

Supporting Information

Tandem Rh-Catalyzed [4+2] Vinylic C–H O-Annulation of Exocyclic Enones with Alkynes and 1,5-H Shift

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Table of Contents

I. General Remarks	S2
II. Preparation of Exocyclic Enones.....	S2
III. Rh-Catalyzed Annulation of Exocyclic Enones with Alkynes	S4
IV. Mechanism Study.....	S13
V. Conversion of 3 into Cationic O-Containing PHAs.....	S21
VI. References.....	S22
VII. Copies of ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR Spectra	S23

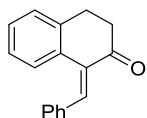
I. General Remarks

All commercial available reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. DCE was dried through manual solvent purification system from Innovative Technology. DME were dried by refluxing over sodium and freshly distilled prior to use. $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$,¹ exocyclic enones **1**,² alkynes **2**,³ and pyrylium tetrafluoroborate (**4**)⁴ were prepared based on previous reports.

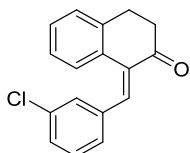
NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker AV II-400 MHz. The ^1H NMR (400 MHz) chemical shifts were recorded relative to CDCl_3 as the internal reference (CDCl_3 : δ 7.26 ppm, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$: δ 2.05 ppm, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$: δ 2.50 ppm, CD_3CN : δ 1.94 ppm). The ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) chemical shifts were given using CDCl_3 as the internal standard (CDCl_3 : δ 77.16 ppm, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$: δ 39.52 ppm, CD_3CN : δ 1.32 ppm). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were collected on Waters-Q-TOF-Premier and Shimadzu LCMS-IT-TOF (ESI). X-Ray single-crystal diffraction data were obtained on an Agilent Technologies Gemini single crystal diffractometer. Melting points were measured with SGW_®X-4/4A/4B and are uncorrected.

II. Preparation of Exocyclic Enones²

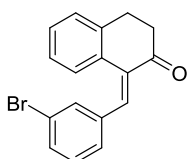
To a mixture of a 3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1*H*)-one (2 mmol), an aryl aldehyde derivative (2 mmol) and 4Å molecular sieves (1.0 g) in toluene (4 mL) was added piperidine (24 μL) and AcOH (24 μL). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. Then the mixture was filtered through a celite pad and washed with EtOAc. The filtrate was then concentrated under vacuum and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel column (PE/EA = 20/1 ~ 5/1, v/v) to provide the desired enones.



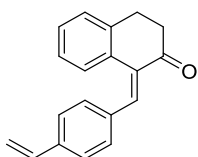
(*E*)-1-Benzylidene-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1*H*)-one (1b**)**²: 355 mg, 76% yield, an off-white solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.63 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.18-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.34 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (s, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 27.9, 37.1, 126.2, 128.0, 128.3, 128.6, 129.1, 129.2, 129.7, 132.7, 134.0, 135.3, 135.4, 138.6, 202.0 ppm.



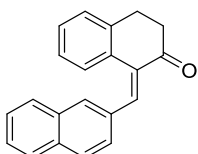
(E)-1-(3-Chlorobenzylidene)-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1H)-one (1l): 422 mg, 79% yield, a light-yellow solid. M.p.: 78-80 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.64 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.05 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.05-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 27.9, 37.0, 126.4, 127.7, 128.2, 128.7, 129.0, 129.2, 129.4, 129.8, 132.1, 133.5, 134.5, 135.1, 137.4, 138.7, 201.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNaO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 291.0547 found 291.0550.



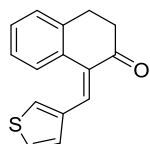
(E)-1-(3-Bromobenzylidene)-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1H)-one (1j): 530 mg, 85% yield, a light-yellow solid. M.p.: 89-90 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.63 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.05 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 27.9, 37.0, 122.6, 126.4, 128.1, 128.2, 128.7, 129.2, 130.1, 131.9, 132.0, 132.3, 133.3, 135.1, 137.6, 138.7, 201.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNaO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 335.0042 found 335.0047.



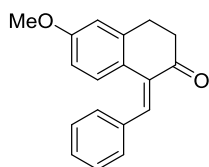
(E)-1-(4-Vinylbenzylidene)-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1H)-one (1m): 431 mg, 83% yield, an off-white solid. M.p.: 115-117 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.63 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 5.28 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, J = 17.6 Hz, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.65 (s, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 27.9, 37.1, 115.0, 126.29, 126.34, 128.0, 128.3, 129.2, 130.1, 132.8, 133.8, 134.8, 135.0, 136.4, 138.4, 138.6, 201.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 261.1274 found 261.1275.



(E)-1-(Naphthalen-2-ylmethylene)-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1H)-one (1n): 299 mg, 78% yield, a thick oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.67 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.09 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (td, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (td, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 28.0, 37.2, 126.27, 126.34, 126.5, 127.0, 127.8, 127.83, 128.0, 128.4, 128.5, 129.3, 130.6, 132.8, 133.0, 133.5, 133.6, 134.0, 135.4, 138.6, 201.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 285.1274 found 285.1271.



(E)-1-(Thiophen-3-ylmethylene)-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1H)-one (1q): 311 mg, 65% yield, an off-white solid. M.p.: 76-78°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.60 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.00 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11-7.19 m, 3H), 7.22-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 27.9, 37.1, 125.7, 126.2, 127.6, 127.9, 128.4, 129.0, 129.1, 129.7, 132.7, 133.0, 136.7, 138.6, 202.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{OS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 241.0682 found 241.0682.

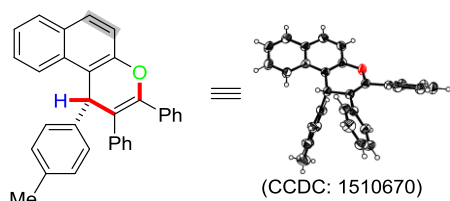


(E)-1-Benzylidene-6-methoxy-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1H)-one (1r): 420 mg, 80% yield, a light-yellow solid. M.p.: 80-82 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.62 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.01 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 6.57 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.41-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 28.2, 37.2, 55.4, 112.2, 113.0, 125.1, 128.5, 128.8, 129.6, 130.6, 133.4, 133.5, 135.7, 140.2, 159.6, 202.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 265.1223 found 265.1225.

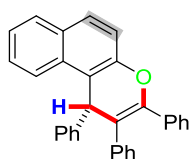
III. Rh-Catalyzed Annulation of Exocyclic Enones with Alkynes

General procedure: A Schlenk tube containing an exocyclic enones **1** (0.2 mmol), an alkyne **2** (0.24 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_3](\text{SbF}_6)_2$ (16.6 mg, 10 mol %), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (79.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), Cu_2O (14.1 mg, 0.1 mmol) and DCM (1 mL) was sealed with a teflon-coated screw cap and the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 24-48 h. After cooled down to room temperature, the mixture was filtered

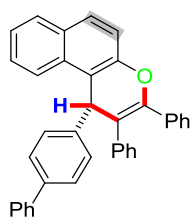
through a celite pad and washed with DCM. The filtrate was then concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel column (PE/DCM=15:1~10:1) to provide the final product. (For 1 mmol scale synthesis, 234 mg **1b**, 213 mg **2a**, [Cp*Rh(CH₃CN)₃](SbF₆)₂ (10 mol %), Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (2.0 eq.), Cu₂O (0.5 eq.) and DCM (5 mL) were used instead.)



2,3-Diphenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3a): 24 h, 63.6 mg, 75% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 85-87 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.25 (s, 3H), 5.36 (s, 1H), 7.01-7.03 (m, 4H), 7.16-7.25 (m, 8H), 7.34-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.76-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 21.2, 44.9, 116.5, 117.2, 117.9, 123.1, 124.2, 126.7, 126.9, 127.9, 128.2, 128.4, 128.57, 128.64, 129.34, 129.36, 130.2, 131.17, 131.25, 135.0, 136.2, 139.9, 142.2, 146.0, 149.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₂H₂₅O [M+H]⁺ 425.1900, found 425.1902.

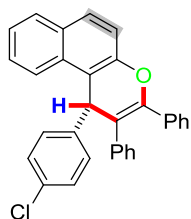


1,2,3-Triphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3b): 24 h, 59.9 mg, 73% yield (For a 1 mmol scale, 275 mg, 67% yield, 48 h), a white solid. M.p.: 118-120 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 5.39 (s, 1H), 6.98 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.21 (m, 9H), 7.32-7.45 (m, 7H), 7.78-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 45.5, 116.4, 116.9, 118.0, 123.1, 124.3, 126.7, 126.8, 126.9, 127.9, 128.2, 128.3, 128.58, 128.62, 128.66, 128.72, 129.3, 130.2, 131.2, 131.3, 134.9, 139.8, 145.2, 146.0, 149.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₁H₂₂NaO [M+Na]⁺ 433.1563, found 433.1571.

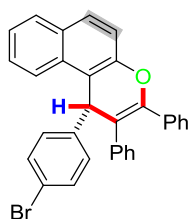


1-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3c): 24 h, 66.1 mg, 68% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 112-123 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 5.43 (s, 1H), 7.03-7.06 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.24 (m, 6H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.49 (m, 11H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.80-7.84 (m, 2H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 45.1, 116.2, 116.9, 118.0,

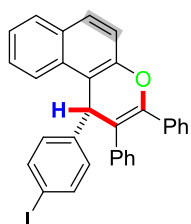
123.1, 124.3, 126.8, 126.97, 127.04, 127.2, 127.3, 127.9, 128.3, 128.4, 128.7, 128.75, 128.8, 128.9, 129.4, 130.2, 131.18, 131.24, 134.9, 139.4, 139.8, 140.9, 144.2, 146.2, 149.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₇H₂₇O [M+H]⁺ 487.2056, found 487.2060.



1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3d): 24 h, 62.1 mg, 70% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 124-126 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 5.38 (s, 1H), 6.97-6.98 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.20 (m, 10H), 7.35-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.78-7.85 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 45.0, 116.0, 116.2, 118.0, 122.9, 124.4, 126.9, 127.1, 127.9, 128.3, 128.5, 128.8, 129.0, 129.3, 129.8, 130.2, 131.1, 131.2, 132.4, 134.7, 139.5, 143.7, 146.1, 149.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₁H₂ClNaO [M+Na]⁺ 467.1173, found 467.1176.

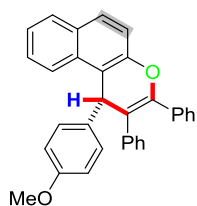


1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3e): 24 h, 63.4 mg, 65% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 82-84 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 5.35 (s, 1H), 6.97-6.98 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.21 (m, 8H), 7.30-7.44 (m, 7H), 7.78-7.84 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 45.0, 115.9, 116.1, 118.0, 120.6, 122.9, 124.4, 126.9, 127.1, 127.9, 128.4, 128.5, 128.9, 129.0, 129.3, 130.15, 130.19, 131.1, 131.2, 134.7, 139.4, 144.2, 146.2, 149.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₁H₂₂BrO [M+H]⁺ 489.0849, found 489.0855.

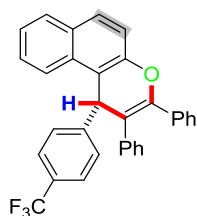


1-(4-Iodophenyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3f): 24h, 67.2 mg, 60% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 135-137 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 5.39 (s, 1H), 6.96-6.97 (m, 2H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.19-7.21 (m, 6H), 7.34-7.43 (m, 5H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.78-7.84 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 45.1, 115.9, 116.1, 117.9, 122.9, 124.4, 126.9, 127.1, 127.9,

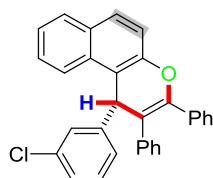
128.4, 128.5, 128.8, 129.0, 129.3, 130.1, 130.5, 131.1, 131.2, 134.7, 137.7, 139.4, 144.9, 146.2, 149.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₁H₂₂IO [M+H]⁺ 537.0710, found 537.0713.



1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3g): 24 h, 58.1 mg, 66% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 70-72 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.72 (s, 3H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.98-6.99 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.26 (m, 8H), 7.35-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.76-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 44.5, 55.3, 114.0, 116.6, 117.1, 118.0, 123.1, 124.2, 126.7, 126.9, 127.8, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 129.3, 129.5, 130.2, 131.16, 131.24, 135.0, 137.5, 139.9, 145.8, 149.1, 158.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₂H₂₄NaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 463.1669, found 463.1677.

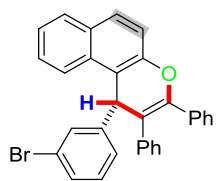


2,3-Diphenyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3h): 36 h. 59.3 mg, 62% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 139-141 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 5.50 (s, 1H), 6.96-6.98 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.26 (m, 6H), 7.36-7.47 (m, 9H), 7.81-7.86 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 45.4, 115.7, 115.8, 118.0, 122.8, 124.3 (q, *J*_{CF} = 276.7 Hz), 124.5, 125.62 (q, *J*_{CF} = 3.8 Hz), 127.0, 127.2, 127.9, 128.4, 128.5, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9 (q, *J*_{CF} = 31.0 Hz), 129.2, 129.3, 130.1, 131.0, 131.2, 139.3, 146.4, 149.0, 149.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₂H₂₁F₃NaO [M+Na]⁺ 501.1437, found 501.1443.

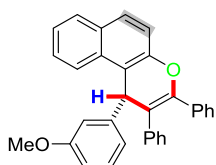


1-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3i): 24 h, 56.8 mg, 64% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 132-134 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 5.40 (s, 1H), 6.97-6.99 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.22 (m, 9H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.37-7.46 (m, 5H), 7.80-7.87 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 45.3, 115.8, 115.9, 118.0, 122.9, 124.4, 126.7, 126.9, 127.0, 127.1, 127.9, 128.4, 128.47, 128.54, 128.8, 129.1, 129.3, 129.7, 130.1, 131.1, 131.2, 134.5, 134.6, 139.4, 146.2, 147.1, 149.3 ppm.

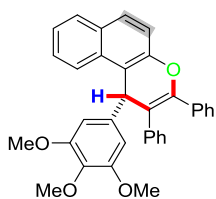
HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₁H₂₂ClO [M+H]⁺ 445.1354, found 445,1360.



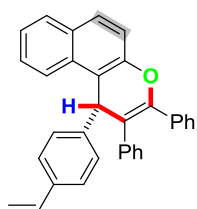
1-(3-Bromophenyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3j): 24 h, 54.6 mg, 56% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 62-64 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 5.37 (s, 1H), 6.97 (bs, 2H), 7.06 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.26 (m, 8H), 7.36-7.45 (m, 6H), 7.80-7.86 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 45.3, 115.8, 118.0, 122.8, 122.9, 124.4, 127.0, 127.1, 127.2, 127.9, 128.4, 128.5, 128.8, 129.1, 129.3, 129.9, 130.07, 130.14, 131.1, 131.2, 131.4, 134.6, 139.4, 146.2, 147.4, 149.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₁H₂₂BrO [M+H]⁺ 489.0849, found 489.0858.



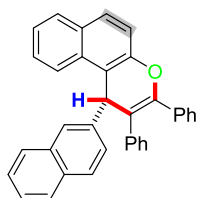
1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3k): 24 h, 59.8 mg, 68% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 53-55 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.67 (s, 3H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.00-7.01 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.22 (m, 7H), 7.37-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.78-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 45.4, 55.2, 111.8, 114.5, 116.2, 116.7, 118.0, 121.1, 123.1, 124.3, 126.8, 126.9, 127.8, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 128.7, 129.3, 129.4, 130.2, 131.2, 131.3, 134.9, 139.8, 146.1, 146.7, 149.2, 159.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₂H₂₄O₂ [M+Na]⁺ 463.1669, found 463.1679.



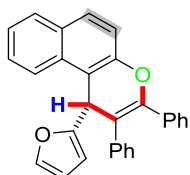
2,3-Diphenyl-1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3l): 48 h. 57 mg, 57% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 158-160 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.67 (s, 6H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 6.48 (s, 2H), 7.00-7.01 (m, 6H), 7.37-7.47 (m, 6H), 7.79-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 45.6, 56.2, 60.9, 105.7, 110.2, 116.3, 116.5, 118.0, 123.2, 124.3, 126.7, 127.0, 127.9, 128.29, 128.33, 128.7, 128.8, 129.3, 130.3, 131.2, 131.4, 134.9, 136.8, 139.7, 140.6, 146.0, 149.4, 153.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₄H₂₉O₄ [M+H]⁺ 501.2060, found 501.2069.



2,3-Diphenyl-1-(4-vinylphenyl)-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3m): 24 h, 54.9 mg, 63% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 80-82 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 5.16 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (s, 1H), 5.65 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (dd, J = 17.6 Hz, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 6.99-7.00 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.30 (m, 10H), 7.34-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.77-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 45.2, 113.5, 116.2, 116.7, 118.0, 123.0, 124.3, 126.6, 126.8, 127.0, 127.9, 128.3, 128.68, 128.71, 128.8, 129.3, 130.2, 131.19, 131.25, 134.9, 136.0, 136.6, 139.8, 144.9, 146.1, 149.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 437.1900, found 437.1902.

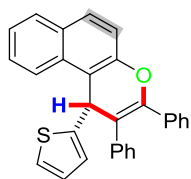


1-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3n): 36 h, 59.8 mg, 65% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 74-76 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 5.56 (s, 1H), 6.97-6.98 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.22 (m, 6H), 7.32-7.49 (m, 8H), 7.69-7.75 (m, 4H), 7.79-7.81 (m, 2H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 45.6, 116.2, 116.7, 118.0, 123.1, 124.3, 125.7, 126.0, 126.8, 126.9, 127.0, 127.7, 127.9, 128.1, 128.3, 128.4, 128.6, 128.7, 128.9, 129.4, 130.2, 131.2, 131.3, 132.5, 133.4, 134.9, 139.8, 142.5, 146.2, 149.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 483.1719, found 483.1722.

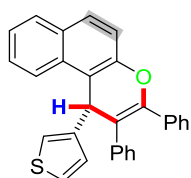


1-(Furan-2-yl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3o): 24 h, 47.2 mg, 59% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 140-142 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 5.55 (s, 1H), 6.16 (brs, 1H), 6.23 (brs, 1H), 7.12-7.26 (m, 9H), 7.38-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.50 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 38.4, 106.8, 110.6, 112.7, 114.9, 117.9, 122.9, 124.4, 126.8, 127.0, 128.0, 128.4, 128.5, 128.6, 128.8, 129.6, 129.9, 131.1, 131.3, 134.8, 139.6, 141.7, 147.9, 149.4, 156.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2$

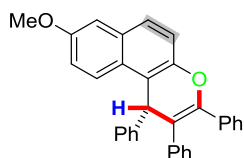
$[M+H]^+$ 401.1536, found 401.1529.



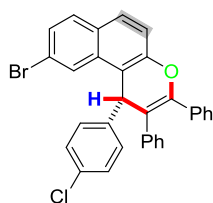
2,3-Diphenyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3p): 24 h, 54.1 mg, 65% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 130-132 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 5.77 (s, 1H), 6.85 (t, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.27 (m, 8H), 7.40-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 39.7, 115.4, 117.0, 118.0, 122.8, 124.4, 124.5, 124.7, 126.7, 126.9, 127.1, 128.0, 128.4, 128.5, 128.8, 129.5, 130.1, 130.9, 131.2, 134.7, 139.4, 147.2, 149.0, 149.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{21}\text{OS}$ $[M+H]^+$ 417.1308, found 417.1313.



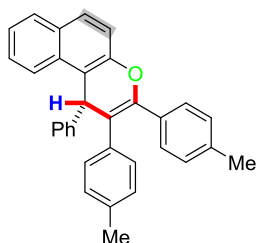
2,3-Diphenyl-1-(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3q): 24 h, 51.6 mg, 62% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 150-152 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 5.56 (s, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08-7.26 (m, 10H), 7.38-7.49 (m, 5H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 40.3, 115.6, 116.9, 117.9, 121.4, 122.8, 124.3, 125.9, 126.8, 127.0, 127.8, 127.9, 128.35, 128.38, 128.6, 128.7, 129.4, 130.0, 131.1, 134.8, 139.8, 145.4, 146.7, 149.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaOS}$ $[M+\text{Na}]^+$ 439.1127, found 439.1137.



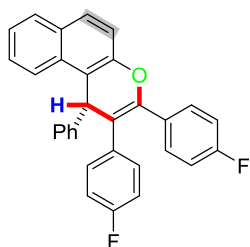
8-Methoxy-1,2,3-triphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3r): 24 h, 67.8 mg, 77% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 75-77 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 3.72 (s, 3H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99-7.01 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.26 (m, 8H), 7.34-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 44.6, 55.3, 114.0, 116.6, 117.1, 118.0, 123.1, 124.2, 126.7, 126.9, 127.8, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 128.7, 129.3, 129.5, 130.2, 131.19, 131.25, 135.0, 137.5, 139.9, 145.8, 149.2, 158.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_2$ $[M+H]^+$ 441.1849, found 441.1853.



9-Bromo-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3s): 36 h. 65.8 mg, 63% yield, a white solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 5.30 (s, 1H), 6.98-6.99 (m, 2H), 7.17 -7.27 (m, 8H), 7.34-7.47 (m, 6H), 7.66 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 45.4, 116.3, 116.4, 118.4, 121.3, 125.6, 126.9, 127.1, 127.6, 127.9, 128.35, 128.38, 128.5, 128.6, 128.8, 129.3, 129.6, 130.1, 130.2, 132.6, 134.6, 139.5, 144.7, 146.0, 149.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{21}\text{BrClO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 523.0459, found 523.0466.

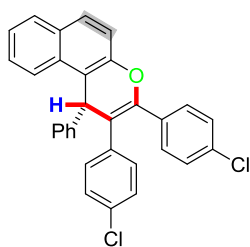


1-Phenyl-2,3-di-p-tolyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3t): 24 h, 60 mg, 69% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 136-138 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.30 (brs, 6H), 5.34 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 21.36, 21.43, 45.5, 115.7, 117.1, 118.0, 123.1, 124.2, 126.6, 126.7, 128.57, 128.58, 128.59, 128.63, 129.0, 129.2, 129.9, 131.1, 131.3, 132.2, 136.4, 137.0, 138.0, 145.4, 145.9, 149.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 439.2056, found 439.2068.

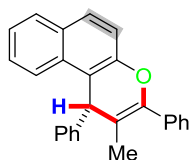


2,3-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3u): 36 h. 55.3 mg, 62% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 145-147 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 5.32 (s, 1H), 6.84-6.92 (m, 6H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.45 (m, 7H), 7.78-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 45.6, 115.0 (d, J_{CF} = 21.4 Hz), 115.43, 115.44 (d, J_{CF} = 21.2 Hz), 116.5, 117.8, 123.1, 124.4, 126.8, 128.5, 128.69, 128.72, 128.9, 130.8 (d, J_{CF} = 3.4 Hz), 131.1 (d, J_{CF} = 8.1 Hz), 131.22, 131.24, 131.7 (d, J_{CF} = 7.8 Hz), 135.47, 135.51, 144.9, 145.2, 149.0, 161.9

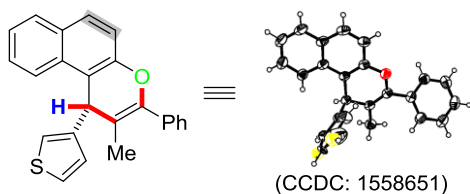
(d, $J_{CF} = 244.9$ Hz), 162.5 (d, $J_{CF} = 247.3$ Hz) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₁H₂₀F₂NaO [M+Na]⁺ 469.1374, found 469.1383.



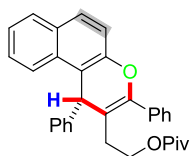
2,3-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3v): 36 h. 56.5 mg, 59% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 170-172 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 5.31 (s, 1H), 6.86-6.88 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.28 (m, 11H), 7.34-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.78-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.89 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 45.4, 115.8, 116.4, 117.8, 123.1, 124.5, 126.92, 126.93, 128.3, 128.5, 128.7, 128.8, 129.0, 130.6, 131.17, 131.24, 131.4, 133.0, 134.3, 137.9, 144.7, 145.2, 148.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₁H₂₀Cl₂NaO [M+Na]⁺ 501.0783, found 501.0786.



2-Methyl-1,3-diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3w): 24 h, 48.7 mg, 70% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 156-158 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.84 (s, 3H), 5.00 (s, 1H), 7.15 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.43 (m, 10H), 7.52 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.73-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 17.7, 45.4, 109.9, 115.3, 118.0, 123.2, 124.0, 126.6, 128.2, 128.4, 128.5, 128.6, 128.7, 129.3, 131.0, 131.6, 135.2, 143.6, 145.2, 149.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₆H₂₁O [M+H]⁺ 349.1587, found 349.1591.



2-Methyl-3-phenyl-1-(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-benzo[f]chromene (3x): 36 h. 42.5 mg, 60% yield, a white solid. M.p.: 135-137 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.91 (s, 3H), 5.17 (s, 1H), 6.98-7.00 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.47 (m, 5H), 7.54 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 17.8, 40.2, 109.3, 115.1, 118.0, 121.1, 122.9, 124.0, 125.8, 126.6, 127.8, 128.2, 128.4, 128.6, 129.2, 130.9, 131.5, 135.1, 144.0, 145.4, 149.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₄H₁₉SO [M+H]⁺ 355.1151, found 355.1556.

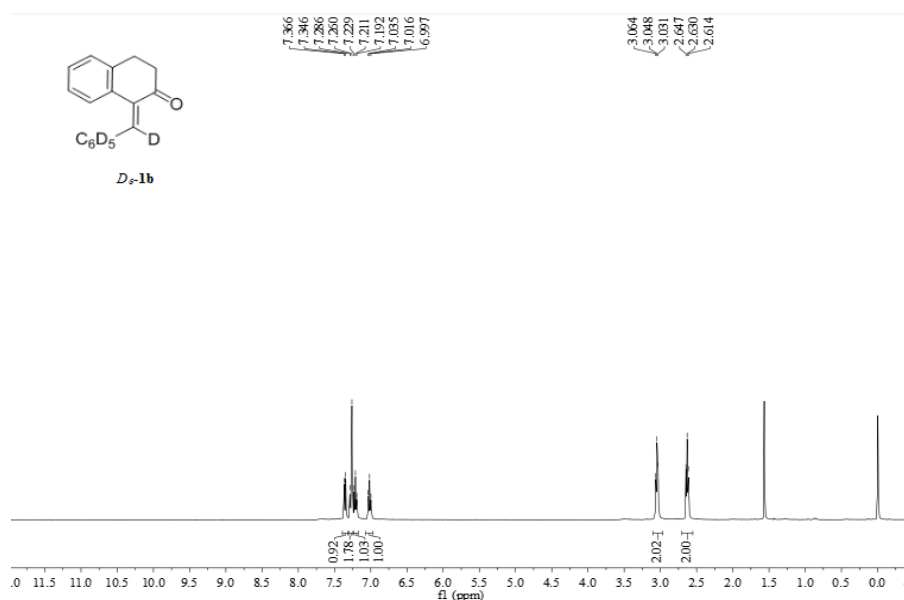


2-(1,3-Diphenyl-1H-benzo[f]chromen-2-yl)ethyl pivalate (3y): 36 h. 54.6 mg, 59% yield, a clear viscous oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.12 (s, 9H), 2.34-2.41 (m, 1H), 2.58-2.65 (m, 1H), 4.15-4.25 (m, 2H), 5.25 (s, 1H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.46 (m, 10H), 7.54 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 27.3, 29.2, 38.8, 41.9, 62.6, 110.3, 115.6, 117.8, 123.2, 124.2, 126.7, 126.8, 128.5, 128.6, 128.8, 128.9, 129.3, 131.1, 131.4, 134.8, 145.2, 146.7, 149.1, 178.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$): calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 463.2268, found 463.2275.

IV. Mechanism Study

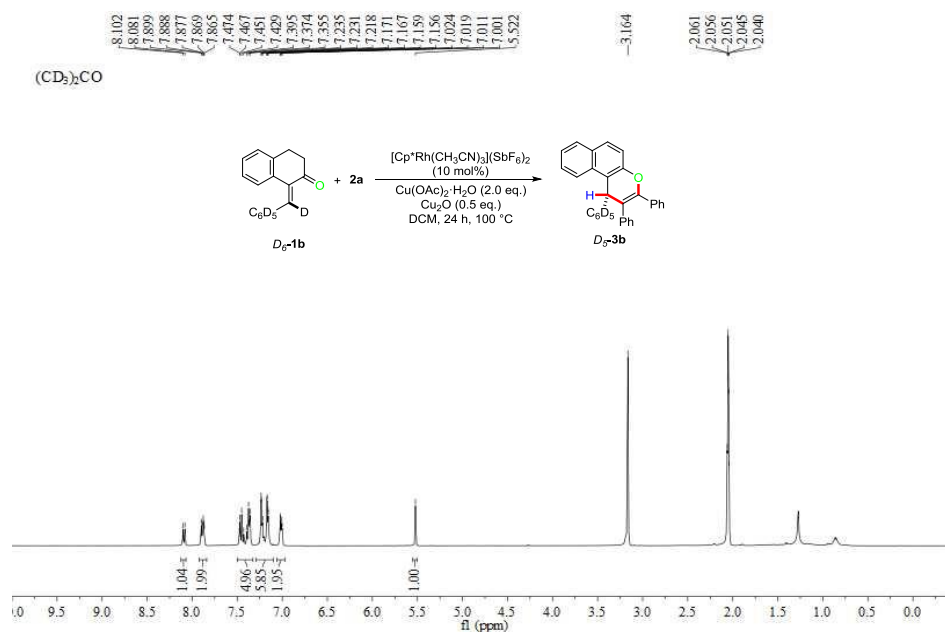
1. Experiment to verify the vinylic C–H bond cleavage

Preparation of D_6 -1b: Following the general procedure by using D_6 -benzaldehyde instead of benzaldehyde. D_6 -1b was obtained as an off-white solid in 70% yield, (>99% D). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.63 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.05 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm.



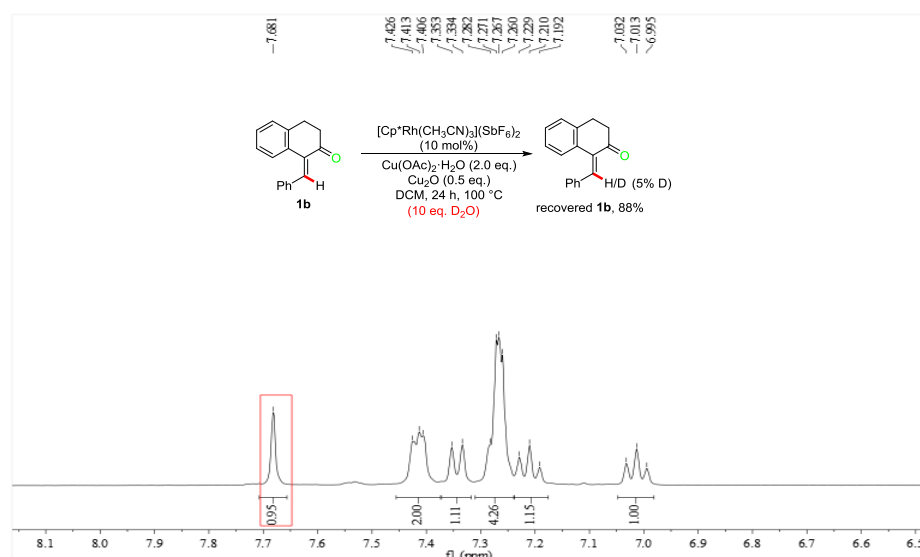
The reaction of D_6 -1b with 2a: A suspension of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_3](\text{SbF}_6)_2$ (16.6 mg, 10 mol %), D_6 -1b (48.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), 2a (42.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (79.2 mg, 0.4 mmol) and Cu_2O (14.1 mg, 0.1 mmol) in DCM (1 mL) was sealed with a teflon-coated screw cap and the reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 24 h. At the end of the reaction, the mixture was filtered through a celite pad and washed with DCM. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the

residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel column (PE/DCM = 10:1, v/v) to provide 45 mg of *D_m*-**3b** as a white solid. The ¹H-NMR analysis of the product *D_m*-**3b** showed no benzylic deuterium, indicating that this reaction underwent a vinylic C(sp²)-H bond cleavage process.



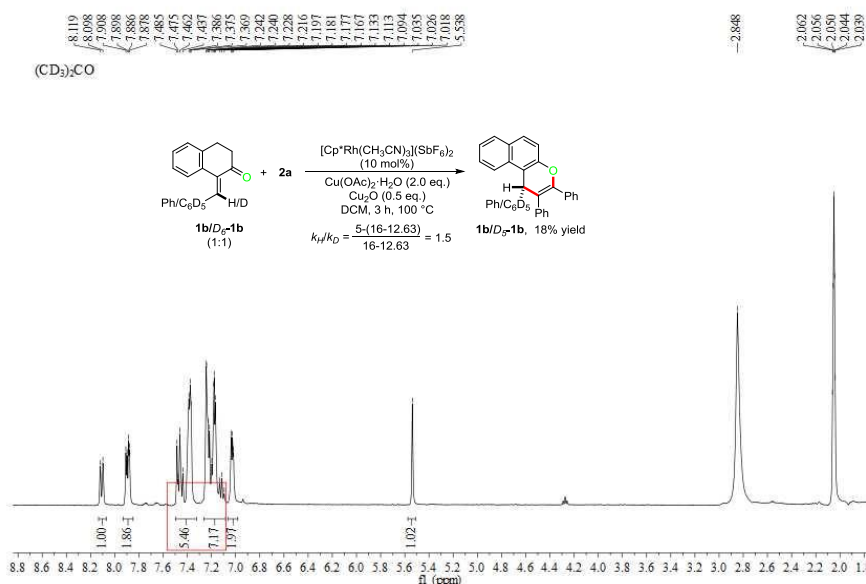
2. H/D exchange experiment

H/D exchange in the reaction of **1b** with D₂O (10 equiv.) without **2a**: A solution of [Cp*Rh(CH₃CN)₃](SbF₆)₂ (16.6 mg, 10 mol %), **1b** (46.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (79.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), Cu₂O (14.1 mg, 0.1 mmol) and D₂O (2 mmol, 40 μL) in DCM was sealed with a teflon-coated screw cap and the reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 24 h. At the end of the reaction, the mixture was filtered through a celite pad and washed with DCM. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel column (PE/EA) to provide recovered **1b** (41.4 mg, 88%) as an off-white solid. The D-incorporation in recovered **1b** was estimated by ¹H NMR spectroscopy and 5% of vinylic-H was deuterated, which indicated that the vinylic C-H bond cleavage is irreversible.



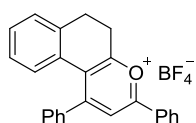
3. KIE using *D*₆-**1b** and **1b** as substrates

A suspension of [Cp*Rh(CH₃CN)₃](SbF₆)₂ (16.6 mg, 10 mol %), **1b** (23.4 mg, 0.1 mmol), *D*₆-**1b** (24.0 mg, 0.1 mmol), **2a** (42.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (79.2 mg, 0.4 mmol) and Cu₂O (14.1 mg, 0.1 mmol) in DCM (1 mL) was sealed with a teflon-coated screw cap and the reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 3 h. At the end of the reaction, the mixture was filtered through a celite pad and washed with DCM. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel column (PE/DCM = 10:1, v/v) to provide a mixture of **3b** and *D*₅-**3b** in 18% yield as a white solid. The ratio of **3b** and *D*₅-**3b** was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy to give intermolecular kinetic isotopic effect (*KIE*) $k_H/k_D = 1.5$. This result revealed that the vinylic C–H activation is not involved in the rate-determining step.



4. Control experiments to verify the reaction intermediate

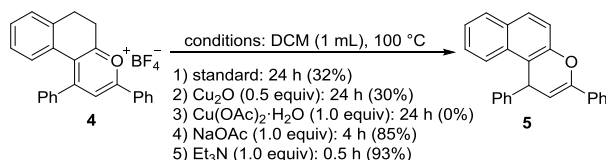
Synthesis of pyrylium tetrafluoroborate 4: According to a reported procedure⁴, chalcone (416 mg, 2 mmol) was heated to its melting point on a steam-bath. β -Tetralone (2.34 g, 16 mmol) was added followed by the addition of BF₃·Et₂O (2 mL) with stirring. The mixture was heated to 100 °C and stirred continued for 12 h. After cooled down to room temperature, an excess amount of Et₂O was added to give the orange pyrylium tetrafluoroborate **4** (369 mg, 55%. *Note: 4 slowly decomposes when stored under ambient conditions.*).



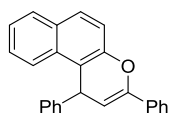
1,3-Diphenyl-5,6-dihydrobenzo[f]chromen-4-ium tetrafluoroborate (4): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.45 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t, J =

7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.63 (m, 8H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 26.8, 29.7, 121.1, 126.8, 127.3, 128.3, 128.6, 128.8, 128.87, 128.9, 129.0, 129.8, 130.0, 130.6, 132.5, 135.1, 135.7, 137.2, 164.8, 169.2, 180.0$ ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -153.1$ ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$): calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$ 335.1430, found 335.1423.

Conversion of pyrylium tetrafluoroborate **4** into 1,3-diphenyl-1*H*-benzo[*f*]chromene **5**:



A Schlenk tube containing pyrylium tetrafluoroborate **4** (0.2 mmol), 1) standard conditions: $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_3](\text{SbF}_6)_2$ (16.6 mg, 10 mol %), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (79.2 mg, 0.4 mmol) and Cu_2O (14.1 mg, 0.1 mmol), or a base [2) Cu_2O (14.1 mg, 0.1 mmol); 3) $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol); 4) NaOAc (8.2 mg, 0.2 mmol); and 5) Et_3N (28 μL , 0.2 mmol), respectively], and DCM (1 mL) was sealed with a teflon-coated screw cap and the reaction was stirred at 100 °C for the indicated time (standard conditions, Cu_2O or $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$: 24 h; NaOAc : 4 h; and Et_3N : 0.5 h, respectively). After cooled down to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with DCM, filtered through a celite pad and washed with DCM. The filtrate was then concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel column (PE/DCM = 10/1, v/v) to afford **5** as a white solid in the indicated yield (standard conditions: 32%; Cu_2O : 30%; $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$: 0%; NaOAc : 85%; and Et_3N : 93 %, respectively).

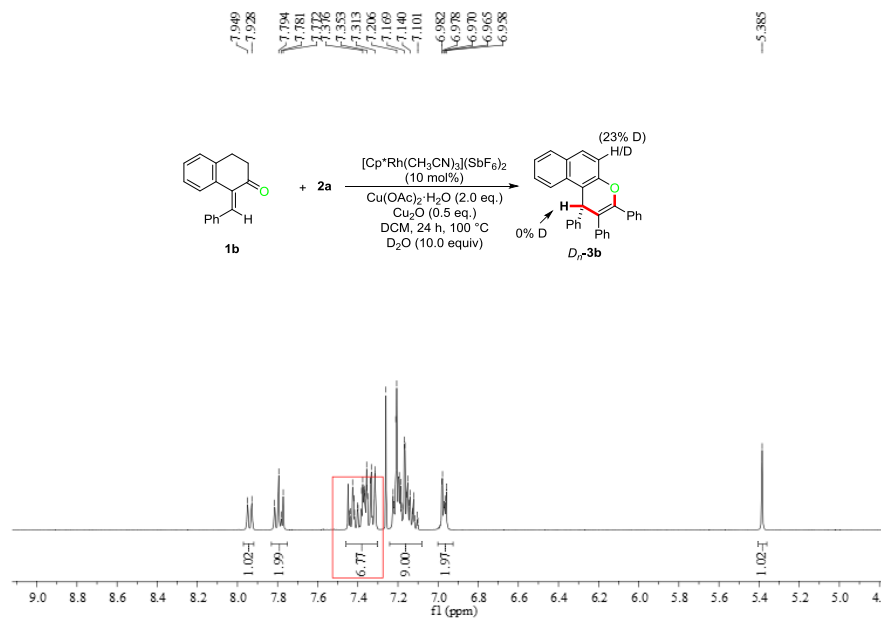


1,3-Diphenyl-1*H*-benzo[*f*]chromene (5**):** ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 5.37$ (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.81 (t, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.43 (m, 10H), 7.73-7.75 (m, 3H), 7.80 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 39.3, 102.3, 114.4, 118.2, 123.8, 124.2, 124.8, 126.5, 126.7, 127.8, 129.1, 131.2, 131.9, 134.1, 146.5, 146.8, 149.7$ ppm.

5. The reaction of **1b** with **2a** in the presence of D_2O :

A suspension of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_3](\text{SbF}_6)_2$ (16.6 mg, 10 mol %), **1b** (47.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (79.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), Cu_2O (14.1 mg, 0.1 mmol) and D_2O (2 mmol, 40 μL) in DCM (1 mL) was sealed with a teflon-coated screw cap and the reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 24 h. At the end of the reaction, the mixture was filtered through a celite pad and washed with DCM. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash

chromatography on silica gel column (PE/DCM = 10:1, v/v) to provide 25 mg of **D_n-3b** as a white solid. The ¹H NMR analysis of the product **D_n-3b** showed no benzylic deuterium, indicating that the formation of the benzylic C–H bond might not involve a protonation process.

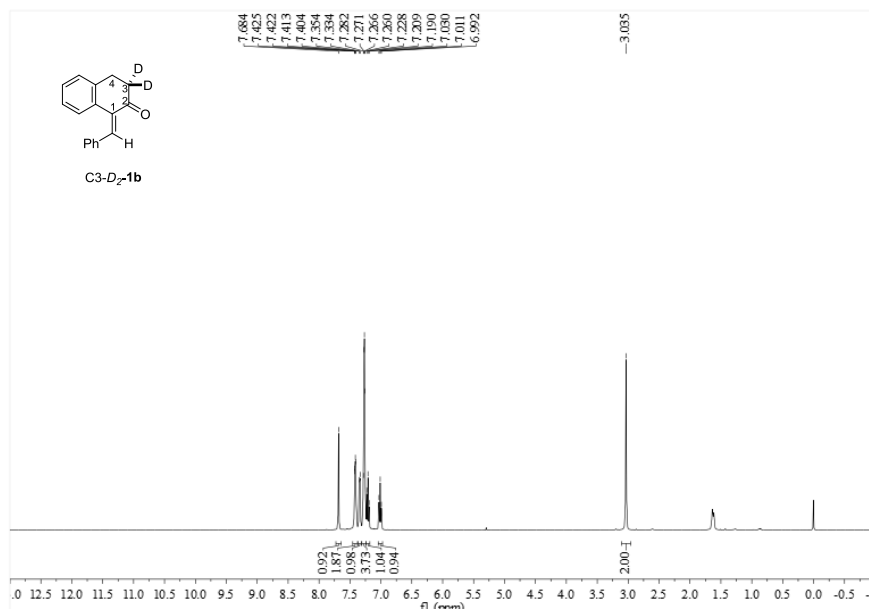


6. The benzylic H scrambling reaction of **3b** with D₂O

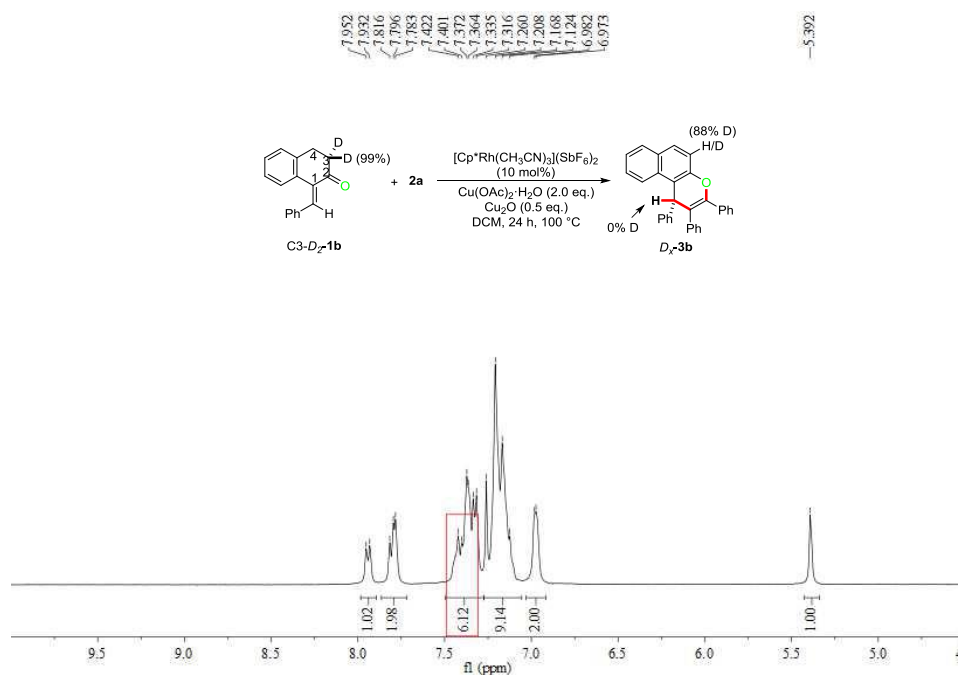
A suspension of [Cp*Rh(CH₃CN)₃](SbF₆)₂ (16.6 mg, 10 mol %), **3b** (82.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (79.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), Cu₂O (14.1 mg, 0.1 mmol) and D₂O (2 mmol, 40 μL) in DCM (1 mL) was sealed with a teflon-coated screw cap and the reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 24 h. At the end of the reaction, the mixture was filtered through a celite pad and washed with DCM. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel column (PE/DCM = 5:1, v/v) to provide 80 mg of recovered **3b** as a white solid. The ¹H NMR analysis of recovered **3b** showed no benzylic deuterium, indicating that the benzylic H in **3b** could not undergo H/D exchange with D₂O.

7. The reaction of C3-D₂-**1b** with **2a**

Synthesis of C3-D₂-1b:⁶ To a solution of 10 mol % of pyrrolidine (7.1 mg, 0.1 mmol) in 1.5 mL of D₂O with 1.5 mL anhydrous dioxane as cosolvent was added **1b** (234 mg, 1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 12 h. After cooled down to room temperature, water (10 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with EA (2 × 10 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (5 mL) and brine (5 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford C3-D₂-**1b** in 90% yield (>99% D). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.02 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H) ppm.

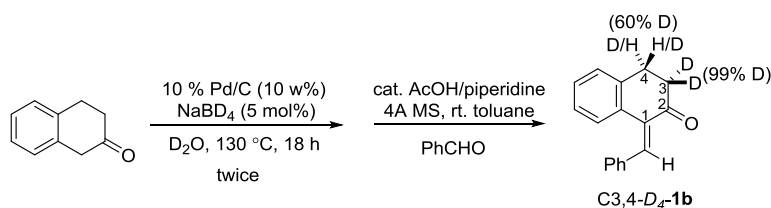


The reaction of C3-*D*₂-1b with 2a under the optimal conditions : A suspension of [Cp*Rh(CH₃CN)₃](SbF₆)₂ (16.6 mg, 10 mol %), C3-*D*₂-1b (47.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (79.2 mg, 0.4 mmol) and Cu₂O (14.1 mg, 0.1 mmol) in DCM (1 mL) was sealed with a teflon-coated screw cap and the reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 24 h. At the end of the reaction, the mixture was filtered through a celite pad and washed with DCM. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel column (PE/DCM = 10:1, v/v) to provide 40 mg of *D_x*-**3b** as a white solid. The ¹H NMR analysis of the product *D_x*-**3b** showed no benzylic deuterium, indicating that the benzylic H did not come from that of C3-position.

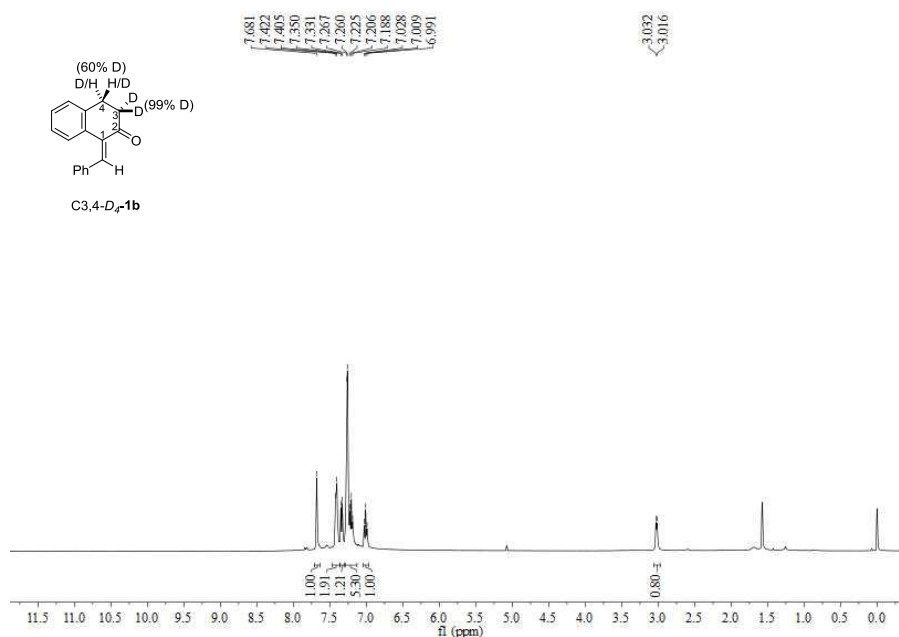


8. The reaction of C3,4-*D*₄-1b with 2a

Synthesis of C3,4-*D*₄-1b:

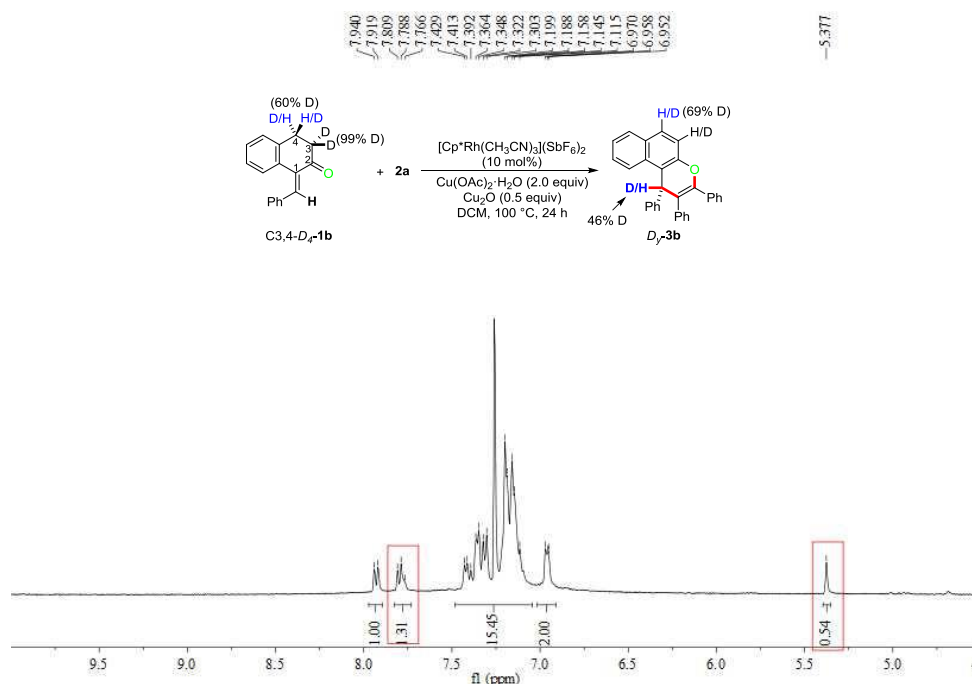


A suspension of 10 % Pd/C (29.2 mg, 10 wt% of the ketone), NaBD₄ (4.2 mg, 5 mol %), 3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1*H*)-one (292 mg, 2 mmol) in D₂O (3 mL) was sealed with a teflon-coated screw cap and the reaction was stirred at 130 °C for 18 h in N₂. After cooled down to room temperature, water (10 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with EA (2 × 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and filtered and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford 155 mg of *D*_n-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1*H*)-one which was used for the next step without further purification (Note: The above H/D exchange experiment of 3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1*H*)-one with D₂O was conducted for twice.).⁷ Following the general procedure by using *D*_n-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1*H*)-one with benzaldehyde to provide C3,4-*D*₄-1b as an off-white solid in 72% yield, (C4-position, 60% D; C3-position, >99% D). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.02 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 0.8H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.27 (m, 5H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H) ppm.



The reaction of C3,4-*D*₄-1b with 2a under the optimal conditions : A suspension of [Cp*Rh(CH₃CN)₃](SbF₆)₂ (16.6 mg, 10 mol %), C3,4-*D*₄-1b (48 mg, 0.2 mmol), 2a (42.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (79.2 mg, 0.4 mmol) and Cu₂O (14.1 mg, 0.1 mmol) in DCM (1 mL) was

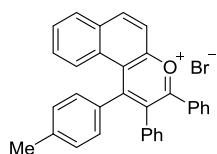
sealed with a teflon-coated screw cap and the reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 24 h. At the end of the reaction, the mixture was filtered through a celite pad and washed with DCM. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel column (PE/DCM = 10:1, v/v) to provide 36 mg of **D_y-3b** as a white solid. The ¹H NMR analysis of the product **D_y-3b** showed 46% benzylic deuterium, indicating that it was the C4-H in **1b** transferred to the benzylic position in **3b**.



V. Conversion of **3** into Cationic *O*-Containing PHAs

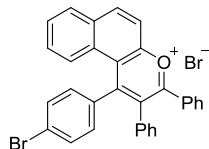
1. Oxidation of **3** into pyrylium salt **6** by Br₂⁸

A suspension of **3** (0.2 mmol) in AcOH (2 mL) stirred at 100 °C was added a solution of Br₂ (0.24 mmol) in AcOH (1 mL) dropwise. The mixture was stirred continuously at the same temperature for 1h. At the end of the reaction, the excess Br₂ was blown off by N₂ and a large amount of Et₂O was added into the resulted mixture. An orange solid precipitated out, which was collected and dried under reduced pressure to provide **6**.



2,3-Diphenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*f*]chromen-4-ium bromide (6a**):** 97% yield, an orange solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.38 (s, 3H), 7.13-7.28 (m, 9H), 7.36-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz,

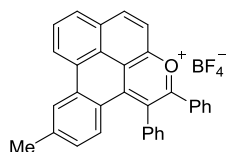
1H), 8.64 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 21.7, 118.1, 123.8, 128.0, 128.3, 128.8, 128.9, 129.09, 129.12, 129.8, 130.1, 130.3, 130.4, 131.0, 131.4, 131.7, 131.9, 133.2, 133.5, 133.8, 134.8, 140.7, 144.6, 161.0, 169.0, 169.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}-\text{Br}]^+$ 423.1743, found 423.1745.



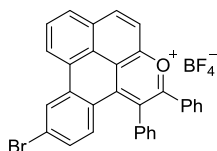
1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2,3-diphenylbenzo[f]chromen-4-ium bromide (6e): 95% yield, an orange solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3CN): $\delta = 7.14$ -7.19 (m, 4H), 7.30 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.71-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.85 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, $J = 10.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.86 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_3CN): $\delta = 118.5$, 124.0, 125.1, 128.4, 129.0, 129.7, 130.0, 130.1, 130.4, 131.0, 131.2, 131.3, 131.9, 132.2, 132.3, 132.8, 133.6, 134.0, 135.0, 135.8, 136.6, 145.8, 161.8, 168.0, 170.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrO}$ $[\text{M}-\text{Br}]^+$ 487.0692, found 487.0691.

2. Photooxidation of 6 into 7⁸

A stirring solution of pyrylium salt **6** (0.05 mmol) and 50 w% HBF_4 (0.05 mmol) in AcOH (50 mL) was irradiated at 254 nm wavelength in air for 24 hours at room temperature and an orange solid precipitated out gradually. At the end of the reaction, the solid was collected and dried under reduced pressure to provide the π -extended pyrylium salt **7**.



10-Methyl-1,2-diphenylphenanthro[9,10,1-def]chromen-3-ium tetrafluoroborate (7a): 24.9 mg, 98% yield, an orange solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$): $\delta = 2.66$ (s, 3H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.61 (m, 10H), 7.71 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.60 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.80 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 9.04 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 9.25 (s, 1H), 9.41 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 9.77 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$): $\delta = 21.9$, 116.5, 118.9, 119.2, 123.9, 125.4, 128.0, 128.4, 128.6, 128.9, 129.1, 129.6, 129.8, 130.1, 130.4, 130.6, 130.7, 131.4, 131.8, 133.9, 135.6, 136.8, 143.8, 147.1, 148.4, 159.8, 165.9 ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$): $\delta = -148.2$ ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$ 421.1587, found 421.1565.

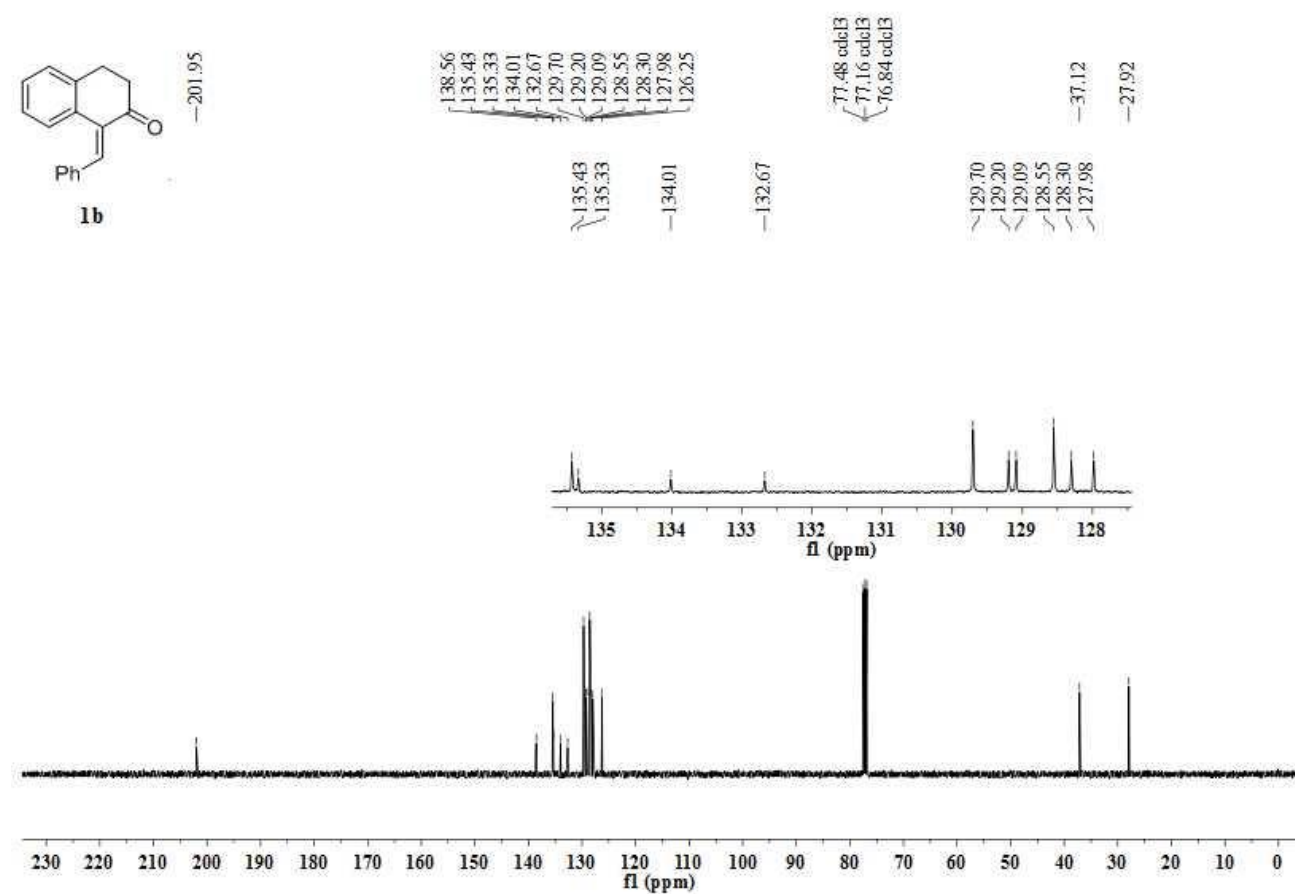
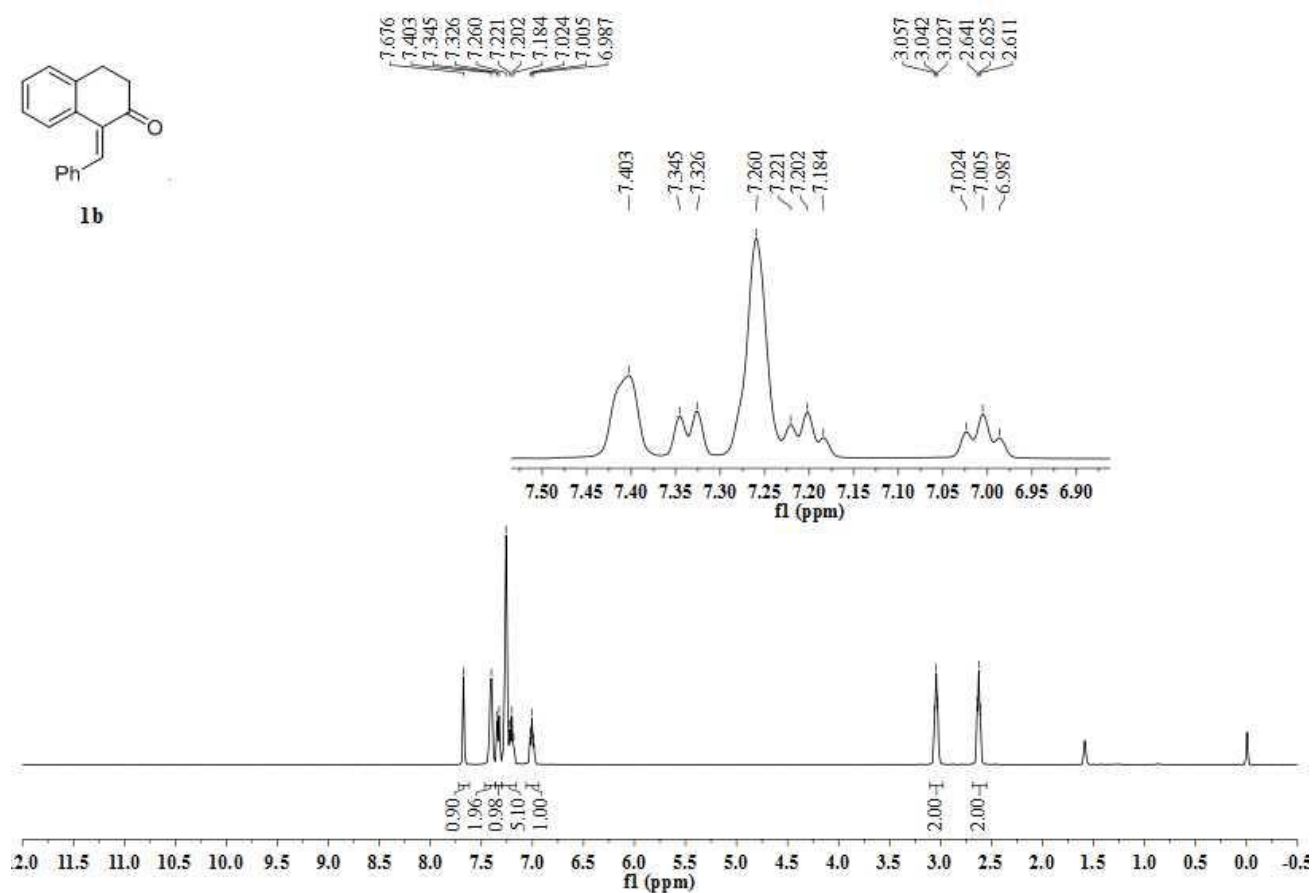


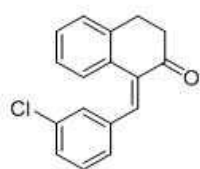
10-Bromo-1,2-diphenylphenanthro[9,10,1-*def*]chromen-3-ium tetrafluoroborate (7e): 27.7 mg, 97% yield, an orange solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3CN): δ = 7.44-7.67 (m, 11H), 7.73 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.89 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 9.27 (s, 1H), 9.43 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_3CN): δ = 119.7, 120.7, 126.2, 129.0, 129.1, 129.5, 129.7, 130.1, 130.4, 131.0, 131.3, 131.5, 131.55, 131.63, 131.7, 132.1, 132.6, 132.8, 133.6, 135.5, 136.2, 139.4, 145.4, 150.0, 161.3, 167.8 ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CD_3CN): δ = -152.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$): calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrO}$ $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$ 485.0536, found 485.0539.

VI. References

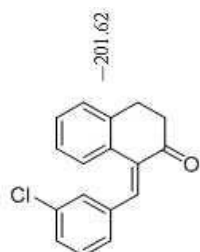
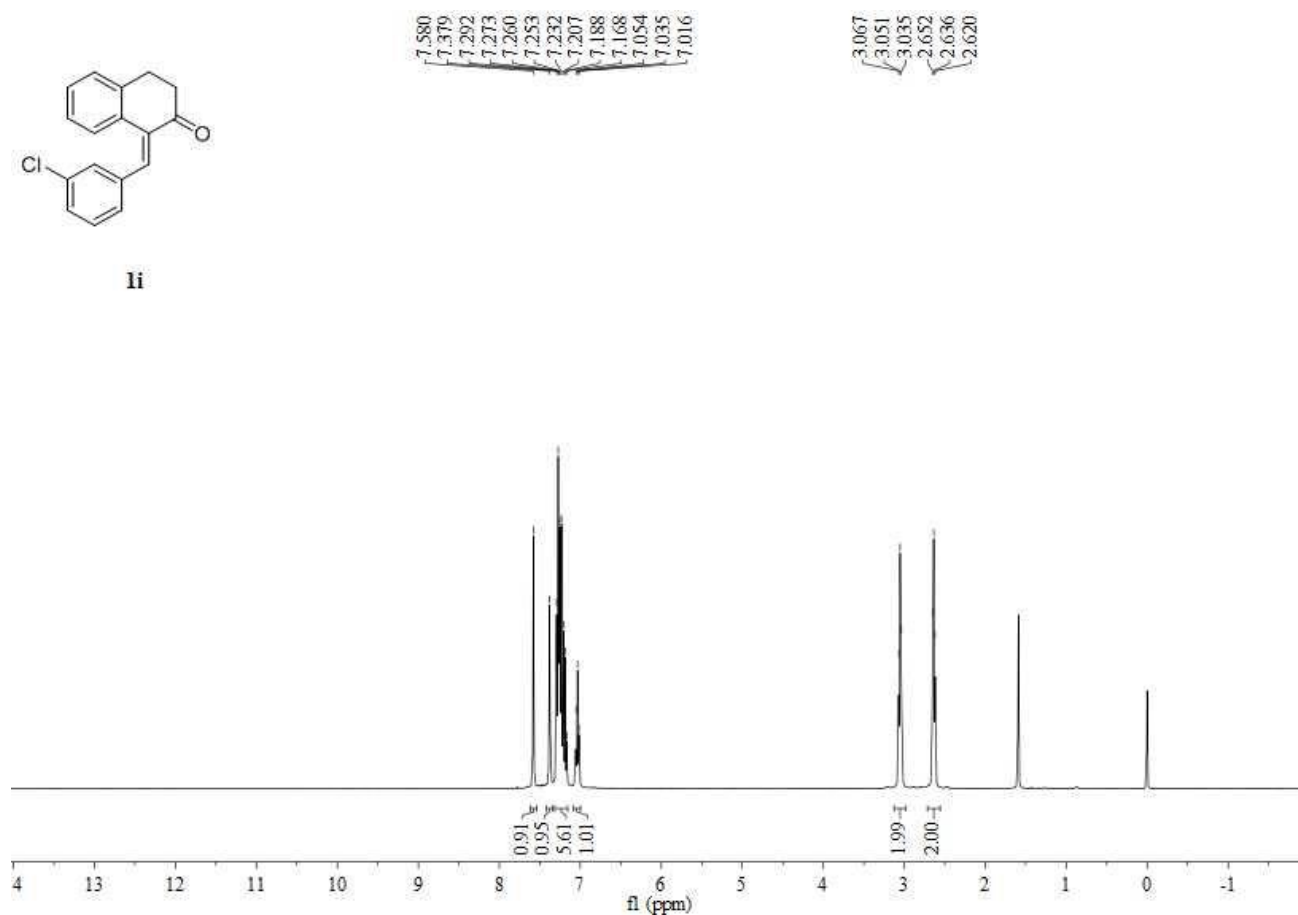
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VII. Copies of ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{19}F NMR Spectra

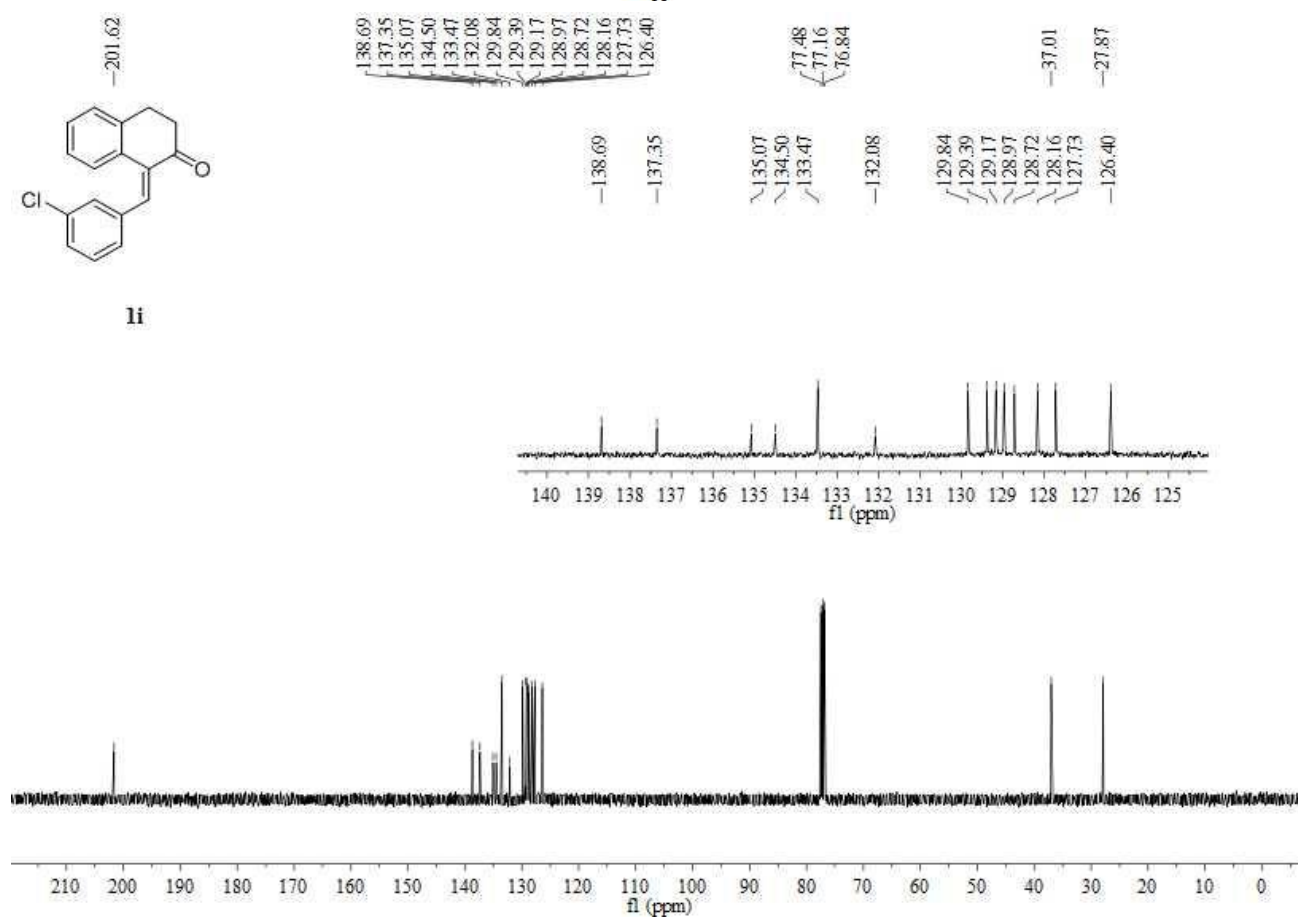


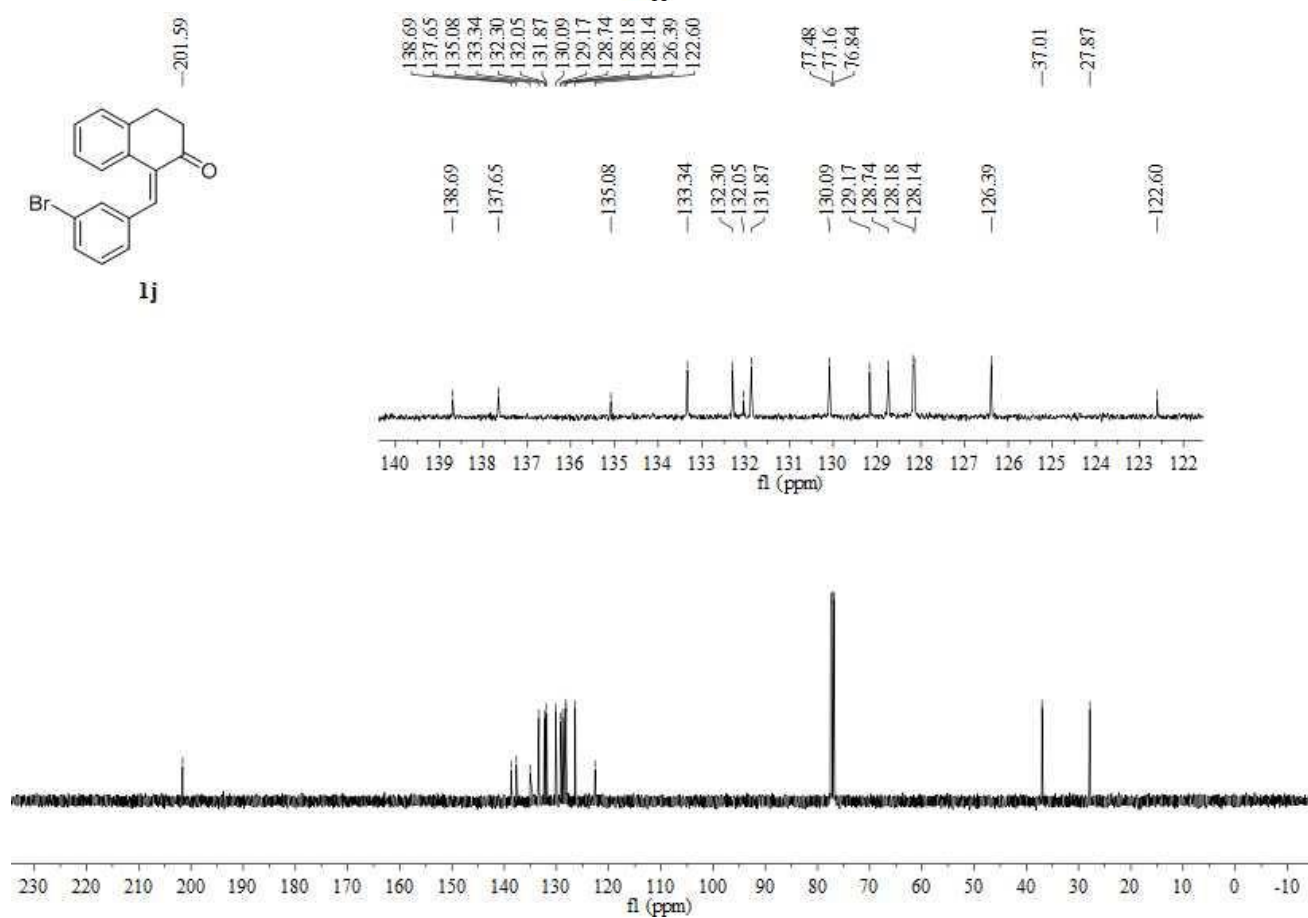
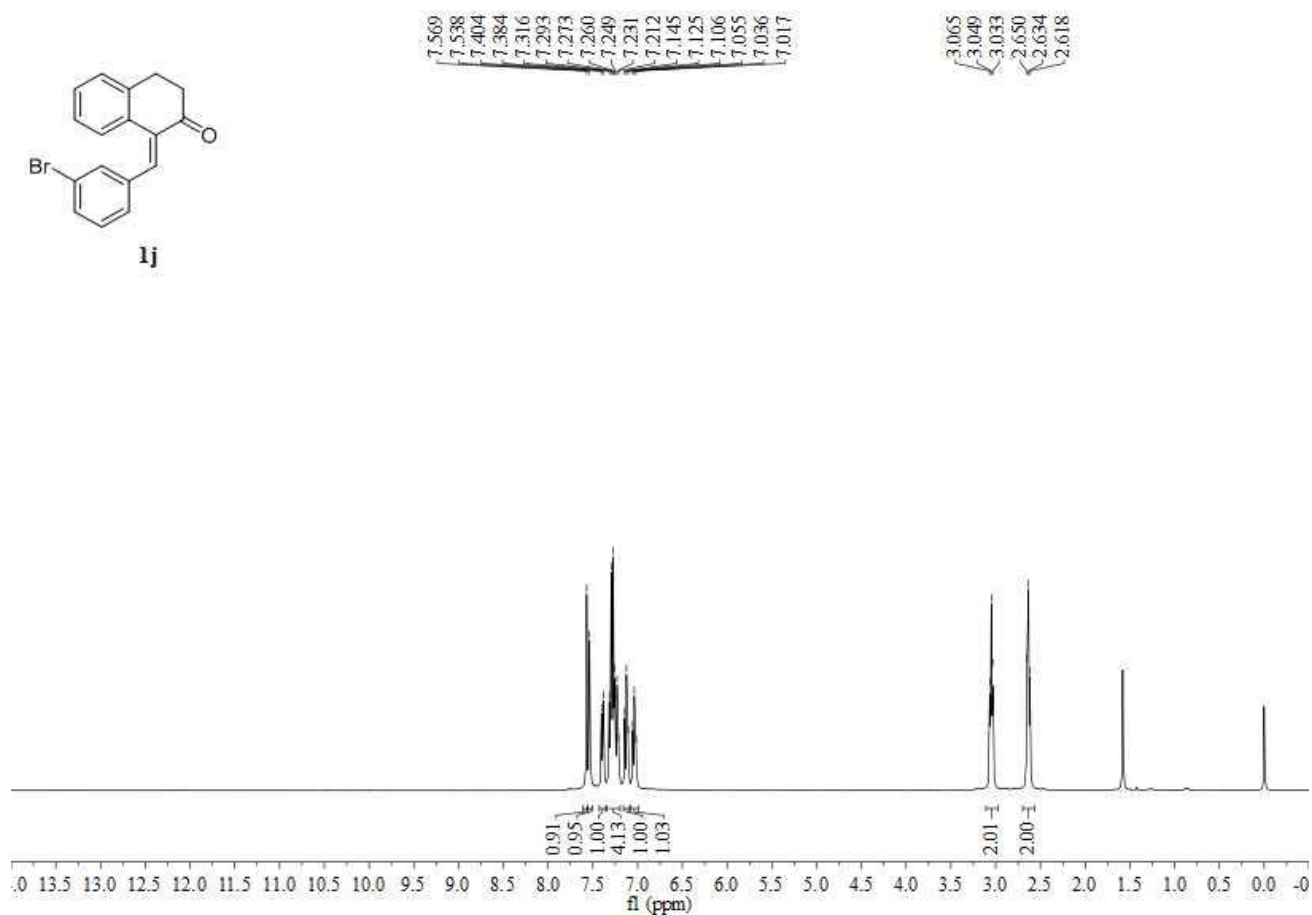


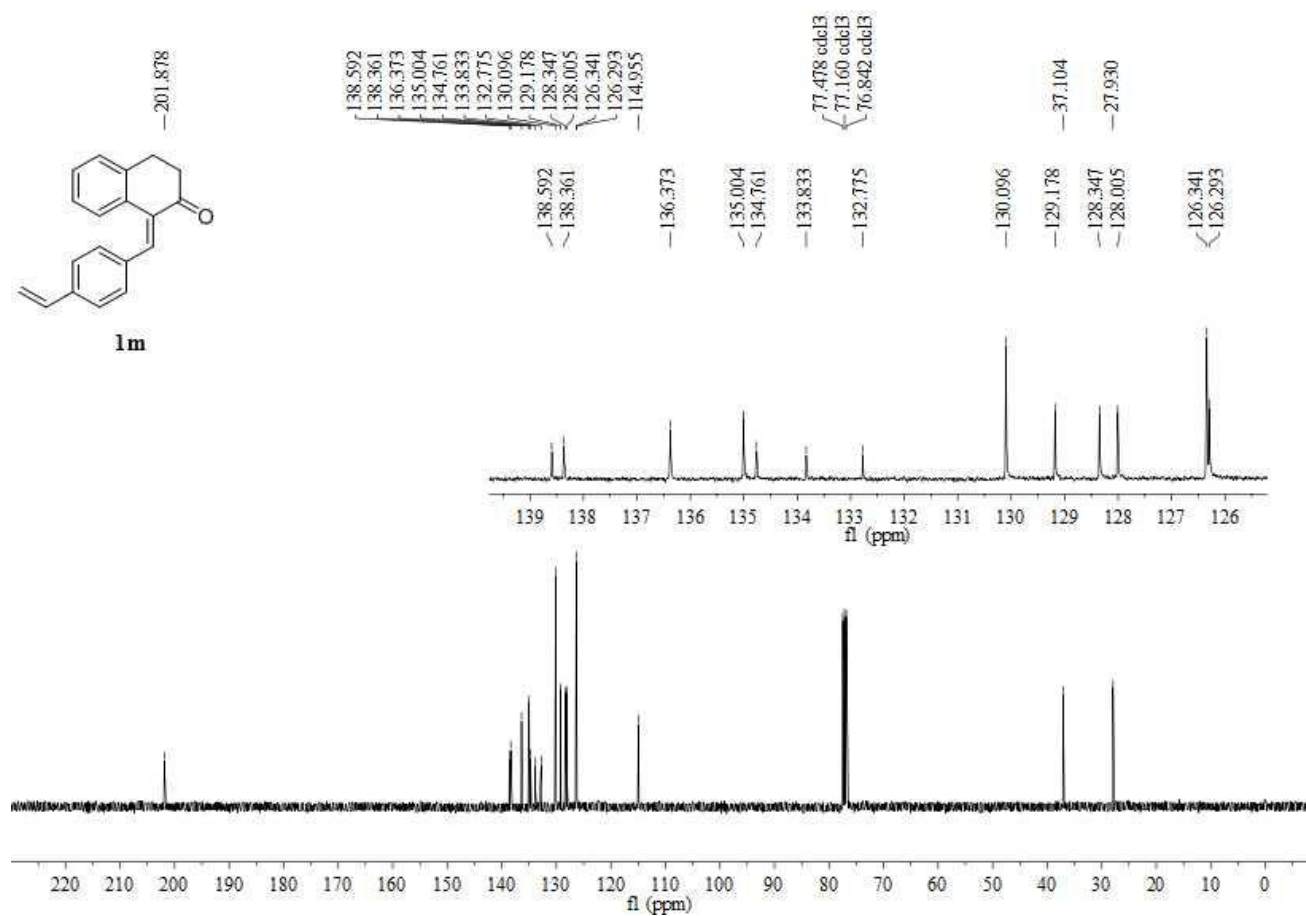
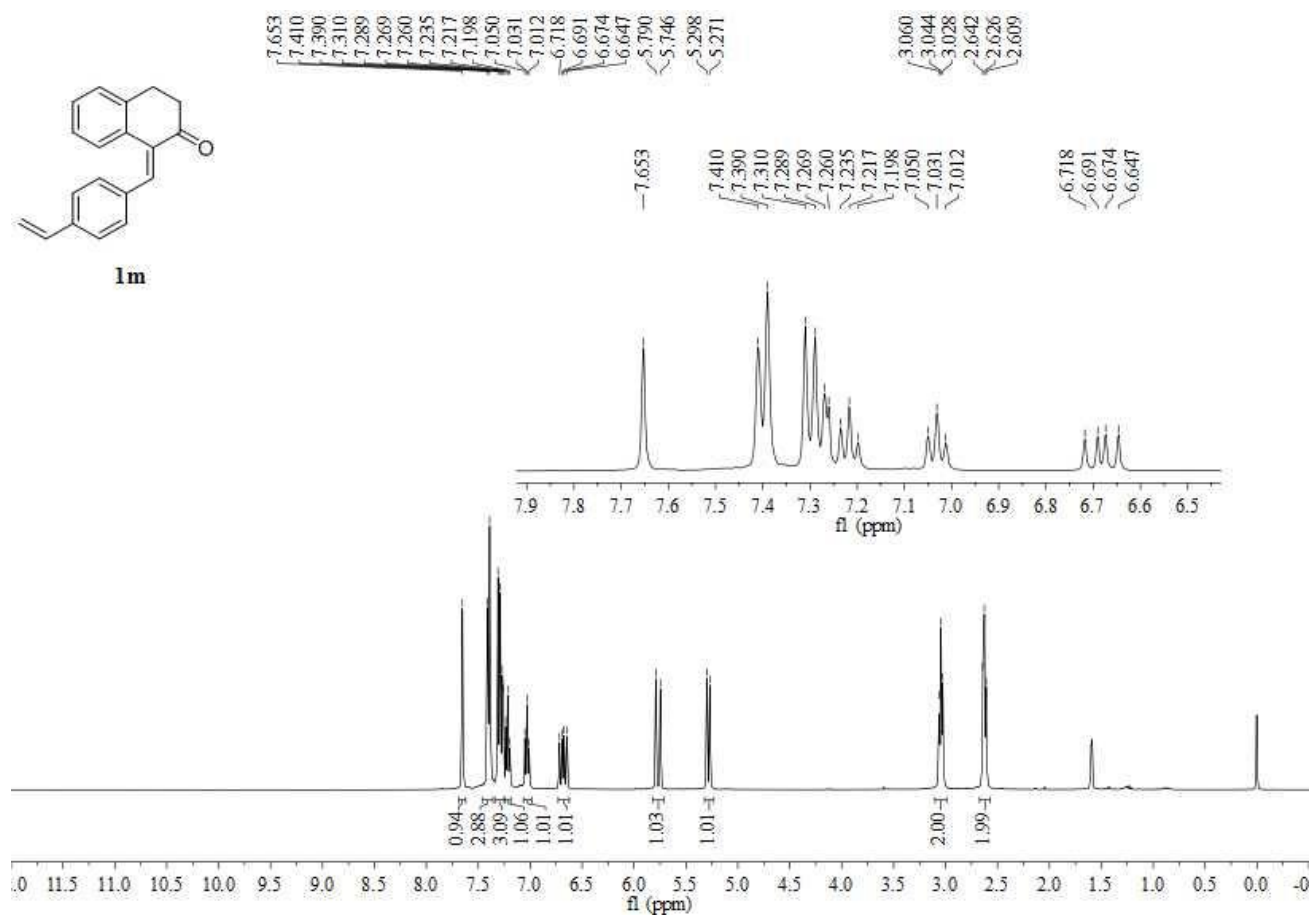
1i

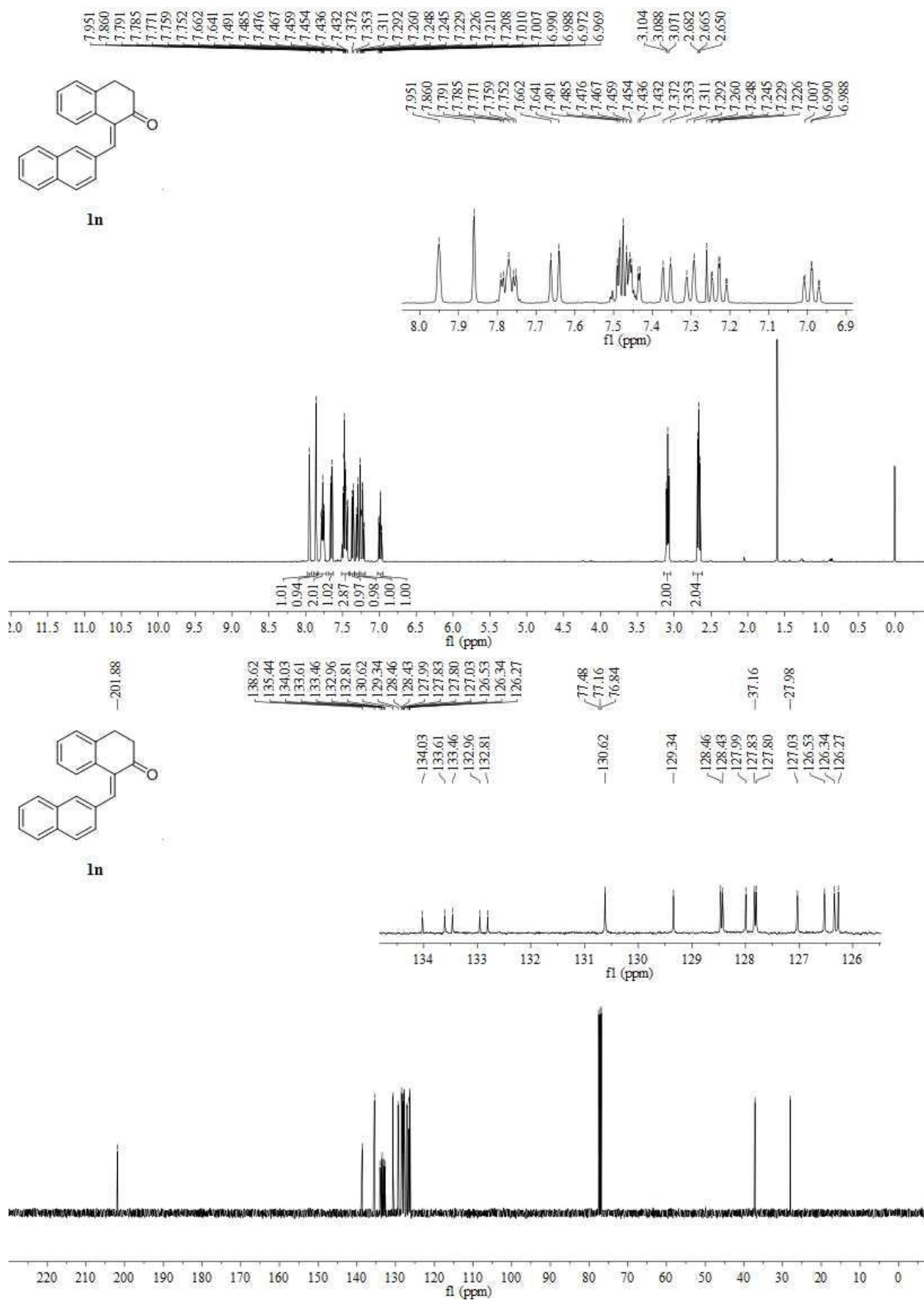


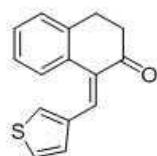
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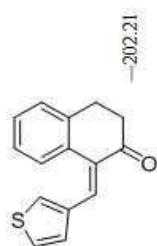
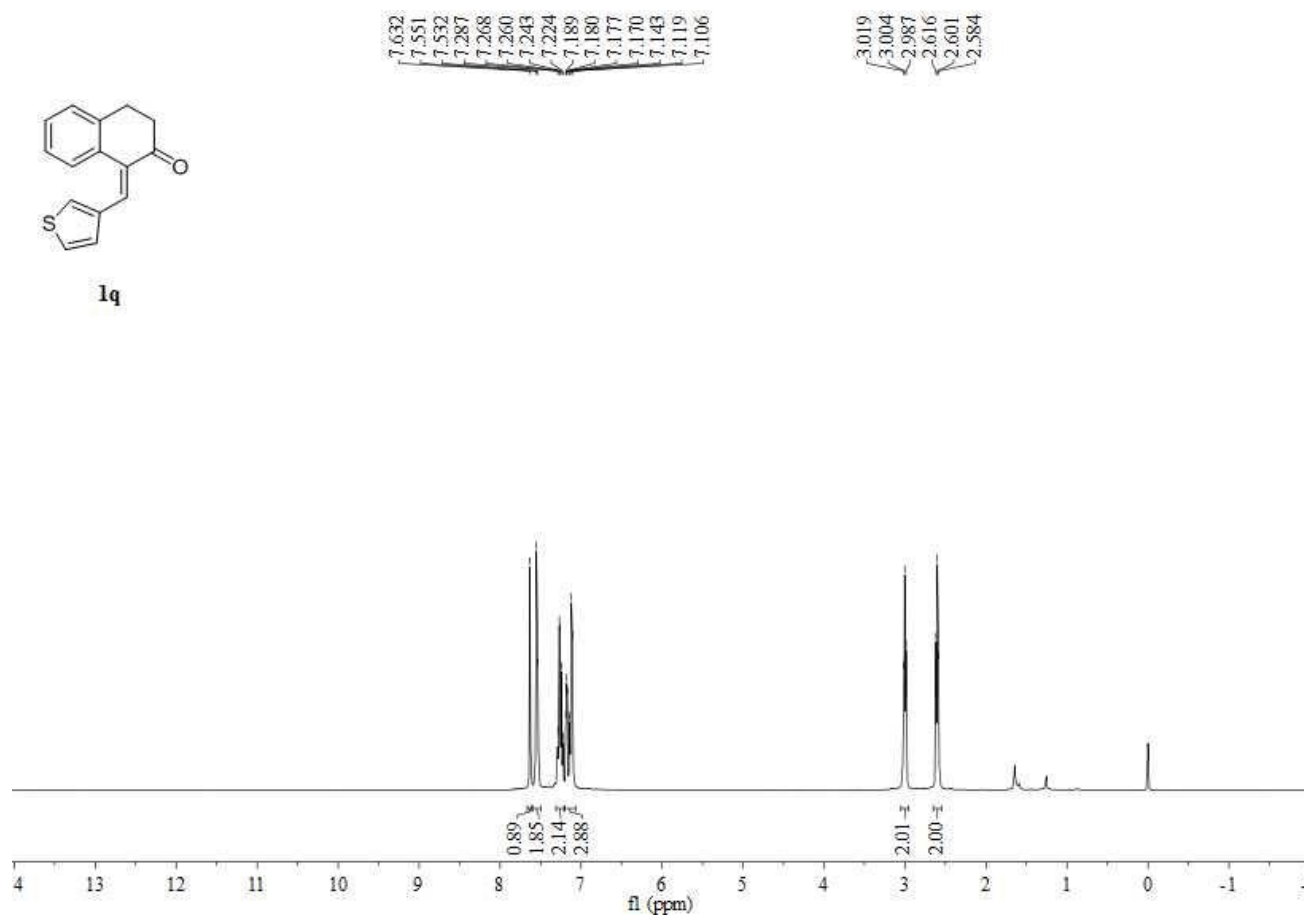




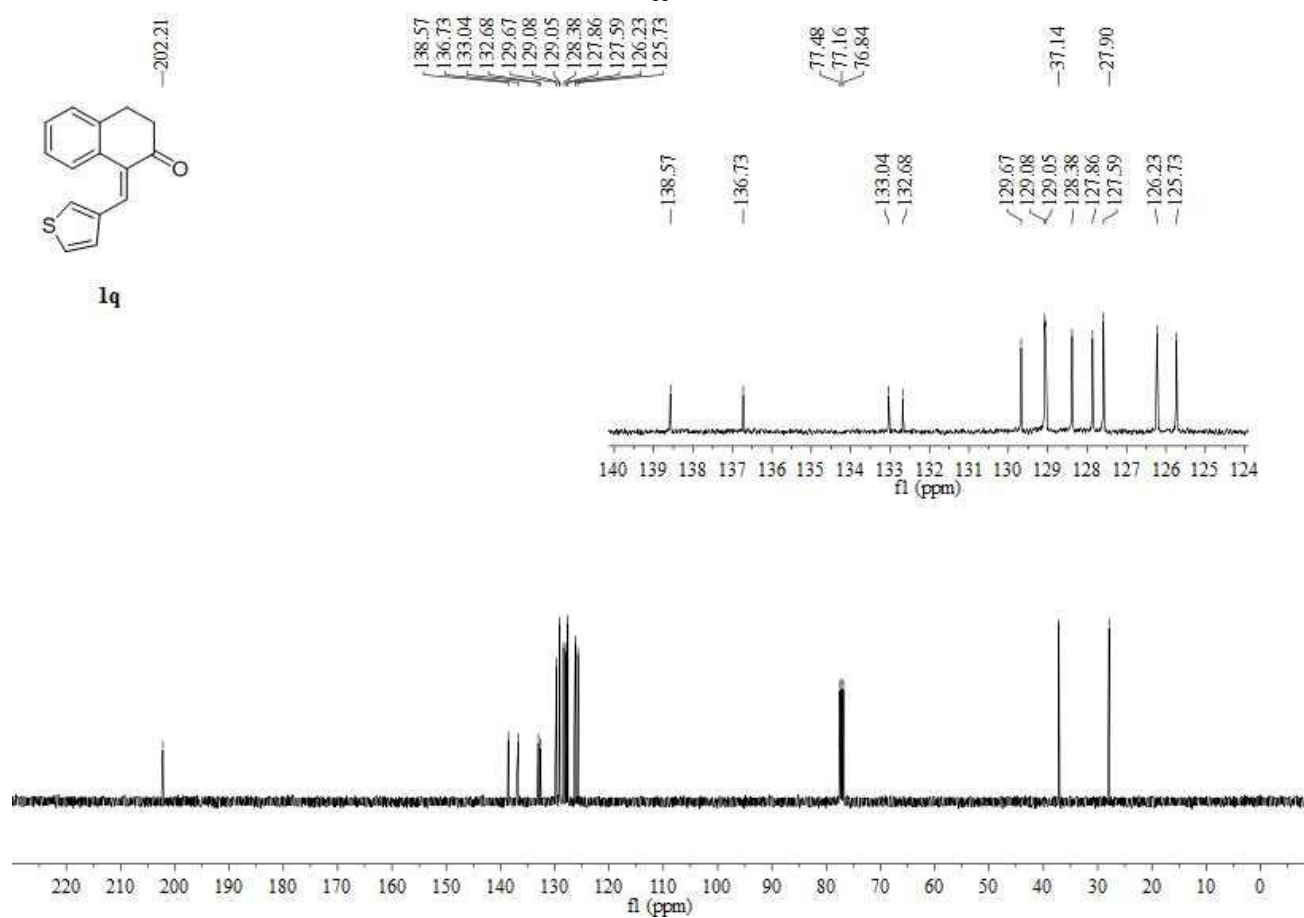


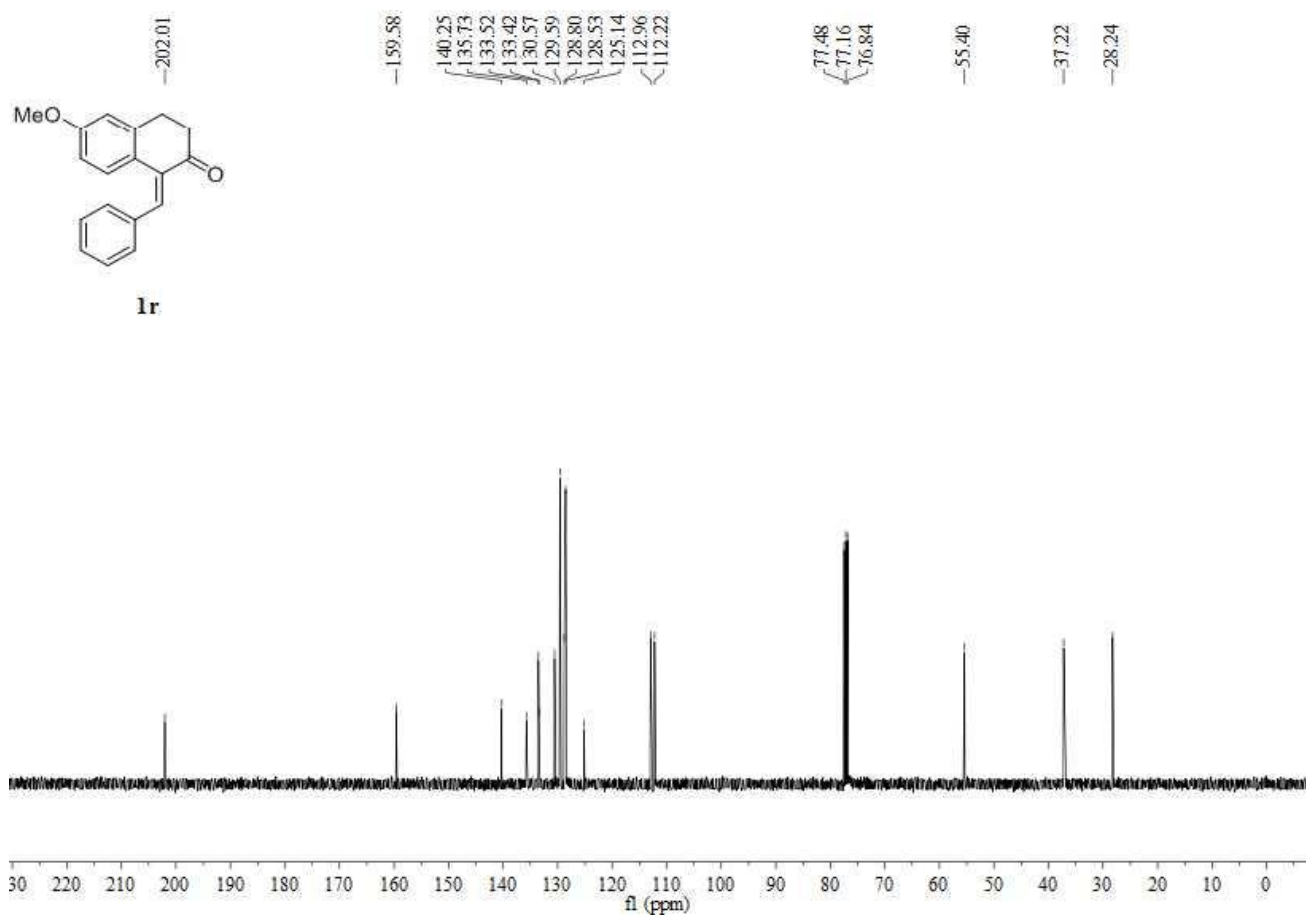
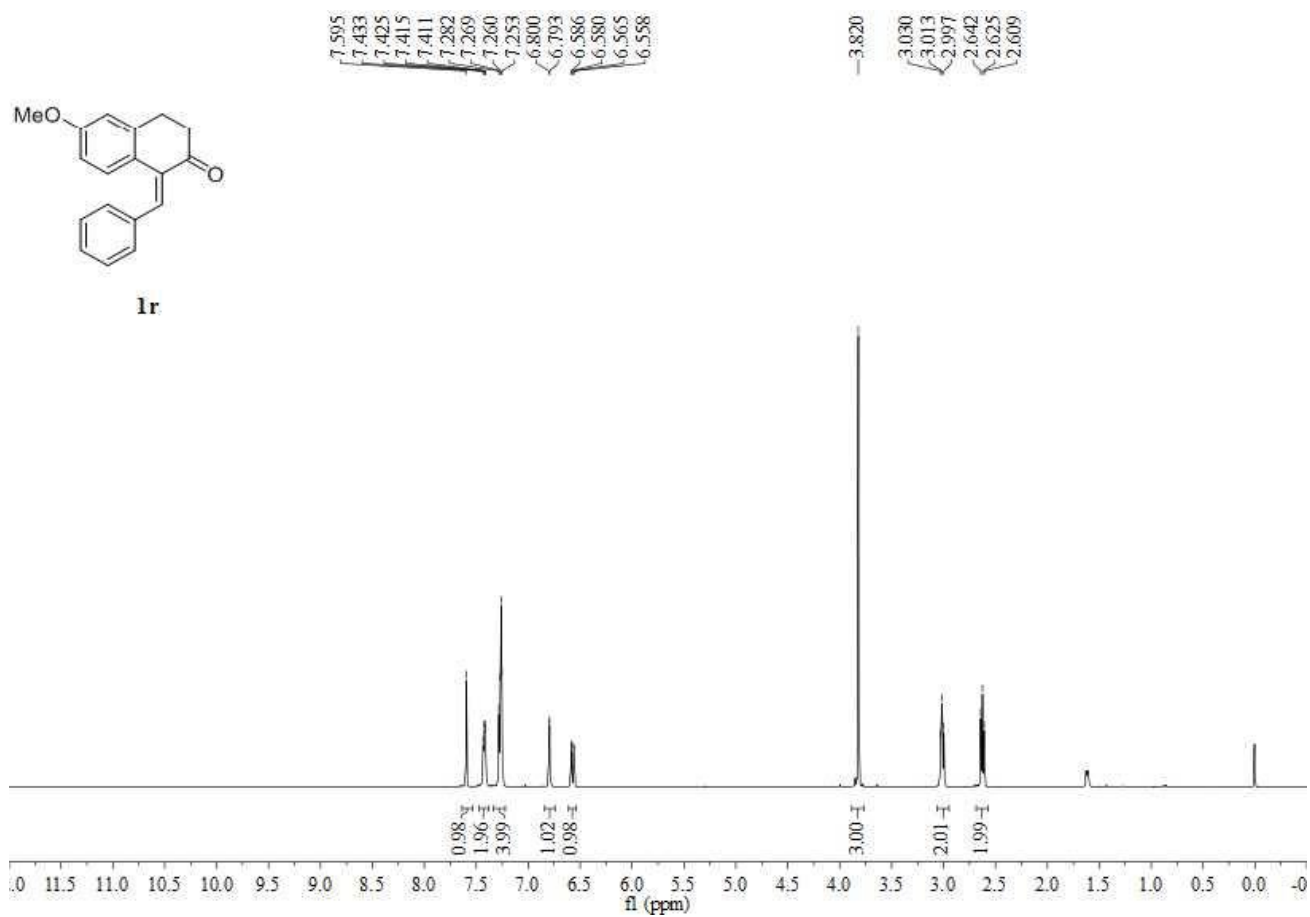


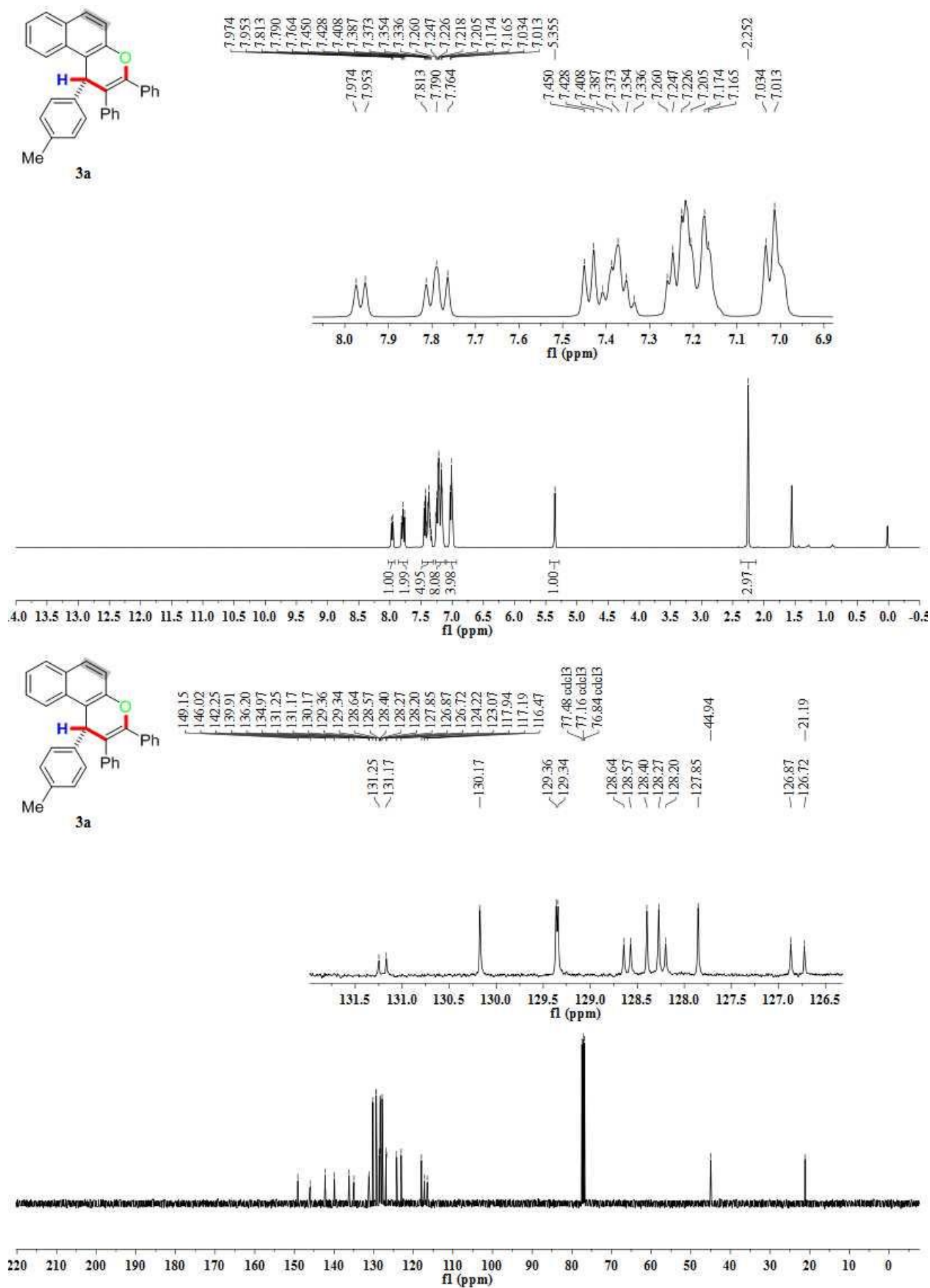
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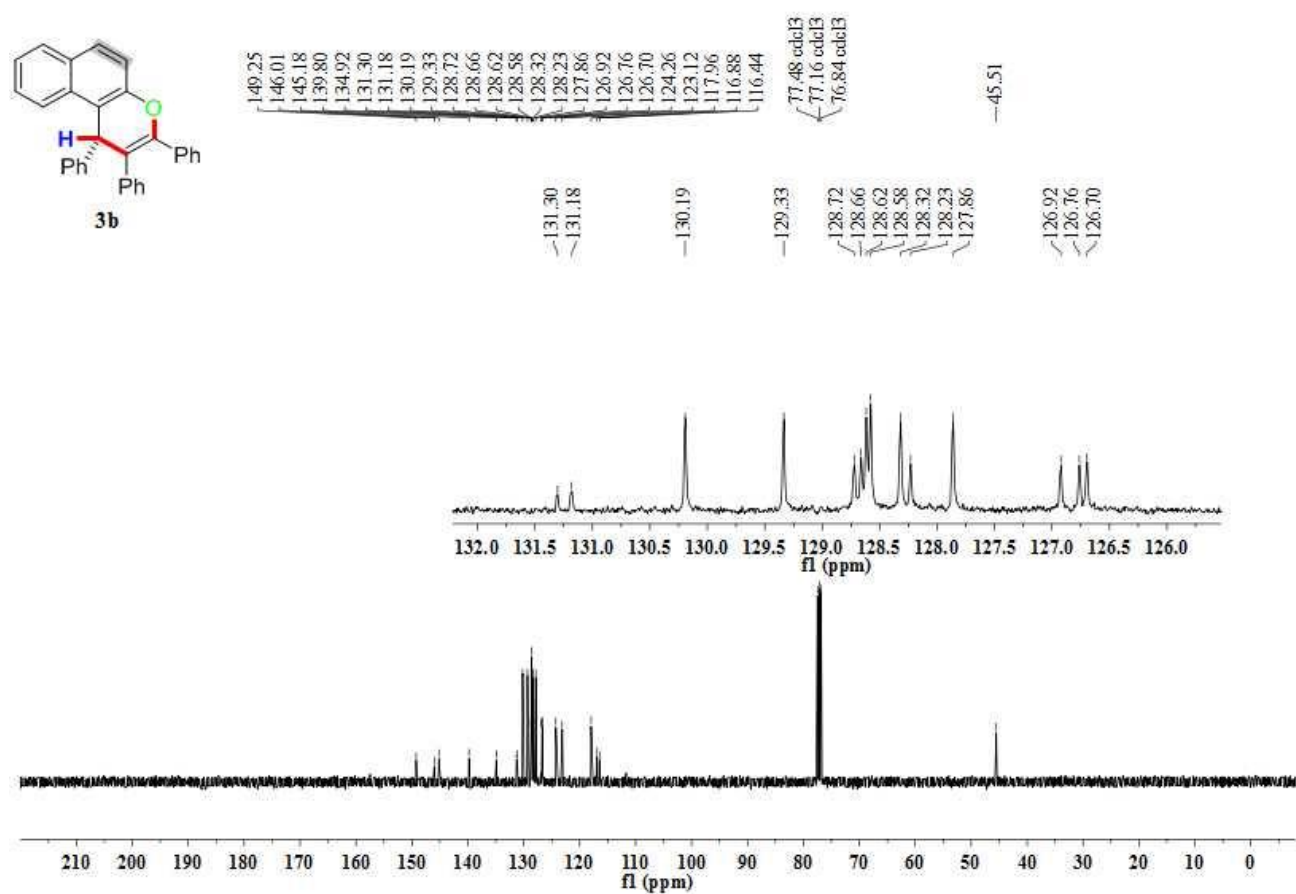
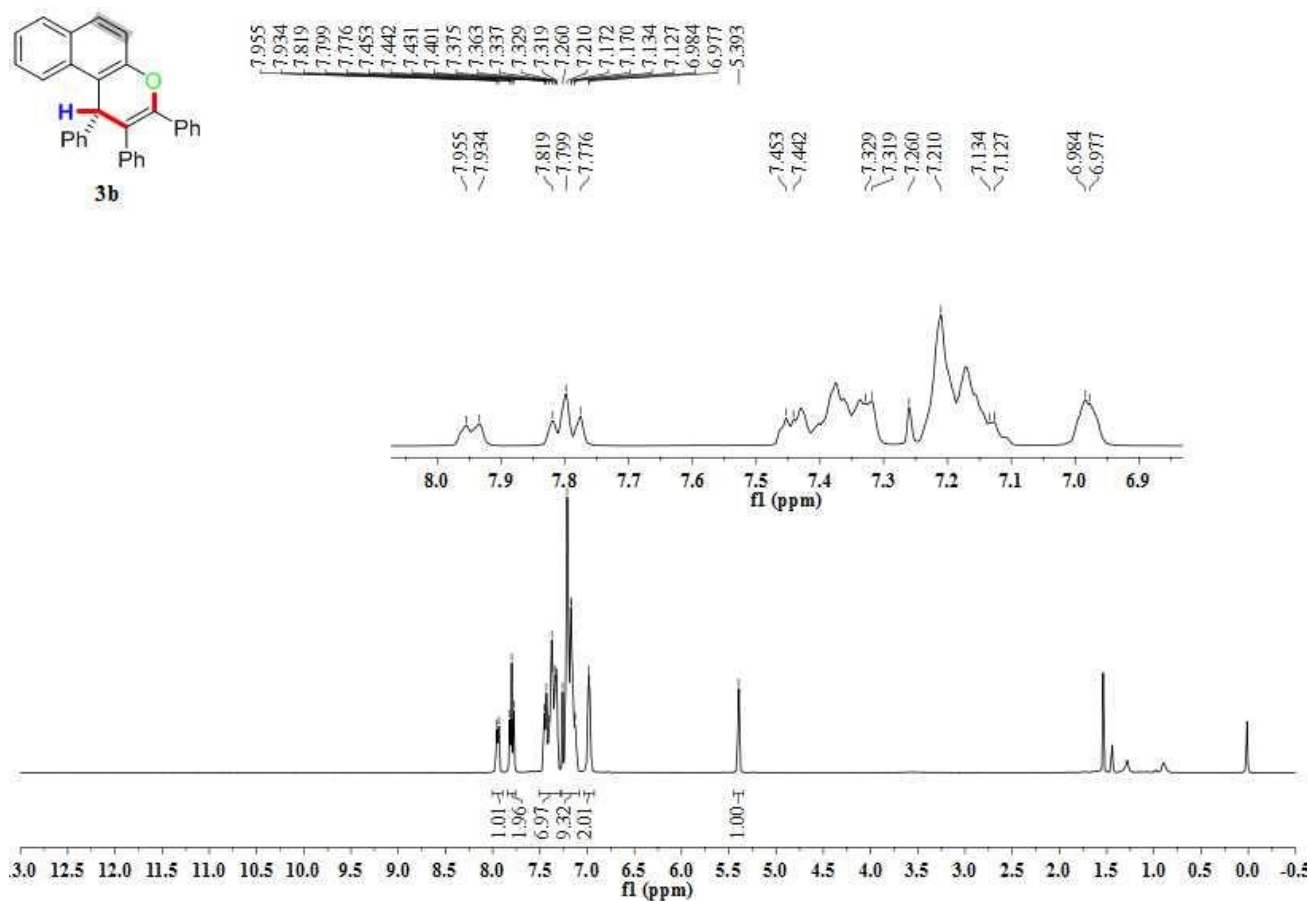


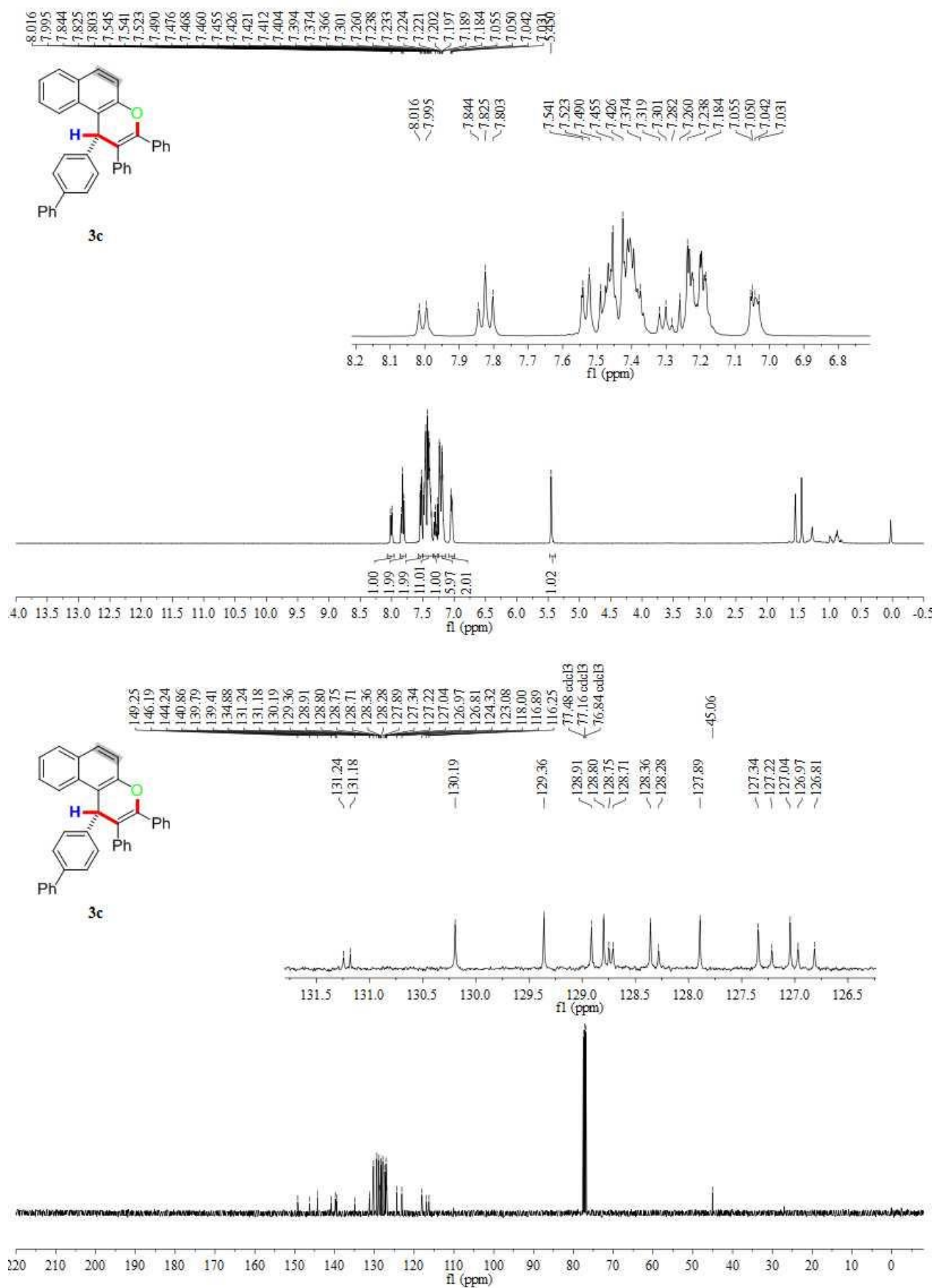
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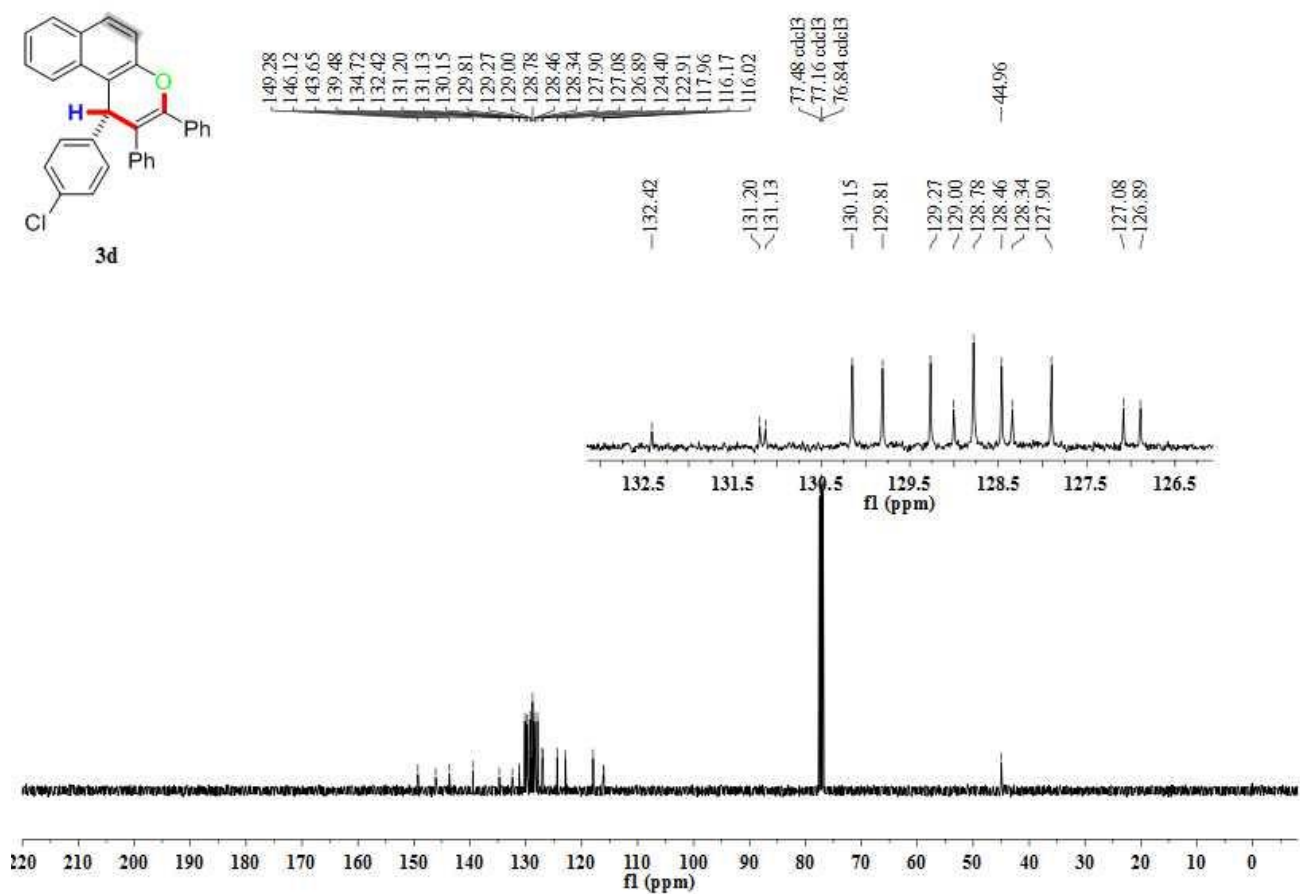
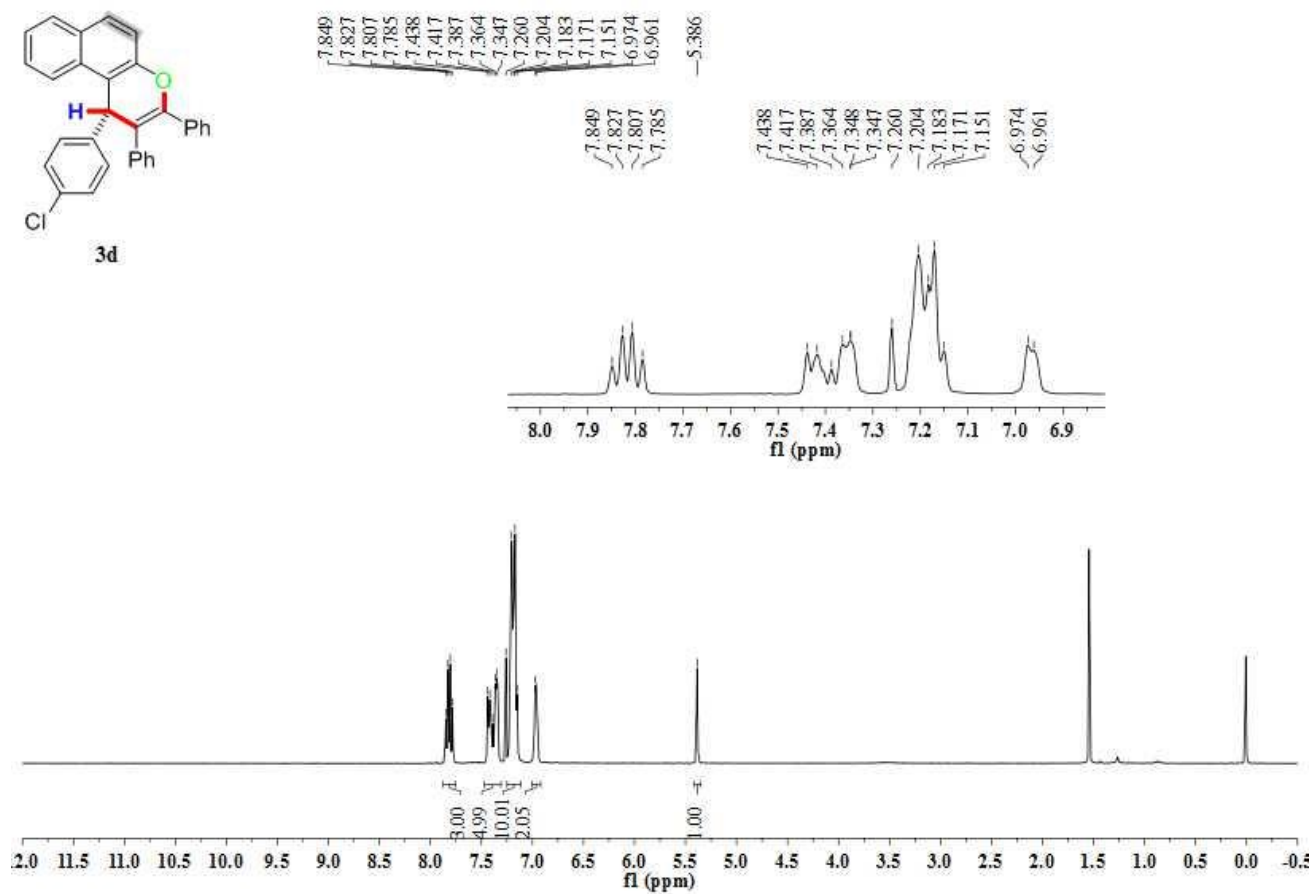


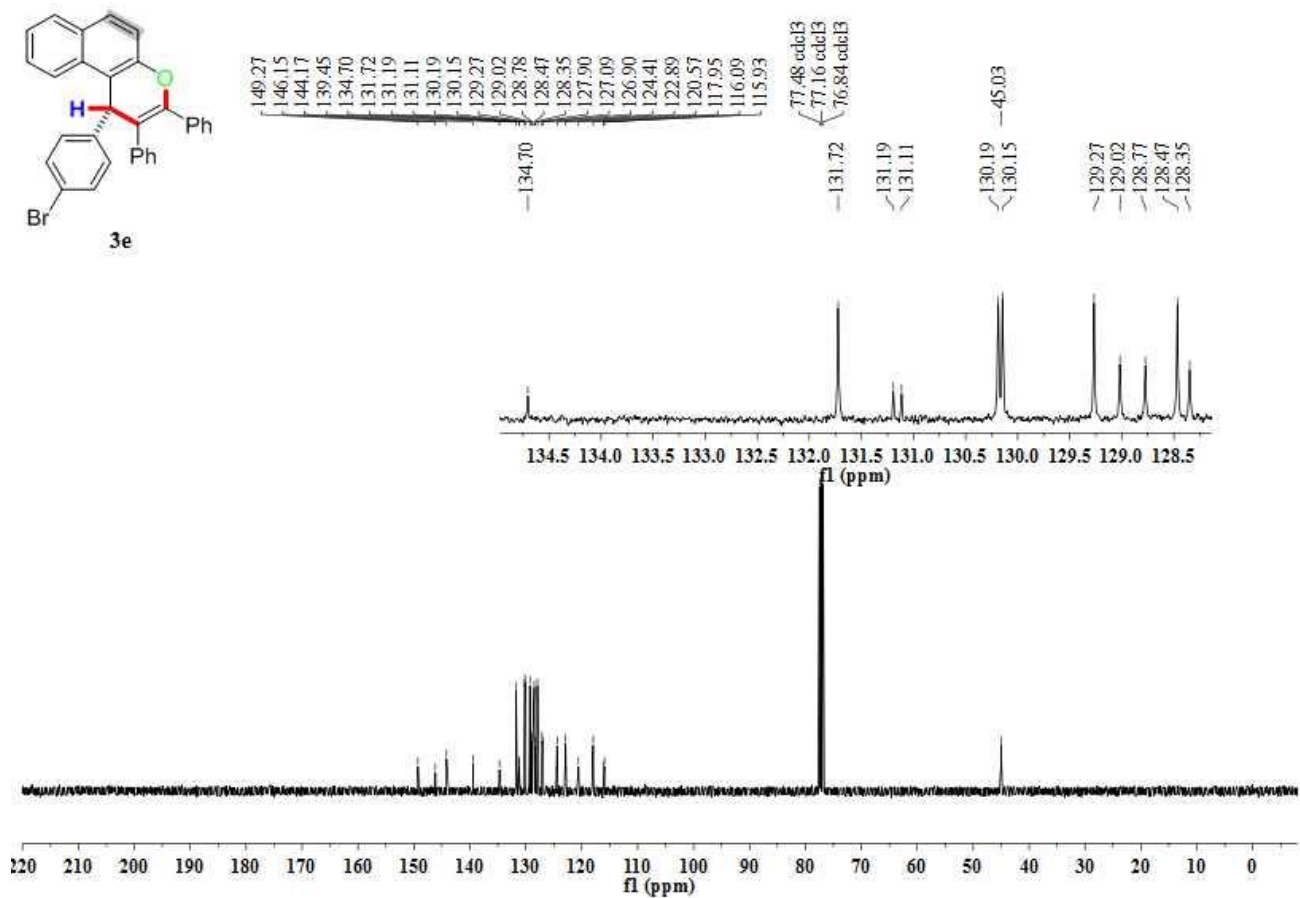
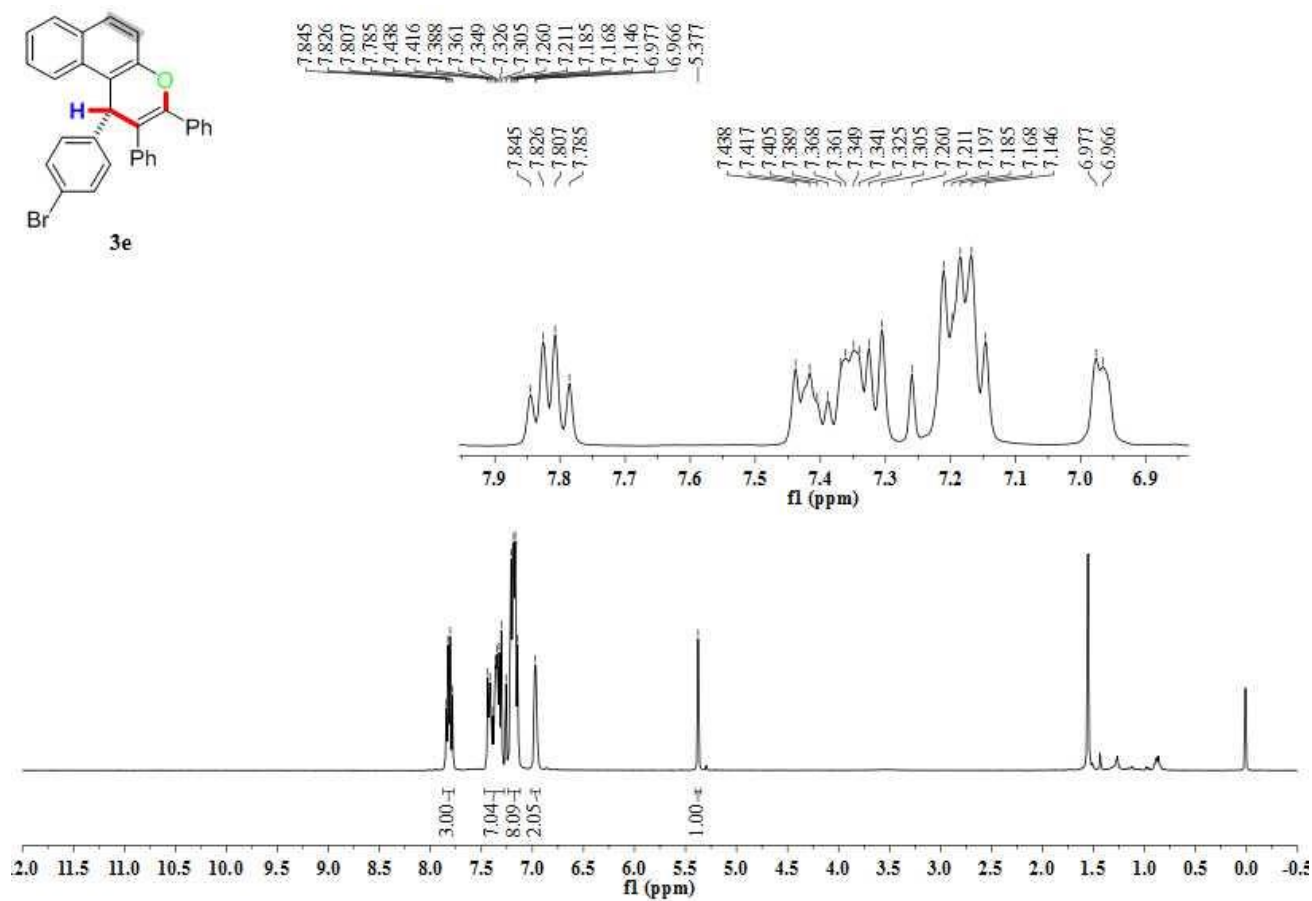


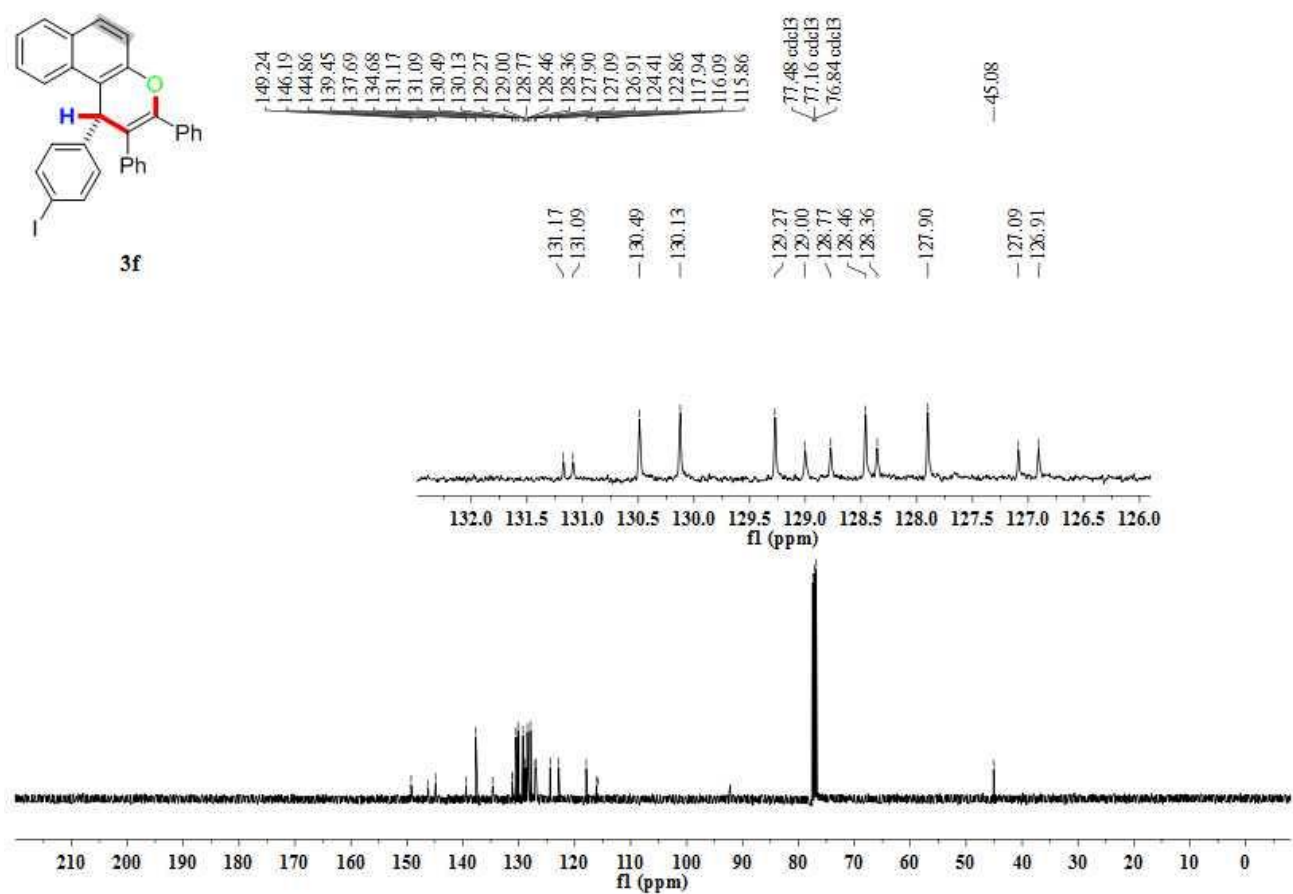
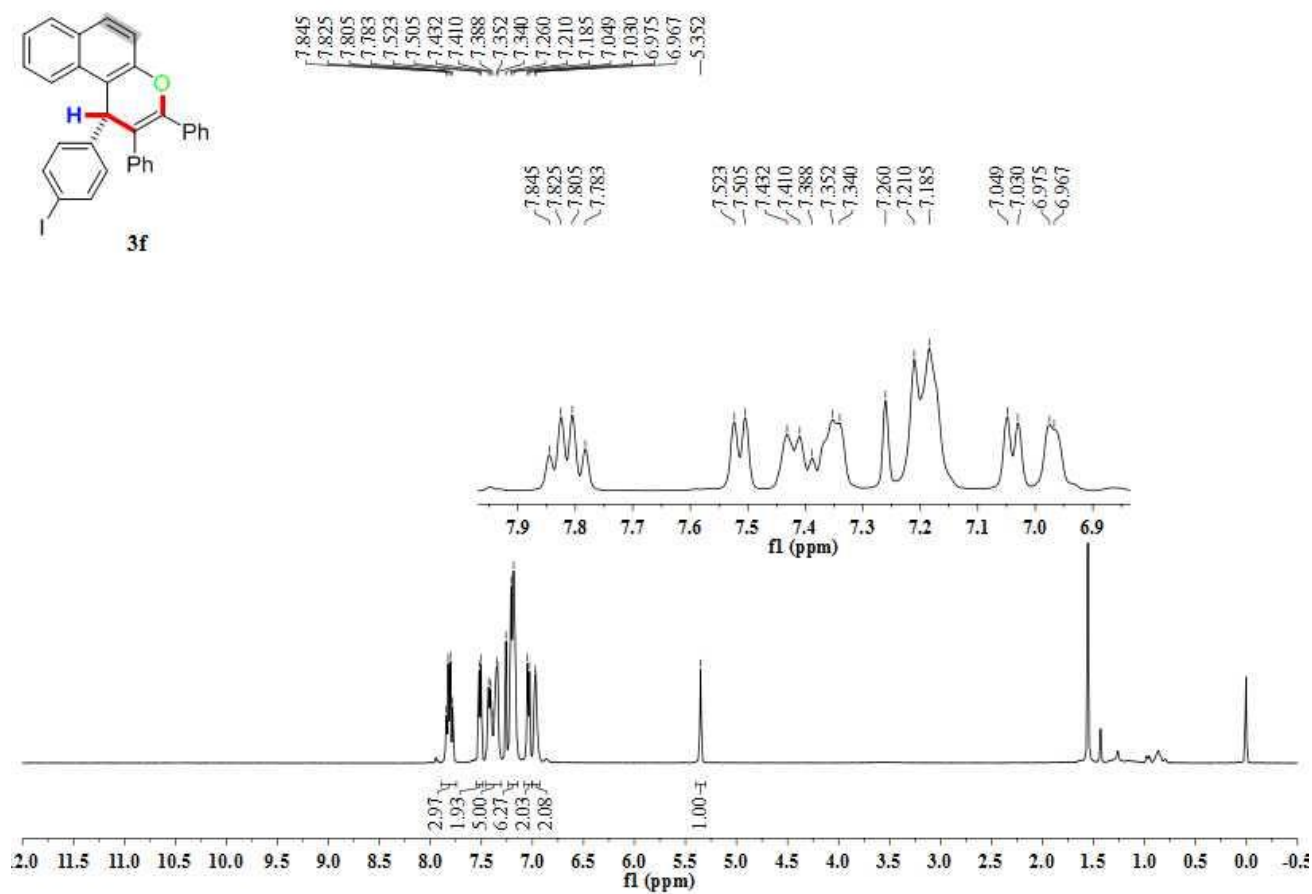


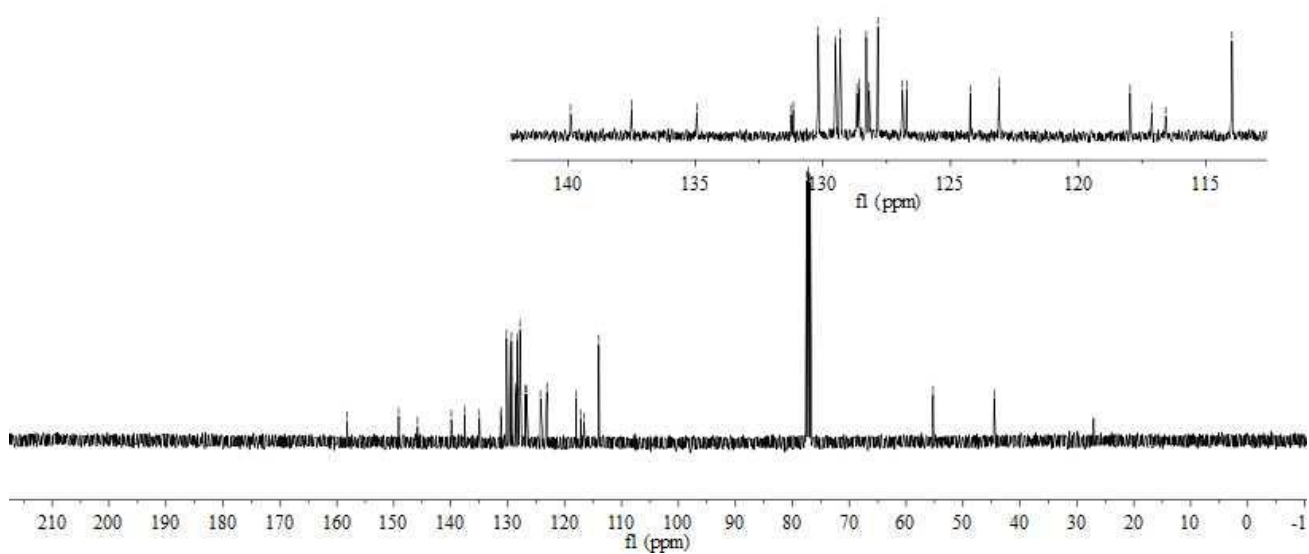
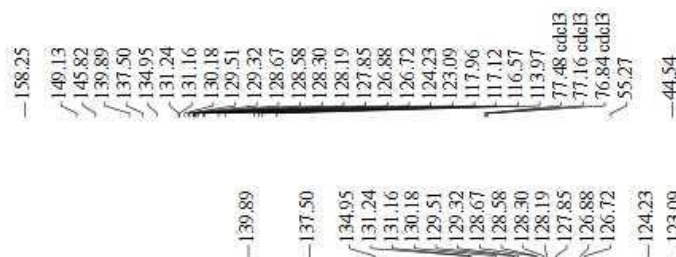
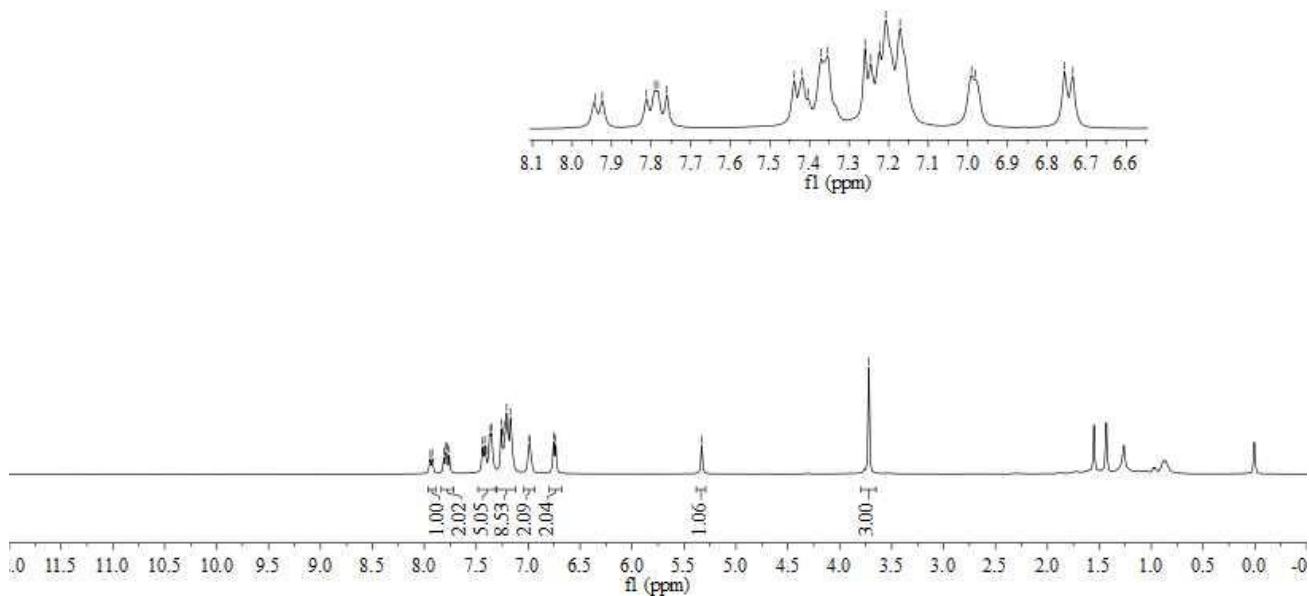
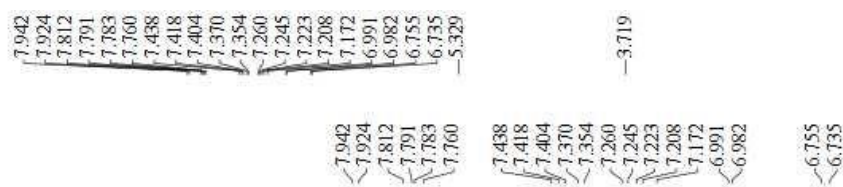


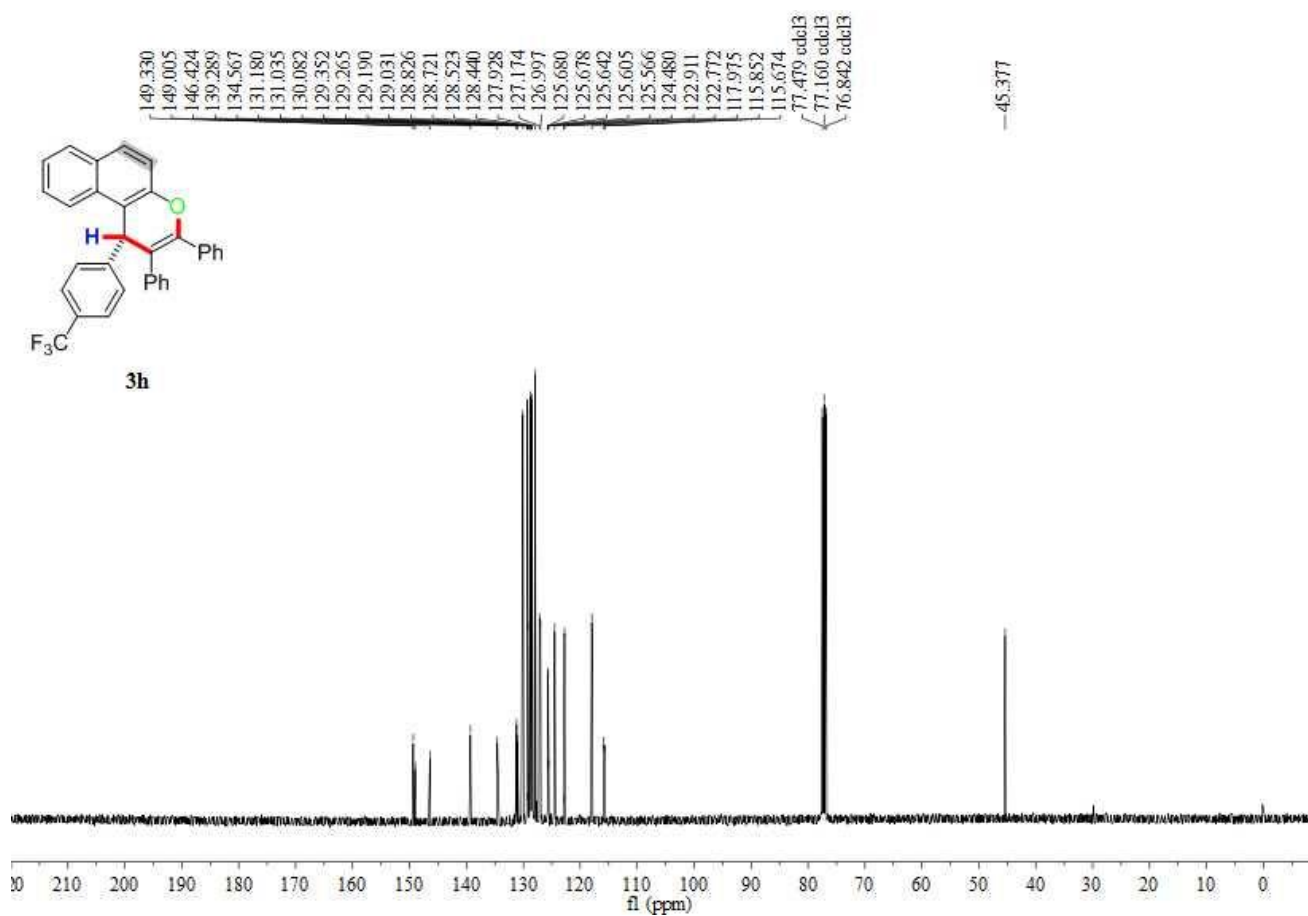
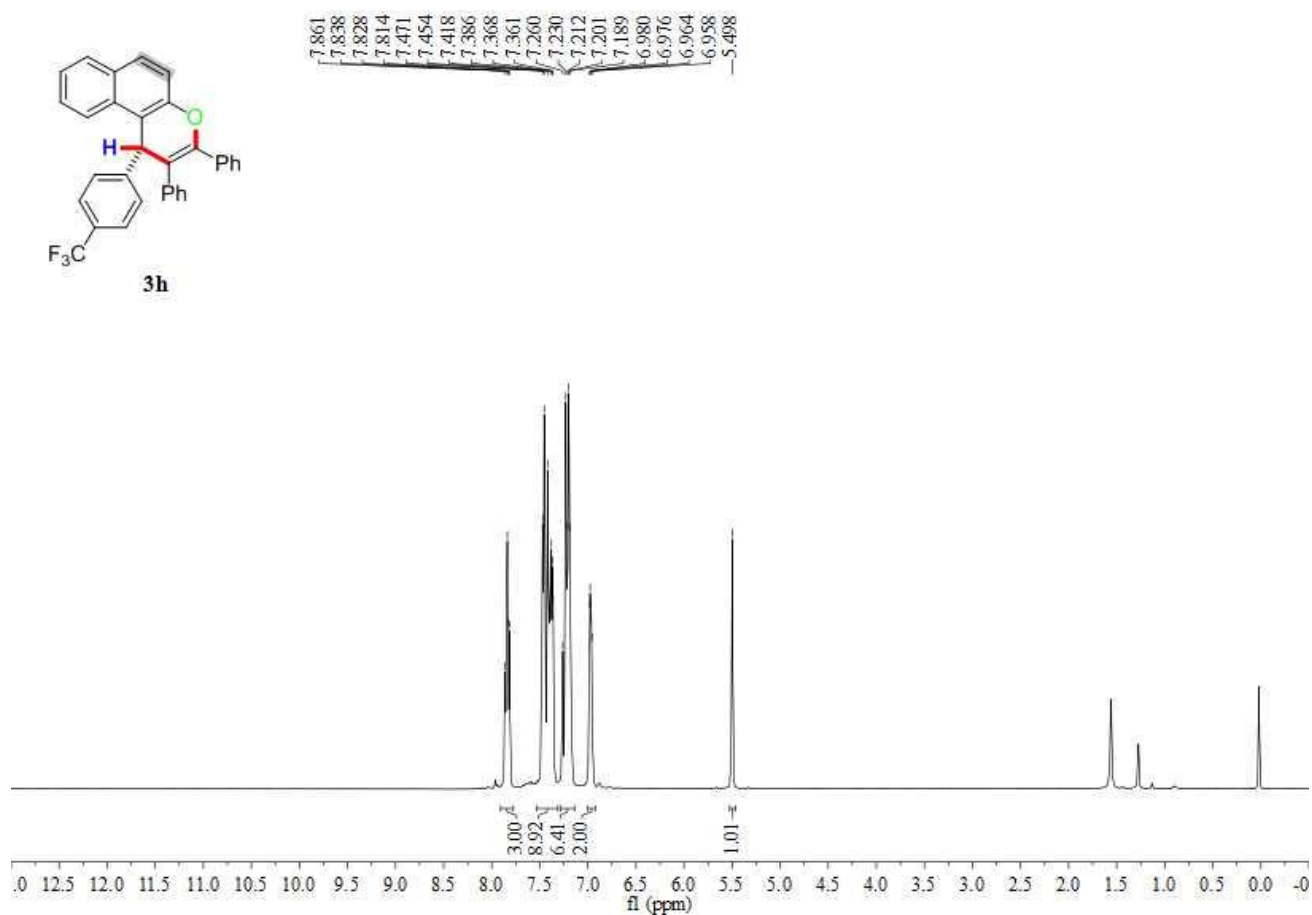


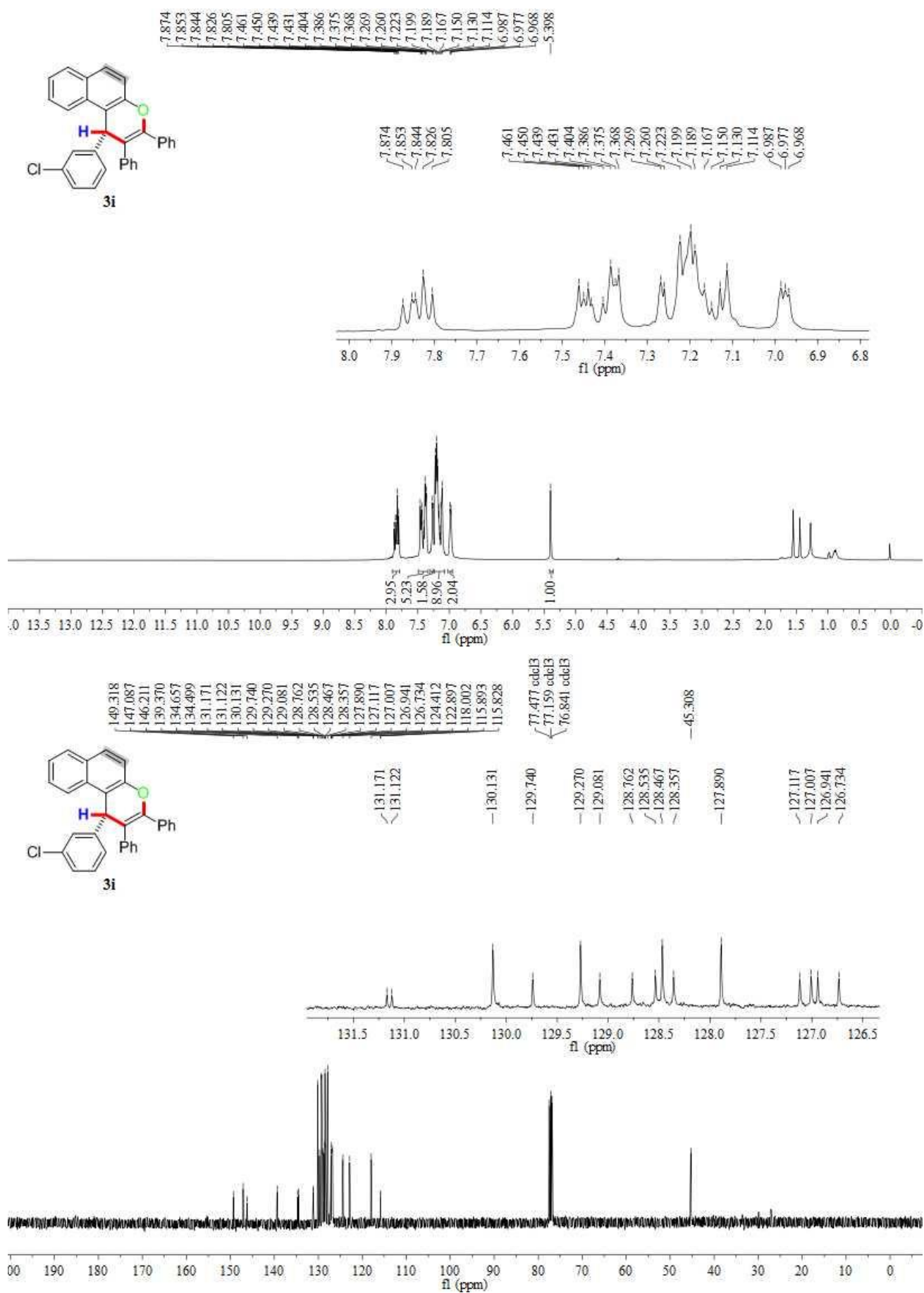


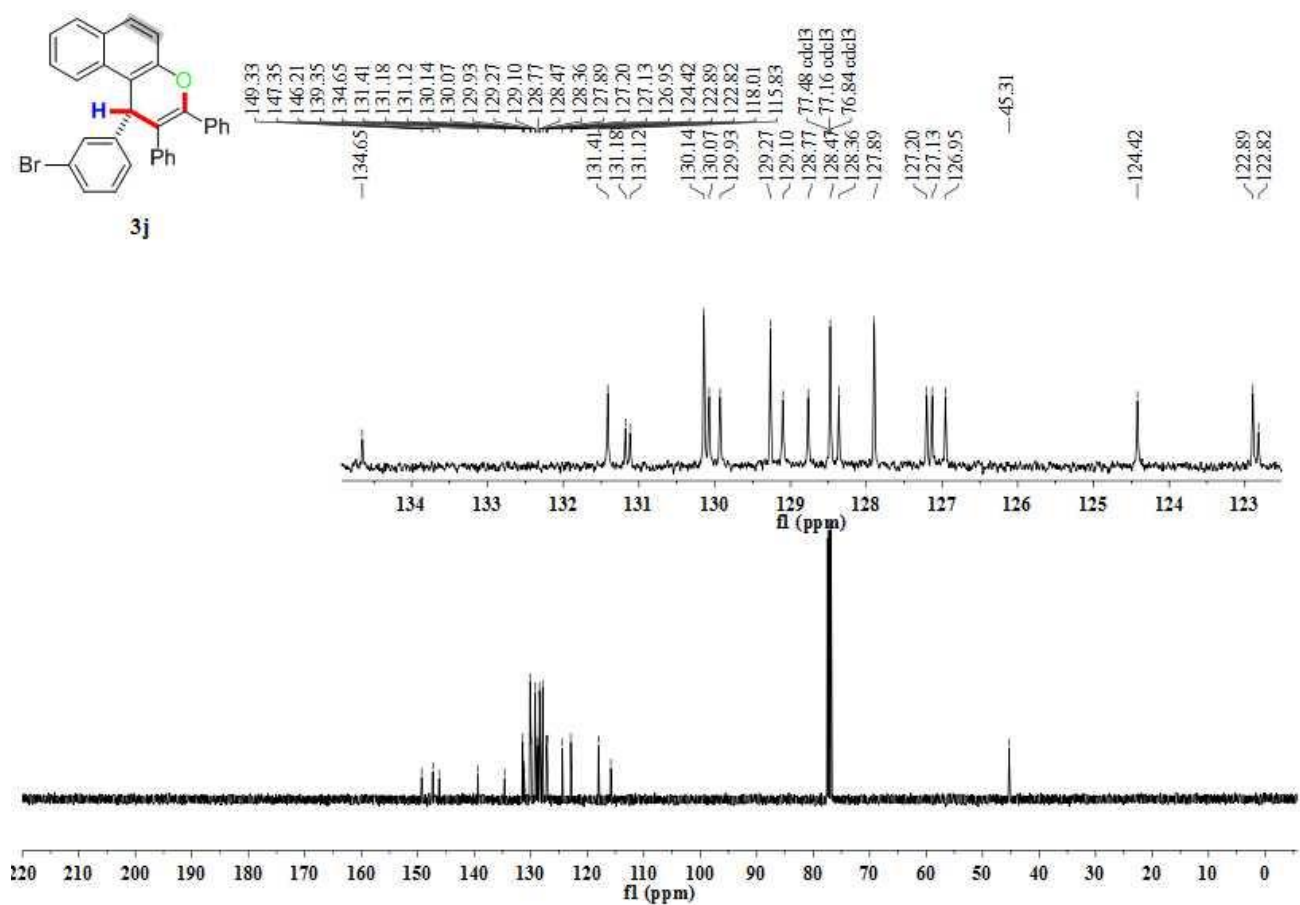
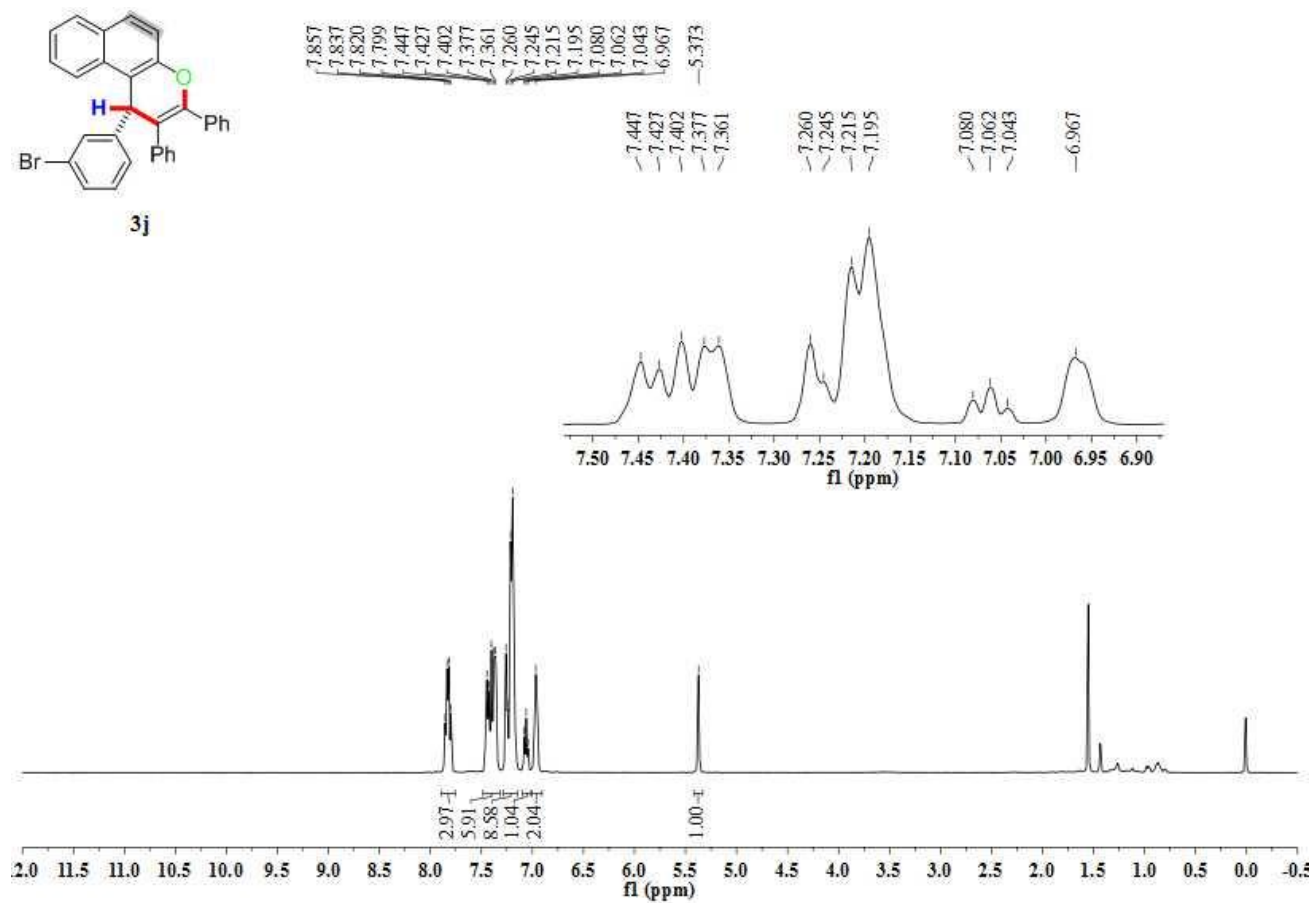


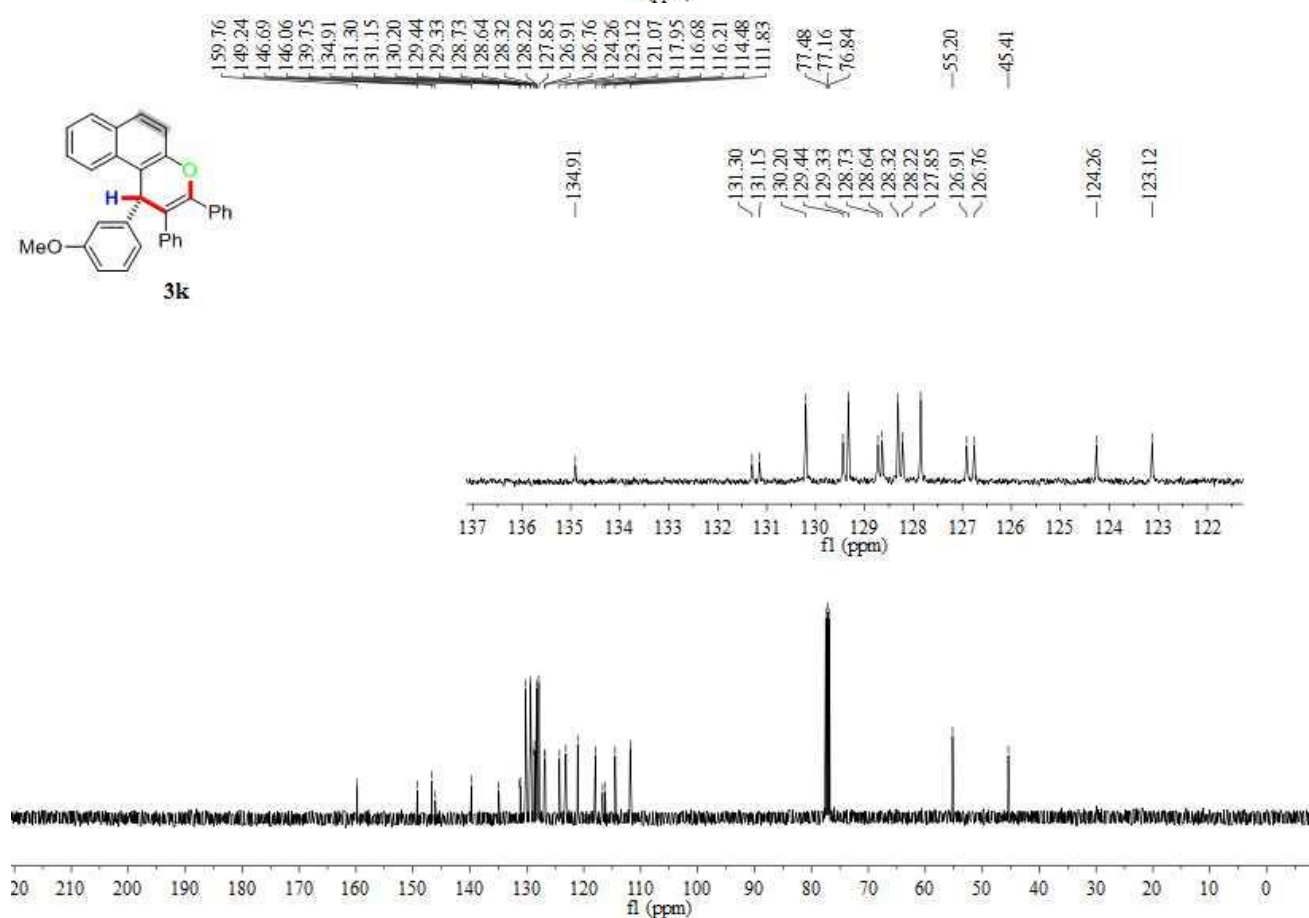
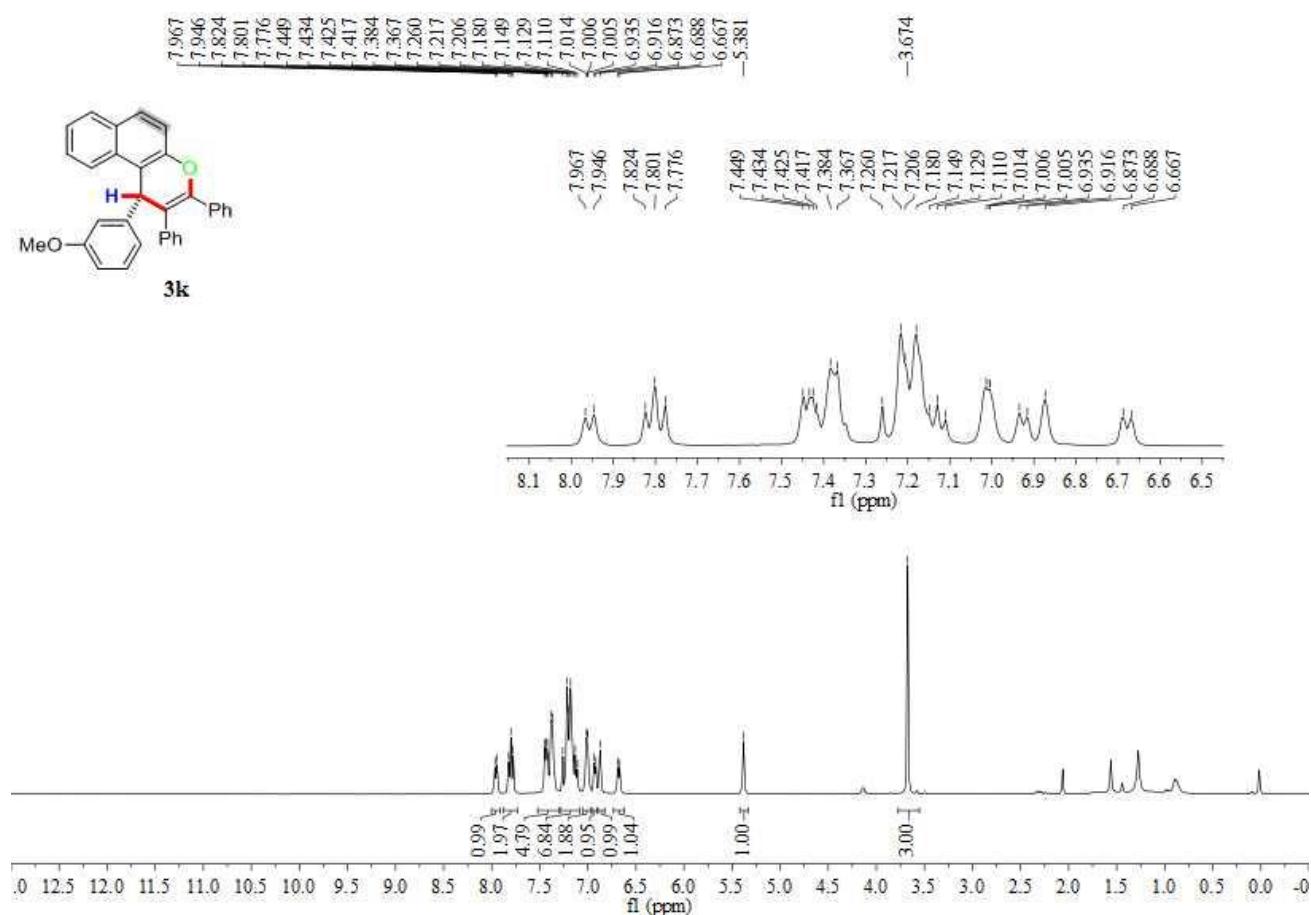


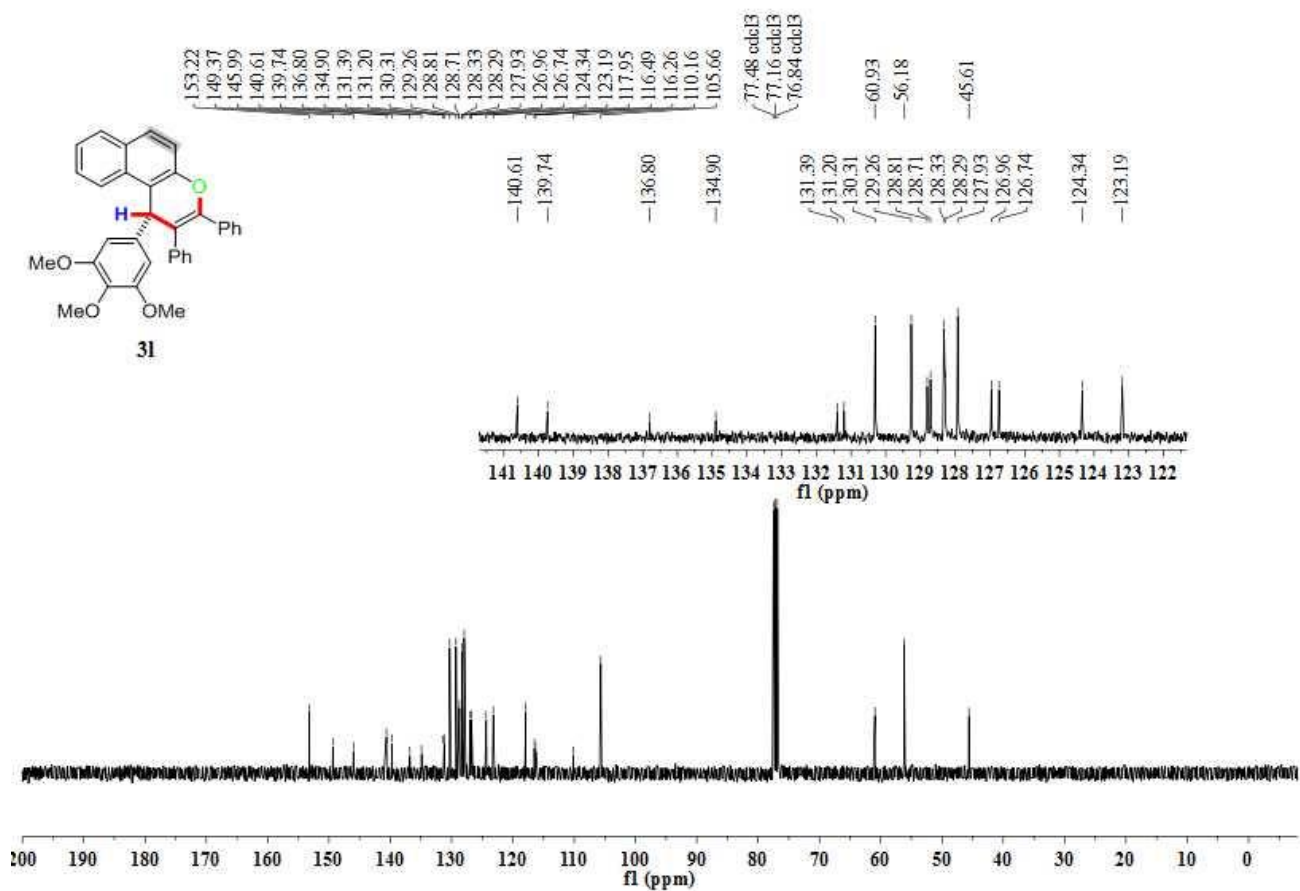
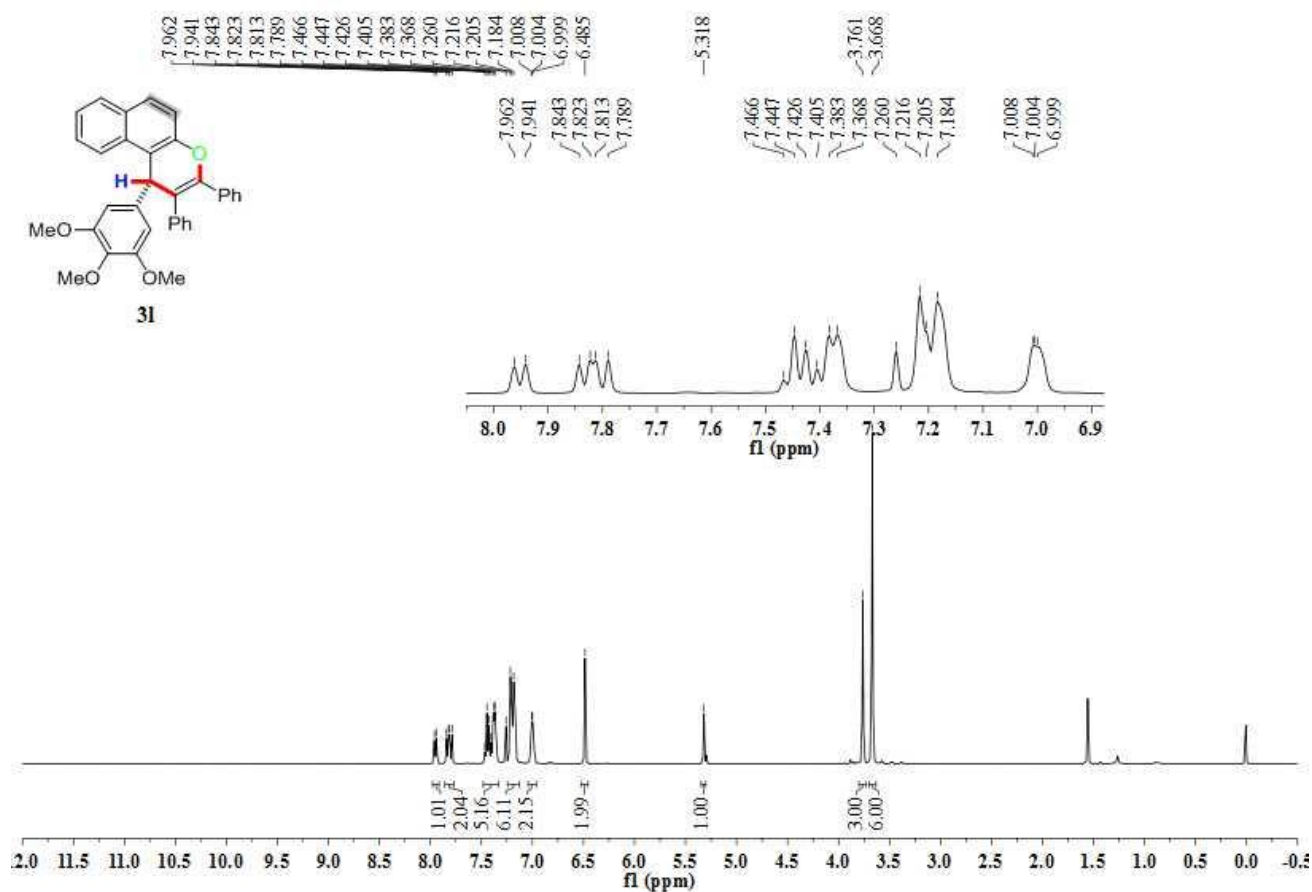


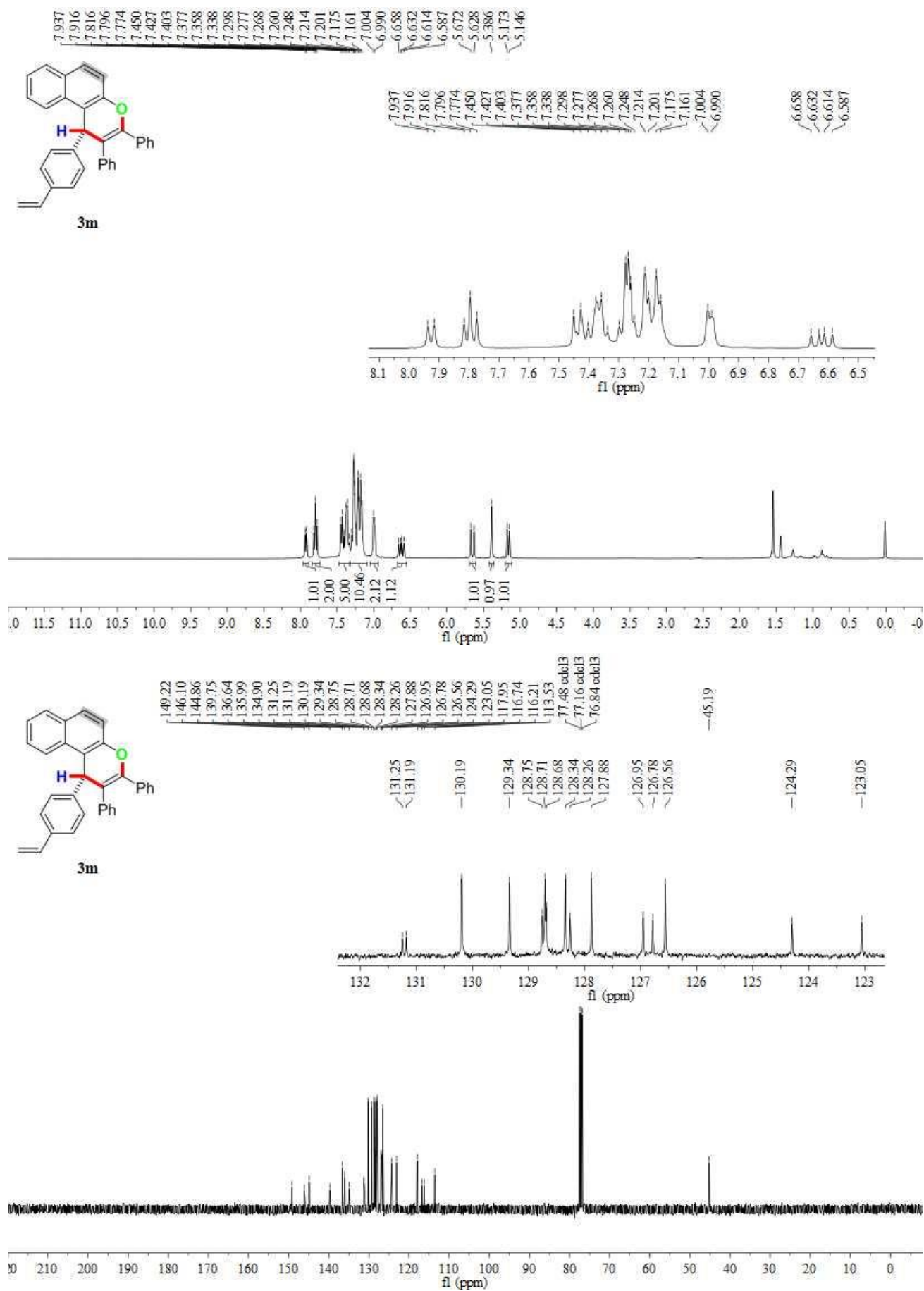


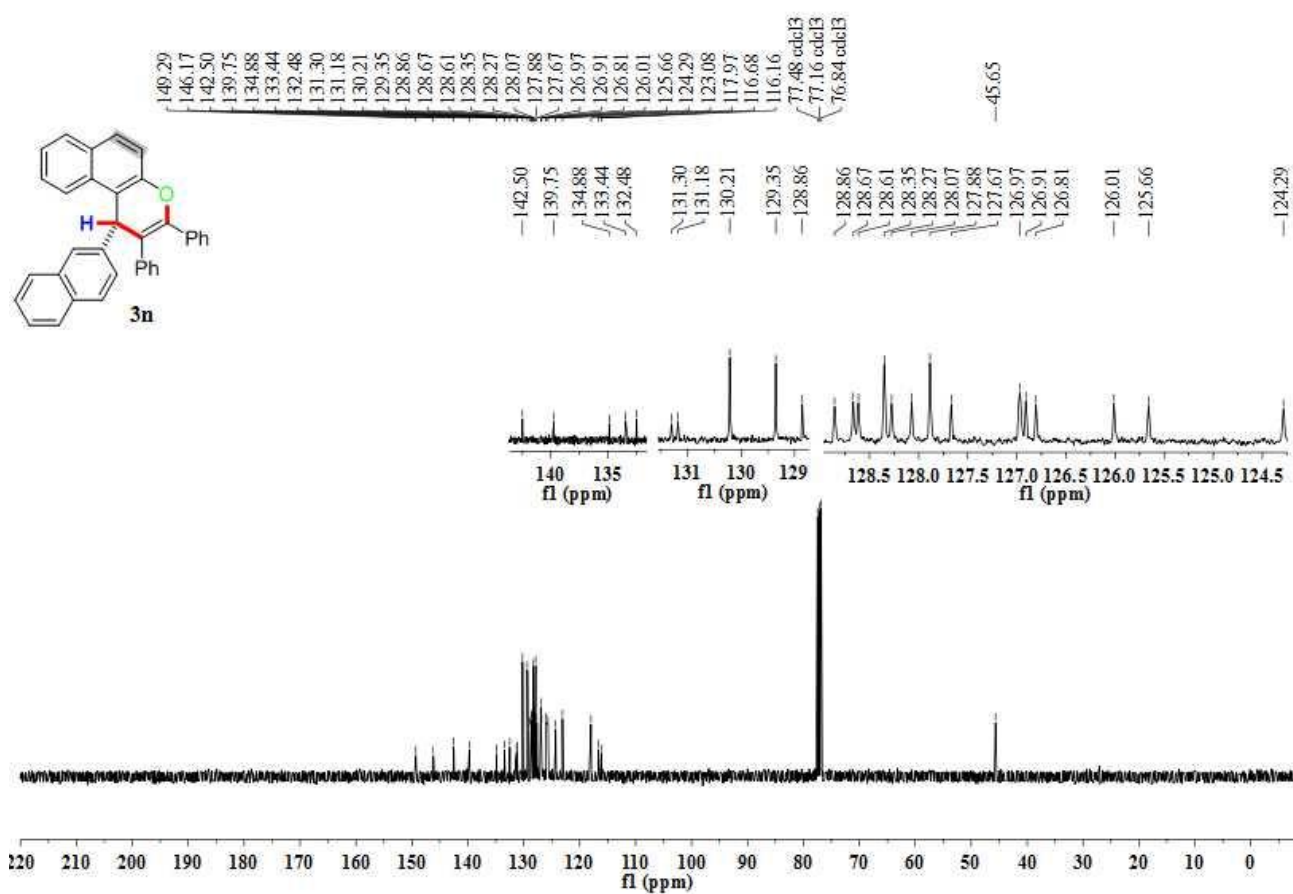
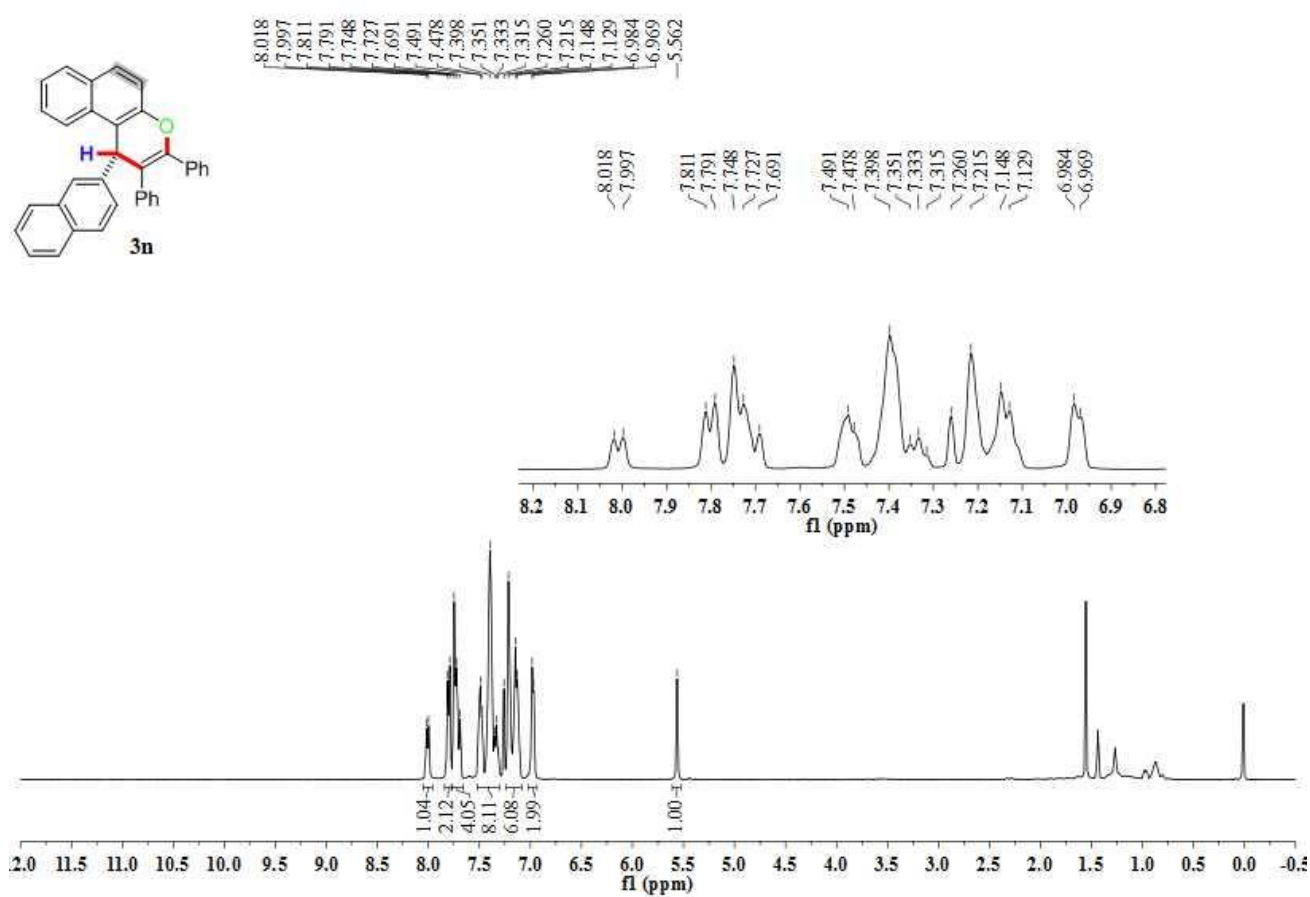


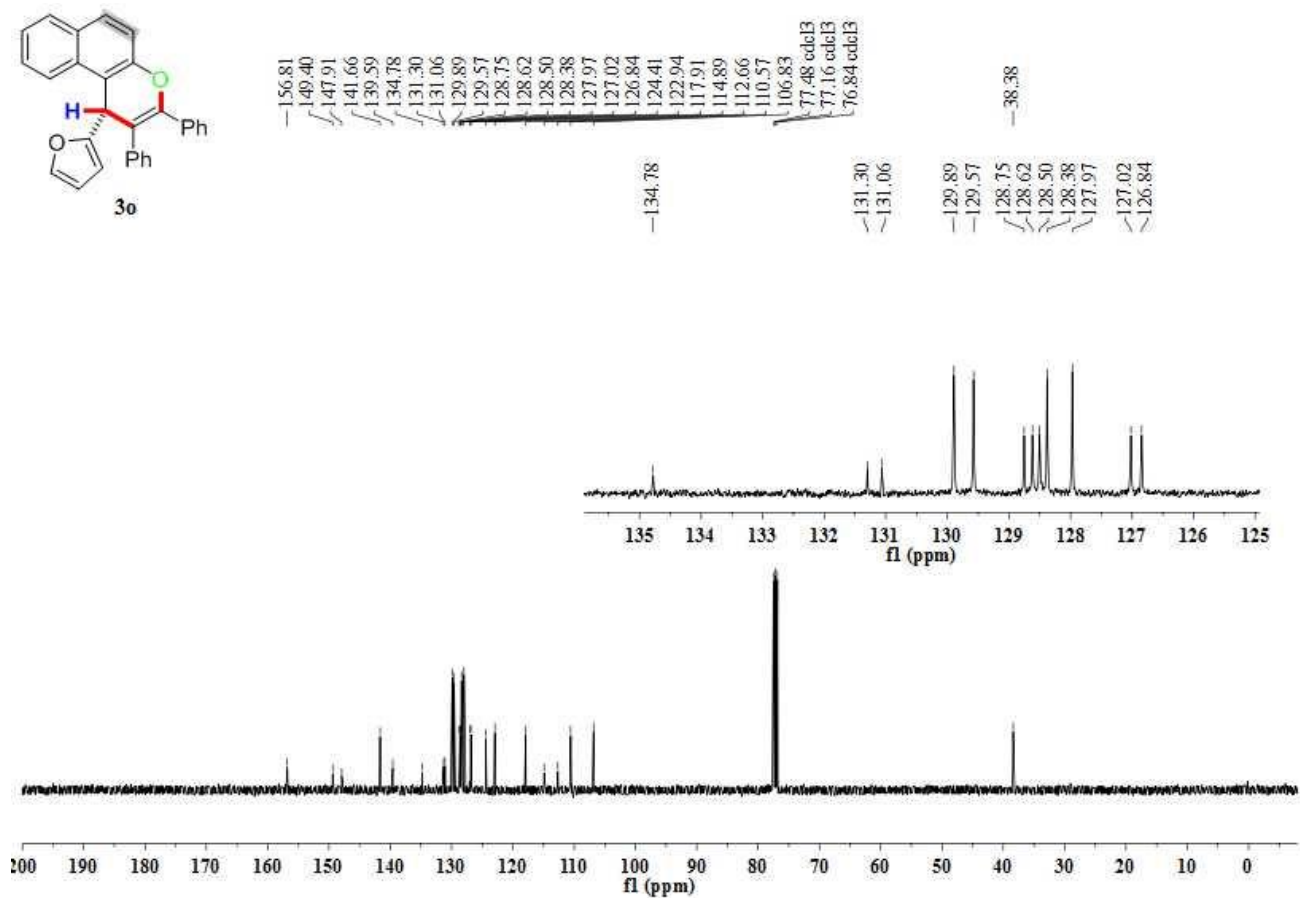
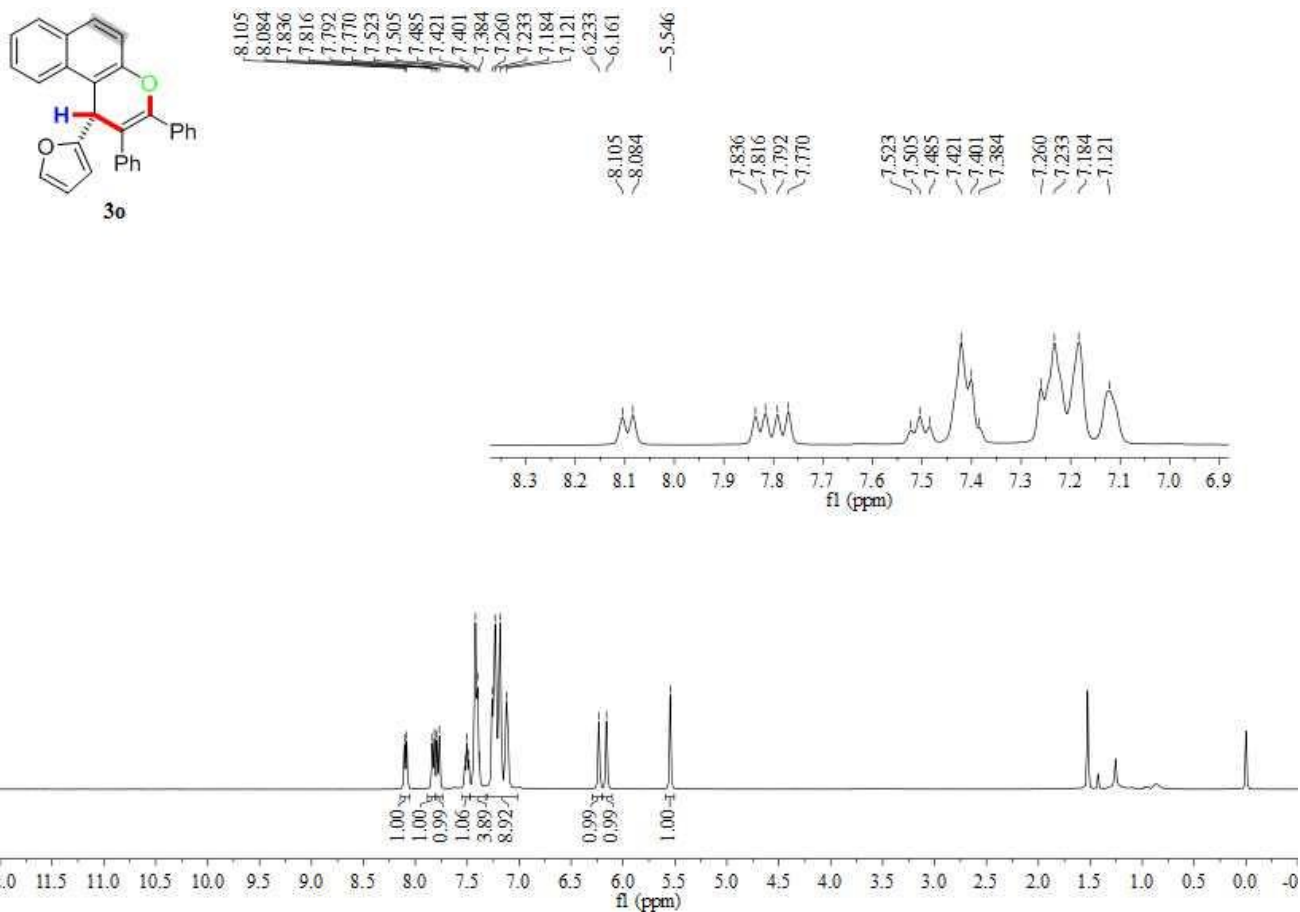


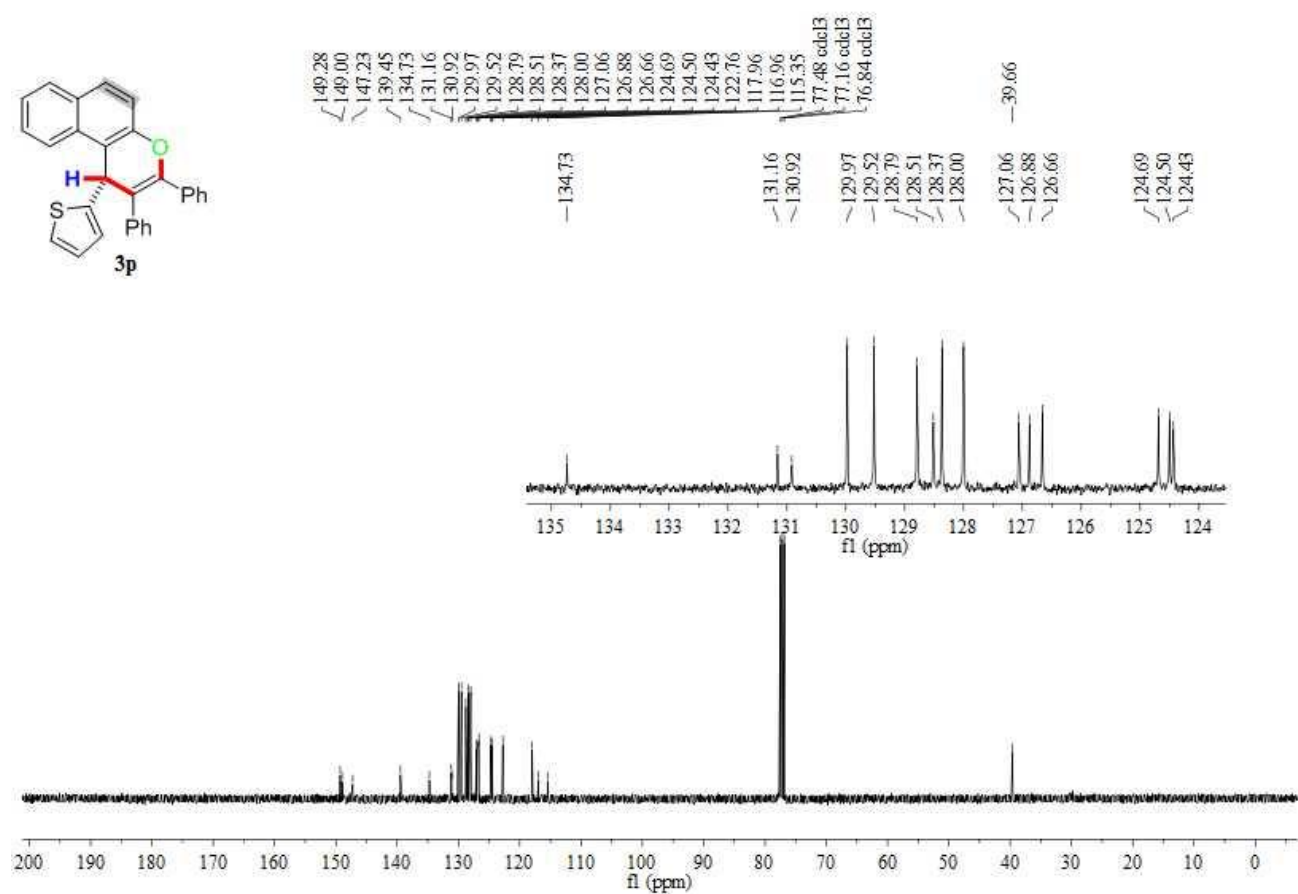
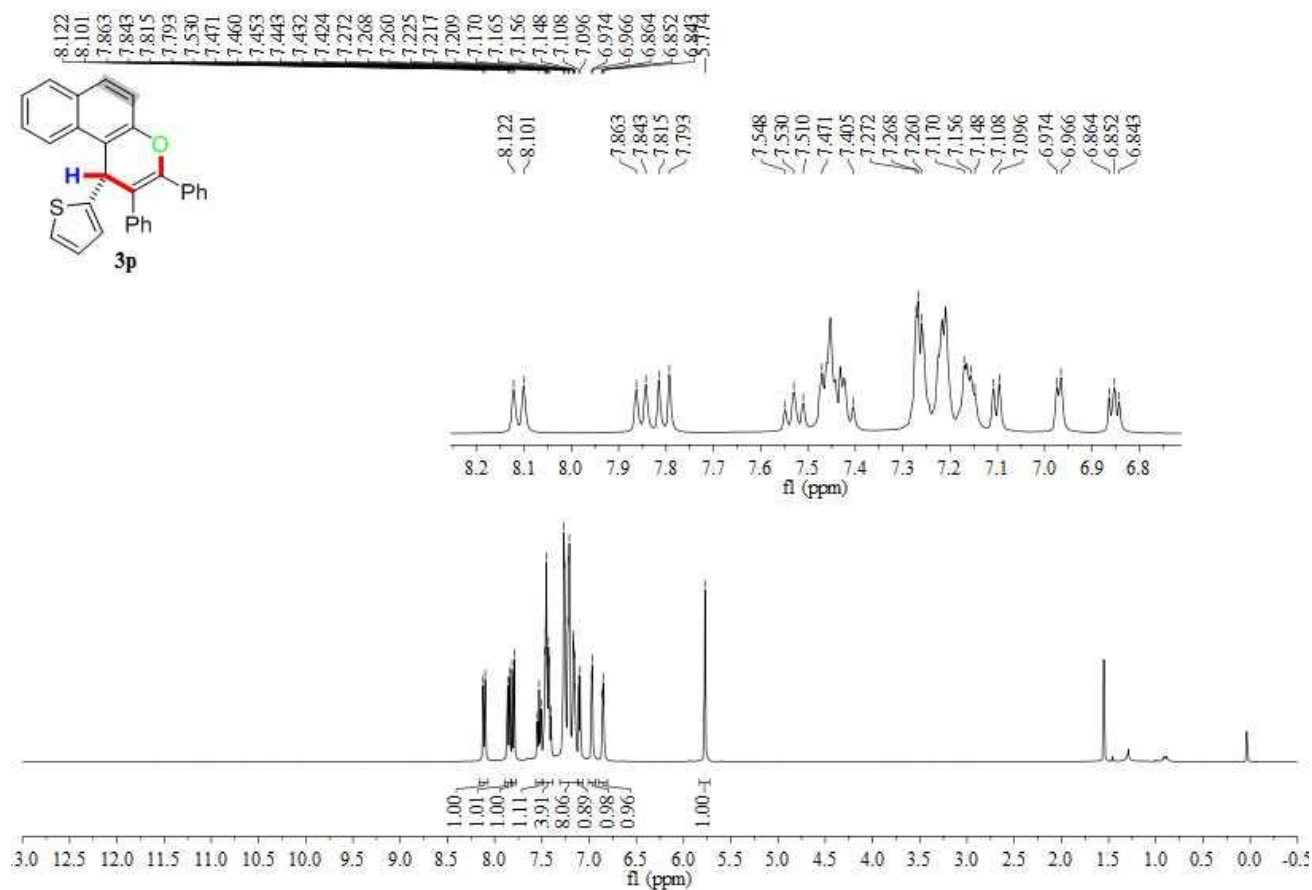


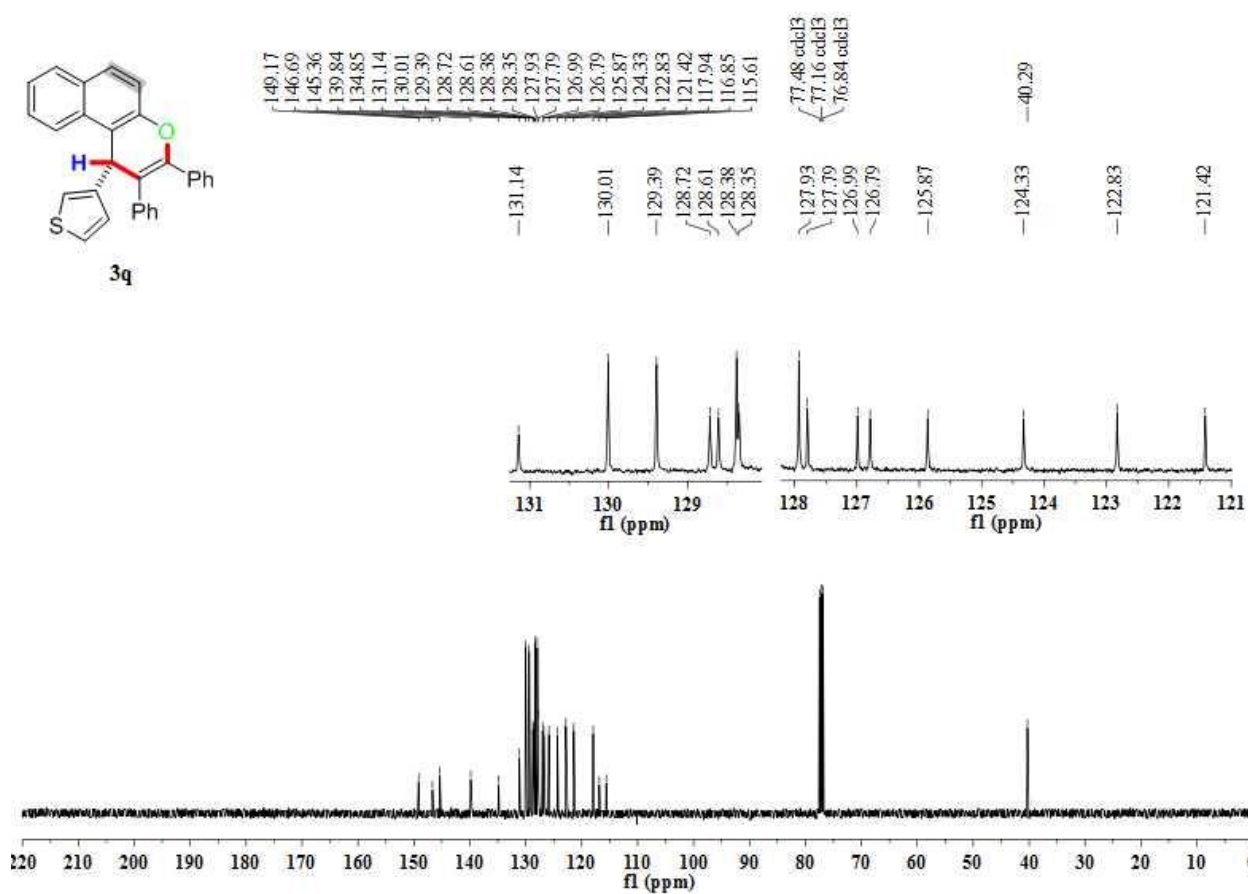
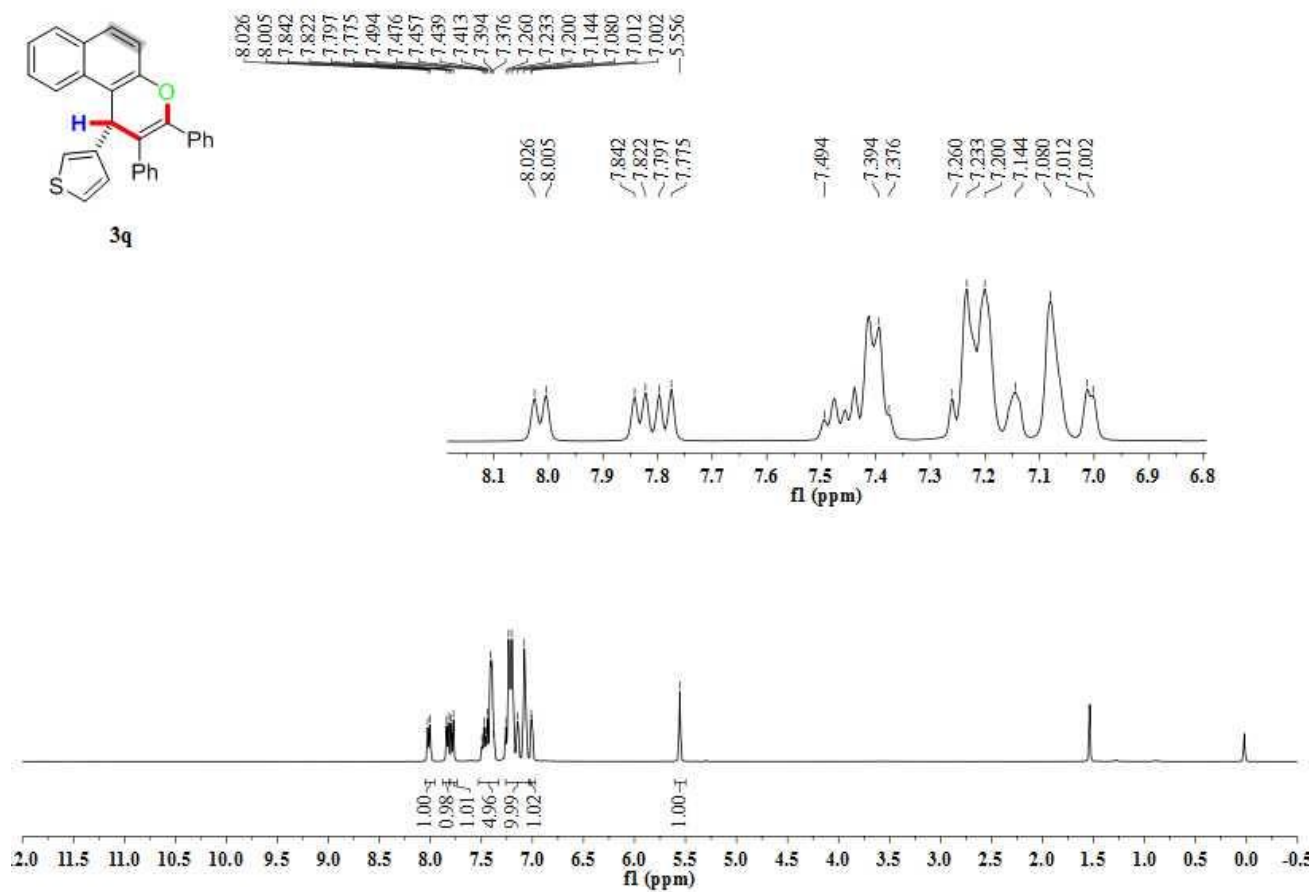


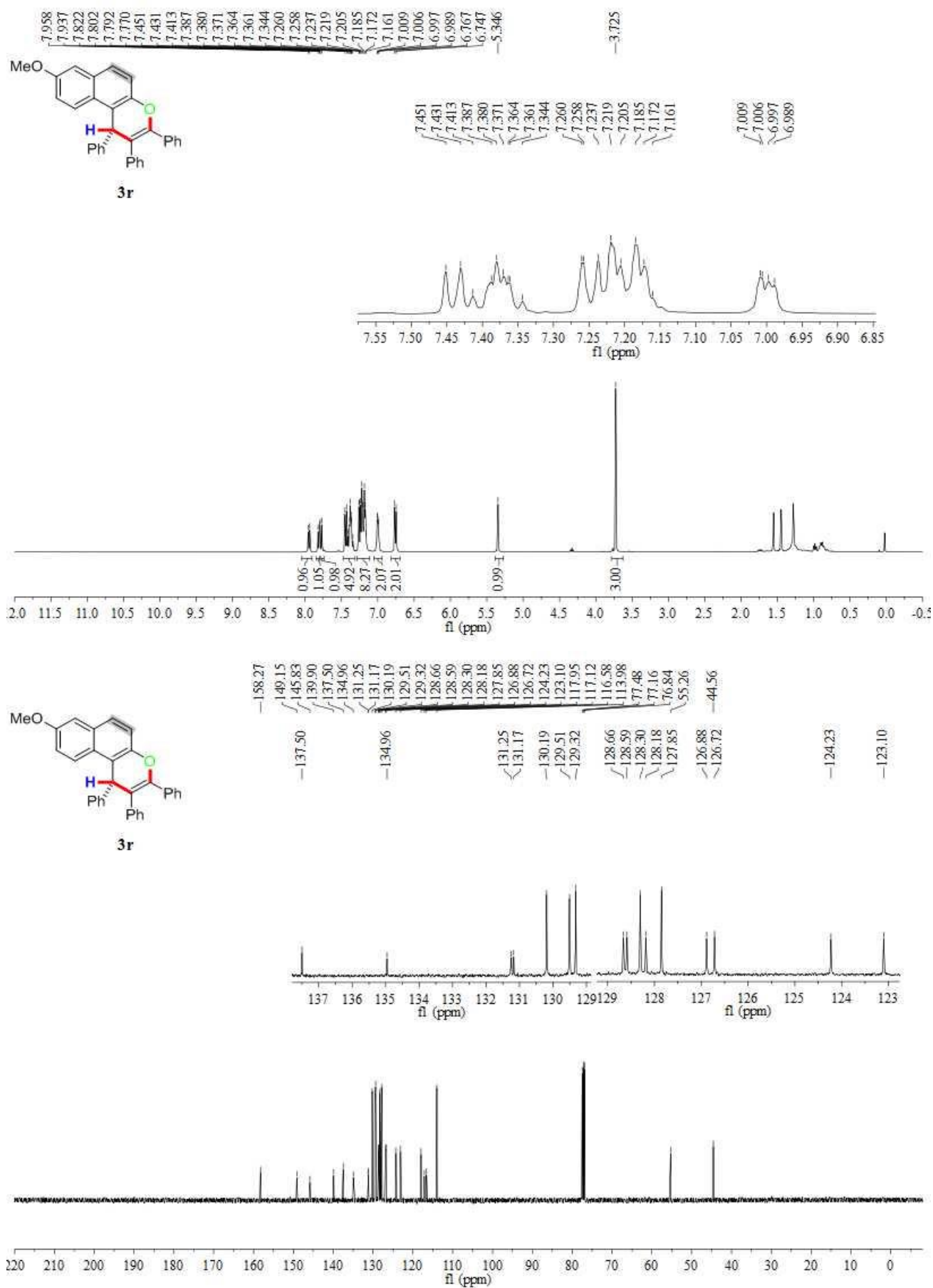


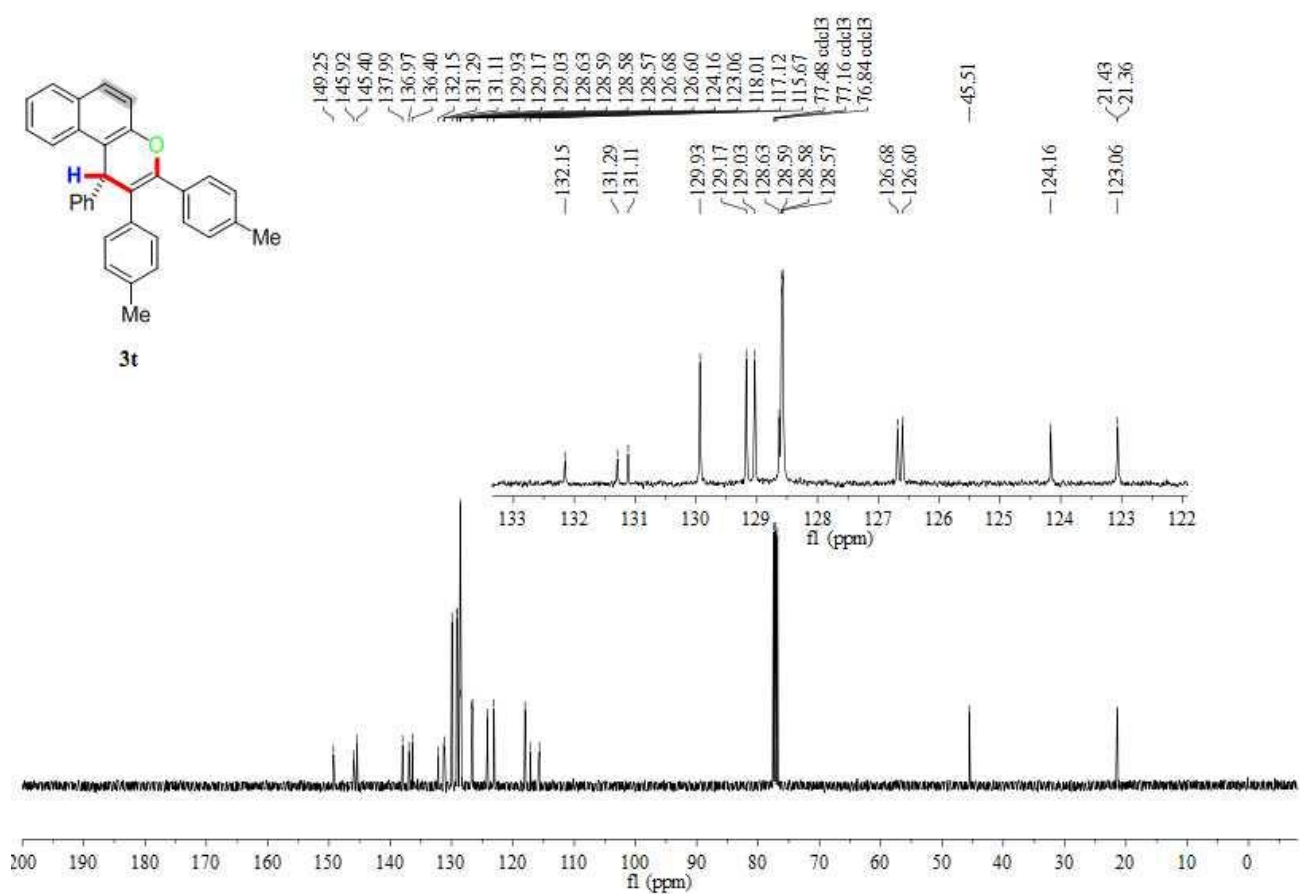
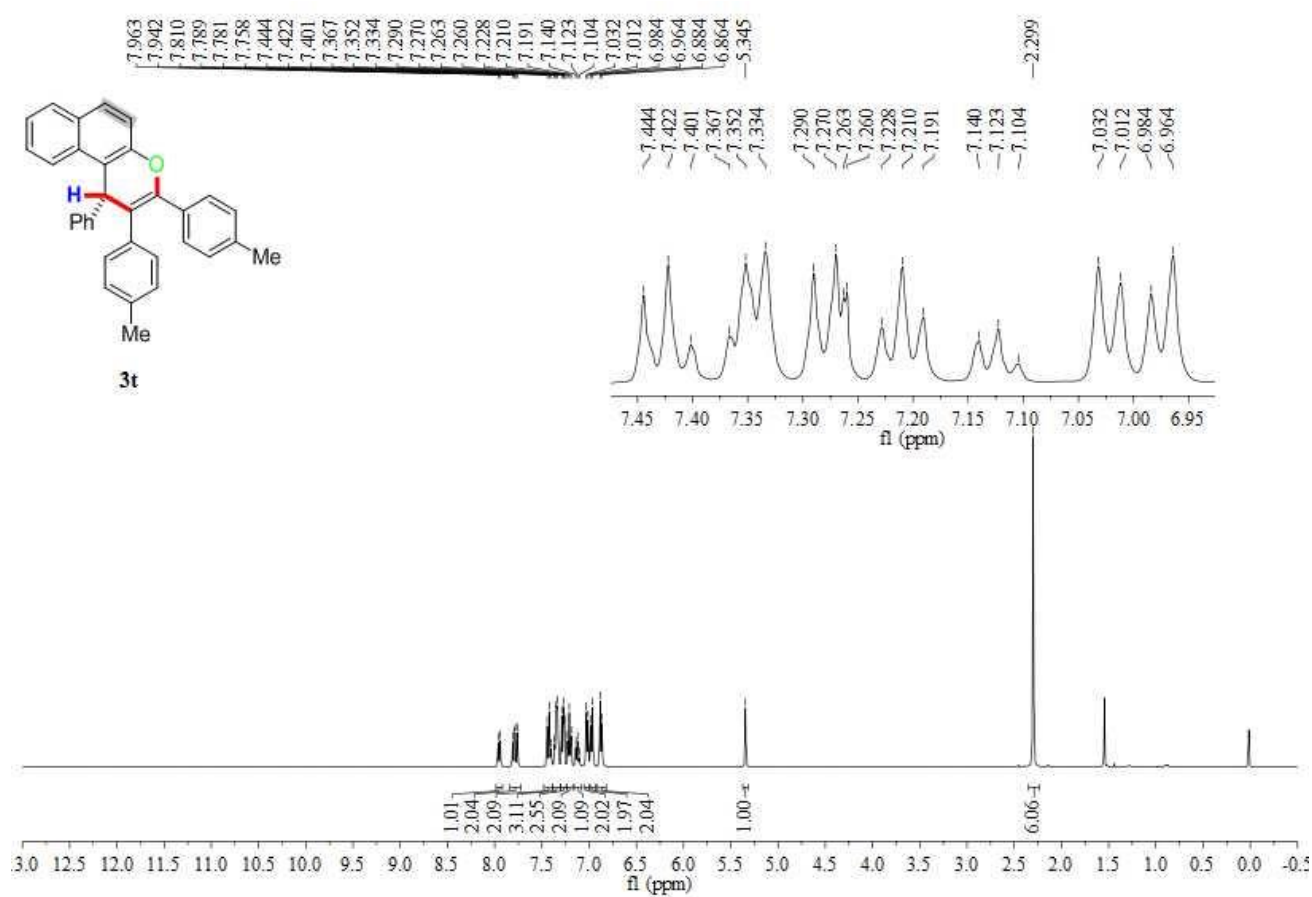


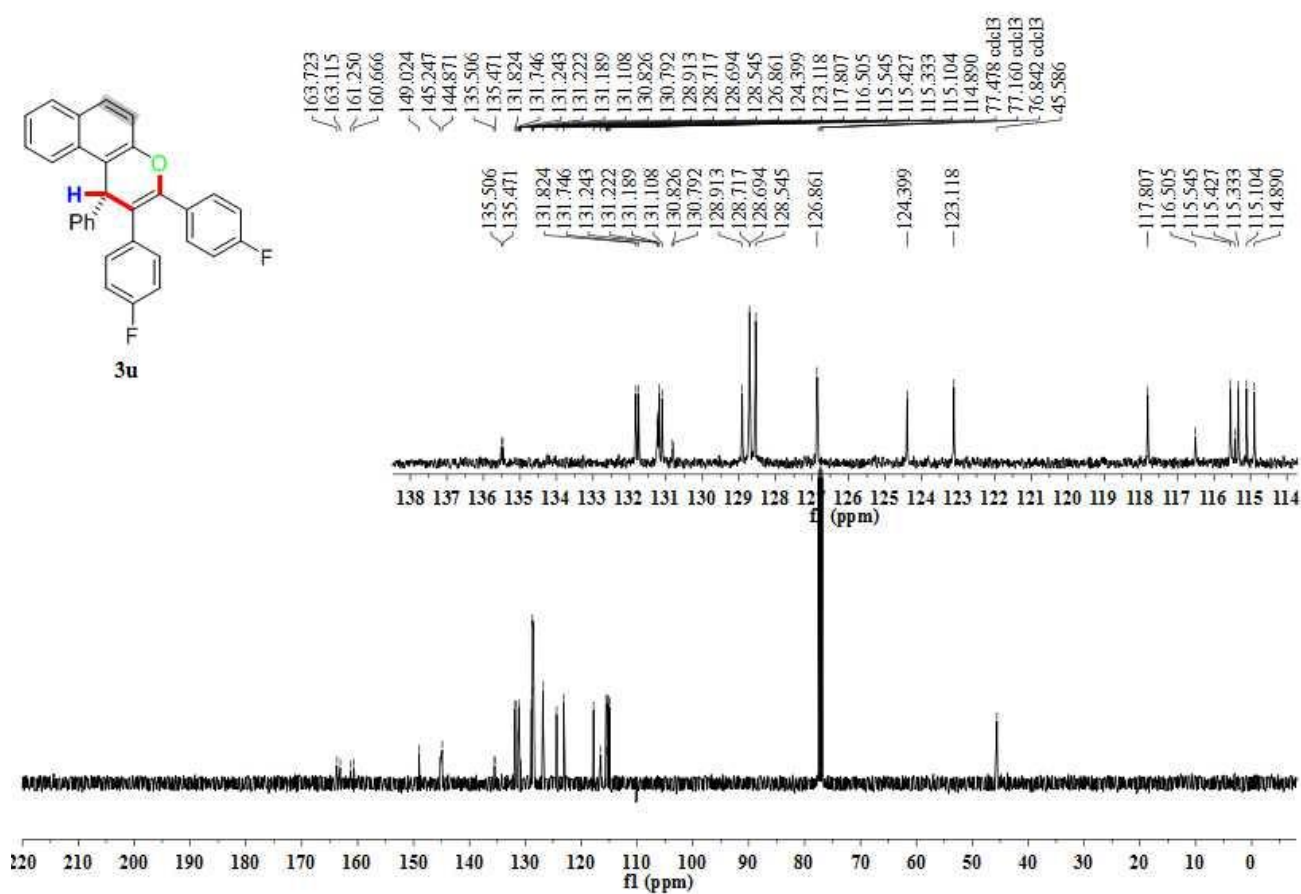
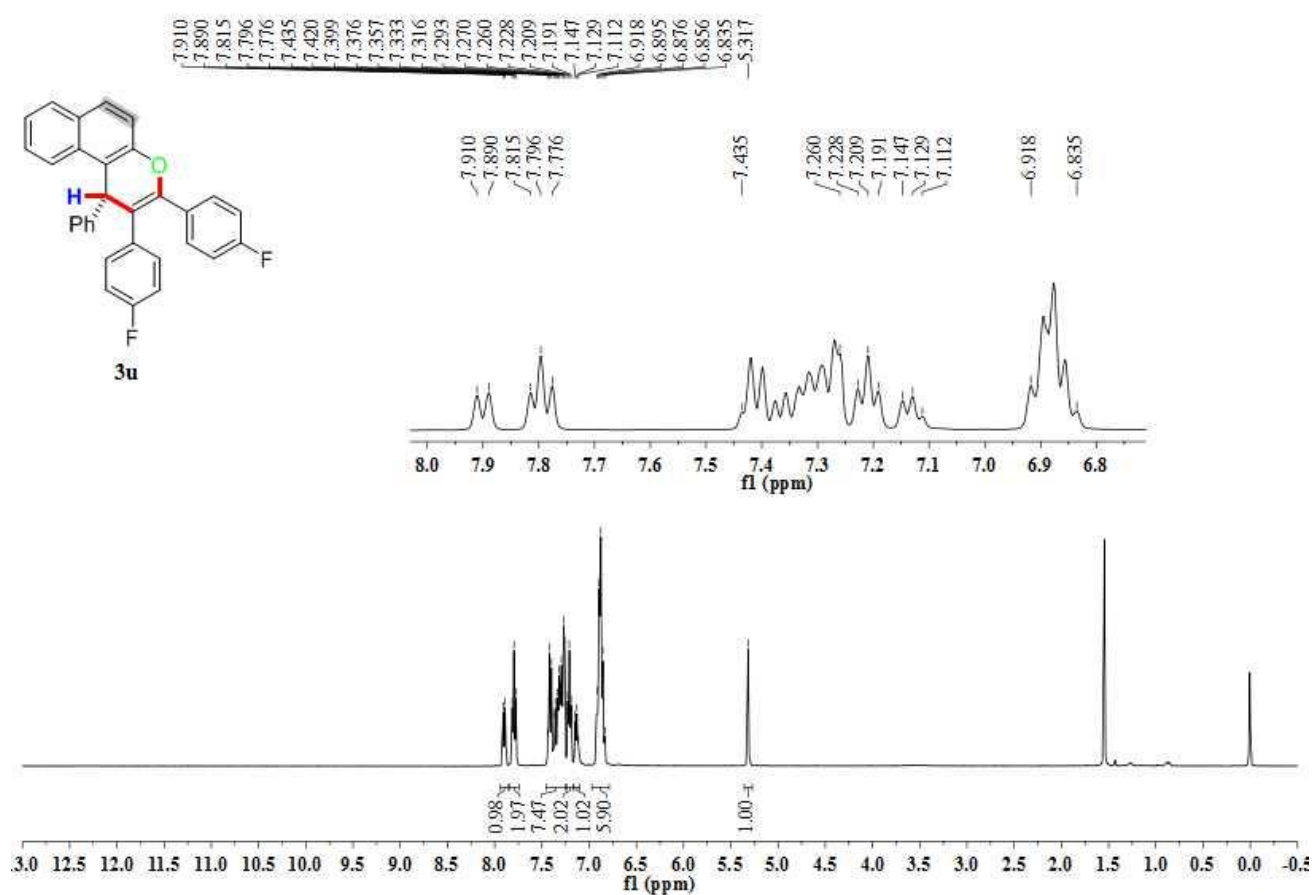


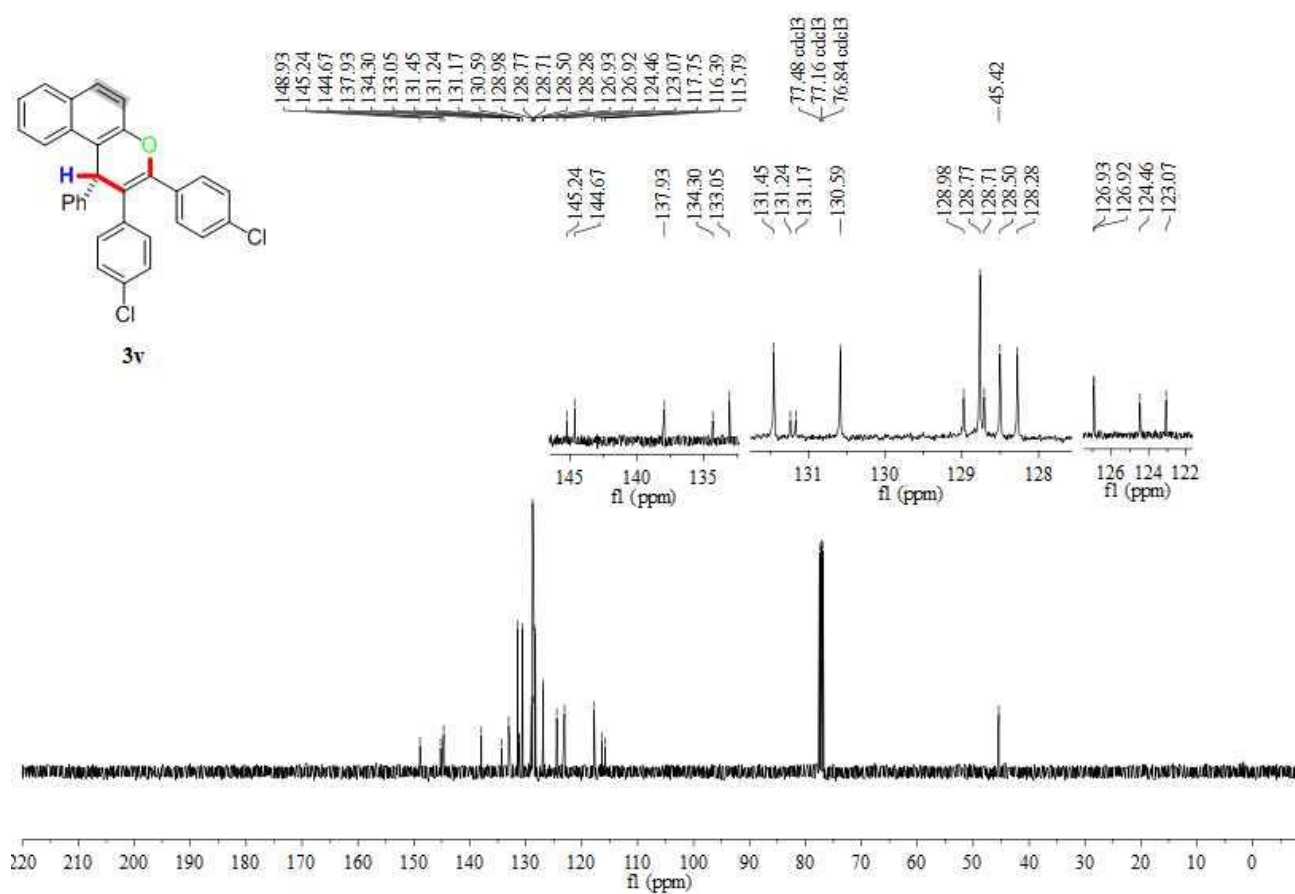
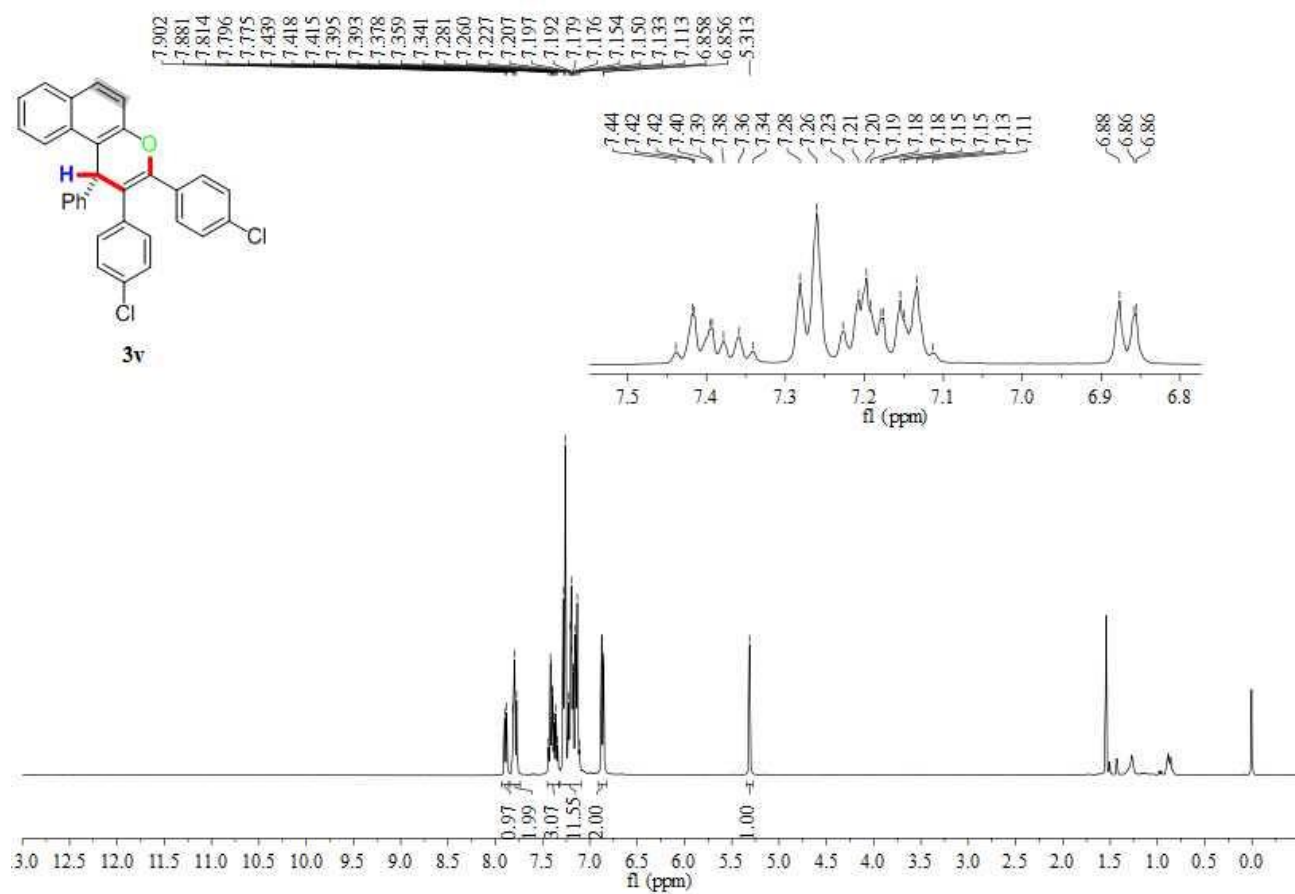


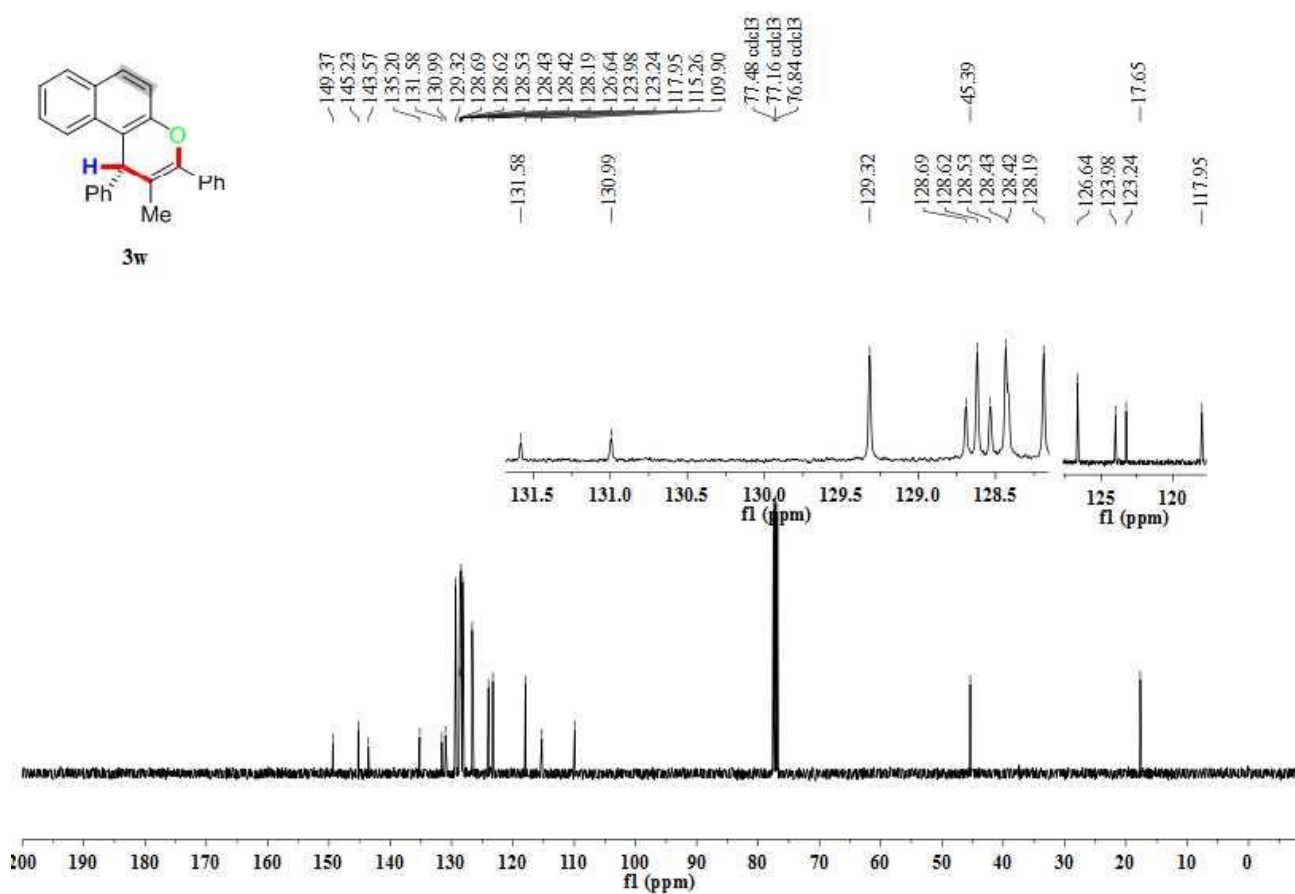
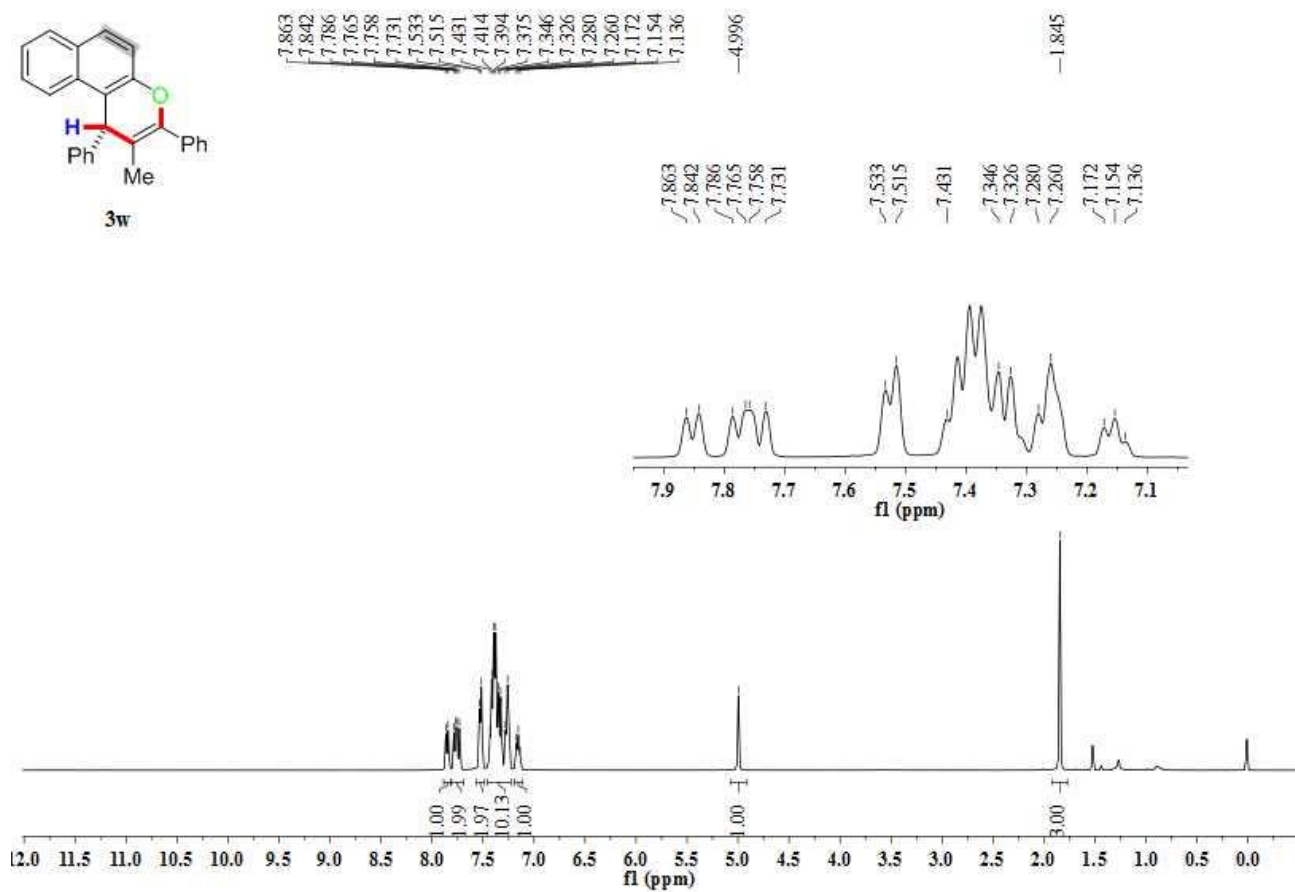


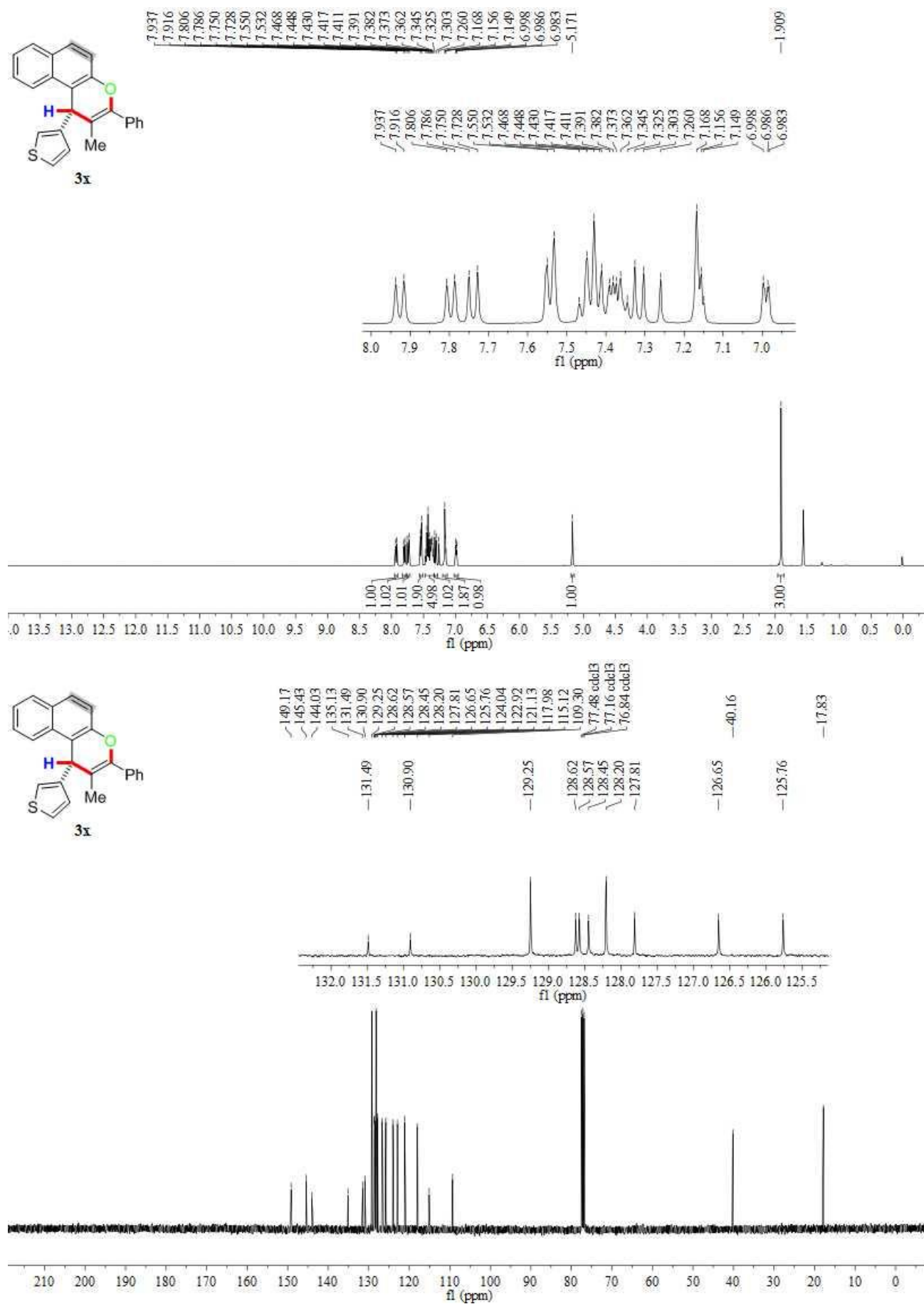


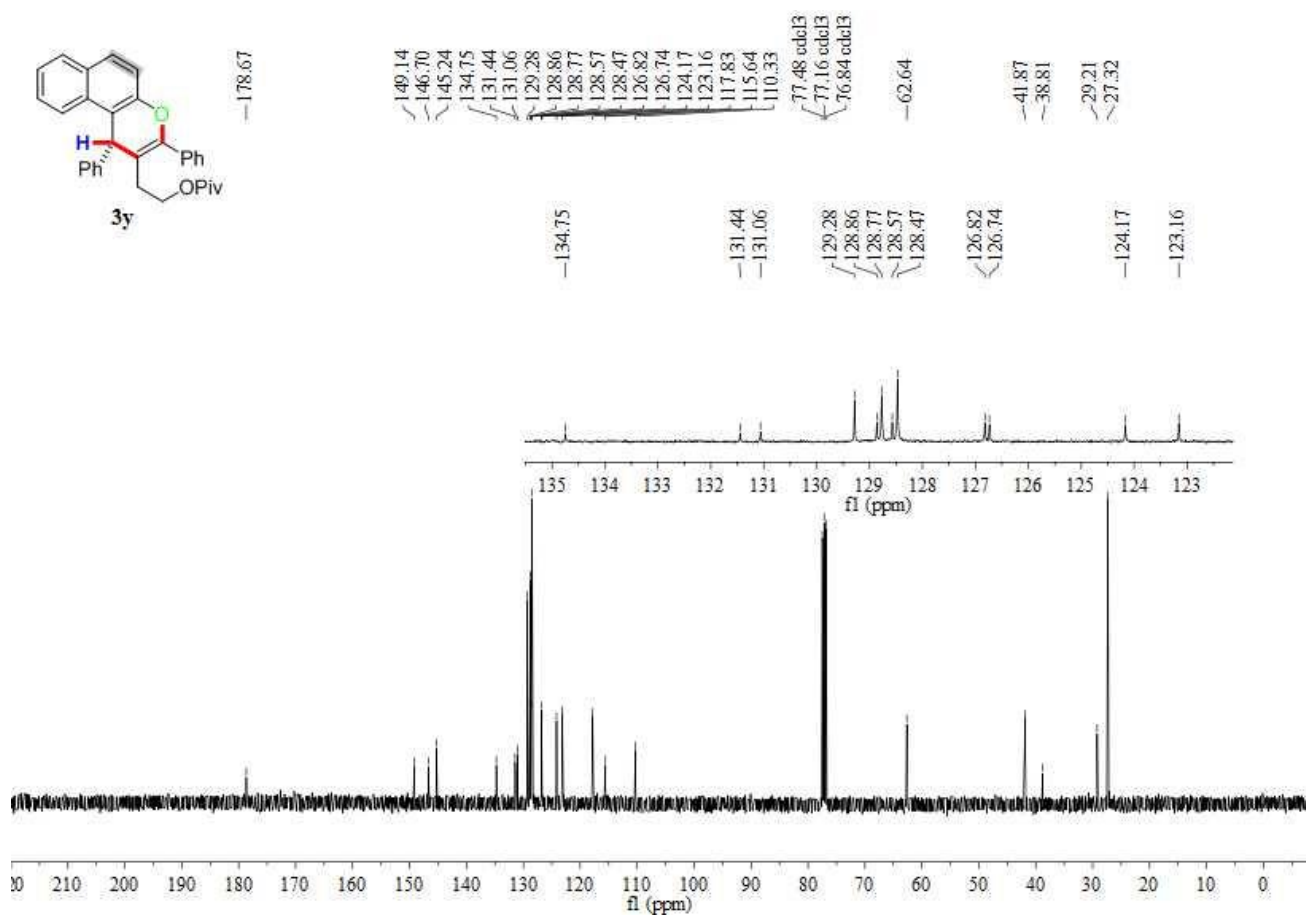
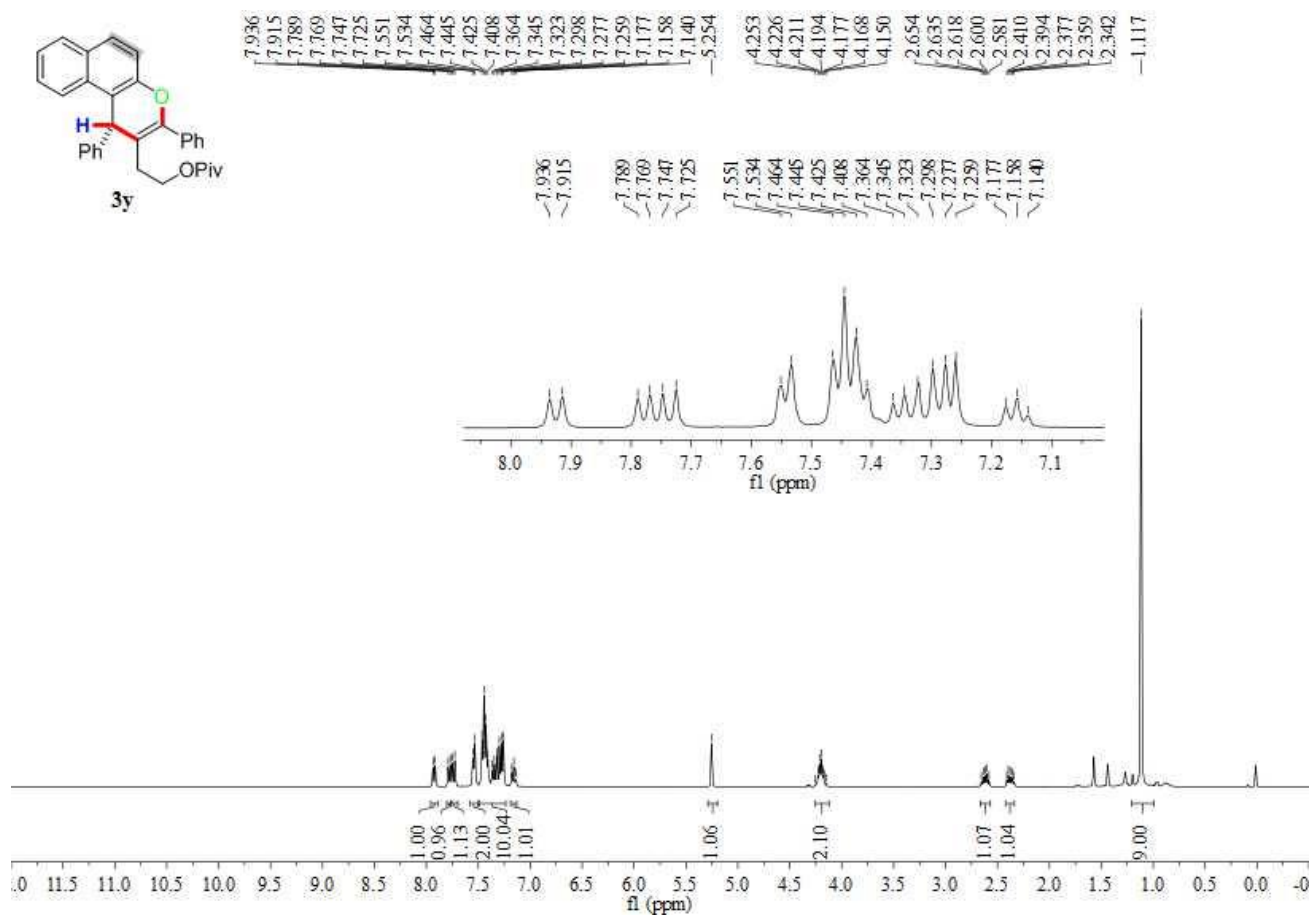


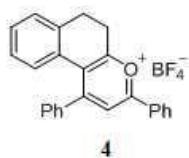




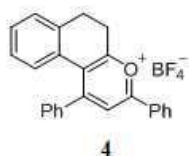
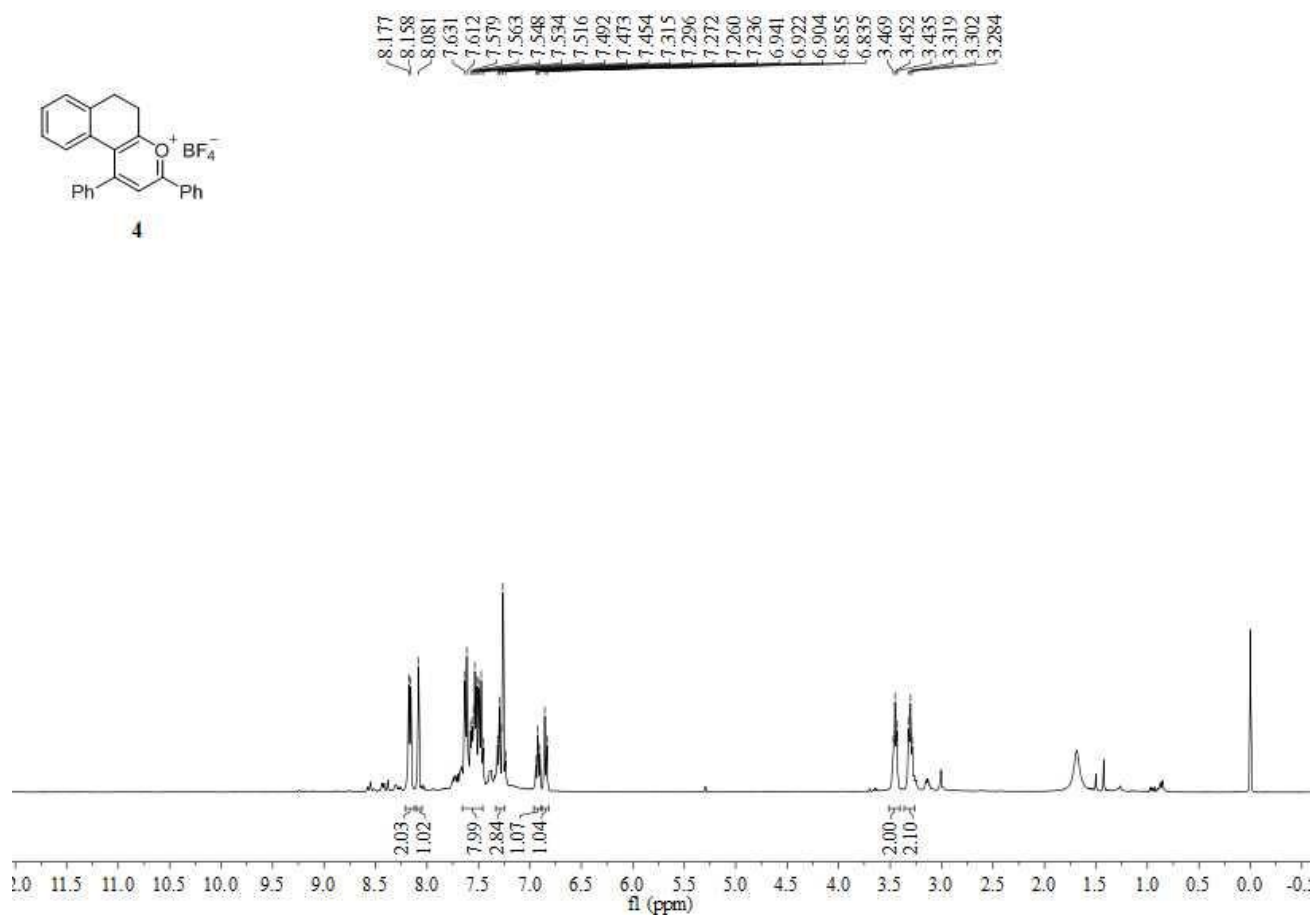




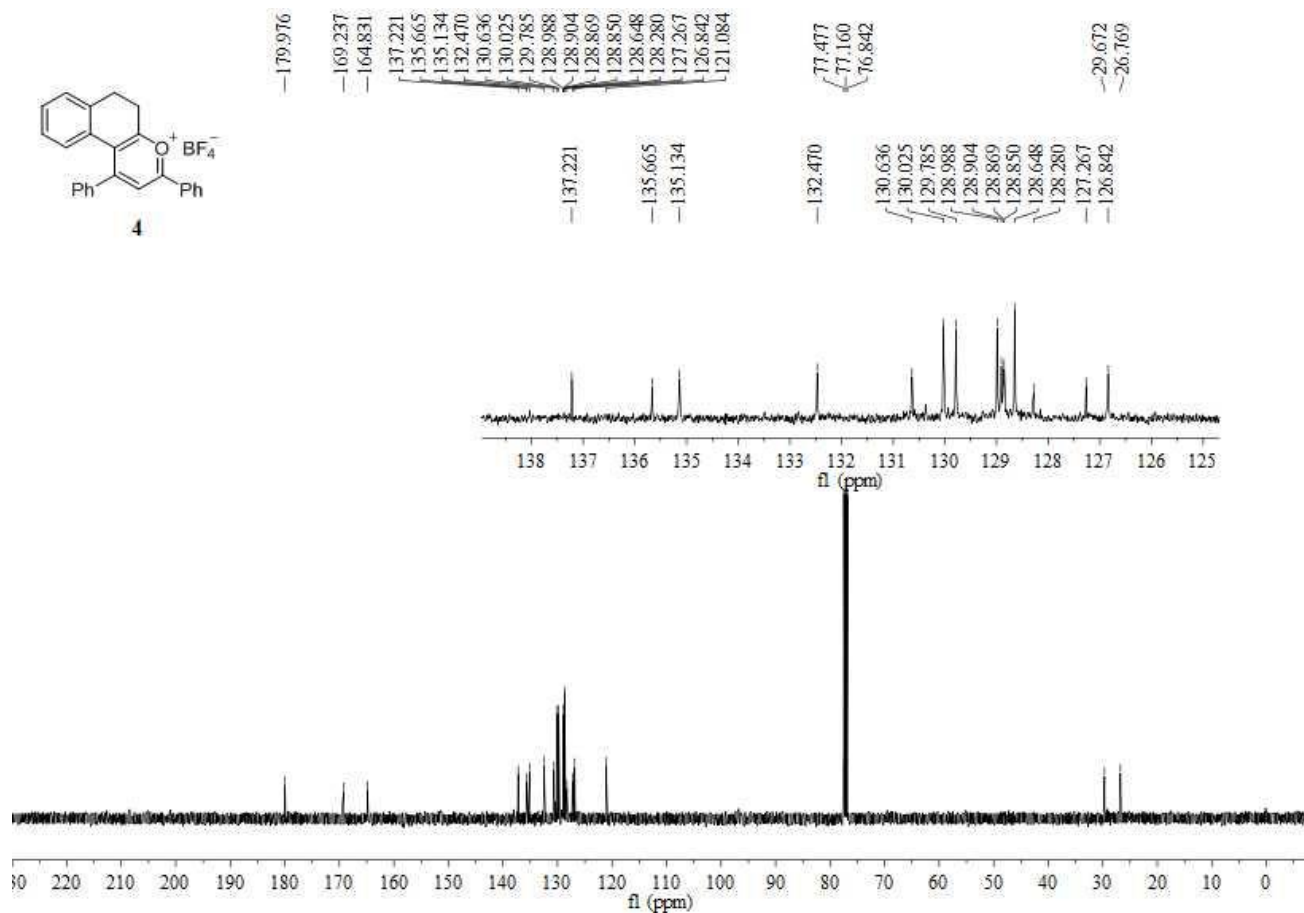


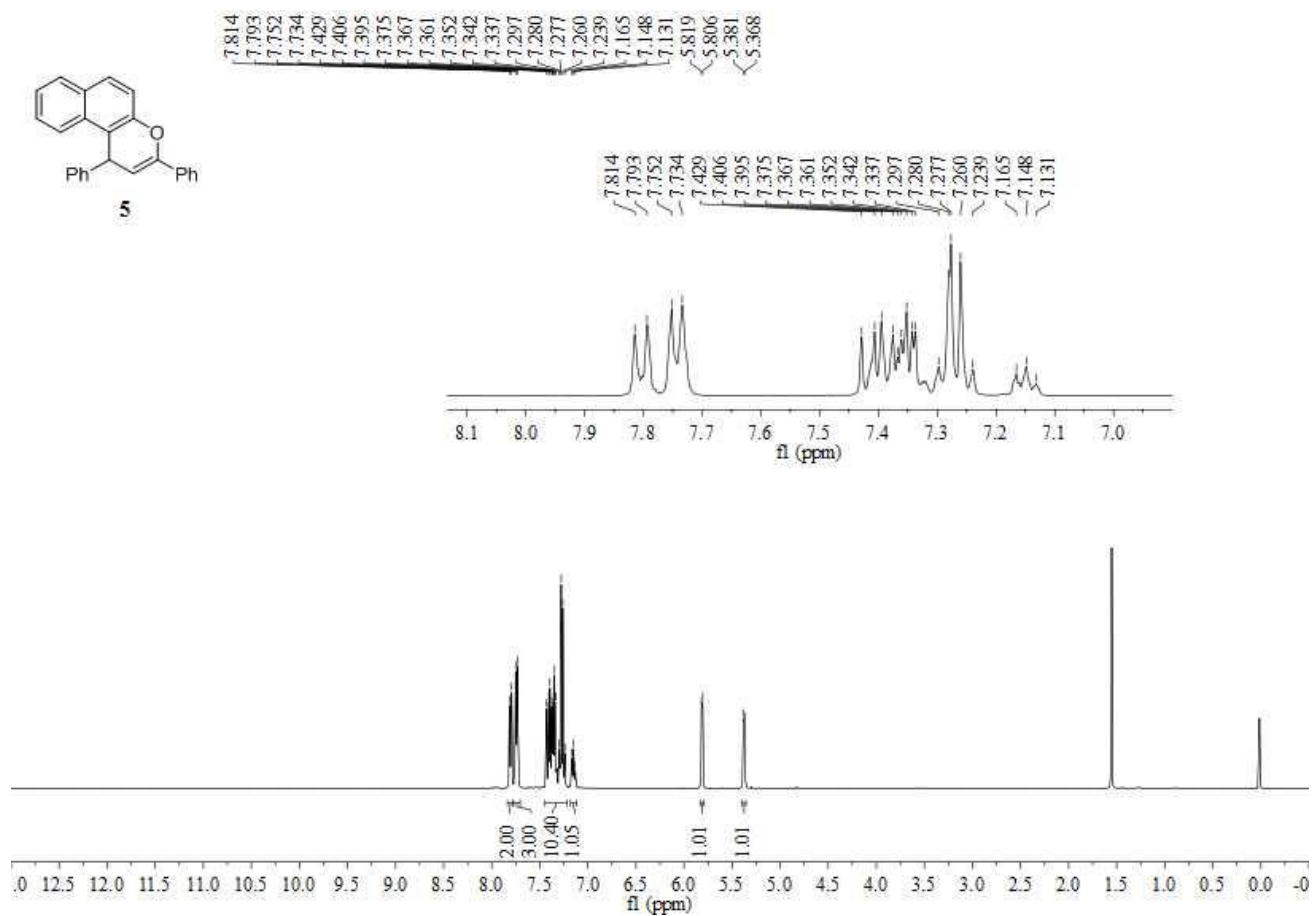
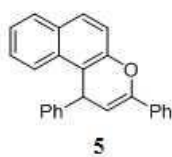
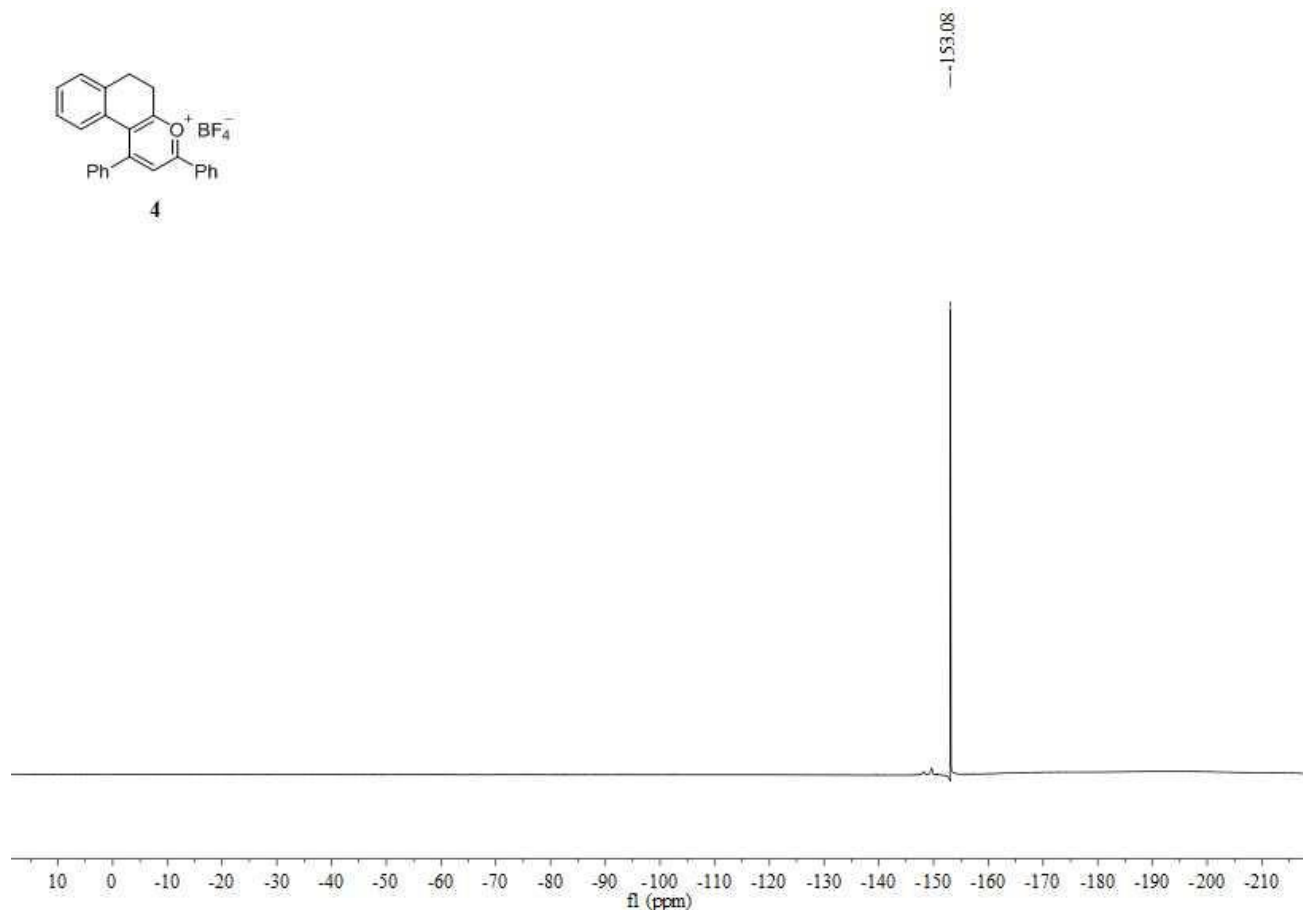
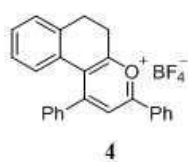


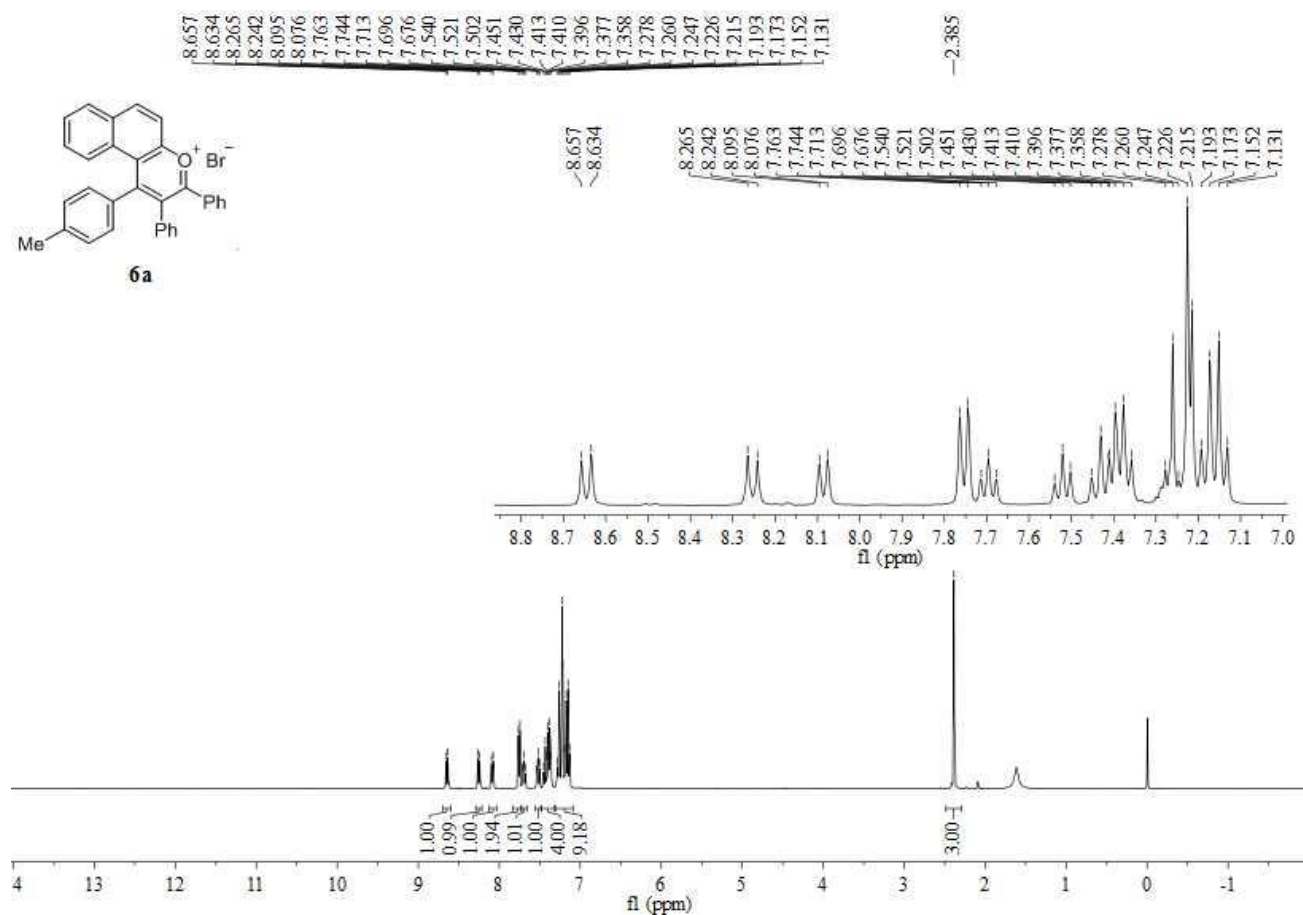
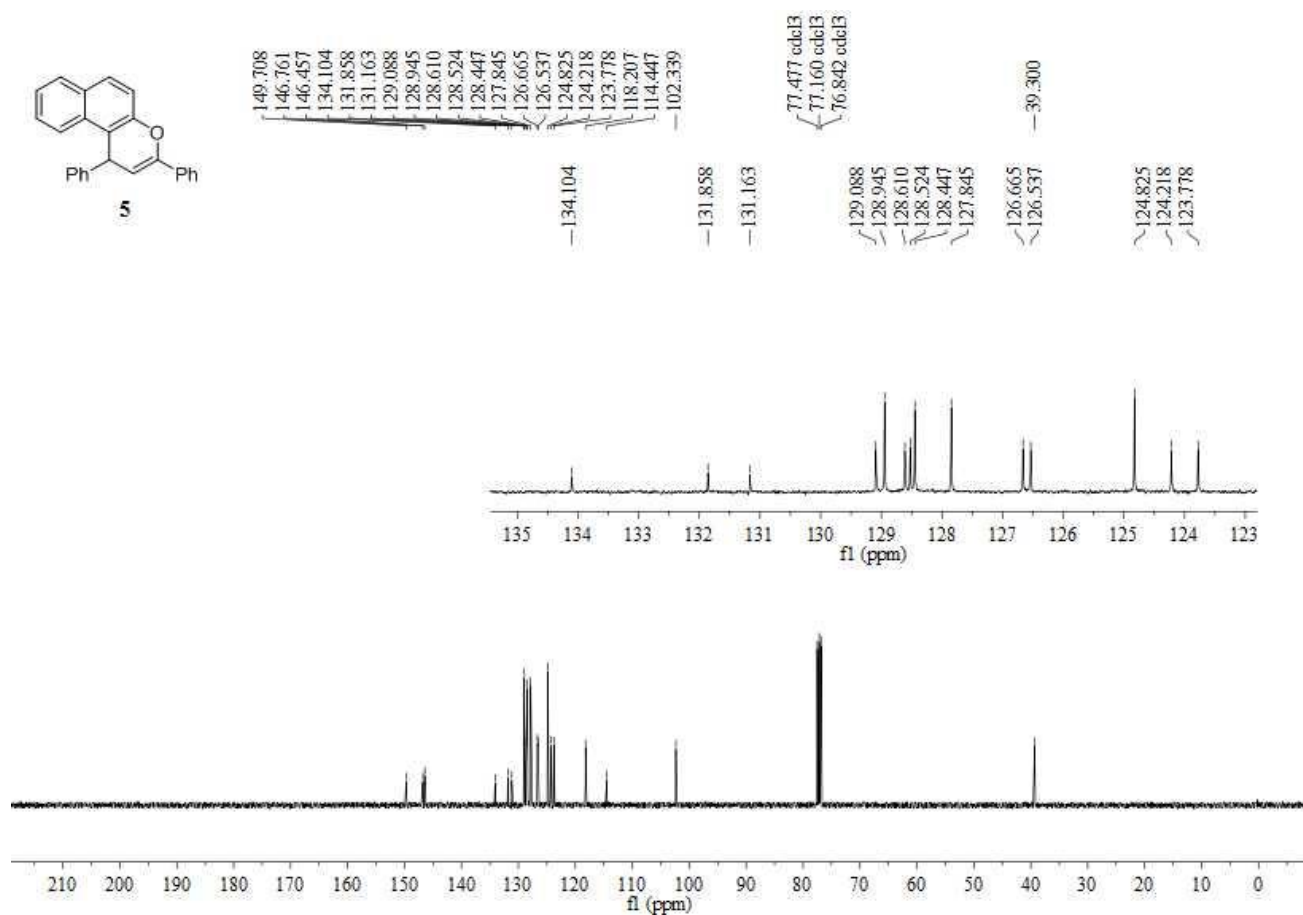
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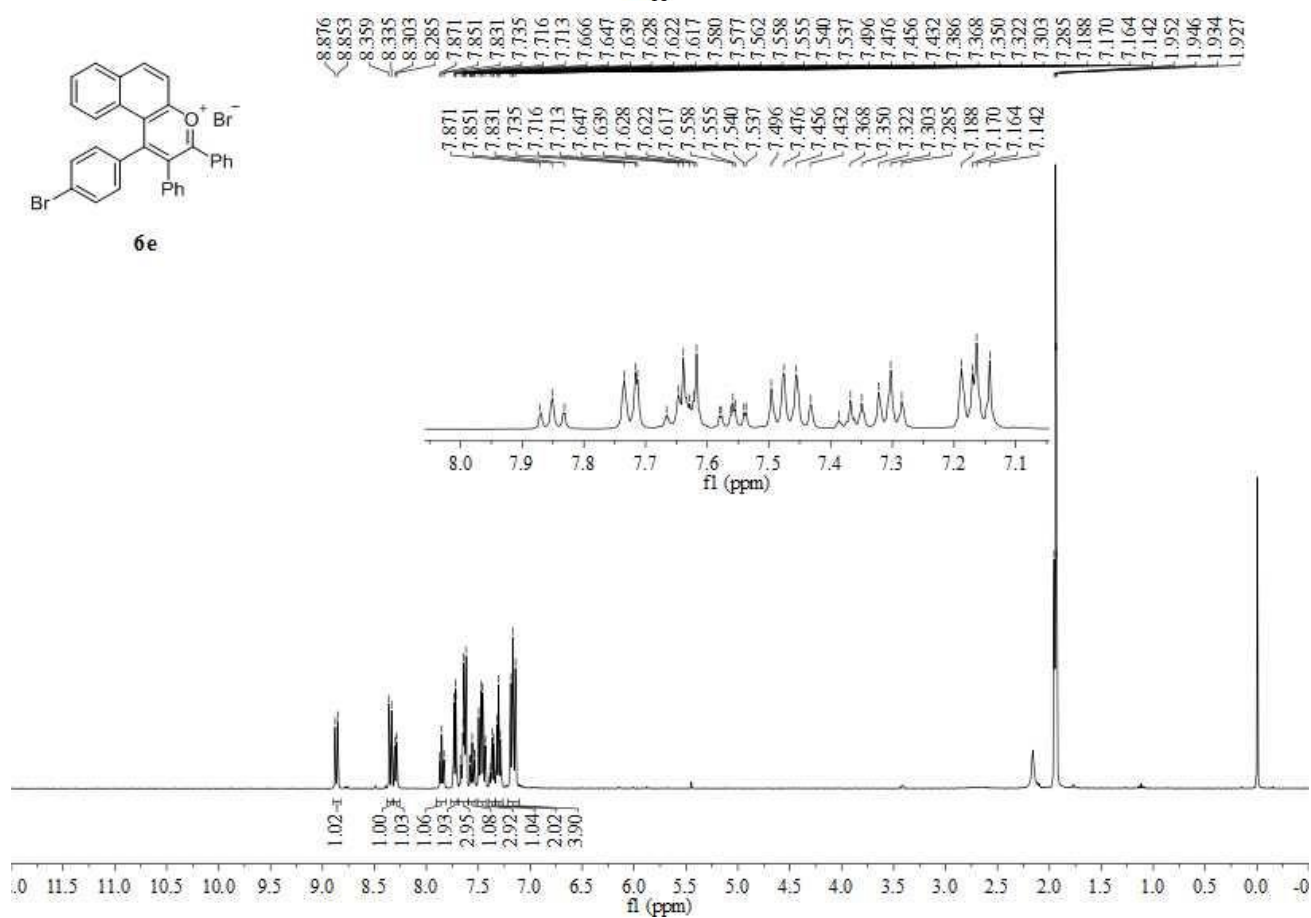
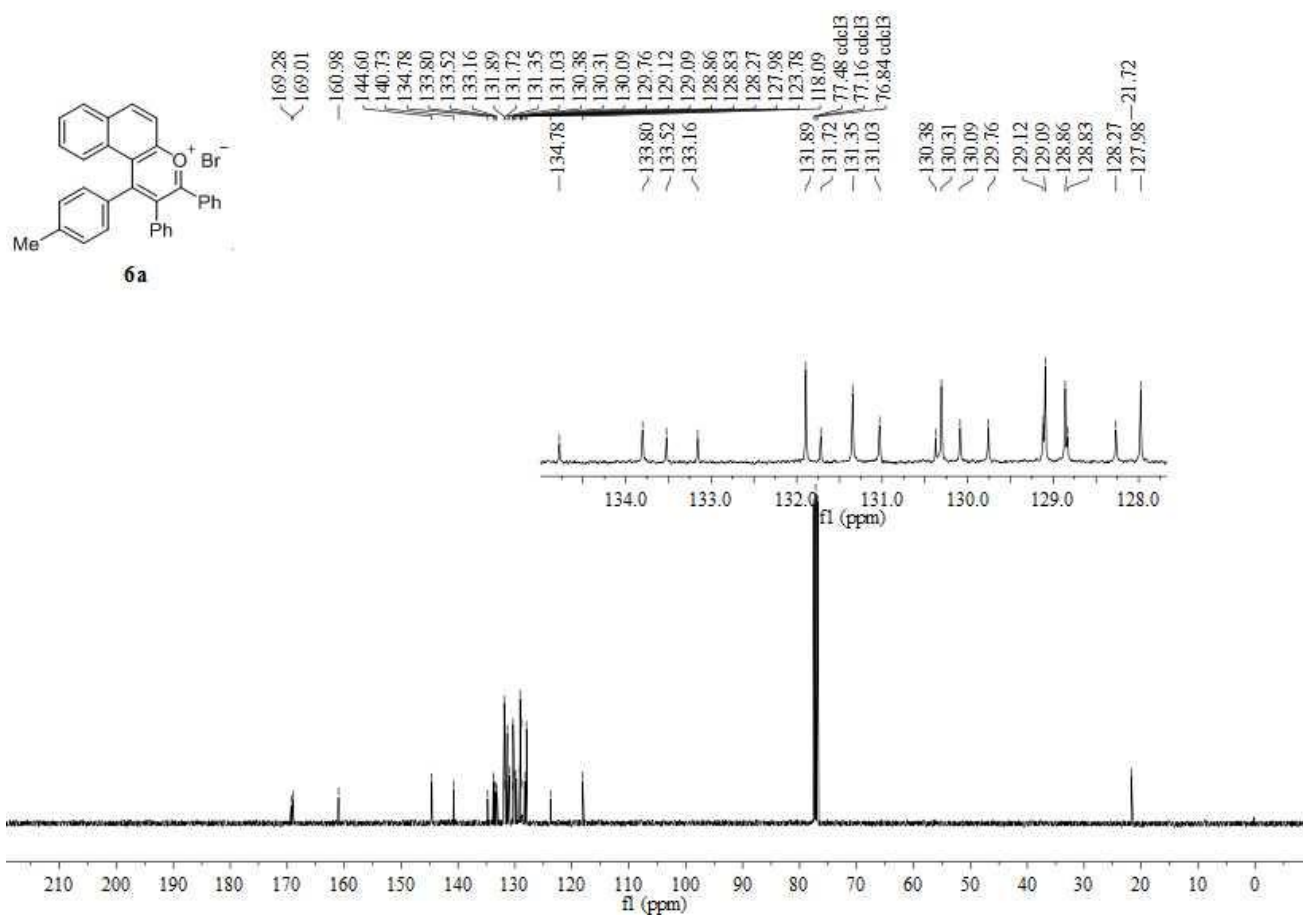


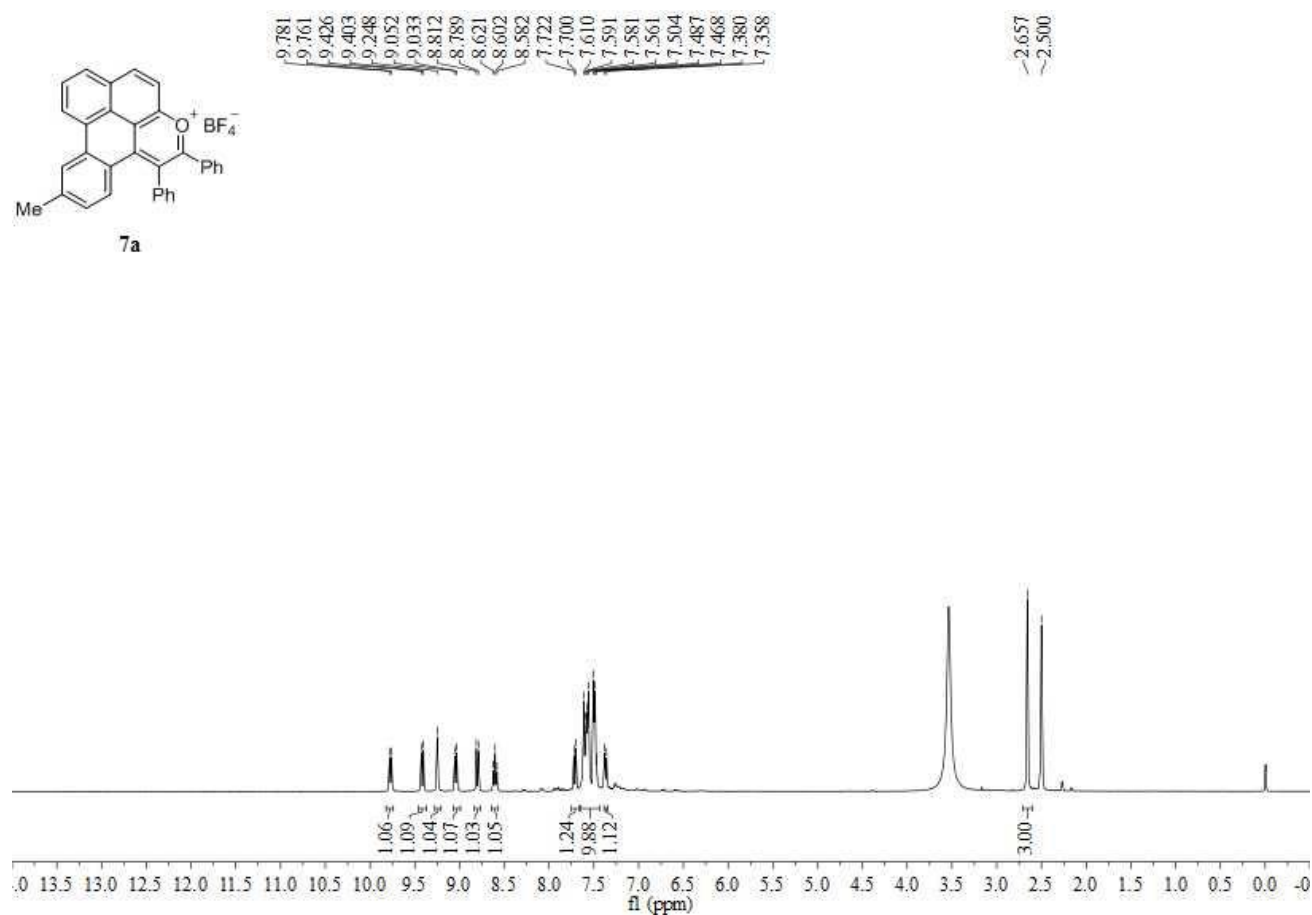
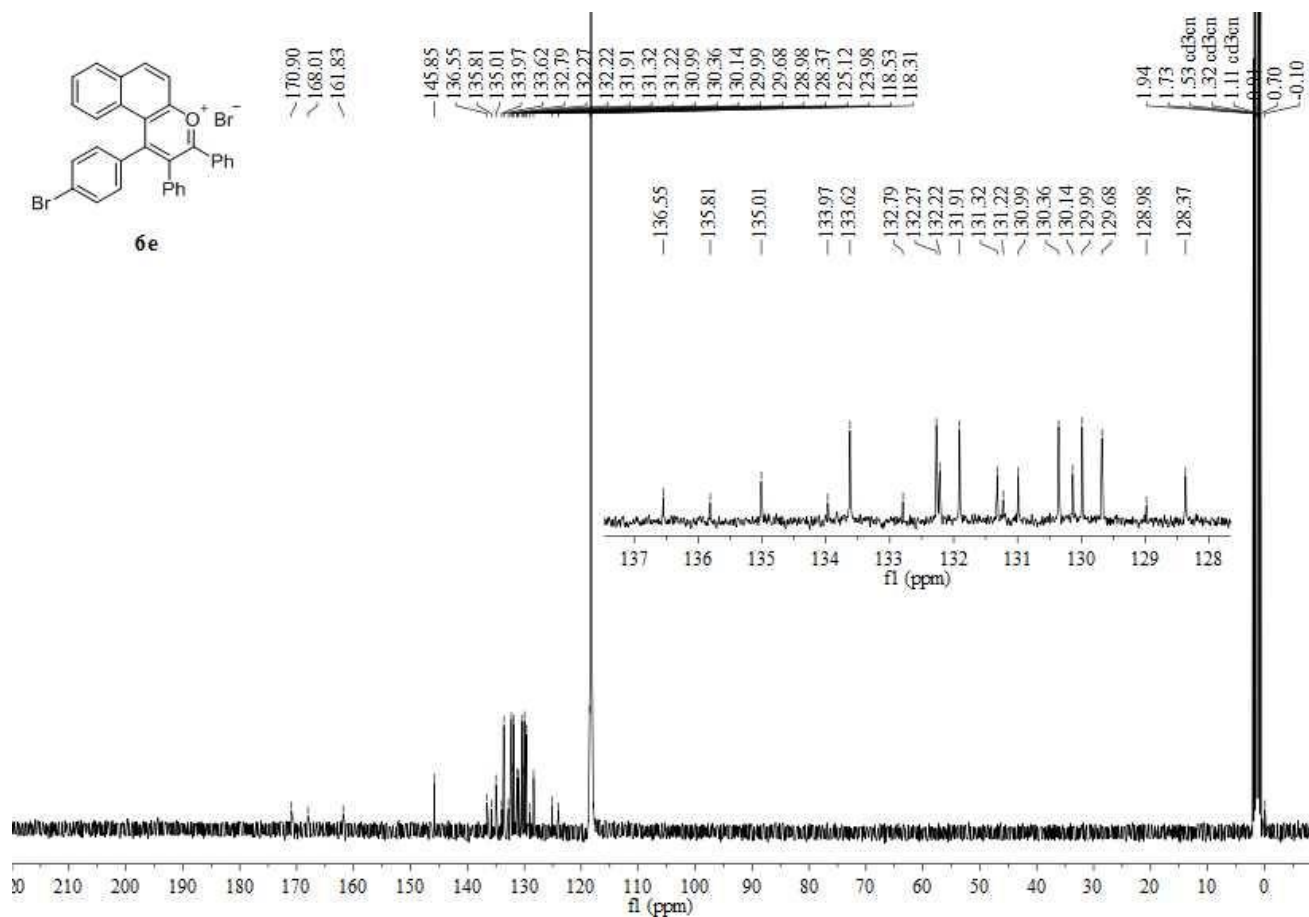
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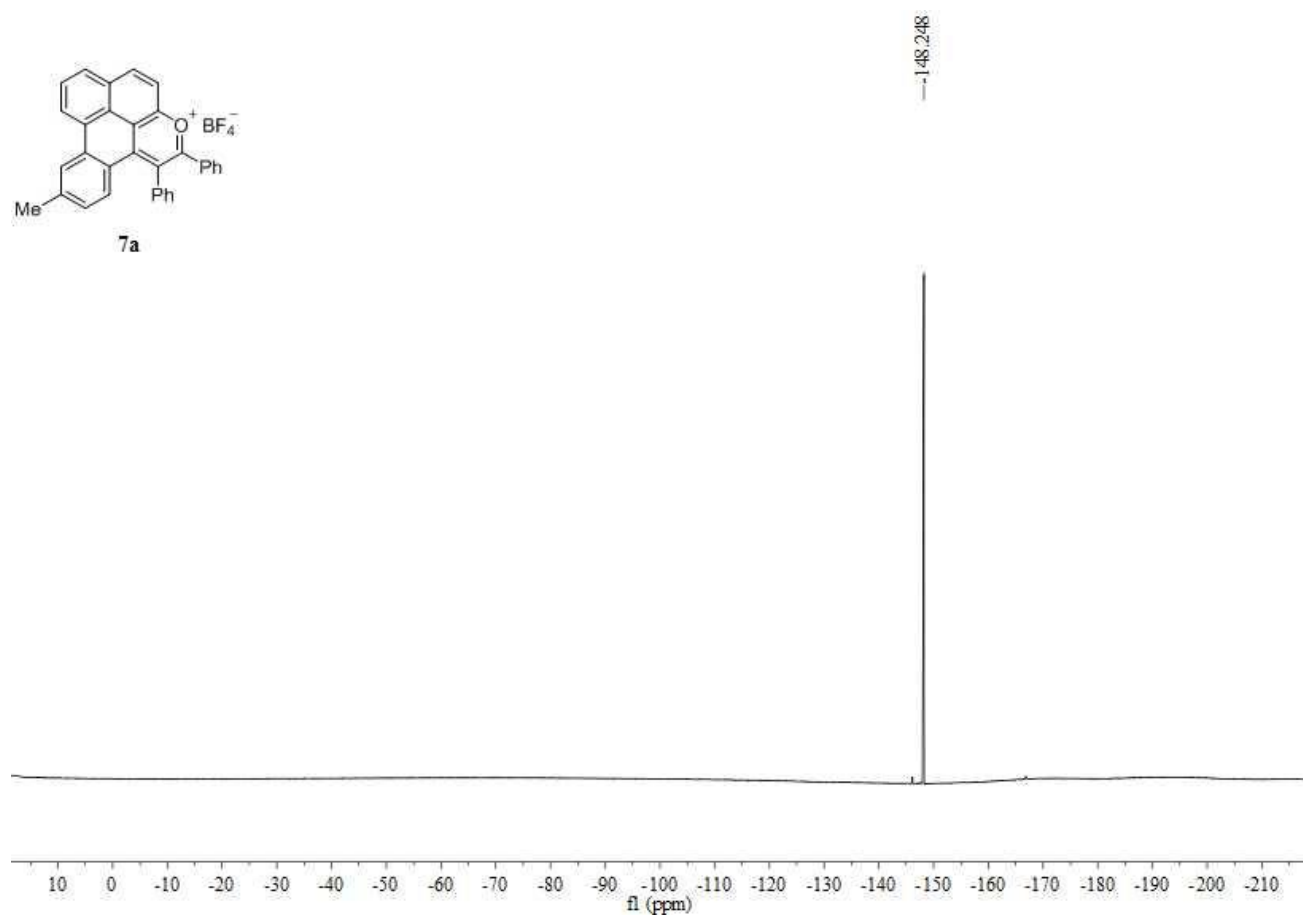
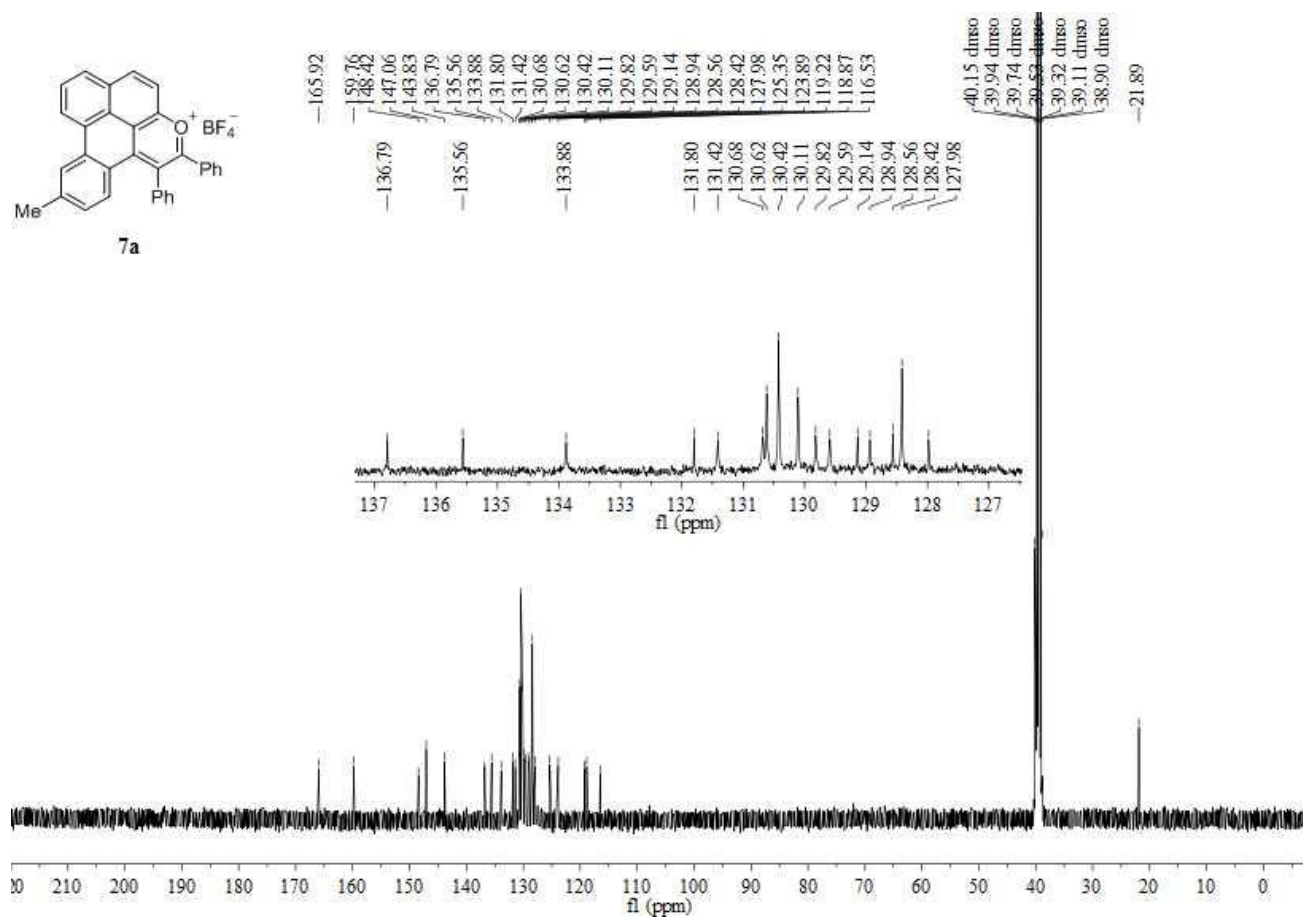


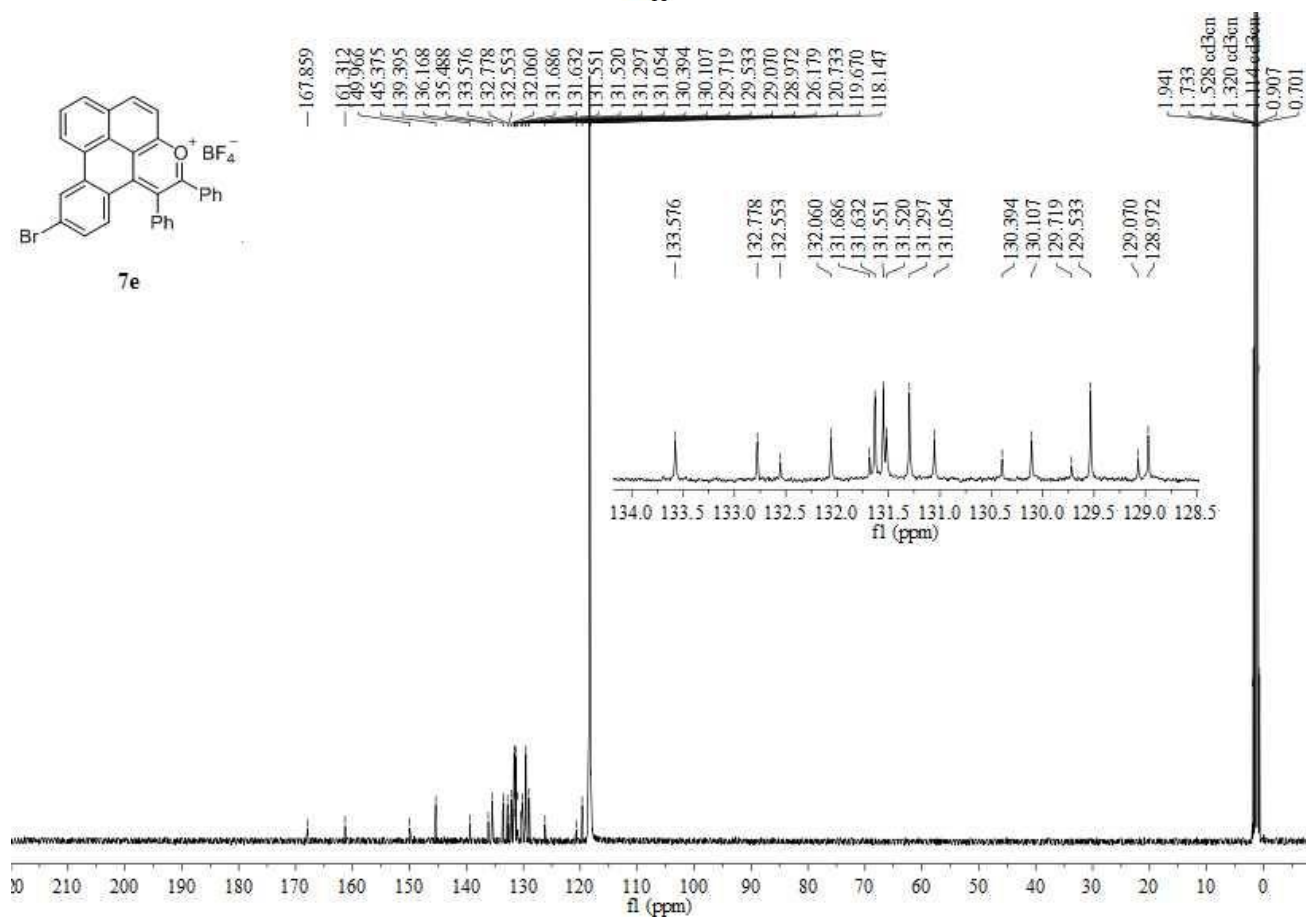
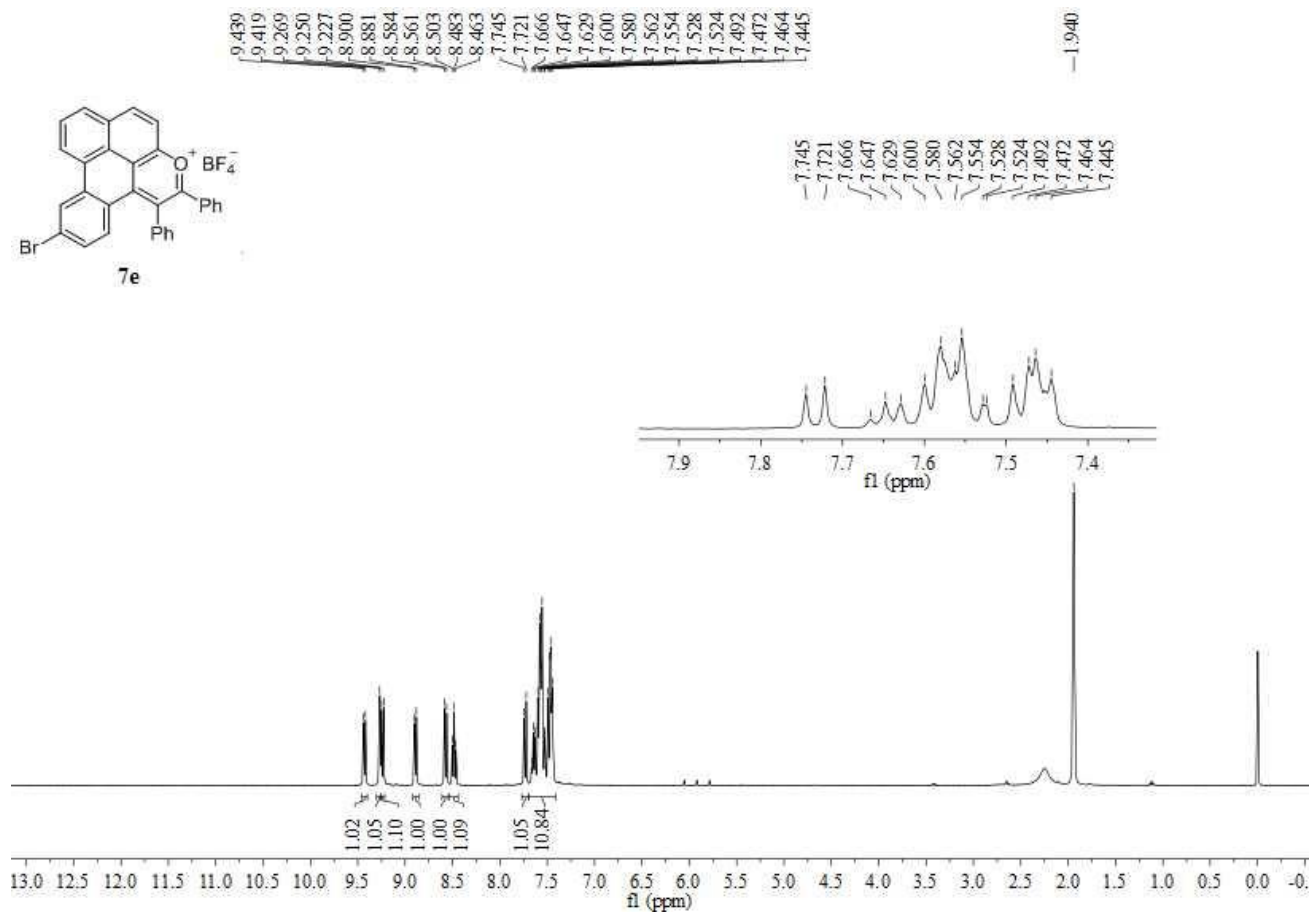


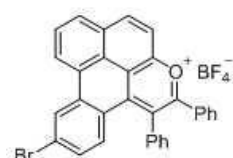












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