

Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2**.

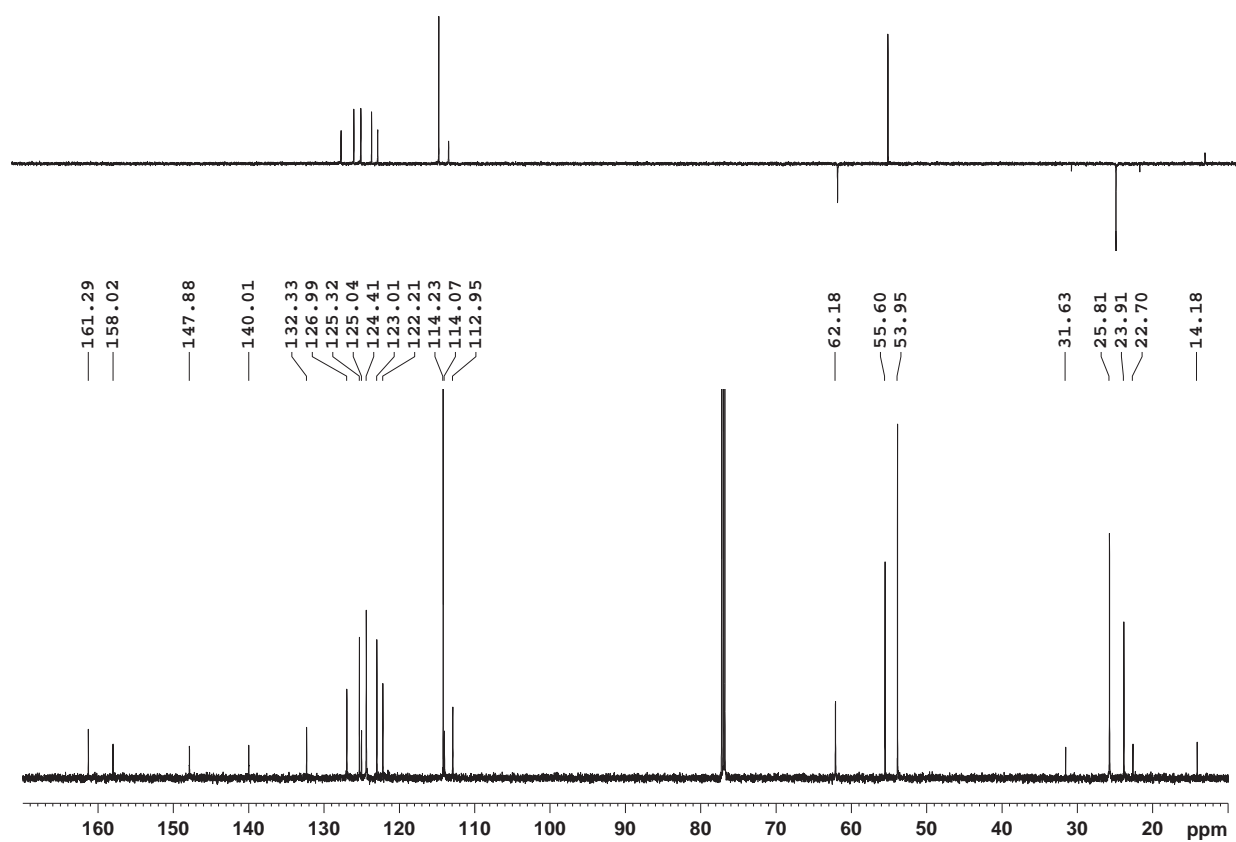


Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C (down) and DEPT (up) NMR spectra of **2**.

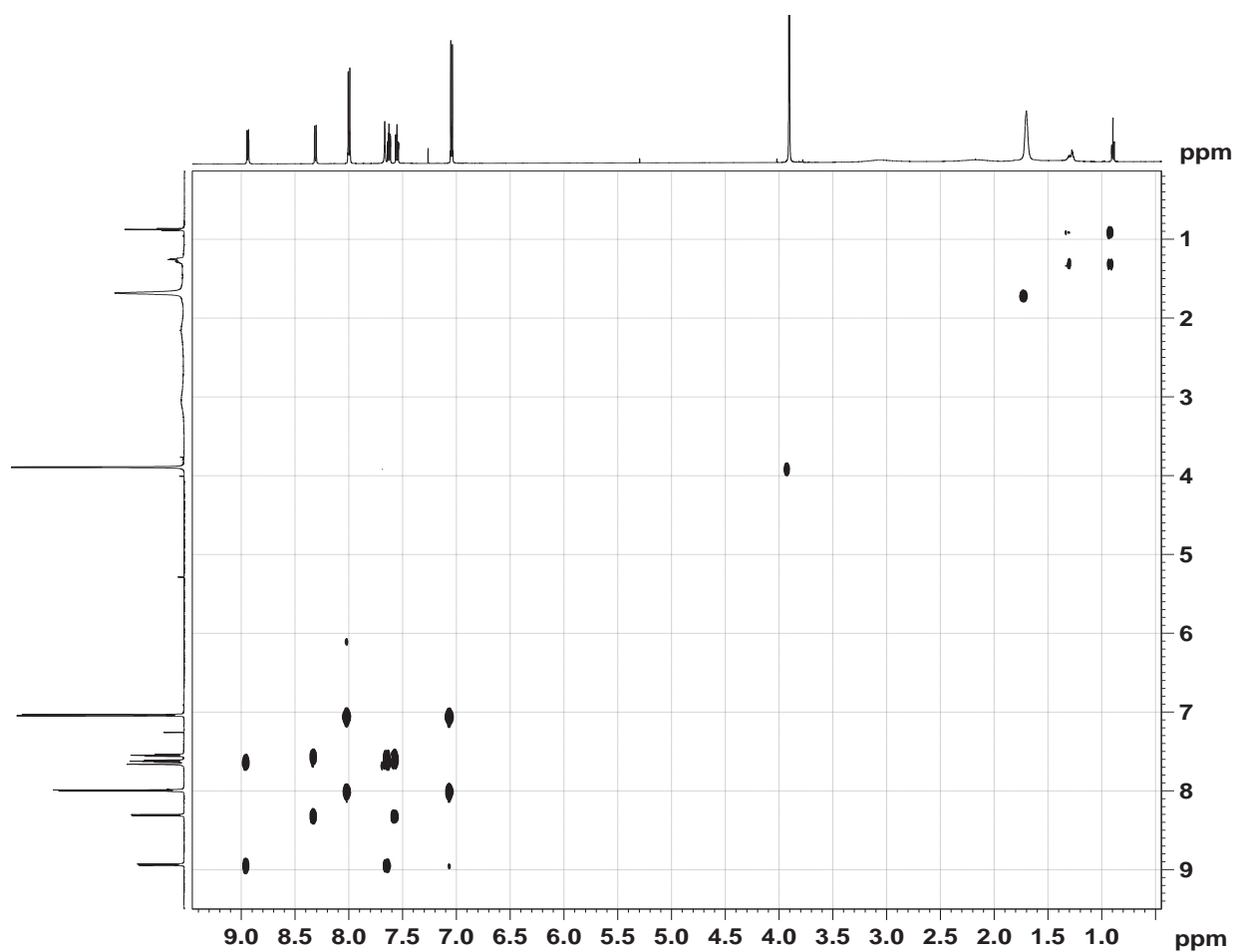


Figure S3.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR experiment of **2**.

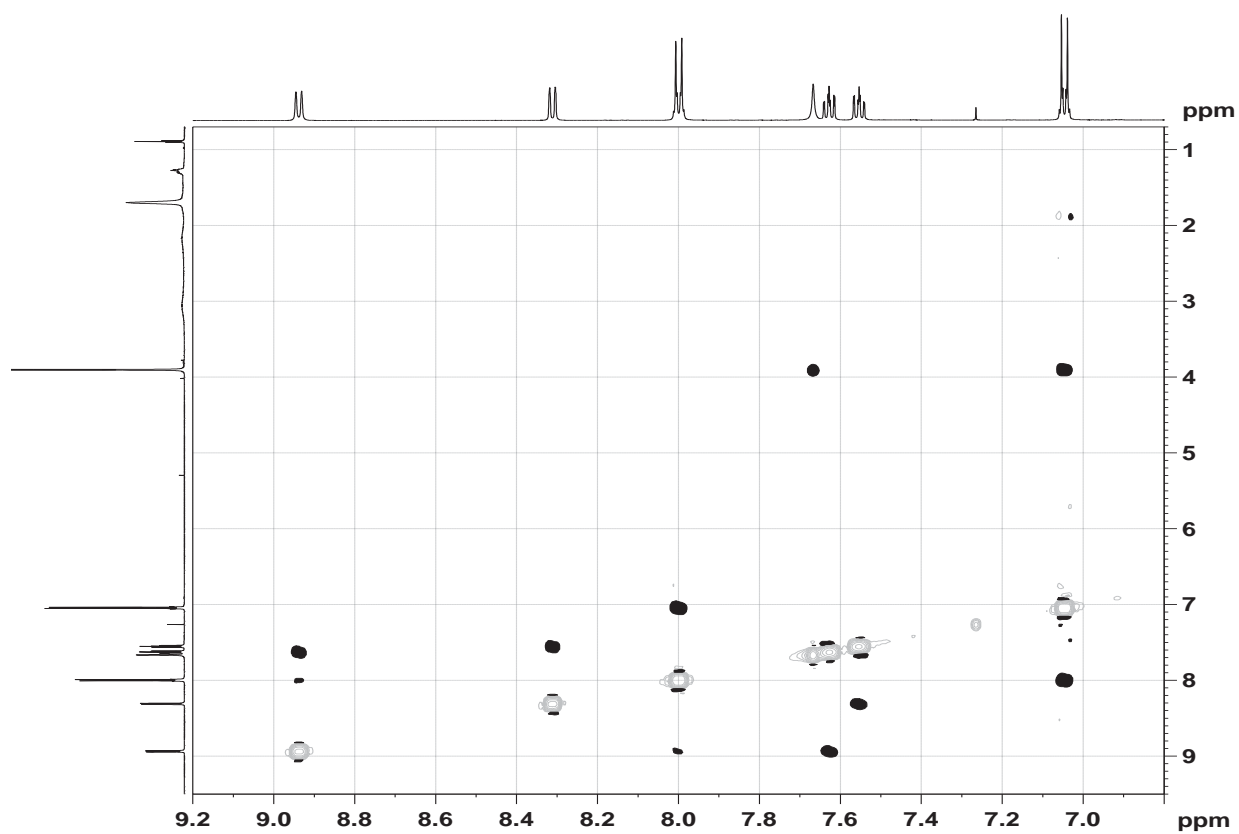


Figure S4.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  NOESY NMR experiment of **2**.

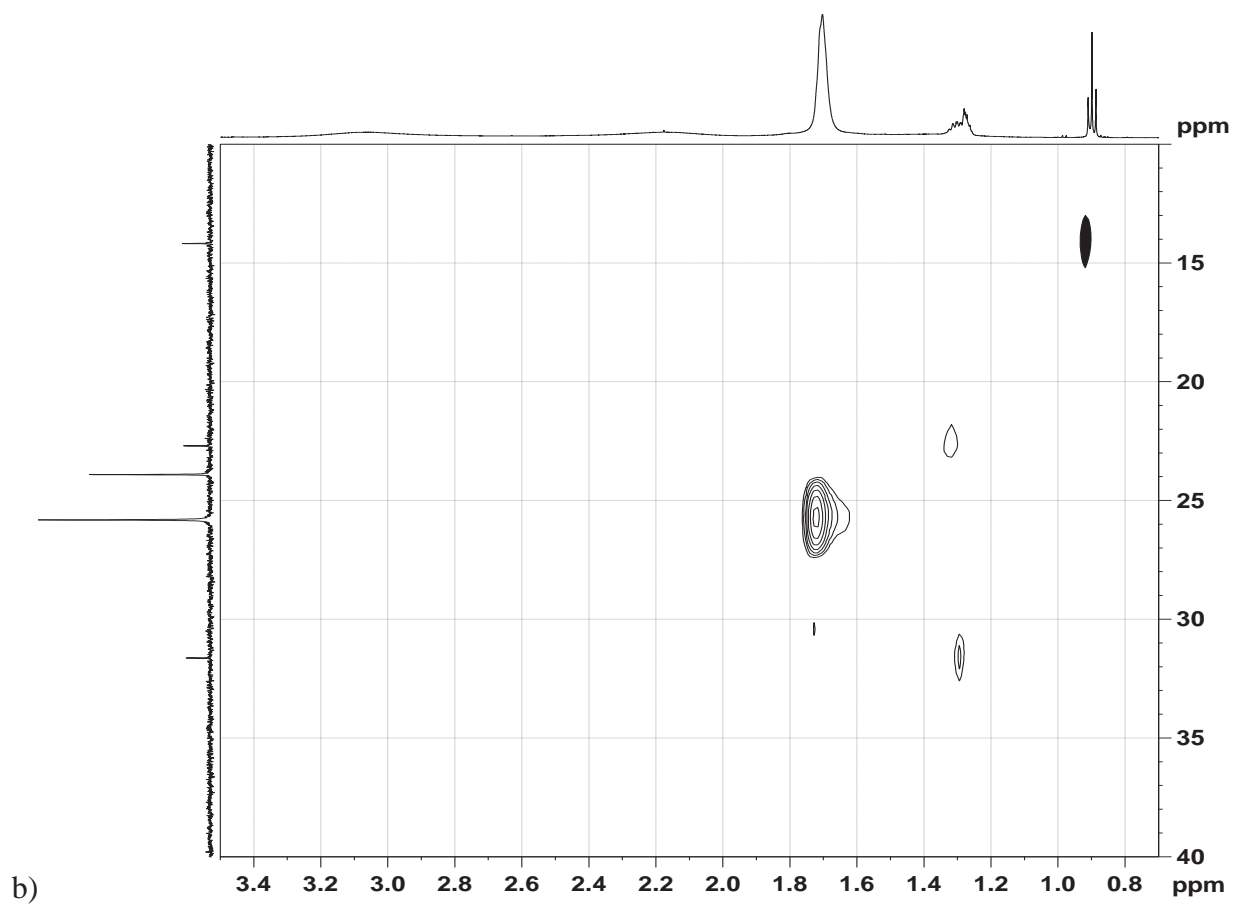
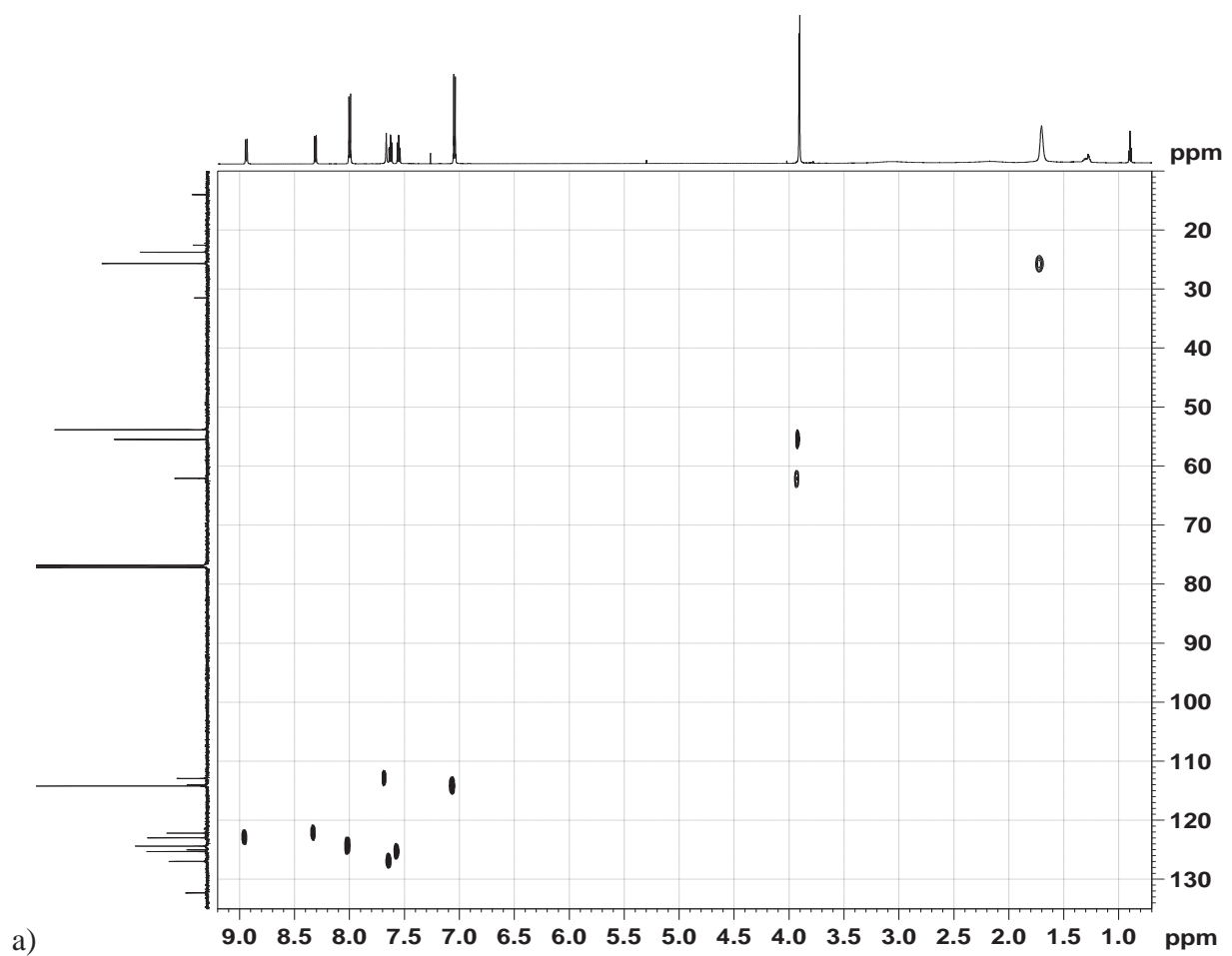


Figure S5.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC NMR experiment of **2**: a) full spectrum; b) aliphatic part.

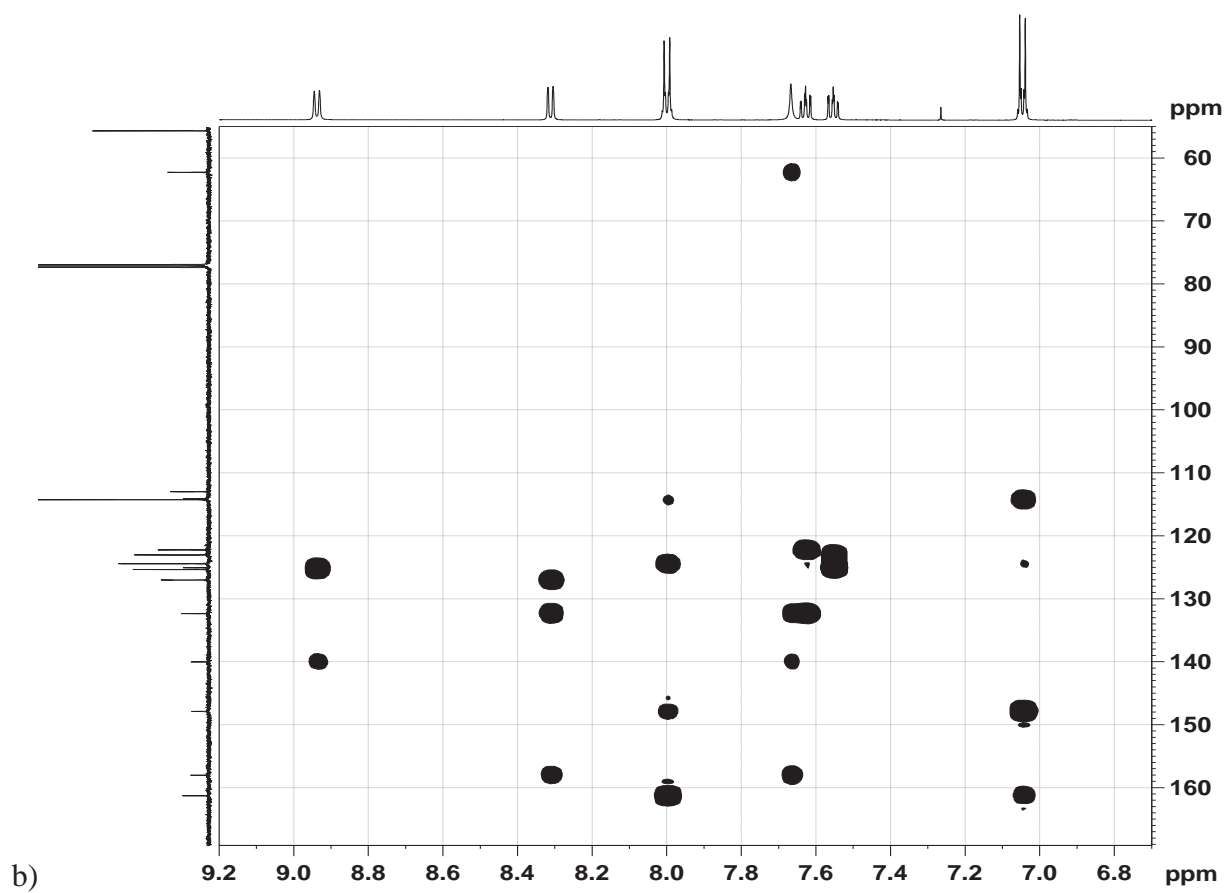
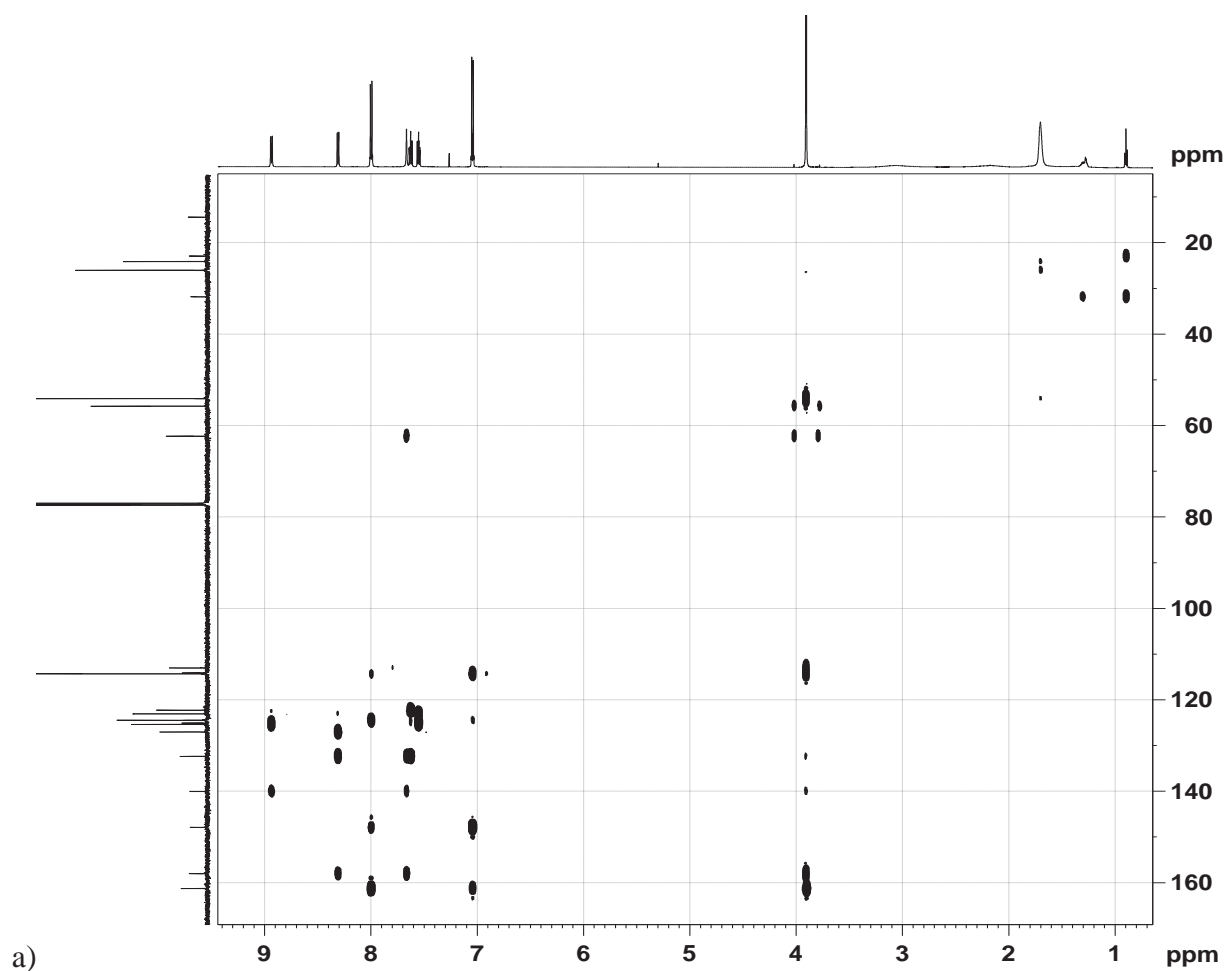


Figure S6.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HMBC NMR experiment of **2**: a) full spectrum; b) aromatic part.

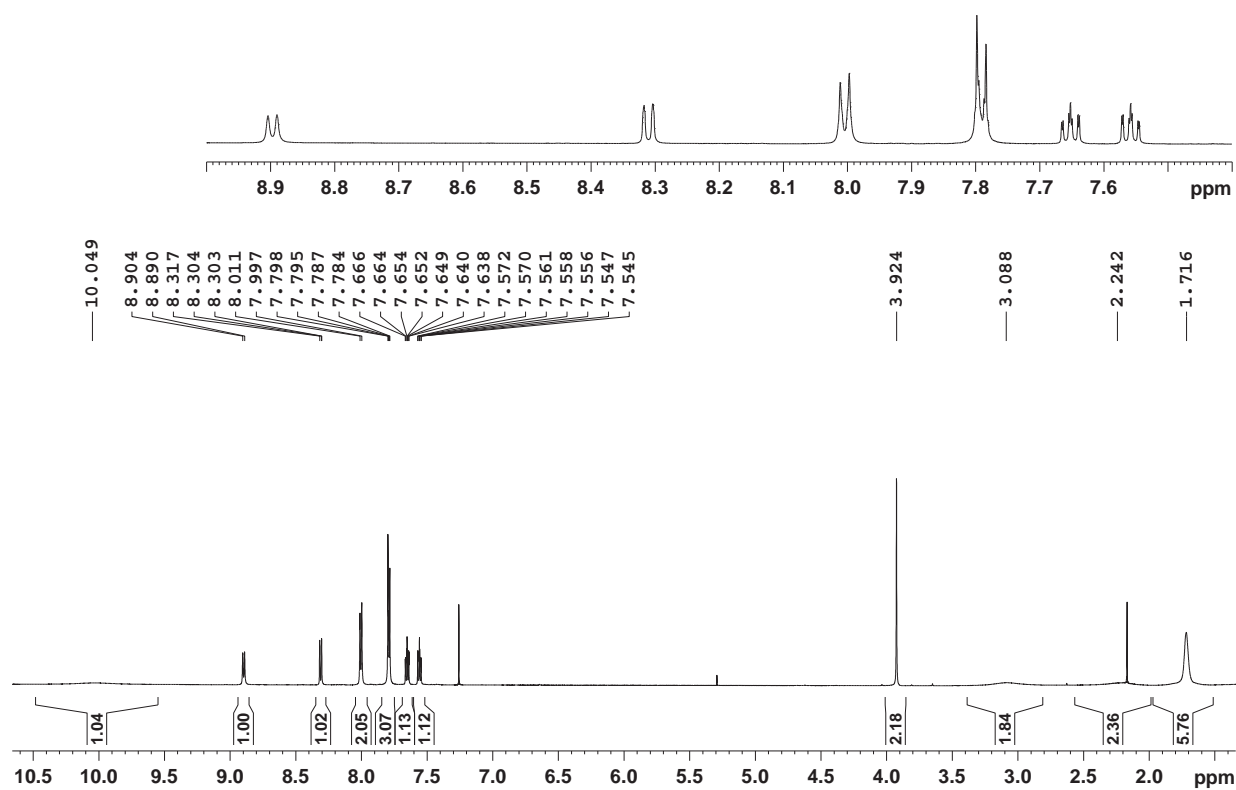


Figure S7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **3**.

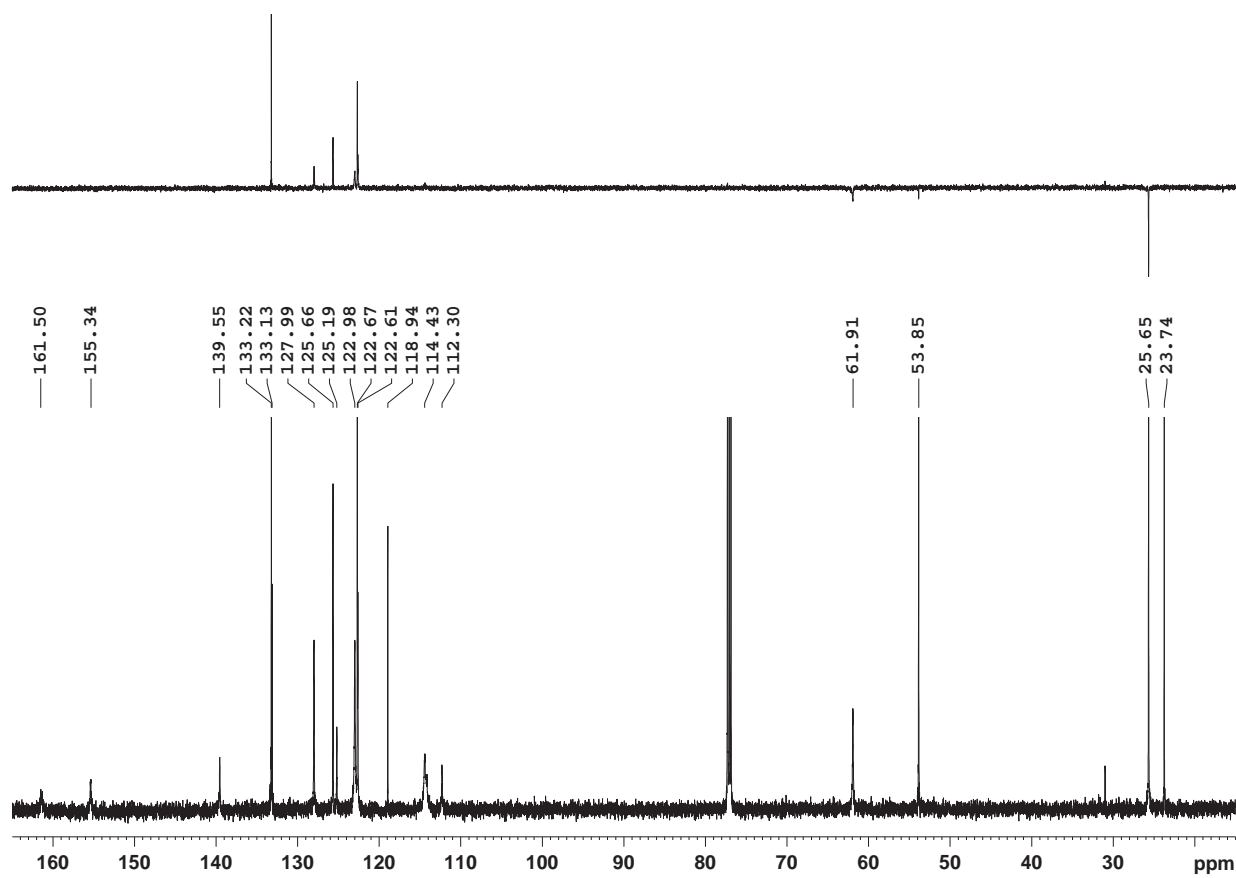


Figure S8. <sup>13</sup>C (down) and DEPT (up) NMR spectra of **3**.

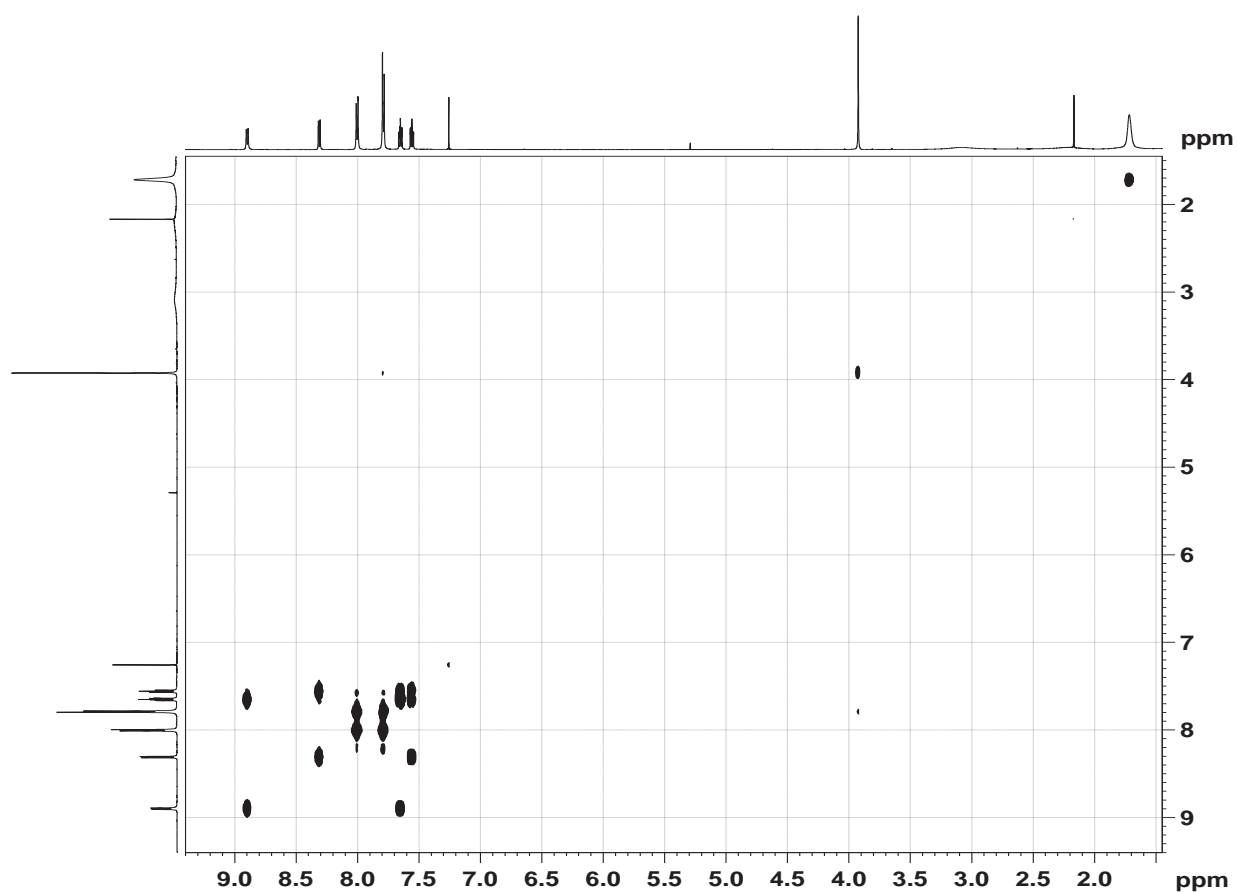


Figure S9.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR experiment of **3**.

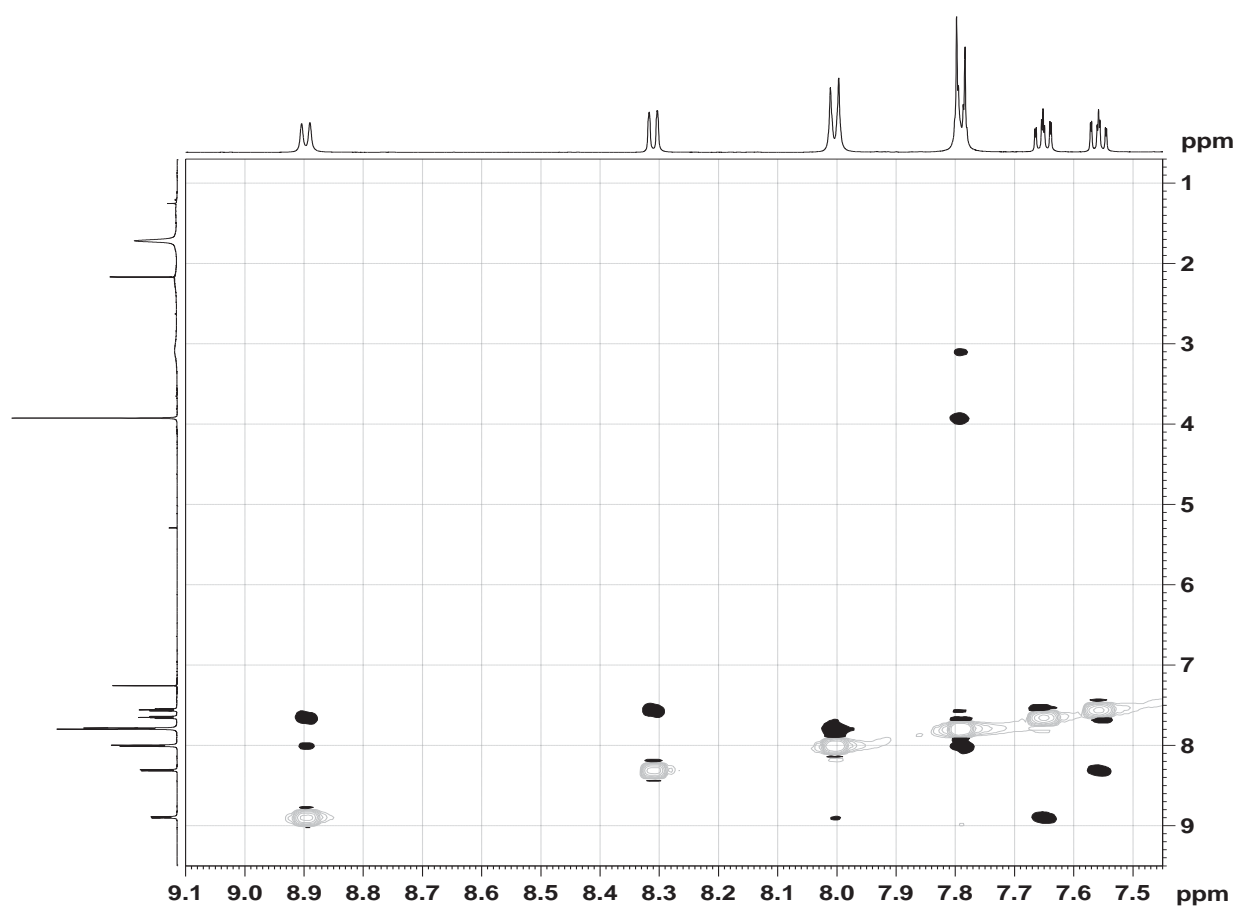


Figure S10.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  NOESY NMR experiment of **3**.

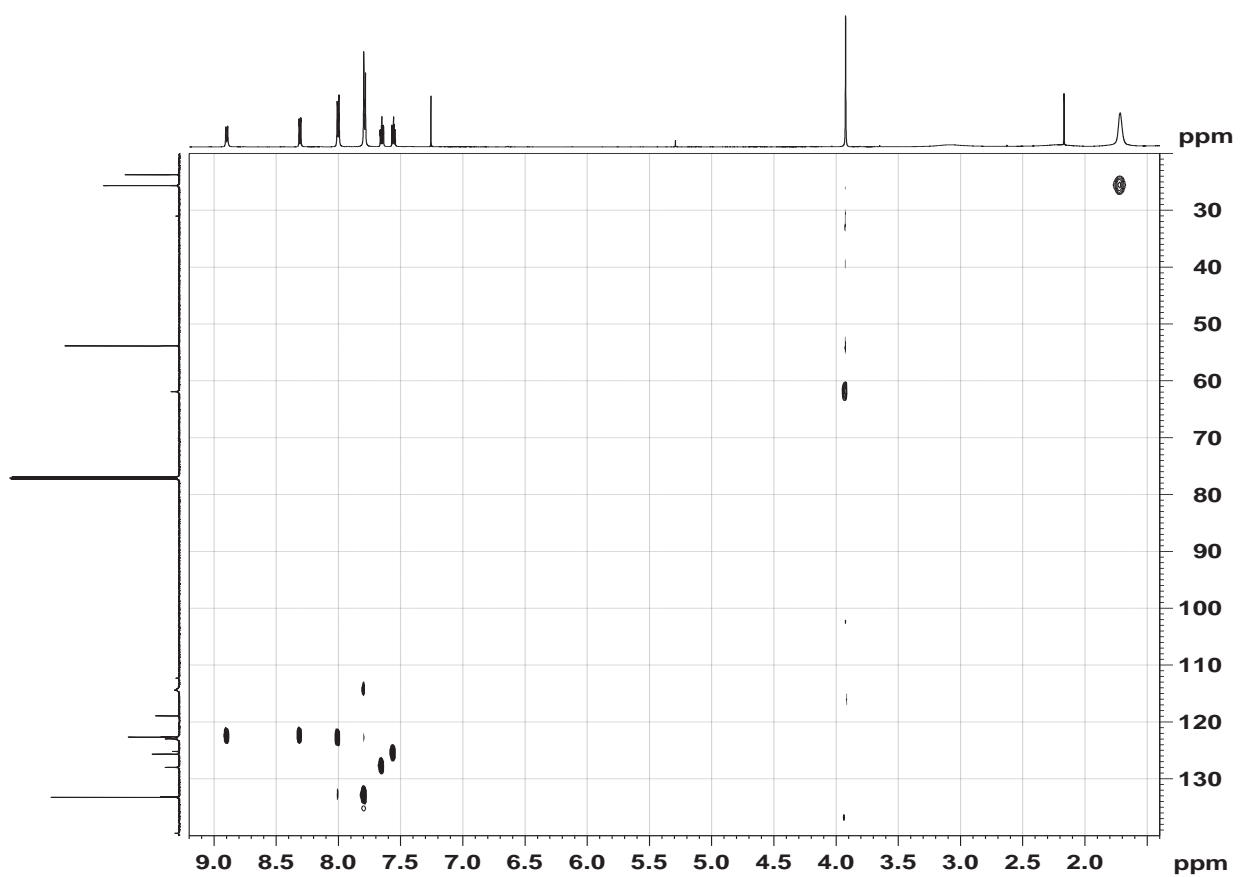


Figure S11.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC NMR experiment of **3**.

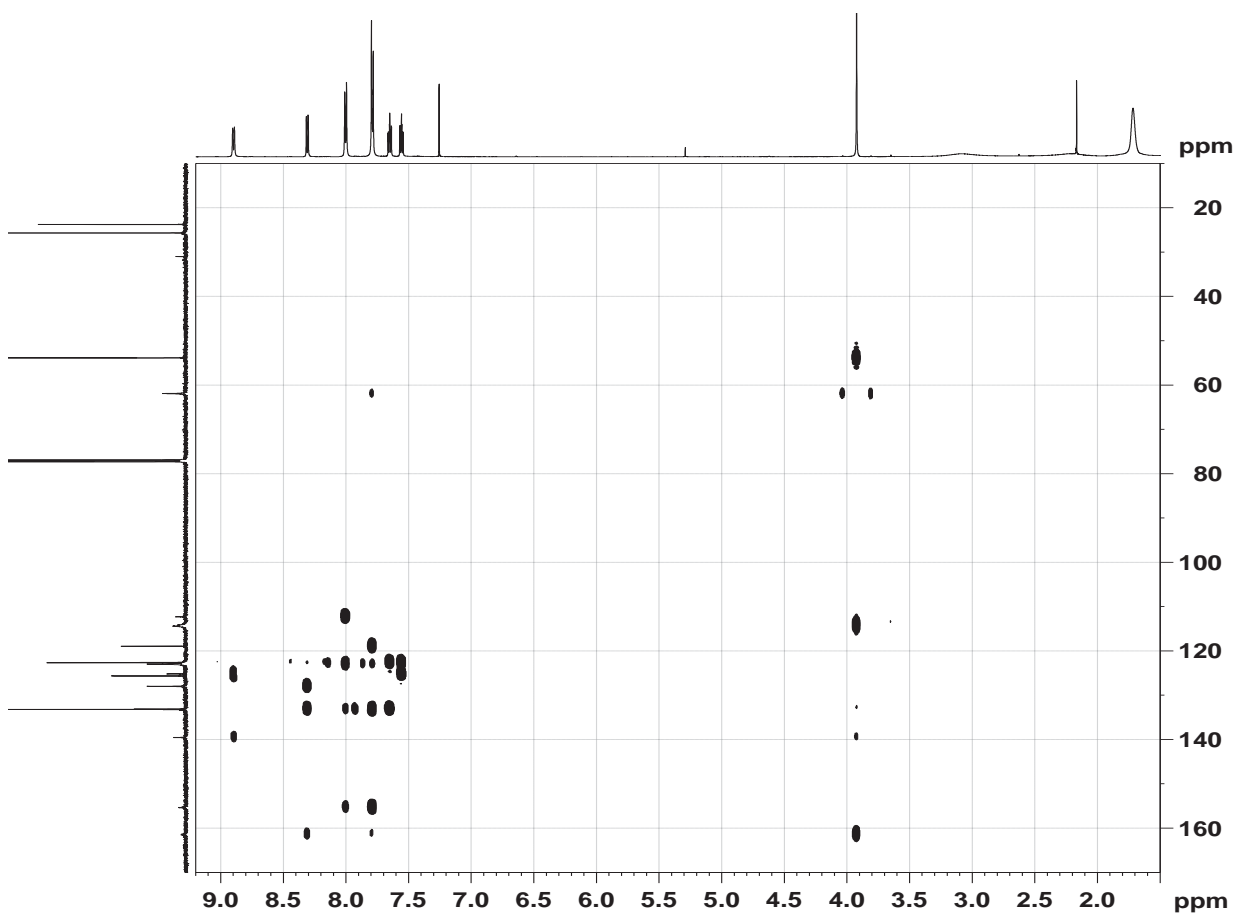


Figure S12.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HMBC NMR experiment of **3**.

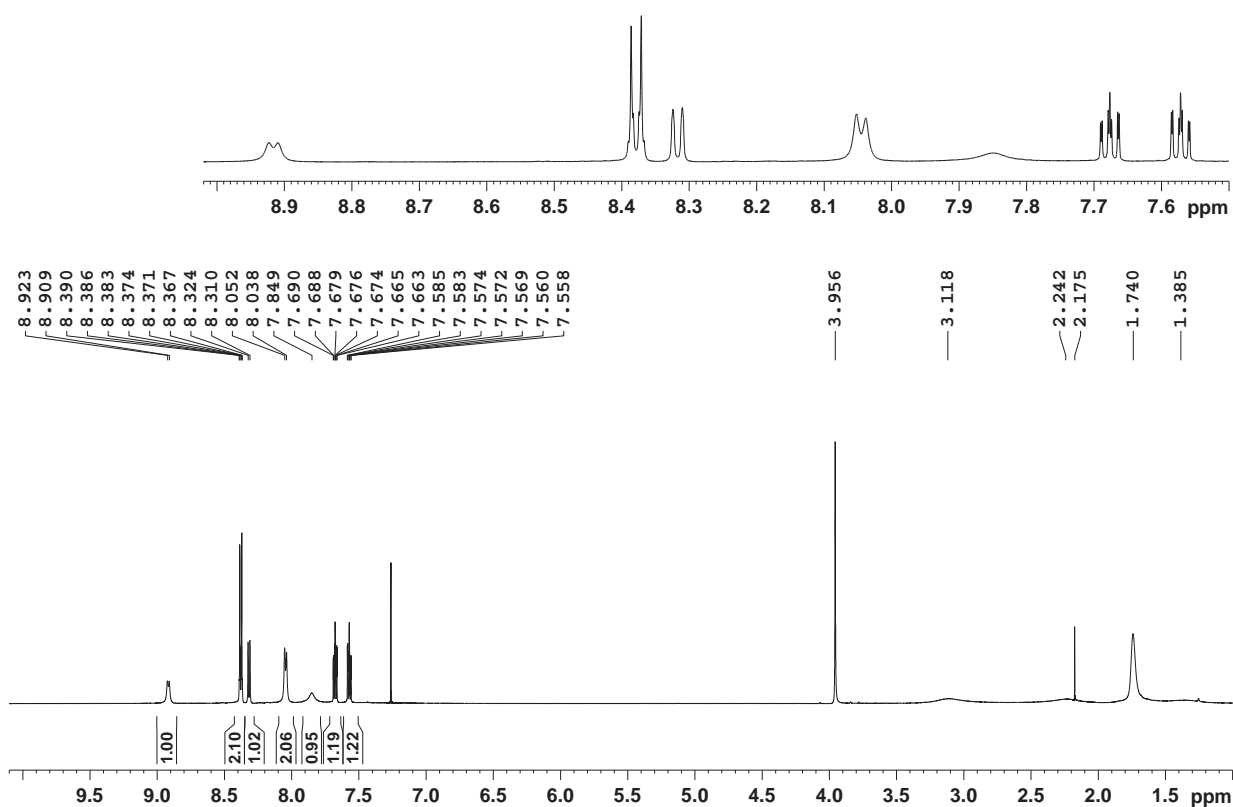


Figure S13. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **4**.

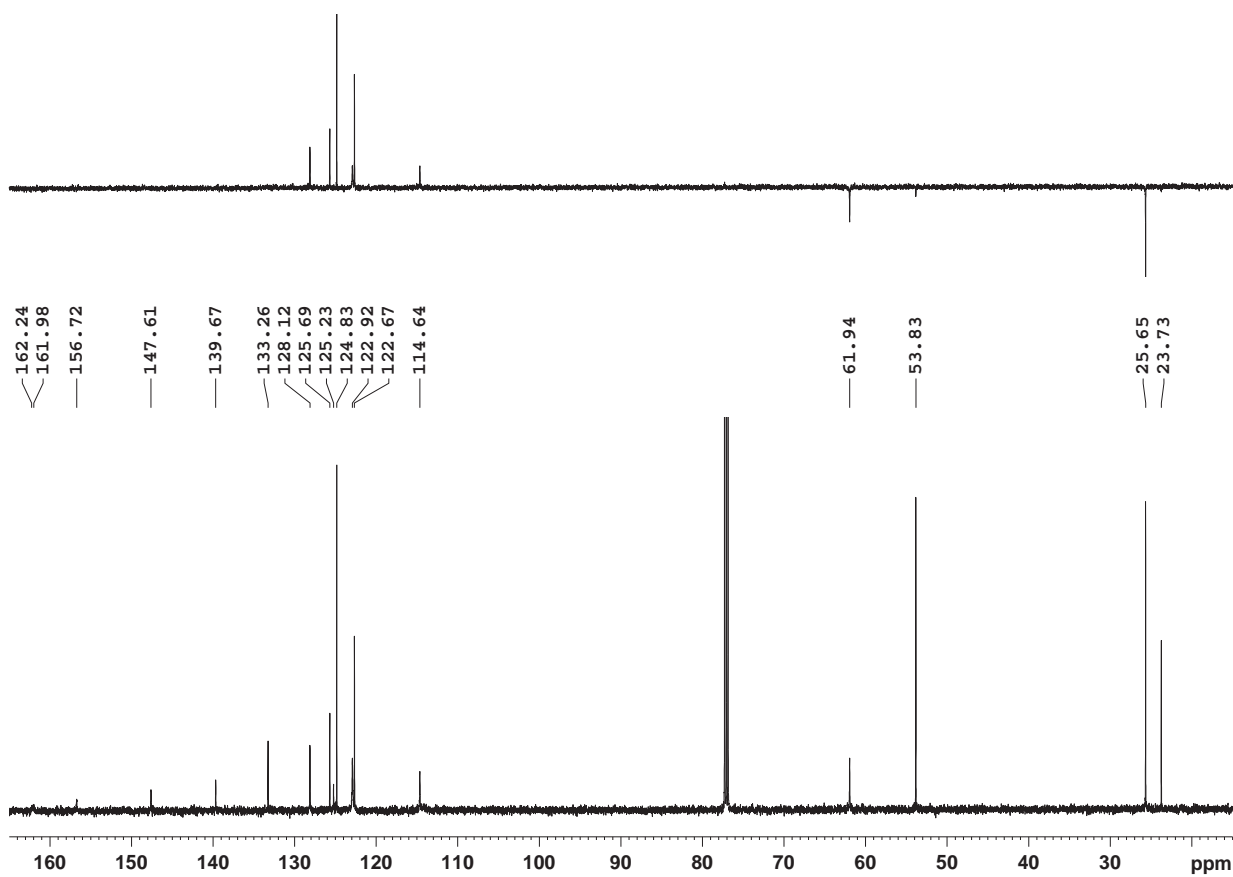


Figure S14. <sup>13</sup>C (down) and DEPT (up) NMR spectra of **4**.



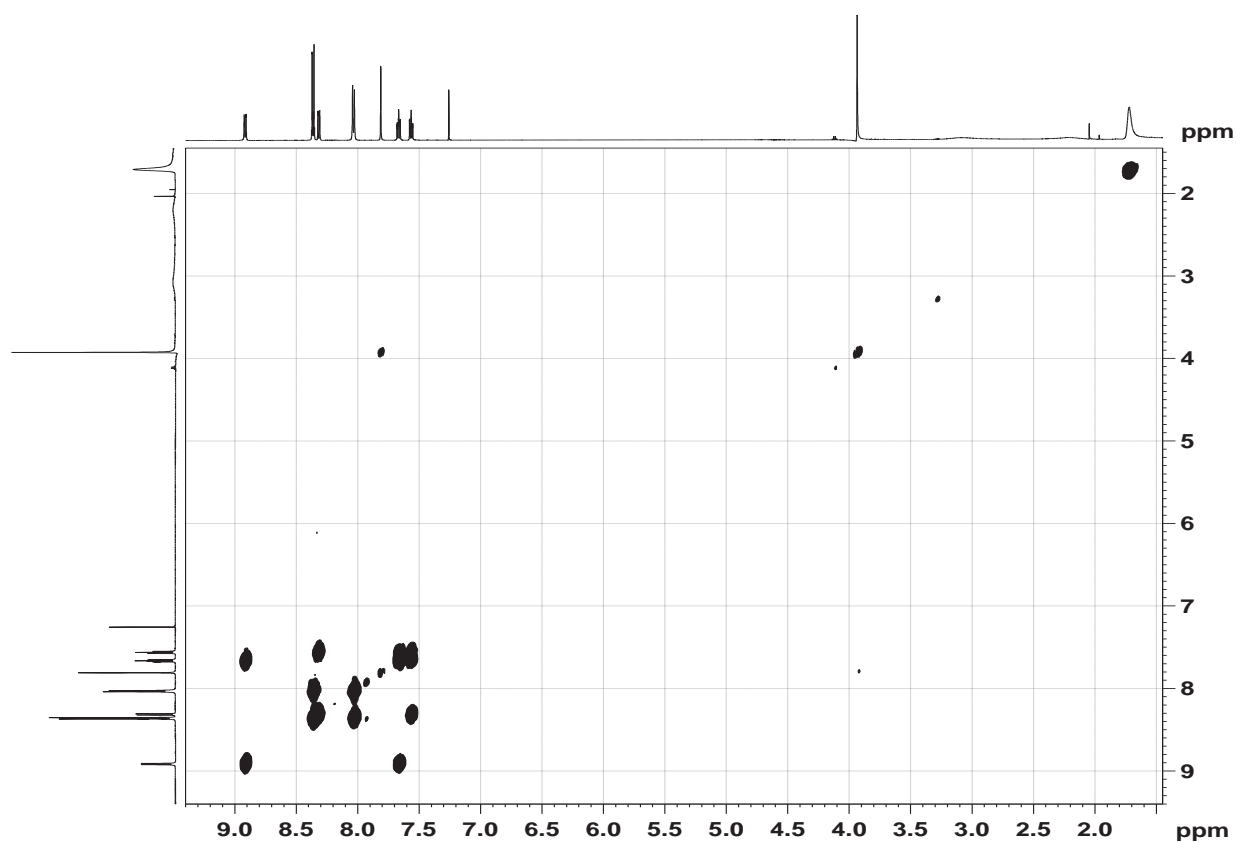


Figure S15.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR experiment of **4**.

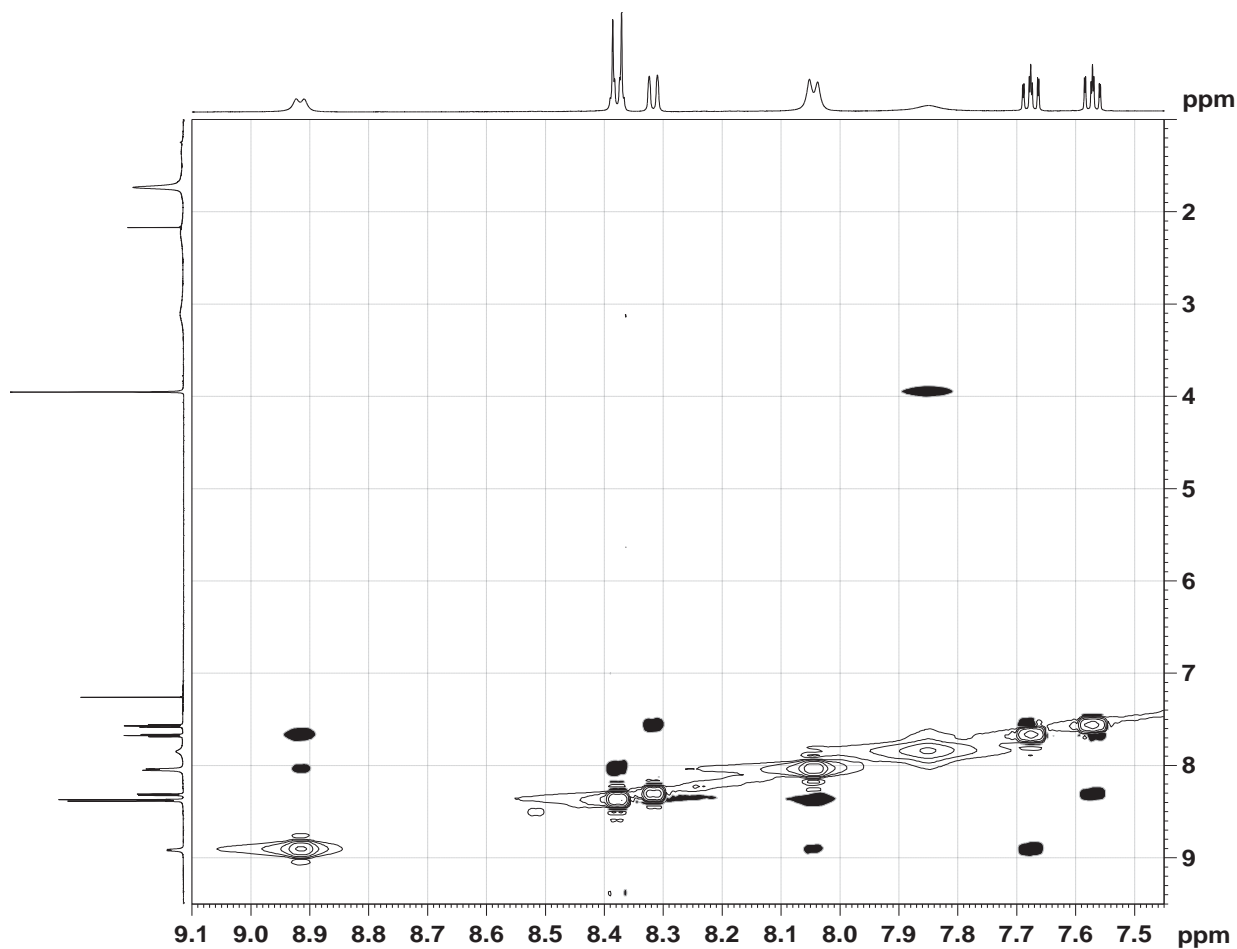


Figure S16.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  NOESY NMR experiment of **4**.

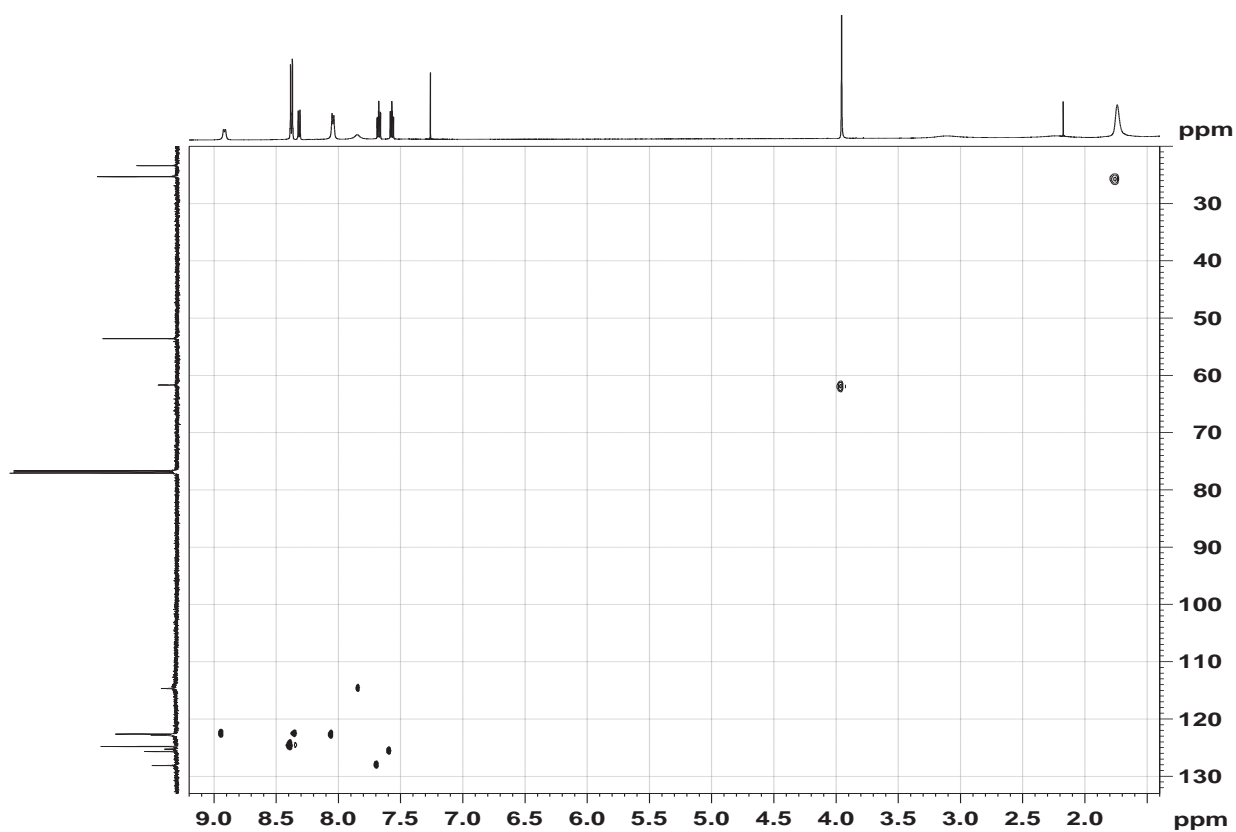


Figure S17.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC NMR experiment of **4**.

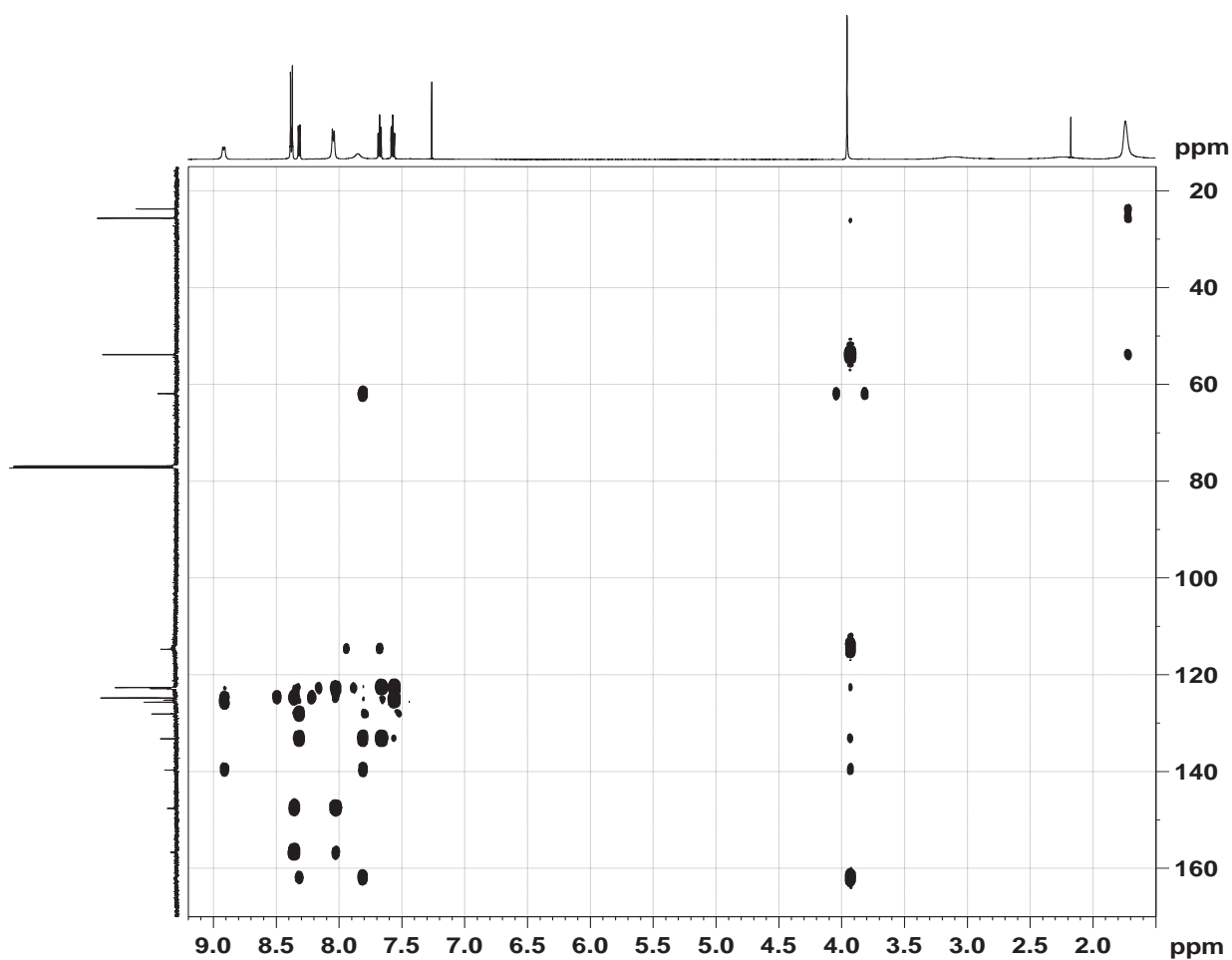


Figure S18.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HMBC NMR experiment of **4**.

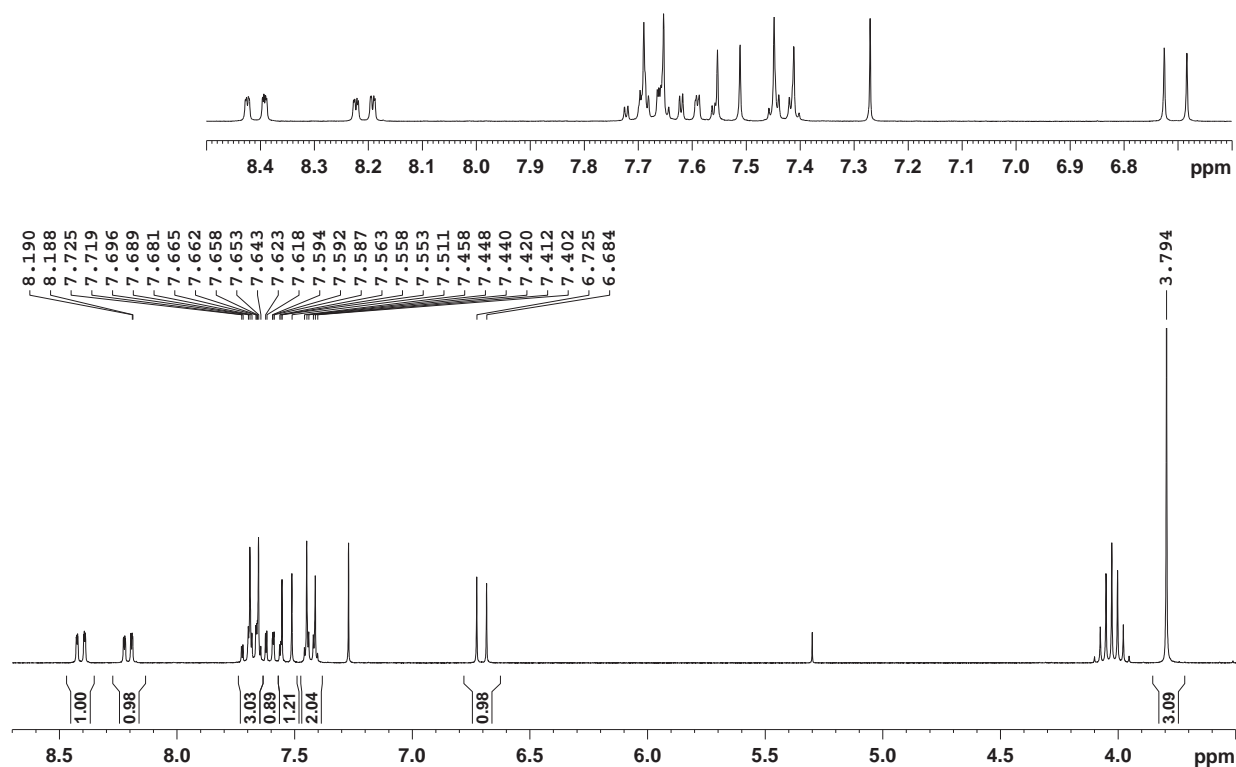


Figure S19. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **7-NMe** (contains i-PrOH).

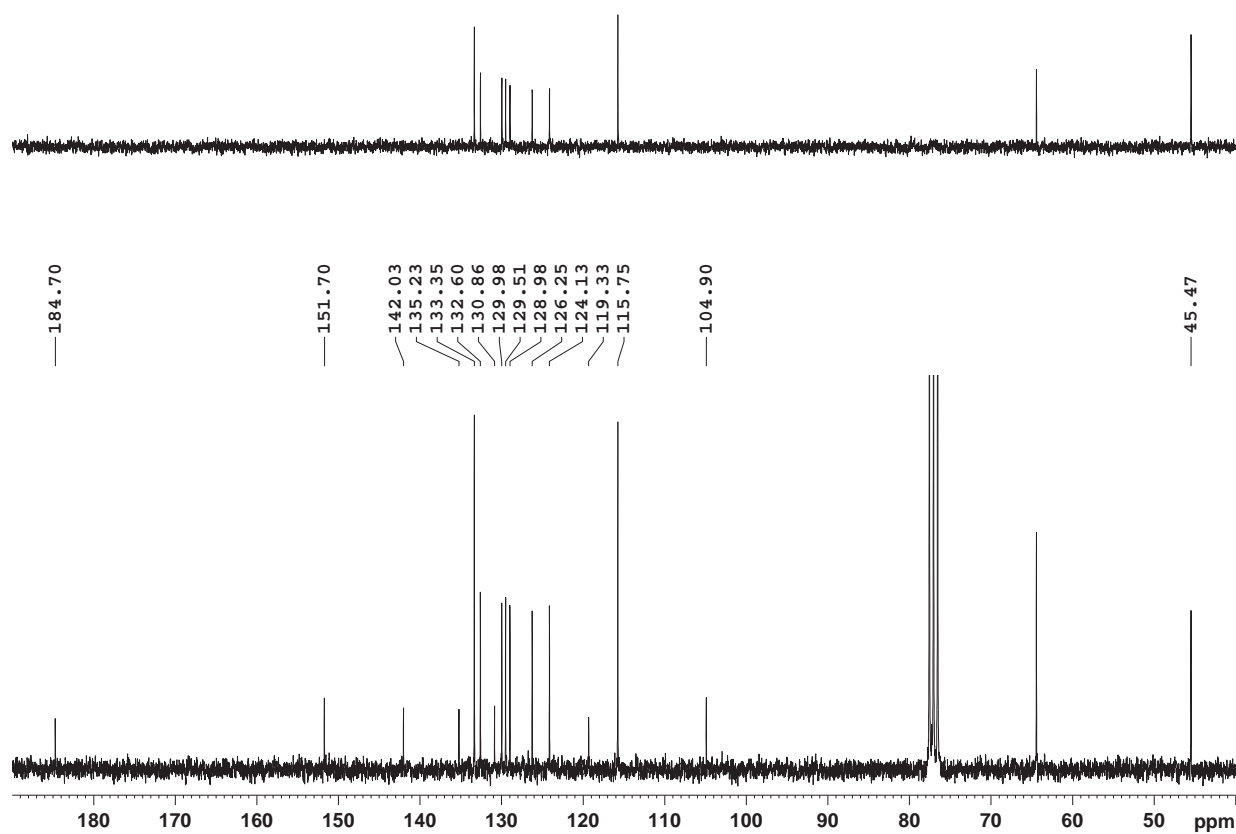


Figure S20. <sup>13</sup>C (down) and DEPT (up) NMR spectra of **7-NMe** (contains i-PrOH).

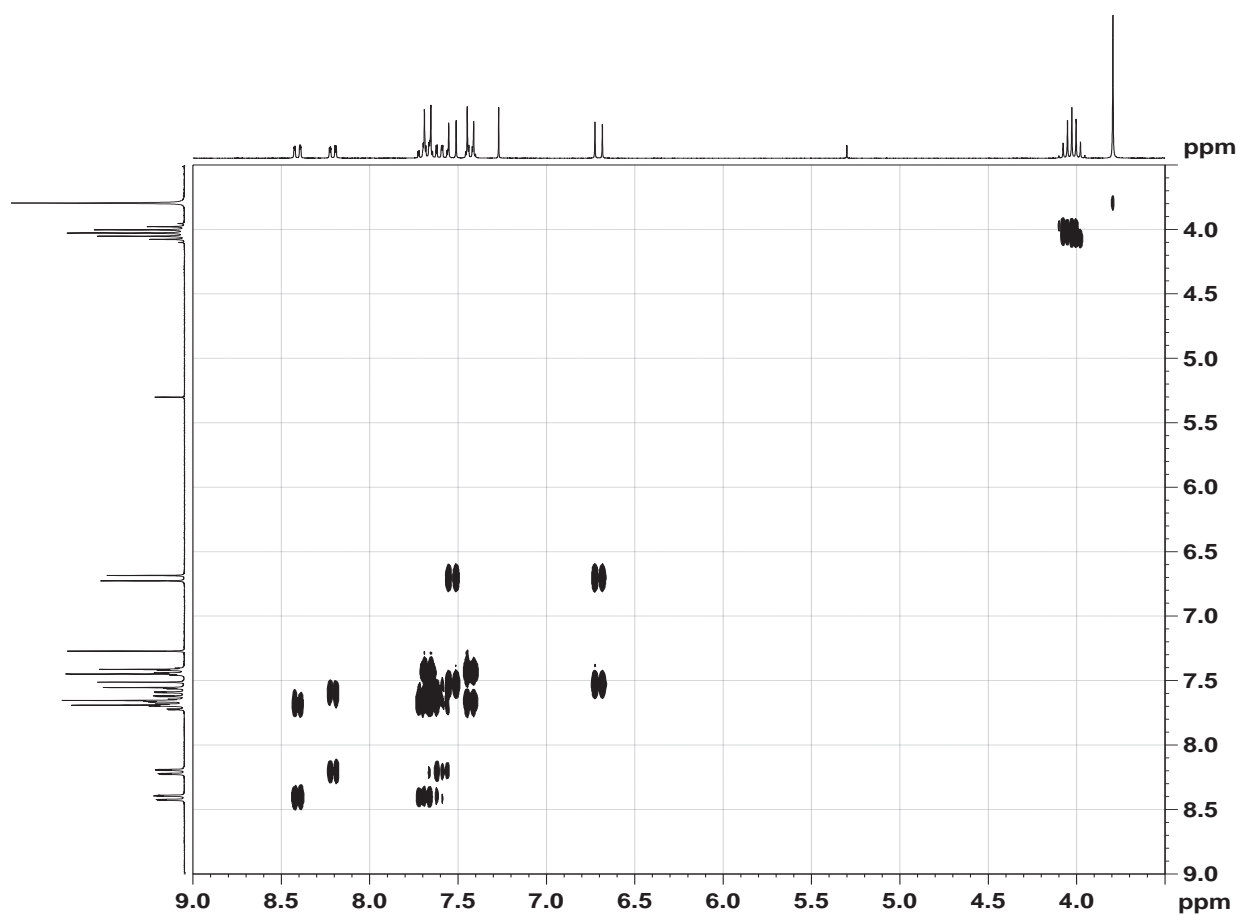


Figure S21.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR experiment of **7-NMe** (contains i-PrOH).

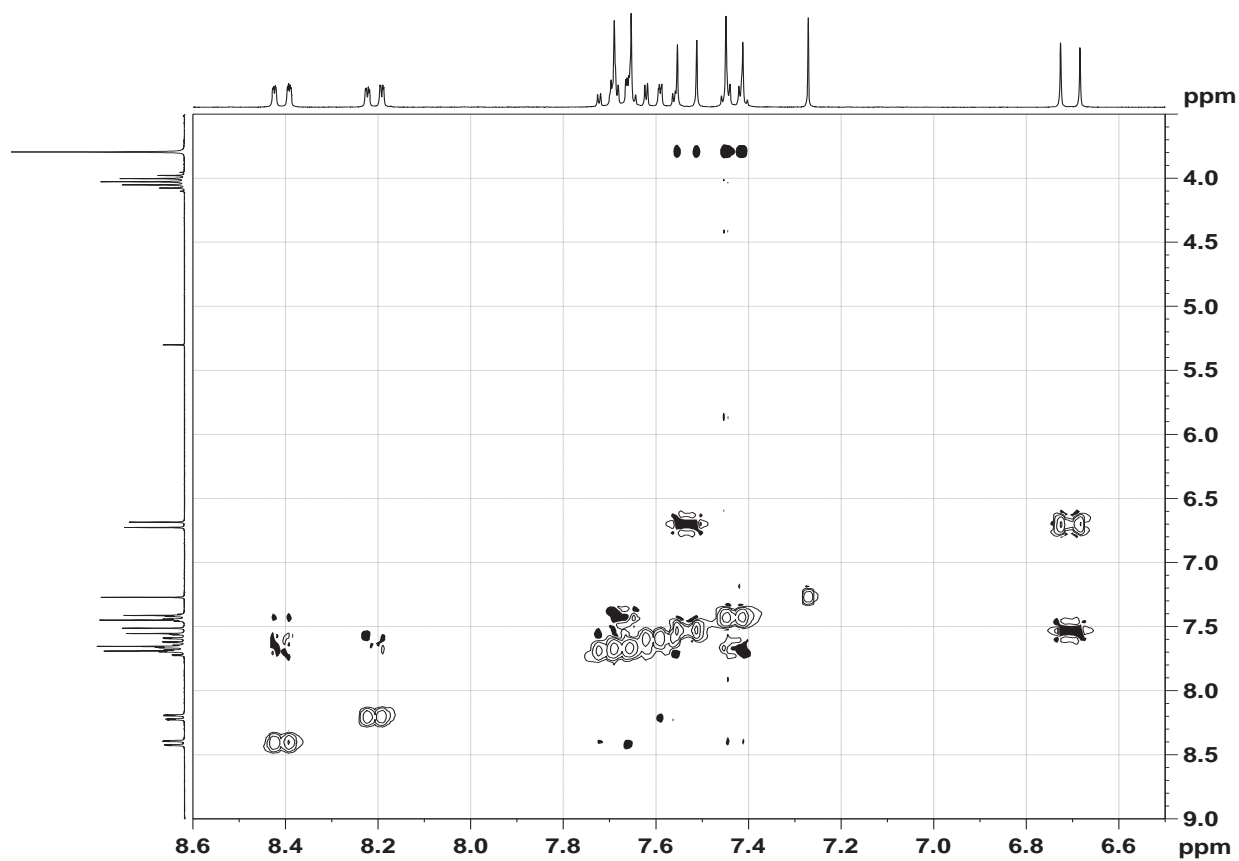


Figure S22.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  NOESY NMR experiment of **7-NMe** (contains i-PrOH).

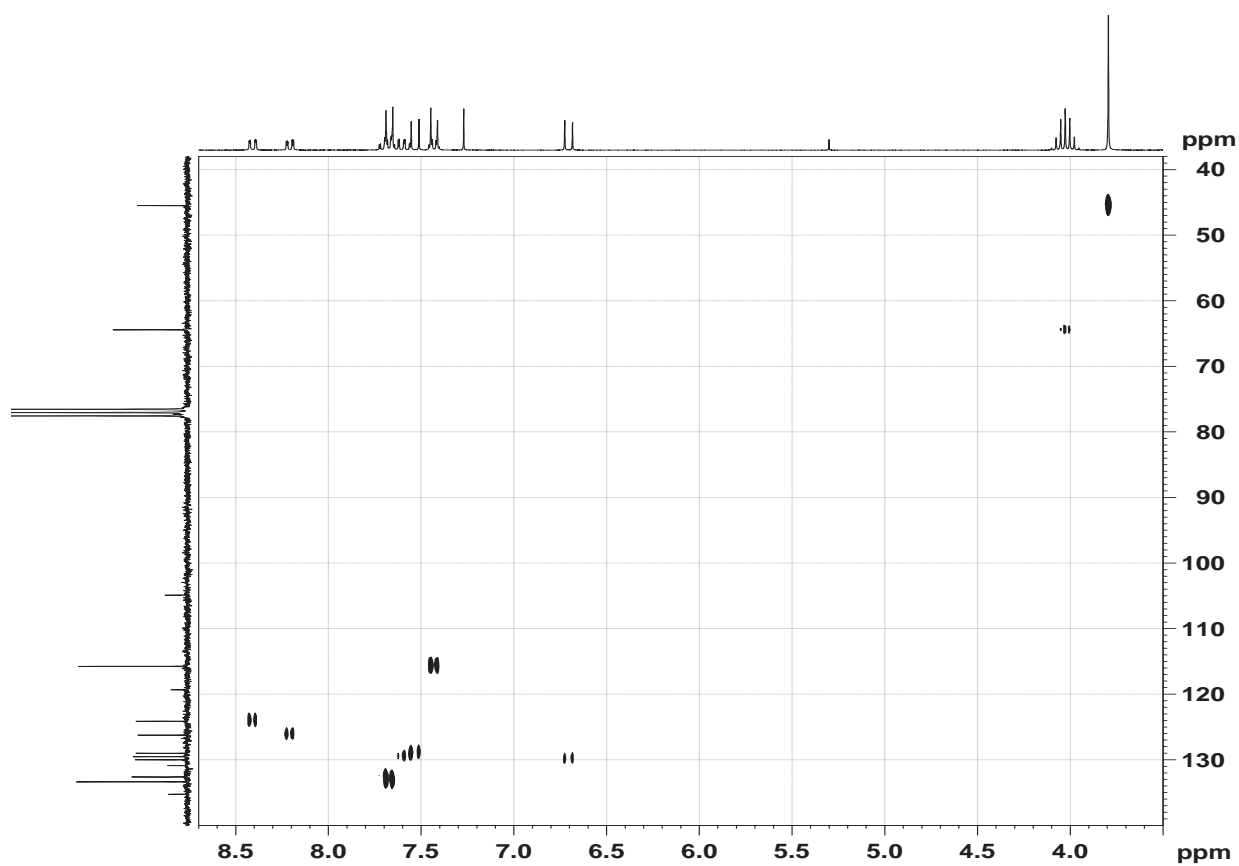


Figure S23.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC NMR experiment of **7-NMe** (contains i-PrOH).

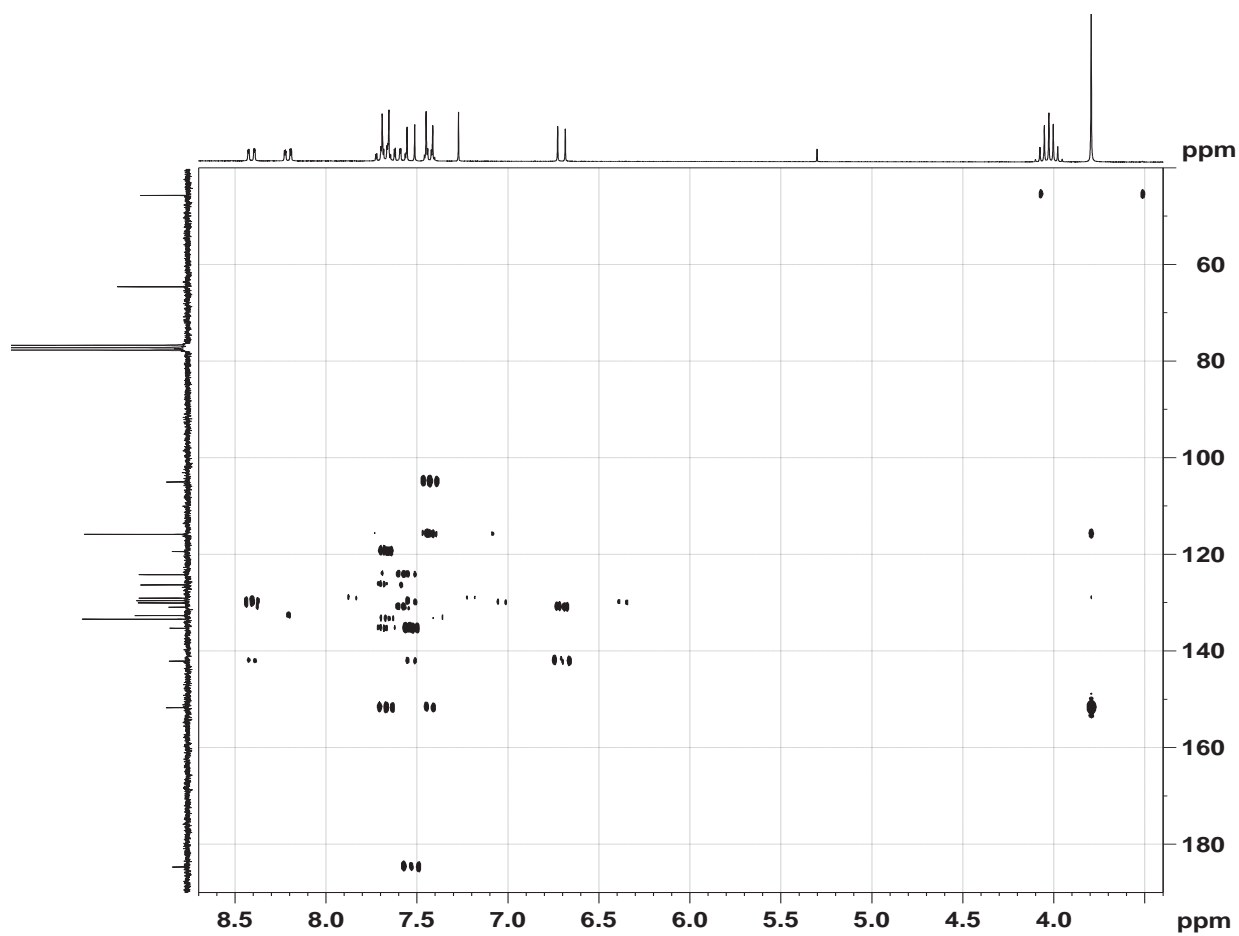


Figure S24.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HMBC NMR experiment of **7-NMe** (contains i-PrOH).

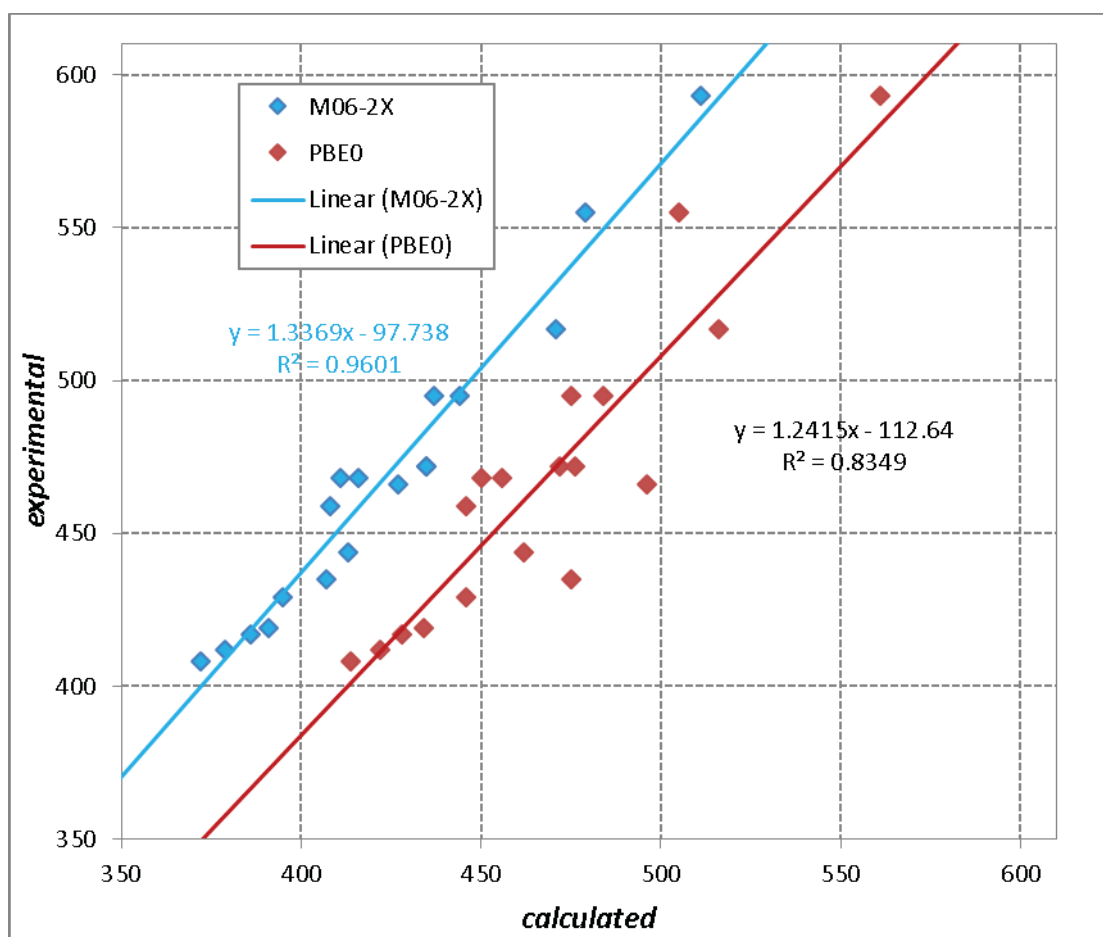


Figure S25. Linearity between experimental and predicted long wavelength absorption maxima in acetonitrile. The values are collected in Tables 1 and S2.

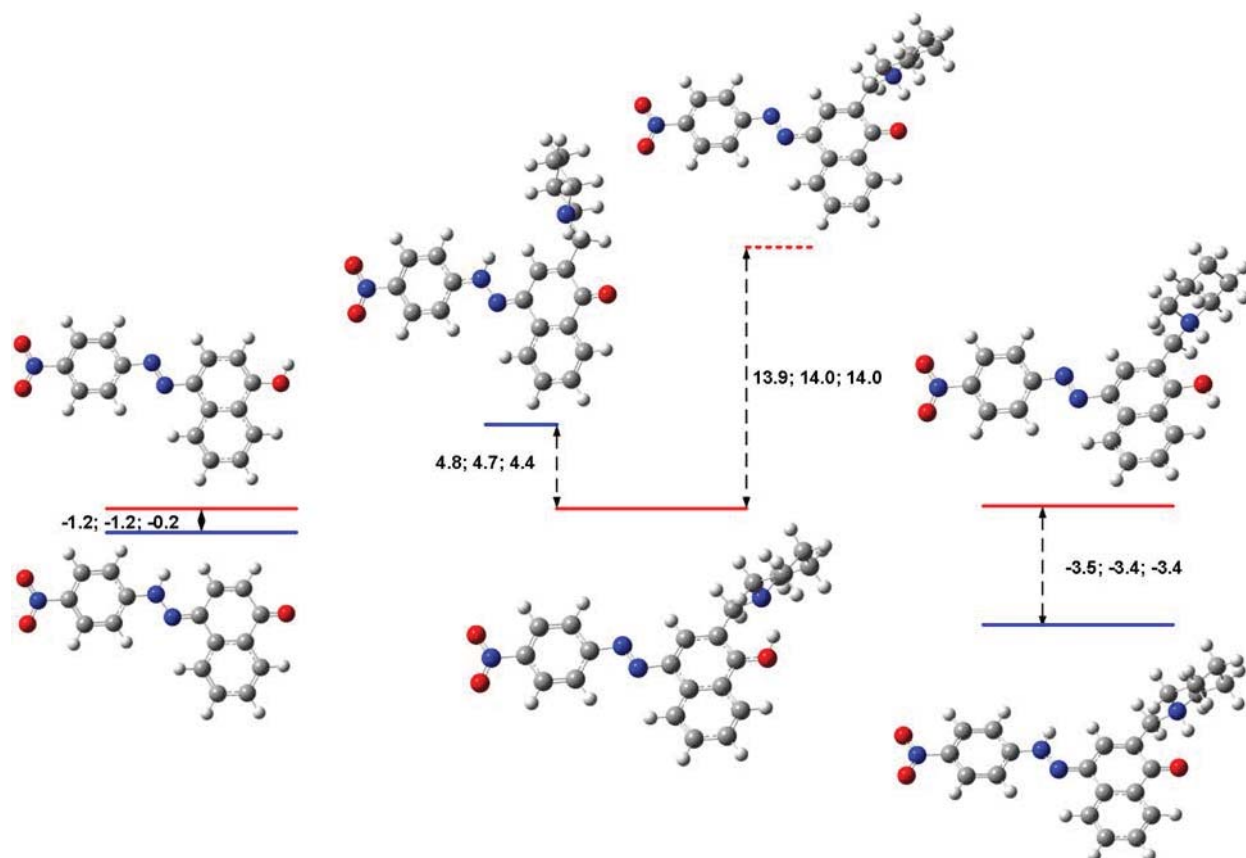


Figure S26: Change of the relative energy (M06-2X/def2-TZVP) of the tautomers in gas phase of the parent compound **8** (left), **4** (center) and **4H<sup>+</sup>** (right). The values of  $\Delta E$ ,  $\Delta E + \text{ZPE}$  and  $\Delta\Delta G$  are given in kcal/mol units.

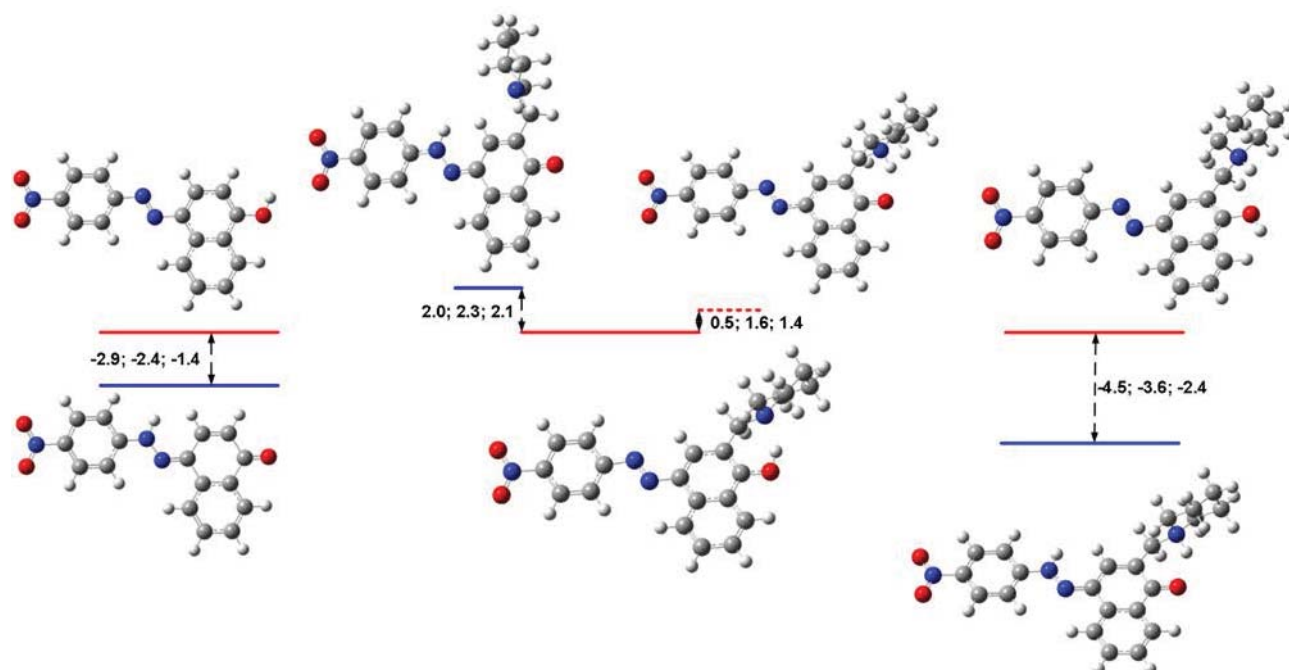


Figure S27: Change of the relative energy (M06-2X/def2-TZVP) of the tautomers in acetonitrile (PCM field) of the parent compound **8** (left), **4** (center) and **4H<sup>+</sup>** (right). The values of  $\Delta E$ ,  $\Delta E + \text{ZPE}$  and  $\Delta\Delta G$  are given in kcal/mol units.

Table S1: Most important crystal data and structure refinement parameters for **2- 4**.

Compound reference	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Chemical formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>25</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>22</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>22</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Formula Mass	375.46	370.45	390.44
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic
<i>a</i> /Å	34.716(8)	5.1014(8)	5.2175(7)
<i>b</i> /Å	5.994(4)	11.5731(17)	10.7215(16)
<i>c</i> /Å	20.442(6)	16.653(3)	17.295(3)
$\alpha$ /°	90	92.321(12)	82.197(12)
$\beta$ /°	105.63(2)	93.662(13)	81.572(12)
$\gamma$ /°	90	101.162(12)	89.056(12)
Unit cell volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	4096(3)	961.2(3)	948.1(2)
Temperature/K	290(2)	200(2)	200(2)
Space group	<i>C2/c</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P1</i>
No. of formula units per unit cell, <i>Z</i>	8	2	2
Radiation type	MoK $\alpha$	CuK $\alpha$	MoK $\alpha$
Absorption coefficient, $\mu$ /mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.079	0.640	0.093
No. of reflections measured	7696	11643	12143
No. of independent reflections	4030	3169	3343
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.0833	0.0763	0.1473
Final <i>R</i> <sub><i>I</i></sub> values ( <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> ))	0.0564	0.0439	0.0605
Final <i>wR</i> ( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> ) values ( <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> ))	0.1167	0.1134	0.1530
Final <i>R</i> <sub><i>I</i></sub> values (all data)	0.181	0.0936	0.1476
Final <i>wR</i> ( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> ) values (all data)	0.1614	0.1360	0.1832
Goodness of fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.945	0.978	0.842



Table S2. Observed and calculated (PBE0/6-31G\*\*) absorption maxima of compounds **1-8** in acetonitrile.

Structure	$\lambda_{\text{max}}$ [nm]		
	observed	calculated	predicted*
<b>1E</b>	417	428	419
<b>1K</b>		452	
<b>1EH<sup>+</sup></b>		403	
<b>1KH<sup>+</sup></b>	495	475	477
<b>1ZW</b>		462	
<b>5E</b>	408	414	401
<b>5K</b>	468	450	446
<b>2E</b>	419	434	426
<b>2K</b>		484	
<b>2EH<sup>+</sup></b>		417	
<b>2KH<sup>+</sup></b>	517	516	528
<b>2ZW</b>		464	
<b>6E</b>	412	422	411
<b>6K</b>	495	484	488
<b>3E</b>	444	462	561
<b>3K</b>		449	
<b>3EH<sup>+</sup></b>		430	
<b>3KH<sup>+</sup></b>	472	472	473
<b>3ZW</b>	555	505	514
<b>7E</b>	429	446	441
<b>7K</b>	459	446	441
<b>4E</b>	466	496	503
<b>4K</b>		460	
<b>4EH<sup>+</sup></b>		450	
<b>4KH<sup>+</sup></b>	472	476	478
<b>4ZW</b>	593	561	584
<b>8E</b>	435	475	477
<b>8K</b>	468	456	453

\* Predicted using the linear regression between observed and calculated values given in Figure S25.