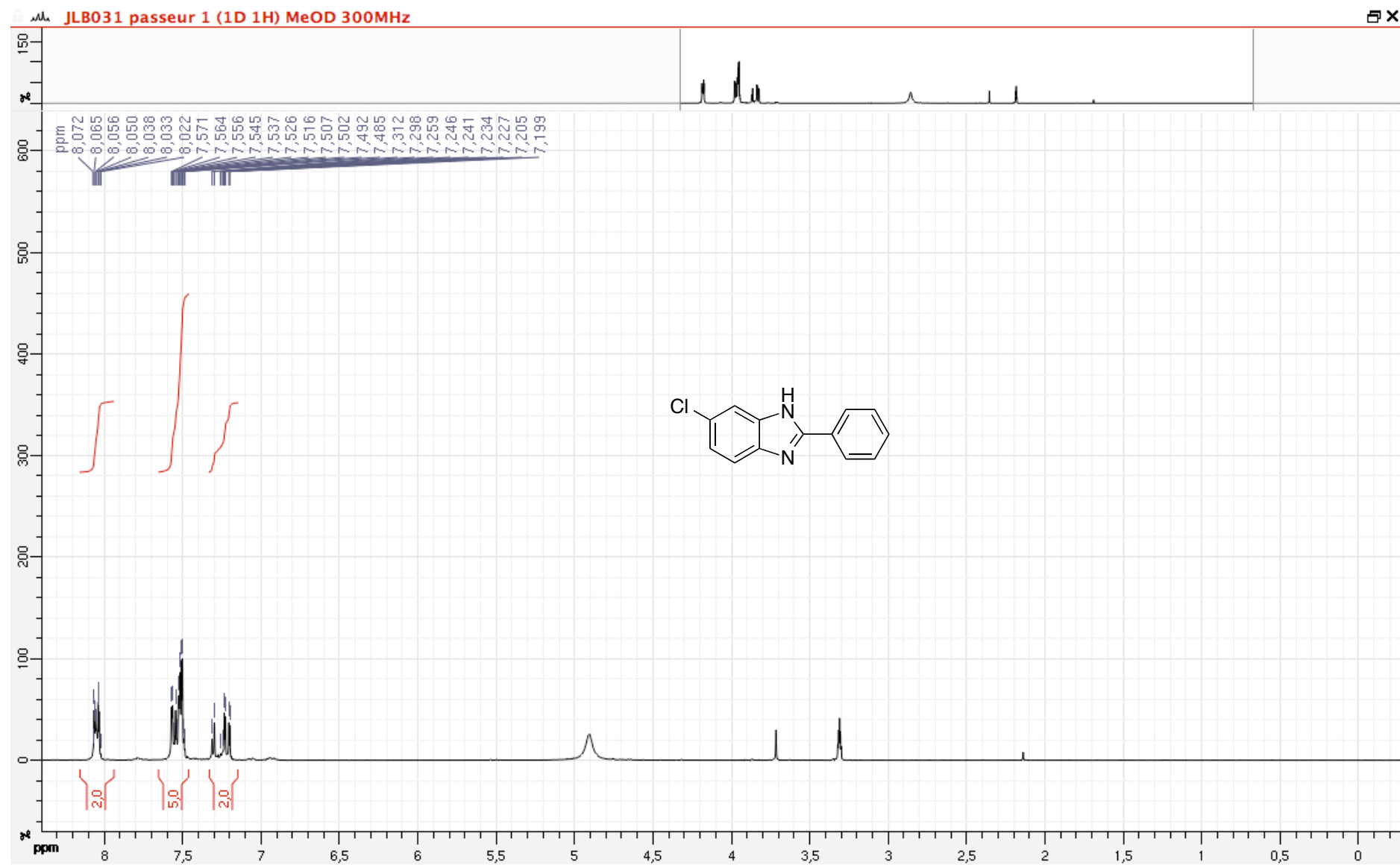


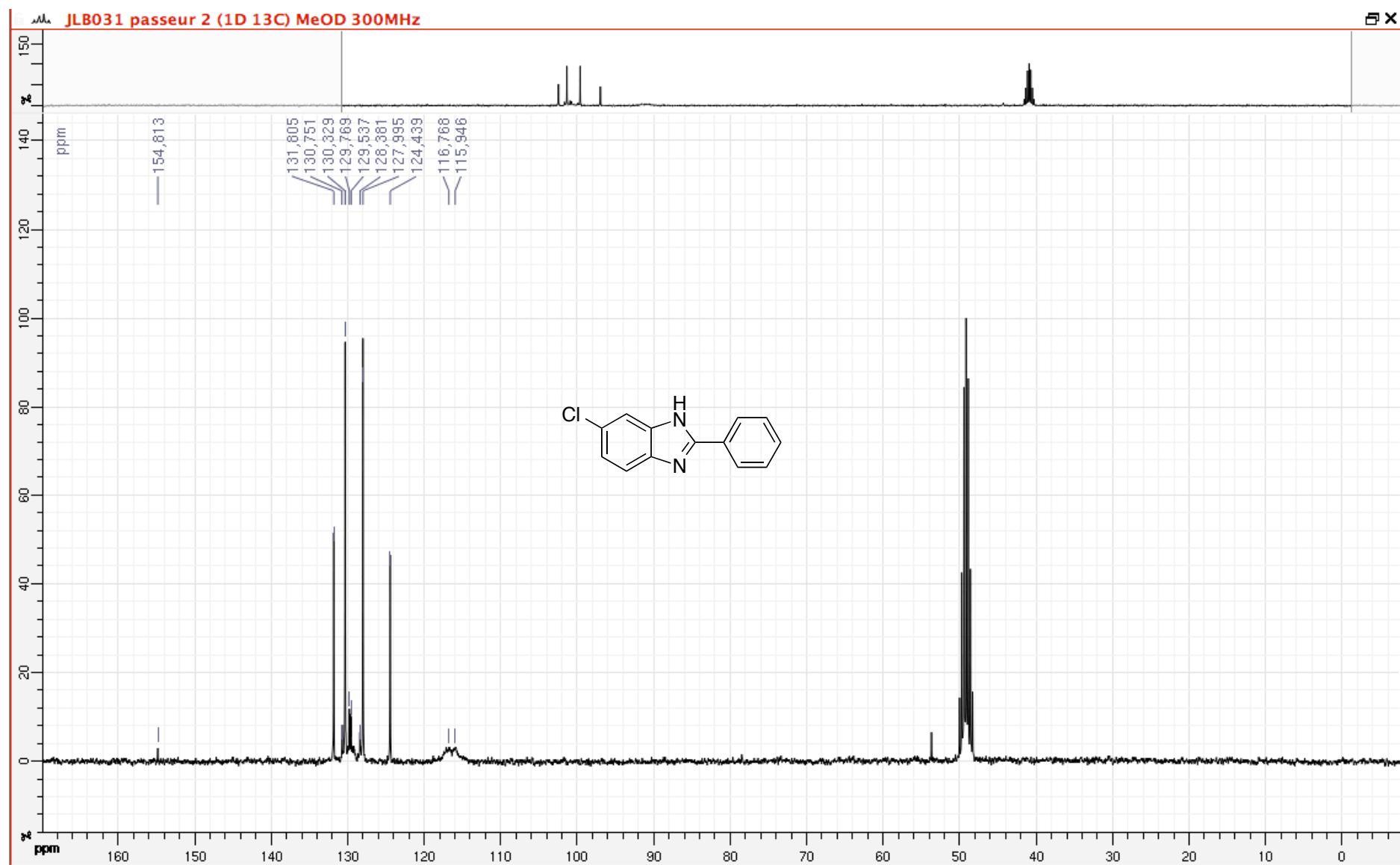
5,6-Dimethyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3da)



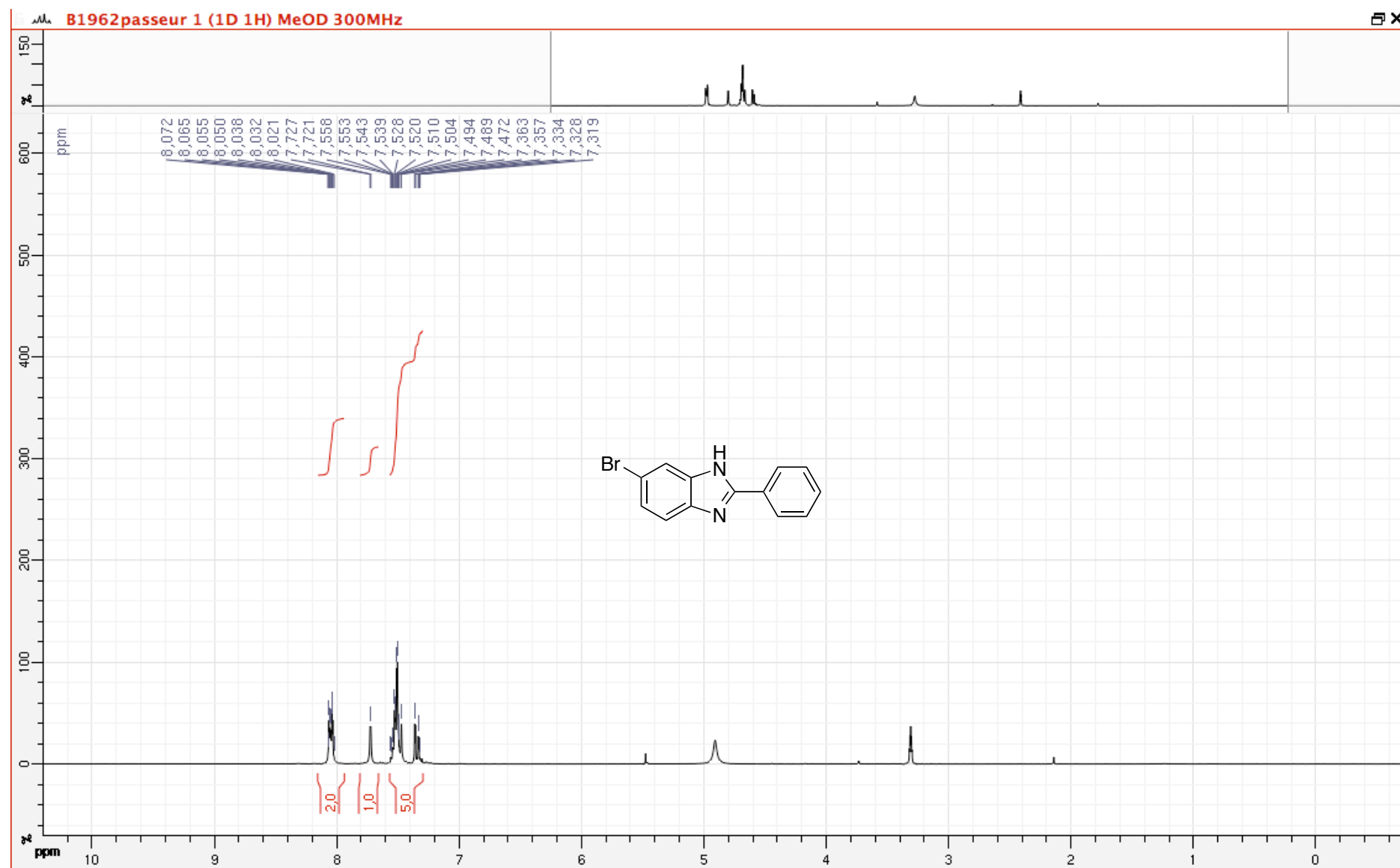


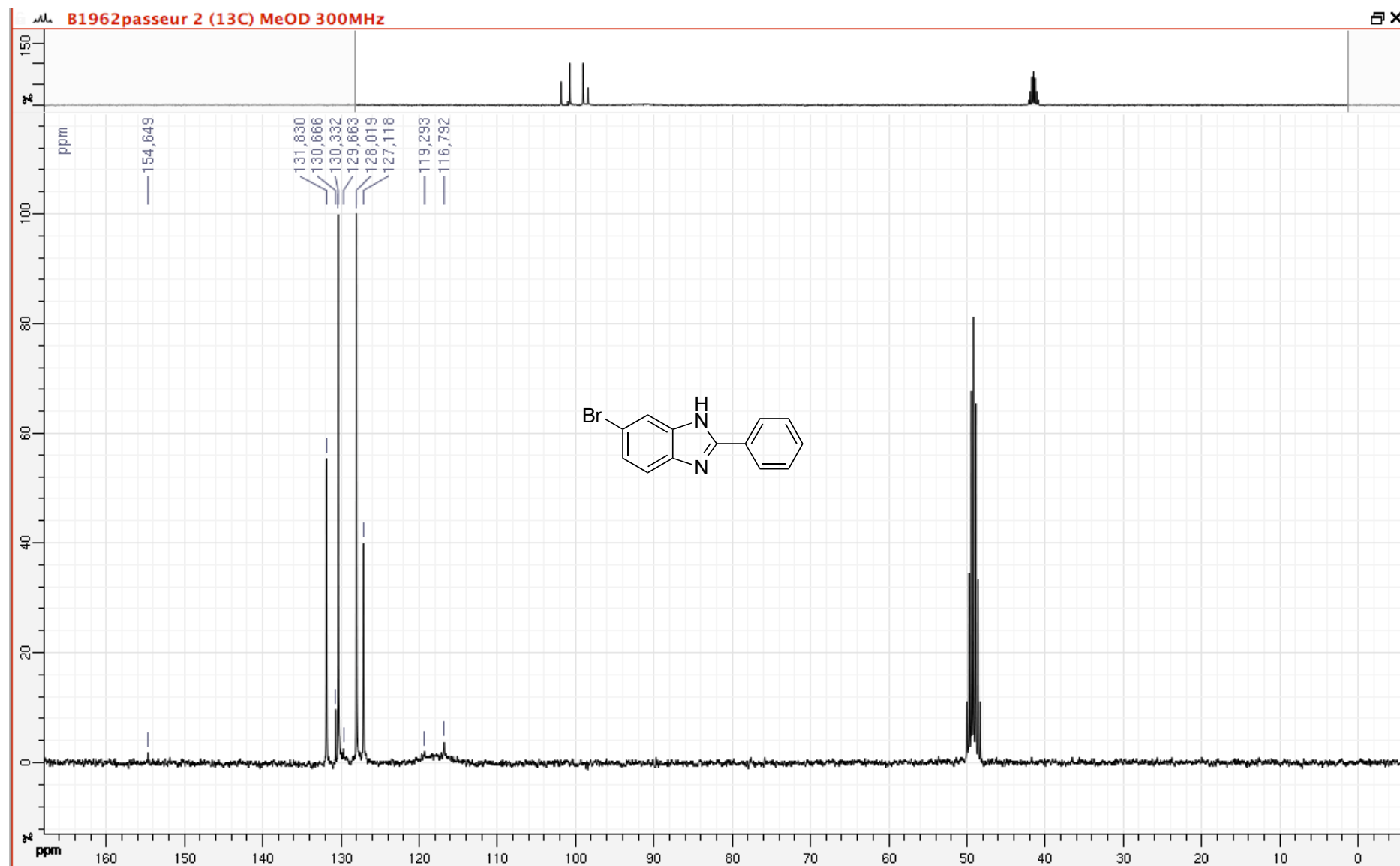
6-Chloro-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ea)



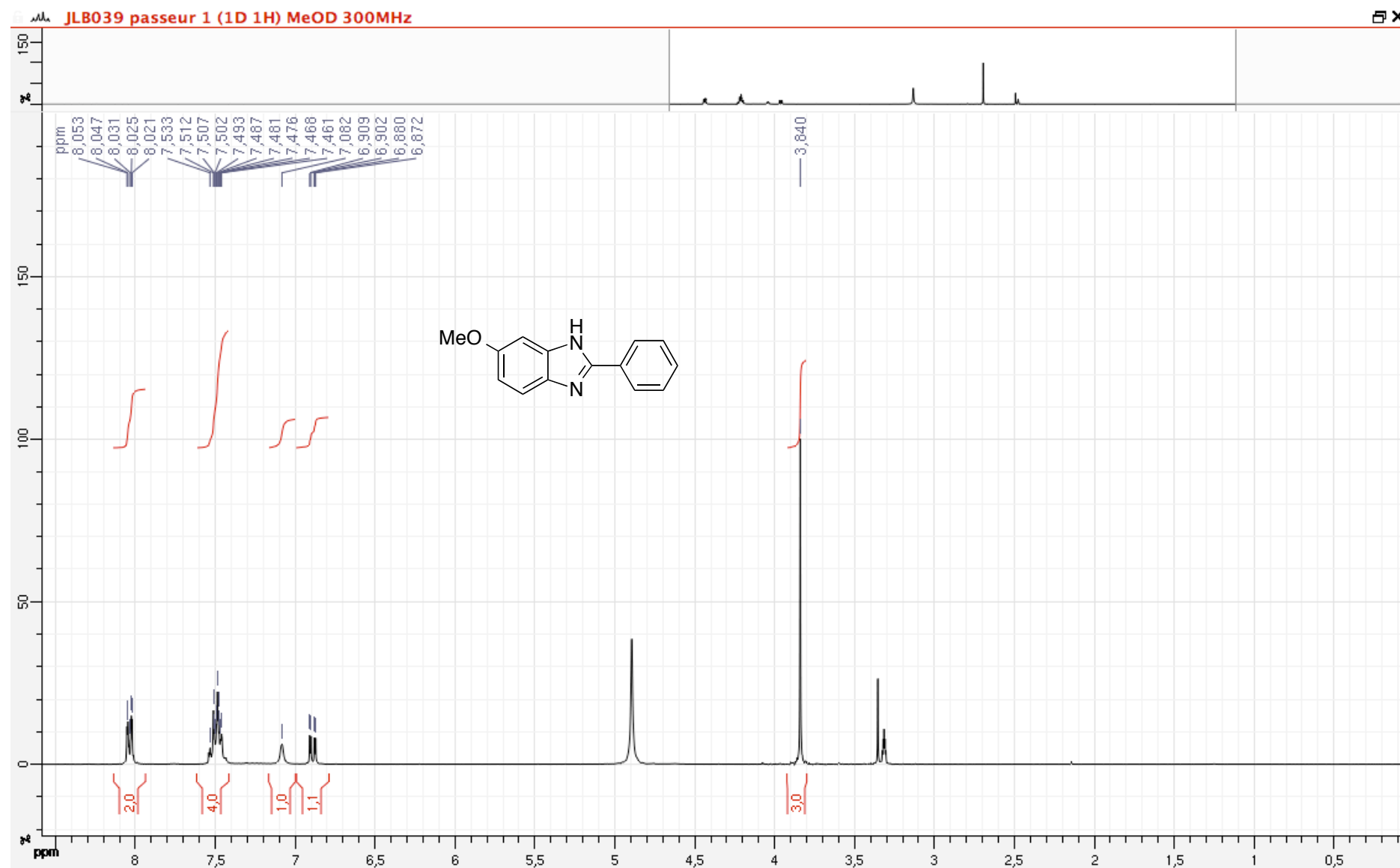


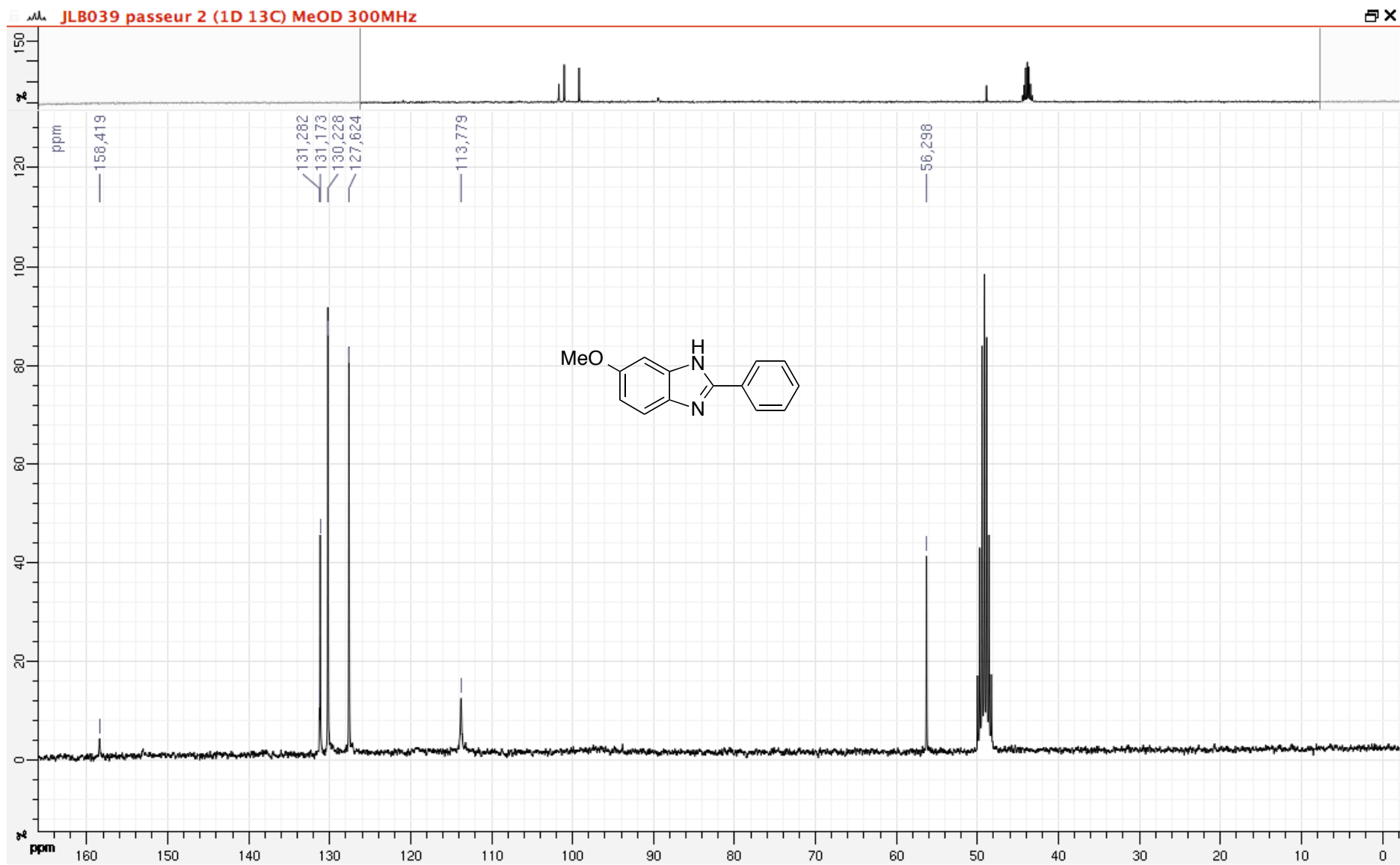
6-Bromo-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3fa)



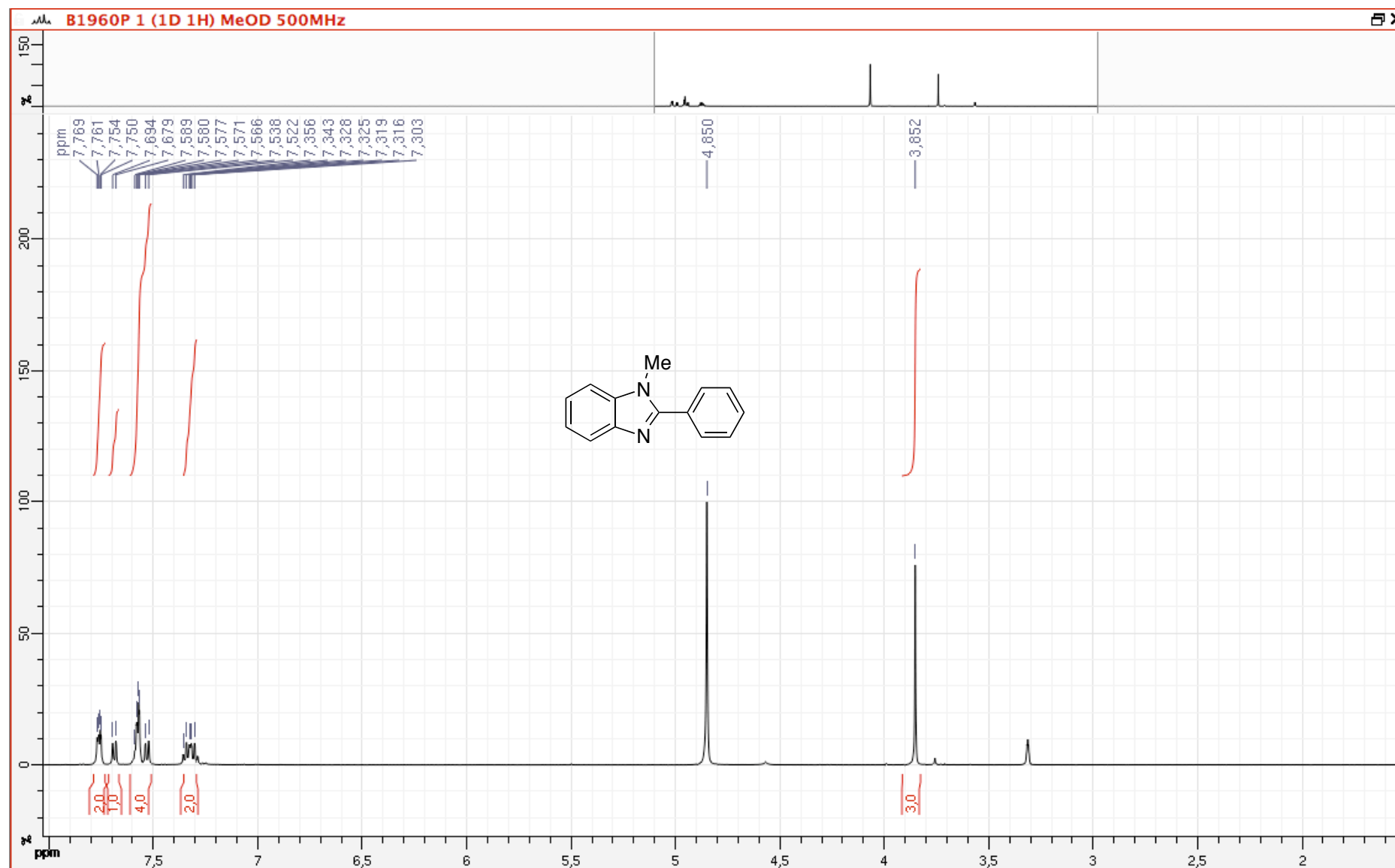


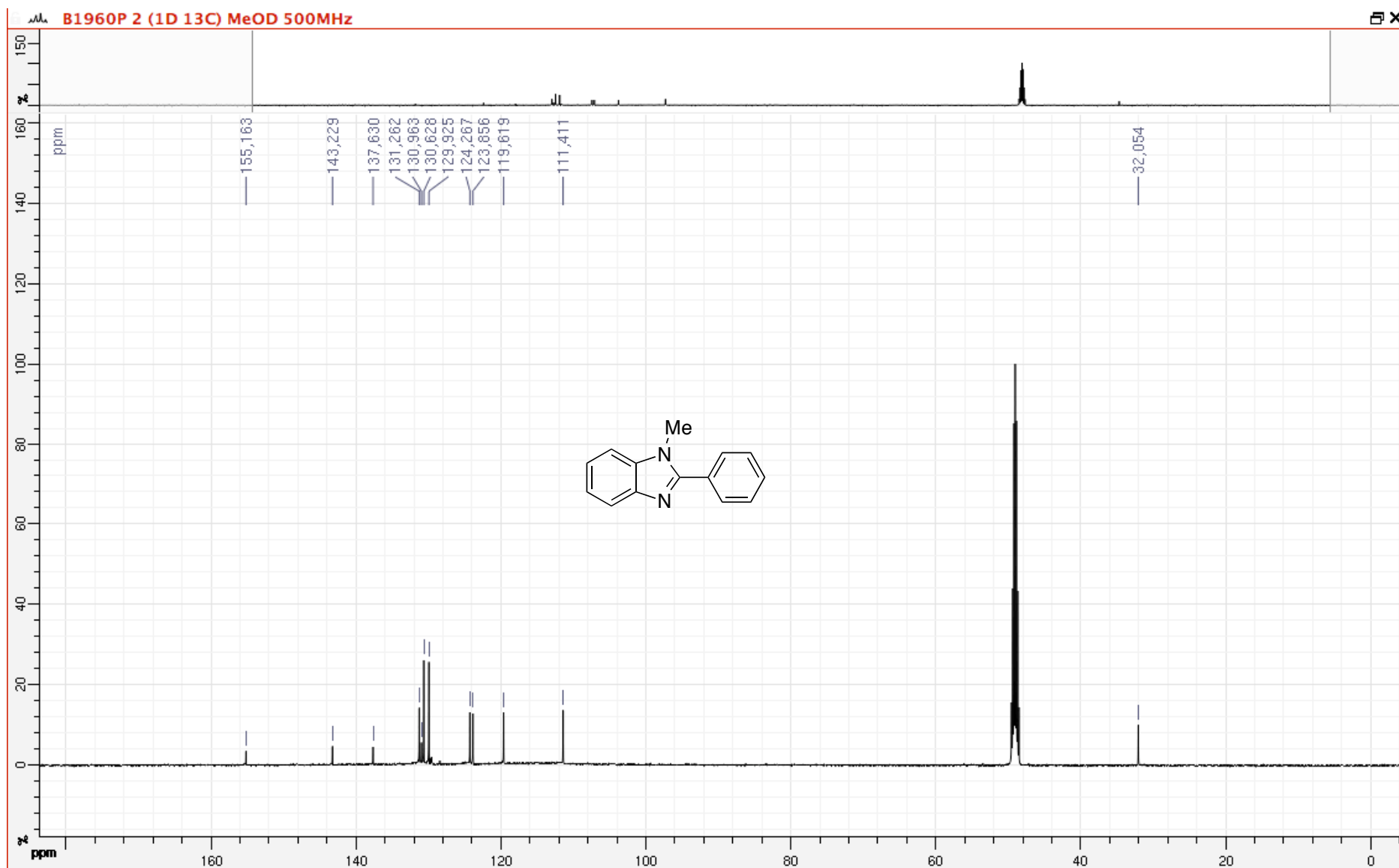
6-Methoxy-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ga)



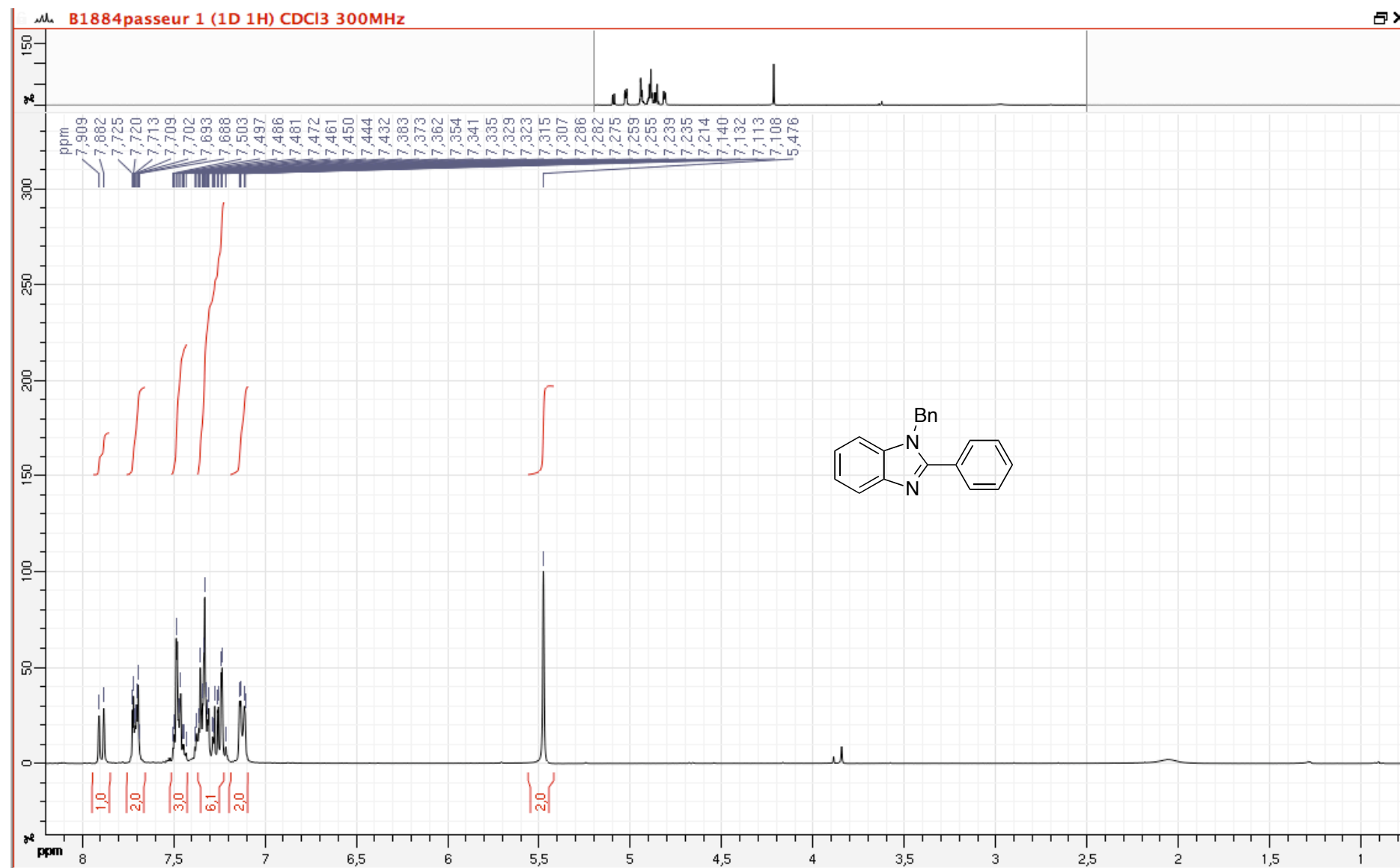


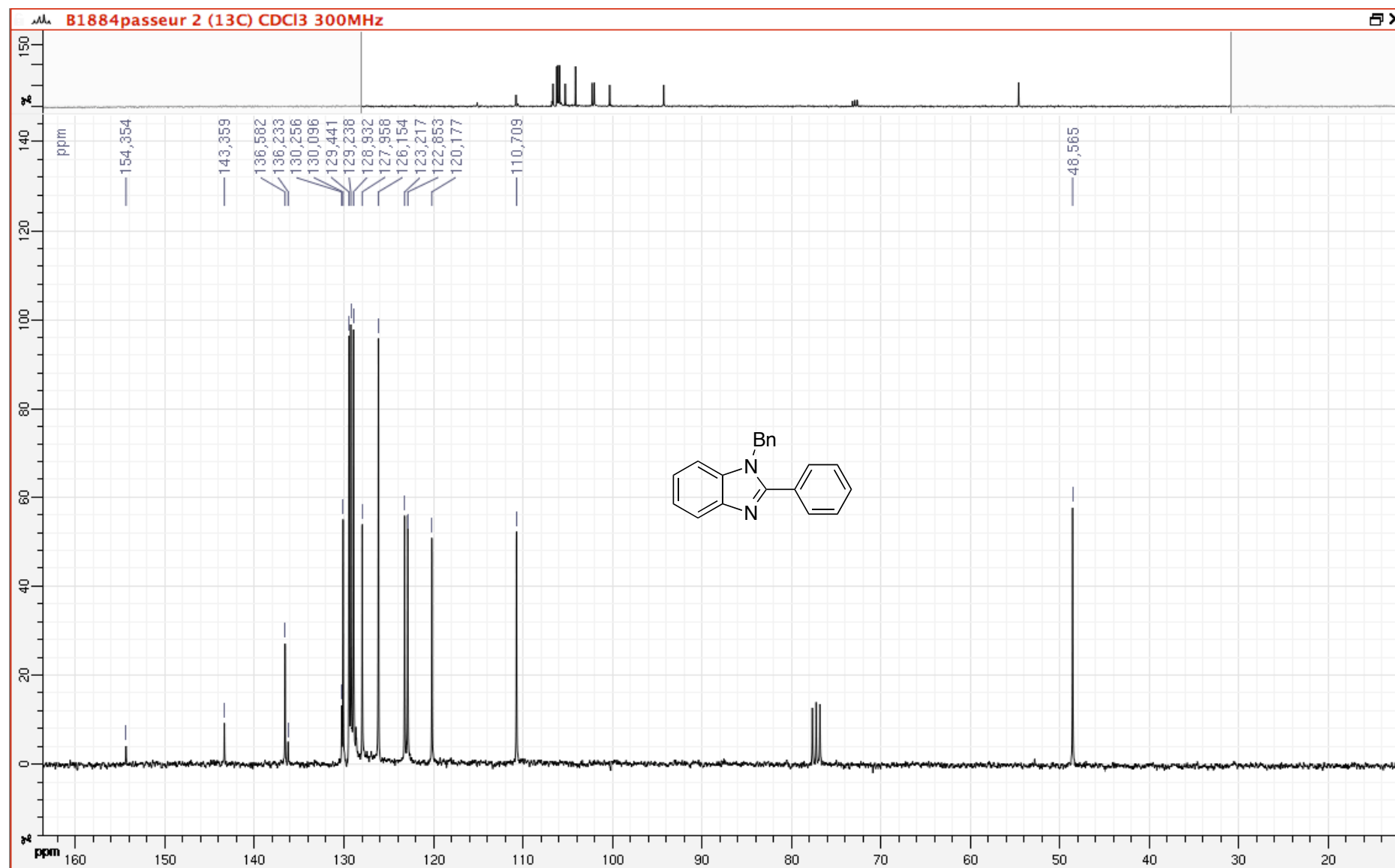
1-Methyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ha)



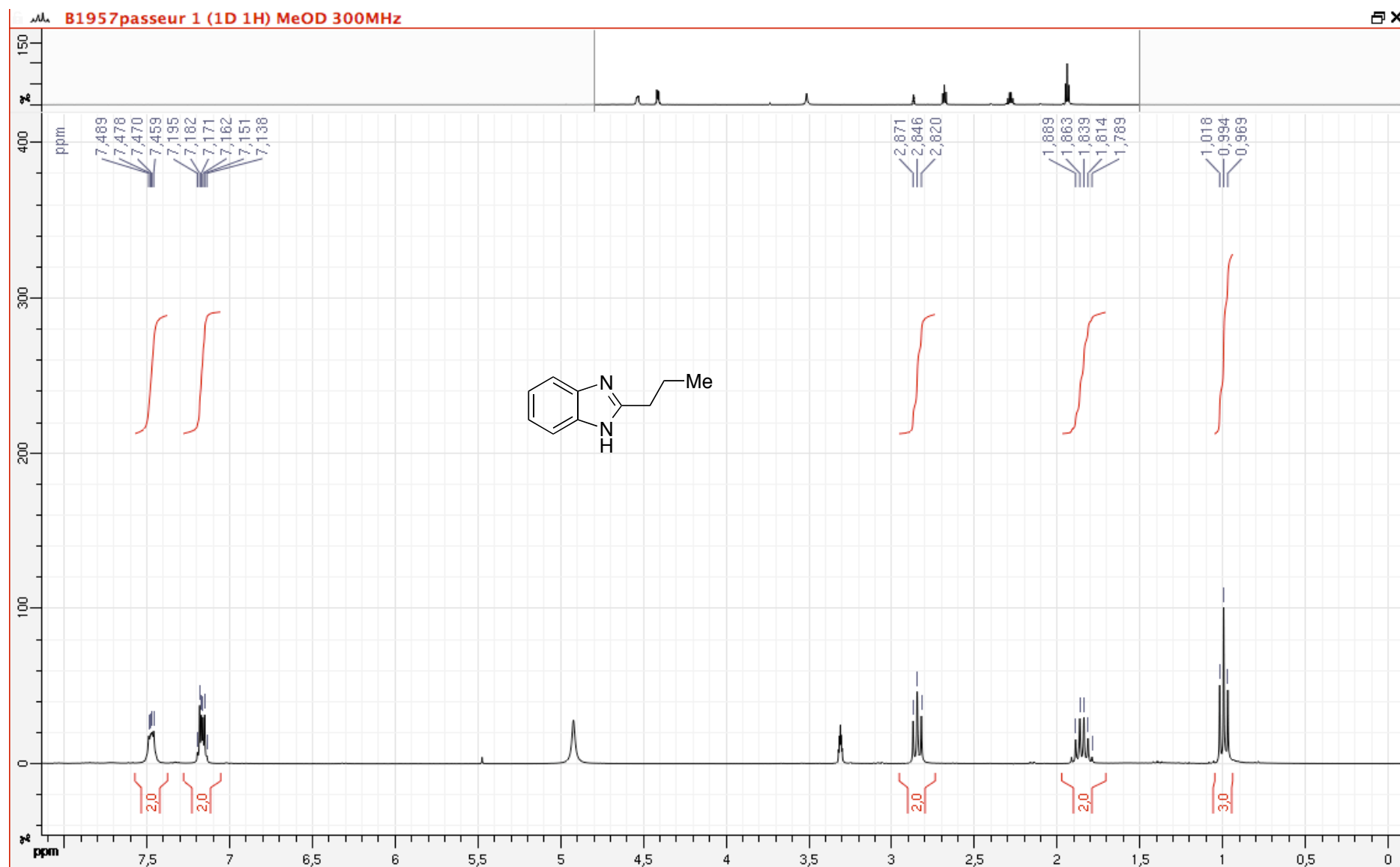


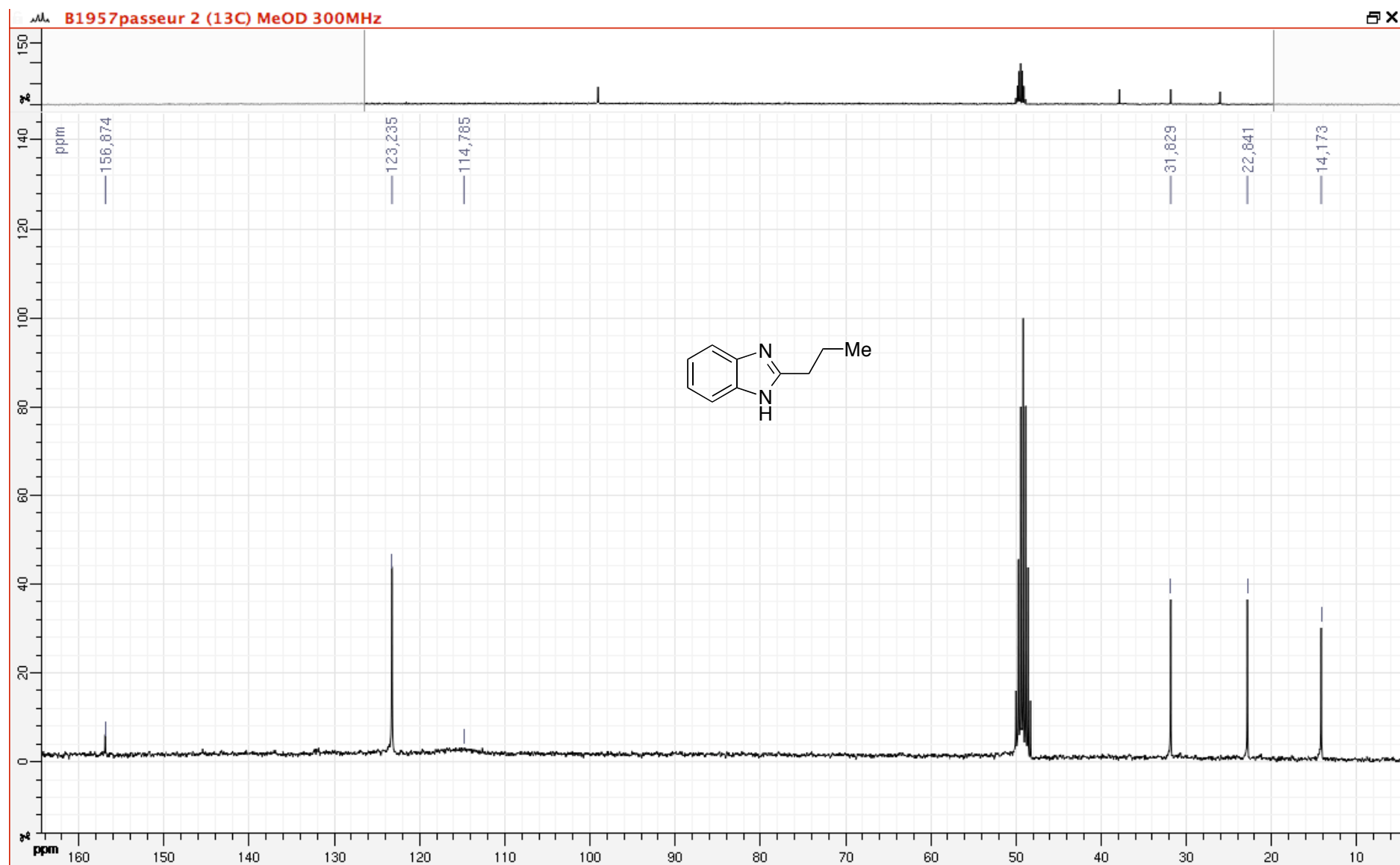
1-Benzyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (3ia)



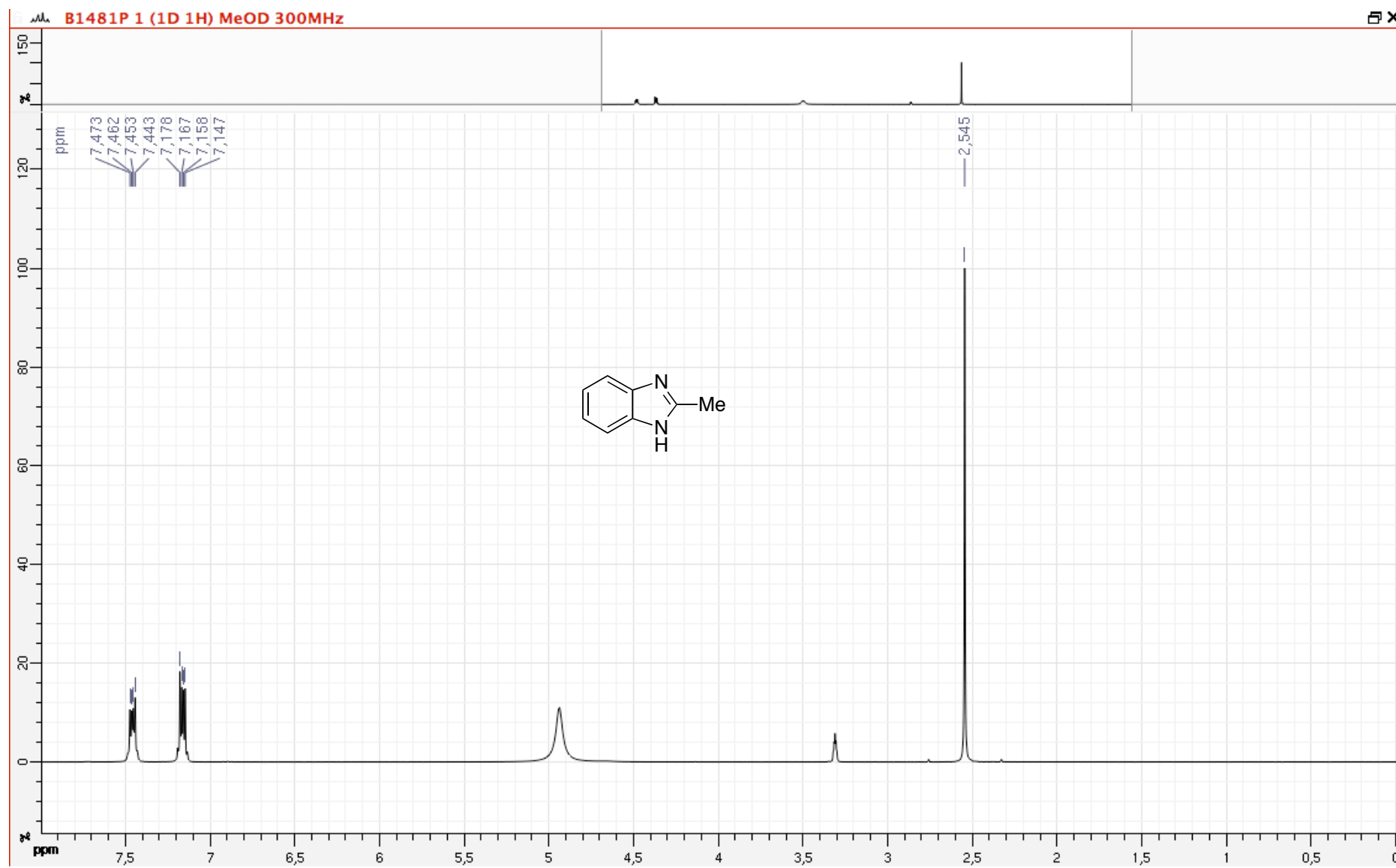


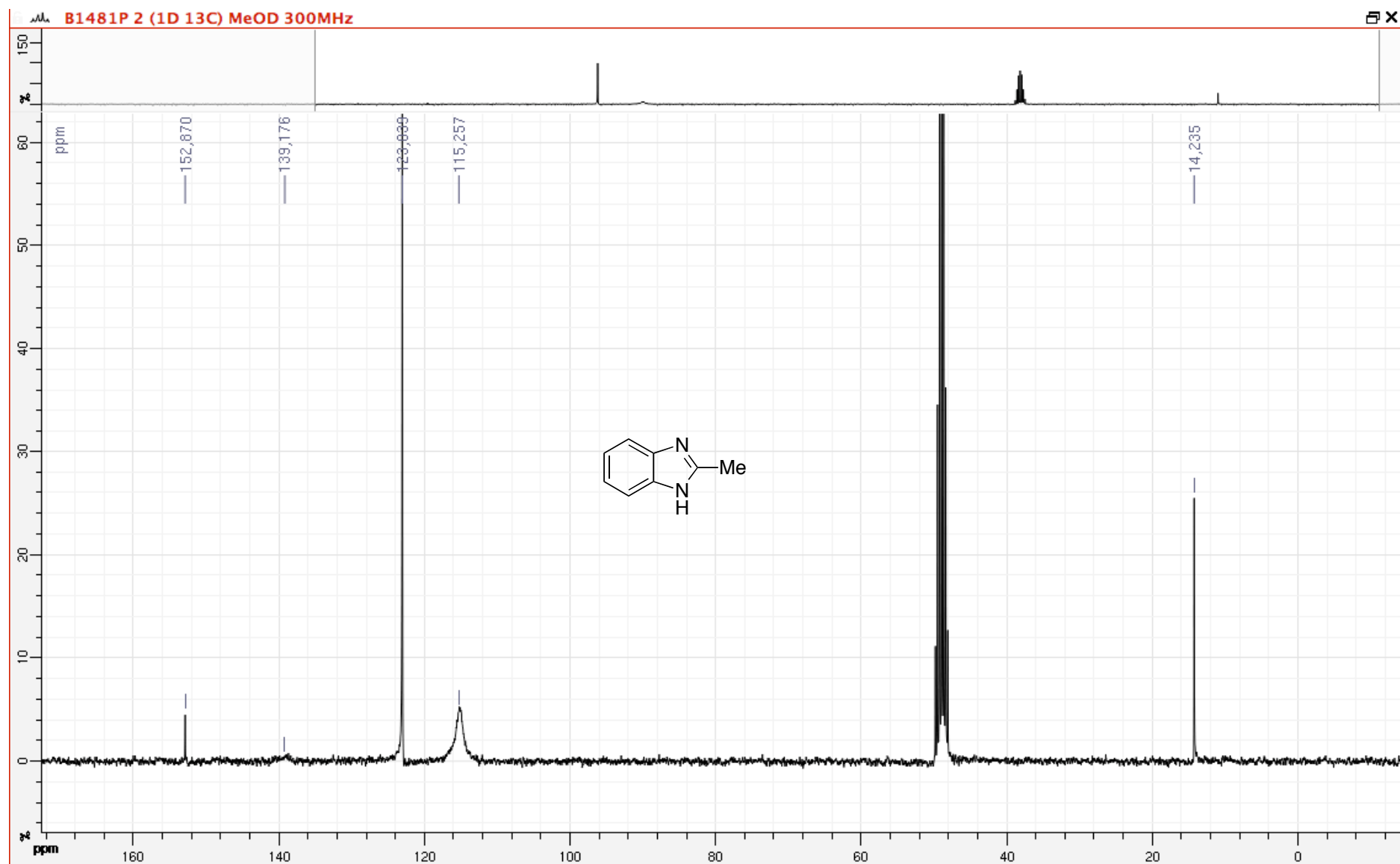
2-Propylbenzimidazole (3ah)



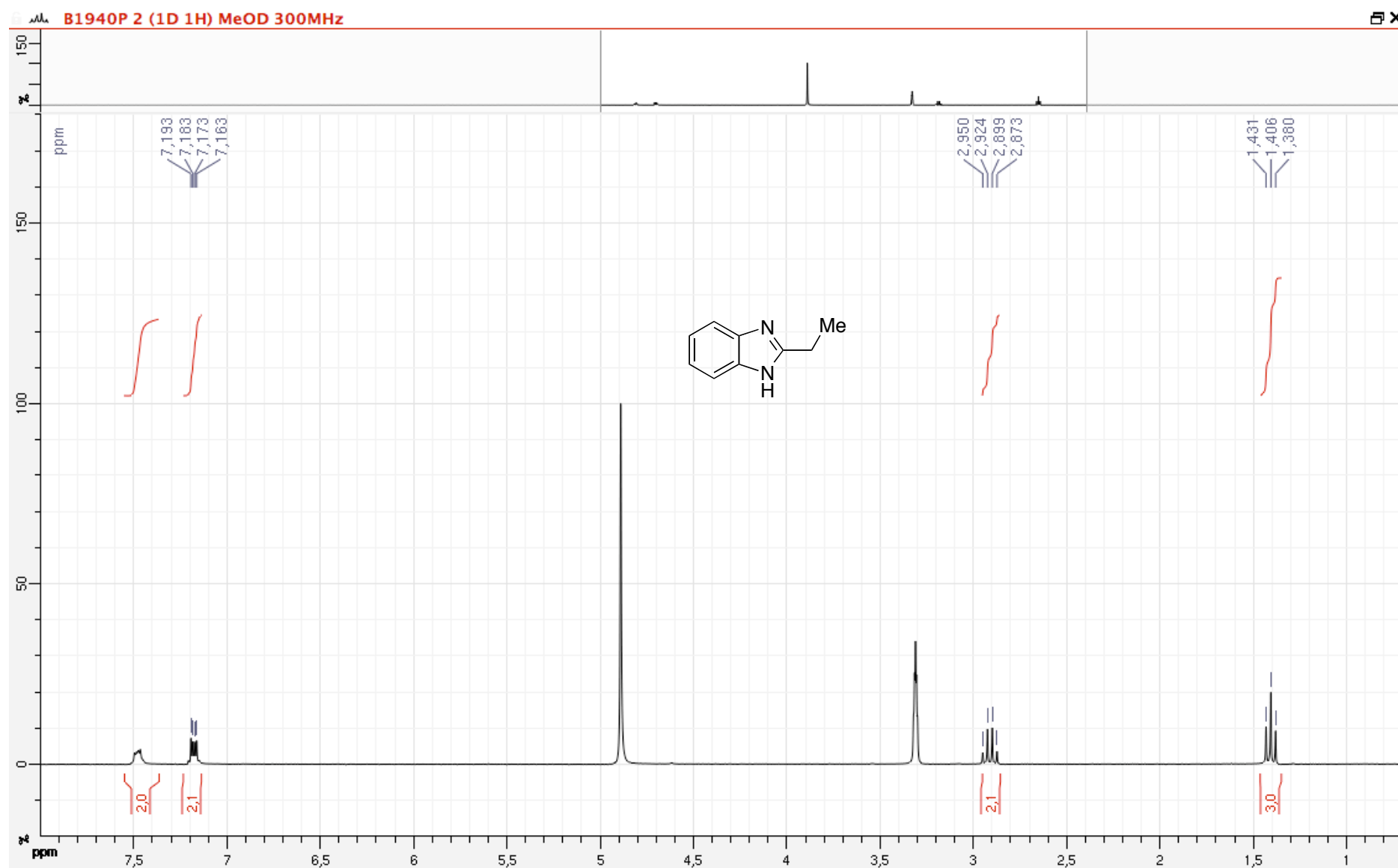


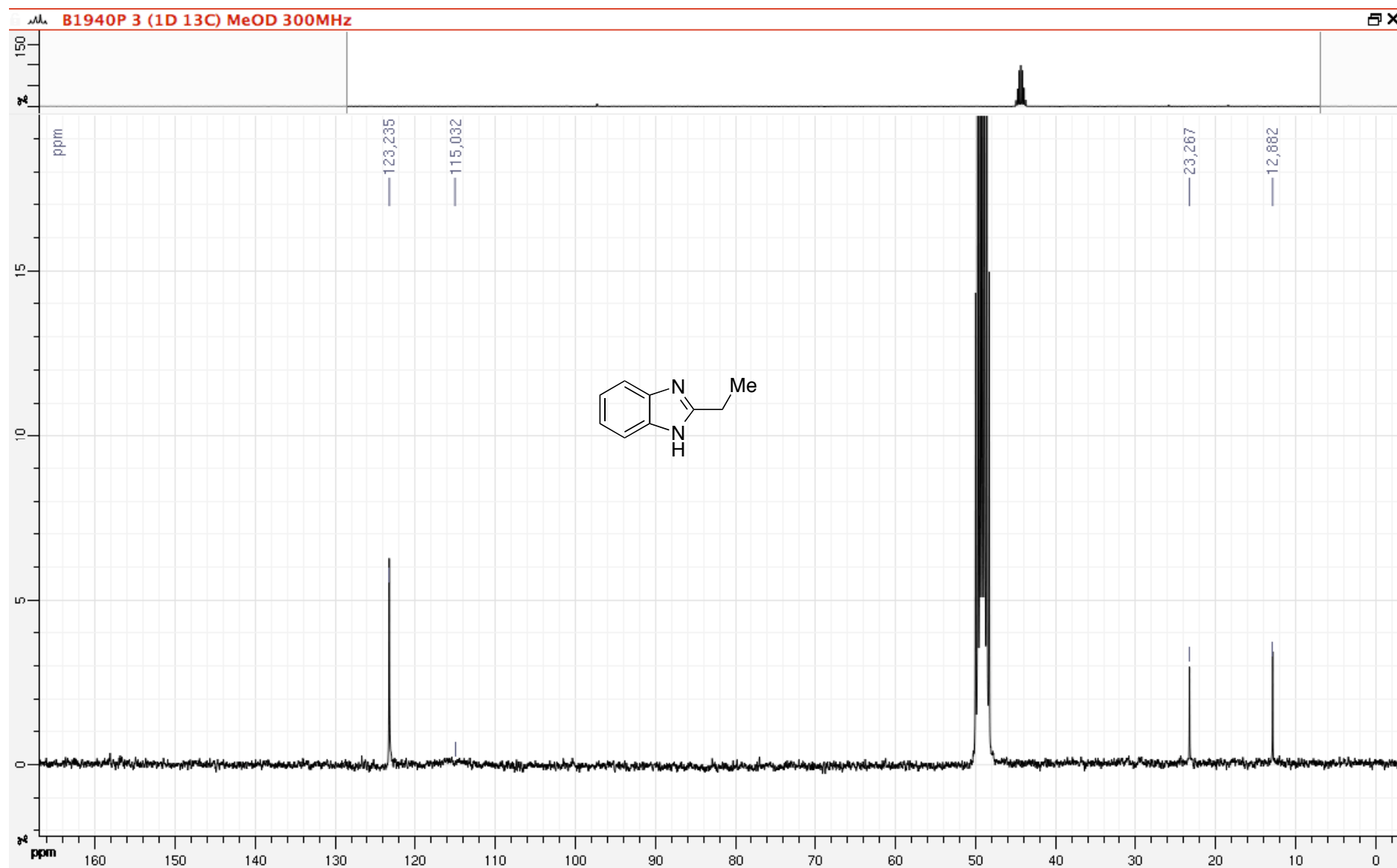
2-Methylbenzimidazole (3ai)



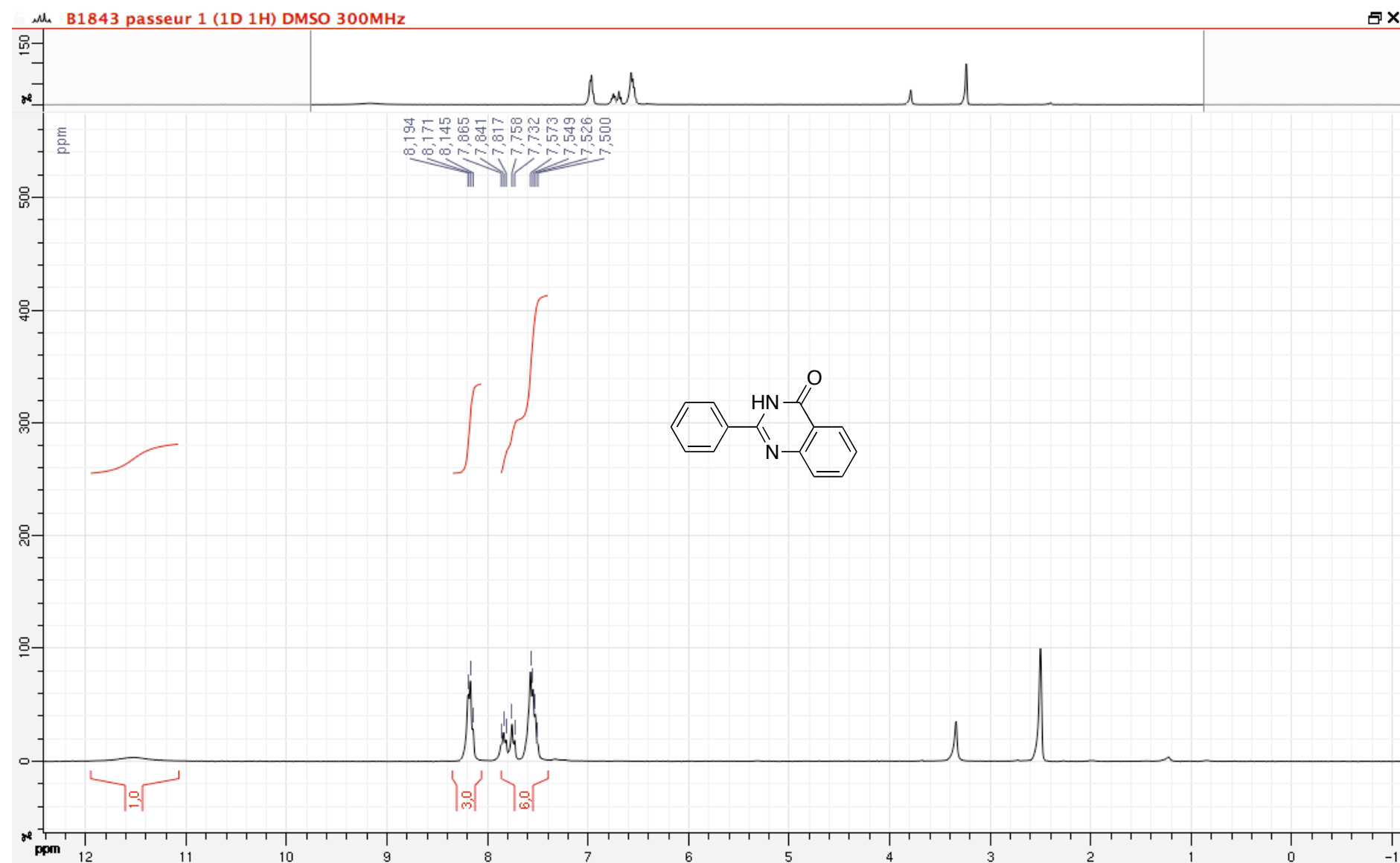


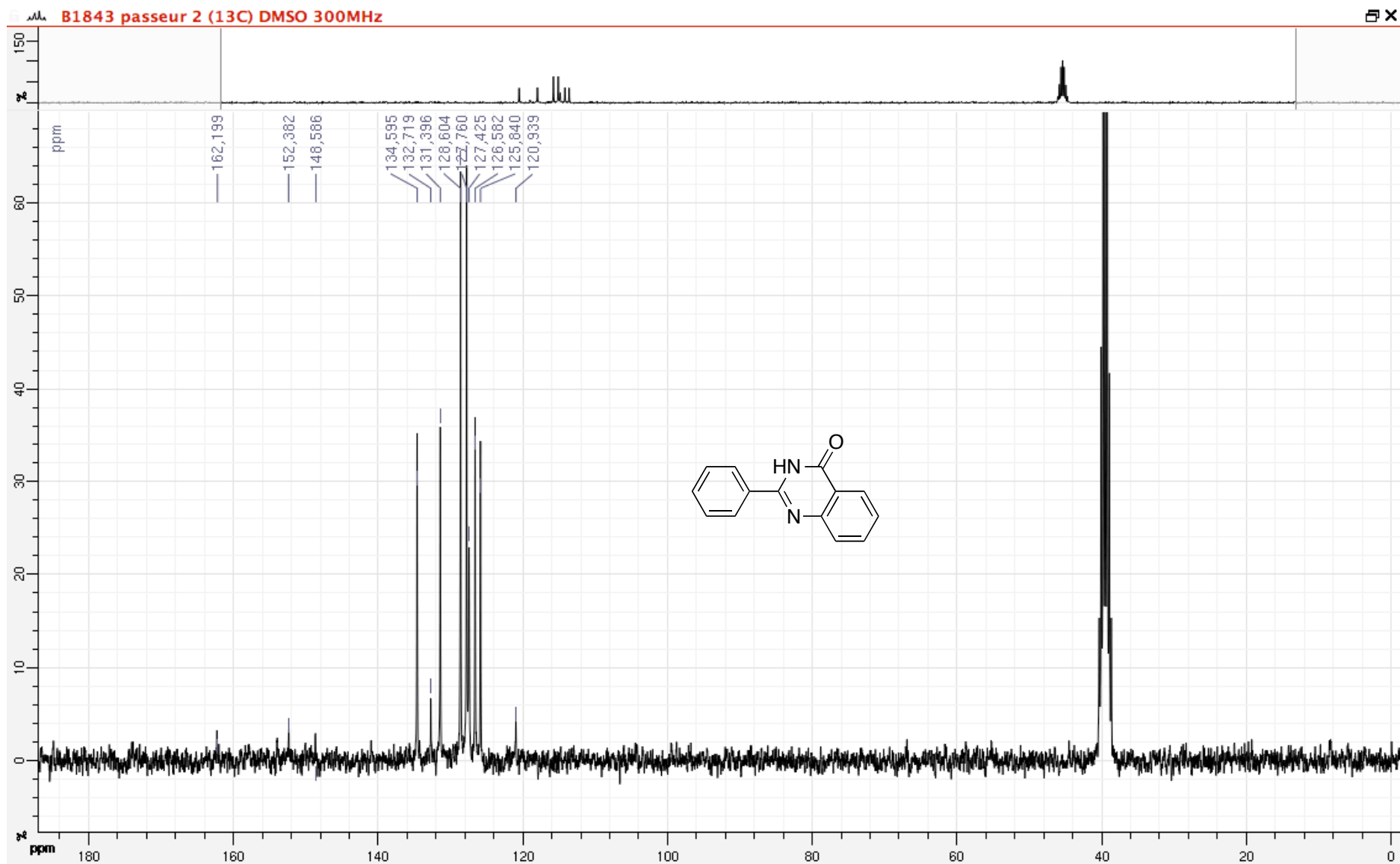
2-Methylbenzimidazole (3aj)



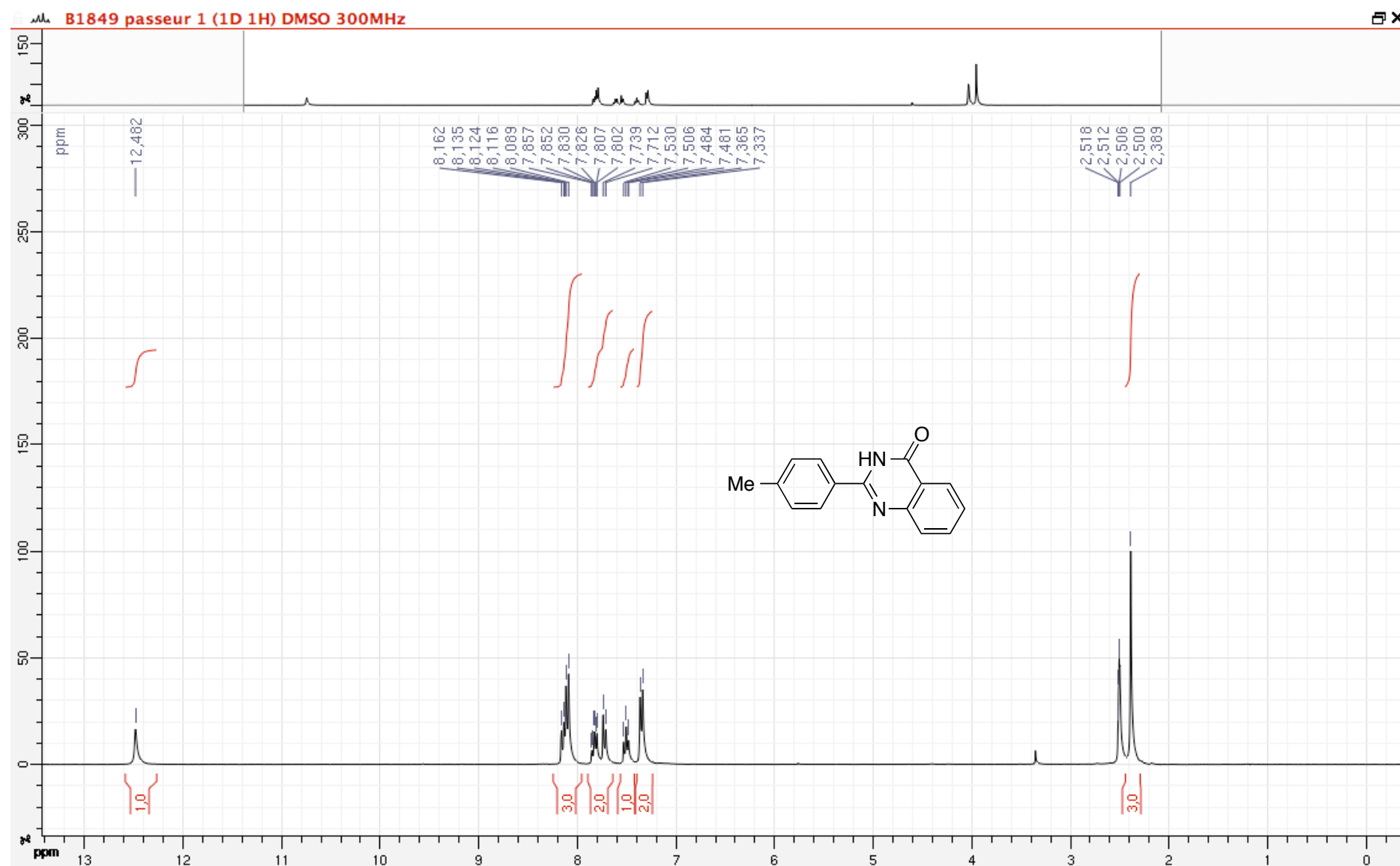


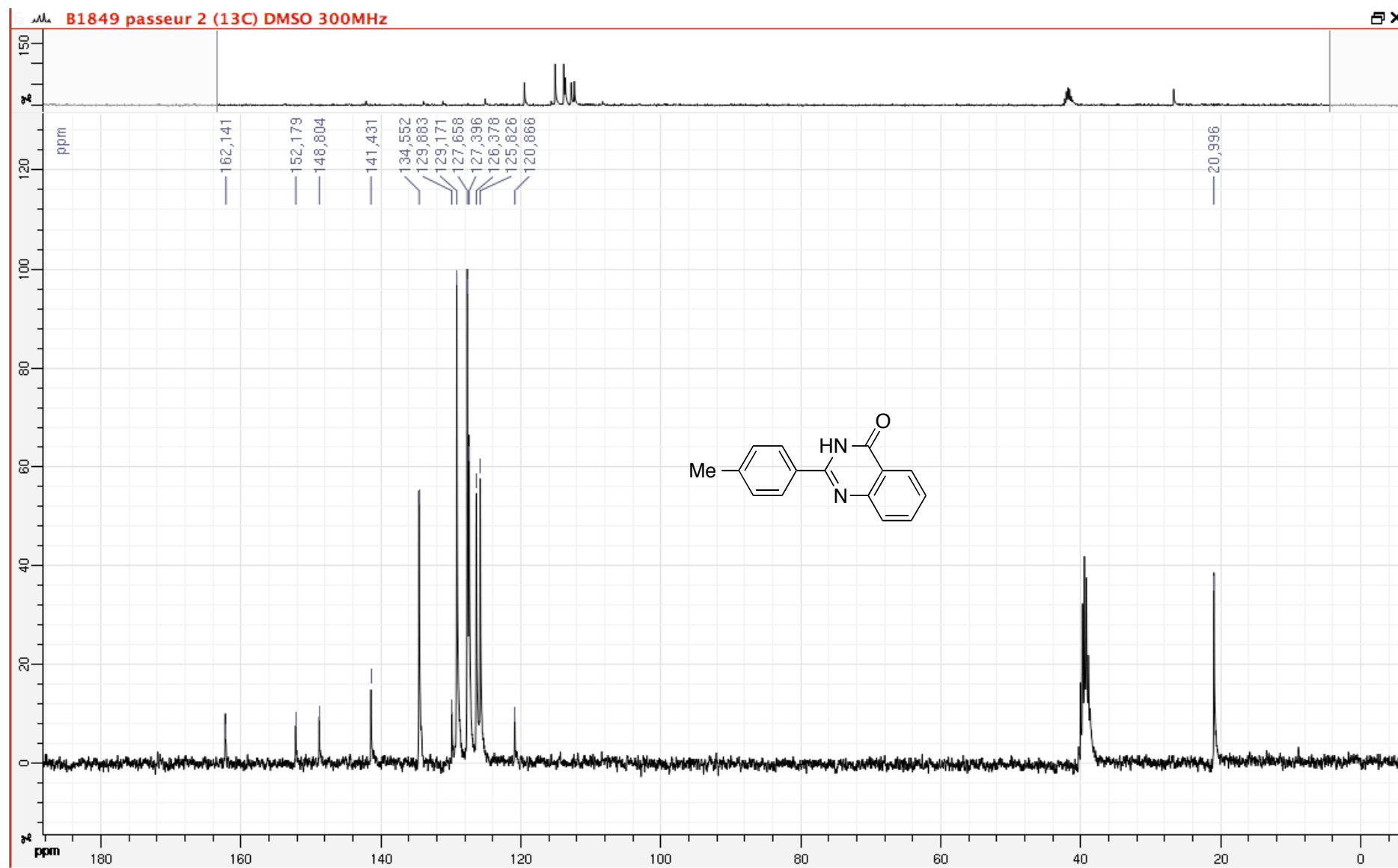
2-Phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ja)



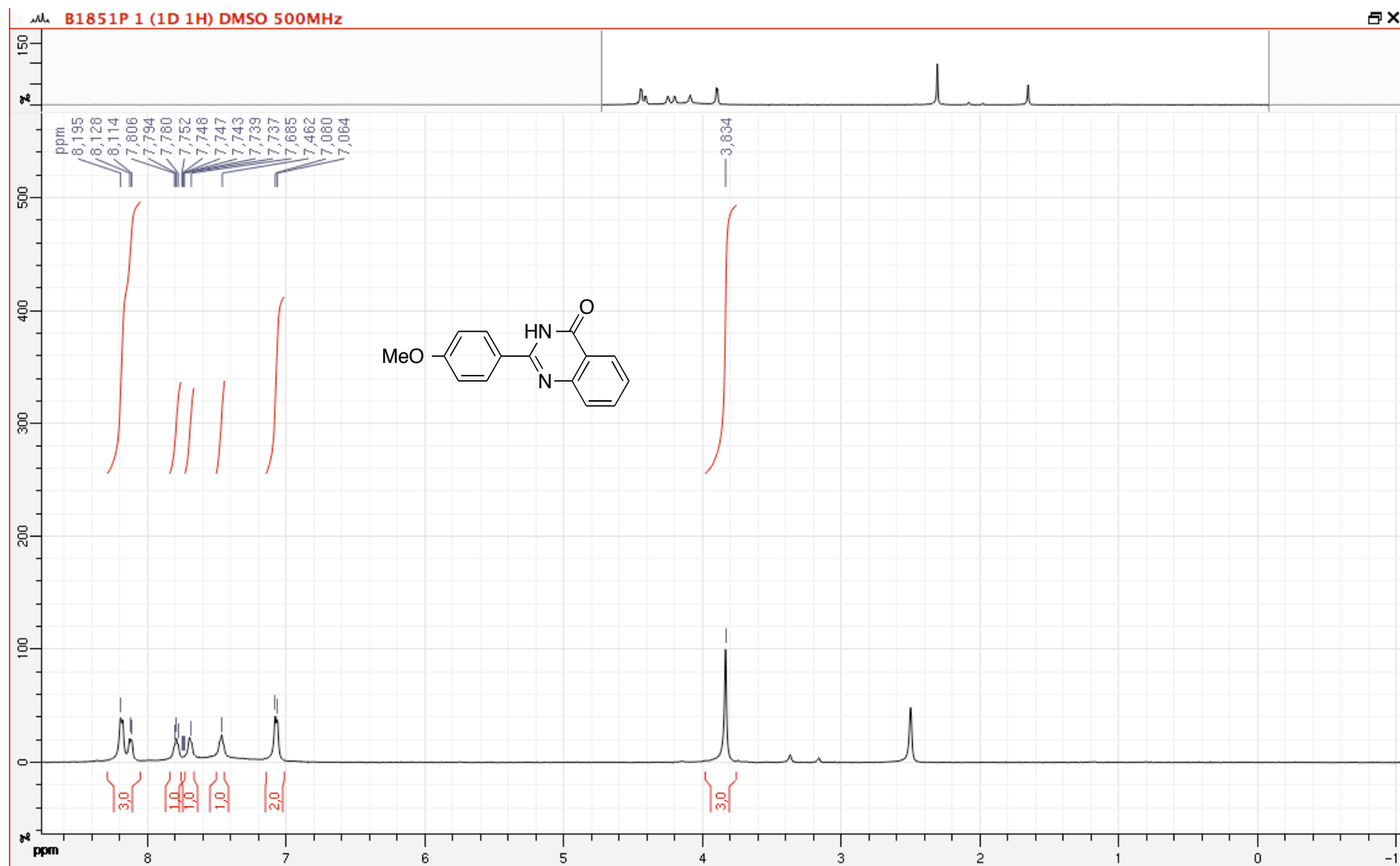


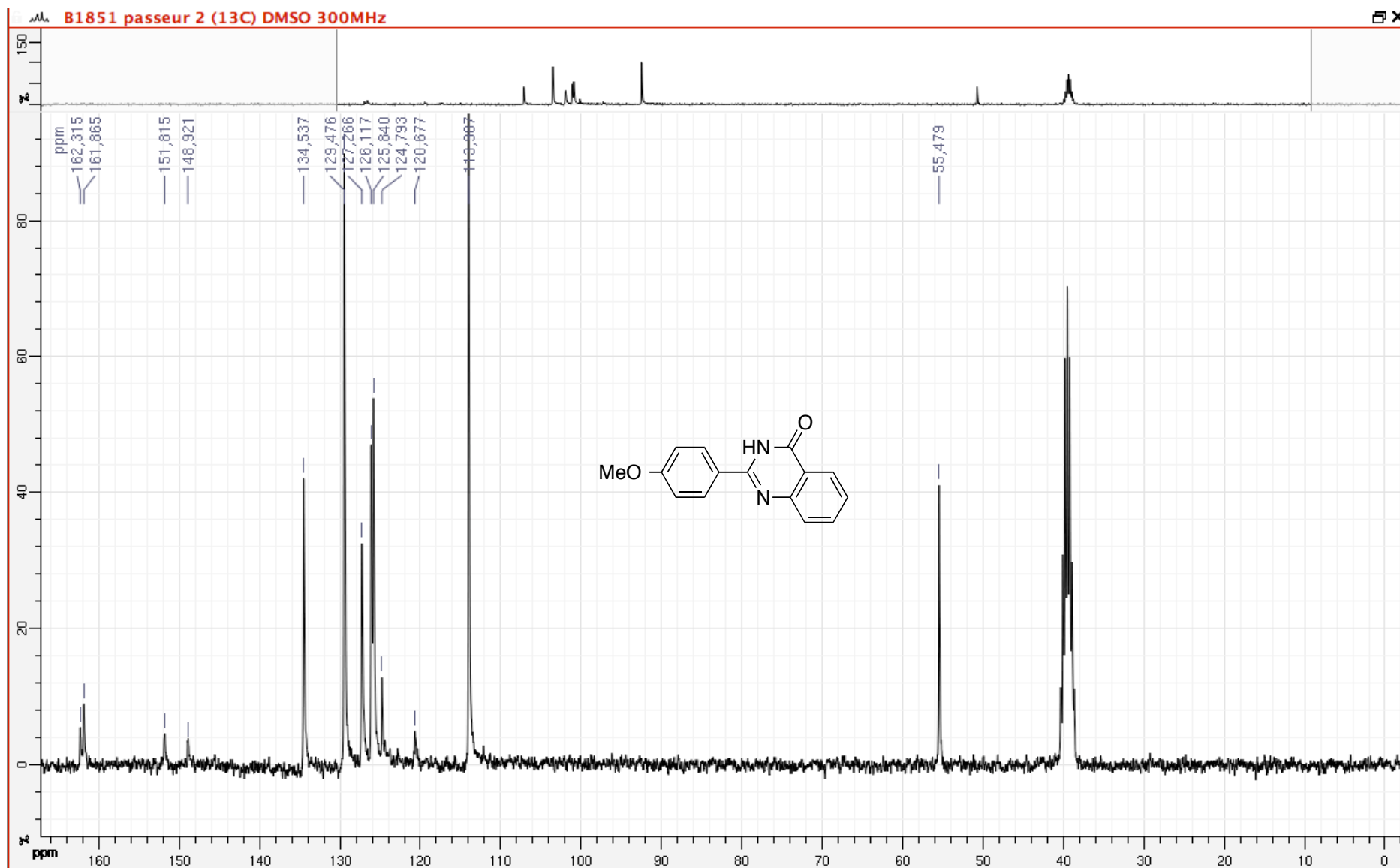
2-(*p*-Tolyl)quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one (3jb)



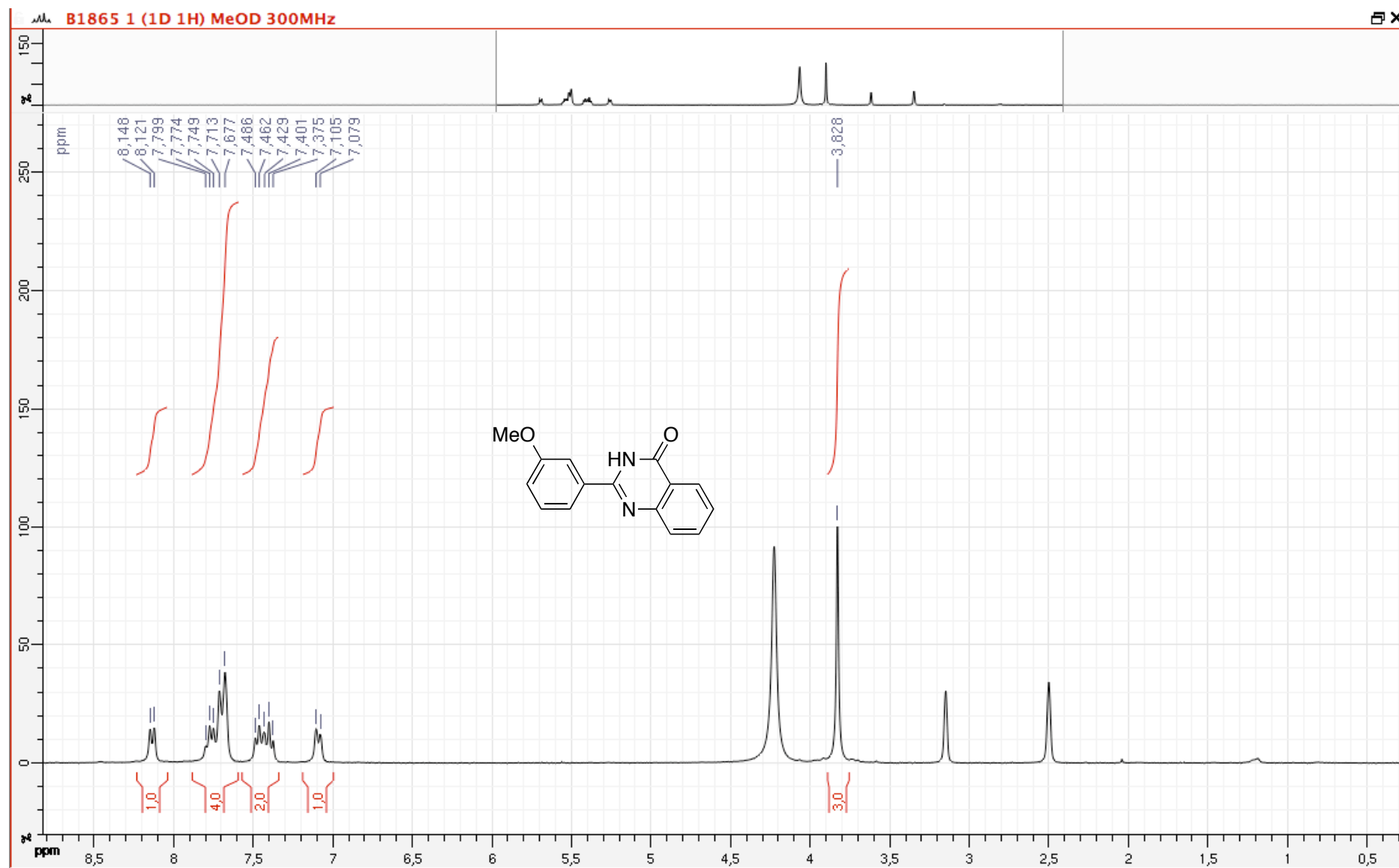


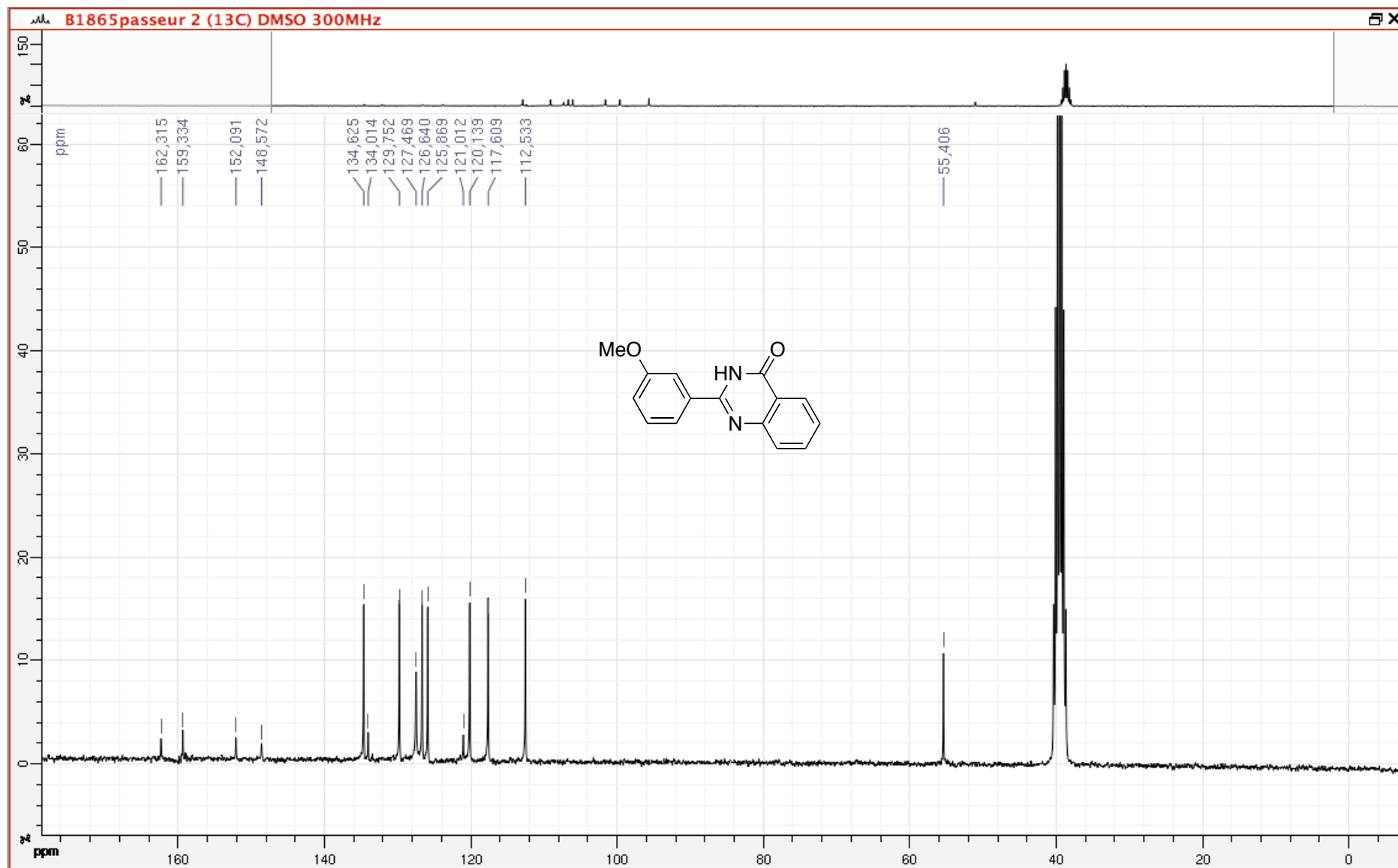
2-(*p*-Methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one (3jd)



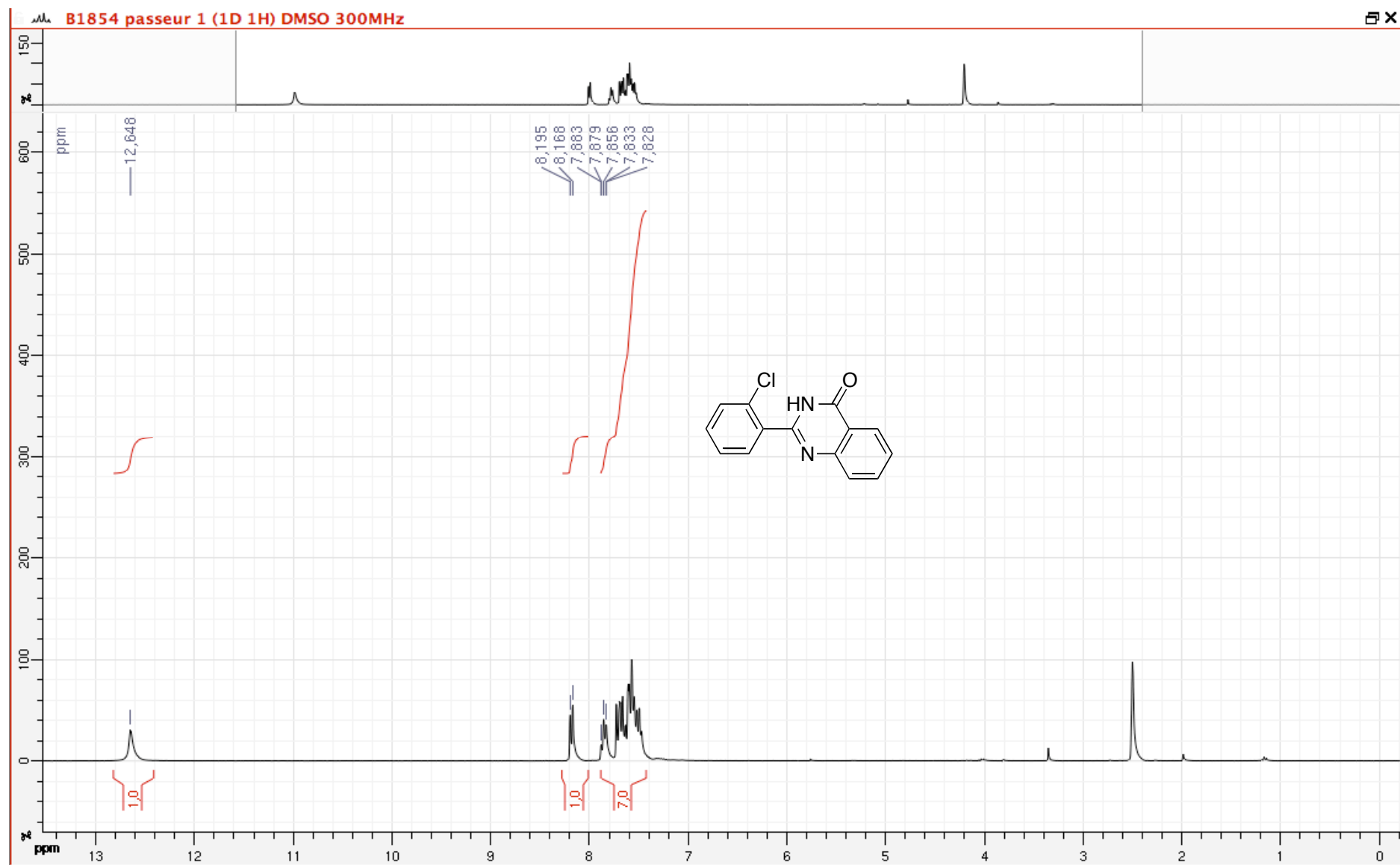


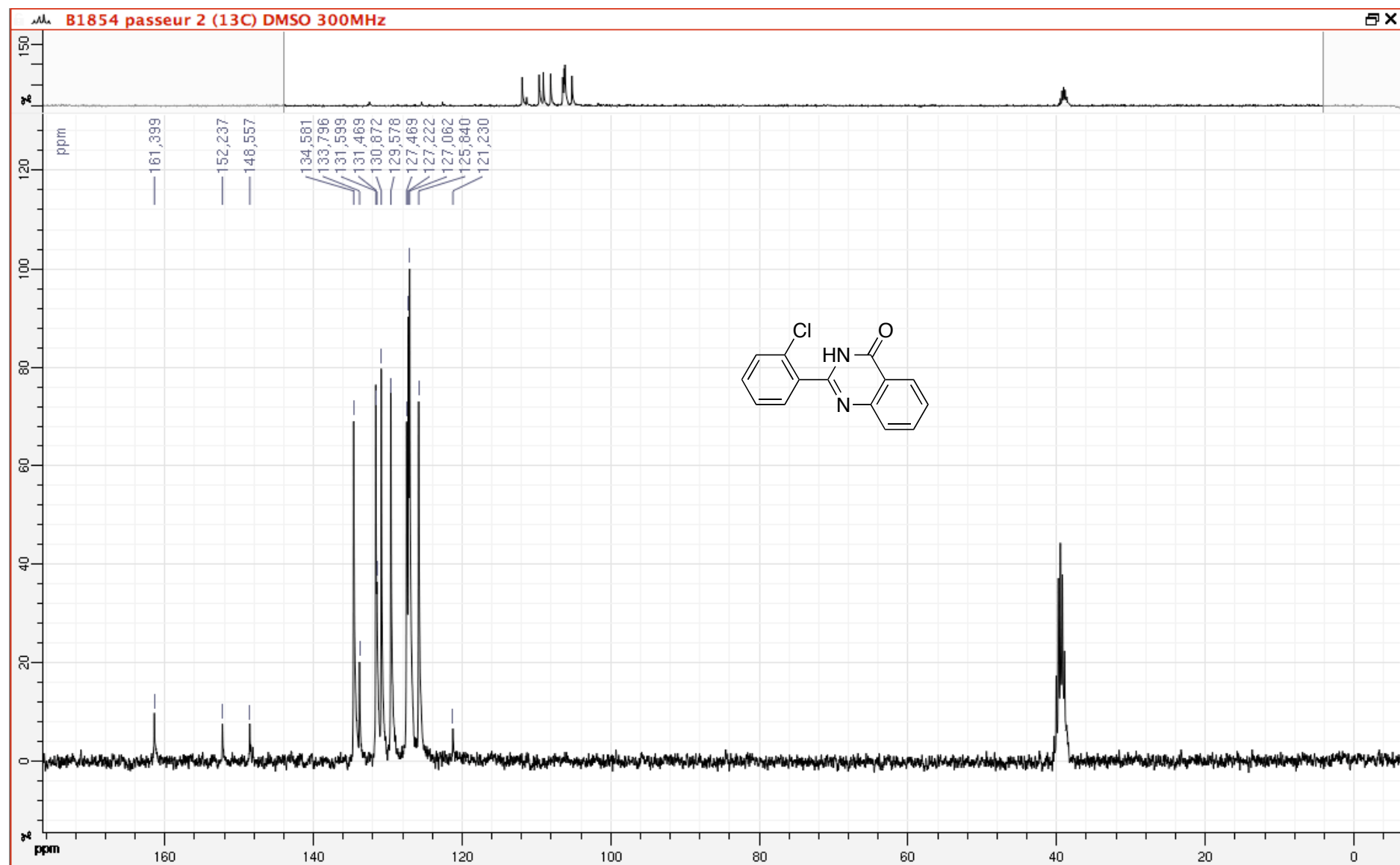
2-(*m*-Methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one (3je)





2-(*o*-Chlorophenyl)quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one (3jf)





3-Methyl-2-phenylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (3ka)

