Supplementary information

First structural characterization of core modified 10,15-meso aryl azuliporphyrins: observation of C-H---π interaction between pyrrole β–CH and mesityl ring

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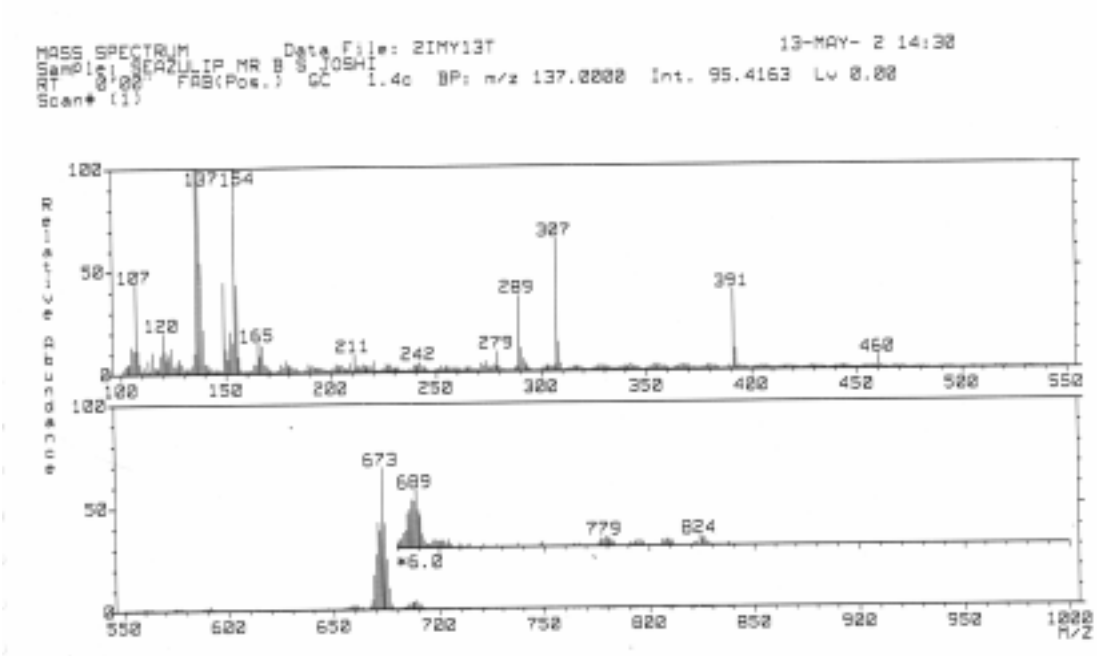
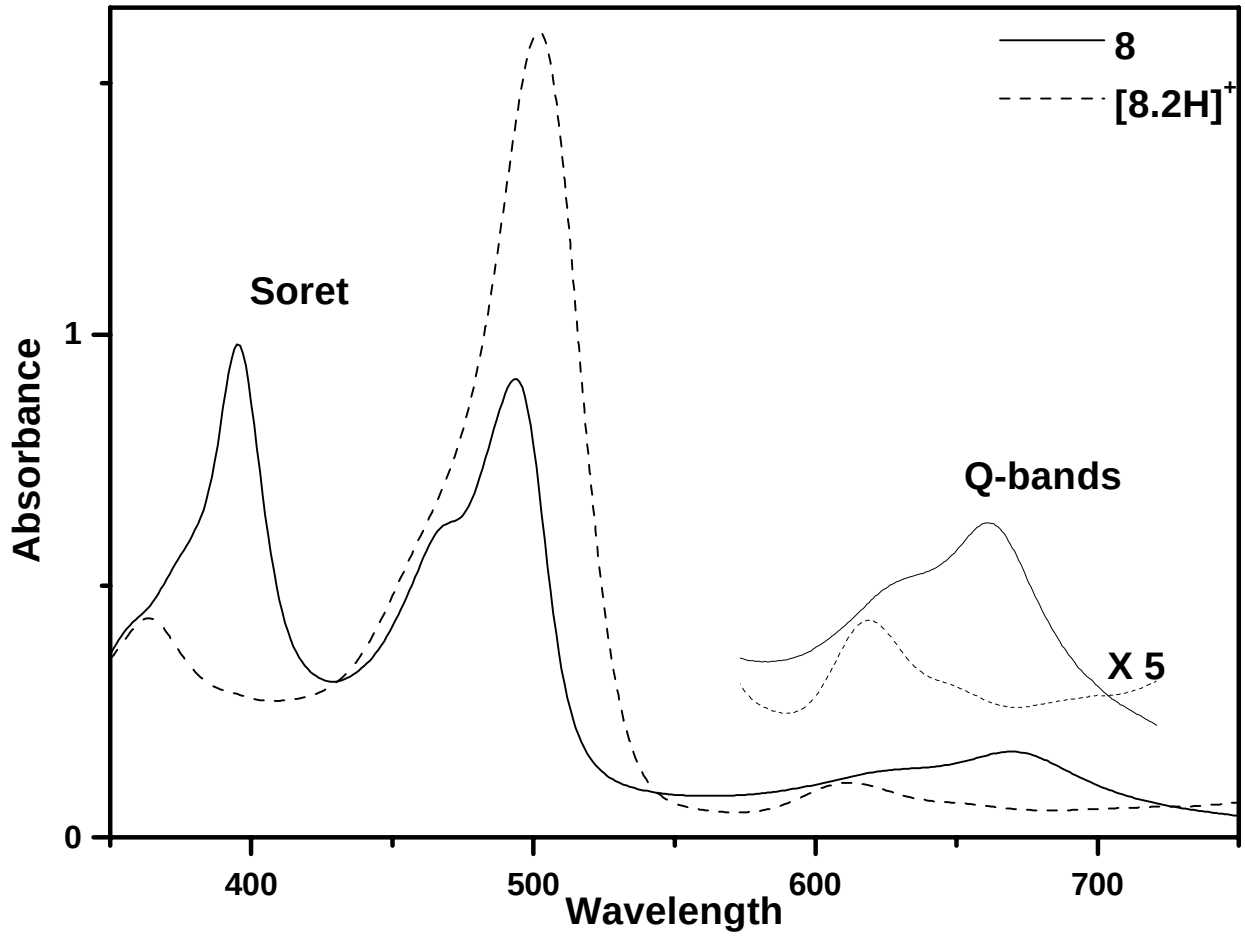


FAB mass m/z (%): 673 [M+1]

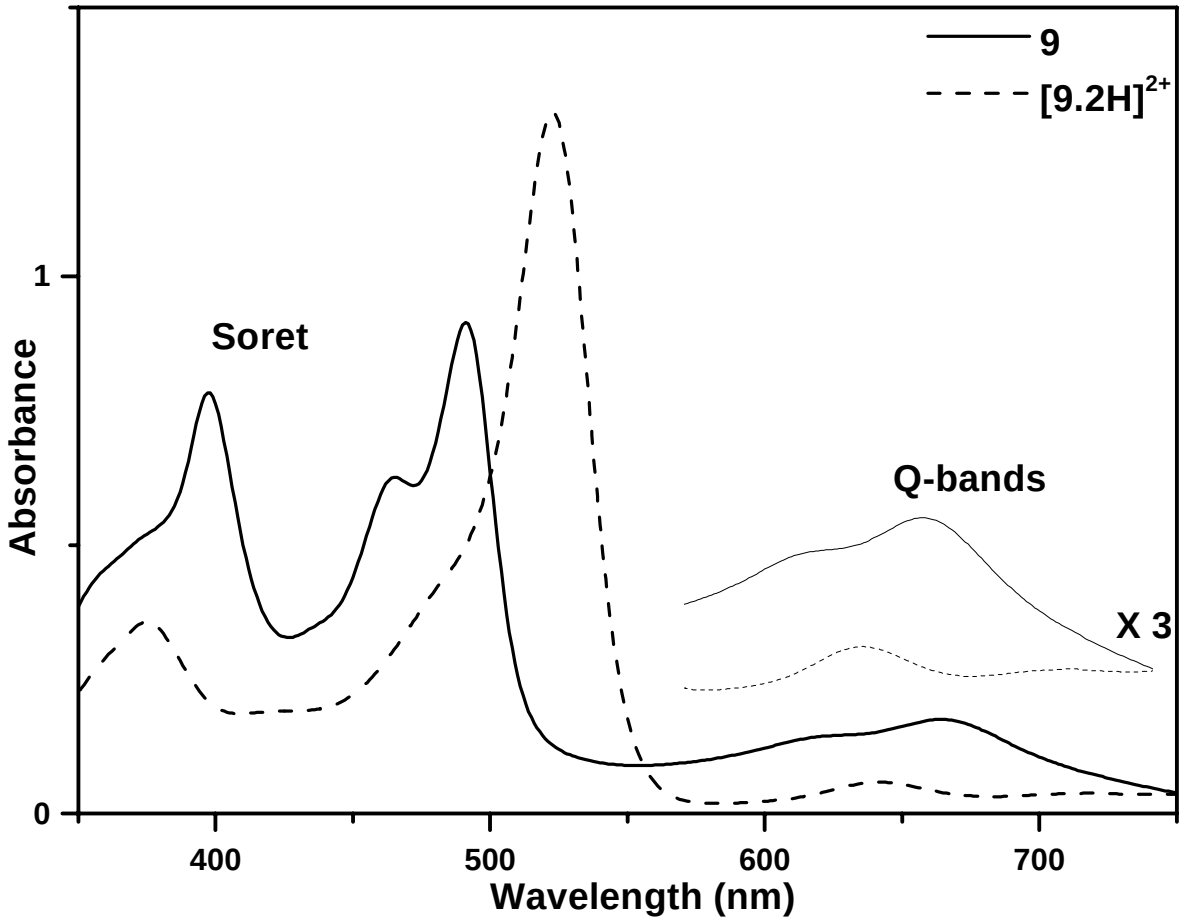
S 1: FAB Mass spectra for **9**



Free base [**8**]: (CH_2Cl_2): λ_{max} nm (log ε) = 395 (4.99), 477 (sh) (4.7), 494 (4.95), 670 (4.20)

Protonated [**8.2H**]$^+$:(5% TFA/ CH_2Cl_2): λ_{max} nm (log ε) = 364 (4.6), 502 (5.2), 612 (4.0)

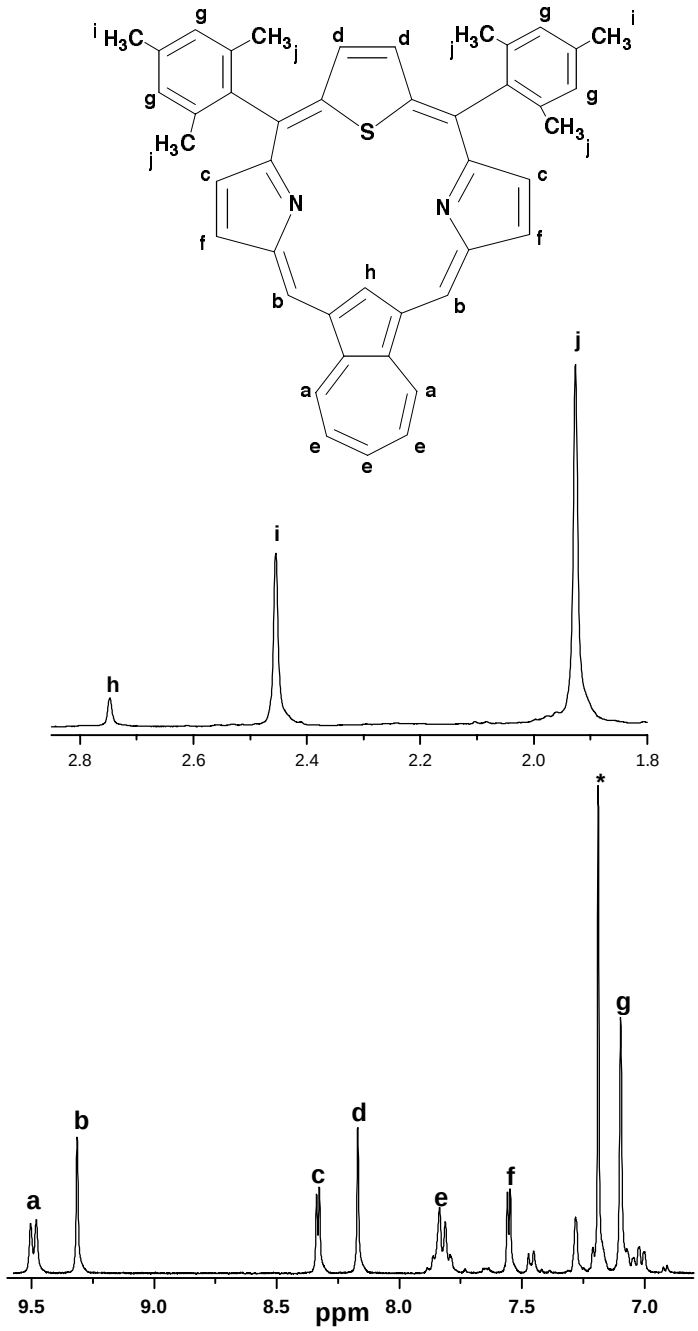
S2: Electronic absorption spectra for **8**



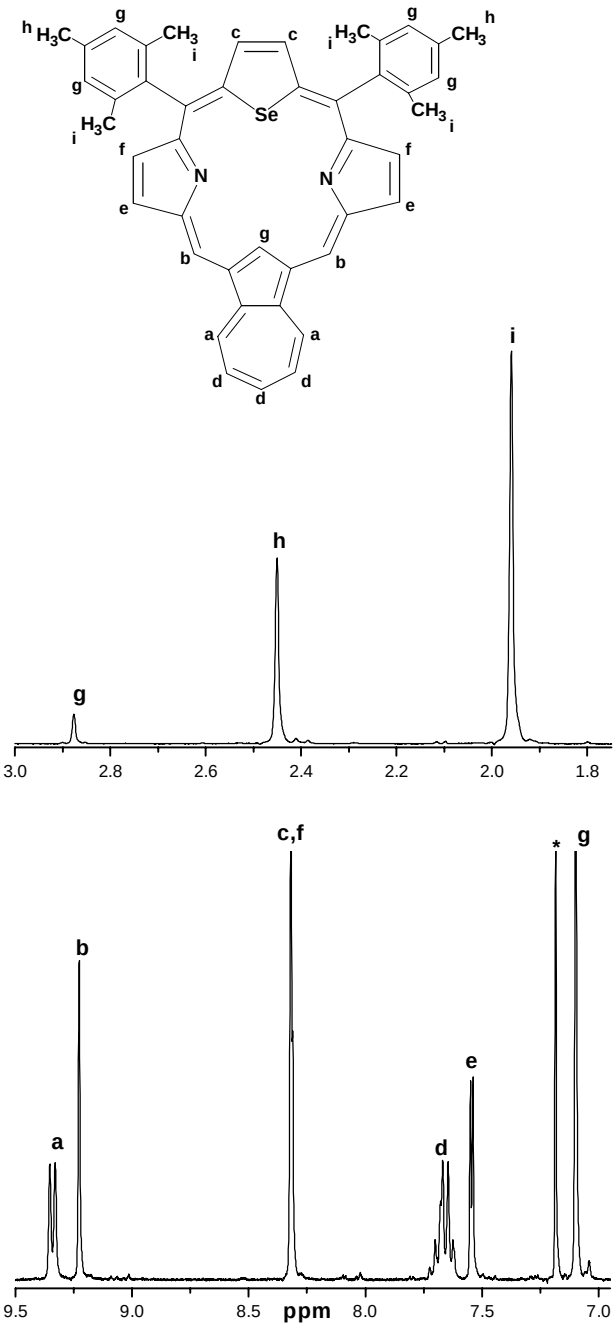
Free base [**9**]: (CH_2Cl_2): λ_{max} nm (log ε) = 397 (4.8), 465 (sh) (4.7), 492 (4.9), 664 (4.2)

Protonated [**9.2H**]$^+$:(5% TFA/ CH_2Cl_2): λ_{max} nm (log ε) = 375 (4.5), 523 (4.11), 642 (3.7)

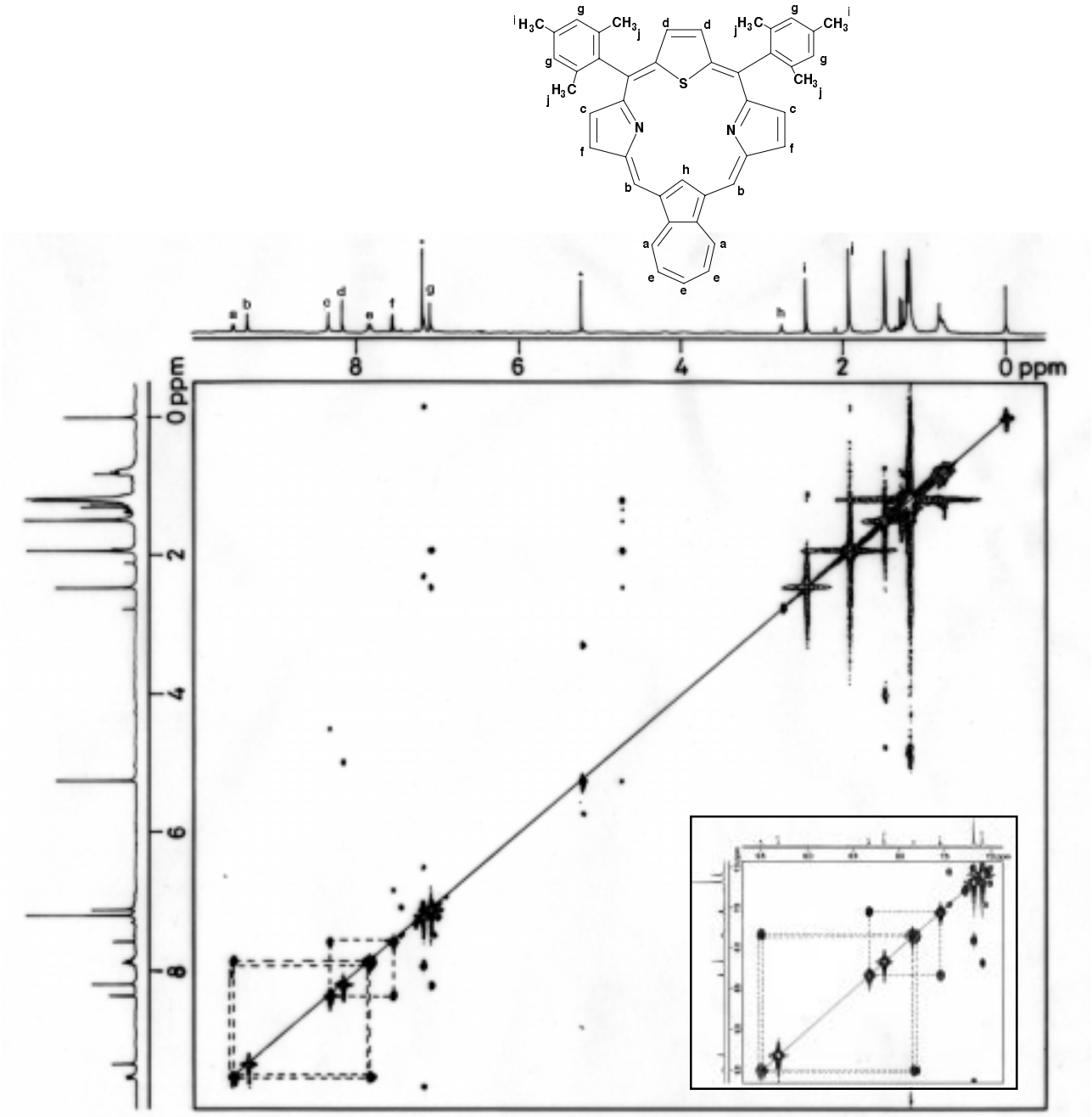
S3: Electronic absorption spectra for **9**



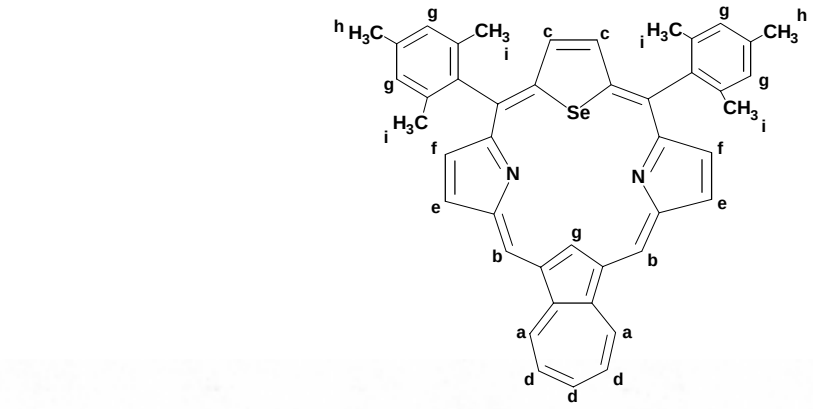
S4: ^{1}H NMR spectra of **8** in $CDCl_3$. The assignments are marked

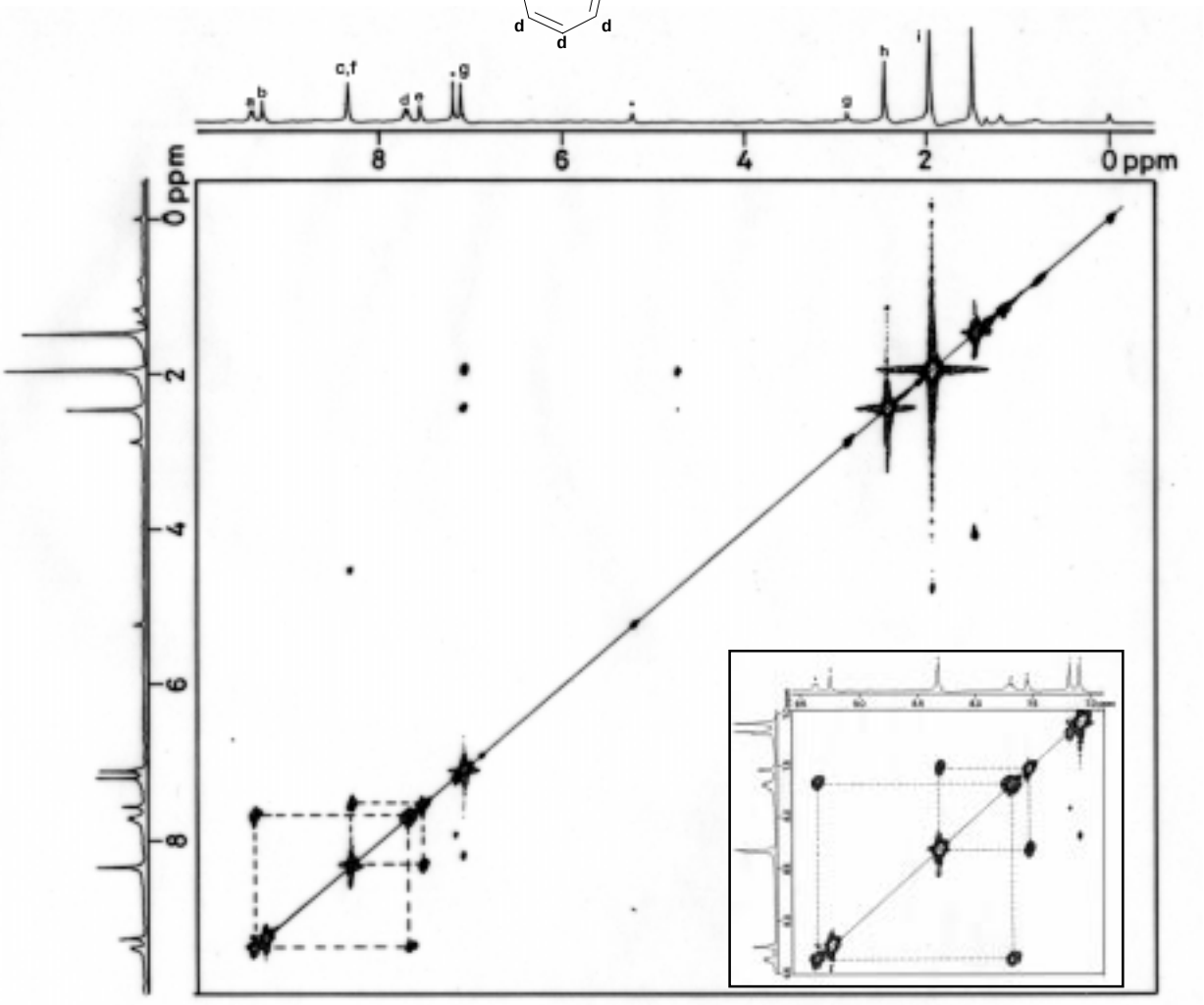


S5: ^{1}H NMR spectra of **9** in $CDCl_3$. The assignments are marked

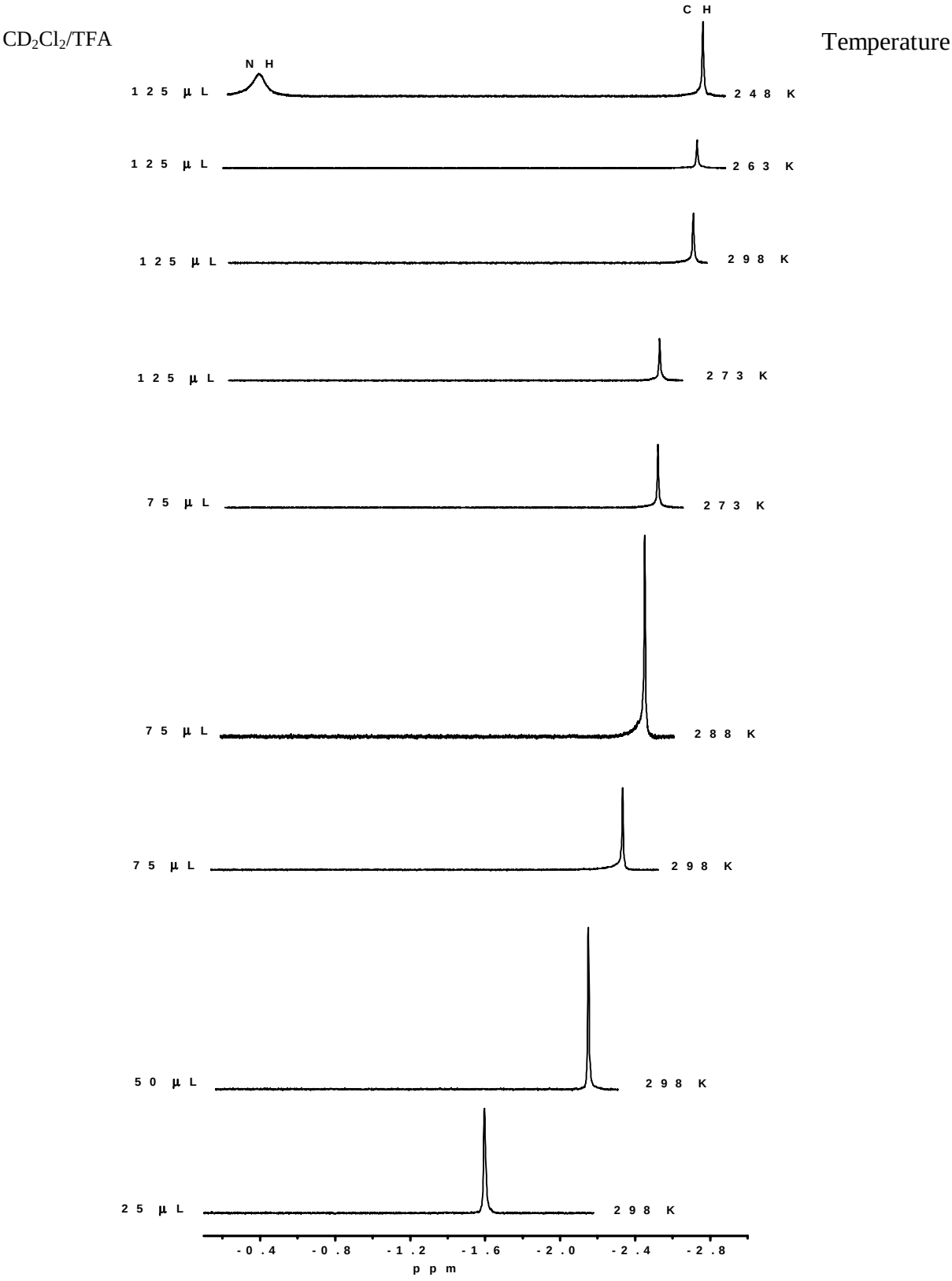


S6: 2D COSY NMR spectra of **8**: observed correlations are marked





S7: 2D COSY NMR spectra of **9**: observed correlations are marked



S8: Dependence of chemical shift of azulene inner CH proton on the concentration of TFA and the temperature. From a stock solution of 10% *v/v* TFA in CD_2Cl_2, the titrations were carried out using indicated amount of this solution. The protonated pyrrole proton (NH) is also shown.