

Supporting Information

An Expedient Synthesis of Flexible Nucleosides through Enzymatic Glycosylation of Proximal and Distal Fleximer Bases

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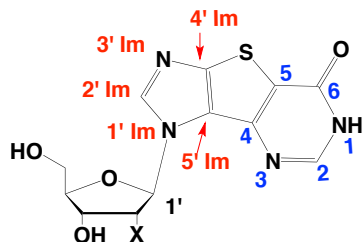
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Only the spectra (as recorded below) are shown.

Compound	Advance 400	Advance 600	Neo 800
2a	^1H	^{13}C	
2b	^1H	^{13}C	
3a	^1H , ^{13}C		
4a	^1H , ^{13}C		
5a			^1H , ^{13}C , HMBC
5b			^1H , ^{13}C , HMBC
5c			^1H , ^{13}C , HMBC
3c	^1H , ^{13}C		
5d		^1H , ^{13}C , HMBC	
5e		^1H , ^{13}C , HMBC	

Nomenclature used for NMR description



General procedures. Canonical nucleobases and nucleosides were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich or Carbosynth. Flex-bases **1-5** were synthesized according to published procedures.^[1,2] Analytical HPLC was carried out on an Agilent system (1200 series) using a C18 reverse phase column (Kromasil, 5 μ m, 100 Å, 4.6x150 mm) at a flow rate of 1 mL/min and a linear gradient of acetonitrile in 10 mM triethylammonium acetate buffer over 20 min (Gradients: G1, 0 to 20 %; G2, 0 to 40%). Purification by preparative HPLC was carried out on an Agilent 1100 Series system on a C18 reverse phase column (Kromasil, 5 μ m, 100 Å, 10x250 mm) using a flow rate of 4.0 mL/min and a linear gradient of acetonitrile in 10 mM triethylammonium acetate buffer over 20 min. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance 400, Advance 600 or Avance Neo 800. Chemical shifts are given in ppm (δ) relative to residual solvent peak, coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz and standard abbreviations are used. Assignment of ¹H and ¹³C signals was performed by analysis of the correlated homonuclear ¹H, ¹H-COSY and heteronuclear ¹H, ¹³C-HMBC, ¹H, ¹³C-HSQC spectra. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Waters Q-TOF micro MS instrument under electrospray ionization in positive ionization mode using a mobile phase of acetonitrile/water with 0.1 % formic acid.

NDT-catalyzed transglycosylation reaction. Nucleoside 2'-deoxyribosyltransferases class II from *L. leichmannii* (LINDT) was produced and purified as described previously.^[3] Typically, reaction mixtures (0.1 mL) contained a flex-base (1 μ mol) as the acceptor and thymidine (4 μ mol) as the donor. A 0.2 M stock solution of flex-base in DMSO was added slowly to 10 mM citrate buffer (pH 6.5) containing thymidine to reach a final volume of 0.1 mL. Reaction was started by adding NDT to the mixture (variable amounts) and incubation was carried out at 37°C. Conversion was monitored by analytical reverse phase HPLC. Optimal conditions leading to all possible glycosylated products were scaled-up to the preparative scale, and the corresponding nucleosides were isolated after purification by reverse phase HPLC and fully characterized.

NDT-catalyzed transglycosylation of flex-base 2. Compound **2** (4.0 mg, 0.02 mmol) and thymidine (20.0 mg, 0.08 mmol) in citrate buffer (4.0 mL, 5% v/v DMSO) were incubated in the presence of NDT (25 μ L) at 37°C for 4 h (75% conversion). After purification by reverse phase HPLC, three compounds were isolated, the starting material **2**, and the C4- and C5-pyrimidinyl 2'-deoxyribosylimidazoles derivatives (**2a** and **2b**).

2-Amino-4-methoxy-5-[1-(2'-deoxy- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-pyrimidine

(2a): 0.8 mg (13% yield); *t_R* = 14.88 min (G1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 2.20-2.28 (ddd, *J* = 2.9, 5.9, 13.1 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 2.35-2.42 (ddd, *J* = 5.9, 7.3, 13.1 Hz, 1H, H-2''), 3.49-3.55 (m, 2H, H-5', H-5''), 3.78-3.84 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.94 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.28-4.35 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.89 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H, OH-5'), 5.23 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H, OH-3'), 6.03 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 6.50 (br s, 2H, NH₂), 7.47 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H, H-5 Im), 7.87 (br s, 1H, H-2 Im), 8.59 (s, 1H, H-6 Pyr); ¹³C NMR (200 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 41.2, 53.1, 62.2, 71.3, 86.4, 88.1, 104.9, 115.1, 134.6, 136.8, 155.8, 162.3, 165.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calcd for [C₁₃H₁₇N₅O₄ + H]: 308.1359, found: 308.1355.

2-Amino-4-methoxy-5-[1-(2'-deoxy- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl]-pyrimidine

(2b): 1.0 mg (16% yield); t_R = 12.77 min (G1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 2.12-2.20 (ddd, J = 3.4, 6.0, 13.3 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 2.30-2.38 (m, 1H, H-2'), 3.47-3.53 (m, 2H, H-5', H-5''), 3.70-3.75 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.20-4.28 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.88 (t, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H, OH-5'), 5.18 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H, OH-3'), 5.57 (dd, J = 6.2, 7.9 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 6.79 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H, H-4 Im), 6.84 (br s, 2H, NH₂), 7.90 (s, 1H, H-6 Pyr), 8.00 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H, H-2 Im); ^{13}C NMR (200 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 41.7, 53.7, 62.0, 71.1, 84.6, 87.9, 98.9, 125.8, 128.2, 136.4, 159.9, 164.2, 167.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for [C₁₃H₁₇N₅O₄ + H]: 308.1359, found: 308.1355.

2,6-Dimethoxy-4-[1-(2'-deoxy- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-pyrimidine (3a).

Compound **3a** was obtained starting from **3** (8.0 mg, 0.039 mmol) and thymidine (40.0 mg, 0.17 mmol) in the presence of NDT (100 μL) in citrate buffer (4.0 mL, 5% v/v DMSO) at 37°C overnight (100% conversion). Purification by reverse phase HPLC gave **3a** (8.2 mg, 66% yield); t_R = 13.33 min (G2); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 2.24-2.32 (ddd, J = 3.3, 6.2, 13.2 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 2.37-2.46 (ddd, J = 6.0, 7.3, 13.3 Hz, 1H, H-2''), 3.48-3.61 (m, 2H, H-5', H-5''), 3.62-3.87 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.94 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.30-4.37 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.95 (br s, 1H, OH-5'), 5.28 (br s, 1H, OH-3'), 6.11 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 6.83 (s, 1H, H-6 Pyr), 8.00 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H, H-5 Im), 8.04 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H, H-2 Im); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 41.5, 54.1, 54.7, 62.1, 71.1, 86.4, 88.3, 94.5, 119.1, 138.0, 139.8, 162.6, 165.5, 172.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for [C₁₄H₁₈N₄O₅ + H]: 323.1356, found: 323.1352.

2-Amino-6-methoxy-4-[1-(2'-deoxy- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]-pyrimidine

(4a). Compound **4a** was obtained starting from **4** (5.5 mg, 0.029 mmol) and thymidine (27.5 mg, 0.11 mmol) in the presence of NDT (35 μL) in citrate buffer (2.5 mL, 5% v/v DMSO) at 37°C overnight (100% conversion). Purification by reverse phase HPLC gave **4a** (3.2 mg, 36% yield); t_R = 15.42 min (G1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 2.11-2.41 (ddd, J = 3.1, 6.1, 13.3 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 2.32-2.43 (ddd, J = 5.9, 7.4, 13.3 Hz, 1H, H-2''), 3.51 (br s, 2H, H-5', H-5''), 3.81-3.85 (m, 4H, H-4', OCH₃), 4.29-4.34 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.92 (br s, 1H, OH-5'), 5.27 (br s, 1H, OH-3'), 6.08 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 6.40 (br s, 2H, NH₂), 6.45 (s, 1H, H-6 Pyr), 7.76 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-5 Im), 7.94 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-2 Im); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 41.5, 53.3, 62.2, 71.2, 86.2, 88.2, 90.3, 117.5, 137.6, 140.8, 161.9, 163.9, 171.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for [C₁₃H₁₇N₅O₄ + H]: 308.1359, found: 308.1363.

NDT-catalyzed transglycosylation of imidazo[4',5':4,5]-thieno[3,2-*d*]pyrimidin-5(6*H*)-one (5). Compound **5** (3.25 mg, 0.016 mmol) and thymidine (16.3 mg, 0.07 mmol) in citrate buffer (2.0 mL, 5% v/v DMSO) were incubated in the presence of NDT (20 μL) at 37°C overnight (75% conversion). After purification by reverse phase HPLC, three compounds were isolated.

1'-(2'-deoxy- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-1H-imidazo[4',5':4,5]-thieno[3,2-*d*]pyrimidin-5(6*H*)-one

(5a): 0.8 mg (15% yield); t_R = 13.33 min (G1); ^1H NMR (800 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 2.29-2.37 (m, 1H, H-2'), 2.74-2.83 (m, 1H, H-2''), 3.50-3.69 (m, 2H, H-5', H-5''), 3.88-3.95 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.37-4.45 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.25 (br s, 1H, OH-5'), 5.31 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H, OH-3'), 6.52 (dd,

$J = 5.8, 8.0$ Hz, 1H, H-1'), 8.22 (s, 1H, H-2 Pyr), 8.49 (s, 1H, H-2' Im), 12.62 (br s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (200 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 41.1, 62.2, 71.1, 86.3, 88.7, 121.4, 121.3, 128.3, 143.4, 144.7, 148.7, 160.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4\text{S} + \text{H}]$: 309.0658, found: 309.0646.

1-(2'-deoxy- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-6-(2'-deoxy- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-1H-

imidazo[4',5':4,5]thieno[3,2-d]pyrimidin-5(6H)-one (5b): 1.2 mg (17% yield); $t_R = 16.75$ min (G1); ^1H NMR (800 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 2.23-2.43 (m, 3H, H-2'a, H-2'b, H-2''b), 2.72-2.79 (m, 1H, H-2''a), 3.53-3.72 (m, 4H, H-5', H-5''), 3.89-3.97 (m, 2H, H-4'), 4.31-4.37 (m, 1H, H-3'b), 4.38-4.43 (m, 1H, H-3'a), 4.96 (br s, 1H, OH-5'), 5.13 (br s, 1H, OH-5'), 5.30-5.36 (m, 2H, OH-3'), 6.48 (t, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H, H-1'b), 6.55 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H, H-1'a), 8.56 (s, 1H, H-2' Im), 8.83 (s, 1H, H-2 Pyr); ^{13}C NMR (200 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 40.5, 42.1, 61.7, 62.1, 70.4, 71.5, 85.2, 86.3, 88.6, 88.7, 120.3, 128.2, 142.3, 145.0, 146.6, 149.5, 157.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_7\text{S} + \text{Na}]$: 447.0950, found: 447.0958.

3-(2'-deoxy- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-3H-imidazo[4',5':4,5]-thieno[3,2-d]pyrimidin-5(6H)-one (5c): 0.6 mg (11% yield); $t_R = 11.25$ min (G1); ^1H NMR (800 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 2.32-2.37 (ddd, $J = 3.5, 5.8, 13.3$ Hz, 1H, H-2'), 2.74-2.83 (ddd, $J = 5.8, 7.2, 13.3$ Hz 1H, H-2''), 3.56 (br s, 2H, H-5', H-5''), 3.89-3.92 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.36 (br s, 1H, H-3'), 4.92 (br s, 1H, OH-5'), 5.41 (br s, 1H, OH-3'), 6.30 (dd, $J = 6.2, 7.1$ Hz, 1H, H-1'), 8.21 (s, 1H, H-2 Pyr), 8.32 (s, 1H, H-2' Im), 12.80 (br s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (200 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 39.3, 62.3, 71.2, 86.5, 88.4, 112.3, 120.3, 133.9, 142.3, 143.8, 148.2, 159.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4\text{S} + \text{H}]$: 309.0658, found: 309.0660.

PNP-catalyzed transglycosylation reaction.

Bacterial purine nucleoside phosphorylase (N2415, 10 U/mg) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Enzymatic reaction mixtures (0.1 mL) contained a flex-base (1 μmol) and adenosine as donor (2 μmol). A 0.2 M stock solution of flex-base in DMSO was added slowly to 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) containing adenosine to reach a final volume of 0.1 mL. The reaction was started by adding PNP (2 μL at 0.1 U/ μL) and run at 37°C or 50°C. Conversion was monitored by analytical reverse phase HPLC. Products were purified by reverse phase HPLC and characterized by NMR. Due to the limited quantities available, some ^{13}C NMR and heteronuclear correlation spectra are missing.

2,6-Dimethoxy-4-(1- β -D-ribofuranosyl-1H-imidazol-4-yl)-pyrimidine (3c). Compound **3c** was obtained starting from **3** (3.0 mg, 0.015 mmol) and adenine (0.03 mmol) in the presence of PNP (30 μL , 3 U) for 16 h at 50°C (80% conversion). Purification by reverse phase HPLC gave 3.45 mg (68% yield) of **3c**. $t_R = 12.6$ min (G2). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 3.53-3.60 (m, 1H, H-5'), 3.60-3.67 (m, 1H, H-5''), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.91 (br s, 1H, H-4'), 3.94 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.05-4.09 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.21 (t, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H, H-2'), 5.06 (br s, 1H, OH-5'), 5.20 (br s, 1H, OH-3'), 5.46 (br s, OH-2'), 5.64(d, $J = 6.02$ Hz, 1H, H-1'), 6.84 (s, 1H, H-6 Pyr), 8.01 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H, H-5 Im), 8.06 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H, H-2 Im); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): 54.1, 54.7, 61.8, 71.0, 76.1, 86.2, 90.2, 94.5, 119.2, 138.3, 139.9, 162.5, 165.5, 172.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_6 + \text{H}]$: 339.1305, found: 339.1303

PNP-catalyzed transglycosylation of imidazo[4',5':4,5]-thieno[3,2-*d*]pyrimidin-5(6*H*)-one (5). Compound **5** (1.0 mg, 4.8 μ mol) and adenine (2 equiv) were incubated in the presence of PNP (10 μ L, 1 U) for 16 h at 37°C (80% conversion). After purification by reverse phase HPLC, two compounds were isolated.

1-(β -D-ribofuranosyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4',5':4,5]thieno[3,2-*d*]pyrimidin-5(6*H*)-one (5d): 0.4 mg (26% yield). t_R = 16.5 min (G1). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 3.53-3.65 (m, 1H, H-5'), 3.64-3.76 (m, 1H, H-5''), 4.00 (br s, 1H, H-4'), 4.16 (br s, 1H, H-3'), 4.59 (br s, 1H, H-2'), 5.20 (br s, 1H, OH-3'), 5.48 (br s, 1H, OH-2'), 5.90 (br s, 1H, OH-5'), 5.95 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 8.15 (s, 1H, H-2), 8.44 (s, 1H, H-2' Im); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6): 62.2, 70.8, 74.7, 86.9, 89.7, 121.6, 128.4, 143.4, 145.8, 150.6, 162.6 (^{13}C missing); HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for [$\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_4\text{O}_5\text{S} + \text{H}$]: 325.0607, found: 325.0609.

3-(β -D-ribofuranosyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4',5':4,5]thieno[3,2-*d*]pyrimidin-5(6*H*)-one (5e): 0.2 mg (13% yield). t_R = 13.8 min (G1). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 3.55-3.71 (m, 2H, H-5', H-5''), 3.96 (br s, 1H, H-4'), 4.08 (br s, 1H, H-3'), 4.31 (br s, 1H, H-2'), 5.04 (br s, 1H, OH-5'), 5.32 (br s, 1H, OH-3'), 5.61 (br s, OH-2'), 5.74 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 8.06 (br s, 1H, H-2 Pyr), 8.12 (s, 1H, H-2' Im); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6): 62.5, 71.2, 73.6, 86.2, 89.8, 121.6, 128.4, 143.4, 145.8, 150.6, 162.6 (^{13}C missing); HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for [$\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_4\text{O}_5\text{S} + \text{H}$]: 325.0607, found: 325.0607.

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- [3] Kaminski, P. A. *J. Biol. Chem.* **2002**, *277*, 14400-14407

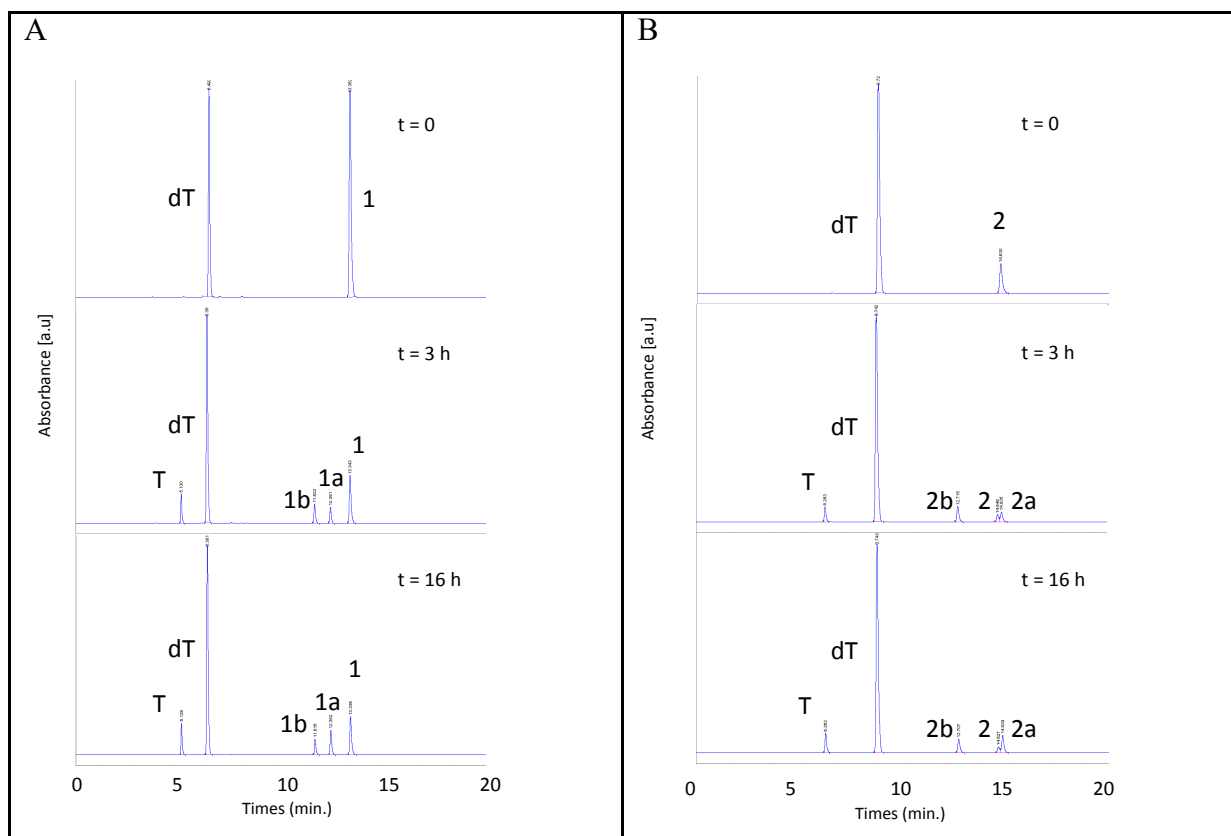


Figure S1. HPLC monitoring of the transglycosylation reaction of **1** (panel A) or **2** (panel B) in the presence of thymidine (4 equiv) and NDT ($1.25 \mu\text{L}/\mu\text{mol}$ acceptor) at $t = 0, 3 \text{ h}$ and 16 h at 37°C . HPLC conditions: 0–40% (panel A) or 0–20% (panel B) linear gradient of acetonitrile in 10 mM TEAA buffer pH 6.0 over 20 min at a flow rate of 1 mL min^{-1} . Detection at 254 nm.

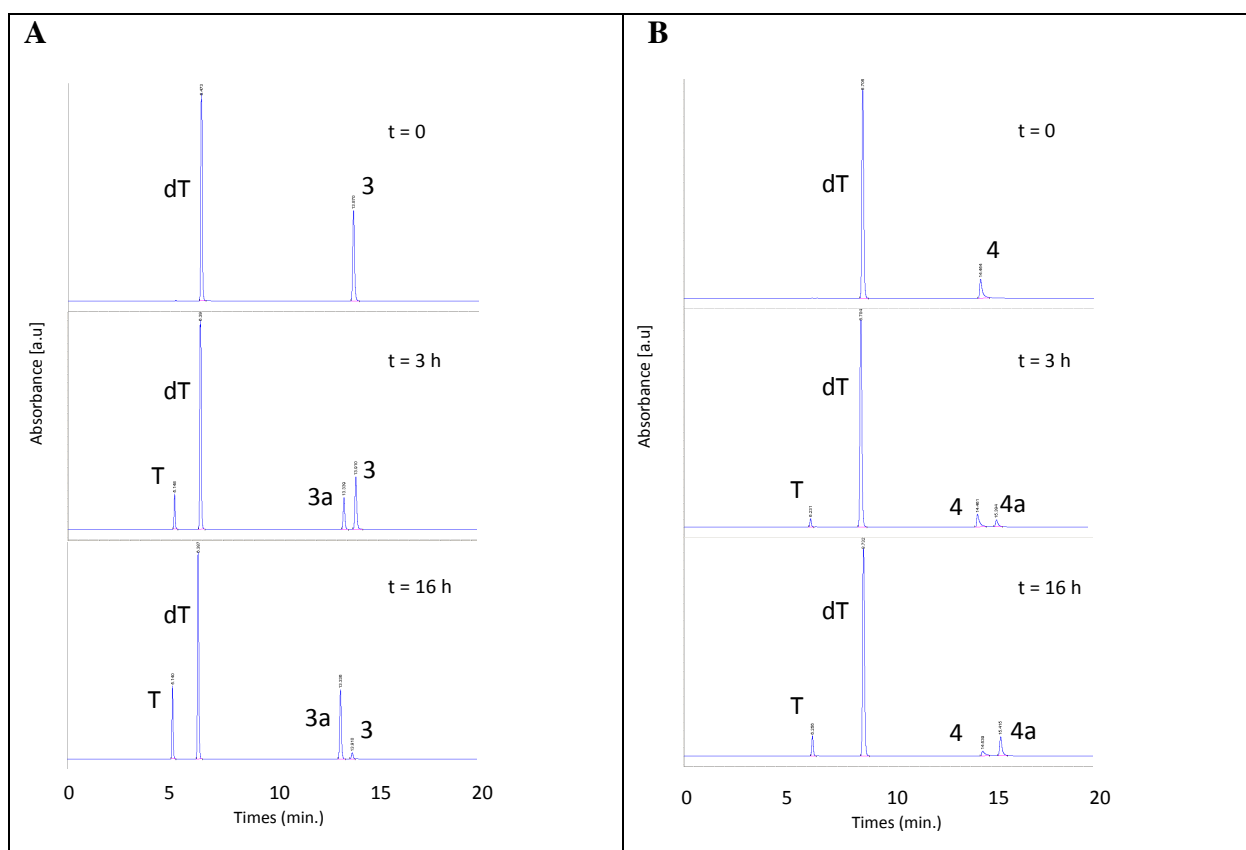


Figure S2. HPLC monitoring of the transglycosylation reaction of **3** (panel A) or **4** (panel B) in the presence of thymidine (4 equiv) and NDT ($1.25 \mu\text{L}/\mu\text{mol}$ acceptor) at $t = 0, 3 \text{ h}$ and 16 h at 37°C . HPLC conditions: 0–40% (panel A) or 0–20% (panel B) linear gradient of acetonitrile in 10 mM TEAA buffer pH 6.0 over 20 min at a flow rate of 1 mL min^{-1} . Detection at 254 nm.

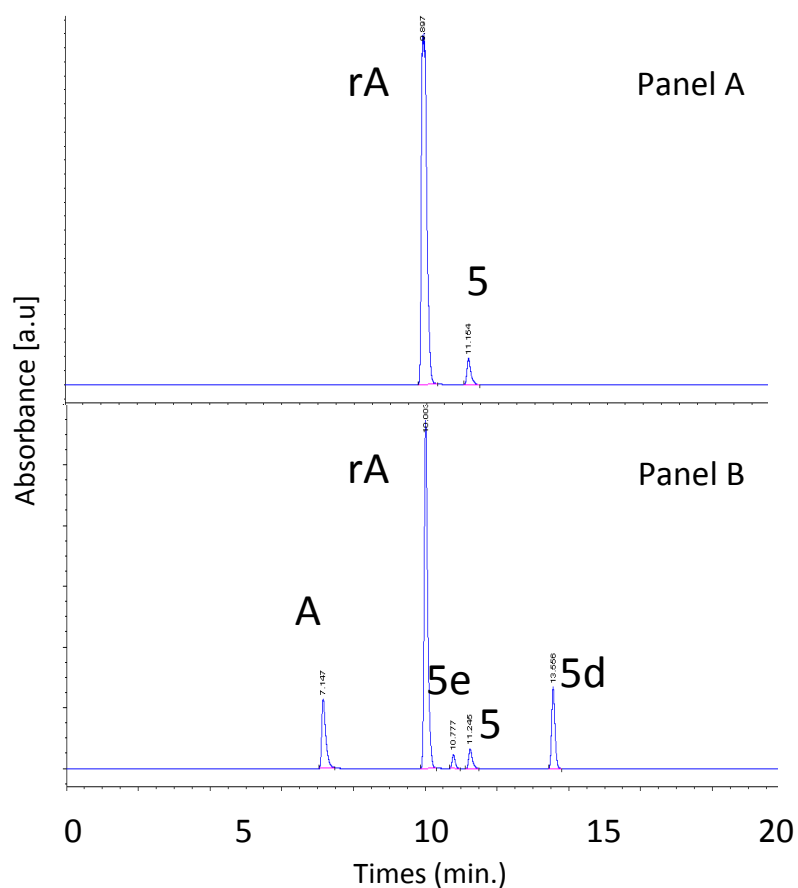
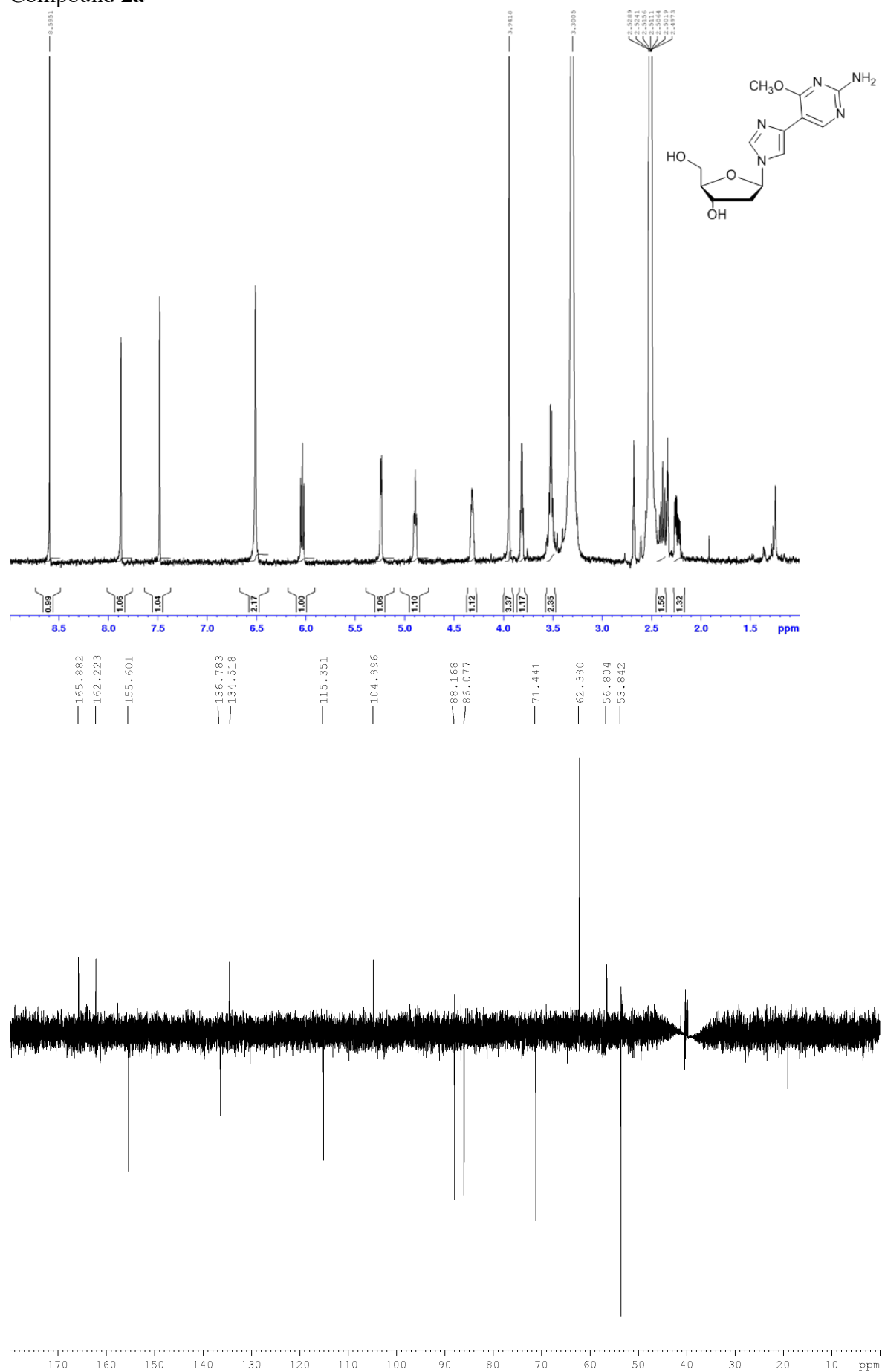
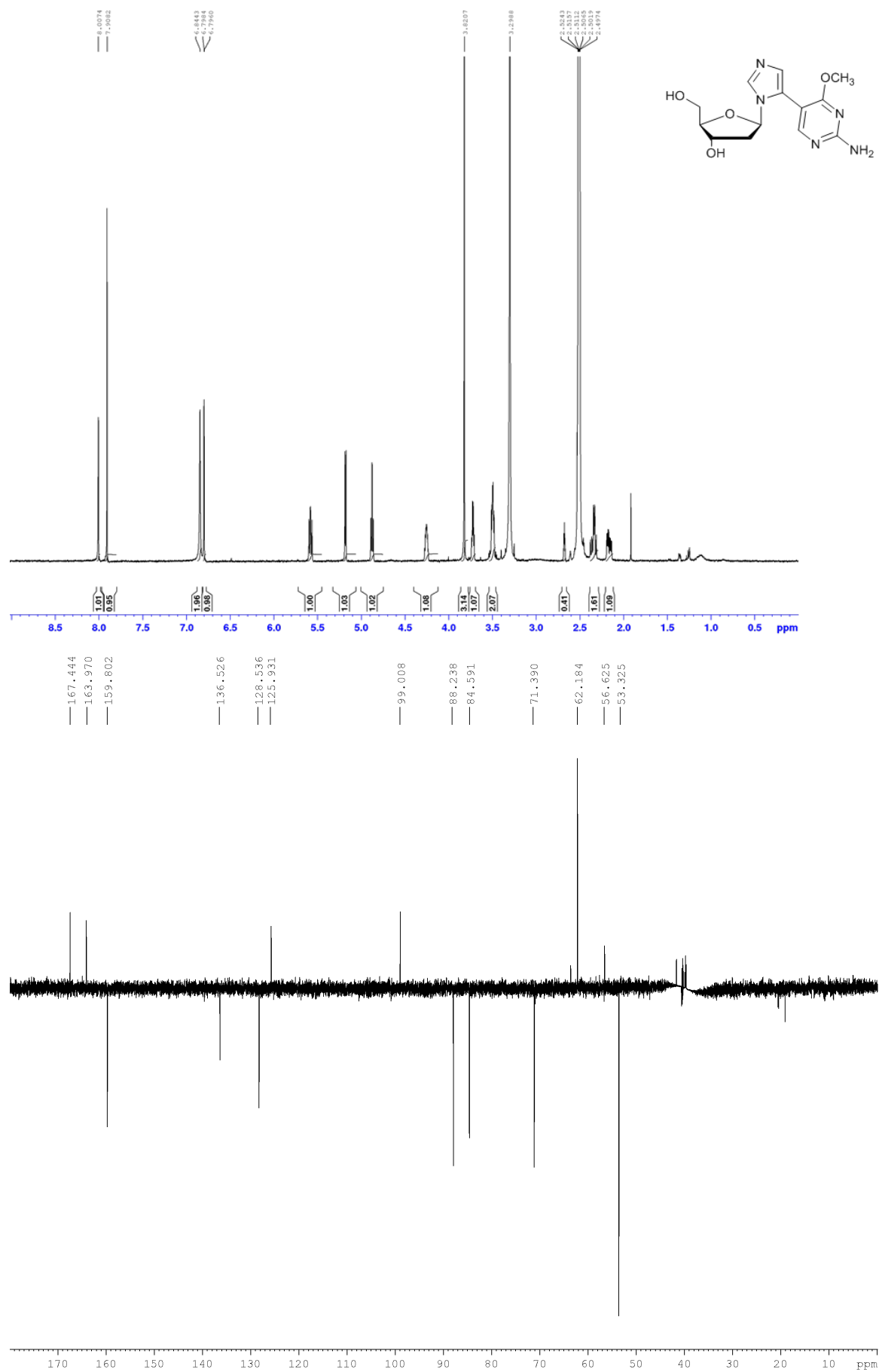


Figure S3. HPLC monitoring of the transglycosylation reaction of **5** in the presence of adenosine (2 equiv) and PNP (6.25 $\mu\text{L}/\mu\text{mol}$ acceptor) at $t = 0$ (panel A) and 12 h (panel B) at 37°C. HPLC conditions: 0–20% linear gradient of acetonitrile in 10 mM TEAA buffer pH 6.0 over 20 min at a flow rate of 1 mL min⁻¹. Detection at 254.

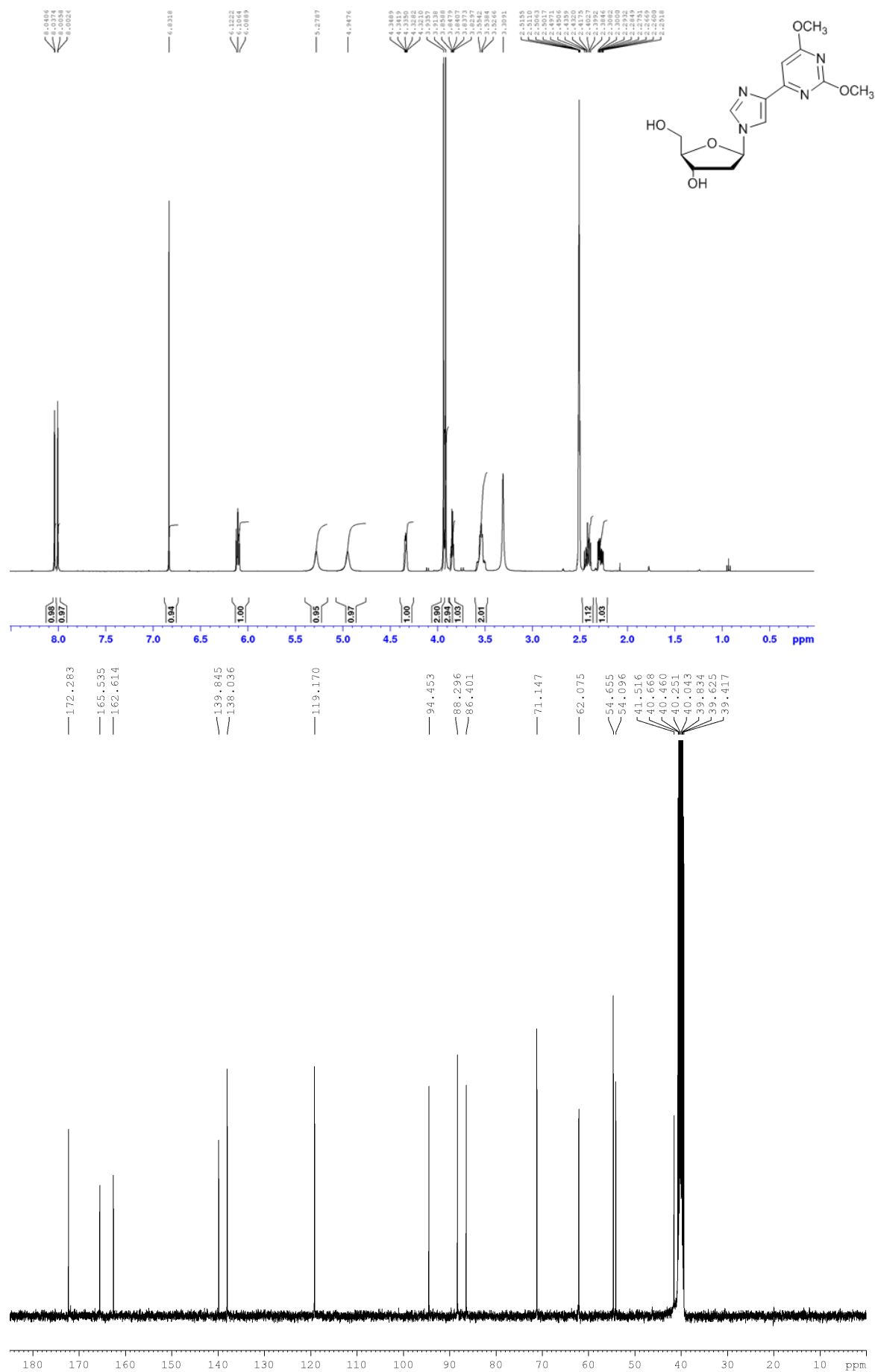
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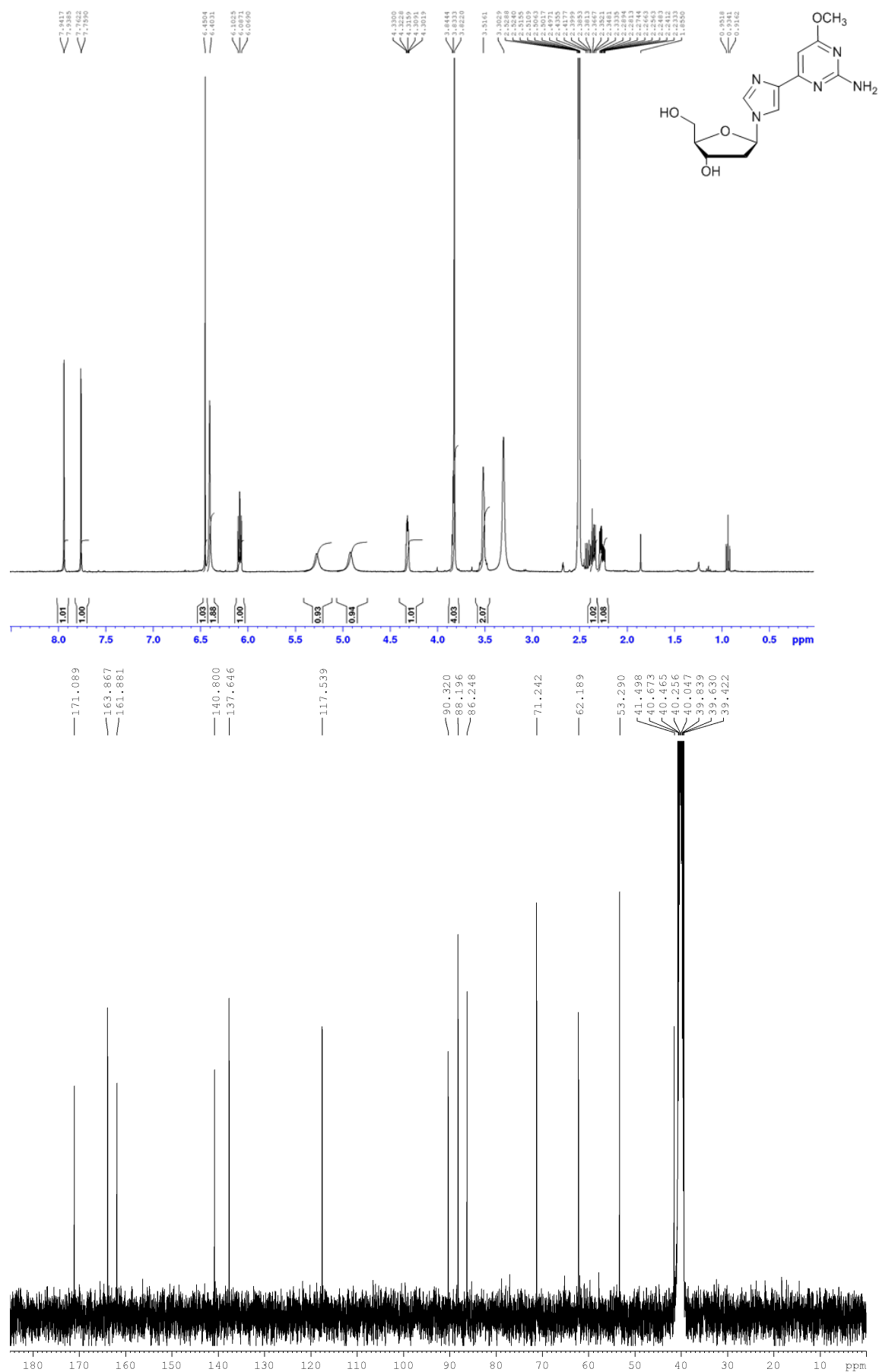
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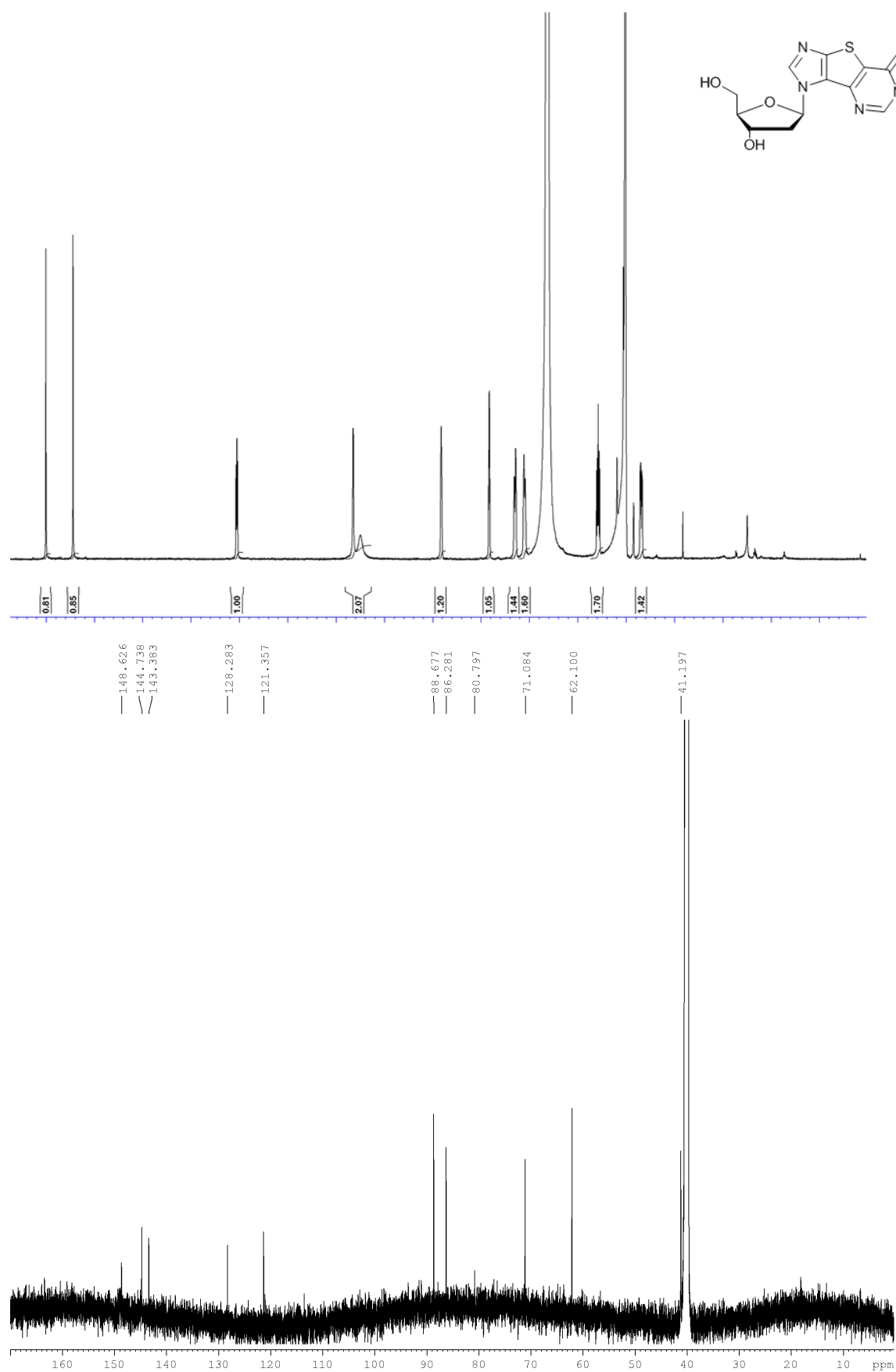
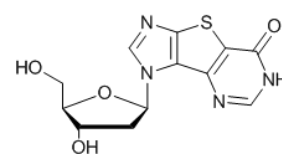
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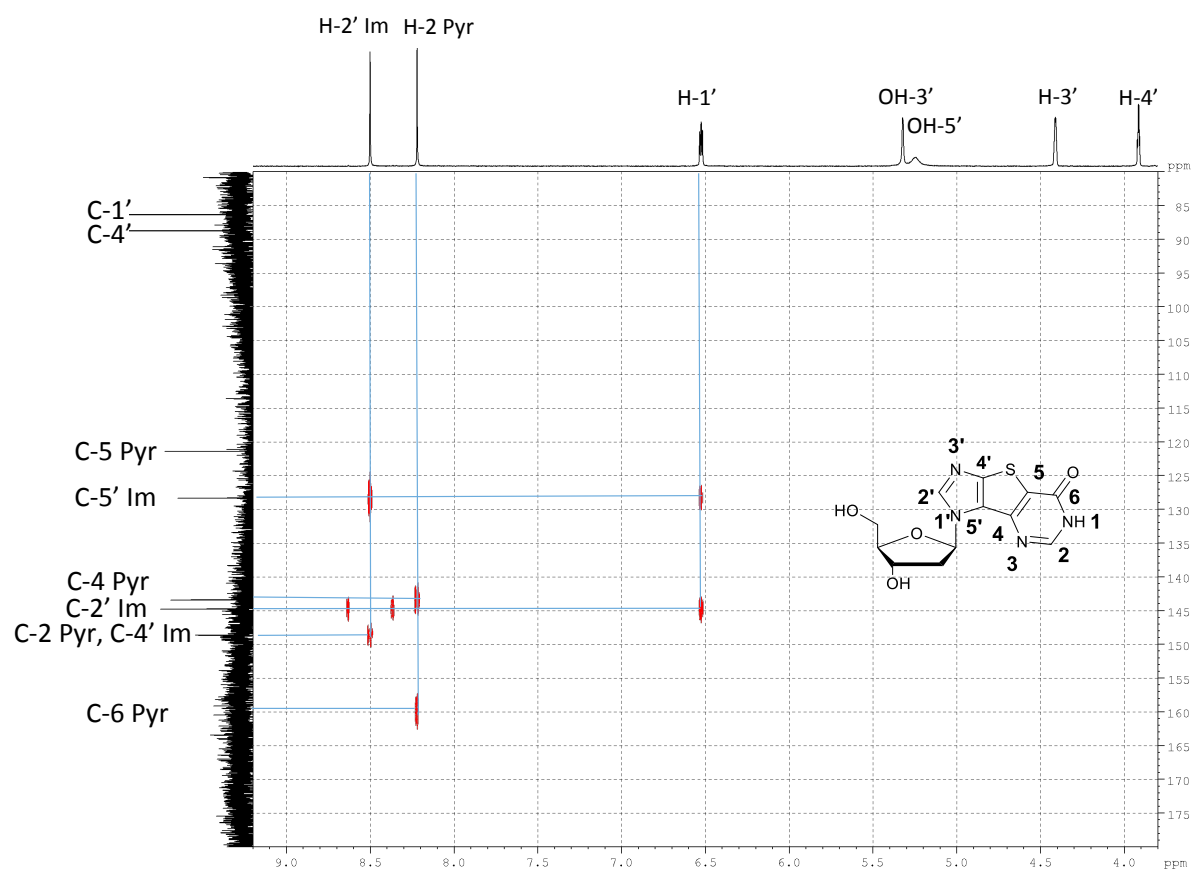


Compound 4a

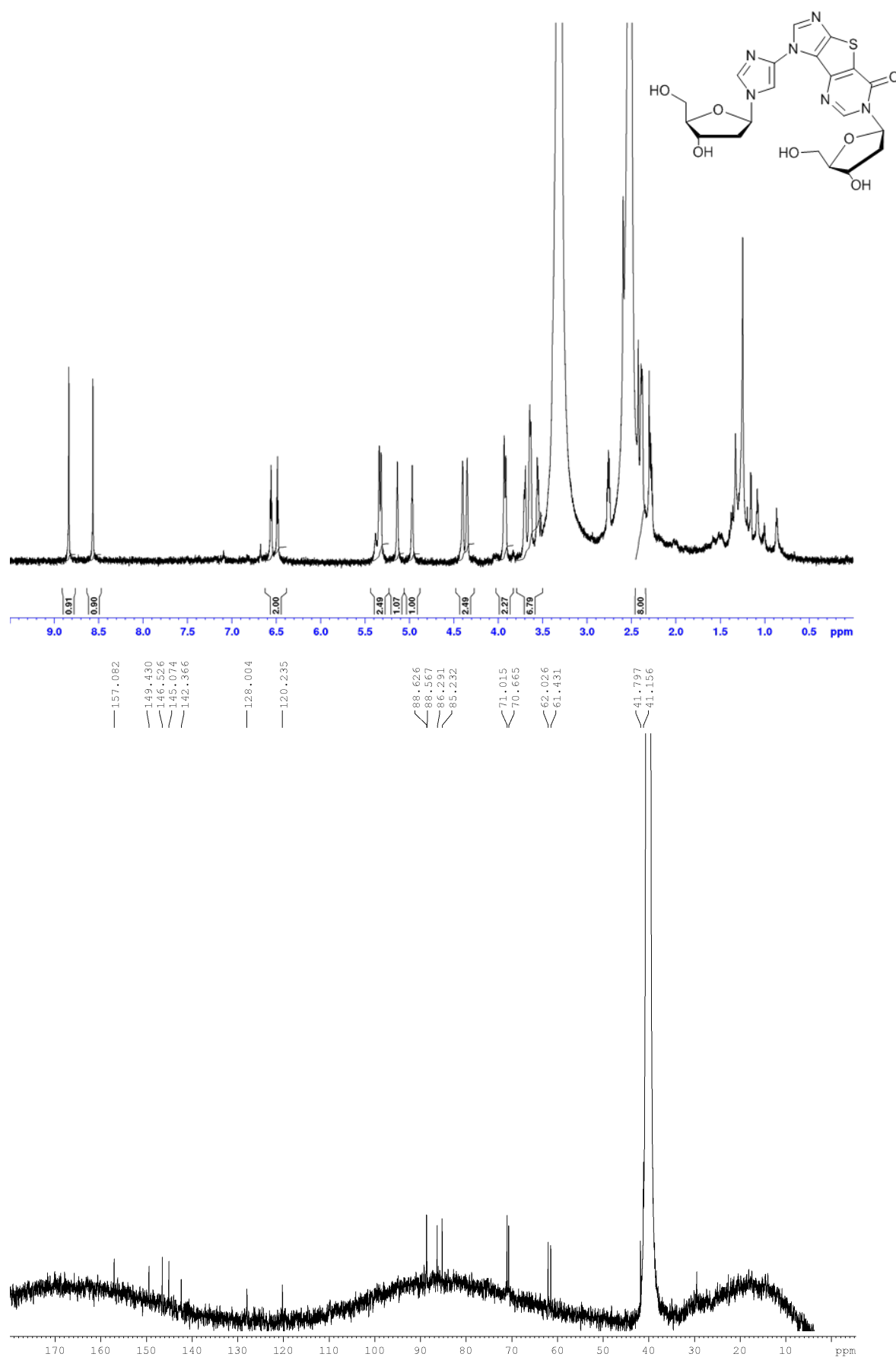


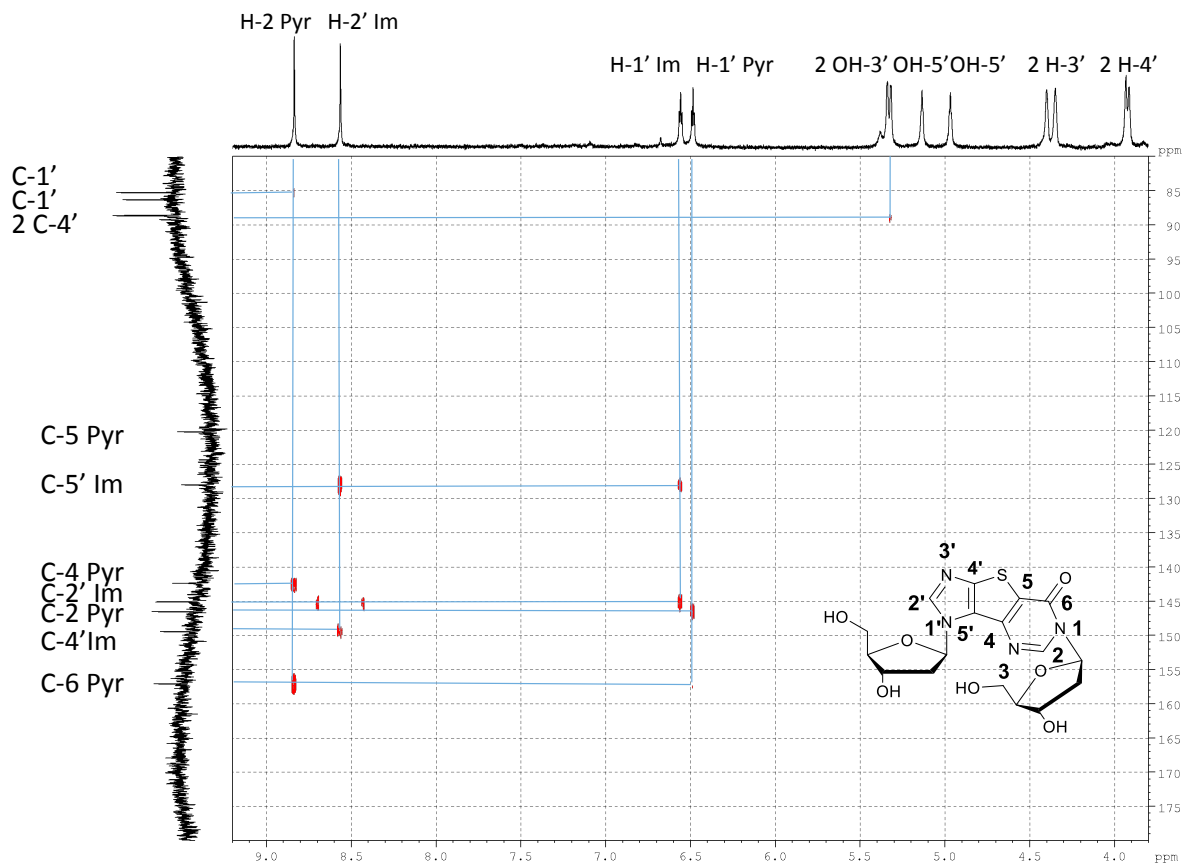
Compound **5a**



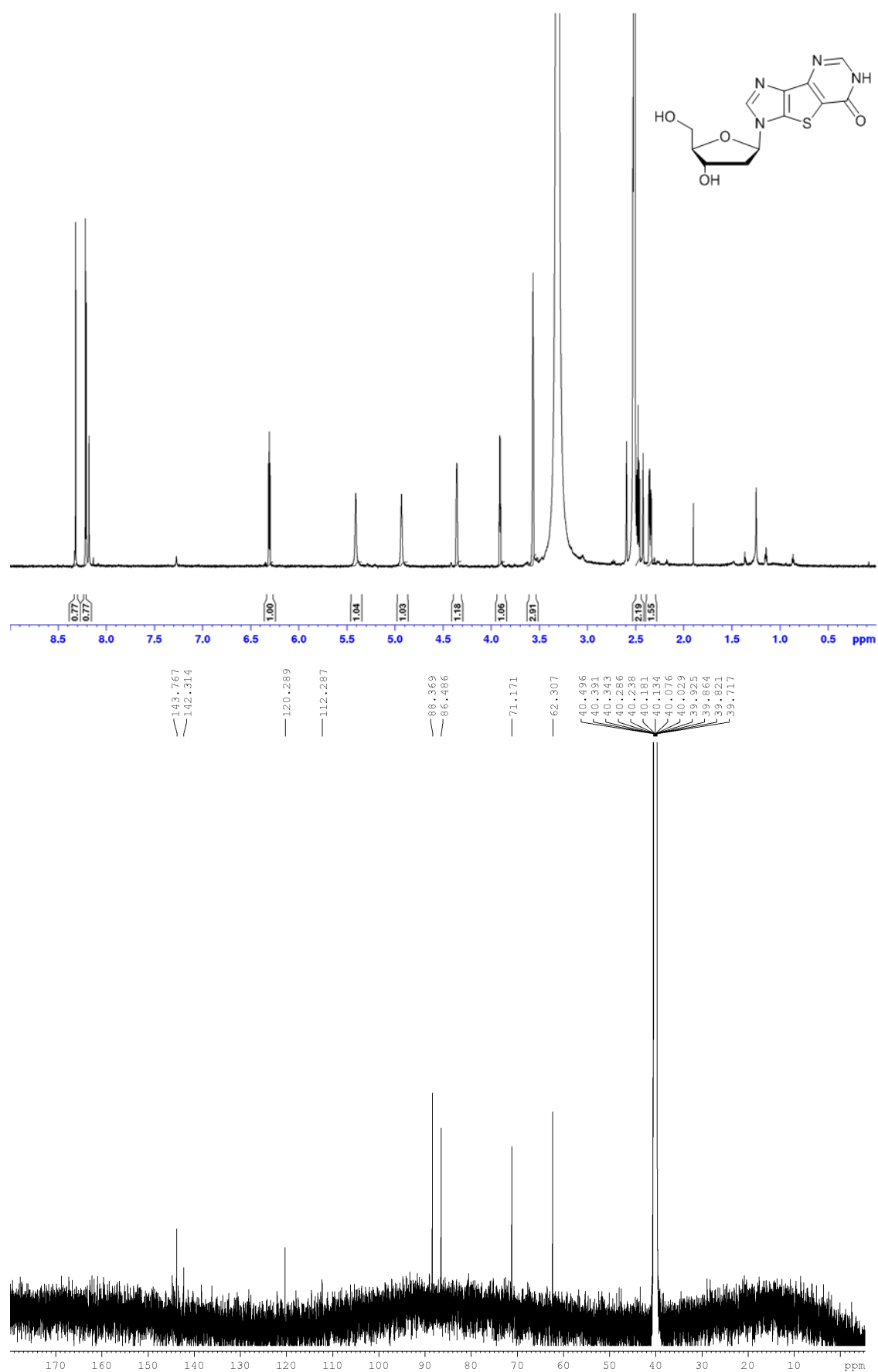


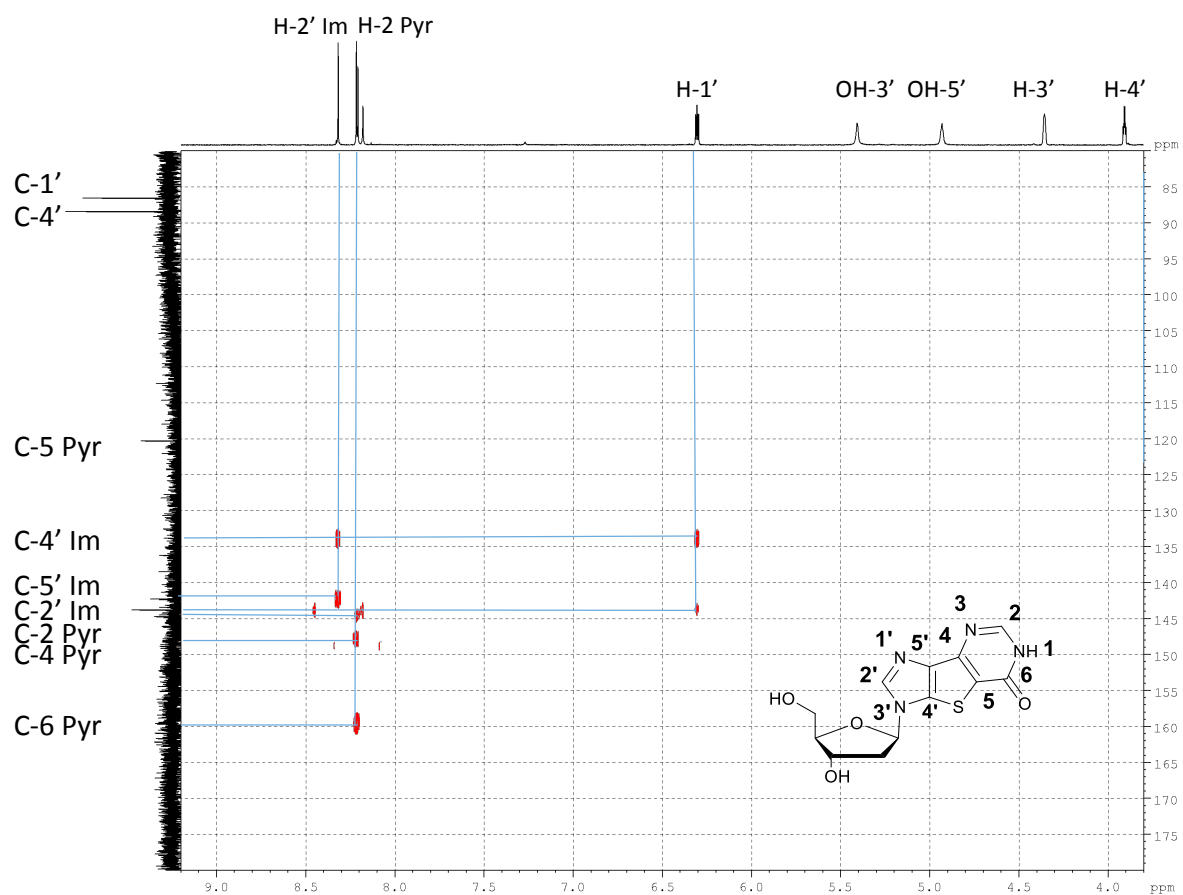
Compound **5b**



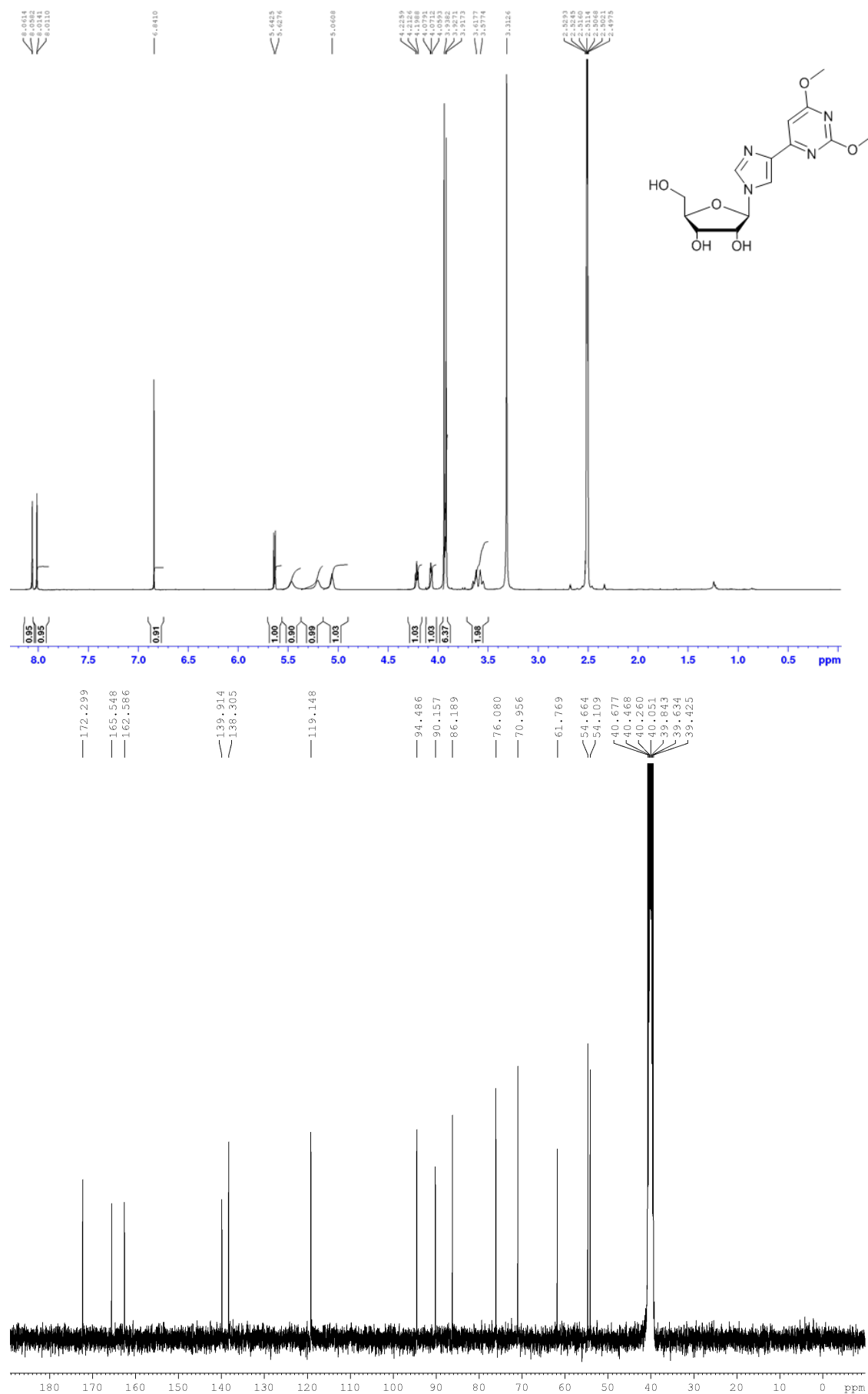


Compound **5c**

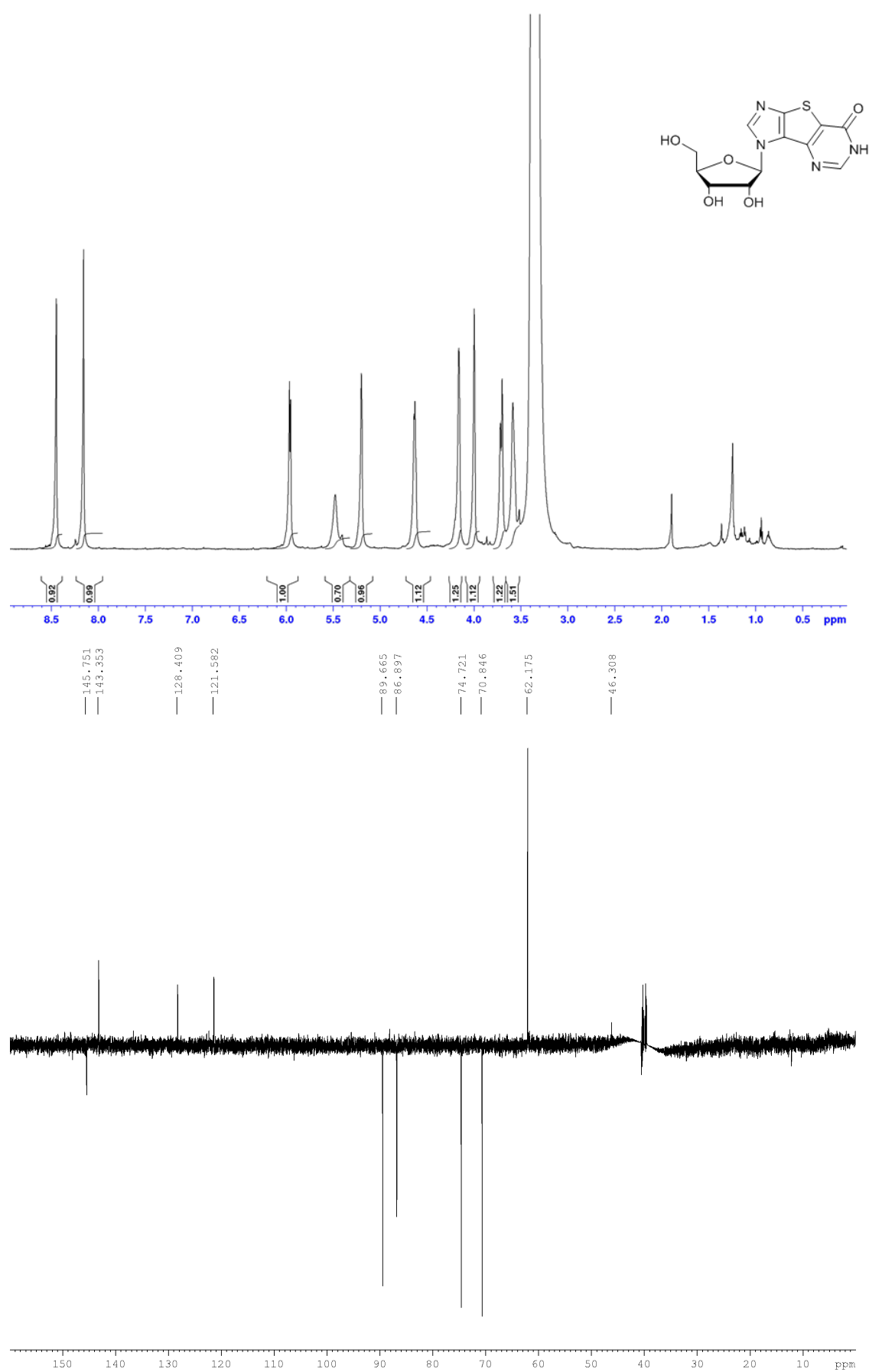


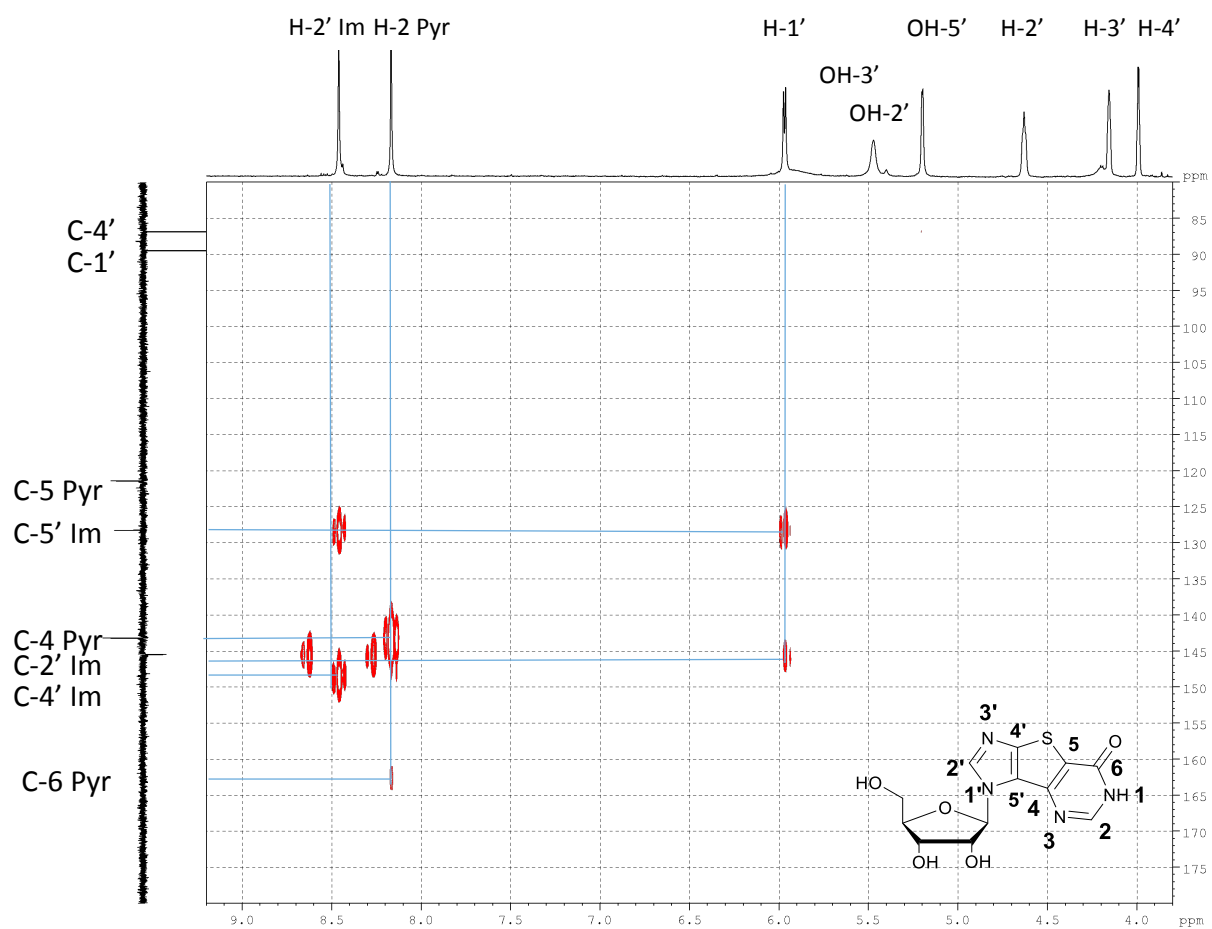


Compound 3c



Compound **5d**





Compound **5e**

